



WASHINGTON STATE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

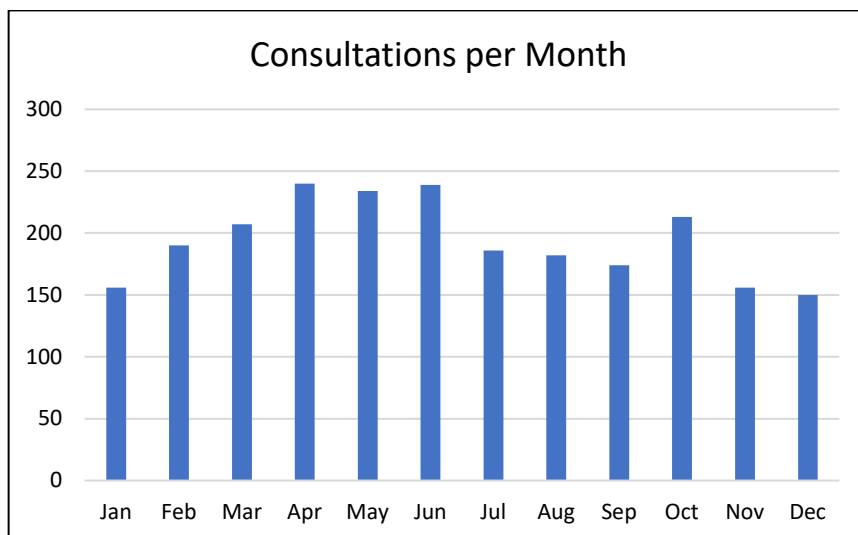
OPD's Youth Access to Counsel Program

Implementation of HB 1140: Fulfilling the Mandates of RCW 13.40.740

The Youth Access to Counsel (YAC) Program was launched on January 1, 2022 as a result of HB 1140. This law created a non-waivable affirmative requirement that law enforcement put youth into contact with an attorney during certain phases of an investigation, such as prior to custodial interrogation or when seeking permission to search. The requirements are laid out in full in [RCW 13.40.740](#). The Office of Public Defense (OPD) created the YAC Line, a statewide system to ensure that attorneys are available 24/7, to provide these consultations. It can be accessed by law enforcement by calling 1-877-JPUB-DEF (1-877-578-2333).

How many calls come into the YAC Line?

As of December 31, 2022¹, the YAC Line provided **2,327 consultations** to youth.



Average number of calls per day: 6
Highest number of calls in one day: 17
Lowest number of calls in one day: 0

How long does it take Law Enforcement to reach a YAC attorney?



- Over 70% of calls that resulted in YAC consultations were answered by an attorney in under one minute.
- About 96% of those calls were answered by an attorney in less than 2 minutes.
- Once in touch with an attorney, about 67% of consultations are completed within 20 minutes.

¹ All data in this document is through December 31, 2022.

What do YAC Attorneys do?

- Gather information from the officer calling into the line in order to provide advice to the youth and then speak with the youth in a confidential setting.
- Provide the youth with information about their constitutional rights and how they apply to the youth's current situation to help them decide what to do.
- Engage in stated-interest representation, which means they give information and guidance about the law as applied to the youth's unique situation, but ultimately the youth chooses if they want to assert their rights or not.

How does the YAC Line work?

- Seven experienced attorneys from across the state staff the YAC Line.
- The Line is staffed by four of these attorneys at all times. Calls are routed to the attorneys through a sophisticated call chain allowing every call to be answered without requiring a recall by the officer.
- Between 60% and 70% of calls are answered by the attorney in Position A.

Where do the calls come from?

- Calls have come from every county in the state except one.
- The YAC Line has received calls from over 180 law enforcement agencies statewide.

Who are the youth consulting with YAC Attorneys?

- The youth ranged in age from 9 to 17.
- 3% of youth required an interpreter. (The YAC Line provides interpreter services.)
- Based on data collected between April and December, the youth consulted identify as the following races and ethnicities:

