

Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board

Board Meeting

December 17, 2021
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of September Meeting Minutes
3. OCA Updates
4. 2021 Data Availability Report
5. FY21 Data Review
6. Subcommittee Report Outs
7. Board Member Updates

Updates

- Welcome to New JJPAD Board Members
 - Dulcineia Goncalves, YAD/CPCS
- Goodbye to Departing Board Members:
 - Tammy Mello (Children's League)
 - Commissioner Peter Forbes (DYS)
 - Josh Dohan (CPCS)

Updates

Diversion Learning Lab

- Officially launched three sites in October 2021
 - Lawrence (Essex County)
 - Lowell (Middlesex County)
 - Southern Worcester County
- Oct-Nov: Hiring up & training
 - Assessment & case planning
 - Data
 - Racial Equity
 - Victim Services
- Dec: Outreach to referrers & opening for referrals

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A Racial Equity lens directs, imbues, and enhances all goals



1

All agencies and organizations that interact with children will benefit from an assessment and coaching process to become more trauma informed and responsive.



2

Professional Learning Communities will provide and enhance trauma informed and responsive skills and tools.



3

All child-serving professionals have access to best practice trauma and healing/prevention resources and information.



Goals are driven and refined by stakeholder engagement and feedback

- Initial Projects:
 - K-12 Schools
 - Family Resource Centers
 - Worcester-area CBOs (focus on racial trauma & resilience)
 - Online racial trauma/racial equity training series for education professionals
- In the works:
 - Congregate Care programs (w/ DCF/EEC)
 - DTA
 - Family Shelter Providers (DHCD)
 - Lots of other preliminary conversations for projects to start in late FY22 or FY23, depending on funding

Updates

- FY21 Annual Report Timeline
 - Still awaiting some data
 - Will set timeline for review and approval once data is in

2021 Data Availability Report

Data Availability Report

Progress since the 2019 Recommendations:

1. Increased availability of data
2. Increased coordination of data collection
3. Development of the Juvenile Justice System Data Website

2021 Findings:

1. Massachusetts has dedicated significant resources to increasing data availability over the past three years
2. Critical data about decision-making in the juvenile justice process remains unavailable to the JJPAD Board

Unavailable Data Points

Red- No publicly reported data

Yellow- Partially available

Green- Publicly available

School-based arrests and law enforcement referrals

Police use of diversion

Custodial arrests

Overnight arrest admissions

Applications for complaint

Complaints by initiation type (summons, arrests)

Clerk decision re: filing a complaint

Delinquency filings

DA use of diversion/nolle prosequi

Arraignments

58A Hearings

Pretrial decisions re: detention, bail, conditions, revocation, competency hearings, 72A hearings

Pretrial detention admissions

Pretrial supervision cases

Judicial diversion

Plea offers

Adjudication

Disposition

Post-disposition probation cases

Probation violation notices

Commitment to DYS

YES transitions

Data on youth arraigned in adult/Trial Courts (e.g. youth charged with homicide)

Crossover youth/multisystem youth

Recidivism

Long-term/life outcomes

Data Availability Report

2021 Findings (cont'd):

3. **Barriers to matching data across process points** makes it difficult-to-impossible for the Board to accurately assess the impact of some policy and practice changes
4. **Barriers to accessing data with greater levels of detail** negatively impacts the Board's ability to conduct deeper analysis and make focused policy recommendations
5. There is **limited ability to report data on youth involved in multiple state systems**
6. There is **limited ability to report data on youth life outcomes over time**

Data Availability Report

2021 Recommendations:

1. The JJPAD Board should **study the feasibility of creating an Administrative Data Center** to serve as Massachusetts' central coordinator of record-level state data for child-serving entities
2. The Legislature should consider policy changes to improve data availability in the short term
3. Data holders and the OCA should collaborate to identify opportunities to expand the detail of available data
4. Massachusetts should explore opportunities and partner with research institutions to conduct studies on long-term outcomes for youth who have contact with the juvenile justice system

Data Availability Report

Edits received since distribution

| Pg. #s | Edit made | By whom |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
| Throughout | Change “missing data” to “unavailable data” throughout (16 times) | Trial Court |
| Pg. 10 | <p>Change "This newly public data shines a light on how frequently CWOs are used in the juvenile court process and suggests that further inquiry into the various reasons CWOs are used and their ultimate impact on youth outcomes would be valuable."</p> <p>to</p> <p>"This newly public data shines a light on how frequently CWOs are used in the juvenile court process and suggests that further inquiry into the use of CWOs various reasons CWOs are used and their ultimate impact on youth outcomes would be valuable."</p> | Trial Court |
| Pg 41 | <p>Recommendation #2: The Legislature Should Consider Policy Changes to Improve Data Availability in the Short Term</p> <p>There are immediate mechanisms available to the Legislature to increase the reporting of missing data elements. Many of the data collection and reporting challenges documented in this report have been concerns for many years. To prevent further delay, the Legislature should actively facilitate the production of data that is still unavailable through statutory requirements and/or funding provisions.</p> | CfJJ |
| Pg. 42-44 | <p>Change “The Legislature could allocate funding to the Trial Court/Probation to make modifications to the Trial Court’s case tracking system to collect this data electronically in a structured format that can be compiled for statistical purposes”</p> <p>to</p> <p>“The Legislature could allocate funding to the Trial Court/Probation to make modifications to the Trial Court’s case tracking system to collect this data electronically in a structured format that can be compiled for statistical purposes, require the collection of this data as proposed in An Act improving juvenile justice data collection (H.1795/ S.1558), and require as a condition of funding its prompt, annual production to the Office of the Child Advocate.”</p> | CfJJ |

FY 21 Data Review

FY21 admissions are down (compared to FY20) across all process points for which we have data...

Custodial arrests decreased 15%

Court summons decreased 23%

Overnight arrest admissions decreased 28%

Applications for complaint decreased 23%

Delinquency filings decreased 20%

Arraignments

Pretrial supervision caseloads decreased 4% (June caseload)

Pretrial detention admissions decreased 28%

Adjudications decreased 18%, but rate of *delinquent* adjudications remained consistent (11% of cases)

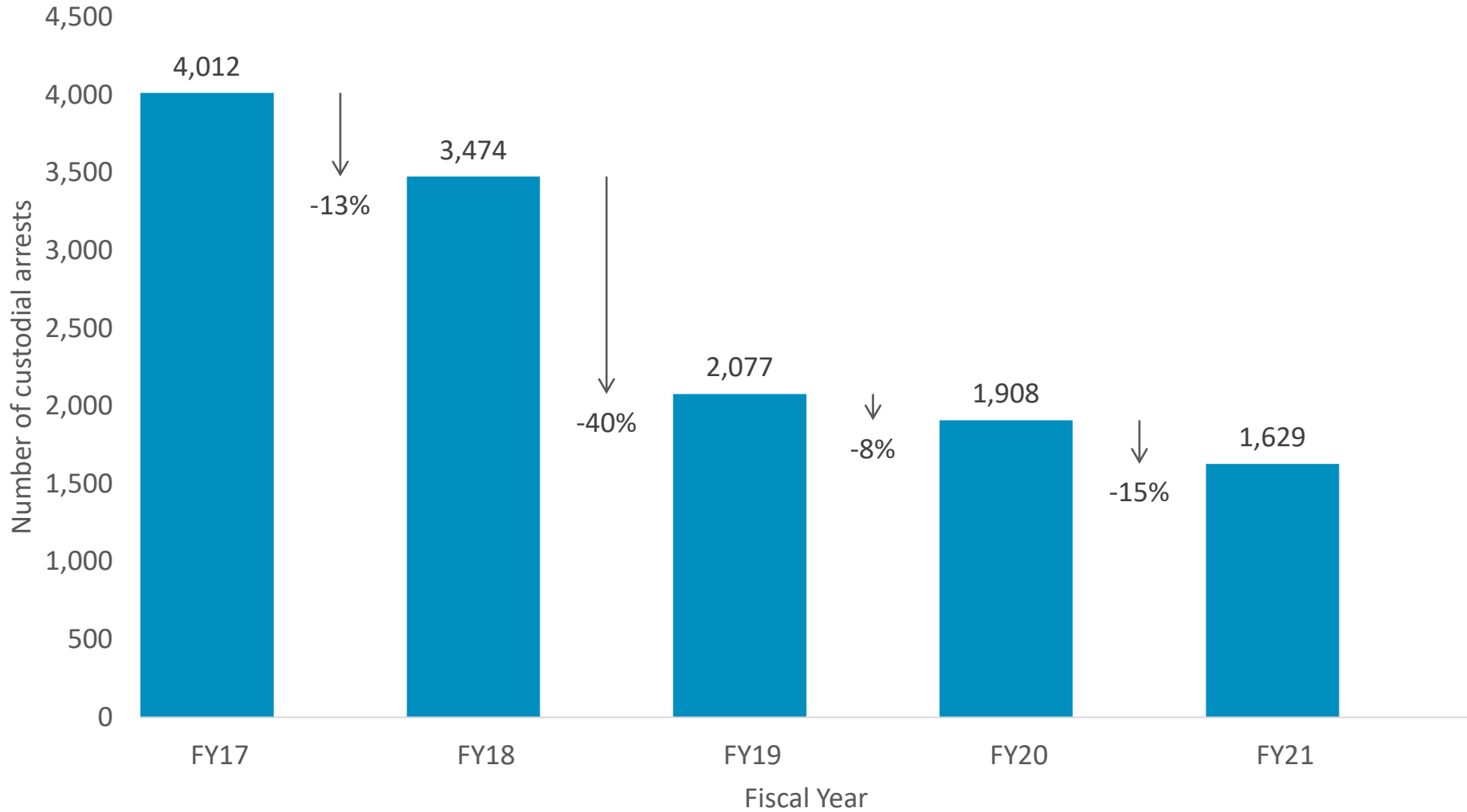
Post-disposition probation caseloads decreased 16% (June caseload)

First- time commitments to DYS decreased 40%

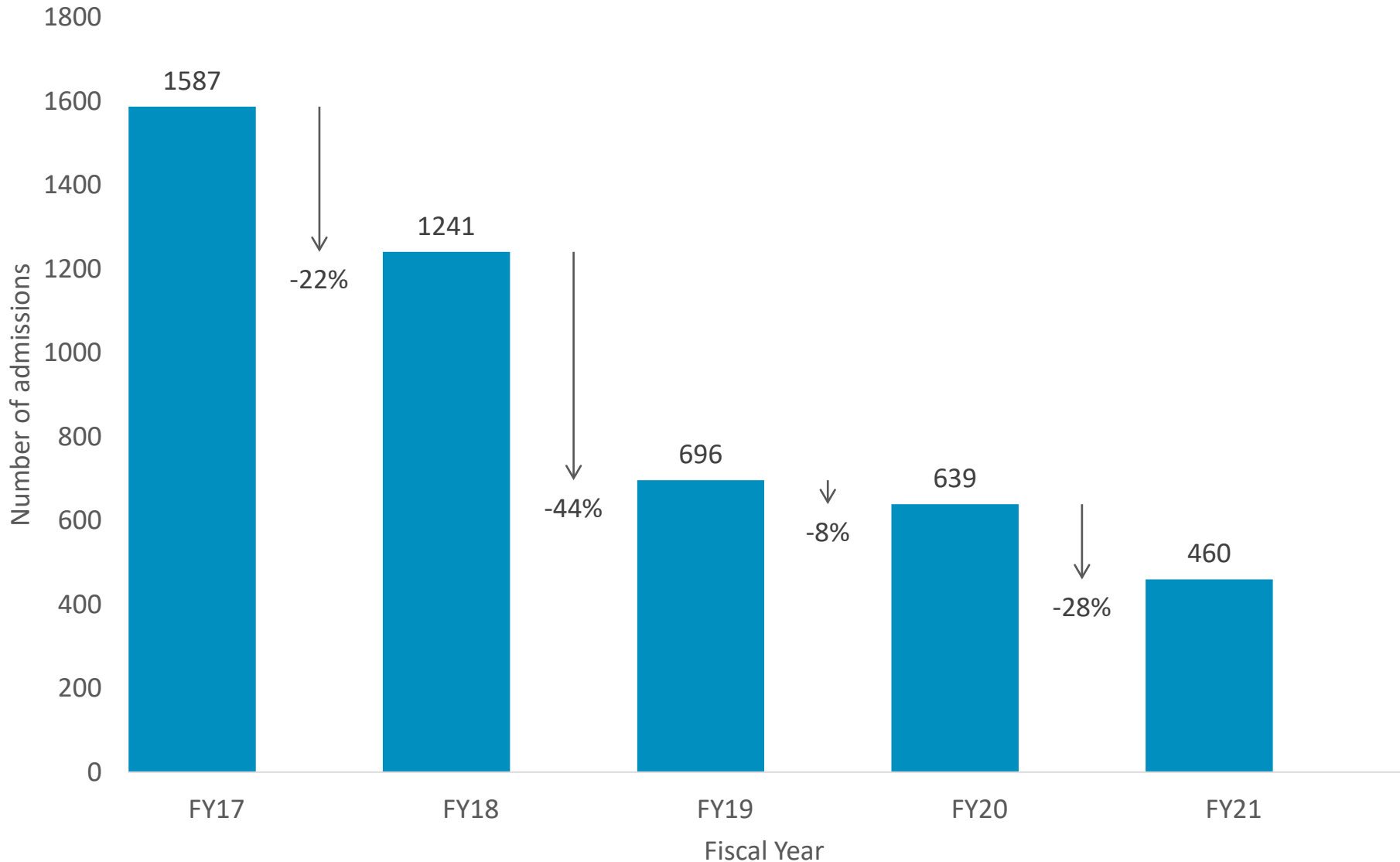
Preliminary Takeaways

- **...largely driven by a decline of youth with low-level offenses**
 - ONA admissions for **low grid levels** decreased the most (35%) and decreased or remained relatively stable **across most offense types**
 - Detention admissions for **low grid levels** decreased 25% and decreased **across most offense types**
 - First-time commitments for **low grid levels** decreased the most (56%) and decreased or remained relatively stable **across most offense types**
- **Utilization of other systems is also down**
 - CRAs have decreased 19%, but Truancy petitions have seen a slight increase as youth return to school in person
 - Referrals to Juvenile Court Clinics decreased by 23%
 - BSAS admissions decreased 22% and there were fewer referrals from the juvenile justice system compared to previous years
 - Applications for DMH services decreased by 11%

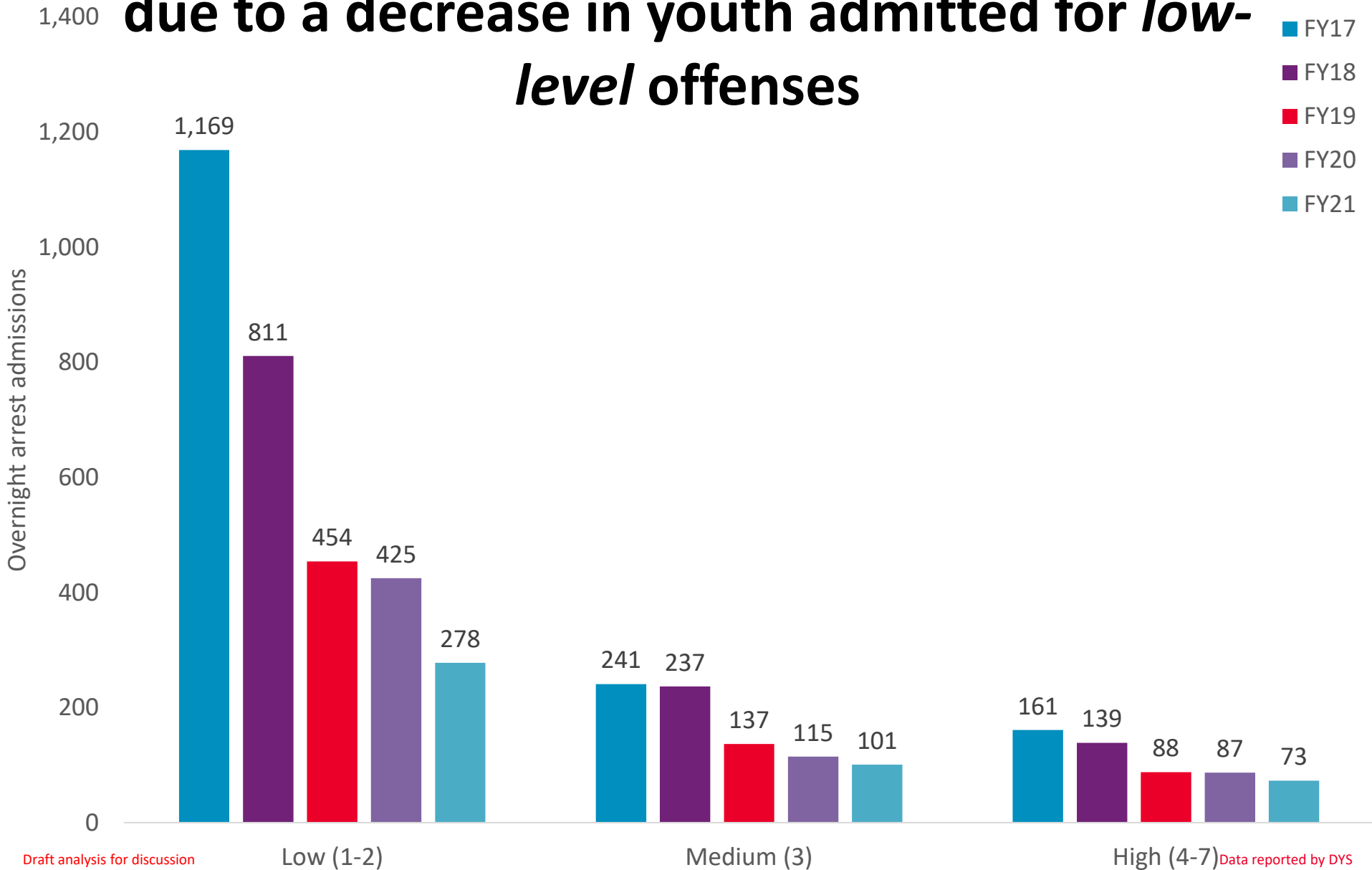
Custodial arrests decreased 15%



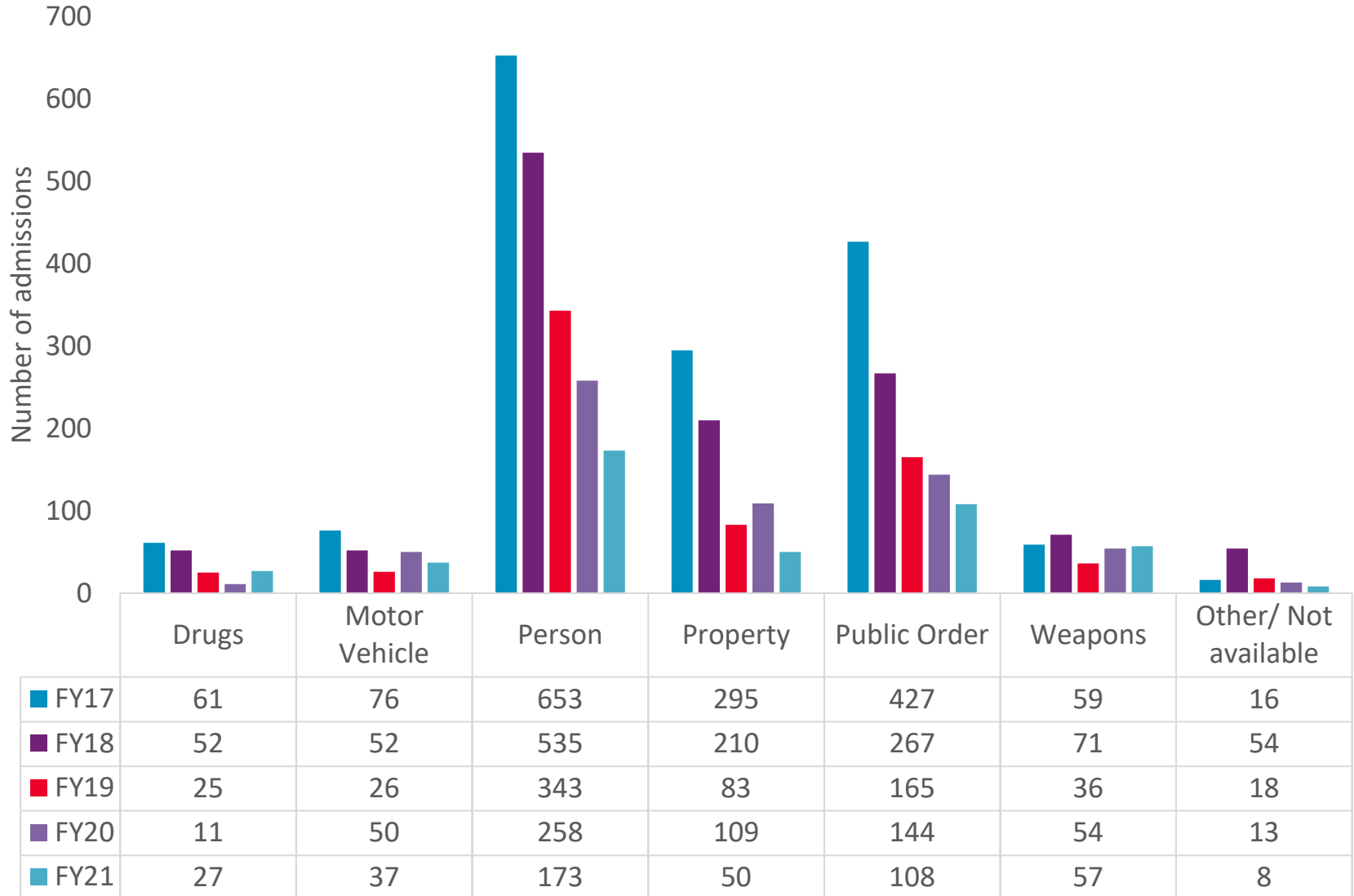
Overnight Arrest (ONA) admissions decreased 28%



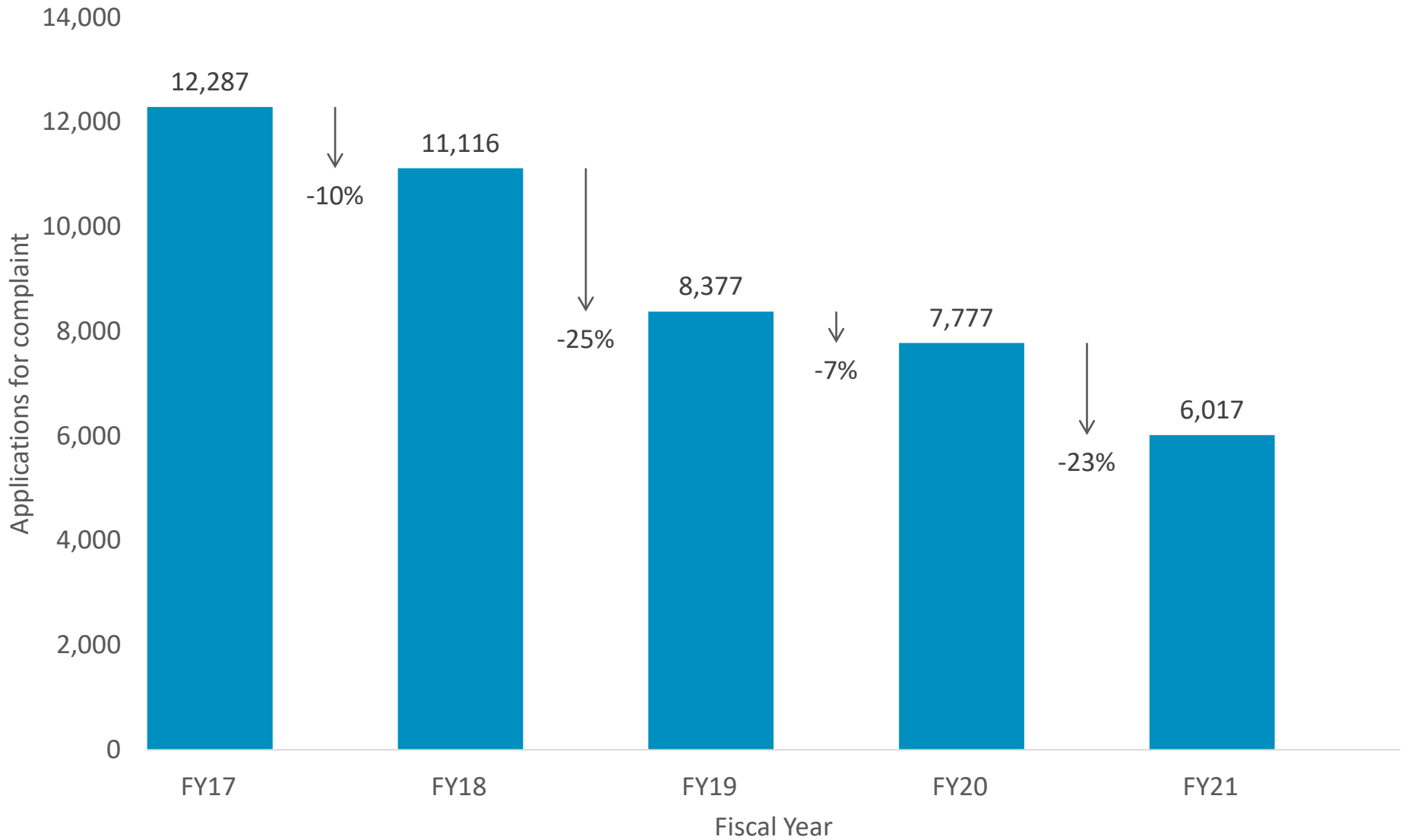
The decrease in ONA admissions was largely due to a decrease in youth admitted for *low-level* offenses



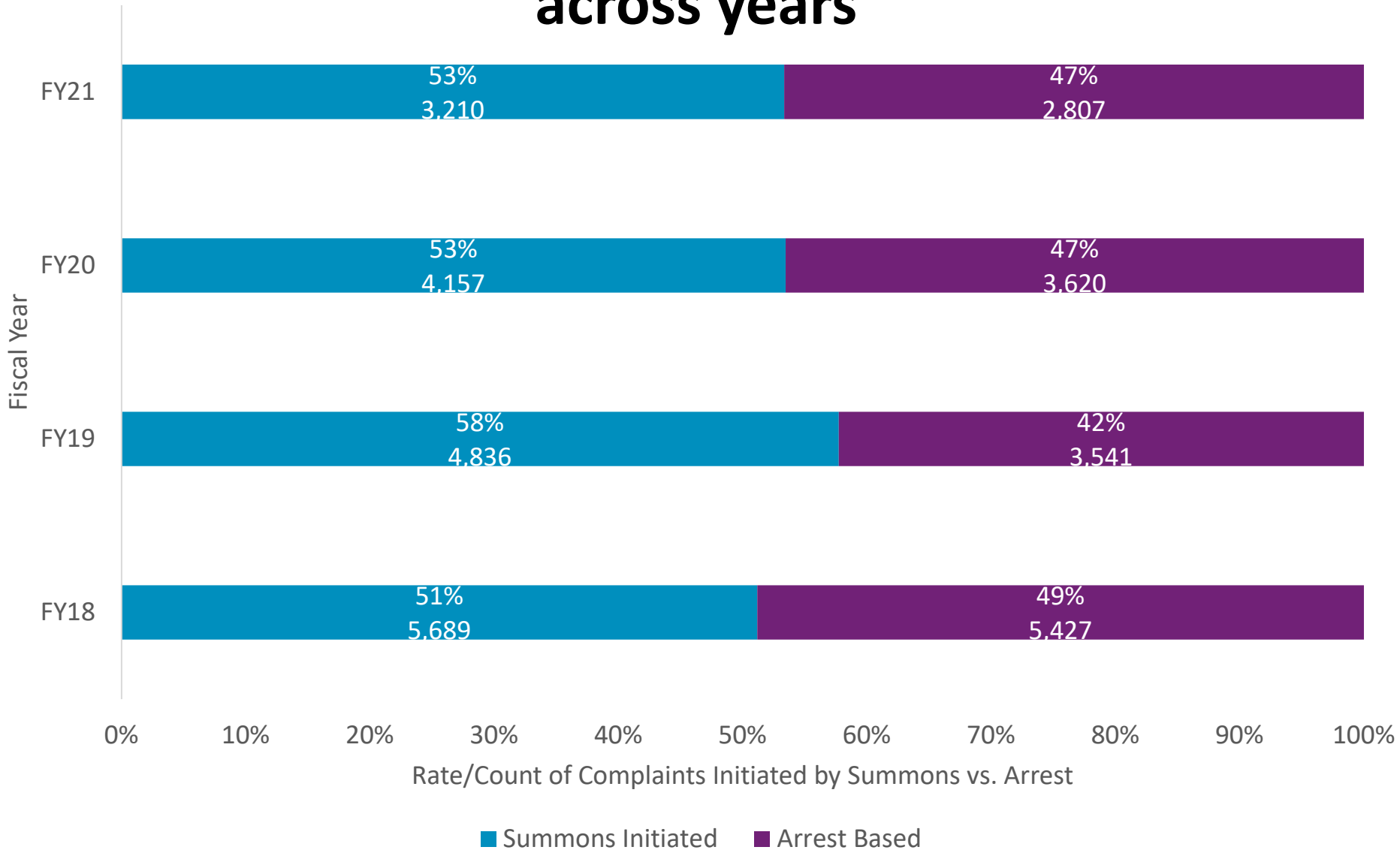
ONA admissions decreased across all admissions types except *drugs* and *weapons*



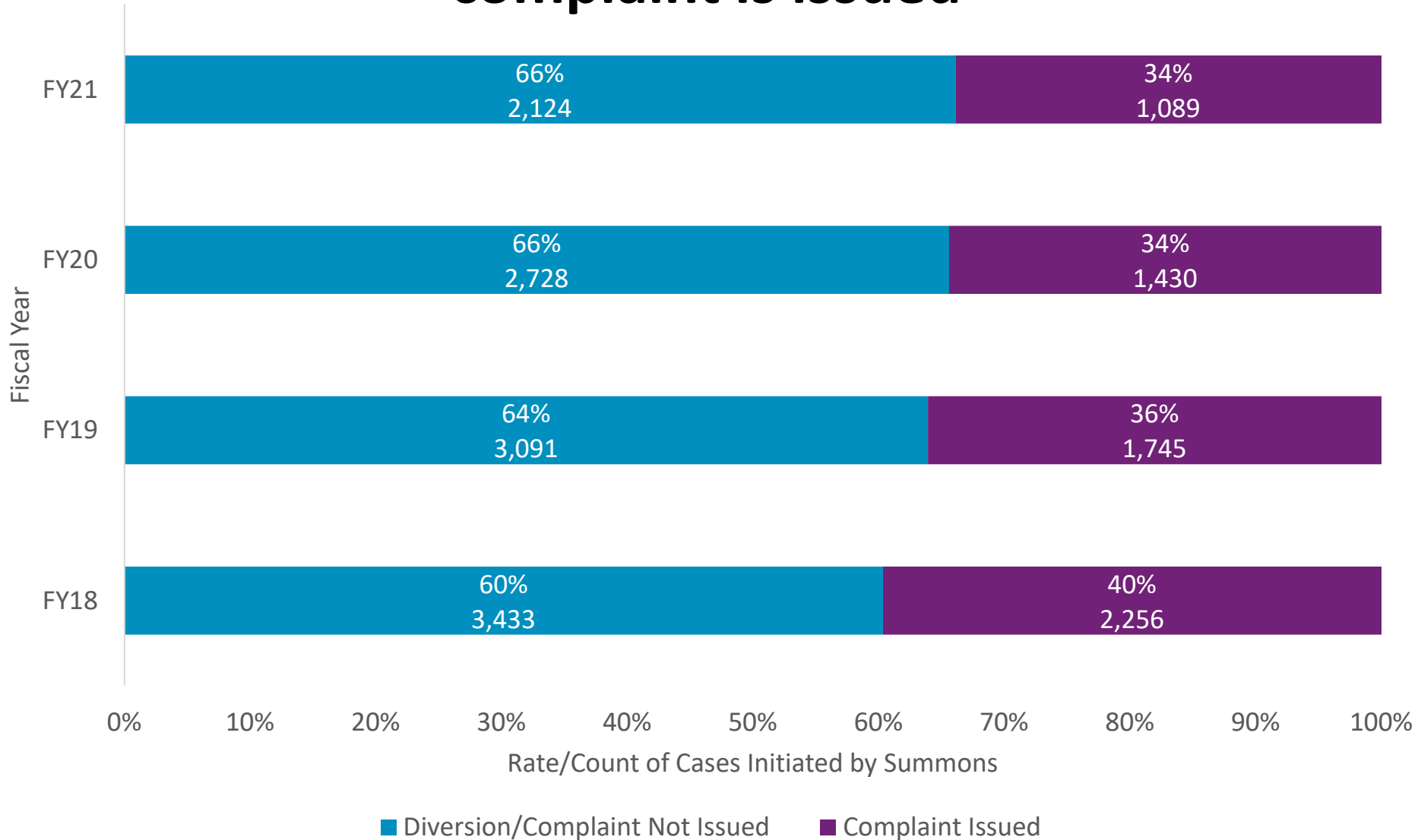
Applications for complaint decreased 23%



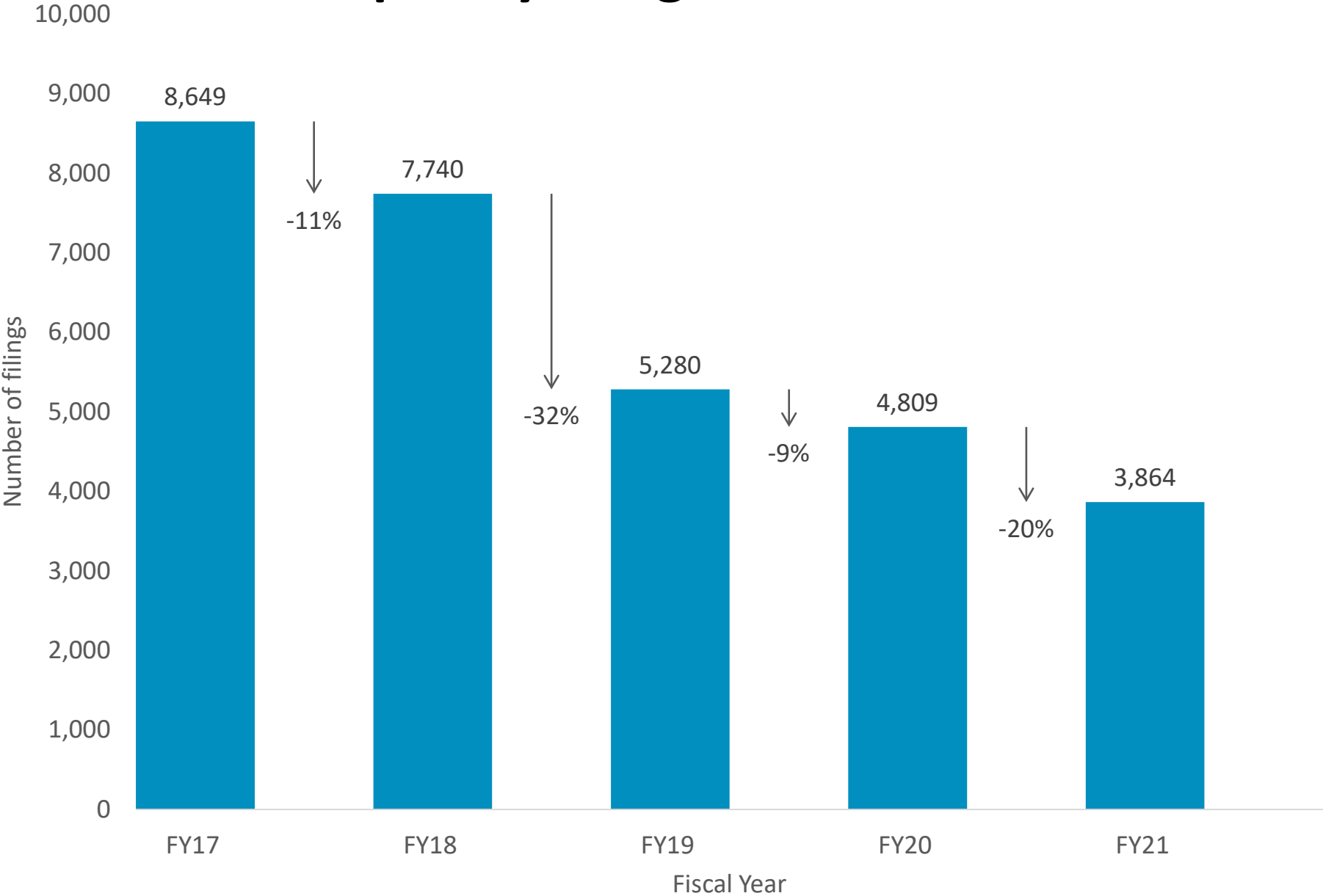
Case initiation method relatively consistent across years



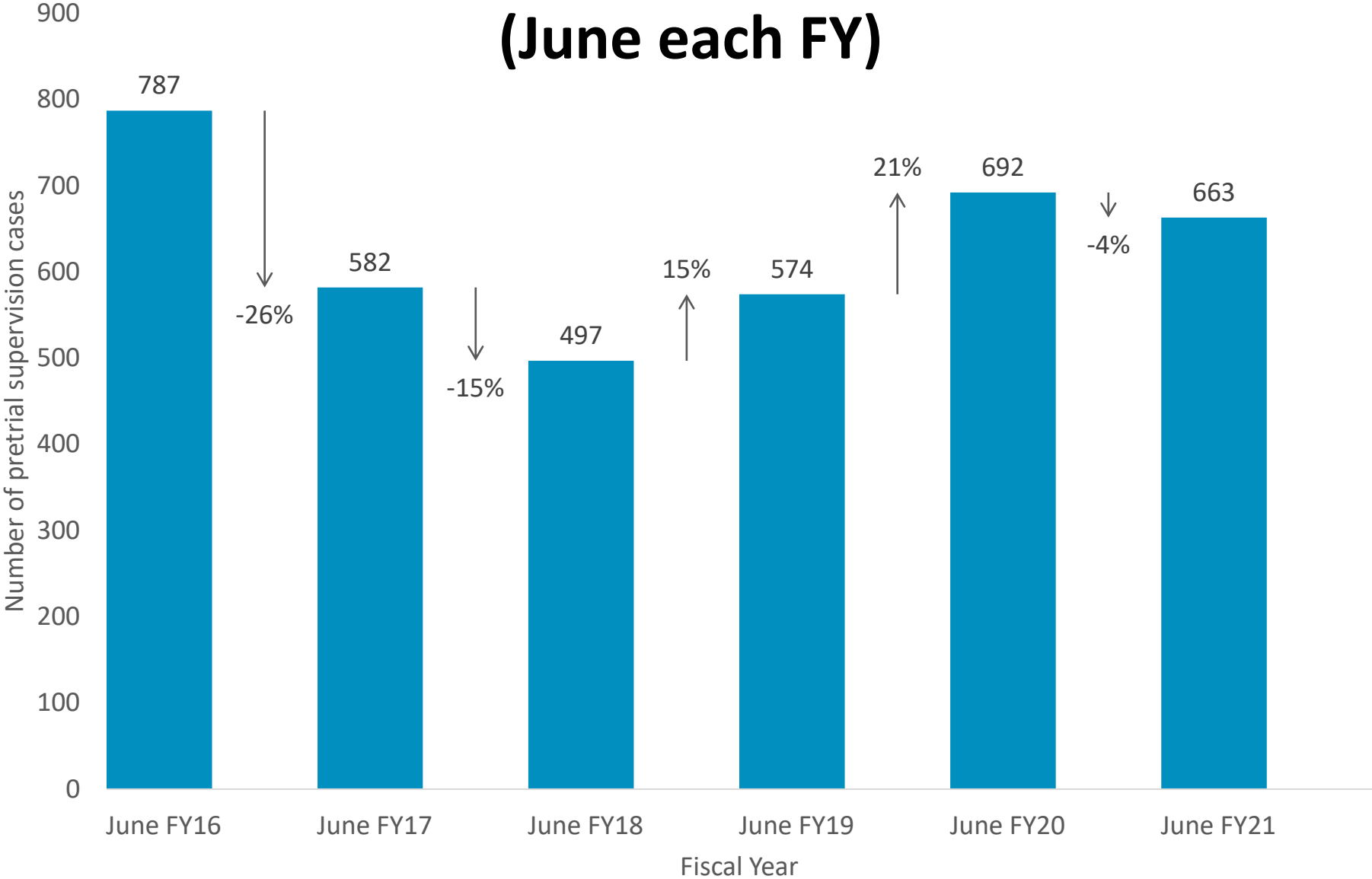
Slight decrease in % of cases in which a complaint is issued



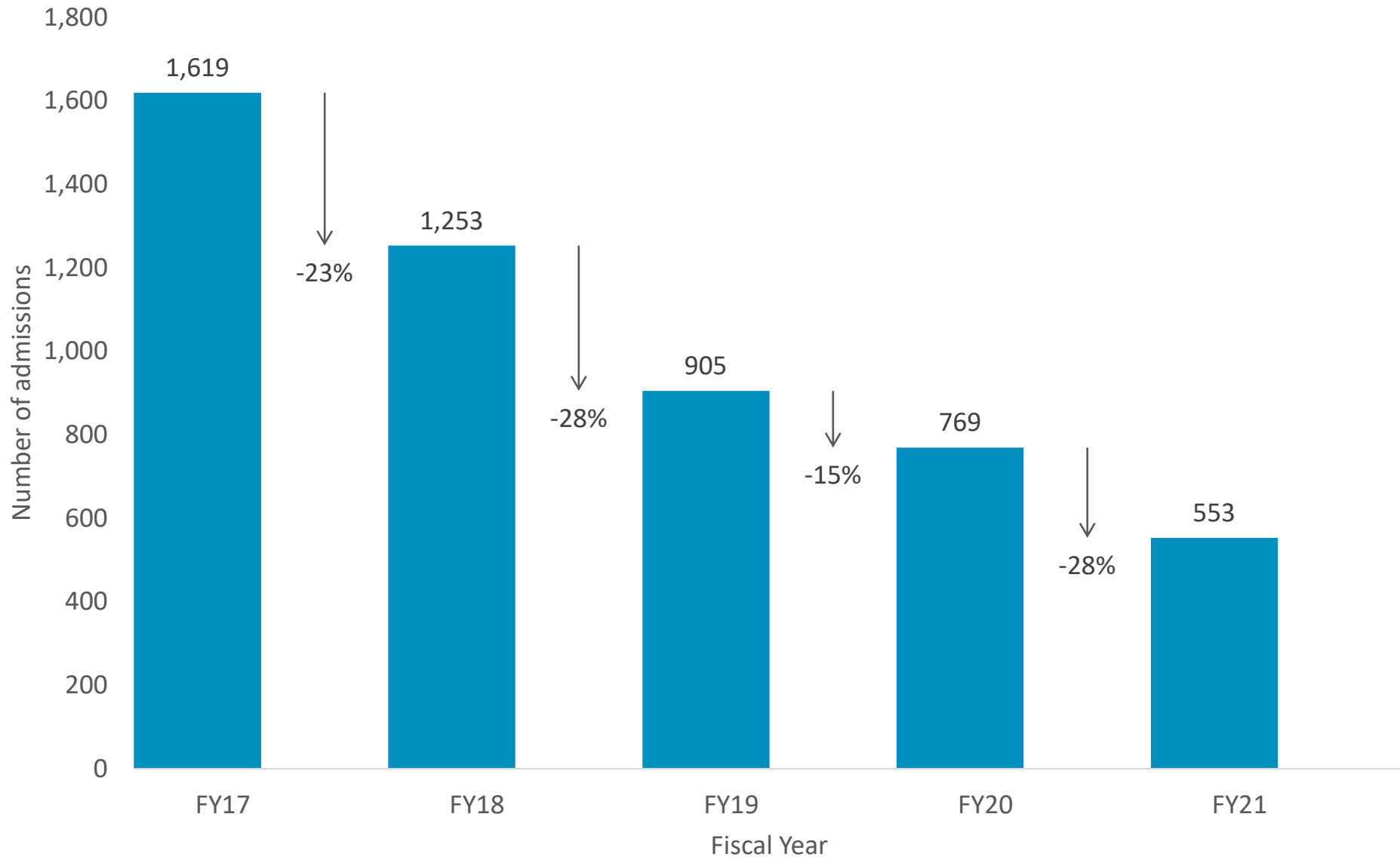
Delinquency filings decreased 20%



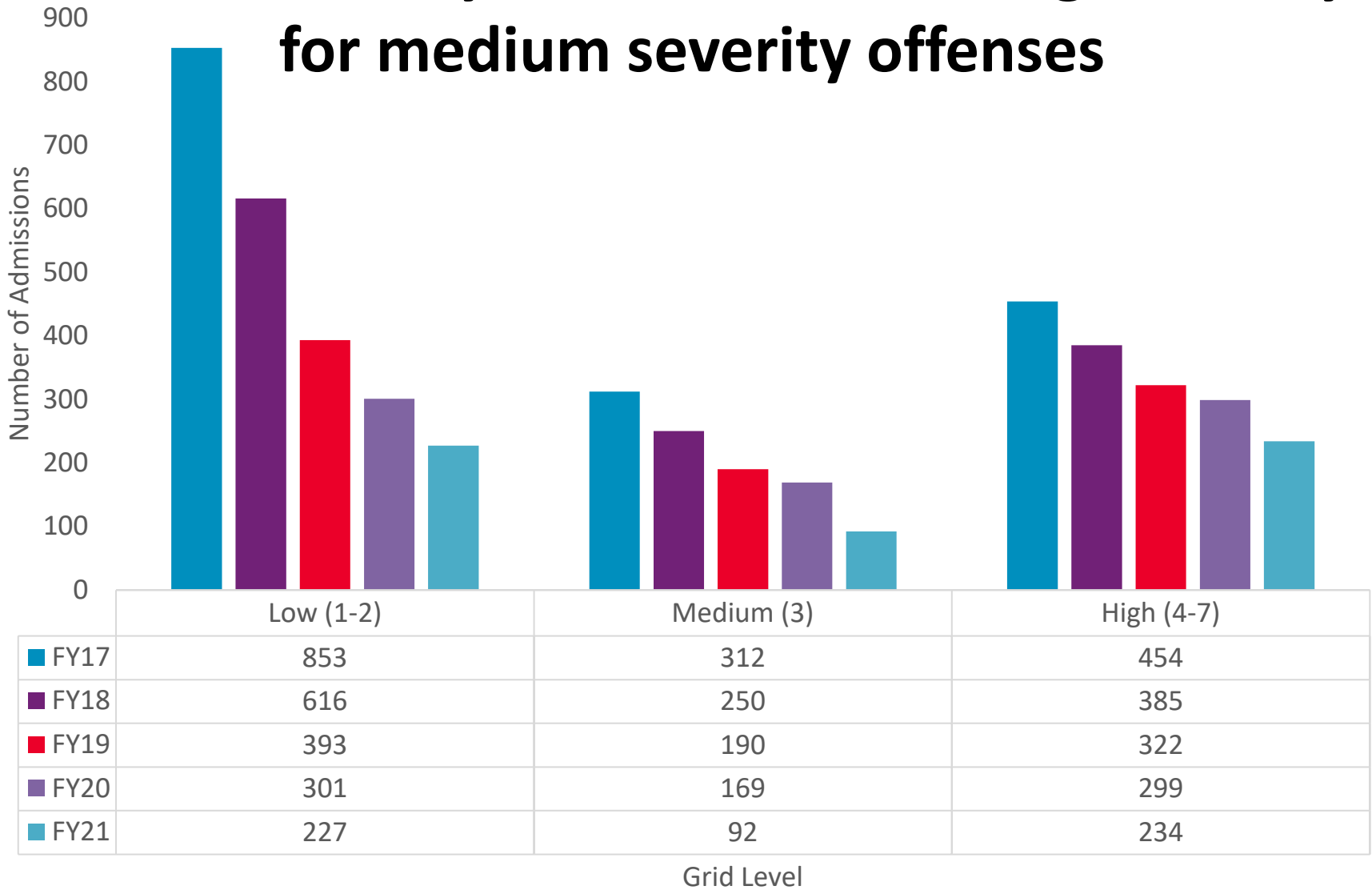
Pretrial probation caseload decreased 4% (June each FY)



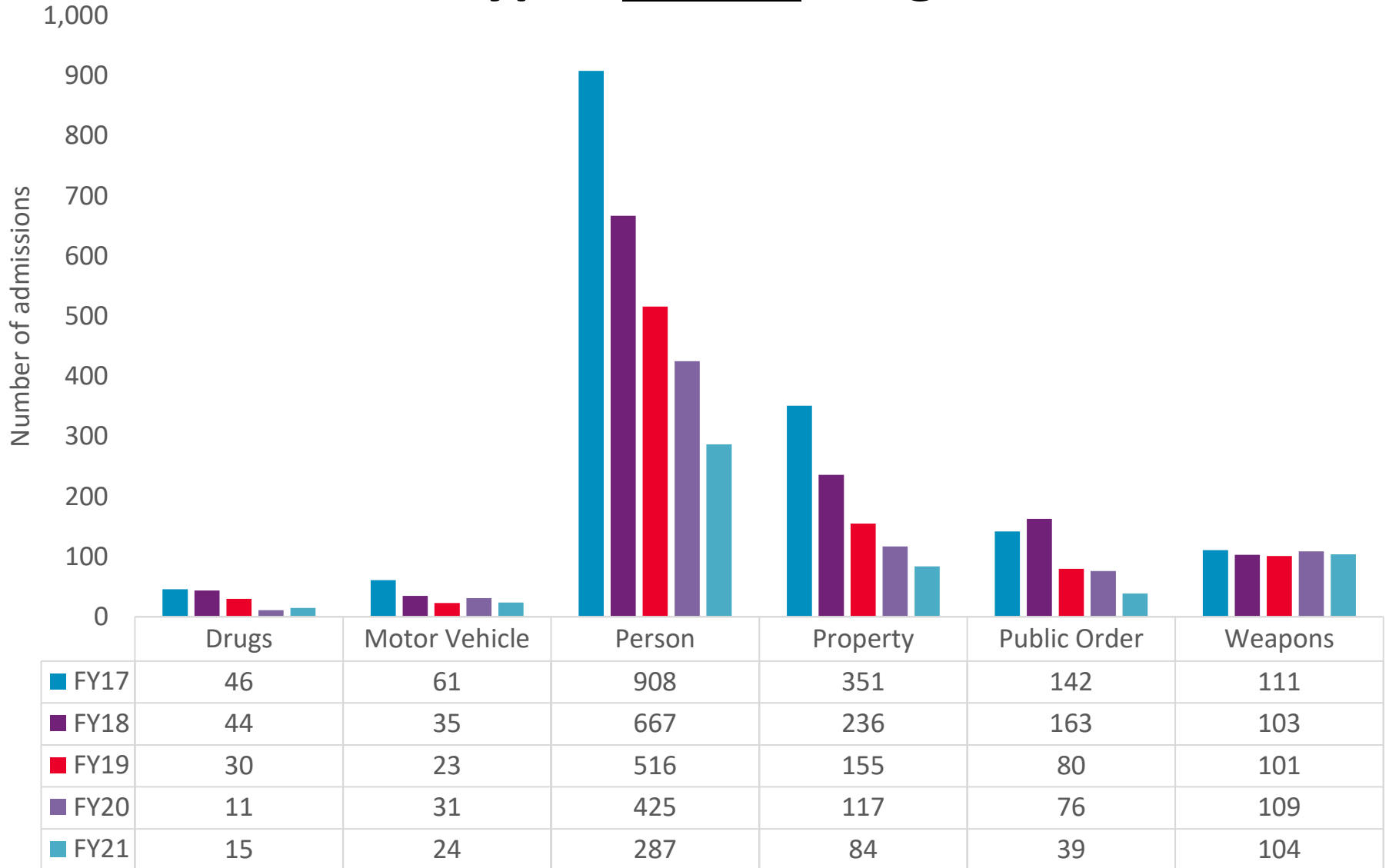
Detention admissions decreased 28%



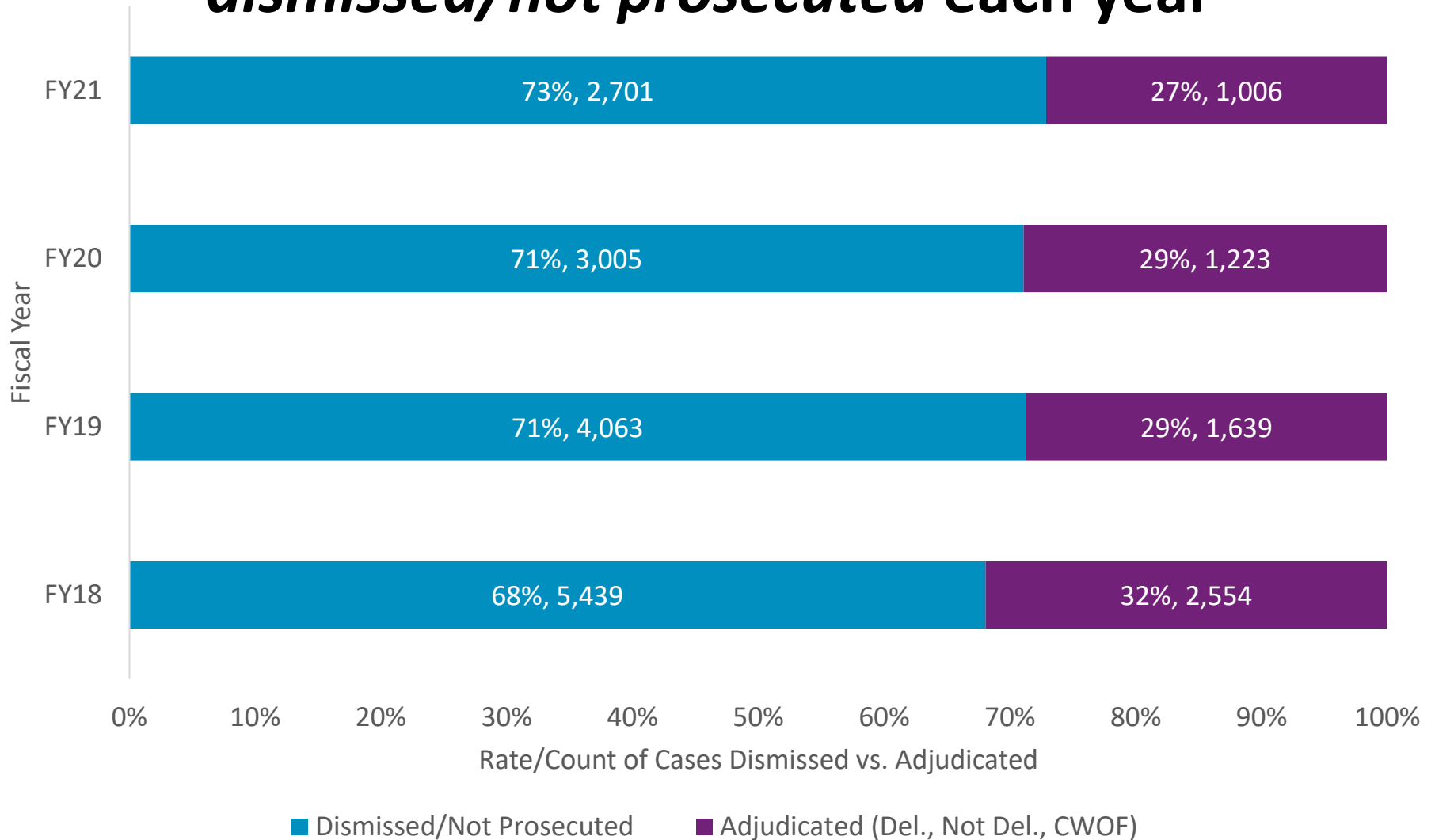
Detention admissions decreased across all offense severity levels – and most significantly for medium severity offenses



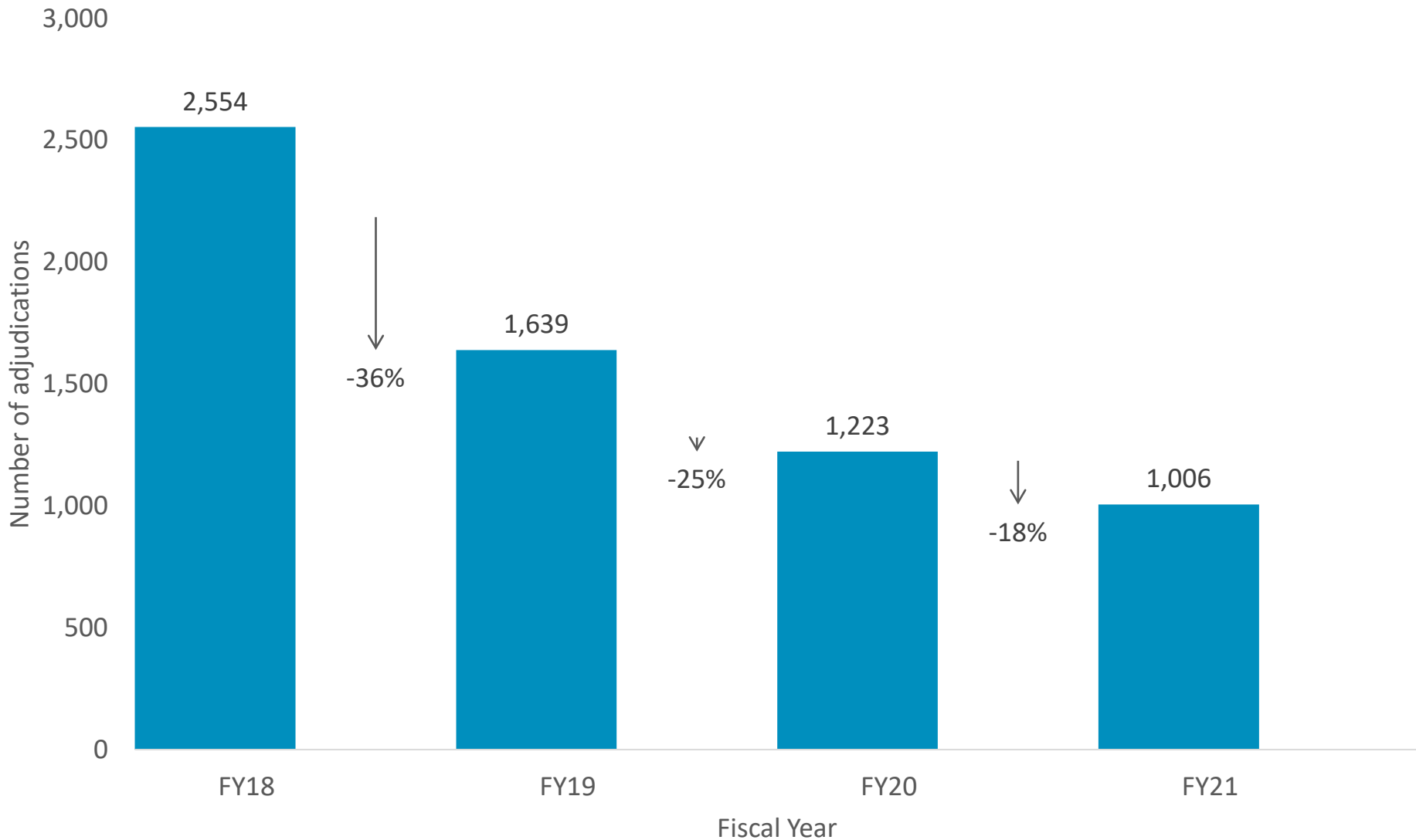
Detention admissions decreased across all offense types except *drug* offenses



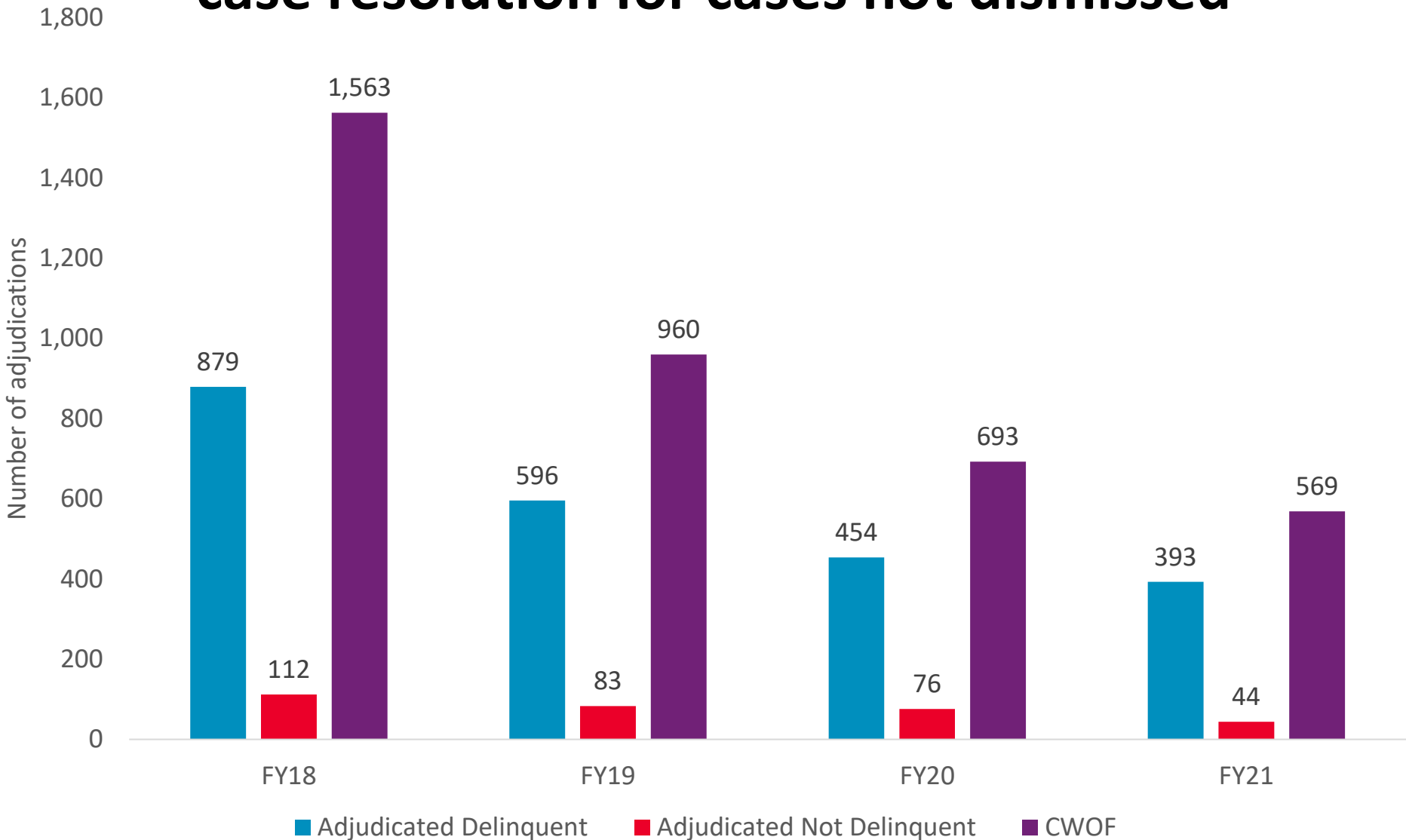
Over two-thirds of all delinquency cases are *dismissed/not prosecuted* each year



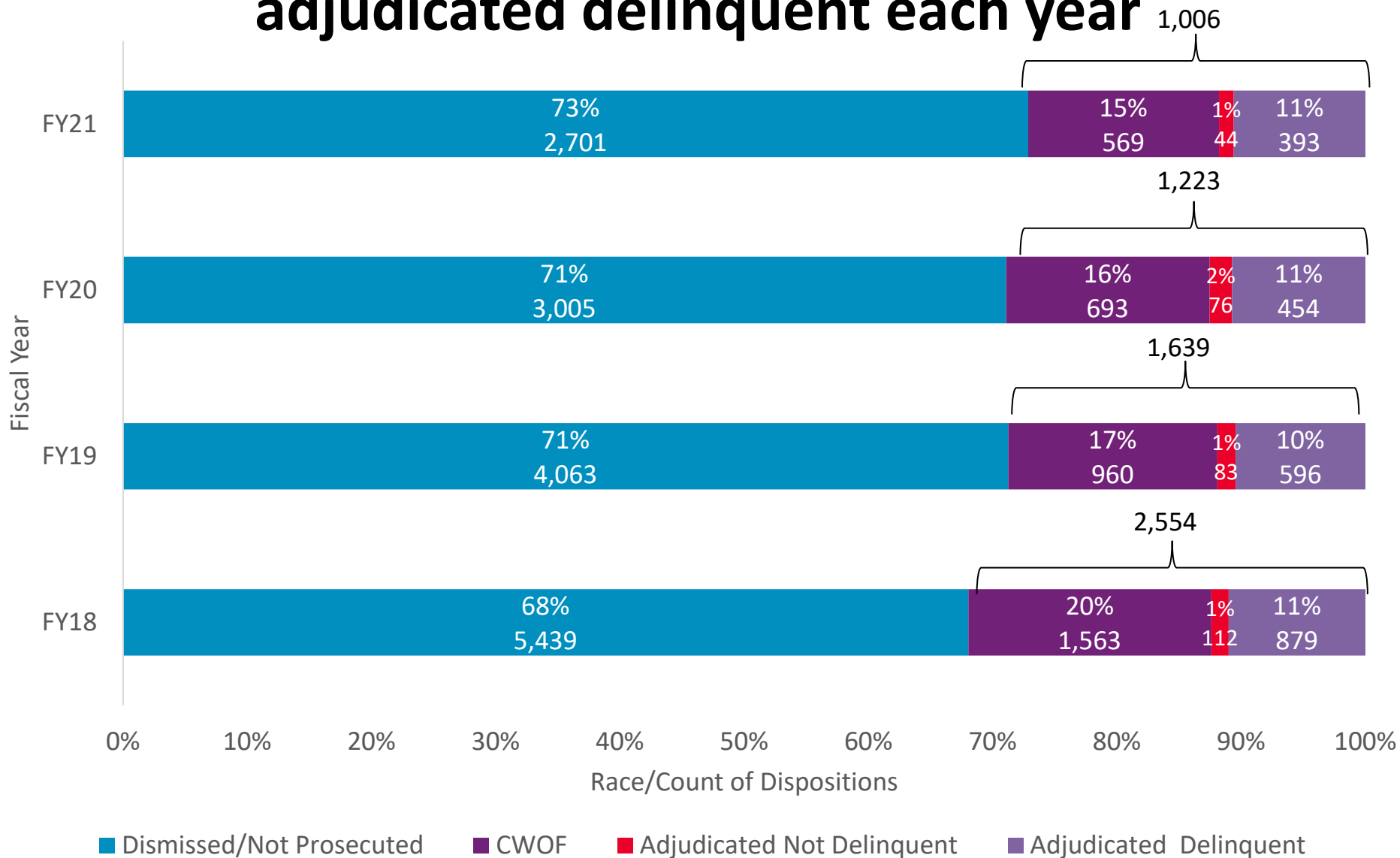
Adjudications decreased 18%



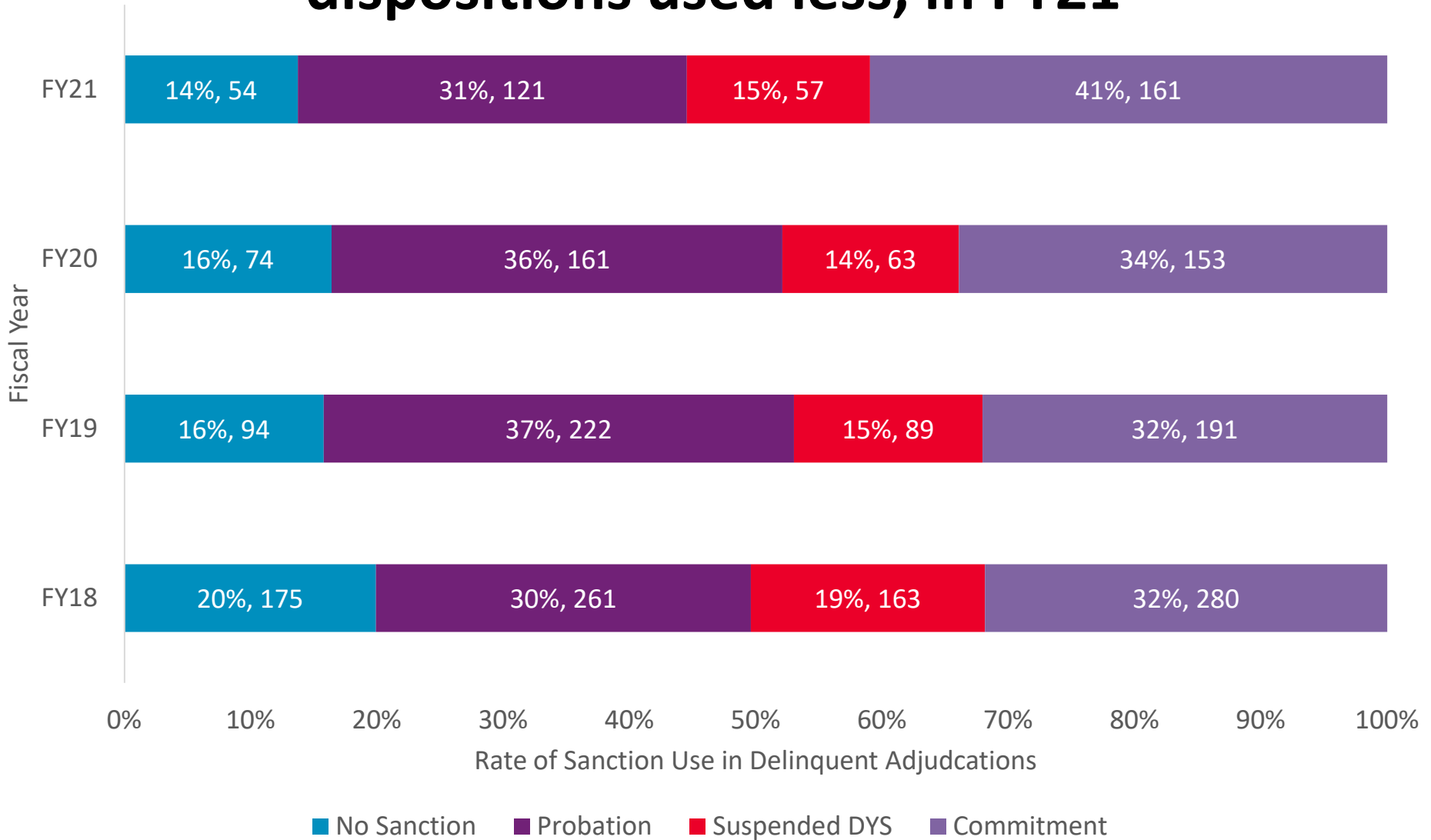
CWOFs remain the most common method of case resolution for cases not dismissed



About 11% of delinquency cases are adjudicated delinquent each year



Commitments were used more, and Probation dispositions used less, in FY21



Most cases don't reach adjudication phase

Applications for Complaint

6,017

Delinquency Filings

3,864

Initial Adjudications (Del./Not Del./CWOF)

393

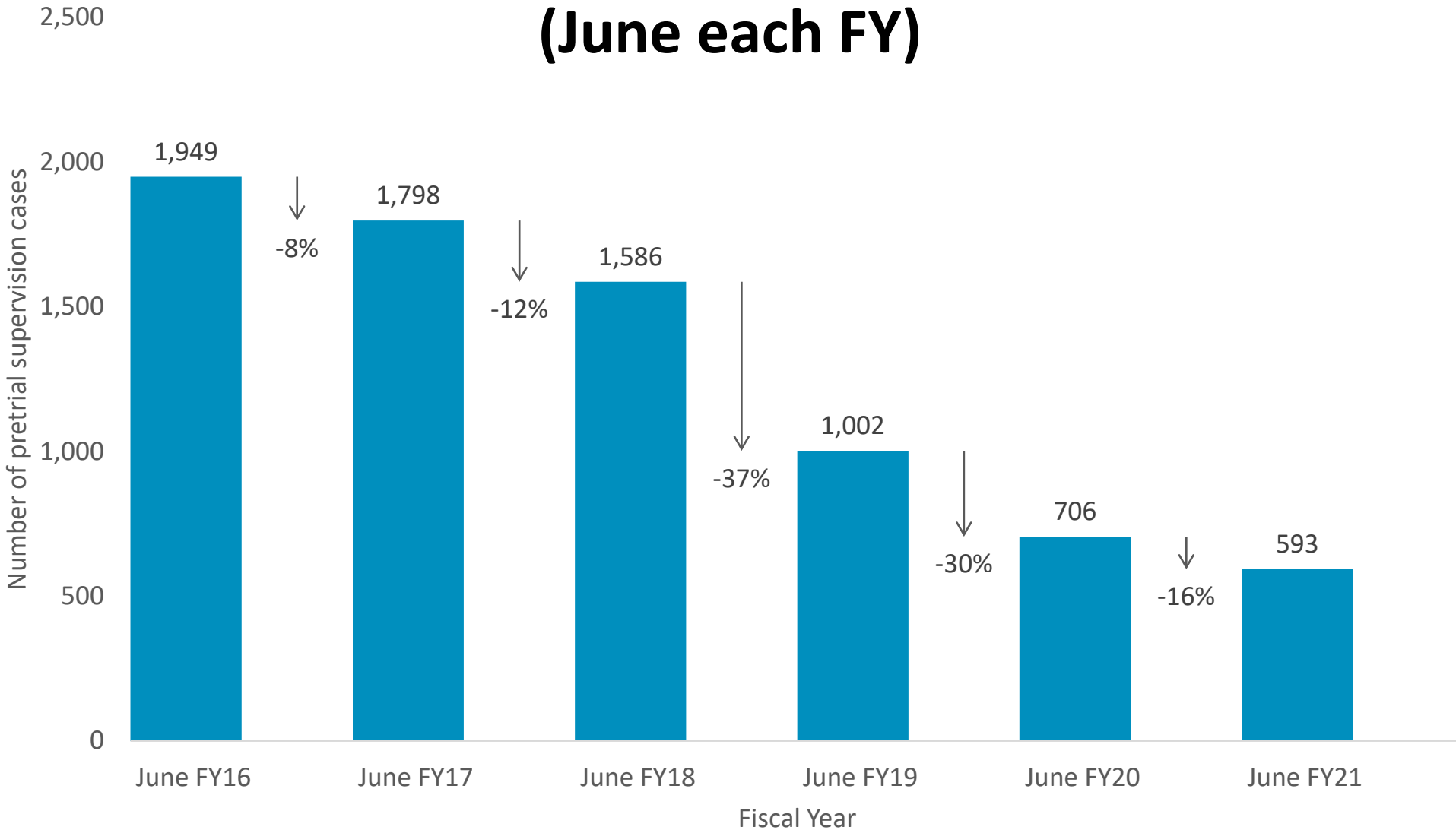
569

44

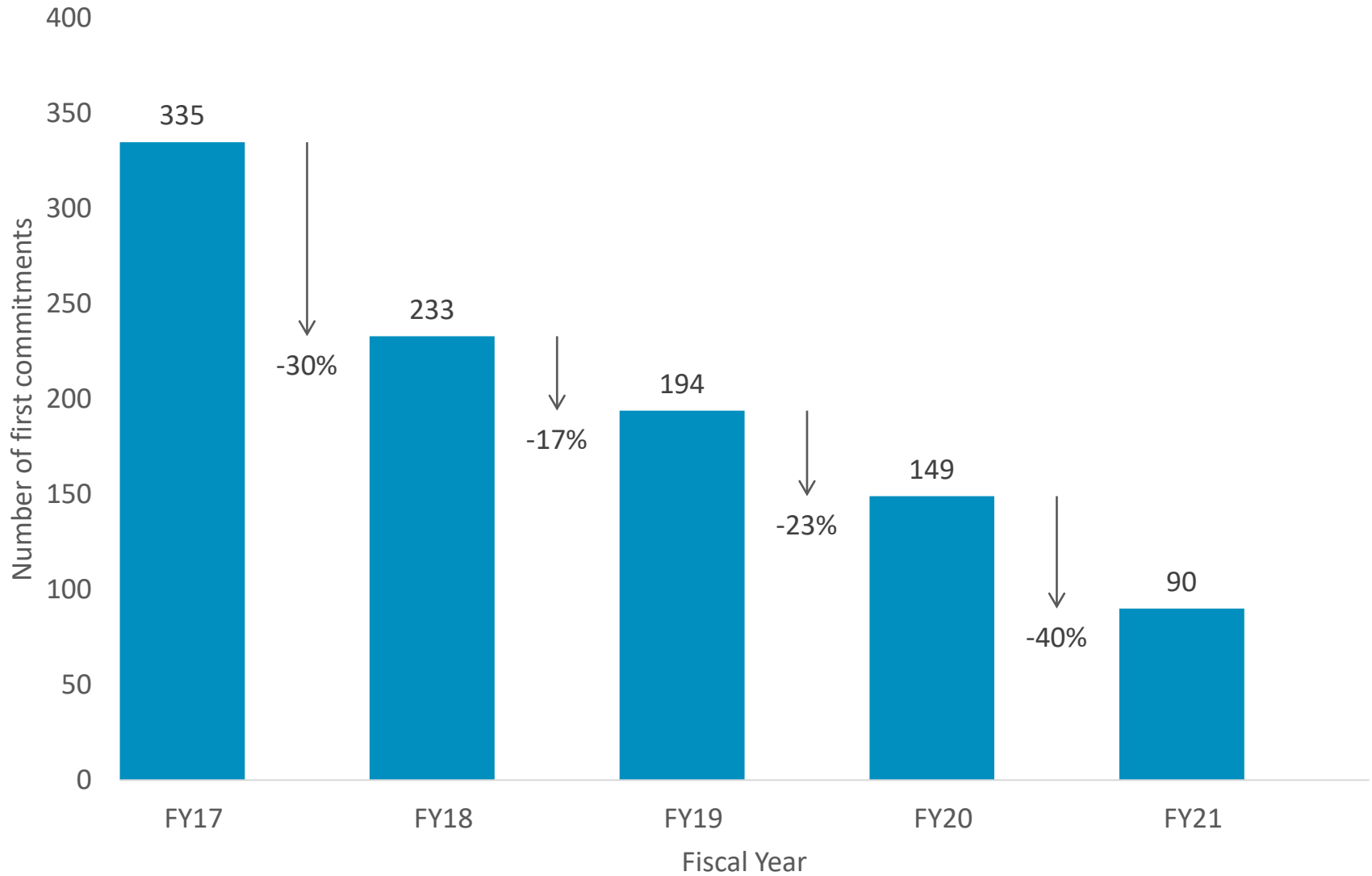
Sanction (Prob.,SS DYS, DYS)

339

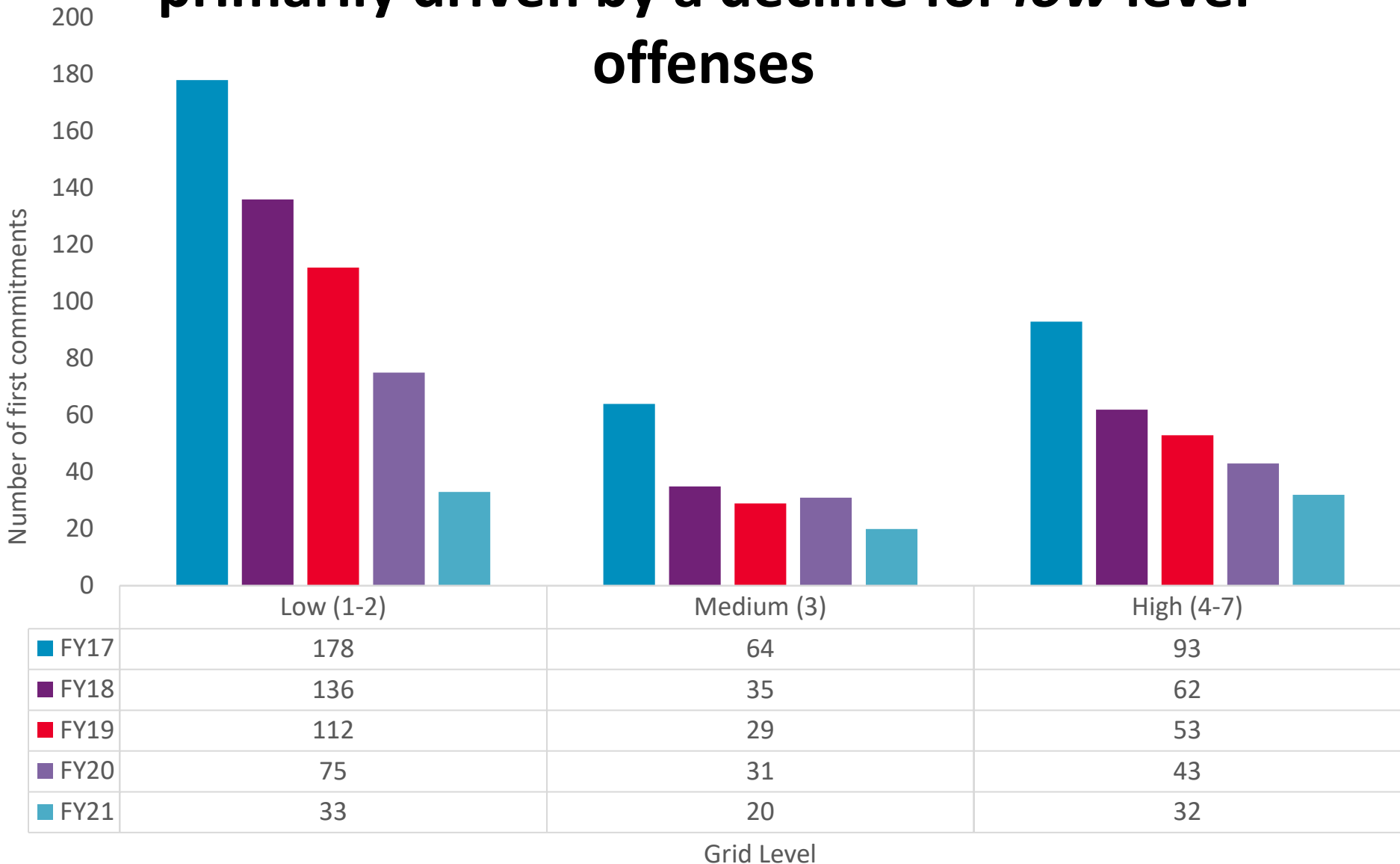
Probation post adjudication caseload decreased 16% (June each FY)



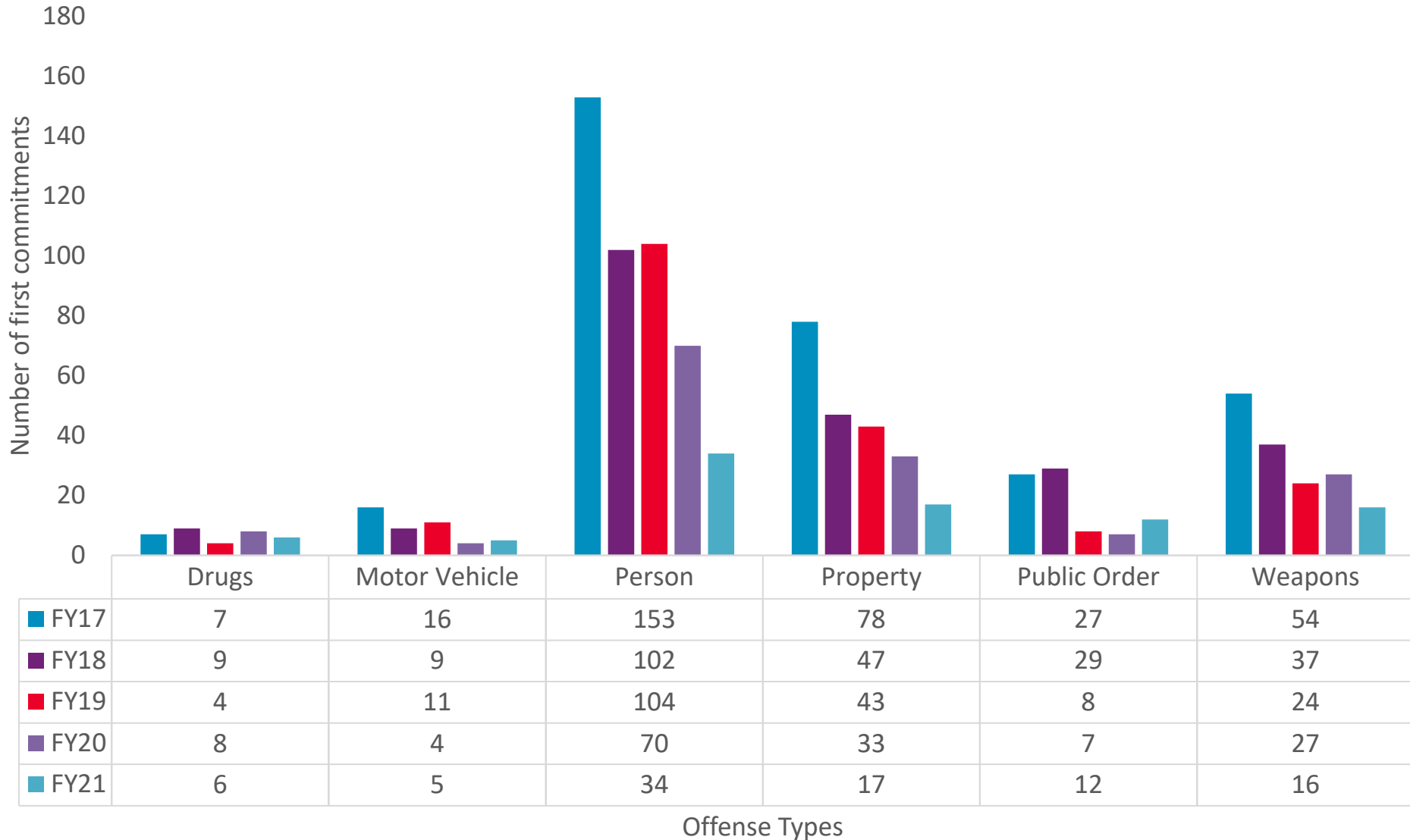
First-time commitments decreased 40%



The decline in first-time commitments was primarily driven by a decline for *low* level offenses

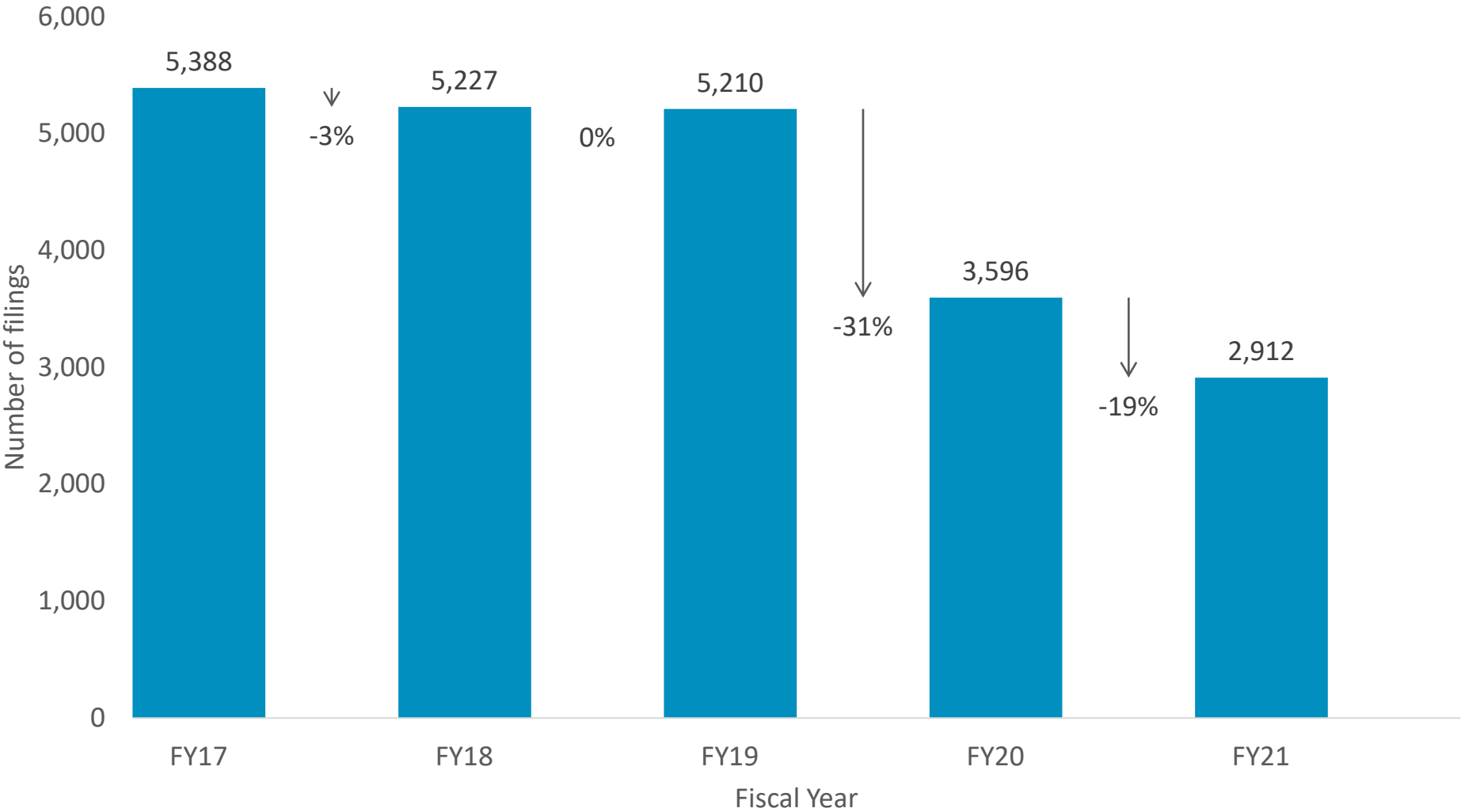


First-time commitments decreased across most offense types

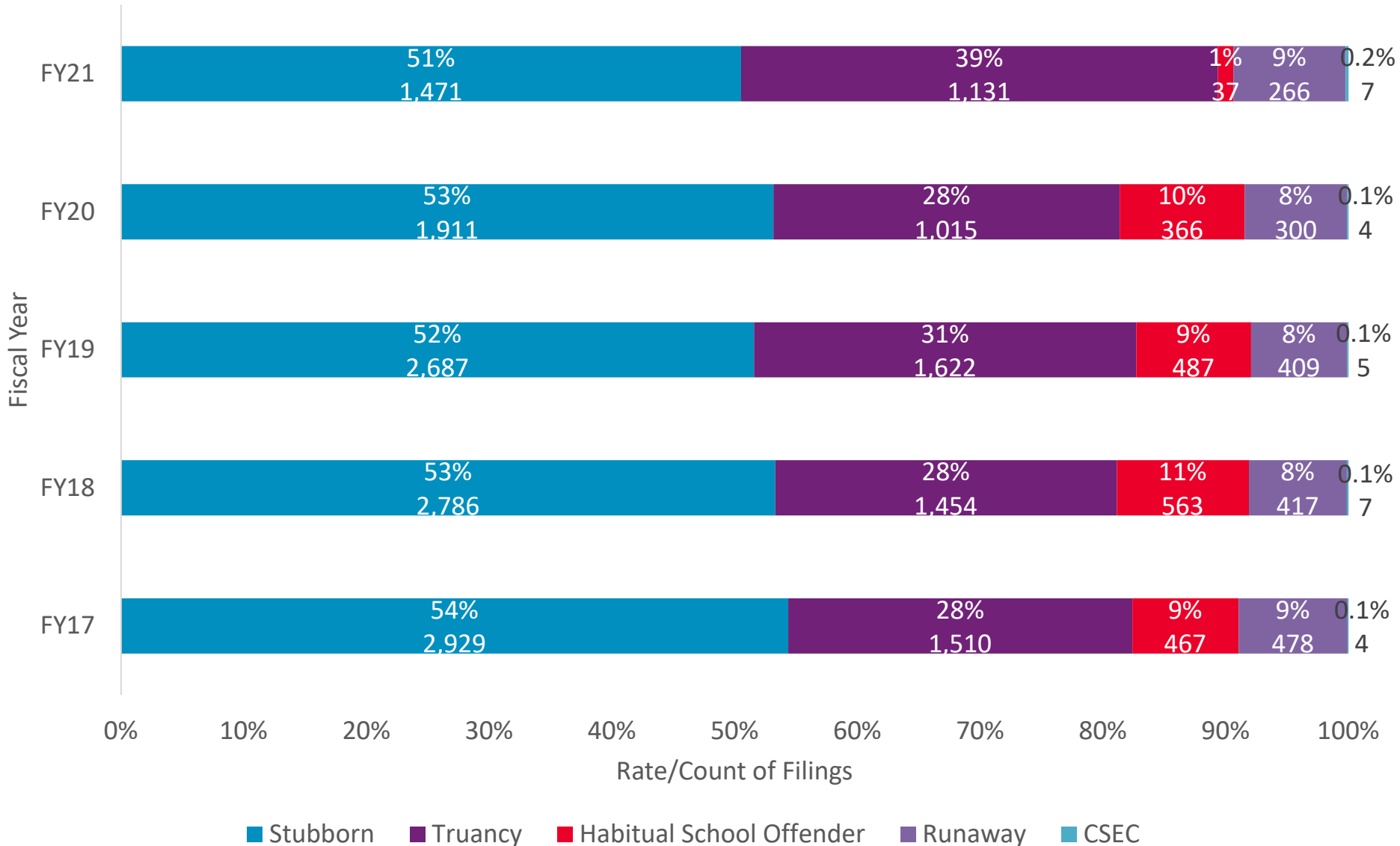


Utilization of Other Systems

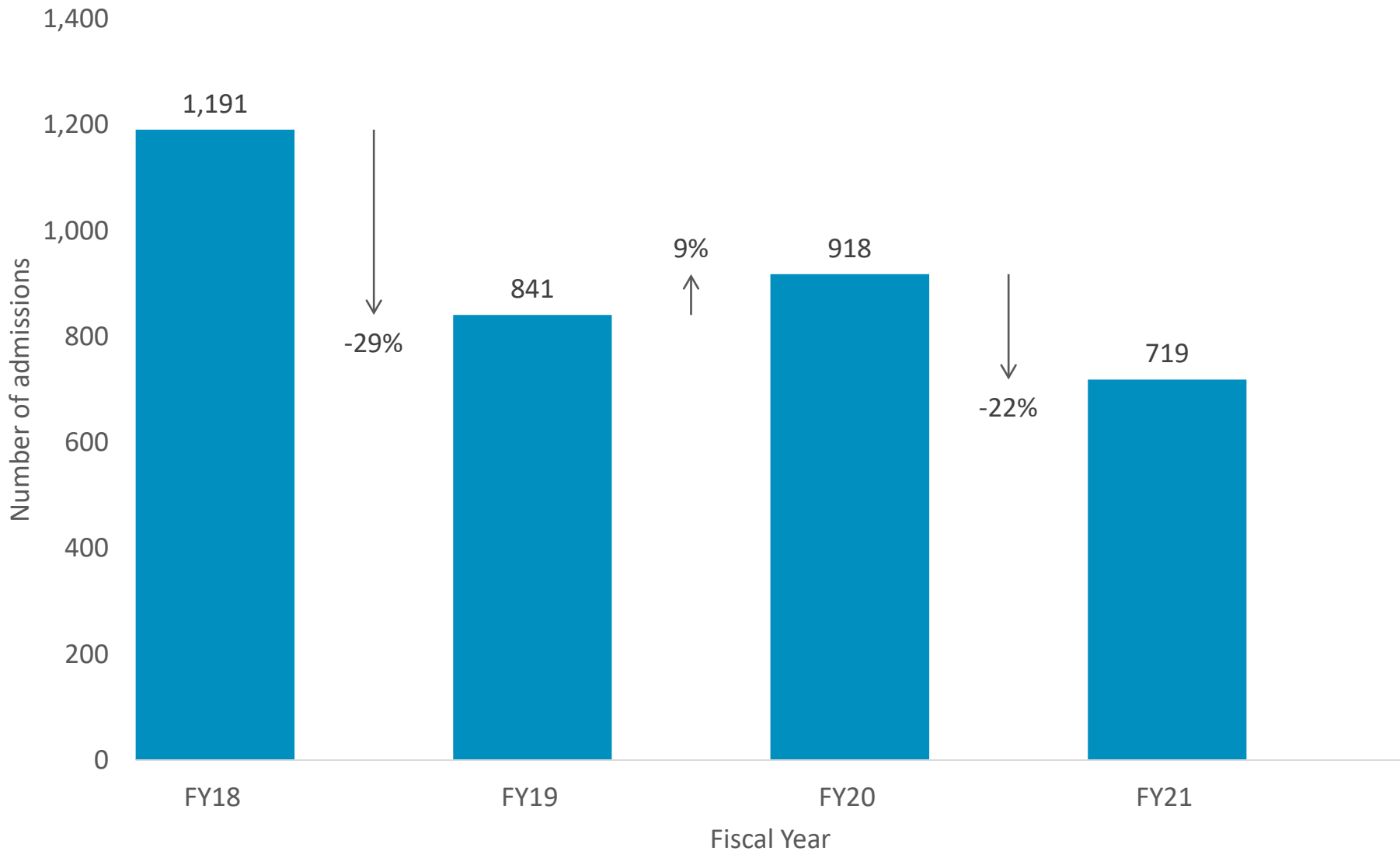
CRA filings declined 19%



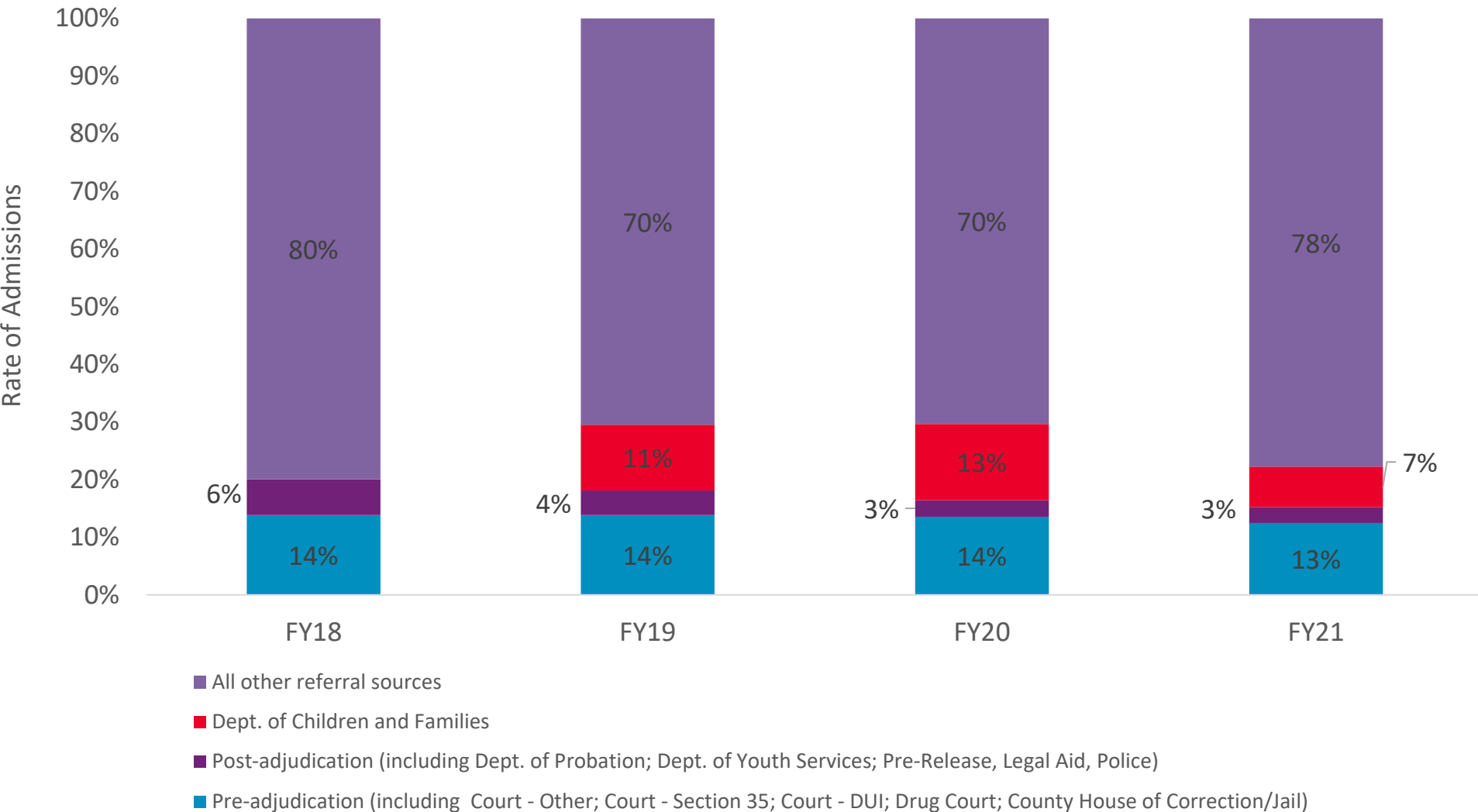
Habitual school offender filings decreased 90%



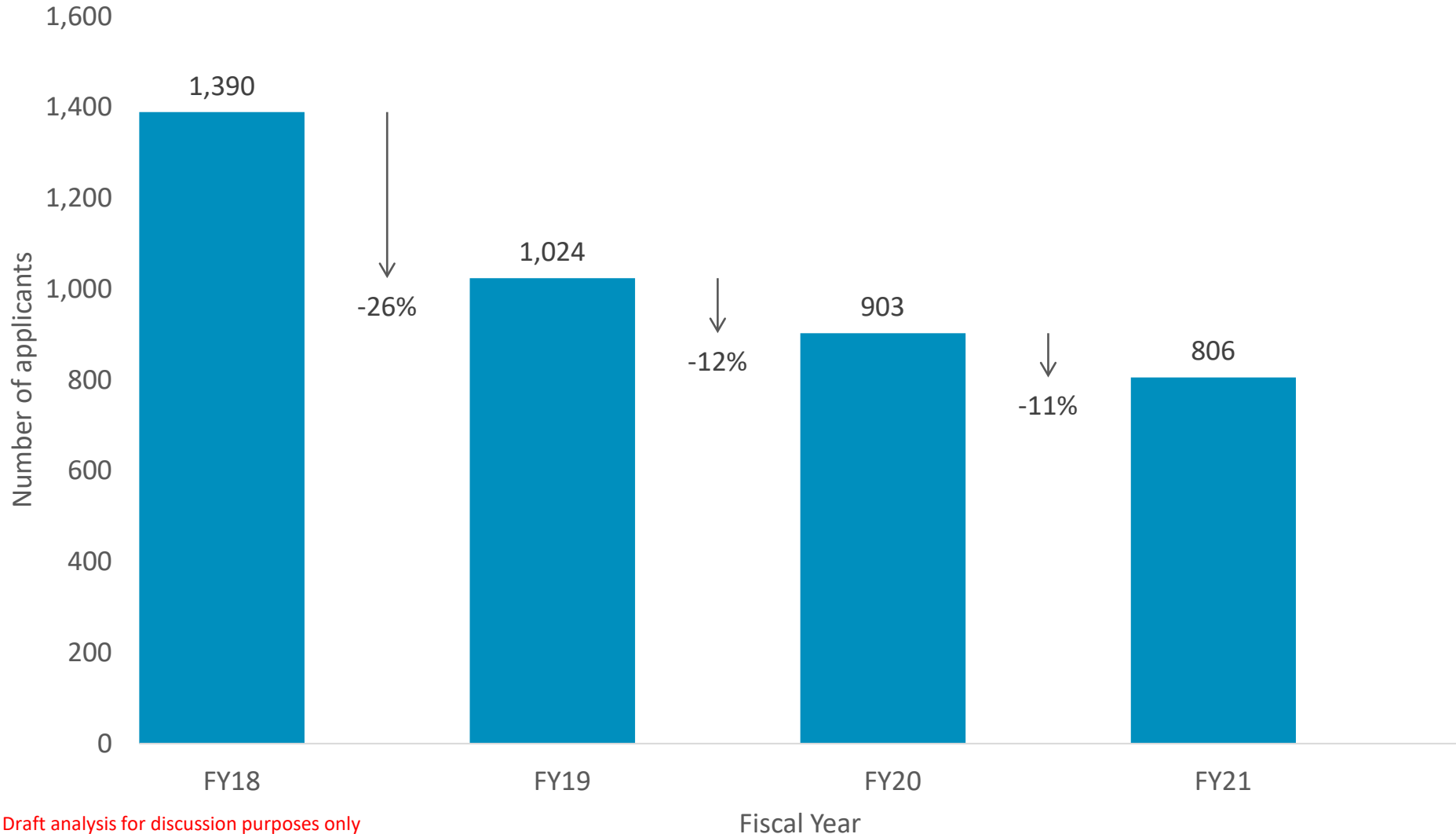
Admissions to BSAS decreased 22%



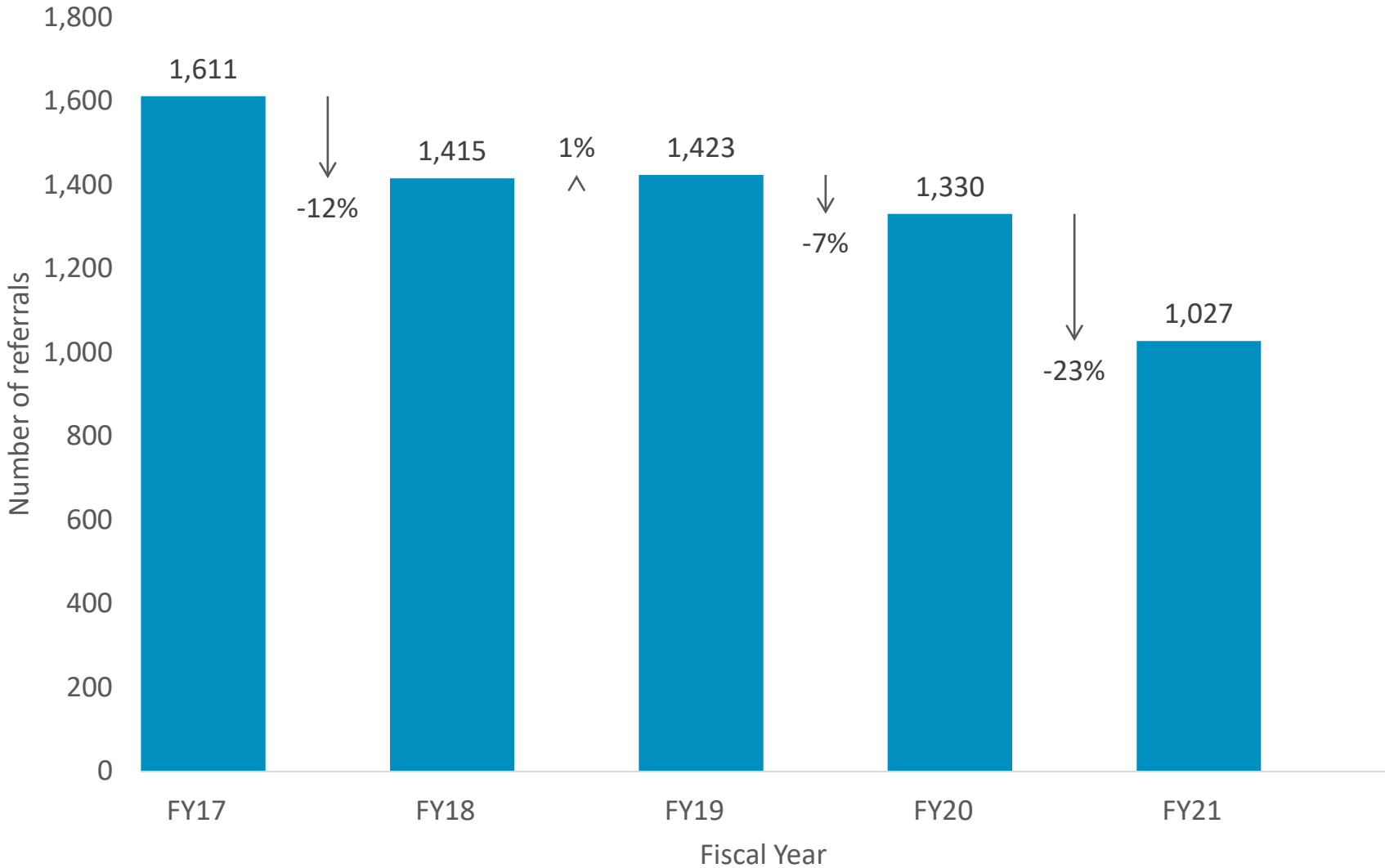
16% of referrals to BSAS come from the juvenile justice system



Youth applications for DMH services decreased 11%



Referrals to Juvenile Court Clinics decreased by 23%



Race/ethnicity Breakdowns: Juvenile System- Summary Table

| Process Point | Rate of Change Since FY20 | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------|
| | Black/ African American | Hispanic/ Latino | White |
| Custodial arrests | -29% | -31% | 25% |
| Overnight arrest admissions | -33% | -15% | -9% |
| Applications for complaint | -36% | -27% | -16% |
| Delinquency filings | -32% | -23% | -12% |
| Detention admissions | -26% | -25% | -23% |
| CWOFs/ Adjudicated not delinquent | -11% | -33% | -16% |
| Adjudicated delinquent | -12% | -16% | -25% |
| First commitments | -31% | -40% | -41% |

Race/ethnicity Breakdowns: Preliminary Takeaways

- There was a decrease in juvenile justice system utilizations across race categories
- There were steeper rates of decline for Black youth across pre-arraignment stages compared to other races
- There was a higher rate of decline for Hispanic/Latino youth cases with a CWO/Adjudicated not delinquent
- Continued investigation needed for custodial arrests breakdowns
- Utilization of other systems decreased at higher rates for Hispanic/Latino and Black youth compared to white youth

Race/ethnicity Breakdowns: Other Systems- Summary Table

| Rate of Change Since FY20 | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------|
| System/Process Point | Black/ African American | Hispanic/ Latino | White |
| CRAs | -28% | -26% | -19% |
| BSAS Admissions | -44% | -37% | -11% |
| Juvenile Court Clinic Referrals | -47% | -24% | -23% |
| DMH Applicants | -14% | -25% | -3% |

Subcommittee Work Updates

Data Subcommittee

Where we're headed:

- FY21 data section of annual report ~early 2022

Childhood Trauma Task Force

2021 Report:

“Identifying Childhood Trauma: An Interim Report on Trauma Screening and Referral Practices”

Part 1: general background on:

- Trauma screening
- Developing a screening processes: who, what, when, where & how
- Special considerations:
 - caregiver consent
 - impact of culture, identity and prior experiences of oppression
 - positive childhood experiences and strength-based approaches
- Requirements for effective implementation

Childhood Trauma Task Force

Part 2: trauma screening practices generally & in specific sectors:

- K-12
- Pediatrics
- Child welfare system
- Juvenile justice system
- First responder settings

1. Pros, cons, and special considerations re: screening for trauma in various settings
2. A description of current practices in Massachusetts
3. Spotlight on trauma screening programs currently operational in each setting

Childhood Trauma Task Force

Where we're headed:

- Seeking public input on interim report
 - What did we get wrong?
 - What did we miss?
 - Additional promising practices/implementation lessons learned we should know about?
- Developing recommendations based on information in interim report (*Report TBD 2022*)
- Meetings resume ~March 2022

CBI Subcommittee

Meetings since September 2021:

- **October:** CAFL Presentation on CRA Representation
- **November:** DCF Presentation on New Congregate Care Model

Where we're headed:

- Child/Family Focus Groups ongoing
- Winter/Spring 2022: Discuss Recommendations & what an “ideal” CRA system looks like
- ~Summer 2022: Publish final CRA Report with recommendations

Full Board

Year 3 Role: Oversight of subcommittees' work, implementation of legislation, and COVID-19's impact on youth in the Commonwealth

*Next Meeting TBD
(January or February 2022)*

- **JJPAD FY21 Annual Report**
 - Summary of CY 2021 Work
 - FY 21 Data Analysis
- 2022 Work Plan
- Subcommittee Report outs

Next Meeting Dates:

(All meetings are virtual; Zoom information is in each calendar invitation)

Full Board:

TBD January or February 2022

| Subcommittee | Standing Time | Next Meeting |
|--------------|---|-------------------------|
| CTTF | 1 st Mondays, 1:00pm-3:00pm | March 7, 2022 |
| Data | 2 nd Thursdays, 10:30am-12pm | <i>TBD January 2022</i> |
| CBI | 3 rd Thursdays, 1:00pm-2:30pm | January 20, 2021 |

Board Member Updates

Contact

Melissa Threadgill

Director of Strategic Innovation

melissa.threadgill@mass.gov