

Navigating Concerns on Youth Crime, Violence, and Behavioral Health: Three Steps to Take Series

Agency Leaders and Community Providers

February 11, 2025



Justice Center

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

About the CSG Justice Center

A national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, representing all three branches of state government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities



The Challenge:

Adolescents are increasingly struggling with challenges that can impact their well-being, and ultimately, risk to themselves or others.

Public systems and providers are struggling to address these needs.



The Challenge:

Youth arrests for violent offenses overall remain historically low. However, post-pandemic, youth arrests for homicide and weapons surged.



The Challenge:

Most youth involved in the juvenile justice system have committed offenses that don't involve physical harm to another person.

State responses risk increasing the use of the justice system as a default response to adolescents in crisis, causing more harm than good.

Justice system involvement negatively affects the entire course of young people's lives.

Youth formally processed by the juvenile justice system experience far worse outcomes in the 5 years after arrest as compared to similar youth who were diverted:

X More likely to be rearrested and incarcerated

X More engaged in violence

X More peers involved in delinquency

X Lower school attainment and graduation rates

X Fewer skills to manage their emotions

X Lower perception of opportunity

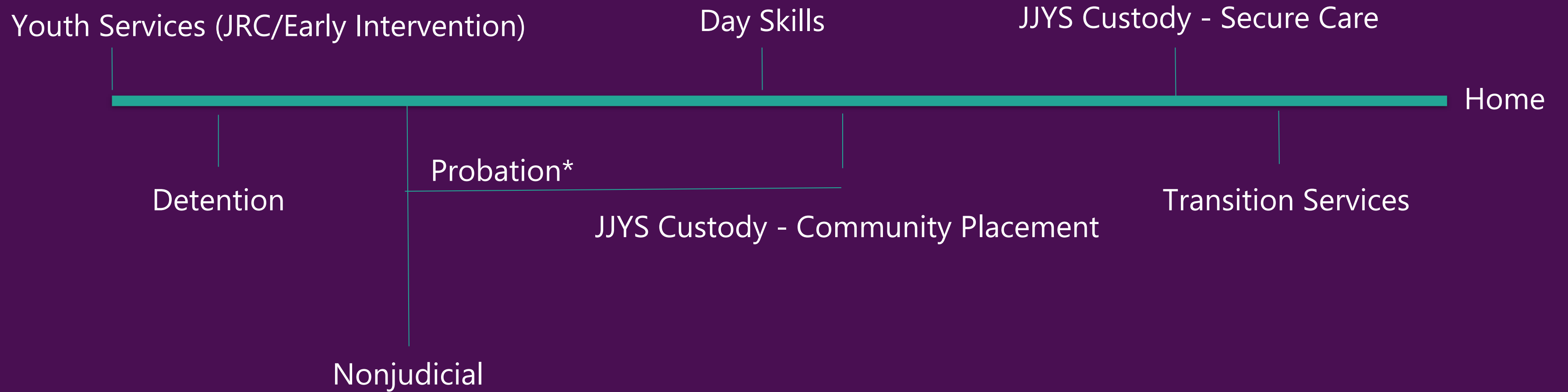
Youth are often pushed into the justice system to get them services or hold them “accountable,” not for public safety reasons.

A six-year-old boy was arrested for picking a flower at his bus stop. Though his case was ultimately dismissed, he still had to endure the trauma of arrest and a court proceeding.

Juvenile Justice and Youth Services

Brett Peterson, Director

Continuum of Services



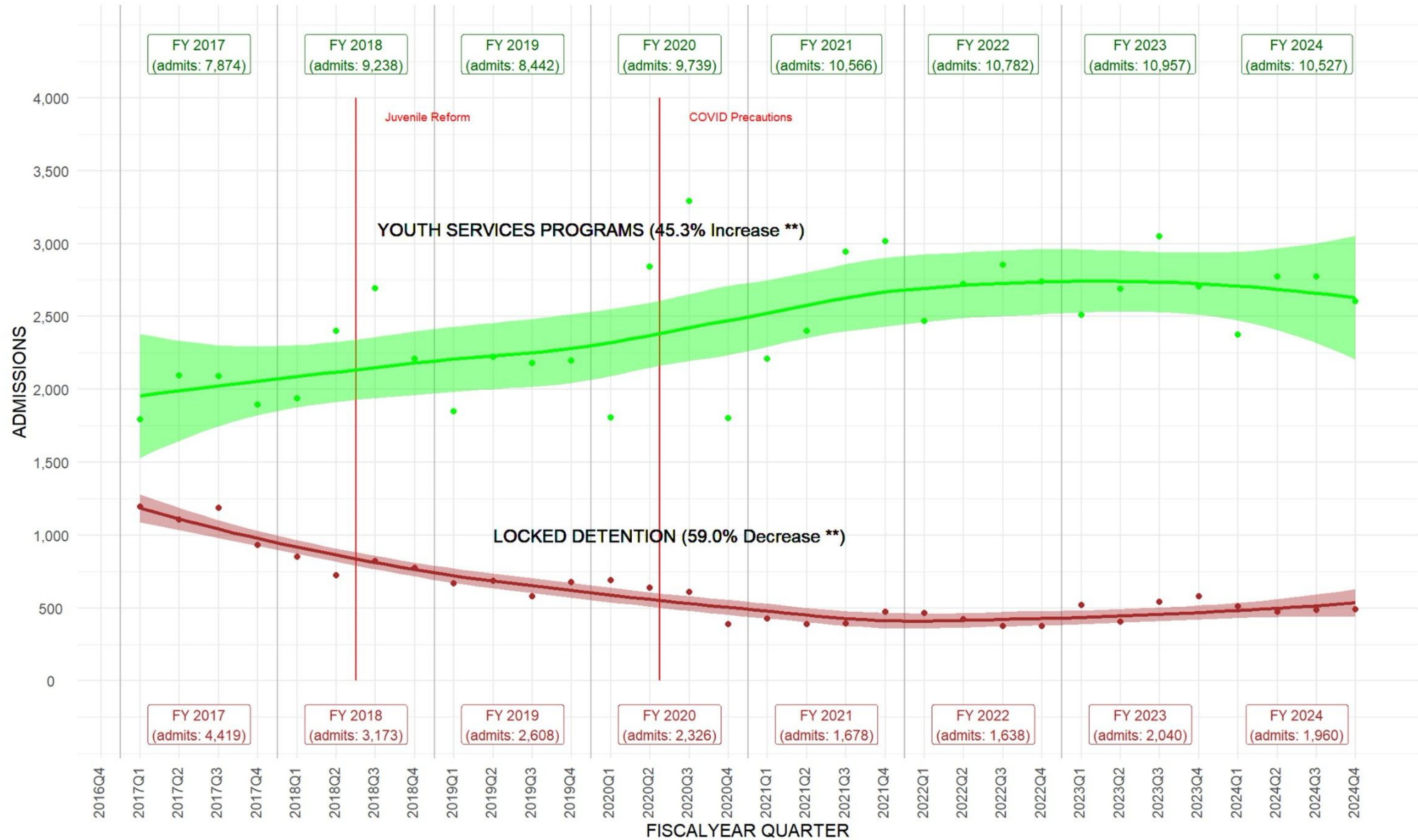


YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Model Is A “No Wrong Door” Approach To Early Intervention. Through This Model, Utah Delivers Evidence Based, Individualized Youth And Family Plans With Early Screening, Assessment, Plan Management, And Comprehensive Access To Services--All Driven By The Youth And Family Strengths And Needs.

Admissions to JJYS Locked Detention & Youth Services Programs by Fiscal Year and Quarter

(FY 2019–FY 2024)

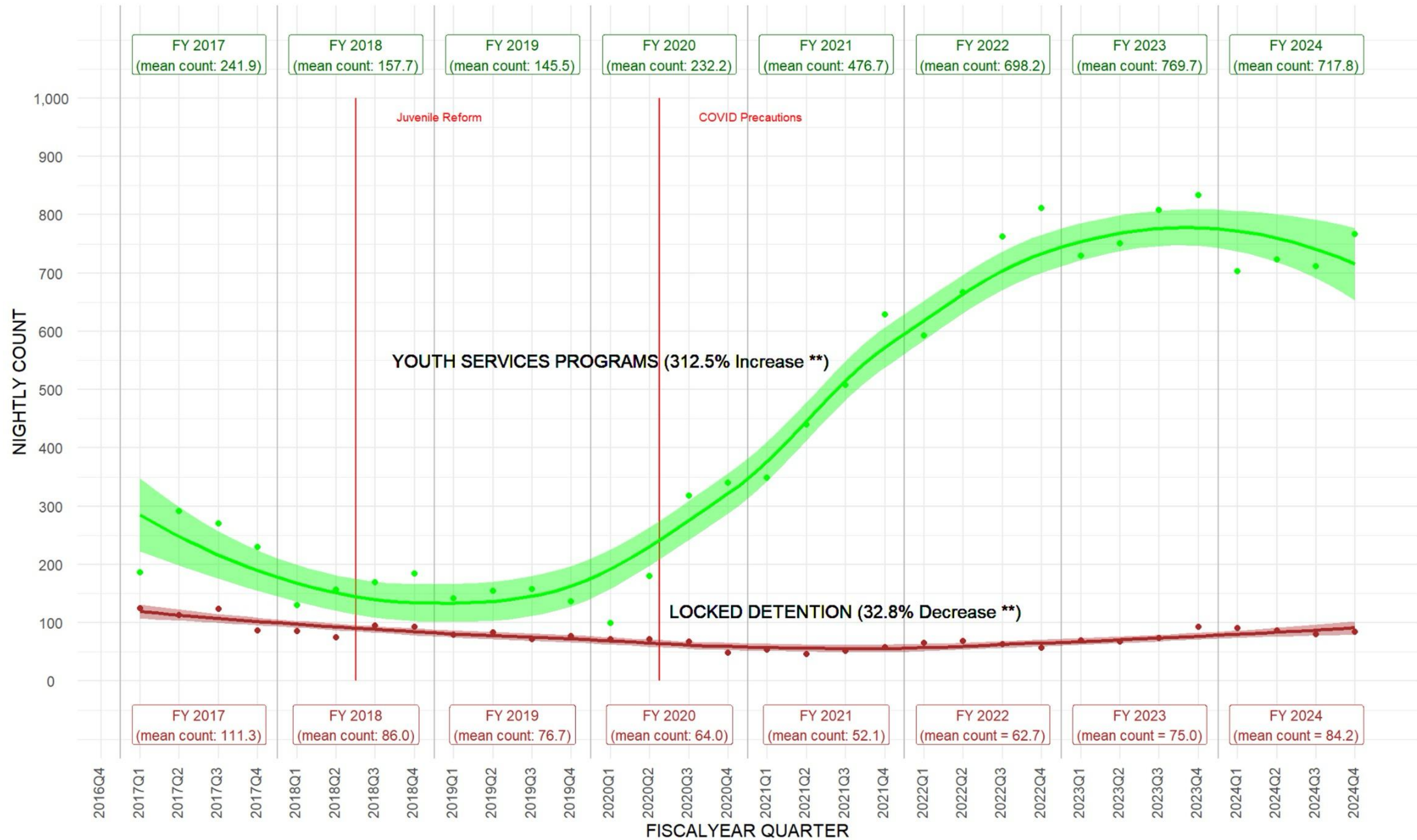


Source: Courts & Agencies Record Exchange(CARE); 2024-08-01 10:50:21.944759.

** Change between 2017Q1 & 2024Q4.

Nightly Counts in JJYS Locked Detention & Youth Services Programs by Fiscal Year and Quarter

(FY 2019–FY 2024)



Source: Courts & Agencies Record Exchange(CARE); 2024-08-01 10:51:08.780428.

** Change between 2017Q1 & 2024Q4.

New Hampshire's Juvenile Justice Transformation

**Morissa Henn, Deputy Commissioner
February 2025**

Juvenile Justice System Transformation

Old System (pre-2016):

- Reactive, Punitive, Risk-Based
- How do you get services in place? Get involved in DCYF and maybe a judge orders them.



New System (2016–now):

- Proactive, Responsive, Strengths-Focused
- How do you get services in place? Assess needs early, divert from courts, and connect to services.

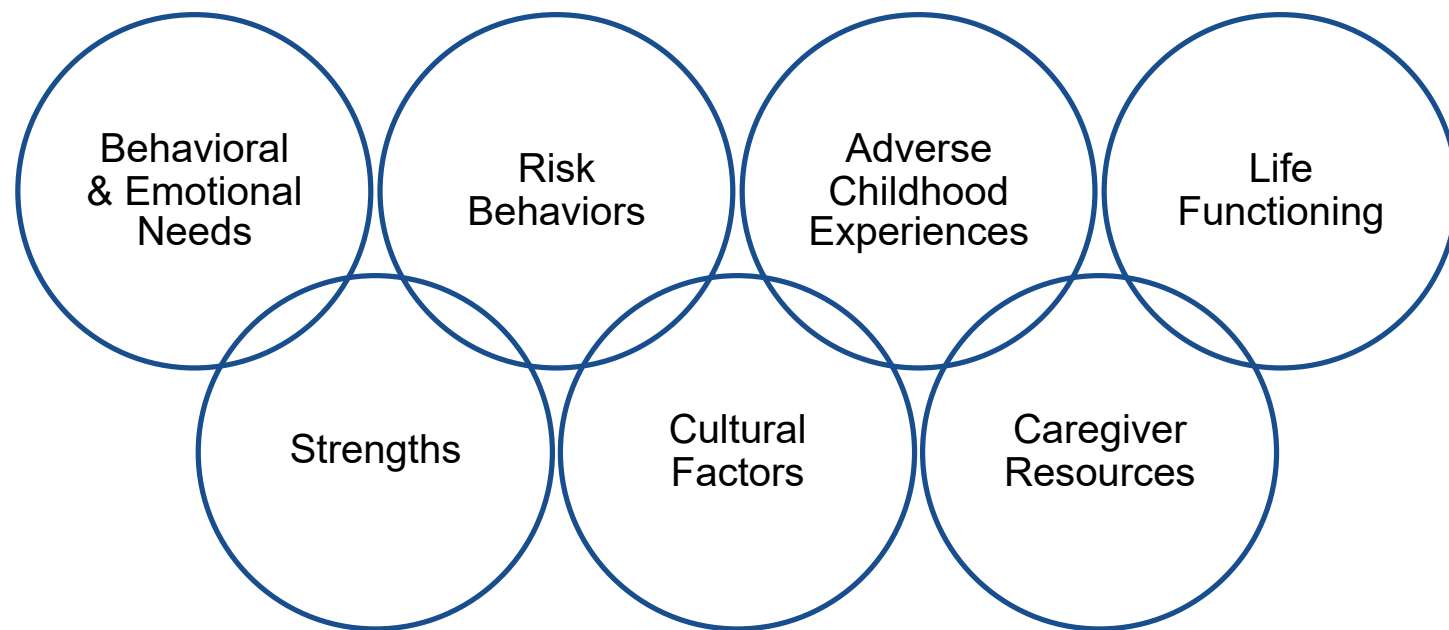
New Hampshire's Strategic Approach

- **Build alternatives** to juvenile justice system involvement
- **Understand and address needs** before system involvement
- **Intentionally divert/deflect** from juvenile justice system whenever possible
- **Individualize care**—base rules of probation and case plans on identified needs and strengths

New Hampshire's Strategic Approach

Prior to filing a delinquency petition with the court, law enforcement must make a referral to DHHS for a voluntary needs assessment. DHHS uses this voluntary needs assessment to make recommendations about whether a petition is necessary and what supports are needed—and law enforcement or prosecutor must review it before deciding what action to take.

Child and Adolescent Needs & Strengths Assessment

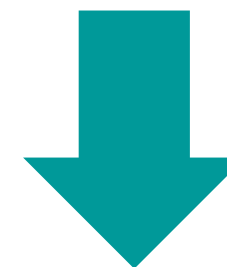


Most commonly finding:

- Challenges functioning in school and making good decisions
- Family stress and supervision issues
- Impulsivity and adjustment to trauma

Most commonly recommending:

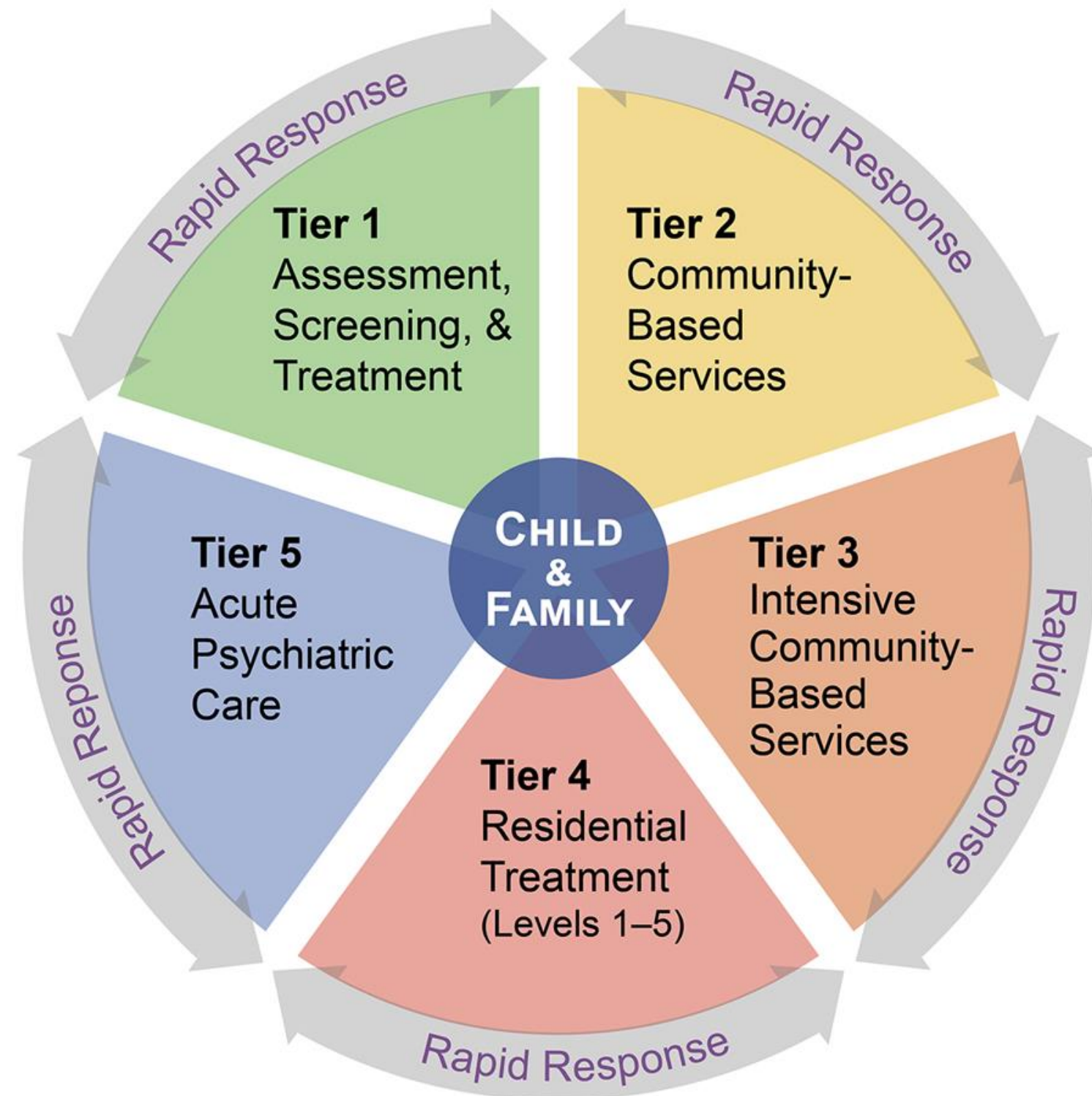
- Behavioral health services
- Community-based activities (Girls & Boys Club, supported employment, restorative justice activities, etc.)



Law enforcement follows the recommendation 94% of the time!

Result = Overwhelming diversion from court involvement

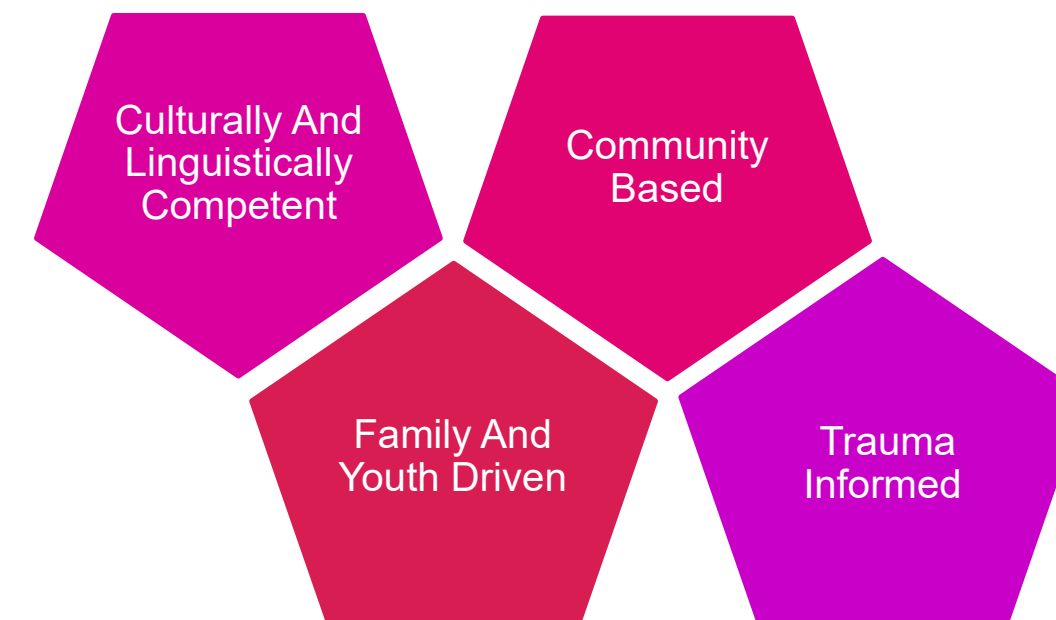
Children's System of Care Overview



SOC Framework is designed to ensure that:

- Children and their families receive an array of services across an integrated continuum of care, and
- All services and supports adhere to System of Care Values

Values

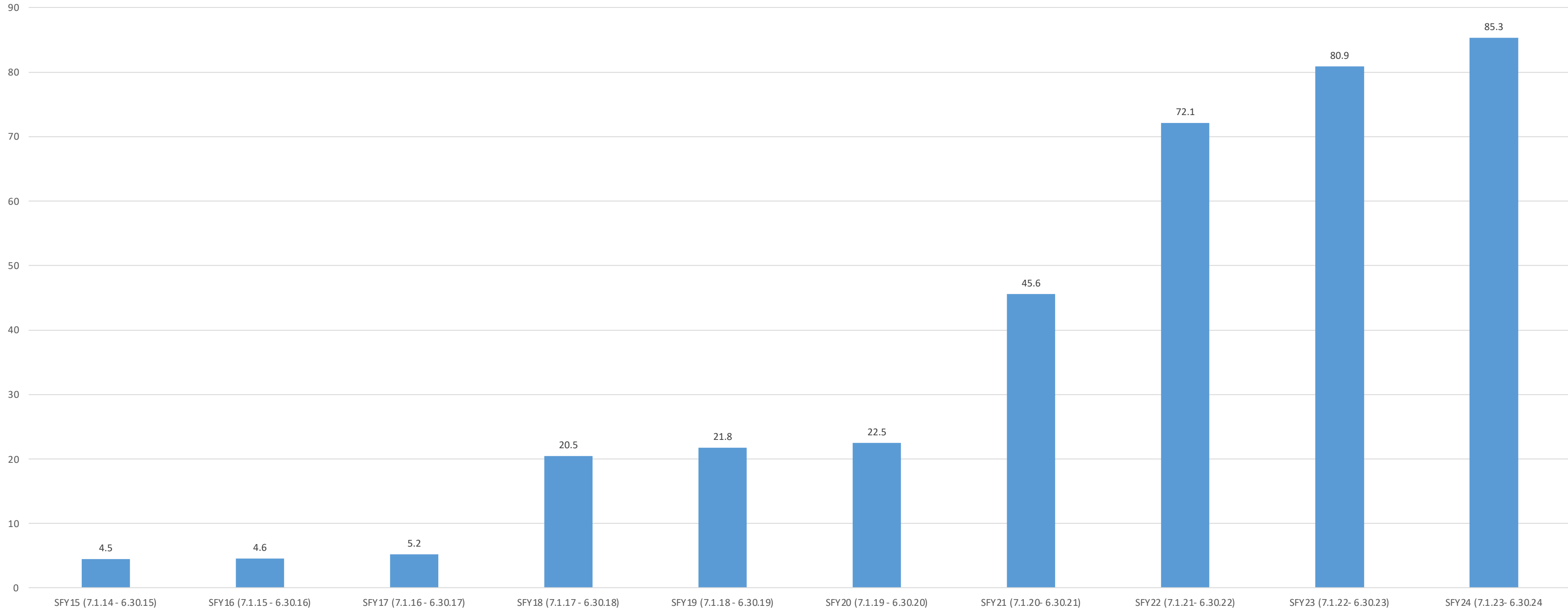


These Core Values are included as terms in all contracts for Children's Behavioral Health Services

Fast Forward—High Fidelity Wraparound for Youth with Complex BH Issues

Avg. #of Referrals per month

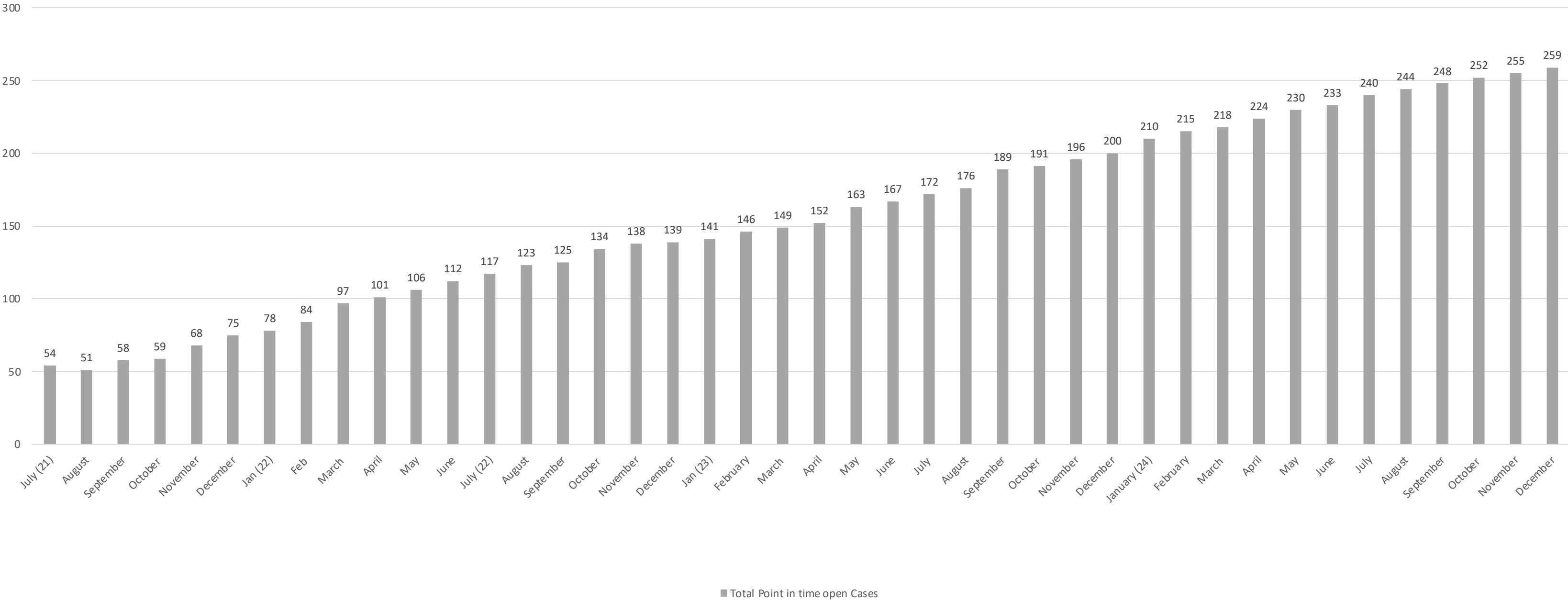
***FY25 currently = 79.8 per month**



TRECC– Wraparound for Kids Navigating Residential Treatment of Inpatient Care

Total youth served through TRECC from 7.1.21 through 12.31.24: **430**

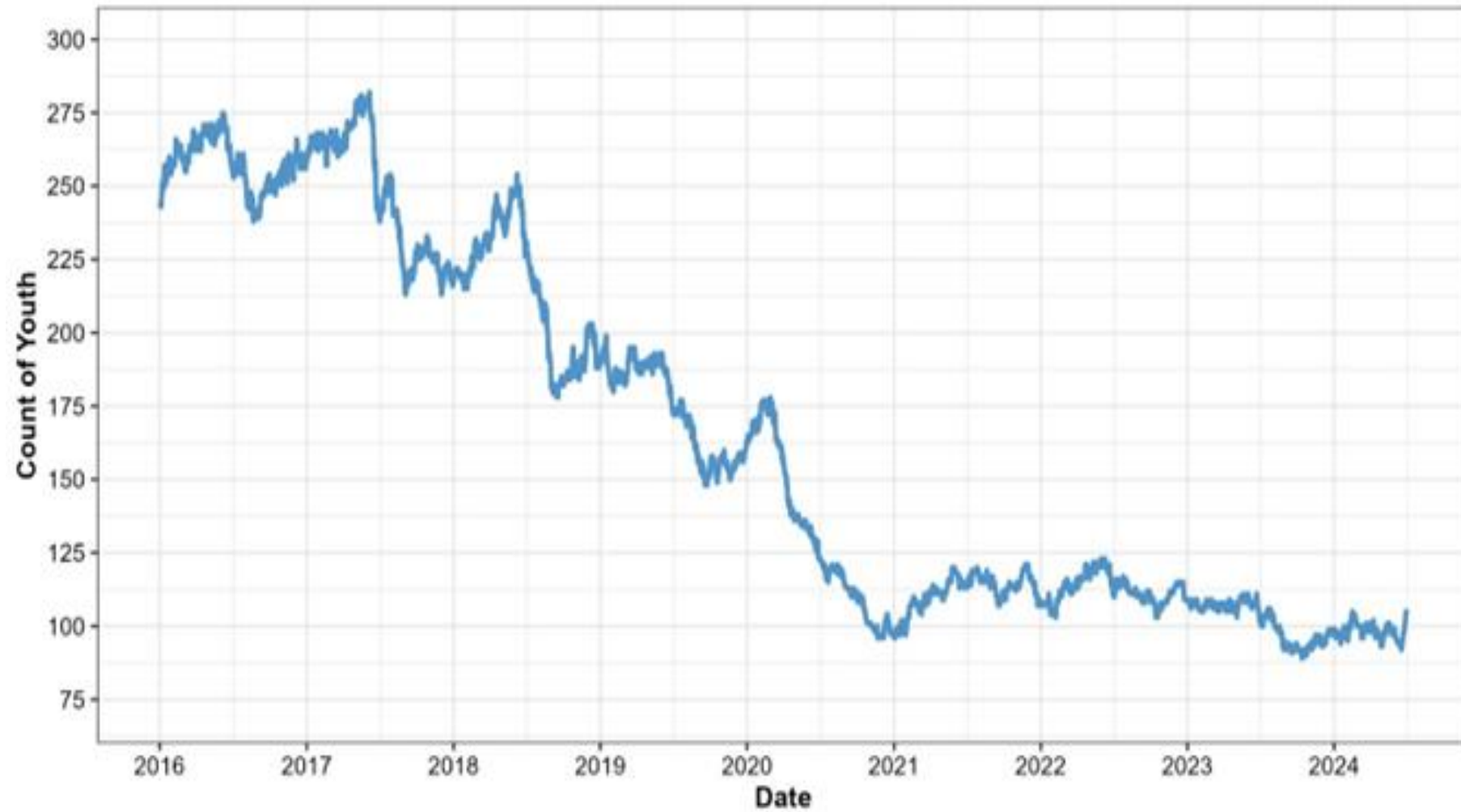
Total Point in time open Cases



Fewer Youth in Residential Care and Detention

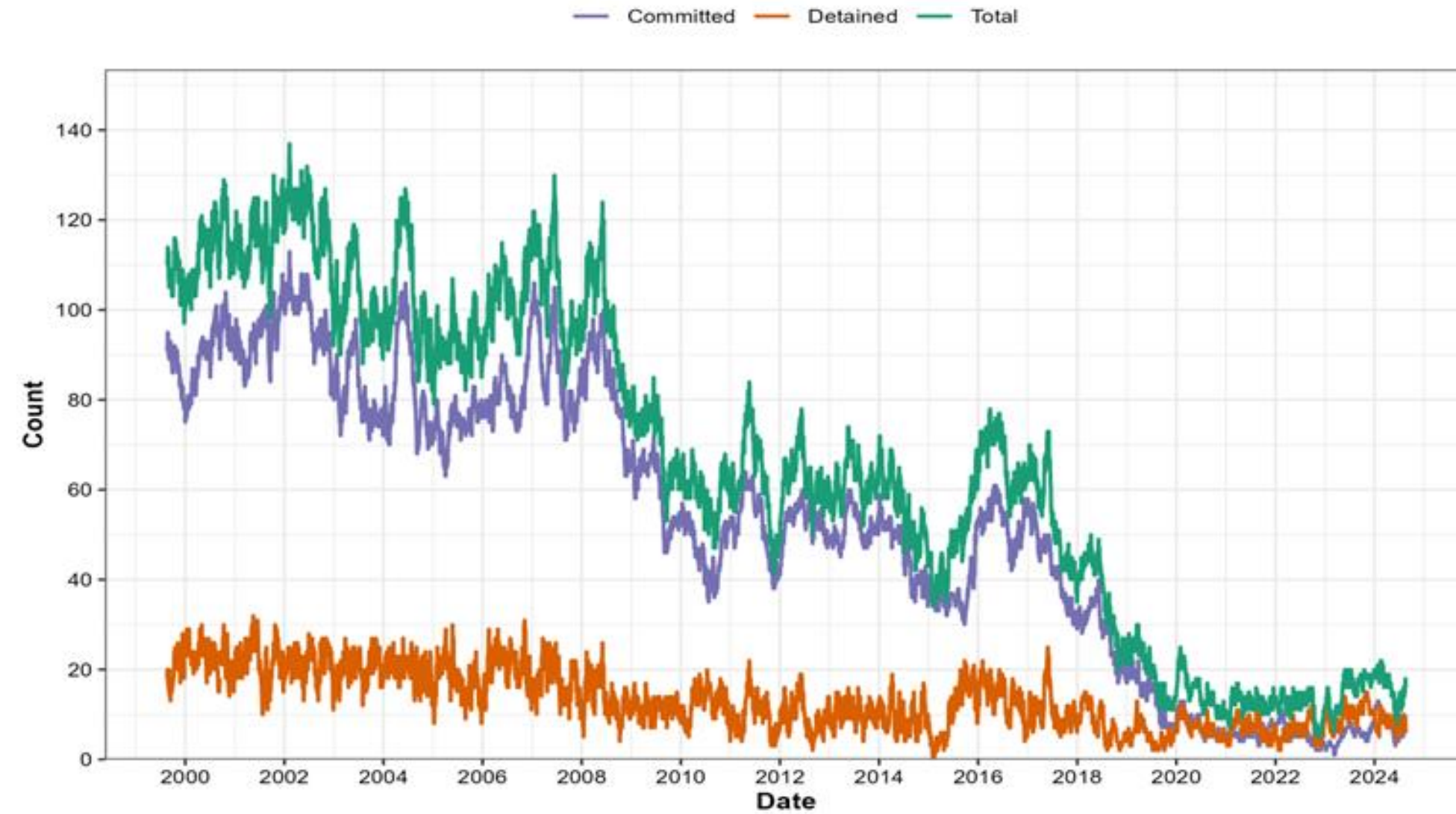
Daily Count of JJS Youth in Residential Placement Settings

For Youth in All Juvenile Justice Case Types, Jan 1, 2016–June 30, 2024



Daily Count of JJS Youth in Detention

All Genders, Detained/Committed/ICJ/Minors Charged as Adults
August 20, 1999–August 19, 2024



Other Key Enabling Factors

1. Revised Conditions of Release (Probation)

These are my rules of probation, including my individual plan:

1. I will remain arrest free and obey all laws.
2. I will follow all orders of the court.
3. I will submit to reasonable searches of my person, room, and personal property to maintain safety of my person, living environment and community.
4. I will not possess, transport, control, or receive any weapon, explosive device, or firearm.
5. I will follow my identified individual plan, as follows:

2. Expanded Medicaid support for children's behavioral health, including juvenile reentry

3. Replacing 144-bed correctional detention facility with 12-bed therapeutic, home-like facility

➤ Roca's Mission

To **relentlessly disrupt violence** by engaging young people, police, and systems to **heal from trauma**, find hope, and drive change.





TWO LEVERS FOR CHANGE

Reducing urban violence and addressing trauma are fundamental to achieving racial and economic justice.



DIRECT SERVICE MODEL BRINGING REWIRE CBT SKILLS TO THE STREETS

OUR YOUTH WORKERS give young people the tools to think, feel, and do differently, and free themselves from survival mode living.



ROCA IMPACT INSTITUTE BRINGING REWIRE CBT SKILLS TO PARTNERS

The IMPACT INSTITUTE gives individuals and agencies on the front lines of violence the tools to approach young people differently.



➤ What Roca does



1

CREATE SAFETY AND STABILITY

We do **relentless outreach** and build **transformational relationships** with young people to develop the *foundation for change*. We meet basic needs, make meaningful connections, and provide moments feeling free from harm.



2

TEACH LIFE-SAVING SKILLS

We teach a relatable and simple version of **Rewire CBT** in the streets – and anywhere a young person is.



3

PRACTICE SKILLS, RELAPSE, & REPEAT

We create tailored programs that serve as spaces for young to change, not when they are “ready,” but as they still struggle.



4

ENGAGE INSTITUTIONS & SYSTEMS

We relentlessly reach out to system partners, build relationships, and jointly practice new skills that produce better outcomes.



The Roca **IMPACT INSTITUTE**

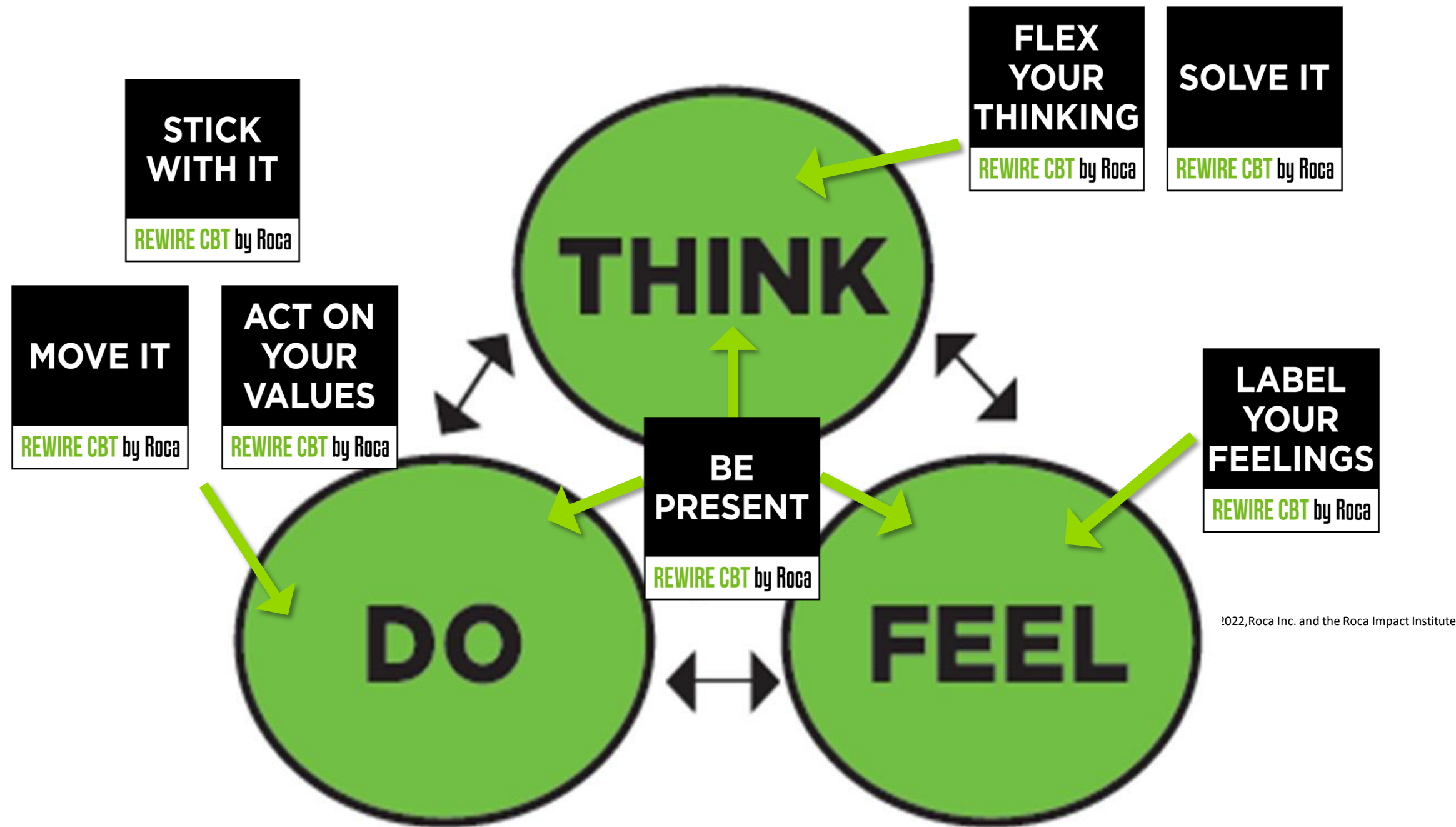
IN MEMORY OF JAMES E. MAHONEY



Roca worked with **Massachusetts General Hospital** to develop Rewire CBT – a simple and relatable CBT skill-based practice that Roca uses with young people.



REWIRE CBT BY ROCA



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**CBT Skills
for Living**

REWIRE CBT by Roca

REWIRE CBT by Roca



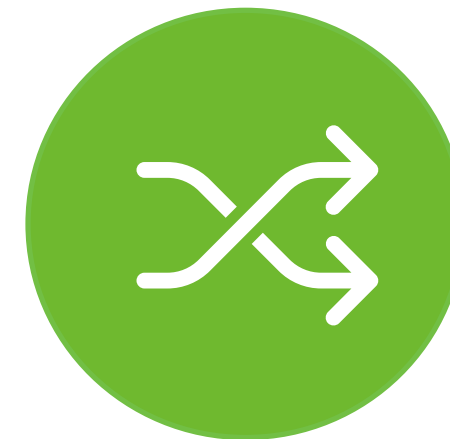
Seven core life saving skills: taught, applied and practiced

P: "It is very relatable and easy to understand and apply to life."



Fully mobile: on the corner, in a workshop, on the go

M: "We can take it wherever we go, learning how to disrupt..."



Accessible non-clinical approach created for front line staff

A: "The examples and language are relevant for our youth, like it was made just for them."

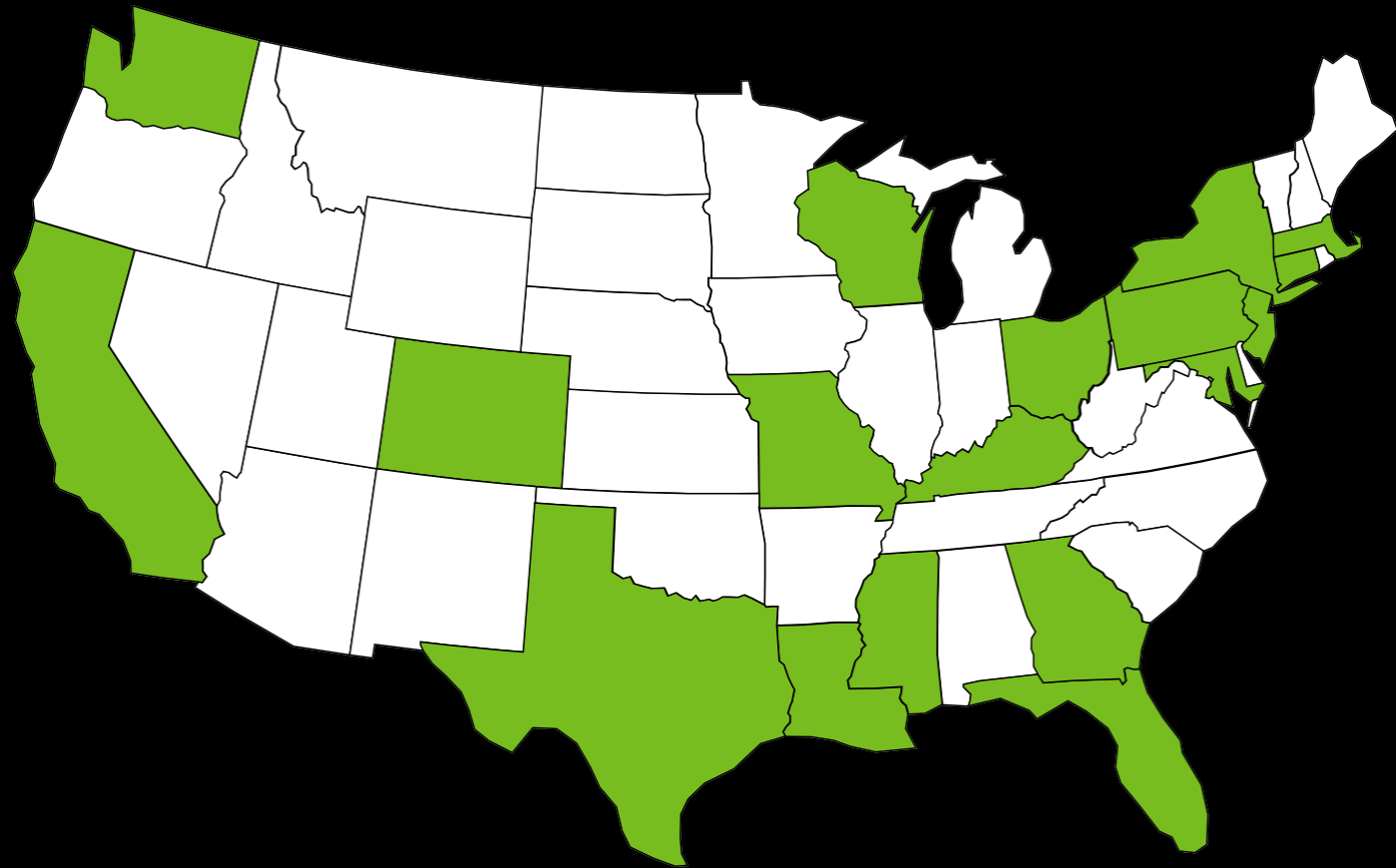
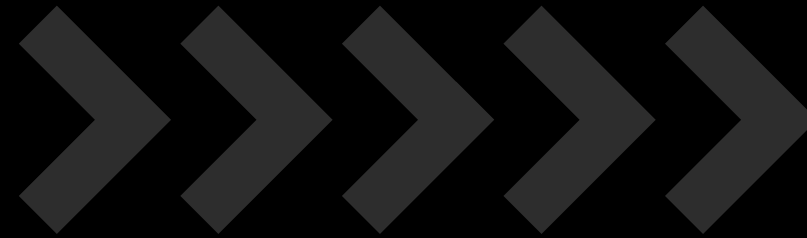


Short, simple and flexible- it can be used in any order, any time

A: "People don't have to be intimidated to use it and we can..."



WHERE WE TRAIN AND COACH



WASHINGTON

— King County

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco
Oakland

COLORADO

— Denver

WISCONSIN

— Milwaukee

OHIO

— 7+ Cities
and Counties

KENTUCKY

— Louisville

LOUISIANA

— Baton Rouge

TEXAS

— Harris County

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MARYLAND

Statewide (DJS)
Baltimore
Baltimore County
Prince George's Co.

GEORGIA

— Atlanta

FLORIDA

— West Palm Beach

MISSOURI

— St. Louis

MISSISSIPPI

— Jackson

MASSACHUSETTS

— 10+ Cities and Counties

CONNECTICUT

Bridgeport
Hartford
New Haven

NEW YORK

New York City
Buffalo
Rochester

NEW JERSEY

— Patterson

PENNSYLVANIA

— Philadelphia

FY 2024

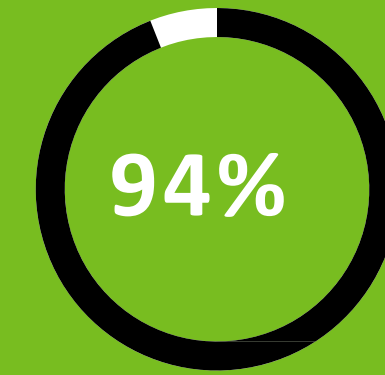
➤ ROCA IMPACT INSTITUTE



IN FY 2024, WE TRAINED AND COACHED **2,900+** COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION STAFF, PROBATION AND CORRECTIONS STAFF, HOSPITAL RESPONDERS AND POLICE OFFICERS IN **REWIRE CBT**.



WOULD RECOMMEND
REWIRE CBT
TO A COLLEAGUE



SAY THAT REWIRE
CBT MADE THEM
MORE EFFECTIVE IN
THEIR WORK



OF LAW
ENFORCEMENT
SAY THAT REWIRE 4
HELPED THEM MANAGE
THEIR RESPONSES
IN STRESSFUL
SITUATIONS



[Rewire CBT] offers tangible solutions in an easily digestible format. It is a basis for identifying and working through everyday feelings and stressors in a more adaptive way.” - Intervention Specialist, SNUG (NYS)



Rewire CBT has most definitely affected the way I navigate with not only my work but also with my everyday life and how I deal with at risk Youth and myself.”

- Violence Intervention Specialist, DC Peace Academy

Roca Direct
Service
FY 2024
Outcomes

IMPACT

IN FY 2024 WE SERVED **1,887** YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEW ENGLAND AND MARYLAND WITH AN **81%** RETENTION RATE.



ENGAGEMENT

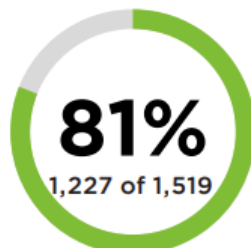
Enrolled less than 24 months

126,899

RELENTLESS OUTREACH EFFORTS



PARTICIPANTS SERVED IN AN AVERAGE MONTH

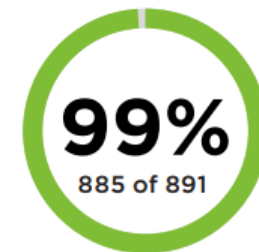


ENGAGED IN REWIRE CBT

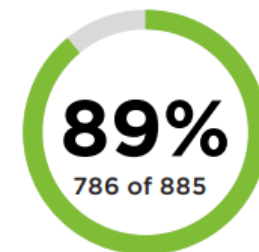


COGNITIVE-BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES

Enrolled 18 months or longer



IMPROVED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

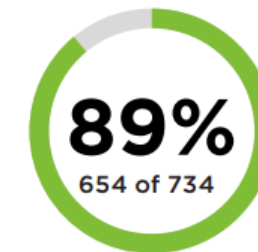


IMPROVED EMOTIONAL REGULATION

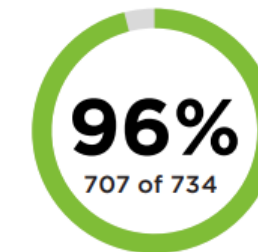


CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT

Enrolled 24 months or longer

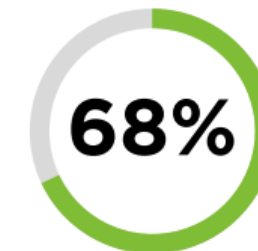


HAD NO NEW ARRESTS



HAD NO NEW INCARCERATIONS

OF MASSACHUSETTS YOUNG MEN SERVED BETWEEN 2013 AND 2022:



WERE NOT RE-INCARCERATED WITHIN 3 YEARS*

**Abt Associates Evaluation*



DISCUSSION



When you don't drive a car, the battery dies. Similarly, when we don't "Move It", our "battery dies" and we get stuck in a spinning cycle. You have to spend energy to get energy. So, if you regularly engage in activities that get you up and moving, you'll keep your "battery" charged.

To "Move It" you

Emotion-driven behavior is when you react based on your emotion.

Value-driven behavior is when you act intentionally based on what you value.

When you act intentionally based on value, you...



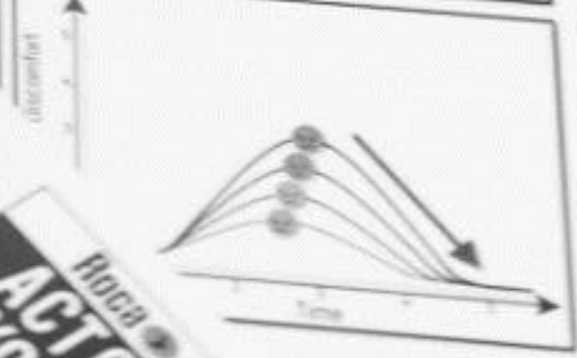
...are not true or ... is stuck in a ... our

... "Stick With It," ... tends to ... over time.

Roca **FLEX YOUR THINKING**

Roca **STICK WITH IT**

When you are in the habit of "Sticking With It", discomfort tends to decrease over time.



Roca **ACTION ON YOUR VALUES**

Thank you.

The presentation was developed by members of The Council of State Governments Justice Center staff. The statements made reflect the views of the authors and should not be considered the official position of The Council of State Governments Justice Center, the members of The Council of State Governments, or the funding agency supporting the work.

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