



OHIO CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION

65 SOUTH FRONT STREET • 5TH FLOOR • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3431 • TELEPHONE: 614.387.9305 • FAX: 614.387.9309

Juvenile Justice Committee

October 17, 2019

Agenda

- I. **Call to Order & Approval of Meeting Notes of August 2019 meeting**
Selection of Committee Chair
- II. **Old Business**
 - A. **Truancy Update**
Further discussion of efforts to refine truancy statutes and procedures
 - B. **Previous Recommendations and Future Work**
- III. **New Business**
 - A. **DYS Population Trends**
Representatives from DYS will share data on delinquent youth at institutions and in the community
- IV. **Legislative Update**
 - A. **HB 354**
Juvenile Expungement Changes/HWWUD changes

Upcoming Meetings

Juvenile Justice Committee	November 14, 2019 Ohio Judicial Center, Room 281
Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission	December 12, 2019 Riffe Center, South B&C Conference Rooms 31st Floor

Juvenile Justice Committee Meeting

August 1, 2019

Call to order and approval of May 16, 2019 minutes:

Scott Shumaker called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves. The minutes of the Committee's May 2019 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Case Western Reserve University Probation Study:

Scott announced that the juvenile probation study has been funded by DYS, and members took the opportunity to thank the DYS staff in attendance. Dr. Butcher from CWRU expects the project to begin with court contact in August, followed by data collection beginning in September. They will be working with the counties from the initial proposal, and may be hiring a grad student in the central Ohio area to help with data collection in this region. Scott urged members to let him know any questions they had about the study so that he could forward them on to Dr. Butcher. He may try to have Dr. Butcher discuss progress at the October meeting.

Kathy Hamm asked about moving ideas we currently know are best practices forward while we wait for the study to be completed. Scott reiterated that he's happy to work on drafting but would need guidance from the Committee on what particular statutes they would like to see addressed. Jim Cole suggested following Annie E Casey probations standards, and Kathy agreed stating that revising the purposes section, enhancing statutory diversion options, and making changes to the disposition section would all be good places to start. Jim also mentioned statewide standards for juvenile probation officers as an area to work on.

New Business

Department of Youth Services Budget and Priorities Update:

Justin Stanek and Steve Curl from the Department of Youth services were then introduced. Justin detailed a program funded in the budget bill that would establish a community college program for youth in DYS facilities, partnered with Stark State Community College. They will offer vocational training with 10 industry recognized credentials for in-demand professions like welding. Stark State will help youth with financial aid paperwork and transfer of credits if they are released before completing the program. Judge Jamison noted that a similar program is already in place in Franklin County and has seen success.

Jim Cole asked about plans for female DYS inmates. Steve Curl noted that placements can often be difficult given the mental health needs of the current female DYS population. DYS is seeking additional grant funding for these youth.

Steve Curl also discussed JDAI efforts now active in 14 counties. BHJJ grants were being announced the week of the meeting. Ashtabula, Mahoning, and Trumble counties were able to close one shared detention center and work out of a resource center and the court thanks to these grants. Competitive RECLAIM also received an increase in the budget bill, which will be used in part to establish a new assessment center and to upgrade existing resources. Probations standards are currently being discussed with an eye towards evidence based best practices. Steve then detailed some issues with salaries for juvenile community corrections facilities that present funding and staffing challenges.

Jim Cole noted that Green and Paulding counties have joined JDAI, and the group is working to include Hamilton county as well. With the addition of Hamilton, JDAI would cover 80-85% of the population of Ohio. Hamilton may not be brought onboard until 2020 given existing timelines.

Sara Andrews asked DYS representatives if they've noticed any population trends in either numbers or demographics. Justin Stanek noted a small spike in population at the end of 2018 that seems to have leveled off, and stated that 49% of the 523 youth currently in DYS custody are there in part due to firearm specifications. DYS will try to discuss more population trend information at the next committee meeting.

Legislative Update:

Scott then gave a brief legislation introduced in the 133rd general assembly, including discussion of SB 13's changes to the juvenile human trafficking abeyance process. SB 99 and 100 introduced by Senator Thomas pick up the juvenile extended sentence review and bindover changes from the juvenile omnibus bill in the 132 GA.

Shawn Welch discussed an expressed desire from Senators Coley and Lehner to make some changes to truancy laws as enacted in 131 HB 410. There is a concern that Judges often aren't made aware of chronic truancy issues until too late in the school year to do anything about them. The OJC will be working with Senator Coley on the issue. Members then discussed truancy issues within their jurisdictions. Judge Fragale and Judge Jamison both noted that they have had similar issues. Judge Fragale suggested a requirement that the court be informed once the child has reached 30 hours of absences, as getting the court earlier can help get parents to cooperate in the intervention plan.

Kathy Hamm cautioned that 131 HB 410 was an effort to get schools to do more so that youth stayed out of the court system, and that avoiding a school-to-prison pipeline should be a primary goal of any changes. Judge Fragale reiterated that informing courts sooner should be a method of enforcing parental involvement and cooperation. He stressed that juvenile courts today not interested in criminalization and that they want to work with all parties to keep their involvement minimal. Dave Williams noted that schools often make intervention plans without knowledge of all resources that may be available to the youth, and that they are often more focused on state testing requirements.

Jim Cole then discussed the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), a federal law that could have substantial impact on group homes available in the state, as it introduces stricter licensing and regulation. Dave Williams noted that a similar law in California has created substantial issues with finding placements for youth.

Finally, Sara Andrews noted for the group that Lisa Hickman will be leaving the Commission staff and the group thanked her for her service.

Adjourn:

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned by the chair.



Department of
Youth Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
Ryan Gies, Director

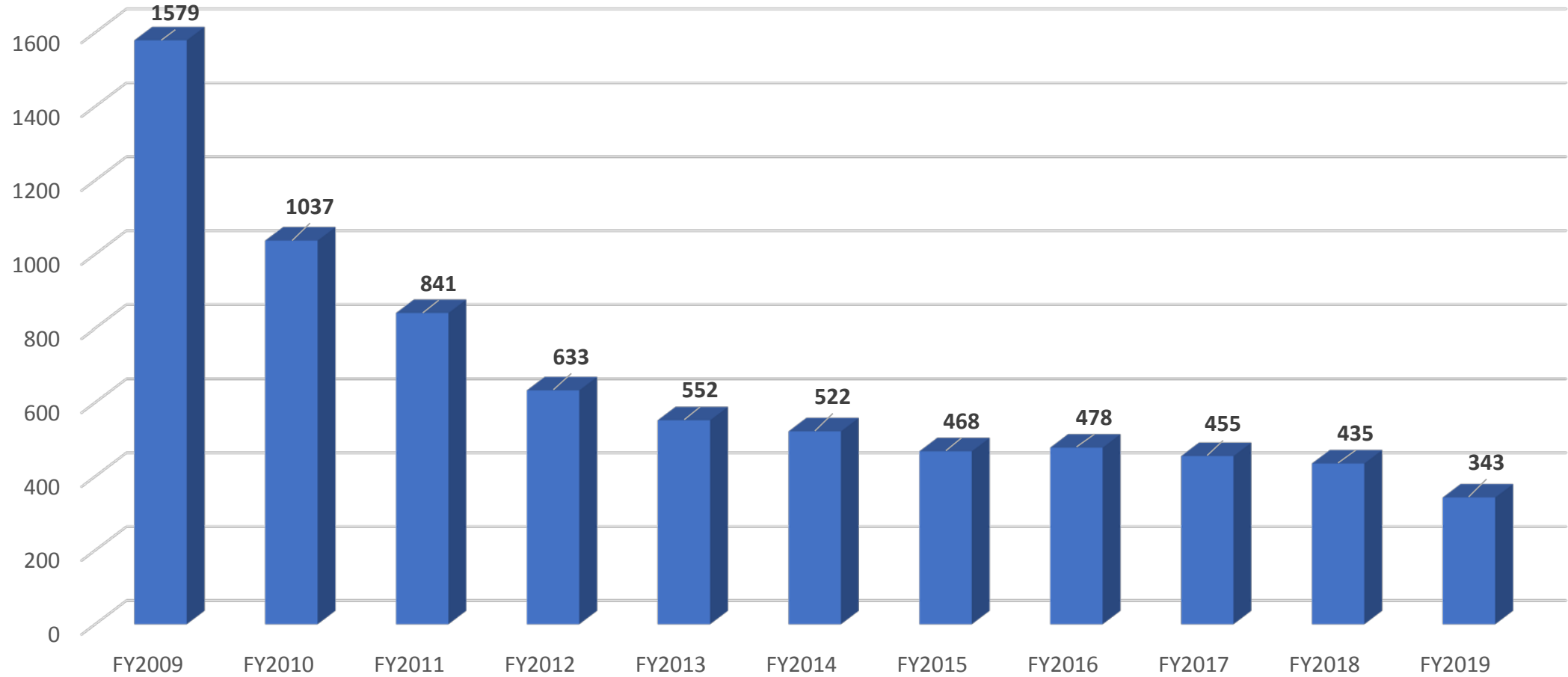
Recent Trends in DYS Population

Presented by:

Bruce Sowards, Social Sciences Research Specialist, DYS

Yolonda Frierson, Performance & Quality Administrator, DYS

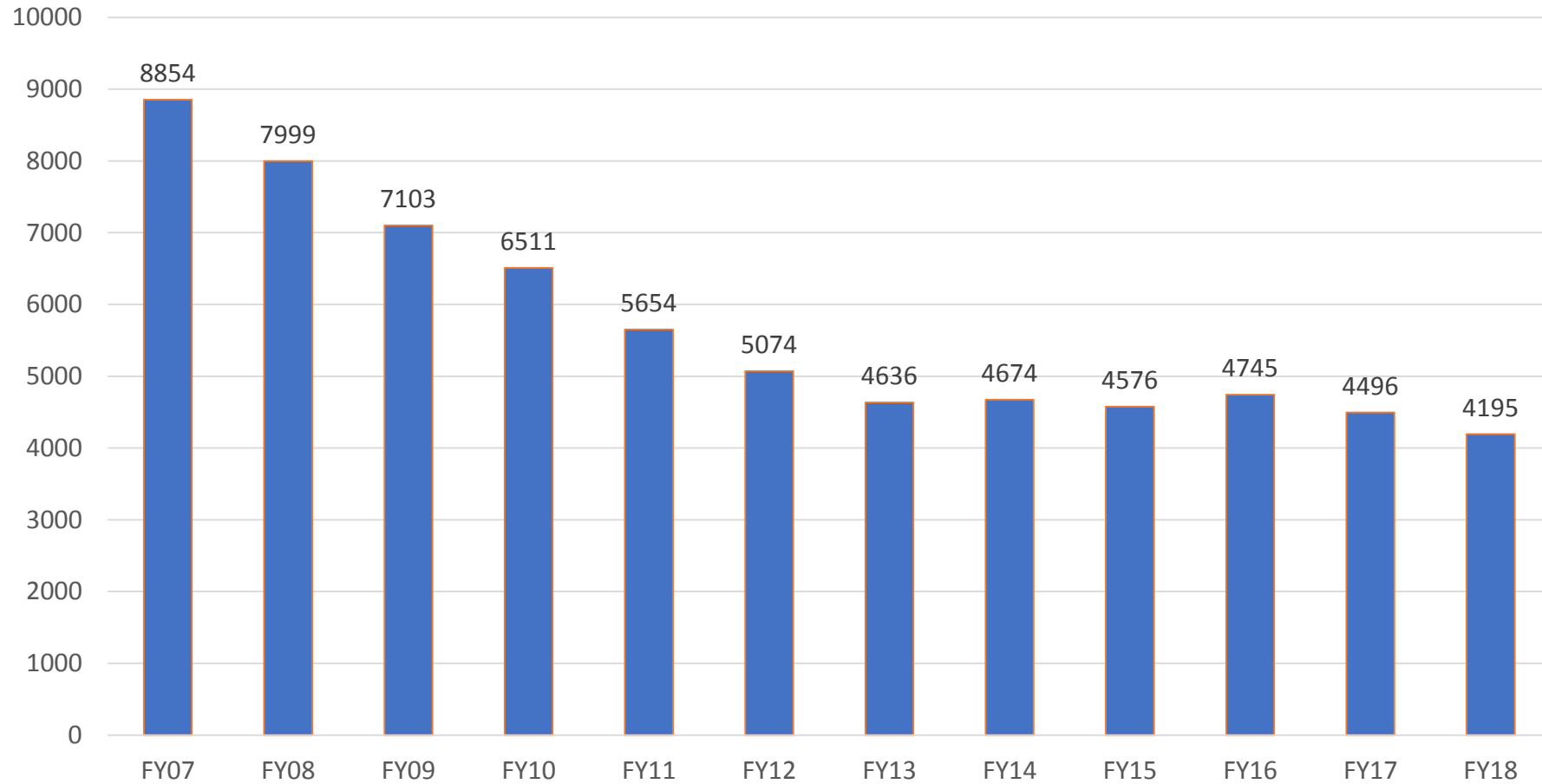
Admissions by Fiscal Year



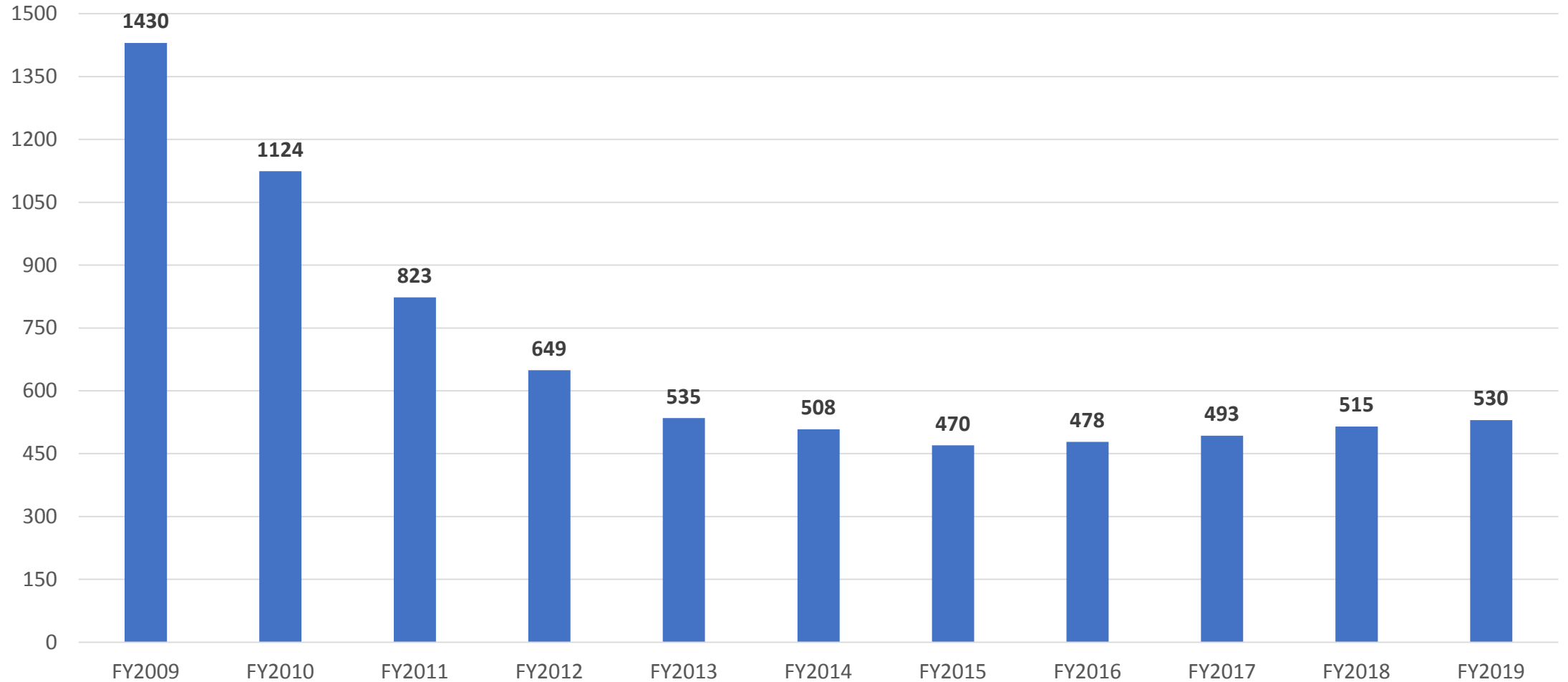
Admissions Totals – Five Year Intervals

Fiscal Year	Admissions
1994	3639
1999	2798
2004	2159
2009	1579
2014	522
2019	343

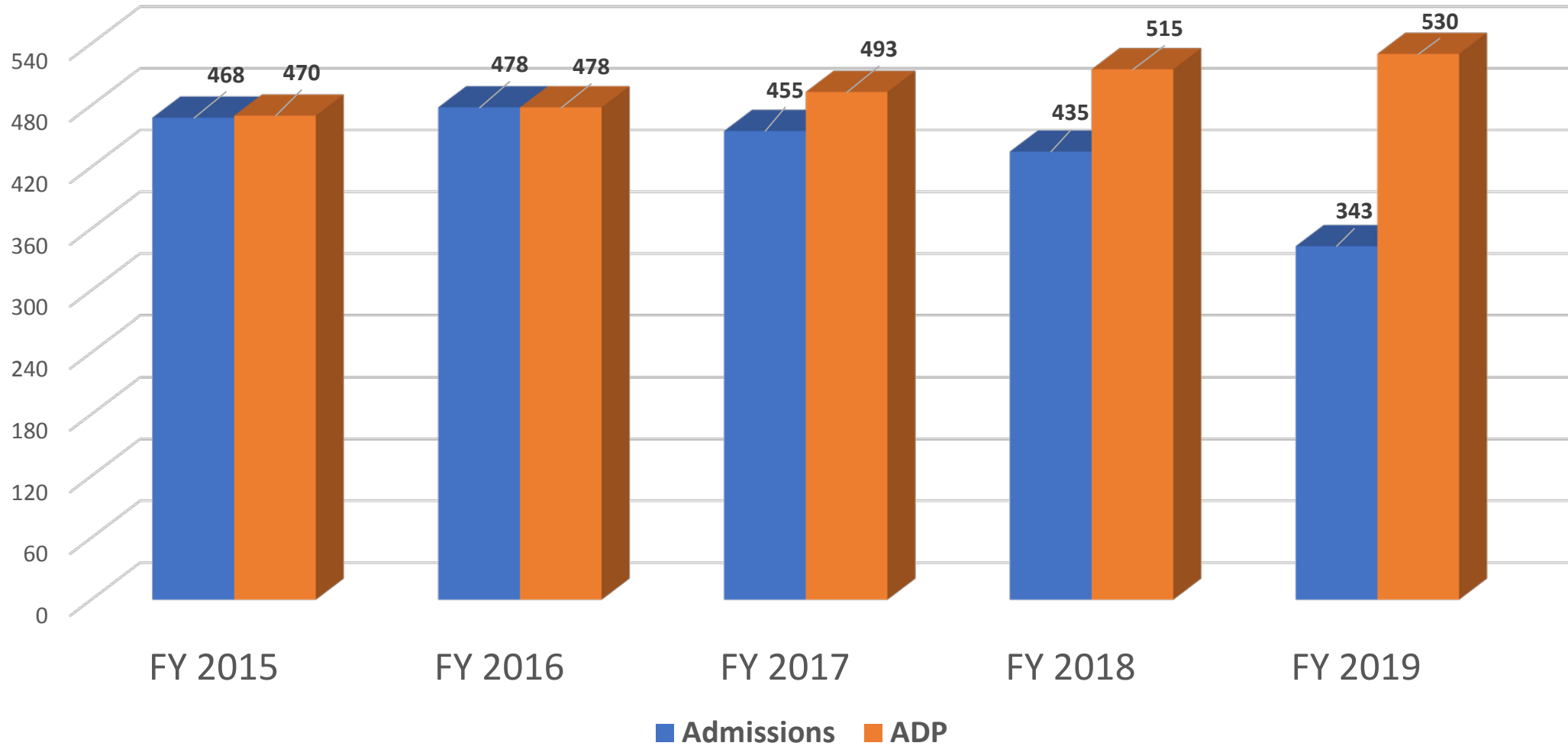
Youth Adjudicated for Felonies



DYS Average Daily Population by Fiscal Year



Admissions Compared to Average Daily Population



Average Length of Stay for Releases

Fiscal Year	Length of Stay
2016	11.6 months
2017	12.6 months
2018	12.7 months
2019	15.5 months

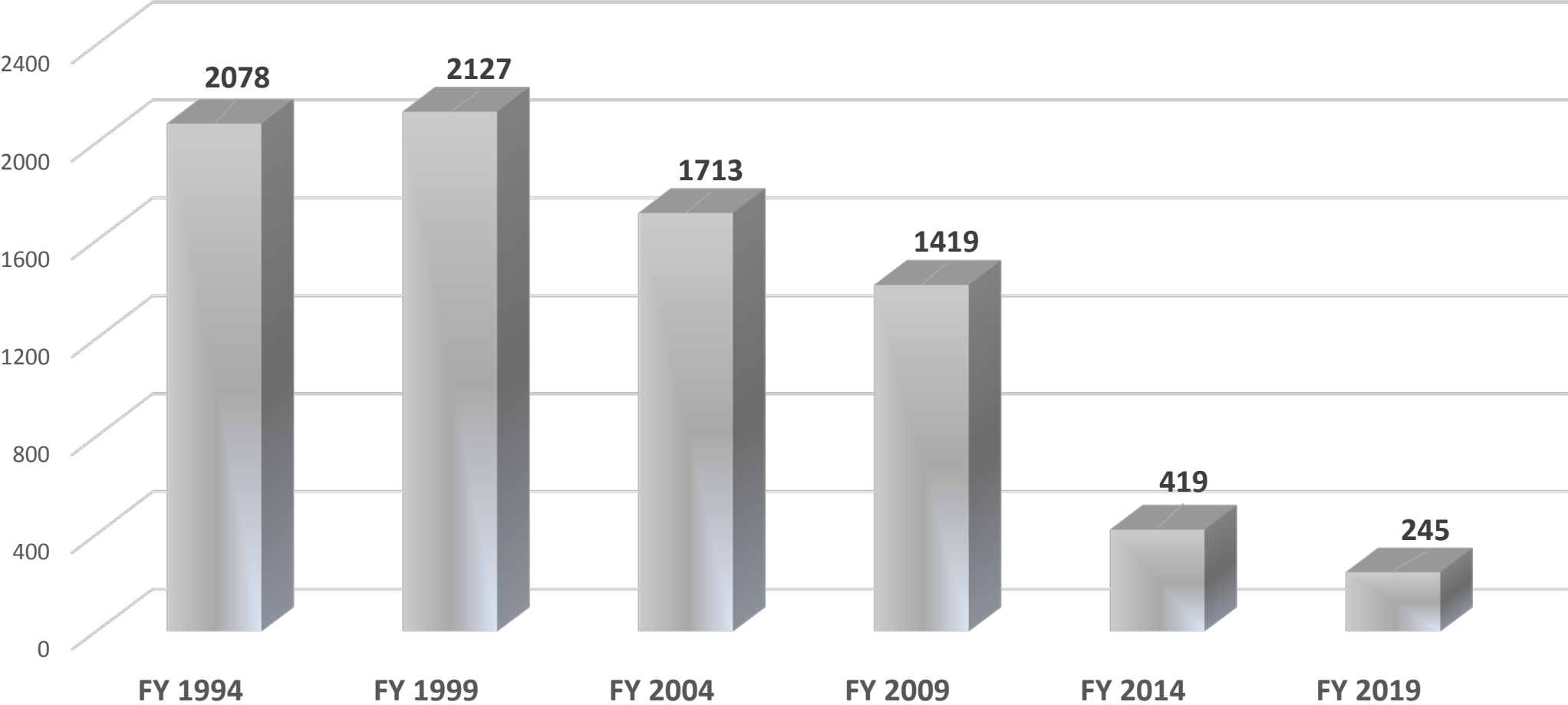
Firearm Specifications

- FY 2019 Felony Commitments: 100 out of 300 with firearm specifications = 33%
- Previous Year (FY 2018): 103 of 382 felony commitments with a firearm spec = 27%
- Five Years ago (FY 2014): 85 of 442 felony commitments with a firearm spec = 19%

Average Sentence Length

Fiscal Year Admitted	MSED – Admission Date
2019	502 days
2018	485 days
2014	398 days

Average Daily Parole Population: 5-year intervals



Youth Released and on Parole

- Average Length of Stay on Parole has ranged from 10.1 months to 10.3 months over last four fiscal years.
- For each year from FY 2015 through FY 2018, the average age of youth released from DYS was 18.0 years.
- The average age of youth released during FY 2019 was 18.3 years.