

# Fairfax County

Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court

# Annual Report FY 2019



Court Services Unit Administration

Research & Development

## Executive Summary

This FY 2019 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.

As a data driven agency (see pg. 7), decisions are made with consideration of what data says about our past and present, and what it suggests for our future. As such, this report highlights trend data spanning the last five years. Special attention is paid to new program implementation and large-scale agency changes and initiatives. The following summarizes a few of highlights of the report.

### **Declining Crime**

Encouragingly, numbers in FY19 show juvenile crime is down. Between FY15 and FY19, there was a 15% decline in the number of juvenile complaints received by Juvenile Intake. Additionally, new placements on probation have decreased 28% during the same period. These downward trends mirror documented national declines in juvenile crime starting in the late 1990s. Similarly, between FY15 and FY19, Domestic Relations complaints and adult complaints decreased 12% and 13%, respectively.

### **Safe Community Supervision**

In line with the JDRDC-CSU's goal of decrease the utilization of detention for moderate and low risk offenders by increasing the use of detention alternatives, JDC placements declined 13% over the last five years while the use of Supervised Released Services (SRS), a pre-dispositional community supervision program, increased 17%. During FY19, 88% of SRS clients and 94% of ISP clients did not accrue new charges during supervision, further highlighting how probation officers can safely supervise youth within their own communities.

### **Data-Driven Programming**

While continuing focus on the implementation of evidence-based practices and to meet ever changing demands of the JDRDC-CSU's clients and the larger, Fairfax County community, FY19 saw some key policy and program implementation efforts. For FY19, adjudication and dispositional hearings are scheduled separately to assess youths' specific areas of need, existing strengths, and overall risk to reoffend. The Assessment Unit was created to implement the required assessments and provide written recommendations to the Judiciary prior to dispositional hearings. During FY19, 291 youth went through the Assessment Unit.

The Community Corrections Pre-Trial Supervision Services program served 501 adult clients during FY19. Two staff on average completed 200-300 jail interview per month, providing bond recommendations and other information to the Judiciary during arraignment hearings.

### **Mediation Services**

Mediation services have been offered historically, but due to an immense need, a separate unit was created in early FY18. With the expansion, community access increased to the court process resulting in a decrease in the length of time required for resolution. Between FY17 and FY18, mediation referrals increased 340%, and continued to increase 28% between FY18

and FY19. Consistently, the biggest areas of need with mediation services are custody agreements, visitation, and child support. Even with significant growth over the last few years, 95% of referrals during FY19 were assigned and/or opened within 30 days. Finally, 59% of completed mediations in FY19 reached some level of agreement, which is steady from the last few years.

### **Diversion Programming**

Diverting low and moderate risk first time offenders from formal court processing remained a focal point during FY19. Of youth eligible for diversion in FY19, 94% moved forward with the diversion process. More than half of youth partaking in diversion programming over the last year were low risk (64%) to reoffend. Additionally, seventy-eight percent of youth diverted during FY18 had no new charges after one-year.

### **Agency Initiatives**

FY19 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 FY19, youth of color represent 87% of detention placements compared to 79% of detention alternative placements and 75% 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. Data over the last three years shows that 98% of families feel engaged with providers in making decisions about their child's services. In addition, 96% of families indicated that program staff worked with them during treatment/services. Along with Family Engagement, JDRDC-CSU strives to meet the needs of clients and families through trauma-informed practices. In FY19, 94% of youth reported feeling physically and emotionally safe while participating in services.

### **Language Access**

To serve the ever-increasing diversity within Fairfax County, JDRDC-CSU expanded services under the Language Access Program (LAP). LAP manages the Volunteer Interpreter Program which offers services in a variety of languages including Spanish, Arabic, Greek, Urdu and more. LAP reported just over 6,000 requests for interpretation in FY19. The program continues to expand, recruiting volunteers to provide more languages and dialects.

### **Summary**

JDRDC-CSU strives to provide evidence-based, research-supported, and data-driven programs and services with the goal of meeting clients' and families' needs and increasing success. By examining trends, promoting initiatives, providing diverse services, and monitoring accountability the JDRDC-CSU can work towards positive behavioral change and the reduction of illegal conduct for adults and youth who come into contact with the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

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## INTRODUCTION

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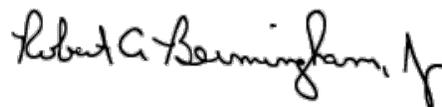
On behalf of each and every staff member of the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Service Unit (JDRDC-CSU), I proudly present the Fiscal Year '19 Annual Report. The JDRDC-CSU has a long history of collecting and sharing valuable data with staff, stakeholders, and the community. The JDRDC-CSU prides itself on being a data driven and supported organization using best- and evidence-based practices. Through continuous evolution, the JDRDC-CSU is improving both short- and long-term outcomes for the residents we serve. Today, more than ever before, data and statistics play a prominent role in the delivery of services, staffing, programming, and budgeting.

The content of the FY '19 Annual Report differs from past annual reports by focusing less on static data and outputs and highlighting dynamic data and outcomes. Contained within this report, the reader will find information specific to strategic planning and agency initiatives aimed at reducing systemic racial and ethnic disparities, engaging families, and understanding the impact of trauma on our clientele. Additionally, information is presented on new or revamped court processes and programs such as the establishment of a mediation unit, the creation of an assessment unit, additional language access options, and the expansion of diversion services and outcomes.

Fairfax County's Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court is statute driven; thus, the court's authority, purpose, and intent are all derived directly from the Code of Virginia. The court and its provided services are based on public safety, accountability through service delivery, rehabilitation, and the protection of the rights of victims. Within this annual report, information is presented on how the court has addressed each of those statutes and achieved outcomes.

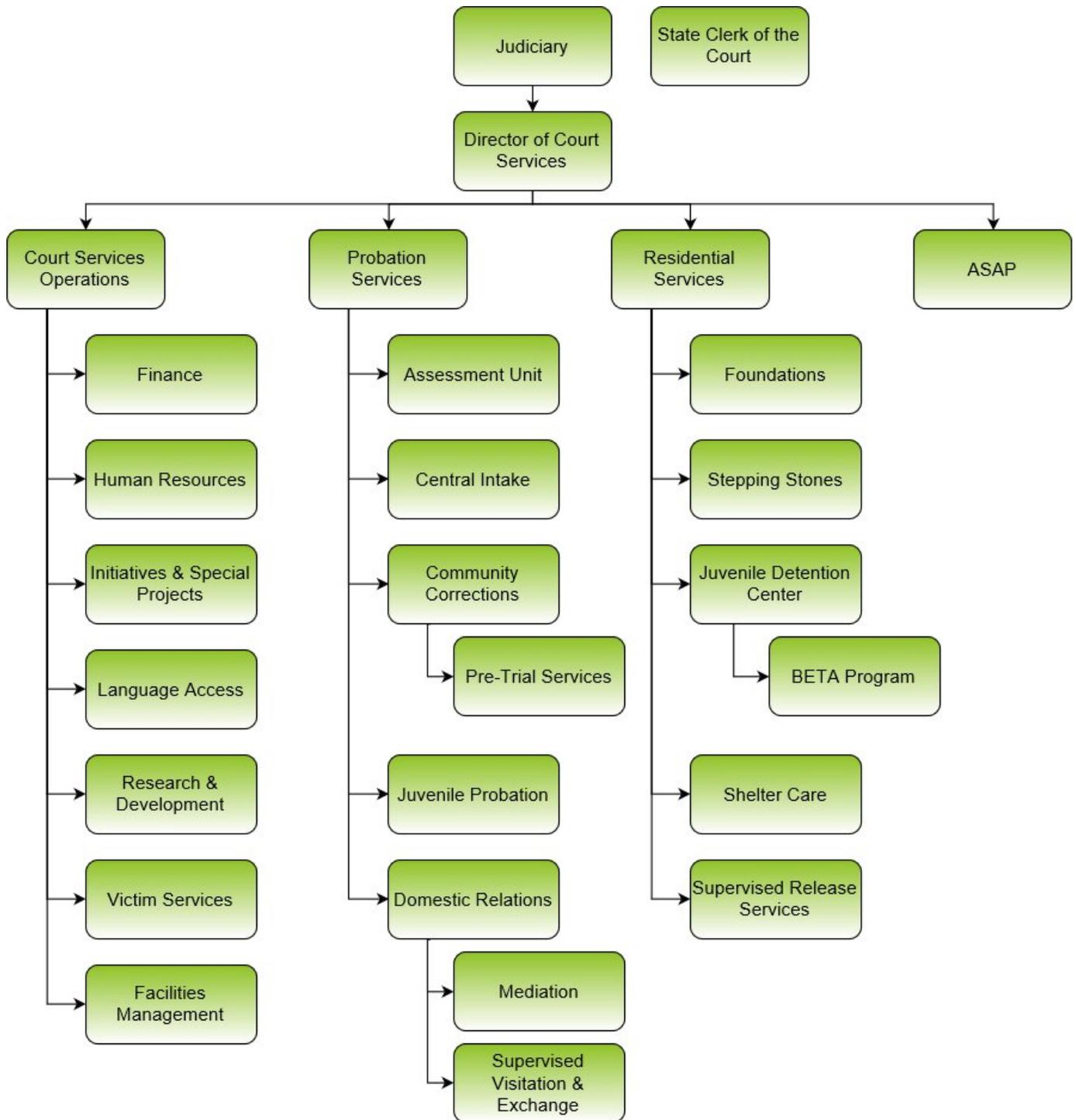
Special appreciation for the writing and production of this report is extended to the court's Research and Development unit; led by Dr. Courtney Porter and staffed by research analysts Karen Aguilar, Tina Casper, and Kate Mackey. This document and the information contained within the report would not have been possible without their dedication and commitment to excellence.

The court and its associated services continue to evolve alongside the needs of our ever-changing community in which we serve. As public servants, the court remains committed to its vision of being national leaders in merging law, science, and evidence-based practices for decision-making and service delivery. The effectiveness and positive outcomes achieved to date are attributed to the quality of dedicated judges, clerks, and direct service staff. All who must balance changing community needs, evolving justice system practices, systemic disparities, and the protection of the community while providing for the protection and well-being of the youths and families we serve.



Robert A. Bermingham, Jr.  
Court Services Unit Director  
Fairfax County, JDRDC

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## AGENCY VALUES, MISSION, & VISION

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### Vision

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

### 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.

In 2014, the JDRDC-CSU began the implementation of their Strategic Plan. The goal during the planning process was to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to guide the agency over the next five years. Specifically, the plan included the JDRDC-CSU's goals, issues related to those goals, and the strategic actions to both address issues and achieve those goals. JDRDC-CSU administration, staff, and partners were instrumental in the development and subsequent implementation of the plan.

Over the last five years, the JDRDC-CSU has worked hard to achieve the goals put forth in 2014. Efforts around racial and ethnic disparities, family engagement, trauma-informed care, and the use of evidenced-based practices are just some of the agency initiatives identified in the plan and highlighted further in this report. Additional efforts regarding employee engagement, communication, and collaborative partnerships continue to evolve through the use of staff engagement surveys, video communication, and staff advisory groups.



## A DATA DRIVEN AGENCY

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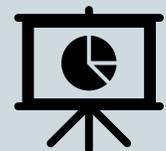
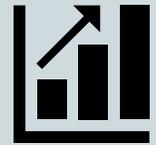
As public servants and key decision makers, it is imperative to understand how program and policy choices impact both clients and the community, even beyond their involvement with the court and JDRDC-CSU. As such, the JDRDC-CSU relies heavily on research and evidence-based practices to guide implementation and practice.

Key empirical findings over the years within the juvenile justice system establish that 1) Most delinquency is self-correcting with age in that delinquency increases between late childhood to middle adolescence, but decreases sharply during early adulthood (Loeber, Farrington, Howell, and Hoeve, 2012), 2) As many youth naturally desist from crime, systems should not treat all cases in the same manner, and 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). On the adult side research has similarly shown us that targeting high-risk offenders and managing caseload sizes results in improved outcomes (Jalbert et al., 2011).

This evidence provides a guide for the JDRDC-CSU (alongside systems across the nation) to support a Research and Development team to assist in the ongoing efforts of an evidence-based agency. It is also national and local research that led to the creation of a Family Engagement Team, Racial and Equity Disparities Team, and a Trauma-Informed Care Team to further establish best practices and better serve our clients.

Through quarterly monitoring of the data, senior management is able to keep up with changing trends and needs. For example, over the last few years, juvenile complaints have been declining while adult complaints increased. As such, staff were reassigned to address the evolving needs and meet best-practices in caseload size for both juvenile and adult caseloads.

The agency also established the importance of structured decision-making tools. This ensures cases are handled in a consistent, evidenced-based way, minimizing subjectivity and prejudice. 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), GAINS (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.



## TRENDS AT A GLANCE

While the JDRDC-CSU serves Fairfax County, the Towns of Herndon and Vienna and the City of Fairfax, the clients frequently coming through our door represent a much smaller portion of the population. Types of complaints, in large part, impact youth eligibility for diversion and drive which youth are placed on probation.

To illustrate larger trends, various data items are shown below. The number of juvenile intake complaints decreased in FY18 but have again returned to numbers seen in FY17 and prior. While representing an increase between the last two years, overall, juvenile complaints have declined 15% between FY15 and FY19. This follows national trends showing steady declines in juvenile crime since the mid to late 1990s (OJJDP, 2019).

**Table 1: Five Year Data Trends**

Fiscal Year	Juvenile Complaints		New Juvenile Probation Supervision Placements		Secure Detention Placements		Domestic Relations Complaints		Adult Complaints (Calendar Year)		Adults Under Probation Supervision (Last Day of Fiscal Year)	
	N	% ±	N	% ±	N	% ±	N	% ±	N	% ±	N	% ±
2015	4415	3%	567	-2%	570	-3%	9440	-5%	13198	6%	677	20%
2016	3950	-11%	432	-24%	504	-12%	9727	3%	13320	1%	710	5%
2017	3767	-5%	381	-12%	533	6%	8795	-10%	12822	-4%	627	-12%
2018	3395	-10%	395	4%	505	-5%	8929	2%	11999	-6%	569	-9%
2019	3766	11%	409	4%	494	-2%	8292	-7%	11456	-5%	538	-5%
<b>% ±</b>												
<b>15 to 19</b>		<b>-15%</b>		<b>-28%</b>		<b>-13%</b>		<b>-12%</b>		<b>-13%</b>		<b>-21%</b>

Across the various areas the JDRDC-CSU closely monitors, steady declines are a prevailing theme. In addition to the juvenile complaint declines, probation and secure detention placements are also trending downwards. This theme carries over to the adult side as well. While complaints remain high for both domestic relations and adult criminal complaints, there has been a 12% decrease for the former and a 13% decrease for the latter.

## Juvenile Complaint Type

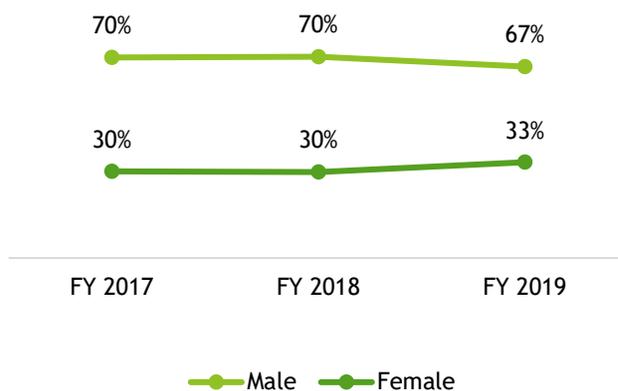
At a more granular level, the type of complaints received over the years has not changed. Shown below in Table 2 felony juvenile complaints generally hover around 23-24%. Class 1 misdemeanors, such as petit larceny or possession of marijuana account for the majority of complaints across the last three years. During FY19, 67% of juvenile complaints were from males and 33% were from females. While still the minority, this is the highest proportion of female complaints the CSU has seen (See Figure 1).

**Table 2: Juvenile Complaint Type by Fiscal Year (17-19)**

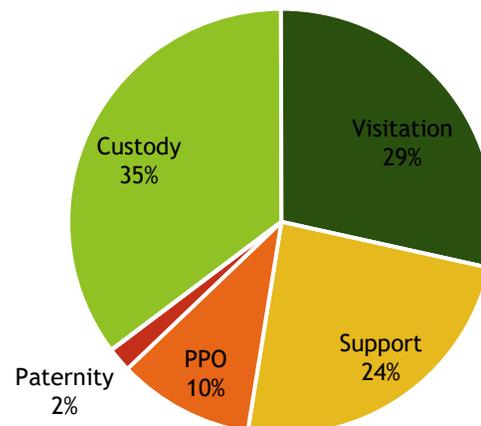
	FY 2017		FY 2018		FY 2019	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Felony</b>	889	24%	790	23%	869	23%
<b>Class 1 Misd.</b>	1493	40%	1273	37%	1492	40%
<b>Class2-4 Misd.</b>	447	12%	458	13%	394	10%
<b>CHINS/CHINSup</b>	193	5%	261	8%	187	5%
<b>VOPs</b>	195	5%	178	5%	124	3%
<b>Technical Violations</b>	112	3%	97	3%	61	2%
<b>Other</b>	438	12%	338	10%	639	17%
<b>Total</b>	3767	100%	3395	100%	3766	100%

Generally, Domestic Relations (DR) complaints remain high, although there was a 7% decline between FY18 and FY19. Overwhelmingly, for DR custody is the most prevalent complaint received, followed by visitation and support. Figure 2 illustrates this FY19 breakdown, which is similar to DR complaints received in prior fiscal years.

**Figure 1: Juvenile Complaints by Gender**



**Figure 2: DR Complaints by Type**





## AGENCY WIDE INITIATIVES

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Four key initiatives or agency philosophies are discussed in the following pages. Evidenced-based practices, reduction of racial and ethnic disparities (RED), family engagement, and trauma informed care are core pillars for agency activities and future goals.

Through an environmental scan conducted by county facilitators as part of the JDRDC-CSU's 2014 strategic planning initiative, family engagement and trauma informed care were identified as emerging areas to focus on over the following years to better serve the ever-changing community. During the strategic planning process, the commitment to evidenced-based practices and reduction of RED was reaffirmed through setting goals such as results based accountability and performance management projects and the continuation of the DMC/RED team.





## EVIDENCED BASED PRACTICES CONT

In 2008, usage of the YASI began in select pilot locations (DJJ,2008). By July 2010, YASI usage was complete statewide (DJJ, 2011). Along with the state, the Fairfax County JDRDC CSU has adopted the YASI model in full. It is used to determine supervision levels and inform case planning. While the YASI has been a critical component of supervision and case management in Fairfax, aggregate analysis of risk levels was desired, but unavailable up until the later part of FY 2019. Through collaboration with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) spanning a year and a half, Fairfax County JDRDC-CSU was able to receive YASI assessment information for youth under their supervision. This opened the door for new questions, new challenges, and new possibilities.

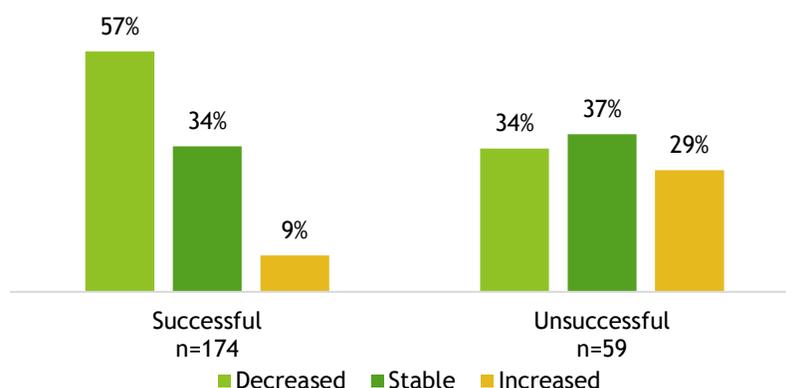
Table 1 below highlights areas of need by risk level. As shown, out of 827 YASI assessments (238 initial, 577 reassessments, and 12 closures) Skills, Attitudes, and Family History were the top three domains with some level of need for youth.

	N	Low	Moderate	High
Skills	791	33%	48%	19%
Attitudes	787	17%	68%	15%
Family History	762	21%	49%	30%
Community/Peers	708	26%	36%	38%
School	691	23%	57%	20%
Aggression/Violence	652	26%	52%	22%
Employment/Free Time	642	17%	48%	36%
Alcohol/Drugs	575	80%	18%	2%

With the ability to now see aggregate changes in risk level data, one goal is to assess risk level declines for youth leaving court supervision. During FY19, 284 supervision (probation and parole) cases closed (both successfully and unsuccessfully).

To glean insight into how supervision is impacting risk levels, the chart below looks at changes in dynamic risk levels for youth by completion type. As shown, over half (57%) of youth completing supervision successfully had decreased dynamic risk levels. Only 9% showed increased risk levels.

Figure 3: Change in Dynamic Risk Level by Probation Completion Type (FY19)



## REDUCTION OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES

Similar to the adult system, racial and ethnic disparities are found in juvenile arrests, secure detention placements, petitions filed, and probation placements (OJJDP, 2019). Racial and ethnic disparities have been a JDRDC-CSU priority for over two decades. The findings from two reports conducted in 2012 highlighted areas to address. A statewide assessment of disproportionate minority contact (DMC) conducted in Virginia that found within Fairfax specifically, the intake process reduced likelihood of Black youth being diverted and increased petition likelihood for Hispanic youth. Additionally, it was found that Black and Hispanic youth were also 50% more likely to be detained while waiting for a hearing.



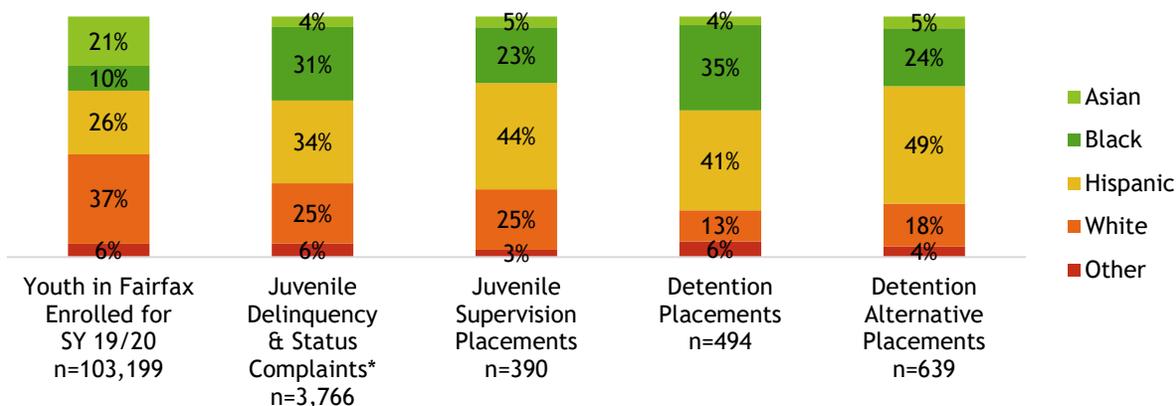
The Racial and Ethnic Disparity (RED) team, formally the DMC team, was formed in 2013. Members closely monitor data outcomes and work with administrators to address disparities for youth of color and apply an equity lens to example all policies and practices.

Similar results were highlighted during the institutional analysis (CSSP, 2012) and showed that needs were not sufficiently being met for Black and Hispanic youth. Following these findings, the CSU formed an internal Racial and Ethnic Disparity (RED) team. Please refer to the [RED Progress Update](#) for a comprehensive timeline of efforts around racial and ethnic disparities.

In work following these initial reports, internal research efforts found a large number of youth placed on probation through the plea bargain process were youth of color who were later found to be low-risk to reoffend. This, of course, is detrimental, as research shows that low-risk youth should have minimal involvement with the formal court system, and having these youth penetrate the system can actually increase their risk to reoffend (Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005). Many of these youth were placed on a standard one-year probation with limited input from JDRDC-CSU workers or the use of an objective evaluation tool. This discovery and subsequent conversation led to the Pre-Dispositional Assessment Program pilot and eventually the creation of the Assessment Unit (see page 20), one of the larger initiatives/outcomes from the RED team directly impacting youth.

Figure 4 on the next page depicts FY19 racial/ethnic breakdowns and key system decision points. As shown, disparities continue to exist. While Black youth make up around 10% of the Fairfax youth enrolled in grades 6-12, they make up 23% of new supervision placements and 35% of secure detention placements. Similar concerns prevail for Hispanic youth, who make up around 26% of 6-12th graders in Fairfax. As shown, they make up 44% of supervision placements and 41% of secure detention placements.

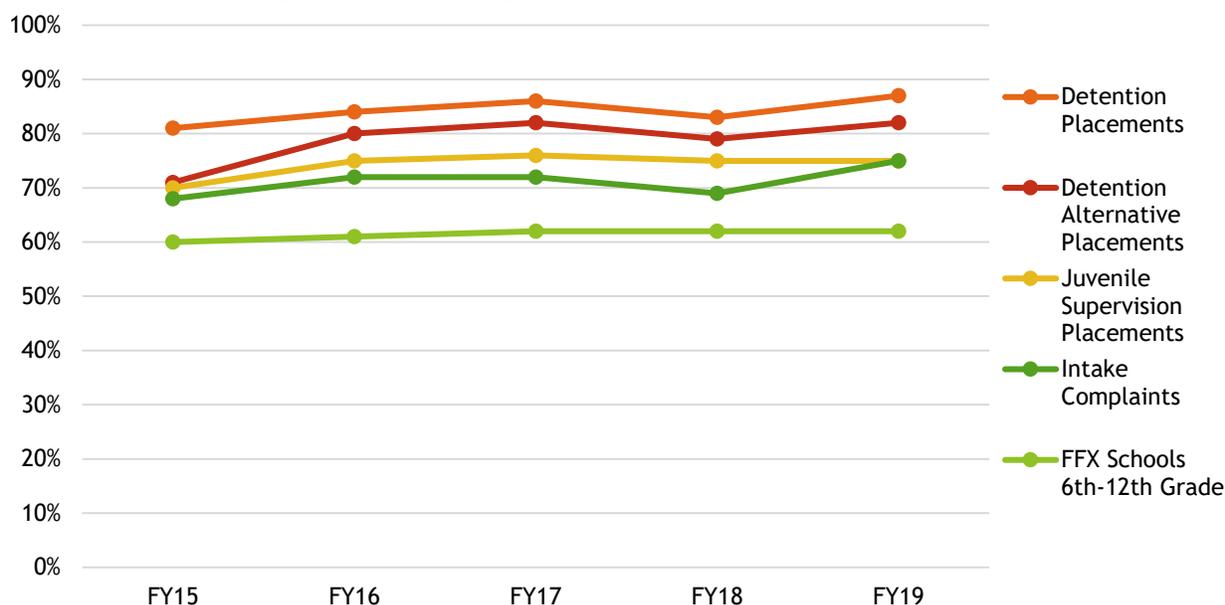
**Figure 4: Race/Ethnicity Across JDRDC-CSU Decision Points**



When addressing RED, it's important to view historical trends. While initially most attention focused on the disparities of Black youth compared to White youth, recent data from Fairfax follows changing national trends, pointing to increased disparities for Hispanic youth. Chart 5 shows five-year trends for youth of color<sup>±</sup> at each decision point compared to youth of color enrolled in 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade within Fairfax County Public Schools. As shown, 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 2019, youth of color represent 87% of detention placements compared to 79% of detention alternative placements, 75% of juvenile supervision placements, and 75% of intake complaints.

As noted, disparities appear to be increasing for Hispanic youth. While the proportion of Hispanic juvenile complaints increased 8%, there was a 13% increase in the proportion of new Hispanic youth supervision placements.

**Figure 5: Percentage of Youth of Color at Decision Points**



<sup>±</sup>Youth of color refers to Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Other.

\*Delinquency and status complaints represent all offenses committed within Fairfax County, including offenses committed by non-Fairfax County residents.

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Research suggests that court-involved youth are more likely to achieve success with positive family involvement (Garfinkel, 2010). Additionally, staff experience and research both show that engaging family is a crucial part of successful service planning (Walker, 2015) and maintaining public safety (Shanahan & diZerega, 2016). Through collaboration with parents and guardians, probation officers identify strengths and weaknesses in order to guide service plans while monitoring rule compliance.

As part of strategic planning efforts, the Family Engagement Team formed in 2014. Through collaborative work with Pennsylvania, feedback from focus groups, and internal staff surveys, the team created a family guide and developed a training for all staff. This guide is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

<b>Table 4: Family Engagement Survey Responses</b>			
	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY19</b>
<b>Staff here really let me know that they value me/my child as a person.</b>	97%	96%	96%
<b>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).</b>	96%	99%	96%
<b>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.</b>	98%	100%	98%
<b>Staff provided me with a clear explanation of the program rules/ requirements/ expectations (if applicable).</b>	97%	95%	95%
<b>When I interacted with staff, there were professional, polite, and friendly.</b>	98%	98%	98%
<b>Staff provided me with contact information so that I knew who to contact if I had questions or concerns.</b>	93%	93%	96%
<b>Staff explained to me what my responsibilities would be.</b>	92%	95%	95%
<b>Staff provided me with written information about the program.</b>	80%	89%	90%

Questions designed to measure family engagement throughout the agency were added to client feedback surveys in 2014. The table above illustrates responses to these questions over the last three years. These responses cover youth and parent/guardian surveys collected from Family Counseling, Foundations, Intensive Supervision Program, Juvenile Detention Center, Juvenile Probation, Shelter Care, Supervised Released Services, and Supervised Visitation and Exchange.

The Family Engagement Team continues to offer regular training to all current and incoming staff and supporting staff-led ideas to engage and empower families. Additionally, "What Just Happened" meetings are being developed for families after court hearings to foster understanding of the process and future steps. Surveys will continue to be monitored for key feedback information.

## TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

Research shows that youth involved with the criminal justice system have more trauma in their past than those who do not come into contact with the system (Abram et al., 2013). As such, the agency strives to meet the needs of clients and families through trauma-informed practices. The Trauma Team initially formed in 2012 to help identify court-involved youth who experienced trauma and in need of services.

The Trauma Team identified or created questions to add to the agency's customer satisfaction surveys regarding staff responsiveness to trauma. Below are results from surveys collected for the last three years. These responses cover youth surveys collected from Stepping Stones, Evening Reporting Center, Family Counseling, Foundations, Intensive Supervision Program, Juvenile Detention Center, Shelter Care, and Supervised Release Services

	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY19</b>
<b>When I was in the program, I felt physically and emotionally safe.</b>	96%	95%	94%
<b>When I interacted with staff, they were professional, polite and friendly</b>	96%	94%	98%
<b>(Program) staff recognizes that I have strengths and skills as well as challenges and difficulties.</b>	96%	95%	94%
<b>I felt safe talking with staff about difficult or frightening experiences</b>	95%	91%	94%
<b>Staff here really let me know that they value me/my child as a person</b>	96%	96%	96%

The bi-annual administration of the Organizational Assessment is also part of the Trauma Team's mission. First completed in 2016 and re-administered in 2018, the report suggested agency strengths in client and family safety, staff safety, and perceived fit of trauma-informed procedures in the agency's current mission and practices.

Between the 2016 and 2018 assessments, JDRDC made all trauma training mandatory, completed a JDRDC-CSU wide assessment of trauma-informed spaces, increased emphasis on self-care and secondary trauma awareness, and created a group of Trauma Champions. The latter are available to help offer additional resources including training and consultations. The 2018 assessment/report also highlighted improvements in the collaboration/coordination of care.

### Looking Toward the Future

The Trauma team will continue to provide training to all staff. Exploring needs related to the adult population is a primary goal of the team. Furthermore, the team will administer the Organizational Assessment in 2020 to assess the agency and drive informed change.

## LANGUAGE ACCESS PROGRAM



During FY19, LAP hours provided value of \$109,273.75.

38.9% of residents, age 5 and older, speak a language other than English at home.

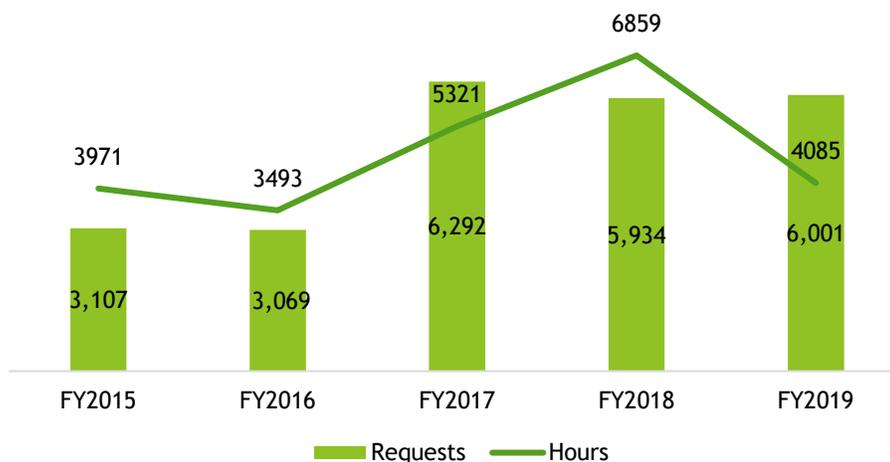


The Language Access Program (LAP) provides interpretation and translation services to court personnel and Limited-English Proficient (LEP) clients.

The program was created in 1994 to meet the growing needs of the LEP community and by 2019, the program expanded into two different divisions (Volunteer Interpretation Program [VIP] and vendor management). Language Access was restructured to accommodate separate pools of interpreters.

Under LAP, the Volunteer Interpreter Program (VIP) is the largest provider of JDRDC interpretation services. The languages currently supported by VIP are Spanish, French, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Italian, Korean, Croatian, Russian, Nepali, Greek, and Arabic.

Figure 6: VIP Requests and Hours by Year



As shown above, VIP requests increased slightly from FY18 to FY19 while overall hours provided decreased. While an increase, FY19 requests are down 4.6% from an all-time high seen in FY17.

### Looking Towards the Future

The Language Access Program will continue to expand, recruiting volunteers to provide additional languages and dialects. Focus will also remain centered on accurate tracking of all requests and appointment length.

## CSU Highlighted Programs

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Over the years, Fairfax County's JDRDC-CSU relies on emerging best practices to adapt and evolve services and overall procedural changes. Through usage of data, staff workgroups, and stakeholder buy in, the JDRDC-CSU created programs to address unmet needs. The next few pages of this report present data and background on five such programs, curriculums, or processes.



Assessment Unit



Diversion



Mediation



Pre-Trial Supervision



Victim Impact Curriculum

## ASSESSMENT UNIT

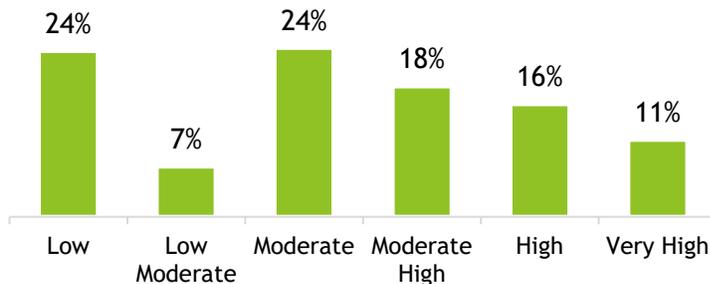
Explained fully on pg. 11, the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) principle explains how and why it is advantageous to treat youth differently in and out of the court system. By tailoring services to individual youth and their needs, service providers increase the likelihood of positive outcomes. The JDRDC-CSU created the Assessment Unit in response to these best practices combined with findings mentioned on pgs. 14-15 highlighting disparities for youth of color and the high numbers of low-risk youth placed on probation.

Following a pilot period in two courtrooms, the Assessment Unit expanded to all JDRDC courtrooms July 1, 2018. The unit receives all unassigned cases (youth who are adjudicated delinquent but are not on probation at the time) and pre-adjudicatory cases placed at JDC/SC for criminal petitions. Showcased below is a breakdown of risk level for youth referred to the ASU throughout FY19. The unit aims to assess youths' areas of need, existing protective factors and risk to reoffend in order for JDRDC-CSU workers to make informed, data-driven recommendations to the court.

During FY19, 291 youth went through the Assessment Unit.

The majority of these (n=234) were unassigned cases, while 57 were PRSU cases.

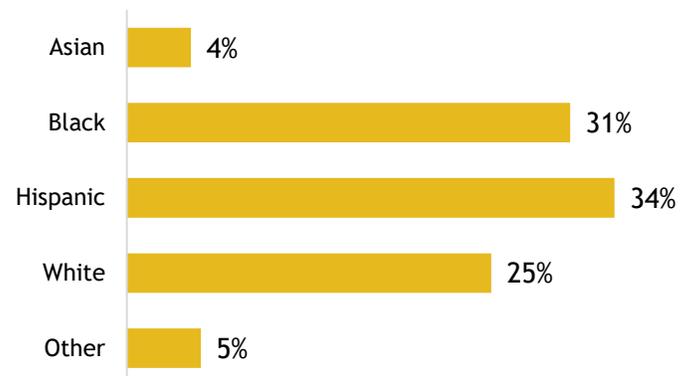
**Figure 7: New FY19 Cases by Risk Level**



Establishing the unit with support from the Judiciary, Commonwealth Attorney, Public Defender and other stakeholders affirms the commitment to a bi-furcated youth system. This separation between adjudication and dispositional hearings allows for individualized case planning. With improved data tracking, a focal point of the JDRDC-CSU and Judiciary will analyze JDRDC-CSU recommendations to final dispositions. Recidivism information will also be tracked for all youth going through the process.

Youth of color made up 75% of cases referred to the Assessment Unit during FY19. As the creation of the ASU was largely driven by evidence highlighting disparities for youth of color, these trends will continue to be closely monitored. As data tracking for the ASU expands, analysis will be completed on JDRDC-CSU recommendations compared to final dispositions ordered by Judges.

**Figure 8: Race/Ethnicity of FY19 Cases**



## DIVERSION

Diversion opportunities for youth remain a priority for the JDRDC-CSU. The Juvenile Intake Unit monitors all youth involved with JDRDC-CSU diversion programming. During the diversion process Juvenile Intake Services utilize several evidence-based tools such as the YASI Pre-Screen and the GAIN-SS (Global Appraisal of Individual Needs–Short Screener, 2013) to determine risk to reoffend and areas of need.

Partnering with Northern Virginia Mediation Services (NVMS), Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), and the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), JDRDC-CSU assisted in expanding diversion within the County through the Alternative Accountability Program (AAP). AAP allows FCPD to refer youth to a restorative justice (RJ) process for incidents occurring within FCPS and the community without requiring formal juvenile justice involvement.

To find out more about the AAP program, check out [NVMS's annual report](#).

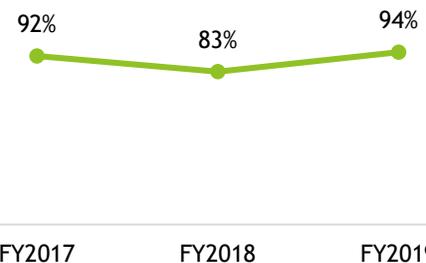
Through AAP, many low-risk youths are screened out prior to reaching the agency's intake unit, leaving those who do come through our doors more likely to be facing serious charges or have greater needs. While most of the youth participating in JDRDC's diversion programming are low risk to reoffend, moderate risk youth have increased 17% over the last two years (Figure 10).

**Figure 10: Diverted Youth by Risk Level**



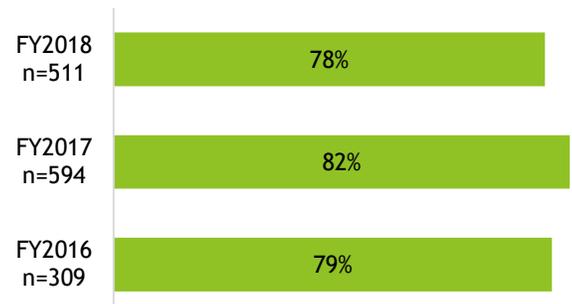
Recidivism information is tracked for all diverted youth. As shown, rates are promising with 78% of youth diverted in FY18 having no new charges within one year. While there was a small decline from FY17 to FY18, this may be due in part to higher numbers of low-risk youth being diverted through AAP before even reaching the court system.

**Figure 9: Eligible Youth in Diversion Programming**



The robust diversion process continues to keep low-risk youth out of the formal court system promoting better outcomes and meeting individual needs. This also allows the agency to better align resources and focus on public safety.

**Figure 11: No New Charges**



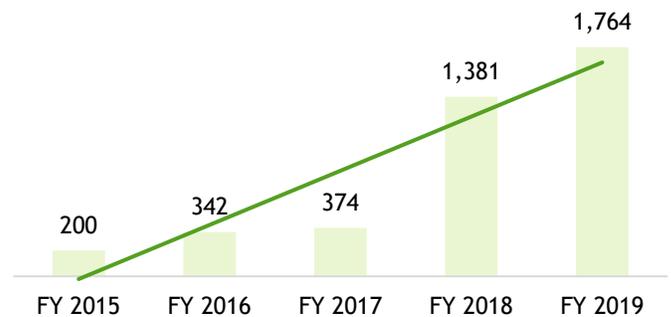
## MEDIATION

Due to an ever-growing need for mediation support during disputes, the JDRDC-CSU created a separate Mediation Unit to increase access to services and decrease the length of time families must wait for a resolution. With the implementation of the standalone Mediation Program, there was a 340% increase in referrals between FY17 and FY18. As illustrated below, this upward trend continued, with FY19 seeing a 28% increase over FY18.

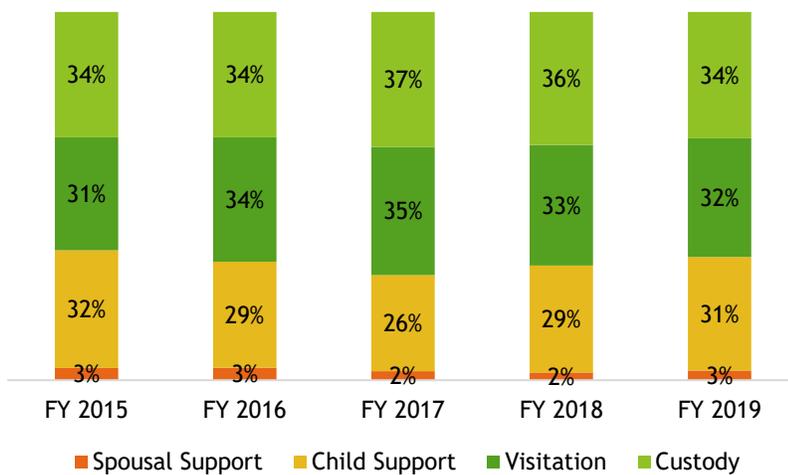
Although the number of referrals has significantly increased since unit creation, 95% of referrals in FY19 were assigned or opened with 30 days. This is consistent with prior years.

One mediation referral can encompass multiple areas of dispute. Each year, the biggest area of need is custody agreements followed by visitation, and child support. The program receives much fewer referrals for spousal support.

**Figure 12: Mediation Referrals by Fiscal Year**



**Figure 13: Referrals by Area of Need**



In addition to the Mediation Unit assisting disputing parties in reaching agreements quickly and safely, it greatly impacts docketing time for the Judiciary. In November of 2017 prior to the implementation of the new program, the court was operating with seven judges and average time between filing to finality was 10.6 months. Less than a year later in July of 2018, the court was operating with six judges, yet average time was 7.5 months.

At the beginning of FY20, two judges were added to the JDRDC Bench. The addition of these judges is anticipated to decrease average time between filing and disposition and will be closely monitored moving forward. Of the meditations that occurred during FY19, 59% reached some type of agreement. This includes full, partial, and temporary agreement. This rate of agreement has remained steady over the last few years.

**Figure 14: Percent Reaching Agreement**



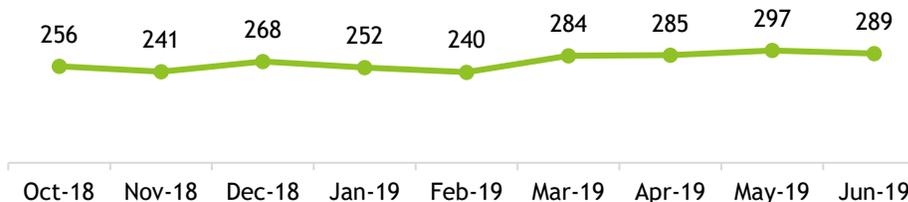
## PRE-TRIAL SUPERVISION

The Community Corrections unit provides probation and pretrial supervision to adults in the JDRDC who have been accused or convicted of committing offenses against a child, family, or household member.

Specifically, the pre-trial supervision services were expanded for cases under JDRDC-CSU's jurisdiction in December 2017, allowing offenders to remain in the community under supervision while awaiting trial. To better meet the needs of the program and Diversion First funding, CCS hired two positions located in the jail in January 2018. These positions provide 24-hour support services for offenders arrested and brought to Fairfax County's Adult Detention Center.

Services include reviewing criminal history records, interviewing defendants after arrest, and verifying information collected from references, family members, employers, and other parties. Pretrial Supervision Officers create a report that assists the Judiciary in making informed decisions regarding the defendants' risk to public safety, the victim(s), and bond recommendations.

Figure 15: Interviews Conducted Each Month



These two CCS positions on average complete anywhere from 200 to 300 jail interviews per month. Figure 15 shows the average interviews completed from October 2018 through June 2019. Full FY19 data unavailable.

If the defendant has not secured release, the Pretrial Hearing Officer shall offer recommendations concerning bond to the Judge. As shown to the right, 79% of recommendations by Pre-Trial staff were followed by the court in FY19.

Figure 16: Percent Reaching Agreement



*There were 501 new clients in the Pretrial Supervision Program in FY19.*

### Looking Forward

*As the needs for the adult population continue to grow, JDRDC-CSU will pay special attention to clients going through this program, with a focus on any clients who pick up new charges while out on release.*

## VICTIM IMPACT CURRICULUM



Since survey use began, responses have been collected from **152** youth participating in VIC and **548** from youth completing Core Values.



During FY19, Fairfax's VIC and Core Values curriculum was shared with Arlington County Court Service Unit.

Victim education shares goals with the larger umbrella of restorative justice. Through dialogue and activities, offenders are expected to gain a stronger understanding of how their actions impacted their victim(s), community, and family; take responsibility for their actions; and work to repair or lessen harm they caused (Bender, 2005).

Common activities utilized across curriculums include guest speakers, role-playing, and homework assignments. Inviting guests to speak about how they have been impacted by crime has shown to reinforce program material and increase empathy (Sedelmaier & Gaboury, 2015).

Victim education classes have been offered since 2000. In March of 2016, a workgroup convened to create and develop a standardized curriculum for use throughout the agency, specifically for adjudicated youth. Pre- and post-surveys measure the efficacy of the program. Questions focus on attitudes, values, and victim education. Aside from this full curriculum, diverted youth are commonly referred to Core Values. A similar, one-time class focused on empathy and values.

Overwhelmingly, youth respond favorably to VIC and Core Values. During FY19, 90% believed VIC was good for them and 98% indicated they believed the one-time Core Values class was good for them. Table 6 below highlights a sample of questions used to evaluate the full VIC. Youth responded on a 5-point scale with 1 (*Strongly Disagree*) and 5 (*Strongly Agree*). All questions showed desirable changes.

**Table 6: Select Questions from Pre- and Post-VIC Survey**

	Pre	Post
<b>Tangible values are material and usually cost money to obtain.</b>	3.53	4.39
<b>I know the difference between empathy and sympathy.</b>	3.72	4.55
<b>Intangible values are non-material and usually can't be purchased.</b>	3.59	4.36
<b>Defensive thinking allows one to make excuses for their actions, maybe even blaming others.</b>	3.28	4.05
<b>Victims of crime suffer significant financial troubles after a violent crime.</b>	3.38	4.03
<b>I've made excuses for bad behavior in the past.</b>	3.63	4.21
<b>Being the victim of a crime changes a person's life.</b>	3.8	4.24

## JDRDC-CSU RESPONSIBILITIES

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Virginia statutes drive the activities, services, and responsibilities of Fairfax County's Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Court Services Unit. The JDRDC-CSU takes its authority, purpose, and intent directly from the Code of Virginia. The four key areas are summarized below. In the following pages, you will learn additional details surrounding how the court meets these expectations.

### Accountability

- Holding youth and adults accountable for their actions is a crucial element of the agency's work and mission.
- Achieved through various forms including, but not limited to, community supervision, victim impact education, restitution, and community service.

### Rehabilitation

- Goal of rehabilitating offenders wherever possible, without sacrificing public safety.
- Achieved through therapeutic residential placements, specialized program/service referrals, and various other evidenced-based interventions.

### Public Safety

- Keeping the community safe is paramount.
- Through the use of evidence-based assessment tools, special care is taken when deciding whether or not to detain a youth or adult pending court hearings.

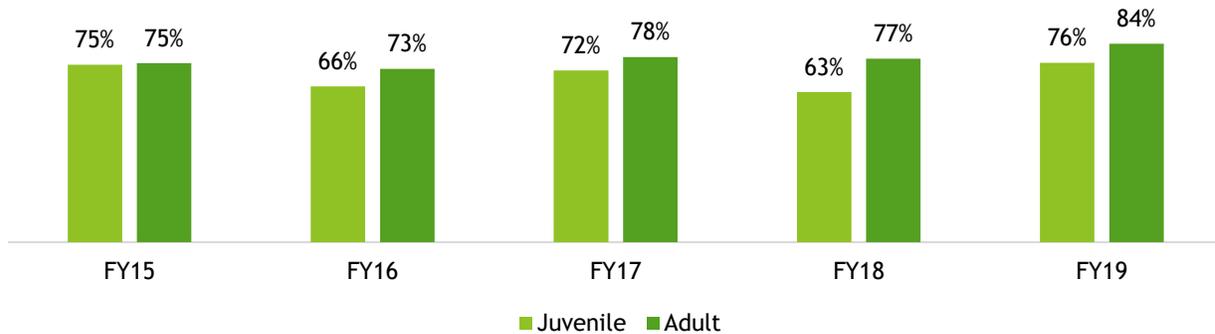
### Victim Rights

- The JDRDC-CSU remains committed to serving all victims of juvenile crime. A specialized unit provides information, support, and advocacy to victims.
- These staff members also frequently attend court hearings with victims and assist with finding resources and monetary compensation.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Holding both youth and adult clients accountable for their actions is a large portion of the agency's work. Accountability comes in many forms including, but not limited to community supervision, victim impact education, restitution, community service, and classes covering topics such as anger management, substance use, etc. Staff also work with clients to ensure compliance with any other court orders. Through court-ordered supervision, youth and adults are held accountable for their actions and work with staff to address areas of need. Probation Officers use evidence-based tools to identify focus areas and provide appropriate referrals to services.

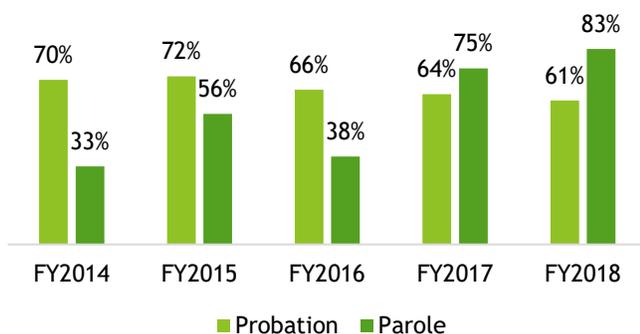
**Figure 17: Percentage of Successful Juvenile and Adult Supervision Closures**



As illustrated above, most clients complete supervision successfully. Adults consistently do better than youth clients. FY19 saw the highest rates of success years in five for both youth and adults. Additional outcome information for juveniles leaving supervision is shown below.

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
<b>Attending School or Graduated</b>	86%	78%	81%	83%	81%
<b>Employed</b>	59%	60%	63%	69%	60%
<b>No Substance Use</b>	73%	66%	69%	62%	69%

**Figure 18: Youth with No New Criminal Charges One Year after Leaving Supervision**



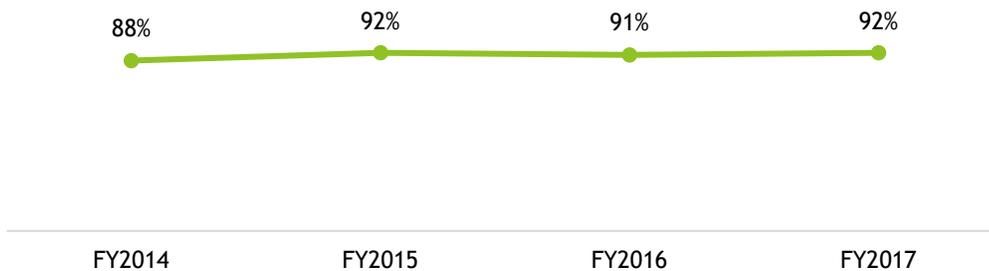
A key outcome for youth completing supervision is recidivism which allows the JDRDC-CSU to monitor public safety responsibilities. Historically, youth released from parole have a higher risk to reoffend, leading to higher recidivism rates. Figure 18 shows that while 61% of youth released from probation in FY18 had no new charges, parole releases had slightly better recidivism rates, with 71% having no new charges after one year. This is the second year where parole cases have better recidivism rates. When comparing these rates, it's important to consider the difference in population size. In FY18, there were 271 probation releases and just 6 parole releases.

Adults under community supervision are also referred to services in order to meet their needs. Adult Probation Officers complete the Offender Status Tool (OST) to identify levels of supervision and areas of need. Referrals are individualized to the client to help them succeed. Clients may also be court-ordered to complete services based on charges or criminal history.

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
<b>Domestic Violence Intervention Program</b>	93%	95%	95%	95%	99%
<b>Anger Management Course</b>	97%	100%	98%	95%	100%
<b>Substance Abuse Treatment</b>	89%	93%	87%	94%	94%
<b>Mental Health Services</b>	79%	90%	86%	91%	92%
<b>Parenting Education</b>	94%	100%	88%	95%	94%

Rates of reconviction for adults leaving supervision have historically been promising. Ninety-two percent of adults completing community supervision have no new convictions within one year of supervision.

**Figure 19: Percent of Adult Clients with No New Convictions within One Year of Leaving Supervision**



### Looking Forward

As the JDRDC-CSU continues to monitor outcomes for both juvenile and adult clients, research staff work to analyze additional data on risk factors, protective factors, and other areas of needs. Close monitoring of changes in risk/protective factors for youth, allows Probation Officers to align services with case plans. In addition, staff evaluate and address needs for adult clients adjusting referrals and services as necessary.

## REHABILITATION

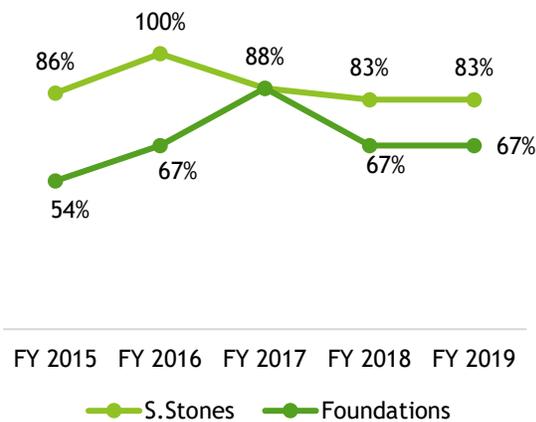
Every program within the JDRDC-CSU aims to rehabilitate offenders where possible without sacrificing public safety. Through residential placements at Stepping Stones, Foundations, and BETA, staff work with youth and families to identify strengths and needs, develop service plans, and facilitate treatment for clients and families. Due to the nature of residential facilities, populations are low, in line with their capacity limitations. Shown below, Stepping Stones (S.Stones) had the largest number of new placements during FY19. This has been a consistent trend over the last five years. After remaining consistent in the last four years, new BETA placements decreased 50% between FY18 and FY19.

**Figure 20: Program Placements by Year**

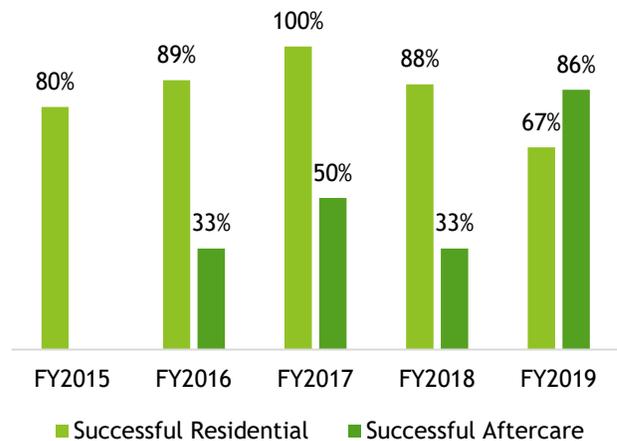


Historically, 80-90% of Stepping Stones clients completed the program successfully. Over the last five years, FND rates have ranged from 54% to 88% (see Figure 21). Figure 22 depicts success rates for the Beta program. This program is divided into two phases, a residential and aftercare phase. Successful completion of aftercare improved in FY19 reaching 86%. Success is achieved after six months of community supervision, completion of court orders, and a final court hearing.

**Figure 21: Successful S.Stones and FND Completions**



**Figure 22: Successful Beta Completions**

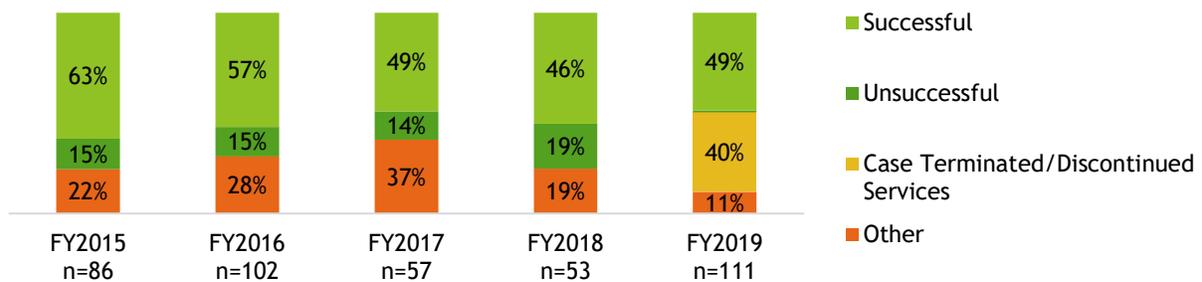


Within the JDRDC-CSU, the Family Counseling (FC) unit provides therapeutic services to families and individuals. Shown in the table below, there were 103 FC referrals during FY19, around a third each coming from Diversion and Juvenile Probation; with the rest of the referrals split between judicial order and adult services.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
<b>Juvenile Probation</b>	22%	54%	34%	40%	31%
<b>Diversion</b>	53%	34%	32%	22%	33%
<b>Judge</b>	23%	6%	18%	31%	27%
<b>Adult Probation/DR</b>	2%	7%	16%	7%	9%

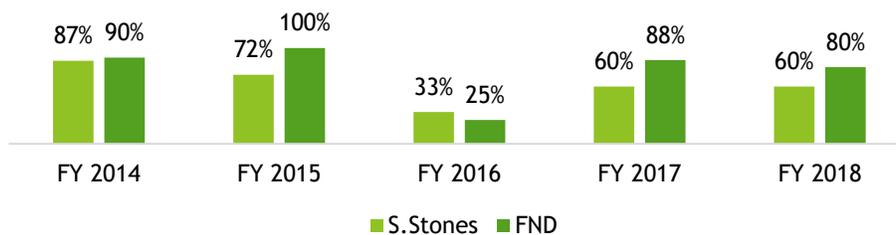
Defining success for our FC clients is challenging. Figure 23 shows 49% of cases closed successfully in FY19. This means that clients kept appointments and actively participated in treatment, meeting some or all of treatment goals. Cases may close earlier than anticipated before achieving all goals or clients may seek resources elsewhere. As such, coding case closures as unsuccessful is typically no longer used. In fact, 40% of FC cases were terminated or discontinued and less than 1% were truly unsuccessful.

**Figure 23: FC Case Closure Type**



In addition to counseling services, S. Stones, FND, and Beta all offer educational services. S. Stones tracks youth who raise core subject grades or earn credits while FND tracks the latter. During FY19, 94% of S. Stones youth and 89% of FND youth increased their educational standing. These improvement rates have been steady over the last few years.

**Figure 24: Educational Improvements by Program**



The goal with these rehabilitative programs is to decrease youths' risk to reoffend. Despite high recidivism rates seen in FY16, rates for the two following years are more promising. Of youth leaving FND in FY18, 80% had no new charges after a year and 60% of youth leaving S. Stones had no new charges after a year.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

In an ideal situation, every youth could be safely supervised in the community remaining with their family or other support systems. However, this is not the reality facing juvenile justice professionals. Some youth need to be securely detained pending court in order to maintain public safety. To assist in this process, the JDRDC-CSU utilizes the Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI), created by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) (Maggard, 2013). Like the YASI, the DAI is an evidenced-based tool to guide decisions, helping ensure equity and impartiality on part of the staff.

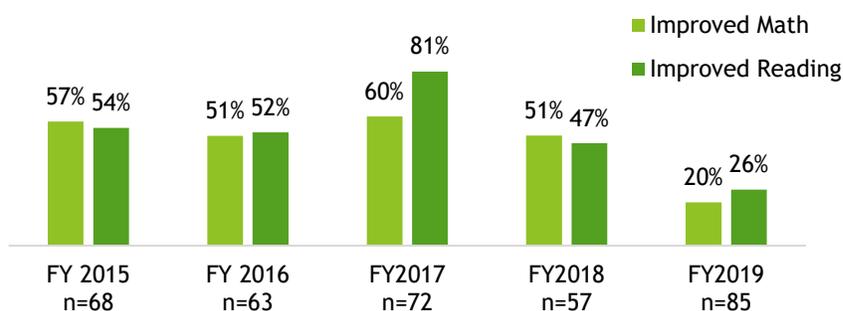
Following recommendations from the DAI, a youth may be placed in/on the JDC (Juvenile Detention Center; our secure facility), SC (Shelter Care; our non-secure, temporary facility), SRS (Supervised Release Services; community supervision [pre and post dispositional] with rules relating to curfew, school, and substance abuse), or ISP (Intensive Supervision Program; a more intensive community supervision (both pre and post dispositional) with more contacts, especially during the evening and night hours).

	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
JDC	570	504	533	505	494
SC	191	194	180	177	173
ISP	135	123	121	118	100
SRS	313	235	323	336	366

Table 10 depicts new placements for these facilities/programs over the last five years. Both JDC and SC placements continued downward trends in FY19, the former decreasing 13% over the last five years. SRS placements continue to rise, as the utilization of detention alternatives grows, and more youth are supervised in the community.

While JDC is a secure facility and youth are placed there because they cannot be supervised safely in the community, many services are provided to youth. Fairfax County Public School staff provide instruction and assist with the STAR Reading and Math testing that is required by Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

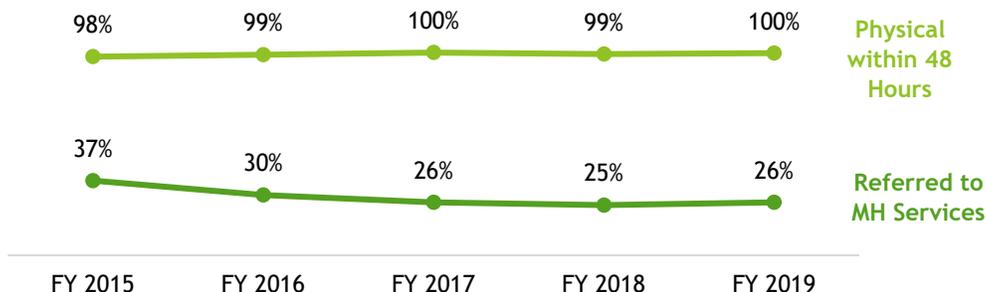
Figure 25: Educational Improvements at JDC



While JDC tends to house moderate and high-risk youth, few incidents require the use of physical restraints or room restriction in excess of 24 hours. During FY19, there were 1,065 total sanctions (down 34% from FY18). Of those, only 4% (n=43) required physical restraint. Eight percent (n=89) of these resulted in room restriction above 24 hours.

Physical and mental health services are also provided to all youth placed at JDC. As shown below, historically, 98-100% of youth receive a physical within 48 hours of entry and around a quarter of youth are referred to mental health services.

**Figure 26: Health Services Provided at JDC**



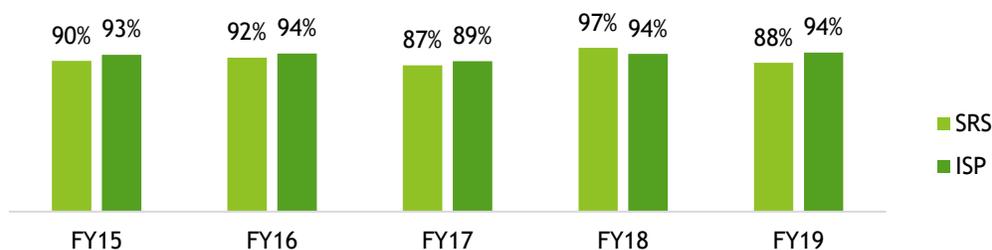
Shelter Care is a non-secure facility, but despite this, the number of youths who run from the facility is low. Of the 161 discharges in FY19, only 11% were classified as runaways. Historically AWOL rates have ranged from 9-15% over the years.

**Table 11: Runaway Rates at SC**

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
<b>AWOL</b>	15%	9%	11%	15%	11%
<b>Total Discharges</b>	188	191	176	171	161

One of the key goals for both SRS and ISP is to safely supervise youth within the community. As shown, both programs historically meet this goal. Eighty-eight percent of clients leaving SRS in FY19 did not pick up new charges during supervision. For ISP clients, 94% did not have any new charges. These figures for both have consistently been between 88-97% over the last five years.

**Figure 27: Percentage of Youth Supervised in the Community with No New Charges**



Moving forward focus will continue on sharing the message that youth can safely remain within their community while under supervision increasing their overall chances at success. Future initiatives include identifying and implementing an evidenced-based tool to determine risk and supervision levels for SRS clients.

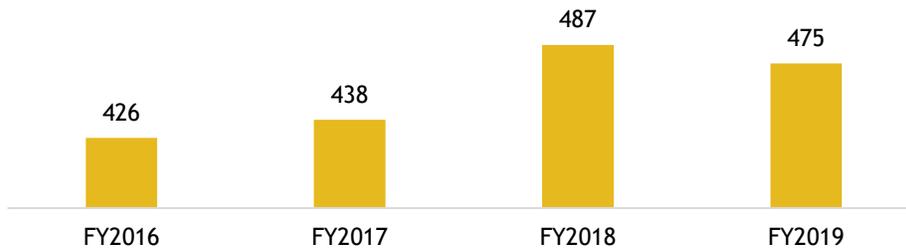
## VICTIM RIGHTS

The Fairfax County JDRDC Court Service Unit has a standalone Victim Services Unit to provide information, support, and advocacy to victims of juvenile offenders. In FY19, the unit provided services to 166 victims. This is slightly lower than the 195 seen in FY18 and the 203 seen in FY17. This downward trend falls in line with overall declines in juvenile crime.

The unit also tracks and provides services to secondary victims. These often are individuals who witnessed the victim's crime or have a relationship with the primary victim and require services to address trauma. In FY19, there were 136 secondary victims.

Most criminal cases last several months and include more than one court hearing. Victim service advocates attend every hearing to ensure victims are supported and informed. Advocates attended 475 hearings in FY19 for 166 clients, averaging 2.9 per client.

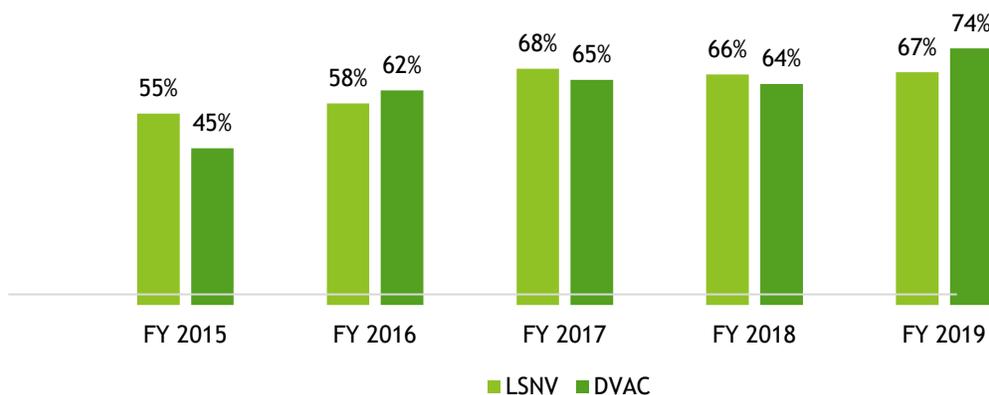
**Figure 28: Court Hearings Attended**

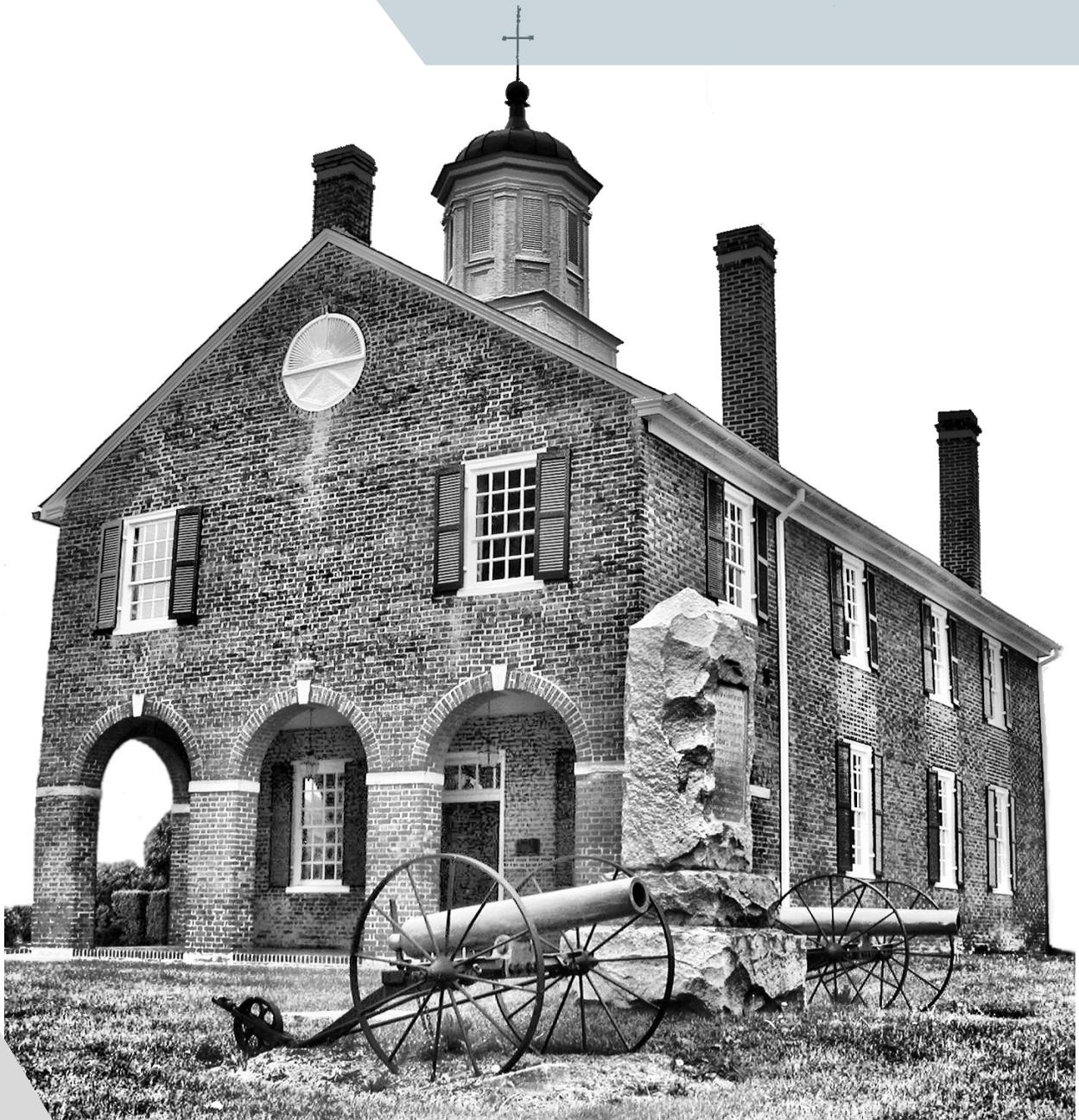


In addition to our Victim Services unit, the Domestic Relations unit provides referrals to two programs. The Attorney of the Day program (LSNV) is available to clients filing preliminary protective orders (PPOs) with a financial need. The Advocate of the Day (of domestic violence) works directly with victims to identify risks in their situation and assist with safety planning, securing financial resources, and sometimes counseling services.

These two programs are incredibly valuable as the number of PPOs filed remains high, demonstrating a need for these services within the community.

**Figure 29: LSNV and DVAC Referrals by Year**





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