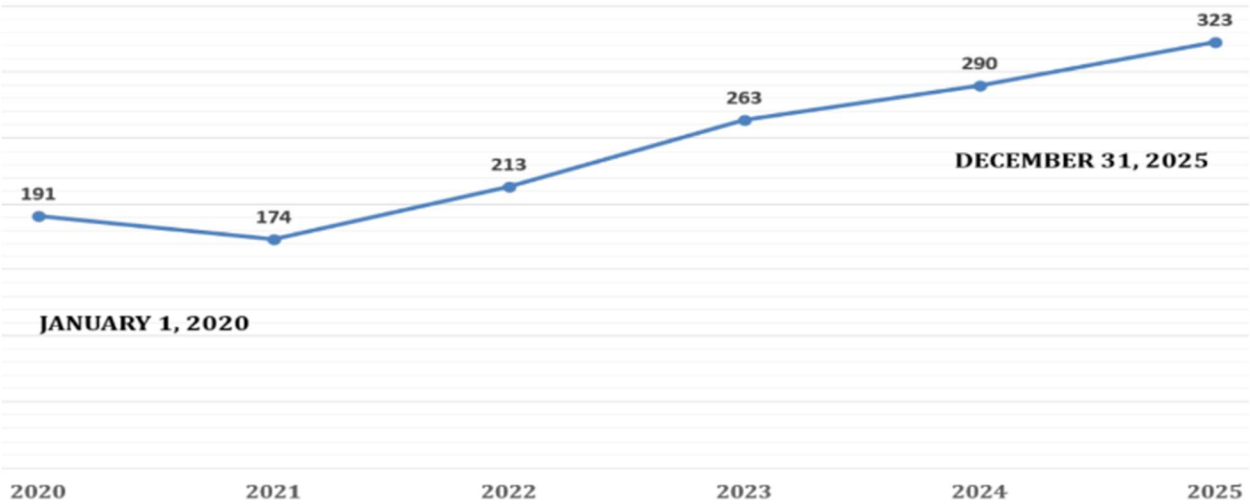




DYS Commitments 2020-2025

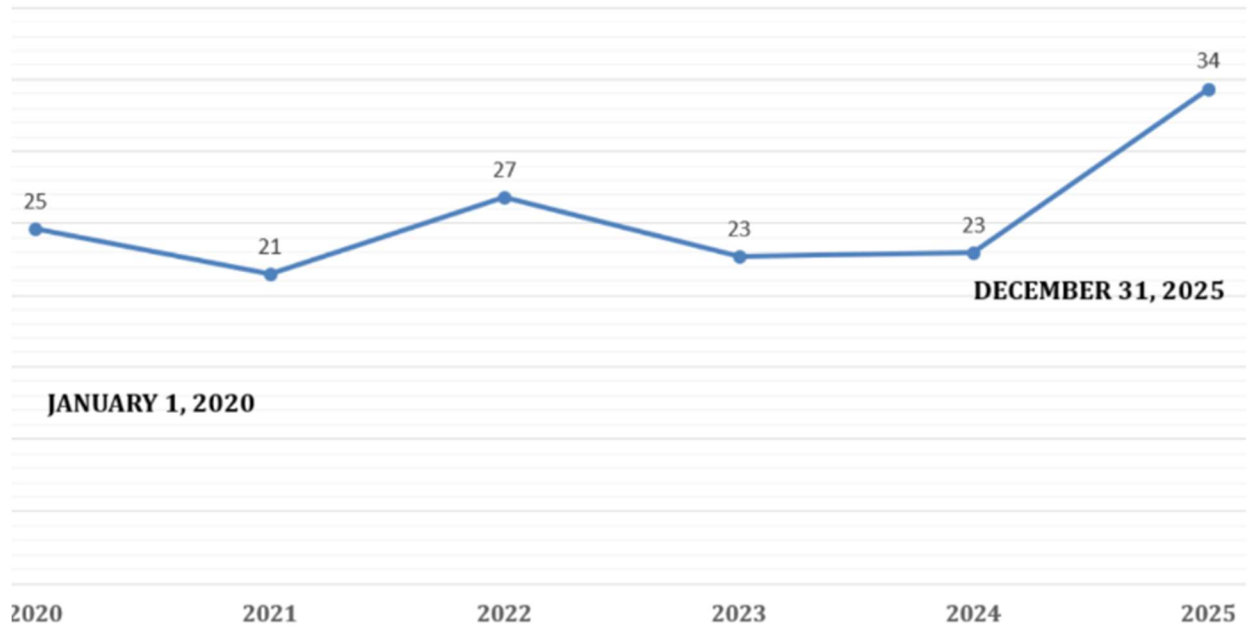
Calendar Year	Total Commitment
2020	292
2021	294
2022	399
2023	466
2024	436
2025	404
Grand Total	2291

Rite of Passage Secure Residential

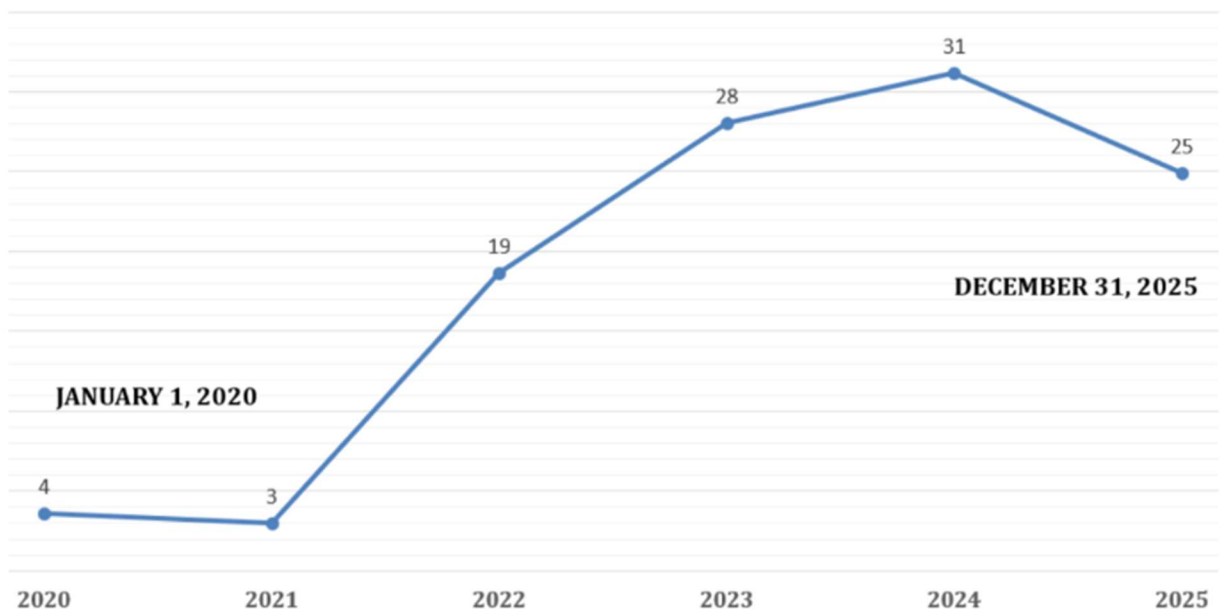




Community Based Residential



Juvenile Detention Center





Commitments Per County, 2020-2025

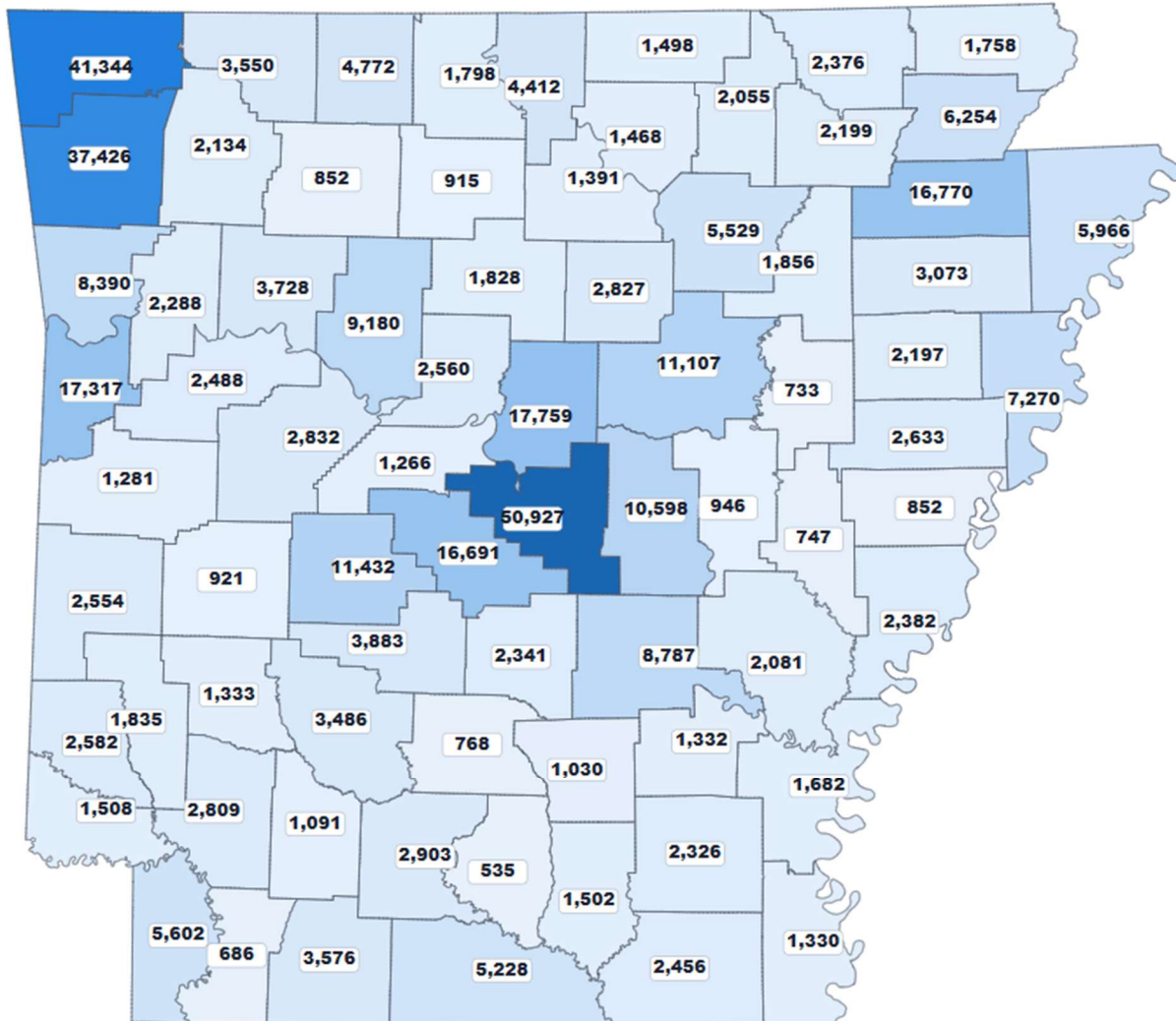
County	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Arkansas		3	2	4	4	4	17
Ashley	4	8	6	8	3	5	34
Baxter	1		1	2	1	1	6
Benton		2	2	6	4	2	16
Boone	1	1	3	3	2	1	11
Bradley	2	2	2	5	8	4	23
Calhoun				1	1	1	3
Carroll		1	1	2		1	5
Chicot	2		1	4	3	3	13
Clark		2	6	5	7	3	23
Clay			1	2	4	1	8
Cleburne	2	6	8	8	10	7	41
Cleveland	1	3	5	2		1	12
Columbia	6	8	19	21	17	23	94
Conway	2	3	3	7	3	2	20
Craighead	10	7	15	19	9	19	79
Crawford		3	5	5	7	5	25
Crittenden	7	2	7	10	10	5	41
Cross	1	2	2	1	1	4	11
Dallas		2	5	1	3	1	12
Desha	7	11	5	4	7	8	42
Drew	8	7	4	13	1	5	38
Faulkner	11	13	20	12	8	9	73
Franklin		1	2	3	4	1	11
Fulton			1	1	4	2	8
Garland	27	4	7	9	9	6	62
Grant	5	3	3	2	1	7	21
Greene	5	10	8	15	15	11	64
Hempstead	10	13	19	13	24	12	91
Hot Spring	4	13	19	14	6	7	63
Howard		4	6	3	3	4	20
Independence	4	6	11	10	8	8	47
Izard		2	1	5	5	4	17
Jackson		2	2	2	2	3	11
Jefferson	33	24	28	28	20	25	158



Johnson	1	1	1		3	4	10
Lafayette	1			1	1	2	5
Lawrence	3	1	5	4	3	2	18
Lee	1					1	2
Lincoln	2	1	3		2	3	11
Little River		4	8	3		3	18
Logan		6	3	4	5	5	23
Lonoke			5	5	1	3	14
Madison	2	1		1	2	1	7
Marion		1	1	2	1		5
Miller	9	3	9	15	8	6	50
Mississippi	4	7	4	6	10	4	35
Monroe				3	3	3	9
Nevada	2	1	3	2	2		10
Newton	2	1					3
Ouachita	15	18	23	30	19	15	120
Phillips	2		5	5	3	3	18
Pike	3	1	3		2	4	13
Poinsett	2	1	1	4	4	2	14
Polk				1	2	3	6
Pope	1	2	3	5	10	11	32
Prairie		1		1	5	3	10
Pulaski	16	13	15	21	18	28	111
Randolph	6	2	9	4	1	3	25
Saline	9	12	16	17	20	16	90
Scott						2	2
Sebastian	11	17	16	28	26	22	120
Sevier	4	1	3	4	6	5	23
Sharp			1	2	3	2	8
St. Francis	2	1	4	4	11	6	28
Stone	3	1	2	3	9	3	21
Union	5	7	5	16	12	6	51
Van Buren			1			1	2
Washington	19	14	7	10	7	12	69
White	13	8	14	16	20	16	87
Woodruff		1			1		2
Yell	2	1	1		2	2	8

Arkansas Population Ages 10-19 per County

(2020-24 Census)





DYS Commitment Demographics 2020-2025

Race Group	Group Total
African American/Black	45.5%
American Indian	0.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4%
Hispanic	0.5%
Hispanic/Black	0.5%
Hispanic/White	4.4%
Other	5.1%
White	42.1%

Age Group	Group Total
11 and below	1%
12-13	8%
14-15	34%
16-17	53%
18-20	4%

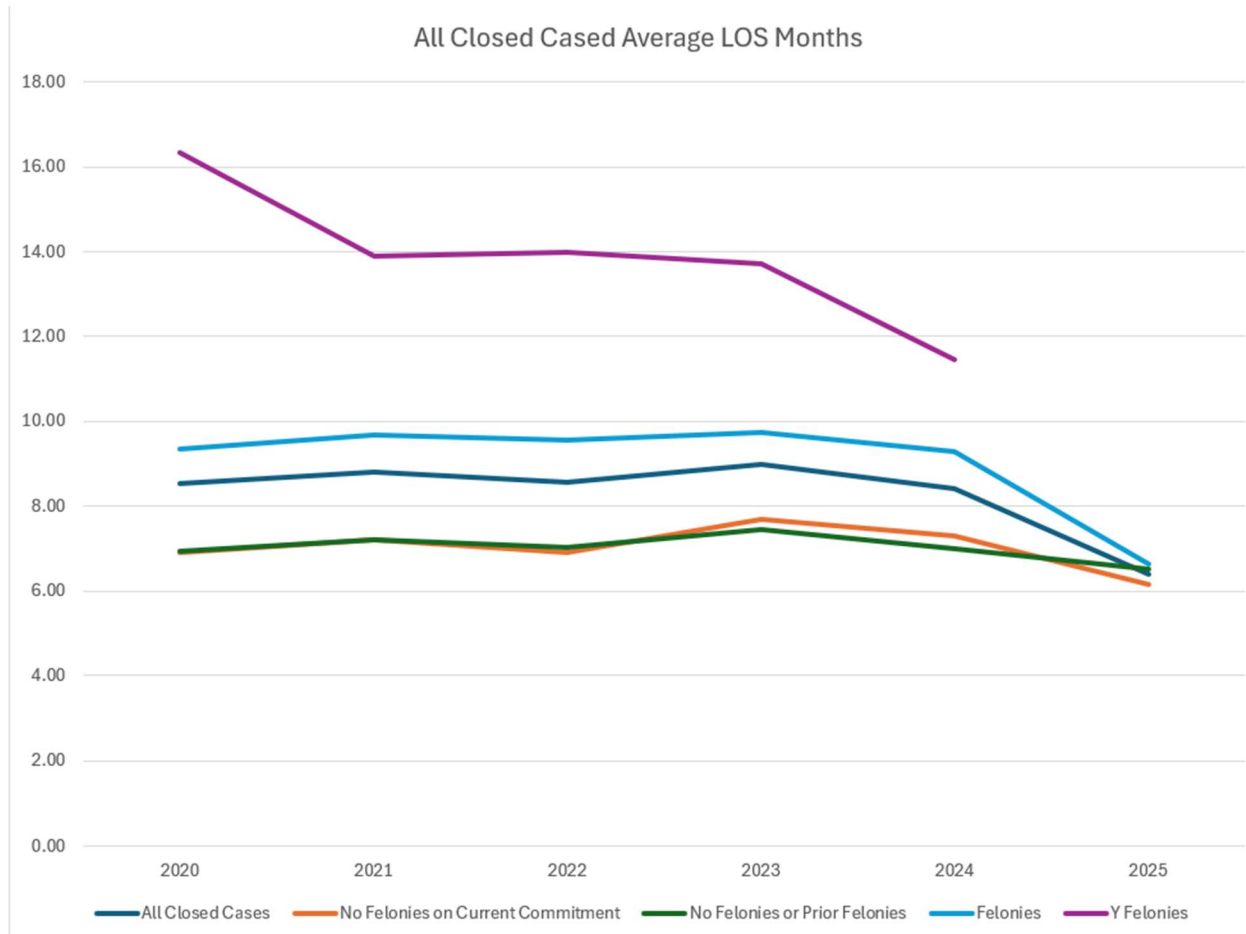
Gender Group	Group Total
Female	19%
Male	81%

DYS Commitments by Offense Level 2020-2025

Most Serious Felony	2020 - 2025	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
FA	20	3	3	3	4	3	4
FB	274	36	23	45	52	57	61
FC	303	52	33	41	72	59	46
FD	675	77	102	127	132	123	114
FU	4	0	0	2	0	1	1
FY	156	26	27	27	31	27	18
No Felonies	855	98	106	151	173	164	163
Total	2287	292	294	396	464	434	407



Average Length of Stay 2020-2025



**Case Closures do not necessarily represent a youth returning home. For serious offenses, youth may discharge directly to adult prison if rehabilitation was unsuccessful. Also, some youth might discharge due to approaching their 21st birthday when DYS can no longer hold them in custody.*



DYS HS Graduates 2020-2025

Division Of Youth Services

ARKANSAS CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL

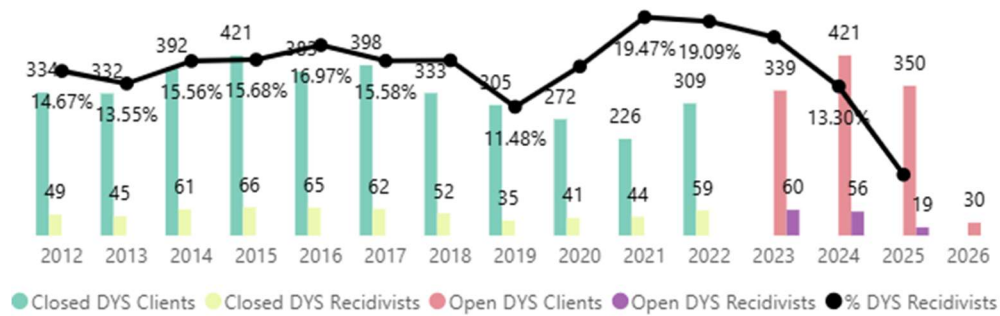
Graduate Report

Year		Graduates	Student Enrollment	Senior Enrollment	Percentage
2025 Graduates	F	2	59	4	50%
	M	21	249	32	66%
	Total	23	308	36	64%
2024 Graduates	F	1	42	3	33%
	M	22	236	35	63%
	Total	23	278	38	61%
2023 Graduates	F	2	38	5	40%
	M	13	209	13	100%
	Total	15	247	18	83%
2022 Graduates	F	1	22	5	20%
	M	16	145	21	76%
	Total	17	167	26	65%
2021 Graduates	F	2	12	2	100%
	M	17	65	24	71%
	Total	19	77	26	73%
2020 Graduates	F	1	10	4	10%
	M	13	64	27	48%
	Total	14	74	31	45%
OVERALL TOTALS	F	9			
	M	102			

2020-2025 GED Graduates: 222



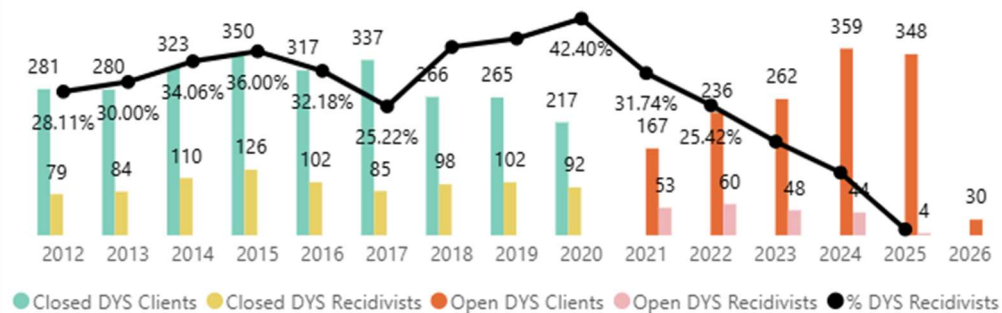
DYS Recidivism 2020-2025 (Youth Re-committed to DYS within 3 Years)



*Please note years 2023-2026 are not yet closed for the current 3 year evaluation cycle.

**2018 rate is 15.61%. 2020 rate is 15.1%.

DYS Recidivism 2020-2025 (Youth in Prison or Adult Probation within 5 years)



*Please note years 2021-2026 are not yet closed for the current 5 year evaluation cycle.

**2018 rate is 36.8%, 2019 rate is 38.5%.



SAVRY Levels at Intake 2020-2025

RiskLevel	Count
None	6
Low	28
Moderate	282
High	1691
	2007

DCFS Custody Youth in DYS

DCFS Dual Custody	01/30/2026
Residential	26
JDC	2
Total	28

DYS Cost of Incarceration 2020-2025

	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Residential Treatment Centers	21,867,105.08	22,101,645.32	21,749,308.47	23,726,953.75	34,183,686.74	35,421,760.00
Juvenile Detention Centers	330,010.12	76,642.00	226,961.28	453,820.00	874,665.61	890,342.94
	22,197,115.20	22,178,287.32	21,976,269.75	24,180,773.75	35,058,352.35	36,312,102.94

**Residential Treatment Centers: \$320 per day*

**Juvenile Detention Centers: \$90-\$100 per day*



Interagency Collaboration

This section provides an overview of DYS collaboration with DCFS, courts, probation officers, ADE, schools, community providers, and advocacy organizations.

- **DCFS:** The Division of Youth Services and DCFS work closely to find services, placement and education opportunities for our youth. The divisions meet regularly to work on difficult placement and treatment issues for youth who are in both DYS and DCFS custody simultaneously. Resources such as Intensive In-Home Services and Community Reintegration are developed collaboratively to ensure that both divisions can meet their goals.
- **Juvenile Courts:** DYS staff work closely with Juvenile Judges to address juvenile justice issues that are specific to jurisdiction as well as broader problems that affect all of Arkansas. The Division and the Administrative Office of the Courts have developed a strong relationship that allows DYS leadership to attend meetings and share information with juvenile judges from across the state.
- **Juvenile Probation Officers:** DYS created a Prevention Unit two years ago and hired a 25-year juvenile probation officer to lead that group. Most of the officers from Arkansas have visited DYS facilities and held discussions with DYS concerning juvenile justice issues. DYS also attends the Arkansas Juvenile Officer Association meetings to provide support and education about programs that are available to help youth.
- **Arkansas Department of Education:** The DYS Education Unit consists of a Superintendent, Principal, Special Education Specialist, Vocational/GED specialist and support staff who provide oversight of the education provided to DYS youth. DYS staff collect records and support audit functions performed by ADE while also working to maintain accreditation of the Arkansas Consolidated School District that includes all DYS youth in K-12.



- **Schools:** The collaboration between DYS and schools in Arkansas consists primarily of the collection of records when a youth enters DYS custody and the submission of records back to the school when a youth is prepared to discharge back to the community.
- **Community Based Providers:** DYS contracts with ten community-based providers around the state. They provide an array of services to either prevent young people from being removed from the community or to assist with integrating them back into their homes. They provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Life Skills, Electronic Monitoring, Case Management, Transportation, Vocational Support, Education Support, Aftercare and monitor the progress of juveniles throughout the system.
- **Advocacy Organizations:** Beginning in January 2025, the DYS Prevention and Intervention Unit spearheaded a collaborative initiative designed to strengthen engagement between youth and key juvenile justice partners. This effort brings together juvenile officers, law enforcement professionals, and other influential community stakeholders to participate as guest speakers for youth enrolled in the Civilian Student Training Program (CSTP) program during each cycle.

Beginning in May of 2025, the DYS Prevention and Intervention unit spearheaded The Coordinated Youth Response initiative, which is a formal, court-aligned collaboration designed to ensure that court-involved youth are connected to appropriate, timely, and effective community-based services before deeper system involvement becomes the default. The core goal is simple: reduce duplication, close service gaps, and create a clear pathway from the court to trusted providers who are prepared to accept referrals and deliver results.

May 2025 DYS launched a new online provider directory for families, case workers, courts, local agencies, and school teams with a centralized list of non-DHS providers offering services to youth who are in crisis or in need of treatment, but who may not require commitment to state custody.



DYS Clinical Process and Obstacles

Overview

Youth committed to the Arkansas Division of Youth Services (DYS) present with complex, universal, and co-occurring needs across mental health, educational, and substance use domains. These challenges significantly impact treatment engagement, rehabilitation outcomes, and successful community reintegration.

Key Findings

- **Mental Health:**

One hundred percent (100%) of youth committed to DYS have a diagnosed mental health disorder, most commonly Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD) and/or Conduct Disorder, as evidenced by juvenile justice involvement and adjudication.

- **Educational Challenges:**

Educational deficits are severe and widespread. Over 80% of committed youth read at or below a third-grade reading level, reflecting substantial impairments in literacy, comprehension, and academic readiness.

- **Substance Use:**

Although substance use disorders are not currently tracked through formal quantitative measures, a clear rise in substance-induced behaviors contributing to commitments is evident, indicating an increasing prevalence of substance use challenges among this population.

- **Trauma and Behavioral Risk:**

Youth entering DYS frequently present with significant trauma histories, behavioral dysregulation, aggression, and, when indicated, sexually reactive behaviors, all of which require specialized and coordinated intervention.



Intake and Assessment Process

All youth committed to DYS undergo a comprehensive, multidisciplinary intake process lasting up to 21 days, which includes:

- Psychological evaluation assessing cognitive functioning, trauma exposure, substance use, aggression risk, and behavioral concerns
- Comprehensive behavioral health assessment
- Educational and cognitive skill evaluation
- Physical health assessment, including vision and dental screenings
- Review of committing offense, court order, and initial field evaluation

Treatment and Monitoring

Assessment findings are used to develop individualized, integrated treatment plans addressing mental health, educational, behavioral, and developmental needs. Youth progress is monitored through multidisciplinary treatment team reviews conducted quarterly or more frequently as clinically indicated. Treatment is comprehensive and designed to promote sustained behavioral improvement, academic growth, and successful reintegration upon discharge.

Implications

The data underscore the need for fully integrated, trauma-informed, and developmentally responsive services within DYS. Addressing co-occurring mental health, educational, and substance use challenges is critical to improving youth outcomes, reducing recidivism, and supporting long-term community stability.

DYS Education

Students served by the Division of Youth Services (DYS) are enrolled in high school coursework through Virtual Arkansas (VA) or pursue a GED through approved adult education partnerships. The DYS education team collects and reviews all academic records from prior school districts and placements to complete a comprehensive credit review. Based on this review, students are enrolled in the courses required to meet Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) graduation requirements and successfully complete the academic term.

DYS and Virtual Arkansas offer all DESE-required courses for graduation, including core content, electives, H2 pathways, and credit recovery. All coursework aligns with Arkansas State Standards and is designed to support diverse learners. Virtual Arkansas teachers



assigned to DYS exclusively serve our students, allowing for consistent instruction, relationship-building, and targeted academic support. While DYS programs face challenges similar to public schools—including student mobility, engagement, and operational constraints—our outcomes continue to improve. Course pass rates have increased from 74% in SY 2020–2021 to 88.7% in SY 2024–2025. Through this aligned and collaborative approach, DYS students exit our facilities with a high school diploma or GED and are prepared for continued education, training, or workforce entry.

- Vocational/Job Training: DYS has intensified its focus on providing additional vocation and job training support for older youth in custody. A few examples of those efforts:
 1. Career Exploration- DYS has partnered with the Saline County Career Technical Center to provide a 12-week Career Exploration program that included 6 modules exposing the students to various trades while also obtaining certificates. This is in conjunction with Counseling Clinic and a new Community Reintegration Residential program.
 2. CDL and Tower Climbing- DYS and Saline County Career Technical Center are also providing CDL classes and Telecommunications Tower Climbing classes to DYS students who have graduated HS or obtained a GED. Efforts are underway to certify more programs at the SCCTC for funding opportunities.
 3. Arkansas Baptist College and META 24- DYS and Arkansas Baptist College through the efforts of Fitz Hill and Dr. Prince have enrolled students in an 18 days “bootcamp” on the ABC campus that allows up to 9 hours of college credit. Seven of those students enrolled for the spring semester in a program designed specifically for them through the META 24 curriculum.
 4. Shorter College- Shorter College began providing support for the GED program at the Alexander campus last year with great results. DYS is currently collaborating with Shorter College to explore the possibility of CNA classes and a construction program through a Department of Labor grant.
 5. Arkansas Rural Health Alliance- DYS and the Alliance have drafted an MOU that would bring instructors to the campuses in Dermott and Alexander to train students to be Patient Care Technicians or Medical Assistants. Once funding is secured, both campuses will seek ten students for the initial round of classes.
 6. Virtual Career Exploration- DYS utilizes the TRANSFR virtual program on several campuses as a tool for high school students to explore career opportunities that they might not have considered. A new program known as



iCEV will soon be implemented on the Dermott campus that houses 18–21-year-old male students. This is a self-paced program that will allow students to obtain certificates and explore careers they may find interesting.

Joint DYS-DCFS custody

There were a total of 34 unique children who were placed in a DYS-categorized foster care placement at some point during SFY 2025

There were 27 entries into a DYS placement during SFY 2025. This chart outlines the immediate prior placement setting for each of those 27 entries.

Prior Placement Setting for Children Entering DYS Foster Care Placement during SFY 2025	Number of Placement Entries	Percentage (%)
Incarceration	17	63.0
Youth Services/Serious Offender Program	5	18.5
Therapeutic Foster Care L2	1	3.7
Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)	1	3.7
Hospital (Inpatient)	1	3.7
DYS After Care	1	3.7
Acute CRT	1	3.7
Total	27	100.0

There were also 29 discharges from a DYS placement during SFY 2025.

The immediate subsequent placement setting (i.e., where the child went next) for those 29 exits is displayed below. **Of the 29 discharges, five discharged from foster care entirely upon their discharge from the DYS placement (highlighted in blue below).** Specifically, two children aged out of care, two achieved reunification after a trial home visit, and one



discharged to non-relative custody. The remaining 24 discharges involved children who stayed in care.

Subsequent Placement Setting for Children Exiting DYS Foster Care Placement during SFY 2025	Number of Placement Exits	Percentage (%)
Youth Services/Serious Offender Program	5	17.2
Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)	3	10.3
ILP Sponsor	3	10.3
Trial Home Visit that Led to Reunification	2	6.9
Child Aged Out of Foster Care	2	6.9
Supervised Independent Living-Level 2	2	6.9
Acute CRT	2	6.9
Discharged to Non-Relative Custody	1	3.4
DYS After Care	1	3.4
Foster Family Home	1	3.4
Hospital (Inpatient)	1	3.4
Provisional (Relative)	1	3.4
Residential Care Only	1	3.4
Sub-Acute CRT	1	3.4
Temporary Family Placement (No Board)	1	3.4
Therapeutic Foster Care L2	1	3.4
Provisional (Fictive Kin)	1	3.4
Total	29	100.0



Among children who discharged from a DYS placement, **the average duration of the DYS placement was 6.8 months** (207 days). Below is a breakdown of those children's length of stay in the DYS placement.

Duration of DYS Placement	Number of Discharges	Percentage (%)
Less than One Month (0 to 30 Days)	5	17.2
One to Six Months (31 to 182 Days)	11	37.9
Seven to 12 Months (183 to 365 Days)	8	27.6
Longer than 12 Months (365+ Days)	5	17.2
Total	29	100.0

Also, children discharging from a DYS placement during SFY 2025 tended to be foster care “long stayers,” i.e., they had been in foster care for an extensive length of time. At the time of discharge from the DYS placement, children had been in foster care, on average, for just over 2.6 years. Twenty-two of the 29 had been in care for longer than one year at the time of their DYS placement discharge.