

New York City Detention Reform Plan Update September 2011



Detention Reform Plan Update

Since the publication of the Detention Reform Plan in 2010, the City has worked with partners to achieve the Plan's goals:

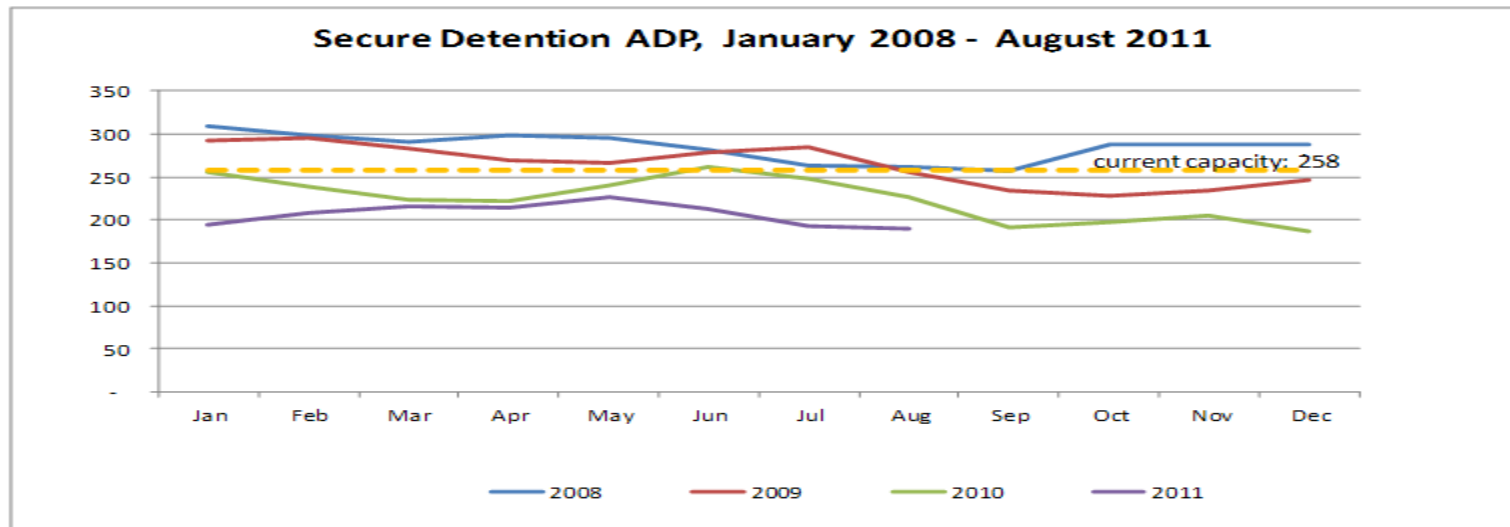
1. Promote public safety and reduce recidivism through more targeted use of both secure and non-secure detention
2. Expand the range of alternatives-to-detention for additional youth who can be safely served in community-based alternatives
3. Bolster the child welfare system's response to juvenile delinquency by providing targeted solutions to youth with child welfare needs, including youth in foster care, to prevent the need for detention

This Plan Update provides the status of recent initiatives.

Secure Detention

In March 2011, in a major press event, the City formally closed Bridges Detention Center. On hand for this watershed moment were ACS Commissioner John Mattingly, Probation Commissioner Vincent Schiraldi, Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo, Family Court Administrative Judge Edwina Richardson-Mendelson, City Council Members Sara Gonzalez and Maria delCarmen Arroyo, and Reverends Ruben Austria and Alfonzo Wyatt. Juvenile justice advocates and community members joined these officials in cheering the closing of Bridges as a symbolic passage away from an approach to juvenile justice that was often seen as harsh and ineffective.

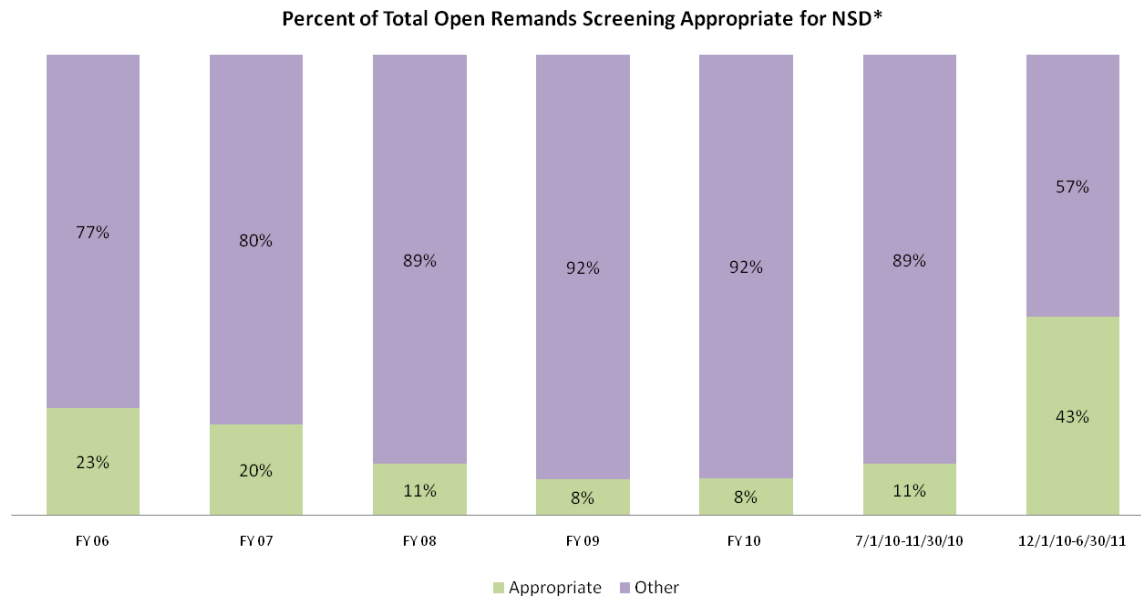
This accomplishment was the crowning achievement of the past five years of detention reform which included the introduction of a risk assessment instrument and many well-regarded alternatives to detention. These efforts accelerated in the past year and the total average daily population was maintained at levels where the Bridges could be safely closed. Many of the interventions detailed in the Detention Reform Action Plan helped to ensure that the City could safely, and permanently, bring about this important moment.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	309	299	291	299	295	282	264	262	258	288	288	288
2009	293	295	284	270	267	279	286	255	234	228	235	247
2010	256	239	224	221	241	262	248	226	192	198	205	187
2011	195	209	216	215	226	212	193	190				

STRATEGY # 1 UPDATE: OPEN REMAND

ACS began using a new open remand screening tool in December 2010 to ensure that youth are placed in the most appropriate level of detention without jeopardizing public safety. The instrument determines eligibility for Non-Secure Detention (NSD) and was designed to be administered immediately upon remand, which reduced the wait time for open remanded youth to be admitted into NSD from 72 hours to just a few. For screenings conducted between January and June 2011, there was an increase in the percentage of youth that screened appropriate for NSD from approximately 8% to 43%. Due to the early screening, the majority of these youth were also able to avoid any time spent in secure detention. With the increase in youth entering NSD through Open Remands, we have not seen an increase in the abscond rate or in incidents involving youth who are now eligible for NSD.



*100 % represents all open remand orders received by the Department during the reporting period. Other Outcomes include youth who screened not-appropriate for non-secure based on the existing screening instrument, those youth released from detention before the screening was completed, and those youth whose screening had not yet been completed at the end of the reporting period. A new screening instrument was implemented 12/1/2010.

	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	7/1/10-11/30/10	12/1/10-6/30/11
Total Open Remands	1878	1648	2739	1352	1123	415	599
Appropriate	436	324	304	106	90	46	258

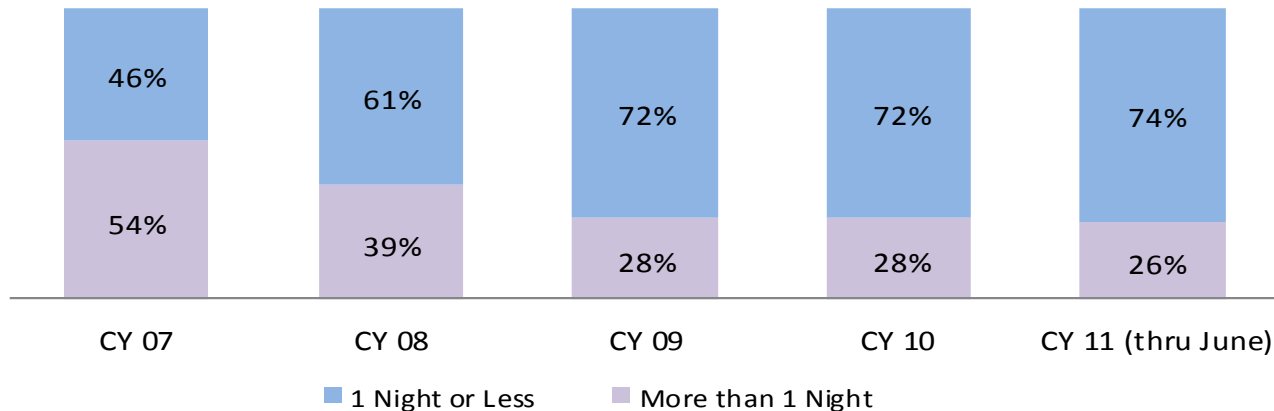
STRATEGY #2 UPDATE: EXPEDITE SCREENING OF POLICE ADMISSIONS

ACS and DOP are working together to reduce the number of youth that are admitted to secure detention during evening and weekend hours and released at court the next day. Approximately 2,000 youth per year are admitted to detention for only night.

ACS recently implemented a new policy under which staff arrange transportation for youth who screen eligible for release to parent. Previously, approximately 25% of youth screened eligible for release but less than 1% were actually released, due to the reluctance or inability of parents or guardians to come to detention to pick up their child.

The next phase of this initiative will involve DOP performing intakes on youth brought to secure detention by the police when courts are closed. The probation officers will be able to substantially commence and in some cases complete intake and adjustment services at detention's front door, thereby preventing unnecessary overnight detention stays and alleviating daytime workloads in Family Court. These adjustments will be taking place in the overnight hours and these youth will be eligible for transportation home.

**Length of Stay for Police Admits,
CY 2007-2010 and January - June, 2011**

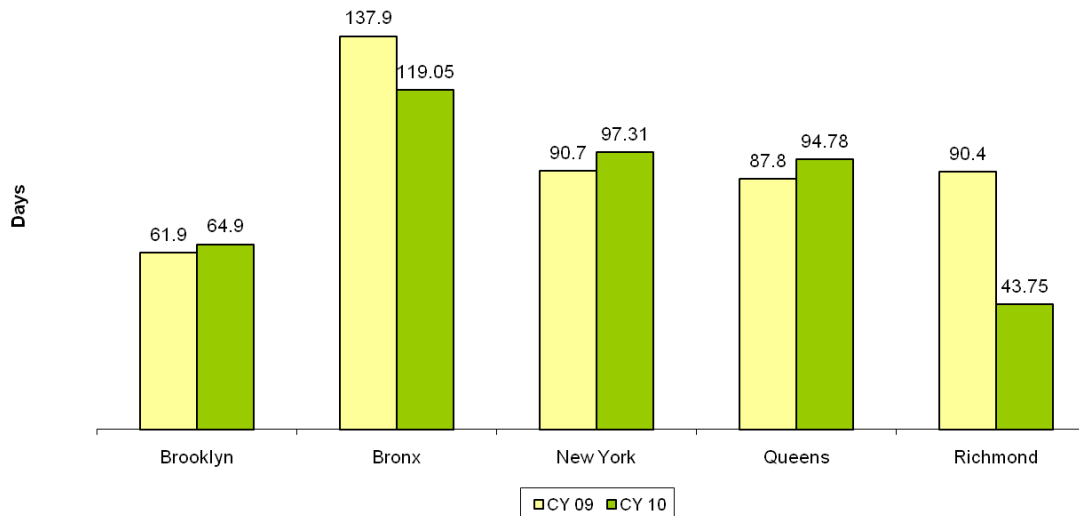


	CY 07	CY 08	CY 09	CY 10	January-June 2011
More than 1 Night	1555	1093	888	794	367
1 Night or Less	1311	1726	2234	2045	1023

STRATEGY #3 UPDATE: EXPAND OPTIONS FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS

In April, ACS began a pilot program, Positive Alternatives Toward Home (PATH). The program involves using electronic monitoring as a supplement to other existing programmatic interventions so that youth who would normally be in secure detention as Juvenile Offenders (JOs) can safely return to the community as they await adjudication. It is a performance based program where JO youth can significantly influence their outcome based on their behavior. Youth may step-down (reduced monitoring and/or restrictions), or step-up (graduated consequences for violation) based on compliance with program requirements. The electronic monitoring device (anklet) is used to measure compliance with curfew and other court-ordered conditions restrictions, as well as monitor school and program attendance. Youth are expected to spend a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 90 days in PATH. While in the program they receive ongoing support and supervision from a youth-serving, community-based organization designated by the court. Currently PATH is being piloted with Judge Eduardo Padro in Manhattan Supreme Court.

Average Length of Stay for Juvenile Offenders by Admitting Court CY 2009 - CY 2010



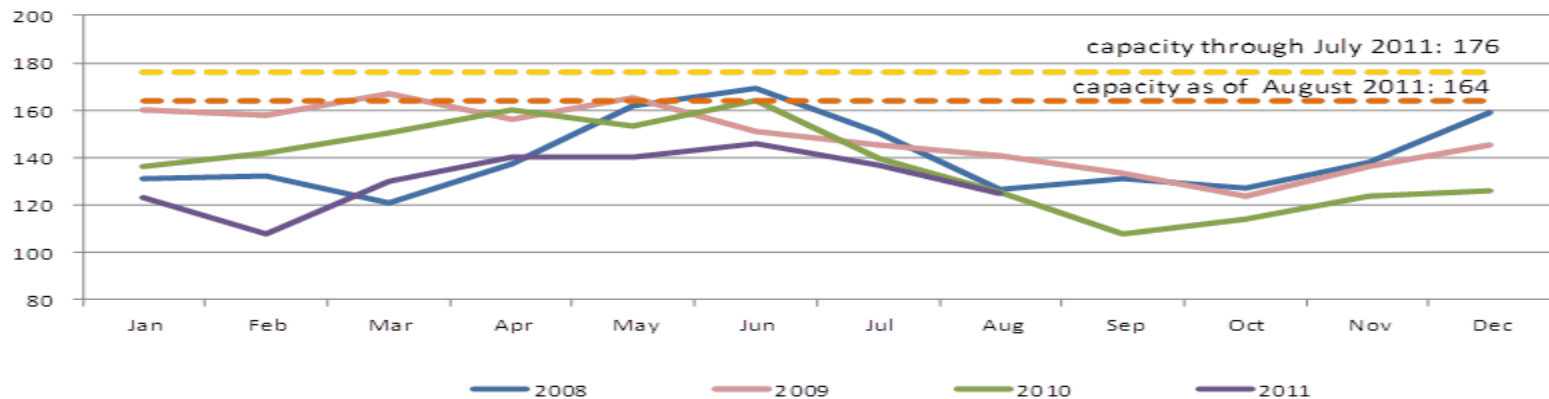
JO Admissions						
	Brooklyn	Bronx	New York	Queens	Richmond	Total
CY 2009	119	68	112	65	4	368
CY 2010	94	76	96	54	5	325

NON-SECURE DETENTION

The non-secure detention census has been reduced due to new alternative to detention (ATD) programming, work ACS has done with foster youth in detention and the DOP work to standardize the violation process. The reduction has been realized despite the shift in open remand eligibility criteria, which has resulted in a higher percentage of open remanded youth placed in non-secure detention.

In March 2011, ACS launched a new ATD program for youth who would have been detained in non-secure detention as a result of a violation of probation or for violating the conditions of another, less intensive, ATD program. The provider agency, Boys Town, first assesses youth for up to ten days at its non-secure detention facility, following a court order to provide such an assessment. Following the assessment, the judge decides whether to parole the youth to the community, conditioned on participation in the ATD. Boys Town provides to paroled youth “In-Home Family Services,” a Boys Town therapeutic model successfully used in other jurisdictions, as well as added supervision of the youth. The program has the capacity to assess 220 youth each year, and provide services in the community to 140. In addition to the Boys Town ATD, other programs, such as Way Home and Ready Respite, some of which are State funded, have also successfully prevented youth from entering non-secure detention or facilitated their step-down into community-based options.

Non-Secure Detention ADP, January 2008 - August 2011



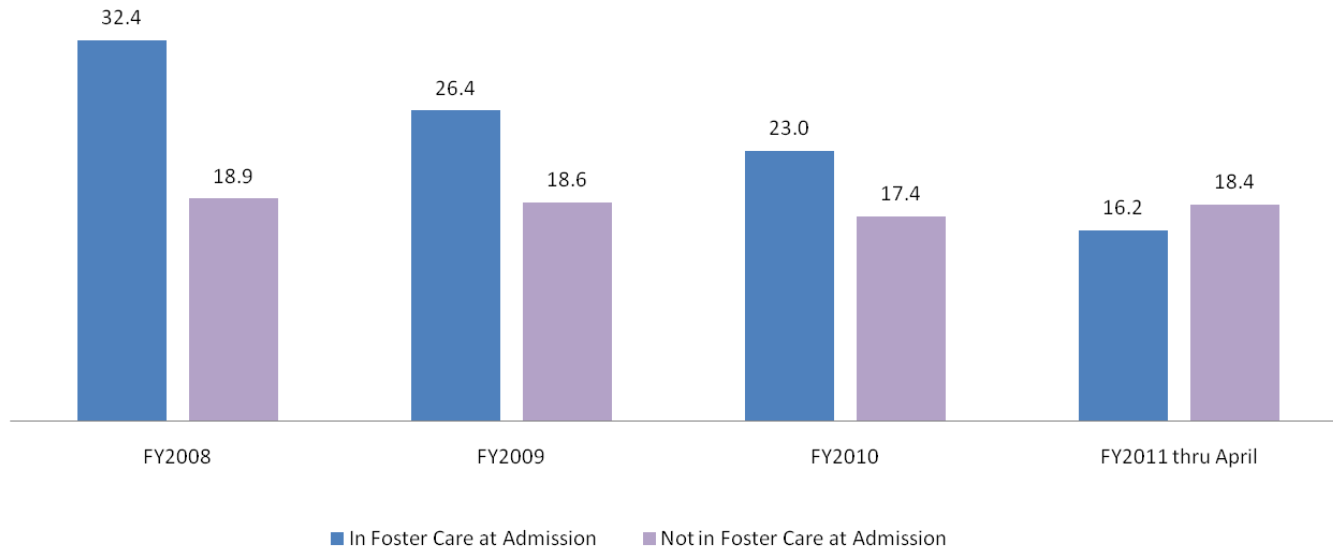
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	131	132	121	138	162	169	150	127	131	127	138	159
2009	160	158	167	156	165	151	145	141	133	124	136	145
2010	137	142	150	160	153	164	139	125	108	114	124	126
2011	123	108	130	140	140	146	137	125				

PRIORITY 5: IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE OR YOUTH WITHOUT A FAMILY RESOURCE

ACS created a new program area, “Juvenile Justice Permanency Planning,” which has focused on reducing the use of unnecessary detention for foster youth, and addressing disproportionately long lengths of stay in detention of these youth. The area includes the staff of “Confirm,” whose work had been limited for the past decade to notifying caseworkers about the first court date of arrested foster youth. Today, the program area works cross-divisionally on specific cases to ensure that foster youth who are arrested are provided with quality case planning. Confirm also maintains a running list of foster youth in detention, enabling a focus on addressing the needs of youth who have long lengths of stay. The length of stay has been reduced substantially as a result of this targeted focus.

In order to expand options for youth at risk of detention because there is no family resource, Children’s Services is developing a request for proposals for respite care in FY 2012. A pilot respite program funded by the State, Ready Respite, has been in place for nearly a year in Staten Island and has successfully kept youth from entering detention and improved family functioning. The three respite homes are based on the highly successful Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care model, an evidence-based foster home model that is utilized for the juvenile justice population in many jurisdictions, including New York City. Children’s Services expects to build on these results and expand respite to all of New York City.

Average Days in Detention by Foster Care Status at Admission, Single Case JD Admissions,
FY 2008-2010 and FY 2011 through April Discharges

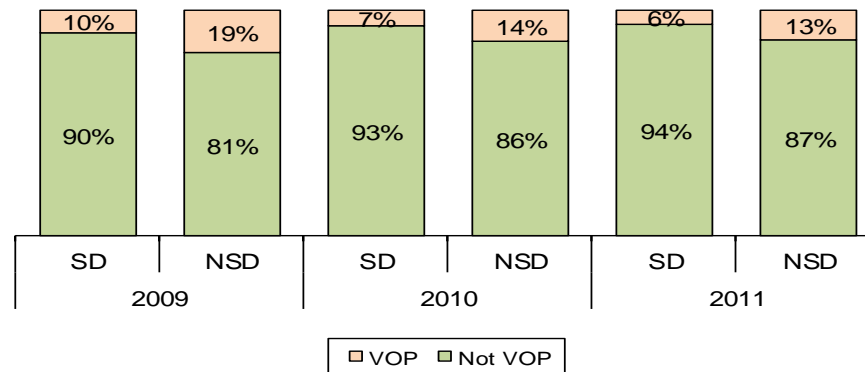


PRIORITY 6: EXPAND OPTIONS FOR YOUTH ON PROBATION WHO ARE AT RISK OF, OR FOLLOWING A VIOLATION

DOP has been working on ways to standardize the decision-making process that officers follow when deciding whether or not to file a violation of probation. This work has focused on ensuring that violation criteria are concentrated on maximizing public safety by limiting the use of violations to instances where the youth is displaying behaviors indicative of re-engaging in delinquent behavior. In addition, when violations are filed, DOP is not defaulting to a remand/placement recommendation in its court application.

In addition to the DOP practice change, the Boys Town ATD, described in detail on page 7, specifically targets youth who have returned to court on a violation of probation case. Rather than a lengthy stay in detention pending the outcome of the case, youth in the Boys Town ATD spend up to 10 days in detention for an in-depth assessment. Following the assessment, if the court approves, the youth then step down into the community with services and added supervision, until their violation case is resolved.

**Residents in Custody on Violation of Probation,
June 30, 2009-2011**



	FY 09		FY 10		FY 11	
	SD	NSD	SD	NSD	SD	NSD
Not VOP	256	129	246	137	219	120
VOP	28	30	18	22	14	18



Michael R. Bloomberg, *Mayor*
Linda I. Gibbs, *Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services*