

Probation Oversight Commission

Virtual Townhall: Data Webinar Series Session #1
The People Behind the Statistics






July 2025

LIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

how to “raise your hand”

Did you join using the Webex App or Internet?

- Phones and Tablets

1. Tap  for More options or  for Reactions
2. Tap  to Raise Hand
3. An unmute request will be sent
4. Accept request and begin speaking

Or did you call in?

- Keypad on Telephone

1. Tap *3 to raise hand
2. An unmute request will be sent
3. Tap *6 to accept unmute request
4. Begin speaking

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS CAN BE SENT VIA EMAIL TO INFO@POC.LACOUNTY.GOV



Agenda

- Background
- Our challenge and goals
- Overview of LA County detained youth



About Us

The Probation Oversight Commission is a civilian oversight body that advises the Probation Department and the Board of Supervisors and monitors the Probation Department's progress on systemic reform. The Probation Oversight Commission has the authority and duty to:

- Review departmental policies, procedures, and practices;
- Conduct inspections in order to ensure the physical safety and welfare of youth and adults in Probation custody;
- Investigate critical matters brought to the Commission's attention;
- Receive and review grievances;
- Compel data, real evidence, and direct testimony including the power to subpoena necessary information from the Probation Department; and
- Engage the public through robust and transparent reporting and regular meetings.

Our Approach



Our Challenge – Biased, Harmful Perceptions

- **Mainstream perceptions:** crime among young people is on the rise and punishment is the most effective consequence (Fenton Comm. Harris Poll 2024)
- **Adultification bias:** a form of implicit bias rooted in racial discrimination that influences how adults perceive children; namely that Black & Latine youth are less innocent than their white peers (Georgetown Law Center on Poverty & Equality; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges)
- **“Superpredator” myth:** racist theory that depicted boys of color as radically impulsive, brutally remorseless youth with no respect for human life. (Equal Justice Initiative)

Our Challenge – Data-Sharing & Analysis

- Limited compliance with data-sharing agreement
- Probations' own admission that their data systems are antiquated and cumbersome
- When data is shared, it is often:
 - ☐ Incomplete
 - ☐ Late / past-due
 - ☐ Contains errors and requires revisions
 - ☐ Lacks consistency from one dataset to another

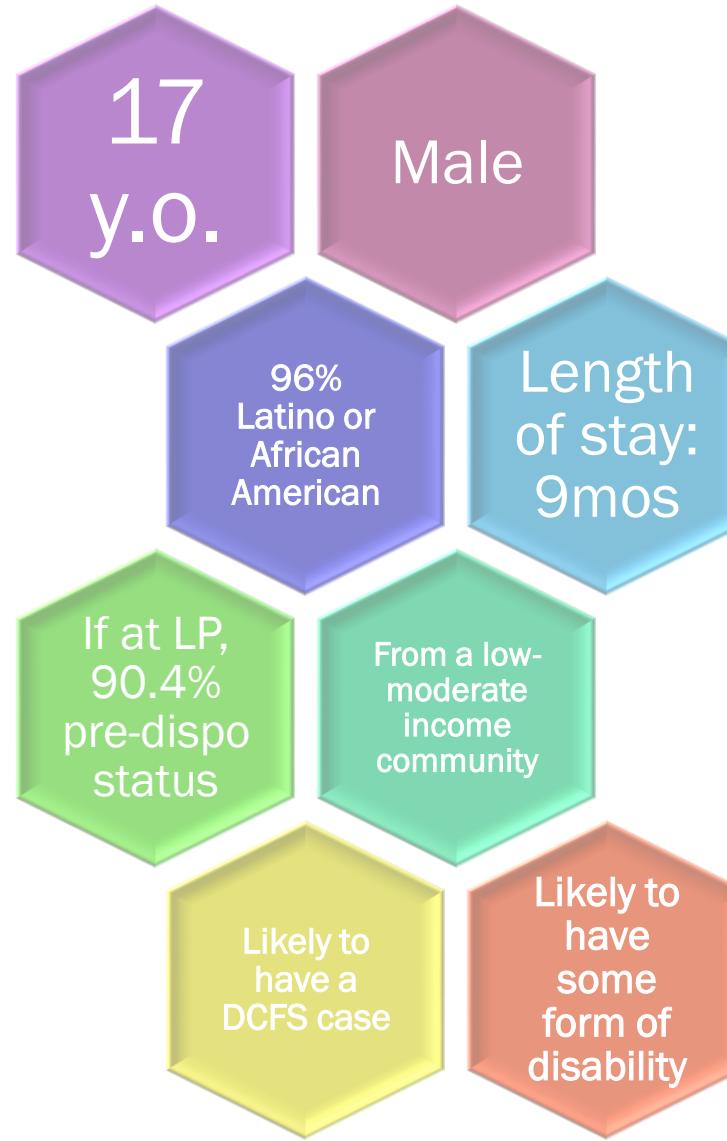
Our Goal – Increase Transparency

Publish reports and fact sheets using Probation data to:

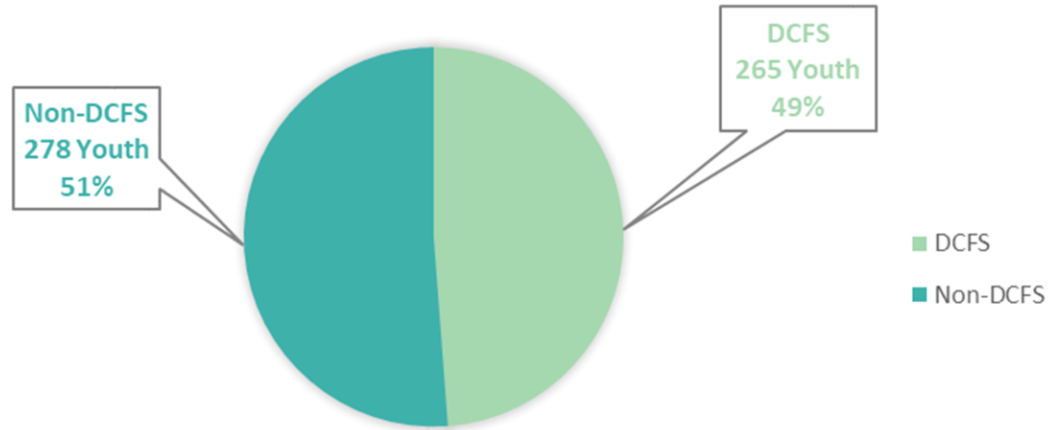
- Share demographics and increase transparency about who's detained
- Promote data-driven decision-making
- Correct the narrative about justice-involved youth
- Advocate for ongoing reform

What We Know Thus Far – Profile of L.A. County Detained Youth

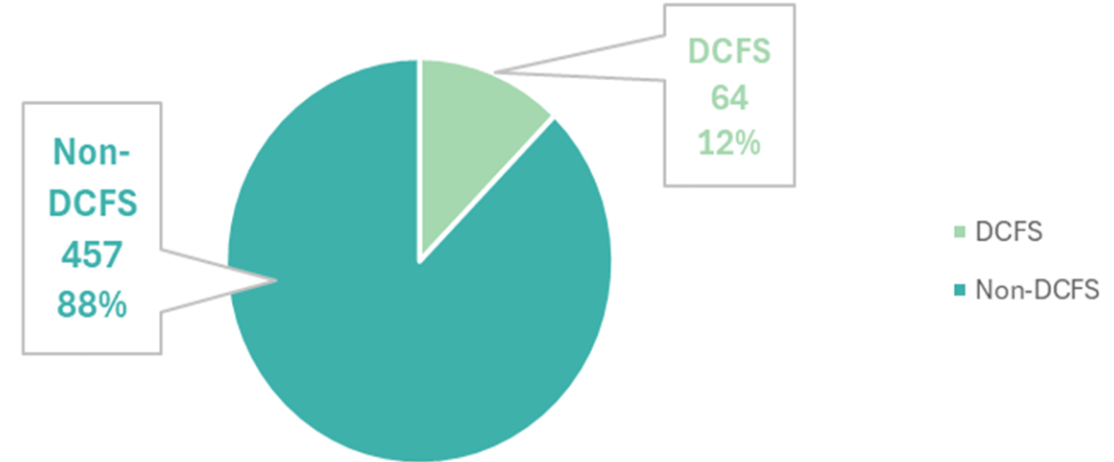
On average:



July 31, 2024
DCFS Youth vs Non-DCFS Youth
N= 543



December 1, 2024
DCFS vs Non-DCFS Youth
N = 521



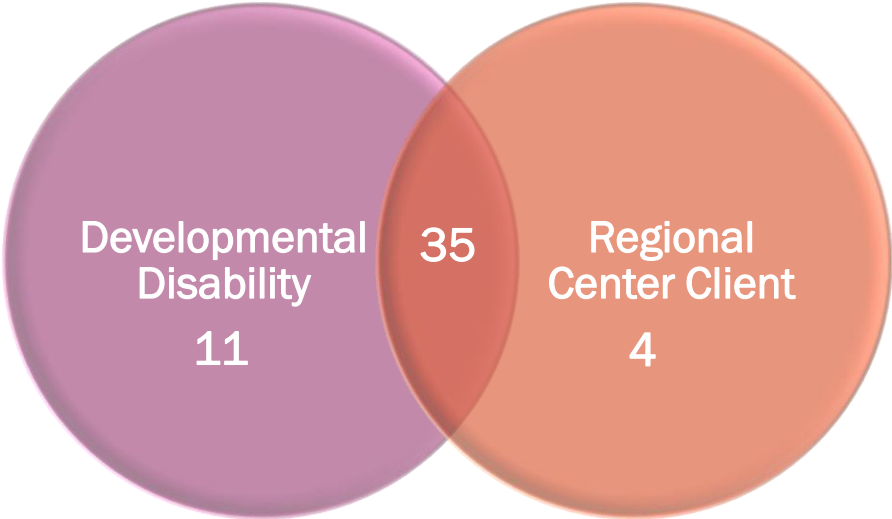
Child-Welfare Involvement

Juvenile Court School Data – As of March 20, 2024

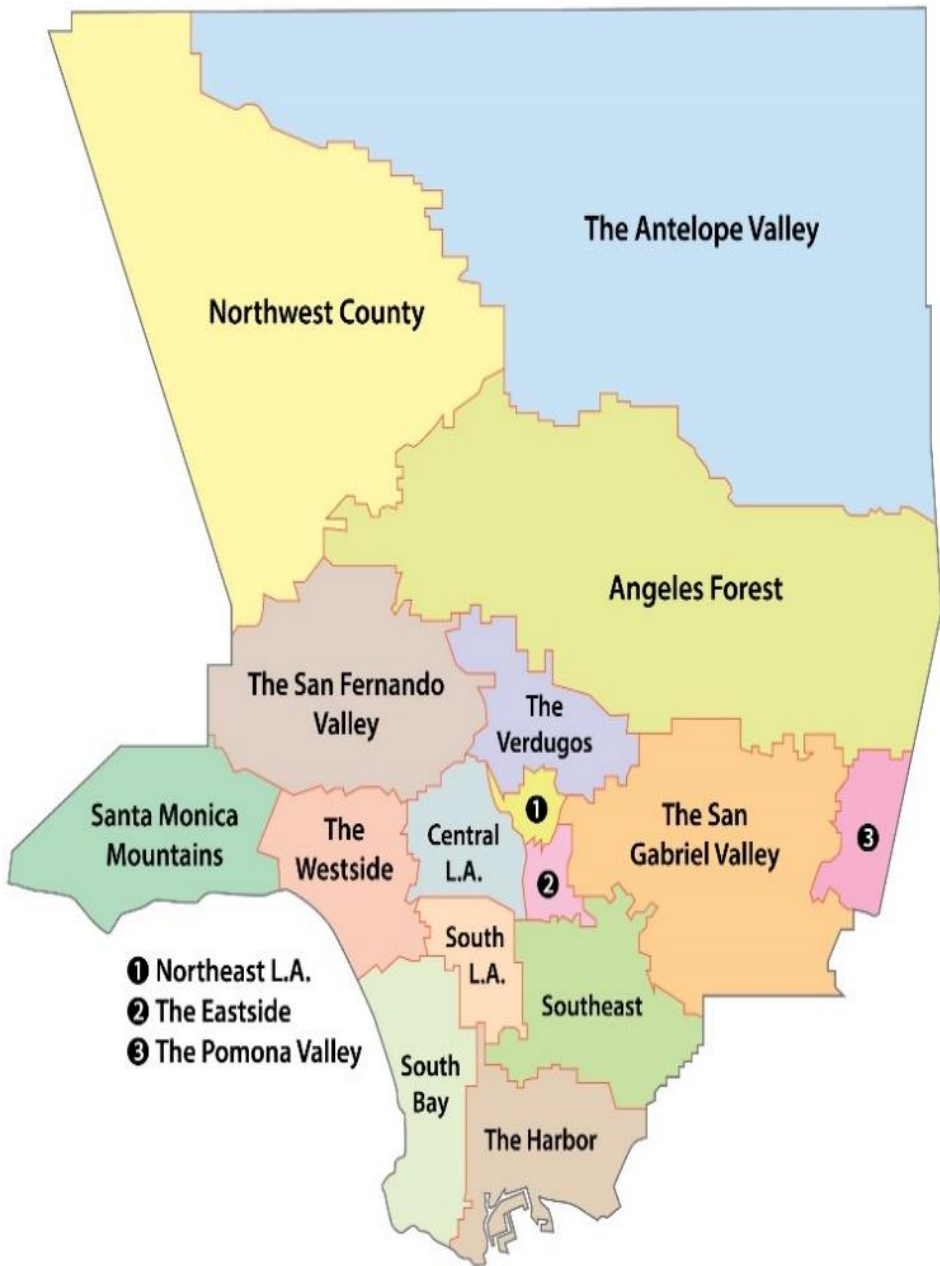
45% of students have a disability and of those:	
Specific Learning Disabilities	26%
Emotional Disturbance	25%
Other Health Impaired	45%



Probation Snapshot Data - December 1, 2024




Students with Disabilities



Most Impacted Regions

Snapshot Data Comparison					
July 27, 2023				July 31,2024	
Rank	Region	Sup. District		Rank	Region Sup. District
1	South L. A.	2 nd		1	South L.A. 2 nd
2	Southeast	1 st , 2 nd and 4 th		2	Southeast 1 st , 2 nd and 4 th
3	Antelope Valley	5 th		3	Harbor 2 nd and 4 th



Justice-system involved youth are likely to struggle with one or more of the following:

- Untreated trauma
- Maltreatment, removal from home
- Poverty, community violence & disinvestment
- Undiagnosed learning disabilities & poor academic performance
- Substance abuse
- Depression and sense of hopelessness
- Impulsivity and peer pressure
- Trafficking

**But with the right support,
hope and healing are
possible**

- Adolescence is a period of significant brain and human development
- The juvenile-justice system shouldn't mimic the adult criminal justice system

Final Thoughts

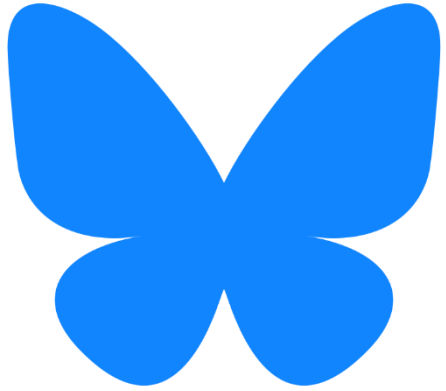
Upcoming Townhalls:

- Youth's alleged charges and detention screener scores
- Detention. Rehabilitation and public safety

Future Sessions



Thank you!



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