2020 Safe Harbour Program Data

November 15, 2021

2020 Program Data

Each year, counties that have participated in the Safe Harbour: NY program for two years or more under the leadership of the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) report data on their program to OCFS.

The LDSS collects data from Safe Harbour: NY-supported providers and agencies. OCFS removed duplicate data at the county level to the extent possible, however data at the state level may be duplicate as this population is highly transient.

It is important to note that service delivery was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 Program Data

In 2020:

- 39 counties reported data

- 1,765 youth were identified as trafficked or at risk at the time of referral
  - 14% (255) of these youth met the federal definition of a sex trafficking victim*
  - 85% (1,510) were identified as high or medium risk of trafficking*
  - Although 1,842 youth were identified for services by the program, 78 youth are excluded from this data set because their risk levels were not reported.

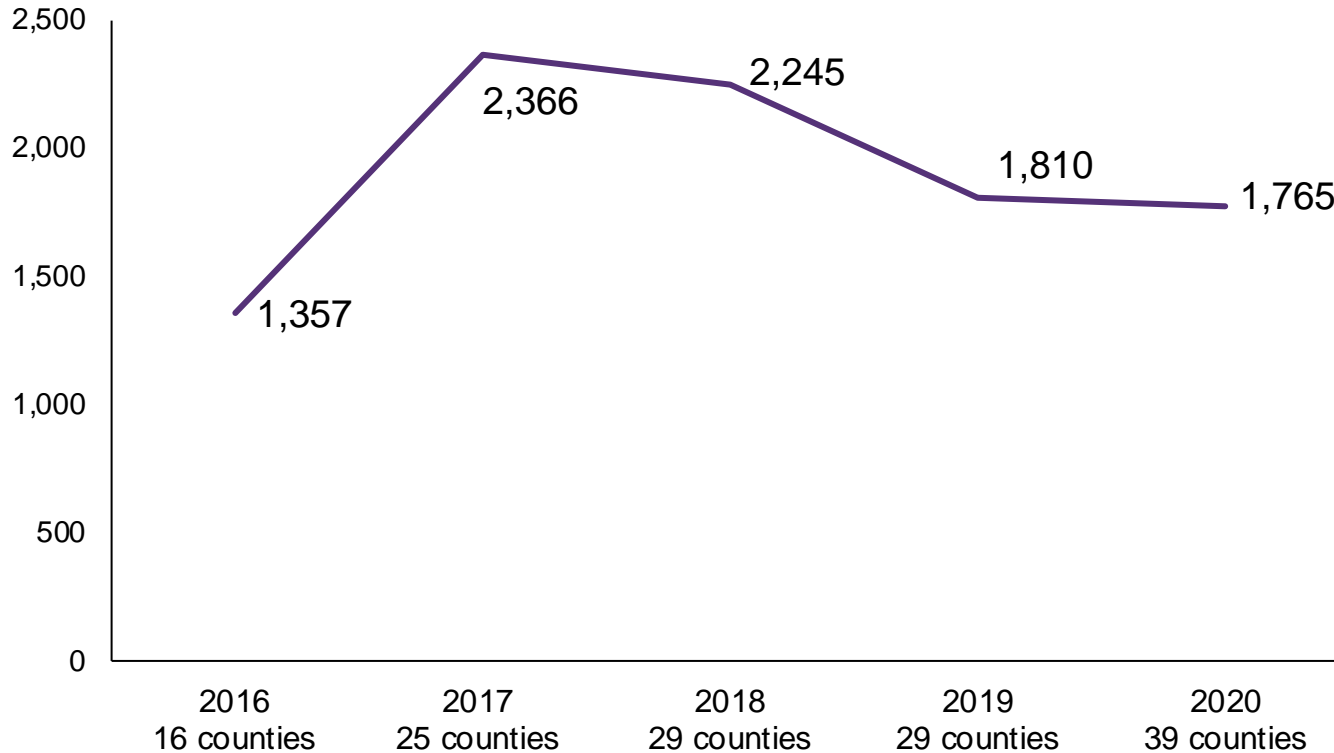- 2% (43) of the 1,765 youth were also identified as trafficked or at risk for labor trafficking

*For more information on how risk levels were determined please refer to OCFS-3920.
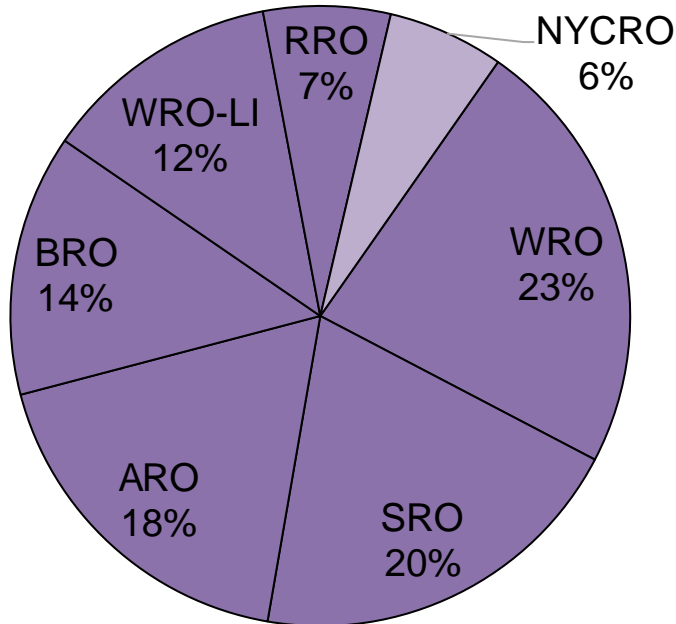
Youth Identified Over Time

—— Number of Youth Identified as Trafficked or At-Risk

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
16 counties	25 counties	29 counties	29 counties	39 counties
1,357	2,366	2,245	1,810	1,765

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Youth Identified by Location (1,765)
OCFS Regional Offices

Misconceptions remain that child trafficking is only a "big city" issue, however in 2020, 94% of youth identified in NYS were in regions other than NYC.
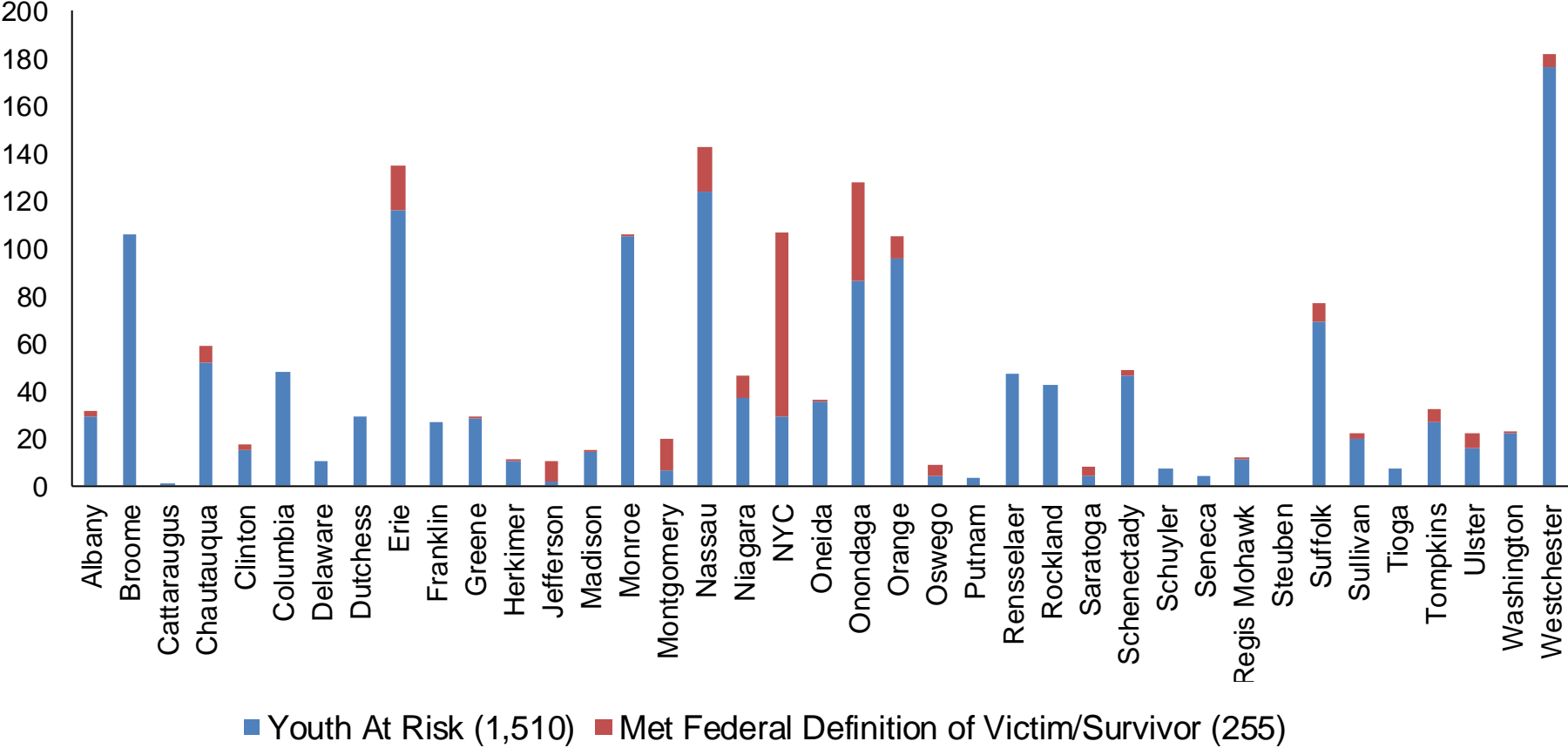

NYCRO – New York City
WRO – Westchester
SRO – Syracuse
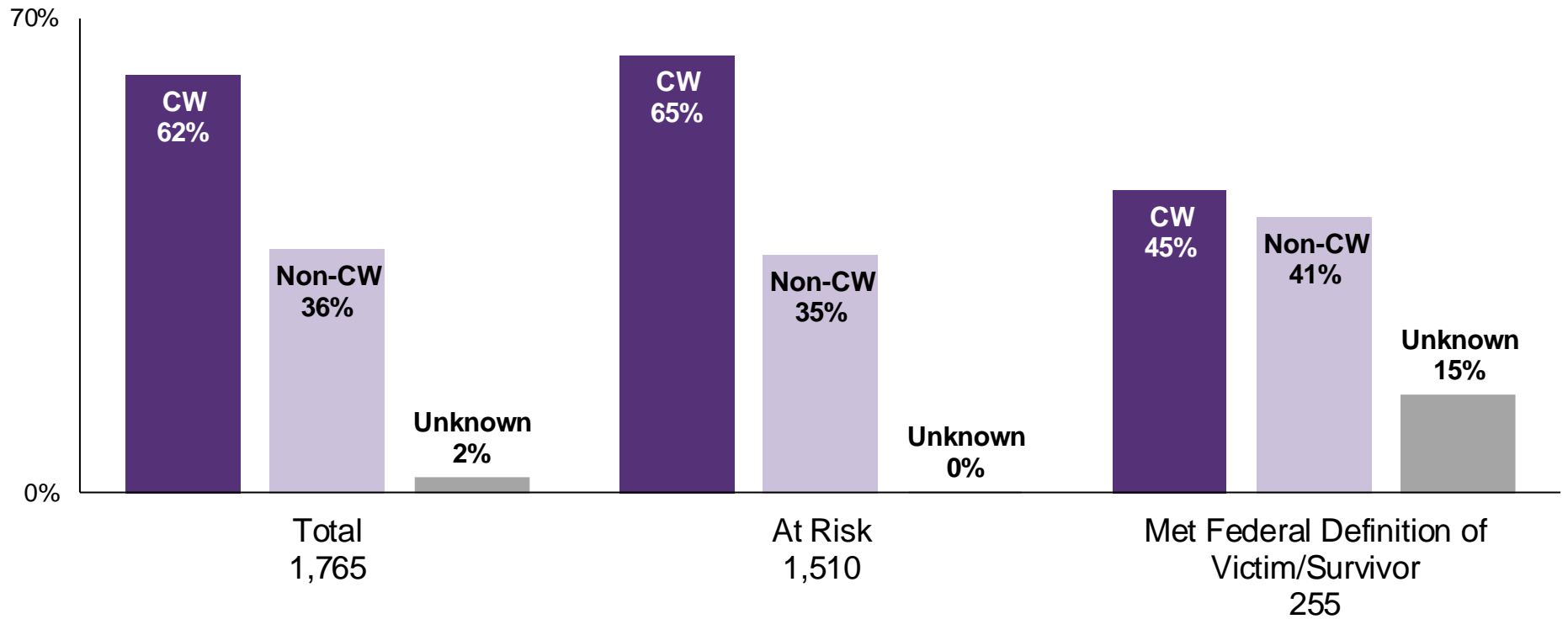WRO-LI – Long Island
ARO – Albany
RRO – Rochester
BRO – Buffalo
https://ocfs.ny.gov/directories/regional-offices.php

Youth Identified by County

Youth At Risk (1,510) ■ Met Federal Definition of Victim/Survivor (255)

Child Welfare vs Non-Child Welfare Referrals

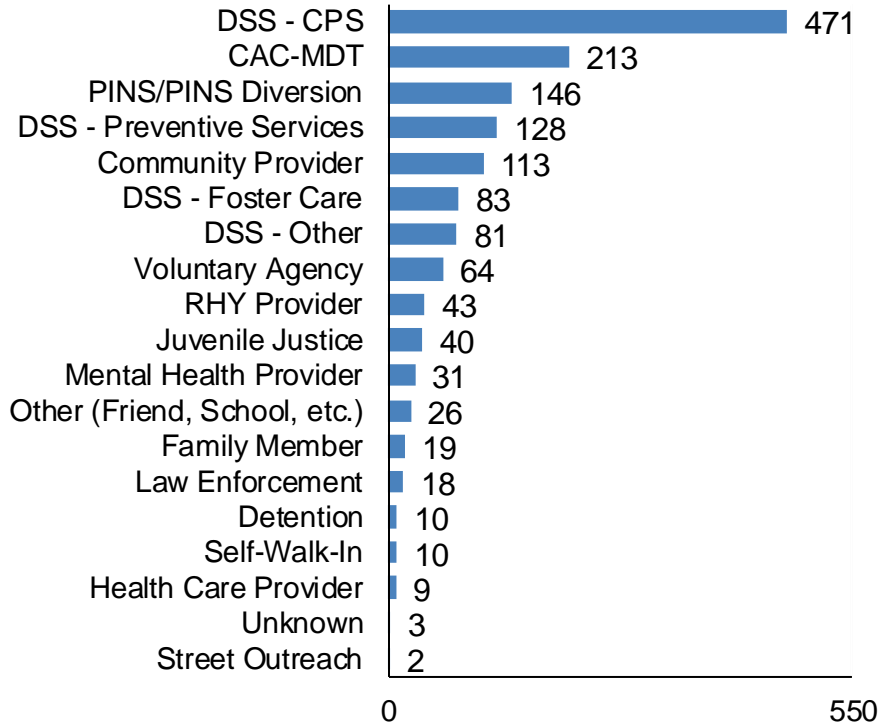In 2020, child welfare agencies provided the majority of trafficking referrals.

For the purpose of this graph, child welfare includes referrals from CAC, MDT, DSS (CPS, Foster Care, and preventive). Every other referral source was considered non-child welfare.

70%

| | CW 62% | Non-CW 36% | Unknown 2% | CW 65% | Non-CW 35% | Unknown 0% | CW 45% | Non-CW 41% | Unknown 15% |

0%

Total
1,765

At Risk
1,510

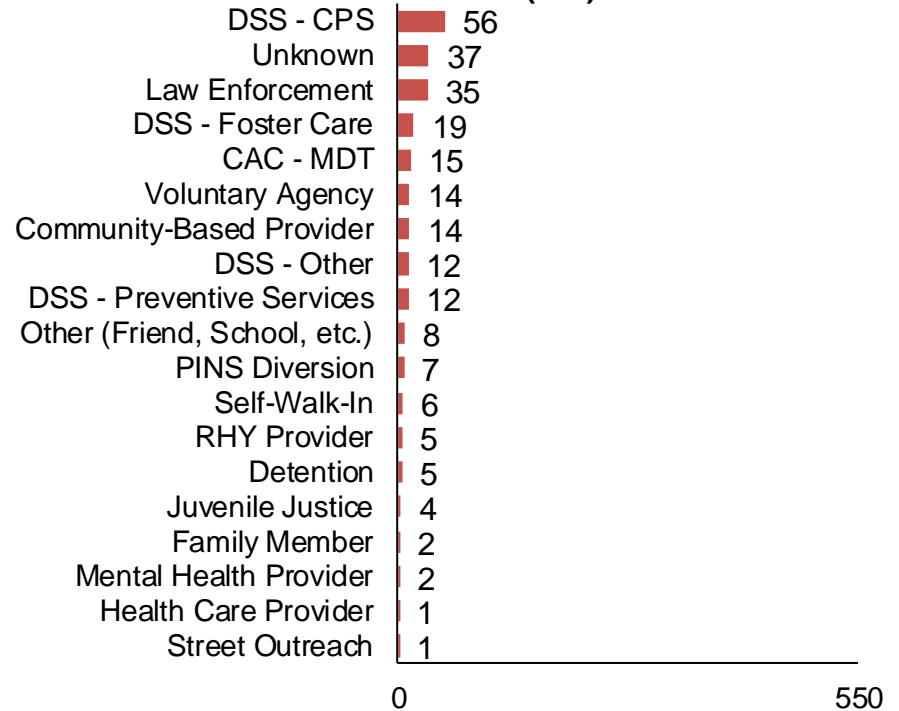Met Federal Definition of
Victim/Survivor
255

Youth's Referral Source & Trafficking Status

Of any single source, CPS made the most referrals, regardless of whether youth were identified as at risk or victims/survivors of trafficking.

At Risk (1,510)

Source	Count
DSS - CPS	471
CAC-MDT	213
PINS/PINS Diversion	146
DSS - Preventive Services	128
Community Provider	113
DSS - Foster Care	83
DSS - Other	81
Voluntary Agency	64
RHY Provider	43
Juvenile Justice	40
Mental Health Provider	31
Other (Friend, School, etc.)	26
Family Member	19
Law Enforcement	18
Detention	10
Self-Walk-In	10
Health Care Provider	9
Unknown	3
Street Outreach	2

0 — 550

Met Federal Definition of Victim / Survivor (255)

| Source	Count
DSS - CPS	56
Unknown	37
Law Enforcement	35
DSS - Foster Care	19
CAC - MDT	15
Voluntary Agency	14
Community-Based Provider	14
DSS - Other	12
DSS - Preventive Services	12
Other (Friend, School, etc.)	8
PINS Diversion	7
Self-Walk-In	6
RHY Provider	5
Detention	5
Juvenile Justice	4
Family Member	2
Mental Health Provider	2
Health Care Provider	1
Street Outreach	1

0 — 550

Youth Demographics and Victimization
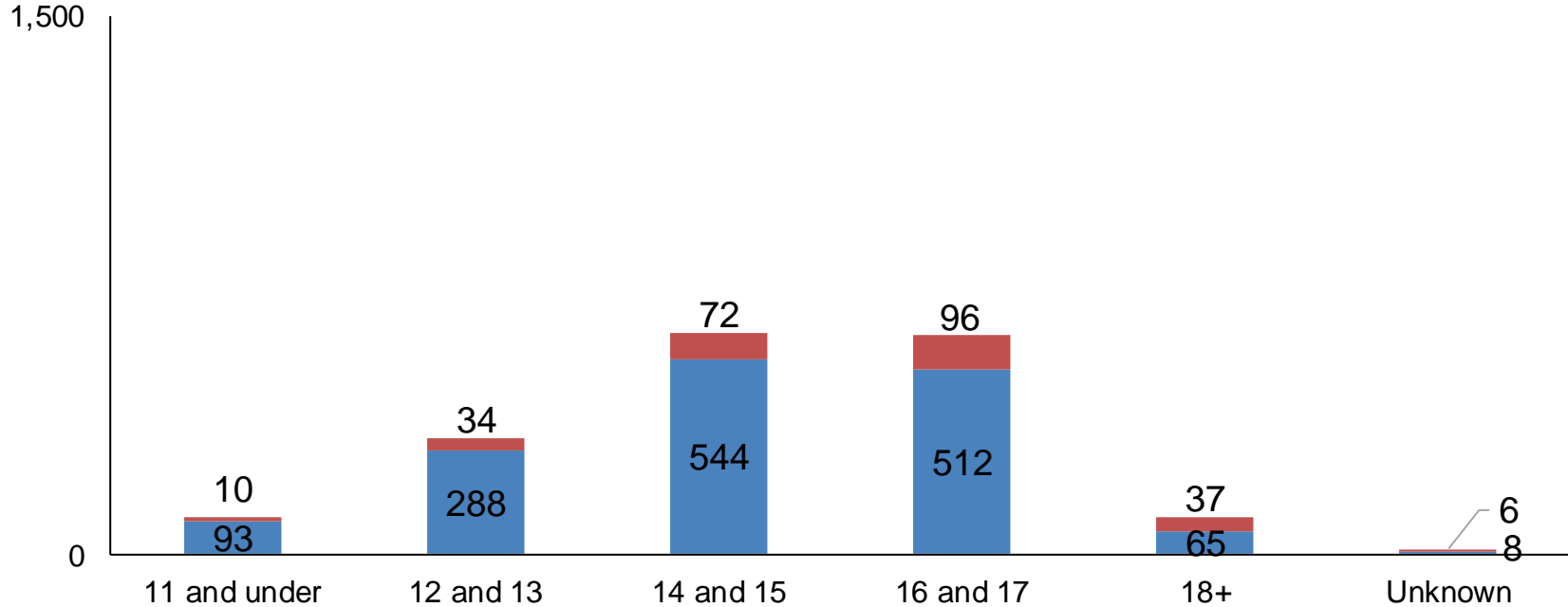
Youth's Age When Exploitation Began

Age at first exploitation was unknown for 1,454 youth – about 82% of the sample.

A closer look at the known age distribution shows that nearly all youth (96%) for whom this data were known were minors when their exploitation began, and slightly more than one quarter (29%; 91 youth) were under the age of 14.
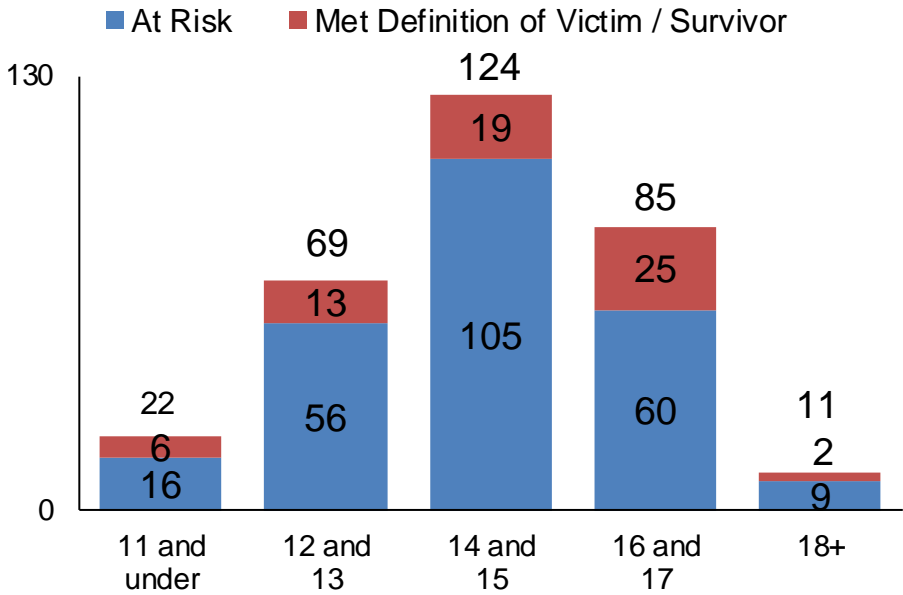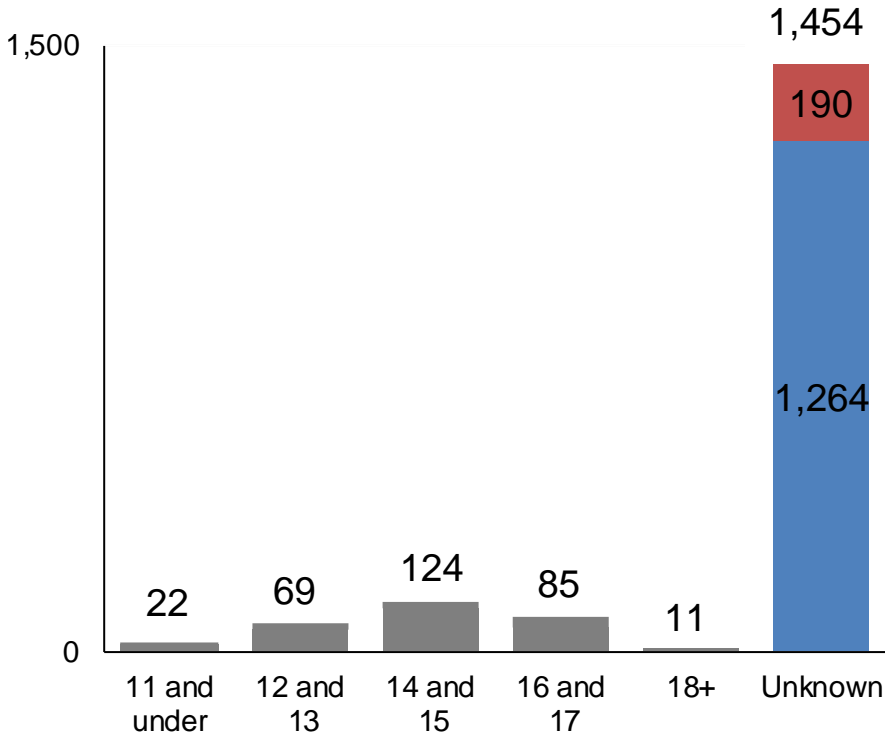
Youth's Age at Time of Referral

Regardless of when a youth's trafficking began, most youth identified by a Safe Harbour program were between the ages of 14-17 years old, typically correlating with grades 8-12.


Chart: Youth's Age at Time of Referral

Age Group	Youth At Risk	Met Federal Definition of Victim/Survivor
11 and under	93	10
12 and 13	288	34
14 and 15	544	72
16 and 17	512	96
18+	65	37
Unknown	8	6

■ Youth At Risk (1,510) ■ Met Federal Definition of Victim/Survivor (255)
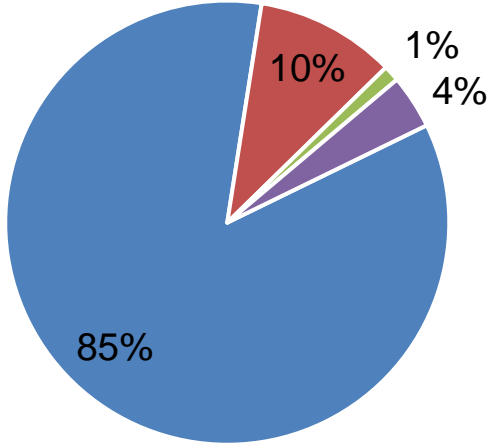
Youth's Gender Identity

Although often portrayed as an issue impacting only girls, cis-male, transgender, and gender non-conforming youth represented nearly a quarter (19%) of the youth identified as at risk of being trafficked in 2020; 11% of identified survivors were cis-male, transgender, or GNC.
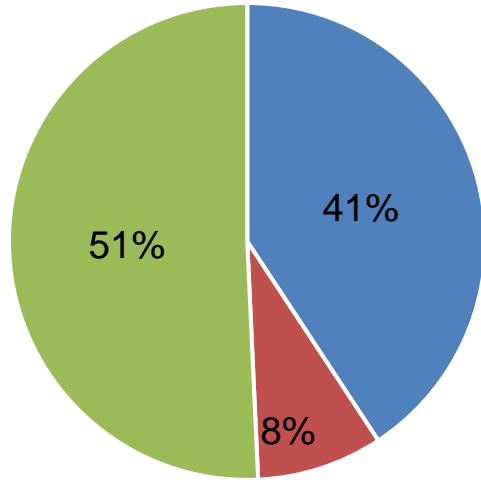

Youth At Risk (1,510)
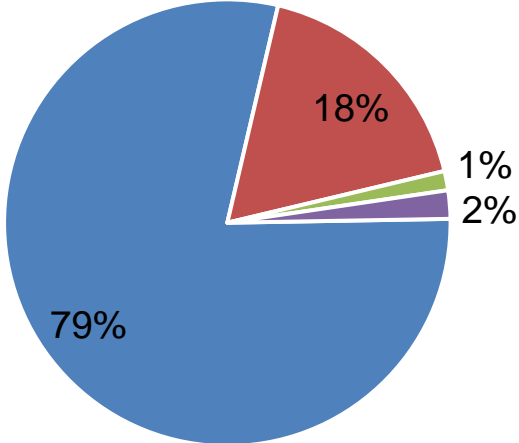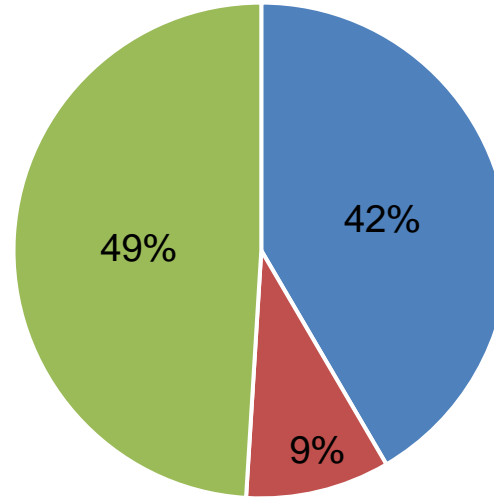
Met Federal Definition of Victim/Survivor (255)

- Female
- Male
- Trans and GNC/Non-Binary
- Unreported

Youth's Sexual Orientation


Youth At Risk (1,510)

Met Federal Definition of Victim/Survivor (255)

- Straight
- LGB+
- Unreported

Youth's Racial Identity

In 2019, an estimated 21% of New York State youth aged 21 and under identified as Black/African American and 69% as White. Among Safe Harbour youth in 2020, 27% identified as Black/African American, while 44% identified as White. Statewide, youth of color were overrepresented among the Safe Harbour population.
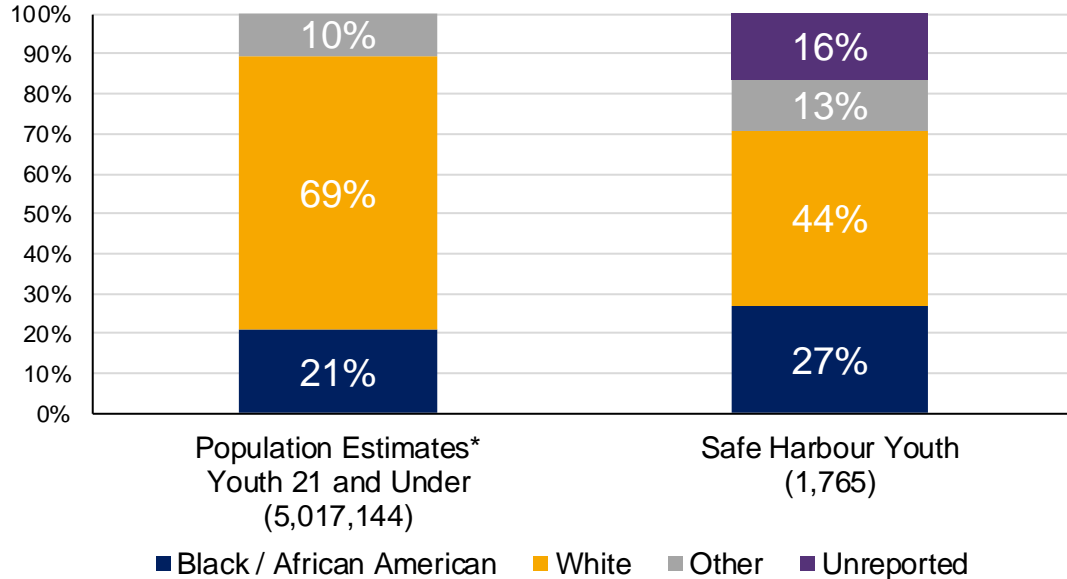
| Ethnicity |
|---|
| Ethnicity has been measured separately from race here. |
| Among Safe Harbour youth, 23% identified as Hispanic/Latinx in 2020. This group was estimated to represent 24% of the general population in 2019*. |

Chart: Population Estimates* Youth 21 and Under (5,017,144): Black/African American 21%, White 69%, Other 10%. Safe Harbour Youth (1,765): Black/African American 27%, White 44%, Other 13%, Unreported 16%.

Legend: ■ Black / African American ■ White ■ Other ■ Unreported

The category of Other includes youth who identified as multi-racial, Asian, Native American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern.

Youth's Last Grade Completed

While 52% of youths' last grade completed was unknown at the time of referral, 27% of youth had completed at least one grade in high school, the TASC (formerly GED), or some college/vocational training.
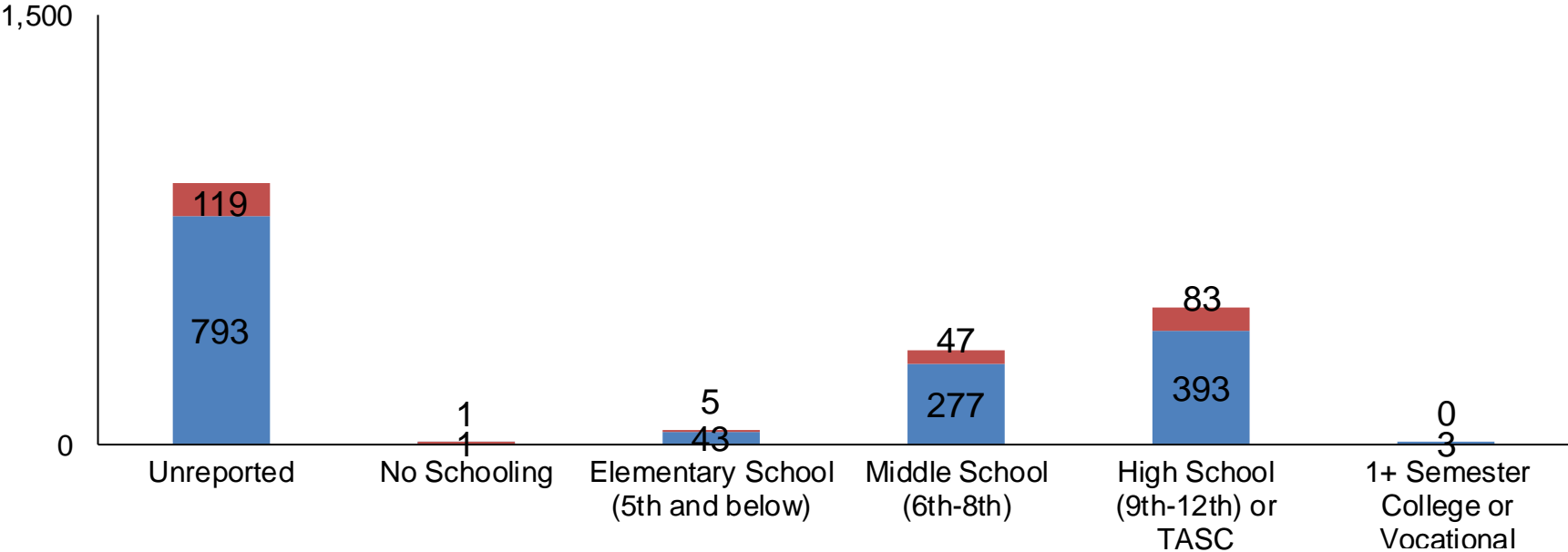
■ Youth At Risk (1,510)	■ Met Federal Definition of Victim/Survivor (255)

Relation of Trafficker to Youth: CSEC

At the time of referral, 75% of the youths' relationships to their traffickers were unknown.

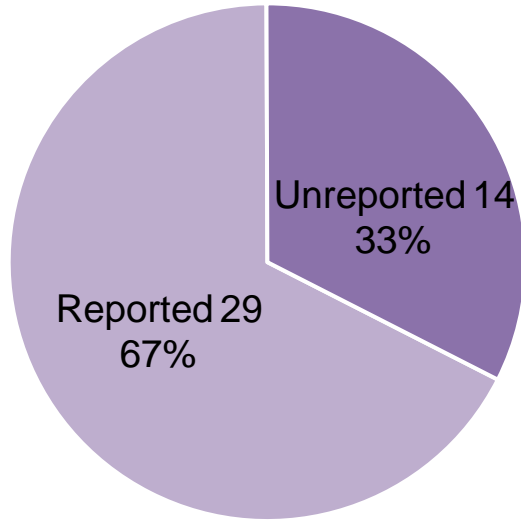Reported 450
25%

Unreported 1,315
75%
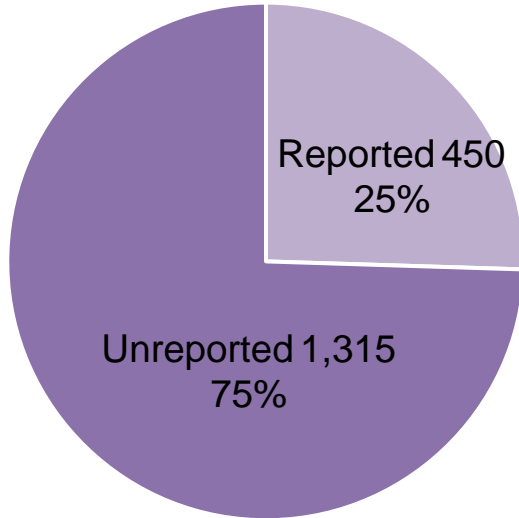
In cases where youths' relationships to their traffickers were known, the top three reported were:
1. a romantic partner (79)
2. a friend/other youth (66)
3. a person they met on the internet or social media (63)

Relation of Trafficker to Youth: Labor

43 of the youth identified as being at risk or trafficked for CSEC were also identified as being at risk or trafficked for their labor. In these cases, 67% of youths' relationships to their traffickers were known.
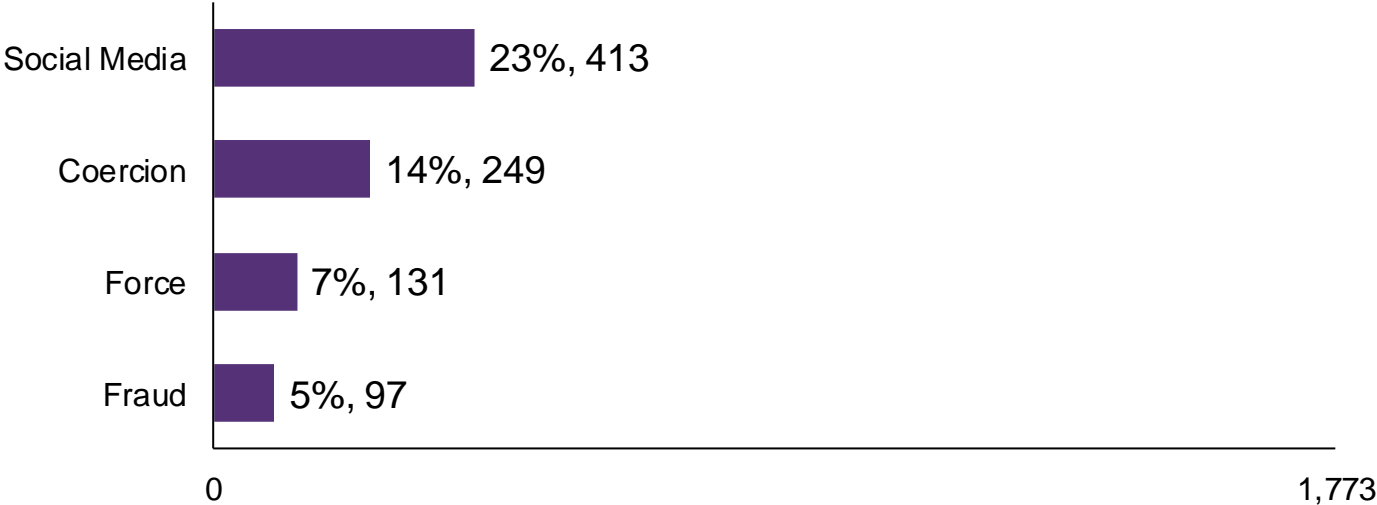

Unreported 14
33%

Reported 29
67%

The top three relationships reported were:
1. from a family friend/trusted adult (7)
2. from a gang (6)
3. from a biological/adopted parent (4);
3. from an employer or labor recruiter (4);
3. from another family member (sibling, cousin, Aunt, etc.; 4)

Force, Fraud, Coercion, and Social Media

The presence of these elements in youths' victimization/grooming experiences are reported as identified by program staff. Totals do not sum across elements, as one youth's experience could include more than one element. Staff reported that social media played a role in the victimization/grooming experiences of almost a quarter of youth identified by Safe Harbour: NY in 2020.

Category	Value
Social Media	23%, 413
Coercion	14%, 249
Force	7%, 131
Fraud	5%, 97

0   1,773

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Service Needs Met

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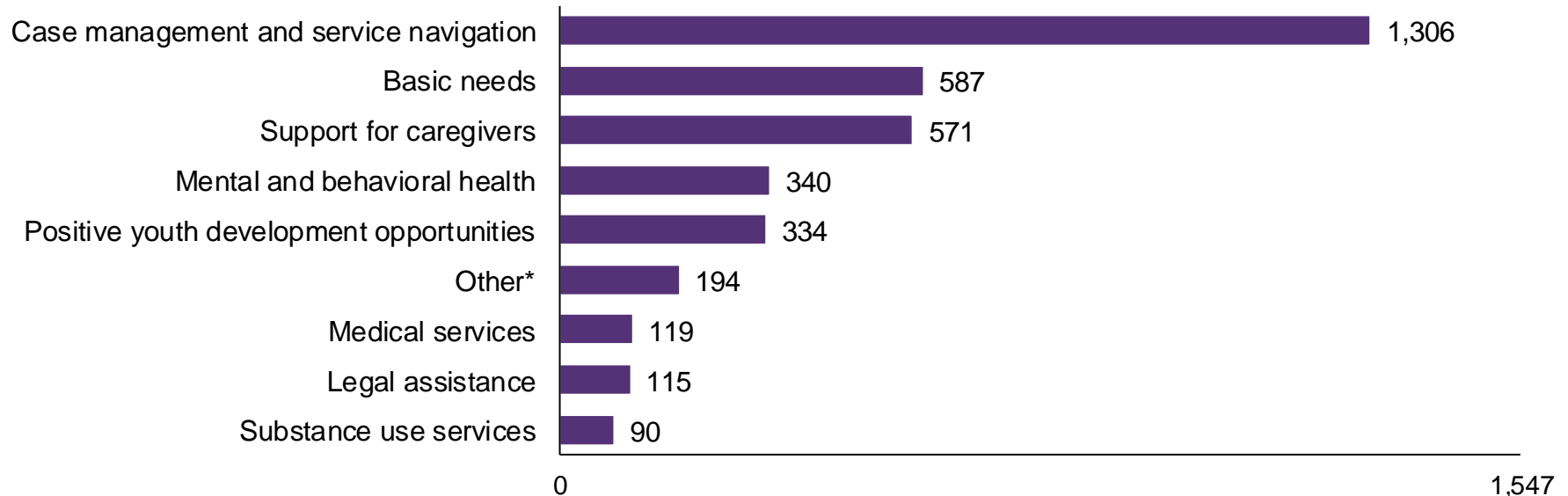
Youth with Service Needs Met Using Safe Harbour: NY Funds (1,547)

Each year, program staff report on the types of services that youth and their families receive through Safe Harbour: NY funds. Totals do not sum across categories since the same youth can appear in more than one category. More than three-quarters (84%) of the youth who received Safe Harbor funded services were engaged in case management.

Service	Count
Case management and service navigation	1,306
Basic needs	587
Support for caregivers	571
Mental and behavioral health	340
Positive youth development opportunities	334
Other*	194
Medical services	119
Legal assistance	115
Substance use services	90

0   1,547

*Other includes educational, vocational, and employment supports and OTDA Confirmation letters.

Street Outreach

Street Outreach

Street outreach seeks to connect with vulnerable youth, distribute supplies to meet basic needs and offer information about local services. Street outreach was limited in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The street outreach population described here represents a group distinct from that which was reported on earlier slides.

- Data are from the five counties that opted to fund street outreach services through Safe Harbour: NY in 2020: Jefferson, Orange, Saratoga, Schenectady and Suffolk.
- **200 youth** were engaged by Safe Harbour: NY street outreach services. Of these youth:
  - 89% were under age 18
  - 74% were female, 22% male, and 5% transgender or gender non-conforming
  - 41% were White/European American, 35% Black/African American, 12% had race unknown, 11% identified as multi-racial and 2% were another race

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Community Outreach & Education

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Community Outreach & Education

These events are conducted to connect with youth at schools and other settings to educate youth about trafficking and local services.

- **21 counties** supported outreach and education using Safe Harbour: NY funds: Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Jefferson, Madison, Nassau, NYC, Oneida, Onondaga, Orange, Oswego, Rockland, Schuyler, Steuben, Sullivan, Tioga, Ulster, and Washington.

- Counties hosted **158 events** where **more than 1,600 youth** participated. The curricula most commonly used by programs included:
  - Girls Circle, One Circle Foundation (21%)
  - #NotANumber, Love146 (15%)
  - Locally developed Safe Harbour materials (14%)

Contact

NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

Bureau of Health and Well-Being

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