Reducing Commitments and Improving Outcomes : The Connecticut Experience

CJPAC Meeting
October 31, 2013

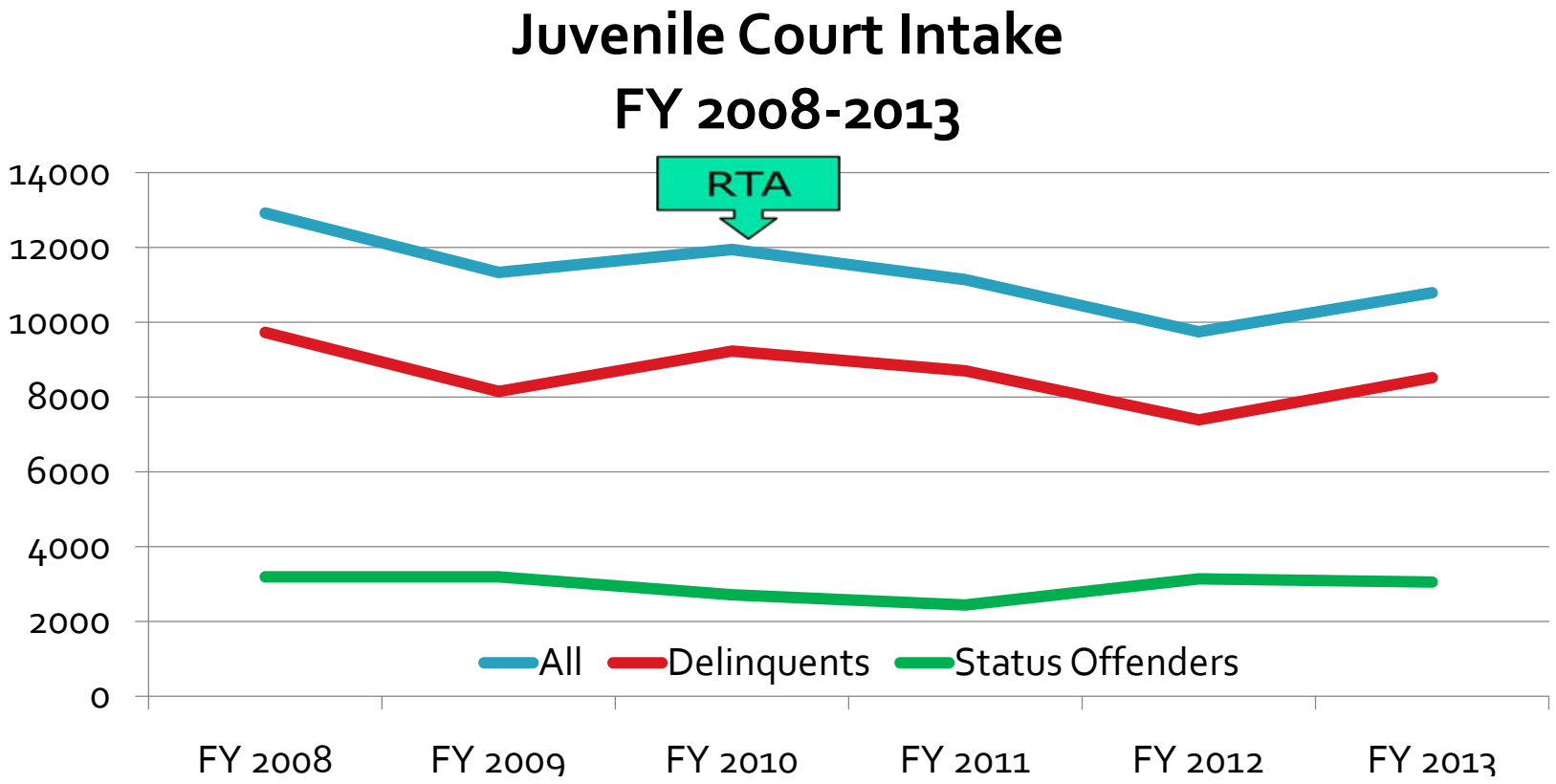
Where Was Connecticut?

- Emily J. Lawsuit (1993-2007)
- High Court Intake, High Detention Admissions, High Daily Population and High Number of Commitments
- Contracted Programs Non-existent, and once established, Not Performing to Potential
- FWSN Violators in Detention (493 in 2006)
- Few Customized Services for Special Populations
  - girls, gangs, and young children
- 16 and 17 Year Olds in Adult System

Changing Step by Step: Improving Outcomes

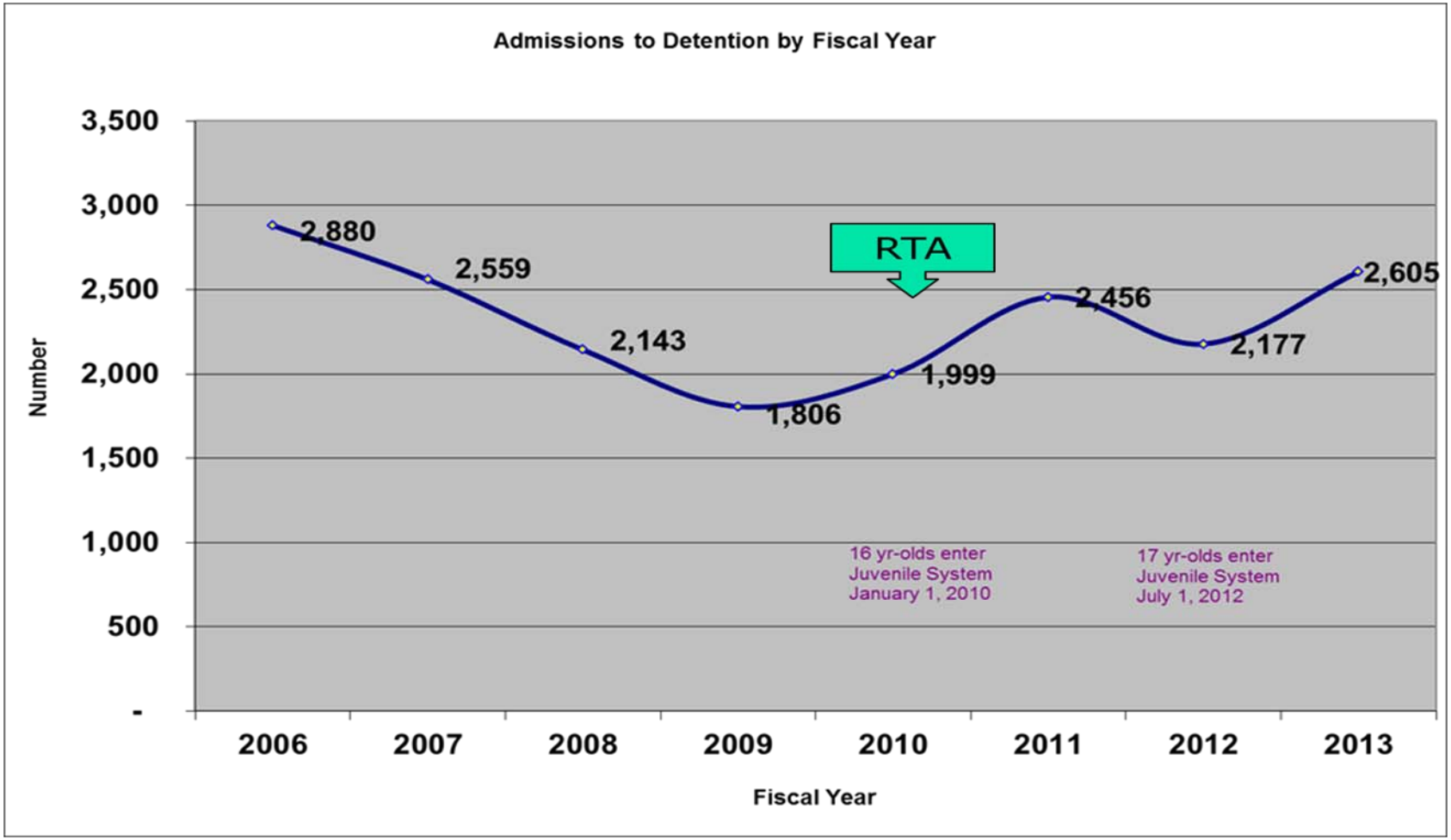
- Court intake
- Detention intake
- Hospitalization Wait
- Commitment
- Recidivism
- Status Offenders in Detention = 0

Court Intake Reduction

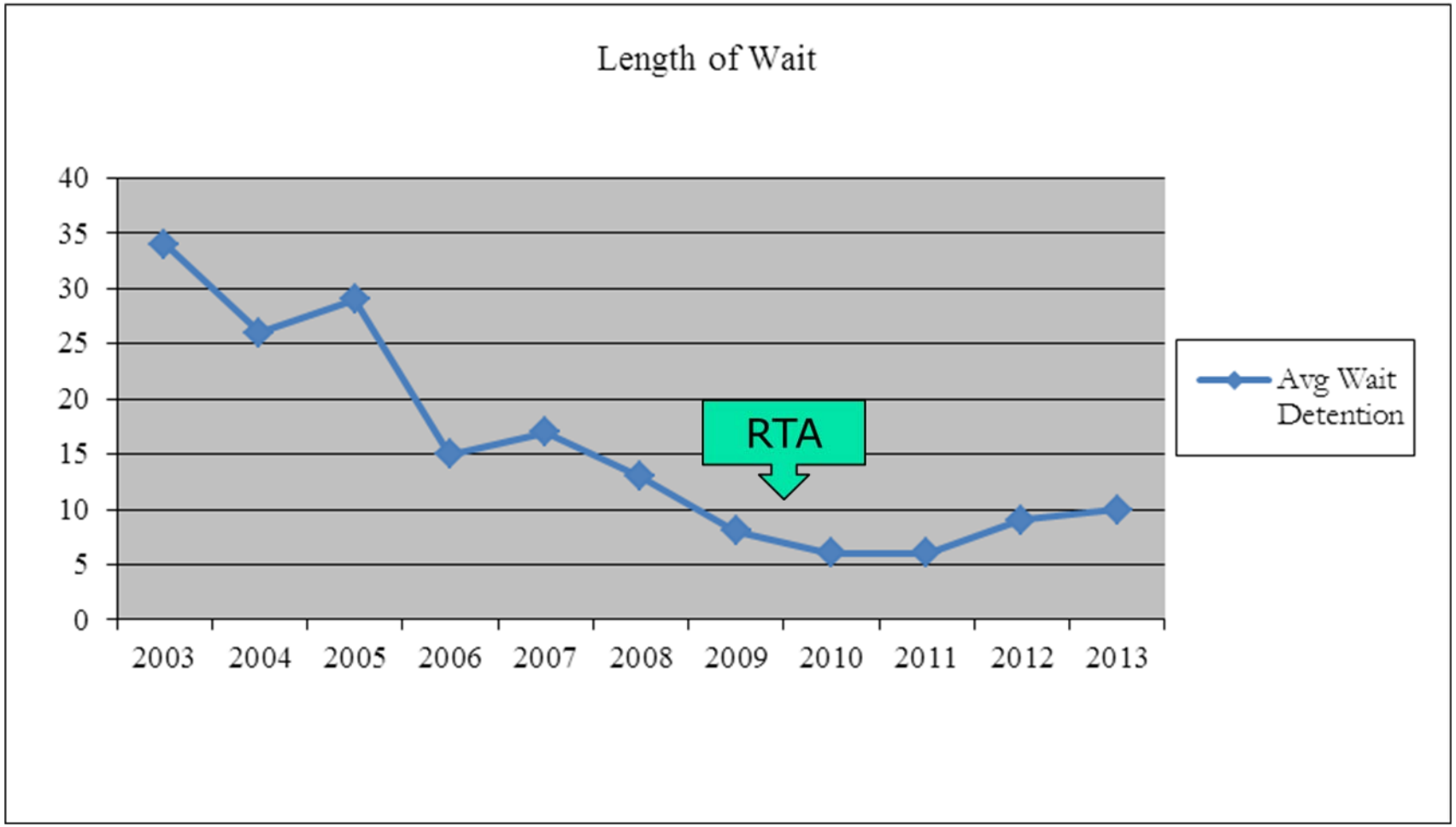


The number of juveniles referred to the court is down 16.5% since 2008, despite full implementation of Raise the Age.

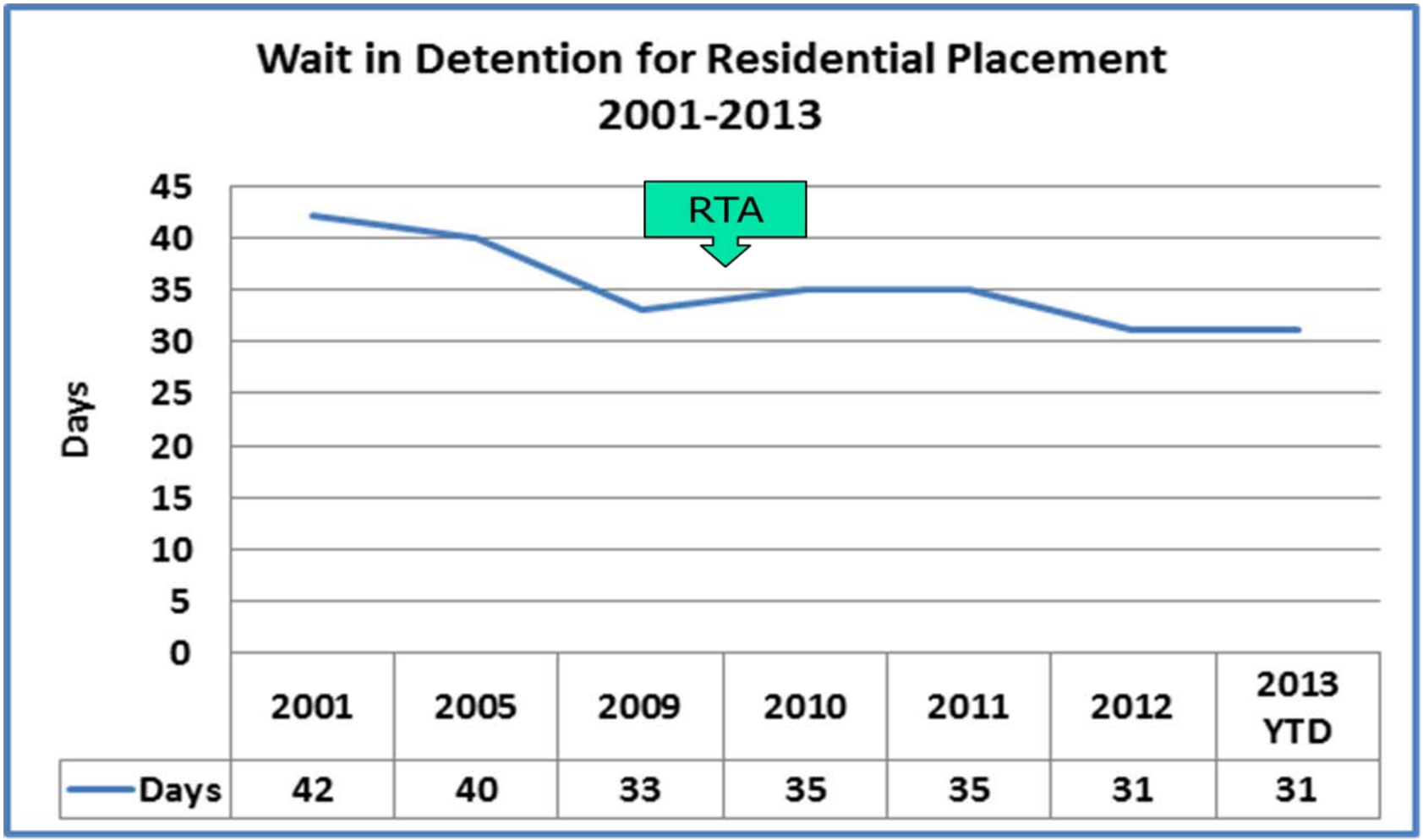
Detention Admission Reduction



Inpatient Wait Reduction

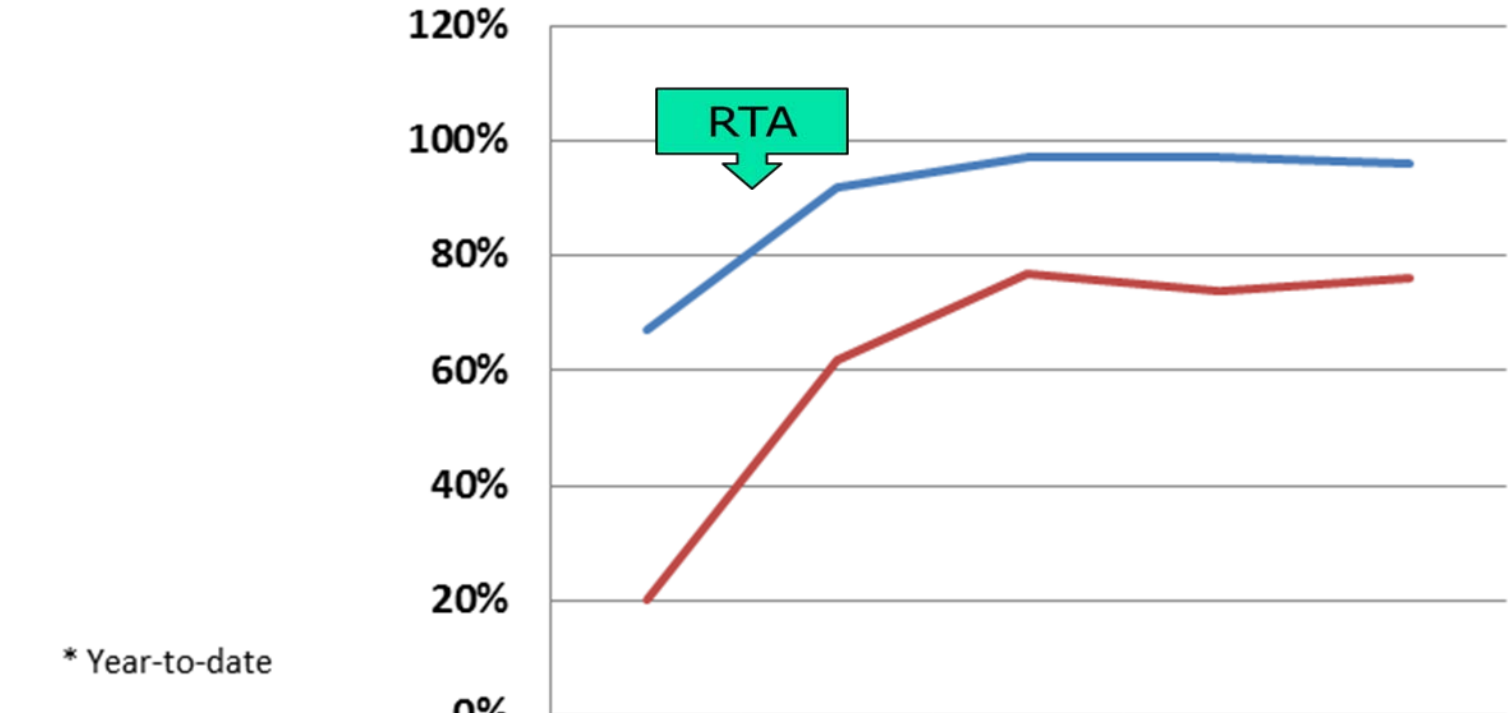


Residential Wait Reduction



	2001	2005	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 YTD
Days	42	40	33	35	35	31	31

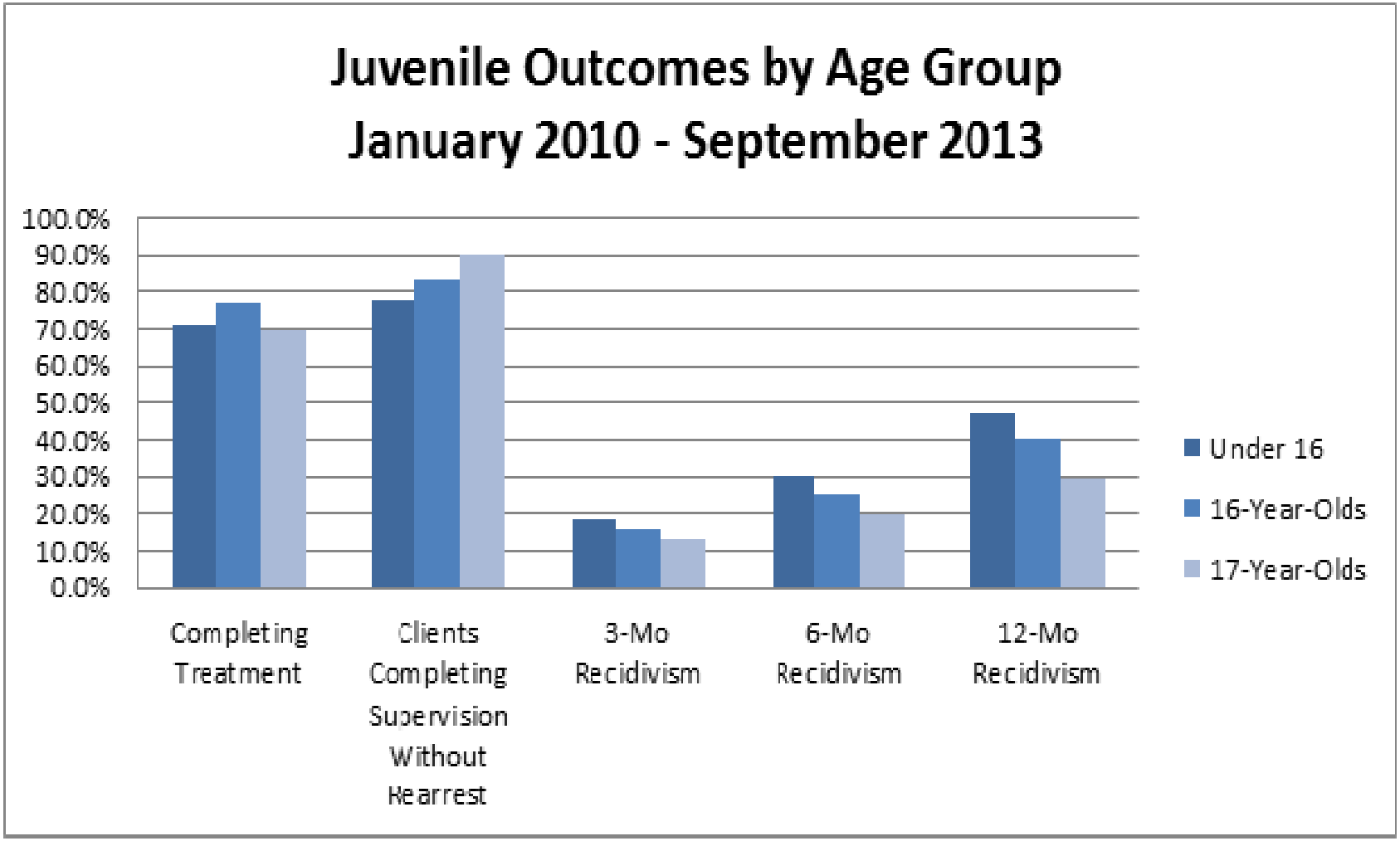
Targeted Treatment



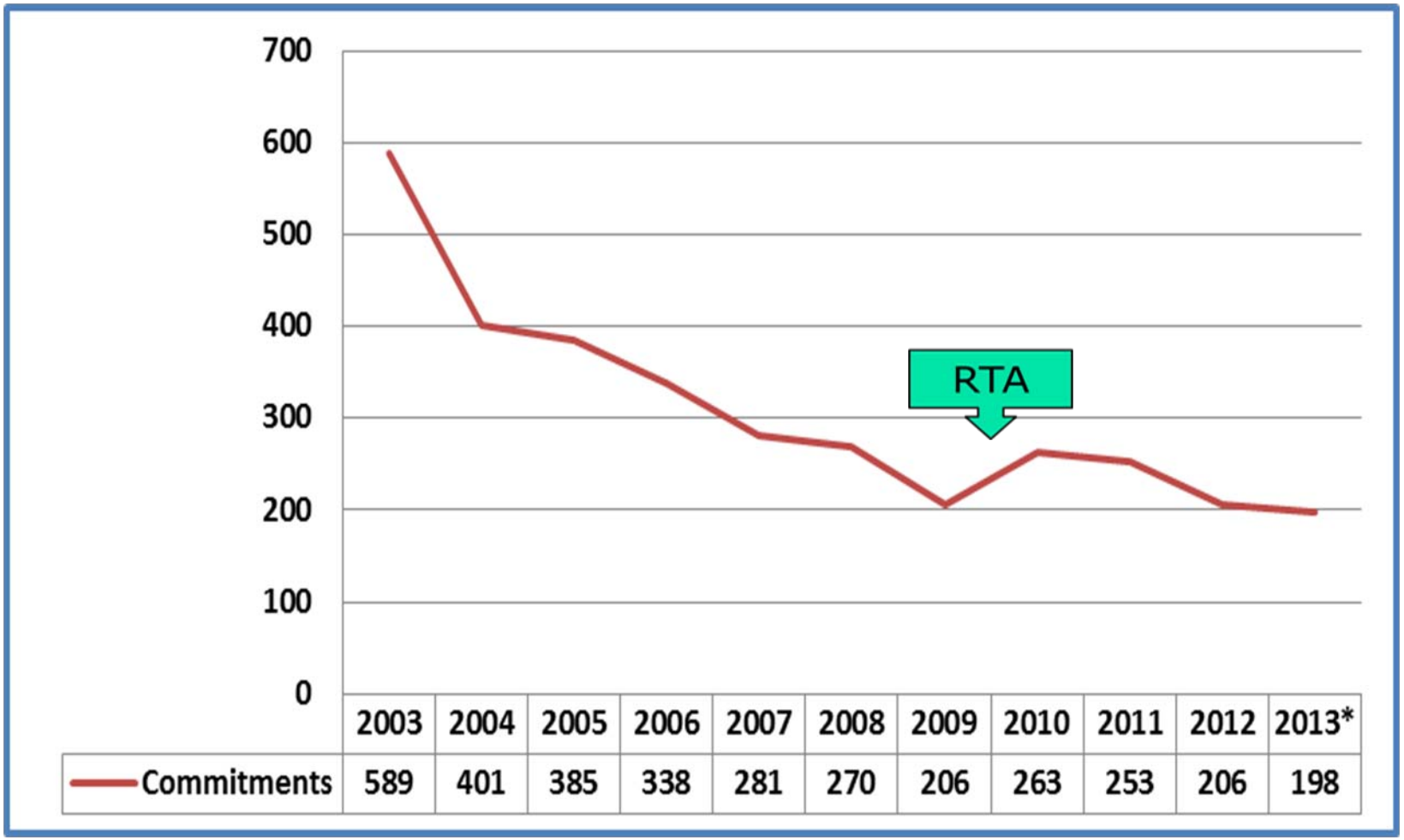
* Year-to-date

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
Starting Treatment	67%	92%	97%	97%	96%
Completing Treatment	20%	62%	77%	74%	76%

Outcomes by Age Group

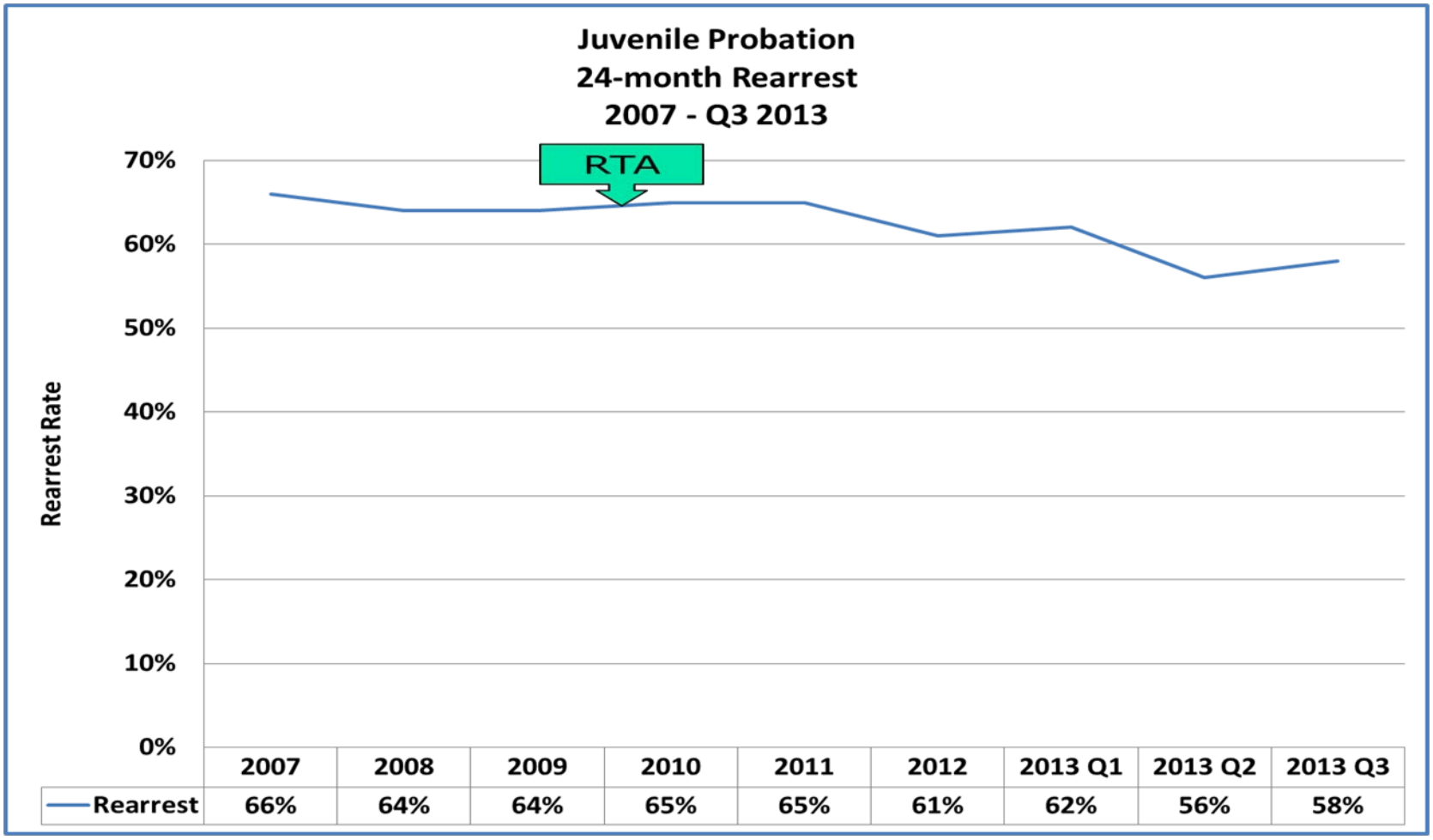


Commitment Reduction



	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
Commitments	589	401	385	338	281	270	206	263	253	206	198

Recidivism Reduction



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 Q1	2013 Q2	2013 Q3
Rearrest	66%	64%	64%	65%	65%	61%	62%	56%	58%

How Was Progress Achieved?

- Collaboration with Agencies & Providers
- Investment in Evidence-based Programs
- Investment in Staff and Training
- Investment in Infrastructure
- Establishment of Juvenile Court Clinic

How Does Connecticut Compare?

http://jjie.org/new-pew-report-says-national-juvenile-commitment-rates-fell-by-nearly-half-from-1997-until-2011/105328/

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS **INFOGRAPHIC**

19 States Cut Juvenile Commitment Rates by 50% or More

The latest federal data show that juvenile confinement continues to decline rapidly. Between 1997 and 2011, commitment rates fell in all but four states and the District of Columbia. States are recognizing the high cost and low return of facility placements and are increasingly adopting evidence-based policy solutions that focus costly residential beds on higher-risk youth.

	Juvenile Commitment Population (2011)	Percent change in commitment rate (1997-2011)
Connecticut	144	-79%
Rhode Island	78	-78%
Mississippi	138	-77%
Tennessee	528	-72%
Georgia	909	-68%
Louisiana	606	-68%
Arizona	579	-67%
South Carolina	426	-67%
North Carolina	405	-65%
California	5,691	-63%
Wisconsin	657	-56%
New York	1,677	-55%
Alaska	123	-55%
Washington	786	-54%
New Jersey	615	-54%
Maryland	471	-52%
Texas	3,069	-52%
Montana	114	-51%
Delaware	99	-51%
United States	41,934	-48%

5 greatest declines

Other Comparison Reports

- *The Comeback States*, The National Juvenile Justice Network and The Texas Public Policy Foundation, http://www.njjn.org/uploads/digital-library/Comeback-States-Report_FINAL.pdf

- *Juvenile Justice Reform in Connecticut: How Collaboration and Commitment Have Improved Public Safety and Outcomes for Youth*, The Justice Policy Institute, http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/juvenile_justice_reform_in_ctexecutive_summary.pdf

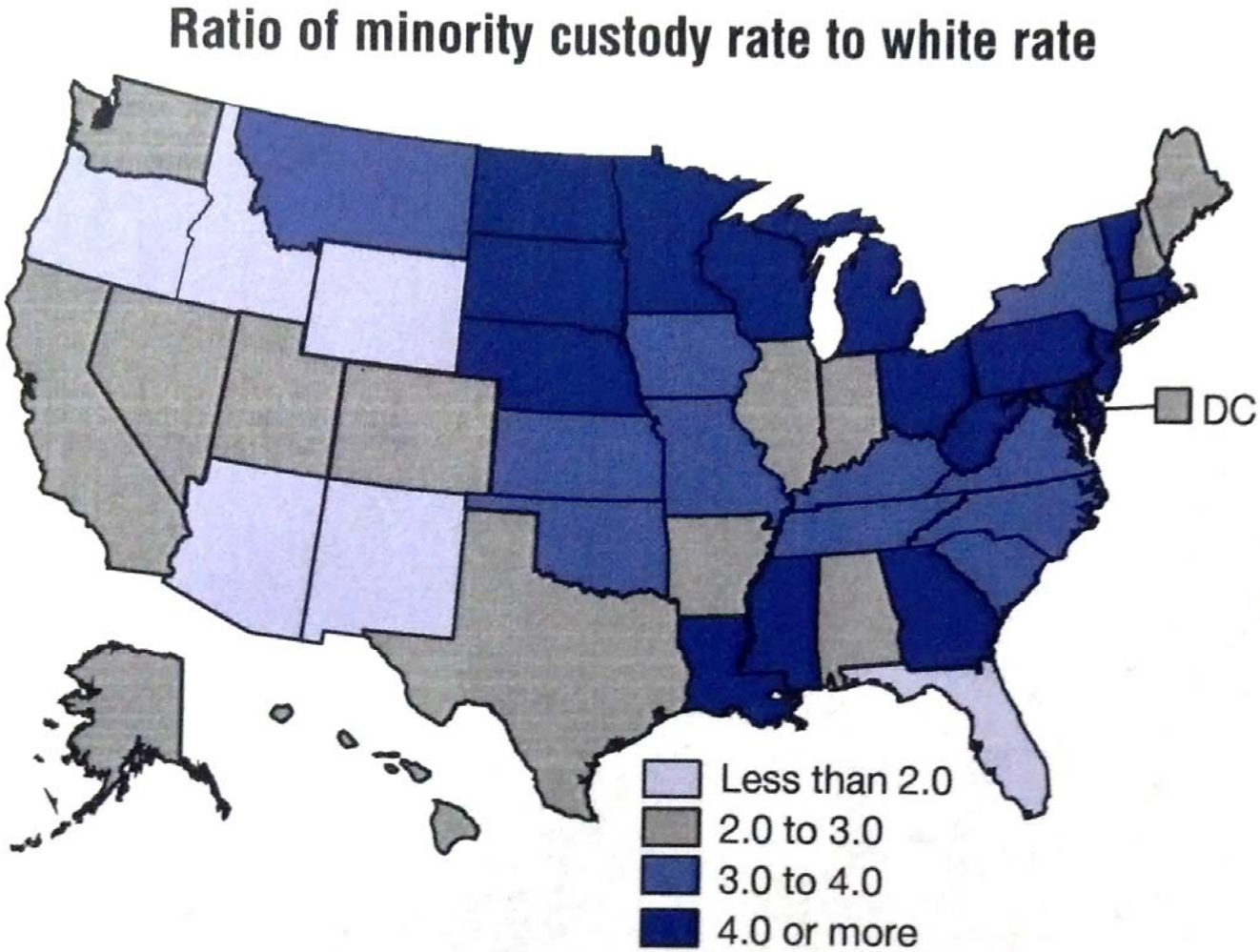
- *Common Ground: Lessons Learned from Five States that Reduced Juvenile Confinement by More than Half*, The Justice Policy Institute, http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/jpicommonground.pdf

- "A Handful of States Lead the Way on Juvenile Crime Prevention", Gest, T., *The Crime Report*, December 4, 2012, http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/inside-criminal-justice/2012-12-juvenile-best-practices

Impact on the Adult System?

- Lower recidivism? Less Adult referrals?
- National research comparing juvenile and adult processing of similar adolescents find better outcomes in juvenile court
- Pending Connecticut Raise the Age study
  - Dr. Megan Kurlychek, SUNY-Albany
  - Preliminary results are promising: 16 year olds in 2010 less likely to be placed, less likely to recidivate 2 years follow-up

Remaining Challenges: DMC



Other Challenges

- Reduction of School-based Arrests
- Expansion of Educational Supports and Vocational Opportunities
- Expansion of Substance Abuse Treatment
- Address Domestic Violence
- Addressing Needs of Young Adults
- Continued and Enhanced Partnership with other State Agencies and Local Communities

Questions?