

Revised: 08.2026

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

PaDRAI

The Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI) is an objective assessment tool that helps juvenile probation officers and juvenile 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.

45 Departments
UTILIZED THE PaDRAI

96%
Detention
Admissions Were from
PaDRAI-USING COUNTIES

9,200

PaDRAIs
in 2025



91%

YOUTH

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



9.4%

PaDRAI Resulted in a
**DISCRETIONARY
AGGRAVATING OVERRIDE**



6.8%

vs.

2.6%

Override to
**SECURE
DETENTION****

Override to
ATD



Distribution of tool recommendations:

RELEASED	63%
ATD	18%
DETAINED	20%

Notes:

- Data Reflects PaDRAIs Completed in Calendar Year 2025 and Entered into PaJCMS.
- Beginning in FY27-28, all juvenile probation departments will be required to complete a PaDRAI for all incoming cases as requirement of the Juvenile Probation Services Grant. Furthermore, all admissions to detention will also require a PaDRAI.

*Success Is Defined as the Youth Appearing for Their 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