



Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention
NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Juvenile Justice Update

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Delinquency Prevention

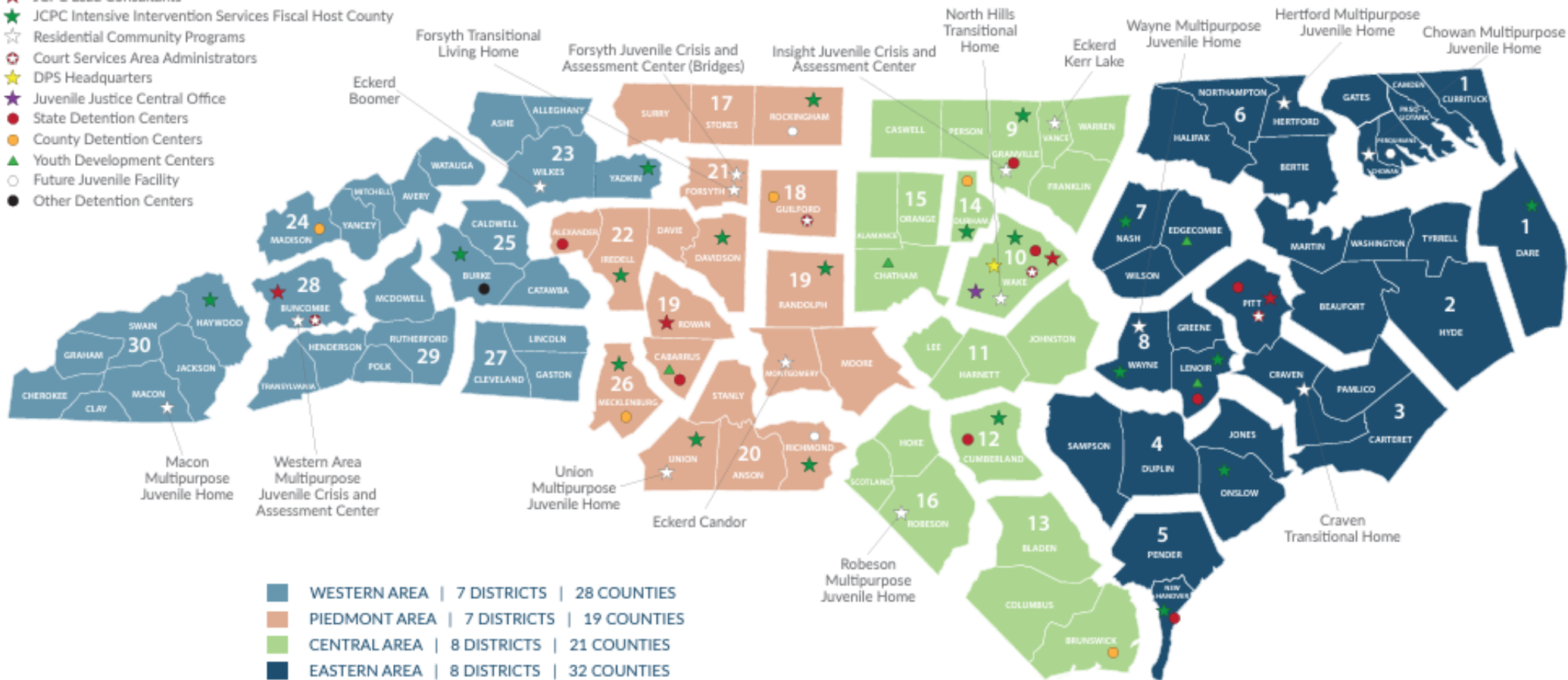
February 2024





JJDP Map

- ★ JCPC Lead Consultants
- ★ JCPC Intensive Intervention Services Fiscal Host County
- ☆ Residential Community Programs
- ★ Court Services Area Administrators
- ★ DPS Headquarters
- ★ Juvenile Justice Central Office
- State Detention Centers
- County Detention Centers
- ▲ Youth Development Centers
- Future Juvenile Facility
- Other Detention Centers





NC's Comprehensive Strategy for Juvenile Delinquency



Prevention

Target Population: At-Risk Youth

Graduated Sanctions

Target Population: Delinquent Youth

Programs
for all youth

Programs for youth
at greatest risk

Immediate
Intervention

Intermediate
sanctions

Community
Confinement

Youth
Development
Centers

Aftercare

Youth Development Goals:

- Healthy and nurturing families
- Safe communities
- School attachment
- Prosocial peer relations
- Personal development and life skills
- Healthy lifestyle choices

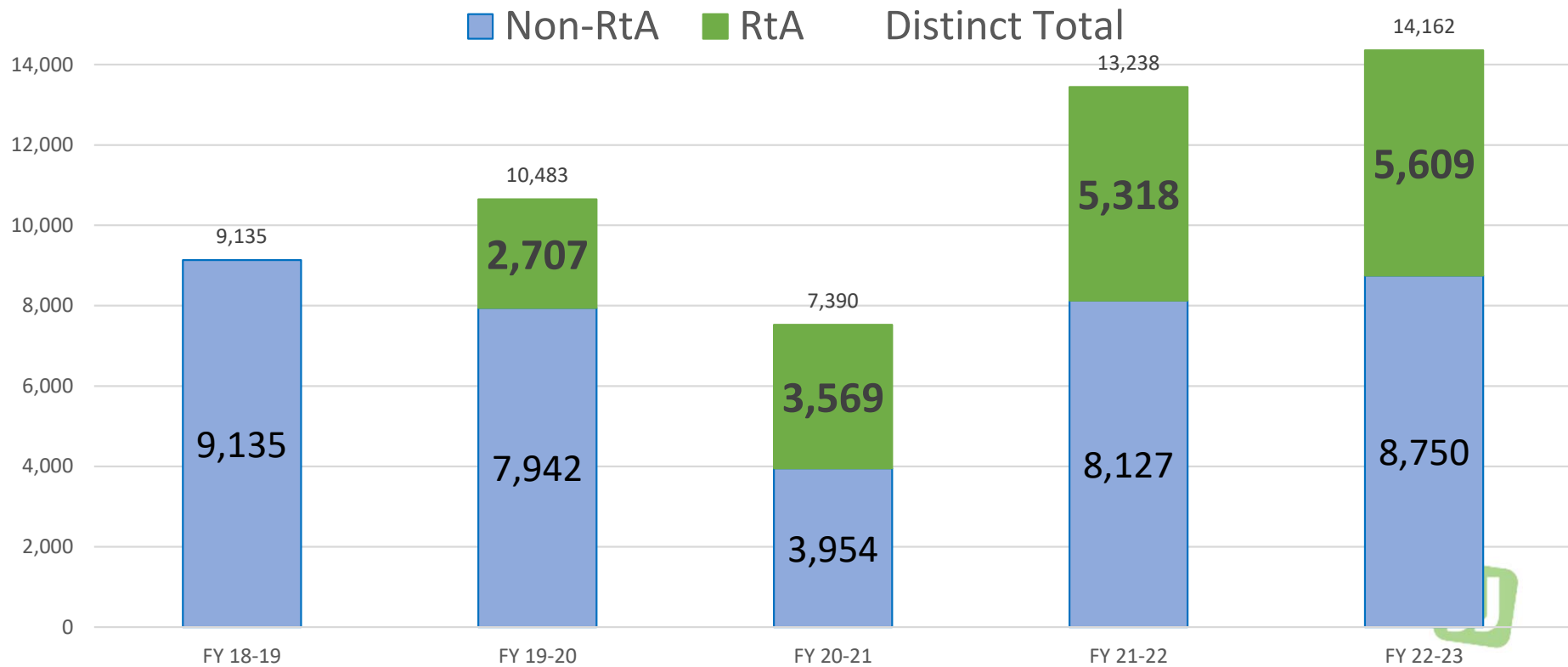
Youth Habilitation Goals:

- Healthy family participation
- Community reintegration
- Educational success and skills development
- Healthy peer network development
- Prosocial values development
- Healthy lifestyle choices

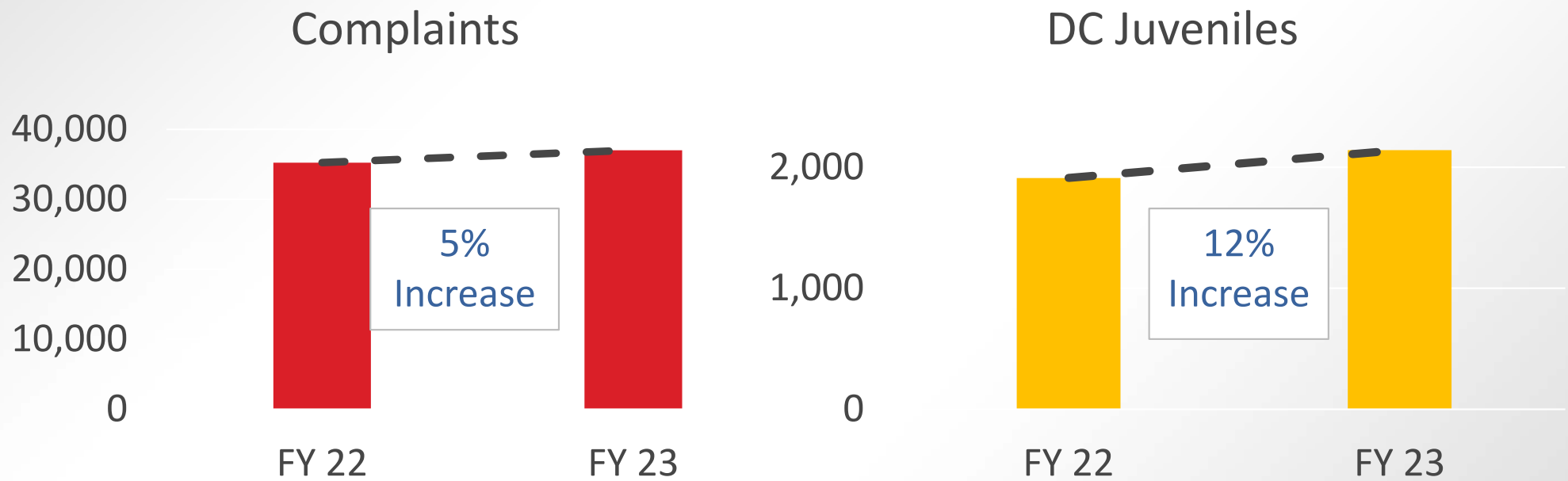


Youth under age 16 have not yet rebounded from the pandemic to pre-RtA volume.

Distinct Delinquent Juveniles, FY19 to FY23



The percentage of juveniles admitted to detention (secure custody) has increased.



Law enforcement have the right to request a judge's review of a Court Counselor's decision on whether to place a juvenile in secure custody.



Juvenile Detention Bed Capacity = 328

Note: 7 additional beds for youth aged ≤ 12 are available at the Western and Eastern JCACs

| State Center | Beds | County Center | Beds |
|-------------------|------|---------------|------|
| Alexander | 24 | Brunswick | 10 |
| Cabarrus | 78 | Durham | 14 |
| Cumberland | 18 | Foothills | 4 |
| Dillon | 55 | Guilford | 32 |
| New Hanover | 18 | Madison | 25 |
| Pitt | 18 | | |
| Richmond- Jenkins | 8 | | |
| Wake | 24 | | |

**328
beds**



Detention: Population Projection

| Calendar Year | Projection: Max Beds |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 2023 | 367-399 |
| 2024 | 371-403 |
| 2025 | 376-409 |
| 2026 | 384-417 |
| 2027 | 393-427 |

Note that this projection is updated annually for planning purposes, and to take into account any statutory changes in the population.





Bed capacity

328 detention beds (Current)

+16 beds at Richmond-Jenkins

+24 beds at Perquimans

+48 beds at Rockingham

= **416** beds (Future)





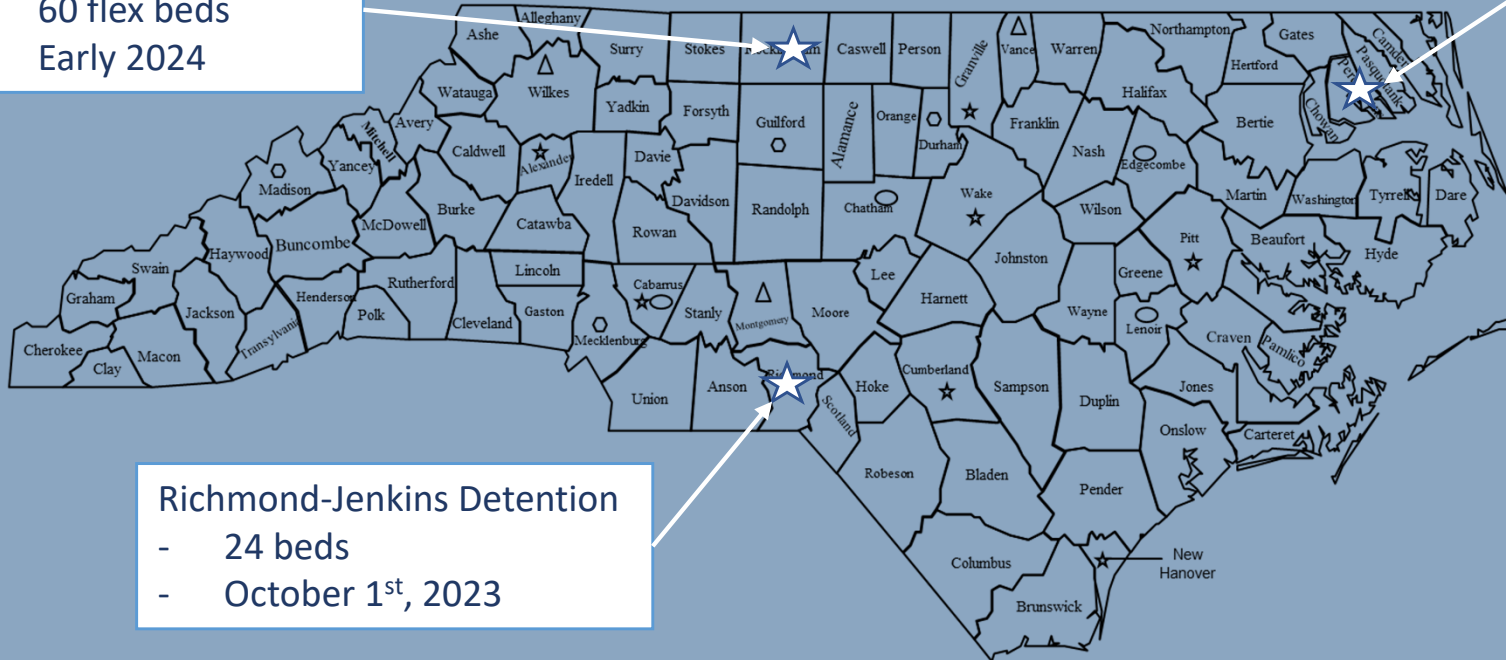
New Facilities 2023-24

Rockingham

- 60 flex beds
- Early 2024

Perquimans Detention

- 24 beds
- Early 2024



Richmond-Jenkins Detention

- 24 beds
- October 1st, 2023





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Richmond-Jenkins Detention





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Richmond-Jenkins Detention





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Rockingham



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

| Fiscal Year | YDC Population as of June 30 ⁴ | | YDC Capacity ^{5,6} | Difference between Projection and Capacity ⁷ |
|-------------|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | Previous Projection | Current Projection | | |
| 2024 | 188 | 180 | 184 | 4 |
| 2025 | 194 | 195 | 196 | 1 |
| 2026 | 191 | 194 | 196 | 2 |
| 2027 | 196 | 195 | 196 | 1 |
| 2028 | N/A | 194 | 196 | 2 |

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



38%

On January 26, 2024 (day in time):

- 18 youth exceeded bed capacity (346 youth, 328 beds)
- 38% of the juvenile detention population were adult system youth
- Direct care staff vacancy rates varied between 15% and 72% depending on the facility, but averaged over 40%

General Data:

- Transfers to Superior Court stay on average 140 days
- Admissions increased 21% since 2021
- 54% of detention admissions were aged 16 or 17 at time of admission (2023)
- Since 2019, Black/African-American youth admissions increased each year, and increased more than the previous year. (3% in 2020, 8% in 2021, 9% in 2022 and 17% in 2023).

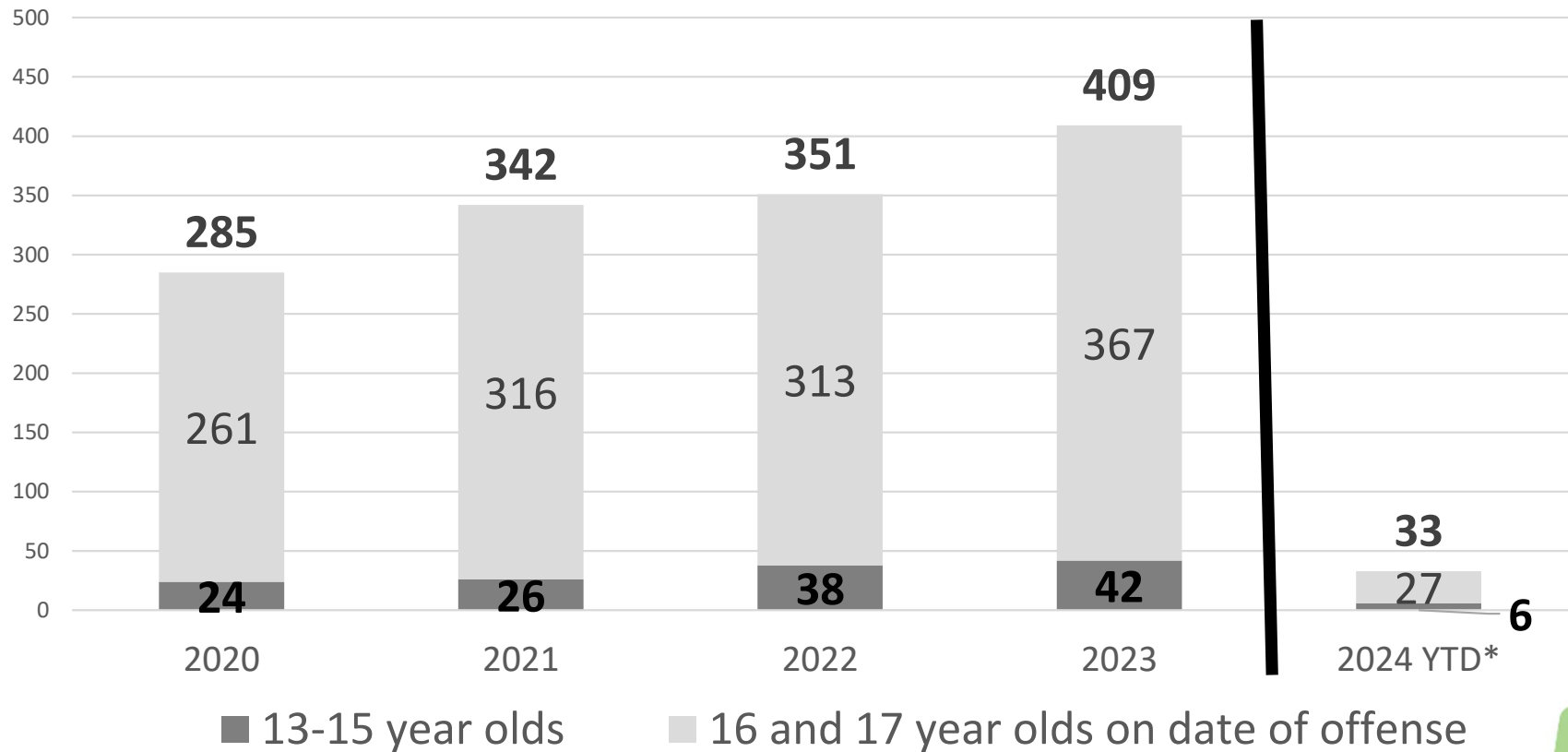
140
days

Detention Average Length of Stay (Days)
CY 2022





Distinct Juveniles Transferred to Superior Court

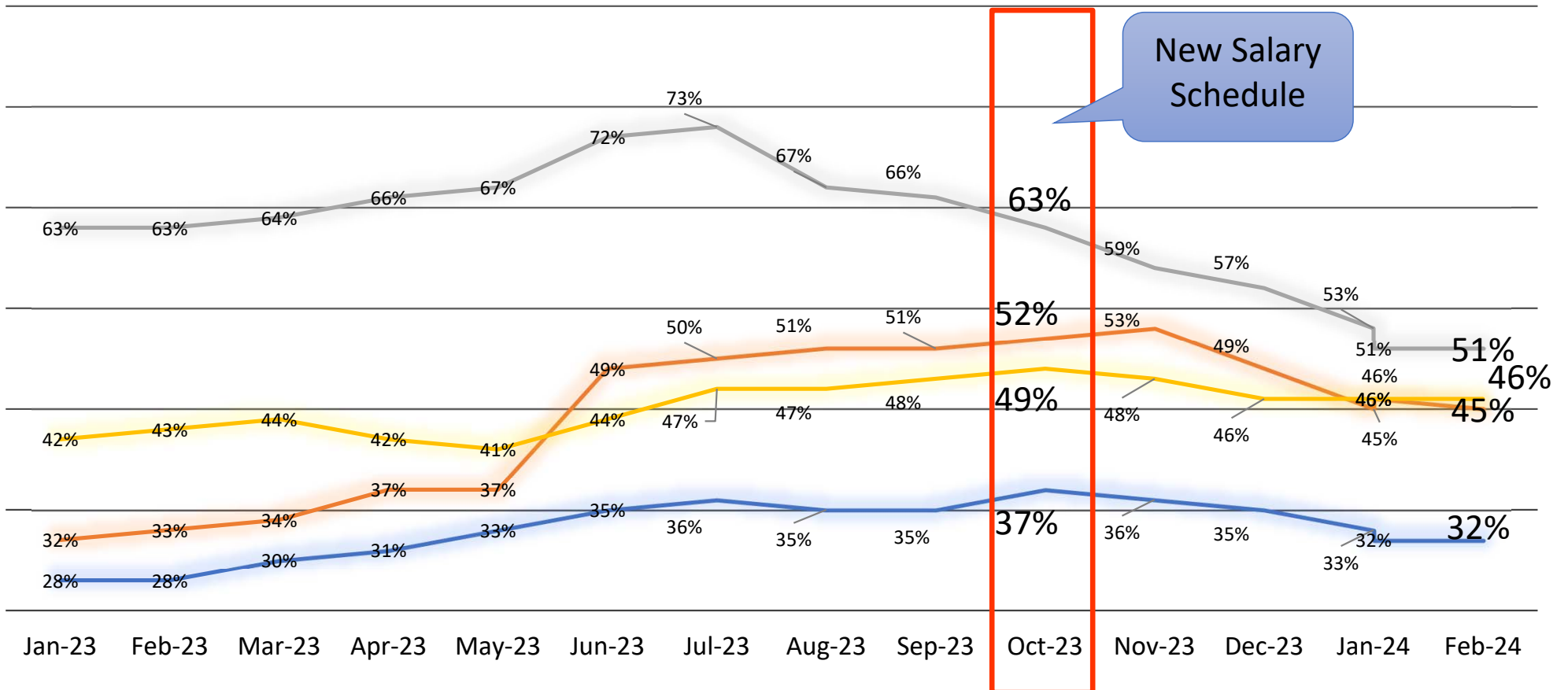


*As of January 31, 2024



Vacancy Rates: January 2023 -February 2024

- Juvenile Court Counselor
- Youth Counselor
- Youth Services Behavioral Specialist
- Youth Counselor Technician





Action Items (2023-2024)

- Review of existing classification levels
- Youth Counselor Technician Trainee
- Provisional Offers
- Provided Sign-On and Retention Bonuses (\$3,000)
- Funded a step pay plan
- Ongoing review of funding needs and development of potential resources (LMAR, Compression)





Action Items (2023-2024) cont.

- Increased number of centers (Rockingham, Richmond, Perquimans)
- Security Guard (Temporary Solutions & 3rd party)
 - Temporary Solutions: 40 Security Guards currently employed. 3 in process.
 - Third-Party: 50 slots with 40 of 50 filled as of 1/24/2024





Hiring Events

- 72 Hiring events since January 1, 2023

nccu

elizabeth city state university

perquimans hiring event

richmond co. nc works

rockingham hiring event

court services hiring event

nc a&t

event

richmond hiring event

cabarrus hiring event



Classification Review

Rationale

- Step pay plan tied to correctional officers
 - Educational & experience differences
- High number of vacancies in direct care positions
- Increased number of justice-involved juveniles
- Pay was below market
- Negative impact of vacant positions on direct care





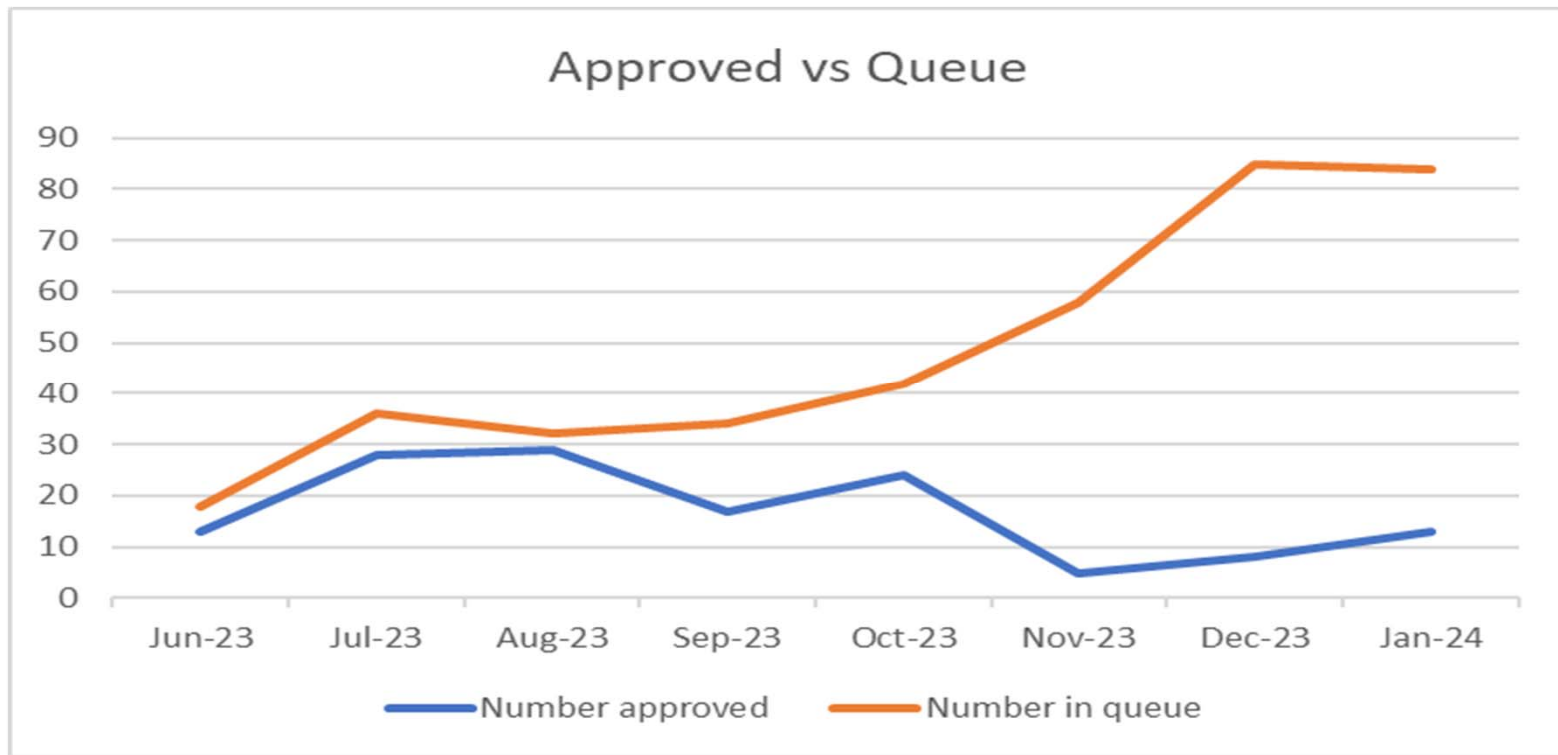
Temporary Classification Series

- Juvenile Justice Officer I, II & III
- JJ Group Counselor
- JJ Shift Supervisor I, II
- JJ Assistant Director I, II
- JJ Director I, II





Status of JJDP submissions:





Provisional Offers

JJDP Response to current CJ backlog

- After the candidate is processed at the Regional Employment Office (REO) and has successfully completed all testing and the background check, a Provisional Offer is given to the candidate
- 64 candidates who have accepted a Provisional Offer and either started or have a start date





Juvenile Capacity to Stand Trial (H186/S.L. 2023-114)

- A bipartisan group within the NC Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee (JJAC), including judges, district attorneys/ADAs, defense counsel and DHHS mental health and behavioral health professionals developed a draft comprehensive juvenile capacity standard in H186 for legislators.
- Signed juvenile capacity standard into law in August 2023
 1. Established developmentally appropriate capacity criteria for juveniles that includes maturation.
 2. Established minimum qualifications for forensic evaluators (professionals) working with juveniles.
 3. Established a remediation process to restore the juvenile's capacity and avoid dismissal.

