

## Probation Oversight Commission's (POC) Examination of Progress and Implementation of the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Depopulation Strategy:

### Intake & Detention

*Prepared by the staff of the Probation Oversight Commission for the February 18, 2026 regular meeting of the POC.*

**This report examines monthly intake counts, 707(b) offenses, and intake recommendations to provide a data-driven analysis of intake trends.** Reviewing these trends provides important context for understanding population counts and assessing alignment with stated depopulation objectives.

#### Overview:

In May 2025, the Los Angeles County Probation Department released its [Depopulation Strategy](#) in response to a court order requiring a reduction in the population at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH).<sup>1</sup> The *Depopulation Strategy* identified a target projected population of 175 youth for LPJH. On February 11, 2026, the population of LPJH was 242 youth. In addition to not meeting the targets for depopulation at LPJH, the overall population of detained youth in the county increased between May 16, 2025 and February 11, 2026 from 558 to 600.

On February 6, 2026, at the Order to Show Cause Hearing, Probation Chief Viera-Rosa indicated that the LPJH population would more likely stabilize around 200 youth. The Chief cited a higher-than-usual number of juvenile arrests as a significant factor that has stymied the Department's ability to achieve the goals set forth in the *Depopulation Strategy*.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, during a presentation to the Board of Supervisors on February 3, 2026, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath asked Probation Chief Viera-Rosa about the disparity between current population totals and the targets in the strategy. In response, Chief Viera Rosa explained that while the Department has made progress, "the amount of young people arrested for significant crimes and booked at our facilities is out of our control and it has been higher than anticipated when that plan was presented."<sup>3</sup>

The POC analyzed helpful data provided by the Intake, Detention, and Control (IDC) division of the Probation Department to determine if an increase in intake or an increase in intake of youth accused of more serious (707(b)) crimes might explain the increased numbers of detained youth. We also considered that declines in crime in 2025 have been widely reported at the national and local level, including data from the Major Cities Chiefs Association comparing violent crime data from January 1 – September 30, 2025 to 2024 that shows a 17% decline in both aggravated assaults and robberies reported by the Los Angeles Police Department as well as declines in violent crime in most categories as reported by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and the Long Beach Police Department.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See also: [Probation Oversight Commission's \(POC\) Examination of Progress and Implementation of Phases 1-5 of the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Depopulation Strategy](#)

<sup>2</sup> Henry, Jason. "Juvenile Hall Depopulation Nearly Complete But Likely Won't Hit Goal, says L.A. County Probation Chief" *Daily News* February 8, 2026

<sup>3</sup> [Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Board Meeting February 3, 2026. Agenda Item 33 Report on the Status of Probation Department – Report by Chief Probation Officer. Video:](#)

<sup>4</sup> [MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2025-and-2024-January-to-September.pdf](#)

## Data:

This analysis is based on data from Probation's Intake, Detention, and Control (IDC) division from 2024 and 2025 that was shared with the POC by the Probation Department. Intake data has been provided to the POC on an intermittent basis. Therefore, this analysis reflects the intake data available at the time of review.

- For 2024, intake data is available only for the months of January through June.
- For 2025, intake data is available only for March and September through December.

As explained and discussed by Probation Leadership in their presentations to the POC at the [September 2024](#) and [December 2025 POC Meetings](#), during the intake the IDC Officer conducts an intake assessment and investigation of the youth and the arrest to determine whether to release or detain the youth initially, and whether to recommend detention or release to the court.

This data shows that intake recommendations are organized into the following outcomes:

- **Detention**, specifically:
  - Detention at Intake with recommendation to remain detained at the Detention Hearing
  - Detention at Intake with recommendation to release at the Detention Hearing
- **Community Detention Program (CDP)**, also known as electric monitoring. This includes:
  - Detention at Intake with recommendation to Community Detention Program at the Detention Hearing
  - Detention on CDP at Intake with recommendation to remain on CDP at the Detention Hearing (also referred to as PROTAP)
- **Release at Intake** and cite to appear in court
- **Other**, which includes:
  - Youth not detained in Juvenile Hall due to Adult Custody
  - Youth not detained in Juvenile Hall due to Camp Custody
  - Youth already detained in Juvenile Hall with additional charges filed while in custody (they are detained already and are recommended to remain detained)

It is important to note that the "Other" subcategory was introduced in the 2025 monthly reports but not included in the 2024 data. At this time, it is unclear whether the 2024 total intake counts included cases that would later be categorized as "Other." For this reason, the more detailed "Other" classifications are not included in this analysis.

Intake data provided to the POC also include the number of intakes that are due to a 707(b) offense. A "707(b) offense" refers to a category of approximately 30 serious offenses listed in California Welfare and Institutions Code section 707(b). These offenses are considered serious crimes and typically require youth detention in Juvenile Hall pending the detention hearing.

Taken together this analysis is based on 11 months of intake data across 2024 and 2025. While some of these months are consecutive, there are also gaps in the months of available data. As a result, the trends identified in this report reflect changes over time for the months available, rather than month-to-month changes. Despite this limitation, the available data remain useful for identifying broad trends and overall patterns in intake and detention outcomes.

Data Summary<sup>5</sup>

Month/Year	Total Intakes	Total Detention	Total CDP	Release/ Cite out at Intake	Other	707 (b) Offenses
Jan-24	173	130	37	6		102
Feb-24	157	111	41	5		104
Mar-24	214	158	52	4		116
Apr-24	201	148	44	9		137
May-24	222	181	34	7		134
Jun-24	194	166	21	7		111
Mar-25	215	131	63	3	18	73
Sep-25	158	98	34	0	26	51
Oct-25	170	107	48	1	14	60
Nov-25	147	106	30	0	11	59
Dec-25	145	104	25	0	16	53

Key Findings

**Finding 1: Across 2024 and 2025, total intakes per month have declined.**

Figure 1: Total Intakes Reported by Month (2024 – 2025)

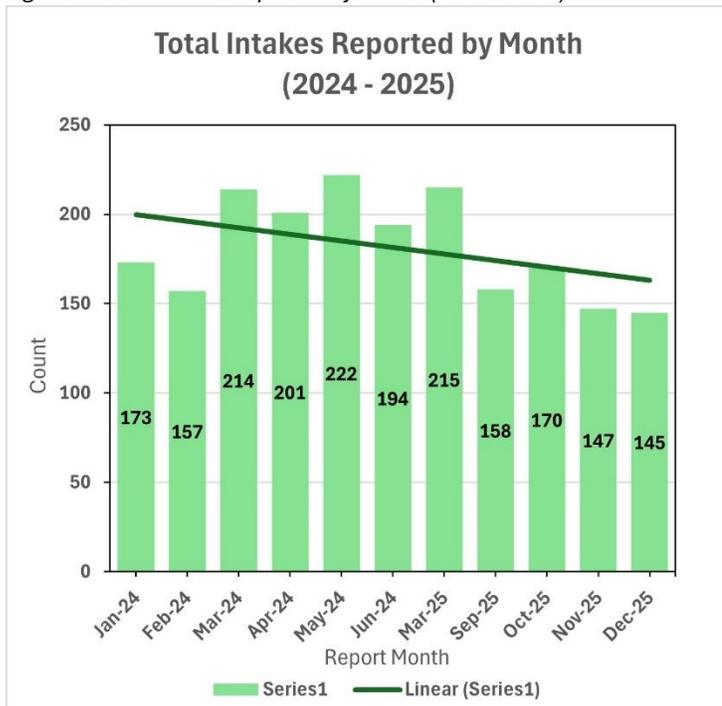


Figure 1 displays the total number of intakes for each reported month. Total youth intakes declined from a peak of 222 in May 2024 to 145 in December 2025. Although intake numbers do fluctuate from month to month, the overall trend (illustrated by the solid green line of Figure 1) reflects a consistent decline in total intakes.

Importantly, beginning in September 2025, the Intake Monthly Reports also began identifying the number of Field Citations, or phone assessments that resulted in a “field cite-out” that do not require the youth to be physically transported to the Intake and Detention Center (IDC) or Juvenile Hall. Instead, the youth is issued a citation in the field and remains in the community pending case processing.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix A for a detailed table of the data.

<sup>6</sup> As part of the Department’s ongoing efforts to reduce intakes, the Department developed a Revised Detention Reduction Plan in December 2024 which included a policy limiting Intake Officers’ ability to override cite-and-release eligibility determinations made by arresting agencies: <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/POC25-0003.pdf>

Data from September 2025 to December 2025 show that there was an average of approximately 78 Field Citations per month.<sup>7</sup> Data prior to September 2025 did not include counts of Field Citations. As a result, it is currently unknown how many cases processed by the IDC before September 2025 may have been eligible for a field cite-out.

Taken together, this suggests that some portion of the decline in physical intakes after September 2025 may be partly due to the increased use of Field Citations. In other words, fewer youth may have been transported to and processed at Juvenile Hall because certain lower-level cases were handled in the field instead.

Finding 2 provides additional context by examining trends in violent and serious offenses, also known as 707(b) offenses.

**Finding 2: 707(b) offenses are also decreasing**

Figure 2: 707(b) Intakes

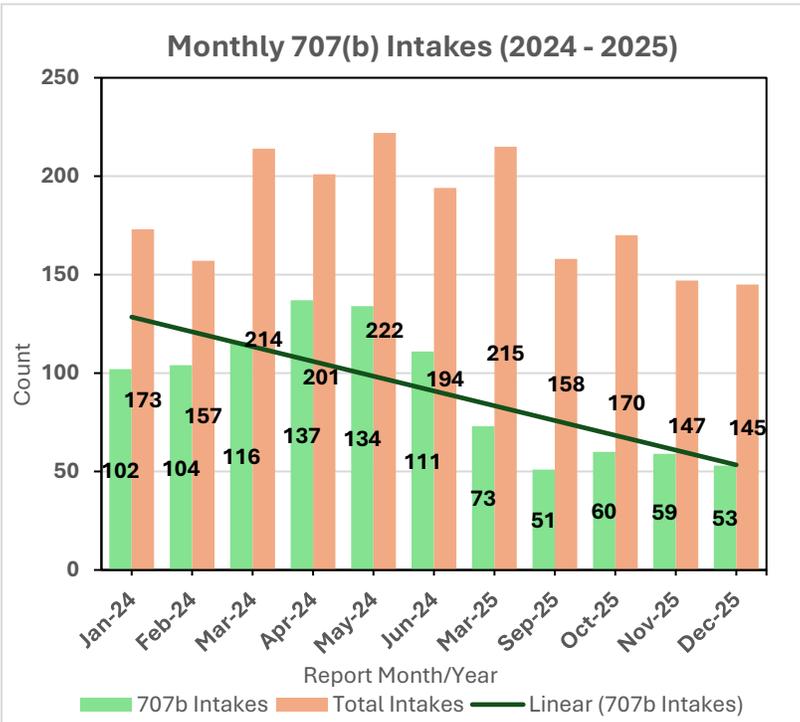


Figure 2 displays the total number of 707(b) intakes alongside the total number of all intakes for each reported month. The green trend line illustrates how the monthly counts of 707(b) offenses have changed over time.

**Following a peak in 2024, 707(b) intakes decreased substantially over the months in which data is available.**

In the first half of 2024, 707(b) offenses accounted for an average of about 61 % of total intakes. **Across the available months in 2025, the average percentage of 707(b) intakes declined to approximately 36%.** Although the 2025 data are not consecutive, the data indicate a substantial reduction in the proportion of serious offenses at intake.

This finding is particularly important in light of Finding 1, which showed that total intakes have decreased over time. While part of the decline in total intakes after September 2025 may reflect increased use of Field Citations, **the decrease in both the number and proportion of 707(b) offenses suggests that arrests for serious offenses have also declined.** Taken together, these trends indicate that changes in intake volume and serious offense referrals do not appear to explain increases in the overall detained juvenile population.

Importantly, in September 2025, the Monthly Intake Reports began including additional charge-level counts for youth who were newly detained in juvenile hall. However, these reports do not specify the

<sup>7</sup> See Appendix B for Cite Out Counts for September 2025 to December 2025.

detention decision associated with each individual charge at intake. In addition, comparable charge-level breakdowns were not included in the data from 2024. As a result, currently, the data do not allow for a complete analysis of the factors driving detention decisions over time.<sup>8</sup>

In light of this, Finding 3 turns to an examination of the frequency of detention recommendations at intake.

**Finding 3: Probation continues to recommend detention for over 70% of youth at intake.**

Figure 3: Total Intake Detention Recommendations

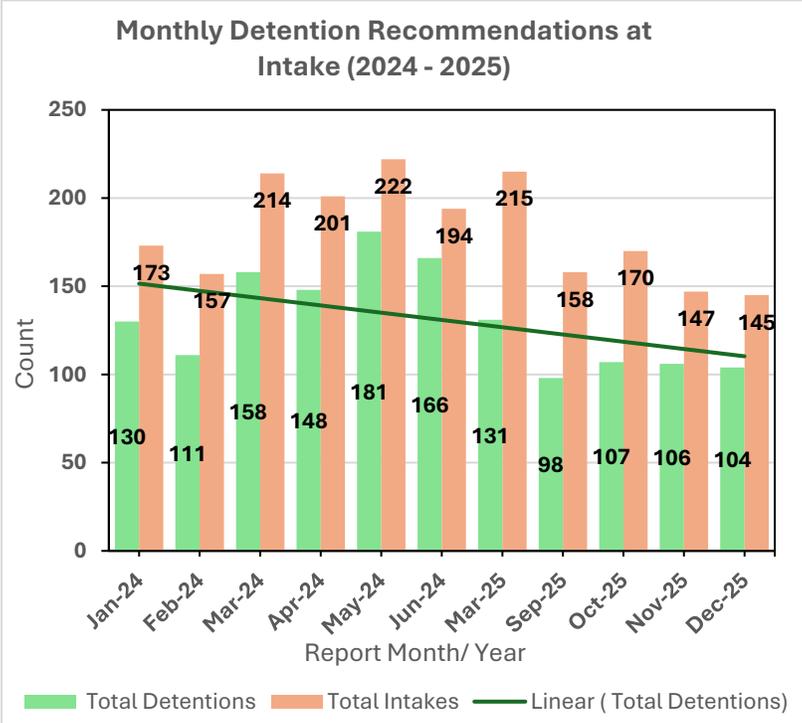


Figure 3 illustrates the total number of detention recommendations alongside total intakes by month. Consistent with the decline in overall intakes, the green trend line indicates that fewer youth were recommended for detention in the latter months of 2025 compared to the early months of 2024. In other words, fewer youth are being recommended for detention in absolute terms.

However, despite these declines in overall counts, the proportion of youth recommended for detention at intake remains consistently high and the majority of youth processed through IDC continue to be detained. For example, in the months of November and December of 2025 approximately 72% were recommended for detention.

**These findings show that detention continues to be the most common intake outcome, even as both the number and proportion of 707(b) offenses have declined.** That is to say, reductions in the number of youth being brought into the juvenile hall and reduction in the number of serious charges have not translated into meaningful shifts in intake decision-making patterns.<sup>9</sup>

Finding 4 focuses specifically on the use of the Community Detention Program (CDP), a detention alternative available to Intake Probation Officers at the time of intake.

<sup>8</sup> Additional data now being provided to the POC by Probation will allow for this analysis in a future report.

<sup>9</sup> On May 16, 2025, when the Depopulation Strategy was approved, the total number of detained youth at its halls, camps, SYTF, and Dorothy Kirby Center was 558. On February 11, 2026, the total detained population was 600.

**Finding 4: Recommendations for the Community Detention Program (CDP) represent a minority of intake outcomes**

Figure 4: Total Intake Detention Recommendations

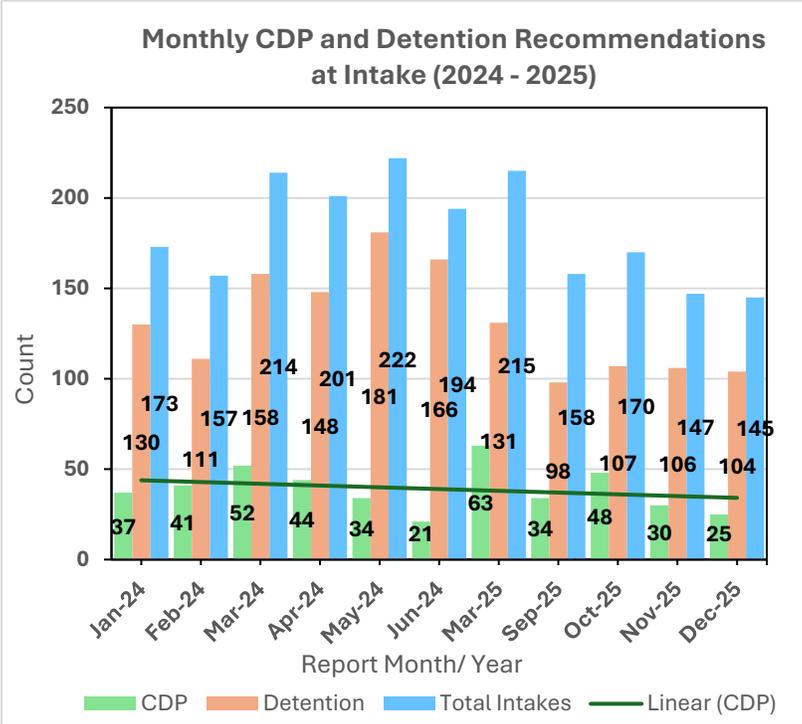


Figure 4 displays monthly totals for CDP recommendations alongside detention recommendations and overall intakes.

As illustrated by the dark green trend line, CDP recommendations account for an average of approximately 21 % of all intakes across the months for which data is available. By comparison, recommendation for detention remains the dominant intake outcome.

Although CDP is intended to serve as an alternative to secure detention, it is recommended in a minority of all intake cases.

Even as total intakes and 707(b) offenses have declined, CDP usage has not increased substantially. **This suggests that CDP is possibly an underutilized alternative to detention and there may be additional opportunities to expand community-based supervision options as part of broader detention reduction efforts.**

Importantly, when a CDP recommendation is made, a youth may either be detained with a recommendation for CDP at the detention hearing or placed directly on CDP without secure detention. The available data indicate<sup>10</sup>:

- In 2024, an average of about 80% of CDP-related intakes involved youth who were first detained pending the detention hearing.
- In 2025, that proportion increased to approximately 98 percent.

In other words, although CDP represents a relatively small share of total intake outcomes, it most often involves an initial period of detention rather than immediate placement in the community. Taken together, about 90% of all youth detained at intake had recommendations for detention or CDP.<sup>11</sup>

These findings and patterns suggest that, despite decreased intakes, as well as reductions in the proportion of 707 (b) offenses, detention continues to function as the default intake recommendation rather than other less restrictive and community-based alternatives.

<sup>10</sup> See Appendix A for a detailed breakdown of these data.

<sup>11</sup> This includes detention recommendations and detentions with recommendations for CDP at the detention hearing.

## Conclusion

**Departmental data shows a steady decrease in intakes at Probation's juvenile halls since January 2024. Probation's data also reveals that release recommendations at intake are negligible and the Community Detention Program is underutilized.**

The Probation Department does have influence on how many youth are detained. As discussed in the POC's April & May 2024 townhalls on the Intake and Detention process, the Probation Department has discretion to recommend youth for less restrictive placement options, particularly for youth whose charges do not warrant a mandatory detention but also for those who do.<sup>12</sup> This means that Intake Officers have the authority to recommend release, electronic monitoring or some other form of community supervision to the court when a young person does not present a threat to community safety or themselves. These recommendations can and do influence the Court's decisions. As such, the Probation Department *can* play a critical and *proactive* role in reducing the reliance on incarceration and supporting the Board's vision of a care first, jails last approach to juvenile justice. We encourage the Department to follow through on its commitment in the *Depopulation Strategy* to assess each young person's case at intake and regularly during their stay in detention to determine and inform the court about which youth can safely be released into community.

Our analysis prompted these follow-up questions:

1. The Probation Chief noted that serious and violent offenses are a reason for the overall population increase. Can the Department share the data they are using to reach this conclusion?
2. Has the Department continued to conduct regular case reviews to determine whether release-eligible youth remain in Probation's custody? Are these case reviews completed in collaboration with the Public Defender, District Attorney, Department of Youth Development, Department of Child and Family Services another key stakeholders?
3. What steps has the Department taken to reform its intake process and practices to align with youth development best practices / neuroscience and in light of the ongoing staffing shortages throughout its facilities?

---

<sup>12</sup> POC Townhall on Reforming the Intake and Detention Process, April & May 2024 [POC - Town Halls](#)

**Appendix A: Detailed Intake Data Table (2024 – 2025)**

Month	Total Intakes	Release	CDP		Detain			Other Factors		
		Release/ Cite out at Intake	Detain at Intake/ Recommend CDP at Detention Hrg	Detain on CDP prior to Detention Hrg	Detain at Intake/ Recommend Detain at Detention Hrg	Detain at Intake/ Recommend Release at Detention Hrg	Detain at Intake/ Release from JH Prior to Filing (courtesy hold)	Adult Custody	Camp Custody	Youth Already Detained in JH
24-Jan	173	6	35	2	130	0				
24-Feb	157	5	40	1	109	2				
24-Mar	214	4	47	5	157	1				
24-Apr	201	9	34	10	146	2				
24-May	222	7	24	10	177	4				
24-Jun	194	7	12	9	163	3				
25-Mar	215	3	62	1	131	0		7	11	
25-Sep	158	0	33	1	98	0		8	10	8
25-Oct	170	1	47	1	106	1		3	5	6
25-Nov	147	0	29	1	106	0		3	5	3
25-Dec	145	0	25	0	103	0	1	3	10	3

**Appendix B: Field Cites Counts (September 2025 to December 2025)**

Month	Field Cites
Sep-25	85
Oct-25	62
Nov-25	75
Dec-25	88