

DEFENDER  
ASSOCIATION  
*of* PHILADELPHIA

**2024**

# Budget Proposal

[PHILLYDEFENDERS.ORG](http://PHILLYDEFENDERS.ORG)

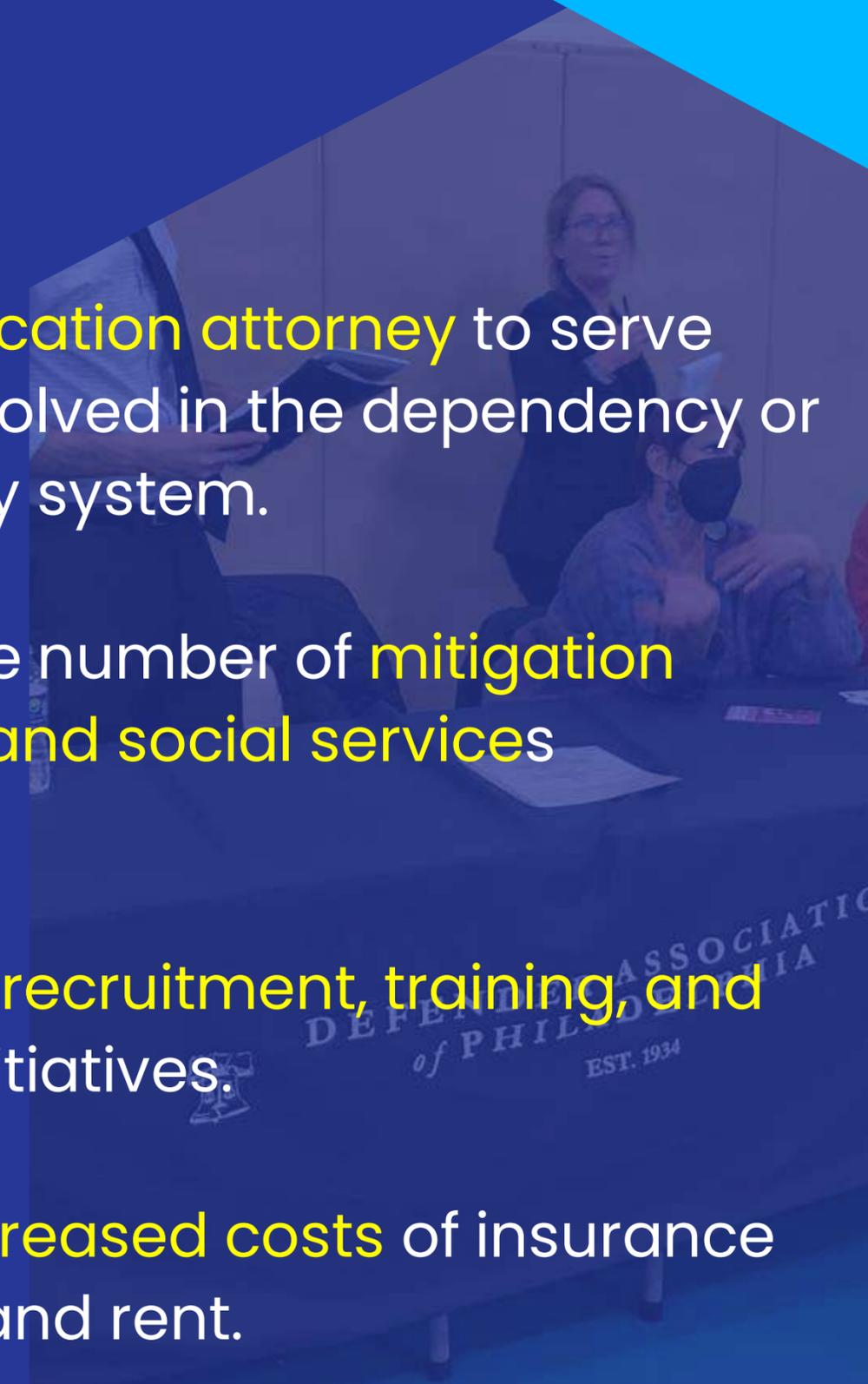


# Budget Request Overview

	Distribution of Mayor's Proposed \$5 million increase	Distribution of Additional \$5 million
Inflation increase	\$2,700,000	
Maintain Currently Budgeted Staffing Levels; Retention and Infrastructure Cost, including increases associated with Collective Bargaining Agreement	\$2,300,000	
Child Advocacy, Social Services & racial justice initiatives		\$3,600,000
Mid-year transfer ordinance from FY2023		\$1,400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

# Distribution of Additional Funds

- Additional attorneys, social workers and data analyst for our Child Advocate Unit (CAU)
- Hire formerly dependent youth to serve as peer mentors for CAU clients
- Provide stipends to CAU clients to serve on a youth advisory board
- Increase the number of attorneys assigned to our Majors Unit to manage increased volume of more serious cases.
- Hire an education attorney to serve children involved in the dependency or delinquency system.
- Increase the number of mitigation specialists and social services advocates
- Sustain our recruitment, training, and retention initiatives.
- Address increased costs of insurance premiums and rent.



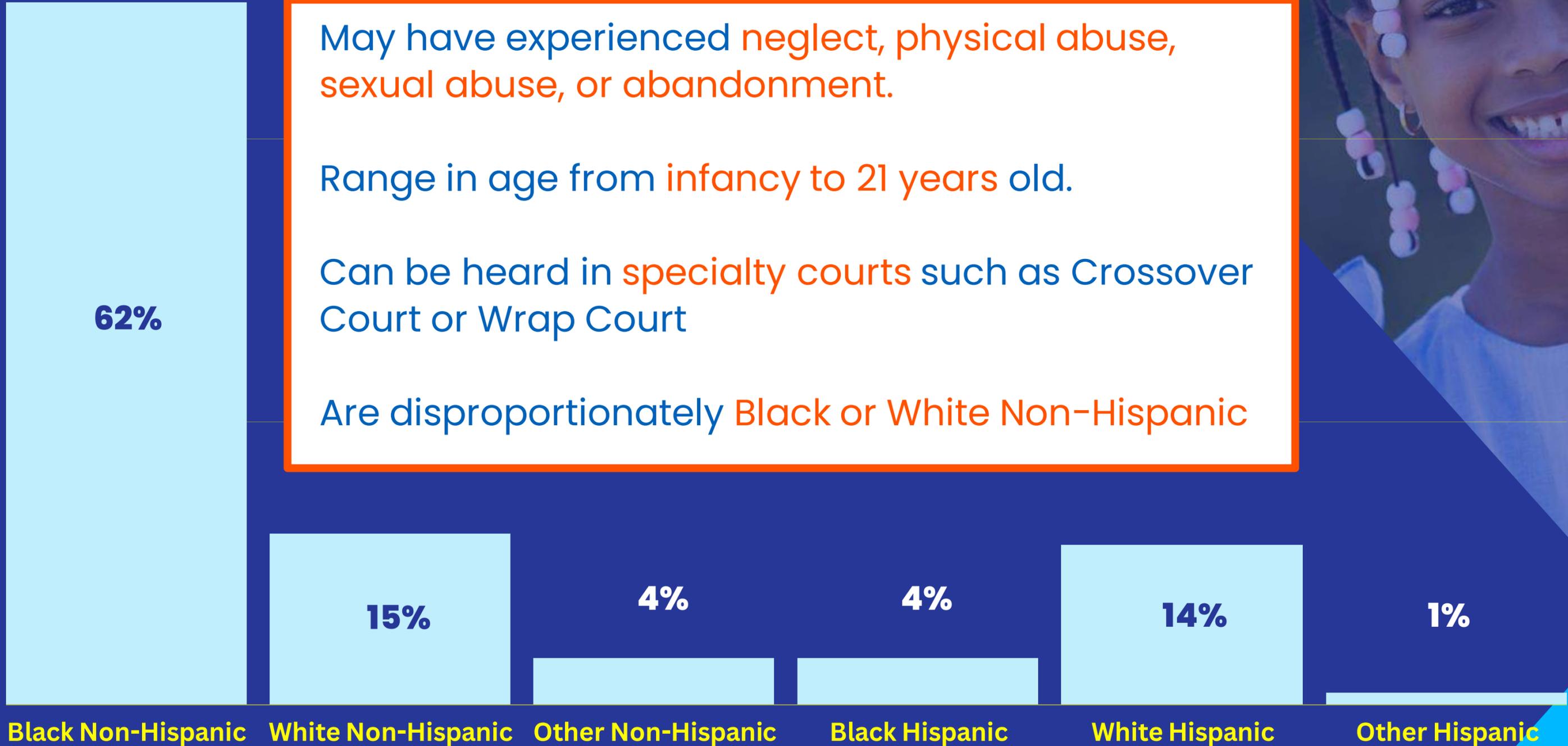
# OUR CAU CLIENTS:

75%

50%

25%

0%



May have experienced neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or abandonment.

Range in age from infancy to 21 years old.

Can be heard in specialty courts such as Crossover Court or Wrap Court

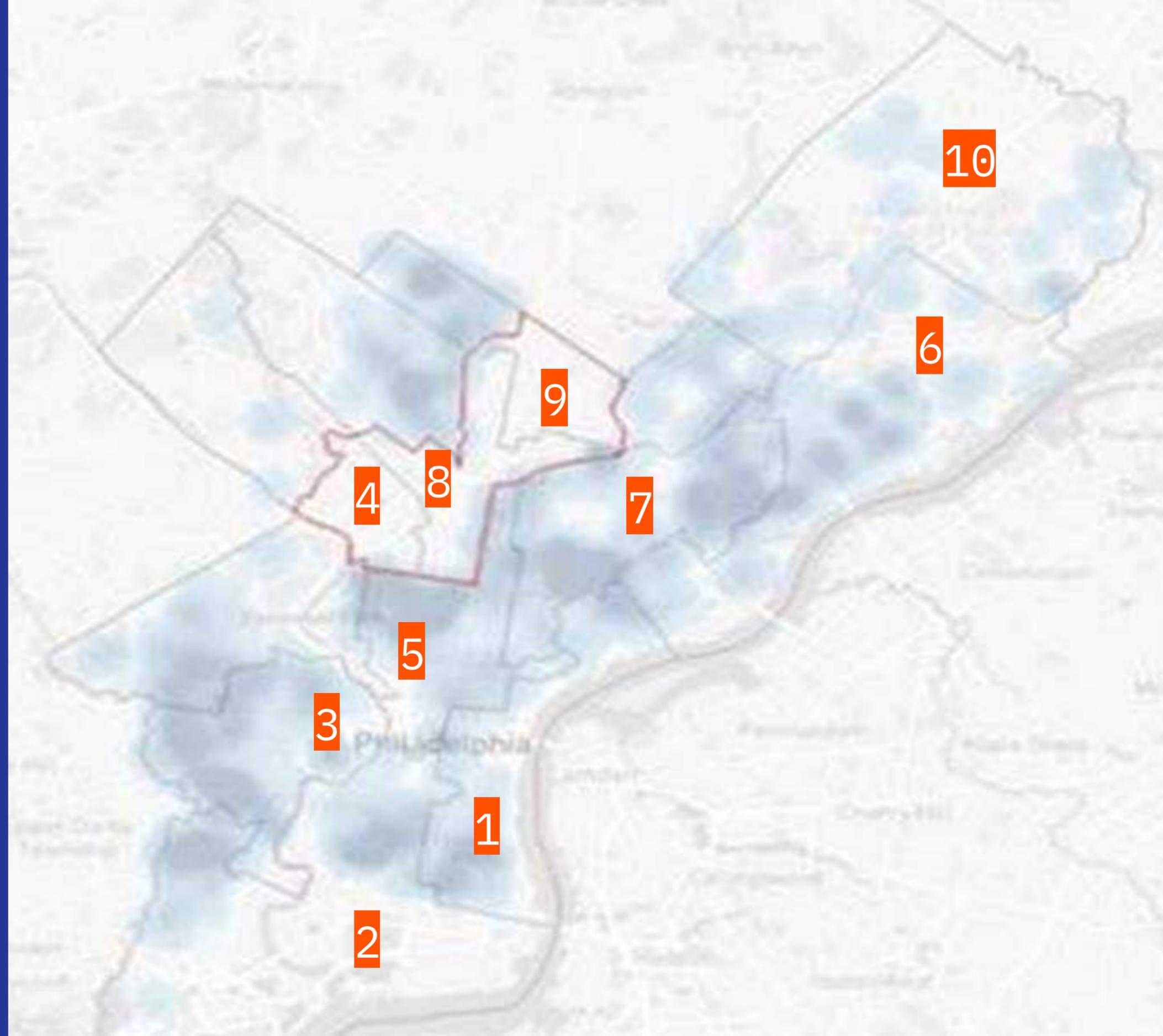
Are disproportionately Black or White Non-Hispanic



# CAU CLIENTS By District

Our clients involved in dependency cases reside throughout the city.

Due to staffing shortages we are currently unable to staff one of the dependency courtrooms, which handles cases involving children who reside within parts of **Councilmanic Districts 4, 8, and 9.**

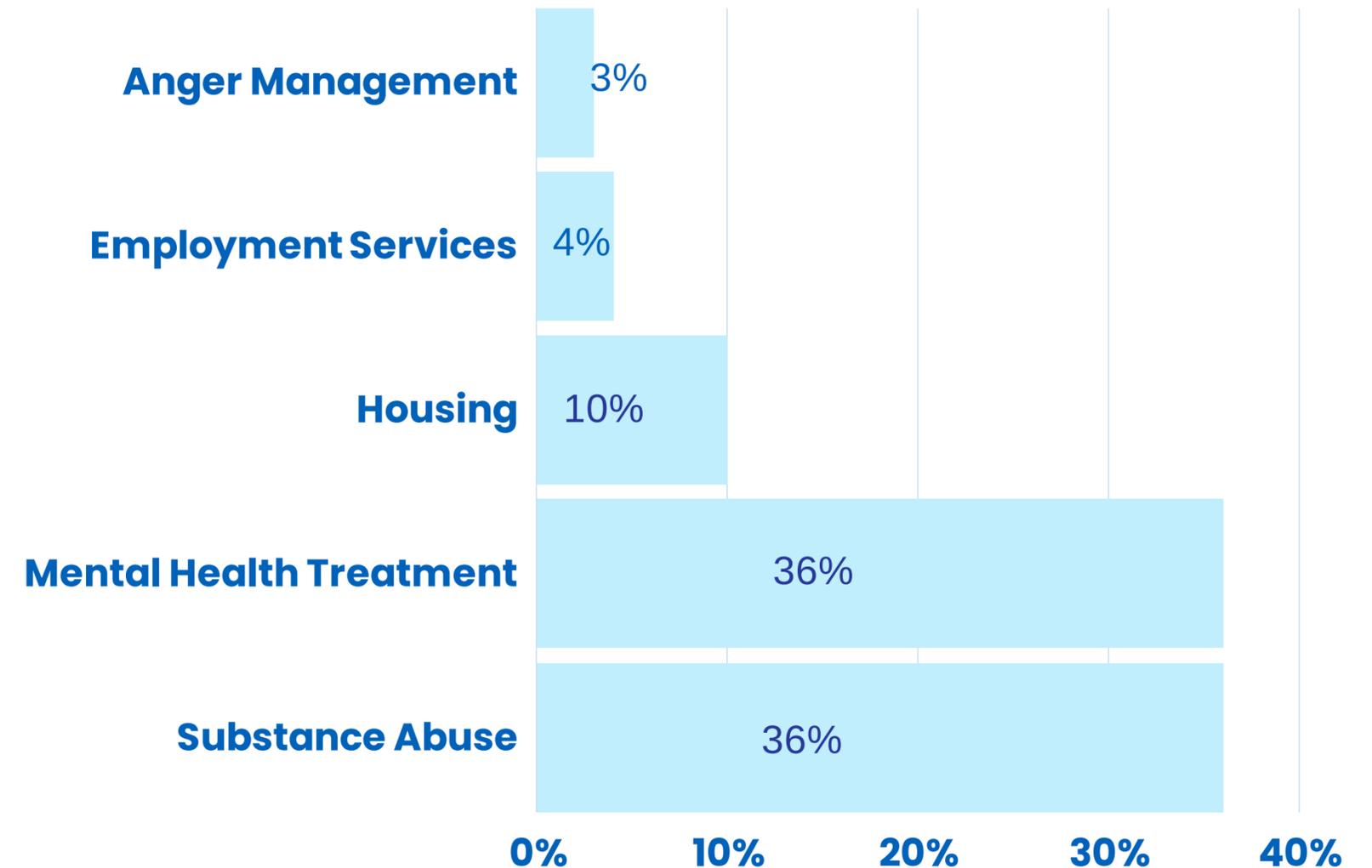


# Defender Social Services Advocates

Receive, on average, **9 referrals** every day

Received **989 FIR referrals and 472 service referrals** for **876** individual clients in the last 5 months of 2022

## **\*DIRECT SERVICES REQUESTED BY REFERRAL\***



*\*Adults assigned to the Mental Health Unit, Homicide, or Special Defense Unit and every child charged as adult is assigned a social services advocate and is not reflected in our referrals.*

# The Need for Increased Social Services

Because our clients are facing **more serious charges**, we anticipate our clients will have an even greater need for supportive services

## Proportion of Felonies to Misdemeanors in New Cases FY 18 to FY 21

	Felonies	Misdemeanors	Other	TOTAL:
<b>FY 18-19</b>	16,870	13,742	2,202	<b>32,814</b>
	<b>51.4%</b>	<b>41.9%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	
<b>FY 21-22</b>	13,534	5,988	2,091	<b>21,613</b>
	<b>62.6%</b>	<b>27.7%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	

# Supporting Racial Equity

Given the high volume of our practice, and the **demographics of the clients we represent**, it's essential for our office to continue our current work to recruit, train, and retain a diverse and talented team.

## ADULT CLIENTS:

**81% male, 18% female**

**64%** Black Non-Hispanic

**1%** Black Hispanic

**17%** White Hispanic

**1%** Asian/Pacific Islander

**15%** were White Non-Hispanic

## YOUTH CLIENTS:

**84% male, 16% female**

**81%** Black Non-Hispanic

**2%** Black Hispanic

**11%** White Hispanic

**4%** Asian/Pacific Islander

**6%** Bi-Racial

**5%** White Non-Hispanic



# A More Inclusive Defender Association

New initiatives to recruit a diverse workforce (especially our attorneys), develop a leadership pipeline, build a culture of racial equity, and expand services to the community

- **50%** of new attorney class are diverse candidates
- Conducting a series of management and DEI trainings for staff and senior managers
- In-house workshops on stress management & workplace inclusivity

- Coordinated, facilitated, and staffed over **75 community engagement events** in 2022
- Launched a Defender Day series at the JJSC
- Over **15,000** expungement applications
- **283** requests for probation termination

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# Questions?

## Contact info

**Keisha Hudson, Chief Defender:**

[khudson@philadefender.org](mailto:khudson@philadefender.org)

**Kate Parker, Policy Director**

[kparker@philadefender.org](mailto:kparker@philadefender.org)

**Carolyn Jester, Chief Financial Officer**

[cjester@philadefender.org](mailto:cjester@philadefender.org)



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