



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

2022 Safe Harbour Program

October 18, 2024

Case management and Referrals

2022 Cases and Referrals

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).

While programs strived to offer supports at pre-pandemic levels, the lingering impacts COVID-19 had on staffing has remained. Many programs struggled to retain consistent staff in program year 2022. This had an impact on the services and supports delivered.

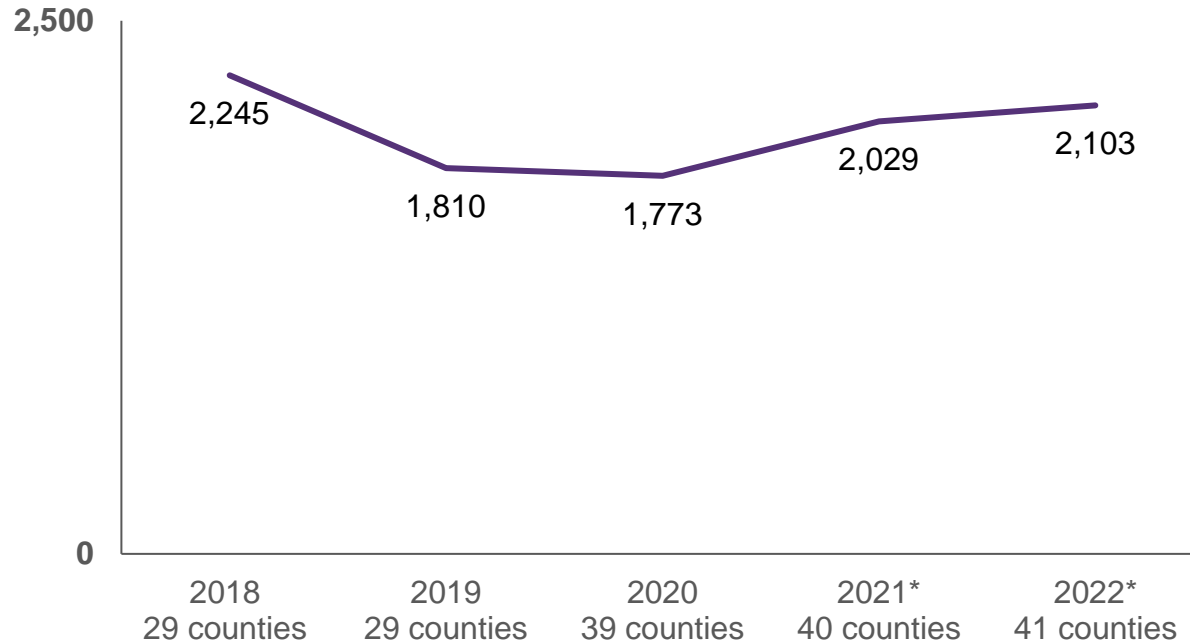
2022 Cases and referrals

- **39 counties, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and five boroughs of NYC** reported data.
- There were 2,103 referrals of youth who were identified as trafficked or at risk.
 - 10% (216) of referrals involved youth who met the federal definition of a trafficking victim.*
 - 90% (1,887) 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

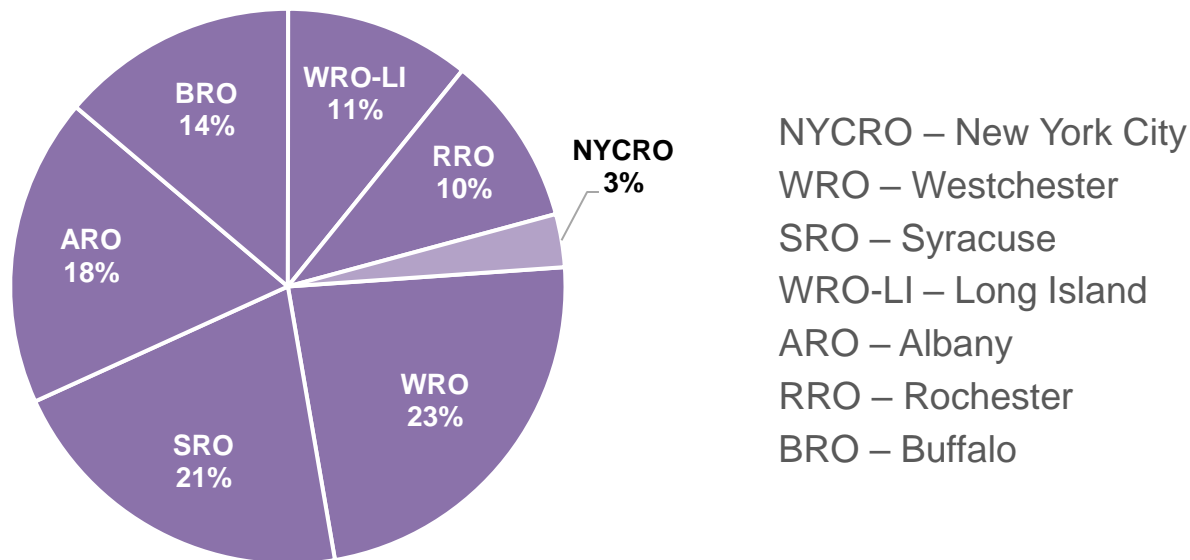


***Note:** OCFS updated its data collection to reflect the number of referrals managed by Safe Harbour during the year. The data may include youth who were referred more than one time.



Referrals Managed by Region (2,103)

In 2022, 97% of the Safe Harbour: NY referrals at the local level were from outside NYC.

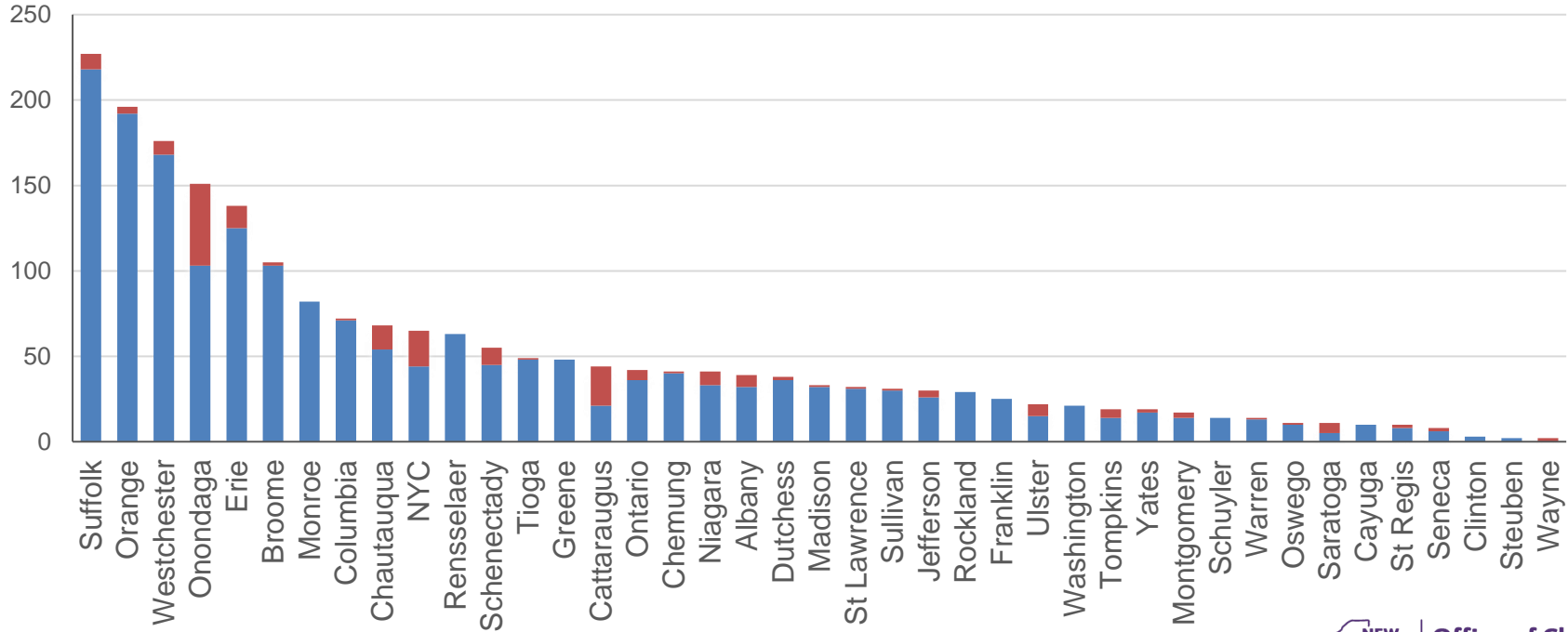


NOTE: For the easy of comparison, regional offices are used as comparison units. Each regional office cover multiple counties. <https://ocfs.ny.gov/directories/regional-offices.php>

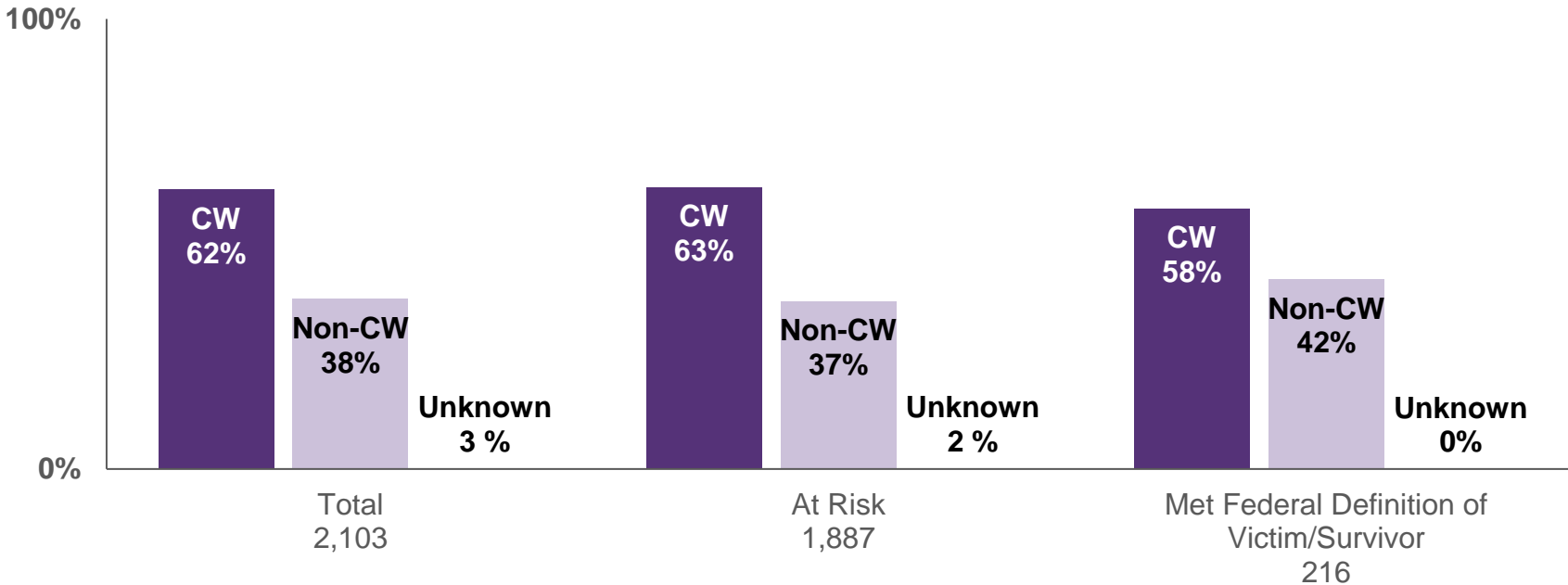


Referrals Managed by County

■ AT RISK (1,887) ■ MET FEDERAL DEFINITION OF VICTIM/SURVIVOR (216)



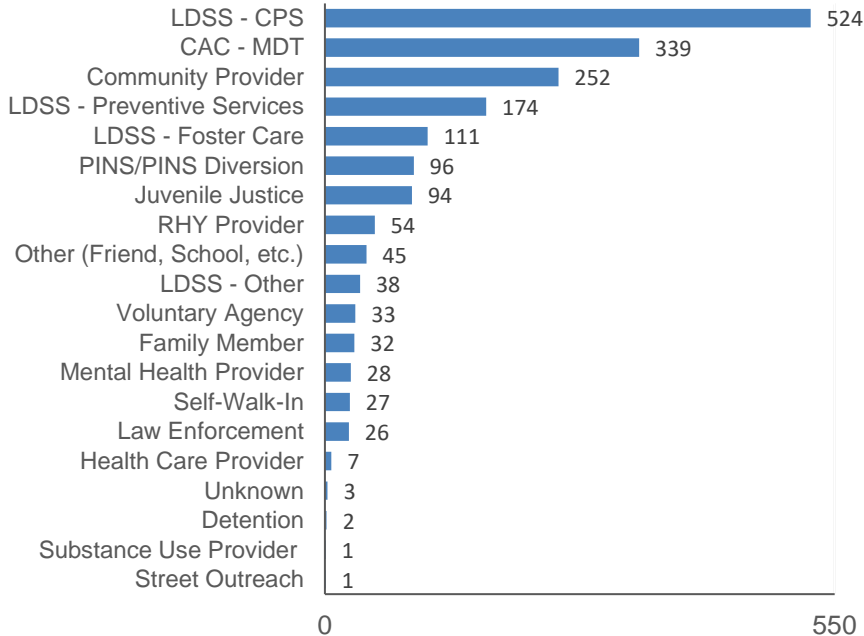
Child Welfare vs. Non-Child Welfare Referrals



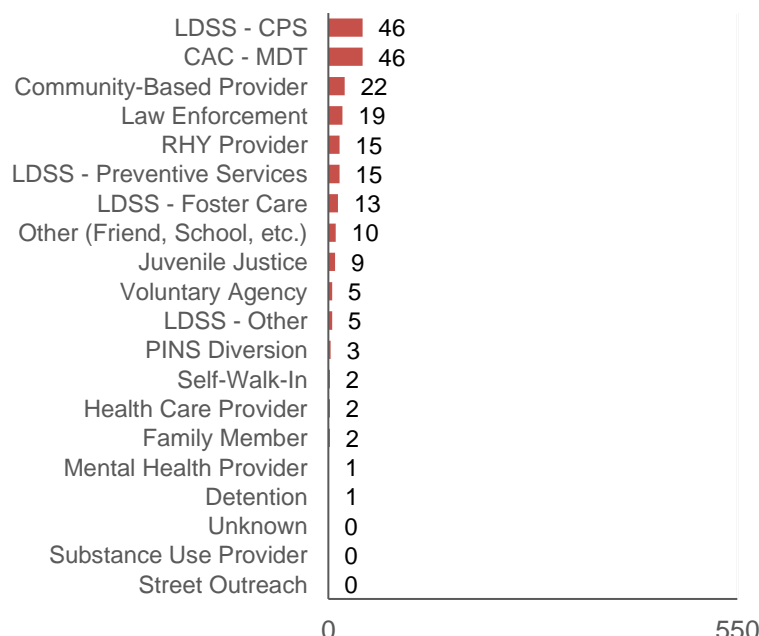
Referral Source and Trafficking Status

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 (1,887)



Met Federal Definition of Victim/Survivor (216)

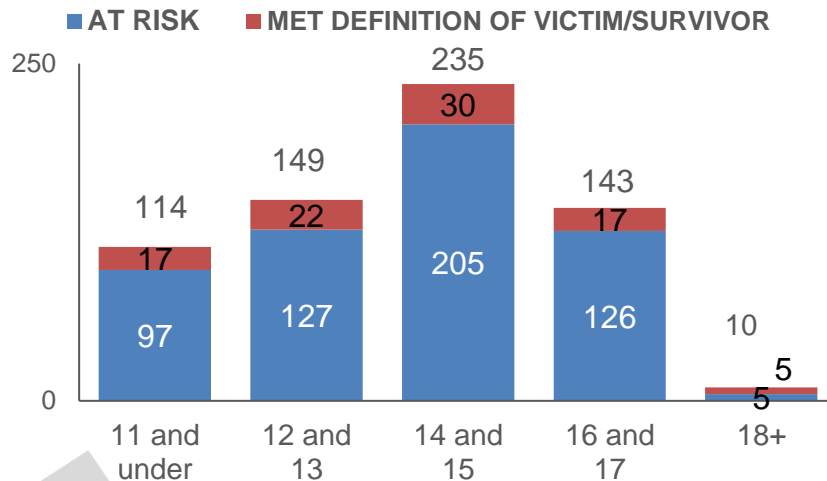
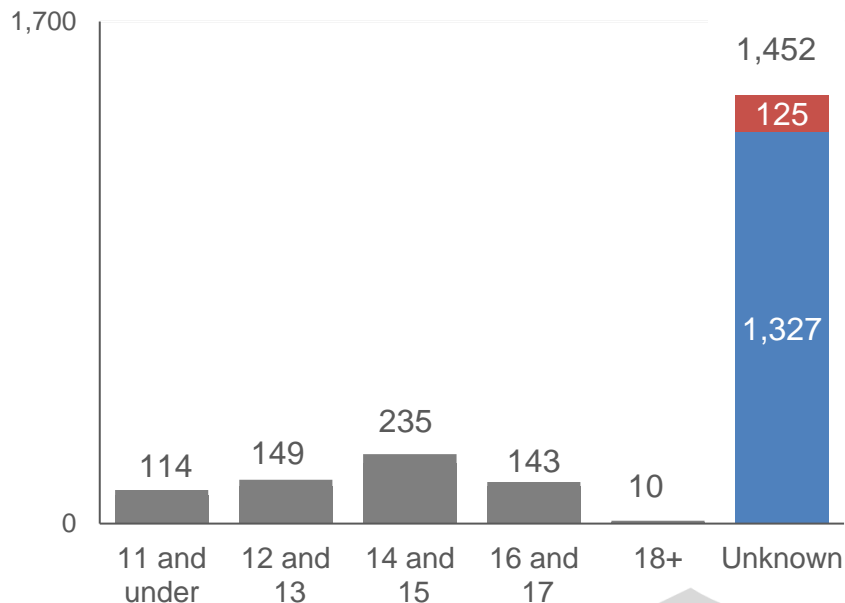


Demographics and Victimization

Age When Exploitation Began

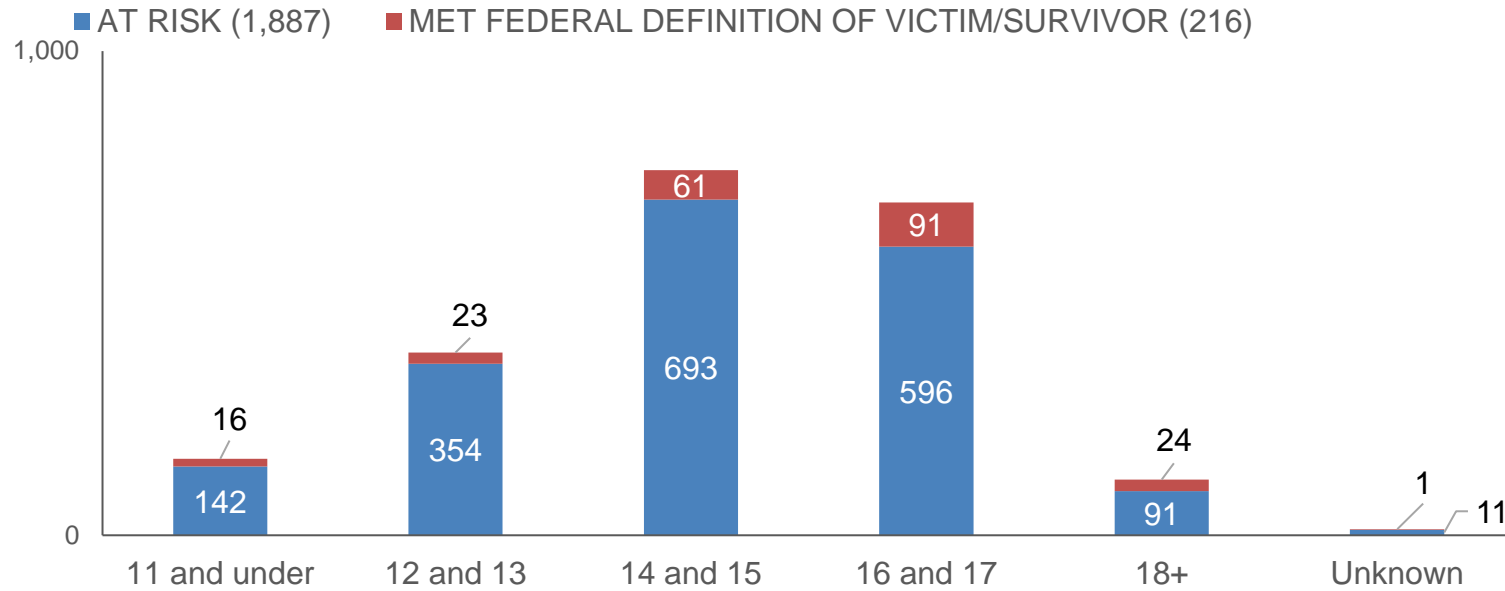
Age at first exploitation was **unknown** for 1,452 referrals – about **69%** of the sample.

A closer look at the referrals where age was known shows that nearly all of them (98%) involved youth who were minors when their exploitation began, and more than one third (40%; 263 referrals) involved youth who were younger than 14.



Age at Time of Referral

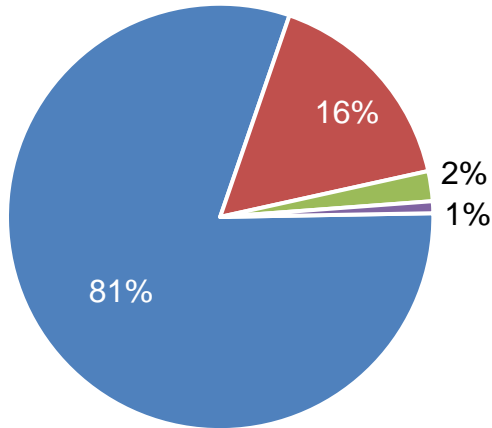
More than half (1,289, 61%) of referrals managed in 2022 were for youth aged 15 and younger at the time of referral.



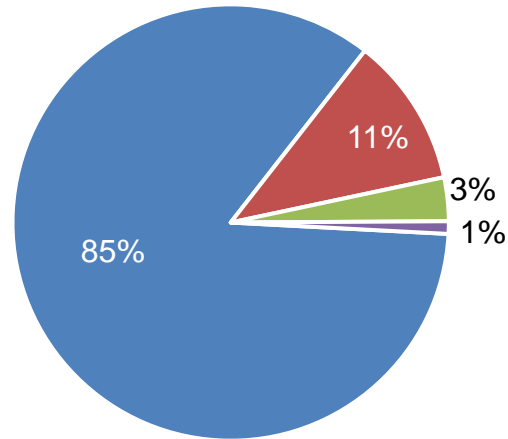
Gender Identity

Although often portrayed as a problem that impacts girls, cisgender males represented 16% and transgender and gender non-conforming youth represented about 2% of the referrals managed in 2022.

AT RISK (1,887)



MET FEDERAL DEFINITION OF VICTIM/SURVIVOR (216)

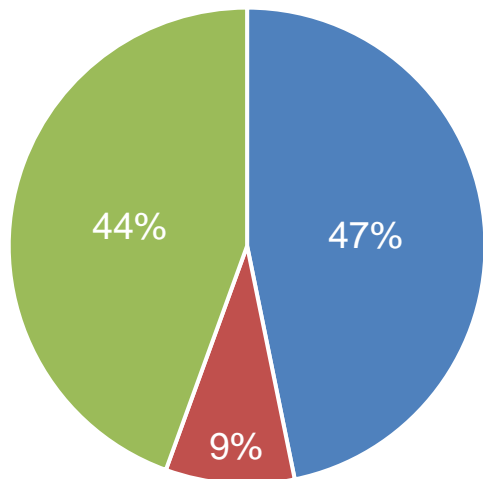


- FEMALE
- MALE
- TRANS & GNC/NON-BINARY
- UNREPORTED

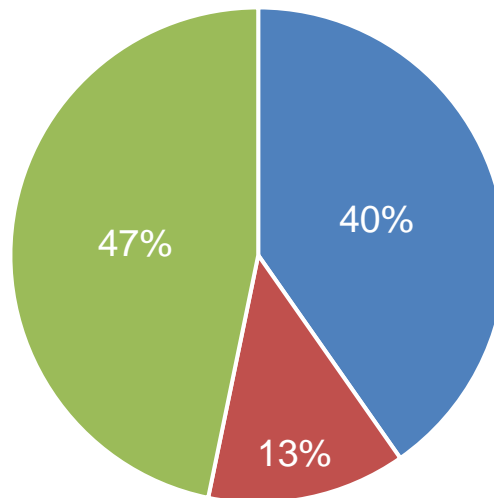
Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation was unreported for about 45% of referrals managed during 2022.

AT RISK (1,887)



MET FEDERAL DEFINITION OF VICTIM/SURVIVOR (216)



■ STRAIGHT ■ LGBTQ+ ■ UNREPORTED

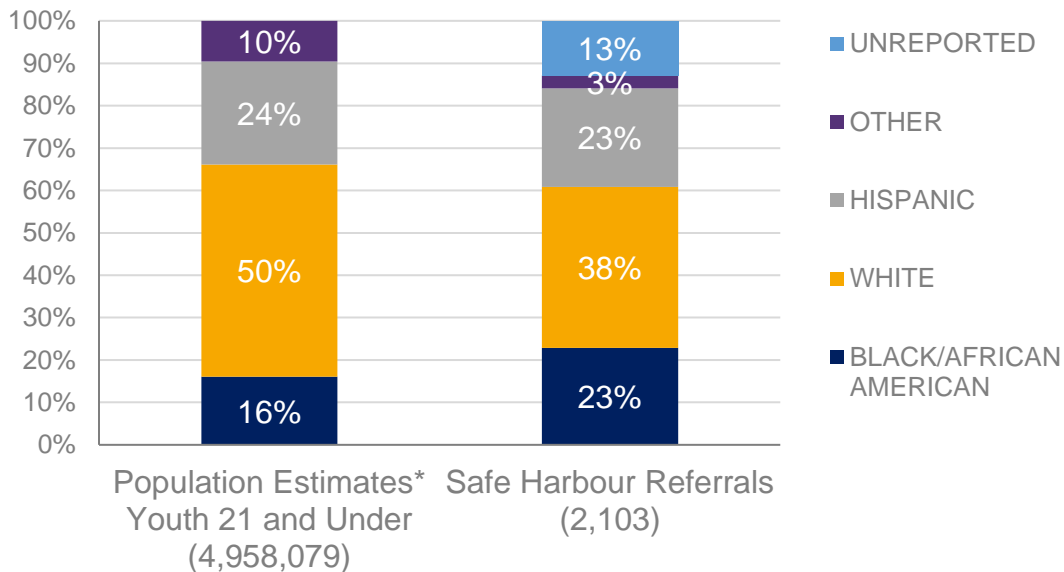


Office of Children and Family Services

*Note: LGBTQ+ category includes youths who identified as Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Pansexual, Queer, and Questioning.

Racial Identity

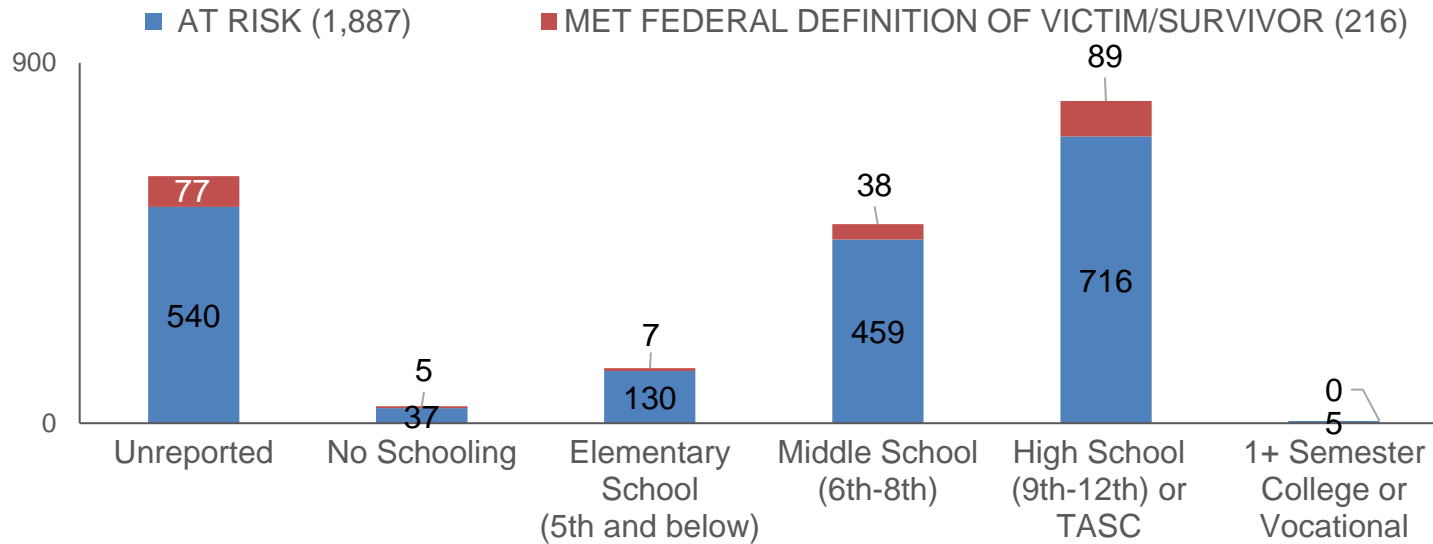
In 2020, an estimated 16% of New York State youth aged 21 and younger identified as Black/African American. Among Safe Harbour referrals, Black/African American youth were overrepresented at 23%. It is worth noting that 13% of Safe Harbour referrals did not include race.



***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 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

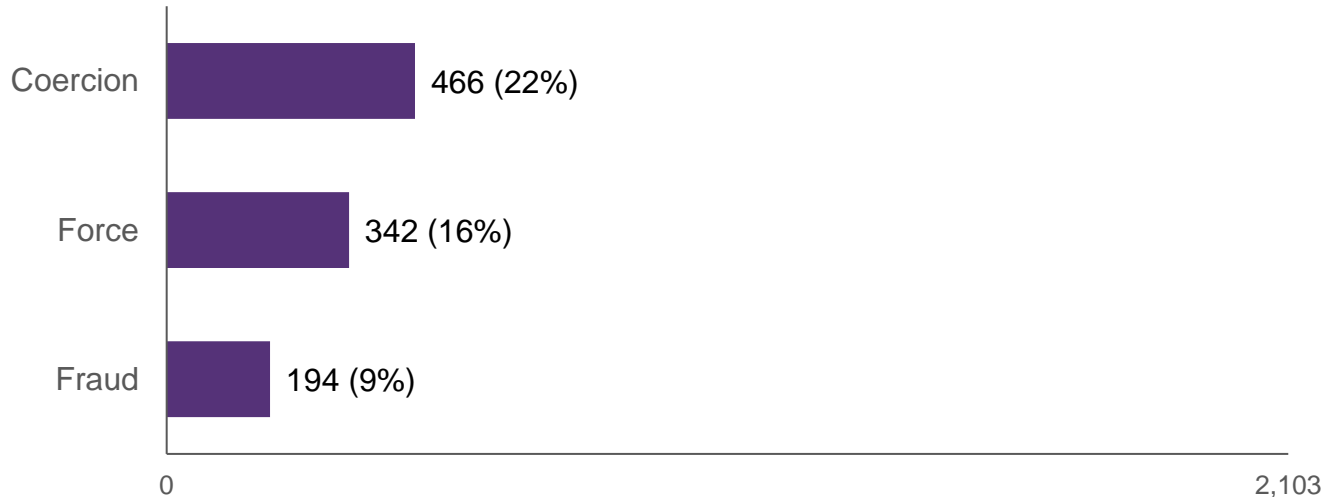
While youth's last grade completed at time of referral was unknown for 29% of the referrals managed in 2022, 39% identified that youth had completed at least one grade in high school, the TASC (formerly GED) or some college/vocational training.



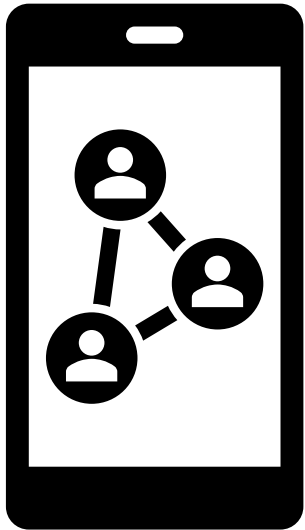
Force, Fraud and Coercion

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.

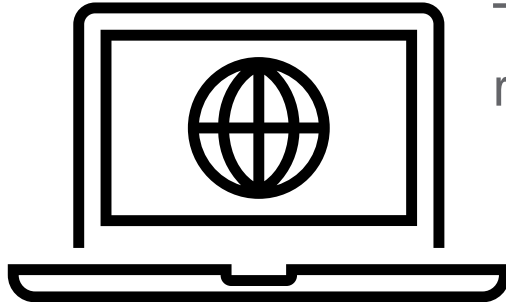
Of the three, coercion was reported most frequently.



Social Media Involved in Human Trafficking



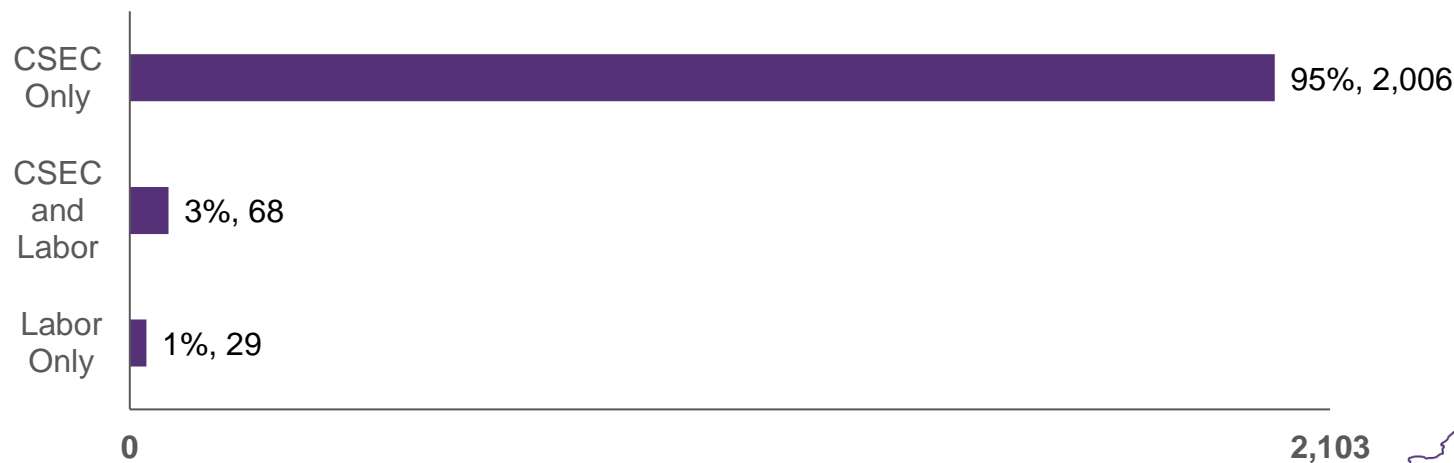
Social media was identified as an element of youth's exploitation in **33% (687)** of referrals managed during 2022. It is likely that this number is higher than reported.



This is an increase from the 31% (632) reported in 2021.

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 2022; however, a small percentage of referrals reported risk/victimization of labor trafficking — either alone or in combination with CSEC.

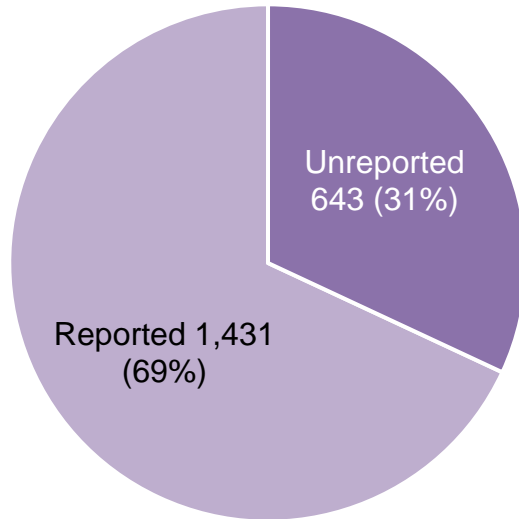


*Note: percentages might not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Relation of Trafficker to Youth: CSEC (2,074)

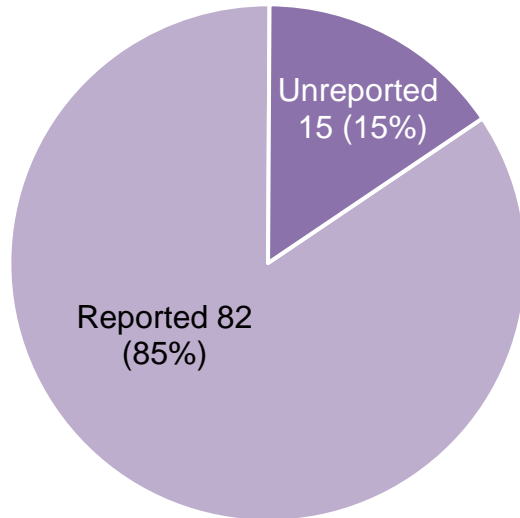
Relationship to trafficker was unknown for about one-third (31%) of the referrals involving sex trafficking. In cases where the relationships were known, the top ones reported were:



1. A person they met on the internet or social media (403)
2. A friend/other youth (192)
3. Bio/Adoptive/Foster parents (154)
4. Romantic Partner (150)
5. Family friend/Trusted adult (119)

Relation of Trafficker to Youth: Labor (97)

Relationship to trafficker was unknown for 15% of the referrals involving labor traffic risk/victimization. In cases where the relationships were known, the top ones reported were:

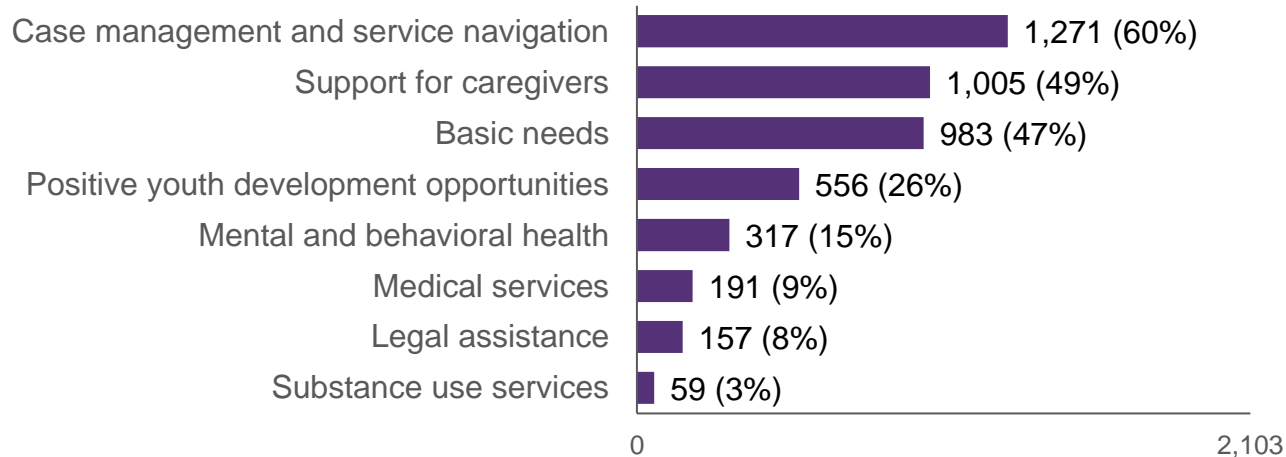


1. Street-based survival (17)
2. Gang (15)
3. Employer or labor recruiter (11)
4. Family Friend / Trusted Adult (10)
5. Romantic Partner (10)

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 as youth often have multiple services provided

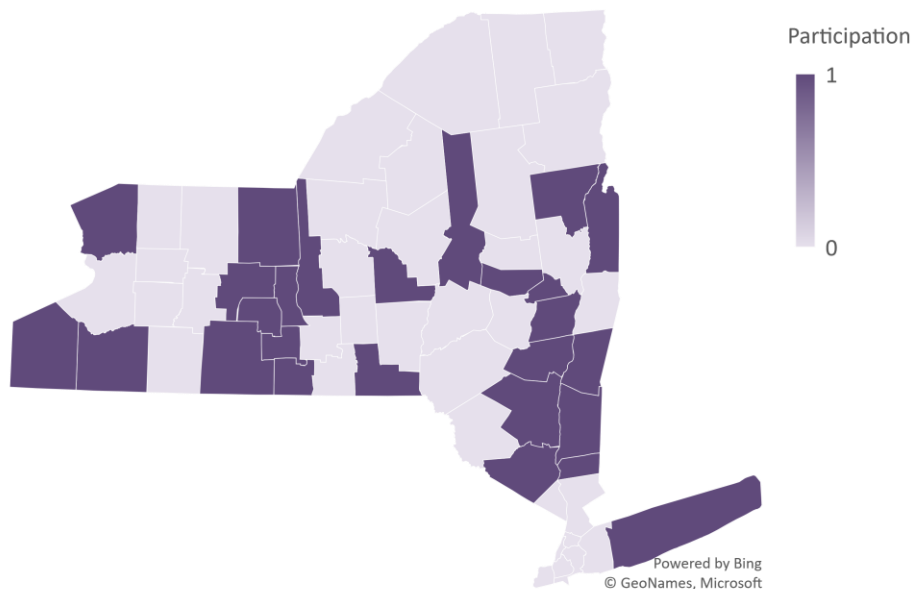


Outreach and Education

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.

Community Outreach and Education Participation
Counties



New York City and 26 counties
supported outreach and education:

Albany, Broome, Cattaraugus,
Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung,
Columbia, Dutchess, Greene,
Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery,
Niagara, Ontario, Orange, Putnam,
Schenectady, Schuyler, Seneca,
Steuben, Suffolk, Ulster, Warren,
Washington, Wayne, Yates.



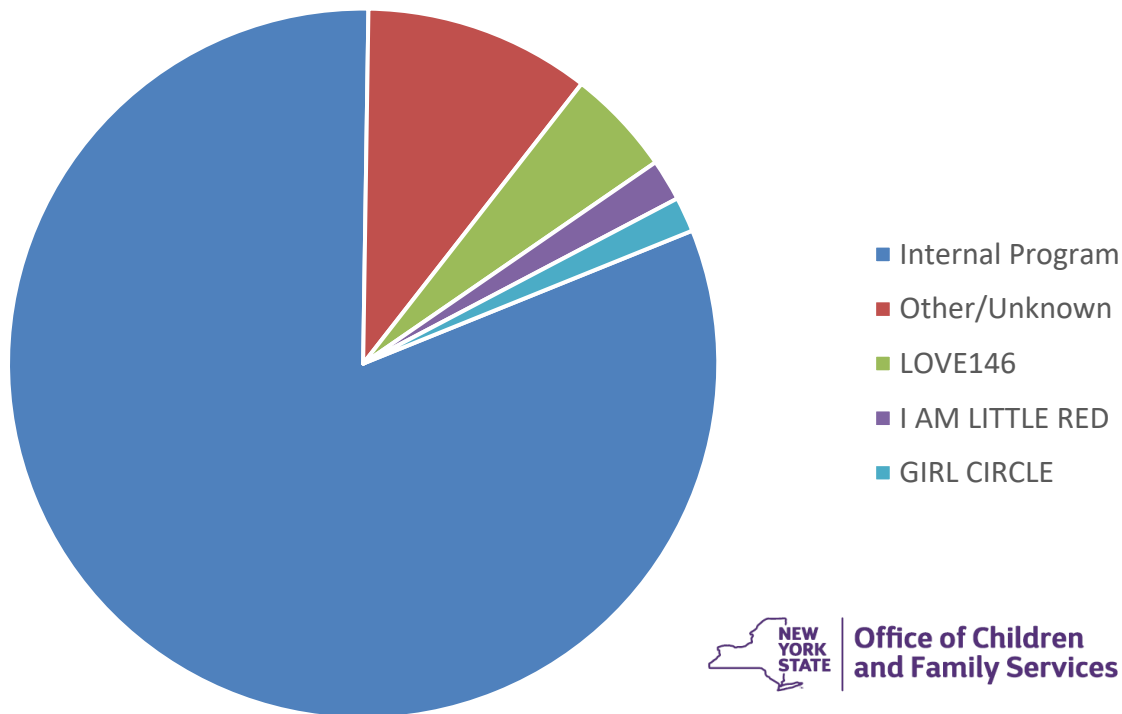
Community Outreach and Education

Districts hosted **1,319 events** during 2022.

The curricula most used by programs included:

- Locally developed Safe Harbour: NY materials (81%)
- Love146 (5%)
- I am Little Red (2%)
- Girls Circle (2%)

Community Outreach and Education Curricula



Adult Trainings

In 2022, 406 training were provided to an adult audience, including DSS staff, local agencies, community members, medical staff, law enforcement etc. to increase the awareness and enrich response strategies.

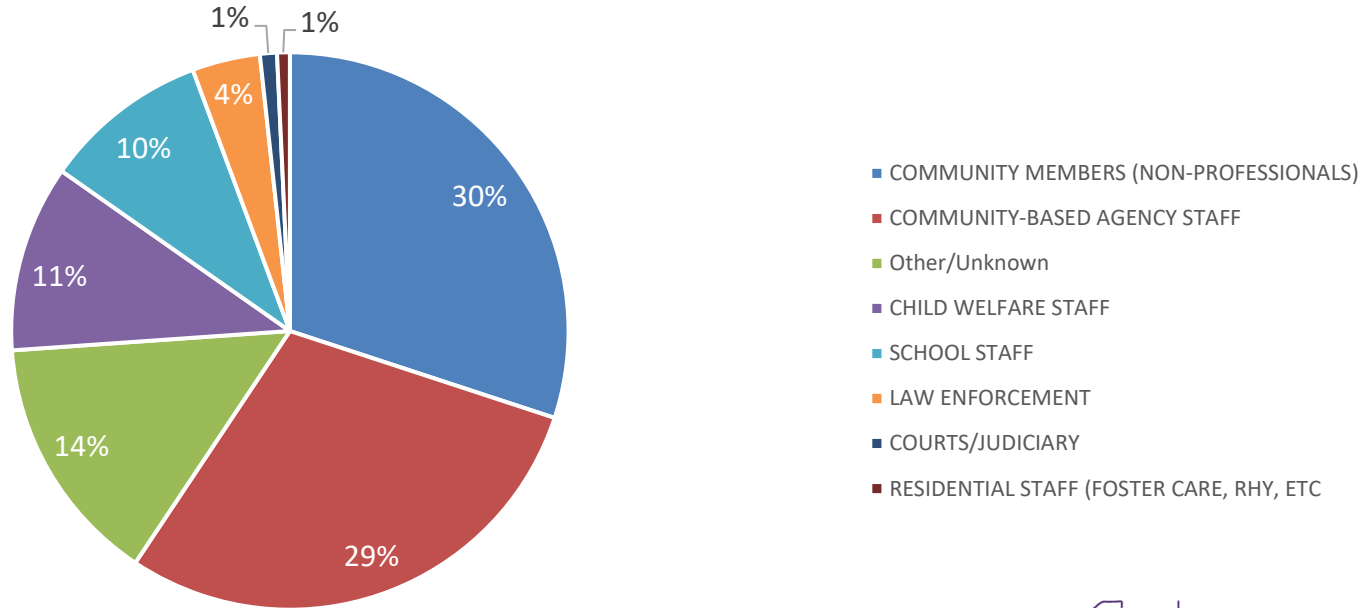
New York City and 36 counties hosted adult trainings using Safe Harbour NY funds:

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



Adult Trainings

Trainings reached **11,857 participants**, who represented the following audiences:



Questions?

New York State

Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

Bureau of Youth Development and Well-Being

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