

A Data-Driven Discussion of Youth and the Juvenile Justice System

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The research division of the

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges



NATIONAL CENTER
FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

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Housekeeping

- Supported by a cooperative agreement awarded by National Institute of Justice with funding support from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- The project draws on various national data sets to develop publications and online resources to make juvenile justice data easily accessible to the field and the general public.
- Provides important data/information on youth and the juvenile justice system, e.g., well-being and risk behaviors, victimization of and offending by youth, and the juvenile justice system's response to law-violating behavior.

***Disclaimer:** Points of view do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of OJJDP, NIJ, or the U.S. Department of Justice.*

We have questions



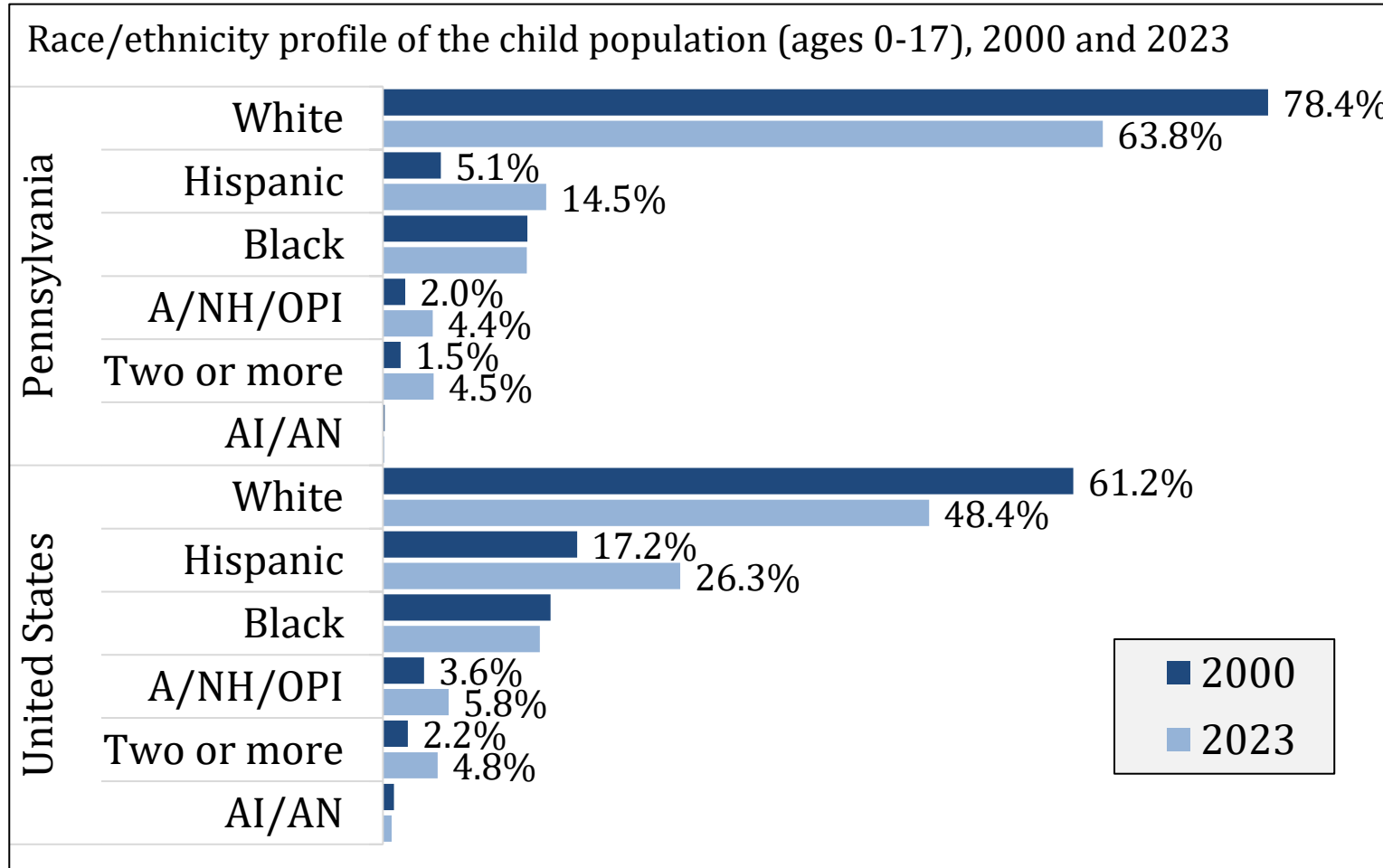
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Population change



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The race/ethnicity profile of the child population has changed considerably

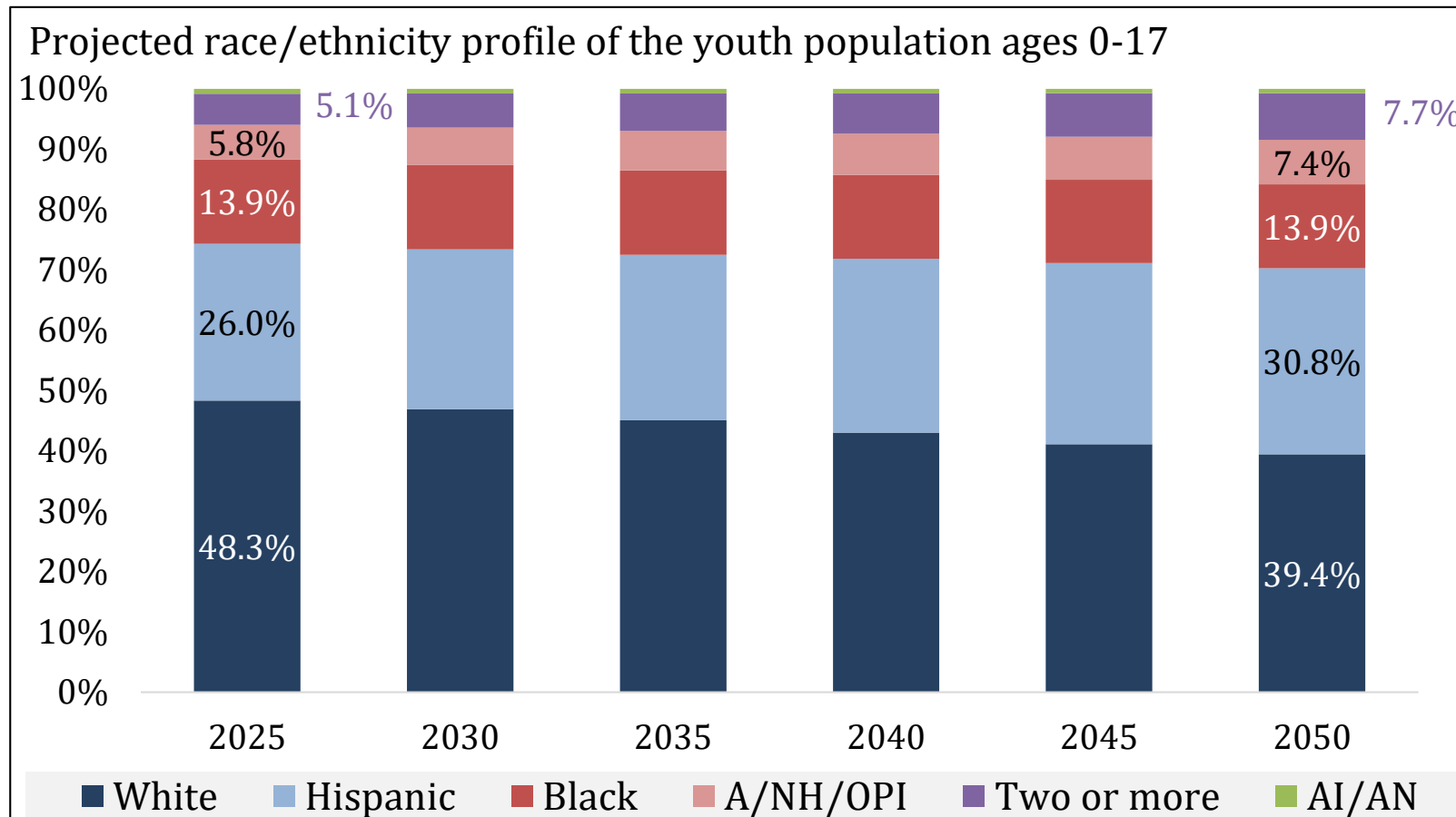


Percent change in the youth population, 2000-2023

	PA	US
White	-26.8%	-20.4%
AI/AN	-13.5%	-19.3%
Black	-10.4%	-5.9%
A/NH/OPI	103.3%	60.9%
Hispanic	153.8%	54.1%
Two or more	161.1%	121.5%

AI/AN : American Indian / Alaska Native | A/NH/OPI: Asian, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander

By 2050, Hispanic youth will account for nearly one-third of the youth population



AI/AN : American Indian / Alaska Native

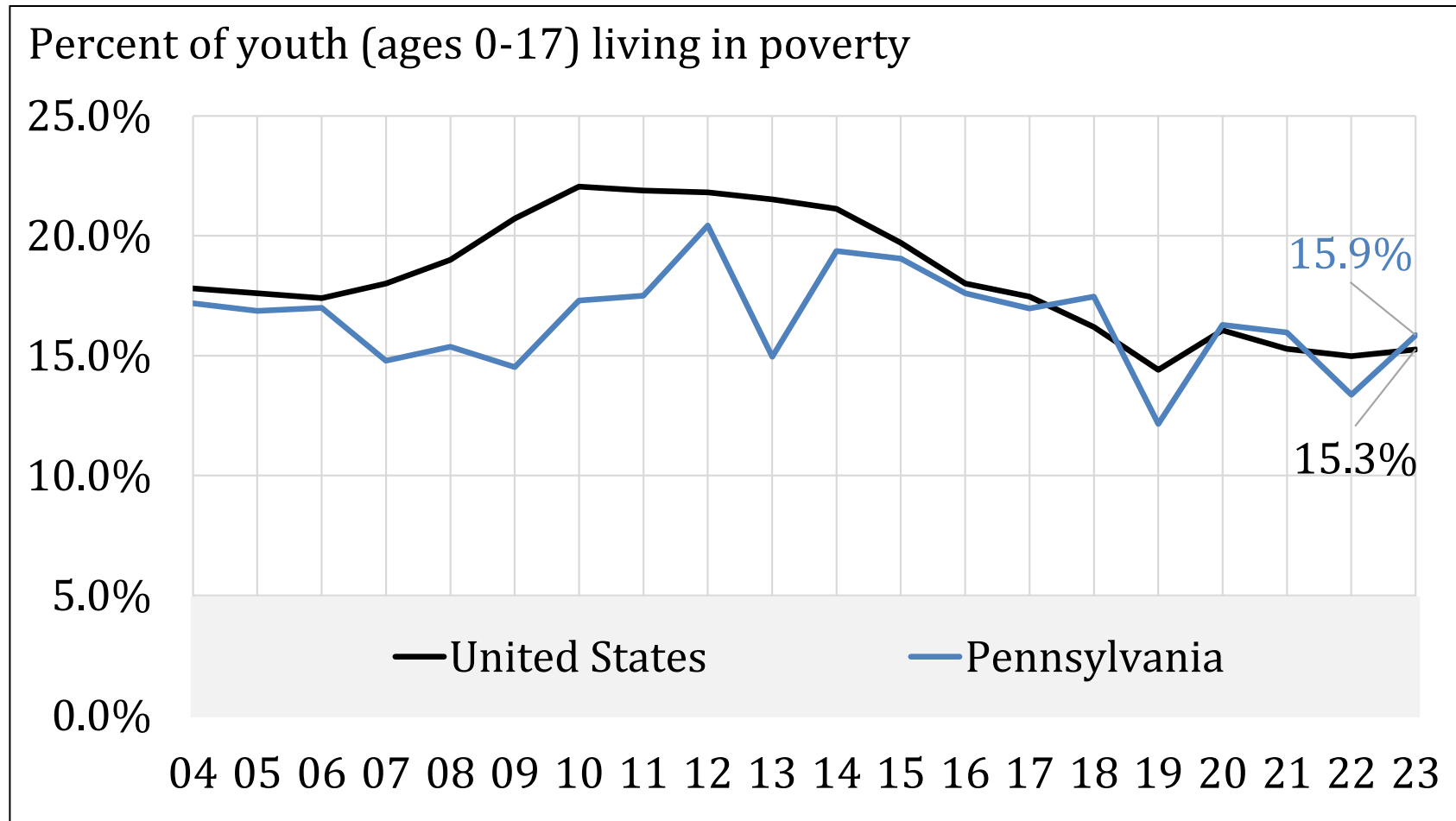
A/NH/OPI: Asian, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander

Youth and poverty



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About 1 in 6 youth in Pennsylvania were in poverty in 2023

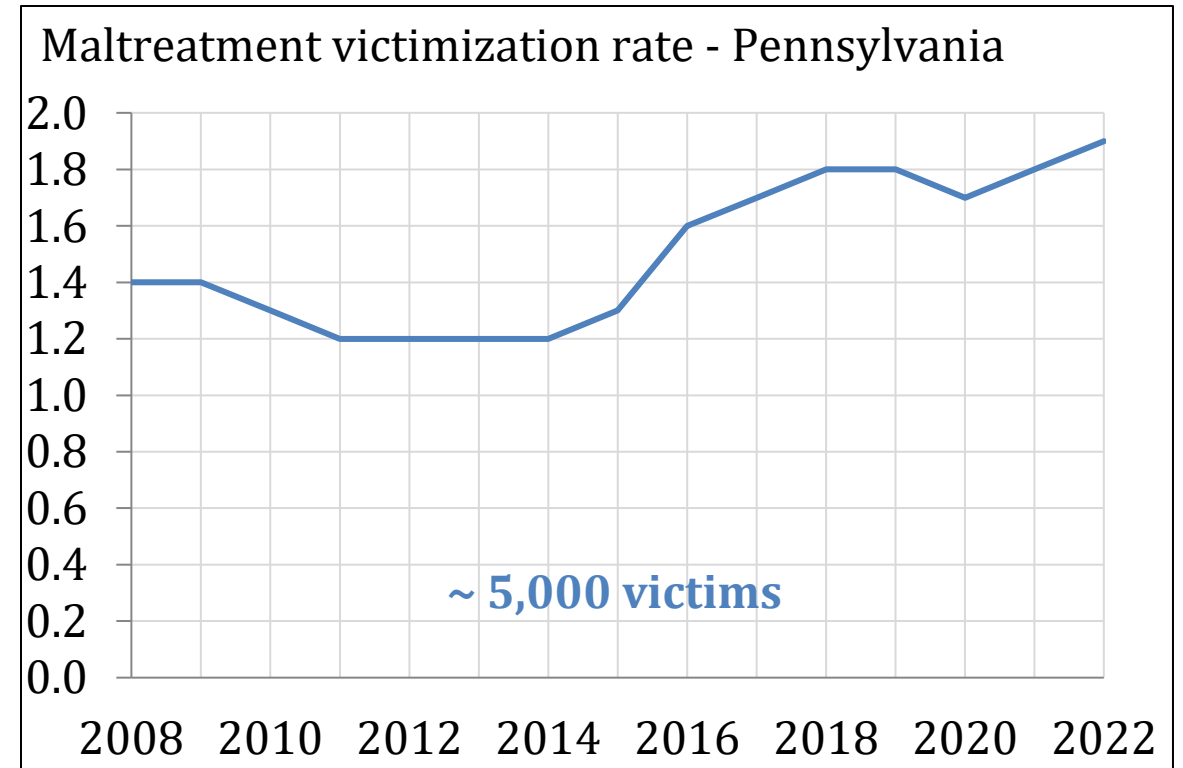
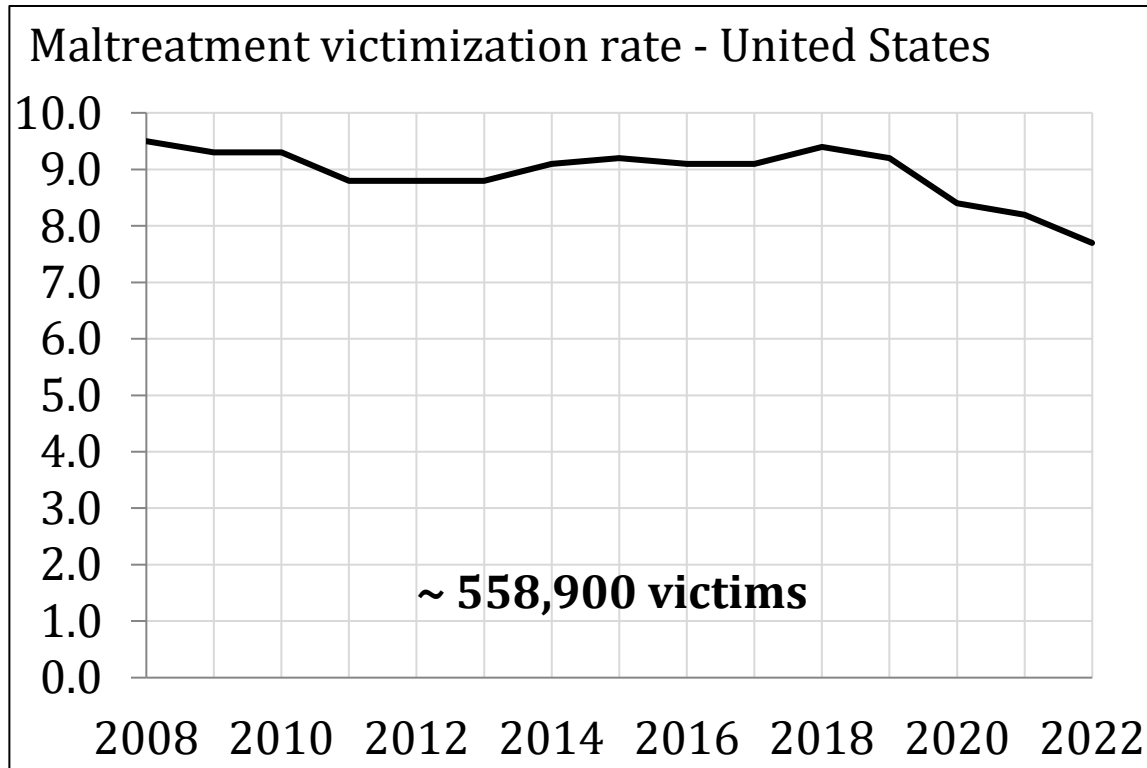


Youth victims of maltreatment



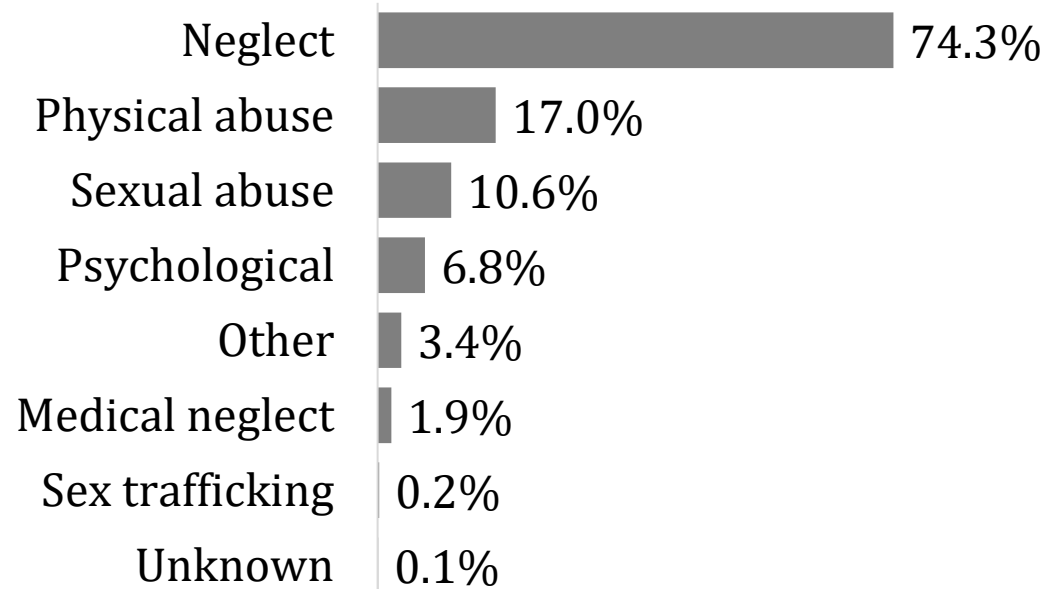
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The Pennsylvania maltreatment rate has increased in recent years

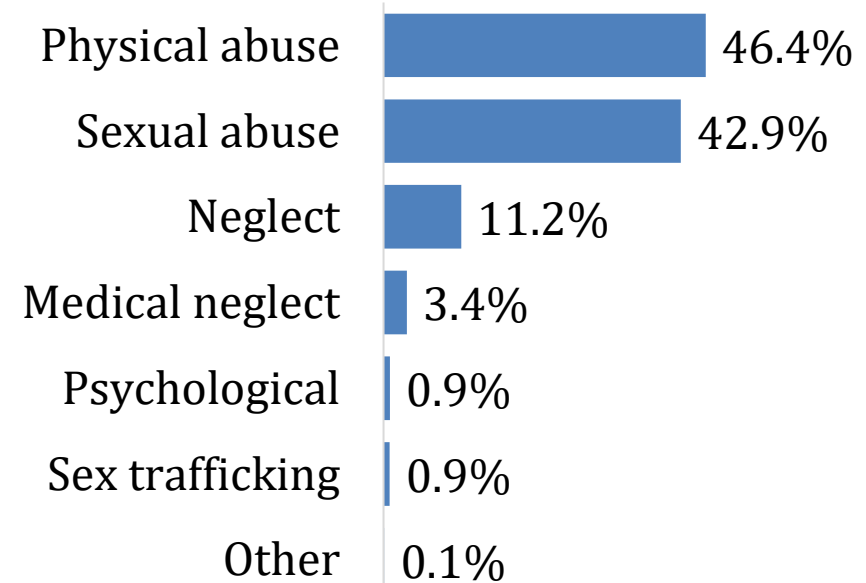


In PA, physical abuse and sexual abuse were the most common forms of maltreatment

Maltreatment types of victims, 2022 -- United States



Maltreatment types of victims, 2022 -- Pennsylvania

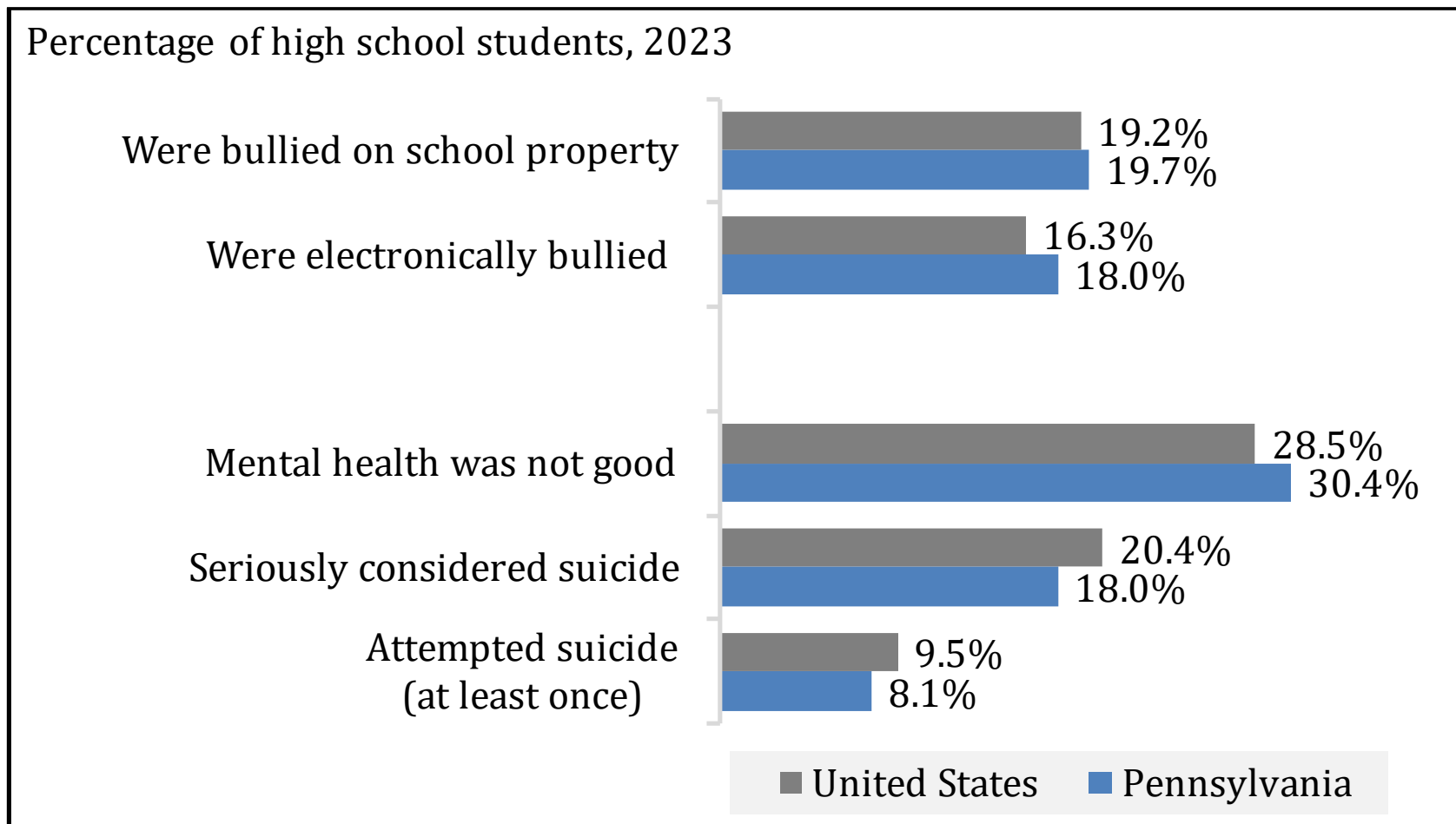


Youth and mental health



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Mental health related reporting was very similar between HS students in PA and the US in 2023



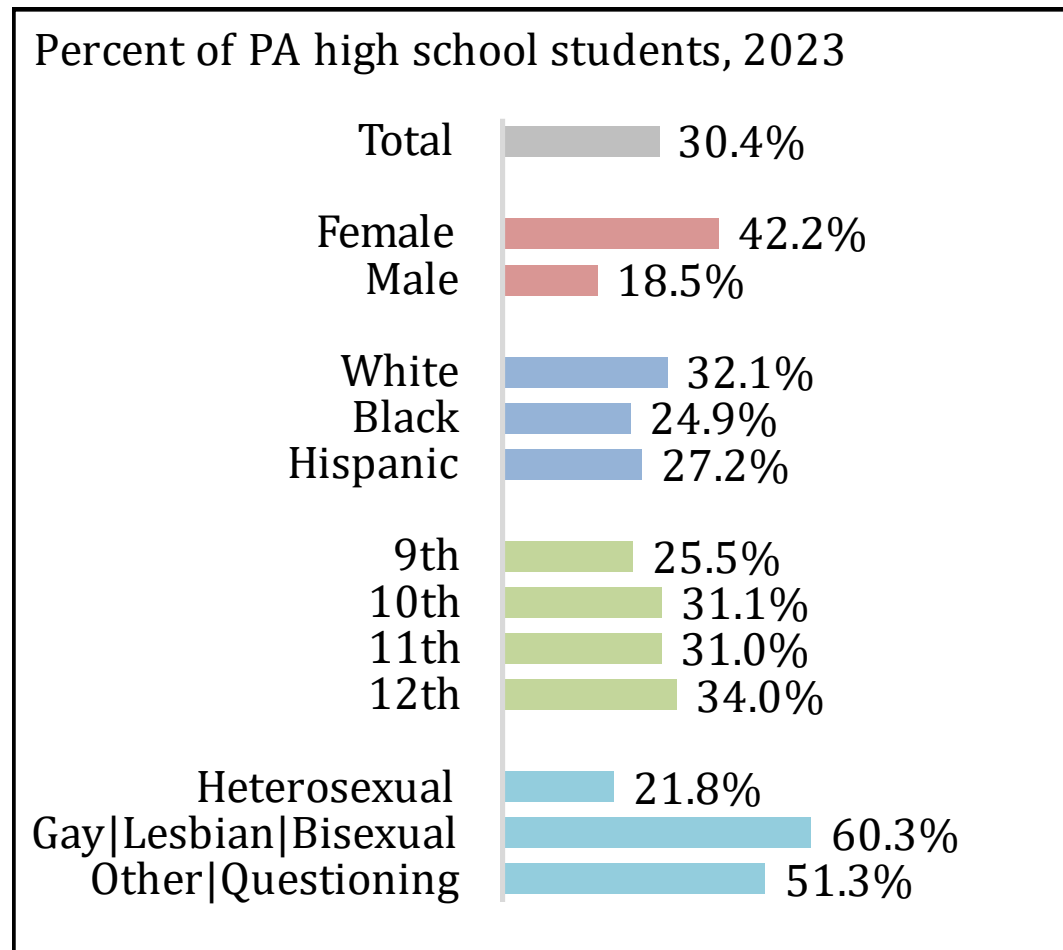
PA HS students reporting **their mental health was most of the time or always not good**

Statewide, this translates to:
245,180 youth

Philly- 28,480 youth

Allegheny- 20,630 youth

Dauphin- 5,480 youth



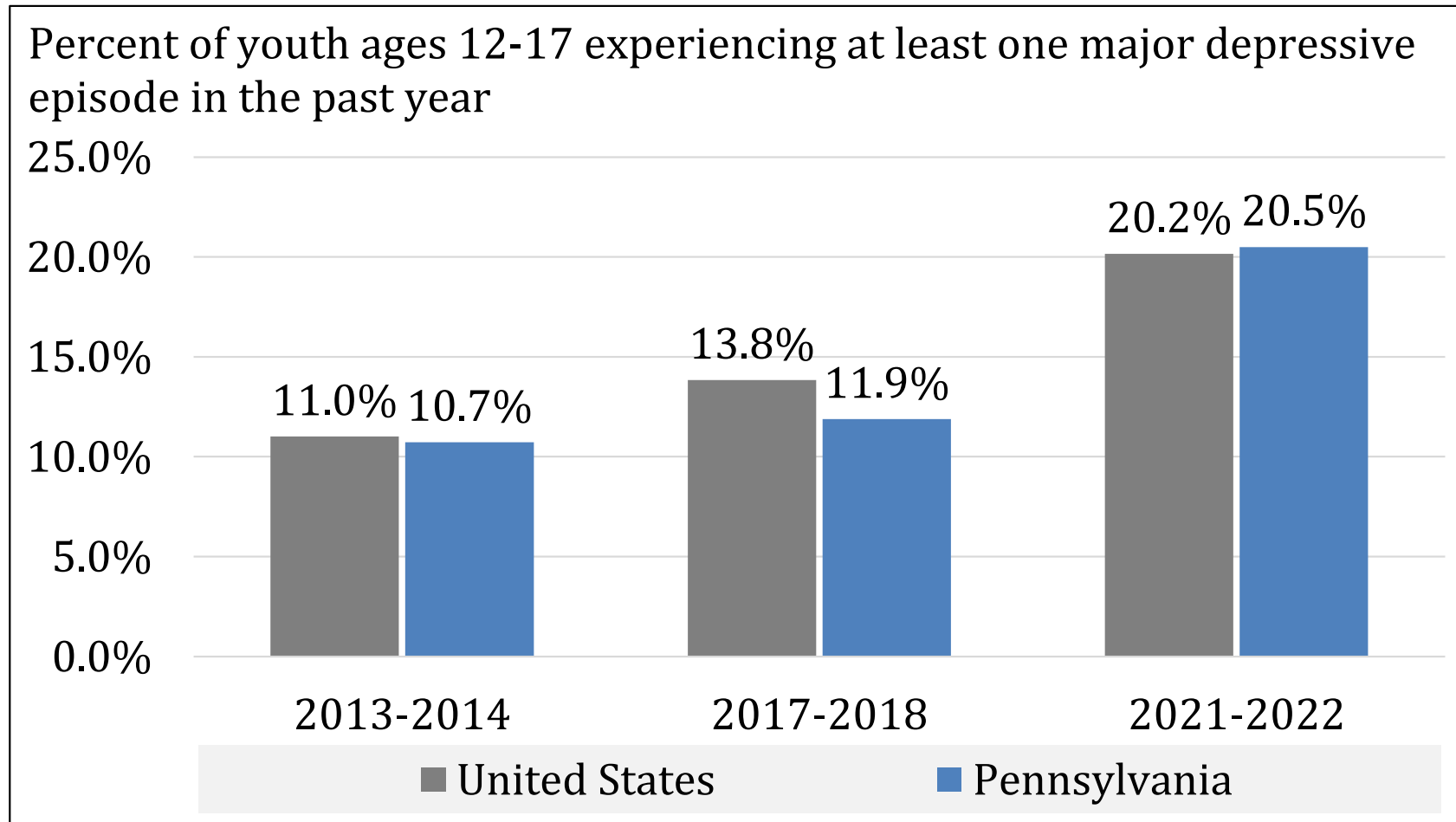
How the National Survey on Drug Use and Health defines Major Depressive Episode (MDE)

Major depressive episode (MDE): respondents were classified as having had an MDE in the past 12 months if:

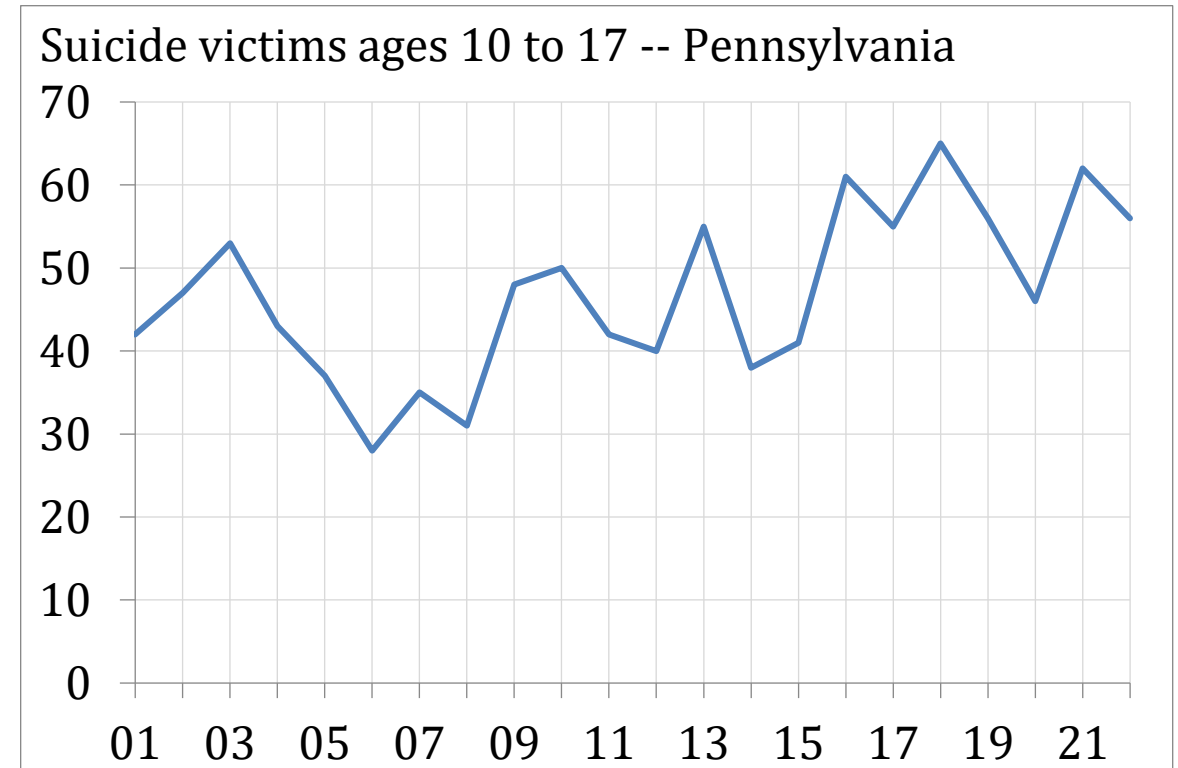
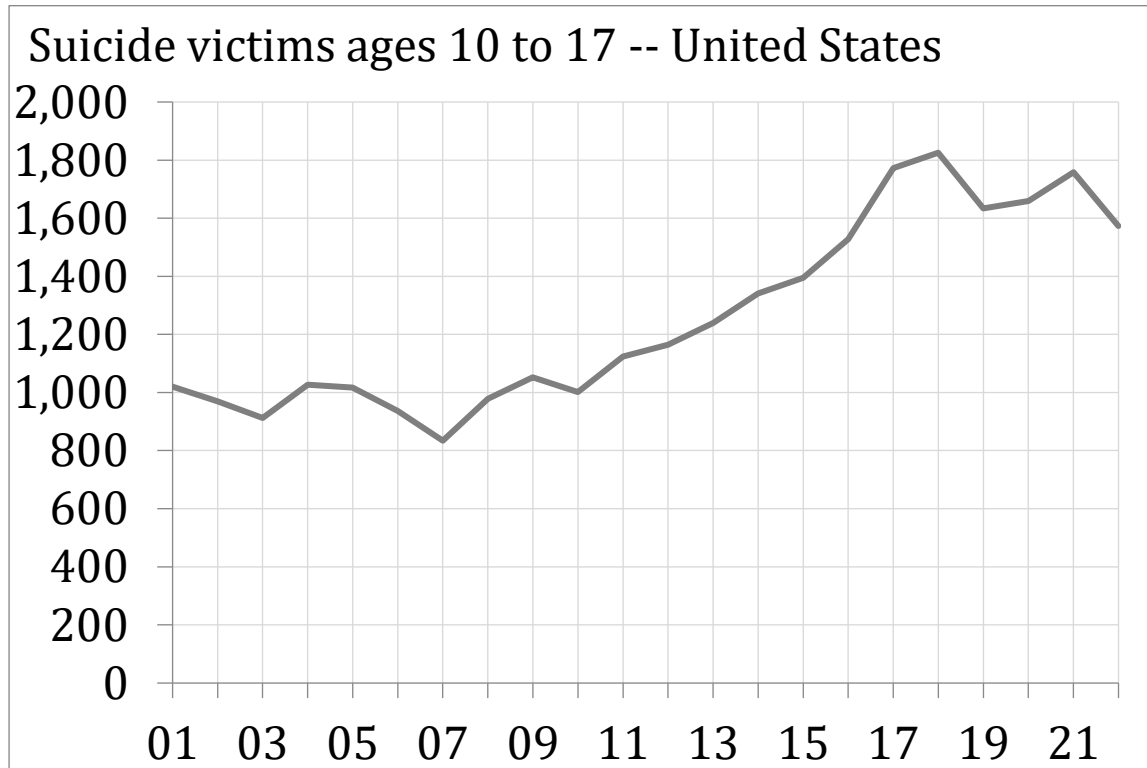
- (1) they had at least one period of **2 weeks or longer** in the past year when, for **most of the day nearly every day, they felt depressed or lost interest or pleasure in daily activities;** and
- (2) they also had **problems with sleeping, eating, energy, concentration, self-worth, or having recurrent thoughts of death or recurrent suicidal ideation.**

Adapted from: Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

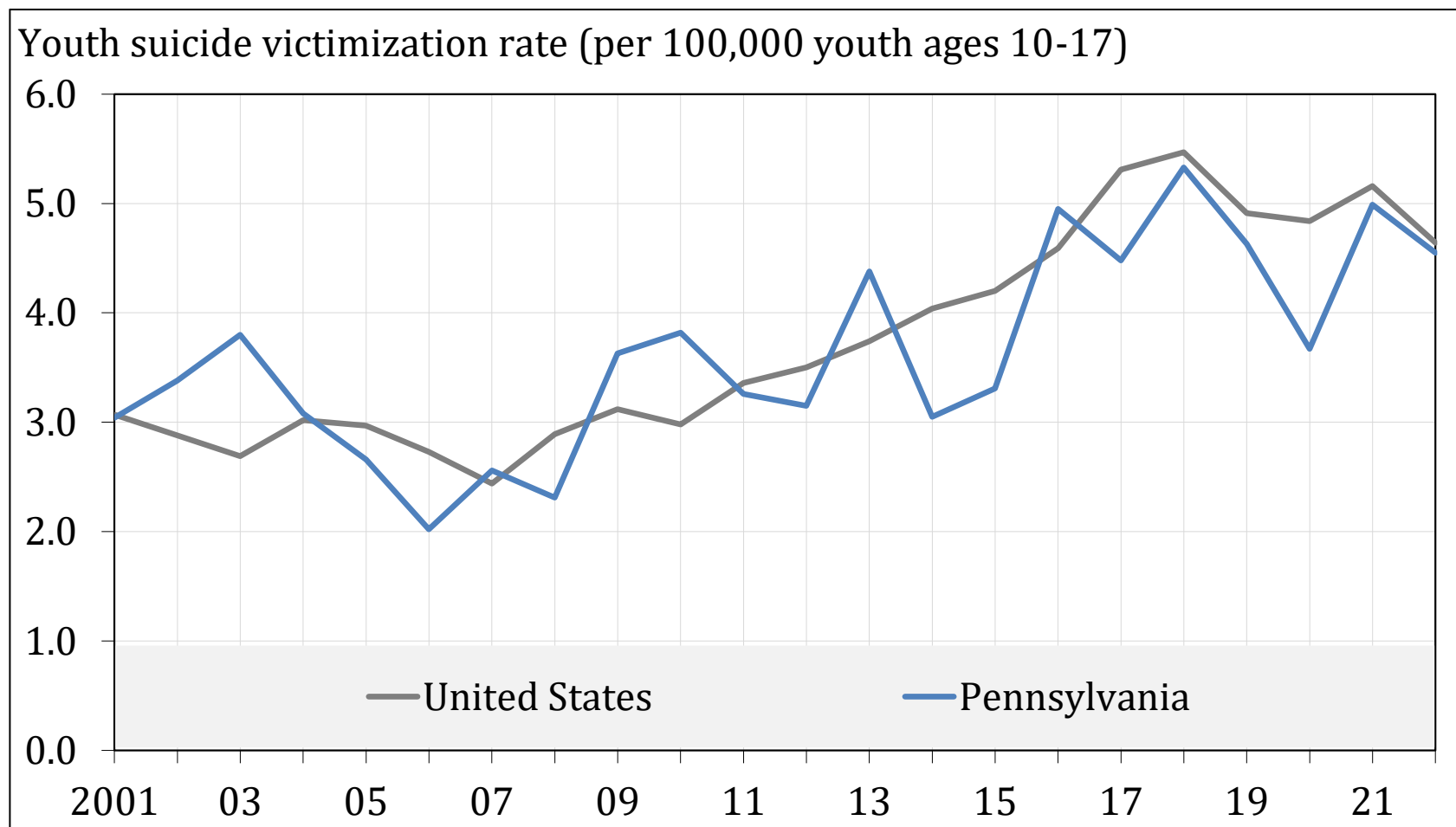
About 1 in 5 youth ages 12-17 experienced a major depressive episode in the past year



The number of youth victims of suicide has been on the rise



With few exceptions, the rate of suicide for PA youth was about the same as the US rate

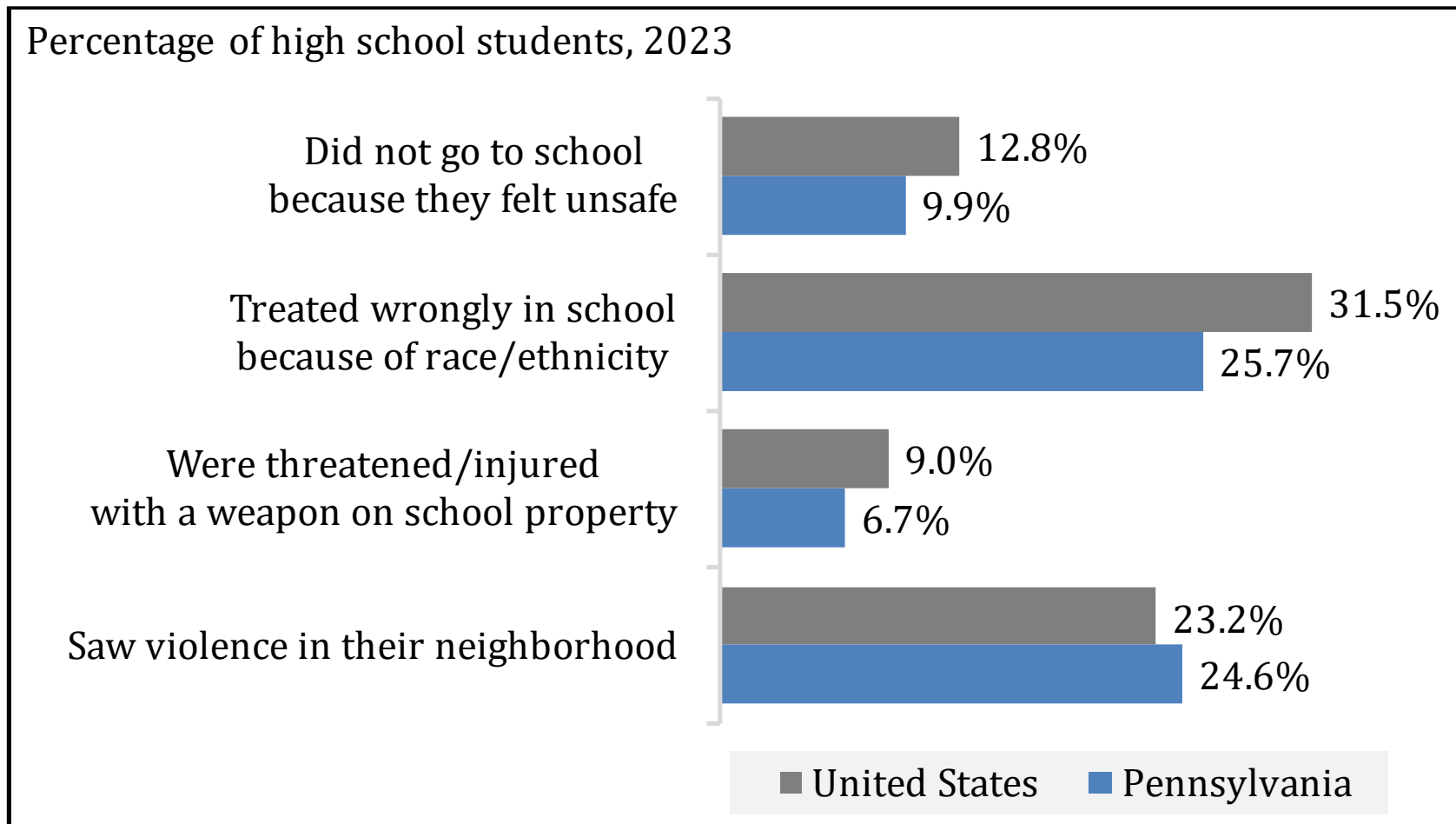


Youth and exposure to violence



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PA youth were less likely to report being threatened/ injured with a weapon on school property than other youth in the US



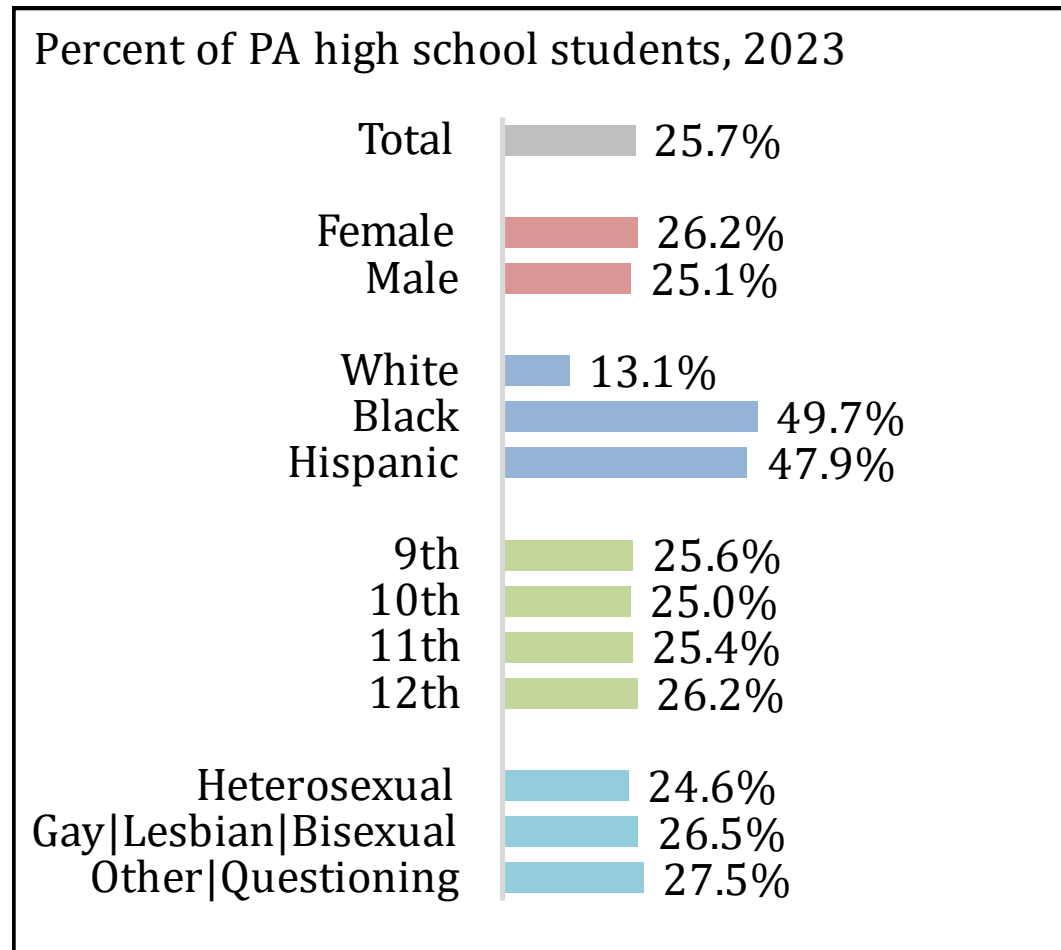
PA HS students who felt that they were ever treated badly or unfairly in school because of their race/ethnicity, 2023

Statewide, this translates to:
207,270 youth

Philly- 24,070 youth

Allegheny- 17,440 youth

Dauphin- 4,630 youth



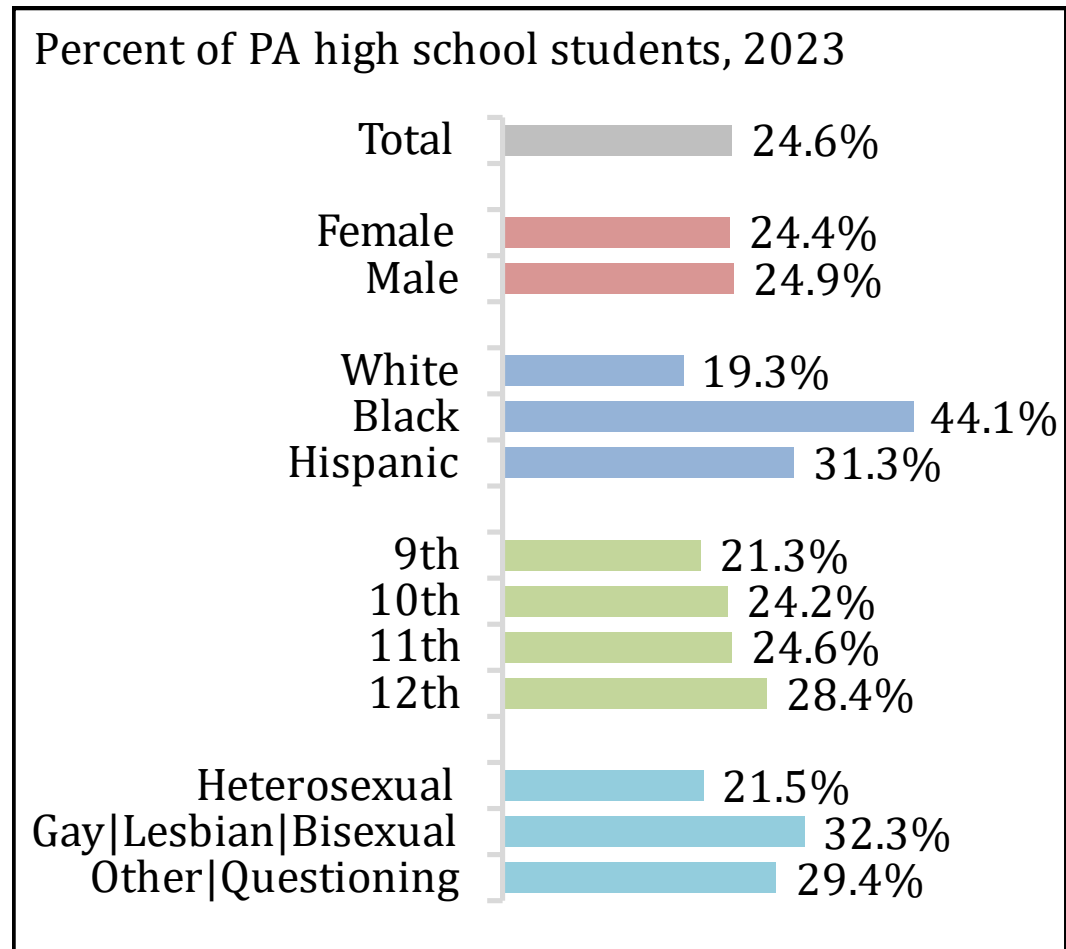
PA HS students who **ever saw someone get physically attacked/beaten/stabbed/shot in their neighborhood**

Statewide, this translates to:
198,400 youth

Philly- 23,040 youth

Allegheny- 16,690 youth

Dauphin- 4,430 youth

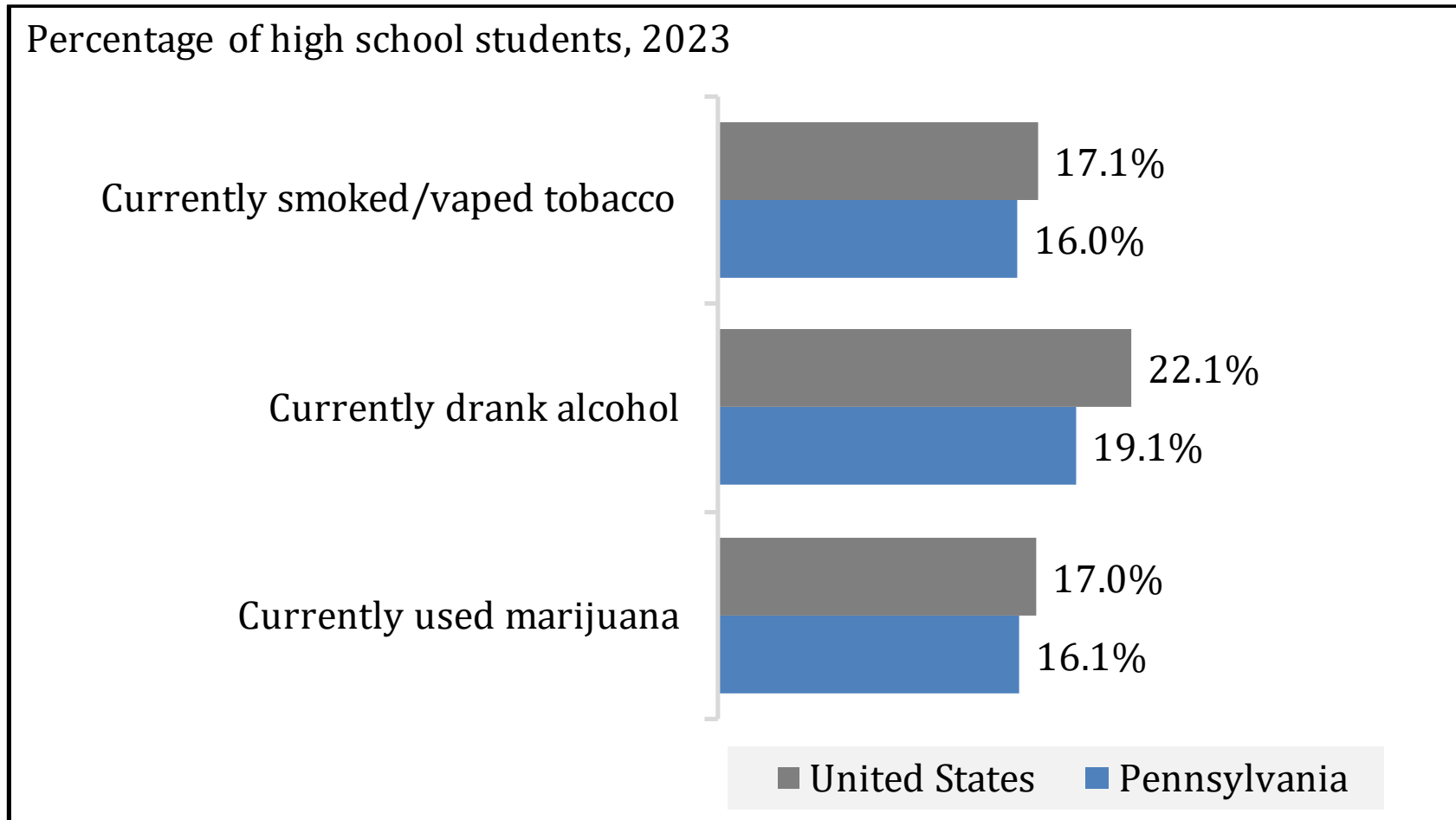


Youth and substances

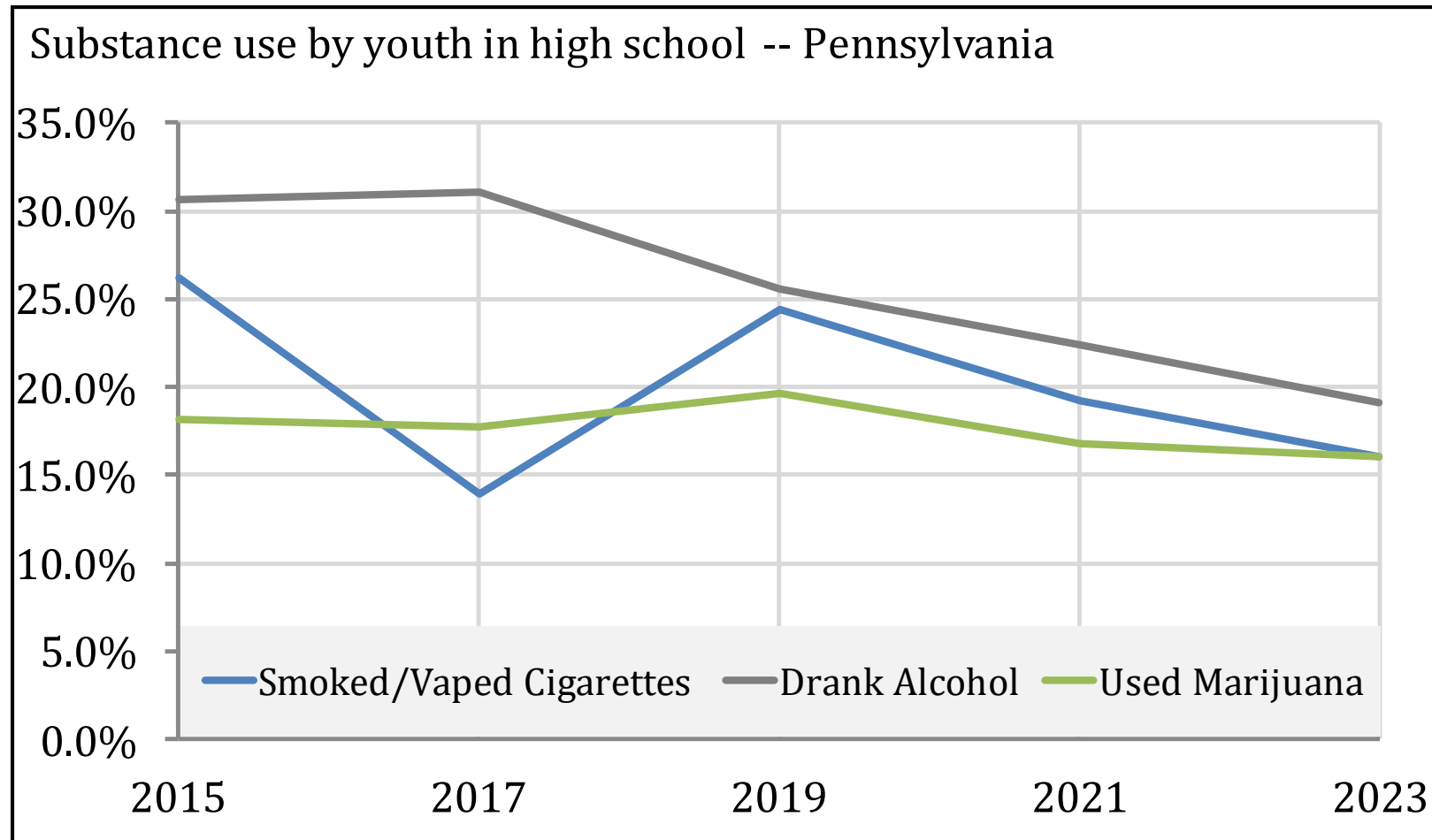


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PA youth were less likely to report having drunk alcohol in the last month than other youth in the US



Alcohol use among PA high schoolers has been on the decline in recent years

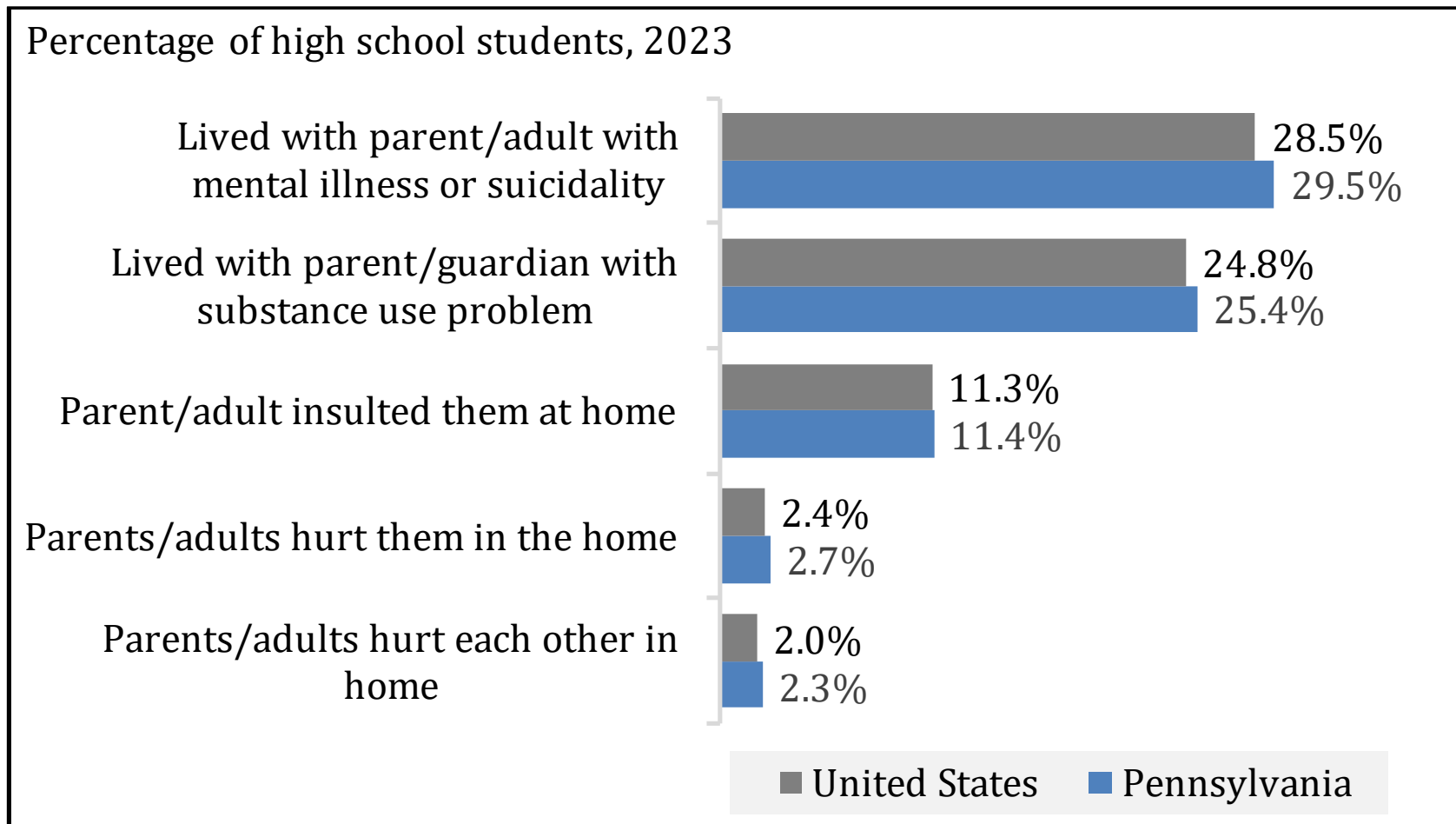


Youth and home life



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PA youth were more likely to report living with a parent with a mental illness/ suicidality than other youth in the US



PA high school students reporting they ever lived with a parent or guardian who...

Demographics	had a mental illness	was having a substance problem
Total	29.5%	25.4%
Female	36.8%	28.1%
Male	22.0%	22.7%
White	32.3%	27.8%
Black	20.1%	14.2%
Hispanic	28.2%	22.6%
9th	27.6%	21.2%
10th	27.9%	25.5%
11th	31.1%	27.5%
12th	31.3%	27.5%
Heterosexual	22.8%	19.7%
Gay, lesbian, bisexual	53.9%	46.0%
Other/Questioning	45.0%	39.3%

PA HS students reporting that **parents or other adults in their home most of the time or always...**

Demographics	insulted them or put them down*	hit, beat, kicked, or physically hurt them in any way*	slapped, hit, kicked, punched or beat each other up*
Total	11.4%	2.7%	2.3%
Female	16.0%	3.2%	3.2%
Male	6.9%	2.0%	1.4%
White	10.8%	1.9%	2.3%
Black	11.0%	4.0%	1.9%
Hispanic	11.9%	4.8%	2.5%
9th	9.0%	1.0%	1.3%
10th	10.5%	1.9%	3.0%
11th	11.9%	2.8%	1.9%
12th	14.2%	4.7%	2.5%
Heterosexual	8.4%	2.2%	1.4%
Gay, lesbian, bisexual	23.3%	3.2%	4.7%
Other/Questioning	16.6%	4.8%	4.0%

Youth and family life

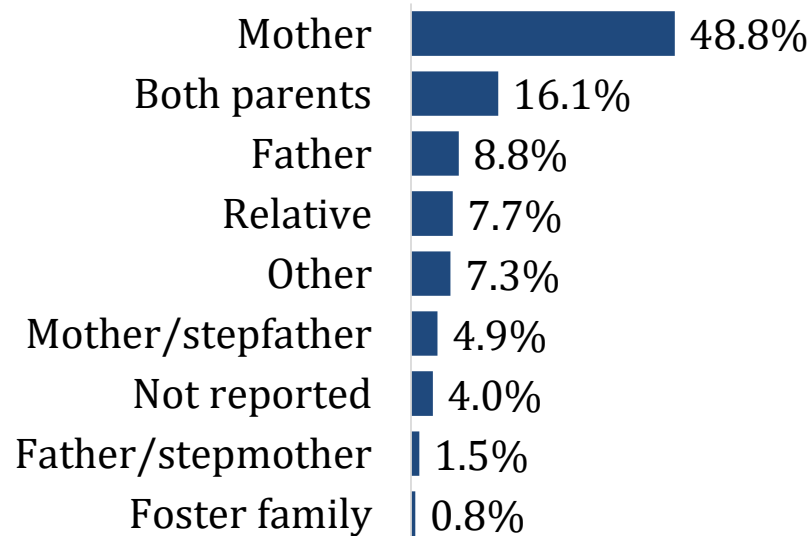


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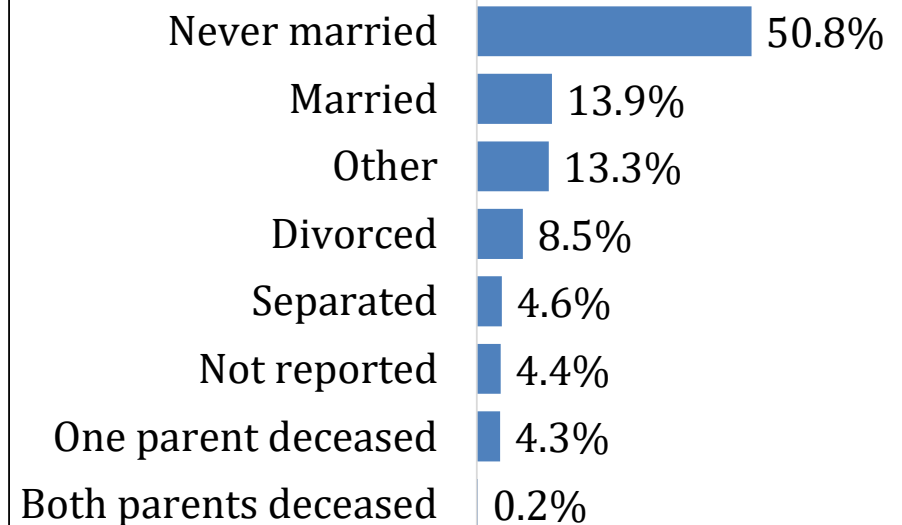
Most Pennsylvania youth are in two-parent families

- In 2023, 65% of PA youth were in two-parent families (US: 66%)
 - In 71% of two-parent families, both parents are working
- About one-fourth of PA youth were in single mother families

Delinquency dispositions by living arrangement of youth, 2023



Delinquency dispositions by family status, 2023

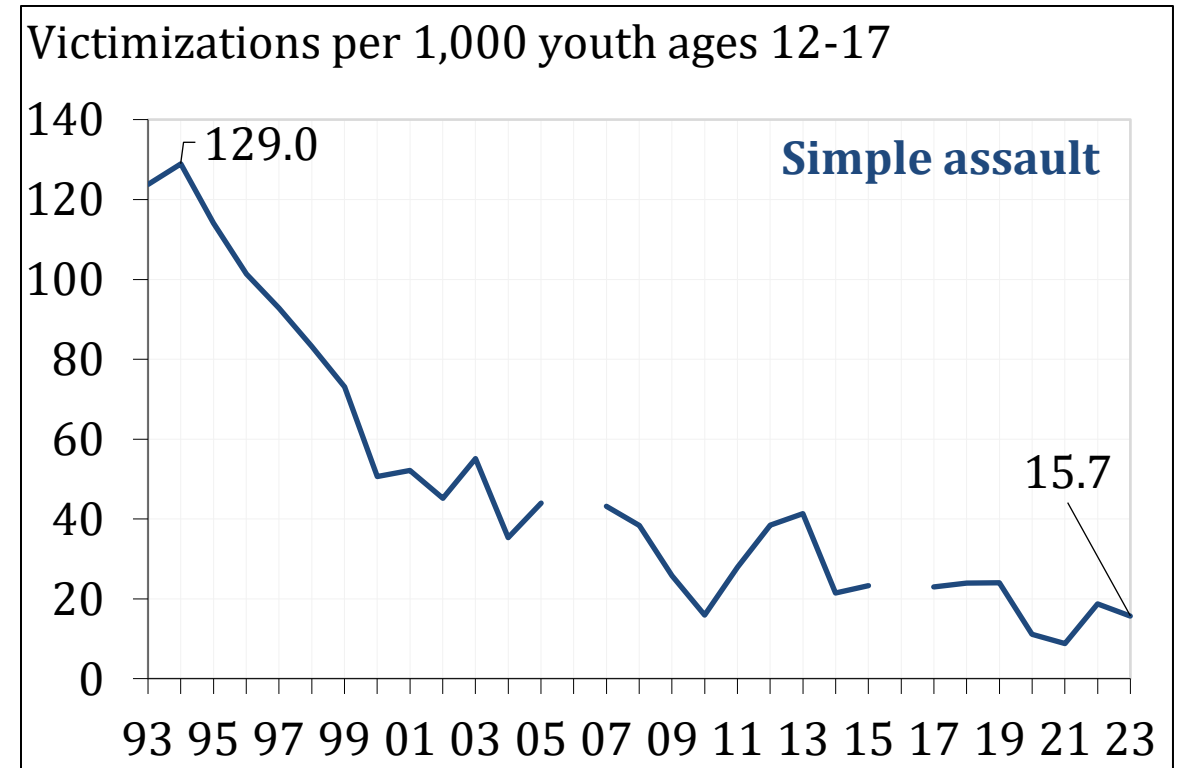


Violence against youth remains relatively low

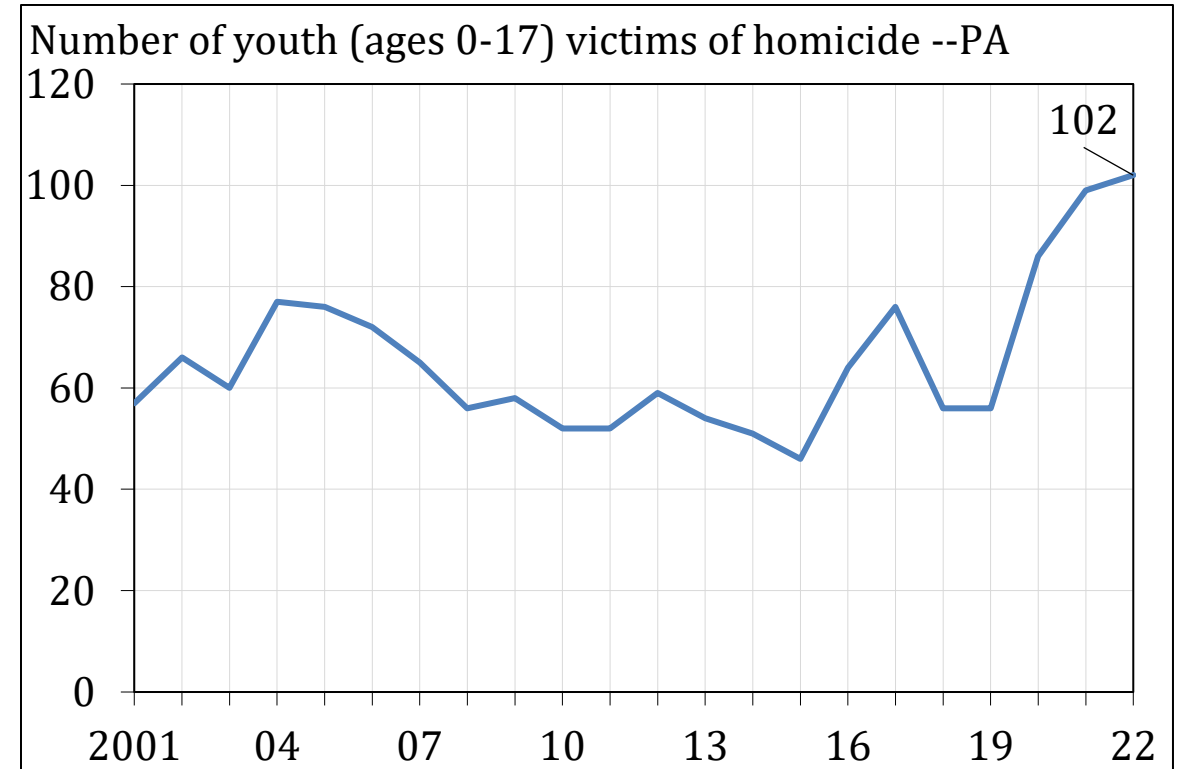
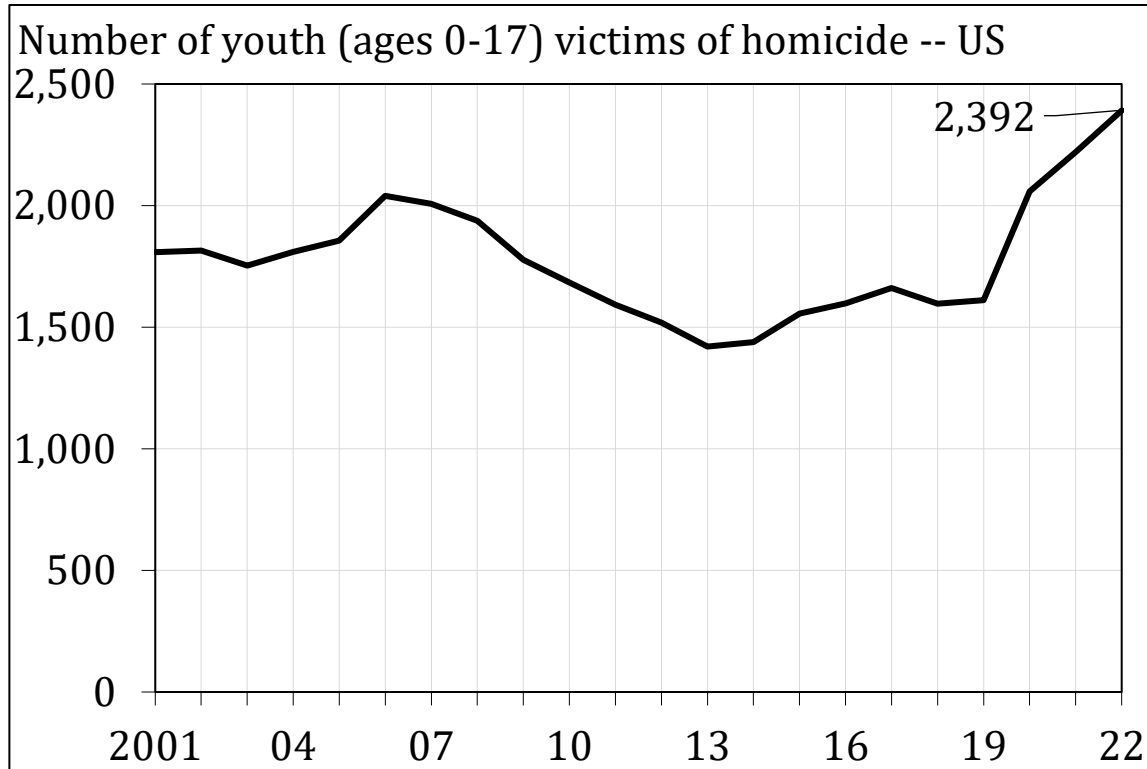


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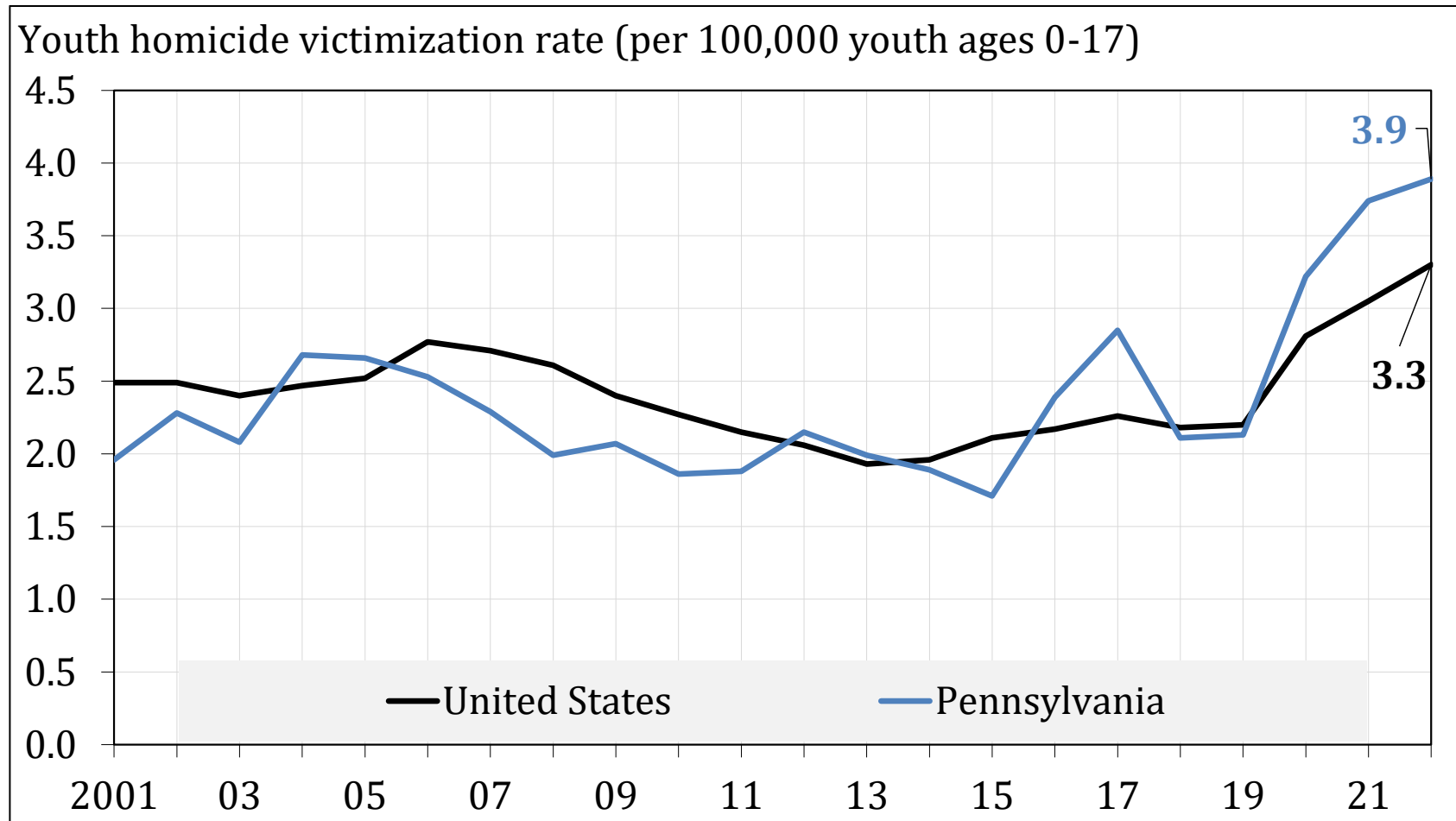
Non-fatal victimization of youth remains near historic lows



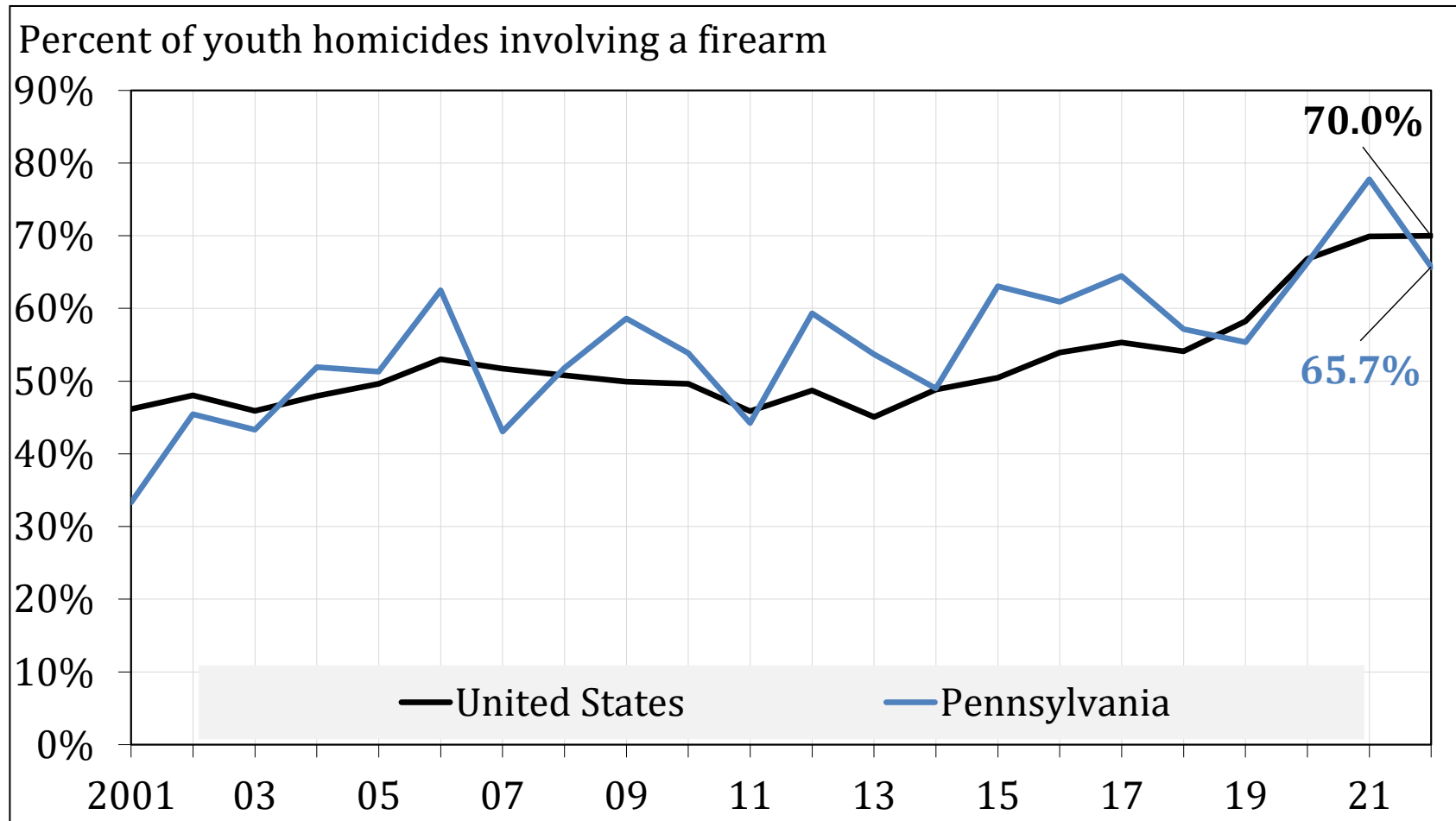
While fatal violence has increased in recent years



The youth homicide victimization rate has increased since 2019

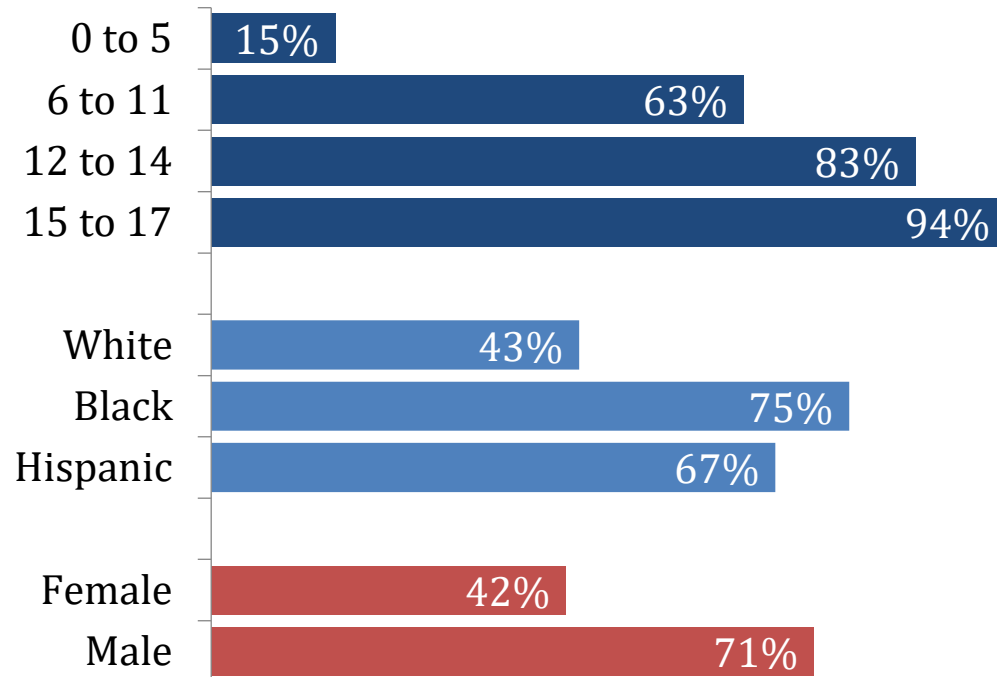


And the proportion of youth homicides involving a firearm has been on the rise

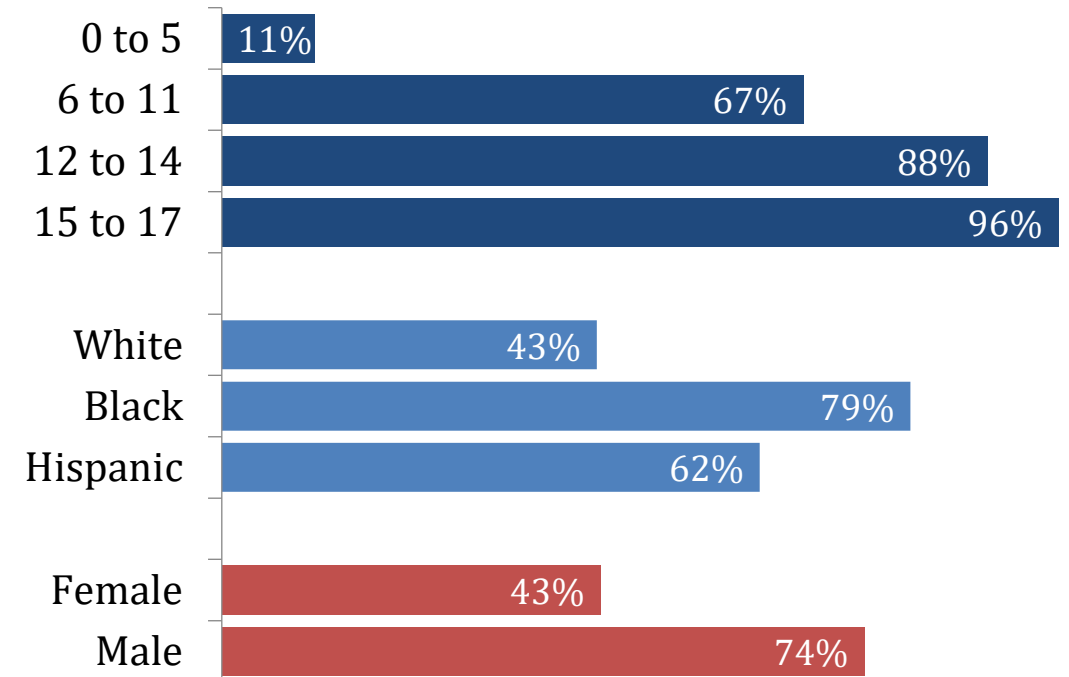


Firearm involvement varies by youth demographics

Percent of youth killed by a firearm, 2018-2022--U.S.



Percent of youth killed by a firearm, 2018-2022--PA

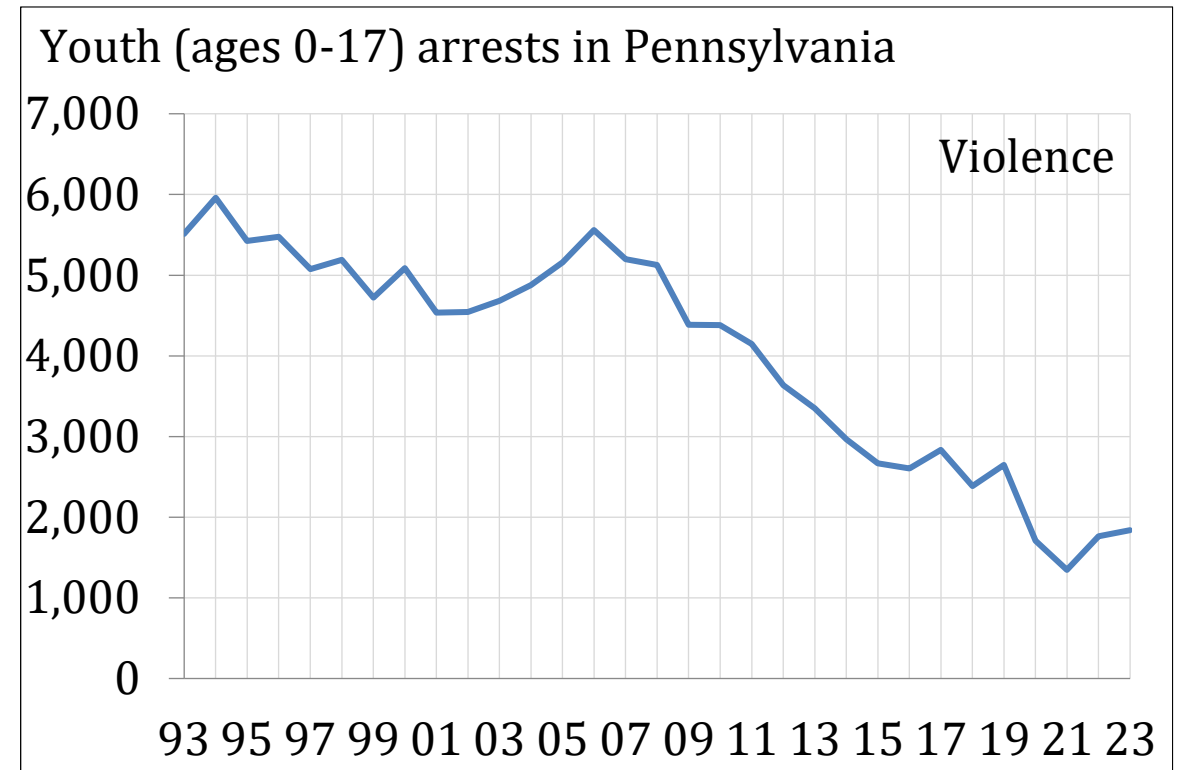
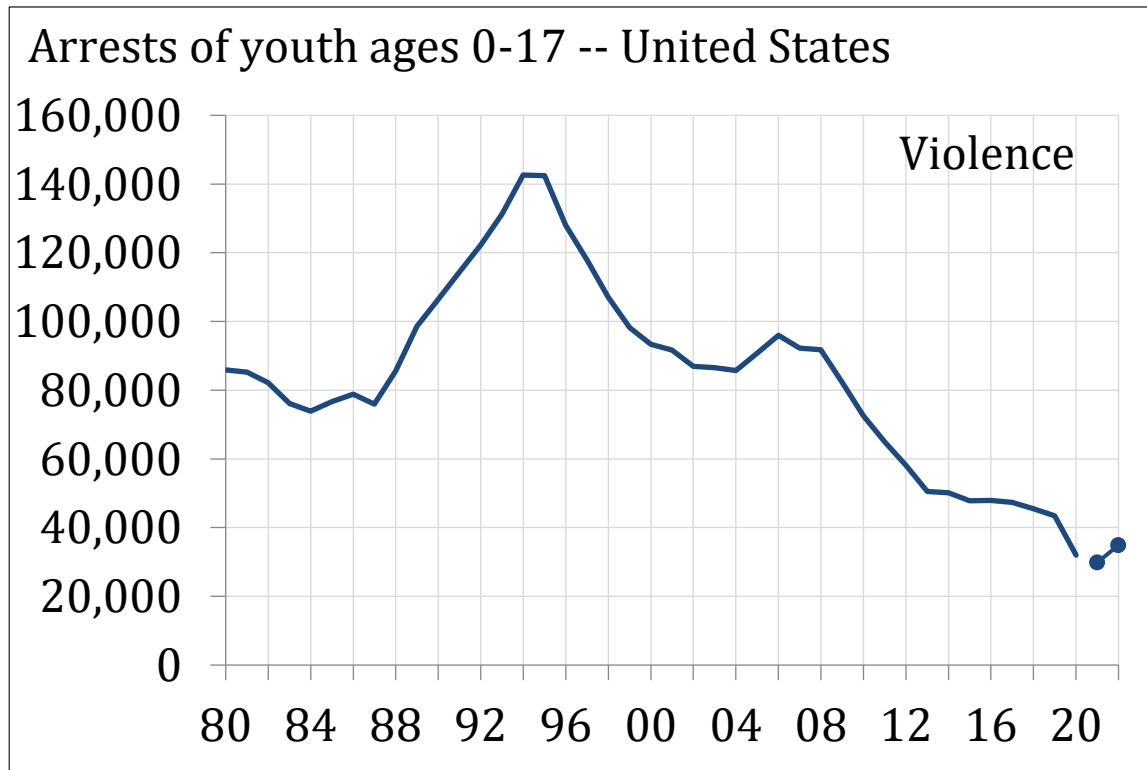


Violence **by youth is
below pre-pandemic
levels**

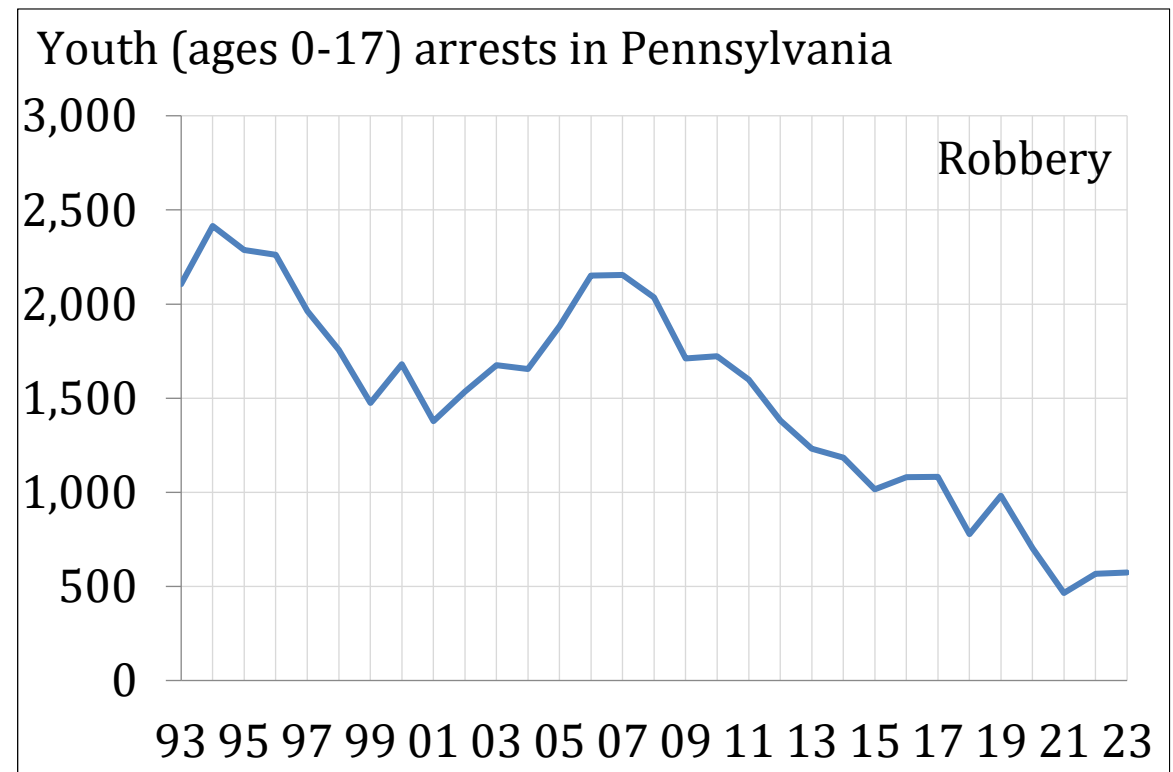
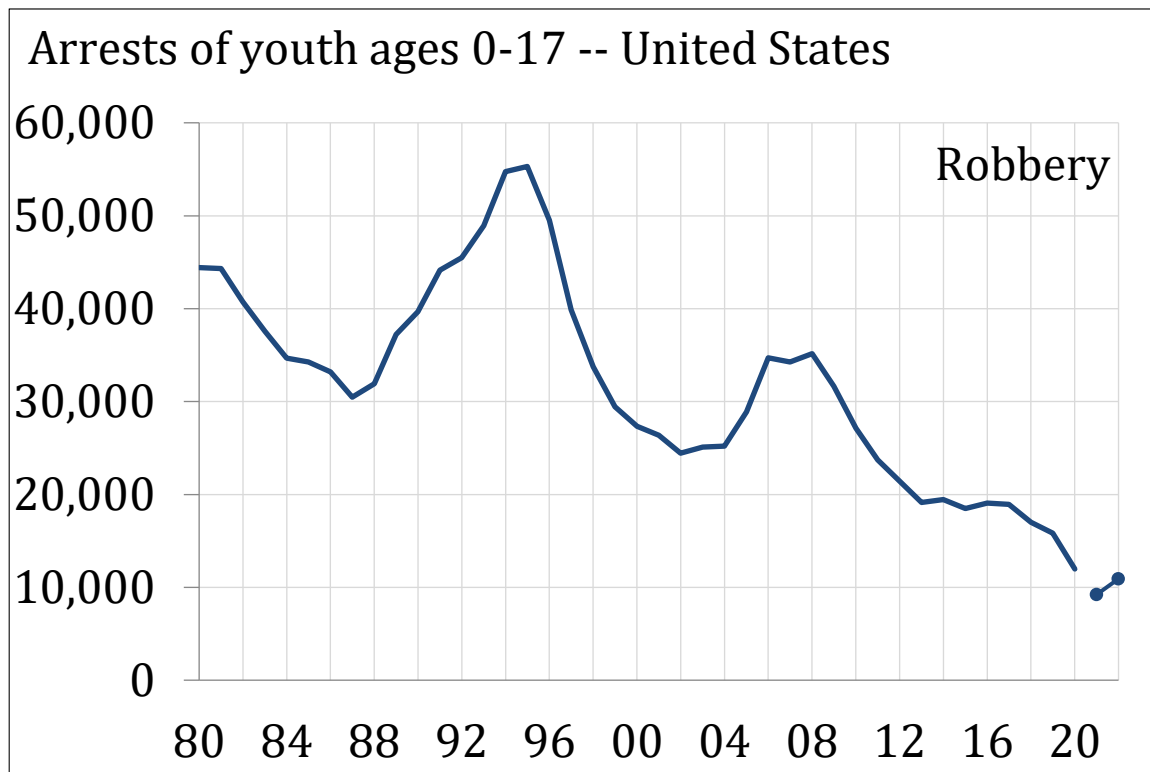


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Youth arrests for violence are down

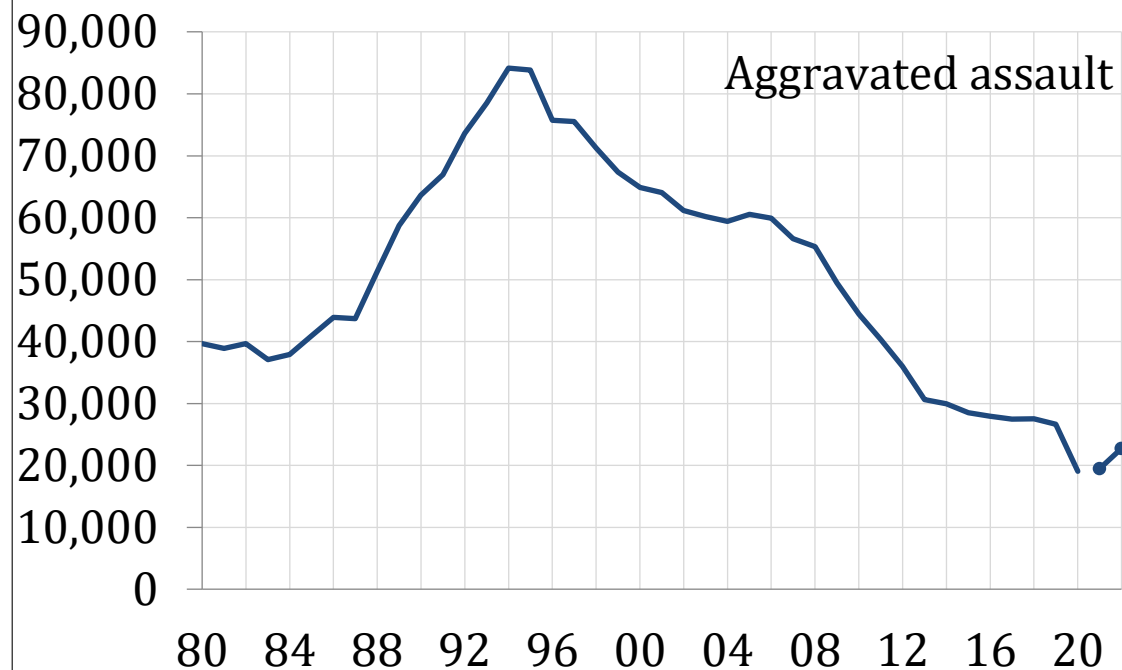


Arrests for robbery are near their historic low

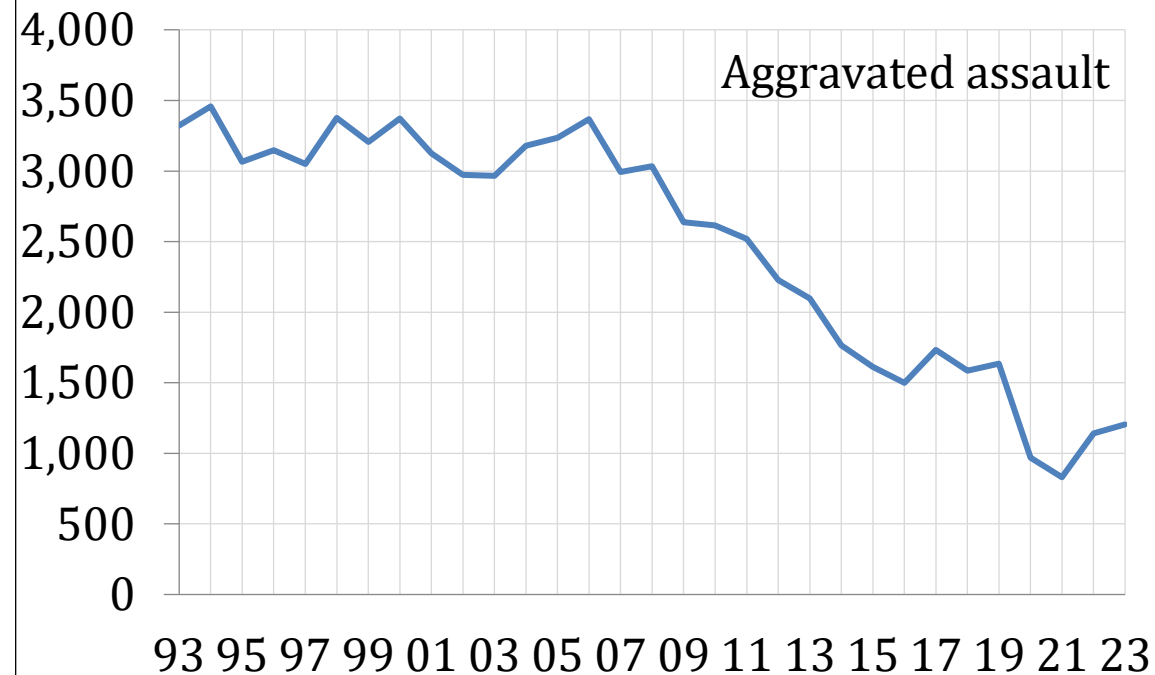


The same is true for arrests for aggravated assault

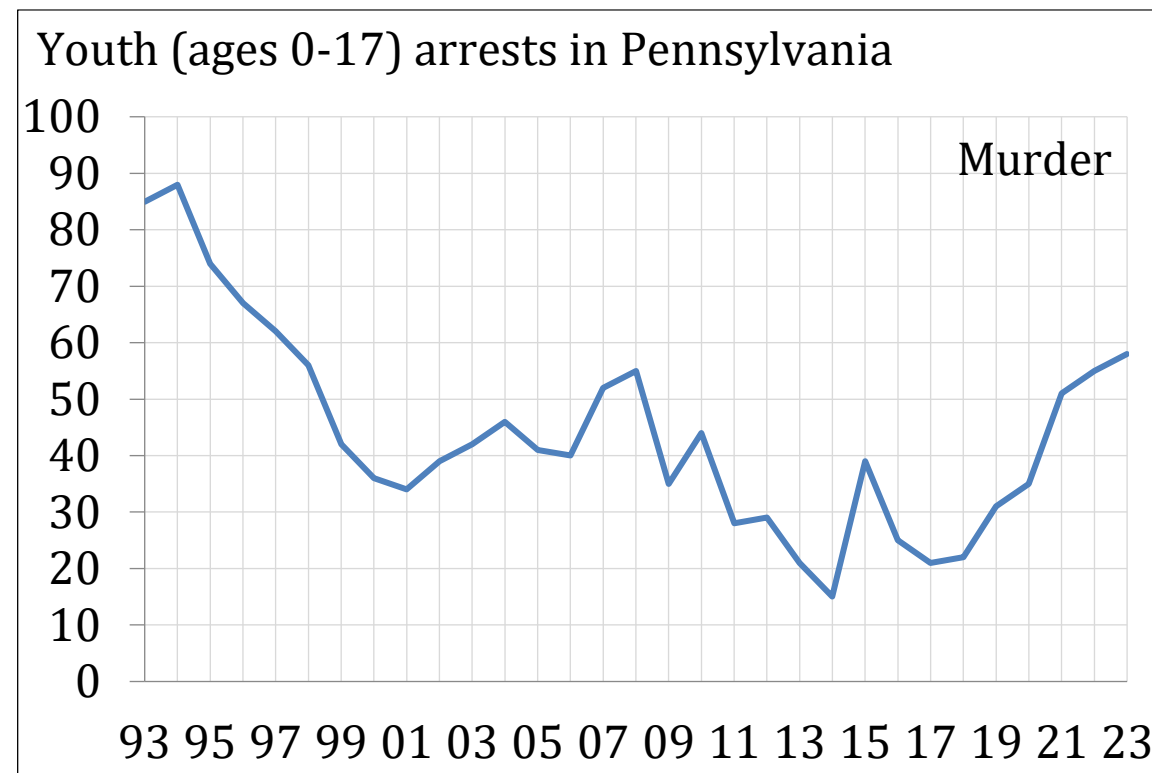
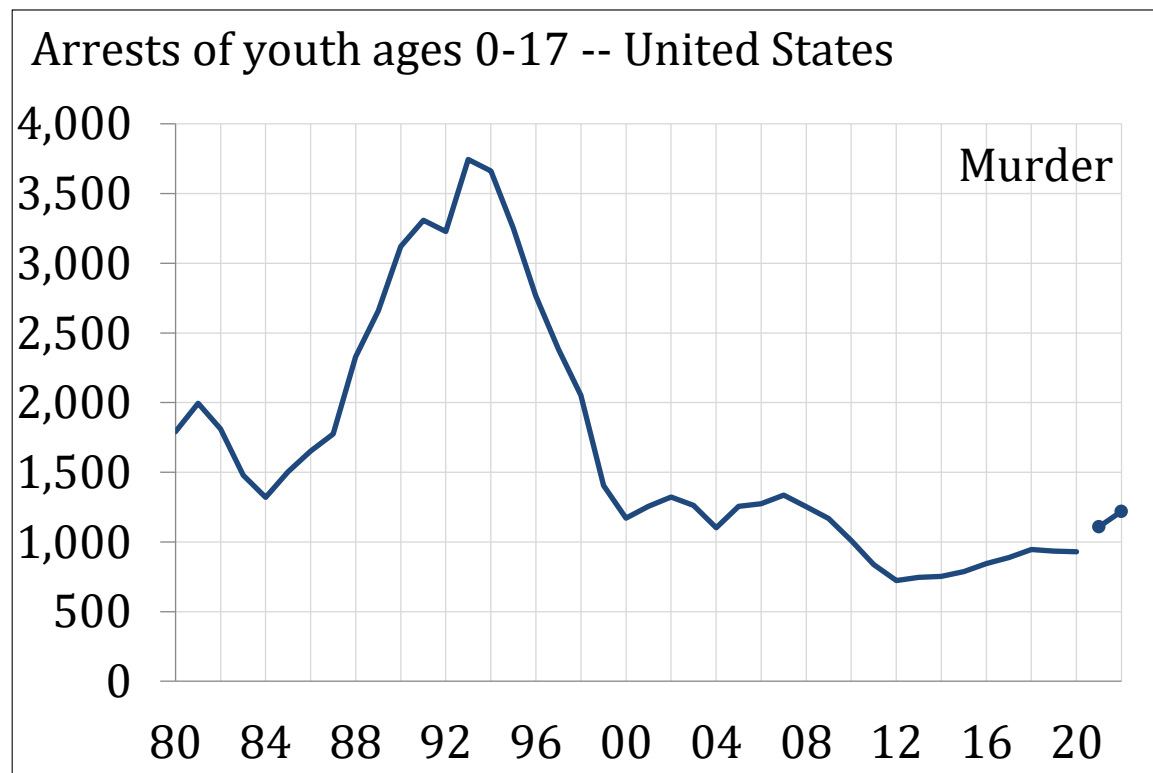
Arrests of youth ages 0-17 -- United States



Youth (ages 0-17) arrests in Pennsylvania



Youth arrests for murder have increased, but remain well

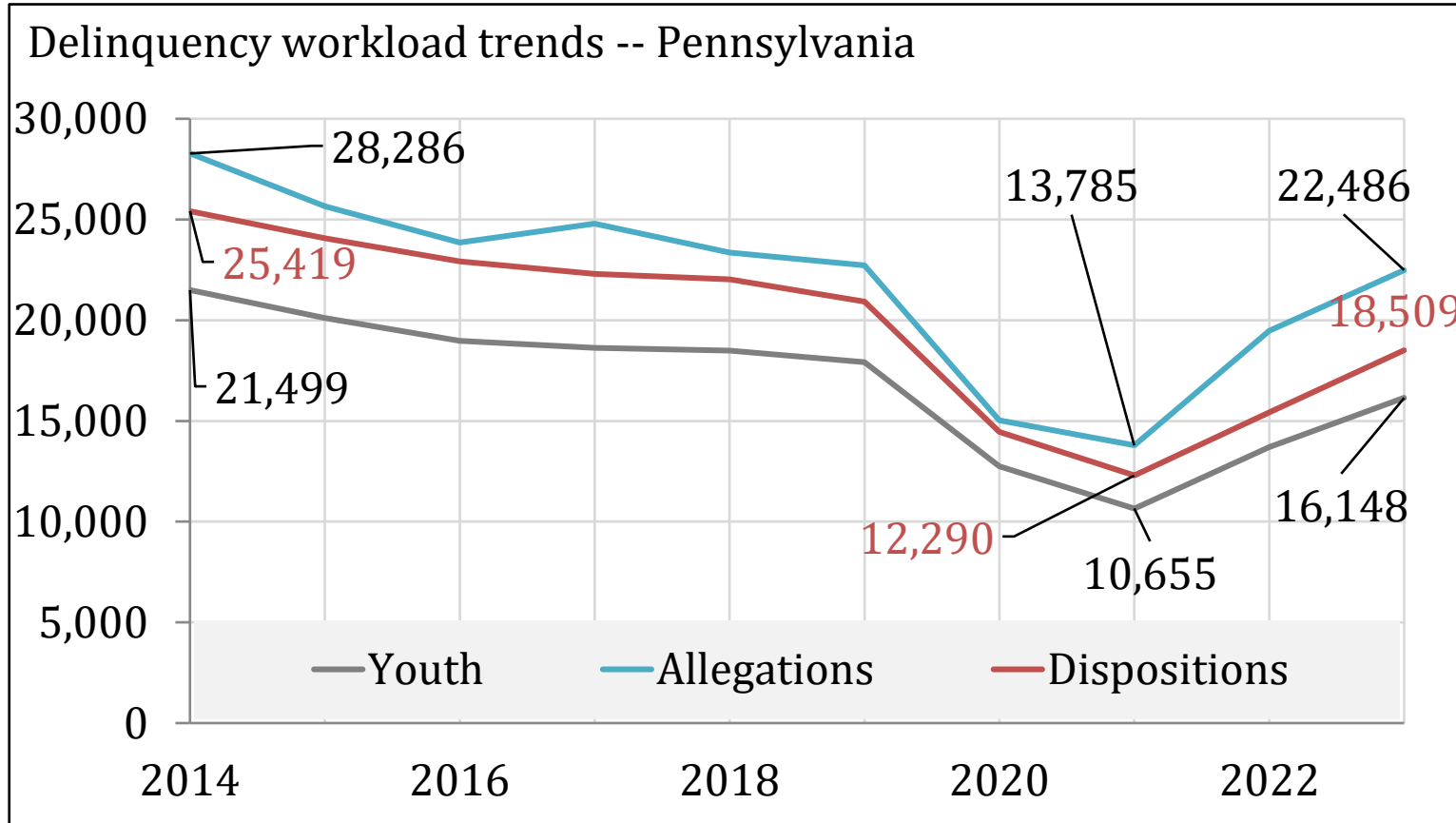


System workload



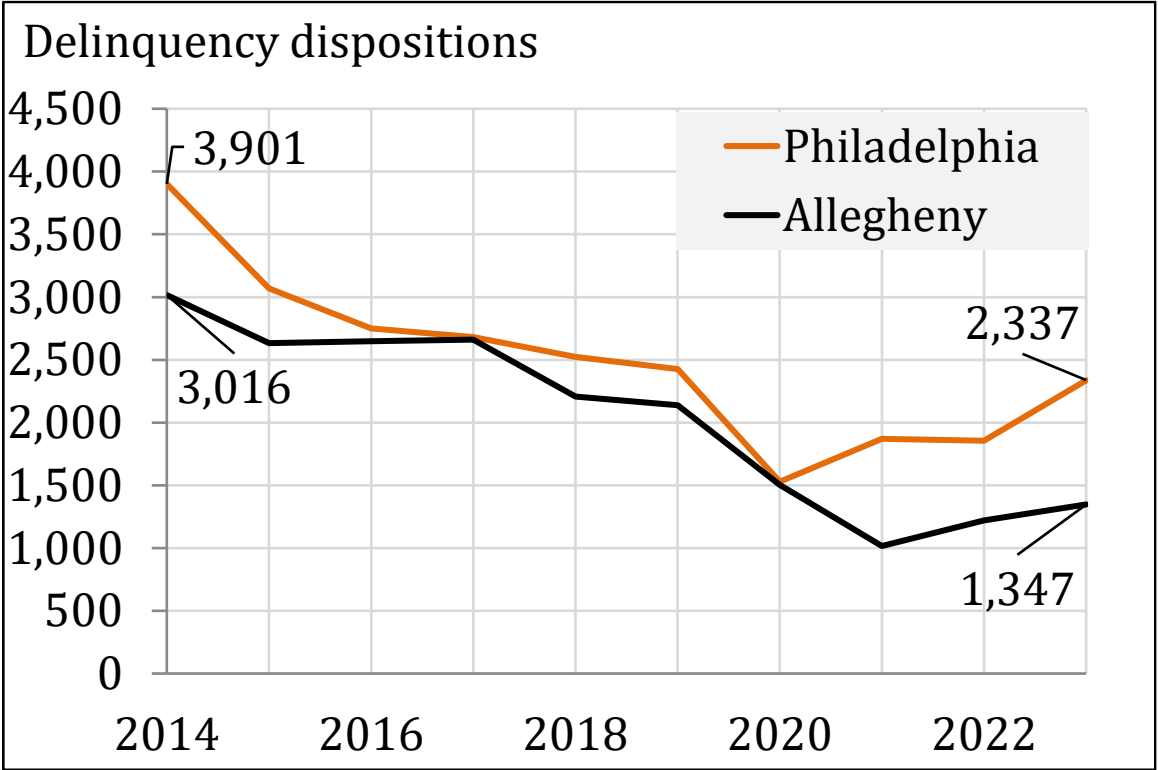
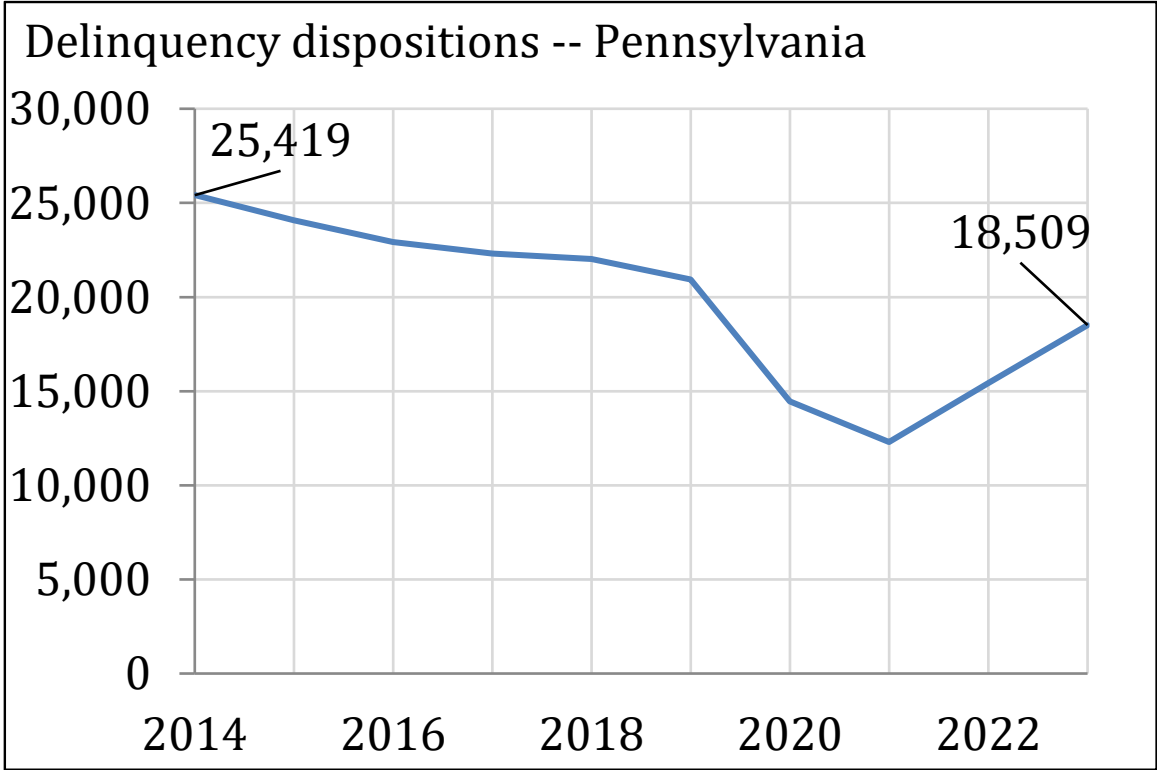
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Workloads have increased since 2021 but are lower than 10 years prior

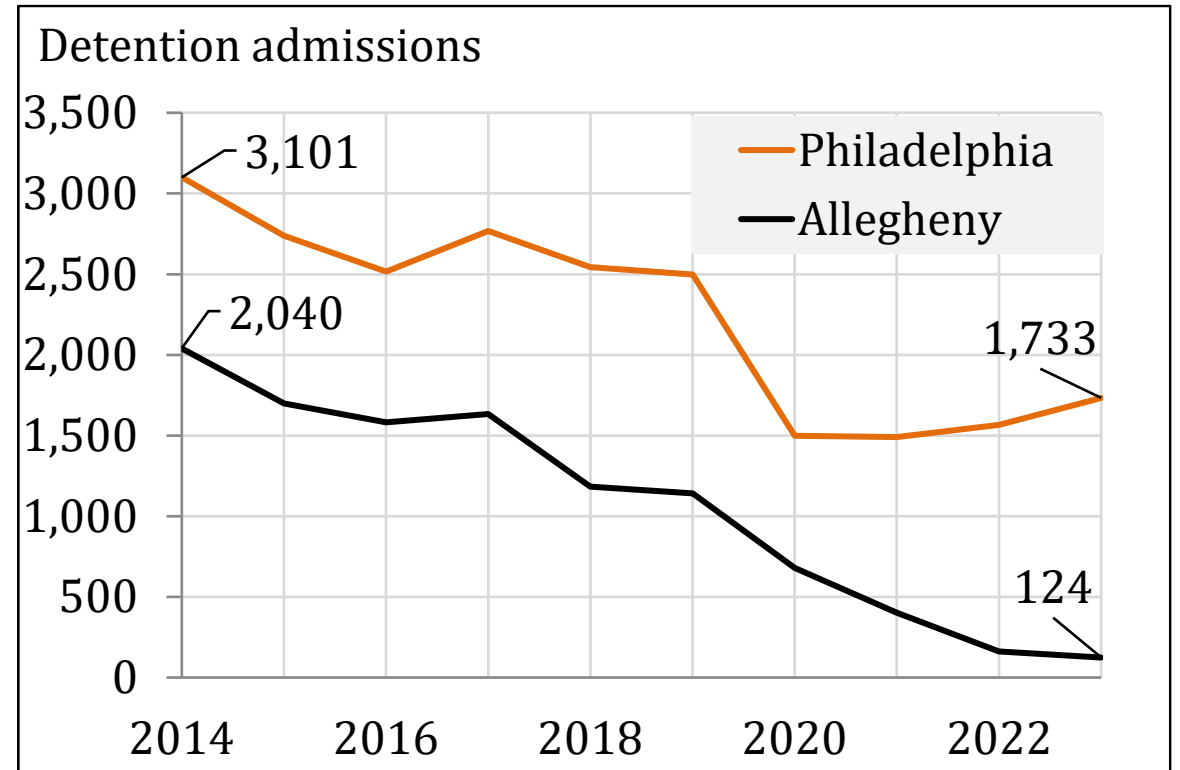
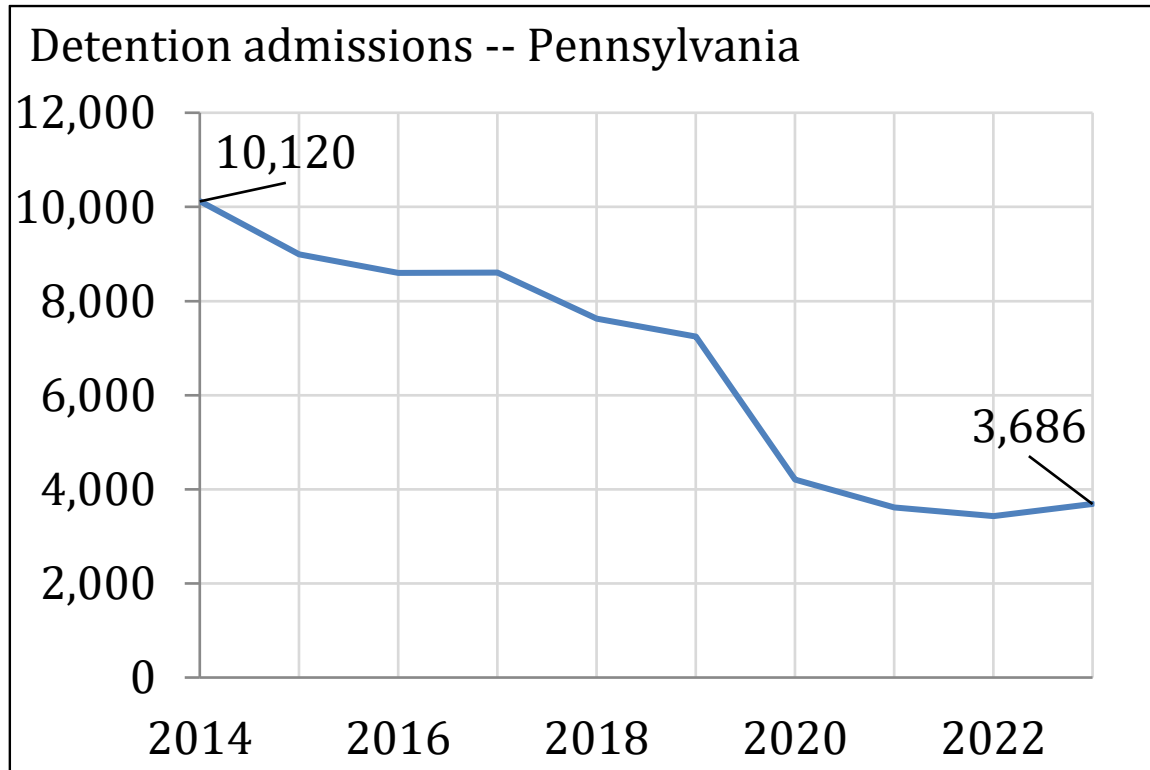


Percent change in juvenile court workload		
	Since 2021	Since 2014
Youth	52%	-25%
Allegations	63%	-21%
Dispositions	51%	-27%

Delinquency dispositions are down

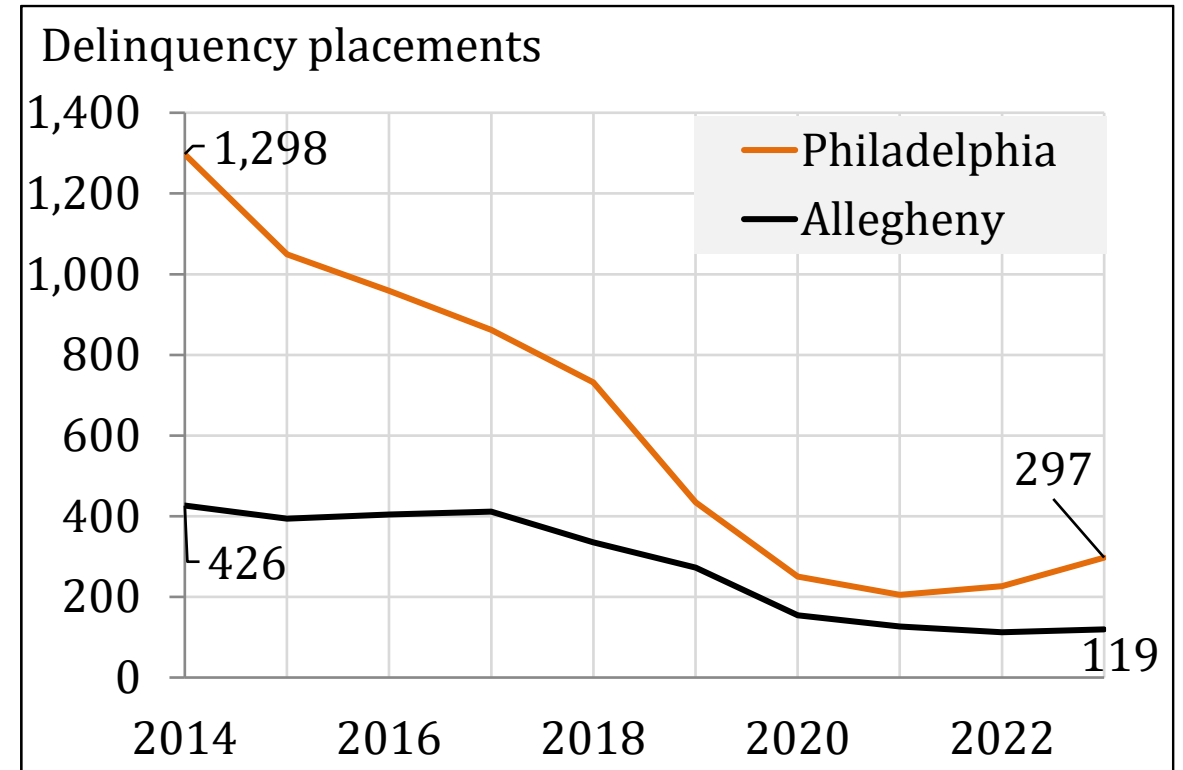
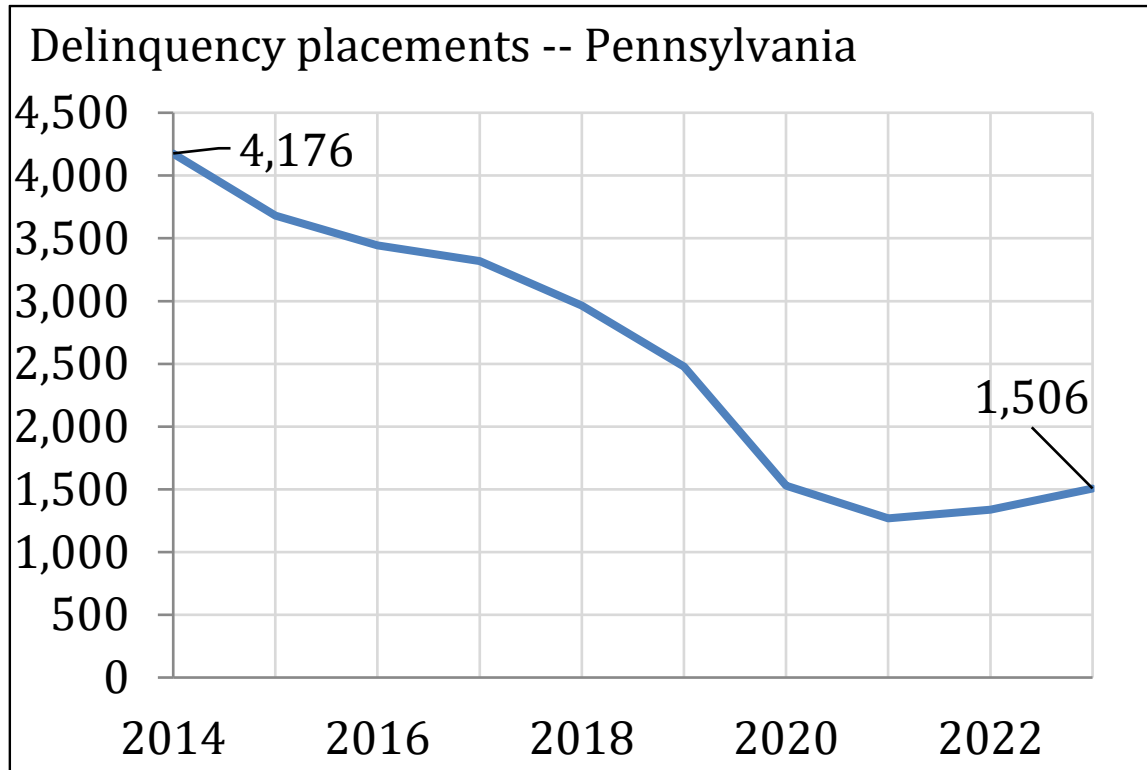


Statewide, detention admissions are down 64% since 2014



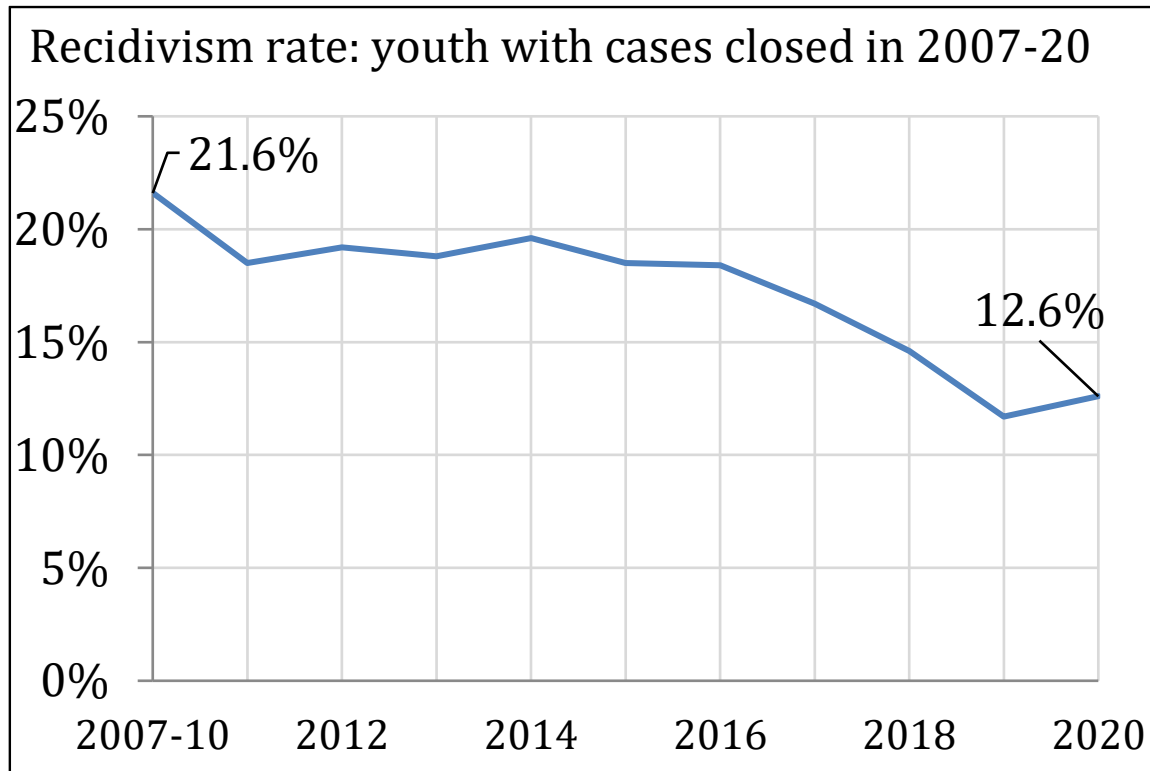
Shuman detention center closed in September 2021; reopened July 2024 as Highland Detention

As are placement dispositions



Placement dispositions include those imposed at initial disposition and those imposed at review hearing

The statewide recidivism rate remains well below the 2007-10 benchmark



Unit of count: a youth who was closed from a PA juvenile probation department who had been under some form of juvenile justice supervision.

Definition: a subsequent delinquency adjudication in juvenile court or conviction in criminal court for either a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure.

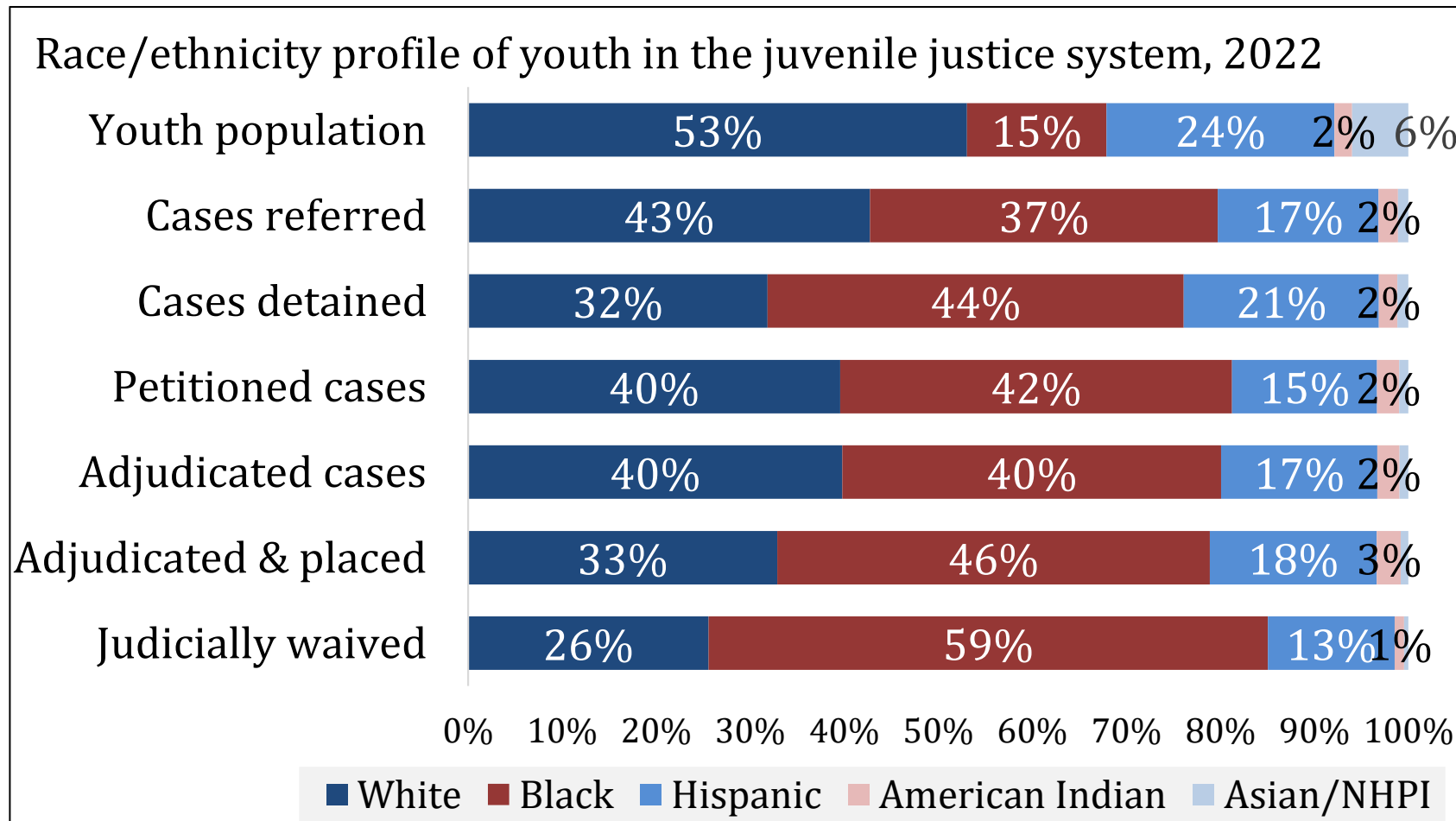
Calculation: dividing the total number of youth with a subsequent delinquency adjudication in juvenile court or conviction in criminal court for either a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure by the total number of youth closed.

Fairness in the juvenile justice system

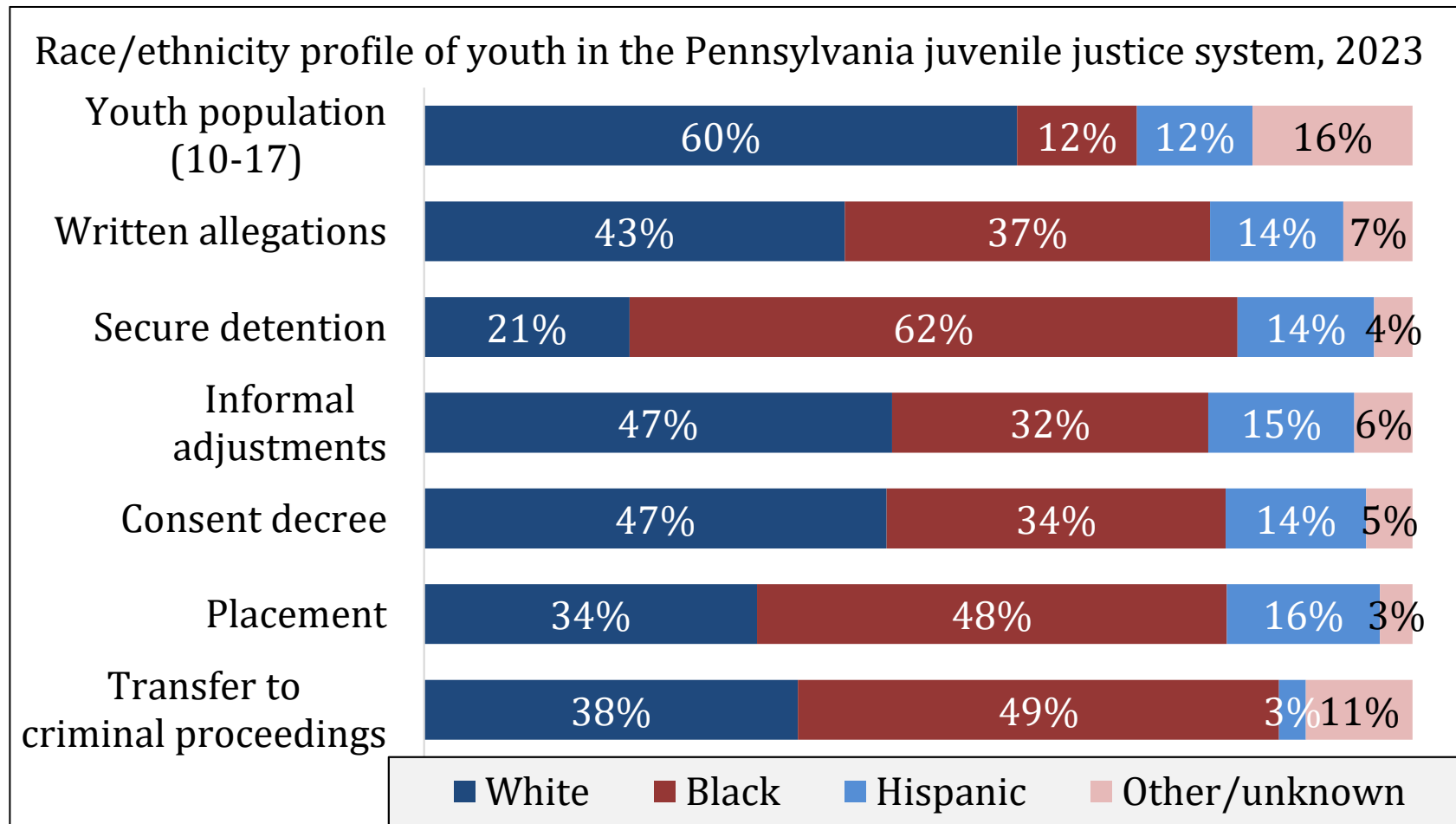


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Black youth are overrepresented across the juvenile justice system

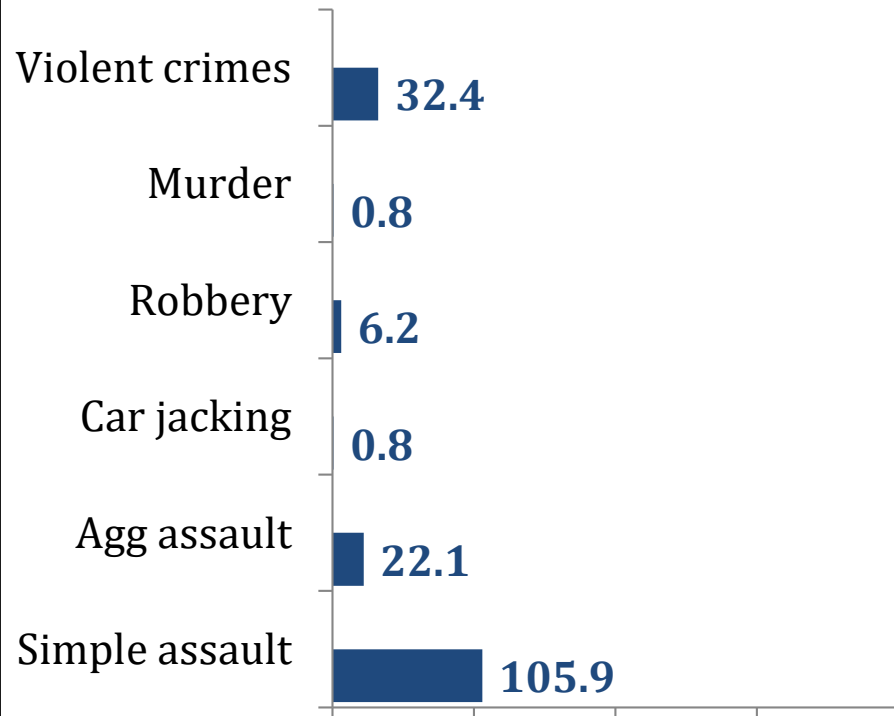


The Pennsylvania pattern mirrors the national pattern

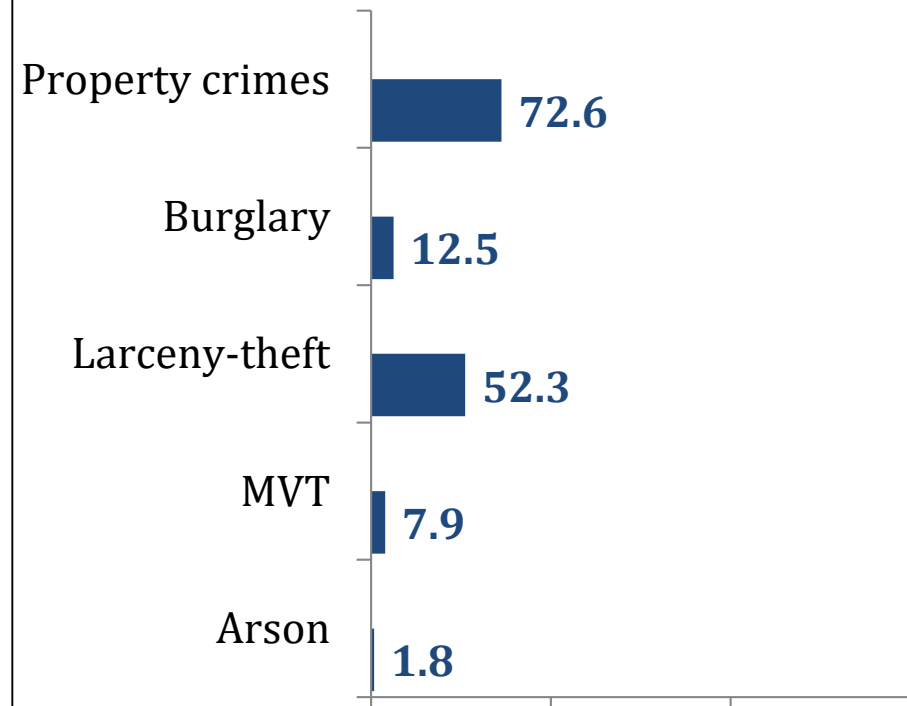


Comparing rates and ratios is another way to monitor racial & ethnic fairness

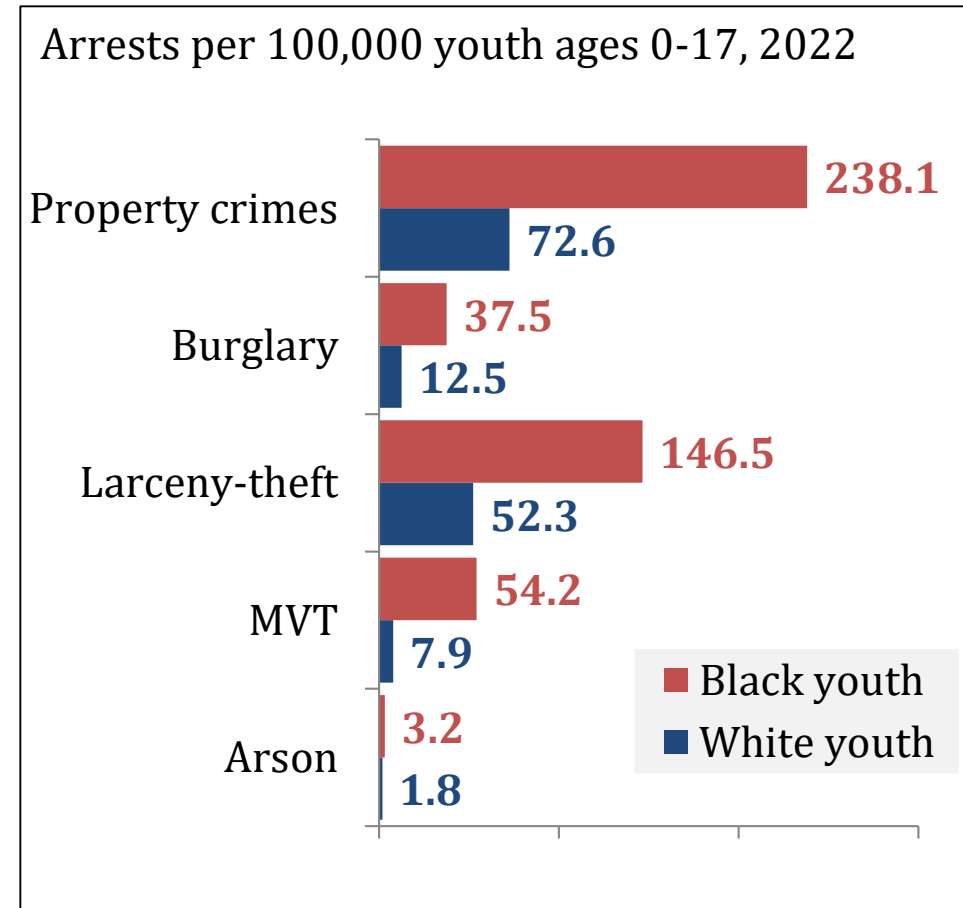
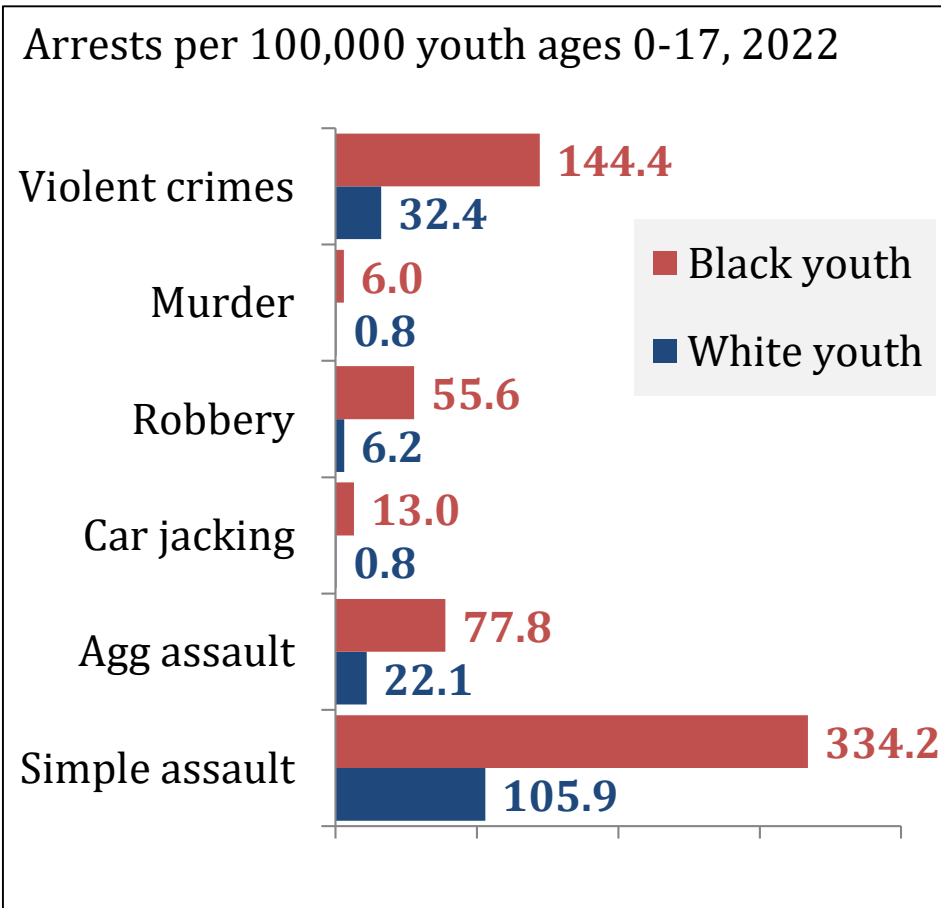
Arrests per 100,000 youth ages 0-17, 2022



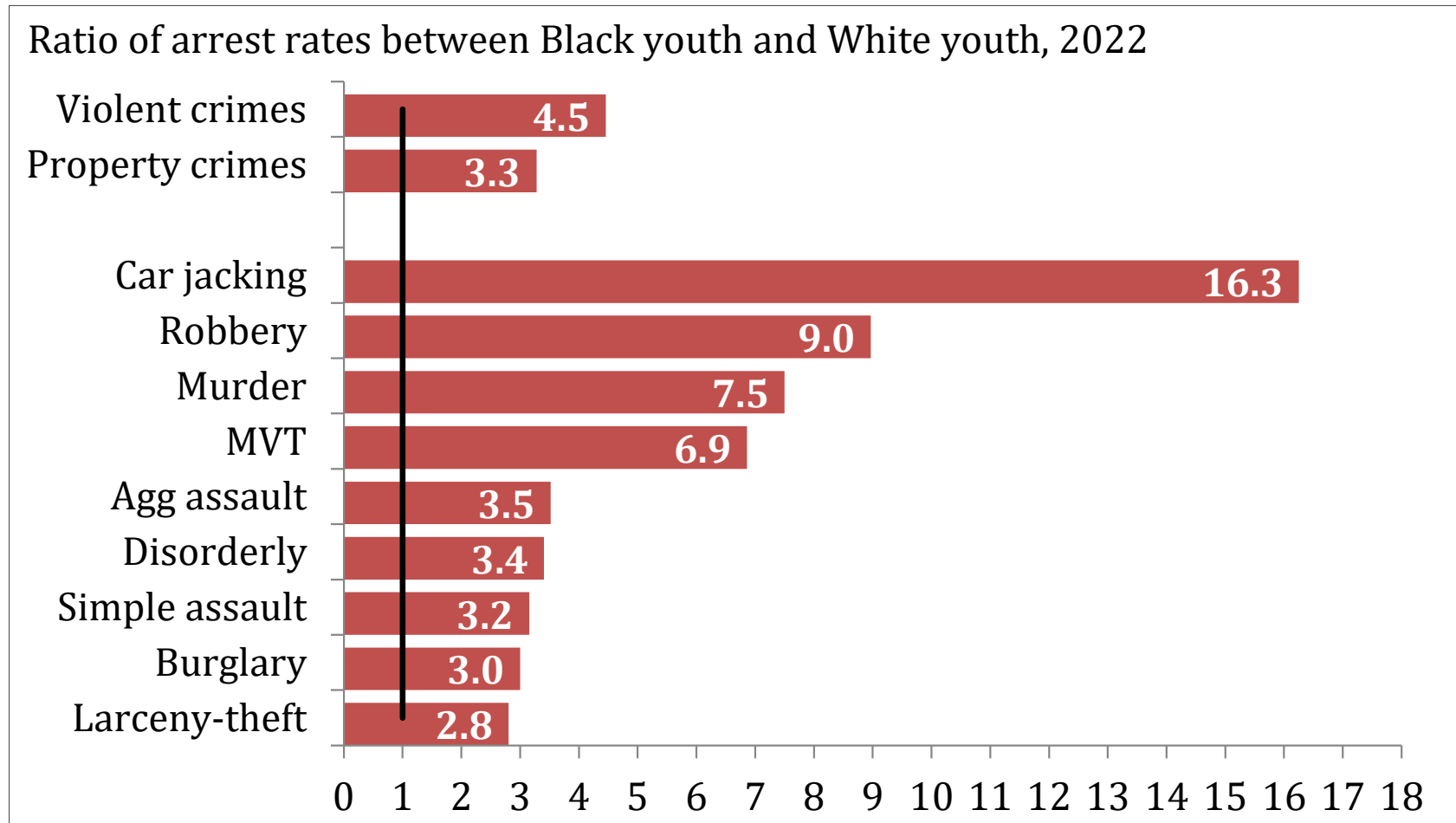
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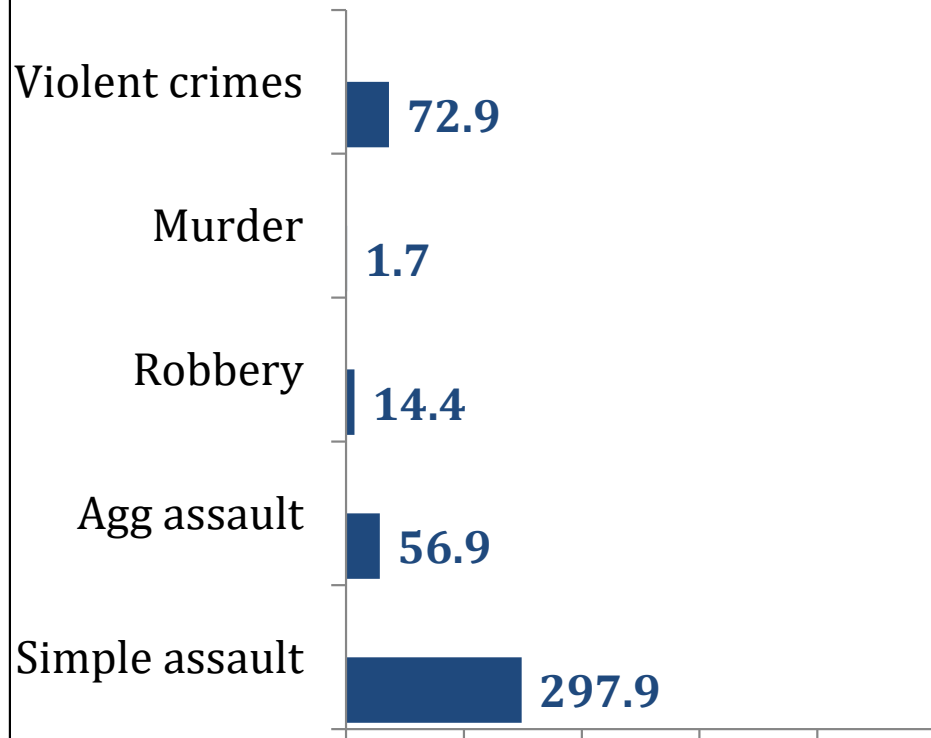


The arrest rate for Black youth exceeds that of their white peers

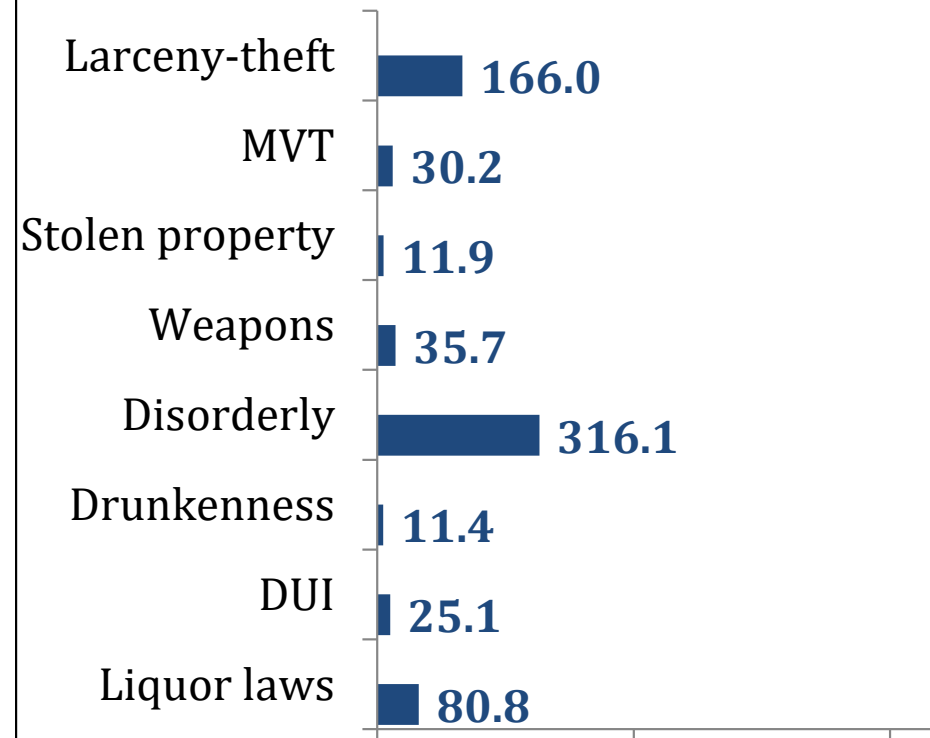


What about Pennsylvania?

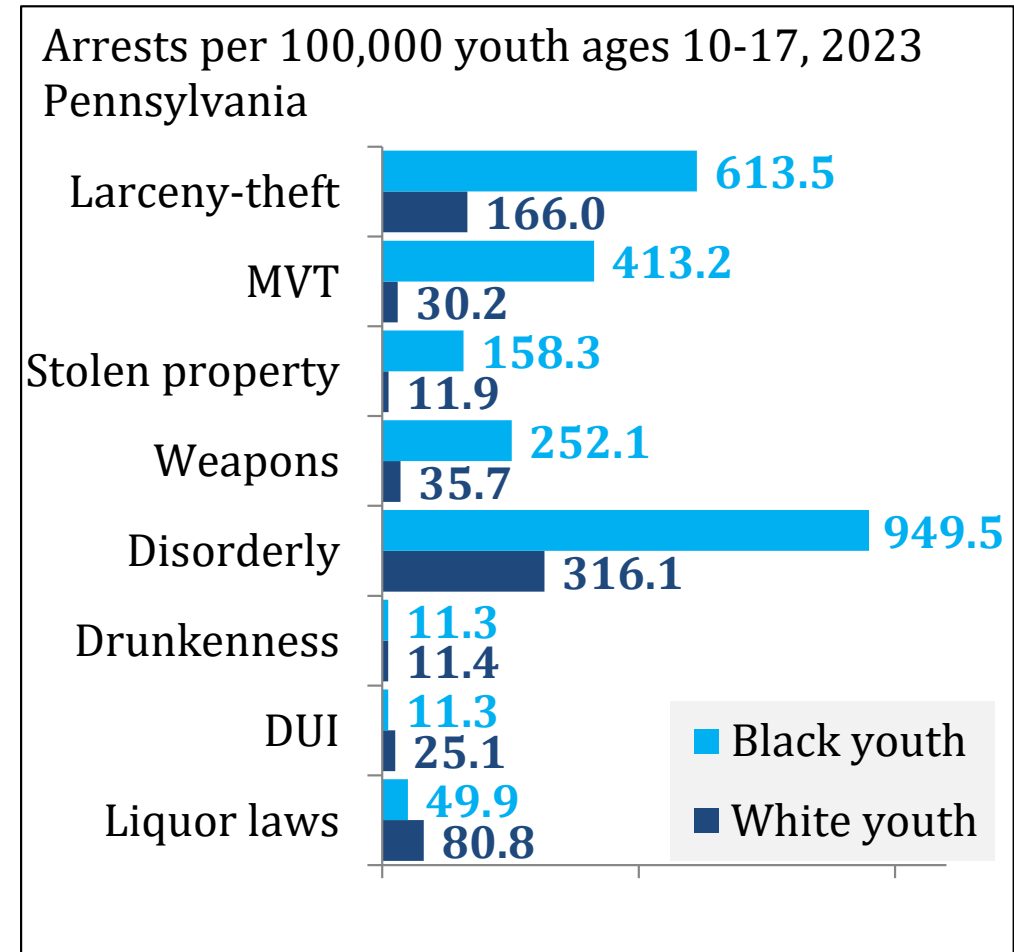
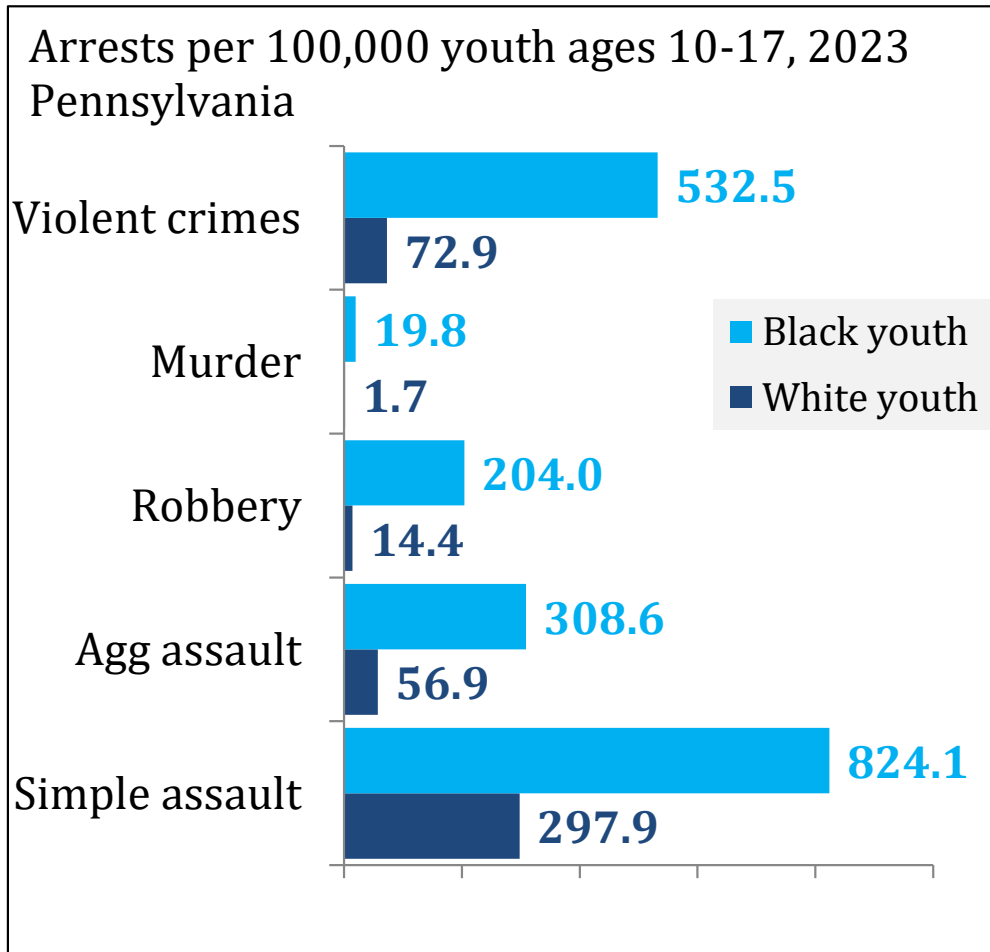
Arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10-17, 2023
Pennsylvania



Arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10-17, 2023
Pennsylvania

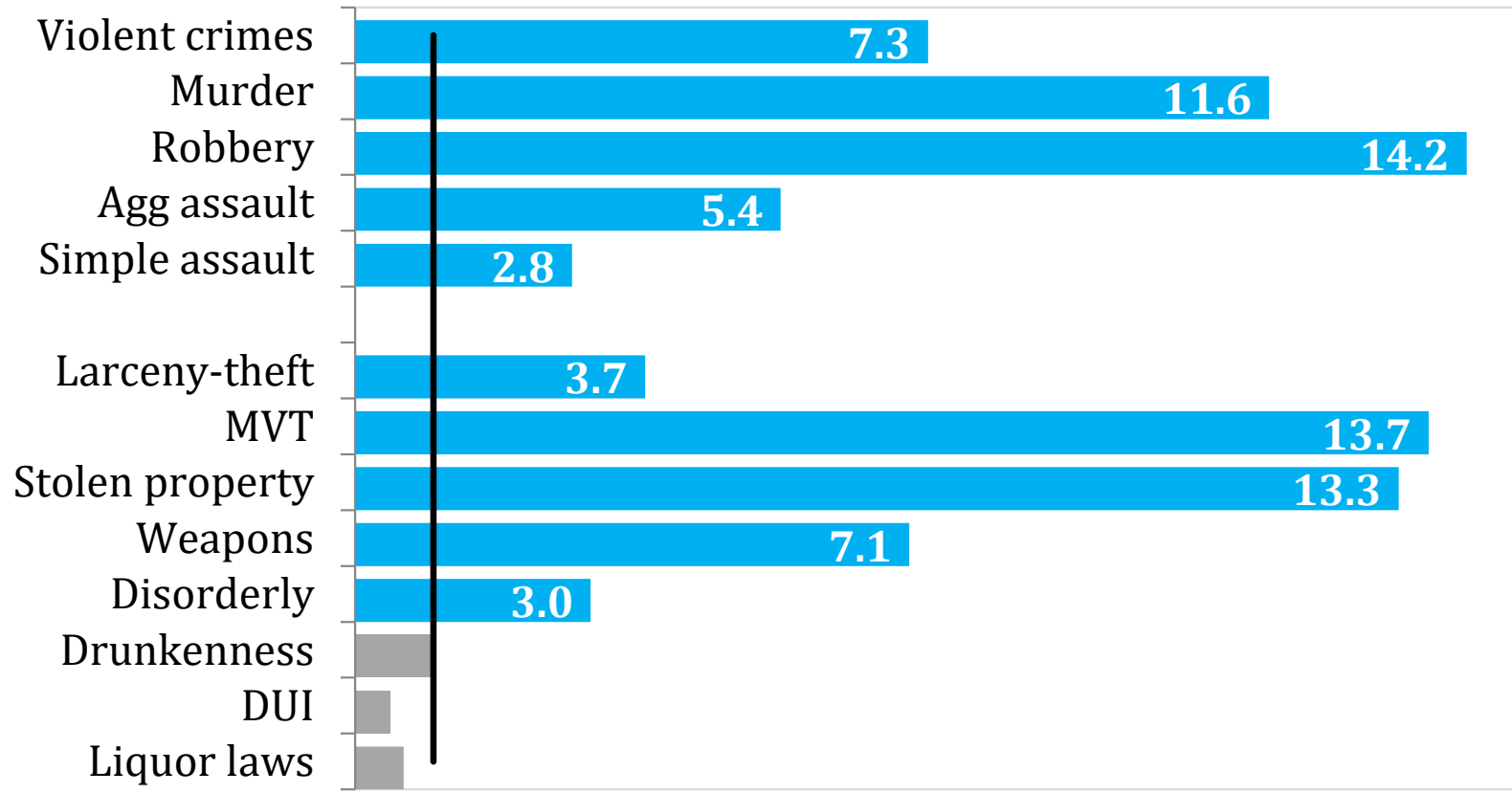


What about Pennsylvania?



Pennsylvania mirrors the national pattern

Ratio of arrest rates between Black youth and white youth, Pennsylvania, 2023



Thank You

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