

W. Haywood
Burns Institute

Reclaiming Futures Webinar

James Bell
W. Haywood Burns Institute

Improving Life
Opportunities for
Youth, Families,
and Communities
of Color



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Ja'eisha Akins Age 5 Handcuffed Temper Tantrum Pre-School



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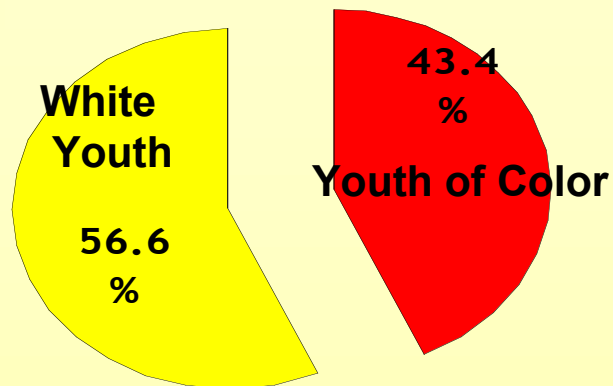
Structural Barriers & RED

- JJ Systems Are Not Accountable for Life Outcomes
- Disparities in the Guise of Race Neutrality
- Addicted To Incarceration as Primary Instrument of Social Control
- No Incentive for Excellence
- Confuse High Needs for High Risk
- Families in Neighborhoods of Concentrated Poverty Beyond Repair

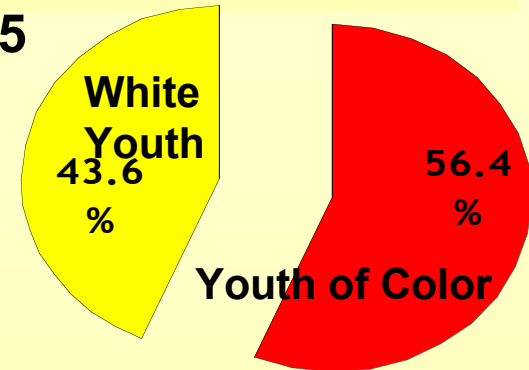


Overrepresentation of Minority Youth in Public Detention Centers: 1985 - 2007

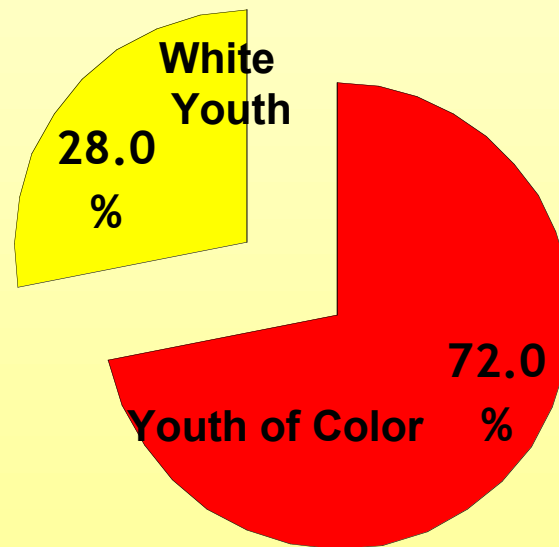
1985



1995



2007

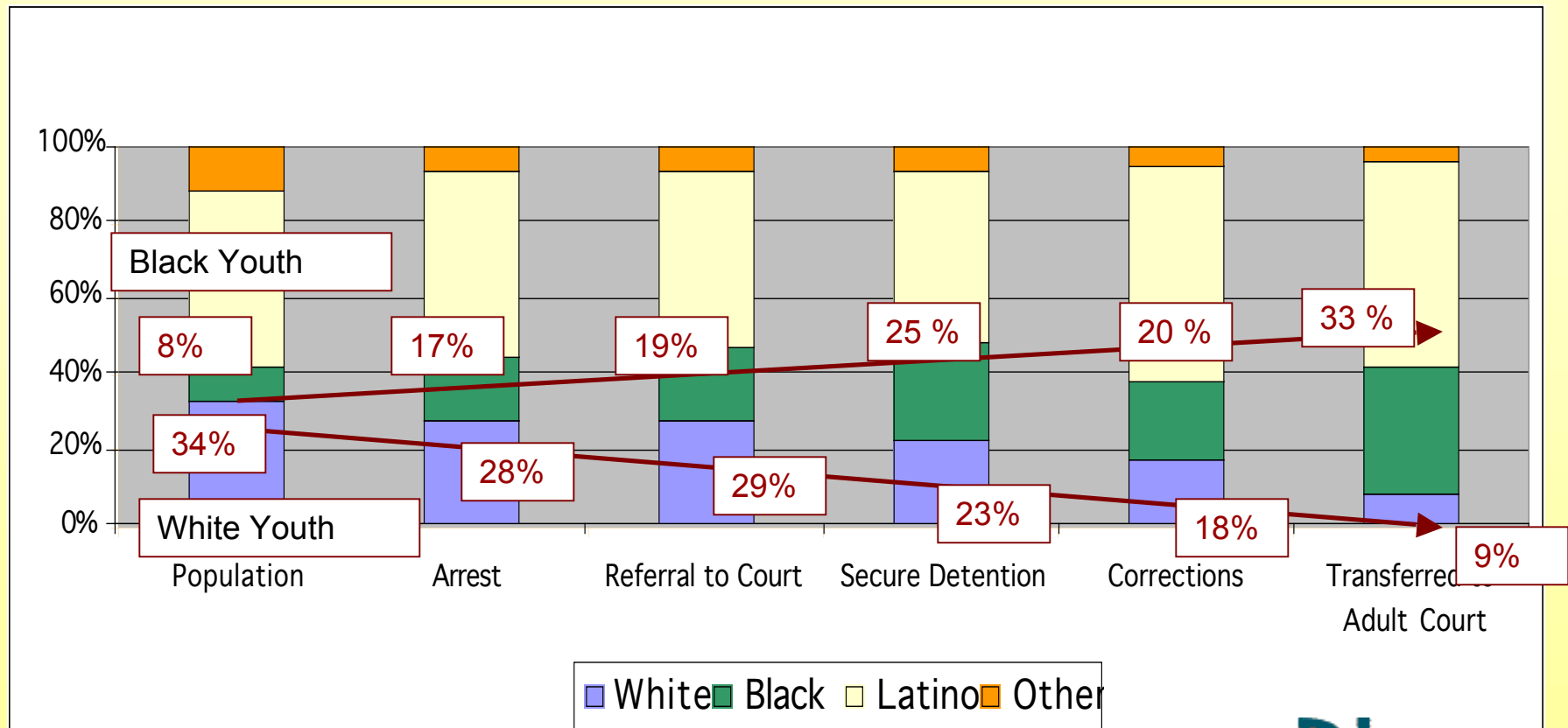


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Source: Census of Public and Private Juvenile Detention, Correctional and Shelter Facilities

2/3 of Detainees are Kids of Color

Disproportionality in Decision Points





Disparities vs. Disproportionality

- **Disparate Treatment**: Different treatment of individuals who are similarly situated or who have common characteristics
- **Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC)**: A racial/ethnic group's representation in confinement exceeds their representation in the general population

Collaborative Composition



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Community
Groups/Youth

Judges

Politicians

Police/Sheriff

Prosecutor/Defense

Detention and
Probation

Has The Jurisdiction Reached Consensus on Purpose for Detention?

- Statutory
- Risk of Flight/Reoffense
 - Policy v. Discretionary Holds
- **Stabilization/No Other Alternative**
- **Provision of Services**
- Punishment

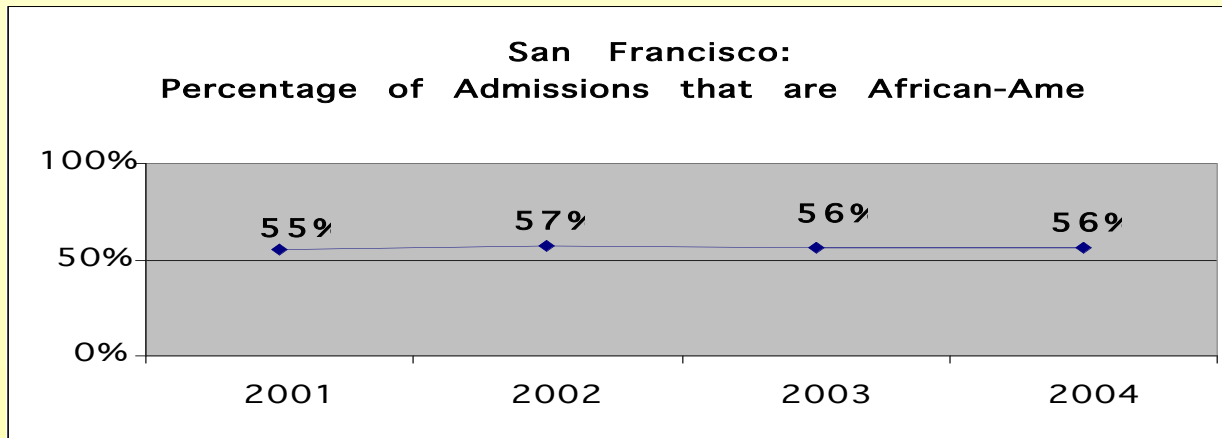


How Has Your Jurisdiction Defined Success?

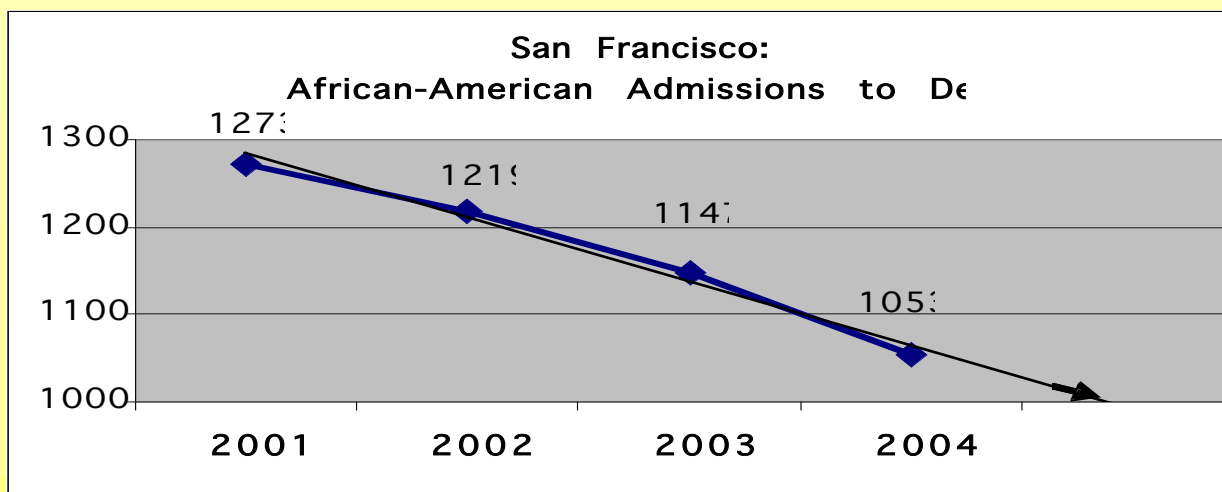
- Reducing Numbers of Youth of Color in Detention?
- Reducing Percentage of Youth of Color in Detention?
- Reducing the Inappropriate Detention of Youth of Color?
 - “Majority/Minority” Jurisdictions



Data Informed Conversation



Percentage



Actual
Numbers



Data/Disparities Lens

Detention Eligible Youth Population

Arrest

Referrals

Admissions

Risk Score

Length of Stay

– Disaggregate By

- **R**ace
- **E**thnicity
- **G**ender
- **G**eography
- **O**ffense



Are Fundamentals for Success Present re: Disparities

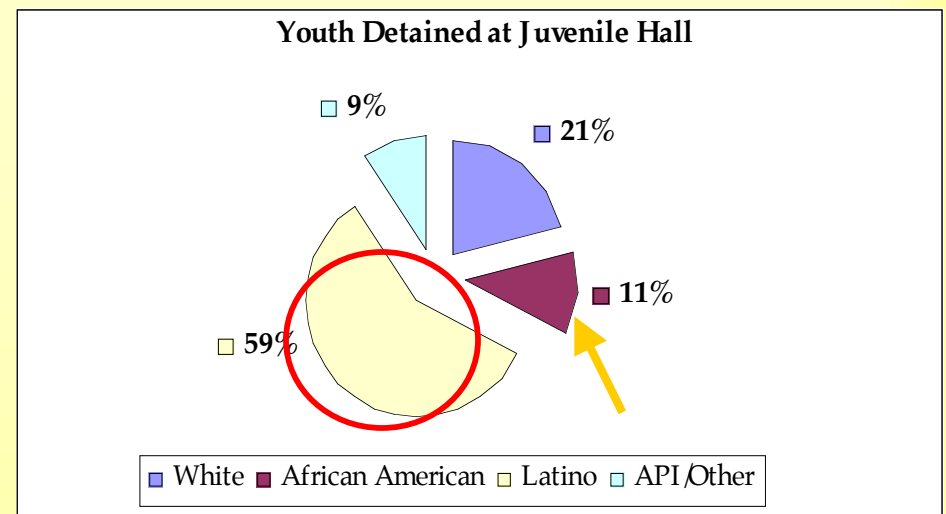
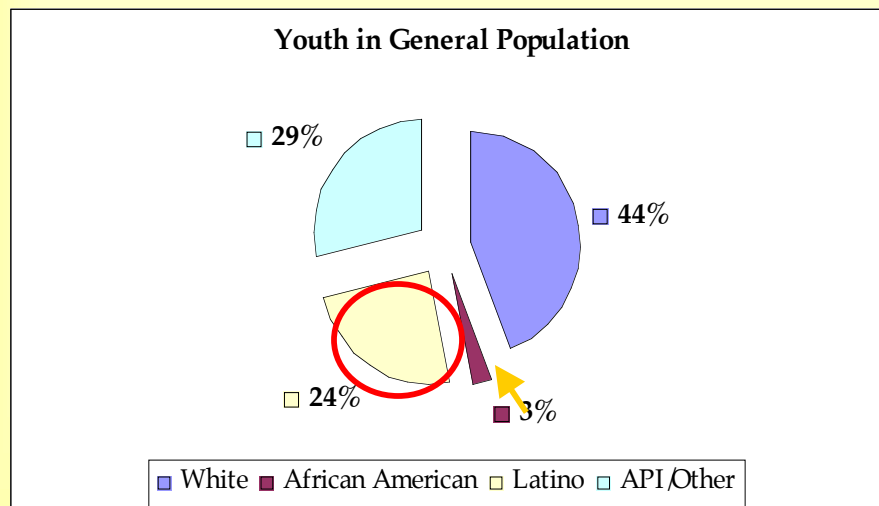
- Is There Numerical Disparity? **Yes**
- What Accounts for the Disparity?
 - Offense Driven
 - DV, Robbery, Assaults
 - Structural Administrative Decisions
 - Warrants, FTA's & Placement Failures
 - Policy or Discretionary Holds
 - Economic, Social & Educational





Data Informed Conversation

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African American youth represent 3% of the general youth population, but 11% of youth in detention. Latino youth represent 24% of the general youth population but 59% of youth in detention.

Detention Analysis

- “Front Door” Issues
 - Youth Appropriate
 - Alternatives with Adequate Supervision/Service
- Length of Stay
 - Case Processing
- Special Detention
 - PV’s
 - Warrants



Risk Assessment Instrument

Should Objectively Separate Youth into Three Categories:

Low Risk—0-7 Pts.

- Eligible for immediate full release.

• Medium Risk—8-10 Pts.

- Eligible for placement in non-secure alternative.

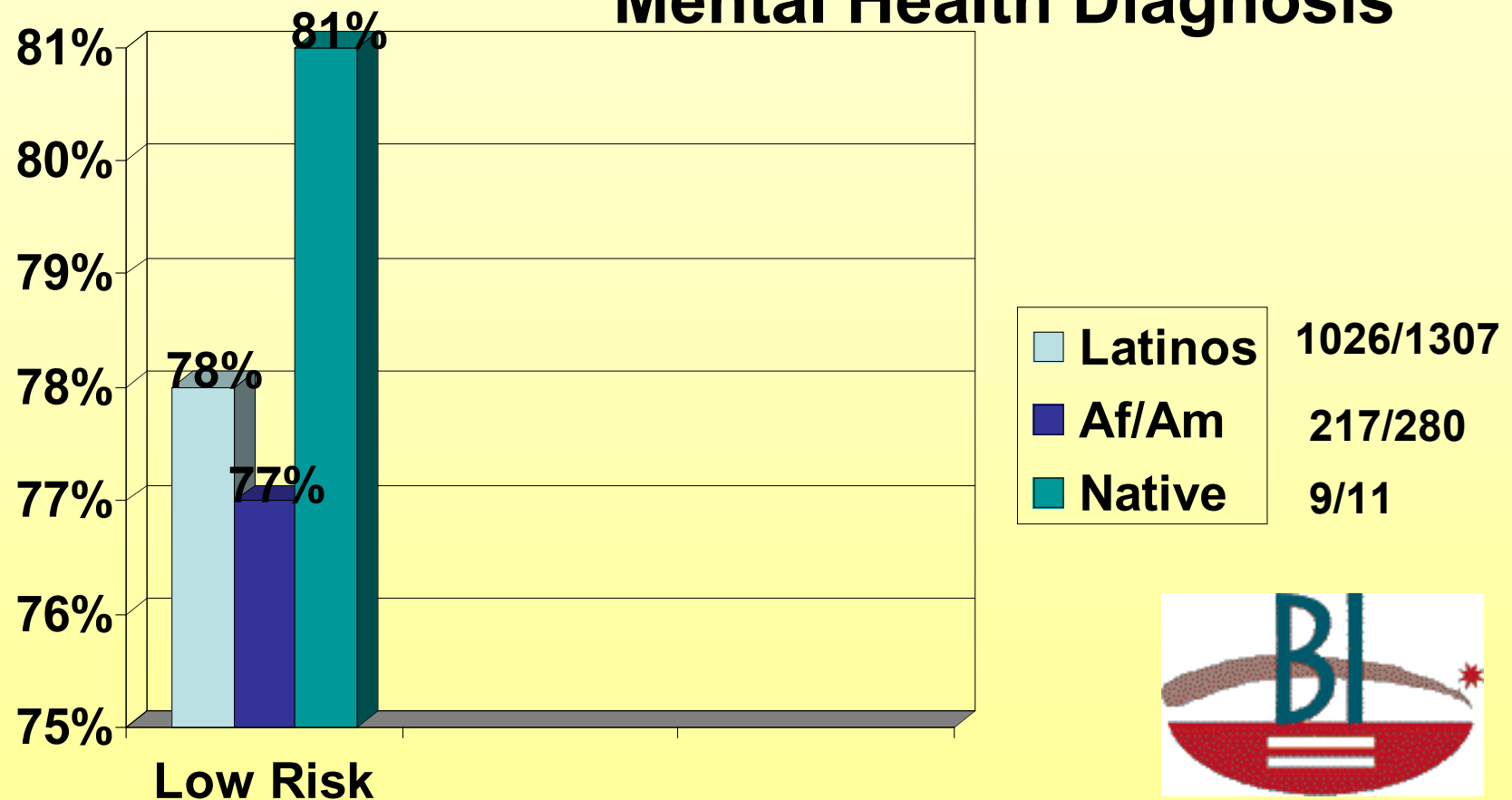
• High Risk—11 Pts.

- Eligible for placement in secure



Detention of Low Risk Youth

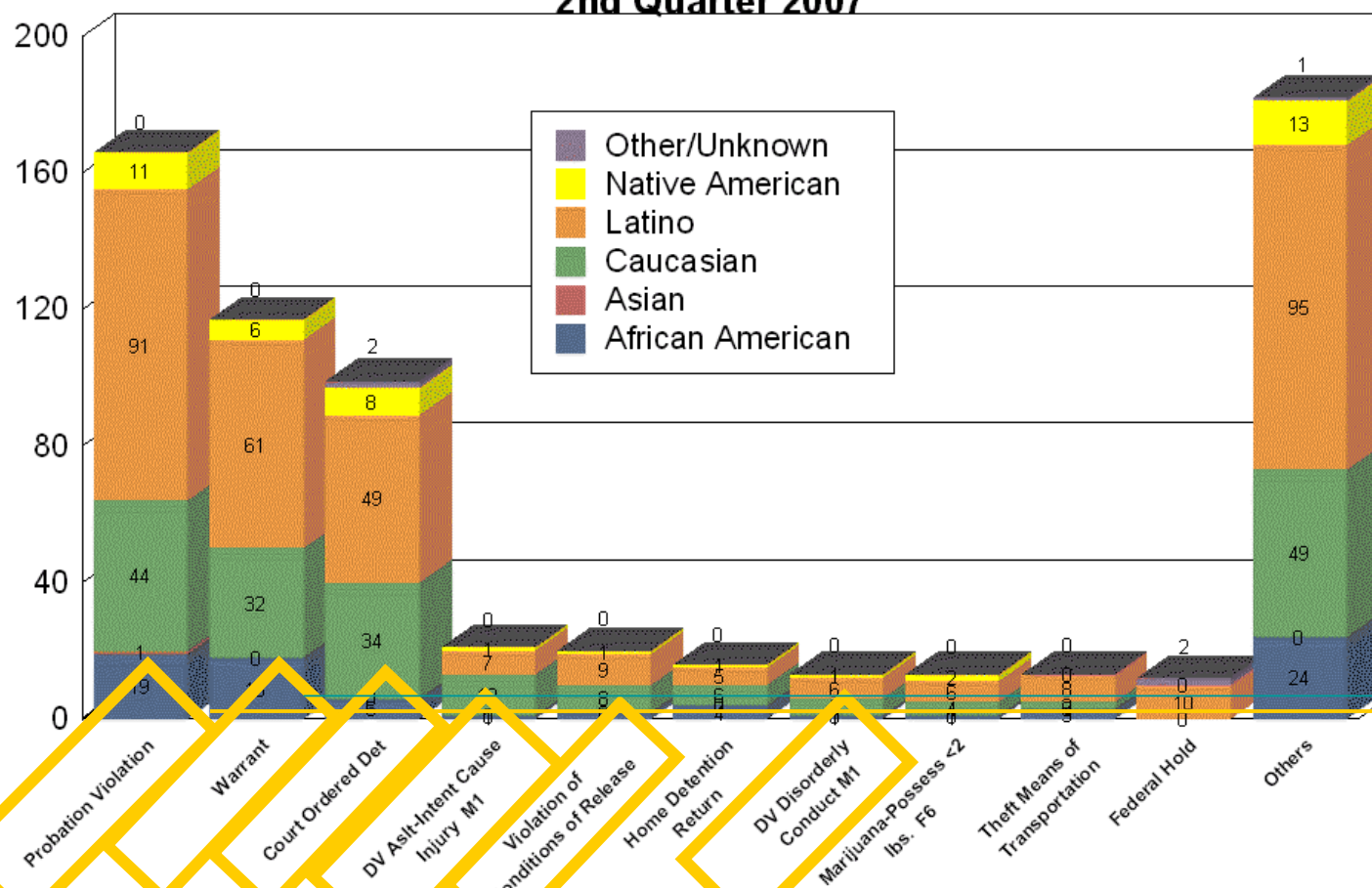
**70% in Detention Have
Mental Health Diagnosis**





Digging Deeper : *Disparities by Offense*

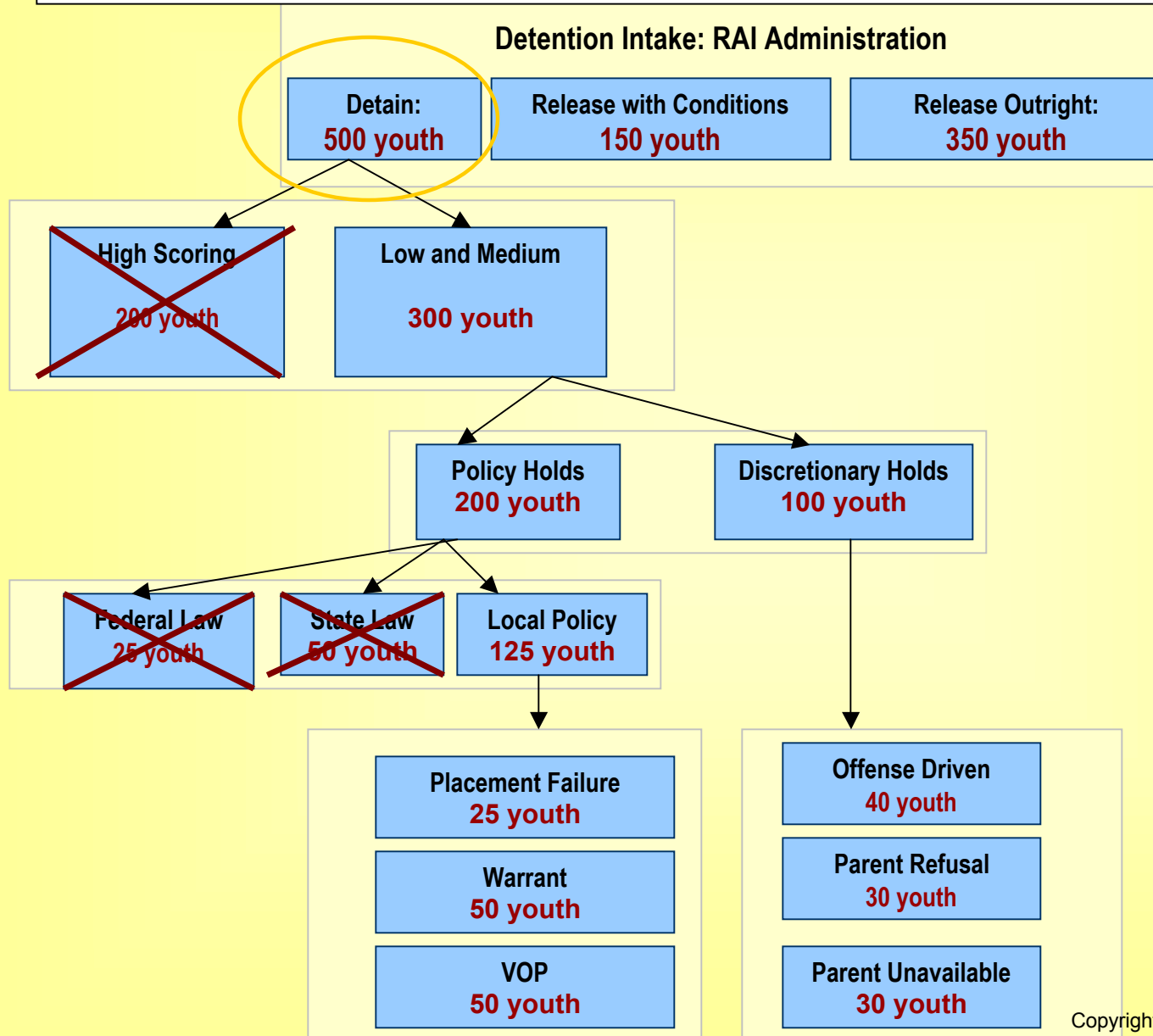
**Admissions to Detention by Top 10 Offenses & Race-Ethnicity
2nd Quarter 2007**



Offenses
identified to dig
deeper into and
to track.

Digging Deeper: Structural System Based Decisions

Discretionary vs. Non-discretionary Holds



Establishing an Institutional Response

You've got data...

You know where disparities exist...

You know where policy / practice change could impact the numbers...

Now What?



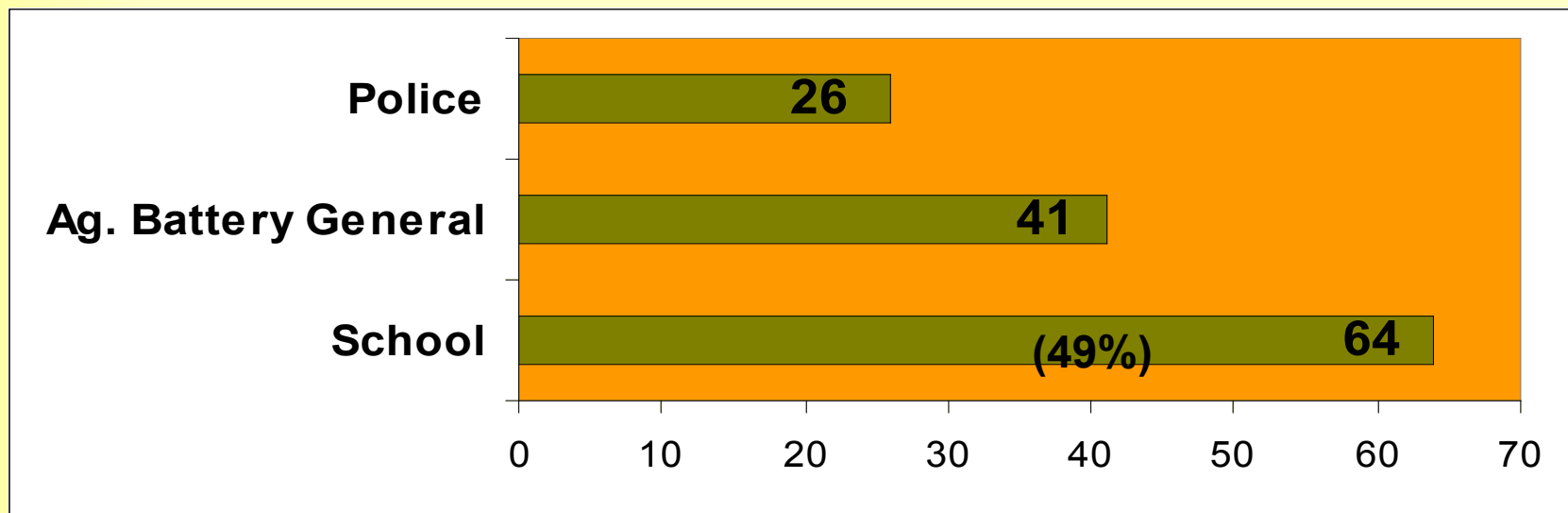
Does Your Jurisdiction Have What It Takes To Change Policies/Practices



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- Political Will
 - Champion with Authority/Courage
 - Skills to Manage Unnatural Change
- Talented Staff
 - De-centralize Decision Making
 - Transparency and Accountability
- Intentionality
 - Marathon Not Sprint
 - Not a “Project” but a Way of Doing Business

Youth Released Within 40 Hours Aggravated Battery Charge



78% A/A Boys



*Source – 2004 Peoria County JDC YTD
Report 11/04

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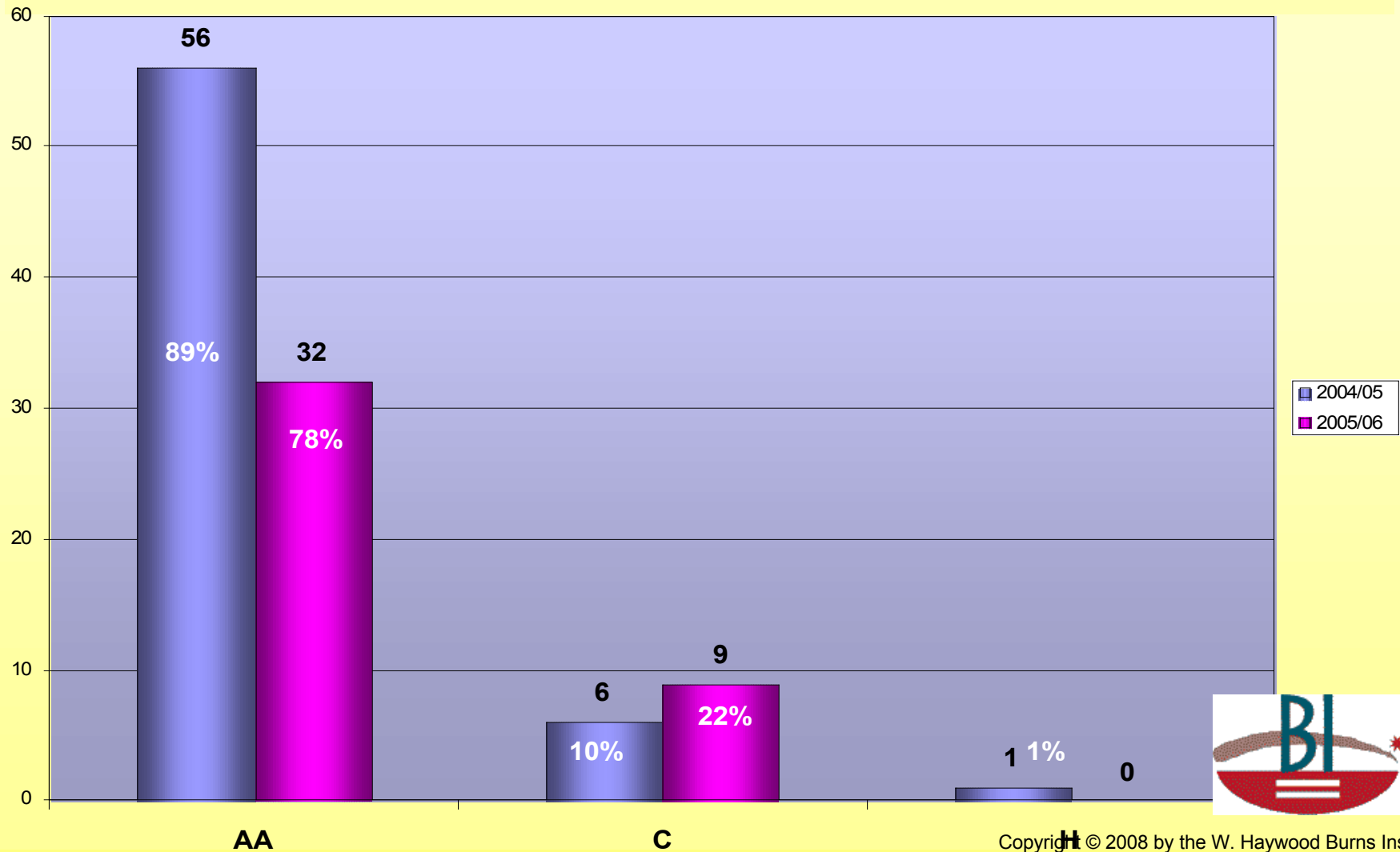
SOLUTION

Alternative Discipline Options for Schools

BARJ



Significant Reduction

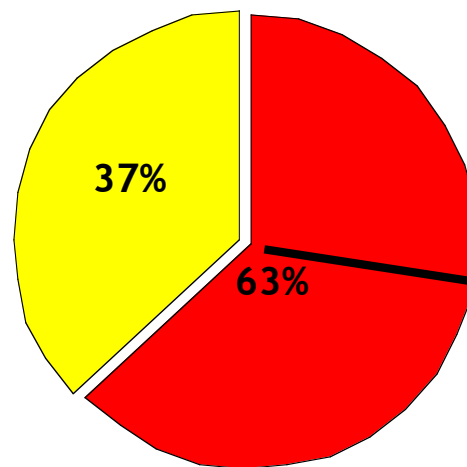


Digging Deeper: "Easy Wins"

Baltimore County Court Notification



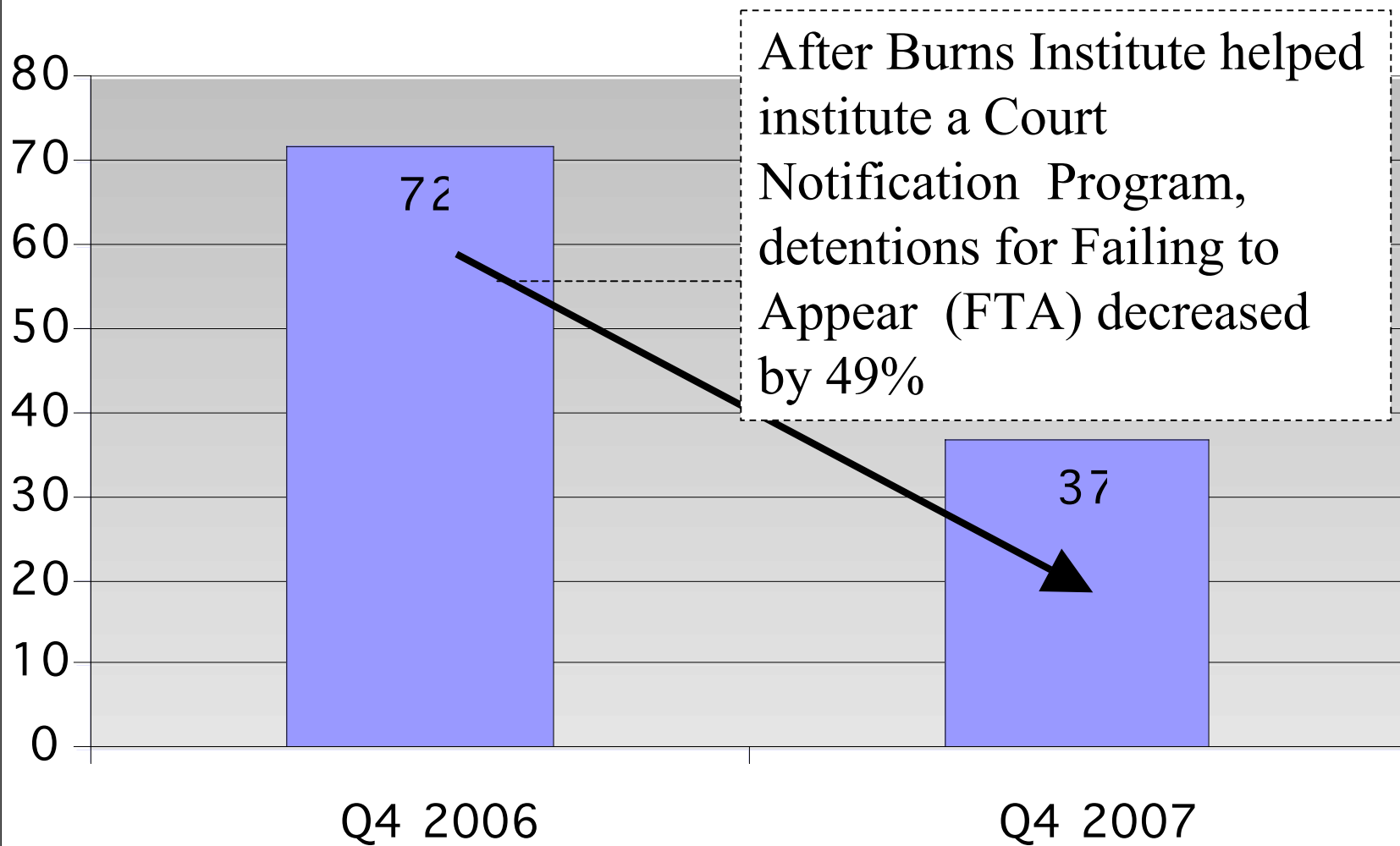
Category of Charge Associated with Baltimore County Secure Detention



And 45% of the "No New Charges" were Writs for Failures to Appear in Court.

■ No New Charge ■ New Charge

Baltimore County: FTA Deter





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