

# Facts about Juvenile Justice in New Mexico

## Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

The New Mexico Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) was created by state statute and carries out responsibilities under the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and the State Juvenile Continuum Act. The JJAC is comprised of experts in juvenile justice who are appointed by the Governor and is advisory to the Secretary of the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD), the Governor and the Legislature. Experts represent law enforcement, courts, private non-profit organizations, juvenile mental health workers, and public agencies concerned with delinquency prevention or treatment.

### **Delinquency Facts:**

Delinquency referrals- Referrals to Juvenile Justice are 27% below pre-pandemic numbers. FY19: 10,324 referrals to Juvenile Probation, FY24: 7622 referrals to Juvenile Probation<sup>1</sup>

Supervision- 90% of youth placed on supervised probation complete successfully<sup>2</sup>

Recidivism- 86% of youth discharged from supervision did not recidivate in the following two-year period<sup>2</sup>

### **Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI):**

Detention risk screening is a tool used to reduce unnecessary or inappropriate secure confinement of juveniles and to reduce failures to appear (FTA) in court and subsequent delinquent behavior (Steinhart, 2006). Re-validation of the NM RAI occurred in 2022 using data from FY 2020-2022. In 2003 the legislature enacted law for CYFD to develop a RAI and require the use of the objective screening tool for all referrals into juvenile detention. Two specific risks are measured by detention screening instruments:

- Public safety risk—the risk of committing another public offense prior to adjudication
- FTA risk—the risk of Failure to Appear in court after release.

During state fiscal years 2019 to 2021, 8% of clients released after a delinquent RAI screening re-offended within 30 days and 3% had an FTA, both of which are below the recommended validation rates of 10%.<sup>3</sup>  
(This means that 92% of the youth released after a RAI screening did not re-offend within a 30-day time period)

Detention rates- During state fiscal years 2020 to 2022 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022), there were 4,428 RAI screenings, 2,887 (65%) of which were detained. There were 3,920 RAI screenings that were not automatically detained, 1,347 (34%) of which were overridden to detain. The top two reasons given for override to detention were risk of harm to the community (17%), and Victim in the home/Immediate safety concern (7%).<sup>3</sup>

### **JJAC funded programming:**

School-based program outcomes- In the first quarter of SFY25, 69% youth surveyed reported improved school behavior, 64% reported improved school attendance, and 67% reported improved school grades.

Native American Youth- In State Fiscal 2024, 482 tribe-affiliated youth were referred to Juvenile Justice Services. 196 participated in prevention and intervention programs.

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<sup>1</sup> CYFD data

<sup>2</sup> LFC CYFD FY24\_Q4\_Report Card

<sup>3</sup> NM RAI Validation report