From Denise Herz et al.’s 2015 Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study report:
(visual adapted from p26 of this report)

Among youth in this study sample, 1/3 or more of the charges were related to school.

Over 1/2 of the families had a history of public assistance (e.g., general relief, food stamps).

In 1995, 59.4% of Probation families also received services from DPSS, 30.3% also received services from DHS, 25.5% also received services from DCFS, and 18.2% also received services from DMH.

Herz et al. add that, “despite these findings, identifying and documenting shared connections across County agencies is nearly impossible because agency data systems are seldom integrated.”

Area for Future Research on Other Systems: How can the experiences of youth and families be assessed across youth-serving systems while protecting youth data?

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Probation Electronic Medical Records (PEMRS) interface for incarcerated youth only

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Superior Court
Juvenile Automated Index (JAI) to be phased out

PROBATION DEPARTMENT
Probation Case Management System (PCMS) *

* RDA’s 2018 Probation Governance Study explores challenges and inconsistencies with existing risk assessment tools; as of 2019, Probation is developing a new tool to replace the Risk and Resiliency Checkup (LARRC). How can we further minimize the risks of risk and needs assessment processes?

From DMH’s 2019 “Improving Mental Health Treatment and Safety in Juvenile Facilities” report: Although approximately 90% of youth in juvenile hall facilities are reported to have open mental health cases, the primary diagnoses listed for these youth included disruptive, impulse control, and conduct disorders (39%); mood disorders (30%); anxiety and trauma/stressor related disorders (29%); psychotic disorders (2%); and substance related and addictive disorders (<1%). In 2019, 35% of youth were treated with psychotropic medication (including over-the-counter sleep medications). Notably, this 2019 report by the DMH describes “current detention environments that are counter-therapeutic and lead to poor mental and emotional functioning in youth, which can drive or worsen irritability and overall behavioral deterioration (including insomnia).”

Area for Future Research on Mental Health: How can we better understand how mental health needs are identified and addressed for youth involved in the justice system?

From the Children’s Data Network’s 2015 “Crossover Youth” report: Although 83% of youth exiting suitable placement or camp had been referred to child welfare at least once for alleged maltreatment, only 38% had a substantiated report of maltreatment, 35% had cases opened for services by the child welfare system, and 20% had been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Youth who were black and female were particularly over-represented among crossover youth in this sample.

Area for Future Research on Child Welfare: How can we better support the range of young people who are involved in both justice and child welfare?