



Truancy Trends and Data Insights Court Designated Worker (CDW) Program

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Status Offense

Any action brought in the interest of a youth who is accused of committing acts which, if committed by an adult, would not be a crime. KRS 600.020(67).

Truant and Habitual Truant

A **truant** is defined as any youth who has been absent from school without valid excuse for three or more days, or tardy without valid excuse on three or more days. KRS 159.150(1). A **habitual truant** is any youth who has been found by the court to have been reported as a truant two or more times during a one-year period. KRS 600.020(33).

House Bill 611 Key Provisions

- **15 Unexcused Absences Trigger Reporting**

When a student accrues 15 or more unexcused absences, the **Director of Pupil Personnel (DPP)** must report the matter to the **County Attorney**.

- **Distinction by Grade Level**

Grades 6-12, DPP must notify the county attorney when the student has 15 unexcused absences – a habitual truancy complaint **is filed with the CDW**.

- **Diversion Agreements / Process**

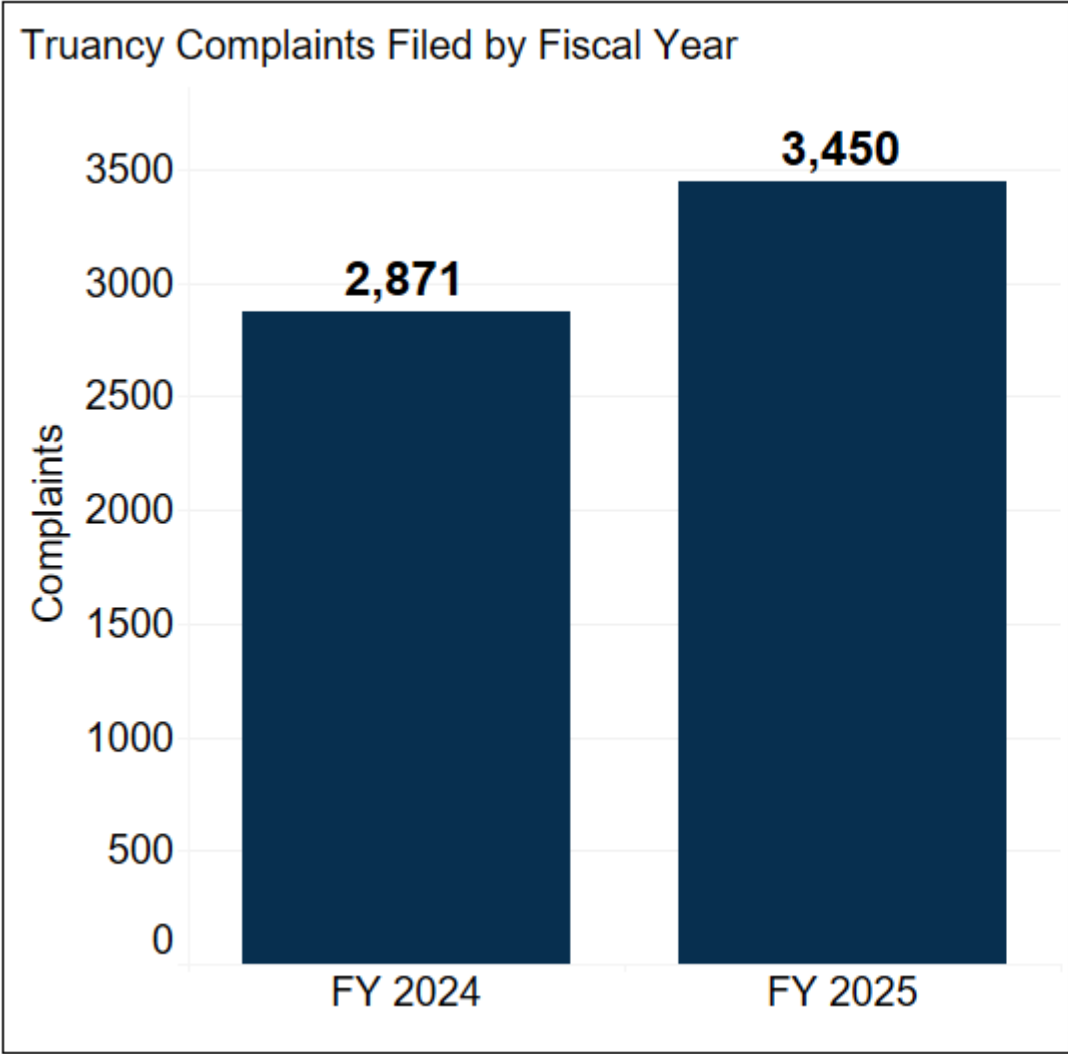
After the habitual truancy complaint, the county attorney may instruct the CDW to proceed with diversion or may request a petition be filed in juvenile court.

Processing Truancy Complaints

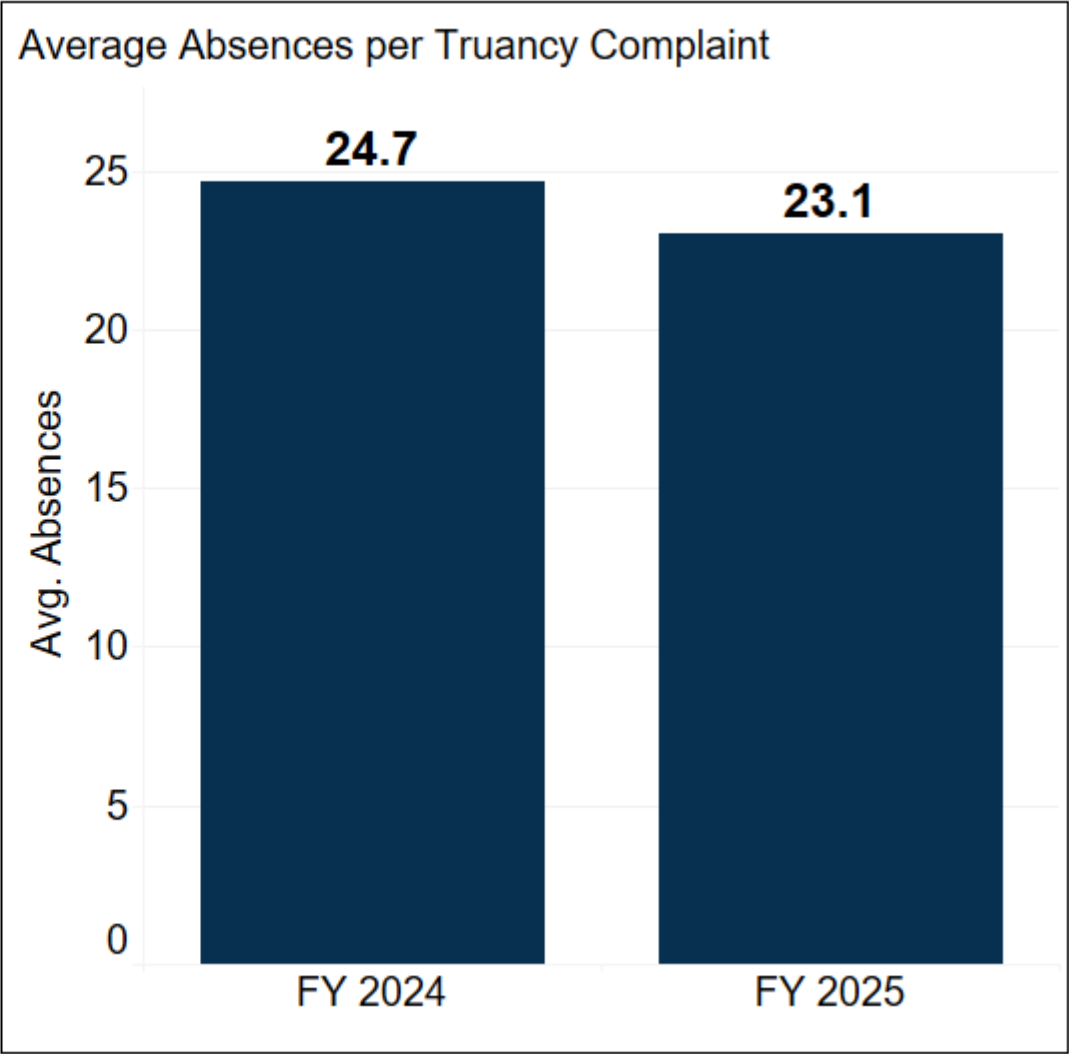


- Upon filing of an **Affidavit and Truancy Evaluation Form**, a pre-complaint conference with the affiant to ensure that all elements of the offense are met.
- The CDW office processes the affidavit via a **Juvenile Complaint Status Offense** and schedules a preliminary intake inquiry with the youth and family.

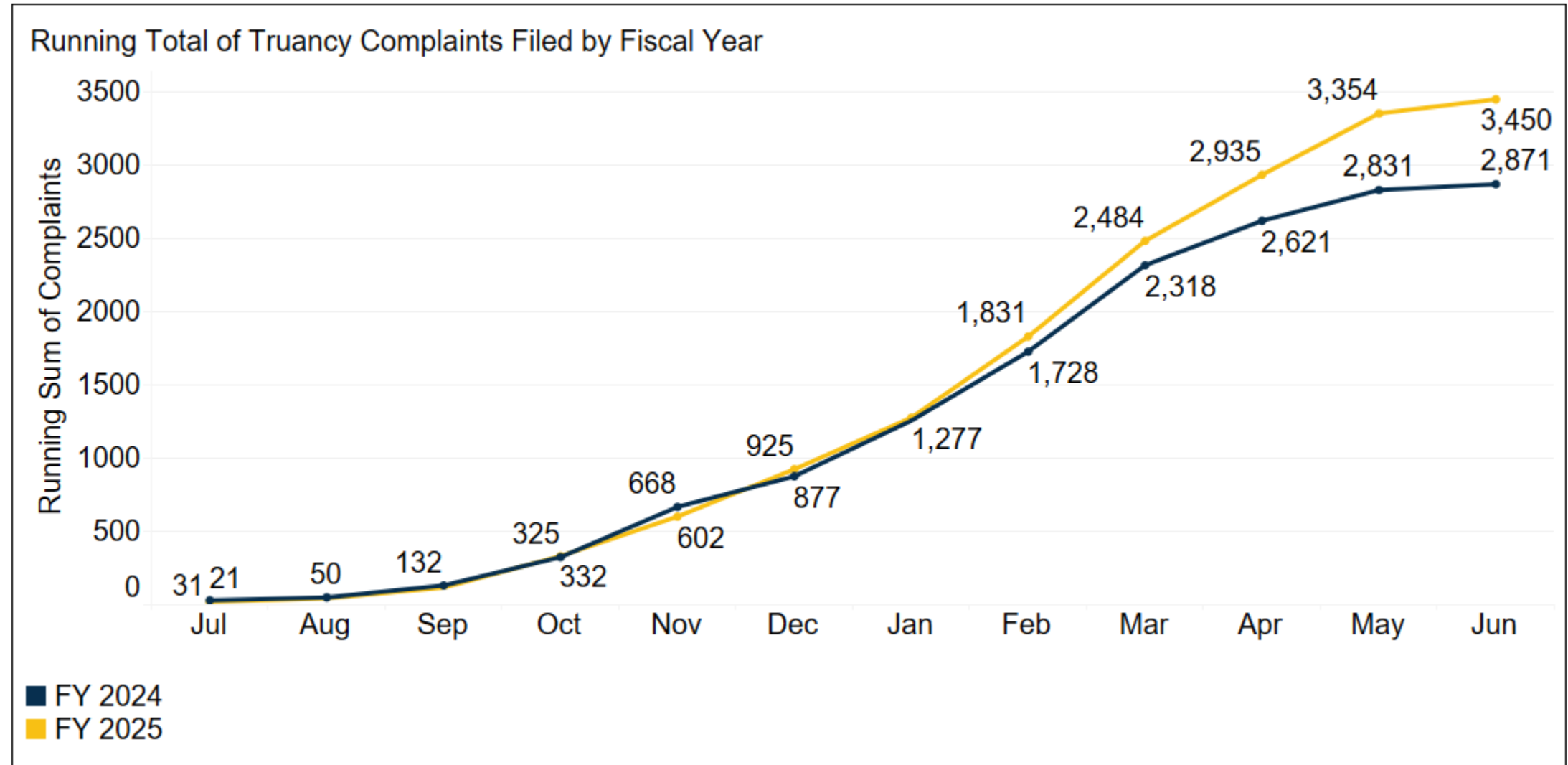
Complaints by Fiscal Year



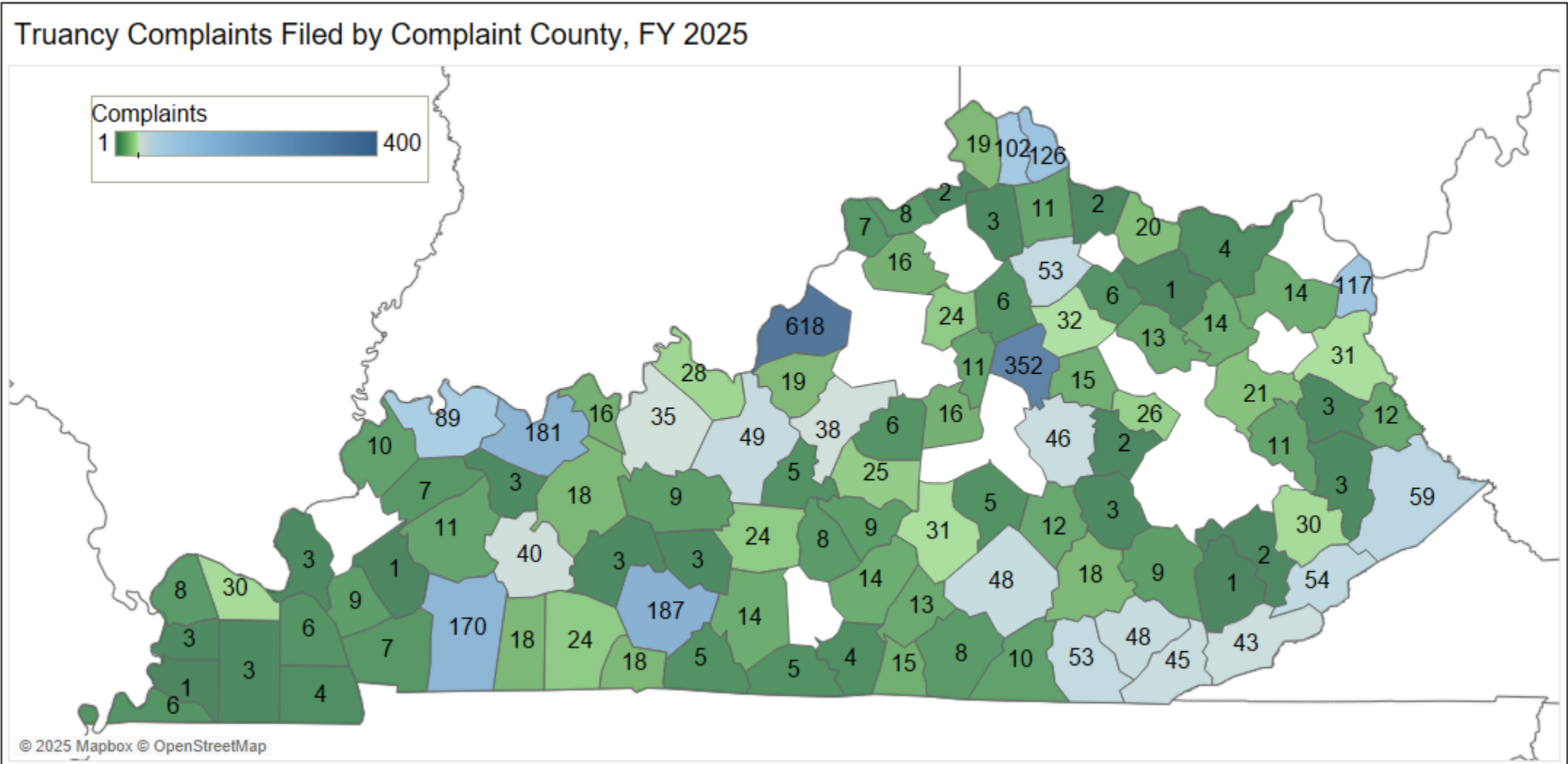
Average Absences per Complaint



Running Total of Complaints Filed

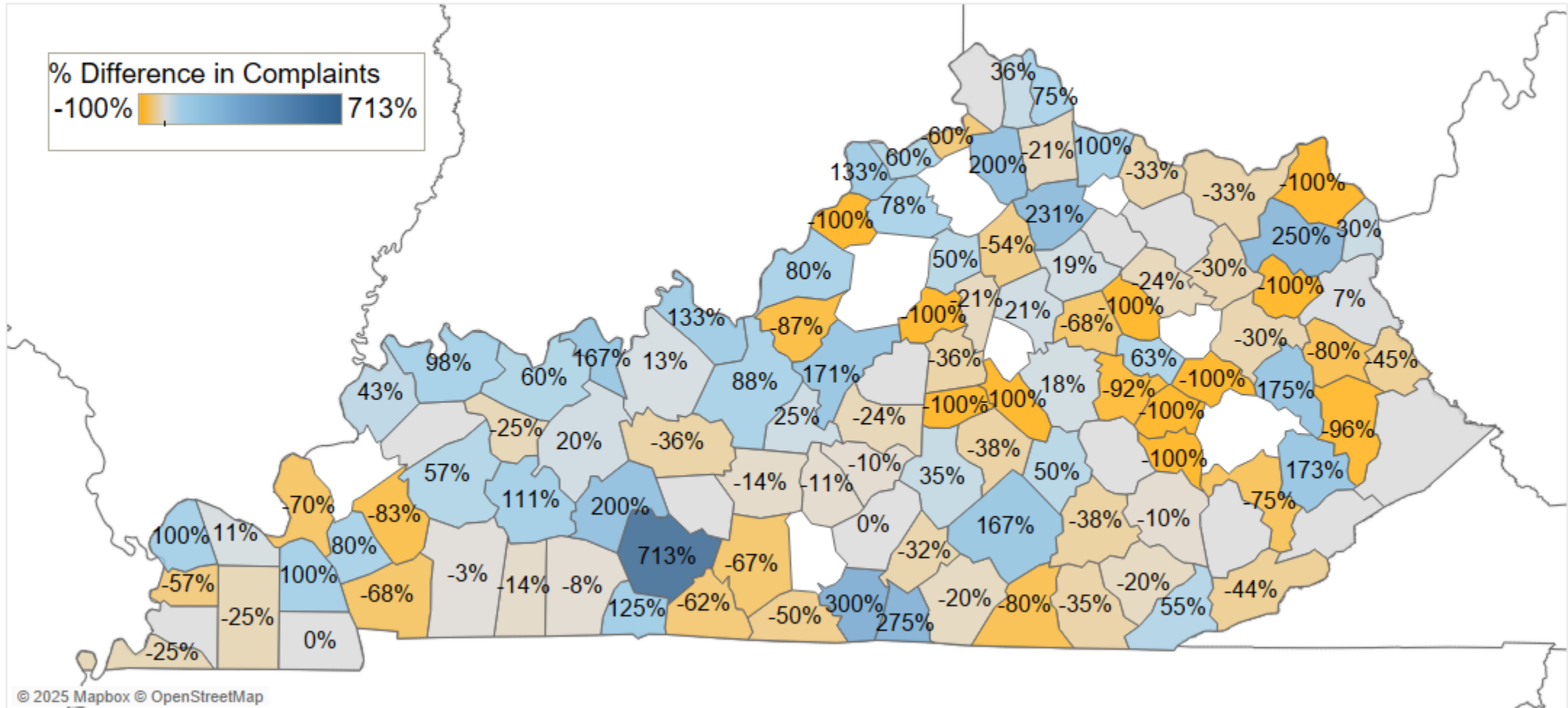


Complaints Filed by County FY25

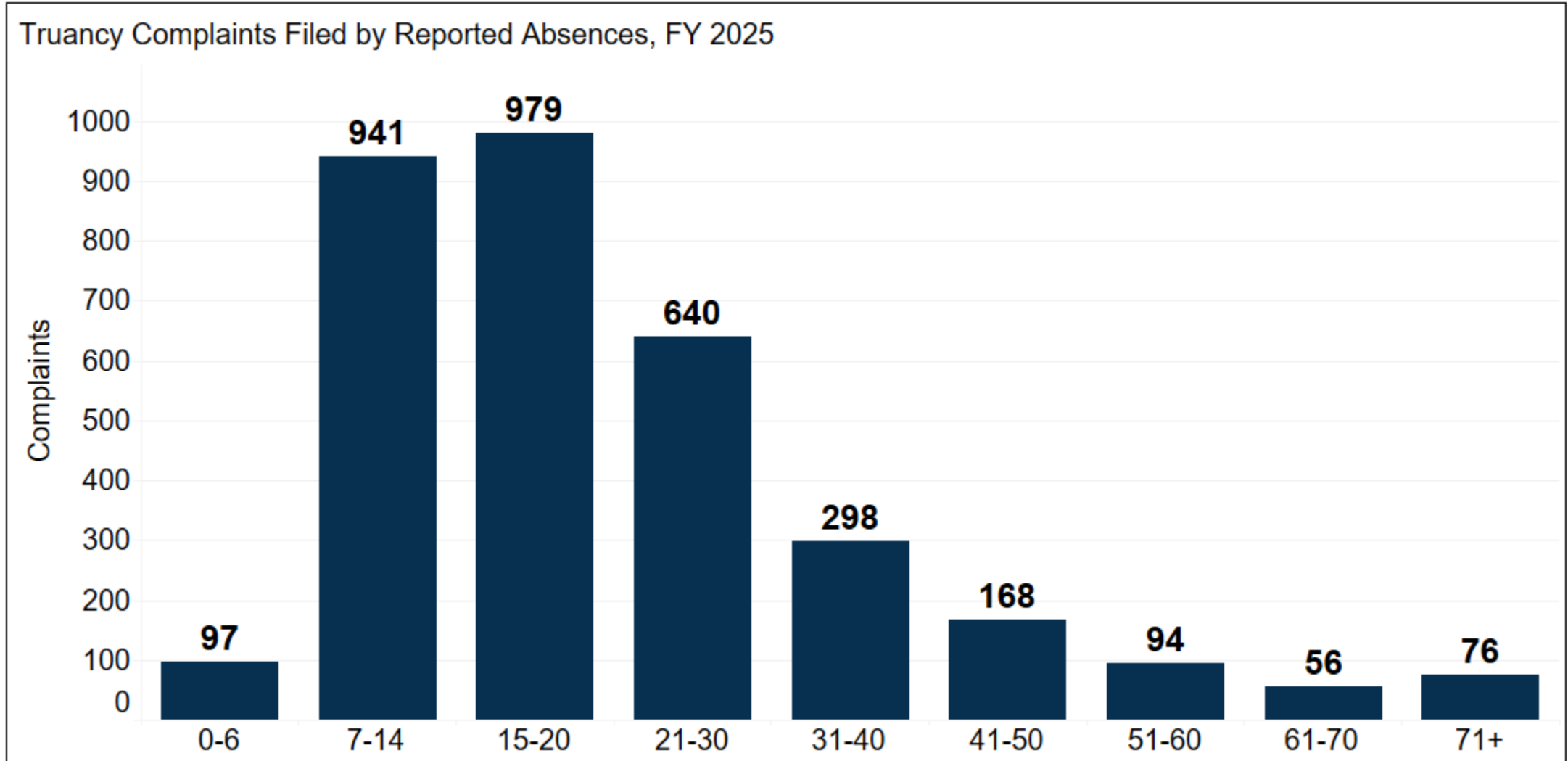


Percent Change in Filings FY24 - FY25

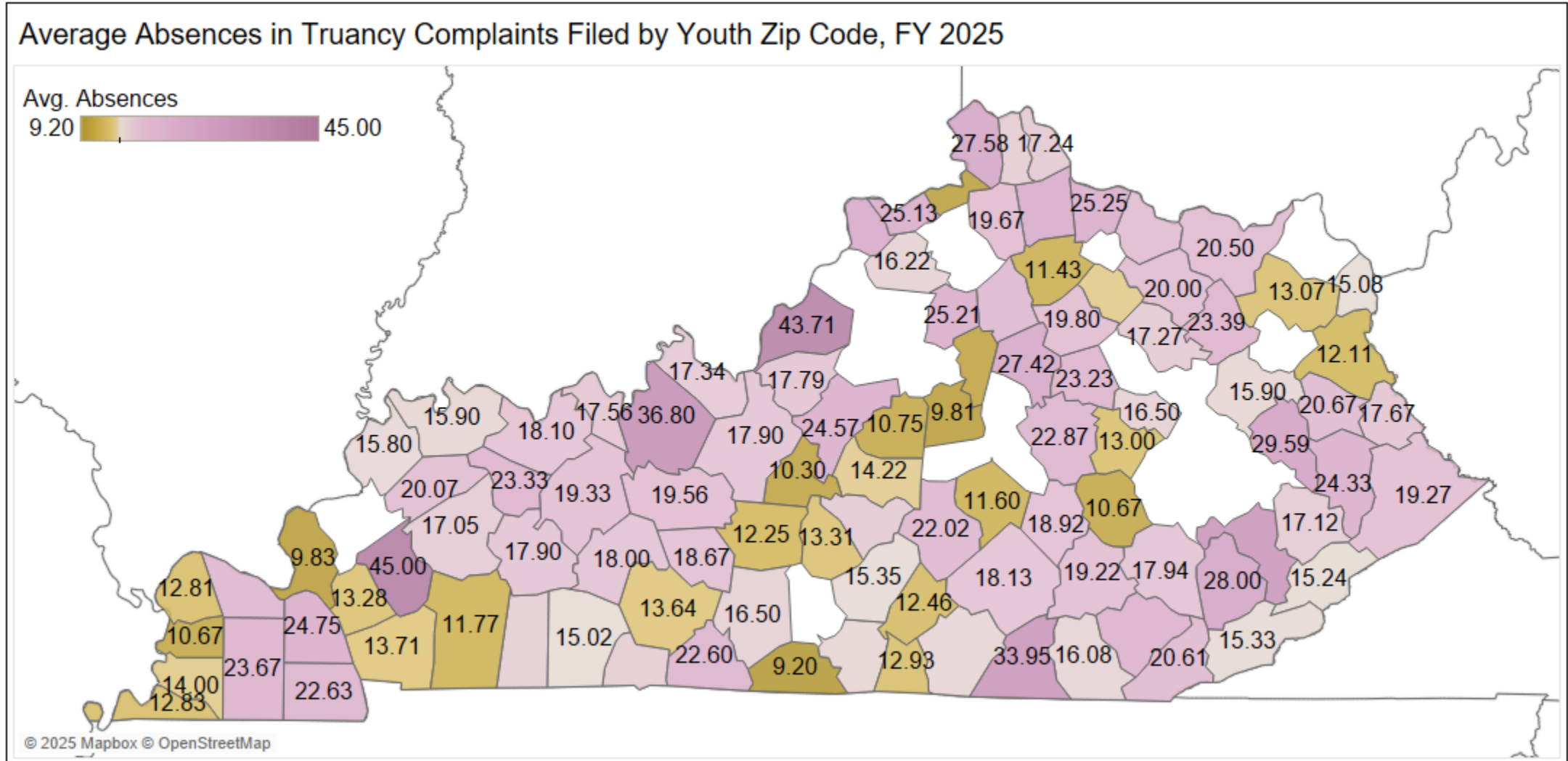
Percentage Change in Truancy Complaint Filings by Complaint County, FY 24-25



Complaints by Reported Absences



Average Absences by County FY25



Preliminary Intake Inquiry

1. CDW reads youth their rights, explains current charges, and verifies demographic information.
2. CDW conducts the **Global Appraisal of Individual Needs Short Screener (GAIN-SS)** and human trafficking screener.
3. After completion of **Preliminary Intake Inquiry, School Contact Information** form is sent to youth's current school to gather relevant information, education records, services previously provided, and recommended trauma-informed strategies. Schools have five days to complete requested form and supply the CDW with the information.

Preliminary Intake Inquiry

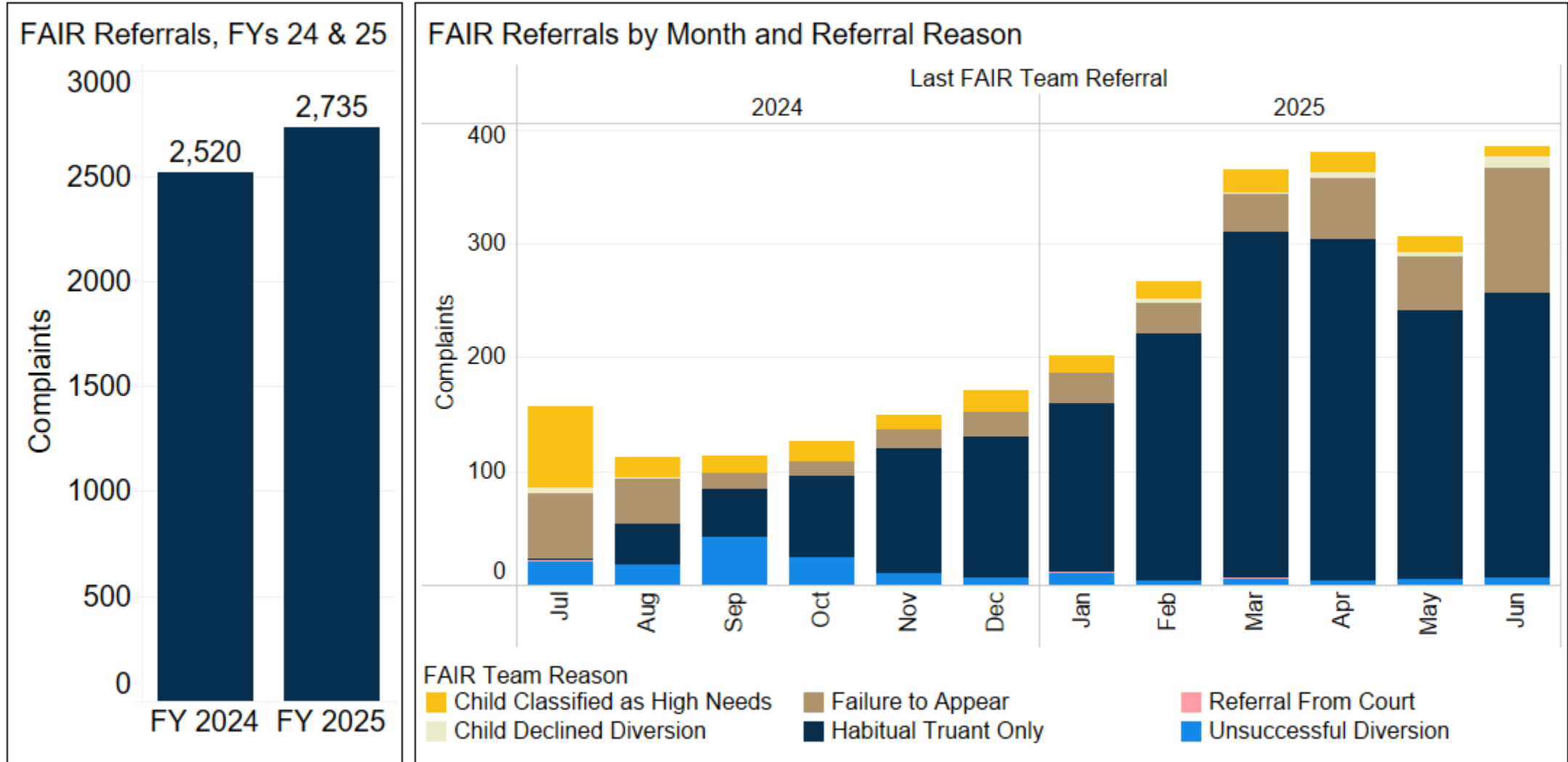
4. If the youth is eligible, a Diversion Agreement Conference is scheduled while youth is present as soon as reasonable for the family.
5. At the conclusion of the Preliminary Intake Inquiry, the county attorney receives the **Notice of Habitual Truant Complaint**. The county attorney then determines whether the case will proceed through informal processing with the CDW diversion or be filed for formal court action.

Diversion



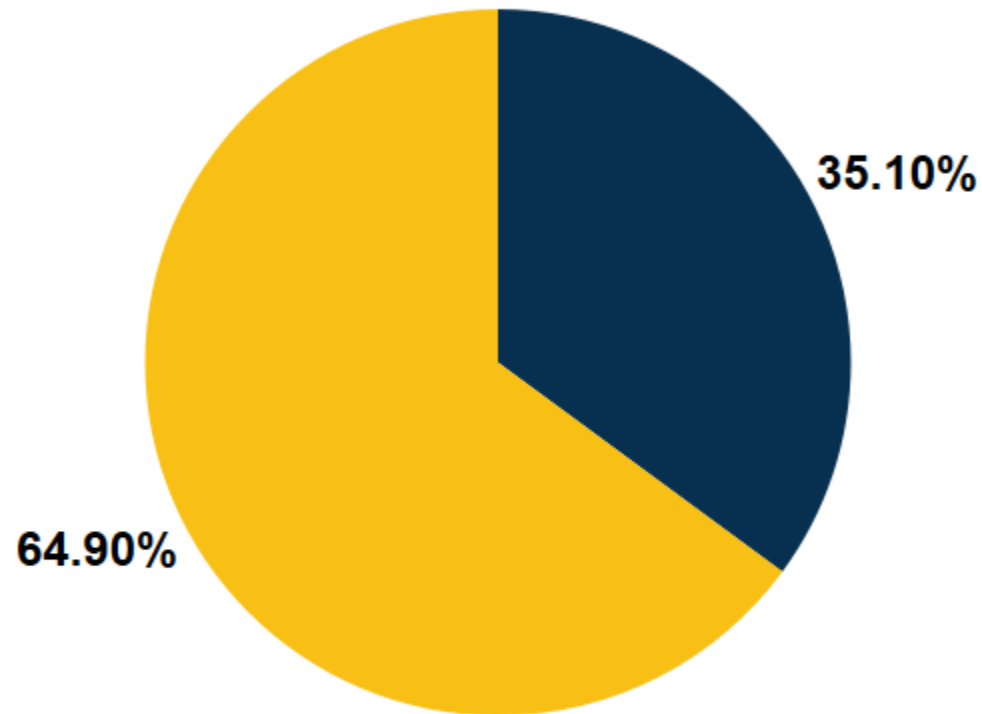
- Diversion agreement case plans are structured contracts between the youth, their family, and the CDW.
- These plans outline expectations and support services tailored to address the individual needs of the youth.
- Diversion may last up to twelve months.

FAIR Team



Status of Complaints Filed in FY25

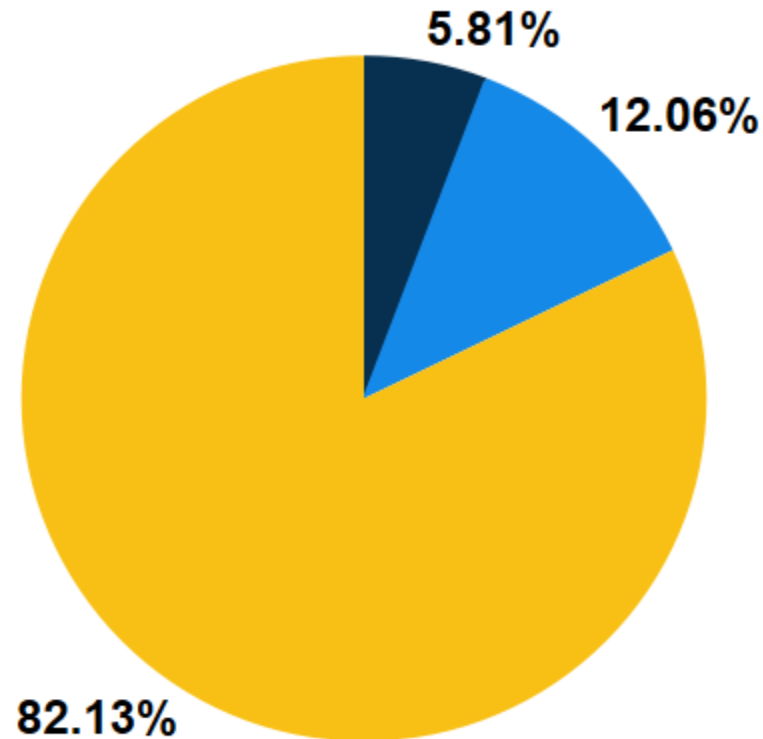
Complaints Filed with Habitual Truancy by Close Status, FY 2025



Complaint Close Status
■ Open ■ Closed

Complaints Filed in FY25 by Close Group

Complaints Filed and Closed with Habitual Truancy by Close Group, FY 2025



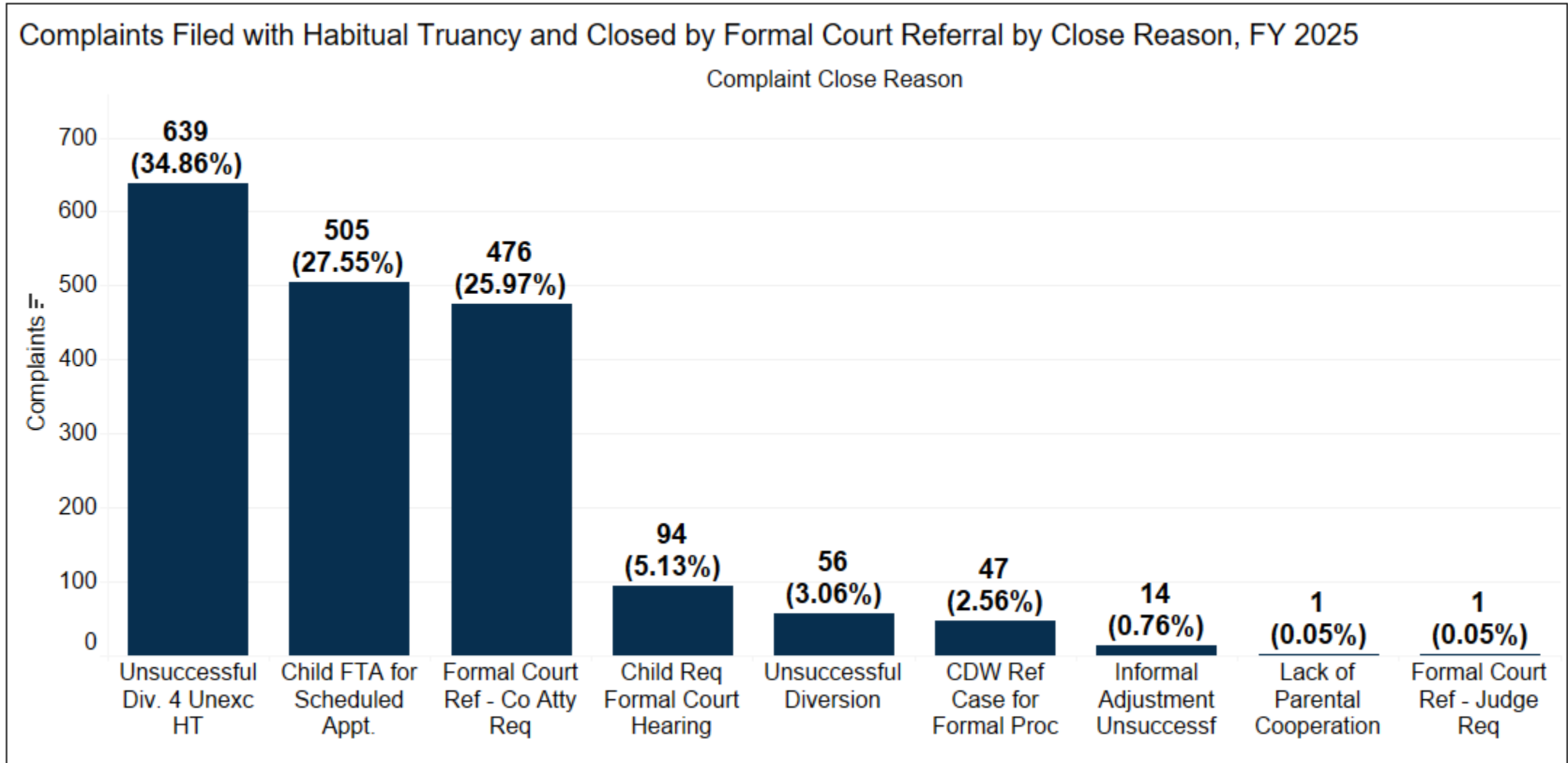
Complaint Close Group

■ Dismissed (Successful Diversion)

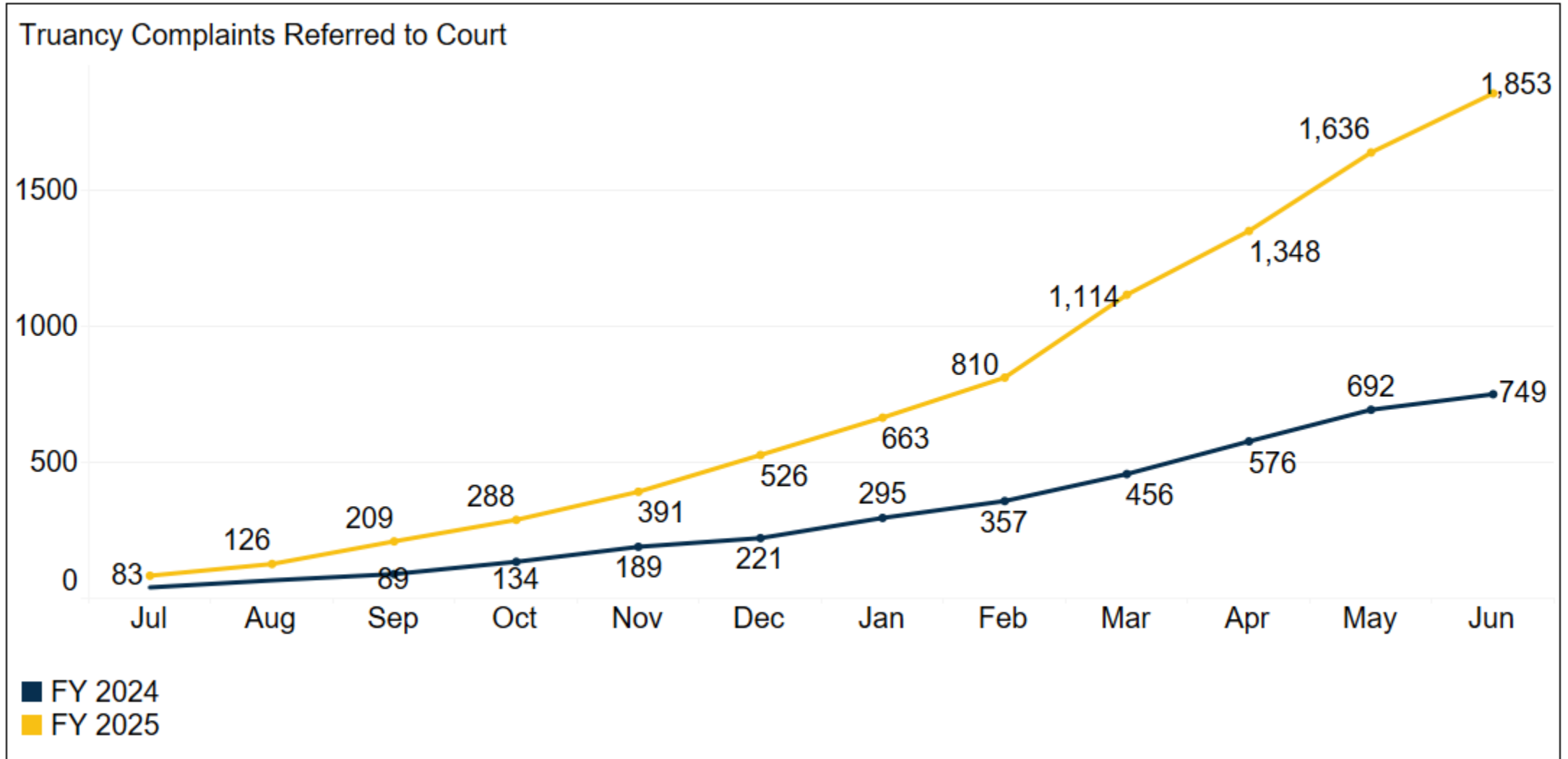
■ Dismissed (Other)

■ Formal Court Referral

Understanding Court Referrals



Running Total of Court Referrals



Building Support



- Far more than a program, Kentucky's Truancy Diversion Program (TDP) is a proactive solution for reconnecting students with school and opportunity.
- Meetings are facilitated through the TDP team, which consists of the DPP, school officials, FRYSC, school social worker, school resource officer, mental health provider, and the CDW/CDS.

Three Phases

The program has three phases of intervention:

1. Pre-Complaint

Initial intervention on a student identified as having three or more unexcused absences.

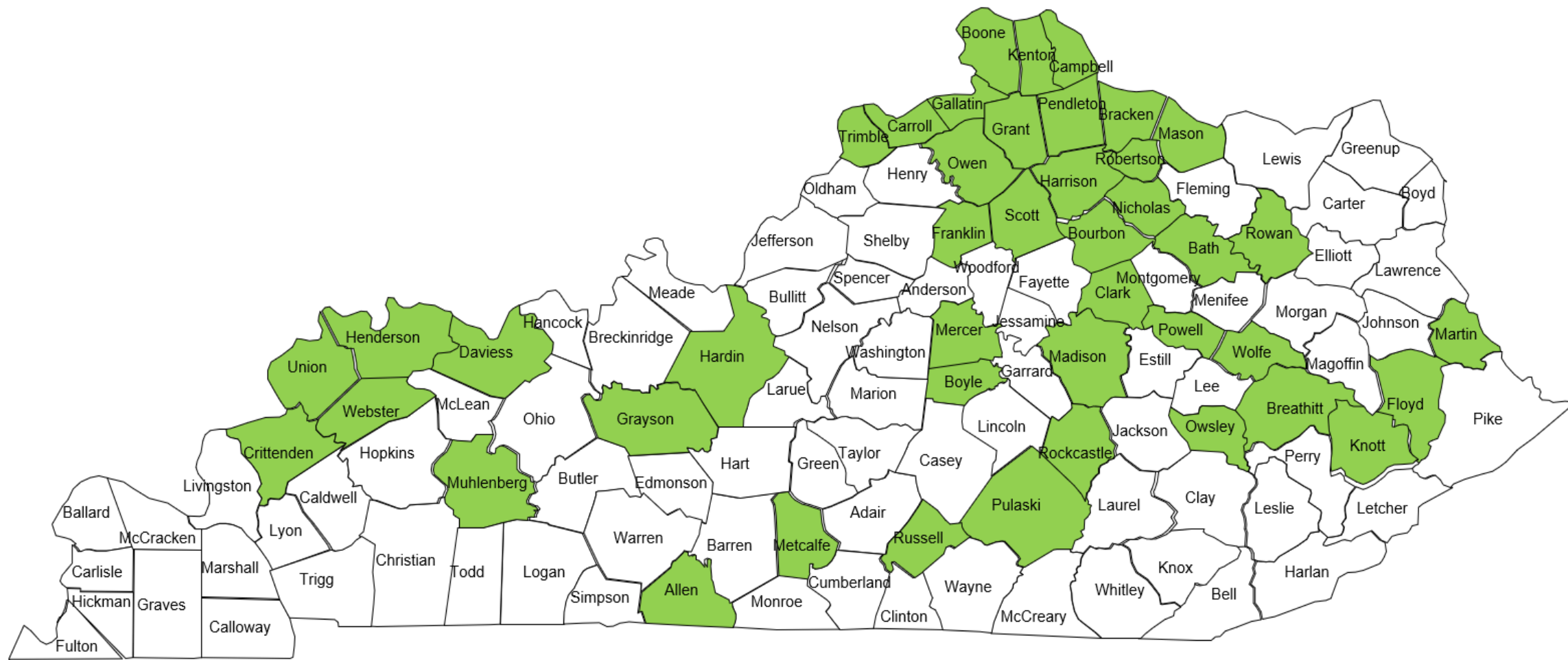
2. Intense Intervention

Advanced stage for students who have made no progress in the pre-complaint stage and have accumulated less than 15 unexcused absences.

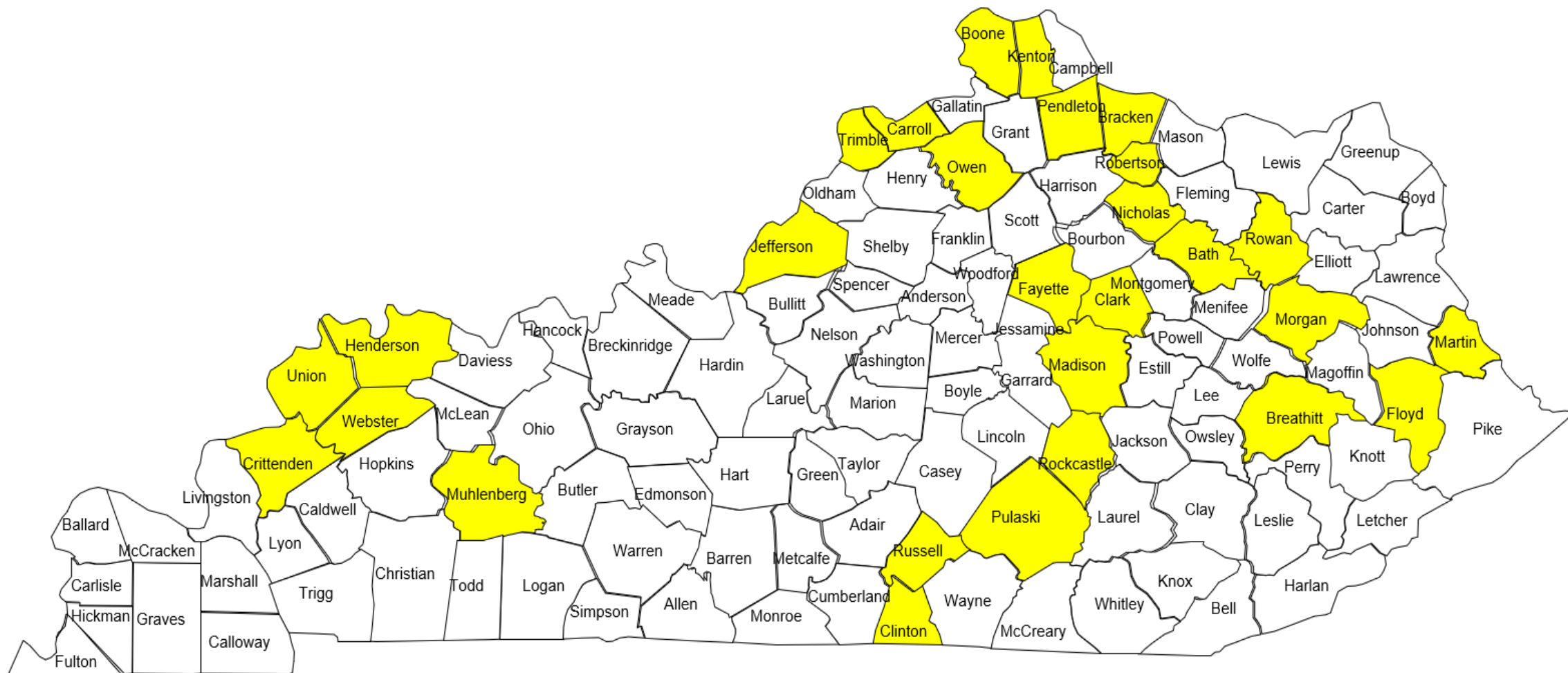
3. Habitual Truant Complaint

The student has progressed to the complaint stage, and diversion has been recommended by the county attorney.

Active TDP Sites: 2023 - 2024



Active TDP Sites: 2024 - 2025



Final Thoughts

Addressing truancy through the CDW Program:

- Provides early intervention
- Delivers individualized support through diversion case planning
- Balances accountability with support

“Together we can continue to support solutions that keep kids in the classroom, out of trouble and court, and moving in the right direction.” – Ashley Clark

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