



April 2025

# Allegheny County Juvenile Probation's 2024 Balanced and Restorative Justice Report Card

Thirty years ago, Pennsylvania's Special Crime Session of 1995 enacted Act 33, amending the purpose clause of the Juvenile Act to introduce the principles of **Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ)**. This landmark legislation expanded the mission of the juvenile justice system beyond focusing solely on the "best interests of the child." It introduced a balanced approach that emphasizes:

1. Protecting the community
2. Holding juveniles accountable for their actions
3. Helping juveniles develop the skills needed to become law-abiding, productive citizens

Between 1995 and 2010, significant efforts were made to align juvenile justice practices with BARJ. Foundational white papers were developed to clarify each of the three goals, and statewide initiatives helped orient stakeholders around this expanded mission.

By 2010, Pennsylvania was well-positioned to launch the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES)—an initiative grounded in two decades of research on what works to reduce recidivism. This strategy promoted the use of evidence-based tools and practices across the system. In 2012, the Juvenile Act was further amended to require probation officers to "employ evidence-based practices whenever possible" in pursuit of BARJ goals.

The Juvenile Justice Mission Statement was revised to reflect this commitment:

**"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."**

Additionally, three guiding objectives were established under the JJSES:

- Integrate evidence-based practices at every phase of the juvenile justice process
- Collect and analyze data to measure the outcomes of interventions and activities
- Strengthen the professional development of juvenile probation officers

Since 1998, the Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Department has produced an annual "Report Card" to inform the public of key outcomes aligned with our mission. Each year, data is compiled for every juvenile whose case was closed during the calendar year.

## 2024 Outcomes at a Glance

- 488 juvenile cases closed
- Over **\$100,000** in restitution paid to victims
- More than **10,000 hours** of community service completed
- **93%** successfully completed court supervision without reoffending

The charts below highlight trends and outcomes for cases closed over the past five years, offering a clear picture of progress and ongoing commitment to the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice.

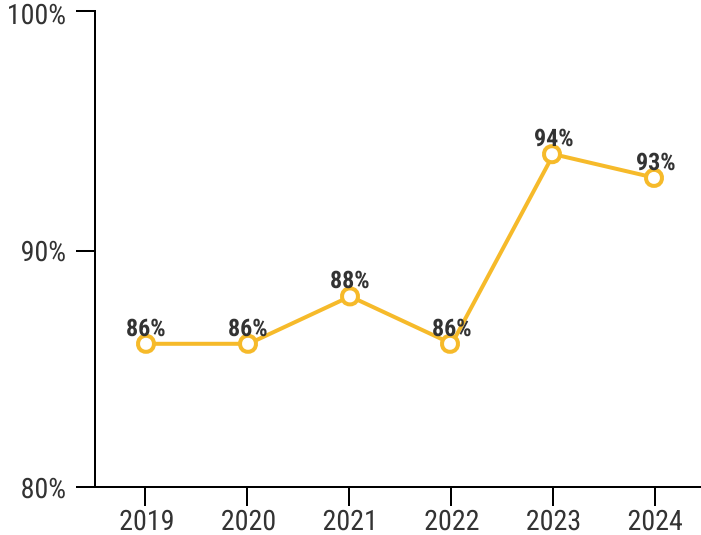
Russell Carlino, Administrator/Chief Probation Officer



# Allegheny County Juvenile Probation 2024 Outcome Measures

## Community Protection

**93% of youth successfully completed supervision**

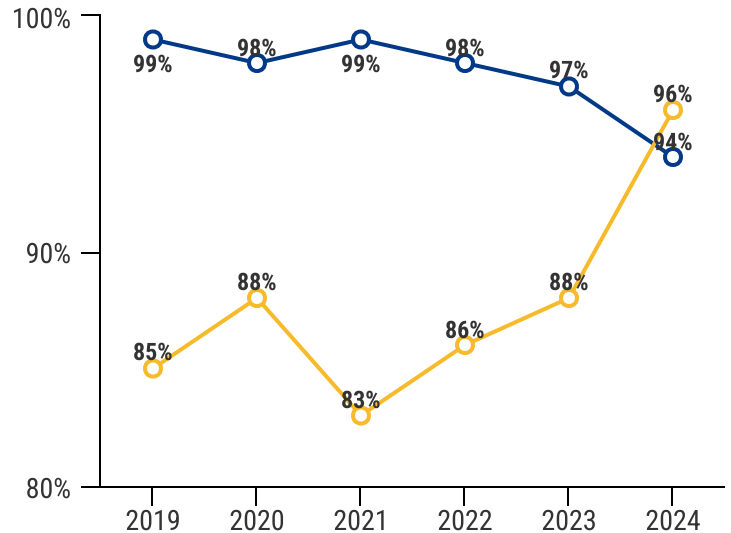


— Percentage of youth that successfully completed supervision

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.

## Accountability

**94% of youth fully completed community service, and 96% fully paid restitution to victims at time of case closing**

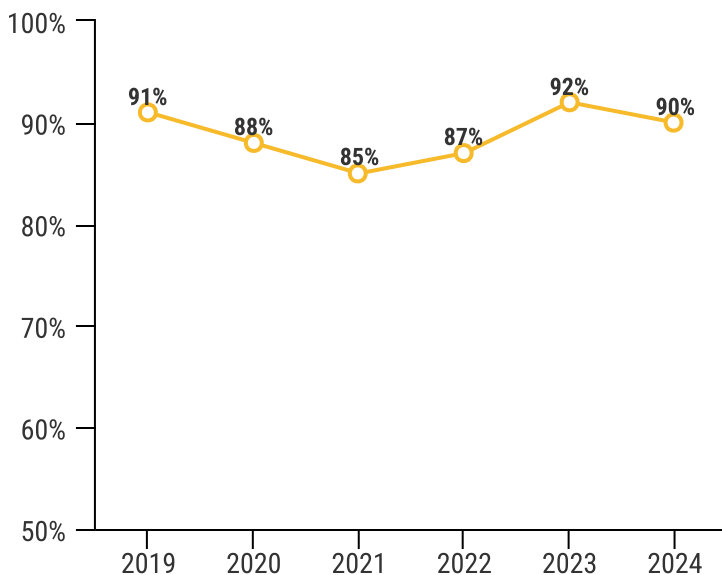


— Percentage Fully Completing Community Service

— Percentage Fully Paying Restitution to Victims

## Competency Development

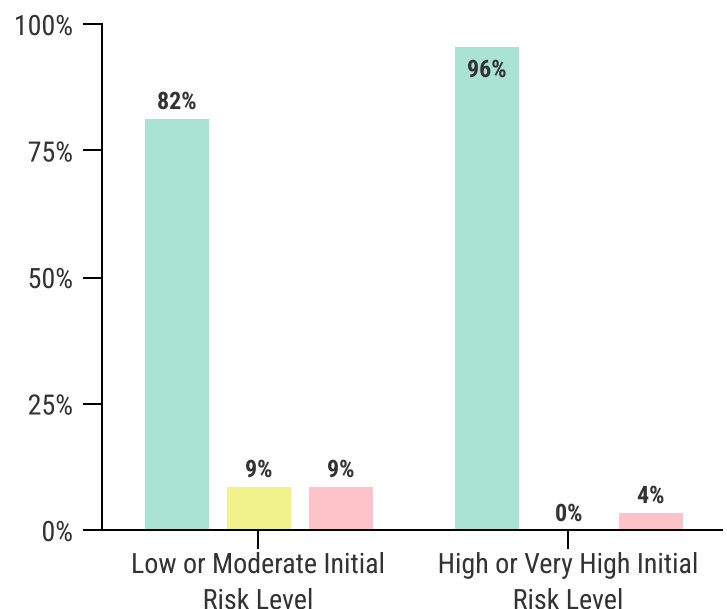
**90% of youth under court ordered supervision were involved in a productive competency development activity at case closing**



— Attended school, vocational program, GED training, or employed at case closing

## Data-Driven Decision Making

**The risk level of most youth decreased at time of case closing in 2024, as measured by the validated Youth Level of Service risk assessment instrument**



— Risk Level Decreased at Case Closing

— Risk Level Remained the Same at Case Closing

— Risk Level Increased at Case Closing