
Scott County

Juvenile Detention Center

FY 2020 Annual Report

Director: Jeremy Kaiser



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DETENTION & DIVERSION PROGRAMS TEAM

DIRECTOR

Jeremy Kaiser

SHIFT LEADERS

Neika Harms

Barbara Walton

YOUTH COUNSELORS

Courtney Arndt

Kenneth Ashby

Michelle Bancroft

David Bonde

Jacqueline Chatman

Jeff Douglas

Steve Harris

Jessica Hankins

Darrell Johnson

Pat Jones

Jennifer Kargl

Mathew Lannom

Harlee Miller

Reina Reyes

Anisha Robinson

Marshano Robinson

Angela Shutte

Keith Sutton

Casey Smith

Lydia Villareal

Trameka Woods

COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH COUNSELORS

Gary "DJ" Echols

Shannon Neal

AREA EDUCATION AGENCY STAFF

TEACHERS

Bob Bosco

Jennifer Gosa

PARA-EDUCATORS

Rose Roe

Becky Ervin

SOCIAL WOKER

Stephanie Doubet

BACKGROUND

The Scott County Juvenile Detention Center opened on December 1, 1980. Since opening, the center has served as a short term, secure placement for allegedly delinquent youth under the age of eighteen. Juveniles are referred for detainment only when there is probable cause to believe they have committed a serious criminal act. In most situations, this criminal activity would be classified as a felony or an aggravated misdemeanor. Status offenses and simple misdemeanors are not considered detainable offenses. The severity of the criminal charge is not the only criteria sufficient to require detainment. One or more of the following conditions also must be present in order for a youth to be detained:

1. The youth is “wanted” by another state for the commission of a criminal act.
2. The youth is on probation/parole and has violated the conditions set forth prior.
3. The youth has absconded from a training school, a detention center, or a residential treatment facility.
4. The youth has committed a serious delinquent act and is at risk of:
 - a. Absconding prior to court appearances
 - b. Harming themselves or others
 - c. Damaging property.

Although the center is operated by Scott County, it receives referrals from several counties in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. At present, nine detention centers are operating in the State of Iowa—Linn County (Cedar Rapids), Polk County (Des Moines), Woodbury County (Sioux City), North Iowa (Waterloo), Northwest Iowa (Cherokee), Southwest Iowa (Council Bluffs), Scott County (Davenport), South Iowa (Fairfield), and Central Iowa (Eldora).

PROGRAM VISION

“Our vision is a community which supports and empowers juveniles by giving them a second chance to succeed.”

PROGRAM MISSION

“Scott County Juvenile Detention and Diversion Programs strive to provide safe, secure detainment when necessary, as well as a cutting-edge continuum of community-based programs, so youth will ultimately have the best chance to succeed.”

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Over the past few years, the philosophy of how Scott County provides detention and diversion programs to the community has evolved. For thirty-four years, from 1980 to 2014, Scott County provided detention and supervision services merely as a “building.” However, with significant research showing that the incarceration of juveniles can, in fact, *increase* the likelihood of recidivism, the center needed to innovate and evolve. Center management made the decision to utilize staff resources to develop and implement community-based programs as an alternative to secure detainment. The two programs which were developed and implemented in the 2015 fiscal year were the “In-home detention” program, and the “Enhanced In-home detention” program. As Scott County is able to now provide a continuum of detention and diversion services, we provide effective options for the juvenile court system to provide the least intrusive and restrictive service necessary. By doing this, we believe the youth will be more appropriately served and thus, more likely to succeed. In FY18, Scott County Juvenile Diversion Programs continued to expand to include the Youth Transition Decision Making program which helps youth and families form a transition plan for when they return home after long term placement. In FY19, the program expanded again by implementing a pre-adjudication diversion program focusing on the use of Restorative Community Conferencing. This program targets first time auto-theft offenders and is named: the Auto Theft Accountability Program. All Community-based programs data will now be contained in the FY20 Juvenile Diversion Programs Annual Report.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY - WHILE DETAINED

Building a strong relationship through positive interaction and engagement between youth and staff is an important behavior management tool. Detention Youth Counselors provide crisis counseling, Aggression Replacement Therapy (A.R.T.), trauma informed yoga, living skills training, and supervised recreational activities to detained youth. Detention staff challenges youth to take responsibility for the criminal thinking patterns and decisions that brought them into placement. Youth Counselors help the residents explore areas of growth and change necessary to deter them from further delinquent activity. By focusing on the relationship with each young person in care and challenging their thinking, each staff feels they can make a difference in their thinking and attitude.

Development of rapport between staff and residents is a key to creating an environment conducive to positive change. The many positive interactions between staff and residents helps the Center effectively manage the behavior of otherwise obstinate youth. The involvement between staff and residents also

helps reduce the frustration and anxiety felt by youth. Staff members view detention as an important component in this Juvenile Justice/Treatment System. Because this system strives to reduce juvenile crime by actively engaging youthful offenders at all points of contact, staff members are determined to seize every opportunity to positively impact the residents and create teachable moments.

Since the majority of the youth detained at the Center will be transferred to treatment programs, the Center's structure attempts to address the negative thinking and behavioral patterns that have disrupted past efforts to promote positive change. This approach allows for a rudimentary preparation for youth facing the structure found in treatment programs.

JUVENILE DETENTION - BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION SYSTEM

The behavior modification system which is used in the Scott County Juvenile Detention Center was developed internally by a team of Detention Youth Counselors. The program is based on a level system in which residents can earn more privileges as they ascend the level system. The level system requires all residents enter the "Orientation Level" and must pass a test based on knowledge of program rules to progress to "Blue level." Once on blue level they must pass a test of program rules and be able to demonstrate ability to comply with rules and routine consistently for a period of time to move to "Green level." The final level is "Gold level." Residents must continue to follow rules and directions from staff consistently as well as pass a test based on positive thinking/behavior in order to reach Gold level. With each step up in the level system, residents are offered more privileges such as longer phone calls and later bed times.

Levels are achieved through the demonstration of positive behavior and refraining from earning "strikes". The strike system is a progressive system in which residents receive a consequence (strike) for committing small infractions at the center. Consequences for negative behaviors range from receiving strikes for small infractions, loss in privileges (i.e. gym time, early bed time, etc.), to a drop in the student's level in the Center's Program, and finally isolation in the control room for serious cases of disruptive or uncontrollable behaviors. Negative consequences are not intended to be personalized or excessively punitive, but rather a "learning process" where the youth can learn socially acceptable behaviors and develop positive habits of behavior. The components that comprise the behavior management program are:

- a. Educational Services - including HiSet (G.E.D.) testing
- b. Crisis Counseling
- c. Recreational Activities
- d. Testing and Evaluation
- e. Living Skills Activities
- f. Cognitive-behavioral treatment (A.R.T.)
- g. Testing for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (done on a voluntary basis)

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Education is the most highly structured of the program components. This service is provided by the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency. The Center's school is fully accredited and is facilitated by certified teachers. The AEA education team tests all youth in mathematics and reading to assess their level of ability upon intake. Educational and social histories are obtained to assist in the determination of an appropriate level of competency. After the initial assessments the teacher has three options:

1. If the youth is currently enrolled in a school system, the teacher will communicate with the appropriate person(s) to obtain current assignments. The youth will be expected to continue with regular class assignments as closely as possible.
2. In cases where the youth is not enrolled in a school system, the teacher assigns individual diagnostics and prescriptive instructional lessons which are consistent with a traditional school curriculum.
3. Youth who will not return to a traditional school environment will be assigned work to prepare them for the HiSET (formally known as GED) exam. Once the resident has passed all of the pre-tests, AEA teachers will contact the Eastern Iowa Community College and a proctor will administer the HiSET exam within the center. Several youth have been able to earn their G.E.D.'s while residing at the center, since testing began in 2012.

REPORTING BEHAVIOR

The Center observes behavior and reports to juvenile court officers weekly and upon discharge. In addition to these reports, youth may be evaluated by the staff of the Genesis Psychology Associates at the request of the Juvenile Court. These evaluations are performed in cases where the behavior is somewhat atypical or where the court needs more input to determine an appropriate care plan. In situations where an evaluation is deemed appropriate, the youth is normally confined from thirty to forty-five days in a separate facility.

RECREATION

The recreational component is a large piece of the staff-resident involvement. Staff members interact with the youth in a variety of activities. Many of the activities are intended to promote physical fitness. Some activities are intended to enhance creativity. Activities include: basketball, volleyball, weightlifting, cardio vascular exercise, and various other recreational activities. In addition to Center staff, the Center utilizes both practicum students and volunteers to interact with youth in various recreational activities.

PREA STANDARDS - IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING

In 2003, the Federal Government Passed the PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) which seeks to put an end to sexual abuse and harassment in confined settings. In 2012 the federal government published and distributed PREA standards for juvenile facilities which include “best practices” in regards to the prevention, detection, and response to sexual abuse and harassment. Over the course of Fiscal Year 2013 the center modified and implemented several policies and practices regarding sexual abuse/harassment including but not limited to: resident and staff reporting procedures, resident risk assessment and placement, resident education, response planning, treatment of alleged victims, treatment of alleged offenders, investigations, and staff training. The Scott County Juvenile Detention Center complies with all PREA standards for juvenile facilities. The PREA standards for juvenile facilities were in effect as of August 1st, 2013.

In FY20, the center had the following incidents of sexual harassment and abuse allegations.

Sexual abuse allegations: 0

Founded incidents of sexual abuse: 0

Confirmed incidents of sexual abuse: 0

Sexual harassment allegations: 0

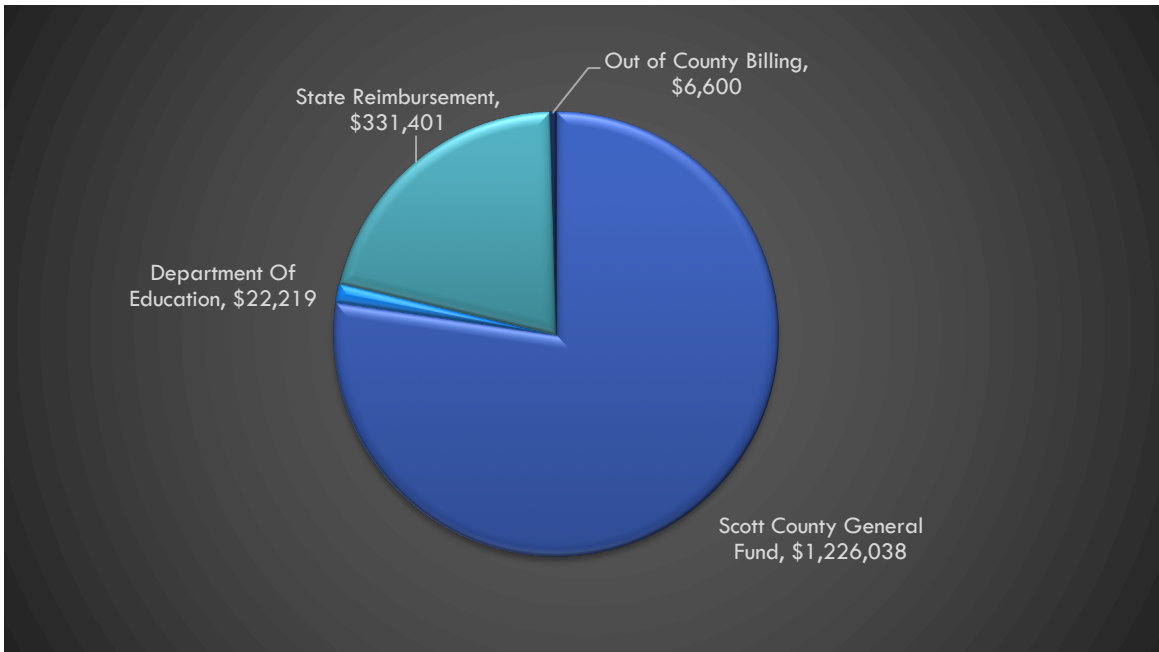
Founded incidents of sexual harassment: 0

Confirmed incidents of sexual harassment: 0

DETENTION CENTER EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

Total expenditures for Fiscal Year 2020 were \$1,586,258. This was a significant decrease in expenditures from FY19, due to the dramatic decrease in juveniles detained and shorter average lengths of stay. In FY20, the Scott County Juvenile Detention Center spent only \$19,480 sending juveniles to other facilities due to lack of available bed space. This was a dramatic decrease from FY19 in which Scott County spent \$414,440 sending juveniles to other detention centers. This can be attributed in part to diversion programs implemented by Scott County as well as other local nonprofit providers. In addition to Scott County funding, the Center received revenue from the Iowa Department of Education, Out of County Funding, and State of Iowa Reimbursements.

REVENUE



OUT OF COUNTY FUNDING

Youth from other jurisdictions may be placed in the Center; however the committing jurisdiction must pay a per diem. Counties within Seventh Judicial District are charged \$150.00 per day to hold youth. Counties outside of this district must pay \$200.00. In FY20 the center received \$6,600 in funding for detaining juveniles from Counties outside of Scott County. This amount increased from a total of \$0 in FY19. This is due to the decrease in Scott County holds at the detention center. The detention center did occasionally have enough space to accept holds from outside counties this fiscal year. This amount will continue to be nominal, if the amount of Scott County holds stays the same. In years past, Scott County Juvenile Detention Center would post over \$100,000 per year in Out Of County Revenues.

STATE OF IOWA REVENUE

Revenues received for the State of Iowa “Detention Home Fund” for Fiscal year 2020 was: \$331,401. This was approximately 21% of the centers total operating budget. This revenue is a dedicated funding stream, which is a pool of money resulting from first offender OWI fines, and is reimbursed based on the Center’s operating budget for the previous fiscal year. Each of Iowa’s nine detention centers may be reimbursed a portion of their expenses by the state. Iowa Code states that Detention Centers be reimbursed at rates ranging from 10% to 50% of their operating budgets.

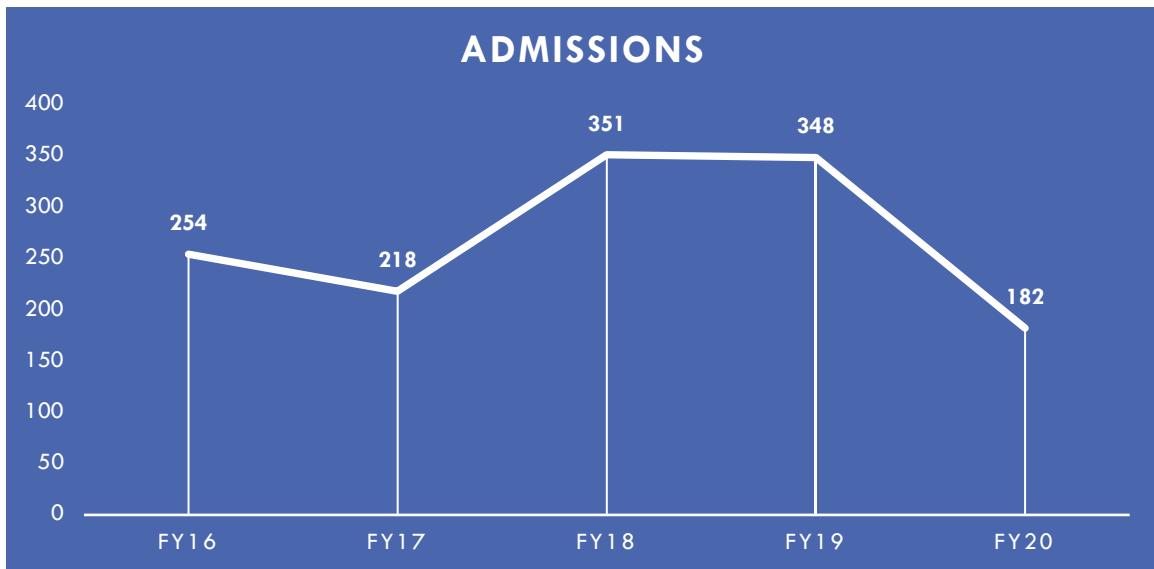
During the fiscal year 2012, the Center management team, in addition to 8 other juvenile detention centers in Iowa, decided to contract with a Lobbyist to work on behalf of the centers to ensure that this funding stream stays protected. The Center management team has decided to retain the lobbyist through Fiscal year 2021.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDING

This funding is a combination of state and federal funding that are partial reimbursements for breakfast, lunch, and after-school snacks. The total amount of reimbursement received in FY20 was \$22,219. This amount decreased 25% from FY19 in which the center received \$29,534 in reimbursements. This can be attributed to lower number of total holds and bed days.

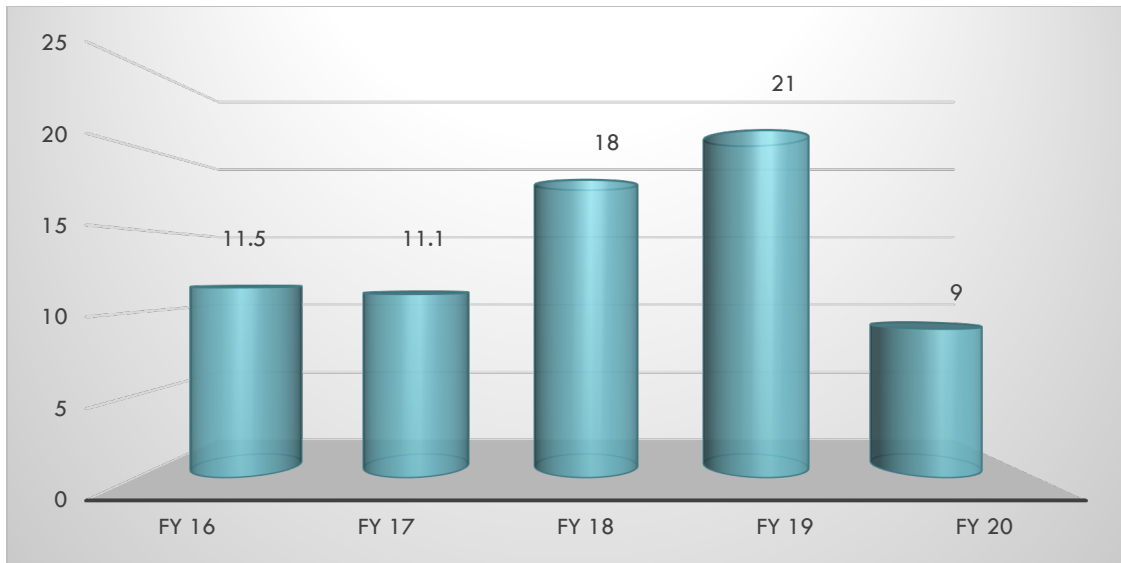
POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS - ADMISSIONS

The Center processed 182 admissions during the 2020 fiscal year. This was a 48% decrease from FY 19 (348). As the graph below illustrates, the number of admissions in FY20 was the lowest it has been in the last five (5) years. This decrease in admissions can be somewhat attributed to the new diversion programs being admitted at Scott County and other non-profit providers. COVID-19 has also had an impact on the number of admissions as less people were out in the community.



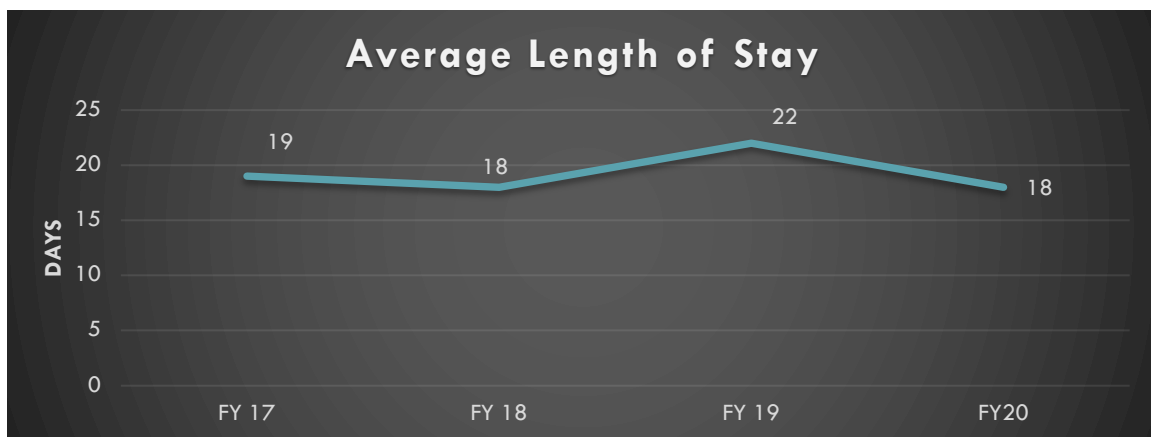
AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

In FY20 the center averaged 9 residents per day and had a total of 3350 bed days. This was a dramatic decrease from the past four years in which the average was around 15 per day. However, with changes to Federal and State law regarding where adult waived juveniles can be detained, the center anticipates a large increase in daily population in the next few years.



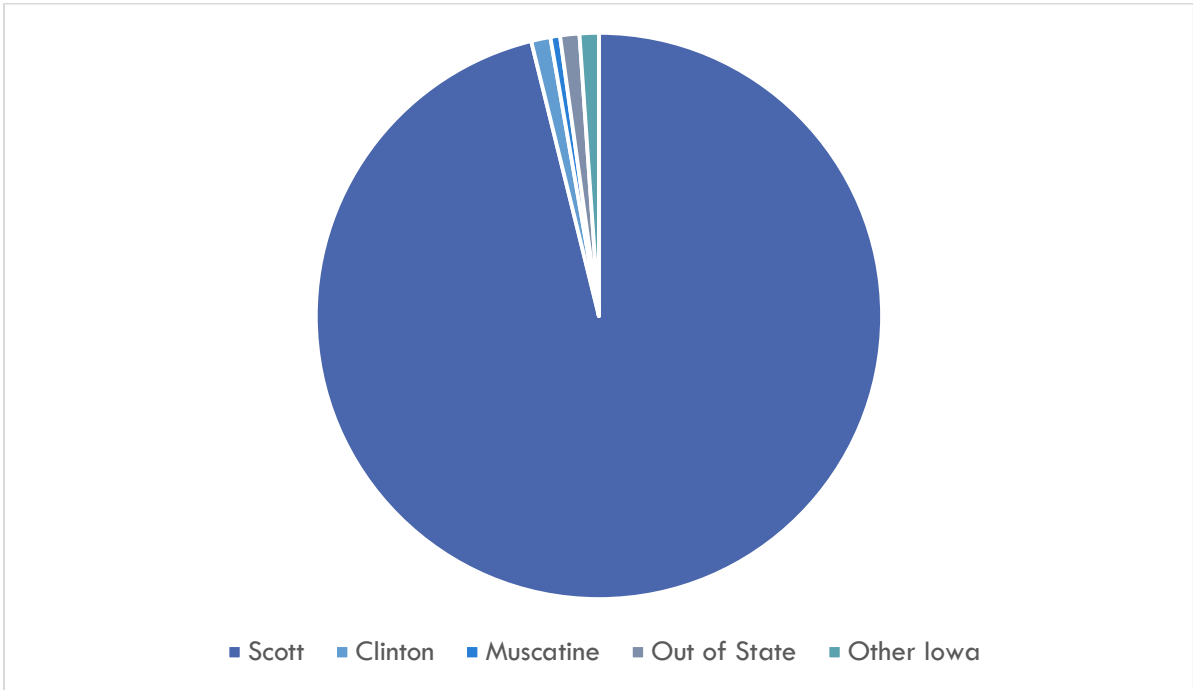
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

The average length of stay for a Scott County Juvenile Detention Center resident in FY20 was approximately 18 days. This was a slight decrease from FY19 in which the average length of stay was 22 days. Many factors can be attributed to this decrease including diversion programs decreasing the amount of juvenile court cases on the docket. This allows for detained juveniles to have shorter wait times between court dates and move through the court system more quickly.



ADMISSIONS BY COUNTY

Of the 182 admissions in FY20, 175 were from Scott County (96%), 5 admissions came from nine different Iowa counties (3%) and 2 were from Out of State (1%) as the graph below illustrates.

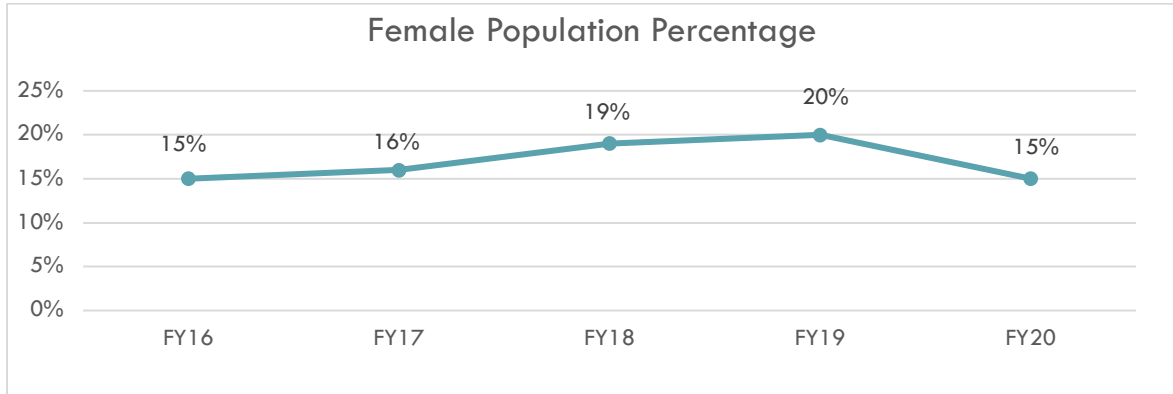


ADULT WAIVERS

Juveniles age 16 or older who are charged with a forcible felony are automatically waived to adult court. In addition, juveniles age 12 or above who have a preponderance of charges and have exhausted all services available through the juvenile justice system, may be waived to adult court. Juveniles who have been waived to adult court are initially placed at the Scott County Jail. Due to the decrease in average population, the Juvenile Detention Center management team made the decision to accept more adult-waiver juveniles from the jail to assist with over-flow population in the jail's juvenile section. In FY20, the Scott County Juvenile Detention Center had a total of 196 bed days of adult waiver juveniles.

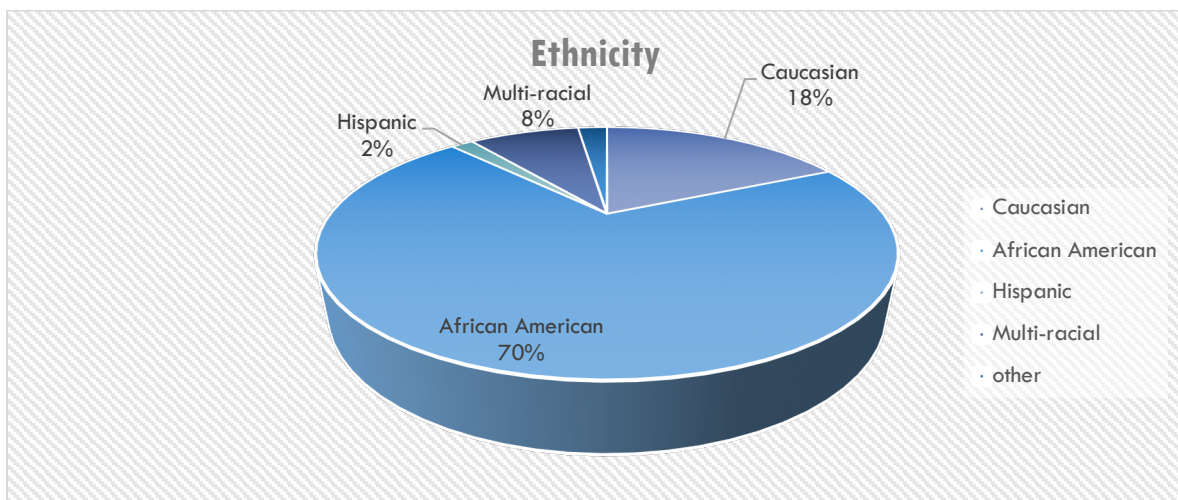
AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth detained at the Center this fiscal year was 15 years old. One hundred fifty-five (155) of the admissions were males, which is 85% of the total population. Twenty seven (27) of the admissions were females, which make up the remaining 15% of the total population. The percentage of females has fluctuated between 15% and 20% over the last five years as the graph below illustrates.



ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Admits	Percentage
Caucasian:	33	18%
African American:	127	70%
Hispanic:	3	2%
Asian/Pacific Is.:	0	0%
Multi- racial	15	8%
Other	4	2%



SPECIAL INCIDENTS

A special incident is a situation that deviates from normal Center routine (i.e. property destruction, acts of physical aggression, injuries, etc.). In FY20 the Center had 66 special incidents. Of the 66 incidents, 23 incidents required staff physical intervention. The number of special incidents requiring staff physical intervention decreased by 44% from FY19 in which the center had 41 physical interventions. This can be attributed to less overall holds and lower averaged daily population.

SHORT TERM PLACEMENTS

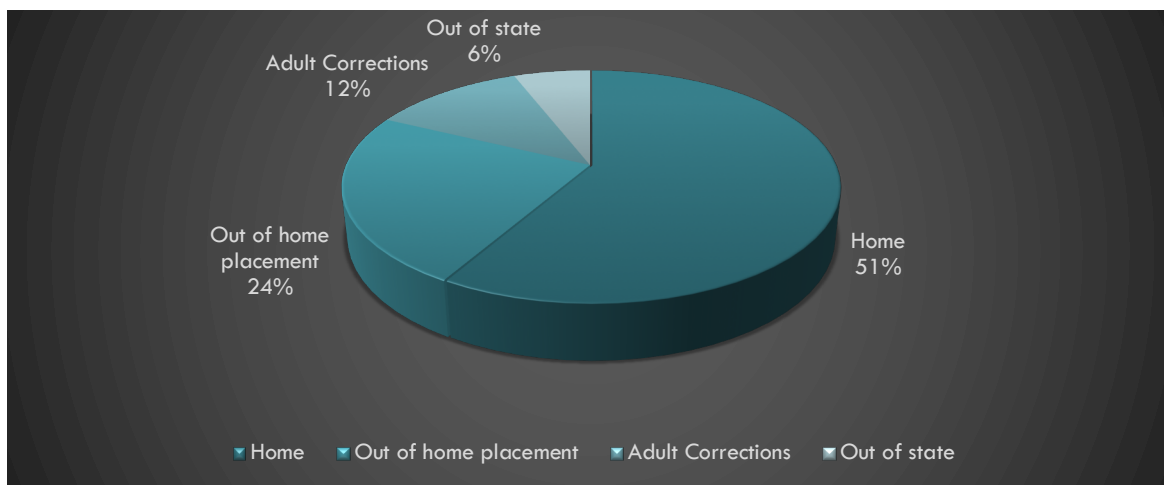
In most cases of short-term placements, the Center holds a youth until transportation can be arranged to place the youth in a state institution. During the 2020 Fiscal Year, no youth was held under this status

DISPOSITION OF CASES

The following list represents the placements of residents directly after they had been released:.

- **Home:** Residents who have been released to Home/ Home with Services, Day Treatment, and Independent Living have been returned to the community with varying degrees of supportive structure.
- **Adult corrections:** residents whose crimes were sufficiently serious, or their age was advanced to such a degree that a Waiver Proceeding was warranted and they were waived to adult court.
- **Out of home placement:** The remainder of cases represents residents who were placed in other detention centers, residential treatment facilities, state training school, shelters or situations in which charges have been completely dropped.

In a vast majority of these cases, treatment and/or services were provided in an attempt to decrease the chances of future law or probation violations.



SUMMARY OF CRIMINAL CODE

The majority of allegations against detained youth involve felonious acts. Many youth are admitted for multiple allegations of criminal conduct. The youth detained at the Center are detained for involvement in a range of criminal conduct. The 182 criminal conduct offenses are listed below by frequency:

