

2015 Annual Report to the Governor & Nebraska Legislature

Juvenile Diversion in Nebraska

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INTRODUCTION

The Director of Juvenile Diversion Programs of the Nebraska Commission of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice is responsible for generating an annual report on diversion programs in Nebraska by Nebraska Revised Statute § 81-1427. This 2015 diversion report is fulfilling this statutory duty.

Introduction to Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Programs

Juvenile pretrial diversion is a voluntary program available to youth charged with a minor offense. Generally, diversion is available to youth before formal adjudication, diverting youth from involvement in the juvenile justice system and into a program that offers a continuum of requirements and services. The end result of successful completion is dismissal or non-filing of the diverted case. Pretrial diversion is a positive alternative to the juvenile justice system and can provide more appropriate methods of treating juveniles charged with an offense, providing better outcomes for youth.

Adolescent brain development research shows that the part of a juvenile's brain that is responsible for risk assessment, consideration of consequences, and controlling impulses is not fully developed until the early 20's.¹ A high proportion of juveniles who come into contact with the juvenile justice system are not on a path to adult crime, but merely afflicted with adolescence.² Imposing additional rules on already troubled youth, heightened scrutiny of their behaviors, and punishing them for entirely predictable behavior when the behavior is most likely to subside without intervention shows to worsen outcomes for youth.³ This understanding that the developmental factors that make adolescents different from adults shows that youth are less culpable for their behavior, are more amenable to change and rehabilitation than adults, and should be treated differently than adults when they commit crimes.⁴

Well-designed community based programs and evidence based practices can effectively reduce adolescent recidivism without relying on punitive punishments of the criminal justice system. Programs that hope to deter and discipline, such as Scared Straight or boot camps, tend to

¹ Coalition for Juvenile Justice, *Emerging Concepts Brief: What are the Implications of Adolescent Brain Development for Juvenile Justice?* (2006).

² Mark Lipsey, Keynote Presentation, *Evidence-Based Practice to Meet the Juvenile Justice Challenge* (Nebraska Community Aid and Juvenile Justice Conference, Lincoln, Nebr., October 29, 2014) (copy of PowerPoint presentation on file with Nebraska Crime Commission).

³ Dick Mendel, Case Now Strong for Ending Probation's Place As Default Disposition in Juvenile Justice Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (2016), <http://jjie.org/case-now-strong-for-ending-probations-place-as-default-disposition-in-juvenile-justice/227322/> (last visited May 2, 2016).

⁴ Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice, The Resource Center Partnership, Benjamin Chambers & Annie Balck, *Because Kids are Different: Five Opportunities for Reforming the Juvenile Justice System*, (John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation 2014).

worsen recidivism; programs that increase surveillance on the youth, such as Probation, tend to have little or no effect on recidivism; and programs providing therapeutic interventions aimed to help youth address anti-social attitudes, learn problem-solving and perspective-taking skills, along with family counseling and mentoring consistently reduce recidivism rates.⁵

The justice system should not exempt youth from punishment, but should consider the developmental stage of adolescents when juveniles are facing criminal prosecution. Programs and practices should teach youth about the consequences of their wrongdoing in a developmentally informed way, give youth opportunities to restore damage they have caused, and the tools to learn from their mistakes and make better choices in the future.⁶

There are many principles behind supporting the use of juvenile diversion programs that not only benefit the youth, but benefit families, communities, and the juvenile justice system. Those principles identified as priorities in diversion programs across the country include: 1) reducing recidivism; 2) providing services; 3) avoiding labeling effects; 4) reducing system costs; 5) reducing unnecessary social control; 6) increasing successful outcomes for youth; 7) assuring accountability; 8) reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC); and 9) avoiding collateral consequences of the juvenile justice system.⁷

The state of Nebraska has identified four goals of a juvenile pretrial diversion program: 1) to provide eligible juvenile offenders with an alternative program in lieu of adjudication through the juvenile court; 2) to reduce recidivism among diverted juvenile offenders; 3) to reduce the costs and caseload burdens on the juvenile justice system and the criminal justice system; and 4) to promote the collection of restitution to the victim of the juvenile offender's crime.⁸

In Nebraska, a county attorney has statutory authority to develop a juvenile diversion program with the concurrence of their county board.⁹ A county attorney's decision to utilize a diversion program and refer a youth to diversion is often based on factors that generally include: 1) the juvenile's age, 2) the nature of the offense and the juvenile's role in the offense, 3) previous offenses, dangerousness or threat posed by the juvenile, and 4) recommendations of referring

⁵ Dick Mendel, Case Now Strong for Ending Probation's Place As Default Disposition in Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (2016), <http://jjie.org/case-now-strong-for-ending-probations-place-as-default-disposition-in-juvenile-justice/227322/> (last visited May 2, 2016).

⁶ Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice, The Resource Center Partnership, Benjamin Chambers & Annie Balck, *Because Kids are Different: Five Opportunities for Reforming the Juvenile Justice System*, (John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation 2014).

⁷ Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, National Juvenile Defender Center, National Youth Screening and Assessment Project & Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, *Juvenile Diversion Guidebook* (John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation 2011).

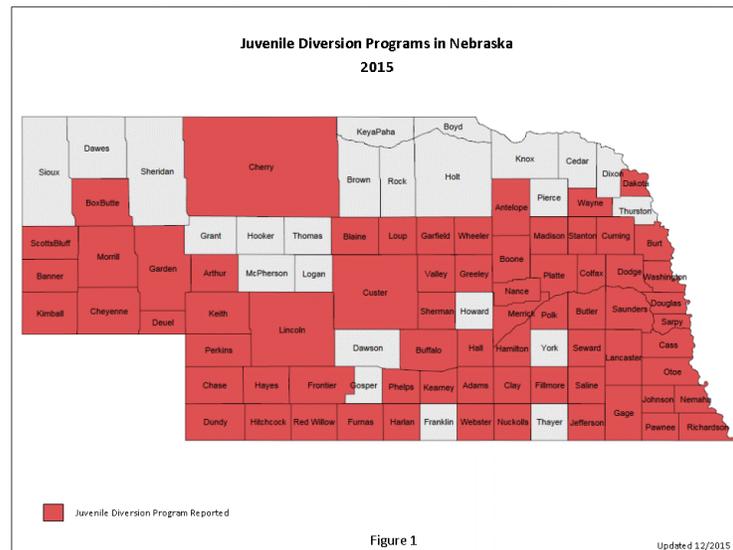
⁸ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-260.03

⁹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-260.02

agency, victim, and advocates for the juvenile.¹⁰ Juvenile pretrial diversion programs in Nebraska are required to provide screening services for use in creating an individualized diversion plan that utilizes appropriate services for the juvenile, and include program requirements such as a letter of apology, community service, restitution, educational or informational classes, curfew, and juvenile offender and victim mediation.¹¹

JUVENILE PRETRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA

An informal survey of all counties indicated there are currently 69 of the 93 counties reportedly offering a juvenile pretrial diversion program (See Figure 1). The number of counties offering juvenile pretrial diversion services has increased from 57 counties in FY2013, and 62 counties in FY2014. Of the reported diversion programs, 58 counties reported the required diversion data into the Juvenile Diversion Case Management System (JDCMS). Nine counties did not have any diversion participants in calendar year 2015; and two counties did not comply with the statutory duty to report.



The Winnebago Tribe and Santee Sioux Tribe also report a juvenile diversion program; however, their data was not available through the Juvenile Diversion Case Management System at the time of this report.

According to the 2010 Census data, there are 177,953 juveniles in Nebraska ages 12-18.¹² Of that juvenile population, 92% of the juveniles have access to a juvenile diversion program in Nebraska. The ultimate goal is for 100% of the juvenile population to have equal access to juvenile pretrial diversion in Nebraska. Of the 10,539 juvenile arrests reported in calendar year 2014, 95% of the reported arrests took place in counties that offered a juvenile diversion

¹⁰ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-260.04

¹¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-260.04 -.06

¹² Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, *2016 Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid Request for Proposal (RFP)*, www.ncc.ne.gov.

program.¹³ In calendar year 2015, Probation Administration served 3,195 youth placed on juvenile probation.¹⁴ Low risk level youth, according to the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) assessment, accounted for 60% of the youth placed on juvenile probation in CY 2015.¹⁵ It is unknown what percent of the low risk level youth placed on probation were in a county that offered a diversion program, or if they would have qualified for diversion rather than proceed through the juvenile justice system. If more low level juvenile offenders could be diverted and not placed on juvenile probation, juvenile probation officers may have more time to work with higher risk juvenile offenders, providing the juvenile justice system with a significant cost savings, and keeping youth from entering the juvenile justice system. Research has shown that low risk level youth placed on probation are more likely to reoffend compared to youth referred to diversion programs.¹⁶

Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Data

As the Juvenile Diversion Case Management data system continues to be enhanced, we will continue to receive more detailed data, such as diversion program type, program requirements, and risk level. As data continues to grow, the measuring of success across many different variables will be an available.

Availability of Diversion

From January 1, 2015 to December 1, 2015, a total of 4,494 individuals (5,798 law violations) were referred to a formal juvenile diversion program in Nebraska.¹⁷ Roughly 52% of all referrals were referred to a program in one of the three larger metropolitan areas of the state: 27% of referrals to diversion in Douglas County; 15% in Lancaster County and 11% in Sarpy County (Table 1).

¹³ Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. CY2015 not available at the time of this report. Note: While law enforcement agencies are required to submit monthly reports, not every agency does. Therefore, the data presented herein is underreported for some jurisdictions. For agency reporting status by number of months of data provided, please see <https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/Reporting%20Status.pdf>.

¹⁴ Nebraska Office of Probation Administration.

¹⁵ Nebraska Office of Probation Administration.

¹⁶ Dick Mendel, Case Now Strong for Ending Probation's Place As Default Disposition in Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (2016), <http://jjie.org/case-now-strong-for-ending-probations-place-as-default-disposition-in-juvenile-justice/227322/> (last visited May 2, 2016).

¹⁷ Because not all counties are complying with the statutory duty to report, there remains missing data. Data includes juveniles through 20 years of age.

Table 1: Referrals to Juvenile Diversion CY 2015

County	Number of Youth Referred	Percent of Youth Referred
Douglas	1226	27%
Lancaster	652	15%
Sarpy	510	11%
Other	2,106	47%
Total	4,494	100%

Other counties in the top five for referrals were Buffalo County with 8% of the total referrals to diversion (357 youth), and Hall County with 6% of the total referrals (290 youth). Madison County and Platte County each accounted for 3% of the referrals, 156 youth and 136 youth respectively. The remaining counties each referred less than 100 youth to juvenile diversion in CY2015.

Youth were generally referred to juvenile diversion by the local prosecuting attorney. Of the 4,494 cases referred, 63% were from a county attorney, 26% were from law enforcement, and 9% were from a city attorney.¹⁸ Schools, other county, and other referral sources accounted for one percent or less of referrals (Table 2).

Table 2: Source of Referrals to Juvenile Diversion CY 2015

Referral Source	Number of Youth Referred	Percent of Youth Referred
City Attorney	422	9%
County Attorney	2808	62%
Law Enforcement	1190	26%
Other	12	Less than 1%
Other County	26	1%
School	35	1%
Missing Data	1	Less than 1%
Grand Total	4,494	100%

¹⁸ It is likely that most, if not all, of the law enforcement referrals did pass through a county attorney for approval prior to the youth enrolling in diversion, actually being a "county attorney" referral.

Characteristics of the Population

Some diversion programs allow participation of individuals over the age of 17. The age range of reported diversion cases was from 7 years to 20 years of age.¹⁹ A total of 3,924 juveniles 7 to 17 years of age were referred to a juvenile diversion program in CY2015.²⁰ Eighteen year olds accounted for a majority of the referrals over the age of 17 with 252 referrals. A total of 200 nineteen year olds, and 121 twenty year olds were referred to a diversion program in CY2015 (Table 3).

Table 3: Youth Referred to Juvenile Diversion by Age CY 2015

Age	Number of Youth Referred	Percent of Youth Referred
7	3	Less than 1%
8	8	Less than 1%
9	9	Less than 1%
10	32	1%
11	72	2%
12	157	3%
13	336	7%
14	539	12%
15	754	17%
16	999	22%
17	1009	22%
18	252	6%
19	199	4%
20	124	3%
Missing data	1	Less than 1%
Total	4,494	100%

Race

White youth were referred to juvenile diversion at a higher rate than any other group, accounting for 64% of referrals statewide. Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander youth had the lowest rate (0.1%), followed by Native American, Asian, multiple races, and other race youth with the lowest rate of referrals, accounting for less than 1% of referrals each (Table 4 and Figure 2).

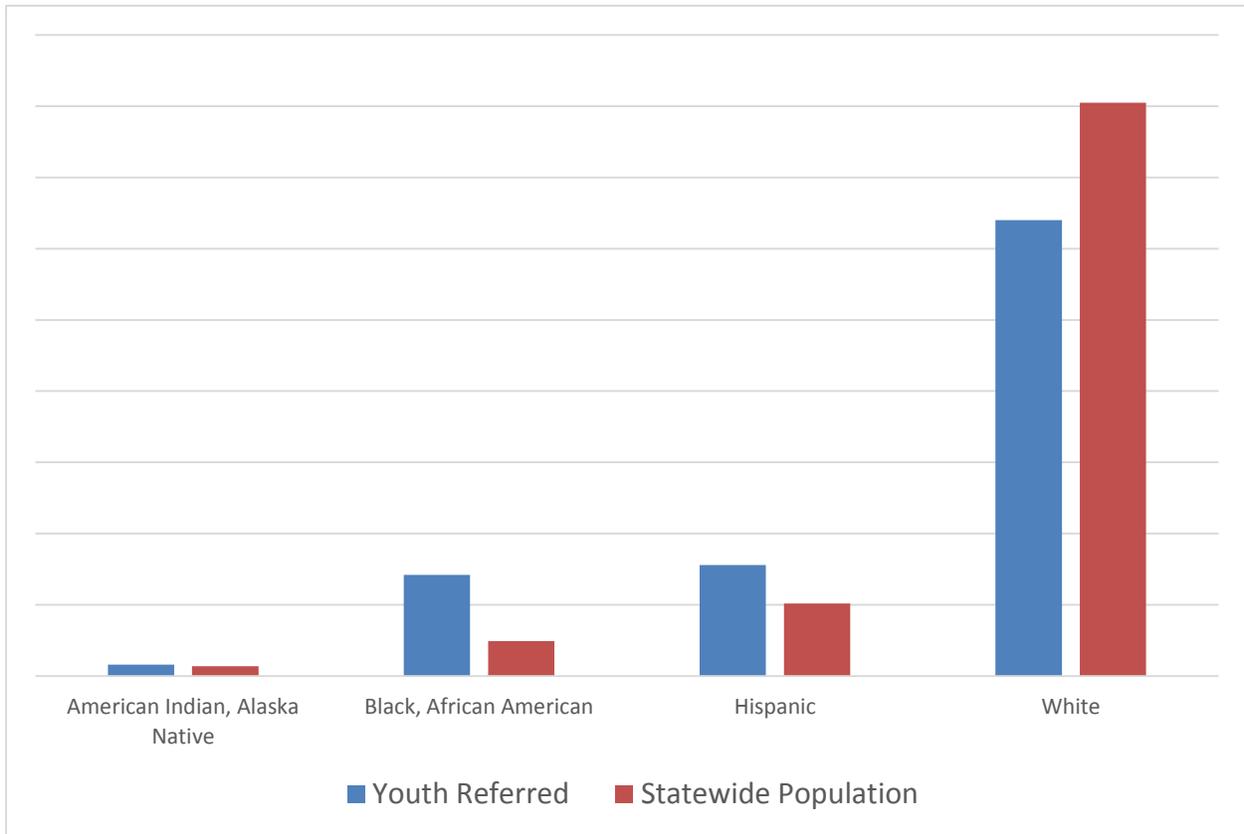
¹⁹ Not all counties enter participants over 18 year of age in JDCMS even if they serve participants over the age of 17.

²⁰ One case had missing data on age at referral.

Table 4: Youth Referred to Juvenile Diversion by Race CY 2015

	Number of Youth Referred	Percent of Youth Referred	Statewide Population ²¹
American Indian, Alaska Native	70	1.6%	1.4%
Asian	42	0.9%	2.2%
Black, African American	639	14.2%	4.9%
Hispanic	701	15.6%	10.2%
Multiple Races	15	0.3%	2.0%
Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander	5	0.1%	0.1%
White	2877	64.0%	80.5%
Other Race	24	0.5%	
Missing Data	121	2.7%	
Grand Total	4,494	100%	

Figure 2: Youth Referred to Juvenile Diversion by Race CY 2015



²¹ United States Census, 2013 Nebraska State and County QuickFacts, <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/RHI225214/31,31055,31141,31037,31079>

Counties with higher levels of diversity according to the United States Census reported more diversity in referrals to diversion.²² For example, 34.3% of the cases referred to diversion in Douglas County involved African American / Black youth, while statewide only 14.2% of the referrals involve Black youth. Statewide, roughly 16% of referrals involve Hispanic youth, but comprise 69% of referrals in Colfax County, 37.2% of referrals in Hall County, 33.3% of referrals in Dakota County, and 28.7% of referrals in Platte County. Statewide, 1.4% of total referrals involved American Indian / Alaska Native youth compared to 25.9% of referrals in Dakota County (Table 5).

Table 5: Percent of Youth Referred by Race and County CY 2015

	American Indian, Alaska Native		Black, African American		Hispanic	
	Referred	Population	Referred	Population	Referred	Population
Colfax	0.0%	3.3%	2.4%	2.9%	69.0%	43.1%
Dakota	25.9%	3.8%	7.4%	4.3%	33.3%	37.4%
Douglas	0.4%	1.2%	34.3%	11.6%	15.0%	12.0%
Hall	0.3%	1.6%	6.6%	2.7%	37.2%	25.9%
Platte	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.7%	28.7%	16.6%

Success Rates

Statewide, 78% of youth referred to a juvenile diversion program in CY2015 enrolled after referral (3,505 youth). As of the date of this report, 82% (2,365 youth) of the closed diversion cases successfully complete the diversion program, and 17% (500 youth) of the closed cases did not successfully complete the diversion program.²³ The number of unsuccessful completions include situations such as: the youth had another law violation while in diversion or the youth did not comply with the diversion requirements. At the end of CY2015, 640 cases remained in open status; meaning they were referred in CY2015 and have not yet been discharged from the program. Table 6 demonstrates the rate of enrollment and successful completions, as of the date of this report, in the counties with over 100 referrals.²⁴

²² United States Census, 2013 Nebraska State and County QuickFacts, <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/RHI225214/31,31055,31141,31037,31079>

²³ This is the number of completions as of April 15, 2016. This number was calculated by only considering the cases that were referred in CY2015 and closed by the date of this report. The number of open cases was not included in this calculation.

²⁴ Successful completion rate of closed cases only; not including did not participate, Douglas County warning letters, and open cases.

Table 6: Success Rates of Youth Enrolled by County CY 2015

County	Referred	Enrolled	Successful Completion
Douglas	1226	777	84%
Lancaster	652	521	71%
Sarpy	510	383	70%
Buffalo	357	270	83%
Hall	290	258	85%
Madison	156	156	86%
Platte	136	109	89%

Many youth do not have the opportunity to succeed because they do not enroll in diversion or are not offered the opportunity. Statewide, 22% (989 youth) did not participate in the juvenile diversion program after referral.²⁵ An analysis of counties with a significant number of youth not participating in diversion after referral needs to be completed. Although further study should be completed, we anticipate that some of the reasons that parents and youth choose not to participate in diversion and opt for the juvenile justice system may include: 1) the cost of participating is too high, 2) the program requirements and time commitment are too burdensome, 3) language barriers, 4) transportation problems, etc.

An in-depth analysis of success rates by county would be beneficial. Although the state has made an effort to use a common definition of successfully completing the diversion program, individual diversion programs and requirements vary across the state. Success rates will also vary based on the diversion plan requirements. An evaluation of diversion plans would be beneficial to determine whether certain objectives, or the number of required objectives, affect success rates and recidivism rates. An evaluation of risk level and screen scores would be beneficial to evaluate the success rate based on risk level, and better determine which youth would be best served in diversion.

Success by Race

White and Hispanic youth had the highest success rates in diversion (86% and 78% successful). American Indian youth and Black/African American youth had the lowest success rates with only 68% and 71% successfully completing diversion after enrollment. Black/African American youth had the highest rate of not participating after referral (35%), followed by Asian youth (24%) (Table 7).

²⁵ Number includes youth/parent refusing diversion, youth receiving a warning letter in Douglas County, diversion program declining admission after referral, or referring attorney withdrew referral.

Table 7: Success Rates of Youth Referred by Race CY 2015

	Did Not Participate	Open	Successful	Unsuccessful
American Indian, Alaska Native	10%	14%	68%	32%
Asian	24%	10%	77%	23%
Black, African American	35%	16%	71%	29%
Hispanic	19%	16%	78%	22%
White	17%	14%	86%	14%

Law Violations

Over 100 different law violations were referred to a juvenile diversion program across the state in CY2015. The most common law violations referred to juvenile diversion were minor in possession (980 cases) and shoplifting (818 cases). Table 8 demonstrates the top 13 law violations referred to a juvenile diversion program in CY2015, with the remaining law violations having less than 100 referrals.

Table 8: Law Violations Referred to Diversion CY 2015

	Number of Law Violations Referred
MINOR IN POSSESSION	980
SHOPLIFTING	818
NARCOTIC EQUIPMENT-POSSESSION-PARAPHERNALIA	440
MARIJUANA POSSESSION-LESS THAN 1 OZ	428
TRAFFIC OFFENSE ²⁶	316
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	309
ASSAULT - 3RD DEGREE	252
THEFT BY UNLAWFUL TAKING	209
TRESPASSING	208
ASSAULT	187
DISTURBING THE PEACE	172
MARIJUANA-POSSESSION	166
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	149

²⁶ Traffic offenses include violations such as: speeding, racing, violation of operator's license, no operator's license, violation of learner's permit, violation of provision operator's license, violation of school permit, leaving the scene of an accident, careless/reckless driving, following too closely, violate stop sign, no registration/insurance, and vehicle light violation.

Diversion Services Not Captured in JDCMS

Many counties practice informal diversion, warning letters, and pre-diversion. These statistics are currently not tracked in all counties. There is currently no mechanism to track how many juveniles were eligible for a juvenile pretrial diversion program in Nebraska, but were not referred by the prosecuting attorney. Data is also not available on how many referrals to a prosecuting attorney are not prosecuted at the county attorney's discretion.

Early Assessment

All youth are not the same and all youth should not be treated the same. Youth intervention needs to be based on the risk level and individual needs, rather than "one size fits all" approach. Many programs utilize the process of referring the youth for assessment first to determine the best course of action. Evidence based screening and assessment tools are recommended to identify the risk of re-offense and the intervention needs for each youth.

Research has shown that diversion from court is more effective in reducing recidivism than the juvenile court system. For many low risk youth, no intervention is the most effective intervention. Further, intervention programs that target low-risk youth often worsen the outcomes for those youth, compared to high risk targeted programs.²⁷ According to a recent meta-analysis, diversion was superior to court processing, whether diverted youth received only a caution or were referred to a counseling or intervention program. In fact, low-risk youth receiving only a caution had better outcomes than those referred to a diversion intervention.²⁸

Local Assessment Program Example

The Lancaster County Early Assessment Program provides a coordinated approach in assessing the risk and needs of youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system for their first offense. This program assesses juvenile offenders regarding their behavioral risks and rehabilitative needs, providing the County Attorney's Office with valuable information to make a more informed and individualized decision on how to proceed with a citation. With this process of screening the youth before a decision to refer a youth to a juvenile diversion program, Lancaster County has been able to screen out low risk youth from being over served.

In CY2015, Lancaster County had 867 youth referred to the early assessment program, with 761 youth completing the assessment process. The case manager assessing the youth determines the risk of the youth using the Nebraska Youth Screen, talks with the parents about what

²⁷ Dick Mendel, Case Now Strong for Ending Probation's Place As Default Disposition in Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (2016), <http://jjie.org/case-now-strong-for-ending-probations-place-as-default-disposition-in-juvenile-justice/227322/> (last visited May 2, 2016).

²⁸ Id.

consequences for the offense were already given, and determines how much intervention is necessary. The goal is to make contact with the youth as quickly as possible for maximum impact with the youth, and determine the right type and dosage of intervention. The possible outcomes of the early assessment program are referral back to the county attorney's office for file or no file, referral to diversion, or referral for minimal intervention. Most importantly, this process screens youth out of referral to diversion, recommending no intervention in some instances.

The Lancaster County Early Assessment program has seen reduced court filings, increased "no files," decreased referrals to diversion, and changed the decision of the prosecuting attorney for 136 youth.²⁹ Youth who participated in the early assessment process are less likely to recidivate long-term (longer than 24 months after completing program) when compared to youth who participate in diversion programming.³⁰

Truancy Diversion

Many diversion programs also serve youth with truancy only issues. Some programs have separate truancy diversion programs established. There were 90 diversion cases that listed truancy as the law violation in CY2015. Built into the case management system is an option to have a case type as "truancy," rather than diversion, which excludes those cases from the diversion data. There were 250 cases entered for truancy intervention that were excluded from the diversion numbers. These cases could have included an early intervention with families before they reached the amount of absences necessary for a county attorney referral, as well as county attorney referrals to diversion after 20 or more absences. One goal of separating truancy data from diversion data is to make sure a youth with a truancy issue is not using up their "shot at diversion," and later ineligible if they have a law violation down the road.

Many truancy programs statewide are not reporting data into this case management system; however, the Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS) does have a truancy reporting mechanism for the truancy programs currently funded through Community-based Aid to report data.

Local Truancy Diversion Program Example

The Lancaster County Truancy Diversion Program is a program at three middle schools and three high schools for youth who have missed 20 or more days of school and have been referred

²⁹ Alicia Henderson, Amy Hoffman & Amoreena Brady, *Getting Out of the Kitchen Sink: Effective Interventions for Low-Risk Youth*, Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Conference (2016).

³⁰ Anne Hobbs, Timbre Wulf-Ludden & Jenna Strawhun, *Assessing Youth Early in the Juvenile Justice System*, 3 OJJDP Journal of Juvenile Justice 80-96, 80-96 (2013), <http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org/fojj0301/article06.htm>.

to the Lancaster County Attorney's Office for a court filing. Instead of a formal court process, a juvenile court judge, school principal, public defender, county attorney, therapist, and school social worker meet weekly at the school to address their needs. The therapist and school social worker have extensive contact with the family through Functional Family Therapy and regular calls and visits. The judge or principal have weekly contact with the youth through an informal hearing after school. In CY2015, there were 88 referrals to the truancy diversion program, with 84 enrolling. Of the 59 cases that were closed in CY2015, 64% successfully completed.³¹

Other diversion programs statewide include focusing specifically on youth crossing over from the child welfare system to the juvenile justice system, status youth that are ungovernable but have not committed a law violation, youth getting expelled or suspended from school, and teen courts.

DIVERSION IN NEBRASKA MOVING FORWARD

Nebraska is dedicated to its motto of "equality before the law." To that end, it is imperative that juveniles be allowed to complete a diversion program, if the offense is one that is typically eligible in the state of Nebraska. All juveniles in Nebraska deserve to have equal access to juvenile diversion programs regardless of geography. All diversion programs should be equal in quality of programming offered and consistently follow best practice recommendations and Nebraska Statute.

Nebraska stakeholders continue to support and advocate for juvenile diversion programs statewide. Resources and training may be the obstacles barring equitable access. Nebraska has created a Statewide Diversion Advisory Subcommittee as part of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and is committed to ongoing training. With the assistance of this subcommittee, the *Nebraska Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Guidelines* were released and additional toolkits and resources are in continuous development for use by diversion programs statewide. Diversion programs continue to develop and evolve to meet the changing needs of youth in Nebraska. It is our hope to continue to work towards focused programming that can meet specific mental health, behavioral health, and Tribal youth populations. The Diversion Advisory Subcommittee will stay committed to working with diversion programs to monitor effectiveness and to develop and enhance quality diversion programs statewide.

³¹ There remained 25 open cases at the end of CY2015.