

H.2: Raising Minimum Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction in Vermont

House Judiciary Committee

January 17, 2025

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Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate (OCYFA)



What is the OCYFA?

- We are an independent state office that engages in individual and systemic advocacy on behalf of children, youth, and families served by DCF, with an emphasis on child welfare and juvenile justice.
- We are charged with examining systems as a whole and articulating youth-centered systemic reforms that also benefit government.
- “The Office shall promote reforms necessary to better serve Vermont’s children, youths, and families in a manner that addresses racial and social equity.” 33 VSA § 3202

What does H.2 do?

- Raises minimum age for juvenile jurisdiction
- Maintains the ability to prosecute a child of any age for murder

Why Do We Have a Criminal Justice System? How Should It Apply to Children?

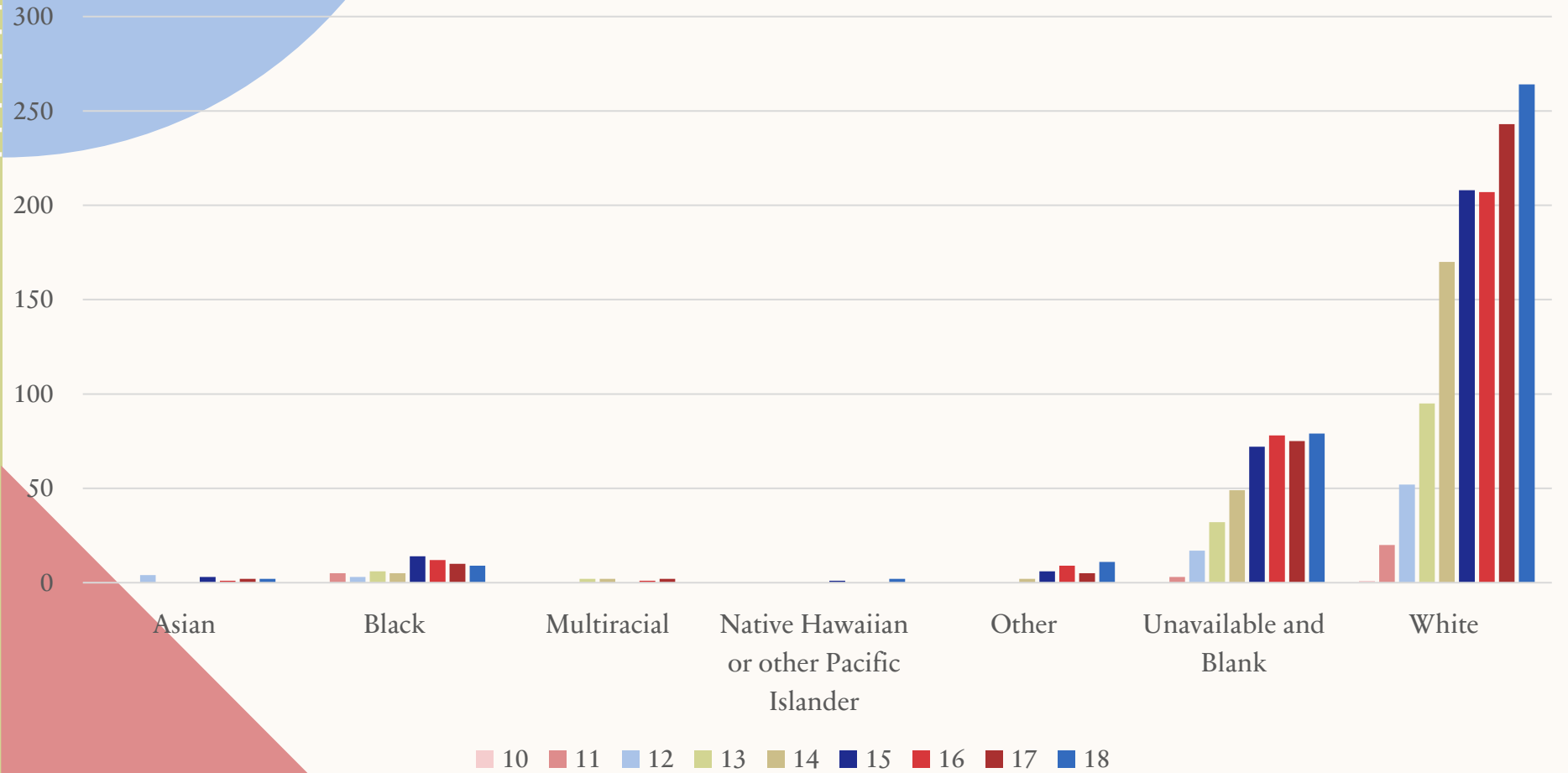
- Rehabilitation
- Restorative
- Punitive
- Removal
- Transformative?

What Do We Know About Cases Involving 10- and 11-Year-Olds?

FinalOffenseName	AppxAgeatDispo	CrtDisGroup	DispoYear
DISORDERLY CONDUCT- FIGHT ETC	10	Dismissed	2023
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	10	Dismissed	2024
JUVENILE UNDER 16 MISREPRESENTING AGE PROCURING OR POSSESSING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	11	NA	2021
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	11	NA	2021
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	11	NA	2021
AGGRAVATED DISORDERLY CONDUCT- FIGHTING ETC	11	Dismissed	2022
VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE	11	Dismissed	2023
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	11	Dismissed	2023
UNLAWFUL MISCHIEF \$250 OR LESS	11	Dismissed	2023
UNLAWFUL MISCHIEF \$250 OR LESS	11	Dismissed	2023
DISORDERLY CONDUCT- FIGHT ETC	11	Delinquency Finding	2023
UNLAWFUL MISCHIEF \$250 OR LESS	11	Dismissed	2023
UNLAWFUL MISCHIEF \$250 OR LESS	11	Dismissed	2023
VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF RELEASE	11	Dismissed	2023
DISORDERLY CONDUCT- FIGHT ETC	11	Dismissed	2024
BURGLARY	11	Delinquency Finding	2024
PETIT LARCENY \$900 OR LESS	11	Delinquency Finding	2024
ACCESSORY AIDING IN THE COMMISSION - GRAND LARCENY GREATER THAN \$900	11	Diversion	2024
GRAND LARCENY >\$900	11	Diversion	2024
BUY RECEIVE SELL POSSESS CONCEAL STOLEN PROPERTY > \$900 - CONSPIRACY	11	Diversion	2024

Crime Research Group Data: January 2021- September 2024, Age at Disposition, by Case Number

DELINQUENCY FILINGS



Thank you!

- Questions?
- Please don't hesitate to reach out:
 - childadvocate.vermont.gov
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- Referral information for the public:
 - 802-828-2828 (leave a message)
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