

# LANCASTER COUNTY PRISON

*Prison Statistics*

August 2024

**Josh Parsons**

Chairman, Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

**Cheryl Steberger**

Warden, Lancaster County Prison

*Data as of June 30, 2024*



# Security

Miguel Castro

Deputy Warden, Operations

Justin Hackler

Corrections Field Investigator

Bradley Whittaker

Corrections Captain

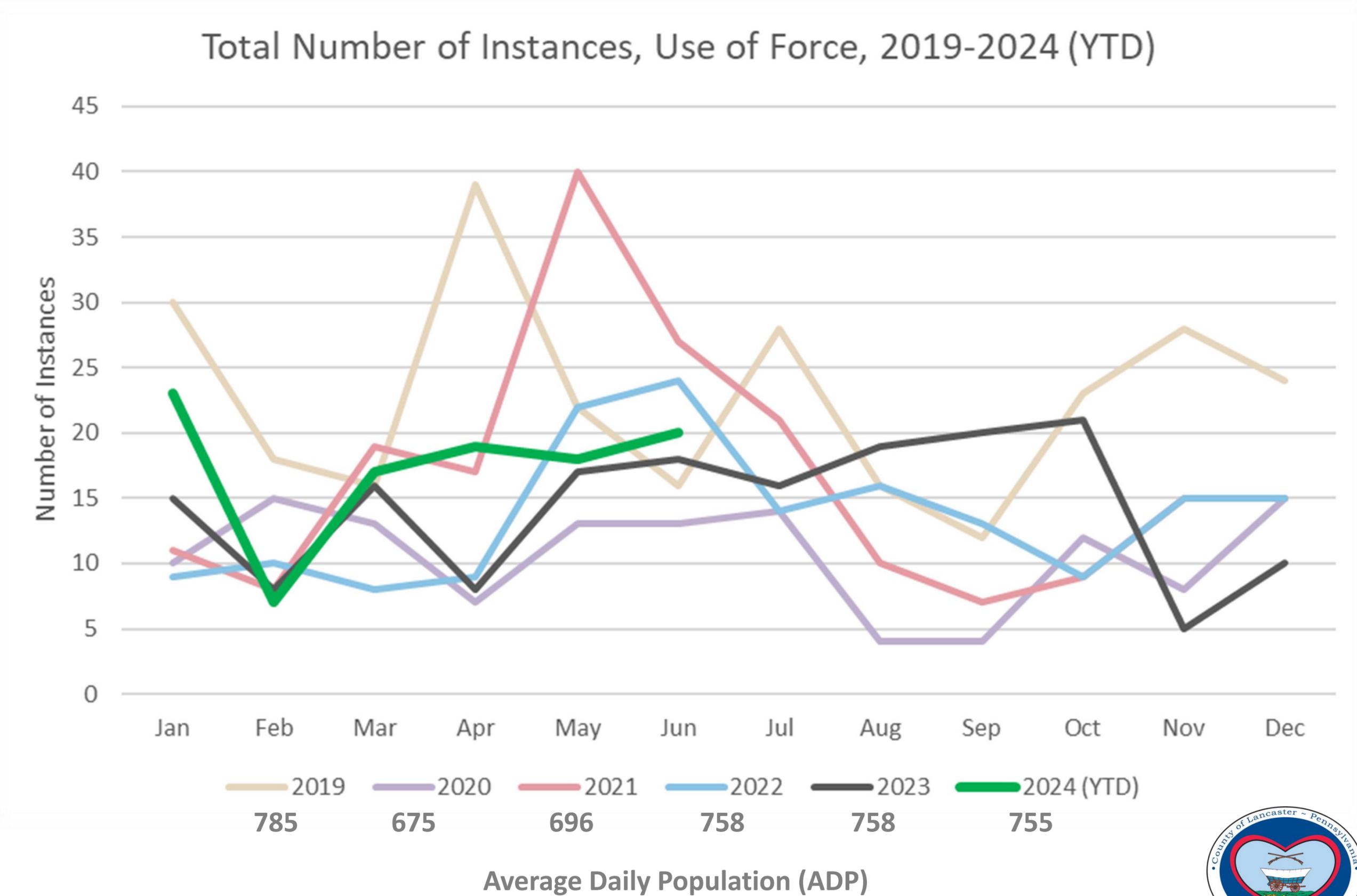
## Topics to be addressed:

- Use of Force
- Level of Force
- Assault
- Contraband
- CO Compliment
- CO Overtime



# Lancaster County Prison Security

- Inmates may be involved in more than one instance
- Tends to peak in late spring/early summer months (May, June), with exception of 2019
- 2021 and 2022 rates are close to identical
- 2023 saw more force usage in the fall than in other years, when the rate typically decreased

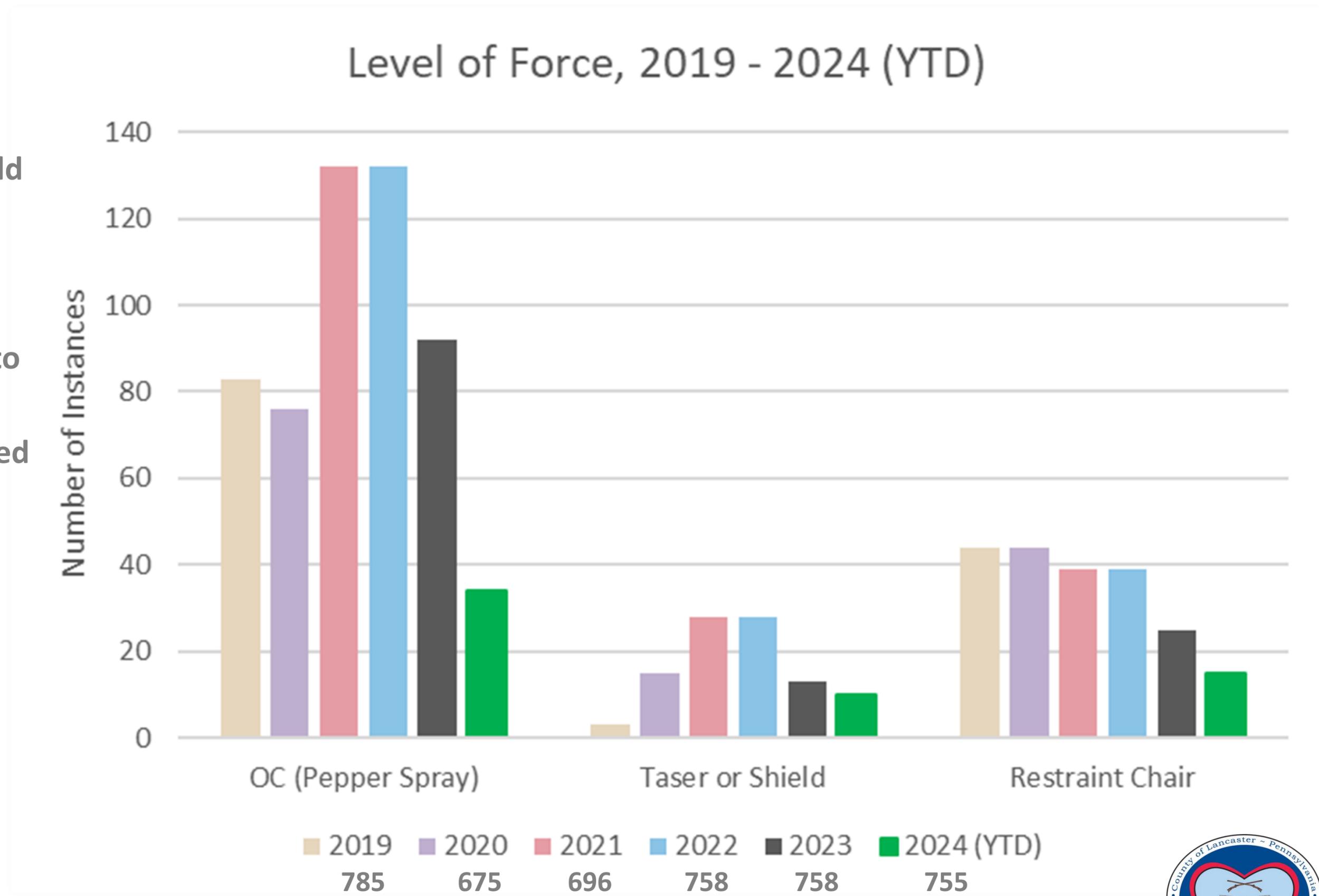


Source: Internal Prison Data



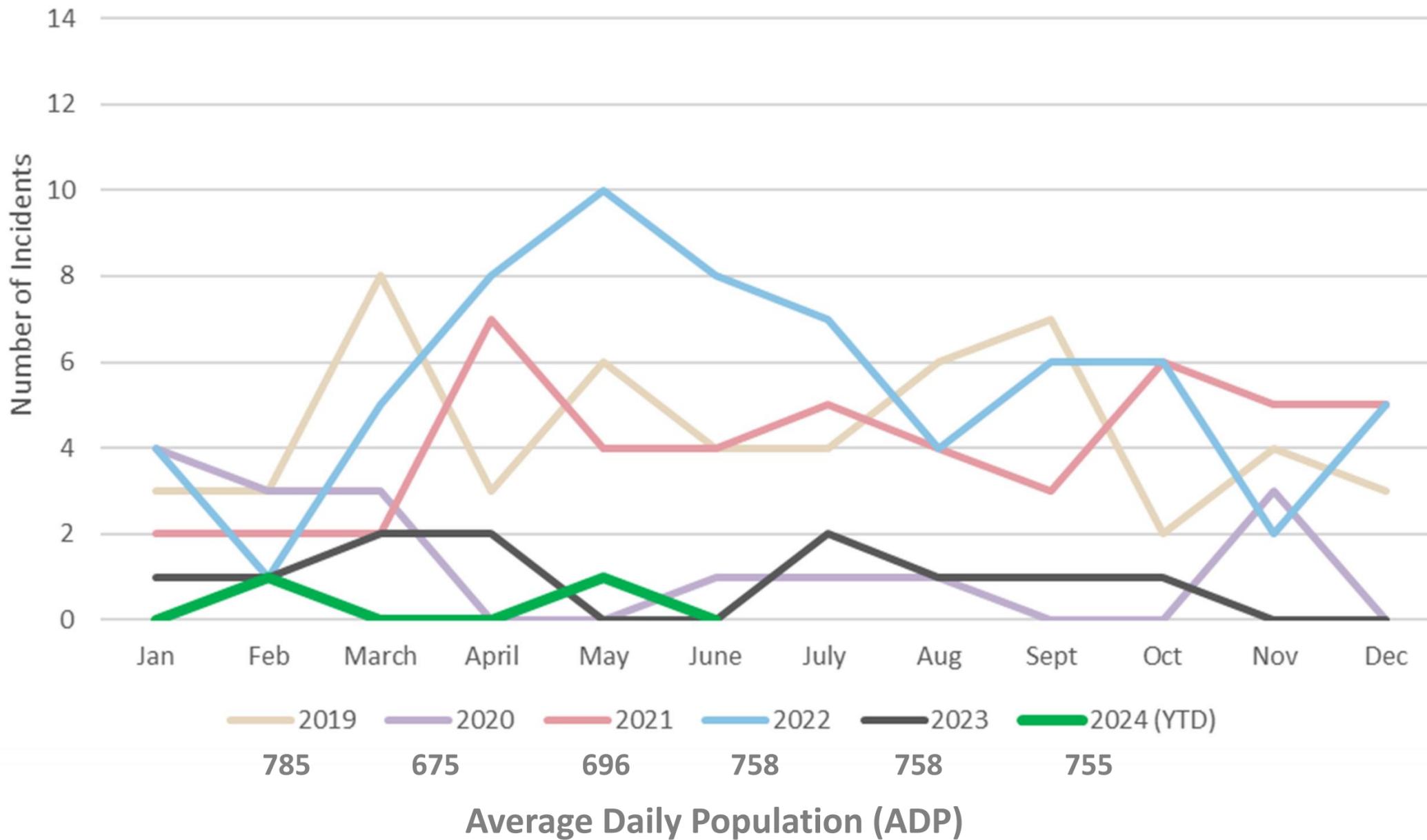
# Lancaster County Prison Security

- A Use of Force incident could capture uses of multiple different levels of force
- Restraint chair usage is not always used as a response to aggression
- Pepper spray usage increased but returned close to previous levels in 2023
  - Is on track to decrease again in 2024
- Similar trend, on a much smaller scale, with taster/shield



# Lancaster County Prison Security

**Inmate on Inmate Assault, 2019-2024 (YTD)**

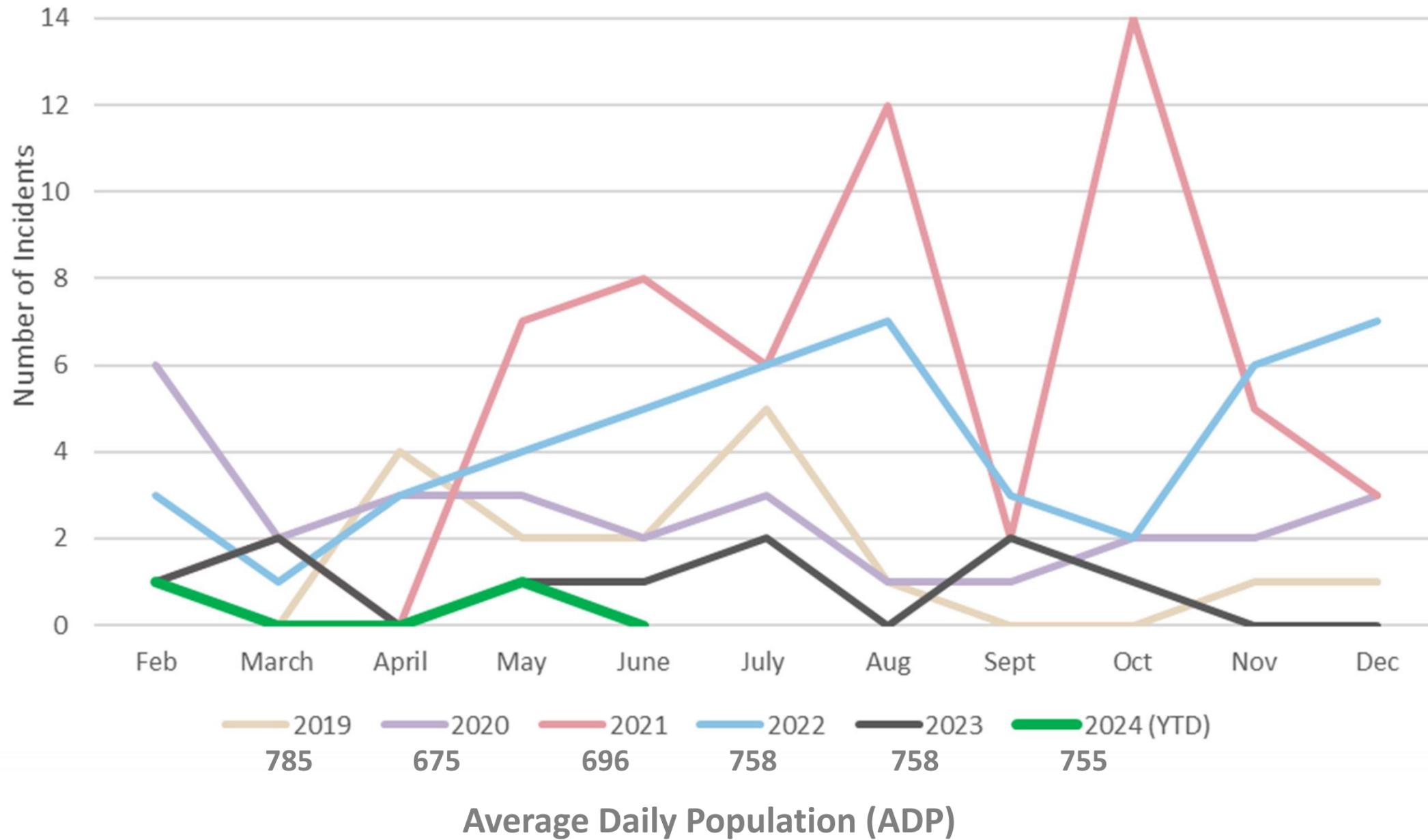


- Consists of assaults as defined by the state Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Due to alterations in DOC requirements, the type of data collected can differ slightly each year
- No noticeable trend of peaks in the summer
- 2022 peak coincided with significant staff challenges
- 2023 and 2024 rates resemble 2020, both of which are lower compared to other years
  - Due in part to each inmate receiving their own tablet starting in 2023
  - Also a result of more experienced officers than during COVID



# Lancaster County Prison Security

**Inmate on Staff Assault, 2019-2024 (YTD)**

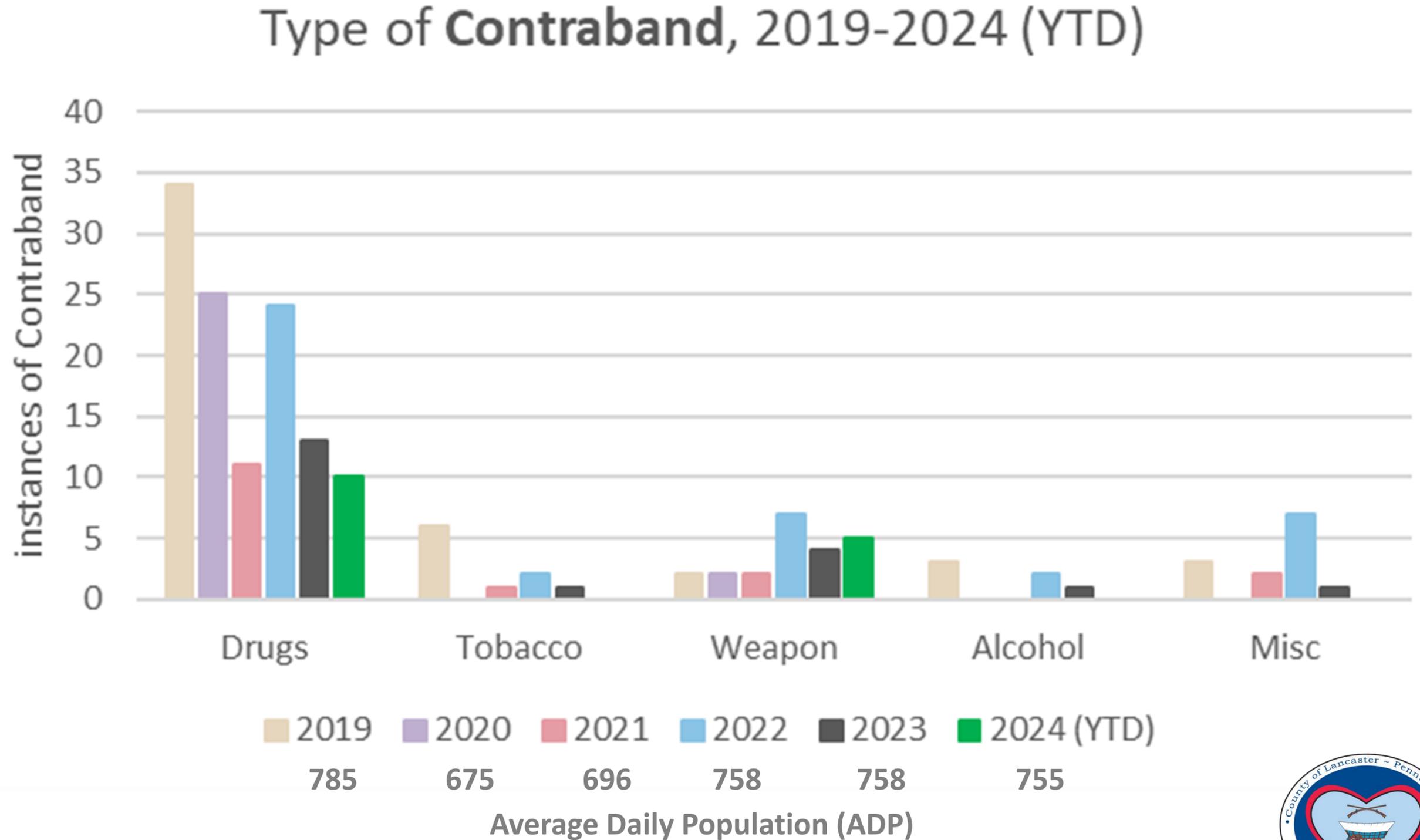


- Consists of assaults as defined by the state Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Due to alterations in DOC requirements, the type of data collected can differ slightly each year
- No noticeable trend in certain months where assaults tend to spike
- 2021 rate is abnormally high
- 2023 and 2024 rates are generally lower than pre-COVID, suggesting a recent improvement in safety for staff
  - Due in part to each inmate receiving their own tablet starting in 2023
  - Also a result of more experienced officers than during COVID



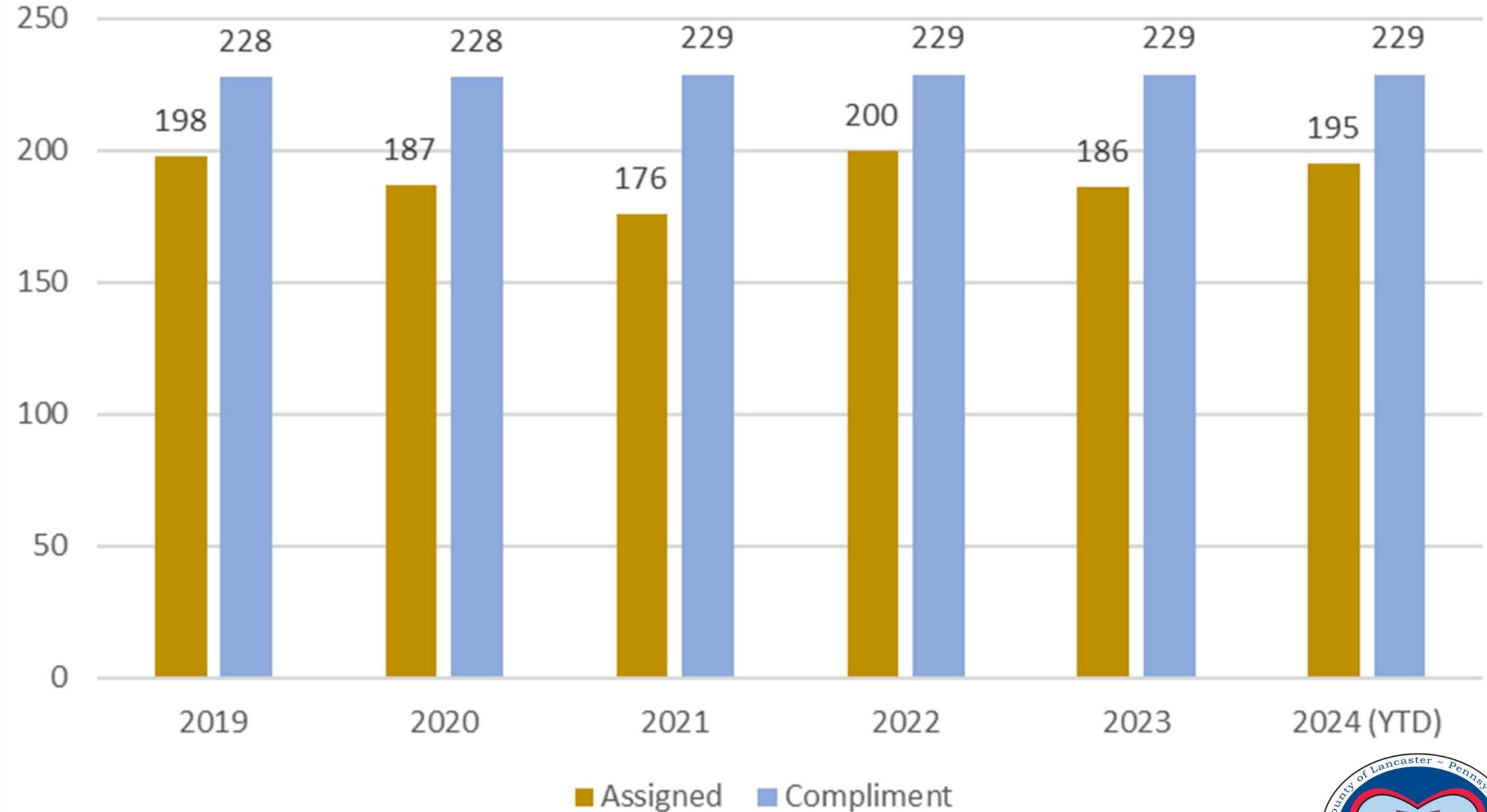
# Lancaster County Prison Security

- Number of drugs found varies year by year, with 2024 expected to be an increase from 2023
- More weapons found in first 6 months of 2024 than all of 2023
- No tobacco, alcohol, or miscellaneous contraband found so far in 2024
- Commitment generally has the most contraband found out of all locations in the prison



# Lancaster County Prison Prison Employees

## Correctional Officer (CO) Assigned\* & Compliment†, 2019-2024 (as of June 30)



- Gap widened during 2020 & 2021, likely due to COVID
- Gap has been closing since COVID, now beginning to resemble the pre-COVID level

\*Assigned: Employed  
†Compliment: Allotted

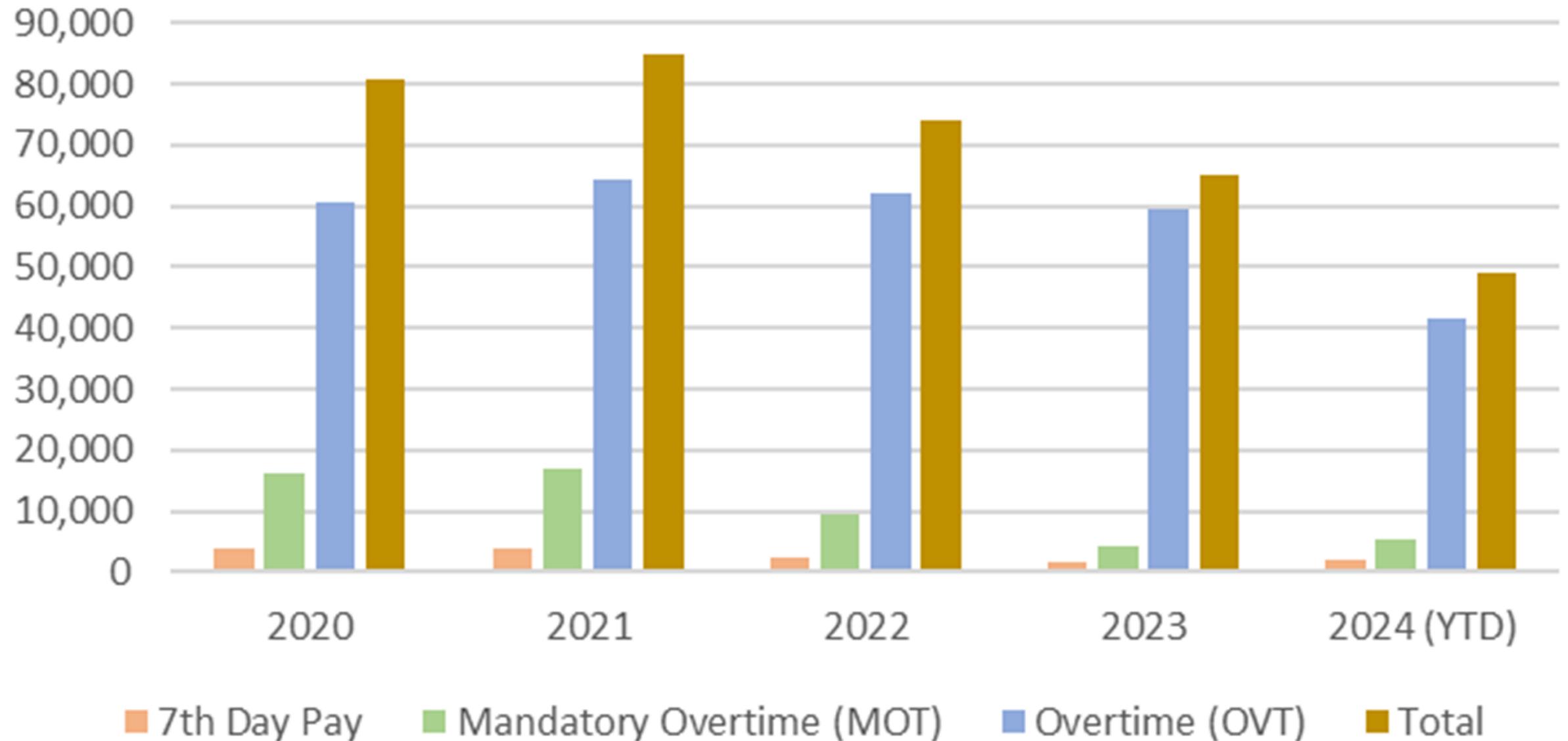


# Lancaster County Prison, 2024

## Prison Employees

- Total overtime hours peaked in 2021, but has decreased since
- Decline in MOT since 2021 due to more employees volunteering to work overtime
- 2024 overtime levels are on track to be higher than other previous years
  - Due to increase in med runs & hospital details

### Correctional Officer (CO) Overtime Hours, 2020-2024 (YTD)



# Inmate Services

## Mental Illness and Substance Abuse (MISA)

**Joe Shiffer**

Deputy Warden, Inmate Services

**Christina Fluegel**

Reentry Program Manager



### Topics to be addressed:

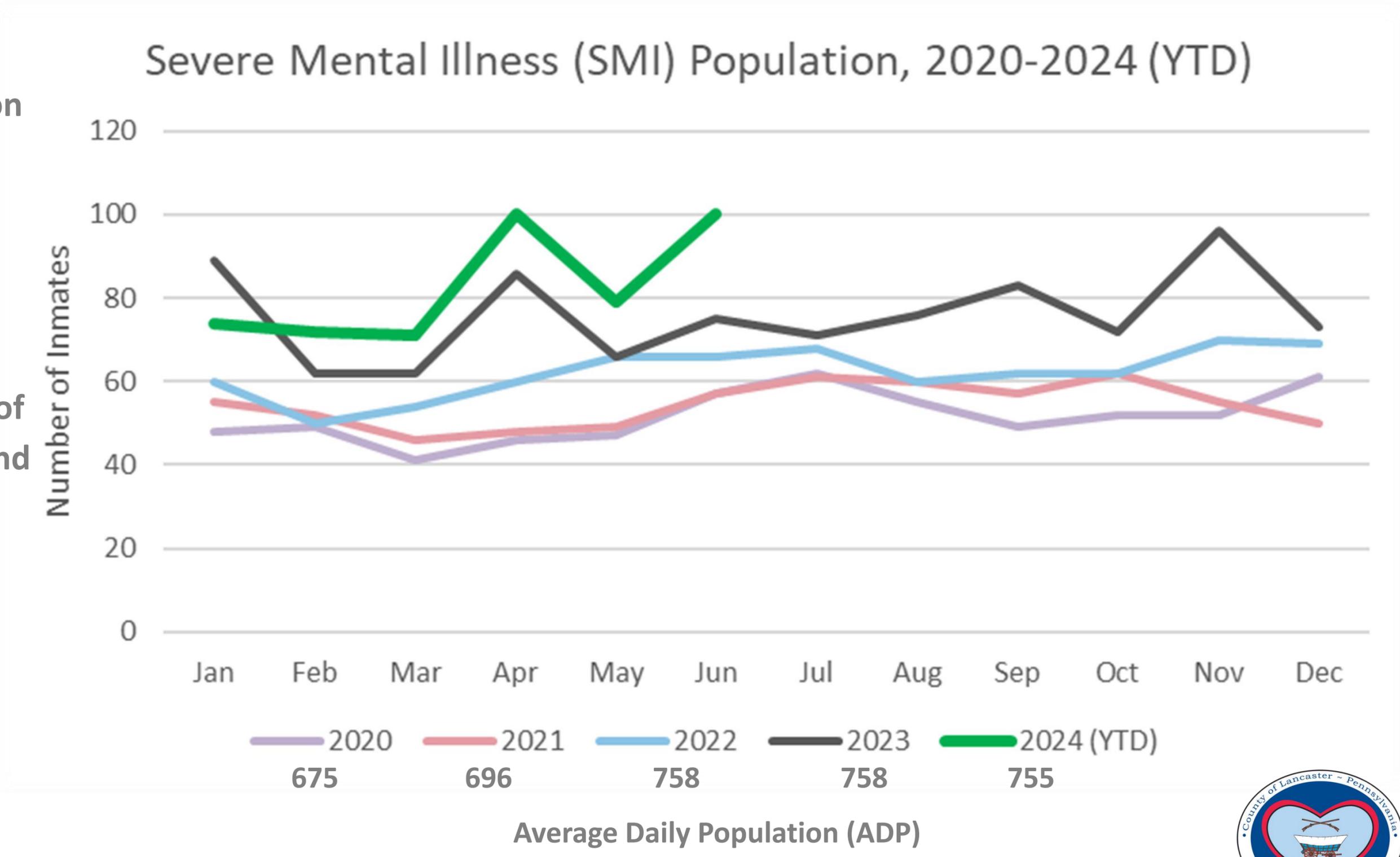
- Severe Mental Illness (SMI) Population
- MISA Average Length of Stay
- MISA Assaults
- MISA Recidivism
- Suicide Prevention



# Lancaster County Prison

## Inmate Services: Mental Illness & Substance Abuse (MISA)

- Prior to 2023, SMI population consistently remained to be around 7-8% of total prison population
- Rate of SMI inmates increased to about 13%, featuring a greater amount of monthly variation in 2023 and 2024 than in previous years as well
- More resources are being dedicated towards mental health training & assistance as SMI population increases



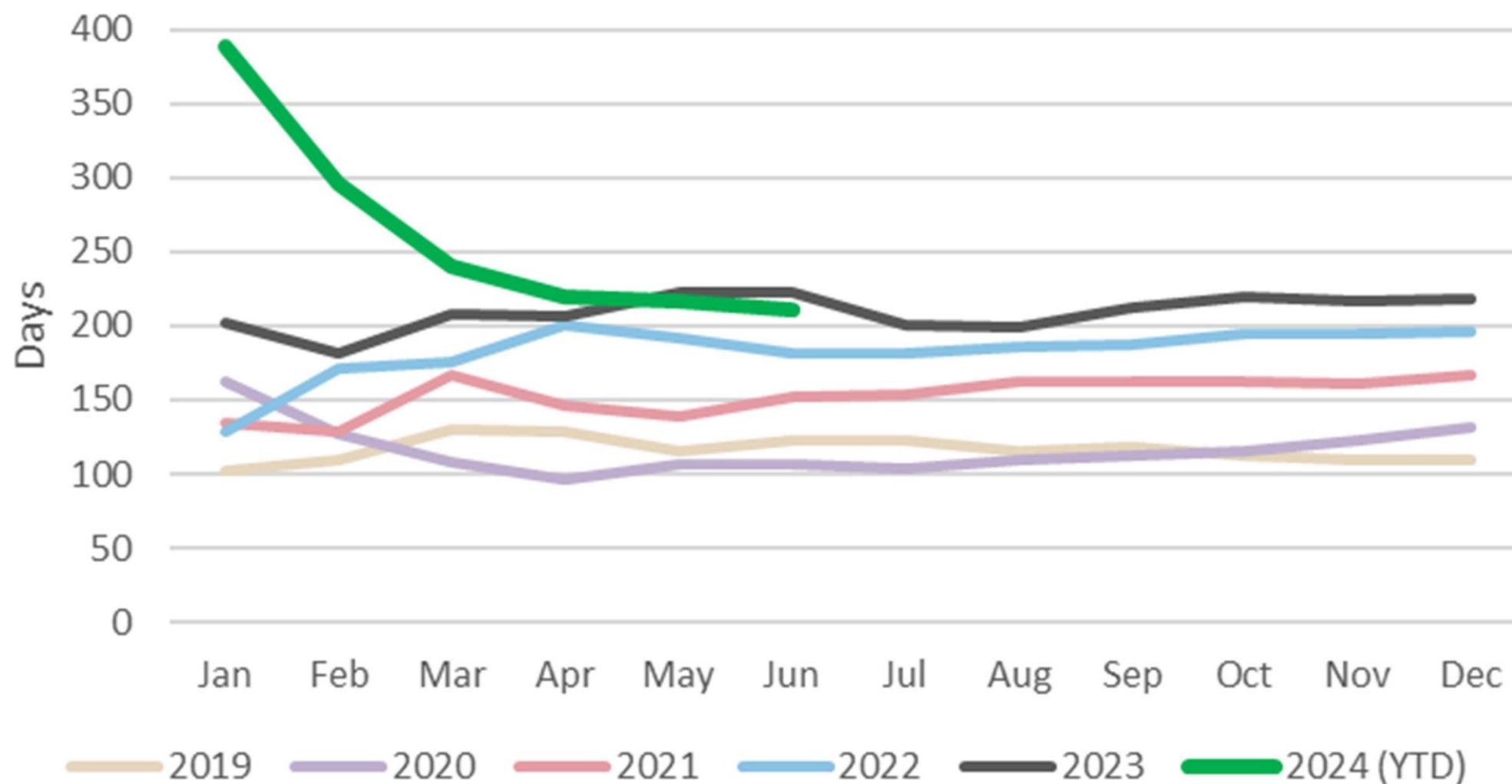
Source: Internal Prison Data



# Lancaster County Prison

## Inmate Services: Mental Illness & Substance Abuse (MISA)

### MISA Average Length of Stay, 2019-2024 (YTD)



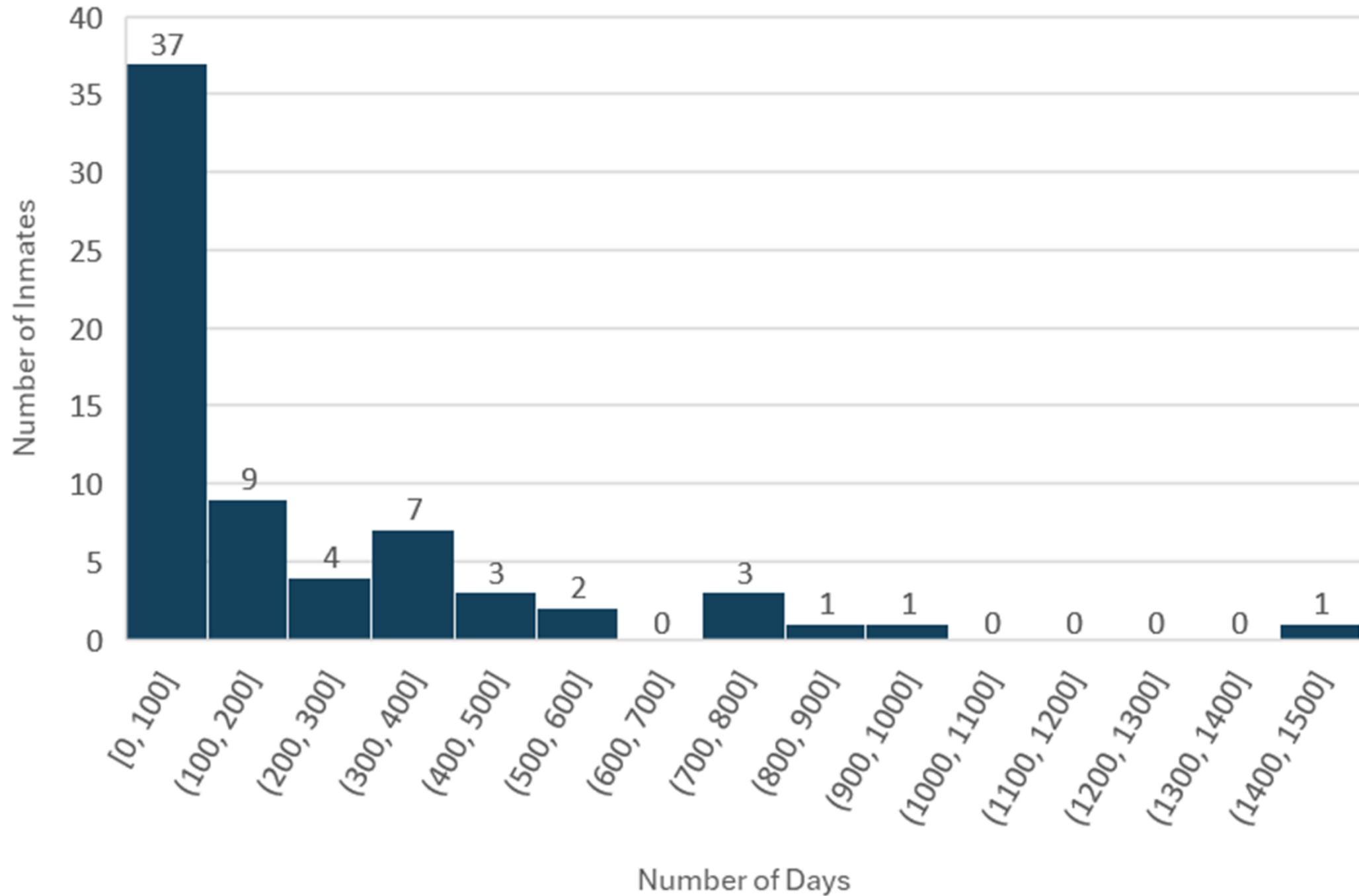
- MISA length of stay has steadily increased since 2020, with sharp jump in the beginning of 2024
  - 2024 increase can be attributed to longer wait times at state hospitals, where some MISA inmates are transferred
- Gradually over the last few years, the MISA average length of stay has become greater than the general population average
- Both averages increased after 2019, but since began to decrease
- There is no statewide benchmark for much of MISA prison data, as no other counties report it since it is not required by the Department of Corrections



# Lancaster County Prison

## Inmate Services: Mental Illness & Substance Abuse (MISA)

### Individual MISA Inmates Length of Stay, 2020-2024 (YTD)



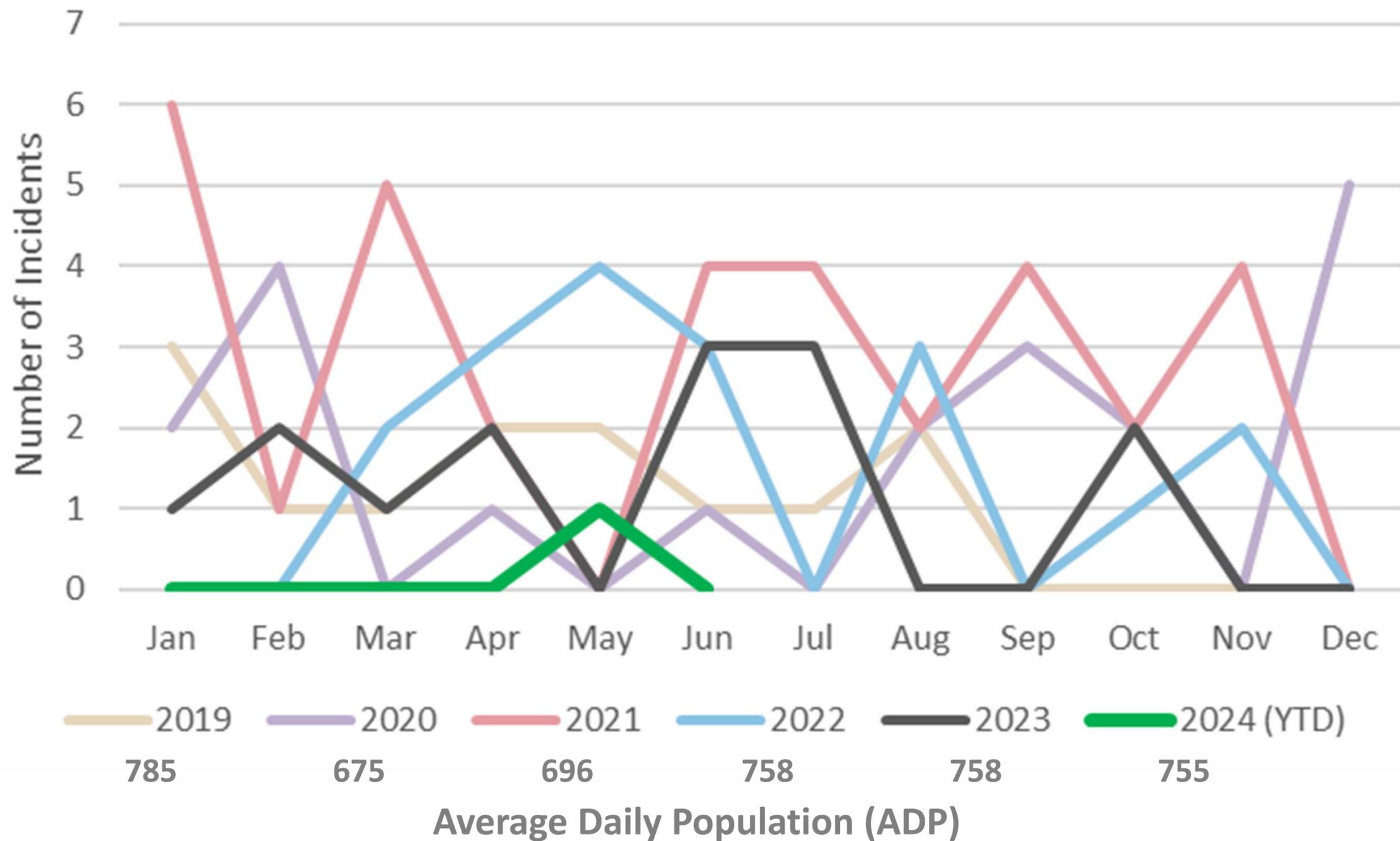
- Only includes MISA inmates that were released in first 6 months of 2024
- Majority of MISA inmates stayed for 100 days or less
- 88% stayed for 500 days or less
- Average length of stay data is skewed by several inmates who stay for much longer than the vast majority of others, including one who stayed for 1,413 days (almost 4 years)



# Lancaster County Prison

## Inmate Services: Mental Illness & Substance Abuse (MISA)

### MISA Inmate-Staff Assaults, 2019-2024 (YTD)



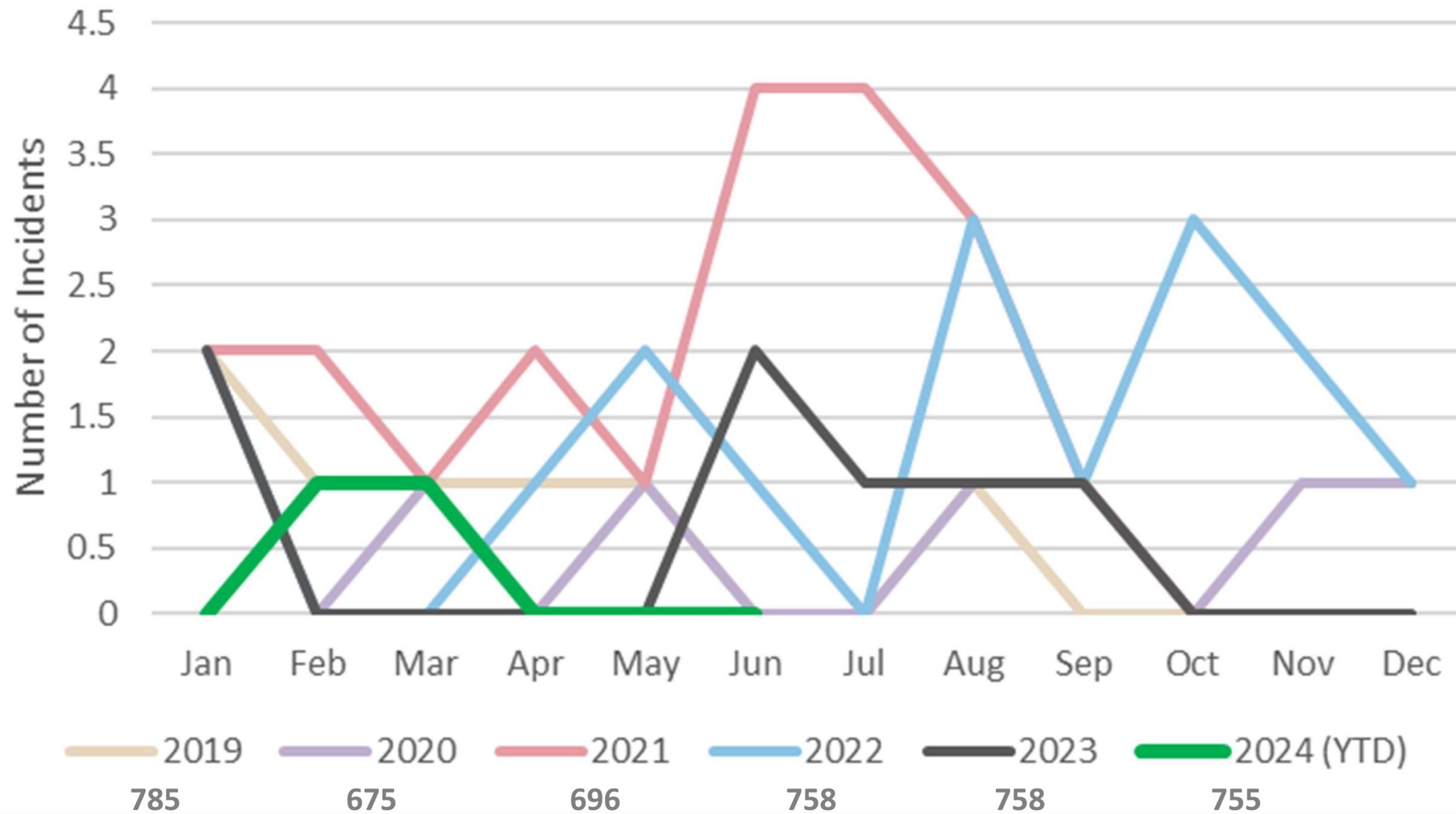
- Rate is about twice as low as general assaults
- 3 out of 6 years (2020, 2021, 2022) saw an increase in assaults in June (due to loosening of COVID restrictions)
  - 2024, meanwhile, had no assaults in June
- Inmate-staff is generally the most common form of MISA assault, as inmates encounter staff more frequently than other inmates
- 2024 rate so far is lower than any of the 6 years
  - In part due to better-trained staff



# Lancaster County Prison

## Inmate Services: Mental Illness & Substance Abuse (MISA)

### MISA Inmate-Inmate Assaults, 2019-2024 (YTD)



- Higher summer peak in 2021 than other years, largely due to loosening of COVID restrictions and less experienced staff
- General decrease in assaults from both 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023
- Incidents are overall less common than Inmate-Staff assaults

Average Daily Population (ADP)

785

675

696

758

758

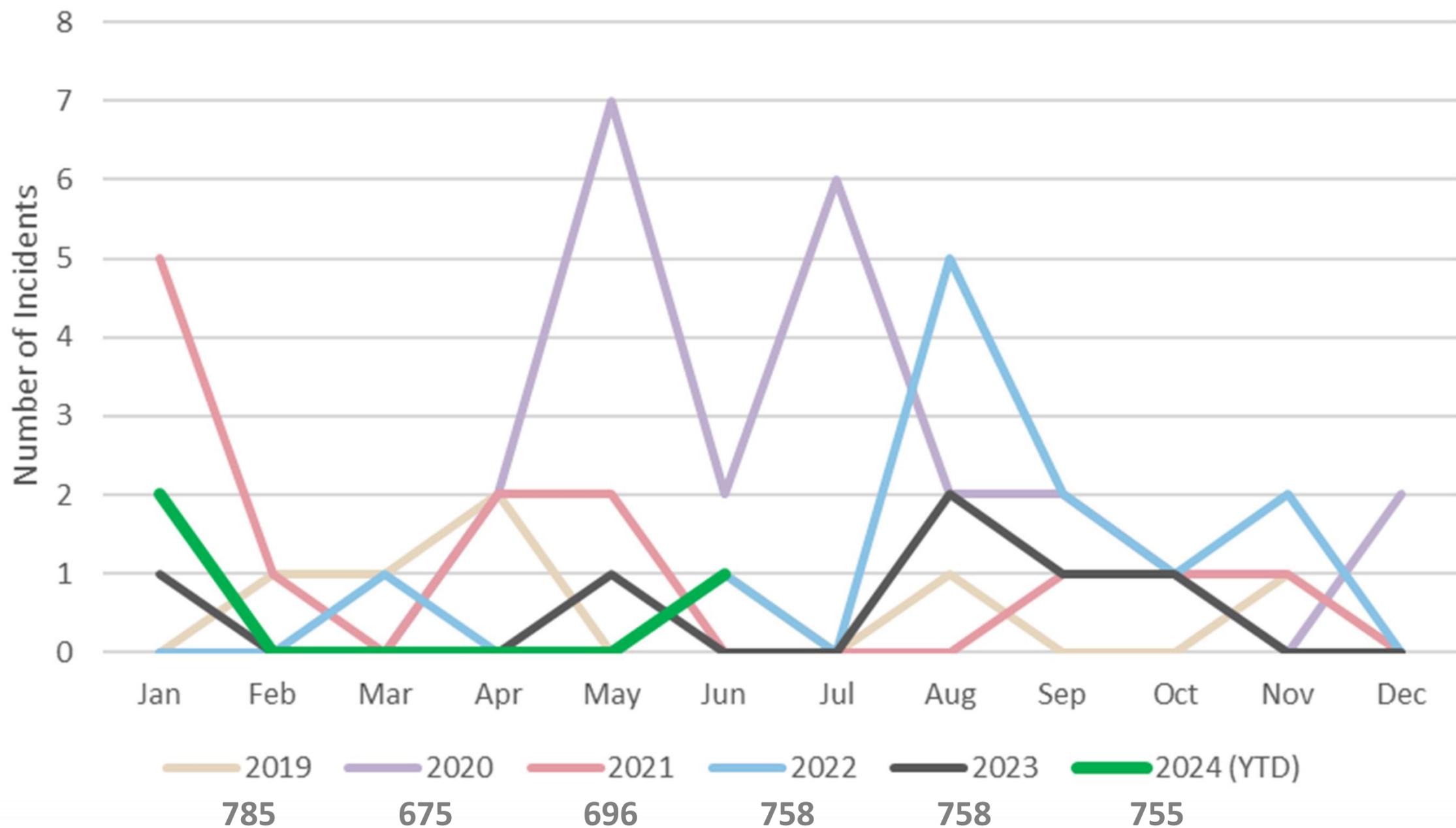
755



# Lancaster County Prison

## Inmate Services: Mental Illness & Substance Abuse (MISA)

### MISA Mutual Combative\* Assaults, 2019-2024 (YTD)



- 2020 assaults reached a rate higher than any other type of MISA assault over the past 5 years
  - Due to inmates being in cells together more often
- 2020 peak was followed by a return to lower levels in 2021
- 2023 assaults closely resemble pre-COVID rates
- 2024 rate has been the most consistently low rate so far out of all year tracked
  - Likely a result of improved practices in isolating particularly violent inmates

Average Daily Population (ADP)

785

675

696

758

758

755

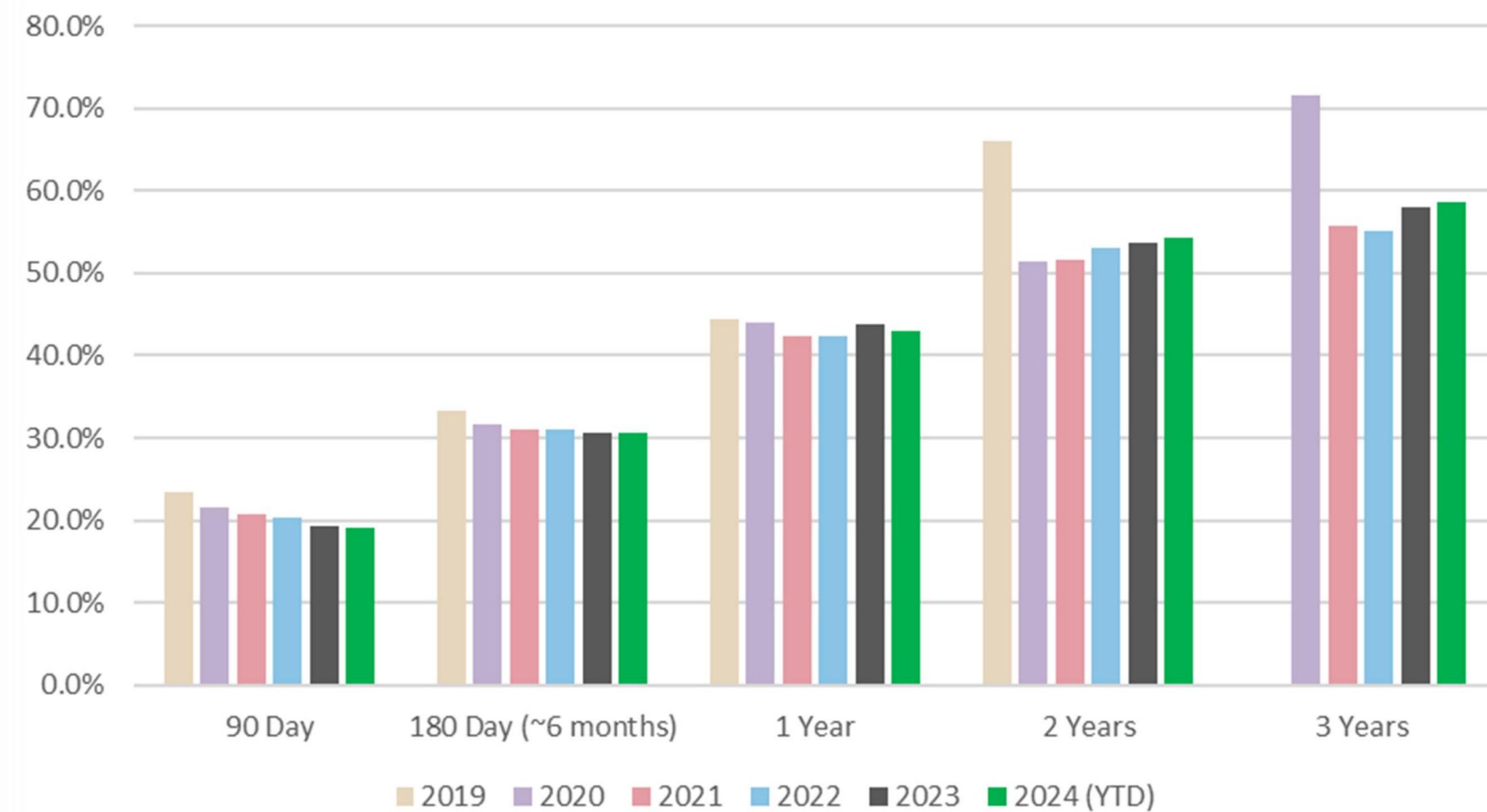


\*Mutual Combative= an altercation in which two or more inmates take physical action against each other

# Lancaster County Prison

## Inmate Services: Mental Illness & Substance Abuse (MISA)

MISA Recidivism\*, 2019-2024 (YTD)



- 90 days and 180 days rates decreased with each year
- Other than occasional spikes, 1 year rate has remained relatively consistent
- 2024 rates for 90 days and 2 years were particularly low
- Both 2 years and 3 years rates decreased after their first year of data
- 2 years rate has gradually increased since 2020

**Note:**

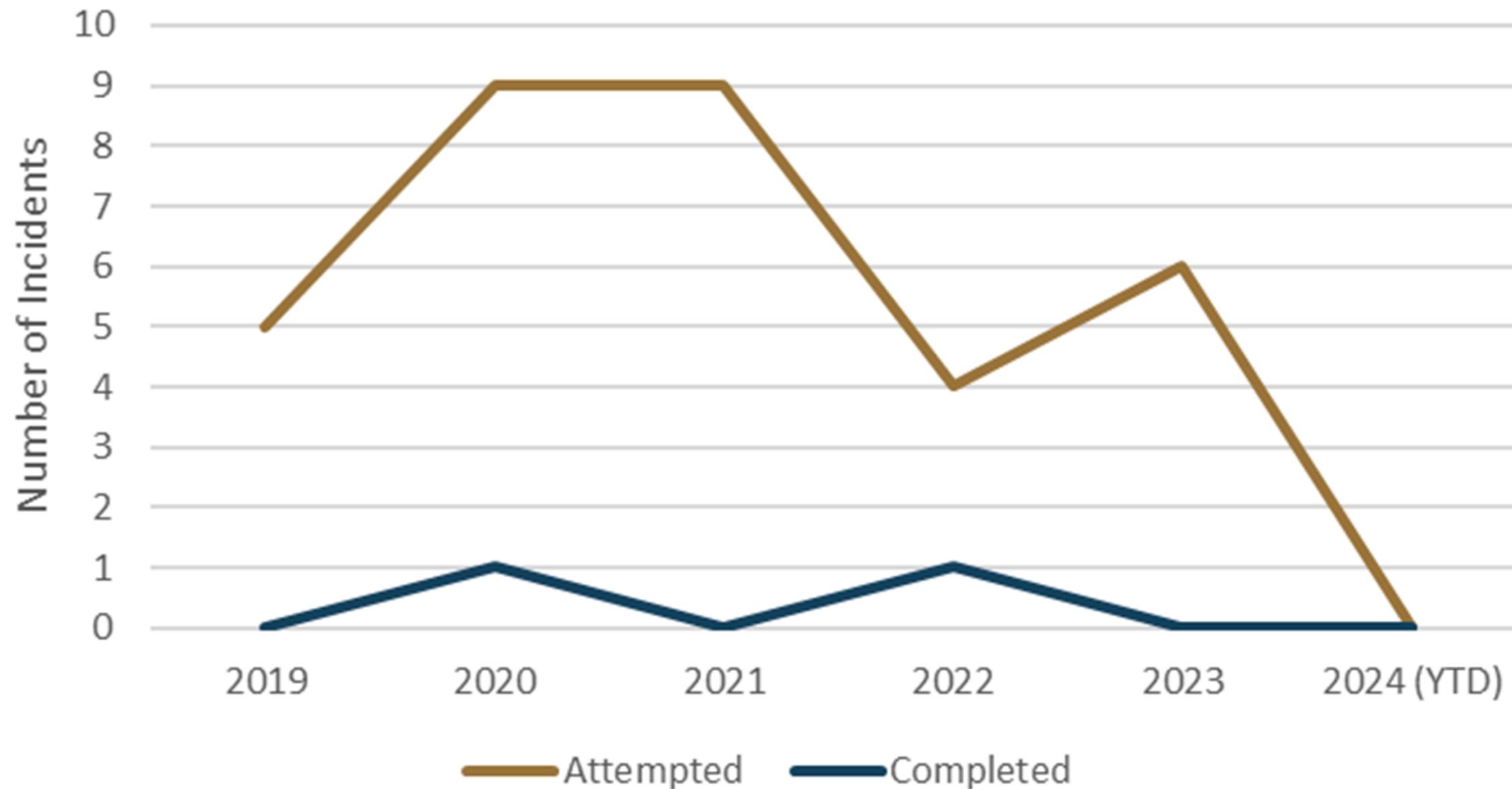
- Only includes recidivism within the county, does not track individuals who are reincarcerated outside of Lancaster
- One individual may impact data multiple times if they are reincarcerated more than once
- Some data (ie. 2019 3 year recidivism) unavailable due to data tracking beginning in February 2017

\*Recidivism= reincarceration of an individual, regardless of circumstances

# Lancaster County Prison

## Inmate Services: Mental Illness & Substance Abuse (MISA)

### Suicide Trends, 2019-2024 (YTD)



- Increase in attempts during COVID has largely been corrected since
- Suicide attempts and completions have consistently remained below 10 each year
  - 0 in the first 6 months of 2024



# New Beginnings Program



**Christina Fluegel**  
Reentry Program Manager

**Marcos Ramos Jr**  
Director, Inmate Services

## Topics to be addressed:

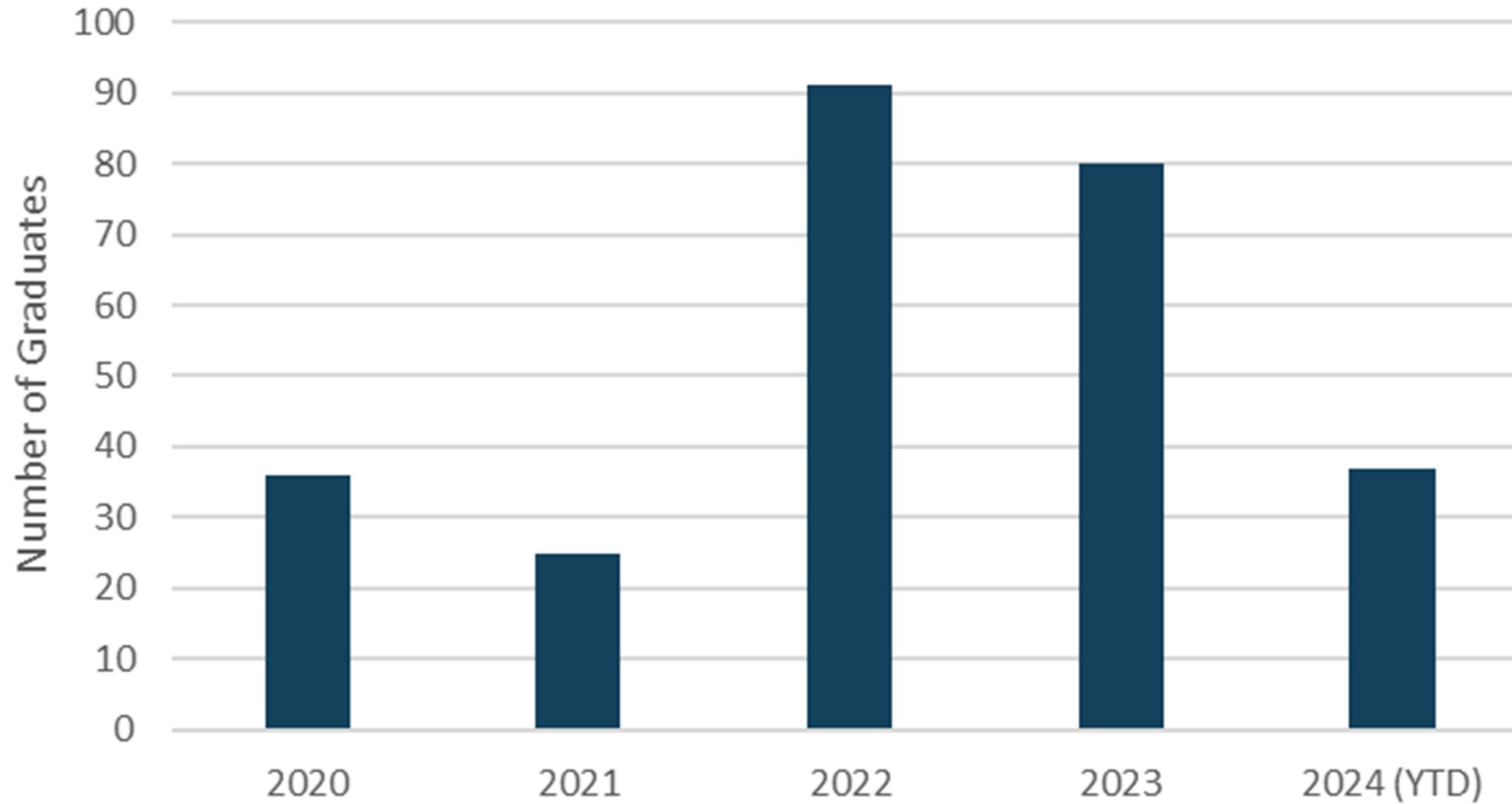
- New Beginnings
- New Beginnings Recidivism



# Lancaster County Prison

## Recidivism Reduction Programs

### New Beginnings Graduates, 2020-2024 (YTD)



### Program Information

- A two-week program, started being offered at the prison in 2020
- Consists of inmates who are within a few months of their release
- Teaches participants skills in emotional intelligence, addressing trauma, and transitioning to post-release life
- Focused on providing inmates connections to individuals and groups in their future community to help ensure they have a support structure

### Noted Trends

- Increase in program participants from 2021-2022
- Generally consistent enrollment level since 2022

Note: Recruitment process for program changed between 2023 and 2024

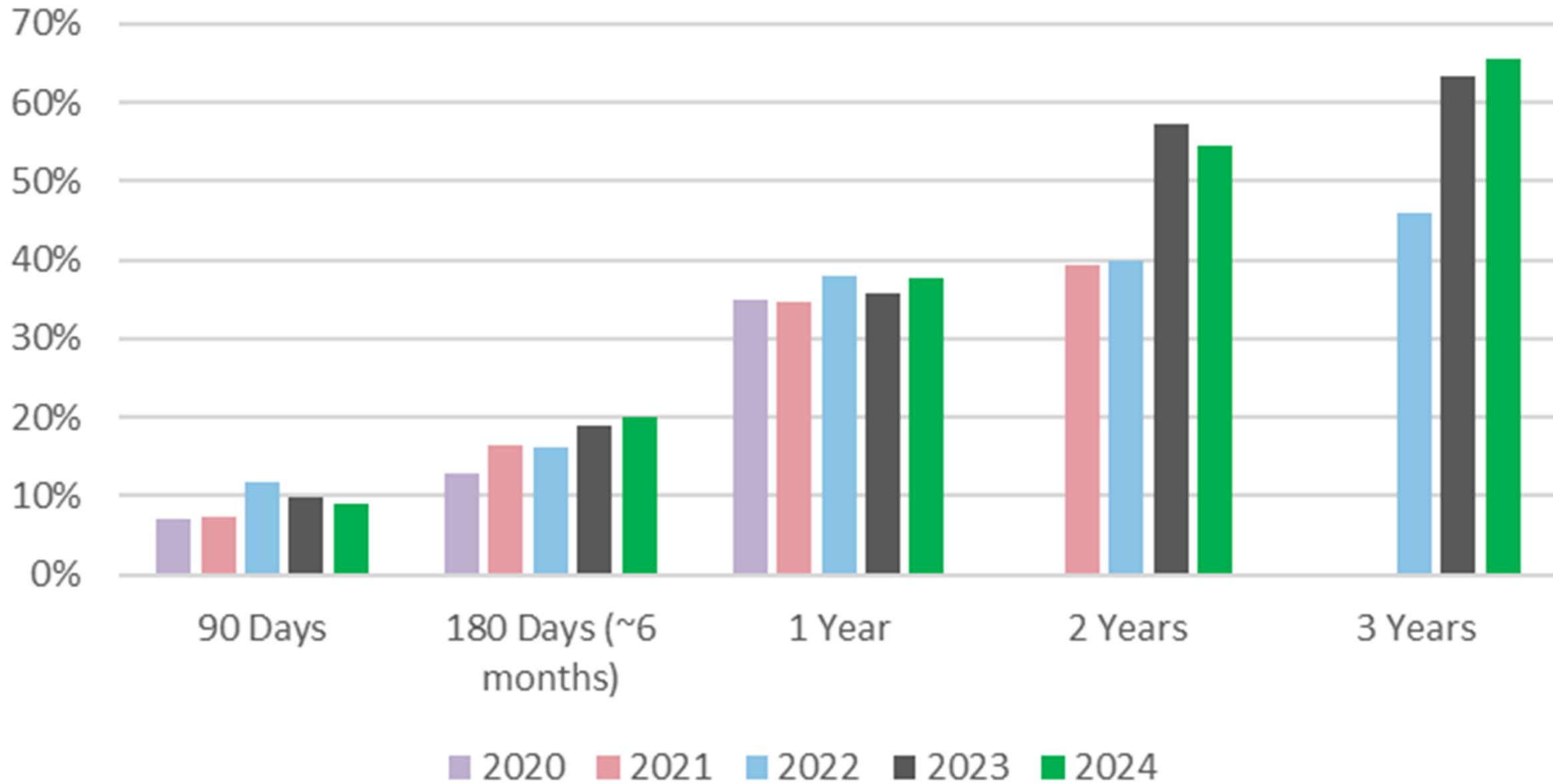
Source: Internal Prison Data



# Lancaster County Prison

## Recidivism Reduction Programs

### New Beginnings Recidivism, 2020-2024 (YTD)



- Some long-term recidivism data does not exist, as program started in 2020
- 90 days, 180 days, and 1 year rates have remained generally consistent
- 2 years and 3 years rates both saw an increase in 2023
- 3 years recidivism continues to increase, though at a smaller rate, while 2 years recidivism decreased

\*Recidivism= reincarceration of an individual, regardless of circumstances



# Prison Employees



**Arla Brown**

Director, Administrative Services

**Beth Bowman**

Human Resources Manager

## Topics to be addressed:

- Hires & Separations
- Separation Details
- Employee Injuries



# Lancaster County Prison

## Prison Employees

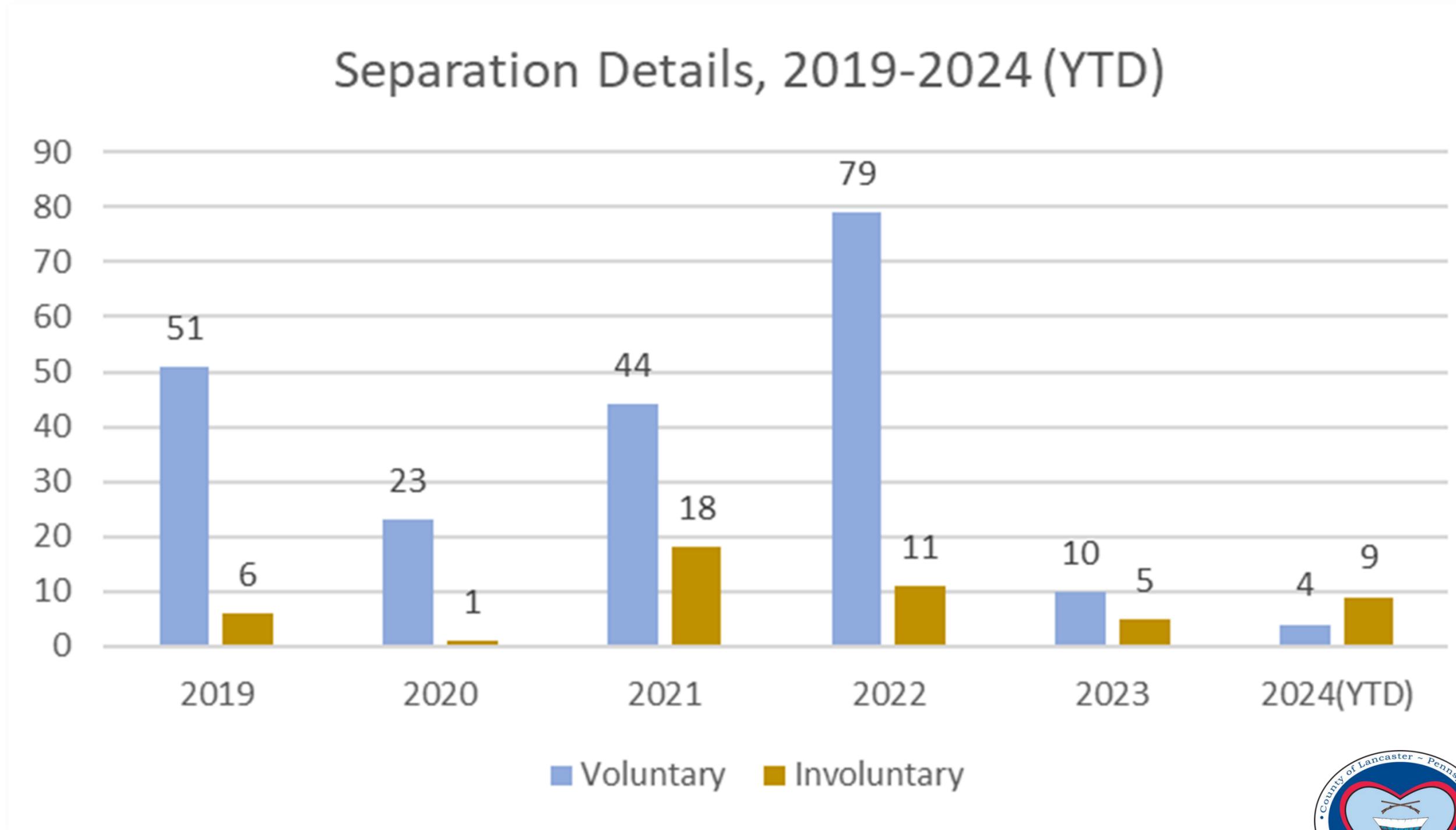
- Hires peaked in 2022 in effort to fill vacancies due to COVID
- Bonuses were offered to new hires in 2022
- 2023 hires were less than half the previous year's
- Separations peaked in 2021, mirroring the peak in hires the year after
- Most consistency in separations among multiple years is in 2022-2023

<b>Employee Hires &amp; Separations</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Hires</b>	<b>Number of Separations</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>2024 (YTD)</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>13</b>



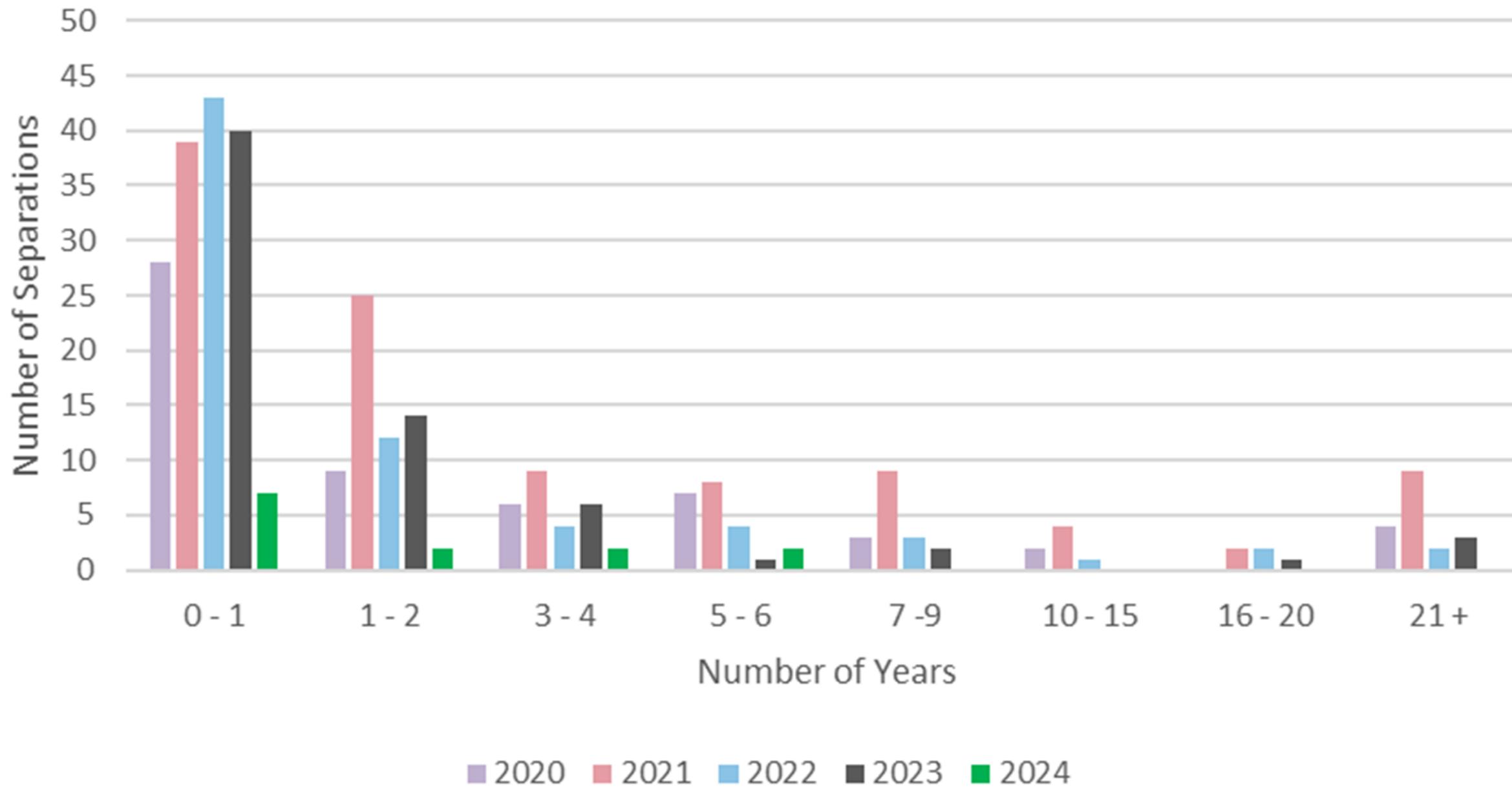
# Lancaster County Prison Prison Employees

- **Included under Voluntary:**
  - Good Standing (provided two weeks' notice)
  - Not Good Standing (did not provide two weeks' notice)
  - Retired
  - Transferred
  - Medical Leave
- **Included under Involuntary:**
  - Job Abandonment
  - Violation of Rules
  - Unsatisfactory Performance



# Lancaster County Prison Prison Employees

## Separations by Years of Service, 2020-2024 (YTD)



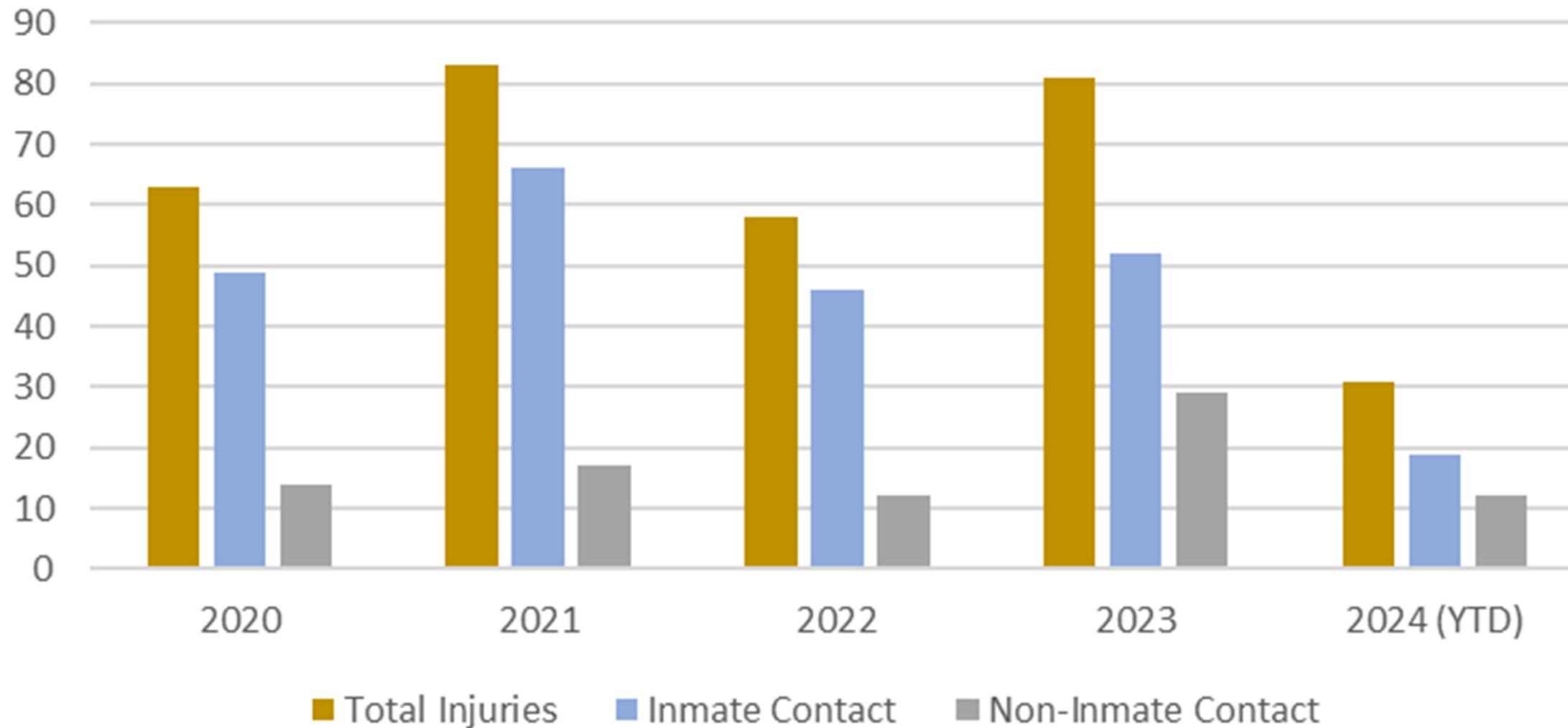
- Overall, vast majority of separations are among employees with less than 3 years of service
- 2021 saw an increase in separations among *all* employees regardless of experience
- Separations decreased after 2021 for all categories except for 0-1 years

\*Standard data collection began in 2021



# Lancaster County Prison Prison Employees

## Employee Injuries, 2020-2024 (YTD)



- Share of employee injuries involving inmate contact decreased
- Number of injuries peaked in 2021 but has subsided since
- Methodology for tracking changed over time



# Questions?

