

BERKS COUNTY PROBATION & PAROLE JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



We are Committed to Public Safety, Justice for Victims, the Reparation of the Community and Accountability and Personal Development of Offenders, with Respectful Treatment for All Involved.



**Honorable Scott. E. Lash
Administrative Judge, Juvenile Court**

**Honorable Eleni Dimitriou Geishauser
Juvenile Court Judge**

**Daniel C. Heydt, M.S., M.P.A.
Chief Probation Officer**

**Prepared by:
Christine Anderton, M.S.
Assistant Chief**

BERKS COUNTY PROBATION & PAROLE JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICE

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Barbara D. Dancy, M.S. – Deputy Chief
Travis V. Johnson – Deputy Chief
Eric B. Burkholder – Assistant Chief
Daisy Holston, M.S. – Assistant Chief
Lisa Lewis – Assistant Chief
Andre Castiglioni – Assistant Chief
Christine Anderton, M.S. – Assistant Chief
Chandelle Catrone, M.S. – Quality Assurance Supervisor
Lynn Evan – Court Operations Manager
Mindy Zweizig, CFE, CICA – Fiscal Operations Manager
Heather Stephens, Fiscal Operations Manager

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Court of Common Pleas of Berks County

Twenty Third Judicial District of Pennsylvania
633 Court Street, Reading PA 19601
Daniel C. Heydt - Chief Probation & Parole Officer

As we reflect on the work of the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office throughout 2025, I am proud to present a report that demonstrates both the strength of our system and the dedication of the professionals who serve our youth, families, and community every day. This year's data affirms what we see in our daily practice. When young people are met with structure, support, and evidence-based intervention, they have the ability to change the trajectory of their lives.

Our continued emphasis on diversion, early intervention, and community-based responses has produced meaningful outcomes. Programs such as the Community Youth Aid Panel, Summary Diversion, the use of Informal Adjustments, and Consent Decrees continue to keep our youth out of deeper system involvement while still holding them accountable in constructive ways.

In 2025, our recidivism rate for juveniles that were under probation supervision was the lowest it has ever been. Only 7.8% of youth that had their cases closed in 2022 were found to have committed a new offense within two years. Our recidivism rates have been consistently lower than statewide rates dating back as far as 2007, but this newest data reflects not only the effectiveness of our approach to working with youth, but also the commitment of our officers to ensuring each young person referred to our office receives the appropriate services and interventions.

The work of our probation officers is at the heart of these outcomes. Their ability to balance accountability with compassion, structure with support, and public safety with youth development is what makes our department exceptional. Whether they are facilitating services, engaging families, responding to crises, or coordinating with schools, treatment providers, and community partners, our officers consistently demonstrate professionalism, empathy, and an unwavering belief in the potential of the youth we serve.

This year also brought continued challenges including the rising complexity of cases, limited detention availability, and increased demands on community resources. Our staff met these challenges with creativity and resilience. Their efforts ensured that even when secure detention beds were unavailable, youth were safely supervised through alternatives such as shelter care, GPS monitoring, and expedited court processes. Their dedication has strengthened outcomes and reduced unnecessary system involvement for many youth.

As we move forward, we remain committed to Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) and to the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ). We will continue to employ evidence-based practices with fidelity, analyze our data to guide decision-making, and strive for continuous improvement in every aspect of our work.

To our officers, support staff, and community partners, your dedication ensures our youth are not defined by their mistakes, but empowered to build safer, healthier futures. To the families and young people we serve, thank you for your trust and your willingness to engage in the difficult but meaningful work of change. Together, we will continue to strengthen our community and support the success of every young person who enters our system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Heydt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel C. Heydt, M.S., M.P.A.
Chief Probation Officer

REFERRALS RECEIVED IN 2025

In 2025, the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office received a total of 442 referrals from 32 police departments and several local magisterial district justices. Also included in that number were referrals received from other juvenile probation departments within Pennsylvania as well as other states.

Charges Received by Department (Referral Source)

Amity Township	4
Bern Township	16
Bethel Township	1
Birdsboro Borough	2
Brecknock Township	1
Caenarvon Township	23
Central Berks Regional	4
Cumru Township	8
Berks County District Attorney's Office	4
Douglass Township	1
Eastern Berks Regional	7
Exeter Township	19
Fleetwood Borough	6
Hamburg Borough	7
Kutztown Borough	1
Laureldale Borough	17
Lower Heidelberg	1
Magisterial District Judges	40
Mohnton	1
Muhlenberg Township	19
Northern Berks Regional	4
Pennsylvania State Police (Hamburg, Harrisburg, & Reading)	15
City of Reading	131
Robeson Township	2
Shillington Borough	5
Sinking Spring	3
South Heidelberg Township	13
Spring Township	17
Transfer from Another County	49
Transfer from Another State	2
West Reading Borough	9
Womelsdorf Borough	1
Wyomissing Borough	9

442

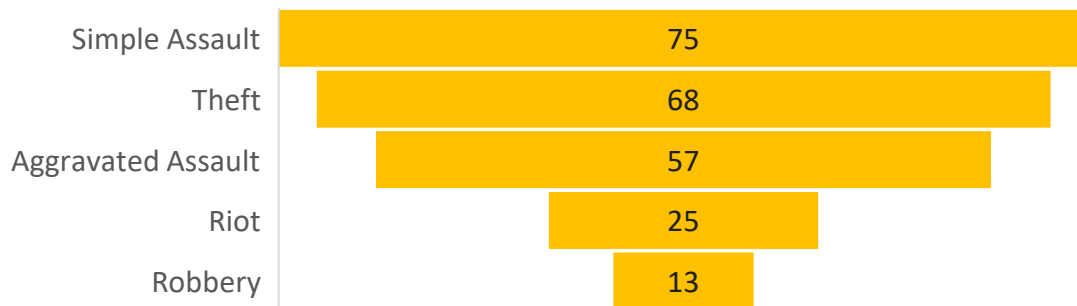
Most Serious Alleged Charge

Access Device Fraud	1 (M) 1 (F)
Accidents Involving Damage (M)	1
Aggravated Assault (F)	57
Aggravated Indecent Assault (F)	1
Assault of a Law Enforcement Officer (F)	1
Burglary (F)	10
Criminal Mischief	9 (M) 2 (F)
Criminal Trespass	1 (M) 3 (F)
Discharge of a Firearm into an Occupied Structure (F)	2
Disorderly Conduct (M)	6
Driving Under the Influence (M)	7
Escape	5 (M) 2 (F)
Evading Arrest/Fleeing or Attempting to Elude Police	3 (M) 3 (F)
False Alarms to Public Safety (M)	1
False Identification to Law Enforcement/Unsworn Falsification to Law Enforcement (M)	5
Firearms: Delivery (F)	1
Firearms: Possession with Altered Mfgr. Number (F)	1
Firearms: Possession of a Firearm by a Minor (M)	3
Firearms: Carried without a License (F)	3
Harassment (M)	3
Involuntary Deviant Sexual Intercourse (F)	4
Indecent Assault	2 (M) 1 (F)
Indecent Exposure (M)	1
Institutional Vandalism	11 (M) 1 (F)
Intimidation of a Witness (F)	1
Kidnapping (F)	2
Loitering and Prowling (M)	2
Non-Payment of Fines and Costs	40
Obstructing the Administration of Law (M)	1
Possessing Instruments of Crime (M)	1
Possession of Marijuana (M)	12
Possession with the Intent to Deliver a Contr. Subs. (F)	2
Possession of a Weapon on School Property (M)	5
Prohibited Offensive Weapons (M)	1
Rape (F)	1
Resisting Arrest (M)	5
Retail Theft	4 (M) 3 (F)
Retaliation Against a Victim/Witness (F)	2
Riot (F)	25
Robbery (F)	13
Selling/Furnishing Alcohol to Minors (M)	1
Sexual Abuse of Children (F)	4
Sexual Extortion (M)	1
Simple Assault (M)	75
Stalking (M)	3
Strangulation	2 (M) 1 (F)

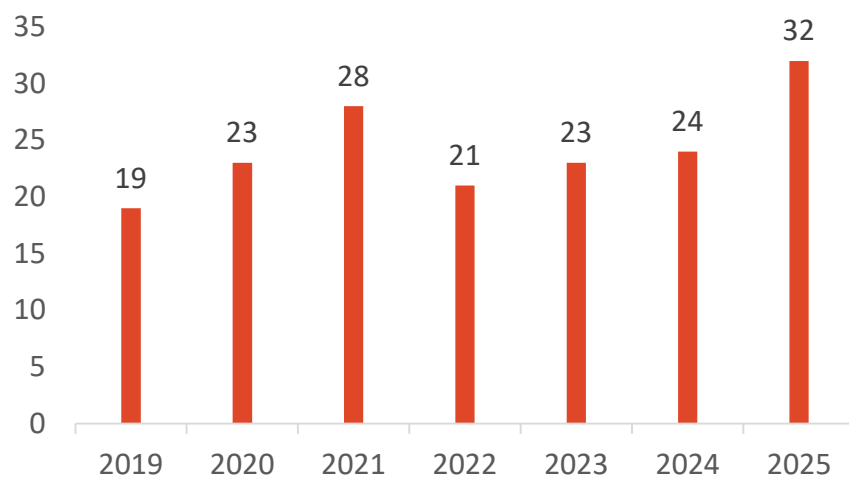
Terroristic Threats	10 (M) 1 (F)
Theft/Theft by Receiving Stolen Property/Theft by Unlawful Taking	11 (M) 57 (F)
Transmission of Sexually Explicit Images (M)	2
Unauthorized Use of an Automobile (M)	2

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Top 5 Referred Offenses in 2025



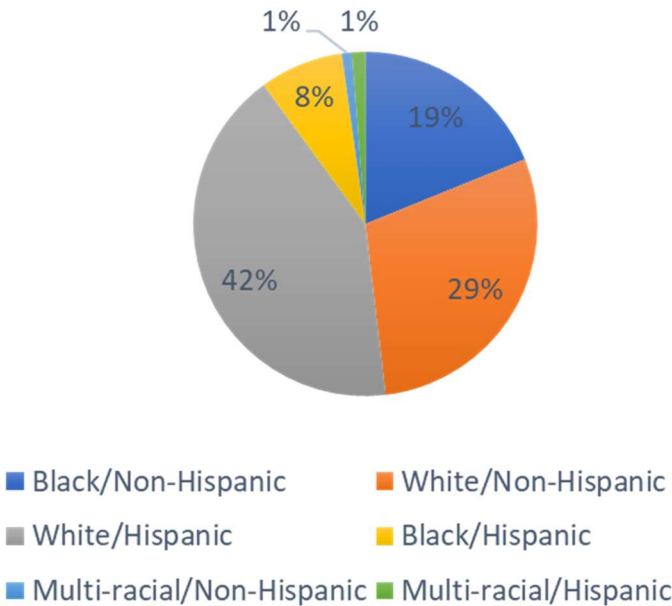
Juveniles Referred with an Offense/s Involving a Firearm



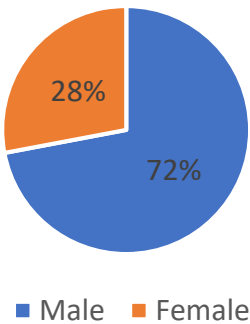
Referral Demographics

Of the 402 misdemeanor and felony referrals received by the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office in 2025, 322 of those referrals were unique juveniles. The data below describes the demographic information on the 322 unique juveniles that received misdemeanor or felony charges in Berks County in 2025.

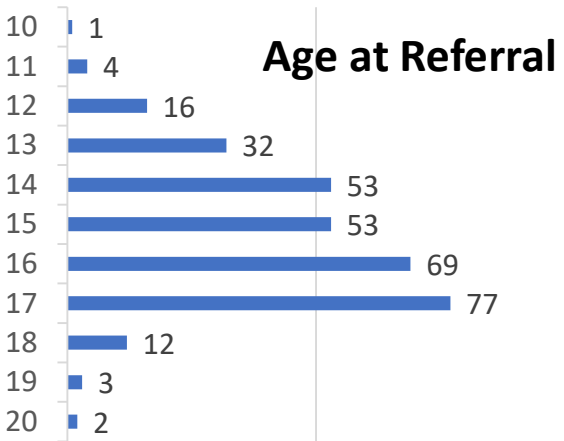
Race & Ethnicity



Gender



Age at Referral



Berks County Total Estimated Population (2024)¹ **439,117**
 Berks County Juvenile Population (ages 10 to 17 years) (2024)² **95,727**

¹U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Population estimates, July 1, 2024
²U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, persons under 18 years, 21.8%, July 1, 2024

2025 DISPOSITIONS

Accepted Courtesy Supervision	5
Adjudication of Delinquency	66
Allegation or Petition Withdrawn or Dismissed	49
Change/Continuance of Placement	197
Consent Decree	121
Continuance of Previous Disposition	218
Court Supervision/Case Closed Prior to Disposition	105
Court Supervision/Case Closed, Summary	15
Disposition Pending	20
Fines/Costs – Non-Court Ordered	6
Informal Adjustment	17
Juvenile Delinquency Placement	57
Released from Placement	54
Transferred to Another Juvenile Court	57
Transferred to Criminal Court	1
Warned/Counseled & Fast Track	14

1002

Other Dispositions/Services

Summary Offenses – Magisterial District Judges

The department provides an alternative sanctioning program for County Magisterial District Judges, giving them the option of ordering community service hours in lieu of fines and costs for summary convictions. In 2025, 159 summary offenses were disposed of through this program.

ACT 53

ACT 53 provides parents and legal guardians a means by which to engage their child in drug and alcohol treatment, either inpatient or outpatient, with the assistance of the Court. These youth are not placed under supervision, rather just guided into treatment.

In 2025, 6 requests for ACT 53 services were handled by the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office. These requests resulted in 2 drug and alcohol evaluations through T.A.S.C., and 1 ACT 53 Court Hearing. The drug and alcohol evaluations resulted in one recommendation for inpatient drug and alcohol treatment. For the ACT 53 Court Hearing, the juvenile and parent failed to appear, resulting in no further action.

DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Juvenile diversion is an intervention strategy, which may occur at various formal and informal contact points, that redirects youth away from traditional processing or deeper juvenile justice involvement, while still holding them accountable for their actions.¹ Berks County diverts youth in several ways. A case may be diverted prior to being referred officially, through the Community Youth Aid Panel, or after official referral by way of an Informal Adjustment or a Consent Decree.

Diversion is based on research which indicates formal system processing and/or incarceration of juveniles leads to a greater likelihood of future criminal behavior, and that alternatives such as decriminalization, deinstitutionalization, and diversion are better for long-term youth development. By creating informal channels to navigate juveniles (generally those who have committed non-violent, first-time, or status offenses) away from traditional processing, diversion programs serve as opportunities to correct youths' antisocial behaviors with the assistance of their families and the community, rather than through the justice system.²

Studies show diverting youth who have committed minor offenses is a more effective way of reducing recidivism that prevents future delinquent behavior. Diversion gives youth an opportunity to alter their trajectory without unnecessary punitive consequences. Formally processing youth through the juvenile justice system does more harm by labeling the youth as delinquent, which may create a self-fulfilling prophecy and expose youth to circumstances within placement facilities that may ultimately increase delinquency.³ Additionally, implementing diversion programming for youth reduces system costs and allows resources for handling youth involved with more serious crime.⁴

Some benefits of diversion are:

- a reduction of premature involvement in the “deep end” of the juvenile delinquency system
- a reduction in out-of-home placements, especially for younger children
- maintaining youth connectedness and engagement in the community by keeping the youth in their environment
- a reduction in cost compared to court processing and/or secure placement.⁵

Lisa Lewis

Assistant Chief

Chair of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers Diversion Committee

¹ Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, Diversion Committee, n.d.

² [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Diversion Programs I-Guide, Brief Background on Diversion Programs](#), n.d.

³ Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, National Youth Screening and Assessment Project, & Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, 2011.

⁴ <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/juvenile-justice/diversion-programs>, n.d.

⁵ Dembo, Wareham & Schmeidler, 2005; Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justices, National Juvenile Defender Center, National Youth Screening and Assessment Project & Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, 2022

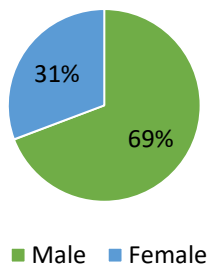
Community Youth Aid Panel



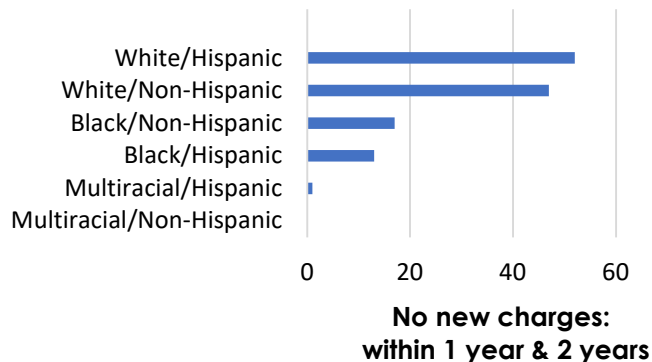
The Community Youth Aid Panel is a diversion program that provides juveniles who have committed a chargeable offense an alternative to traditional case processing. Juveniles and their parents/guardians meet with a panel of community volunteers, trained by the Juvenile Probation Office, to discuss the incident and provide basic background information. This allows for the creation of a contract to hold the juvenile accountable, increase competencies, address skill deficits, and provide victim reparations. Upon successful completion, their case will be closed, and their record will be expunged.

In 2025, 130 cases were diverted to 9 Community Youth Aid Panels across Berks County. These cases consisted of 4 felonies, 123 misdemeanors and 3 summary offenses. By the end of 2025, 83 youth successfully completed the program, 27 youth were pending completion of the program, 9 were pending their initial meeting and 11 cases were sent back to the referring source as unsuccessful. A total of 58 volunteers were involved with the Community Youth Aid Panel in 2025.

Gender



Race/Ethnicity



2025	130 cases	83 successfully completed; 36 active; 11 unsuccessful	N/A	N/A
2024	118 cases	107 successfully completed; 1 active	103 (96%)	N/A
2023	294 cases	268 successfully completed	259 (97%)	253 (94%)
2022	318 cases	294 successfully completed	290 (99%)	279 (95%)

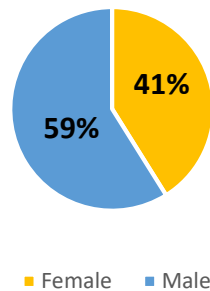
Amount of Restitution Collected: \$3,266.49 | 3rd Millennium Classes Assigned: 71
Hours of Community Service Completed: 89

Summary Diversion Program

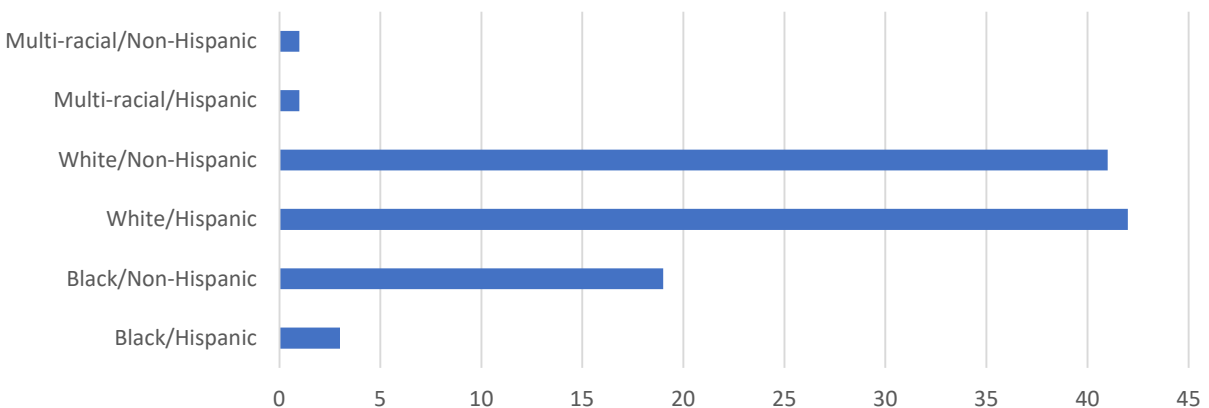
The Summary Diversion Program allows youth charged with summary offenses to participate in a short-term evidence-based intervention rather than appear before a Magisterial District Justice. Upon completion, the juveniles' records are expunged.

In 2025, 107 cases were referred to the Summary Diversion Program, 103 for summary and 4 for misdemeanor offenses. Of those 107 referrals, 63 youth successfully completed the Summary Diversion Program, 43 were pending completion by the end of 2025, and 1 was returned to the police unsuccessfully.

Summary Diversion Referrals by Gender



Summary Diversion Referrals by Race



Amount of Restitution Collected: \$318.24
3rd Millennium Courses Assigned: 91
Hours of Community Service Completed: 45

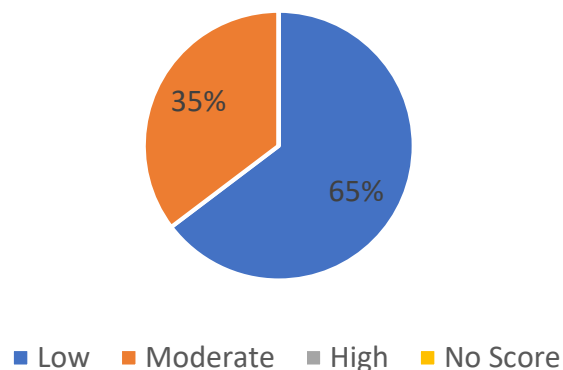
Informal Adjustment

An Informal Adjustment is typically utilized with low to moderate-risk youth, with little to no history of delinquency. These youth are held accountable by participating in a variety of programming and treatment. This level of supervision can last up to six months and can be extended an additional three months by Order of the Court if necessary. After completing an Informal Adjustment, the juvenile will have no formal record.

In 2025, 17 juveniles were placed on an Informal Adjustment.

- 1 was for a Felony Offense; 16 were for Misdemeanor Offenses
- 10 were female (59%); 7 were male (41%)
- 7 were White/Hispanic (41%); 6 were White/Non-Hispanic (35%); 3 were Black/Non-Hispanic (18%); 1 was Black/Hispanic (6%)
- 3 successfully completed their supervision and had their case closed (18%)
- 12 still have their case open and are in compliance with their supervision (70%)
- 2 had their Informal Adjustment failed due to either receiving new charges or non-compliance (12%)

Risk Level - Informal Adjustment



Risk levels at case closing for the 3 juveniles who had their case closed:

LOW – 3 (100%)

Consent Decree

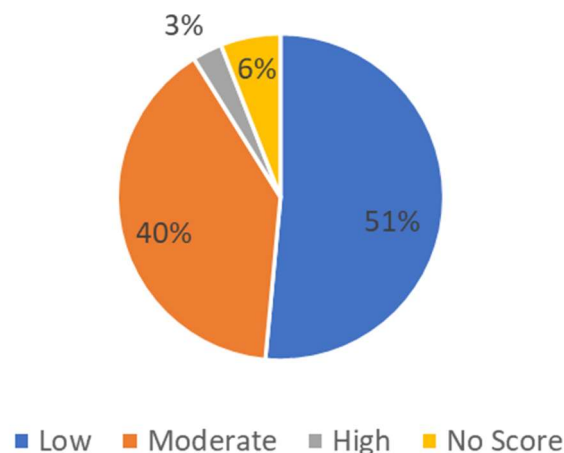
A Consent Decree is given by the District Attorney's Office and is typically granted to low to moderate-risk, non-violent offenders, with limited to no involvement within the legal system. The juveniles afforded an opportunity to complete a Consent Decree are held accountable through a variety of programming and treatment. Juveniles are typically on a Consent Decree for up to six months and can be extended an additional six months if they have not fulfilled their obligations to the Court during the initial time period. Once a juvenile successfully completes their Consent Decree, they will have no formal record.

In 2025, 121 Consent Decrees were granted to 101 juveniles.

- 88 Misdemeanor Offenses (73%); 33 Felony Offenses (27%)
- 72 were male (71%); 29 were female (29%)

- 16 successfully completed their supervision and had their case closed (16%)
- 78 still have their case open and are compliant (77%)
- 7 had their Consent Decree revoked (7%) (6 were subsequently adjudicated delinquent and 1 was placed on temporary supervision)
 - 4 revoked due to receiving new charges (57%)
 - 3 revoked due to Violations or non-compliance (43%)

Risk Level - Consent Decree



Risk Levels at case closing for the 16 juveniles that had their case closed:
LOW – 15 (94%), NO SCORE – 1 (6%)

COURT DISPOSITIONS

Adjudication of Delinquency

An adjudication of delinquency occurs when a juvenile has a significant history of legal involvement or presents with a serious or violent offense/s. Some of these juveniles have previously been offered a diversionary program such as an Informal Adjustment or Consent Decree and were not successful. Juveniles that are adjudicated delinquent are held accountable through intensive programming and treatment. Formal supervision lasts an average of 11 months, but juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent may be under supervision until they are 21 years of age. An adjudication of delinquency may also contribute toward a prior record score as an adult. There is a process for expungement that some adjudicated juveniles will qualify for, which occurs in most cases within 5 years of case closure.

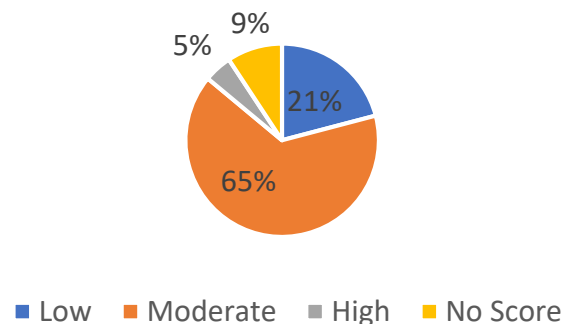
In 2025, 66 adjudications of delinquency occurred on 43 juveniles.

- 40 Misdemeanor Offenses (61%); 26 Felony Offenses (39%)
- 37 were male (86%); 6 were female or identified as female (14%)

Of those 43 juveniles placed under supervision (not placed initially):

- 9 successfully completed their supervision and had their case closed (21%)
- 24 are still under community supervision (56%)
- 1 was certified to adult criminal court (2%)
- 1 is currently incarcerated in adult criminal charges (2%)
- 8 returned to Court after being adjudicated and were placed (19%)
 - 5 were placed due to violations (62.5%)
 - 3 were placed due to receiving new charges & violations (37.5%)

Risk Level - Adjudication of Delinquency



Risk Levels at case closing for 9 juveniles that had their case closed:

LOW – 5 (56%), MODERATE – 2 (22%), NO YLS – 2 (22%)

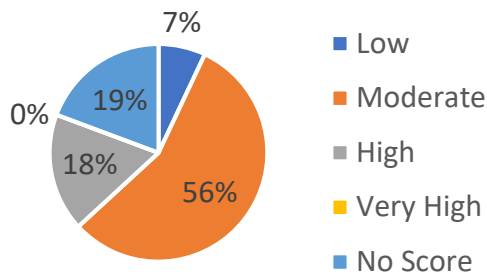
Delinquency Placement

Juvenile delinquency placements are utilized as a last-resort for those juveniles that present with serious and/or violent offenses or have unsuccessfully exhausted all community-based programming and treatment. These residential programs focus on the needs of the juvenile identified in the YLS as well as criminal offending behaviors. The goal of a juvenile delinquency placement is rehabilitating the juvenile and reintegrating them back into their home.

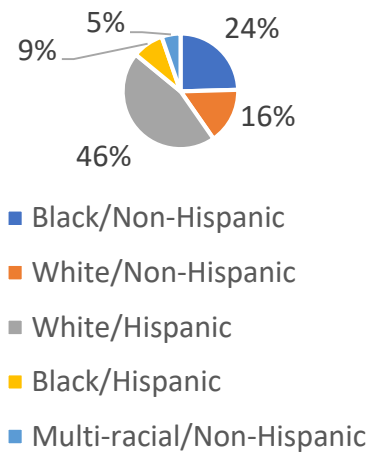
In 2025, 57 delinquency placements were ordered for 50 juveniles.

- New Charges – 25 (44%)
- Violations – 19 (33%)
- Failure to Adjust from Another Placement – 8 (14%)
- Review Hearing – 5 (9%)

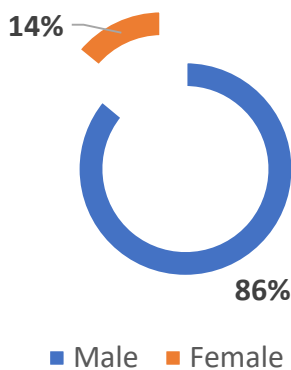
Risk Level at Time of Placement



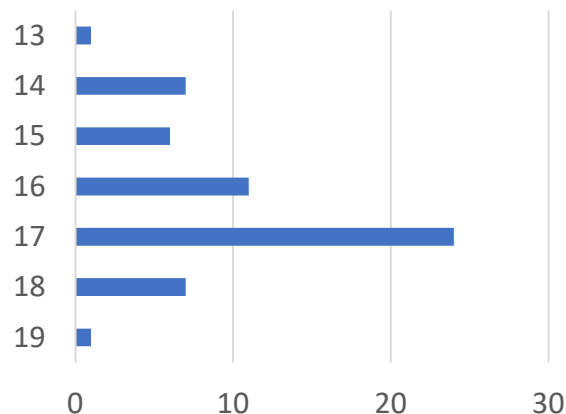
Race & Ethnicity



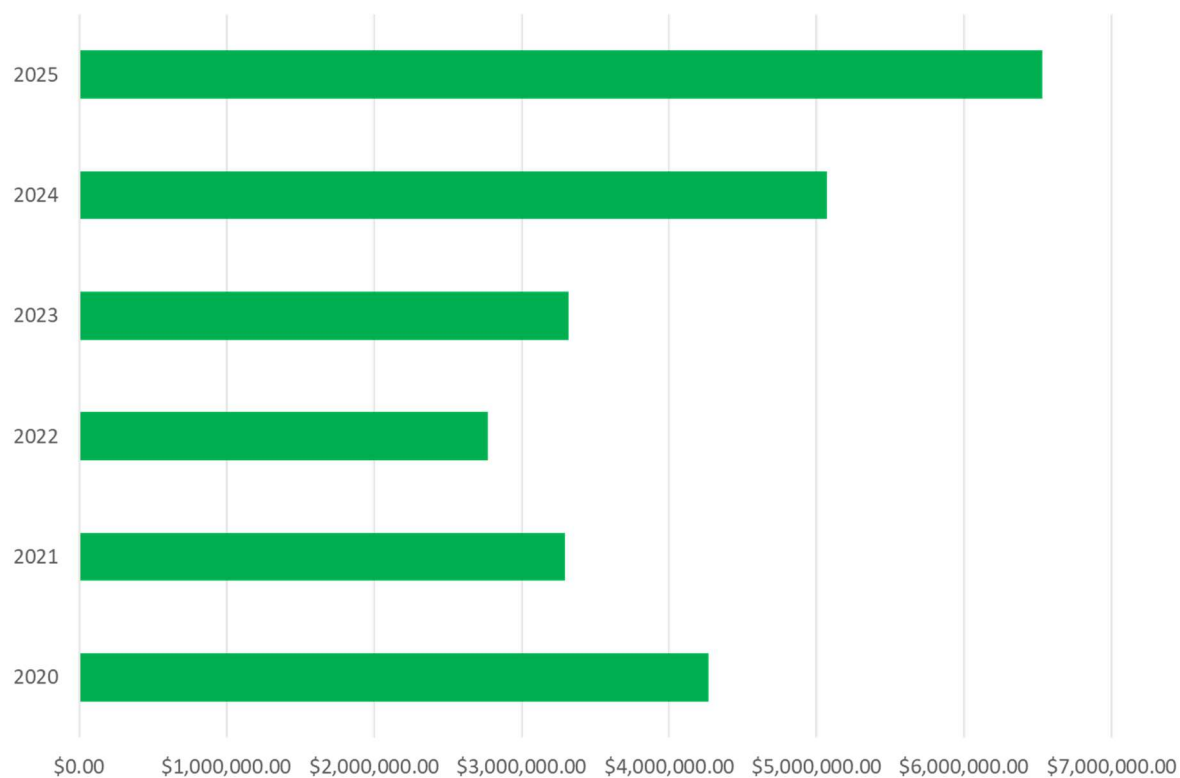
Gender



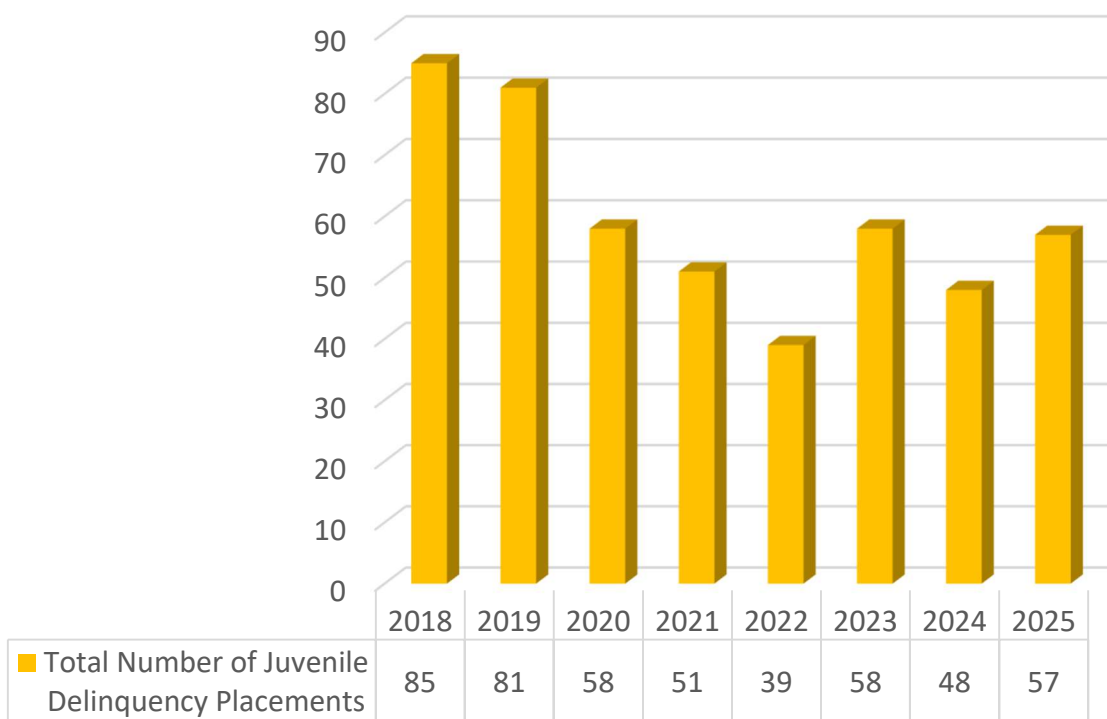
Age



Total Cost of Delinquency Placements



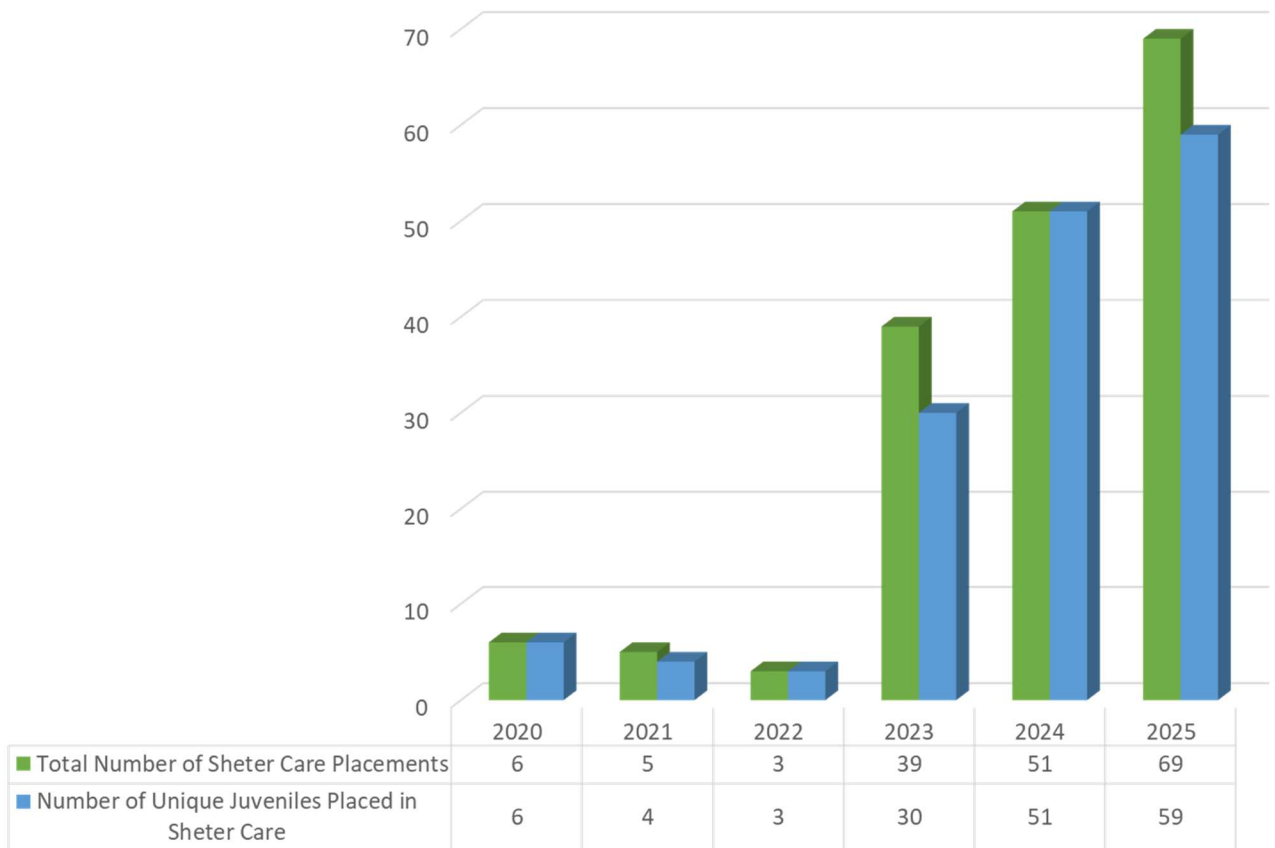
Total Number of Delinquency Placements



USE OF SHELTER CARE

The use of shelter care has traditionally been an alternative to placing youth in secure detention. In 2025, the department's increased use of shelter care continued due to the lack of availability in detention centers.

Shelter Care Placements



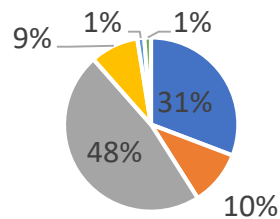
USE OF SECURE DETENTION

In 2025, there were 78 instances where juveniles were placed in secure detention by the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office. Despite there being 78 instances of secure detention, this involved only 61 unique juveniles. 4 juveniles were already in secure detention at the start of 2025.

Reasons for placement in secure detention:

- New Allegations – 23 (29%)
- Warrant – 25 (32%)
- Court Order – 6 (8%)
- Violations of Supervision – 8 (10%)
- Failure to Adjust at a Juvenile Placement – 13 (17%)
- New Allegation & Violations of Supervision – 2 (2.5%)
- Requested by Another County/State – 1 (1%)

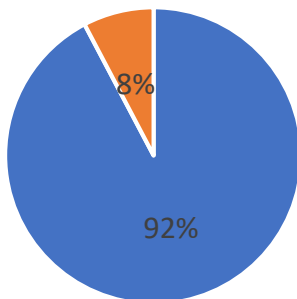
Race & Ethnicity



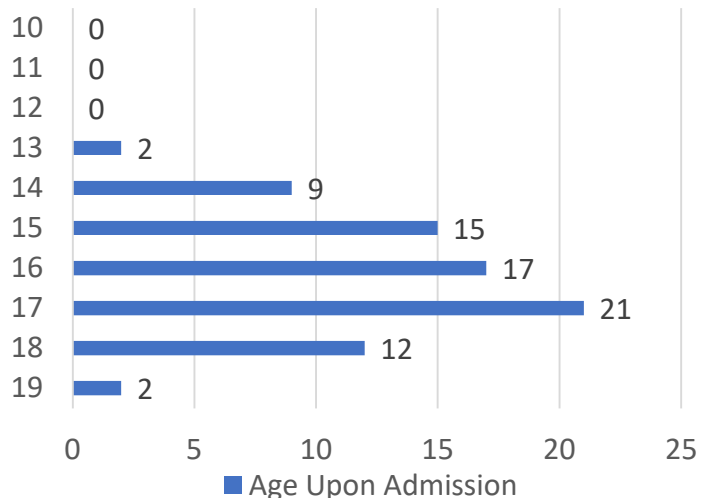
- Black/Non-Hispanic
- White/Hispanic
- Multi-racial/Hispanic
- White/Non-Hispanic
- Black/Hispanic
- Multi-racial/Non-Hispanic

Age Upon Admission

Gender

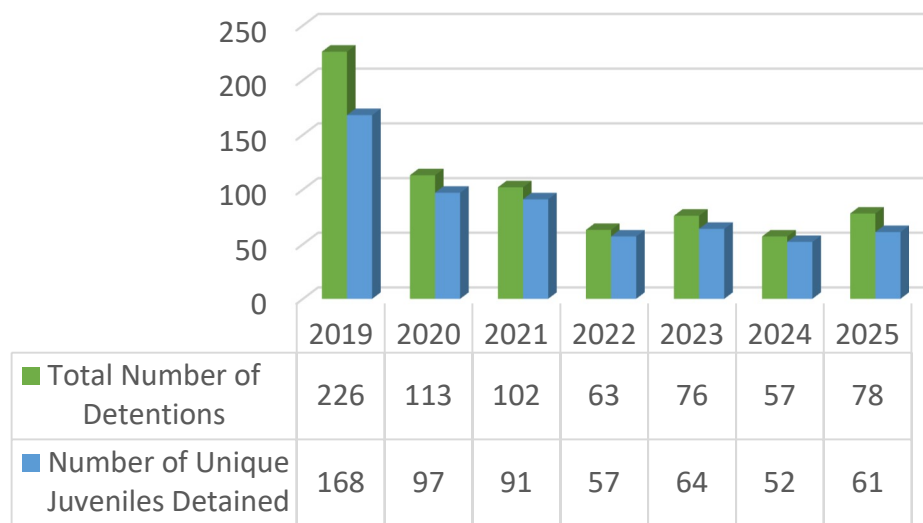


- Male
- Female



There were also 10 instances in 2025 when a juvenile should have been detained, based on the serious nature of the allegations, but were not due to their being no available detention beds. In those instances, alternatives to secure detention are utilized, such as placing a youth on GPS electronic monitoring, in shelter care, or expediting the case to Court.

Total Number of Detentions



In the Interest of Justice Cases

In December of 2018, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) of 2018 was signed into law, reauthorizing and substantially amending the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) originally enacted in 1974. One of the most impactful amendments is the requirement, as of December 21, 2021, that any child under the age of 18 who is being processed through criminal proceedings must be separated by sight and sound from adult inmates and may not, except under limited circumstances, be held pretrial in a jail or lockup for adults.

In Pennsylvania, this requirement applies to individuals who are either “direct filed” to adult proceedings, or those who are transferred or certified to the adult criminal justice system. In these situations, if the juvenile is not released pretrial on bail or otherwise, they may be held securely in a facility licensed by the Department of Human Services as a juvenile detention center, but not in an adult jail or lockup. The exception to this requirement occurs when a court holds a hearing and finds that keeping the juvenile in an adult facility is **“in the interest of justice.”**¹

To determine whether detaining a child in an adult jail or lockup is in the interest of justice, the court must weigh seven factors:

- (I) the age of the juvenile;
- (II) the physical and mental maturity of the juvenile;
- (III) the present mental state of the juvenile, including whether the juvenile presents an imminent risk of self-harm;
- (IV) the nature and circumstances of the alleged offense;
- (V) the juvenile’s history of prior delinquent acts;
- (VI) the relative ability of the available adult and juvenile detention facilities to not only meet the specific needs of the juvenile but also to protect the safety of the public as well as other detained youth; and
- (VII) any other relevant factor.

If the court renders a decision to detain the juvenile in an adult facility after weighing these factors, a hearing must be held every 30 days to review whether the placement in an adult jail is still in the interest of justice. Juveniles held in adult facilities under the interest of justice exception are still protected by the Department of Justice’s Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards for Youthful Inmates.

14 juveniles from Berks County were held in adult facilities across Pennsylvania in 2025, as Interest of Justice Cases.

¹ Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Michael Pennington, 2021

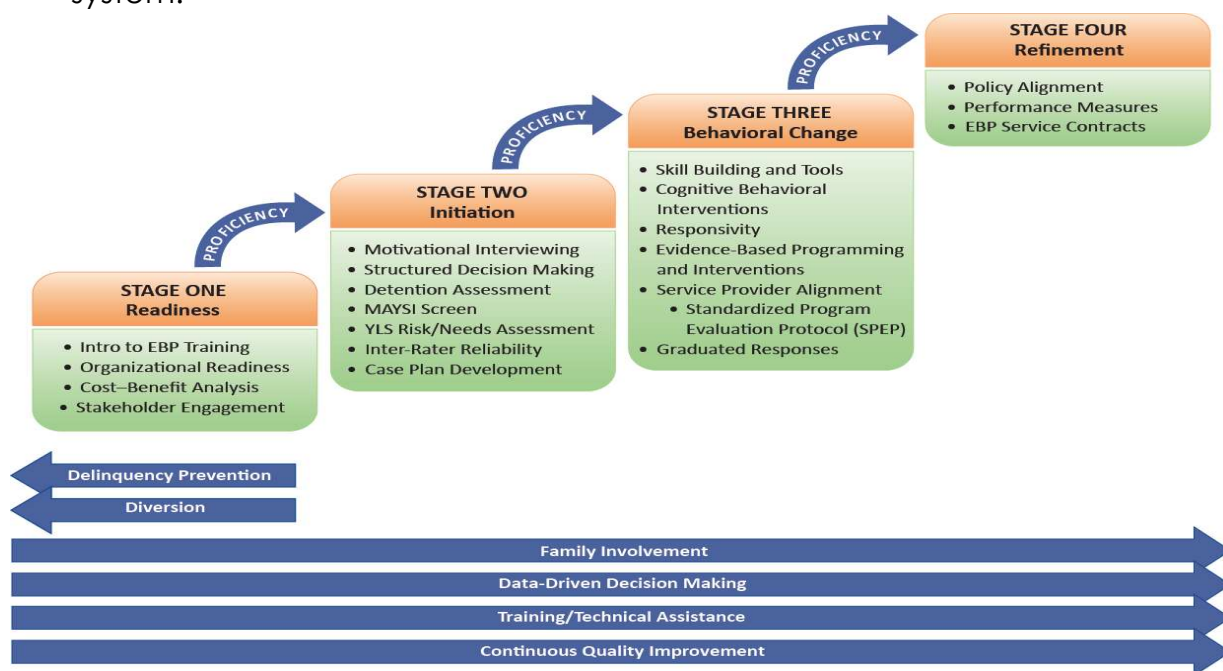
Leadership within the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office have contributed to the initial implementation and refinement of the State's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. Many of our successes are attributed directly to adhering to this model and philosophy. The section below describes the strategy and details specific services the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office delivers.



Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES)

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.
- Ensuring that fundamental fairness, including the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities is addressed across all elements of the juvenile justice system.



EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES EMPLOYED

Risk/Needs Assessments

Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI): A risk assessment that objectifies decisions regarding placing youth in secure detention. The assessment aids in the decision-making process to target the use of secure detention for youth who pose a significant risk to community safety or are at risk of not appearing for their juvenile court hearing and are at risk of committing additional offenses. The PaDRAI is designed to provide fundamental fairness, increase consistency, ensure unbiased detention decisions, minimize admissions to secure detention and explore alternatives to secure detention when appropriate. *In 2025, The Berks County Juvenile Probation Office completed 364 PaDRAIs.*

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory™: A risk/needs assessment and case management tool that provides a detailed survey of the risk and needs of a youth. Use of the YLS allows for a more standardized and uniform approach to the task of gathering and processing information. The YLS assists in determining the overall level of risk to recidivate and identifies areas of criminogenic need as well as strengths. The results of the assessment allow for the targeting of interventions to reduce risk and provide commensurate levels of supervision. *In 2025, the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office completed 502 YLS's.*

Massachusetts Youth Screen Instrument (MAYSI-2): A brief behavioral health screening tool designed especially for juvenile justice programs and facilities. It identifies youths 12 through 17 years old who may have important, pressing behavioral health needs. It is a self-report inventory of 52 questions. The questions ask the youth to answer YES or NO to having experienced various thoughts, feelings, or behaviors in the past few years. *In 2025, the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office completed 108 MAYSI-2 screenings.*

Child Trauma Screen: A screening tool that identifies children who may be suffering from trauma exposure and need more comprehensive assessment and treatment. *In 2025, the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office completed 115 Child Trauma Screens.*

Motivational Interviewing

Motivational interviewing is a way of communicating with people about change and working to enhance intrinsic motivation. Officers are taught the true meaning of change talk versus resistance, drawing on the juvenile's values, goals, and strengths to further this meaningful behavioral change. Employing the skills of open-ended questions, affirmations, reflection, and summarizing (OARS) as well as professional alliance, acceptance, compassion, and evocation in all aspects while working with juveniles has proved to promote successful rehabilitation. ***Berks County Juvenile Probation Officers as well as administrative staff, are all trained in the use of motivational interviewing.***

Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)

EPICS is a structured way to conduct sessions with youth under supervision, targeting criminogenic needs through emphasizing the link between thoughts and behaviors, social learning and skill building while using cognitive behavioral interventions and core correctional practices. Examples of core correctional practices include relationship skills, teaching skills, problem-solving and effective reinforcement, and disapproval. ***In 2025, the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office conducted 1,917 EPICS sessions.***

Case Planning

Case Plans target strategies and interventions that address the top criminogenic needs identified for youth, identified in their Youth Level of Service (YLS). The case plan evolves as juveniles move through supervision and is a working document for the juvenile. Building upon the juvenile's strengths and needs can reduce the likelihood of recidivism and support positive behavioral change. The case plan process is highly collaborative and requires active involvement from the youth, the family, the probation officer, and other stakeholders from start to finish. ***In 2025, the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office developed 137 case plans and conducted 574 case plan reviews.***

Graduated Responses

Through a structured process that accounts for a juvenile's level of risk, needs and responsivity, graduated responses recognize and reinforce positive behaviors and provide proportional responses to negative behaviors to improve short and long-term outcomes. The use of graduated incentives and sanctions foster positive behavior change to facilitate successful completion of probation. This approach helps juveniles become productive, law-abiding citizens and also prevents the unnecessary use of secure detention and residential placement. *In 2025, the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office utilized 1093 graduated responses. These included 838 graduated incentives and 255 graduated sanctions on a total of 226 juveniles.*

Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™)

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) is a validated, data-driven rating system that assesses how well a community-based or residential program matches the research evidence regarding recidivism risk reduction. SPEP focuses on assessing and improving service delivery with respect to program philosophy and type, the quality of service being delivered, the amount of service and the juvenile's risk level. Its results are a reflection of the quality of service delivery and how the service is utilized by the juvenile court system. SPEP also includes the development of a performance improvement plan to implement recommendations that improve the service quality and program use. *In 2025, the Berks County Juvenile Probation Office was involved in the ongoing SPEP process for 19 programs with 7 different providers across the state.*

- Abraxas Academy
- Clear Vision Residential Services
- Community Solutions, Inc.
- Concern Treatment Unit for Boys (CTUB)
- JusticeWorks YouthCare
- Olivet Boys and Girls Club of Reading and Berks County, D.R.E.A.M. Program
- Recovery Coaching Services, Inc.

SPECIALIZED SUPERVISION

Special Supervision Unit

Caseloads within this unit are comprised of juveniles who are at high-risk to become involved with a gang, juveniles who have been identified as gang members, and juveniles who self-report gang membership. Most of the juveniles being actively supervised within the Special Supervision Unit belong to local hybrid street gangs, with a small percentage belonging to well-known national gangs.

To effectively supervise the Special Supervision caseload, probation officers implement traditional community supervision methods such as frequent and non-traditional contacts, electronic monitoring, as well as evidence-based interventions such as Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), Graduated Responses to Behavior, Multi-Systemic-Therapy (MST), Aggression Replacement Training (ART®) and skill building. The unit has also implemented the Diakon Weekend Alternative Program as a graduated sanction in 2025.

The specialized probation officers working in this unit are also certified as gang professionals through the East Coast Gang Investigators Association (E.C.G.I.A.). In 2025, they attended the E.C.G.I.A. Gang Conference in Pocono, PA as well as the Morris county Gang Symposium. The unit also participates in monthly county-wide gang intelligence meetings, and hosts quarterly meetings with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Gang Task Force. The officers continued their dedicated work towards public safety by working enforcement and crime suppression details with local law enforcement partners through Operation Nightlight, monthly Gang suppression details, and warrant details.



In 2025, the Special Supervision Unit from Juvenile Probation along with the gang and gun units from Adult Probation, who work together closely, recovered 39 firearms which included several with devices that turn a firearm into an automatic weapon. Additionally, the unit presented on gang activity and how juveniles become involved in the gang lifestyle at the Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet, Penn State Berks and for the office of Children & Youth Services.

Problem Sexual Behavior Unit

This unit consists of probation officers that have extensive knowledge and training to work with youth that have exhibited problem sexual behavior (PSB). If appropriate, they will also supervise youth that have experienced sexual victimization and/or trauma. These specialized probation officers are heavily involved with the juvenile's treatment.



Youth involved with the PSB unit attend specialized outpatient treatment as part of their supervision. This typically consists of individual and group therapy on a weekly basis. Evaluators, along with a specialized treatment provider, determine what course of treatment is most appropriate for the juvenile. Depending on circumstances, some youths have been recommended to complete counseling on sexual education including consent, healthy relationships, and boundaries. The traditional curriculum used is Pathways: A Guided Workbook for Youth Beginning Treatment by Timothy J. Kahn, and other assignments deemed necessary. Outpatient treatment typically takes between 9 and 12 months to complete. Youth are given assignments on a weekly basis. Clinical safety plans are created for school, sports, employment, special events (birthday parties, family gatherings), etc. These safety plans include high-risk situations, warning signs, and negative self-talk, as well as counterthoughts and positive behaviors designed to assist the youth in staying safe in the community and maintaining an offense-free lifestyle. Other assignments completed are sexual fantasy logs, recognizing the offense cycle, writing a clarification letter, and developing relapse prevention plans. Youth are also expected to refrain from using pornography and social media while in treatment.

Throughout treatment, polygraph testing is utilized a tool to collect sexual history, to ensure compliance with probation/treatment conditions (maintenance exams), or in cases where denial is present. A sexual history polygraph is conducted after a few months in treatment to ensure that the treatment is tailored to specific offending behavior. Information gathered on the sexual history polygraph includes, but is not limited to, prior offending behavior, victimization, and past deviant behaviors. Identifying information is not gathered during the exam to protect from self-incrimination. Maintenance polygraphs are used to gauge if a juvenile has been complying with treatment and probation rules, e.g., pornography use, contact with minors/victims, etc. Denial polygraphs are utilized if a juvenile is denying the charges against him/her after being found involved with or admitting to a sexual offense in court.

INTERNAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

SSD Macarena

SSD Macarena ("Rena") is a certified facility dog from Susquehanna Service Dogs, an organization accredited by Assistance Dogs International. A 4.5-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever, Rena was born into the "Popular Dance" litter. Thanks to her calm temperament and strong genetic traits, she was also selected for SSD's breeding program, where she whelped her own "Popular 70's Music" litter.

Rena has successfully completed her second year with the Berks County Probation and Parole Department. In her role, she continues to provide comfort and support to individuals navigating life-altering and often stressful situations, helping them feel more at ease within the justice system.

Throughout her second year, Rena was called upon in a wide range of settings, including Intake Appointments, Juvenile Court, Mental Health Treatment Court, and Dependency/Family Court. She provided her services approximately 50 times, offering reassurance and positivity to both clients and staff. Rena also represents the Berks County Probation and Parole Department at community events such as the Reading Youth Empowerment Summit, National Night Out, and local high school job fairs. She also has a standing monthly visit at the Berks County Youth Center shelter.

Rena has firmly established herself as a valued member of the County team, maintaining daily interactions with employees across multiple departments and contributing meaningfully to a supportive work environment.



You can follow
Rena on
Instagram
@SSD.Macarena



Drug Testing

Drug testing youth for substance use is critical to assessing and monitoring youth. Results provide probation officers valuable information and insight for risk assessment, determining the need for drug and alcohol evaluation, treatment and/or other programming, and for case planning.

1,591 drug tests were administered to juveniles under supervision or pending Court in 2025. Of those tests, 49.8% (792) of them were negative for all substances, while 50.2% (799) were positive for one or more substance. Of the positive drug tests, 43% of them were positive for marijuana, 3.5% were positive for amphetamines, 3% were positive for alcohol, while less than 1% each were positive for cocaine, fentanyl, benzodiazepines, buprenorphine, methadone, oxycodone, methamphetamines, or morphine. Additionally, 19 juveniles under supervision have a documented medical marijuana card.

Electronic Monitoring

Electronic Monitoring is a tool that can be used as an alternative to placing a juvenile in secure detention or throughout the course of supervision as a graduated sanction. It allows probation officers to monitor the whereabouts of a juvenile under supervision and address concerns regarding curfew, school attendance, etc. Probation officers are also able to set up exclusion zones to know when a client is in an area they are not permitted to be in, or inclusion zones of which a juvenile is supposed to be. Points of interest are also able to be identified where a juvenile is not to be, and if they enter that area the officer will receive an alert. Officers also have the ability to message juveniles through their electronic monitor.

Juveniles Placed on the Electronic Monitor by Year:

2025 → 95

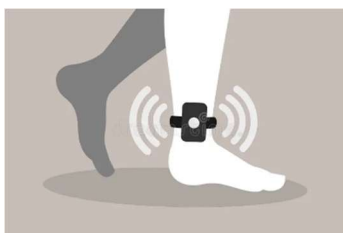
2024 → 119

2023 → 114

2022 → 98

2021 → 112

2020 → 127



EXTERNAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

3rd Millennium Online Courses

Evidence-based online courses grounded in the most effective strategies for changing attitudes and behavior.

- Conflict-Wise
- Marijuana 101
- Nicotine 101
- Respect & Resolve
- STOPlifting
- Under the Influence

In 2025, 105 youth under supervision in Berks County completed at least one 3rd Millennium course.

Aggression Replacement Training ®

Aggression Replacement Training (ART) is a cognitive behavioral intervention program to help children and adolescents improve social skill competence and moral reasoning, better manage anger, and reduce aggressive behavior. ART is administered in a group setting by JusticeWorks YouthCare.

In 2025, 26 youth under supervision in Berks County were engaged with Aggression Replacement Training.

Counseling

Juveniles under supervision are referred for counseling services when deemed necessary. Counseling can take the form of individual or group sessions. It can also be generalized counseling or target specific areas of need such as drug and alcohol, trauma-focused and/or problem sexual behaviors.

DREAM

Discovering Reality Easily and Meaningfully (DREAM) is a program run by the Olivet Boys & Girls Club of Reading specifically for juveniles under probation supervision. DREAM provides a structured environment and life skills education to assist youth in making positive decisions while also building on their social skills.

In 2025, 22 youth under supervision in Berks County were engaged with the DREAM Program.

Family Reintegration Services

The Reintegration Service is family-focused and begins at Court when a youth is referred to a delinquency placement and is administered by JusticeWorks YouthCare. While the youth is in placement, the Reintegration Specialist will assist the family with case management, transportation, video conferencing, parenting and in-person visits with the youth and regular contact with the treatment team. Parenting covers topics such as teen behavior, constructive communication, and consequences and rewards.

In 2025, 41 youth under supervision in Berks County and their families were engaged with Family Reintegration Services.

Impact of Crime Classes

313 individuals were victimized by juvenile offenders in Berks County on charges heard in 2025. In working with these juveniles, part of their probation likely includes participating in and completing the Impact of Crime Class, facilitated by JusticeWorks YouthCare. ***In 2025, 78 juveniles under supervision completed the Impact of crime Class.***

The goals of the class are to:

- Acknowledge how victims, their families, friends, and various community members are impacted by crime.
- Identify the impact of their crimes on their victims and communities.
- Accept responsibility for the harm they caused and their obligation to repair.

JusticeWorks Youthcare

The casework counseling program offered by JusticeWorks YouthCare is designed to help families to maintain stable lifestyles and to identify safety, permanence, and wellbeing of the family. Families are assisted by being connected with community resources, demonstrating/teaching skill building techniques all while encouraging choices that enhance their quality of life, systematically accomplishing established goals.

In 2025, 155 youth under supervision in Berks County participated in casework counseling with JusticeWorks YouthCare.

Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST®)

Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST®) is a scientifically proven intervention for at-risk youth. Therapists work in the home, school and community and provide caregivers with the tools they need to transform the lives of troubled youth. In Berks County, MST is delivered by Community Solutions, Inc.

In 2025, Berks County supported 28 youth under supervision and their families to participate with Multi-Systemic Therapy.

Recovery Coaching Services

Recovery Coaching Services, Inc. serves individuals and families in their journey of recovery by providing individualized recovery coaching for juveniles under supervision suffering from drug or alcohol addiction.

In 2025, 26 youth under supervision in Berks County were engaged with Recovery Coaching Services. 9 of those youth had the opportunity to participate in Equine Therapy with their Certified Recovery Coach.

Voices

The Voices Program model, a structured support group for girls and young women ages 12-18, integrates relational theory, resiliency practices, and skills training in a specific format designed to increase positive connection, personal and collective strengths, and competence. It aims to counteract social and interpersonal forces that impede the participant's growth and development by promoting an emotionally safe setting and structure within which girls and young women can develop caring relationships and use their authentic voices. Based on the realities of the participant's lives and the principles of gender responsiveness, it is also grounded in theory, research, and clinical experience. The Voices group is delivered by JusticeWorks YouthCare.

In 2025, 13 youth under supervision in Berks County participated in the Voices Program.

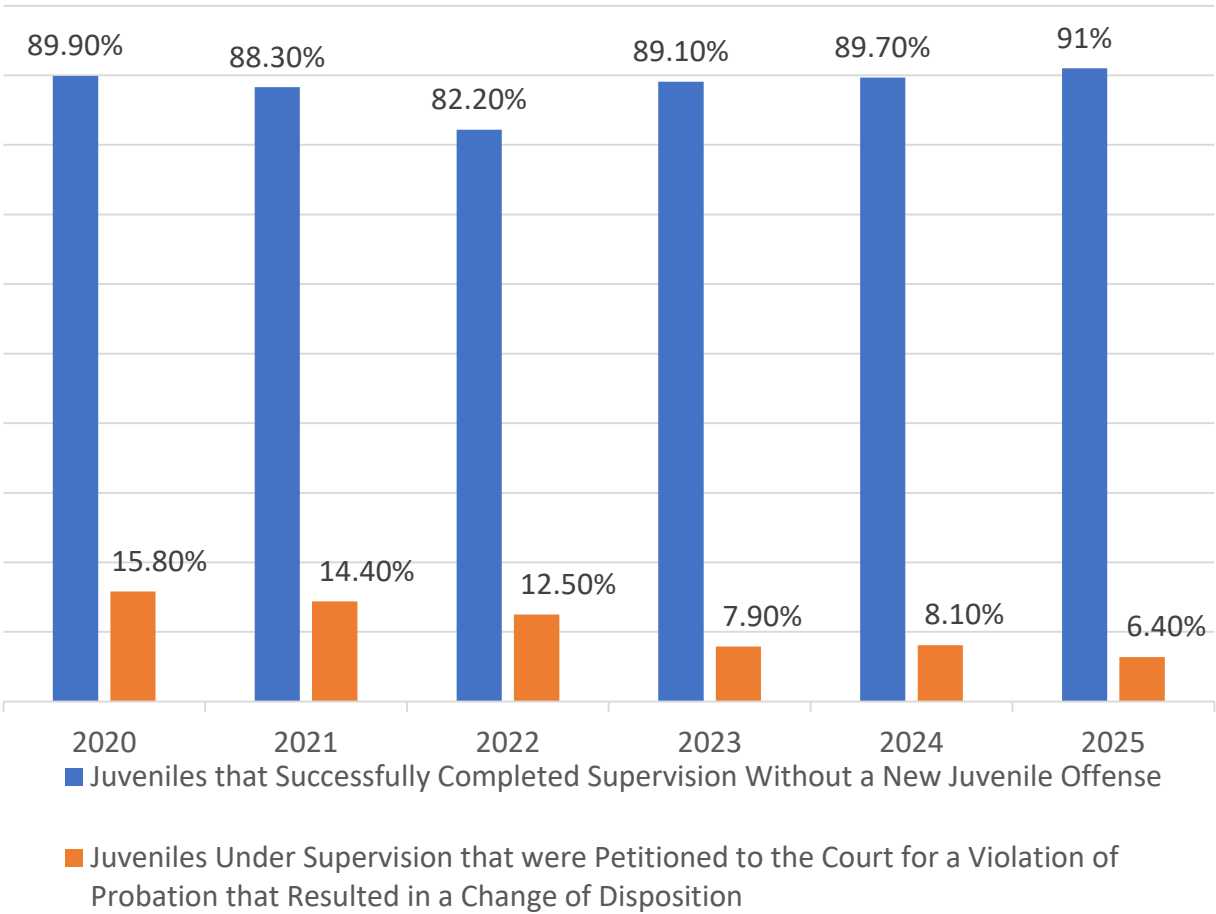


2025 DEPARTMENTAL OUTCOME MEASURES

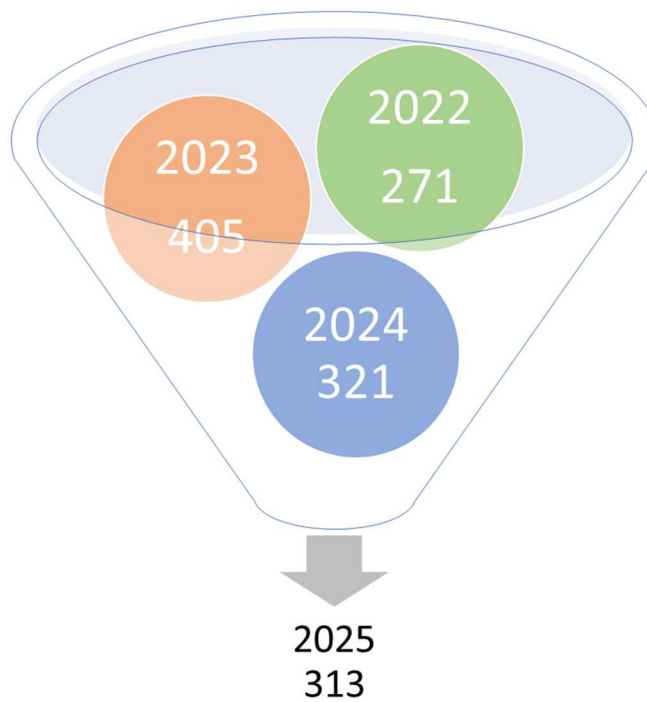
The department has compiled statistical information relative to significant outcome measures for youth exiting the system since 2002. Outcome or performance measures more accurately reflect how well we are performing as a system. The charts and graphics that follow reflect data from 188 cases that were closed throughout 2025. There were an additional 11 cases supervised in Berks County through courtesy supervision for another county that are not included in this data.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION

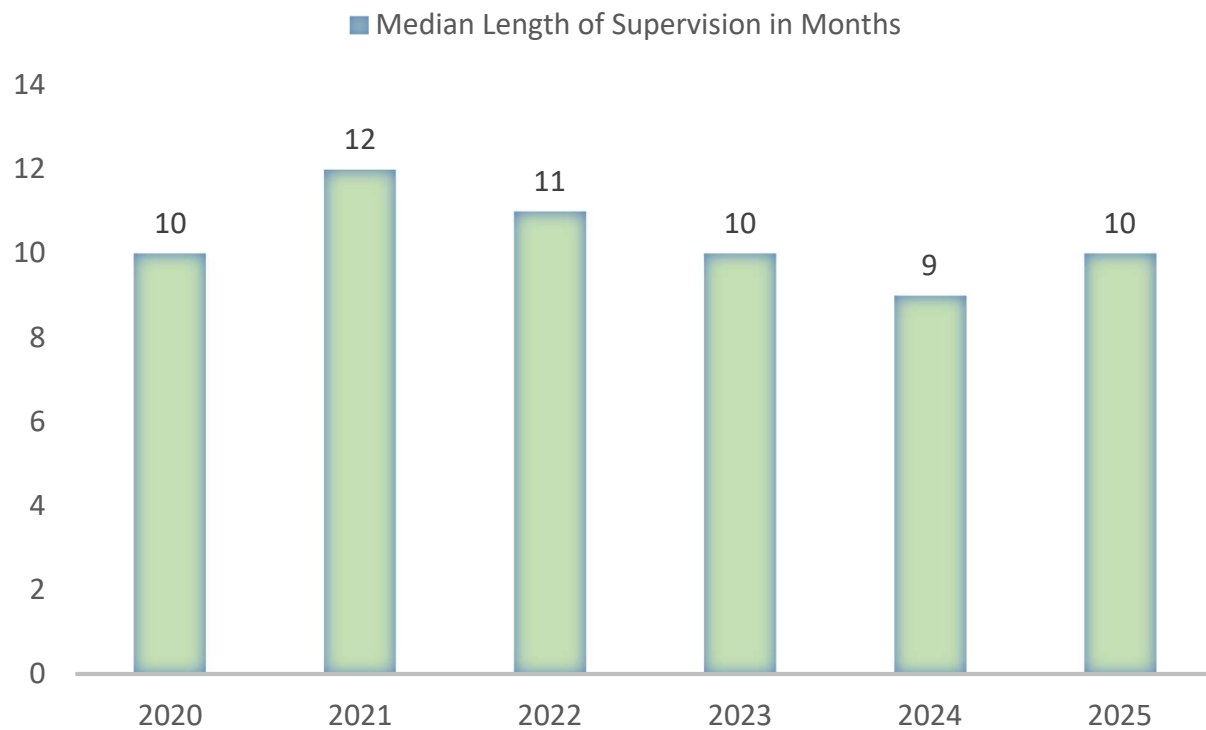
Juvenile Offenses While Under Supervision



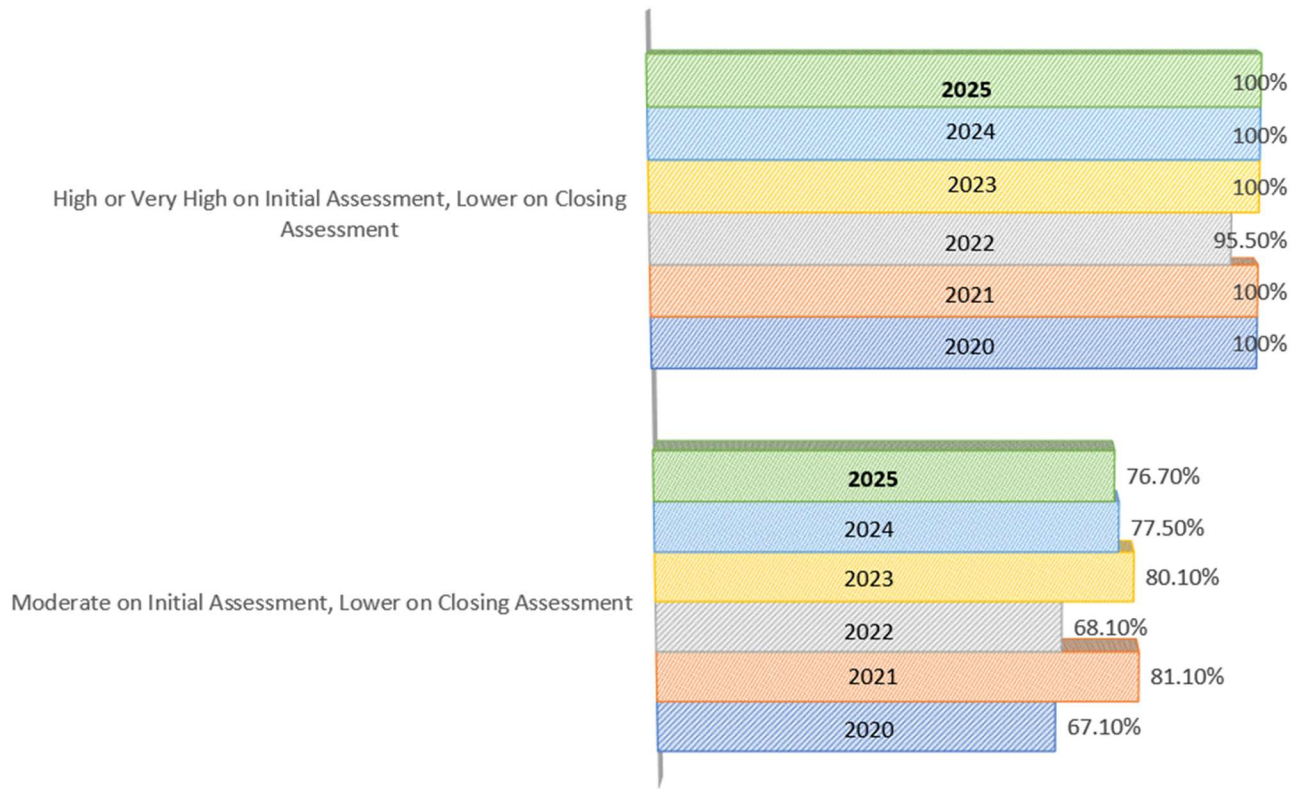
Number of Victims



MEDIAN LENGTH OF SUPERVISION

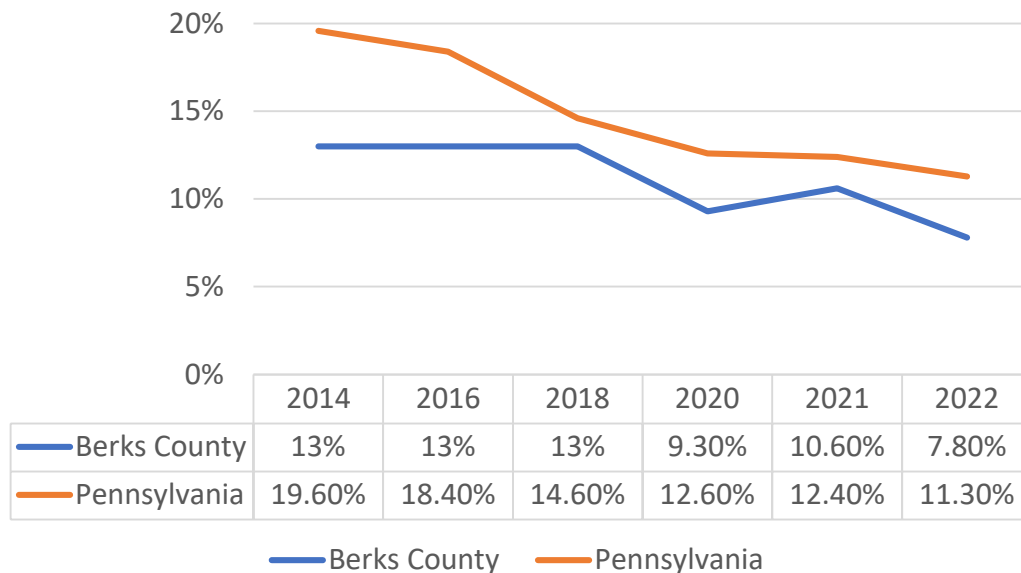


Reduction in Risk Level



Recidivism Rates in Berks County Compared with the State of Pennsylvania

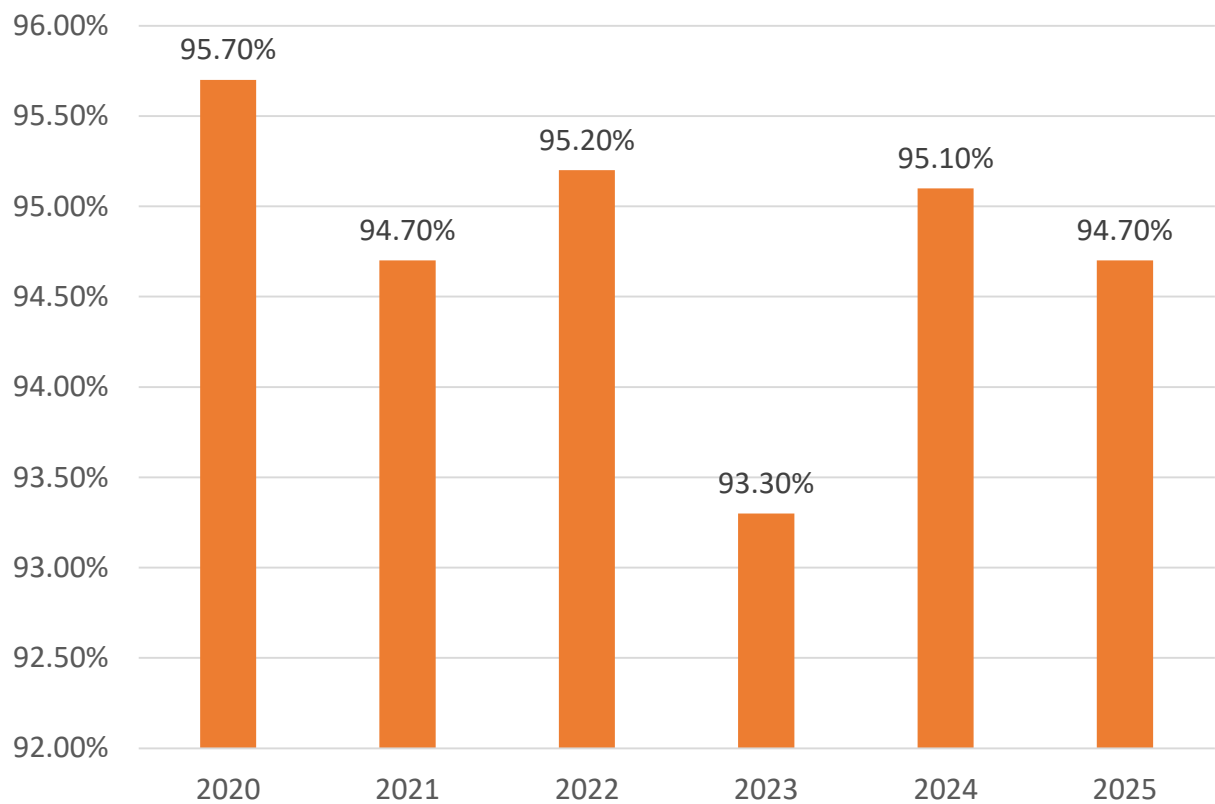
*Recidivism as defined by those juveniles committing a new offense after case closure, within 2 years.



COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

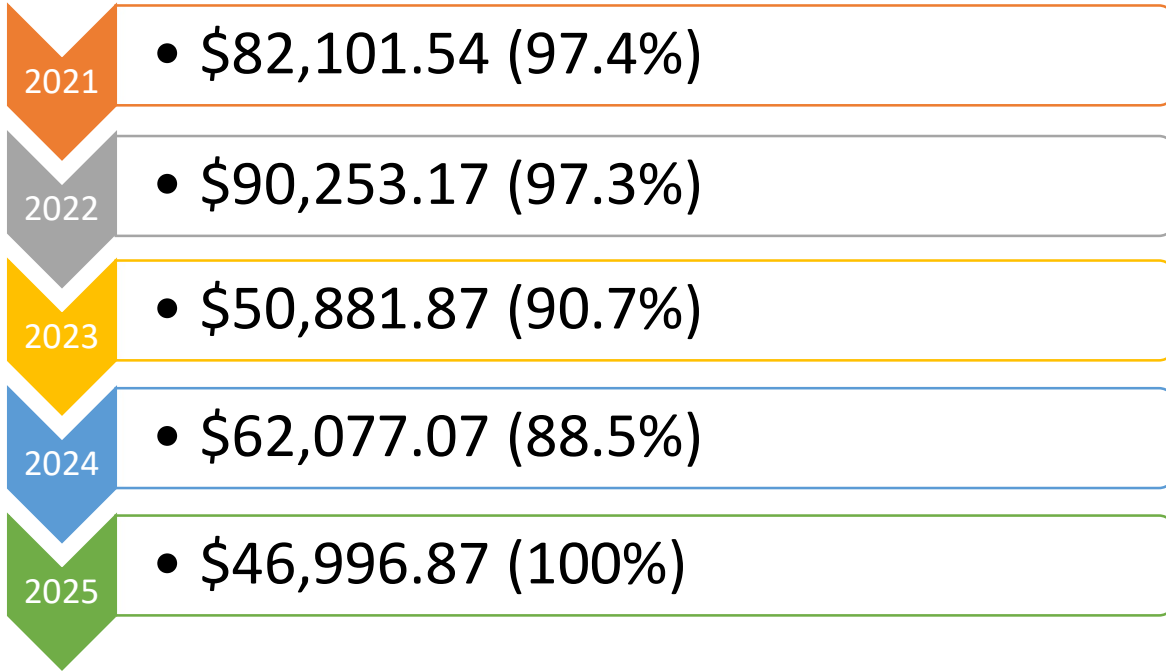


Percentage of Juveniles Employed or Actively Engaged in an Educational or Vocational Activity at Case Closing

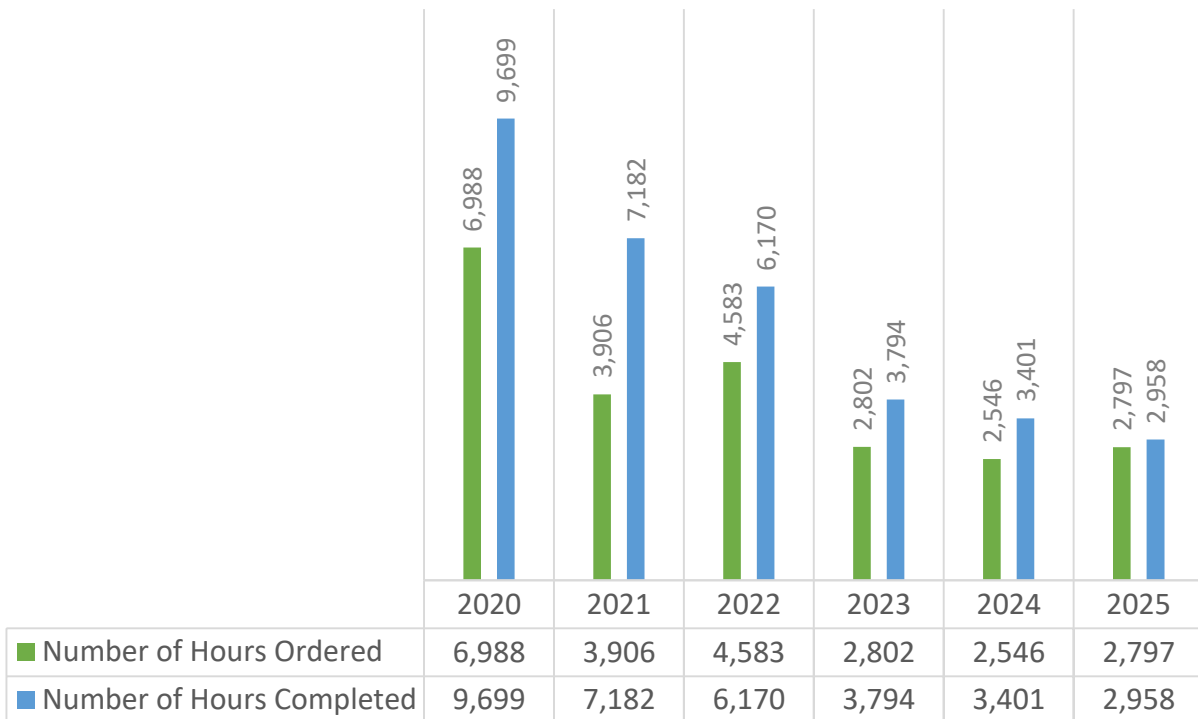


ACCOUNTABILITY

Restitution Collected and Paid to Victims



Community Service Hours Ordered vs. Completed



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