



# ANNUAL REPORT

## FY 2021

Fairfax County Juvenile &  
Domestic Relations District Court

Cover Photo - Burke Center Train  
Station Platform, Burke, Virginia  
By Kristina Blokhin

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This FY 2022 Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Court Services Unit (JDRDC-CSU) report provides benchmarks for the status, progress, and potential future directions of the JDRDC-CSU. It also serves as a method to share information with staff, external partners, stakeholders, and the public.

Like agencies and organizations across the nation, FY21 saw the continuation of challenges that began during FY20 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To mitigate ongoing health risks, the JDRDC-CSU (within Fairfax County guidance) continued to provide expanded telework capabilities and virtual service delivery. As access to vaccinations increased, leadership reconstituted services that had been shuttered, while adhering to health department recommendations. Throughout the year, the agency focused on serving the community in a safe, productive way.

Impacts to the population served by the JDRDC-CSU continued to grow during FY21. After decreasing 18% between FY19 and FY20, juvenile complaints fell to historic lows: between FY20 and FY21, there was a staggering 55% decline. Domestic Relation complaints also were impacted, declining 19% between FY20 and FY21.

## SAFE COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

The JDRDC-CSU's work towards decreased detention for low- to moderate-risk offenders did not change, despite the pandemic challenges. Prior to FY20, JDC placements were decreasing, and SRS placements were increasing. When the pandemic hit, JDC limited intakes, SC closed, and court hearings were significantly delayed. SRS continued to maintain high caseloads due in part to these factors. While overall SRS placements decreased for a second year, average LOS was significantly higher each month of FY21 as compared to FY20 (see figure 31).

The number of adults placed on supervision decreased in both FY20 and FY21. There were just 91 new adult probation placements during FY21 (see page xx). While adult probation caseloads decreased, the population on Pre-Trial Supervision increased again between FY20 and FY21.

## AGENCY INITIATIVES

FY21 continued the agency's focus on several initiatives including reducing racial and ethnic disparities, family engagement, and trauma-informed care. Data indicates that disparities for youth of color increase as youth journey further into the system. In FY21, youth of color represent 91% of detention placements compared to 87% of detention alternative placements and 83% of intake complaints. Agency efforts continue to monitor data and work to decrease disparities for youth of color.

JDRDC-CSU is committed to engaging families to provide services and promote success for all clients. Survey data over the last three years shows that 91-100% of families feel engaged with providers in making decisions about their child's services. Along with Family Engagement, JDRDC-CSU strives to meet the needs of clients and families through trauma-informed practices. In FY21, 94% of youth reported feeling physically and emotionally safe while participating in services. Finally, during FY21, 91% of clients who responded to feedback surveys agreed that staff treated them/their child in a fair and unbiased manner.

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To our Employees, Stakeholders, Agency, and Community Partners:

As the new Director of Court Services, it is my honor to share the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report. This report contains information about the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court - Court Service Unit (JDRDC-CSU), our programs and services, agency initiatives, and key outcome measures. The report also documents our continued commitment to justice transformation, the adoption of evidence-based policies and practices, and ensuring the fair and equitable treatment of all people within our system.

2020 and the global COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges for the Nation and the County. Following guidance from the Center for Disease Control, Virginia Health Department, and the Fairfax County Health Department, the CSU implemented mitigation strategies to slow the spread of the virus and protect the health and welfare of our employees and the citizens we serve. Operating under an emergency order issued by the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC) began hearing cases virtually and suspended all non-essential hearings, resulting in fewer cases processed. Therefore, the data contained within the annual report reflects these anomalies and should be viewed with this in mind.

Despite the challenges associated with the pandemic, I witnessed many examples of how our employees rose to the occasion, using creativity, ingenuity, and leveraging technology to ensure the continuity of services to the public and the safety of our community. Our juvenile detention center and staff working in our residential programs performed incredibly, providing a safe and secure environment for the youth in their care while preventing the spread of the virus through strict adherence to mitigation protocols.

Although the pandemic altered how we work, what remains unchanged is our steadfast commitment to living out our mission, vision, and values. I want to thank our Judges, employees, stakeholders, agency, and community partners for your commitment to serving the youth, families, and adults encountering the JDRDC-CSU. We would be unable to accomplish all that we have without your partnership, collaboration, and commitment to service.

Sincerely,



R. Matt Thompson  
Court Service Unit Director

# AGENCY VALUES, MISSION & VISION

## MISSION

The JDRDC Court Service Unit provides efficient, effective, and equitable probation and residential services. We promote positive behavior change and the reduction of illegal conduct for children and adults who come within the court's authority. We strive to do this within a framework of accountability, consistent with the well-being of the client, the family, and the protection of the community.

## VISION

As public servants, lead the nation in delivering evidenced-based, sustainable and measurable services to clients in partnerships with our community.

### DIVERSITY

We embrace diversity and promote services for our diverse population. We develop and maintain a culturally competent workforce.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

We are ethical in our decision-making, follow policies & procedures, and accept responsibility for our actions. We hold ourselves and our clients responsible to ensure the protection of the community.

### INTEGRITY

We are honest and fair in all professional interactions. We recognize the diversity of individuals and their viewpoints while treating everyone equitably and impartially. The youths, families, adults, and communities with whom we work are our first priority.

### COLLABORATION

We commit to engage and work in partnership with youths, families, adults, and stakeholders to ensure the best possible outcomes.

### INNOVATION

We are committed to excellence. We implement the highest quality of services using practices that are driven by the most current trends, research, and technology.

### PASSION

We are committed to fulfilling the agency's mission. We serve as representatives of the agency with dedication, enthusiasm, and perseverance.





Modern Building  
Tysons Corner, Virginia  
Credit: refrina

# INTAKE TRENDS AT A GLANCE

For many clients who encounter the JDRDC-CSU, their experience begins at either Juvenile Intake or Domestic Relations Intake. Juvenile intake provides services for delinquent (criminal) and CHINS – Child in Need of Services/Supervision offenses. Criminal offenses can be either misdemeanors or felonies (the more serious of the two). Domestic Relations provides intake services for cases involving custody, visitation, child and spousal support, paternity, and preliminary protective orders.

Juvenile crime has trended down nationally for more than a decade. This national trend can also be seen in Fairfax County's annual delinquency figures. Shown in the table below, overall juvenile complaints have significantly declined over the last five years. Between FY17 and FY21, there has been a 62.9% decline. While previously trending down, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic drastically decreased the number of complaints received. Specifically, FY20 complaints were 18% lower than FY19 and FY21 saw a 55% decline from FY20.

JUVENILE CRIME has trended down nationally for more than a decade. This national trend can also be seen in Fairfax County's annual delinquency figures. Shown in the table below, overall juvenile complaints have significantly declined over the last five years. Between FY17 and FY21, there has

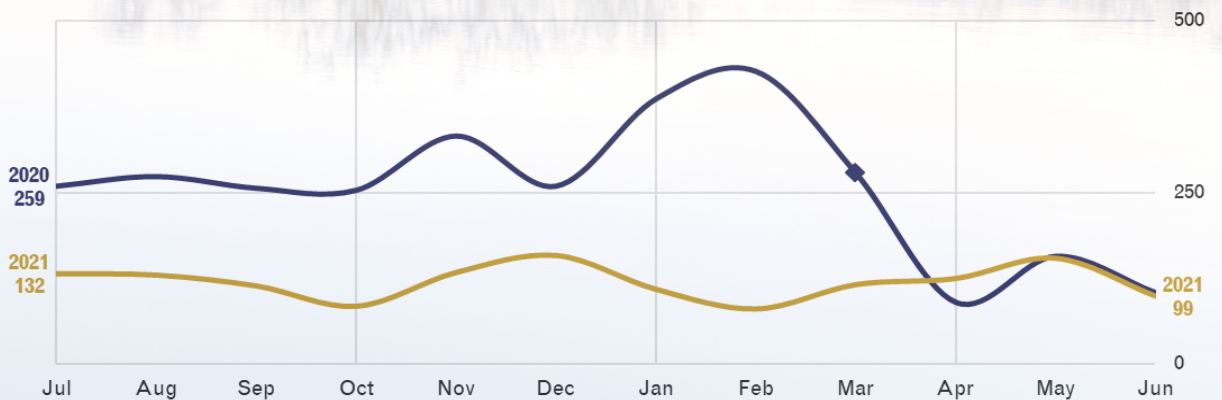
been a 62.9% decline. While previously trending down, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic drastically decreased the number of complaints received. Specifically, FY20 complaints were 18% lower than FY19 and FY21 saw a 55% decline from FY20.

Table 1: Juvenile Complaints Continue to Decrease for the 2nd Year in a Row while the Average Complaints per Youth Increase.

Fiscal Year	Juvenile Complaints	% ±	Individual Youth Served	% ±	Avg Complaints per Youth
2017	3767	-5%	1924	-8%	2.0
2018	3395	-10%	1687	-12%	2.0
2019	3766	11%	1709	1%	2.2
2020	3079	-18%	1450	-15%	2.1
2021	1396	-55%	555	-62%	2.5

The impact of Covid-19 is further highlighted when looking at complaints by month. The graph below shows complaints received monthly for both FY20 and FY21..

Figure 1: Juvenile Complaints Remain Steady After a Decrease with the Onset of the Pandemic



The type of juvenile complaints or charges has fluctuated very little over the years. The most prevalent juvenile crimes seen five years ago are similar to those today: larceny (theft), simple assaults, trespassing, and possession of marijuana. During FY21, there were 369 felonies and 616 misdemeanors.

# DOMESTIC RELATIONS COMPLAINTS

Domestic Relations (DR) complaints were slightly declining prior to the onset of Covid-19; however, the pandemic significantly altered the workload of the unit. Fiscal year 2020 saw 26% fewer complaints than FY19 and complaints decreased 19% from FY20 to FY21. Throughout all the declines, the types of complaints received by DR has remained stable. Custody and visitation made up 59% of all complaints in FY21. See page 10 for more information on Domestic Relations.

Table 2: Domestic Relation and Adult Complaints

Fiscal Year	DR Complaints	% ±	Adult Complaints (calendar year)	% ±
2017	8795	-10%	12822	-4%
2018	8929	2%	13092	2%
2019	8292	-7%	14057	7%
2020	6153	-26%	10017	-29%
2021	4970	-19%	9193	-8%

The decrease described above largely have driven subsequent decreases in other agency areas. These include new juvenile probation placements (page 32), youth placed in secure detention (page 36), and youth placed in therapeutic residential facilities (pages 36 & 37). While adult complaints declined with the onset of Covid-19, this did not

correlate with declines in caseloads, specifically within the Pre-Trial Program. There has been a surge in the number of adults placed on pre-trial supervision while awaiting court hearings, which continue to be delayed. See page 24 for a more in-depth review of the Adult Community Correction unit and associated data.



Great Falls Potomac Waterfall  
Fairfax, Virginia  
Credit: Joe Benning



Sunrise on Braddock Lake  
Burke, Virginia  
Credit: Andriy Blokhin

# AGENCY INITIATIVES

## COMMITMENT TO DATA & EVIDENCED BASED PRACTICES

JDRDC-CSU relies on research and evidenced-based practices to best guide implementation of all policies and practices. A few key research findings drive many of the agency's decisions and initiatives as they relate to juveniles:

1. Most delinquency is self-correcting with age increasing between late childhood to middle adolescence, but decreasing sharply during early adulthood (Loeber, Farrington, Howell, and Hoeve, 2012)
2. As many youths naturally desist from crime, systems should not treat all cases in the same manner
3. When assessed, both risk and protective factors can be used to determine the likelihood of a youth reoffending/ becoming a more serious offender (Howell, Lipsey, & Wilson, 2014)

Similarly, on the adult side, research supports targeting high-risk offenders and consciously managing caseloads to achieve better outcomes (Jalbert et al., 2011).

As noted, structured decision-making tools are of utmost importance to the agency. Such tools ensure cases are handled in a consistent, evidenced-based way, minimizing subjectivity and bias. Tools currently in use within the agency include the YASI (Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument), EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Supervision), MI (Motivational Interviewing), STRESS (Structured Trauma Related Experiences and Symptoms Screener), GAIN-SS (Global Appraisal of Individual Needs-Short Screener), MAYSI-2, OST (Offender Screening Tool), MOST (Modified Offender Screening Tool), FAM-III (Family Assessment Measure III), Biopsychosocial Assessment, SASSI-A2 (Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory), Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire, Columbia Screening for Suicidality, Skillstreaming, and more.

## REDUCTION OF RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITIES

Racial and ethnic disparities are found in both the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems and continue to be a priority for JDRDC-CSU over the past 2 decades. Beginning in 2012 following findings and recommendations from the Center of Social Policy, the JDRDC-CSU have worked to address disparities found within the system. There have been several initiatives within JDRDC-CSU over the years in an effort to address the issues including the Pre-Dispositional Assessment Program Pilot and resulting implementation of the Assessment Unit, as well as an evaluation and adjustment of diversion practices for youth.

Figure 2 highlights FY21 racial and ethnic breakdowns at key system decision points. As shown, disparities continue to persist. While Black and Hispanic youth make up 10 and 27 percent of youth enrolled in Fairfax County Schools respectively, they represent over 75 percent of delinquency and status complaints. Disparities continue to grow for Hispanic Youth as they move through the system, making up 59 percent of detention alternative displays and 54 percent of detention placements.

Figure 3 provides a historic overview of trends for youth of color. Proportions for youth of color are higher for each decision point compared to the school population. In addition, the proportions/disparities increase as youth journey further into the system. In Fiscal Year 2021, youth of color represent 91 percent of detention placements compared to 88 percent of juvenile supervision placements, and 87 percent of detention alternative placements. This is an increase across all categories compared to fiscal year 2020.

The RED Workgroup collaborated with the Research team to incorporate an agency wide question on all client feedback surveys to gain insight into whether or not clients felt they were treated fairly. Fiscal Year 2020 was the first full year of having this data

*I feel staff treated me/my child in a fair and unbiased manner.*

- 95% of clients agreed in FY20
- 91% of clients agreed in FY21

### Equity Impact Plan Highlights

- Increase collaboration with State Partners
- To research and share available resources to the marginalized communities we share
- To ensure the JDRDC workforce reflects the population we serve
- To apply an equity lens to both new and existing JDRDC policies, practices, and programming



Figure 2: Race/Ethnicity Across JDRDC-CSU Decision Points

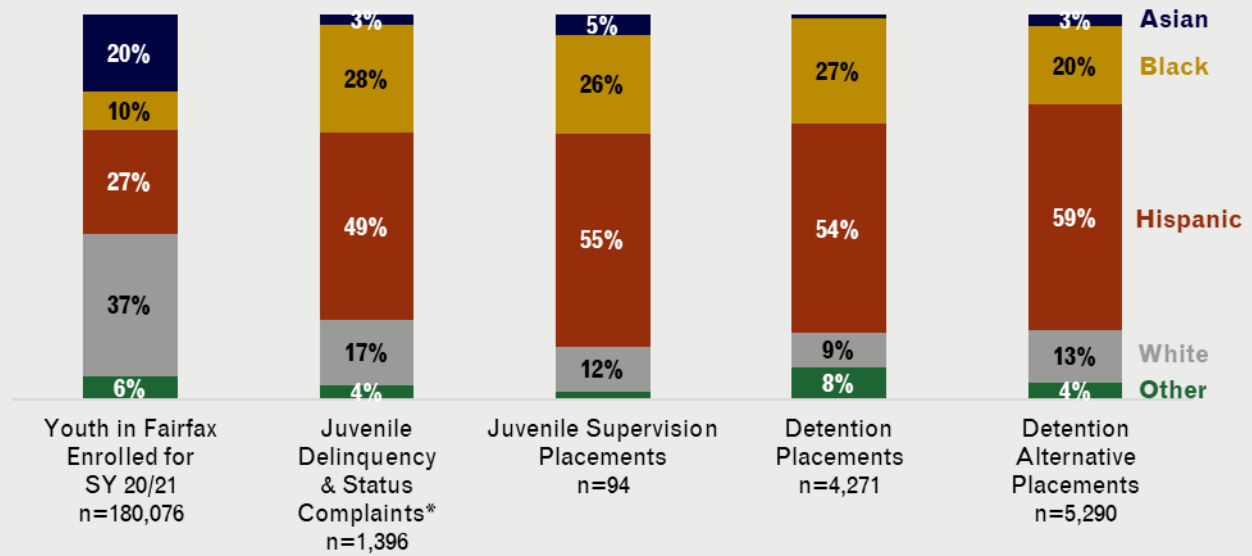
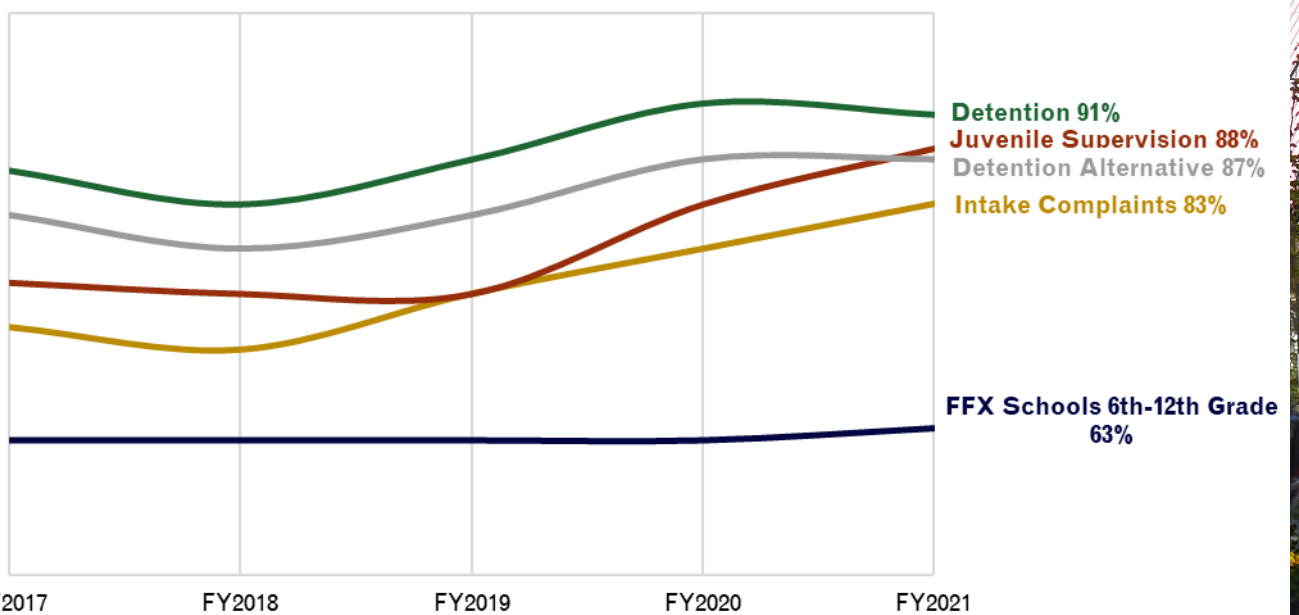


Figure 3: Percentage of Youth of Color at Decision Points Fiscal Year



Street in Tysons Corner  
Fairfax, Virginia  
Credit: refrina

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

**Agency Mission:** To support, engage, and empower both individuals and families throughout their involvement with the court system.

Research shows that court-involved individuals achieve better outcomes when members of their family are involved in the process (Garfinkel, 2019).

Under guidance from the Family Engagement Team, the Research Team added family engagement focused questions to all client feedback surveys in 2016. These questions were designed to assess how clients and their families perceive their involvement in case planning, decisions, etc. Responses shown below in Table 3 include surveys collected from Diversion, Family Counseling, Foundations, the Juvenile Detention Center, Shelter Care, Supervised Release Services, Stepping Stones, Supervised Visitation, and Victim Services.

Agreement rates have consistently been high, with some minor fluctuations. After improving for a few years, the percentage of clients agreeing they received written information about the unit/program decreased around 10% between FY20 and FY21. While many factors likely impacted this, it is reasonable to assume this decrease was in part to policies changes made as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 3: Family Engagement Client Feedback Questions

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
At (program), the staff was willing to work with me/my child (rather than doing things for me/my child or to me/my child.	96%	99%	96%	96%	95%
Staff here really let me know that they value me/my child as a person	96%	96%	96%	96%	92%
When decisions about my/my child's services or treatment were made, I felt like I was a partner with staff and that they really listened to what I wanted to accomplish	98%	100%	98%	97%	91%
Staff provided me with a clear explanation of the program rules/requirements/expectations (if applicable)	97%	95%	95%	96%	95%
When I interacted with staff, there were professional, polite, and friendly	98%	98%	98%	98%	95%
Staff provided me with contact information so that I knew who to contact if I had questions or concerns	93%	93%	96%	95%	94%
Staff explained to me what my responsibilities would be.	92%	95%	95%	97%	96%
Staff provided me with written information about the program	80%	89%	90%	92%	83%

The Family Engagement Team also offers regular training to all staff (current and incoming) and works with staff to bring any emerging ideas to life that focus on improving family engagement throughout the agency.

## TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

Youth involved with the juvenile justice system are more likely to have experienced trauma than their peers who never come into contact with the system (Abram et al., 2013). As this exposure to trauma can lead to ongoing problems (continued delinquency being one), the agency strives to work with clients and their families via trauma-informed practices. In addition to educating all staff about the signs of trauma and best practices to work with clients who have experienced traumatic events, the Trauma Team focuses on educating staff about the importance of self-care. This is in efforts to mitigate the potential stress and secondary trauma of working with the population the agency serves.

Similar to the Family Engagement Team, the Trauma Team helped create and identify questions to ask clients and their families in order to assess how they feel while navigating the court process. Below are results from surveys collected from Diversion, Family Counseling, the Juvenile Detention Center, Shelter Care, Supervised Release Services, Stepping Stones, Foundations, Supervised Visitation & Exchange, and Victim Services.



Table 4: Trauma Informed Care Client Feedback Questions

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
When I was in the program, I felt physically and emotionally safe.	96%	95%	94%	97%	94%
When I interacted with staff, they were professional, polite and friendly	96%	94%	98%	98%	95%
(Program) staff recognizes that I have strengths and skills as well as challenges and difficulties.	96%	95%	94%	97%	92%
I felt safe talking with staff about difficult or frightening experiences	95%	91%	94%	94%	93%
Staff here really let me know that they value me/my child as a person	96%	96%	96%	96%	92%

As highlighted, clients respond very favorably when asked about feeling safe and valued when interacting with agency programs and staff. Agreement levels have been 90% or higher for the last five years.

# CSU RESPONSIBILITIES

The JDRDC-CSU takes its authority, purpose, and intent from the Code of Virginia. Accountability, rehabilitation, public safety, and victim rights make up the four fundamental elements. Each concept is discussed in more detail below, accompanied by key data points to illustrate agency efforts.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

As a main pillar of the JDRDC-CSU's mission, all staff work to hold clients accountable through supervision, community service, restitution, and classes focused on victim education, anger management, and substance use/abuse.

While supervision numbers on the juvenile side have declined, the agency continues to hold these clients to the same standards.

During Fiscal Year 2021:

- 70 new placements to juvenile supervision during FY21
- 80% of juvenile probation and 54% of juvenile parole closures were successful during FY21
- Violations of probation/parole remained extremely low, just 54 were filed during FY21
- 94% of eligible juvenile cases were diverted from formal systems after accepting responsibility for their actions



## REHABILITATION

JDRDC-CSU strives to rehabilitate both youth and adult offenders whenever possible, without negatively impacting public safety. Rehabilitation efforts include therapeutic residential programs, evidenced-based interventions, and individualized service referrals.

During Fiscal Year 2021:

- The Family Counseling unit received 85 referrals
  - 55% of clients completed their Family Counseling successfully which is defined as clients keeping appointments, engaging in treatment, and meeting some or all of treatment goals.
- Of the 26 youth who left Stepping Stones or Foundations during FY20, 85% avoided additional charges during FY21
- Of the 218 youth released from Probation during FY20, 74% avoided additional charges during FY21.
- Victim Services received 28 referrals for offenders to complete victim education
  - 93% of these referrals completed their education successfully
  - 96% of youth completing the full Victim Impact Curriculum believed it was beneficial
  - 100% of youth complete a one-time Core Values class believed it was beneficial

## REHABILITATION (CONTINUED)

- 88 residential staff members received a total of 980 hours of training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
  - CBT is an evidence-based tool proven to work with youth in the juvenile justice system. It focuses on patterns of thinking and the beliefs, attitudes, and values that underlie thinking, providing tools for clients to solve their problems.<sup>1</sup> Within the criminal justice system, counselors use CBT to address a variety of behaviors ranging from substance abuse to violent offenses. A robust research base shows CBT is effective with various problems including many issues children experience. In addition, research indicates CBT reduces recidivism rates within the criminal justice population and is effective in both community-based and institutional settings.<sup>2</sup>
  - The training focused on core concepts, enhanced techniques, family components, and trauma-informed care. Staff for the Juvenile Detention Center, BETA, Stepping Stones, Foundations, and Shelter Care are using the various concepts in their daily work with clients in the residential facilities to assist in stabilization and furthering youths' behavior change goals.
- BETA staff continue to embed Aggression Replacement Training (ART)<sup>©</sup> in their program curriculum.
  - ART<sup>©</sup> is an evidence-based 10-week, 30-hour cognitive behavioral intervention created for aggressive delinquents in residential care. Main goals of the program are to reduce aggression and violence in youth by helping them learn to utilize prosocial skills in place of aggressive actions.
  - Numerous evaluations of ART<sup>©</sup> show positive results in reducing recidivism and general problem behavior, improving social skills, and improving moral reasoning.<sup>3</sup> Washington State Institute for Public Policy (2004) specifically found felony recidivism rates decreased for moderate- or high-risk youth.<sup>4</sup> In addition, ART<sup>©</sup> is listed as “very effective” on [www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov).

<sup>1</sup>Clark, P. (2010). Preventing future crime with cognitive behavioral therapy. District of Columbia: National Institute of Justice. Retrieved from NIJ Journal Issue 265 ([ncticolorado.com](http://ncticolorado.com))

<sup>2</sup>Illescas, S.R., Sánchez-Meca, J., Genovés, V.G. (2001). Treatment of offenders and recidivism: Assessment of the effectiveness of programmes applied in Europe. *Psychology in Spain*; 5:47–62. AND Wilson, D., Bouffard, L., & Mackenzie, D. (2005). A quantitative review of structured, group-oriented, cognitive-behavioral programs for offenders. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*; 32:172–204

<sup>3</sup>Gundersen, K., & Svartdal, F. (2006). Aggression replacement training in Norway: Outcome evaluation of 11 Norwegian student projects. *Scandinavian journal of educational research*, 50(1), 63–81.

<sup>4</sup>Washington State Institute for Public Policy. (2004). Outcome Evaluation of Washington State's Research-Based Programs for Juvenile Offenders. Retrieved from Outcome Evaluation of Washington State's Research-Based Programs for Juvenile Offenders - Full Report.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Maintaining public safety is crucial. While it's ideal for both juveniles and adults to stay within their communities for support, not all persons can be safely supervised in the community. Both evidenced based decision-making tools and professional judgement are used when deciding to use secure detention, detention alternatives, or release for clients awaiting trial.

During Fiscal Year 2021:

- There were 271 placements in JDC
- SRS received 179 referrals and ISP received 50 referrals for community supervision
  - 77% of SRS clients and 93% of ISP clients were supervised in the community without accruing new criminal charges
- Supervised Release Services continues to move towards an updated supervision structure that will utilize both risk level and offense type to determine the most appropriate intensity level for supervision (type of contacts and frequency)
- Pre-Trial Supervision received 534 referrals, a 7% increase from FY19.

## VICTIM RIGHTS

The agency is committed to serving all victims of juvenile crime. There is a specific unit within JDRDC-CSU that provides information, support, and advocacy to all victims while they await court hearings. Support and services provided in FY21 by this unit are highlighted below. For more data (including historical data), see page 23.

During Fiscal Year 2021:

- 110 Primary and 76 Secondary victims were served
- Victim Services staff attended 93 court hearings to provide support and advocacy to victims
- Domestic Relations staff referred 548 cases to Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) and 625 cases to the Advocate of the Day (DVAC) program



# CSU UNITS AND PROGRAMS

## ADULT SUPERVISION SERVICES

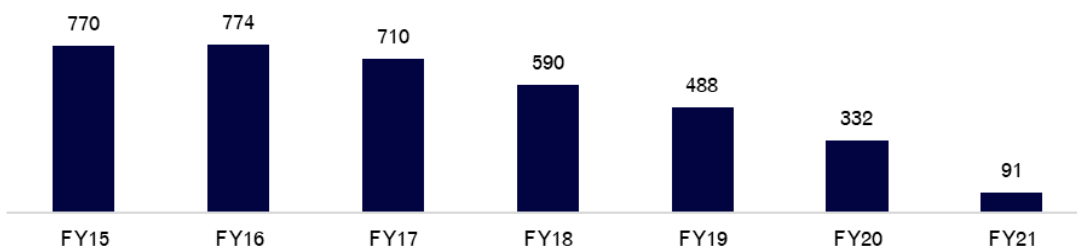
Adult supervision services include Community Corrections (CC) and Pre-Trial Supervision Program (PSP). CC serves adults within JDRDC who are placed on probation for cases where a child, family, or household member is involved as a victim. PSP provides community supervision to clients awaiting trial. Program staff utilize client/family interviews, criminal history, and assessments to provide the Judiciary with information regarding bond recommendations.

### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Community Corrections has historically served a high number of adults. The number of new placements on adult probation began to trend downwards around FY17, declining 9% between FY17 and FY18 and another 14% between FY18 and FY19. While new placements were declining, the Covid-19 pandemic significantly accelerated these trends. Shown below in Figure 4, there were 332 placements during FY20. This represents a 34% decrease from new placements in FY19. In FY21, there were just 91 new adult probation placements representing a further decrease of 73%.

The impact of Covid-19 can be further understood by looking at active adult probation cases by month. Figure 5 shows the monthly active cases during FY21 were between 40 and 64% lower than corresponding monthly caseloads during FY19.

Figure 4: New Adult Probation Placements Decreased 73% between FY20 and FY21.



Adult probation clients are often referred to services designed to meet individual needs. Overwhelmingly, adults referred to services while under court supervision complete treatment successfully. Referrals and subsequent treatment were significantly disrupted during FY21 (Table 5). Overall referral numbers were low and many treatment providers limited service availability. As such success rates are unavailable for this fiscal year.

While adult probation caseloads have dwindled due to Covid-19, much of the casework and caseloads previously seen, have shifted to Pre-Trial Services. With chronic, sustained delays in court hearings, more adults were referred to PSP, allowing for supervision within the community while awaiting their hearing.

There were 534 referrals to PSP during FY21. This is a 5% increase from FY20. While referrals increased slightly, active caseloads on PSP significantly grew.



Figure 5: FY21 Monthly Active Adult Probation Cases were between 40 and 64% lower than corresponding months in previous years.

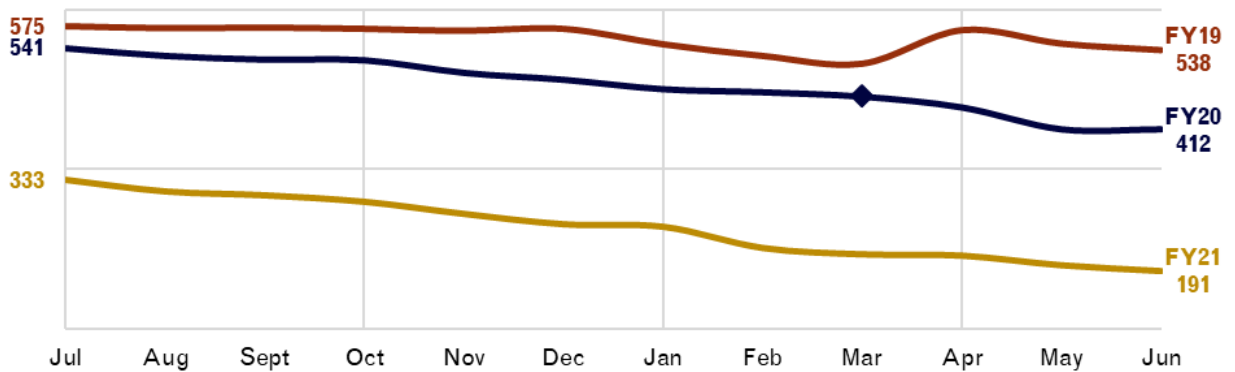
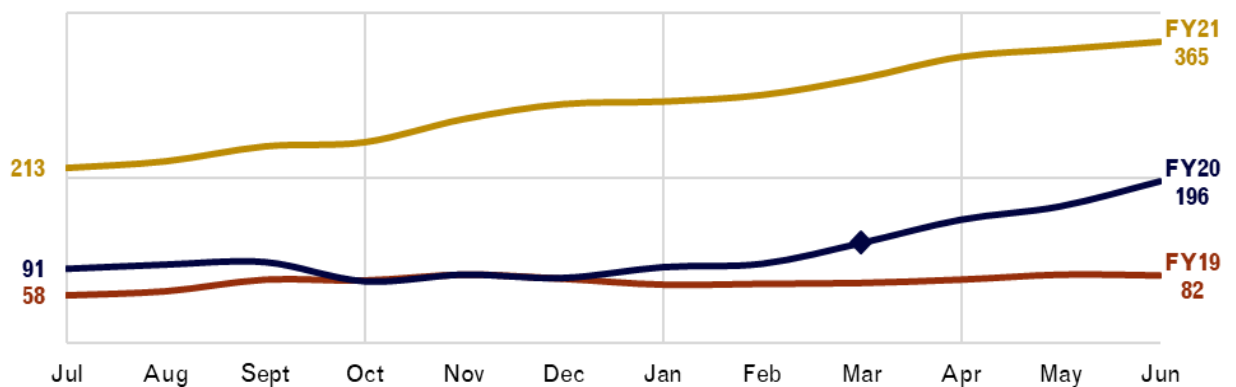


Table 5: Successful Referrals to Adult Treatment Services

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
Domestic Violence Intervention Program	95%	95%	95%	99%	92%
Anger Management Course	100%	98%	95%	100%	92%
Substance Abuse Treatment	93%	87%	94%	94%	96%
Mental Health Services	90%	86%	91%	92%	88%
Parenting Education	100%	88%	95%	94%	100%

Figure 6: Active Monthly Pre-Trial Supervision Clients Increased During the Pandemic

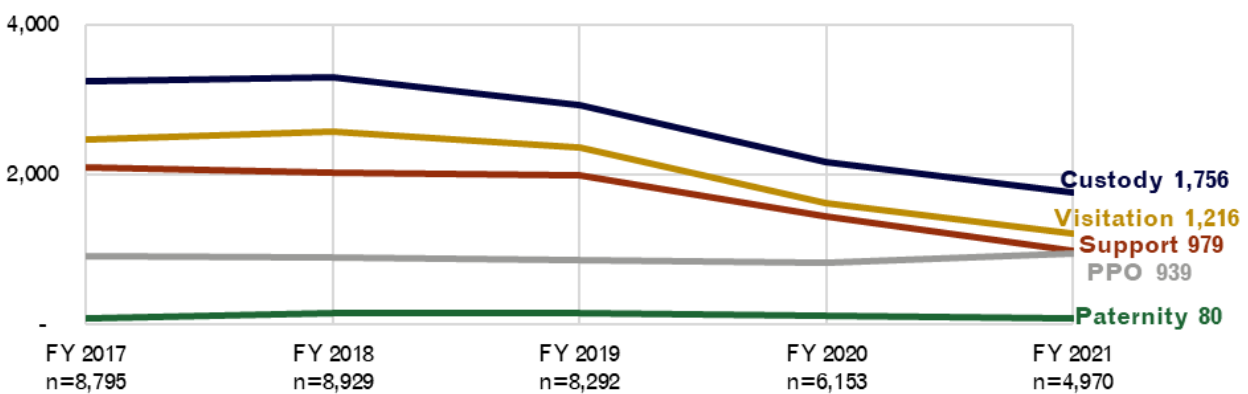


## DOMESTIC RELATIONS & MEDIATION

As noted previously, DR complaints decreased 19% from FY20 to FY21. The figure below depicts the breakdown of what type of complaints DR received each year. As shown,

custody and visitation historically make up over half of all complaints received. This trend held despite the larger declines seen over the last two fiscal years.

Figure 3: In General All Domestic Relation Complaints Decreased Since FY2018 with Preliminary Protective Orders Increasing during the Pandemic



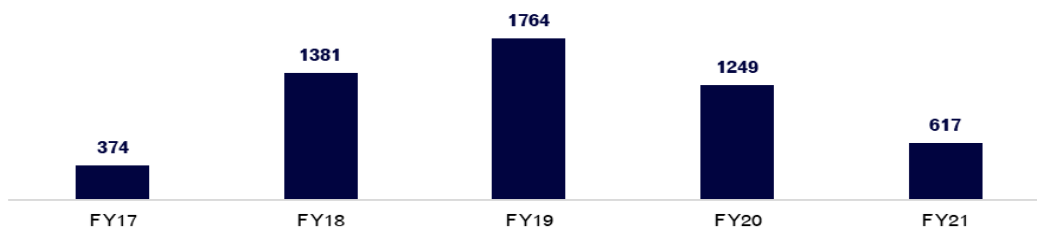
Housed within the larger Domestic Relations Unit is the Mediation Program. This program assists parties in resolving disputes associated with custody, visitation, support, etc. Following the creation of a standalone Mediation Unit in early FY18, the capacity for referrals increased allowing more clients to be served. This is evident by the increase of referrals (269%) between FY17 and FY18.

Similar to other units and programs, Covid-19 significantly impacted the day-to-day functions of the Mediation Unit. During FY21, referrals

dropped to 617 from 1,249 in FY20. One mediation referral may encompass multiple issues. Each year, custody, visitation, and child support make up the majority of items discussed at mediation. Referrals for spousal support typically make up a much smaller portion, around 2-4% of total dispute issues.

Despite the surge in referrals between FY17 and FY18, the unit maintained steady rates of mediations reaching agreement. Rates of agreement have ranged from 57-59% over the last five years.

Figure 4: Mediation Referrals by Fiscal Year



**57% of completed mediations reached agreement in FY21.**

## FAMILY COUNSELING

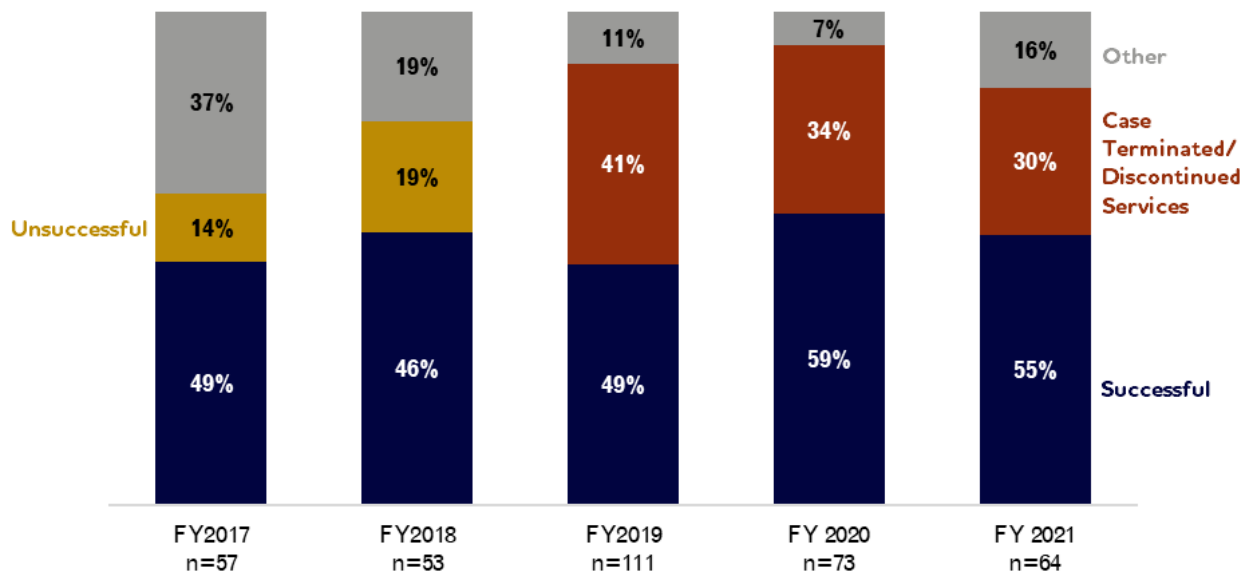
To support both accountability and rehabilitation goals, the JDRDC-CSU operates a Family Counseling unit. This unit provides therapeutic services to families and individuals. Shown below, total referrals have declined for the last few years. Between FY20 and FY21, there was a 17% decrease.

Table 6: Family Counseling Referrals by Source

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Juvenile Probation	32	43	32	25	34
Diversion	30	24	34	35	21
Judge	17	33	28	37	28
Adult Probation/DR	15	8	9	5	2
Total	94	108	103	102	85

Defining success for Family Counseling is challenging. Figure 5 shows that 55% of cases closed successfully during FY21. Success here is defined as clients keeping appointments, engaging in treatment, and meeting some or all of treatment goals. Thirty percent were terminated or had services discontinued. This can occur when clients meet some goals, but treatment ends earlier than initially planned. With this, coding cases as “Unsuccessful” is no longer used.

Figure 5: Family Counseling Closure Types



## INTAKE & DIVERSION

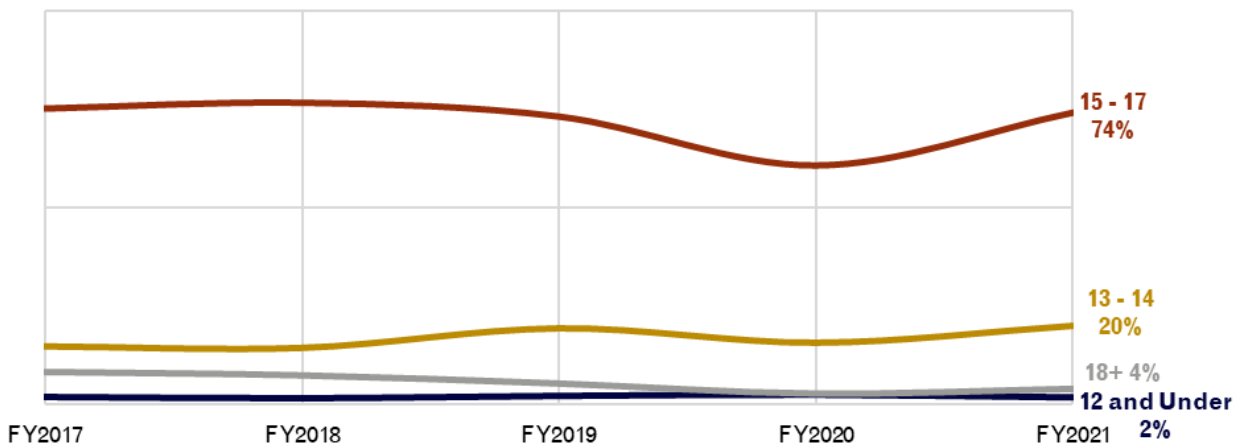
As highlighted within Table 1 on page 1, complaints received by Juvenile Intake have steadily declined. Declines have been exasperated the last two fiscal years in relation to Covid-19 disruptions. Most complaints received each year are Class 1 Misdemeanors. During FY21, 26% of complaints were Felonies. Shown in Table 6, this is in line with proportions seen over the last few years, despite being slightly elevated from FY20.

Table 7: Juvenile Complaints by Type

	FY 2017 n=3,767	FY 2018 n=3,395	FY2019 n=3,766	FY2020 n=3,079	FY 2021 n=1,396
Felony	24%	23%	23%	20%	26%
Class 1 Misd.	40%	37%	40%	40%	39%
Class2-4 Misd.	12%	13%	10%	13%	6%
CHINS/CHINSup	5%	8%	5%	6%	5%
VOPs	5%	5%	3%	5%	4%
Technical Violations	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Other	12%	10%	17%	14%	17%

Most youth seen by Juvenile Intake are between 15 and 17 years old. During FY21, almost three-fourths (74%) of youth were in this age range (see Figure 6). Historically, males make up the majority of juvenile complaints. During FY21, 77% of complaints were from males and 23% were from females.

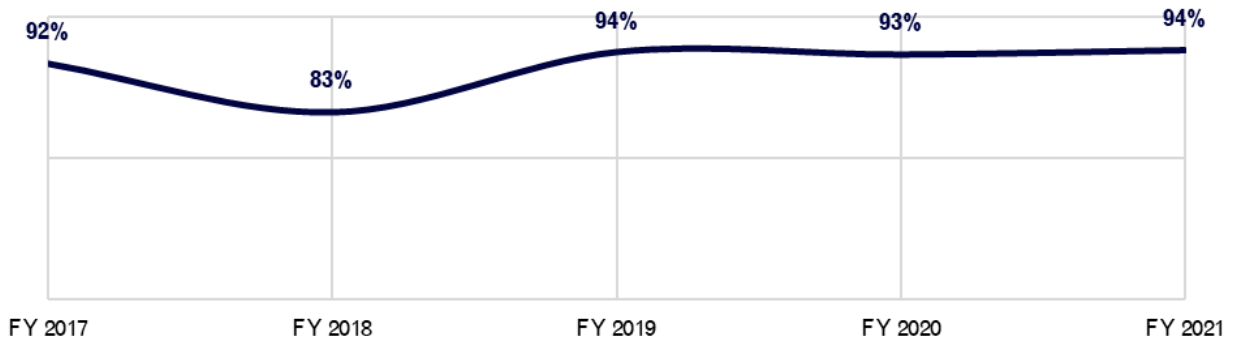
Figure 6: Juvenile Complaints by Age Category



As previously explained, diverting youth whenever possible is a JDRDC-CSU focus, dictated by the Code of Virginia. Youth are generally eligible for diversion if they are not charged with a violent felony, they accept responsibility for their actions, and the family is willing to participate in treatment programs or sanctions deemed appropriate. Youth may only be diverted for a felony offense once.

During the diversion process, various evidenced-based tools such as the YASI are used to assess a youth’s risk to reoffend. These tools also highlight any areas of need to guide service planning. As diversion is a core tenant of the JDRDC-CSU, most youth who are eligible for diversion, do indeed move forward with the process. Ninety-four percent of eligible intakes during FY21 moved forward with the diversion process.

Figure 7: 94% of Eligible Intakes Proceeded with Diversion in Fiscal Year 2021



Over half of youth diverted are low risk, meaning that it is not likely that they will commit another crime. During FY21, 57% of youth were low risk. While still over half, this is the lowest proportion of low-risk youth seen over the last few years, declining from 81% during FY17.

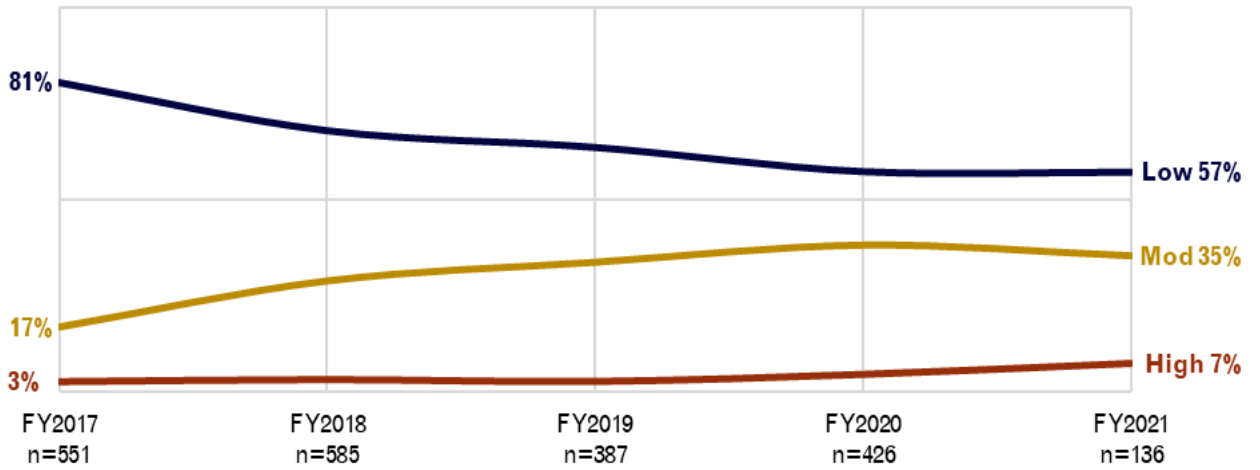
Through a partnership with Northern Virginia Mediation Services (NVMS), Fairfax County Public Schools, (FCPS), and the Fairfax County

Police Department (FCPD), the JDRDC-CSU expanded the Alternative Accountability Program (AAP). This program allows FCPD to refer youth directly to a restorative justice (RJ) process for school and/or community related incidents or a Shoplifting program for larceny related offenses without formal court involvement. Via AAP, many low-risk youth are screened out prior to reaching Juvenile Intake.



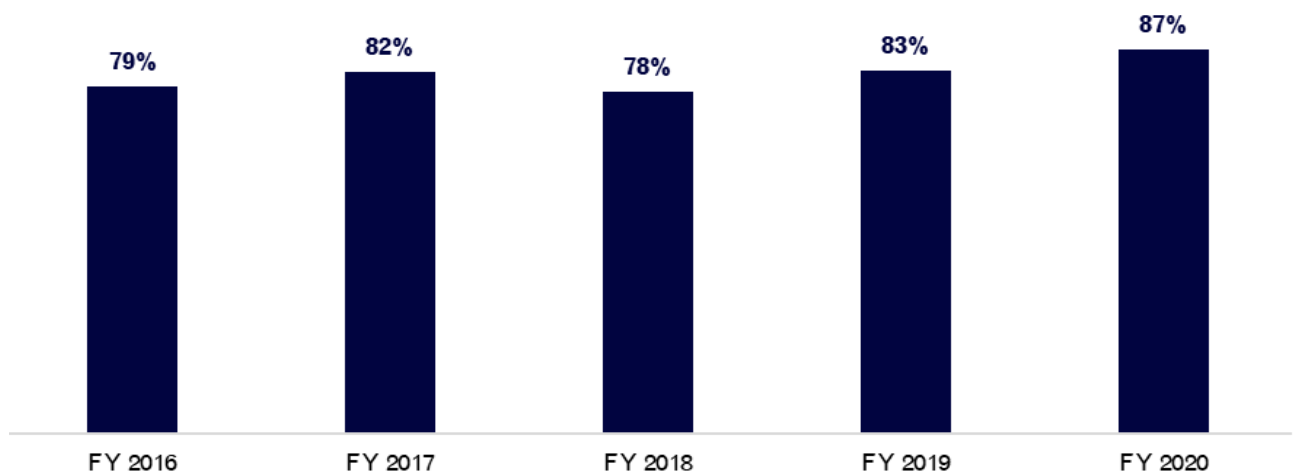
Spring Landscape with Forest Path, Seasonal Flowers  
By Grecaud Paul

Figure 8: 57% of Youth Diverted are Low Risk to Reoffend



The overarching goal of diverting youth is to keep them out of the formal court system, while ensuring they do not come back for future charges. Historically, youth diverted with JDRDC-CSU do not reoffend. Shown Figure 9: Diversion Recidivism Rates, 87% of youth completing diversion during FY20 had no new charges after one year. This is an increase from the last few years and a significant indicator of the overall success of diversion.

Figure 9: 87% of Youth Diverted have No New Charges After One Year



## JUVENILE SUPERVISION

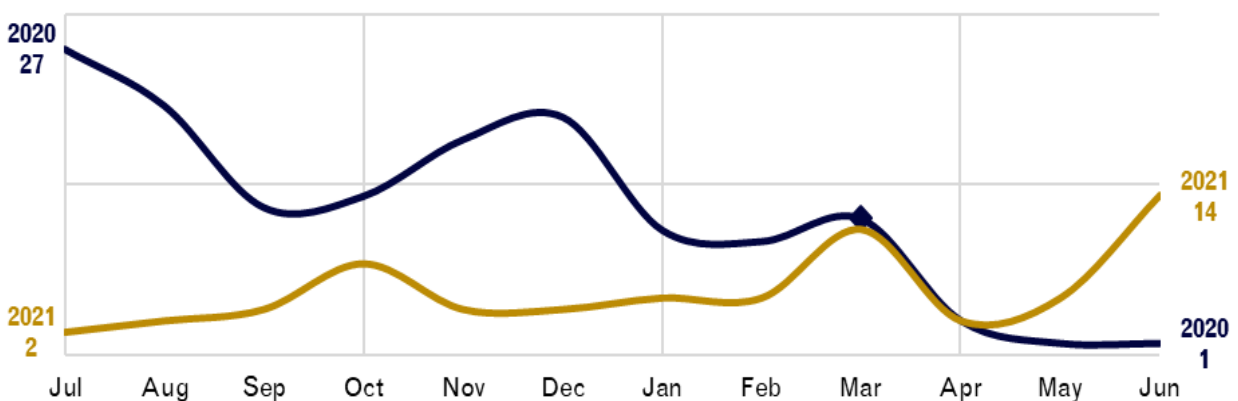
In accordance with the Code of Virginia, JDRDC-CSU provides extensive probation supervision and services. Probation officers have various duties and work with clients to rehabilitate/redirect behavior, impose consequences, hold juveniles accountable for their actions, and collaborate to strengthen family dynamics.

With declining juvenile crime, juvenile supervision populations have also declined over the years. There were just 39 new placements on probation during FY21, an 85% decline from FY20. Additionally, there were fifteen new parole placements and three DJJ commitments during FY21.

Table 8: Juvenile Supervision Placements

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Juvenile Probation	328	343	336	257	39
Juvenile Parole	9	8	17	5	15
Residential	30	30	18	17	13
Juvenile Committed to DJJ	14	14	19	7	3

Figure 10: Covid-19 Pandemic Drove Declines in Juvenile Supervision Caseloads



As with other areas of the agency, the Covid-19 pandemic largely drove the significant declines in supervision caseloads. Shown below, new placements declined sharply during March/April of FY20 and remained low during FY21. During the final two months of FY21, numbers started to increase again.



To successfully complete supervision, youth must meet all court-ordered obligations and demonstrate increased positive behavior. Prior to FY21, most youth completed supervision successfully each year. Forty-one percent of clients completed successfully during FY21. When a client leaves probation, additional information is also collected in order to assess changes/improvements regarding school, employment, and substance use. Table 6 highlights that while overall success rates were low (Figure 12), at the end of supervision, over half of clients were attending school or had graduated (78%), were employed (64%), and indicated they were not using drugs and/or alcohol (76%).



Figure 11: Successful Juvenile Supervision Closures

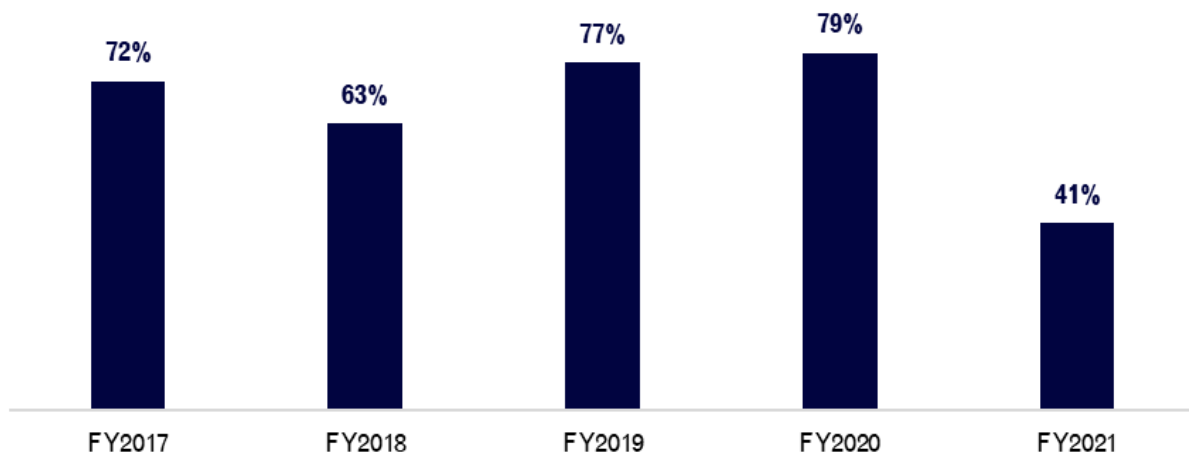
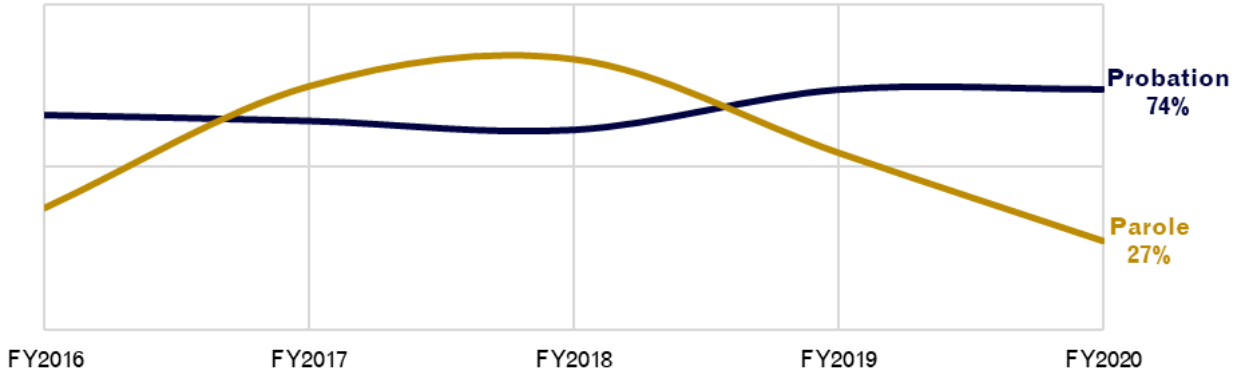


Table 9: Juvenile Probation Outcomes

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Attending School or Graduated	81%	83%	81%	78%	78%
Employed	63%	69%	60%	59%	64%
No Substance Use	69%	62%	69%	73%	76%

For juvenile probation clients, recidivism is also a key outcome measured by JDRDC-CSU. The goal is no recidivism, defined as youth have no new criminal charges one year after leaving active supervision.

Figure 12: 74% of Probation and 27% of Parole Youth had NO New Criminal Charges One Year after Leaving Supervision



As noted on page 3, JDRDC-CSU utilizes multiple evidence-based practices. The YASI (Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument) is used most frequently with the juvenile supervision population to periodically assess a youth’s risk level for reoffending. Upon a client exiting supervision, they receive one final closure assessment. The two primary goals include seeing decreased dynamic risk levels and increased dynamic protective levels. Shown below, the agency saw many desired changes. Three-fourths of closure YASIs during FY21 showed decreases in dynamic risk factors. Also encouragingly is that 65% of closure YASIs indicated higher levels of dynamic protective factors.

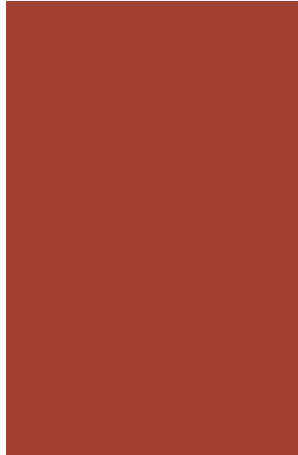
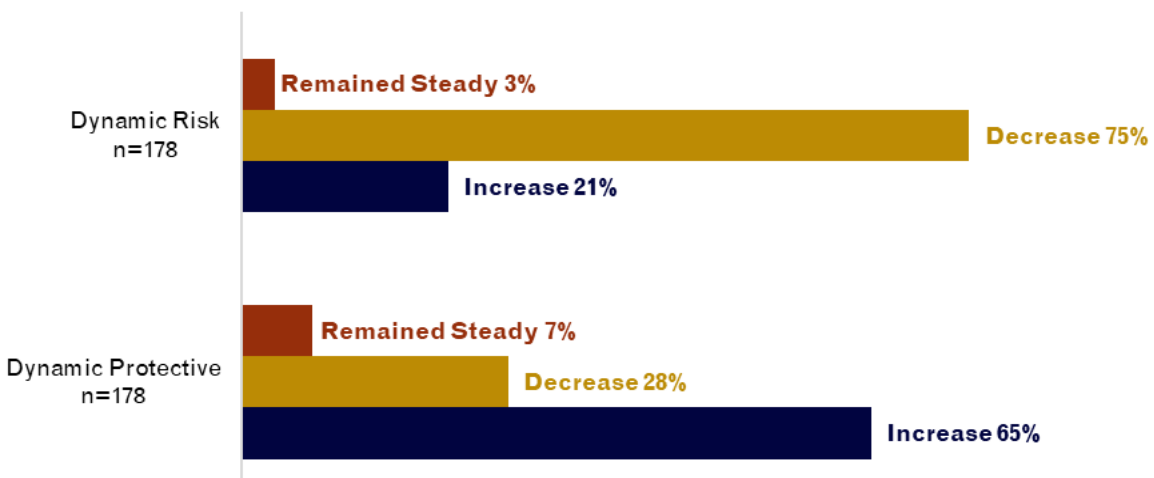


Figure 13: 75% of Youth Under Supervision Decreased Dynamic Risk Factors and 65% Increase Dynamic Protective Factors



## ASSESSMENT UNIT

Youth are referred to the Assessment Services Unit (ASU) after an adjudicatory hearing (trial phase). The unit is tasked with assessing juveniles' juveniles' risk level for reoffending, strengths, and weaknesses before a dispositional hearing.

The ASU was officially created in July of 2018 after a successful pilot phase of a true bi-furcation system.<sup>5</sup> Prior to this pilot (and eventual program creation), youth often had their adjudication and disposition hearing at the same time. The ASU received 69 referrals during FY21.



Figure 14: Referrals to ASU

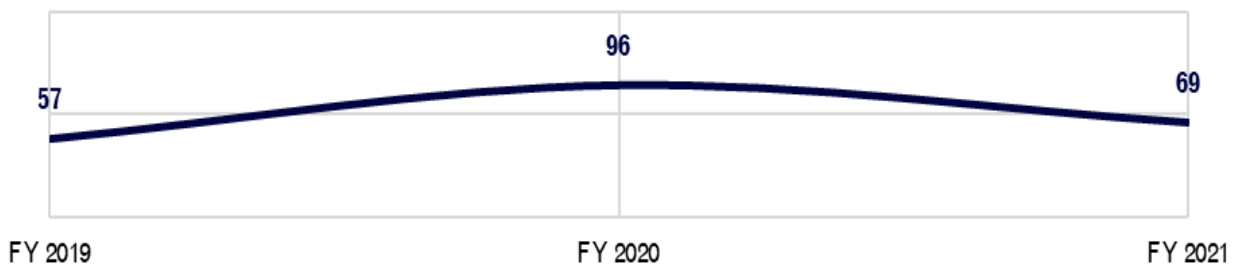
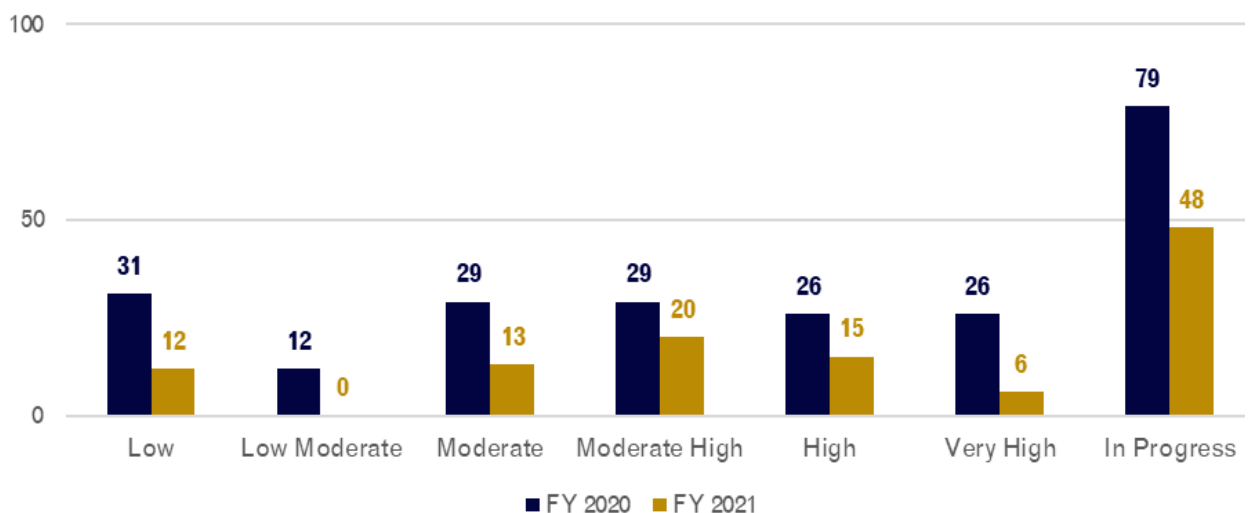


Figure 15: Risk Levels of ASU Referrals



<sup>5</sup>A bi-furcated system within criminal justice refers to adjudication or trial proceedings and sentencing proceedings occurring separately. Prior to Fiscal Year 2018, adjudication and sentencing hearings for youth occurred at the same time.

## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The Fairfax County JDRDC-CSU oversees multiple residential facilities, designed to provide structured supervision and rehabilitation to different groups of clients.

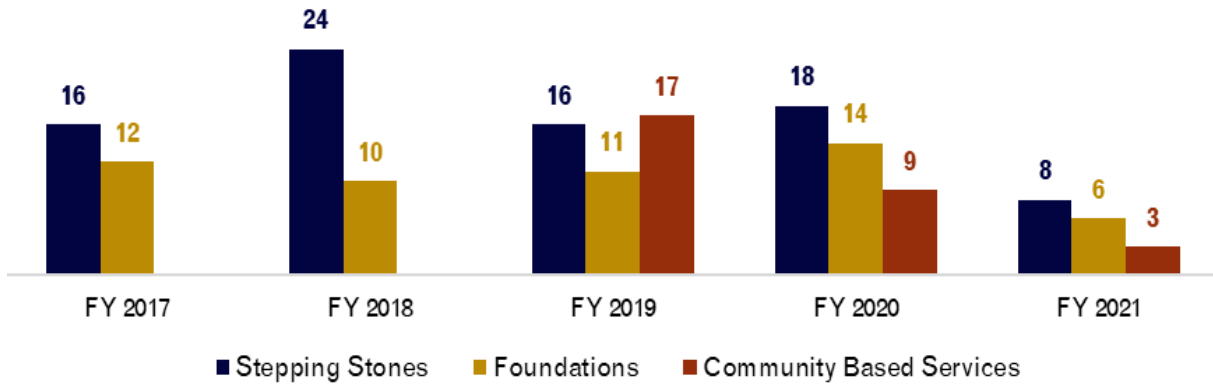


### FOUNDATIONS & STEPPING STONES

JDRDC-CSU operates two community-based residential treatment facilities, Foundations (FND) for females and Stepping Stones (SS) for males. These programs focus on identifying strengths and areas of need to craft tailored service plans. Both programs consist of a residential phase and a transition phase.

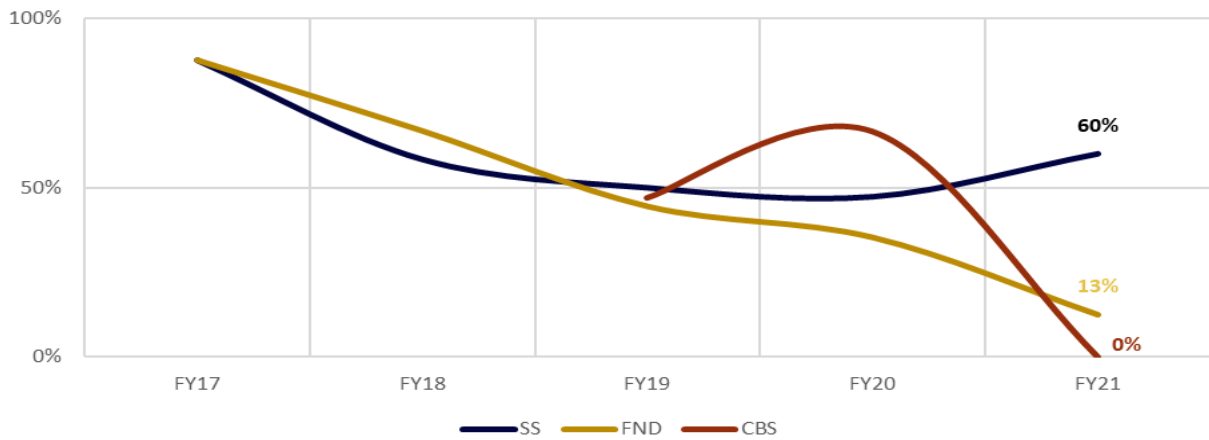
In addition to FND and SS, the JDRDC-CSU offers a Community Based Services program (CBS). This program provides intensive, in-home counseling for moderate- to high-risk youth who are at risk for or transitioning home from an out-of-home placement. Placements across the three programs declined between FY20 and FY21.

Figure 16: Program Placements by Fiscal Year



During FY21, 60% of SS and 13% of FND of discharges were successful (Figure 21). Successful completions of these two programs have been trending downward over the years, although SS saw an increase this year (47% to 60%). AWOLs largely contribute to unsuccessful youth discharges for both programs.

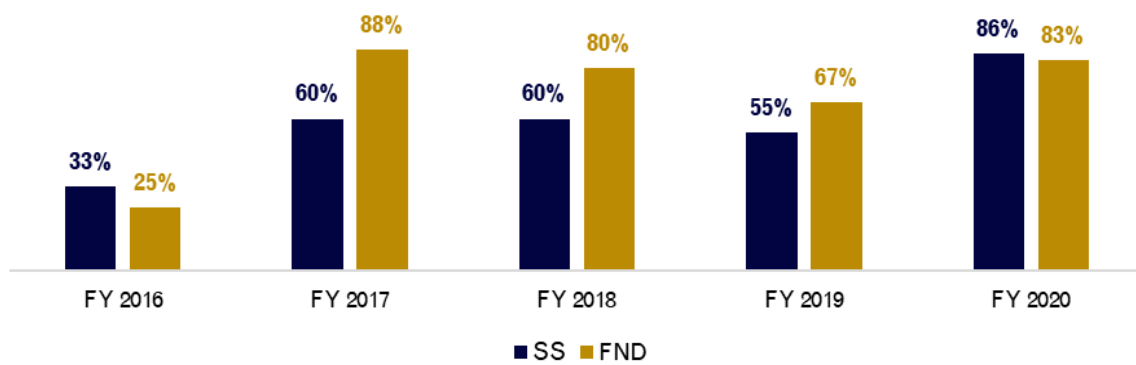
Figure 17: Successful Program Completions



Despite challenges relating to the Covid-19 pandemic at the end of FY20, over half (67%) of youth successfully completed CBS. Of the three youth discharged from CBS during FY21, however, all three were terminated unsuccessfully.

Recidivism information is reported one year behind. Of twelve youth leaving FND during FY20, ten (86%) had no new charges after one year. For SS, twelve (83%) out of fourteen youth had no new charges after one year. Both programs had an improved recidivism rate compared to the last two years.

Figure 19: Youth with No New Charges within 12 Months of SS or FND Release



## JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

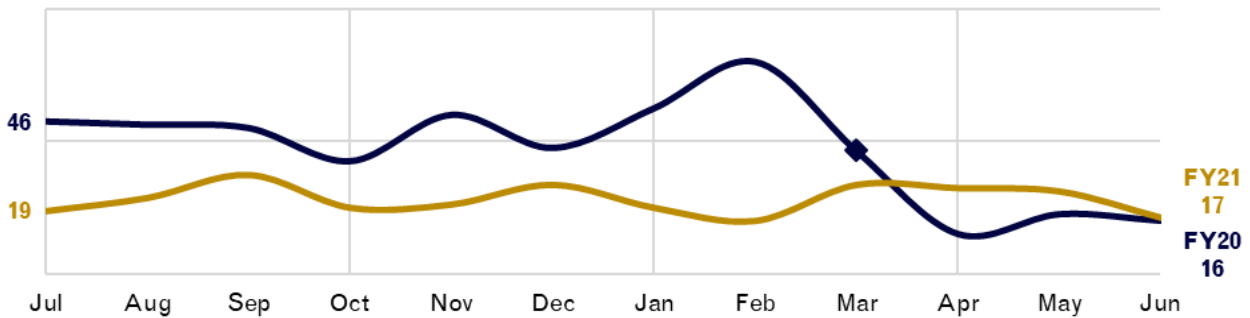
The Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) is a secure, structured environment that offers therapeutic programming and services to currently detained youth. Youth may be awaiting a future court hearing or serving a post-dispositional sentence ordered by the Judge. Youth placed at JDC have access to physical and mental healthcare services, recreational activities, educational services, and family engagement activities.

In line with decreasing juvenile crime, placements at JDC have been trending downwards over the years. Covid-19 caused significant impacts, leading to a 40% decrease between FY20 and FY21. A more in-depth view of how the pandemic impacted JDC placements is highlighted in Figure 24. As shown in Figure 20, the sharpest decline occurred between February and April of 2020, correlating with the onset of Covid-19 and JDRDC-CSU's placements remained lower than average throughout the year.

Table 10: JDC Placements by Fiscal Year

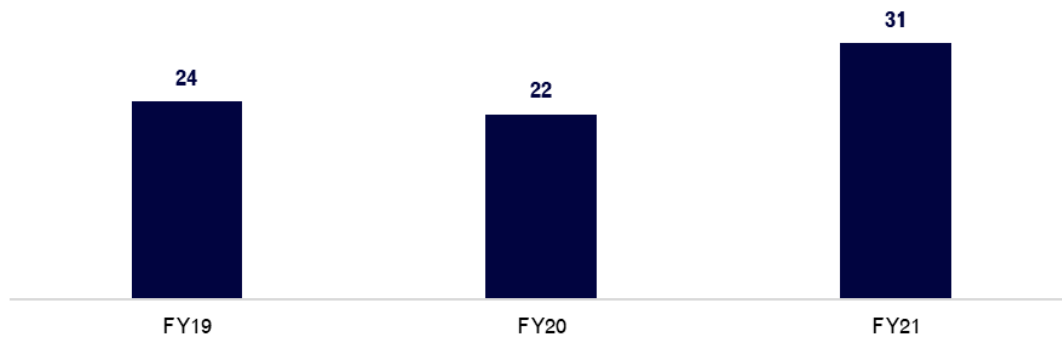
	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Placements	533	505	494	452	271

Figure 20: JDC Placements by Month



While placements decreased, the delay in court hearings led to youth staying at the facility for longer periods of time. During FY21, the average stay was 31 days, up from 22 in FY20.

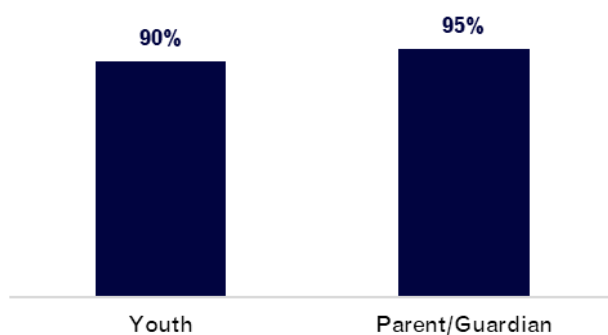
Figure 21: Average Length of Stay by Fiscal Year



This pattern of fewer placements, but longer stays also presents with Supervised Release Services (see page 6 for more information on this program).

Youth placed in JDC and their parents and/or guardians are offered feedback surveys upon exiting the facility. Encouragingly, feedback is largely positive. During FY21, 93% of youth stated they felt physically and emotionally safe while in JDC. Similarly, 90% of parents during FY21 said they believed JDC was safe place for their child. Most youth and their parents/guardians indicate that their overall experience was satisfactory.

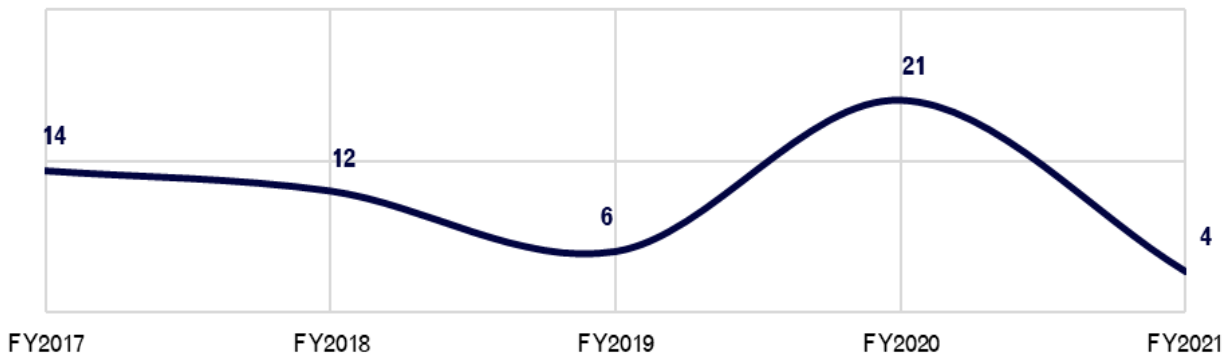
Figure 22: JDC Youth & Parent Satisfaction Were High in FY 2021.



### BETA PROGRAM

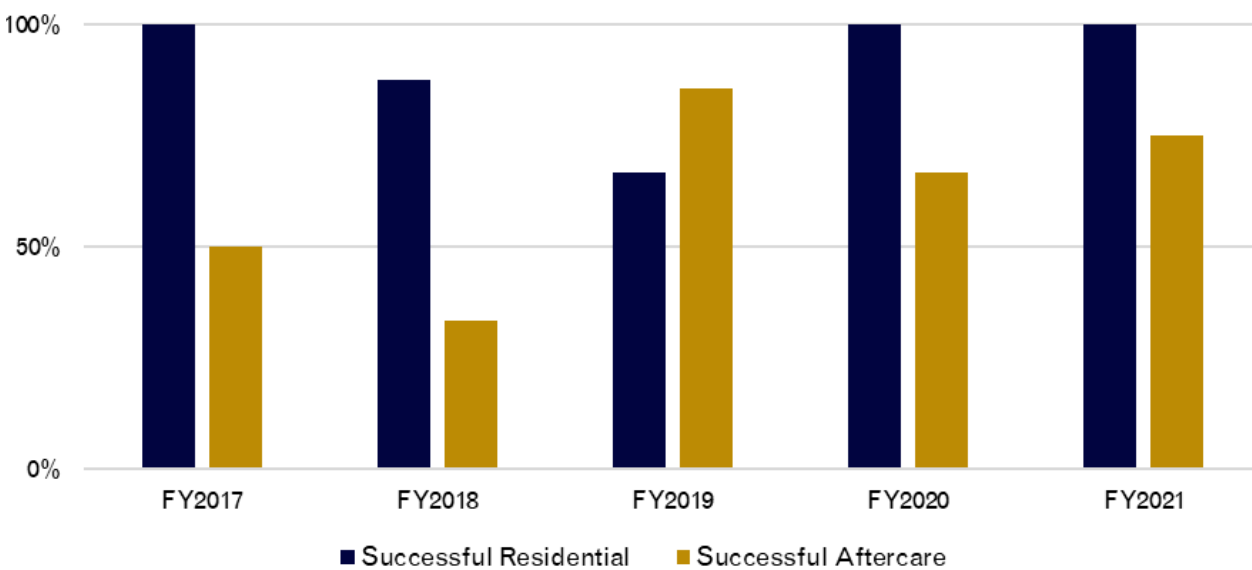
The BETA Program is also housed within JDC, which is a specialized male-only unit providing post-dispositional treatment and confinement for up to six months. The BETA Program can act as an alternative to committing youth to the Department of Juvenile Justice. Placements in the BETA program were declining from FY17 through FY19 but reached a peak of 21 during FY20. Like other programs/units, Covid-19 led to a large decline in placements between FY20 and FY21.

Figure 23: BETA Placements



The BETA program consists of two parts: an in-house, residential phase and an aftercare phase. Successful completion of the aftercare portion entails six months of community supervision, completion of all court orders, and one final court hearing. The residential portion historical has high success rates (100% in both FY20 and FY21). Seventy-five percent of youth completed aftercare successfully in FY21. This is up from FY20 (67%).

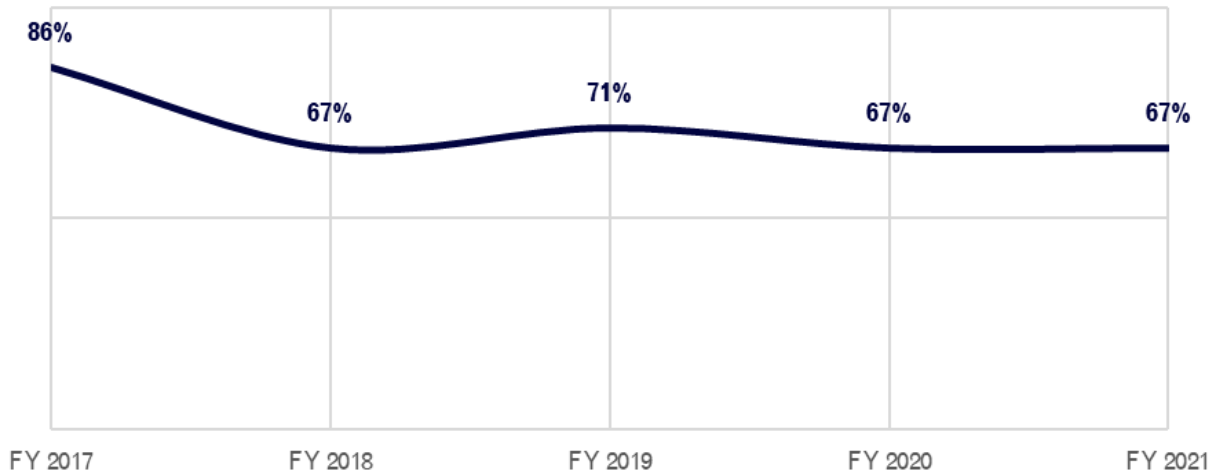
Figure 24: Successful BETA Completions





In addition to successful completions. The BETA program tracks whether youth receive new charges while in the aftercare phase. Historically, at least half of youth avoid additional charges.

Figure 25: Youth Receiving No New Charges During BETA Aftercare



## SHELTER CARE

The Fairfax County Shelter Care (SC) facility provides services to both Pre-Dispositional and Post-Dispositional youth. Pre-Dispositional youth are youth in need of short-term and/or crisis intervention. Pre-Dispositional youth may also be youth charged with minor offenses, awaiting further court hearings. Post-Dispositional youth may be youth awaiting an alternative placement and/or additional court hearings. SC provides medical and psychological care, structured activities, and educational services.

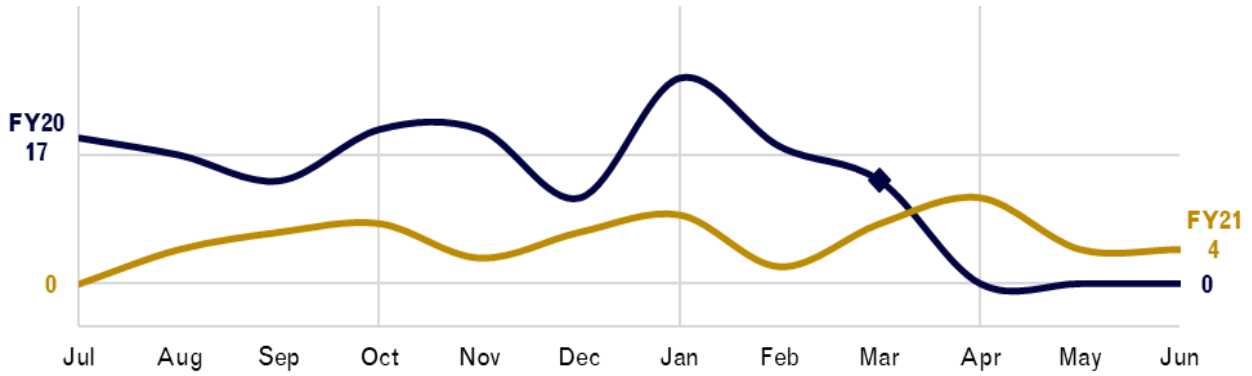
In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, SC closed from April 2020 through August 2020. While placements dropped 19% between FY19 and FY20, the more significant decline occurred between FY20 and FY21, with placements declining 56%.

Table 11: Shelter Care Placements

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
180	177	173	140	61

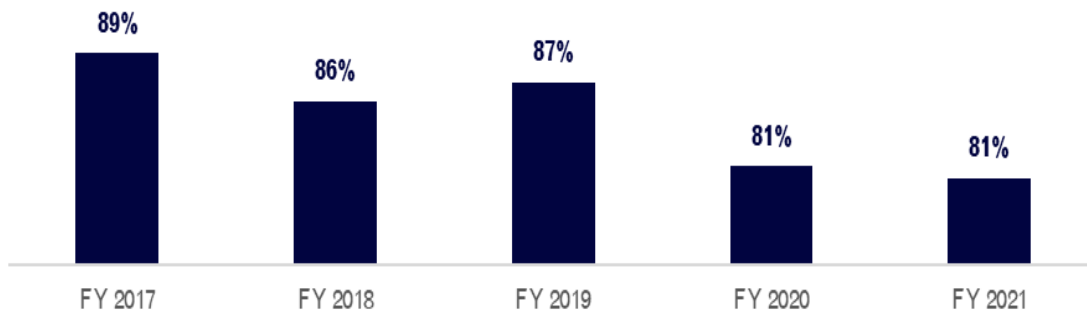
When viewed by month, the initial and ongoing impact of Covid-19 is clear. As shown in Figure 26, FY21 monthly placement numbers are lower than trends seen in FY20 (before the pandemic onset) due to a need for the facility to remain at half capacity throughout FY 2021.

Figure 26: Monthly Shelter Care placements remain lower than normal due to decreases in capacity for Fiscal Year 2021.



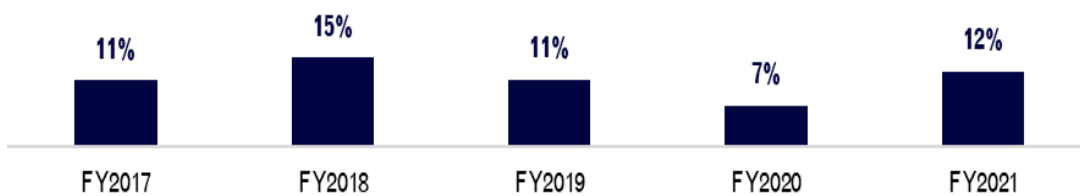
Shown below, 81% of youth exiting Shelter Care during FY21. This rate is stable from FY20.

Figure 27: Successful Discharges from Shelter Care



Despite SC not being a locked facility, few youth actually run from the facility. Shown below, runaway or absconder rates have ranged from 7% to 15% over the last few years.

Figure 28: Percentage of Youth Absconding from Shelter Care





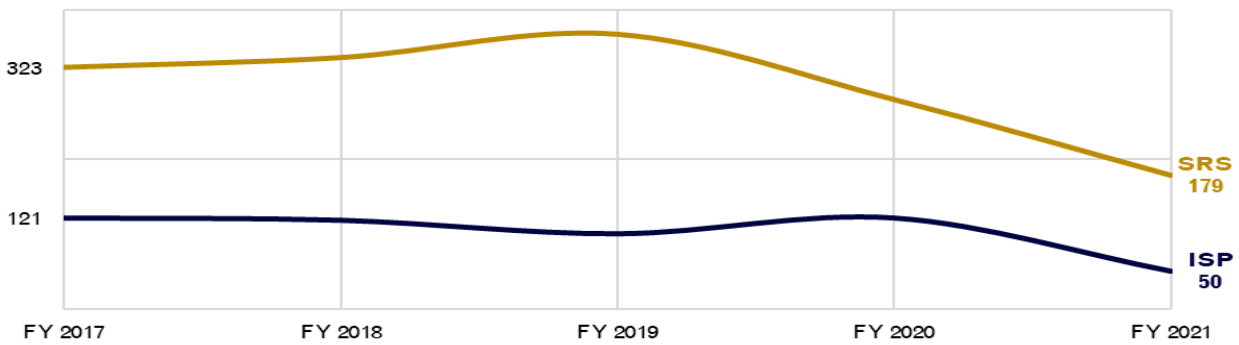
Burke Center Train Station Platform  
Burke, Virginia  
By Kristina Blokhin

## SUPERVISED RELEASE SERVICES & INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM

Supervised Release Services (SRS) provides pre- and post-dispositional supervision within the community. SRS encompasses the Intensive Supervision Program, which provides community supervision at a more intense level (also pre- and post-dispositional). Clients under ISP receive more visits/contacts, particularly during evening and nighttime hours.

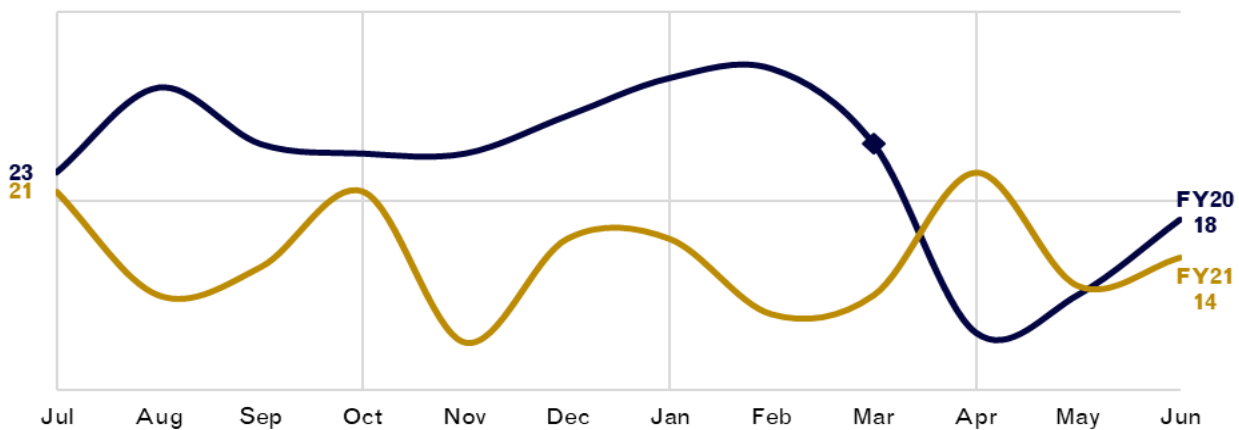
Both SRS and ISP saw significant declines between FY20 and FY21 due to Covid-19 impacts. SRS placements were trending upwards until FY19, but as detailed below, the program saw 51% fewer placements between FY19 and FY21. Similarly, ISP placements declined 59% from FY20 to FY21.

Figure 29: SRS & ISP Placements by Fiscal Year



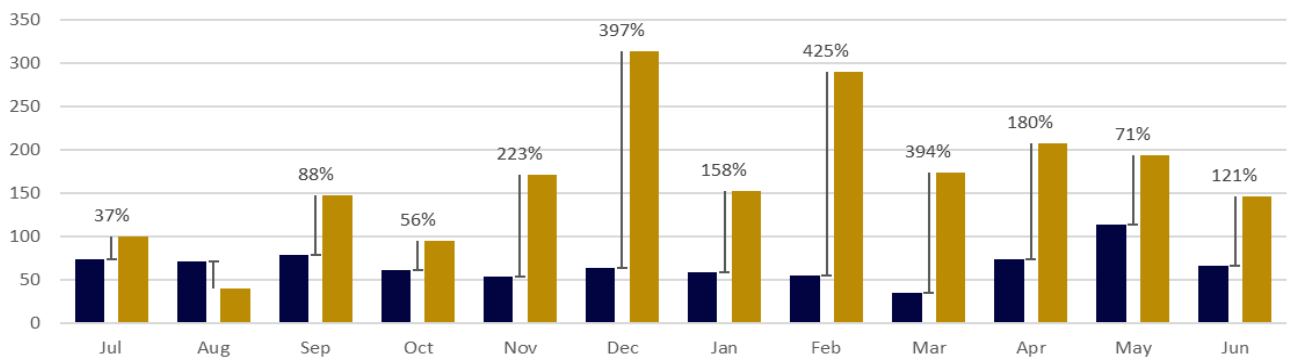
To further illustrate the impact of Covid-19 on SRS, both new placements and average length of stay are illustrated below. While new placements dropped off, the extended delay of court hearings and docketing backlog resulted in youth remaining under SRS supervision for longer periods of time. The figures below illustrate how once placements decreased during March and April of 2020, placements remained much lower in FY21 when compared to FY20. New SRS placements did reach a FY21 high in April, reaching 23 (up from 10 in March).

Figure 30: SRS New Placements by Month



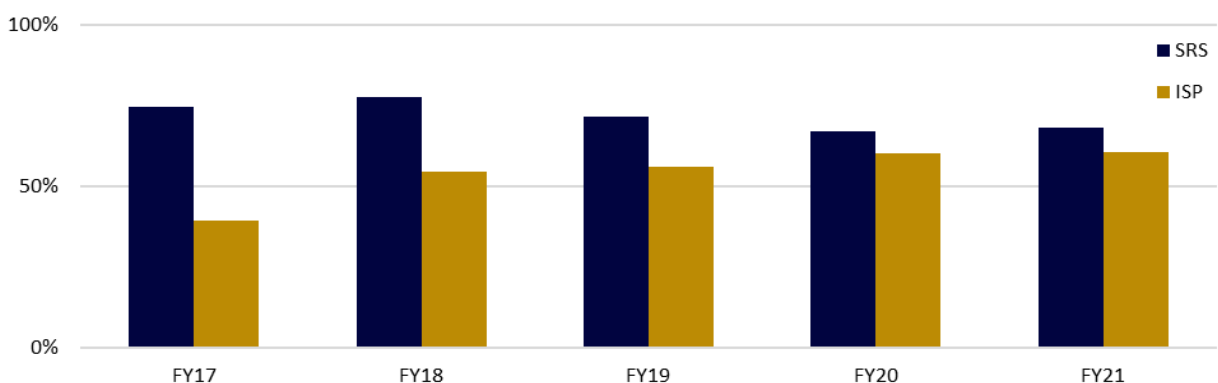
As noted, while new placements decreased, existing youth were staying with SRS for much longer periods. The below figure shows that with the exception of August 2020, each month of FY21 had significantly longer length of stays when compared to the same month in FY20. December 2020 saw a staggering 397% increase in average length of stay when compared to December 2019.

Figure 31: SRS Average Length of Stay by Month



While Covid-19 and associated court delays have resulted in youth remaining under SRS/ISP supervision for significantly longer periods, there has not been an increase in the number of youth who received a new charge while under supervision within the community (highlighted in Figure 2 on page 3). Additionally, both SRS and ISP have very high successful completion rates within their supervision program.

Figure 32: SRS & ISP Successfully Completing Supervision



The service disruptions associated with the pandemic significantly decreased the amount of client feedback surveys received for both SRS and ISP. While no youth nor parent/guardian surveys were returned for ISP, the SRS program received favorable feedback during FY21.

**100% of youth and 100% of parent/guardians indicated that they were overall satisfied with there SRS experience.**

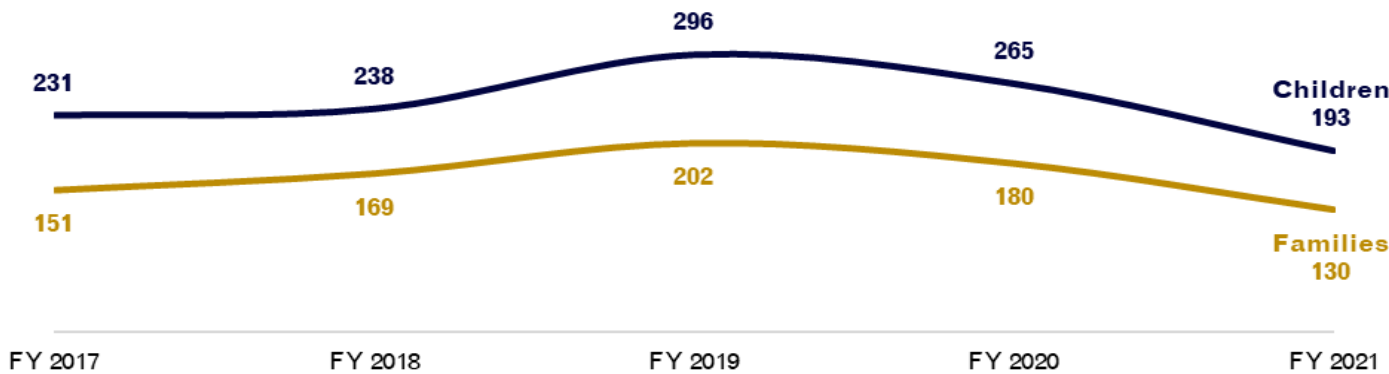
## SUPERVISED VISITATION & EXCHANGE

Supervised Visitation and Exchange (SVE) allows for safe and consistent parenting time in accordance with a Fairfax County court order. The program achieves this by providing supervised visitation and/or supervised exchanges for non-custodial parents.

Prior to FY18, JDRDC-CSU operated two separate, but similar programs: Safe Havens and Stronger Together. When grant funding ended for Save Havens, the two programs became one.

SVE served 130 families and 193 children during FY21. Both these numbers are lower than the last few years. As shown below, prior to Covid-19, the number of SVE clients served had been trending upwards.

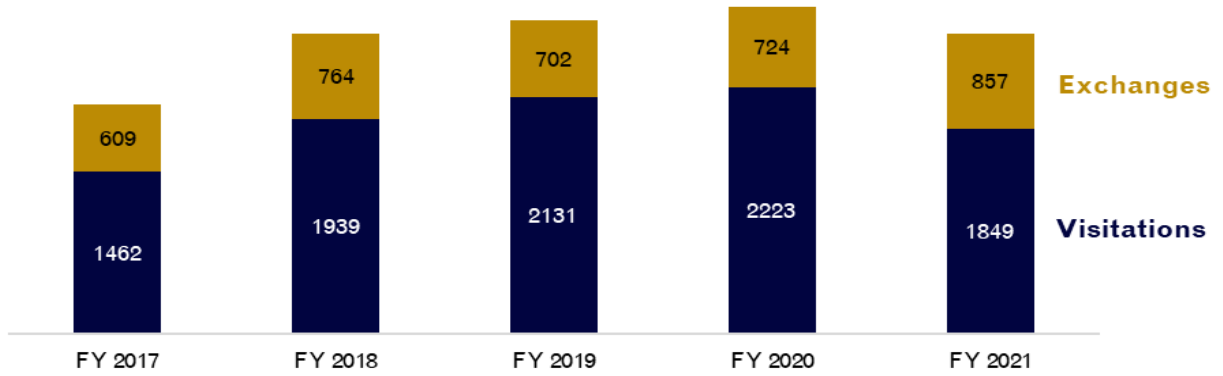
Figure 33: SVE Client Served



Despite challenges associated with the pandemic, SVE continued to serve the community as much as possible. Evidence of this, the overall total of visitations and exchanges only decreased slightly (8%) between FY20 and FY21. Part of these efforts included utilizing virtual visitation options.

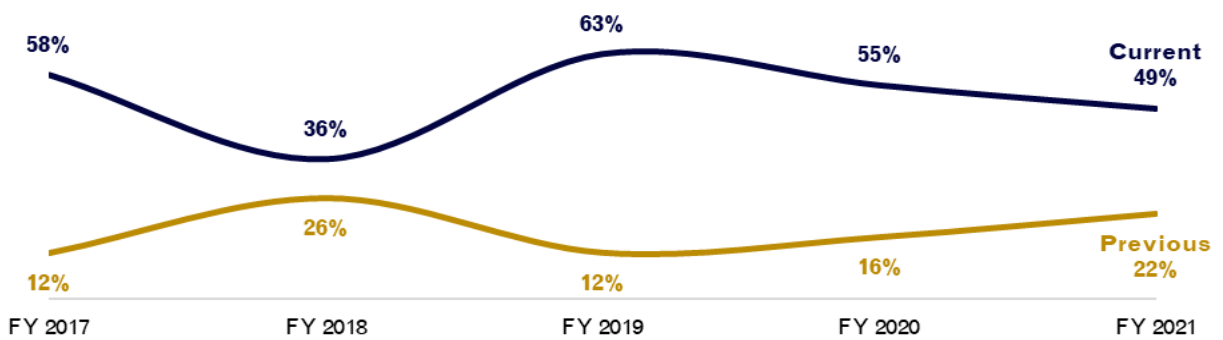
**Of the 1,849 visitations conducted during FY21, 1,205 of them were virtual.**

Figure 34: Number of Visitations & Exchanges Provided



While the usage of virtual visitations helped avoid service total disruptions for many, it was not a viable option for everyone. For some clients, protective orders prohibited it. This did unfortunately limit some clients' ability to access services, given that SVE typically serves a high number of clients with protective orders in place. As shown below, just under half (49%) had an active protective order during FY21.

Figure 35: Percentage of SVE Clients with a Current or Prior Protective Order



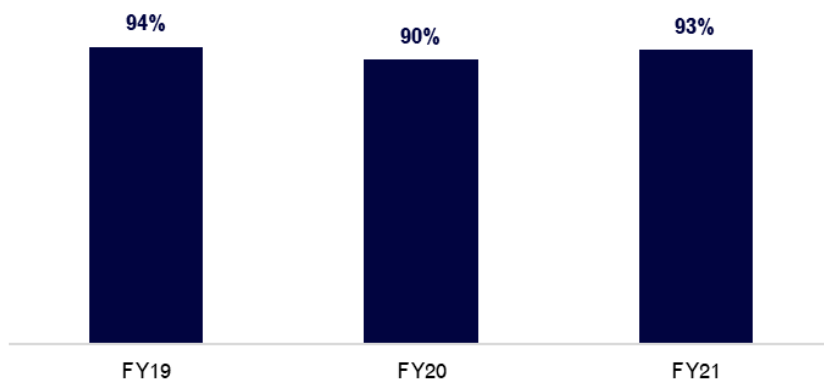
SVE clients complete feedback surveys about their experiences. Historically SVE clients have positive things to say about the program. A select few questions are highlighted below, showing that clients felt safer using the SVE program and believed that visitation would not have occurred without using SVE services.

Table 12: SVE Client Feedback

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Visitation would not have occurred without the help of the Supervised Visitation Program	78%	81%	79%
When using this program for visitation or exchange, I felt more physically and emotionally safe than I did with my previous arrangement.	78%	81%	83%

Additionally, 93% of clients during FY21 indicated they were satisfied with their overall SVE experience.

Figure 36: SVE Clients Overall Satisfaction with their Experiences



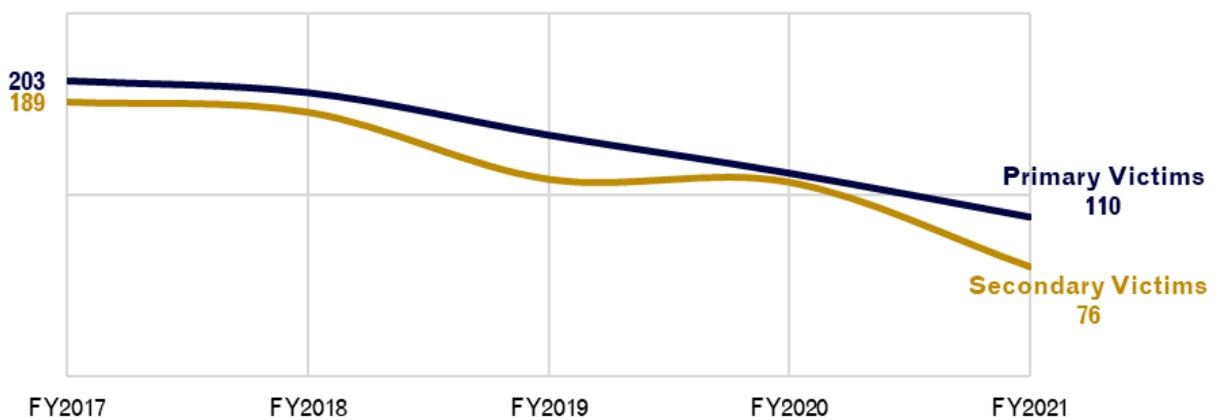


## VICTIM SERVICES

The Victim Services unit within JDRDC was established in 2001. It was the first of its kind in Virginia. Staff in this unit provide direct support to victims of crime, their families, and any witness that may be experiencing emotional, physical, or financial impacts. Staff focus on providing advocacy and information as victims, etc. navigate the criminal justice system.

The number of victims served over the years has declined, in line with decreasing juvenile crime.

Figure 36: Victims Served by Fiscal Year

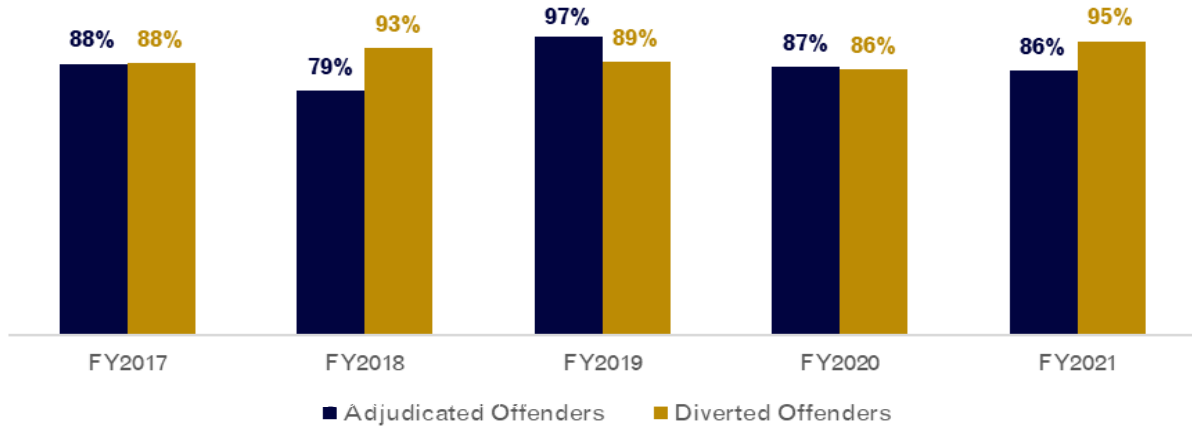


Staff attended a total of 93 court hearings during FY21. This represents a 72% decline from FY20 and an 80% from FY19. These large drops largely can be attributed the Covid-19 pandemic. Court hearings were delayed for abnormally long periods in response to changing safety policies and procedures.

Table 13: Court Hearings Attended by Victim Services Staff

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Hearings attended	438	487	475	331	93
Average Hearings Per Client	2.2	2.5	2.9	2.3	0.8

Figure 37: Successful Victim Education Referrals



**96% of youth completing Victim Impact in FY21 felt the class was beneficial**

**100% of youth completing Core Values in FY21 felt the class was beneficial**





**A FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA PUBLICATION**  
**May 2022**

Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Research and Development Unit  
[www.FairfaxCounty/JuvenileDomesticRelations](http://www.FairfaxCounty/JuvenileDomesticRelations)



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