

# Office of the Child Advocate

## Report to

# Oversight Commission on

# Children's Services

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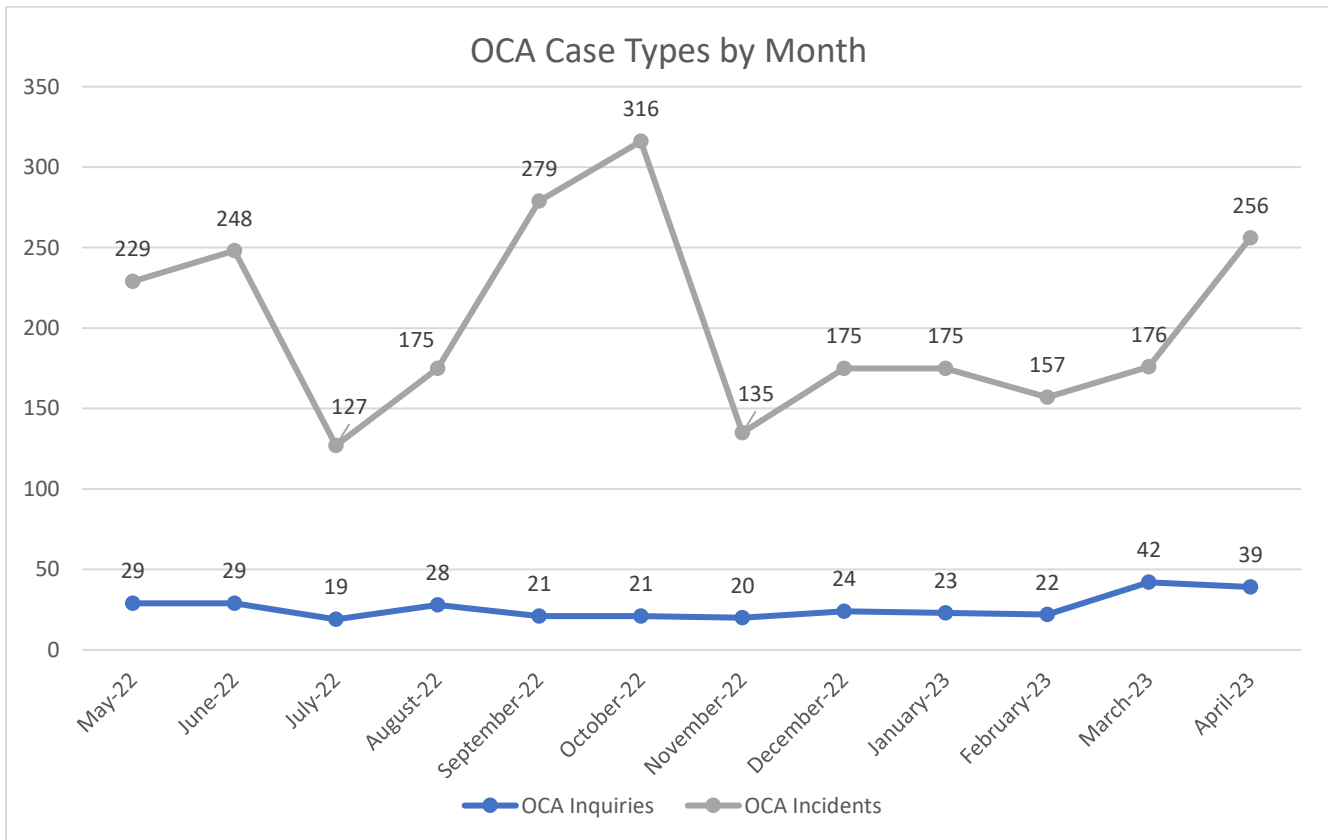
Child Advocate, Cassandra Sanchez

May 19, 2023

## Total OCA Cases (Inquiries & Incidents)

Rolling 12 Month: 5/1/22 - 4/30/23

Month	OCA Inquiries	OCA Incidents
May-22	29	229
June-22	29	248
July-22	19	127
August-22	28	175
September-22	21	279
October-22	21	316
November-22	20	135
December-22	24	175
January-23	23	175
February-23	22	157
March-23	42	176
April-23	39	256
<b>Total Inquiries:</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>2448</b>
<b>Total Cases:</b>	<b>2765</b>	



### OCA Case Explanation

- Inquiries to the OCA include phone calls, emails, and cases opened from in-person meetings with children, providers, and stakeholders. Incidents include all critical incident reports from DCYF, and incidents documented by residential programs and SYSC, including restraints and seclusion.
- As you can see there has been an increase in inquiries to the OCA starting in March 2023.
- Trends following closely: OCA has been made aware of 8 infants (under a year old) presenting to EDs with broken bones since February 2023. This is due to concerns called into the office and may not capture all occurrences within that timeframe.

Include a page listing OCA visits to residential facilities/SYSC

DCYF office visits

Conferences attended/tabled at.

Trends

### *Topics for Possible Future Legislation*

- Corporal punishment in schools – National issue, see Colorado Bill (maybe in RSA 189 or 193?). 20 states have prohibited. Federal bill proposed.
  - This year, daycares
  - Couple of years ago, residential facilities
- Anything around MDT, sharing info? Or Rules?
- Foster kids can't get bank accounts??
- Confidentiality of 169-C cases – 169-C:25 and 170-G:8-a, inability to get all the info needed (CLC, child attys; CPSWs speaking to parent attys)
- OCA access to Central Registry
- Special Investigations Unit (SIU) – pull out of DCYF (independent investigation unit); expand to include schools and daycares
- Definition of “abuse” and “neglect” – data from Joe, referral rate vs. assessment rate. Screen out definitions?
  - System mapping for August re Assessment process, cases that have been missed.
- GAP in system/services between BCBH, DD, JJ (D2), Schools and DCYF for servicing kids, especially the placement piece (and also aging out issue). ASK Karen Rosenberg
  - Always a GAP 18-21, between services.
- From MPD – Privacy Statutes and Endangering the Welfare of Children/Def of abuse/neglect.
  - Delineate some bright line presumptions or prima facie neglect of abuse, ex: manufacturing meth; presence of drugs/paraphernalia; injuries/broken bones (by age?), and apply to danger to ALL children in home; suspicious death of a child in the home.
- JJ SOPs/Protocols – juveniles on probation/conditional release vs. kids with just services; differences in case management, visits to the child and home, frequency of court hearings (especially for kids in placement)

From Waypoint

- Homeless Youth, laws around funding and housing. Dir of Youth Services into. Waypoint is the only shelter that takes youth, limited access in Western NH. 25% LGBTQ. 603Equality involved.
- Children's Bill of Rights – proactive stance for kids, instead of reactionary. Rep Barry and Gruff, but not good bill. UN convention of Rights of Child – every other country has it, but maybe not applicable for a State, individual rights. Cf Foster Care Bill of Rights.
  - FERPA?
  - Which State Republican Rep stood up in SB 272 and said kids had rights? And the amendments that recognized student's rights to privacy, free speech and assoc
- Juvenile Reform Project – system of care, with Senator Whitley.

Lisa Wolford – couple of other issues (includes information sharing, and confidentiality gone overboard)

**Nashua Children’s Home Restraints Reported to the OCA**

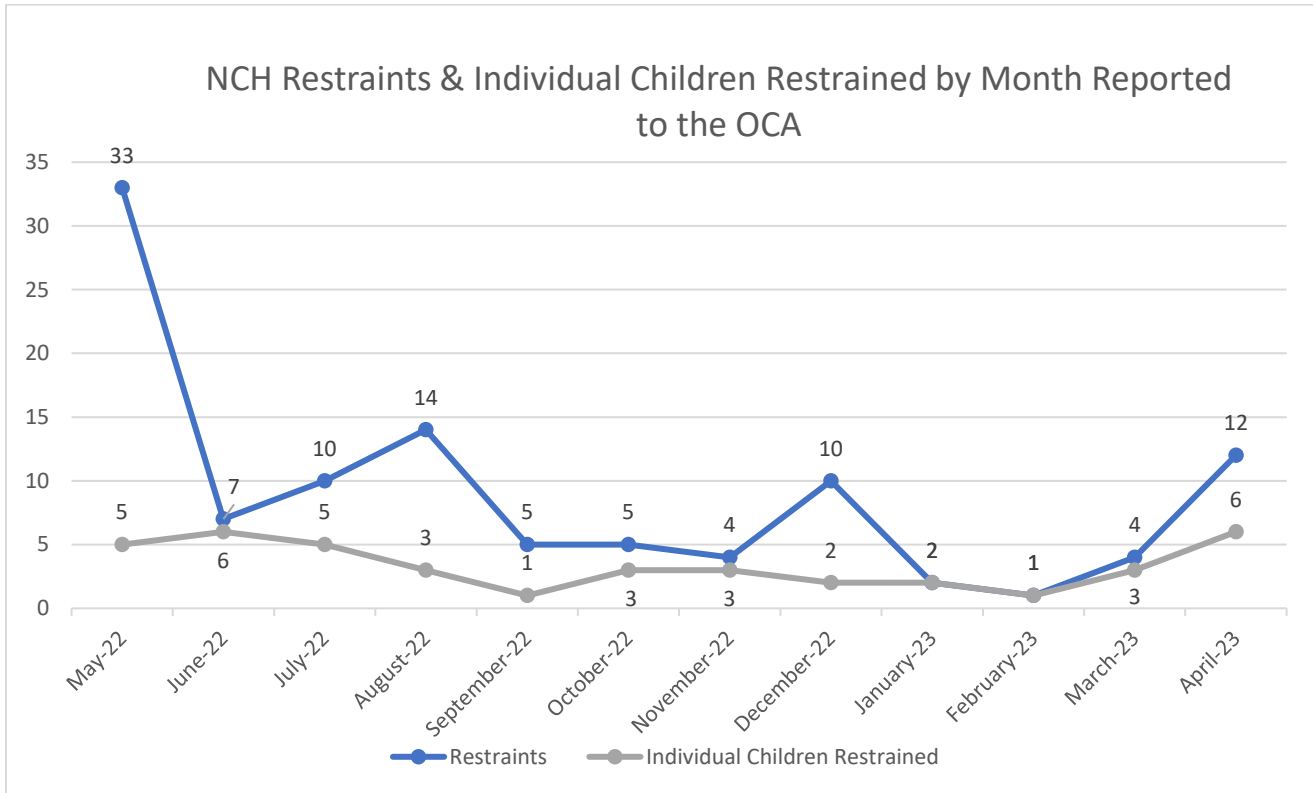
Rolling 12 Month: 5/1/22 - 4/30/23

<b>Month</b>	<b>Restraints</b>	<b>Individual Children</b>	<b>Est Population*</b>	<b>% Restrained Est</b>
May-22	33	5	33	15%
June-22	7	6	33	18%
July-22	10	5	30	17%
August-22	14	3	30	10%
September-22	5	1	31	3%
October-22	5	3	33	9%
November-22	4	3	32	9%
December-22	10	2	32	6%
January-23	2	2	31	6%

February-23	1	1	32	3%
March-23	4	3	34	9%
April-23	12	6	33	18%

**Total: 107**

\*Population data estimated from DCYF Result Oriented Management (ROM) reports. Represents number of DCYF involved children placed at a facility on the last day of the period. Entries and discharges are not captured so this data may undercount total children in the facility during the month.



### Nashua Children's Home (NCH)

- NCH is a level 2 program which indicates that children placed there should have lower-level acuity and therapeutic needs. The milieu staff ratio is 1:4.
- Quiet room data was presented previously, and the use of the room has been discussed. OCA requested this information from BCBH and DCYF Bureau of Evaluation, Analytics and Reporting (BEAR). This information is not currently disseminated to the OCA regularly.

### Spaulding Restraints Reported to the OCA

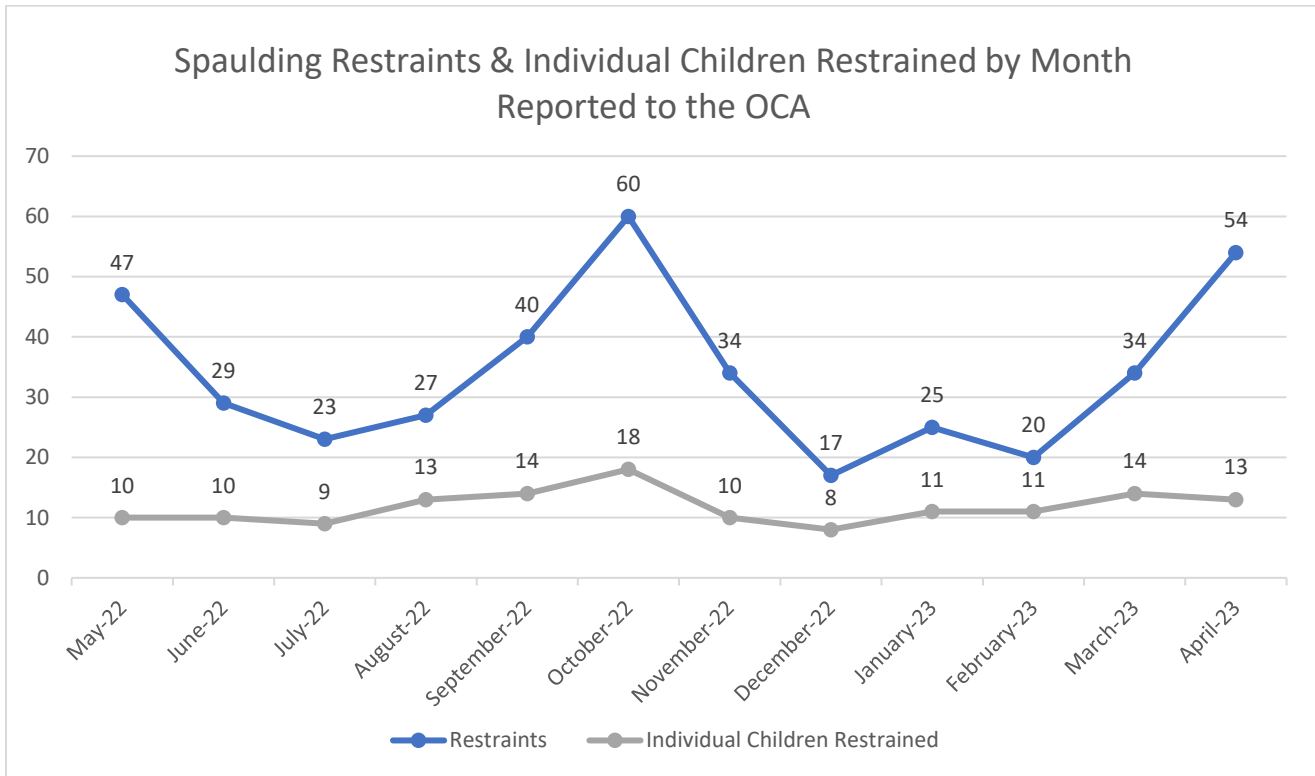
Rolling 12 Month: 5/1/22 - 4/30/23

Month	Restrains	Individual Children	Est. Population*	% Restrained Est.
May-22	47	10	40	25%
June-22	29	10	42	24%
July-22	23	9	44	20%
August-22	28	13	43	30%
September-22	38	14	42	33%
October-22	60	18	39	46%
November-22	34	10	39	26%
December-22	17	8	32	25%

January-23	25	11	34	32%
February-23	20	11	35	31%
March-23	34	14	37	38%
April-23	54	13	35	37%

**Total: 410**

\*Population data estimated from DCYF Result Oriented Management (ROM) reports. Represents number of DCYF involved children placed at a facility on the last day of the period. Entries and discharges are not captured so this data may undercount total children in the facility during the month.



### Spaulding Academy and Family Services (Spaulding)

- Spaulding restraints include all programs; Spaulding has one level 2 program and three level 3 programs. At this time the OCA does not have the ability to separate out data for each program given the format in which reports are shared and the limitations of our Case Management System (CMS).
- In April, per a Spaulding Academy data report, the level 2 program accounted for 0 restraints, the Medically Intensive program accounted for 10 restraints, the Neurobehavioral Intensive program accounted for 29 restraints, and the Intensive program accounted for 11 restraints.

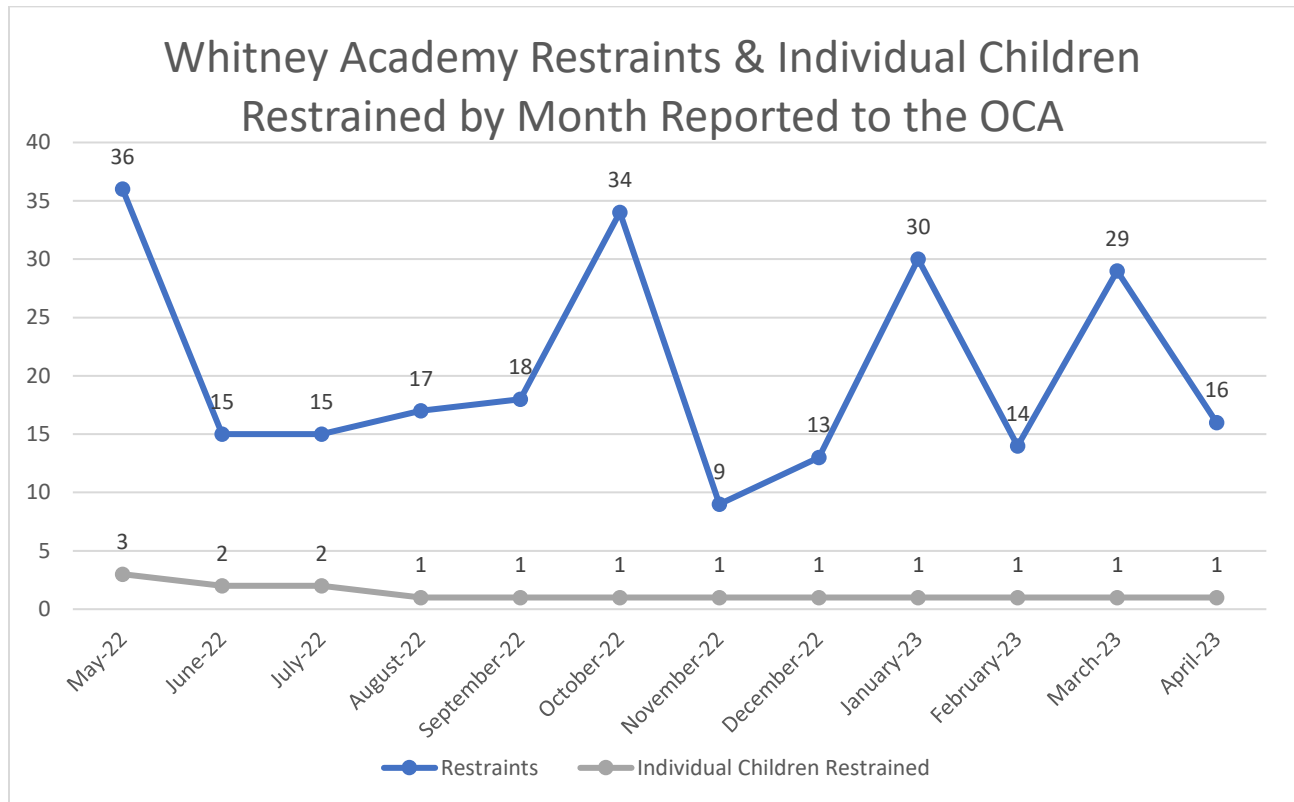
### Whitney Academy Restraints Reported to the OCA

Rolling 12 Month: 5/1/22 - 4/30/23

Month	Restrains	Individual Children Restrained	Est. Population*	Est. % Restrained
May-22	36	3	6	50%
June-22	15	2	6	33%
July-22	15	2	6	33%
August-22	17	1	6	17%
September-22	18	1	6	17%
October-22	34	1	6	17%
November-22	9	1	6	17%
December-22	13	1	6	17%

January-23	30	1	6	17%
February-23	14	1	6	17%
March-23	29	1	6	17%
April-23	16	1	6	17%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>246</b>			

\*Population data estimated from DCYF Result Oriented Management (ROM) reports. Represents number of DCYF involved children placed at a facility on the last day of the period. Entries and discharges are not captured so this data may undercount total children in the facility during the month.



### Whitney Academy (Whitney)

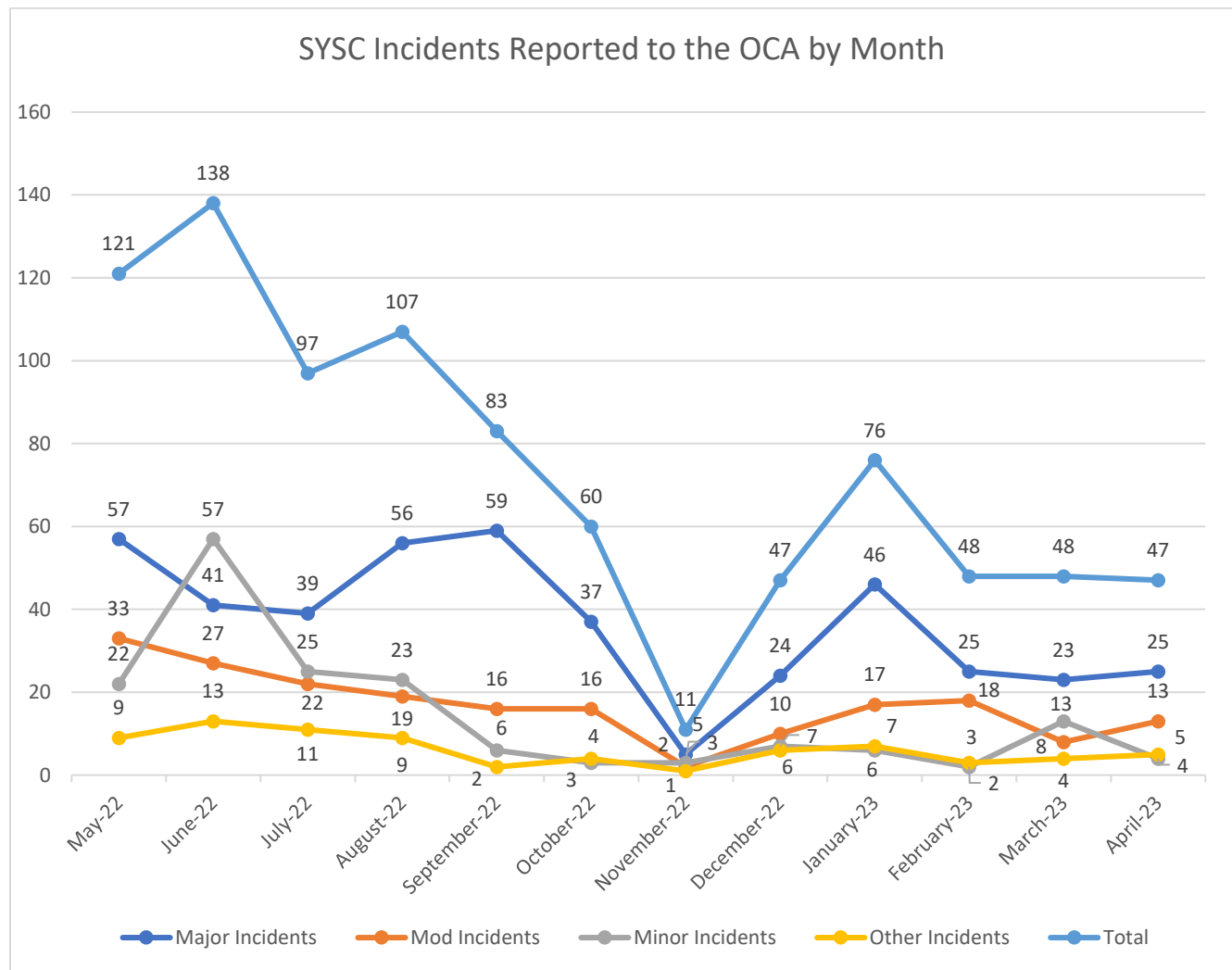
- Whitney is a level 3 intensive program which indicates that children placed there have higher therapeutic needs and require additional supports and higher-level supervision. The milieu staff ratio is 1:2.
- Although Whitney Academy is located in Massachusetts, we receive all restraint and seclusion reports for any program that NH DCYF places children in. The above restraint data is specific to NH children.

### SYSC Incidents Reported to the OCA

Rolling 12 Month: 5/1/22 - 4/30/23

Month	Major Incidents	Mod Incidents	Minor Incidents	Other Incidents	Total
May-22	57	33	22	9	121
June-22	41	27	57	13	138
July-22	39	22	25	11	97
August-22	56	19	23	9	107
September-22	59	16	6	2	83
October-22	37	16	3	4	60
November-22	5	2	3	1	11
December-22	24	10	7	6	47
January-23	46	17	6	7	76

February-23	25	18	2	3	<b>48</b>
March-23	23	8	13	4	<b>48</b>
April-23	25	13	4	5	<b>47</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>883</b>

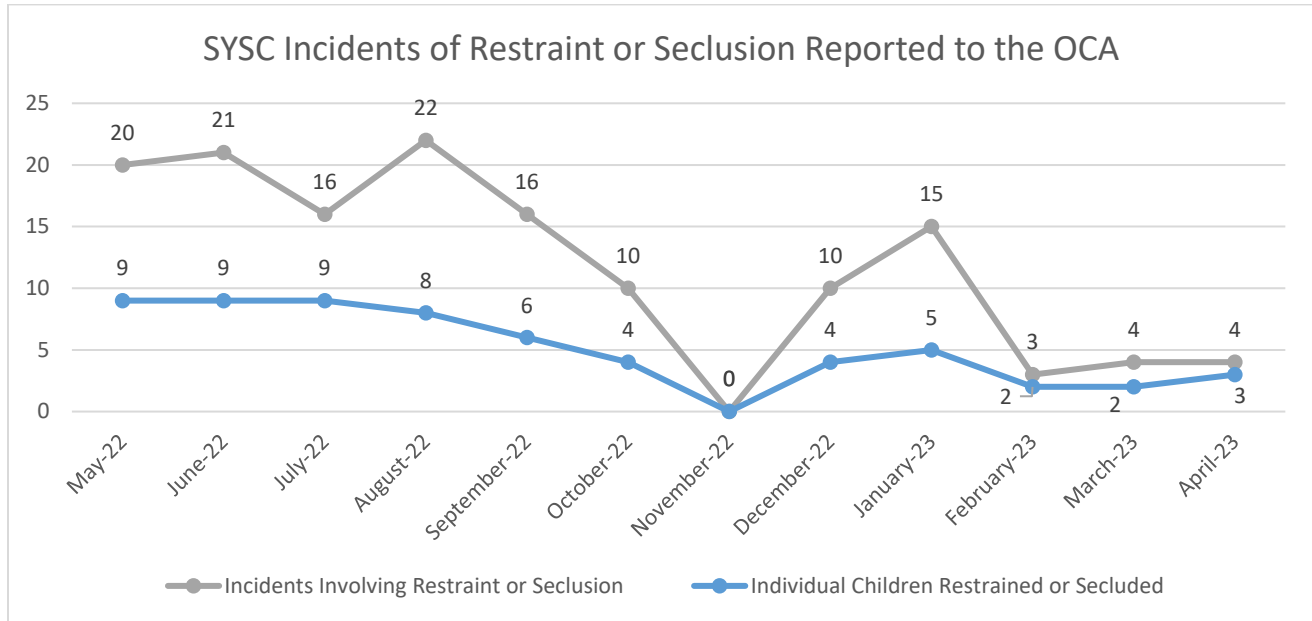


SYSC Incidents Involving Restraints or Seclusions 05/01/22 - 4/30/23		
Type	# Of Incidents	% of Incidents
Restraints	76	9%
Seclusions	24	3%
Restraint & Seclusion	41	5%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>16%</b>

SYSC Incidents Involving Restraints or Seclusions by Month 05/01/22 - 4/30/23			
Month	Total Incidents	Restraint or Seclusion	Individual Children
May-22	121	20	9
June-22	138	21	9



July-22	97	16	9
August-22	107	22	8
September-22	83	16	6
October-22	60	10	4
November-22	11	0	0
December-22	47	10	4
January-23	76	15	5
February-23	48	3	2
March-23	48	4	2
April-23	47	4	3
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>141</b>	



### **Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC)**

- The OCA engages in monthly meetings with the psychologist at SYSC to check in on specific children and discuss clinical offerings. SYSC is currently fully staffed in their clinical department. They have a clinical director, 2 on site clinicians, and a doctoral intern. There has been an increase in clinical groups offered.
- MyTurn is currently offering educational services & UpReach is bringing equine therapy into the facility regularly.
- During the OCA's April visit to SYSC we made tie dye tee shirts with the kids, played kickball, and talked to them about the future of the facility.