

**2007/08  
Annual  
Report**



# **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

TIM O'DEA, FACILITY ADMINISTRATOR  
TOM SMITH, FACILITY OPERATING OFFICER  
JANA PETERSON, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING  
DEB EIRICH, BUSINESS MANAGER  
VACANT, PSYCHOLOGIST  
RON COX, PSYCHOLOGIST ASSOCIATE  
TOM SMITH, YOUTH COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR  
TONY KLEIDOSTY, PRINCIPAL  
DAN THEOBALD, TRAINING COORDINATOR  
STEVE REEVES, FACILITY MAINTENANCE MANAGER  
MARY WRIGHT, FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR  
RICHARD WETJEN, RECREATION MANAGER  
MARVIN VALDOIS, RELIGIOUS COORDINATOR  
KIM FRINK, R.N., NURSING SUPERVISOR  
ROSALIE MCCURRY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>	YOUTH REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT CENTER 2802 30TH AVE. KEARNEY NE 68845
<u>PHONE NUMBER</u>	(308)865-5313
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<u>WEB SITE</u>	<a href="http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/jus/yrtc/yrtcindex.htm">HTTP://WWW.DHHS.NE.GOV/JUS/YRTC/YRTCINDEX.HTM</a>
<u>RATED CAPACITY</u>	172
<u>AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY</u>	2007/08 – 172 DAYS 2006/07 – 211 DAYS
<u>AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION</u>	2007/08 – 170 YOUTH 2006/07 – 170 YOUTH
<u>ADMISSIONS</u>	2007/08 – 466 YOUTH 2006/07 – 401 YOUTH
<u>YOUTH REFERRED TO HASTINGS JUVENILE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY PROGRAM</u>	2007/08 – 96 YOUTH 2006/07 – 111 YOUTH
<u>PER DIEM COSTS</u>	2007/08 - \$149.28 2006/07 - \$176.38
<u>AVERAGE AGE AT ADMISSION</u>	2007/08 – 16 YEARS 2006/07 – 16 YEARS
<u>AFFILIATIONS &amp; ACCREDITATIONS</u>	AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION PERFORMANCE-BASED STANDARDS NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# HIGHLIGHTS

The mission of the YRTC-Kearney is to help youth live better lives through effective services, affording youth the opportunity to become law-abiding citizens. To accomplish this, the YRTC-Kearney provides diverse programming that responds to each youth's unique needs. In support of our mission, YRTC-Kearney recognizes the following accomplishments for fiscal year 2007/08:

YRTC-Kearney's accreditation as a Juvenile Correctional Facility by American Correctional Association (ACA) standards was officially awarded by the Commission on Accreditation in Kansas City in August 2007. YRTC-K re-achieved 100% score non-mandatory standards (392).



*Dr. Drieling speaking at GED Graduation*

YRTC-Kearney is a member of Performance Based Standards Project for Juvenile Facilities sponsored by OJJDP and Council for Juvenile Correctional Administrators which is in its eighth year. YRTC-K is one of 191 facilities across 30 states in the project.

There were 2,643 youth parent/family/clergy visits with 1,658 of these being for four (4) hours or more off the YRTC-K campus.

YRTC-K youth received 2,643 family/personal visits this year.

YRTC-K youth completed 1,138 secured calls with their families.

Forty-six (46) West Kearney High School students earned their General Equivalency Diplomas (GED) through the cooperative efforts with GED testing center of Central Community College. Nine (9) GED graduation ceremonies were held with 165 family members attending.

YRTC-K performed 3,898 community service hours for 33 local organizations. This was an in-kind service estimated at \$22,803.

One hundred seventeen (117) youth were paroled to the Hastings Juvenile Chemical Dependency Program for long term Chemical Dependency treatment.

# TREATMENT PROGRAM

Treatment Program at the Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center - Kearney is composed of the following staff members:

- 16 Youth Counselor I's
- 3 Youth Counselor II's
- 1 Youth counselor Supervisor
- 3 Mental Health Practitioners/ LMHP's
- 1 Associate Psychologist



*Morton Living Unit*

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) is completed for 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 youth into the treatment program and provide leadership and counseling for first-time commitments.

There were 3,951 youth treatment group meetings led by Youth Counselors (YC) this year. Youth Counselors completed 516 release summaries that detailed youth's treatment program progress in addressing his needs and reaching outcomes.

YC I & II's made 4,498 contacts with parents by telephone, mail and face to face. They made 5,814 contacts with Juvenile Service Officers (JSO's) and Intensive Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) workers. There were 13 Family Centered Practice Meetings and 25 Family Centered Practice Teleconferences completed.

The Chemical Dependency (C/D) Program staff completed 405, 45 minute long, group therapy sessions. This allowed 53 youth to receive chemical dependency assistance, which would be on the stabilization level of care. These therapy sessions assisted youth in preparing for continued community treatment either at inpatient or at outpatient levels. All of the youth that completed the Chemical Dependency therapy groups were referred to receive follow-up services upon their YRTC-K community release.

The Hastings Juvenile Chemical Dependency program continues to provide intensive residential C/D services for youth approved via the Magellan process. The purpose of the HJCD program is to provide YRTC-K youth with a long-term residential level of care. The youth must meet the following guidelines to qualify for parole to HJCD. This included: (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, provides a 120 youth during 2007/08 and provided nearly 300 yours of treatment.

YRTC-K has a contracted psychiatrist. Youth who are identified with mental health conditions that require assessment for treatment, intervention, and/or stabilization are to the psychiatrist and will complete an individual medical psychiatric consultation/evaluation for each identified youth. A total of 80 youth received these psychiatric services.

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*Youth participating in recycling*

# EDUCATION PROGRAM

West Kearney High School (WKHS) continued as an accredited Special Purpose school through the Nebraska State Board of Education and as an accredited 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 391 Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) and Education Plans (EP).

Our average daily student membership was 173 students.



*Youth using hands on geometry*

Forty six (46) students earned their General Equivalency Diplomas (GED) through a cooperative effort with Central Community College (CCC). There were nine (9) GED graduations and one (1) high school graduation. One hundred sixty-five family members attended.

WKHS Basic Education teachers administered 167 Renaissance Learning's STAR pre-reading and math assessment. One hundred sixty seven (167) 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 167 student scores in the study indicate an 8.96 grade equivalency in math and an 8.20 grade equivalency in reading. The average length of stay for students in this post study is 5.05 months.

The WKHS Title I Neglected/Delinquent (N/D) project continued as a strong program component and served 298 students. These students demonstrated an average gain of 1.1 years in reading and 1.3 in math. The students also earned an average of 6.32 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 85 students referred to the Speech and Language Lab. There were 66 students receiving services fiscal year 07/08.

There were 424 individual student vocational interviews and Ansel-Casey assessments completed by the students. Thirty-five students were administered the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery).

# MEDICAL PROGRAM

The 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 DHHS Licensure requirements and are governed by written job descriptions approved by the contracted physician and DHHS Medical Director.



***Nurses Frink & Abels hard at work***

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 seven days of arrival. A physical is done for each youth within 14 days unless records show one was done within 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.

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

SERVICE PROVIDED	NUMBER
Brief physical exams by doctor	252
Exams on new admittances	470
Eye exams	84
Surgeries	6
Emergency Room	35
Dental exams	841
Dental work	2,935
Youth visits to nurse	5,121
Staff visits to clinic	134

# RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

The religious program and YRTC-Kearney is supervised by a half-time Chaplain. Church services are conducted every Sunday by this Chaplain.

A total of 2,486 youth attended the voluntary church services throughout the year. This is an average of 46.9 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 628. This is an average of 12.7 youth attending each week.



*YRTC-K Chapel*

At the youth's request, the Chaplain is available for personal counseling. During the year 159 youth requested and received personal spiritual counseling.

There are volunteers who 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 374 hours of volunteer time donated during the year.

A total of 57 youth were baptized by the Chaplain from July of 2007 through June of 2008, and 37 family members and friends came to attend the baptism services.

During the past year there were 13 special chapel and church services.

- The 1733 Barbershop Chorus presented Gospel Music in Barbershop Style in the Sunday morning church service, and was warmly received by the youths.
- The men of C.O.R.N (*Christian Outreach to Rural Nebraska*) came four times, for a special Sunday afternoon chapel with a Christian Rock Band, & Bible Study, etc... There were a total of 103 youth who attended the four sessions and a total of 40 volunteers who assisted.
- 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 gospel message in the Chapel. There were 17 volunteers who led the activities.
- Jim Wilson, the director of the "Press-on Youth Ministries", led the Sunday morning Church Services twice during the year.
- The Covenant Players came twice for all-campus assemblies. They presented moral and spiritual lessons through drama.
- J. P. Biernacki and his wife came to conduct a youth seminar on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Sunday Church service. J. P. was a youth who spent time here at YRTC-K in 1992. They were assisted by three other volunteers. There were a total of 141 youth who attended the three sessions.

# RECREATION PROGRAM

The Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center – Kearney employs one full-time Recreation Coordinator, two full-time Recreation Assistants and five part-time Recreation Aides.

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



YRTC-K Second 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:

- 3 Wii games for the youth to utilize in their leisure time.
- Annual Softball All-Star game in which includes both youth and staff playing together
- The YRTC-K was able to utilize the Kearney High School Track for it's annual Track Meet held in August. The local RYDE at Mid-Nebraska Community Action Partnership provided transportation to and from the track at no cost.
- There were over 50,000 youth participation contacts in recreation this year.
- 20 youth achieved President's Fitness Awards.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE/ VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The volunteer program at the YRTC-Kearney is coordinated by the Recreation Coordinator. He is responsible for coordinating volunteer activities. The following are a few examples of the UNK partnership's benefits, community service, volunteerism and entertainment and recreation within the community.



*Youth setting up tables for UNK's Blue-Gold Day*

- 6 YRTC 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 12<sup>th</sup> year, YRTC 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 groups participated in this celebration by working and then taking part in the food and activities offered.
- 3 groups set up for the Peking Acrobat group performance held at the UNK Health and Fitness Center. In exchange those groups were given admittance to the performances. All YRTC-K staff families were also admitted free.
- 9 YRTC groups visited and helped at area care centers and assisted living settings as well as the Area Agency on Aging.
- 3 groups set up for the Peking Acrobat group performance held at the UNK Health and Fitness Center. In exchange those groups were given admittance to the performances. All YRTC-K staff families were also admitted free.
- 9 YRTC groups visited and helped at area care centers and assisted living settings as well as the Area Agency on Aging.
- 3 YRTC-K groups set up for concerts held at Museum Of Nebraska Art in downtown Kearney. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for Creighton Living Unit to complete this project.
- The YRTC-K continued a partnership with the local historical Frank House Museum mostly due to the current Curator who is a past teacher at YRTC-K's West Kearney High School. Three groups provided help with projects inside and out including landscaping.
- 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.
- 11 truckloads of clothing bales were loaded by 11 YRTC groups for the Salvation Army.
- Lincoln group 3 helped with the Kearney Community Thanksgiving dinner at the Knights of Columbus. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year for Lincoln Living Unit to donate their assistance.
- 6 YRTC groups helped clean up the fairgrounds after such events as the Cattleman's Classic, Kiwanis pancake feed, Gateway Farm Expo and the Head Start Craft Fair.
- 4 YRTC-K groups helped with the Elks Hoop Shoot held in December. This was the 13th year YRTC helped with this event. One youth group helped with the Elks Soccer Shootout held in September. This was the fifth year for helping with this event.

# SUPPORT SERVICES

## **FACILITY BUDGET**

Business Office personnel, in conjunction with the Budget Unit of the Department of Health & Human Services, annually prepares 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 past fiscal year.

	Budget	Total Expenditures
General Funds	\$8,987,896	\$8,511,755
Federal Funds	\$ 410,967	\$ 410,967
Cash Funds	\$ 393,006	\$ 393,006
Grand Total	\$9,791,869	\$9,315,728



*Ms. Kidder & Mr. Nelson hard at work in the Maintenance Shop*

## **PERSONNEL**

YRTC-Kearney currently has 147.60 FTE Authorized positions - 156 employees

During the past year, YRTC-Kearney had 43 new hires and 54 retirements, resignations, promotions/transfers.

The average tenure for YRTC-Kearney employees was 10 years.

All employees are required to attend training throughout the year. During the past year, YRTC-Kearney employees completed 12,223 hours of training which included pre-service, mandatory, on-the-job, extraneous and specialized training.

## **FOOD SERVICE**

The Food Service Department served 200,443 meals; 186,404 youth meals, 13,861 staff meals and 178 visitor meals. The average cost per meal was \$1.34 or \$4.02 per day. Rising fuel and food prices have increased per meal cost this year. Average price per meal during the previous fiscal year was \$1.24 per meal or \$3.72 per day

## **MAINTENANCE**

During the past fiscal year, the following projects were completed by facility maintenance staff and/or contractors:

- Dodge copy room was remodeled.
- Dodge restrooms were remodeled.
- Street Light Project: Involves removal of old fixtures and poles and replacement with 50 new street lights. Design for project complete install will be in late summer and fall of 2008.
- Fire Sprinkler System for living units: Design and plans complete, install will be 2008/2009.
- Roof Replacement: New roof for Dodge and Morton approved, will start in 2008.
- Water Distribution Project: Installed new 8" water mains to all buildings, new fire hydrants, new building connection valves, pressure booster pump for domestic water and future fire sprinkler system, backflow protection.
- Electrical Distribution Project: This will eliminate overhead power pole and line on west side of campus. Included will be new underground primary and secondary supply lines, generators and switch gear, new transformers, new panels in buildings.

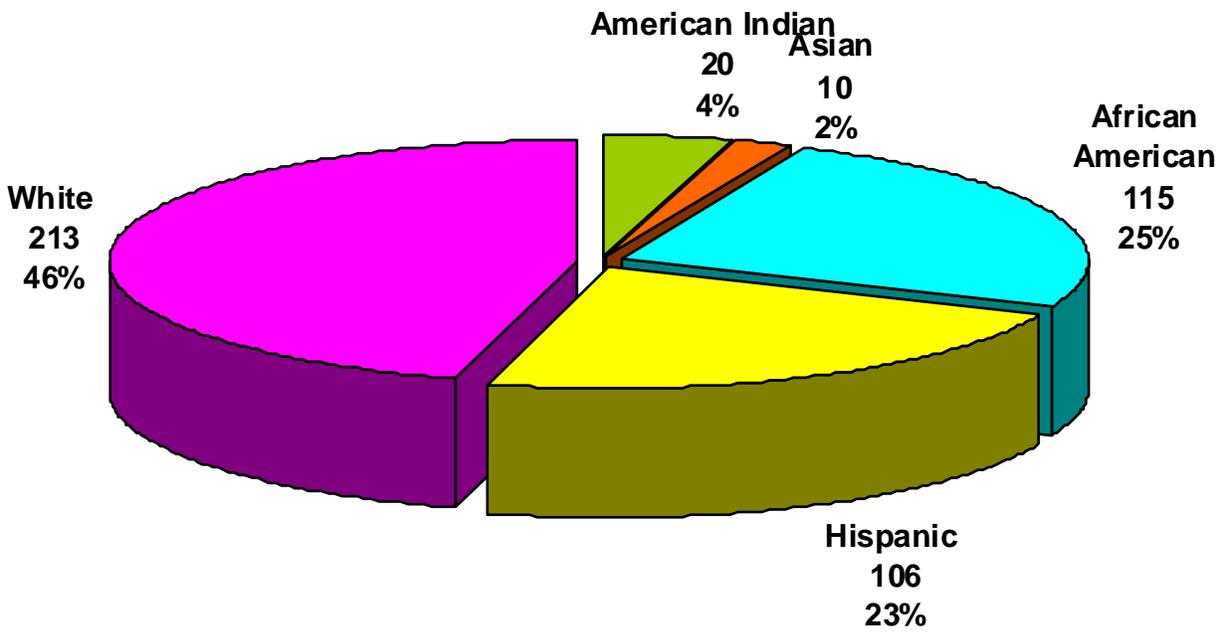
## 2007/08 ADMISSIONS BY COUNTY

County	Service Area	Number of Commitments, Recommitments & Parole Violators	Percentage
Adams	Central	4	0.86%
Box Butte	Western	4	0.86%
Buffalo	Central	11	2.37%
Chase	Western	1	0.22%
Cherry	Northern	1	0.22%
Cheyenne	Western	3	0.65%
Clay	Central	1	0.22%
Colfax	Northern	2	0.43%
Cuming	Northern	1	0.22%
Dakota	Northern	16	3.44%
Dawes	Western	2	0.43%
Dawson	Western	11	2.37%
Dodge	Northern	15	3.23%
Douglas	Eastern	108	23.23%
Furnas	Western	1	0.22%
Gage	Southeastern	4	0.86%
Hall	Central	18	3.87%
Hamilton	Central	3	0.65%
Harlan	Central	1	0.22%
Jefferson	Southeastern	3	0.65%
Kimball	Western	1	0.22%
Lancaster	Southeastern	118	25.38%
Lincoln	Western	28	6.02%
Madison	Northern	17	3.66%
Merrick	Central	2	0.43%
Morrill	Western	1	0.22%
Nance	Northern	1	0.22%
Nemaha	Southeastern	2	0.43%
Otoe	Southeastern	2	0.43%
Pawnee	Southeastern	1	0.22%
Phelps	Central	3	0.65%
Platte	Northern	13	2.80%
Red Willow	Western	4	0.86%
Saline	Southeastern	5	1.08%
Sarpy	Eastern	14	3.01%
Saunders	Southeastern	1	0.22%
Scotts Bluff	Western	21	4.52%
Seward	Southeastern	5	1.08%
Sheridan	Western	3	0.65%
Thayer	Southeastern	1	0.22%
Thurston	Northern	1	0.22%
Washington	Northern	4	0.86%
Webster	Central	1	0.22%
York	Southeastern	7	1.29%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>466</b>	<b>100%</b>

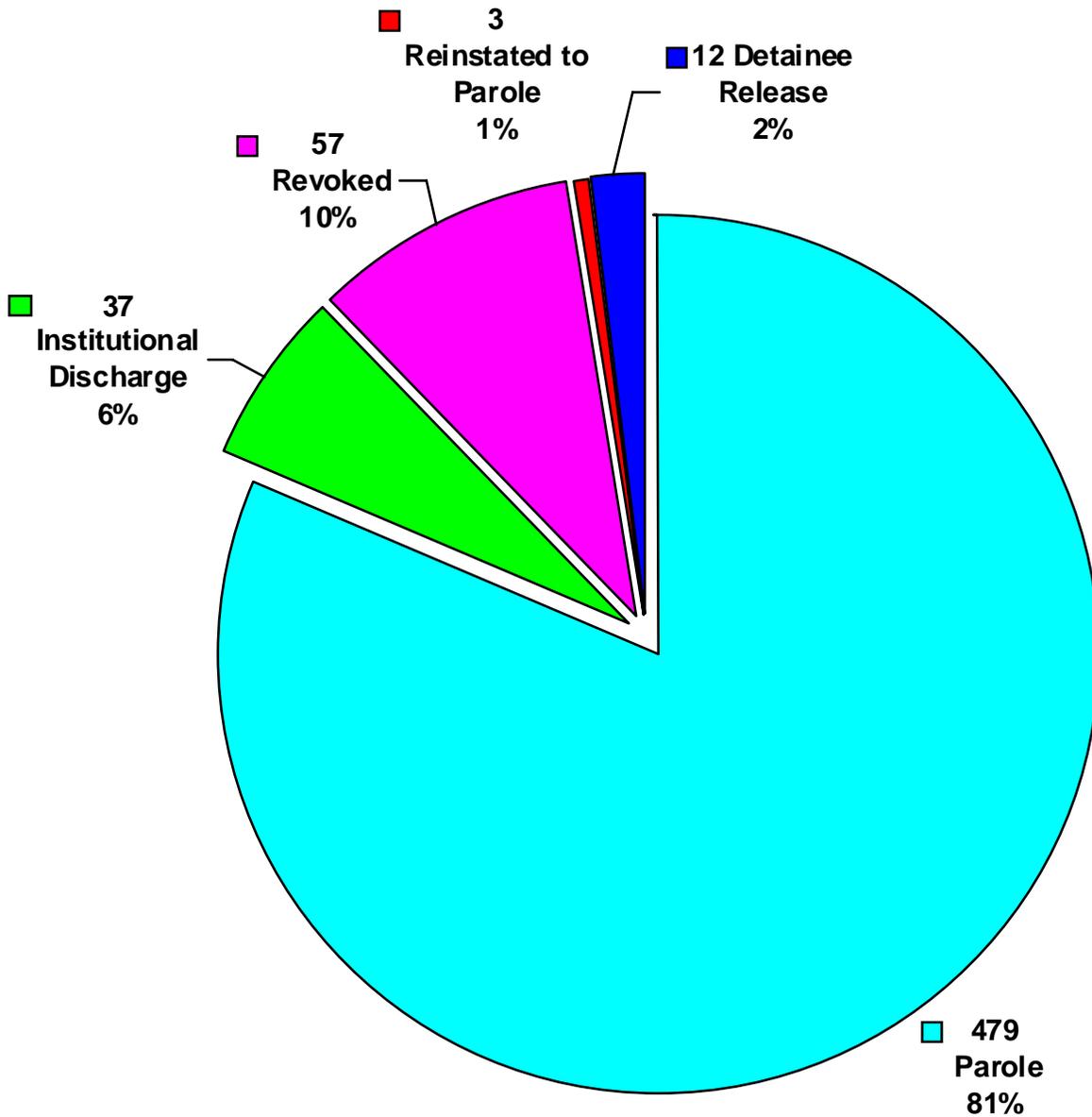
## FY 2007/08 ADMISSIONS BY OFFENSE

Arson	3
Assault	108
Auto Theft	31
Burglary	33
Concealed Weapon	16
Criminal Mischief	38
Disorderly Conduct	5
Distribution of Drugs	3
Disturbing the Peace	12
Escape	1
False Info	2
Obstructing Police Officer	3
Possession of Drugs	54
Possession of a Firearm	1
Probation Violation	32
Resisting Arrest	6
Robbery	5
Sexual Assault	8
Shoplifting	1
Theft	95
Terroristic Threats	3
Trespass	5
Vehicular Homicide	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>466</b>

# FY 07/08 ADMISSIONS BY RACE



# 07/08 Total Releases 588 Total Youth



479 Parole	37 Institutional Discharge
57 Revoked	3 Reinstated to Parole
12 Detainee Release	