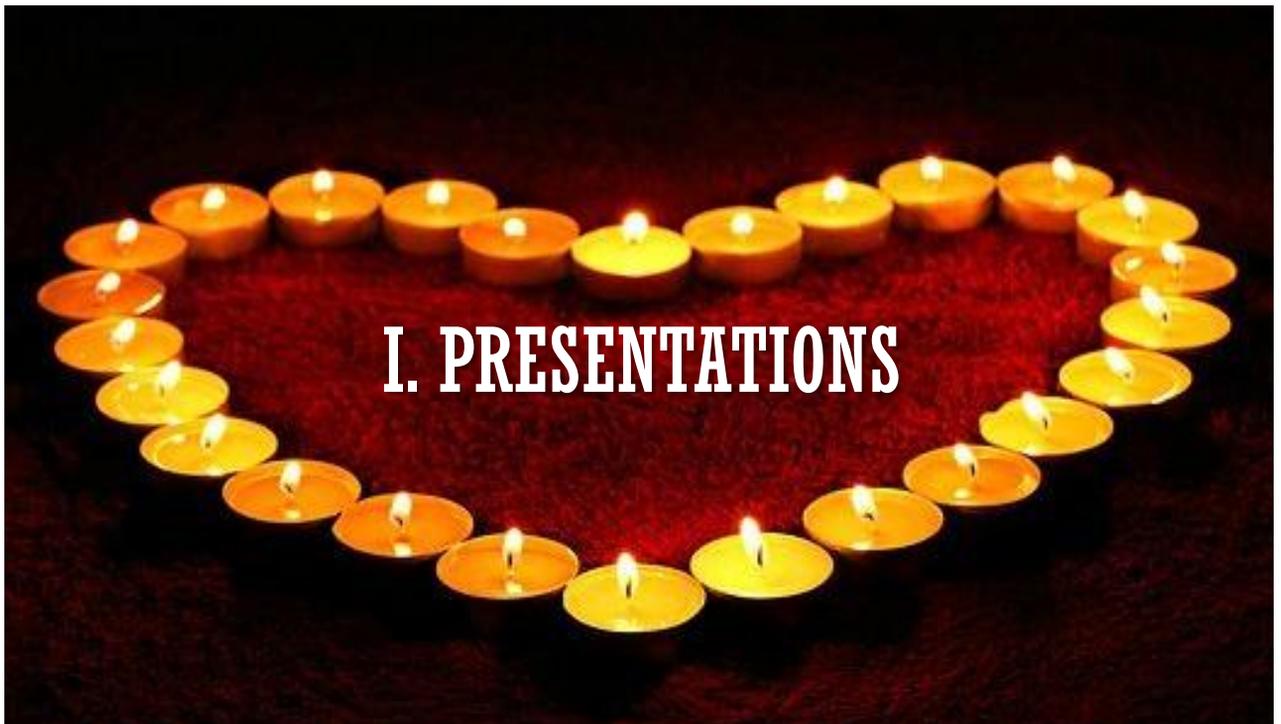


**ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING YOUTH:  
MEANINGFUL CONTACT,  
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION,  
AND REPRESENTATION**

*Presentation, PowerPoint, and Panel*



1

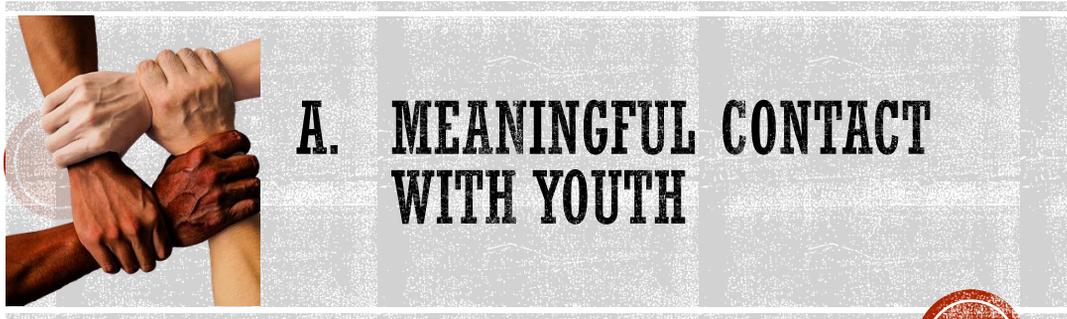


2



## II. POWERPOINT AND PANEL

3



4

# CJD 04-06 ATTORNEY/YOUTH CONTACT REQUIREMENTS

## Dependency Cases

Meet with children in placement as soon as reasonable but within 30 days of their initial appointment and as soon as reasonable but within 30 days of every change in placement.

Maintain contact and ongoing communication with children to continue to assess children's best interests, consider children's positions, and state children's positions during hearings.

## Delinquency Cases

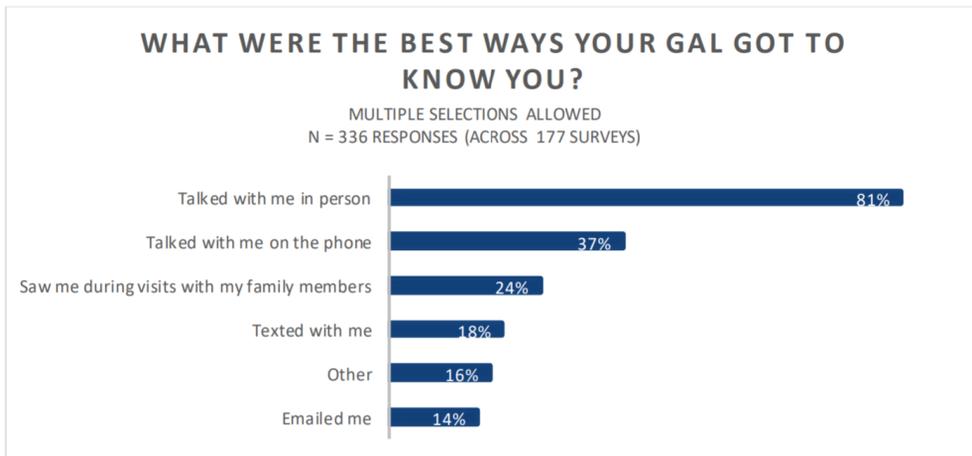
Personally meet with juveniles as soon as possible after appointment in a setting that promotes meaningful communication and make diligent efforts to personally meet detained juveniles as soon as possible but no later than seven days after appointment or the date detention commenced.

Maintain ongoing contact and communication with juveniles, and such contact should not be limited to court appearances.



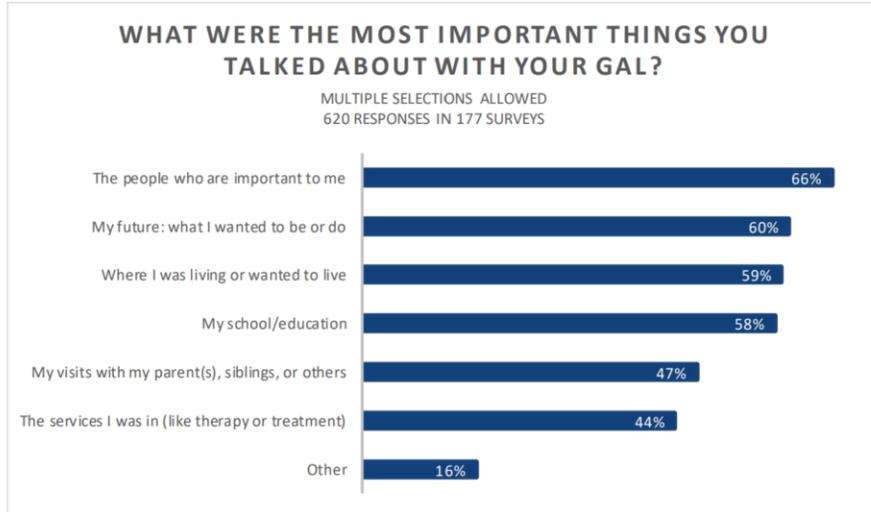
5

## YOUTH EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR BASIC TYPES OF COMMUNICATION.



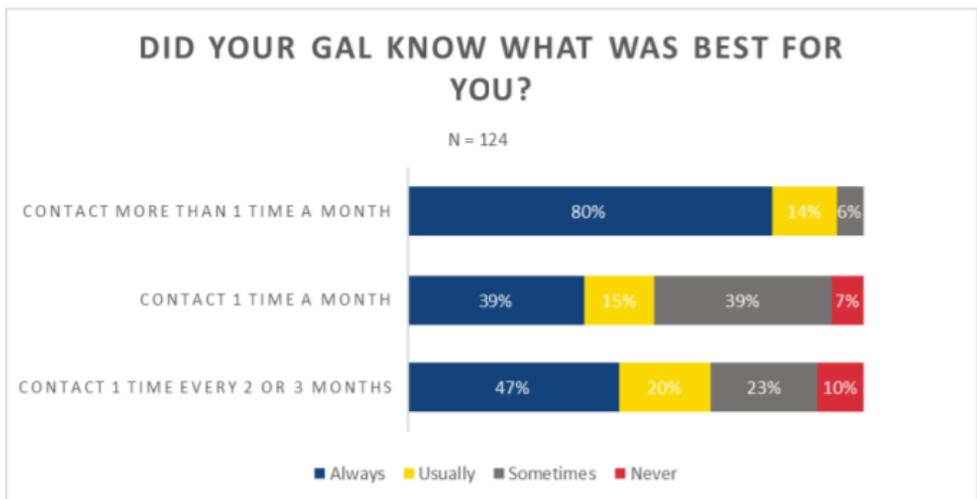
6

## YOUTH VALUED DISCUSSING A VARIETY OF TOPICS WITH THEIR GAL.



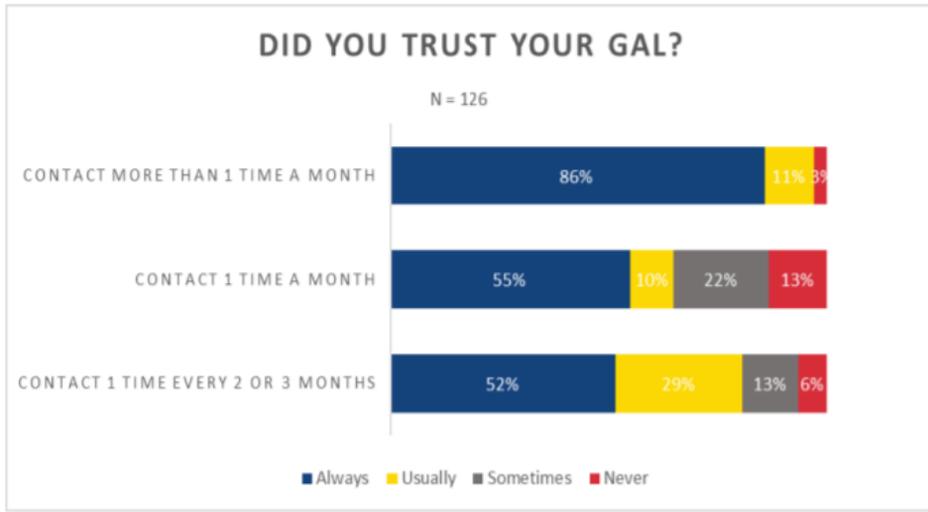
7

## YOUTH WHO REPORTED MORE FREQUENT GAL CONTACT WERE MORE LIKELY TO REPORT THAT THEIR GAL KNEW WHAT WAS BEST FOR THEM



8

# YOUTH WHO REPORTED MORE FREQUENT GAL CONTACT WERE MORE LIKELY TO REPORT THAT THEY TRUSTED THEIR GAL.



9

*"[H]e does a great job and [...] I just wish I could see him more than once a month."*

*"My GAL came to see me the week of my birthday and that meant a lot."*

*"He was able to sit down and talk with me."*

## YOUTH PROVIDED POWERFUL STATEMENTS ABOUT GAL CONTACT.

*"My GAL makes me a priority at all times no matter what is happening in her personal life."*

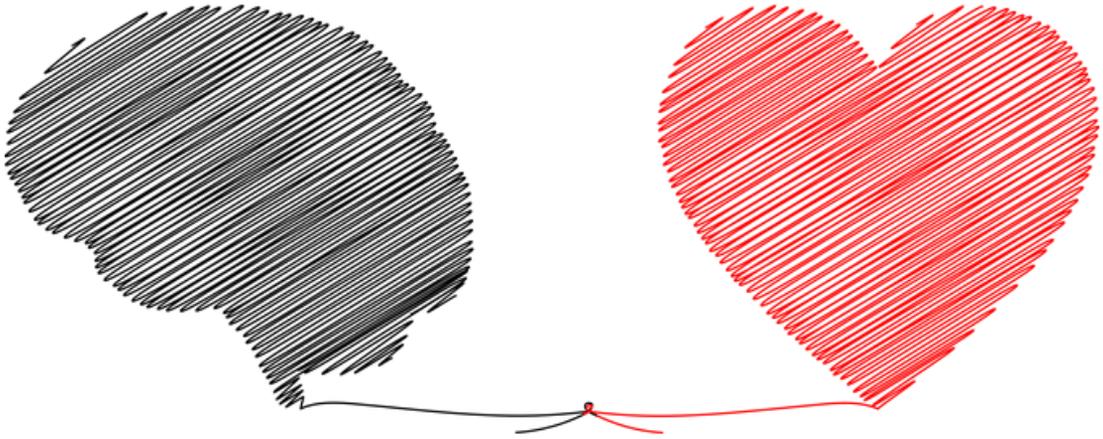
*"[Name] almost never answered my phone calls or questions. I only saw her in court."*

*"She had little contact with me while I lived in [another state] for almost two years. She never called to see how I was doing. After I came back, she didn't contact me either. She is only in contact with me when we have our PST meetings or absolutely needed."*



10

## PANEL: LISTEN AND LEARN



11

Questions or comments  
about meaningful  
contact with youth?



12



## **B. YOUTH COURT ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**



13

## **CJD COMMENTARY RELATED TO YOUTH COURT ATTENDANCE**

**“When ascertaining the child’s position regarding issues before the court, the GAL shall endeavor to maximize the child’s involvement in the court proceedings, when consistent with the child’s best interests, by discussing the court process, ascertaining whether the child wishes to appear in court and identifying and advocating for the elimination of barriers to the child’s attendance at court. The GAL should conduct a post-hearing follow up with the child regarding the outcome of the hearing and, if applicable, the child’s experience at the hearing.”**



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# MOST SURVEYED YOUTH ATTENDED COURT AT LEAST ONCE, WHILE LESS THAN HALF ALWAYS OR USUALLY ATTENDED COURT.

**Survey 1**  
 87% of youth indicated they attended court at *least once*.

**Survey 2**  
 47% of youth who selected D&N case reported they *always or usually* attended court.



15

# OCR COURT OBSERVATIONS AND YOUTH IN COURT REPORTS DEMONSTRATE LOW RATES OF COURT ATTENDANCE.



**FY18-20 Court Observations**  
 15% of children aged five and older attended observed hearings.

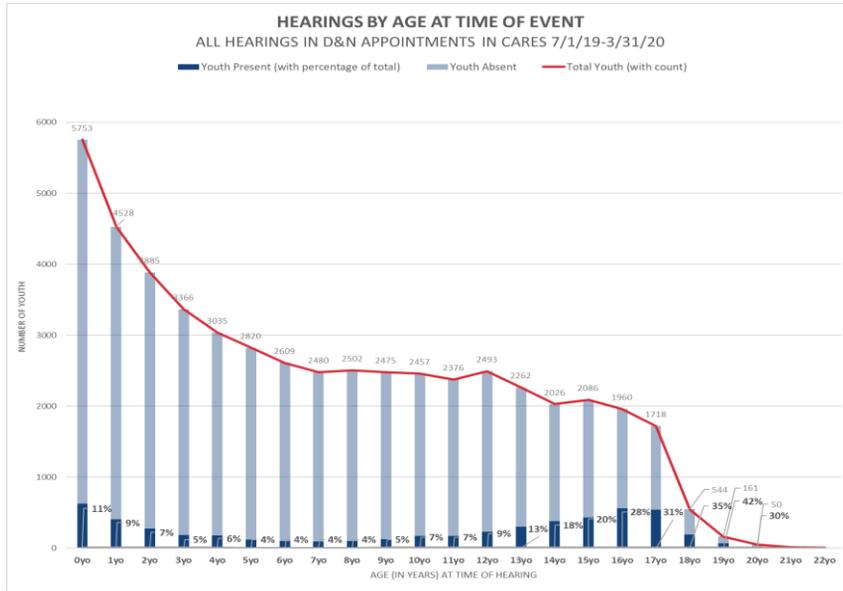


**Youth in Court Report**  
 30% of children aged 12 or older attended Permanency Planning and Benchmark Hearings between 7/1/19-3/31/20.



16

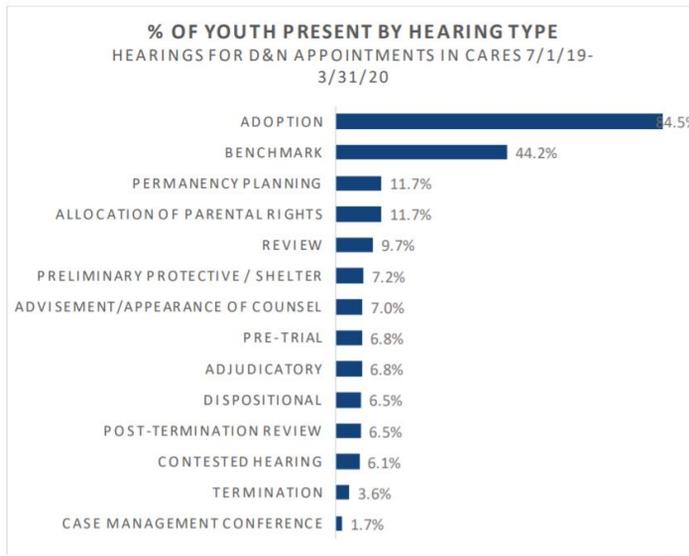
# YOUTH IN COURT REPORTS DEMONSTRATE CHILD/YOUTH COURT ATTENDANCE WAS LOW AND HIGHEST BETWEEN AGES 13-20.



17



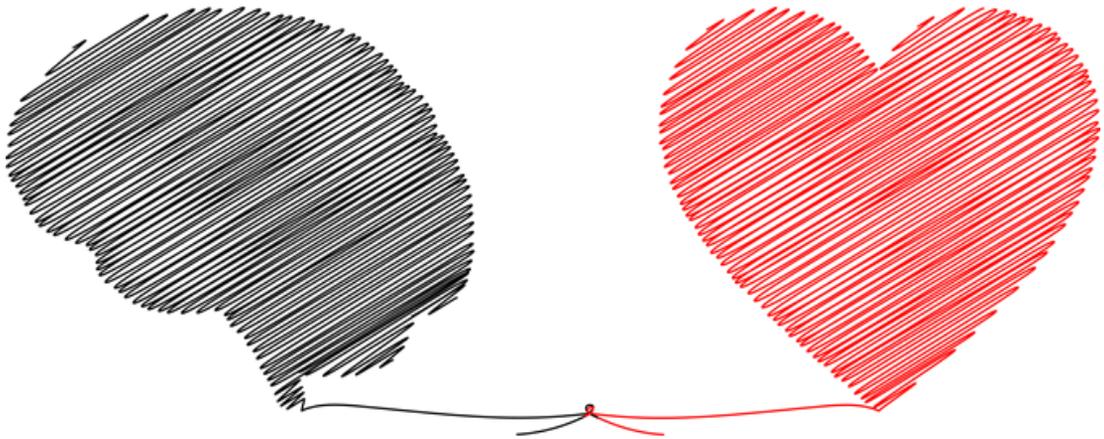
# YOUTH COURT ATTENDANCE WAS LOW ACROSS HEARING TYPES.



18



## PANEL: LISTEN AND LEARN



19

Questions or comments  
about youth court  
attendance and  
participation?



20



# C. REPRESENTATION OF YOUTH

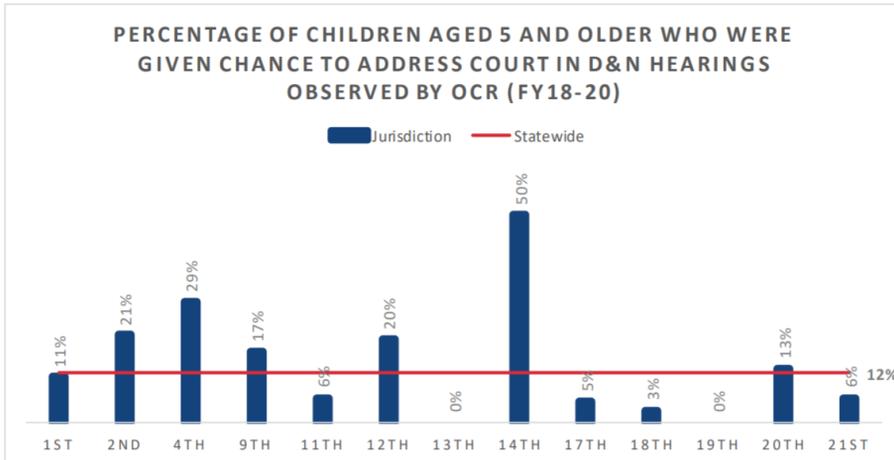
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## OBSERVATION FORM

	Child 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name	
DOB	
Q1) Was child present? <i>(incl. any electronic means)</i>	Yes No Child under 5 years old
Q2) Was this child given the chance to address the Court?	Yes No Child under 5 years old
Q3) Did GAL address efforts to get child to attend?	Yes No Child present or under 5yo
Q4) Did GAL provide current, independent info about this child?	Yes No
Sources / types of information from Q4	
Q5) Did GAL state last contact with child?	Yes No Child present Contested Hearing (N/A)
Q6) Did GAL clearly state a position?	Yes No
Position stated from Q6	
Q7) Did GAL state child's position?	Yes No Child under 5 years old
Child's position from Q7	

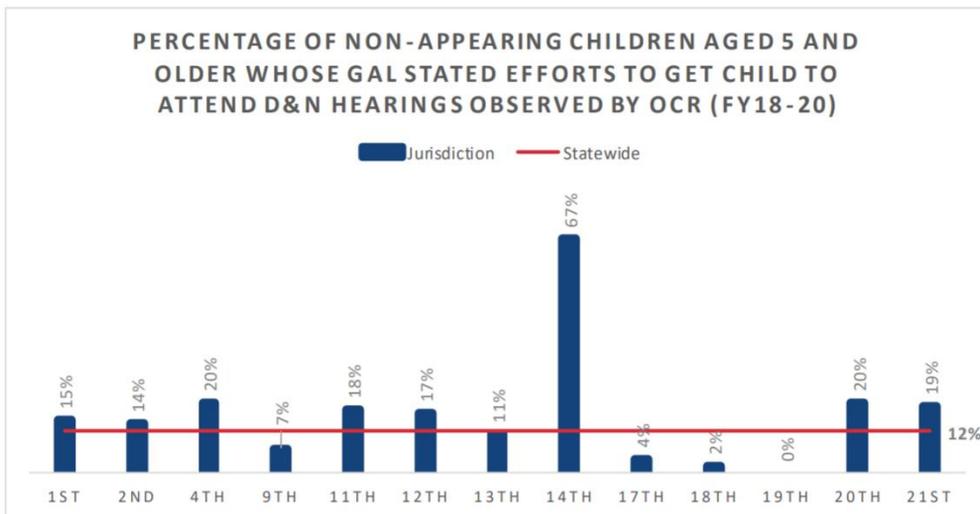
22

# OCR OBSERVED LOW RATES OF CHILDREN/YOUTH ADDRESSING THE COURT.



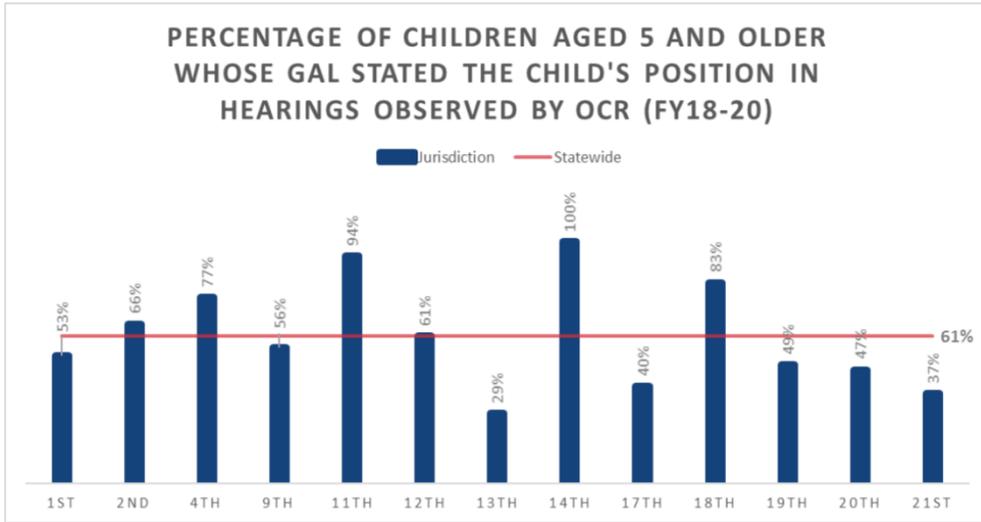
23

# OCR OBSERVED LOW PERCENTAGES OF GAL'S STATING THE EFFORTS GAL'S MADE TO GET THE CHILD/YOUTH TO ATTEND COURT.

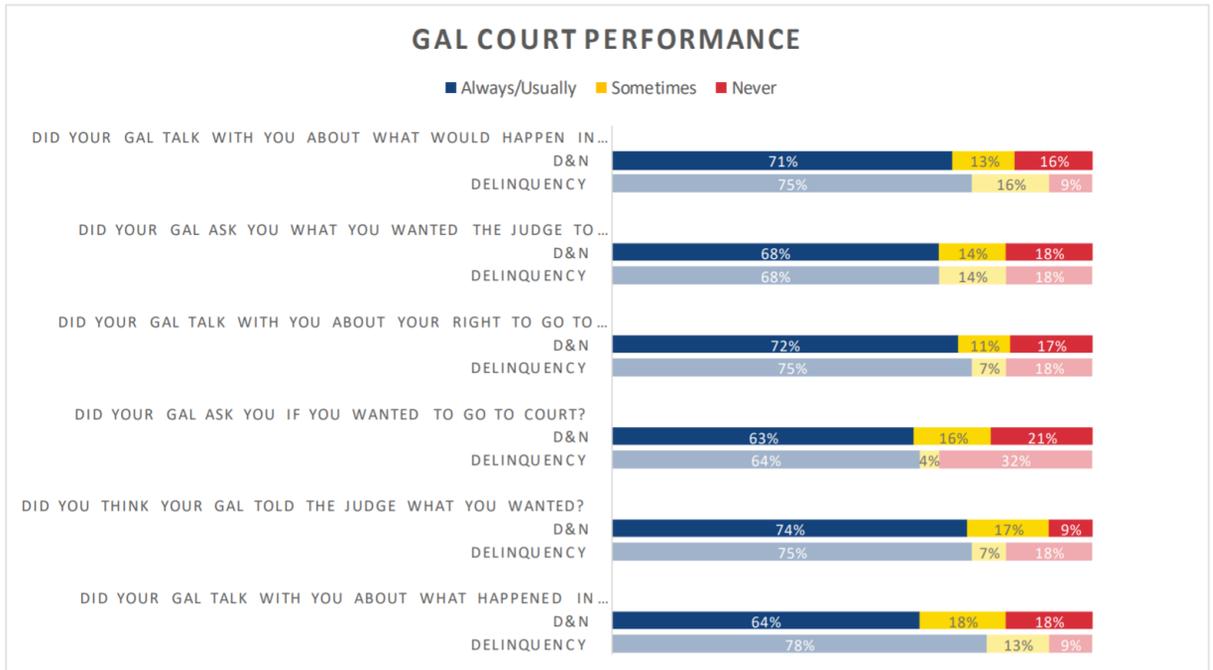


24

# OCR OBSERVED MOST GALs TELLING COURTS WHAT YOUTH WANTED.

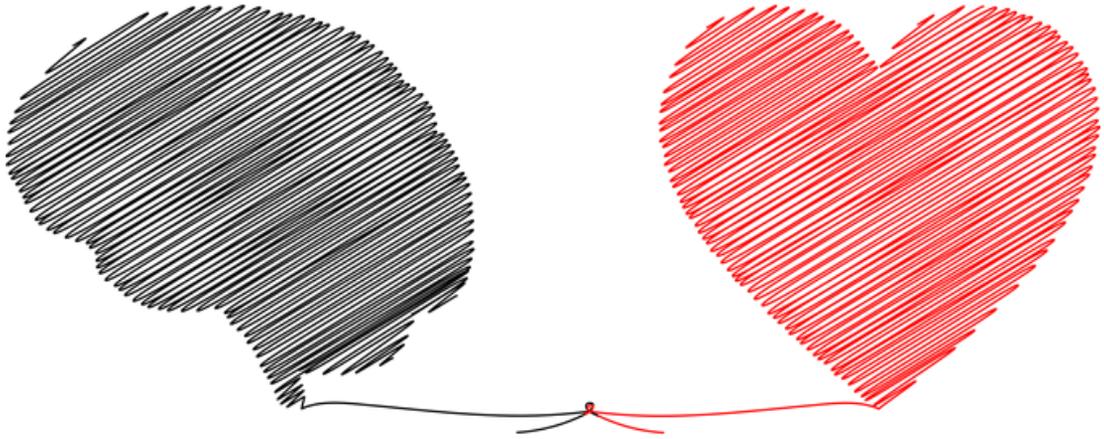


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## PANEL: LISTEN AND LEARN



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Questions or comments  
about representation of  
children/youth?



28



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