

Board of Correction Assessment of Young Adult Enhanced Supervision Housing

Findings & Recommendations



July 11, 2017

Enhanced Supervision Housing

Description of Young Adult ESH by Level					
	ESH Entry Unit	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Number of Housing Units Currently in Operation*	1 Unit	2 Units	2 Units	1 Unit	There have never been any ESH Level 4 only housing units in operation.
Restraint Desks Used	Yes (All Lockout Time)	Yes (All Lockout Time)	Young Adults Restrained in Desks When Attending School in the ESH Entry Unit		
Lock-out Afforded (minimum)	7 hours	7 hours	7 hours	10 hours	14 hours
Commissary Limit (weekly)	\$50	\$50	\$70	\$95	\$125
Programs Offered	--Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) --Youth Communication --Creative Expression Arts and Crafts	--Individuals Determined to Overcome Life's Struggles (IDOLS) --Cage Your Rage	--Individualized Correction Achievement Network (ICAN) --The Challenge Journal Series --Brooklyn Public Library Book Distribution --Teleconferencing & Family Reunification		

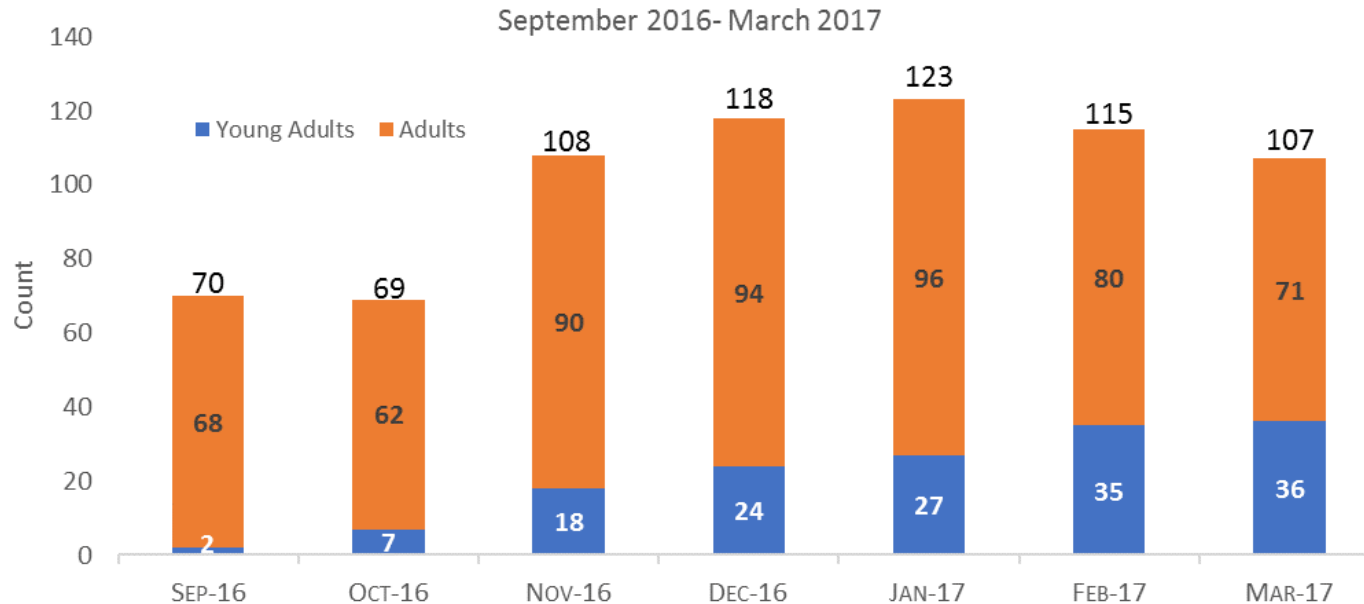
Recommendations for Improvement in Key Areas

- Population
- Placement
- Progress through and out of ESH
- Programming
- Education
- Conditions of Confinement

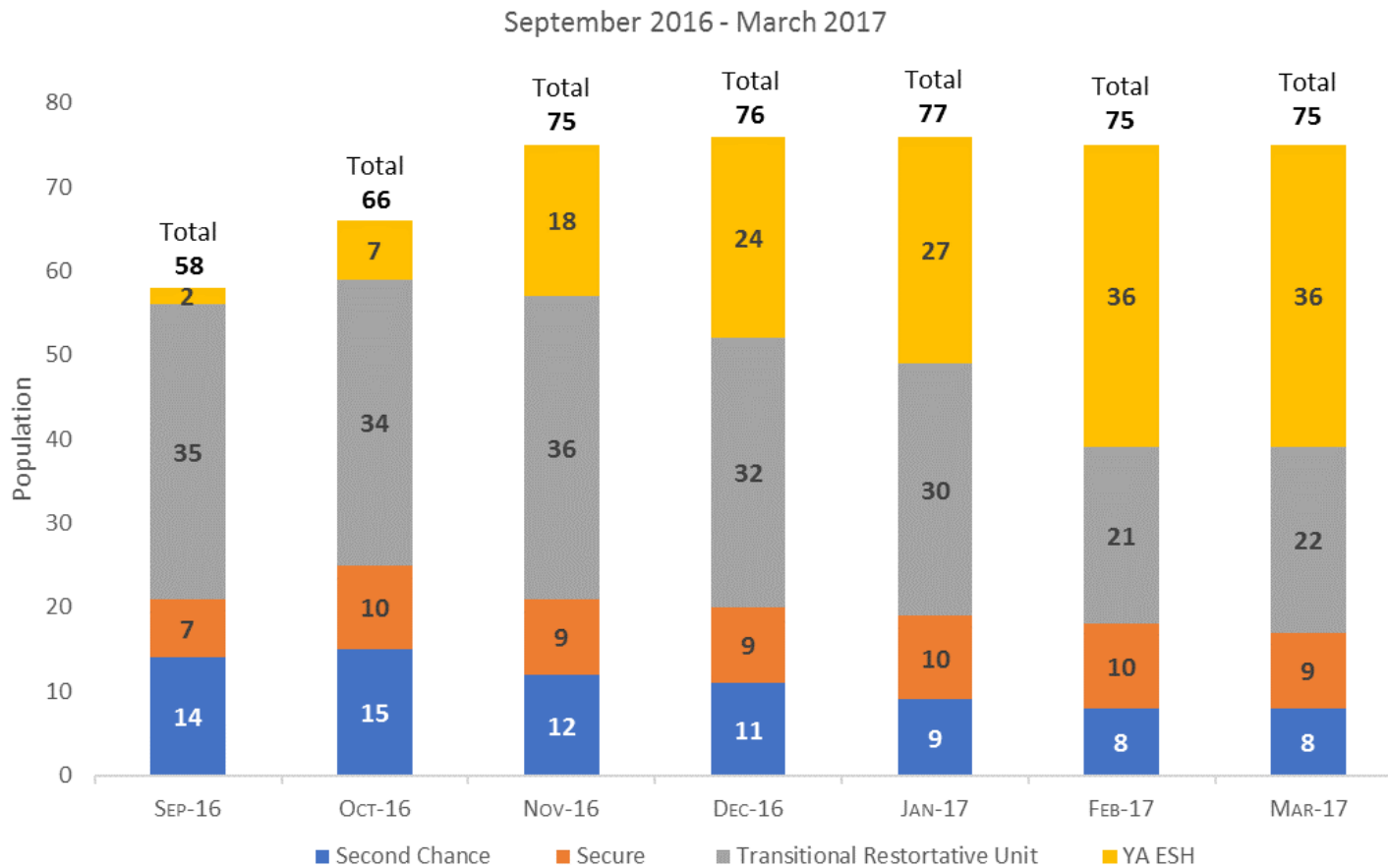
Average Daily Population in ESH

Findings:

- As of March 2017, young adults made up 34 % of the ESH population and represented only 4% of the total young adult population in DOC.



Average Daily Population for Young Adults Alternative to Punitive Segregation Housing



SOURCE: Department of Correction Census Compiled by Board of Correction.

Population

Recommendations:

- Conduct an in-depth analysis of all young adults in DOC custody to understand how alternatives to punitive segregation are used across the entire young adult population.

Placement

Findings:

- Most placement hearings were timely (67%) and most young adults attended their hearing (65%).
- Most young adults placed in units with restraint desks failed to receive proper notice of the restraint desk restriction as required under ESH Standards.
- Overall, young adults were placed in ESH an average of 61 days and a median of 16 days after the most recent incident used to justify their ESH placement.

Placement

Time from Most Recent Incident Cited in ESH Placement Determination Form to Entry into ESH

Young Adult Placements September 2016- March 2017

Level Entered	Number of Placements	Average Days Prior	Median Days Prior	Min Days Prior	Max Days Prior
ESH	40	23	6	1	209
ESH1	20	129	77	1	843
ESH2	4	106	113	35	165
Overall*	64	61	16	1	843

SOURCE: Department of Correction data compiled by Board of Correction.

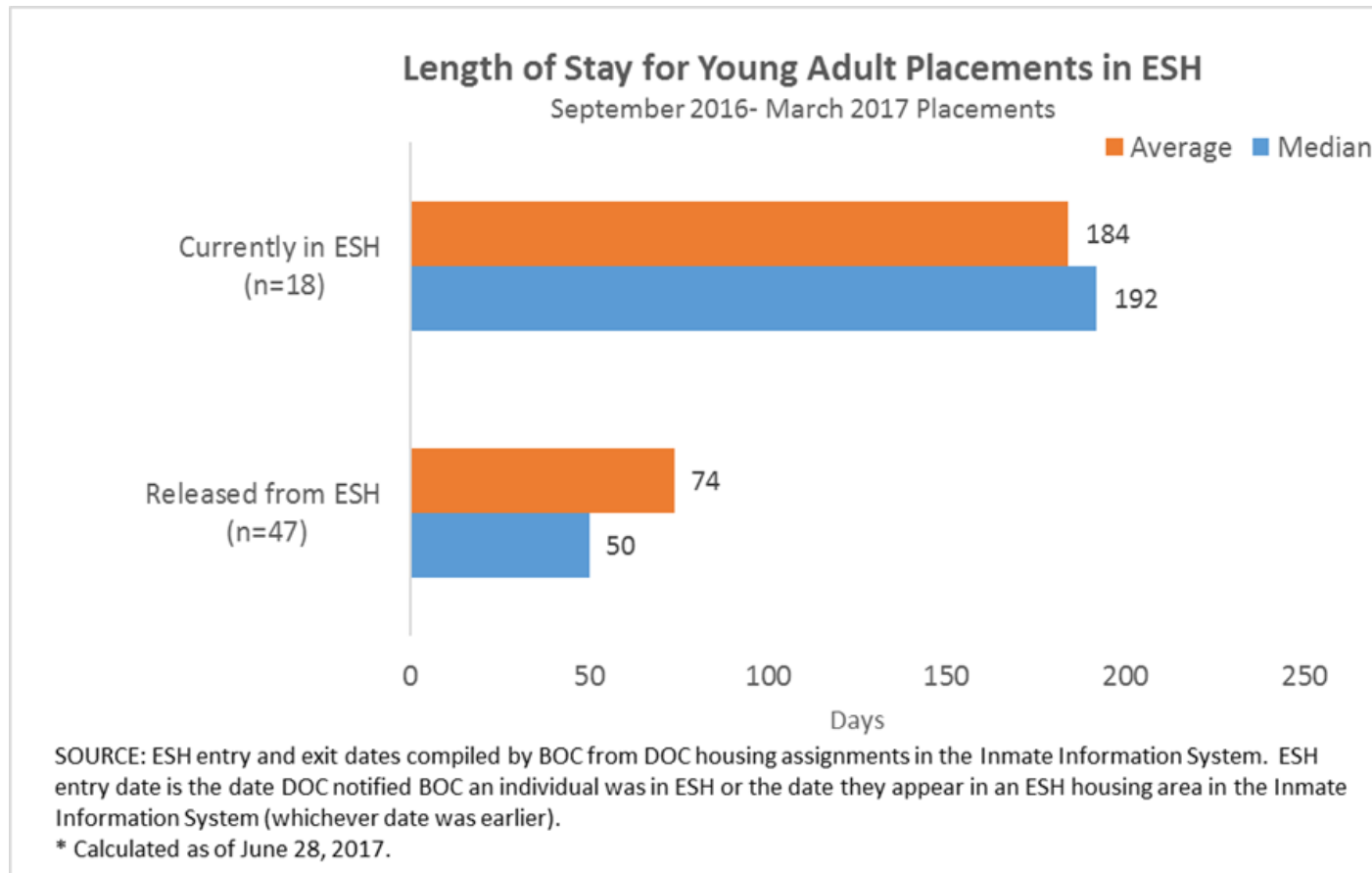
* One individual exited ESH prior to a placement hearing determination.

Placement

Recommendations:

- Narrow the lookback period for incidents used to justify the placement of young adults in ESH.
- Use restrictive housing rulemaking to clarify how ESH fits into a continuum of restrictive housing options for the young adult population.

Progression Through and Out of ESH



Progression Through and Out of ESH

Findings

- 70% of the 28/30 Day Reviews audited by Board recommended that young people remain in a unit with a restraint desk.
- Six individuals progressed to a less restrictive level because of a 45-Day Review.
- It took an average of 9 days to be moved out of the Entry Unit and an average of 16 days after a 45-day assessment recommending movement.

Progression Through and Out of ESH

Recommendations

- Ensure young adults have a meaningful opportunity to progress to a less restrictive setting.
- Shorten the time from discretionary decisions regarding placement/progression into and through ESH and young adults' actual movement.

Programming

Findings

- Board staff observed frequent disruptions to programming while it is in session.
- Participation in programming appears to be higher in the ESH Entry Unit compared to participation reported for the ESH blended units.
- Average participation in program offerings in blended ESH units has never exceeded an average of ~5 people per session in ESH Level 1 units (combined) or ~ 2 people per session for programming in ESH Levels 2 & 3 units (combined).

Programming

Recommendations

- Track young adult program participation in blended ESH units.
- Improve engagement of young adults in ESH to increase program participation.

Education

Findings:

- 31 % of young adults in ESH were enrolled in school.
- More than half of the students in ESH had Individualized Education Programs and 16% were English Language Learners.
- DOE tracks daily attendance in both ESH school sessions in a combined roster making comparison between ESH Entry Unit and ESH blended units difficult.

Education



Education

Recommendation:

- Create a separate area apart from ESH units to hold school for young adults in a classroom setting.
- Ensure young adults who are not in a restraint unit do not have to attend school in restraint desks.
- Address scheduling conflicts between school and other mandated services.
- Regularly and publicly report school attendance for the ESH Entry Unit and blended ESH units.

Treatment Needs & Access to Treatment

Findings:

- 61% of ESH placements were receiving mental health services before placement.
- 31% involved individuals with a substance use disorder prior to placement.
- The Department did not produce 30% of scheduled health encounters, and 23% of scheduled mental health encounters.
- Thirty-four percent of injuries were due to DOC use of force, 29% were a result of self-injury, and 14% were a result of inmate-on-inmate fight.

Treatment Needs & Access to Treatment

Recommendations

- Improve access to medical and mental health care through implementation of the Access Action Plan.
- Increase mental health and substance use disorder treatment options for young adults in ESH.

Conditions of Confinement

Findings:

- Due to lockdowns individuals in ESH had 39% fewer potential hours of out-of-cell time than required under ESH Minimum Standards.
- Participation in recreation is very low, with an average of only 20% of young adults participating.
- Recreation is consistently understaffed, causing the recreation staff to have difficulty providing timely-daily recreation to each house.

Conditions of Confinement

Findings:

- A snapshot on March 31, 2017 showed that two-thirds (n=26) had a non-contact visit restriction and nearly all (96%, n=25) of those restrictions were restrictions for the duration of an inmate's incarceration, subject to six-month reviews of that status.

Conditions of Confinement

Recommendations

- Continue to pilot new strategies that address the root causes of violence, such as the Cure Violence model.
- Incentivize recreation for young adults and address identified barriers such as the physical conditions of the recreation space and staffing shortages.
- Reevaluate duration non-contact visitation restrictions for young adults in ESH to ensure meaningful visitation and connections to family and the community.

Board Discussion

For access to the full report (forthcoming), please visit:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/boc/reports/board-of-correction-reports.page>