
Scott County

Youth Justice and Rehabilitation Center

FY 2025 Annual Report

Director: Jeremy Kaiser



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YOUTH JUSTICE & REHABILITATION CENTER TEAM

DIRECTOR Jeremy Kaiser

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Pat Jones

SHIFT LEADERS Prentiss Hood Sabri Goxhufi Keith Sutton

YOUTH COUNSELORS

Kenneth Ashby	Machelle Bryant-Pemberton	Louise Hill
Fabian Barth-Alonzo	Annika Capps	Eric Howard
Kelvin Crawford	Romero De Leon	Dequan Dudley
Jessica Hankins	Jonathan Gibbs	Balene Mitchell
Hailey Hall	Josh Harris	Michael Hernandez
Prentiss Hood	Jennifer Kargl	Sossi Mozingo
Jacob Bender	Gary Mayfield	Claire Jeffers
Reina Reyes	Anisha Robinson	Marshano Richardson
Tanner Burchette	Cathy Dunklin	Alexander Lamin
Erica Lee	Ayiana Litt	Brian Schumaker
Travis Thomas	Jordan Williams	Diontrell Wommack

NURSE Melissa Thomas

COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH COUNSELORS

Gary “DJ” Echols Shannon Neal Dave Bonde Desiree Miller

Machelle Bryant-Pemberton Gary Mayfield

AREA EDUCATION AGENCY STAFF

TEACHERS

Kelsey Grafenberg

Jennifer Gosa

PARA-EDUCATORS

Jill Forker

SOCIAL WOKER

Stephanie Doubet

BACKGROUND

The Scott County Juvenile Detention Center opened on December 1, 1980. In FY23, the name of the facility was changed to Scott County Youth Justice and Rehabilitation Center (YJRC) to reflect the amount of programs and services provided to rehabilitate troubled youth. Since opening, the center has served as a short term, secure placement for allegedly delinquent youth under the age of eighteen years old. 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 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 (Montrose), and Central Iowa (Eldora).

PROGRAM VISION

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

PROGRAM MISSION

“Scott County Youth Justice and Rehabilitation center provides safe, secure detainment, as well as programs effective in rehabilitating youth.”

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Over the past few years, the philosophy of how Scott County provides juvenile detention and 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 community-based detention alternative programs can be extremely effective in supervising and rehabilitating youth, 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 can 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 supervision necessary. By doing this, we believe the youth will be more appropriately served and thus, more likely to succeed.

In FY18, Scott County Juvenile 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. In FY20, after much success with the Restorative Community Conferences, Scott County developed a partnership with local area schools to implement Restorative Mediation in secondary schools to help mediate and prevent violence in schools. In FY22 Scott County’s juvenile programs expanded again by providing a Pre-Charge Diversion program for youth with first-time simple misdemeanor offenses. By participating in the program, youth can avoid the court system and are provided with mentoring and case coordination services. These services are intended to help address each youth’s protective factors to help get them back on track and leading productive, positive lives.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY - WHILE DETAINED

Building a strong relationship through positive interaction and engagement between youth and staff is an important behavior management tool utilized within Scott County YJRC. Youth Counselors provide crisis counseling, Aggression Replacement Therapy (A.R.T.), living skills training, and supervised recreational activities to the 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.

The development of rapport between staff and residents is a key component 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 many 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 rudimentary preparation for youth facing the structure found in treatment programs.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (P.B.I.S.) - Behavior Management System

PBIS is an **evidence-based**, three-tiered framework for improving and integrating all the data, systems, and practices affecting resident outcomes every day. P.B.I.S. is an incentive-based behavior modification system which focuses on providing rewards when a resident meets or exceeds behavior expectations as opposed to a deficit-based system, which provides consequences when rules are broken. Ultimately, P.B.I.S. is a way to support everyone, especially residents with disabilities, to incentivize safe, responsible, and considerate behavior within the facility and teach positive behaviors for when youth return home.

During FY22, Detention staff began working with Brenda Scheuermann, Ph.D. from Texas State University to implement P.B.I.S. within the Scott County YJRC. Dr. Scheuermann provided numerous training courses and support to center management and helped implement P.B.I.S. with fidelity. In FY23, Tier 1 was completely implemented throughout the facility. The staff receive on-going training and support and the P.B.I.S. leadership team continues to monitor the program and adjust as necessary, to make the system as effective at producing positive behavior change as possible.

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 can be assigned work by YJRC staff to prepare them for the HiSET (formally known as General Education Diploma G.E.D.) exam. Once the resident has passed pre-tests, YJRC staff will contact the Eastern Iowa Community College and a proctor will administer the HiSET exam within the center. Many youths 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.

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, 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” regarding 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 1, 2013.

In FY25, 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

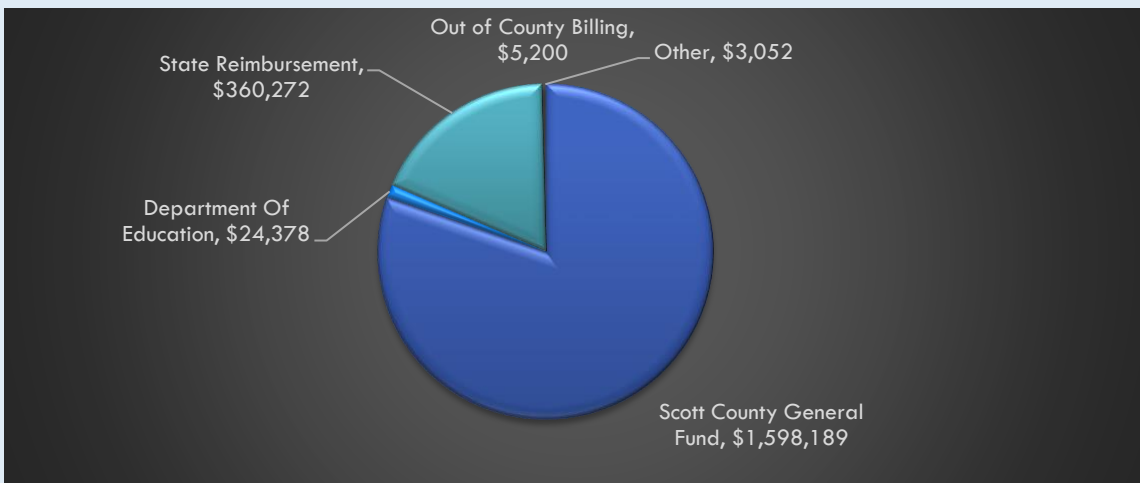
Sexual harassment allegations: 0

Founded incidents of sexual harassment: 0

Confirmed incidents of sexual harassment: 0

DETENTION CENTER EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

Total expenditures for Fiscal Year 25 were \$2,173,598



STATE OF IOWA REVENUE

Revenues received for the State of Iowa “Detention Home Fund” for FY25 was: \$381,343. This was an increase from FY24 in which the facility received \$360,272. This is due to YJRC Director working with the Scott County Budget Director to capture more robust expense data.

The state funding received is a dedicated funding stream, which includes 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 for a portion of their expenses by the state. The Iowa Code states that Detention Centers are reimbursed at rates ranging from 10% to 50% of their operating budgets.

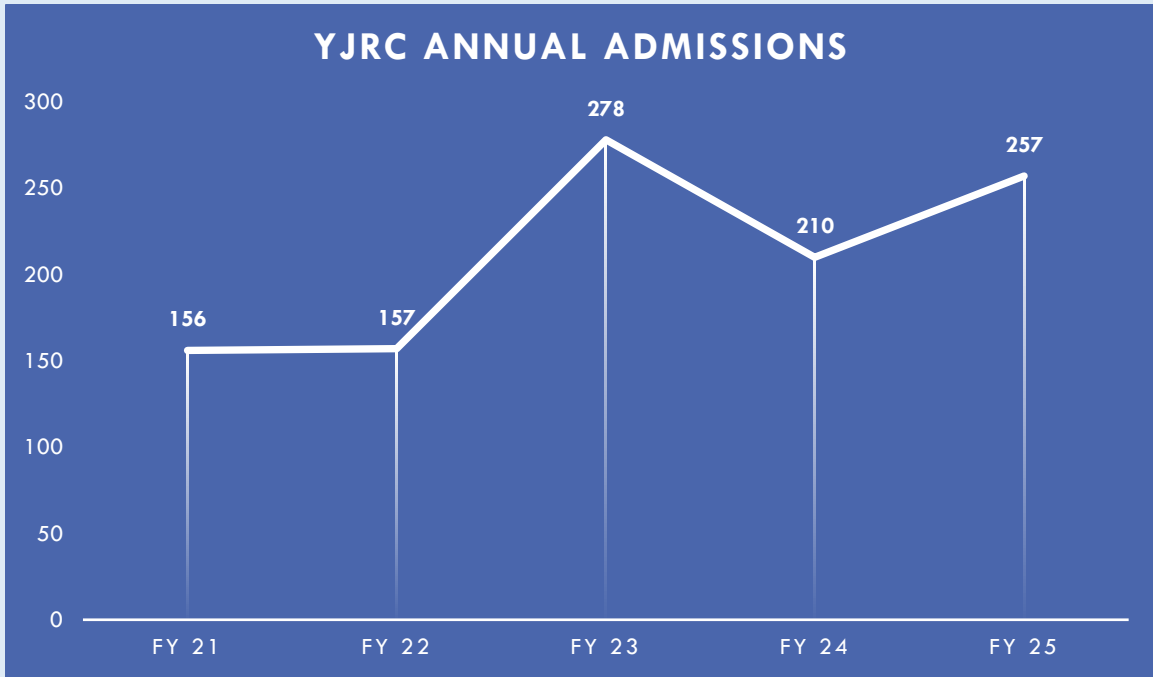
In 2012, the Center Director, in addition to 8 other juvenile detention centers in Iowa, decided to contract with a lobbyist to work on behalf of the centers to ensure that this funding stream stays protected. The Center management team has decided to retain the lobbyist through Fiscal year 2025.

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 FY25 was \$51,199. Scott County YJRC must pass a strict audit of the Child Nutrition Program every five years to secure this funding.

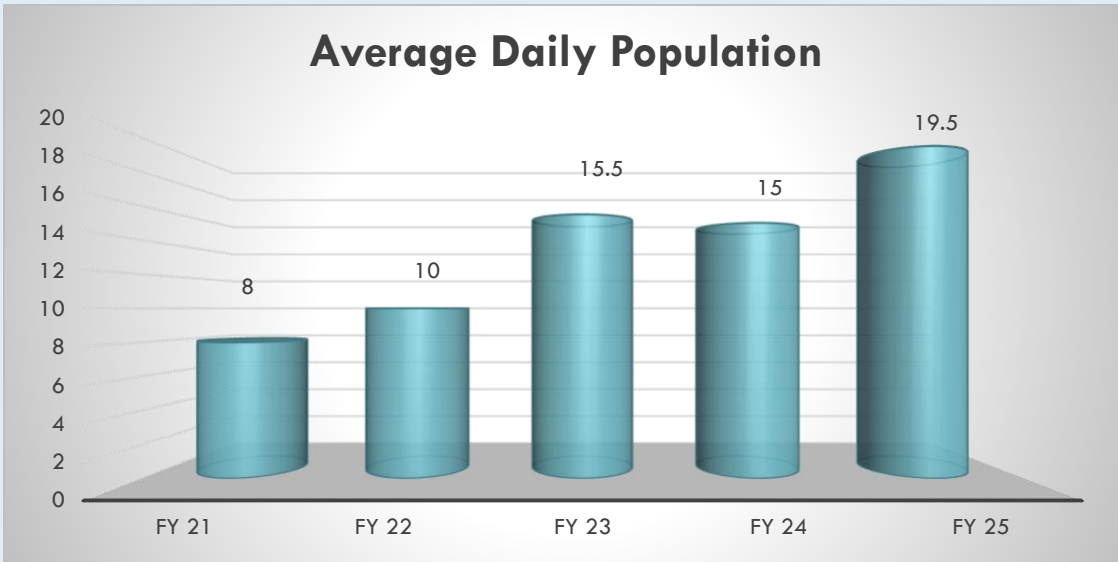
POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS - ADMISSIONS

The Center processed 257 admissions during the 2025 fiscal year. This was an increase from FY24 (210).



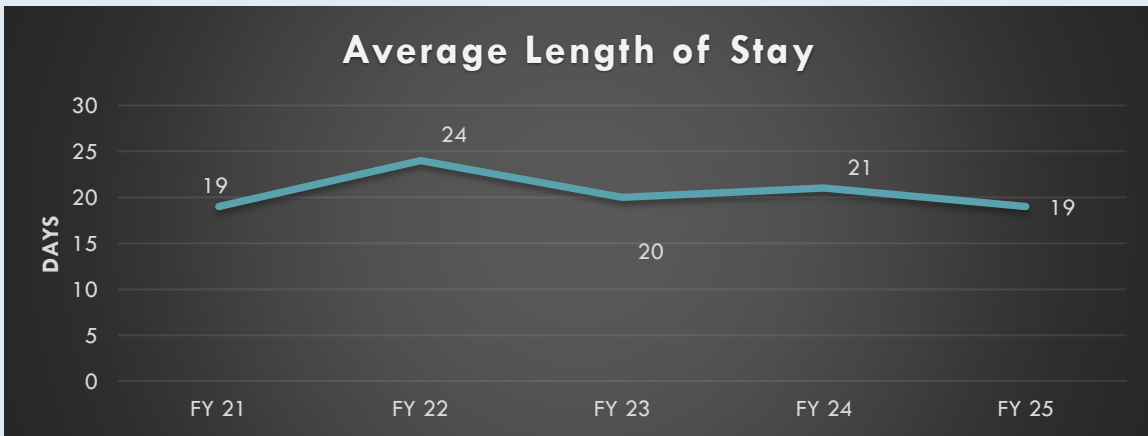
AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

Along with the increase in admissions, the average daily population increased in FY24. In FY25 the center averaged over nineteen (19.5) residents per day and had a total of 7,130 bed days. This was an increase from FY24 in which the average was around fifteen (15) youth per day. This increase can be attributed to an increase in admissions.



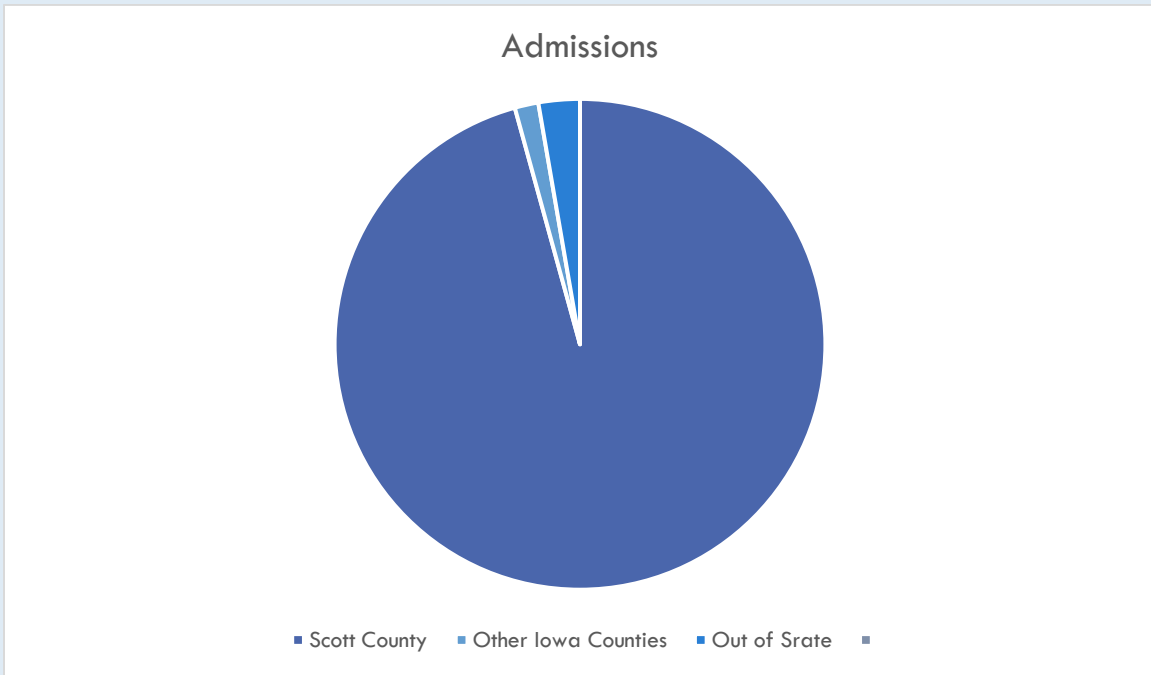
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

The average length of stay for a Scott County YJRC resident in FY25 was approximately 19 days. This was a decrease from FY24, in which the average length of stay was 21 days.



ADMISSIONS BY COUNTY

Of the 257 admissions in FY25, 246 were from Scott County (96%), four (4) admissions came from two (2) different Iowa counties (1%) and seven (7) were from Out of State (3%) as the graph below illustrates.



ADULT WAIVIERS

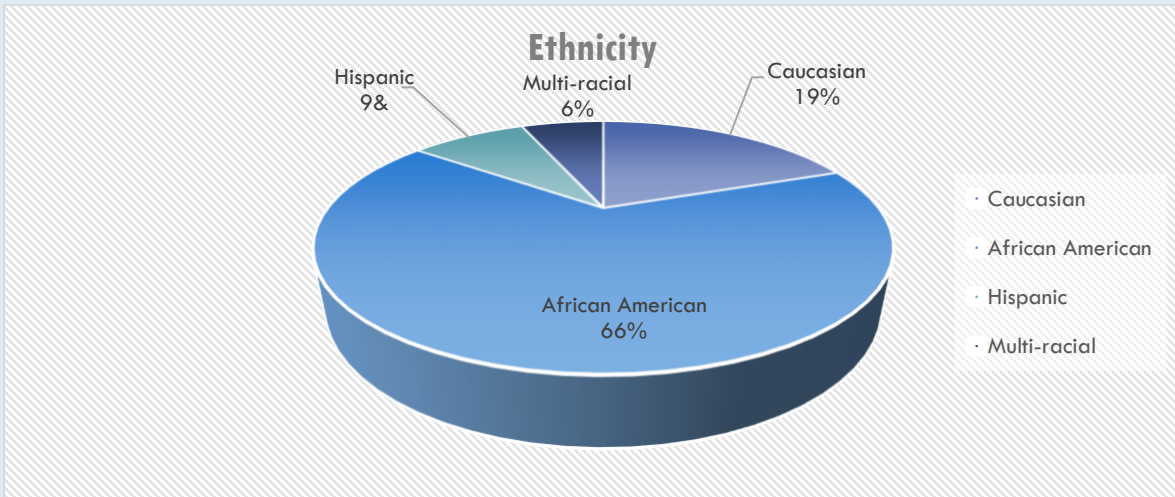
Juveniles aged 16 or older who are charged with a forcible felony are automatically waived to adult court. In addition, juveniles aged 12 or above who have a preponderance of charges and have exhausted all services available through the juvenile justice system, may be waived to adult court. In FY25, the Scott County YJRC had a total of 2,355 bed days of adult waiver juveniles. This was an increase from FY24, in which the center had 1,330 bed days of adult waiver juveniles.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth detained at the YJRC this fiscal year was 15.2 years old. Two hundred and forty-four (244) of the admissions were males, which is 95% of the total population. Thirteen (13) of the admissions were females, which make up the remaining 5% of the total population.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Admits	Percentage
Caucasian:	50	19%
African American:	169	66%
Hispanic:	22	9%
Multi- racial:	16	6%
Other:	0	0%



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 FY25 the Center had 252 special incidents. Of the 252 incidents, 71 incidents required staff physical intervention.

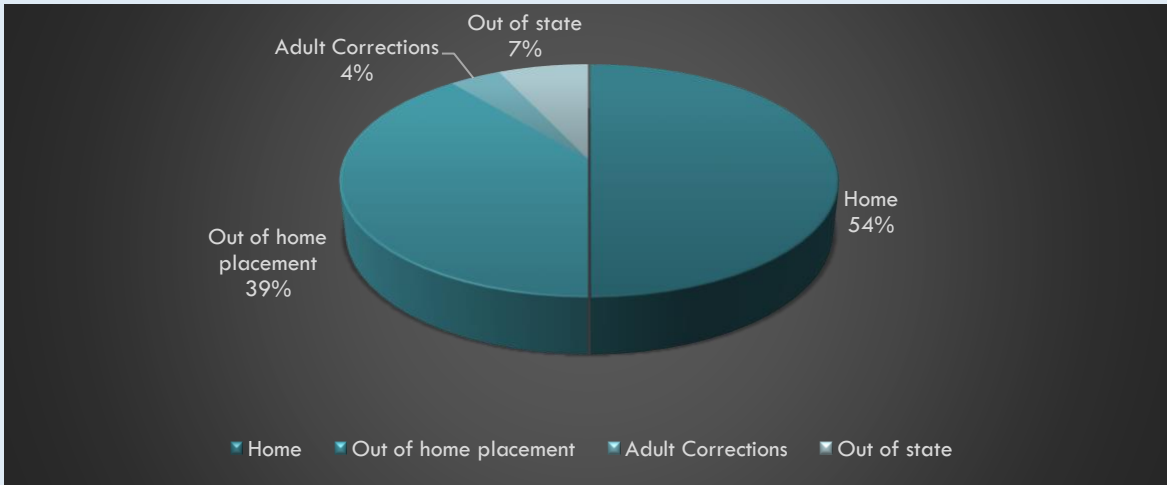
SHORT TERM PLACEMENTS

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 FY25, 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, tracking and monitoring, In Home Detention 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 youths 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 257 criminal conduct offenses are listed below by frequency:

