

2025 Juvenile Court Annual Report

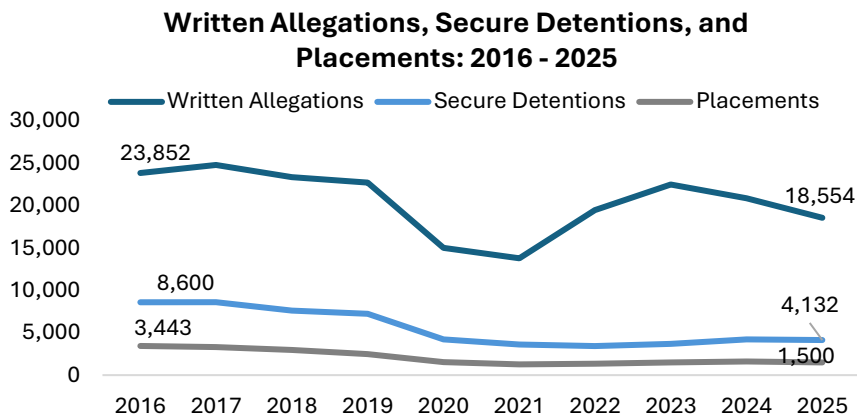
5 Key Takeaways



The following Brief summarizes the key takeaways from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's *2025 Juvenile Court Annual Report*. To review the full report, please visit www.jcjc.pa.gov.

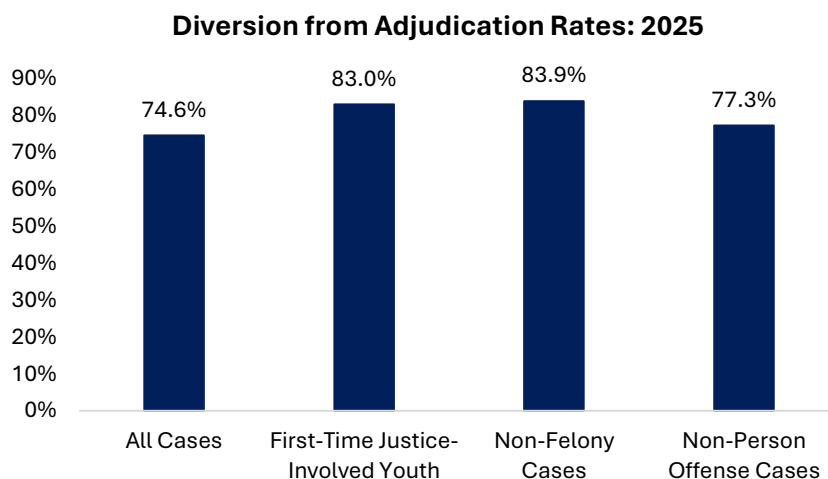
1. Written Allegations Have Stabilized Near Pre-Pandemic Levels, While Detention and Placement Remain at Historic Lows.

Written allegations increased 34.6% between 2016 and 2025, stabilizing near pre-pandemic levels. Despite this increase, secure detention admissions and residential placements remain well below pre-pandemic levels. Since 2016, secure detention admissions decreased 52.0% and residential placement dispositions decreased 56.4%. Collectively, these trends reflect Pennsylvania's continued emphasis on serving youth safely in their communities, despite rebounding written allegations.



2. Most Youth Entering the System Are Low Risk, Involved in Less Serious Offenses, and Diverted from Formal Adjudication.

Youth entering Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system present relatively low risk to reoffend and have less serious offense profiles. In 2025, nearly 57% were assessed as low risk to reoffend on the Youth Level of Service (YLS) at the time of intake, and two-thirds of written allegations involved non-felony offenses. The three most common offenses included: Failure to Comply with a Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Sentence, Simple Assault, and Theft-Related Offenses. Consistent with these findings, nearly three-quarters of youth were diverted from formal adjudication, with diversion rates exceeding 80% for first-time and non-felony cases.



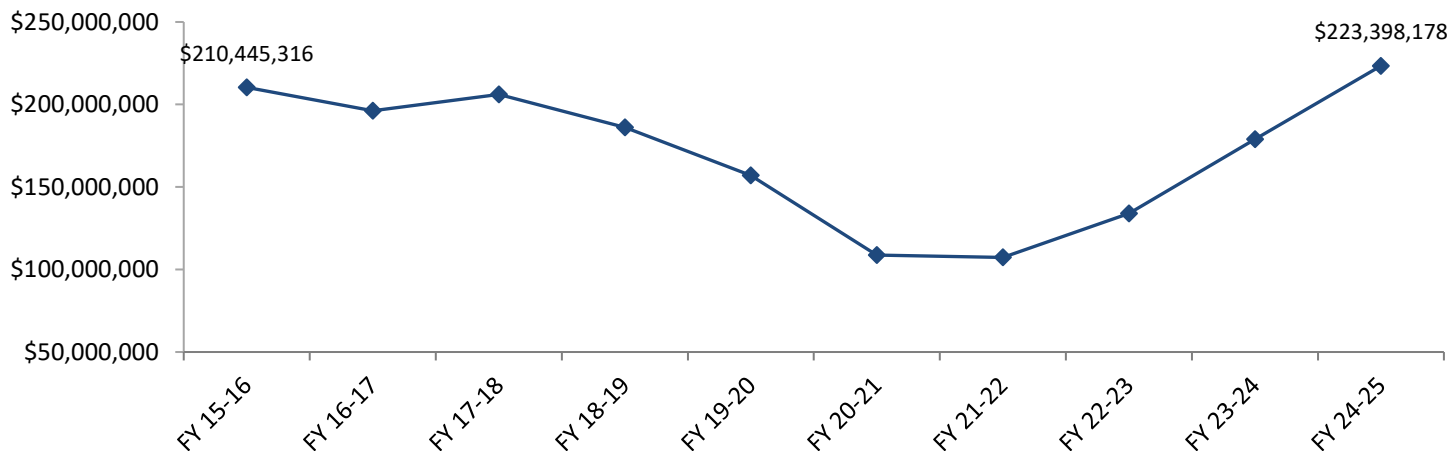
3. Schools Remain a Critical Opportunity for Prevention and Early Intervention.

More than one-quarter of youth entered Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system in 2025 because of incidents that occurred at school, making schools a primary point of system contact. Education/Employment also remained the highest-rated criminogenic need on the YLS, with approximately three-quarters of youth demonstrating moderate or high education-related needs, including truancy, poor academic performance, low school engagement, and disruptive classroom behavior. Together, these findings reinforce the importance of school-focused strategies.

4. Placement Costs Continue to Rise Despite Fewer Youth in Placement.

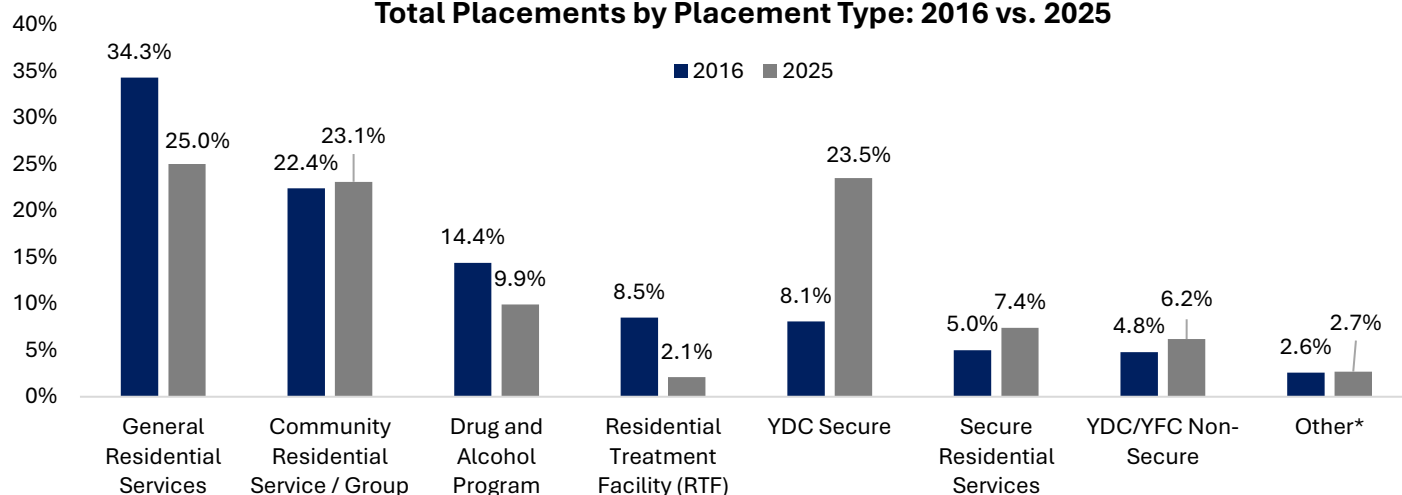
Despite fewer youth placements, placement expenditures reached their highest level in the past decade.

Total Delinquency Placement Expenditures: FY15-16 to 24-25



In addition to increases in the overall cost of residential placement, the growing use of secure state-operated programs, the most expensive placement type, likely contributed to the increase in placement expenditures.

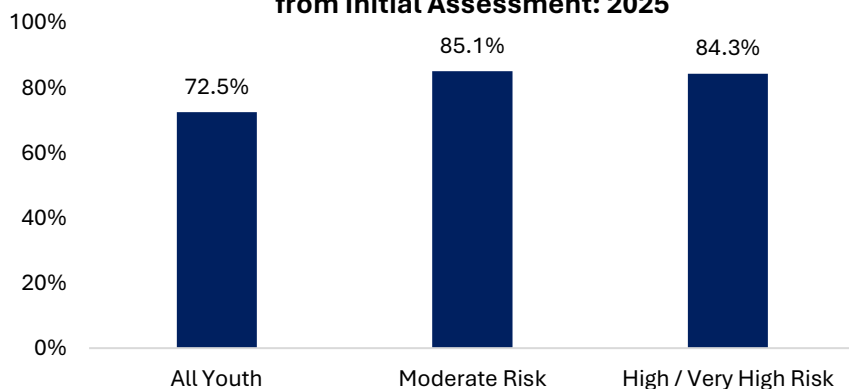
Total Placements by Placement Type: 2016 vs. 2025



*The category of Other includes: CRR Host Home; Inpatient Mental Health; Supervised Independent Living; Transitional Living; and Foster Care.

5. Most Youth Leave the System at Lower Risk to Reoffend.

Risk Reduction as Measured by Change in YLS Score from Initial Assessment: 2025



Pennsylvania continues to demonstrate positive youth outcomes. Among youth with a case closure in 2025, 72.5% had a lower assessed risk to reoffend than at intake. Improvements were even greater for youth initially assessed as moderate, high, or very high risk, indicating that services and interventions are helping reduce future risk.