



**Office of Children  
and Family Services**

# **2021 Safe Harbour Program**

**August 4, 2023**

# Program Data

# 2021 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. This self-reported data is collected locally by the LDSS and prepared by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

It is important to note that, in 2021, service delivery was still recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



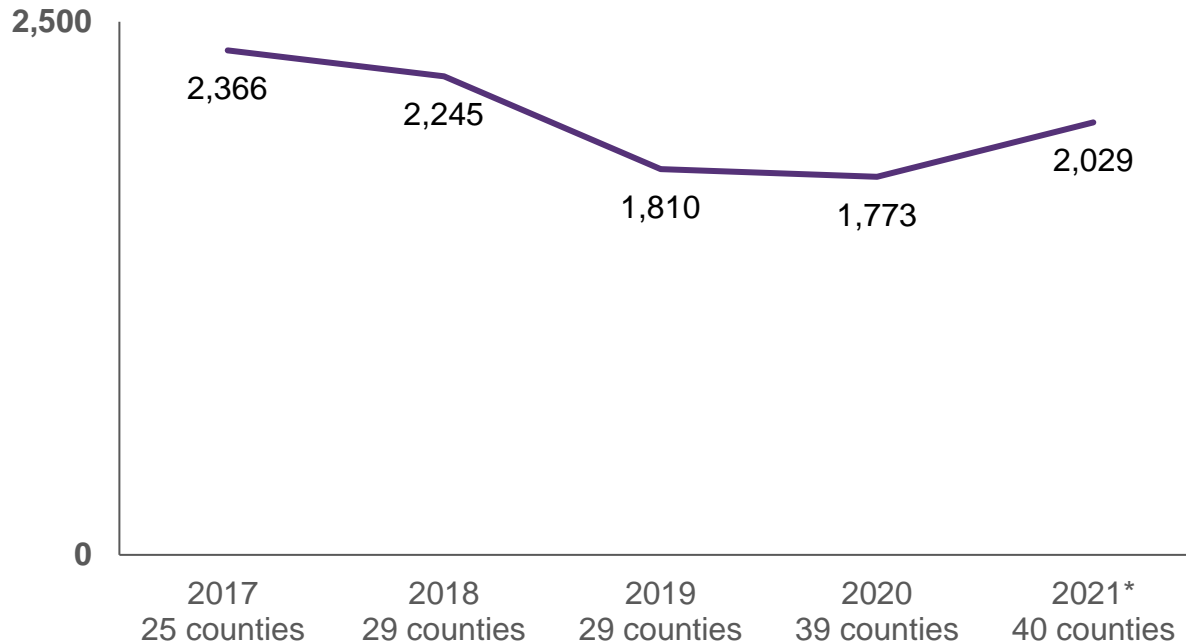
# 2021 Program Data

- **38 counties, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and five boroughs of NYC** reported data.
- There were 2,029 referrals of youth who were identified as trafficked or at risk.
  - 15% (302) of referrals involved youth who met the federal definition of a trafficking victim.\*
  - 85% (1,727) of referrals involved youth who were at risk for trafficking.\*
- Human trafficking includes sex and labor trafficking. For the purpose of this report, a referral is defined as an instance wherein a Safe Harbour coordinator was made aware of a youth who was at risk of trafficking, the coordinator conducted or supported an assessment of the youth's risk, and the youth was determined to be a trafficking survivor or youth at risk. Following a positive screening, youth are provided services directly by the Safe Harbour program or through referral.

\*For more information on how risk levels were determined, please refer to OCFS-3920.



# Youth Referrals Managed Through Safe Harbour

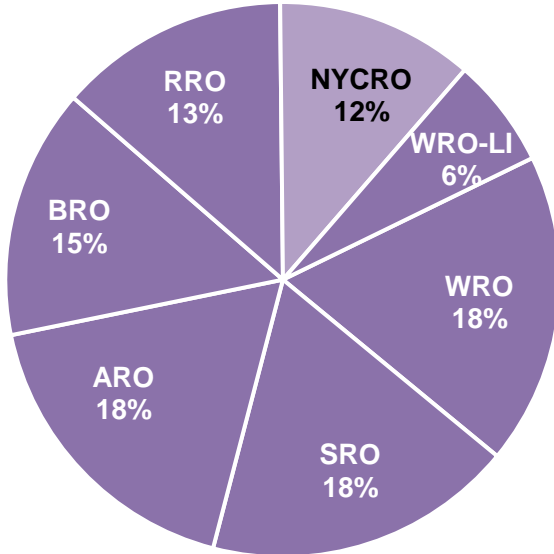


**\*Note:** OCFS updated its data collection to reflect the number of referrals managed by Safe Harbour during the year. The data may include youth who were referred more than one time.



# Referrals Managed by Region (2,029)

In 2021, 88% of New York State's Safe Harbour referrals were from Rest of State. For ease of comparison, we reference regional offices that cover multiple counties.



NYCRO – New York City

WRO – Westchester

SRO – Syracuse

WRO-LI – Long Island

ARO – Albany

RRO – Rochester

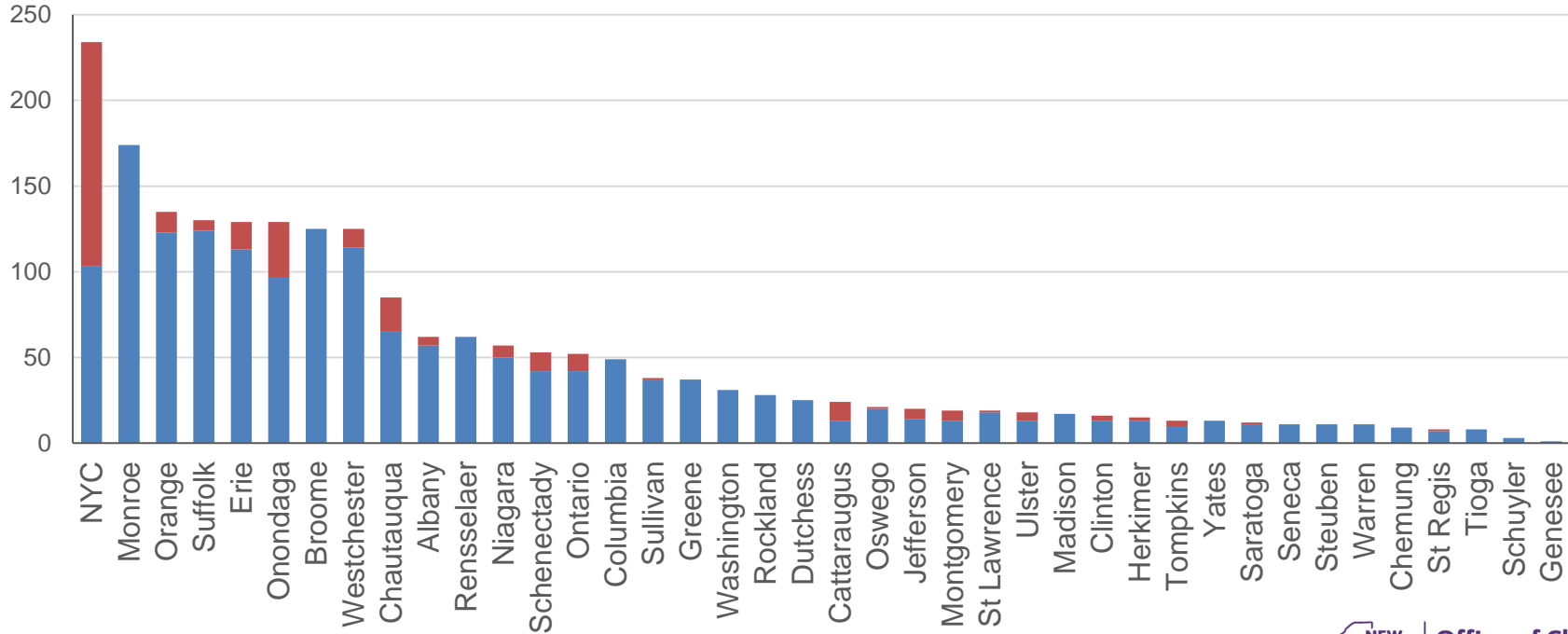
BRO – Buffalo

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/directories/regional-offices.php>

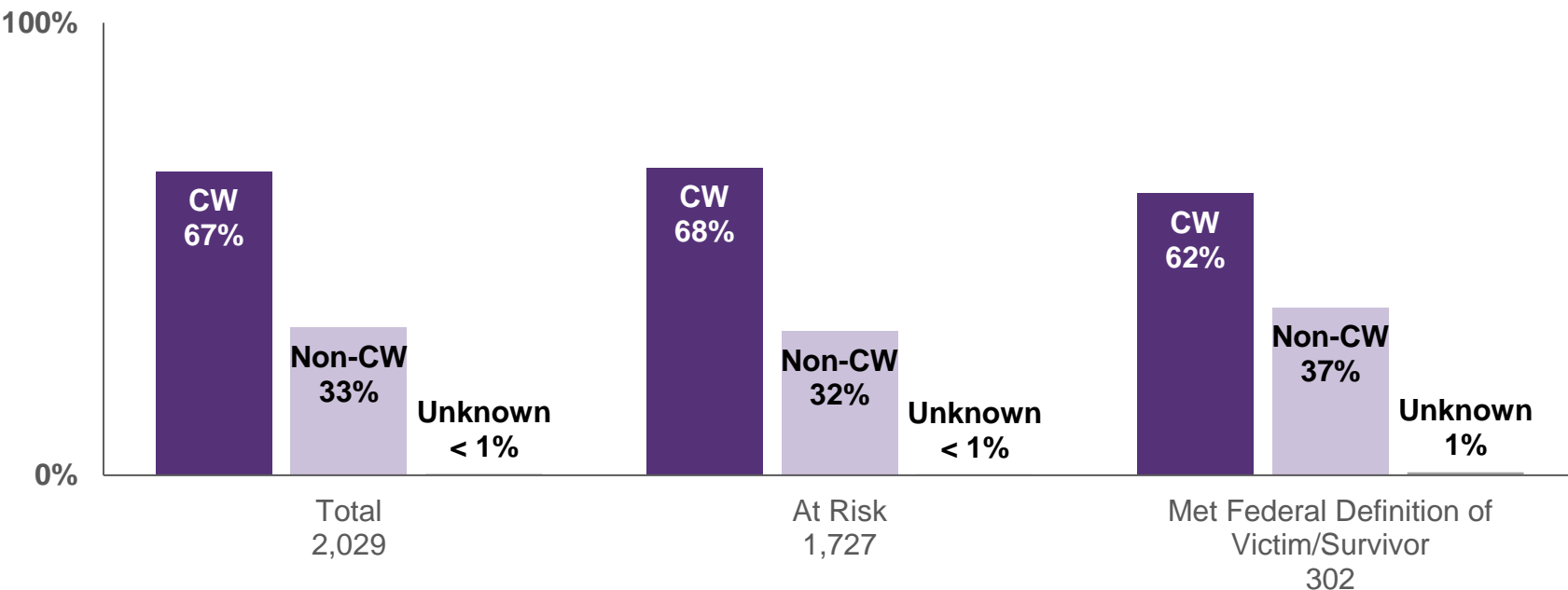


# Referrals Managed by County

■ AT RISK (1,727) ■ MET FEDERAL DEFINITION OF VICTIM/SURVIVOR (302)



# Child Welfare vs. Non-Child Welfare Referrals

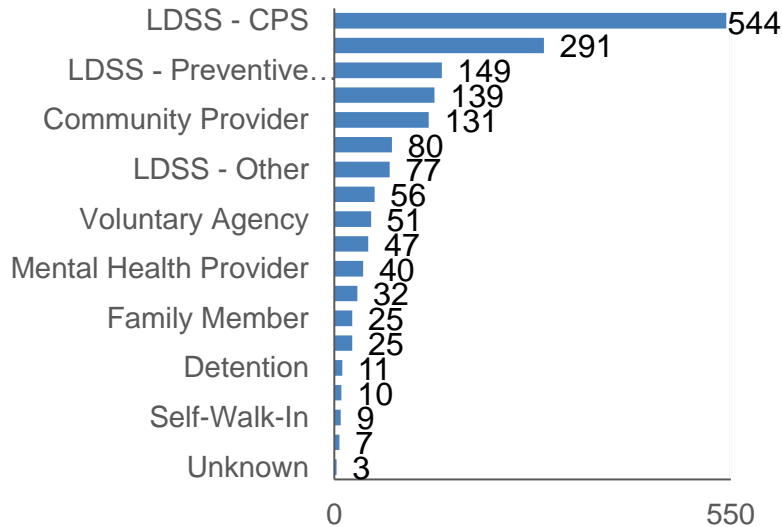




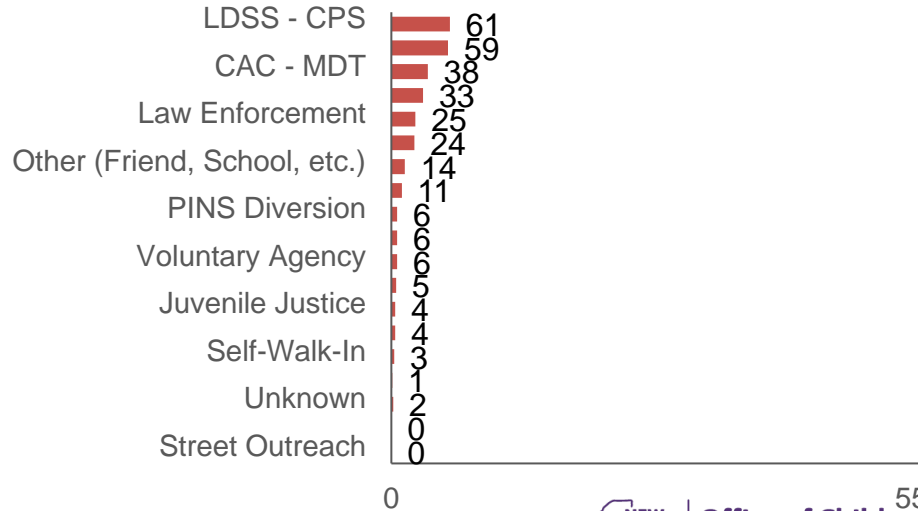
# Referral Source and Trafficking Status

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

At Risk (1,727)



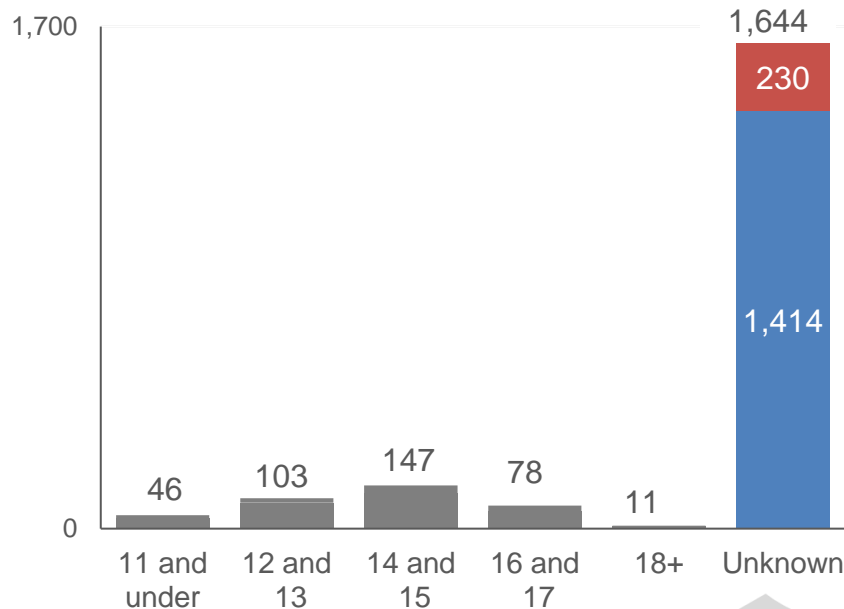
Met Federal Definition of Victim/Survivor (302)



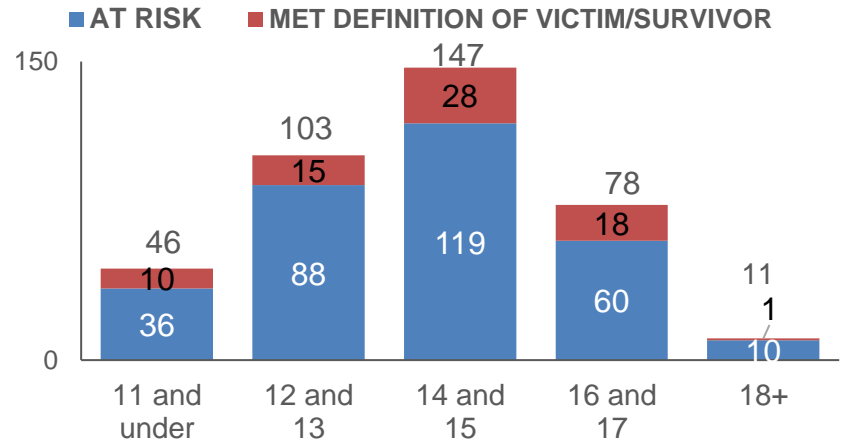
# Demographics and Victimization

# Age When Exploitation Began

Age at first exploitation was **unknown** for 1,644 referrals – about **81%** of the sample.

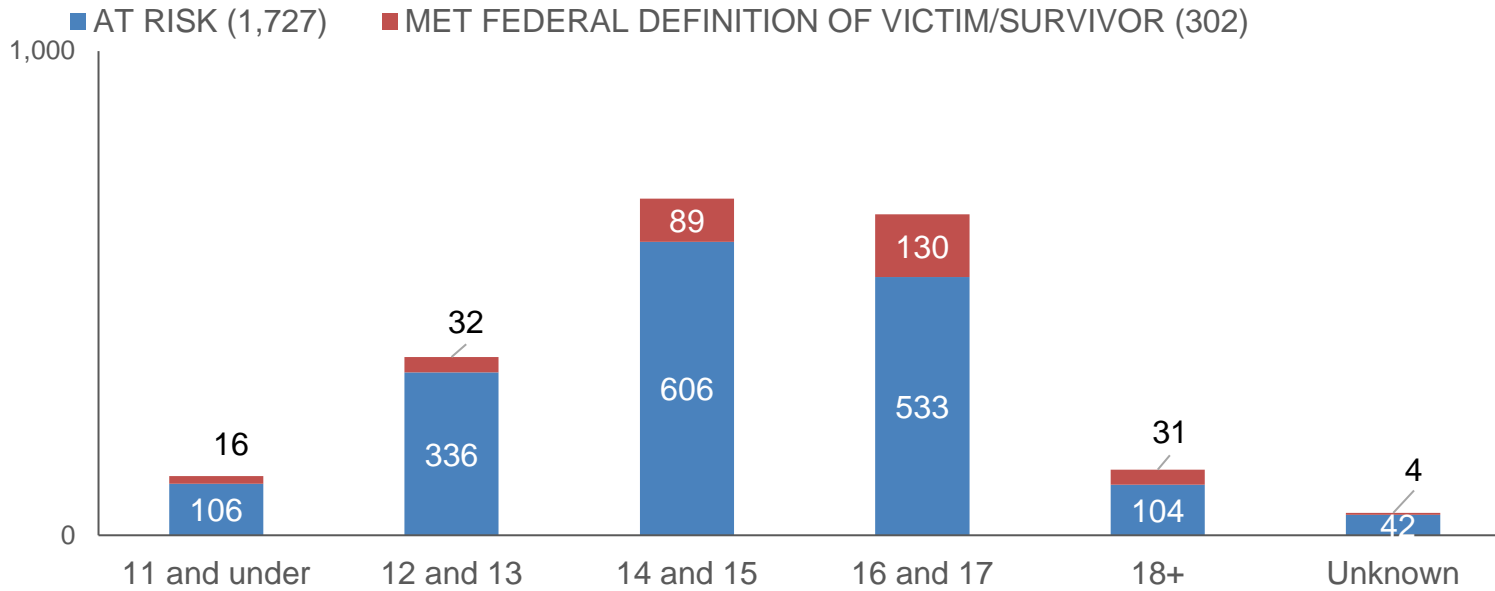


A closer look at the referrals where age was known shows that nearly all of them (97%) involved youth who were minors when their exploitation began, and more than one quarter (39%; 149 referrals) involved youth who were younger than 14.



# Age at Time of Referral

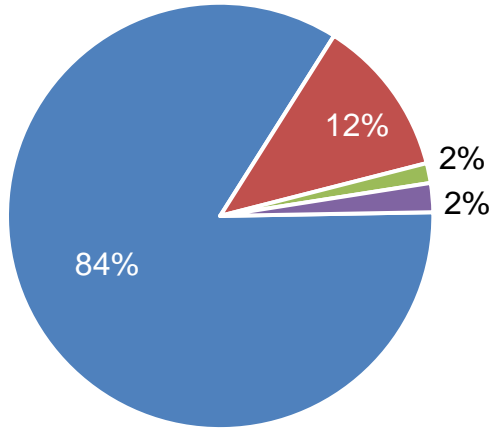
Nearly a quarter (24%) of referrals managed in 2021 were for youth younger than 14 at the time of referral.



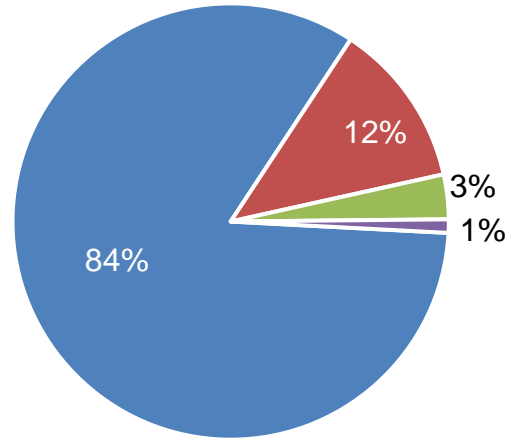
# Gender Identity

Although often portrayed as a problem that impacts girls, cisgender males represented 12% and transgender and gender non-conforming youth represented about 4% of the referrals managed in 2021.

AT RISK (1,727)



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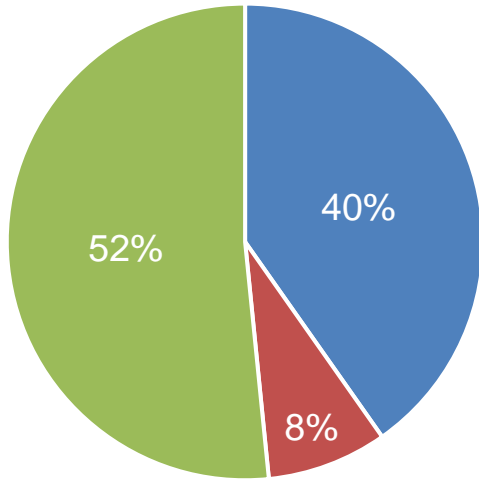


- FEMALE
- MALE
- TRANS & GNC/NON-BINARY
- UNREPORTED

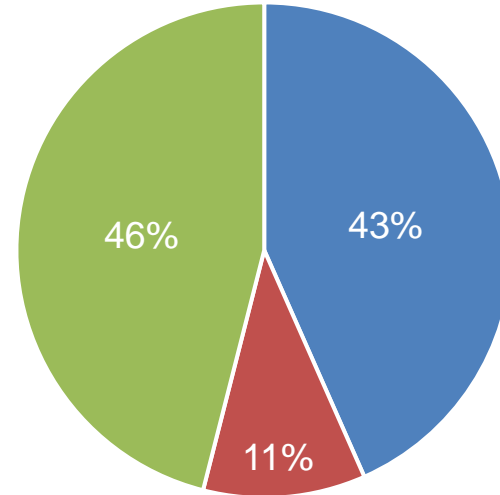
# Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation was unreported for about 50% of referrals managed during 2021.

AT RISK (1,727)



MET FEDERAL DEFINITION OF VICTIM/SURVIVOR (302)

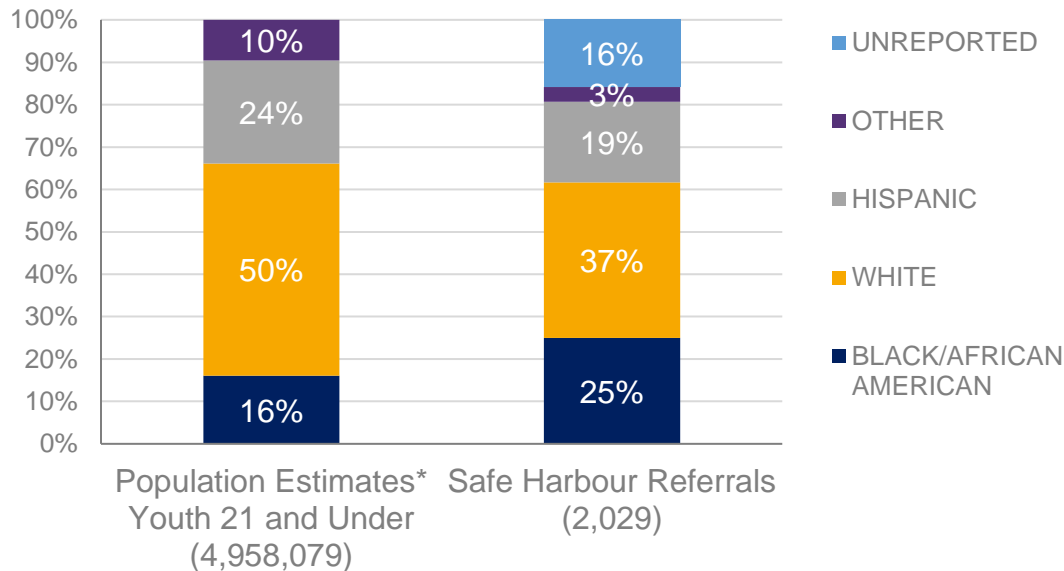


■ STRAIGHT   ■ LGBQ+   ■ UNREPORTED



# Racial Identity

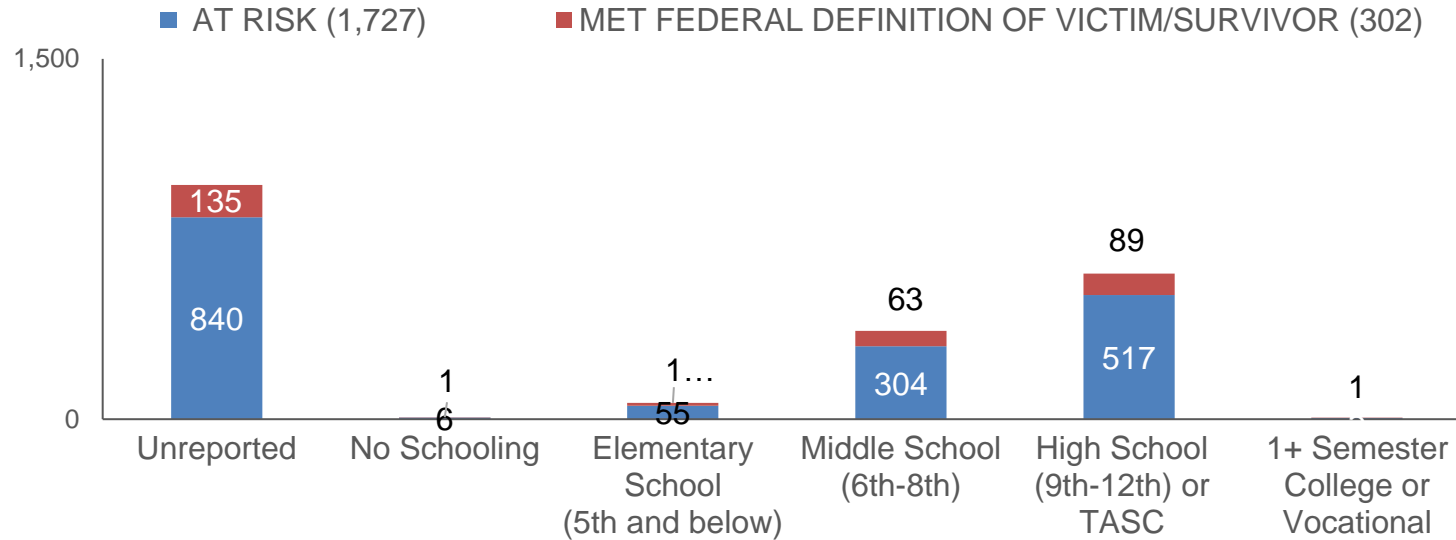
In 2020, an estimated 16% of New York State youth aged 21 and younger identified as Black/African American. Among Safe Harbour referrals, Black/African American youth were overrepresented at 25%. It is worth noting that 16% of Safe Harbour referrals did not include race.



**\*Source:** National Center for Health Statistics. Vintage 2020 postcensal estimates of the resident population of the United States (April 1, 2010, July 1, 2010 – July 1, 2020) by year, county, single-year of age (0, 1, 2, 85 years and older), bridged race, Hispanic origin and sex. Prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau. Available from: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm) as of February 7, 2023, following release by the U.S. Census Bureau of the unbridged Vintage 2020 postcensal estimates by 5-year age groups on September 22, 2021.

# Last Grade Completed

While youth's last grade completed at time of referral was unknown for 48% of the referrals managed in 2021, 30% identified that youth had completed at least one grade in high school, the TASC (formerly GED) or some college/vocational training.

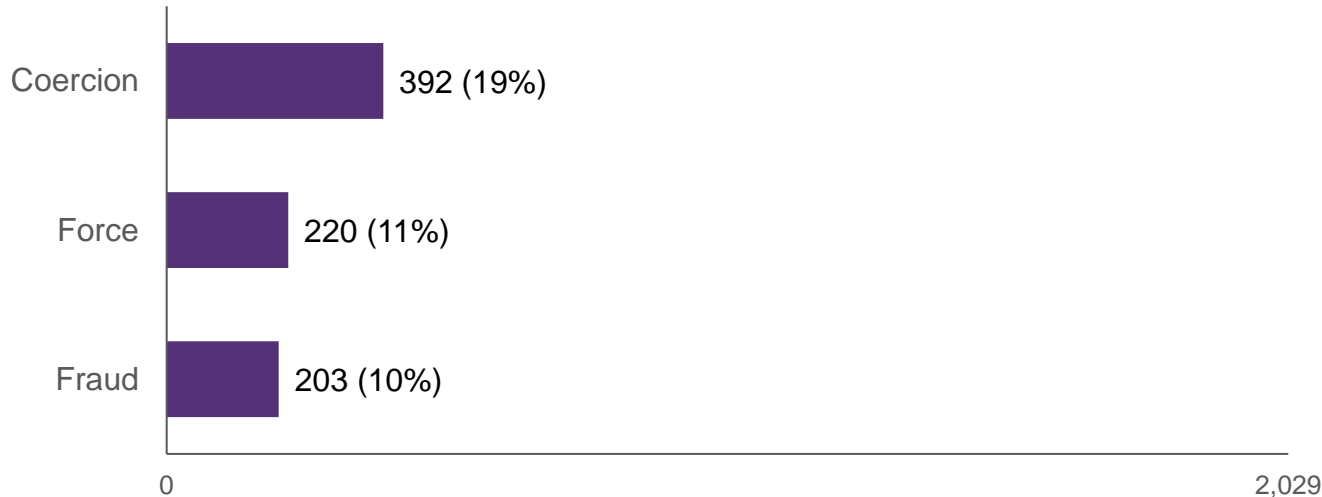




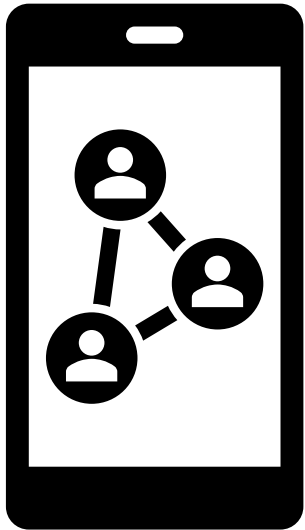
# Force, Fraud and Coercion

The presence of force, fraud and coercion in youth's victimization/grooming is not required for a youth to be considered trafficked, but many youth are experiencing at least one of these pressures. Totals do not sum across elements, as youth could include experience with more than one element.

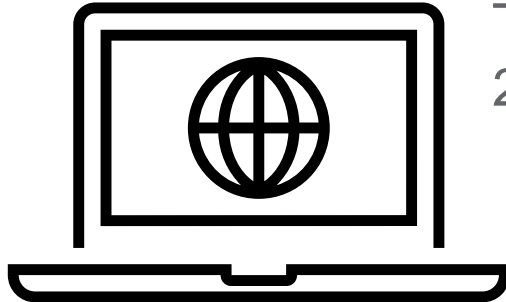
Of the three, coercion was reported most frequently.



# Social Media Involved in Human Trafficking



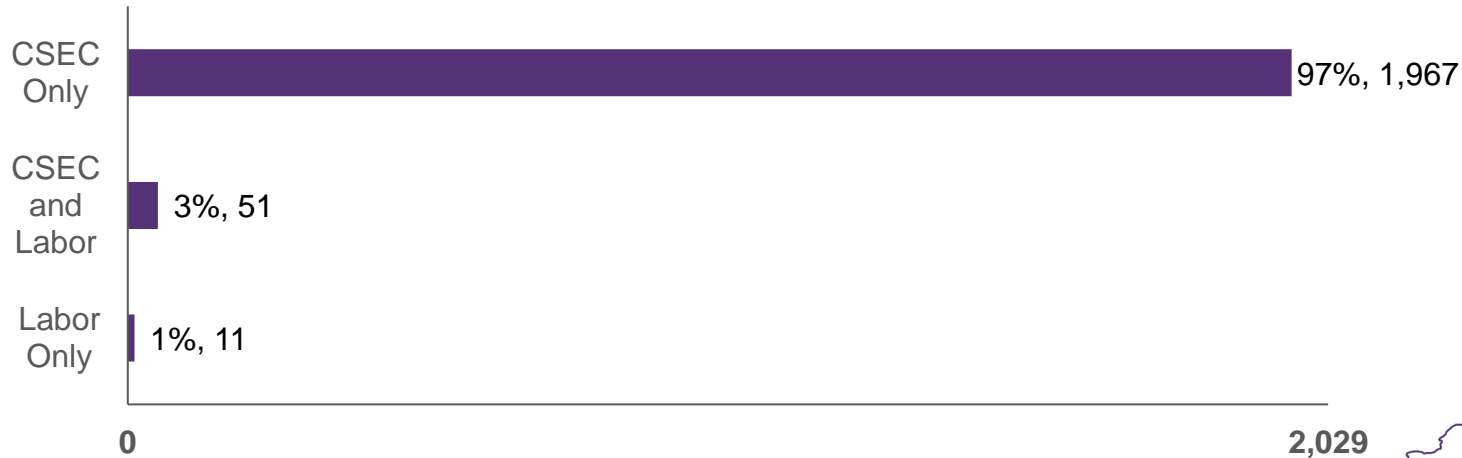
Social media was identified as an element of youth's exploitation in **31% (632)** during 2021. It is likely that this number is higher than reported.



This is a noticeable increase from the **23% (413)** reported in 2020.

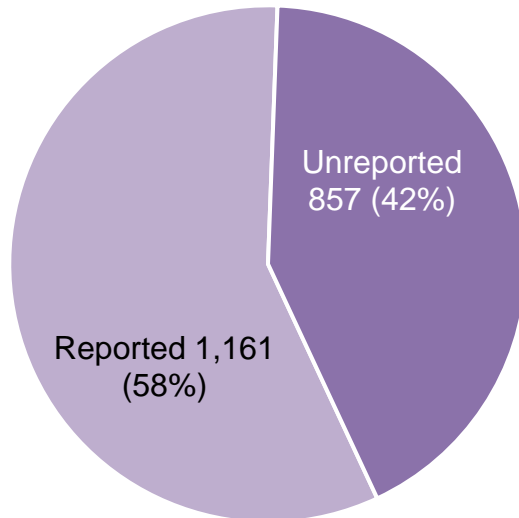
# Types of Human Trafficking Referrals

Human trafficking includes both commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and labor trafficking. Risk/victimization of CSEC alone was most common among referrals managed by Safe Harbour in 2021; however, a small percentage of referrals reported risk/victimization of labor trafficking — either alone or in combination with CSEC.



# Relation of Trafficker to Youth: CSEC (2,018)

Relationship to trafficker was unknown for 42% of the referrals involving CSEC risk/victimization.



In cases where the relationships were known, the top three reported were:

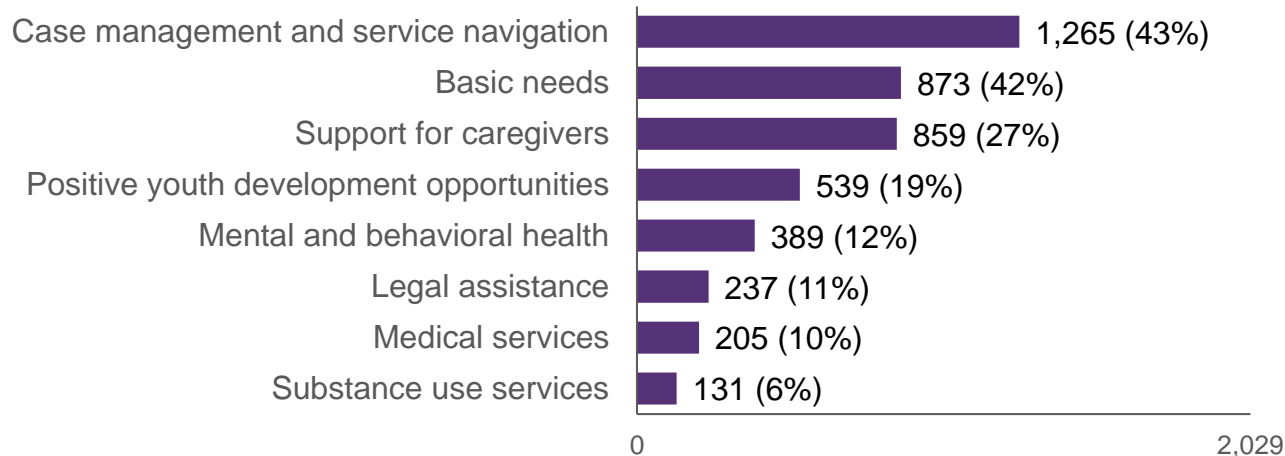
1. A person they met on the internet or social media (318)
2. A friend/other youth (158)
3. A family friend or trusted adult (139)



# Service Needs Met

# Service Needs Met Directly Using Safe Harbour: NY Funds

Each year, program staff report on the types of services that youth and their families receive supported by the Safe Harbour: NY program. Totals do not sum across categories since the same youth often has multiple services provided.



# Outreach and Education

# 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 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Data are from the four counties that opted to fund street outreach services through Safe Harbour: NY in 2021: Orange, Saratoga, Schenectady and Warren counties.





# Street Outreach

**149 outreaches to youth** were made by Safe Harbour: NY street outreach services. Of these outreaches:

- 75% were to youth younger than 18.
- 58% were to females, 26% to males, 4% to transgender or gender non-conforming youth, and 12% to youth with unknown gender identity.
- 36% were to white youth, 24% to Black/African American youth, 15% to Hispanic youth and 26% to youth with unreported race/ethnicity.



# Community Outreach and Education

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

**24 municipalities** supported outreach and education:

Broome, Cattaraugus, Chemung, Columbia, Dutchess, Genesee, Greene, Herkimer, Jefferson, Montgomery, New York City, Niagara, Ontario, Orange, Putnam, Schenectady, Seneca, Steuben, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington and Yates.

Districts hosted **1,006 events** where **more than 19,350 youth** participated. The curricula most used by programs included:

- Locally developed Safe Harbour: NY materials (81%)
- *#NotANumber*, Love146 (6%)
- *I Am Little Red*, 50 Eggs (4%)



# Adult Trainings

**New York City and 34 counties** hosted adult trainings using Safe Harbour NY funds:

Albany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Columbia, Dutchess, Erie, Genesee, Greene, Jefferson, Montgomery, Niagara, Onondaga, Ontario, Orange, Oswego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Westchester and Yates

**440 trainings** were provided focusing on:

- human trafficking awareness (57%)
- skill building (19%)
- other topics defined by the hosts (25%) – such as gang training, CSEC prevention for caregivers and human trafficking from different professional perspectives



# Adult Trainings

Trainings reached **13,320 participants**, who represented the following audiences:

- Community-based agency staff - 32%
- Host-defined audiences (summer camp staff, medical professionals, college students, etc.) - 23%
- Child welfare staff - 19%
- Non-professional community members - 14%
- School staff - 6%
- Law enforcement - 3%
- Residential staff (foster care, RHY, etc.) - 3%



# Questions?

New York State

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