



Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025

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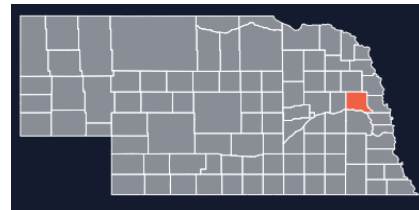
Introduction

Dodge County, located in the Northeastern portion of the state, has a combination of several small rural farm communities and the mid-size urban community of Fremont. The City of Fremont population is currently 26,383 as of 2019 from the United States Census Bureau¹. The Dodge County population is a total of 36,656. Per the US Census Bureau, the total population within Fremont and the county as a whole has decreased. The US Census Bureau indicates that within Dodge County, 24.2% of the population is under age 18 as of 2019. The breakdown of the population by gender shows to be 50.2% female and 51% male.

Dodge County does not have any public transportation, but has several cab companies. Additionally Uber drivers have started to give rides within the City of Fremont and surrounding areas. Recreational attractions in Dodge County include, the Fremont State Lakes, several recreational areas and parks, such as Hormel Park and Izaak Walton Park. Fremont is home to Midland University, a private liberal arts college. As of the 2018-2019 school year, 1,873 students were enrolled at Midland University (Undergraduate and Graduate).²

The most common job groups by number of people living in Dodge County are Sales & Office, Management, Business, Science & Arts, and Production & Transportation. The most common employment sectors for Dodge County are manufacturing, retail trade, and healthcare & social assistance.

Dodge County's population in 2016 was 36,757 and in 2019 the population was 36,656. The population of children 18 and under in 2016 was 9,691, and in 2019 was 8,797.



¹ U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Dodge County, Nebraska; Fremont city, Nebraska. (n.d.). Retrieved January 10, 2021, from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/dodgecountynebraska,fremontcitynebraska/AGE295219#AGE295219>

² Midland University Student Population and Demographics. (n.d.). Retrieved January 10, 2021, from <https://www.collegetuitioncompare.com/edu/181330/midland-university/enrollment/#:~:text=Student%20Population%20by%20Gender,graduate%20programs%20at%20Midland%20University.>

Data Summary

- Compared to school enrollment data, Hispanic and Black youth are overrepresented in chronic absenteeism.
- Dodge County has higher than state averages of youth who qualify for free/reduced lunch, a little more than ½ of the students in the last five years. There are also more students with limited English proficiency in Dodge County compared to the state.
 - Dodge County also has more youth under IDEA compared to the state, with a jump in 2017-2018.
 - Since 2017, the number of students in Dodge County with 504 plans has increased and became higher than the state averages.
- This community has not participated in the NRPFS and should consider participating in the next survey year (2021) to get youth-level data on mental health, gangs, supportive adults and community perceptions of substance use.
- There has been a decrease in arrests for all ages and under 18 from 2018 to 2019. The most notable decrease is in drug possession, weapons possession, larceny, and runaways.
 - There was an increase in arrests for juvenile vandalism
- Risk assessment domains for youth assessed for diversion suggest Family Circumstance/Parenting, Peer Relationships, Substance Use, and Leisure Recreation are the areas of highest need.
- Law enforcement data by race and ethnicity would be very beneficial to have a clearer picture of RED. Compared to the overall population of Dodge County, Native American youth are overrepresented at probation RAI overrides and probation intake; Asian youth are overrepresented at probation RAI overrides and underrides, and probation intakes; Black youth are overrepresented at having multiple charges filed and all probation system points; Hispanic youth are overrepresented at probation revocation; and White youth are underrepresented with probation intakes, probation RAI overrides and underrides, and probation revocations.
 - Race/ethnicity is missing at court system points of youth with multiple charges and being filed on in adult court.
- The majority of youth referred to diversion are enrolled, but a smaller percent successfully complete diversion.
 - The rates of Native American, Black, and Hispanic youth that are referred to diversion are the same as those enrolling, but the successful completion rates for these races/ethnicities is lower.
 - The rates of White youth referred to diversion are the same as those enrolling, but the successful completion rates are higher.

*This above information is from the Community Needs Assessment completed by JJI. The full report is attached as Appendix A.

Comprehensive List of Services

SYSTEM POINT: PREVENTION (includes programs that aim to intervene before and after problematic behaviors are identified)		
Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
Capstone (Therapy/Evaluations)	6-18	Use of positive coping skills, positive mental, physical, and emotional health.
Community Response	6-18	Adequate parental monitoring, consistent discipline
Youth groups (church)	6-18	Positive attitudes, values, and beliefs, positive teacher relationships
School sports	11-18	Problem solving skills, supportive social group
KVC Pact program	6-18	Positive mental, physical, and emotional health, and use of positive coping skills.
Region 6 Professional Partner Program	6-18	Regular attendance and engagement in school, and positive adult role models
After school care- YMCA, 21 st Century, Aspire for Greatness	6-19	Regular attendance and engagement in school, healthy/positive peer relationships
YMCA Sports	6-18	Clear expectations of prosocial behaviors/values, and healthy positive peer relationships
Mediation	11-18	Problem solving skills, compassion for others

SYSTEM POINT: DIVERSION SERVICES (diversion and services available to youth on diversion)		
Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
Capstone (Therapy/Evaluations)	6-18	Use of positive coping skills, positive mental, physical, and emotional health.
Mediation	11-18	Problem solving skills, compassion for others
Mentor-TeamMates, Aspire (community based)	11-18	Regular attendance and engagement in school, and positive adult role models, antisocial attitudes
Youth Leadership	14-24	Well-developed communication skills, positive adult role models
Family Navigator leadership classes Banister	11-18	Constructive use of time, problem solving skills
Substance use program	11-18	Drug/alcohol use, and positive coping skills
CASA volunteer (if state ward)	6-18	Positive adult role model, problem solving skills
Region 6 Professional Partner Program	6-18	Regular attendance and engagement in school, and positive adult role models
Rapid Response through Region 6	11-18	Mental health disorder, substance use challenges
Aspire for Greatness after school program	11-19	Constructive use of time, positive adult role models, lack of supervision, low achievement, low literacy, inappropriate use of time

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SYSTEM POINT: ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR PRE-ADJUDICATED YOUTH ONLY (include any programs that allow youth to remain in the community after any contact with law enforcement)		
Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
Community Youth Coaches	11-18	Drug/alcohol use, lack of supervision, inappropriate use of time, defiance of authority
Electronic Monitor	11-18	Lack of supervision, inappropriate use of time, defiance of authority
Family Support	6-18	Adequate parental monitoring, consistent discipline
Mediation	11-18	Problem solving skills, compassion for others

KNOWN GAPS IN SERVICES (include any programs that allow youth to remain in the community after any contact with law enforcement)		
Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
More bilingual therapy services	11-18	Use of positive coping skills, positive mental, physical, and emotional health.
Youth recreational space (Fremont’s Finest)	11-18	Well-developed communication skills, constructive use of time
Emergency shelter	11-18	Family violence, defiance of authority
Transportation services	6-18	Problem solving skills, regular attendance, engagement in school
Juvenile inpatient treatment	6-18	Drug/alcohol use, mental health
Crisis Response	6-18	Drug/alcohol use, problem solving skills, mental health disorder

Community Analysis and Response (CAR) Final Worksheet

Identified Need	Existing Program, Agency, or Resource	Eligible Age	Does this program accomplish the desired change? If no, what is missing?
Time Management classes	UYSS	11 to 17	Yes, but most do not know it exists.
Mentoring	TeamMates, Aspire, Banisters, Central Plains coaching, CASA volunteers only if state ward	5 to 24	No, TeamMates only is able to meet in the school and not over summer months. Missing formal/informal supports for youth. Aspire is community based, however we need more volunteers and community support to see this through. CASA volunteers are only for state wards.
More youth sports	YMCA, school sports, leagues	5 to 18	No, there are school sports and sports through the YMCA and then additional leagues. However, sometimes cost is an issue. There needs to be more open leagues for youth.
Psychiatric treatment for families in crisis	Methodist Fremont Health, law enforcement, NE Family Helpline, 988	0 to 99	No, there are no in home services for families in crisis. Need continued collaboration and communication between legal, MH providers, schools, and other local agencies.
Transportation for going to appointments and school	None unless involved with DHHS or probation; youth can get rides from family support workers, Medicaid, Good Neighbor	0 to 18	No, there are no transportation options for youth to get to appointments besides the cab company in town. Some families do not have the funds to pay for this expense. Availability of support services to allow for treatment in Omaha or surrounding areas.
After school programs	YMCA, 21st Century, Aspire for Greatness, summer lunch program	5 to 18	We need sustainable funding so there is no cost for youth to attend. Aspire has seen continued growth in attendance for 7 th -12 th grade. Summer lunch program is free for all.

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Productive, low cost activities for youth	YMCA, Ruff House, Aspire, Banister, school sports, boy scouts, school clubs, bowling, state lakes, fishing, hiking, etc.	3 to 18	No, not really many activities for youth that are low cost. Transportation plays a role in this as well. Need more public and privately owned/supported activities with costs at a price point which will encourage all youth to be able to participate. Possible need for more funding or scholarship options available or a business to sponsor youth to participate in activities.
Truancy	Diversion, Probation, Community Response, School Social Workers, Absenteeism mediations	11 to 17	Not all the time as Diversion has to redirect youth for continuing to miss school. Sometimes mediation does not solve the underlying issues.
More life skills classes	Opportunity Passport, Central Plains coaching, Banister Leadership Academy	11 to 18	Banisters Leadership Academy does implement life skills curriculum for youth in Dodge County. However, parents and youth are not aware that these programs exist a lot of the times. Community partners need to collaborate and educate parents to inform them of the resources available.
Youth substance use	Capstone SA Program, IOP, dual diagnosed therapists	11 to 24	No, many people do not know about certain programs unless they are system involved and it becomes a requirement for the youth. Would be nice to have a youth modified drug court program to hold the youth more accountable. There are limited IOP capabilities for our community.
Mental health services for youth	Many mental health therapists in town, Capstone, LFS private practices, etc. KVC, Region Six	3 to 24	No, if the youth are engaged positive progress can be made. However, some youth just go because it is a term they were asked to complete and they do not buy into the service/program. Fremont needs more MH therapists that specialize in adolescent age. Some programs/agencies have specific eligibility requirements. There are income restrictions with some programs. Need more that specialize in trauma-informed care or dual diagnosis.
Elementary youth with excessive absenteeism	CPS, Community Response, FFC Early Childhood team, Absenteeism Mediations	5 to 10	Not usually. We usually see patterns of older siblings missing and it continuing for their siblings in elementary. There is a lack of referrals from schools on youth ages 11 and younger and limitations with CBA funding. NMC can now have mediations to address elementary absenteeism.

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Support for parents	Region Six, FFC parenting class, NE Family Helpline, family support workers, KVC, Head Start, EDN, ESU Navigators	0 to 18	No, a lot of parental supports are not local. Most parents will not attend a parenting class unless court ordered. Some services are income based. Focus more on supporting the parents so it trickles down to the youth. Focus on the root of the problem which is usually in the home.
Out of control juveniles who act out violently against property and others due to mental illness or alcohol/drugs	Diversion, Probation, Therapy, MST, ART classes through probation, Mediation Center-VYC	11 to 17	Usually not, it may change for a while when the youth is on a specific program, but usually never addresses the root cause and goes back to the way it was before. Youth buy-in is a huge problem most of the time with uncontrollable youth. These programs need to have strong oversight and accountability for the youth they serve. Without these, youth will continue with their past behaviors.
Space for youth to spend time and be productive (community center)	YMCA, Aspire, Banister Family Navigator program	11 to 18	Many kids tend to get in trouble at the YMCA if they are not being supervised in a specific activity and just hanging out. Fremont had an after-school program called the Hope Center for Kids, but that agency left in 2018. Aspire for Greatness is faith based and at a church. However, all are welcome to attend and participate in programming there. Banister meets on Saturdays.
Bilingual therapists	Capstone and NMHC	11 to 18	There are only adult therapists that see clients over the age of 18. We struggle with referring for therapy services when the parents do not speak English.

Gaps to be Filled Worksheet

GAPS IN THE CONTINUUM			
Brief Data Snapshot	Existing Program, Agency or Resource	Eligible age	Does this program accomplish the desired change? If no, what is missing?
In 2019 there were 357 drug violation charges for juveniles.	Diversion, Probation, SA program at Capstone, Therapy, IOP	11-18 years	We believe these programs do address the substance use issue, however only while the youth is engaged in services typically.
Youth reported they have an adult at school that listens an average of 85.9% and an adult at home who listens at an average of 86% for grades 8 th , 10 th , and 12 th .	TeamMates, school teachers, check and connect programs at FPS, school social workers, CASA volunteers for state wards.	5-18 years	No, youth need mentors outside of school hours and that are strictly volunteers who want to get to know them and help make a positive impact in their lives.
Court filings for truancy from 2015-2019 is a total of 1997. With 475 filings for truancy in 2019.	Diversion, Probation, Community Response, Therapy	5-17 years	Not usually as truancy remains a huge concern for our community. Each case is different in the reason behind school absences. Addressing each case with the root cause and having parental involvement is necessary.

List of Team Members

Description of Team

The Dodge County Juvenile Services team originally developed in 2007 and consisted of various representatives from various agencies in the county that worked with juveniles. The current members represent the county's School Districts, Mental Health Therapists, County Attorney, Diversion, Probation, Family Support agencies, direct service providers, Nebraska Mediation Center staff, Fremont Family Coalition staff, and other community stakeholders. The Team Chair, Meggie Studt, is responsible for organizing and facilitating the meetings. The Team meets quarterly and the chair schedules these meetings and emails a calendar invitation and reminder for each meeting. These meetings typically last anywhere from one to two hours. In addition, the chair emails the agenda, takes minutes at the meetings, and emails the minutes to all members after each meeting. Each agenda includes the priorities and strategies for the current community plan. At each meeting, the Team reviews their activities and how they correlate with achieving the identified priorities for the youth in Dodge County. Each meeting we discuss any updates with youth related events, programs, services etc. We have conversations including current communication barriers, ways to improve collaboration and education of services, any changes, and/or developments for each member. The team met frequently and had subcommittee meetings to develop and finalize the 2021-2025 plan. During the past year the team met on 1/16/20, 4/16/20, 7/16/20, 10/8/20, and 1/7/21. There are also monthly older youth subcommittee meetings held on the first Thursday of every month and are open to anyone interested in the community, and are majority of the same members.

List of team members for Dodge County:

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Closing Comments

The Community Analysis and Response tool helped our team come up with some solutions to the issues we are seeing. Our goal is to focus on treating youth with equity and making sure we get their input for these services and programs as that is very important. Our team would like to grow the support from law enforcement and behavioral health sectors to be more prevention focused rather than reactionary. Fremont is starting to become a more diverse community as more businesses and housing developments are being created here. We would like our community to embrace these new changes and be ready for the advancements that will be coming our way with new community members/cultures and businesses. Our team works on recognizing disparity in services and service providers and aims to address those. We work to identify gaps and identify partners working in other parts of the state to formulate plans to collaborate and offer services in our area. Our team is wanting to focus our efforts on making sure youth are spending their time being productive with different activities in the community and making sure there are ample opportunities for youth to be involved with positive things to see the impact they can have. As most of us know, when children are busy and their time is occupied with productive activities, they are less likely to obtain law violations and get into trouble. We would like to focus on creating a mentor program that can meet students outside of the school day and summer months as we currently do not have this resource. We would also like to keep working on developing an after school program for youth in our community since the last one left in 2018 and it has not been replaced. Currently there is a committee working on opening an older youth after school program and plans to open in the fall of 2021 in collaboration with a local church. Our community recently hired a Central Navigator position through the Fremont Family Coalition that will focus on older youth/young adults in the community. This will be a huge help for providers/families working with youth who need assistance as they will have a central contact person to contact for specific youth related services/resources. We are in the process of creating a Dodge County youth manual and making the necessary updates as needed for schools, providers, families, etc. We have a solid Juvenile Services team and plan to keep adding additional members as we see fit. Our team is always open to new ideas and ways we can improve, so we are looking forward to new ways we can all collaborate to improve the lives of the youth we serve.

Appendices

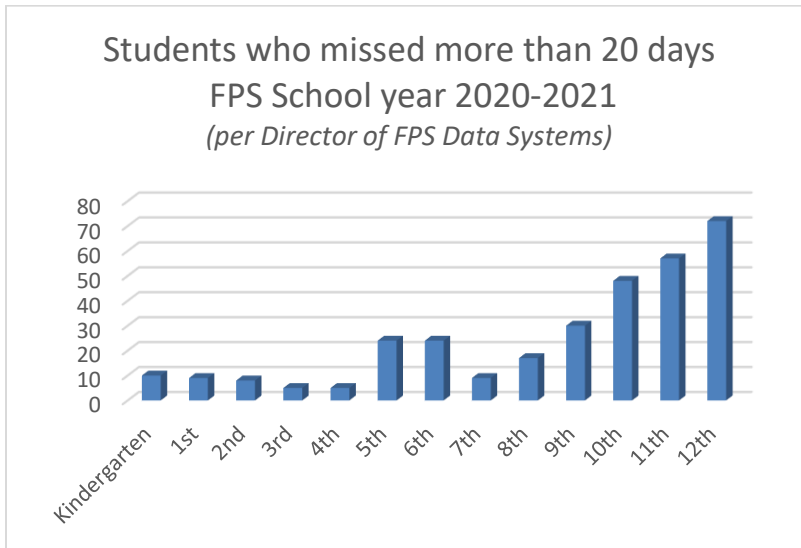
Appendix A: Completed Community Needs Assessment (CNA)

Appendix B: Approval Letter/minutes from Governing Board

Appendix C: Other Appendix as identified by the community team

Appendix C

Truancy continues to be an area of focus for Dodge County. Services and programs that we currently have are mainly focused for students in 5th through 12th grade. However, we realize early efforts in intervention are necessary to mitigate the issue in elementary school.



	Grade Level	# of Students
FHS	9	29
	10	48
	11	57
	12	71
FMS	7	9
	8	17
JCAC	5	24
	6	24

*Data was gathered from the Director of FPS Data Systems and is not included in the CNA.



For the 2020-2021 school year FPS reported their TeamMates program had 61 matches and of those 61 matches, 53 are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

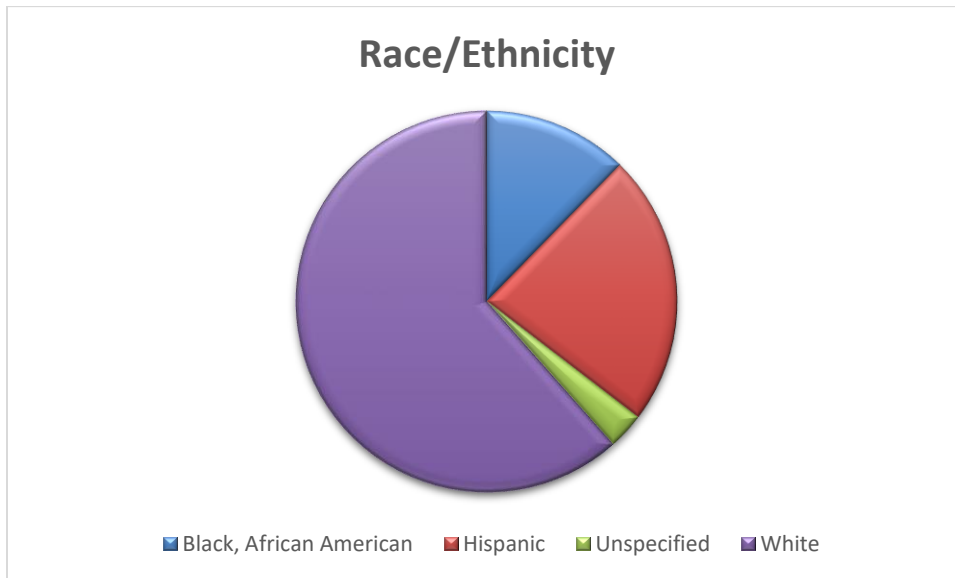
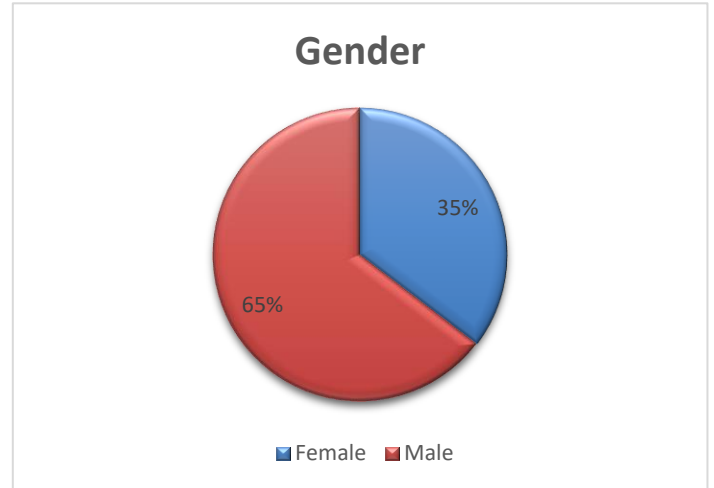
*Data is per the TeamMates mentor program through Fremont Public Schools.

Dodge County Diversion Data

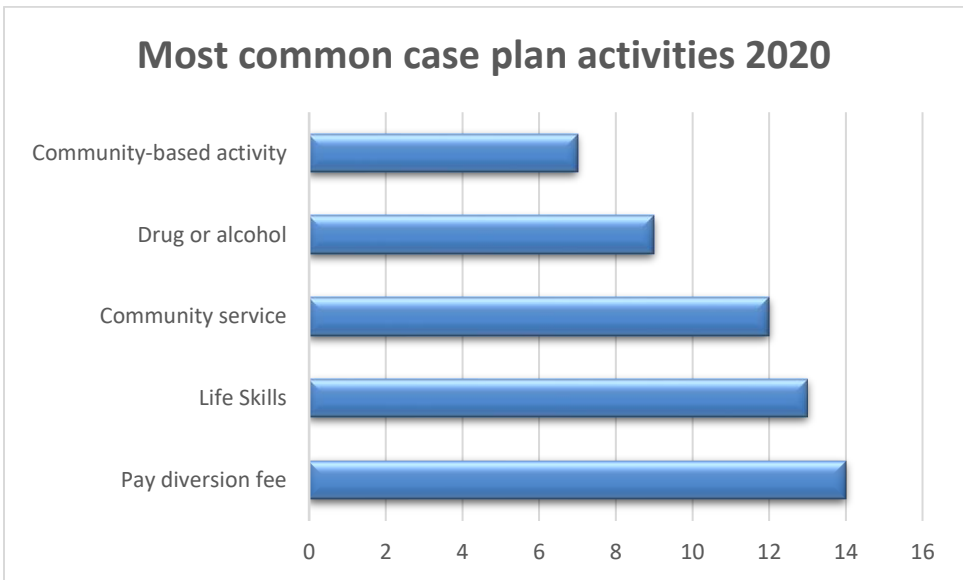
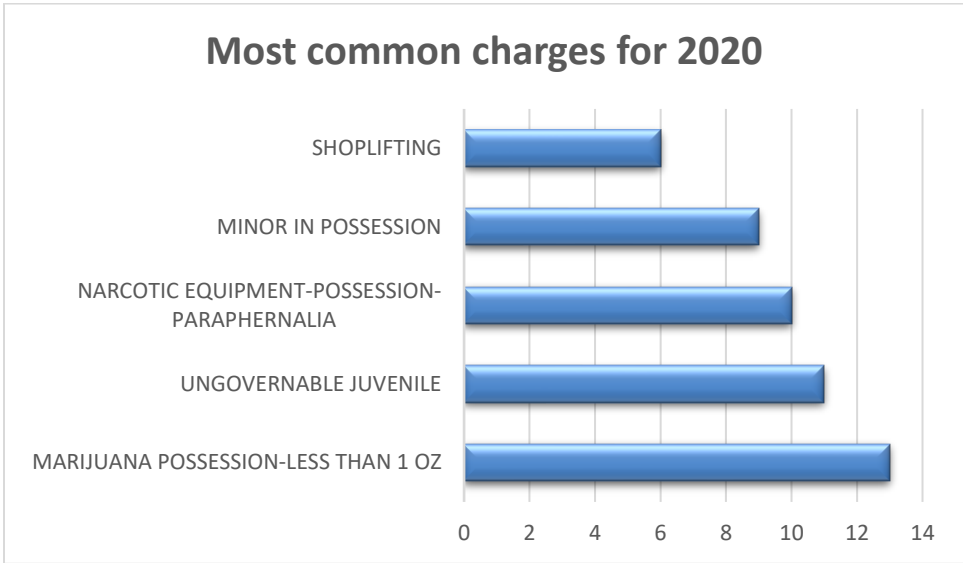
The following data was pulled from the Juvenile Case Management System for the Dodge County Juvenile Diversion program.

1/1/20-12/31/20

<u>Referrals</u>	65
<u>Intakes</u>	58
<u>Enrollments</u>	61
<u>Total Discharges</u>	64
<u>Successfully completed program</u>	47
<u>Failed to comply with program</u>	8
<u>New law violation(s)</u>	9
<u>Other</u>	0
<u>Referred but not enrolled</u>	5
<u>Youth/Parent refused diversion</u>	2
<u>Program declined admission</u>	1
<u>Referral withdrawn</u>	2



Black, African American	8
Hispanic	15
Unspecified	2
White	40



*All Diversion data pulled from JCMS and submitted to the Crime Commission.