

Revised: 03.2026

PENNSYLVANIA'S BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MISSION: COMMUNITY PROTECTION

Community protection focuses on contributing to safe communities while youth are under juvenile justice supervision. It emphasizes prevention, supervision, and control, particularly for known youth, to reduce the likelihood of reoffending and future harm. In Pennsylvania, community protection outcomes help illustrate how the juvenile justice system balances public safety with developmentally appropriate responses. Effective community protection is reflected in increased use of community-based supervision and supports, alongside decreases in measures related to out-of-home placements. Keeping youth safely in their communities, when appropriate, strengthens accountability, promotes positive behavior change, and supports long-term community safety.

2025 data show that, while Pennsylvania has a low percentage of youth placed prior to the end of supervision and shorter lengths of stay, assessed risk levels and rates of reoffending remain low.

Note: Data Is from 2025 *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Statewide Outcome Measures* (N=8,272 Youth Closed).

Resource: Torbet, P. (2008). *Advancing Community Protection: A White Paper for Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice.

*Successful Completion of Supervision Is Defined as No New Offense Resulting in a Consent Decree, Adjudication of Delinquency, Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition, Nolo Contendere, or Finding of Guilt in a Criminal Proceeding While Under Supervision.

**Does Not Include Detention or Shelter and Must Be More Than 28 Consecutive Days.

12%

Youth Closed Committed to an
OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT**



8.0 MONTHS



MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY
of Youth Closed Committed to an
Out-of-Home Placement**

6.3 MONTHS

OVERALL MEDIAN LENGTH
of Juvenile Court SUPERVISION

7.0 MONTHS

BLACK NON-HISPANIC

6.5 MONTHS

HISPANIC

6.0 MONTHS

WHITE NON-HISPANIC

94%

COMPLIANCE RATE
for Fingerprints and Photograph
Requirements

99%

COMPLIANCE RATE
for DNA Requirement

93%

SUCCESSFULLY
COMPLETED
Supervision*



90%

Successfully Completed
Supervision with
NO JUDICIAL FINDING OF
VIOLATION OF PROBATION



Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges' Commission