

***CT Judicial Branch
Court Support Services Division
Update***

May 21, 2020

Update - Judicial Branch Response to COVID-19

BACKGROUND - KEY DATES:

- Effective March 16, 2020 the Judicial Branch went to Priority I business Functions.
 - On the Juvenile delinquency side, Priority I functions include:
 - Juvenile Detention Review hearings
 - Juvenile Detention Center operations
- Effective March 19, 2020, the Judicial Branch restricted juvenile operations to two locations:
 - Bridgeport Juvenile Court and Detention Center
 - Hartford Juvenile Court and Detention Center

Update - Judicial Branch Response to COVID-19

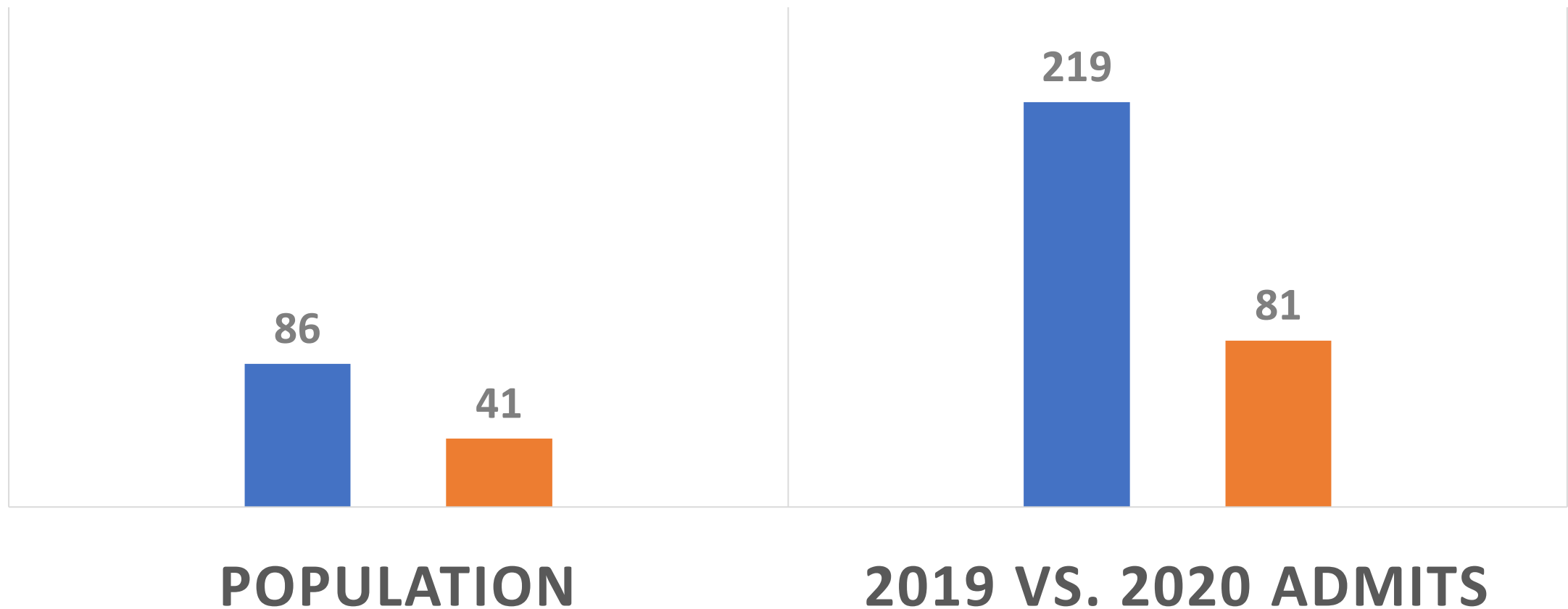
CSSD JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Steps Taken to Reduce Detention Center population

- Juvenile Probation and Residential Services management, in coordination with DCF and the OCPD, is closely examining each juvenile in the Detention Centers to identify those who can be safely released without a risk to public safety.
 - An individualized release plan for each of these juveniles is being developed and presented to the court at the weekly Detention Review hearings, or sooner if the placement is imminent.
- All new admissions to the Detention Centers (juveniles brought to the Centers by the police with a signed court order) are being strictly monitored and screened to ensure that only those juveniles whose level of risk to cannot be managed in the community are admitted.

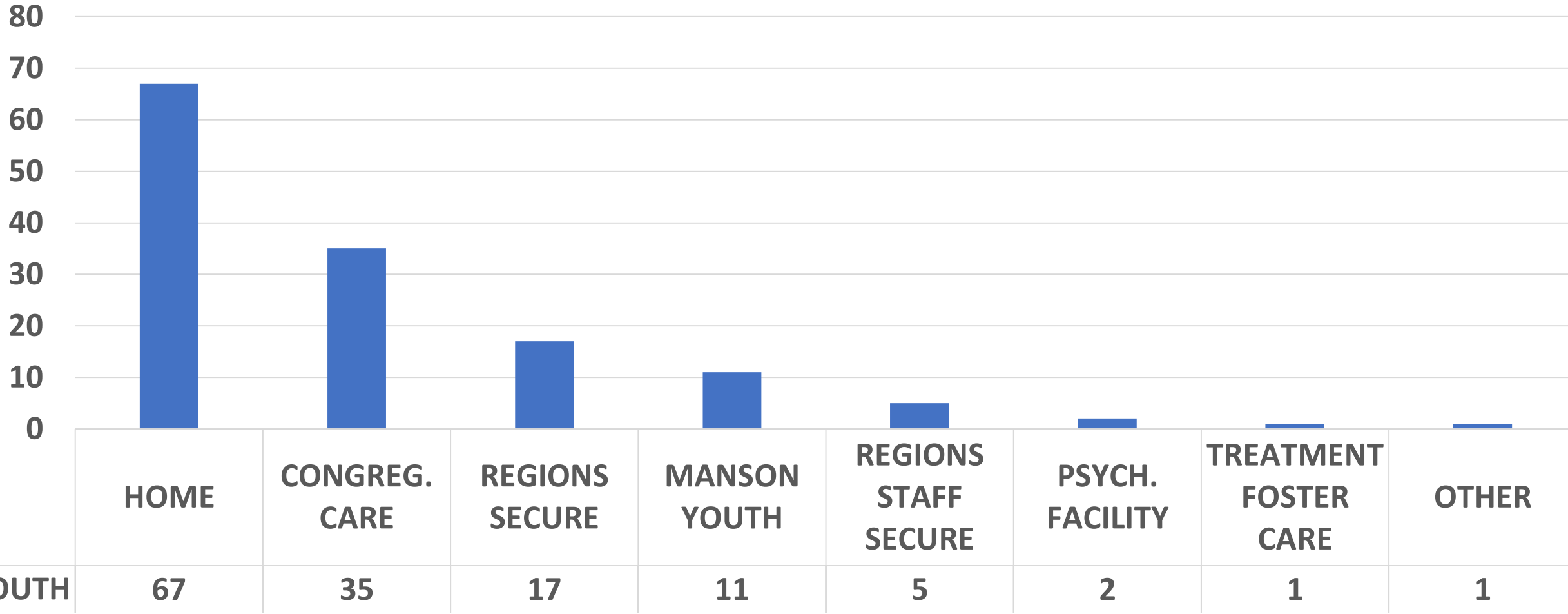
Population and Admission Reduction

MARCH 1 – MAY 18



Releases

MARCH 1 – MAY 18



Update - Judicial Branch Response to COVID-19

CSSD JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Measures instituted in the Juvenile Detention Centers

- Procedures to prevent spread put in place based on the advice from the center's Medical Director in consultation with the CT Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Beginning 3/13/20, entrance to the detention centers was limited to staff and medical and mental health contractors who work at the centers.
 - Distancing Learning initiated by the school districts providing education at the centers.
 - Ombudsperson Services switched to telephone check-ins with youth and staff.
 - Family visits now include both phone calls and virtual chats.
- Effective 3/31/20, due to positive tests, admissions to the Hartford Juvenile Detention Center were suspended. We are currently looking at resuming admissions there.

Update - Judicial Branch Response to COVID-19

CSSD JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES Measures, cont'd

Employee Screening

- Staff have been directed to stay home if they feel sick.
- Staff are being screened, including temperature checks, by contracted Medical Assistants before each shift. Employees are not allowed to enter the Centers if they have any symptoms and/or a fever.
- All Judicial Branch employees who are tested are tracked and cleared for return to work by the Judicial Branch Human Resources unit.

Update - Judicial Branch Response to COVID-19

CSSD JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES MEASURES, cont'd

Ensuring a safe and sanitary environment in the Centers

- Infection Control Committee meets weekly to review protocols and practice, and addresses matters that need improvement
- Enhanced disinfecting by staff working overtime and adding maintenance staff to help.
- We are utilizing “power breezer portable misting machines” to maximize disinfecting efforts.
- 12 portable handwashing stations have been strategically placed throughout the centers.
- The youth in the detention centers are being monitored closely for any and all signs of the virus and are receiving high quality healthcare by medical and mental health practitioners.

Update - Judicial Branch Response to COVID-19

CSSD JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES Measures, cont'd

PPE and Testing

- PPE is issued in accordance with CDC and DPH guidelines
- Staff and youth are required to wear a surgical mask, practice good hygiene and are continually educated by medical staff and management on the how and the why of these requirements.
- Most staff are being fitted for N95 respirators in case they need to care for a COVID-19 positive youth.
- Youth and staff testing results are more timely now than they were at the start of the pandemic.

Update - Judicial Branch Response to COVID-19

CSSD JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES MEASURES, cont'd

Procedures for Admissions and Releases

- Admissions:
 - Each juvenile is screened for COVID-19 including temperature checks.
 - For any juvenile who has a fever or symptoms, the COVID-19 isolation protocol is followed.
 - All new admissions are medically quarantined for 14 days consistent with DPH guidelines.
- Releases:
 - The nurse does a symptom check and temp check the evening before and the morning of a scheduled release.
 - Medical staff communicates with the receiving facility about any quarantine or other issues on the juvenile's unit, if applicable.
 - No symptomatic juveniles are released to another congregate care setting.
 - For all juveniles released to parents/guardians, medical staff is reviewing the situation at the facility with them and educating them about how to check for symptoms and providing information about resources.

Update - Judicial Branch Response to COVID-19



Containing the Spread

- Comprehensive protective measures, including medical quarantine for youth and self-monitoring by staff are used to minimize risk, identify symptoms quickly, isolate, test, and treat as medically indicated.
- Hartford:
 - 11 staff tested positive for COVID-19 test between March 23 and April 13.
 - 7 youth tested positive between March 28 and April 8.
 - All youth and staff have recovered, and staff have returned to work.
- Bridgeport:
 - 7 staff tested positive between April 3 and April 23.
 - No youth have tested positive.
 - 4 of 7 staff have recovered and returned to work; 3 staff are still recovering.

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CSSD JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Moving Forward

- Continuing COVID-19 Protective Measures consistent with CDC and DPH guidelines
- Accepting admissions at Hartford Detention
- Increasing family virtual chats
- Refining operations and programming
 - Modified summer enrichment program
 - Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) refinement for Stage 1 & support for Pretrial Youth
 - Increasing education services for the Fall
 - Continuing development of vocational services and increasing community partnerships

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CSSD JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES

- On March 16, 2020, all except two Juvenile court locations and Juvenile Probation offices were closed and many Juvenile Probation employees began working from home.
- The Bridgeport and Hartford Juvenile courts remained open to conduct Priority 1 business.
- A rotating team of Juvenile Probation Supervisors and Officers have been covering the Hartford and Bridgeport Juvenile Courts. This team:
 - Assists in the completion of Priority I business before the Court,
 - Responds to questions from a variety of avenues
 - Facilitates placements of juveniles released from pre-trial detention
 - Troubleshoots cases that come to their attention

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CSSD JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES

Contact with Clients

- All Juvenile Probation Officers have initiated and are maintaining contact with the juveniles on their caseloads via telephone contact.
 - Juvenile Probation Officers are inquiring about the juvenile's distance learning plan, treatment services as well any human service issues the family is experiencing.
 - Juvenile Probation Officers are using flexible funding as necessary to assist juveniles and families with their human service needs.

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CSSD JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES

Resources and Services:

- Juvenile Probation Supervisors have developed resource lists for their specific geographic area to be provided to juveniles and families.
- Treatment referrals are being made for juveniles and families in need of services.
- Juvenile Probation Officers continue to make referrals to CSSD short term residential placements.

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CSSD JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES

Response to Violation Behavior

- Utilizing graduated responses
- Emphasis is to develop plans and find services which will allow the juvenile to **remain in the community.**
- In the event a juvenile is posing a risk to the community and has been committing new delinquent behaviors, their case is reviewed by the office Supervisor and Juvenile Probation Management for consideration of pursuing a Take Into Custody Order.

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CSSD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Contracted service providers continue to deliver services, by phone or videoconference. In-person crisis management occurs as needed.
- All vendors are required to check in with clients *a minimum* of once weekly, record such contacts in client files, and reach out to JB referral sources at least weekly for case collaboration. Contract staff are communicating with all programs at least weekly.
- Orders for PPE for residential programs have been placed and filled. Biweekly deliveries of PPE will occur.
- Vendors have been given access to the same rapid COVID testing in New Haven that is currently available to state employees.
- Flex Funds are being increased to ensure that clients' "basic needs" are met, by addressing food insecurity, hygiene, clothing, assistance with utilities, or other needs.

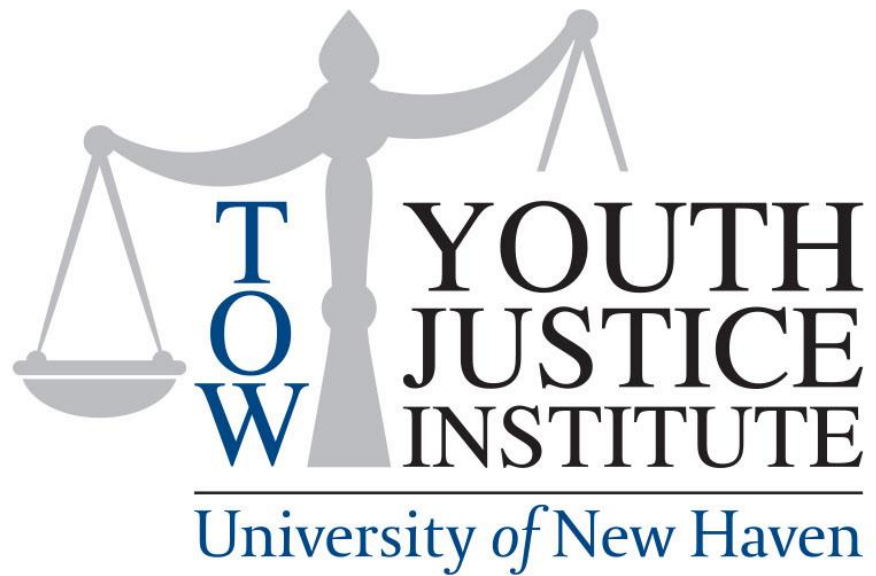
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CSSD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Response - Phase 2

- Virtual Live Training for vendors and staff
- Contract staff perform audits of programs
- Procurement of new program models will resume
- Additional cognitive-behavioral groups or 1:1 sessions offered via videoconferencing technology
- Continued development of electronic referral, data collection and evaluation, review of best practices



Questions
and
Discussion