

Trends and Characteristics of Richmond City Youth Referred to the Department of Justice Services, 2003 - 2019

Background

The Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development regularly examines trends of youth violence in Richmond City. This factsheet examines trends and characteristics of individuals 10 to 18 years of age who were referred to the Department of Justice Services (DJS). The DJS provides a variety of services to youth and their families who are either at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system or have been processed by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. This fact sheet describes those who were referred for services to the DJS between 2003 and 2019 and formally involved in the court system for offenses *other than truancy-related offenses*. Individuals between the ages of 10 and 18 years were included in this analysis. Age (in years) was calculated by subtracting the date of birth from date of first service referral in the calendar year. Where referral date was missing, the mid-point of the calendar year was used; referral data was missing in less than 1% of the youth. Denominators for rates per 1,000 were calculated using decennial population counts from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Characteristics of Service Referrals

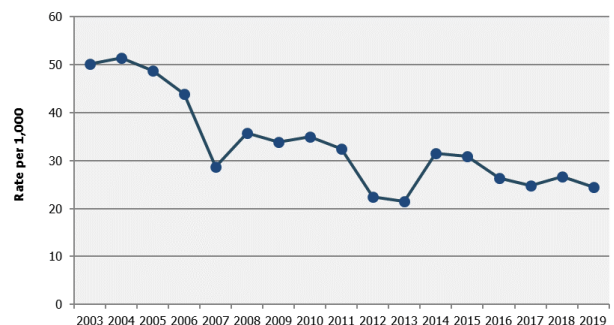
Between 2003 and 2019, there were 11,533 individuals (clients) who were formally referred to the DJS for offenses that were not truancy-related (N=30,189). Table 1 shows the number of clients, service referrals, and the mean and range of referrals by the year of service.

	Unique Clients ¹ (n)	Service Referrals (n)	Mean Referrals (Range)
2003	1,075	3,446	3.2 (1-22)
2004	1,103	3,437	3.1 (1-22)
2005	1,045	3,287	3.1 (1-28)
2006	943	2,407	2.6 (1-18)
2007	617	1,327	2.2 (1-17)
2008	767	2,129	2.8 (1-19)
2009	725	2,328	3.2 (1-34)
2010	666	1,918	2.9 (1-26)
2011	618	1,716	2.8 (1-16)
2012	428	1,045	2.4 (1-15)
2013	409	887	2.2 (1-12)
2014	600	1,397	2.3 (1-14)
2015	587	1,433	2.4 (1-12)
2016	503	1,048	3.2 (1-21)
2017	473	776	1.9 (1-30)
2018	508	846	2.0 (1-24)
2019	466	762	2.1 (1-36)

¹Unique clients in the calendar year

The rate of referrals to the DJS generally declined. However, increases in referrals were seen in 2008 and 2014. The rate decreased overall from 50.1 per 1,000 in 2003 to 24.5 per 1,000 in 2019, a decrease of 51% (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Rate of Service Referrals to the Department of Justice Services, Ages 10-18 Years



Note: The specific yearly rates for figures can be found in the alternative tables in the appendix.

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The five most frequently occurring offenses for DJS referrals are shown in Table 2. Note that the shading indicates offenses that have ever appeared in the top three most common offenses during this period. Between 2003 and 2015, assault was the most frequently reported offense. Larceny, parole violation, drug, weapon, and disorderly conduct offenses remained in the top five offenses between 2003 and 2013; however, between 2014 and 2016 and in 2018 burglary and robbery emerged as most frequently occurring offenses. Further, in 2017 and 2019, traffic-related offenses appeared in the top five most common offenses.

Table 2: Top Five Most Frequent Offenses Among 10 to 18 Year Olds Referred for Services to the Department of Justice Services

	1	2	3	4	5	
2003	Assault	Larceny	Parole Violation ²	Drug ²	Weapon	
2004			Drug	Disorderly Conduct		
2005			Parole Violation	Disorderly Conduct		
2006		Weapon	Parole Violation			
2007		Drug	Larceny	Disorderly Conduct	Weapon	
2008		Weapon		Disorderly Conduct		
2009		Larceny	Drug	Parole Violation	Drug	
2010		Disorderly Conduct	Larceny	Parole Violation	Parole Violation	
2011		Larceny		Drug	Disorderly Conduct	
2012		Parole Violation	Larceny	Weapon	Burglary	
2013		Larceny	Parole Violation	Burglary	Robbery	
2014		Larceny	Assault	Weapon	Robbery	Traffic-related
2015			Assault	Robbery	Robbery	
2016	Assault		Weapon	Traffic-related		
2017	Assault		Weapon	Traffic-related		
2018	Assault		Weapon	Traffic-related		
2019	Assault	Parole Violation	Weapon	Traffic-related		

Note: It is possible to have multiple referrals for a single offense; in these analyses, all referrals were included

¹ Truancy-related offenses are not included in this analysis.

² In 2003, the number of referrals were the same for both offenses; parole violation is ranked higher as it was more frequently reported as the first offense listed in a referral

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Service Referrals for Violent Offenses

Violent offenses are comprised of homicide, assault, sexual assault, weapons/bombs, robbery, and kidnapping offenses. Table 3 shows a summary of referrals by year of service for violence-related offenses.

	Unique Clients ¹ (n)	Service Referrals (n)	Mean Referrals (Range)
2003	558	1,436	2.6 (1-13)
2004	568	1,407	2.5 (1-19)
2005	514	1,256	2.4 (1-20)
2006	462	914	2.0 (1-12)
2007	292	557	1.9 (1-13)
2008	391	851	2.2 (1-15)
2009	409	1,094	2.7 (1-33)
2010	386	922	2.4 (1-26)
2011	325	798	2.5 (1-13)
2012	201	473	2.4 (1-11)
2013	168	295	1.8 (1-12)
2014	235	449	1.9 (1-8)
2015	242	471	2.0 (1-9)
2016	172	217	2.2 (1-10)
2017	148	199	1.7 (1-6)
2018	196	257	1.6 (1-8)
2019	222	274	1.6 (1-6)

¹Unique clients in the calendar year

While less than half of the referrals to DJS were not for violent offenses, the proportion that were violence-related increased overall between 2003 and 2010 from 41.7% to 48.1%. There was a significant decline in 2013 and stabilization through 2015 followed by a significant decrease in 2016 to 20.7%. Referrals then increased over the subsequent three years to 30.6% in 2019 (Figure 2).

The pattern of violence-related referral rates is shown in Figure 3. There was a steep decline between 2003 and 2007 from 26.0 to 13.6 per 1,000 10 to 18-year-olds, respectively. Referral rates increased until 2010 to 20.3 per 1,000. Subsequently, the rate of violence-related referrals declined annually to 8.8 per 1,000 in 2013 and was followed by biennial rate fluctuations leaving referral rates at 11.7 per 1,000 in 2019.

Figure 2: Proportion of Service Referrals for Violent Offenses Among All Referrals for Services to the Department of Justice Services, Ages 10-18 Years

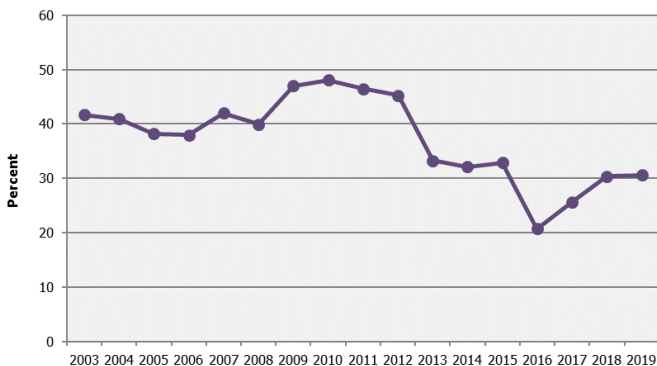
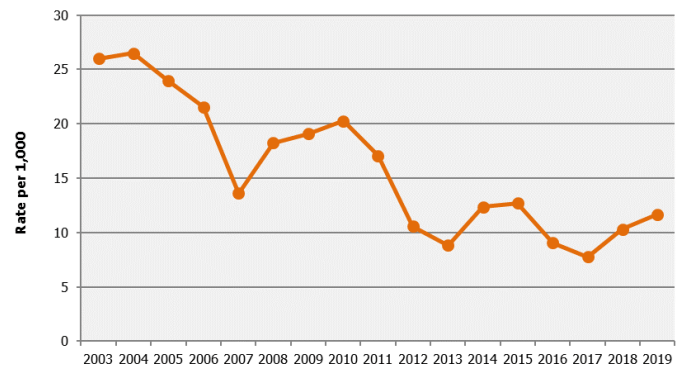


Figure 3: Rate of Service Referrals for Violent Offenses to the Department of Justice Services, Ages 10-18 Years

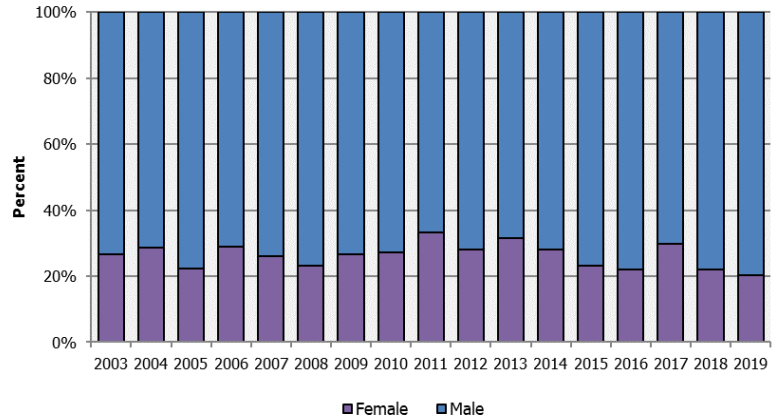


Note: The specific yearly rates for figures can be found in the alternative tables in the appendix.

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Overall, most violence-related referrals were among males and black individuals. In general, the proportions of referrals among males and females were consistent. The proportion of females referred for violence-related offenses ranged from 20.4% in 2019 to 33.2% in 2011. (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Service Referrals for Violent Offenses to the Department of Justice Services by Sex, Ages 10-18 Years



As shown in Table 4, black clients represented most of the youth referred for violence-related offenses; however, in 2018, the proportion was at its lowest during the observed time period. White, Hispanic, and those of other races accounted for less than 3% of DJS clients per year with the exception of Hispanic clients who comprised 5.6% and 5.1% of those referred for services in 2018 and 2019, respectively. The mean age of males and females was similar, ranging from 14.9 to 16.4 years, yet there was a statistically significant difference in the mean age between males and females in 2006, 2007, 2015 and 2016.

	Race & Ethnicity ¹ (%)				Age (Mean)	
	Black	White	Hispanic	Other	Males	Females
2003	96.6	2.3	0.4	0.7	15.2	14.9
2004	97.0	1.8	0.7	0.5	15.5	15.4
2005	97.5	1.9	0.2	0.4	15.8	15.8
2006	96.8	2.2	0.9	0.2	15.9*	15.5*
2007	96.3	1.0	2.4	0.3	15.9*	15.5*
2008	95.9	1.8	2.0	0.3	16.2	15.9
2009	96.8	2.0	1.2	0.0	16.2	16.1
2010	95.6	1.6	2.6	0.2	16.1	15.9
2011	95.7	2.1	1.8	0.3	16.2	16.0
2012	98.0	0.5	1.5	0.0	16.1	15.9
2013	94.0	2.4	3.0	0.6	15.8	15.6
2014	94.9	2.5	1.8	0.8	15.8	15.8
2015	96.3	0.4	2.5	0.8	16.0*	15.4*
2016	94.2	2.9	2.9	0.0	16.4*	15.7*
2017	97.3	0.7	1.4	0.7	15.9	15.6
2018	89.3	2.6	5.6	2.5	16.1	15.9
2019	90.9	1.8	5.1	2.2	15.9	15.6

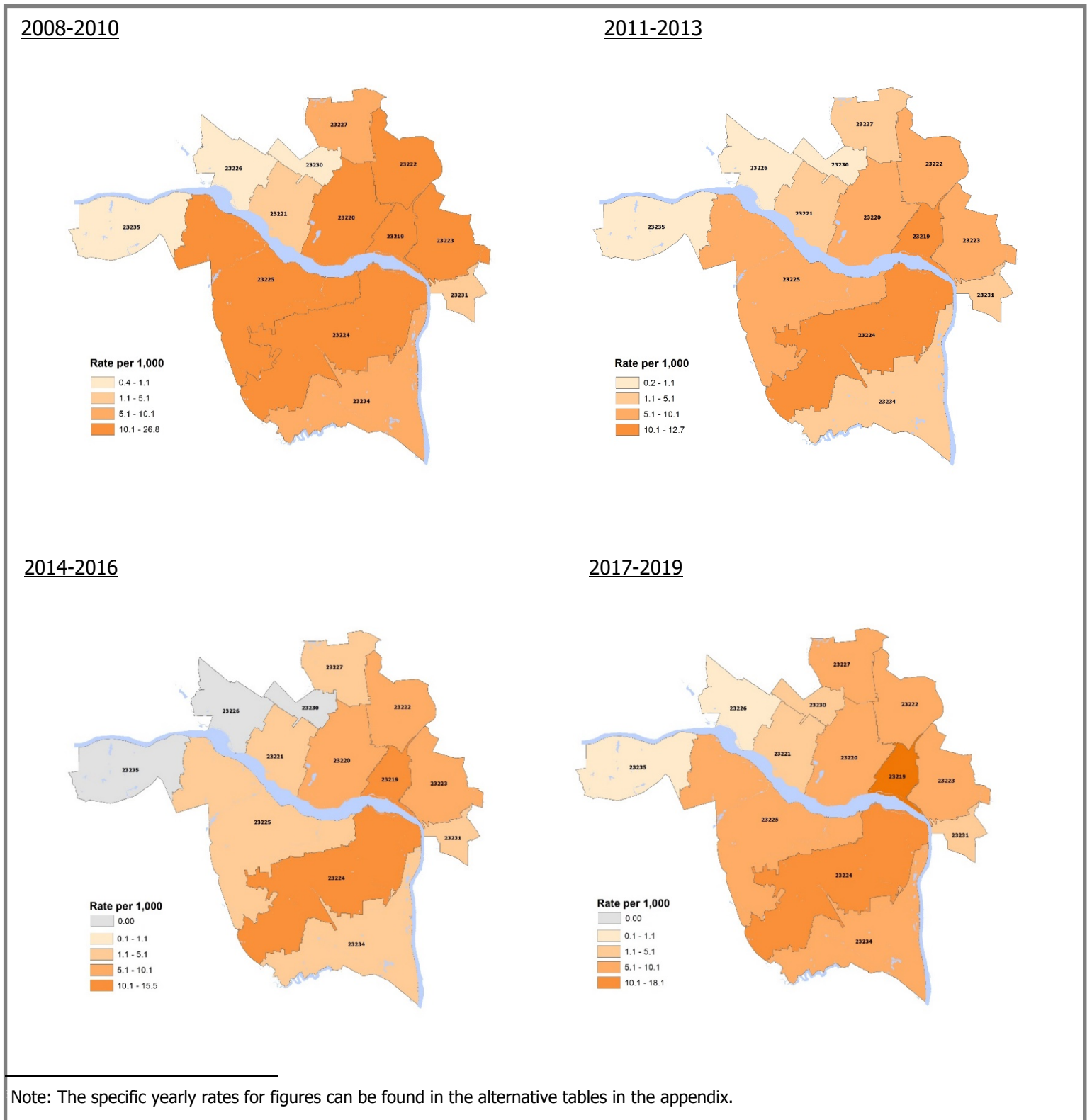
¹ Ethnicity was not captured separately from race
 * p-value < 0.05

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Geographic Distribution

The geographic distribution of 3-year averaged rates by residential zip codes of clients served by DJS for violent offenses between 2008 and 2019 are shown in Figure 5. Rates overall decreased during this time period. In 2005-2007 (not shown) as well as in 2008 through 2019, the highest rates of violence-related referrals among 10 to 18 year old residents were in the northeast and southcentral areas. Three zip codes consistently had the highest 3-year averaged rates: 23219, 23223, and 23224.

Figure 5: Rate of Service Referrals for Violent Offenses to the Department of Justice Services by Zip Code of Residence, Ages 10-18 Years



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We want to acknowledge the contributions of Saba W. Masho, MD, MPH, DrPH to this project. Although no longer with us, she continues to serve as an inspiration based on the example she set, her passion for this project, and dedication to the Richmond community she served. Without her leadership and guidance, this work would not have been possible.

The VCU Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development is a National Academic Center of Excellence for Youth Violence Prevention and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For more information contact: Derek Chapman, PhD at derek.chapman@vcuhealth.org or Diane Bishop at diane.bishop@vcuhealth.org

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Appendix: Data tables as an alternative to figures

Figure 1 Alternative Table: Rate of Service Referrals to the Department of Justice Services, Ages 10-18 Years	
	Rate per 1,000
2003	50.1
2004	51.4
2005	48.7
2006	44.0
2007	28.8
2008	35.7
2009	33.8
2010	35.0
2011	32.4
2012	22.5
2013	21.5
2014	31.5
2015	30.8
2016	26.4
2017	24.8
2018	26.7
2019	24.5

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Alternative Table 2: Top Five Most Frequent Offenses Among 10 to 18 Year Olds Referred for Services to the Department of Justice Services					
	1	2	3	4	5
2003	Assault	Larceny	Parole Violation ¹	Drug ²	Weapon
2004	Assault	Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug	Disorderly Conduct
2005	Assault	Larceny	Drug	Parole Violation	Disorderly Conduct
2006	Assault	Larceny	Drug	Weapon	Parole Violation
2007	Assault	Drug	Larceny	Disorderly Conduct	Weapon
2008	Assault	Drug	Larceny	Weapon	Disorderly Conduct
2009	Assault	Larceny	Drug	Weapon	Disorderly Conduct
2010	Assault	Disorderly Conduct	Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug
2011	Assault	Disorderly Conduct	Larceny	Drug	Parole Violation
2012	Assault	Larceny	Parole Violation	Drug	Disorderly Conduct
2013	Assault	Larceny	Parole Violation	Weapon	Disorderly Conduct
2014	Assault	Parole Violation	Larceny	Weapon	Burglary
2015	Assault	Parole Violation	Larceny	Burglary	Robbery
2016	Larceny	Parole Violation	Assault	Weapon	Robbery
2017	Larceny	Assault	Parole Violation	Robbery	Traffic-related
2018	Larceny	Assault	Parole Violation	Weapon	Robbery
2019	Larceny	Assault	Parole Violation	Weapon	Traffic-Related

Note: It is possible to have multiple referrals for a single offense; in these analyses, all referrals were included

¹ The number of referrals were the same for both offenses; parole violation is ranked higher as it was more frequently reported as the first offense listed in a referral

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Figure 2 Alternative Table: Proportion of Service Referrals for Violent Offenses Among All Referrals for Services to the Department of Justice Services, Ages 10-18 Years

	Violence-Related Referrals (%)
2003	41.7
2004	40.9
2005	38.2
2006	38.0
2007	42.0
2008	40.0
2009	47.0
2010	48.1
2011	46.5
2012	45.3
2013	33.3
2014	32.1
2015	32.9
2016	20.7
2017	25.6
2018	30.4
2019	30.6

Figure 3 Alternative Table: Rate of Service Referrals for Violent Offenses to the Department of Justice Services, Ages 10-18 Years

	Rate per 1,000
2003	26.0
2004	26.5
2005	24.0
2006	21.5
2007	13.6
2008	18.2
2009	19.1
2010	20.3
2011	17.1
2012	10.6
2013	8.8
2014	12.3
2015	12.7
2016	9.0
2017	7.8
2018	10.3
2019	11.7

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Figure 4 Alternative Table: Service Referrals for Violent Offenses to the Department of Justice Services by Sex, Ages 10-18 Years		
	Female Referrals (%)	Male Referrals (%)
2003	26.5	73.5
2004	28.6	71.4
2005	22.3	77.7
2006	28.9	71.1
2007	26.1	73.9
2008	23.3	76.7
2009	26.6	73.4
2010	27.2	72.8
2011	33.2	66.8
2012	28.2	71.8
2013	31.5	68.5
2014	28.2	71.8
2015	23.1	76.9
2016	22.1	77.9
2017	29.7	70.3
2018	21.9	78.1
2019	20.4	79.6

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Figure 5 Alternative Table: Rate of Service Referrals for Violent Offenses to the Department of Justice Services by Zip Code of Residence, Ages 10-18 Years

	2005-2007 (not shown in Figure)	2008-2010	2011-2013	2014-2016	2017-2019
23219	48.4	26.8	11.2	15.5	18.1
23220	9.3	11.2	5.6	6.0	2.6
23221	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.1	0.5
23222	17.1	15.6	10.0	6.8	3.1
23223	15.5	12.4	8.4	7.6	5.1
23224	23.2	21.8	12.7	10.8	8.1
23225	11.8	10.8	6.0	4.4	1.9
23226	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0
23227	5.0	6.9	2.7	1.7	1.3
23230	1.7	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.6
23231	5.3	4.5	2.1	1.3	0.8
23234	6.6	5.6	3.8	3.9	2.1
23235	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0