

# 2016 State Roundtable Report



## Transitional Youth Workgroup



### Chairperson

Honorable Michael Sholley  
*Court of Common Pleas  
of Union/Snyder Counties*

Keith Hayes, Executive Director  
Chester County Department of  
Children, Youth & Families

# Transitional Youth Workgroup

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*Judge*

Court of Common Pleas of Union/Snyder Counties

**Keith Hayes**

*Executive Director*

Chester County Department of  
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# Background

## 2011 Pennsylvania State Roundtable

In May 2011, the Pennsylvania State Roundtable (SRT) identified the unique needs and challenges of older youth ages 16 to 21, as a priority, and convened the Transitional Youth Workgroup (TYWG). The initial SRT charge for the TYWG was broad:

- Examine issues facing older youth in the Pennsylvania foster care system, with emphasis on the unique needs of youth transitioning to adult life.

To accomplish this charge, the TYWG established the following goals for its initial work:

- Assess recent federal and Pennsylvania laws that have the potential of positively impacting outcomes for older foster care youth;
- Examine issues specific to Independent Living Services and Voluntary Discharge;
- Gather information regarding system issues facing Pennsylvania's transitional youth; and
- Identify best practices and encourage the development of appropriate resources that would help youth successfully transition to adulthood.

The foundational message of TYWG emphasized that every youth, who must “age out” of the child dependency system, should have sufficient supports and resources to make a successful transition into adulthood. Furthermore, that any youth leaving the child dependency system without the necessary supports and resources is a failure of the system, not the youth.

## 2012 Pennsylvania State Roundtable

At the 2012 State Roundtable, the Workgroup made a recommendation to extend eligibility for re-entry into foster care of youth up to age 21. However, it was announced at the State Roundtable meeting, that re-entry legislative measure (Act 91) was near approval. Act 91 became law on July 5, 2012. The Workgroup immediately began to focus on resumption of jurisdiction, to allow older youth age 18 and older to re-enter the Child Dependency System.

The first task assumed by the Workgroup was to identify the issues that courts and county agencies would likely face under Act 91. The Workgroup then utilized grant funding from Casey Family Programs to develop, design, print and distribute posters and flyers aimed at informing transitional youth of the new option available to them under Act 91. Next, the Honorable Charles Saylor drafted a proposed Benchbook chapter regarding transitional youth. This proposed chapter was later submitted to the Benchbook Committee for consideration as they revised the Pennsylvania Dependency Benchbook.

In addition, the Workgroup was asked to examine the use of congregate care “right-sizing” and strategies needed to shift Pennsylvania’s practice. The Workgroup concluded that a comprehensive analysis of current congregate care practice was needed, which would require:

- Thoughtful analysis of beliefs related to permanency for older youth and our high reliance on Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) as a permanency goal;
- An accessible and relevant support system for resource families;
- Expanded use of supervised independent living settings; and a
- Renewed focus on securing permanent families and connections for older youth.

**The following recommendations were approved:**

- 1. Gather data regarding the specific experience of older foster care youth and youth transitioning out of the Pennsylvania dependency system through survey and/or focus groups and further examine data related to Pennsylvania youth who transition from foster care to adulthood.**
- 2. Work with the Office of Children, Youth and Families staff to gather information regarding the outcomes of Independent Living services.**
- 3. Continue to examine national and state best practices related to transitioning youth, with a goal of incorporating key areas of inquiry into the Pennsylvania Dependency Benchbook and to submit recommendations to the Juvenile Court Rules Committee for the addition of comments to the Juvenile Procedural Rules.**
- 4. Work with the Office of Children, Youth and Families staff to make recommendations for the revision of the IL Bulletin (3130-11-04) to broaden the trial discharge timeframes to provide a stronger safety net for youth, greater court oversight and to distribute draft forms/orders in an effort to assist counties that choose to implement the Voluntary Trial Discharge process.**
- 5. Work with the Office of Children, Youth and Families staff and other key stakeholders to develop proposed legislative changes to the Juvenile Act so that trial discharge provisions may be effectively implemented uniformly on a statewide level and to allow Pennsylvania to receive federal funding if youth reenter the custody of the child welfare agency.**
- 6. Work with the Office of Children, Youth and Families and other key stakeholders to ascertain the need and propriety in Pennsylvania for expansion of eligibility for re-entry of youths up to age 21 utilizing the optional federal Fostering Connections legislation criteria.**

## **2013 Pennsylvania State Roundtable**

At the May 2013 State Roundtable, the Workgroup assumed lead efforts related to congregate care, including recommendations from the Educational Success and Truancy Prevention Workgroup, the Visitation Workgroup and the Father Engagement Workgroup.

Based on the previous work of the Workgroup and the recommendations noted above, several recommendations were made. The Workgroup recommended further analysis of the complex issue of “right-sizing” congregate care.

Next, the Workgroup emphasized that the use of APPLA should only be used when all other permanency goals have been thoroughly exhausted. The Workgroup further recommended that when the goal of APPLA has been given, that continued consideration should be given to the other permanency goals. In addition, the Workgroup believes that further efforts need made in Pennsylvania to develop strategies aimed at “normalizing” older youth’s experience in care. As such, they began to look at strategies to “normalize” the foster care experience for older youth. Specifically, the Workgroup particularly supported a law in Florida titled “Quality Parenting for Children in Foster Care Act,” which gives caregivers the reasonable and prudent parent standards to make decisions about age appropriate freedoms for youth in their care. Finally, the Workgroup recommended that the voice of older youth be more present in the work of the State Roundtable and encouraged other workgroups to invite older youth to sit on as members, Judges and Administrators to include older youth on their Local Children’s Roundtable and Judges and Hearing Officers to encourage their voice more often in court proceedings.

**The following recommendations were approved:**

- 1. Assume lead on efforts related to congregate care, including congregate care recommendations from other State Roundtable Workgroups.**
- 2. Continue to examine best practices related to the use of APPLA and provide recommendations to the 2014 State Roundtable.**
- 3. Develop an Act 91 Guide to assists professionals (agency, court, provider and community) working with these youth and promote best practices associated with this assistance and submit to 2014 State Roundtable.**
- 4. Develop strategies that will enhance the voice of youth and families in all phases of child welfare involvement, including but not limited to all levels of decision making, case planning, policy development/revision, and practice reform. Present a set of proposed strategies to the 2014 State Roundtable.**

## **2014 Pennsylvania State Roundtable**

The focus for the 2014 State Roundtable presentation was on the use of congregate care . Promising data released through the State of “Child Welfare 2015” showed a slow but steady reduction in congregate care usage. While this was promising, it still did not answer the question as to why some youth with the similar issues were not being recommended for a congregate care level of care. Further analysis was given to AFCARS data, which showed the primary reasons for a congregate care recommendation, included “child’s behavior problem” at 64%, “parental drug abuse” was the second highest reason given at 31%. The Workgroup concluded that more analysis was needed to fully understand the issue.

**The following recommendations were approved:**

- 1. Continue exploring potential strategies for “right-sizing” congregate care;**
- 2. Continue examining best practice on Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA);**
- 3. Explore the development of a youth video, using youth voice, regarding resumption of jurisdiction, services available and the benefits of staying in care after age 18;**
- 4. Identify strategies that normalize the foster care experience and allow children and youth to be granted age appropriate freedoms and present to the 2015 State Roundtable; and**
- 5. Identify specific strategies aimed at enhancing the voice of youth in the legal process.**

## **2015 Pennsylvania State Roundtable**

At the State Roundtable in May 2015, the Workgroup continued to emphasize the need to further analyze the use of congregate care. Despite AFCARS data showing a slight decrease in congregate care usage, the Workgroup recommended a closer look at youth currently in congregate care. To accomplish this, the Workgroup recommended an in-depth congregate care analysis of selected counties. In response to HR 4980, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services’ Office of Children, Youth and Families (DHS/OCYF) convened a workgroup with very broad representation to develop a HR 4980 implementation plan. Several Workgroup members participated, but the Workgroup did not duplicate work being done in the DHS/OCYF convened group?

The Workgroup also partnered with the Juvenile Law Center to create a video, using older youth, on resumption of jurisdiction. Through this collaboration two videos were created:

- Act 91 Extension of Care Video
- Act 91 Resumption of Jurisdiction Video

At the 2015 Children's Summit, the Workgroup presented a panel presentation, moderated by the Honorable Michael Sholley, Co-Chair to the Transitional Youth Workgroup. Panel members included three former foster care youth, a transitional living aftercare caseworker, a resource parent and an agency solicitor. Panel members discussed the connection between well-being and normalizing the foster care experience.

Finally, the Workgroup recommended that something be developed to help youth better understand the court process, including the role of their attorney.

**The following recommendations were approved:**

- 1. Implementation of an in-depth analysis process for 5-7 volunteer counties congregate care youth cases;**
- 2. Finalization and implementation of a youth court survey to identify potential strengths/concerns regarding youth involvement in the court process and possible solutions to identified concerns;**
- 3. Creation of a Youth Court Information Guide/Brochure for review and consideration by the 2016 SRT;**
- 4. Finalization of the draft APPLA tool, "Key Questions/Decisions when Establishing Permanency Goals for Older Youth and when a Request is Made to Change the Goal to APPLA," which will incorporate new provisions of HR 4980 with presentation to 2016 SRT;**
- 5. Distribution of the youth experience video used at the 2015 Children's Summit with accompanying discussion guide (to be developed)**
- 6. Development of strategies aimed at assisting judicial officers, attorneys, caseworkers and others identify situations in which foster youth are denied the opportunity to engage in age appropriate activities, understand the impact this has on normal development and eliminate barriers to those opportunities and maximize the provisions of HR 4980.**
- 7. Develop provider contract language, specific to normalcy and prudent parenting standard, to assist counties in ensuring older youth are afforded age and developmentally appropriate activities.**

## **Progress and Update on approved 2015 State Roundtable Recommendations**

Over the past year, the Transitional Youth Workgroup accomplished all seven recommendations approved by the 2015 State Roundtable. Despite challenges along the way, the Workgroup pushed to get work completed both in-person and outside of Workgroup meetings. Upon the completion of certain recommendations, the Workgroup concluded that additional time will be needed for further analysis, which is explained in more detail within the applicable sections below. Finally, this report provides additional resources and information to assist Older Youth served by the Pennsylvania Child Dependency System.

## **1. Implementation of an in-depth analysis process for 5-7 volunteer counties' congregate care youth cases.**

As the Workgroup began planning for the congregate care analysis, the decision was made to complete more than the recommended 5-7 counties. The reason for this decision was that the Workgroup determined it would be beneficial to complete an analysis of one county from each Leadership Roundtable to provide a better statewide representation of congregate care use throughout the state. Following a statewide email requesting volunteer counties, selections were made. It should be noted that more counties expressed interest in participating than were able to be selected. Those selected counties and dates reviewed include:

- Bucks County                      March 18, 2016
- Butler County                      February 26, 2016
- Chester County                      February 19, 2016
- Fayette County                      February 12, 2016
- Greene County                      March 17, 2016
- Northampton County              April 7, 2015
- Northumberland County        March 24, 2016
- Union County                      March 31, 2016
- Westmoreland County              December 4, 2015

The Workgroup spent the first few months developing two separate tools used during the congregate care analysis. The first tool was completed by the county contact. This tool included county specific questions, such as “does the county have enough foster homes to meet the needs of older youth.” The second tool was the youth specific tool, which was completed by each reviewer for each youth reviewed. This tool was extensive, containing 83 questions, specific to the youth’s case activity prior to and during congregate care. Questions specific to mental health, drug and alcohol, behaviors, services, family engagement, visitation and the congregate care facility’s efforts were used to examine the two focus questions for the analysis:

- 1. Why are older youth recommended for congregate care?**
- 2. Why do older youth remain in congregate care?**

Once the tools were completed, counties were scheduled for their analysis. It was important to the Workgroup that each review team consisted of a cross-system representation. As such, the review team for each of the 9 counties included members from the following offices:

- Office of Children and Families in the Courts
- Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families
- Department of Human Services Mental Health

- Transitional Youth Workgroup
- County member(s) from each respective county

In all, there were 87 older youth cases reviewed. Counties were not given specific ages, but rather were asked for all cases where congregate care was the chosen placement setting. The majority of the cases involved older youth 14+, with the heavy majority being 16+. There were also three 12 year olds, two 11 year olds and two 4 year olds in congregate care. While the Workgroup is asking for additional time to partner with a professional entity capable of compiling the qualitative data noted throughout the analysis into quantitative data, some quantitative data showed the following:

- The majority (95%) of youth reviewed had a mental health challenge, with 70% of those reviewed being on psychotropic medication.
- Drug and Alcohol issues pertained to 37% of the youth reviewed.
- Reunification was the goal in 77% of the cases reviewed.
- 86% of the youth reviewed were not receiving court supervision before removal.
- Removal initiated court supervision in 87% of the youth reviewed.
- Prior to removal family finding was done 40% of the time for maternal family and 30% of the time paternal family.
- Maternal family is considered as a placement resource more often (42%) than paternal family (19%).
- When family finding was completed, the outcome was provided to the court 62% of the time.
- 74% of the youth were exhibiting problems in school prior to their removal.
- 63% of youth were receiving 90 day reviews during their congregate care stay.
- Visitation between the youth, a parent or supportive adult relative/kin was mostly “inconsistent” or “never, especially with fathers.”
- A combined 50% (evenly split 25% and 25%) showed transportation and distance to the congregate care facility as being a barrier to visitation, while 32% said there were no barriers.
- 64% of the youth were on a “level system,” with requirements to move to the next level consisting of basic behavioral tasks (respect, good behavior, follow rules), rather than therapeutic requirements.
- 63% of youth were attending school on congregate care grounds.
- 77% of youth over the age of 14 were receiving Independent Living Skills.
- Additional relative and kinship supports are severely limited for these youth.

So far, through the qualitative data that we currently have, we can draw the following preliminary conclusions to the two questions driving this analysis:

*Why are older youth being recommended for congregate care?*

- The majority of youth, in congregate care, has mental health challenges and is receiving psychotropic medication.

- The majority of youth in congregate care were exhibiting problems in school prior to removal.
- The majority of youth were not receiving court supervision prior to removal.
- Father and paternal family were involved less than mother and maternal family.
- There was minimal family finding done prior to removal.
- Drug and alcohol issues were only a factor in 37% of the youth reviewed.

*Why do older youth remain in congregate care?*

- Most of the youth reviewed (64%) were on a level system that required more general behavioral requirements to advance than it did therapeutic accomplishments.
- Parents, extended family and kin visitation, during the youths congregate care stay, was mostly inconsistent or never.
- 90 day reviews occurred in 63% of cases.

There is still much to learn from further analysis of the qualitative data. The Workgroup will be partnering with a professional entity to better compile the qualitative data into a report that will assist in gaining more clarity on why congregate care is recommended for older youth and why older youth remain in congregate care. Cumulative data from the youth tool can be found in *APPENDIX I: Congregate Care Analysis Tool – Youth Specific*. In addition, a complete survey form with all questions can be found on the link to the 2016 State Roundtable Workgroup Report link

**2. Finalization and implementation of youth court survey to identify potential strengths/concerns regarding youth involvement in the court process and possible solutions to identified concerns.**

A youth court survey was finalized and administered to older youth across the state. As of April 15, 2016, 433 older youth had completed the survey. It is important to the Workgroup that older youth in all counties have the opportunity to participate in the survey, which may require further outreach to counties who have not yet participated. In addition, several questions solicited qualitative data, which will need further analysis to determine how it can be most useful in systemic reform for older youth.

The Workgroup was pleasantly surprised by the youth’s responses to the survey and felt that overall, the data that current responses show older youth being happy with their attorney, participating in court hearings and having their voice heard in the proceedings. Highlights from the survey include the following data:

- Participants were 57% female and 43% male
- 75% of counties have participated at various levels of participation
- 78% participate in the age appropriate activities they enjoy
- 76% always attend court (7% state they never attend)
- 81% want to attend court hearings
- 74% understood what took place during the hearings (2% never understood)

- 56% stated their overall feelings about court are “worried”
- 85% had an attorney (9% said they did not have an attorney and 6% didn’t know)
- 76% have their attorney’s contact information
- 75% know their Judge or Hearing Officer’s name
- 73% stated that their attorney knows their name
- 86% said they have never asked for a hearing to be scheduled earlier, but when they did ask, 76% said that they got an earlier hearing
- 59% said that in the future, they would like to speak directly to the Judge or Hearing Officer in court

A blank **Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey** can be found at the end of this report under *APPENDIX II*. In addition, a detailed **Youth Court Summary Report** can be found under *APPENDIX III*.

### **3. Creation of a Youth Court Information Guide/Brochure for review and consideration by the 2016 SRT.**

The Workgroup developed, in collaboration with older youth and the State Roundtable’s Legal Representation Workgroup, a Youth Court Brochure. Upon completion of its development, members of the Workgroup, who work directly with older youth, tested the brochure for its clarity and usefulness. It was determined that no additional edits were needed. Contents of the brochure include the following:

- **How can my attorney help me?**
- **How does an attorney decide what is in my “best interest?”**
- **Is what I tell my attorney confidential?**
- **How often should my attorney contact me?**
- **Are there special issues that I should talk to my attorney about as an older youth?**
- **Tips for working with your attorney**
- **What can I do if I do not think my attorney is doing their job or I cannot get in touch with them?**
- **Important contact information**

A copy of the Youth Court Brochure can be found at the end of this report under *APPENDIX IV*.

### **4. Finalization of the draft APPLA tool, “Key Questions/Decisions when establishing Permanency Goals for Older Youth and when a request is made to change the goal to APPLA,” which will incorporate new provisions of HR 4980 with presentation to the 2016 SRT.**

The Workgroup had initially tabled this recommendation awaiting Pennsylvania’s response and new provisions of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. This law prohibits the use of APPLA for youth under age 16 and increases the scrutiny applied to assign the goal of APPLA. Pennsylvania enacted Act 94 of 2015 and court rules to

implement this federal law. The Workgroup revisited the draft document from last year and decided that it would be most useful to Judges and Hearing Officers/Masters, if specific questions were highlighted in a tool (front and back) that can be found at the end of this report under **APPENDIX V: APPLA Permanency Tool Charts**. One side of this tool titled, **“Questions to Determine An Appropriate Permanency Goal,”** provides recommended questions for Judges and Hearing Officers to consider when determining the most appropriate permanency goal for the youth before them. To supplement this chart, the Workgroup included an additional chart on the other side of this tool titled **“Permanency Goal Considerations,”** which provides recommended services (i.e. child preparation, Family Group Decision Making, Family Finding, etc.) that can be used to assist in deciding the most appropriate permanency goal.

**5. Distribution of the youth experience video used at the 2015 Children’s Summit with accompanying discussion guide (to be developed).**

In January 2016, a set of three videos was created that included a discussion guide developed by the Transitional Youth Workgroup Co-Chairs, Honorable Michael Sholley and Keith Hayes, Administrator Chester County Children, Youth and Families. The videos contained within the set include:

- Seeking Normalcy: A Youth’s Perspective
- 2015 Children’s Summit Panel Presentation
- Establishing Normalcy for Youth in Foster Care

A copy of the **Transitional Youth Video Discussion Guide Questions** can be found at the end of this report under **APPENDIX VI**. Copies of the set were provided to judges and child welfare administrators that attended the 2016 Spring Leadership Roundtables with copies being mailed to those judges and administrators unable to attend. The videos have also been posted on the OCFC website.

**6. Development of strategies aimed at assisting judicial officers, attorneys, caseworkers and others identify situations in which foster youth are denied the opportunity to engage in age appropriate activities, understand the impact this has on normal development and eliminate barriers to those opportunities and maximize the provisions of HR 4980.**

Efforts have been made to educate and emphasize the importance of normalcy over the past year. On September 9, 2015, Judge Sholley presented at the Hearing Officer Education Session on **“Serving Older Youth.”** Judge Sholley highlighted key areas of the Normalcy and Prudent Parenting Standard from the Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, emphasizing the need for older youth, in the child dependency system, to be afforded the same age and developmentally appropriate opportunities as older youth not in the system. Participation evaluations gave the “Serving Older Youth” section of the training a very positive 4.8 out of 5.0 rating.

In addition, Workgroup members believe that some of the charges yet to be completed in the coming year, will assist in exhausting this recommendation. Specifically, questions in the congregate care analysis asked about normal age and developmentally appropriate activities in congregate care settings. Once this data is further analyzed, we will be able to conclude additional strategies for youth in congregate care settings.

The distribution of the youth experience video set and accompanying discussion guide will assist professionals in better understanding both how to assess whether older youth are given the opportunity to engage in age appropriate activities and how to better understand its importance to an older youth.

The Workgroup also decided to add questions to the Older Youth Survey specific to normalcy. Questions included:

- What type of activities are you interested in?
- Do you currently participate in any of the activities you enjoy?
- If no, why do you not participate in the activities?
- What do you think you miss out on the most by being in placement?

As a reminder, 433 youth have completed the survey, which will remain open to gather further data from older youth across the state that may not have had the opportunity to complete the survey. Please refer to the youth survey section of this report for information regarding these questions. You may also reference back to APPENDIX III: Youth Court Survey Summary Report. The Workgroup will share additional data obtained over the next year with the 2017 State Roundtable.

**7. Develop provider contract language, specific to normalcy and prudent parenting standard, to assist counties in ensuring older youth are afforded age and developmentally appropriate activities. (added by 2015 SRT)**

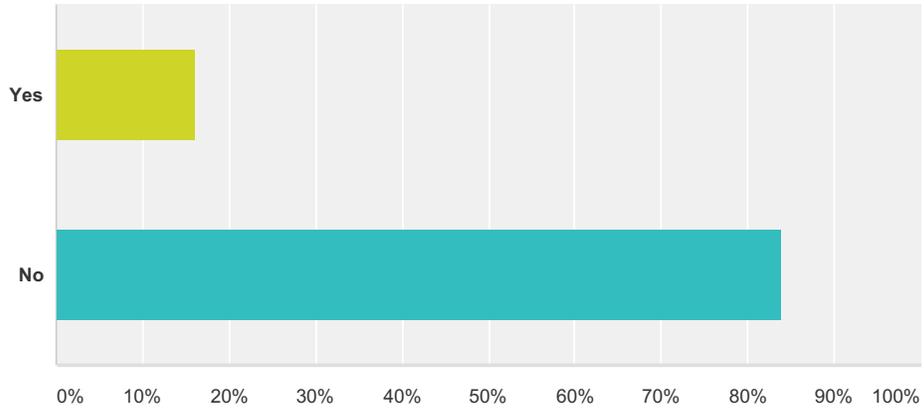
Judge Sholley and Hearing Officer Clay Cauley collaborated with other counties to examine language being used in development of contract language with providers, specific to normalcy and prudent parenting standards. After examining several county contracts, recommended language was finalized. Because multiple counties often contract with the same providers, having similar contract language was thought to provide a more uniformed and clear set of expectations. A copy of this recommended language can be found at the end of this report under **APPENDIX VII: Recommended Provider Contract Language.**

**The Transitional Youth Workgroup respectfully submits to the Pennsylvania State Roundtable the following recommendations:**

- 1. Approval and distribution of the Youth Court Brochure;**
- 2. Approval and distribution of the APPLA Permanency Tool Charts with a request to the Benchbook Committee for possible inclusion in the next Benchbook revision;**
- 3. Approval and distribution of recommended provider contract language to assist counties in enforcing normalcy and prudent parenting standards;**
- 4. Specific distribution of the Youth Court Survey summary report to Judges, Hearing Officers, Guardians ad Litem, Parent Attorneys, Legal Counsel for Youth and Solicitors during either an advanced education session, local Children’s Roundtable meeting or other means of sharing the report;**
- 5. Continue evaluating the data obtained during the congregate care analysis and provide findings and recommendations to the 2017 State Roundtable;**
- 6. Provide a recommendation to the 2017 Children’s Summit Planning Committee for the Workgroup to develop an educational presentation on understanding and responding to normal teenage behaviors;**
- 7. Development of a video, on understanding adolescent development and professionals reactions to normal teenage behaviors, to be presented at the 2017 State Roundtable; and**
- 8. Development of strategies to assist in identifying alternatives to a congregate care level of placement.**

**Q11 Does the youth have any physical challenges? COMPLETED BY COUNTY CONTACT**

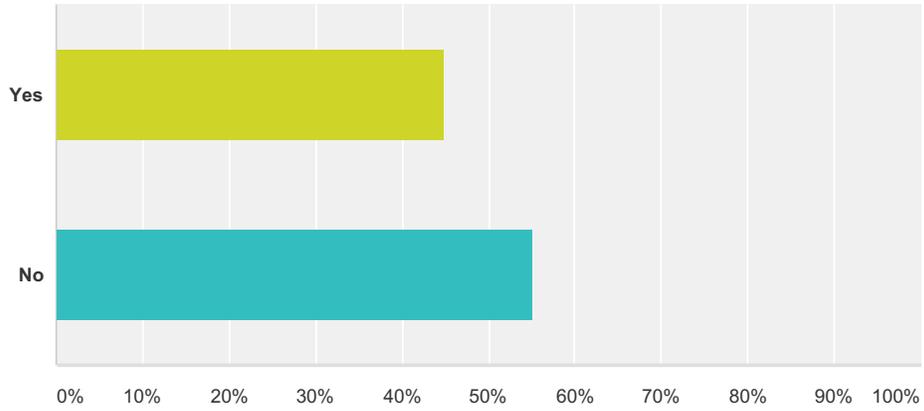
Answered: 87 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	16.09%	14
No	83.91%	73
<b>Total</b>		<b>87</b>

**Q12 Does the youth have any intellectual challenges? (COMPLETED BY COUNTY CONTACT)**

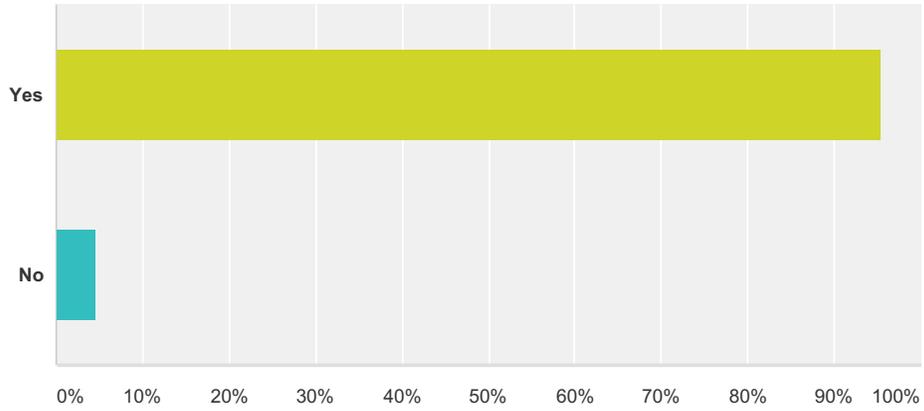
Answered: 87 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	44.83%	39
No	55.17%	48
<b>Total</b>		<b>87</b>

**Q13 Does the youth have any mental health challenges? (COMPLETED BY COUNTY CONTACT)**

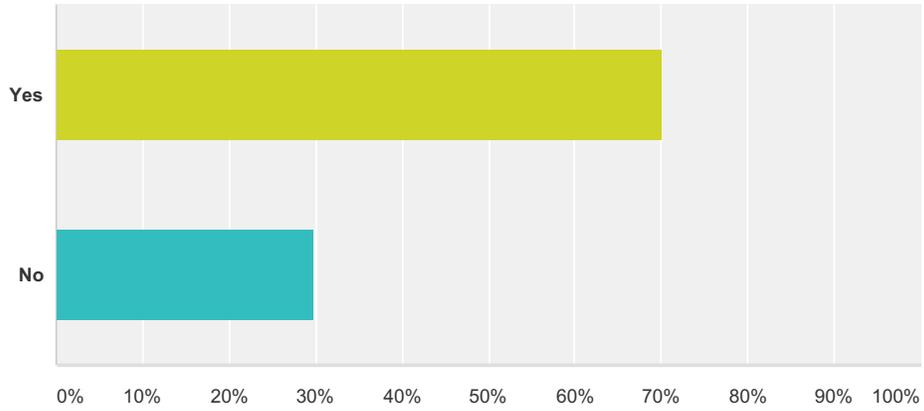
Answered: 87 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	95.40% 83
No	4.60% 4
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>

**Q14 Is this youth currently on any psychiatric Medication? (COMPLETED BY COUNTY CONTACT)**

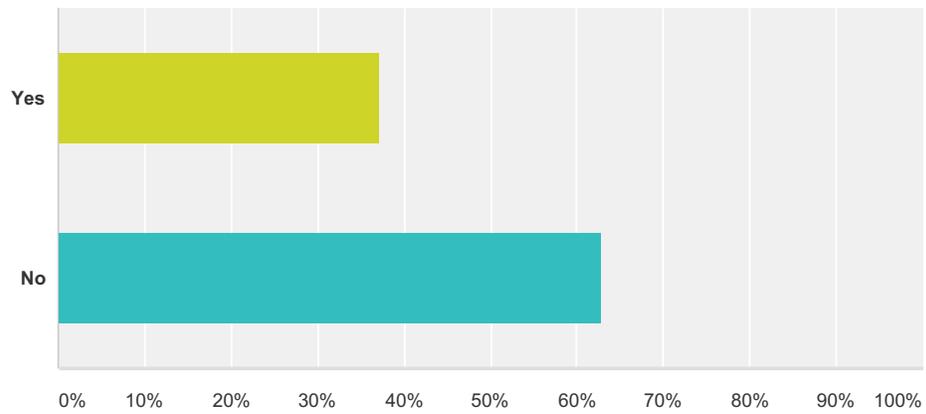
Answered: 87 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	70.11%	61
No	29.89%	26
<b>Total</b>		<b>87</b>

### Q15 Does the youth have drug and alcohol issues?

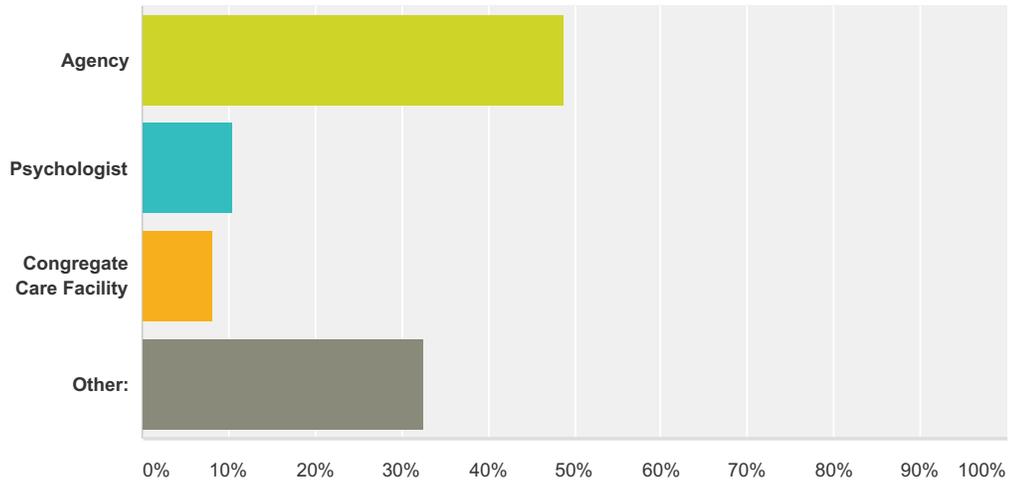
Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	37.21%	32
No	62.79%	54
<b>Total</b>		<b>86</b>

### Q27 Who recommended continued congregare care placement?

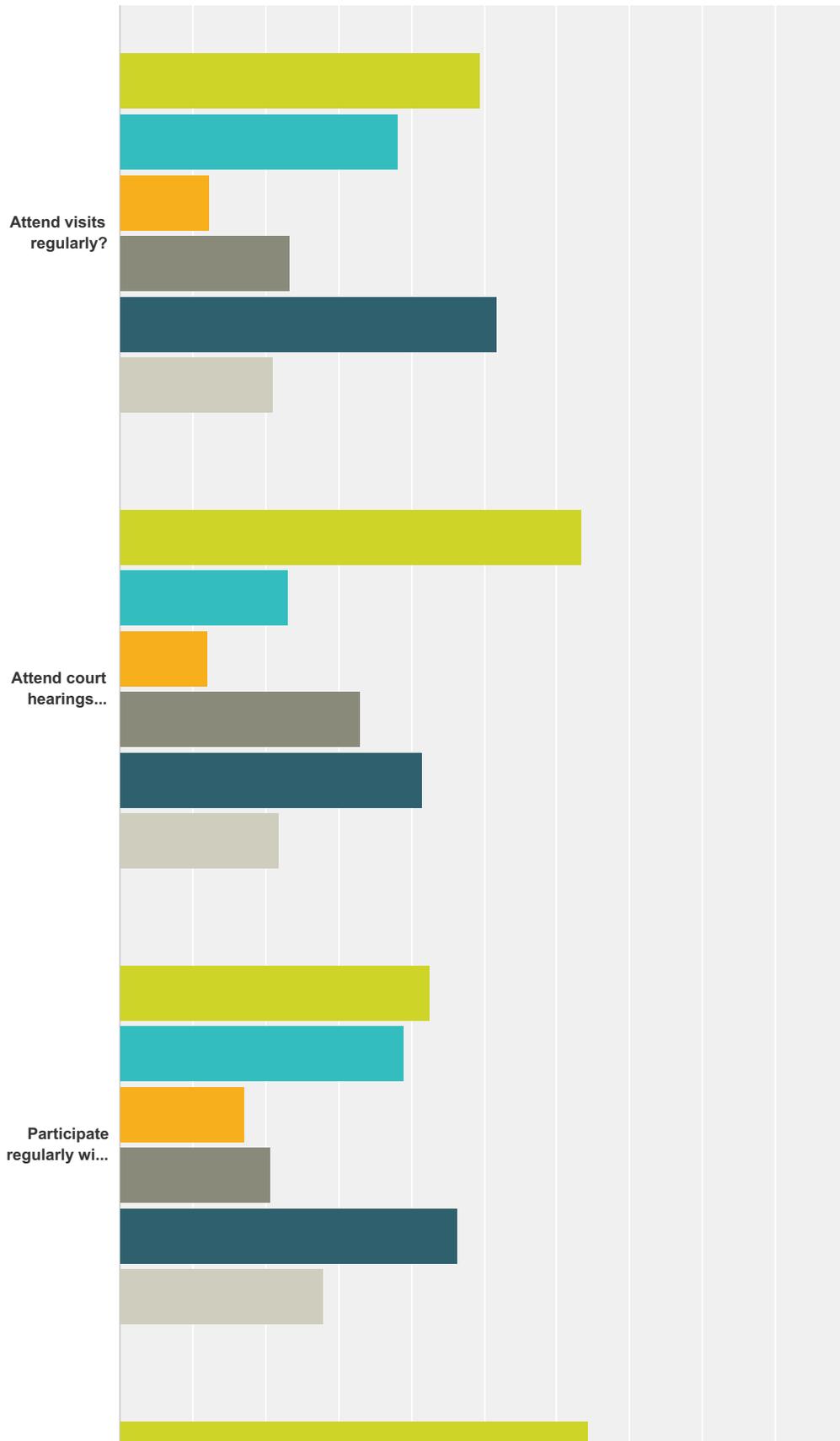
Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



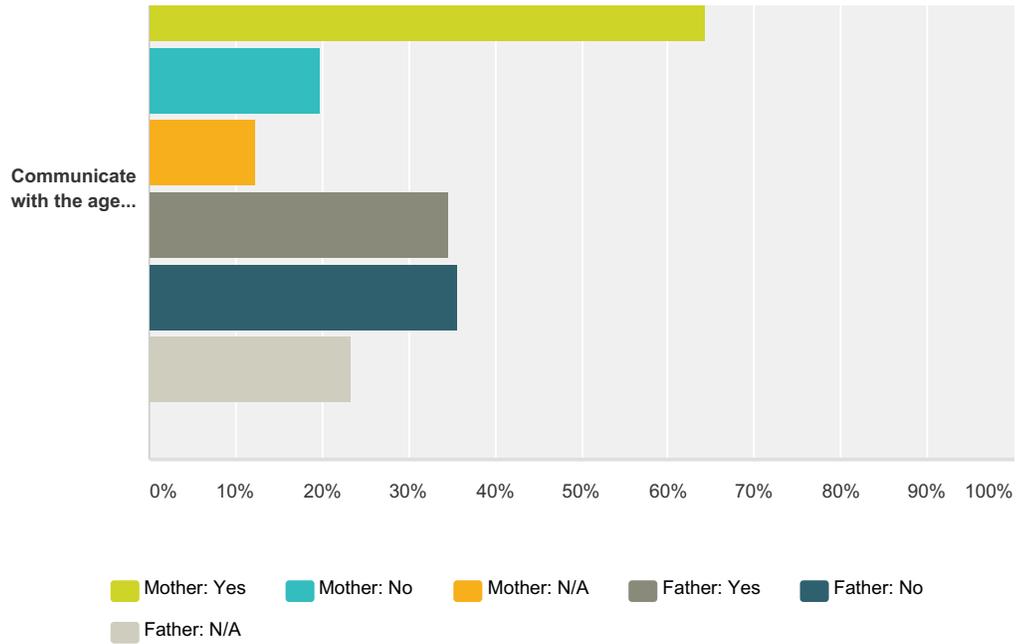
Answer Choices	Responses
Agency	48.84% 42
Psychologist	10.47% 9
Congregate Care Facility	8.14% 7
Other:	32.56% 28
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>

### Q28 Do the Mother and Father:

Answered: 82 Skipped: 5



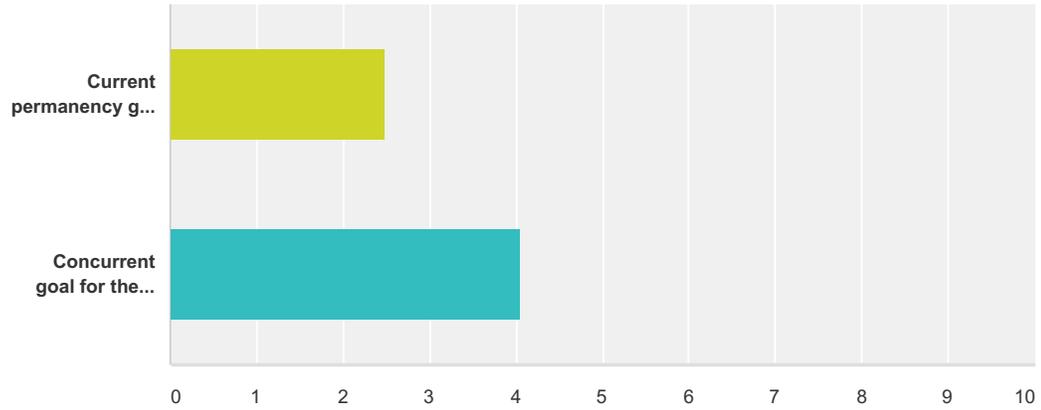
### Congregate Care Analysis Tool - Youth Specific



	Mother: Yes	Mother: No	Mother: N/A	Father: Yes	Father: No	Father: N/A	Total Respondents
Attend visits regularly?	49.38% 40	38.27% 31	12.35% 10	23.46% 19	51.85% 42	20.99% 17	81
Attend court hearings regularly?	63.41% 52	23.17% 19	12.20% 10	32.93% 27	41.46% 34	21.95% 18	82
Participate regularly with recommended services	42.68% 35	39.02% 32	17.07% 14	20.73% 17	46.34% 38	28.05% 23	82
Communicate with the agency when necessary?	64.20% 52	19.75% 16	12.35% 10	34.57% 28	35.80% 29	23.46% 19	81

### Q29 What is the:

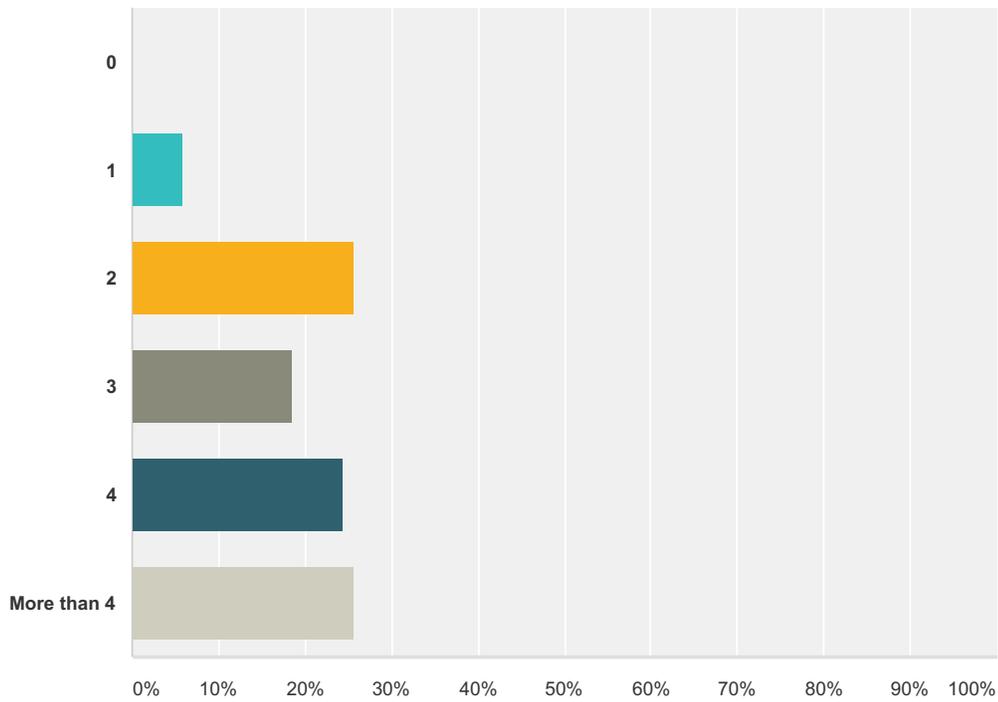
Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



	Not identified	Reunification	Adoption	SPLC	Fit and Willing Relative	APPLA	Total	Weighted Average
Current permanency goal for the youth?	1.16% 1	76.74% 66	10.47% 9	3.49% 3	0.00% 0	8.14% 7	86	2.49
Concurrent goal for the youth?	2.38% 2	3.57% 3	36.90% 31	26.19% 22	7.14% 6	23.81% 20	84	4.04

### Q31 Over the past year, how many court hearings have occurred for this youth?

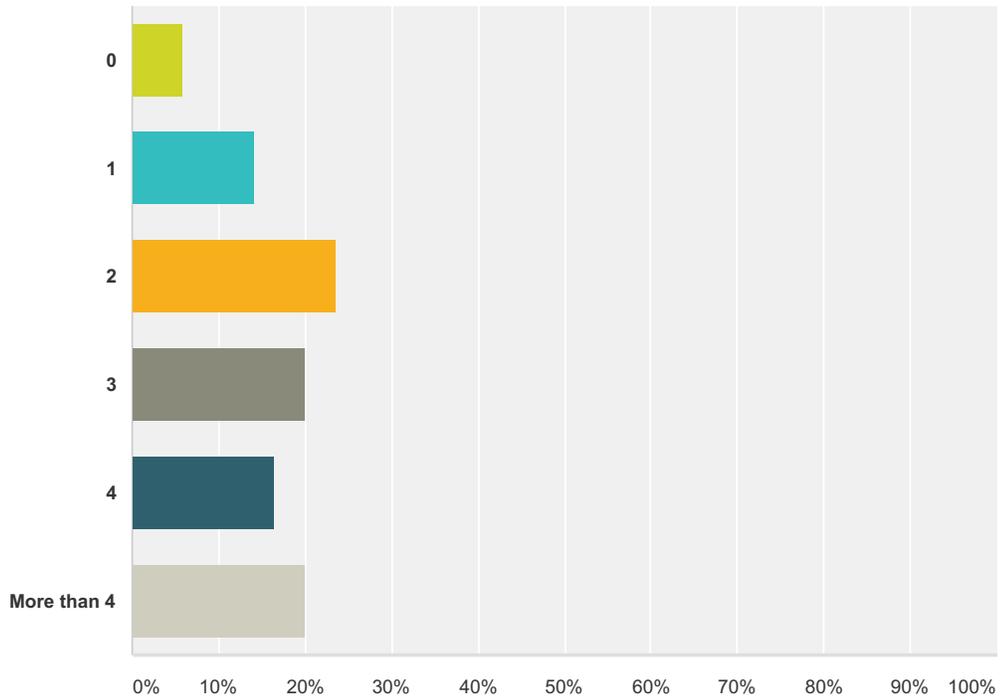
Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
0	0.00%	0
1	5.81%	5
2	25.58%	22
3	18.60%	16
4	24.42%	21
More than 4	25.58%	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>86</b>

### Q32 Over the past year, how many court hearings has the youth attended?

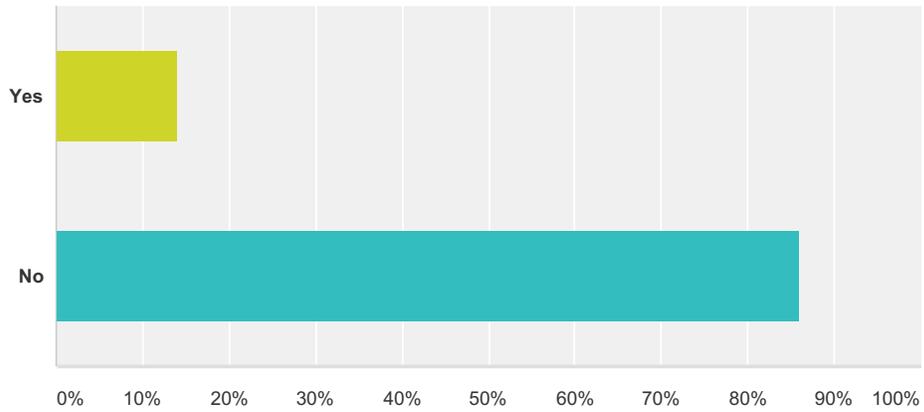
Answered: 85 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
0	5.88%	5
1	14.12%	12
2	23.53%	20
3	20.00%	17
4	16.47%	14
More than 4	20.00%	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>85</b>

### Q44 Was the youth receiving court supervision prior to their initial removal?

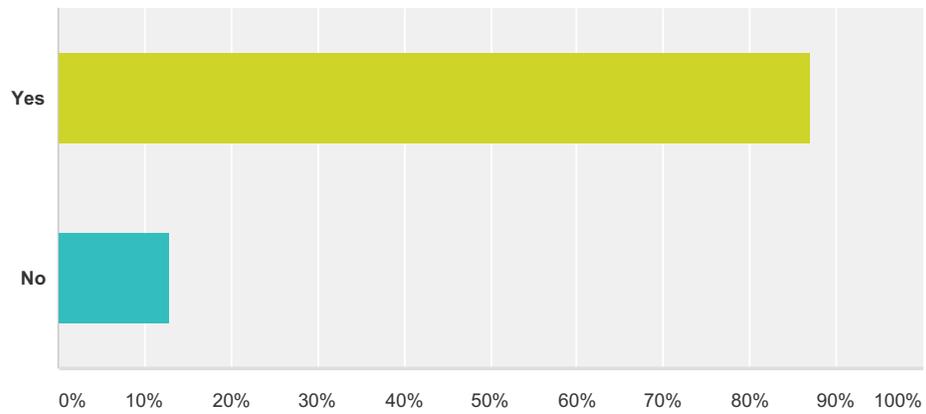
Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	13.95%	12
No	86.05%	74
<b>Total</b>		<b>86</b>

### Q45 Did the removal initiate court supervision?

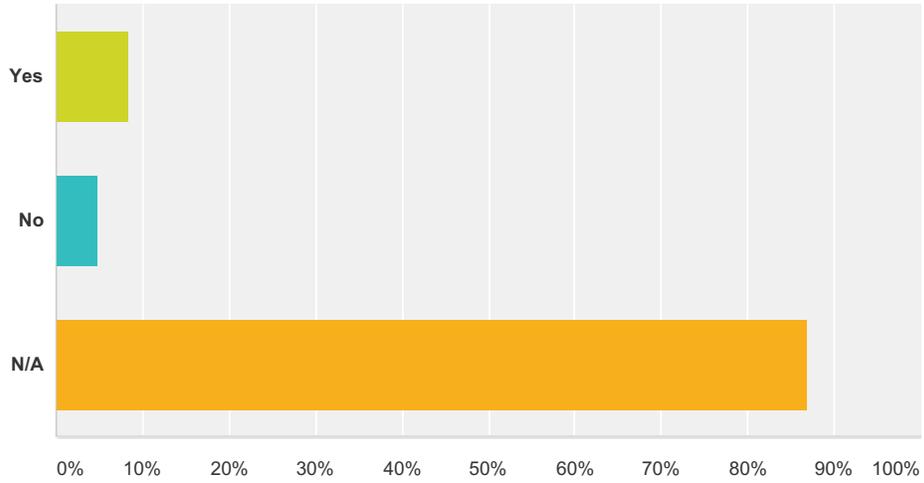
Answered: 85 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	87.06%	74
No	12.94%	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>85</b>

**Q46 If the youth was receiving court supervision prior to removal, was the child having court reviews at least every 6 months?**

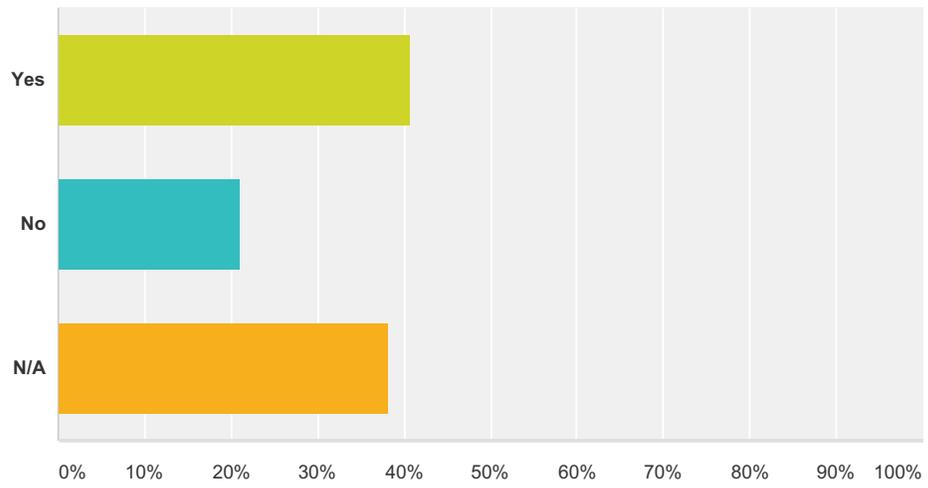
Answered: 83 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	8.43% 7
No	4.82% 4
N/A	86.75% 72
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>

### Q48 Was the youth able to receive all recommended services prior to removal?

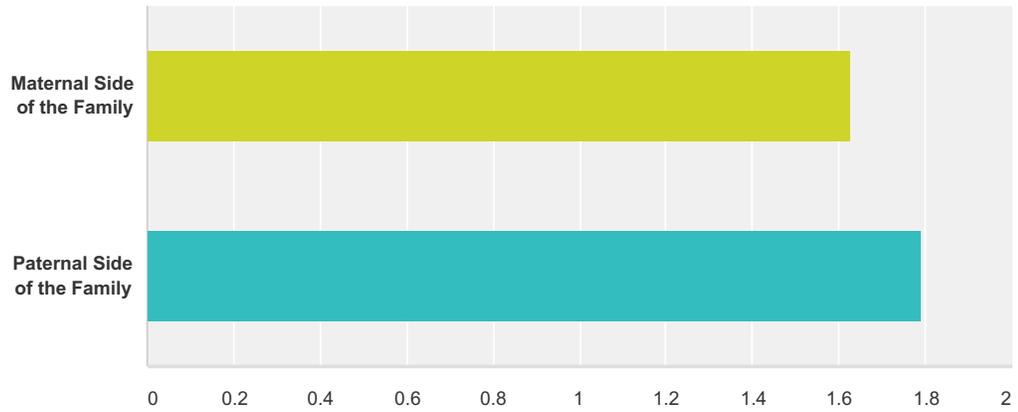
Answered: 81 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	40.74%	33
No	20.99%	17
N/A	38.27%	31
<b>Total</b>		<b>81</b>

### Q49 Was family finding done prior to removal for:

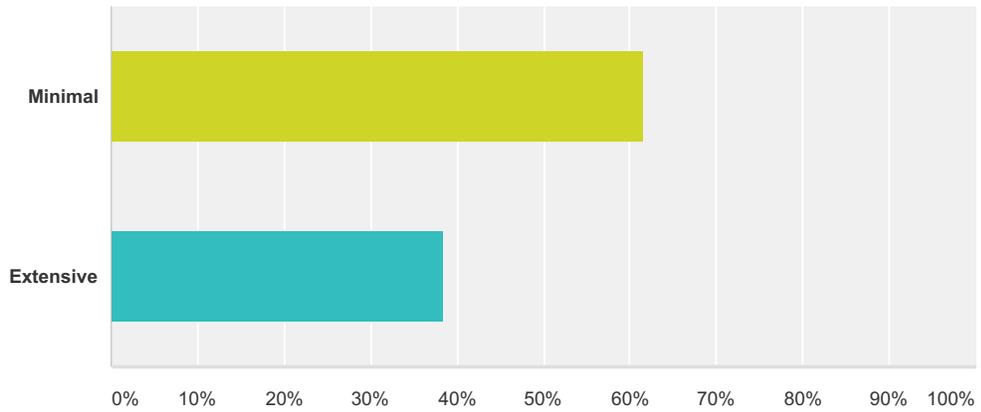
Answered: 84 Skipped: 3



	Yes	No	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Maternal Side of the Family	40.48% 34	55.95% 47	3.57% 3	84	1.63
Paternal Side of the Family	29.76% 25	61.90% 52	8.33% 7	84	1.79

### Q50 If done, was family finding:

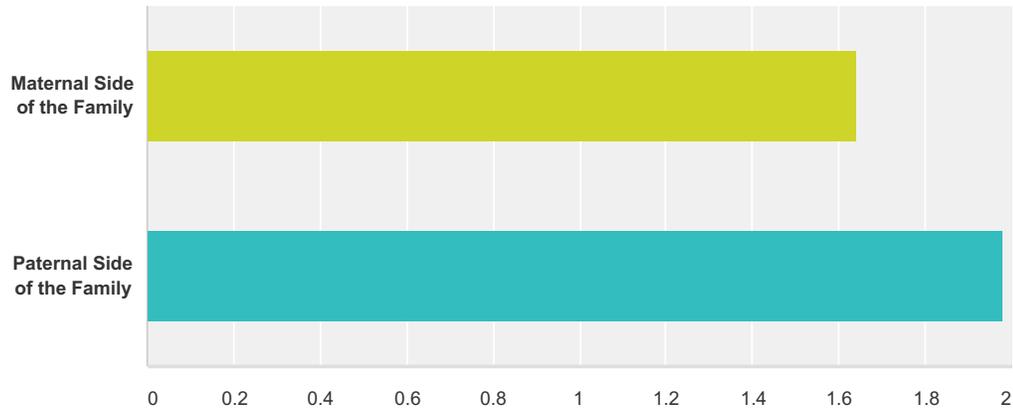
Answered: 39 Skipped: 48



Answer Choices	Responses
Minimal	61.54% 24
Extensive	38.46% 15
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

**Q51 Was extended family/kin considered as a placement resource at removal on:**

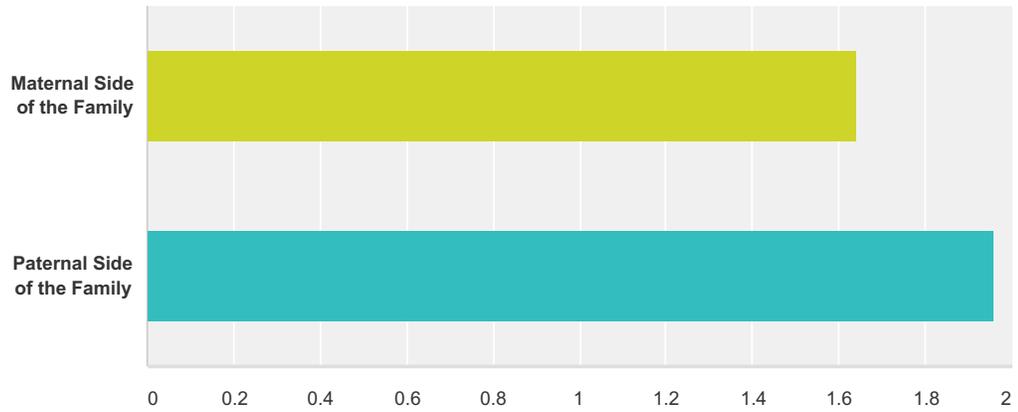
Answered: 84 Skipped: 3



	Yes	No	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Maternal Side of the Family	42.17% 35	51.81% 43	6.02% 5	83	1.64
Paternal Side of the Family	19.28% 16	63.86% 53	16.87% 14	83	1.98

**Q52 Was extended family/kin included in the case planning process on:**

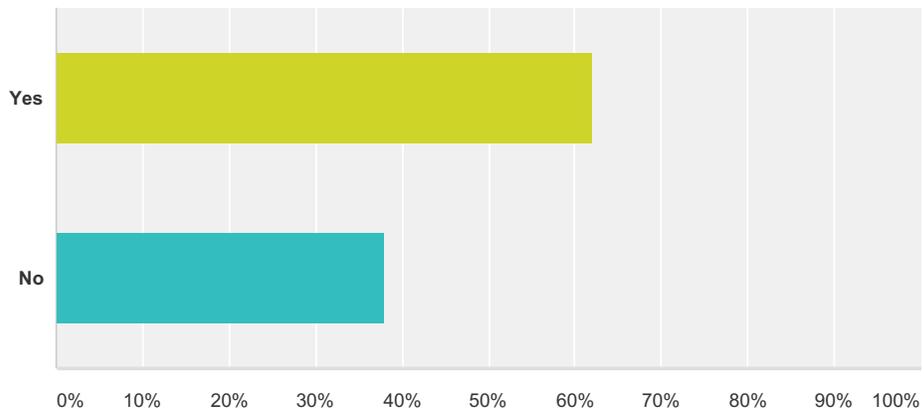
Answered: 85 Skipped: 2



	Yes	No	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Maternal Side of the Family	40.48% 34	54.76% 46	4.76% 4	84	1.64
Paternal Side of the Family	17.86% 15	67.86% 57	14.29% 12	84	1.96

### Q53 If done, family finding results were provided to the court

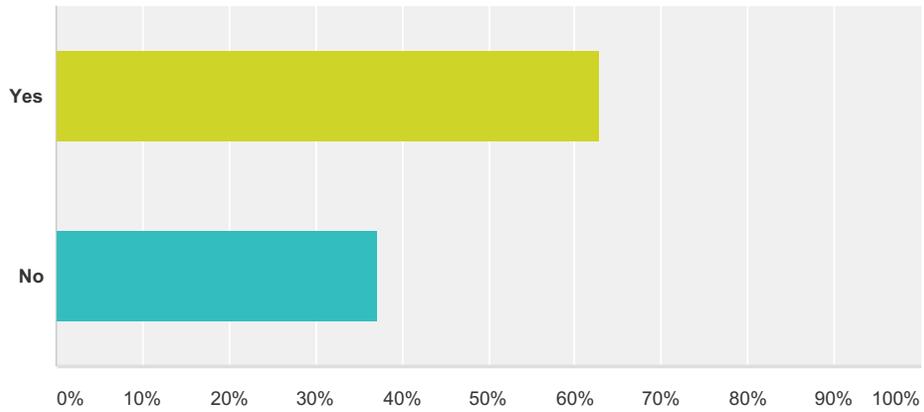
Answered: 63 Skipped: 24



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	61.90%	39
No	38.10%	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>63</b>

### Q54 Is family being used as supportive connections during the child's placement?

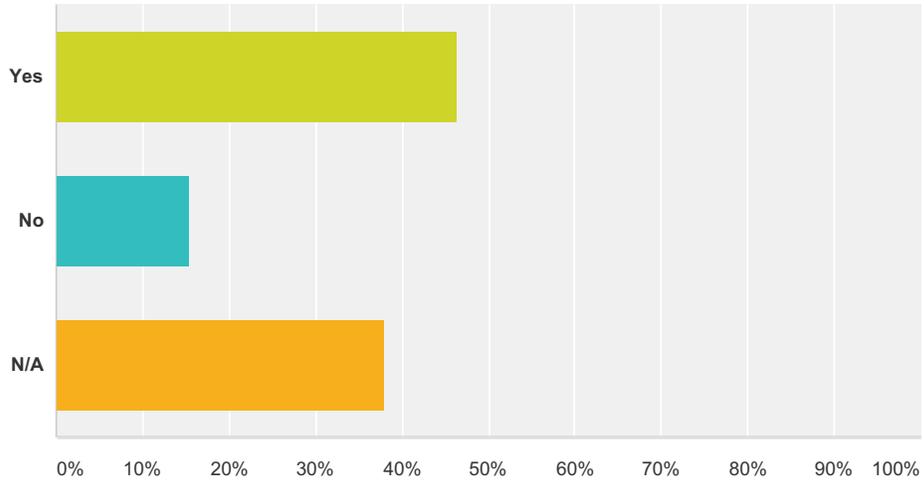
Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	62.79% 54
No	37.21% 32
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>

**Q58 Prior to a recommendation of congregate care, did the youth have court reviews at least every six months?**

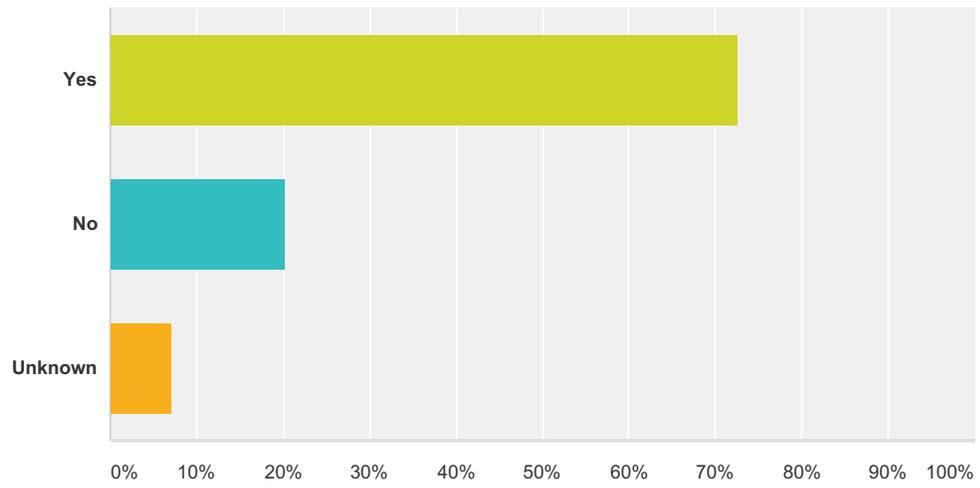
Answered: 84 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	46.43% 39
No	15.48% 13
N/A	38.10% 32
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>

### Q60 Was the youth exhibiting problems related to school?

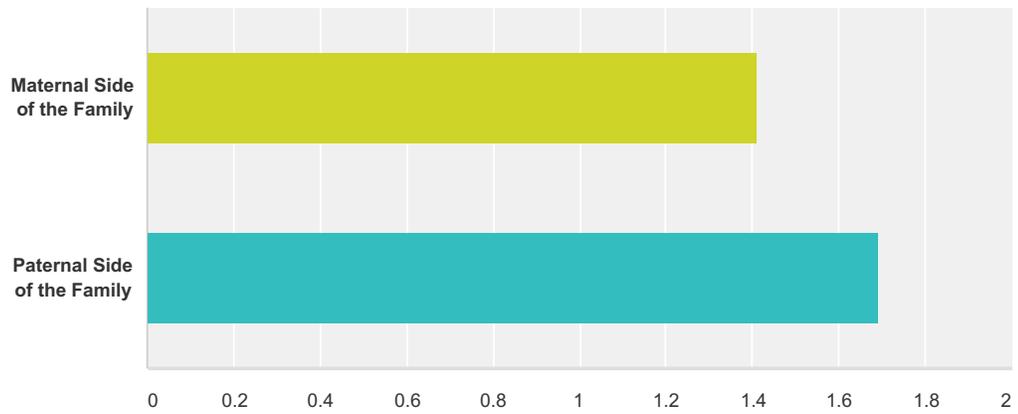
Answered: 84 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	72.62% 61
No	20.24% 17
Unknown	7.14% 6
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>

### Q62 Was family repeatedly considered as a potential resource for the youth?

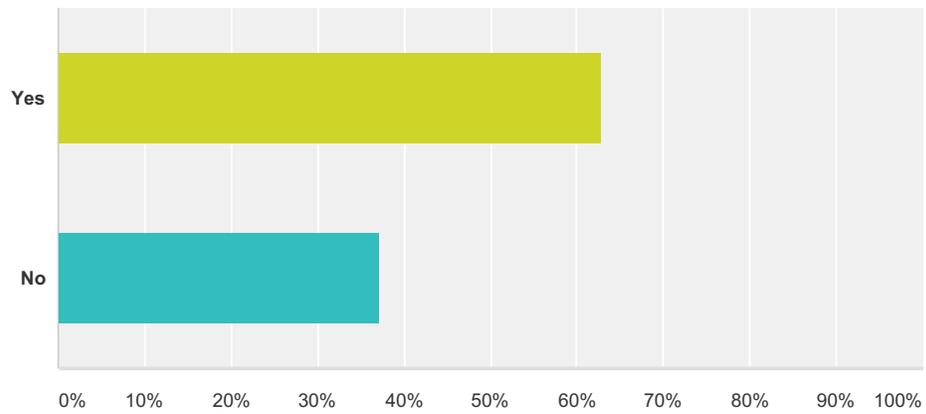
Answered: 84 Skipped: 3



	Yes	No	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Maternal Side of the Family	62.65% 52	33.73% 28	3.61% 3	83	1.41
Paternal Side of the Family	44.05% 37	42.86% 36	13.10% 11	84	1.69

### Q65 Is the youth receiving 3 months court reviews?

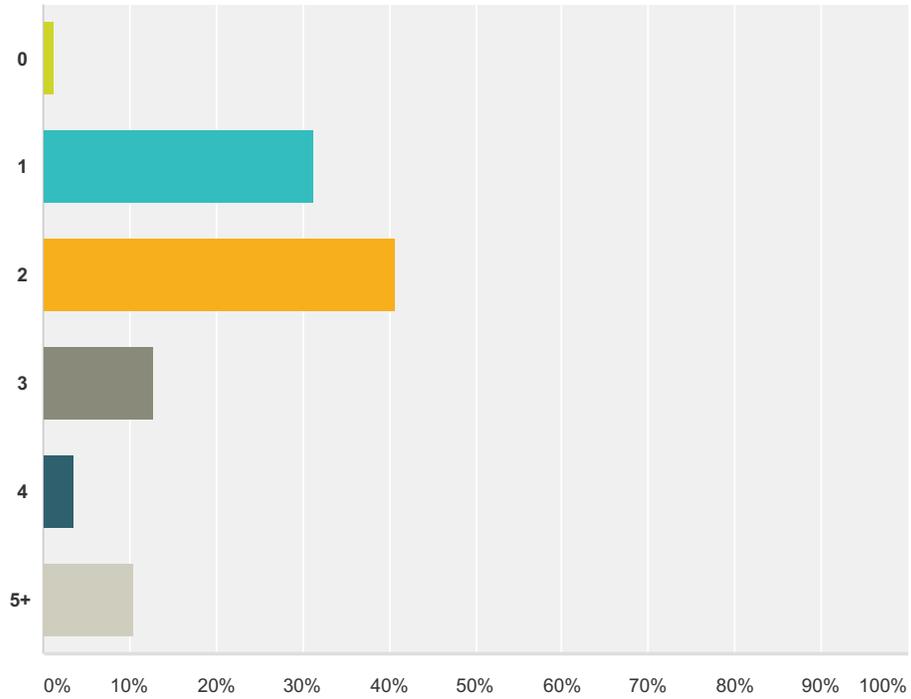
Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	62.79%	54
No	37.21%	32
<b>Total</b>		<b>86</b>

### Q66 How many congregate care placements has the youth experienced since removal during this placement episode?

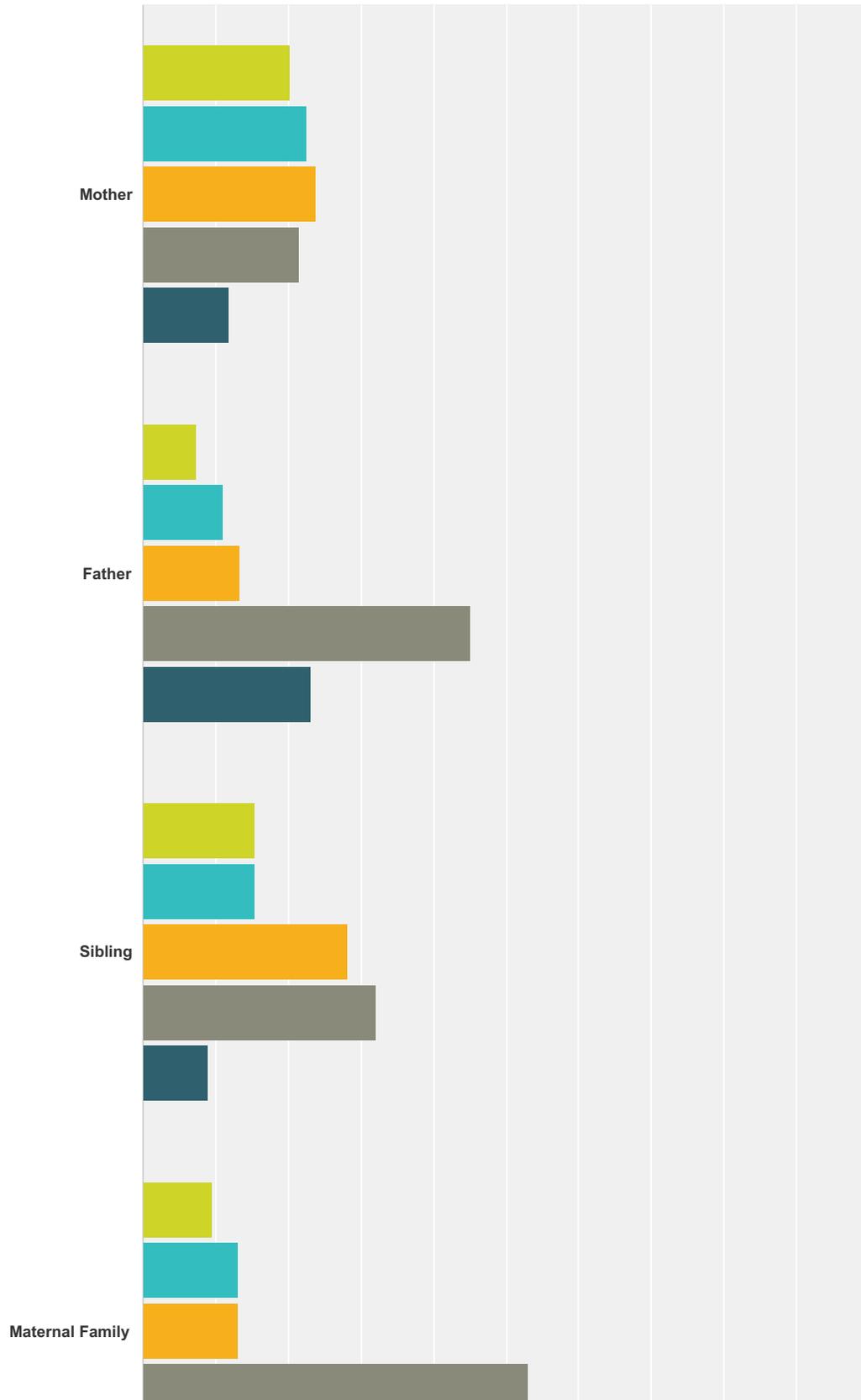
Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



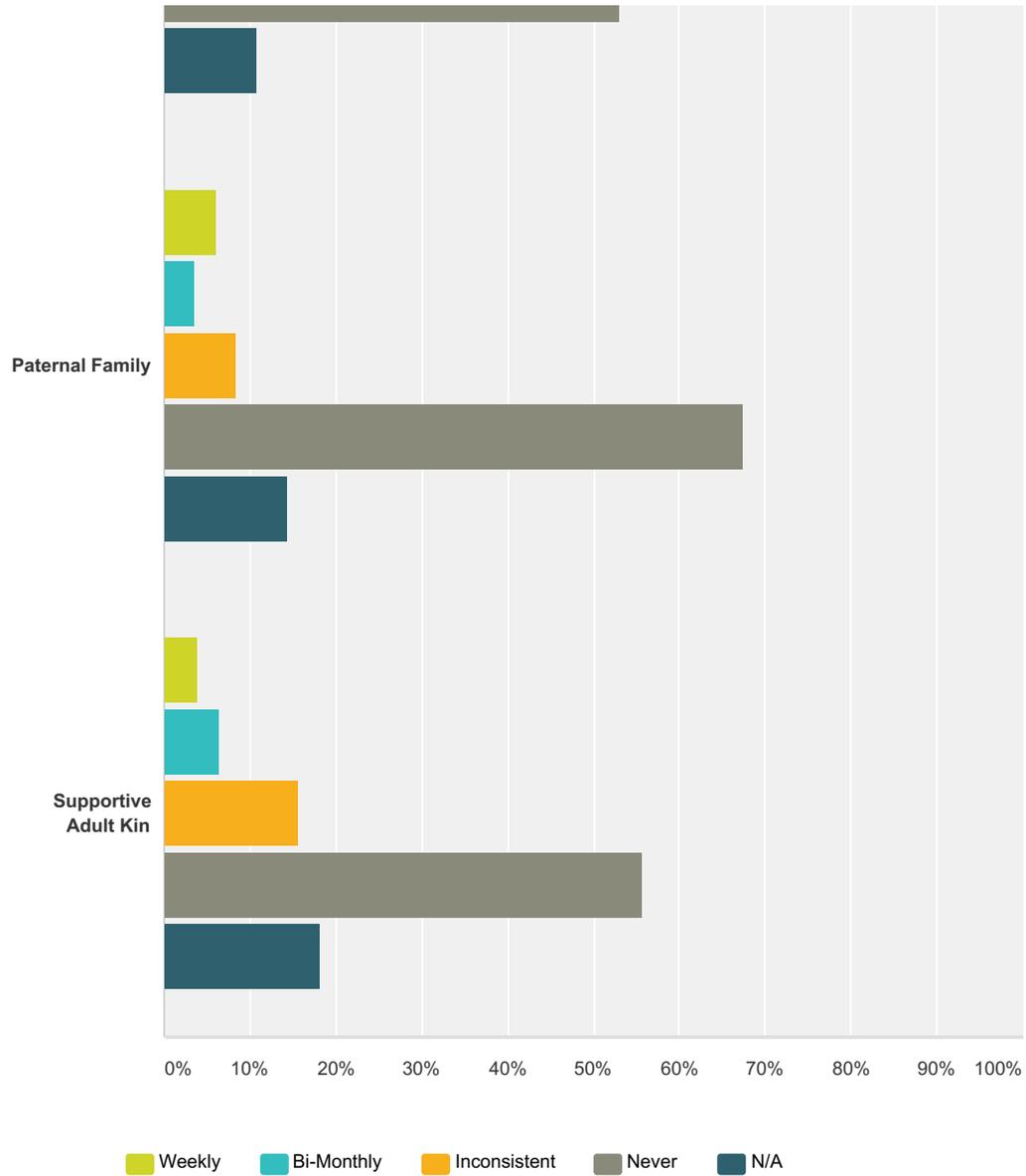
Answer Choices	Responses	
0	1.16%	1
1	31.40%	27
2	40.70%	35
3	12.79%	11
4	3.49%	3
5+	10.47%	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>86</b>

### Q67 Youth visitation while in current congregate care:

Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



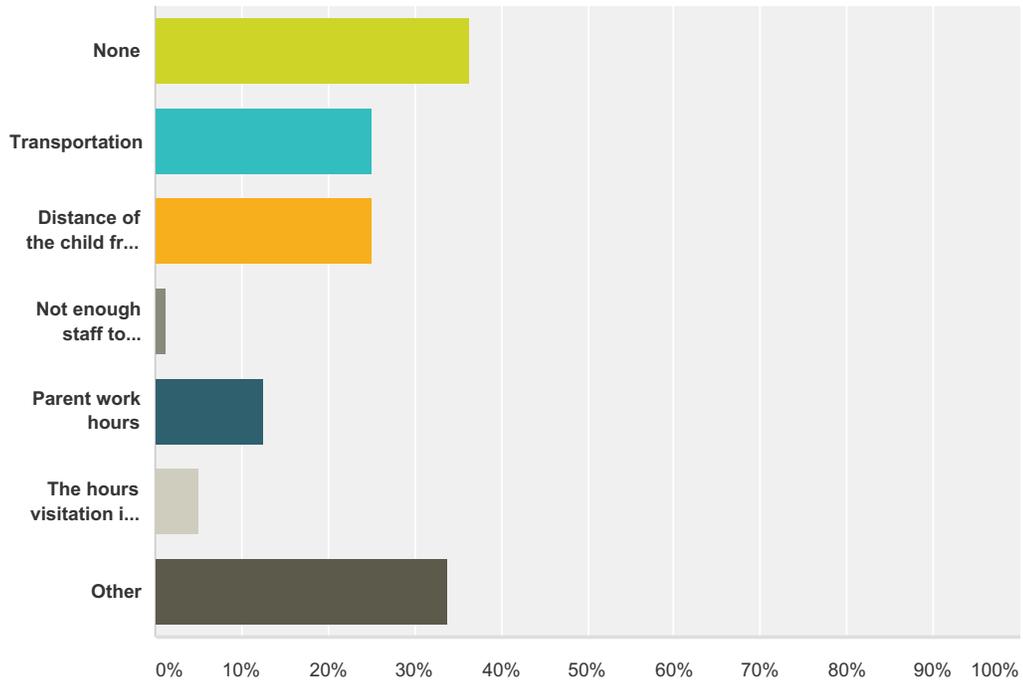
## Congregate Care Analysis Tool - Youth Specific



	Weekly	Bi-Monthly	Inconsistent	Never	N/A	Total
Mother	20.24% 17	22.62% 19	23.81% 20	21.43% 18	11.90% 10	84
Father	7.32% 6	10.98% 9	13.41% 11	45.12% 37	23.17% 19	82
Sibling	15.38% 12	15.38% 12	28.21% 22	32.05% 25	8.97% 7	78
Maternal Family	9.64% 8	13.25% 11	13.25% 11	53.01% 44	10.84% 9	83
Paternal Family	6.02% 5	3.61% 3	8.43% 7	67.47% 56	14.46% 12	83
Supportive Adult Kin	3.90% 3	6.49% 5	15.58% 12	55.84% 43	18.18% 14	77

**Q68 Are there any specific barriers present to visitation? (check all that apply)**

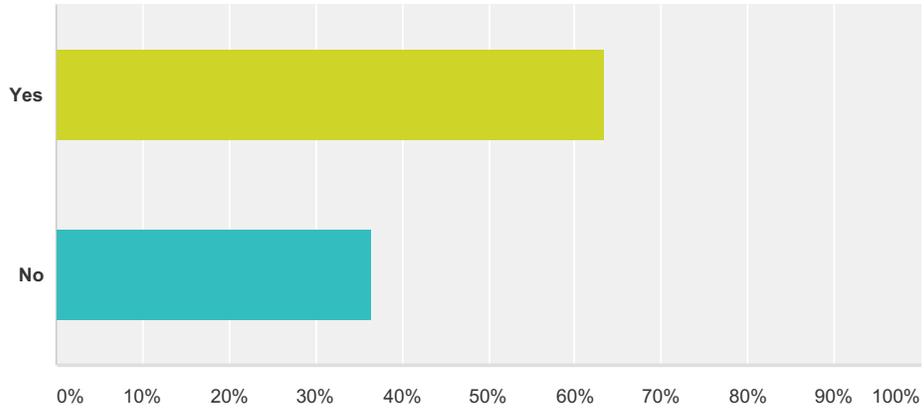
Answered: 80 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
None	36.25% 29
Transportation	25.00% 20
Distance of the child from the parent	25.00% 20
Not enough staff to supervise the visit	1.25% 1
Parent work hours	12.50% 10
The hours visitation is offered by the agency	5.00% 4
Other	33.75% 27
<b>Total Respondents: 80</b>	

**Q69 Is the youth on a "level" system at the current congregate care facility?  
(COMPLETED BY COUNTY CONTACT)**

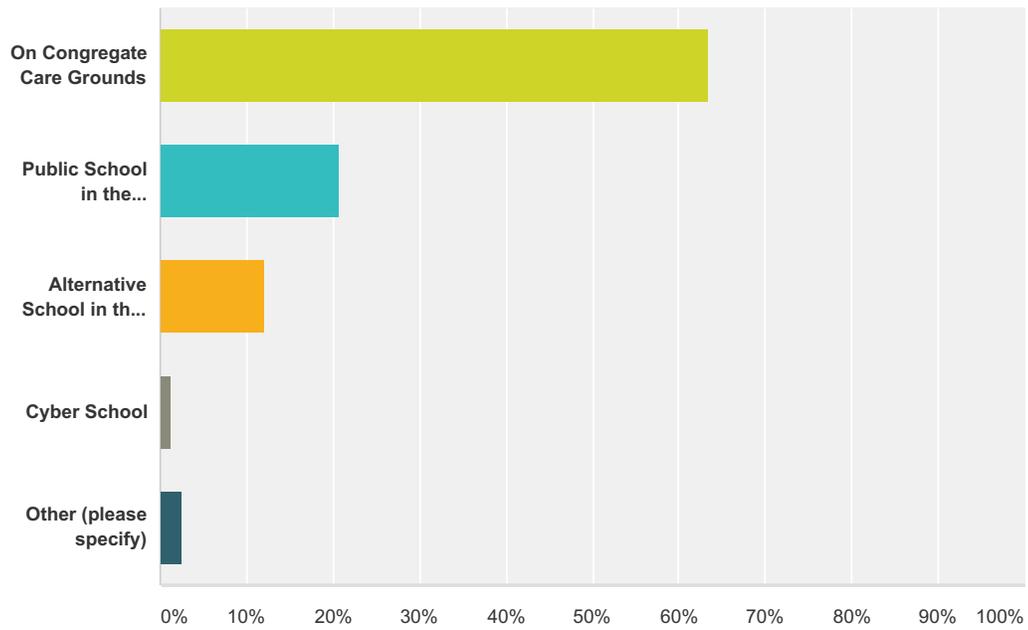
Answered: 85 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	63.53% 54
No	36.47% 31
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>

### Q75 Where is the youth attending school?

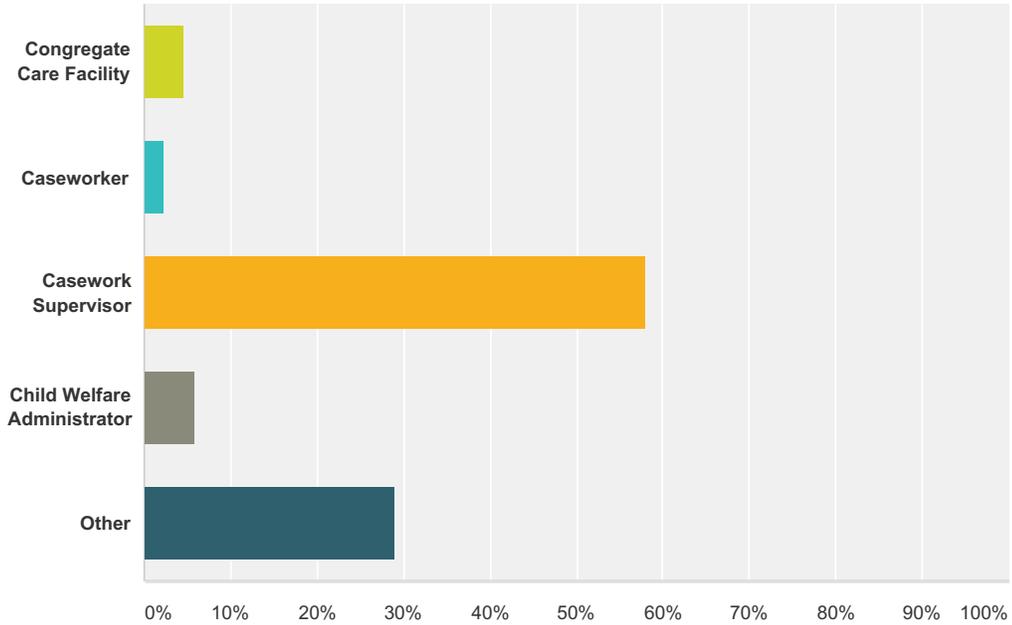
Answered: 82 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
On Congregate Care Grounds	63.41% 52
Public School in the Community	20.73% 17
Alternative School in the Community	12.20% 10
Cyber School	1.22% 1
Other (please specify)	2.44% 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

**Q77 What is the highest level of approval needed for a less restrictive recommendation to the Judge/Hearing Officers?**

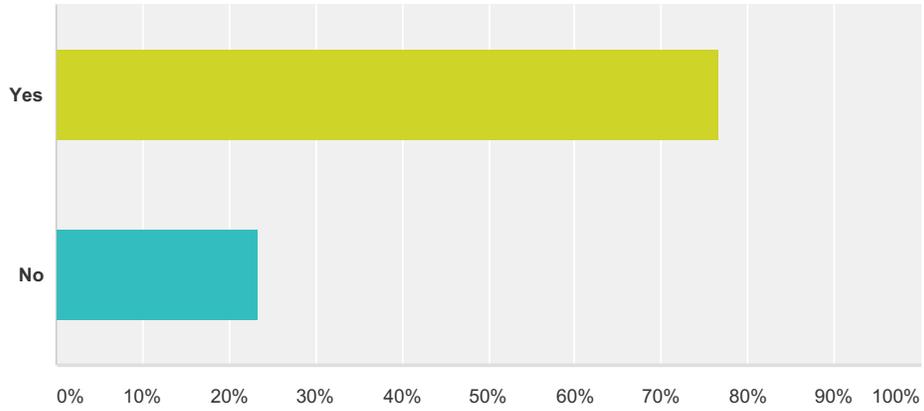
Answered: 86 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Congregate Care Facility	4.65%	4
Caseworker	2.33%	2
Casework Supervisor	58.14%	50
Child Welfare Administrator	5.81%	5
Other	29.07%	25
<b>Total</b>		<b>86</b>

**Q78 If the youth is 14 years or older, are they receiving any Independent Living Services?**

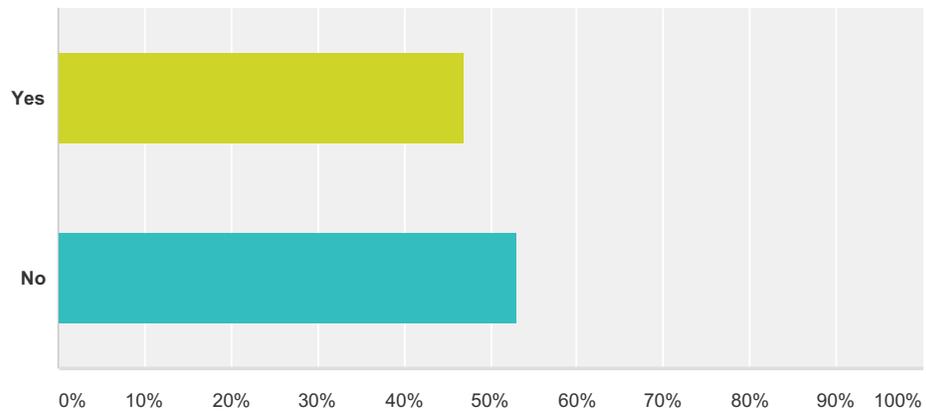
Answered: 81 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	76.54%	62
No	23.46%	19
<b>Total</b>		<b>81</b>

### Q82 Was the family offered a FGDM conference?

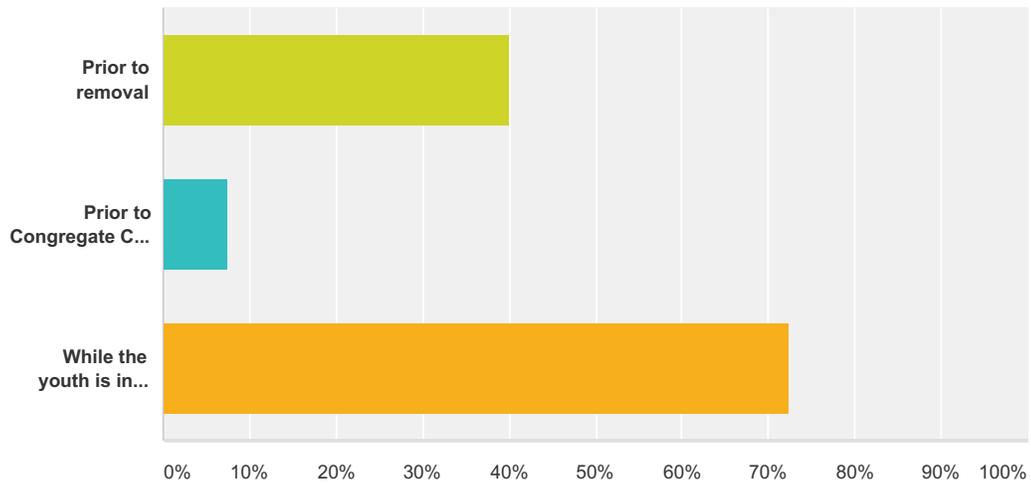
Answered: 85 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	47.06%	40
No	52.94%	45
<b>Total</b>		<b>85</b>

**Q83 If yes, when was it offered (check all that apply)**

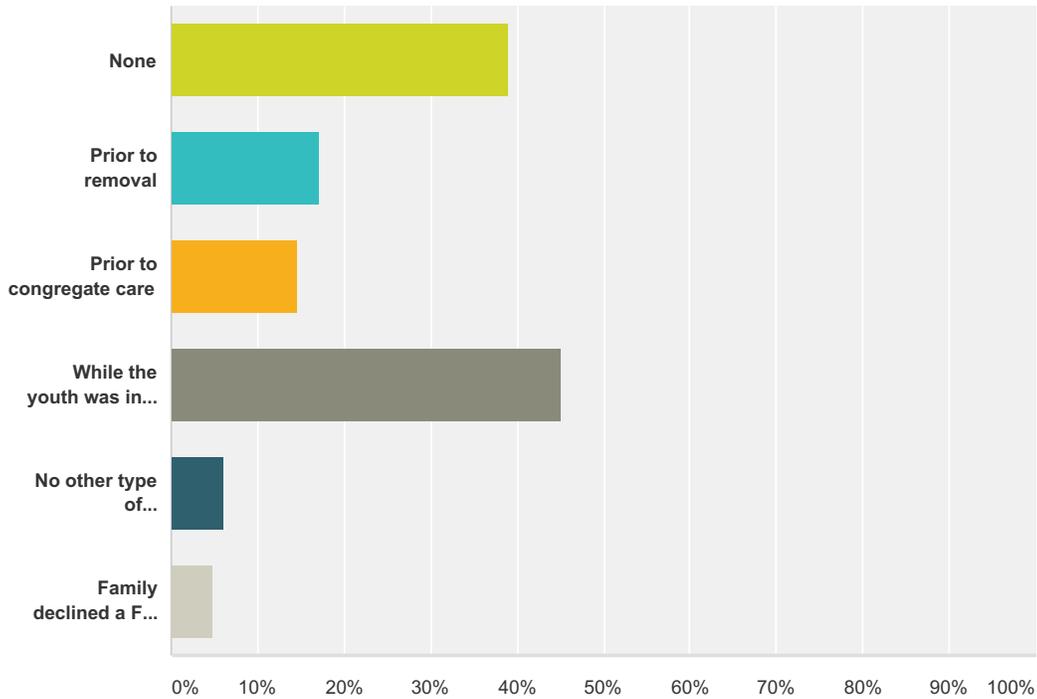
Answered: 40 Skipped: 47



Answer Choices	Responses
Prior to removal	40.00% 16
Prior to Congregate Care being recommended; and/or	7.50% 3
While the youth is in care?	72.50% 29
<b>Total Respondents: 40</b>	

**Q85 Did the agency hold any other type of collaborative meeting with the family and extended maternal and paternal family (check all that apply):**

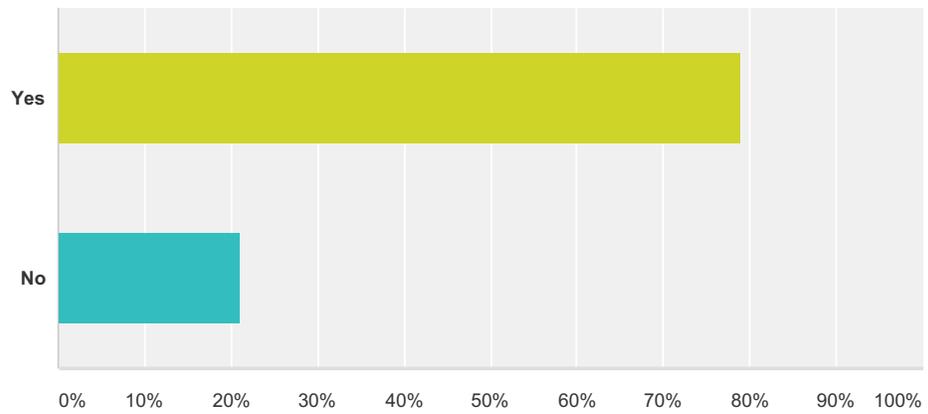
Answered: 82 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
None	39.02% 32
Prior to removal	17.07% 14
Prior to congregate care	14.63% 12
While the youth was in care	45.12% 37
No other type of collaborative meeting was held at any time	6.10% 5
Family declined a FGDM Conference	4.88% 4
<b>Total Respondents: 82</b>	

**Q86 Was the youth (age 14 and older) involved in the development of the CPP?**

Answered: 81 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	79.01%	64
No	20.99%	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>81</b>



## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

1.

### Instructions:

This survey asks about your experiences in dependency court hearings. The goal of this survey is to determine how much court participation you have experienced. The information from your survey responses will be used to help provide recommendations on how to improve youth participation in court, including attending hearings, better understanding the court process and providing input into the important decisions that impact your life.

- **Completion of the survey should take approximately 20 minutes.**
- **The survey does not ask for your name and your responses will be kept completely anonymous.**
- **Your responses will not be seen by your Judge, Attorney, Caseworker, placement provider or any other professional working directly with you.**
- There is no right or wrong answer.
- The survey is voluntary.
- It is understood that your responses may be used to better serve youth participating in the court process.
- Please respond honestly.

**Thank you for your participation!**



## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

2.

**Tell us about yourself:**

**\* 1. What is your age?**

**\* 2. What is your gender?**

Male

Female

**\* 3. What is your race (check all that apply)?**

White/Caucasian

African American

Hispanic

Asian

Native American

Pacific Islander

Prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

**\* 4. In which county do you have your court hearings?**



## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

3.

**\* 5. Is your case still active in Court?**

Yes

No

I'm not sure

**\* 6. Are you currently in placement?**

Yes

No

**\* 7. Where are you currently living?**

With a family member

With friend, neighbor, etc.

Foster care

Group home

Residential Treatment Facility

Transitional living placement

Supervised Independent Living Placement

In a dorm of campus housing

No longer in placement

Homeless

Other

Please specify other:

**\* 8. Where was your last placement?**

- With a family member
- With friend, neighbor, etc.
- Foster care
- Group home
- Residential Treatment Facility
- Transitional Living Placement
- Supervised Independent Living Placement
- In a dorm of campus housing
- With my parents
- Other

Please specify other:



**Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey**

4.

**\* 9. What type of activities are you interested in? (check all that apply)**

- Sports/Fitness
- Dance
- Entertainment (band, theater, playing an instrument, etc.)
- Performing/Visual Arts (fashion design, painting, drawing, museum, etc.)
- Photography
- Literature (reading, writing, poetry, etc.)
- Volunteering
- Hanging out with my friends
- Video Games
- Outdoor Activities (hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, etc.)

Other (please specify)

**\* 10. Do you currently participate in any of the activities you enjoy?**

- Yes
- No



**Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey**

5.

**\* 11. If no, why do you not participate in the activities you enjoy? (check all that apply)**

- I have no money to participate
- I have no transportation
- I am not allowed
- I have no time
- I have never asked to participate

Please explain anything you have checked above

**12. What do you think you miss out on the most by being in placement?**



**Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey**

**6.**

**Tell us about your experiences attending court hearings:**

**\* 13. How often do you attend court hearings?**

- I always attend court hearings
- I sometimes attend court hearings
- I never attend court hearings

**\* 14. Who told you about the last hearing you had? (check all that apply)**

- My attorney
- My county caseworker
- My private provider caseworker
- My parent
- My foster parent
- A relative
- The staff at my group or residential placement
- My Independent Living (IL) Worker
- Notice of my hearing was mailed directly to me
- No one told me that I had a hearing
- Other

**\* 15. Do you want to attend your court hearings?**

- Yes
- No

**\* 16. Did you attend any court hearings in the last year?**

- Yes
- No



**Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey**

**7. Court Experience**

**\* 17. Why didn't you attend the hearings that you wanted to attend? (check all that apply)**

- I couldn't get transportation
- I found out too late to go
- I was sick
- I was told I couldn't be pulled out of school
- I didn't want to go
- I was told that I wasn't allowed to go
- Other

Please specify other:

**\* 18. If you were told you were not allowed to attend the hearing, who told you that?**



## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

### 8. Court Experience

**\* 19. When I spoke at court hearings...**

	Always	Sometimes	Never
I understood what took place	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I got to speak my mind	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I felt that people listened to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

**\* 20. When I spoke at court hearings...**

	Always	Sometimes	Never	N/A
What I said made a difference in what the court did	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

**\* 21. What are the reasons that make you want to avoid some (or all) hearings? (check all that apply)**

- I have never wanted to avoid hearings
- I do not want to miss school
- I do not want to miss work
- I have trouble getting transportation
- Hearings are boring
- No one listens to me when I am there
- I have to wait too long for my case to be heard
- I do not like having to see my parents or other relatives
- I do not like having to talk
- I might get in trouble at court
- I trust the people representing me in court and don't feel I need to attend
- I do not feel comfortable in court
- Other

Please specify other:

**\* 22. For hearings that happened in the last year, did anyone explain to you what happened in your hearing afterwards?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't recall



## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

### 9. Court Experience

**\* 23. Who explained to you what happened? (check all that apply)**

- My Attorney
- My county caseworker
- My private provider caseworker
- My parent
- My relative
- My foster parent
- The staff at my group home or placement
- My Independent Living (IL) worker
- No one
- I don't recall
- Other
- Please specify other:

\* 24. Overall, my feeling about court hearings is...



(sad)



(neutral)



(angry)



(happy)



(confused)



(scared)



Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

## Tell us about your Attorney/Guardian ad Litem:

In Pennsylvania, you have a right to be represented by an Attorney. In your county, you may call this person a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Attorney or Child Advocate.

**\* 25. Do you have an Attorney?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't know



## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

### 11. Your Attorney/Guardian ad Litem

**\* 26. Do you have the contact information of your Attorney so that you can either call, text or email them?**

- Yes
- No

**\* 27. My experience with my Attorney is:**

	Never	Sometimes	Always
I feel comfortable talking to my Attorney	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Attorney listens to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Attorney makes sure my thoughts and opinions are heard in court	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Attorney has made things better for me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Attorney talks to me using my name	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Attorney helped me prepare for the hearings I attended	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**\* 28. Other than when you were in court, how many times in the last year have you had contact with your attorney?**

- At least once a month
- Every 2 to 3 months
- 2 times a year
- Once a year
- I was not in contact with my Attorney in the last year

**\* 29. How do you connect with your Attorney? (check all that apply)**

- By phone
- Social Media
- In my placement
- At school
- Some place in the community like a park or restaurant
- In his or her office
- In or near the courthouse right before my hearing
- Other

Please specify other:

\* 30. Overall, my feeling toward my attorney is...



(sad)



(neutral)



(angry)



(happy)



(confused)



(scared)



Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

## Tell us about your experience with the Judge or Hearing Officer:

When you attend court, while usually a Judge hears your case, a Hearing Officer or Hearing Master may also hear your case. In the following questions we use the term "Judge" to cover all of these categories of these people.

\* 31. Do you know the name of the Judge or Judges who have heard your case in court?

- Yes
- No

\* 32. How would you rate the following:

	Always	Sometimes	Never
I have felt comfortable talking to my Judge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Judge listened to what I had to say	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Judge encouraged me to talk in court	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 33. Have you ever asked for a hearing to be scheduled?

- Yes
- No



## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

### 13. Judge or Hearing Officer

\* 34. When you asked for a court hearing, did a court hearing get scheduled?

- Yes
- No
- I have never asked for a court hearing

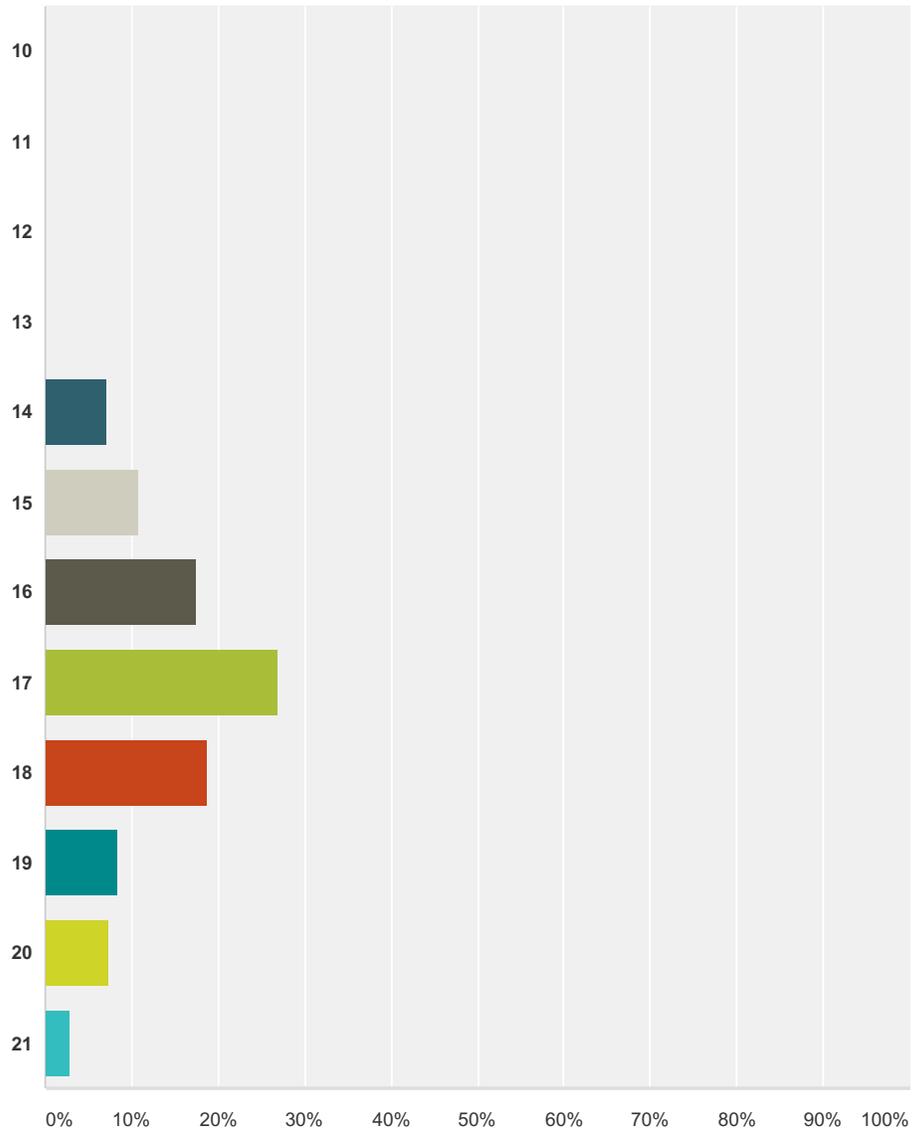
**\* 35. In the future, how would you like to participate in your court hearings? (check all that apply)**

- I would like to speak directly to the Judge in the court room
- I would like to speak to the Judge in his or her office
- I would like to write a letter or fill out a form that tells the Judge how I am doing
- I would like my Attorney to ask me questions that I have practiced with him or her
- I would like my Attorney to say what I think and what I want after talking to me
- I would like to participate by phone
- I would like to participate by video (i.e. Skype)
- Other

Please specify other:

### Q1 What is your age?

Answered: 433 Skipped: 0



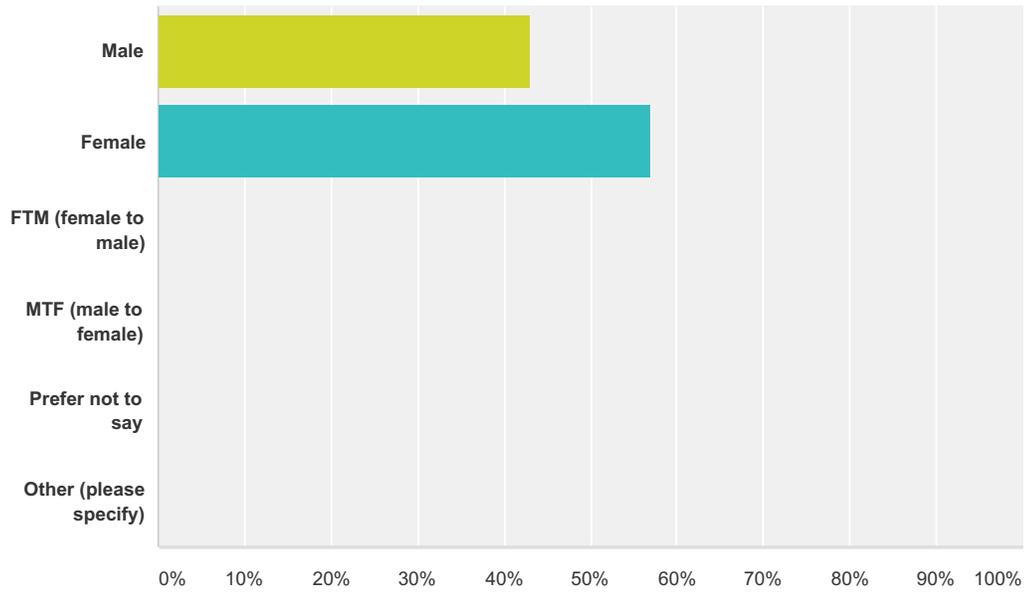
Answer Choices	Responses
10	0.00% 0
11	0.00% 0
12	0.00% 0
13	0.00% 0
14	7.16% 31
15	10.85% 47
16	17.55% 76
17	27.02% 117

## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

18	18.71%	81
19	8.31%	36
20	7.39%	32
21	3.00%	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>433</b>

## Q2 What is your gender?

Answered: 433 Skipped: 0

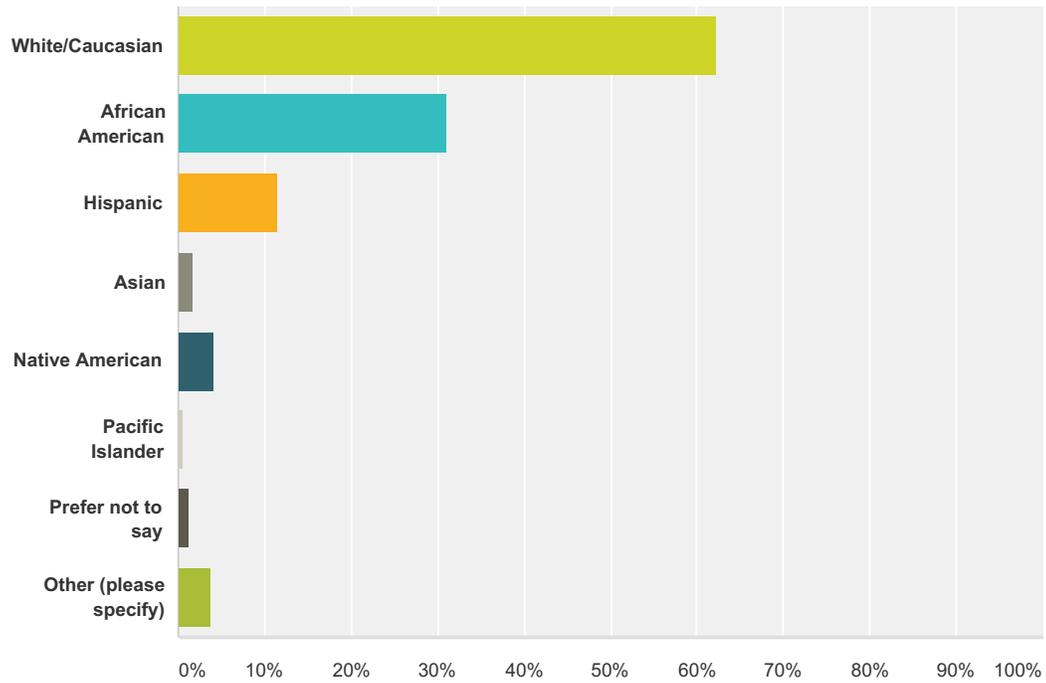


Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	42.96%	186
Female	57.04%	247
FTM (female to male)	0.00%	0
MTF (male to female)	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>433</b>

### Q3 What is your race (check all that apply)?

Appendix III

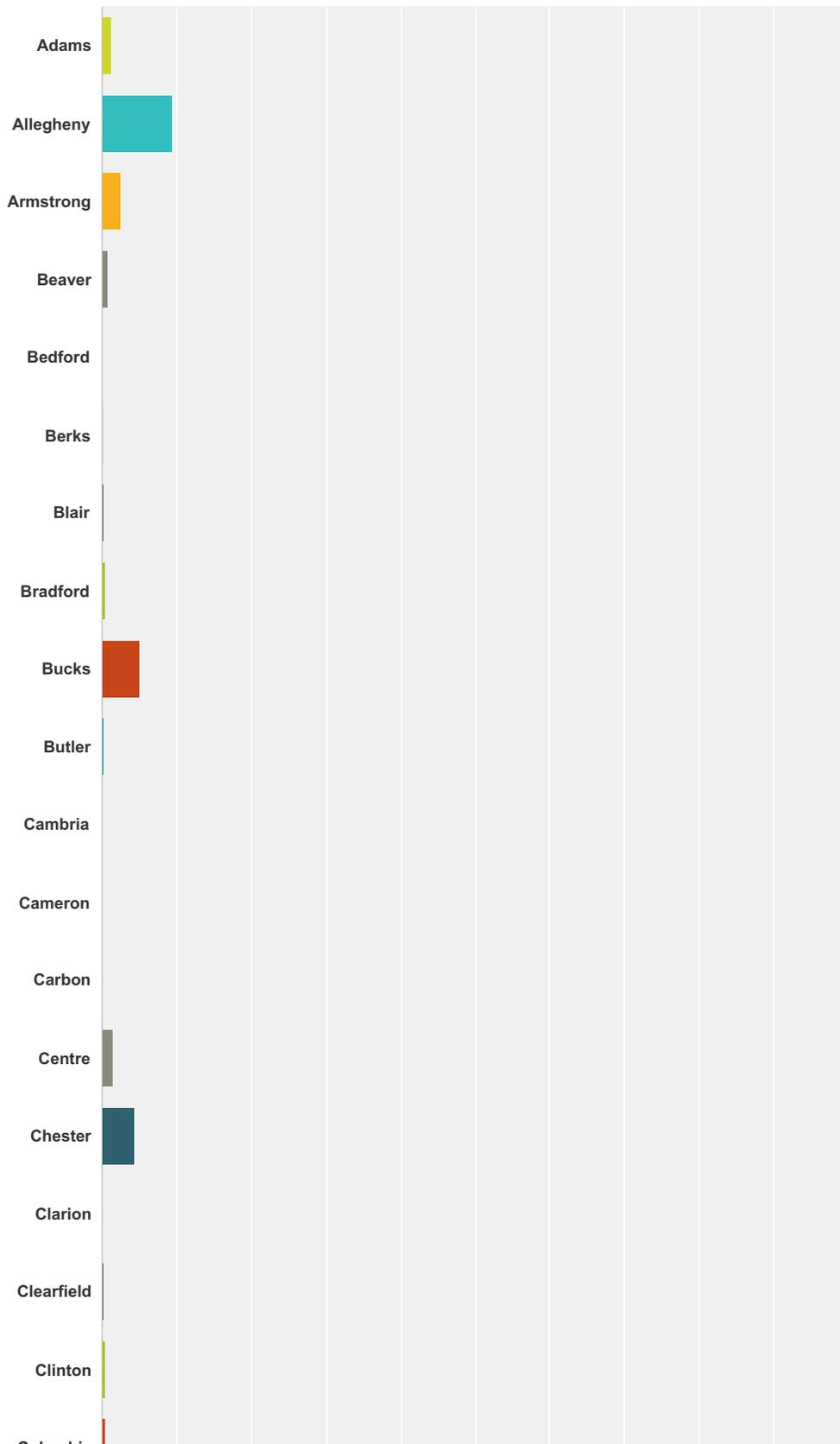
Answered: 433 Skipped: 0



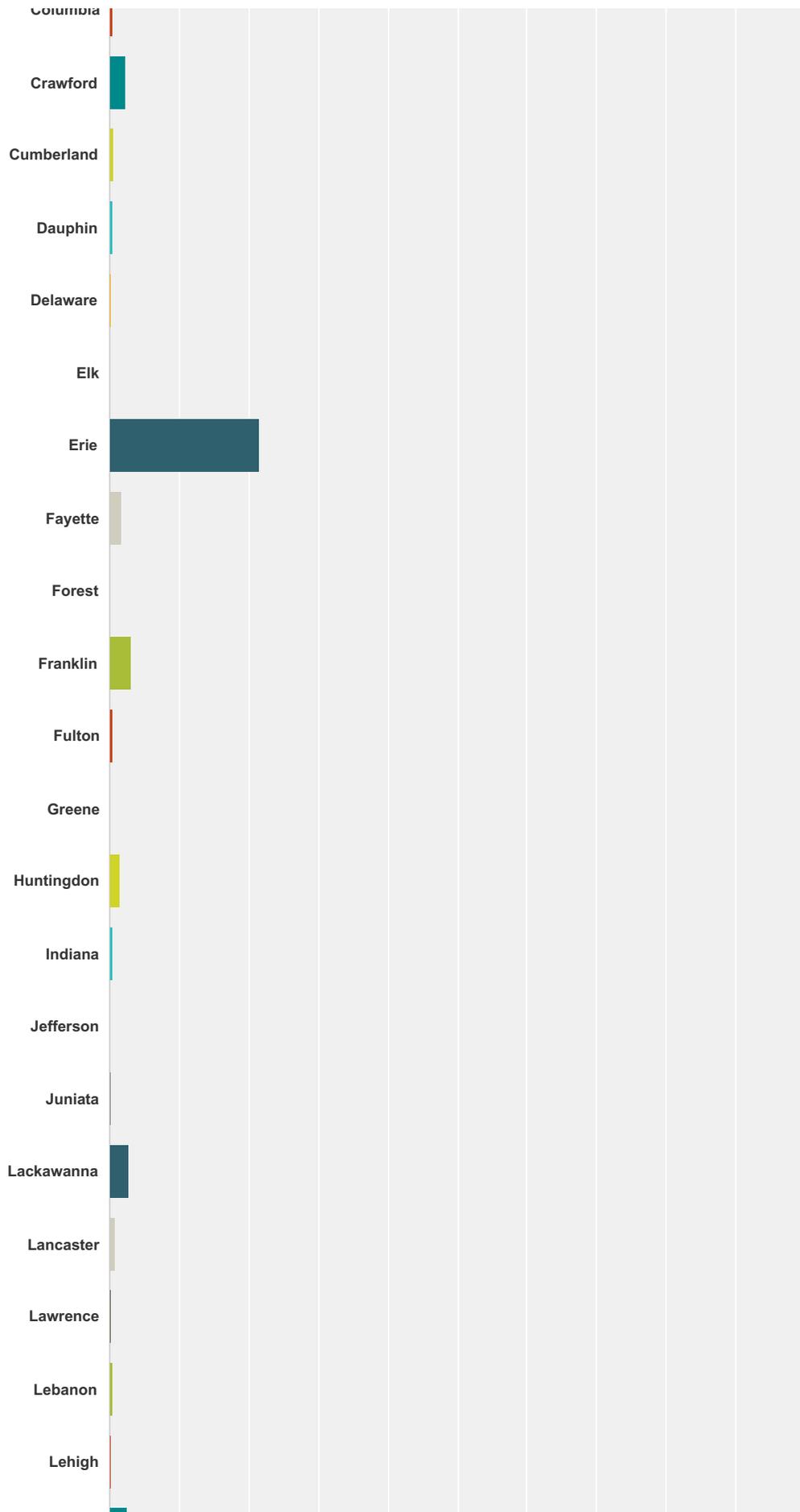
Answer Choices	Responses
White/Caucasian	62.12% 269
African American	31.18% 135
Hispanic	11.55% 50
Asian	1.62% 7
Native American	4.16% 18
Pacific Islander	0.69% 3
Prefer not to say	1.15% 5
Other (please specify)	3.70% 16
<b>Total Respondents: 433</b>	

### Q4 In which county do you have your court hearings?

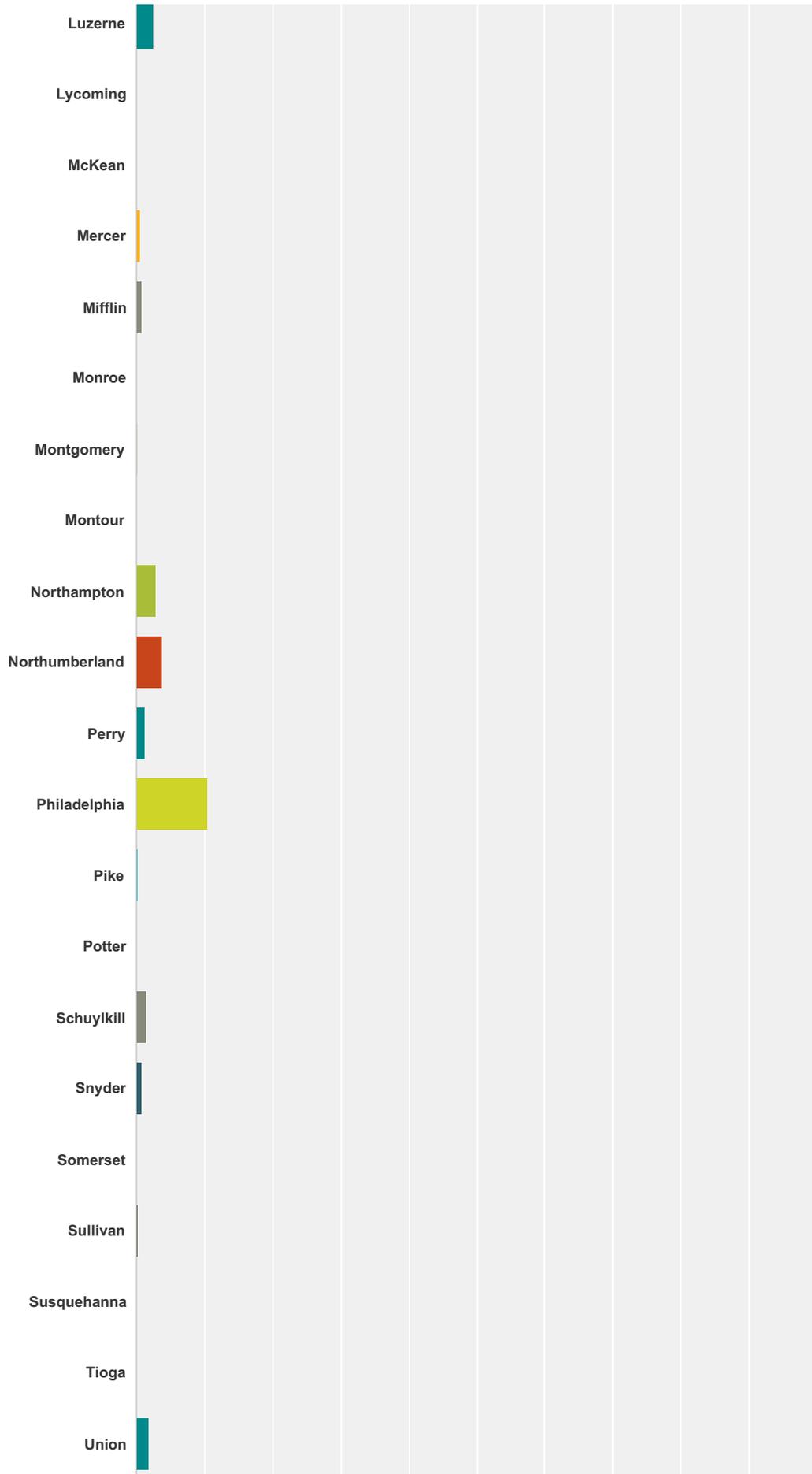
Answered: 433 Skipped: 0



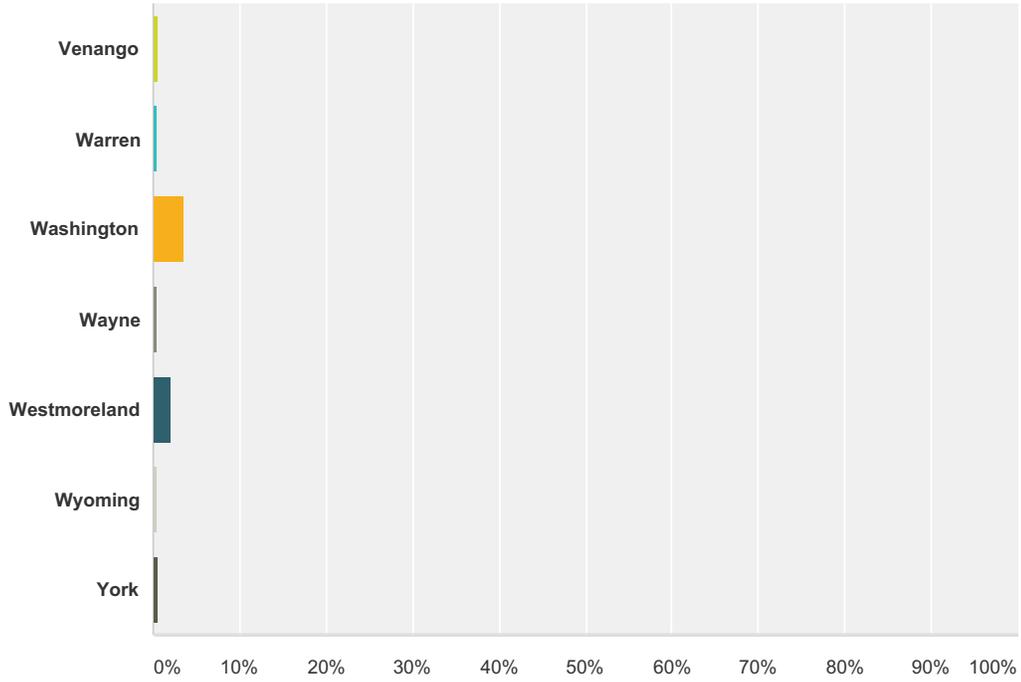
# Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey



# Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey



## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey



Answer Choices	Responses
Adams	1.15% 5
Allegheny	9.47% 41
Armstrong	2.54% 11
Beaver	0.92% 4
Bedford	0.00% 0
Berks	0.23% 1
Blair	0.23% 1
Bradford	0.46% 2
Bucks	5.08% 22
Butler	0.23% 1
Cambria	0.00% 0
Cameron	0.00% 0
Carbon	0.00% 0
Centre	1.39% 6
Chester	4.39% 19
Clarion	0.00% 0
Clearfield	0.23% 1
Clinton	0.46% 2
Columbia	0.46% 2

## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

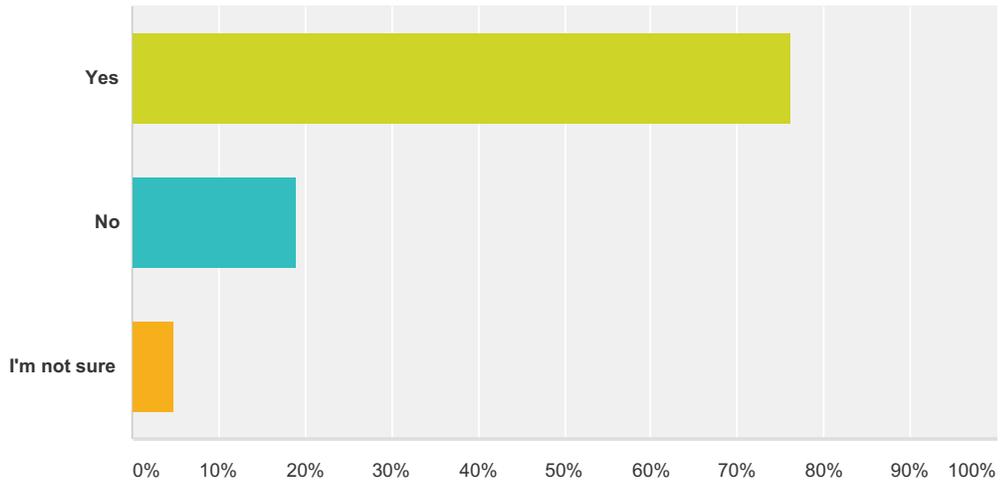
Crawford	2.31%	10
Cumberland	0.69%	3
Dauphin	0.46%	2
Delaware	0.23%	1
Elk	0.00%	0
Erie	21.48%	93
Fayette	1.62%	7
Forest	0.00%	0
Franklin	3.23%	14
Fulton	0.46%	2
Greene	0.00%	0
Huntingdon	1.39%	6
Indiana	0.46%	2
Jefferson	0.00%	0
Juniata	0.23%	1
Lackawanna	2.77%	12
Lancaster	0.92%	4
Lawrence	0.23%	1
Lebanon	0.46%	2
Lehigh	0.23%	1
Luzerne	2.54%	11
Lycoming	0.00%	0
McKean	0.00%	0
Mercer	0.69%	3
Mifflin	0.92%	4
Monroe	0.00%	0
Montgomery	0.23%	1
Montour	0.00%	0
Northampton	3.00%	13
Northumberland	3.70%	16
Perry	1.15%	5
Philadelphia	10.39%	45
Pike	0.23%	1
Potter	0.00%	0

## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

Schuylkill	1.39%	6
Snyder	0.92%	4
Somerset	0.00%	0
Sullivan	0.23%	1
Susquehanna	0.00%	0
Tioga	0.00%	0
Union	1.85%	8
Venango	0.69%	3
Warren	0.46%	2
Washington	3.46%	15
Wayne	0.46%	2
Westmoreland	2.08%	9
Wyoming	0.46%	2
York	0.69%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>433</b>

### Q5 Is your case still active in Court?

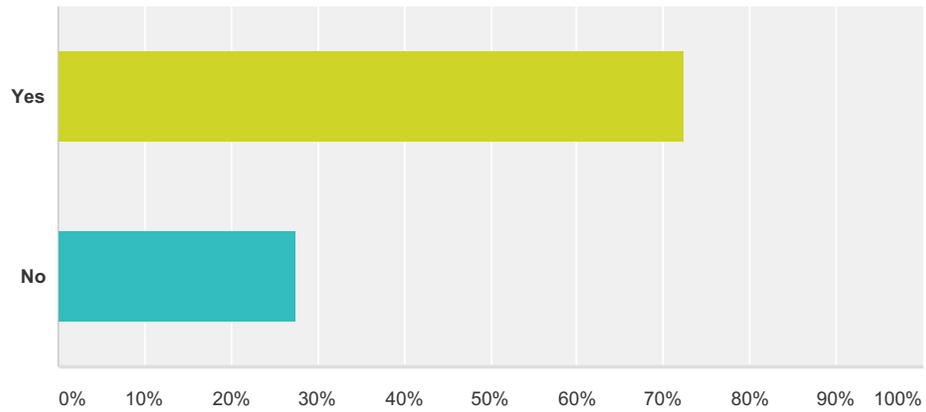
Answered: 420 Skipped: 13



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	76.19%	320
No	19.05%	80
I'm not sure	4.76%	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>420</b>

### Q6 Are you currently in placement?

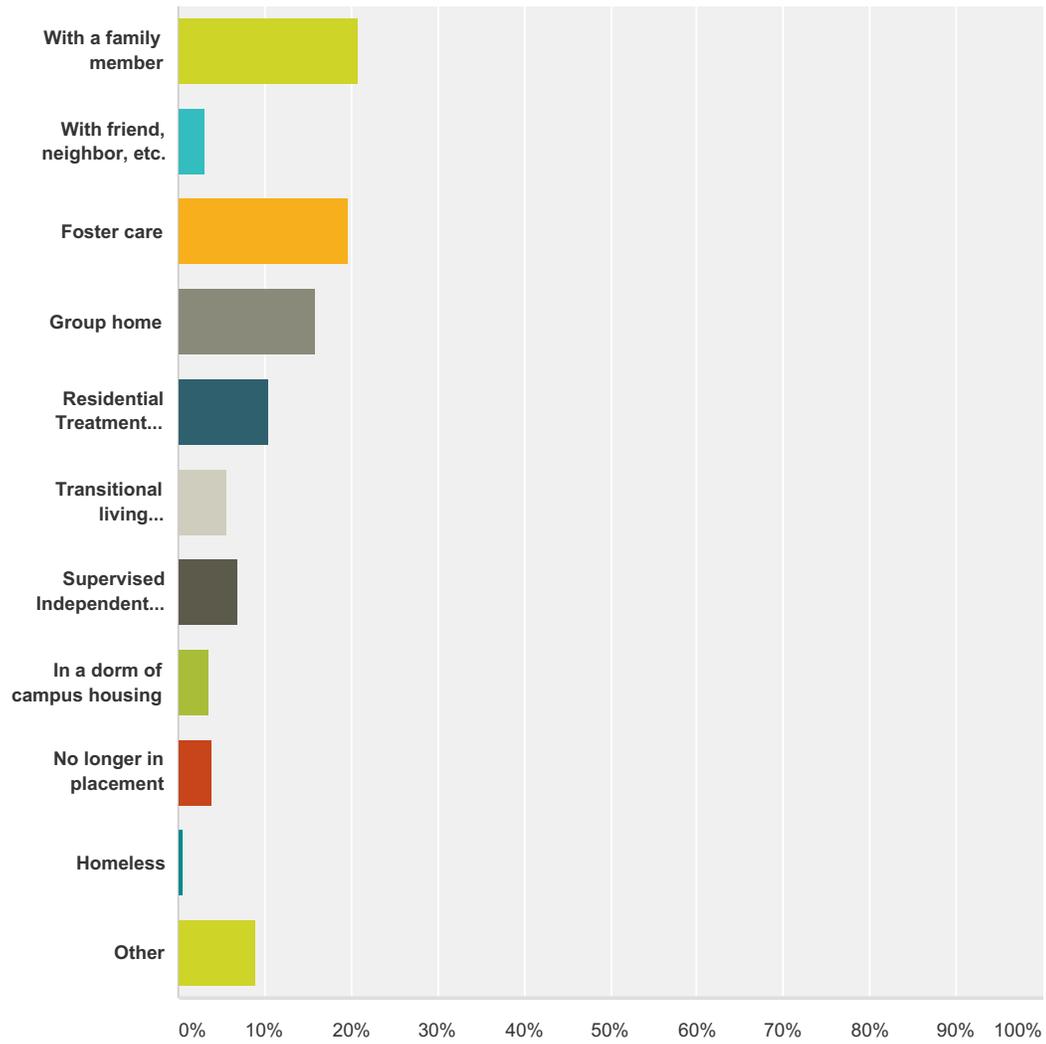
Answered: 420 Skipped: 13



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	72.38%	304
No	27.62%	116
<b>Total</b>		<b>420</b>

### Q7 Where are you currently living?

Answered: 420 Skipped: 13



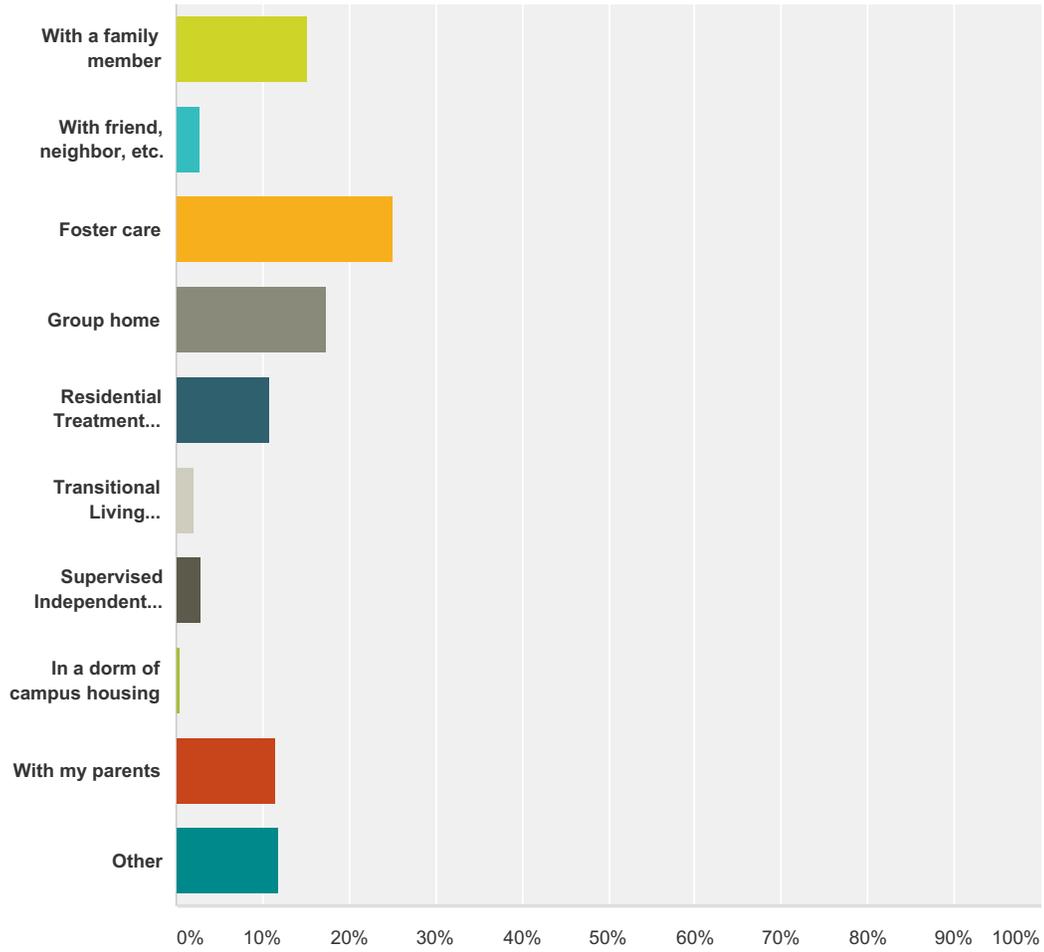
Answer Choices	Responses
With a family member	20.95% 88
With friend, neighbor, etc.	3.10% 13
Foster care	19.52% 82
Group home	15.95% 67
Residential Treatment Facility	10.48% 44
Transitional living placement	5.71% 24
Supervised Independent Living Placement	6.90% 29
In a dorm of campus housing	3.57% 15
No longer in placement	4.05% 17
Homeless	0.71% 3

# Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

Other	9.05%	38
<b>Total</b>		<b>420</b>

### Q8 Where was your last placement?

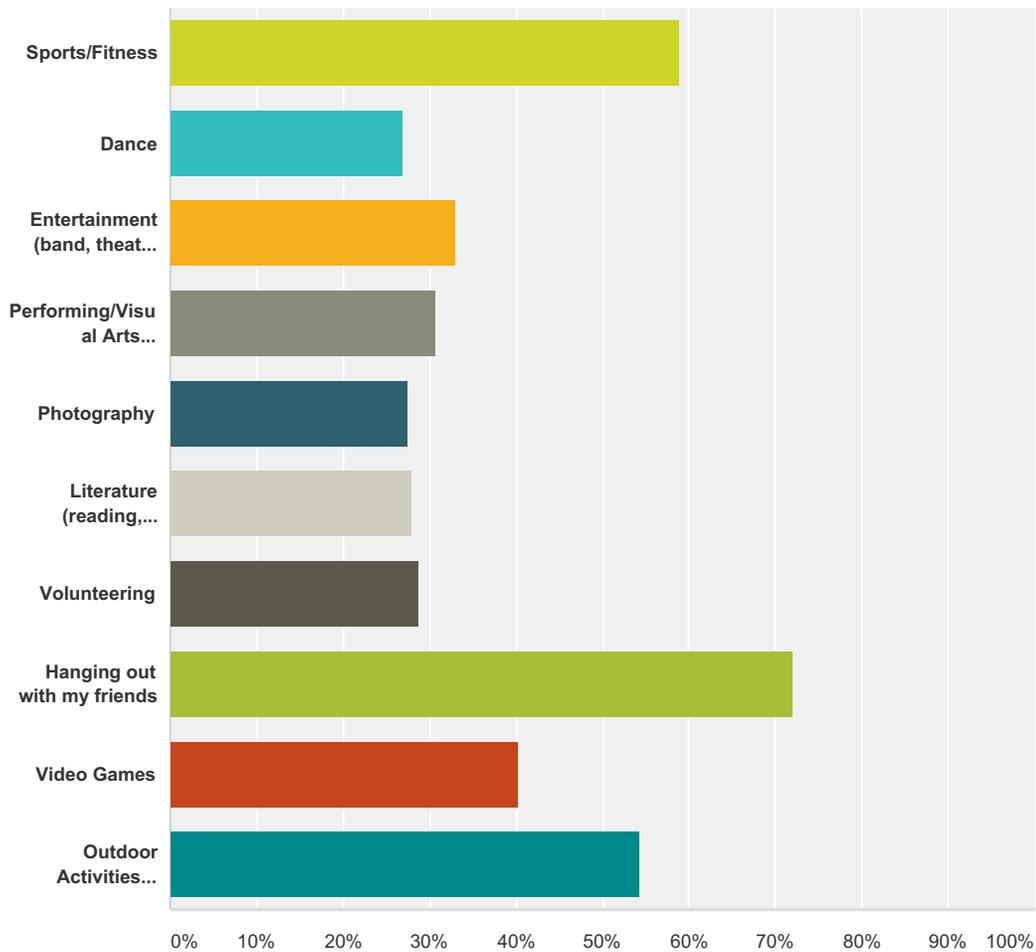
Answered: 420 Skipped: 13



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
With a family member	15.24%	64
With friend, neighbor, etc.	2.62%	11
Foster care	25.00%	105
Group home	17.38%	73
Residential Treatment Facility	10.95%	46
Transitional Living Placement	2.14%	9
Supervised Independent Living Placement	2.86%	12
In a dorm of campus housing	0.48%	2
With my parents	11.43%	48
Other	11.90%	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>420</b>

### Q9 What type of activities are you interested in? (check all that apply)

Answered: 416 Skipped: 17



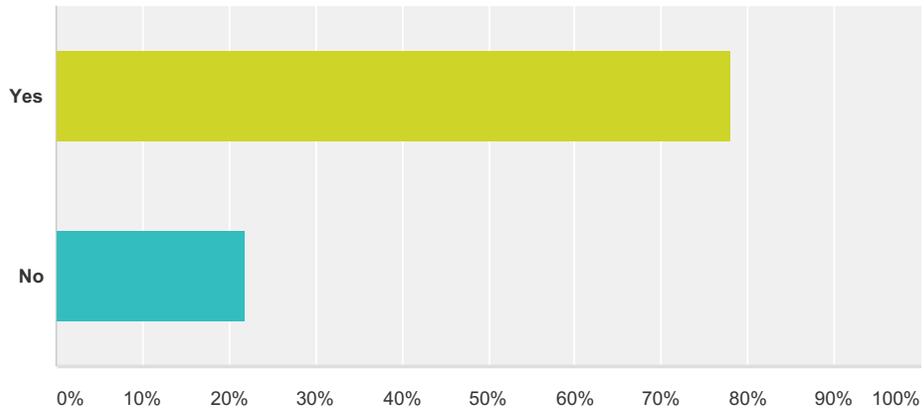
Answer Choices	Responses
Sports/Fitness	58.89% 245
Dance	26.92% 112
Entertainment (band, theater, playing an instrument, etc.)	32.93% 137
Performing/Visual Arts (fashion design, painting, drawing, museum, etc.)	30.77% 128
Photography	27.64% 115
Literature (reading, writing, poetry, etc.)	27.88% 116
Volunteering	28.85% 120
Hanging out with my friends	72.12% 300
Video Games	40.38% 168
Outdoor Activities (hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, etc.)	54.33% 226

# Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

Total Respondents: 416

### Q10 Do you currently participate in any of the activities you enjoy?

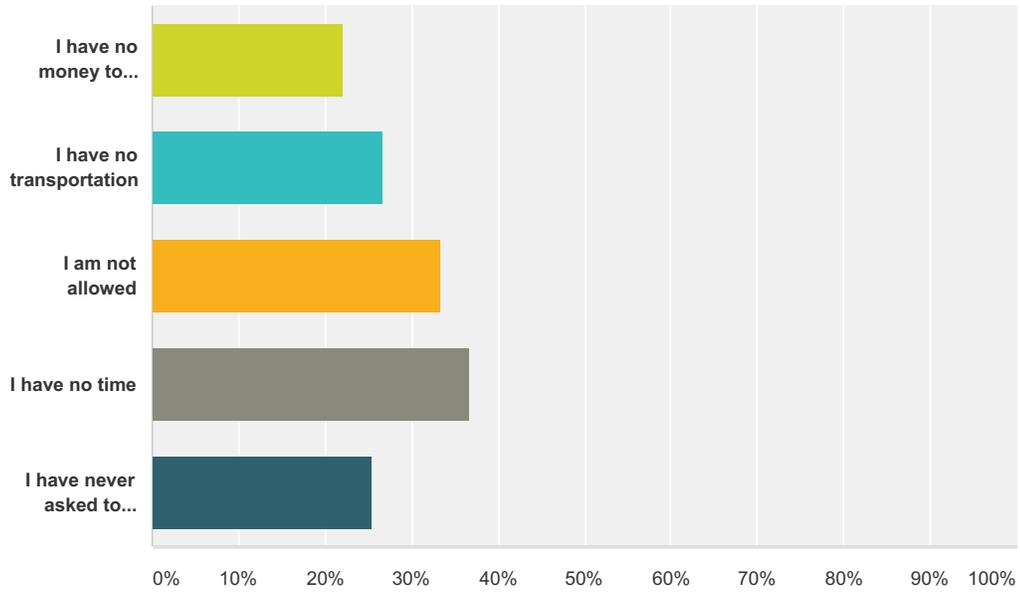
Answered: 416 Skipped: 17



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	78.13% 325
No	21.88% 91
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>

**Q11 If no, why do you not participate in the activities you enjoy? (check all that apply)**

Answered: 90 Skipped: 343



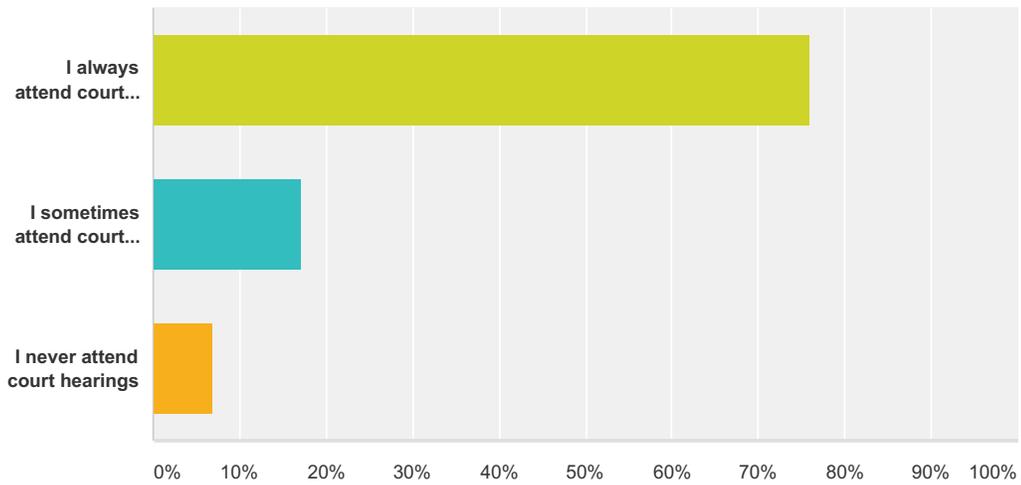
Answer Choices	Responses
I have no money to participate	22.22% 20
I have no transportation	26.67% 24
I am not allowed	33.33% 30
I have no time	36.67% 33
I have never asked to participate	25.56% 23
<b>Total Respondents: 90</b>	

**Q12 What do you think you miss out on the most by being in placement?**

Answered: 372 Skipped: 61

### Q13 How often do you attend court hearings?

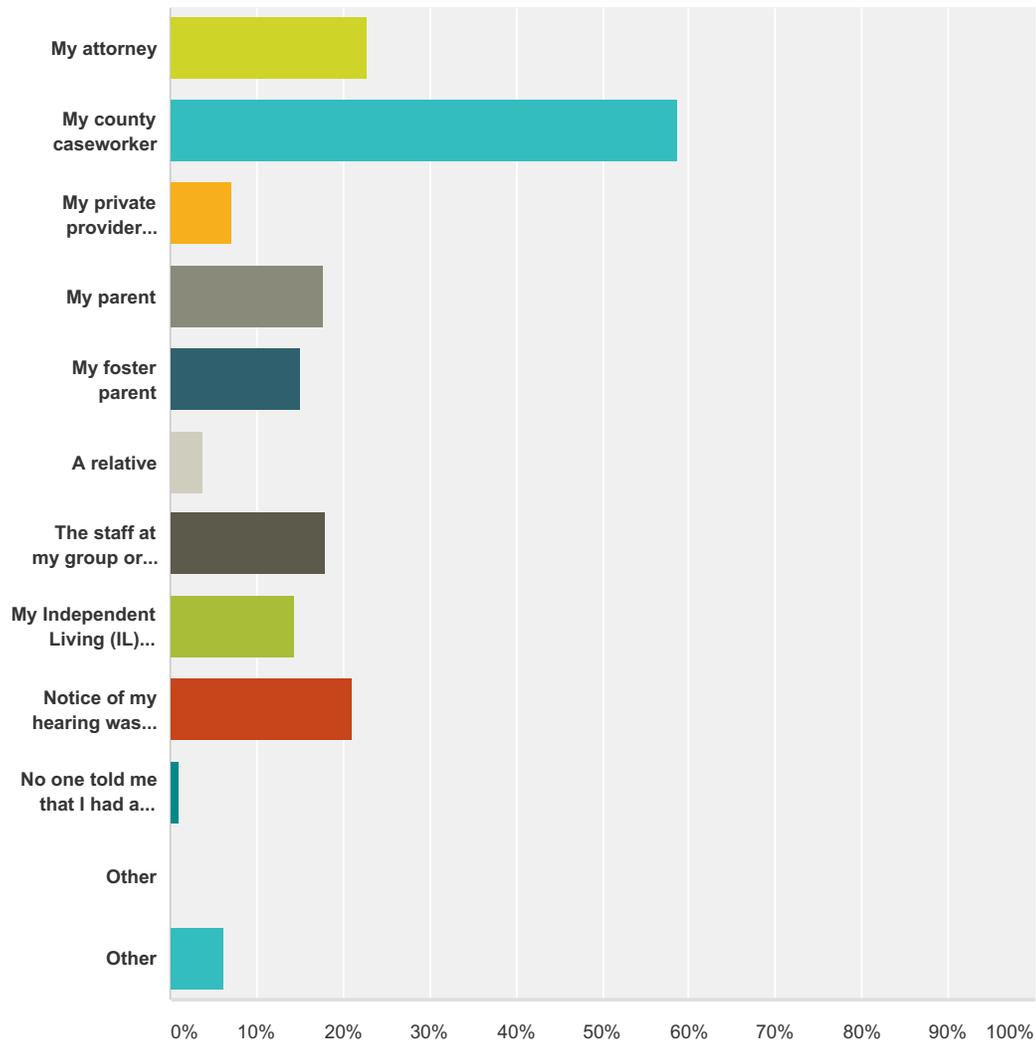
Answered: 405 Skipped: 28



Answer Choices	Responses
I always attend court hearings	76.05% 308
I sometimes attend court hearings	17.04% 69
I never attend court hearings	6.91% 28
<b>Total</b>	<b>405</b>

### Q14 Who told you about the last hearing you had? (check all that apply)

Answered: 405 Skipped: 28



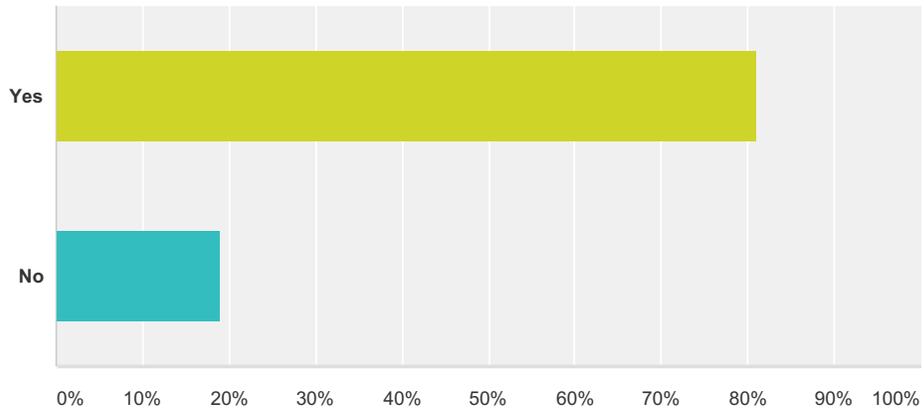
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
My attorney	22.72%	92
My county caseworker	58.77%	238
My private provider caseworker	7.16%	29
My parent	17.78%	72
My foster parent	15.06%	61
A relative	3.70%	15
The staff at my group or residential placement	18.02%	73
My Independent Living (IL) Worker	14.32%	58
Notice of my hearing was mailed directly to me	20.99%	85

## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

No one told me that I had a hearing	0.99%	4
Other	0.00%	0
Other	6.17%	25
<b>Total Respondents: 405</b>		

### Q15 Do you want to attend your court hearings?

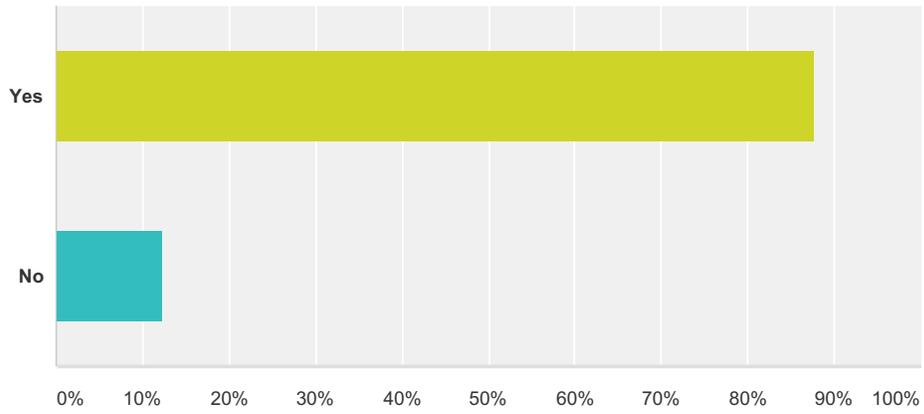
Answered: 405 Skipped: 28



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	80.99%	328
No	19.01%	77
<b>Total</b>		<b>405</b>

### Q16 Did you attend any court hearings in the last year?

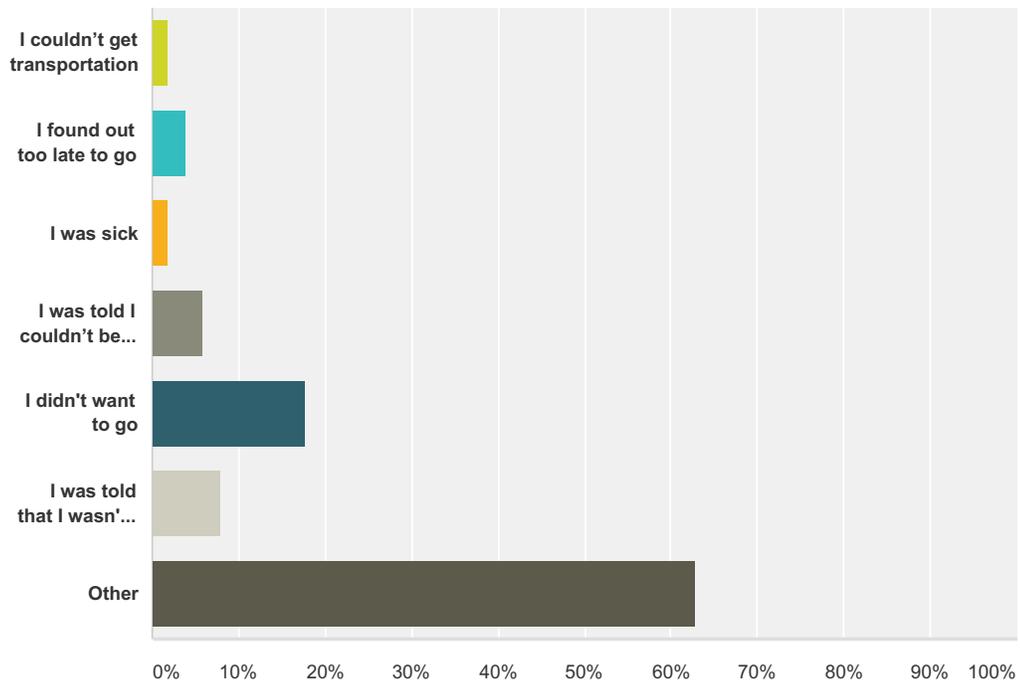
Answered: 405 Skipped: 28



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	87.65%	355
No	12.35%	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>405</b>

### Q17 Why didn't you attend the hearings that you wanted to attend? (check all that apply)

Answered: 51 Skipped: 382



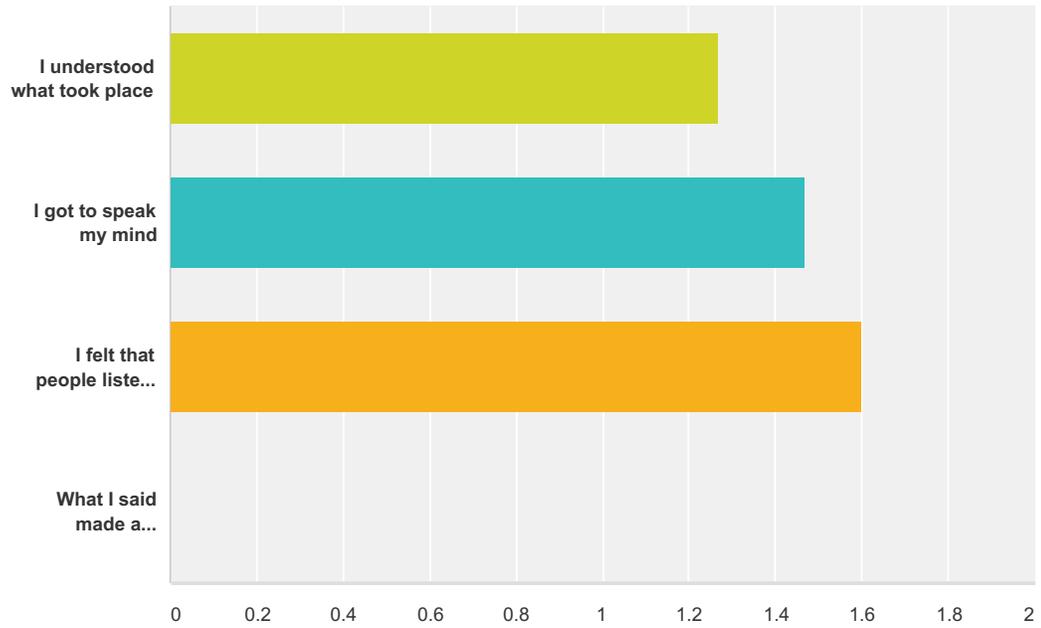
Answer Choices	Responses
I couldn't get transportation	1.96% 1
I found out too late to go	3.92% 2
I was sick	1.96% 1
I was told I couldn't be pulled out of school	5.88% 3
I didn't want to go	17.65% 9
I was told that I wasn't allowed to go	7.84% 4
Other	62.75% 32
<b>Total Respondents: 51</b>	

**Q18 If you were told you were not allowed to attend the hearing, who told you that?**

Answered: 51 Skipped: 382

### Q19 When I spoke at court hearings...

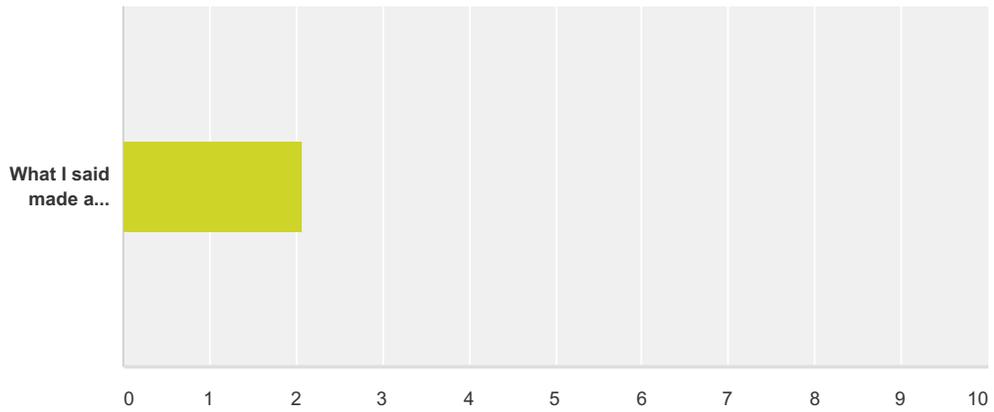
Answered: 382 Skipped: 51



	Always	Sometimes	Never	Total	Weighted Average
I understood what took place	74.35% 284	24.08% 92	1.57% 6	382	1.27
I got to speak my mind	61.52% 235	29.58% 113	8.90% 34	382	1.47
I felt that people listened to me	54.71% 209	30.89% 118	14.40% 55	382	1.60
What I said made a difference in what the court did	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00

### Q20 When I spoke at court hearings...

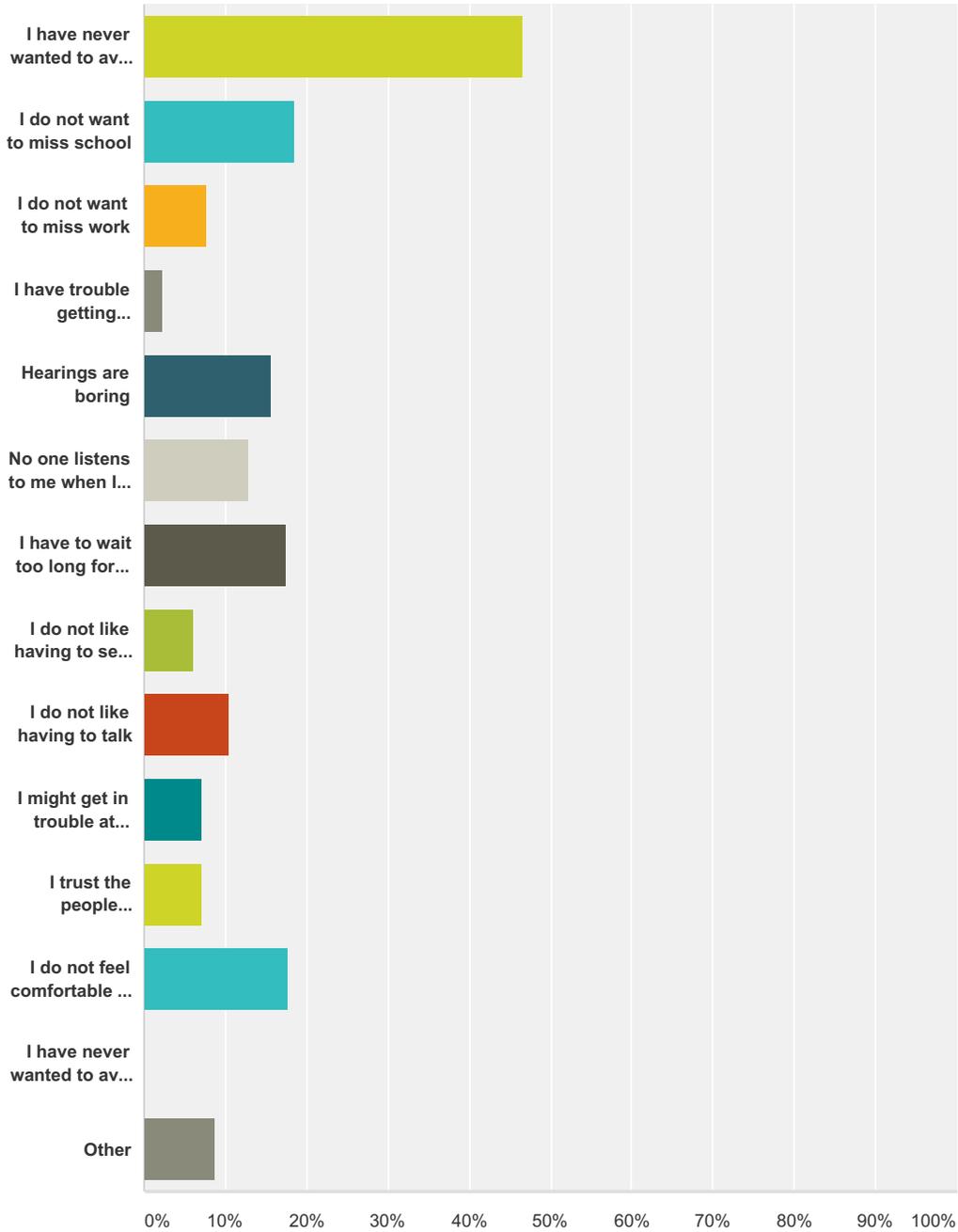
Answered: 382 Skipped: 51



	Always	Sometimes	Never	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
What I said made a difference in what the court did	30.37% 116	42.15% 161	18.85% 72	8.64% 33	382	2.06

**Q21 What are the reasons that make you want to avoid some (or all) hearings?  
(check all that apply)**

Answered: 400 Skipped: 33



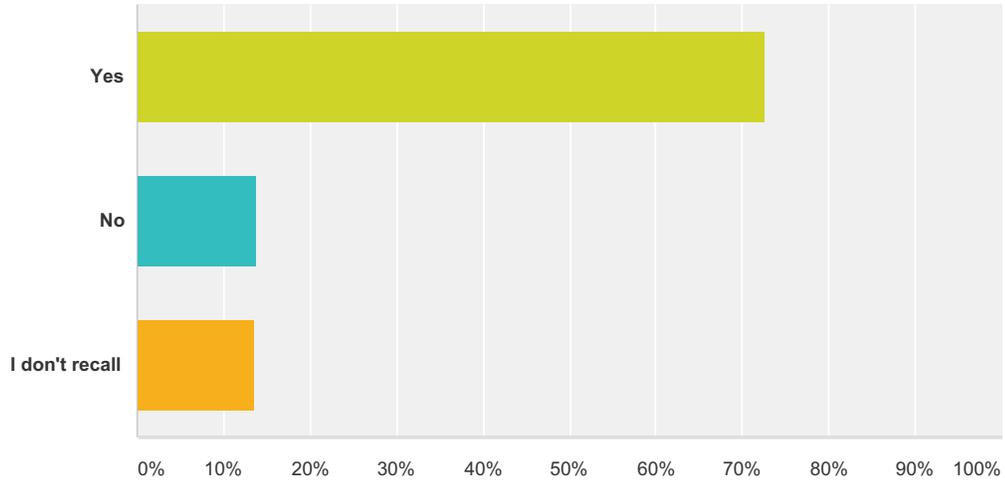
Answer Choices	Responses	
I have never wanted to avoid hearings	46.50%	186
I do not want to miss school	18.50%	74
I do not want to miss work	7.75%	31

## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

I have trouble getting transportation	<b>2.25%</b>	9
Hearings are boring	<b>15.75%</b>	63
No one listens to me when I am there	<b>13.00%</b>	52
I have to wait too long for my case to be heard	<b>17.50%</b>	70
I do not like having to see my parents or other relatives	<b>6.00%</b>	24
I do not like having to talk	<b>10.50%</b>	42
I might get in trouble at court	<b>7.00%</b>	28
I trust the people representing me in court and don't feel I need to attend	<b>7.00%</b>	28
I do not feel comfortable in court	<b>17.75%</b>	71
I have never wanted to avoid hearings	<b>0.00%</b>	0
Other	<b>8.75%</b>	35
<b>Total Respondents: 400</b>		

**Q22 For hearings that happened in the last year, did anyone explain to you what happened in your hearing afterwards?**

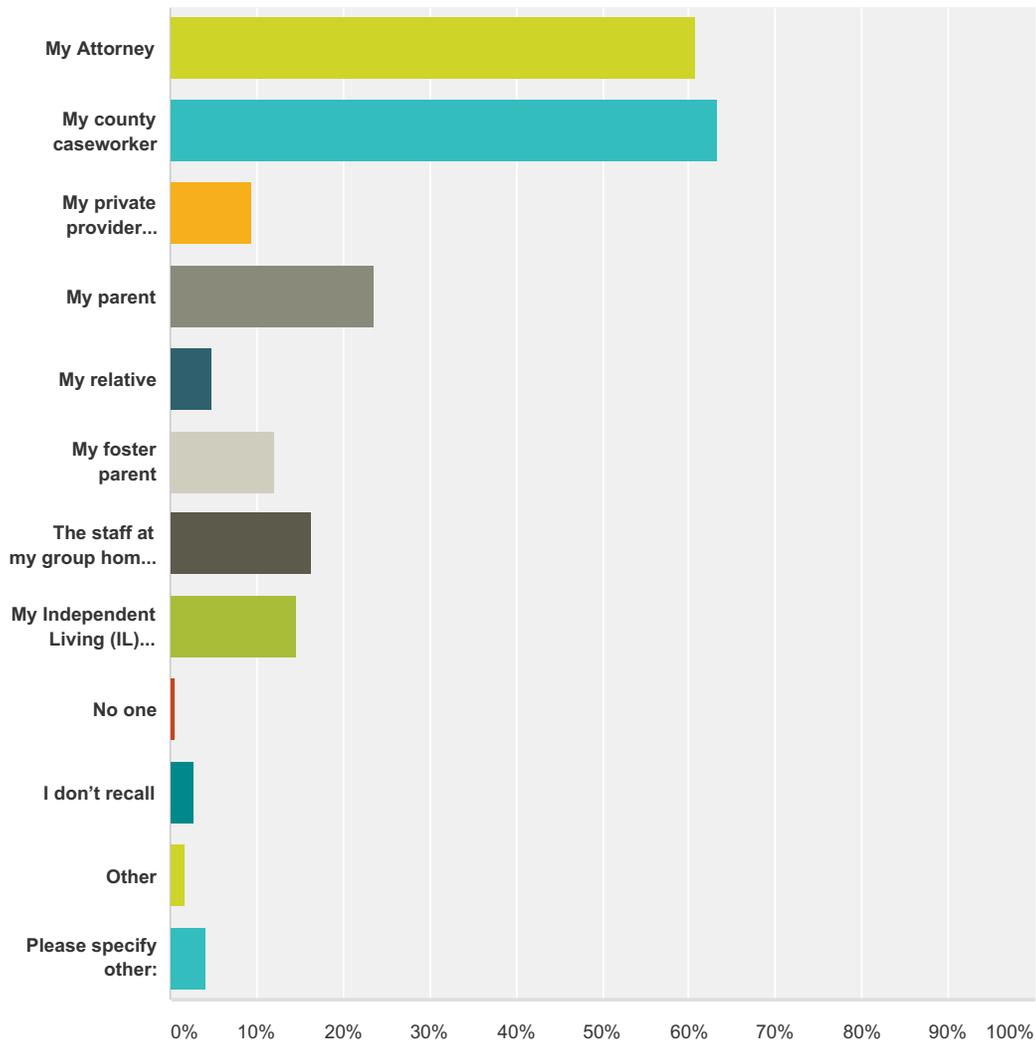
Answered: 400 Skipped: 33



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	72.75%	291
No	13.75%	55
I don't recall	13.50%	54
<b>Total</b>		<b>400</b>

### Q23 Who explained to you what happened? (check all that apply)

Answered: 288 Skipped: 145



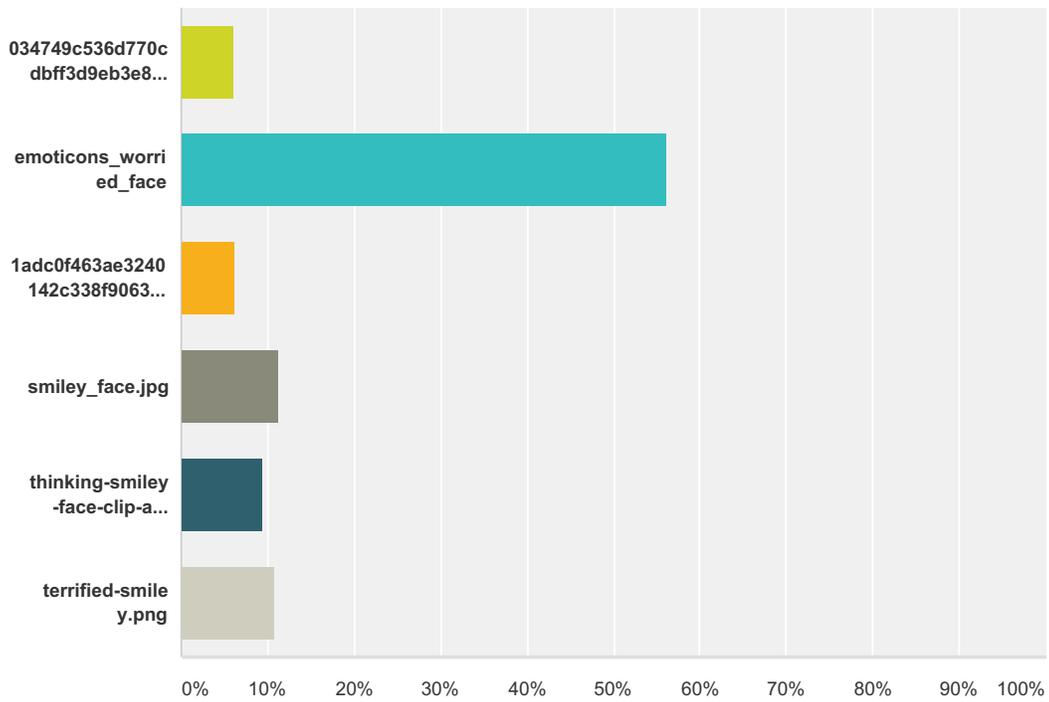
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
My Attorney	60.76%	175
My county caseworker	63.19%	182
My private provider caseworker	9.38%	27
My parent	23.61%	68
My relative	4.86%	14
My foster parent	12.15%	35
The staff at my group home or placement	16.32%	47
My Independent Living (IL) worker	14.58%	42
No one	0.69%	2

## Pennsylvania Youth Hearing Participation Survey

I don't recall	2.78%	8
Other	1.74%	5
Please specify other:	4.17%	12
<b>Total Respondents: 288</b>		

### Q24 Overall, my feeling about court hearings is...

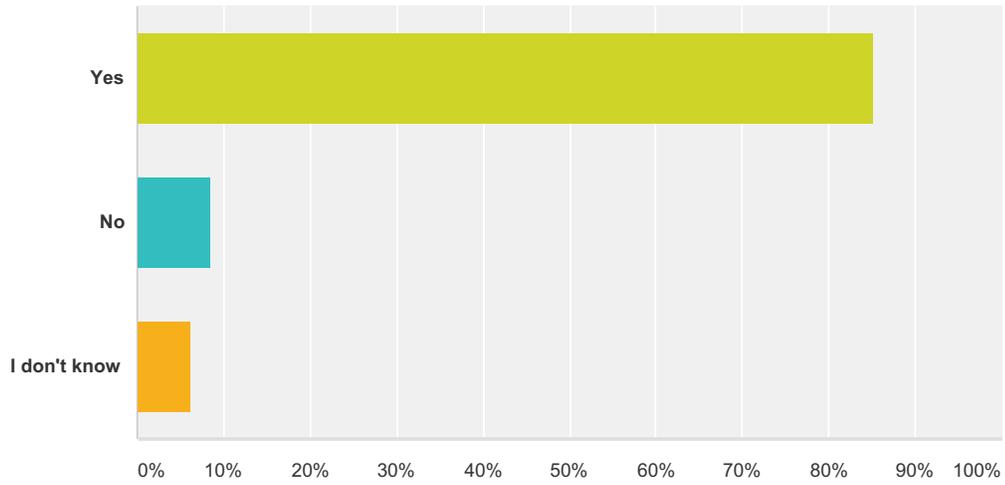
Answered: 397 Skipped: 36



Answer Choices	Responses
	6.05% 24
	56.17% 223
	6.30% 25
	11.34% 45
	9.32% 37
	10.83% 43
<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>

### Q25 Do you have an Attorney?

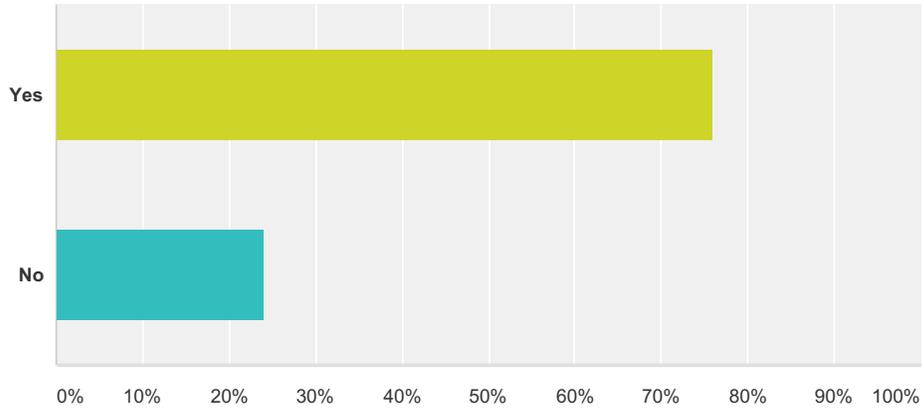
Answered: 396 Skipped: 37



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	85.10% 337
No	8.59% 34
I don't know	6.31% 25
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>

**Q26 Do you have the contact information of your Attorney so that you can either call, text or email them?**

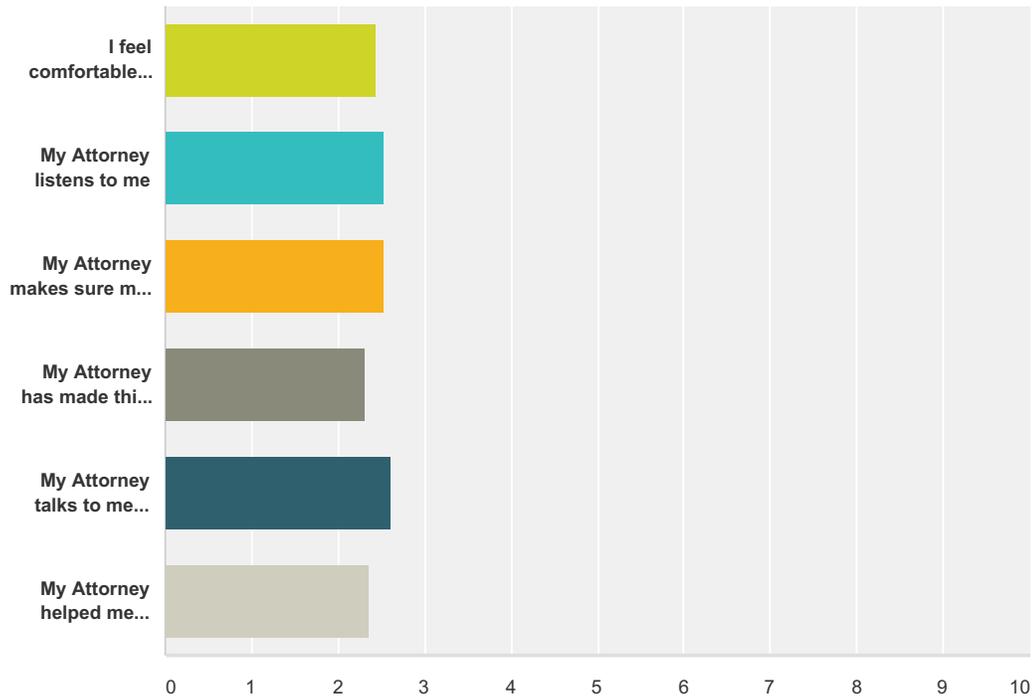
Answered: 330 Skipped: 103



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	76.06% 251
No	23.94% 79
<b>Total</b>	<b>330</b>

### Q27 My experience with my Attorney is:

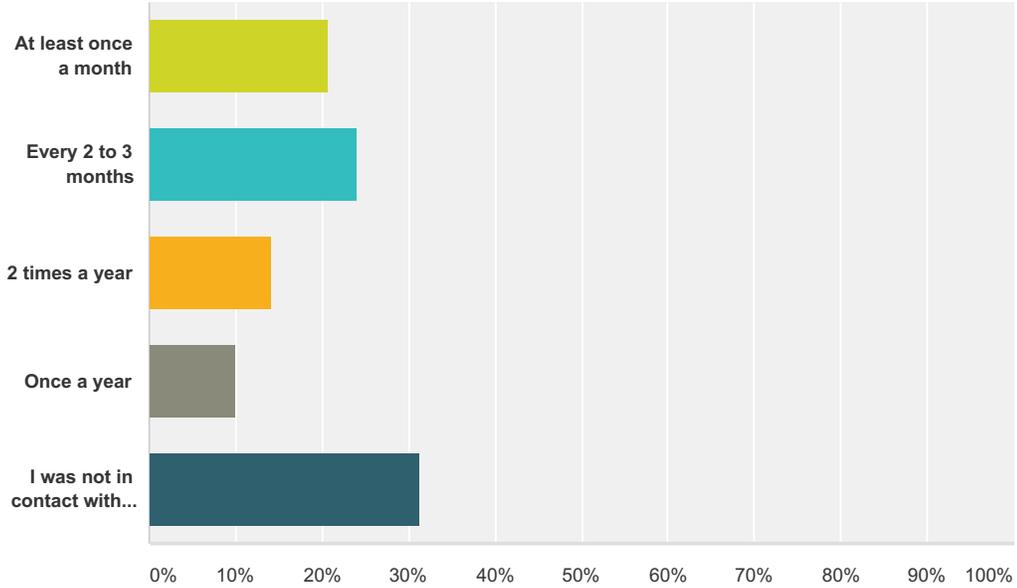
Answered: 330 Skipped: 103



	Never	Sometimes	Always	Total	Weighted Average
I feel comfortable talking to my Attorney	15.76% 52	23.33% 77	60.91% 201	330	2.45
My Attorney listens to me	13.03% 43	20.91% 69	66.06% 218	330	2.53
My Attorney makes sure my thoughts and opinions are heard in court	15.15% 50	18.18% 60	66.67% 220	330	2.52
My Attorney has made things better for me	18.48% 61	30.61% 101	50.91% 168	330	2.32
My Attorney talks to me using my name	12.42% 41	14.85% 49	72.73% 240	330	2.60
My Attorney helped me prepare for the hearings I attended	18.18% 60	27.27% 90	54.55% 180	330	2.36

**Q28 Other than when you were in court, how many times in the last year have you had contact with your attorney?**

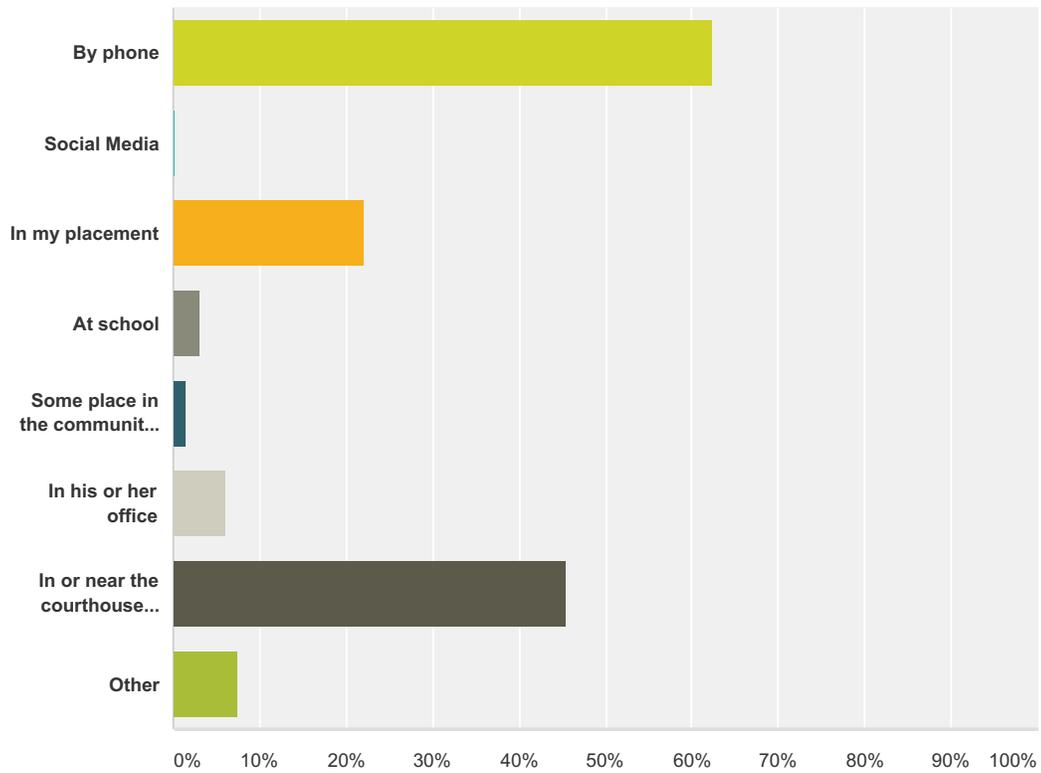
Answered: 330 Skipped: 103



Answer Choices	Responses	
At least once a month	20.61%	68
Every 2 to 3 months	23.94%	79
2 times a year	14.24%	47
Once a year	10.00%	33
I was not in contact with my Attorney in the last year	31.21%	103
<b>Total</b>		<b>330</b>

### Q29 How do you connect with your Attorney? (check all that apply)

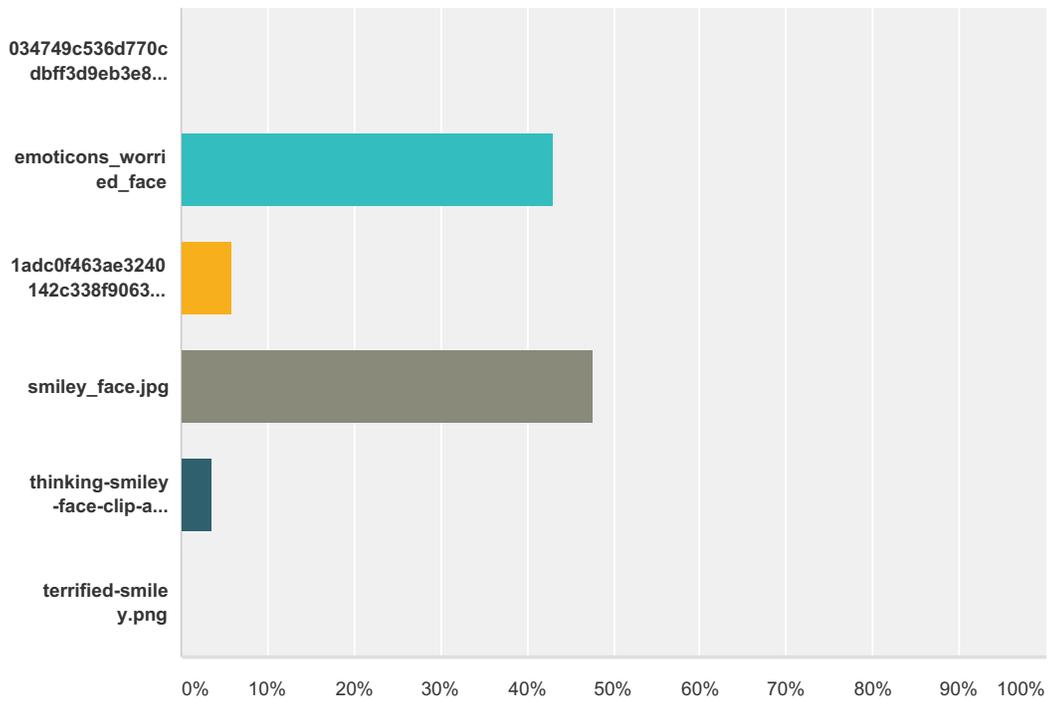
Answered: 330 Skipped: 103



Answer Choices	Responses
By phone	62.42% 206
Social Media	0.30% 1
In my placement	22.12% 73
At school	3.03% 10
Some place in the community like a park or restaurant	1.52% 5
In his or her office	6.06% 20
In or near the courthouse right before my hearing	45.45% 150
Other	7.58% 25
<b>Total Respondents: 330</b>	

### Q30 Overall, my feeling toward my attorney is...

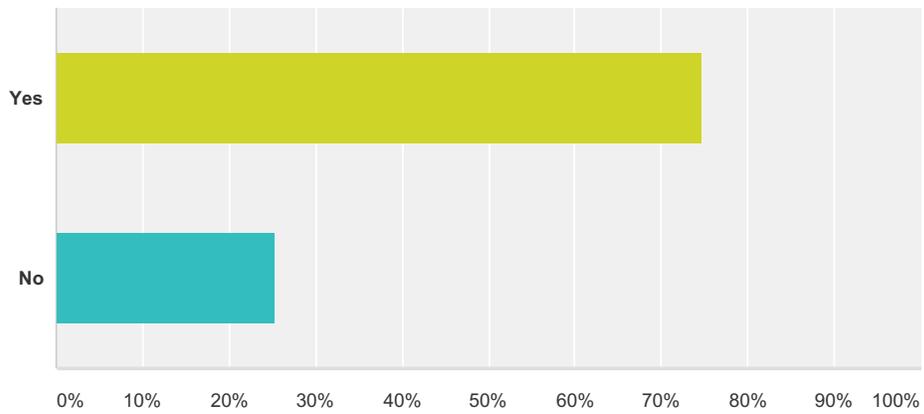
Answered: 330 Skipped: 103



Answer Choices	Responses
	0.00% 0
	43.03% 142
	5.76% 19
	47.58% 157
	3.64% 12
	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>330</b>

### Q31 Do you know the name of the Judge or Judges who have heard your case in court?

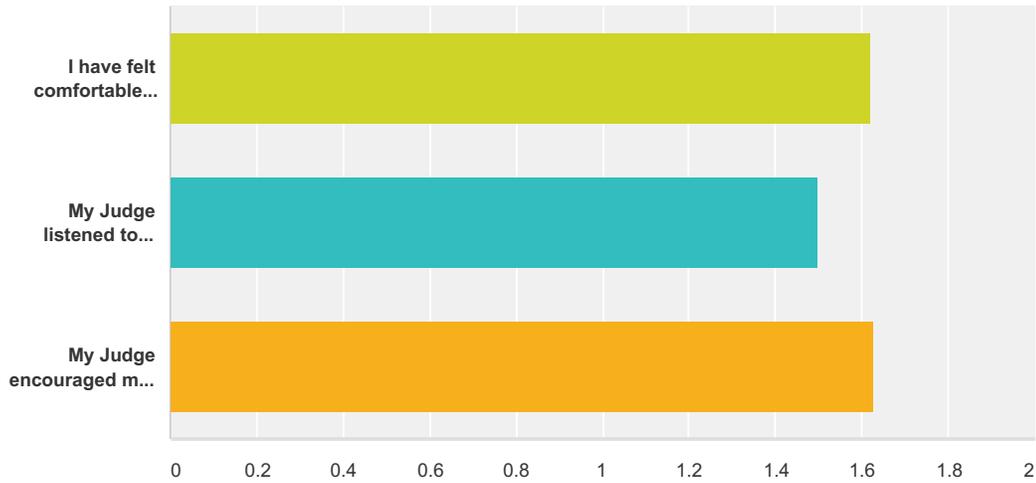
Answered: 387 Skipped: 46



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	74.68% 289
No	25.32% 98
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>

**Q32 How would you rate the following:**

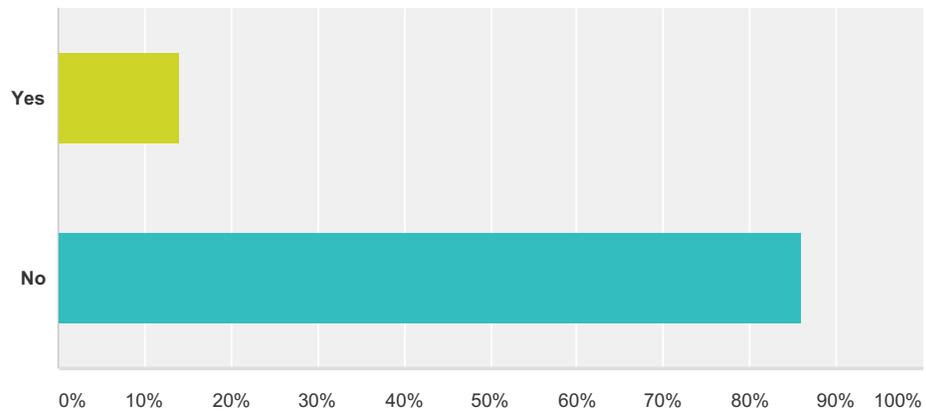
Answered: 387 Skipped: 46



	Always	Sometimes	Never	Total	Weighted Average
I have felt comfortable talking to my Judge	52.97% 205	32.04% 124	14.99% 58	387	1.62
My Judge listened to what I had to say	62.27% 241	25.06% 97	12.66% 49	387	1.50
My Judge encouraged me to talk in court	54.52% 211	27.65% 107	17.83% 69	387	1.63

### Q33 Have you ever asked for a hearing to be scheduled?

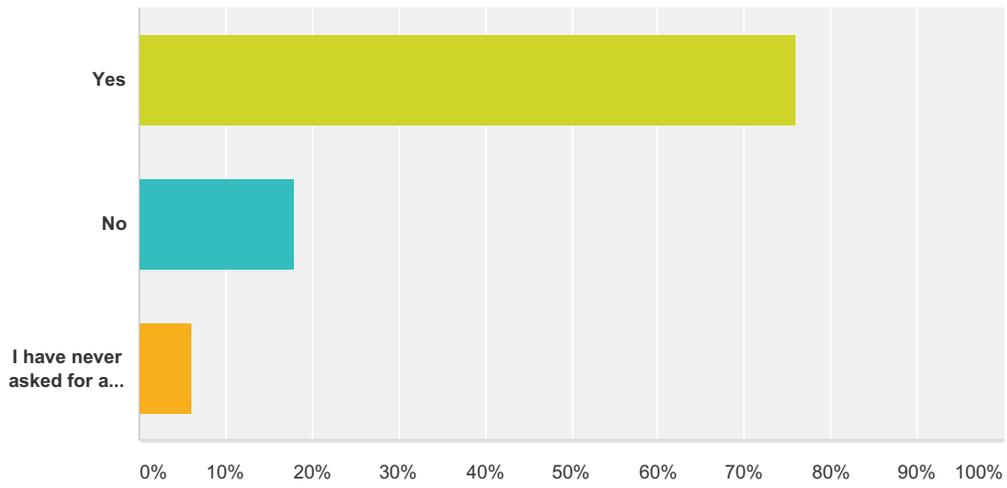
Answered: 387 Skipped: 46



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	13.95% 54
No	86.05% 333
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>

### Q34 When you asked for a court hearing, did a court hearing get scheduled?

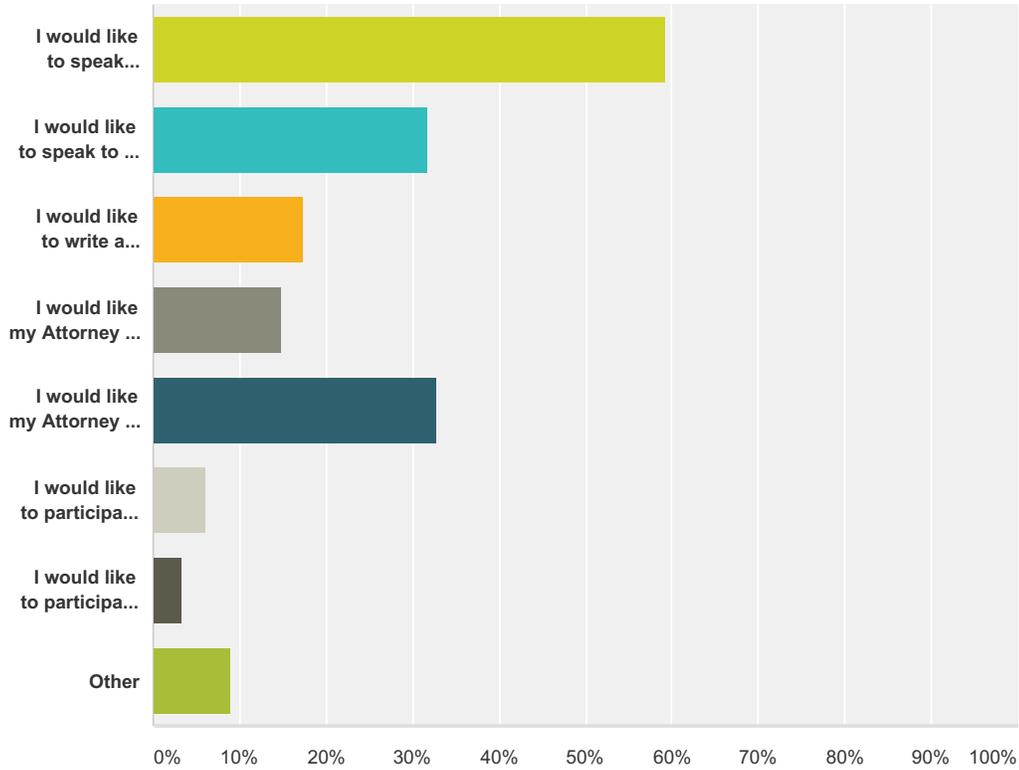
Answered: 50 Skipped: 383



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	76.00% 38
No	18.00% 9
I have never asked for a court hearing	6.00% 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

### Q35 In the future, how would you like to participate in your court hearings? (check all that apply)

Answered: 379 Skipped: 54



Answer Choices	Responses
I would like to speak directly to the Judge in the court room	59.37% 225
I would like to speak to the Judge in his or her office	31.66% 120
I would like to write a letter or fill out a form that tells the Judge how I am doing	17.41% 66
I would like my Attorney to ask me questions that I have practiced with him or her	14.78% 56
I would like my Attorney to say what I think and what I want after talking to me	32.72% 124
I would like to participate by phone	6.07% 23
I would like to participate by video (i.e. Skype)	3.43% 13
Other	8.97% 34
<b>Total Respondents: 379</b>	

## Tips for Working With Your Attorney

- Let your attorney know how (Phone? Facebook? Text?) AND when to contact you
- Ask to schedule regular calls or meetings
- Tell your attorney about changes in your life
- Let your attorney know what's important to you, your goals for the future, what you need and what you want
- Keep notes of your thoughts, needs and questions; remember them when you meet with your attorney

## What can I do if I do not think my attorney is doing their job or I cannot get in touch with them?

- **TALK** with **your attorney** about your concerns and what you want to change
- **WRITE a letter** OR **TALK** to your judge and tell him/her what problems you are having with your attorney. You can talk to the judge in court or maybe in his/her chambers (office)
- **CONTACT** whoever you feel most comfortable with, like your caseworker, caregiver or another adult you trust

## CONTACTING YOUR ATTORNEY

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TEXT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO**

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

## WHO ELSE IS INVOLVED IN YOUR CASE?

**JUDGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CASE WORKER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CASEWORK SUPERVISOR:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IL WORKER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not know who your attorney is:  
**Ask your caseworker!**

## Who Represents Me In Court?

## ALL YOUTH IN CARE HAVE AN ATTORNEY!



### Office of Children & Families in the Courts



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# So, I have an Attorney?

**YES! Because you have rights!**

Every child who is dependent is assigned an attorney whose job is to represent you in your child welfare case.

Your attorney will play the role of “guardian ad litem” or “legal Counsel”

- A **Guardian ad Litem (GAL)** is an attorney who tells the judge your wishes and what the attorney thinks is best for you to be safe and have your needs met
- **Legal counsel** only represents your wishes to the judge and follows only your direction in the case

**Ask your attorney about their role if you do not know if you have a GAL or legal counsel**



## How can my attorney help me?

Your attorney can:

- Help you understand your case & learn what to expect in court
- Tell you about choices you can make about services, placements, school, your health, & things that are important in your case
- Prepare you for court & make sure you are able to attend
- Make sure you can speak in court about your wishes
- Help with visitation & connection with family, friends and supportive adults
- Listen to your concerns & wishes

## How does an attorney decide what is in my “best interest”?

The attorney will consider:

- What you want
- What your parents want
- How you are doing at home, school and in the community
- Whether you have mental or physical health needs
- How your parents have met their responsibilities as parents
- Whether there is violence or criminal activity

Your “best interest” may be the same as what you want **BUT** could be very different.

## Is what I tell my attorney confidential?

In most cases yes, **BUT** there are times when your attorney may share some information you have told them:

- You are being abused or another child is being abused
- Telling would help protect your best interests

## How often should my attorney contact me?

- When they get your case and regularly after the case begins
- In enough time before your court dates to make sure you are prepared
- If you change placements, there is a problem with the case, or an emergency

**Every time you call your attorney they should call you back. Make sure to leave your current contact information.**

## Are there special issues that I should talk to my attorney about as an older youth?

- The option to remain in care until age 21
- The option to re-enter care if you leave at 18 or older and are under 21
- Making sure you have a good transition plan
- Any benefits you may be eligible for when you leave care, like: aftercare services, Education and Training Grant, and Medicaid coverage

## APPLA Permanency Tool Charts

## Appendix V

Reunification	Adoption	PLC	Fit and Willing Relative	APPLA
Has the youth been consulted about the goal?	Has the youth been consulted about the goal?	Has the youth been consulted about the goal?	Has the youth been consulted about the goal?	Has the youth been asked directly about whether they are in agreement with the permanency goal of Another Planned Permanency Living Arrangement?
Does the youth understand the goal?	Does the youth understand the goal?	Does the youth understand the goal?	Does the youth understand the goal?	Does the youth understand what APPLA means?
Does the youth have or want contact with his or her biological parents/caregiver(s) of origin that can be pursued?	Does the youth understand that 1) he/she can be adopted and may still be able to have contact with his/her bio family; and 2) may be eligible for an extended subsidy, Independent Living (IL) and Education and Training Grant (ETG)?	Does the youth understand that Permanent Legal Custodianship (PLC) may include options for a subsidy, provision of Education and Training Grant and Independent Living services and a court ordered visitation agreement?	Does the youth understand that placement with a fit and willing relative may include remaining in the system in kinship foster care and that a relationship with the biological family can continue?	Is the youth's living arrangement expected to continue past the youth exiting the child welfare system?
Do the compelling reasons presented reflect current, convincing facts and evidence that are case specific?	Do the compelling reasons presented reflect current, convincing facts and evidence that are case specific?	Do the compelling reasons presented reflect current, convincing facts and evidence that are case specific?	Do the compelling reasons presented reflect current, convincing facts and evidence that are case specific?	<p>Has at least one supportive adult relationship been identified, for the youth, which will continue past their involvement with the child welfare system?</p> <p>Has the agency described the specific services or supports provided to maintain the relationship?</p>
Have services been provided to work towards reunification that can be considered intensive, and ongoing, but unsuccessful efforts?	Have services been provided to work towards adoption that can be considered intensive and ongoing, but unsuccessful efforts?	Have services been provided to work towards PLC that can be considered intensive and ongoing, but unsuccessful efforts?	Have services been provided to work towards placement with a fit and willing relative that can be considered intensive and ongoing, but unsuccessful efforts?	<p>Does the permanency goal of APPLA include a schedule for sibling visitation?</p> <p>Does the permanency goal of APPLA include a schedule for visitation or contact with a supportive connection?</p>

<b>SERVICES TO ACHIEVE PERMANENCY</b>	Reunification	Adoption	PLC	Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative	APPLA
Discussion with youth about reunification and their feelings about pursuing it					
Services to both parent(s) to allow them to be a placement resource					
Structured contact with parents, including visitation					
Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) or some other type of family or youth led conferencing					
Family finding and engagement efforts					
Child Profile					
Child Preparation					
Child Specific Recruitment					
Discussion between the youth and an adoption professional about adoption, including: 1) Act 101 agreements; 2) Extended subsidy for older youth, 3) Independent Living (IL) services and Education and Training Grant (ETG) for older youth.					
Discussion between the youth and a permanency professional about Permanent Legal Custodianship (PLC), including: 1) continued contact with bio family; 2) Extended subsidy for older youth, 3) IL services and ETG for older youth.					
Discussion between the youth and a permanency professional about placement with a fit and willing relative and the services available to the family.					
Identification through the Youth Advisory Board (YAB), county agency, or Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN) of a youth who has been reunified, adopted, in PLC or placed with a relative to talk with the youth.					
Counseling services to address any grief and loss					
Sibling/family/relative/kin visitation arrangements					
Support of the development and maintenance of connections through skype, face time, phone contact, help with transportation.					
Referral to a mentoring program					
Participation in youth leadership activities like the YAB					
Opportunities for community and social activities that may facilitate the development of connections with caring adults.					

**Transitional Youth Video  
Discussion Guide Questions**

- What was your immediate reaction to the video?
- Do you know whether youth in care, in your county, are allowed to participate in age and developmentally appropriate activities and events?
  - ◊ If yes, how do you know?
  - ◊ If no, how can you ensure that this participation occurs?
- What process can you put into place to support resource parents and designated staff in their decision-making? What support can you provide to older youth living on their own to ensure quick and easy access to their designated caregiver?
- Do you recall the activities and events that you were allowed to participate in as a teenager? How did you feel when you were not allowed to participate in the same things your friends were doing?
- How can you begin as a county? What are some changes that can be made:
  - ◊ Immediately
  - ◊ Short-Term
  - ◊ Long-Term



**Office of Children & Families in the Courts  
Transitional Youth Workgroup**

## **Recommended Provider Contract Language**

### *Prudent Parenting Standard and Normalcy*

1. The reasonable and prudent parent standard was established in HB 4980 and it recognizes the importance of normalizing the lives of children in out-of-home placements. Rather than requiring authorization from agencies or the court, this act empowers caregivers to approve or disapprove a child's participation in activities without prior approval of the department, the child's county or private agency caseworker, or the court. In this context a caregiver refers to a resource parent OR individual trained and appointed in other out-of-home placement settings. The Pennsylvania specific law defines the reasonable and prudent parent standard as:

*“The Standard, characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety and best interests of a child while encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child, that a caregiver must use when determining whether to allow a child in out-of-home placement under the responsibility of the county agency to participate in the extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities.”*

2. County Agency Youth, age 14 and older, who are placed in substitute care, SHALL receive Independent Living (IL) services. These services will be offered by the county agency, or by the service provider, if the service provider has designated staff to deliver Independent Living skills to youth.
3. The county agency will provide the service provider with the county agency's expectations and guidelines for what constitutes reasonable and prudent parenting standards.
4. All placement settings, other than a resource family home, MUST designate an individual to provide decision-making authority under the reasonable and prudent parent standard for children residing in their care. The individual designated should consult with the county agency caseworkers or staff members, who are most familiar with the child, in applying and using the reasonable and prudent parent standard.
5. The service provider must provide training and monitoring of resource families regarding the application and use of the reasonable and prudent parent standard.
6. The service provider shall ensure that a caregiver is provided with a written notification of the caregiver's responsibilities and rights under this act. The notification shall be provided at the time of a resource family home certification or the designation of a caregiver by a county agency or private agency and annually thereafter.

7. The reasonable and prudent parent standard training required under this act must be completed as follows:
  - a. All current caregivers must complete the training by December 31, 2015. An individual who becomes a caregiver after the effective date of this section must complete the training prior to a child's placement, unless there is an emergency placement. If a child is placed in an emergency placement after the effective date of this section, the caregiver shall complete the training within 60 days of the emergency placement. The areas they must be trained on include, but are not limited to the following:
    - Knowledge and skills relating to the developmental stages of the cognitive, emotional, physical and behavioral capacities of a child;
    - Knowledge and skills relating to applying the reasonable and prudent parent standard to decisions such as:
      - Whether to allow a child to engage in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities, which include sports, field trips and overnight activities lasting one or more days;
      - Signing permission slips and arranging transportation for the child to and from extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities; and
      - Methods for appropriately considering the concerns of the biological parents of a child in decisions related to participation of the child in activities, with the understanding that those concerns should not necessarily determine the participation of the child in any activity.
  - b. Caregiver training should cover a history of P.L. 113-183 and Act 75 of 2015. The training should include: To whom does the law apply/not apply; reasons for the law; value of the law; the role of the caregiver as it relates to providing access to activities and experiences; and differences between consent and notice.
  - c. During training, caregivers must spend time learning about developmental stages of the cognitive, emotional, physical and behavioral capacities of a child. This includes exploring:
    - Explanation of healthy and unhealthy risks
    - Developmental issues and logical consequences (i.e. "testing the waters" or judgmental errors are normal)
    - Knowledge of trauma and triggers and safety plans associated with trauma
    - Examples of age or developmentally appropriate activities
  - d. The Activities and Experiences for Children in Out-of-Home Placement Act states:

***“A caregiver, county agency and private agency shall not be liable for harm caused to a child while engaged in an activity or experience approved by the caregiver if the caregiver has completed the required training related to the reasonable and prudent parent standard, the caregiver has made a good faith effort to use the reasonable and prudent parenting standard in approving the activity or experience AND the approval does not conflict with any applicable court order or service plan.”***

- e. Using this authority must be done within the bounds of the law, which excludes some topics from the reasonable and prudent parent standard. The following decisions will still require collaboration with agencies or the court:
- Religious training
  - Educational placement
  - Non-routine physical care or treatment
  - Mental Health treatment and the use of psychotropic medications
  - Activities that violate a case plan or court order
8. Upon request by the county agency, the provider shall provide documentation of compliance with the foregoing which shall include, but not limited to: a) dates of training and names of trainers and any other documentation requested by the county agency; b) developmentally and age appropriate activities provided and offered to youth in their care; and c) policies, standards and/or procedures adopted by the provider regarding HB 477.