

The Use of Detention for Non-Offender Matters in Washington State in 2020



WASHINGTON STATE CENTER
FOR COURT RESEARCH

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IN WASHINGTON STATE IN 2020...

There were 196 admission to detention for non-offender matters

143 unique youth were admitted to detention for a non-offender matter

3.6% of all detention admissions were for a non-offender matter

196

Admission



143

Youth



3.6%

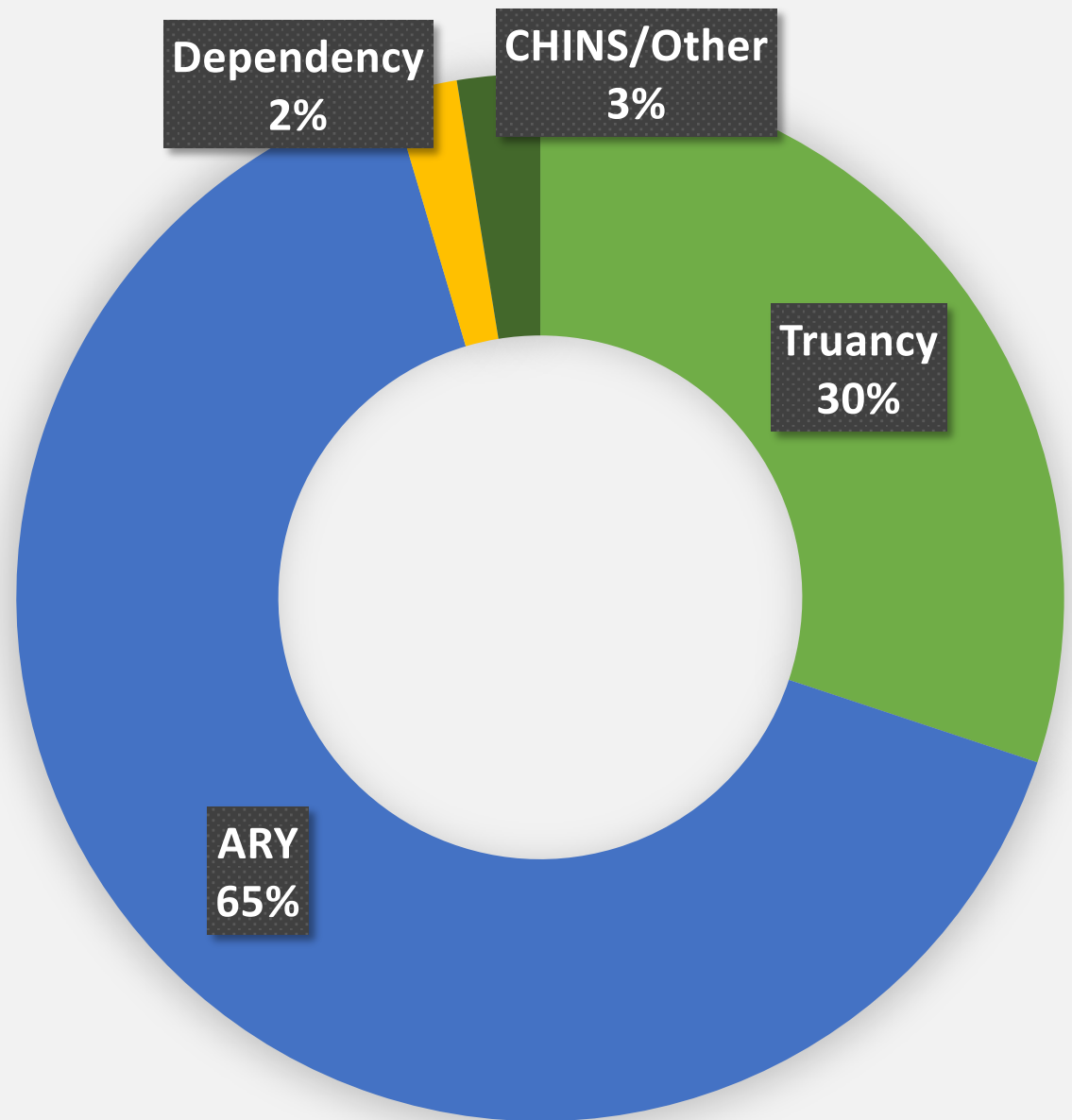
Of total admits



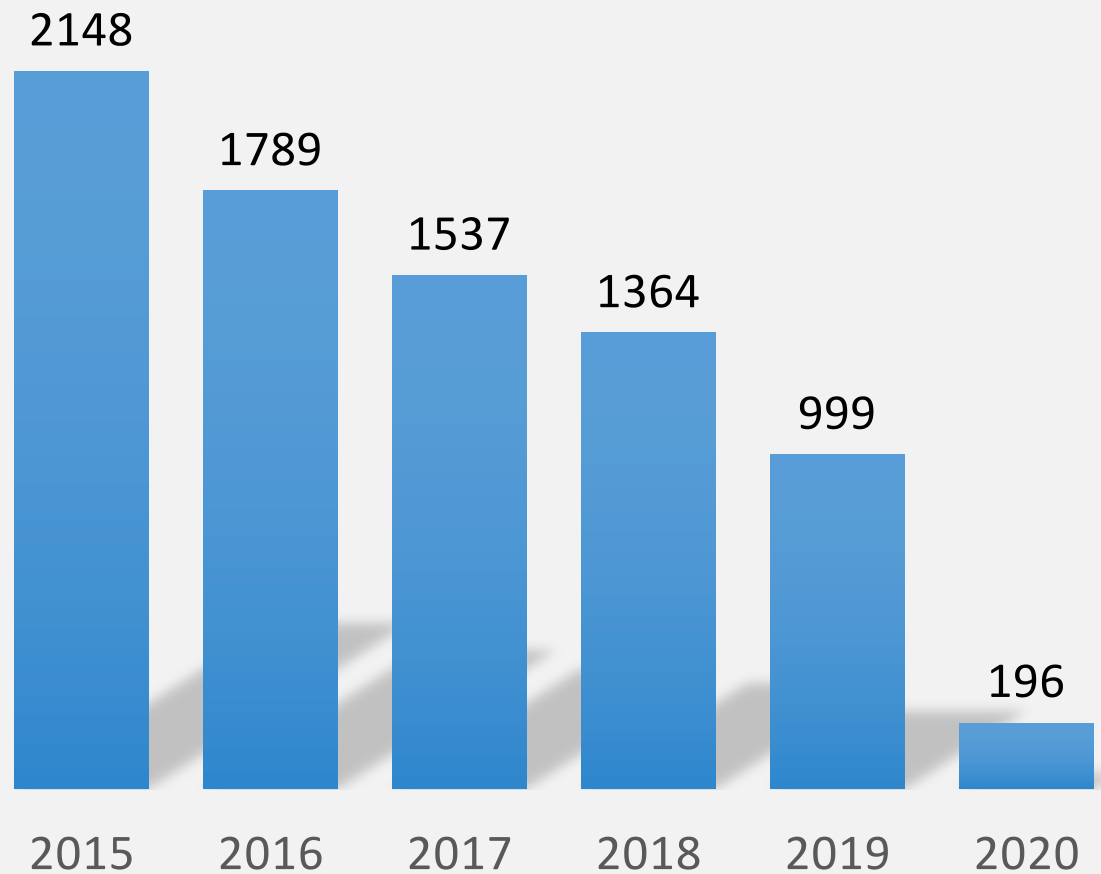
Across counties in 2020, the percent of total admission that were due to a non-offender matter varied from 0% to 21%



In 2020 the most common reason for a non-offender detention admission was an ARY petition

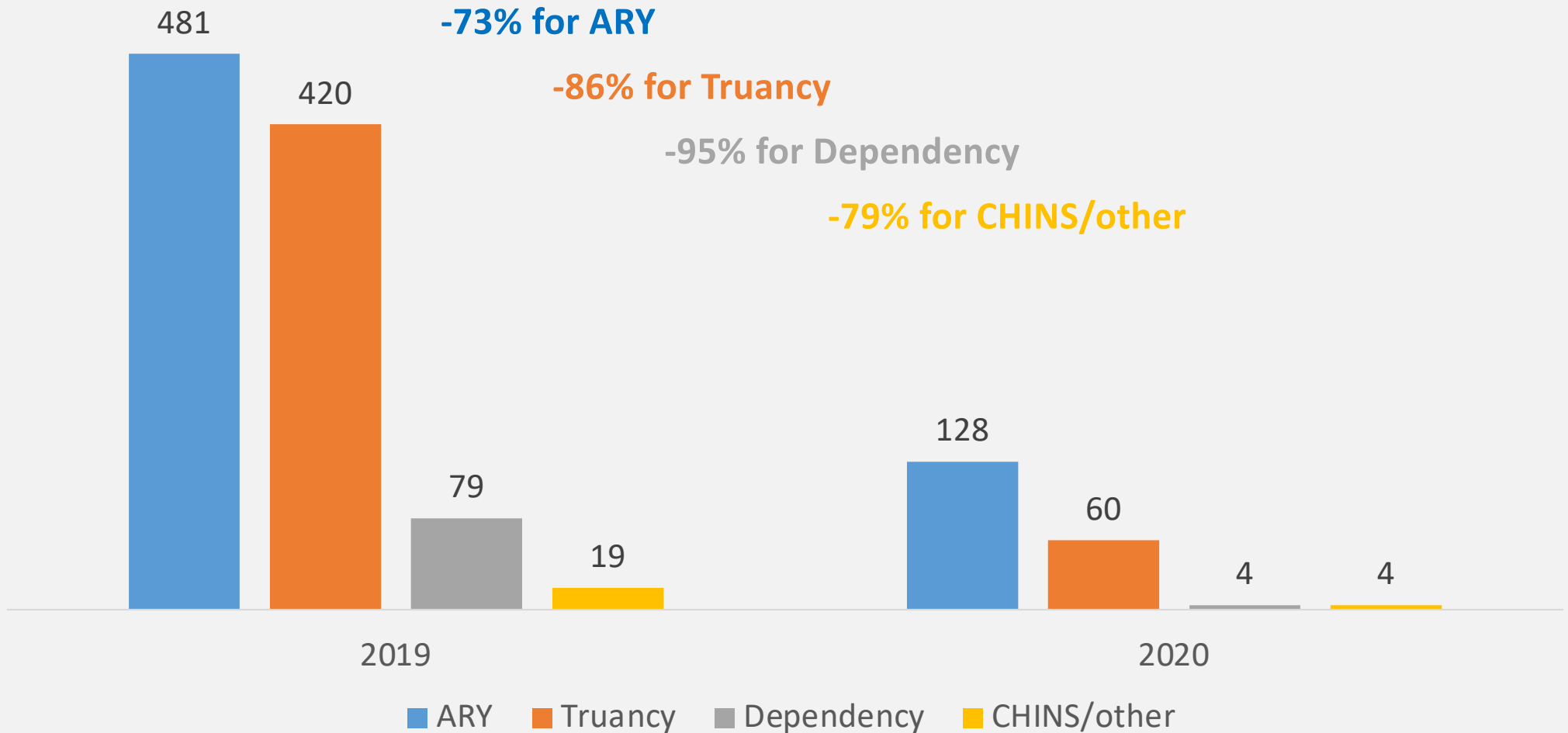


While non-offender statewide detention admissions have been steadily decreasing, there was an 80% drop between 2019 and 2020



Note: 2015 and 2016 counts exclude admissions from seven small counties for which we did not have complete data.

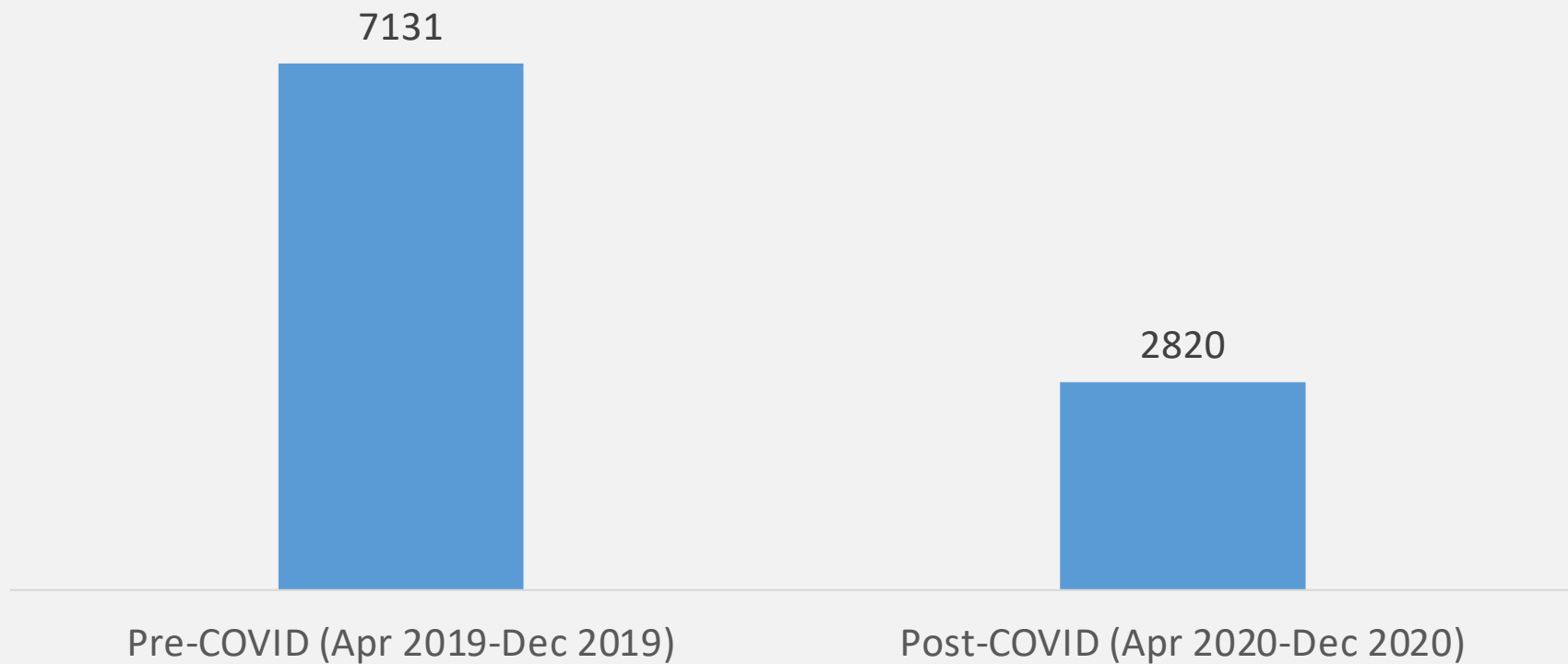
The greatest decrease in admissions was for dependency



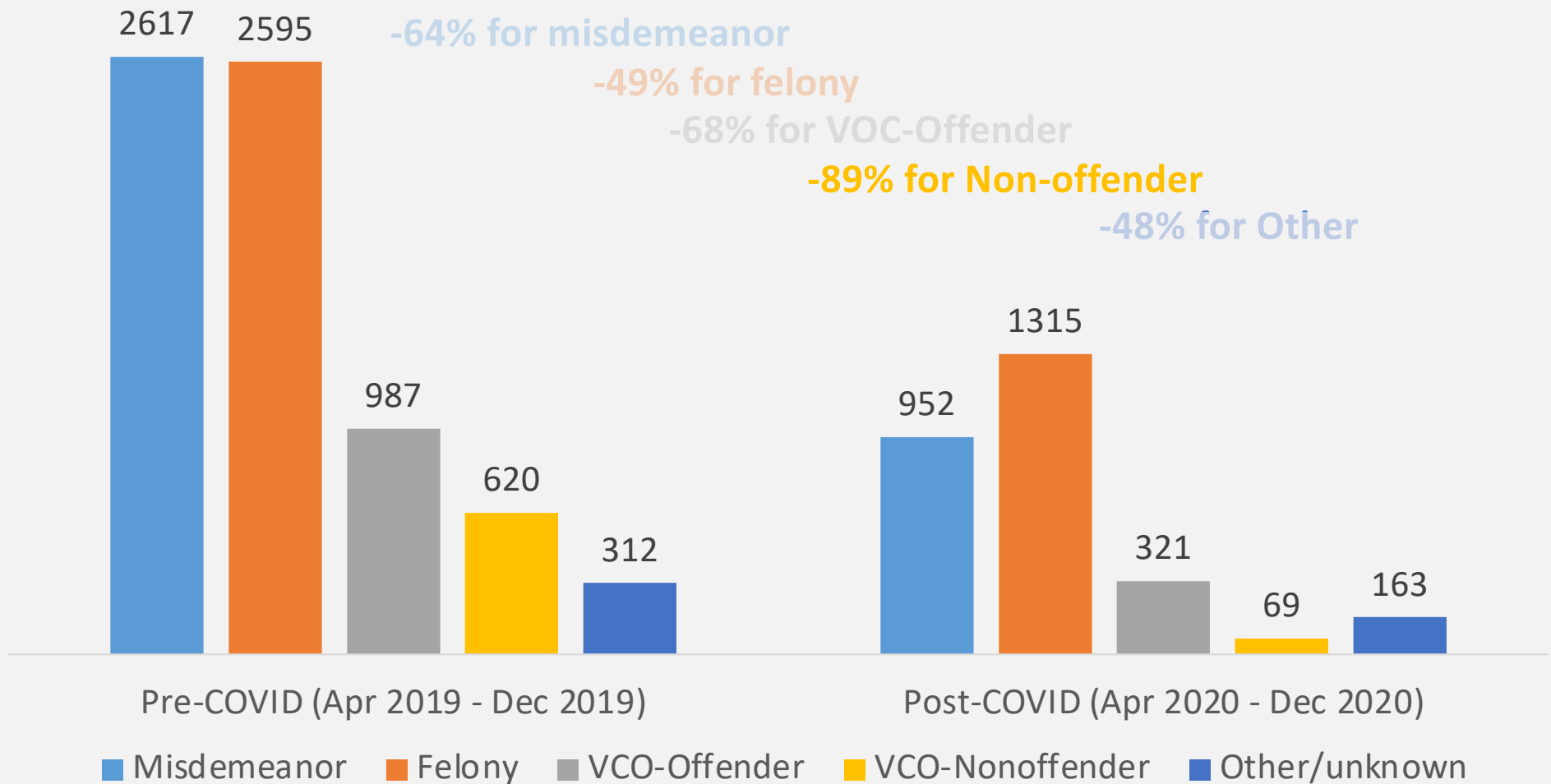
You are probably wondering...

Is the large drop in admissions due
entirely to COVID?

There was a 60% decrease in *total* detention admissions from the pre- to post-COVID period



Admissions of non-offenders had the largest decreases from the pre- to post-COVID period



Detention admissions were also affected by E2SSB 5290

SB 5290 - 2019-20

Eliminating the use of the valid court order exception to place youth in detention for noncriminal behavior.

Sponsors: **Darneille, Wellman, Kuderer, Randall**, Palumbo, **Das, Hasegawa**, McCoy, **Nguyen, Saldaña, Wilson, C.**

Companion Bill: **HB 1434**

Bill Status-at-a-Glance

See **Bill History** for complete details on the bill

As of Tuesday, October 13, 2020 10:51 AM

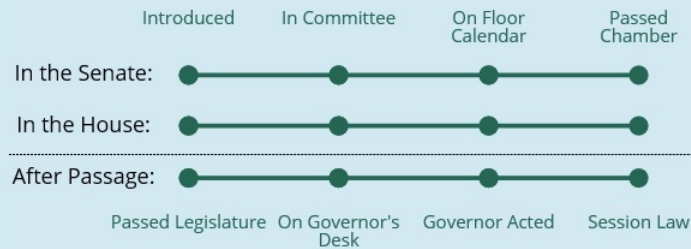
Current Version:

**Engrossed 2nd Substitute -
E2SSB 5290**

Current Status:

C 312 L 19

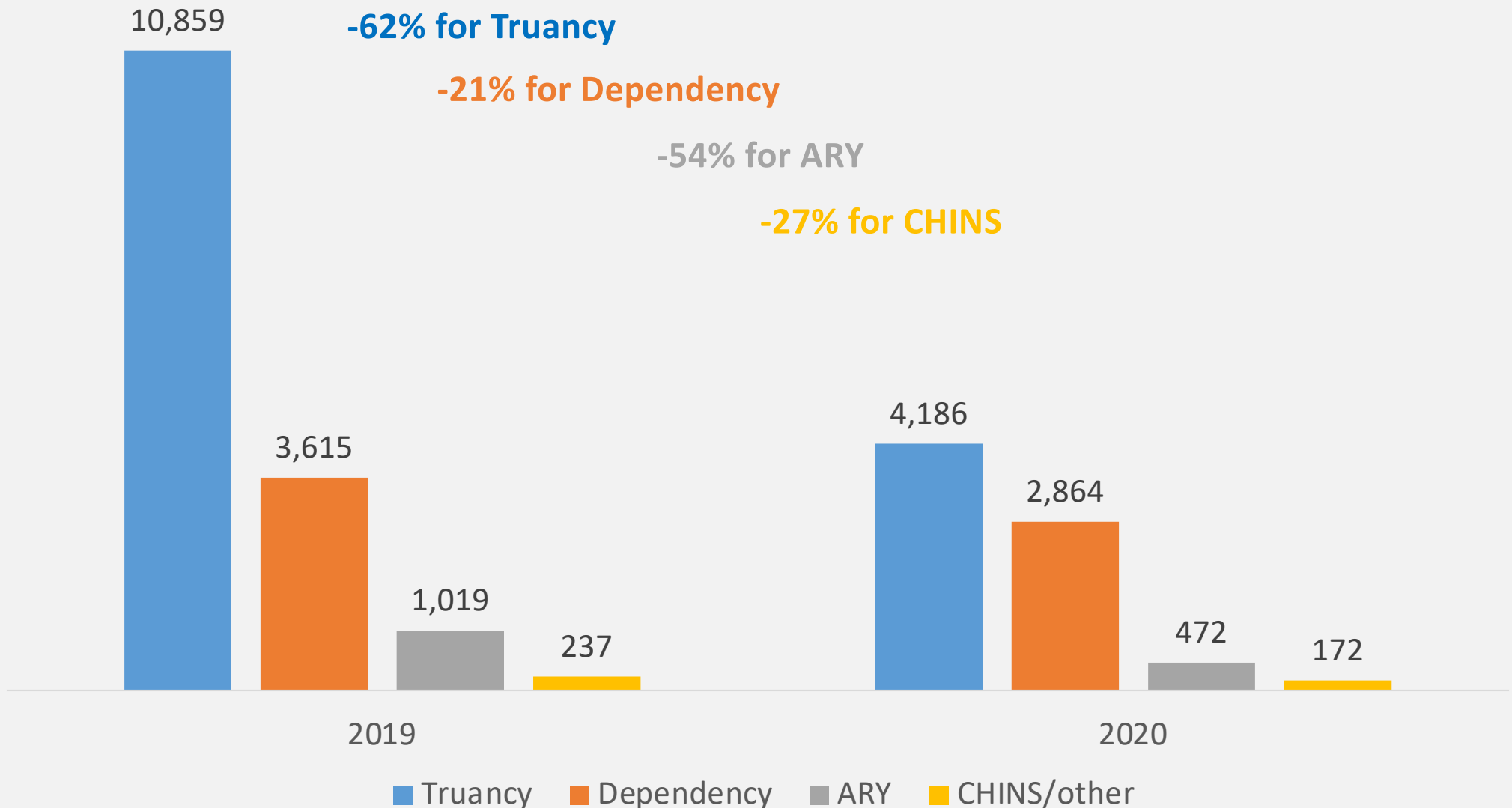
Where is it in the process?



Detention admissions were also affected by E2SSB 5290

Date	Detention no longer an option for...
July 1, 2020	Dependency and CHINS
July 1, 2021	Truancy
July 1, 2023	ARY

Non-offender *petition filings* decreased from 2019 to 2020, but to a lesser degree than non-offender detention admissions



The decrease in non-offender detention admissions likely due to:

- Existing downward trajectory
- Fewer petitions filed
- COVID (decreased use of detention for lower risk youth)
- Recent legislation

Questions still remaining

- Will detention admissions return to pre-COVID levels?
 - Not for Becca cases (see E2SSB 5290)
- What are juvenile courts using in lieu of detention?
 - Research project underway

Thank you

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Detention reports can be found at:

www.courts.wa.gov/wsccl/