



Behavioral Health Needs of Court Involved Youth in Virginia: Profiles, Barriers, and Opportunities

Special Populations Subcommittee

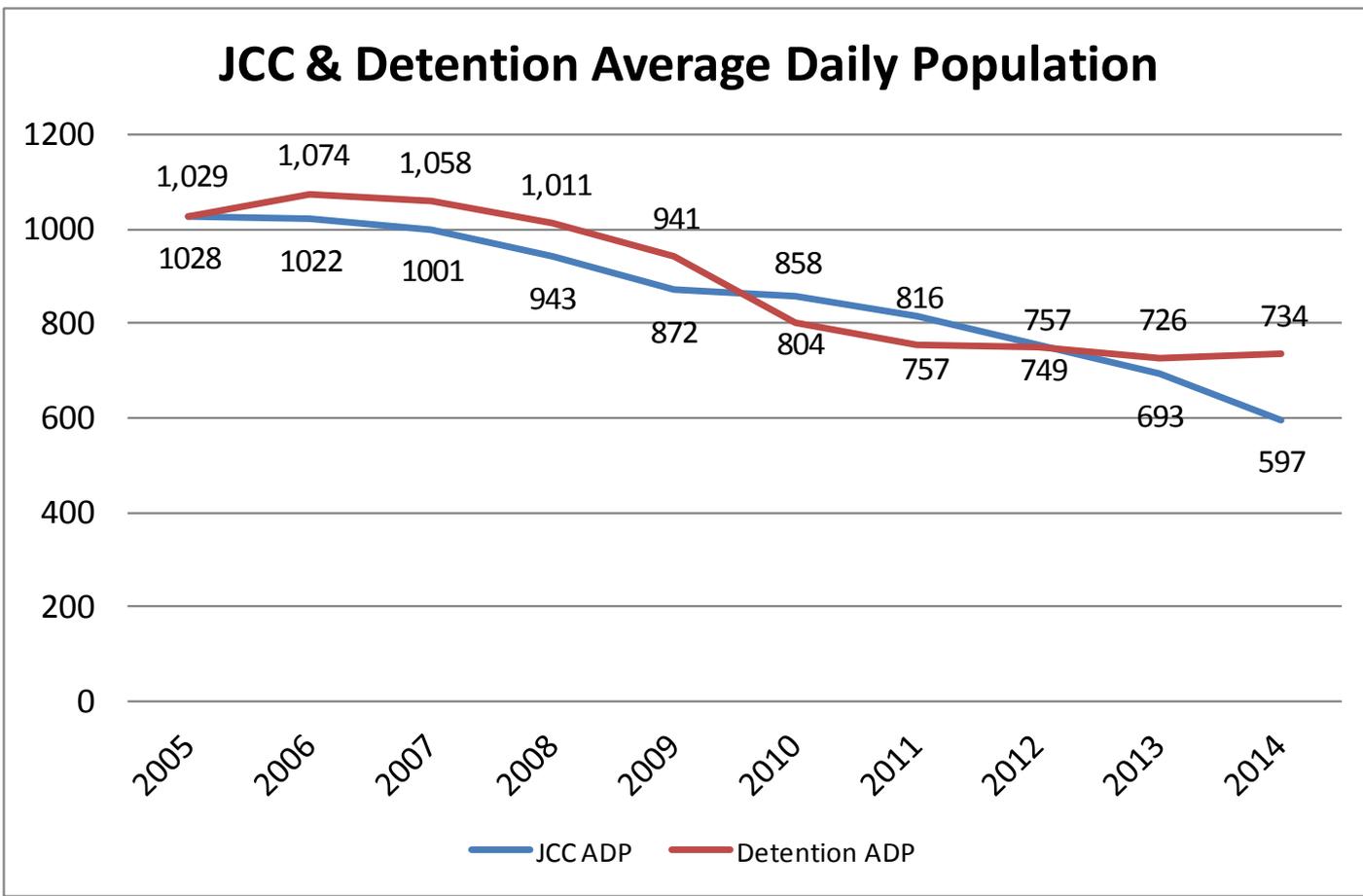
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Juvenile Correctional Center (JCC) & Detention Average Daily Population (ADP)



- The JCC ADP has decreased by 431 residents since FY 2005 (42%).
- The Detention ADP has decreased by 294 juveniles since FY 2005 (29%).



Total Juveniles Supervised by DJJ



- **There were an average of 5,941 juveniles per day under DJJ supervision (probation, direct care, or parole) in FY 2014**
 - 5,060 on active probation supervision
 - 597 in direct care
 - 284 on active parole supervision
- **Decrease of 38% from FY 2005 (average of 9,548 juveniles per day under DJJ supervision)**



Timeline of Interventions for Juveniles Committed to DJJ



Average Ages (FY 2010-2013 Admissions)

- First Behavior Problems: 11.8
- First Community Intervention: 12.2
- First Arrest: 14.2
- First Adjudication: 14.6
- Current Commitment: 16.3
 - Juveniles admitted to RDC who were 17 years of age or older increased from 44% to 53% in the last ten years



Previous Trauma or Family Risk Factors for Juveniles Committed to DJJ



- **65% - parent criminal activity**
 - **51% - parent incarceration**
 - **50% - parent death or abandonment**
 - **45% - parent substance abuse**
 - **21% - family domestic violence**
 - **17% - self injurious behavior (SIB) or suicidal**
 - **12% - sexual assault/abuse**
 - **12% - family physical assault/abuse**
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- **89% reported at least one of the above**
 - **54% reported 3 or more of the above**



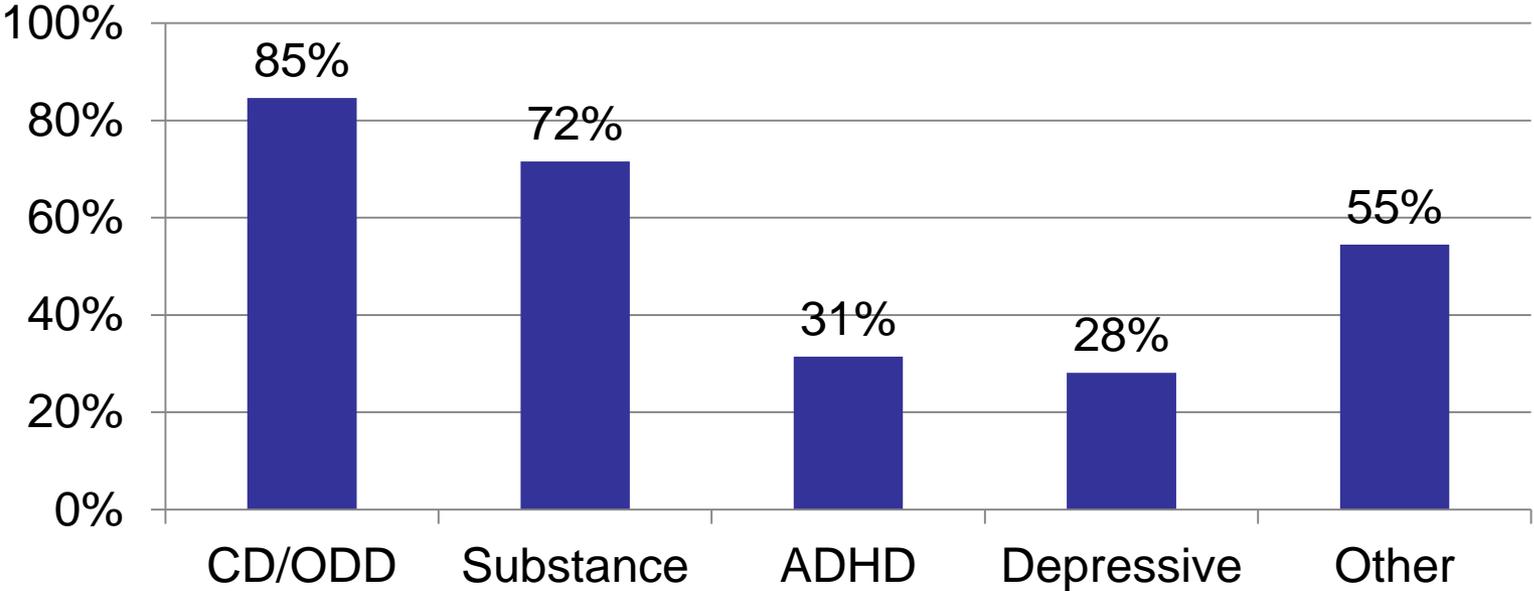
Education Challenges for Juveniles Committed to DJJ



- **Average of 2.6 grade levels behind**
- **Average IQ was 86 (general population IQ is 100)**
- **43% designated as special education**
- **80% had substantial school attendance problems in the community**
- **78% had substantial school behavior problems in the community**



BH Disorders for Juveniles Committed to DJJ



** Note: one juvenile may be captured in multiple categories. "Other" includes Bipolar, Adjustment, Anxiety, Cluster A Personality, Cluster B Personality, Cluster C Personality, Dissociative, Eating, Paraphilia, Psychotic, Mental Retardation, and Other Disorders.*



Offense Types for Juveniles Committed to DJJ



Committing Offenses:

- Less than half of youth admitted to DJJ custody in FY 2013-2014, and only 38% of youth with indeterminate sentences, were committed on person felonies
- 17% of all admitted youth, and 21% of those with indeterminate commitments, were committed on misdemeanors or violations

Prior History:

- 54% of indeterminate sentenced youth in FY 2013-2014 had no prior felony adjudications and had low offense chronicity
- 12% had both prior felony adjudications and elevated chronicity



Current Facilities





Conclusions from Profiles of Committed Juveniles



- **Known to system(s) well before their committing offense**
- **Constellation of challenges:**
 - **Significant trauma exposure**
 - **Not on track for educational success**
 - **Significant mental and behavioral health challenges**
- **High recidivism rates**



Cost Per Committed Youth Per Year (FY 2014)



\$137,000



Ongoing Initiatives to Address MH and BH Needs



- **Trauma screen in social histories**
- **Validated risk assessment tools**
- **Productive community partnerships**
- **New funding stream to partner with local mental health service providers**
- **New intervention model to support safety, connection and purpose among confined youth**
- **Reinvestment in continuum**
- **Reentry Reform**



Ongoing Barriers to Accessing BH Services



- **Lack of continuum**
- **Lack of evidence based services**
- **Lack of services directed at trauma exposed children**
- **Lack of early (without court involvement) access to CSA**
- **Lack of public alternatives to DJJ for young people with complex behavioral health problems and high risk behaviors**



Recommendations



- **Easier access to CSA**
- **Building a continuum for all youth across Virginia**
- **Expanded cross system trauma screening and response**
- **Funded placement alternatives for high needs, committed youth**