

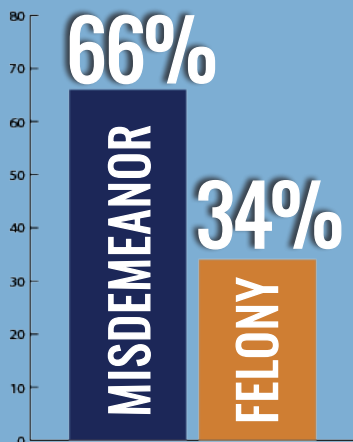
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# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM DIVERSION

Diversion serves as a mechanism to avert youth from formal court processing while still holding them accountable for crimes committed and harm caused. Diversion usually involves a referral to a community-based service, such as a social service agency. Diversion can occur at multiple decision points, including prior to and after the filing of a written allegation. The ultimate goal of diversion is to prevent the collateral consequences of an adjudication of delinquency, while also achieving Pennsylvania's Balanced and Restorative Justice mission.

In Pennsylvania, several statutory alternatives to an adjudication of delinquency exist. These alternatives fall into two broad categories: Pre-Petition Diversion and Consent Decree.

## Total ADJUDICATED



**42%**

Of Misdemeanor  
Adjudications  
started as a  
FELONY



**76%**

Of All Cases were  
**DIVERTED**



**92%**

Of First-Time  
Misdemeanants Were  
**DIVERTED FROM  
ADJUDICATION**

**68%**

Of First-Time Felony  
Offenses Were  
**DIVERTED FROM  
ADJUDICATION**

**57%**

Of Felony Cases Were  
**DIVERTED**

**84%**

First-Time Justice-Involved Youth Were  
**DIVERTED FROM ADJUDICATION**

**83%**

**LOW**

Risk Youth Were

**DIVERTED FROM ADJUDICATION**

**59%**

Had Been Alleged to Have Committed a  
**FELONY**

**38%**

Of Adjudicated Youth  
Had Been Diverted at  
Some Point Prior to Their  
**ADJUDICATION  
OF DELINQUENCY**



Pennsylvania  
Juvenile Court  
Judges' Commission