



Juvenile Justice Update

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NC Department of Public Safety

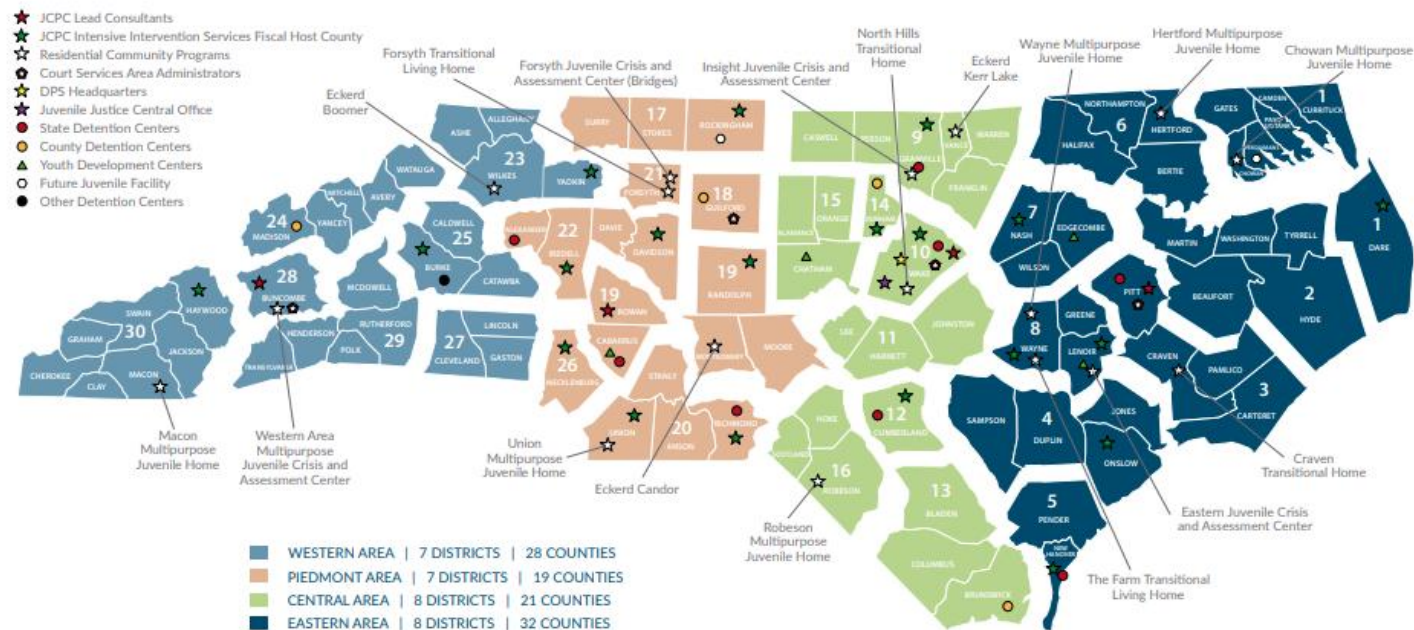
December 11, 2025



COMPREHENSIVE

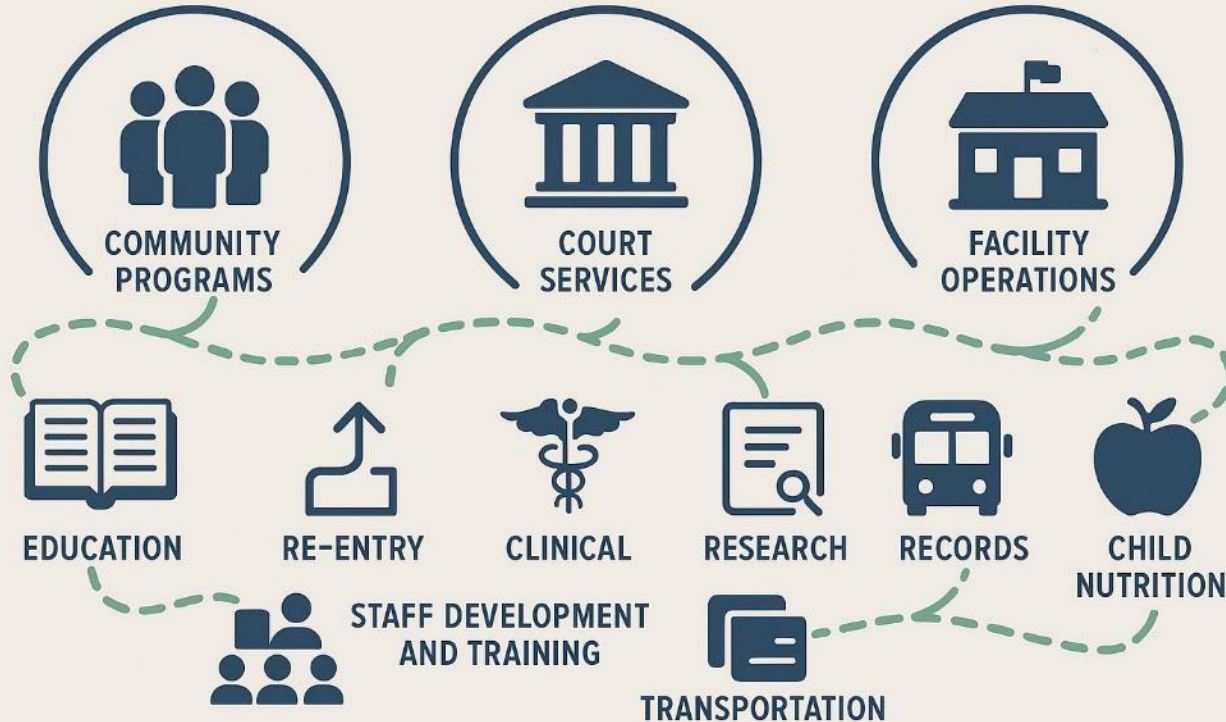
MAP

Juvenile Justice facilities in North Carolina





NC JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION





NC DPS Juvenile Justice



24,477 youth
served through
JCPC programs



14,188
juveniles for
whom a
complaint was
received



~38% of
youth
assessed in
2024 have
mental
problems*

NC DPS Juvenile Justice



15% recidivism rate
during JJ involvement,
32% post two years,
and 39% across either
period**



3,036 –DC
Admissions in
2024

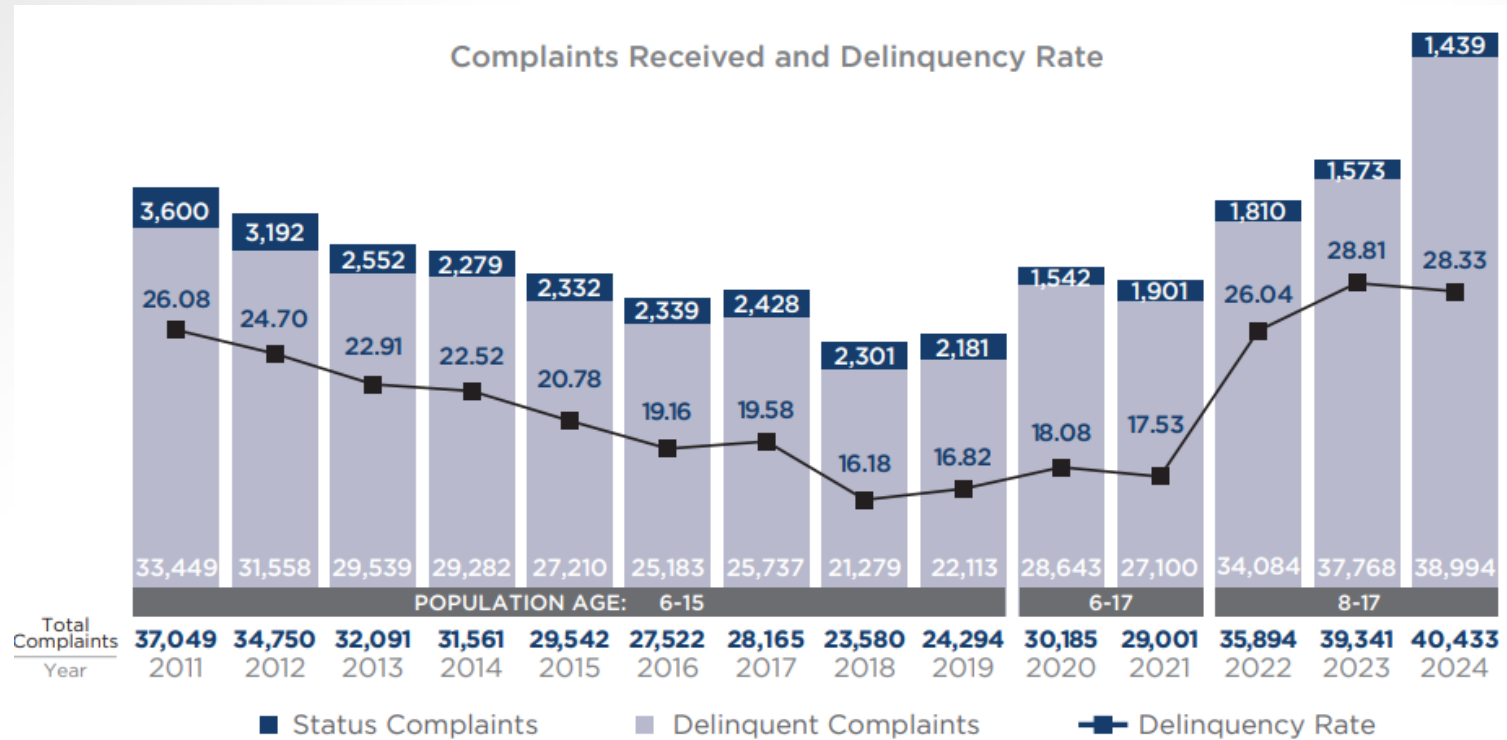


93% of high
school and
middle school
courses
completed
successfully

** North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission Juvenile Recidivism Study: FY 2022 Sample (May 2025)

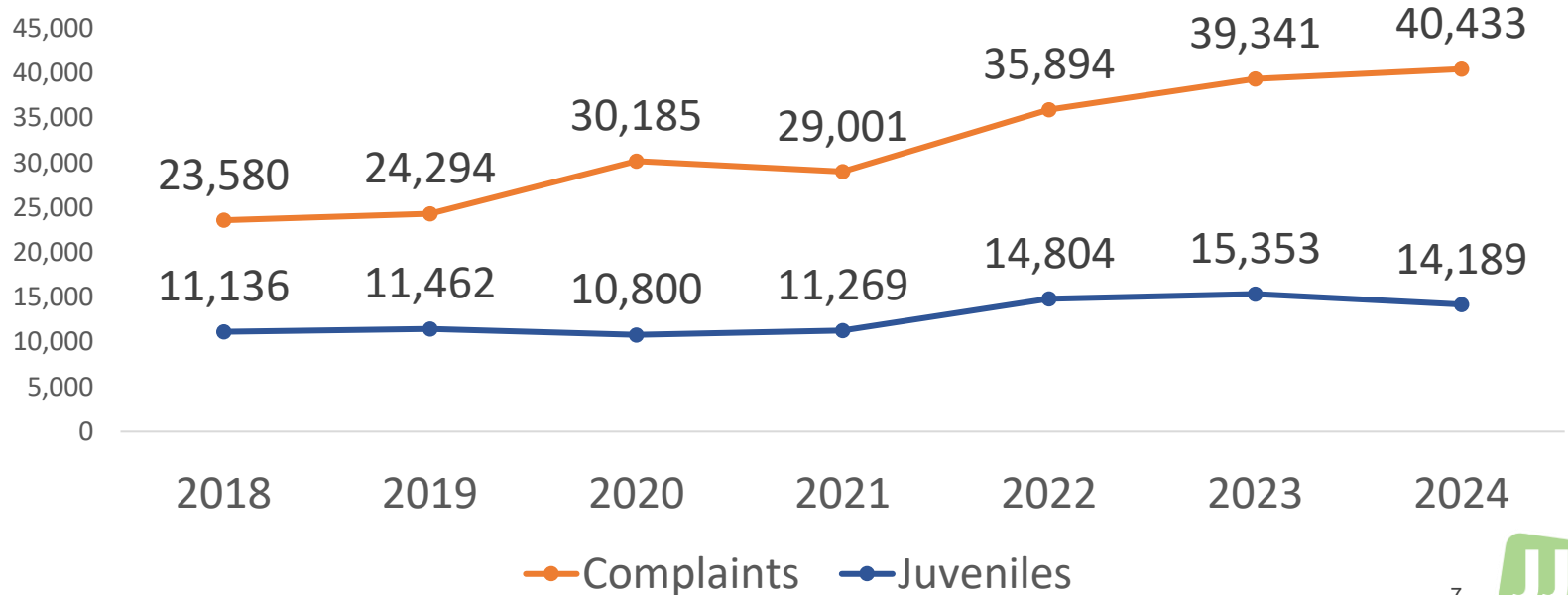
All Ages:

14.4% increase in delinquent complaints over 2 years (34,084 in 2022 to 38,994 in 2024)





All Complaints Received (Delinquent and Undisciplined) and Unique Juveniles CY2018 - CY2024





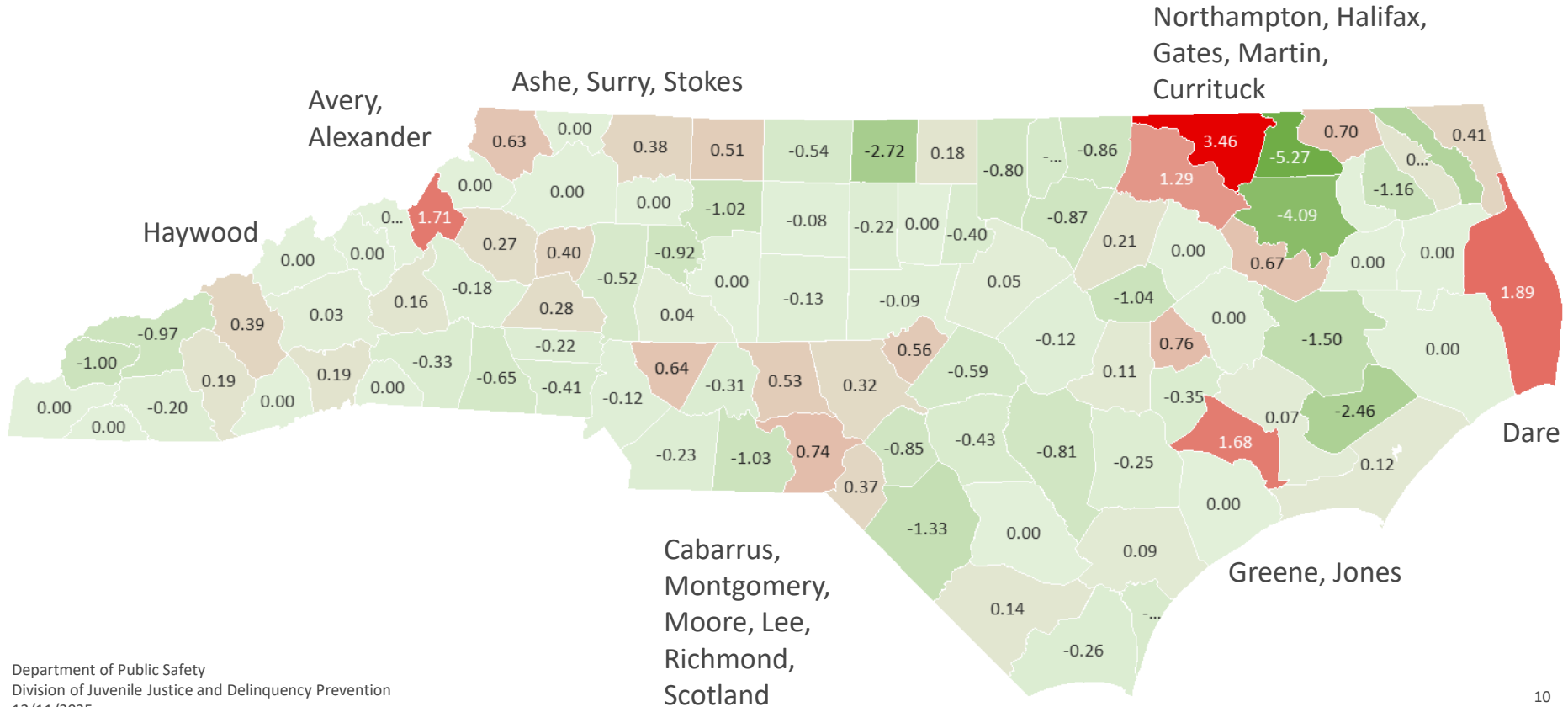
Complaints Received Top 10

Top 10 Juvenile Offenses of 2024			
Offense	Complaints	Distinct Juveniles	Complaints per juvenile
Simple assault (M)	3,753	3,138	1.2
Break or enter a motor vehicle (F)	3,643	669	5.4
Larceny of a motor vehicle (F)	1,789	682	2.6
Larceny (M)	1,692	988	1.7
Simple affray (M)	1,561	1,431	1.1
Resisting public officer (M)	1,374	1,215	1.1
Disorderly conduct at school (M)	1,181	1,057	1.1
Communicating threats (M)	1,083	901	1.2
Possess handgun by minor (M)	1,011	787	1.3
Injury to real property (M)	879	681	1.3



Firearm Offenses

Rate of Juveniles (per 1,000) with a firearm/gun violence complaint (FY 24 to FY25)



Aims of NC S.A.F.E.



Reduce child access and harm



**Reduce criminal access to
stolen guns**

Criminal Access

10,876

Firearms stolen per year between 2019-2024 from private NC citizens



Of individuals (nationally) engaged in K-12 school shootings stole gun from family member

ATF. (2025). *National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment (NFCTA): Protecting America from Trafficked Firearms—Volume Four, Part II*. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/national-firearms-commerce-and-trafficking-assessment-nfcta-firearms-trafficking-volume-four>

NIJ. (2022, February 3). *Public Mass Shootings: Database Amasses Details of a Half Century of U.S. Mass Shootings with Firearms, Generating Psychosocial Histories*. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/public-mass-shootings-database-amasses-details-half-century-us-mass-shootings>

North Carolina is #10 in the nation in annual rate of firearm thefts

Table FTL-20a: Firearms Stolen from Private Citizens by Theft State (Top Ten Rates), 2019 - 2023

State	Average # of Firearms Stolen in Private Thefts per Year	Annual Rate per 100,000 Population
Mississippi	5,323	179.8
Louisiana	7,223	155.1
South Carolina	7,735	151.1
Alabama	7,276	144.8
Georgia	14,511	135.5
Arkansas	3,700	122.9
Tennessee	7,890	114.2
Missouri	6,845	111.2
Oklahoma	4,189	105.8
North Carolina	10,876	104.2

ATF. (2025). *National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment (NFCTA): Protecting America from Trafficked Firearms—Volume Four, Part II*. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/national-firearms-commerce-and-trafficking-assessment-nfcta-firearms-trafficking-volume-four>

- ▶ **NC S.A.F.E. (\$2.26 million):** The Secure All Firearms Effectively (S.A.F.E.) campaign is *a program established by law in 2023 (S.L. 2023-8)*. DPS requests recurring funding to deliver messaging, gun locks and other informational resources to communities across the state. The Wildlife Resources Commission, DHHS, local law enforcement, gun ranges and firearm instructors, moms and dads have partnered with the marketing campaign operated through Reingold marketing to deliver quality, award winning messaging delivered through computer/phone screens, TV screens and radio. [ncsafe.org]

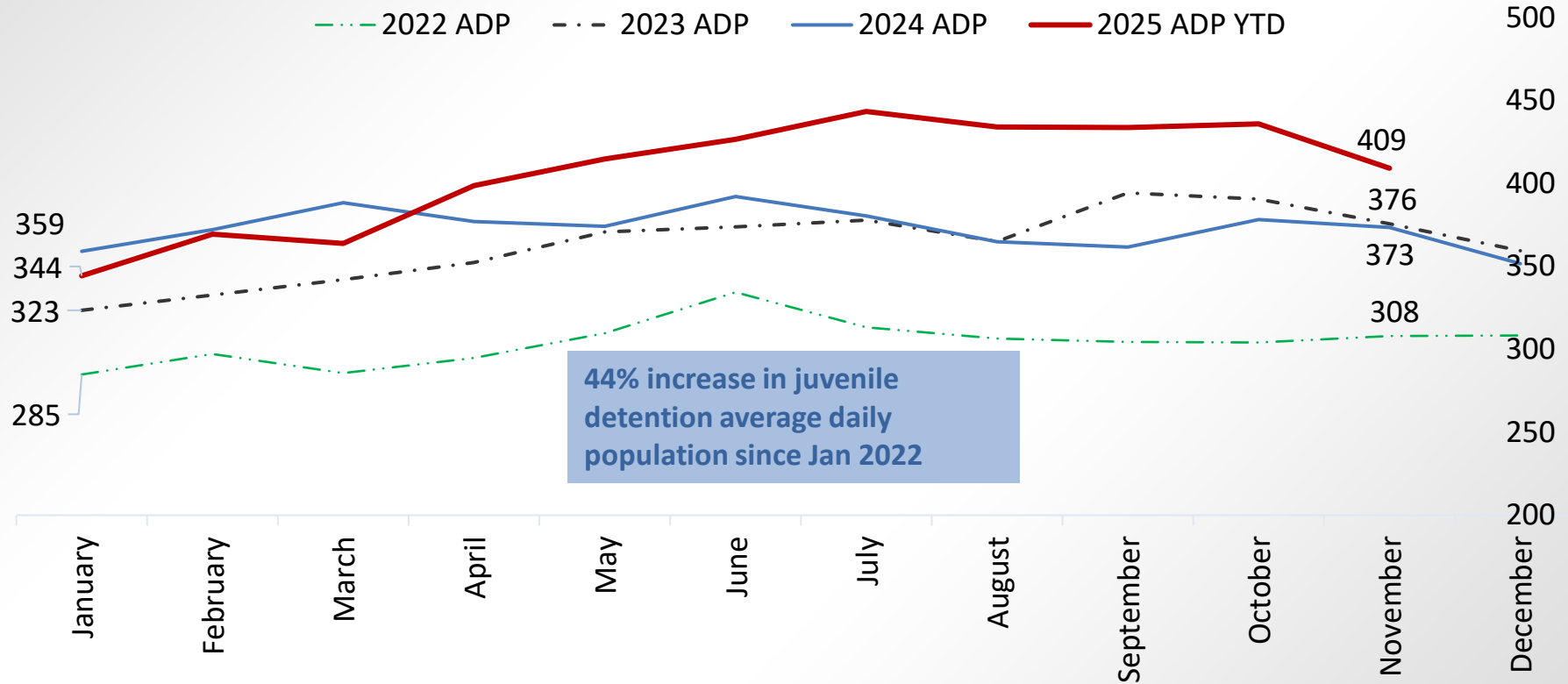
Juvenile Detention Centers

Capacity

- ▶ The JJ system maintains 445 detention beds including county detention
 - **401** of those beds are staffed for operation
 - Rockingham, Richmond, Dillon, and Durham (county) staffing challenges prohibit operation of 44 beds while other facilities operate overcapacity
- ▶ 196 youth development center beds are operational and filled.

Detention Average Daily Population by Month and Year

Jan 2022 - Nov 2025



H834 Impact to Juvenile Detention Centers

- ▶ *NOTE: JJDP only has access to data for Adult System youth who are ordered confined in a secure juvenile detention center.*
- ▶ 817 adult system admissions occurred in the year following H834, representing 591 distinct juveniles.
- ▶ Stays spanned from 1 day to 362 days. Longer spans are expected as youth are released or otherwise progress through the adult system.
- ▶ Approximately 39% bond out and 12% age out and are moved to local jails at age 18. 3% are confined with the Department of Adult Correction.
- ▶ On December 1, 2024, 38% of the juvenile detention population were adult system youth. One year later, it's 63%.

Table 1
Youth Development Center (YDC) Population Projections and Capacity

Fiscal Year	YDC Population as of June 30 ⁶		YDC Capacity ^{7,8}	Difference between Projection and Capacity ⁹
	Previous Projection	Current Projection		
2026	176	220	196	-24
2027	162	218	196	-22
2028	164	206	196	-10
2029	165	212	196	-16
2030	N/A	214	196	-18

Note: Prepared in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety's Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

- ▶ **New Youth Detention Center (DPS23-1)** capital funding in the amount of \$39,850,000 needed to complete a 48-bed juvenile detention center project.
 - \$1 million has been appropriated to start the planning phase of this project (S.L. 2023-134).
 - Selected architects from Davis Kane Architects, PA.
 - The team is finalizing the Advanced Planning scope and process, including review of the fee proposal.
 - The advanced planning stage is projected to commence in December 2025.

Raise the Age Update

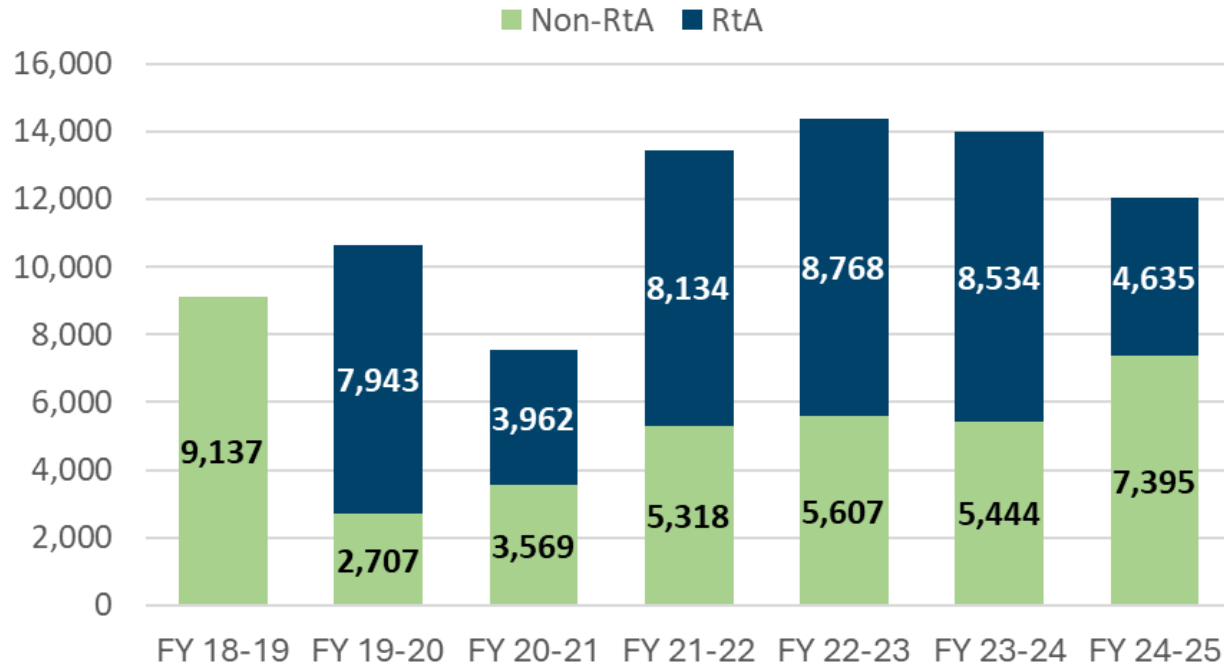
Juveniles 16 or 17 years old at age of offense: Pre- and Post- Raise the Age

Statewide	Statewide
n=11,418	n=5,412
Pre-RtA	Post-RtA
CY 2018	CY 2024



Youth under age 16 have not yet rebounded from the pandemic to pre-RtA volume.

Distinct Delinquent Juveniles, FY19 - FY25





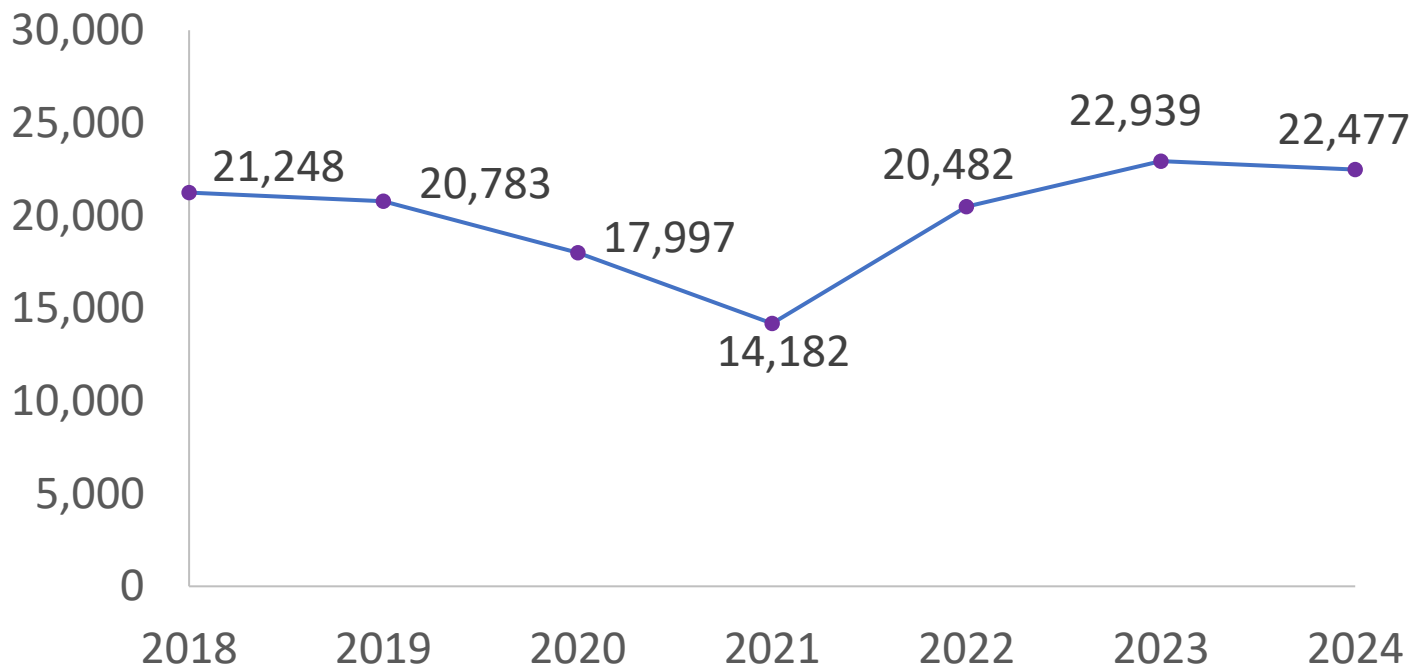
Community Programs





JCPC Youth Served Programs

Youth Served by JCPCs
2018 - 2024





JCPC Youth Served Programs

Youth Served by Funding Source, FY 2023-24	
Funding Source	Number of Youth Served
JCPC Funds	22,477
Intensive Intervention Services	362
Community-Based Contractual Services	411
Residential Contractual Services	752
Total	24,002

JCPC Youth Served by Program Type	
Program Type	Youth Served
Assessments	1,157
Experiential Skill Building	264
Family Counseling	215
Group Counseling	477
Group Home Care	0
Home Based Family Counseling	238
Individual Counseling	505
Interpersonal Skill Building	5,134
Juvenile Structured Day	756
Mediation/Conflict Resolution	990
Mentoring	552
Parent/Family Skill Building	673
Restitution/Community Service	4,980
Runaway Shelter Care	98
Services Addressing Problem Sexual Behavior	38
Specialized Foster Care	9
Substance Abuse Counseling	194
Teen Court	4,133
Temporary Shelter Care	181
Tutoring/Academic Enhancement	1,408
Vocational Skills	475
Total	22,477

Community Programs

- **Inflationary Increases \$4,900,000 R** - Funding to sustain current services in Juvenile **contracted residential sites and community-based services**. Daily rates have increased due to inflationary cost increases. Maintains current bed capacity for the multipurpose group homes, transitional living programs, short-term residential programs and the crisis and assessment centers. Sustains funding to provide Functional Family Therapy in all 100 counties across the State and intensive, community-based treatment services.
- **JCPC Inflationary Funds \$5,000,000 R** - Funding to maintain Juvenile Crime Prevention Council funded programs in all 100 counties across the state. Provides court ordered services and sanctions for juveniles. This funding has not increased in the last five years. Without inflationary increases in funding for these programs, many service providers will have to reduce services.

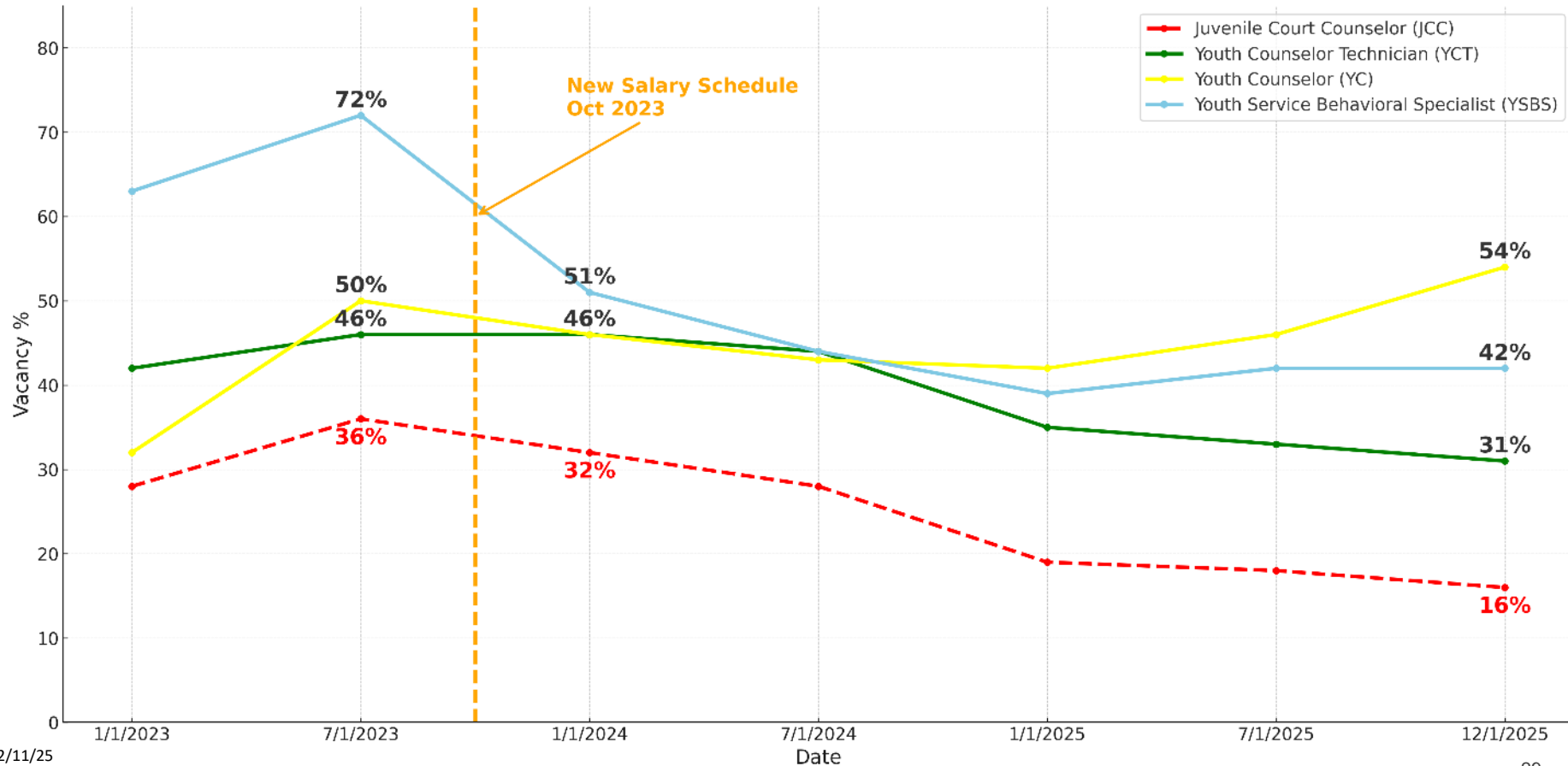


Vacancies





JJDP Vacancies (2023-2025)



Adjust Step Pay Plan and Fund Compression Relief

- **Step Pay Plan-** Funding to increase starting salaries in existing salary schedules to begin with **at least \$40,000.**
 - The most recent salary schedule implemented decreased Youth Services Behavioral Specialist vacancies from 73% to 42%.
 - Higher salary schedules such as the Juvenile Court Counselor schedule which starts at **\$45,422** saw a decrease in vacancy rates from over **30% in 2023 to 16% in December 2025.**
- **Salary Compression Relief** – Relieve salary compression between staff and supervisors to create career chains that promote retention, skill development, expertise, and encourage succession.
 - advertising to reach potential
 - reinstating academic assistance



Questions?