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JJPOC Monthly Meeting Agenda

Date: October 16, 2025

Time: 2:00PM-3:30PM

Location: Via Zoom Viewing Options

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

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Toni Walker
Undersecretary Daniel Karpowitz

Overview of Meeting and
Announcements

Brittany LaMarr, TYJI

Annual Conditions of
Confinement Data Report
Pursuant to P.A. 19-187, Sec.
3 & 4 (JBCSSD)

Judicial Branch Court Support Services
Division

Next Meeting: November 20, 2025



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University of New Haven

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

October 16, 2025

2:00PM – 3:30PM

LOB Room 1E

Or

Remote via Zoom

Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight
Committee

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Rep. Toni Walker/Undersecretary Daniel Karpowitz

Overview of Meeting & Announcements

Brittany LaMarr, University of New Haven, TYJI

Administrative Updates

Annual Conditions of Confinement

Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

Data Report (Pursuant to P.A. 19-187, Sec. 3 & 4)



Administrative Updates

Workgroup Meetings and Focus Areas

Workgroup	Upcoming Meeting Date	Meeting Topics/ Focus Areas for Upcoming Months
Diversion Workgroup Meeting	October 14, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on POSTC diversion policy submission Discussion of youth and police engagement trainings Update from DCF on JRB data collection and RFP process Updates from CYSA on implementation of JRB/YDT protocols
Education Workgroup	September 29, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation/Discussion with CSDE on current initiatives re: chronic absenteeism, truancy, and exclusionary discipline Finalize Education Workplan and next steps CSDE School Discipline Report Discussion Update from DCF-JJEU re: C-TEC
Education Workgroup	October 27, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad-hoc meeting to refine workgroup recommendations (transportation and expulsion policy items)
Gender Responsive Subgroup	September 8, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JBCSSD presentation on current gender responsive practices and policies
Incarceration Workgroup	October 20, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates on Reentry Success Plan Implementation Updates from GR Subgroup Updates from Conditions of Confinement Subgroup
Community Expertise Workgroup	October 10 & 24, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Youth Report Debrief September JJPOC Meeting Discussion potential recommendations from Youth Report, including moving forward expanding parole eligibility
Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup	September 15, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from CCA on local RED work and findings Update from Ken Barone, IMRP on their equity dashboard analysis project Discussion of data collection systems for diversion policy utilization



Tow Youth
Justice
Institute

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Annual Conditions of Confinement Data Report (JBCSSD) Pursuant to P.A. 19-187, Sec. 3 & 4



Annual Conditions of Confinement Data Report

Pursuant to P.A. 19-187, Sec. 3 & 4

Judicial Branch
October 16, 2025





Data Presentation

Pretrial Detention Population

slides 3 - 15

Education Needs

slides 16 - 19

Mental Health Concerns

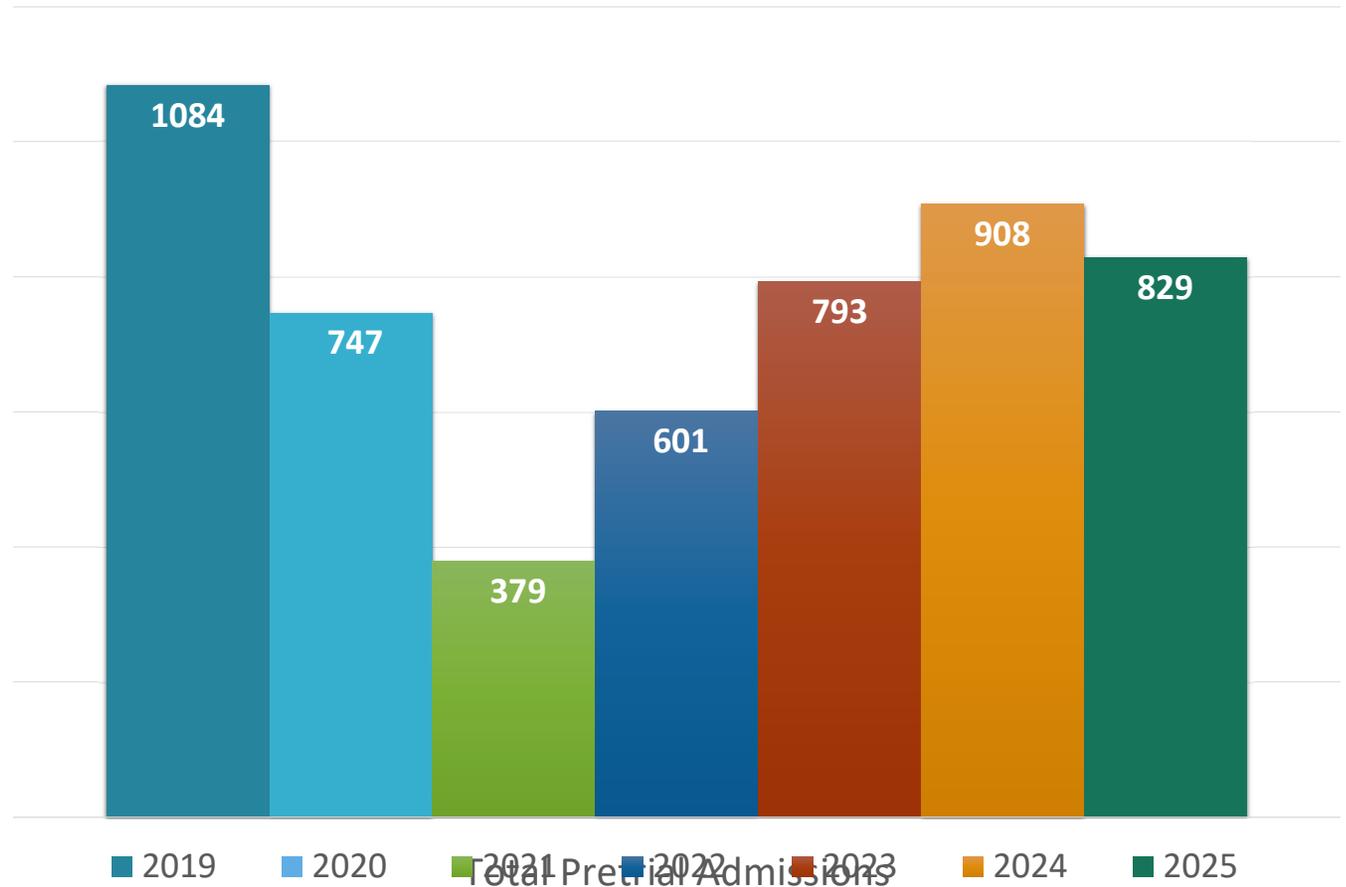
slides 20 - 22

Physical Safety & Interventions

slides 23 - 27

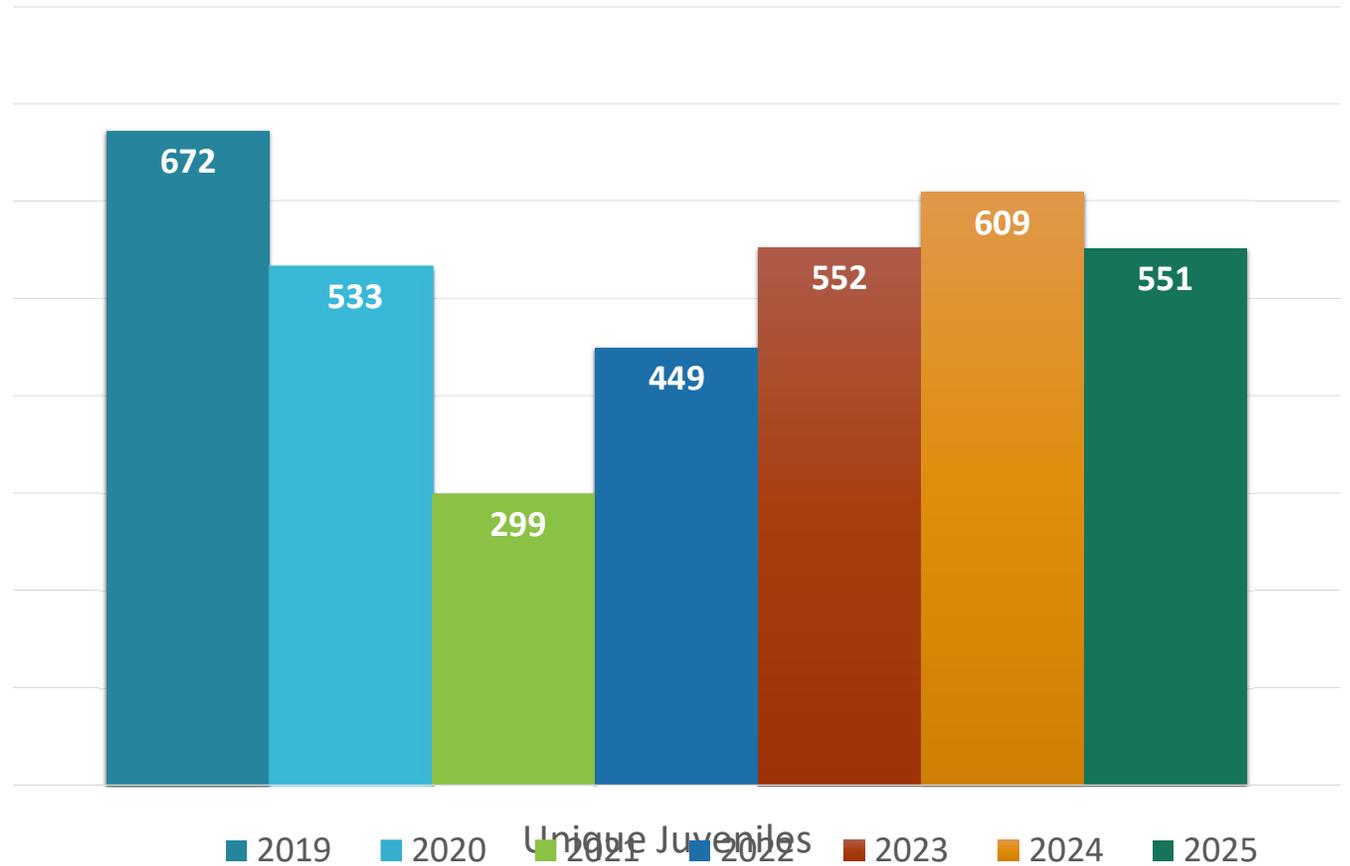
Pretrial Detention Admissions by Fiscal Year

23.5% reduction in admissions since FY19



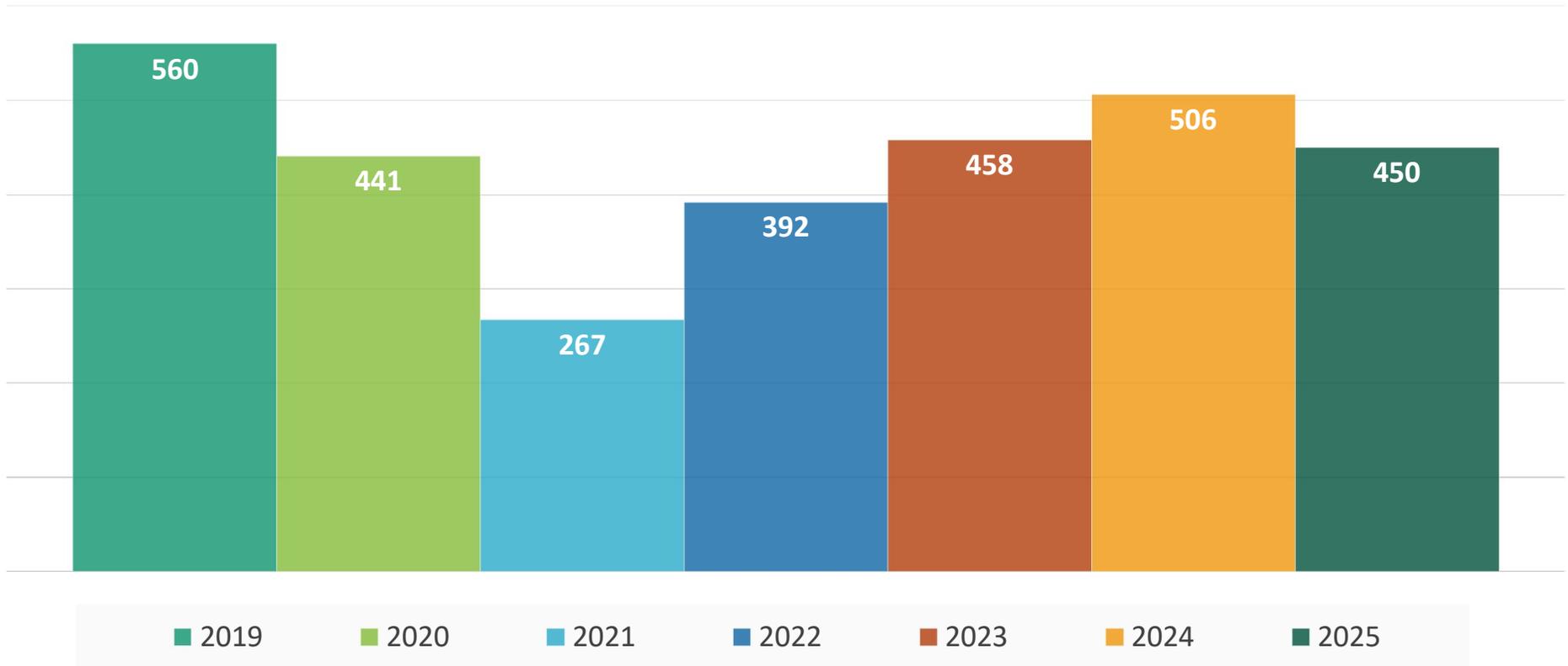
Unique Pretrial Juveniles by Fiscal Year

↓ 18.0% reduction in unique juveniles admitted since FY19

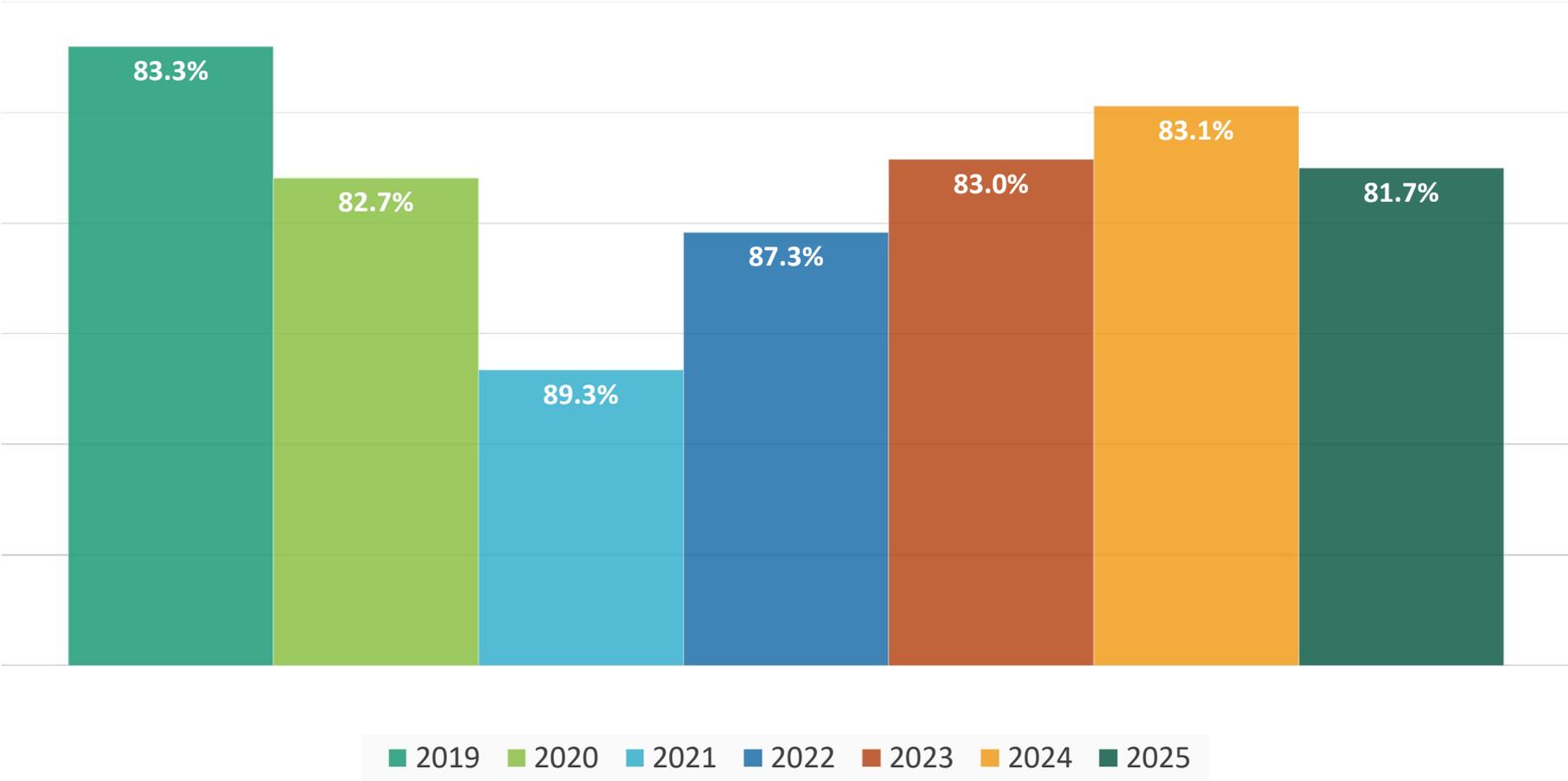


Number of Unique Males Detained by Fiscal Year

↓ 19.6% reduction since FY19



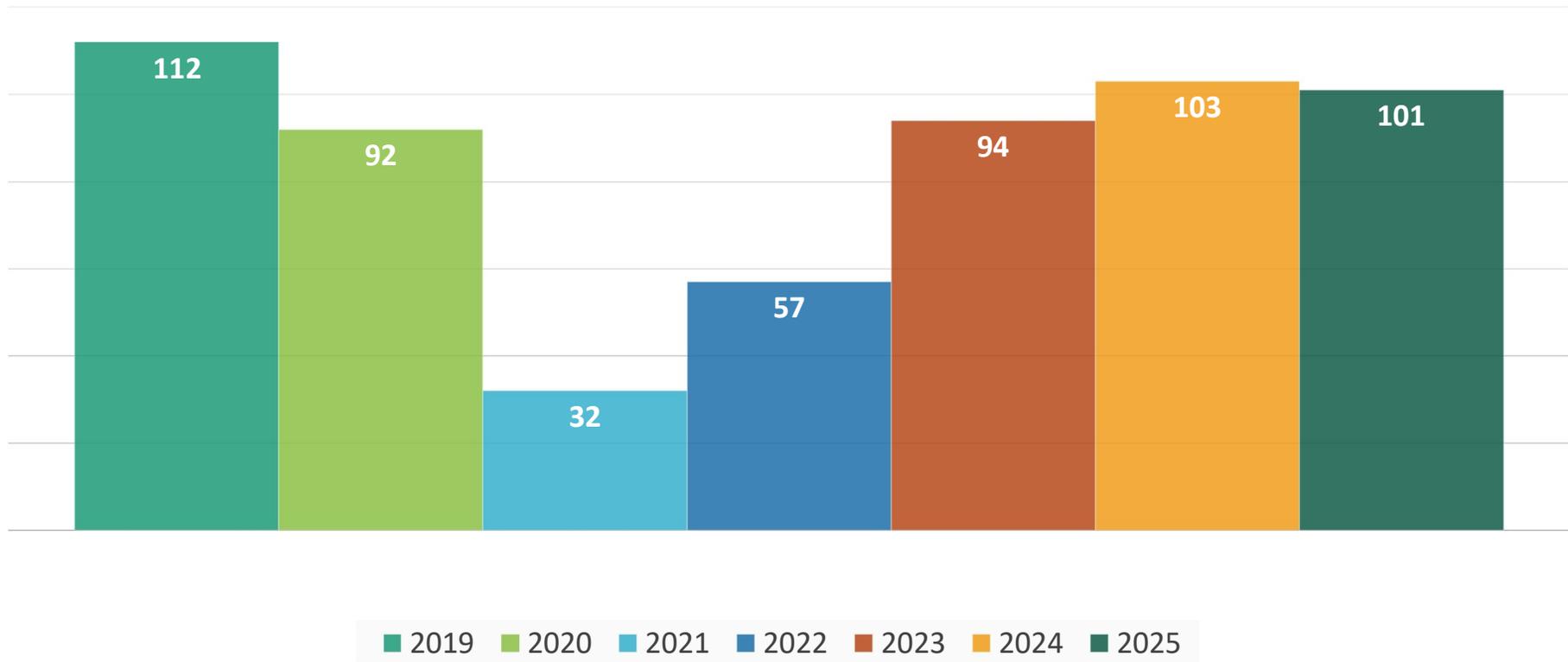
Unique Males as Percentage Detained by Fiscal Year



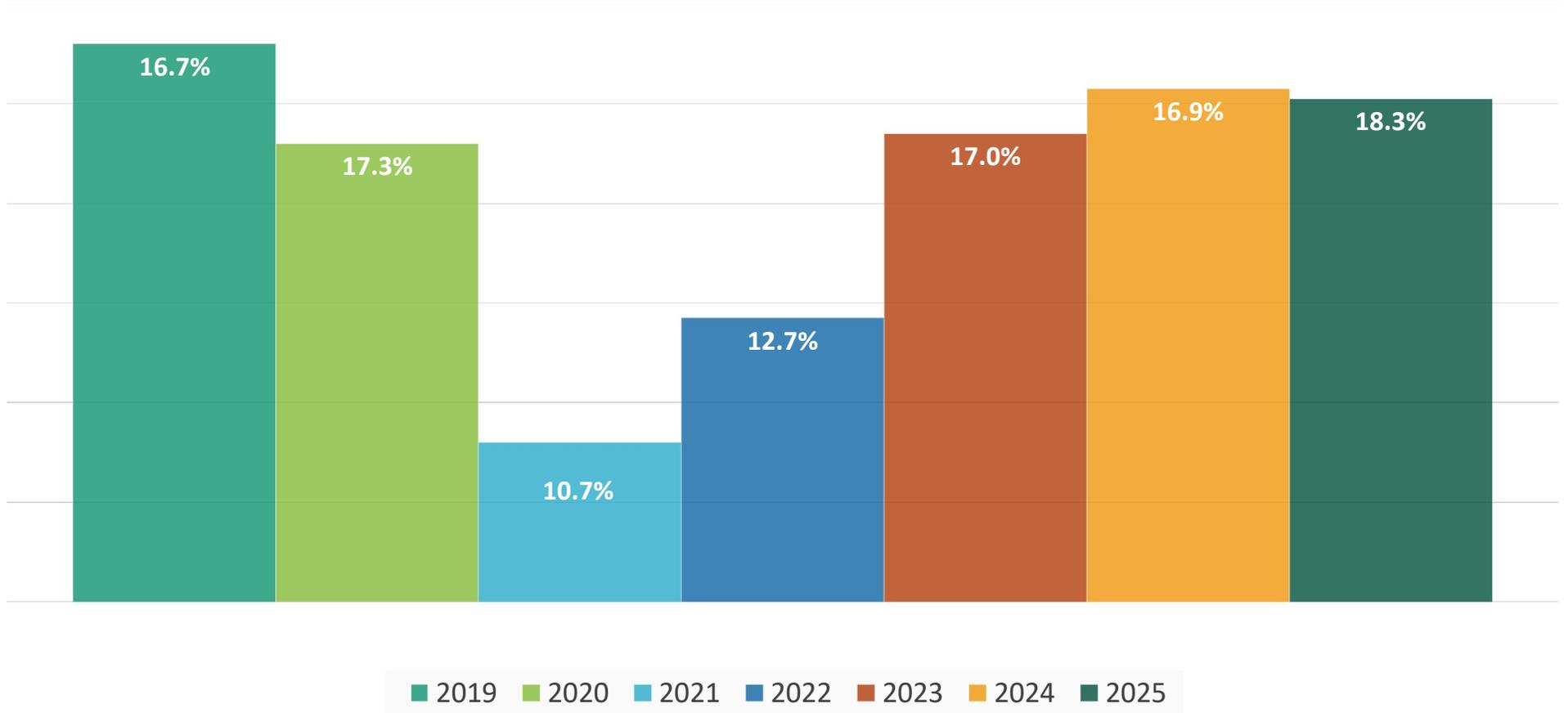
Number of Unique Females Detained by Fiscal Year



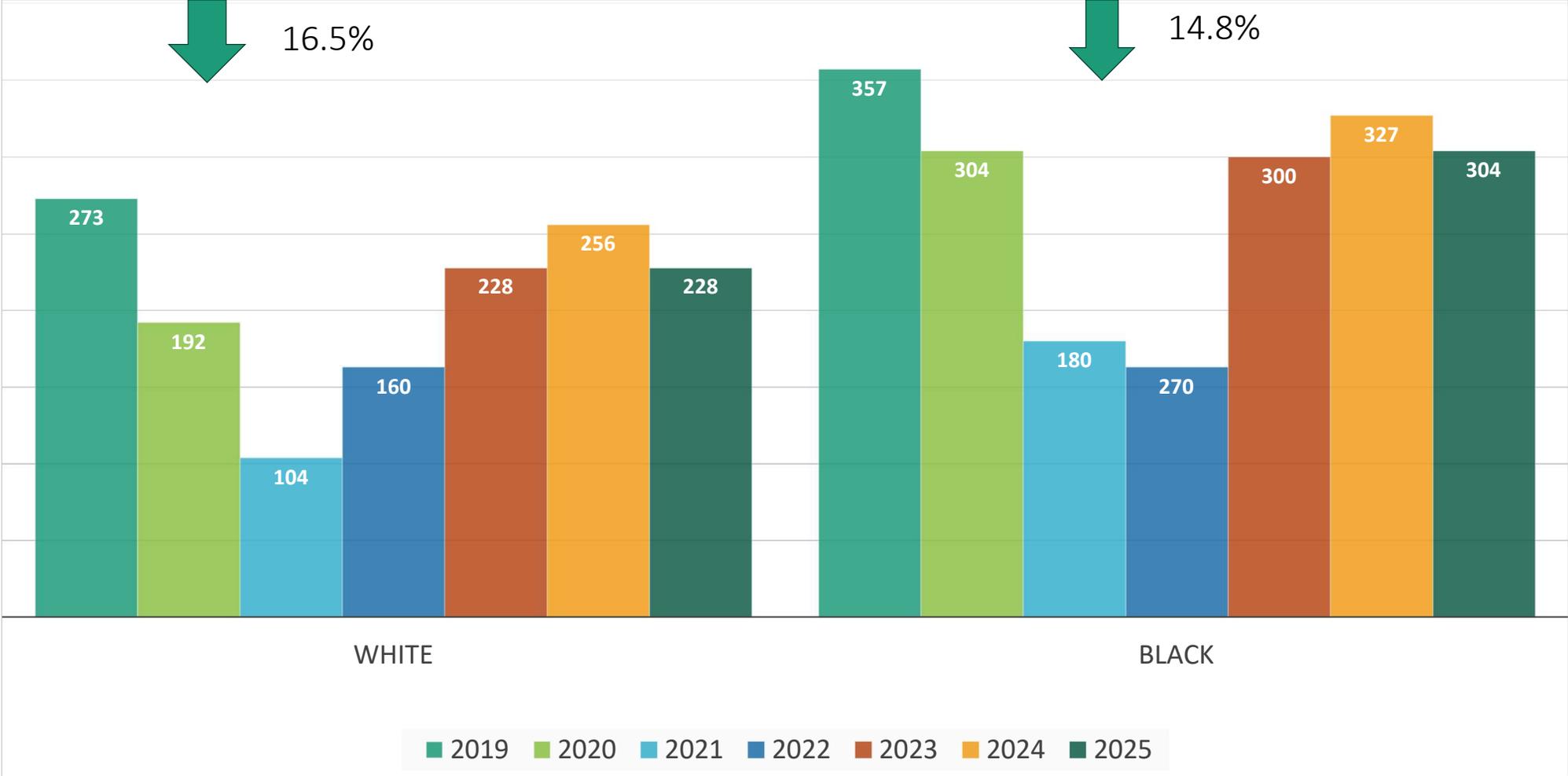
9.8% reduction since FY2019



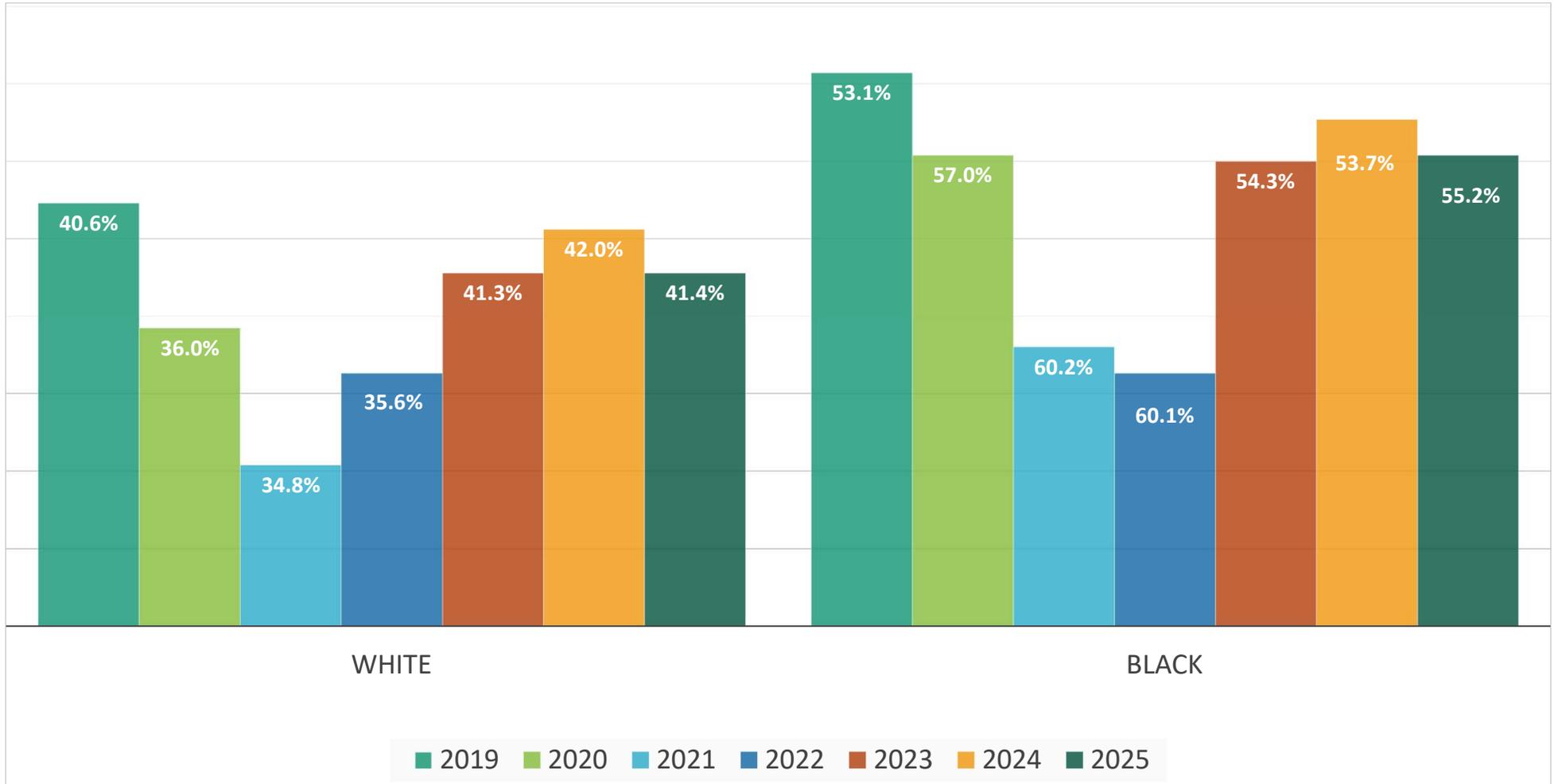
Unique Females as Percentage Detained by Fiscal Year



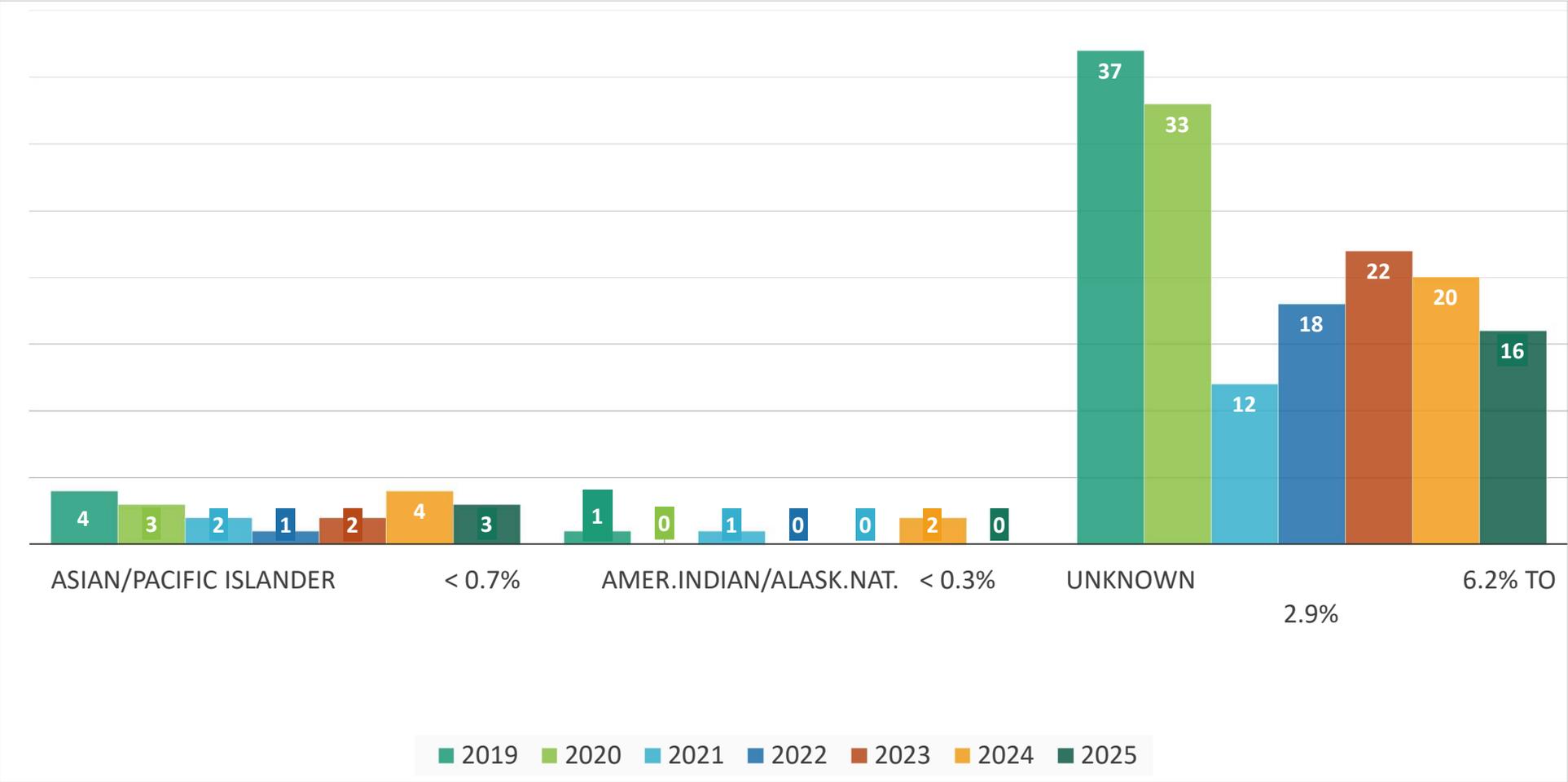
Unique Juveniles Detained by Fiscal Year & Race



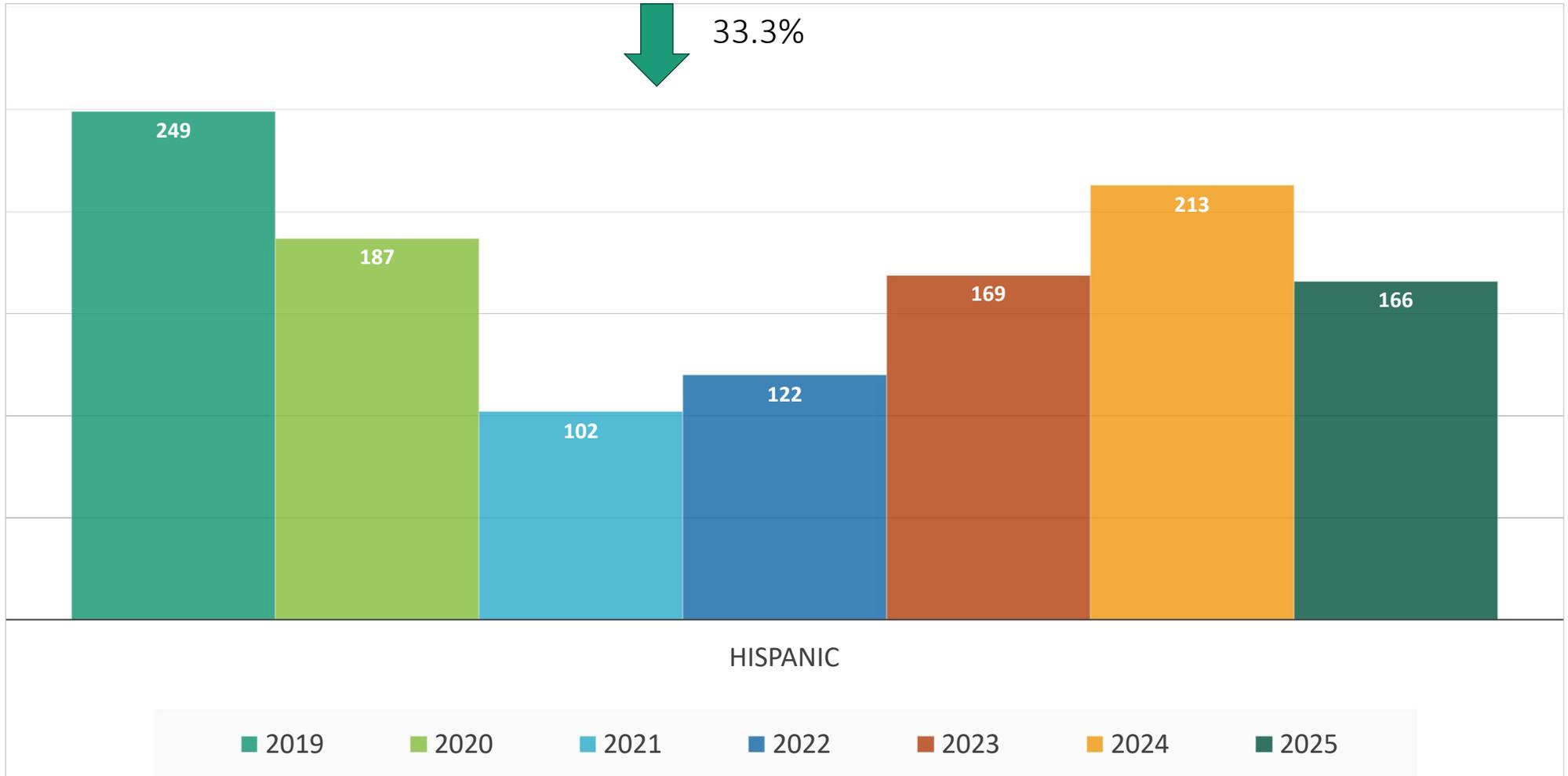
Unique Juveniles as Percentage Detained by Fiscal Year & Race



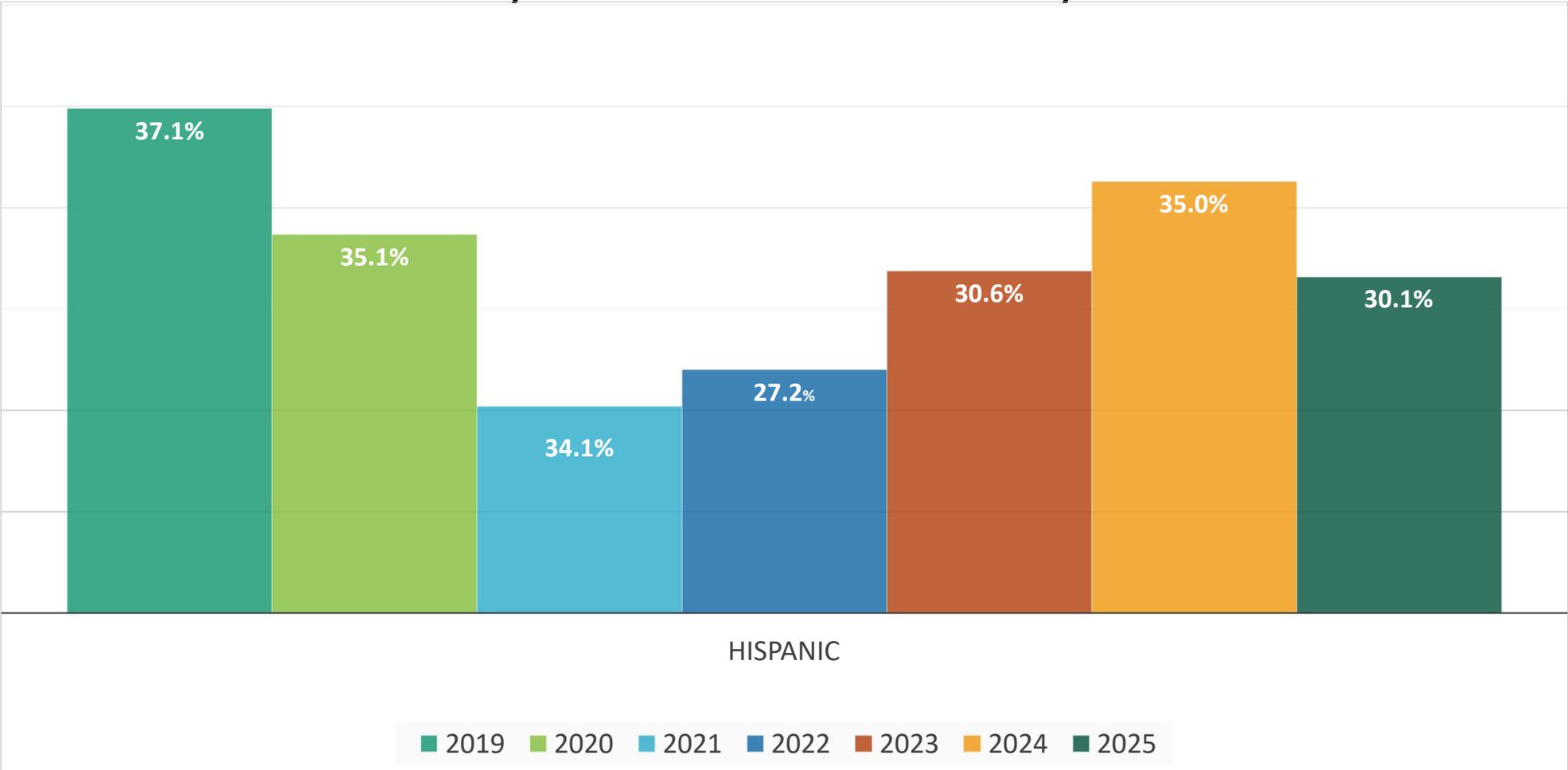
Unique Juveniles Detained by Fiscal Year & Race



Unique Juveniles Detained by Fiscal Year & Ethnicity

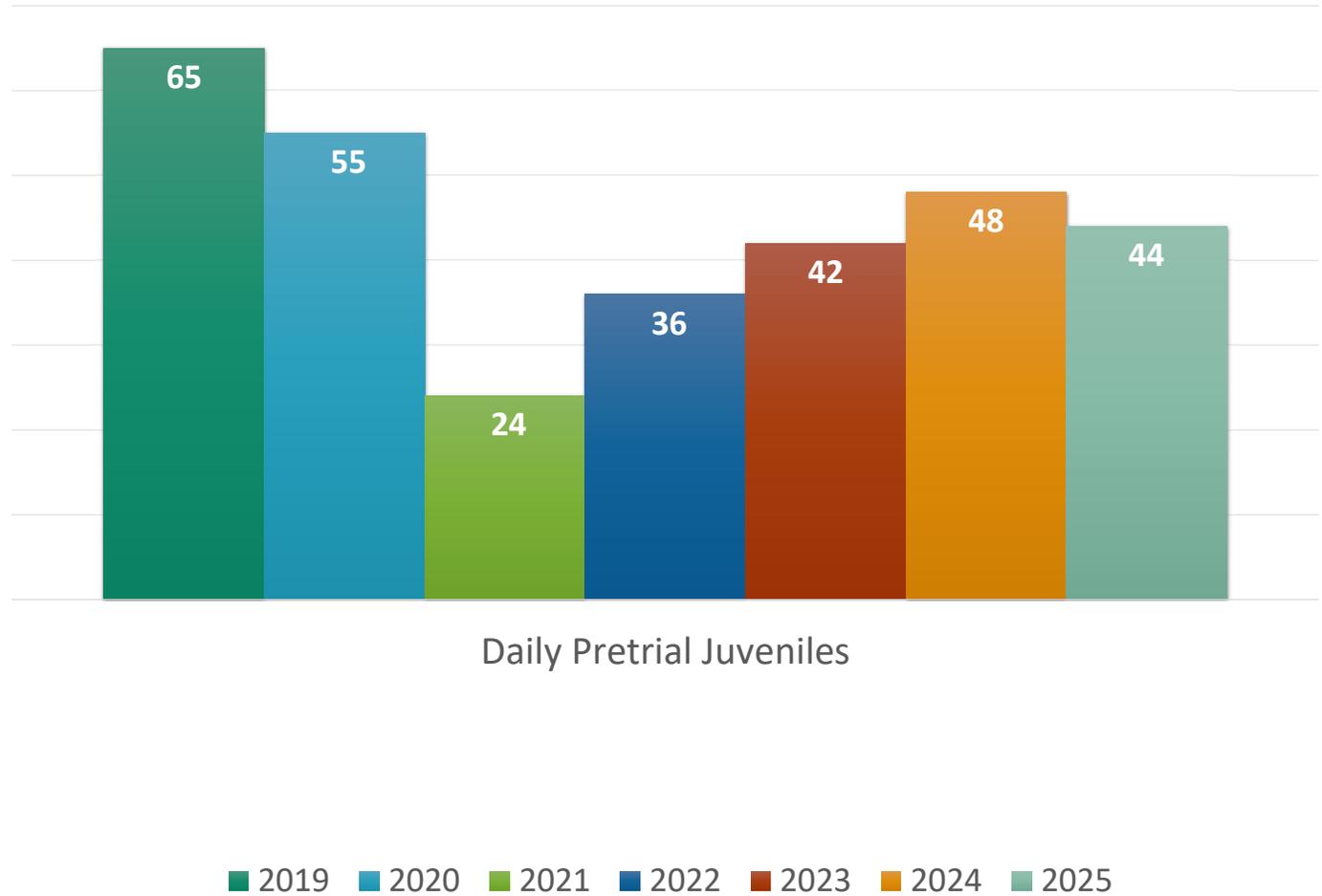


Unique Juveniles as Percentage Detained by Fiscal Year & Ethnicity



Average Daily Pretrial Population by Fiscal Year

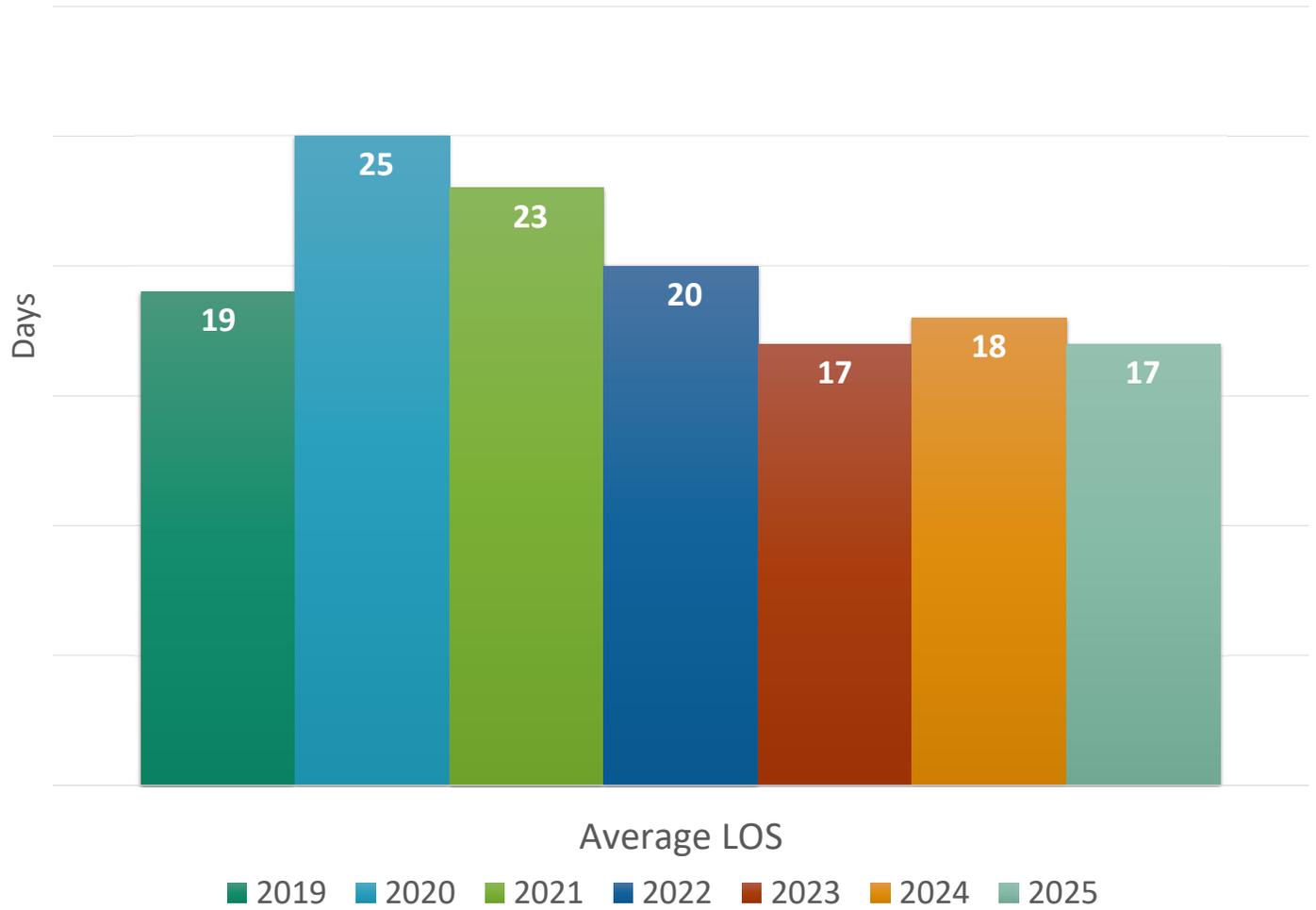
32.3%
reduction in
daily
population
since FY19



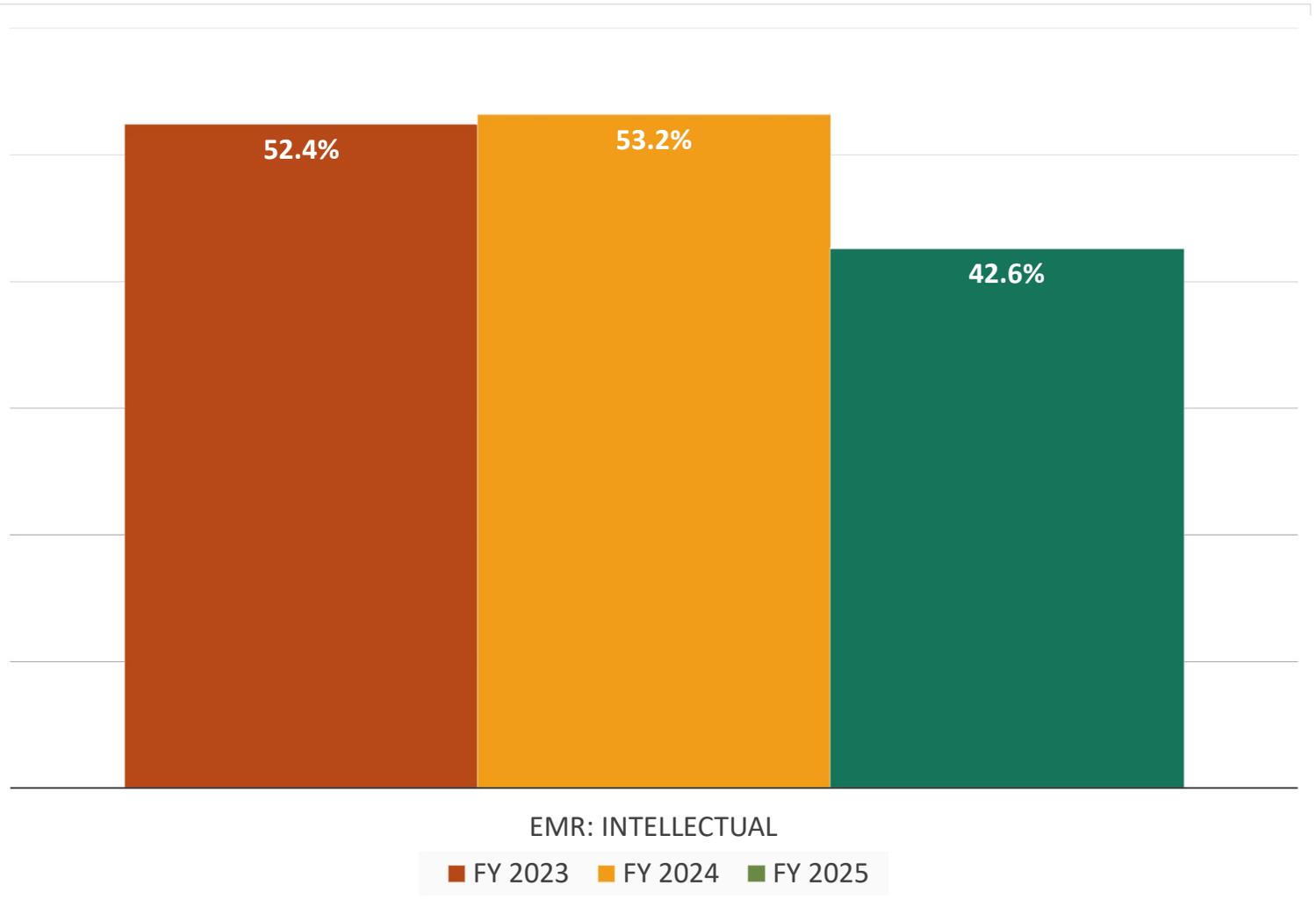
Average Pretrial Length of Stay by Fiscal Year



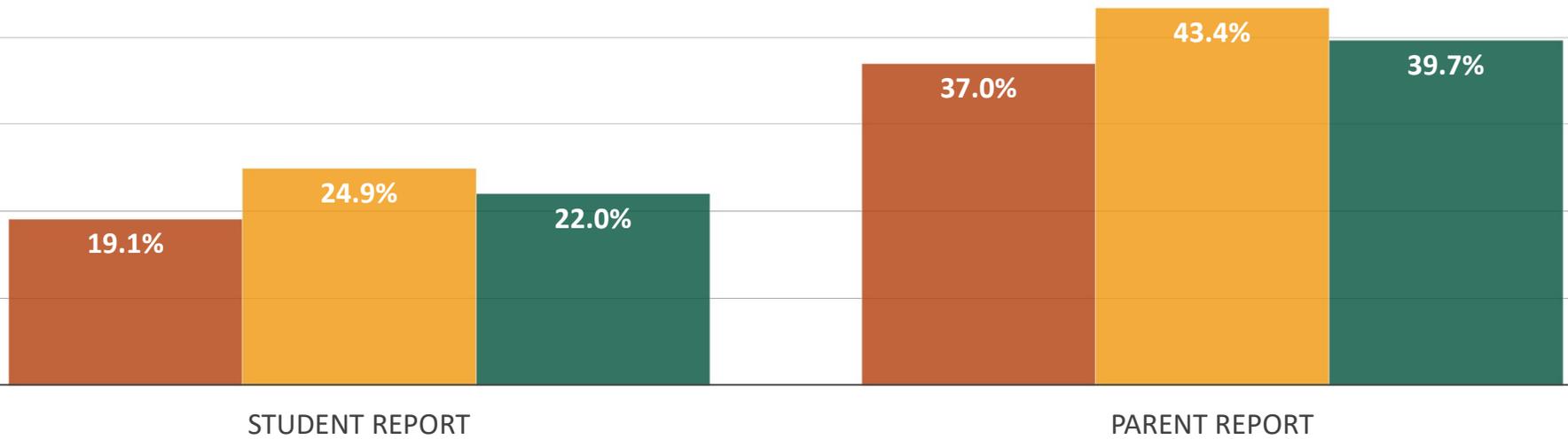
10.5% reduction in number of days since FY19



Education Needs by Admissions & Fiscal Year

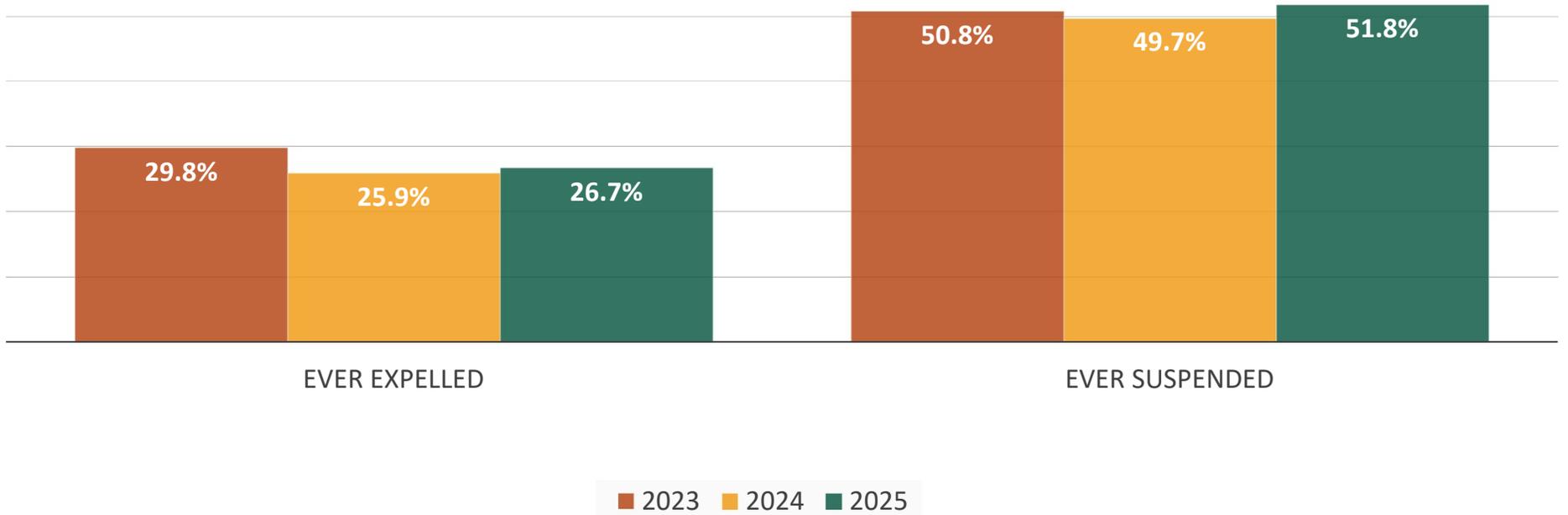


Special Education Status by Admissions & Fiscal Year

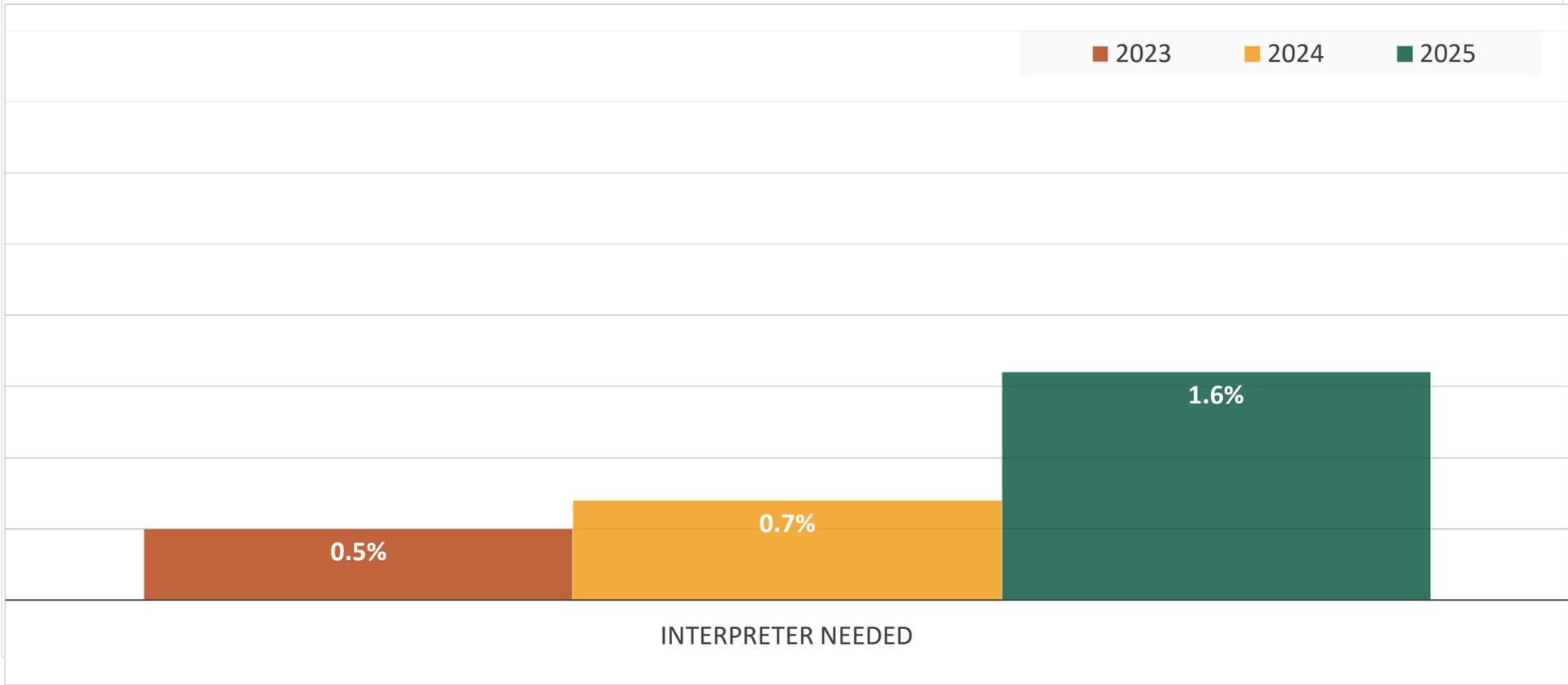


■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025

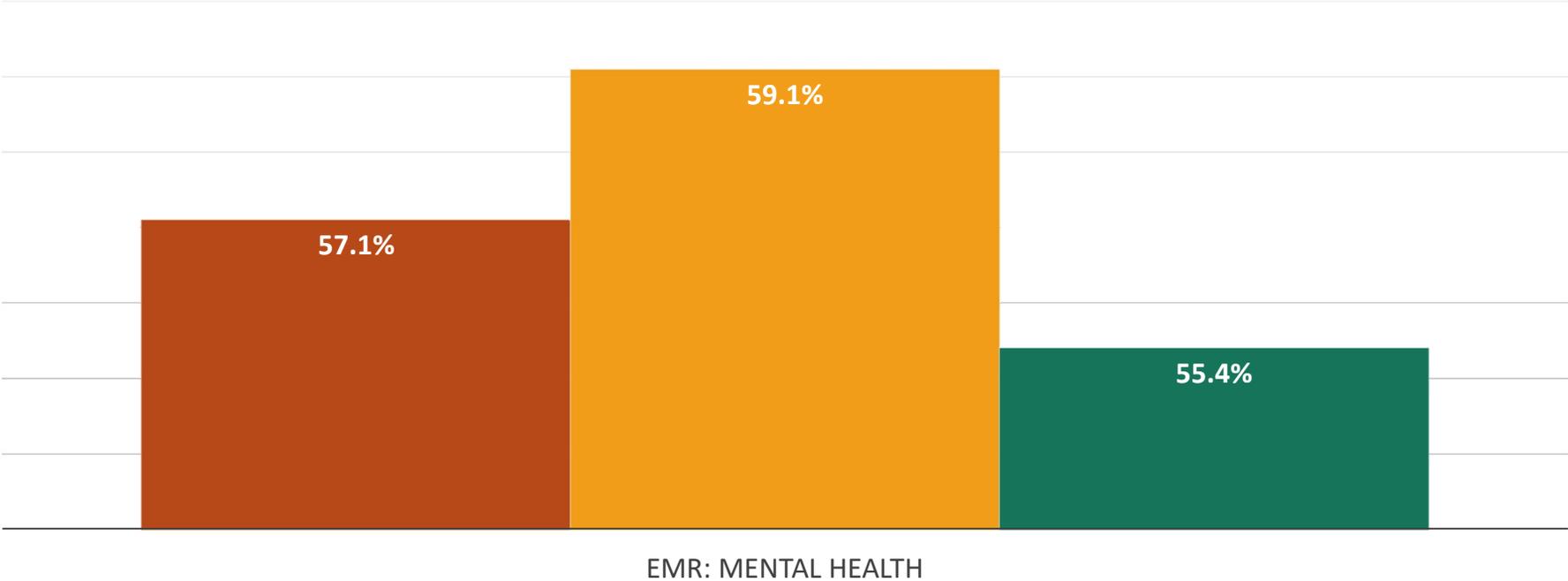
School Engagement by Admissions & Fiscal Year



English as Second Language by Admissions & Fiscal Year

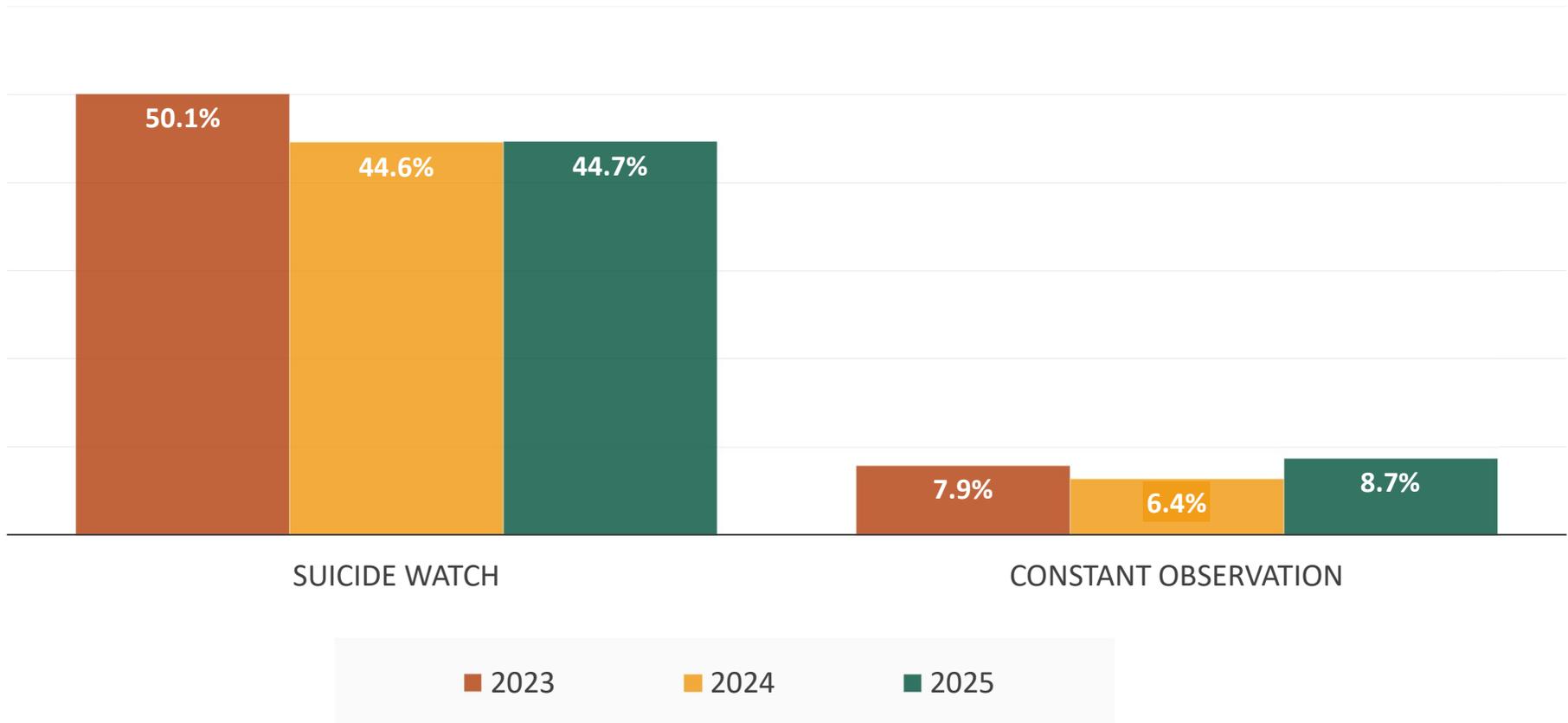


Mental Health Concerns by Admissions & Fiscal Year

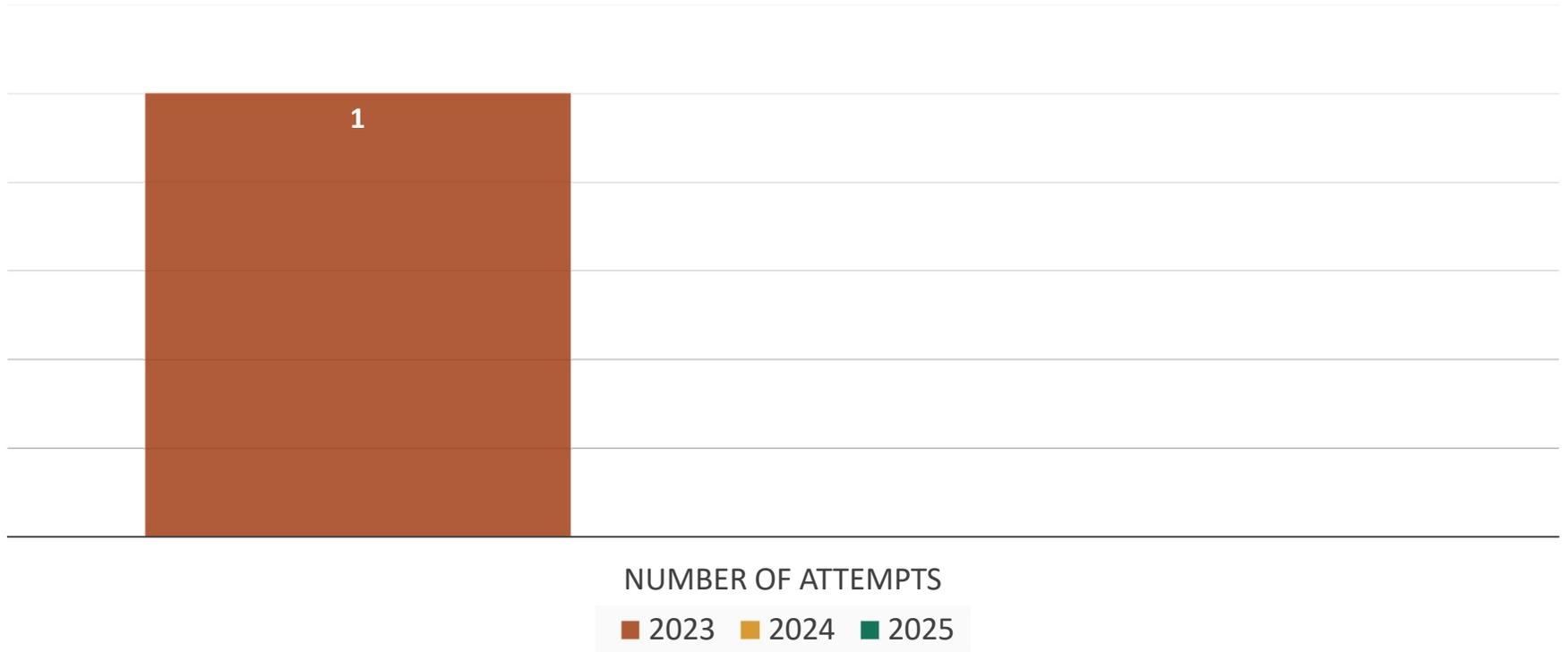


■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025

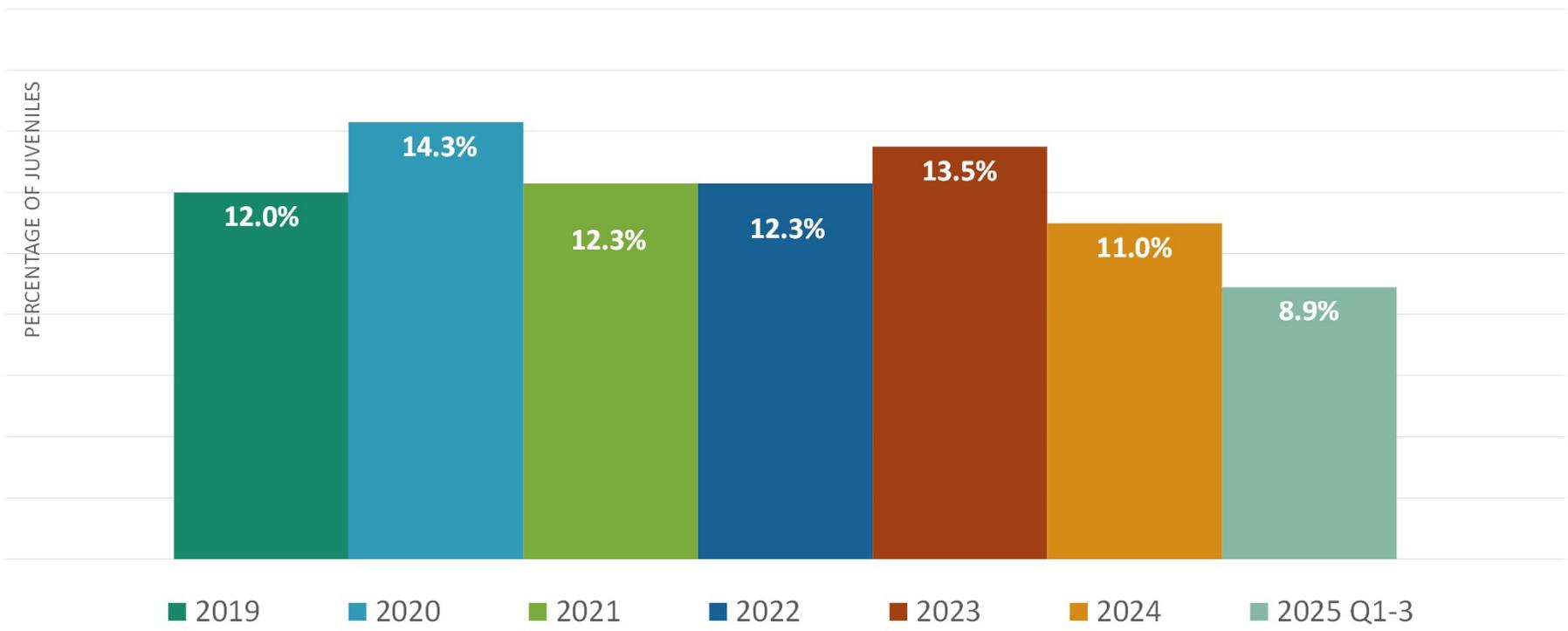
Suicidal Ideation by Admissions & Fiscal Year



Suicidal Behavior by Admissions & Fiscal Year



Use of Physical Intervention by Calendar Year





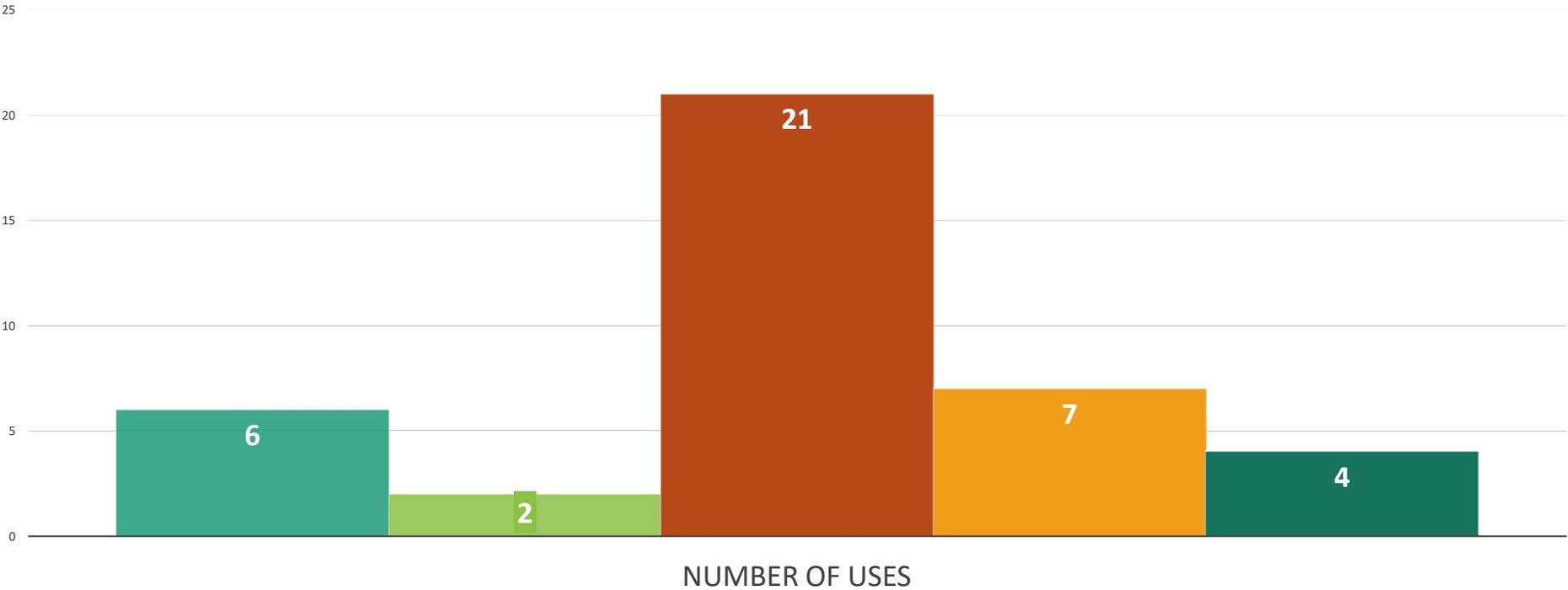
Primary Reasons for Physical Intervention

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| • Disruptive Behavior | • Disruptive Behavior |
| • Assault on Peer | • Disrespectful Interactions |
| • Fighting | • Assault on Peer/Fighting |
-

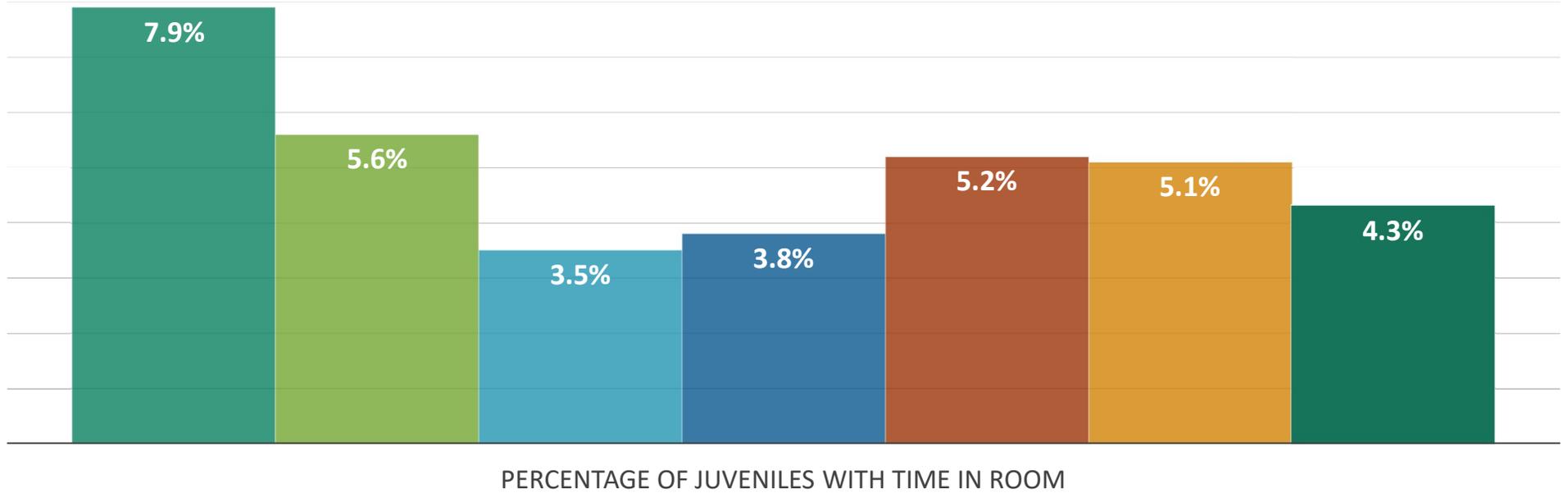
FY 2019 - 2022

FY 2023 – FY 2025 Q1-3

Use of Mechanical Restraint by Calendar Year

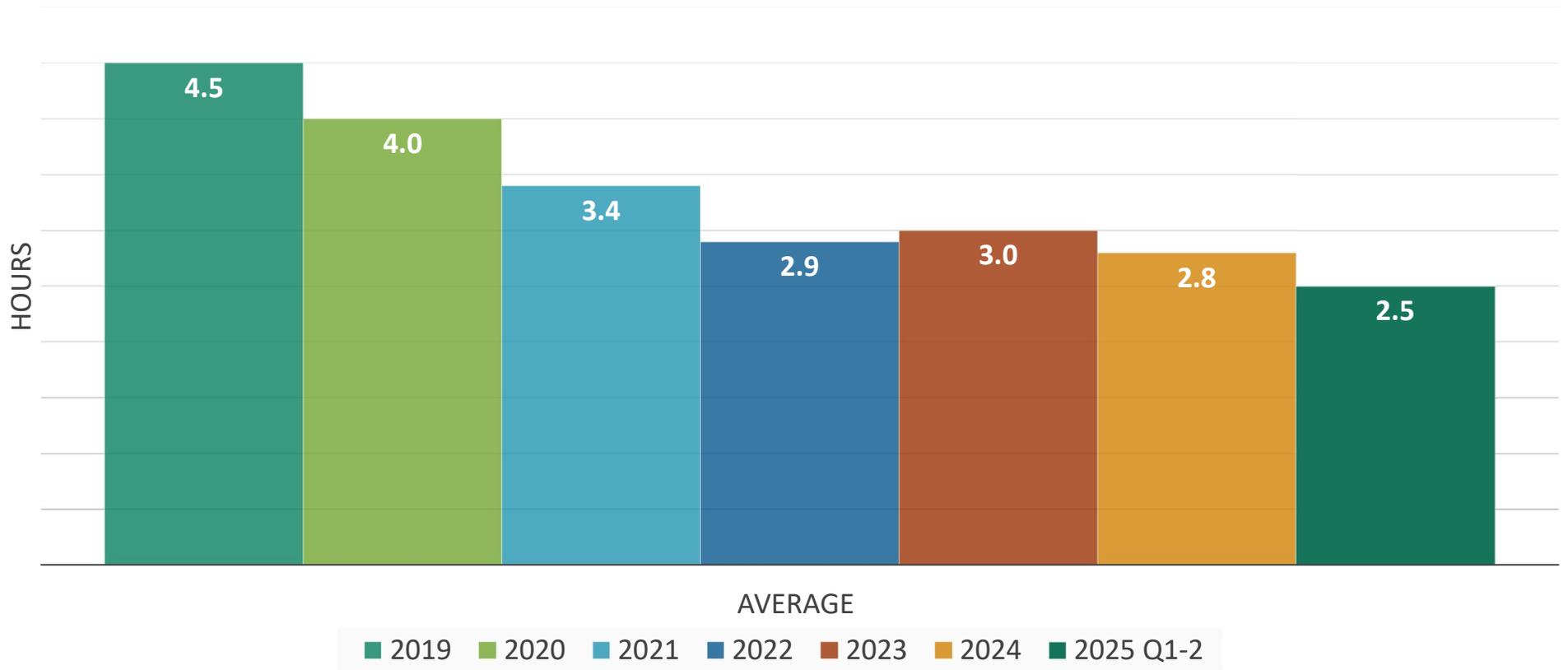


Safety Measure/Disciplinary Utilization by Calendar Year



■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025 Q1-3

Time in Room by Calendar Year



Questions?

Catherine Foley Geib

Director of Juvenile Clinical, Education, & Residential Services

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September JJPOC Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2025

2:00-3:30

Legislative Office Building

Zoom Option Available

Attendance

Amy Marracino	Melanie Dykas
Charles Hewes	Michael Pierce
Christina Ghio	Renee Cimino
Christina Quaranta	Sen. Ceci Maher
Colleen Violette	Sen. Paul Cicarella
Elizabeth A. Bozzuto	Sharmese Walcott
Erica Bromley	Susan Hamilton
Gary Roberge	Talitha Coggins
Hector Glynn	Tammy Nguyen
Heriberto Cajigas	O'Dowd
Martha Stone	Tais Ericson

Toni Walker

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.

Overview of the Meeting

During the September JJPOC meeting, the committee introduced new members to the CEW Workgroup, provided an update to the Statewide Diversion Policy, and reviewed the Department of Justice's monitoring report on the Manson Youth Institution.

Introduction of New CEW Members

The CEW Workgroup has recruited additional individuals who have significant expertise within juvenile justice reform efforts. They consequently introduced themselves to the JJPOC. Toni Walker and Undersecretary Karpowitz thanked the CEW members for providing the valuable perspective of those with lived experiences and a first-hand understanding of the juvenile justice system.

Update to the Standardized Diversion Policy

There are two components the Diversion Workgroup is presenting today. The first is an update related to the Pre-Arrest Youth Diversion Policy, and the next is an

update regarding training between youth and law enforcement. The Pre-Arrest Youth Diversion policy was developed by a partnership between law enforcement through POST Council and Diversion Workgroup members. POST Council recently agreed to review this policy, and plan on forming a workgroup that will discuss how to implement the policy. There is a set deadline in which they would have to determine on if they should integrate the policy as part of the accreditation standards for police officers across the state of Connecticut. The policy is now publicly available for anyone interested in examining it.

The following component of the presentation focused on discussing the youth-police engagement trainings and programs within the state of Connecticut, specifically in various communities. The Diversion workgroup is now researching the content of these training courses, to assist with implementing best practices across the state. One of these programs focused on integrating police officers with youth at a Kindergarten level, in which the police are a part of the community within the school. This assists with both youth and police interaction, which may show promise in other communities within the state.

DOJ Monitoring Report on Manson Youth Institution

MYI is required to release a report every 6 months regarding their progress in complying with the Department of Justice settlement issued in August of 2024.

Prior to this, when juvenile came into MYI care, they were placed in conditions designed to house adult males. The DOJ identified several areas, such as mental health services, education, and use of isolated procedures which were not in compliance with DOJ standards. Following this, the DOJ recommended that MYI should attempt to eliminate isolation procedures, increase educational services, and increase mental health services.

Tammy Perrault's presentation covered updates in available programming, use of force rates, involuntary room confinement rates, educational advancements, and mental health access, in addition to a compliance liaison update from the DOJ.

The DQE identified several improvements in programming and activities in comparison to the initial investigation. Despite this, the agency is still recommending additional improvements to increase the quantity of meaningful programs and activities that are relevant to youth. MYI has surveyed youth in what programs they're interested in. Following this, MYI has prioritized identifying credible messenger programs, such as Emerging Leaders, The Marshall Project, and News Inside. MYI also worked with youth to increase life skills around conflict resolution,

providing cognitive behavioral therapy, mediations services and providing access to reentry circles.

MYI is also adding restorative justice principles within their internal policies, and including voices of youth in decision making through the MYI Youth Council. The facility also increased offerings of vocational opportunities to youth under 18 through the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board. MYI also increased fatherhood initiative programming, access to intramural sports, home maintenance programs, and family supports. Additionally, MYI is increasing art expression programs, mindfulness training, and stress management programming

PBIS Positive Behavior Management Program: The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework was implemented December 2023 to encourage and reinforce positive youth behaviors. The program includes short-term and long-term rewards, structured activities, and skill-focused interventions. The monitoring team recommends Expanding PBIS with more meaningful incentives & activities that cater to the interests and needs of the youth. Ongoing evaluation of effectiveness of program and rewards, youth voice via council meetings & surveys, and drafting Tiered PBIS system for rewards & accountability are also recommended. Rewards have included added incentive recreation, classroom and wing of the day, Star Bucks Snack store, commissary points, time in incentive game room, loaner TV program, and activity participation. The PBIS Implementation team completed two cycles of PBIS consulting with CERC, participates in the nationwide PBIS Community of Practice meetings, and facilitates regular Tier 2 and 3 support meetings, and assesses needs for added interventions.

The DQE team recommended enhancing employee wellness through training in de-escalation, youth engagement, behavior management, and restorative justice. Staff input is gathered via surveys focused on PBIS, climate, and youth work. Incentives include recognition programs like High Fives and Employee of the Quarter, along with opportunities for staff input. Committees such as Quality of Work Life and Diversity support these efforts, emphasizing wellness and ongoing training to drive culture change.

The next presentation regarding Behavior Management/ Use of Disciplinary Isolation was given by Lynn Johnson, the Deputy Warden of Operations at MYI.

In August 2022, the Reflections Accountability Mediation Program (RAMP) was discontinued due to concerns about youth isolation as a disciplinary measure. The implementation of Involuntary Room Confinement (IRC) began on March 1, 2025. IRC may be used following incidents that present an immediate danger to youth or

staff, or for investigation purposes. Prior to placement, youth are cleared by medical staff and a Qualified Mental Health Professional to determine if there are any contraindications with IRC. During placement, youth are monitored at 15-minute intervals, and staff document interactions. A youth can be placed on IRC status for no more than 72 hours; since its inception, no youth has been placed on IRC for longer than an hour. Since the implementation of this program, there has been a noted decrease in IRC placement.

Use of Force: All use of force incidents involving the youth are reviewed by MYI Administration. Any use of chemical agent is closely monitored to determine if its use was warranted by staff. Proper measures are taken during the decontamination process, which include escorting the youth to the shower to rinse their facial area and/or body to remove the agent. Supervisory staff check the water temperature to ensure it is cold, and saline eye wash or facial wash is available for use by nursing staff if additional decontamination is necessary. Youth are also provided with clean, dry garments following exposure to a chemical agent. Administration continues to communicate with supervisory staff to discuss the importance of reducing the use of chemical agents with youth when feasible.

Chemical agents were used once in January, twice in February, once in March, once in April, twice in May, three times in June, and six times in July, with no reported use in August or September.

The "Incidents Involving Use of Chemical Agent" form documents details including the date and facility of the incident, youth's admission date, legal status (sentenced or unsentenced), age, reason for use of the chemical agent, shift and location of the incident, other strategies attempted by staff if applicable, whether there was youth or staff injury and the type if applicable, whether youth and staff debriefings occurred and reasons if not, youth's behavior prior to the use of the chemical agent, youth's stated reason for non-compliance with staff intervention, suggestions from youth and staff to avoid future incidents, and whether IRC was utilized, including the length of time in minutes if applicable.

The next presentation was given by Michael Moravec, the Mental Health Supervisor at MYI, who discussed the mental health components of the DOJ settlement.

The settlement highlighted three core components for enhancing mental health services within MYI: improving mental health assessments, improving mental health treatments, and improving the treatment planning process.

Progress prior to the agreement is difficult to quantify due to the significant time that passed between the initial investigation and the agreement, approximately four to five years. Since the settlement, mental health staffing has increased and is now sufficiently staffed to provide care and implement the agreement, with robust second shift coverage to account for the school day. Youth-specific practices have been implemented, and there has been collaboration with custody around other changes, including RAMP.

There were additional updates in identifying, clarifying, and quantifying monitoring processes, data, and metrics; improved training for staff and documentation of training; and enhancements to mental health assessments. All youth continue to be seen by mental health staff the day they arrive, with increased coordination between disciplines during the intake process. A youth-only mental health assessment process has been developed, with an EHR document currently in development. Documentation of specific details required by the agreement has been improved, and the ACE questionnaire has been replaced with the STRESS tool for initial mental health assessments.

Mental health treatment planning policy was generally consistent with the agreement, though some additional information was required to be included based on the agreement. Training and auditing regarding this additional information was developed and implemented. For mental health treatment, monthly Multidisciplinary Team Meetings were implemented to collaborate with all youth. Wellness clinics assess medical needs and risk twice a year across the DOC, and group formats were changed from general to more treatment specific.

The next presentation, focused on educational reforms since the settlement, was delivered by Matthew Reinke, Principal at MYI.

The DOJ Recommended 6 key changes within the educational environment

- Targeted Professional Development for Special Education: Focused training initiatives to strengthen instructional strategies and compliance with individualized student needs.
- Expanded Monitoring and Implementation of IEP Accommodations: Systematic oversight to ensure fidelity in delivering supports outlined in Individualized Education Programs.
- Transition Planning: Development of tailored transition pathways.
- Tiered Intervention System: Establishment of a structured support model that escalates to a Special Education referral when warranted.

- Early-Stage Student Data Collection: Gathering of academic and behavioral data during initial days to inform instructional planning and support.
- Quality Assurance Framework: Implementation of accountability measures to maintain high standards in service delivery and student outcomes.

Since September 2024, over 125 hours of professional development have been conducted, covering key topics such as differentiated instruction, transition planning including MAP (Making Action Plans), trauma-informed restorative justice, Tier One behavioral interventions, lesson planning with accommodations, SRBI instructional strategies, and IEP writing for DOJ compliance.

To support successful student transitions, two structured initiatives have been developed. MAP (Making Action Plans) is a formalized transition session that engages multiple stakeholders—including guardians, BRS staff, Re-entry Counselors, and external service providers—to help students articulate their goals and create actionable plans for personal, academic, and professional growth. Complementing this, Project Genesis is a five-module toolkit created by USD #1 staff that guides students through self-assessment, career exploration, job readiness, financial literacy, and community resources. The program culminates in a personalized portfolio and a certificate of completion, recognizing students' readiness for post-secondary success.

After the agreement, MYI has improved its early-stage student data collection, which includes observation, teacher progress reports, academic and behavioral data, student and parent or guardian interviews, and historical data. If the team suspects a student has a disability based on this information, the student is referred to Special Education and/or MYI's Tiered Intervention System.

The MYI Policy & Procedure Handbook outlines all procedures required to meet the standards of the DOJ implementation plan. All necessary forms have been standardized, distributed to staff, and are currently in use. Although the handbook remains under formal DOJ review, all procedures and protocols have already been implemented in practice.

Quality Assurance Measures: Each Special Education staff member is responsible for documenting the services provided to students. Accommodations for Special Education students are clearly outlined within lesson plans to ensure instructional alignment. School administrators conduct targeted classroom observations to verify the appropriate implementation of documented accommodations. Regular audits

are performed by administrators to ensure full compliance with Department of Justice (DOJ) requirements.

The next presentation was given by Michael Pierce, the Deputy Warden of MYI, and focused on new facility initiatives. These included the implementation of a radio frequency identification (RFID) system, the introduction of body scanners, and updates to the physical plant and living units.

In an effort to create a more home-like environment, MYI administration, facility plant engineers, contractors, and design teams have met to discuss plans to revitalize the youth cottages. The most recent meeting was held on August 14, 2025, to explore possible structural changes and upgrades.

Based on recommendations outlined in this agreement, a Time Keeping Radio Frequency Identification System has been requested for use at MYI. The system can be used to track and document welfare checks, room confinement data, program and activity participation, and the overall location of the youth population. Operational logistic details and preparation for the system are underway.

Manson Youth Institution has been identified as a pilot facility to receive body scanners to detect the conveyance of contraband into the facility. The body scanners will be used as a primary method to reduce and/or eliminate strip searches for our youth population. The expected delivery and installation date is September 18, 2025.

Q/A

Q: There was a chemical agent incident that occurred in July, and it seemed like both within the same day, but it happened in the classrooms. Was there any opportunity for a restorative mediation? If yes, what does that process look like, and what was the result of that?

A: In this incident yes, the unit manager called all the individuals involved in the incident, sat them down, and had an open-ended conversation with each one of them within a group setting. We typically attempt to sit down with the youth, have conversations with them, and make housing unit moves if required.

Q: Could you elaborate on the body scan programs initiated recently?

A: They will be in place on October 1st.

Q: How often are the PS5's and TV Programs used as a part of the loaner-program?

A: At present time, the loaner TV programs are available to them every day. There are currently 4 PS5s in each cottage, accessible to the youth through good behavior.

Q: How does the "best classroom of the day" program work? Is it centered on individual youth, or the whole classroom?

A: It is an incentive program that tries to harness the competitive energy of each class, in which the teacher rates each class they see that day, scoring them on 1-4 PBIS Scale. The class with the highest average score is given a reward, such as additional time to play basketball.

Q: There was a program encouraging youth to create music. What is the status of this program?

A: That program is functioning well and is currently staffed by 3 rehab therapists.

Q: Would it be possible to implement a system of behavioral health screeners which would document if students are acquiring the capability in addressing various behavioral health issues throughout their treatment plans?

A: Currently MYI is attempting to create a uniform set of measurement standards for treatment plans, and the screeners could be incorporated into this.

Q: What percentage of students in the system have IEPs?

A: 61% of students under 18 have an IEP

Q: Is there a formal assessment for the other 39% that do not come in with IEPs?

A: Yes, as mandated by the DOJ, we create an IEP within 30 days.

Q: Are there increases in out-of-cell time after the issuance of the DOJ Report?

A: The state is required to provide at a minimum of 5 hours of out-of-sale time per day. The offenders or the youth are out of their cells at least 5 hours out of the day, and often for greater periods of time.

Q: What is the vision for transitioning MYI to something resembling more of a healing center rather than a jail?

A: The vision is to make things softer, as MYI officials have visited facilities in and out of the country to conceptualize what a better environment for juveniles may look like?

Q: Are juveniles provided vocational training?

A: Currently there are five vocational programs, and the under 18 population is capable of accessing them through MYI's educational system.

Q: What type of training do correctional officers go through pertaining to de-escalation?

A: De-escalation training is completed through NYIS on an annual basis

Q: Is there a system in place for monitoring incidents?

Every incidence is monitored, and there is a quality assurance protocol in place to review any sort of incidence of chemical agent usage.

Q: Where have MAP and Project Genesis been used?

A: All teachers and pupil service specialists at MYI were fully trained by the start of the school year, and there are at least two teachers from every facility currently using MAPs to assist with transition efforts in places like Garner Correctional Institute and Manson Correctional Institute. Project Genesis was put into practice at York Correctional Institute.

Q: Are these programs only in use in DOC?

A: No, they are available for all districts in Connecticut.

Next Meeting:

November 20, 2025

2:00 PM-3:30 PM

Legislative Office Building