

# Dually Involved Youth

:key findings to date and future gaps to address

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# Scope of the Presentation

- Not limiting to whether youth start in child welfare and move to juvenile justice – or start in juvenile justice and move to child welfare – or whether their involvement is sequential or simultaneous
- Does not include every study published to date
  - 65 published papers on “dually involved” youth since 2022
  - 194 published papers on “crossover youth” since 2022
- Focus on some consistent and perhaps important themes
  - Risk of initial involvement with juvenile justice?
  - Are dually involved youth unique within the juvenile justice system?
  - What outcomes are associated with this population?
- Gaps in knowledge base
  - With so many studies – is there anything left to discover?

## Risk of Initial Involvement with Juvenile Justice

# Risk of Initial Involvement with Juvenile Justice

Analysis of longitudinal data consistently indicate that **parental supervision, parental rejection, parent – child involvement** and **family conflict** are among the most powerful predictors of juvenile conduct problems and delinquency.

When rank ordering more than 25 risk factors associated with justice involvement, conflict in the home ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> for general offending behaviors and family problems ranks 4<sup>th</sup> for juvenile recidivism.

Aazami A, Valek R, Ponce AN, Zare H. Risk and Protective Factors and Interventions for Reducing Juvenile Delinquency: A Systematic Review. *Social Sciences*. 2023; 12(9):474. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci12090474>

Loeber, R., & Stouthamer-Loeber, M. (1986). Family factors as correlates and predictors of juvenile conduct problems and delinquency. *Crime and justice*, 7, 29-149.

Basto-Pereira, M., & Farrington, D. (2022) Developmental predictors of offending and persistence in crime: A systematic review of meta-analyses, *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 65, 1359-1789, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2022.101761>.

# Risk of Initial Involvement with Juvenile Justice.....individual contributons

trauma  
poor family relationships  
poverty  
residential instability  
educational instability  
sibling separation  
substance abuse  
mental health  
grief and loss

# Risk of Initial Involvement with Juvenile Justice...system contributions

Little evidence to support use of group home placements

- often unsafe
- often unable to support healthy development
- often unstable
- see family members less often
- less likely to achieve reunification

Mixed evidence on kinship care placements

- more stable
- familiarity with provider
- fewer children in home
- more likely to take sibling groups
- youth report higher levels of satisfaction
- fewer economic resources
- higher levels of food insecurity
- less experience providing foster care
- poorer study habits
- fewer neighborhood strengths

Institutional Offloading

- Practice of optimizing resources and minimizing blame
- Study of crossover youth exhausting resources in California
- Youth offloaded to more coercive institutions, deepens racial and economic disparities

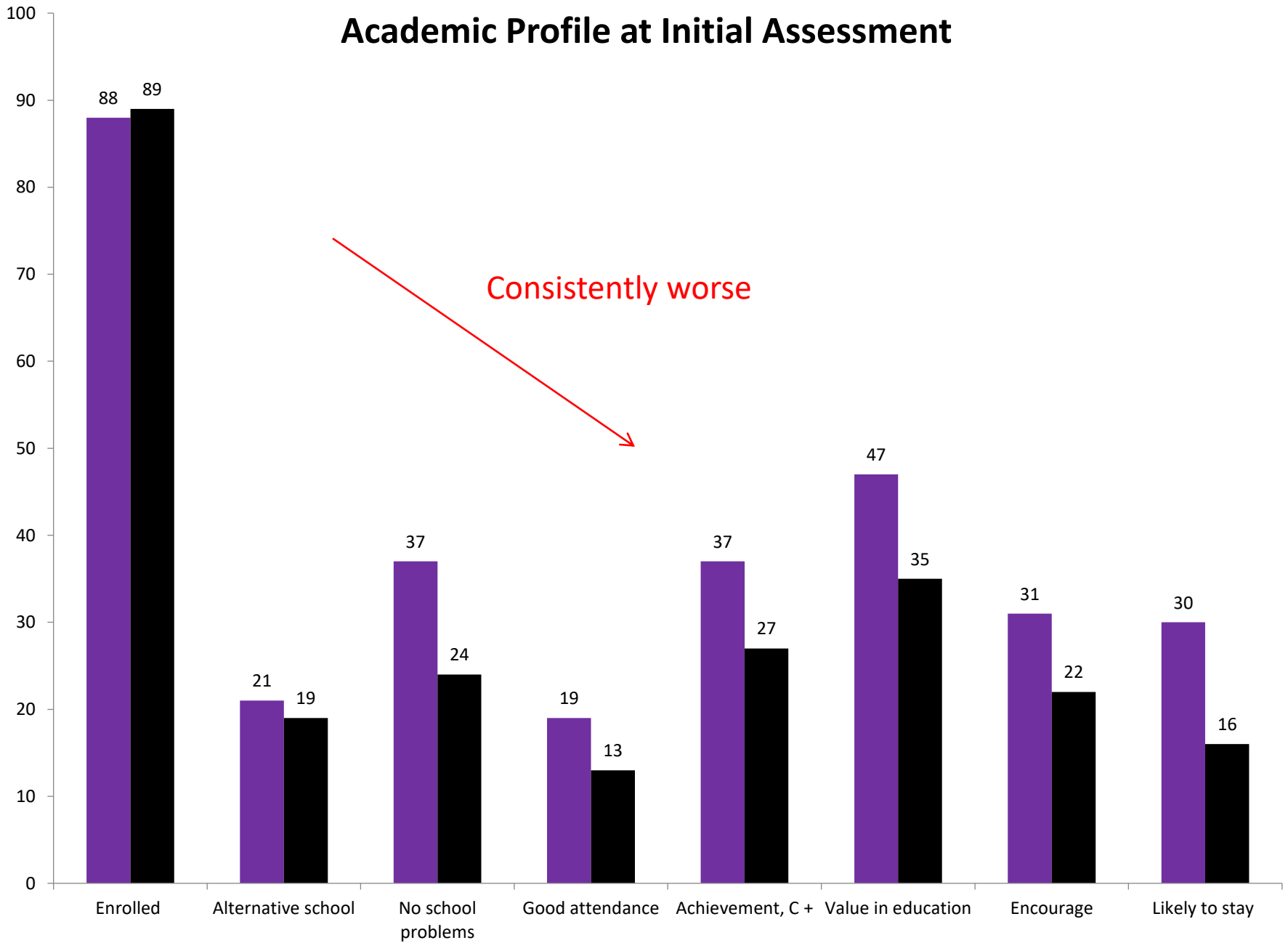
Are dually involved youth unique within the juvenile justice system?



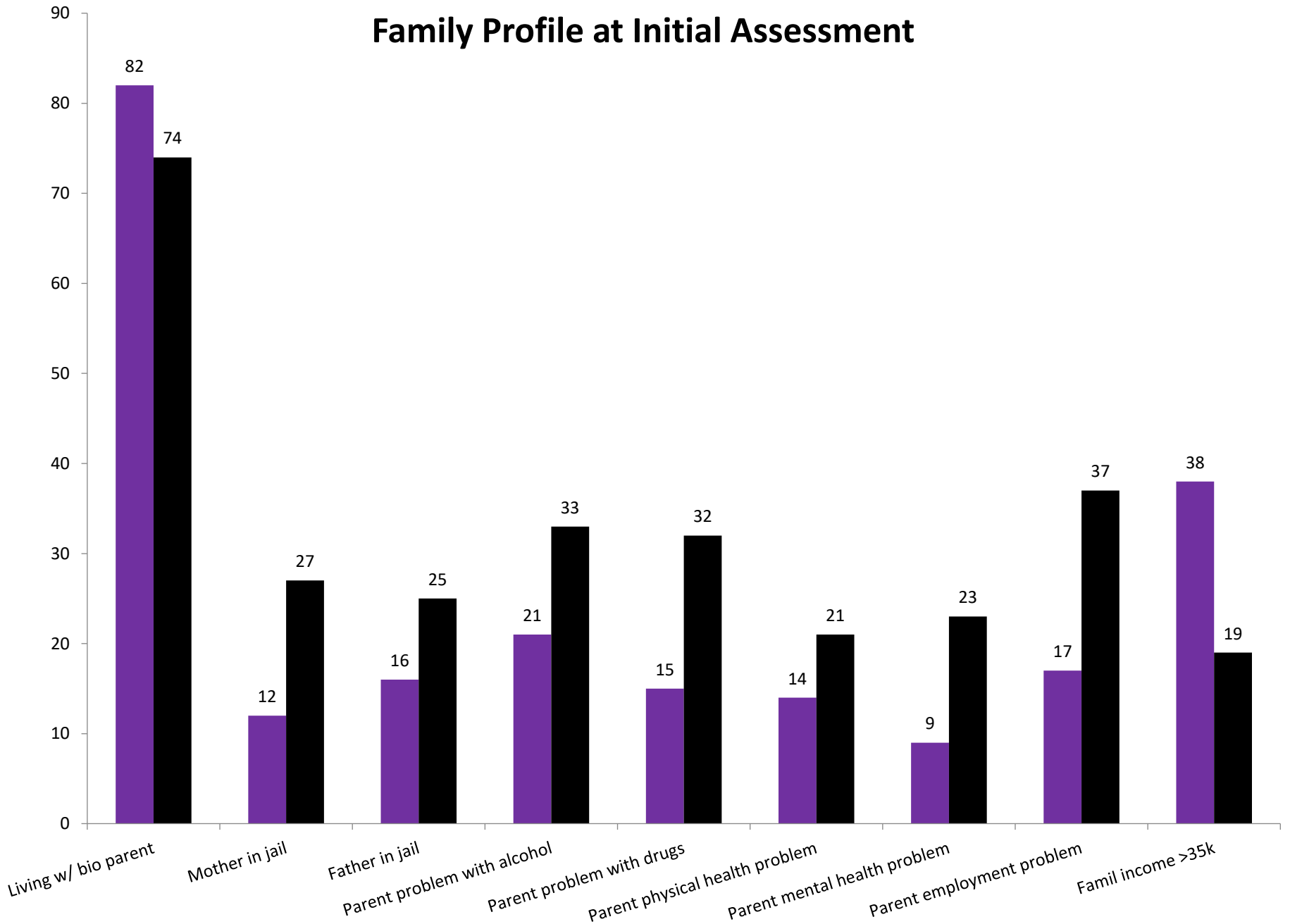
# Do crossover youth represent a unique subpopulation in juvenile justice?

- The short answer is yes – but there are of course many similarities
- The general argument is that “the short and long-term effects of child maltreatment combined with their experiences in foster care create multifaceted barriers and challenges in the transition to adulthood for crossover youth” (Dubov et al., 2022)
- Yet recent study of the “unique” needs of crossover youth – identify the following eight domains as central to a successful transition to adulthood: education, employment, housing/food/income, social support, criminal involvement, health, general living skills, and resilience.
- One might argue that these “unique” needs are shared by all youth making the transition to adulthood
- International and domestic findings indicate crossover youth (relative to other JJ youth) are
  - Younger
  - More likely to be female
  - More likely to be African American or multiracial
  - More likely to have prior adjudications
  - More likely to have out of home placement experiences
  - More likely to have mental health issues
  - More likely to have substance misuse issues
- In a study of crossover youth in Washington State – we find -

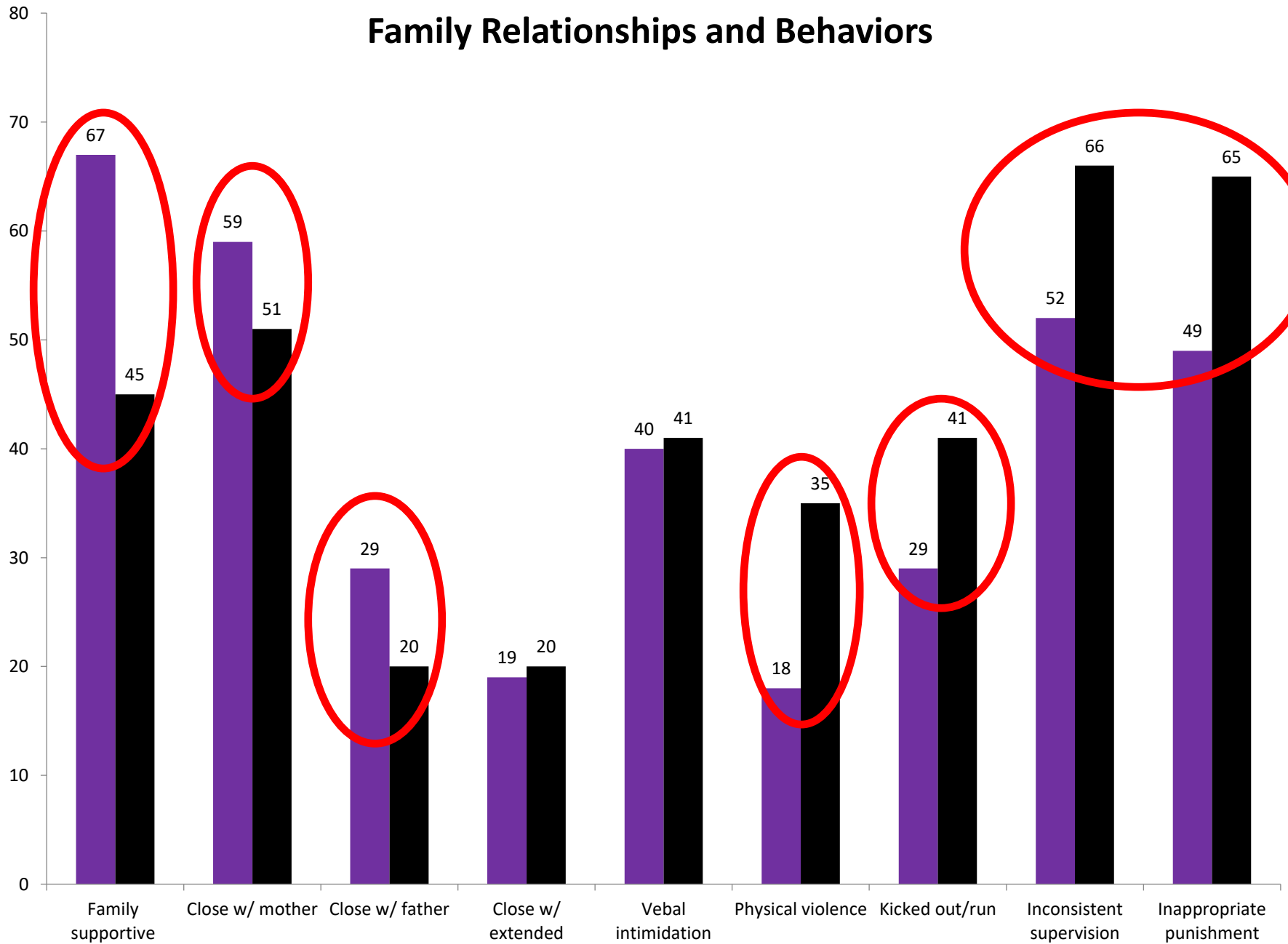
# Academic Profile at Initial Assessment



# Family Profile at Initial Assessment



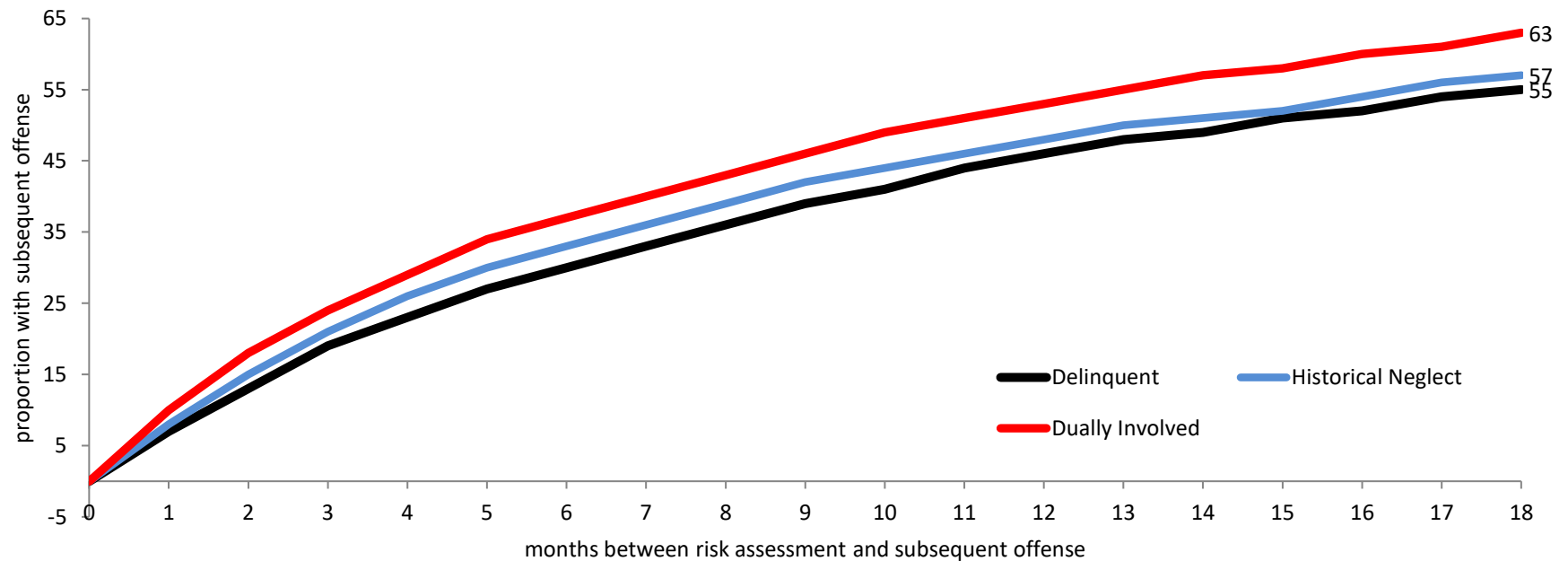
# Family Relationships and Behaviors



What outcomes are associated with this population?

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- Of course there is variation – but several studies indicate:
  - Significantly more likely to be detained
  - Significantly more likely to be formally processed
  - Significantly more likely to be adjudicated
  - Significantly more likely to be placed on probation
  - Significantly more likely to be placed in residential settings
  - Significantly more likely to continue offending into early adulthood



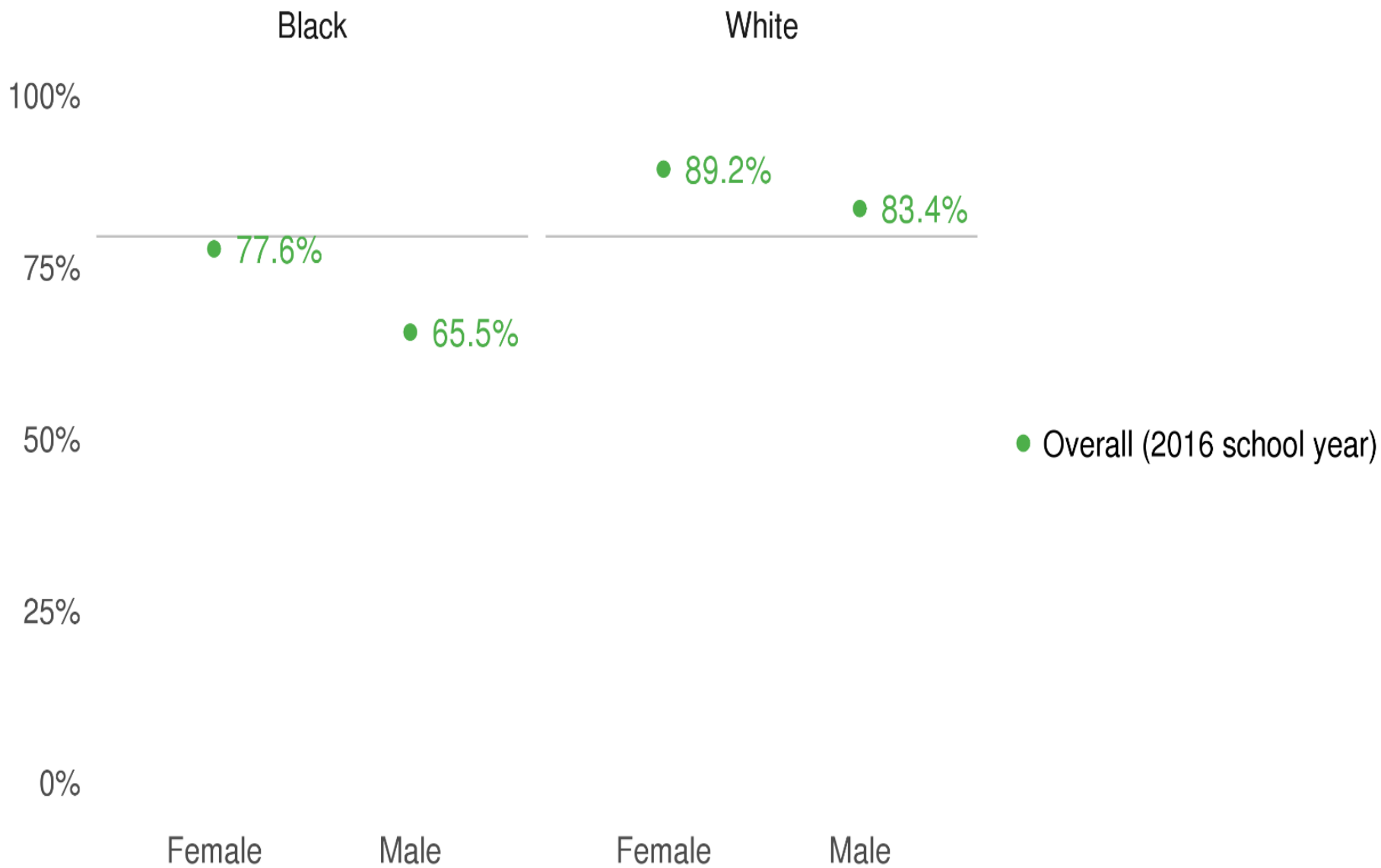
# 5-Year Graduation Rates for JJ & CPS-Involved Youth

Rates by race & sex, compared to 2016 overall



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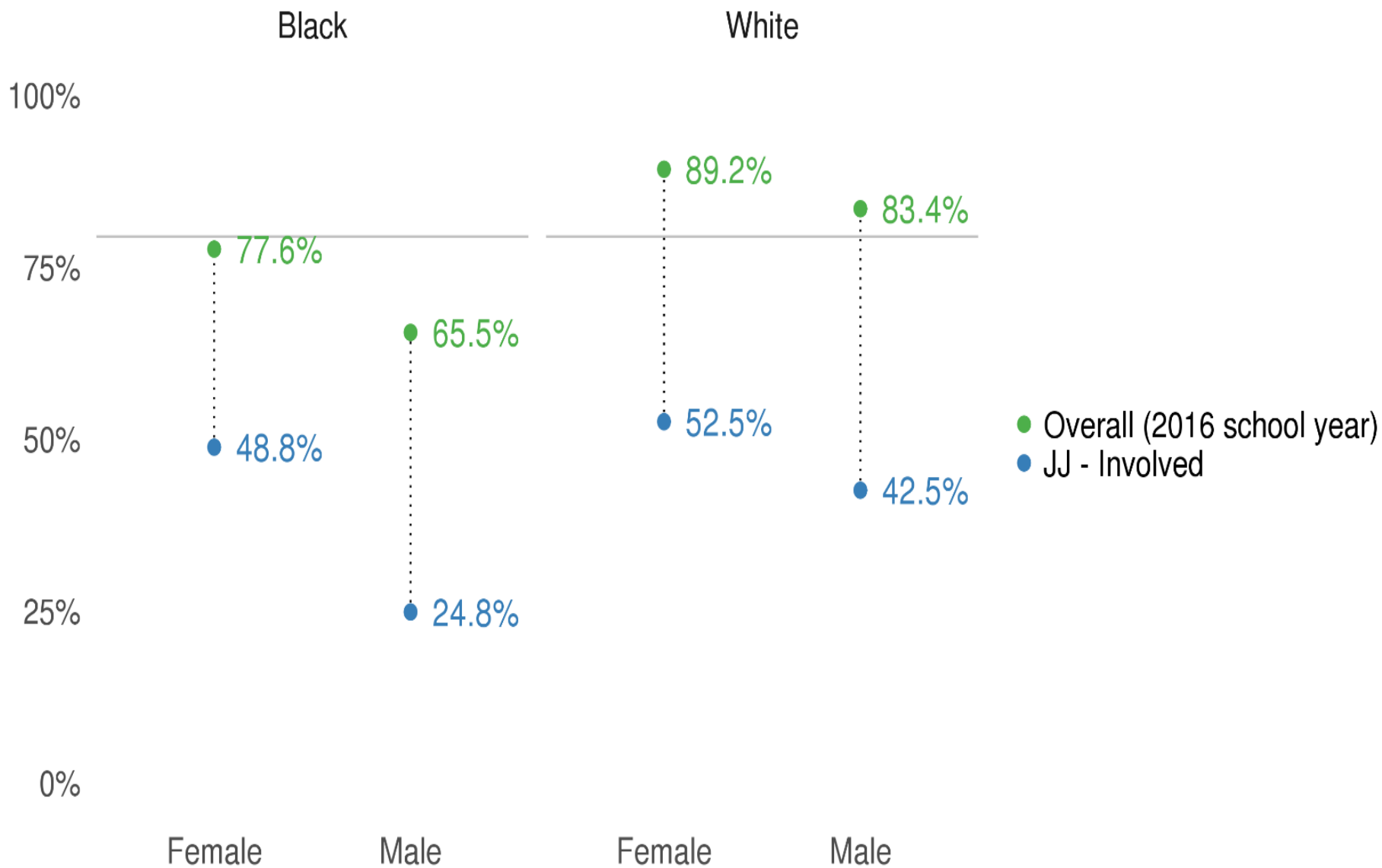
Rates by race & sex, compared to 2016 overall





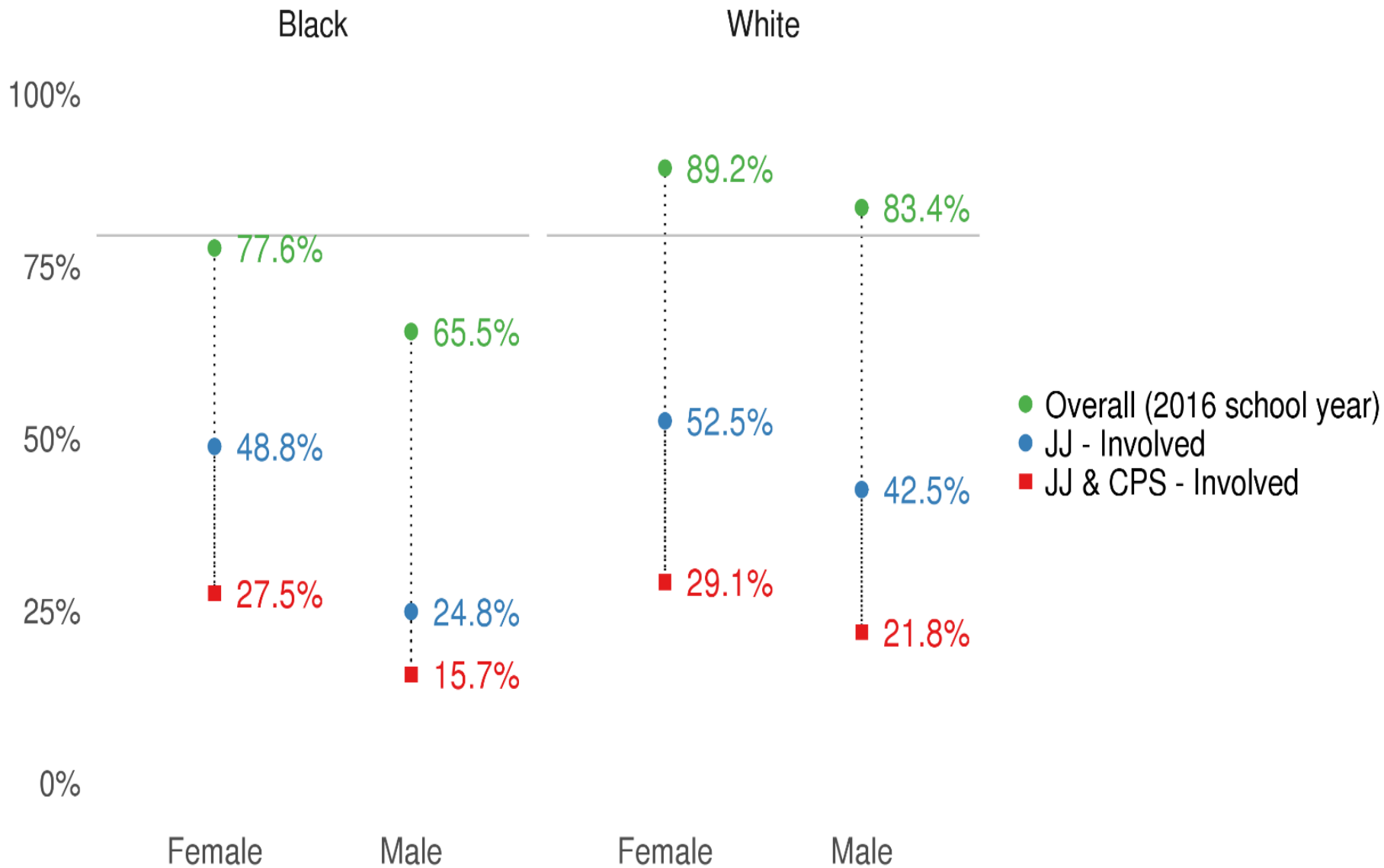
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- The population of children served in child welfare is always changing
  - Number of youth entering care is decreasing
  - 7,923 youth removed in 2008
  - 6,168 removed in 2018
  - 3,868 youth removed in 2022
  - Decrease of 51%
  - Domestic violence increased from 17% to 49%
  - Substance abuse increased from 11% to 68%
- The policies that guide child welfare and juvenile justice practice are always changing
  - Support for transitional age youth increasing
  - New practice models or tailored interventions (problem solving courts)
  - Increased focus on child well-being
  - Limiting the use of congregate care placements
  - Approved use of fictive kin placements (less restrictive)
  - FFPSA efforts
  - Expanding diversion options
- Gaps in knowledge base
  - Types of maltreatment experiences that lead to offending types?
    - Crossover youth account for 56% of all referrals yet 77% of domestic JJ referrals
  - Prosecutor decision to move a case forward?
  - What mechanisms can be modified to decrease JJ contact?

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