

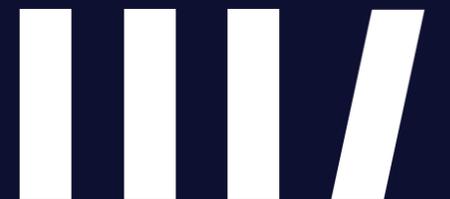
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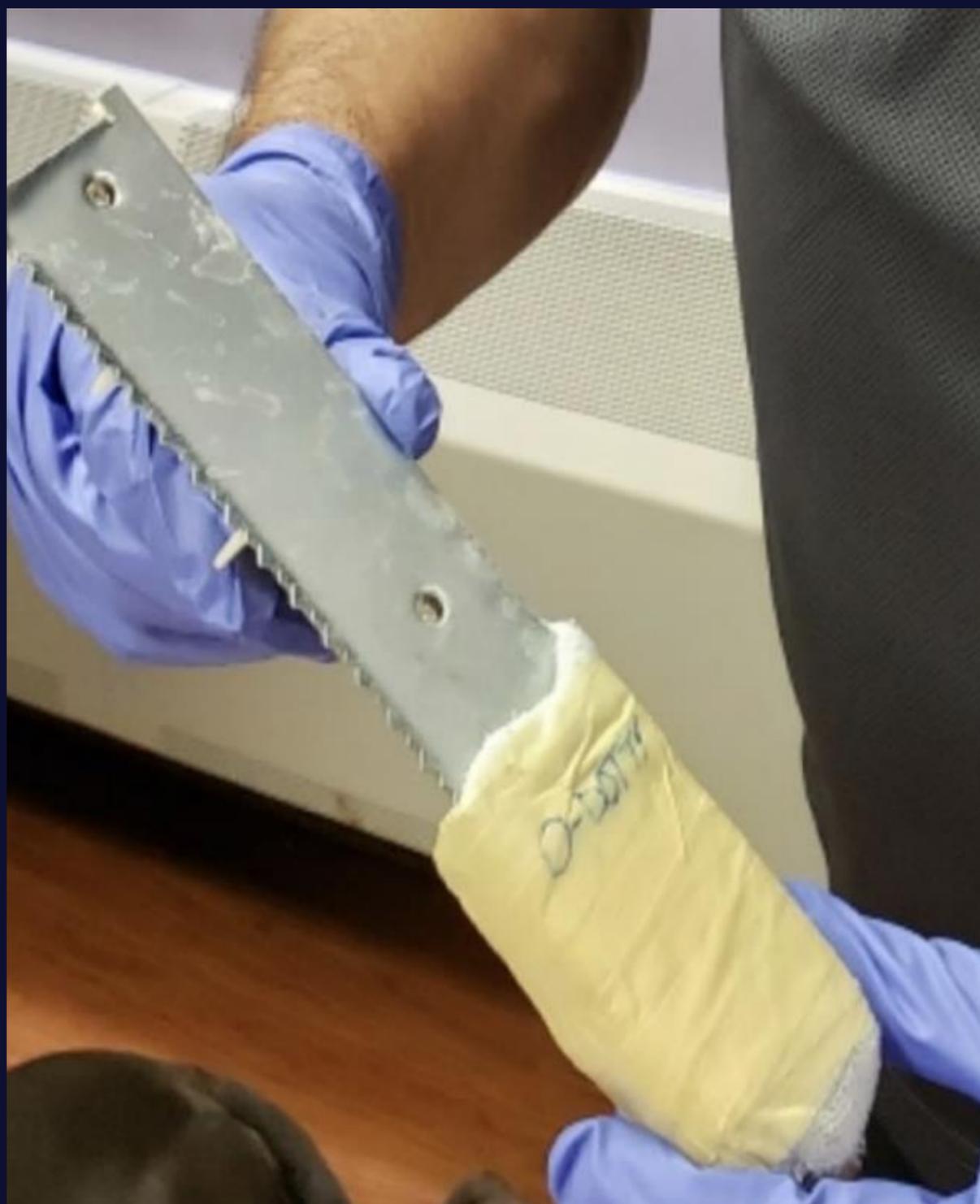
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Crisis in Youth Detention

& How to Fix It





Nature of the Crisis

- Due to law changes over the past decade, the population in juvenile detention residences has shifted:
 - Older, more criminally engaged “youths.”
 - Overcrowded, more violent, disorderly, and **anti-rehabilitative**.
- Causing long-lasting harm to youths in these residences—and to the ability of the foster system to absorb youths from detention.

How Do We Fix This?

- **More data:**
 - Collecting and sharing data within agencies, between agencies, and with the public is critical.
- **More investment:**
 - At least in the short term, the systems desperately need investment for facility space and security, staffing, and data collection.
- **Law changes:**
 - Recent juvenile justice “reforms” need amending to add consequences for antisocial behavior and to separate dangerous youths from vulnerable youths.

“Raise the Age” Laws

- For the past 15 years, jurisdictions have been raising the age of criminal responsibility.
- Largely removed consequences for 16 & 17yo’s committing crimes.
- Moving juvenile offenders out of carceral settings.

More Youth Crime & Disorder: NYC Example

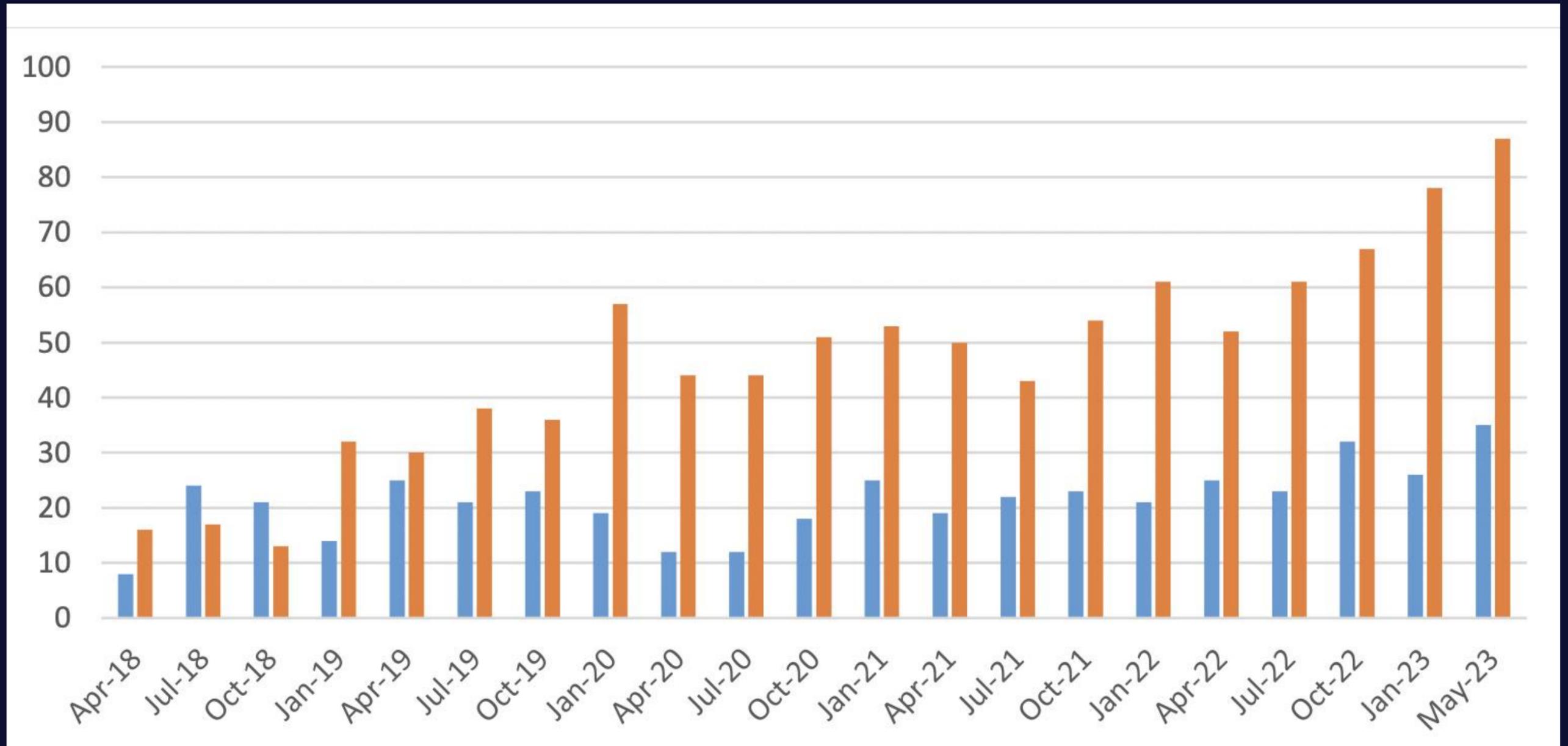
- 16 and 17-year-olds' misdemeanor cases all go to family court instead of to youth part of adult court
 - So do 83% of felony cases; 75% *violent* felony cases.
- Essentially no consequences.
- 42% rise in youth arrests for major crimes since 2022; 60% rise in youth victimizations since 2020.

From Carceral to Youth Systems

- Teens were moved from youth parts of adult criminal justice system into detention systems run by youth agencies, like ACS.
- Created enormous overcrowding
- Changed the population: older, more violent

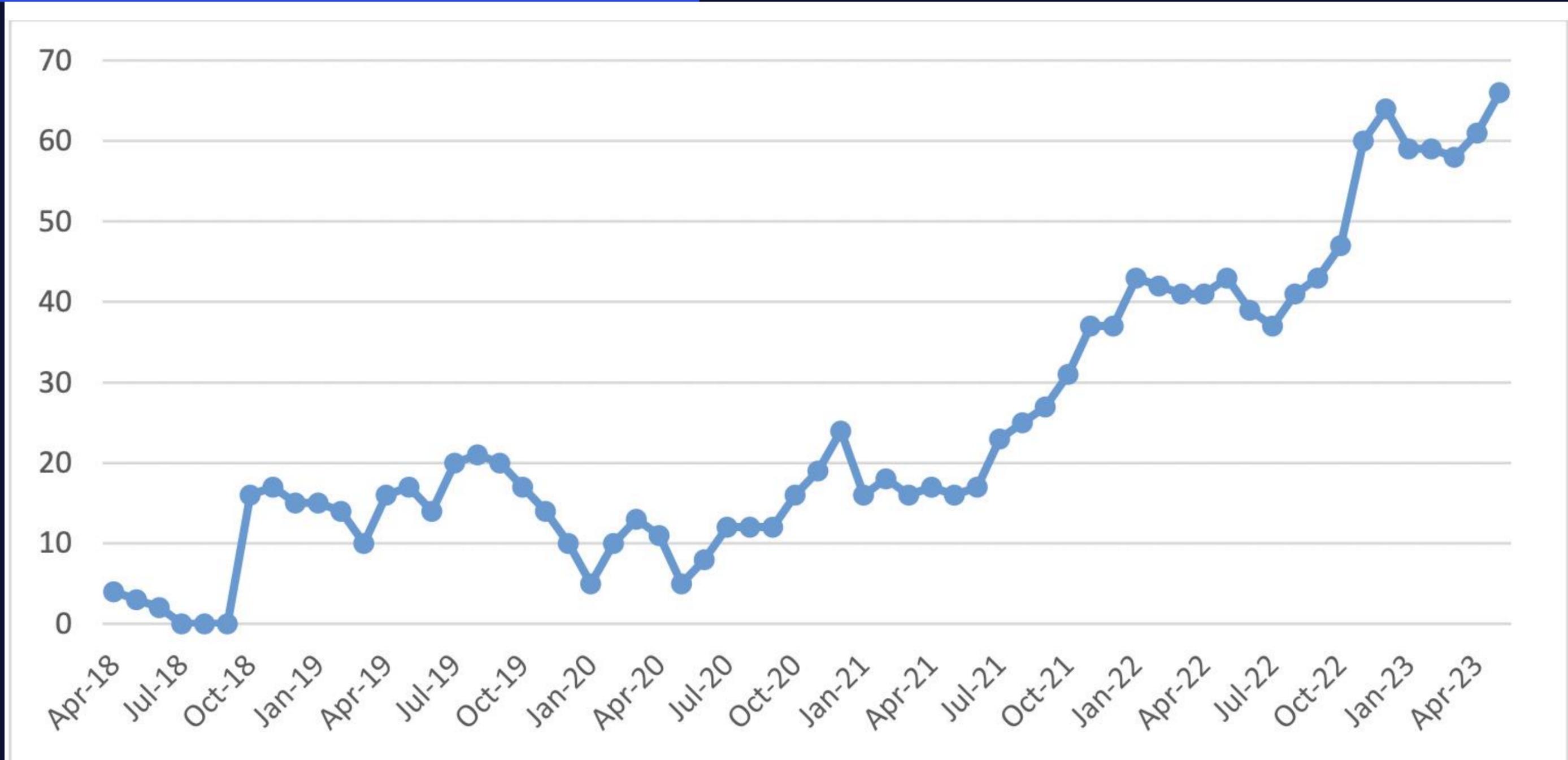
More & Older Residents

NYC's Crossroads: Pop. by Age
Trimonthly, April 2018 - May 2023



Rise in Violent Residents

NYC: Top Charge of Murder April 2018 – May 2023



Staffing Crisis

- Staff
 - Under-qualified to handle the new population out outnumbered
 - Quitting
 - Calling out sick
 - Bringing in contraband and contributing to criminality

Nightmare in Residences

- Violence
 - Youths/staff hurt
 - Self-harm
 - Feuds
- Drugs
- Limited enrichment

No Data!

- Political push against using youth data
 - “Racist,” “stigmatizing,” “lacks empathy”
- Raise the Age & in criminal justice system
- Gang databases
- Lack of resources/oversight

Fix Youth Detention

- Crisis is creating a generation of youths less likely to thrive.
- Big implications for the foster care system.
- Demand:
 - More data
 - More investment
 - Law changes

Discussion: Fixing Youth Detention

- Thoughts?
- Questions?



