

Revised: 03.2026

PENNSYLVANIA'S BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MISSION:

COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

Competency development focuses on supporting youth in building the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to become productive, connected, and law-abiding members of their communities. Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system emphasizes growth across key competency areas, including prosocial skills, moral reasoning, academic achievement, workforce development, and independent living skills, recognizing that development looks different based on a youth's age and stage of growth. Existing data, including information collected through the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory™ (YLS), help illustrate whether supervision and services are supporting positive skill building and long-term success. Investments in education, employment readiness, and life skills development strengthen youth capacity to make positive choices, ultimately contributing to safer, healthier communities over time.

94%

Youth Closed Were **EMPLOYED** or Actively Engaged in **EDUCATIONAL/ VOCATIONAL TRAINING**



78%

Youth Closed with Completed Case Plans Addressing their **YLS CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS** and **RISK REDUCTION GOALS**

94%

Youth Closed with Both Required **INITIAL AND CLOSING** YLS Assessments Completed

85%

MODERATE

Risk Youth Have a Lower Risk Score at **YOUTH CLOSURE**

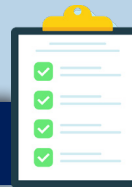
84%

HIGH/VERY HIGH

Risk Youth Have a Lower Risk Score at **YOUTH CLOSURE**

Youth Closed with

Case Plans Included:



SKILL BUILDING & TOOLS 78%

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT SERVICES 56%

COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL GROUP INTERVENTIONS 35%

96%

UPDATED CASE PLAN Throughout Supervision

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

Resource: Torbet, P. and Thomas, D. (2005). *Advancing Competency Development: A White Paper for Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice.



Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges' Commission