

Programming for Girls & Gender Expansive Youth

Alameda County is committed to building and expanding an array of community-based, residential programs and alternatives to incarceration for girls and gender expansive youth to avoid commitments to Secure Track. Those details are outlined in the *Step-Down* section of this plan. However, in the rare instance that a girl or gender expansive youth is committed to Secure Track, that youth will be served within our local jurisdiction. From the onset, assessment and intervention planning will take into consideration and be inclusive and responsive to diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. This is particularly important given LGBTQ-GNCT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender non-confirming, and transgender) youth are over-represented in the juvenile justice system¹ and more likely to be suspended, expelled, arrested, detained, and incarcerated for the same behaviors exhibited by their straight peers.² This overrepresentation occurs on top of the racial disparities long evident in the juvenile justice system wherein Black and Native American youth are still four times more likely and Latinx youth one-and-a-half to two times more likely to be committed to secure facilities or other out-of-home placements when compared with white youth who are charged with the same crimes.³

Irvine-Baker, Jones and Canfield observe that these “persistent and newly emergent disparities highlight the need to continue to focus on the reduction of racial/ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system while also bringing increased attention to the ways that race intersects with sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE) among system-involved youth.” Furthermore, the authors emphasize that the “complex interactions between race and SOGIE highlight the need to move from gender-responsive programming, which is typically informed by an assumption of a male/female gender binary, toward gender-affirming programming for all youth across the gender spectrum.”⁴

Leila Curtis and Melanie Nadon’s [“Gender Responsive Juvenile Justice: A Girls Court Literature Review Update”](#) summarizes articles, papers, research, and reports that analyze and describe girls involved in or at-risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system⁵. As such, Curtis and Nadon’s work is akin to a roadmap with guideposts to consider when designing and selecting programs and services for our young women. Here are some highlights:

¹ Movement Advancement Project, Center for American Progress, and Youth First. (2017) *Unjust: LGBTQ Youth Incarcerated in the Juvenile Justice System*. Retrieved from <https://www.lgbtmap.org/file/lgbtq-incarcerated-youth.pdf>

² Himmelstein KEW & Bruckner H. (2011). Criminal-justice and School Sanctions Against Nonheterosexual Youth: A National Longitudinal study. *Journal of Pediatrics* 127(1):48–56.

³ Ridolfi, 2016 as cited in Irvine-Baker, Jones, & Canfield (2019). Taking the “Girl” Out of Gender-Responsive Programming in the Juvenile Justice System. *Annual Review of Criminology* 3: 321-336. Retrieved from [Taking the “Girl” Out of Gender-Responsive Programming in the Juvenile Justice System \(squarespace.com\)](#)

⁴ Irvine-Baker, A.; Jones, N. & Canfield, A. (2019). Taking the “Girl” Out of Gender-Responsive Programming in the Juvenile Justice System. *Annual Review of Criminology* 3: 321-336. Retrieved from [Taking the “Girl” Out of Gender-Responsive Programming in the Juvenile Justice System \(squarespace.com\)](#)

⁵ Curtis, L., & Nadon, M. (2018). *Gender Responsive Juvenile Justice: A Girls Court Literature Review Update*. Retrieved from <https://www.ccyj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/CCYJ.GirlsCourt.LitReview.6-30-18.pdf>

- *Offense types, patterns, and pathways:* Justice-involved girls commit a wide range of offenses, primarily low-level (e.g., status and misdemeanor offenses), at different points in time, initiate offending behavior early by the commission of less serious offenses, and do not conform to specific delinquency patterns, sequences, or pathways into the juvenile justice system. Data for the female population in Alameda County is consistent with this finding (*Appendix A*).
 - Substance use plays a significant role in offending behavior for girls.

- *Predictors:* Family violence, parental divorce, and cumulative childhood risk factors, but not juvenile justice referrals, are significant predictors of adult arrest for women whereas, for men, juvenile justice system involvement is a significant predictor of adult arrest and adult felony offending.
 - *Trauma history, adversity, and its correlation to offending and high-risk behavior:* Justice-involved girls have greater histories of trauma and other adverse childhood experiences than justice-involved boys. Unlike males, the prevalence of adversity is highly correlated with offending and other high-risk behaviors, including trafficking and gang/group involvement, for girls.

 - *Learning disabilities and parenthood:* Learning disabilities and adolescent parenthood among justice-involved girls are associated with higher risk for mental health challenges and substance use, and greater reliance on public assistance in the future.

- *Diverse histories, needs, risks, and identities:*
 - A one-size fits all approach, response, or program will not be effective for all girls in need of gender-responsive services.
 - Girls with lower needs and less prior systems involvement often respond poorly to intensive services.
 - Girls may have unique service needs based on their identities (e.g., ability, racial, sexual, gender, ethnic, religious, nationality, socioeconomic status, etc.) and experiences (e.g., child welfare involvement).
 - Adaptations of evidence-based programs, which include gender-responsive elements, have shown some promise with girls.

Considering the historically low population of girls and gender expansive youth, as well the factors articulated in the literature, ACPD will take an individualized approach with respect to assessing needs and developing and implementing programs for girls and gender expansive youth.

Upon commitment to Secure Track, any girl or gender expansive youth will participate in a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meeting within 30 days of commitment. The MDT minimally shall consist of the assigned mental health clinician, a Credible Messenger, juvenile institutional officer (JIO), deputy probation officer (DPO), and education representative. The MDT will work closely with the youth and their family to ensure that the Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) meets the needs of the youth, is culturally and gender responsive, and supports the youth's healthy

development. The MDT will also regularly include, at the request of the youth, the youth's defense team including the defense social worker, and other relevant supports from the community. No girl or gender expansive youth ordered to Secure Track from Alameda County will transfer to another county for housing, programs, or services, unless those specific services are offered in the community and the provider is unable or unwilling to provide those services in custody. Under such circumstances, youth shall be transported specifically to meet those individual needs and subsequently transported back to Alameda County to be housed.

In addition to any specific programs identified by a youth's individual plan, in partnership with Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) and community-based organizations, ACPD shall explore the use of the following programs as part of the standard milieu curricula:

- Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) and Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC), which have been the most frequently evaluated programs for girls⁶
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) focused on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as well as Motivational Interviewing/Enhancement and the “Transtheoretical Model of Change” (i.e., precontemplation, contemplation)
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), with cultural adaptations⁷
- Girls Circle groups calendared *consistently*, as research indicates that reductions in recidivism were significantly moderated by the number of Circle sessions attended⁸
- Seeking Safety⁹, Moving On¹⁰, and Forever Free¹¹, programs classified as “Promising” per the National Institute of Justice’s CrimeSolutions
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)

⁶ Curtis, L., & Nadon, M. (2018). *Gender Responsive Juvenile Justice: A Girls Court Literature Review Update*. Retrieved from <https://www.ccyj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/CCYJ.GirlsCourt.LitReview.6-30-18.pdf>

⁷ Haft, S.L., O’Grady, S., Shaller, E., Liu, N. (2022). Cultural adaptations of dialectical behavior therapy: A systematic review. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 90 (10) 787-801.

⁸ Gies, S., Cohen, M., Edberg, M., Bobnis, A., Spinney, E., Berger, E. (2015). *The Girls Circle: An Evaluation of a Structure Support Group Program for Girls*. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Retrieved from <https://onecirclefoundation.org/media/pdfs/Research-GC-DSG-2015.pdf>

⁹ Program Profile: “Seeking Safety” for Incarcerated Women. (2015). Crime Solutions – National Institute of Justice. Retrieved from <https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/ratedprograms/424>

¹⁰ Program Profile: “Moving On.” (2016). Crime Solutions – National Institute of Justice. Retrieved from <https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/ratedprograms/476>

¹¹ Program Profile: “Forever Free.” (2011). Crime Solutions – National Institute of Justice. Retrieved from <https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/ratedprograms/40>

Gender Informed Re-Entry

The section of this plan entitled, *Reentry Planning, Coordination, & Services* outlines the overall goals, objectives and respective plans for youth committed to Secure Track, with respect to re-entry. However, for girls and gender expansive youth, focus shall be placed on “*gender-informed re-entry planning*,” further acknowledging the unique needs of girls and gender expansive youth.

In addition to the re-entry planning outlined earlier in this document, the following elements, informed by Ventura-Miller (2021), shall be considered¹²:

- *Focus on aftercare*: Newly funded or implemented programs will ensure that treatment begins at least 90 days prior to release and continues for a period, correspondent to the youth’s needs, under community supervision.
 - Linkages to community health providers for treating addiction and mental and physical health needs will be made prior to release, and case management will be maintained while the individual is under post-release community supervision
 - Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) will be provided when and where possible. As of this writing, [The Bridge Clinic](#) has been providing such services.
- *Peer Recovery Support and/or Credible Messengers*
 - Peer specialists and/or Credible Messengers can capitalize on women’s propensity to have stronger social bonds, prioritize interpersonal relationships, and view themselves through the lens of relationships. These supports will be made available and utilized throughout the re-entry process.
- *Employment + Skills Training and Housing Assistance*
 - Youth returning from incarceration, especially females, experience homelessness and housing insecurity at a rate far higher than the general population. ACPD will work to expand the provision of housing services for formerly incarcerated women, particularly those who have custody of minor children.

A final word: With the exception of Irvine-Baker, Jones and Canfield’s [“Taking the ‘Girl’ Out of Gender-Responsive Programming in the Juvenile Justice System,”](#) the resources we found about girls and gender-responsive programming focused on cisgender females. ACPD and its partners, recognizing the limitations of our field’s understanding about how to best support gender expansive youth, will consult and collaborate with ACBH, UCSF-CHO, and other partners to ensure we are gender-responsive and affirming during our assessment, program design and implementation processes.

¹² Ventura Miller, H. (2021). *Female Reentry and Gender-Responsive Programming: Recommendations for Policy and Practice*. National Institute of Justice. Retrieved from <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/female-reentry-and-gender-responsive-programming>

Appendix A

Female Youth Booked into Juvenile Hall January 1, 2021-September 30, 2022

Booking Reasons

Booking Reasons	N (Bookings)
New Crime	102
Warrant	33
Violation	2
GPS Failure	1
In-Custody Transfer from Out of County	13
Total	151

Note. Female youth were booked into Juvenile Hall 151 times (n=87 unduplicated youth) between 1/1/2021 and 9/30/2022.

Number of Bookings

Number of Bookings	N (Individuals)
1	56
2	17
3	6
4	3
5+	5
Total	87

Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	N (Bookings)	N (Individuals)
Asian/PI	1	1
Black	111	58
Hispanic	25	17
Other	4	3
Unknown	1	1
White	9	7
Total	151	87

Age

Age	N (Bookings)	N (Individuals)
12	6	2
13	6	5
14	18	10
15	9	7
16	35	19
17	31	17
18+	46	27
Total	151	87

Note. The average age of female youth booked into Juvenile Hall between 1/1/2021 and 9/30/2022 was 16.3 and their average age at first referral was 14.2.

Top 5 Most Serious Arrested Offenses

Offense	N (Bookings)	N (Individuals)
*Robbery	46	44
*Carjacking	10	10
Receiving a Stolen Vehicle	10	10
*Robbery (Second Degree)	3	3
*Assault with a Deadly Weapon	4	4

Note. Youth can have more than one arrested offense.

*707(b) offense

Top 5 Most Serious Sustained Offenses

Offense	N (Individuals)
Grand Theft	7
*Robbery	6
Elder Abuse	2
Carrying a Concealed Weapon	2
Accessory after the Fact	2

Note. Youth can have more than one sustained offense.

*707(b) offense

Dispositions for 707(b) Offenses

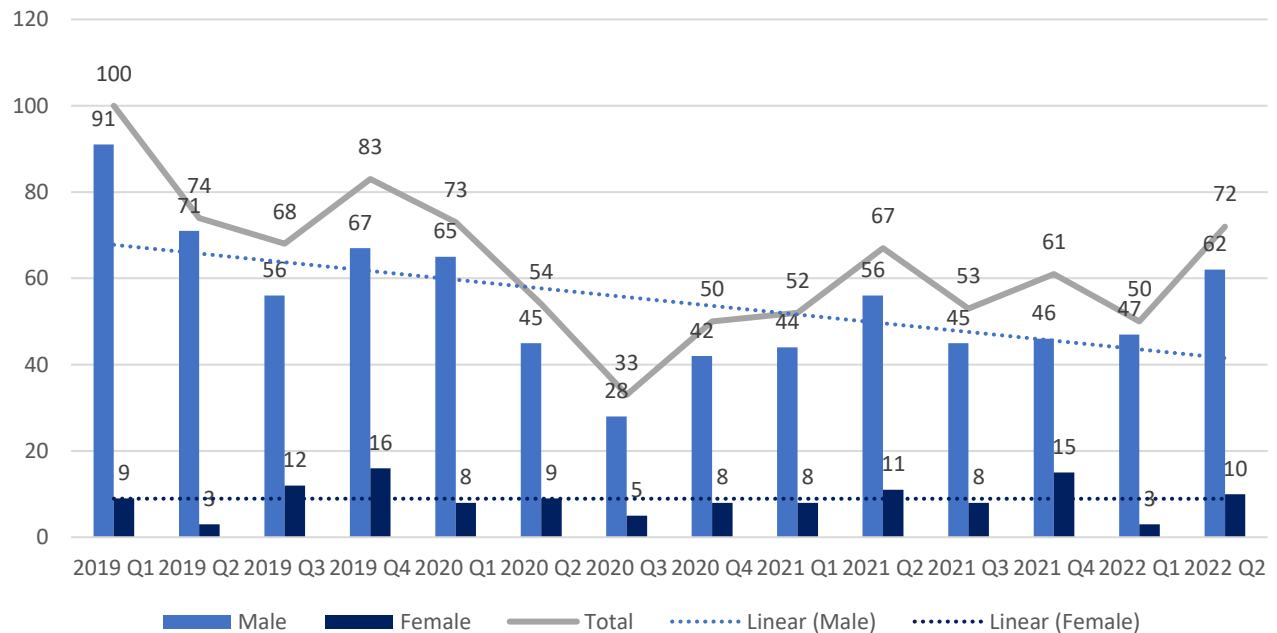
Offense	N (Individuals)
Wardship (Own Home)	3
Placement (Own/Relatives Home)	1
Non-Ward 725(a)	1
Placement (Private Facility)	1

Petitions Filed for 707(b) Offenses by Quarter January 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022

Petitions Filed for 707(b) Offenses by Gender

	Male		Female		Total # of Petitions Filed
	N	%	N	%	
2022 Q2	62	86%	10	14%	72
2022 Q1	47	94%	3	6%	50
2021 Q4	46	75%	15	25%	61
2021 Q3	45	85%	8	15%	53
2021 Q2	56	84%	11	16%	67
2021 Q1	44	85%	8	15%	52
2020 Q4	42	84%	8	16%	50
2020 Q3	28	85%	5	15%	33
2020 Q2	45	83%	9	17%	54
2020 Q1	65	89%	8	11%	73
2019 Q4	67	81%	16	19%	83
2019 Q3	56	82%	12	18%	68
2019 Q2	71	96%	3	4%	74
2019 Q1	91	91%	9	9%	100

Petitions Filed for 707(b) Offenses by Gender with Linear Trend Lines



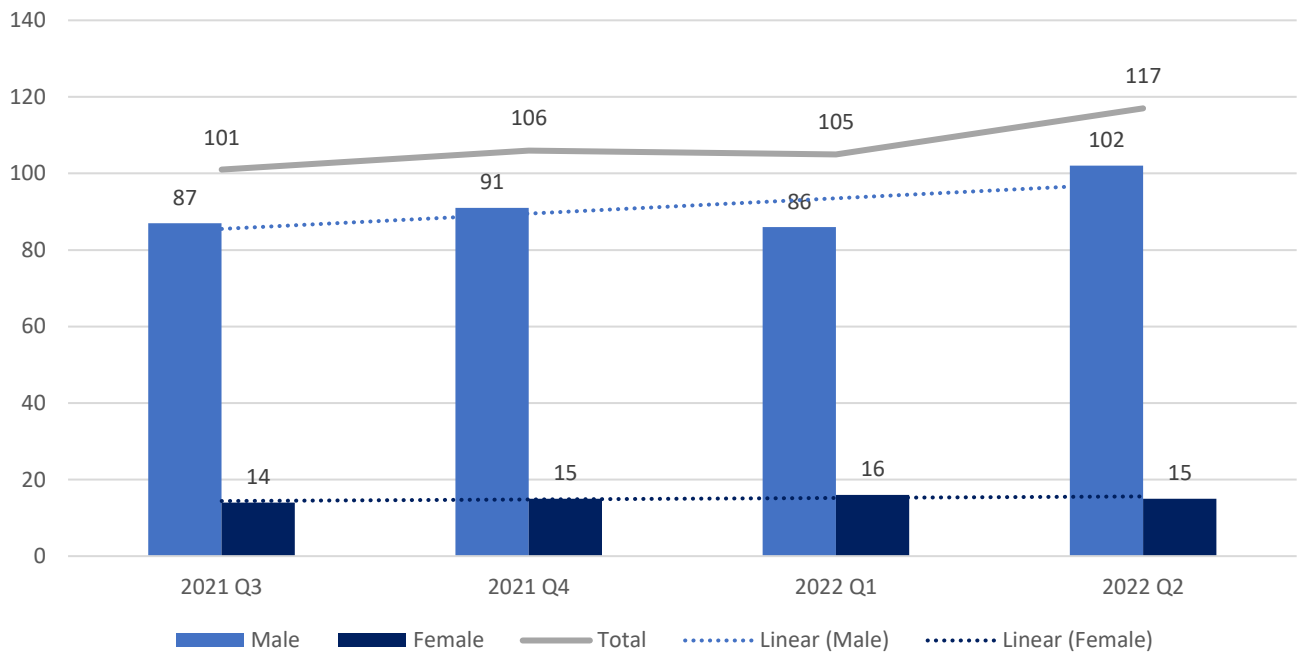
Youth Age 14+ with Sustained 707(b) Offenses by Quarter October 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Youth Age 14+ with Sustained 707(b) Offenses by Gender

	Male		Female		Total
	N	%	N	%	
2022 Q2	102	87%	15	13%	117
2022 Q1	86	84%	16	16%	102
2021 Q4	91	86%	15	14%	106
2021 Q3	87	86%	14	14%	101

Note. Sustained 707(b) offenses are based on the most recent referral.

Youth Age 14+ with Sustained 707(b) Offenses by Gender with Linear Trend Lines



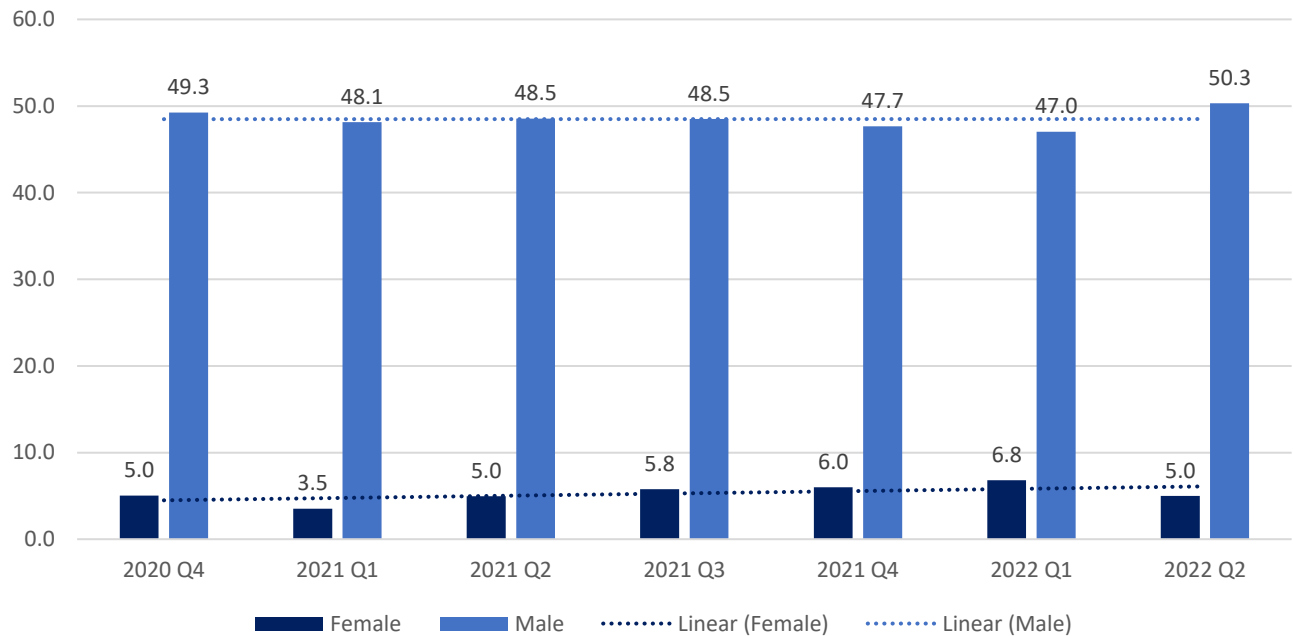
Juvenile Hall Average Daily Population (ADP) by Quarter October 1, 2020-June 30, 2022

Juvenile Hall ADP by Gender

	Female	Male
2022 Q2	5.0	50.3
2022 Q1	6.8	47.0
2021 Q4	6.0	47.7
2021 Q3	5.8	48.5
2021 Q2	5.0	48.5
2021 Q1	3.5	48.1
2020 Q4	5.0	49.3

Note. ADP excludes youth committed to the SYTF.

Juvenile Hall ADP by Gender with Linear Trend Lines



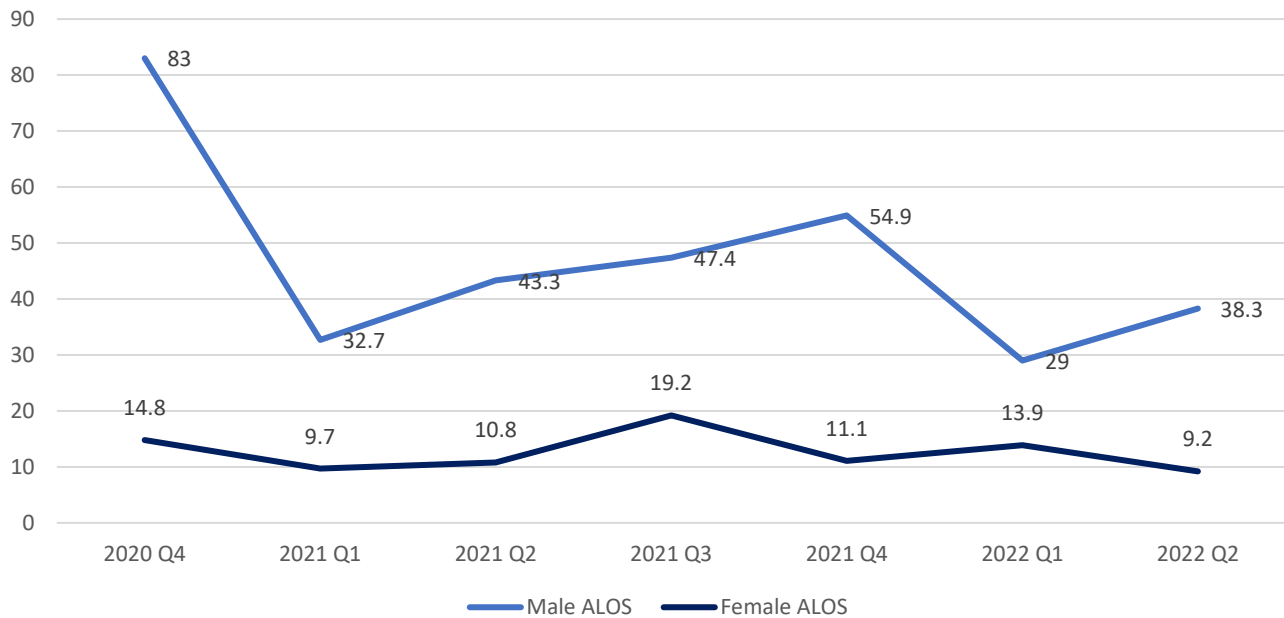
Note. ADP excludes youth committed to the SYTF.

Average Length of Stay (ALOS) and Median Length of Stay (MLOS) by Quarter October 1, 2020-June 30, 2022

Pre-Adjudication Average and Median Length of Stay by Gender – Juvenile Hall

	Female			Male		
	ALOS	MLOS	N (Releases)	ALOS	MLOS	N (Releases)
2022 Q2	9.2	5.0	22	38.3	9.0	87
2022 Q1	13.9	5.0	7	29.0	11.0	81
2021 Q4	11.1	4.0	20	54.9	14.0	77
2021 Q3	19.2	9.0	13	47.4	16.0	74
2021 Q2	10.8	7.0	17	43.3	15.0	68
2021 Q1	9.7	9.0	9	32.7	9.5	64
2020 Q4	14.8	10.0	13	83.0	12.0	80

Note. Pre-adjudication average length of stay (ALOS) and median length of stay (MLOS) are calculated for youth released from Juvenile Hall each quarter and calculations exclude youth committed to the SYTF.



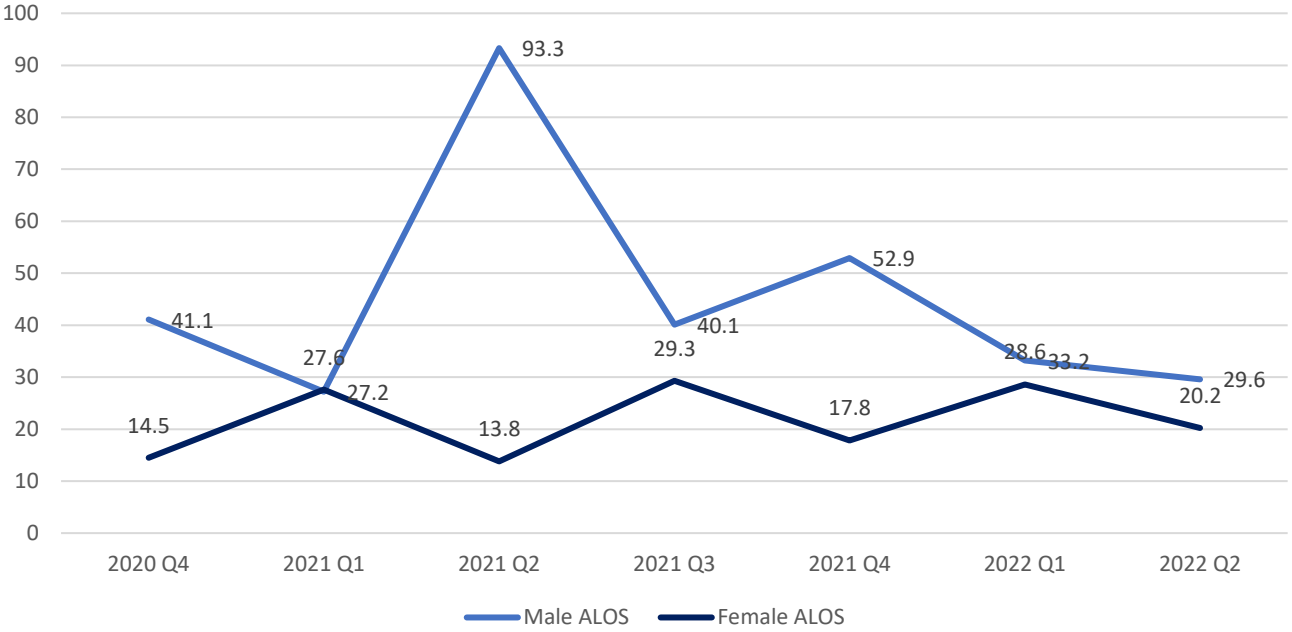
Pre-Adjudication Average Length of Stay by Gender – Juvenile Hall

Note. Pre-adjudication average length of stay (ALOS) and median length of stay (MLOS) are calculated for youth released from Juvenile Hall each quarter and calculations exclude youth committed to the SYTF.

Overall Average and Median Length of Stay by Gender – Juvenile Hall

	Female			Male		
	ALOS	MLOS	N (Releases)	ALOS	MLOS	N (Releases)
2022 Q2	20.2	7.0	31	29.6	15.0	117
2022 Q1	28.6	16.0	19	33.2	11.0	105

2021 Q4	17.8	9.5	26	52.9	18.0	95
2021 Q3	29.3	15.0	19	40.1	18.0	88
2021 Q2	13.8	8.0	30	93.3	17.0	89
2021 Q1	27.6	20.0	17	27.2	19.0	92
2020 Q4	14.5	4.5	20	41.1	13.0	112



Overall Average and Median Length of Stay by Gender – Juvenile Hall

Youth Committed to DJJ/SYTF by Gender January 1, 2016-September 30, 2022

Youth Committed to DJJ or SYTF by Gender 2016-2022

	Transgender	Male
2016		2
2017	1	7
2018		5
2019		2
2020	1	6
2021		8
2022		10

Note. The 1 transgender youth committed to DJJ in 2020 was assigned female at birth, and 1 transgender youth committed to DJJ in 2017 was assigned male at birth. Data for 2022 is up to September 30, 2022.

Total Youth Recommended for Commitment to DJJ/SYTF or Transfer to Adult by Probation by Gender

Total Youth Recommended for Commitment to DJJ/SYTF or Transfer to Adult by Probation

	Male	
	DJJ/SYTF	Transfer to Adult
2022 Q3	4	1
2022 Q2	5	0
2022 Q1	7	1
2021 Q4	3	0
2021 Q3	2	0
2021 Q2	1	0
2021 Q1	2	0
2020 Q4	5	0
2020 Q3	1	0
2020 Q2	6	0
2020 Q1	3	0
2019 Q4	1	0
2019 Q3	6	0
2019 Q2	3	0
2019 Q1	1	0

Note. Recommendations for commitment to the SYTF began Q3 2021.