

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

December 15, 2025

Mr. Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: YRTC Operations Plan and Key Performance Indicators Report

Dear Mr. Metzler:

Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-427(3) requires the Department to submit an annual report electronically to the Clerk of the Legislature on or before December 15 of each year regarding the operations plan and key performance indicators of the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen M. Stolz".

Kathleen Stolz, JD
Acting Director, Division of Children and Family Services

Attachment

Division of Children and Family Services: Office of Juvenile Services

YRTC Operations Plan and Key Performance Indicators Report

December 2025

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-427(3)

Overview

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) continues to progress on the DHHS Five-Year Strategic Operations Plan, originally submitted to the Legislature on March 9, 2021. Each facility continues to diligently utilize alternative measures for adverse behaviors and work to decrease the use of confinement.

As the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC) work toward transforming into a primary treatment model, emphasis has been placed on each facility's mental health and behavioral programs. YRTC clinical staff have continued to expand their skill sets by engaging in training specific to the needs of our youth, including specialized training to work with youth who sexually harm, expansion of trauma-informed and responsive interventions and programming, and expansion of skills needed to work with youth experiencing co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. Clinical staff provide individual training for new and existing staff to strengthen their skills in supporting youth in their daily work. These skills are critical when intervening with youth during a crisis. Members of the clinical leadership team and facility administrators work collaboratively to ensure that the therapeutic interventions and programming utilized meet the complex needs of youth. Clinicians are involved in all levels of programming at the YRTCs and work collaboratively as part of a multidisciplinary team.

Operations Plan Update

YRTC-Hastings

- The facility has interactive and enriching programming for the youth's learning and engagement. An example of a popular program is involvement in the facility garden. The youth grew and harvested produce and provided a portion of the harvest to the Food Service Department for meals and snacks. Additionally, produce was donated to local non-profits, including Crossroads, Revive, and Catholic Social Services.
- The facility hosted the Law Enforcement Appreciation Event in September, marking the third year it has held this event. Representatives from the Hastings Police Department and the Adams County Sheriff's Department attended.
- Hastings West High School has integrated Edmentum online learning into its curriculum to support students in earning credits for courses unavailable through instructor-led sessions. Additionally, the facility continues to encourage youth to pursue Nursing Assistant and Medication Aide Certificates through Central Community College.

YRTC-Kearney

- Construction of the new living unit is progressing. The focus is being turned to the interior of the building, with a projected completion date of February 2026.
- The administrative building received a new roof drain in August 2025 to facilitate rainwater drainage, and one of the living units is scheduled for replacement in October 2025.
- In July, youth and staff attended a Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet at the invitation of Sheriff Miller from Buffalo County. During the event, the youth and staff in attendance were recognized for attending. In September, the same youth had the opportunity to visit with DHHS CEO Corsi during his facility visit. They were able to share stories with him about their

experiences and how meaningful it was to be treated with respect and appreciation by law enforcement and community members.

YRTC-Lincoln

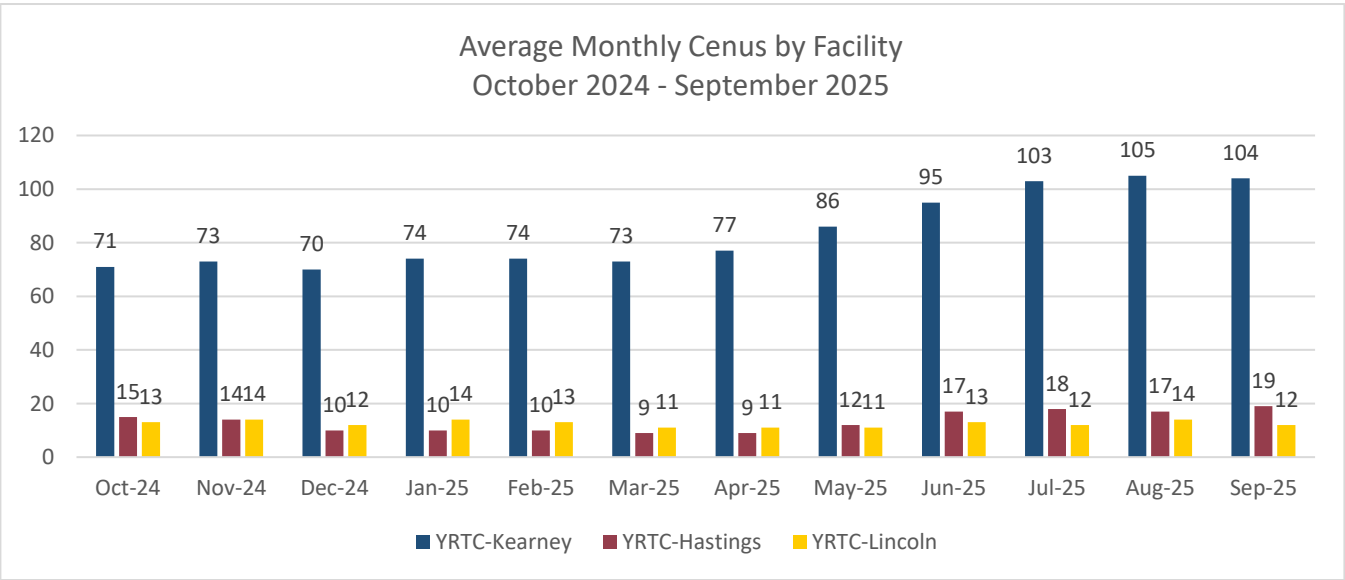
- The facility has increased the youth's engagement and involvement within the community, which now includes trips to the store, gyms, parks, art museums, college campuses, and other outdoor sporting activities.
- The Pilot Reentry Program, launched with probation, now serves identified Douglas County youth. The facility has recently partnered with KVC Nebraska (previously known as Kaw Valley Center) and APEX to identify providers and develop strong recommendations for discharge and reentry for the youth.
- The facility has initiated a partnership with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Students from the University toured the facility and met with the youth, pairing them for individual assignments. Mentors were identified and will meet with the youth on a weekly basis.

Key Performance Indicators

The tables below show performance indicators from October 2024 through September 2025 in the following categories: Census, Youth-on-Staff Assaults, Youth-on-Youth Assaults, Escapes, and Confinement Data from the YRTCs. The reporting period was established to encompass data collected from the most recent quarter ending September 2025.

Census

From March 2025 to September 2025, the YRTCs experienced a 45% increase in commitments.



Assaults

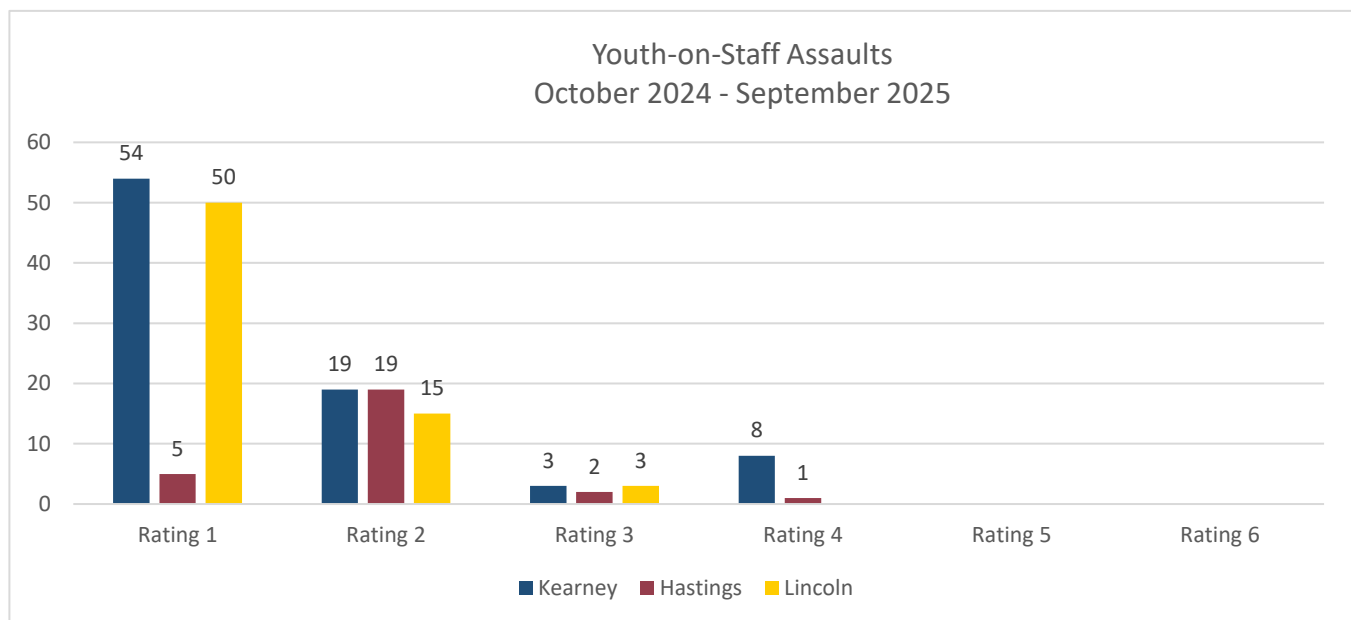
The following two graphs show the total number of Youth-on-Staff and Youth-on-Youth assaults. This includes aggravated assault and fighting. For example, a push from a youth to a staff member would fall into the Severity Rating #1 category.

The YRTC's rate assaults using the Injury Severity Rating Scale.

RATING	DEFINITION
#1	No visible injury or pain
#2	Injury or pain requiring first aid treatment only
#3	Injury or pain requiring on-campus medical treatment beyond first aid
#4	Injury or pain requiring assessment/treatment as an outpatient off-campus
#5	Injury or pain requiring assessment/treatment as an inpatient off-campus
#6	Injury resulting in death

Youth-on-Staff Assaults

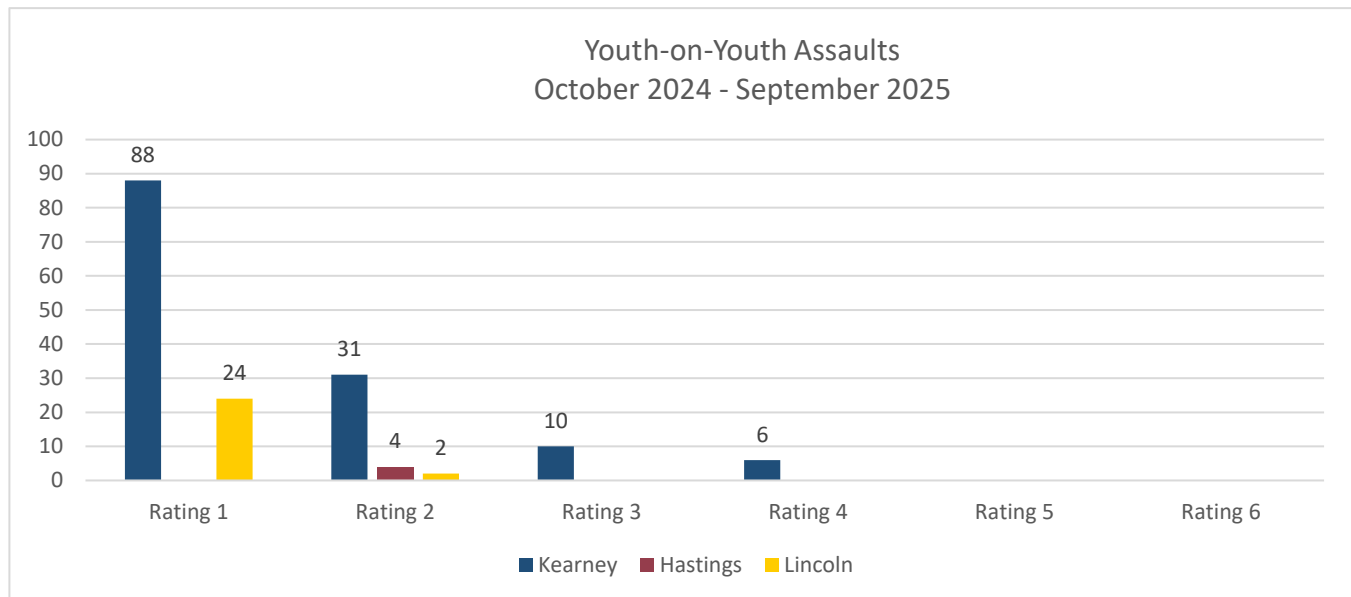
For youth-on-staff assaults, 61% were rated as 1, 30% as 2, 4% as 3, and 5% as 4.



**Facilities without an assault will not appear on the graph above, as the total amounted to zero.*

Youth-on-Youth Assaults

For youth-on-youth assaults, 68% were rated as 1, 22% as 2, 6% as 3, and 4% as 4.



**Facilities without an assault will not appear on the graph above, as the total amounted to zero.*

Escapes

There have not been any youth escapes since August 2024 at any of the YRTC's.

Confinement

The confinement graph shows the average hours that youth spent in confinement, including any incidents of confinement under one hour. All confinement data is tracked in hours and minutes.

