

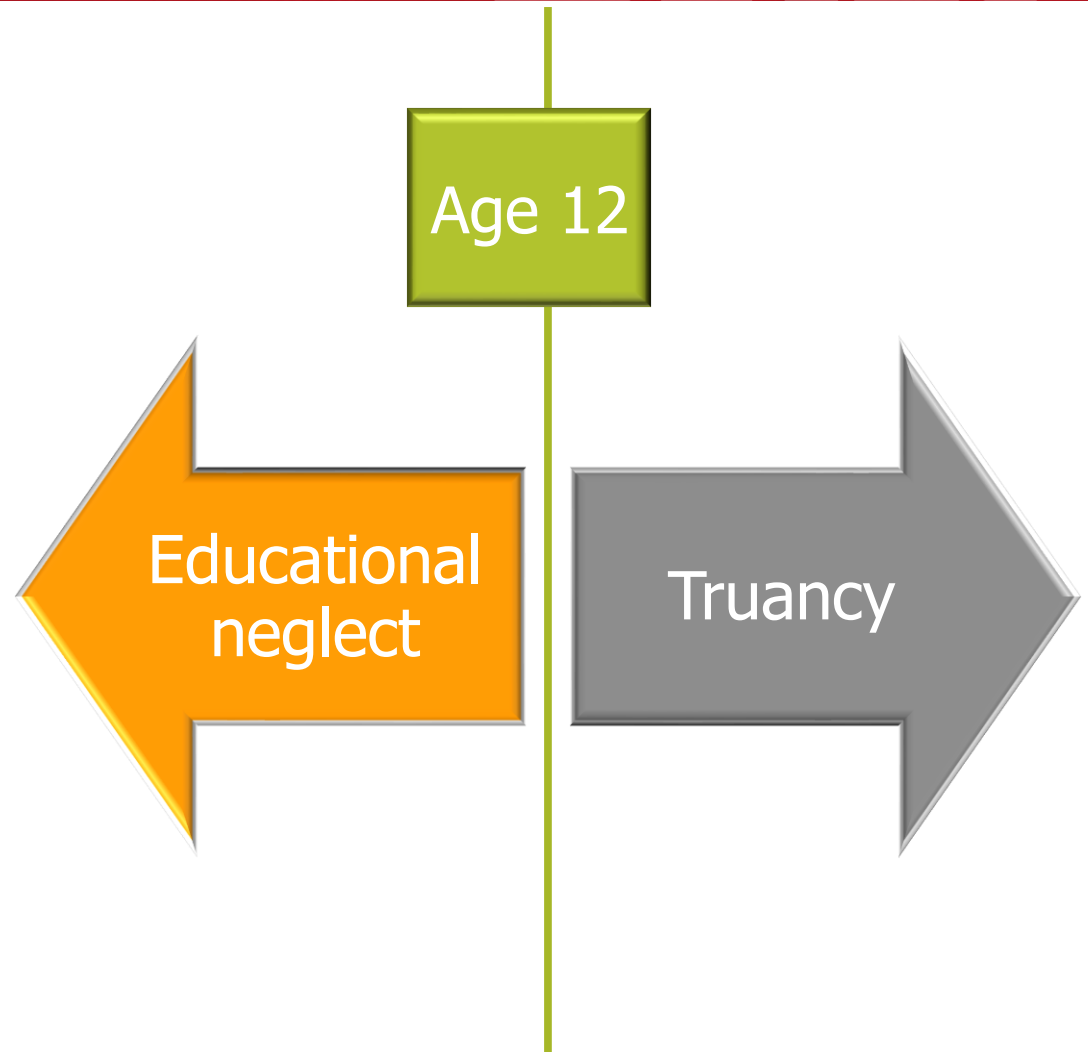


Truancy and Educational Neglect

2021-2022 School Year

Truancy/
Educational
Neglect by
definition:

At least seven
unexcused
absences



Legal Definitions



Truancy is defined as students ages 12-17 who have more than 7 unexcused absences. Truancy is a Child Welfare Response.

Educational Neglect is defined as students Kindergarten to age 11 with 7 or more unexcused absences. Educational Neglect is a Child Protection Response.

- MDE 2021-2022 Planning guidance document.
- No clear definition of an unexcused absence by MDE or DHS for 2021-2022.
- Statutory definitions remain.
- District Wide attendance policies strongly encouraged to provide consistency, and to address potential for referral disparity

Dakota County Referral Guidance



Full Day Absences Policy

Dakota County Social Services will accept a report of educational neglect or Truancy for full day absences only. This includes absences for all school models including in-person, hybrid and distance learning. In order to provide consistency across 120 schools, Dakota County has listed the following parameters to determine if a child's unexcused absences meet criteria for a referral.

- Failure to enroll in school will be reviewed by both the programs to determine the most appropriate response.
- Full day absences are defined as not attending in-person or logging on for an entire school day.
- Failure to complete in-person or online work on a given day will not be accepted as an unexcused absence.
- Failure to log-on or complete work on student flex days will not be accepted as unexcused absences by Dakota County

COVID-19 Absences due to Student or Family Illness or Exposure

If a student or their family member is unable to attend school due to COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure that requires them to be in isolation or quarantine, this absence will not be considered unexcused by Dakota County.

Referrals for Truancy or Educational Neglect in which a student has failed to provide documentation as to a positive COVID-19 will not be accepted by Dakota County.

The use of Educational Neglect, Parent Support Outreach will not be used. All screened in reports will go to Family Assessment or Truancy.

School Interventions

**Dakota County
Assessment**

**Dakota County Case
Management**

Court reserved
for immediate
safety issues

Dakota County Intervention Model



- Uses model common to Social Work Practice called “Family Systems Theory”
- Intervention is focused on family underlying needs vs a school only model.
- The Social Worker receiving the referral meets with the family and school to assess barriers.
- School attendance plan is developed
 - Educational Neglect-If student is successful in less than **45** days, the referral will be closed.
 - Truancy- Neglect-If student is successful in less than **90** days, the referral will be closed.
- If service needs are identified or if there is no improvement in attendance, case management with a case plan addressing barriers will be provided to the family.

Faxed Referral Form-Educational Neglect



- Reporter to make verbal report to Child Protection Intake
- Fax educational neglect referral form
 - Documentation of interventions attempted
 - Identify issues impacting school attendance
 - Identify current learning model
 - Special Education Contacts
 - School Principal Sign-Off
- Form posted on County Website
- Attach student services plan for 360 Family Learning Plan (with release of information)
- Attach school attendance record

Online Referral System-Truancy



Previous users may still refer, new users must seek a password and receive confirmation prior to making first referral

Truancy Portal is a communication tool as it tells county staff what interventions have already been tried

School staff able to check status of referrals.

School attendance records attached & verified

Data collection tool

Online Resources



www.dakota.mn.us Key Word School Attendance

Attendance Works documents

Notification and referral letters (English, Spanish, Somali)

2021-2022 referral guide

Online referral user guide

Educational neglect reporting form

Sample student assistance/diversion plan

Truancy and educational neglect brochures

Truancy online referral guide.



Referral Data

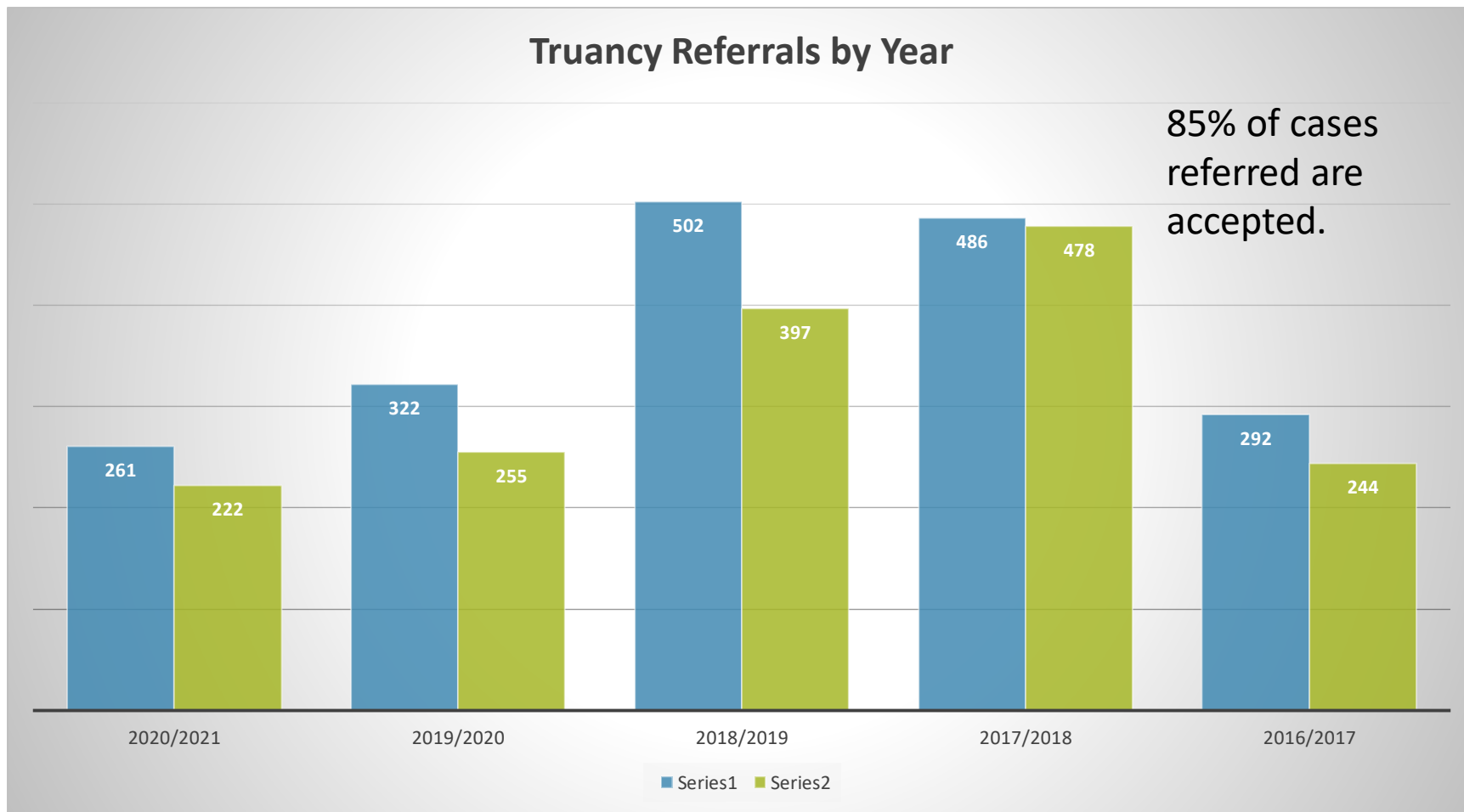
2020-2021

Truancy Referrals by School Year



Truancy Referrals by Year

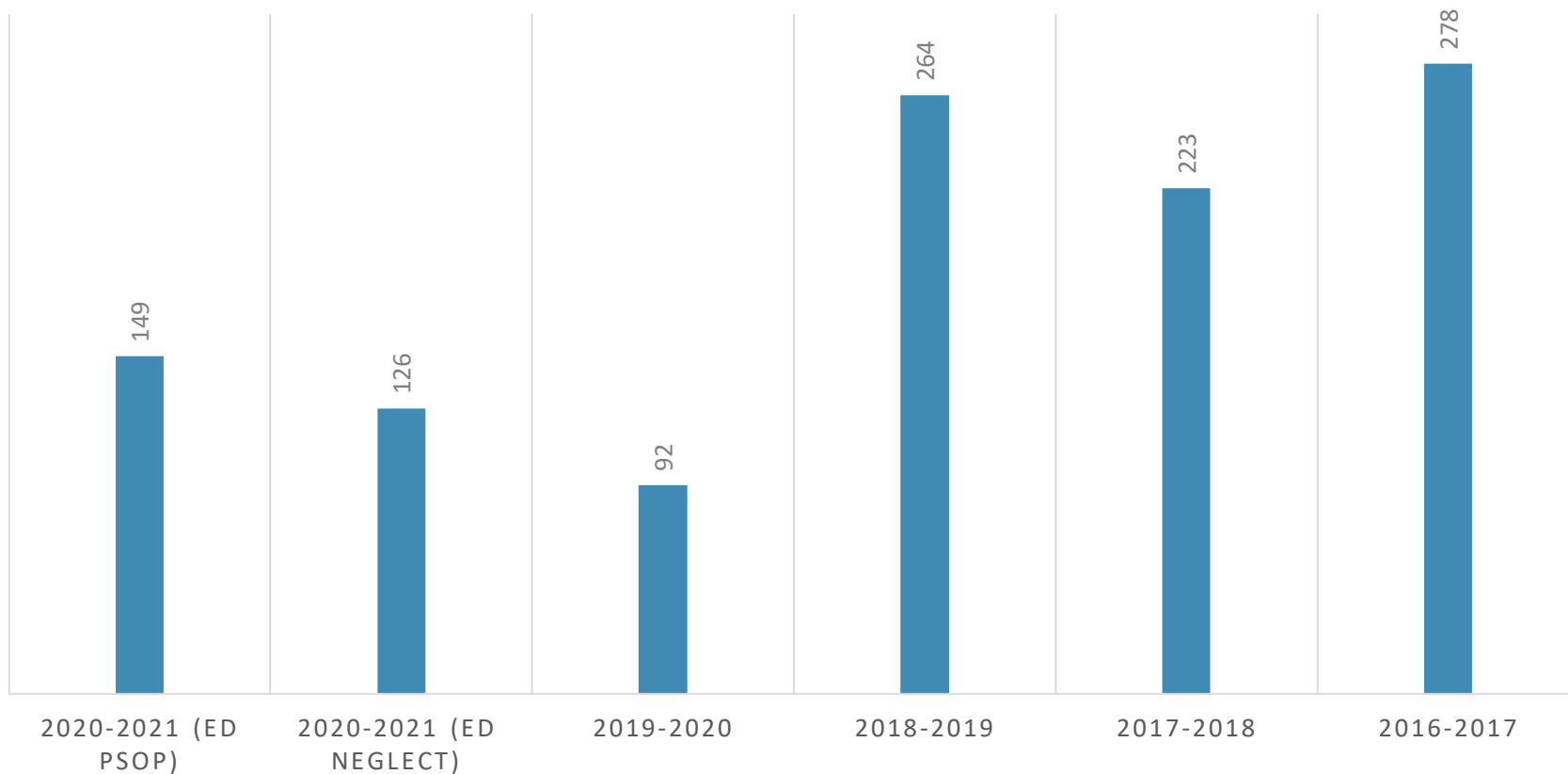
85% of cases referred are accepted.



Educational Neglect Referrals



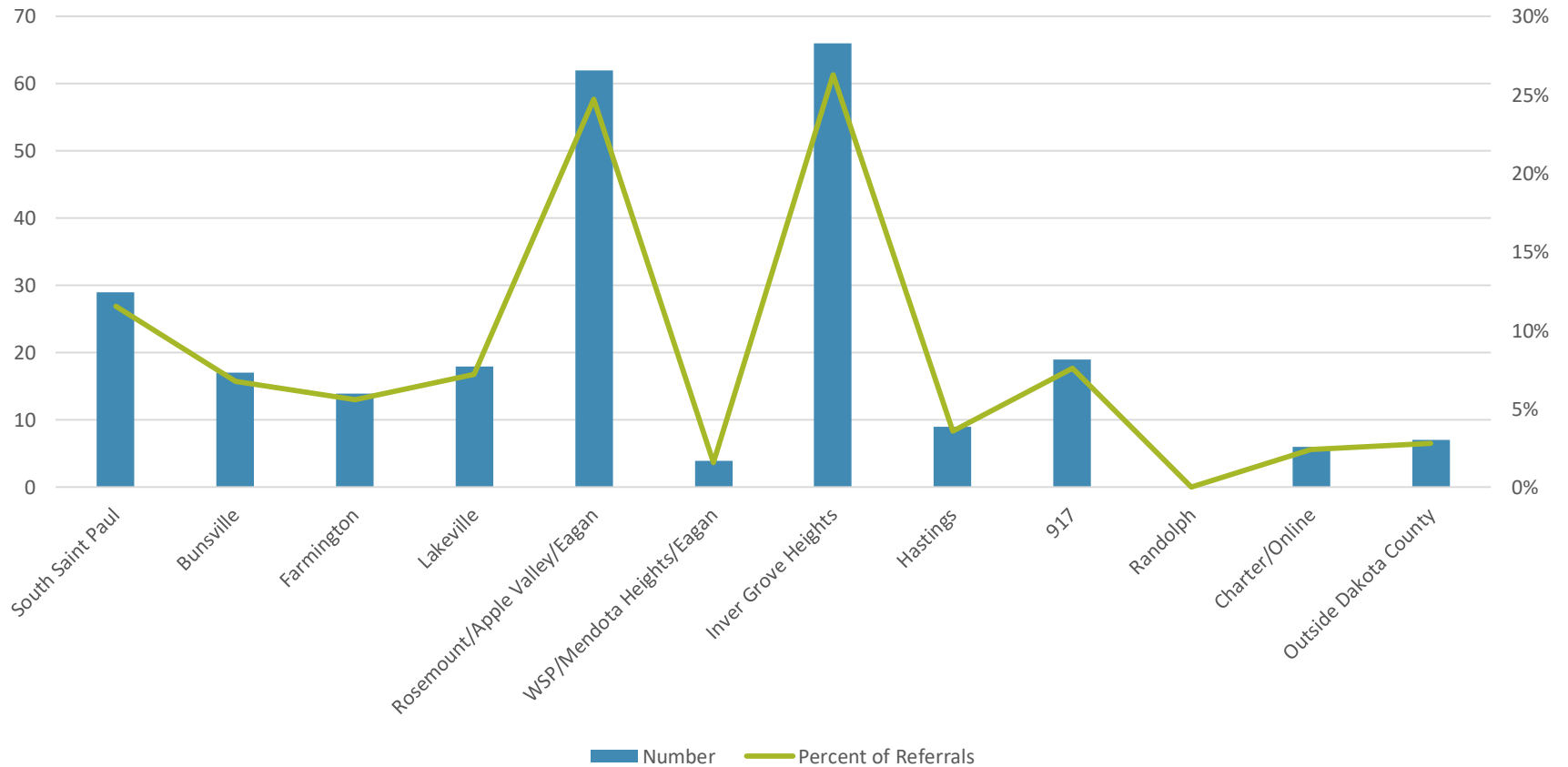
EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT REFERRALS



Truancy Referrals By District

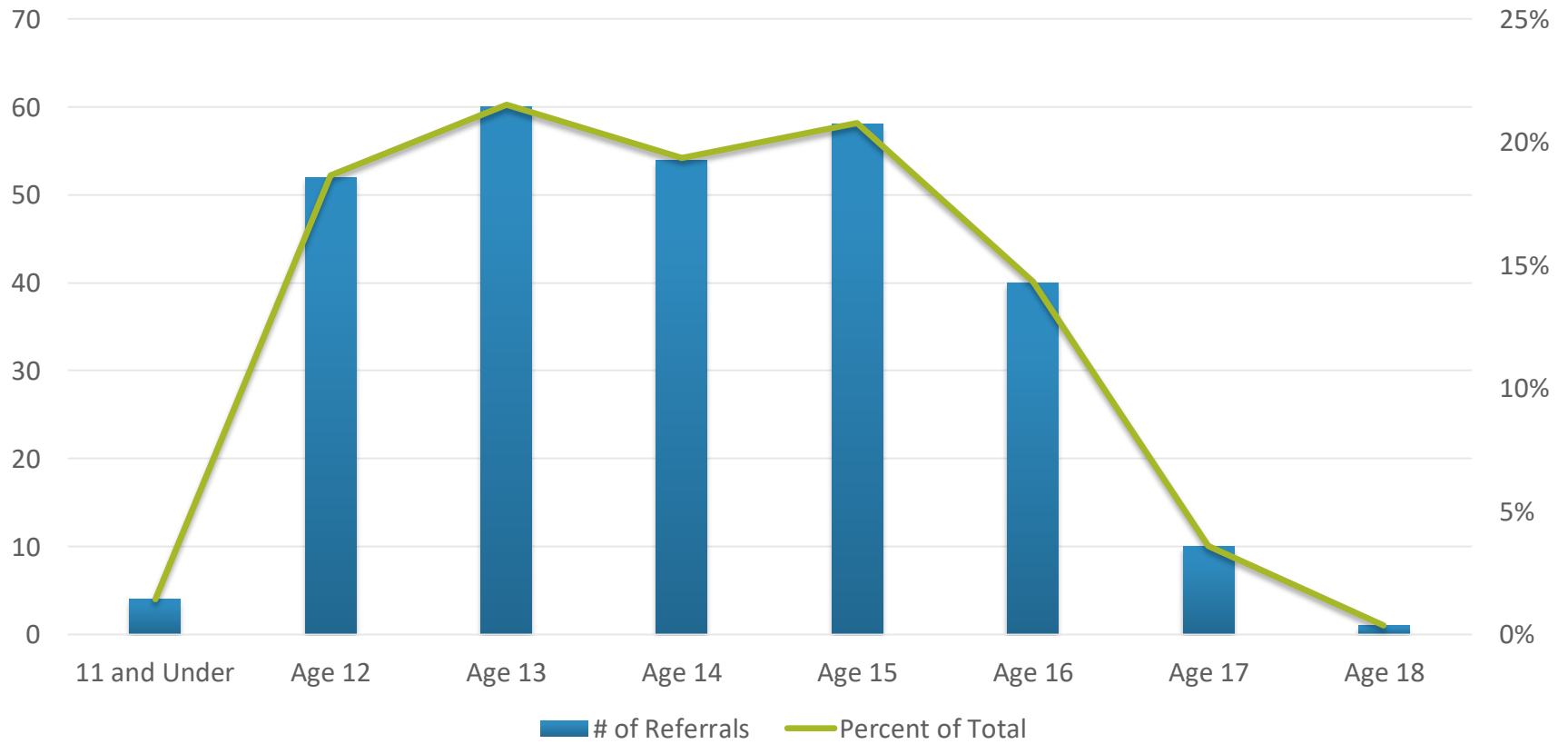


District Referrals



Age of Truancy Referrals

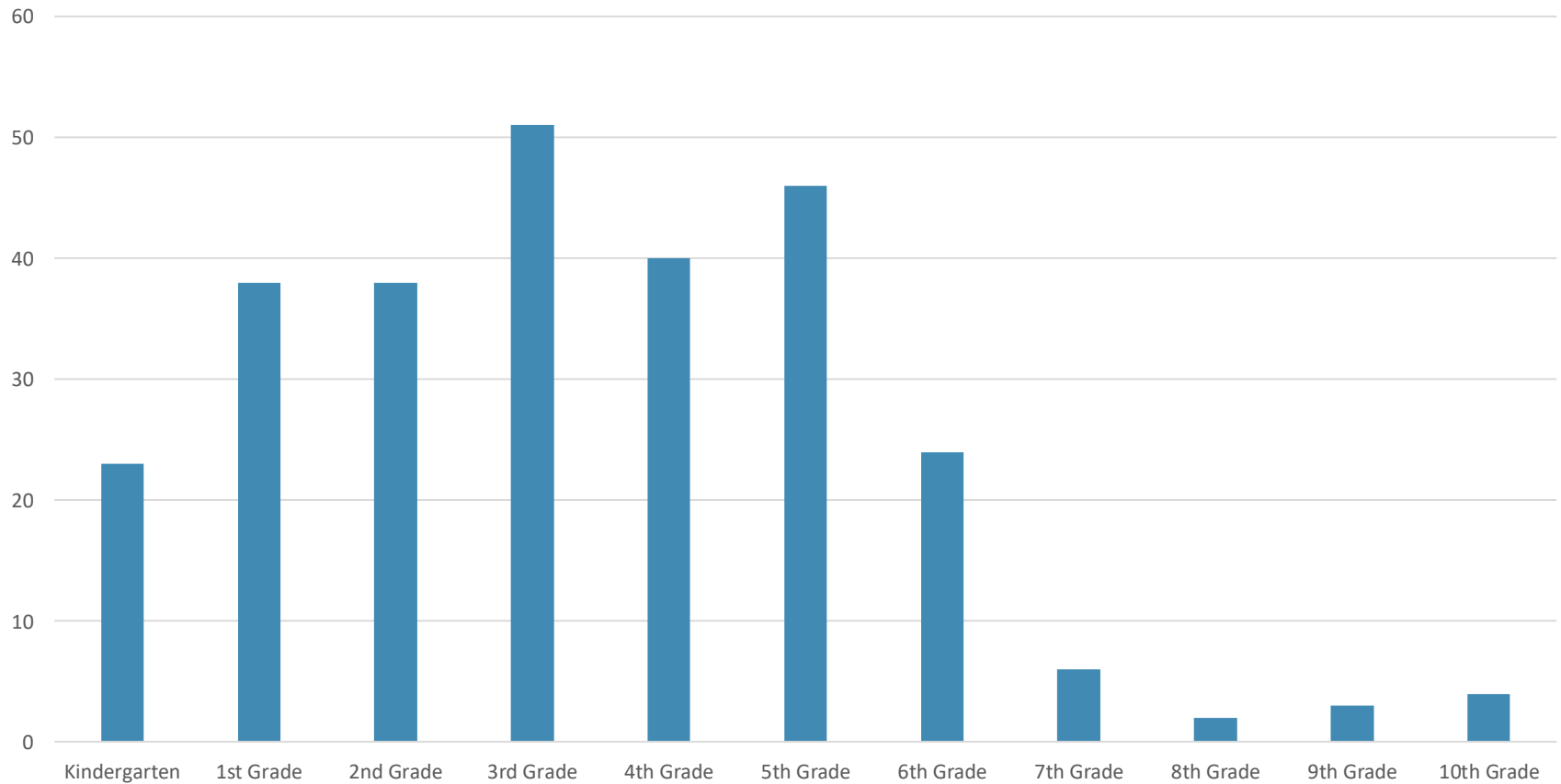
Age at Referral



Educational Neglect-Grade



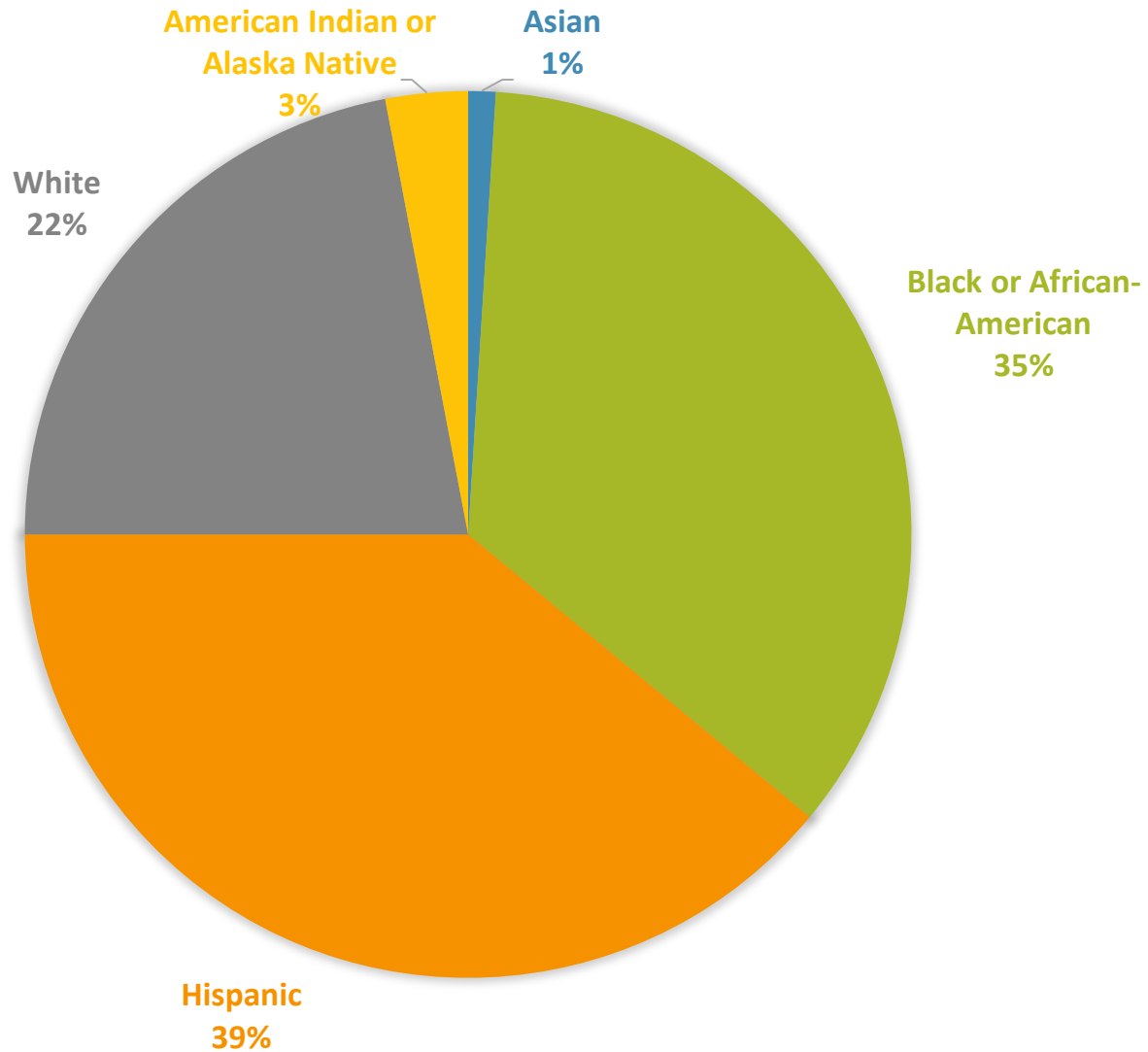
Referrals by Grade



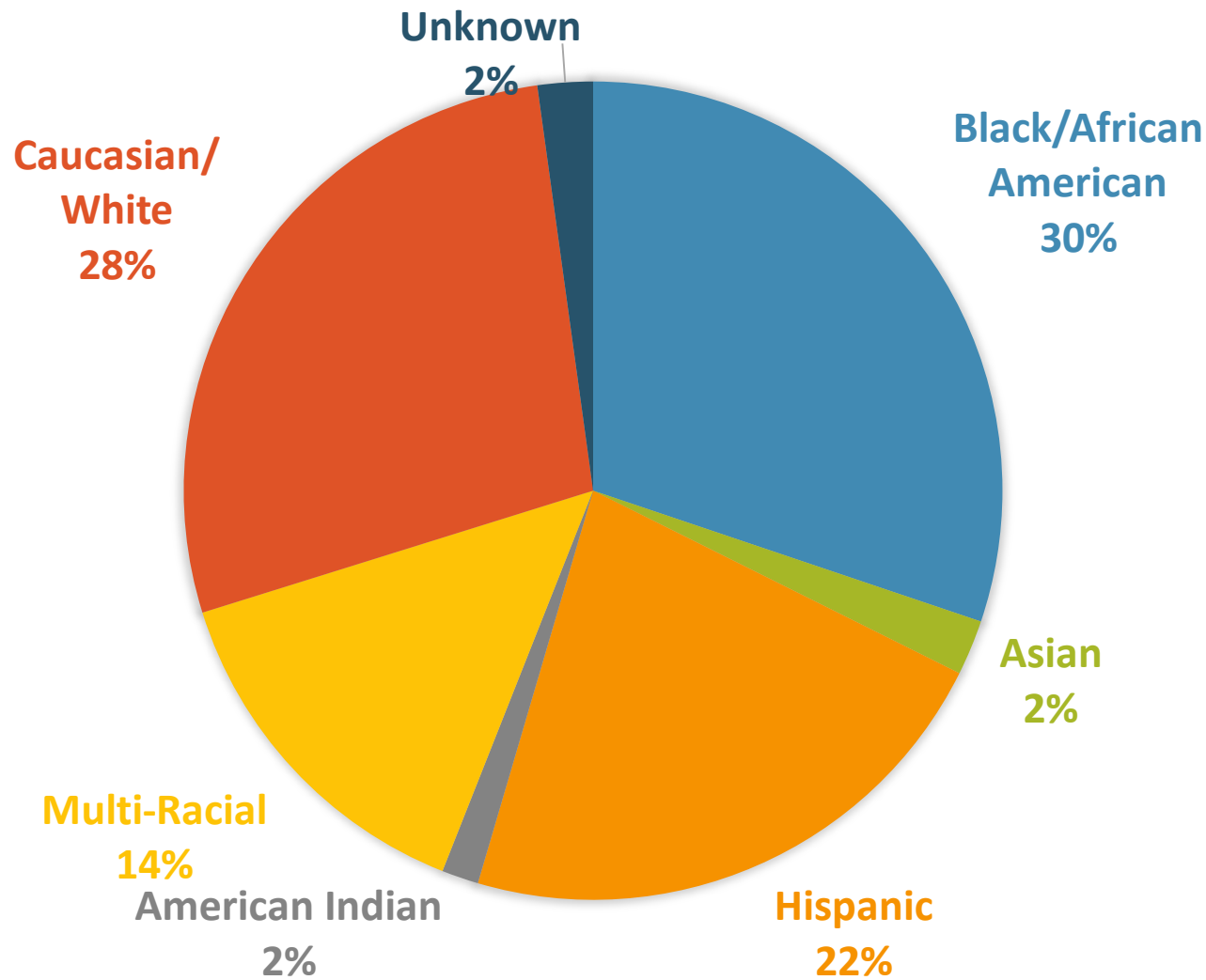
Referrals by Gender

- Female: 113
- Male: 148
- Total: 261

Truancy Referrals by Race



Educational Neglect Referrals by Race



Truancy Outcomes



53% of youth assigned a Truancy worker resulted in improved attendance of 90% for 45 days ***at case closing.***

6% of youth referred showed no improvement in attendance and the Truancy case was closed.

99 youth assigned to a Truancy worker remained opened at the end of the school year. 35% of referred youth.

Truancy District Assignments



District	Truancy Social Worker
ISD 196-Apple Valley/Eagan/Rosemount	Tommy Sivongsay 952-891-7374 Tani Imberg 952-891-7351
ISD 6- South Saint Paul ISD 199-Inver Grove Heights ISD 197-WSP, MH & Eagan ISD 200-Hastings	Catherine Nkwo 952-891-7345 Jeff Lynch 952-891-7330 Tammy Loberg 952-891-7309
ISD 191-Burnsville ISD 192-Farmington ISD 194-Lakeville	Mike Vieburg -952-891-7337 Andie O'Brien 952-891-7313 Desiree Wren 952-891-7444 Madeline Jensvold 952-891-7558
Float based on referrals	Chris P'Simer 952-891-7387
#917, Charter School Students, and Online	Students will be assigned based on the residence of the parent

Questions?



During the meeting there were several questions which were recorded and answered. A question and answer guide will be posted to the Dakota County Website by October 1, 2021.

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 and its potential impact on school attendance. Our Educational Neglect/Truancy teams will meet regularly this year to discuss the feedback they have received from school staff, review data, referral criteria and service delivery models, which may result in changes and/or adjustments throughout the school year.

Thanks for your time

Suzanne Tuttle, Deputy Director
Michelle Jensen, Operations Manager
Leslie Yunker, Truancy & CMH Supervisor
Stacy Devitt, Child Protection Supervisor
Raymond LaCroix, Child Protection Supervisor
Laura Bartsch, Intake Supervisor



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