

Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice

2021 – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Commissioner's Message



Since its creation in 1996, The Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has made meaningful impacts in the lives of youth across the commonwealth and in the fields of juvenile justice and public safety. However, this past year brought even more unprecedented challenges, including a continued worldwide pandemic, devastating and historic floods and tornadoes, and a national labor shortage that impacts every industry. As an agency, we are responsible for navigating these hurdles in the moment and immediate aftermath, as well as navigating the long-term implications of such moments. I am proud of the ways we have meet these challenges while continuing to serve youth and communities.

From pre-adjudication to post-disposition, DJJ is committed to reducing recidivism and improving the lives of youth who come in its doors. In this way, DJJ strives to create an environment that helps connect youth with a healthier lifestyle, a quality education, and a good job. This year alone, DJJ had 57 youth participate in its high school graduation ceremony and another 91 who earned vocational certifications.

DJJ understands the important intersection between youth success, family involvement and preventing future criminal activity and victimization. Toward that end, DJJ has designated its Day Treatment Centers as “Youth Achievement Centers” and increased its resources to youth *and* their families. DJJ has created Institutional Recreation Leader positions in its detention centers to give youth a chance to be engaged in art, music, sports, and other prosocial activities.

In the past year, DJJ has greatly increased its evidence-based treatment programming both in residential and community settings. DJJ has also ramped up its trauma-informed care to better meet the complex needs of youth.

We look optimistically toward the future, where we will continue to meet any challenges that come our way like we always have – directly, willingly and openly.

I am proud of all that we have accomplished in the face of unprecedented challenges, and I know that we will continue to meet the moment with perseverance, passion, and adaptability while continuing to be a national leader in juvenile justice reform efforts. We are committed to improving the lives of young people, making communities safer, and changing Kentucky for the better.

Sincerely,

Vicki Reed

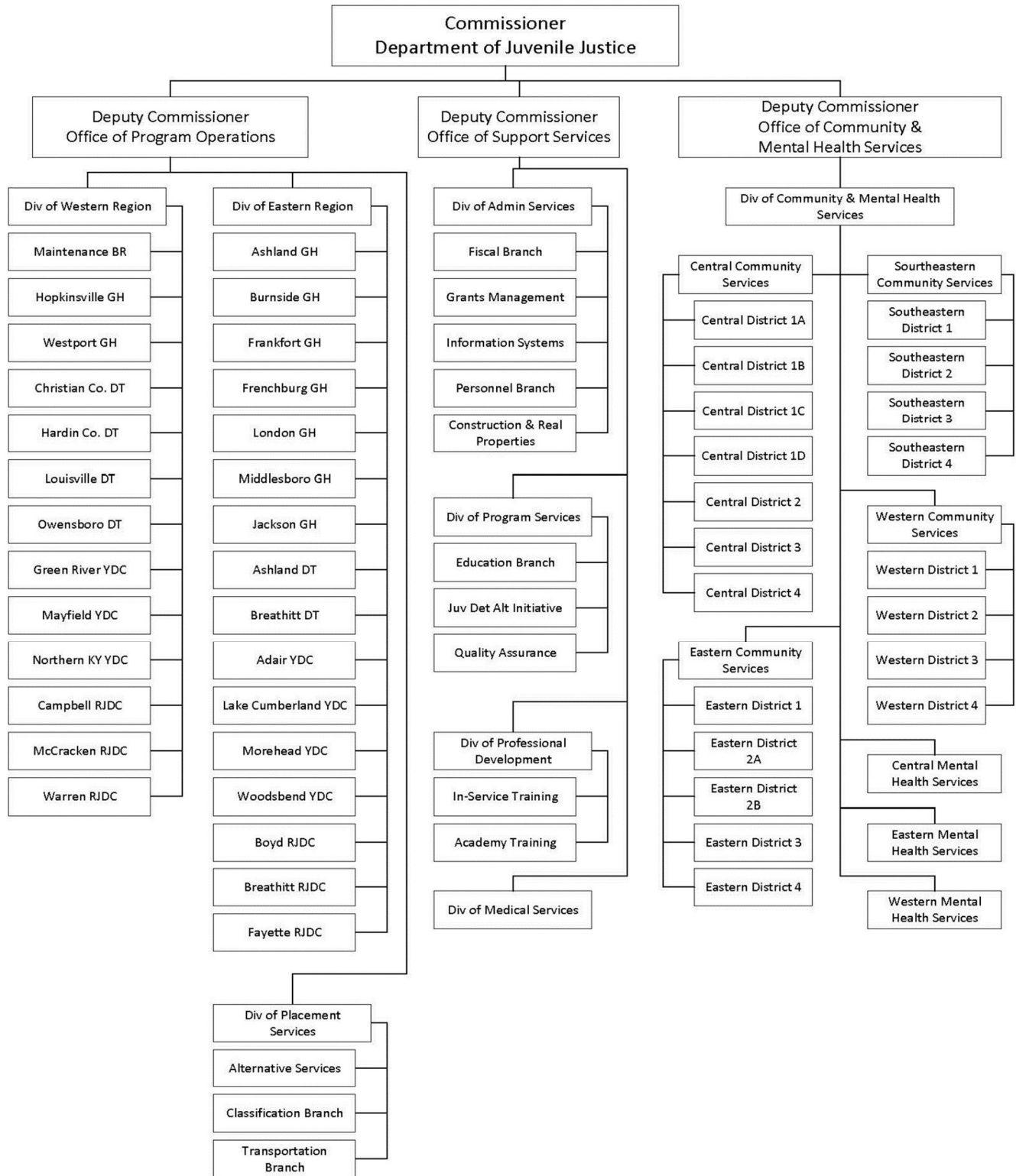
Department Overview

The Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is one of the five departments under Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. DJJ is a multi-faceted centralized agency responsible for prevention programs for at-risk youth, pre-trial detention and alternative-to-detention programs, post-disposition residential facilities, probation, and community aftercare and reintegration programs.

In providing services, DJJ supports and believes in the complete involvement of both the family and the community in the rehabilitation of troubled youth.

Kentucky's DJJ is a nationally known program for the continuum of care. While many states' out-of-home placement options are limited to two or three large institutions, Kentucky can serve youth in a variety of small residential programs designed to meet specific treatment needs. DJJ's system of Day Treatment Centers has been recognized as instrumental in providing services that allows some youth to remain in their own home while receiving needed services.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Program Operations

Includes regional divisions that provide oversight of the daily operations of juvenile detention centers, day treatment centers, group homes and resident facilities.

Placement Services administers juvenile classification and placement functions, juvenile transportation services, alternative programming management and liaison service with private childcare contractors.

Program Operations also administers education to all youth in DJJ care. DJJ contracts with 36 local school districts to provide education in 41 different schools across the state. During the 2021-22 school year, DJJ was awarded 98 vocational certifications to its DJJ students. DJJ had 22 industry certifications and 31 C-Tech certifications in its programs. Its vocational teachers provided both in-person and virtual OSHA courses and were able to award 32 OSHA certifications in General Industry or Safety.

The Quality Assurance branch under Program Operations ensures DJJ's continued ACA accreditation while ensuring DJJ's mission is reached. Each DJJ facility received an ACA accreditation score of 95.4% or higher.

Program operations also includes the Placement Services division. Placement services includes the Judicial Detention Alternatives Initiative, the alternative services branch, the classification branch, the transportation branch, and oversees the Interstate Compact for Juveniles. It also includes the Benefits and Human Services Branch, which ensures all eligible youth committed to the Department have Medicaid coverage. They work with the Department of Medicaid Services, Family Support, as well as federal partners and Aetna.

Support Services

Includes Program Services, Administrative Services and Medical Services. Program Services staff are responsible for program development, quality assurance, monitoring of agency and contract facilities, internal monitoring of federal PREA standards, classroom and vocational education programs and the department's policy and research efforts.

Administrative Services has responsibility for all fiscal, personnel, federal grant management, capital construction and information systems processes. This includes JORI, YASI and any other computer system the department utilizes. This also includes managing a \$127,001,800 budget including \$10,619,100 of federal funds for 81 budget units. The branch provided fiscal oversight of 233 contracts, 100,000+ payments processed to 1,200+ vendors.

Medical Services professionals oversee the administration of medical and dental services for youth within the agency's residential programs.

The Community, Professional Development and Mental Health Services Division

The Community, Professional Development and Mental Health Services Division provides services primarily to community youth and consultations to the staff in the community, group homes, day treatment centers and residential programs.

Mental Health branches employ regional psychologists and their staff to provide assessment functions including psychological evaluations requested by the courts; juvenile sex offender assessments and reassessments; crisis consultations (suicide evaluation, school violence assessment); drug/alcohol assessment; and mental health assessment. In addition, Mental Health Branches provide treatment functions, including juvenile sexual offender treatment, drug/alcohol counseling, mental health counseling, specialty groups (parenting, anger management), and consultation.

Community Services staff attend juvenile court, completes risk assessments and is responsible for the youth probated and committed to the department from all 120 counties of the commonwealth. Juvenile service workers assess each youth's needs for supervision and services and play a vital role in the decisions for out-of-home placement, supervision of youth and brokering for services within the community. Family and community support is a significant predictor of recidivism and making sure this support is present for youth is of the utmost importance.

Professional Development is responsible for the operation of the department's pre-service training academy and all in-service training programs for DJJ Staff.

2021-2022 NOTABLE DJJ ACHIEVEMENTS

Notable achievements at DJJ in FY 2021-2022 include the DJJ commencement ceremony, the Second Annual department-wide Spelling Bee, and DJJ's expanded and improved social media presence

On May 27th, Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman and the DJJ held a commencement ceremony to celebrate 48 youth receiving their high school diplomas for the 2021-2022 academic year and an additional 9 youth for earning their GED while in DJJ custody or care.

The Annual Spelling Bee Competition consisted of 64 youth from eight (8) Group Homes and five (5) Youth Development Centers. Over 400 words were disbursed through seventeen (17) rounds, with a double elimination round, and the competition lasted two (2) days. There

were five spelling bee winners, each receiving a scholarship of varying amounts.

DJJ joined Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyDJJ>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/KentuckyDJJ>) during FY 2021-2022 to increase awareness of DJJ and its facilities, as well as to increase recruitment efforts.

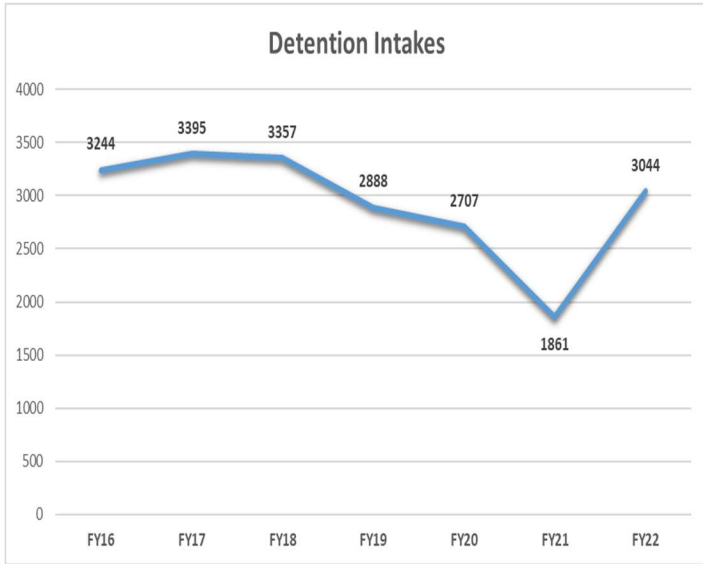


COVID-19 Pandemic Response

In FY 2022, DJJ continued its focus on COVID-19 infection control measures to keep staff, youth, and their families safe. DJJ implemented specific infection control measures at the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 that were modified over time to keep up with the constantly changing evidence and recommendations.

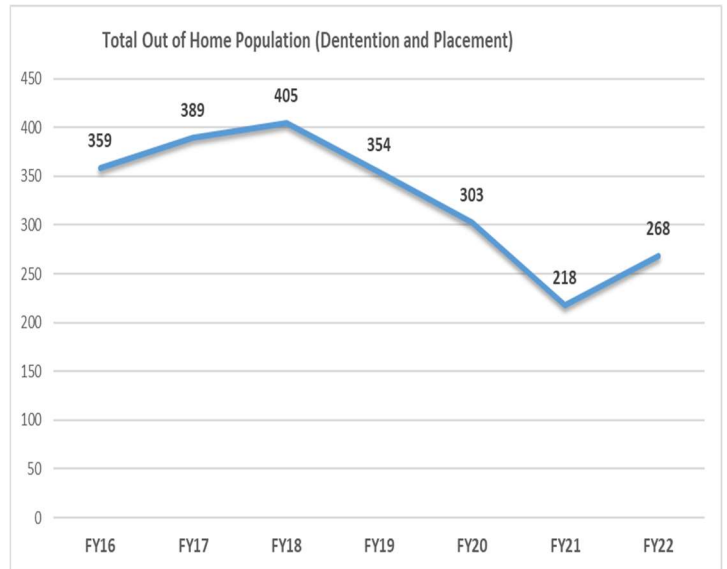
As COVID-19 vaccines became available in early 2021, DJJ made it a priority to vaccinate any individual, adult or child, who voluntarily requested the vaccine. As more was learned about the spread of COVID-19 and with the widespread availability of the vaccine, the restrictions on in-person visitation in DJJ facilities were relaxed to provide interaction between the juveniles and their families. Facility administrators have the discretion to reimpose those restrictions on visitation in the event of COVID-19 outbreaks in a DJJ facility or local community.

KENTUCKY'S JUVENILE JUSTICE BY THE NUMBERS

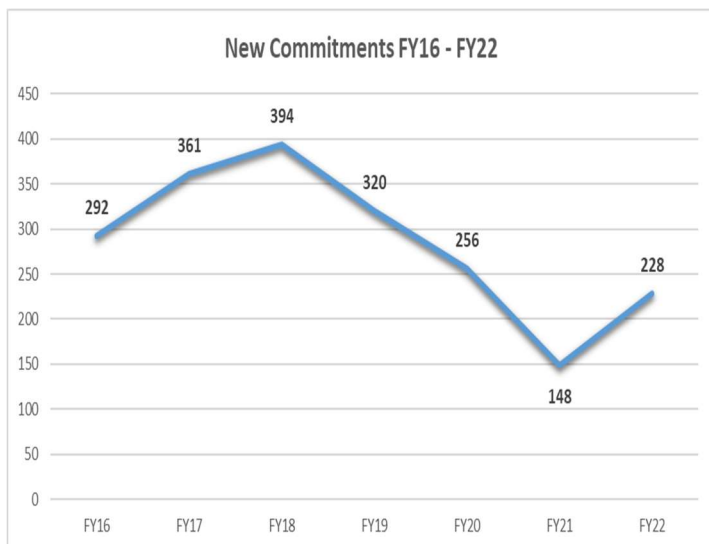


Number of intakes into RJDC per fiscal year

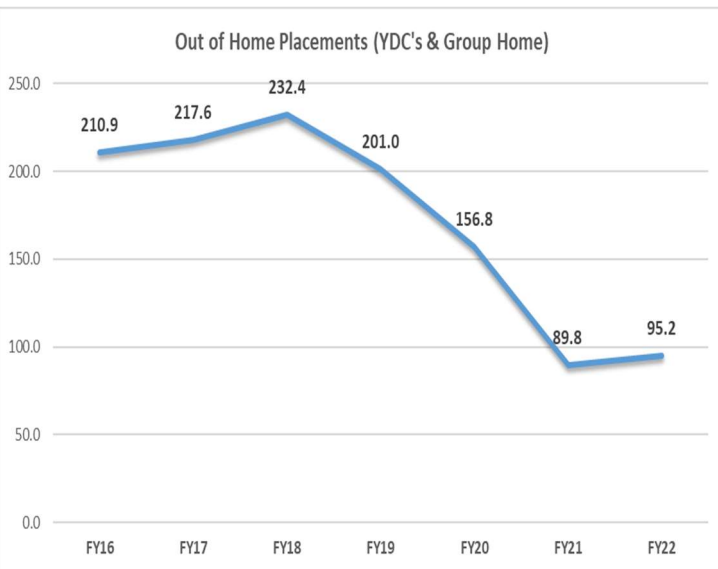
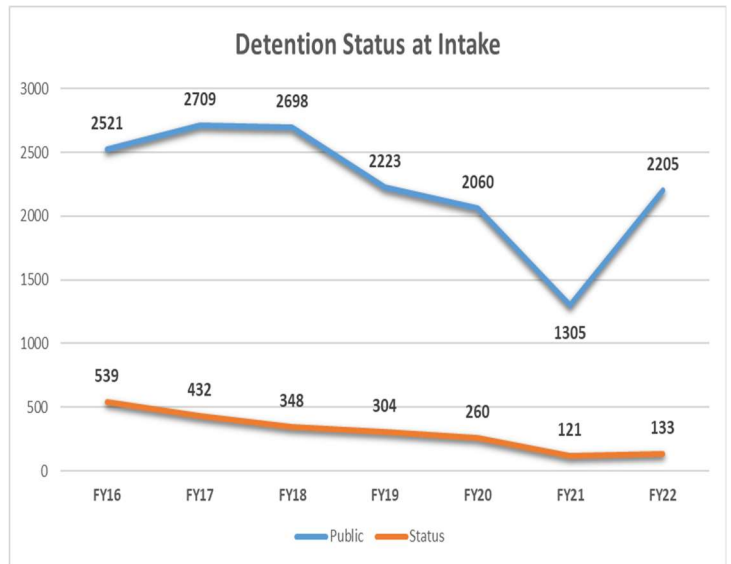
Average daily population for all DJJ operated facilities for the specific fiscal year.



Number of adjudications in a fiscal year that resulted in a youth being committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice

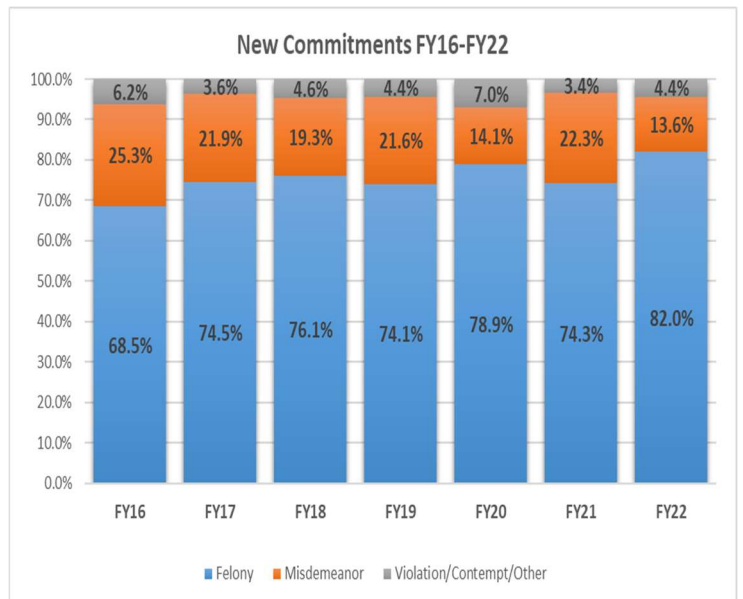


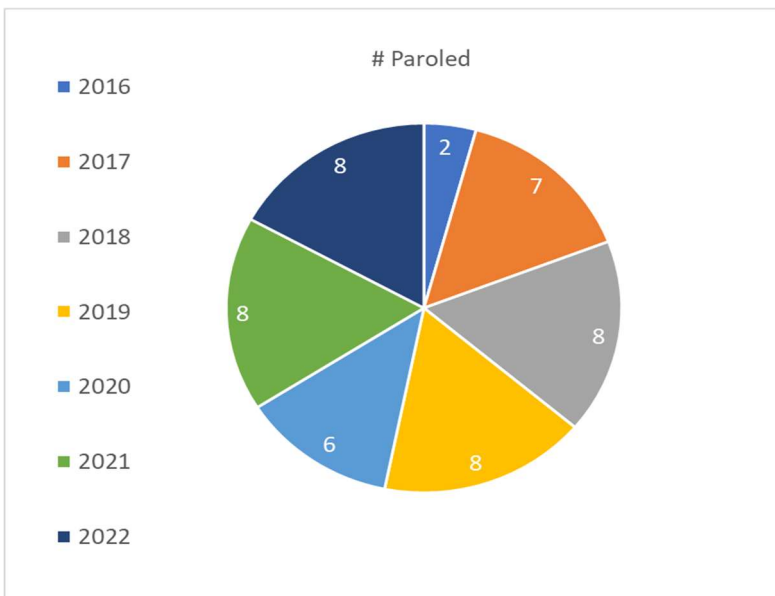
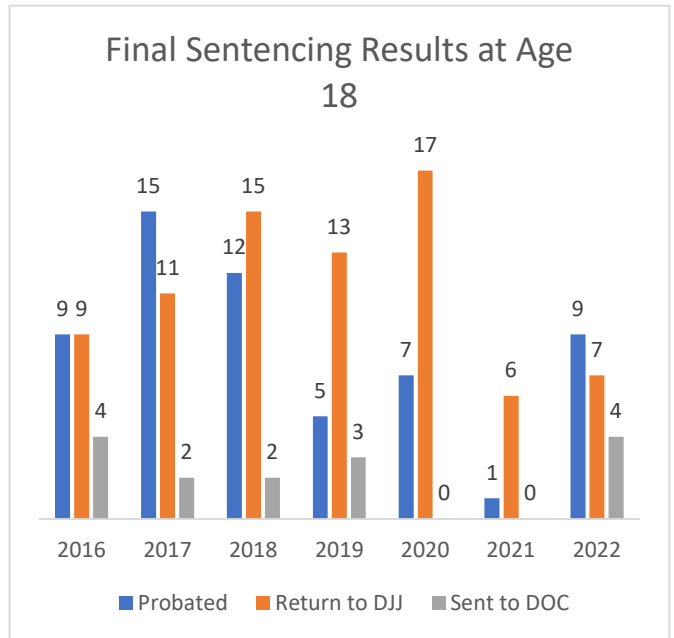
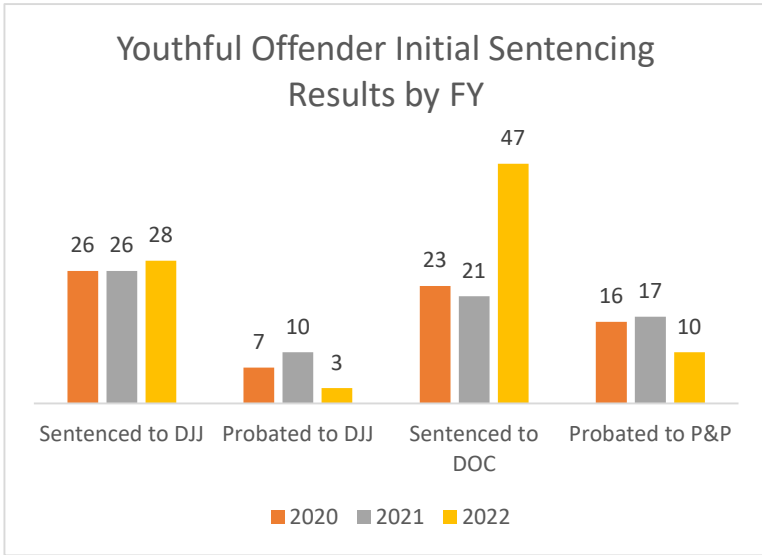
Breakdown of intakes into RJDC by either Public or Status offense (filtered down to the highest class of offense if youth have multiple offenses at intake)



Average daily population for committed out of home placed youth (Group Homes and Youth Development Centers) for the specific fiscal year

Percentage breakdown of the class of offense the youth was committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice in a fiscal year (filtered down to the highest class of offense if youth have multiple offenses at intake)

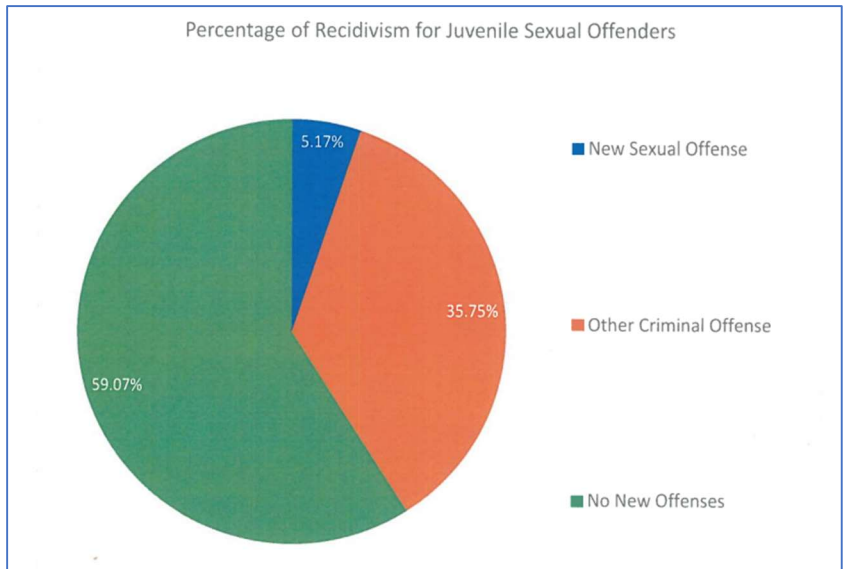
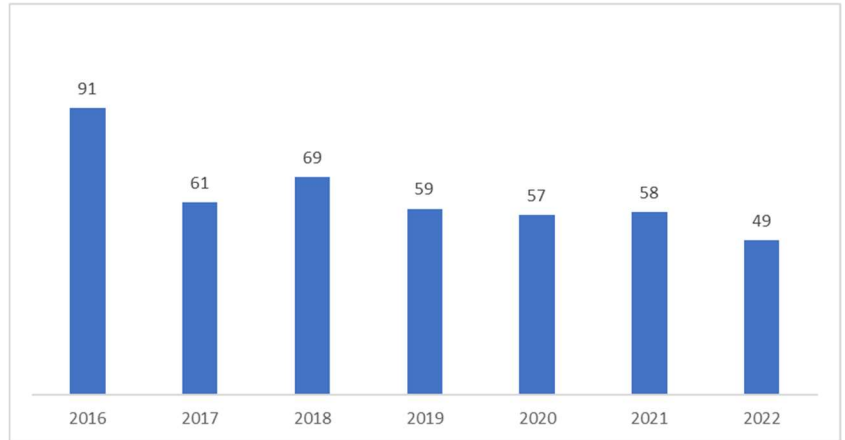




Youthful Offender Sentencing by FY and County

Juvenile Sexual Offenders Released by FY

COUNTY	2020 FY	2021 FY	2022 FY
Boone			1
Boyle	2		
Breckenridge	1		
Bullitt		1	1
Butler		1	
Caldwell	1	1	
Caloway	2	1	
Campbell		2	2
Carlisle		1	
Christian	3	9	9
Clark			1
Daviess	7	1	2
Fayette	1	8	2
Franklin	1	2	1
Fulton		1	1
Graves	1	2	2
Hardin	2	5	8
Henderson	6		4
Henry			2
Hickman	1		
Hopkins	2	1	1
Jackson		2	
Jefferson	24	23	24
Kenton	4	2	4
Knott			2
Lawrence	1		
Livingston	1	1	
Lyon		1	
Madison		2	2
Marion	1		
Marshall	1	1	
Mason			2
McCracken	4	1	4
Muhlenberg		2	2
Nelson		1	1
Ohio			1
Owen			1
Pulaski			1
Scott	1		1
Shelby	1		
Taylor		1	1
Todd			1
Warren	1	1	3
Washington	1		
Woodford			1
	70	74	88



Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2013 (PREA)

DJJ is committed to establishing a zero-tolerance environment against the sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment of youth in confinement pursuant to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). DJJ has 41 National Standards and 185 sub-standards to meet to ensure compliance with all facets of the federal law. DJJ annually monitors Youth Development Centers, Group Homes and Detention Centers for PREA compliance. During the fiscal year, eight DJJ facilities underwent a federal audit.

Federal Audits

Facility federal audits are conducted once every three years on a continuous cycle. The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit Final Reports are housed on the agency website.