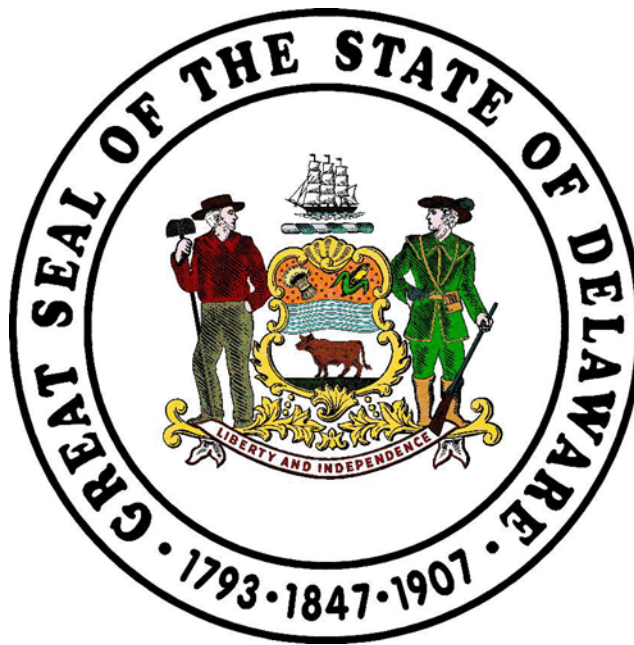


JUVENILE RECIDIVISM IN DELAWARE

An Analysis of Youth Released in 2022 and 2023 from
Ferris and the Cottages



February 2025

Prepared by the
Statistical Analysis Center
Delaware Criminal Justice Council

RECIDIVISM IN DELAWARE

An Analysis of Youth Released in 2022 and 2023 from Ferris and the Cottages

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Executive Summary

The Center is providing recidivism information for youth released from Ferris School or the Cottages during calendar years 2022 and 2023. As the basis for this analysis, the Center extracted Ferris and Cottages releases from FOCUS, resulting in the analysis of 90 youth released in 2022 and 97 youth released in 2023. Previous cohort years of 2019, 2020 and 2021 had 114, 91 and 71 youth, respectively.

Ferris School is a secure care facility providing services for up to 72 court committed males ages 13 to 18. Youth committed to Ferris are identified as serious offenders who pose a risk to themselves or others and require intensive rehabilitative treatment. Youth committed to the Cottages are identified as serious and/or chronic repeat offenders who pose a risk to themselves or others, requiring intensive rehabilitative treatment. All cottages are Level IV staff secured residential treatment programs; each housing approximately fifteen youth.

For this analysis, the Center extracted arrest data for each cohort from the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). The Center also extracted YRS placements from FOCUS and Department of Correction admissions from DACS (Delaware Automated Correction System) for readmission purposes. For contextual purposes, the Center has also included information on previous cohorts supplied by DSCYF.

Methodology

For this analysis, any youth released from Ferris or the Cottages in calendar year 2022 or 2023 is included in the analysis with his/her at-risk date being the day of release from secure custody from YRS to the community. If a youth is released more than once in the calendar year, only his/her first release is included for analysis. A subsequent release in the same calendar year would be a readmission and count as a recidivism event. The first arrest that occurred after the at-risk date represents the initial rearrest recidivism event. In measuring rearrest recidivism, the Center uses only what it refers to as serious criminal offenses. In addition to probation violations, selected offenses are identified in the Delaware Code as felonies or misdemeanors with incarceration as a possible or mandatory sanction. For readmission analysis, the first admission to a secure YRS facility or a Department of Correction (DOC) Level V facility that occurred after the at-risk date represents the initial readmission recidivism event.

The Center used the at-risk date from the first release for each youth in the cohort year to calculate at-risk intervals. Excluded from the study were any youth that were found to have been released from YRS custody in 2022 or 2023 but moved directly to a secure adult facility within the DOC.

Following the above criteria there were 90 juveniles in the 2022, and 97 juveniles in 2023 released from Ferris and Cottages.

Cohort Characteristics

Cohort demographics have remained similar across all three cohorts analyzed thus far. Almost half of each calendar year's released youth were released from Ferris. Just over fifty percent of the calendar year 2023 (53.6%) releases, and 46.7% of the 2022 releases were 17 or 18 when released. On average black males make up approximately 80% of the cohorts in years 2022 (81.1%) and 2023 (80.4%) with white males making up 12.2% and 13.4% 2022 and 2023, respectively. The average length of stay for youth released in calendar year 2022 was 126 days, and in 2023, the average length of stay was 138 days. Figures 1 through 7 provide demographic information for the 2022 (n=90) and 2023 (n=97) Ferris and Cottages release cohorts.

Figure 1. 2022 and 2023 Released Youth by Facility Released

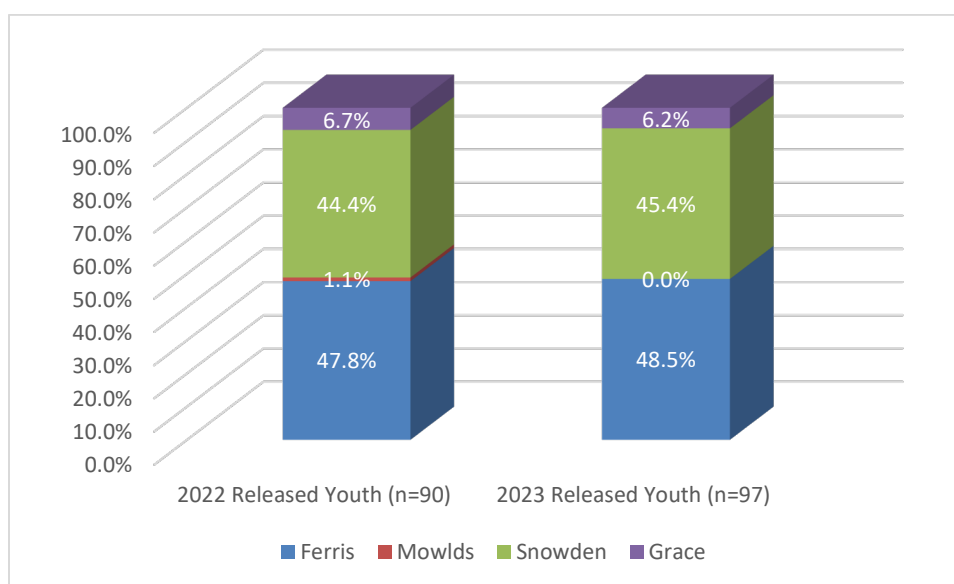


Figure 2. Cohort Demographics by Gender and Race for Calendar Year 2022

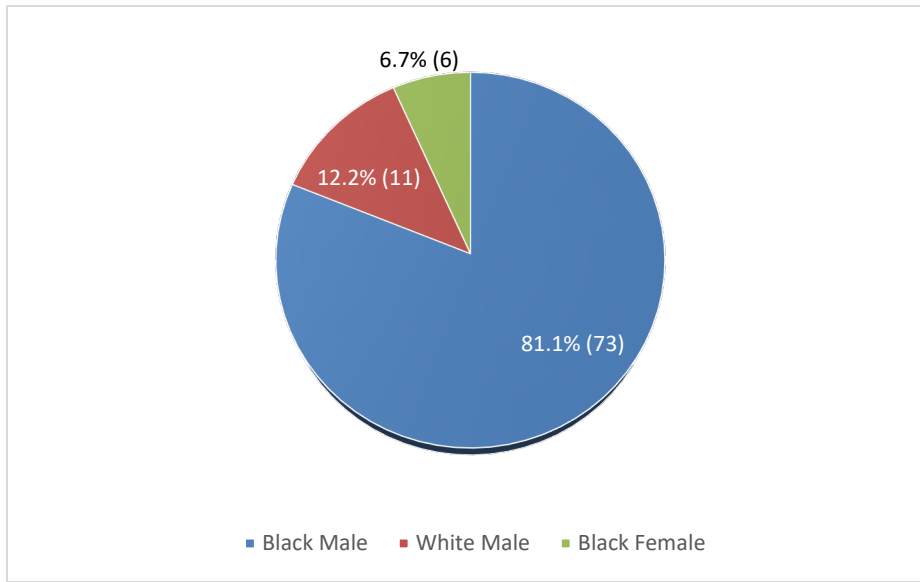


Figure 3. Cohort Demographics by Gender and Race for Calendar Year 2023

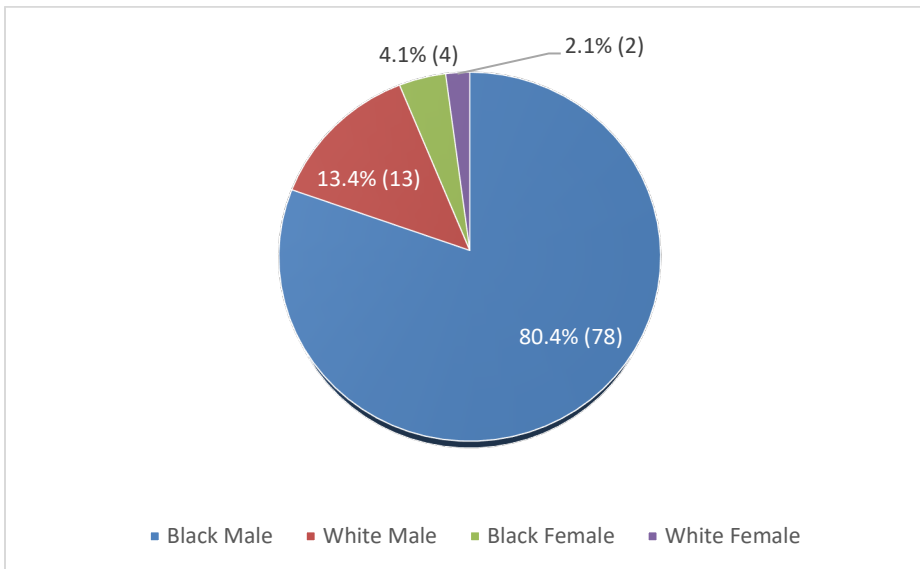


Figure 4. Cohort Demographics by Age at Release for Calendar Year 2022

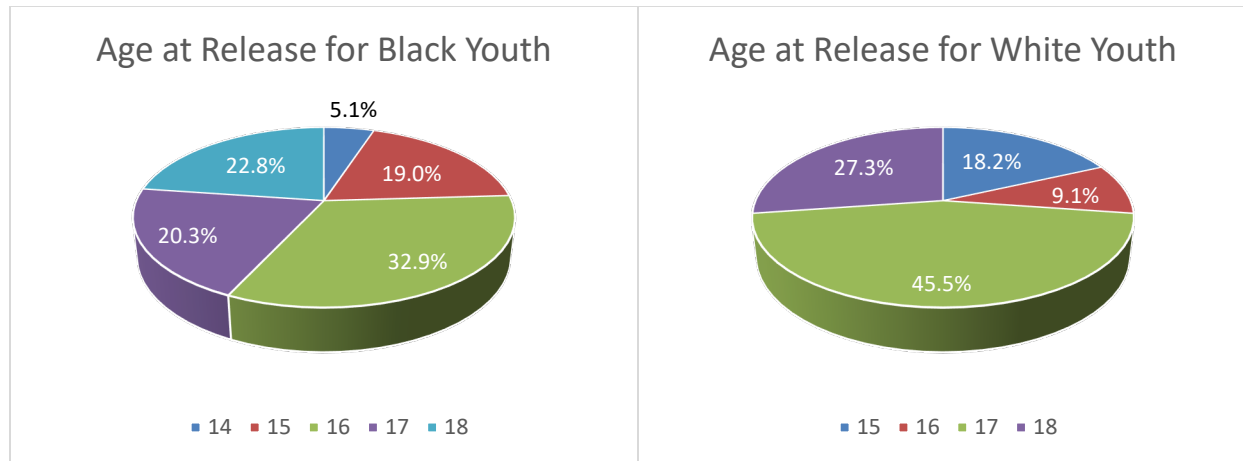


Figure 5. Cohort Demographics by Age at Release for Calendar Year 2023

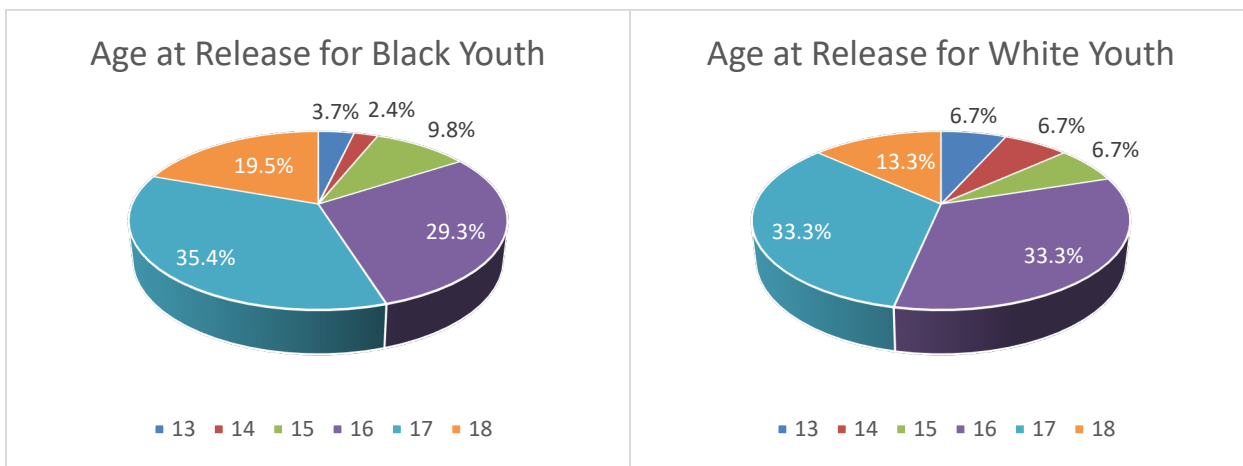


Figure 6. Length of Stay by Race Proportions for Calendar Year 2022

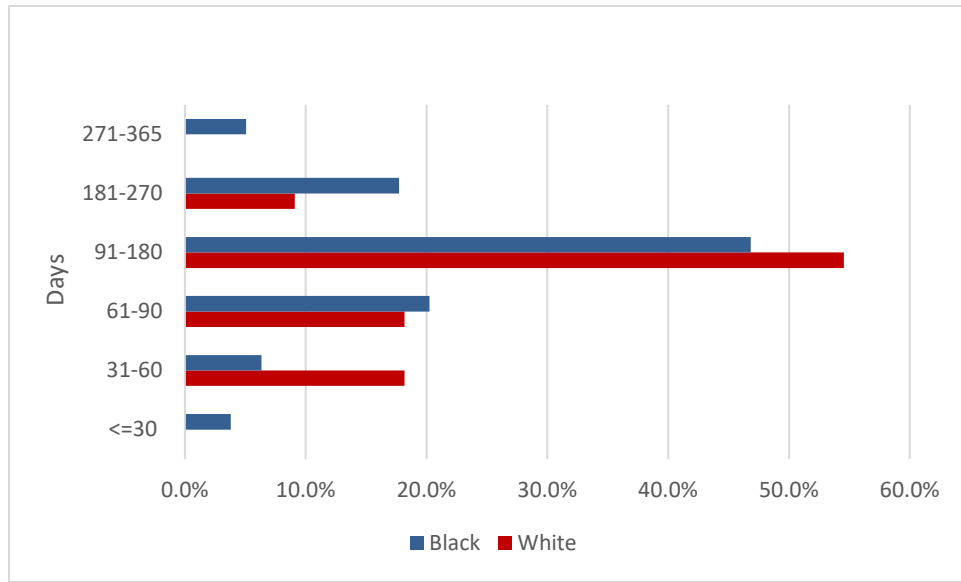
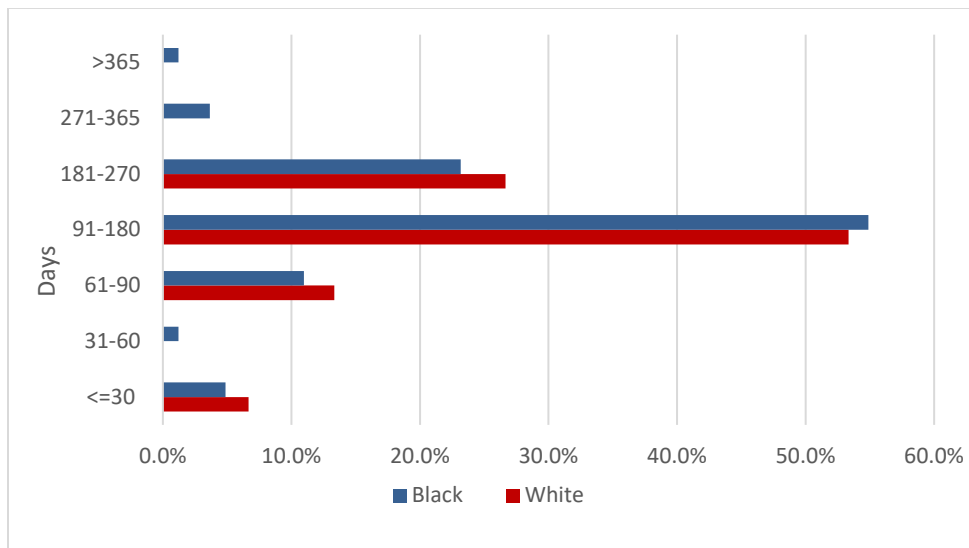


Figure 7. Length of Stay by Race Proportions for Calendar Year 2023



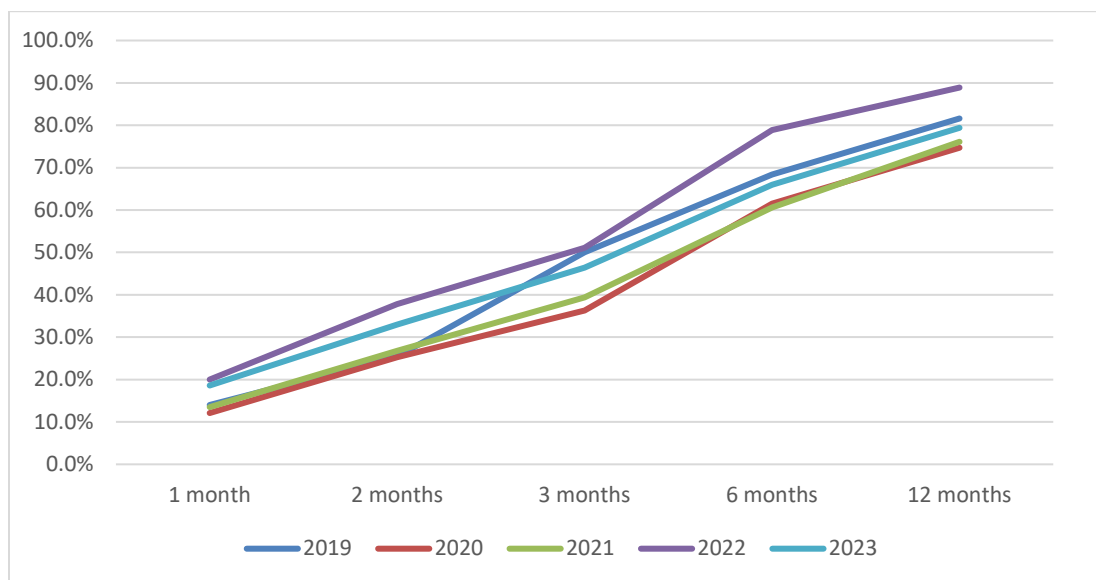
Recidivism Findings: Rearrest

Table 1 provides rearrest recidivism rates for last five release cohorts. The twelve-month rearrest rate for the 2022 release cohort is 88.9% and 79.4% for the 2023 release cohort, up from 76.1% in 2021. Figure 8 displays cumulative rearrest recidivism rates for the last five cohorts shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Cumulative Rearrest Recidivism Rates by Cohort

At-Risk	Rearrest				
	2019 (n=114)	2020 (n=91)	2021 (n=71)	2022 (n=90)	2023 (n=97)
1 month	14.0%	12.1%	13.5%	20.0%	18.6%
2 months	25.4%	25.3%	26.8%	37.8%	33.0%
3 months	50.0%	36.3%	39.4%	51.1%	46.4%
6 months	68.4%	61.5%	60.6%	78.9%	66.0%
12 months	81.6%	74.7%	76.1%	88.9%	79.4%

Figure 8. Cumulative 12-Month Rearrest Recidivism Rates



Figures 9 and 10 show the cumulative rearrest recidivism percentage by the facility the youth were released during calendar year 2022 and 2023, respectively. By 12 months at-risk, 90.7% of those released from Ferris in 2022 were rearrested, while 85% of those released from Snowden were rearrested. All of the youth released from Mowlds and Grace in 2022 were rearrested in the first 12 months at risk. For youth released in 2023, 72.3% of those released from Ferris and 84.1% of those released from Snowden were arrested in the first 12 months at-risk. All of those released from Grace in 2023 were rearrested in the first 12 months at-risk.

Figure 9. Cumulative Percent of Rearrests by Youth Facility Released during Calendar Year 2022

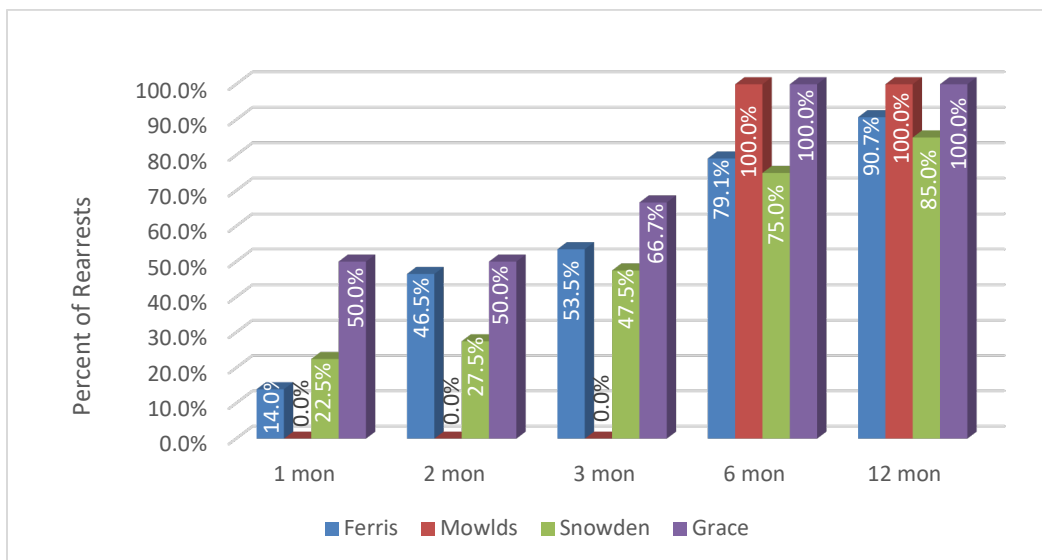
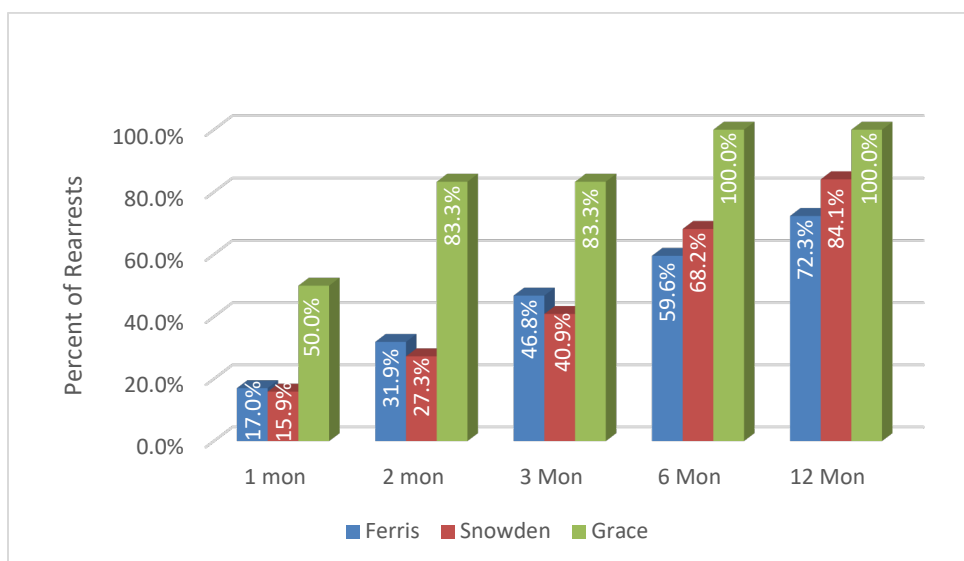


Figure 10. Cumulative Percent of Rearrests by Youth Facility Released during Calendar Year 2023



Figures 11 and 12 show cumulative recidivism by rearrest for the 2022 and 2023 cohorts, respectively, by first arrest type (felony, misdemeanor, or violation of probation) for the first rearrest recidivism event following the at-risk date. In the first 3 months at-risk, 51.1% of the 2022 release cohort and 46.4% of the 2023 release cohort were rearrested. By six months at-risk, 71 of 90 (78.9%) 2022 released youth, and 64 of 97 (66.0%) 2023 released youth had been rearrested. In the first year at-risk, 48.9% of the 2022 release cohort and 44.3% of the 2023 release cohort were arrested for a felony.

Figure 11. Cumulative Percent of Recidivists by First Rearrest Type for 2022 Cohort

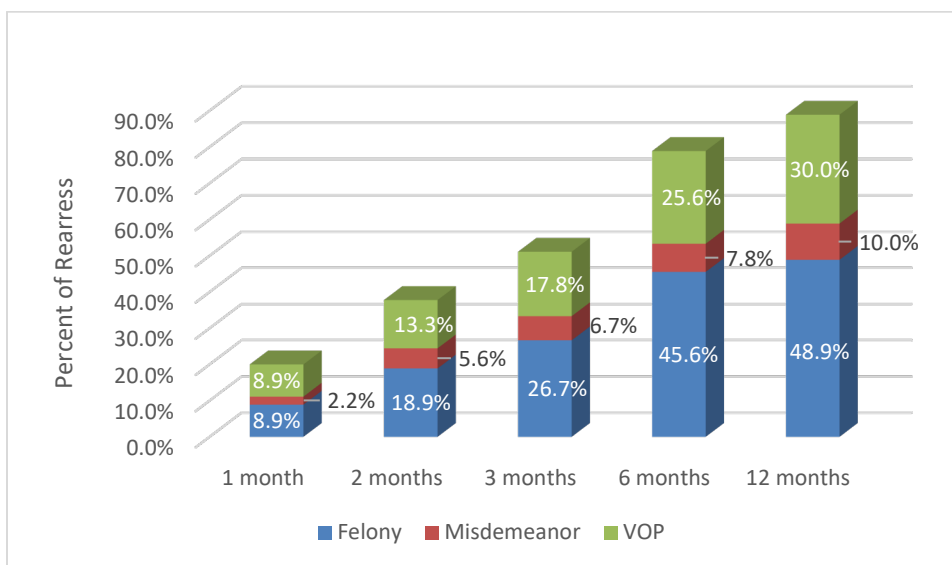
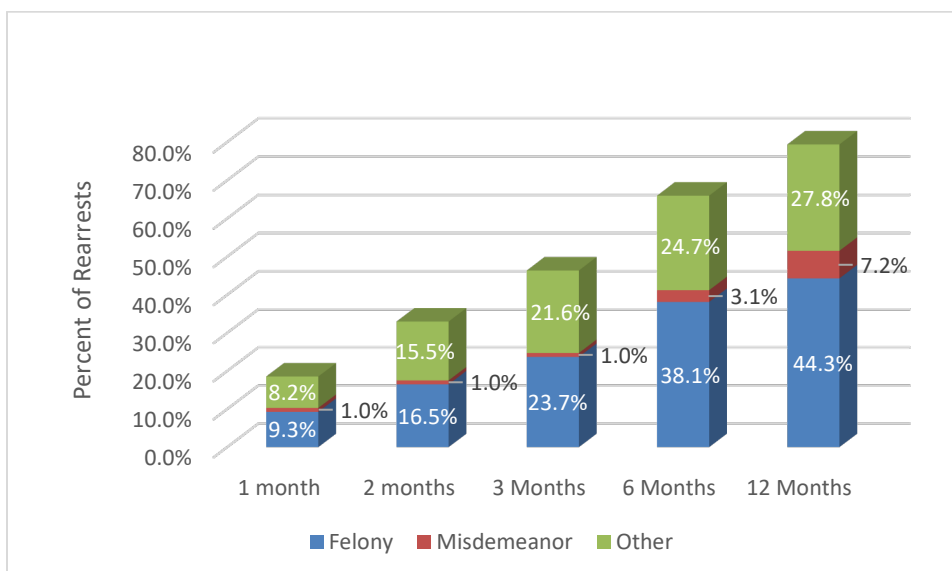


Figure 12. Cumulative Percent of Recidivists by First Rearrest Type for 2023 Cohort



It is important to note that the overall demographic of the 2022 cohort consists of 88% (n=79) black youth and 12% (n=11) white youth. Similarly, the 2023 cohort consists of 85% (n=82) black youth and 15% (n=15) white youth. The small cohort size, particularly for white youth, means that rates can be substantially impacted by outcomes for just a few individuals. Figure 13 and Figure 14 show cumulative recidivism by race for 3 months, 6 months and 12 months for the 2022 and 2023 Ferris and Cottages release cohort, respectively.

Figure 13. Cumulative Rearrest Recidivism Rates by Race for 2022 Release Cohort

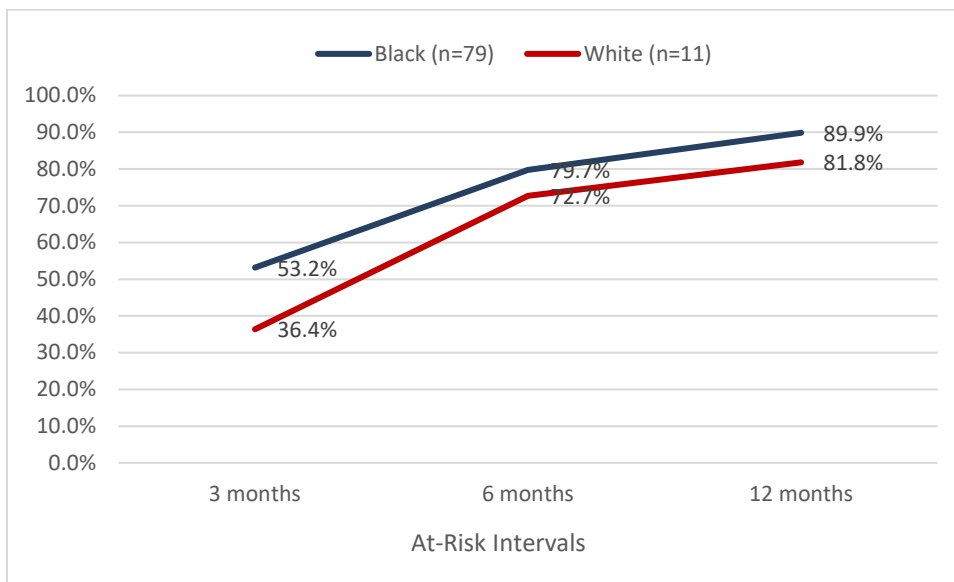
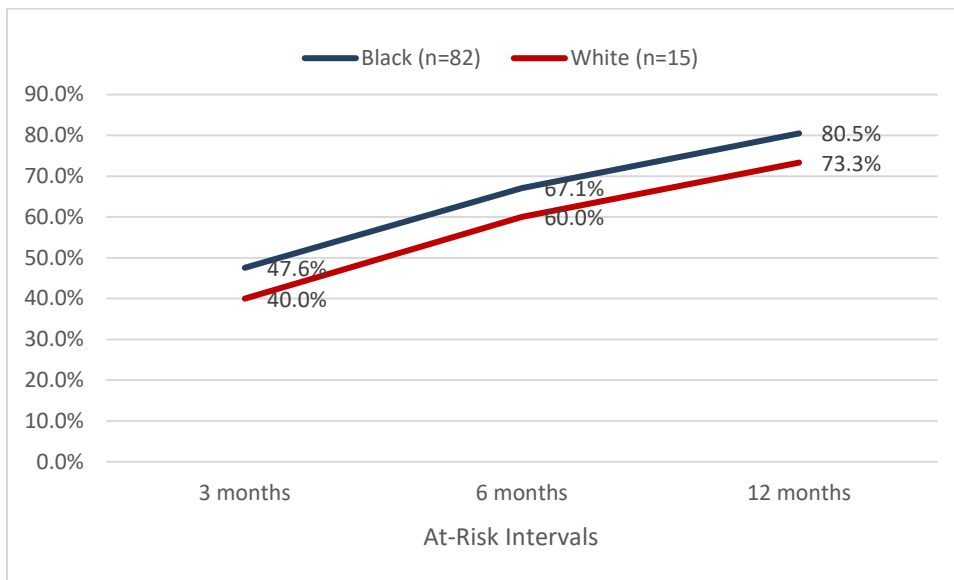


Figure 14. Cumulative Rearrest Recidivism Rates by Race for 2023 Release Cohort



Figures 15 and 16 show cumulative 12-month rearrest recidivism rates by race for each first arrest type for the 2022 and 2023 release cohorts, respectively. Just under half of black youth released in 2022 (49.4%), and 45.5% of white youth released in 2022 were arrested for a felony in the first 12 months following release. For youth released in 2023, 45.1% of black youth, and 40% of white youth were arrested for a felony in the first 12 months at-risk.

Figure 15. 2022 Release Cohort 12-month Cumulative Rearrest Recidivism Rates by Race for First Arrest Type

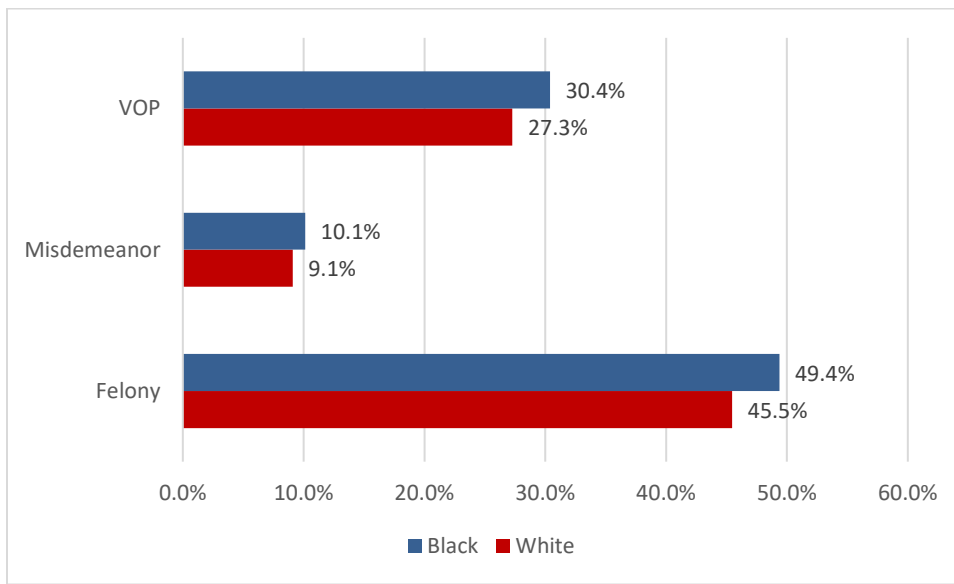
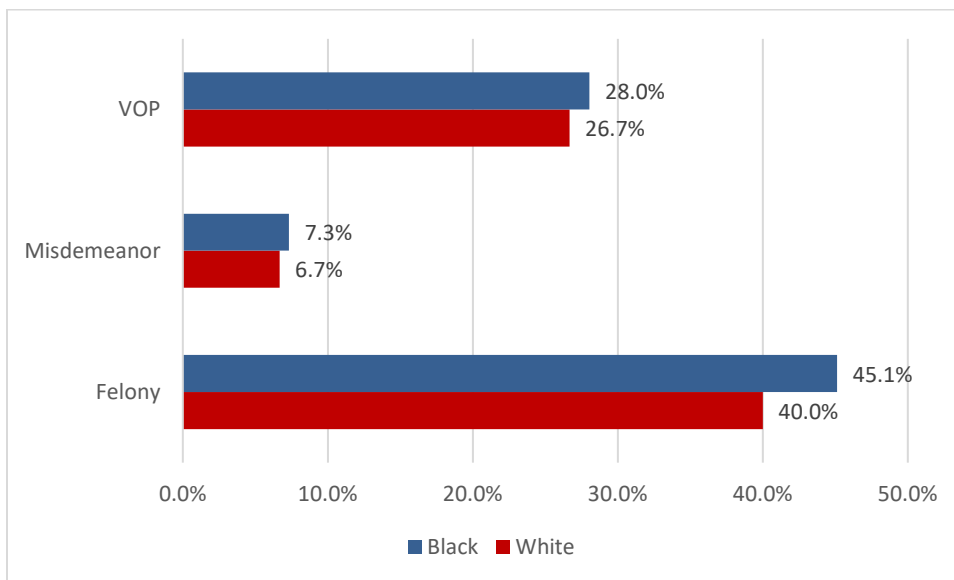


Figure 16. 2023 Release Cohort 12-month Cumulative Rearrest Recidivism Rates by Race for First Arrest Type



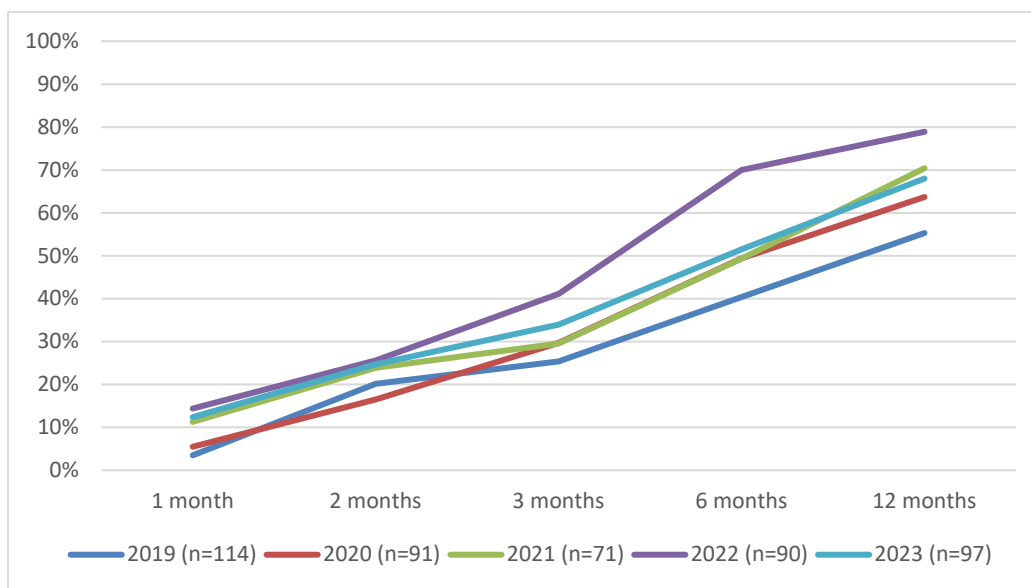
Recidivism Findings: Readmission

Table 2 provides readmission recidivism rates for last five release cohorts. Twelve-month readmission rate for the 2022 release cohort is 78.9% and 68.0% for the 2023 release cohort, up from 70.4% from 2021. Figure 1 reflects cumulative readmission recidivism rates for the last five cohorts and shown in Table 2. Similar to rearrest, readmission rates are higher for 2022 and 2023 cohorts than previous cohorts, with the 2022 release cohort having the highest rates of readmission for each at-risk period measured.

Table 2. Cumulative Readmission Recidivism Rates by Cohort

At-Risk	Readmission				
	2019 (n=114)	2020 (n=91)	2021 (n=71)	2022 (n=90)	2023 (n=97)
1 month	3.5%	5.5%	11.3%	14.4%	12.4%
2 months	20.2%	16.5%	23.9%	25.6%	24.7%
3 months	25.4%	29.7%	29.6%	41.1%	34.0%
6 months	40.4%	49.4%	49.3%	70.0%	51.5%
12 months	55.3%	63.7%	70.4%	78.9%	68.0%

Figure 17. Cumulative 12-Month Readmission Recidivism Rates



Figures 18 and 19 show the cumulative readmission recidivism percentage by the facility the youth were released from during calendar year 2022 and 2023, respectively. By 12 months at-risk, 81.4% of those released from Ferris in 2022 were readmitted, while 75% of those released from Snowden and 66.7% of Grace releases were readmitted. All of the youth released from Mowlds in 2022 were readmitted in the first 12 months at risk. For youth released in 2023, 63.8% of those released from Ferris and 68.2% of those released from Snowden were readmitted in the first 12 months at-risk. All of those released from Grace in 2023 were readmitted in the first 12 months at-risk.

Figure 18. Cumulative Percent of Readmissions by Youth Facility Released during Calendar Year 2022

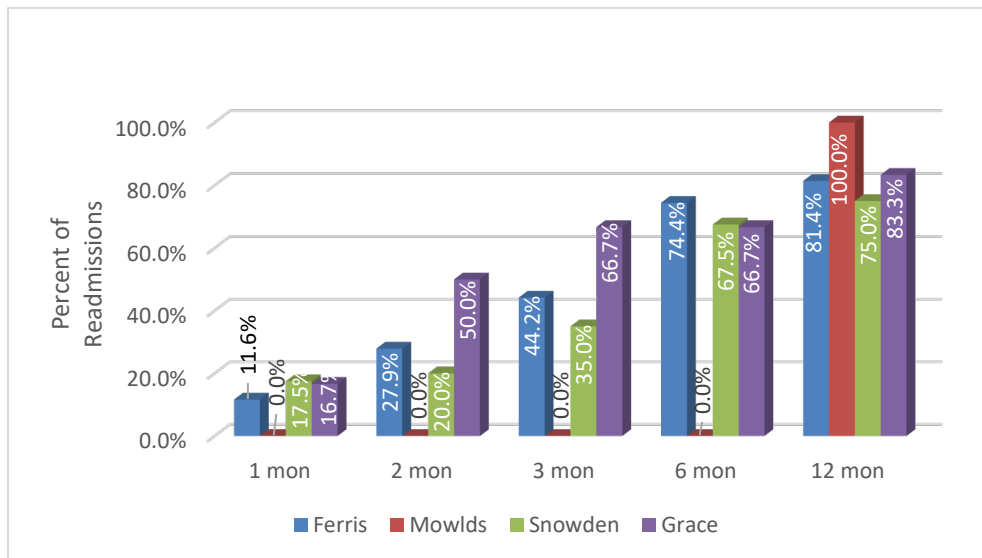
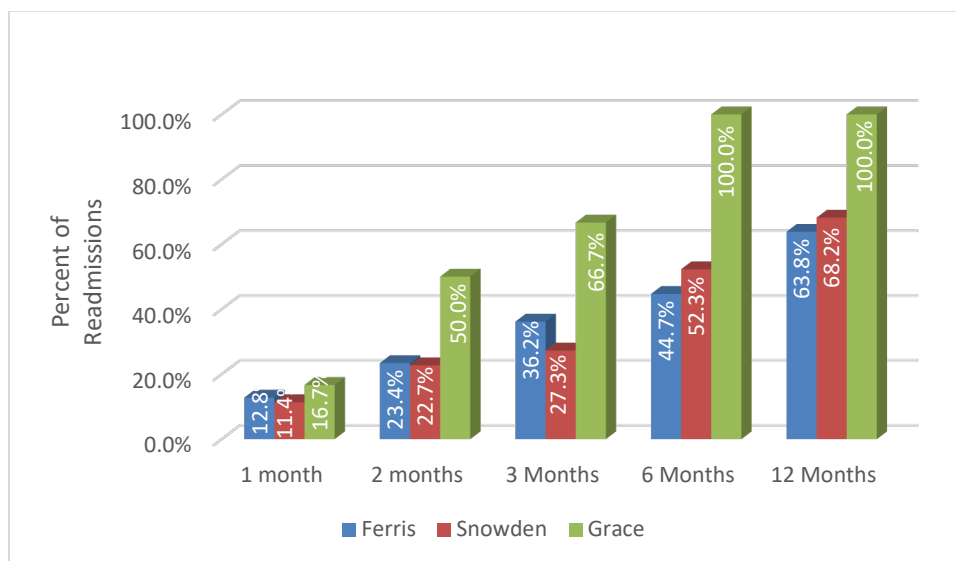


Figure 19. Cumulative Percent of Readmissions by Youth Facility Released during Calendar Year 2023



Figures 20 and 21 show the cumulative readmission percentages for each at-risk period by youth (YRS) and adult facility. Sixty-three percent of youth released in 2022 were admitted to a secure youth facility in the first 12 months following release while 15.6% were admitted to a secure adult facility. For youth released in 2023, 55.7% were admitted to a secure youth facility and 12.4% were admitted to a secure adult facility in the first 12 months following release.

Figure 20. Cumulative Percent of Recidivists by First Admission Type for 2022 Cohort

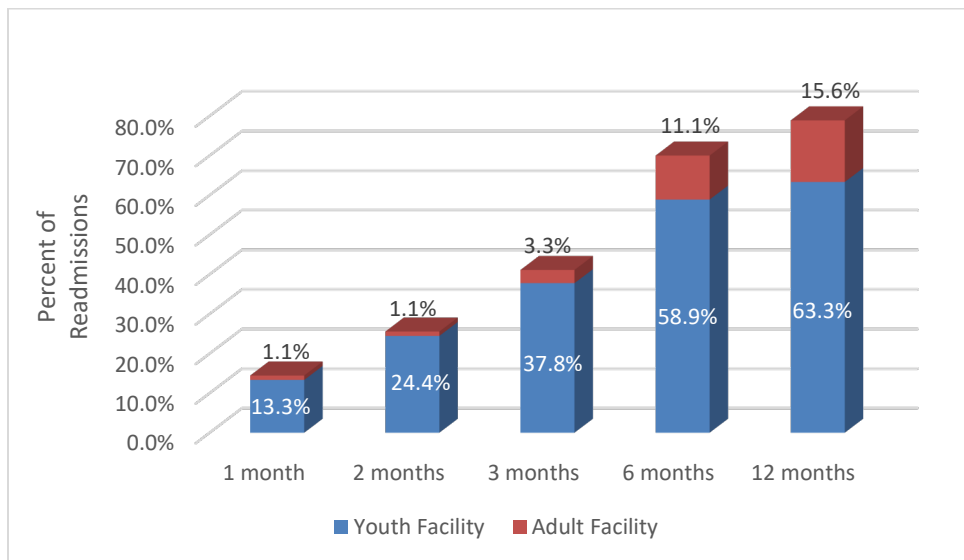
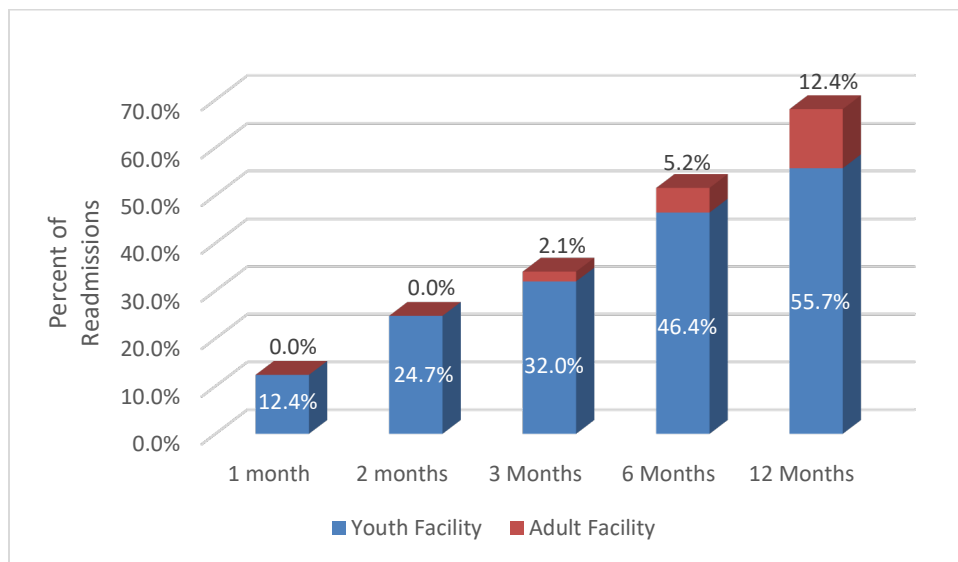


Figure 21. Cumulative Percent of Recidivists by First Admission Type for 2023 Cohort



Figures 22 and 23 capture readmission rates for youths released from Ferris or the Cottages in 2022 by race. The 12-month readmission rate is 82.3% for black youth in 2022 and 54.5% for white youth. For youth released in 2023, 73.3% of black youth and 67.1% of white youth were readmitted in the first 12 months at-risk.

Figure 22. Readmission Rate by Race for 2022 Cohort

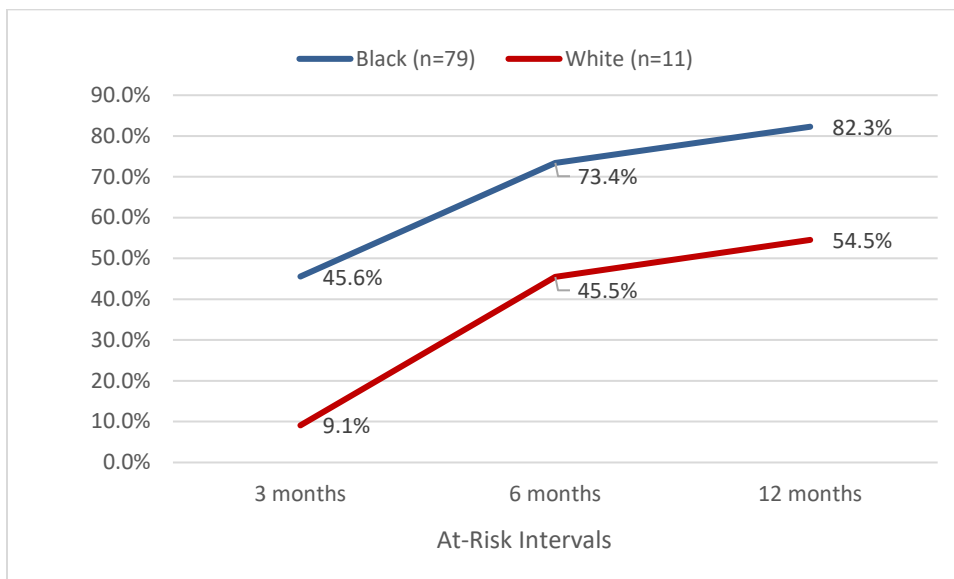
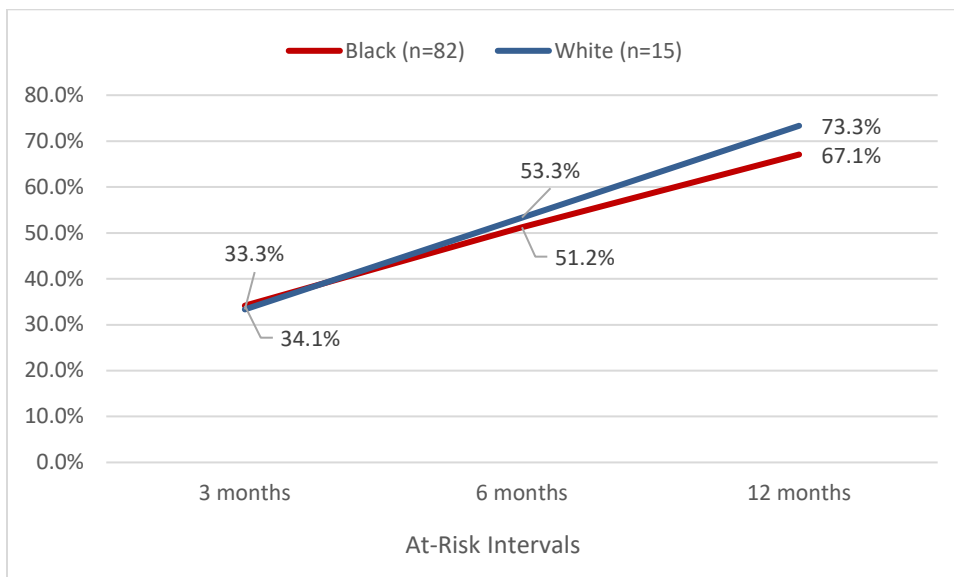


Figure 23. Readmission Rate by Race for 2023 Cohort



Figures 24 and 25 show cumulative 12-month readmission rates by race for each admission type for those released in 2022 and 2023, respectively. For youth released in 2022, 65.8% of black youth and 45.5% of white youth were admitted to a secure youth facility in the first 12 months at-risk. Sixty-six percent of black youth released in 2023 and 53.7% of white youth were readmitted to a secure youth facility within 12 months of release.

Figure 24. 2022 Release Cohort 12-month Cumulative Readmission Rates by Race for First Admission Facility Type

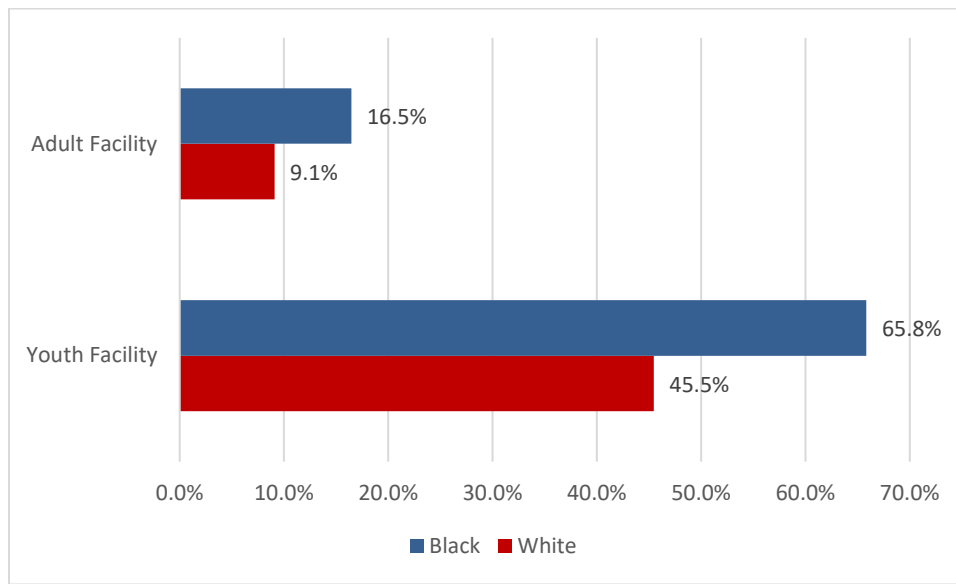
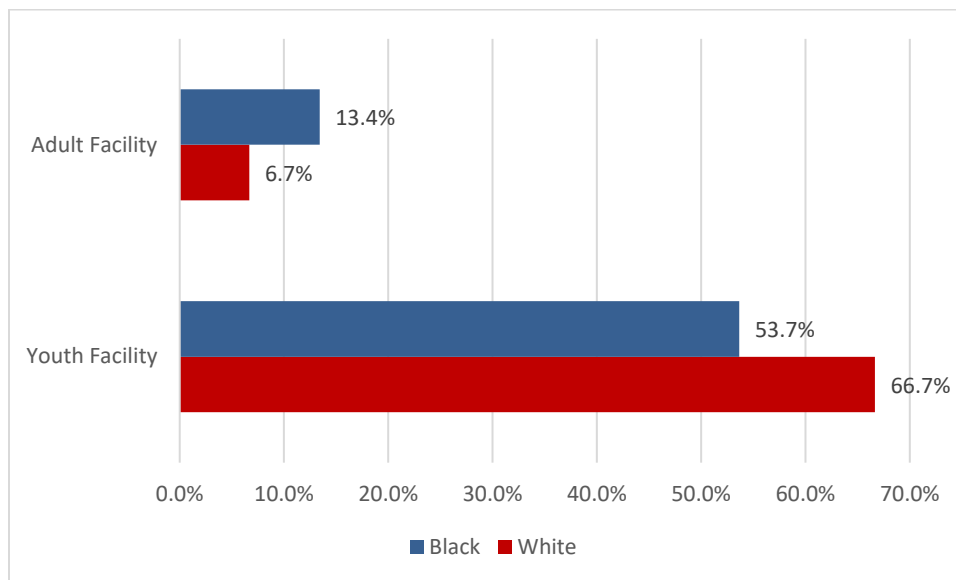


Figure 25. 2023 Release Cohort 12-month Cumulative Readmission Rates by Race for First Admission Facility Type



Conclusions and Limitations

The Center tracked 90 youth and 97 youth released from Ferris and the Cottages in calendar years 2022 and 2023, respectively. The majority of the youth were black males (81.1% in 2022 and 80.4% in 2023). The average age at release to the community was 16.8 for both cohort years, with almost half of the youth released in 2022 (46.7%) being 17 or 18, and more than half of the youth released in 2023 (53.6%) being 17 or 18. The average length of stay for youth released in calendar year 2022 was 126 days, while the average length of stay for those released in 2023 was 138 days.

Table 3 displays the cumulative rearrest and readmission rates for youth released in calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Youth rearrested in the first 12 months following release was the highest for youth released in calendar year 2022 (88.9%). Youth released in calendar year 2022 also were readmitted the most in the first 12 months following release (78.9%).

Table 3. Cumulative Rearrest and Readmission Rates

At-Risk	2019 (n=114)		2020 (n=91)		2021 (n=71)		2022 (n=90)		2023 (n=97)	
	Rearrest	Readmit	Rearrest	Readmit	Rearrest	Readmit	Rearrest	Readmit	Rearrest	Readmit
1 month	14.0%	3.5%	12.1%	5.5%	13.5%	11.3%	20.0%	14.4%	18.6%	12.4%
2 months	25.4%	20.2%	25.3%	16.5%	26.8%	23.9%	37.8%	25.6%	33.0%	24.7%
3 months	50.0%	25.4%	36.3%	29.7%	39.4%	29.6%	51.1%	41.1%	46.4%	34.0%
6 months	68.4%	40.4%	61.5%	49.4%	60.6%	49.3%	78.9%	70.0%	66.0%	51.5%
12 months	81.6%	55.3%	74.7%	63.7%	76.1%	70.4%	88.9%	78.9%	79.4%	68.0%

The analysis in this report is limited to youth released from Ferris and the Cottages. The youth analyzed represent a small portion of the youth who enter the Delaware juvenile justice system. Over the years, Youth Rehabilitative Services (YRS) has implemented policies and procedures to deter youth for less serious offenses from incarceration in facilities. YRS has also created a youth Civil Citation Program to divert lesser offenses from entering the justice system at all. The Division employs the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI), an evidence-based risk and needs assessment to determine youth risk to reoffend and to identify criminogenic needs. The youth in custody in this study are primarily high risk and high needs as identified by the YASI. This population is small compared to the overall youth served by the Division.