



Making connections. Informing solutions.

JJPOC Monthly Meeting Agenda

Date: November 20, 2025

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Location: LOB Room 2C / Via Zoom

Viewing Options [YouTube](#) or [CT-N](#)

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Toni Walker
Undersecretary Daniel Karpowitz

Overview of Meeting and
Announcements

Paul Klee

JBCSSD JJPOC Pulse Check

Bryan Sperry, Deputy Director,
Information Technology, JBCSSD

OPM Juvenile Justice Equity
Dashboard Status Update

Kevin Neary, Research Unit Director,
OPM, CJPPD

Next Meeting: December 18, 2025

University of New Haven



Making connections. Informing solutions.

University of New Haven

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

November 20th, 2025

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Legislative Office Building, Room 2C

Zoom Option available

Meeting Facilitation

Mute on Zoom

- Participants must remain muted on Zoom unless speaking

Hand Raising

- Virtual attendees should use the Hand Raise Feature on Zoom for questions and comments

Questions at the End

- Hold questions and comments until the presenters have finished speaking

JJPOC only

- Only JJPOC members may ask questions and make comments

Recording

- This meeting is being recorded

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Rep. Toni Walker/Undersecretary Daniel Karpowitz

Overview of Meeting & Announcements

Paul Klee, TYJI, University of New Haven

JBCSSD JJPOC Pulse Check

Bryan Sperry, Deputy Director, Information Technology, JBCSSD

**OPM Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard Status
Update**

Kevin Neary, Research Unit Director, OPM, CJPPD

Next Meeting: December 18th, 2025

Administrative Updates

Workgroup/Subgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates

Workgroup/Subgroup:	Meeting Date:	Agenda Items:
Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee	December 18th, 2025, 2:00 – 4:00 PM (In-Person & Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">JJPOC Recommendations vote at February JJPOC Meeting
Education Workgroup	November 24th, 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recommendations discussion: transportation and training on trauma informed and evidence-based models
Community Expertise Workgroup	TBD, Beginning of December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2024 Youth Report Recommendation ReviewProfessional Development Training: Financial Empowerment Training Review
Cross Agency Data Sharing/RED Workgroup	January 19th, 2026, 11:00 – 12:30 PM (Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OPM, DAPA Crossover Youth UpdateJuvenile Justice Equity Dashboard 2.0 discussion

Workgroup/Subgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates

Workgroup/Subgroup:	Meeting Date:	Agenda Items:
Diversion Workgroup	January 13th, 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporting Metrics for JRB's, DCF• RFP diversion supplement, DCF• POSTC Policy Adoption• Youth Police Training
Incarceration Workgroup	December 15th, 2025, 1:00 – 2:30 PM (Zoom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chemical Agent Report, DOC• Reentry Success Plan, OPM• Conditions of Confinement meeting December 3rd, 2025, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM• Gender Responsive Subgroup meeting February 2nd, 2025, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM
<p>Direct any Questions to the following Tow Youth Justice Institute Staff: Erika Nowakowski: enowakowski@newhaven.edu Paul Klee: pklee@newhaven.edu Andrew Zhebrak: azhebrak@newhaven.edu</p>		

JJPOC Pulse Check

A high level look at the Juvenile Justice trends
in the State of Connecticut

Objective

Describe changes to the size of the Juvenile Justice system over time, using Judicial Branch data:

- Delinquent Referrals to Juvenile Court

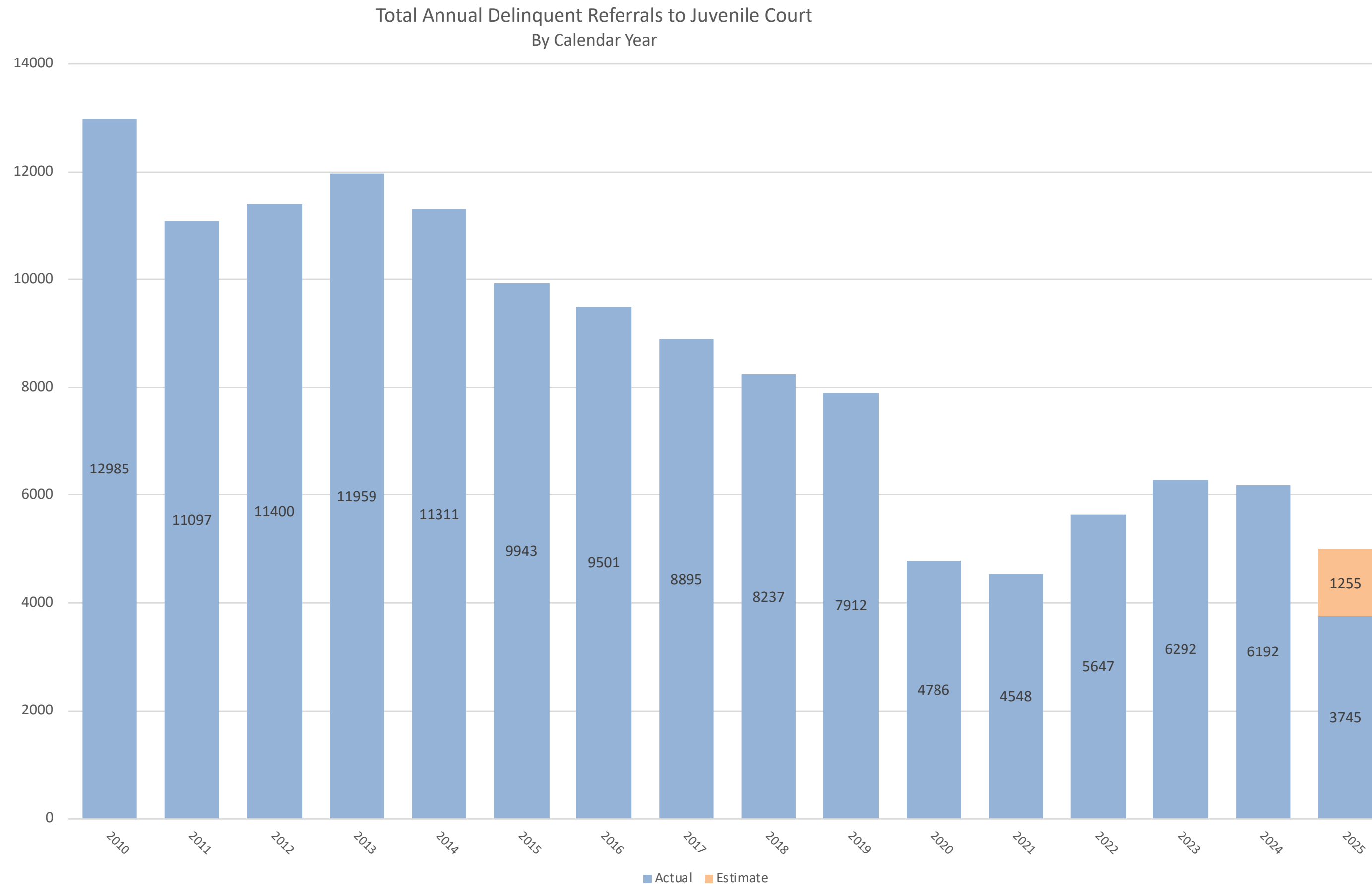
- Admissions to Pre-Disposition Residential Centers

- Juvenile Probation Population Data

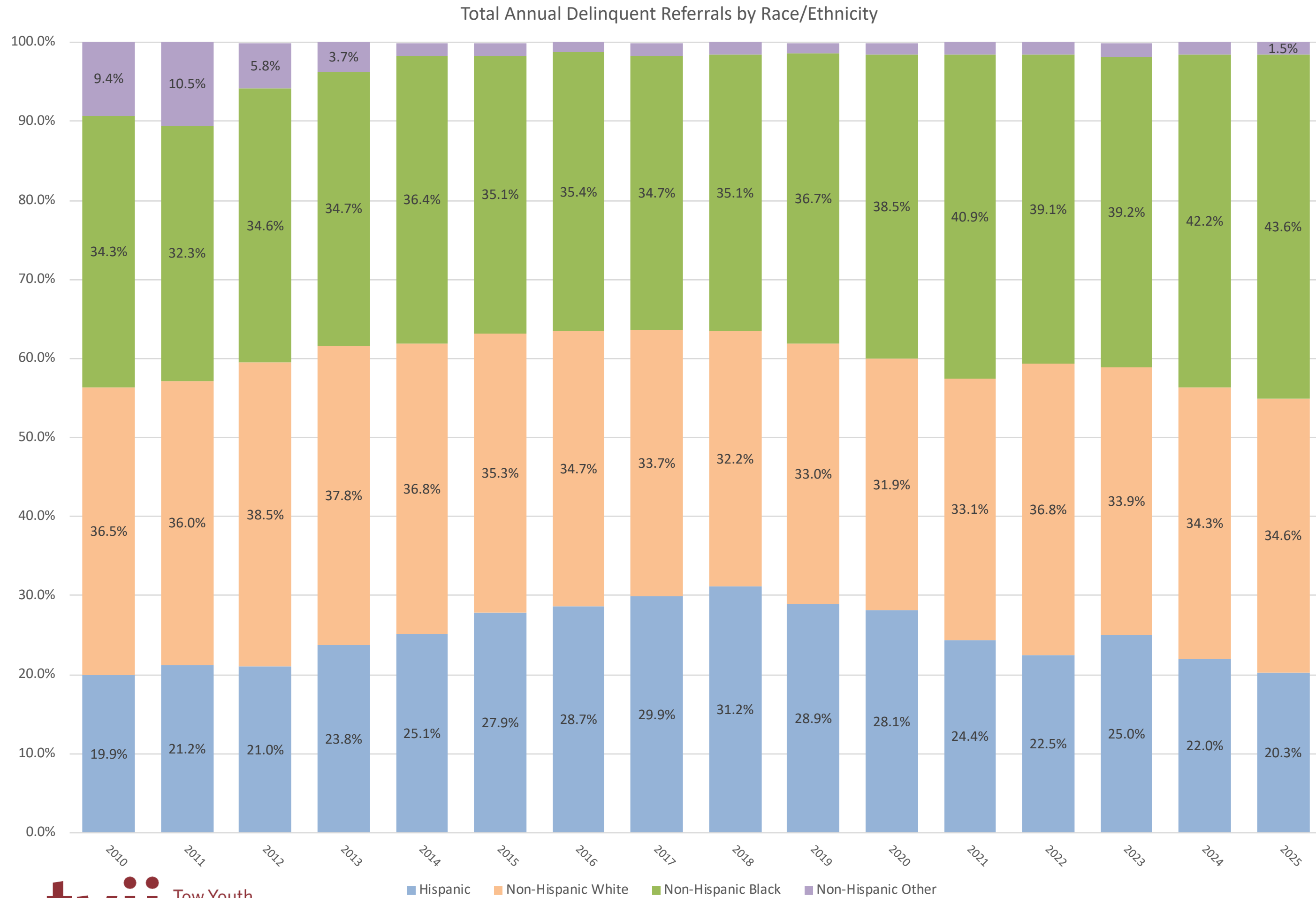
Annual data, 2010- Q3 2025

Some metrics may have narrower date ranges due to data availability

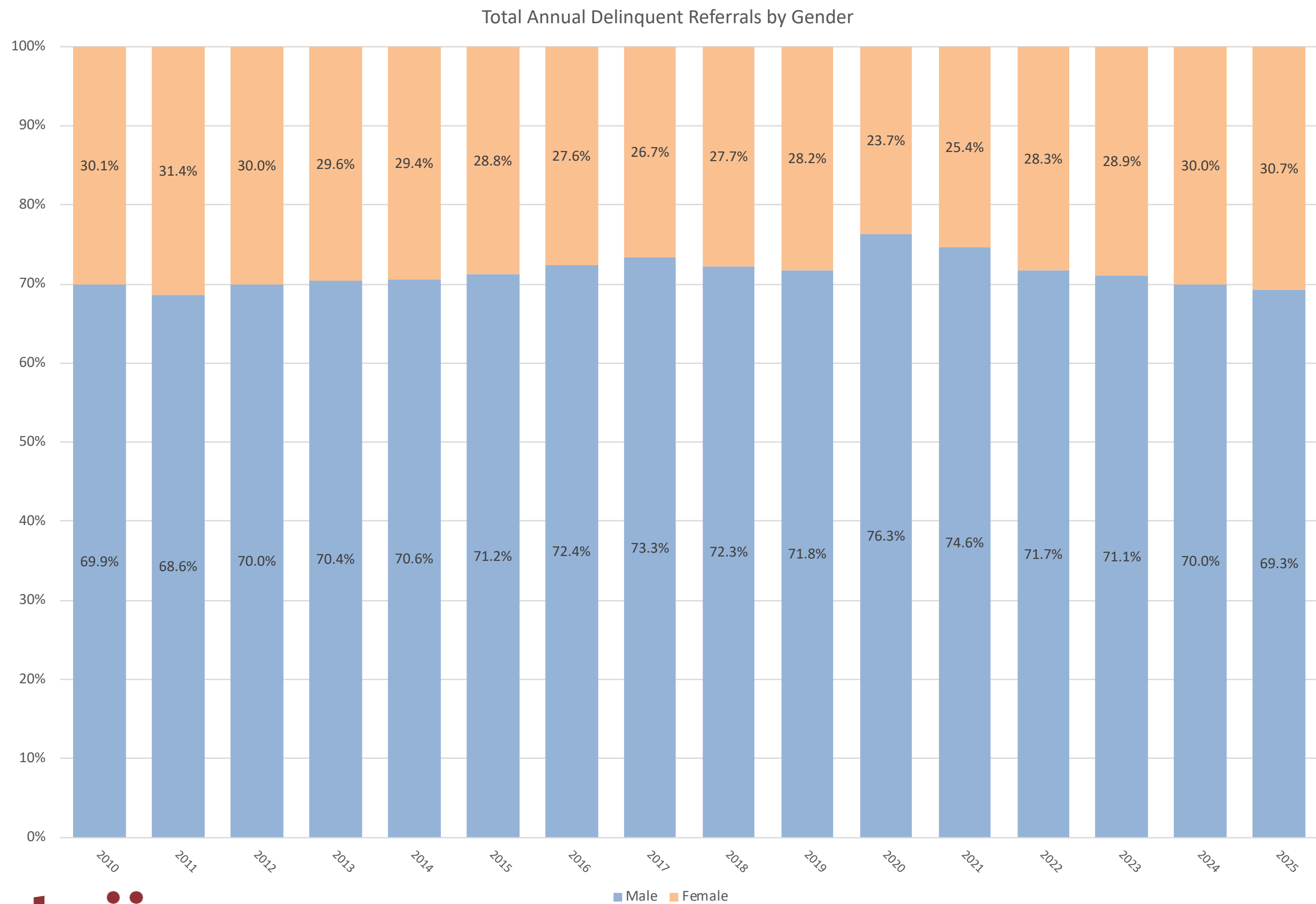
Intended to provide context to stakeholders



- **2025 data is through end of Q3**
- **More than three years after the COVID-19 pandemic began, annual referral volume remains lower than pre-pandemic periods**
- **2025 is estimated to close out at roughly 5,000 referrals (19% lower than 2024)**
- **Reductions in referral volume have averaged 6% per year since 2013**



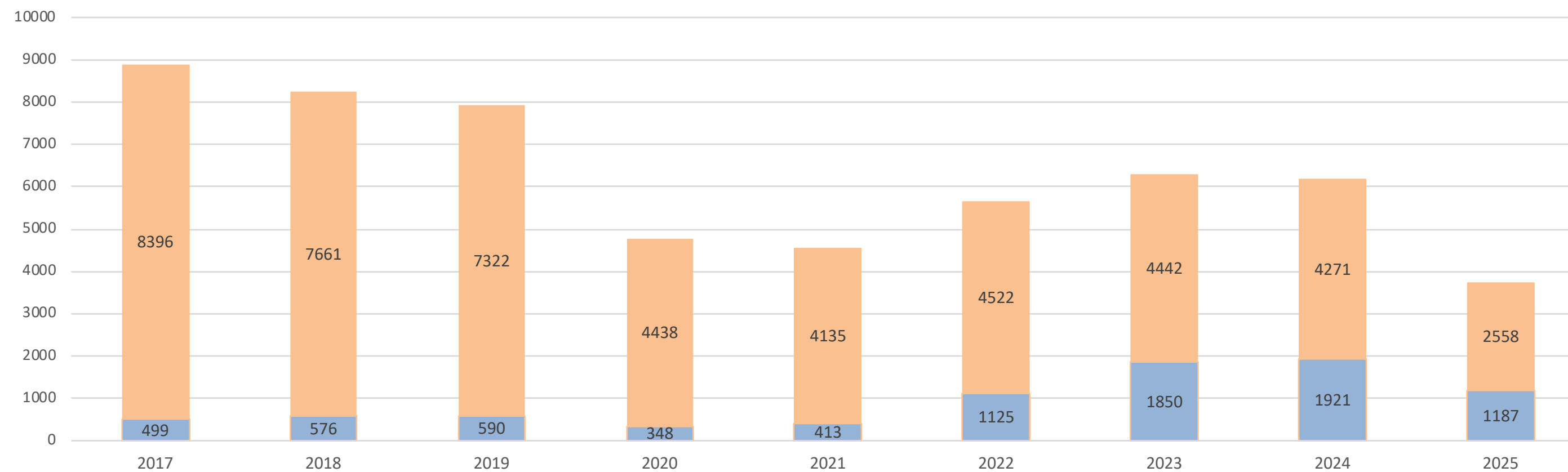
- **2025 data is through end of Q3**
- **The proportion of delinquent referrals for Non-Hispanic White and Non-Hispanic Black clients have increased slightly, while the proportion of Hispanic clients has been decreasing.**



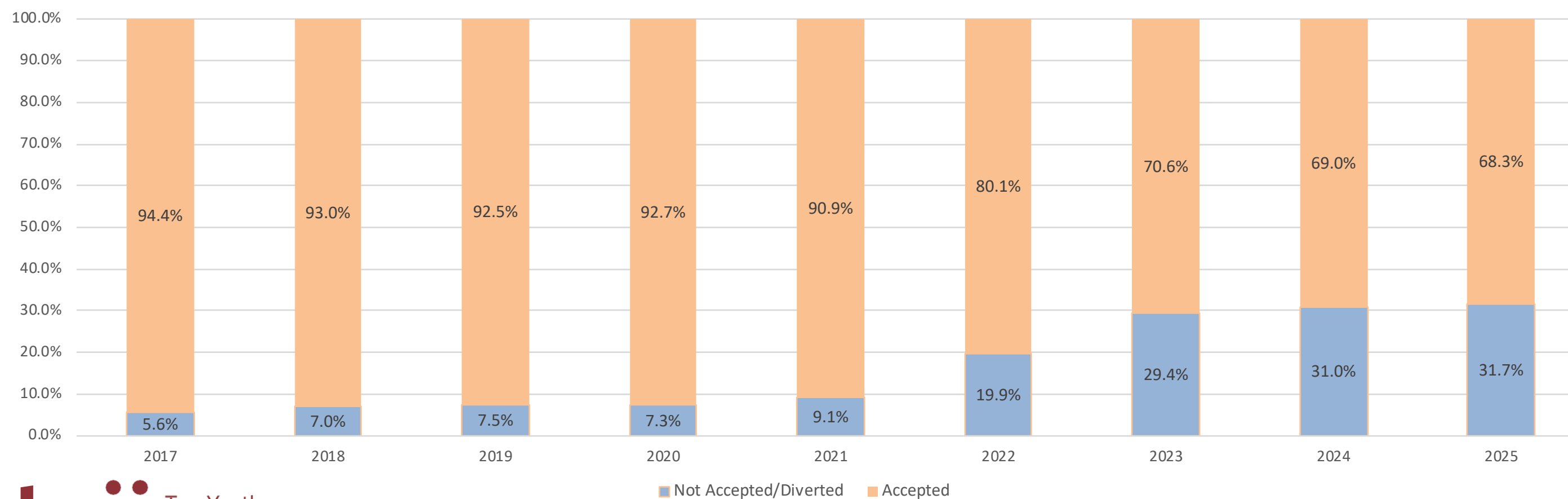
- **2025 data is through end of Q3**
- **The proportion of referrals between males and females have remained steady.**



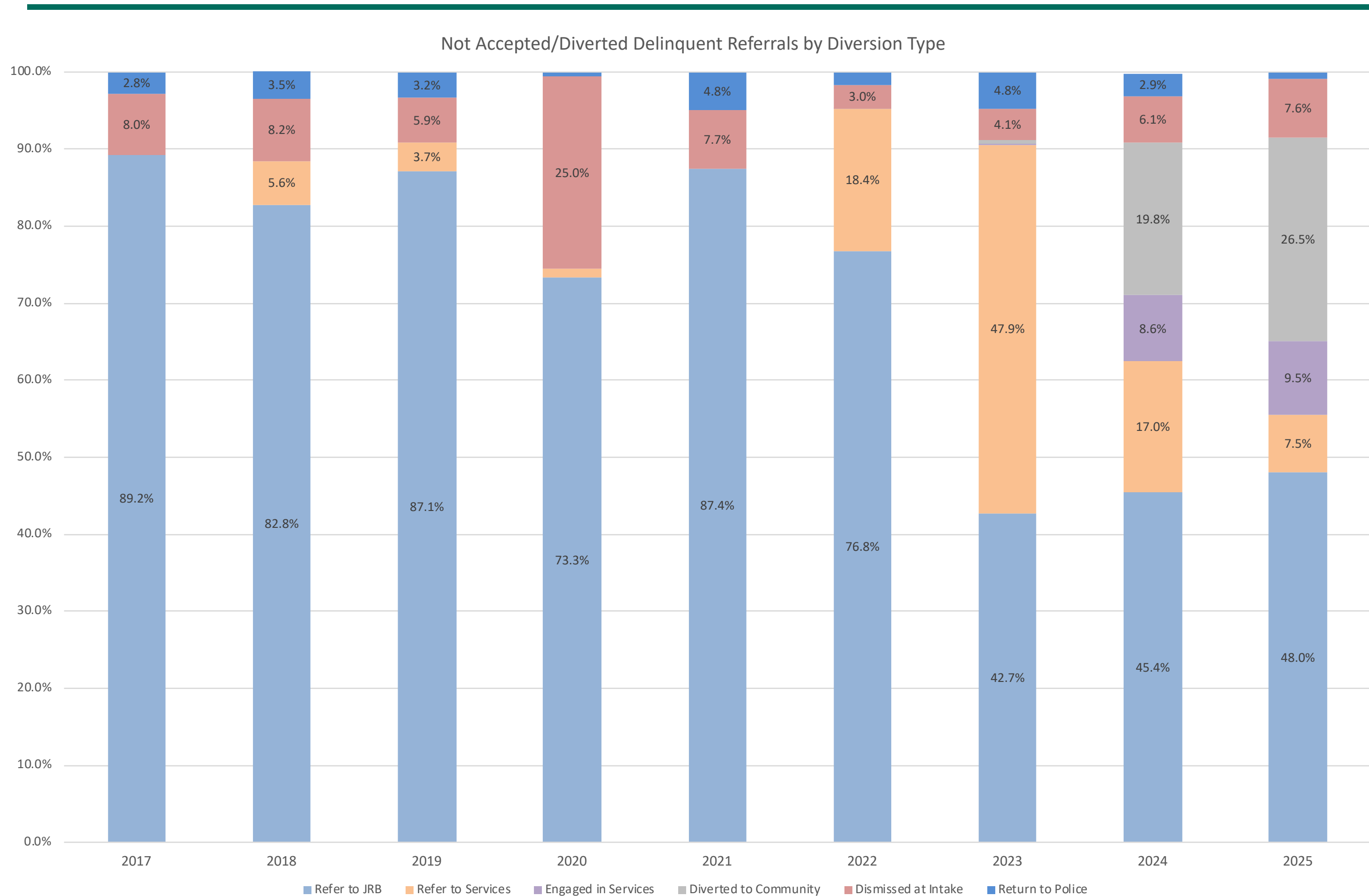
Court Acceptance of Delinquent Referrals



Court Acceptance as Proportion of Delinquent Referrals



- **2025 data is through end of Q3**
- **The introduction of Risk-Based Case Handling practices in 2023 has resulted in a significant increase in the number of referrals diverted and consequently a decrease in the number of juveniles involved in the Juvenile Justice system.**



- 2025 data is through end of Q3

- Diversion Type Definitions:

Refer to JRB: Juvenile was referred to a Juvenile Review Board

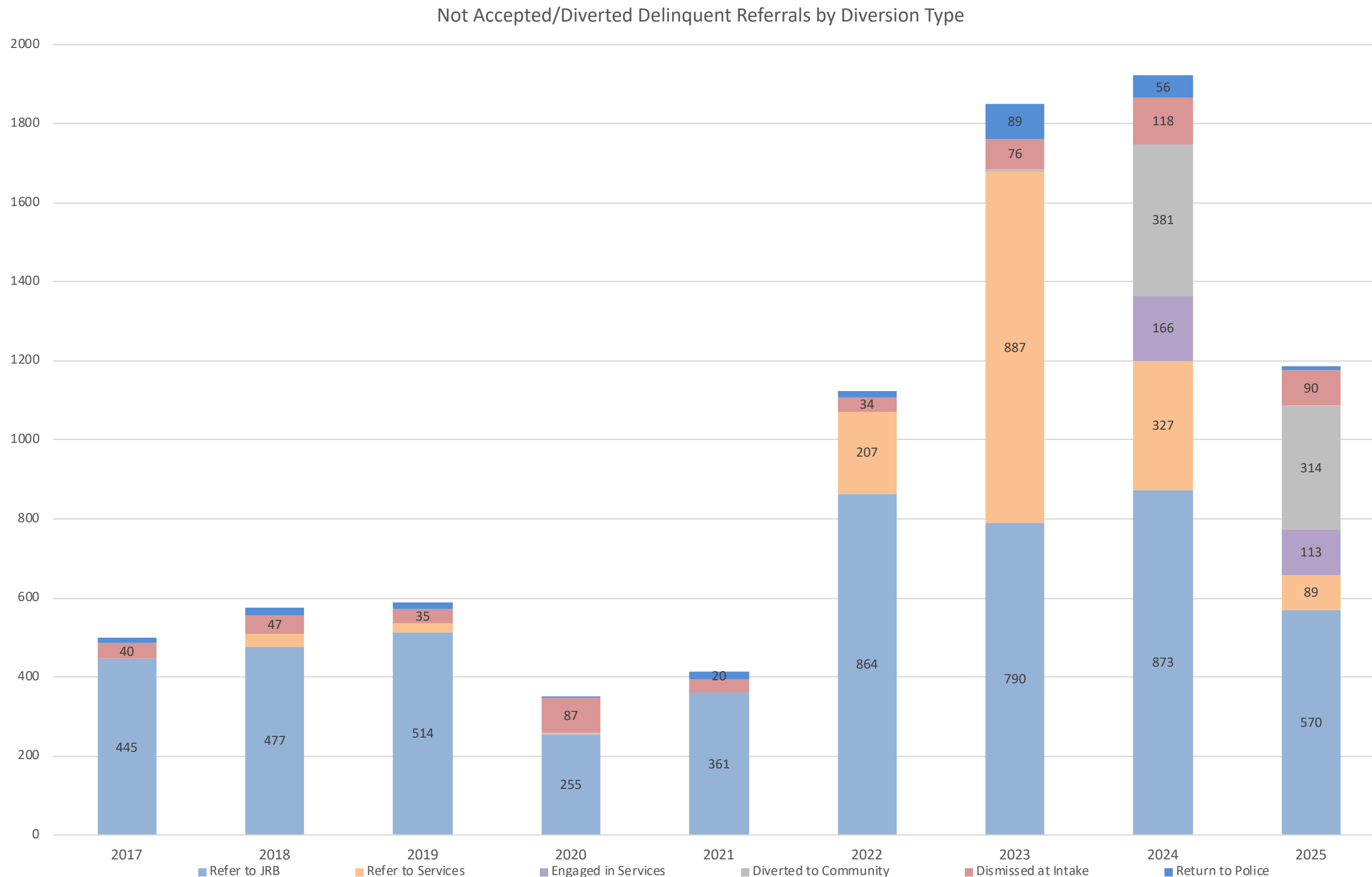
Refer to Services: Juvenile was referred to services in the community to address needs.

Engaged in Services: Juvenile was not referred to services as they were already involved in appropriate services.

Diverted to Community: Juvenile was not referred to services as the family had already addressed the matter and there were no unmet needs.

Dismissed at Intake: Referral was dismissed by the court or not prosecuted on the day of the intake.

Return to Police: Referral was returned to the police for additional information.



- 2025 data is through end of Q3
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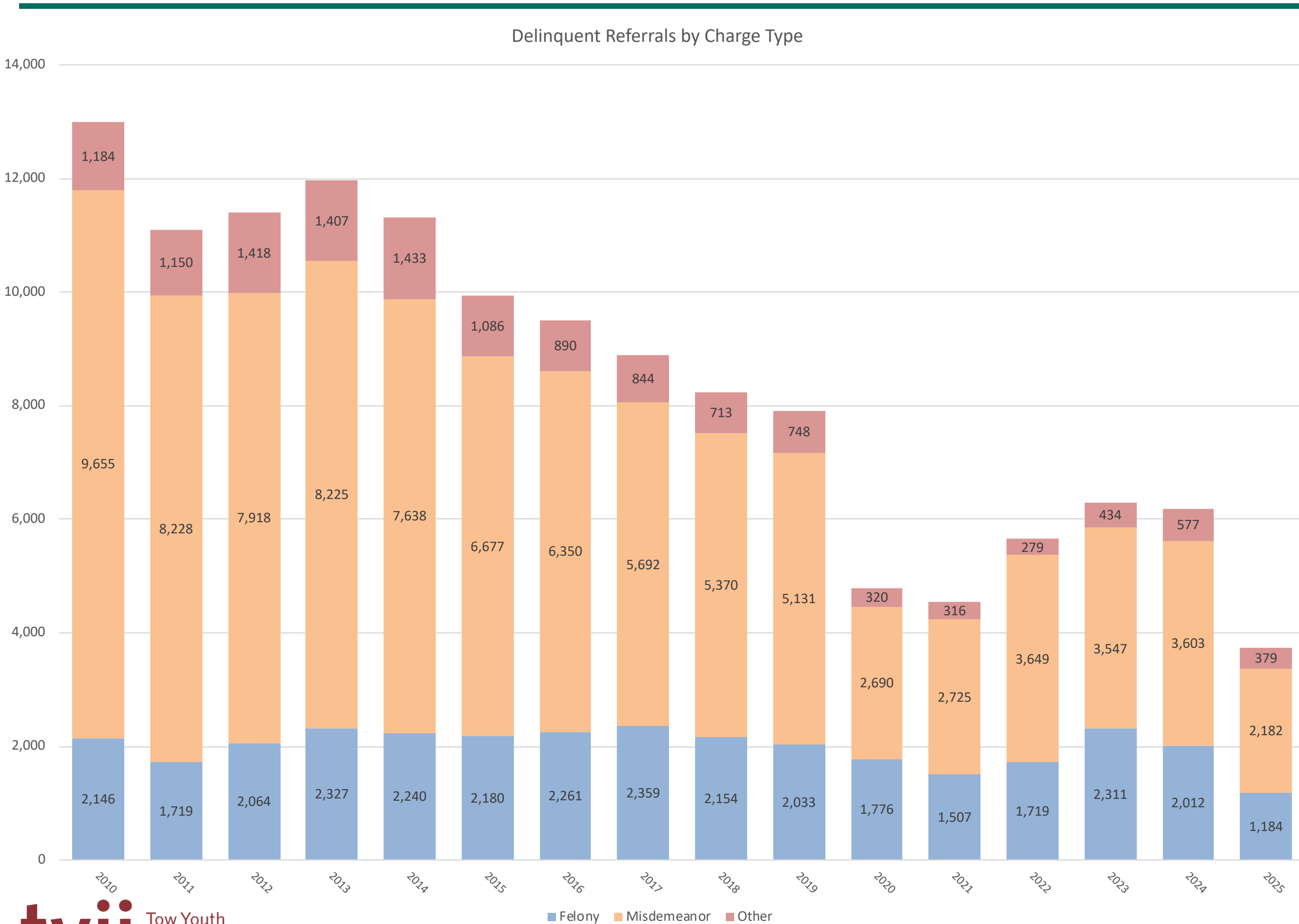
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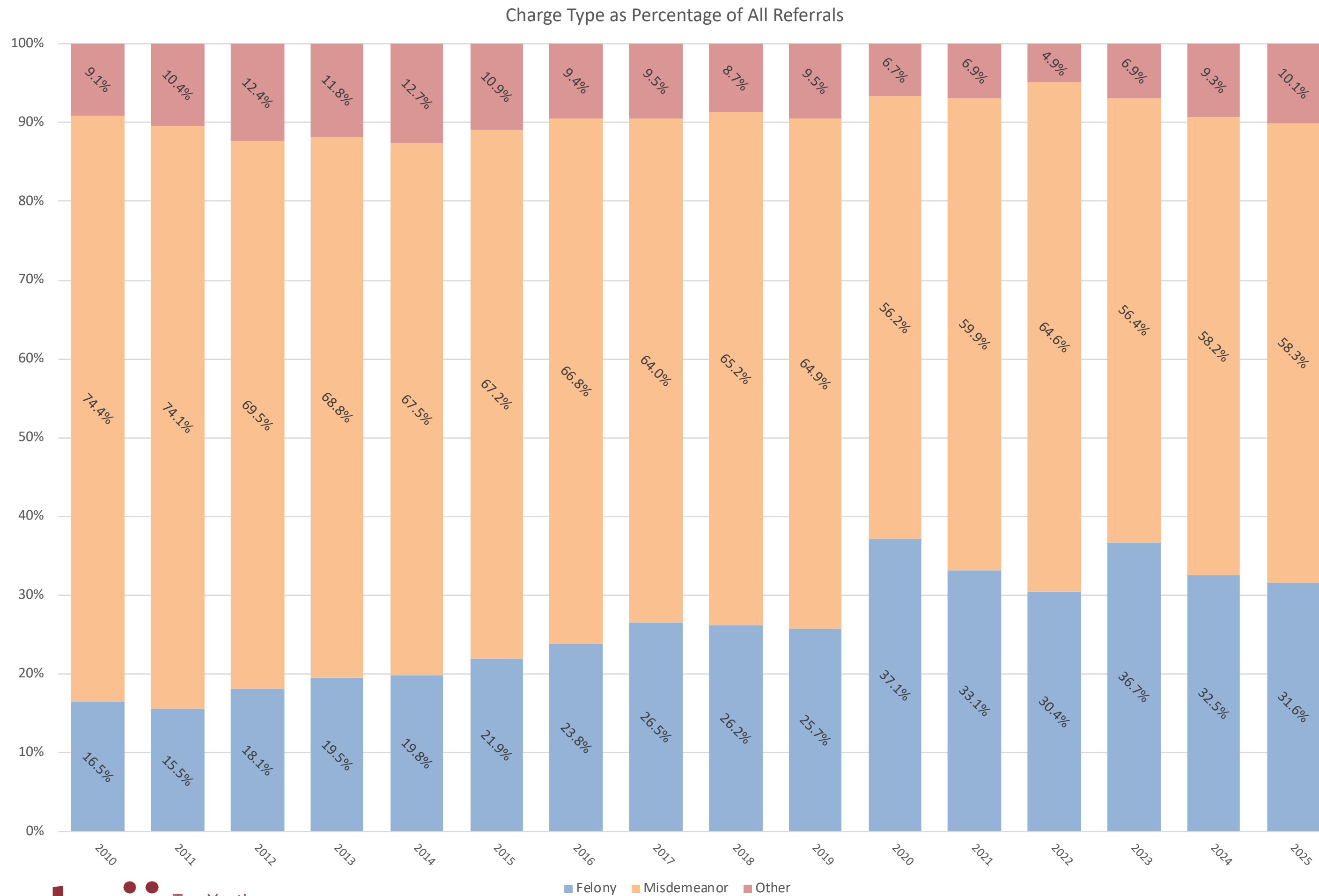
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Return to Police: Referral was returned to the police for additional information.



- **2025 data is through end of Q3**
- **Much of the reduction in volume is seen among Misdemeanor referrals, with a 56% reduction from 2013 to 2024.**
- **‘Other’ includes violations, infractions, status offenses and unclassified.**



- **2025 data is through end of Q3**
- **The result of fewer Misdemeanor offenses are proportionally more Felony referrals in the system.**
- **The proportion of Misdemeanor charges to Felony charges in 2025 has remained similar to previous years even with the reduced number of referrals.**

Top Charges

Top 10 Charges - 2017

BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG	M	1,148
ASSAULT 3RD DEG	M	1,003
LARCENY 6TH DEG	M	683
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	M	614
INTERFERE WITH OFFCR/RESISTI..	M	407
LARCENY 3RD DEG	F	358
BURGLARY 3RD DEG	F	355
THREATENING 2ND DEG	M	293
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3RD DEG	M	277
POS CONTROL SUBSTNCE 1ST OF..	M	238

Top 10 Charges - 2024

ASSAULT 3RD DEG	M	997
BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG	M	796
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	M	373
LARCENY 6TH DEG	M	321
LARCENY OF MV - 1ST OFFENSE	F	319
INTERFERE WITH OFFCR/RESISTING	M	307
BURGLARY 3RD DEG	F	238
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 2ND DEG	M	127
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3RD DEG	M	127
ASSLT PB SFTY/EMT/TRANST/HLTH	F	102

- This visual shows a comparison of the top 10 charges (misdemeanor and felony only) by total referrals for 2017 vs. 2024
- The most common court referrals continue to be conduct-based misdemeanor offenses
- Larceny of MV have risen on this list as other less severe offenses are less prevalent
- The top 10 charges account for 60% of all court referrals in both 2017 and 2024

Top Charges

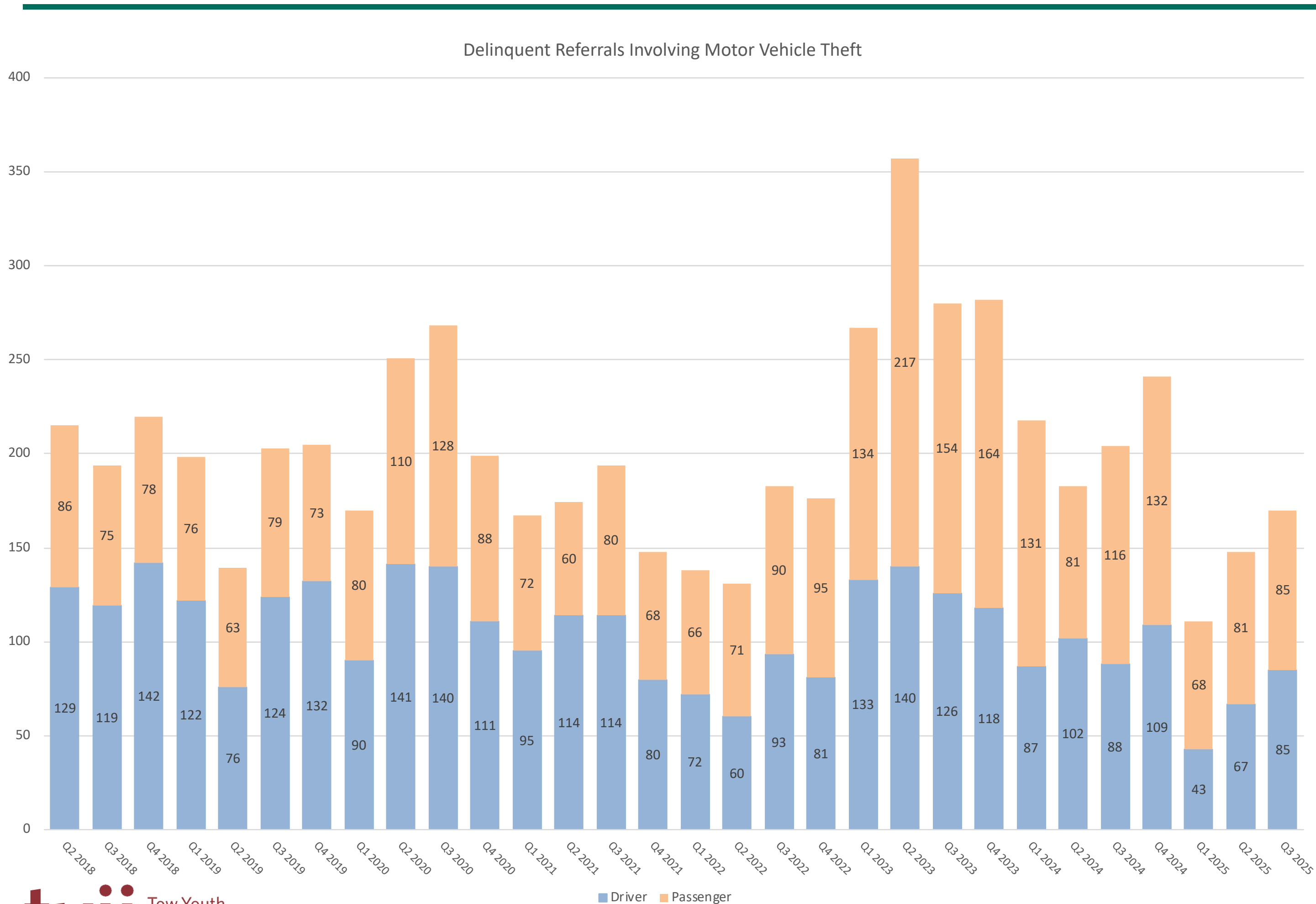
Top 10 Charges - 2024

ASSAULT 3RD DEG	M	749
BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG	M	589
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	M	293
INTERFERE WITH OFFCR/RESISTI..	M	233
LARCENY 6TH DEG	M	232
LARCENY OF MV - 1ST OFFENSE	F	215
BURGLARY 3RD DEG	F	201
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 2ND DEG	M	92
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3RD DEG	M	89
ASSAULT 2ND DEG	F	84

Top 10 Charges - 2025

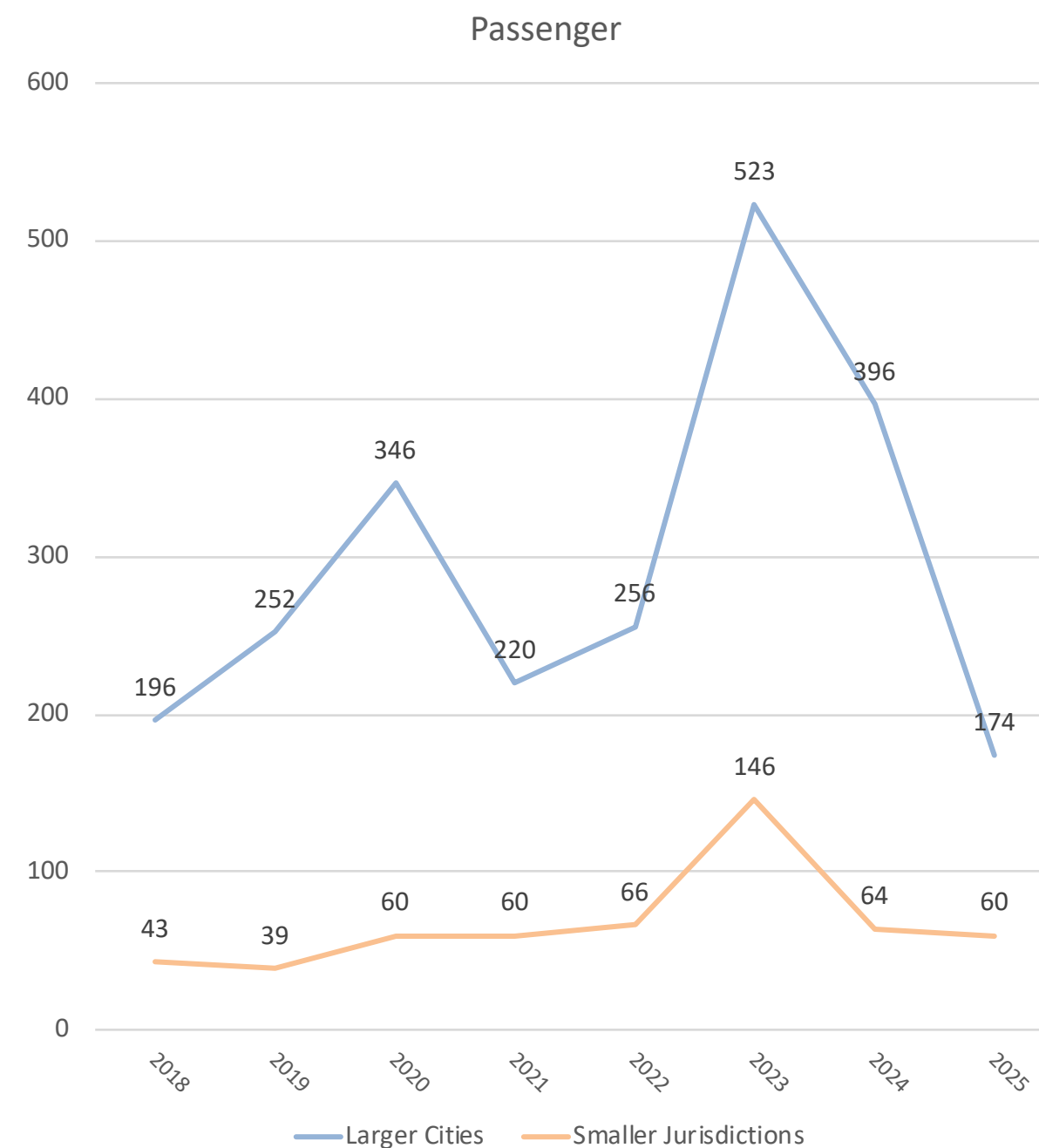
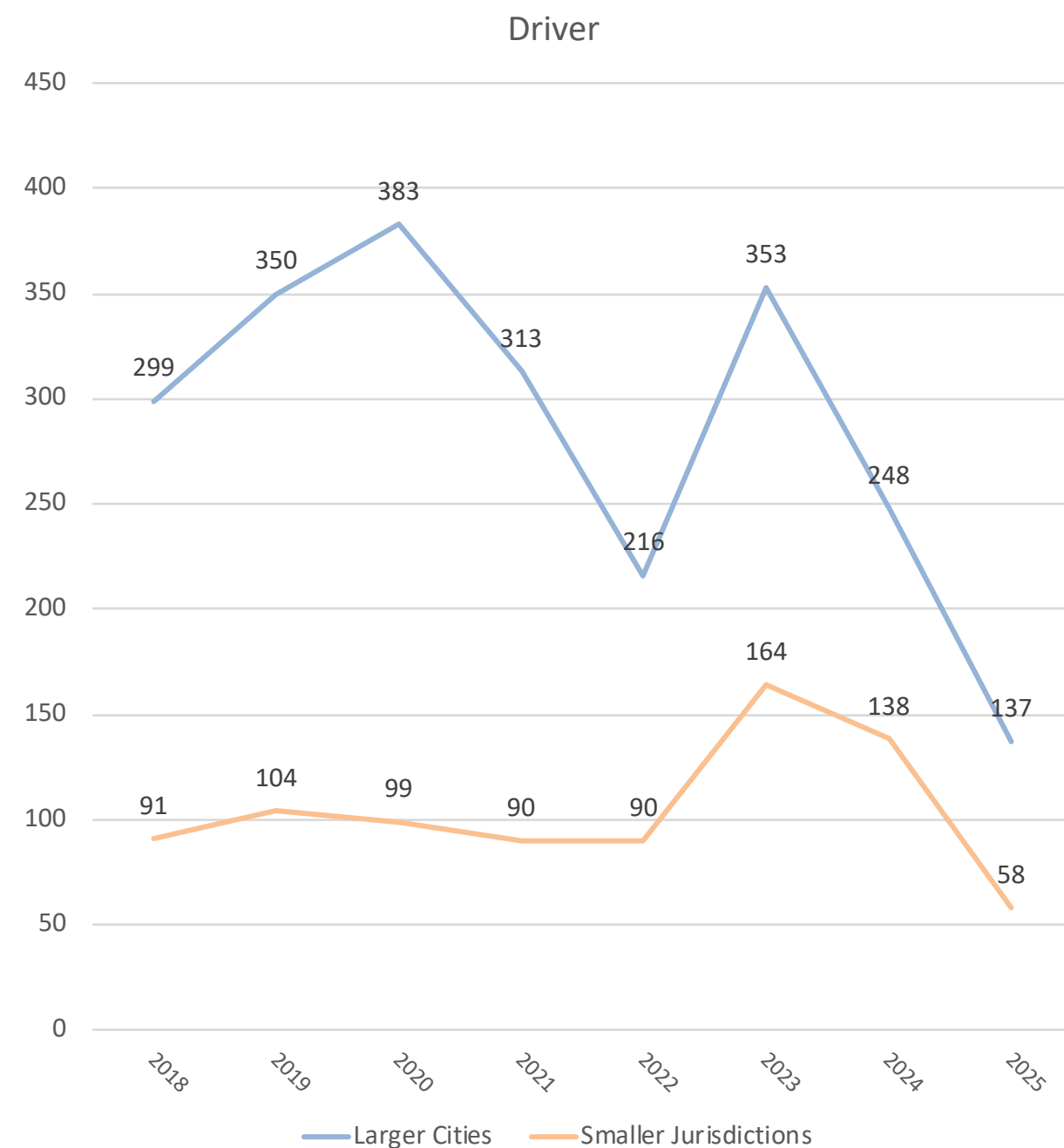
ASSAULT 3RD DEG	M	562
BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG	M	455
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	M	271
INTERFERE WITH OFFCR/RESISTI..	M	206
LARCENY OF MV - 1ST OFFENSE	F	200
LARCENY 6TH DEG	M	187
BURGLARY 3RD DEG	F	109
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3RD DEG	M	78
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 2ND DEG	M	66
RISK OF INJURY TO CHILD	F	56

- This visual compares the top 10 charges (misdemeanor and felony only) by total referrals for the first three quarters of 2024 vs 2025
- Larceny of Motor Vehicle – 1st Offense has seen high prevalence so far in 2023 since being put into effect on Oct. 1, 2022
- The top 10 charges account for ~60% of all court referrals in both 2024 and 2025



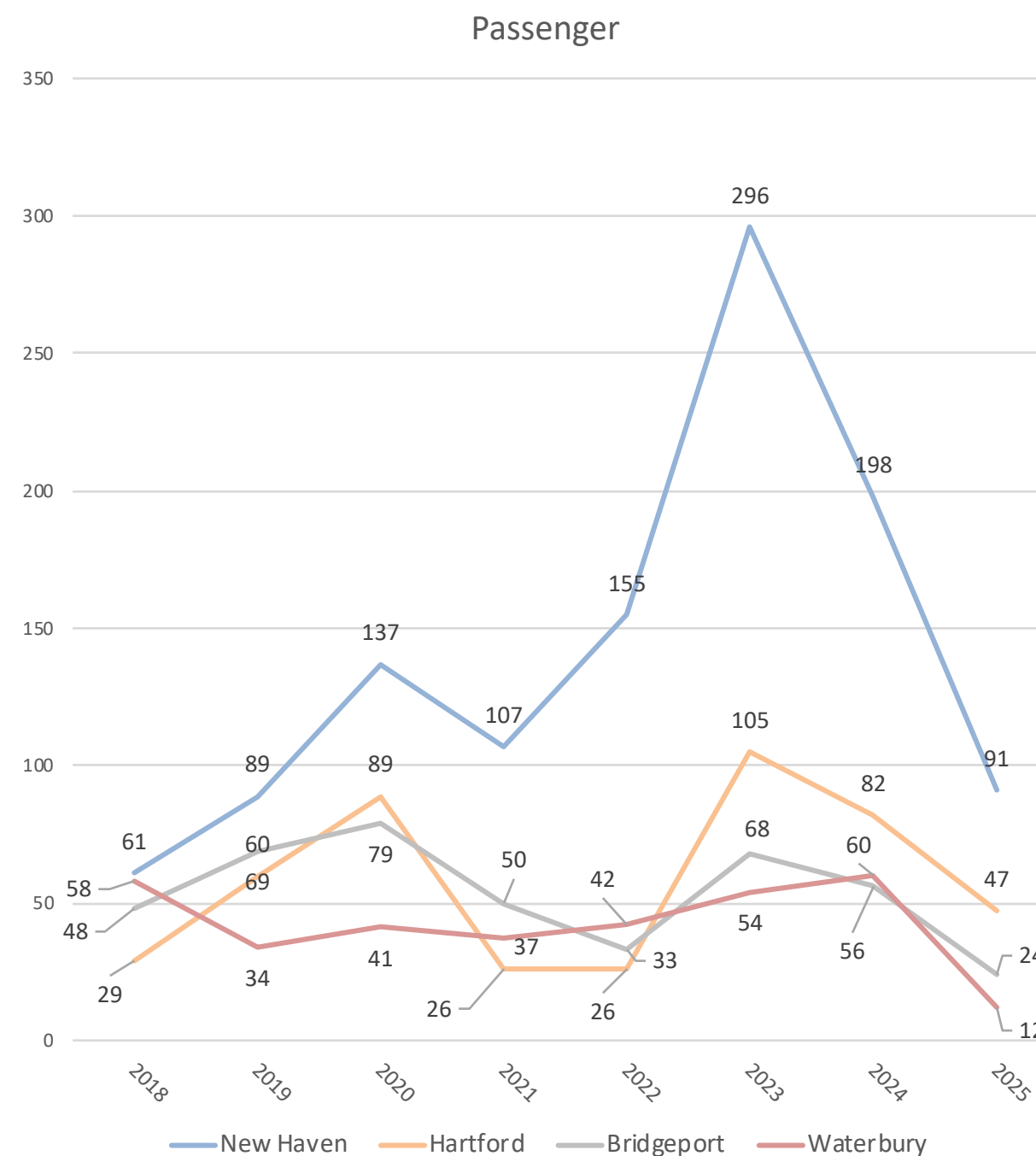
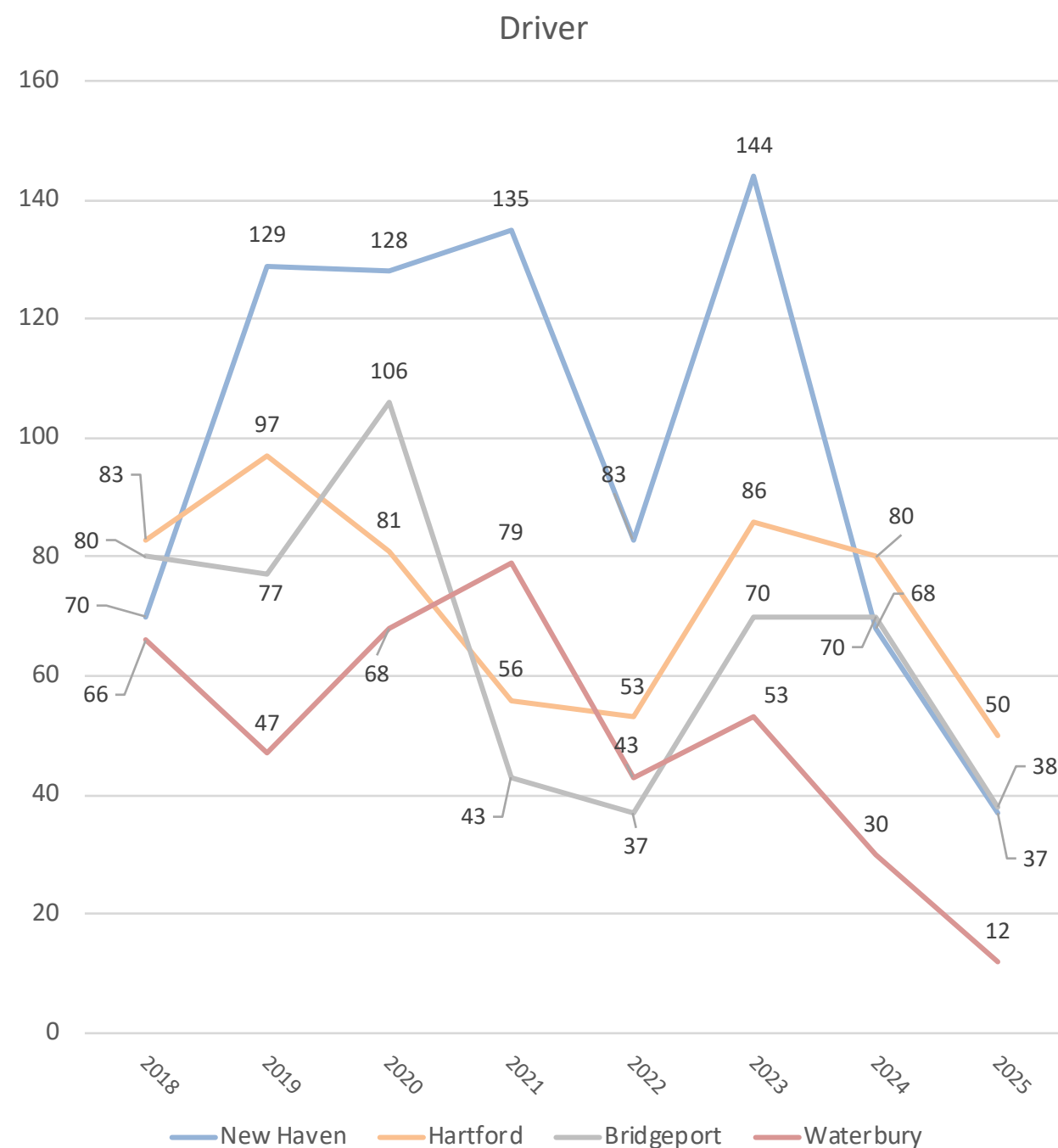
- **Juvenile Probation Supervisors flag court referrals as being motor vehicle theft-involved at the time of case handling, as well as whether the youth was a driver or passenger.**
- This visual shows the total number of delinquent referrals involving motor vehicle theft by quarter.
- In 2025, auto-theft related referrals have continued to drop since the peak in 2023.
- Auto-theft related charges for passengers in auto-theft arrest events continue to be higher than in the past.
- **The number of court referrals for drivers of stolen vehicles has remained somewhat even with prior quarters.**

Delinquent Referrals Involving Motor Vehicle Theft by Court Location and Participant Type



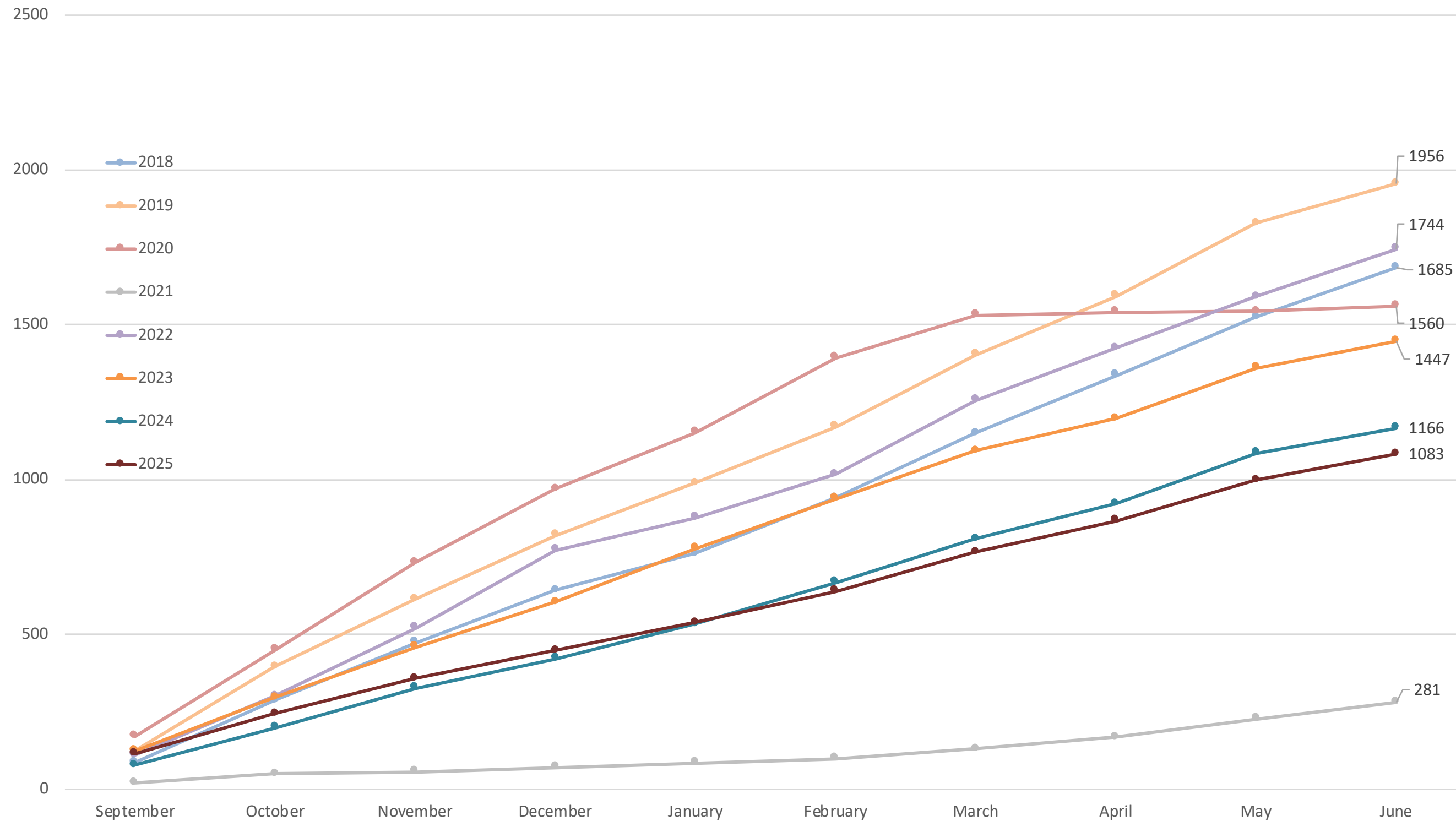
- Increases in court referrals for passengers is more prevalent in larger cities.
- Chart compares larger cities, an aggregate of referrals in New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, and Waterbury, with smaller jurisdictions.
- There has continued to be a sharp decrease in auto theft-related court referrals for both drivers and passengers in 2025.
- This decrease is primarily in the larger cities

Delinquent Referrals Involving Motor Vehicle Theft in CT's Largest Cities



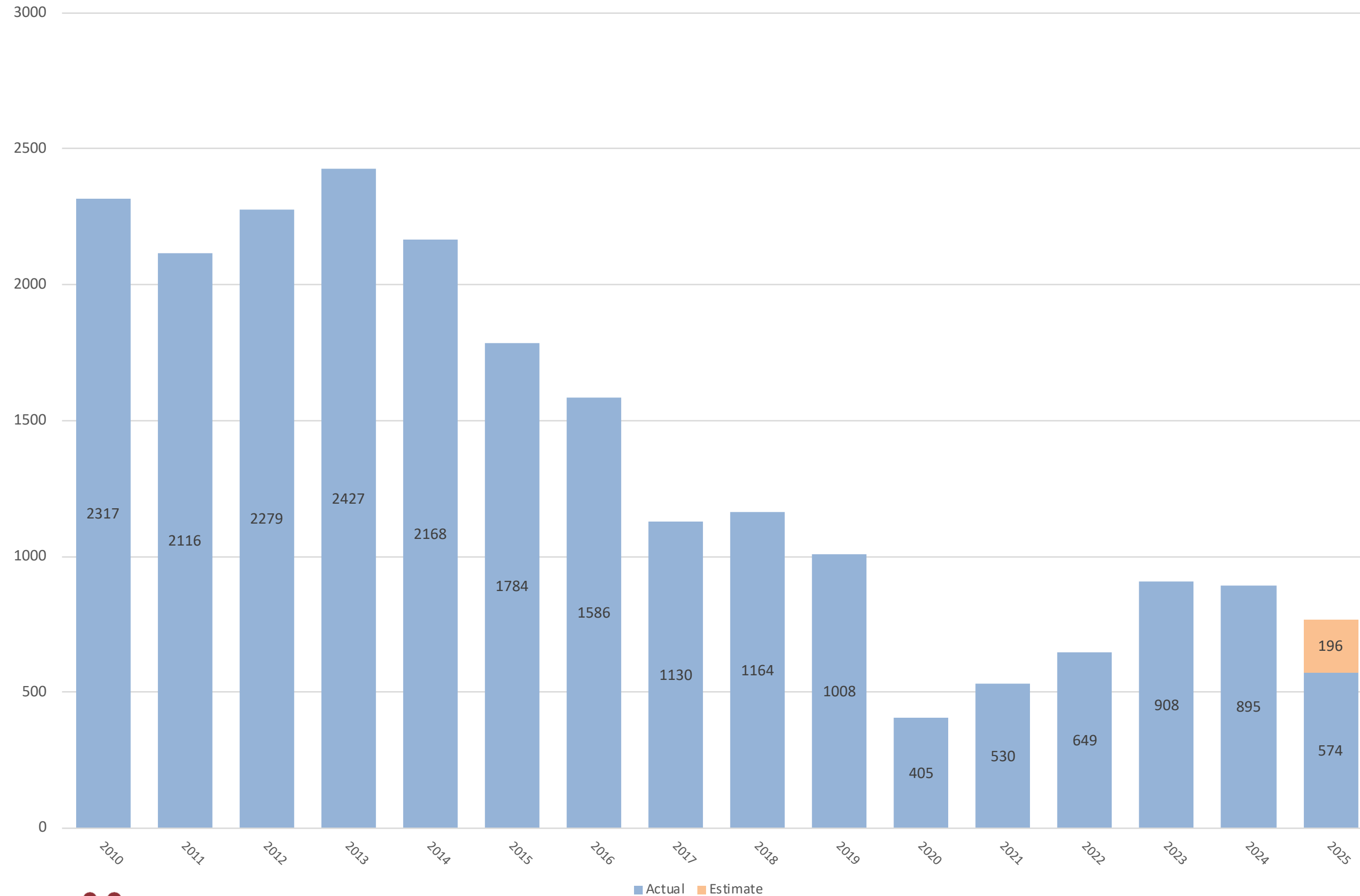
- Looking more closely at MVT-related court referrals in CT's largest cities, the increase in passengers becomes more isolated to New Haven and Hartford.
- New Haven saw the sharpest decrease in MVT-related court referrals so far in 2025

Running Total of School Related Incidents by School Year



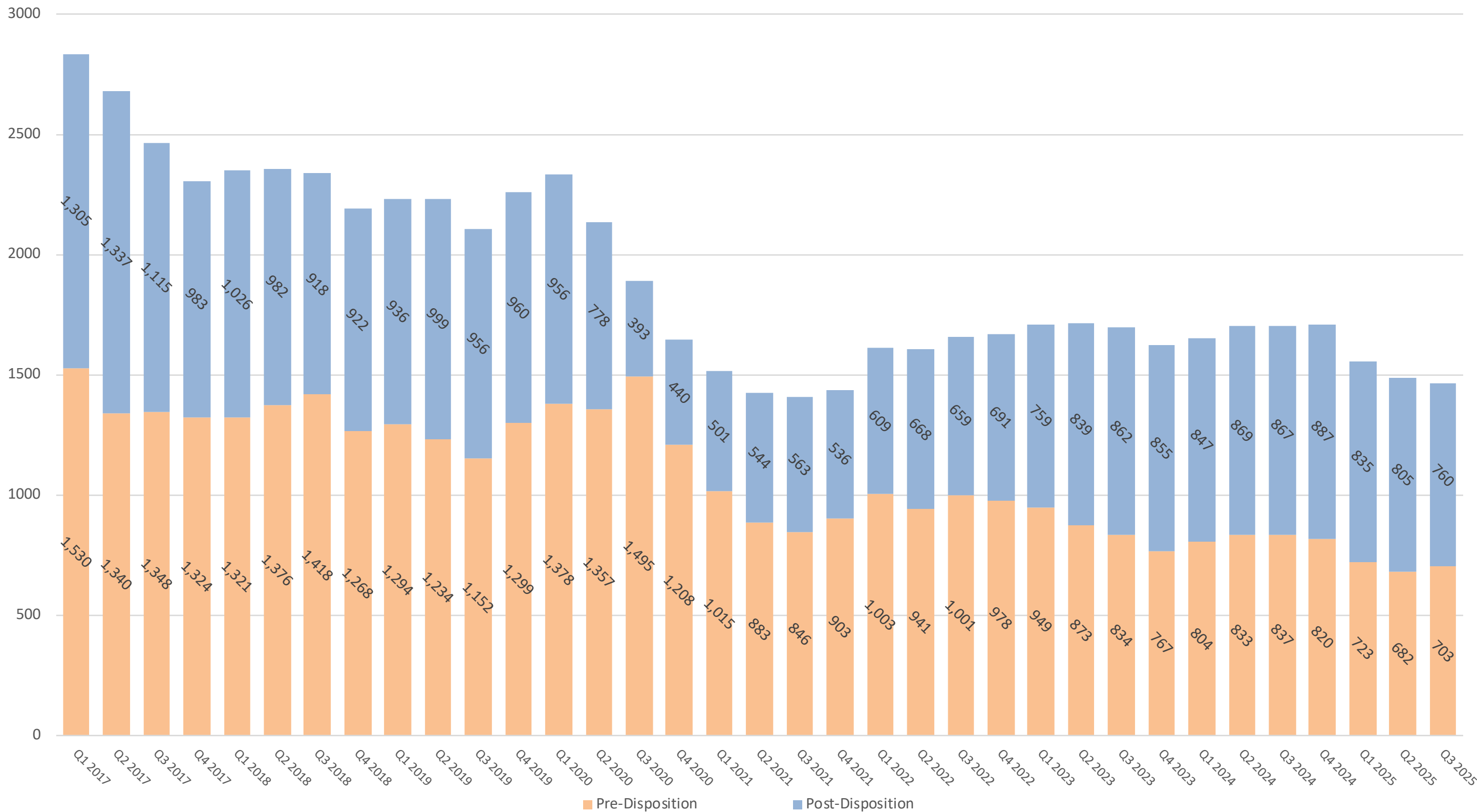
- This visual shows a running total of school-related delinquent court referrals for each school year (September – June).
- School year 2025 saw 7% fewer school-related referrals compared to the 2024 school year.

Pre-Disposition Detention Admissions



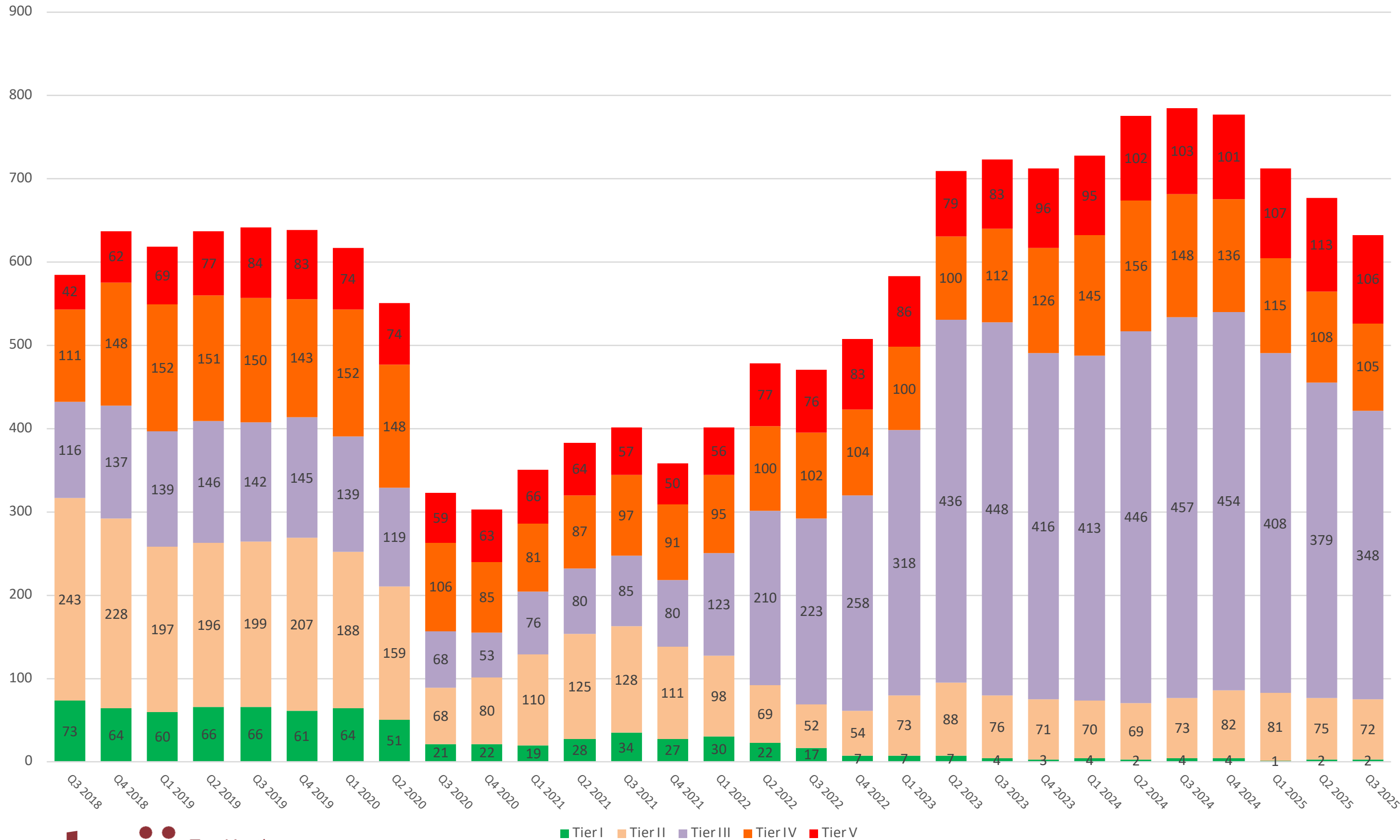
- **2025 data is through end of Q3**
- **Pre-disposition detention admissions continue to contract on an annual basis**
- **Calendar Year 2025 estimated admission totals (770) represent a 68% decrease from 2013.**

Average Quarterly Juvenile Probation Population
Pre-Disposition & Post-Disposition



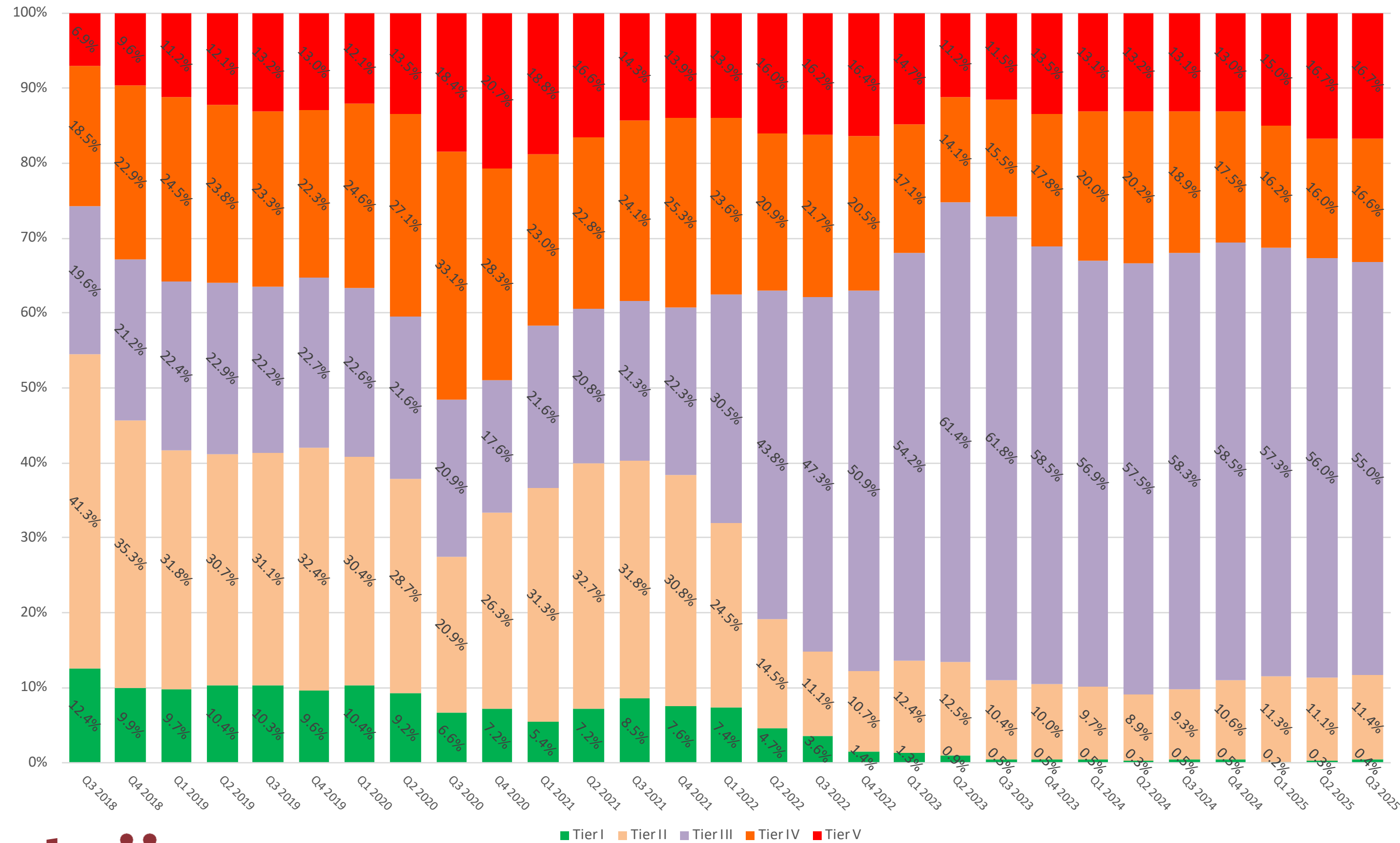
- This visual shows the average number of children in the juvenile probation population, broken down by pre-disposition (intake) and post-disposition (supervision) cases.
- Fewer youth are present in the system on any given day

Average Quarterly Juvenile Probation Supervision Population by Supervision Level
via the PrediCT Assessment



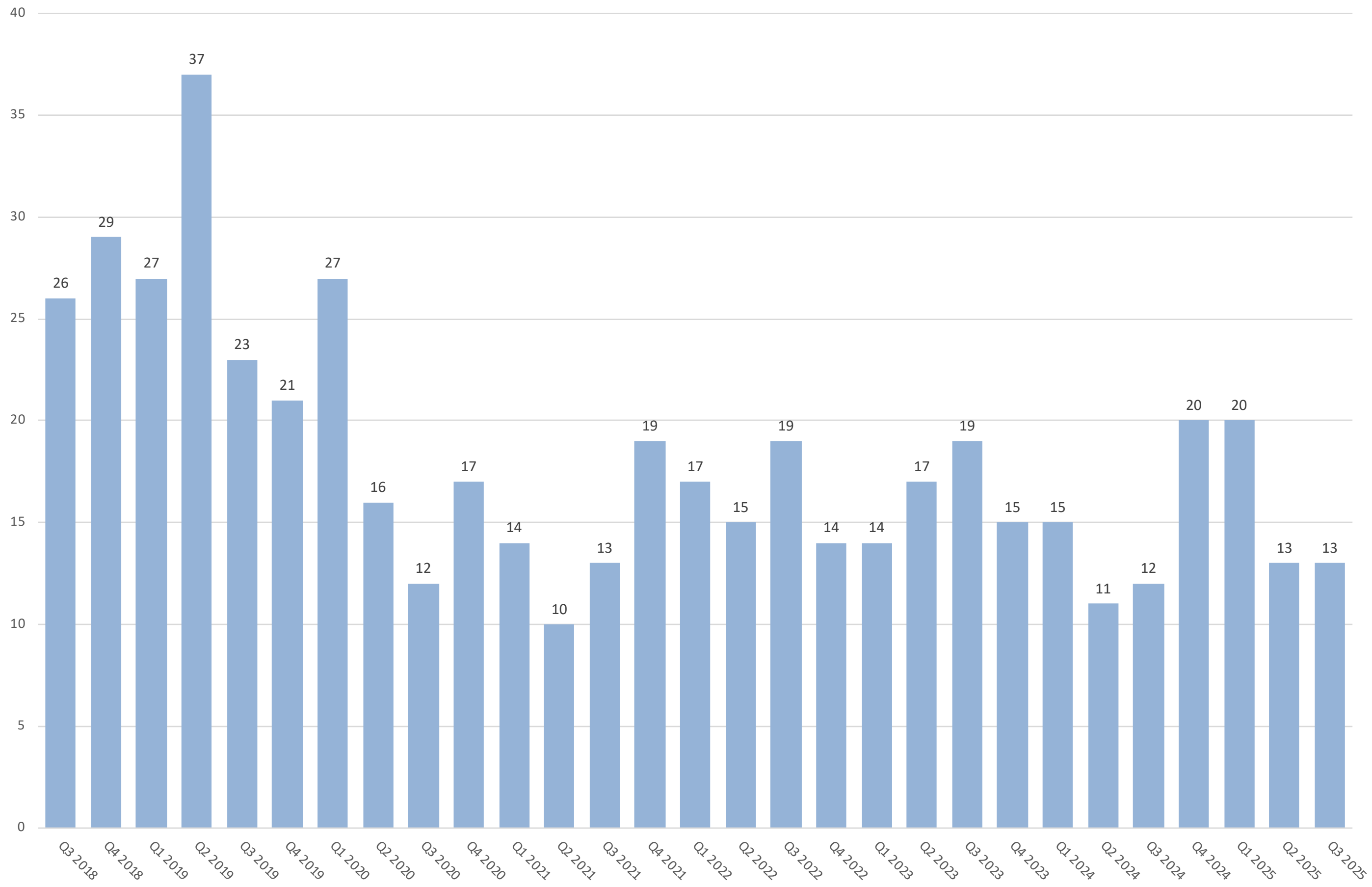
- This visual shows the average quarterly juvenile probation supervision population broken down by supervision level as determined by the PrediCT assessment.
- Risk of youth on probation supervision has changed, due primarily to algorithmic changes to the PrediCT assessment.

Supervision Level as a Percentage of Supervision Probation Cases
via the Predict Assessment



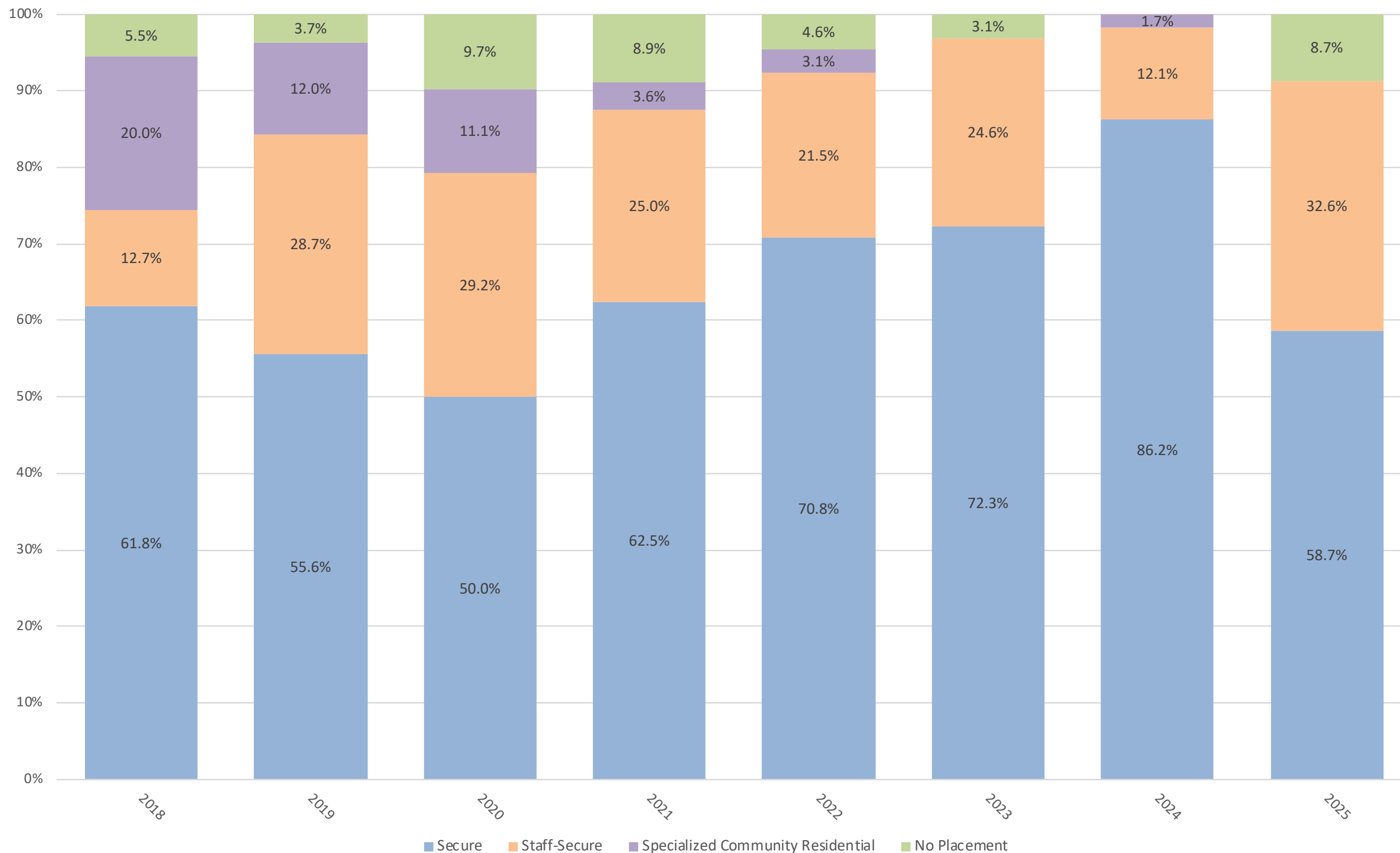
- A larger proportion of children on probation present higher levels of risk.

Probation With Residential Placement – Court Order Events



- **Dispositions to Probation with Residential Placement (REGIONS) have remained below pre-pandemic levels.**

Probation with Residential Placement - Court Order Events
by Placement Type



- The majority of placements are to a REGIONS hardware-Secure facility.
- There has been a shift in placements from Secure facilities to Staff-Secured facilities in 2025 compared to 2024.

Program Referrals

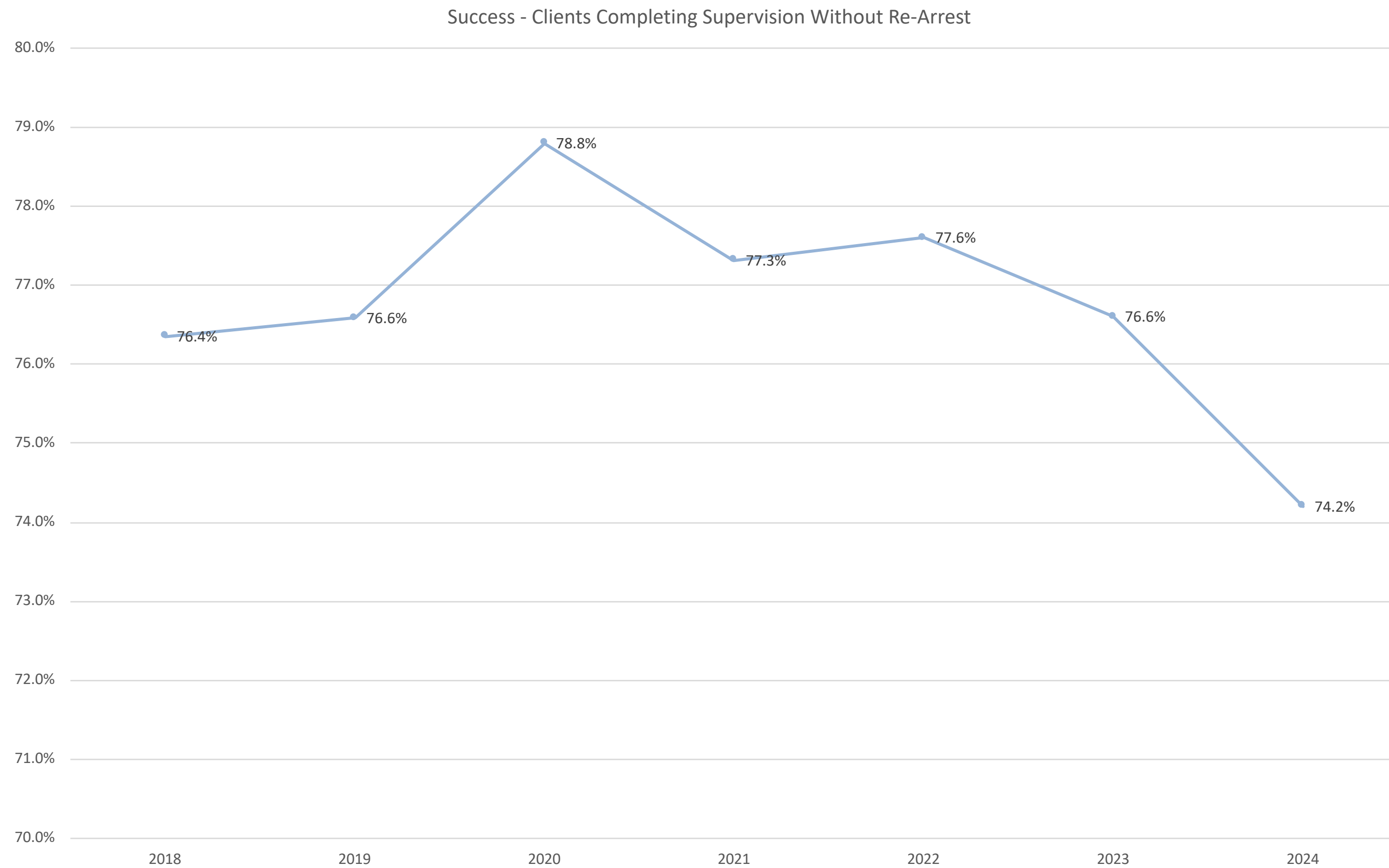
Top 10 Program Referrals - 2019

	Count of Referrals	Avg. Length of Stay (days)
Linking Youth to Natural Community	422	133.6
Educational Support Services	172	218.3
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	112	111.1
Mentoring	86	39.1
Hamilton	80	15.2
Other	45	117.0
Adolescent Sexual Behavior Treatment and Education Program	41	155.6
Intermediate Residential	40	75.6
Boys Respite and Assessment Center	32	46.6
Homecare	26	120.4

Top 10 Program Referrals - 2025

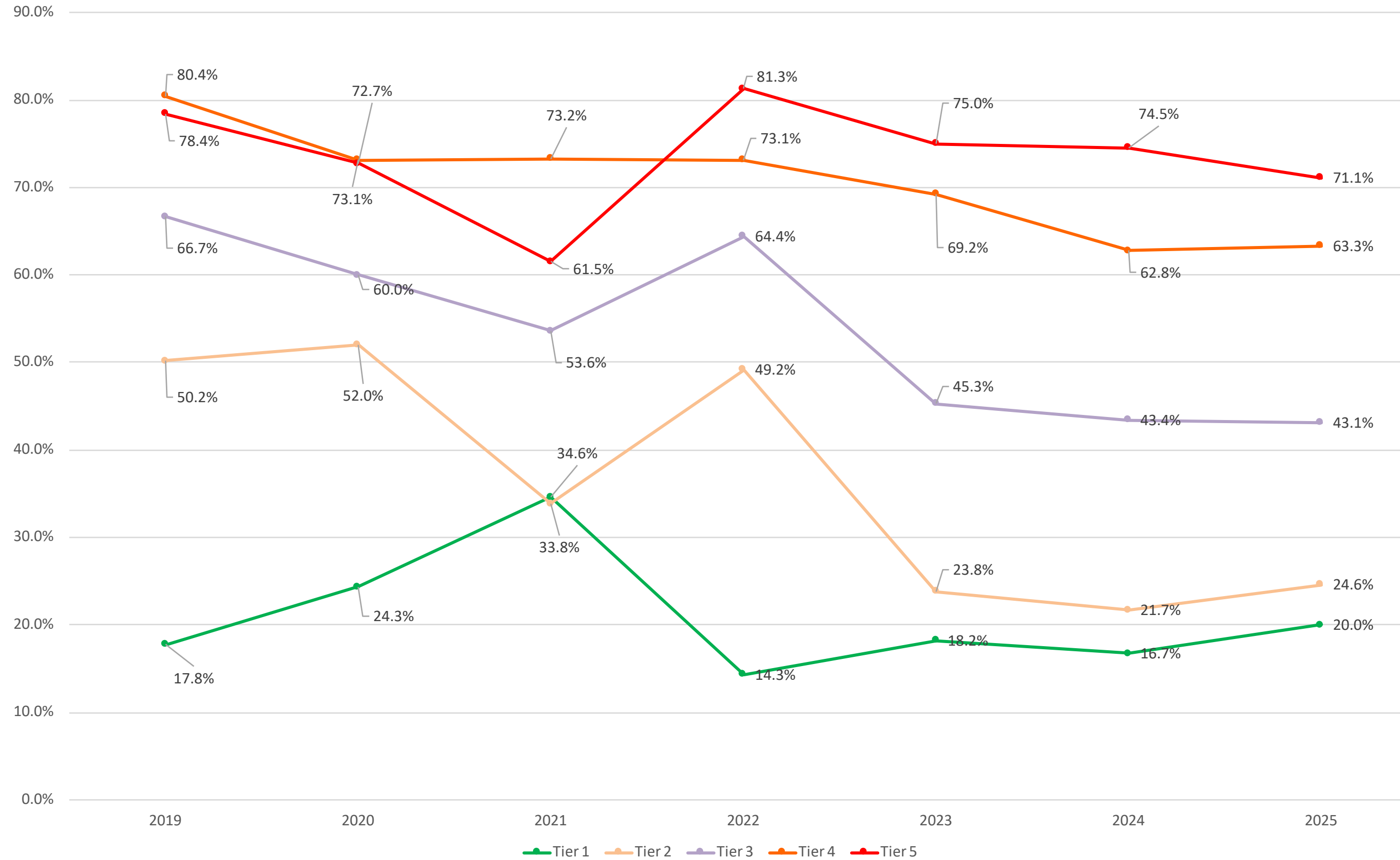
	Count of Referrals	Avg. Length of Stay (days)
Linking Youth to Natural Community	621	73.3
Educational Support Services	270	64.9
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	201	74.3
Credible Messenger	105	84.8
Other	36	49.6
Juv Res – Assessment Center	35	91.2
Intermediate Residential	31	74.1
Adolescent Sexual Behavior Treatment and Education Program	29	108.1
Transitional Living Program	4	21.5
Juv Res – Respite	2	41.0

- This visual shows the top 10 programs by number of referrals comparing the first three quarters of 2019 to the first three quarters of 2025, and the average length of stay for each program.



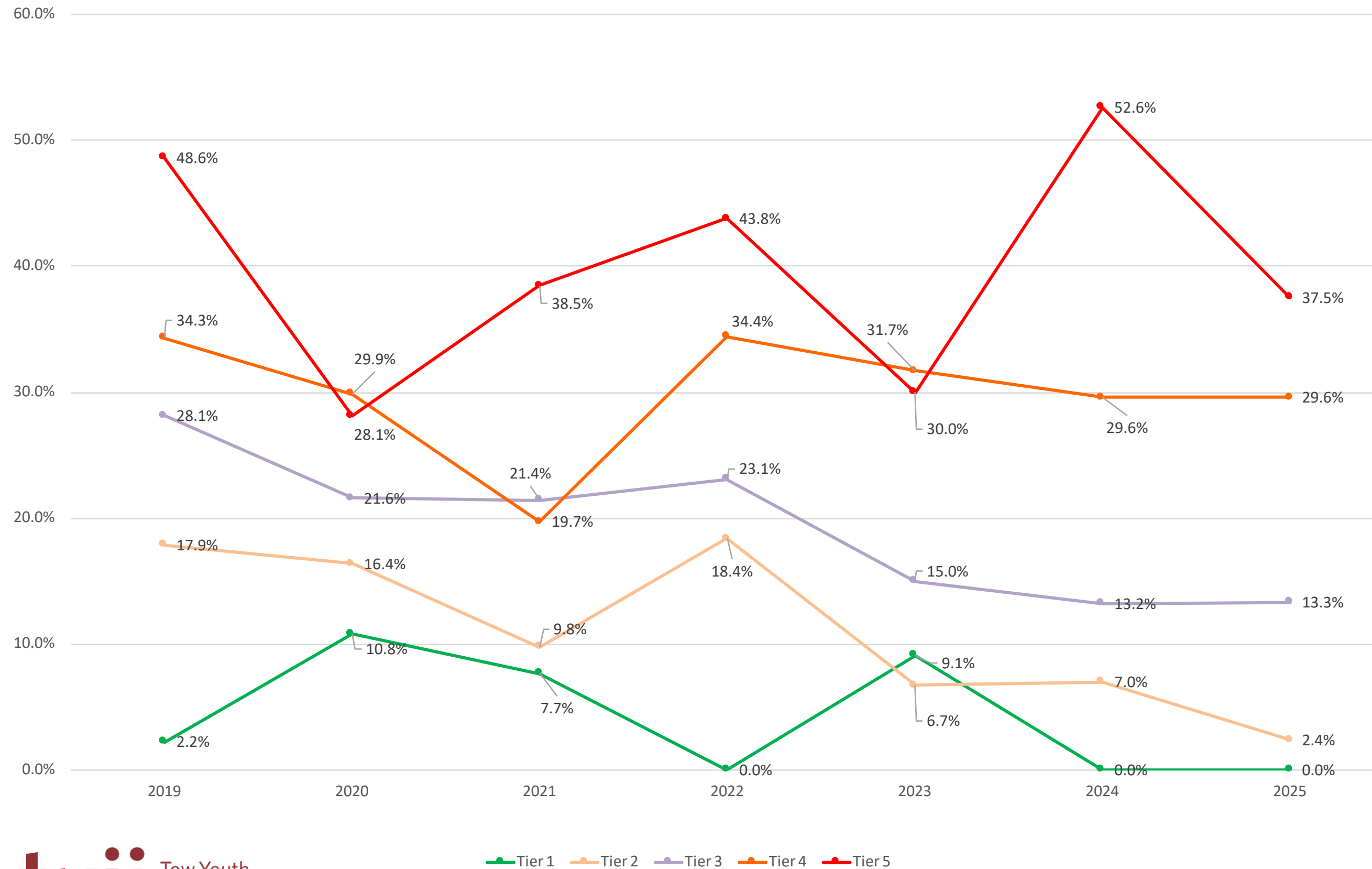
- **The percentage of children who remain arrest-free throughout probation supervision has remained relatively stable.**

12-Month Re-Arrest Rate by Supervision/Risk Level
via the PrediCT Assessment



- This visual shows the 12-month re-arrest rate annually broken out by supervision/risk level per the PrediCT assessment.
- 2025 data is through end of Q3

12-Month Adjudication Re-Arrest Rate by Supervision/Risk Level
via the Predict Assessment



- Adjudication rates in the year following supervision start remain below 50% for Tier 1-4 risk levels.
- 2025 data is through end of Q3

Questions?

For more information please reach out to
Bryan.Sperry@jud.ct.gov



JUVENILE JUSTICE EQUITY DASHBOARD DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Presentation to the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Presented by:

Kevin Neary, Policy Development Coordinator

Office of Policy and Management

Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard:

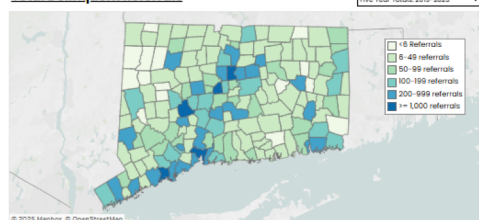
Three measures available, fourth currently in development

Since late 2024, three of the four initially prioritized dashboard measures are available.

■ <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/efuz-5jhe>

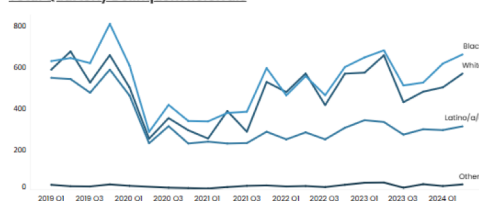
Delinquent Referrals in Connecticut

Total Delinquent Referrals



When police arrest a youth under 18 in connection with a suspected crime, officers will issue a juvenile summons and prepare an arrest report that describes the incident, lists the charges, and specifies a court appearance date which includes a promise to appear signed by the juvenile's parent or guardian. This is known as a **delinquent referral**. Delinquent referrals mark the starting point of a case in Connecticut's juvenile justice system, which is administered by the Judicial Branch.

Total Quarterly Delinquent Referrals



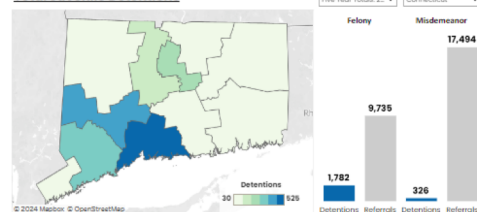
A summary of delinquent referrals to court statewide over time, showing quarterly amounts by race & ethnic categories. Counts include both juvenile males and females receiving referrals.

**Other comprises Native American/Alaskan Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*

Delinquent Referrals: the starting point of a case in Connecticut's juvenile justice system when police arrest a youth under 18 in connection with a suspected crime, issuing a summons to appear in juvenile court.

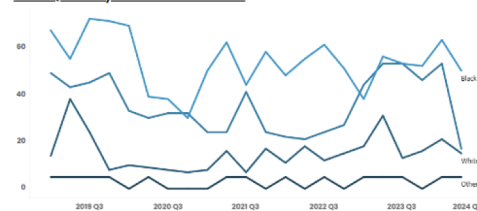
Juvenile Detentions in Connecticut

Total Juvenile Detentions



In Connecticut, when a juvenile receives a delinquent referral during a custodial arrest, law enforcement has the option to seek an order to detain. This is considered if officers believe that releasing the juvenile to a guardian or the community before trial could pose a public safety risk. No detention of a juvenile may occur without an order from a judge. A 24-hour system maintained by court staff is available for officers to check a juvenile's legal standing, such as past offenses or active cases, and seek a detention order if necessary.

Total Quarterly Juvenile Detentions



This metric shows delinquent court referrals where the juvenile was **detained by court order prior to their first appearance**. Detentions are shown by court district, offense type, and quarter. Detentions that occur post-hearing or post-disposition are not included in this metric.

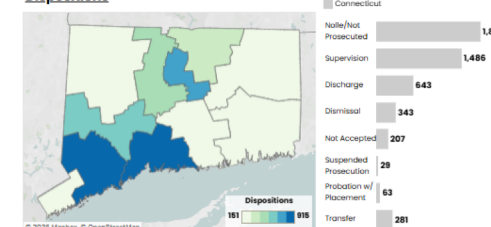
**Other comprises Native American/Alaskan Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*

Detentions: A short-term confinement, primarily used after a youth has been arrested, but before a court has determined the youth's innocence or guilt.

Juvenile Case Dispositions Involving a First-Time Felony

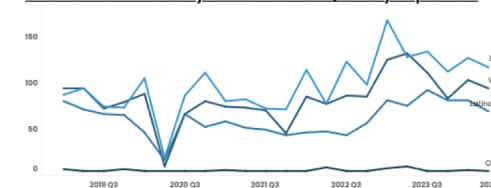
A *disposition* is the court's final determination in a juvenile justice case. This dashboard presents dispositions of juvenile cases involving a **first-ever referral for a felony crime**. There are several disposition types, including:

Juvenile First-Time Felony Cases: Total Dispositions



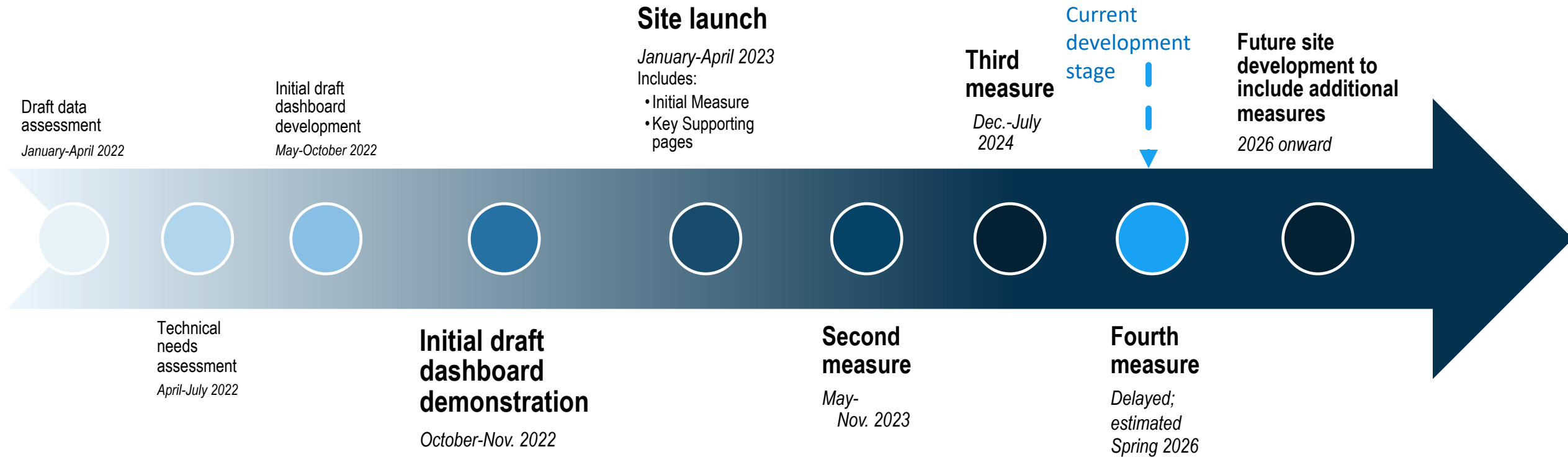
- Nolle / Not Prosecuted +
- Supervision +
- Discharge +
- Dismissal +
- Not Accepted +
- Suspended Prosecution +
- Probation with Placement +
- Transfer +

Juvenile First-Time Felony Cases: Statewide Quarterly Dispositions



Disposition of a First-time Felony: The court's final determination in a juvenile justice case involving a youth's first-ever referral for a felony crime.

Equity Dashboard Development: Timeline delayed



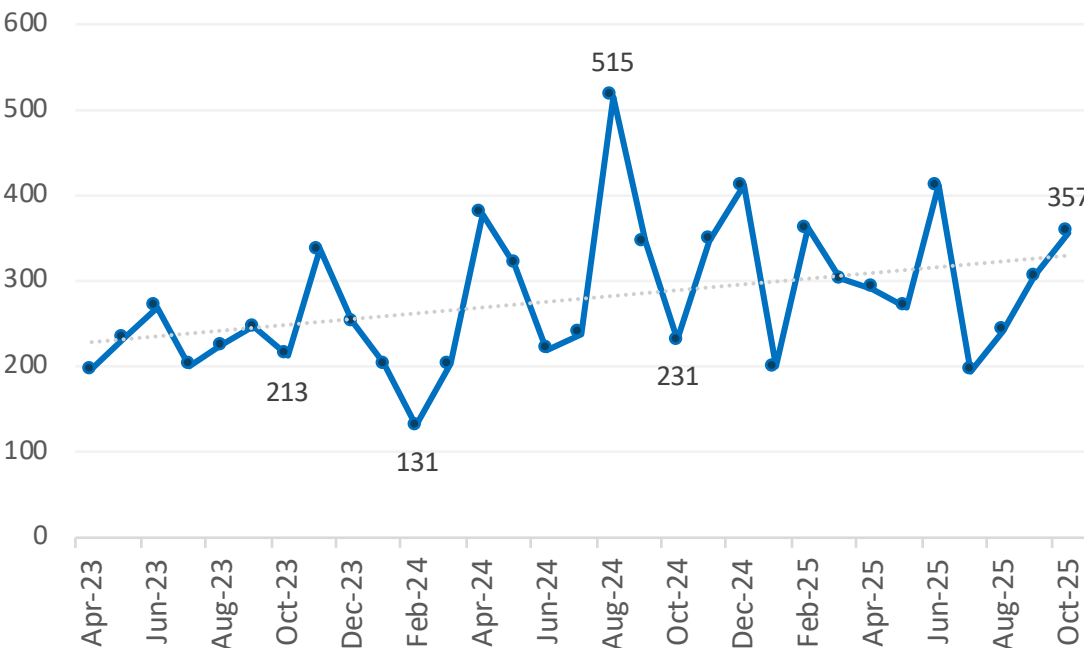
Key project challenges in 2025:

1. Protracted disruption in dashboard software access
 - Prevents the development, hosting, and updating of dashboard visuals
 - OPM continues to update underlying Open Data dataset
 - Data currently available through Q2 2025 for existing measures, Q3 update pending
2. Changes in non-judicial handling procedures for cases referred to juvenile court
 - Added complexity for JB CSSD system queries to generate data for 2019-present
 - Two distinct time series: 2019-2022; 2023-present.
 - Development for 2019-2022 dashboard underway

Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard: Usage since launch

- Since the April 2023 launch, with the public release of the Delinquent Referrals measure and About this Dashboard webpages, Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard tool has over 9,000 total views.
- From launch through October 31, 2025, the Equity Dashboard data stories combined have averaged approximately 280 views monthly.

**Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard
Monthly Website Views – April 2023 through October 2025**



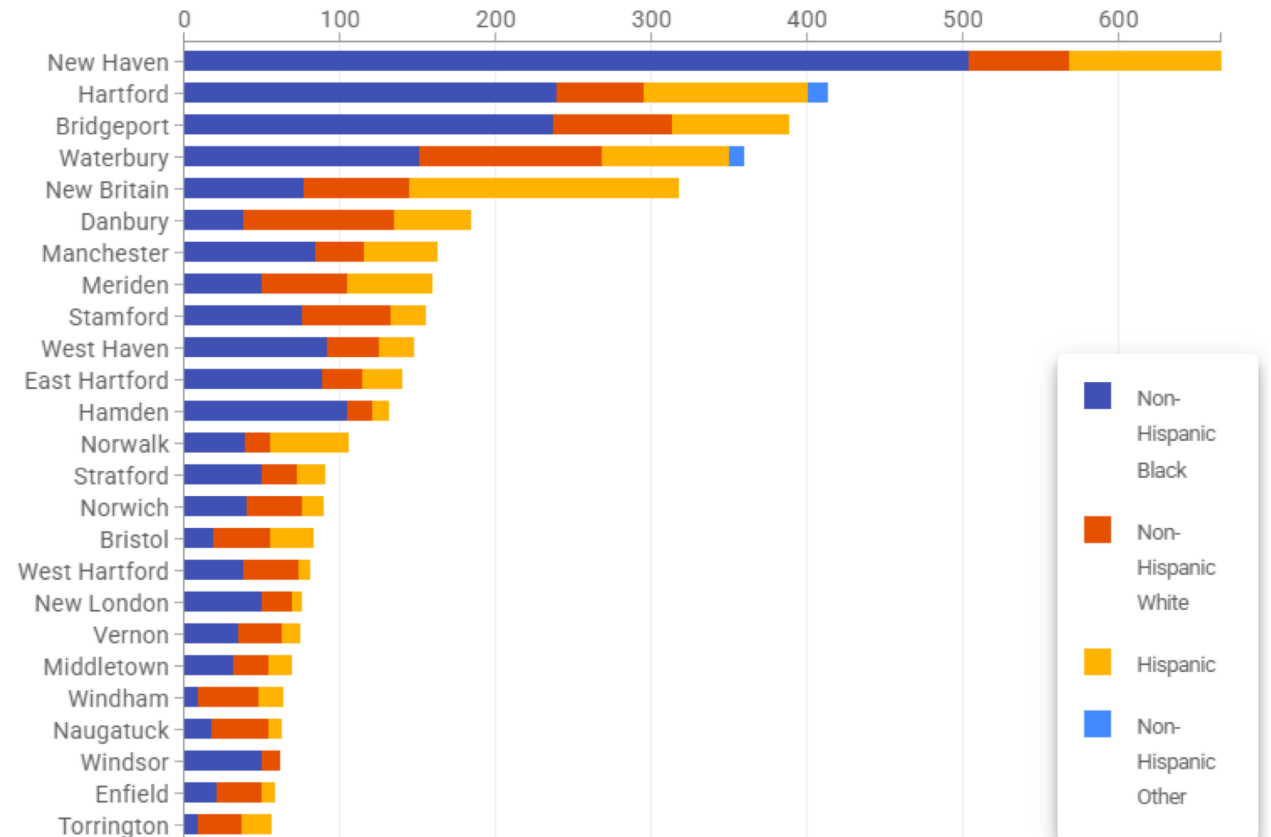
Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard: Working with the data beyond the dashboard

Beyond existing dashboard visualizations, CT Open Data provides users the ability to create their own visualizations of the underlying data hosted on data.ct.gov.

- The chart to the right is one example, made from integrated visualization tools in the platform.

In the future, OPM may explore augmenting the existing dashboards with new views developed within Open Data or with other tools.

2024 Delinquent Referrals to Juvenile Court: Top 25 municipalities by referral volume



Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard: Key Priorities Ahead in 2026

- *Priority 1:* Resolving software impasse to resume dashboard development and updates.
 - Identify near-term and long-term dashboarding technical solutions to maintain existing tool.
 - Complete in progress development of Non-Judicial Handling metric.
- *Priority 2:* Evolving the dashboard tool to support enhanced juvenile justice understanding.
 - In 2026, the JJPOC Cross Agency Data Sharing Work Group will begin a series of focused discussions about opportunities and priorities for growing the dashboard.
 - Identify key *expansions in scope*, i.e. additional measures and system activities to prioritize.
 - Identify *expansions in breadth*, i.e. provide added data context and flexibility to support more detailed understanding of system activities.
 - Identify the technical requirements to support any such expansions.
 - Coordinate on the interagency data sharing environment needed to support any identified enhancements ahead.

THANK YOU



CONNECTICUT
Policy and Management

OPM wishes to acknowledge :
Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch
Data and Policy Analytics Unit, Office of Policy and
Management
Tow Youth Justice Institute

As well as the assistance of OPM CJPPD Research Unit staff:
Melissa Beattie
Justin Etheridge

October JJPOC Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2025

2:00-3:30

Legislative Office Building

Zoom Option Available

Attendance

Amy Marracino

Anthony Nolan

Betty Ann MacDonald

Charles Hewes

Christina Ghio

Colleen Violette

Daniel Karpowitz

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Jillian Gilchrest

Joshua Bernegger

Melanie Dykas

Michael Pierce

Martha Stone

Renee Cimino

Rep. Anthony Nolan

Rep. Jillian Walker

Rep. Veron Beaulieu

Ray Dancy

Sen. Paul Cicarella

Sharmese Walcott

Susan Hamilton

Tais Ericson

Tammy Nguyen

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Toni Walker

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TYJI Staff

Andrew Zhebrak

Brittany Lamarr

Erika Nowakowski

Paul Klee

Welcome and Introductions

Undersecretary Daniel Karpowitz and Representative Toni Walker welcome everyone to the meeting. Brittany's leadership over the past four years was recognized, including her efforts to guide reform work and ensure that dignity, fairness, and hope remained at the center of the committee's mission.

The Chair presented an official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly introduced by the JJPOC, formally congratulating Brittany LaMarr for her service and impact.

Overview of the Meeting

During the October JJPOC meeting, the Court Support Services Division reported on its annual conditions of confinement presentation.

Annual Conditions of Confinement Presentation

The meeting was turned over to CSSD to present the annual Conditions of Confinement Report required under Public Act 19-187 (Sections 3 and 4).

The presentation includes information pertaining to overviewing pretrial detention trends since before the pandemic, reviewing both admissions and characteristics of the population, statutorily required updates on education needs, mental health concerns, and physical safety/intervention data. Updating information for 2023–

2025, as the 2024 report was not presented previously, but all required data is included in the current update.

From 2019 to 2025, pretrial detention admissions decreased by 23.5%, continuing a long-term trend of reductions over the past 25 years. The committee acknowledged that while reform work continues, it is promising that diversion efforts remain effective.

There was an 18% reduction in the number of individual youth admitted to pretrial detention between 2019 and 2025. In 2019: 672 unique youth admitted to Hartford or Bridgeport detention, though in 2025 only 551 unique youth. The data reflects the COVID-era decline followed by increases in subsequent years. The Judicial Branch hopes that admissions will not rise in 2026 and that downward trends will continue.

Data on gender representation in pretrial detention showed continued declines in admissions for boys, with nearly a twenty-percent reduction since 2019. Boys made up eighty-three percent of the population in 2019 and about eighty-two percent in 2025. Progress for girls has been slower; the decline in unique female admissions was about half the reduction seen among boys, dropping from 112 in 2019 to 101 in 2025. As a result, girls now make up a slightly larger share of the overall population.

Updated trends in race and ethnicity showed a 16.5-percent decrease in admissions of white youth between 2019 and 2025, with representation remaining generally stable at around forty to forty-two percent. Admissions of Black youth decreased by about 14.8 percent, yet their representation increased from roughly fifty-three percent before COVID to just over fifty-five percent in 2025. Other racial groups remained small in number, with Asian and Pacific Islander youth representing less than one percent of annual admissions and American Indian or Alaskan Native youth less than three percent. The percentage of youth categorized as “unknown” ranged from about six to three percent over the years. Admissions of Hispanic youth declined by thirty-three percent, with representation shifting from thirty-seven percent in 2019 to thirty percent in 2025.

Average daily population has decreased substantially. The two state-run detention centers experienced a thirty-two-percent decline since 2019. In 2025, the average daily population was forty-four youth, about twenty-two in each facility, compared with roughly sixty-five per facility in 2019 prior to the division into two sites.

Length-of-stay patterns were reviewed, reflecting both COVID-era shifts and changes in statutory detention criteria. During COVID, facilities admitted mostly youth charged with more serious offenses, which increased average stay lengths.

The current average in 2025 is seventeen days, lower than during COVID but still higher than historical pre-reform averages of about eleven days, when youth were detained for less serious reasons. More than half of youth now remain in detention no more than three days, typically entering overnight, appearing in court the next business day, and then being released. Youth who stay longer generally face more serious charges.

The discussion then moved to education-related needs. These figures are based on admissions and reflect intake screening results. The percentage of admissions indicating an intellectual challenge or need—including special education identification, suspected cognitive impairment, or behavioral dysregulation that disrupts learning—has decreased from fifty-two to forty-two percent over the last three fiscal years. Upcoming data will show whether this downward trend continues.

Special education identification was reviewed next. Youth self-reports consistently show lower rates than parent reports, which are always higher. This gap may reflect greater parental awareness, youth reluctance to disclose, or uncertainty among adolescents. For youth who later transfer to treatment programs, confirmed special education identification more than doubles once full school records are obtained.

School engagement indicators at admission were also discussed. Between twenty-five and thirty percent of youth reported having been expelled, and approximately half reported prior suspensions.

English learner identification remains low but has risen from half a percent three years ago to 1.6 percent in 2025. It is unclear whether this represents a short-term fluctuation or an emerging trend that will require continued monitoring.

Mental health history is captured during intake screenings. Youth are categorized as having mental health concerns if they or a parent report a diagnosis, previous treatment, emergency department visits, or hospitalization for mental health reasons. The approach is intentionally conservative, placing youth in this category whenever there is any indication of concern. Percentages have remained in the mid-50s, which aligns with national research showing high mental health prevalence among detained youth, with some studies estimating rates closer to seventy percent. It was noted that initial intake percentages often shift as staff learn more about each youth over time.

Suicidal ideation and suicide watch placements were then discussed. Youth are placed on suicide watch using the same cautious approach, any concerning screening score or indication can trigger a safety placement. As a result, a

substantial number of youth screen into this category, reflecting protective practice rather than confirmed diagnoses.

Suicide watch protocols and screening procedures were outlined. Youth are screened with the Columbia Suicide Risk Screener at admission and at regular intervals throughout their stay. Placement on suicide watch may result from screening scores, verbal statements, or staff concerns. Standard monitoring involves room checks every fifteen minutes. Suicide watch requires checks every four minutes, and constant observation is used for a small percentage of youth, with staff remaining within arm's length at all times, including when the youth is in their room. It was emphasized that safety is the priority in pretrial settings and that suicide risk increases when youth enter facilities, so protocols remain intentionally conservative.

Suicidal behavior data were then reviewed. There was one suicide attempt in 2023 and none in 2024 or 2025. Attempts generally involve a youth tying material around their neck, requiring immediate staff intervention to remove it. It was noted that the last three years show fewer severe expressions of distress compared to earlier periods.

Physical intervention trends were reviewed using calendar-year data. Physical intervention refers to any situation in which staff make physical contact with a youth, from a light guiding touch to a physical hold for safety. In 2019, about twelve percent of the population experienced at least one physical intervention, compared to 8.9 percent in the first three quarters of 2025. Year-to-year figures fall within this general range, with an overall downward trend. It was emphasized that reductions in physical intervention must align with improvements in other safety measures to ensure that decreases are not offset by youth spending more time confined to their rooms.

The primary reasons for physical intervention have shifted over time. From 2019 through 2022, the most common categories were disruptive behavior and assault or peer fighting. In 2023 through 2025, disruptive behavior, disrespectful interactions, and assault or peer fighting were most common. Decreases in fighting and peer assault suggest that staff are intervening earlier and preventing situations from escalating, indicating a meaningful change in behavioral dynamics.

Mechanical restraint data reflect the use of handcuffs inside the facility, not including transportation. Mechanical restraints are used only when there is significant emotional dysregulation and when verbal or physical de-escalation

efforts are not sufficient to maintain safety. There were six incidents in 2021 and twenty-one in 2023, representing a notable increase.

It was noted that in 2023, three youth accounted for the majority of mechanical restraint incidents. These youth had multiple admissions and significant behavioral dysregulation, and standard interventions were not effective. Mechanical restraints were used to maintain safety. Any restraint lasting more than 60 minutes results in an automatic transport to the emergency department for evaluation. Most restraints last only seconds or minutes, and youth who are evaluated typically return within a few hours once stabilized. Over the last three quarters, there were four such occurrences.

Time in room exceeding 60 minutes was reviewed as both a safety measure and a behavioral response. Time in room may occur for personal stabilization, separation following an incident, or as a consequence for ongoing behavior. Staff are working to revise the motivation program so youth spend no longer than necessary in their rooms, aligning room time with de-escalation and short timeouts. Trends show improvement: in 2019, about eight percent of youth spent more than 60 minutes in room, compared to 4.3 percent in the first three quarters of 2025. The average amount of time spent in a room has also decreased from 4.5 hours in 2019 to 2.5 hours in 2025. Efforts continue to strengthen de-escalation skills, refine the behavior motivation system, and develop incentives that support cooperation.

The chair thanked the presenter and offered several reflections. They noted improvements across multiple indicators, including population size, staff intervention strategies, and related outcomes. They raised concern about the concentration of mechanical restraints among three youth in 2023 and expressed significant concern about racial disparities in the data, noting that representation of Black and Latino youth remains disproportionately high and consistent over time. They stated that deeper conversations are needed about how these disparities emerge and how interventions differ across communities. The chair also emphasized the importance of accurate data to measure progress, identify gaps, and guide honest assessment of ongoing work. The floor was then opened for questions.

A member thanked the presenter for the data and stressed that the disparities between Black, Hispanic, and White youth remain a serious concern that requires focused attention. They noted that the committee has a responsibility to confront these disparities directly, engage in difficult discussions, and work toward concrete

solutions. They encouraged dedicating future meetings to collective problem-solving and planning.

The member also acknowledged the positive reductions across several measures and asked for clarity on which reforms contributed to which outcomes. They expressed interest in understanding the specific efforts that produced these improvements and how they might be strengthened or expanded.

The presenter summarized major reforms implemented over the past 25 years that have driven sustained reductions in court involvement and detention. These included investments in evidence-based programs such as MST and FFT, legislative changes like Raise the Age, removal of status offenses from statute, expansion of Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards, risk-based case handling in probation, and narrowing the statutory criteria for detention. They noted that continued declines, even decades after reforms began, suggest that the system is still applying effective, research-supported practices.

The member reflected that these efforts represent meaningful progress but urged the committee to examine where their impact can be deepened, particularly with respect to racial disparities. They also noted that future progress will depend on continued investment.

Another member added that the state's renewed participation in OJJDP initiatives is significant, as this support has historically included training for police and schools, funding for pilot programs, evaluation support, and capacity-building for state and nonprofit providers. They emphasized that re-engagement with OJJDP creates new opportunities for innovation and system improvement.

A committee member highlighted the renewed opportunity created by the state's re-engagement with OJJDP funding. They noted that this funding has historically supported police and school training, piloted community-based programs, and expanded capacity for state and nonprofit providers. They emphasized the need to determine where investments should be prioritized to strengthen broad system components, not just the court system, to create the greatest statewide impact for youth.

Q: A member asked whether the committee could review how well current interventions work for different subgroups. They pointed out that declines in detention admissions, such as the decrease for Black youth from 357 to 304, may not be occurring evenly across all populations. They suggested identifying which

interventions show strong or promising effects for particular subgroups so the committee can accelerate progress and reduce disparities.

Answer:

The Judicial Branch does have the ability to conduct certain subgroup-specific analyses. They explained that several interventions within the service continuum, especially those administered through the Judicial Branch, have enough data to support more targeted review. They recommended starting with areas where data is most robust and then determining where additional data collection would be necessary.

Question:

A member referred to the prior discussion with facility leadership regarding the DOJ settlement and asked whether next year's conditions of confinement report could move beyond basic school engagement measures. They suggested including indicators that reflect actual educational progress for youth who remain long enough to show growth, such as step-ups in academic levels, skill gains, course completion, grade advancement, or progress toward graduation.

Answer:

The Juvenile Justice Education Unit is working with education providers in residential programs and the correctional system to strengthen how academic progress is measured. They explained that agencies expect to be able to report more detailed information next year, including where youth start academically and their status at discharge.

Question:

The Chair revisited the racial disparities slide and asked whether the data represented youth who had been arrested by police and then placed in detention by a judge. The Chair noted that the patterns in the data mirror disparities seen in several districts and communities and stressed the importance of continued work with POST on police training, youth interactions, and strategies that help reduce deeper system involvement. They emphasized the need for stronger collaboration with law enforcement and more targeted interventions.

Answer:

It was confirmed that the youth in the data were arrested by police and subsequently ordered into detention by a judge. The Chair reiterated that the disparities shown require a more concentrated, coordinated effort and that the expertise around the table is essential to advancing a deeper and more sustained focus on this issue.

Question : A committee member asked for clarification regarding the physical intervention data, on if the percentages represent youth experiencing at least one intervention., whether the total number of incidents could be provided, and whether interventions can be separated into categories (light touch, escort, restraint).

Answer : The percentage represent at least one intervention, the total number and type of incidents could be provided.

There are few observations from the REGIONS model, particularly in ACES phase one and phase two programs. Recidivism rates among participating youth have declined. Therapeutic and clinical services are strong, and youth are actively using the skills they learn. Youth in Phase 2 have opportunities to attend community high schools while maintaining Region supports as a “safety net.” Many youth transition successfully into full community school enrollment, and districts often request continued collaboration. The consistent model across settings has improved attendance, school engagement, and high school graduation, with increased interest in college and trades.

Question : How are staff trained to handle de-escalation?

Answer : Staff receive extensive de-escalation training using Safe Crisis Management, which emphasizes verbal de-escalation as the primary tool. The curriculum also includes safe physical intervention techniques for situations where a youth is at risk of harming themselves or others. Staff must complete ongoing training and recertification to maintain competence in both verbal and physical intervention skills. Ongoing training requirements include: Monthly SCM booster sessions and annual recertification.

On the treatment side (Regions), the agency has implemented Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), which is centered on verbal de-escalation, emotional regulation, and skills-based interventions. The DBT model has significantly reduced physical interventions, incidents, and time spent in rooms.

There is a comment noting the difference between Hartford’s pretrial detention setting and the Hamden Regions program, particularly regarding access to therapeutic services. They described recent restorative circles at Hartford as highly positive, with strong engagement from both facility leadership and the youth. They stressed that restorative practices should not be limited to resolving conflicts but should be embedded throughout daily routines, academic activities, and the broader facility culture. One participant recommended that circles be incorporated

throughout the day, including in classroom settings, to create continuity and stability for young people.

A program representative responded that restorative practices are in use across all facilities, though the level of implementation varies. The long-term aim is to expand consistency so that circles become a routine part of programming, a primary approach for addressing conflict, and a youth-centered method for shaping unit culture. Work is ongoing to strengthen and standardize restorative practice integration across programs.

Question: Does the report only contain pretrial data?

Answer: The presentation focused on pretrial conditions of confinement. REGIONS programs require a more robust presentation since data, services, and length of stay differ from pretrial.

Question : There is a question regarding the increase in girls entering the system. Looking at 2023–2025, there has been an upward trend, including a notable jump between 2022 and 2023.

Answer : The system has not made the same level of progress for girls as it has for boys. Engaging with girls tends to be more complex, are often connected to unstable and unsafe environments, and leave placements abruptly when distressed.

A member then highlighted some contrasting observations:

There is an extraordinary overall reduction in admissions. With total admissions now slightly above 500 annually, the system is “light-years” from the early 2000s and early 2010s, when 240 youth could be held in detention on any given night, leading to overcrowding and youth sleeping on portable “boats.”

They emphasized that statewide efforts, which including reduced arrest rates and narrowed detention criteria, and have produced remarkable progress.

There are still extremely high rates of suspension/expulsion prior to admission: Based on the charts, roughly 75% of youth admitted had a prior suspension or expulsion, which the speaker described as “extraordinary.”

They stressed that being disconnected from school remains a major risk factor for deep-end system involvement and requested future analysis of which specific

school districts account for the largest share of these events, and any patterns indicating concentration or disproportionality

They added that at a national panel discussion the previous evening, a researcher presented evidence that while suspensions and expulsions have fallen overall, they have risen for Black girls. They questioned whether Connecticut is seeing a similar trend.

Members returned to the issue of school suspensions and expulsions, noting their strong connection to deeper system involvement. One participant referenced national research showing increasing suspension rates among Black girls and suggested this as an area for the JJPOC's Gender-Specific Workgroup to explore further. They emphasized the need to support school systems with training on the unique histories and trauma profiles of girls who act out in school, an area where education-sector awareness is often limited.

A request was made to analyze which districts are driving Connecticut's suspension and expulsion numbers, especially in urban districts like New Haven, Hartford, and Waterbury.

Question : How many years of data are required to establish a reliable trend?

Answer : three years is insufficient, and that five years is generally the minimum to begin identifying meaningful trends, with 10 years preferable for assessing direction and stability.

Question : Given that the system has changed substantially (e.g., reduced arrests, narrowed detention criteria), do current numbers reflect true improvement or simply the effects of structural changes?

Answer : The complexity of assessing "how much" numbers should have dropped in a redesigned system. She deferred in part to the JJPOC's CAD Committee, noting that while decreases are encouraging, interpreting whether they represent expected, above-expected, or below-expected progress requires deeper analysis.

A member asked whether a dedicated Regions program exists for girls. CSSD confirmed that it does, noting that Journey House and Mansfield provide robust, gender-responsive programming comparable to the boys' Regions model. A small number of girls with exceptionally aggressive behavior may instead receive Regions-level treatment within Hartford due to safety or staffing considerations, but

emphasized that the Journey House model offers a full treatment complement and is not deficient relative to male programming.

There was an additional update providing historical context regarding long-term trends. He emphasized that Connecticut's data patterns over the last 25 years must be interpreted with an understanding that major policy reforms repeatedly interrupted trend lines, with each producing intended reductions in system involvement. He noted that COVID-19 produced another significant, non-policy disruption.

There's a recommendation to examine trends within policy consistent periods, rather than across long spans where eligibility, criteria, and age ranges shifted. He cited the impact of Raise the Age, pointing out that earlier detention populations included only youth up to age 15. For example, in 2006 there were approximately 2,880 admissions for under-16 youth. Today, including 16- and 17-year-olds, admissions total roughly 800, a substantial decline even with a broader age range. He underscored that committee-led legislative reforms have significantly shaped these reductions.

Members also recalled past detention practices that permitted confinement for truancy, which have since been eliminated. Historical examples were provided showing how detention was once used for status offenses, contributing to extremely high pre-reform population levels.

A participant offered personal testimony as someone who experienced detention in the 1990s. He described conditions at that time such as overcrowding, youths sleeping on "boats," and detention for truancy to highlight the magnitude of Connecticut's shift away from punitive responses to school absence and low-level behavior. He emphasized the importance of addressing upstream factors like home stability, school climate, community supports, noting that families and children today face significant pressures that must be part of policy conversations.

A member with lived experience provided a detailed perspective on the upstream conditions many youths face before entering detention. He emphasized that families often experience significant instability, mental health strain, financial stress, and community-level violence, which shapes youth behavior long before their interaction with the justice system. Schools, already overwhelmed, encounter these issues daily, and detention facilities ultimately receive youth after all earlier layers of support have been strained.

He noted that youth in secure settings often experience conflict differently due to prolonged close quarters, which can escalate routine disagreements into physical incidents that trigger restraints. He highlighted that prolonged confinement together naturally creates tension, and staff interpretations of behavior can escalate situations that, in a family or community setting, might be resolved informally. He also raised concerns about the limits of training for frontline professionals, using a recent example involving police response. He described how an officer, despite receiving formal training, reacted out of fear during a confrontation with a youth, resorting to a Taser. He argued that training alone may not address deeper deficits in cultural understanding, conflict experience, and emotional regulation among adults in authority roles. According to the police captain he spoke with, some officers lack basic experience with physical confrontation or high-conflict youth settings, and fear can override training.

He stressed the need for cultural competence, noting that officers and staff often interpret identical behaviors differently depending on the race of the youth, informed by their own backgrounds and lived experiences. He explained that Black staff in his childhood facility approached youth differently because they understood the cultural context and the behavior through personal experience. A lack of this cultural grounding can distort perceptions of threat and drive disproportionate responses.

Finally, he urged the group to look beyond data and toward root causes. While the system has made measurable progress, he cautioned that “the bucket still has leaks.” He argued that without integrating lived experience and cultural context into policy, training, and intervention strategies, the system will continue addressing only the “finished product” rather than the conditions producing youth distress. He encouraged the group to prioritize community voice, lived experience, and upstream understanding in ongoing ref

The member with lived experience expanded on earlier comments, emphasizing that system actors often encounter youth only after multiple upstream stressors, including but not limited to family, instability, mental health crises, poverty, community violence, and school-level pressures. He argued that detention facilities receive the “finished product,” making intervention significantly more challenging unless the root conditions in homes, communities, and schools are addressed. He highlighted that many frontline staff and officers lack understanding of the cultural context in which Black and brown youth live. He noted that when he was detained as a child, most staff were people of color who understood the environment he came from. Today, many personnel, including correctional and police officers, have limited exposure to Black and brown communities outside of their

work settings. This contributes to misinterpretation of behaviors and disproportionate responses. He emphasized that “lived experience is the most important data point” and that cultural disconnect continues to undermine the impact of training.

He shared examples illustrating how fear can override training, particularly when officers lack familiarity with youth behavior, conflict, or high-tension interactions. He described a recent incident where a youth was tased despite posing no lethal threat, and explained that the officer’s fear, not the youth’s actions, drove the escalation. He urged the committee to integrate lived experience into training frameworks so that responses are grounded in cultural knowledge, not assumptions.

He concluded that meaningful juvenile justice reform must address the homes, schools, and communities in which youth live. Without upstream investment, efforts remain reactive: “If we try to fix juvenile justice but don’t fix the school, the home, the community, all we’re doing is this.”

Next Meeting:
November 20, 2025
2:00 PM-3:30 PM
Legislative Office Building