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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.

81%

LOW

Risk Youth Were

DIVERTED FROM ADJUDICATION

63%

Had Been Alleged to Have Committed a
FELONY

75%

Of All Cases were
DIVERTED



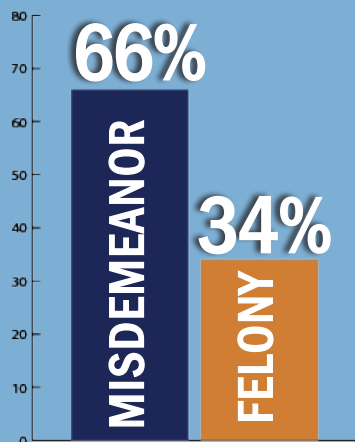
83%

First-Time Justice-Involved Youth Were
DIVERTED FROM ADJUDICATION

84%

Of NON-FELONY ALLEGATIONS
were diverted from adjudication

Total ADJUDICATED



38%

Of Misdemeanor
Adjudications
started as a
FELONY



77%

Of NON-PERSON ALLEGATIONS
were diverted from adjudication

57%

Of Felony Cases Were
DIVERTED



Pennsylvania
Juvenile Court
Judges' Commission