



WASHINGTON  
COURTS



WASHINGTON STATE CENTER  
FOR COURT RESEARCH

# Girls of Color in Juvenile Detention in Washington State, 2016-2020

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# Definitions – Juvenile Detention

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Juvenile detention in Washington is defined as a facility for juvenile justice-involved youth that:

- provides secure confinement
- is locally operated
- is short term
- can hold youth both pre- and post-adjudication


Not included in this definition:


- Admissions to JR facilities (<4% of all incarcerations statewide)
- Admissions to secure or unsecure Crisis Residential Centers

We purposefully exclude:

- Holds for out-of-state jurisdictions or Tribes
- Screen and release episodes


Reliable statewide data starting in 2016

 20 County Detention Facilities

 1 Private Detention Facility

 2 Out of State Contracted Detention Facilities



 Clallam and Chelan counties each have a Secure Crisis Residential Centers co-located with their detention facility (SCRC admission data not included in today's presentation)

# Definitions – Race and Ethnicity

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- Imperfect measures
- Little control over data collection
- Court data management system is based on federal reporting standards (OMB, 1997)
- Office of Financial Management (OFM) population data based on US census

Court Data Management System Labels	OFM Population Data Labels	Labels Used in this Presentation
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	Native American
Asian; Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	Asian; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	Asian/PI
Black or African American (non-Hispanic)	Black or African American (non-Hispanic)	Black
Hispanic (all racial categories)*	Hispanic or Latino (all racial categories)	Latinx
White (non-Hispanic)	White (non-Hispanic)	White
Multi-racial**; Other; unknown (non-Hispanic)	Two or more races (non-Hispanic)	Other/unknown

\*currently assessing quality of this indicator

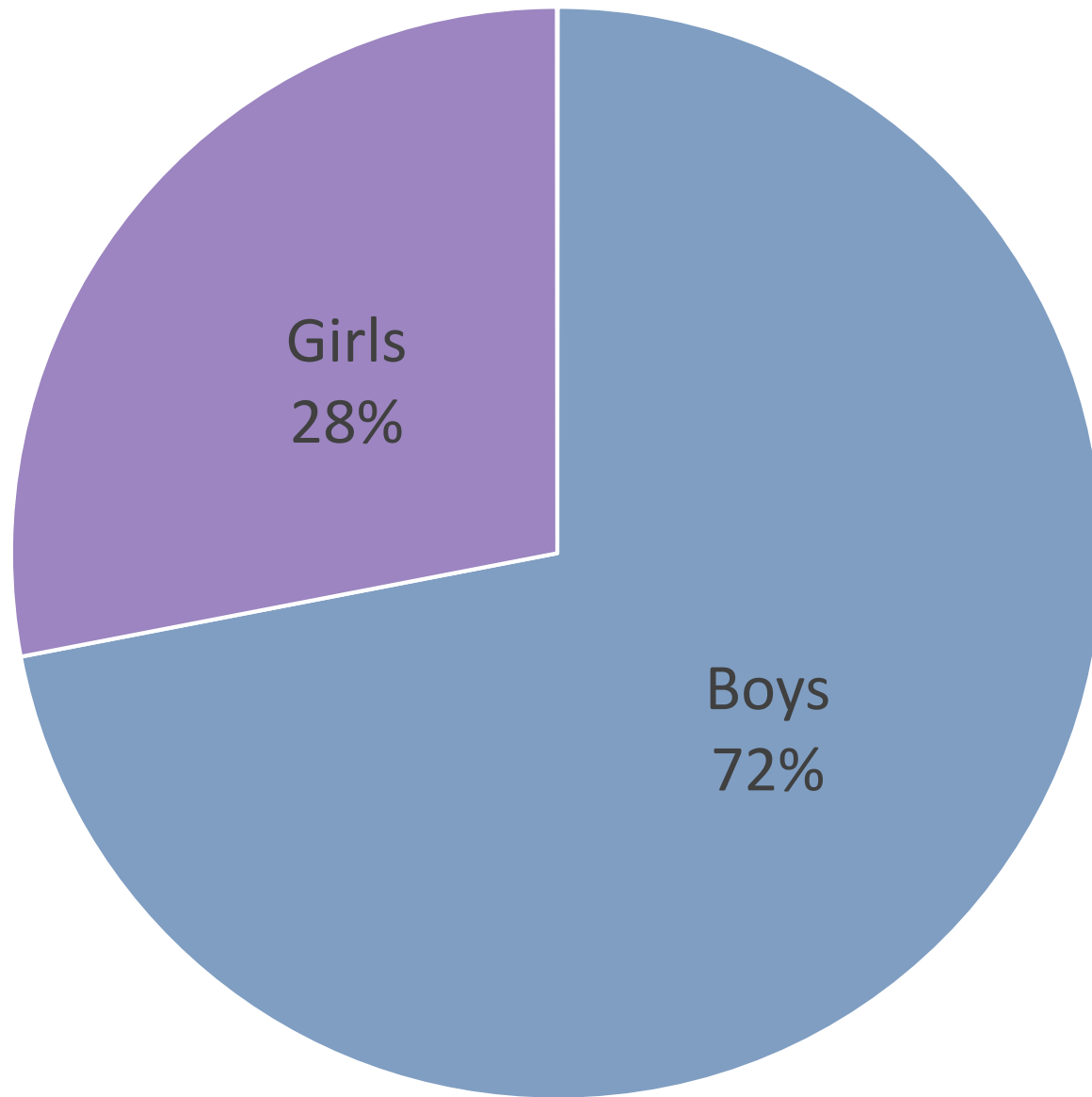
\*\*There is evidence that this category is vastly underutilized in court data

# Definitions – Gender

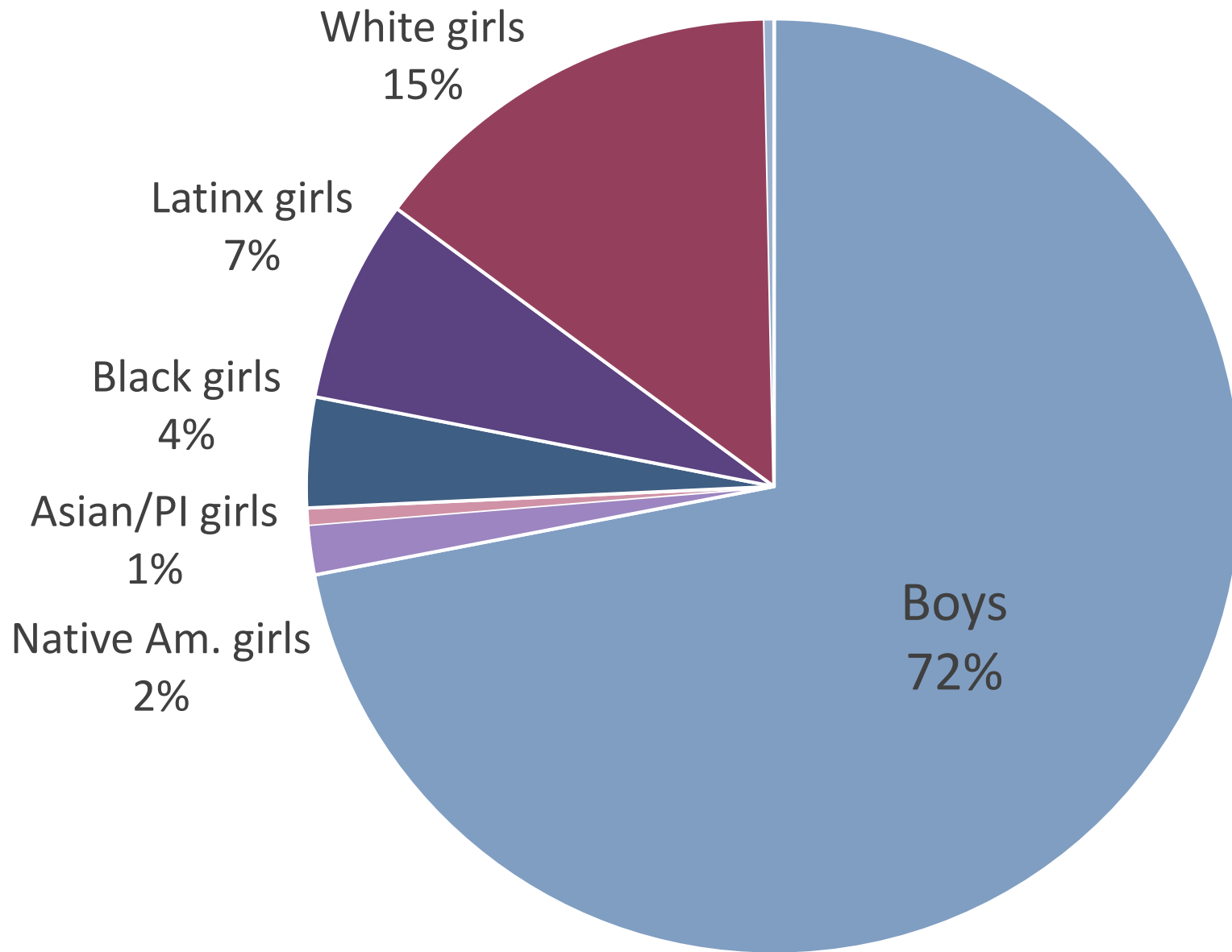
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- Imperfect measure
- Little control over data collection
- Court data management system currently limited to binary option:
  - Male (boys)
  - Female (girls)

# Statewide Juvenile Detention Admissions, 2016-2020



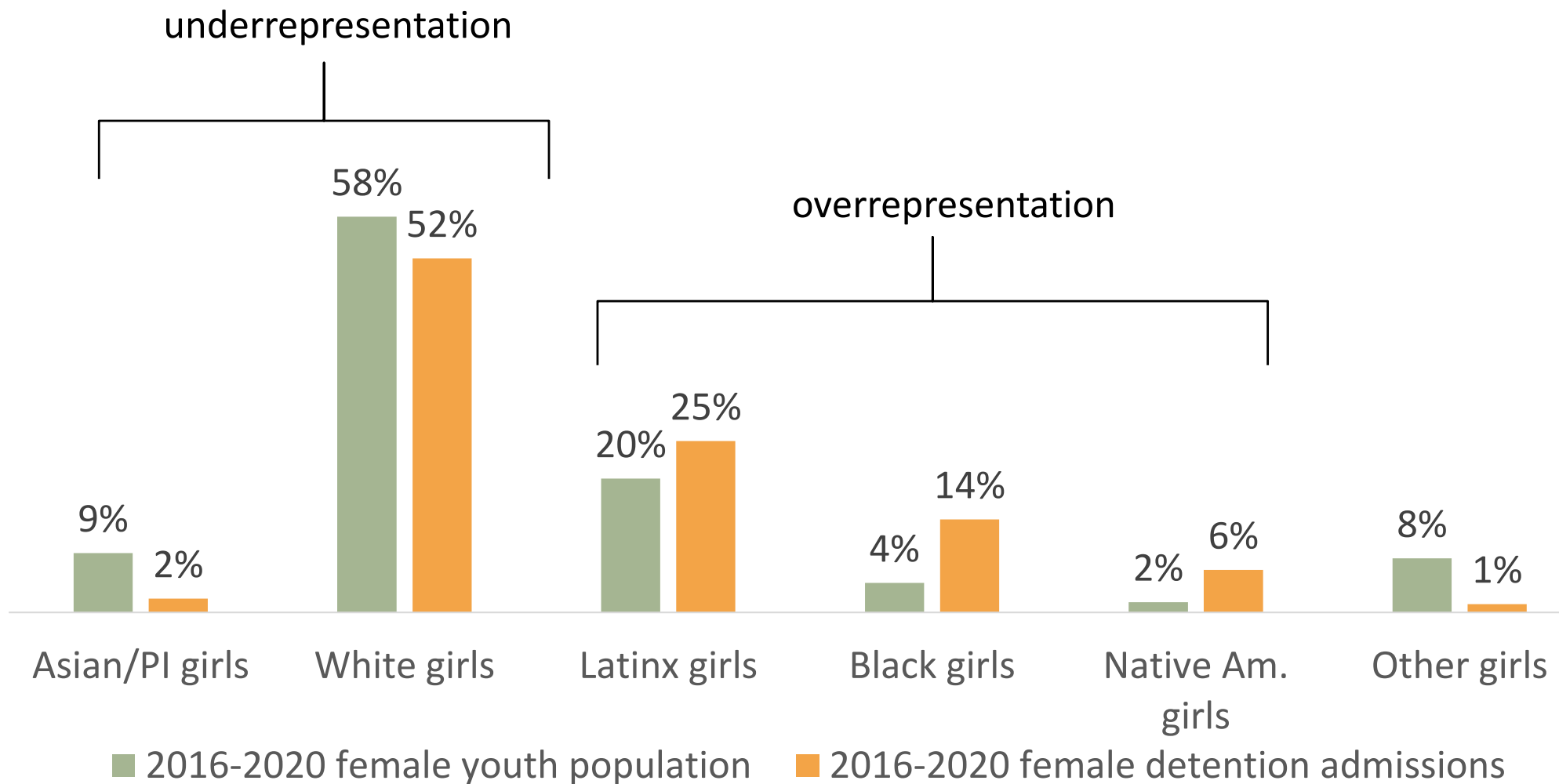
# Statewide Juvenile Detention Admissions, 2016-2020



Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

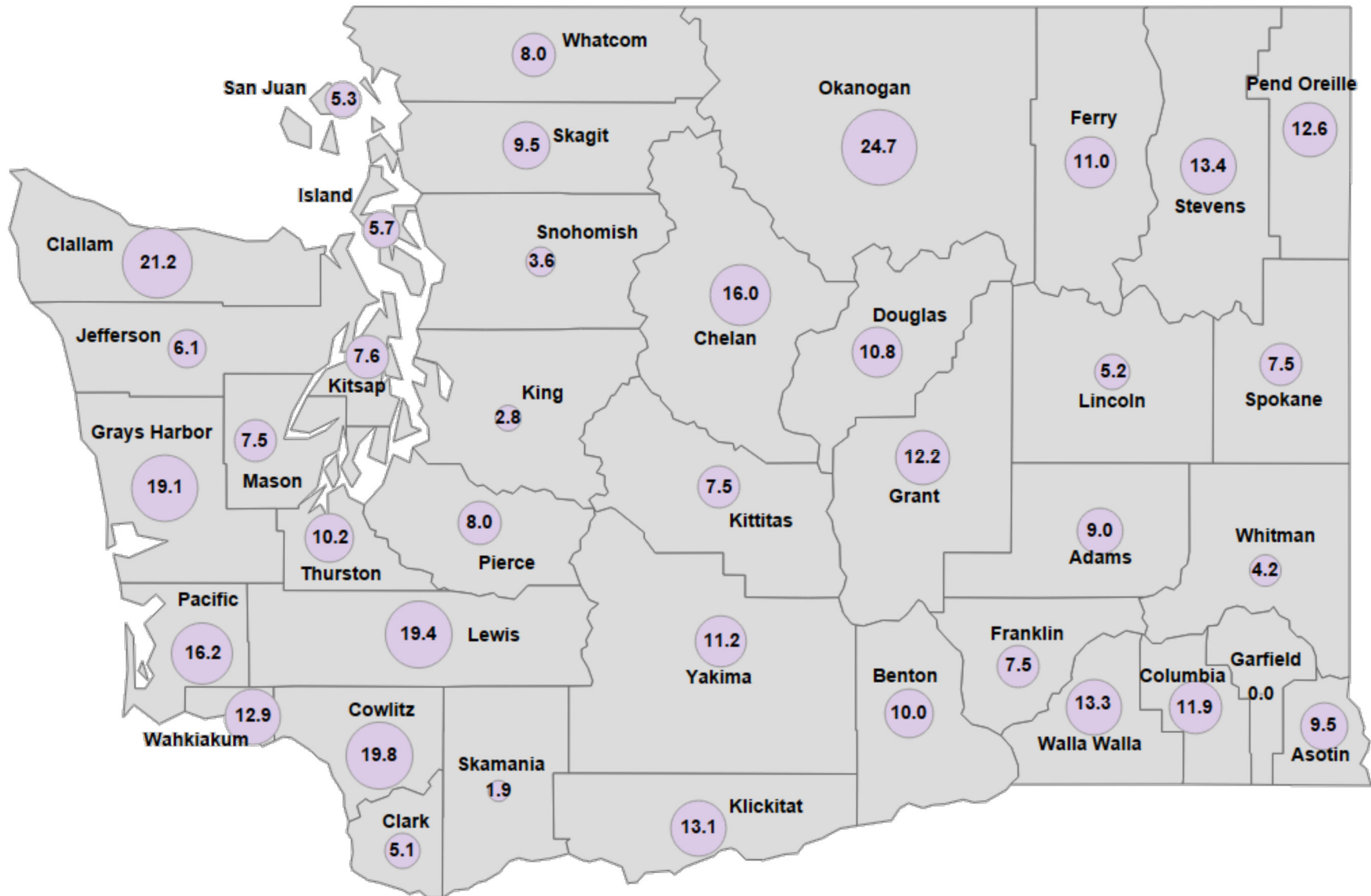


# Latinx , Black, and Native American girls are overrepresented in detention admission



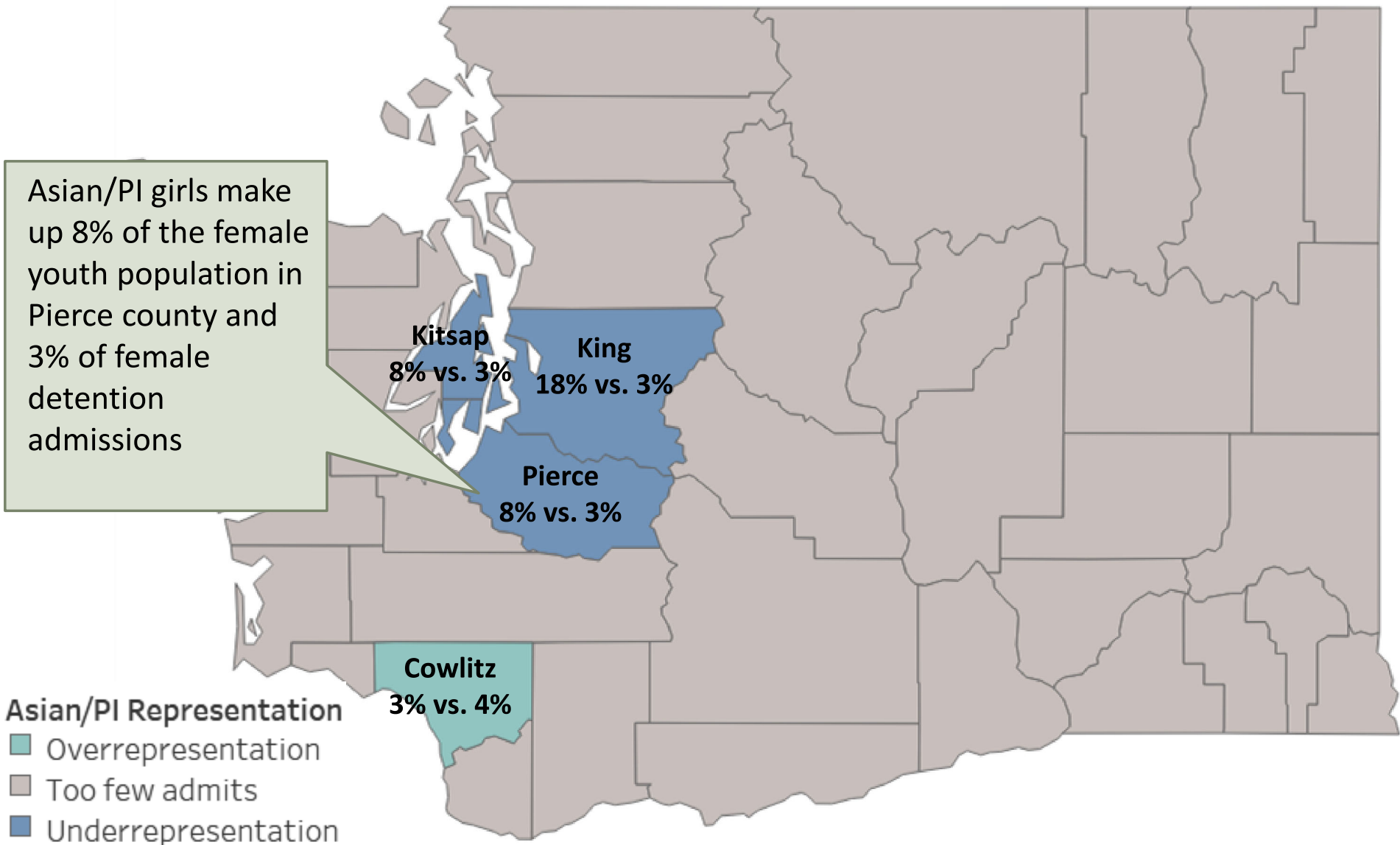
Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

# Youth-level detention rates\* in 2019



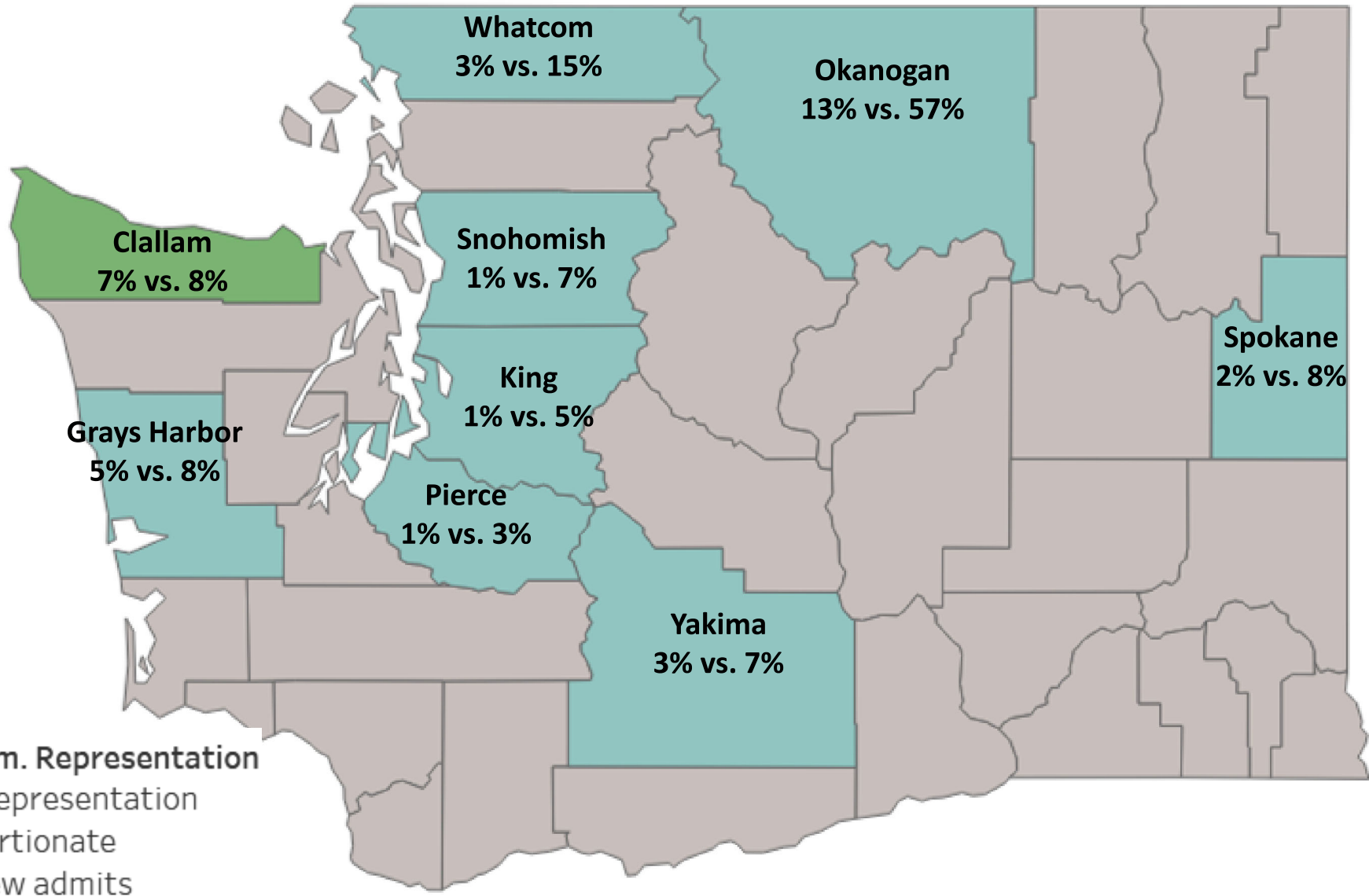
\*per 1,000 youth in the population

# Population vs. Detention Admissions Asian/PI Girls, 2016-2020



Too few admits = fewer than 30 admissions of Asian/PI girls across 2016-2020  
Proportionate= no more than a 20% (+ or -) difference

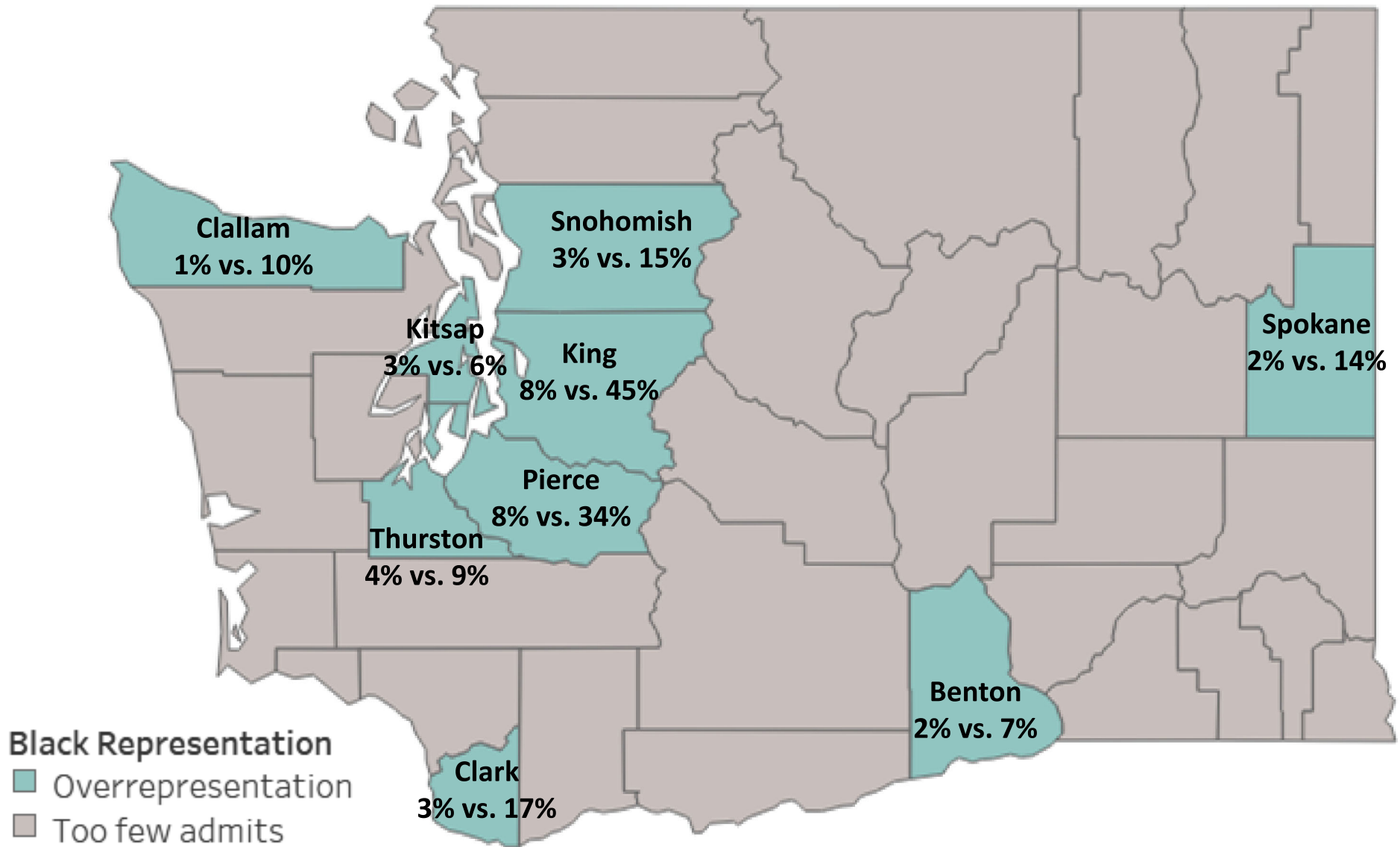
# Female Population vs. Female Detention Admissions Native American Girls, 2016-2020



Too few admits = fewer than 30 admissions of Native American girls across 2016-2020

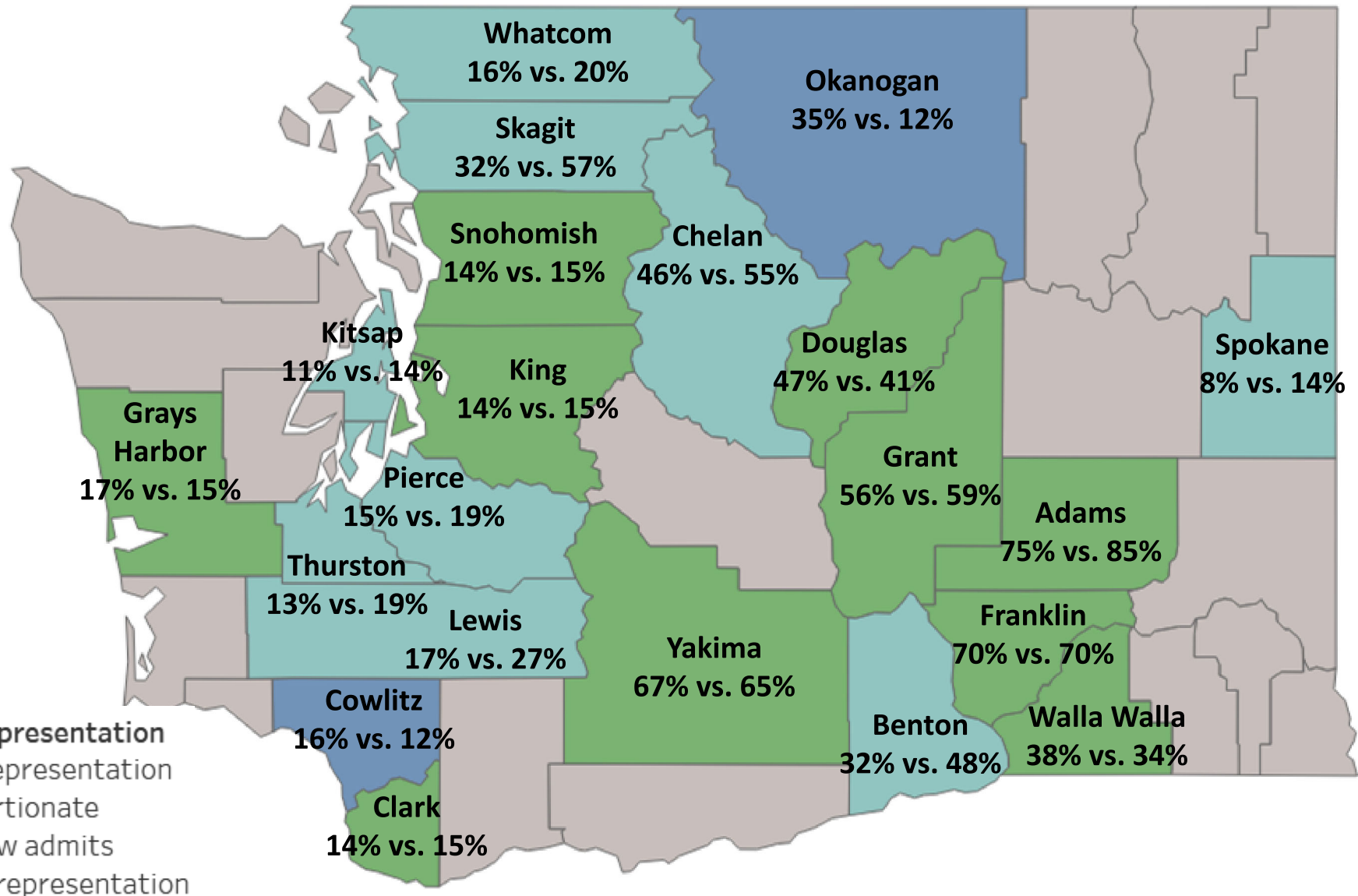
Proportionate = no more than a 20% (+ or -) difference

# Female Population vs. Female Detention Admissions Black Girls, 2016-2020



Too few admits = fewer than 30 admissions of Black girls across 2016-2020  
 Proportionate= no more than a 20% (+ or -) difference

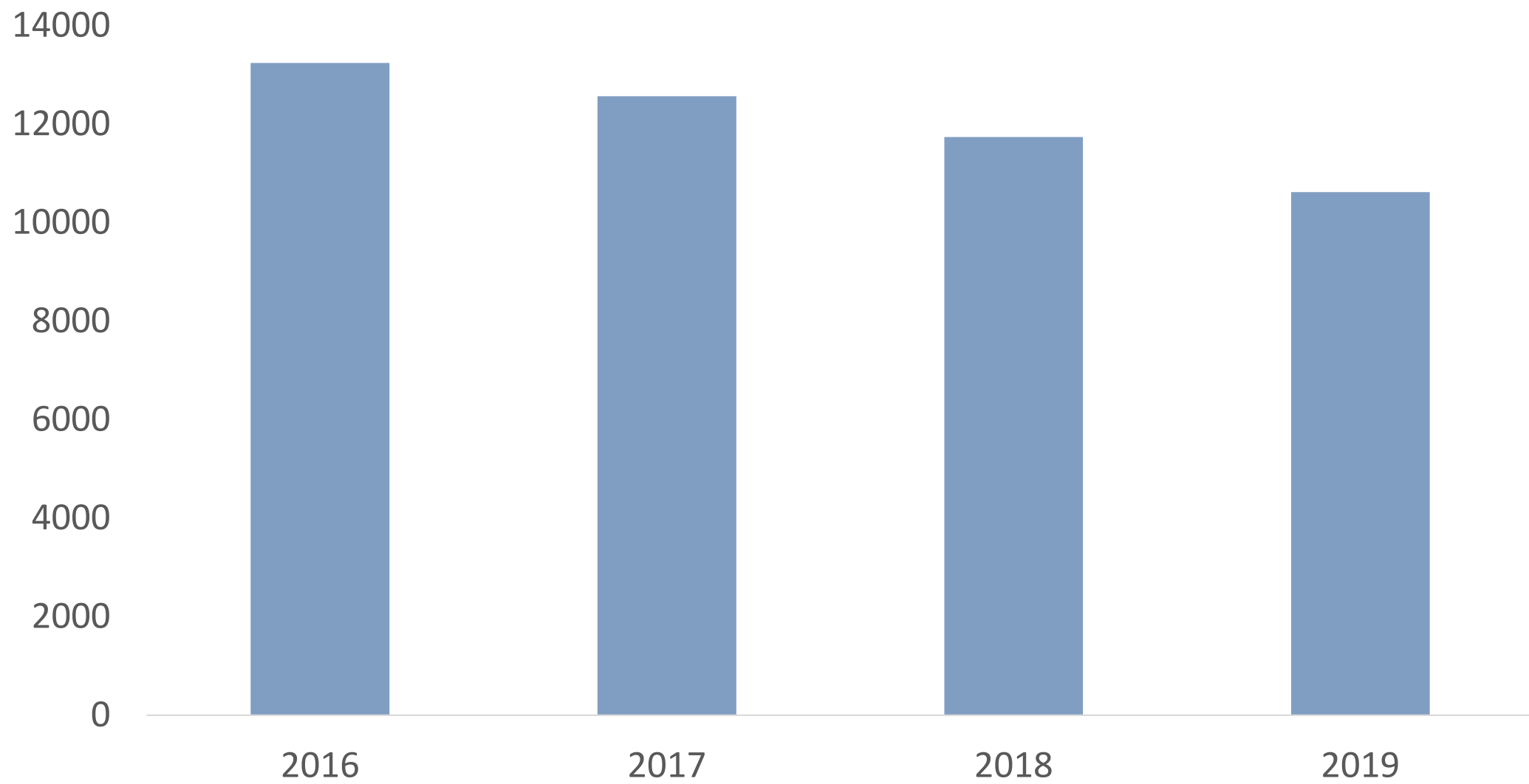
# Female Population vs. Female Detention Admissions Latinx Girls, 2016-2020

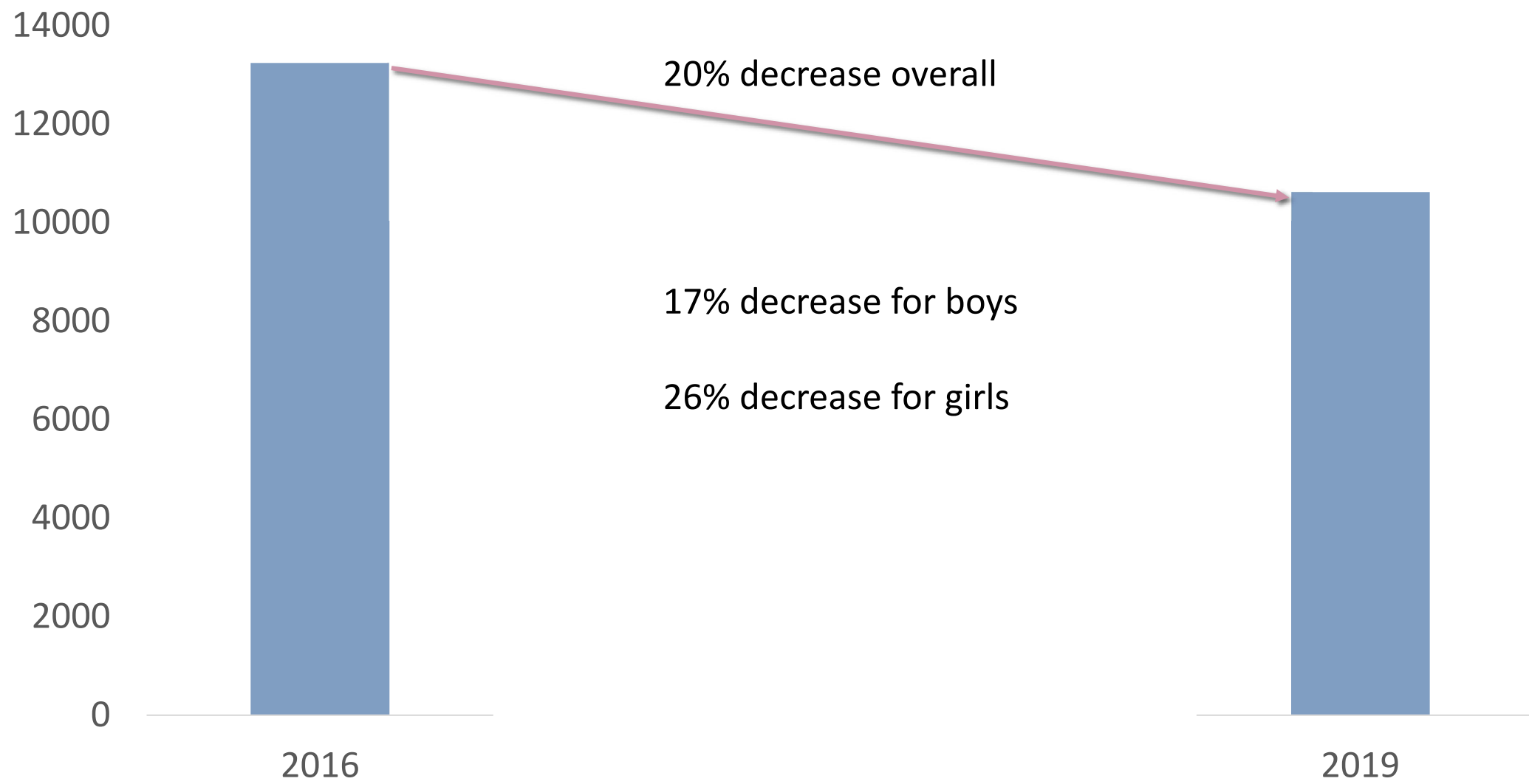


Too few admits = fewer than 30 admissions of Latinx girls across 2016-2020

Proportionate = no more than a 20% (+ or -) difference

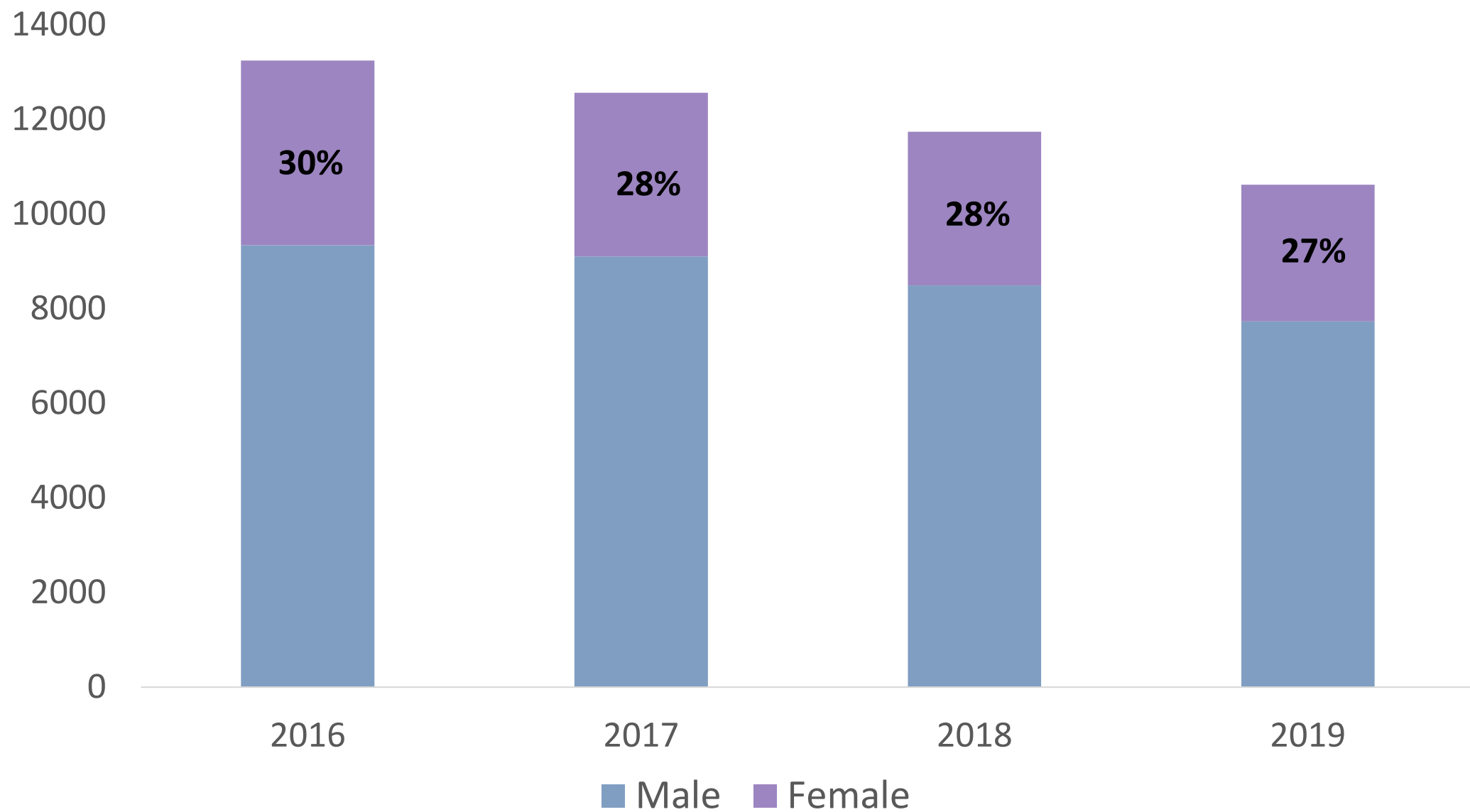
# Statewide detention admissions (all genders) steadily declined from 2016 to 2019



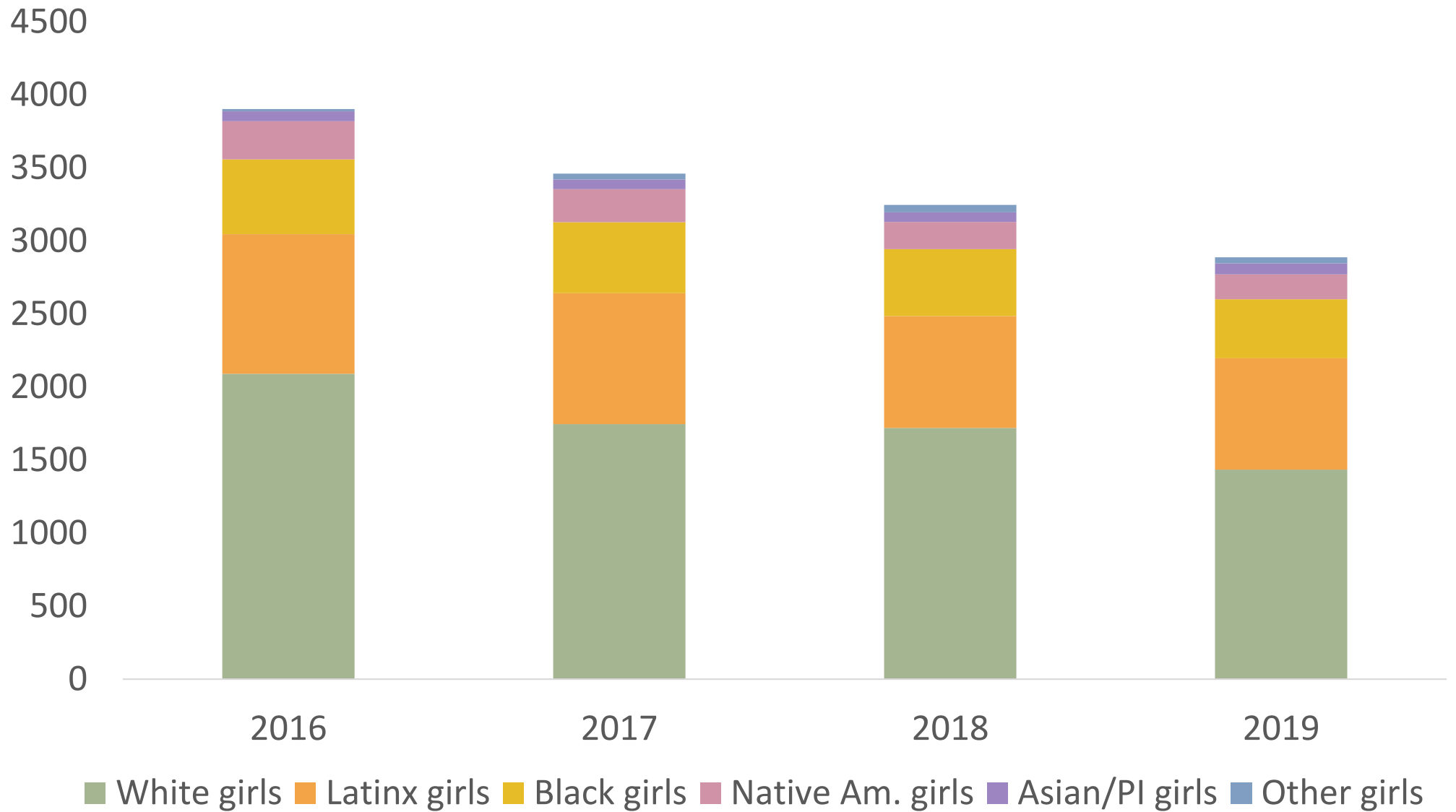




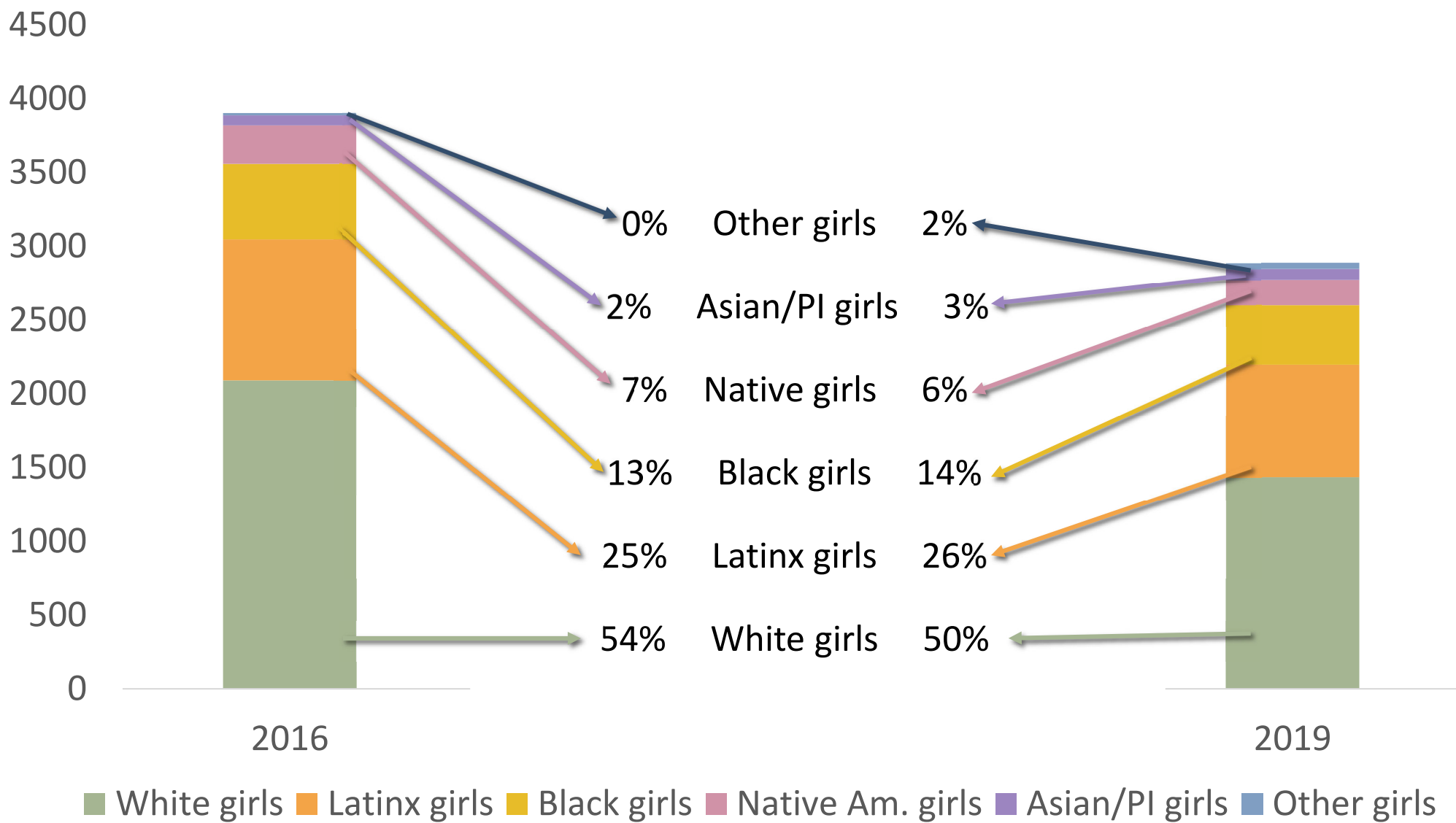
In other words, a smaller percentage of detention admissions were accounted for by girls in 2019 than in previous years



# Racial disproportionality for girls *did not* improve with the decrease in admissions from 2016 to 2019



# Racial disproportionality for girls *did not* improve with the decrease in admissions from 2016 to 2019



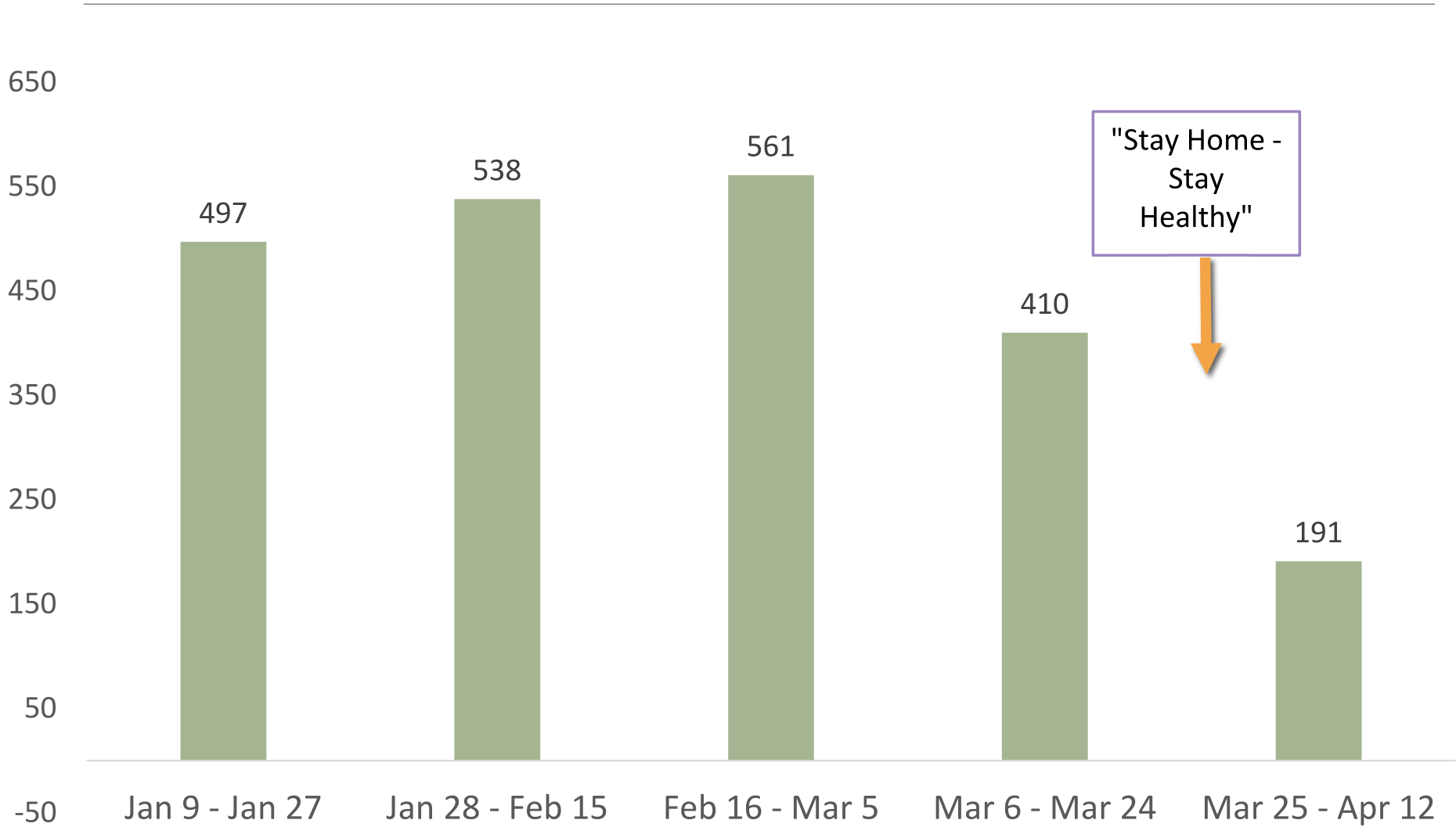
Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

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# How has the COVID-19 public health crisis affected juvenile detention admissions?

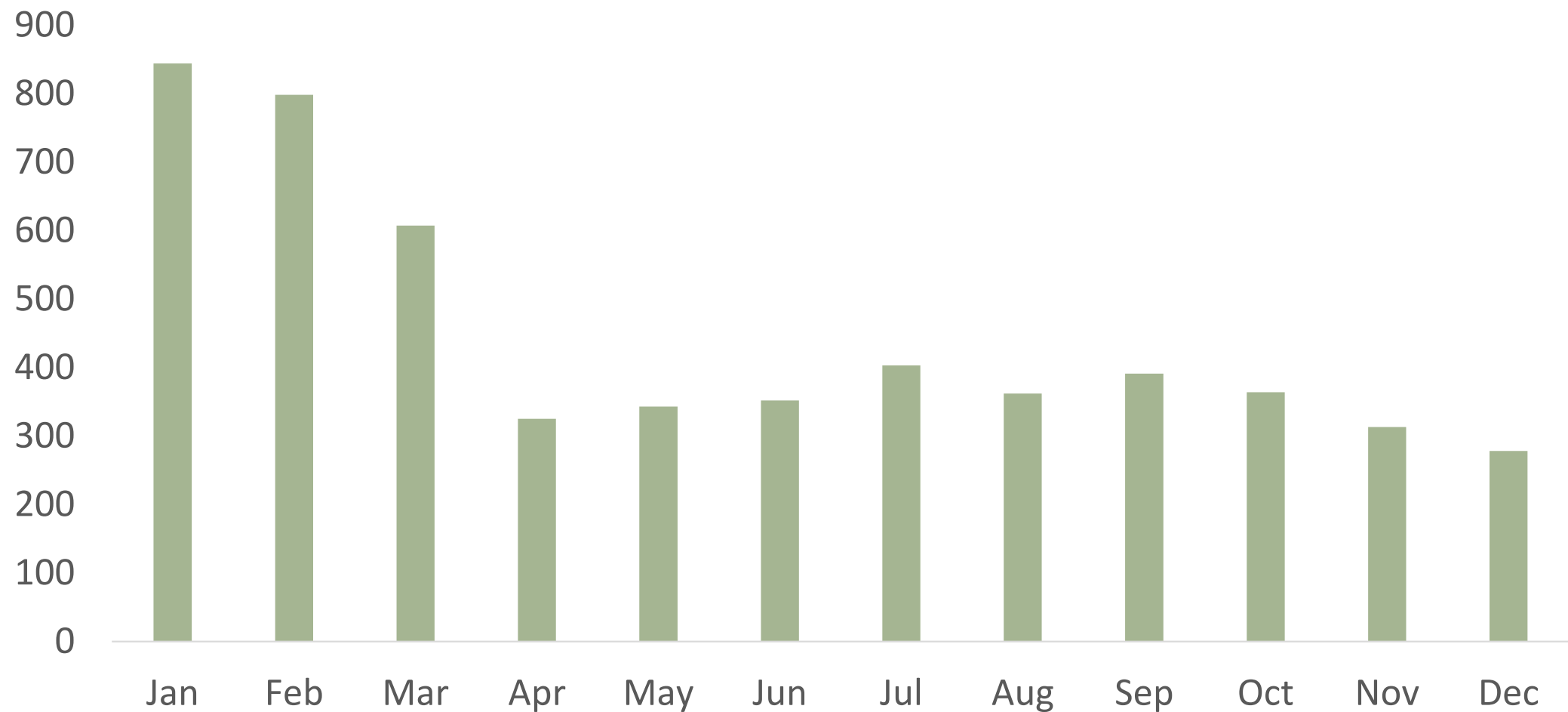


Following the “Stay Home – Stay Healthy” order in 2020, statewide admissions (all genders) dropped by about two-thirds

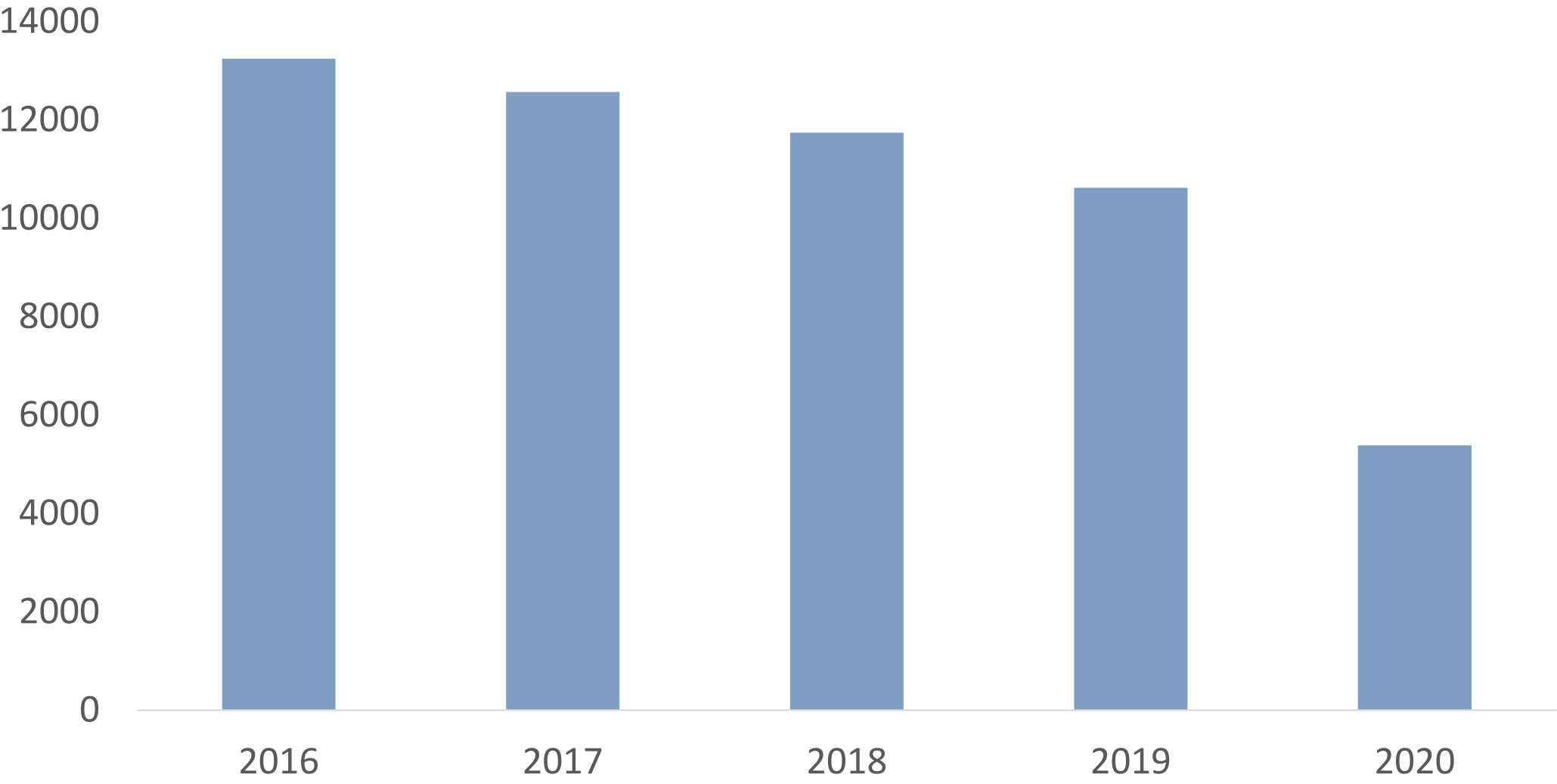


# Statewide admissions remained lower through the end of 2020

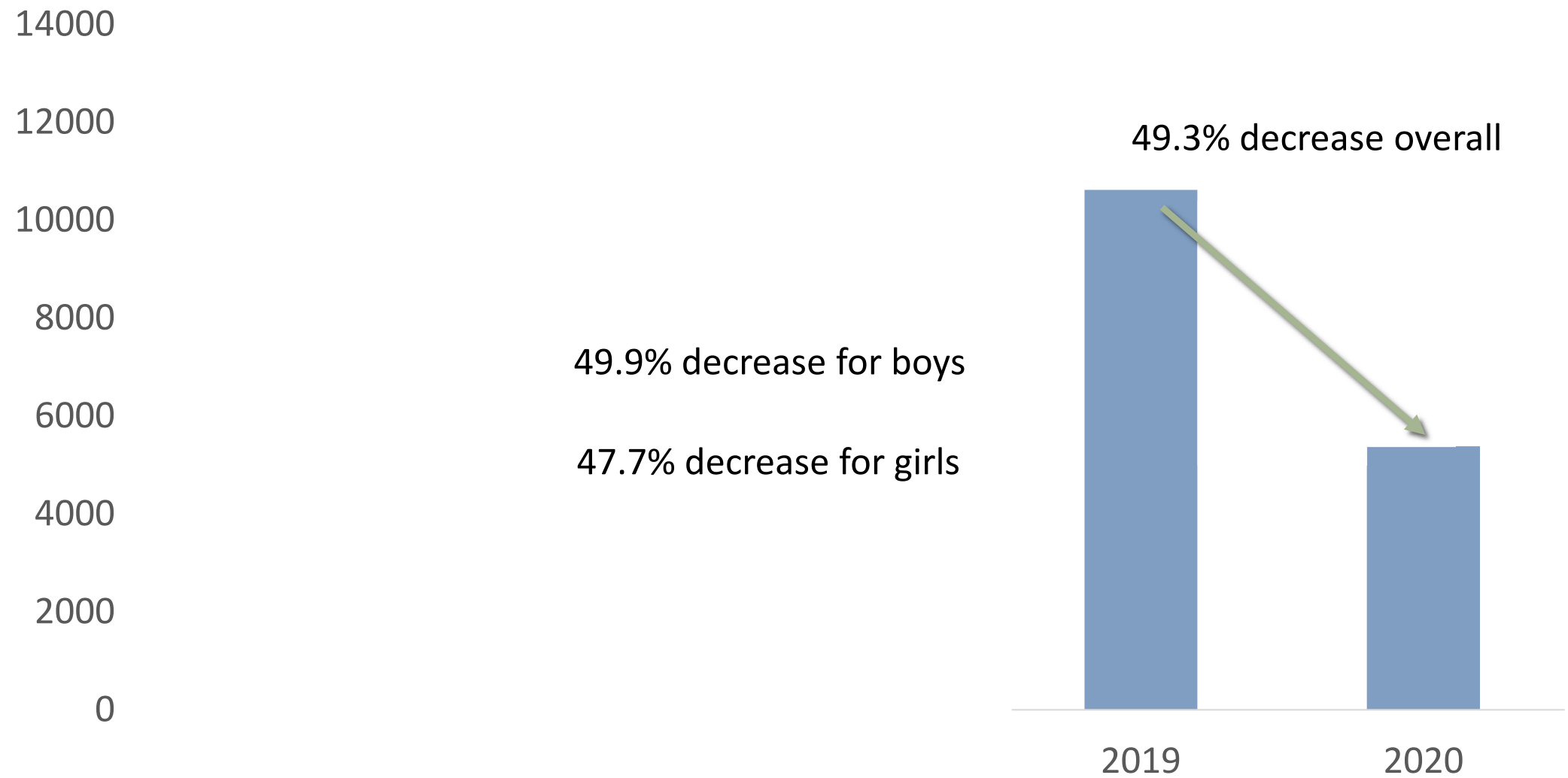
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# Detention admissions (all genders) 2016-2020 –

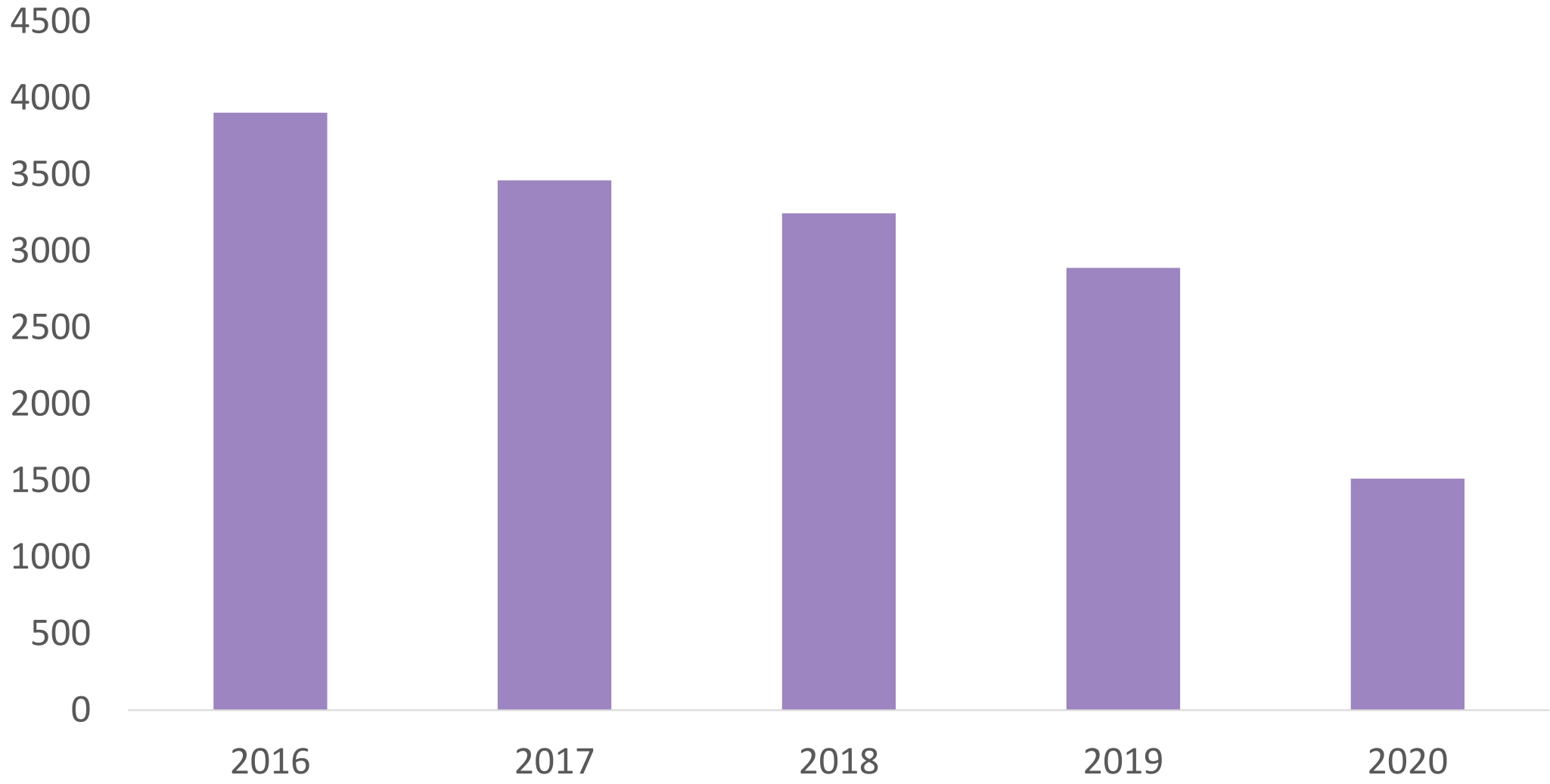


# Detention admissions 2019-2020

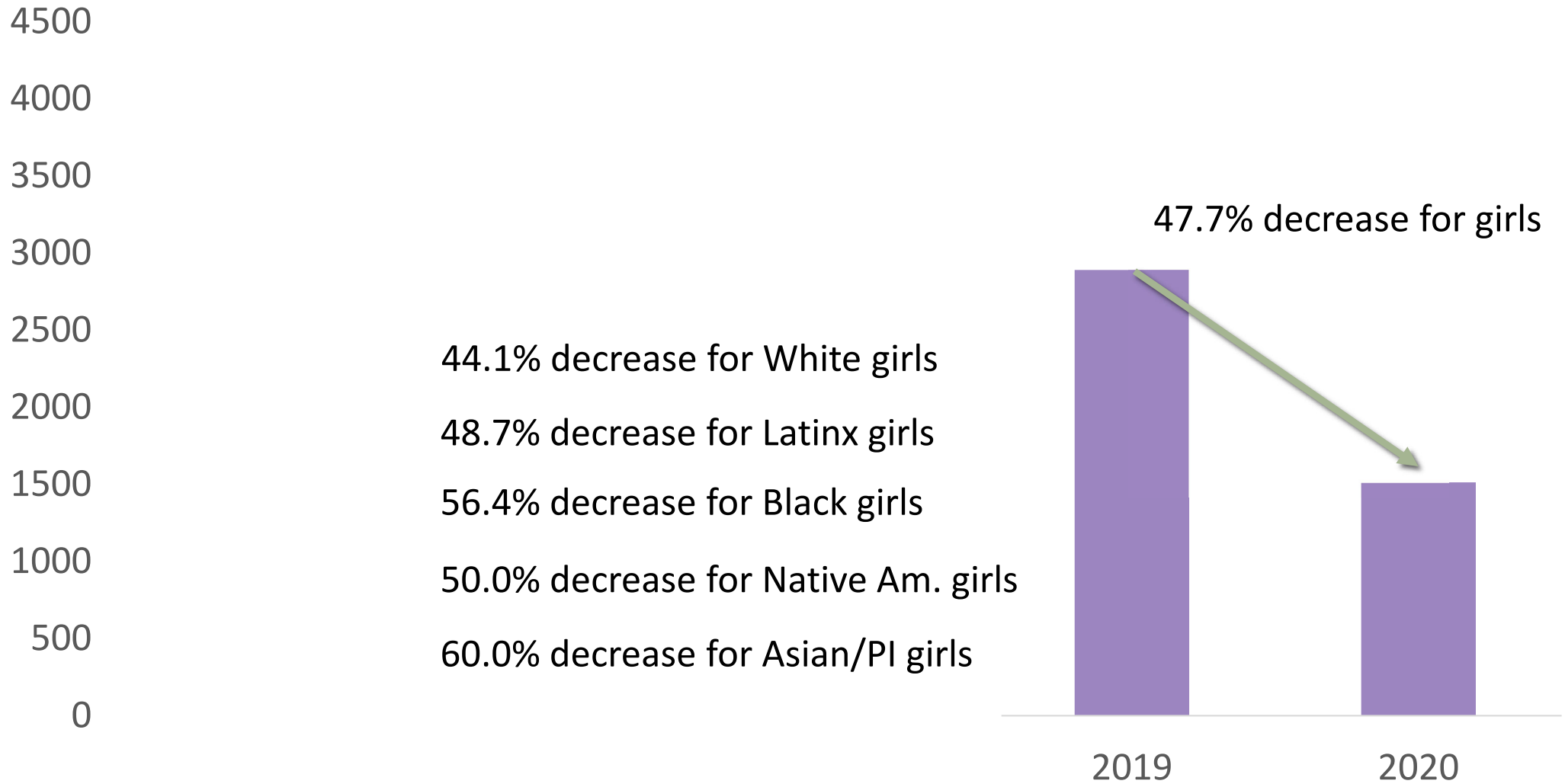




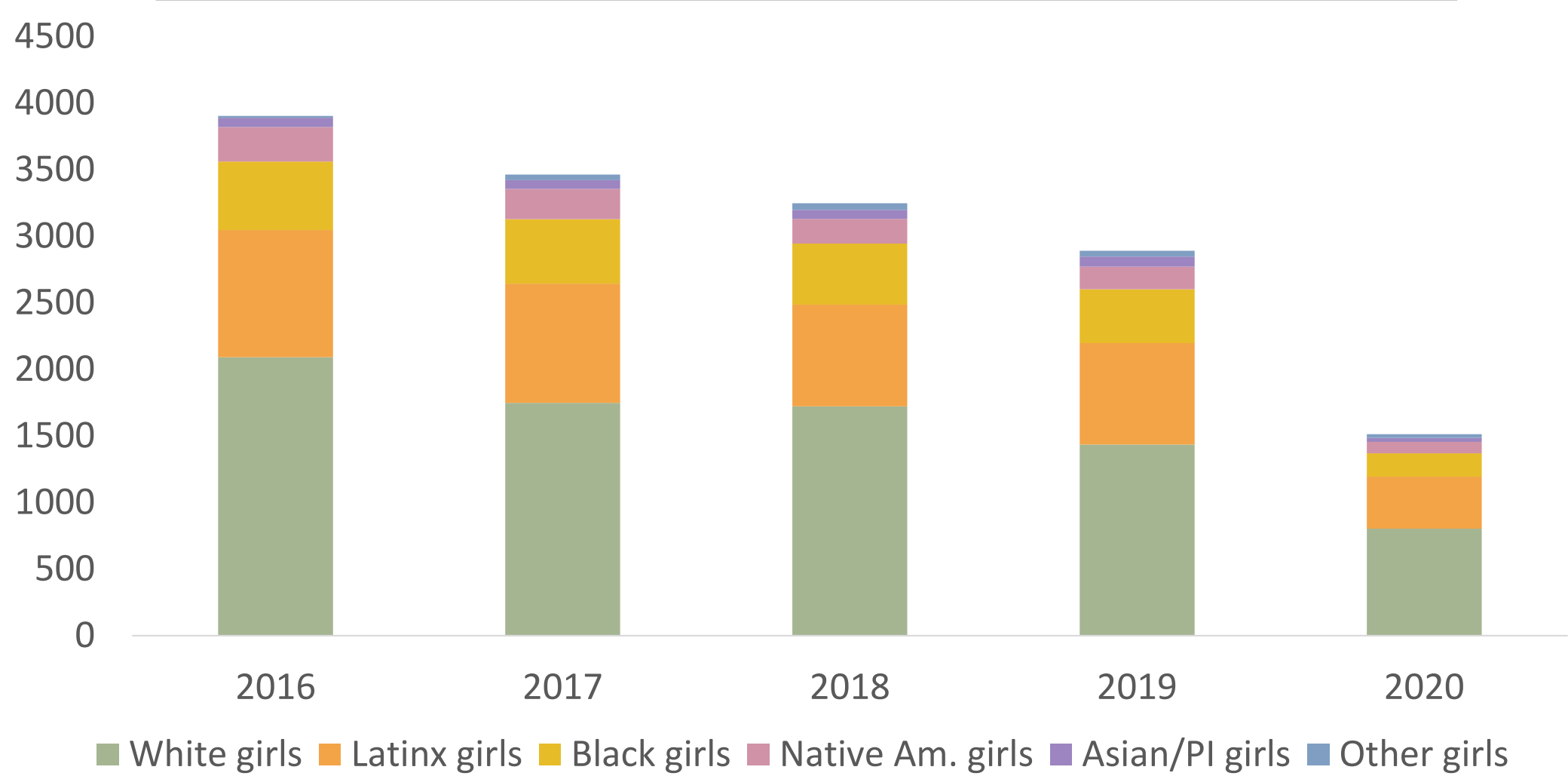
# Detention admissions of girls 2016-2020



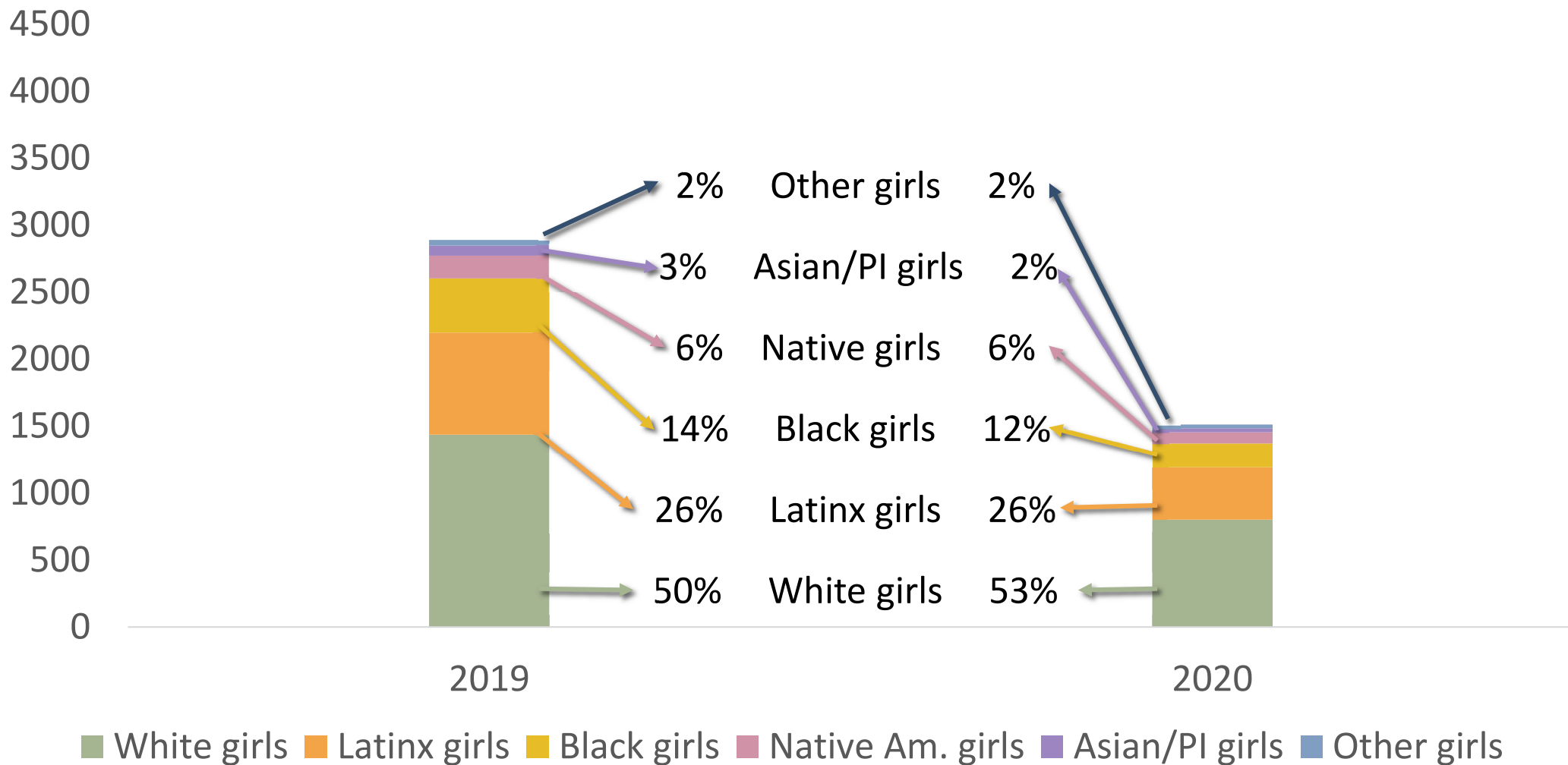
# Detention admissions of girls 2016-2020



# Detention admissions of girls, by race/ethnicity



# Detention admissions of girls, by race/ethnicity



Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

# Summary of findings

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- Native American, Black, and Latinx girls are overrepresented in the juvenile detention population statewide
  - Wide variability by county
- Juvenile detention admission steadily decreased from 2016 to 2019
  - Higher decrease for girls than boys
  - No improvement in racial disproportionality for girls (some exacerbation)
- There was a sharp decrease in admissions in 2020 due to COVID-19
  - Slightly higher decrease for boys than girls
  - Compared to 2019, racial disproportionality stayed consistent or narrowed somewhat (for Black girls)

# Next steps

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- More in-depth look at the COVID-related changes
  - Quantitative: further examination by populations (including intersectionality), geographic regions, offense types, etc.
  - Qualitative: surveys/interviews with juvenile courts to identify changes in policies and practices

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Thank you  
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