



GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT
Court Year 2024-2025

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I. Introduction

The Gun Violence Reduction Initiative (GVRI) began in 2021 in response to the increase in gun violence in New Jersey and across the nation. The initiative focuses on probation clients who are at moderate-to-high-risk of reoffending and who have a current, weapon-related offense.

The initiative is a partnership between the courts, resource providers, and the community to reduce gun- and other weapon-related violence by identifying gaps in services and encouraging positive behavioral change.

The probation division in each county reviews eligible cases for presentation to the Gun Violence Reduction Initiative Advisory Board, which is comprised of judges, probation staff, mayors, business administrators, public safety directors, members of the state Senate and Assembly, community members, and resource providers.

The board evaluates information about each client such as their age, marital status, number of children, the number of charges against them and times they have been arrested, their level of education and employment status, history of drug use and gang affiliation. It then recommends appropriate services such as counseling, mentoring programs, job training or education, housing assistance, or other needed services identified by the client or the board.

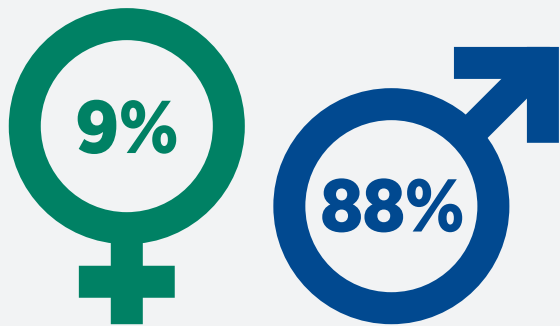
Since its inception in Passaic County, the program has expanded to include the following counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Union.

This report covers the court year from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

II. Executive Summary

PROGRAM SCOPE AND PARTICIPATION

During the 2024-2025 court year, 483 clients participated statewide. Roughly 70% were adults and 30% youths. Atlantic County had the highest client count (97), with Essex and Camden at 87 and 63, respectively.



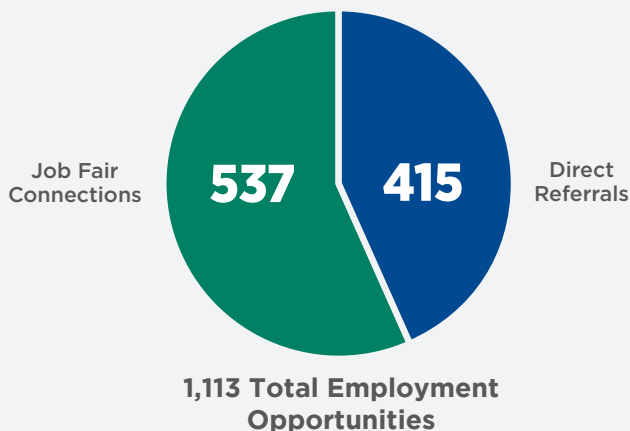
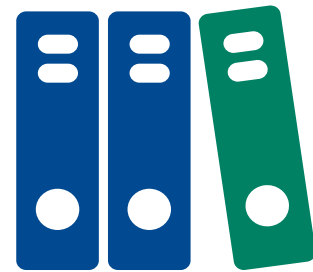
DEMOGRAPHICS

88% of program participants were male; 9% female.

African American clients represented approximately 70% of the participant base, with White clients at 24% and other groups comprising the remainder.

AGENCY REFERRALS AND SUPPORT

A total of 759 agency referrals were made, with education and employment services the most common (27%). Mentoring/case management (21%) and substance abuse/mental health services (12% each) also were significant.



EMPLOYMENT AND OPPORTUNITY

The program facilitated 1,113 employment opportunities, including 415 direct referrals and 537 job fair connections.

38% of clients secured employment during the year, while another 31% were classified as unavailable for work, either students or disabled.

ENGAGEMENT AND RESULTS

74% of clients had no Violations of Probation (VOPs) filed. There were only 123 VOPs across the program.

Of 129 VOP results, 20% resulted in continued or extended probation, less than 1% in incarceration, and more than 7% in unsuccessful termination. No client was incarcerated on new charges.

Approximately half of clients were actively making payments toward court-ordered obligations. In the Intensive Supervision Program northern region, 100% made payments.

Although 123 VOPs were filed, a total of 129 VOPs were resolved and recorded. This discrepancy occurs because a single VOP can result in more than one result.



100%

PAYMENT RATE
for the Intensive Supervision
Program (N.E. Region)



GANG AFFILIATION AND COMPLETION

Fewer than 10% of clients were affiliated with gangs, with significant variation across counties.

9% of clients successfully completed the program, with 86% continuing. Union County showed the highest completion rate at 27%.

SUCCESS STORIES

The report highlights several notable client achievements, including educational advancement, employment, recovery from substance abuse, resolution of legal barriers, and successful reintegration into communities. These stories demonstrate the program's impact to foster resilience, personal growth, and reduced recidivism.

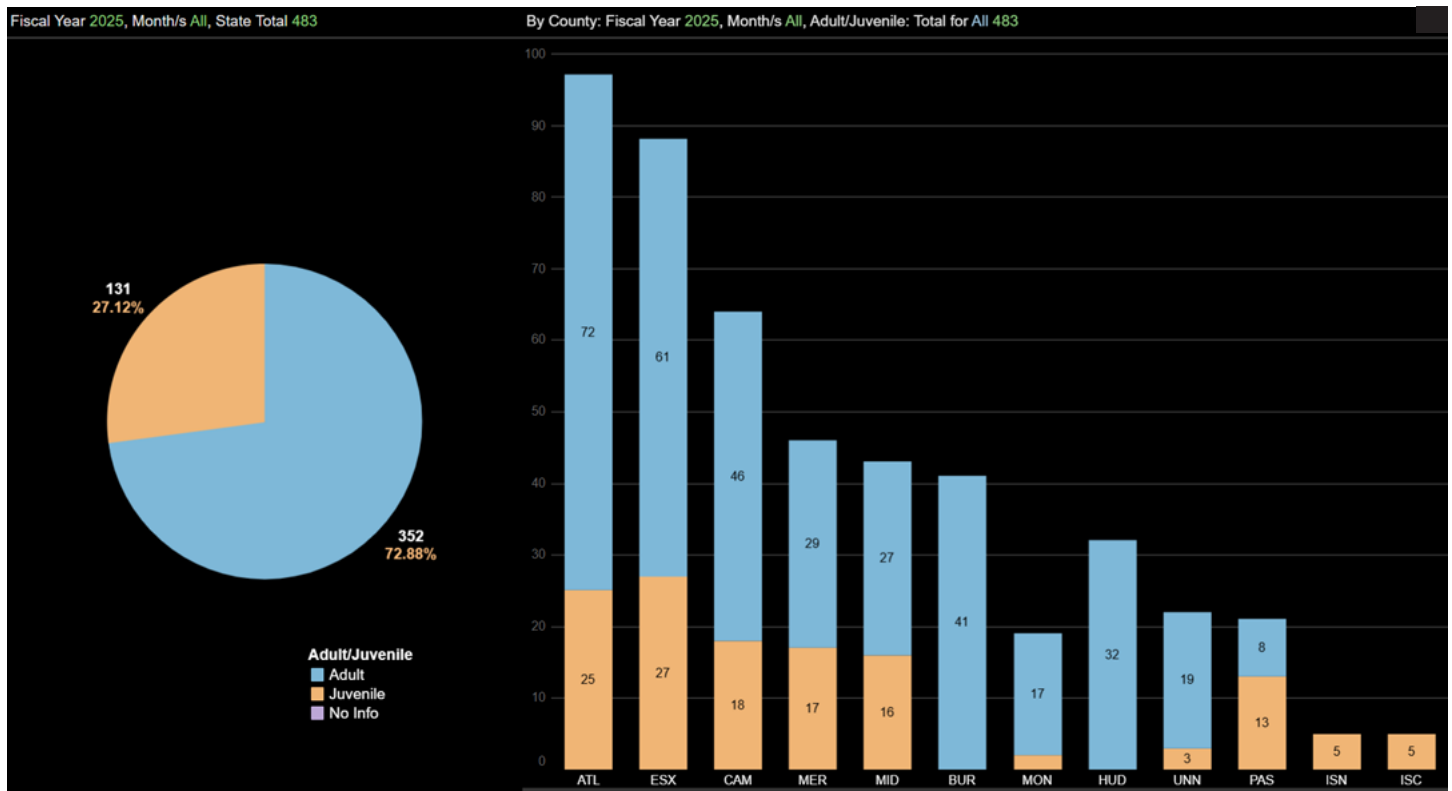


CONCLUSION

The GVRI's comprehensive approach yields measurable progress to reduce violations, support employment, and facilitate rehabilitation. Ongoing collaboration with community organizations and rigorous supervision underpin these positive results, supporting safer communities and promising futures for participants.

III. Demographics

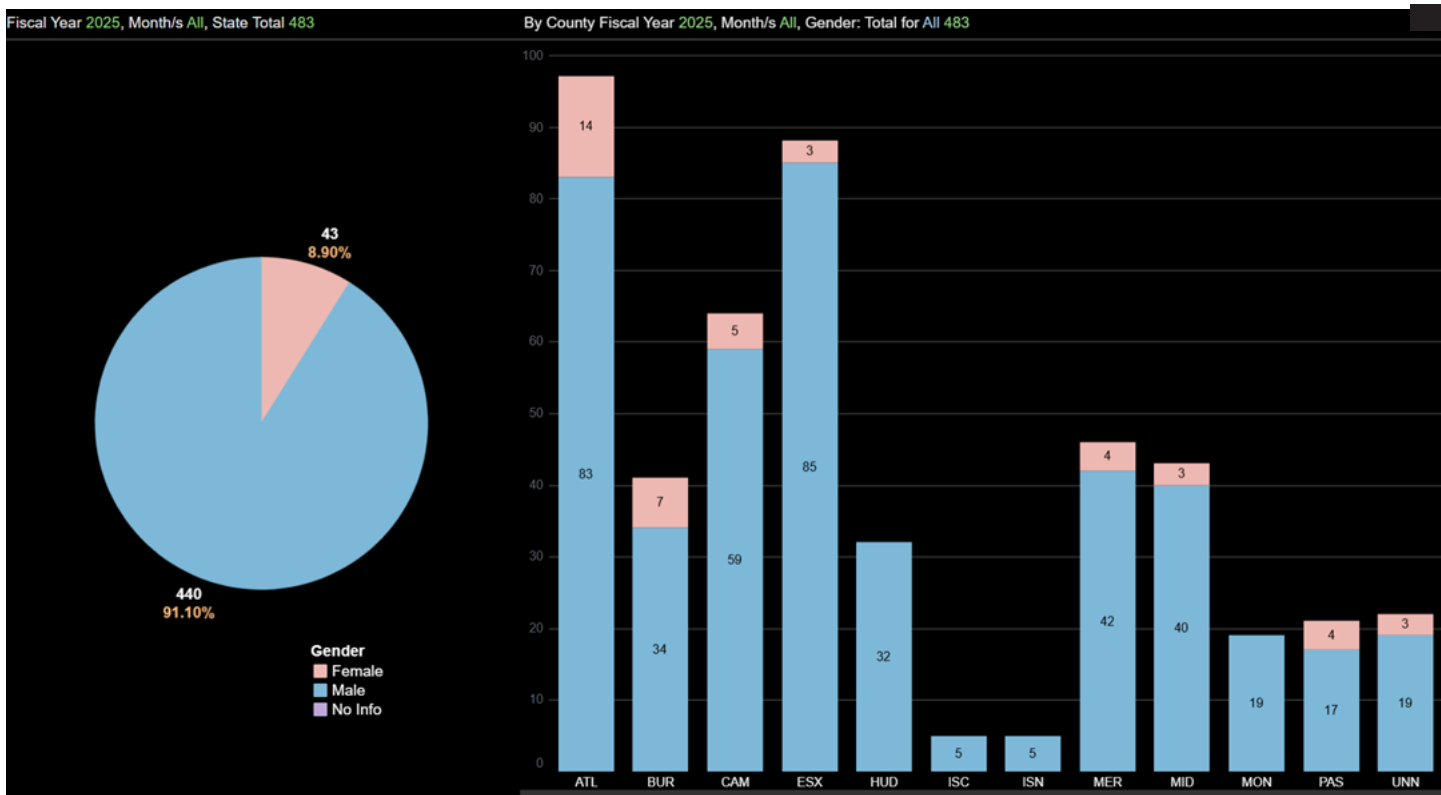
CLIENT TOTALS



The Bar Chart Represents Client Count

During the 2024-2025 court year, there were a total of 483 clients in the program statewide. Approximately seven out of 10 clients were adults, while three out of 10 were youths. Atlantic County reported the highest number of clients with 97, followed by Essex County with 88 and Camden County with 64. Essex County reported the highest youth population with 27 youth clients, followed by Atlantic County with 25.

GENDER

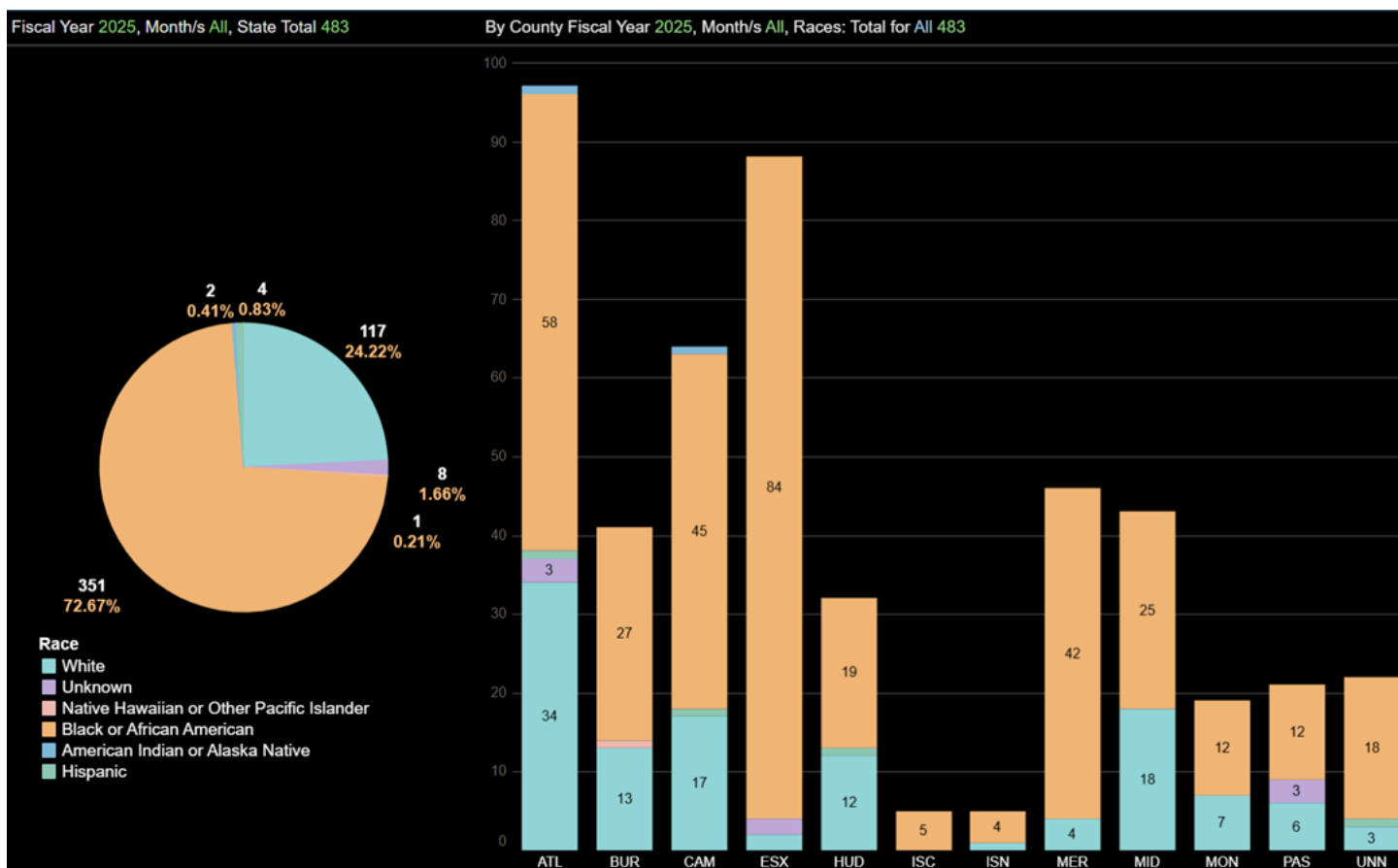


The Bar Chart Represents Client Count

Approximately 91% of clients in the program were male, reflecting a consistent trend across participating counties. Monmouth County, Hudson County and the ISP north and central regions had the highest proportion of male clients, each at 100%, followed by Essex at 96% and Middlesex at 93%. Female clients accounted for approximately 9% of the statewide population.

III. Demographics (CONTINUED)

RACE



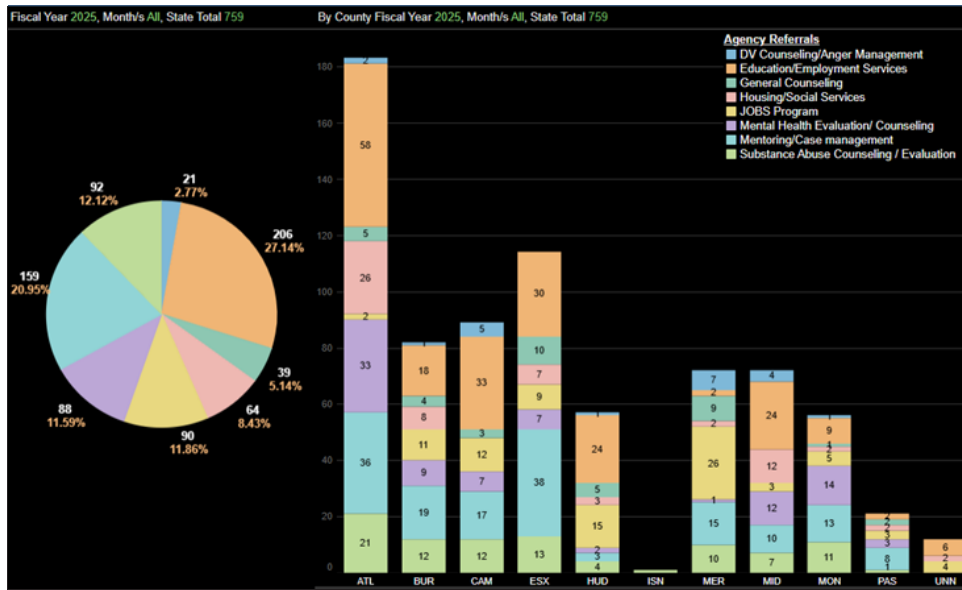
The Bar Chart Represents Client Count

During the court year 2024-2025, African Americans clients comprised the largest group in the program, accounting for approximately 70% of the statewide total. They were followed by White clients at approximately 24%. Hispanics and American Indian or Alaska Native clients combined accounted for approximately 1%.

Among the participating counties, Intensive Supervision Program north and central regions had the highest percentage of African American clients at 99%, followed by Essex with 94% and Mercer with 86%. Middlesex County had the highest percentage of White clients with 41%, followed by Monmouth County at 36%.

IV. Referrals

AGENCY REFERRALS



The Bar Chart Represents Referral Count

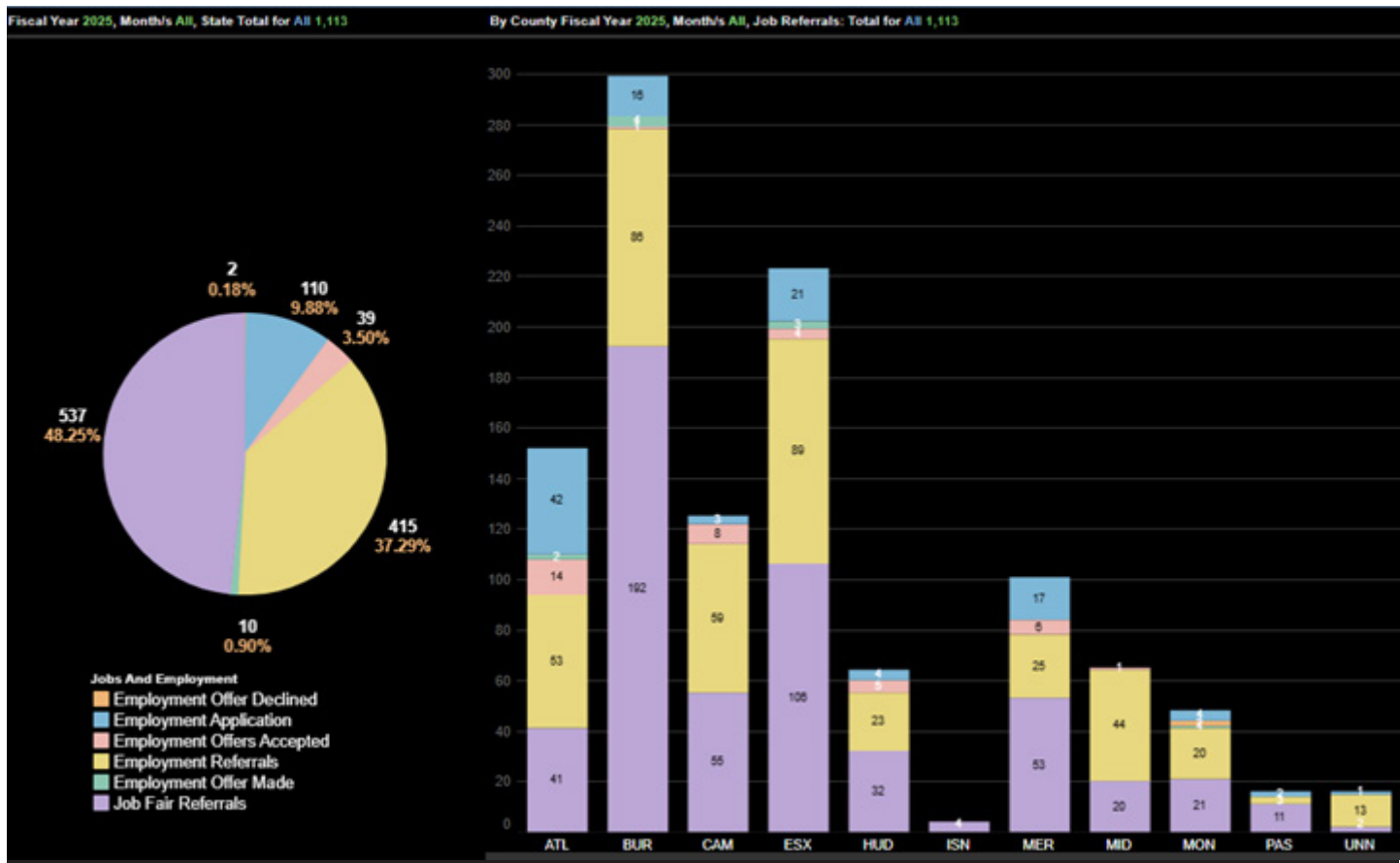
During court year 2024-2025, a total of 759 agency referrals were made for the GVRJ across various agencies. Clients can receive multiple referrals throughout their participation in the program. Statewide, the most common referrals were for education and employment services, accounting for approximately 27% of all referrals. Mentoring and case management followed closely, representing just under 21%. Referrals for substance abuse counseling, the Judiciary Opportunities for Building Success (JOBS) program, and mental health evaluation and counseling each accounted for approximately 12% of the total referrals statewide.

Note:

- Education/employment Services includes education services, education, trade, GED assistance, employment assistance, enrolled in school, graduated, employment, Pathstone, OneStop, City Hall and JOBS program
- Housing/Social Services includes housing/legal services, housing assistance, social services, legal services, parenting classes, community services, community programs, T.H.I.N.K and life skills classes
- Substance abuse counseling /evaluation includes substance abuse services, substance abuse evaluation, TASC evaluation and AA /NA meetings, New Jersey Care Management and ONE program
- Mental health evaluation /counseling includes mental health counseling and mental health evaluation
- General counseling includes trauma recovery, mentoring and case management, Case Management Organization (CMO), OAKS
- Domestic violence counseling/ anger management includes anger management and domestic violence counseling

V. Employment

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES REFERRALS



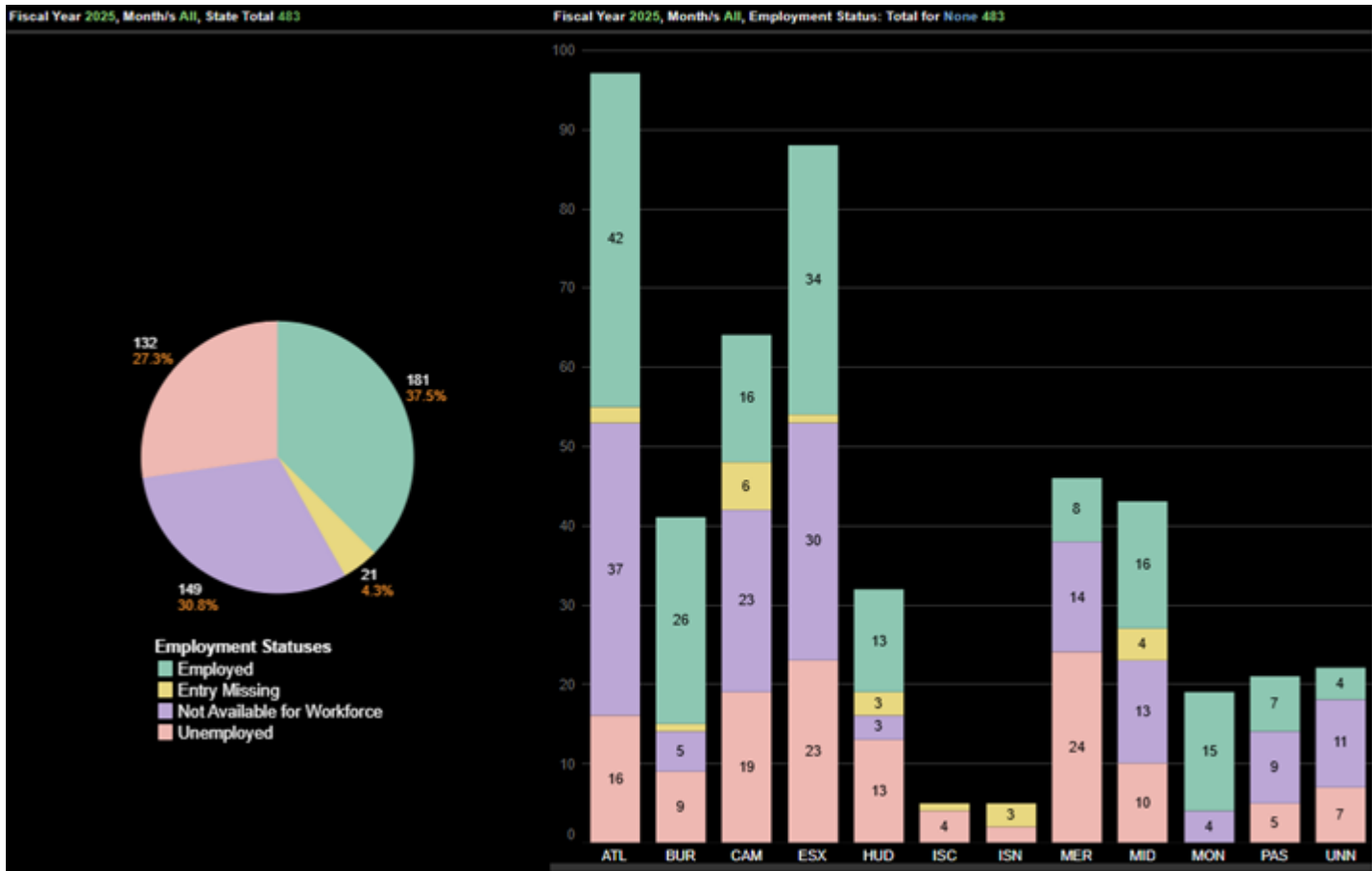
The Bar Chart Represents Employment opportunities

During the 2024-2025 court year, a total of 1,113 employment opportunities were provided to clients participating in the Gun Violence Reduction Initiative. There were 415 employment referrals and 537 job fair referrals. Essex County issued the highest number employment referrals, 89, while Burlington County led in job fair referrals, 192, followed by Essex County, 106.

Note:

- The employment opportunity codes are pulled from PCM Case Notes.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS



During the 2024-2025 court year, a total of 462 clients from the GVRI had employment records entered in PCM. Statewide, approximately 38% of clients enrolled in the program were employed, while 31% were not available for the workforce, and about 27% were unemployed. Just more than 4% of clients had no employment entry recorded.

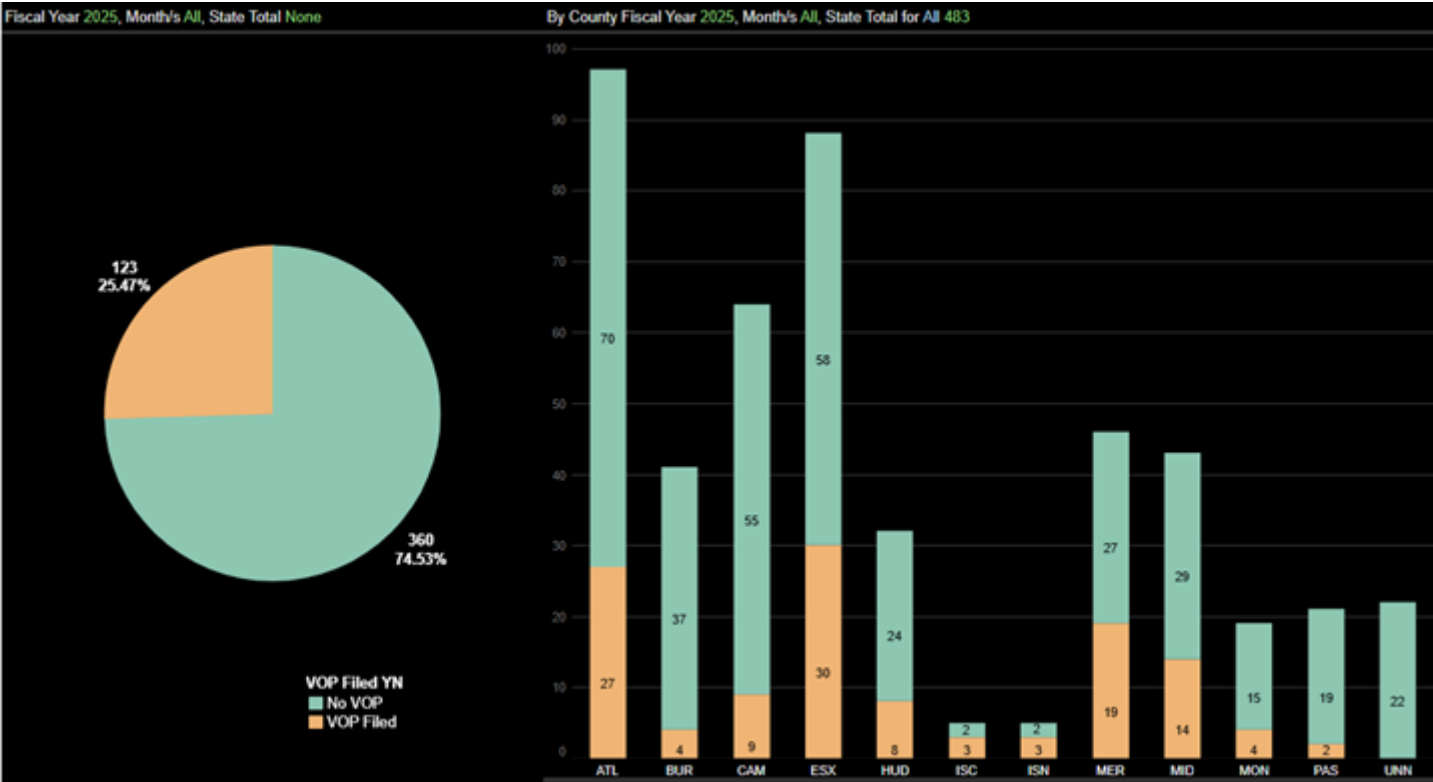
Atlantic County reported the highest number of employed clients, with 42 individuals securing employment, followed closely by Essex County, which recorded 34 employed clients.

Note:

- Not available for the workforce consists of the following: public assistance, permanently disabled, student, inpatient/residential, jail/incarcerated, intensive outpatient, pending disability, retired, temporarily disabled, collecting SSI, collecting SSD, Collecting Social Security, collecting general assistance, Collecting TANF

VI. Violations of Probation and VOP Results

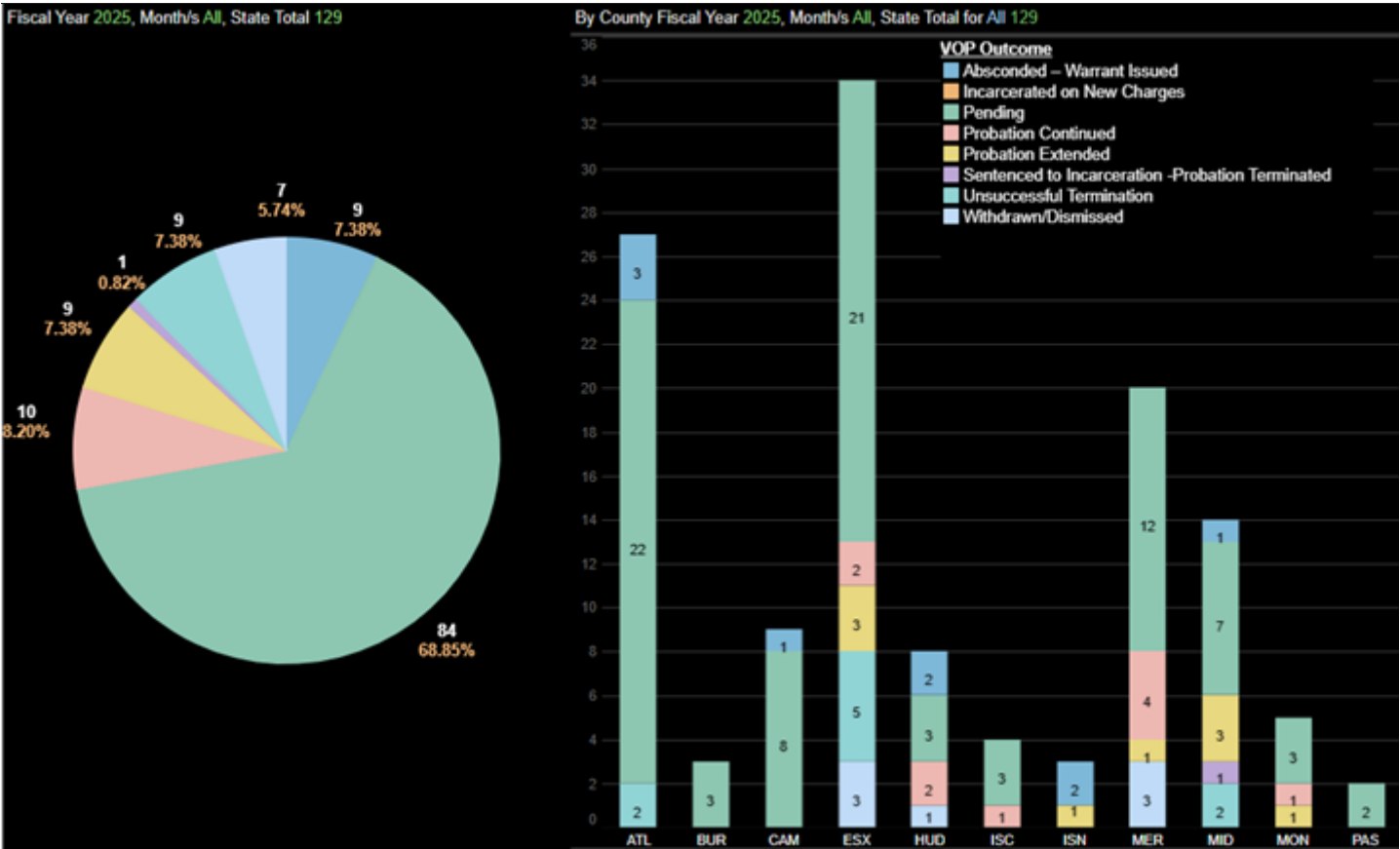
VIOLATIONS OF PROBATION



The Bar Chart Represents Client Count

During the 2024-2025 court year, a total of 123 Violations of Probation (VOPs) were filed. Notably, 74% of the clients participating in the GVRI did not have any VOPs filed against them. Union County reported no VOPs and Passaic County reported two.

VOP RESULTS



The Bar Chart Represents Referral Count

During the 2024-2025 court year, 84 VOPs remain pending statewide. A total of 45 cases were resolved. Among these, Atlantic County and Essex County had the highest number of pending cases, with 22 and 21 cases, respectively.

Approximately 20% of the resolved VOPs consisted of probation continued, extended, or the cases were withdrawn or dismissed. Less than 1% were sentenced to incarceration, while more than 7% were terminated unsuccessfully.

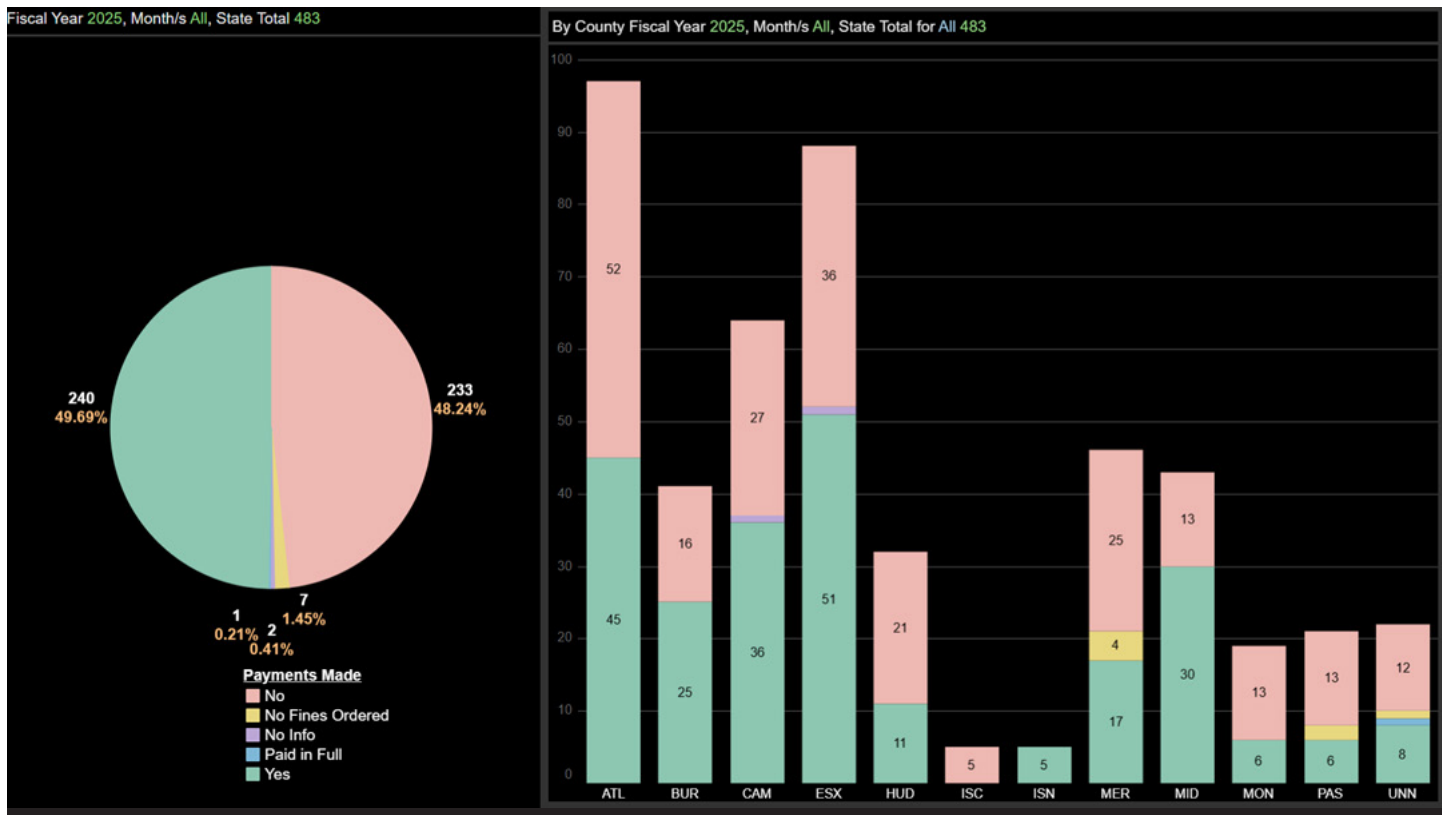
Notably, no clients were incarcerated on new charges during this period.

Note:

- Although 123 VOPs were filed, a total of 129 VOPs were resolved and recorded. This discrepancy occurs because a single VOP can result in more than one result.

VII. Payments

PAYMENTS



The Bar Chart Represents Client Count

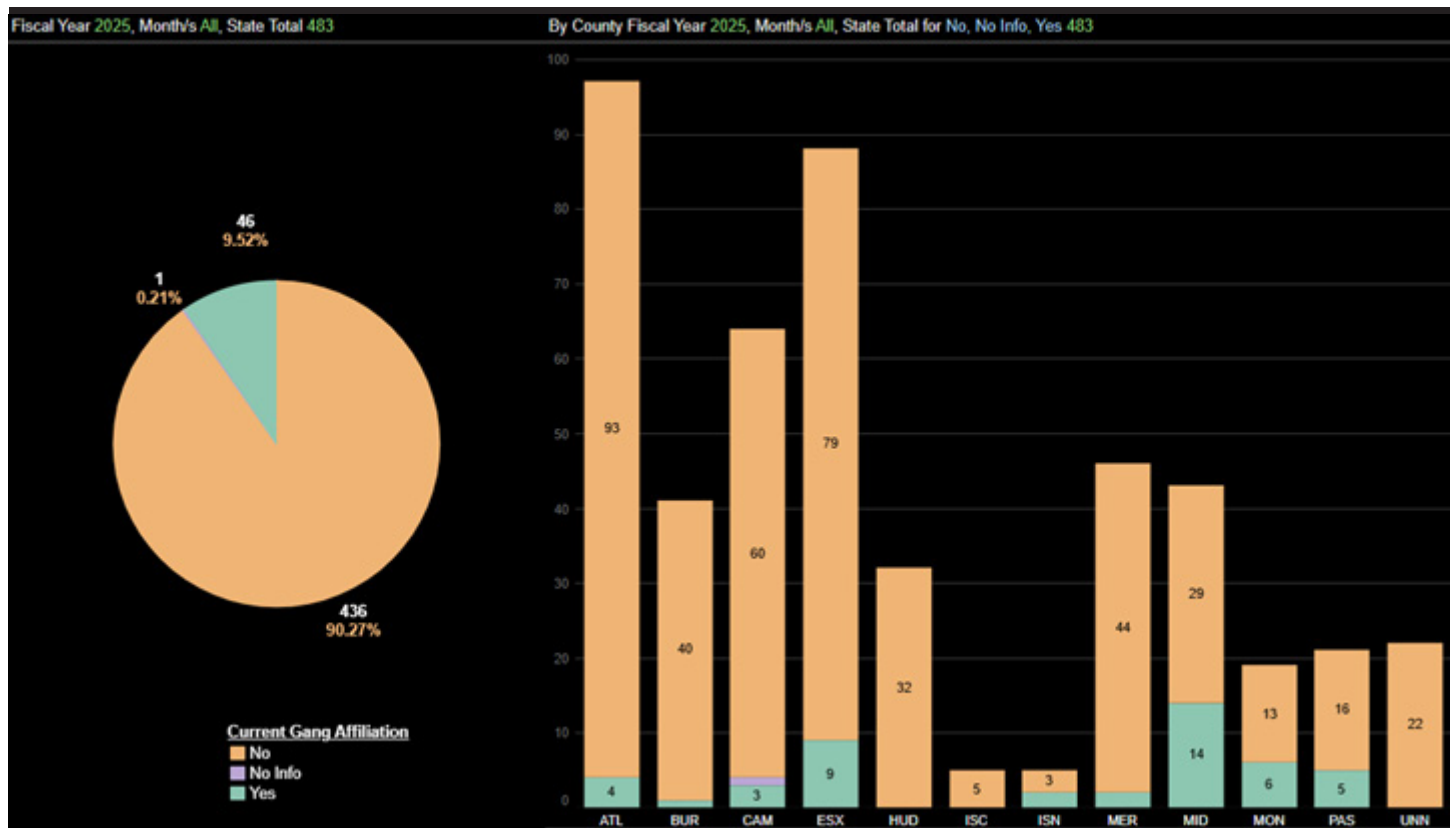
During the 2024-2025 court year, approximately 50% of clients were actively making payments towards their court-ordered obligations.

Several counties exceeded this average, with Camden, Burlington, Essex, and Middlesex each having more than 50% of their clients actively making payments.

Notably, 100% of the clients in the Intensive Supervision Program northern region made payments during the court year. In Union County, one client fully satisfied their financial obligations.

VIII. Gang Affiliation

GANG AFFILIATION

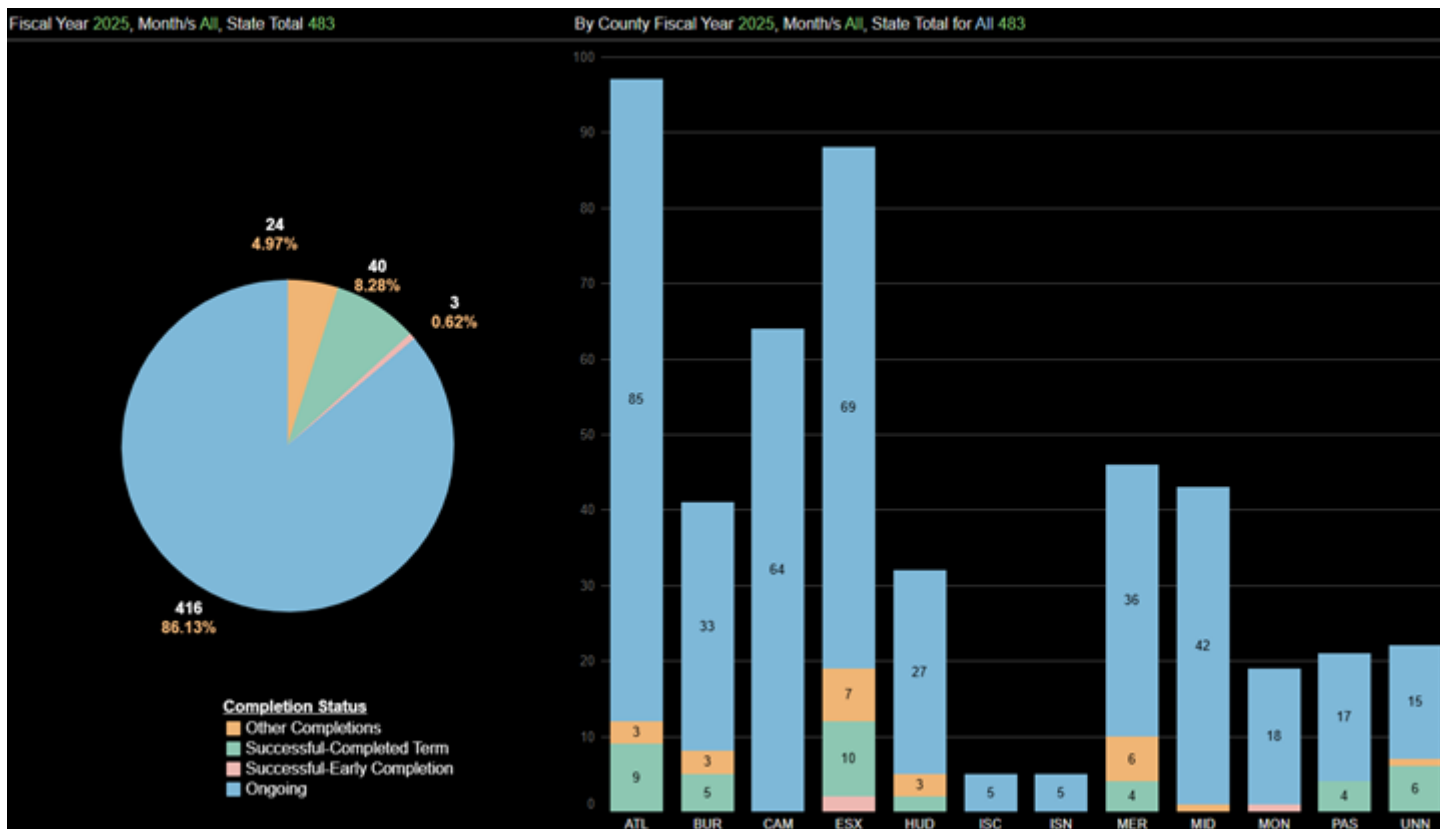


The Bar Chart Represents Client Count

During the 2024-2025 court year, fewer than 10% of the 483 clients enrolled in the program were reported to be affiliated with gangs. Hudson County, Union County, and the Intensive Supervision central reported that none of their clients had gang affiliations. Middlesex County had a significantly higher rate, with 32% of clients identified as gang affiliated, followed by Monmouth County at 31%.

IX. Completions

COMPLETIONS



The Bar Chart Represents Client Count

During the 2024-2025 court year, approximately 9% of clients successfully completed the program, while 86% continued to participate. Union County had the highest successful completion rate at 27%, followed by Passaic County at 19%. All clients enrolled in Camden County and in the Intensive Supervision Program in the north and central regions continued in the program.

Note: Other Completions Selection consists of the following:

- New charges
- VOP
- Absconded / BW
- Refused board
- Recommendation
- Deceased (neutral)
- Deported (neutral)
- Transferred to another vicinage

X. Success Stories

C. O. While enrolled in the GVRI program, he successfully completed the 8th grade and will be attending high school in the fall. He identified positive activities with his probation officer and became involved with the school football team and traveling hockey and baseball leagues. He successfully completed all services in place through the Case Management Organization (CMO) and showed significant growth throughout his term.

D.Y. was sentenced to three years of probation in June 2023. He was accepted into the GVRI program by the advisory board on Feb. 28, 2024. He completed and graduated from a construction program, earned his OSHA 30 certification and maintained employment throughout his probation term doing construction. He enrolled and attended Jewish Vocational Services in Orange, to work towards receiving his GED. He reported as directed, tested negative for illicit substances, remained arrest-free, and paid his fines in full. Due to his engagement with probation, an early discharge was submitted and approved.

A.T. was assigned to the GVRI caseload in January 2025. Since then, he has made notable progress during his term of probation. He has been respectful of the advisory board's recommendations and has demonstrated a willingness to follow guidance. On April 1, 2025, he successfully completed an anger management program and shared positive feedback with his officer about the experience. He has maintained consistent and open communication with his officer, frequently expressing his interests, ideas, and goals, all of which support his successful completion of probation. Although he has not yet secured employment, he has submitted multiple job applications and continues to maintain a positive and motivated attitude. He was scheduled to begin GED classes at Mercer County College in October 2025.

M.C. While enrolled in the GVRI program, he became involved with Volunteers of America to complete his court-ordered anger management program. He also secured full-time employment as a manager for Cricket Mobile. As manager, he led his store to becoming one of the most successful on the East Coast and was recognized by the owners, who wanted to help him open his own store. M.C. returned for the GVRI celebration in June 2025 and said that while he left Cricket, he is now a regional manager for another cellular company and continues to use the skills he learned while being supervised.

S.A. was presented to the advisory board on June 17, 2024, and has actively engaged with the recommendations suggested by the board. The NJ Reentry Corporation helped him resolve parking tickets so that he could get his driver's license restored. S.E. was referred to an employment specialist and enrolled in the JOBS program. Through JOBS, he was referred to Apex Solutions Group and was chosen to participate in a cohort, successfully completing the program in December 2024 and earning his OSHA 30 and New York Department of Transportation 4-hour flagger, site safety, and supported scaffold user certifications.

D.C. The client completed the GVRI program and graduated in June. He has made tremendous progress during his time in the program. Throughout the program, he remained engaged and focused. Although he faced significant health issues that sometimes made it difficult to report, he was determined to complete the program. His hard work and determination paid off, as he not only graduated from the program but also secured stable employment at CDE Institute. This accomplishment marks a significant step forward in his journey of growth and building a better future. He hopes to speak to future graduates of GVRI.

C.P. Youth was placed on probation for a period of two years. He was presented to the advisory board on May 30, 2025. During his supervision period, C.P. faced several challenges, including academic struggles, new charges, association with antisocial peers, and a transition into fatherhood.

The advisory board recommended that C.P. would benefit from participating in a prosocial program and enrollment in educational services. Following this recommendation, he was referred to the Rising Scholars program and CMO to support positive behavioral changes and provide resources to address mental health, education, and employment barriers.

Since then, he has successfully completed Rising Scholars. He remains involved with CMO services and participates in therapy with their support. He also works part-time at FedEx. As a new father, C.P. is adjusting to his responsibilities and continues to explore and process this life change through therapy.

D.P. Sentenced to three years' probation in April 2024, this client was presented to the Gun Violence Reduction Initiative Advisory Board in August 2024, which recommended they obtain a substance abuse and mental health evaluation to include bereavement counseling. The client began treatment with Jewish Family Children's Services in September 2024 and successfully completed treatment in April 2025. Although the client successfully completed treatment, he still meets with his counselor on an as-needed basis to assist with stressors and the utilization of continued healthy coping skills. He attends bi-monthly gun violence prevention group meetings and participates in the JOBS program to address employment barriers. Through the JOBS program, the client secured employment in August as a shift manager with Sonoco. The client has faced many obstacles trying to find a job due to his criminal charges. Despite those challenges, the client continued to attend job fairs and followed up with job referrals received through the JOBS program. His resilience and dedication to change is inspiring.

K.K. has been a star client on the GVRI caseload since he was presented to the advisory board. At the time, he was working as an Uber driver. He told his probation officer that he wanted to be a police officer before criminal charges were filed against him, and he felt he might never realize that goal. He successfully completed probation and told his probation officer in October 2024 that he applied to become a firefighter. He told the officer that he was initially rejected because of the charges but filed an appeal. He graduated from the fire academy in April 2025.

I.M. was first presented to the Gun Violence Reduction Advisory Board in October 2024, he faced several risk factors. These included lacking a high school diploma or GED, not possessing a driver's license, and frequent association with antisocial peers.

Recognizing these risk factors, probation accepted the recommendations from the advisory board to create a path forward. The client was referred to both the Urban League and Boxwood, two community-based organizations offering education, job placement, and personal development resources. In just a few short months, the client has made significant progress:

EMPLOYMENT: In June 2025, he secured a job with ShopRite, demonstrating reliability and a commitment to stable employment.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: A report from Boxwood highlights the client's growing engagement with his community, volunteering at a local food pantry, actively participating in his church, and forming positive relationships through various men's groups.

EDUCATION: The client is currently enrolled in a GED program through Boxwood, showing a strong commitment to self-improvement and long-term stability.

Less than a 1% deviation based on data integrity.



STUART RABNER
CHIEF JUSTICE

MICHAEL J. BLEE, J.A.D.
ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

JANUARY 2026