



BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ALLEGHENY COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION REPORT CARD

OCTOBER 2016

Balanced and Restorative Justice in Allegheny County

- ☑ Community Protection
- ☑ Victim Restoration
- ☑ Youth Competencies

In 2015:

- ☑ 1,048 Cases Closed
- ☑ 90% of Youth Successfully Completed their Supervision without a New Offense
- ☑ \$125,765 in Restitution Paid to Victims of Crime by Youth
- ☑ 25,181 Hours of Community Services Completed by Youth

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.

To the Citizens of Allegheny County:

In 2010, Pennsylvania launched its Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), supported by research regarding "what works" to reduce risk among juvenile offenders. The JJSES Statement of Purpose outlines the vision for collecting and analyzing data, relying on and incorporating evidence, and demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement. Since then, the Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Department has retooled its operations and incorporated evidence-based practices at every major decision point.

JJSES produced a seismic shift in how we conduct business. Research and practice are interwoven as never before. Criminogenic needs, static and dynamic risk, responsivity and a host of other evidence-based concepts, unheard of a few years ago, are now part of our everyday vernacular. Implementing JJSES' many facets has been challenging. Change is never easy, but the Juvenile Probation Department staff's uncommon level of commitment produced impressive results in just a few years.

The success of our JJSES initiative is not measured by the number of risk/needs assessments conducted or the number of youth completing Aggression Replacement Training; rather, it is determined by how it improves our ability to achieve the Balanced and Restorative Justice goals of community protection, accountability, and competency development. JJSES is a means to an end, a means to achieve our BARJ goals. Our sights remain firmly fixed on the BARJ goals, but JJSES has forever altered our path forward.

A restored portrait of the Honorable Gustav Schramm, Allegheny County's "first" Juvenile Court Judge, was unveiled during the Juvenile Justice Week Awards Ceremony in October of 2015. The portrait was donated by George Junior Republic and restored with funds provided by the Allegheny County Bar Association. The portrait was hung near the courtrooms on the second floor of the Family Law Center with the following quote from Judge Schramm, which is as relevant today as it was in 1949:

We who work in the field of personalized justice have many responsibilities to the past and to the future. Our juvenile courts are far from perfect. They are changing as experience accumulates. New discoveries and techniques in diagnosis, prediction, and treatment will modify our practices....it is the right of the public to demand that we be willing to learn; that we constantly improve ourselves to the end that every child should gain by it. In the field of interpretation we should approach the public with pride for the past, with strength for the present, and with hope for the future.¹

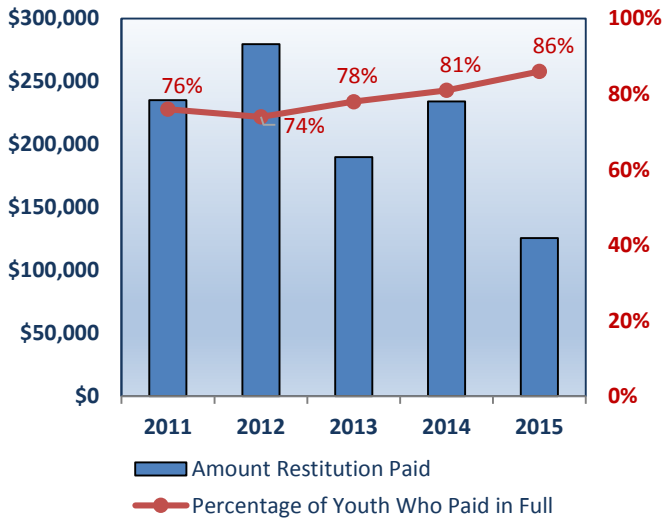
¹ Schramm, G. The philosophy of juvenile court. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 261: 101-108.

Russell Carlino
Administrator/Chief Probation Officer

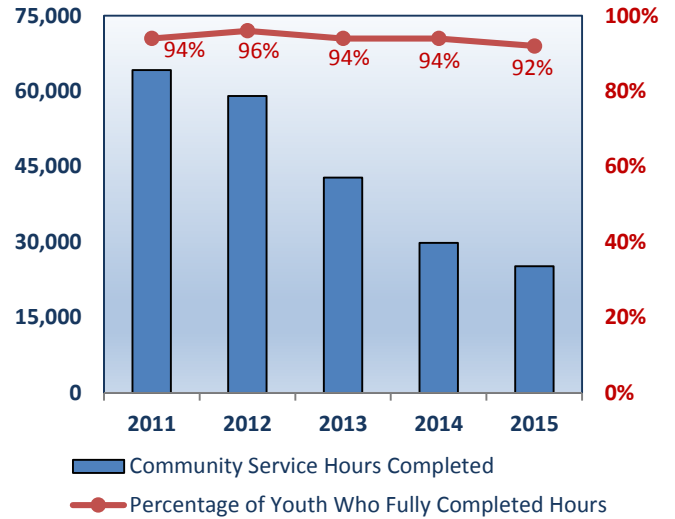
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2015 CLOSED CASES

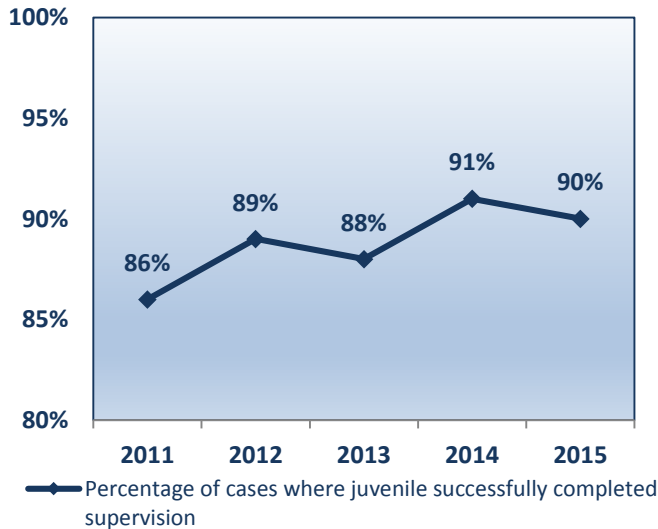
Allegheny County continues to prioritize restitution payments.



Community service is performed at hundreds of work sites throughout Allegheny County.

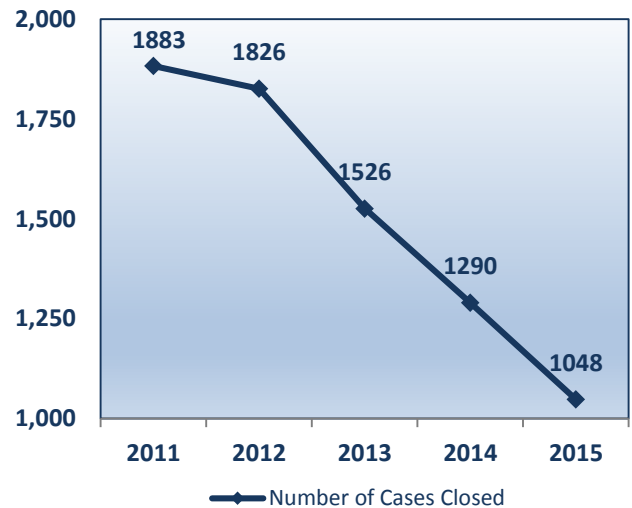


The percentage of youth who successfully completed supervision increased 4 points since 2011.



Please note that successful completion is defined as no new offense resulting in a Consent Decree, Adjudication of Delinquency, or finding of guilt in a criminal proceeding while under the Court's supervision.

The number of closed cases decreased 44% since 2011.



The entire 2015 Annual Report is available on the Court's website (www.alleghencycourts.us).