Allegheny County
Juvenile Probation

2023 Annual Report

Hon. Kim Eaton
Administrative Judge, Family Division

Hon. Dwayne Woodruff
Supervising Judge, Family Division

Russell Carlino
Administrator/Chief Probation Officer

Table of Contents

Chief's Message and Mission Statement

In 1995, Pennsylvania revised its Juvenile Act making Balanced and Restorative Justice the legislative mandate and mission of our juvenile justice system. For nearly three decades, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation has directed its efforts to achieve the three goals of Balanced and Restorative Justice:

1. To protect the community from juvenile offenses.
2. To hold juveniles accountable to restore victims and the community for offenses committed.
3. To help juveniles develop competencies that enable them to become law-abiding and productive members of the community.

In 2010, the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) was implemented, fundamentally transforming our ability to achieve BARJ goals by incorporating evidence-based tools and practices. In 2012, the purpose clause of the Juvenile Act was revised, mandating that the juvenile justice system employ "evidence-based practices whenever possible..." to achieve our BARJ mission.

The mission statement has been revised accordingly.

Mission Statement*: To support and enhance the values, principles, and programs that advance the goals of Balanced and Restorative Justice while employing evidence-based practices whenever possible.*

Three evidence-based goals have been added to the original three above:

4. To employ evidence-based practices at every phase of the juvenile justice process.
5. To collect and analyze data to measure results of juvenile justice interventions and activities.
6. To advance professional development.

During the last thirteen years, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation has intentionally and comprehensively implemented evidence-based tools, practices, and interventions to improve outcomes related to its mission and goals.

Since 1998, the Probation Department has prepared a "Report Card" to the citizens of Allegheny County, highlighting key outcomes from data collected on all cases closed during the year. Highlights from 2023 indicate that of the 539 cases closed, 94% completed court ordered supervision without reoffending, 97% completed every hour of community service ordered, and 88% paid victims every dollar of restitution ordered. In addition, the risk to reoffend was reduced at the time of case closing for most juveniles; 92% of those scoring very high or high risk and 84% of those scoring moderate or low risk at case opening had lower levels of risk to reoffend at the time of case closing. Please see the Outcome Measures section of this annual report for more data.

Russell Carlino, Administrator/Chief Probation Officer

Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES)

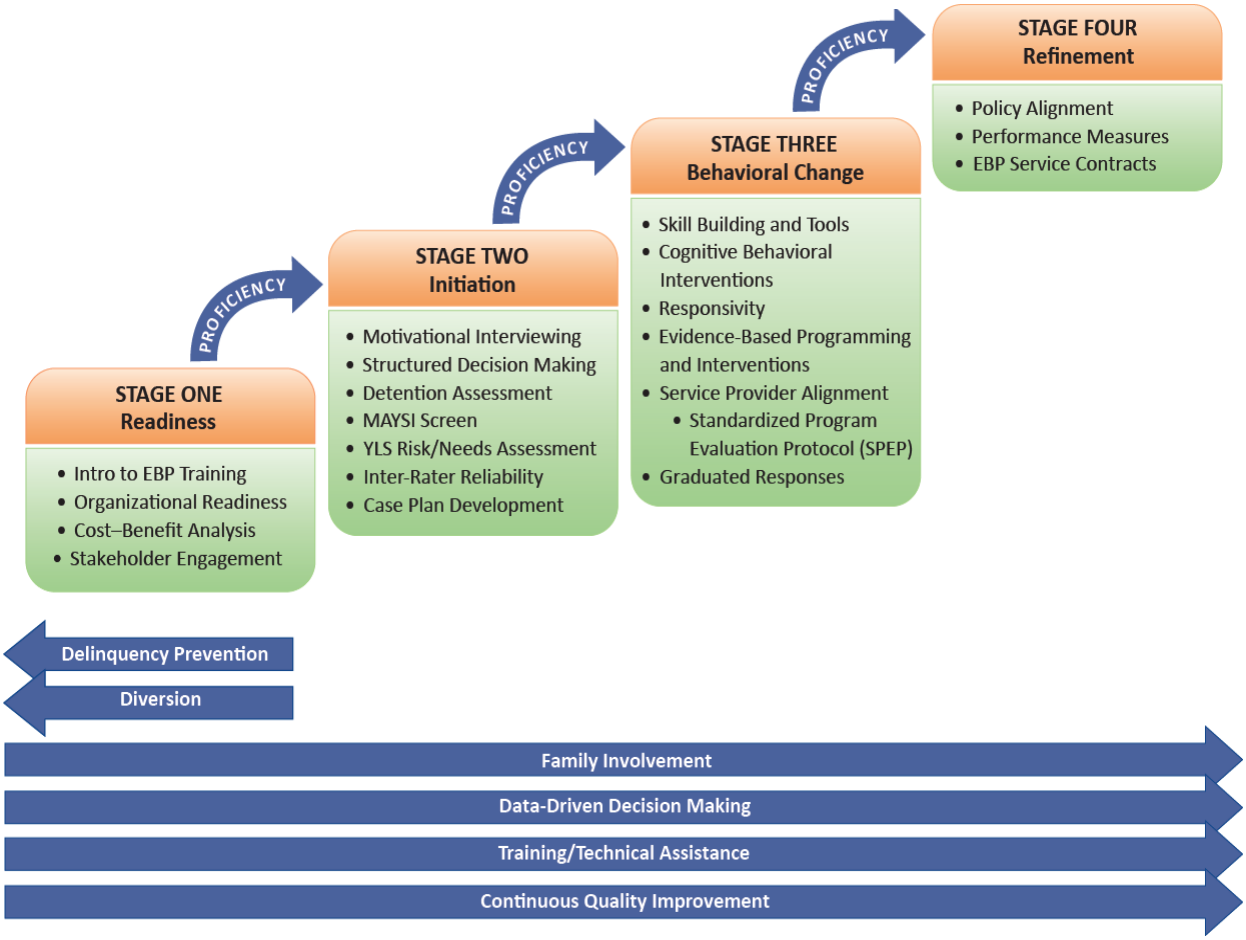
JJSES Statement of Purpose

We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by:

- Employing evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process;
- Collecting and analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge;
- Striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services, and programs.

JJSES Framework

Achieving our Balanced and Restorative Justice Mission



Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Evidence-Based Practices

Risk/Needs Assessments

Youth Level of Service Risk/Needs Assessment: Since 2011, Allegheny County juvenile probation officers have used the Youth Level of Service Risk/Needs Assessment (YLS) to assess juveniles prior to filing delinquency petitions. A validated instrument, the YLS examines eight criminogenic factors that research indicates are related to delinquent behavior. The YLS score is related to the juvenile's risk to reoffend (low, moderate, high, or very high). Probation officers incorporate the results in the pre-disposition report to the Court and supervision plan for the juvenile. The YLS provides key information in the areas of risk, need, strengths, and responsivity. It serves as the foundation of our evidence-based practices and enhances fundamental fairness. The Department's fourteen master YLS trainers teach local staff to administer the YLS.

Detention Risk Assessment: Allegheny County Juvenile Probation is one of more than thirty juvenile jurisdictions in Pennsylvania to fully implement the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI). This validated static risk assessment instrument helps probation officers decide which juveniles should be securely detained and which should be released to an alternative to secure detention pending a formal hearing, based on their risk to reoffend and their likelihood to appear for Court. The tool accurately predicts these risk factors at a rate of over 90%.

Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument: In 2019, Juvenile Probation began using the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-2) to identify the behavioral health needs of youth admitted to Shuman Juvenile Detention Center. In October of 2022, the criteria expanded to include all youth who receive new charges. The MAYSI-2 is a voluntary, self-report, computer-based inventory of fifty-two questions that helps probation officers identify and refer juveniles for secondary screening and further treatment if needed.

Child Trauma Screen: In 2019, Juvenile Probation was among several departments selected statewide to participate in the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant-funded Trauma Project. Under the guidance of Dr. Keith Cruise of Fordham University, the Department received training and began piloting the Child Trauma Screen (CTS) during the intake interview. Trauma is an important responsivity factor that case planning must consider. When indicated by the CTS, probation officers refer juveniles for further trauma assessment and treatment. In 2020/21, the Trauma Project was expanded to incorporate the Trauma Informed Decision Protocol (TIDP) in the case planning process as needed. The TIDP ensures that trauma is considered throughout the juvenile's involvement with the court.

Protective Factors: In 2020, Allegheny County began participating in Optimizing Supervision and Service Strategies to Reduce Reoffending: Accounting for Risks, Strengths, and Developmental Differences, a federal National Institute of Justice grant-funded three-year project. The project seeks to reduce youth reoffending by linking supervision and service strategies to protective factors. Protective factors are prosocial identity, engagement in prosocial activities, social skills and supports,

and self-control and self-efficacy. The researchers, including Dr. Gina Vincent, will develop research-based strategies to guide assessment and use of risk and protective factors to plan more effective supervision approaches; assess what types of services and supervision practices result in the greatest gains for youth and what practices are most effective for youth at different ages; and increase Pennsylvania's capacity to accurately measure recidivism and success.

Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™)

Allegheny County Juvenile Probation is one of twenty-six departments in Pennsylvania implementing the SPEP™, which seeks to improve programming for juveniles thereby reducing their risk to reoffend. This protocol analyzes specific interventions, reviewing the type, quality, and amount of service provided and the risk level of youth. The tool produces an overall score measuring the likelihood that the intervention will reduce a juvenile's risk to reoffend. More importantly, an individualized performance improvement plan is developed. Allegheny County has five Level 1 SPEP™ specialists and one Level 2 SPEP™ trainer.

Aggression Replacement Training®

Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®) is an evidence-based cognitive behavioral intervention that improves social skills, moral reasoning, and anger management while reducing aggressive behavior. The program runs ten weeks and includes thirty, one-hour sessions. The Department's Community Intensive Supervision Program facilitates ART® groups for moderate through very high-risk youth. In addition, the Probation Department contracts with local providers to deliver ART® for youth not involved with CISP.

Graduated Responses

The Department has developed an array of graduated rewards and sanctions to help move juveniles toward law abiding, productive citizenship. Research indicates that the reward/sanction ratio of four to one can be an effective tool in positively shaping a juvenile's behavior. The Department has established a policy and matrix to ensure that responses are swift, certain, and proportionate.

Motivational Interviewing

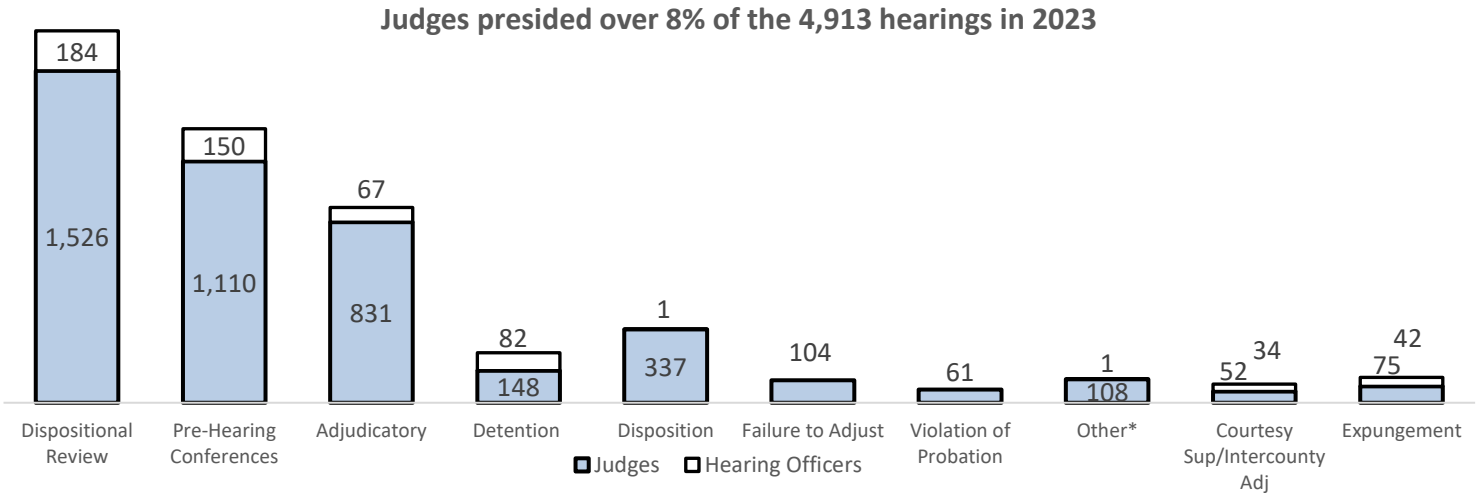
Motivational Interviewing (MI), a collaborative conversation style for strengthening motivation and commitment to change originally developed for the addictions field, has been adopted for use by probation officers to facilitate behavior changes in juveniles. MI, a key part of the professional alliance, has been fully implemented throughout the Department.

Skill Building and Tools

Juvenile probation officers continue to enhance their cognitive-behavioral intervention skills. All community supervision juvenile probation officers have been trained in the Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) model. Developed by the University of Cincinnati, EPICS enables probation officers to provide small but effective doses of evidence-based interventions during their direct contacts with youth. In addition to EPICS, probation officers are trained in several evidence-based interventions and practices, including Four Core Competencies, Brief Intervention Tools (BITS) and Forward Thinking.

Judicial Overview

Allegheny County Juvenile Court is the Juvenile Section of the Family Division of the Court of Common Pleas, Fifth Judicial District. The Court adheres to the practice of "One Family, One Judge," which requires Judges to preside over all matters involving a family, even if matters cross into the Family Division's Adult Section. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges identifies this practice as a key principle for improving court practice in juvenile delinquency cases. In 2013, dependency hearing officers began conducting delinquency review hearings in the North Side, McKeesport, and downtown. They also occasionally cover for the delinquency hearing officer.



*Other includes competency, contempt, and motions

Pennsylvania's Juvenile Court Jurisdiction Ages

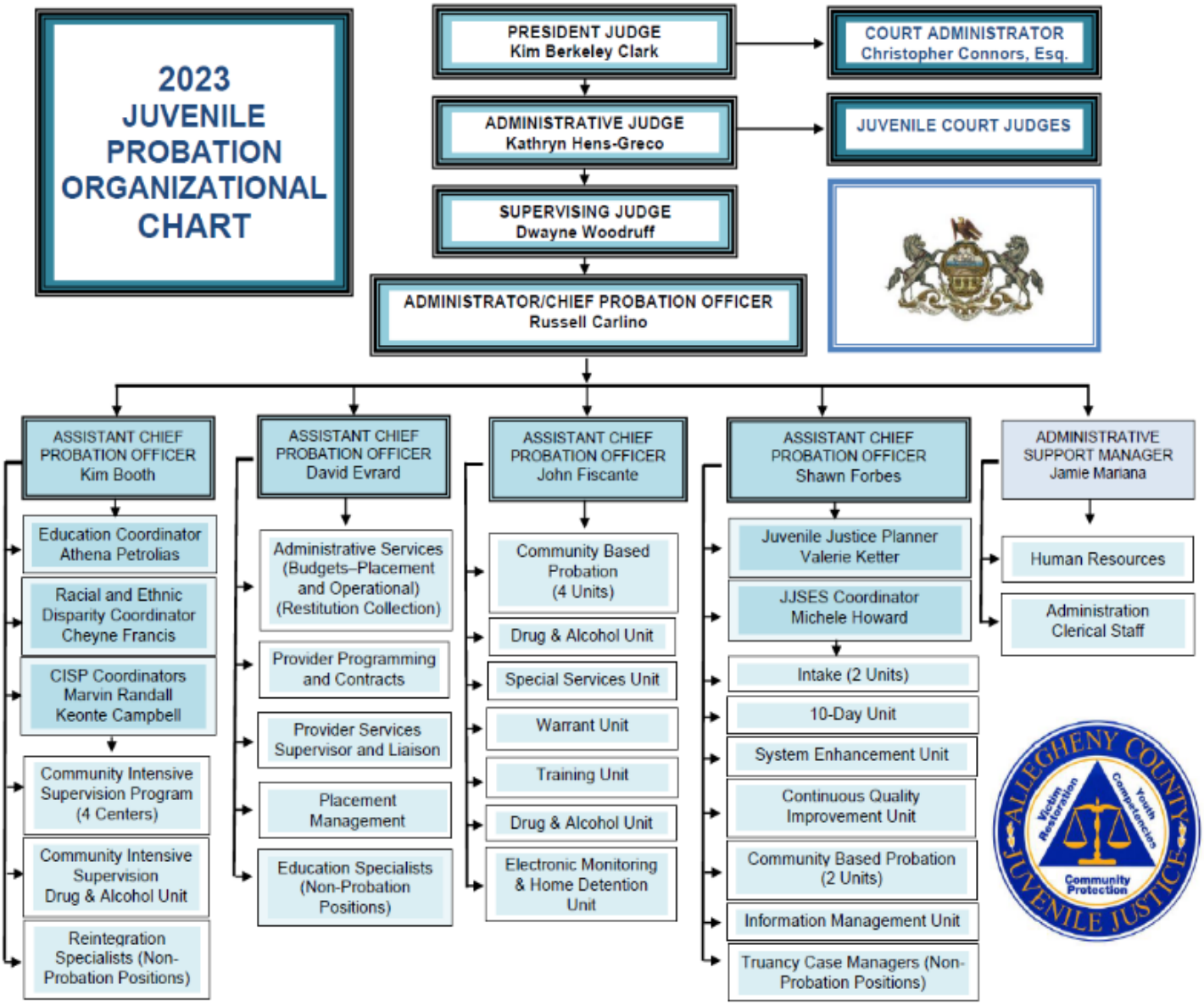
Age	Category	Definition
10*	Lower Age	Minimum age below which the juvenile court has no jurisdiction for delinquency matters
Under 18*	Upper Age	Age beyond which the juvenile court has no original jurisdiction over individual offenders
Under 21	Extended Age	Oldest age over which the juvenile court may retain jurisdiction for disposition purposes in delinquency matters

*Age is at time of offense.

Family Division Judicial Assignments on 12/31/2023

President Judge, Fifth Judicial District
Judge Kim Clark (Primarily Juvenile)
Administrative Judge, Family Division
Judge Kim Eaton (Primarily Adult)
Supervising Judge, Family Division
Judge Dwayne Woodruff (Primarily Juvenile)
Primarily Juvenile
Judge Eleanor Bush
Judge Paul Cozza
Judge Kathryn Hens-Greco
Judge Lisa Middleman
Judge Jennifer McCrady
Judge Tiffany Sizemore
Judge David Spurgeon
Primarily Adult
Judge Cathleen Bubash
Judge Jessel Costa
Judge Nicola Henry-Taylor
Judge Sabrina Korbel
Judge Hugh McGough
Judge Chelsa Wagner
Delinquency/Dependency Hearing Officer
Gina Ziady
Dependency/Delinquency Hearing Officers
Susan Abramowich
Kiersten Frankowski
Carla Hobson

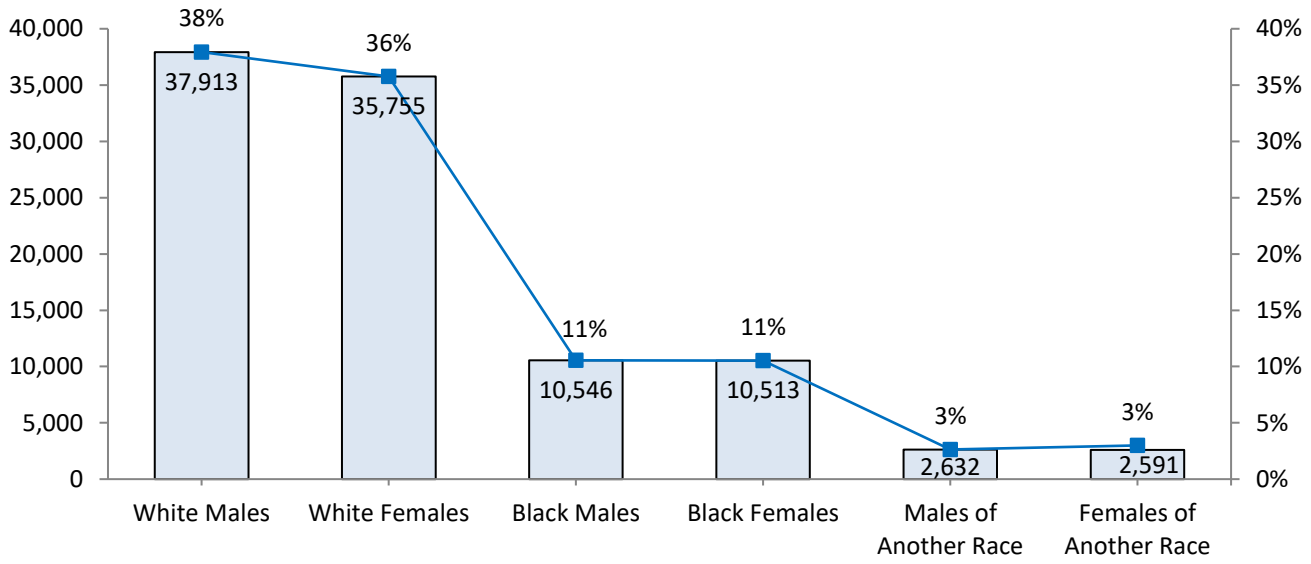
Organizational Chart



Statistics

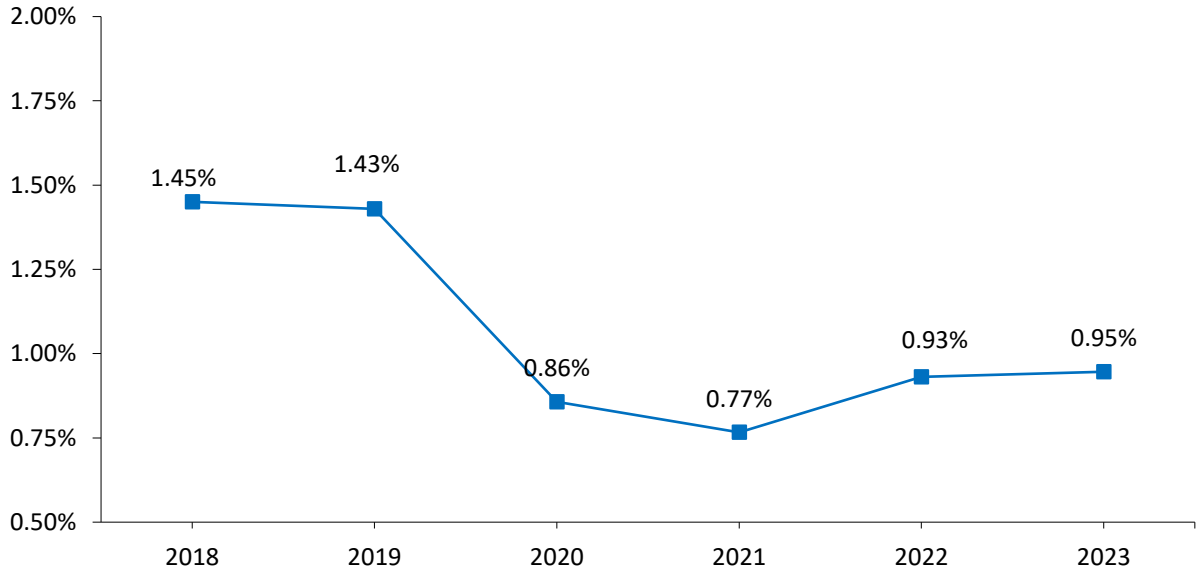
Juvenile Population

Allegheny County's juvenile population (ages 10 through 17) was 99,950 in 2020*



*Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2022). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2020." Online. Available: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/. 2023 census estimates are not yet available.

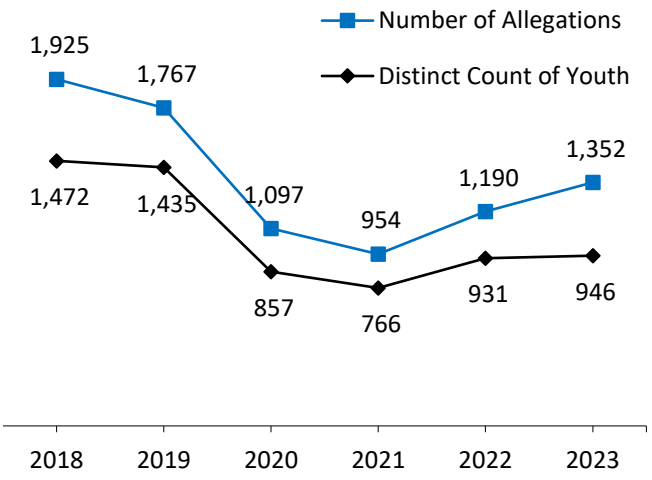
Allegheny County's rate of juvenile offending is on the increase*



*This chart reflects distinct youth for whom an allegation was received, excluding Failure to Comply, Violation of Probation, and Failure to Adjust allegations. Because 2023 census estimates are not yet available, 2020 data was used for the 2023 calculation.

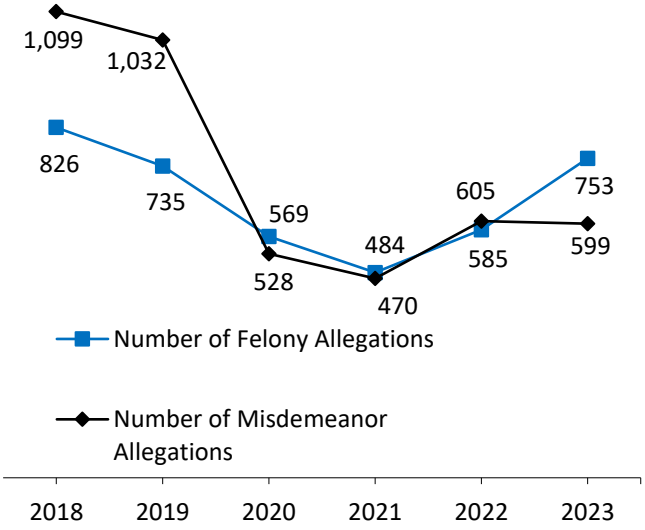
Allegations

Allegations* increased 17% and distinct count of youth with allegations increased 1% from 2022 to 2023

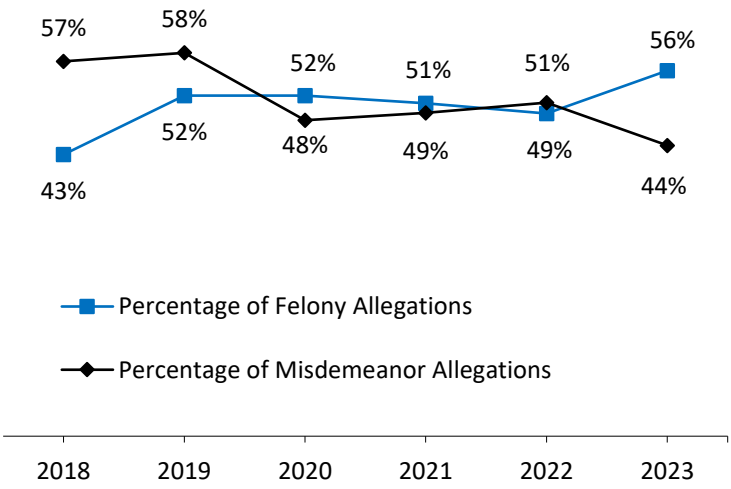


*Excludes Failure to Adjust, Violation of Probation, and Failure to Comply allegations.

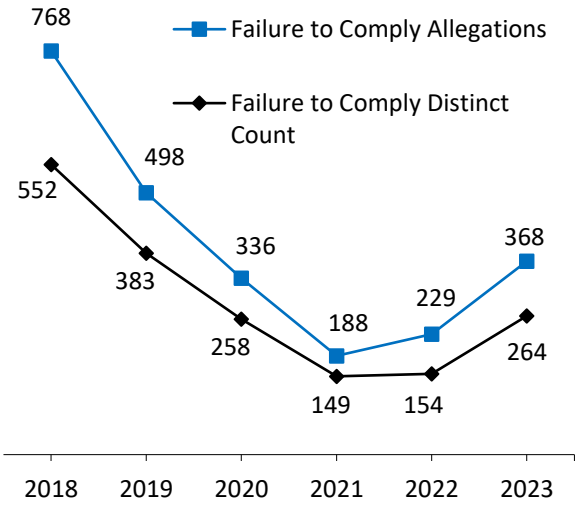
Felony allegations increased 29% while misdemeanor allegations decreased by 1% from 2022 to 2023



Felony allegations comprised 56% of 2023 allegations compared to 49% of allegations in 2022



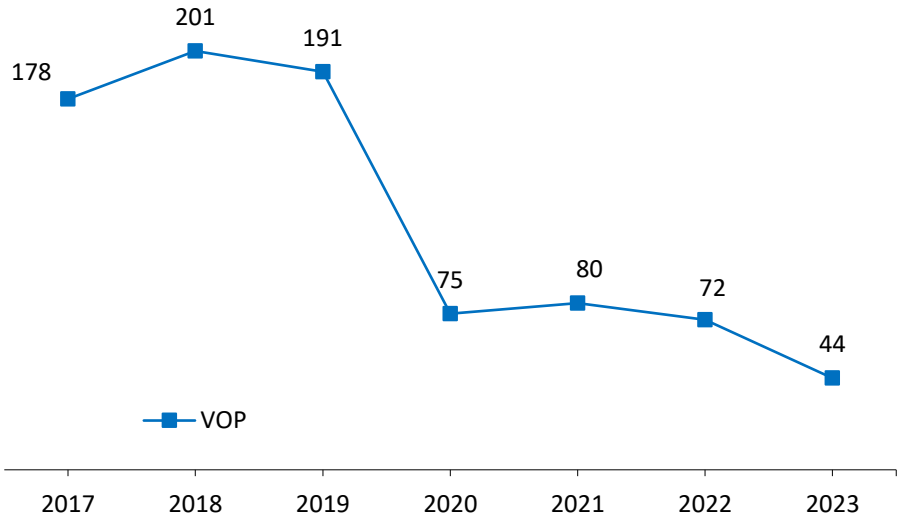
Failure to Comply allegations* increased 61% while the distinct count of youth increased 71% from 2022 to 2023



*Failure to Comply (FTC) with a Lawful Sentence is an ungraded delinquent offense forwarded to Juvenile Probation from the Magisterial District Court due to nonpayment of a fine or continued noncompliance with the District Court. Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act defines FTCs as "Summary offenses [are excluded from Juvenile Court jurisdiction], unless the child fails to comply with a lawful sentence imposed thereunder, under which event notice of such fact shall be certified to the court (see 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 6302

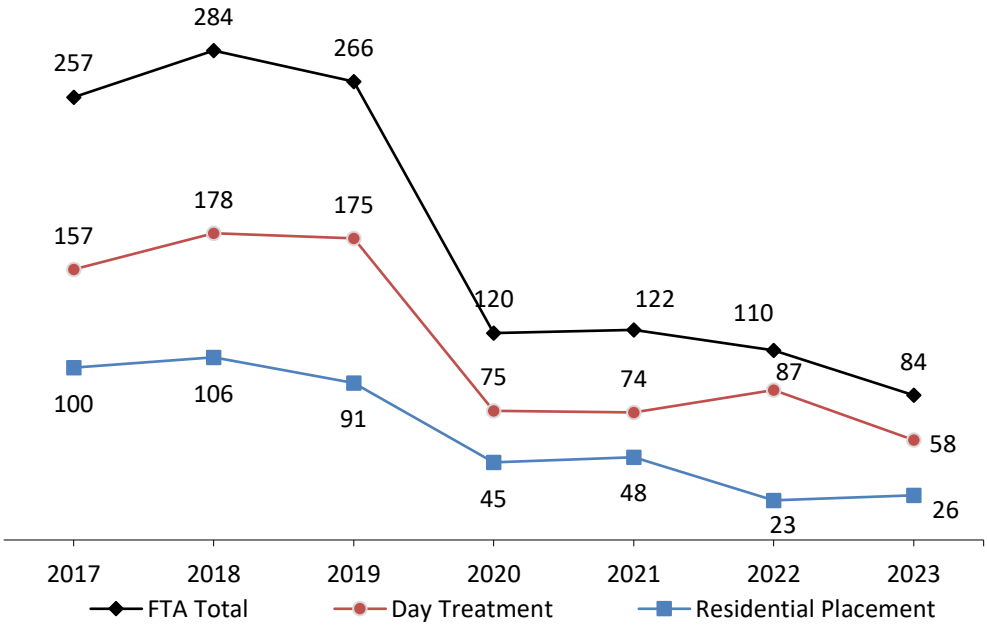
*Allegheny County Juvenile Probation disposes all FTC allegations informally. No FTC allegations are petitioned for court.

Alleged VOPs* decreased 39% from 2022 to 2023



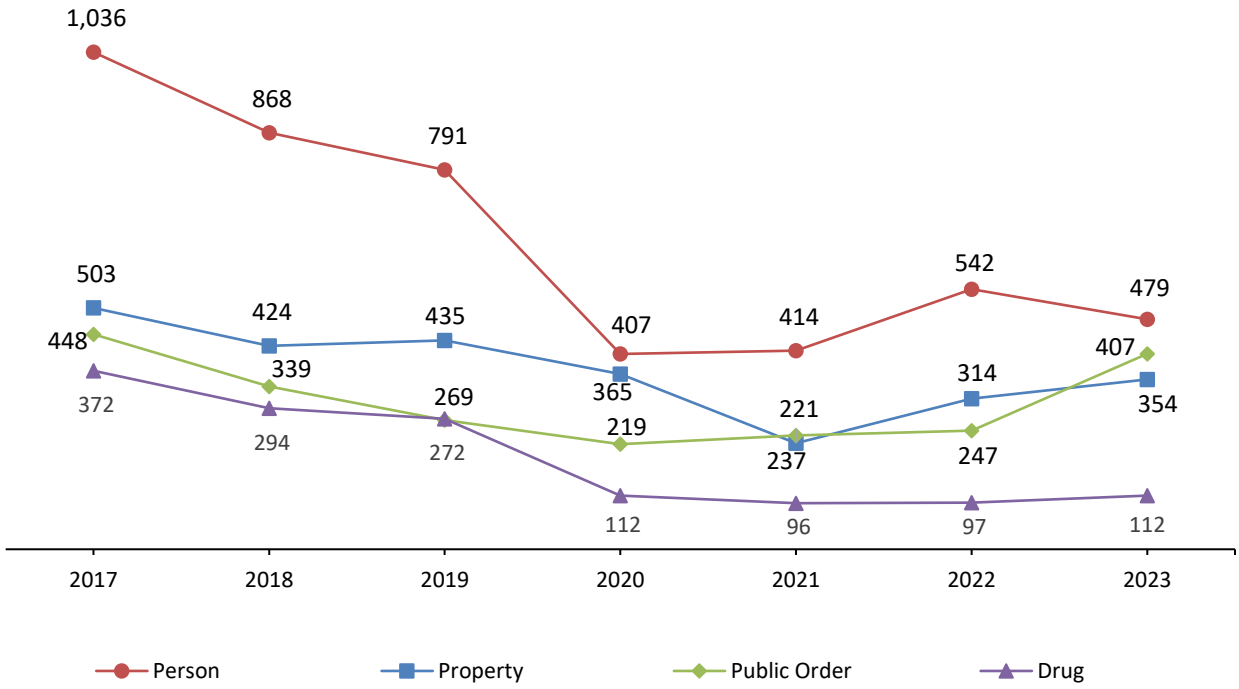
*Violation of Probation (VOP) is a finding in court that a juvenile under court supervision absconds or otherwise fails to abide by conditions of supervision. Pennsylvania's Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure define VOPs as "a motion to modify or revoke probation" (see PAJC Rule 612. Modification or Revocation of Probation).

Alleged FTAs* decreased 24% from 2022 to 2023

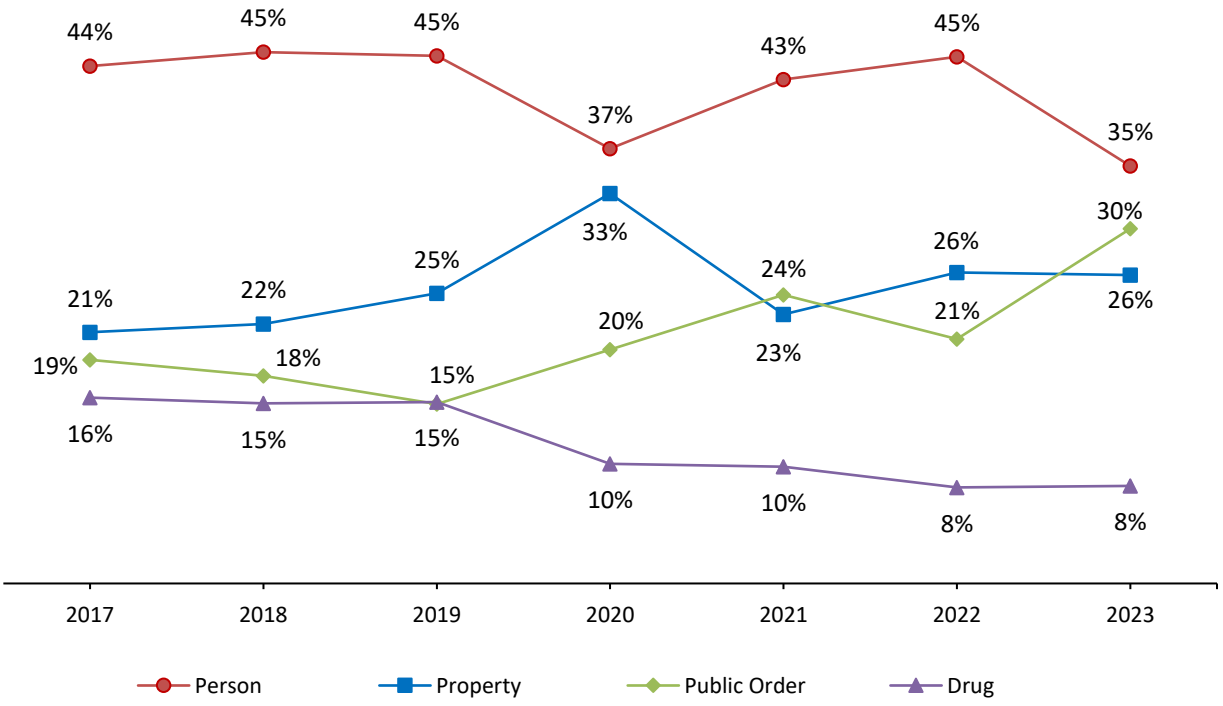


*Failure to Adjust (FTA) is a finding in court when a youth in a placement facility or day treatment program absconds or otherwise fails to abide by the rules, regulations, and expectations of the facility and is therefore removed.

Property offenses increased 13%, person offenses decreased 12%, public order offenses increased 65%, and drug offenses increased 15% from 2022 to 2023



Person offenses maintains its lead as the largest offense type category at 35%



Most Serious Alleged Charge Category (Excludes FTC, VOP, and FTA):	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 2022-2023
Aggravated Assault	158	159	93	91	78	95	22%
Aggravated Assault on Teacher	105	59	21	10	31	15	-52%
Arson	10	10	13	1	7	11	57%
Auto Theft	114	94	92	75	73	45	-38%
Burglary	43	77	59	21	36	58	61%
Carjacking	10	1	2	5	3	0	-300%
Criminal Mischief/Institutional Vandalism	53	40	35	18	35	44	26%
Criminal/Defiant Trespass	24	43	29	19	10	20	100%
Disorderly Conduct	32	31	11	5	14	7	-50%
Drug Charges	282	258	98	85	89	104	17%
DUI	12	13	14	14	8	8	0%
Escape	12	7	9	4	6	5	-17%
Ethnic Intimidation	3	2	2	0	0	0	0%
False Identification to Law Enforcement	7	1	3	2	3	4	50%
Firearm Unlicensed or Possession	43	58	65	78	135	141	73%
Forgery and Fraudulent Practices	8	7	6	3	8	9	167%
Harassment	11	11	11	7	8	4	14%
Homicide/Murder/Manslaughter	0	1	4	1	3	4	33%
Intimidation	8	4	7	1	0	0	0%
Kidnapping	0	2	0	0	2	0	-200%
Loitering	5	1	6	2	1	2	100%
Receiving Stolen Property	65	61	59	48	48	74	54%
Recklessly Endangering Another Person	4	4	2	4	5	6	20%
Resisting Arrest or Law Enforcement/Fleeing	20	24	15	16	14	16	14%
Retail Theft	34	30	27	8	29	59	103%
Riot	61	19	0	4	1	11	1000%
Robbery	66	60	51	58	58	64	10%
Sex Offenses	74	80	49	59	73	27	-63%
Simple Assault	320	325	135	130	194	151	-22%
Stalking	6	5	4	0	2	0	-200%
Strangulation	9	7	2	8	7	3	-57%
Terroristic Threats	88	69	23	38	59	52	-12%
Theft	75	68	60	46	61	112	84%
Transferred from Other County	51	31	34	31	26	21	-19%
Unlawful Restraint	2	4	2	0	0	5	500%
Weapons on School Property	51	48	19	26	20	22	10%
All Other Charges*	59	53	35	36	43	153	255%
Totals	**1,925**	**1,767**	**1097**	**954**	**1,190**	**1,352**	**14%**

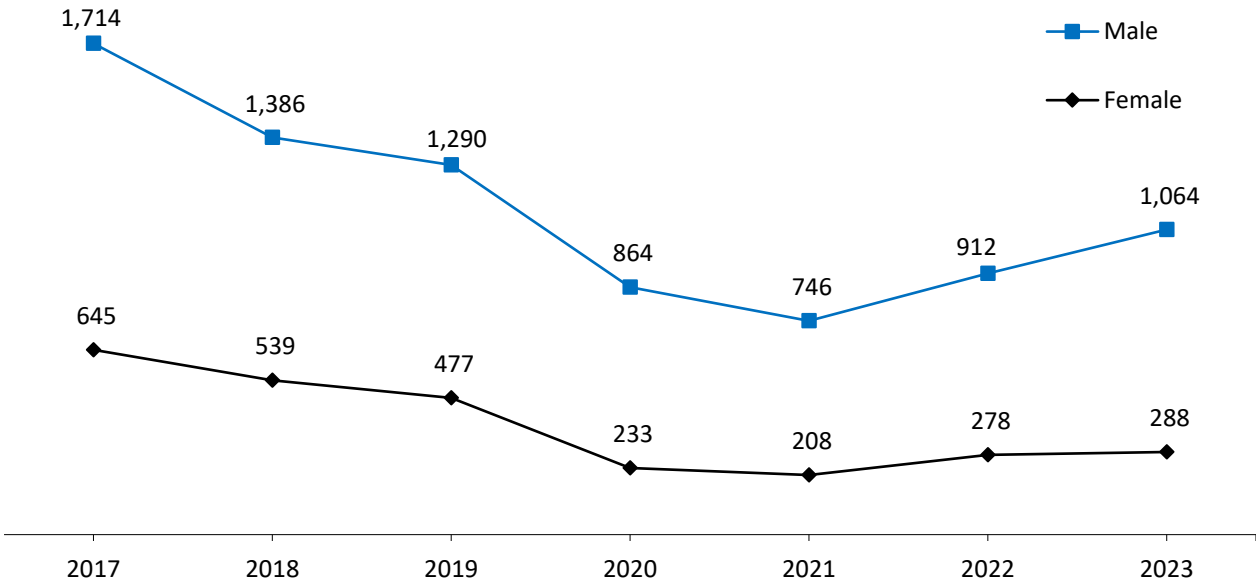
*Offenses in the "Other" category, such as Liquor Law Violations and False Imprisonment, are not common enough to have a dedicated category.

Most Serious Alleged Charge Category (Excludes FTC, VOP, and FTA): 2023 Demographics	MALE				FEMALE				TOTAL
	Black	White	Another Race*	Total	Black	White	Another Race*	Total	
Aggravated Assault	48	18	0	**66**	21	7	1	**29**	**95**
Aggravated Assault on Teacher	4	1	1	**6**	8	1	0	**9**	**15**
Arson	4	4	1	**9**	0	2	0	**2**	**11**
Auto Theft	29	1	0	**30**	9	5	1	**15**	**45**
Burglary	24	24	3	**51**	3	4	0	**7**	**58**
Carjacking	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Criminal Mischief/Institutional Vandalism	13	24	0	**37**	5	2	0	**7**	**44**
Criminal/Defiant Trespass	12	7	0	**19**	1	0	0	**1**	**20**
Disorderly Conduct	4	1	0	**5**	1	1	0	**2**	**7**
Drug Charges	29	45	1	**75**	8	21	0	**29**	**104**
DUI	0	7	0	**7**	1	0	0	**1**	**8**
Escape	4	0	0	**4**	1	0	0	**1**	**5**
False Identification to Law Enforcement	2	1	0	**3**	1	0	0	**1**	**4**
Firearm Unlicensed or Possession	118	17	0	**135**	6	0	0	**6**	**141**
Forgery and Fraudulent Practices	4	3	0	**7**	1	1	0	**2**	**9**
Harassment	2	2	0	**4**	0	0	0	**0**	**4**
Homicide/Murder/Manslaughter	4	0	0	**4**	0	0	0	**0**	**4**
Kidnapping	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Loitering	2	0	0	**2**	0	0	0	**0**	**2**
Receiving Stolen Property	57	8	0	**65**	8	1	0	**9**	**74**
Recklessly Endangering Another Person	2	3	1	**6**	0	0	0	**0**	**6**
Resisting Arrest or Law Enforcement/Fleeing	7	4	0	**11**	4	1	0	**5**	**16**
Retail Theft	35	6	0	**41**	14	4	0	**18**	**59**
Riot	11	0	0	**11**	0	0	0	**0**	**11**
Robbery	53	7	1	**61**	1	2	0	**3**	**64**
Sex Offenses	13	11	0	**24**	0	3	0	**3**	**27**
Simple Assault	43	39	3	**85**	46	19	1	**66**	**151**
Strangulation	2	1	0	**3**	0	0	0	**0**	**3**
Terroristic Threats	22	13	5	**40**	7	5	0	**12**	**52**
Theft	79	14	2	**95**	10	7	0	**17**	**112**
Transferred from Other County	6	11	2	**19**	2	0	0	**2**	**21**
Weapons on School Property	4	11	1	**16**	4	2	0	**6**	**22**
All Other Charges**	95	27	1	**123**	25	9	1	35	158
Totals:	**732**	**310**	**22**	**1064**	**187**	**97**	**4**	**288**	**1352**
Failure to Comply	155	57	0	**212**	110	45	1	156	**368**

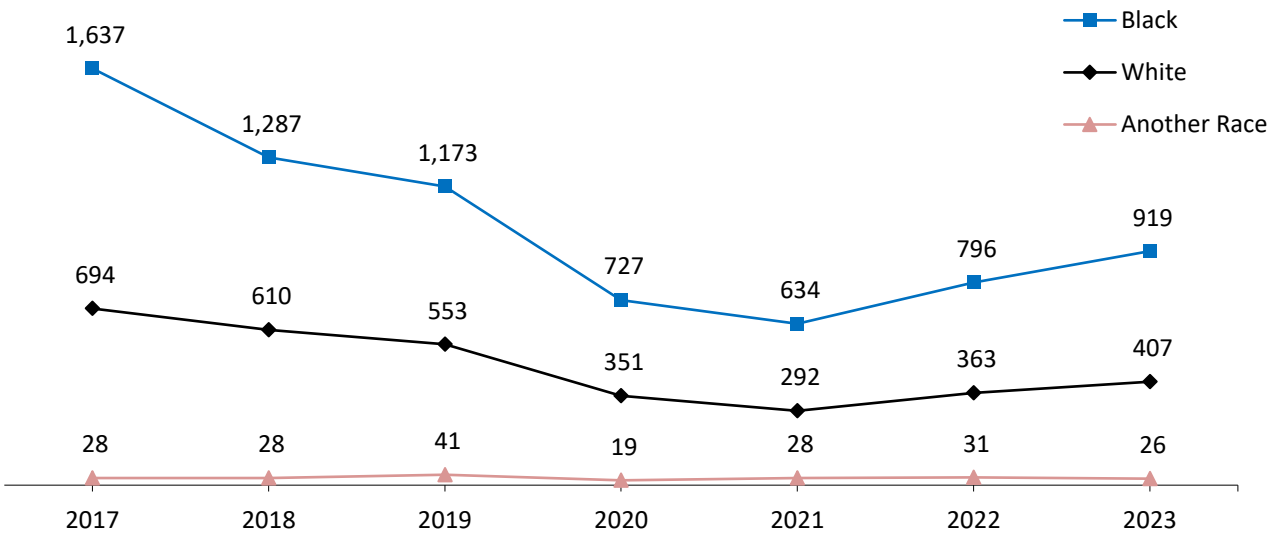
** Offenses in the "Other" category, such as Liquor Law Violations and False Imprisonment, are not common enough to have a dedicated category.

Demographics*

79% of allegations received in 2023 involved males

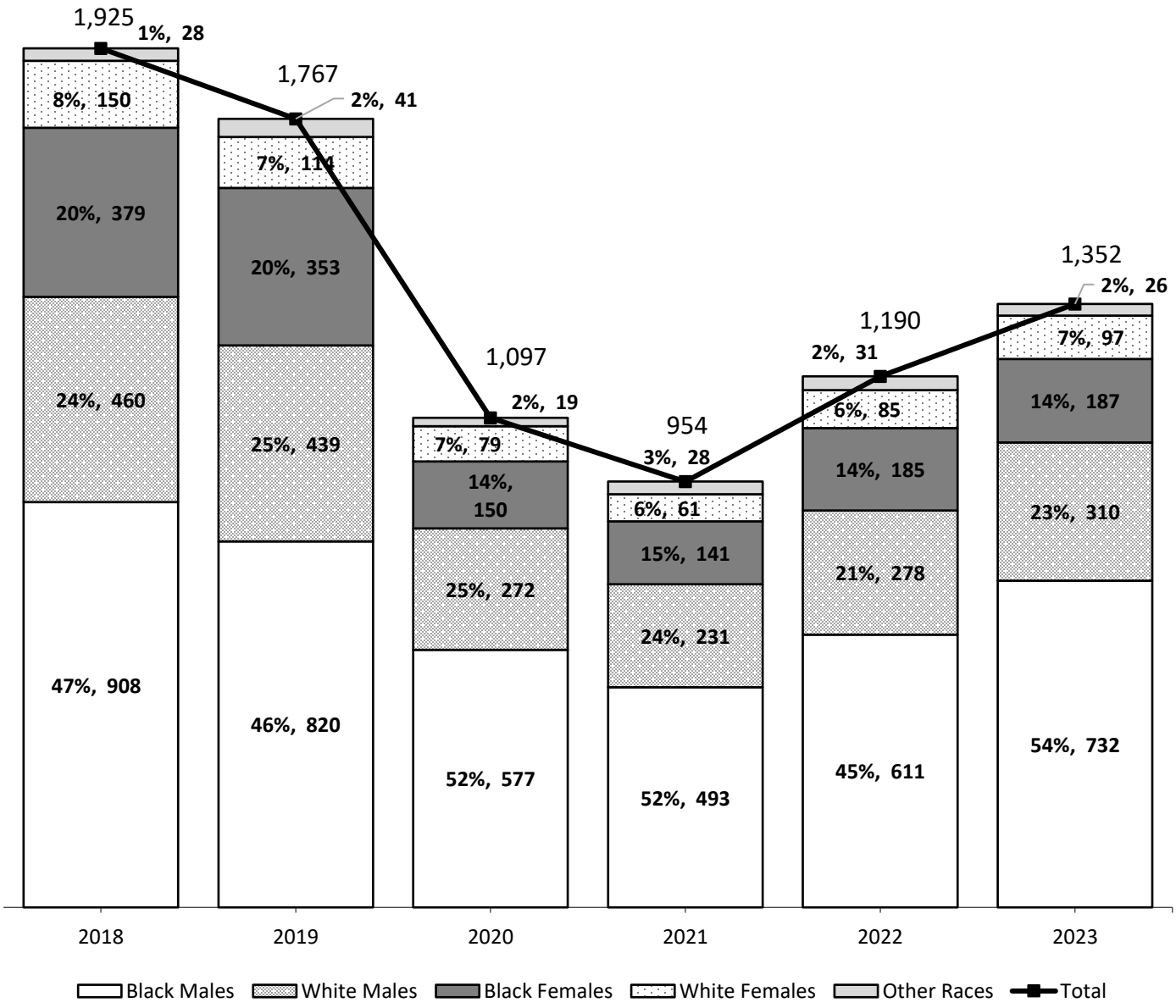


68% of allegations received in 2023 involved black youth while 30% involved white youth



*Allegations exclude Failure to Comply, Violation of Probation, and Failure to Adjust.

From 2022 to 2023, allegations involving black males increased 20%, the steepest increase of the demographic groups.



Certification to Criminal Court and Decertification from Criminal Court

Act 33* of 1996 outlined specific crimes that are excluded from the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court. The crime of murder and the Act 33 offenses listed below are directly filed and processed in the Criminal Division.

Offenses filed directly in Criminal Court include:

- Murder
- Any of the following crimes committed by juveniles fifteen years of age or older with a deadly weapon as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. §2301: rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, aggravated assault, robbery, robbery of motor vehicle, aggravated indecent assault, kidnapping, voluntary manslaughter, or an attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit murder or any of these crimes.
- Any of the following crimes committed by juveniles fifteen years of age or older who were previously adjudicated delinquent of any of the following prohibited conduct, which, if committed by an adult, would be classified as rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, robbery, robbery of motor vehicle, aggravated indecent assault, kidnapping, voluntary manslaughter, or an attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit murder or any of these crimes.

*See 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 6302.

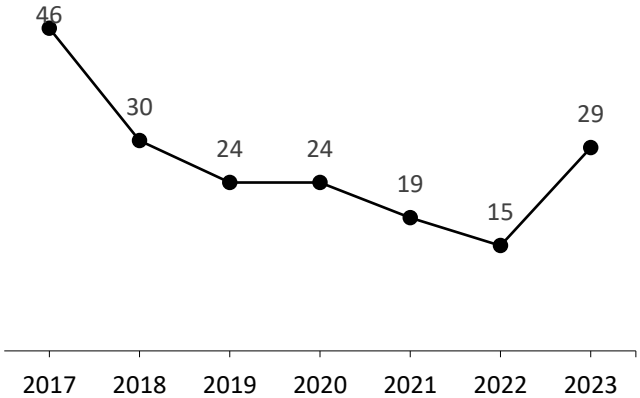
Decertification

A juvenile charged as an adult can be transferred from Criminal Court to Juvenile Court for prosecution of an offense through a process called decertification. The juvenile must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that transfer serves the public interest.

Certification

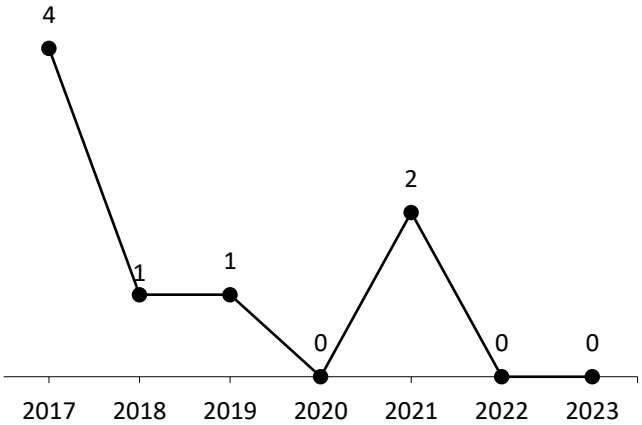
If the Court decides that the District Attorney's Office has provided "prima facie" evidence that the juvenile committed a felony act and that a transfer is in the public's interest, the case will be "certified" or transferred to criminal court for processing.

Decertifications increased 93% between 2022 and 2023, at 2% of allegations*



*The year is based on allegation date.

No cases were certified in 2023*

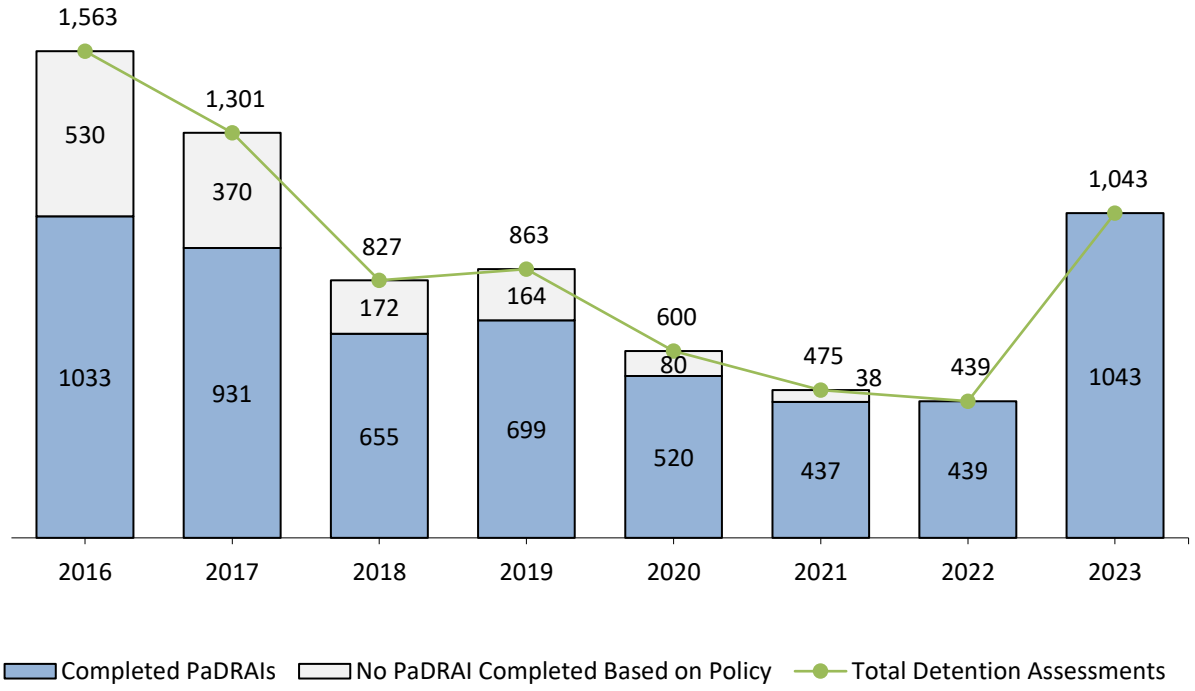


*The year is based on disposition date

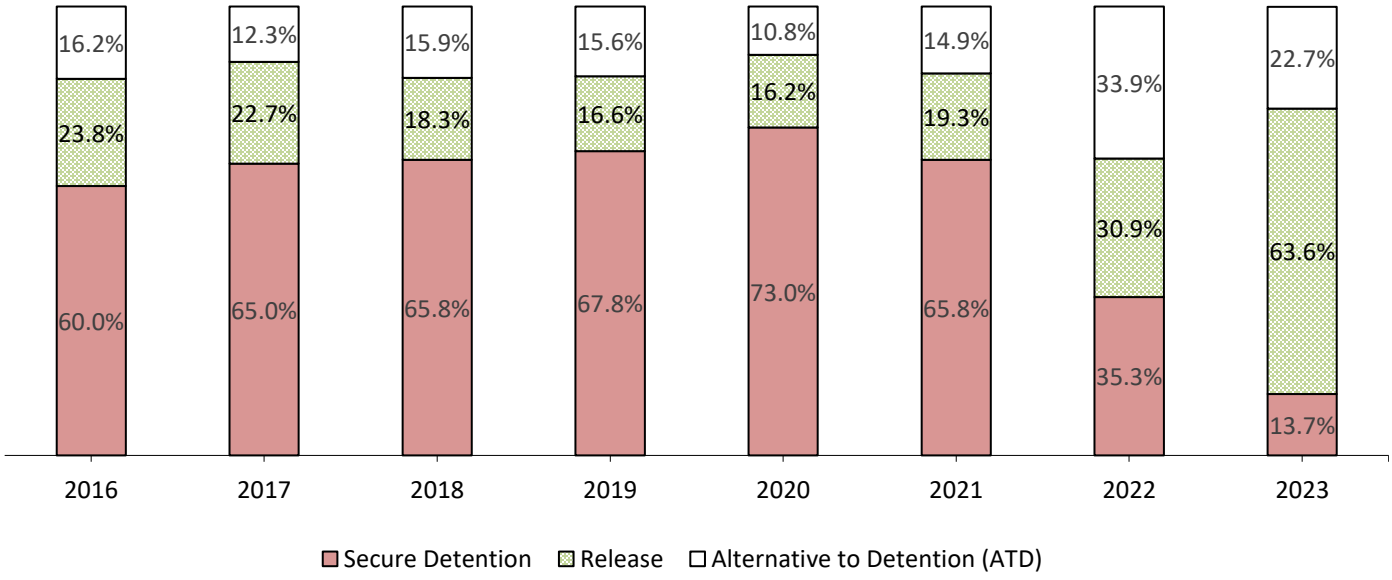
Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI)

Allegheny County is one of approximately forty juvenile jurisdictions in Pennsylvania to fully implement the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI). The PaDRAI is a validated structured decision-making tool that predicts: (1) the juvenile's risk to reoffend while awaiting a Court hearing and (2) the juvenile's risk to fail to appear for the Court hearing. The tool accurately predicts these risk factors at a rate of over 90%. Probation officers use this tool to help determine if juveniles should be placed into detention, released to an alternative to detention, or released to parents prior to the hearing. Allegheny County's policy requires that the PaDRAI be completed on new charges, violations of probation, and warrants. There was a substantial increase in PaDRAIs in 2023 as the criteria changed to completing a PaDRAI for every new allegation received. Because no tool can address every possible scenario, the PaDRAI may be overridden. Mandatory detentions apply to categories of offenses or specific circumstances for which local policy/judicial directive requires the use of secure detention. Discretionary overrides apply to mitigating or aggravating factors that support decisions that fall outside of established point ranges or guidelines.

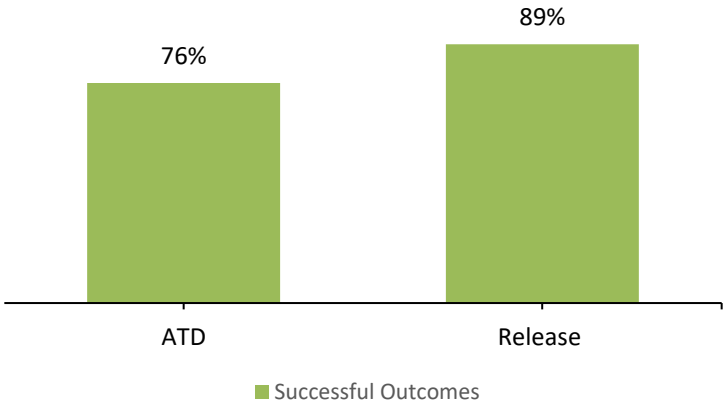
Completed PaDRAIs increased 138% from 2022 to 2023



Most completed PaDRAIs resulted in Release in 2023



Of the PaDRAIs completed in 2023 resulting in Alternative to Detention or Release, most youth experienced successful outcomes*

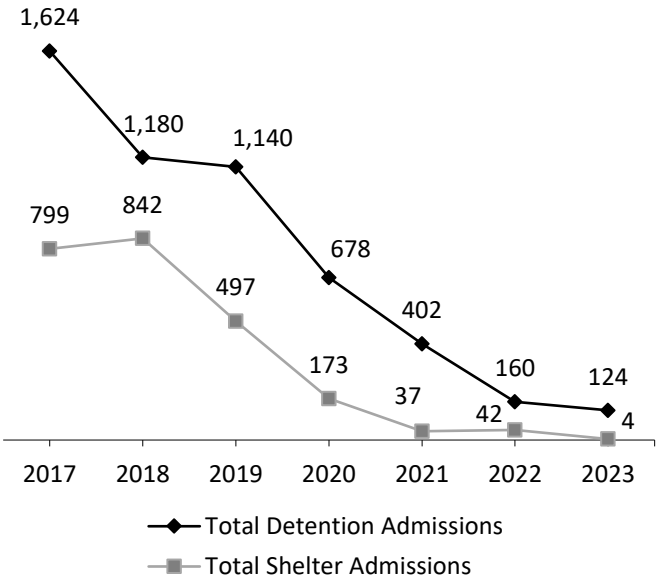


*A successful outcome is defined as not failing to appear for their court hearing and not committing a new offense between the initial PaDRAI date to and the first scheduled hearing or extended service meeting or beyond 60 days.

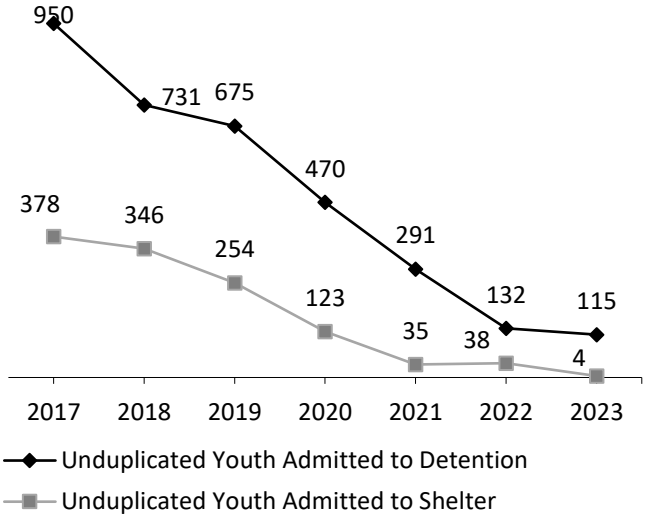
Secure Detention / Alternatives to Detention

Since Shuman Juvenile Detention Center closed in August 2021, juveniles are placed in secure detention at various private providers when it is necessary to protect the community and ensure their appearance in Court. Allegheny County has access to approximately fourteen detention beds contracted through Adelphoi Village and detention beds at George Junior Republic and Jefferson County, Ohio as available. In addition, various privately operated shelters provide an alternative to secure detention.

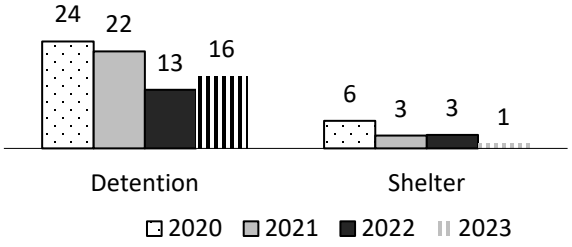
Detention admissions decreased 69% while shelter admissions decreased 89%* from 2022 to 2023



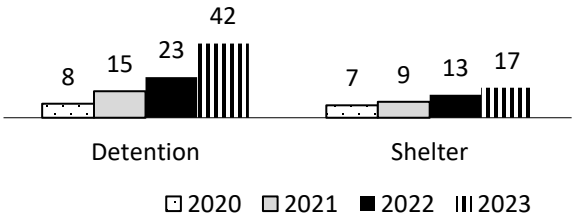
The number of unduplicated youth admitted to detention decreased 13% while shelter decreased 89% from 2022 to 2023



Average Daily Census

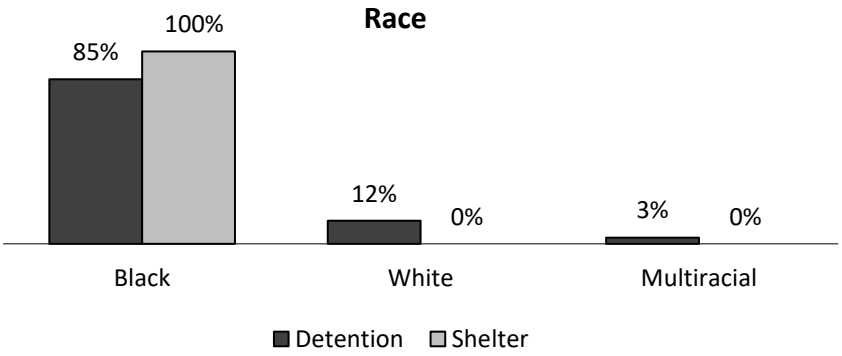


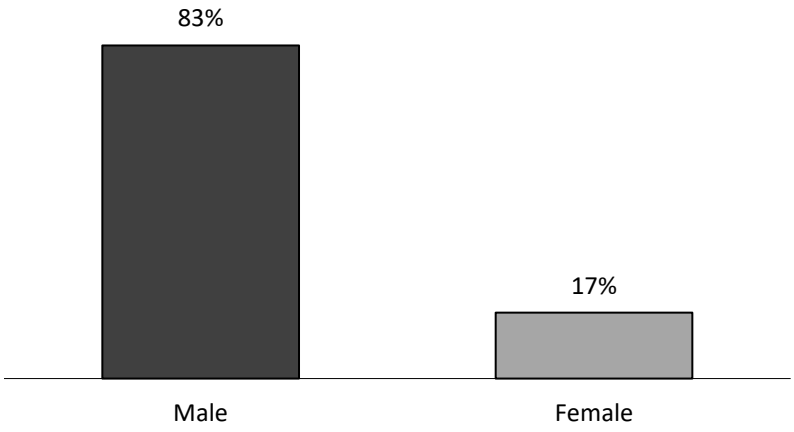
Median Length of Stay (Days)*

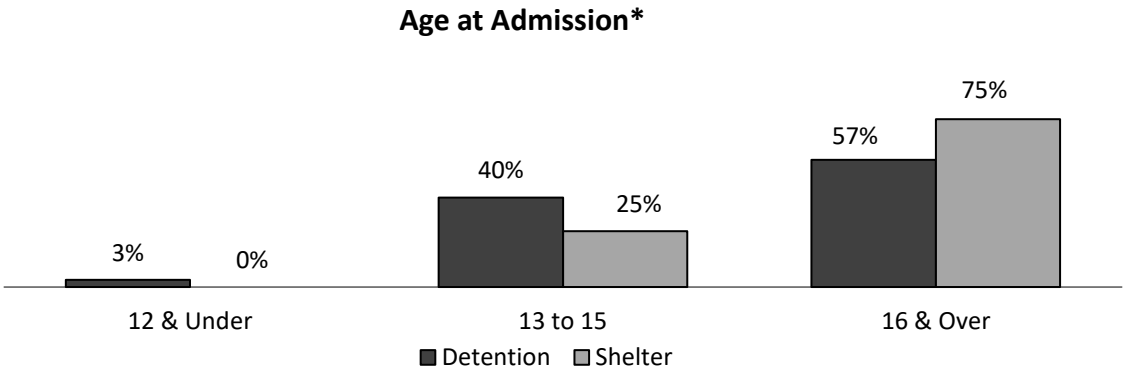


*Year is based on release date. Length of Stay is calculated based on number of days, not nights. For example, a youth admitted and released on the same day would have an LOS of 1.

2023 Demographics (Unduplicated Count of Youth)





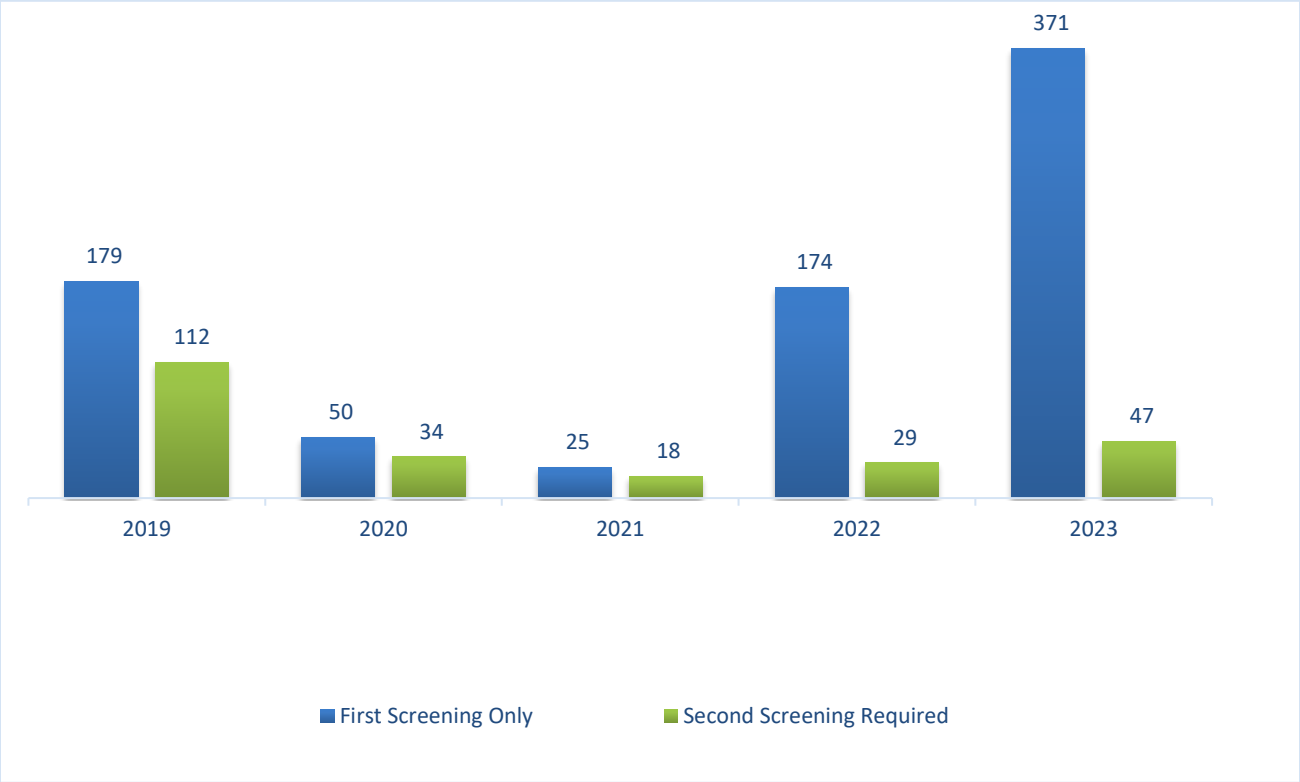


*The Age at Admission chart does not reflect an unduplicated count of youth because a youth could be different ages at admission.

Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2)

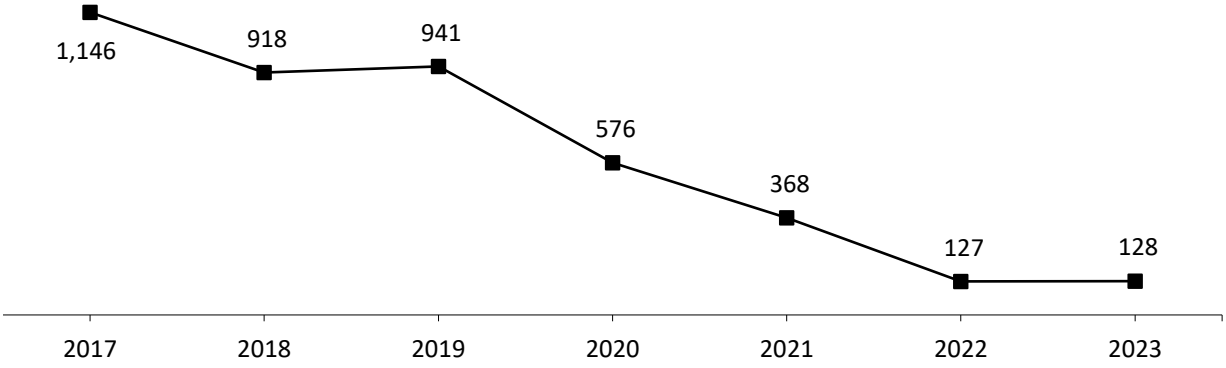
In 2019, Juvenile Probation began using the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-2) to identify the behavioral health needs of youth admitted to detention. The MAYSI-2 is a voluntary, self-report, computer-based inventory of fifty-two questions that helps probation officers identify and refer juveniles for a second screening and further treatment if indicated. The MAYSI-2 screens stopped at the end of March 2020 due to COVID-19; however, screens resumed fully in 2022 and are now completed on every youth with a new allegation.

In 2023, 11% of MAYSI-2s indicated that the youth needed to have a second screening.



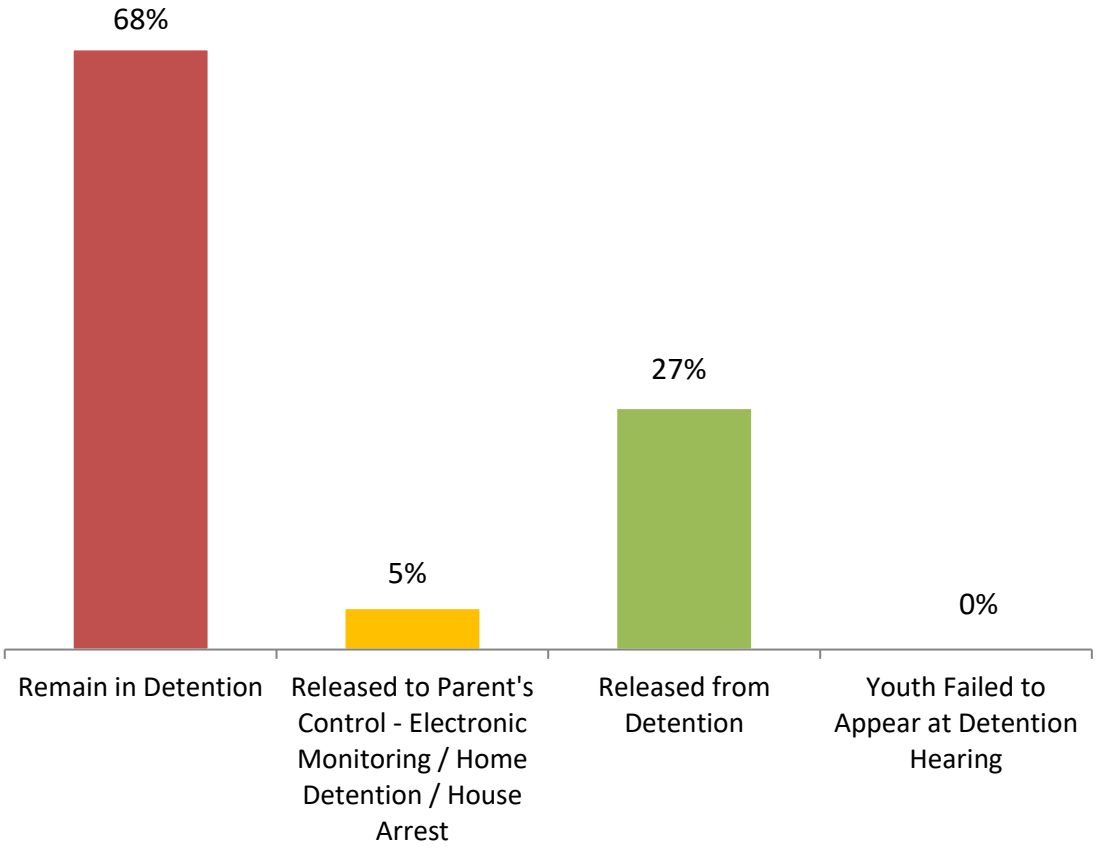
Detention Hearings*

Detention hearings increased 1% from 2022 to 2023



*The number of detention hearings on this page is lower than the number on page 6 due to different data sources being used. The information system that tracks detention hearing outcomes (as captured on this page) and does not reflect detention hearings heard by judges or walk-in detention hearings that result in release.

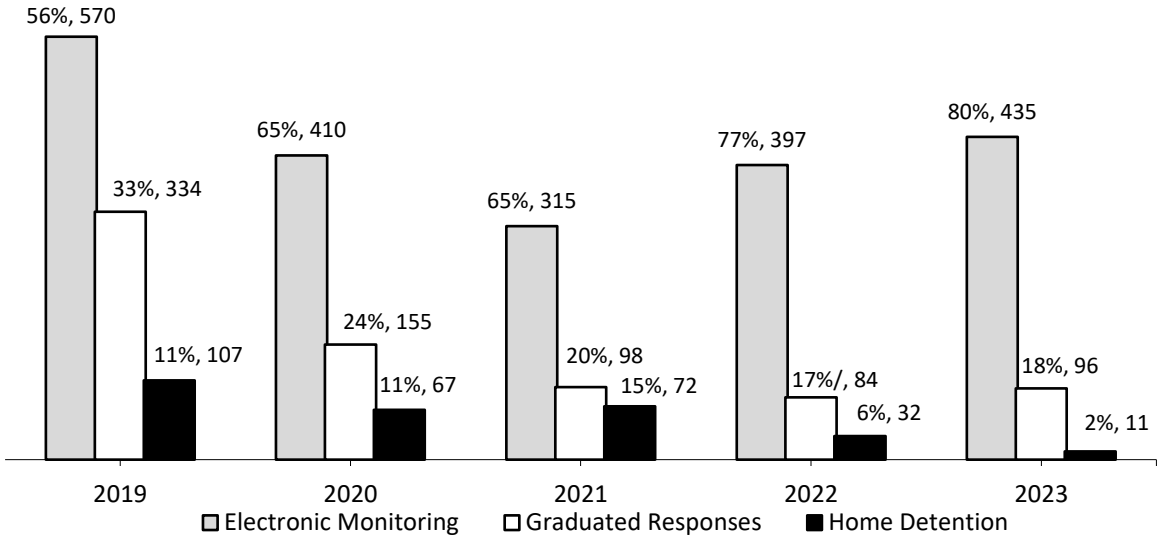
Detention Hearing Outcomes



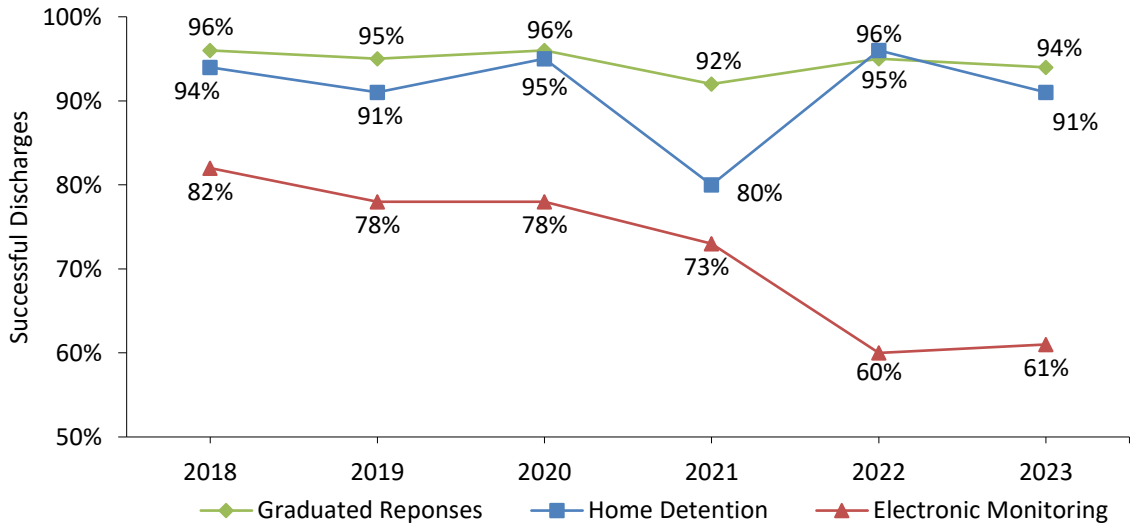
Electronic Monitoring / Home Detention

The Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Department operates electronic monitoring (EM) and home detention (HD) as alternatives to secure detention and as graduated responses. "Electronic monitoring" (EM) uses a device to monitor the juvenile's presence in the home and in the community. It is generally used for juveniles who are pending a Court appearance and as a surveillance enhancement graduated response for juveniles under supervision or committed to the Court's Community Intensive Supervision Program. Juveniles on "home detention" (HD) are required to be in their homes during specific time periods and are monitored through cellular phone services paired with Biometrics Software. A successful discharge indicates that the juvenile completed electronic monitoring or home detention without a warrant being issued. Using the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument ensures that appropriate youth are monitored using these alternatives to detention.

From 2022 to 2023, EM/HD referrals increased 15% and graduated responses decreased 2%



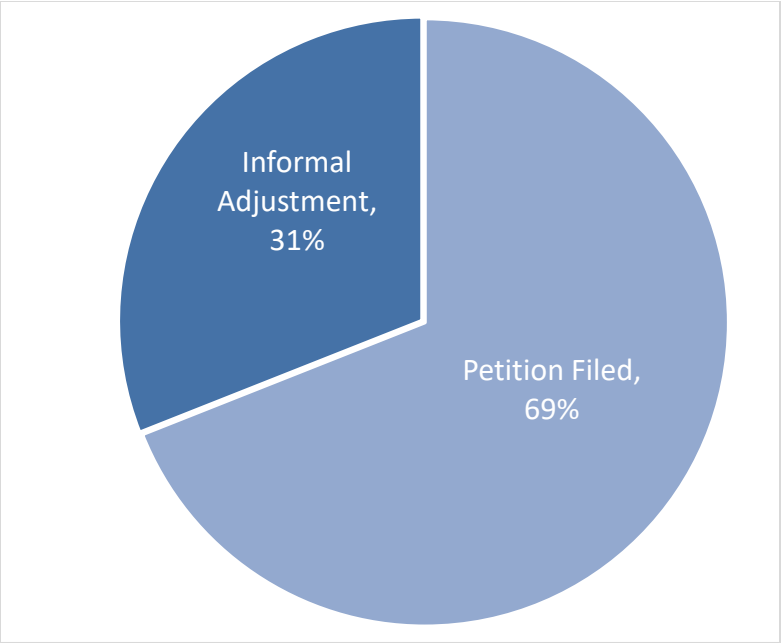
72% of EM/HD/Graduated Responses discharges were successful in 2023

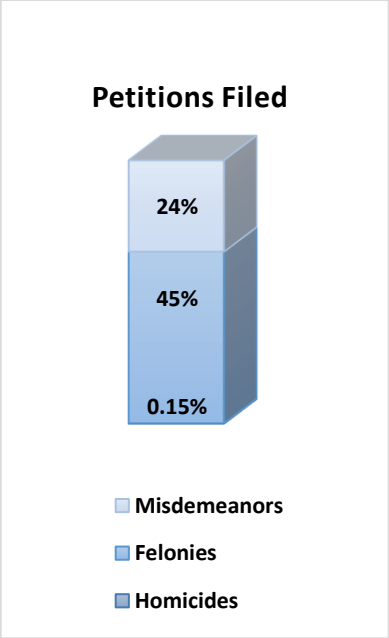


Dispositions of Allegations

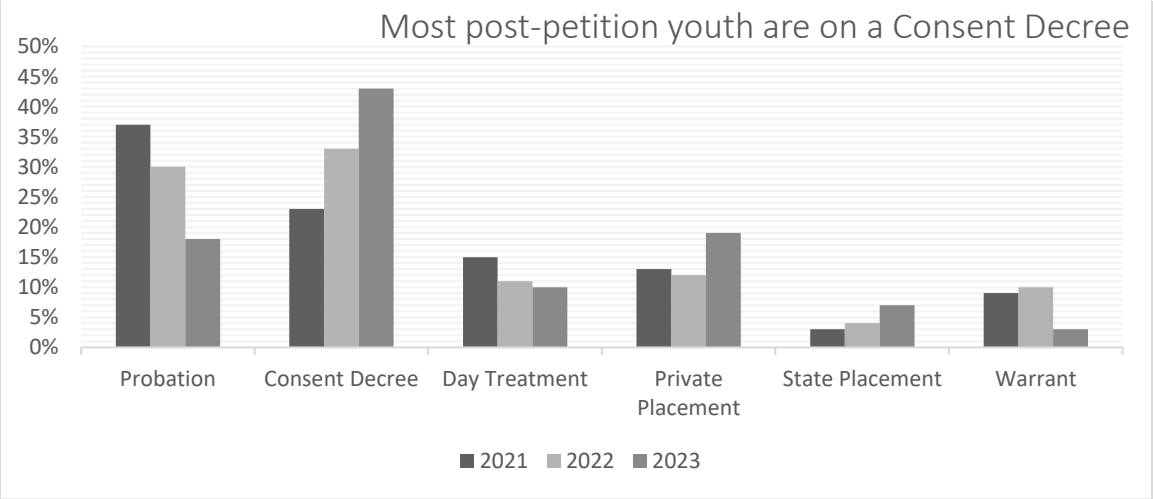
After Allegheny County Juvenile Probation receives an allegation (charging a juvenile with a misdemeanor and/or felony offense), the probation officer, in consultation with the District Attorney's Office, must decide whether to file a petition and schedule the case for Court or handle the charge informally. The Probation Department assesses each case individually and pursues the least restrictive alternative available to satisfy the goals of community protection and youth accountability.

In 2023, allegations were resolved as follows*:



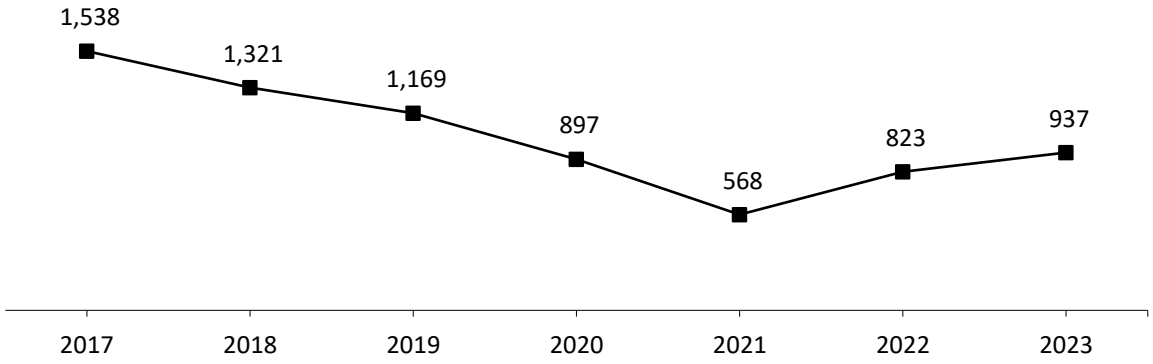


*Includes Failure to Comply allegations and is based on petition date, if applicable, or disposition date for informal adjustments and withdrawn allegations

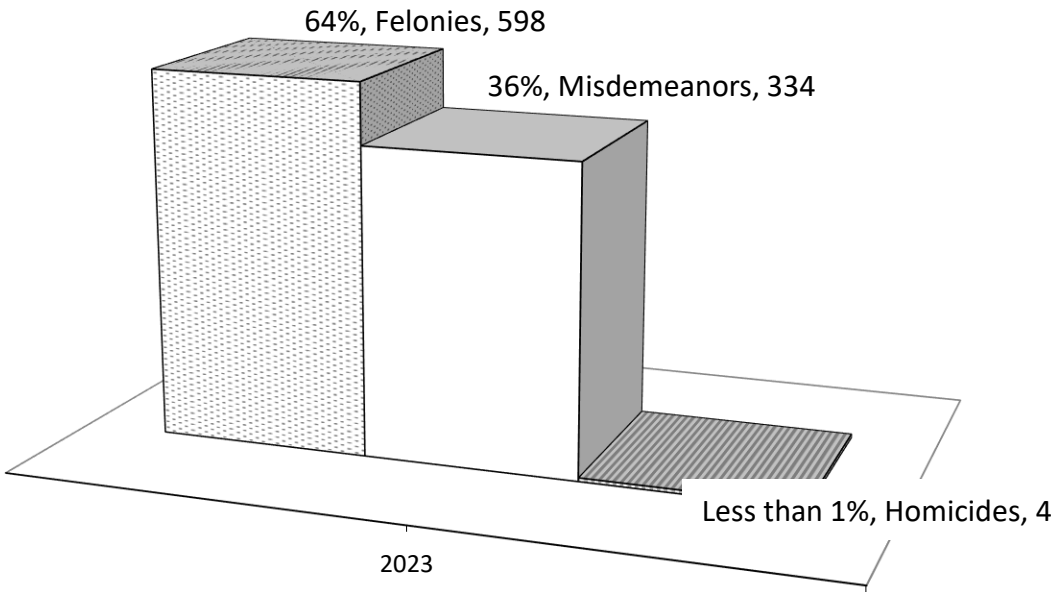


Delinquency Petitions*

Petitions alleging delinquency filed with the Court increased 14% from 2022 to 2023



Most petitions were filed for felonies in 2023



*Includes Failure to Comply allegations (charts are based on petition date).

Juvenile Probation Overview

As of 12/31/2023	220
Chief, Assistant Chiefs, and Supervisors	38
Probation Officers	90
Supervision	50
Specialty (Special Services Unit / Drug and Alcohol)	9
Assessment	8
Detention Intake and Investigations	8
Community Intensive Supervision Program	7
Training	2
Warrant	2
Provider Liaison	2
Continuous Quality Improvement	1
Victim Services Liaison	1
Support Staff	50
Community Monitors	30
Home Detention Officers	6
Drug and Alcohol Counselors	6

Probation officers, the backbone of Juvenile Court, supervise juveniles in the home, school, and community. From the receipt of the initial police report until the Judge closes the case, the probation officer is charged with overseeing the juvenile's case and ensuring that the Court's orders and directives are followed.

Consistent with the Court's Balanced and Restorative Justice mission, probation officers develop and implement a specific case plan for each juvenile that focuses on protecting the community, holding the juvenile accountable to restore the victim and community, and helping the juvenile develop competencies that lead to law-abiding and productive citizenship.

Probation officers focus on risk to reoffend, needs of the youth, and responsivity issues, such as mental health and gender, when determining the best case plan for each youth. Probation officers also use evidence-based graduated responses to reward and sanction youth as appropriate. Probation officers engage and empower families by making them a part of the case plan and supervision process. Parents are invited to assist with case plan goals and work closely with the probation officer while the juvenile is active with the Court.

Intake and Investigations: This Unit is comprised of seven officers (two intake and five investigation). The Intake officers begin the processing of police reports (allegations) charging serious offenses that result in pre-adjudication detention or some alternative to detention. These cases are then assigned to the officers at the courthouse who will see them through to a disposition before the court.

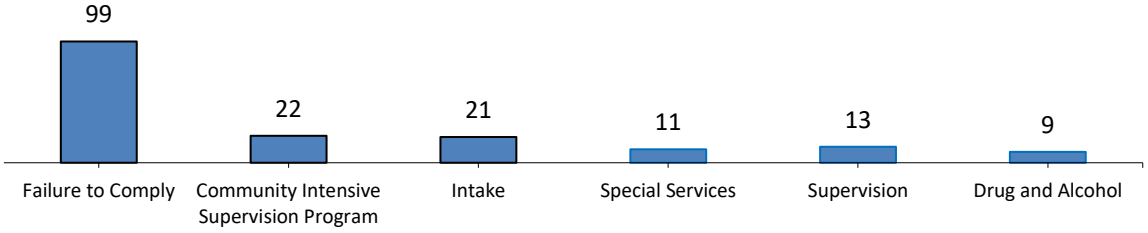
Intake Probation Officers: Probation Department intake officers specialize in drug and alcohol crimes (two intake officers) as well as sex offenses (three). There are two general intake units with six intake officers in each. The intake officer is charged with formulating intake decisions. Some of these decisions include whether a case should be informally adjusted or petitioned for a formal Court hearing. Regardless of where they are located, probation officers performing the intake function make every effort to divert cases from formal processing whenever possible, considering the least restrictive alternative necessary to protect the community. We consider the totality of the circumstances, previous history, YLS risk level, nature of current charges and other responsivity factors.

Supervision Probation Officers: These probation officers supervise the largest percentage of juvenile offenders under the jurisdiction of the Court. Twenty-six community-based probation officers in five geographically dispersed supervisory units work with an average of thirteen juveniles each. Some probation officers service specific school districts.

Information Management: Information Management: Information Management consists of ten employees, which include seven data entry clerks, one expungement clerk, one data specialist, and one supervisor. The data entry clerks review police allegations for necessary elements before accepting and processing them. The allegations are entered into the Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS) and assigned to the appropriate probation unit based upon specific charges, current probation officer (if already active) or to the Intake Unit. From that point on, Information Management completes the data entry in JCMS from the beginning of a docket through the case closing. Information Management is also tasked with continuous quality improvement within the probation department. These include reviewing closing documents, ensuring that court orders reflect accurate data, and identifying and correcting data entry errors or missing information.

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI): The CQI Unit was created in 2021 to ensure that the Department's evidence-based practices maintain fidelity and are of high quality. It consists of one supervisor and one probation officer.

In 2023, each unit's average caseload per probation officer was:



Special Services Unit (SSU)

Allegheny County Juvenile Court's Special Services Unit (SSU) has operated since 1985. The SSU supervises and provides specialized treatment services to adjudicated sex offenders through community monitoring and intensive individual and/or group counseling. Five probation officers, three intake officers, and a supervisor staff the unit. Two probation officers supervise and address treatment issues with adjudicated sex offenders in the community under probation supervision. Three probation officers provide services for offenders during and after sex offender specific placements. Three probation officers handle all the intake cases.

SSU/WPIC Program

Since 1998, the SSU and Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC) have been involved in a collaborative effort to treat and supervise adjudicated sex offenders. This partnership allows WPIC staff to assess all offenders referred to the community-based component. WPIC also provides clinical interventions to improve the mental health treatment of juvenile sex offenders and their families. Sex offenders referred to the SSU's community-based component are assigned to a SSU probation officer and then immediately sent for a WPIC assessment. Following an assessment, the SSU probation officer discusses the case with a WPIC therapist to collectively develop the treatment objectives and the individualized treatment plan. The SSU probation officers direct the process by ensuring that offenders fully cooperate with treatment plans and participate in the therapeutic process. The SSU probation officers are highly trained and have an increased awareness of the clinical issues pertaining to the therapeutic process.

Educational Curriculum

The SSU utilizes a comprehensive educational curriculum as a vehicle to provide offenders with an understanding of human sexuality, relationships, feelings, stress, sex offender treatment goals, and sex offender myths. Offenders are also introduced to Pennsylvania Sex Laws and the Age of Consent requirements. The curriculum provides an extensive examination of these various issues related to daily living and offers the offenders a reality-based view of sex offender treatment issues. Much of the offender's understanding of sexuality is based on myths and misconceptions. The educational component serves to correct and broaden their views.

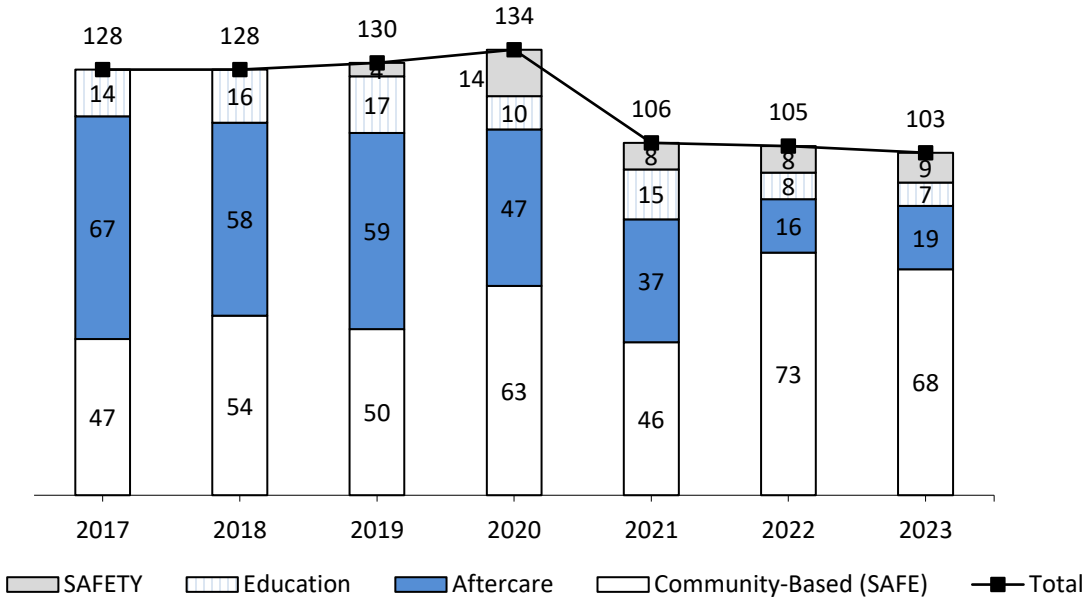
The SSU probation officers present these sessions in an educational format that is separate from treatment time. The classes are held over two days, typically on a Tuesday and Wednesday. Staff meet with the offenders collectively for two hours on each of these days. Offenders must attend both days to successfully complete the curriculum. Each class allows for open discussions and dialogue. Parents are encouraged to attend part of the curriculum as well.

Offenders do not need to be adjudicated or placed on a consent decree for a sexually-based offense to be placed in this educational component. The educational component does not need to be court ordered. Any probation officer may refer a youth to the Educational Curriculum. Probation officers may use this resource to address an offender's inappropriate behaviors within the community or school, such as inappropriately touching another student or making sexually-based comments.

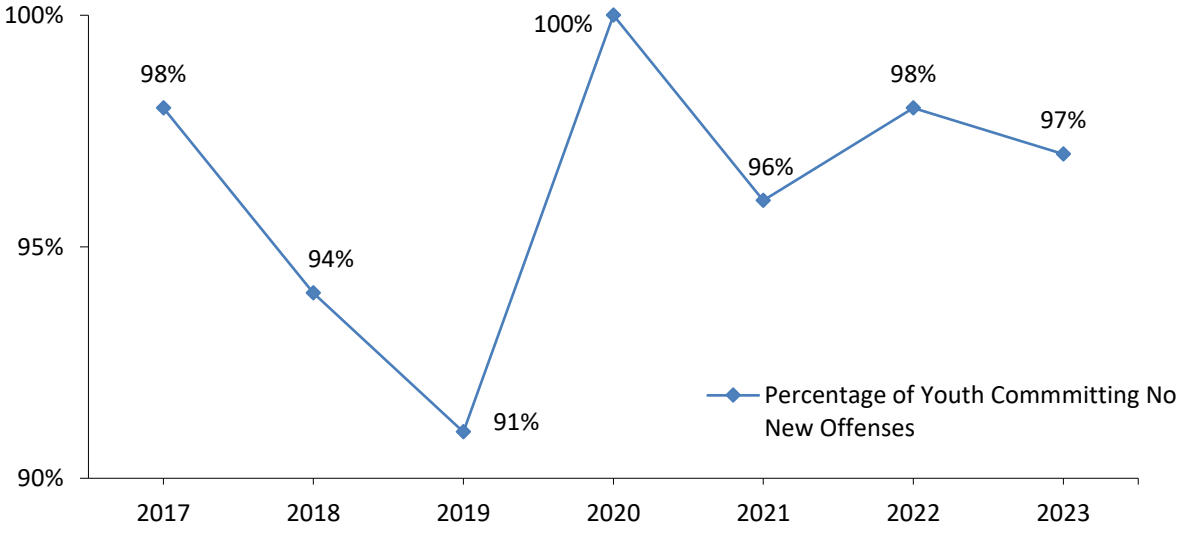
SAFETY Program

The SSU expanded its efforts in arson-related treatment in 2018. The Services Aimed at Fire Education and Treatment for Youth (SAFETY) program is a community-based program offered through WPIC for children and adolescents (ages four to eighteen) involved with fire or who have fire-setting tendencies. The treatment-specific protocol uses accountability and safety planning to minimize the risk of future fire-setting. The SAFETY program evaluates the needs of each youth and his or her family. Each youth involved in the program receives treatment associated with fire safety and psychological/behavioral skills when appropriate. SAFETY supports the impacted families in finding appropriate ways to cope with a fire's aftermath. The SAFETY program monitors each youth's progress and provides feedback to families and probation on a regular basis.

The SSU monitored and supervised 103 youth in 2023



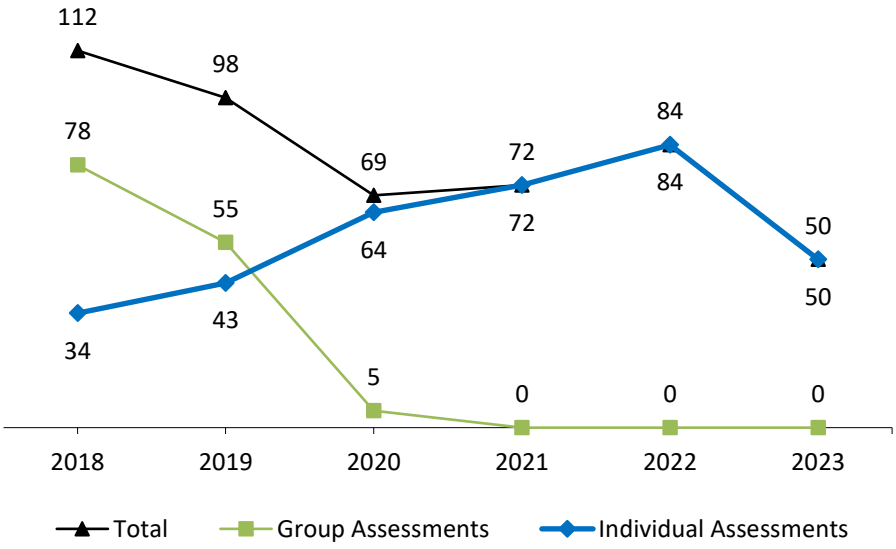
Three youth supervised by the SSU in 2023 committed a new offense while under supervision.



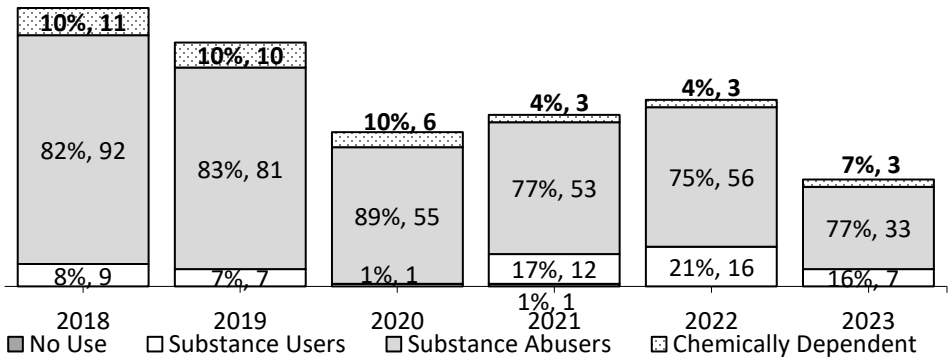
Drug and Alcohol Unit

The Drug and Alcohol Unit was created in 1984. It consists of one Supervisor and six Probation Officers. Two Drug and Alcohol Intake Officers are assigned all new allegations of non-detained youth who are referred with drug and alcohol specific charges. Four Drug and Alcohol Intensive Supervision Probation Officers maintain a caseload of youth who have been identified as having an abusive relationship with drugs and/or alcohol. These four specialized Probation Officers work intensively with youth who are either in the community or placed in drug and alcohol treatment programs. They also work closely with the family to develop healthier relationships that are supportive to the youth's recovery. In addition, they conduct individual assessments for detained youth, an education/screening group for non-detained youth, and educational programming as requested in the community. Lastly, the Drug and Alcohol Unit ensured that one hundred fifty-one staff were trained to utilize Naloxone and provided a kit containing two doses.

Assessments reduced by 31% from 2022 to 2023



77% of assessments in 2023 identified youth as Substance Abusers



Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Unit

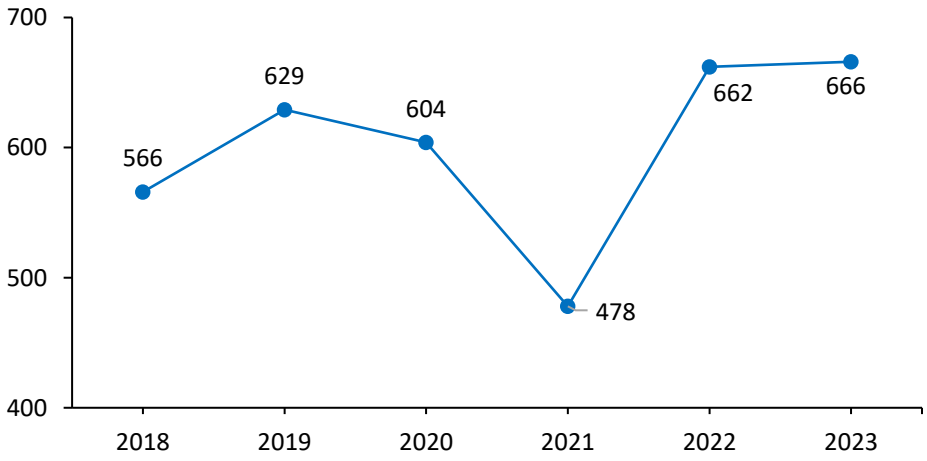
Since 2010, the Department hast been engaged in the statewide effort to use evidence-based practices to achieve the goals of Balanced and Restorative Justice. Toward that end, the Department created the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Unit in 2012.

As of December 31, 2023, one supervisor and six probation officers staff the JJSES Unit. Since its inception, the Unit's primary function has been to conduct the Youth Level of Service (YLS) risk/needs assessments for intake cases across the Department. In November 2019, the JJSES Unit began completing all of the initial YLS assessments conducted by Allegheny County Juvenile Probation.

Since November 2019, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation also utilizes the Child Trauma Screen and MAYSI II to screen all intake cases for trauma. When the CTS and MAYSI II indicate the existence of trauma, probation officers refer juveniles for further trauma assessment and treatment. In 2020/21, the Trauma Project was expanded to incorporate the Trauma Informed Decision Protocol (TIDP) in the case planning process. The TIDP ensures that trauma is considered throughout the juvenile's involvement with the court. As trauma continues to be an important responsivity factor that case planning must consider, The JJSES Unit incorporates all trauma related responsivity factors into the Responsivity section of each juvenile's YLS when indicated. In 2020, The JJSES Unit also began gauging for Protective Factors and implementing that information into the YLS as well.

The JJSES Unit benefits the Department in several ways. First, the Unit consists of all Master Trainers and considered Content Matter Experts in the YLS. The Unit has developed expertise in conducting the YLS and provides coaching, feedback, and training to probation officers throughout the Department. Second, the Unit has improved the Department's fidelity and consistency in implementing the YLS, an essential evidence-based tool.

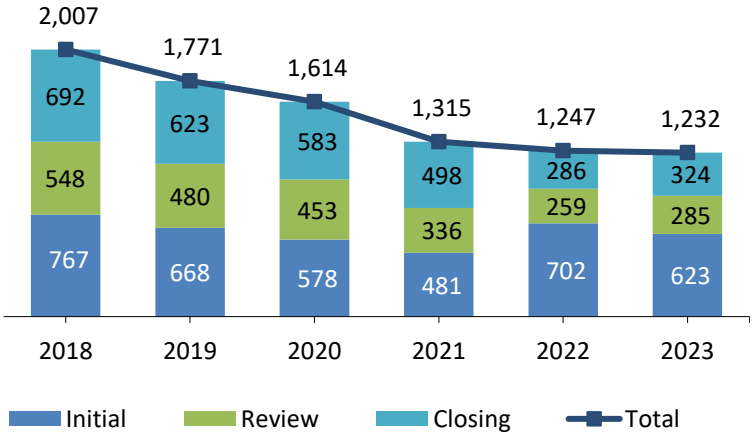
The number of YLSs completed by the JJSES Unit increased 1% from 2022 to 2023



Youth Level of Service Risk/Needs Assessment

The Youth Level of Service (YLS) Risk/Needs Assessment has been adopted statewide as the risk/needs assessment instrument for juvenile justice. In 2012, Allegheny County probation officers began assessing juveniles using the YLS prior to filing a delinquency petition. A validated instrument, the YLS produces an overall score and a classification of very high, high, moderate, or low risk, indicating the likelihood of recidivism if no intervention is used. The YLS also identifies criminogenic needs within specific domains which become the focus of interventions. The YLS also allows probation officers to assess strengths of an individual youth while considering various responsivity factors, such as mental health, cultural, and gender issues. YLS results are considered at key decision points; for example, whether to informally adjust the case or file a petition or to recommend community-based supervision or a more restrictive disposition to the Court. The YLS results are also an essential component in developing the field case plan for each juvenile under formal supervision. On January 1, 2017, Pennsylvania converted to the YLS 2.0, which has more responsivity factors and improved definitions. It also updates overall risk level cutoffs based on gender. Since 2021 probation officers have conducted the YLS at intake to help determine whether to process a case infomally or to file a petition to be heard by the Court.

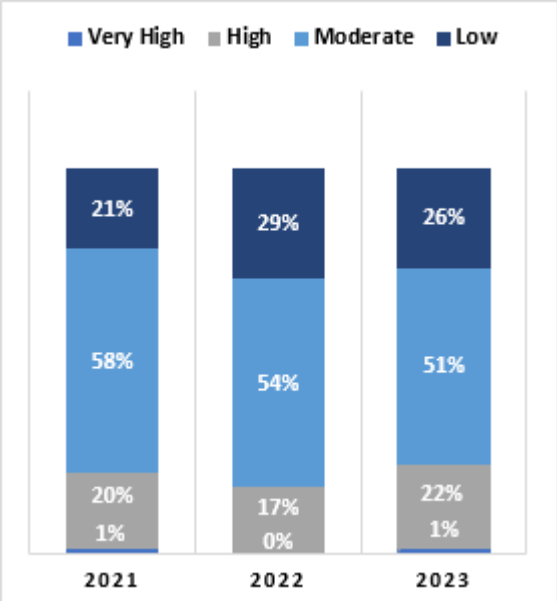
JPO staff completed 1% fewer YLS assessments from 2022 to 2023



As with any evidence-based tool, fidelity and inter-rater reliability are essential. To that end, the Department has fourteen YLS Master Trainers who train the entire department via statewide YLS booster cases. The allowable deviation from the State's established score for each case is plus or minus two. Booster trainings are currently being facilitated within Allegheny County. Research indicates that professional overrides should only occur in less than 5%-10% of the cases. In 2023, the Department's override rate was 5%.

The Department's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Unit conducts initial YLS assessments (see next page for more information). These assessments are more time consuming because they require a direct visit with the youth and family. The probation officer of record conducts reassessments at six month intervals.

Most initial YLS assessments reflect moderate risk level



Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP)

In 1990, Allegheny County Juvenile Court created the Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP) to serve as a court-ordered, community-based alternative to residential placement for male juveniles. The program is designed for juveniles who need intensive services and more structure and supervision than traditional probation. Juveniles who are being stepped up from probation or stepped down from residential placement are appropriate for the program. The program includes four integral neighborhood Centers.

CISP advances BARJ goals. To protect the community, CISP provides a range of interventions, uses intensive surveillance and close monitoring, including electronic monitoring. Youth work toward restoring victims and communities through restitution and community service. To help youth develop competencies, they participate in Aggression Replacement Training®. In addition, CISP became a Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT) community program affiliate in 2013. PACTT focuses on improving the academic, career, and technical training that delinquent youth receive while in residential placement and in their home communities upon return.

Strong community involvement is the foundation of CISP. Juveniles in each of the centers routinely perform community service projects, such as wrapping Christmas gifts for less fortunate families, removing snow and cutting grass for elderly residents, and cleaning neighborhood lots and streets. CISP youth completed a total of 608 hours of community service this past year.

For the past three years CISP has utilized its Penn Hills site for Training Education and Career Development (TECD) services. TECD is a centralized location for youth from all CISP centers to attend and receive ART®, evidence-based group, family, and individual counseling, and drug and alcohol interventions. In addition, trainings and staff development opportunities for staff occur at TECD.

One of TECD's unique aspects is its myriad of programs. For example, the Goodwill PACTT soft skills program provides skills training, including resume construction, interviewing skills, mock interviews, completing applications, credit management, and CPR and ServSafe certification.

The PACTT grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency helps male youth, between the ages of eighteen and twenty, committed to CISP, obtain their first driver's license. To participate, youth must have a GED or diploma or be entering the workforce/post-secondary training program. PACTT grant funds were used to contract with The Cindy Cohen School of Driving for driver's education classes, practice driving sessions, behind-the-wheel training, and the Pennsylvania road test. This program begins with youth at the CISP participating in the Driver's Education curriculum with CISP trained staff. After the youth complete the curriculum, they are tested for permit readiness. Youth who pass the test successfully move on to the next phase, which is, permit application, on-the-road training, and finally The PA driver's test. The grant also covers application fees for learner's permits and licenses.

The credit recovery program is delivered in collaboration with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU). This program assists youth who have fallen behind their current graduation class. These youth attend their home schools and report to TECD to meet with accredited teachers and work in the online Ingenuity program Edgunity™ to recover credits, giving them the opportunity to graduate as scheduled. The AIU also assigns tutors to TECD to assist youth with school assignments and homework. In addition to the AIU, TECD contracted with the Petey Greene Program (PGP) to provide tutoring Monday through Thursdays.

The UPMC work group, spearheaded by Dr. Elizabeth Miller, has been a wonderful addition to the TECD. A UPMC therapist meets with youth on Tuesdays and Thursdays for individual therapeutic intervention. The group plans to complete a health and wellness plan for all CISP youth.

The Reintegration Specialists (RS) provide aftercare assistance to youth released from placement to successfully reintegrate into their communities through educational and vocational advancement, youth competency development, and family engagement. In addition, the RS build and maintain relationships and work closely with community partners and resources, ensuring that youth receive quality educational and vocational services consistent with their interests, goals, and abilities. The RS create customized individual educational and vocational aftercare plans.

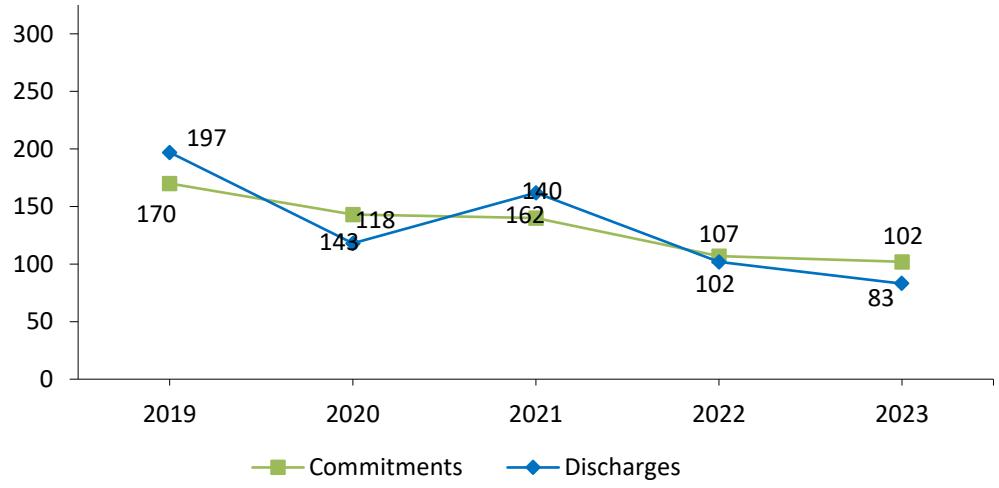
The School Liaisons (SL) work closely with probation officers. SL monitor daily school probation sign-in sheet for youth compliance. SL provide written notification to schools when youth are absent for Court related purposes and when youth are committed to CISP. SL also develop graduation plans for all CISP youth to assesses academic standing so that all stakeholders, including the youth, understand academic needs and what is necessary to complete secondary education.

In 2023, there were 102 CISP commitments and 83 discharges:

	Commitments*		Discharges*	
Center	**Total**	**%**	**Total**	**%**
Central	48	47%	40	83%
Mon Yough	33	32%	31	94%
North Side	21	21%	12	57%
Total	**102**		**83**	81%

*These counts do not represent distinct youth: One youth could be committed or discharged multiple times in one year.

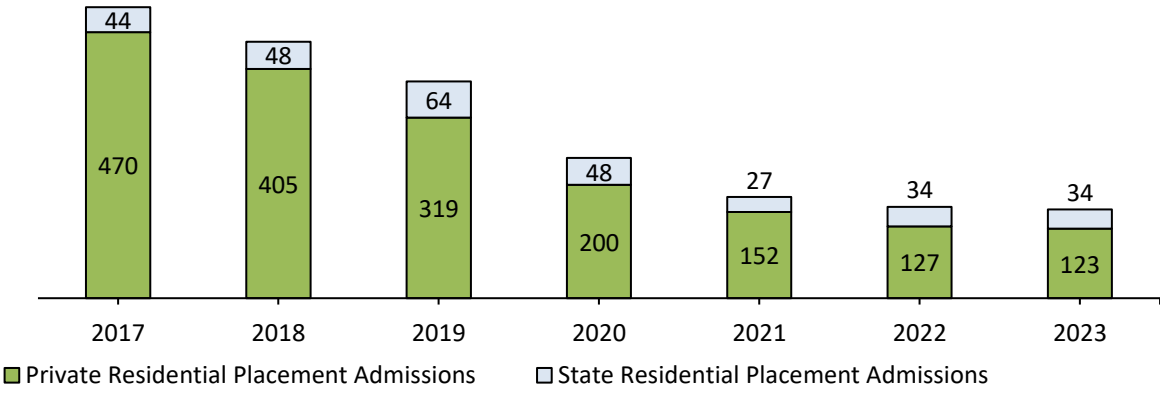
CISP commitments decreased 5% and discharges decreased 19% from 2022 to 2023



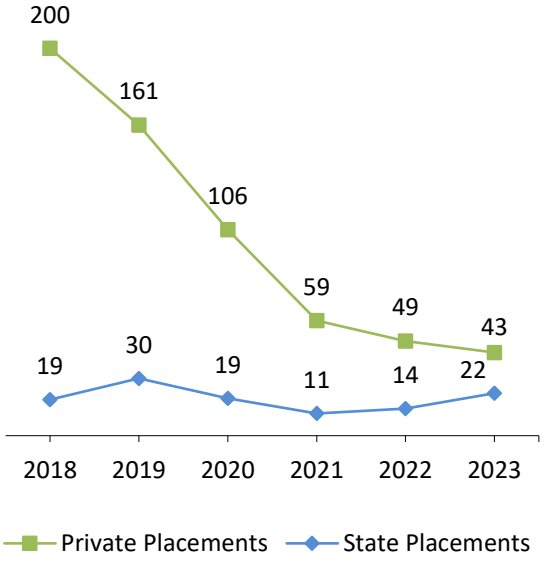
Placement Services

Allegheny County Juvenile Probation's Provider Services Unit ensures that providers deliver quality services to juveniles under supervision and that Juvenile Probation gives providers the information and support needed to best serve those juveniles. The Unit is comprised of one Supervisor, two Probation Officers, and two Educational Specialists. Most Allegheny County youth in placement reside in privately operated settings. Youth Development Centers (YDCs) are reserved for juveniles who pose a serious risk to public safety. Youth Forestry Camps (YFCs) are for less serious juvenile offenders. YDCs and YFCs are located throughout the Commonwealth and operated by The Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS).
.

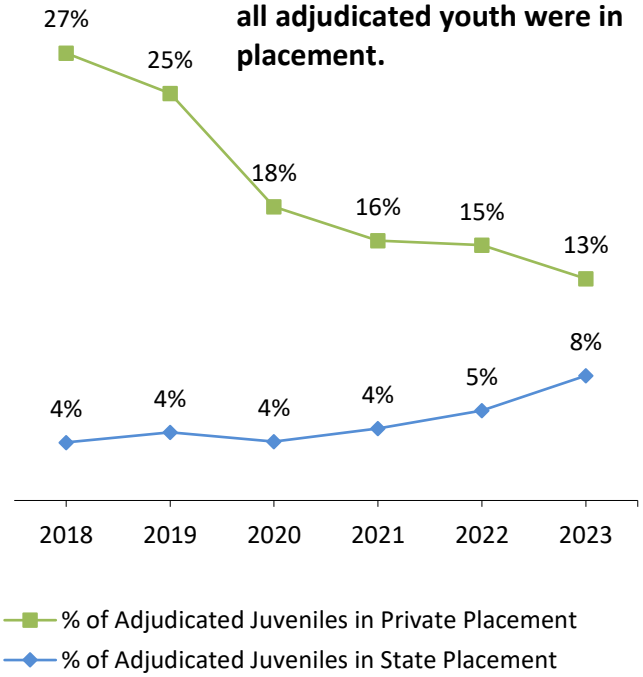
Admissions to residential placements decreased 37% from 2021 to 2023



Average daily population decreased 28% in private placements and increased 91% in state placements from 2022 to 2023



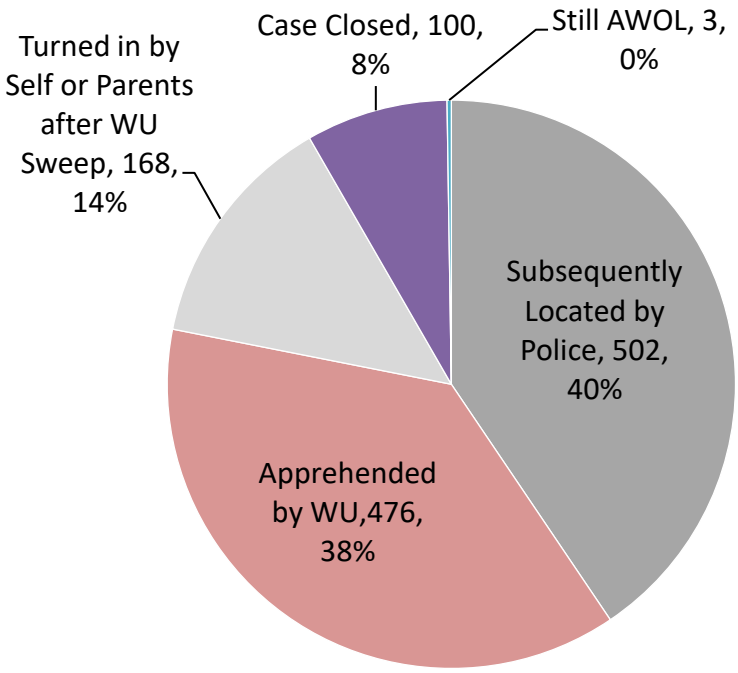
On December 31, 2023, 21% of all adjudicated youth were in placement.



Warrant Unit

A warrant is a Court Order authorizing the arrest and secure detention of a juvenile. Created in 2004 to improve community protection, the Warrant Unit is overseen by the department's Community Safety Supervisor, three full-time probation officers, and eighteen probation officers and supervisors who participate in Warrant Unit activities in addition to their full-time responsibilities. The Warrant Unit partners with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, Allegheny County Sheriff's Office, Allegheny County Police Department, and various municipal police agencies to locate and apprehend at-risk juveniles who have absconded, failed to appear for Court, or received new charges. The Warrant Unit participated in several community events, such as the City of Pittsburgh's 4th of July Celebration and Light Up Night. The Warrant Unit regularly conducts trainings in firearms, defensive tactics, tactical medicine (Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Stop the Bleed) and building entry tactics.

The Warrant Unit has sought 1,249 juvenile absconders/violators since its inception in 2004. See the outcomes below.



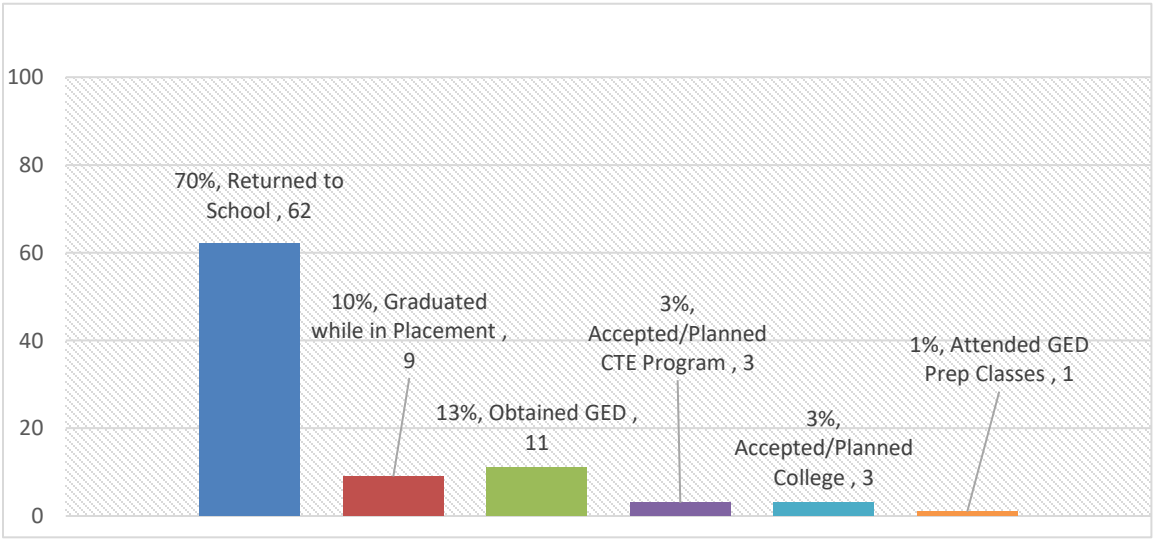
Educational Specialists

Allegheny County Juvenile Probation's Provider Services Supervisor supervises two educational specialists. The educational specialists work closely with probation officers, residential providers, home school staff, and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to improve education planning and services for delinquent youth. The educational specialists are involved in a variety of activities to help juveniles advance academically and develop workforce skills, including:

- Working closely with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to ensure school records and transcripts are promptly transferred to and from residential placements
- Collaborating with Pittsburgh Public Schools and other local school districts to establish a consistent protocol for reintegrating juveniles back into their schools, including curriculum alignment and credit transfer
- Monitoring, overseeing, and assisting both educational and vocational plans for youth entering and exiting residential placement facilities
- Scheduling and facilitating School Reintegration Meetings to ensure a smooth transition from placement to the juvenile's home school
- Working with residential placements to assist and guide those students who obtained their high school diploma or GED to pursue post high school education/training (college, career and technical education or job training)
- Collaborating and partnering with the CISP Education Monitors and the Penn Hills Education Center to facilitate post-placement transition to school as well as to Career/Vo-Tech programming including interfacing with a variety of community resources such as Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

The number of School Reintegration Meetings have increased now that schools are back to pre-pandemic operation. They have not fully rebounded due to the significant decrease in juveniles being in out of home placements. The Education Specialists have now amplified their involvement in juveniles' IEP, discharge planning and other education related meetings that work towards the goals of sound education progress while in placement and a smooth transition to school upon release.

Outcomes for the 89 youths assisted during the 2022-2023 school year are below:



Truancy Case Managers

In 2017, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation hired two Truancy Case Managers to manage its Attendance Incentive Program. This program closes Failure to Comply* cases which have been certified to Juvenile Cout from Magisterial District Courts throughout Allegheny County. These cases are handled at the intake level for juveniles who maintain good attendance at school for 90 days and successfully complete the program. Youth who successfully complete the program achieve the goals of improving attendance and preventing further penetration into the juvenile justice system. Truancy Case Managers also partner with the Magisterial District Courts, Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families, Focus on Attendance, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, and school districts to reduce truancy in all Allegheny County school districts.

In 2018, Juvenile Probation established a process that allows adjudicated delinquent youth or youth on a Consent Decree who are also cited for truancy in the Magisterial District Court to have the truancy matter dismissed in District Court and handled through Juvenile Court. This process allows for a more holistic approach to the problem and better coordination of services.

*Failure to Comply (FTC) with a Lawful Sentence is an ungraded delinquent offense forwarded to Juvenile Probation from the Magisterial District Court due to nonpayment of a fine or continued noncompliance with the District Court. Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act defines FTCs as "Summary offenses [are excluded from Juvenile Court jurisdiction], unless the child fails to comply with a lawful sentence imposed thereunder, under which event notice of such fact shall be certified to the court (see 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 6302).

2022-2023 School Year Outcomes	Definition	Count	Percent
Successful	Maintained good attendance during the observation period, graduated from high school, and/or received GED. In addition, successfully completed Extended Service, partially paid or paid in full restitution and/or fines and court costs from the original citation, and/or successfully completed assigned community service hours	74	46.3%
No Show	Youth did not attend the intake meeting	40	25.0%
Other	Incomplete identification, in placement, incorrect name, completed Brief Intervention Tool (BITS) session and/or counseling session, essay, AWOL, passed away, moved out of jurisdiction and/or appealed citations	12	7.5%
Unable to Locate/Unresponsive		4	2.5%
Recidivated	Received a new misdemeanor or felony charge	9	5.6%
Unsuccessful	Did not maintain good school attendance during the observation period	21	13.1%
Total		**160**	**100%**

Crossover Youth Practice Model

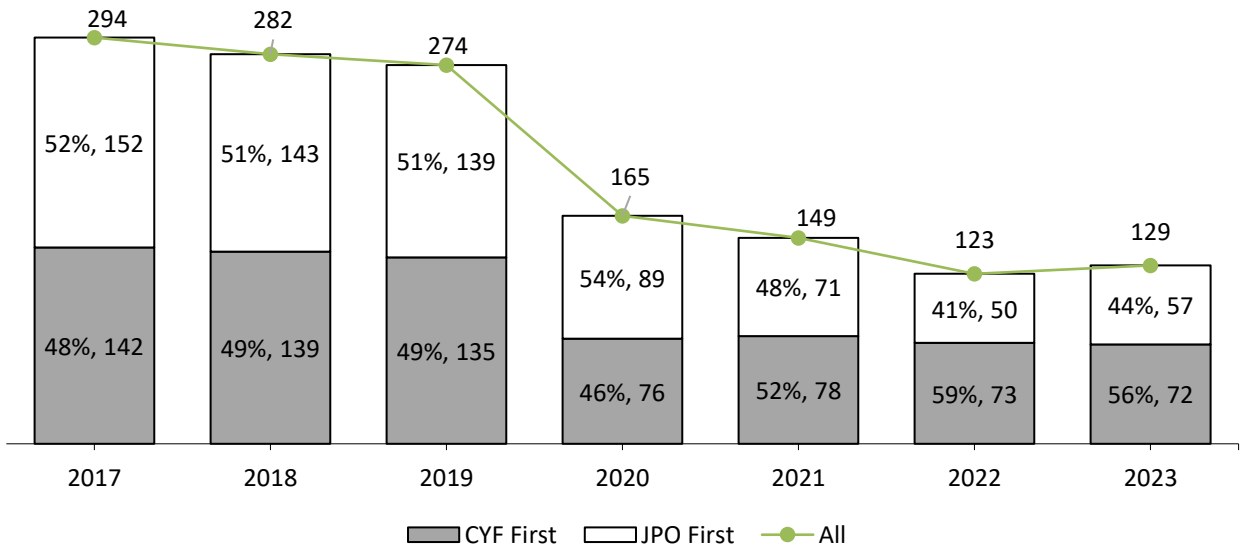
Under the leadership of Judge Guido DeAngelis, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services' Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) implemented the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM), developed by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University. CYPM's goal is to improve outcomes for dually involved youth (i.e., youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems at the same time).*

Implemented in January 2016, the Crossover Youth Protocol guides the day-to-day activities of probation officers and caseworkers working with dually involved youth. Regular joint case reviews and joint supervisor cabinet meetings reinforce the Protocol. Joint training on the Protocol for newly hired staff, as well as booster training for current staff, occurs on a regular basis. The Court hired a Crossover Systems Liaison in 2015. A CYF Coordinator for the CYPM was hired in 2016. With a Liaison in place, connecting crossover policy and practice on a regular basis became a realistic goal. The Liaison and CYF Crossover Coordinator function as a bridge between the agencies' frontline staff and the Protocol, which guides day-to-day interactions.

In 2021, the CYPM was revamped as part of a general overhaul of the Allegheny County Roundtable. Workgroups reporting to the Roundtable were expanded to allow for greater participation by interested stakeholders. With additional members, the CYPM Workgroup was divided into subcommittees and began focusing on three primary areas: data, behavioral health, and racial equity. The data and behavioral health subcommittees continued their designated tasks in 2022 while the racial equity subcommittee became a stand-alone Roundtable workgroup.

*Active CYF youth are defined as youth actively participating as a child in a CYF case accepted for service. Cases open for adoption or Permanent Legal Custody subsidy are not included. Active JPO youth are defined as juveniles on a delinquency case with active supervision. This does not include juveniles in the juvenile justice system solely due to having a Failure to Comply with a Lawful Sentence case.

129 crossover episodes occurred in 2023, a 5% increase from 2022.

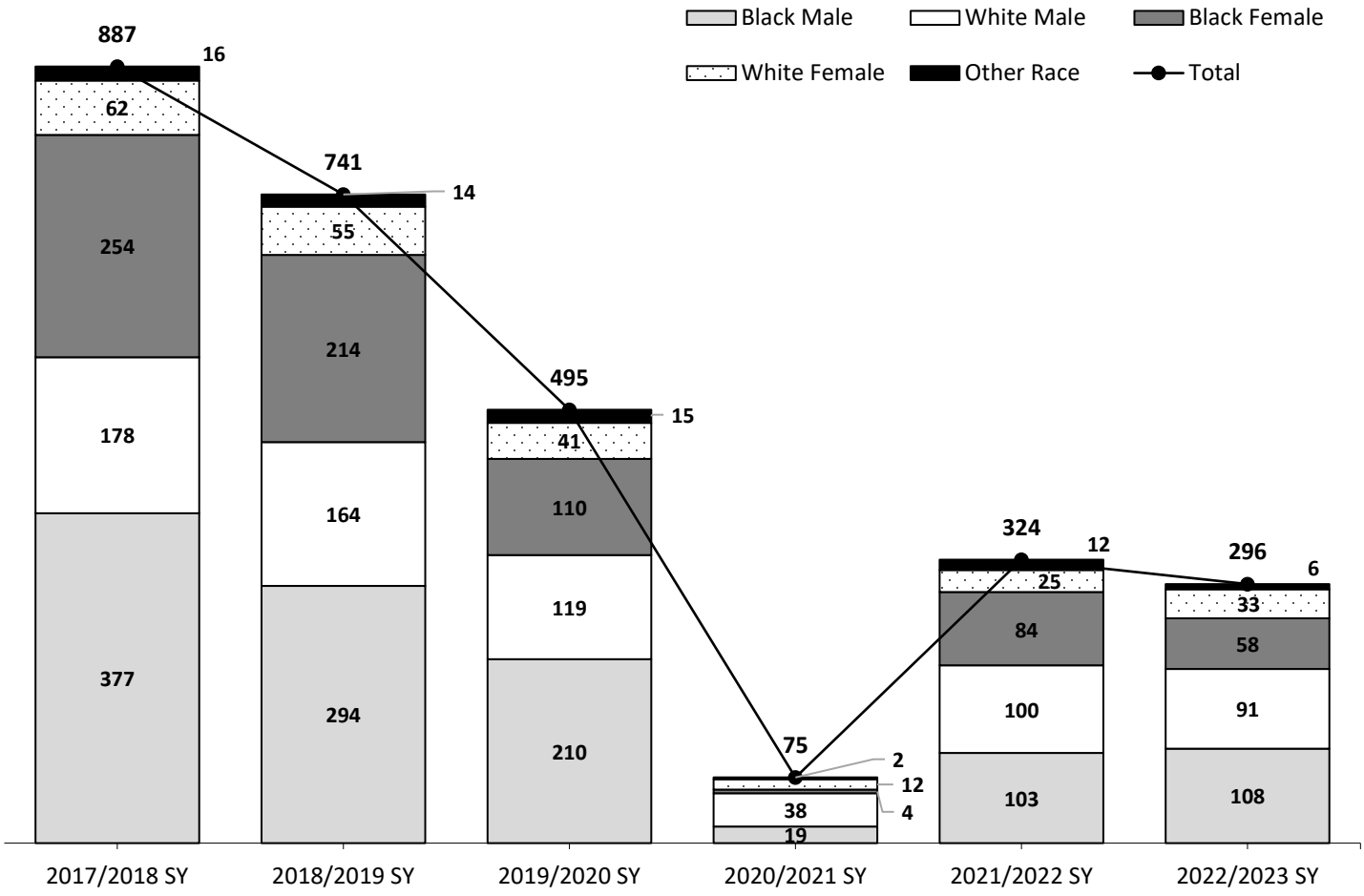


School-Justice Partnership

In 2016, Allegheny County assembled a cross-systems, cross-discipline team to implement a School-Justice Partnership (SJP) in Allegheny County. Under the leadership of Judge Dwayne Woodruff, Allegheny County attended Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform's School-Justice Partnerships Certificate Program. The team developed an SJP initiative with the core principles of pre-arrest diversion and behavioral health support. SJP is a collaborative effort of the Court, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, law enforcement, educators, and community stakeholders.

The SJP has been implemented in the Penn Hills School District, Woodland Hills School District, and Oliver Citywide Academy, located within the Pittsburgh Public School District. During 2020 and 2021, the SJP continued its focus on expanding the number of Allegheny County school districts involved in the initiative by adding the Clairton School District. The SJP also continued intensifying its focus on gathering and evaluating data under a grant received from The Pittsburgh Foundation in 2020 to strengthen existing partnerships and expand into new school districts. These efforts are supported by consulting services from the National Center for State Courts.

Allegations of school-related offenses* decreased 9% from School Year (SY) 2021/2022 to 2022/2023



*School-related offenses occur on school property or within school jurisdiction.

Aggression Replacement Training®

Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®) is an evidence-based, cognitive behavioral therapy intervention designed to alter the behavior of chronically aggressive adolescents and young children. ART® incorporates three specific interventions: Skillstreaming, Anger Control, and Moral Reasoning. It is a ten-week, thirty-hour intervention administered to groups of eight to twelve youth.

Youth in residential delinquency placements often receive ART®. In addition, Allegheny County juvenile probation officers refer juveniles on their caseloads who live in the community to ART® if they can benefit from this competency development program, based on charge type or Youth Level of Service risk/needs assessment.

Juvenile Probation launched its ART® program in 2009 with Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency funds and strengthened its program in 2015 with another PCCD grant that supported expanded training. Although the grant ended, Juvenile Probation continues to offer this intervention.

Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™)

Allegheny County Juvenile Probation is one of twenty-six Pennsylvania departments implementing the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™), which seeks to improve programming for juveniles, reducing their risk to reoffend. The SPEP™ protocol analyzes specific provider services or interventions, reviewing the type, quality, and amount of service provided and the risk level of youth. The tool produces an overall score measuring the likelihood that the intervention will reduce a juvenile's risk to reoffend. An individualized performance improvement plan is developed to assist in service optimization when identified. Allegheny County has five Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists and one Level 2 SPEP™ Trainer, more than any county in the state. Evidence-based Prevention & Intervention Support (EPIS) at Pennsylvania State University oversees SPEP™ in Pennsylvania. EPIS utilized virtual platforms to continue its work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the pandemic, a hybrid approach has enhanced the efficiency of the process. Virtual/Live trainings and Learning Community Meetings are held to bolster understanding and application of the SPEP™ tool. Provider engagement remained consistent through 2023. Many services were active in the cohort monitoring phase; several services are targeted for reassessment in 2024.

Throughout 2023, the SPEP™ Project expanded its focus on probation department engagement. Packages were rolled out to address the diverse capacity of implementing SPEP™ among sixty-seven counties. In particular, the Regional Assist Package harnesses the power of a local, Level 1 trained JPO to support nearby SPEP™ Informed JPOs with service assessments. Allegheny County Juvenile Probation partnered with Penn State EPIS for the first Regional Assist assessment of a community-based service by facilitating the assessment on Adelphoi's In-Home Prevention, Treatment, and Aftercare service for Washington and Butler County Juvenile Probation (SPEP™ Informed Counties). The success of this multi-county collaboration encouraged continued engagement of the respective SPEP™ Informed Counties in additional assessments. Allegheny County Juvenile Probation has agreed to sustain its partnership with Washington County Juvenile Probation, after Washington County Juvenile Probation expressed interest assessing a second service via the Regional Assist.

Service Classification	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Cognitive Behavior Therapy	1	10	1	16	4	8	6	2	12	1		61
Job-related Training		1		1		4	4		1			11
Restitution/Community Service		1			3	5	2	4	1			16
Behavior Management		3		5		3	1	1	4	1		18
Family Counseling		2		1		4	3					10
Individual Counseling		4		4		3	1		6		1	19
Remedial Academic Training					1	3	2		1	1		8
Group Counseling				1	2	2	2	1	4	1		13
Challenge Program				2		2			1			5
Social Skills Training								1				1
Vocational Counseling						2				1		3

*SPEP™ date is based on date full score reports delivered with Allegheny County as SPEP™ lead

Agency / Provider	Number of Services	Number of SPEP™s
1. Abraxas Youth & Family Services: Abraxas WorkBridge	3	5
2. Adelphoi Village (residential programs)	8	65
3. Allegheny County JPO: Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP)	2	5
4. Auberle	3	3
5. Community Specialists Corporation: The Academy Day & Evening Program	2	6
6. George Junior Republic	8	9
7. Harborcreek Youth Services	6	6
8. Lifes'Work	2	2
9. Mid-Atlantic Youth Services	5	5
10. Outreach Teen & Family Services	2	5
11. Outside In	7	22
12. Perseus House	3	3
13. Summit Academy	6	11
14. Taylor Diversion Programs Inc.	6	6
15. VisionQuest	2	3
16. Wesley Family Services (formerly Wesley Spectrum)	2	8
17. Adelphoi Village (community-based programs)	1	1
Grand Total	**68**	**165**

Data reflected in Tables 3 & 4 based on **Alternative Feedback Reports** delivered between 2013 and 2023 at sites where Allegheny County was identified as Lead; includes services not specifically assigned to Allegheny County for assessment. Several of these services have been targeted for reassessment beginning in 2024.

Table: 3

Agency / Provider	Number of Services	Number of SPEP™s
1. Adelphoi Village	1	1
2. Outside In	6	7
3. Perseus House	2	2
4. Youth Enrichment Services	1	1
Grand Total	**10**	**11**

Table: 4

Service Classification	2014	2017	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Cognitive Behavior Therapy			2	1		3
Job-related Training						
Restitution / Community Service				2		2
Behavior Management				1		1
Family Counseling						
Individual Counseling						
Remedial Academic Training				1		1
Group Counseling		1				1
Challenge Program				1		1
Social Skills Training						
Vocational Counseling				1		1
Non-SPEPable	1					1
Grand Total	**1**	**1**	**2**	**7**	**0**	**11**

Efforts to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disproportionalities (RED)

Allegheny County Juvenile Probation has demonstrated a strong commitment to reducing racial disparities. In 2011, the county partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to develop the Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PADRAI), which has been successfully utilized by probation officers for over a decade. This tool ensures that detention decision is focused on the juvenile's risk of reoffending or absconding prior to formal hearings.

To further address racial and ethnic disparities, Allegheny County was selected to participate in the Reducing Racial & Ethnic Disparities Certificate Program by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) in September 2021. The county formed a multi-disciplinary team, led by a juvenile court judge and including representatives from the probation department, the District Attorney's Office. The Georgetown Certificate Program facilitated increased awareness and increased use of community-based diversion programs to reduce racial disproportionality.

In 2022, the team collaborated with the Penn Hills Police Department on a Capstone Project to identify eligible offenses, termed "focus acts," for diversion. By connecting diverted youth to community-based resources, low risk offenders avoid formal court processing.

In effort to increase prevention and diversion efforts, the Caring Connections for Youth (CC4Y) and 211 Hotline was created in conjunction with Allegheny County Juvenile Court to continuously decrease racial and ethnic disparities. The RED Coordinator meets with the Gwen's Girls Black Girls Equity Alliance quarterly to gather more information about further development and data with this program.

Recognizing the need for dedicated coordination, the probation department secured a PCCD Grant in 2022 to hire a full-time Racial Ethnic and Disparity (RED) Coordinator. This coordinator plays a pivotal role in improving cultural competence, increasing diversion efforts, and reducing disparate numbers. The coordinator provides training for both staff and community partners and represents the department at conferences and statewide meetings.

Victim Services

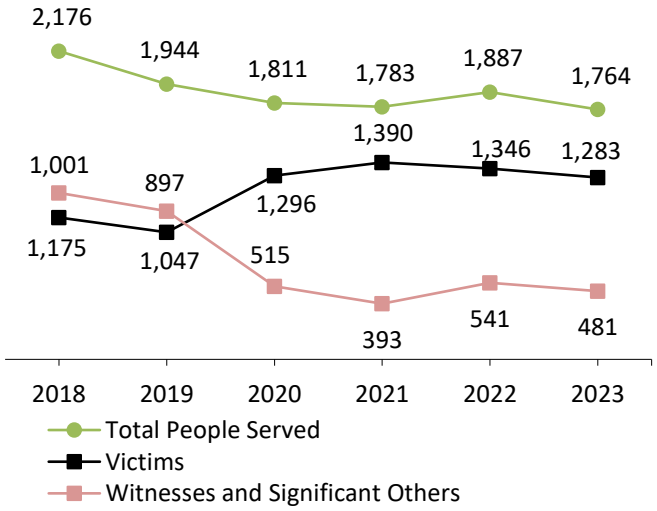
Victims of juvenile offenders are entitled to many rights in the juvenile justice system. The Court works closely with the Center for Victims (CV) and Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) to ensure that victims receive services and have a strong voice at every stage. In 2018, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation developed a Victim Service Liaison Probation Officer position. The Victim Services Liaison communicates and collaborates with victim agencies, victims, and Probation Officers. The Liaison oversees victim-related data and assists probation officers with post dispositional notifications. The Liaison facilitates Victim/Community Awareness: An Impact of Crime Curriculum (V/CAC) groups to educate delinquent youth on the impact of crime, including its effects on victims.

In 2023, V/CAC groups were held with up to twelve youth per class. A total of 219 youth participated in over thirty V/CAC sessions, co-facilitated by CV's Restorative Justice Advocate.

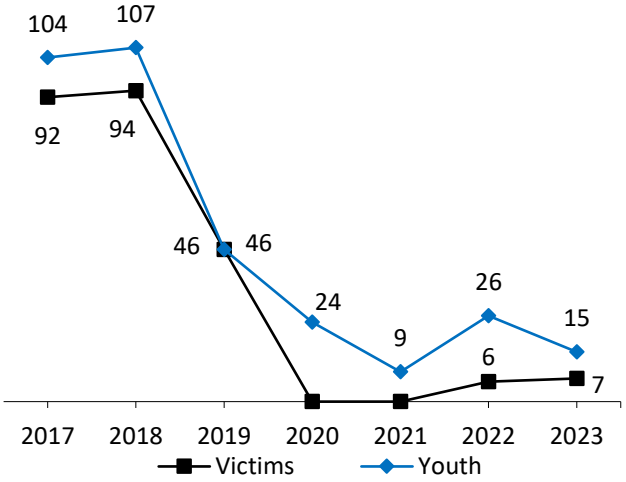
CV provided supportive services, advocacy, and court accompaniment to victims, witnesses, and significant others throughout the court process in-person and virtually. In 2023, CV provided juvenile court advocacy services to 1,283 victims, 42 witnesses, and 439 significant others, for a total of 1,764 people.

CV received a total of fifteen referrals for Victim Offender Dialogues (VOD) and Community Dialogs (CD) in 2023. Of these referrals, 7 were successfully completed, 4 were unsuccessful, and 4 were transitioned into 2024.

CV provided 1% less people with juvenile court advocacy services from 2022 to 2023

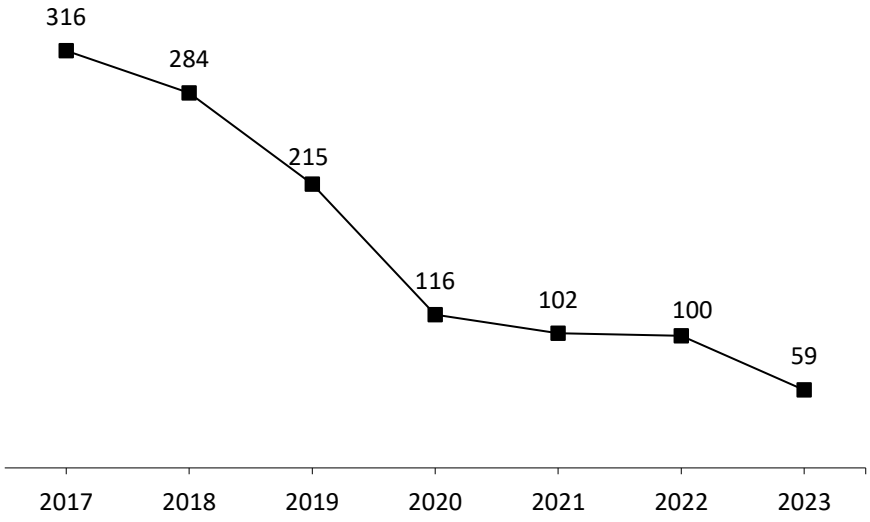


CV engaged with 15 youth and 7 victims to begin the Victim Offender Dialogue process in 2023



In 2023, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) continued to receive case referrals from Juvenile Probation and provided juvenile court advocacy services to sixty-nine victims in a total of fifty-nine distinct families. Virtual options implemented during the pandemic remain an option for clients and their families. PAAR advocates participate in proceedings and attend Adjudicatory Hearings in-person as they happen. PAAR provides both in person and Telehealth services to ensure its services are accessible. Its crisis response remains in place, which means that victims have access to advocacy and accompaniment services in various settings. PAAR's text and chat line continue to supplement the 24/7 Helpline, providing victims and their families a choice in how they access support and information.

Total number of distinct families served by PAAR at juvenile court



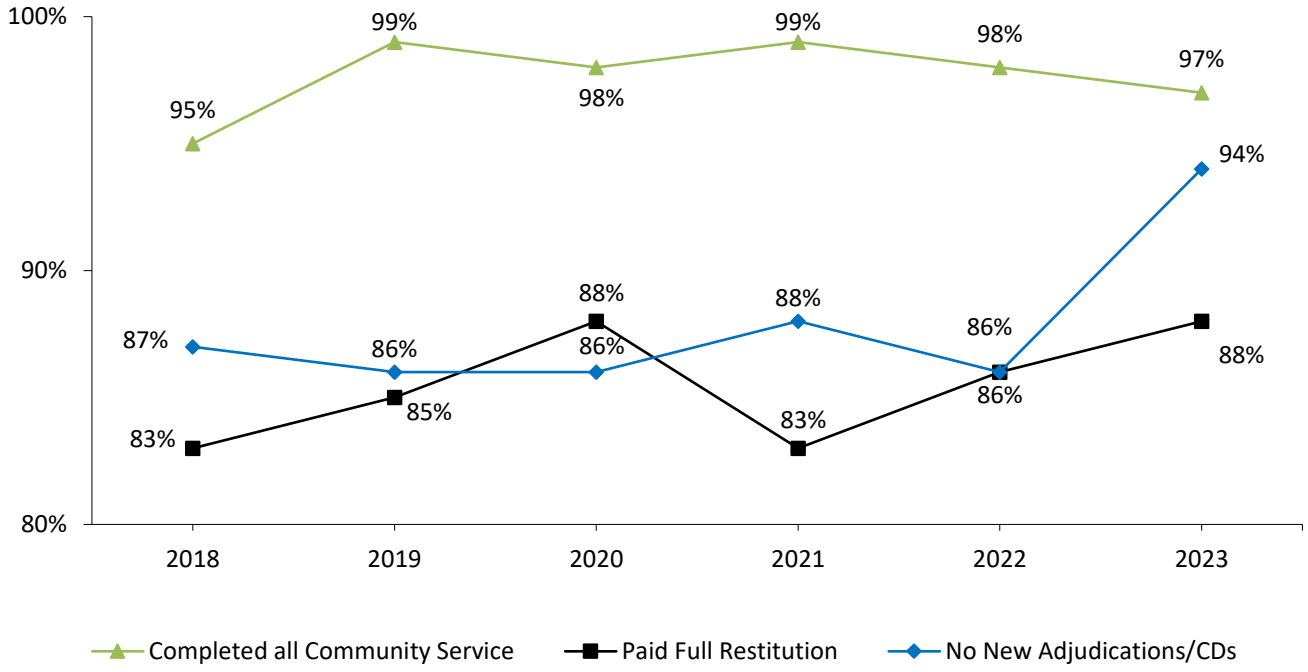
Outcome Measures

2023 Outcome Measures				
Supervision Status at Case Closing	**Number of Youth with Cases Closed**	**Median Length of Supervision**		
All	**539**	**11 months**		
Adjudicated Delinquent (Disposition of Probation or Placement)	**147**	**21 months**		
Consent Decree*	**187**	**7 months**		
Informal Adjustment**	**205**	**5 months**		
Accountability	**Number of Youth Ordered / Required**	**Amount Ordered**	**Amount Completed / Paid**	**% Completed / Paid in Full**
Community Service Hours	**324**	**10,883 hours**	**10,169 hours**	**97%**
Restitution	**99**	**$480,241**	**$102,284**	**88%**
Impact of Crime Curriculum	**296**		**290**	**96%**
Community Protection	**Number of Youth**	**% of Youth**	**Competency Development**	**% of Youth**
Violation of Probation	**26**	**5%**	**Attended School, Vocational Program, or GED Training or Employed at time of Case Closing**	**92%**
New Adjudication / Consent Decree	**30**	**6%**		

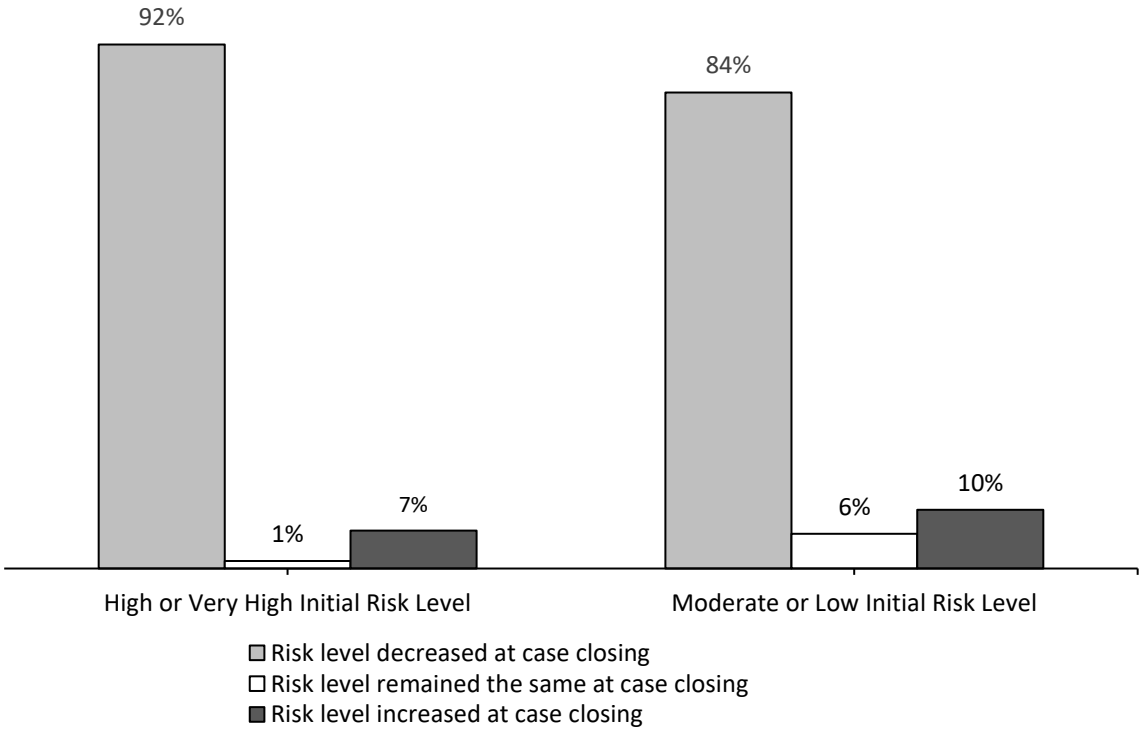
*__Consent Decree__. At any time after the filing of a petition and before the entry of an adjudication order, the court may, upon agreement of the attorney for the Commonwealth and the juvenile, suspend the proceedings and continue the juvenile under supervision in the juvenile's home, under terms and conditions negotiated with the juvenile probation office. (See PAJC Rule 370. Consent Decree).

**__Informal Adjustment.__ At any time prior to the filing of a petition, the juvenile probation officer may informally adjust the allegation(s) if it appears an adjudication would not be in the best interest of the public and the juvenile, and the juvenile and the juvenile's guardian consent to informal adjustment. If the juvenile successfully completes the informal adjustment, the case shall be dismissed. If the juvenile does not successfully complete the informal adjustment, a petition shall be filed. (See PAJC Rule 312. Informal Adjustment).

Out of youth with cases closed in 2023, 97% completed all community service, 89% paid restitution in full, and 94% had no new adjudications or consent decrees



In 2023, the risk level of most youth decreased at time of case closing, as measured by the validated Youth Level of Service risk assessment.



Outcome Measures History

Since 1998, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation has collected data at the time a juvenile's case is officially closed. This data helps the Department gauge intermediate outcomes related to our Balanced and Restorative Justice mission.

The chart below indicates that, since 1998, over 35,900 cases were closed with over $4.57 million dollars in restitution collected and more than 1.29 million hours of community service completed.

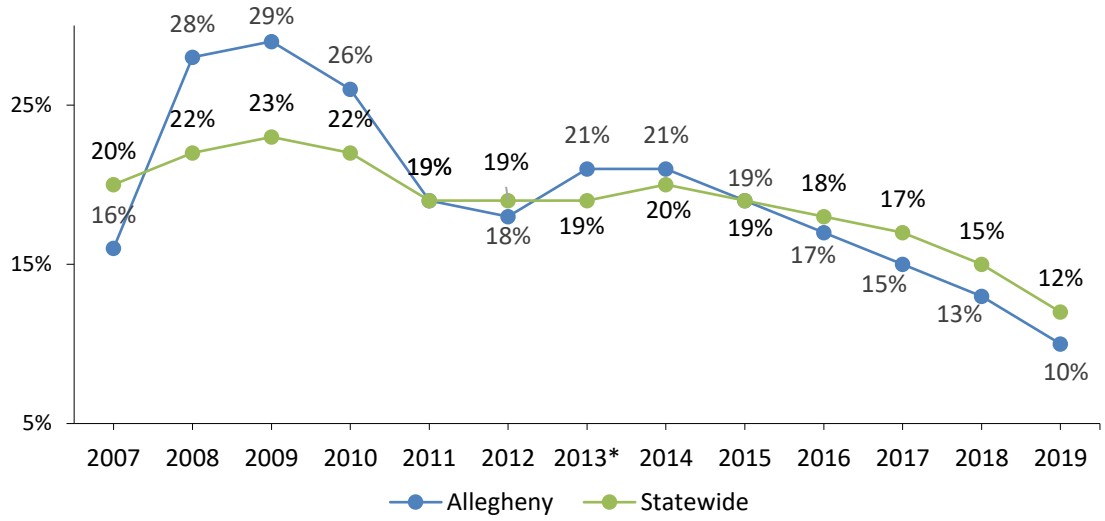
			Restitution		Community Service		
Year	Closed Cases	Avg Months Case Open	Paid	Paid in Full	Hours Completed	Fully Completed	Recidivism While Under Supervision
1998	1,505	30	$127,816	60%	48,633	92%	26%
1999	1,608	28	$176,085	68%	58,652	96%	25%
2000	1,613	26	$160,731	64%	62,311	91%	21%
2001	1,554	21	$148,584	78%	64,891	99%	9%
2002	1,485	19	$138,980	81%	68,791	97%	13%
2003	1,475	19	$155,911	77%	69,654	98%	11%
2004	1,685	18	$200,278	79%	73,573	96%	11%
2005	1,579	17	$215,827	76%	70,014	96%	10%
2006	1,540	17	$218,866	75%	68,764	96%	12%
2007	1,757	19	$239,185	79%	80,383	95%	13%
2008	2,040	17	$223,465	81%	91,481	96%	19%
2009	1,904	17	$234,913	77%	84,575	96%	11%
2010	1,921	17	$245,450	80%	70,104	95%	14%
2011	1,883	17	$235,248	76%	64,234	94%	14%
2012	1,826	17	$279,636	74%	59,043	96%	11%
2013	1,526	16	$190,006	78%	42,791	94%	12%
2014	1,290	15	$234,101	81%	29,806	94%	9%
2015	1,048	12	$125,765	86%	25,181	92%	10%
2016	1,172	14	$156,352	85%	28,357	92%	12%
2017	1,229	12	$124,657	81%	28,742	93%	9%
2018	1,044	15	$158,881	83%	29,385	95%	13%
2019	911	16	$124,570	85%	24,226	99%	14%
2020	825	19	$128,012	88%	19,925	98%	14%
2021	600	18	$134,339	83%	11,724	99%	12%
2022	419	16	$96,625	86%	8,174	98%	14%
2023	539	11	$102,284	88%	10,169	97%	11%
Total	**35,978**		**$4,576,567**		**1,293,583**		

Recidivism

With the advent of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy in 2010, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) agreed to raise the bar on measuring recidivism. Historically, the system tracked recidivism only during the time a juvenile was supervised by the Department and active with the Court. The new standard defines recidivism as any misdemeanor or felony adjudication or conviction for a period of two years post case closing.

A cooperative effort between JCJC and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) has made this recidivism data available. The benchmark study included cases closed in 2007, 2008 and 2009—the three years immediately prior to the implementation of JJSES. It provided a baseline to gauge the success of the JJSES initiative. Data from 2010 and after allows us to track recidivism rates as evidence-based practices are implemented.

Recidivism Rate Trends



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013**	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Allegheny	28%	29%	26%	19%	18%	21%	21%	19%	17%	15%	13%	10%
Statewide	22%	23%	22%	19%	19%	19%	20%	19%	18%	17%	15%	12%

*Data from: Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles Closed 2007-2019*.

**The methodology used to calculate the recidivism rate was changed starting with the 2013 data. Specifically, the criteria for valid dispositions to identify eligible cases was revised.

Expunged cases are a significant limitation to this study. Prior to October 1, 2014, when a case was expunged in Pennsylvania, the juvenile's identifying information pertaining to that case was "erased" and was therefore not available for analysis. Consequently, juveniles with a 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013 case expungement were omitted from the study's sample, unless they had a separate case closed during those same years that was not expunged. Juveniles whose cases are expunged are presumed to be individuals who are considered to be at lower risk to recidivate (i.e., first-time, relatively minor offenders). Omitting these juveniles from the recidivism analysis most likely results in a higher recidivism rate. In 2014, the PA Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure were modified to allow the Department to retain identifying information for research purposes, beginning with 2015 case closures.

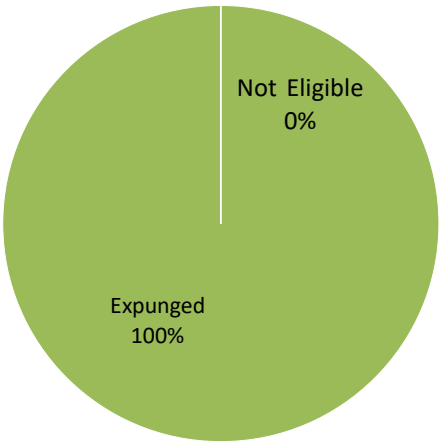
Expungements

Consistent with Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act and the Balanced and Restorative Justice goals, since 2010, the Allegheny County Probation Department has initiated expungement proceedings for juveniles:

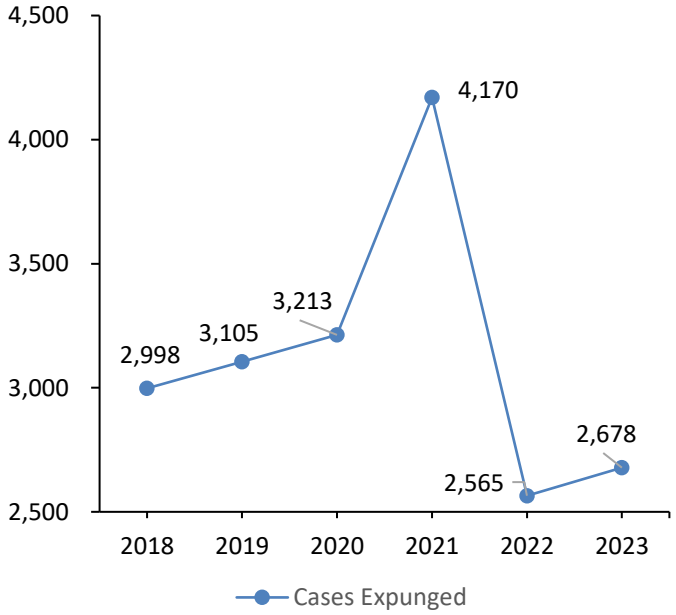
- Who have attained the age of eighteen and all the charges received by the Court have been informally adjusted, dismissed, or withdrawn and six months have elapsed since the juvenile's case has been closed and no proceedings are pending in juvenile or criminal Court.
- Who have successfully completed a consent decree and have no proceeding pending juvenile or criminal court.

Since 2010, the Department has dedicated one full-time clerk in the Information Management Unit to processing these privately as Court initiated expungements and submitting them to the Court for consideration. Out of the 2,678 cases researched in 2023, all met the criteria and were expunged by an order of Court.

Expungements 2023



The number of expunged cases increased 4% from 2022 to 2023



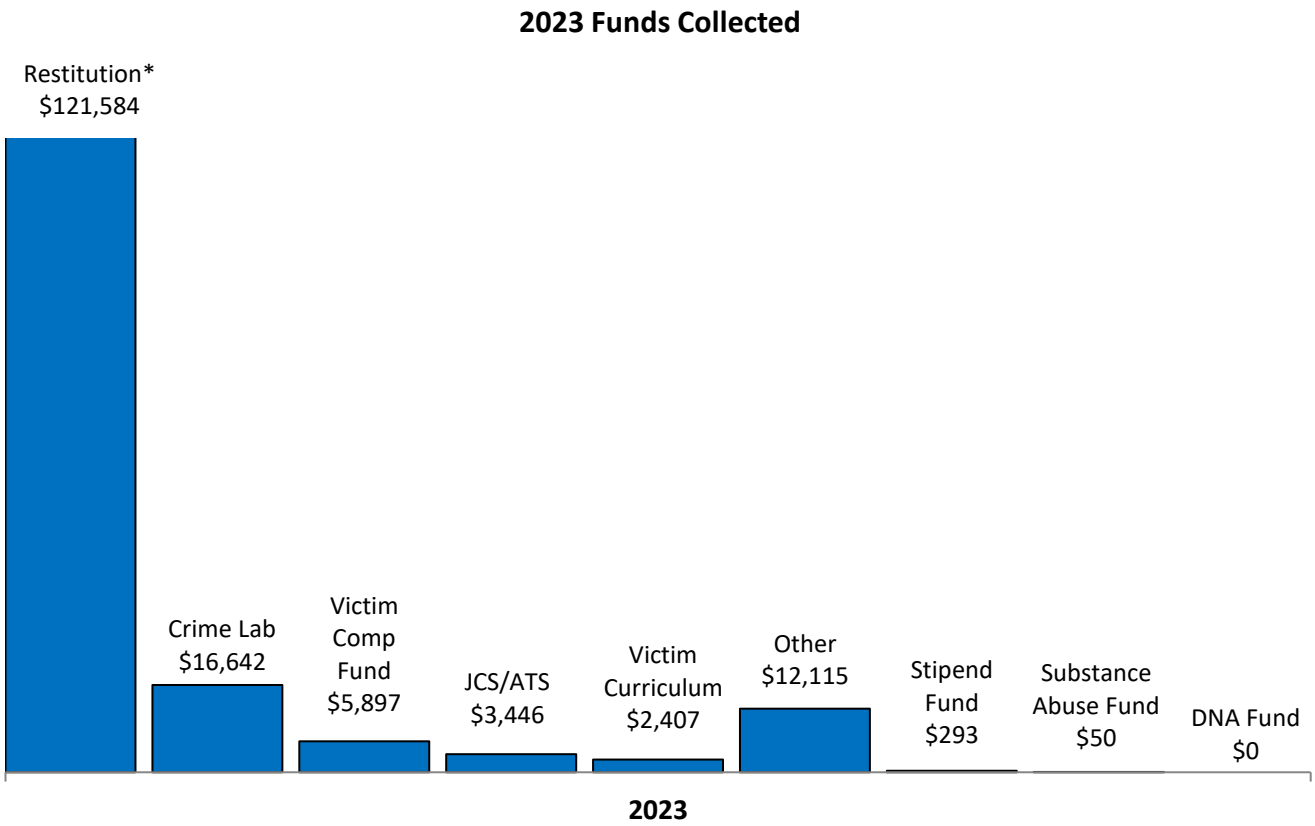
Financial Information

The Administrative Services Unit provides support for all fiscal matters related to the Department. The Unit, comprised of a supervisor and three staff positions, is responsible for processing the payroll for all full and part-time staff.

There are four budgets (Institutional, Operational, Community Intensive Supervision Program, and Electronic Monitoring), totaling $53,677,563. The Unit also monitors several grant-funded projects.

A central tenet of the Allegheny County Juvenile Probation's Balanced and Restorative justice mission is to ensure that juveniles are held accountable to repair the harm they have caused individual victims and the community at large. Toward that end, the Administrative Services Unit is also responsible for the distribution of restitution and fines collected by probation officers. A total of $162,433 was collected and dispersed in 2023.

The law requires juveniles to pay Court ordered restitution in full or remain on probation until age twenty-one. If restitution remains unpaid at age of twenty-one, the financial obligation to the victim is indexed as a judgment with the Department of Court Records.



*Case closing restitution reported on other pages reflects all funds collected during the life of the case. This chart only reflects funds actually collected during calendar year 2023.

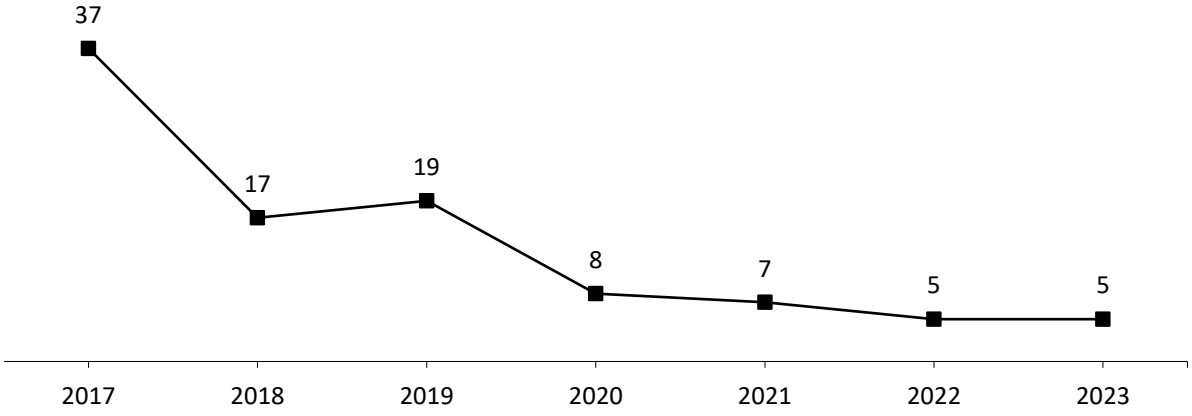
Act 53

In 1997, Pennsylvania legislators closed the "gap" in our Court system regarding drug and alcohol treatment for addicted teenagers who have not been adjudicated delinquent or dependent by a Juvenile Court Judge. Under Act 53, Judges are authorized to involuntary commit minors for drug and alcohol treatment. Act 53 is not a juvenile delinquency proceeding. The Probation Department is not involved in the processing or supervision of these cases.

The Act 53 process is a joint effort between Allegheny County Juvenile Court and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services' Drug and Alcohol Services Unit. To access the Court via the Act 53 process, the parent/legal guardian of the teenager must be an Allegheny County resident, and the youth must be between the ages of twelve and seventeen.

The Act 53 process focuses on teenagers who clearly need substance abuse treatment but who are unable or unwilling to ask for the help they need. The process serves teens at high risk to become delinquent if they do not receive treatment. Allegheny County's implementation of Act 53 has become a model for other jurisdictions in the state.

The number of Act 53 cases filed decreased 29% in 2023 from 2019



2023 Highlights

2023 Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) Nominees

Award Category	Nominee
Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year	Gary King
Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year	Courtney Harrison
Juvenile Court Support Service Award	Tracey Weir (Statewide Winner)
Court-Operated Program of the Year	Drug and Alcohol Unit (Statewide Winner)
Residential Program of the Year	Adelphoi Secure Detention
Community Based Program of the Year	ART – Wesley Spectrum (Statewide Winner)
Victim Advocate of the Year	Stephanie Troup – Center for Victims

Golden Gavel Award

Lora Kay was honored with the Golden Gavel award in 2023. The Golden Gavel is presented to an employee for individual accomplishments, good deeds performed in the community, innovative ideas relating to court operations, and for going above and beyond job assignments to assist another person.

Pictured from L-R: Supervisor Lisa Rusko, Chief Russell Carlino, Probation Officer Lora Kay, Supervisor Antonio DiMaria

Special Recognition

Chief Award Recipients	
Ericka Wingfield	Renee Regan-Woods
Lora Key	Sabrina Besaw

Retirements

Retiree Name
William Holt
Richard Faulkner
Valerie Ketter
Tanya Wilson
Charlotte Rechendorff

Promotions

Employee Name	New Job Title
Sabrina Besaw	Administration Secretary
Emilinda Jarrett	Probation Supervisor
Taji Walsh	CISP Supervisor

Allegheny County Music Festival

Juvenile Probation continues to participate in the Allegheny County Music Festival at Hartwood Acres, held annually over Labor Day weekend. For over 20 years, the festival has raised money to pay for life-enriching opportunities and items not otherwise available to youth active with Juvenile Court or the Department of Human Services, such as a dance lessons or summer camp. Juvenile Probation collects donations and directs traffic at the event. Juvenile Probation staff were on hand again this year to help collect over $14,000 in donations, with a suggested donation of $20/car.

Allegheny County Juvenile Probation
550 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-350-0200
Fax: 412-350-0197
www.alleghenycourts.us/family/juvenile/