Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force
System Assessment

Rules for Today's Virtual Meeting

- Please keep your line muted if you are not speaking.
- We encourage Task Force members to ask questions or make comments directly during today's meeting, though please also feel free to use the chat box.
- Members of the public may sign up to testify after each Task Force meeting through the website:
  - http://www.pacourts.us/pa-juvenile-justice-task-force

Agenda

- Welcome and updates on stakeholder input (co-chairs)
- Review key takeaways from last meeting (co-chairs)
- Data analysis and discussion (Pew)
- Discussion and next steps (co-chairs)
- Public testimony (5:00-6:00pm)

Stakeholder Input

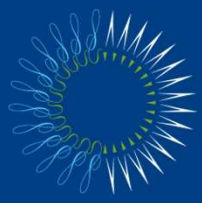
Completed Roundtables	Date
✔ Dually-Adjudicated Youth	Aug. 24
✔ Crime Victim/Survivors	Aug. 25
✔ Crime Victim/Survivors	Aug. 27
✔ Restorative Justice	Sept. 3
✔ Service Providers	Sept. 10
✔ Service Providers	Sept. 14
✔ BJJS Facility Staff	Sept. 15
✔ Judges	Sept. 16
✔ BJJS Facility Staff	Sept. 17
✔ Defense Attorneys	Sept. 21
✔ BJJS Facility Staff	Sept. 22
✔ Advocates	Sept. 22
✔ Advocates	Sept. 23
✔ Education Stakeholders	Sept. 23
✔ Education Stakeholders	Sept. 24
✔ Juv. Probation Officers	Sept. 25

Completed Roundtables	Date
✔ JJSES Leadership Team	Sept. 25
✔ County Commissioners	Sept. 29

Upcoming Roundtables	Date
❑ Probation Officers	Oct. 6
❑ Probation Officers	Oct. 7
❑ District Attorneys	Oct. 7
❑ District Attorneys	Oct. 8
❑ Law Enforcement	Oct. 8
❑ JJ-Involved Youth	Oct. 8
❑ Defense Attorneys	Oct. 23
❑ JJ-Involved Youth	Nov. 10
❑ Child Welfare Staff	TBD
❑ Family Members	TBD
❑ Northeastern Pennsylvania	TBD
❑ BJJS Facility Youth	TBD

Key Findings – Presentation 7

- Almost half of youth with placement dispositions spend time in five or more out-of-home placements
- Cumulatively, youth sent to placement average 16 months out-of-home; 18% spend over two years
- Juvenile justice records never automatically disappear & may restrict employment, education, & military enlistment, among other aspects of a youth's life
- 96% eligible adjudications & 76% of dismissed/withdrawn cases are not expunged

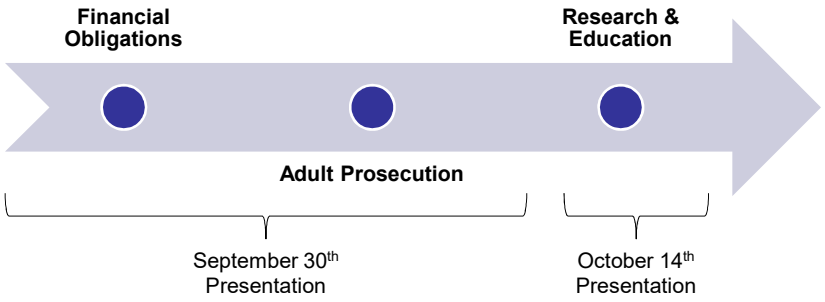


THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

System Assessment: Financial Obligations and Adult Prosecution

Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force
September 30, 2020

Juvenile Justice System Structure (Scope of Presentations)



System assessment and data analysis sources

System Assessment Sources	Data Reviewed
Interviews/Meetings ➢ Department of Human Services' (DHS) Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) and Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) ➢ Juvenile Court Judges' Commission ➢ Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy executive leadership team ➢ Judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys ➢ Chief juvenile probation officers and juvenile probation officers ➢ Service providers ➢ Individual school districts **Documents Reviewed** ➢ State statute ➢ Rules of judicial administration ➢ Rules of juvenile court procedure ➢ Administrative policies & regulations ➢ School disciplinary policies	**State Data** ➢ Juvenile Court Judges' Commission ➢ Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts ➢ Department of Education ➢ Department of Human Services **Questionnaires** ➢ 684 juvenile probation officer respondents o Representing all 67 counties o 56% response rate ➢ 61 juvenile court judge respondents o 42% response rate **National Data** ➢ FBI Uniform Crime Report (youth arrest rates) ➢ Center for Disease Control (youth population)

Data notes

Data limitations

- Data are correlational, not causal
- Unable to link data between state agencies (e.g., PDE, JCJC, and DHS)

Missing data

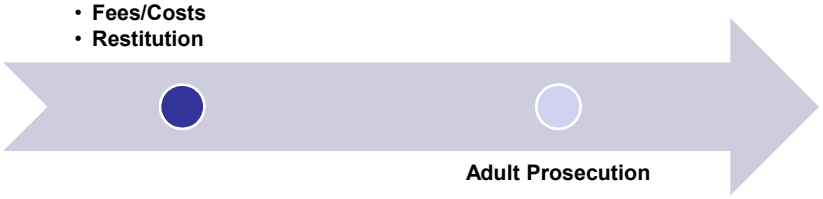
- Most recent JCJC data (2019) was not validated at time of collection, with the exception of detention

Overall

- Numbers may not equal 100% due to rounding
- Financial obligations data do not include offense or disposition details

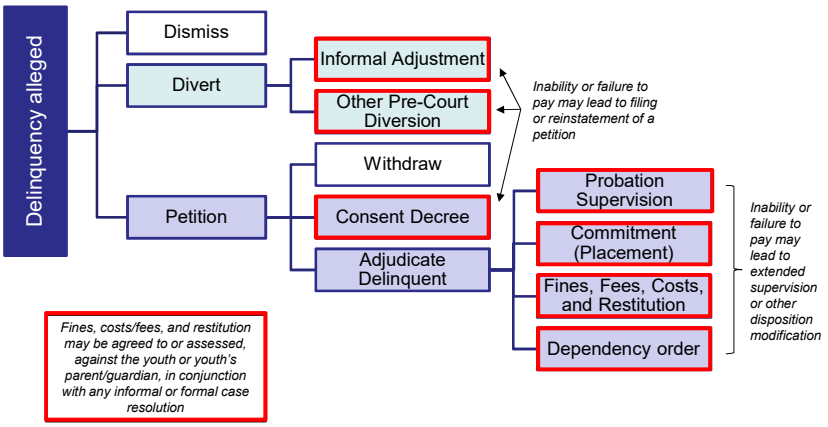
Financial Obligations

- **Fines**
- **Fees/Costs**
- **Restitution**



Adult Prosecution

Financial obligations can form part of any informal or formal resolution of a youth's case



42 Pa. C.S. § 6323, 6340 and 6352

While some financial obligations are mandatory, most are local and discretionary

Fees/Costs
(examples)

- Mandatory Fees/Costs
- Crime Lab Fees
- Electronic Monitoring Fees
- Placement Costs
- Supervision Fees
- Diversion Program Fee

Fines
(examples)

- Game Commission
- Criminal Justice Enhancement (Act 30)
- Emergency Management
- Truancy/Tax
- Title 75, DUI (Motor License Fund)
- PA Transportation Trust Fund

Restitution*
(examples)

- Affected Government Agency Restitution
- Business Entity Restitution
- Insurance Company Restitution
- Individual Restitution
- Crime Victim Compensation Board

**Any restitution order which remains unpaid at the time the child attains 21 years of age shall continue to be collectible under section 9728 (relating to collection of restitution, reparation, fees, costs, fines and penalties)*

42 Pa.C.S. § 6352; 237 Pa. Code Part I, Subpt. A, Ch 5, Rule 515; 62 P.S. § 704.1(e)

Among mandatory fees, some may be waived due to undue hardship

Mandatory Fee/Cost	Amount	When Imposed
Crime Victims Compensation Fund	$25	- Consent decree - Adjudication
Judicial Computer System Filing Fee	$40.25	- Consent decree - Adjudication
Manufacture or sale of a false identification card	$500 ($1000 subsequent offense)	- Adjudication for this offense
Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction Fund*	$100 (BAC <.16%) Additional $200 (BAC ≥ .16%)	- Certain drug/alcohol offenses
DNA Testing*	$250	- Adjudication for certain offense
Amber Alert System Cost*	$25	- Adjudication for kidnapping
Cost of Chemical Testing related to DUI	Dependent on actual cost of testing	- Placement in a pre-adjudication program or adjudication for driving under the influence
YDC Placement Costs	50% of net earnings while in YDC	- Youth is placed in a YDC and is working part or full-time off-grounds

*The Court has discretion to waive some requirements for youth experiencing undue hardship

Pa. C. S. 3733, 6310.2, 7508.1(b), 2322 &1547(g.1); P.S. 11.1101, 1795.1-E, & 7025.4; 62 P.S. § 344

JPO/Judge Questionnaires: Financial Obligations Takeaways

- Nearly 40 percent of JPO respondents say fines or fees are never required as part of informal adjustment, while 32 percent say they are always required.
  - Among those who report fines and fees are required, roughly 90% do not consider the youth's or family's ability to pay.
- For consent decrees, 75% of JPO respondents say a fine or fee is always required; almost no respondents said they consider youth or family ability to pay
- Judge respondents split on whether as a condition of supervision they require a fine (52% do not) or a fee (64% do not, 36% do).

JPO/Judge Questionnaires: Financial Obligations Takeaways

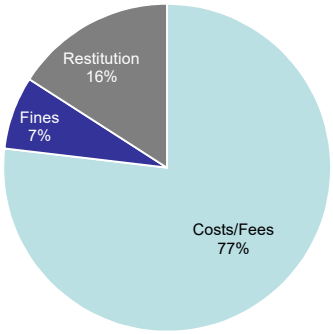
- Most JPO respondents supervise youth solely for non-payment of restitution
- Judge respondents report the experience of youth with financial obligations unmet but all other supervision conditions satisfied can vary widely:
  - When asked if a youth's case can be closed if restitution is not met:
    - » 16% close the case but convert the balance into a civil judgement against the youth or the family
    - » One-in-ten send restitution to collections
    - » Roughly 37% cumulatively said they keep youth on supervision or court jurisdiction until the balance is paid
    - » 25% of respondents say the case can be closed if restitution isn't paid
  - When asked if a youth's case can be closed if fines or fees are not met:
    - » One-in-five judge respondents say the cases are closed
    - » 25% say court jurisdiction does not end until youth pay fines, fees, or costs
    - » 23% say the case is closed but the balance is converted to a civil judgement against the youth or the family

Financial Obligations

Data

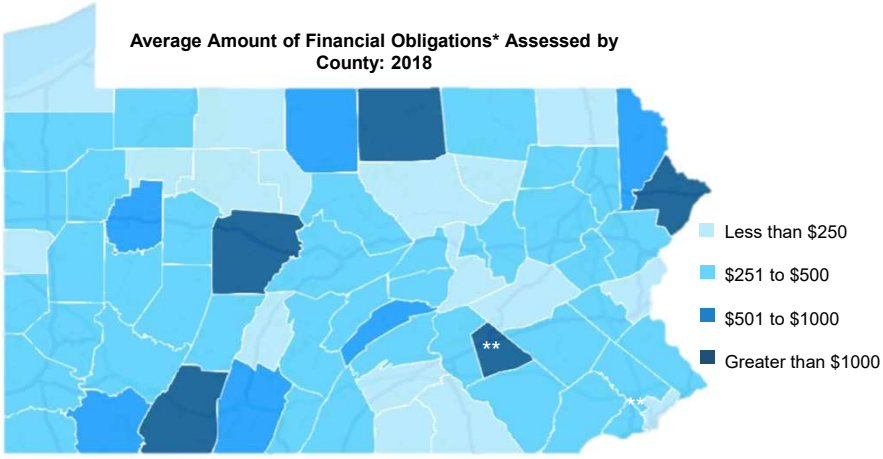
Among youth assessed financial obligations, costs/fees are the most frequently imposed

Frequency of Financial Obligations by Assessment Type: 2018



Wide variation among counties in the average amount of financial obligations assessed

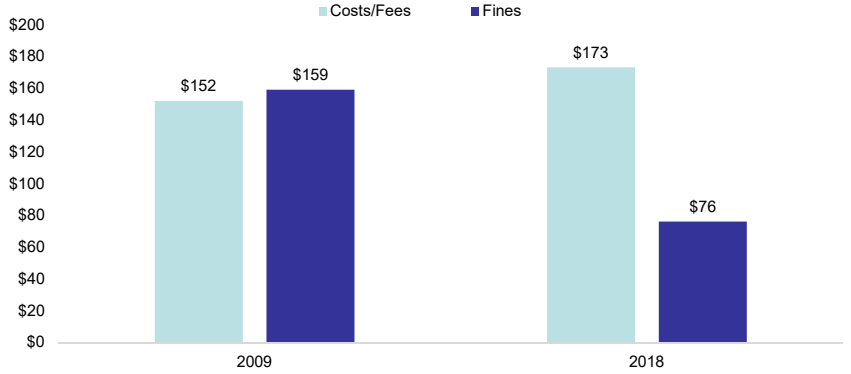
Average Amount of Financial Obligations* Assessed by County: 2018



*These figures reflect the average amount of costs/fees, fines, and restitution assessed to each youth in juvenile court.

Youth assessed roughly $2 million in costs/fees in 2018, up 12% since 2009

Average Amount of Costs/Fees and Fines Assessed*: 2009 and 2018



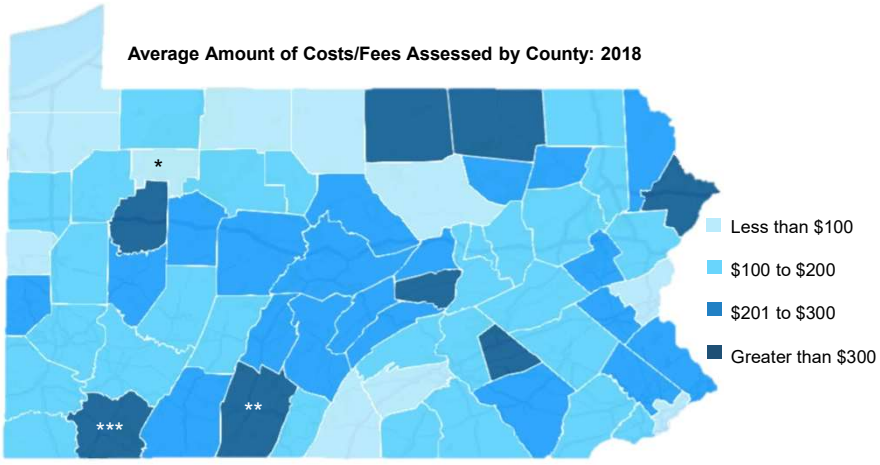
Total costs/fees assessed in 2009: $1,848,959
Total fines assessed in 2009: $257,472

Total costs/fees assessed in 2018: $2,068,438
Total fines assessed in 2018: $110,242

*In 2018, assessed individual costs/fees ranged from $1 to $6,370, while individual fines ranged from $1 to $750. The median amount of costs/fees assessed was $114, while the median amount of fines assessed with $50.

Wide variation among counties in the average amount of costs/fees assessed

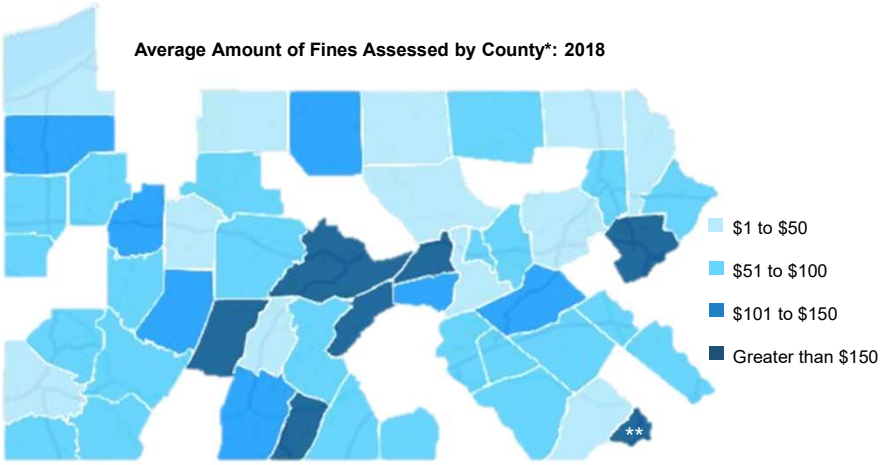
Average Amount of Costs/Fees Assessed by County: 2018



*Forest County assessed, on average, the lowest amount ($53) of costs/fees in 2018
**Bedford County assessed, on average, the highest amount ($673) of costs/fees in 2018.

Wide variation among counties in the average amount of fines assessed

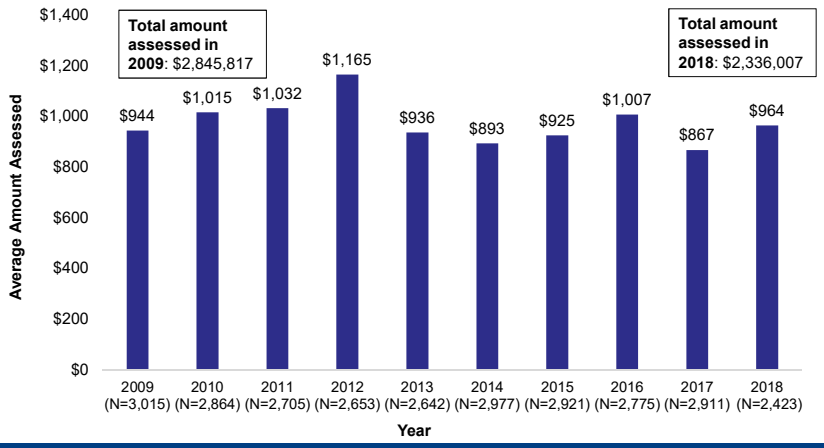
Average Amount of Fines Assessed by County*: 2018



*Seventeen counties did not impose any fines in 2018
**Delaware County assessed, on average, the highest amount of fines in 2018 ($294)

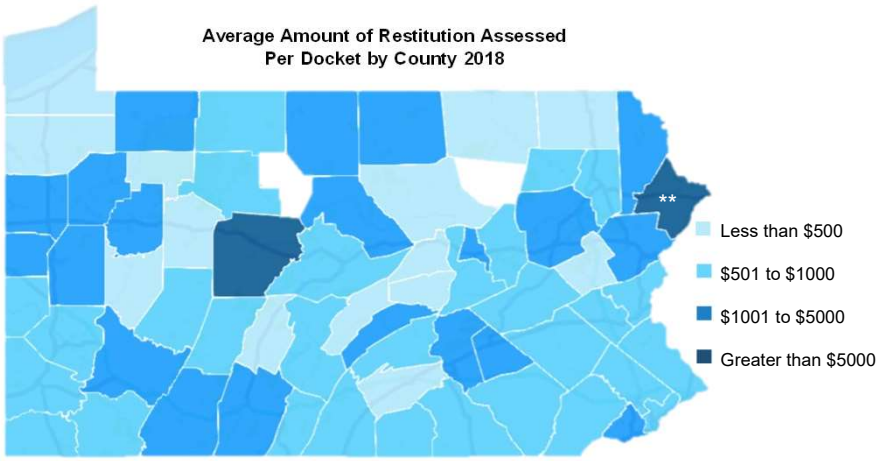
Youth are assessed just under $1,000 in restitution, on average, relatively unchanged over the last 10 years

Average Amount of Restitution Assessed Per Youth: 2009-2018



*In 2018, individual restituion assessments ranged from $1 to $118,840. The median amount of restitution assessed was $333.

Wide variation among counties in the average amount of restitution assessed



*Two counties did not impose any fines in 2018
**Pike County assessed, on average, the highest amount of restitution in 2018 ($13,291)

Financial Obligations Takeaways

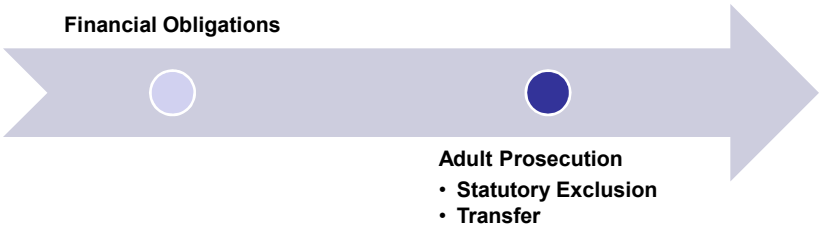
Decision Making

- Financial obligations can be part of any informal or formal resolution of a case
  - Some financial obligations are mandatory, but most are local and discretionary
- JPO respondents report divides in whether fines or fees are required and whether they consider a youth or family's ability to pay
- Judge respondents split on whether as a condition of supervision they require a fine (52% do not) or a fee (64% do not, 36% do)
- Judge respondents vary on whether and how a youth's case may be closed if payment of financial obligations is incomplete
  - Nearly all JPO respondents say they have youth on supervision solely for non-payment of restitution

Financial Obligations Takeaways

Fines, Fees, and Restitution:

- Costs/fees are the most prevalent type of financial obligation, representing 77% of all financial obligations
- Over ten years, average costs/fees have gone up; fines have declined
  - Youth assessed roughly $2 million in costs/fees in 2018, up 12% since 2009
  - Youth assessed an average of $173 in costs/fees per youth in 2018
- Restitution makes up 16% of overall financial obligations; among youth assessed restitution, the average amount imposed is just under $1,000 per youth
- Whether/how much youth are assessed in financial obligations varies widely
  - The average amount of costs/fees per youth imposed across counties ranged from $53 to $673
  - Seventeen counties did not impose any fines in 2018, but seven averaged more than $250 per youth
  - In 2018, individual restitution assessments ranged from $1 to $118,840



Some youth's cases must be filed directly in adult court, without juvenile court review

Youth Excluded from Juvenile Court*

Age	Offense Charged	Additional Requirements
Any age	Murder	
	Any delinquent act	Previously found guilty of a non-summary offense in criminal court
15 or older**	Robbery	Either: (a) Committed with a deadly weapon; or (b) after the youth was previously adjudicated for one of the offenses enumerated here
	Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse	
	Rape	
	Robbery of a motor vehicle	
	Aggravated indecent assault	
	Kidnapping	
	Voluntary manslaughter	
	Attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit murder	
	Aggravated assault**	Committed with a deadly weapon

42 Pa.C.S. § 6302
*Youth who are charged with summary offenses alone are also excluded from juvenile court jurisdiction
**Enumerated offenses also include any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation

Any felony alleged against a child age 14 or older may be transferred by the juvenile court for criminal prosecution

Transfer eligibility
- Child is 14+ years
- Felony is alleged

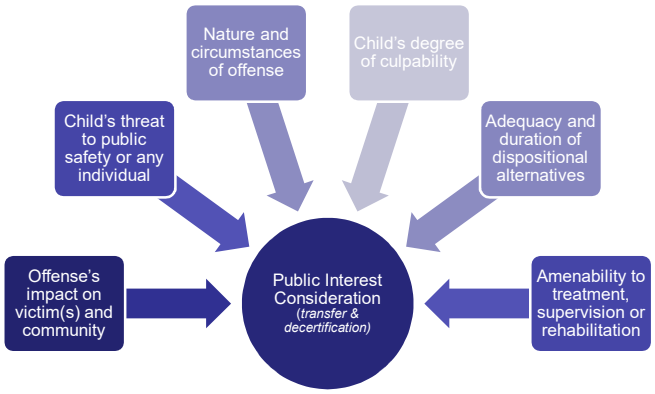
Transfer process commencement
- May be initiated by the DA, judge, or child
- At any time before a finding of delinquency

Transfer Hearing
- Judge considers whether the public interest is served by transferring
- DA has the burden unless criteria for presumptive transfer are met

Presumptive transfer: 14 y.o. + a felony allegation for an enumerated offense* with a deadly weapon; 15 y.o.+ a felony allegation for an enumerated offense + a prior felony adjudication

42 Pa.C.S. § 6322; 6355 (Enumerated offenses include rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, aggravated assault, robbery, robbery of motor vehicle, aggravated indecent assault, kidnapping, voluntary manslaughter, attempt to commit murder)

Juvenile and criminal courts must consider "public interest" when deciding the appropriate court jurisdiction



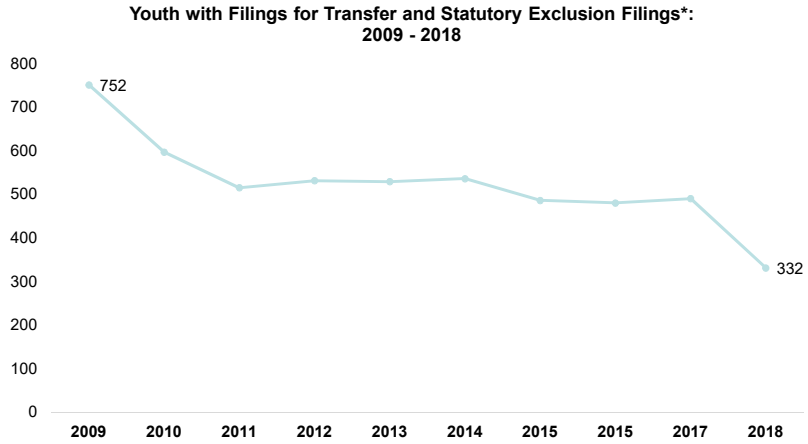
In both decertification and presumptive transfer cases, it is the child's burden to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that it is in the public interest to address the case in juvenile court

42 Pa.C.S. § 6322; 6355

Adult Prosecution

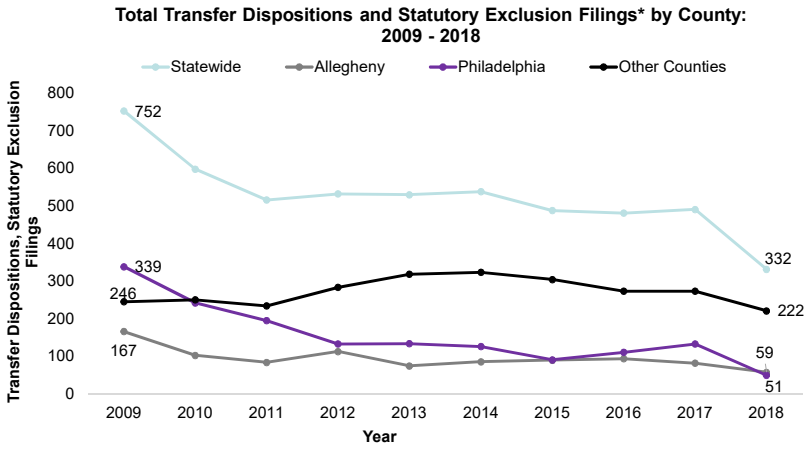
Data

Youth filings for adult prosecution that are not decertified have decreased 56% over the last decade



*Figures represent the total number of transfer dispositions that occurred in Pennsylvania Juvenile Courts and the number of statutory exclusion cases filed with Pennsylvania Minor Courts.

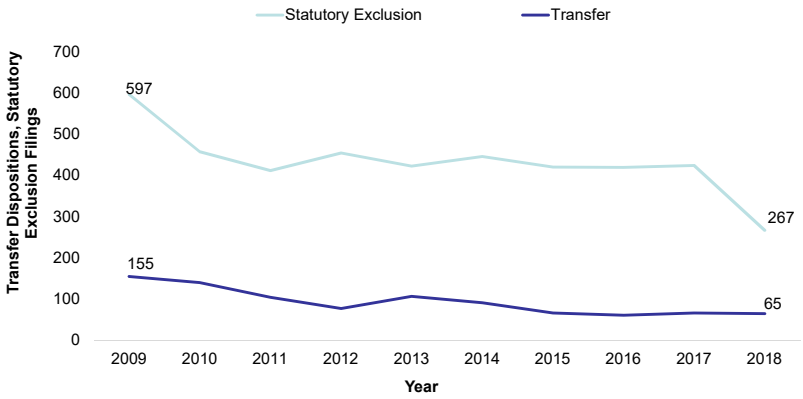
Philadelphia County and Allegheny County driving decreases in filings for adult prosecution; other counties down slightly



*Figures represent the total number of transfer dispositions that occurred in Pennsylvania Juvenile Courts and the number of statutory exclusion cases filed with Pennsylvania Minor Courts.

Youth are more likely to come under criminal court jurisdiction due to statutory exclusion than transfer

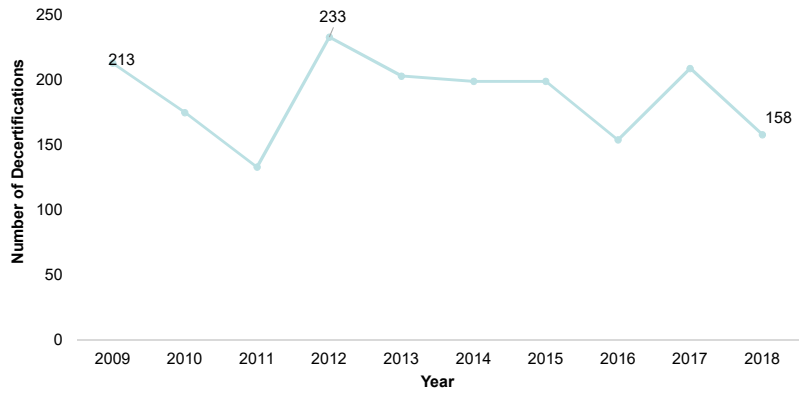
Total Number of Transfer Dispositions* and Statutory Exclusion Filings: 2009-2018**



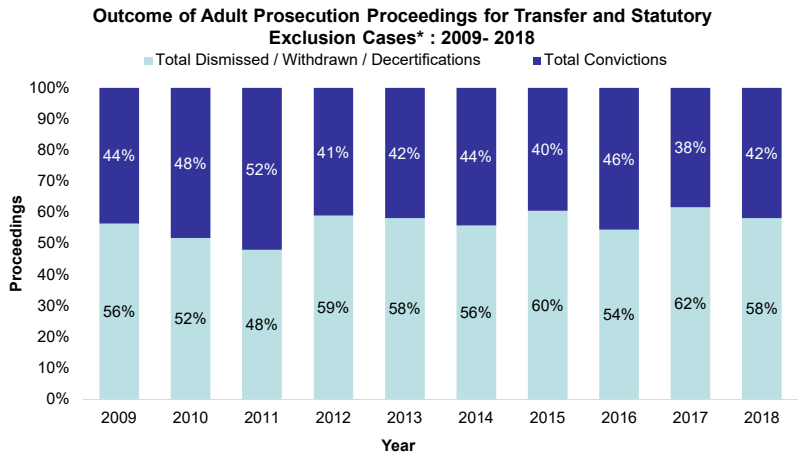
*Figures represent the total number of transfer dispositions that occurred in Pennsylvania Juvenile Courts.
**Figures represent the number of statutory exclusion cases filed with Pennsylvania Minor Courts.

158 youth cases were decertified and sent from adult court to juvenile court for prosecution in 2018

Total Number of Decertifications to Juvenile Court by Year: 2009-2018

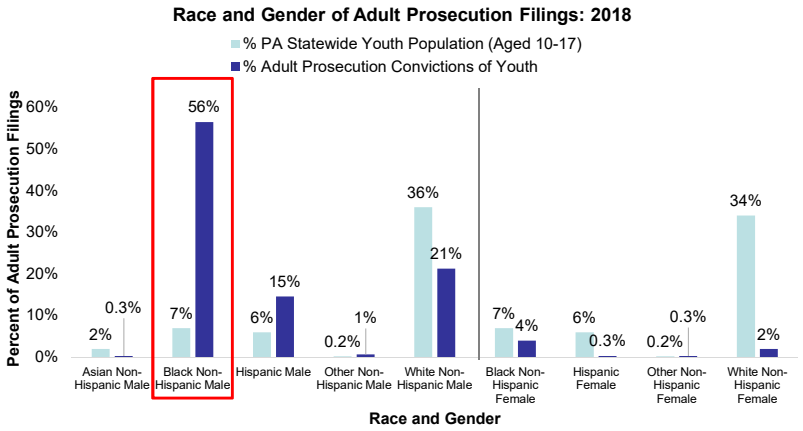


Among cases where adult prosecution is pursued, nearly 60% get dismissed or withdrawn, or end up in juvenile court



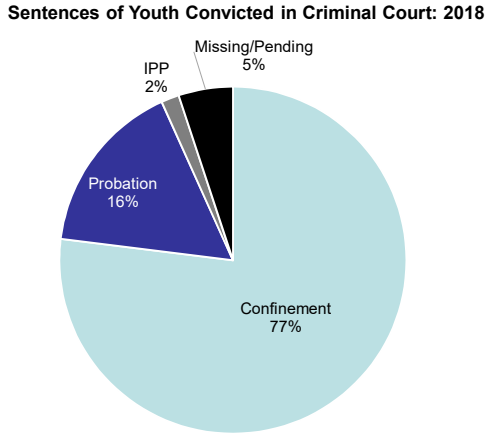
*Includes youth who had a transfer to criminal court hearing but ultimately remained in juvenile court and youth who had filings in the Minor Courts or the Court of Common Pleas that were ultimately dismissed or withdrawn

Despite accounting for 7% of the state's population, Black Non-Hispanic males account for 56% of adult prosecutions



*Figures represent the number of statutory exclusion cases filed with Pennsylvania Minor Courts and the number of transfer dispositions that occurred in Juvenile Court. Asian Non-Hispanic females have been excluded from this analysis due to their small numbers. These disparities remain among cases that are convicted.

More than 75% of youth convicted in criminal court are sentenced to confinement



Adult Prosecution Takeaways

Decision Making:

- Some youth's cases are statutorily excluded from juvenile court and must be filed directly into adult court without juvenile court review
  - Statutorily excluded cases may be decertified to juvenile court where the youth establishes that juvenile jurisdiction is in the public interest
- Any felony alleged against a child age 14 or older may also be prosecuted criminally, upon order of the juvenile court
  - In general, the commonwealth carries the burden in transfer cases, but in some circumstances, the youth's case is presumed to be appropriate for transfer and the youth must show that they should remain in juvenile court

Adult Prosecution Takeaways

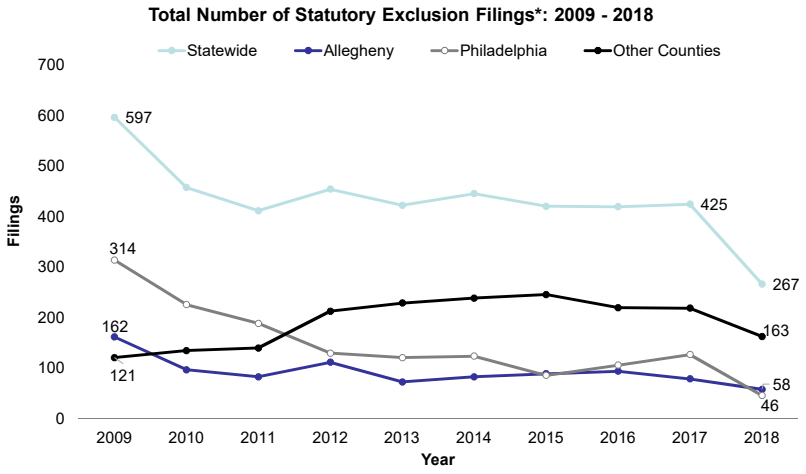
Adult Prosecution:

- Overall, prosecutions of youth in criminal court are down since 2009, driven by drops in filings from Allegheny County and Philadelphia County
  - Filings in all other counties are down just 10% over ten years
- Most youth are charged as adults without juvenile court review
- Nearly 60% of cases where adult prosecution is pursued get dismissed or withdrawn, or end up in juvenile court for prosecution
- Black Non-Hispanic males make up 56% of adult prosecution filings and 57% of convictions, compared to 7% of the youth population
- Hispanic males make up 15% of adult prosecution filings and 16% of convictions, compared to 6% of the youth population
- Among those convicted in criminal court, 75% are sentenced to confinement

Statutory Exclusion: Minor Courts

Data

Philadelphia, Allegheny Counties driving statewide drop in statutory exclusion filings; filings up 35% in all other counties



*Figures represent the number of statutory exclusion cases filed with Pennsylvania Minor Courts. Pennsylvania Minor Courts include Magisterial District Courts and Philadelphia Municipal Court.

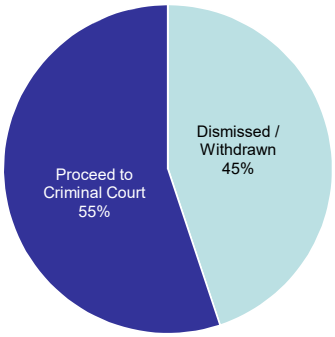
Robbery and aggravated assault make up almost two thirds of all statutory exclusion filings

Top 10 Offenses (2018): Statutory Exclusion*	% of Filings
Robbery	38%
Aggravated Assault	24%
Criminal Homicide	10%
Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse	5%
Rape	5%
Murder	4%
Burglary	3%
Aggravated Indecent Assault	3%
Possession of an Instrument of Crime	1%
Simple Assault	1%
Total	**95% (100%)**

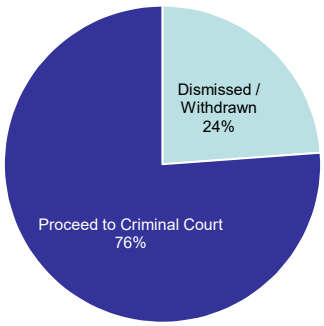
*Pennsylvania Minor Courts include Magisterial District Courts and Philadelphia Municipal Court.

About 25% of youth's statutory exclusion cases are dismissed or withdrawn at the minor courts, down from 2009

Outcome of Statutory Exclusion Filings to Minor Courts*: 2009



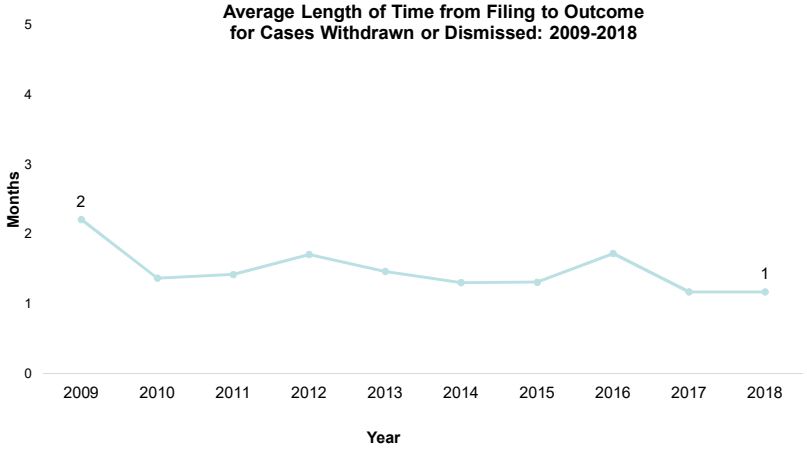
Outcome of Statutory Exclusion Filings to Minor Courts*: 2018



*Pennsylvania Minor Courts include Magisterial District Courts and Philadelphia Municipal Court.

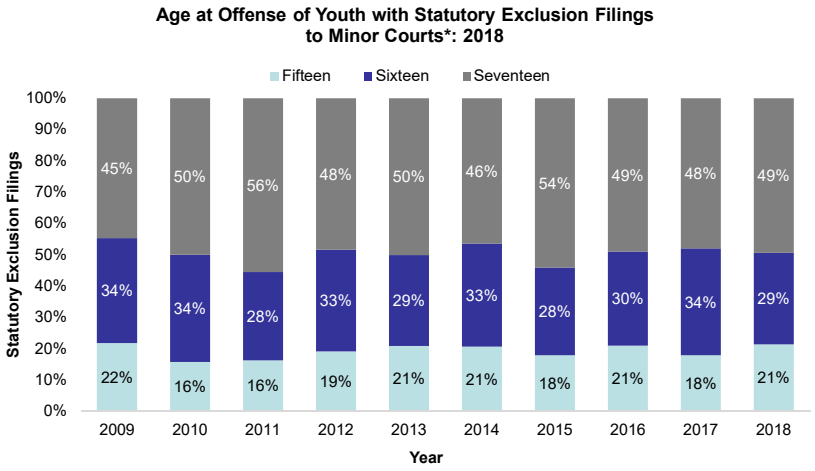
The average length of time from filing to outcome for dismissed or withdrawn cases is approximately one month

Average Length of Time from Filing to Outcome for Cases Withdrawn or Dismissed: 2009-2018



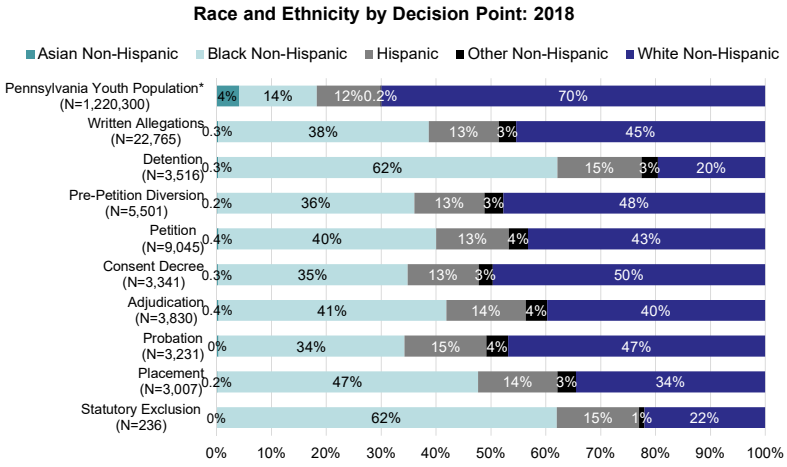
*Pennsylvania Minor Courts include Magisterial District Courts and Philadelphia Municipal Court.

Most youth with statutory exclusion filings are aged 17 at the time of their offense



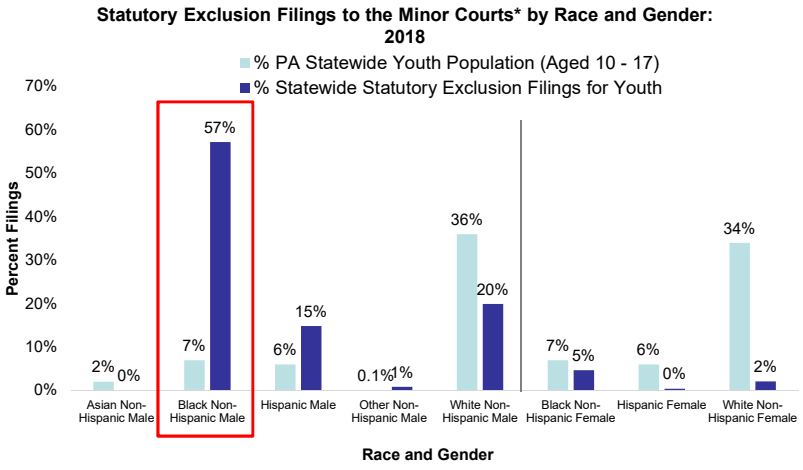
*Pennsylvania Minor Courts include Magisterial District Courts and Philadelphia Municipal Court.

Black Non-Hispanic youth account for approximately two-thirds of statutory exclusion filings



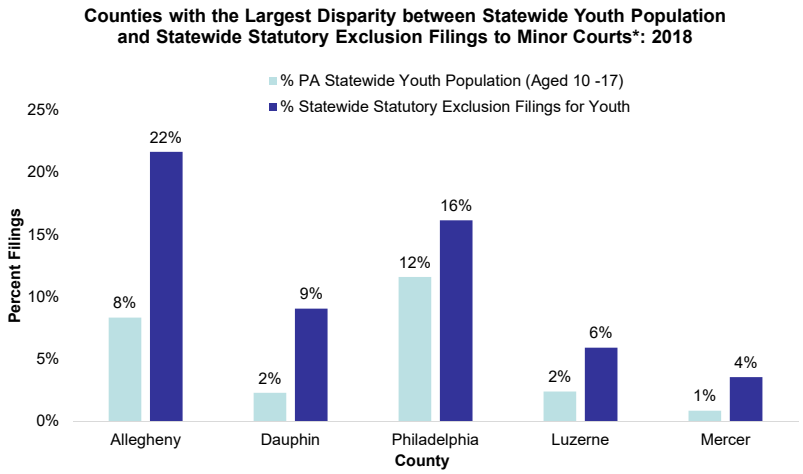
*Pennsylvania youth population data were retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Black Non-Hispanic males make up 57% of statutory exclusion filings, eight times their share of youth population



*Pennsylvania youth population data were retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Asian Non-Hispanic females and Other Non-Hispanic females are excluded from this slide due to their small size.

Five counties account for 57% of statutory exclusion filings despite just 25% of the statewide youth population

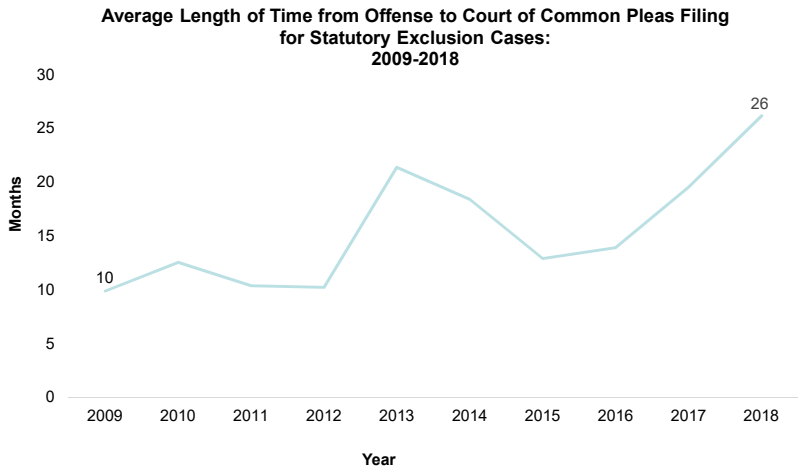


*Pennsylvania youth population data were retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

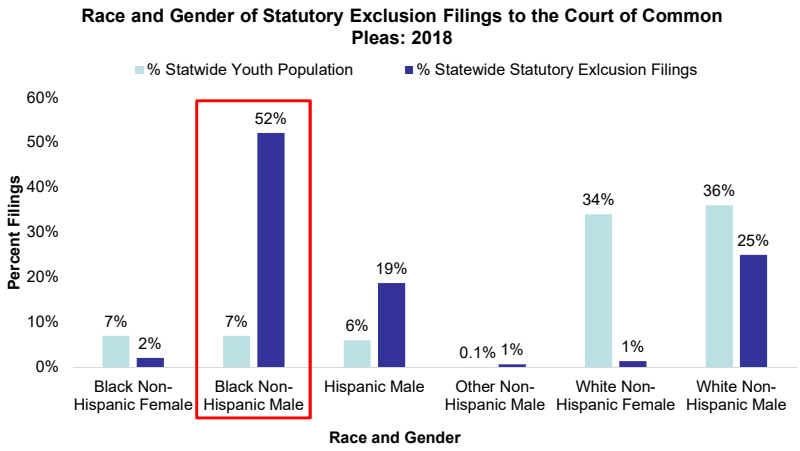
Statutory Exclusion: Court of Common Pleas

Data

Average time from offense to filing in Court of Common Pleas for statutory exclusion cases is over two years, up 160%

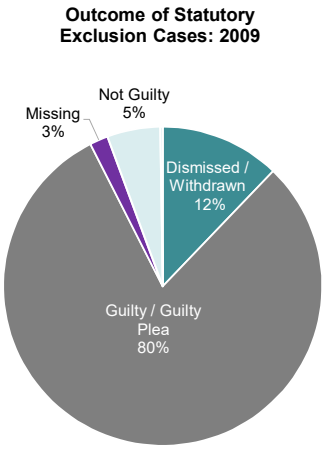


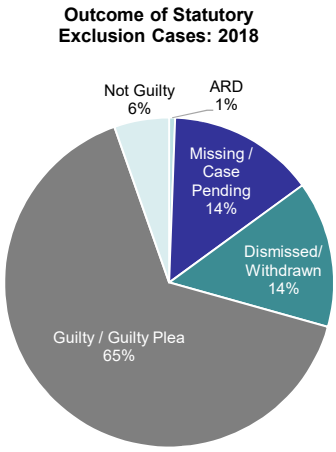
Black Non-Hispanic males make up 52% of statutory exclusion filings, seven times their share of youth population



*Pennsylvania youth population data were retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Asian Non-Hispanic males and females and Other Non-Hispanic females are excluded from this analysis due to their small size.

Most youth with statutory exclusion offenses in criminal court are convicted



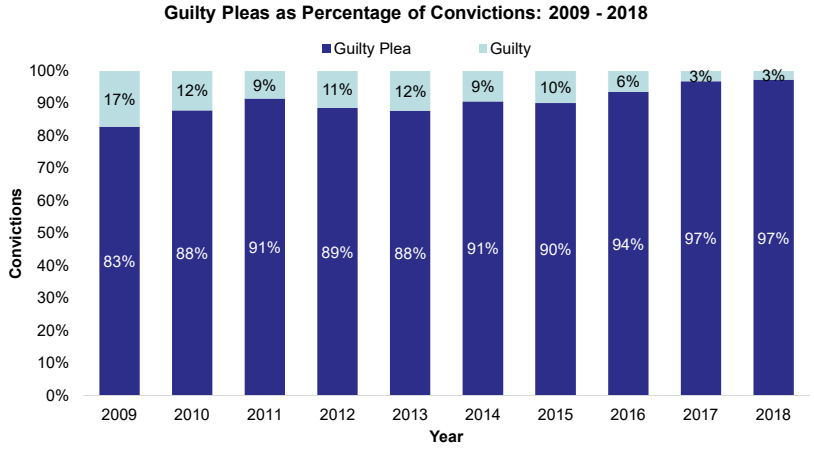


Among youth whose excluded charges result in conviction, robbery and aggravated assault are top offenses

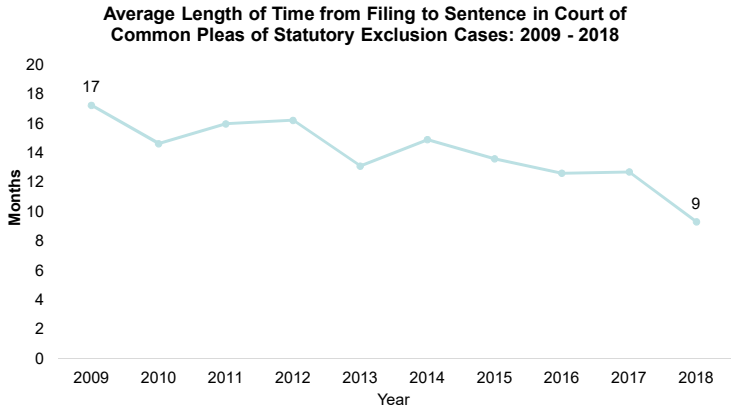
Top 10 Convicted Offenses: Statutory Exclusion, 2018)	% of Filings
Robbery	37%
Aggravated Assault	13%
Murder	6%
Indecent Assault	6%
Firearm-Related** Offense	5%
Theft-Related* Offense	5%
Burglary	4%
Corruption of Minors	4%
Simple Assault	4%
Statutory Sexual Assault	3%
Total	**85% (100%)**

*A theft-related offense includes: theft, theft by unlawful taking, theft by deception, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft from a motor vehicle. **A firearm-related offense includes unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful use of a firearm, carrying a firearm without a license, and possession of firearm by minor.

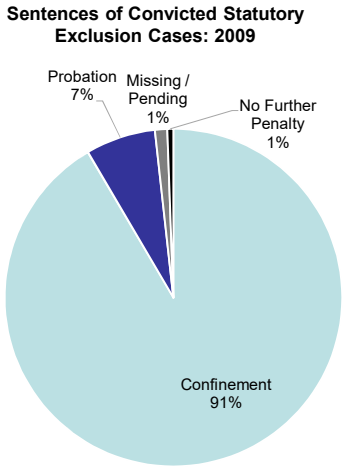
Among statutory exclusion cases with convictions, the overwhelming majority were the result of guilty pleas

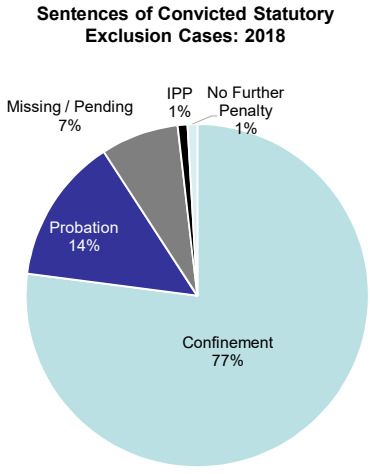


Average time from filing to sentence for statutory exclusion cases is 9 months, down since 2009



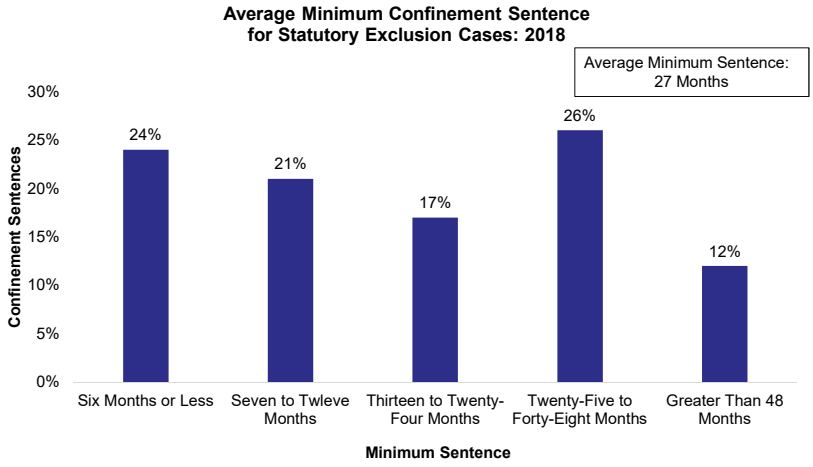
77% of youth convicted through statutory exclusion are sentenced to confinement





*Confinement includes county jails and state correctional facilities
**43% of youth confined in county jail, up from 25% in 2009

The average minimum confinement sentence is slightly over two years



Statutory Exclusion Takeaways

Statutory Exclusion:

- Robbery and aggravated assault represent at least half of the statutory exclusion filings in both the minor courts and court of common pleas
- Philadelphia County and Allegheny County are driving large decreases in statutory exclusion filings
  - But filings in all other counties are up 35% since 2009, despite a 43% drop in violent crime arrests statewide over the same period
- Disparities exist by county, race/ethnicity, and gender among statutory exclusion cases
  - Five counties account for 57% of statutory exclusion filings despite accounting for only 25% of the youth population
  - Black Non-Hispanic and Hispanic males' share of statutory exclusion filings make up roughly eight and three times their share of the youth population, respectively

Statutory Exclusion Takeaways

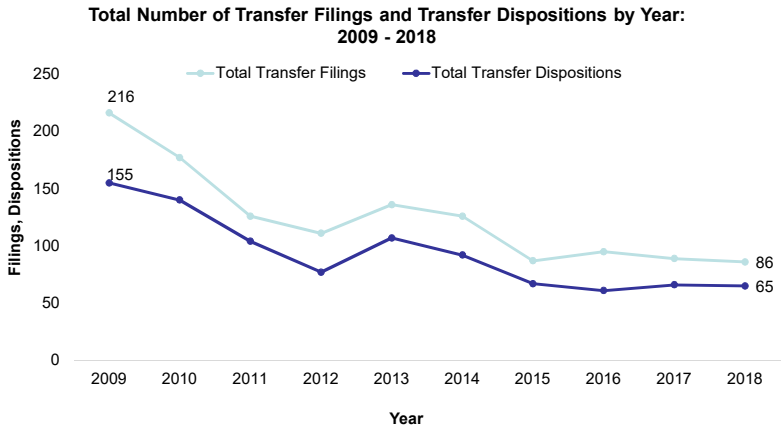
Statutory Exclusion (cont.):

- On average, 2.5 years elapses between when statutorily excluded youth commit an offense and when they receive their sentence
- Among statutorily excluded youth, 97% of convictions resulted from a guilty plea
- The average minimum confinement sentence for statutorily excluded youth is slightly over two years; 43% of those youth are sentenced to county jail

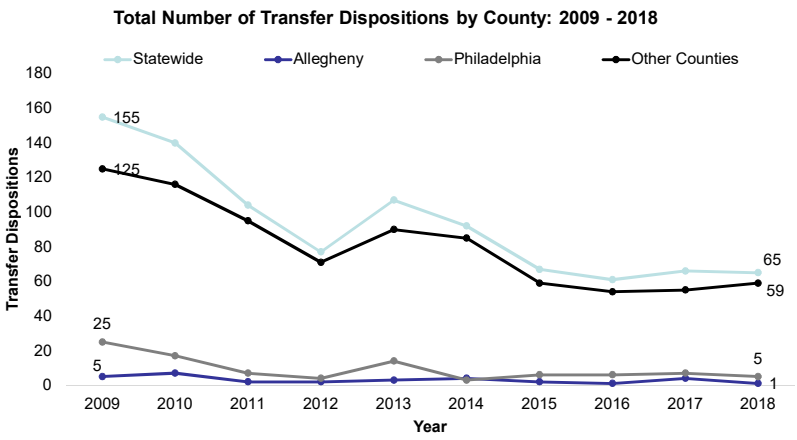
Transfer to Criminal Court

Data

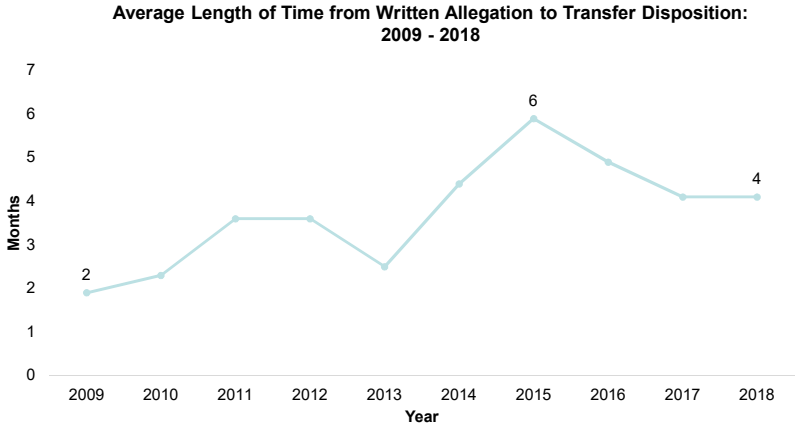
Transfer filings and youth transferred to criminal court both down approximately 60% over last 10 years



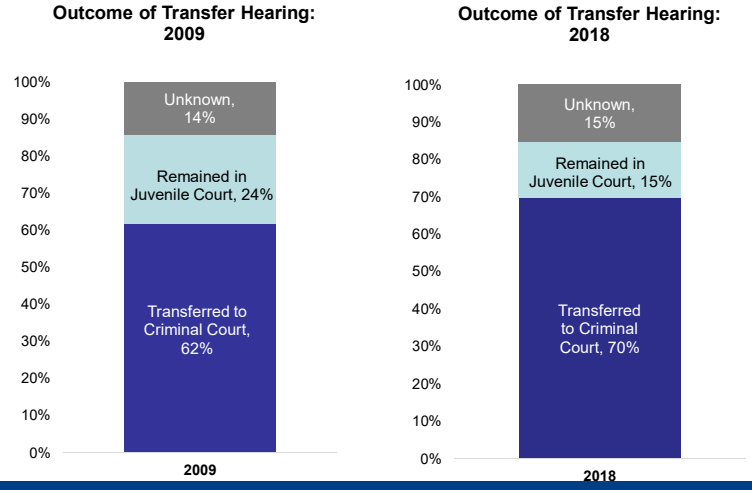
Philadelphia County and Allegheny County have outpaced the rest of the state in reducing youth transfers



The average length of time from filing of a written allegation to transfer is four months



At least 70% of youth designated for transfer to adult court are removed to adult court for criminal prosecution



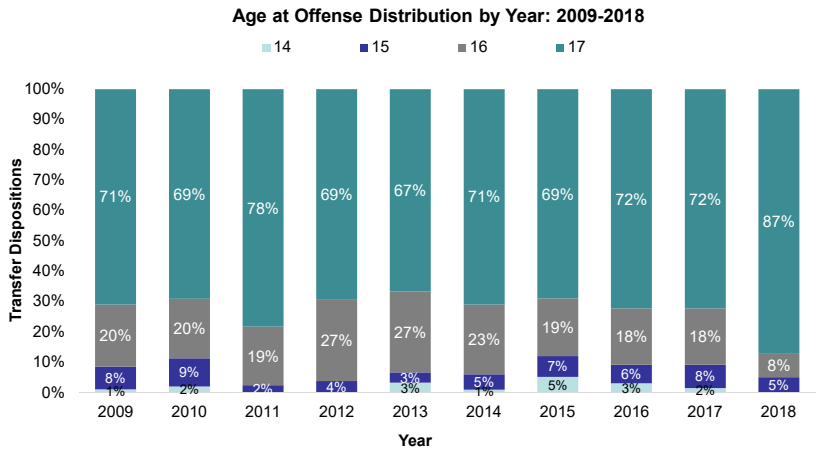
Felony theft, possession with intent to deliver drugs are most common offenses among youth transferred to criminal court

Rank	Top 5 Offenses (2018): Transfer Filings	% of Transfer Filings
1	Possession with Intent to Deliver Drugs	24%
2	Theft-Related* Offense	19%
3	Firearm-Related** Offense	15%
4	Aggravated Assault	10%
5	Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse	8%
	Total	**76% (100%)**

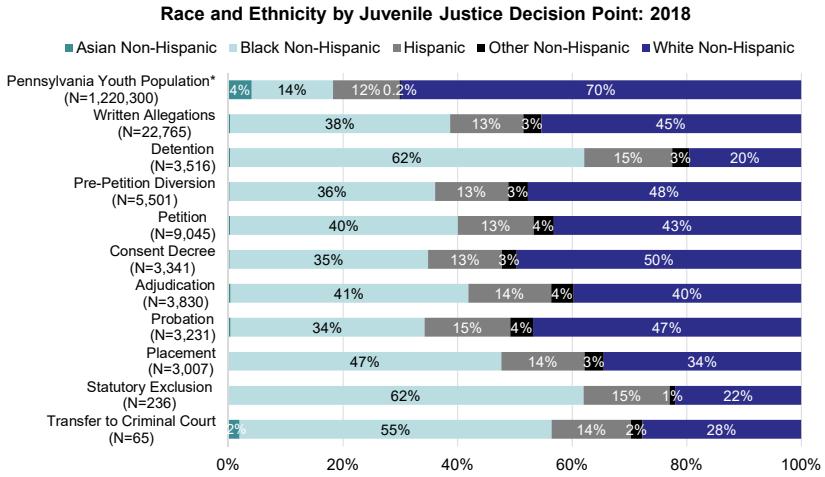
Top 5 Offenses (2018): Transfer Dispositions	% of Transfer Dispositions
Possession with Intent to Deliver Drugs	22%
Theft-Related* Offense	22%
Firearm-Related** Offense	17%
Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse	7%
Robbery	7%
Total	**76% (100%)**

*A theft-related offense includes: theft, theft by unlawful taking, theft by deception, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft from a motor vehicle. **A firearm-related offense includes unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful use of a firearm, carrying a firearm without a license, and possession of firearm by minor.

Most youth transferred to criminal court are 17 years old at the time of their offense

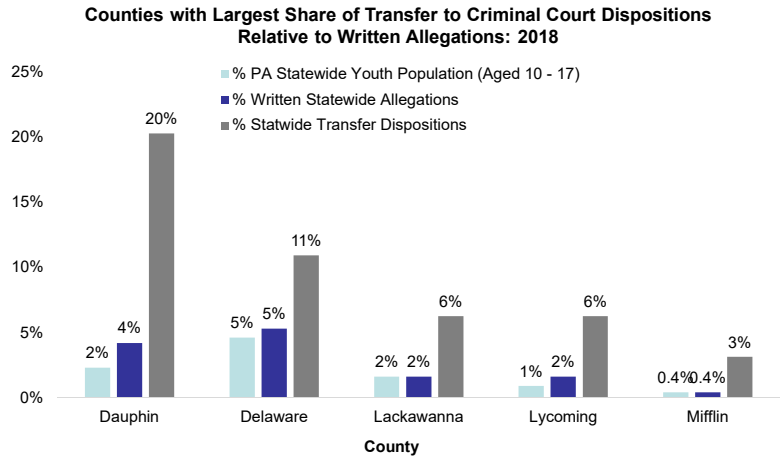


Black Non-Hispanic youth account for 55% of transfers to criminal court, 38% of written allegations



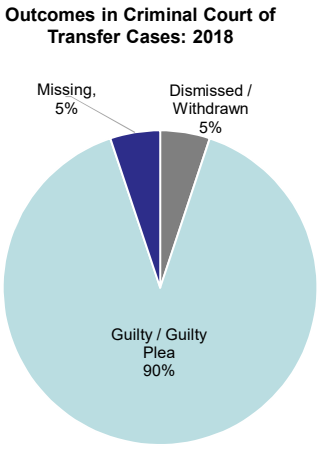
*Pennsylvania youth population data were retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Five counties account for nearly half of the state's transfers to criminal court

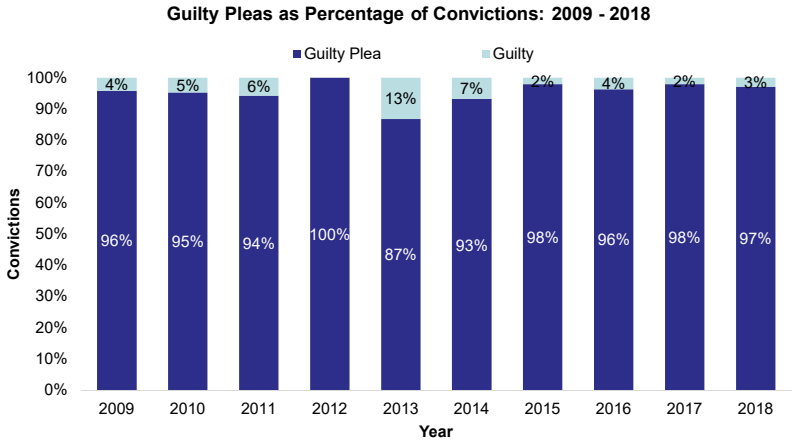


*Pennsylvania youth population data were retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

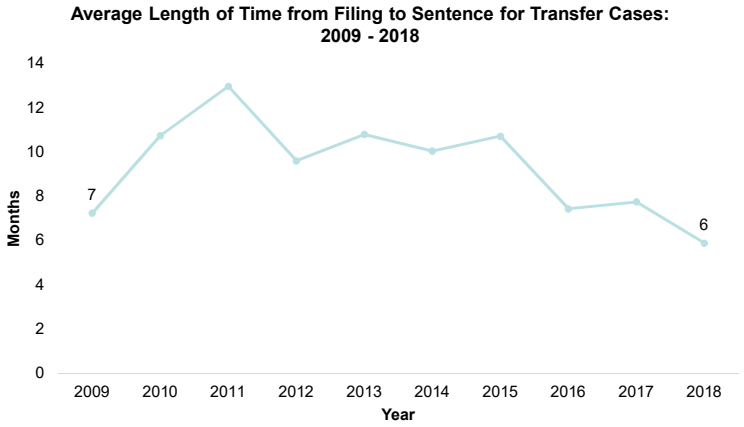
Nearly all youth transferred from juvenile court to criminal court are found guilty



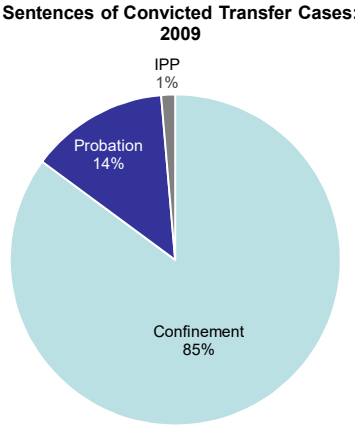
The overwhelming majority of youth transferred to adult court who are found guilty take a plea deal

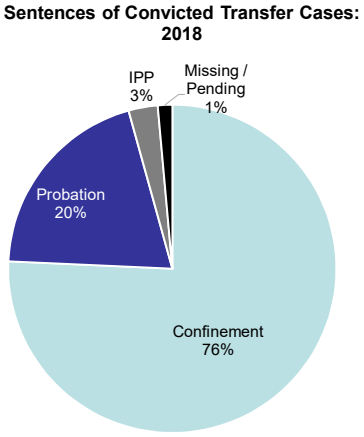


The average length of time from filing to sentence is approximately one year, unchanged since 2009



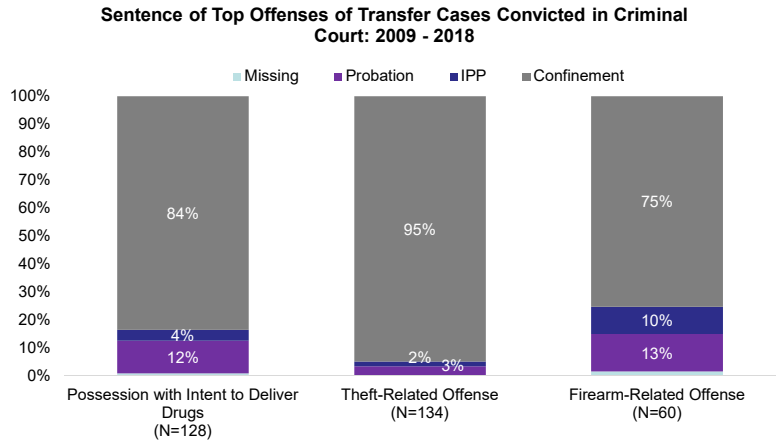
Three-quarters of transferred youth who are convicted in criminal court are sentenced to confinement





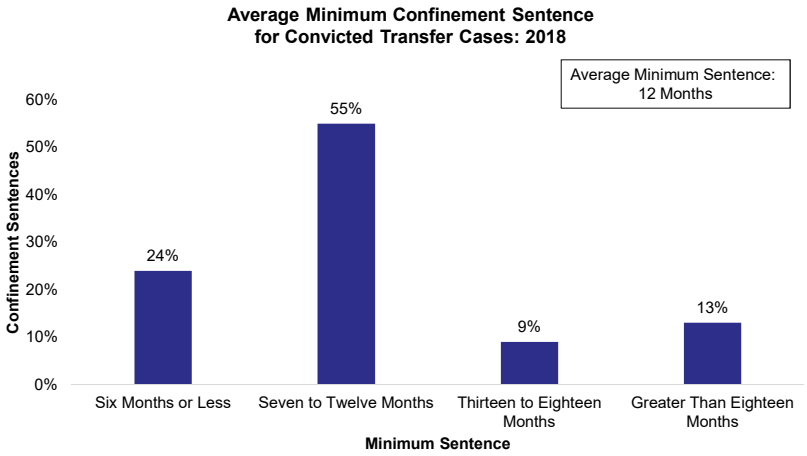
*Confinement includes county jails and state correctional facilities

Among the top offenses, the vast majority of transferred youth are sentenced to confinement



*Confinement includes county jails and state correctional facilities

The average minimum confinement sentence for youth with transfer cases who are convicted is one year



Adult Transfer Takeaways

Adult Transfer:

- Transfer filings and youth transferred to criminal court both down approximately 60% since 2009
- Possession with intent to deliver drugs and theft-related offenses represent nearly half of all transfer filings and dispositions
- The overwhelming majority of youth transferred to adult court are found guilty and take a plea deal
- Three-quarters of transferred youth who are convicted in criminal court are sentenced to confinement
- Disparities by county and by race/ethnicity and gender exist among youth transferred to adult court
  - Black Non-Hispanic youth make up 55% of transfers to criminal court compared to 38% of written allegations
  - Five counties make up nearly half of Pennsylvania's transfers to criminal court despite representing just 13% of written allegations and 10% of the youth population

Next Steps

- Data analysis and system assessment
- Stakeholder outreach
  - Roundtables
  - Public testimony
  - Dissemination of meeting executive summaries

Contact Information

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Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force
Public Testimony