

**2009/10
Annual
Report**



Division of Children and Family Services
Office of Juvenile Services

**Youth Rehabilitation &
Treatment Center-
Kearney**

**Helping
Youth
Live
Better
Lives**

THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IS COMMITTED TO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE IN DELIVERING BENEFITS OR SERVICES.

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FACT SHEET

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

JANA PETERSON, FACILITY ADMINISTRATOR
REYMUNDO RODRIGUEZ, FACILITY OPERATING OFFICER
RITA ULDRICH, BUSINESS MANAGER
MINDY ABEL, PSYCHOLOGIST
RON COX, DICKSON SECURITY SUPERVISOR
LARRY VOLLMER, TIM JORGENSEN & ROBERT McMULLEN, YOUTH COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR
TONY KLEIDOSTY, PRINCIPAL
DAN THEOBALD, TRAINING COORDINATOR
STEVE REEVES, FACILITY MAINTENANCE MANAGER
MARY WRIGHT, FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR
RICHARD WETJEN, RECREATION MANAGER
JOSHUA ERICKSON, RELIGIOUS COORDINATOR
SHELLY POTTER, R.N., NURSING SUPERVISOR
ROSALIE MCCURRY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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MAILING ADDRESS

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WEB SITE

[HTTP://WWW.DHHS.NE.GOV/JUS/YRTC/YRTCINDEX.HTM](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/jus/yrtc/yrtcindex.htm)

RATED CAPACITY

172

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

2009/10 – 160 DAYS; 5.3 MONTHS
2008/09 – 167 DAYS; 5.6 MONTHS

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

2009/10 – 151 YOUTH
2008/09 – 169 YOUTH

ADMISSIONS

2009/10 – 449 YOUTH
2008/09 – 489 YOUTH

YOUTH REFERRED TO HASTINGS JUVENILE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY PROGRAM

2009/10 – 116 YOUTH
2008/09 – 122 YOUTH

PER DIEM COSTS

2009/10 - \$183.11
2008/09 - \$165.82

AVERAGE AGE AT ADMISSION

2009/10 – 16 YEARS
2008/09 – 16 YEARS

RECIDIVISM RATE

2009/10 – 29%

AFFILIATIONS AND/OR ACCREDITATIONS

AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION
PERFORMANCE-BASED STANDARDS/COUNCIL OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HIGHLIGHTS

The mission of the Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney (YRTC-K) is to help youth live better lives through effective services, affording youth the opportunity to become law-abiding citizens. To accomplish this, the YRTC-K provides diverse programming that responds to each youth's unique needs. In support of our mission, YRTC-K recognizes the following accomplishments for FY 2009/10:

The YRTC-K is mandated by agency operating rules to be an active participant in the American Correctional Association Commission on Accreditation (ACA). YRTC-K is in the process of preparing for their accreditation audit which will take place in October of 2011 under the new 4th edition ACA standards.

YRTC-K is a member of the Performance Based Standards (PbS) Project sponsored by the Council for Juvenile Correctional

project. Performance is scored on Critical Outcomes and the required aspects of the PbS reporting process for each Data Collection period results in an assigned Level of Performance. The Levels are from 1-4, with 4 being the highest possible Level of attainment. YRTC-K advanced to Level 2 during April 2009. This Level assignment means YRTC-K has met the required PbS process and methodology.

There were 2,585 youth/parent/family/clergy visits, with 1,787 of these being for four hours or more off the YRTC-K campus.

Forty-six (46) West Kearney High School (WKHS) students earned their General Equivalency Diplomas (GED) through the cooperative efforts with the GED testing center of Central Community College. Nine (9) GED graduation ceremonies were held, with 129 family members attending.

YRTC-K performed 4,799 community service hours for 43 local organizations.

One hundred nineteen (119) youth were paroled to the Hastings Juvenile Chemical Dependency Program (HJCD) for long-term Chemical Dependency treatment.



Youth at the Stuhr Museum in Grand Island.

TREATMENT PROGRAM

The YRTC-K rehabilitation and treatment program staff consists of the following:

- 15 Youth Counselor I's
- 3 Youth Counselor Supervisors
- 4 Mental Health Practitioners/ LMHP's
- 1 Dickson Youth Security Supervisor
- 1 Clinical Psychologist



Lincoln/Washington Living Units

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) is completed on all YRTC-K youth as part of Classification procedure to assess their risks and needs. The orientation staff continue to work hard to ease each new YRTC-K youth into the treatment program and provide leadership and counseling for first-time commitments.

There were 3,830 mutual help meetings led by Youth Counselors (YC) this year. Youth Counselors completed 493 release summaries that detailed youth's treatment program progress in addressing his needs and reaching outcomes. Each youth goes through screening upon intake for issues related to substance use, mental health and aggression. Appropriate referrals are then made for each individual youth.

YC I & II's made 3,829 contacts with parents by telephone, mail and face-to-face. They made 5,599 contacts with Juvenile Service Officers (JSO's) and Service Coordinators (SC).

Since October 2009 the Mental Health Department has made an effort to conduct mental health appraisals on all new commitments. Risk factors for safety issues, recommendations and appropriate referrals are made to ensure that individual youth needs are met.

The Chemical Dependency Programming staff provided an average of 3.8 weekly group therapy sessions to 69 youth. These sessions were 45-minutes long focusing on allowing youth to begin processing their chemical dependency issues. These youth were identified as needing additional chemical dependency intervention while at YRTC-K, but not qualifying for a higher level of care at a different facility. The weekly group therapy sessions prepare youth to transition to a more intensive and specific chemical dependency treatment at the community level of care, such as outpatient or inpatient services. All of the youth who participated in the Chemical Dependency therapy groups received referral recommendations for follow-up services upon their return to the community.

The Hastings Juvenile Chemical Dependency (HJCD) program continues to provide intensive residential C/D services for youth approved via the Magellan process. The HJCD program provides YRTC-K youth with a long-term residential level of care. The youth must meet the following guidelines to qualify for parole to HJCD: (1) Must be committed to YRTC-K, (2) Must have a diagnosis of dependency as a primary diagnosis, (3) Must be above the age of 13 and (4) Must have attempted previous treatment interventions.

Trauma Program Services are individualized to meet the specific needs of each identified youth. An in-depth interview with the youth, as well as a thorough review of the youth's history through research of available file information, provided nearly 950 hours of individual LMHP therapy to 105 youth during FY 2009/10.

YRTC-K's contracted psychiatrist provides services for youth identified with mental health conditions that require assessment for treatment, intervention, and/or stabilization. The psychiatrist will complete an individual medical psychiatric consultation/evaluation for each identified youth. A total of 114 youth received these psychiatric services.

A full-time Clinical Psychologist joined the YRTC-K team in September 2009. The Clinical Psychologist provides supervision of the treatment program, consultation regarding individual youth, assessments and follow up with individual referred youth and crisis intervention. In addition the Clinical Psychologist assists with administrative supervision of the Mental Health Department and programming staff, assists staff with Employee Assistance Program (EAP) referrals and reviews and updates procedures for supervised departments.



Youth exercising dogs for the Humane Society

EDUCATION PROGRAM

West Kearney High School (WKHS) is accredited by the Nebraska State Board of Education as a Special Purpose school. It is accredited as an optional school through the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. WKHS is also an institutional member of the Correctional Education Association.

The school's staff, 22 teachers and school principal, all hold professional certificates from the Nebraska Department of Education. This school year the staff authored 392 Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) and Education Plans (EP).



Youth learning hands on.

Our average daily student membership was 160 students.

Forty-six (46) students earned their General Equivalency Diplomas (GED) through a cooperative effort with Central Community College (CCC). There were nine GED graduations. One hundred twenty-nine (129) family members attended.

WKHS Basic Education teachers administered 278 Renaissance Learning's STAR pre-reading and math assessment. Two hundred seventy-eight (278) post-STAR reading and math assessments were also administered by the WKHS staff. These post-assessments were added to an on-going student database. The 278 student scores in the study indicate an 8.49 grade equivalency in math and an 8.15 grade equivalency in reading. The average length of stay for students in this post study is 5.24 months.

The WKHS Title I Neglected/Delinquent (N/D) project continued as a strong program component and served 185 students. These students demonstrated an average gain of 1.1 years in reading and 1.3 years in math. The students also earned an average of 4.90 high school credits toward their high school diplomas.

The Speech and Language program continued to be a vital part of the student's total education program. There were 68 students referred to the Speech and Language Lab. There were 62 students receiving services in fiscal year 09/10.

There were 360 individual student vocational interviews and Ansel-Casey assessments completed by the students. Thirty-two (32) were administered the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery).

MEDICAL PROGRAM

The YRTC-K medical personnel includes one full-time RN and two full-time LPNs. Daily sick calls are held so youth can report any problems. Comprehensive health care services are provided from admission through discharge.

Medical personnel met the DHHS Licensure Unit's requirements and are governed by written job descriptions approved by the contracted physician and YRTC Health Authority.

Access to health care is explained to all youth. All youth are screened on an individual basis. An intake screening form is used by orientation unit staff at the time of commitment. Information from this form alerts staff to any immediate problems. A nurse completes a comprehensive nursing assessment with each youth within 7 days of arrival. A physical is done for each youth within 14 days unless records show one was done within the prior 90 days. The contracted physician comes one day per week and if treatment is needed between physician visits, arrangements are made and the youth is transported to his or her local office.

Youth medical information is requested through a questionnaire sent to each youth's parents/guardians. Youth immunizations are updated according to state law.

The YRTC-K training coordinator or medical personnel lead various medical training for staff. Special medical needs training is done as needed with staff to meet special youth medical needs i.e. diabetic. All direct care staff are trained as medication aides.

The contracted part-time dentist or a hygienist see each new youth within 7 to 14 days and as needed.



SERVICE PROVIDED	NUMBER
Brief physical exams by doctor	184
Exams on new admittances	449
Eye exams	95
Surgeries	4
Emergency Room	30
Dental exams	769
Dental procedures completed	2,752
Youth visits to nurse	5,505
Staff seen by medical staff	263

RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

The religious program at YRTC-K is supervised by a Chaplain. Church services are conducted every Sunday by this Chaplain.

A total of 2,699 youth attended the voluntary church services throughout the year. This is an average of 57 youth per Sunday.

Two Bible studies are available to the youth each week. Adult volunteers lead the evening Bible Studies. The total number of youth attending Bible study was 638. This is an average of 13 youth attending each week.



YRTC-K Chapel

At the youth's request, the Chaplain is available for personal counseling. During the year, 197 youth requested and received personal spiritual counseling.

Volunteers from the Kearney area assist in the spiritual ministry. There is presently one volunteer who participates on a regular basis and others who are available to assist on special occasions. There were 260 hours of volunteer time donated during the year.

Several special chapel and church services were held as follows:

- In May the Christian Outreach for Rural Nebraska, (CORN), brought recreational equipment and conducted an all afternoon recreational activity in the gym and followed it up with a voluntary gospel message in the Chapel for 121 youth. There were 11 volunteers who led the activities.
- Crosswalk performed a special concert in June for 78 youth.
- Father Michael McDonald of Prince of Peace Catholic Church, conducted a special Christmas Eve Service on the afternoon of the 24th of December.
- In December the chaplain hosted a movie and message event for all youth.
- In April youth attended the Freedmen's Conference in Lincoln.

RECREATION PROGRAM

The YRTC-K employs one full-time Recreation Coordinator, two full-time Recreation Assistants and five part-time Recreation Aides.

YRTC-K has a wide variety of recreational equipment and areas that the youth have ready access to. This includes concrete play pads for each living unit. During the year, the youth participate in intramural sports. These seasons include softball, football, volleyball, basketball, soccer and beach volleyball. The youth can swim in the YRTC-K pool during recreation time and during Physical Education classes.



YRTC-K Annual Track Meet

In addition to regularly scheduled activities, the Recreation Department provided many special activities for the youth throughout the year, both on and off-campus. These activities included:

- Annual Softball All-Star game which includes both youth and staff playing together
- There were over 50,000 youth participation contacts in recreation this year.
- 20 youth achieved President's Fitness Awards.
- The first Annual Marathon Mile Club was established in October. To gain entrance and receive a T-Shirt for their efforts required each group to walk a marathon (26.2 miles) during the month. All YRTC-K groups but two accomplished this feat.
- A sports relationship between YRTC-K and Kearney Public Middle Schools was re-established with 5 YRTC-K groups playing 8 games against Sunrise Middle School.
- The Million Pound Club was established in May. Each group was required to lift a total of 1 million pounds during the month. One YRTC-K group accomplished this.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/ VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The volunteer activities program at the YRTC-K is coordinated by the Recreation Coordinator. The following are a few examples of the University of Nebraska – Kearney (UNK) partnership benefits, community service, volunteerism, entertainment and recreation within the community.

- 12 YRTC-K youth groups attended UNK wrestling meets and football, basketball, & volleyball games as well as concerts held at the Health and Fitness Center. Groups cleaned up following two of the events.
- For the 14th year, YRTC-K groups have been involved in the set up and tear down of the UNK Blue-Gold Day at the beginning of the fall semester. Three YRTC-K groups participated in this celebration by working and then taking part in the food and then taking part in the food and activities offered.
- 3 YRTC-K groups visited and helped at area care centers and assisted living settings as well as the Area Agency on Aging.
- 6 YRTC-K groups set up for concerts held at the Museum Of Nebraska Art in downtown Kearney. This is the 4th year for Creighton Living Unit to complete this project.
- 1 YRTC-K group helped set up and tear down for the Prince of Peace Catholic Church's Fall Festival.
- YRTC-K helped the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department with their annual pancake feed. This is an annual partnership.
- 7 truckloads of clothing bales were loaded by 7 YRTC-K groups for the Salvation Army.
- 1 group helped with the Kearney Community Thanksgiving dinner at the Knights of Columbus. This was the 12th year for Lincoln Living Unit to donate their assistance.
- 5 YRTC-K groups helped set-up for the Cattleman's Ball held in Kearney.
- 3 YRTC-K groups helped with the Elks Hoop Shoot held in December. This was the 15th year YRTC-K helped with this event. 1 youth group helped with the Elks Soccer Shootout held in September. This was the 6th year for helping with this event.
- 1 group helped clean up the exhibition building at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds following the Kearney Goodfellows Holiday gift wrapping extravaganza on December 25th. This is the 14th year of YRTC's involvement.
- One YRTC-K group helped landscape the new Nebraska Firefighter Museum when the building was finished.



Staff (in front) and youth volunteering at the new Nebraska Firefighter Museum

SUPPORT SERVICES

FACILITY BUDGET

Business Office personnel, in conjunction with the Budget Unit of the Department of Health & Human Services, annually prepare the facility budget of funds appropriated by the State Legislature. A budget for each of the operations areas of the facility is included.

The following is the budget allocated to the facility by DHHS for the FY 2009/10.



YRTC-K Training Area

	Budget	Total Expenditures
General Funds	\$ 9,872,876	\$ 9,377,089
Federal Funds	\$ 415,465	\$ 400,234
Cash Funds	\$ 395,057	\$ 320,147
Grand Total	\$10,683,398	\$10,097,470

PERSONNEL

YRTC-Kearney currently has 148.1 FTEs authorized.

During the past year, YRTC-K had 24 new hires, 4 retirements, 18 resignations and 15 promotions/transfers.

The average tenure for YRTC-Kearney employees was 11 years.

All employees are required to attend training throughout the year. During the past year, YRTC-Kearney employees completed 11,715 hours of training.

FOOD SERVICE

The Food Service Department served 177,562 meals consisting of 163,688 youth meals and 13,874 staff meals. The average cost per meal was \$1.65 or \$4.95 per day. Rising fuel and food prices have increased per meal cost this year. Average price per meal during the previous fiscal year was \$1.46 per meal or \$4.38 per day

MAINTENANCE

During the FY 2009/10, the following projects were completed by facility maintenance staff and/or contractors:

- Fire Sprinkler Project: This project was started during fiscal year 2008/09 and completed during 2009/10 fiscal year and will provide additional fire protection for all living units. This makes the living units in compliance with Life Safety Codes.
- Morton Remodel Project: This project was started during the 2008/09 fiscal year and finished during the 2009/10 fiscal year. This project involved complete renovation of an unused apartment area and the construction of four new offices and a new rest-room for Morton Living Unit staff.
- Vocational Building: Conversion of the old auto-tech class area to an art class room. This included removing old auto tech equipment and installing a kiln and double sink.
- Security Cameras: Cameras were installed in the north and south parking lots for added safety and security.
- Recreation Department: We received a new score board for the ball fields and a new trailer constructed by maintenance for the score board.
- Loading Dock Project: Started this year involved removal of old dock, relocate natural gas lines, construction of new dock and start of new street construction.

2009/10 ADMISSIONS BY COUNTY

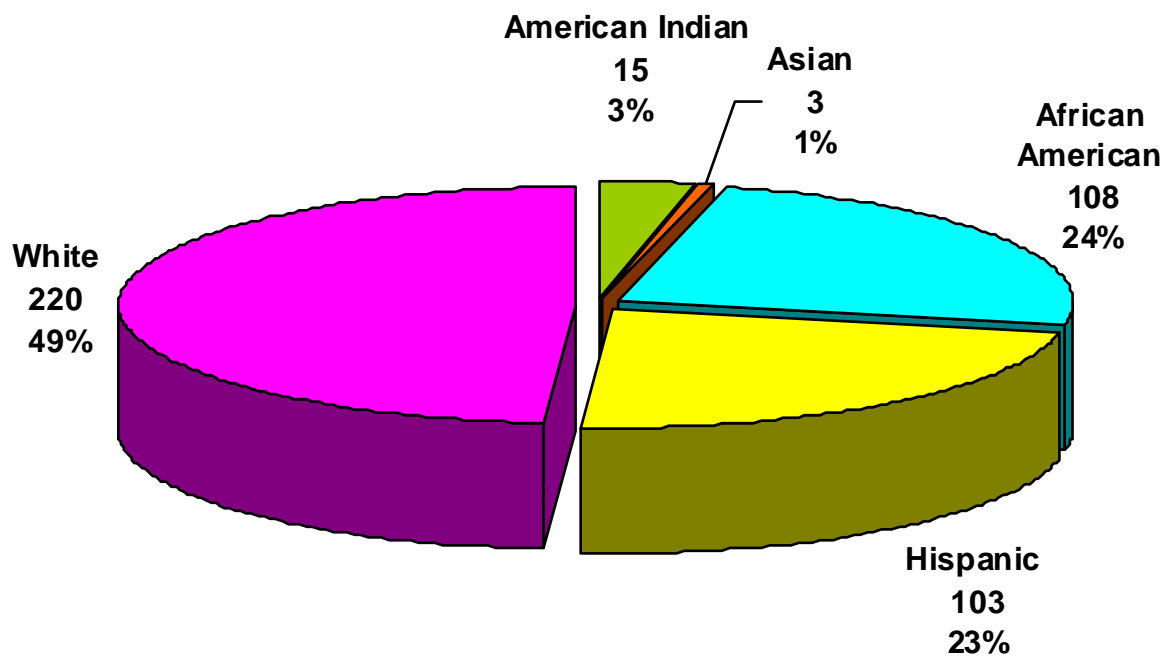
County	Service Area	Commitments, Recommitments & Parole Violators	Percentage
Adams	Central	13	2.90%
Arthur	Western	1	0.22%
Box Butte	Western	2	0.45%
Buffalo	Central	9	2.00%
Butler	Southeastern	2	0.45%
Cherry	Northern	1	0.22%
Cheyenne	Western	4	0.89%
Clay	Central	1	0.22%
Colfax	Northern	4	0.89%
Cuming	Northern	1	0.22%
Custer	Central	1	0.22%
Dakota	Northern	10	2.23%
Dawes	Western	1	0.22%
Dawson	Western	13	2.90%
Dixon	Northern	1	0.22%
Dodge	Northern	18	4.01%
Douglas	Eastern	83	18.49%
Fillmore	Southeastern	1	0.22%
Furnas	Western	1	0.22%
Gage	Southeastern	11	2.45%
Hall	Central	28	6.24%
Hamilton	Central	2	0.45%
Holt	Northern	2	0.45%
Jefferson	Southeastern	1	0.22%
Kearney	Central	1	0.22%
Kimball	Western	3	0.67%
Lancaster	Southeastern	116	25.84%
Lincoln	Western	12	2.67%
Madison	Northern	30	6.68%
Merrick	Central	3	0.67%
Nemaha	Southeastern	2	0.45%
Otoe	Southeastern	4	0.89%
Pawnee	Southeastern	1	0.22%
Phelps	Central	2	0.45%
Pierce	Northern	1	0.22%
Platte	Northern	8	1.78%
Richardson	Southeastern	1	0.22%
Saline	Southeastern	5	1.11%
Sarpy	Eastern	16	3.57%
Saunders	Southeastern	4	0.89%
Scotts Bluff	Western	13	2.90%
Seward	Southeastern	5	1.11%
Sheridan	Western	1	0.22%
Stanton	Northern	1	0.22%
Washington	Northern	4	0.89%
Wayne	Northern	1	0.22%
York	Southeastern	4	0.89%
Totals		449	100.00%

FY 2009/10 ADMISSIONS BY OFFENSE

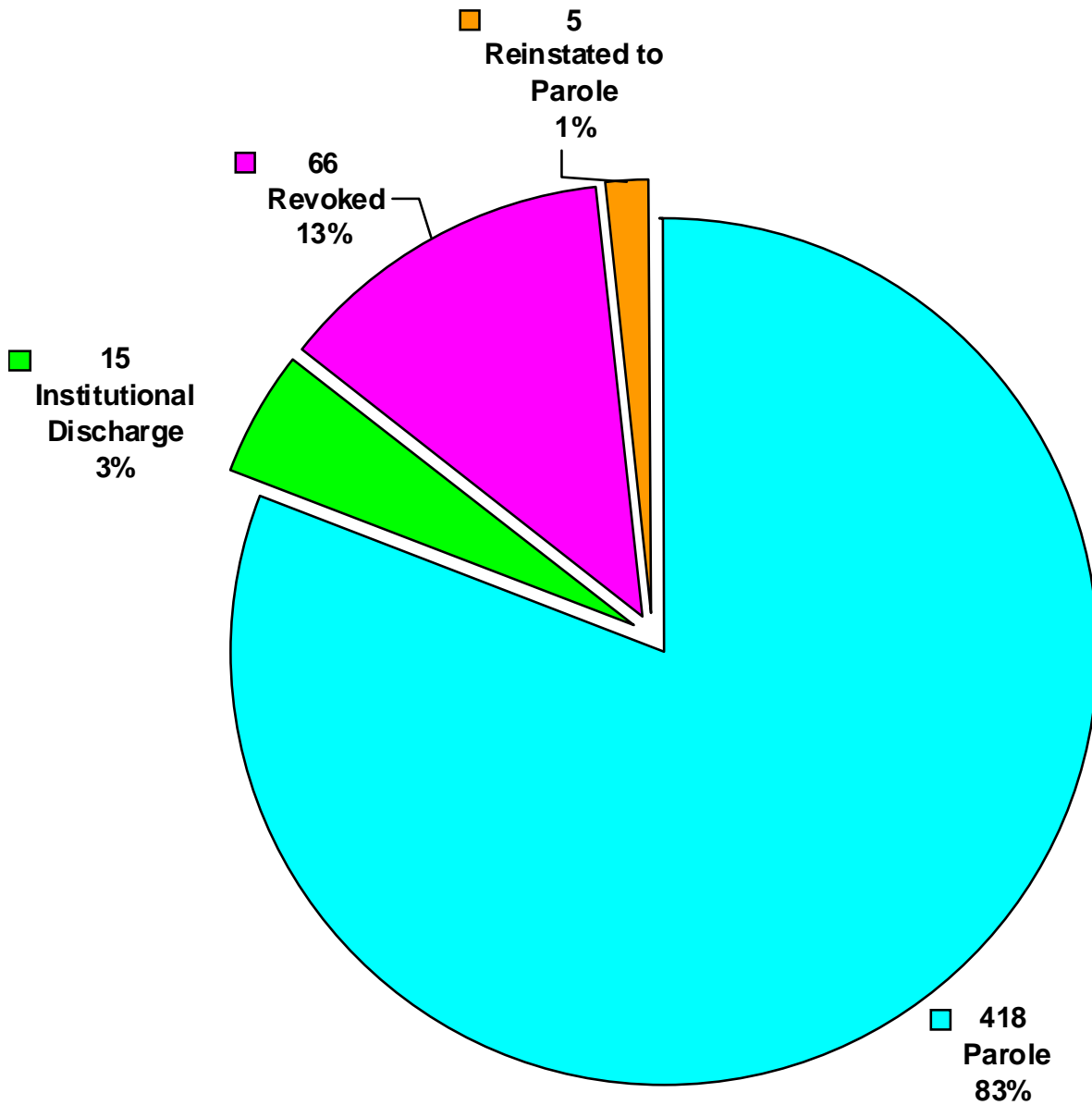
Arson	6
Assault	129
Auto Theft	25
Burglary	40
Concealed Weapon	5
Criminal Mischief	34
Disorderly Conduct	5
Distribution of Drugs	1
Disturbing the Peace	6
Escape	2
Failure to Comply	2
False Info	2
Obstructing Police Officer	2
Possession of Drugs	50
Possession of Firearm	4
Probation Violation	22
Procuring Alcohol	2
Resisting Arrest	6
Robbery	4
Sexual Assault	6
Theft	81
Terroristic Threats	4
Trespass	7
Unauthorized use of a Motor Vehicle	3
Vandalism	1
TOTAL	449

FY 09/10 ADMISSIONS BY RACE

449 TOTAL YOUTH



09/10 Total Releases 504 Total Youth



■ Parole ■ Institutional Discharge ■ Revoked ■ Reinstated to Parole