

Vermont Department of Corrections: Restorative Justice (RJ) Panels

Restorative Justice (RJ) Panels

The Restorative Justice Panels are “restorative” in nature. The central activity in the program is the very act of “responsible party meeting Panel”. The Panel, in this capacity, represents the community which extends to specific “victims of crime”. The interaction is designed to get the responsible party to realize the impact of their behavior. The very “process” of this meeting, (in and of itself), is a reparative activity where the responsible party is required to face representatives of the community and is offered the opportunity to accept responsibility and make amends. This meeting may be all that is required of the responsible party in fulfilling the program requirements. Decisions around additional activities resulting from the meeting must focus on the responsible party restoring the harm caused by a specific criminal act. The primary target population is responsible parties who have committed non-violent misdemeanor offenses.

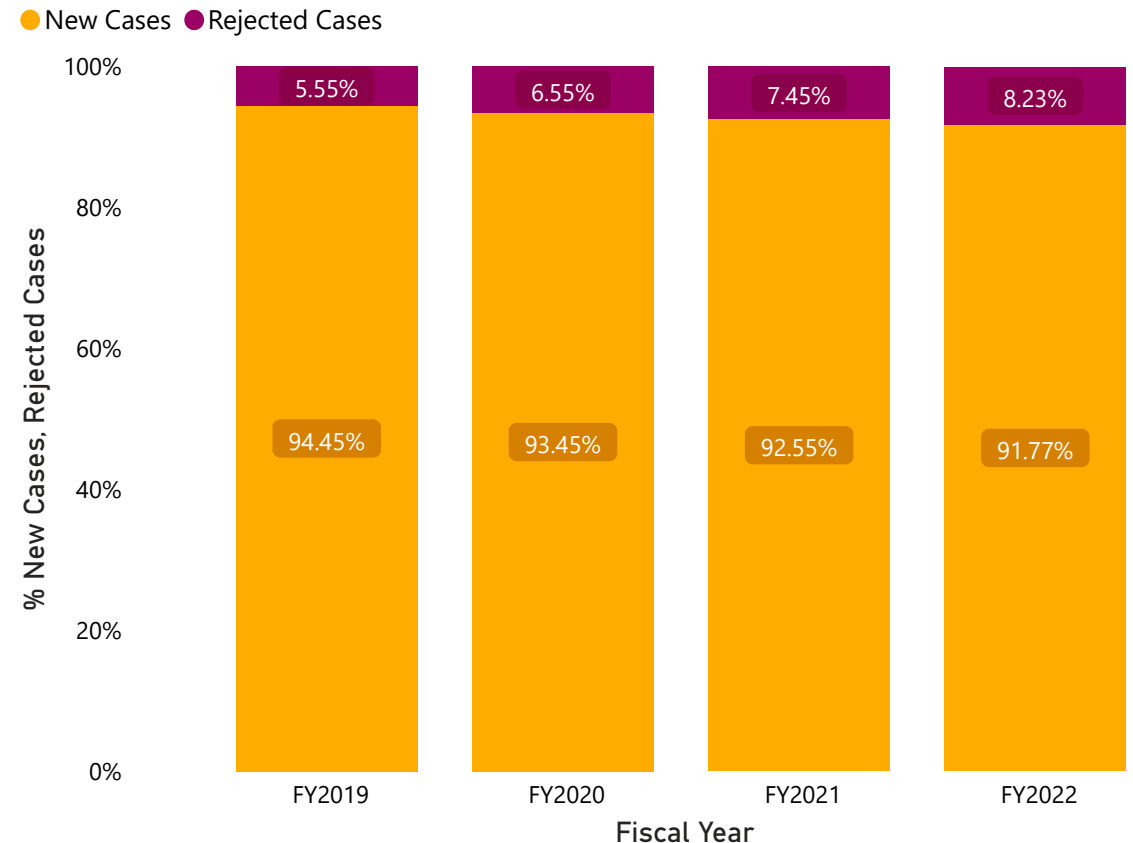
Average RJ Panel Total Cases each Fiscal Year (FY2019-FY2022):

1,934

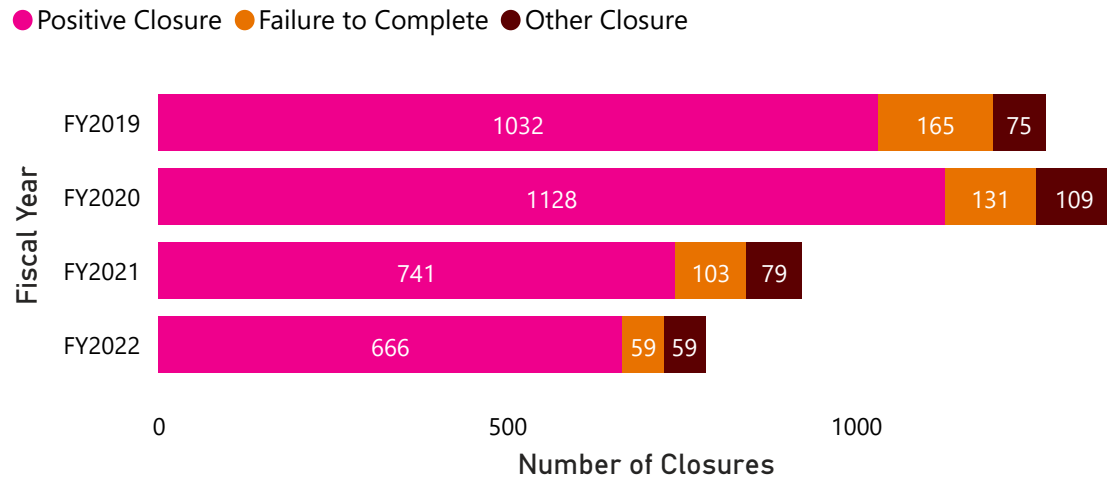
Average RJ Panel New Cases each Fiscal Year (FY2019-FY2022):

1,390

Percent New Cases, Rejected Cases by Fiscal Year**



Type of Program Closure by Fiscal Year*



***Positive Closure:** All requirements of the RJ Panel agreement are completed.
Failure to Complete: Process started but failed to complete the RJ Panel agreement.
Other Closure: All closures not fitting into the other categories (E.g., deceased, CJC transfer).

**Cases are only rejected if they would violate state statute ([24 V.S.A. § 1967](#)) or if the person refuses to take responsibility.

Vermont Department of Corrections: Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)

Average Unique Individuals Receiving Reentry Services each Fiscal Year (FY2019-FY2022):

597

Average New Individuals Receiving Reentry Services each Fiscal Year (FY2019-FY2022):

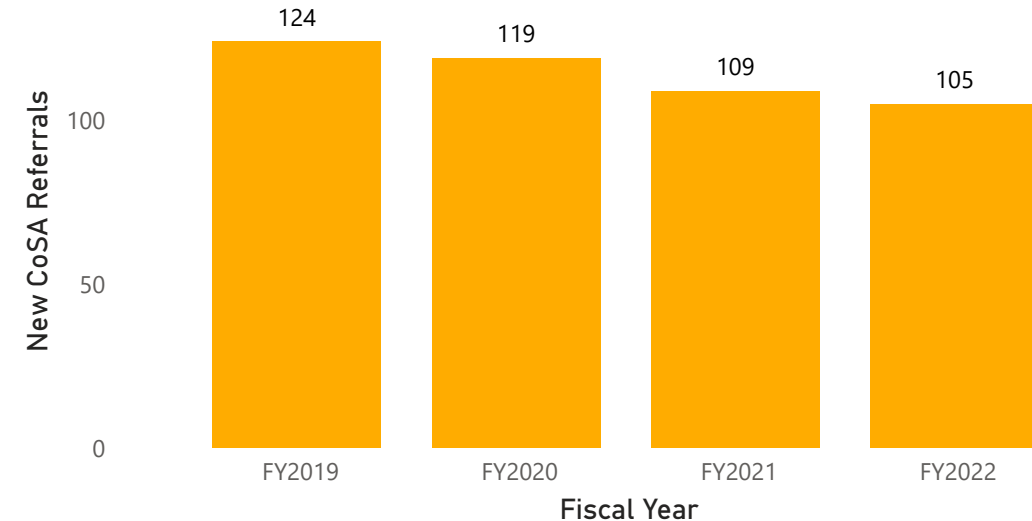
421

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)

The basic CoSA operating structure is comprised of weekly team meetings with the core member and periodic larger group meetings to ensure the core member's progress with reintegration, compliance with reentry conditions and other expectations, to deal with changing conditions and new opportunities, and to keep community partners adequately informed. It is expected that the CJC Reintegration Specialists communicate with the local P&P office at a minimum of once per week to provide and receive relevant case information. Any violations of release conditions, and any concerns regarding the behavior and/or attitudes of the core member are to be brought to the immediate attention of P&P. Although each circle is unique, the goal is the same: to develop consistent relationships based upon mutual trust, honesty, and respect in direct support of having no more victims.

Formerly incarcerated individuals eligible for reentry during the grant period who are reentering the community and are considered to be at moderate to high risk to reoffend based on their Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) score and/or additional risk assessments will constitute the broad pool from which restorative reintegration referrals are chosen. COSAs should be reserved for those with the highest risk/need. Priority consideration is given to high-risk person that committed a sex offense, then other people that committed a sex offense, then high-risk felony formerly incarcerated individuals, and then all others.

New CoSA Referrals by Fiscal Year



Active CoSA: Post Release and Still Incarcerated by Fiscal Year

