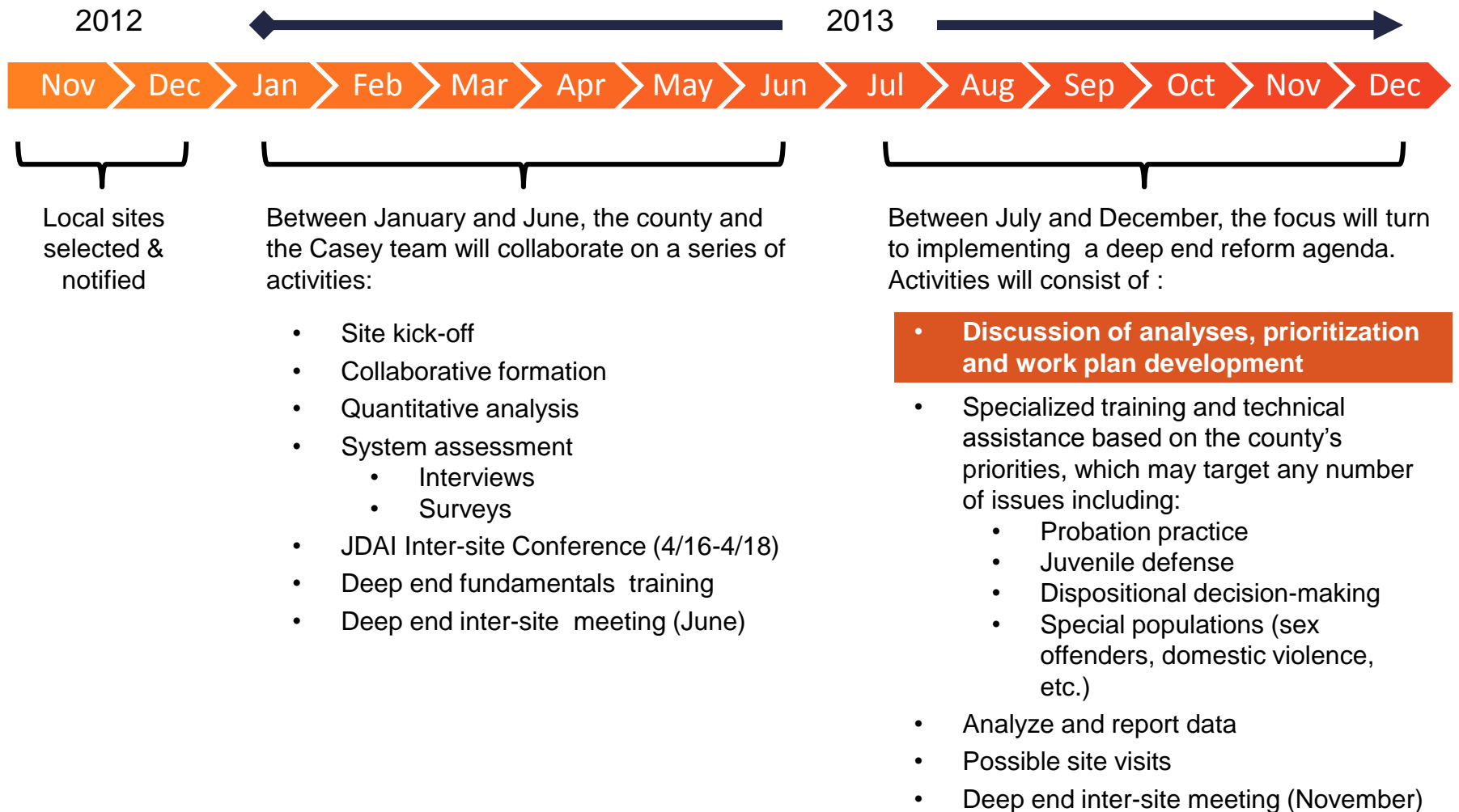


Lucas County Deep End Assessment Findings

Denise Navarre Cubbon:
Administrative Judge

Connie Zimmelman: Judge

After launching in January, Lucas County is well into the process of identifying opportunities to reduce “deep end” populations



These findings were identified through interviews, observation, discussion, and analysis over the span of several months

Qualitative Analysis

- Interviews with system stakeholders including:
 - Court Administration
 - Probation Supervisors
 - Probation Officers
 - Judiciary
 - Public Defenders
 - Court Appointed Counsel
 - Prosecutor's Office
 - Ohio Dept. Of Youth Services
 - Youth Treatment Center
 - Community mental health
 - Lucas County Children Services
 - Toledo Public Schools
 - Law Enforcement
- Conducted surveys with families and youth involved with the juvenile justice system
- Met with a critical self analysis team comprised of various stakeholders to synthesize the information into a system 'grade'

Quantitative Analysis

- 5 years of aggregate data on arrests/bookings, filings, detention admissions, dispositions, and out-of-home placements
- All dispositions from 2012 with information on:
 - Demographics
 - Offense Severity
 - Violations of probation or parole
 - OYAS scores
 - Prior history of felony adjudications

While Lucas County is starting this work from a place of great strength and achievement, the focus of this presentation will be on what can be done to safely reduce out-of-home placements

This presentation will explore: **MAJOR THEMES IN LUCAS COUNTY**

Dispositional Decision Making

- The rate of out-of-home placement is increasing
- Over half of youth in out-of-home placement are medium or low risk

Community-Based Services

- More community based solutions are needed to work with high-risk youth

Racial & Ethnic Equity

- Disproportionality increases in the deep end
- Drivers of disproportionality have yet to be clearly identified

Family Engagement

- Families are not engaged as a stakeholder in reform efforts

Probation

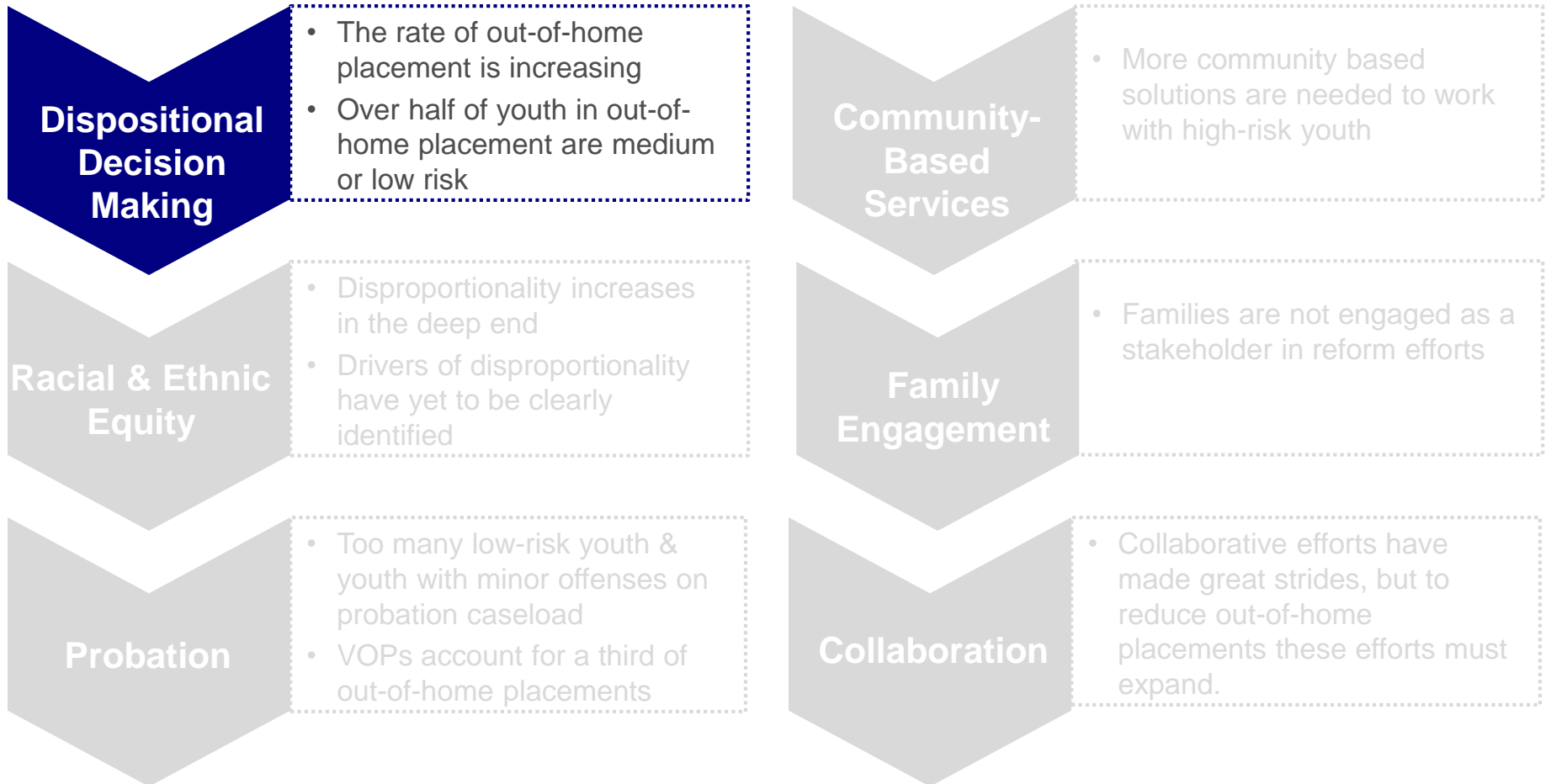
- Too many low-risk youth & youth with minor offenses on probation caseload
- VOPs account for a third of out-of-home placements

Collaboration

- Collaborative efforts have made great strides, but to reduce out-of-home placements these efforts must expand

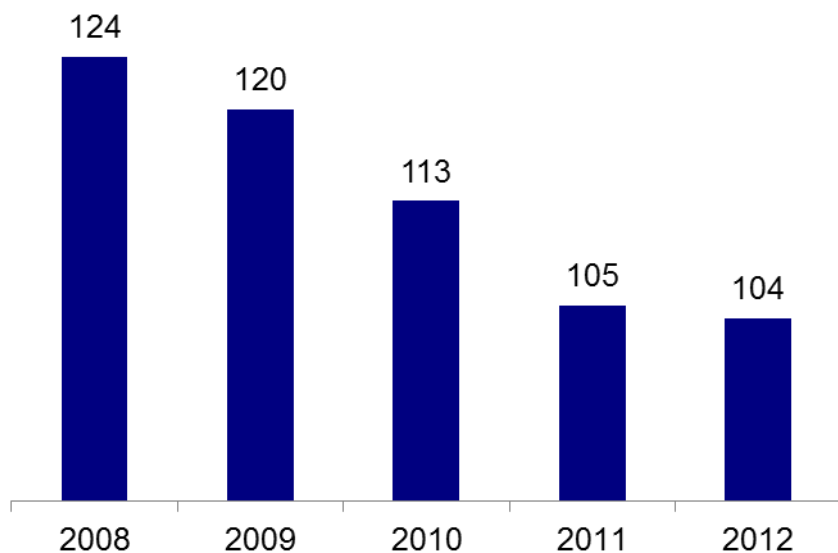
Analysis of dispositional data provides insight into the patterns of out-of-home placement

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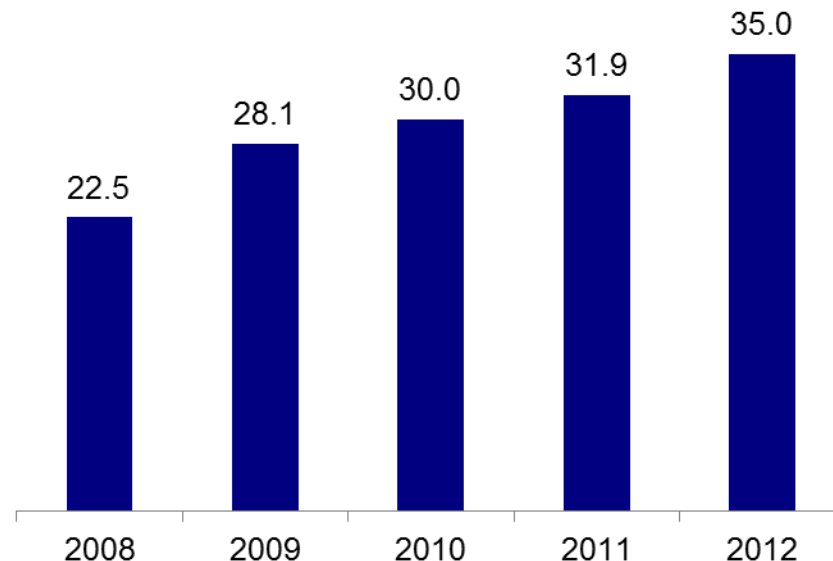


Commitments and placements are down, but the likelihood that a young person arrested in Lucas County will go to an out-of-home placement has increased each year since 2008

LUCAS COUNTY COMMITMENTS & OTHER OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS, 2008-2012



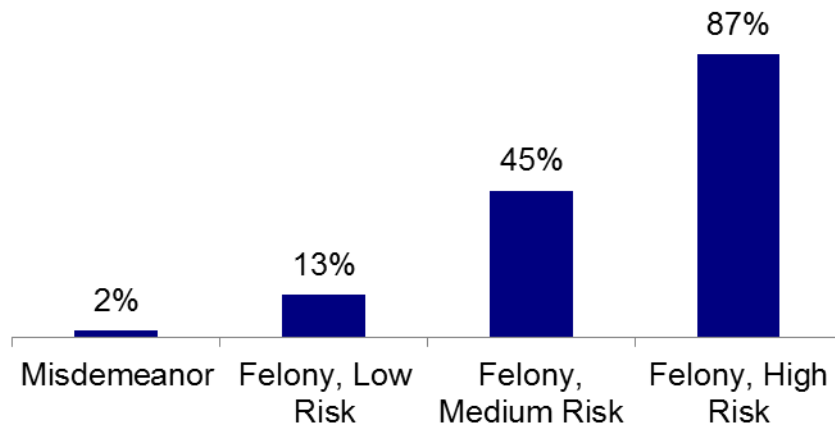
LUCAS COUNTY COMMITMENTS & OTHER OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS PER 1,000 ARRESTS



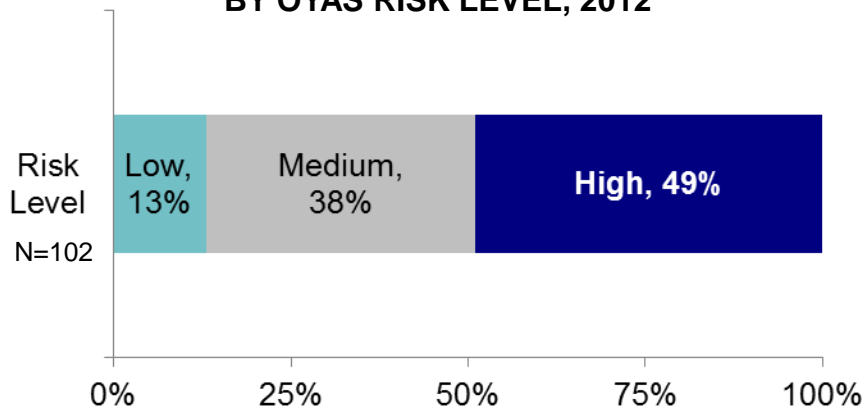
Commitments and other out-of-home placements are down considerably since 2008 (↓16%), but not nearly as much as arrests/bookings (↓46%), detention admissions (↓41%) or total dispositions (↓43%). As a result, the placement rate per arrest is up 56% since 2008.

Risk of re-arrest strongly impacts the likelihood of out-of-home placement, but half of committed and placed youth are *not* high risk

**LIKELIHOOD OF PLACEMENT AT DISPOSITION
BY OFFENSE AND OYAS RISK LEVEL, 2012**



**COMMITTED AND PLACED YOUTH
BY OYAS RISK LEVEL, 2012**



- Youth with misdemeanor offenses are virtually never sent to an out-of-home placement (n=5 or 2% of misdemeanor dispositions)
- Among youth with felony offenses, OYAS risk level strongly influences the likelihood of out-of-home placement
- However, half of all youth committed to ODYS or sent to any other out-of-home placement are assessed as low (13%) or medium (38%) risk at disposition

Viewing dispositional data through the lens of racial and ethnic equity reveals disproportionality and raises questions about driving forces and how to address them

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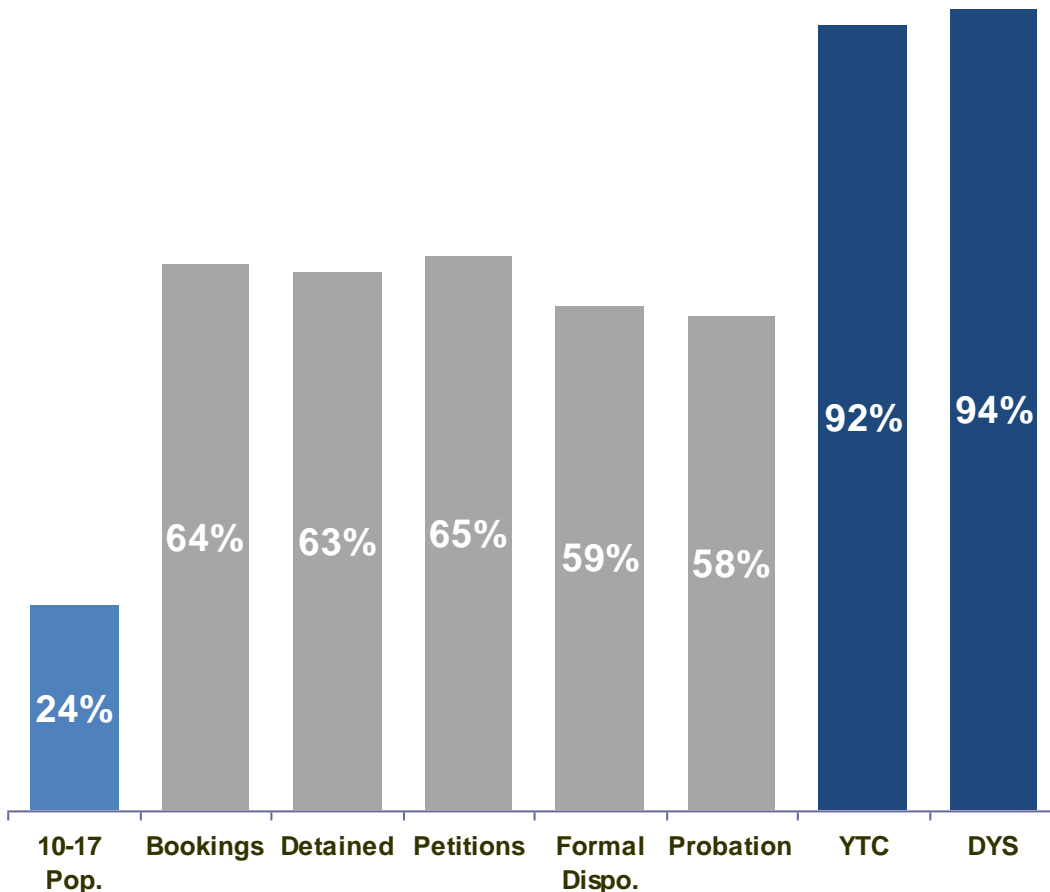
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In Lucas County, racial disparities increase considerably with decisions to send youth to an out-of-home placement

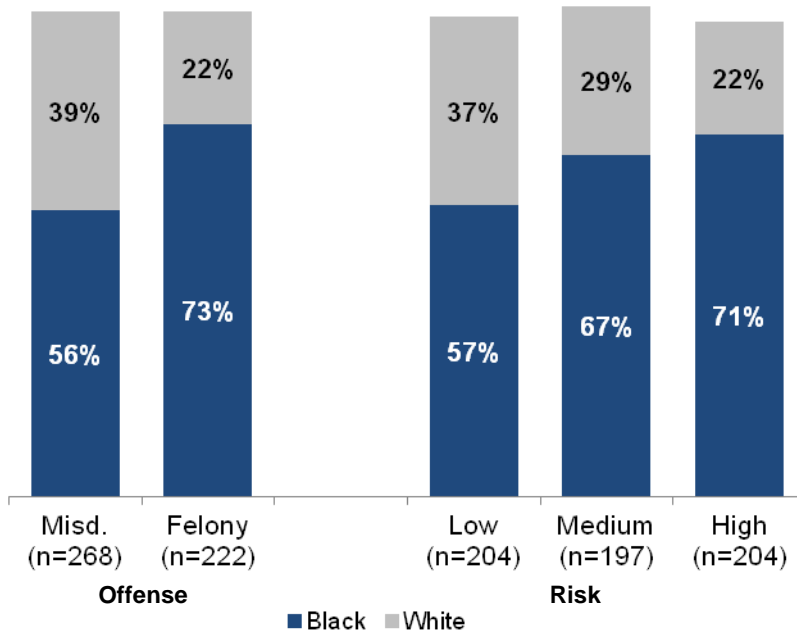
PERCENTAGE BLACK AMONG JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM INDICATORS, 2012



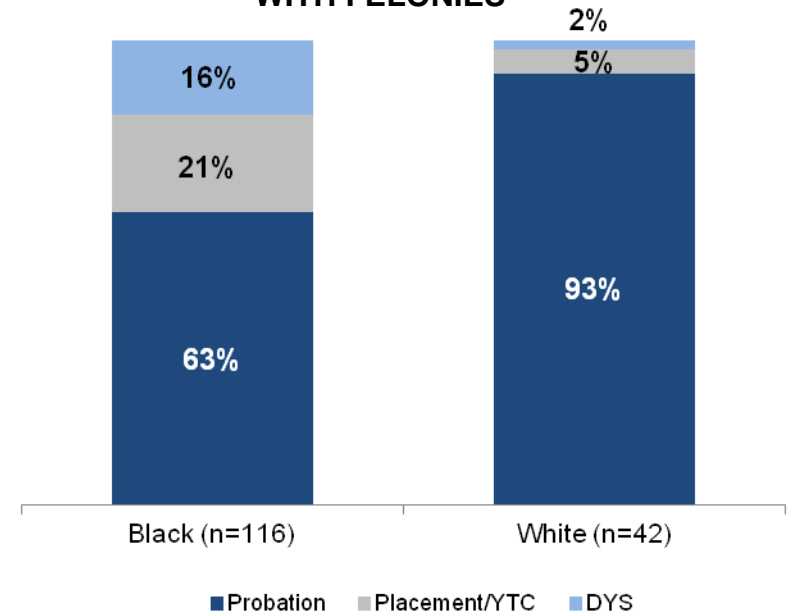
- More than half of youth in the juvenile justice system are black, compared with just 24% of the Lucas County youth population
- At system decision points prior to disposition, the proportion of black youth is relatively steady (between 58% & 65%)
- **Black youth comprise an extremely disproportionate percentage of out-of-home placements to YTC & DYS**
- Racial disproportionality in placement is especially striking given the success at keeping disparities in detention admissions in line with other indicators

Disparities in placements are largely a function of offense and risk, but black and white youth with similar characteristics oftentimes have very different odds of out-of-home placement

OFFENSE & RISK BY RACE: YOUTH RECEIVING PROBATION, PLACEMENT, YTC OR DYS DISPOSITIONS



RATE OF PROBATION, PLACEMENT/YTC & DYS AMONG MEDIUM & LOW RISK YOUTH WITH FELONIES



- Youth deemed high risk and those with felony offenses are most likely to be ordered to out-of-home placement
- The representation of black youth increases as risk and offense get more serious

- Irrespective of race, medium and low risk youth with felonies typically receive probation
- But more than a third (37%) of black youth are given an out-of-home placement, compared with (7%) of white youth

If out-of-home placements are to be safely reduced, it stands to reason probation will likely be an alternative for otherwise placed or committed youth

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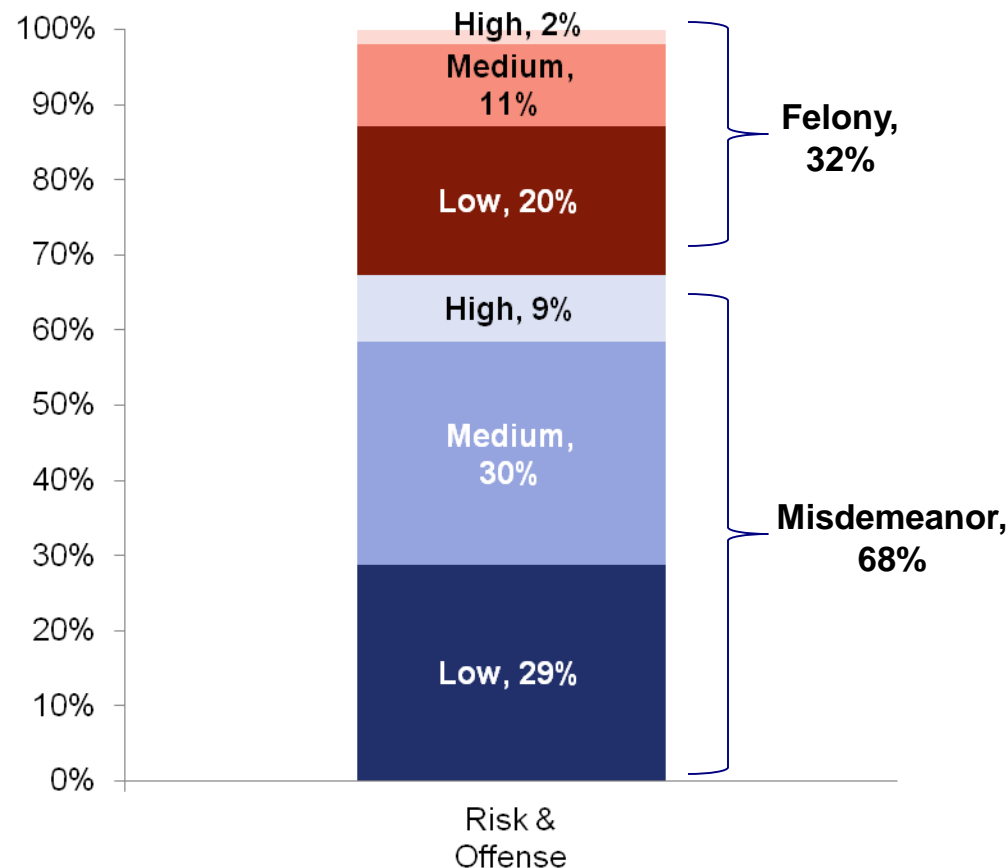
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In spite of a history of probation innovation and an array of community-based services, formal supervision is primarily used for youth with misdemeanor offenses and low-risk youth with felonies

OFFENSE & RISK FOR YOUTH WITH A PROBATION DISPOSITION, 2012

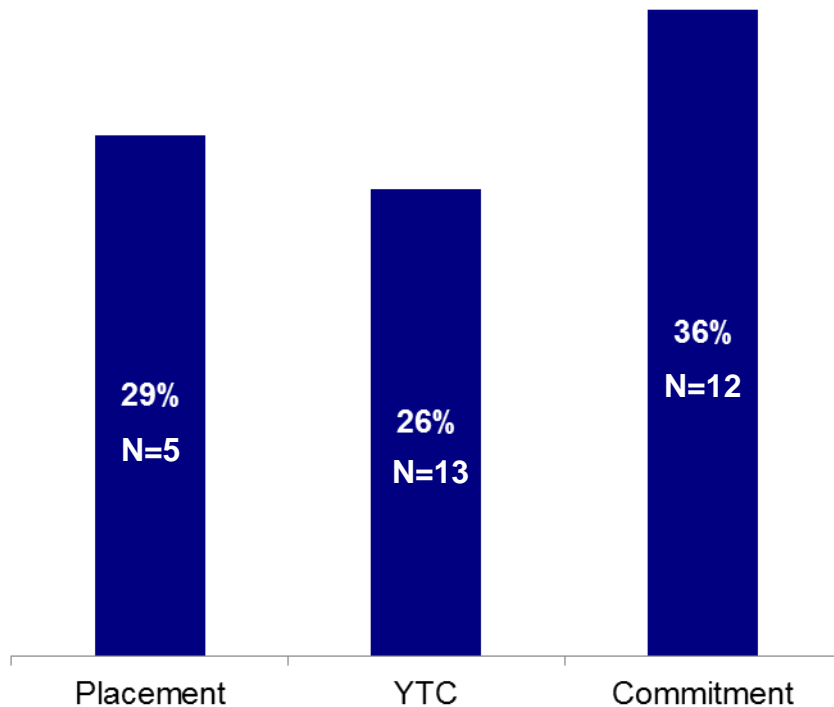


- Fully half (49%) of youth ordered to probation at disposition were those assessed as having the lowest likelihood of re-offending
- In all, 68% of youth given a probation disposition were adjudicated for a misdemeanor offense
- Just 41 of 389 youth (11%) placed on probation were assessed as high risk to re-offend

For probation to serve as an alternative to residential placement, more low-level cases should be diverted from formal probation supervision, freeing up probation officer time to supervise the most difficult cases

Violations of probation and parole account for about a third of out-of-home placements, but much more needs to be understood in order to shape changes in policy or practice

PERCENTAGE OF OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS FOR VIOLATIONS OF PROBATION/PAROLE BY PLACEMENT TYPE, 2012¹



What we know. . .

- Nearly a third (30%) of youth committed to ODYS or sent to YTC or another placement, were adjudicated for a violation of probation (VOP)
- 47% of youth committed or otherwise placed for a VOP (14 of 30) were assessed as high risk on the OYAS, while just 13% (4 of 30) were low risk.

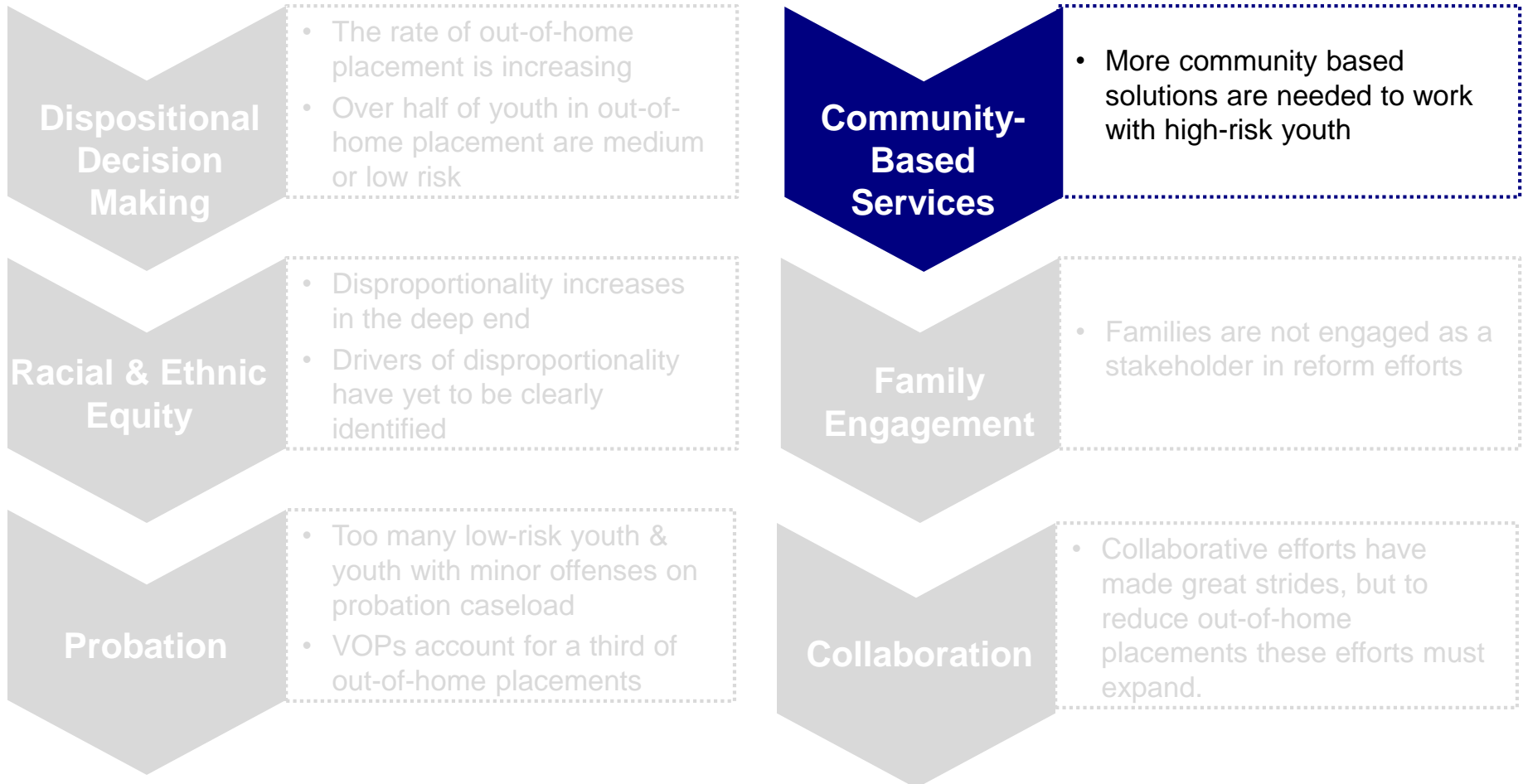
What we want to know. . .

- Are VOPs the result of new arrests or technical violations?
- What kinds of technical violations are most common?
- What steps did probation officers take to help youth change behavior prior to filing the VOP?
- How long were youth typically on probation prior to the VOP?

¹Parole violations are only among youth committed to DYS.

If more youth are to be diverted from out-of-home placements they will need culturally appropriate, accessible, and effective services in their community

This presentation will explore: **MAJOR THEMES IN LUCAS COUNTY**



A safe reduction in out-of-home placements requires matching young people to services that address criminogenic needs most closely related to future delinquency

Risk of recidivism is assessed by the Ohio Youth Assessment Tool measuring:

- Juvenile Justice History
- Family & Living Arrangements
- Peers & Social Support network
 - Education & Employment
 - Pro-Social Skills
- Substance Abuse, Mental Health, & Personality
- Values, Beliefs, & Attitudes



Lucas County has already developed an array of evidenced based programs to act as the foundation for deep end reform



Meaningful family engagement was a theme throughout the assessment that Lucas County is still reaching for on all practice levels

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Families are *the* stakeholder with the most to gain or lose in juvenile justice reform, but their presence is noticeably absent in reform efforts

Families experience positive changes with support

“The communication between me and the probation officer that helps me get my son on task.”

-Parent of probation youth

“I actually started doing good in school.”

-Probation youth

Families experience and expertise are not used to inform reform efforts

- No current family advisory panel
- No current youth advisory panel
- No current established means to survey families regarding their experience with the juvenile justice system

Family driven case planning competes for compliance driven case planning

- Compliance or completion of court orders the #1 identified measure of success in probation surveys
- Families too often believe the court’s role is to strictly punish bad behavior

In the words of children and families...

Positive Changes and Experiences

“We have a lot better communication. He is more respectful and he does a lot more then before at home”

“Teaching him how to prevent being in a bad spot or if he finds himself in a bad situation how to get out [was the most helpful].”

“Probation was the most helpful of all the programs I was in because they keep you out of trouble and help you set rules”

“The MST and YAP program helped me and my mom work out all this that we were struggling with”

Struggles and frustrations

“The amount of required communication [was least helpful]. If he was doing ok then you do not hear a lot from probation or anyone. It was when kids are messing up that you hear from probation”

“It’s been a long tiring process”

“I feel like probation has taken away my childhood”

“All the meds [is least helpful] because you have to see doctors and listen to them trying to tell you what you feel and why”

Taking on reform initiatives at any point in the system requires the help of community partners

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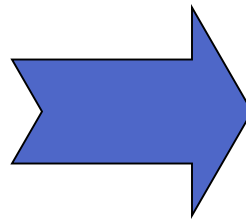
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The Executive Team in Lucas County has shown that upon identifying a common goal to better the community, the work *will* get done. Expanding JDAI reform effort to the deep end of the system will require continued partnerships and may require exploring new relationships as well

Collaborative Efforts include:

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
Community Detention Crossover Initiative
Assessment Center
Sex Offender Treatment
Truancy Mediation Program
Juvenile Treatment Court
Pathways to Success Initiative
Population Control
Educational Specialists
Improved School Behavioral Interventions
Runaway Youth Services



Future Collaborations:

How can we come together to safely reduce out-of-home placements?
How can we build community-based services that target criminogenic needs?
What community stakeholders are not at the table?
Non-traditional stakeholders?
Community members?