



# Prince George's County Council Juvenile Delinquency Roundtable

January 30, 2024

Presentation by  
Aisha N. Braveboy  
State's Attorney





# PGSAO Youth Justice Unit Overview



# About PGSAO Youth Justice Unit

The Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office, Youth Justice Unit is a vertical Unit with seven attorneys dedicated to delinquency cases and identifying the catalyst for the youth's behavior for subsequent treatment. The Unit's main objectives are to pursue the Youth's rehabilitation and accountability and public safety. In addition to the traditional role of a prosecutor in investigating and preparing a case for prosecution, the Youth Justice ASA must review the Youths' mental, educational, health, and family history to determine the appropriate resolution of the delinquent catalyst and delinquent charges.

PGSAO YOUTH JUSTICE TEAM	
NO.	ROLE
1	CHIEF
6	LINE ATTORNEYS
2	HYBRID SVFV ATTORNEYS
2	VICTIM WITNESS COORDINATORS
4	ADMINISTRATIVE AIDES
1	COORDINATOR

**NOTE:** The information displayed was provided and updated by the PGSAO Youth Justice Unit as of January 2024.



## CASE INTAKE, REVIEW and PROSECUTION LOAD INFORMATION

**As of December 31, 2023 the unit oversaw 1009 cases.**

Each attorney has an averages of about 90-100 cases at a time.

Attorneys are responsible for reviewing the cases for legal issues, interviewing victims and witnesses, gathering evidence, and screening all cases with the charging officer. All of this must be accomplished within thirty days.

Cases must be tried within **60** days of arraignment or entry of respondent's counsel.

***Case must be entirely resolved (including disposition) within 90 days.***

ASAs are responsible for their cases from petition to merits, to disposition, to supervision (probation or placement), and termination.

Cases are referred to DJS for review and then sent to our office for petitioning.

Lead Sheets

Overnight Detentions



**CASE INTAKE, REVIEW and PROSECUTION LOAD INFORMATION** (cont'd)

The exceptions to this are when a case is transferred from adult court to juvenile court, transfer cases or truancy cases.

**Common Offenses:**

***Armed Robbery/Robbery***

***Carjacking***

***Assault***

***Handgun Possession***

***Theft/UUV***



# Youth Justice Legislative & Policy Impact



## **YOUTH JUSTICE CASE CHALLENGES**

### **Carjacking Cases**

To combat this issue, Youth Justice established a unique procedure between the Maryland Juvenile Court, DC Superior Court, the DC Office of the Attorney General and the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office.

The Juvenile Arrest Warrant process enables the lodging of a writ to act as a detainer and the basis for Fugitive from Justice Charges. The process has facilitated the exchange of information between the two prosecutors' offices and related police departments and has assisted with detaining and prosecuting youth who have fled the jurisdiction.

To address the increase in carjacking cases, Youth Justice leadership has taken an active role in several task forces.

Participated in subcommittees of the Prince George's County Carjacking Task Force and attended meetings held by the U.S. Attorneys Federal Task Force.

During these meetings, law enforcement, private citizens, and prosecutors were able to come together to promote campaigns and host community events.





## YOUTH JUSTICE CASE CHALLENGES (cont'd)

### **Truancy Cases**

To reduce truancy in the County, our office has a designated attorney attend school meetings with parents and assist with getting children back into the classrooms. These meetings are conducted virtually and usually at the end of the meeting a plan is devised to address the child's needs and the needs of the family.

The assigned attorney and PPWs monitor progress and petition the cases if the family fails to utilize the services offered.

Our administration partnered with CEO of the Public Schools to produce public service announcements that promoted the importance of being in school, anti-gun violence, and anti-drug campaigns.

**In addition, the SAO is working directly in partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools. The truancy pilot program kick off is tonight at Bladensburg High School.**



## **JUVENILE LEGISLATION**

Before the changes in juvenile law our office would petition anything from shoplifting to murders. With the changes in the law beginning in July of 2022, juvenile jurisdiction changed:

### **Minimum Age of Jurisdiction**

Juveniles under the age of 10 cannot be charged with a delinquent act and the Juvenile Court does not have jurisdiction. Contact DJS or DSS Intake for referrals for services.

The Juvenile court has jurisdiction over juveniles ages 13 and over alleged to have committed a delinquent act that would be a crime if committed as an adult.

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over juveniles ages 10 and over (10-12) who have committed a crime of violence as defined in Maryland Criminal Law Article 14-101:

### **Terms of probation changed in July of 2022**

If a juvenile is found involved (convicted) of a misdemeanor, the juvenile will not be committed to a juvenile facility as part of the disposition UNLESS the crime involved a gun.

Juvenile probation is capped at 6 months for misdemeanors.

Juvenile probation for felonies is capped at 12 months.



## JUVENILE INTERROGATION ACT

### Custodial Interrogations

A police officer **may not** conduct a custodial interrogation of a child until:

The child has **consulted with an attorney** (PD or private counsel) either in person or via telephone - **and** –

The police officer has made an effort reasonably calculated to give **actual notice** to the parent, guardian, or custodian of that child.

**The requirement of consultation with an attorney cannot be waived and applies regardless of if the child is charged as a juvenile or an adult.** The child must still be Mirandized.

If a police officer interviews a child, the file **in every case must include**:

A signed statement by the police officer of the attempts to notify the parent/guardian and methods (listing names, telephone numbers, etc.), - **and** -

Name of Attorney contacted and his/her contact information (bar number, telephone number and address)



## JUVENILE INTERROGATION ACT (cont'd)

### All statements must be recorded:

Unless it is impossible, impractical, or unsafe an interrogation shall be recorded, and the child **shall be informed if the interrogation is being recorded (body-worn digital recording, interrogation room, etc.)**. If a statement is not recorded there is a rebuttable presumption that a statement made by a child during a custodial interrogation is inadmissible in juvenile and adult court. The State can overcome this presumption by showing clear and convincing evidence that the statement was made knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.

### Threat to Public Safety Exception:

A police officer may conduct an otherwise lawful custodial interrogation of a child if:

The law enforcement officer reasonably believes that the information sought is necessary to protect against a threat to public safety; - **and** -

The questions posed to the child by the law enforcement officer are limited to those questions reasonably necessary to obtain the information necessary to protect against the threat to public safety.



# Youth Crime Intervention & Prevention



## COMMITMENT TO END THE SCHOOLS TO PRISON PIPELINE

### **Diversion**

In 2021, Youth Justice Leadership started reviewing cases for diversion from the Prince George's County Public Schools. Through this partnership, students who committed delinquent acts were able to participate in programs to assist them in staying on the right path. The following programs have partnered with our office to provide services to students referred to them from our office:

#### **P31 Girls, INC (7 Participants)**

P31GIRLS, INC. supports girls ages 7–18 in discovering their purpose and developing a strong sense of self to become intellectual, ethical, and compassionate leaders through after-school clubs, Saturday enrichment, pre-college prep, and juvenile diversion. Passionate staff guide girls to become "Professionally Me."

#### **Resilient Youth (10 Participants)**

This an advocacy organization with a mission to inspire and encourage youth through education, mentoring, and life skills. Resilient Youth inspires and encourages youth through faith, hope, and trust so they can and will overcome the many adversities they face in life. RY's goal is to provide the support and resources they need when facing crisis situations.

#### **Community Public Awareness Council (37 Participants)**

This organization provides wrap-around services for at-risk youth. The goal of the Community Public Awareness Program is to keep young people out of the criminal justice system and without a record that may cripple their future. CPAC facilitates our Family Justice Academy in partnership with the Sheriff's Department



## COMMITMENT TO END THE SCHOOLS TO PRISON PIPELINE (cont'd)

### Teen Court (25 Cases in 2023)

Teen Court is an alternative justice system that gives teenage offenders a chance to learn from their mistakes without acquiring a criminal record. Teens, between the ages of 10 -17, who have committed a non-violent misdemeanor and admitted their guilt, appear for disposition before a jury of their teenage peers. All participants must have had no prior contact with the juvenile justice system and agree to participate and complete the requirements set during disposition.

Teen Court sessions are held every two weeks virtually and usually last about 90 minutes.



## COMMITMENT TO END THE SCHOOLS TO PRISON PIPELINE (cont'd)

### **Family Justice Academy (37 Participants)**

The Saturday Family Justice Academy is a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to reducing juvenile offenses and chronic truancy. The goal of the program is for early intervention and to provide support to the juvenile and their family to address the underlying issues contributing to their truancy.

#### **Components include:**

- Assessment and case management
- Collaboration between schools and community-based programs
- Counseling and support services
- Creative arts
- Workforce development training and job placement
- Life-skill building and coaching
- Monitoring and follow up
- Parental involvement and support, including housing and financial services
- Physical exercise

This program aims to break the cycle of truancy, improve the juvenile's overall well-being, and promote their successful integration into school and society.

### **Our Schools, Our Future**

The State's Attorney visits schools with an anti-violence/anti-crime message. The focus is to proactively get young people involved in keeping their schools and communities safe and productive. This is an extension of the Our Streets, Our Future initiative.





## 2023 PGSAO Juvenile Carjacking Related Case Stats



# Juvenile Carjacking Case Stats

From January 1, 2019-December 31, 2023, there were 90 carjacking-related cases waived/transferred to Juvenile in Prince George's County.

Juvenile Carjacking Cases (January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2023)	
<b>Waived to Juvenile Court</b>	<b>90</b>
<i>Involved</i>	<i>69</i>
<i>Stet</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Pending</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>NP</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Writ</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Not Guilty</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Dismissed</i>	<i>1</i>

\* **NOTE:** The total number carjacking cases waived/transferred from Circuit Court to Juvenile in Prince George's County. from January 1, 2019-December 31, 2023. The data shown also depicts carjacking case outcomes that were waived to Juvenile Court. Data provided by PGSAO Major Crimes Unit as of December 31, 2023.



# Juvenile Carjacking Case Stats (cont'd)

There were 3 juvenile carjacking-related cases in Prince George's County that were entered Stet.

Juvenile Carjacking- Related Cases w/ Stet Outcomes (January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2023)	
<b>Total Stet Cases</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Community Service</i>	<i>3</i>

\* **NOTE:** The data shown depicts carjacking case Stet outcomes in detail. Data provided by PGSAO Major Crimes Unit from January 1, 2019- December 31, 2023.



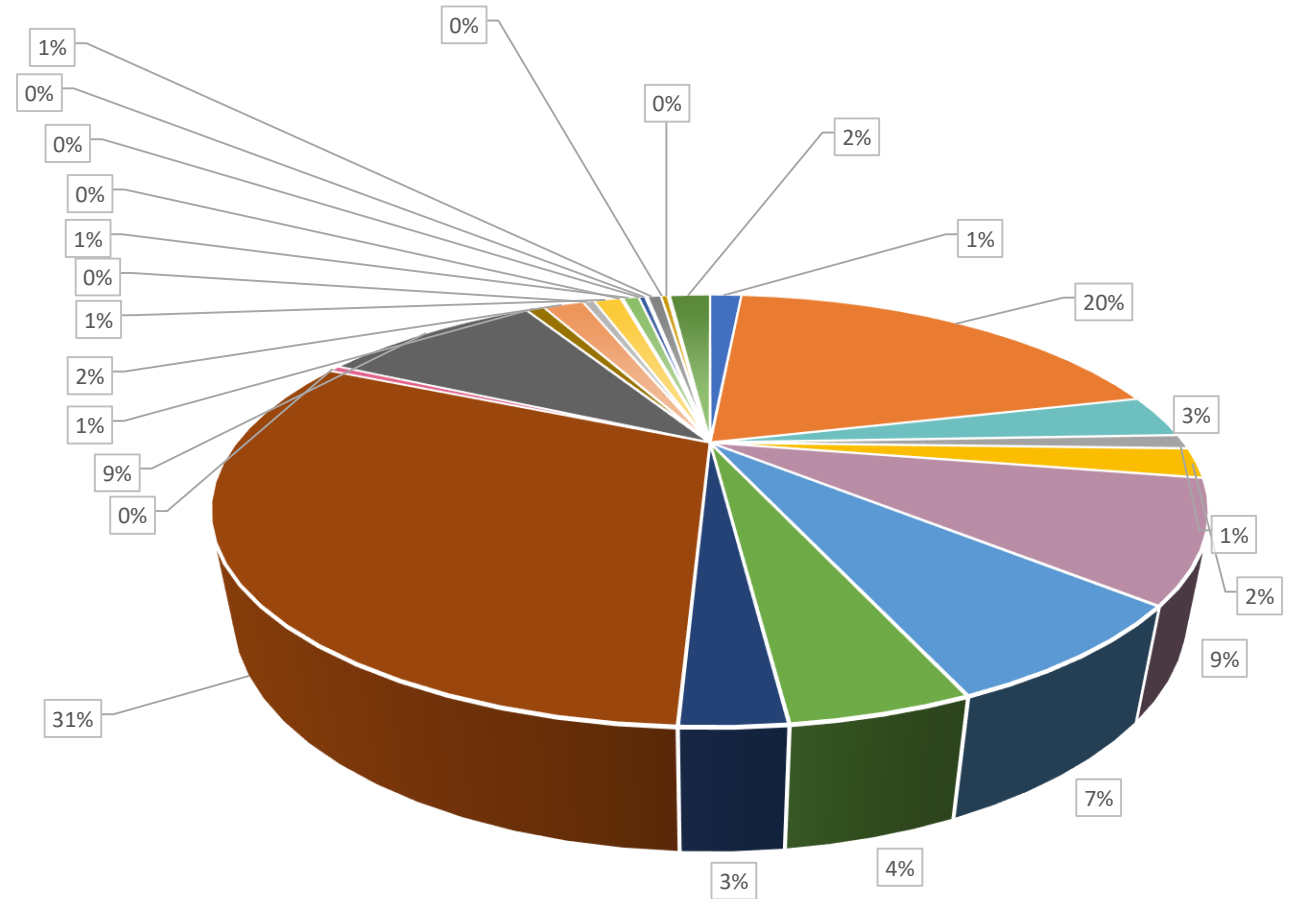
**2023 PGSAO  
Youth Justice Unit Case Stats**



# 2023 Youth Justice Case Stats

The Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office (PGSAO), Youth Justice Unit reported as of 12/31/23 a total of **1009 cases** involving young people.

2023 PGSAO Youth Justice Cases	# of Cases	Percentage
on murder/attempted murder/conspiracy related charge(s)	14	1%
on armed robbery/robbery/conspiracy related charge(s)	199	20%
on first degree assault/attempt related charge(s)	33	3%
on rape/attempted rape/conspiracy related charge(s)	11	1%
on second degree assault related charge(s)	23	2%
on armed carjacking/carjacking/att carjacking related charge(s)	89	9%
on firearm or handgun/deadly waepon/conspiracy/illegal poss related charge(s)	72	7%
on burglary (1st/2nd/3rd degree)/attempt related charge(s)	45	4%
on sex offense related charge(s)	26	3%
on motor vehicle theft/unauthorized use/removal/violation related charge(s)	314	31%
on child pornography related charge(s)	5	1%
on theft/fraud or rogue and vagabond charge(s)	95	9%
on cds possession related charge(s)	8	1%
on traffic related charge(s)	18	2%
on harassment related charge(s)	5	0%
on malicious destruction of prop related charge(s)	12	1%
on failure to obey/resisting arrest/disorderly related charge(s)	1	0%
on PWID related charge(s)	7	1%
on truancy related charge(s)	3	0%
on unspecified misdemeanor related charge(s)	1	0%
on wear, carry, transport hangun/firearm related charge(s)	6	1%
on destruction of device statement/tampered evidence related charge(s)	3	0%
on telephone misuse related charge(s)	1	0%
on trespassing related charge(s)	18	2%



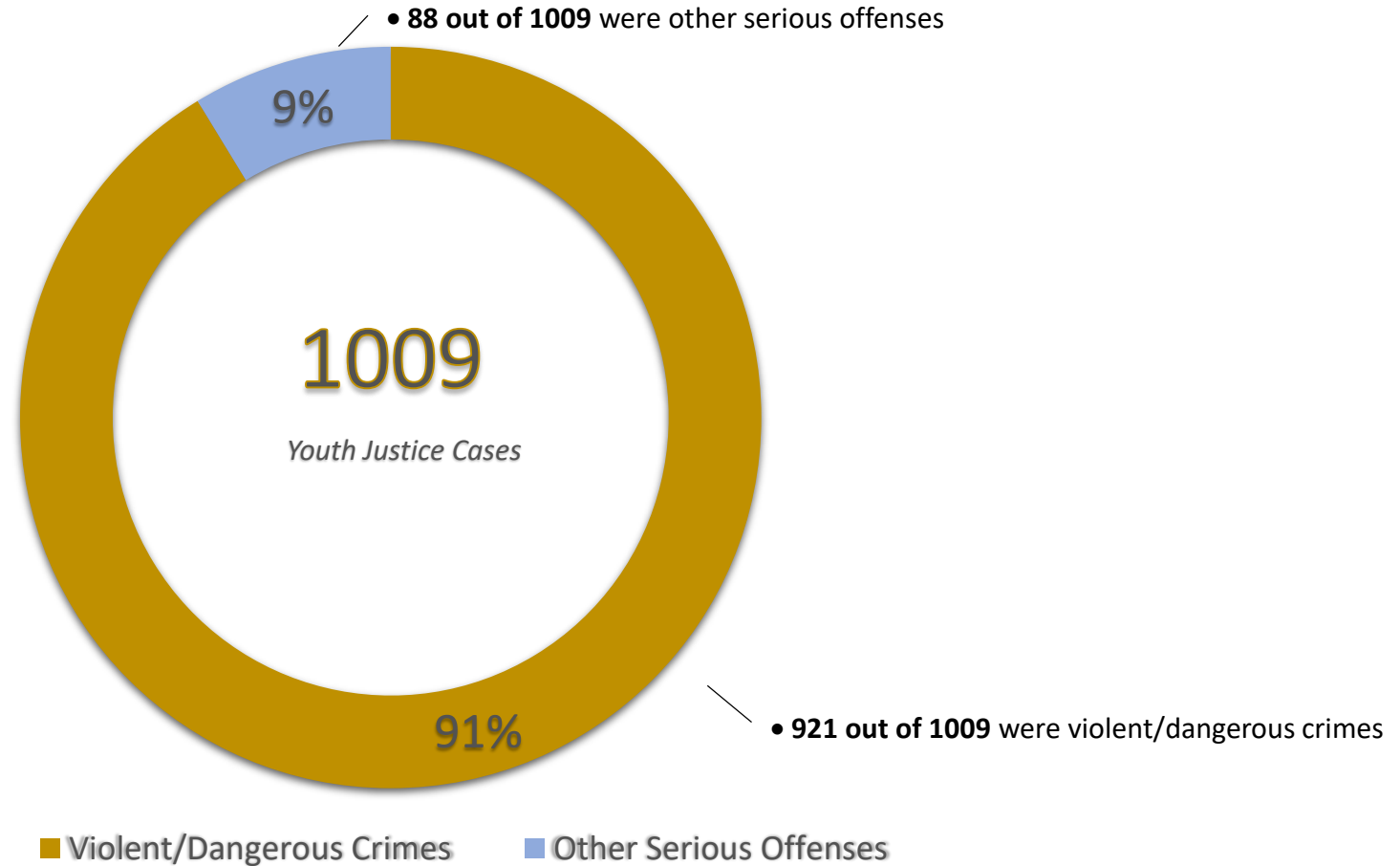
**NOTE:** The data shows the total number and percentages of all juvenile cases in Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office from January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023. Data provided by PGSAO Youth Justice Unit.



# 2023 Youth Justice Case Stats (cont'd)

## 2023 Youth Justice Case Stats

Of the **1009 cases** PGSAO Youth Justice Unit reported, **91%** were violent/dangerous crimes and **9%** were other serious offenses for as of 12/31/23:

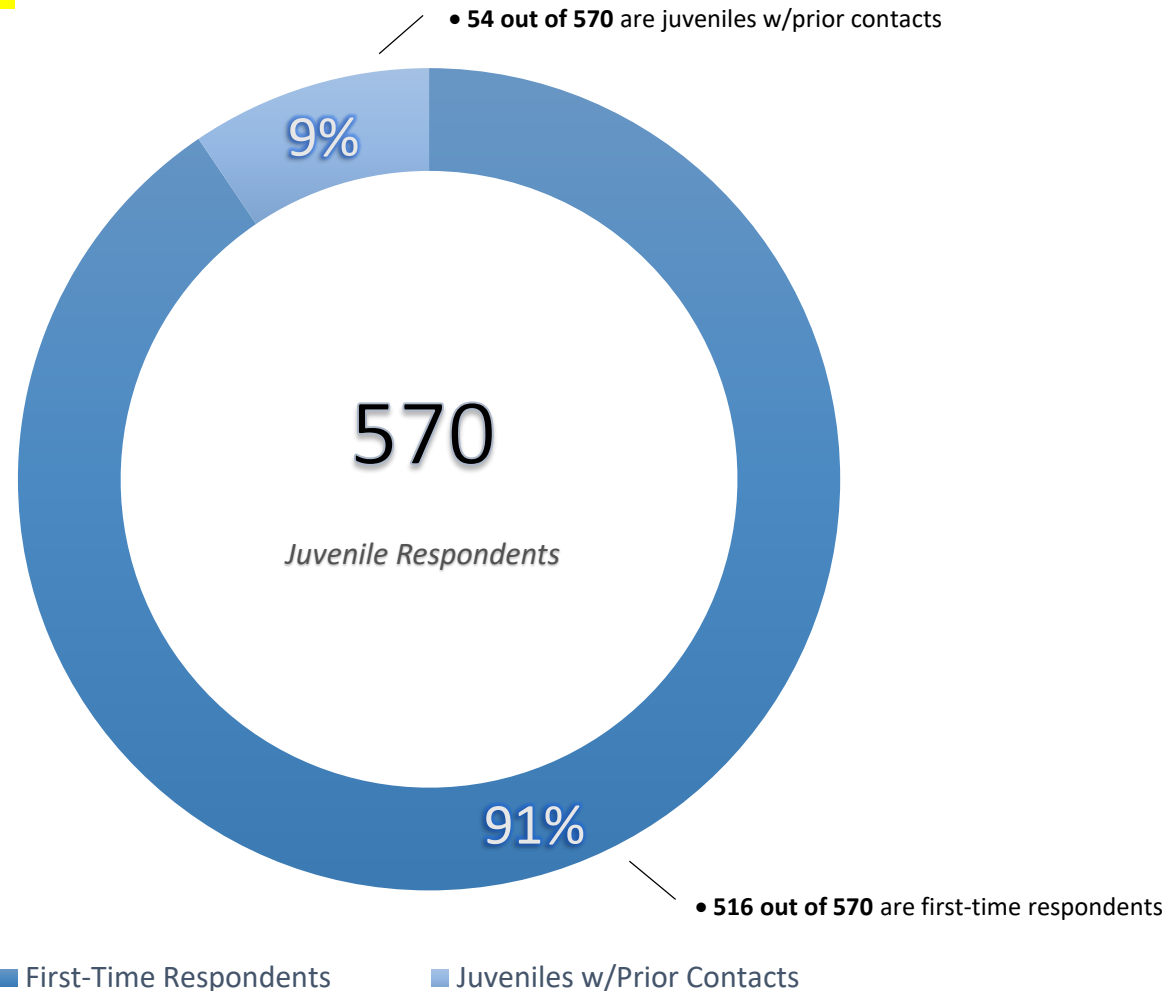


**NOTE:** The data shows the total number and percentages of all juvenile cases in Prince George’s County State’s Attorney’s Office from January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023, that have been classified as either violent and dangerous crimes and other serious offenses. Data provided by PGSAO Youth Justice Unit.



# 2023 Youth Justice Case Stats (cont'd)

From January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023, there was a total of 570 juvenile respondents alleged to have been involved in violent/dangerous and or serious offenses reported in PGSAO Youth Justice Unit. **54 out of the 570 juveniles had prior contacts, which is approximately 9% of the total number of juvenile respondents. 91% are first-time juvenile respondents.**



\* **NOTE:** This data highlights the total number of juvenile respondents who had prior contact or were found involved from January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 in PGSAO Youth Justice Unit. Data provided by PGSAO Youth Justice Unit.



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