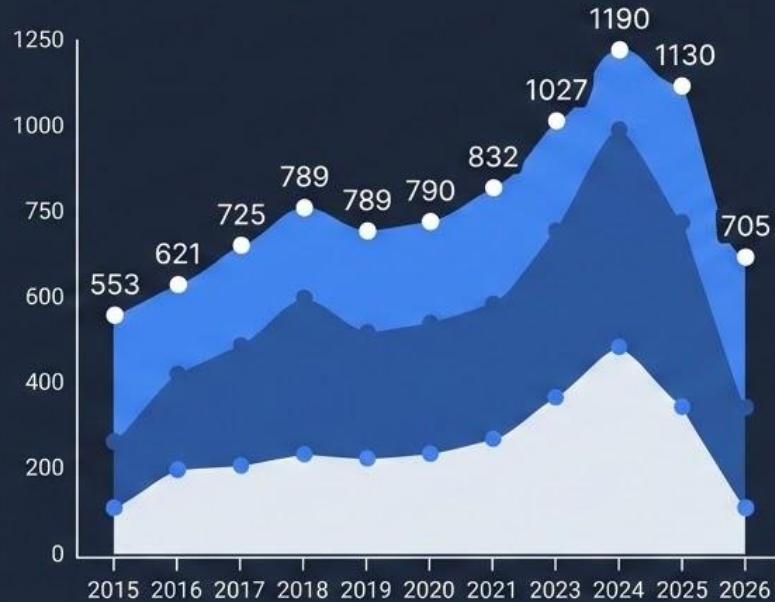


Forensic Services in WV

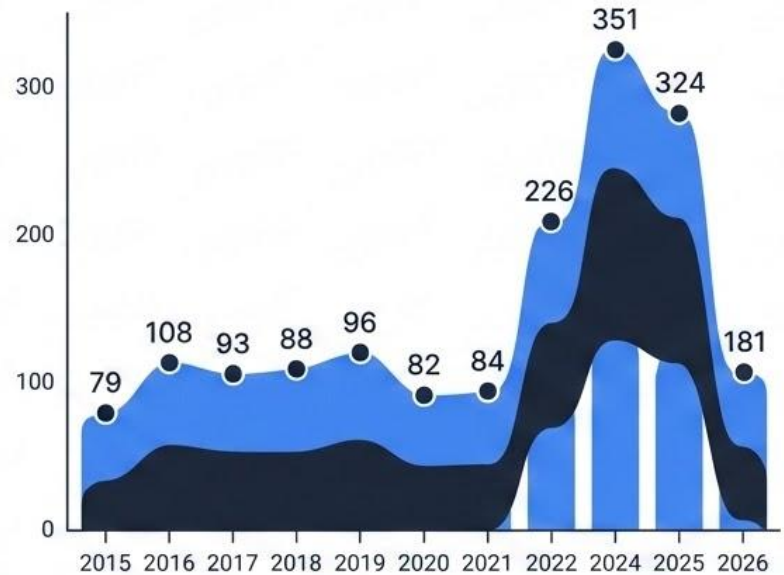
Increasing Referrals, Not Enough Beds

Colleen Lillard, Ph.D. | John Snyder, M.S.

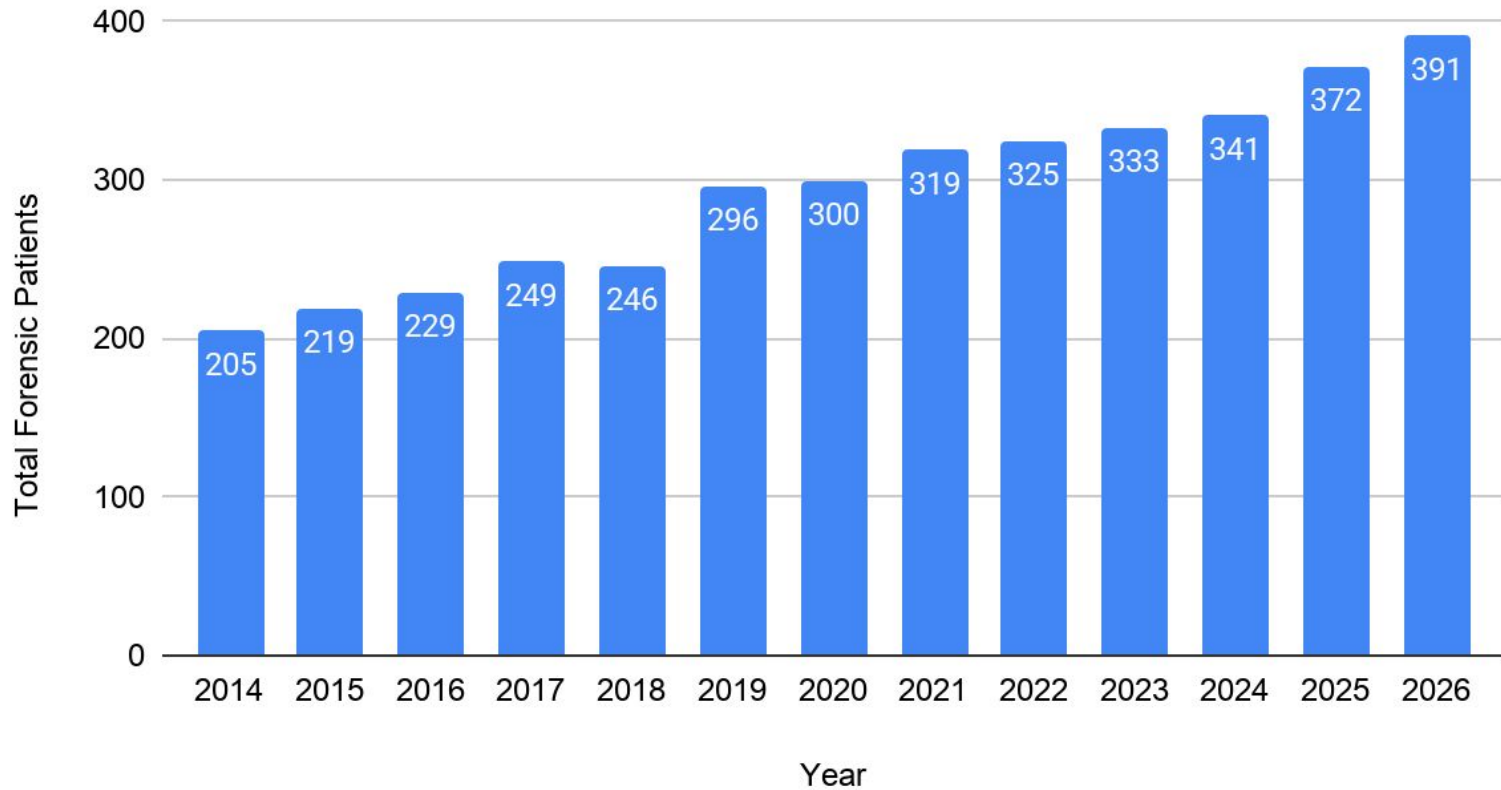
Total Adult Evaluations per Fiscal Year



Juvenile Evaluations per Fiscal Year

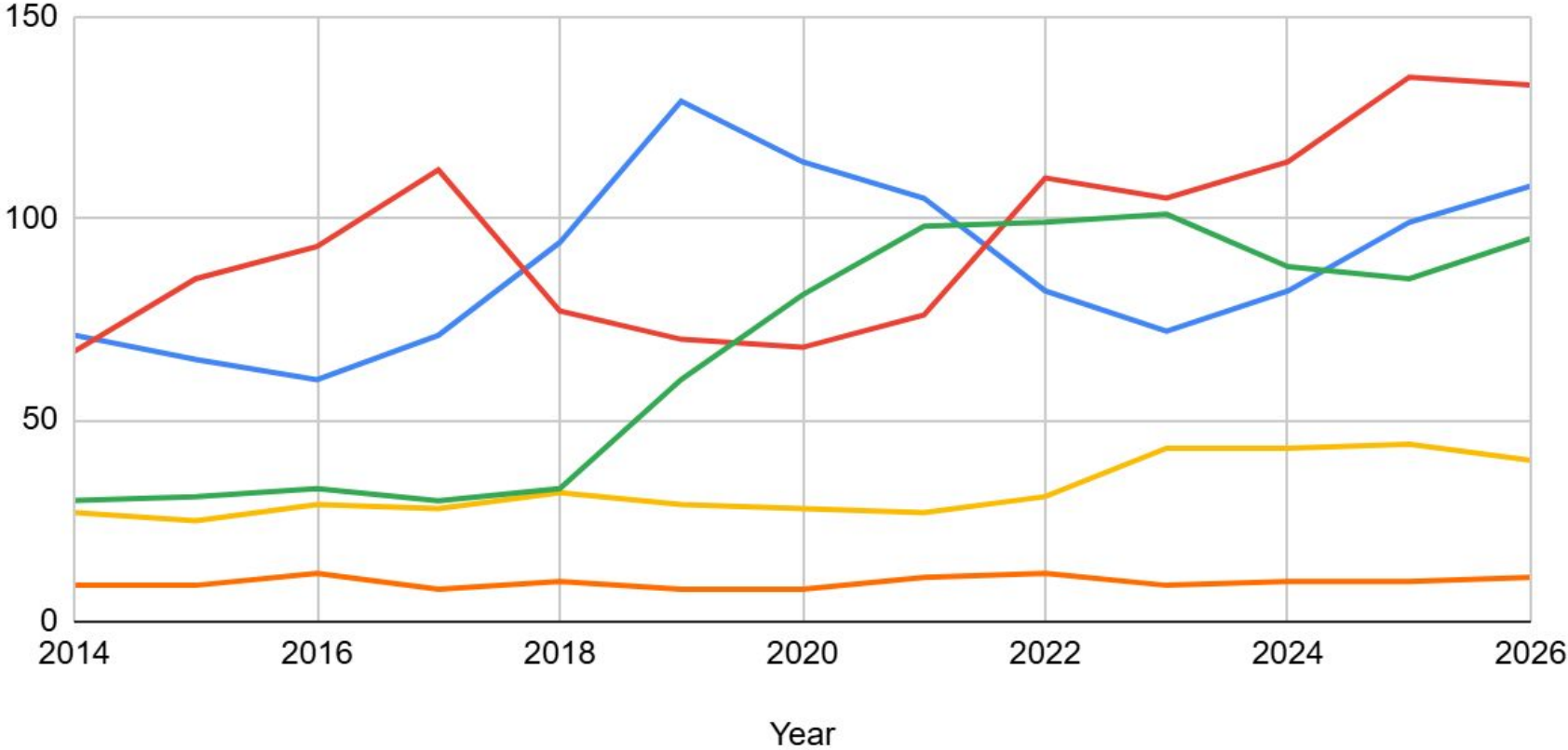


Total Forensic Patients as of May 5th of Each Year



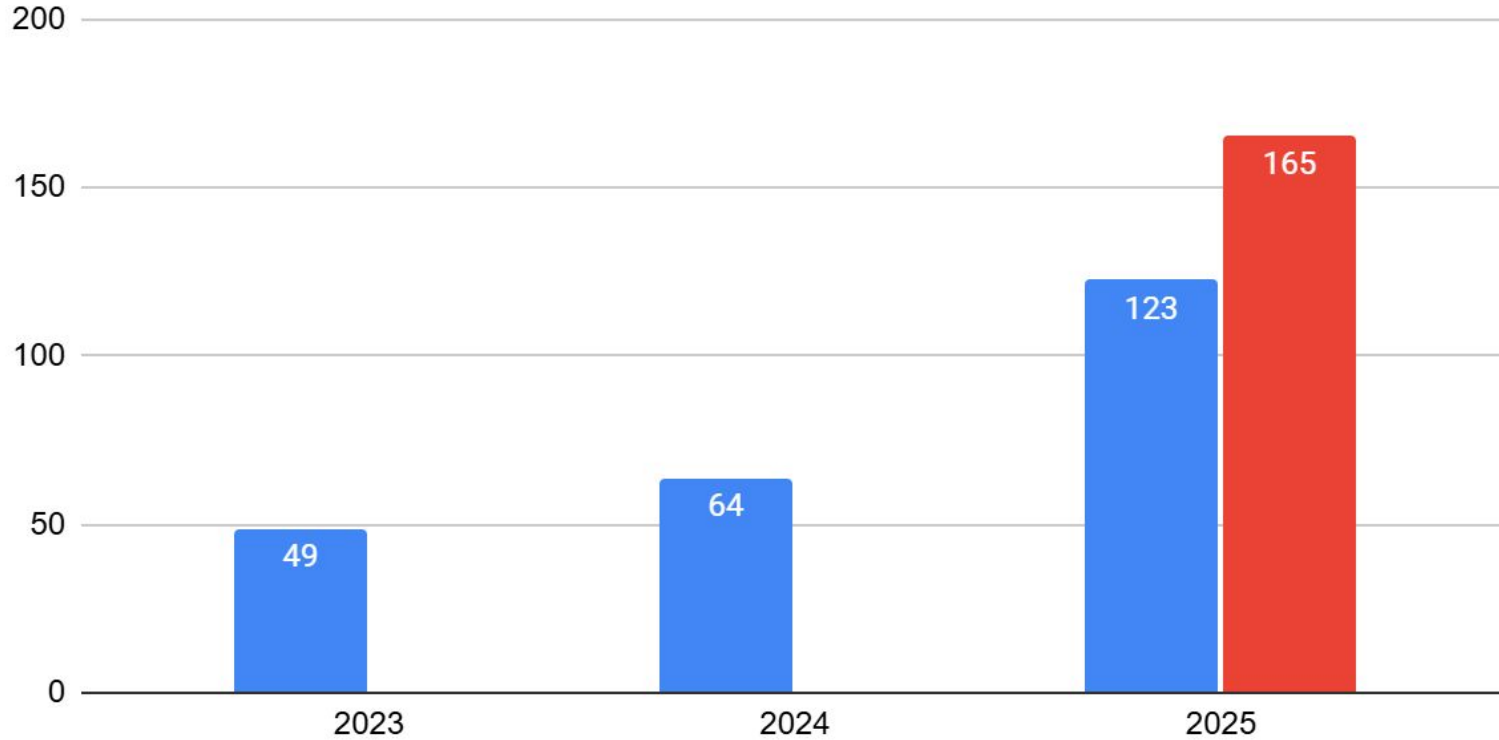
Forensic Patient Location

Sharpe Diversion Hospitals Group Home Community TLF



Referral List

■ Average Days on Waitlist (admitted) ■ Average Days on Waitlist (still waiting)



Total Referrals

189

188

213



JOHN DOE

THE COST OF A CASE: JOHN DOE

A case that began with a minor shoplifting charge resulted in extensive evaluations, hospitalization, and thousands in public resources—yet the charges were ultimately dropped.



ARRESTED

Charged with shoplifting for items totaling \$172.75.



EVALUATIONS

Underwent court-ordered forensic evaluations.



HOSPITALIZATION

Required inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.



OUTCOME

Found incompetent to stand trial, non-restorable. Charges dropped.

CASE TIMELINE



SEPTEMBER 2024

Charged with shoplifting for an alleged amount of \$172.75.



DECEMBER 2024

Underwent first court-ordered forensic evaluation.



MAY 2025

Admitted to a state hospital for competency treatment and stabilization.



NOVEMBER 2025

Found incompetent to stand trial, non-restorable, and the charges were dropped.

THE FINANCIAL IMPACT

SHOPLIFTING CHARGE



\$172.75

Total value of alleged shoplifting

EVALUATIONS



\$5,425.00

Cost of forensic evaluations

HOSPITALIZATION



\$329,760.00

Cost of inpatient hospitalization



TOTAL COST TO PUBLIC RESOURCES

\$335,357.75

And the charges were dropped.

THE OUTCOME



**FOUND INCOMPETENT
TO STAND TRIAL
NON-RESTORABLE**

CHARGES DROPPED



THE SYSTEM IMPACT: WHY FORENSIC GROUP HOMES MATTER

When Forensic Community Placements Disappear, Costs and Consequences Multiply Across the Entire System

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN FORENSIC GROUP HOMES CLOSE



⚠️ Closing forensic group homes does not save money—it shifts costs to more expensive and less effective parts of the system.

THE REAL COST WHEN GROUP HOMES CLOSE

	Regional Jail (mentally ill inmate)	\$500 – \$800/day+
	State Hospital Forensic Bed	\$900 – \$1,800/day
	Emergency Department Visit	\$1,200 – \$2,500/visit
	Law Enforcement / Transport	\$300 – \$1,000/incident
	Litigation, Fines, & Oversight	Millions to Hundreds of Millions

\$ These are crisis-driven, high-cost settings that increase over time.

WHY FORENSIC GROUP HOMES ARE ESSENTIAL

- Provide safe, structured stability in the community
- Open up hospital beds for those who truly need inpatient care
- Cost significantly less than hospitals, jails, or ERs
- Improve quality of life and support recovery
- Reduce recidivism and crisis incidents
- Support court orders and enhance public safety

✓ The right level of care in the right setting improves outcomes and controls costs.

THE COST WHEN GROUP HOMES ARE PRESERVED

Forensic Group Home Bed **\$150 – \$350/day**

STRONGER SYSTEM. LOWER COSTS.

- Shorter hospital stays
- Shorter jail stays
- Fewer crises
- Lower recidivism
- Safer communities
- Healthier individuals

Investing in forensic community placements strengthens every part of the system.



A STRONG FORENSIC CONTINUUM MAKES OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER, OUR SYSTEMS STRONGER, AND OUR INVESTMENTS SMARTER.

Prevent the Domino Effect • Preserve Community Placements • Protect Public Safety • Save Taxpayer Dollars

POSSIBLE 
SOLUTIONS?

Looking Forward

Reduce Waitlist Time

- Continue increasing efficiency in inpatient competency restoration process
- Develop jail-based competency / strengthen pre-competency services

Expand Continuum of Care

- Maintain and expand forensic community placement options
- Increase use of pre-trial diversion programs
- Utilize non-forensic options for mental health treatment for minor offenses