

Juvenile Justice Contact and 4-Year Graduation for the Oregon High School Class of 2020



Fact Sheet
April 2023

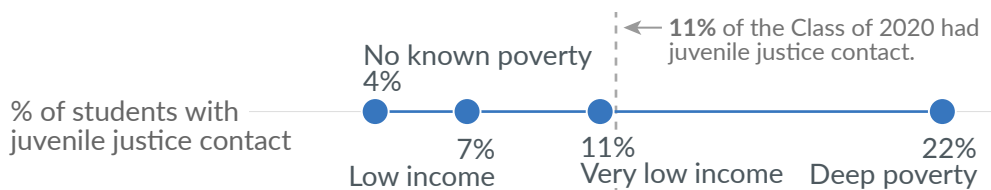
Foundational Overview

[Previous OCID analysis](#) identified contact with the juvenile justice system as one of the top 3 barriers to 4-year high school graduation, one measure of educational success. This fact sheet provides an overview of students with juvenile justice contact, to guide decisions focused on improving outcomes for children in Oregon.

Who experiences juvenile justice contact? —————○

Over **11%** of the Oregon Class of 2020 (3,410 of 30,410 students) ever had contact with the juvenile justice system.

Juvenile justice contact was more common for students with certain characteristics, such as deep poverty (22% or 1,800 students).



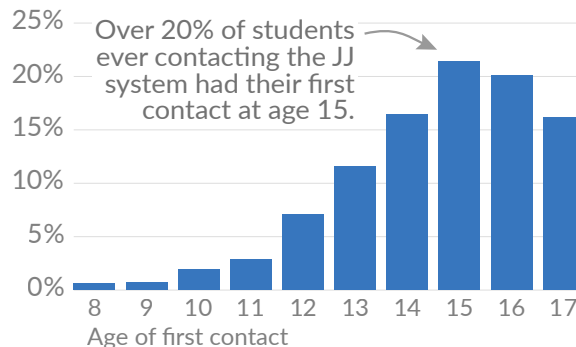
Disproportionality in juvenile justice contact for certain groups of youth, particularly youth of color, is a well-documented [state](#) and [national](#) issue. For a focused look at some of these populations in Oregon, see OCID's other products on juvenile justice contact for the Class of 2020:

- [Focus: Race/Ethnicity and Geography](#)
- [Focus: Disability](#)

When does juvenile justice contact first occur? —————○

Approximately 75% of first contact with the juvenile justice system was in high school (ages 14-17). However, initial juvenile justice system contact occurred before the age of 14 for 840 youth. The average age of first interaction with the juvenile justice system was just under 15 years old.

AGE OF FIRST CONTACT WITH THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



Explore further

Previous OCID research on the Class of 2020 revealed substantial differences in 4-year graduation rates for students with juvenile justice contact and other characteristics.

[View the Class of 2020 interactive visualizations.](#)

Definitions

Juvenile justice contact is defined here as ever having a criminal referral, regardless of the outcome.

Deep poverty is defined here as ever being enrolled in TANF.

Very low income is defined here as ever being enrolled in SNAP and never enrolled in TANF.

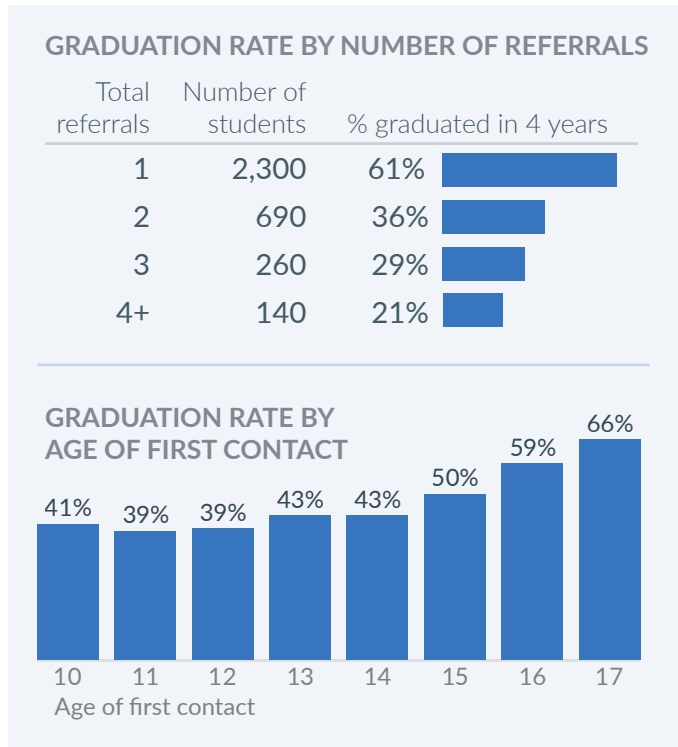
Low income is defined here as ever being enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP and never enrolled in TANF or SNAP.

More information on cohort and variable definitions for this analysis are available in the [methods summary](#).

The 4-year graduation rate for justice-involved students was **51%**, 30 percentage points lower than for the overall Class of 2020 (81%).

How does timing and frequency of juvenile justice contact relate to graduation?

The percentage of students who graduated in 4 years decreased as the number of criminal referrals increased. Over two-thirds of students with juvenile justice contact had a single referral; this group had a graduation rate 25 percentage points higher than those with 2 referrals. The 4-year graduation rates were higher for students who were older at their first contact with the juvenile justice system.



State Agency Resources

The Oregon Youth Authority produces research and official state statistics about juvenile justice. For more information visit the [OYA research webpage](#) and the [JJIS annual reports](#).

The Oregon Department of Education's [Youth Development Division](#) works to coordinate an aligned system of care for resilient yet vulnerable youth and includes the [Juvenile Crime Prevention program](#).

What are key opportunities for additional support?

Prior to first contact with the juvenile justice system, over 88% of youth interacted with at least 1 other non-education public program and over 93% had additional contact with the education system. This high rate of overlap between public programs and juvenile justice-involved students highlights the cross-program opportunities to provide support or to intervene earlier.

KEY PROGRAM INTERACTIONS FOR STUDENTS PRIOR TO JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTACT

