

Revised: 09.2025

# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM PaDRAI

The Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI) is an objective assessment tool that helps probation officers and probation departments decide whether to securely detain a youth, release the youth to an alternative to detention (ATD), or release the youth to the custody of a parent or responsible adult while the youth is awaiting their juvenile court hearing. The PaDRAI is designed to minimize bias while promoting fair and transparent decisions for the use of secure detention and ATD. The PaDRAI generates a score based on objective, evidence-based risk factors. These six risk factors are: the most serious alleged offense, additional related charges or pending charges, current supervision status, prior adjudication or consent decree findings, history of failure to appear, and history of escape or runaway.

**43** Departments  
UTILIZED THE PaDRAI

**94%**  
Detention  
Admissions Were from  
PaDRAI-USING COUNTIES

**10,294**  
PaDRAIs  
in 2024



**92%**

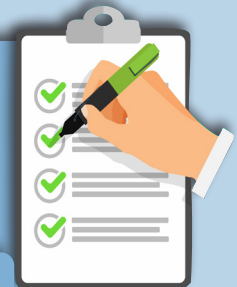
**YOUTH**

Released or on an ATD  
per the Tool's  
Recommendation Were  
**SUCCESSFUL\***  
in the Community



**8%**

**PaDRAI Resulted in a  
DISCRETIONARY  
AGGRAVATING OVERRIDE**



**6%**

**Override to  
SECURE  
DETENTION\*\***

vs.

**2%**

**Override to  
ATD**



Note: Data Reflects PaDRAIs Completed in Calendar Year 2024 and Entered into PaJCMS.

\*Success Is Defined as the Youth Appearing for His or Her First Scheduled Court Hearing and Not Reoffending While in the Community Awaiting the Hearing.

\*\* Best Practice Indicates That Override to Detain Rates Should Be 20% or Less.



Pennsylvania  
Juvenile Court  
Judges' Commission