

MOVING BEYOND YOUTH PRISONS:

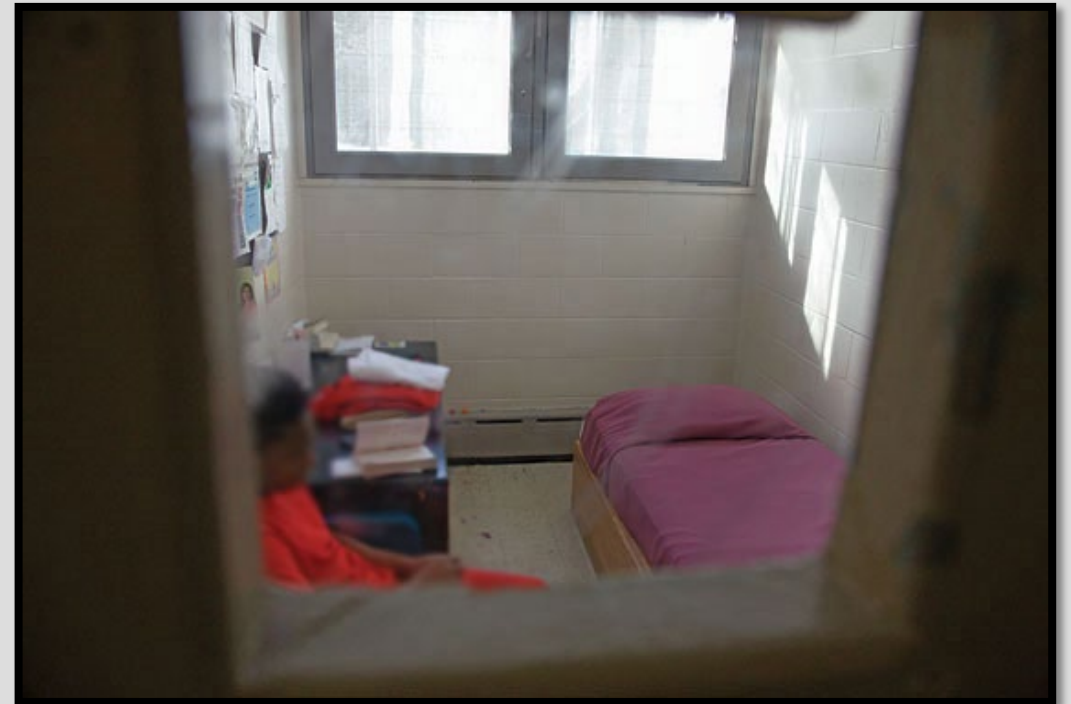
A LOOK AT NYC'S CLOSE TO HOME INITIATIVE

Prepared by the Justice Lab
December 2022

SETTING THE STAGE FOR CLOSE TO HOME

Over Two Decades, New York City Transformed its Approach to Youth Justice, Moving Away from the Use of Harmful Youth Prisons.

In 2006, the number of admissions of NYC youth – mostly kids of color – into state-run youth prisons totaled 1094. The City paid approximately \$140,000 - \$200,000 annually for each youth sent to these placements, only to have most youth later be re-arrested or re-convicted.



WHAT HAPPENED?

Fifteen years later, the number of NYC youth admitted into placement facilities – now small and rehabilitative and located within the five boroughs – stood at 59, a 95 percent decline.



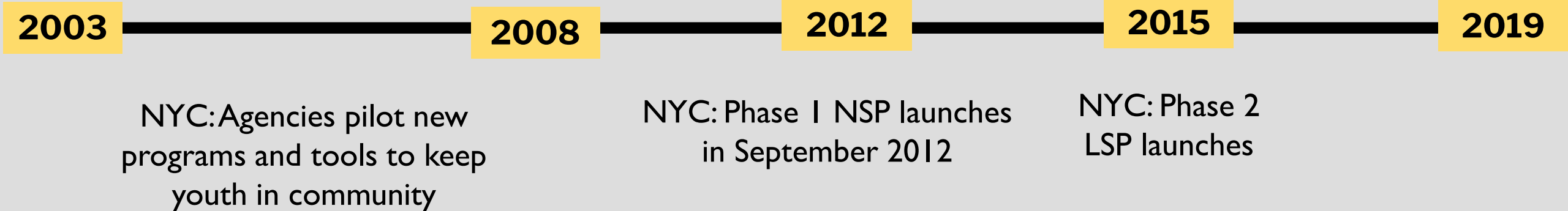
Factor Influencing Development of CTH

Several factors influenced the development of close to home, including the establishment of community-based programs in NYC, advocacy and political will to shift the status quo, and collaboration and leadership to implement an approach aligned with research and evidence.

NYS: Reports emerge from state-run facilities about youth being abused and hurt; State launches a Task Force to rethink approach

NYS: Close to Home enacted in April 2012.

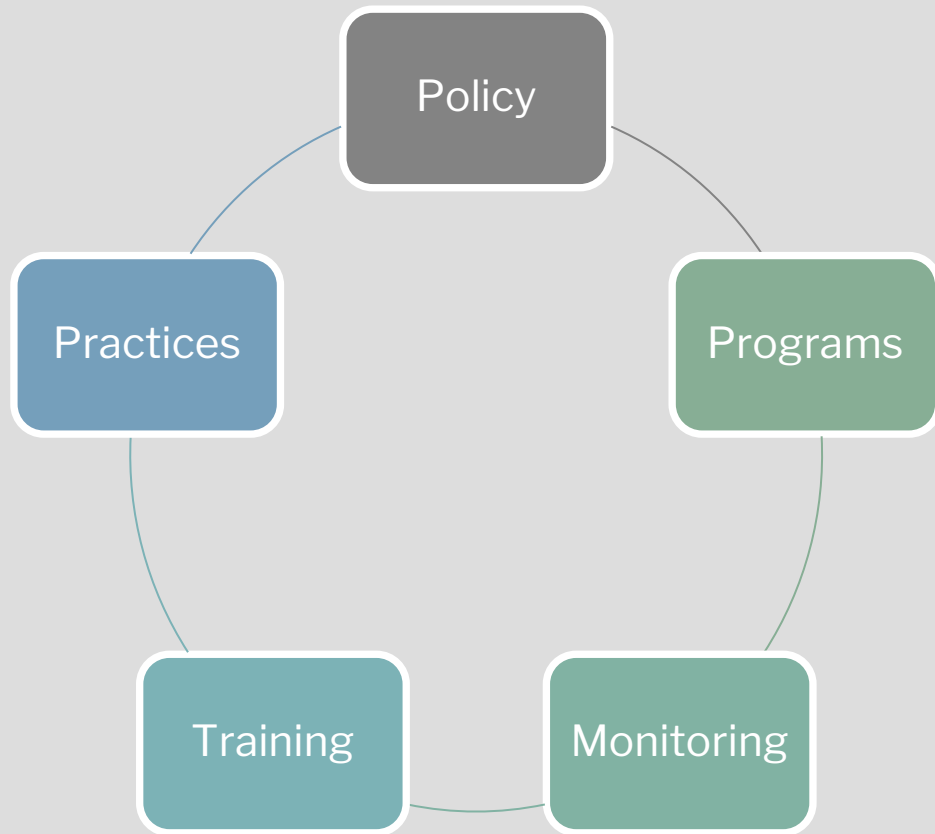
NYC: 16 & 17 year olds transitioned fully into system



Designing a New System: Key Questions

- What is our vision for youth and families?
- If we had robust alternatives, who really needs to be in a facility and why?
 - How many beds do we really need?
- What policies and practices should we put into place that support our overarching vision and values for the system?
- Which agencies are best-suited to oversee the system we envision for youth and families?
- Who should we engage and partner within this process to make the new system effective?
- Who is currently in our system and Why? Do they need to be there?

Prior to close to home's passage, system and community partners collaborated closely to plan and prepare for its implementation.



Key Elements

- A new structured decision-making process
- A continuum of community-based supports and programming
- Small, rehabilitative facilities located in neighborhoods close to youths' homes
- Focus on families and permanency planning
- Strong partnership with Department of Education

PROFILE OF YOUTH

NYC ACS (Fiscal Year 2022)

Non-Secure Placement Demographics

Admissions to Non-Secure Placement

Total	56
--------------	-----------

Age

12	0	0.0%
13	3	5.4%
14	4	7.1%
15	13	23.2%
16	15	26.8%
17	12	21.4%
18	7	12.5%
19	2	3.6%

Gender

Female	2	3.6%
Male	54	96.4%

Top Charges

Arson	1	2%
Assault	11	20%
Burglary	2	4%
Criminal Mischief	0	0%
Drugs	1	2%
Grand Larceny	5	9%
Menacing	2	4%
Other	0	0%
Petit Larceny	2	4%
Robbery	7	13%
Sex Offense	2	4%
Unauthorize Use of Vehicle	2	4%
Violation of Probation	6	11%
Weapons	15	27%

NYC ACS (Fiscal Year 2022)

Limited-Secure Placement Demographics

Admissions to Limited-Secure Placement

Total	15
-------	----

Age

12	0	0.0%
13	1	6.7%
14	0	0.0%
15	2	13.3%
16	2	13.3%
17	8	53.3%
18	2	13.3%

Gender

Female	0	0.0%
Male	15	100.0%

Top Charges

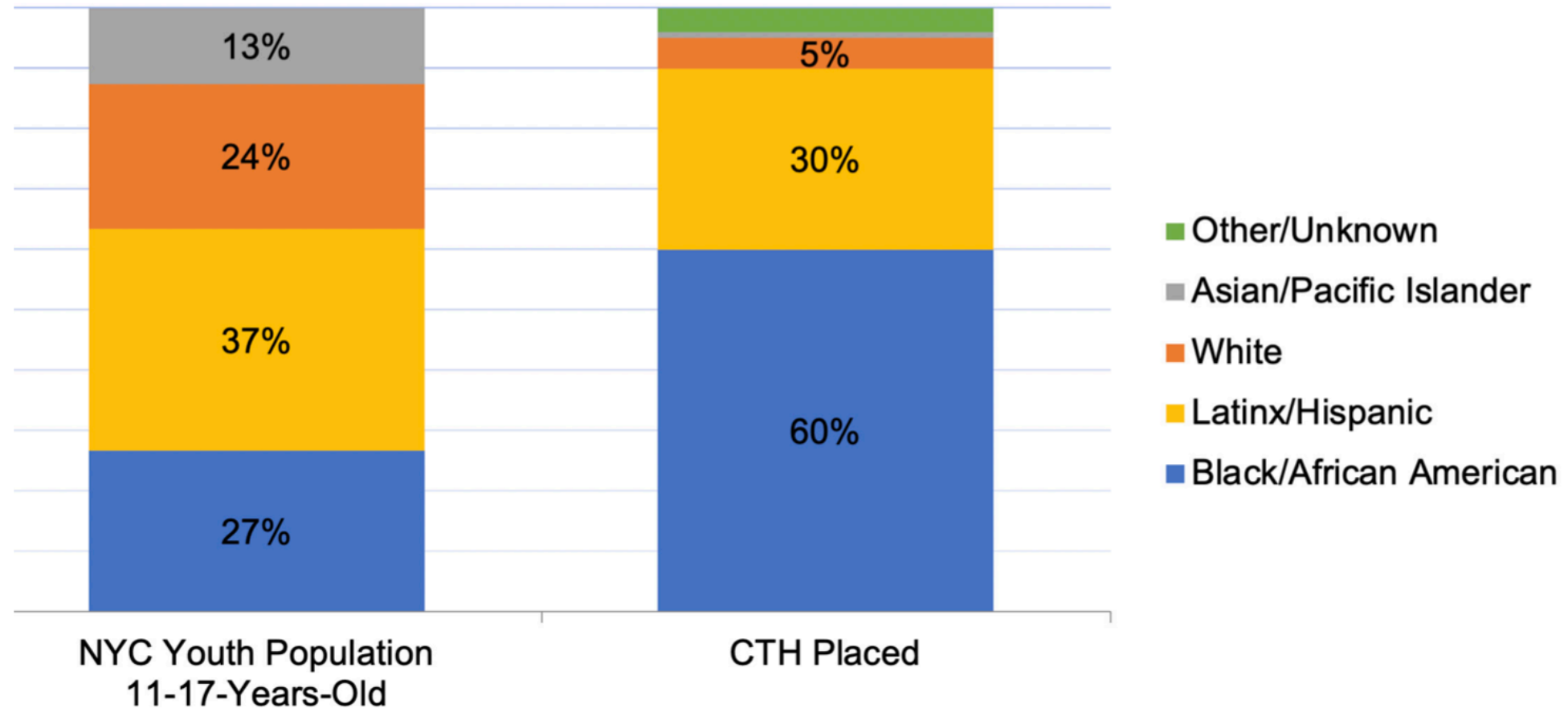
Assault	1	7%
Burglary	1	7%
Criminal Mischief	1	7%
Grand Larceny	2	13%
Other	1	7%
Robbery	3	20%
Violation of Probation	1	7%
Weapons	5	33%

Data sources: CCRS as of 7/28/22 and JJIS

NYC ACS (Calendar Year 2018)

Non-Secure Placement and Limited-Secure Placement Demographics

Figure 9. NYC Youth Population vs CTH Placed Youth in CY 2018 by Race and Ethnicity



THE CONTINUUM

Key Elements of the C2H Transformation

- A new structured decision-making process
- A continuum of community-based supports and programming
- Small, rehabilitative facilities located in neighborhoods close to youths' homes
- Focus on families and permanency planning
- Strong partnership with Department of Probation & Department of Education
- Ongoing monitoring after implementation to tweak and adjust approaches

Collaborative planning to create a continuum of community-based options for youth



The development of “alternative to placement” programs at sentencing provided community-based options to keep youth safely at home.

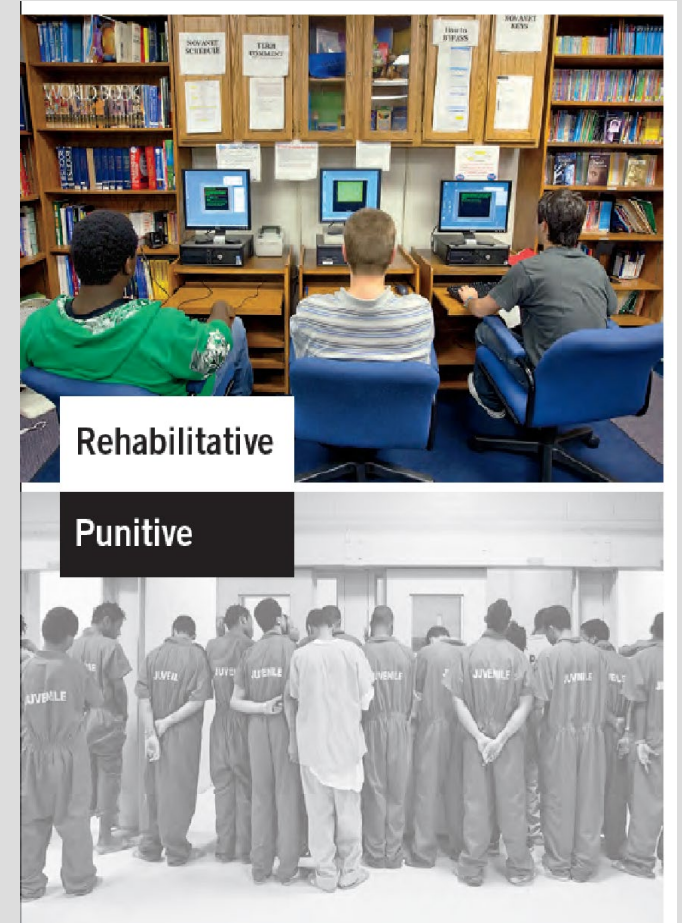


- ***Juvenile Justice Initiative:*** In-home, evidence-based treatment modalities, such as Functional Family Therapy and Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care
- ***ECHOES:*** Intensive life coaching model to promote transitions into adulthood
- ***AIM:*** Community advocates provide weekly mentoring to support youth
- ***Esperanza:*** Family-focused therapeutic services that offers curfew checks, educational/vocational support, crisis management, and ongoing mentoring

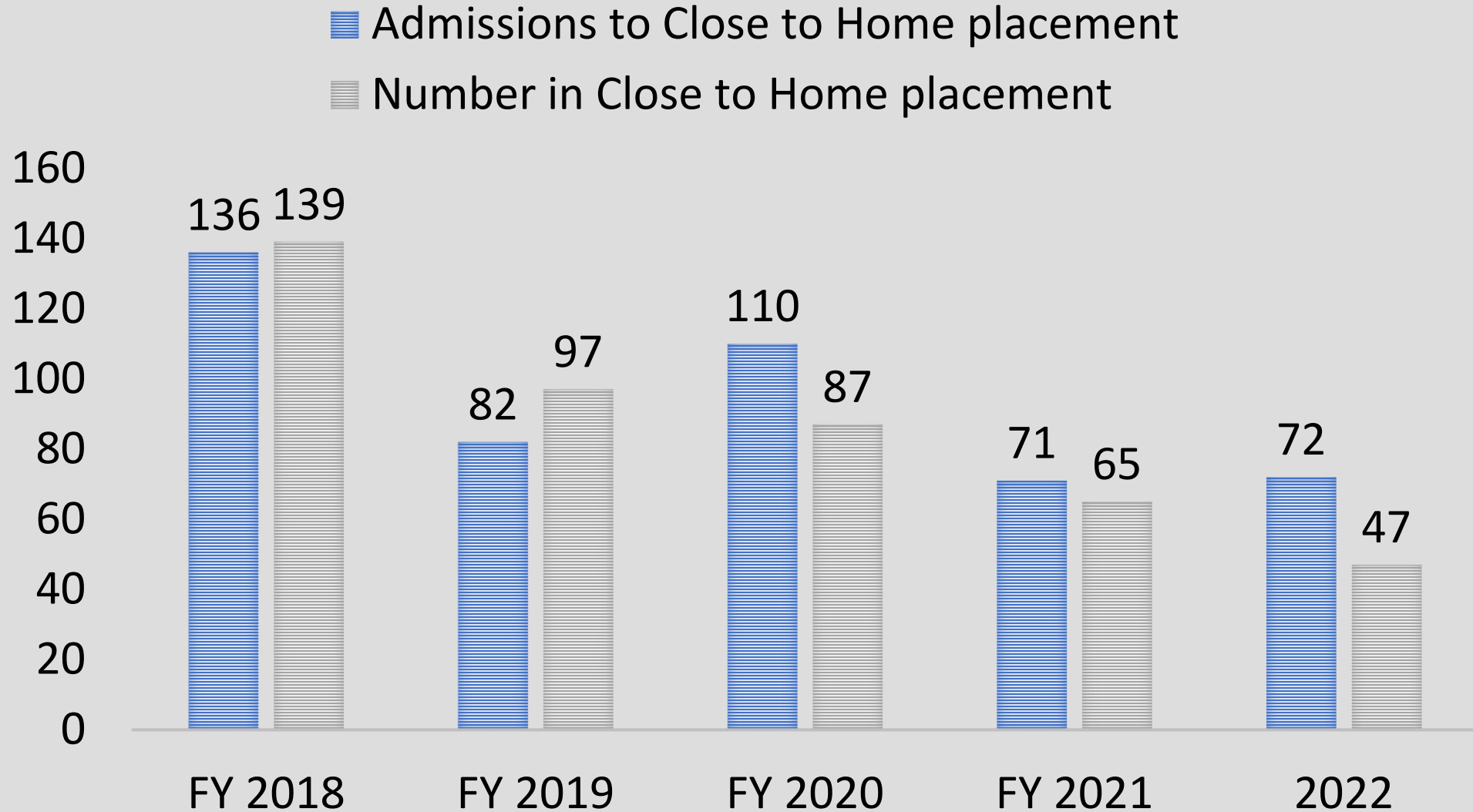
Close to home also reimagined out-of-home placement, serving youth in small settings, near their families and communities.



- *30 placement facilities, largely repurposed from other uses*
 - *25 non-secure placements (6-13 beds each)*
 - *5 limited secure placements (6-20 beds each)*
- *Unlike before, youth now receive credit for coursework completed during C2H stay.*



CTH ADMISSIONS & NUMBER OF YOUTH IN CARE



OUTCOMES

Close to home has positively impacted youth, families, and communities

YOUTH ARRESTS ARE DOWN

- Youth arrests were down 65% in New York City between 2012 - 2018

YOUTH PLACEMENTS ARE DOWN

- Between 2016 (once C2H was fully implemented) and 2021, placements of NYC youth were down by 77 percent.

EDUCATION AND PRO-SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

- 91% and 85% of youth in NSP and LSP facilities passed their classes in 2018-2019
- More than half of NSP students who took NYS Regents Exam (required for graduation) passed
- 91% of youth who transitioned from C2H were enrolled with community-based programs
- 82% of youth leaving NSP were united with a parent or family resource

ADDITIONAL READING

Advocacy and Planning that Led to Close to Home

- *Breaking Down the Walls: Lessons Learned from Successful State Campaigns to Close Youth Prisons*, Youth First
- *Re-envisioning Juvenile Justice in New York City: A Report from the NYC Dispositional Reform Steering Committee*, Chaired by NYC ACS and Probation, 2012.

Case Studies of Close to Home

- *Implementation of New York's Close to Home Initiative: A New Model of Youth Justice*, Center for Children's Law and Policy, 2018.
- *Moving Beyond Youth Prisons: Lessons from New York City's Implementation of Close to Home*, Columbia Justice Lab, 2019.