



## Administrative Office of the Courts

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## Administrative Office of the Courts

Report for Juvenile Justice Oversight Council  
Submitted by Ashley Clark, Executive Officer  
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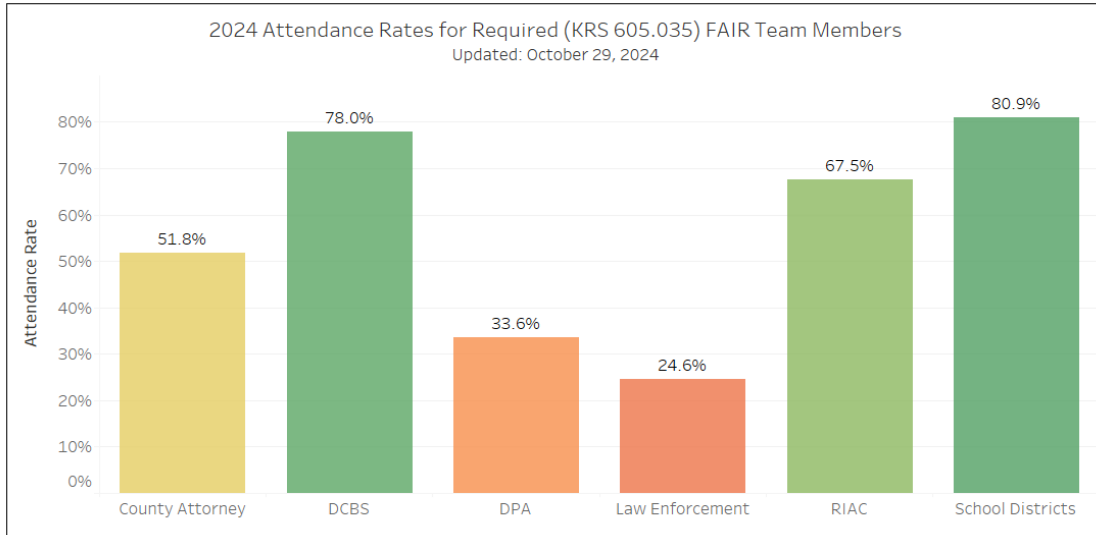
The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is pleased to report its progress on several important juvenile justice initiatives. This report will provide an update on the following:

- Family, Accountability, Intervention, and Response (FAIR) Team Outcomes and Attendance by Mandated Members
- AOC Judicial Training Related to Juvenile Justice
- Trends in Detentions

### **FAIR Team Outcomes and Member Attendance**

The AOC reports outcomes for cases reviewed by FAIR Teams at each Juvenile Justice Oversight Council meeting.

- FAIR Teams were referred 1,922 complaints in 2022; 2,149 complaints in 2023; and, as of October 29, 2024, 2,152 in 2024.
- Of the 2,250 complaints closed thus far in 2024 that had been referred to FAIR Teams, 56% of the cases were resolved outside of court while 44% were referred to court.
- FAIR attendance rates are noted in the chart below. Attendance data was generated on September 23, 2024.
- Attendance rates are generally on par or above rates in 2023.



### Judicial Training Related to Juvenile Justice

Kentucky’s District Court Judges attend annual trainings geared towards judicial education and relevant district court subject matters. Most recently, Kentucky's District Court Judges have been offered trainings on the various programs and resources available to juveniles who are involved with the courts, the challenges and considerations associated with youthful offenders, juvenile court procedures and best practices, and any legislative changes impacting juvenile court cases in district court. The District Court Judges Association recognizes the importance in having well-trained judges presiding over juvenile court cases and is always looking to provide its judges with trainings that will enhance their decision-making and further the goals of the Juvenile Code.

### Trends in Detentions

Detention at intake means a youth has been taken into custody by law enforcement and a judge has ordered the youth be detained in a secure facility pending a detention hearing.

Like the decrease of complaint filings across the commonwealth over the years, detentions have decreased as well. Detentions peaked at the earliest year we have reportable data – 2006. In 2006, there were 4,583 complaints detained at intake. In 2019, there were 1,586 complaints detained at intake. This number further decreased by 40% during the peak of the pandemic but increased in 2023 to 1,555 complaints. As of October 28, there have been 1,399 complaints detained at intake in 2024. Additional data points comparing detentions for the first nine months (January – September) of 2023 and 2024 below:

- Detentions in the first nine months of the year went from 1,172 to 1,254 (an increase of 7%).

- When comparing Jefferson County to the rest of the commonwealth, Jefferson County saw a 24% decrease in detentions at intake through the first nine months of the year while the rest of the commonwealth had a 20% increase in detentions.

While comparing calendar year to calendar year does not reveal much of a change in detentions, the same cannot be said for comparing the beginning of fiscal year 2025 to the year before. In FY 2025, as of October 28, 2024, 647 complaints have been detained. That represents a 17% increase compared to the same period in FY 2024. This can be broken down to a 30% increase in detained complaints in Jefferson County and a 14% increase in the commonwealth's other 119 counties. There has not been a similar increase in total complaints filed, with only a 6% increase over the same period. There were 216 complaints detained in September of this year, the highest number in a single month since September 2013.

### **Definitions for Consideration**

- **Successful Diversion:** A diversion that has been deemed to have met the requirements of agreed-upon action steps and goals to the best of the youth's ability and the complaint has been dismissed.
- **Unsuccessful Diversion:** A diversion in which that youth has failed to meet the requirements of their agreed-upon diversion agreement and the diversion has been terminated.
- **Adjudication:** A formal court hearing to determine the truth or falsity of the allegations in a juvenile petition. KRS 610.060.
- **Disposition:** A hearing, held after and (usually) separately from the adjudication hearing, to determine the action to be taken by the Court on behalf of a child who has been found to have committed a public or status offense. KRS 610.110

In conclusion, AOC will continue to update the JJOC on the ongoing efforts to improve Kentucky's juvenile justice system.