



2025 DJJ Realignment Report

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Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3



Credit: Youth Alliance



Credit: 3 Sisters Garden



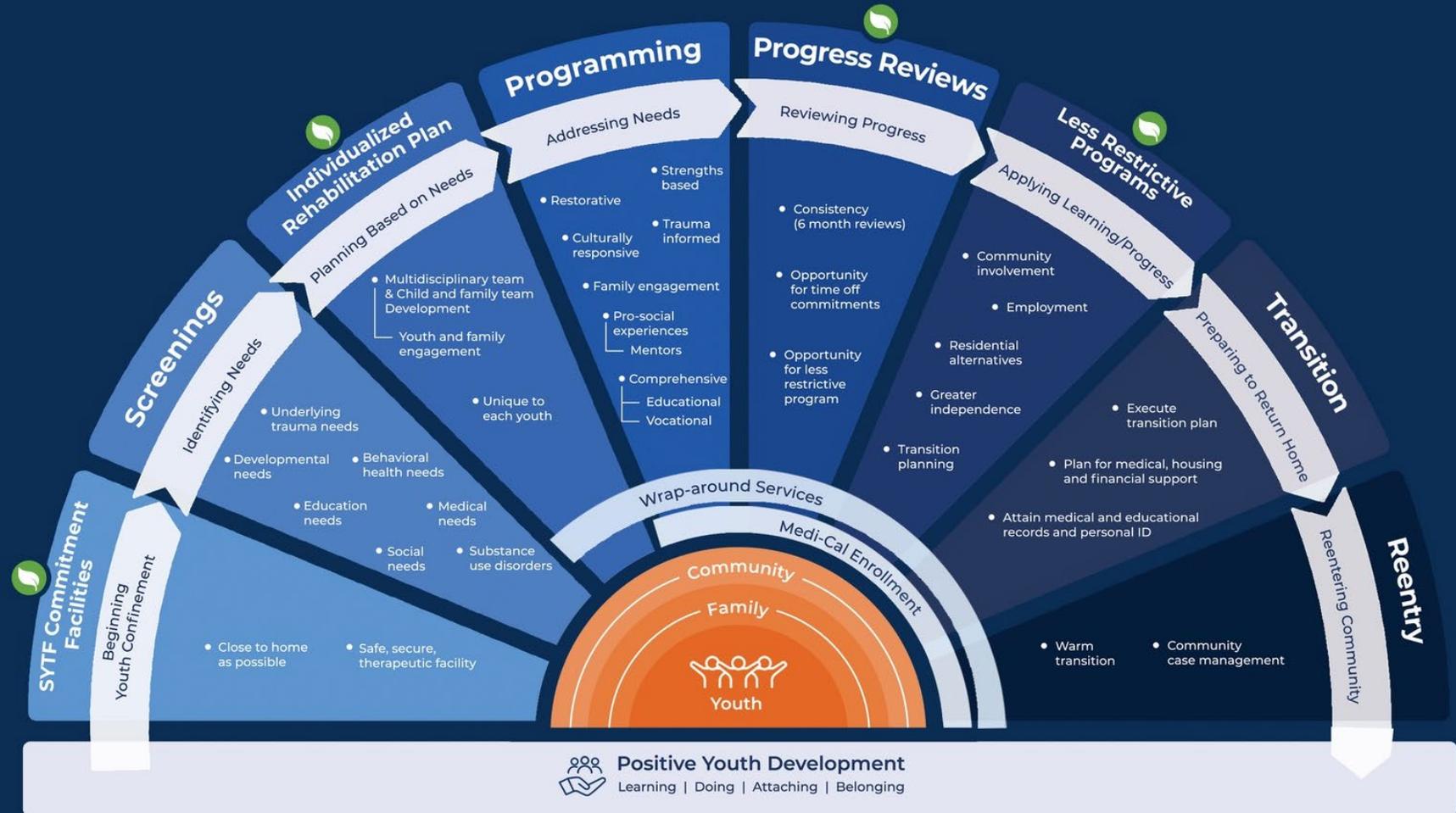
Key SB 823 Provisions



1	DJJ CLOSURE	DJJ facilities closed by June 30, 2023
2	STATE TO COUNTY	Responsibilities shift from state to counties to take over the care and custody of juvenile offenders
3	NEW OFFICE	OYCR established to provide practice and policy technical assistance for realignment initiative
4	NEW AGE LIMITS	Youth may stay in local facilities up to age 25
5	COUNTY FUNDING	Funding provided for local care, staffing and facilities
6	OMBUDS DIVISION	Ombuds division for all incarcerated youth

Steps Along the SYTF Continuum

The framework used to organize the contents of our findings is grounded in the developmental theory of Positive Youth Development and informed by the Stepping Home Model.



INDICATES NEW PRACTICES FOR SYTF CONTINUUM

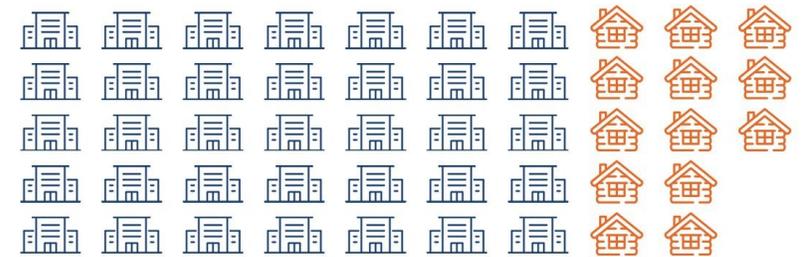
SYTF Commitment Facilities



Progress Across the State:

Counties developed secure youth treatment facilities (SYTFs) as either stand-alone facilities or units within existing county facilities. As of January 2025, 37 counties in California operate 48 SYTFs.

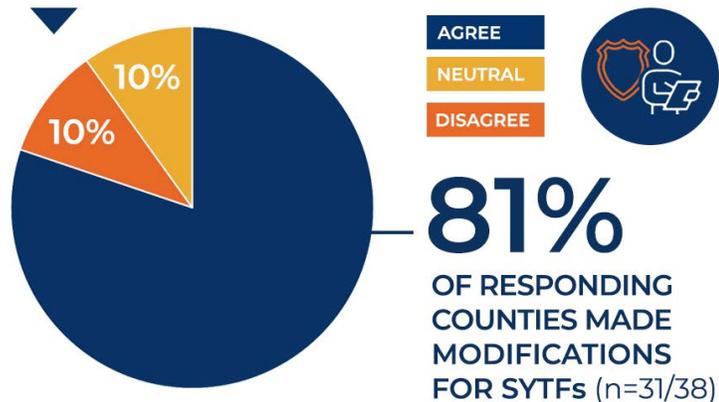
CA SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT FACILITIES BY LOCATION



— Juvenile Halls: 73% — | — Camps: 27% —

MODIFICATIONS TO FACILITIES

MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO SYTF FACILITIES



AGREE
NEUTRAL
DISAGREE



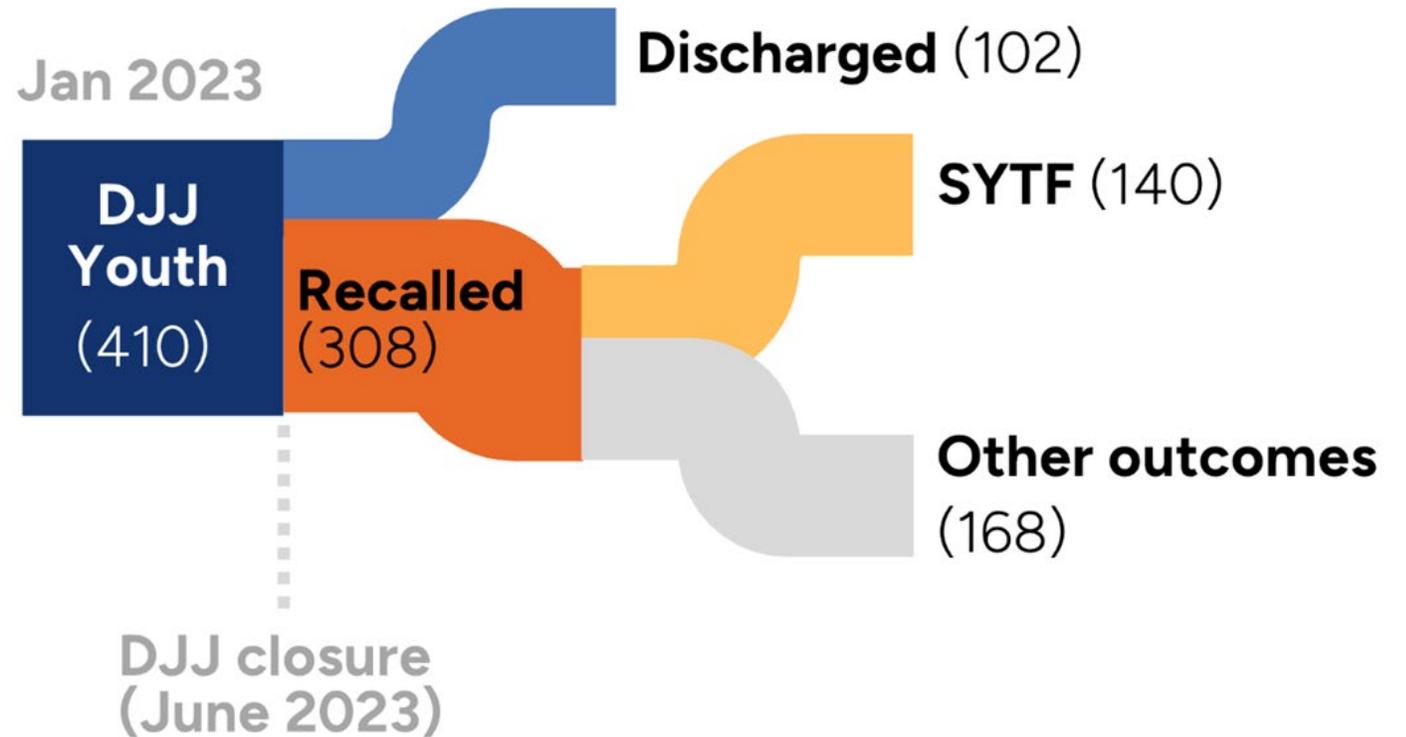
Updates Included:

- **Homelike features** (e.g., paint, carpet)
- **Security upgrades** (e.g., perimeter fencing, cameras)
- **Personalized touches** (e.g., video games, new mattresses)
- **Transportation** (e.g., vans for youth and family transport)

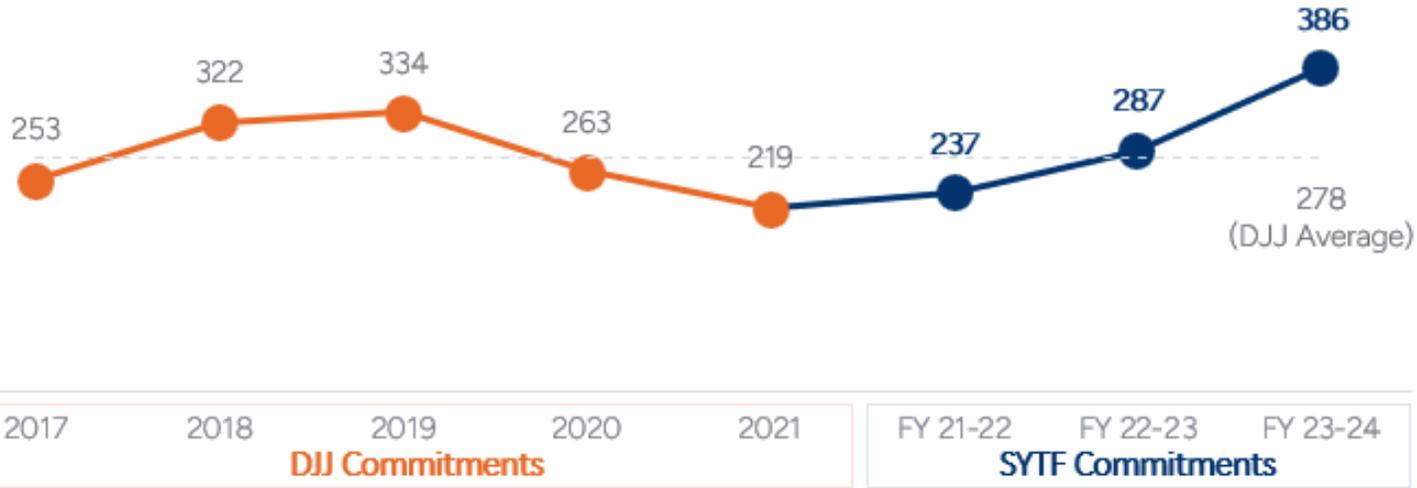
Despite these updates, many stakeholders emphasized that juvenile halls remain carceral settings. With the accelerated timeline, variation in resources, and lack of alternative options locally, alternative options were limited. Various facility infrastructure and limitations exist, with staffing shortages further straining program expansion and separation of youth by age or severity of offense across units, especially for small-sized counties.

Youth Placements Following DJJ Closure in 2023

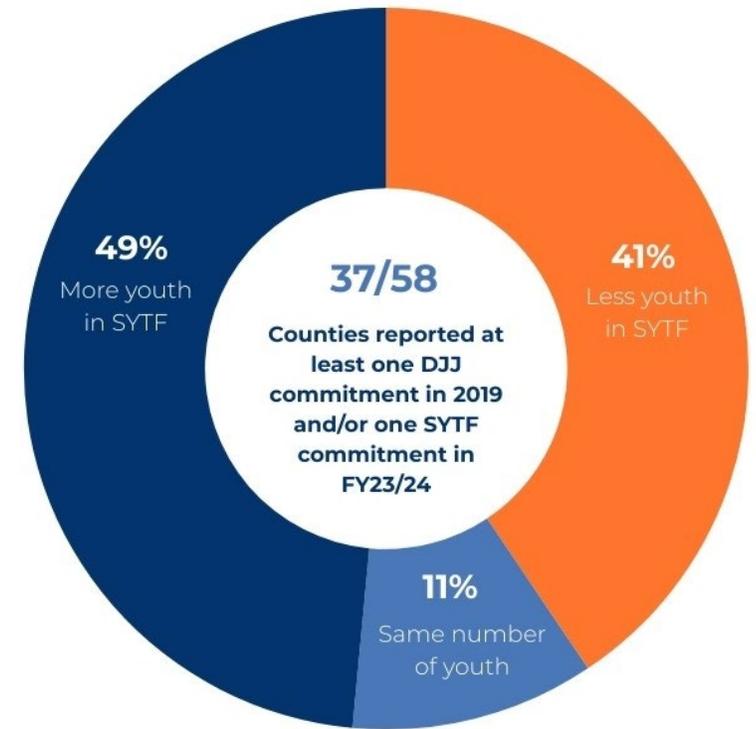
Source: *County Probation Consortium Partnering for Youth Realignment DJJ Transition Planning Summary of Youth Information*



Youth DJJ and SYTF Commitments



Source: DJJ Commitment Reports (Total DJJ Commitments) and AB 102 data by county (A).



Source: DJJ Commitment Reports (Total DJJ Commitments) and AB 102 data by county (A)

Stakeholder Perceptions

SYTFs may be perceived as less harsh compared to DJJ

Being closer to home may make SYTFs seem more acceptable

Courts may have increased confidence in SYTFs

Less Restrictive Programs



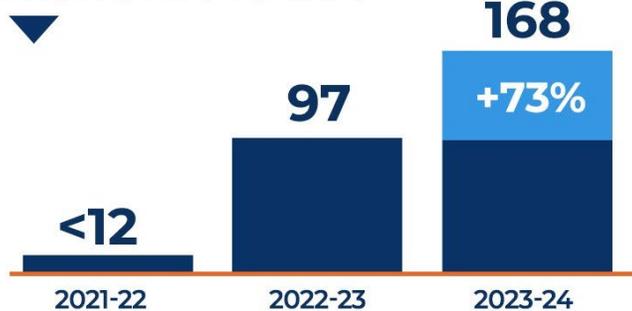
Progress Across the State:

Not all counties currently have or use Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs), though their statewide use continues to expand.



LRP USE EXPANDING

TOTAL YOUTH TRANSFERRED FROM SYTFs TO LRPs



SOURCE: AB102 DATA BY COUNTY (C)

34 counties now operate LRPs (up from 16) and youth transfers from SYTFs to LRPs are **up by 73% in one year.**

SOURCE: INVENTORY OF STATEWIDE CAPACITY TO SERVE YOUTH RETURNING FROM DJJ (MARCH 2023) AND LESS RESTRICTIVE PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA DIRECTORY (NOVEMBER 2024)

 RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS	These can be community or county based and offer a structured, supervised living environment outside of a secure facility.
 ELECTRONIC MONITORING	Youth live at home independently while being monitored through electronic devices with wraparound teams for high touch support.
 FIRE CAMPS	Youth may be placed in state-run camps such as Pine Grove where they receive firefighter training, or local-run fire camps.
 ENVIRONMENTAL/ VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS	State-run programs like California Conservation Corp (CCC) provide hands-on environmental or job readiness training.

Note: LRPs can either be in a facility (governed by Title 15 standards) or outside of a facility (not governed by Title 15 standards).

Follow-up on Progress: AB 169 Data

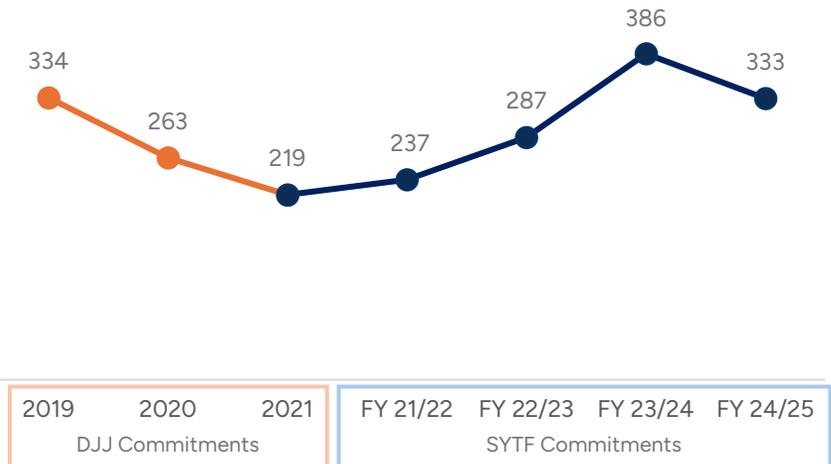
Per AB 169 Data for FY 24/25:

SYTF commitments decreased by 14%:

- From 386 youth (FY 23/24) to 333 youth
- This decrease is closer to the pre-alignment average DJJ commitment of 278 youth

Transfers from SYTFs to LRPs also increased by 28%:

- From 168 (FY 23/24) to 215.



The continued growth in counties stepping down youth from SYTFs to LRPs is a promising sign that aligns with efforts to prioritize youth rehabilitation and community safety, indicating statewide progress toward a developmentally appropriate approach to youth justice.



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Questions?