

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

Focus: Race/Ethnicity and Geography



Fact Sheet
April 2023

Why is it important to identify disparities? ○

Disproportionality in juvenile justice contact for youth of color is a well-documented [state](#) and [national](#) issue. Racial and ethnic disparities exist at [every stage](#) of the juvenile justice system. Causes of such disparities are considered [complex and multifaceted](#) with research pointing to the existence of systematic bias and differential treatment of minority youth within the system.

Identifying differences in education outcomes by characteristics, like race and ethnicity or geography, can help focus efforts and resources more effectively to address system inequities.

The juvenile justice system had disproportionate contact with youth of color ○

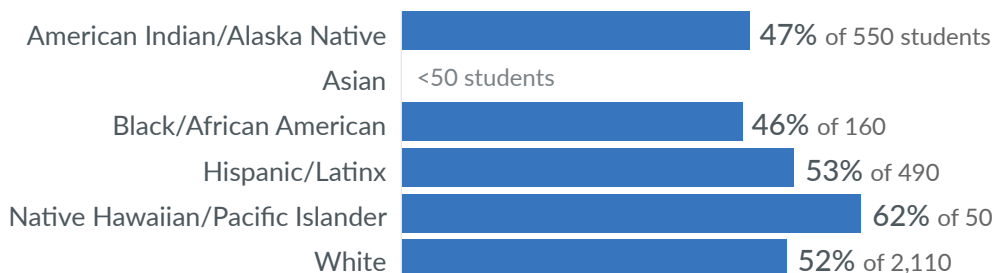
Compared with the overall Class of 2020, the juvenile justice system rates of contact were;

- **31%** higher for American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) students,
- **43%** higher for Black/African American (Black/AA) students, and
- **14%** higher for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NH/PI) students.

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

How do graduation rates of students with juvenile justice contact vary with race/ethnicity? ○

4-YEAR GRADUATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY



Explore further

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

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

Definitions

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

Rural is defined here as counties whose largest city has a population of less than 50,000.

Urban is defined here as non-Metro counties whose largest city has a population of 50,000 or more.

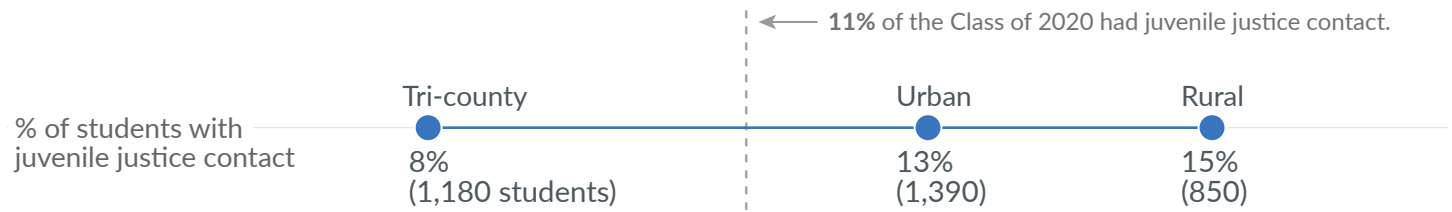
Tri-county includes the 3 Portland metropolitan counties: Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington.

Geography and race/ethnicity are measured in 12th grade. Learn about [OCID's race and ethnicity methodology](#).

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

How does juvenile justice contact vary across geography? ○

Compared to the 11% statewide average, juvenile justice systems had disproportionately higher contact with youth living in rural areas (15%) and lower contact with youth living in the tri-county area (8%).



The 4-year graduation rate for students with juvenile justice contact was **51%** in rural, urban, and tri-county areas.

How do race/ethnicity and geography intersect? ○

The juvenile justice system had disproportionately high contact with Black/AA and AI/AN youth across all 3 geographic regions.

In urban areas the juvenile justice system had contact with 22% of the Black/AA students, twice the overall statewide average. Similarly, 20% of AI/AN youth living in rural areas had juvenile justice contact.

PERCENT OF CLASS OF 2020 WITH JUVENILE JUSTICE CONTACT

	Rural	Urban	Tri-county
<i>Overall</i>	15%	13%	8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	20	17	10
Asian	--	8	3
Black/African American	18	22	15
Hispanic/Latinx	13	13	10
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	--	10	14
White	15	12	8

How does the intersection of race/ethnicity and geography relate to graduation rates? ○

4-YEAR GRADUATION RATES BY GEOGRAPHIC REGION

American Indian/Alaska Native	Hispanic/Latinx
49% rural	64% rural
50% urban	47% urban
43% tri-county	56% tri-county

Layering 4-year graduation rates and juvenile justice contact with race/ethnicity and geography uncovers additional information and patterns.

For example, the 4-year graduation rates for juvenile justice-involved AI/AN students in the tri-county area were lower than their peers in rural and urban regions.

In contrast, 4-year graduation rates for Hispanic/Latinx students varied across all 3 geographic areas, highest in rural regions and lowest in urban regions.