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Improving Outcomes for Youth in Connecticut

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About the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center



Corrections



Justice Reinvestment



Mental Health



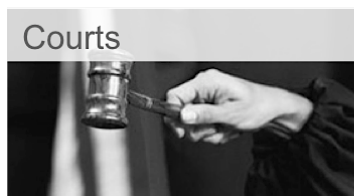
Reentry



Substance Abuse



Youth



Courts



Law Enforcement



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National nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership association of state government officials that engages members of all three branches of state government

Provides practical, nonpartisan research-driven strategies and tools to increase public safety and strengthen communities



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About the National Reentry Resource Center



- Authorized by the passage of the Second Chance Act in April 2008
- Launched by The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center in October 2009
- Administered in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



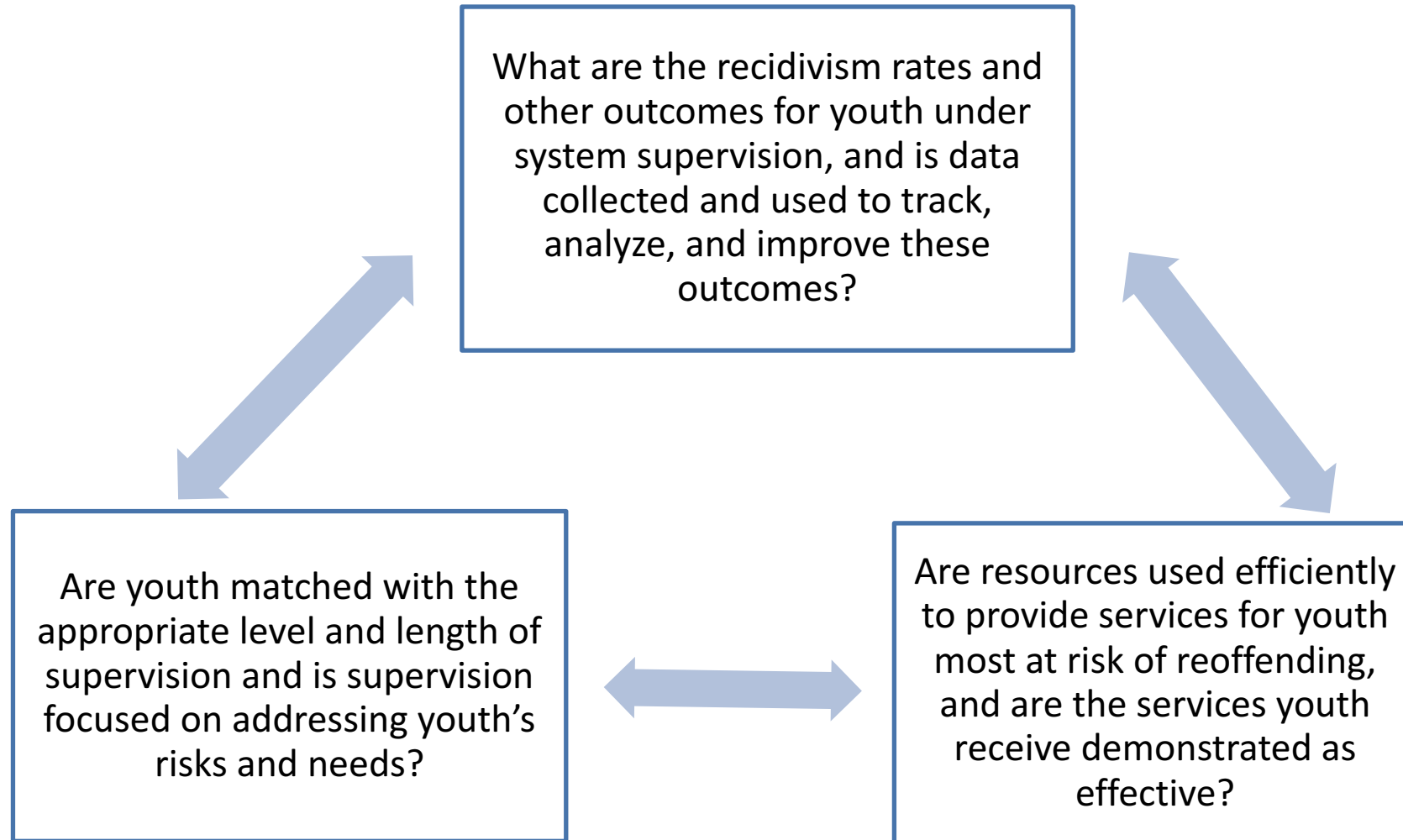
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Improving Outcomes for Youth Initiative (IOYouth) in Connecticut

IOYouth is a data-driven initiative that helps states align their policies, practices, and resource allocation decisions with what research shows works to improve outcomes for youth.



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Connecticut established a task force chaired by Rep. Walker and Secretary McCaw to oversee and guide the IOYouth initiative.

Rep. Toni Walker, Co-chair, Appropriations Committee, Connecticut General Assembly

Melissa McCaw, Secretary, Office of Policy and Management

Abby Anderson, Executive Director, CT Juvenile Justice Alliance

Erica Bromley, Juvenile Justice Liaison, Connecticut Youth Services Association

Francis Carino, Supervisory Juvenile Prosecutor, Office of the Chief State's Attorney

Judge Bernadette Conway, Chief Administrative Judge, Juvenile Matters

John Frassinelli, State Department of Education

Deborah Fuller, Director, Family and Juvenile Services, Court Support Services Division

Eulalia Garcia, Deputy Warden, Manson Youth Institution

Hector Glynn, Senior Vice President, The Village for Children and Families

Dr. Derrick Gordon, Director, Research, Policy and Program on Male Development at The Consultation Center, Yale University

Brian Hill, Director, Administrative Services Division, Judicial Branch

Eleanor Michael, Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Policy and Management

Ken Mysogland, Bureau Chief, External Affairs, Department of Children and Families

Marc Pelka, Undersecretary for Criminal Justice, State of Connecticut

Rep. Robyn Porter, Appropriations & Judiciary Committees, Connecticut General Assembly

Christine Rapillo, Chief Public Defender, Connecticut Office of Chief Public Defender

Janeen Reid, Executive Director, Full Circle Youth Empowerment

Gary Roberge, Executive Director, Court Support Services Division

Fred Spagnolo, Chief of Police, Waterbury Police Department

Martha Stone, Executive Director, Center for Children's Advocacy

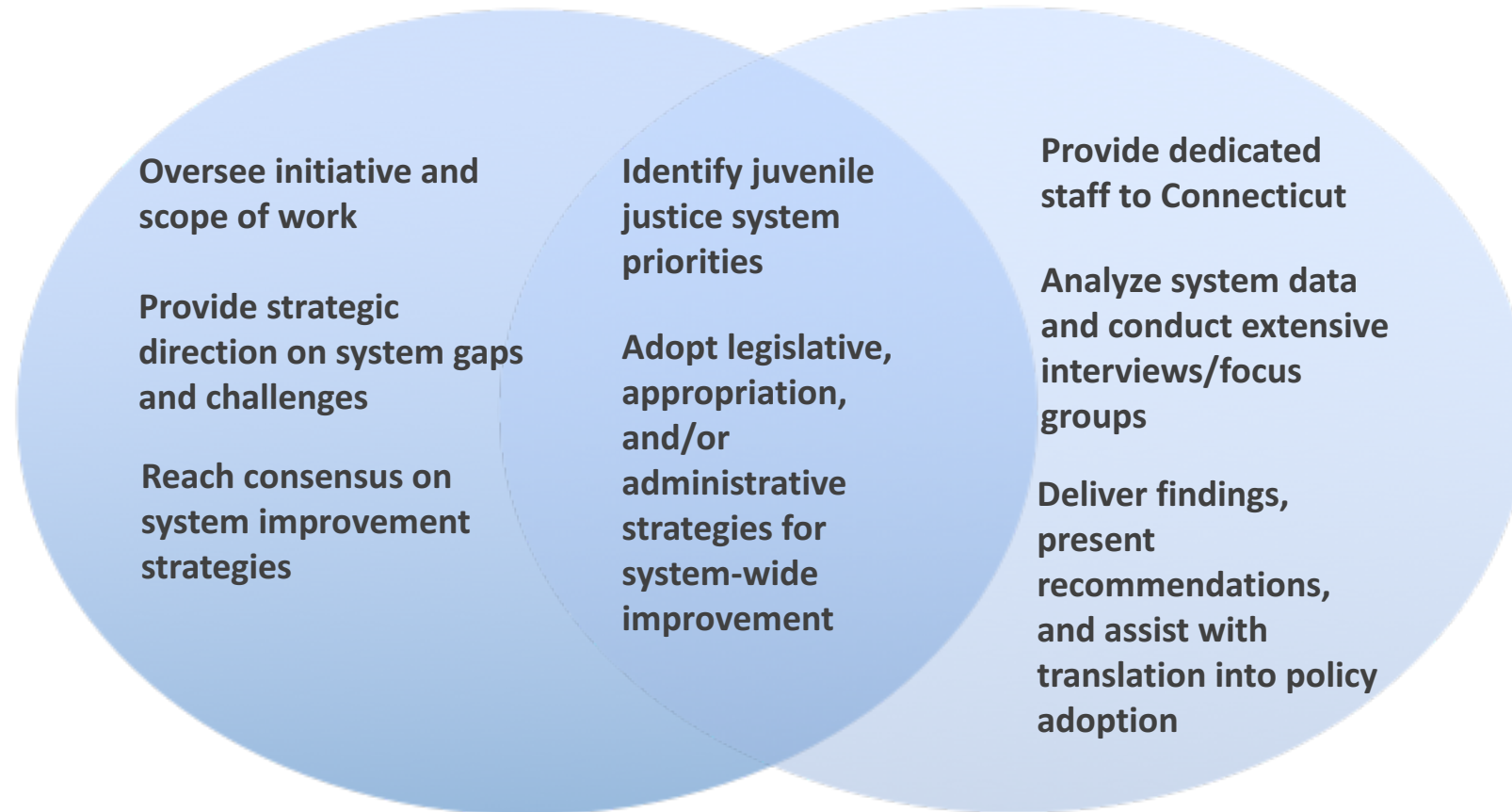


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The CSG Justice Center supports the task force to make data-driven, research-based decisions on how best to improve Connecticut's juvenile justice system.

TASK FORCE RESPONSIBILITIES

CSG JUSTICE CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES



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The IOYouth Initiative has four key phases of work:

9-12 month process

Formation of a taskforce to oversee and guide the initiative

Partnership with a statewide task force consisting of legislators, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, agency leaders, and other key stakeholders

Analyze data and review policy and practice

Qualitative and quantitative system assessment that includes analysis of agency data, a review of supervision and service policies and practices, fiscal analysis, and focus groups and interviews

Present system-improvement recommendations

Recommendations for system improvement presented to the task force based on assessment findings targeting recidivism reduction and improved youth outcomes

Adopt and implement new policies

Formalize, adopt, and implement recommendations through legislative, administrative, and fiscal changes



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IOYouth Initiative timeline and key deliverables



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Assessment findings will be based on detailed case-level data from many different data sources.

Data	Source	Status
Diversions	Connecticut State Department of Education	Requested
Detentions	University of New Haven	Requested
Court Filings	University of New Haven	Requested
Probation Records	University of New Haven	Requested
Commitments	University of New Haven	Requested
Fiscal	Office of Policy and Management	Requested



CSG Justice Center staff will solicit input on system challenges and opportunities for improvement through focus groups with an array of system stakeholders.

Probation
Leadership and
Staff

Facility Leadership
and Staff

Youth & Parents

Law Enforcement

Other Youth-Serving
Systems (Education,
Child Welfare,
Behavioral Health)

Community-
based/Residential
Providers

Public
Defenders/DAs

Judicial Officials

Advocates

OPM

JJPOC

Legislators



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The success of the IOYouth initiative depends upon system stakeholders committing to five key elements of effectiveness:

- ☒ **Strong leadership from taskforce members that are committed to the assessment process and championing improvement efforts**
- ☒ **Transparent communication amongst all system stakeholders**
- ☒ **Transparent and comprehensive sharing of data and fiscal information**
- ☒ **Active engagement and buy-in from all branches of government and across agencies**
- ☒ **Continuing conversations and reflection in-between site visits**

The CSG Justice Center also routinely provides implementation support to states to ensure reforms are implemented with fidelity and high quality.

Low Intensity Technical Assistance

- Sharing examples of key performance and youth outcome measures and developing a plan for data collection
- Helping to establish an implementation committee and a detailed implementation plan with timelines, key deliverables, and responsibilities
- Providing resources and connections to vendors, experts, and peers

Moderate/High Intensity Technical Assistance

- Setting agendas and objectives for the implementation committee and directly facilitating meetings
- Developing performance and youth outcome measures and assisting with tracking and reporting.
- Drafting/reviewing policies, procedures, guidelines, RFPs, budget proposals, and other materials



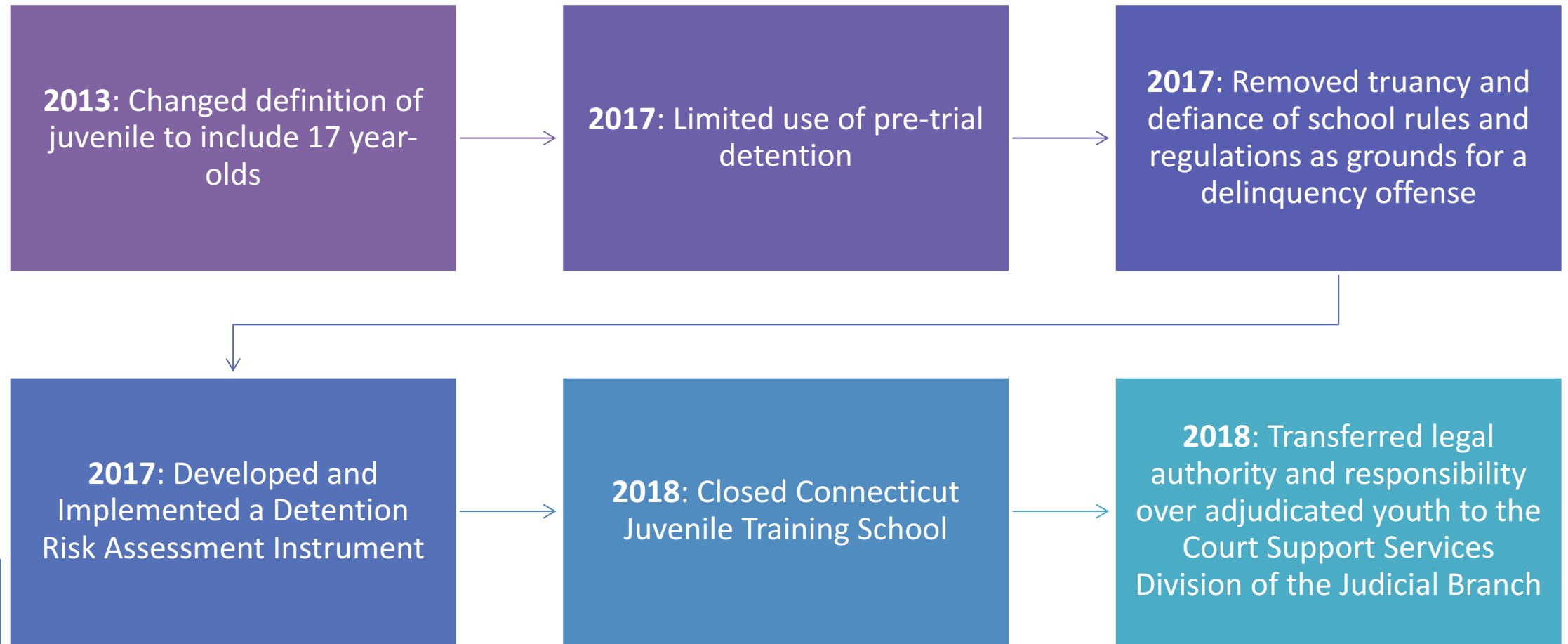
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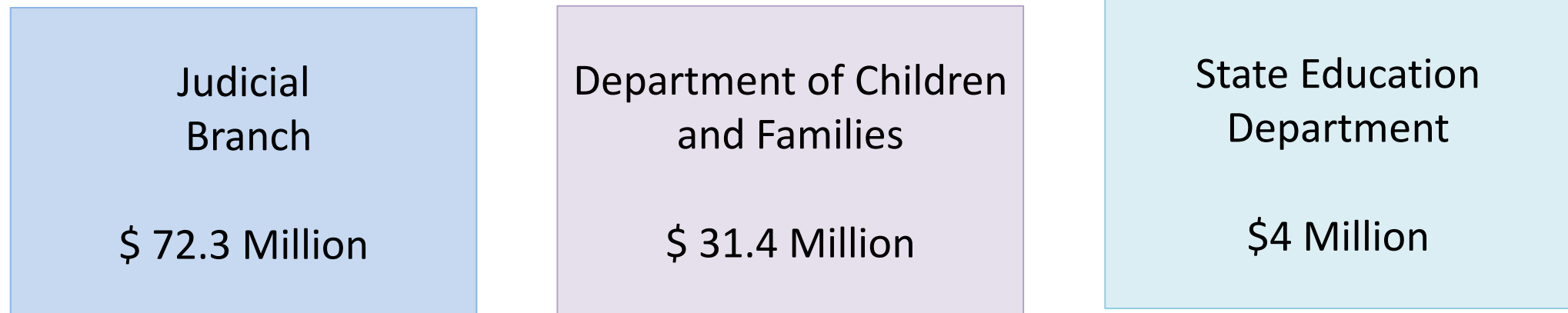
Snapshot of Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System

IOYouth will build upon the many juvenile justice reforms that Connecticut has adopted and implemented over the last several years.



The State of Connecticut spends over 100 million dollars annually on its juvenile justice system.

FY2017 Juvenile Justice Related State Expenditures



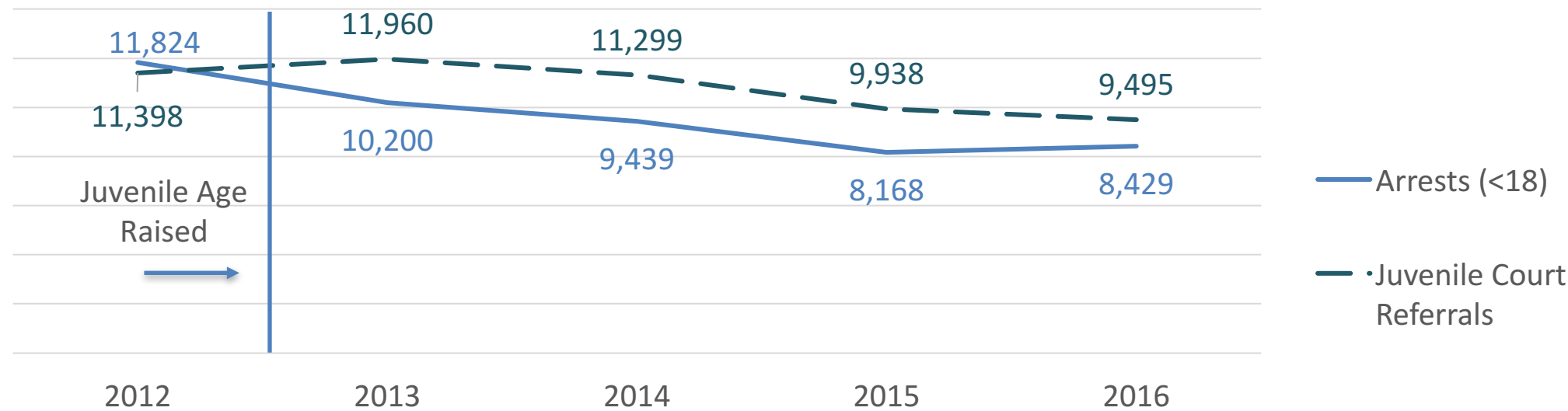
Connecticut State Budget FY 19 Revisions, https://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/BB/2019BB-20180920_FY
Judicial Branch, Financial Statements, FY2017 <https://www.jud.ct.gov/statistics/reports/fiscal/2017.pdf>
Connecticut Juvenile Training School, Report to the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, 2018



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Between 2012 and 2016, arrests for youth under 18 decreased 29 percent while delinquent referrals to juvenile court decreased 17 percent.

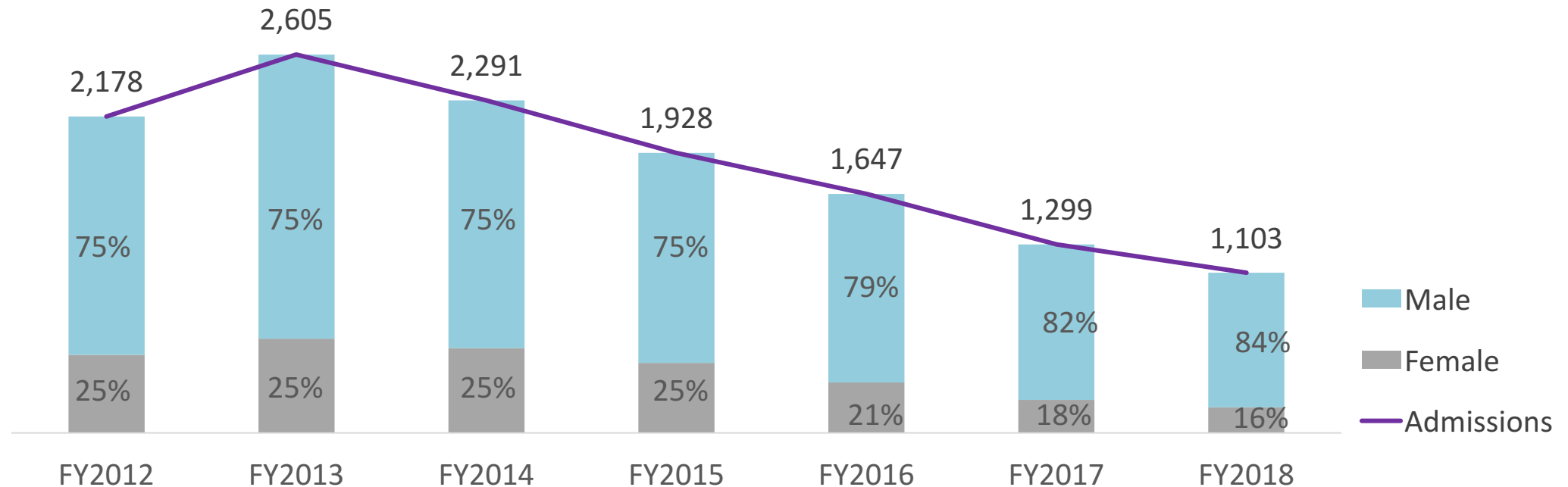
Connecticut Arrests for People Under Age 18 and Juvenile Court Referrals, 2011 – 2016



Crime in Connecticut, 2017. Annual Report of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Crime Analysis Unit
Facts and Figures on Connecticut’s Juvenile Justice System, 2011 – 2016

Overall admissions to detention decreased 58 percent between FY2013 and FY2018, and admissions for females decreased 73 percent.

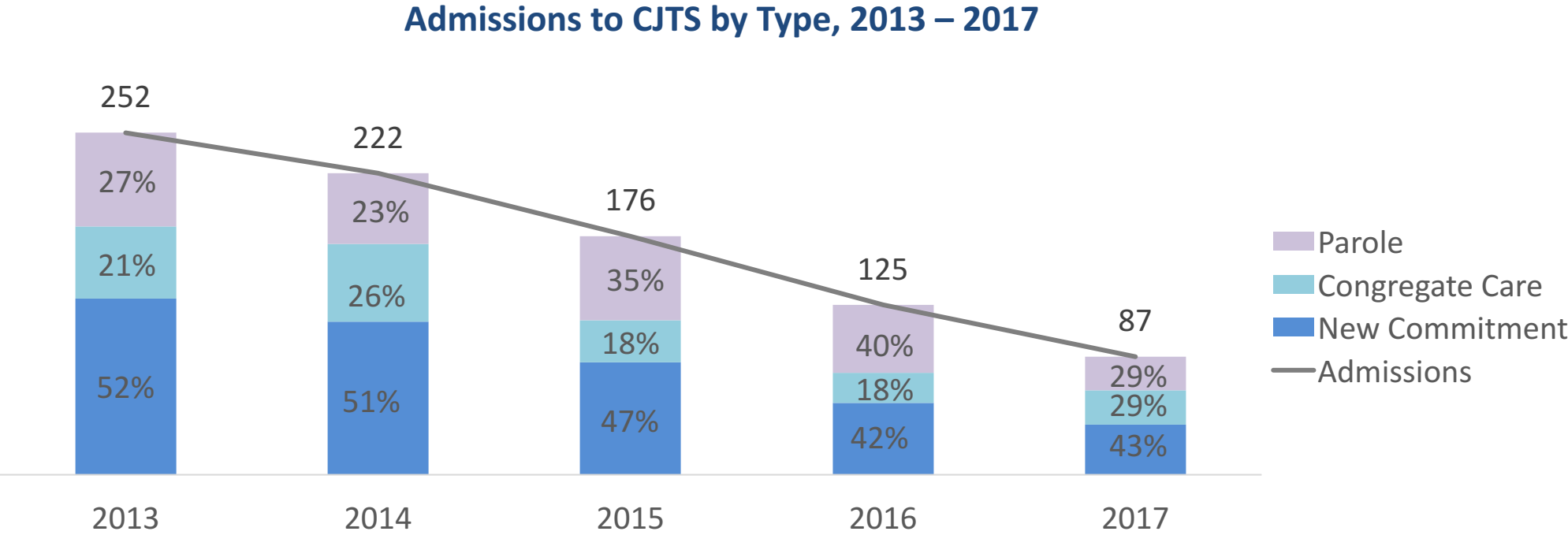
Admissions to Detention Centers, FY2012 – FY2018



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Yearly Statewide Detention Admissions

Prior to closure, admissions to the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) declined rapidly across all admission types.

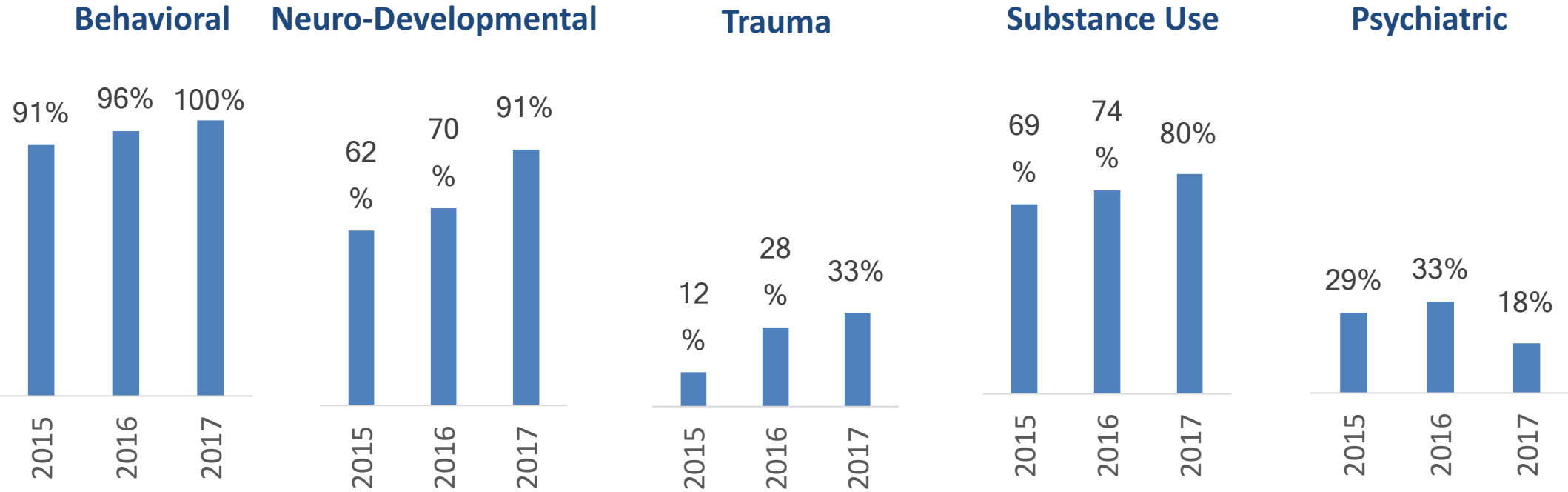


Note: The facility closed on April 12, 2018.

CJTS Reports, 2014 – 2018

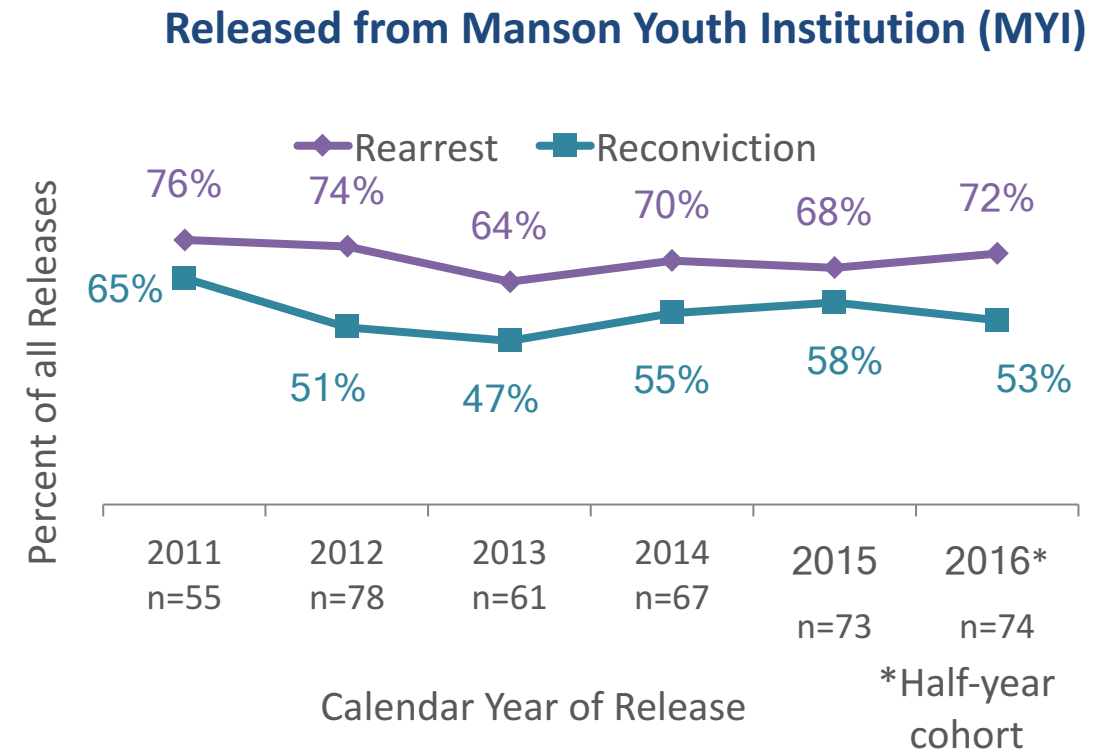
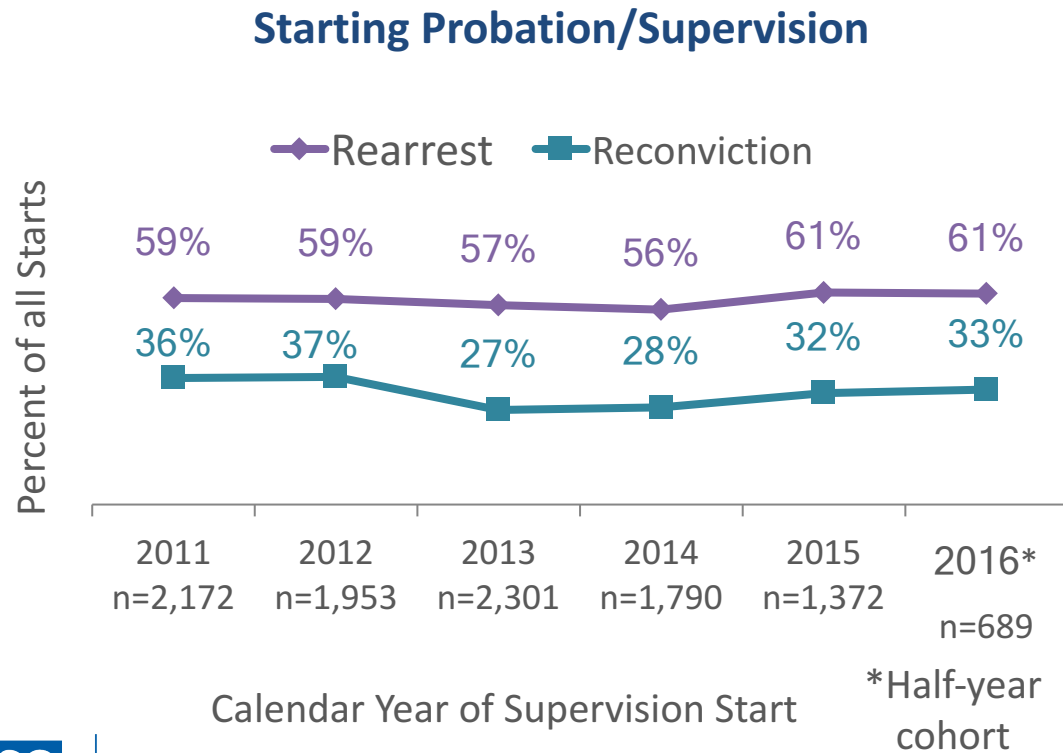
As the number of youth in CJTS decreased, the percentage of youth with behavioral, neurodevelopmental, trauma, and substance use conditions increased.

% of Youth with Diagnosis Type, 2015 – 2017



While Connecticut's juvenile justice population has declined in recent years, the impact on recidivism rates remains unclear.

24-month Rearrest and Reconviction Rate, 2011 – 2016



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Tow Youth Justice Institute. Report to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, November 15, 2018.

Four core principles have been shown by research to improve outcomes for youth and will help guide the assessment of CT's juvenile justice system.



Principle 1

Base supervision, service, and resource-allocation decisions on the results of **validated risk and needs assessments**.



Principle 2

Adopt and effectively implement **programs and services demonstrated to reduce recidivism** and improve other youth outcomes, and use data to **evaluate the results** and direct system improvements.



Principle 3

Employ a **coordinated approach** across service systems to address youth's needs.



Principle 4

Tailor system policies, programs, and supervision to reflect the **distinct developmental needs of adolescents**.



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IOYouth will also attempt to assess the fidelity of implementation and impact of recent juvenile justice improvement efforts.



Several potential areas of focus emerged from initial conversations with leadership and system stakeholders, including a priority on improving supervision and services for youth in the community.

Supervision and
Services for Youth
with Behavioral
Health Needs

Resource Allocation
Strategies, Resource
Efficiencies, and
Reinvestment

Effectiveness of
Community-Based
Supervision and
Services

Diversion Criteria,
Process, and
Outcomes

Data Collection,
Sharing, and Use

Community Based
Alternatives to
Incarceration



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Key Questions for Discussion:

What other priority areas should be a focus for the assessment process?

What does success look like at the end of this initiative?

What potential challenges or barriers to success do you anticipate, and how can IOYouth benefit from lessons learned from past reform efforts?

Next Steps

Begin Quantitative Assessment and Impact Analysis



Share Summary of Key Themes from Initial Site Visit



Continue Qualitative Assessment Through Focus Groups & Surveys



2nd Task Force Meeting with Presentation of Findings (September)



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