New York State Comptroller
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New York City Government Services: Juvenile Justice

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Prepared by the Office of the State Deputy Comptroller for the City of New York

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Introduction

In recent years, the City's juvenile justice system, which spans multiple State and City agencies, has experienced changes which have impacted the demand, cost and performance metrics of juvenile services. After a decade of decline, the population requiring probation services hit a low during 2020. Since then, an increasing number of youth have entered the juvenile justice system as staffing at these agencies has not kept up, resulting in increased pressure on service delivery. Agencies continue to make efforts to divert youth from becoming justice-involved at multiple stages through the system, but the changing nature of the population has also introduced challenges. While some performance measures have seen improvement in recent years, many are still below the City's stated targets or goals.

The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) examined fiscal and operational indicators from City agencies, primarily from the Mayor's Management Report (MMR), to assess their ability to adequately provide services according to their stated goals.[1] To facilitate this assessment, OSC identified each agency's role(s) and grouped the relevant metrics into four sequential process steps: probation intake, case assessment, court review, and decision. OSC found that the number of youth entering the system has grown rapidly, in part due to recent legislative changes to juvenile justice and nationwide crime trends, cascading increased demand across all agencies. The City is facing some difficulties in managing justice involved youth and in other cases, does not publish sufficient data to comprehensively assess service delivery and associated costs. Despite these pressures, the City also reports some positive trends, such as reduced rates of violence in detention centers, lower violation rates of juveniles on probation, and youth maintaining uninterrupted access to health services while in the City's care.

Key Findings

- **Youth arrests remain below 2019 levels, despite increasing by an average of 26 percent annually between 2021 and 2024 (9,500 arrests). More than half of arrests are now for major felony crimes, compared to only one-third prior to the pandemic.**
- **The proportion of shooting incidents committed by youth has increased as overall shootings have declined, with youth shootings remaining historically high and comparable to levels from nearly two decades ago.**
- **Juvenile Delinquent probation intakes grew by an average of 28 percent annually between 2021 and 2024 (8,100 cases), while the most recent data shows that the proportion of cases eligible for adjustment services dropped to the lowest level on record at 15 percent (FY 2026).**
- **The share of youth successfully referred to a diversion program with no new delinquency referral within one year decreased to the lowest level on record in FY 2025 (73 percent), below the City's specified target of 75 percent.**
- **The number of cases referred to the Law Department has grown by an average of 30 percent annually between 2021 and 2025 to more than 7,500 cases, reflecting a decrease in the share of**

cases eligible for adjustment services. The Department spent $20 million in FY 2026, $14 million more than the year prior and roughly $6,800 per case.

- **Cases filed in Family Court and the Youth Part grew by an annual average of 34 percent and 25 percent, respectively, between 2021 and 2024, fueled by an increase in Adolescent Offender cases.**
- **Costs for Alternatives to Detention more than doubled since FY 2023 to a record high $11 million in FY 2026 as participation has increased. However, the City does not publicly report total participation across all programs.**
- **The average daily population in detention has more than doubled from 2019 to 2025 (400 youth), driven by youth in secure detention which constituted 82 percent of the population in 2025. The length of stay in secure detention grew to 106 days in FY 2026, compared to 59 days in FY 2023.**
- **Secure detention costs more than doubled from FY 2019 to FY 2026 ($104 million), roughly $344,000 per youth based on the most recent annual average daily population. Overtime grew more than threefold, from $5 million in FY 2019 to $20.7 million in FY 2026, as staffing has not kept up with the population increase.**
- **Secure detention centers do not have space to properly accommodate the current population, with a combined capacity of 244 beds and a population of nearly 400 youth. Plans for expansion are not expected to be implemented until late 2027.**
- **Despite constraints, the City reports that there have been reductions in youth-on-youth and youth-on-staff incidents, declining from 0.29 and 0.3 incidents per 100 individuals, respectively, in FY 2019, to 0.17 and 0.13 incidents in FY 2026. Youth have still had uninterrupted access to health care services while in care.**
- **The number of juvenile probation cases increased by 140 percent between fiscal years 2021 and 2026 (1,076 cases). The Department of Probation spends about $20 million annually on juvenile justice services, approximately $19,000 per youth in FY 2026.**
- **The Close to Home population has more than doubled from 2021 to 2026 (approximately 120 individuals). However, costs remained relatively level for nearly a decade, averaging $114 million annually.**
- **Youth Part cases that result in sentencing have grown by 166 percent since 2019, with the number of youth sentenced to a period of confinement increasing more than 400 percent. Cases resulting in conditional discharge have halved over the same period.**

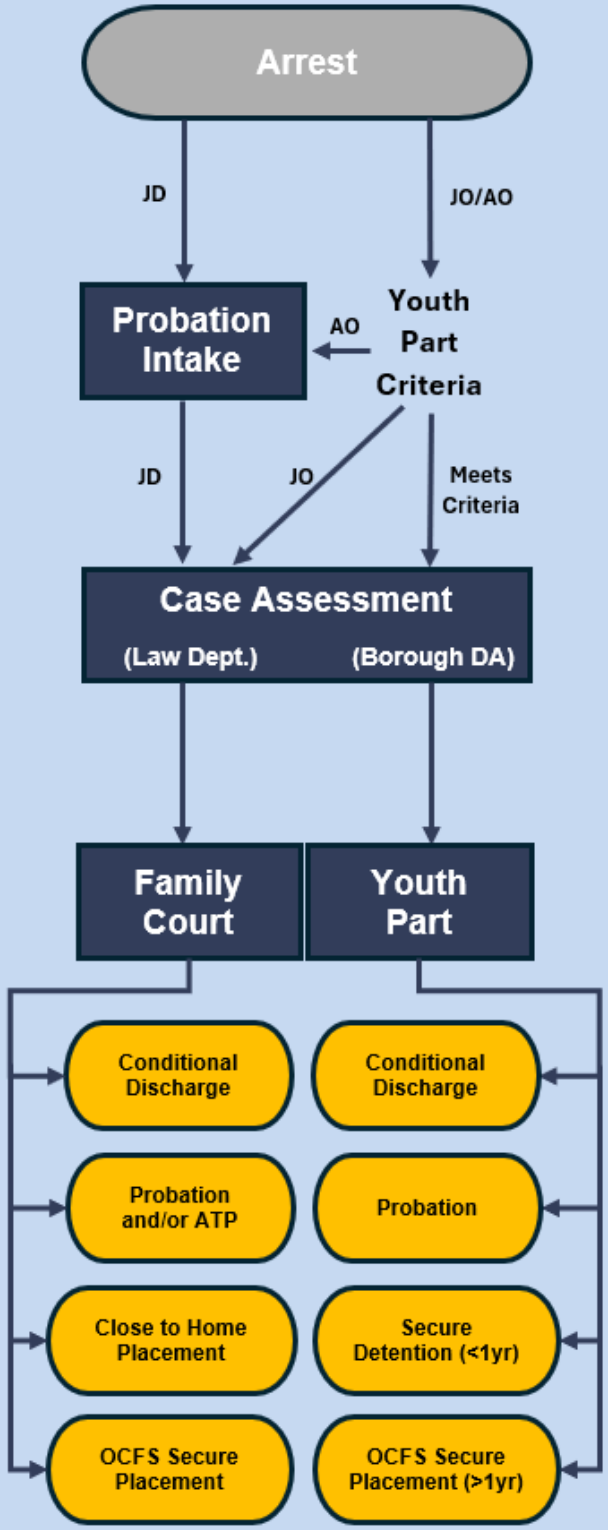
Background and Process

Youth arrested in New York City are subject to a different criminal justice process than adults, designed to provide them with specialized and age-specific services and create diversion opportunities from future involvement in the criminal justice system. Notably, the passage of Raise the Age (RTA) legislation in April 2017 reformed New York State's juvenile justice process, increasing the age of criminal responsibility from 16 years of age to 18 years and creating a new category within the juvenile population (see Appendix A for a glossary of terms used in this report). Prior to 2018, any individual over the age of 16 that was arrested and charged with committing a crime was processed as an adult.

A youth arrest sets into motion a process that can span many New York City agencies, including the Police Department (NYPD), Department of Probation (DOP), Law Department (LAW), District Attorney's Office (DA), and the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). State agencies, such as the New York State Unified Court System (UCS) and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) also have important roles in the process, but this report primarily focuses on services under the City's control.

To summarize the complex network of services, OSC outlines and breaks down the juvenile justice process into four steps: Probation Intake, Case Assessment, Court Review, and Decision (see Diagram A). The analysis lays out each of these steps in more detail and where possible, identifies publicly available and pertinent performance measures and staffing and spending trends to assess the performance of City agencies involved in each step of the process.

Diagram A: Juvenile Justice Process



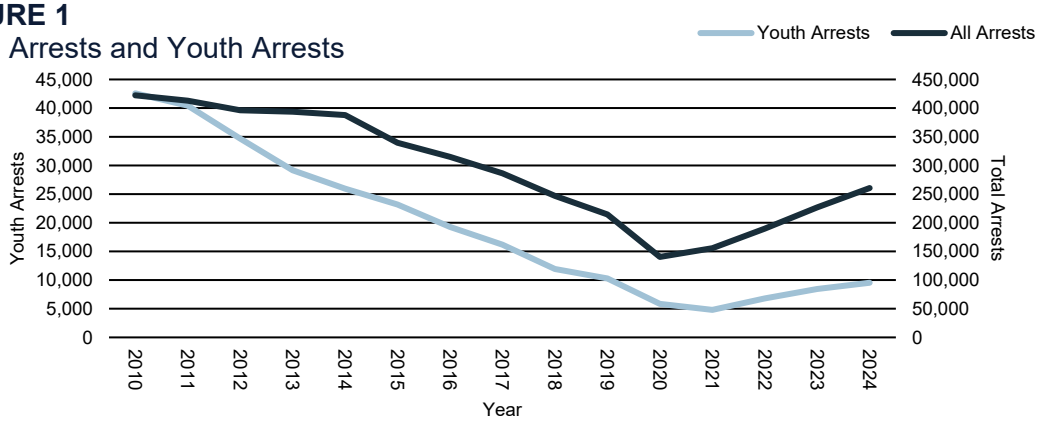
Probation Intake

Probation Intake Demand Rises as Staffing Levels Decline

Following an arrest, most youth not charged with a felony proceed to an initial screening conducted by DOP, known as probation intake. This is the first step in the juvenile justice process. A probation officer interviews the youth, as well as friends, family, and the victim, if applicable, to determine whether their case is eligible for adjustment services or should be referred for prosecution in Family Court. The adjustment process gives youth the opportunity to participate in activities or services to resolve the case without court intervention.

Youth arrests, which drive the initial demand for juvenile justice services, remain well below 2010 levels, despite increasing by an average of 26 percent annually from 2021 to 2024 to 9,500 arrests (see Figure 1).[2,3] The trend roughly follows the pre-pandemic decline in citywide arrests for all age groups, prior to the growth in recent years. However, the decline in youth arrests was more pronounced, with less of a rebound in the following years. Total arrests in 2024 were 21 percent higher than 2019 levels while youth arrests declined by 7 percent. Youth arrests as a share of all arrests declined from 4.8 percent in 2019 to 3.7 percent in 2024.

FIGURE 1
Total Arrests and Youth Arrests



Sources: New York Police Department; OSC analysis

While total arrests have declined, proportionally more youth are being arrested for more serious crimes, including shootings. An average of 53 percent of youth arrests since the pandemic were for major felony crimes, compared to 30 percent in the five prior years. Most of these are for violent felonies (murder, rape, robbery and felony assault). While shooting incidents in the City declined to the lowest on record in 2025, those committed by youth under 18 remain relatively high, comparable to levels from nearly two decades ago.[4] Youth-perpetrated shootings comprised 11 percent of total shootings citywide in 2025, more than double the share in 2019 (4 percent).

The changes to severity of the crime are important considerations for demand for probation intake services. The age and crime youth are accused of determines whether they are processed in Family Court or a specialized Youth Part within adult criminal court staffed with Family Court

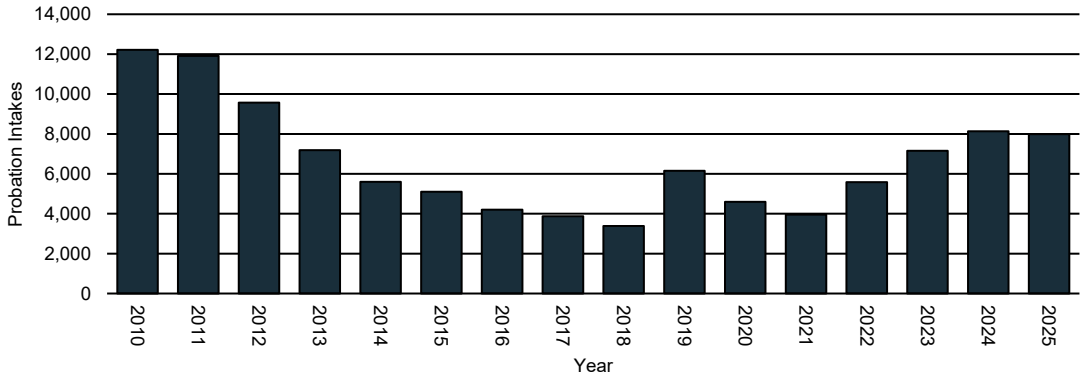
judges (“Youth Part”). The passage of RTA legislation created a new Adolescent Offender (AO) classification for 16- and 17-year-olds charged with a felony. This new class, along with 13-, 14-, and 15-year-olds charged with committing certain serious felony crimes, classified as Juvenile Offenders (JO), have their cases heard in the Youth Part. An Assistant District Attorney (ADA) employed at the District Attorney’s office in the borough where the respective charges were filed represents the City in these cases.

Most cases beginning in the Youth Part are transferred to Family Court by default unless youth are charged with a violent felony offense that meets one of three criteria: significant physical injury, display of a deadly weapon, or sex offenses. Alternatively, an ADA may file to retain the case in the Youth Part if they can prove to the court that there are “extraordinary circumstances.” Cases remaining in the Youth Part involve the most severe charges and are more complex, limiting alternative juvenile justice options and lasting longer on average to resolve. Only AO cases transferred to Family Court are eligible to proceed to probation intake; JO cases transferred out proceed directly to review by an Assistant Corporation Counsel (ACC) at LAW. All other youth charged with a crime are classified as Juvenile Delinquents (JD) and go through probation intake prior to their case being initiated in Family Court.

Once opened, DOP has seven days to determine if an intake case should be referred to LAW for prosecution or keep the case open for adjustment services. If the case is eligible for adjustment, the case may remain open for up to three months monitored by DOP, with possible extensions if deemed necessary. Adjustment services could include restitution, community service, a letter of apology and/or mediation, among other possible resolutions not involving court intervention.

Of the 9,500 youth arrests in 2024, 8,100 were processed by an intake probation officer at DOP (85 percent), a share that rose significantly from under 30 percent prior to the passage of Raise the Age and has remained relatively level since, averaging 83 percent from 2020 to 2024.[5] Over this period, the number of intakes grew in parallel with youth arrests, up by an average of 28 percent annually (see Figure 2). However, while arrests remain below 2019 levels, DOP continues to handle the highest level of intake cases since 2012. This reflects the increasing caseload from 16- and 17-year-old individuals who would have been charged in adult criminal court prior to RTA.

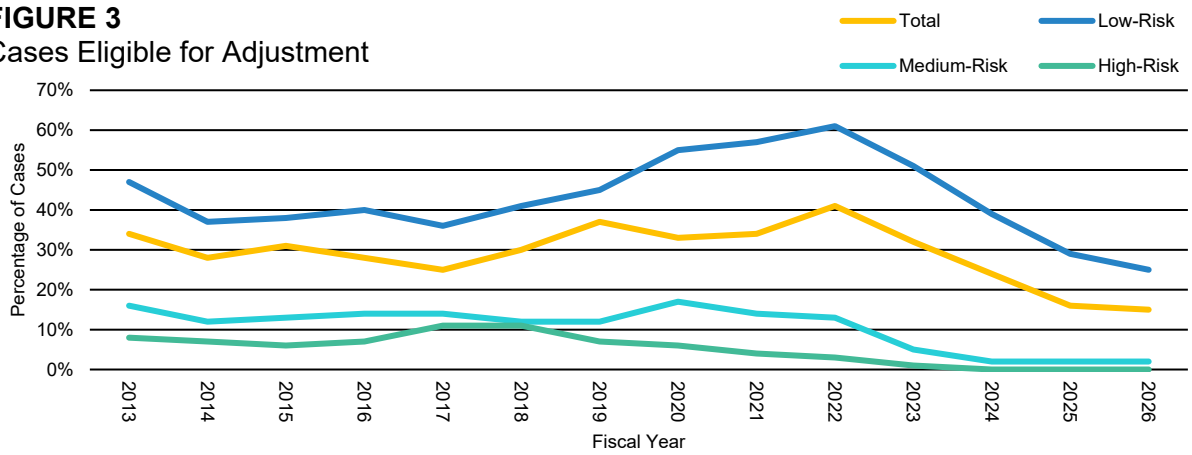
FIGURE 2
Juvenile Delinquent Probation Intakes



Sources: Department of Probation; OSC analysis

The City specifies one service goal related to probation intake: to "assess and determine youth appropriate for diversion from formal juvenile court proceedings via adjustment services," (see Appendix B). While the City's target is to increase the proportion of cases eligible for adjustment, data shows that the share of eligible cases declined to the lowest on record in FY 2026 (15 percent). The Department notes that this decline is mostly attributable to the decline in the eligibility of low-risk cases, as medium- and high-risk cases were largely unchanged (see Figure 3).[6,7]

FIGURE 3
Cases Eligible for Adjustment



Sources: Mayor's Management Report; OSC analysis

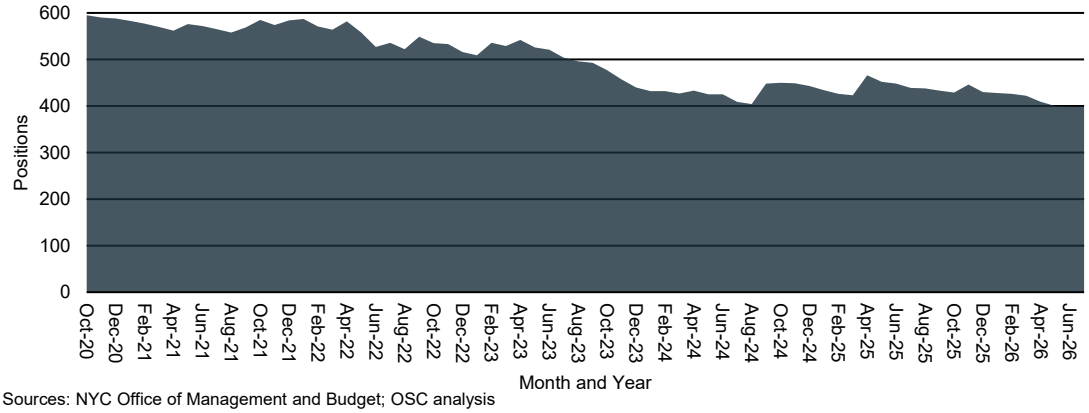
Both intake levels and adjustment eligibility are indicators that are impacted by factors beyond DOP's control. There is also a critical distinction between eligibility and suitability, in which a case may be eligible but not suitable for services based on specific conditions. The FY 2026 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report (PMMR) states that "it is difficult to compare across years as the types of cases referred to the Department changes and as each case varies based on individual circumstances."[8] Variations in risk assessments, prior juvenile justice involvement, and other statutory factors can limit the Department's ability to divert cases. The combined increase in probation intakes, coupled with a lower share of cases eligible for adjustment ultimately results in a higher number of youth cases being filed in Family Court.

Staffing constraints may also be adding pressure on the Department's ability to adequately review cases. Information shared by the Department shows that as of April 2026, there were 26 probation officers assigned to intake citywide, each completing an average of about 26 cases per month.[9] These officers also monitor an average of 10 cases open for adjustment at any given time. While the Department has not noted any operational impact due to staffing, it highlighted a need for 10 additional probation officers for intake at that time.

The Department does not publicly release information on the number of probation officers required to properly conduct intake services, making it difficult to ascertain changes over time and how staffing could be restricting its ability to provide services. Overall, total probation officer headcount has decreased by one-third since 2020 in contrast to the growth in youth arrests and intakes (see Figure 4).[10] Further suggesting staffing may be pressured, total overtime at the Department increased by 52 percent from FY 2024 to the highest on record in FY 2025 ($4.5 million) and remained elevated in FY 2026 ($4.3 million), but there is no detail of how much

is attributable to juvenile probation services.[11] In an October 2026 hearing before the City Council Committee on Criminal Justice, Department leadership testified that increased hiring is underway, with 57 new probation officer graduates so far in 2026 and 50 more expected in December 2026.[12] With another four officer classes planned for next year, the Department expects to be fully staffed by the end of FY 2027. However, it is unclear how many probation officers will be assigned to youth operations and specifically intake.

FIGURE 4
Probation Officer Headcount



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

More specific data on spending for juvenile probation intake services is limited, in large part because the DOP budget is split into only two functional areas, executive management and probation services. These high-level categorizations do not provide the detail necessary to assess the fiscal impact of juvenile justice services at DOP. OSC analyzed and compiled budget data to best reflect spending, but the Department does not track intake services separately. This discussion can be found later in this report (see the Probation Supervision subsection of the Decision section).

Overall, OSC notes that there is growing demand for probation intake services in recent years as the number of arrests rebound from historical lows. This drives demand for subsequent juvenile justice services in other agencies, especially as cases are becoming decreasingly eligible for court alternatives. However, with limited insight into spending and staffing information, it is difficult to fully assess the agency's performance with respect to handling increased workload.

Case Assessment

Case Assessment Services Demand Up for Family Court and Youth Part

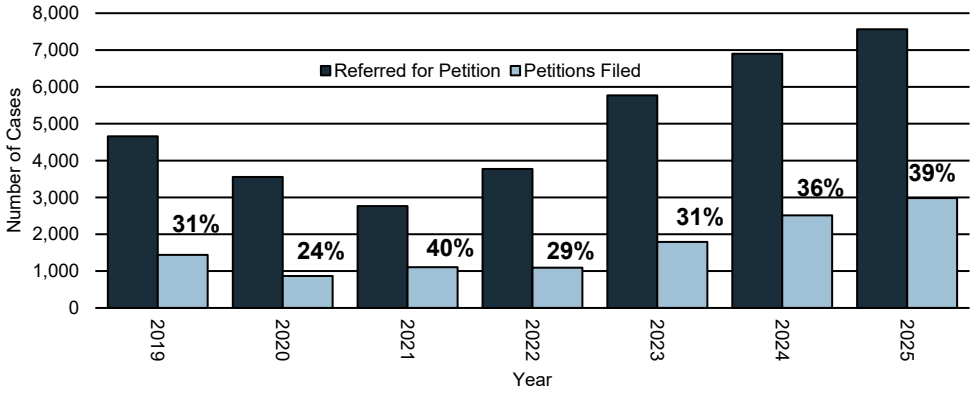
A secondary review prior to initiating the case in court is the second step in the juvenile justice process: Case Assessment. If DOP refers a case to LAW, the assigned ACC will review the case again and make a final determination on whether to file in court. The ACC has the option to refer the youth to diversion services instead, another effort to avoid court intervention through specialized programming if the parties involved would benefit from resolving the matter outside of the formal juvenile justice system. Diversion programs could include mediation, youth court, counseling, substance abuse treatment, and/or restorative justice programs. If the individual completes the diversion program, the ACC declines to prosecute and the arrest record is sealed. Likewise, for AO and JO cases that are not transferred to Family Court and remain in the Youth Part, the assigned ADA will decide if the case should proceed in court.

Family Court Case Assessment Sees Increased Referrals Amid Reduced Staffing

Cases that are subject to probation intake are referred to the Law Department for prosecution in Family Court if the case is not eligible for adjustment services or if the individual failed to meet the conditions of adjustment. Additionally, JO cases removed from the Youth Part to Family Court that are not eligible for probation intake are transferred directly to the Law Department. The City service goal associated with the Law Department's involvement in the process is to "balance the needs of juveniles and the community in delinquency cases."

Neither the Department of Probation or the Law Department publicly report the total number of cases referred from probation intake. However, data from the State's Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) shows that the number of cases referred to the Law Department has grown by an average of 30 percent annually since 2021 to more than 7,500 cases in 2025, slightly outpacing the growth in arrests and probation intakes over the same period (see Figure 5).[13] This increase aligns with the declining number of cases eligible for adjustment services as mentioned earlier.

FIGURE 5
Juvenile Delinquent Referrals and Petitions Filed in Family Court

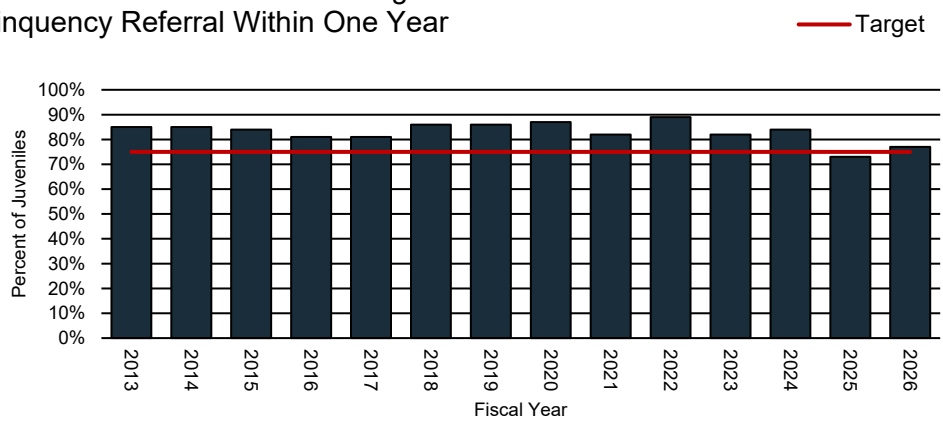


Sources: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services; OSC analysis

Of the cases referred, roughly 35 percent have been filed for prosecution in Family Court in recent years. The City aims to prosecute 55 percent of referred cases annually, a level not achieved since FY 2014, suggesting the Department is declining to prosecute more cases than it intends to, although the share has increased in recent years. The MMR does not provide any reasoning for failing to meet its specified target, but instead partially attributes the recent increase to the growth in the number of referrals to the Law Department.

All cases reviewed by the Law Department are considered for diversion services when possible, giving youth another opportunity to avoid court intervention. While the City does not publish the number of youth diverted at this stage, it provides data on diversion outcomes. The share of youth successfully referred to a diversion program with no new delinquency referral within one year decreased to its lowest level on record in FY 2025 (73 percent), below the City's specified target of 75 percent for the first time since the City has reported the statistic in the MMR (see Figure 6). The share increased to 77 percent in FY 2026, but still remains historically low.

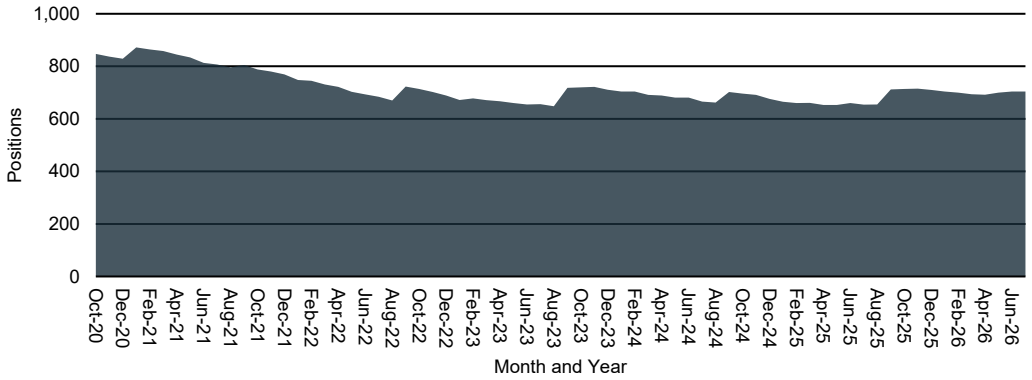
FIGURE 6
Youth Referred to a Diversion Program With No New Delinquency Referral Within One Year



Sources: Mayor's Management Report; OSC analysis

Law Department staffing data shows that ACC headcount is 17 percent lower than in 2020, from about 850 positions to about 700 in 2026 (see Figure 7). However, like the Department of Probation, the Law Department does not publicly specify what portion of its total ACC headcount is dedicated to prosecuting juvenile cases in Family Court, making it difficult to assess caseload per attorney and the impact of a potentially diminished workforce on service provision. Furthermore, the Department's budget structure only highlights two functional areas: one for personal services and another for non-personal services. Once again, these broad categorizations do not currently provide enough transparency into the spending or headcount within the functional areas at the Department.

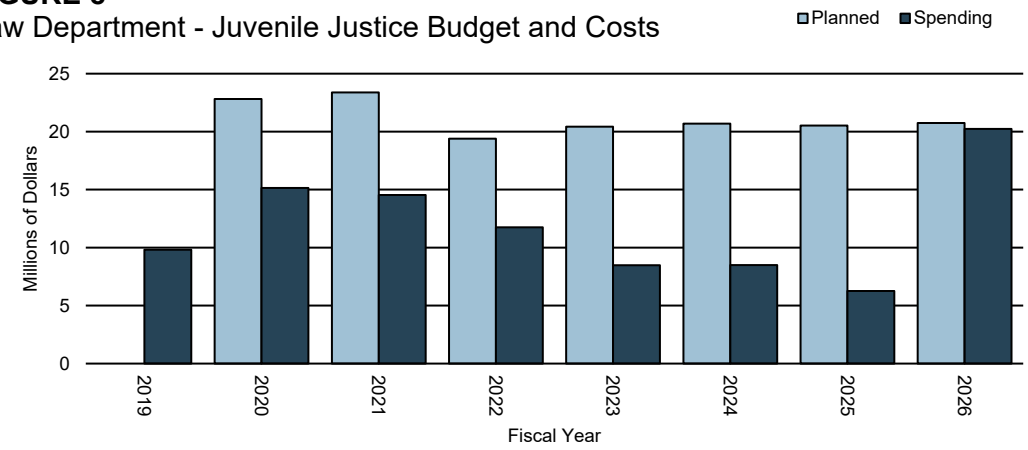
FIGURE 7
Assistant Corporation Counsel Headcount



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

In lieu of a functional area breakdown, OSC attempted to best reflect juvenile justice spending at the Department by compiling data based on budget descriptions (program areas and RTA-related detail).[14] Costs totaled $20 million in FY 2026, not including general administrative expenses, $14 million (223 percent) more than what was spent in FY 2025, reversing a declining trend since FY 2020 (see Figure 8). With nearly 3,000 cases filed in 2025, the Department spends roughly $6,800 per case. The Department budgets approximately $20 million annually for juvenile justice which it had not fully utilized in each year until FY 2026.

FIGURE 8
Law Department - Juvenile Justice Budget and Costs



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

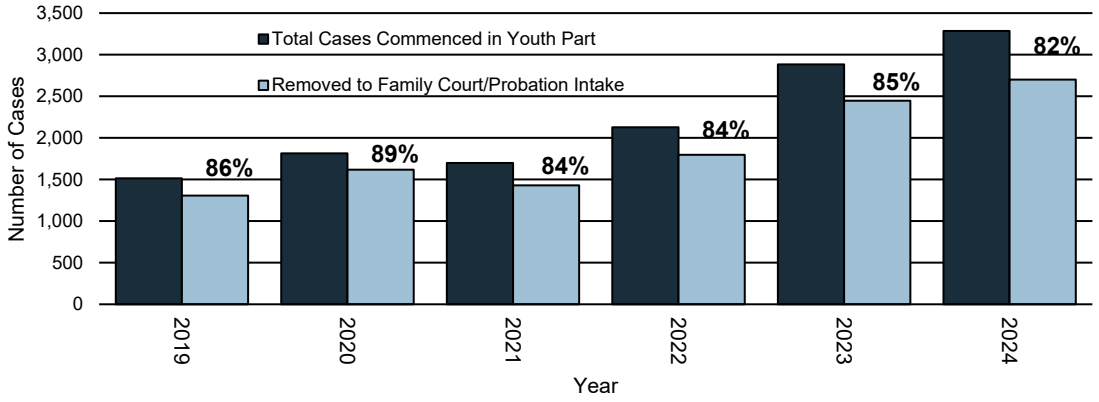
There is growing demand for juvenile justice services at LAW, correlated with the increase in arrests and subsequent referrals from DOP. Indicators published in the MMR show that the Department fell short in all specified targets related to juvenile justice in FY 2025, with only partial improvement in FY 2026. While the City does not provide reasons for the drop in performance, the increasing number and complexity of these cases coupled with staffing declines may be pressuring service provision. However, without more detailed data it is difficult to assess and corroborate the relationship.

Cases Processed in Youth Part Have Risen Dramatically

More than 80 percent of cases initially entering the Youth Part are removed and transferred to Family Court annually.[15] The cases that remain in the Youth Part are reviewed by the respective District Attorney's Office in the borough where the case is being brought forward. The District Attorneys are independently elected offices, which do not appear in the MMR and therefore are not required to provide the same level of detail that other City agencies might. However, the State DCJS collects and publishes some Youth Part data on case types and outcomes.

The number of cases beginning in the Youth Part doubled between 2019 and 2024, but so has the number of cases subsequently removed to Family Court (see Figure 9). Over the three years ending in 2024, the Youth Part saw average annual growth of 25 percent in cases, in line with arrest, probation intake and Family Court filing data. Additionally, the share of cases removed in 2024 declined to the lowest level on record (82 percent), indicating a higher proportion of cases that involve more serious charges.

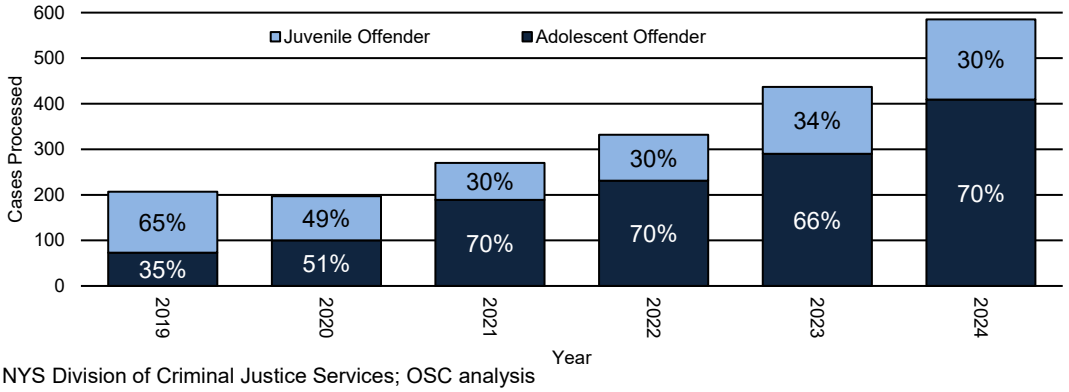
FIGURE 9
Cases Starting in the Youth Part



Sources: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services; OSC analysis

The cases that remain and are processed in the Youth Part have nearly tripled since 2019, reaching 585 in 2024. The increase is driven mostly by growth in AO cases (16- and 17-year-olds), which have increased by 460 percent over this period, compared to JO cases (13-, 14-, and 15-year-olds) which grew by 31 percent (see Figure 10). As noted earlier, the AO designation represents the population that were previously charged as adults prior to Raise the Age legislation. This group constituted 70 percent of the total Youth Part caseload in 2024, double the share in 2019, the year before Raise the Age was fully implemented.

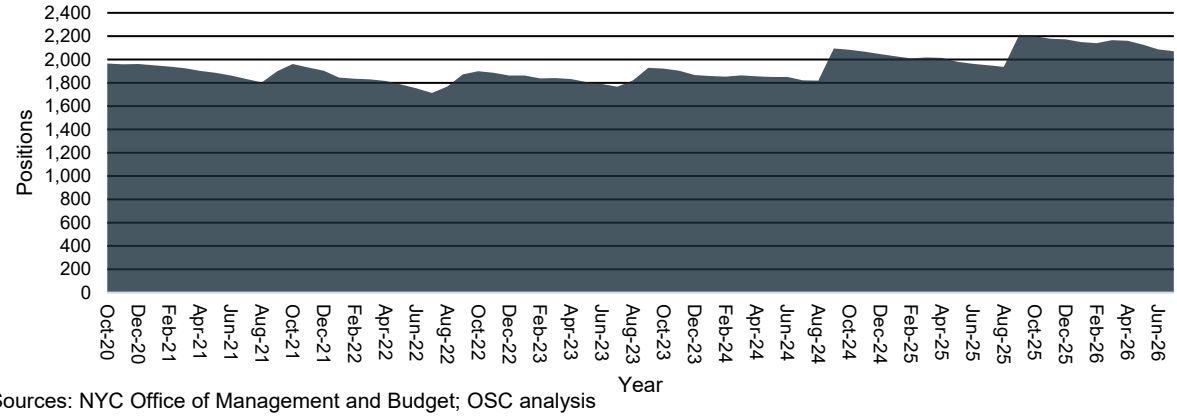
FIGURE 10
Cases Processed in the Youth Part



Sources: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services; OSC analysis

The District Attorney Offices in each borough also do not publish juvenile specific budget and spending information. However, OSC consolidated ADA headcount from each of the five borough offices (see Figure 11). While the data does not break out staff dedicated to Youth Part cases, total ADA headcount is slightly higher than it was toward the end of 2020 when accounting for cyclical hiring and attrition, with nearly 2,100 ADAs as of July 2026. More information is needed to know to assess whether the Offices have sufficient staff to handle the increased number of cases.

FIGURE 11
Assistant District Attorney Headcount



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

Court Review

Secure Detention Driving Growth in Youth in ACS Care

The period while a case is under review by the court, which could include detention or alternative programming, is the third step in the juvenile justice process: Court Review. Once a case commences in Family Court or in the Youth Part, the judge assigned to the case will decide where the youth will stay for the duration of the court case. Depending on the severity of the case and the individual's risk profile, the judge may release the youth with or without certain conditions, involving supervision under community-based service providers (also known as alternatives to detention (ATD) programs), or order that the youth be held at a detention facility administered by ACS.

Detentions While Awaiting Court Review Rise Amid Staffing Pressures

The City identifies three goals associated with ACS juvenile casework services, with a more robust array of performance metrics than other juvenile justice agencies. The first is to "ensure that detention facilities are safe and secure." ACS provides two levels of detention services based on the youth's risk-profile and pending charges: secure and non-secure detention.

Non-secure detention facilities are available exclusively to lower-risk youth with JD designations, offering a less restrictive option to secure detention. These group home facilities, located in Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx, are operated by nonprofit organizations contracted by ACS. As of October 2026, seven facilities are operated by five service providers, with each typically housing up to 12 individuals.[16]

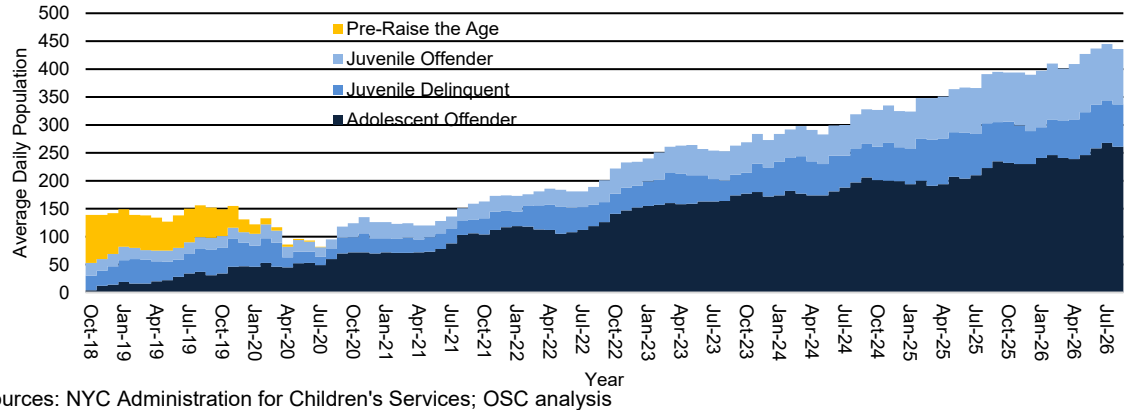
In contrast, secure detention facilities have the most restrictive security features and are typically reserved for individuals who pose the highest risk and/or have been accused of committing serious offenses. Prior to RTA, 16- and 17-year-olds awaiting the outcome of their case could be detained on Rikers Island, a system of adult jail facilities administered by the Department of Correction. The law mandated the transfer of these youth to secure detention centers administered by ACS and regulated by OCFS (Crossroads Juvenile Center in Brownsville, Brooklyn and Horizon Juvenile Center in Mott Haven, Bronx).

Individuals with a JD charge can be held in non-secure or secure detention, but those with JO and AO charges can be held only in secure detention. Furthermore, while most youth are held in secure detention awaiting the outcome of their case, AO cases that receive a sentence in the Youth Part of a year or less may also be held in an ACS secure detention facility. Youth with a JO designation and others sentenced to a longer term awaiting transfer to State OCFS-administered facilities are temporarily placed in ACS secure detention as well.

The monthly average daily population (ADP) in detention has nearly tripled since the implementation of RTA legislation when 16- and 17-year-olds were transferred from Rikers Island to ACS facilities, from approximately 150 youth in 2019 to more than 400 by mid-2026

(see Figure 12).[17] Most of these individuals are those that would have been held at Rikers pre-RTA (AO cases), constituting about 60 percent of the total population.

FIGURE 12
Average Daily Population in Detention



Sources: NYC Administration for Children's Services; OSC analysis

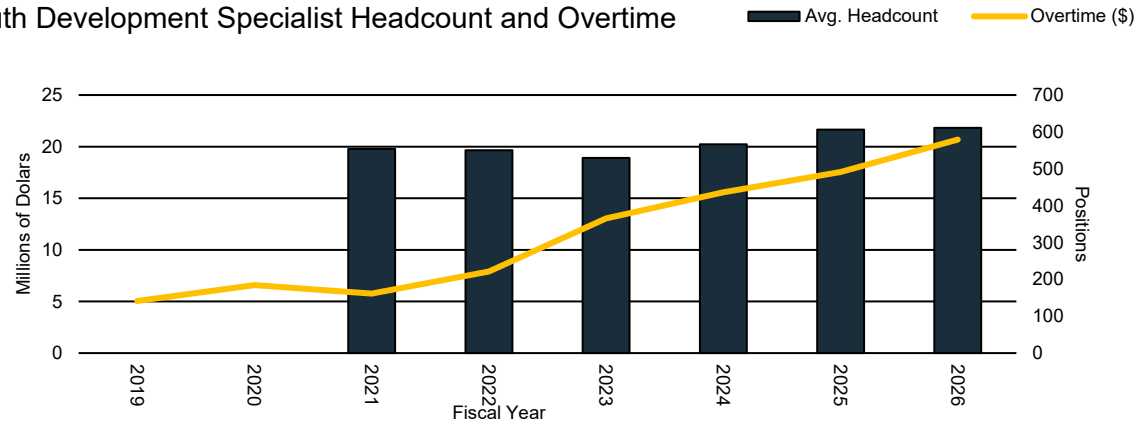
The population in secure detention, which made up 82 percent of the total population in 2025, grew by more than 400 percent between 2019 and 2025 to more than 300 youth, significantly outpacing the growth in non-secure detention over the same period (116 percent).[18] As of August 2026, the monthly ADP in secure detention was 376, more than seven times the population in the months leading up to the implementation of RTA (approximately 50 youth).[19] Furthermore, youth held at these facilities are experiencing an increased length of stay, growing from an average of 59 days in FY 2023 (when detailed data was first reported) to 106 days in FY 2026. ACS attributes the growth to "a higher proportion of youth with complex or serious cases requiring extended periods in detention." As of the end of 2025, individuals with AO and JO cases were held in secure detention for an average of 273 and 285 days, respectively, whereas those with JD cases saw an average of 37 days.[20] In comparison, the average length of stay in non-secure detention was 18 days, relatively unchanged in recent years.

ACS is directly involved in the care of youth held in secure detention, unlike non-secure detention which is contracted out. The Administration employs individuals to supervise and mentor youth in their care, known as Youth Development Specialists (YDS). This is the primary staff entrusted with the safety of youth and ensuring they have access to services (education, mental health, etc.).

The number of YDS positions on staff at ACS has increased by 16 percent since 2020, to more than 600 specialists in 2026. However, the increase has lagged behind the rapid growth in population over the same period, reducing the number of available staff per youth. State regulations require a 1:6 staff-to-youth ratio, but the Administration does not publish this data or information on other metrics such as absence rates. Furthermore, as of April 2026, there were approximately 90 vacant YDS positions as the City has not yet hired to budgeted headcount levels (a vacancy rate of roughly 12 percent at the time).[21] Detention facilities require mandatory and other variable posts to be staffed, including educational and medical liaisons and special one-to-one assignments, among others. The ratio decline has lead to an increased reliance on

overtime to sufficiently staff these facilities at all times, with spending growing from $5 million in FY 2019 to $20.7 million in FY 2026 (see Figure 13).

FIGURE 13
Youth Development Specialist Headcount and Overtime



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; NYC Financial Management System; OSC analysis

A report issued by the Department of Investigation (DOI) in 2024 detailed staffing issues at the detention centers, including an urgent need to hire more YDSs and the inability of existing staff to handle the new population demographics, "particularly the residents' age, physical size, and violent criminal history."[22] These factors can lead to decreased staff availability as a result of injuries, as workers are placed on Workers' Compensation (WC). The DOI's investigation, conducted between September 2022 and May 2023, found that an average of 34 percent and 23 percent of YDSs were out on WC, respectively at the Horizon and Crossroads detention centers. The presence of higher-risk individuals is increasing, with the Administration noting that more than 73 percent of youth in secure detention in March 2026 were charged with murder-related crimes.[23]

Despite staffing issues and a changing population, some security indicators improved, including significant reductions in violent altercations per capita. The rate of incidents between youth resulting in an injury has declined from 0.29 incidents per hundred individuals in FY 2019 to 0.17 in FY 2026. The rate of youth-on-staff assaults resulting in an injury has also decreased from 0.30 in FY 2019 to 0.13 in FY 2026. While there was a slight increase in rates in recent years, the City attributes it to a "significant increase in population in a limited space," and notes that violence rates in secure detention remained below historic levels.

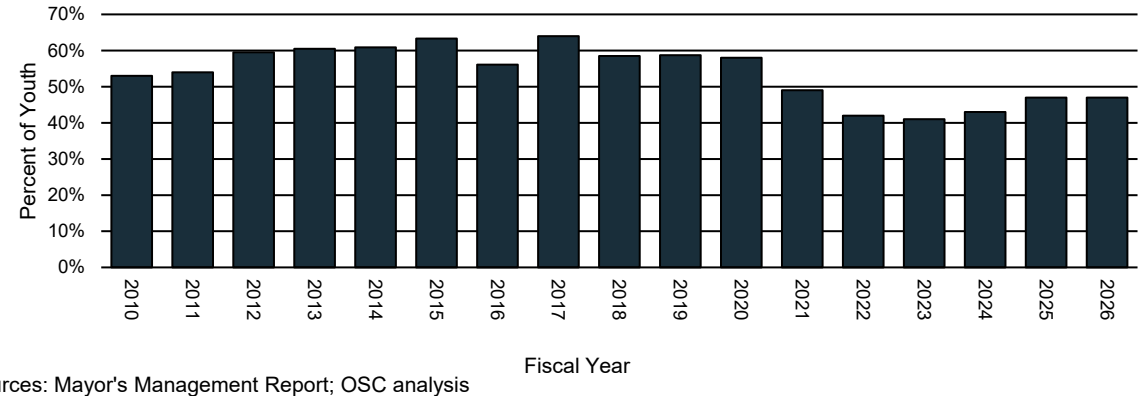
Additionally, while proportionally more weapons and illegal subtances were recovered from youth in 2025 when compared to 2019, the Administration credits this to more frequent and enhanced investigation and search processes, in collaboration with DOI, and new scanning technology. In FY 2019, 0.09 weapons per hundred individuals were recovered, compared to 0.40 in FY 2026. Similarly, 0.09 contraband items of illegal subtances or medication per hundred individuals were recovered in 2019, compared to 0.19 in FY 2025.

ACS provides youth in its care with health and rehabilitation services, related to the specified service goals to "provide youth in detention and placement with appropriate health and mental health services," and to "provide services to prevent youth from returning to the juvenile justice system." Although the staffing ratio has declined significantly, ACS has continued to provide

health services to all youth within 24 hours of a sick call in FY 2026 (100 percent), which it has consistently achieved since FY 2010. Additionally, while the percentage of youth who received a mental health screening or services while in detention fluctuates, it increased slightly from 74 percent in FY 2019 to 75 percent in FY 2026.

ACS also provides programming to help prevent youth recidivism via alternative case resolutions and rehabilitation for justice-involved youth, which has seen increased participation in recent years. To assess performance, the City reports on the share of youth admitted to detention with a previous admission, which has decreased from 58.7 percent in 2019 to 47 percent in FY 2026 (see Figure 14).

FIGURE 14
Youth Admitted to Detention With Previous Admission

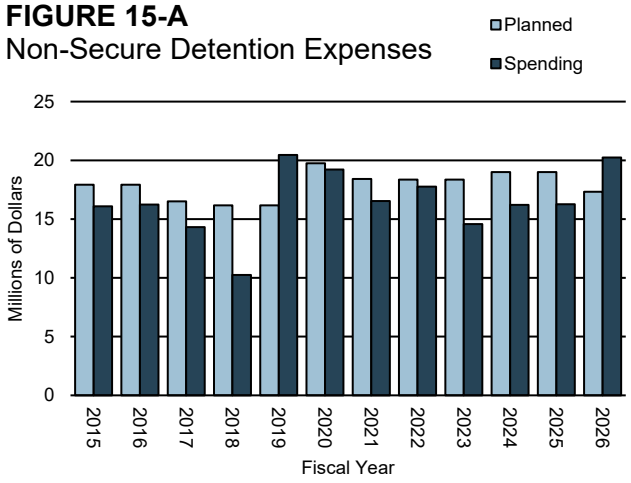


Sources: Mayor's Management Report; OSC analysis

The City publishes the average daily cost per juvenile in detention, which dropped from $1,651 in FY 2019 to $1,071 in FY 2026, primarily driven by the increase in population. The average daily general health care cost per youth also dropped from $171 to $65 over the same period. The City notes that “overall expenditures have increased slightly” since FY 2021, but a closer analysis of budget and spending data indicates that costs have increased for secure detention, while remaining relatively flat for non-secure detention.

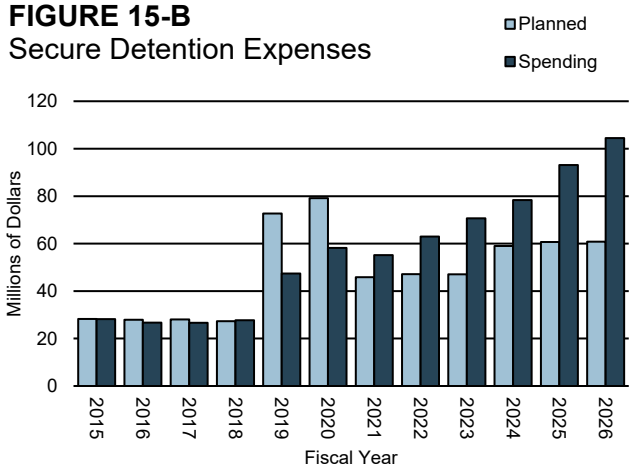
In contrast to other agencies involved in juvenile justice, the City provides budgetary transparency into functional areas of ACS’s operations, allowing for a more detailed view of spending (see Appendix C). Non-secure detention costs have hovered around $16 million annually in recent years, but increased to $20 million in FY 2026, exceeding the budget for the first time since FY 2019. Costs for secure detention more than doubled since FY 2019 to $104 million, roughly $344,000 per youth based on the most recent annual ADP (see Figure 15-A and Figure 15-B). Furthermore, the Administration exceeded the budget allotted for secure detention expenses in FY 2026 by $44 million (72 percent), following a trend of annual underbudgeting since FY 2020.

FIGURE 15-A
Non-Secure Detention Expenses



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

FIGURE 15-B
Secure Detention Expenses



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

While the City indicates in the MMR that demand for services has grown due to factors outside of its control, it does not identify significant problems in managing the secure detention population. However, concerns have been raised in recent years about capacity issues and the lack of transparency on constraints and other metrics that could potentially impact services. The Legal Aid Society, a nonprofit public defense provider and human rights advocacy group that notes it represents about 90 percent of justice-involved youth, publicly addressed ACS on overcrowding at the two secure detention centers in an October 2025 letter.[24,25] Legal Aid noted in the letter that approximately 100 youth were in secure detention without an assigned room to sleep or keep their belongings in (one-third of the population at the time).

Legal Aid stated that youth are being accommodated in classrooms, hallways, and visiting areas, which has affected the City's ability to provide programming and safety to individuals in its care. To legally do so, the Administration has requested and obtained waivers from OCFS providing an exemption from mandated housing requirements. Legal Aid urged ACS to identify alternative space for youth (including open beds at other ACS facilities), create policies to better manage overcapacity, and provide metrics on the availability of rooms and overcrowding.

These potential service impediments are not clear given publicly available data, and in other cases metrics are fragmented across different sources with varying reporting frequencies and methodologies. In April 2025, OSC released an audit conducted on Horizon and Crossroads, which found that there was an insufficient monitoring of intake, housing, and case management services and that there were discrepancies in reported incident counts, among other issues (see Oversight of Horizon and Crossroads Juvenile Centers).[26] OSC proposed recommendations focused on improving policies and monitoring procedures.

The City does not publish facility capacity, but the OCFS website hosts a daily snapshot of the capacity of detention centers across the State, including at Horizon and Crossroads. As of October 2026, the combined capacity at these facilities was 244 beds, falling short of the most recent population count in August 2026 (376 individuals).[27] The Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Design and Construction, has accelerated plans to construct an additional 84 bedrooms across both facilities by the end of 2027.[28] However, ACS and juvenile justice partners may also need to find alternative solutions to relieve overcapacity, as the

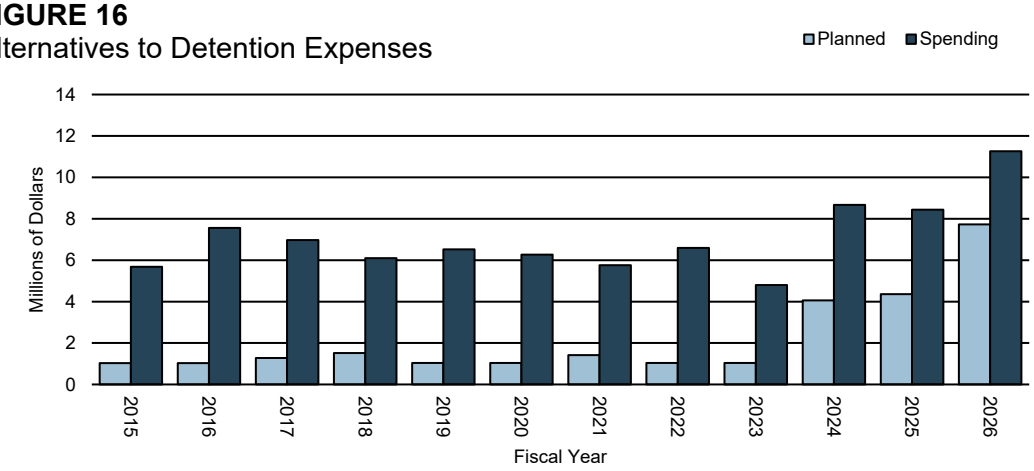
expected additional space would still be insufficient to appropriately house the current population.

Alternatives to Detention Participation Grows Along With Spending

ATD programs ensure that youth who would otherwise be held in detention, are released into their communities with individualized supervision. These services are contracted by ACS to borough-based providers offering educational and recreational services. The judge may order youth to a period of 30 to 90 days, with the provider ensuring the individual will return to court and avoid delinquent behavior.

While spending on ATD programming remained relatively unchanged for most of the last decade, it more than doubled in the past three years to $11 million in FY 2026, exceeding the budget by $3.5 million or 46 percent (see Figure 16). The City has not allocated sufficient resources at each budget adoption to account for actual ATD costs, requiring millions in unanticipated funding each year. The MMR does not highlight participation specifically in ATD programs, but groups them together with preventive and support services, including alternatives to placement (ATP) programs. The City notes that participation in these programs is increasing, “driven by efforts of the Family Court to seek alternatives for the increasing number of youth in the juvenile justice system.”

FIGURE 16
Alternatives to Detention Expenses



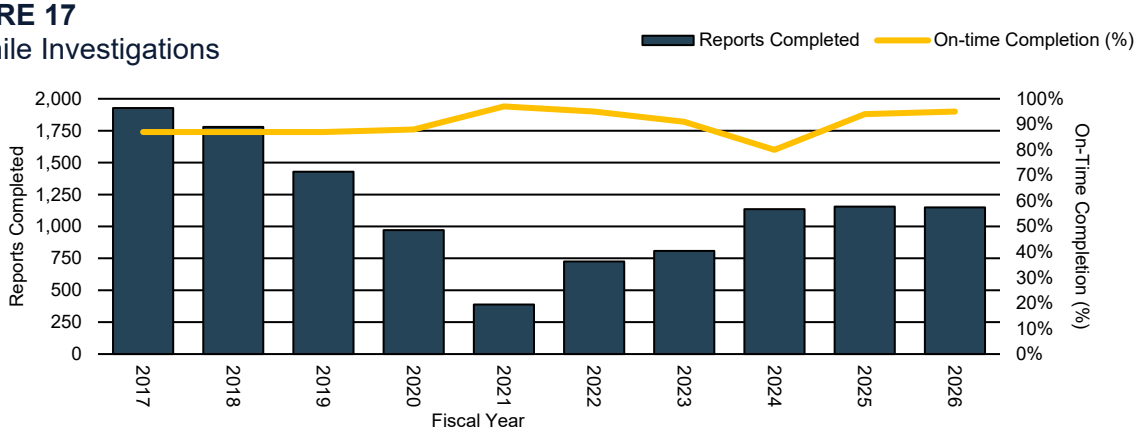
Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

Probation Reporting Improved but Lagging Historical Levels

In Family Court, DOP is required to submit an investigation report when the court confirms an offense was committed, including relevant information about the charged youth, such as behavioral and educational history and recommendations to help judges make a decision in the case. The service goal related to this process is to **“**produce timely and accurate pre-sentence investigations.”

The number of reports declined to a historic low in FY 2021 (388 reports), but rebounded to more than 1,100 reports in each of the last three fiscal years (see Figure 17). However, the number of reports have remained level through this period and is lower than pre-RTA levels despite the increased number of cases filed. On-time completion of reports in FY 2026 reached 95 percent, an increase from a low of 80 percent in FY 2024 and higher than pre-RTA levels, which the agency attributes to its targeted response, focusing on “streamlining workflows, strengthening staff support, and adopting new technology.” The MMR does not provide insight into why the trend in investigation reports has diverged from the continued growth in probation intakes and cases processed in court.

FIGURE 17
Juvenile Investigations



Sources: Mayor's Management Report; OSC analysis

Decision

Youth Facing Outcomes in Family Court and Youth Part Have Increased

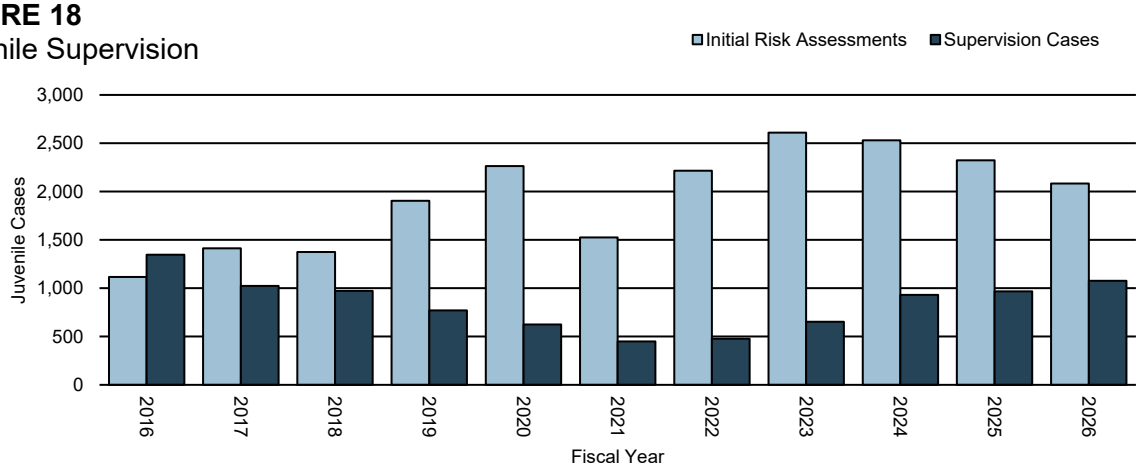
The services provided to justice-involved youth following a court's decision on a case is the fourth and last step in the juvenile justice process: sentencing (Youth Part) and disposition (Family Court). If the judge assigned to a case determines that a crime was committed, the youth will be ordered to comply with one or more options: conditional discharge, probation, alternatives-to-placement programming (Family Court only), Close to Home placement (Family Court only), or secure placement. A conditional discharge is the least severe option reserved for the lowest risk individuals in either court, in which the individual is released but must comply with conditions specified by the court, typically for a maximum period of one year. Violating the agreed-upon conditions could result in an extension of the period or other consequences, such as probation.

Probation Supervision Costs Decline Despite Case Growth

A Family Court or Youth Part judge may order a period of probation supervision, allowing the youth to stay in their community under certain conditions, monitored by DOP. This can include participation in educational, mental health, and/or substance abuse programs, among other requirements. For cases processed in Family Court, the supervision period is capped at a maximum of two years but can be longer for cases in the Youth Part, which are subject to adult probationary guidelines. The average length of a youth supervision period is one year.

The City identifies two service goals related to monitoring and enforcing the conditions of probation: "assess client risk and misconduct data to apply optimal supervision, monitoring, and programming throughout a probation term," and "offer community-based services aligned with objectives identified through comprehensive assessments of probationer needs." Each case begins with an initial risk assessment to determine supervision status and programming needs. Total juvenile risk assessments have declined in each of the last three fiscal years, even as court caseload has increased and the number of youth under supervision has increased to the highest level since FY 2016, with 1,076 cases in FY 2026 (see Figure 18).

FIGURE 18
Juvenile Supervision

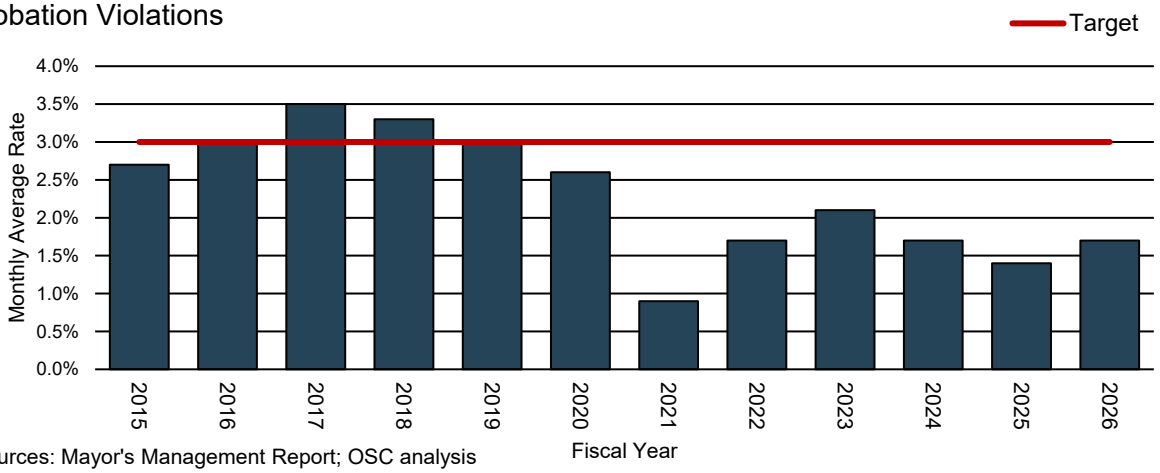


Sources: Mayor's Management Report; OSC analysis

Furthermore, the average time to complete youth assessments, which was first reported in FY 2022, decreased to 23 days in FY 2026 from a high of 33 days in FY 2024. In comparison, the amount of time to complete assessments for adults under supervision was nine days in FY 2026. The agency attributes the improvement to "streamlining workflows, strengthening staff support, and adopting new technology," despite declining probation officer headcount. Although there is no publicly available data on dedicated youth probation officers, information shared by the Department indicates that as of April 2026, there were 20 officers (not including supervisors), each responsible for an average caseload of 30 juvenile supervision cases. As the number of cases increases, adequate staffing to properly handle more cases should be a primary focus, especially as youth assessments take more than double the time for adult assessments, despite adult cases outnumbering youth cases 10-to-1 (11,163 adult cases in FY 2026).

The City also provides data on juvenile probation violations and rearrests. The average monthly violation rate was 1.7 percent in FY 2026, significantly lower than pre-RTA levels and within the City's target of 3 percent (see Figure 19). While the City reports on the monthly rearrest date for juvenile probationers (5 percent in FY 2026, a record high), it recently noted that the metric does not consider multiple arrests for unique individuals and therefore did not properly reflect youth recidivism. Instead, the City added a new indicator in FY 2025 on the cumulative juvenile probationer rearrest rate, which was 35.6 percent, as youth are "being rearrested more often," but it was subsequently removed in the FY 2026 MMR. These contradicting indicators may suggest a small proportion of the population under supervision is driving rearrests.

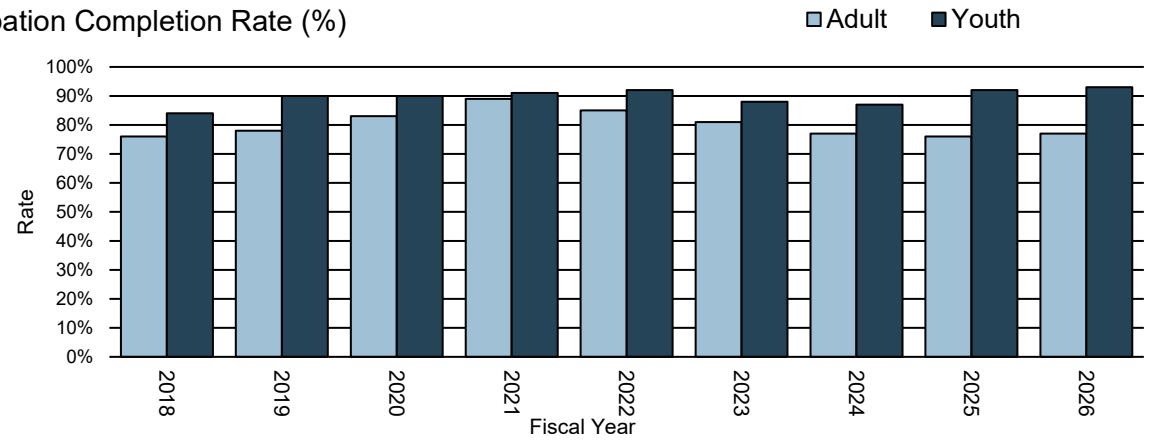
FIGURE 19
Probation Violations



Sources: Mayor's Management Report; OSC analysis

The overall completion rate for youth on probation was 93 percent in FY 2026, the highest since the data was first reported in FY 2018, and consistently higher than the adult rate (see Figure 20). The City does not provide any further details, but DCJS publishes youth supervision outcomes by charge type. The share of youth successfully completing probation is slightly higher for individuals with misdemeanor charges than those with felony charges, with 83 percent and 75 percent successful completion, respectively, in 2025.[29] Furthermore, the total number of misdemeanor-related supervision cases in 2025 was up 6 percent since 2019, while felony cases grew by 55 percent over the same period.

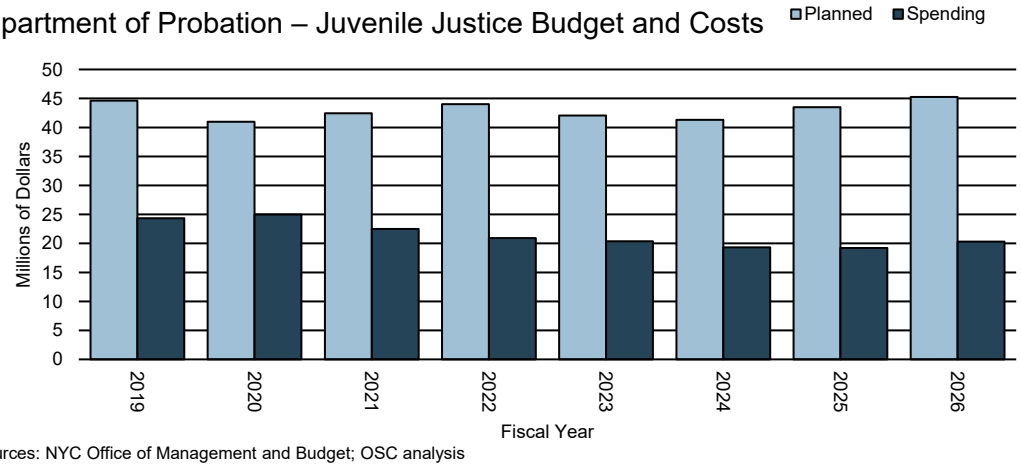
FIGURE 20
Probation Completion Rate (%)



Sources: Mayor's Management Report; OSC analysis

As noted earlier in this report, the Department does not publicly release functional area budget data. Instead, OSC used available budget descriptions to best reflect spending at DOP under similar methodology done for spending at LAW (see Figure 21). Costs for juvenile justice services at DOP, including intake which is not tracked separately, totaled $20 million in FY 2026, a slight increase from last year and $4 million less than in FY 2019 despite an increased number of cases.[30] Using the number of juvenile supervision cases in FY 2026, DOP spent approximately $19,000 per youth. Similar to the case with LAW, the Department spends only a portion of its total youth services allocation (averaging $43 million annually since FY 2019), most of which is for personal service costs. DOP has dealt with high overall attrition rates and vacant positions in recent years and should therefore prioritize increasing staffing levels to ensure youth are receiving adequate care and services (see New York City Staffing Trends).[31]

FIGURE 21
Department of Probation – Juvenile Justice Budget and Costs



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

Close to Home Placements Rise but Remain Well Below Pre-Pandemic Levels

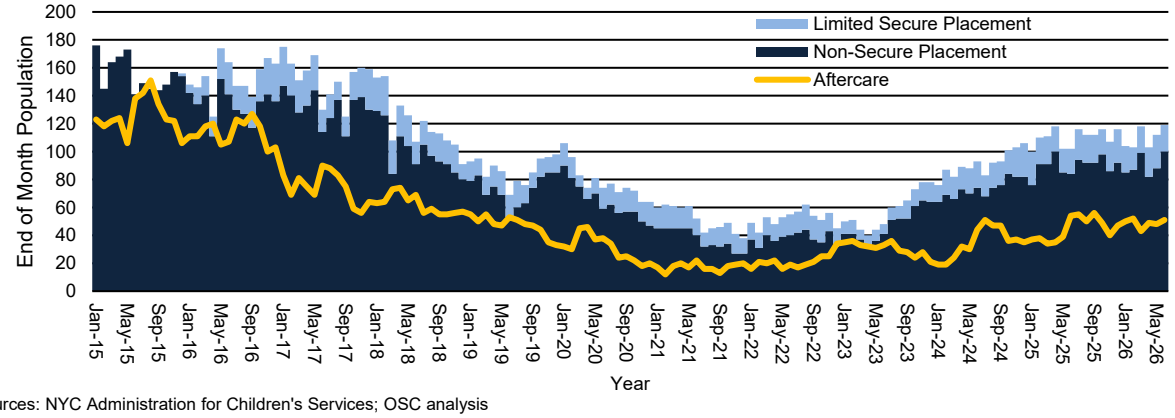
A Family Court judge may also order placement in group home facilities administered by nonprofit providers and overseen by ACS (also known as Close to Home). Close to Home is not

available to youth whose cases remain in the Youth Part, who would instead be confined in OCFS secure placement facilities. Following a dispositional order, a Placement and Permanency Specialist (PPS) at ACS will be assigned to the youth and will match them with a provider that best suits their needs. Placement can last up to 12 months for misdemeanors and 18 months for felonies, with extensions at the judge's discretion. Following completion of their residential stay, youth are subject to a period of supervision for an average of four to six months while they transition back into the community, known as aftercare.

ACS oversees two types of Close to Home facilities: non-secure (NSP) and limited secure placement (LSP) facilities, which house youth depending on an individual's risk profile and needs. These facilities provide specialized programming, such as mental health and substance abuse services, as well as educational services and other activities, in collaboration with the Department of Education. The City groups all its performance indicators related to placement with detention-related indicators under the service goal discussed earlier in this report, to "ensure that detention facilities are safe and secure."

The Close to Home population reflects roughly one-fifth of the number of justice-involved youth under the care of ACS (including those in secure and non-secure detention), with nearly 120 individuals as of June 2026 (see Figure 22). While the population has more than doubled from recent historical lows, its growth is not as pronounced as the growth in the population in detention. The monthly census of youth in aftercare following completion of the residential program has also more than doubled over the same period, roughly reflecting the same trend in the placement population.

FIGURE 22
Monthly Population in Close to Home Placement



Sources: NYC Administration for Children's Services; OSC analysis

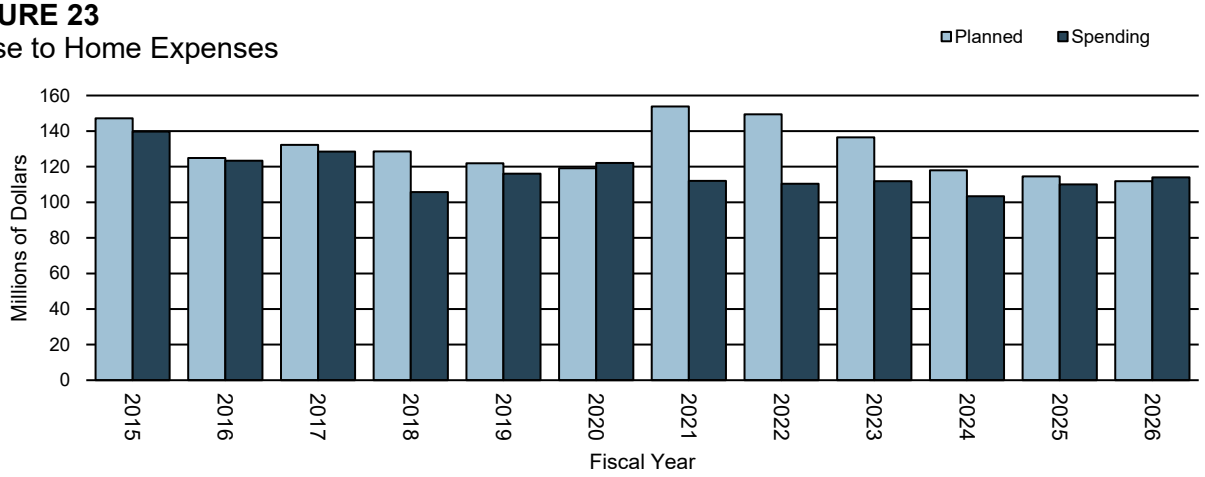
Despite the growth in population, rates of violence in placement facilities have fluctuated. For example, the rate of incidents between youth resulting in injury has increased from 0.07 incidents per 100 individuals in FY 2021 to 0.17 in FY 2026. However, the rate of incidents resulting in staff injury has declined over the same period to 0.09 per 100 individuals. The target for both these metrics is 0.15 incidents per 100 individuals.

Discharges from Close to Home placement, meaning the youth met all requirements, in FY 2026 totaled 152, the highest since FY 2018 (173). However, there are no publicly available indicators

that reflect the effectiveness of completing placement or the number of individuals who fail to meet conditions and are subject to additional court orders. PPSs monitor youth reentry during aftercare, but little detail is shared on this final phase of placement. Additionally, unlike detention, there is also no data on average duration or recidivism measures, such as the percentage of youth in placement with a previous order for placement.

As Close to Home services are contracted to non-profit organizations, there are no mandated public disclosures that could provide insight into employee caseloads or potential facility capacity constraints. However, ACS's budget shows that spending remained relatively level in recent years despite the growth in population (see Figure 23). Notably, costs seemingly do not fluctuate in parallel with population trends as is seen in other parts of the juvenile justice system, such as secure detention, which has seen rapid expense growth coupled with significant underbudgeting.

FIGURE 23
Close to Home Expenses



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

ACS Alternatives to Placement Rising Amid DOP Decline

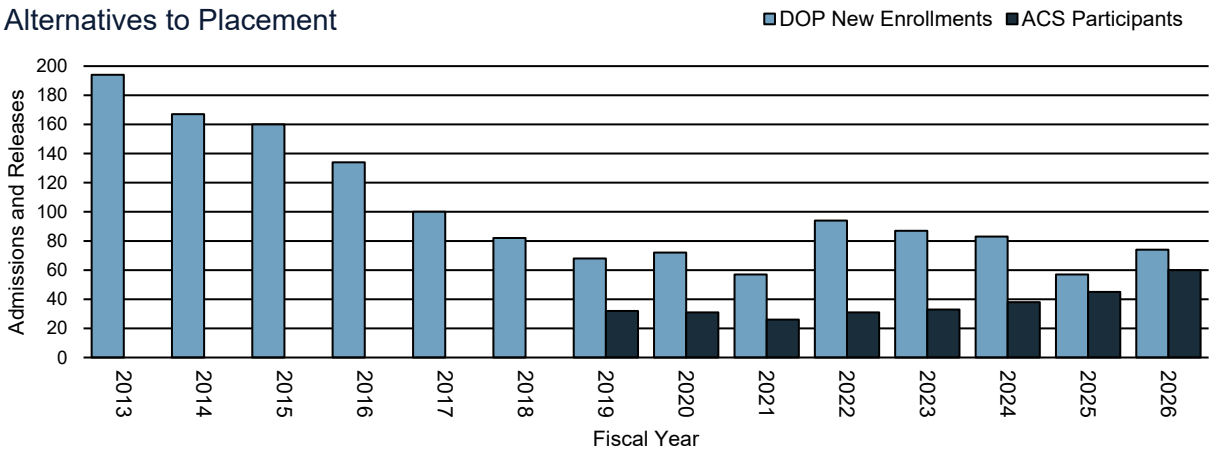
Depending on a youth's risk profile and needs assessment, a Family Court judge may order the youth to participate in ATP programs. ATP allows youth to remain home and participate in services in their community, rather than being placed in a Close to Home placement facility. With the help of DOP's investigation reports, youth are matched with a program that best suits their needs, which could be ordered under ACS or DOP, and as a condition of probation supervision.

DOP offers multiple ATP programs, such as the Advocate, Intervene, Mentor (AIM) program and Each Child Has an Opportunity to Excel and Succeed (ECHOES), which are designed for high-risk youth. However, the City only publishes one general participation indicator for all ATP programs offered by DOP, aligned with their service goal to "Offer community-based services aligned with objectives identified through comprehensive assessments of probationer needs."

ACS also offers ATP programming, primarily through the Juvenile Justice Initiative (JJI), which is more family-focused but still requires supervision by DOP. Depending on assessed needs, a therapist will be assigned to visit youth at home and provide specialized care related to mental health, substance abuse, and school and family issues, among others. The City publishes one

indicator under the service goal “provide services to prevent youth from returning to the juvenile justice system.”

FIGURE 24
Alternatives to Placement



Sources: Mayor's Management Report; OSC analysis

The number of new enrollments in ATP programs at DOP rebounded after a record low in FY 2021 to 74 in FY 2026 but remains low compared to pre-RTA levels (see Figure 24). Conversely, the number of participants in ACS ATP programs has consistently increased in each of the last five years to its highest on record with 60 youth (first reported in FY 2019). The City notes that while probation officers may recommend ATP, it “ultimately depends on both the Court’s order and the program’s assessment of whether it can appropriately meet the individual’s needs.” Furthermore, neither DOP nor ACS publishes data on total costs related to ATP programs.

Secure Placements Rose Dramatically Since 2019 But Have Leveled Recently

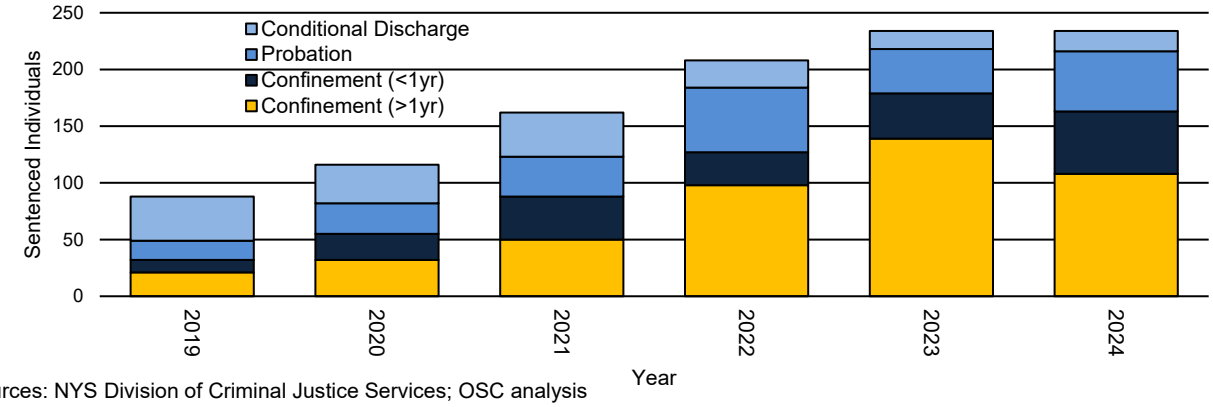
Secure placement is a sentencing option typically reserved for the Youth Part, but it can also be ordered in Family Court in rare cases. Youth may be sentenced to a period of confinement in State facilities administered by OCFS if the term is one year or more, or in secure detention facilities administered by ACS if less than a year. Youth can be housed in these facilities until they are 21 years old, at which time they would be transferred to prison facilities operated by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for the duration of their sentence.

ACS does not report metrics specifically on sentenced youth in its care. These few individuals are included as part of the population in secure detention discussed earlier in this report as part of the pre-trial detention assessment (see the Court Review – Detention section). Additionally, no City agency publicly tracks the number of New York City youth serving time in a State facility. However, State DCJS data on Youth Part sentencing outcomes could provide a rough estimate of these populations.

Total cases not removed to Family Court and processed in the Youth Part nearly tripled from 207 cases in 2019 to nearly 600 in 2024, driven by the increase in AO cases, which grew by 460 percent to 409 cases. The proportion of remaining cases that were subject to sentencing

increased to an average of about 60 percent across 2020 to 2023, but has since declined to 40 percent in 2024, consistent with pre-pandemic levels. However, the number of youth sentenced to a period of confinement increased by more than 400 percent, with sentences for more than and less than a year growing in parallel, while cases resulting in conditional discharge have halved over the same period (see Figure 25).

FIGURE 25
Youth Part Sentencing



Sources: NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services; OSC analysis

Additionally, the State reported that there were 93 New York City youth in OCFS custody at the end of 2025, an increase from 83 in 2024 and double the number at the end of 2017, pre-RTA.[32] OSC did not include an analysis of OCFS as it is a State agency and this report focuses on City resources and services. However, OSC published an audit in 2024 on juvenile justice facilities operated by OCFS, recommending a review of administrative procedures and training curriculum (see Oversight of Juvenile Justice Facilities).[33]

Summary and Recommendations

The objective of this report was to comprehensively examine the agencies and goals related to juvenile justice services and assess the City's performance in providing these services. Demand for these services is growing, as the number of youth arrests and the overall severity of charges have risen. More complicated cases last longer and require more specialized services, potentially straining resources as the number of staff dedicated to juvenile justice has declined since the implementation of RTA. This is most apparent in the case of ACS, which is experiencing problems with detention capacity. Visibility into the juvenile justice process is limited and fractured, obscuring a full picture of the City's performance.

OSC found that there is a lack of divisional or functional area transparency at most of the agencies. The budget structure for these agencies aggregates funding and spending within an agency into only a few general categories. Furthermore, while ACS publishes the most detailed and extensive list of indicators, it omits caseload and capacity-related data that can could help flag potential operational issues.

In addition, no comprehensive data exists to accurately track the general movement of cases across agencies, and when data is available, it is often scattered among different sources and reporting authorities with varying methodologies and frequency of reporting that requires extensive data compiling. Without reliable and timely information, it is difficult to measure how many youth are being diverted or receiving appropriate services and the overall effectiveness of the juvenile justice system.

This information is also critical in assessing physical and budgetary resource allocation. The City's FY 2027 Adopted Budget included $300 million in State revenue annually beginning in FY 2026 for juvenile justice, as part of the State Fiscal Year 2027 Enacted Budget in recognition of the mandated costs associated with RTA that is currently financed by the City.[34] This includes centralized funding of $65 million and allocations to ACS ($195 million), LAW ($21 million), DOP ($19 million), and NYPD ($0.5 million).[35] As it stands, this newly appropriated funding is being used to offset existing City funded costs and not an expansion of juvenile justice services. Separately, in September 2026, ACS, DOP and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice announced new investments to help reduce the secure detention population, but did not provide related funding totals or timelines.[36]

Additionally, while the City currently does not qualify for State reimbursement of RTA-related expenses, the City could potentially apply for a "hardship waiver" for eligibility given its current budget outlook. OSC released a report in May 2025 focusing on this program, noting that New York City is the only non-recipient of funding (see Spending on Raise the Age Programs in New York).[37] The City Council recently called on the State Legislature to amend current law to expand access to reimbursement funding for the City.

Recommendations

- The City should provide juvenile justice-specific budget and staffing details to more effectively manage the increasing number of youth and properly allocated resources. In cases where juvenile justice is a relatively small function and does not justify a budget structure change, the City should regularly publish reports providing detailed data that can be consistently tracked.
- Despite some areas of stability or recent improvement, staffing has generally declined across involved agencies, creating pressure throughout the juvenile justice system. The City should continue to prioritize recent hiring and retention efforts for juvenile justice-dedicated staff to ensure caseloads are manageable and youth are receiving adequate and timely services. Improvement in this area would also reduce reliance on overtime, relieving pressure on existing staff and reducing associated costs.
- Clear staffing ratios and targets, whether mandated or self-imposed, should be published to assess whether an agency's resources are sufficient and if capacity is being exceeded. The City should also publish more agency metrics on case processing duration, which provides insight into how resilient an agency is in response to demand.
- The City should be more transparent and announce unplanned scenarios that might not be captured by publicly available indicators, such as the capacity issue in secure detention facilities. Neither the MMR nor PMMR publications provided any detail on this critical and ongoing operational constraint.
- The City should collect and comprehensively evaluate data across all agencies to properly track the movement of youth through the juvenile justice system and the efficacy of diversion opportunities to limit youth involvement and recidivism, similar to its reporting on multi-agency initiatives such as Vision Zero or the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. Increased tracking and reporting of case outcomes is essential to properly assess service delivery as a holistic process rather than as individual agency functions.
- Much of the data used in this report is not updated regularly or is subject to lengthy delays, in some cases by more than a year, with no indication of future updates. The agencies should prioritize accurate and timely updates of datasets and reports to provide the public with insight on current conditions.

Appendix A – Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Raise the Age (RTA)	Legislation passed by New York State in April 2017 that increased the age of criminal responsibility for youth from 16 years of age to 18 years of age. The law became effective for 16-year-olds on October 1, 2018, and for 17-year-olds on October 1, 2019.
Juvenile Delinquent (JD)	A child over the age of seven, but under 18 years of age who commits an act that would be a crime if it had been committed by an adult. These cases are heard in Family Court. A 2022 amendment to RTA legislation raised the minimum age of juvenile delinquency from seven years of age to 12 years of age in virtually all cases not involving homicide.
Juvenile Offender (JO)	A child who is 13, 14, or 15 years of age and charged with committing a serious or violent felony offense. These cases start in the Youth Part of Adult Criminal Court, but can be transferred to Family Court, in which the child will be considered a juvenile delinquent.
Adolescent Offender (AO)	A new category created by Raise the Age legislation which includes 16- or 17-year-olds charged with felony offenses. These cases start in the Youth Part of Adult Criminal Court but can be transferred to probation intake (or directly to Family Court), where they will be considered a juvenile delinquent.
Family Court	A court which was established to address the needs of young people who, by reason of their legal infancy, cannot be held criminally liable for conduct that, if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime. Following Raise the Age legislation, this court was expanded to include 16- and 17-year-olds charged with misdemeanors, and Juvenile Offender and Adolescent Offender cases removed from the Youth Part of Adult Criminal Court.
Youth Part	A specialized court part in adult criminal court created by Raise the Age legislation to hear Juvenile Offender and Adolescent Offender cases. Youth Part judges must also be Family Court Judges.
Adjustment	Services provided by probation for the purpose of avoiding the need to file a petition or direct the detention of the youth. The objective of adjustment services is to provide prompt attention to victim reparation, public safety, and the reduction of future risk of recidivism.
Diversion	A broad term used to describe attempts to redirect or deviate youth from further involvement in the juvenile justice system at any point throughout the process.
Dispositional Hearing	The equivalent of a sentencing hearing in adult criminal court for youth in Family Court. This is the court's final decision or resolution in a case. At the hearing, the judge decides whether an individual requires supervision, treatment, or confinement (placement) and signs a dispositional order.

Appendix B – Agencies and Service Goals

Agency	Service	Service Goal
DOP	1: Contribute to improved outcomes in adults and Family Court proceedings	1a: Produce timely and accurate pre-sentence investigations
DOP	1: Contribute to improved outcomes in adults and Family Court proceedings	1b: Assess and determine youth appropriate for diversion from formal juvenile court proceedings via adjustment services
DOP	2: Monitor and enforce the conditions of probation	2a: Assess client risk and misconduct data to apply optimal supervision, monitoring, and programming throughout a probation term
DOP	3: Provide client support and enrichment services to improve probation outcomes	3a: Offer community-based services aligned with objectives identified through comprehensive assessments of probationer needs
LAW	2: Prosecute juvenile delinquency cases in Family Court	2a: Balance the needs of juveniles and the community in delinquency cases
ACS	3: Provide custody and care of youth in secure and safe detention and placement facilities while providing casework services	3a: Ensure that detention facilities are safe and secure
ACS	3: Provide custody and care of youth in secure and safe detention and placement facilities while providing casework services	3b: Provide youth in detention and placement with appropriate health and mental health services
ACS	3: Provide custody and care of youth in secure and safe detention and placement facilities while providing casework services	3c: Provide services to prevent youth from returning to the juvenile justice system

Note: This table includes only the services and service goals related directly to juvenile justice.
Sources: FY 2025 Mayor's Management Report; OSC analysis

Appendix C – ACS Budget Function Analysis

(in thousands)	FY 2015	FY 2019	FY 2026	FY 2026	Variance	%
Budget Function	**Actual**	**Actual**	***Planned***	**Actual**	**Better/(Worse)**	**Better/(Worse)**
Placements	$139,762	$116,072	*$111,853*	$114,003	($2,150)	-1.9%
Secure Detention	$28,193	$47,378	*$60,837*	$104,484	($43,647)	-71.7%
Non-Secure Detention	$16,095	$20,454	*$17,327*	$20,243	($2,916)	-16.8%
Juvenile Justice Support	$10,650	$10,618	*$19,685*	$29,524	($9,839)	-50.0%
Alternatives to Detention	$5,680	$6,523	*$7,727*	$11,262	($3,535)	-45.7%
Juvenile Justice	**$200,380**	**$201,045**	***$217,429***	**$279,515**	**($62,086)**	**-28.6%**
Non-Juvenile Justice	**$2,626,314**	**$2,948,190**	***$2,923,791***	**$4,134,545**	**($1,210,754)**	**-41.4%**
Total Department	**$2,826,694**	**$3,149,235**	***$3,141,220***	**$4,414,060**	**($1,272,840)**	**-40.5%**

Note: Columns may not add due to rounding. Totals do not include centralized general administrative costs associated with juvenile justice.
Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

Endnotes

[1] Most data used in this report was sourced from various New York City Mayor's Management Reports unless otherwise stated. Referenced agency service goals are sourced from the FY 2025 Mayor's Management Report, detailed in Appendix B, https://www.nyc.gov/site/operations/reports/mmr.page.

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