

Hennepin County Attorney's Office Update

Public Health And Safety Committee
March 13, 2024

Mary Moriarty, Hennepin County Attorney



Discussion Items

- 2023 Year-end numbers – offenses, clearance, Hennepin County Attorney's Office (HCAO) cases received, and HCAO action on cases received
- Spotlight: Youth Auto Theft
 - The challenge
 - Thinking differently to address the challenge
 - Youth Auto Theft Early Intervention
 - Expediting processing and reducing time to charging decision
- Opportunities





2023 Year-End Numbers



Offense Data - BCA

- The MN BCA provides crime data about Group A offenses reported by Minnesota law enforcement agencies.
- Each agency is responsible for the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of their data.

Offenses Reported or Known to Law Enforcement,
Minneapolis Police Department, 2021 - 2023

Offense Type	2021	2022	2023
Crimes Against Persons	9,539	10,338	10,449
Crimes Against Property	28,678	32,173	33,045
Crimes Against Society	2,531	2,583	2,679
Total	40,748	45,094	46,173

Source: [Minnesota Crime Data Explorer | Bureau of Criminal Apprehension \(state.mn.us\)](#); pulled 3.11.24



Clearance Data - BCA

- For the HCAO to take action on a case, the case must be submitted by law enforcement.
- Not every criminal offense known or reported to law enforcement in Hennepin County is submitted to the HCAO.
- Law enforcement first investigates. If and when an offense is "cleared," law enforcement submits it.
- As part of Uniform Crime Reporting Program data collection, information on case clearance is reported by law enforcement to the BCA.



Clearance Data - BCA

	All Hennepin County Law Enforcement Agencies - 2023		Minneapolis Police Department - 2023	
	Group A Offenses Reported or Known	Clearance Rate	Group A Offenses Reported or Known	Clearance Rate
Crimes Against Persons	17,512	34.9%	10,497	26.5%
Crimes Against Property	61,196	12.4%	33,042	5.5%
<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	9,763	3.4%	7,856	2.3%
<i>Robbery</i>	1,943	21.5%	1,441	15.8%
Crimes Against Society	7,766	76.1%	2,679	64.2%
Total	86,474	22.7%	46,668	13.5%

Source: [Minnesota Crime Data Explorer | Bureau of Criminal Apprehension \(state.mn.us\)](#); pulled 3.8.24



Cases Received Data - HCAO

- The HCAO handles felony-level adult cases and all levels of youth cases that have been cleared and submitted by law enforcement agencies in Hennepin County.
- Because the HCAO receives cases after they've been cleared, the number of cases handled by the HCAO is typically significantly smaller than the total number of offenses found in the law enforcement data reported by the BCA.

Total Cases Received by HCAO from the Minneapolis Police Department by Year, 2021 - 2023

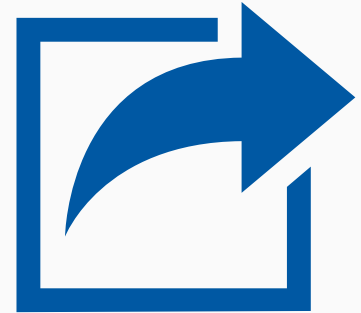
Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Cases	4,621	4,245	3,554	3,624	4,014

Source: [Data dashboard | Hennepin County \(hennepinattorney.org\)](https://data.hennepinattorney.org/); pulled 3.11.24



Charging Decision Data - HCAO

- Once the HCAO receives a case from law enforcement, the office determines what to do with it.
- Typically, that decision will be either to charge the case, decline to charge it, divert it, or send it back to law enforcement for more information (defer).
- The process from case submission to charging decision takes time, so some cases also spend time at a pending stage.



Charging Decision Data - HCAO

	2023 - Cases Received by HCAO from All Agencies 14,629 cases received from all agencies	2023 - Cases Received by HCAO from the Minneapolis Police Department 4,014 cases received from Minneapolis
Charged	55%	56%
Declined	23%	29%
Diverted	13%	6%
Deferred	3%	4%
Pending	6%	6%

Source: [Data dashboard | Hennepin County \(hennepinattorney.org\)](https://hennepinattorney.org/data-dashboard); pulled 3.8.24

Notes:

- *These figures exclude under investigation and other.*
- *Post-charge diversion cases are initially marked as charged and are counted as charged cases until a diversion agreement is entered in court. So, diversion cases are likely undercounted and charged cases likely overcounted here for 2023.*





Spotlight: Youth Auto Theft



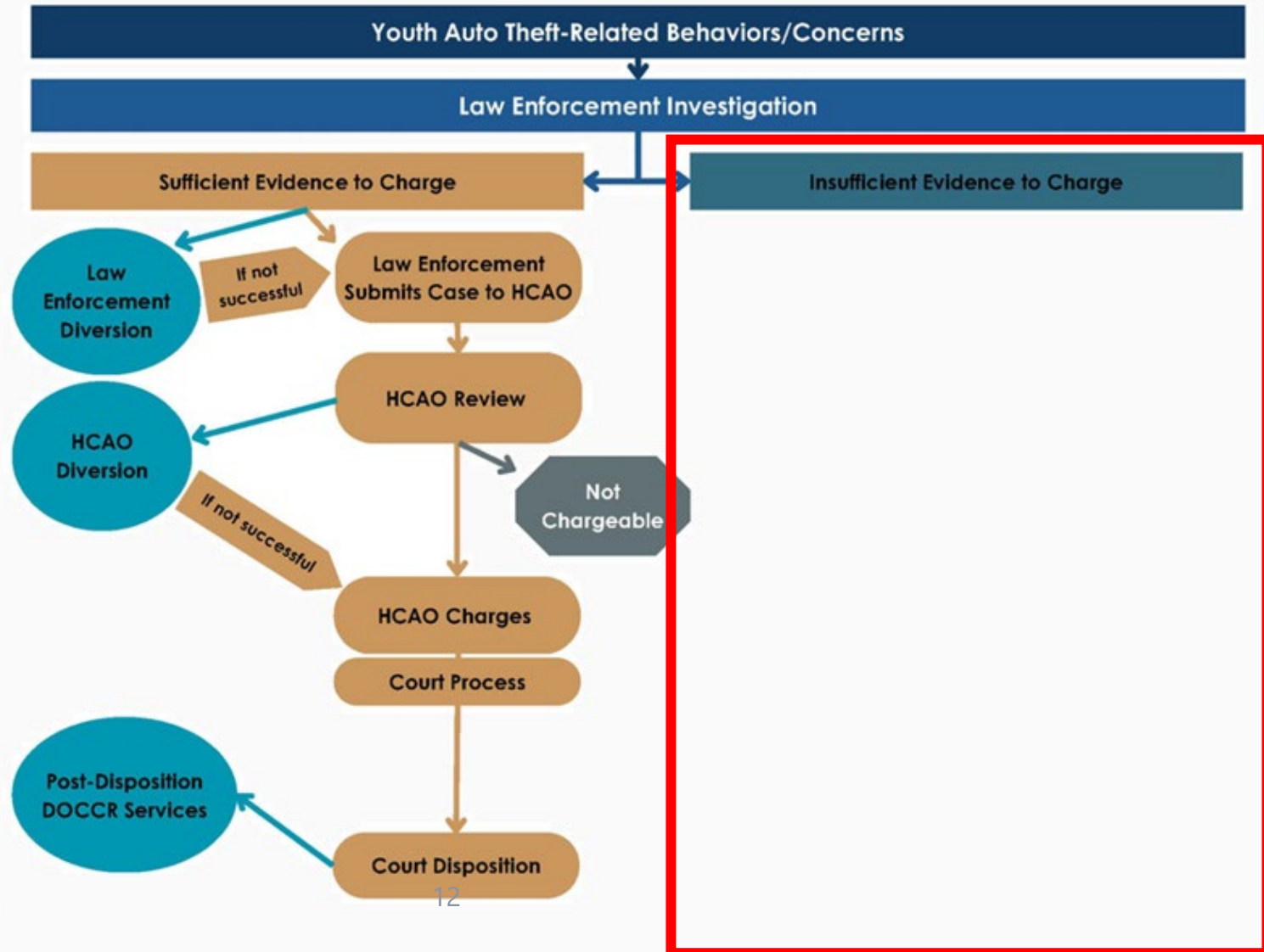
Challenge: Auto Theft is Prevalent and Hard to Clear

	All Hennepin County Law Enforcement Agencies		Minneapolis Police Department	
	2023 Group A Offenses Reported or Known	2023 Clearance Rate	2023 Group A Offenses Reported or Known	Clearance Rate
Crimes Against Property	61,196	12.4%	33,042	5.5%
<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	9,763	3.4%	7,856	2.3%



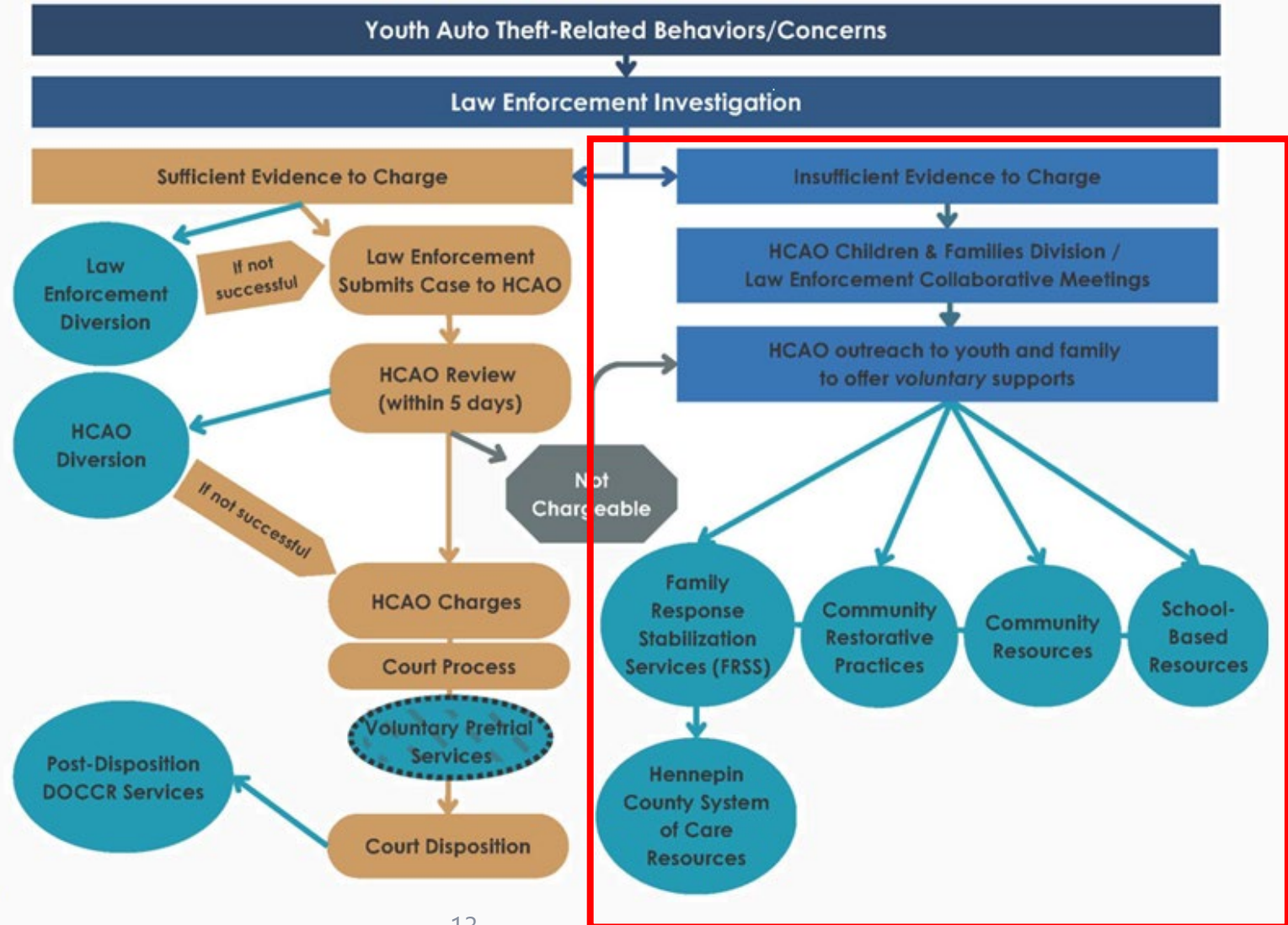
Challenge: Gaps in Existing Responses

Under the traditional response to youth auto theft behavior, there has been a gap where concerns are present but there isn't sufficient evidence to charge and therefore no response.



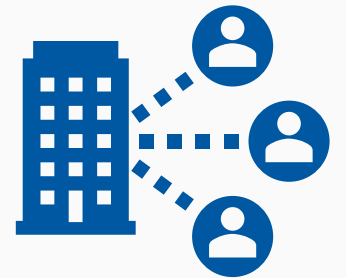
Thinking Differently: Youth Auto Theft – New Early Intervention Pilot Initiative

This new pathway helps fill that gap by linking young people exhibiting risky auto theft-related behavior and their families to existing voluntary services and support.



Initiative Overview

- In June 2023, we initiated a pilot to offer alternative resources outside of the traditional legal system.
- Law enforcement partners refer young people who have demonstrated risky behavior related to auto theft.
- The HCAO serves as a hub for connecting those youth and their families with voluntary services from a social worker and other County resources. Hennepin County Health and Human Services is core services partner for social worker services.
- The approach is rooted in meaningful collaboration across HCAO's Children & Families Division, Hennepin County Health and Human Services, law enforcement agencies from across the county (with one-way information sharing to ensure information is not used for net-widening or criminalization), and young people and their families.
- The HCAO hosts a bi-weekly meeting for law enforcement partners to discuss potential referrals, identify emergent trends, problem solve, and support collaboration.



Initiative Process

Law enforcement submit referrals for young people believed to be involved with or at risk of involvement with auto theft-related behaviors to HCAO.

The HCAO reviews submissions for eligibility.

Eligible young people are referred for services through one of three pathways:

If already open with a community-based provider through HCAO's Be@School truancy prevention program, contact is made with that provider.

If already open with Hennepin County Child Protection, contact is made with the assigned Child Protection social worker.

If not open with either, a referral is sent through Hennepin County Health and Human Services for outreach and services from a social worker.*

*Before September 1, 2023, young people not open with either were referred to HCAO's Be@School social workers.



Eligibility and Referral for Services

- Among the 179 young people referred, 92 (52%) were screened in as eligible for services.
- Among the 92 eligible for services, 90 (98%) have been referred to a service provider (two are recently screened and awaiting referral).
- For those screened out, the majority were because of active court cases, active probation, or non-Hennepin residency.



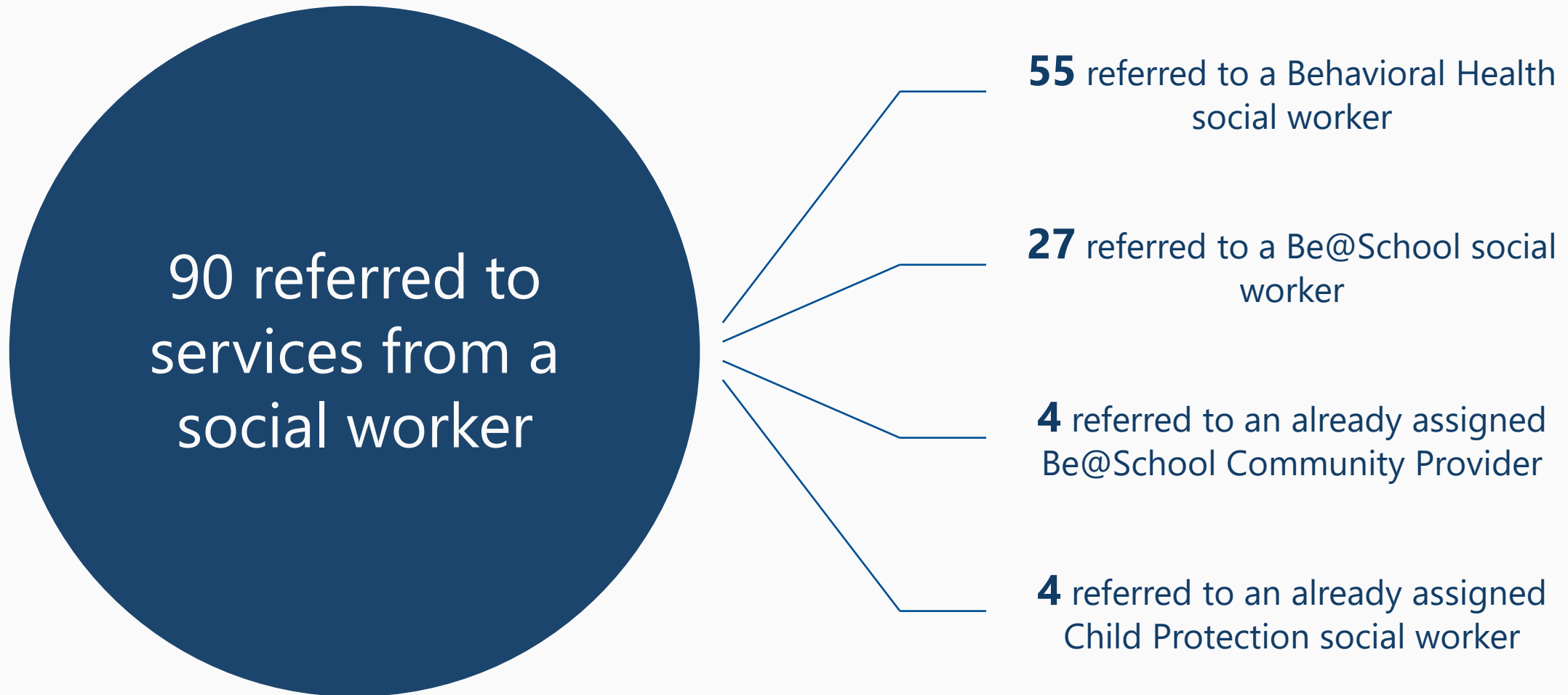
Referring Agency

- Each referral is attributed to one agency. Multiple agencies can refer the same young person; in those cases, each submission will be recorded and reported on.
- HCSO/CISA's efforts span across law enforcement jurisdictions.
- A small number of other referral sources (e.g., DOCCR, internal HCAO referrals) are not included on this chart.

Agency	Number	Percent
HCSO/CISA	54	30%
Minneapolis PD	37	21%
Eden Prairie PD	29	16%
Brooklyn Park PD	13	7%
St. Louis Park PD	11	6%
Bloomington PD	8	4%
Six other agencies	5 or fewer each	< 3% each



Service Referral Pathways



Services from Social Workers Through 12/31/23

Examples of resources and supports social workers connected youth/families to:

Social workers attempted contact with **100%**

Social workers successfully made contact with **77%**

Among those successfully contacted, social workers offered or directly provided resources to **77%**

- Family Response Stabilization Services (FRSS)
- Mental health resources
- Public assistance
- Transportation
- Basic needs (e.g., food, clothing and shelter)
- Working with school and family on school re-enrollment



Participant New Charge Information Through 12/31/23

82 were referred to social worker for services through 12.31.23

72 young people had no new charged cases between date of referral to services and 12/31/23 (88%)*

9 young people had a new charged case between the date of referral to services and 12/31/23 (11%)

*10 of these young people had an incident not resulting in a new criminal or delinquency charge (e.g., curfew diversion, letter diversion, case declined, case sent to pre-charge diversion, payable traffic violation).



Expedited Processing and Time To Charging Decision

- Part of HCAO's new approach to youth auto theft in 2023 included a priority on making charging decisions more quickly.
- Quicker system responses can help reduce the likelihood of repeated behavior by ensuring earlier opportunities for intervention and accountability.



The **average number of days until a charging decision** in youth auto theft cases between July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 **declined by 34%** compared to the same period one year earlier.



The number of youth auto theft cases where a **charging decision was made within 3 days increased by 46%** for the period of July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 compared to the same period one year earlier.



Opportunities



What Can We Do Together?

- Continued focus on building out ecosystem of prevention and intervention
- Ongoing coordination at all levels
- Shared advocacy around opportunities and options for young people

Thank you

Mary Moriarty

Hennepin County Attorney

The Hennepin County Attorney's Office is a fierce advocate for justice and equity, pursuing holistic community safety and providing quality legal services through evidence-informed practices and collaborative problem solving.

