

County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, April 10, 2025
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Aptos Public Safety Center
171 Aptos Village Way
Aptos, CA

The purpose of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is to advocate for and protect the safety and well-being of dependency and juvenile justice-involved youth and to prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. As a Commission, we will educate and inform our community and system leaders on the importance of positive youth development and advocate for coordinated and well-resourced systems that promote family and youth success and prevent system involvement.

In furtherance of that purpose the Commission has adopted three goal areas to guide its work over the next 2 years (2024 – 2026):

1) Juvenile Hall Inspection; 2) Positive Youth Development through the 41 Developmental Assets; and 3) Convening Stakeholders.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Present: Bernard Gomez, Beverly Brook, Cynthia Druley, David Brody, Elias Gonzales, Julia Feldman, Reyna Ruiz

Excused: Deutron Kebebew, Maria Rodriguez-Castillo, Sierra Thompson

Ex Officio: Jennifer Martinez **Staff:** Christine Bennett, Alondra Haro-Reynoso

II. CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Ruiz moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Commissioner Druley seconded.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brook, Gomez, Druley, Brody, Gonzales, Feldman, Ruiz

No: None

Abstain: Brook (abstained for Minutes portion)

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None.

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Por favor haga arreglos anticipadamente por teléfono al número (831) 454-3800.

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Minutes

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- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Druley shared regarding inspection tools and inquiring regarding what other agencies are using for inspections and programs. Commissioner Brook shared that the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council will be meeting on April 14, 2025 at 11:30AM and the SB823 Subcommittee will be meeting on April 21, 2025 at 11:30AM (all information on Probation website). Commissioner Ruiz shared that CASA will be holding a family-friendly event to support the youth they serve at Elkhorn Slough on May 3, 2025 beginning at 10:00AM.
- V. ACTION ITEMS:
1. Election of officers: Commissioner Druley made a motion and Commissioner Gomez seconded for the new Officers to be as follows:
 - a. Chair- Elias Gonzales
 - b. Vice Chair- Julia Feldman
 - c. Secretary- Reyna Ruiz

Motion Passed

Yes: Brody, Brook, Druley, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Ruiz

No: None

Abstain: None

2. Establish Inspection Subcommittee: Commissioner Druley made a motion to select new subcommittee for inspections. Commissioners remain undecided on whether or not they will continue using the Annie E Casey Foundation tool. Create a subcommittee of five members which Druley will be Chair. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Ruiz.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brody, Brook, Druley, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Ruiz

No: None

Abstain: None

- VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:
1. By-Laws: Still under review with County Counsel.
 2. Data Feedback from Commissioners: It was decided to revisit this topic at a future meeting.
 3. Delinquency Programs: Juvenile Probation Division Director, Jose Flores, has been invited to present at the May 8, 2025 meeting regarding programs in place and data available.
- VII. SUB-COMMITTEES:
1. SB823: Staying up to date on what's going on paying attention to Legislature. Our County had the first Transfer Hearing in a long time recently. Encouraged the members to advocate and possibly consider writing a formal letter for their position.
 2. Data: No update at this time.

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VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION AGENDA

April 10, 2025
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Public Safety Center
171 Aptos Village Way
Aptos, CA

For questions regarding the meeting process, please contact Christine Bennett, staff for the JJDPC, at 831-454-3853 or PRB021@santacruzcounty.us

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:
- II. CONSENT AGENDA:
Approval of today's Agenda and Minutes from March 13, 2025
Monthly Statistical Information from Probation and Juvenile Hall (Accept & File)
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: Any member of the public will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes each to address the Commission on any item listed on today's Agenda and/or any other topic within the scope of the responsibility of the Commission. If the issue or matter is not listed on today's agenda, Commissioners will not take actions or respond immediately to any public comment, but may follow up later, either individually or at a subsequent meeting.
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Including items via email on file)
- V. ACTION ITEMS:
 1. Election of Officers
 2. Establish Inspection Subcommittee
- VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:
 1. By-Laws
 2. Data Feedback from Commissioners (see attached)
 3. Delinquency Programs
- VII. SUB-COMMITTEES:
 1. SB823
 2. Data
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, March 13, 2025
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Probation Training Room
303 Water St., 2nd Floor
Santa Cruz, CA

The purpose of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is to advocate for and protect the safety and well-being of dependency and juvenile justice-involved youth and to prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. As a Commission, we will educate and inform our community and system leaders on the importance of positive youth development and advocate for coordinated and well-resourced systems that promote family and youth success and prevent system involvement.

In furtherance of that purpose the Commission has adopted three goal areas to guide its work over the next 2 years (2024 – 2026):

1) Juvenile Hall Inspection; 2) Positive Youth Development through the 41 Developmental Assets; and 3) Convening Stakeholders.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Bernard Gomez, Cynthia Druley, David Brody, Deutron Kebebew, Elias Gonzales, Julia Feldman, Reyna Ruiz, Sierra Thompson

Excused: Beverly Brook, Forrest Revere, Mara Rodriguez

Ex Officio: Judge Jerry Vinluan, Jennifer Martinez

Staff: Christine Bennett

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None.

III. CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Kebebew moved to approve the Consent Agenda [Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2025, Approval of Monthly Statistical Information from Probation & Juvenile Hall (Attachments Accept & File)]; Commissioner Brody seconded.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brody, Druley, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Kebebew, Ruiz (abstained for Minutes portion), Thompson

No: None

Abstain: None

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IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Including items via email on file): OYCR Webinar on March 18 (see attached). Prom Dress and Suit Drive in April (see attached).

V. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Add Aptos Village Public Safety Center to meeting rotation. Commissioner Feldman moved to approve and Commissioner Thompson seconded. Commissioners agreed to add Aptos and to revisit the topic in April to fine-tune the rotation details, discuss time change(s), etc.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brody, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Ruiz, Thompson

No: Druley

Abstain: Kebebew

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Prevention: Next steps with developmental assets. Commissioner Kebebew shared the work in partnership of City of Watsonville and ABC Group recently surveyed approximately 300 youth to compile the responses which includes areas of gaps or need(s) that were shared. Hoping that the JJDPC will want to partner or co-sponsor future work and the roll-out of data.
2. Election of Officers in April. Vice Chair Gonzales reminded the Commissioners that they will be selecting new Officers at the April 10, 2025 meeting.
3. Passage of Ranch Camp proposal. Commissioner Gomez updated the group that the Board of Supervisors approved the implementation of a Ranch Camp at the same location as Juvenile Hall. Several Commissioners commented that there is a lot of opportunity for work to be done together by Probation, the Commission and other partner/community agencies and members of our County.
4. JJDPC Inspections (RC, JH, SYTF) involvement of all commissioners. Vice Chair Gonzales encouraged all Commissioners to participate. Commissioner Druley suggested options of actually performing the in-person inspections or perhaps in doing research to find an alternate inspection tool.

VII. SUB-COMMITTEES:

1. SB823 (ad hoc: January 2025 – June 2025): Brook, Gonzales, Ruiz. Commissioner Gonzales shared alternatives across the state with OYCR Representative and will forward that email to staff following the meeting.
2. Data (ad hoc): Kebebew, Revere, Gomez. Commissioner Kebebew requested that Commissioners send feedback on the data provided in the Monthly Statistics provided by Probation which indicates what they find helpful, what they feel is not necessary to be included, as well as any other topics they wish to receive data/information on at future meetings. Commissioners are to send this information to staff by March 27, 2025.

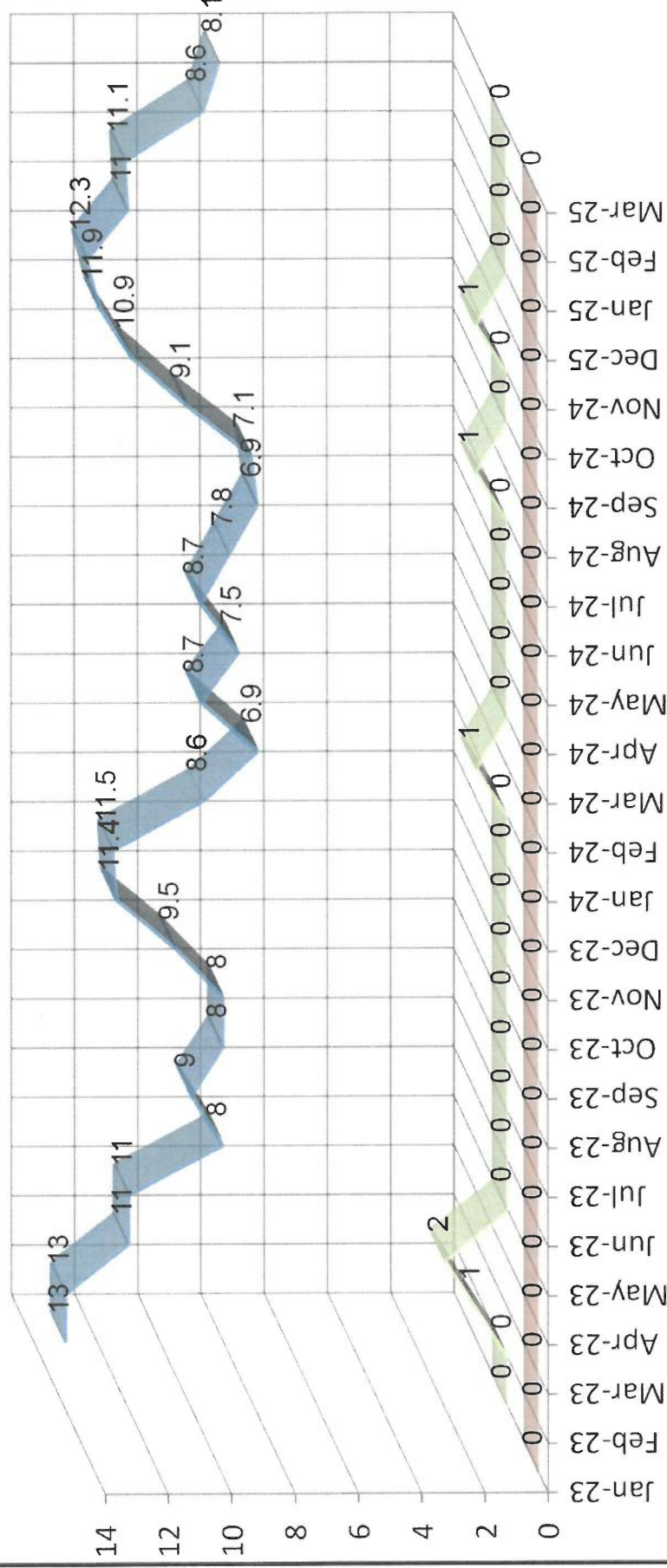
VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall Physical Altercations: Overview

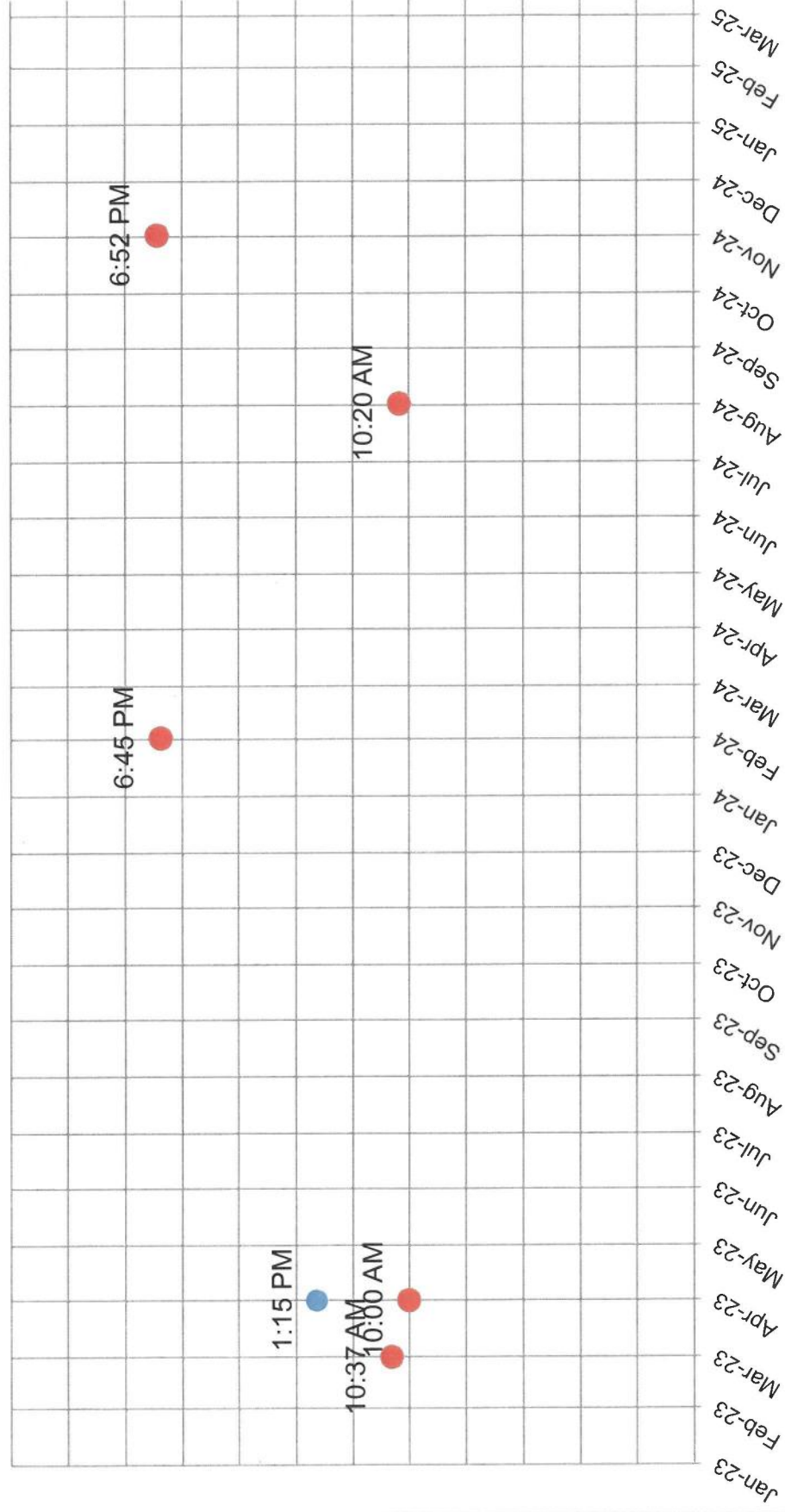
■ Serious Injury
■ # Altercations
■ ADP



January 2023 - March 2025

Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall Physical Altercations: Time of Day

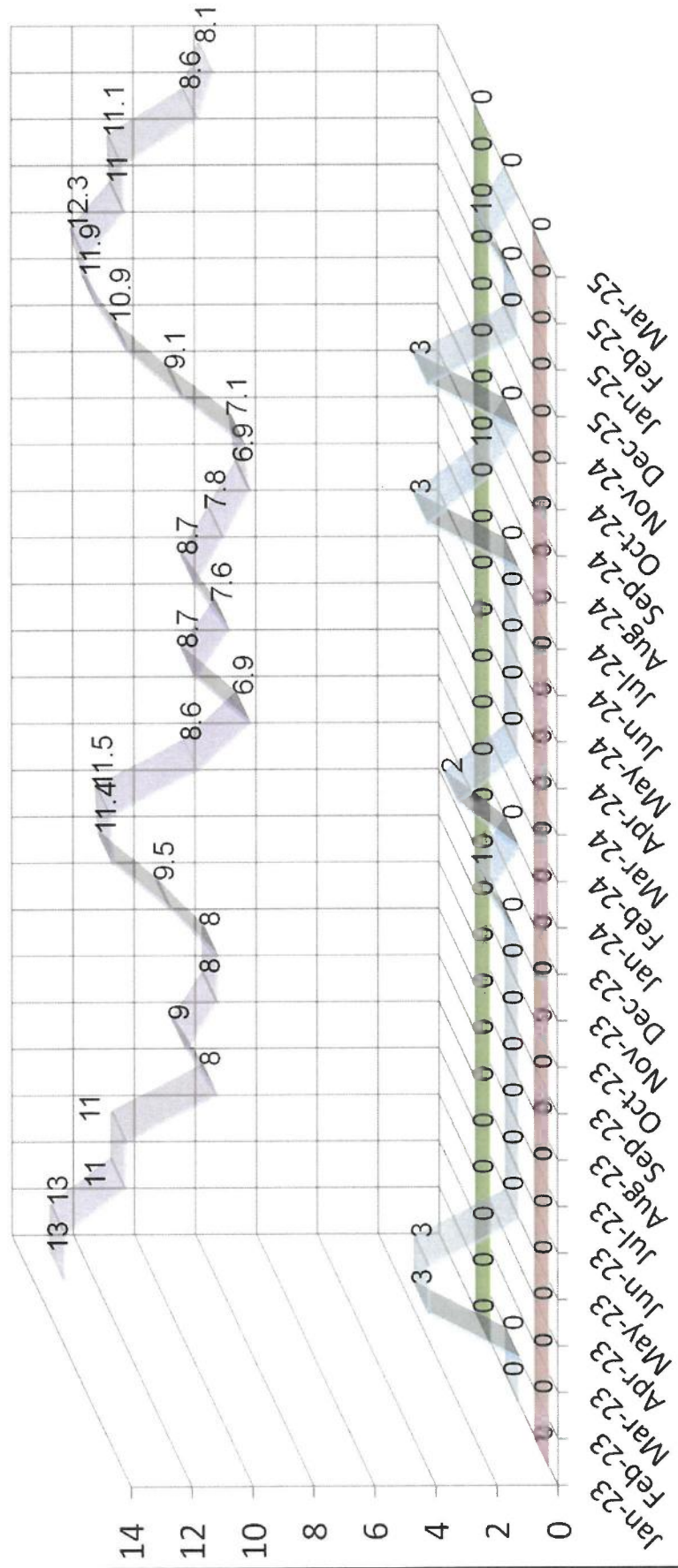
- Time of Altercation
- Time of 2nd Altercation
- Time of 3rd Altercation



January 2023 - March 2025

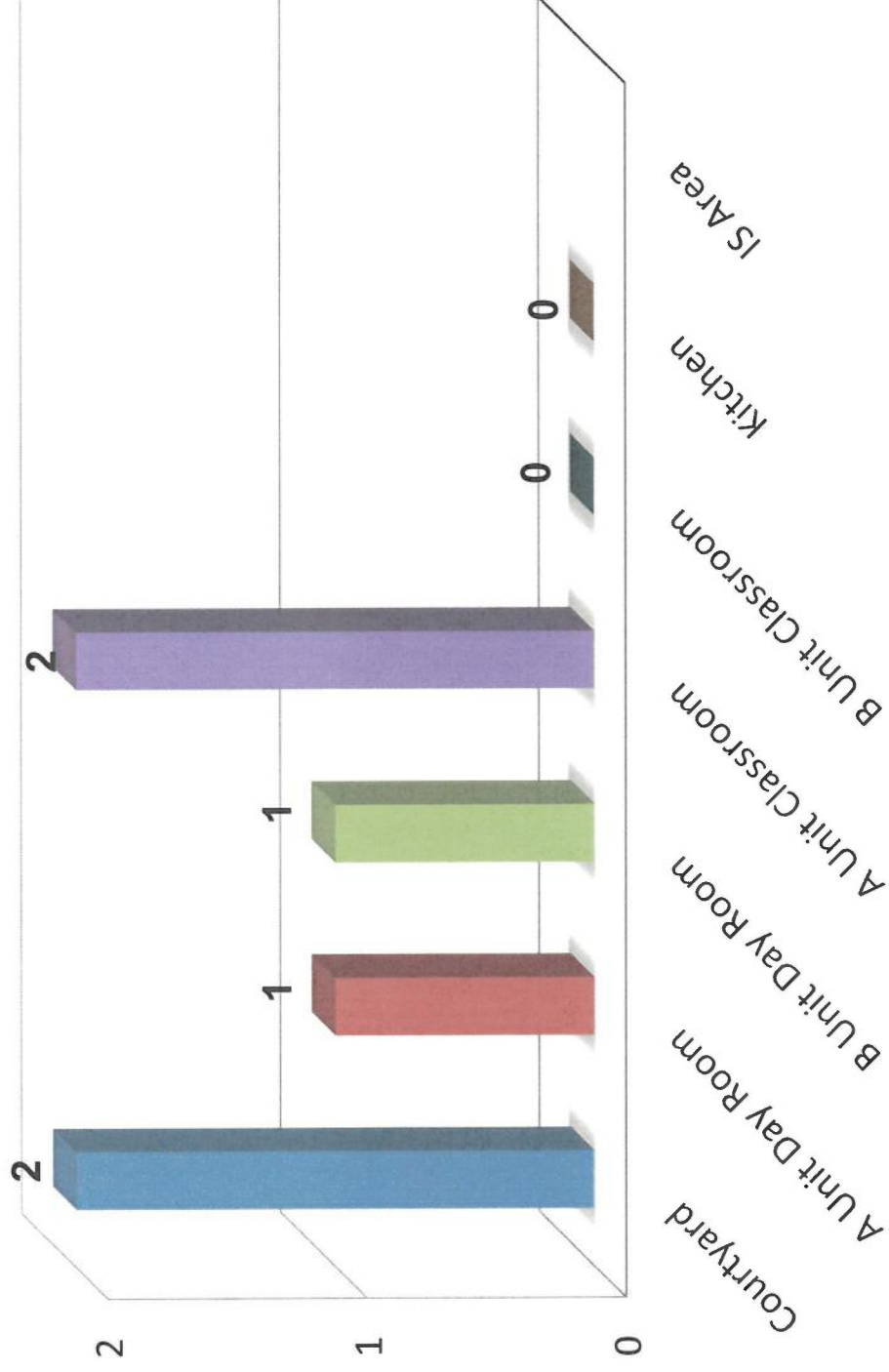
Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall

Use of Force: Overview



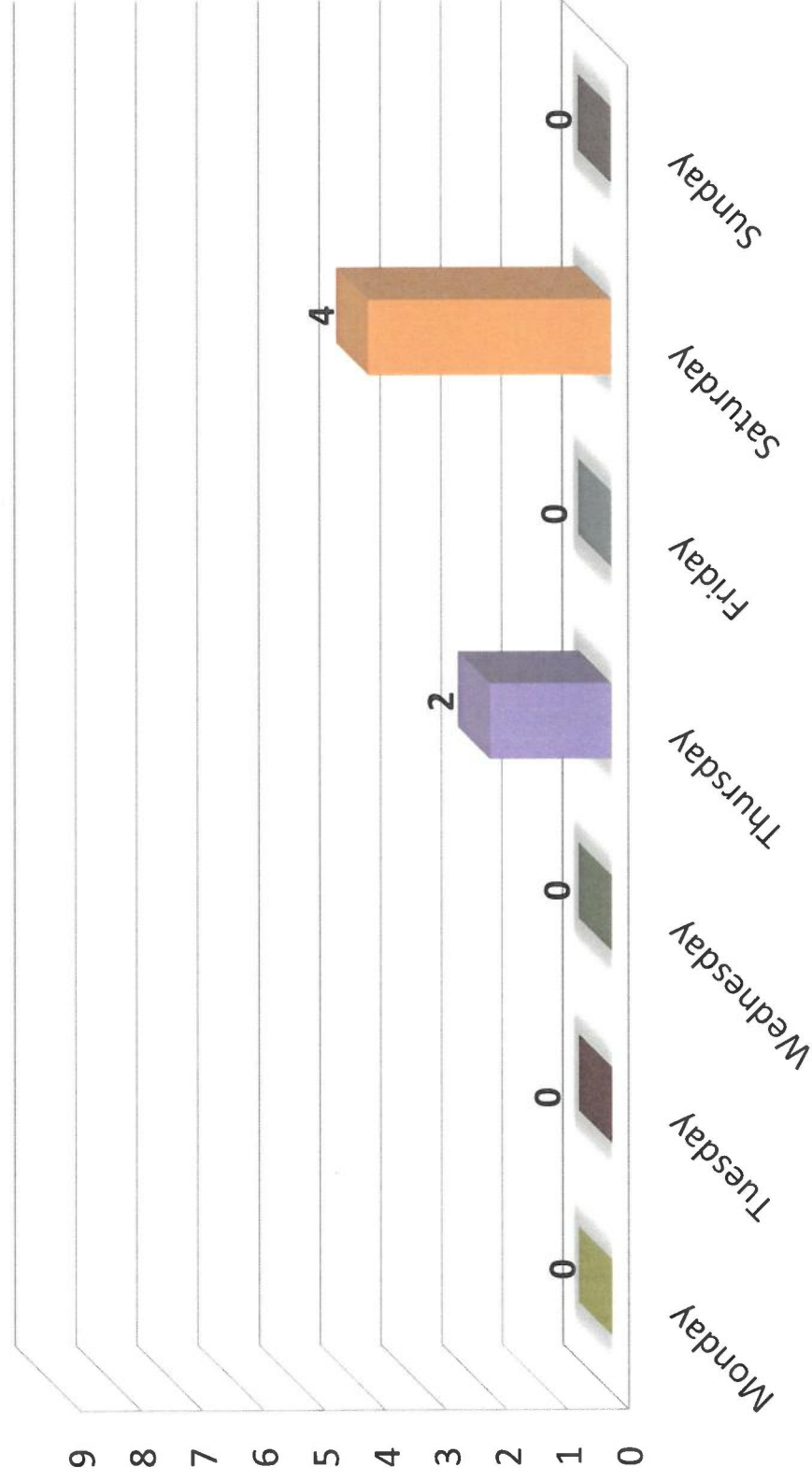
January 2023 - March 2025

**Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall
Physical Altercations: Location**



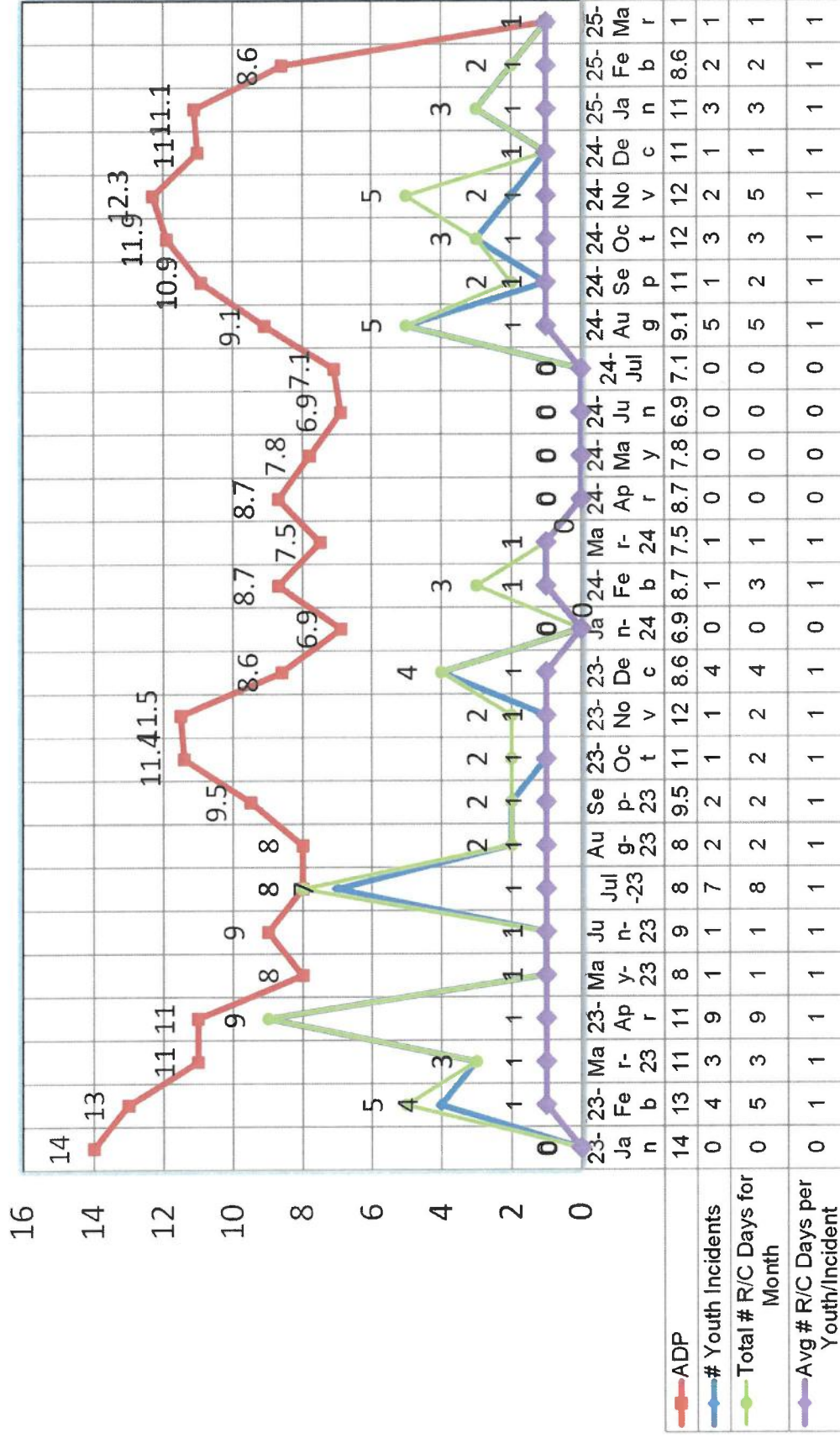
January 2023 - March 2025

Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall
Physical Altercations: Day of the Week



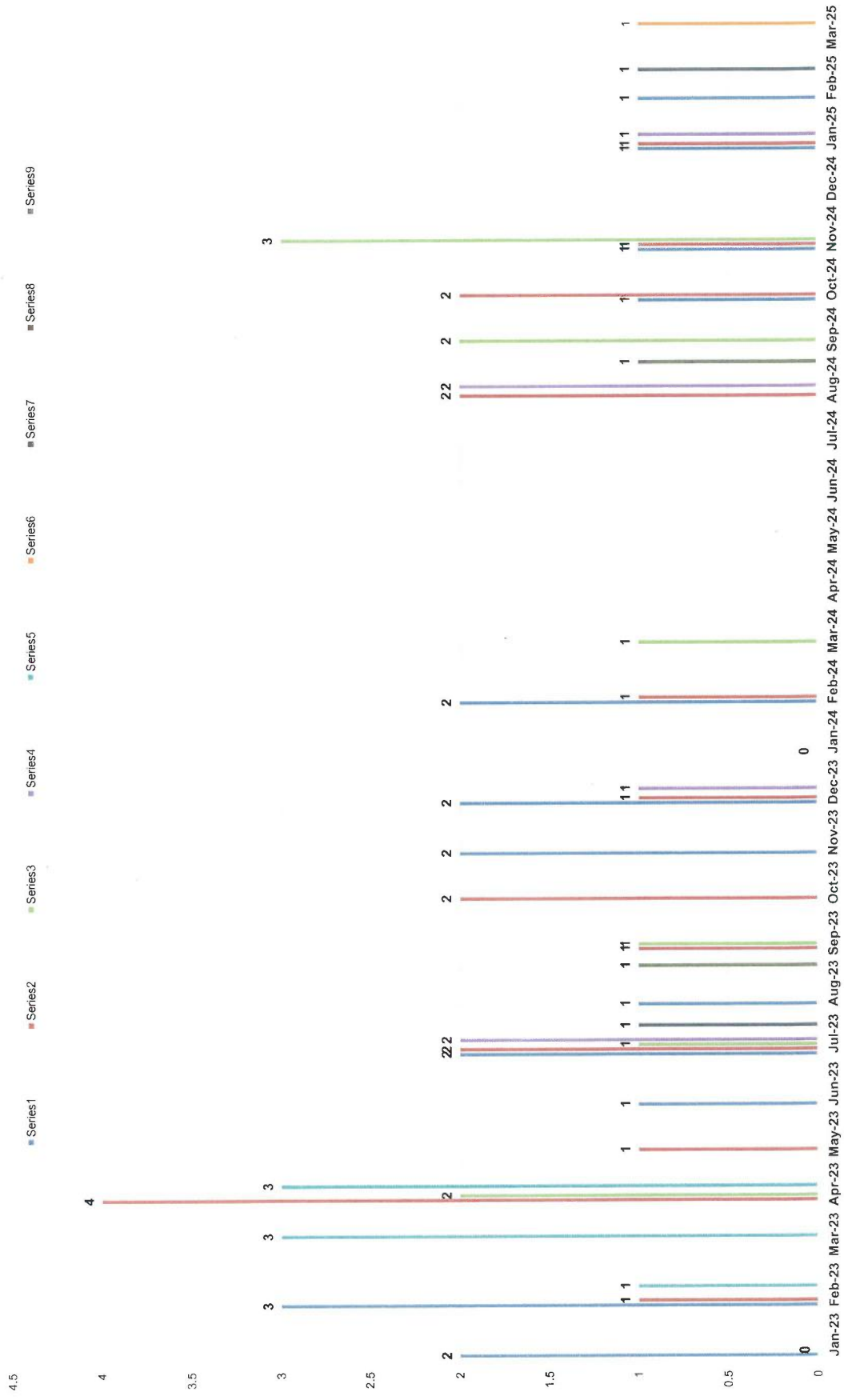
January 2023 - March 2025

16

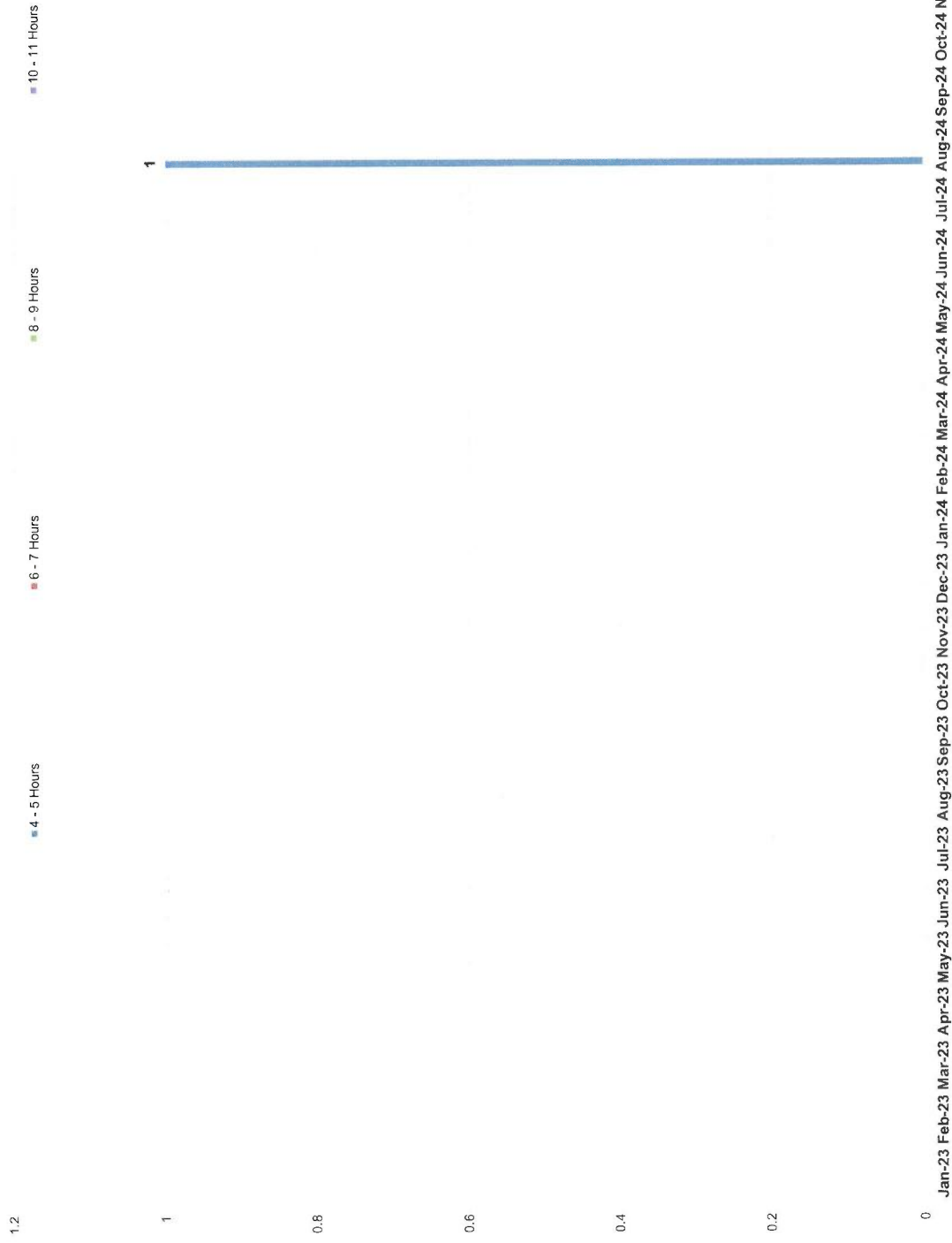


Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall
Room Confinement: Overview
January 2023 - March 2025

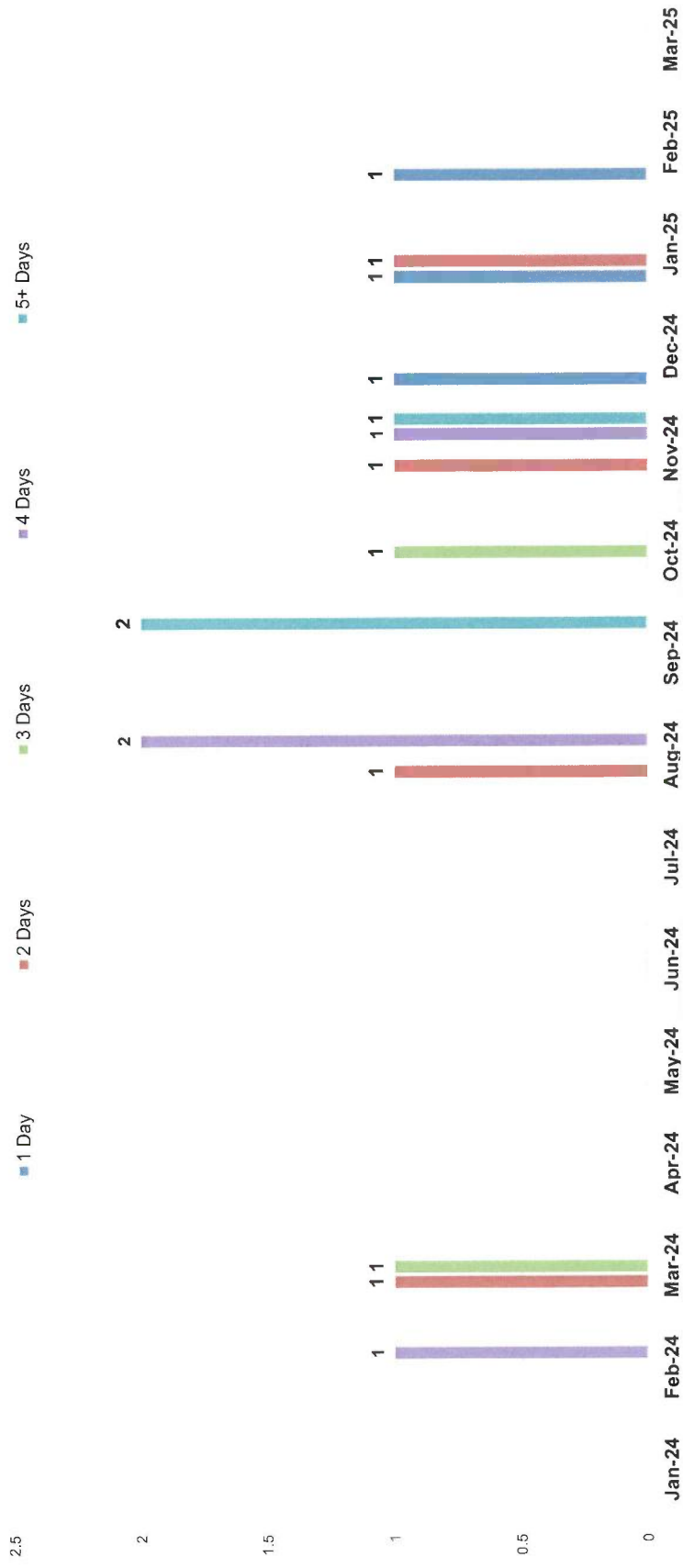
Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall Room Confinement by Minute January 2023 - March 2025



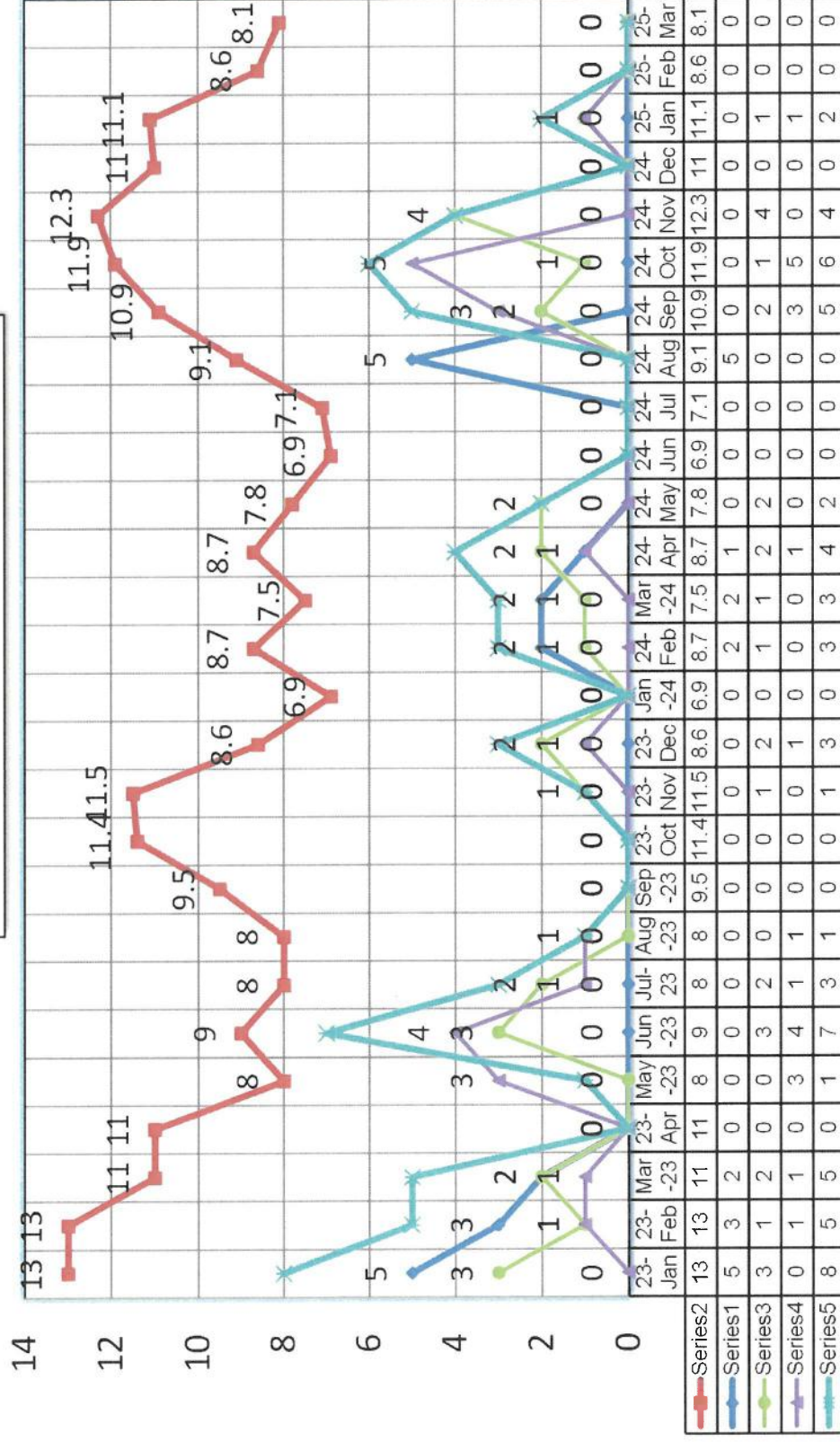
Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall Room Confinement Over 4 Hours January 2023 - March 2025



Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall Separate Program by Days January 2024 - March 2025



Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall Grievances: Overview



January 2023 - March 2025

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY JUVENILE HALL

STATISTICS FOR PERIOD: March 2025

JUVENILE HALL POPULATION INFORMATION	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
6 am count (average) ¹	7.8	0.3	8.1
Population in-custody at start of time period	8	1	9
Admitted during time period	13	2	15
Released during time period	13	2	15
Population in-custody at end of time period ¹	7	1	8
Average daily attendance	7.7	0.4	8.1
Average length of stay	74.8	7.0	65.8
Average length of stay without STYF youth	4.1	7.0	4.5
Length of Stay MODE	1.0	n/a	1.0
Range of stay	1 - 1433	1 - 8	1 - 1433
Range of age	15 - 20	12 - 16	12 - 20
Number of "in-county" residents received	6	1	7
Number of "out-of-county" residents received	7	1	8
Percentage from out-of-county	53.8%	50.0%	53.3%
Total child care days	252	13	265
Total court commitments admitted	0	0	0
Total court commitments released	0	0	0
Total child care days for released court commit	0	0	0
Total intake to date (current year): March 2025	37	11	48
Total intake to date (prior year): March 2024	29	15	44

ETHNICITY - Overall Juv. Hall Population	POP. #	POP. %	AVG RAI ²	AVG LOS ³
Caucasian	5	21.7%	9.2	9.0
Latino	18	78.3%	8.1	73.9
African American	0	0.0%	-	-
Asian	0	0.0%	-	-
Other	0	0.0%	-	-
<i>total</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>100.0%</i>		

(1 STYF youth released)

					OVERALL JH POP
ETHNICITY - Intakes only	TOTAL DAYS for released intakes	INTAKES (number)	INTAKES (percent)	INTAKES AVG RAI ²	AVG LENGTH OF STAY
Latino girls	1	1	6.7%	5.0	1.0
Latino boys	31	12	80.0%	6.5	80.0
Anglo girls	8	1	6.7%	14.0	7.0
Anglo boys	13	1	6.7%	3.0	13.0
African Am. girls	-	0	0.0%	-	-
African Am. boys	-	0	0.0%	-	-
Asian girls	-	0	0.0%	-	-
Asian boys	-	0	0.0%	-	-
Other	-	0	0.0%	-	-
<i>total</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>100.0%</i>		

¹ 6 am count on last day of month.

² Risk Assessment Instrument Score

³ Length of Stay for youth released

March 2025 Snapshot

There were two firearm related bookings in March: a 16-year-old Latinx boy from Watsonville and an 18-year-old boy from Freedom.

Youth on Probation by area of residence:

4	Aptos Total
5	Ben Lomond Total
1	Boulder Creek Total
2	Capitola Total
1	Castroville Total
1	England Total
1	Felton Total
1	Freedom Total
1	Fresno Total
1	Loomis Total
1	Marina Total
1	Mariposa Total
1	Redwood City Total
24	Santa Cruz Total
5	Scotts Valley Total
1	Spanawau, WA Total
1	Springville, UT Total
1	Stockton Total
40	Watsonville Total
93	Grand Total

Senate Bill 824 (Menjivar) The Supporting Healthy Individually Focused Transition (SHIFT) Act

Darya Larizadeh, Director, California Youth Justice Policy and Capacity Building
March 10th, 2025



Context

Vision of SB 823 is not being implemented consistently across counties

SB 823 (e)

It is the intent of the Legislature and the administration for counties to **use evidence-based and promising practices and programs** that improve the outcomes of youth and public safety, **reduce the transfer** of youth into the adult criminal justice system, ensure that dispositions are in the **least restrictive appropriate environment**, **reduce and then eliminate racial and ethnic disparities**, and **reduce the use of confinement** in the juvenile justice system by utilizing **community-based responses and interventions.**

Context

Vision of SB 92 is not being implemented consistently across counties

WIC 875(d)(2)

An individual rehabilitation plan shall do all of the following:

- (A) **Identify the ward's needs in relation to treatment, education, and development**, including any special needs the ward may have in relation to health, mental or emotional health, disabilities, or gender-related or other special needs.
- (B) **Describe the programming, treatment, and education to be provided to the ward in relation to the identified needs** during the commitment period.
- (C) Reflect, and be consistent with, the principles of **trauma-informed, evidence-based, and culturally responsive care**.

Problems that SB 824 Seeks to Address

- Scarcity of effective evidence-based programs in SYTFs
- IRPs not tailored to the needs of youth
- Failure to deliver services to youth in SYTF's, even when court ordered in the IRP
- Under-utilization of LRPs and furloughs
- Barriers to CBOs providing services and supports
- Inadequate 6-month review hearings
- Risk of increased transfer to adult court

What SB 824 Will Do

Individual Rehabilitation Plans (IRPs)

SB 824 seeks to address gaps in the law and addresses how courts and other stakeholders can effectively plan for and support a young person's successful return to the community.

Strengthen IRPs

- Requires the IRP to include a detailed roadmap for the youth's successful return to the community over the course of the commitment
 - Timeline, LRPs available, furloughs, specific programs supports
- Clarifies that youth are entitled to a hearing on the proposed IRP before it is adopted and to receive a copy of the proposed IRP with adequate time for review before the hearing
- Clarifies a judge's authority to make individualized orders at the outset and throughout the commitment to ensure each youth receives truly individualized services and resources

What SB 824 Will Do

Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs)

Promote LRPs

- Creates a new requirement at six-month review hearings that judges review progress towards transferring a youth from an SYTF to an LRP and assess the adequacy of opportunities for progress being provided to the youth.
- Prioritizes transfer to an LRP over confinement in an SYTF when it is shown that the LRP would better fulfill a youth's individual rehabilitative goals
- Requires judges to make LRP findings on the record to ensure LRP decisions are not arbitrary, and that youth understand the reasons for these decisions

SB 824 Co-Sponsors

- Alliance for Boys & Men of Color
- California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice
- Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice
- Fresh Lifelines for Youth
- Haywood Burns Institute
- National Center for Youth Law
- Pacific Juvenile Defender Center

The logo consists of two white curved lines forming a partial circle, one above and one below the text.

National Center for Youth Law

youthlaw.org

1212 Broadway, Suite 600 / Oakland, CA 94612

tel: (510) 835-8098

email: info@youthlaw.org

Senate Bill 824

The Supporting Healthy, Individually Focused Transition (SHIFT) Act Senator Caroline Menjivar (D – San Fernando Valley)

SUMMARY

SB 824 will ensure that the youth justice system prioritizes rehabilitation and the services, programs, and placements young people need to successfully return to the community. Addressing gaps in existing law, SB 824 delineates how courts and other stakeholders can effectively plan for and support a young person's rehabilitative progress and reintegration, with the ultimate goals of reducing recidivism and helping youth maintain progress and flourish when they return home.

BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 823 (Budget - Chapter 337, Statutes of 2020) directed the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and set in motion transformative changes to youth justice in California. SB 823 envisioned a youth justice system that would "meet the needs of youth by providing and implementing public health approaches to support positive youth development, building the capacity of a continuum of community based approaches, and reducing crime by youth."¹

With the closure of DJJ, the legislature established a new pathway for incarcerating youth in local secure youth treatment facilities (SYTFs), which are operated, utilized or accessed by counties. Both SB 823 and SB 92 (Budget - Chapter 18, Statutes of 2021) focus on ways to ensure rehabilitation and successful community reintegration, including an Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) that is expected to outline a youth's needs and how the system will meet those needs. In addition, if a judge determines a youth is ready, they may transfer the youth to a Less Restrictive Program (LRP) for the youth to serve the remainder of their commitment time.

PROBLEM

The legislature's vision is being implemented inconsistently across jurisdictions. Some of the most persistent challenges to effective implementation include:

- ✓ Scarcity of effective, evidence-based programming in SYTFs;
- ✓ IRPs not tailored to the needs of the youth;

- ✓ Failure to deliver services to youth in SYTFs, even when court-ordered in the IRP;
- ✓ Under-utilization of LRPs and furloughs;
- ✓ Barriers to community-based organizations providing services and supports;
- ✓ Inadequate use of six-month review hearings; and
- ✓ Risk of increased transfer of youth to adult criminal court.

SOLUTION

SB 824 ensures that youth who are committed to an SYTF will be ready to successfully return to their community by:

- (1) **Strengthening IRPs:**
 - ✓ Requiring the IRP to include a detailed roadmap for the youth's successful return to the community over the course of their commitment;
 - ✓ Clarifying that youth are entitled to a hearing on the proposed IRP before it is adopted and to receive a copy of the proposed IRP with adequate time for review before the hearing; and
 - ✓ Clarifying a judge's authority to make individualized orders at the outset and throughout the commitment to ensure each youth receives truly individualized services and resources.
- (2) **Promoting LRPs:**
 - ✓ Creating a new requirement at six-month review hearings that judges review progress towards transferring a youth from an SYTF to an LRP and assess the adequacy of opportunities for progress being provided to the youth;
 - ✓ Prioritizing transfer to an LRP over confinement in an SYTF when it is shown that the LRP would better fulfill a youth's individual rehabilitative goals; and
 - ✓ Requiring judges to make LRP findings on the record to ensure that LRP decisions are not arbitrary and that youth understand the reasons for these decisions.

STATUS

Introduced – February 21, 2025

SUPPORT

Alliance for Boys & Men of Color (Co-Sponsor)

¹ [1] Senate Bill 823 (2019-2020), Chapter 337 (Cal. Stat. 2020), Section 1(c).

California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice (Co-Sponsor)
Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice (Co-Sponsor)
Fresh Lifelines for Youth (Co-Sponsor)
Haywood Burns Institute (Co-Sponsor)
National Center for Youth Law (Co-Sponsor)
Pacific Juvenile Defender Center (Co-Sponsor)

CONTACT

Jessica Golly
Office of Senator Caroline Menjivar
(916) 651-4020

