

JUVENILE JUSTICE
STRATEGY GROUP
The Annie E. Casey
Foundation



THE ART AND SCIENCE OF WORKING WITH YOUTH ON PROBATION

NEW JERSEY JDAI ALL-SITES CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 14, 2016

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Identify “what works” in juvenile justice – practices that enhance consistency and fairness of case decisions.
- ✓ Redefine juvenile probation as a juvenile court intervention.
- ✓ Identify/discuss for what purpose (and for whom) probation should be used.
- ✓ Provide a framework for effective juvenile probation practice that maximizes effective youth, family and community engagement.
- ✓ Provide examples of how “what works” and effective engagement together maximizes the potential for positive outcomes.

JOHN AUGUSTUS

“Father of Probation”



We are giving too much attention to youth who pose a low risk

What Happens When We Over-Service Low Risk Populations?

- Fail to build on youth strengths
 - Pulled away from positive influences
 - Deny internal growth – self correcting
- Increase risk by involving them with:
 - formal juvenile justice processing
 - youth who have higher risk and needs
- Wasted system resources
- Recidivism is increased

Probation Supervision Alone Does Not Work

Outcome	n	Correlation
General Recidivism	53,930	.02
Violent Recidivism	28,523	.00

n = number of subjects studied

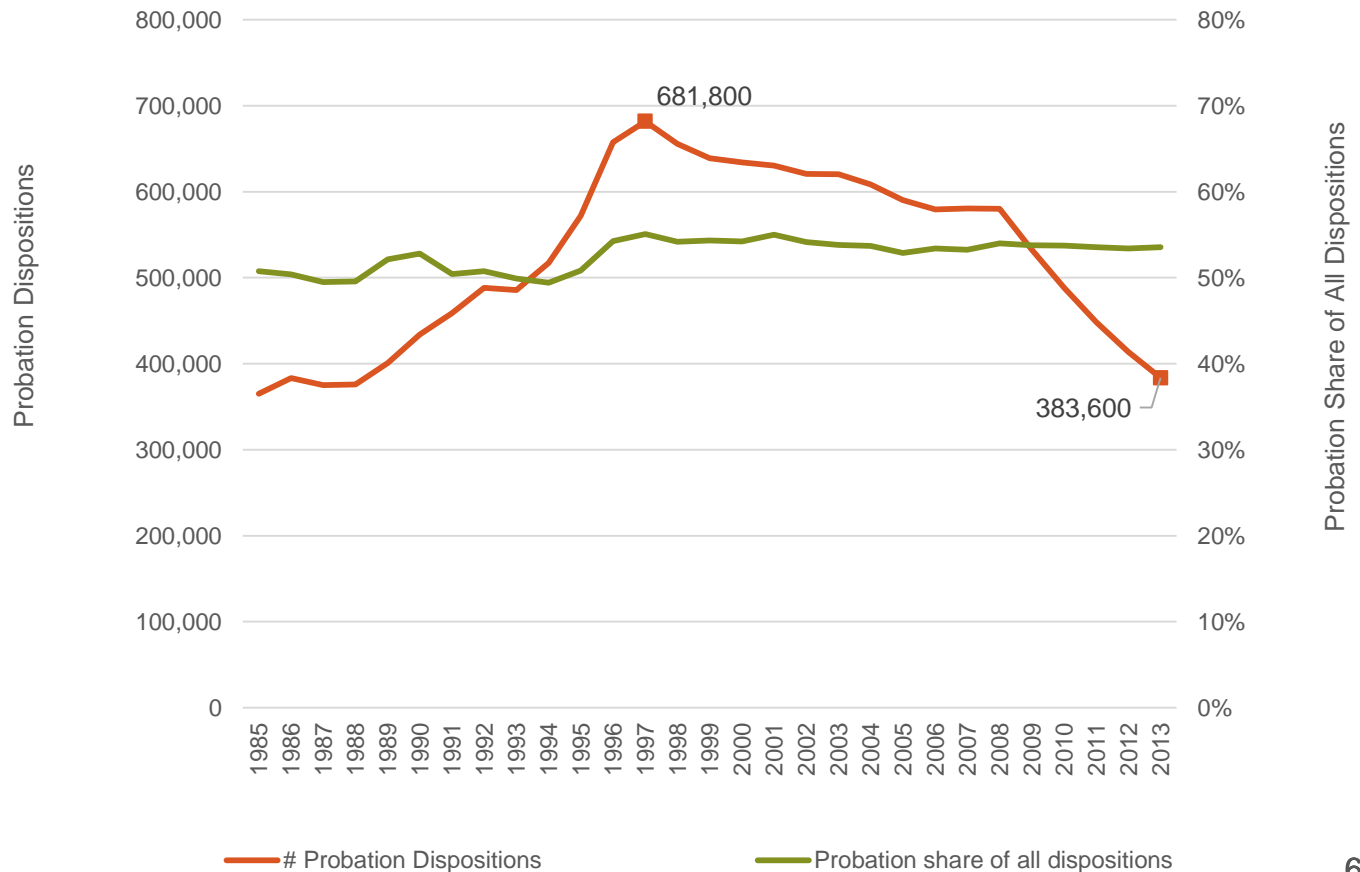
⇒ Probation supervision appears to have a minimal impact on recidivism

Source: Bonta, J., Rugge, T., Scott, T., Bourgon, G., & Yessine, A. (2008). Exploring the black box of community supervision. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 47, 248-270.

Probation supervision is not effective because...

- No purpose
- **Default Disposition:** inappropriate for most youth
- **Inconsistent approach** from county to county and officer to officer

Number of Probation Dispositions & Probation Share of All Delinquency Dispositions



Probation supervision is not effective because...

Supervision is compliance based.

Conditions are not associated with

risk of reoffending.

Community Service

Curfew

Restitution

Missed appointments

“an overworked probation officer who sees a client only once a month has little ability either to monitor the client’s behavior or to exert much of an influence over his life that ‘probation as usual’ was the only regular juvenile justice intervention that, when applied to control groups, did not reduce the magnitude of the difference in effects between experimental and control groups. ***In other words, regular probation is effectively no treatment at all***”

- Peter Greenwood

“Responding to Juvenile Crime”, 1996.

What Interventions Work Best?

Lipsey and Cullen; The Effectiveness of Correctional Rehabilitation; 2007.

Intervention	Do not reduce recidivism (and can do harm)	Modestly work (up to 24% reduction)	Work best (up to 60% reduction)
Boot Camps	+10% to 0		
Confinement	+14% to 0		
Cognitive Behavioral Programming			-4 to -60%
Drug Courts		-8 to -24%	
Drug Treatment		-4 to -20%	
Education/Employment		0 to -20%	
Family Related			-16 to -52%
Intermediate Sanctions	+26% to -2		
Sex Offender Treatment			-12 to -46%

“What Works”

Interventions that have been shown to be most effective:

- Incorporate elements of the risk principal
- Are matched to a youth’s need and responsivity
- Include structured social learning programs



- Risk Assessment Instruments
- Case Plans
- Service Matrix - matching risk and need to intervention
- Program Continuum (Evidence-based, treatment, cognitive behavior)
- Graduated Responses



OUTCOME



Reduced Recidivism

“What Works” Seems to Point a Clear Path to Success

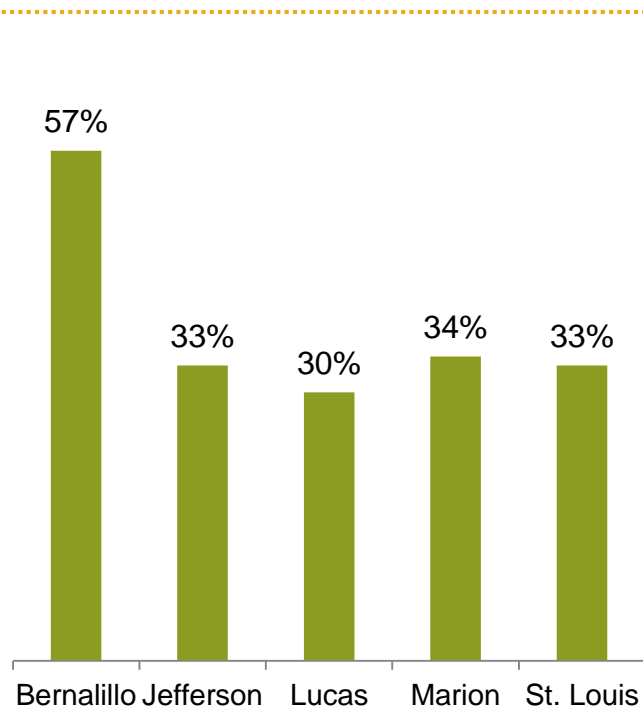
Skeptical? Me too!

- 1) Are these approaches having a positive impact on all youth?
- 2) Is recidivism THE most important outcome?

Probation continues to be a feeder for out-of-home placements with youth of color bearing the brunt of our reliance on confinement

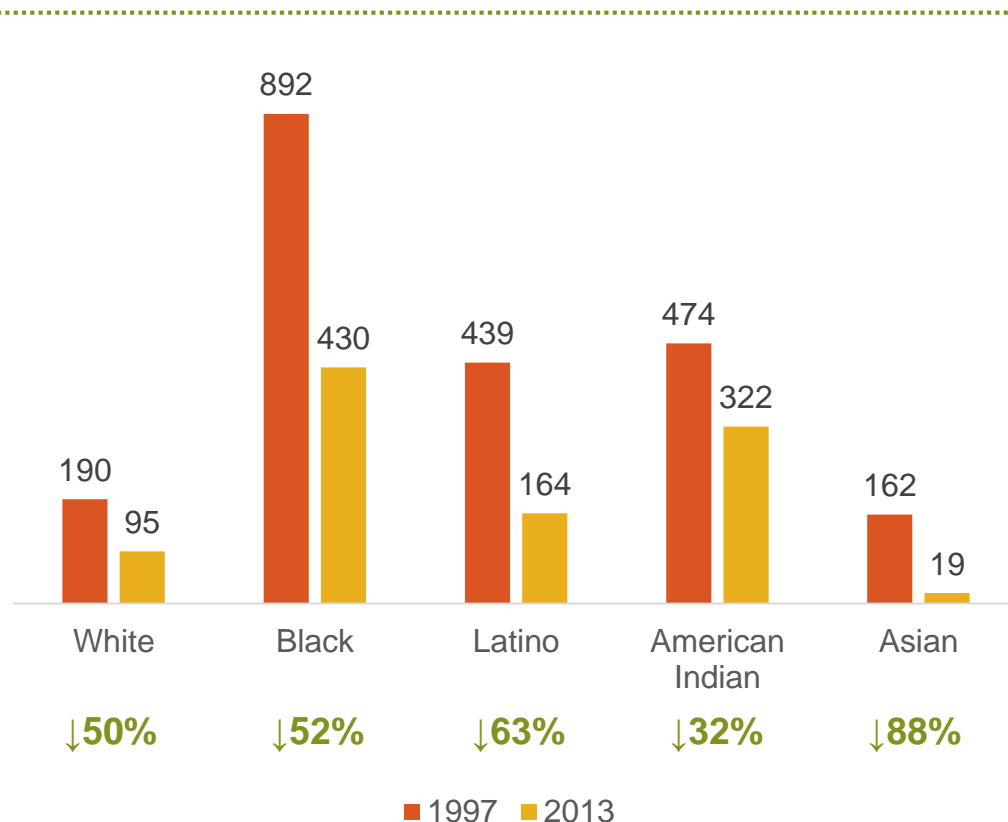
Probation Violations as a Percentage of All Out-of-Home Placements

Initial Cohort of Deep End Sites (2012)



National Disparities in Confinement by Race and Ethnicity

(rate per 100,000 10-17 year-olds)



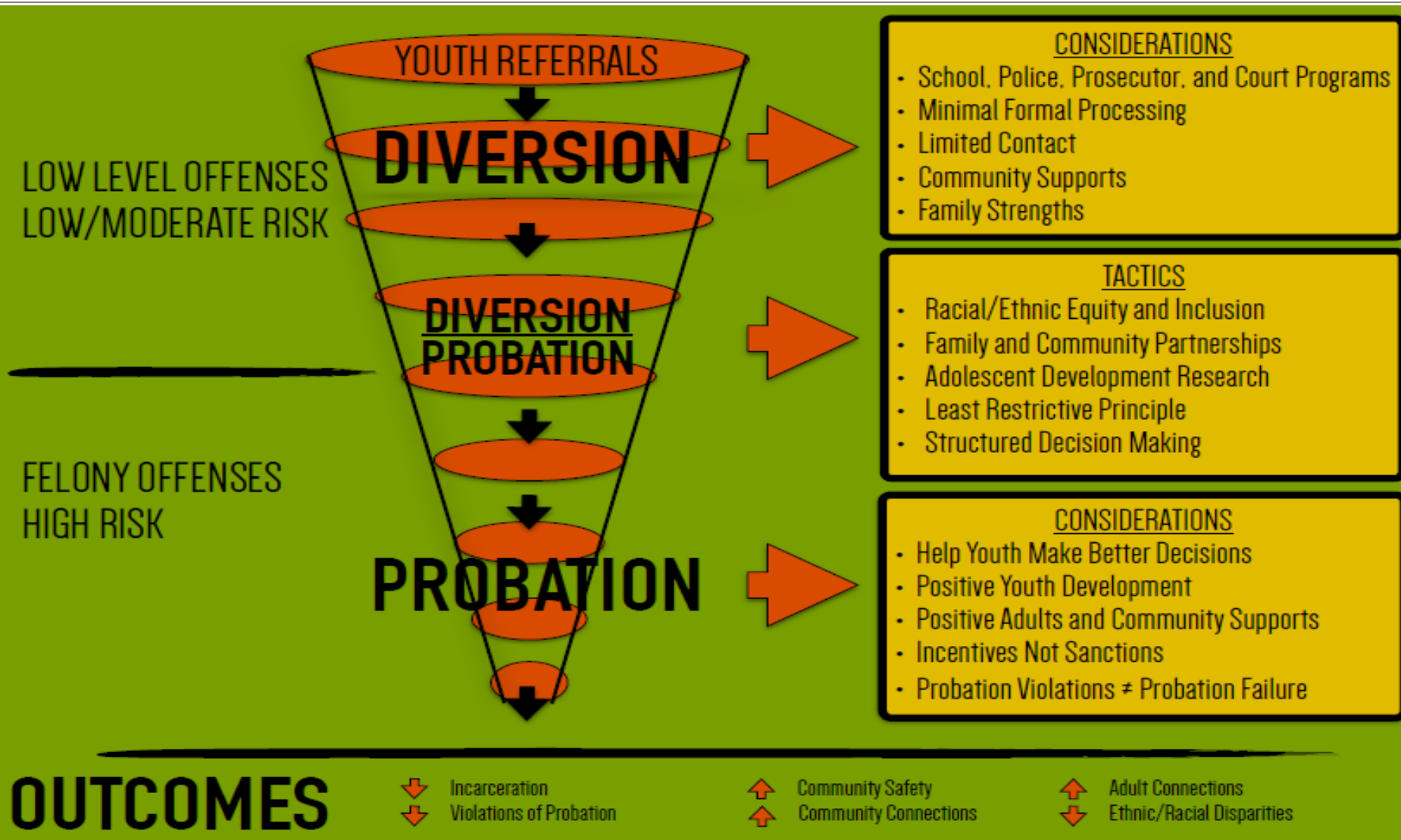
What is missing from “What Works”?

- Racial/Ethnic Equity and Inclusion
 - *The Essence of Innocence: Consequences of Dehumanizing Black Children*
 - *Implicit bias may help explain high preschool expulsion rates for black children*
 - Racial/Ethnic Disparity Reduction practices scored the lowest (4.8 of 10)*
- Family and Community Partnerships
 - Only 50% of probation officers “very often” or “always” support youth in connecting with positive adults and community groups*
 - 2/3 of work time is spent in the office and courthouse*
- Adolescent Development Research
 - Only 33% reported adolescent development training*
- Least Restrictive Principle
 - 44% endorsed placement to “access services”*
 - 32% endorsed placement “when a youth needs a structured environment that forces compliance”*

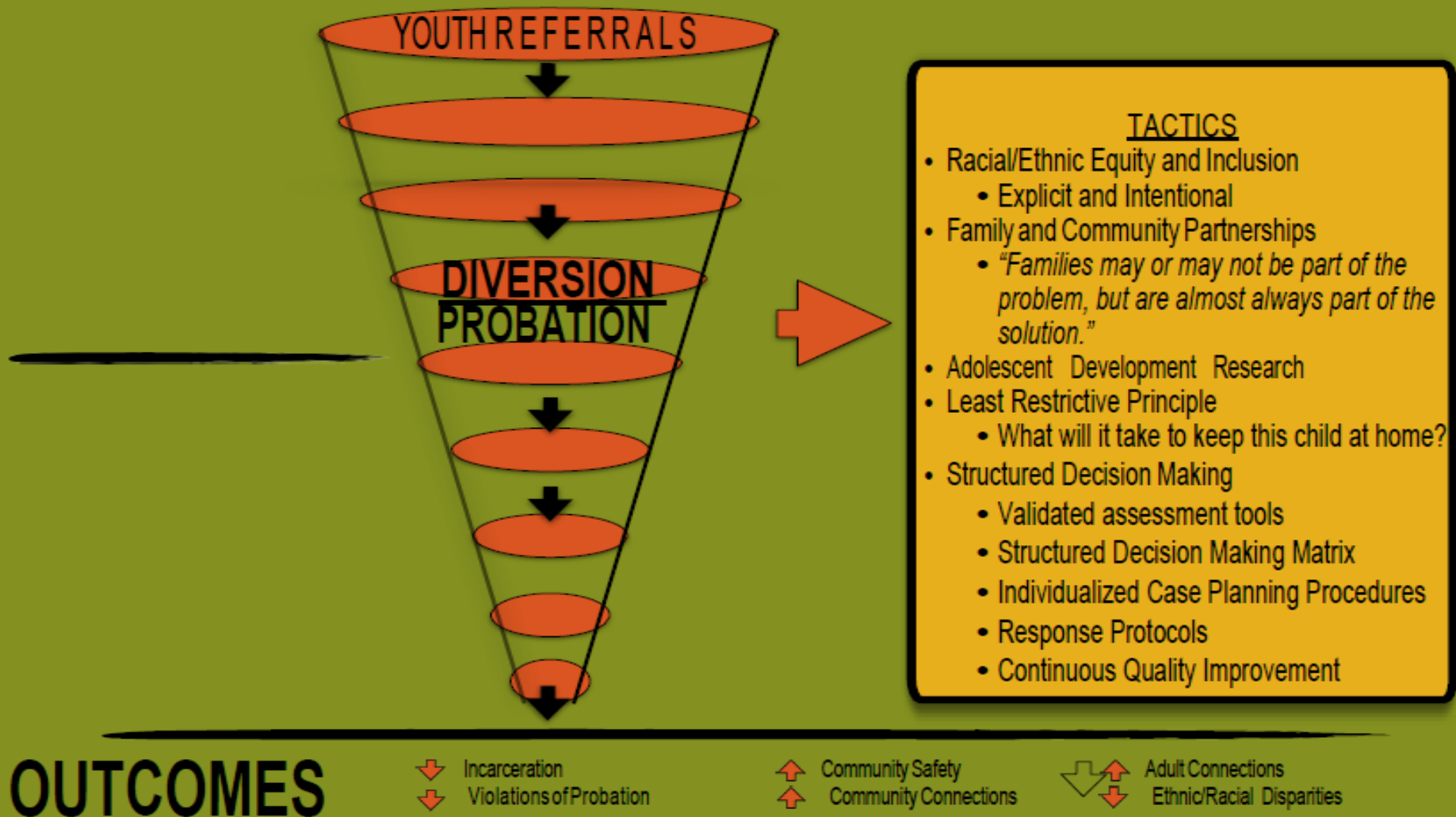
Probation should focus on the right youth and interact with them, their families and communities in a much more intentional way

Population	Default disposition: 50% of dispositions nationally Getting the attention of low risk youth Last chance for high risk youth	No low risk youth No low level offenses
Role	Compliance and surveillance Long lists of conditions/rules One-size fits-all programs Sanctions/incarceration for non-compliance	Relationships building with youth/agent of change as the primary function Individualized case plans Incentives and rewards to motivate Probation violations ≠ probation failure
Families	Minimally engaged by the system Seen as part of the problem	Partners in changing youth behavior; Family-engaged case planning
Community	Viewed as toxic, lacking resources and part of the problem	Partners in providing opportunities for alternatives to probation, placement and youth development

Probation Framework



Working with youth in the community requires deploying under-utilized tactics to achieve better outcomes



The research on adolescent development tells us that teenagers have low psychosocial maturity and are hyper-sensitive to external influences

➤ **Psychosocial immaturity** weakens capacity for:

- Impulse control
- Resisting peer pressure
- Weighing the consequences of actions

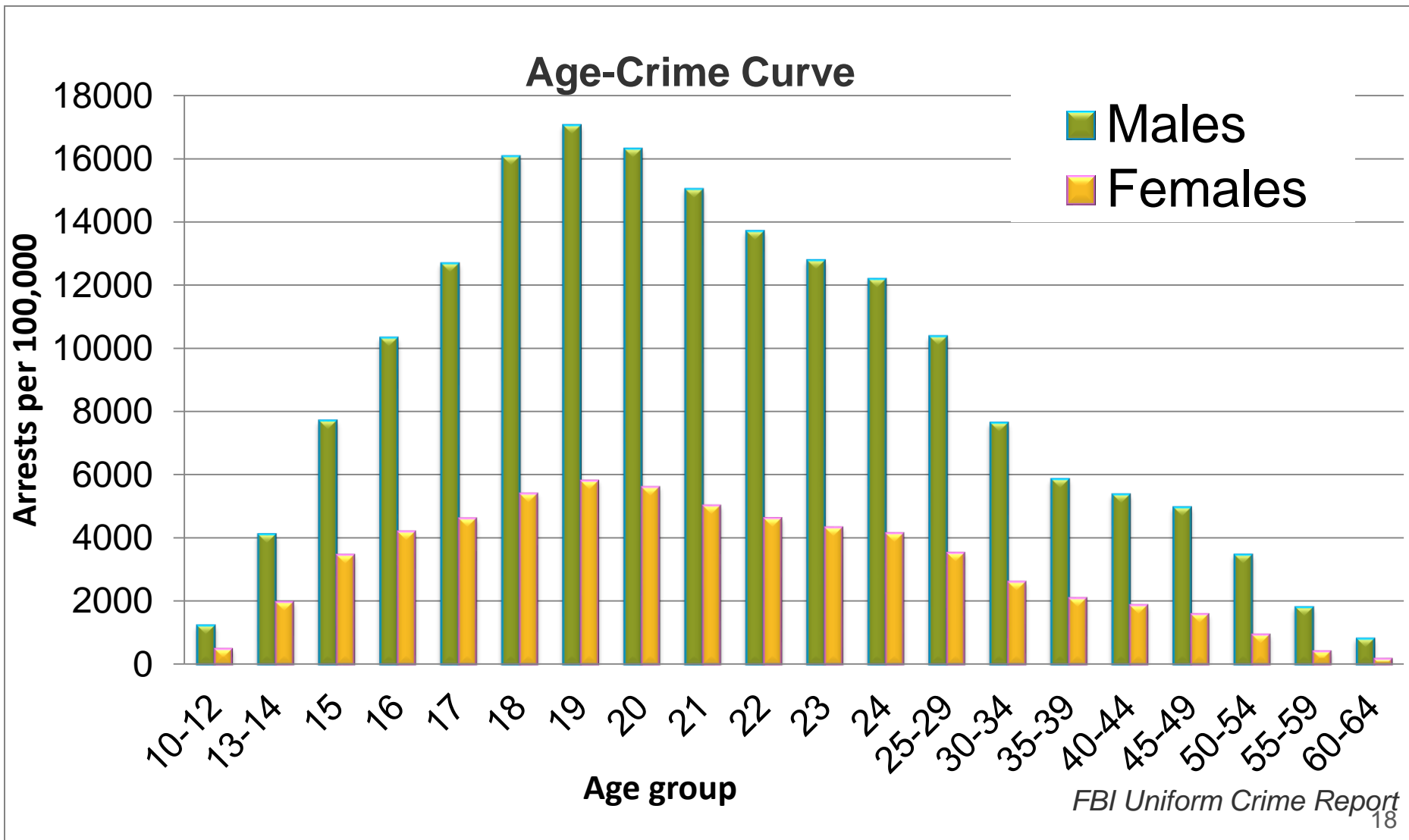
*Implication: Some level of delinquency is fairly typical during adolescence
Adolescents are constantly changing so particularly capable of change*

➤ **Hyper-sensitivity to external influences**

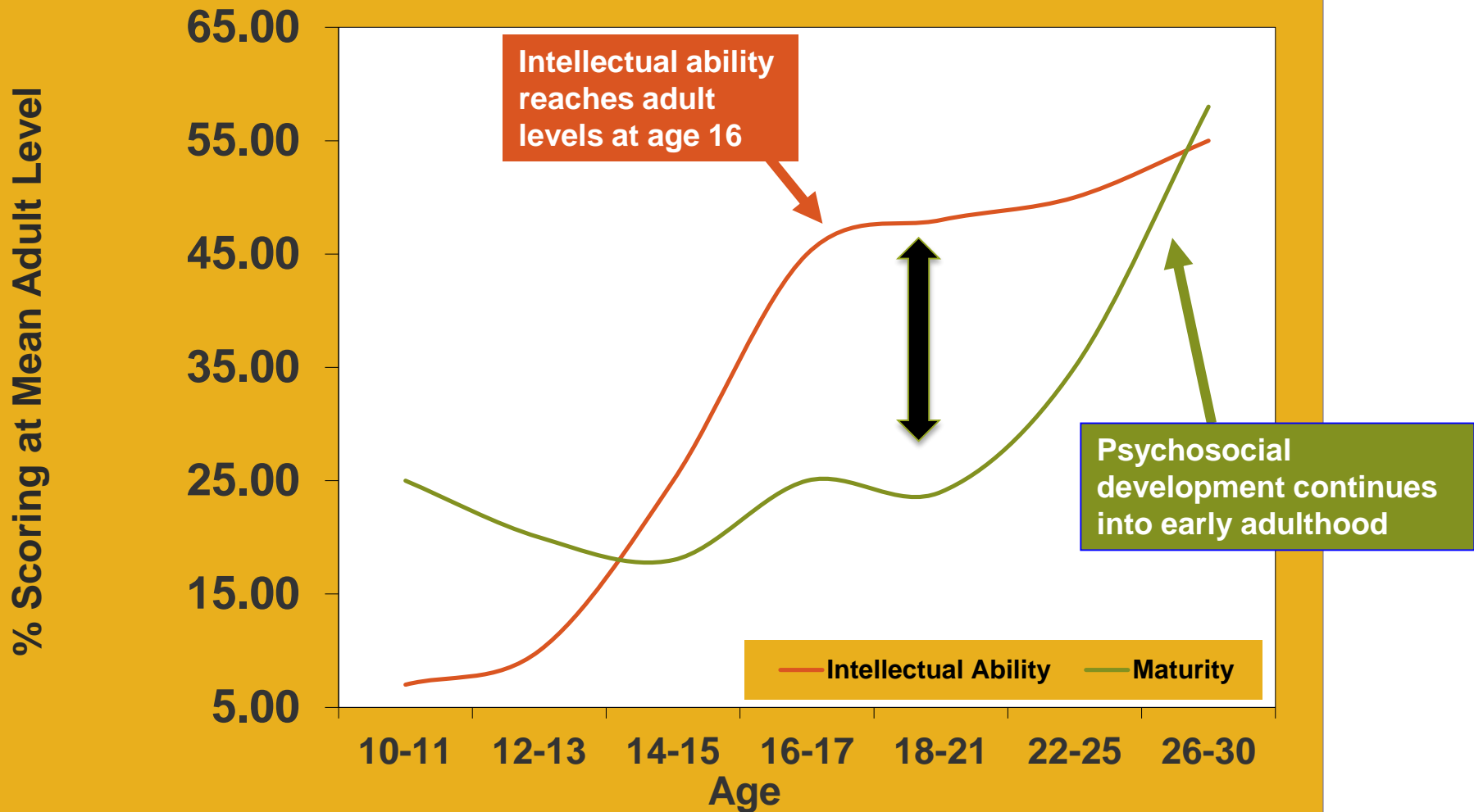
- Peers
- Short-term incentives and rewards
- Experiences and activities

Implication: Youth respond better to incentives, experiences and opportunities than to sanctions and punishment

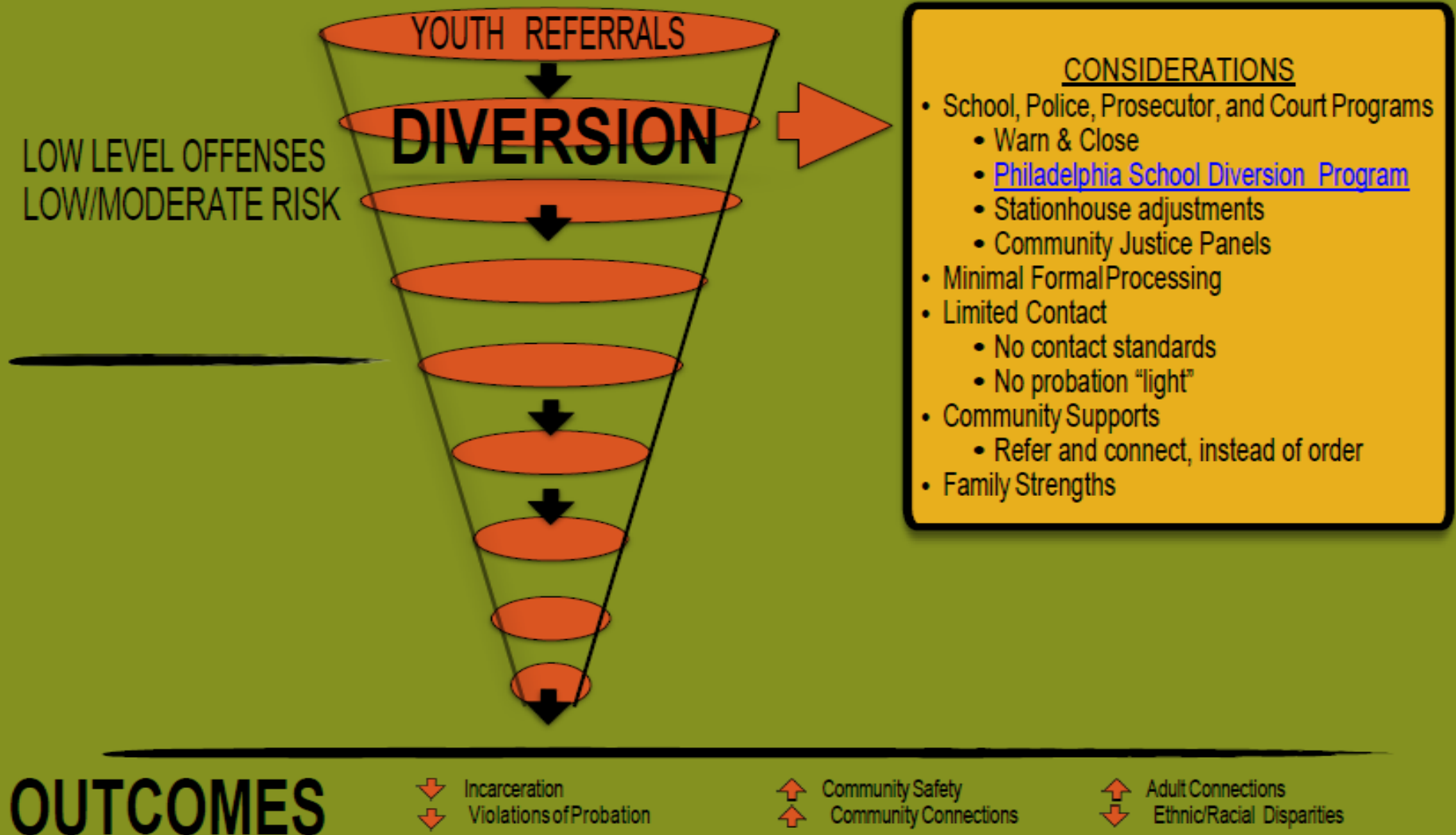
Age Trends in Risky Behavior



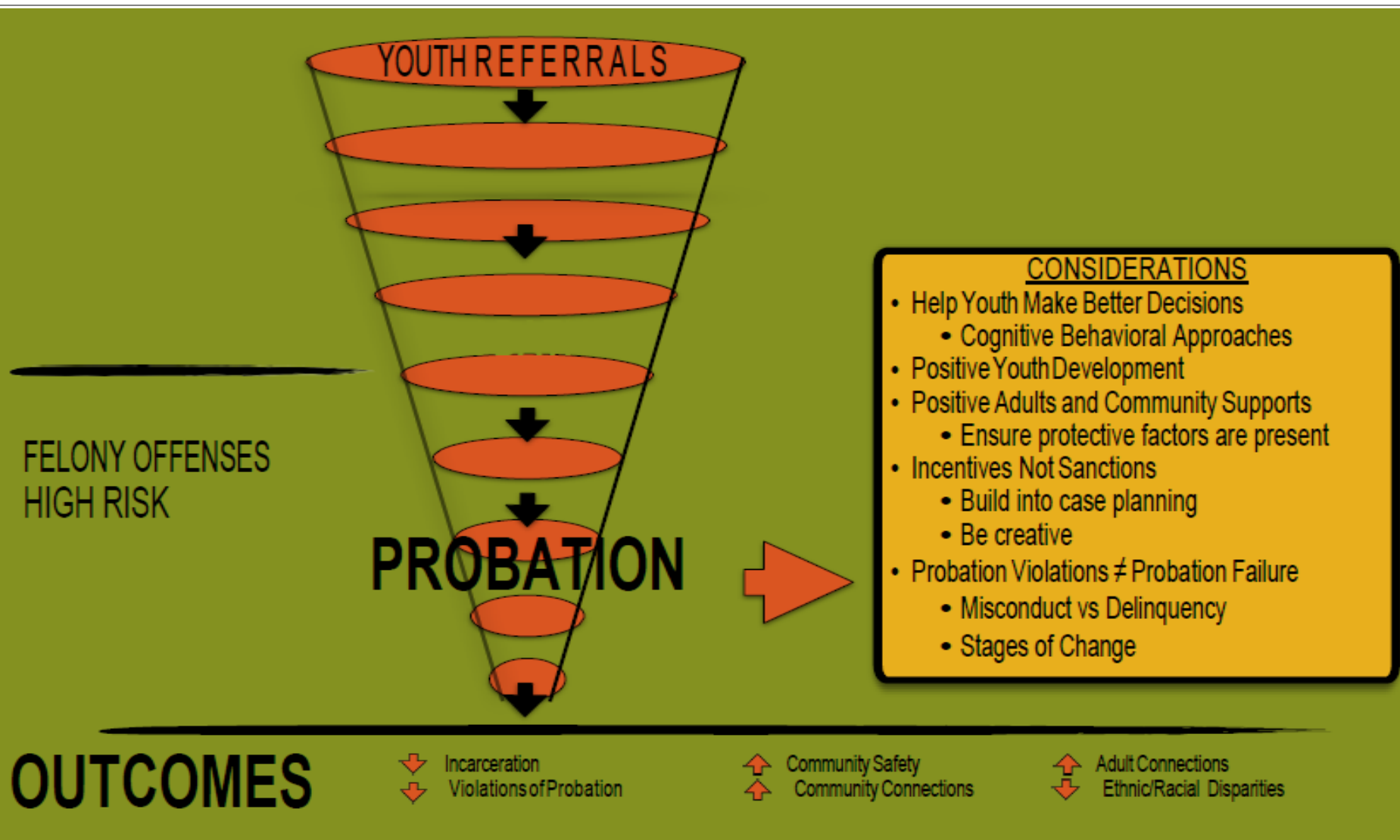
The Immaturity Gap



Juvenile Justice Systems should divert at least 60% of referrals



For the smaller number of youth on probation, the focus should be on helping them make better decisions and develop into productive adults



Positive Youth Development

- Strengths and assets
- Attachment, engagement and socialization
- Usefulness and belonging
- Broad system of community-based supports
- Allow all youth to experience opportunities and activities that youth in wealthy communities take for granted:
 - Supportive relationships
 - Rewards for work
 - Skill development
 - Success in learning
 - Physical activity and sports
 - Music and the arts
 - Civic engagement
 - Community/political involvement

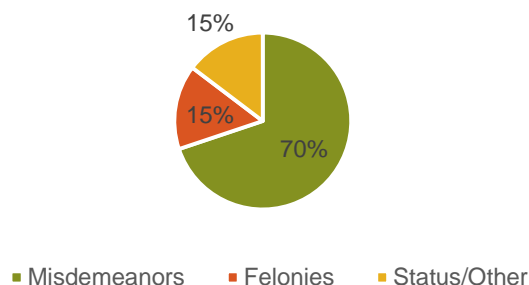
Source: Jeff Butts; Infusing Positive Youth Development into Juvenile Justice Policy and Practice; 2009.

In 2014 Casey's Juvenile Justice Strategy Group launched two Probation Transformation sites

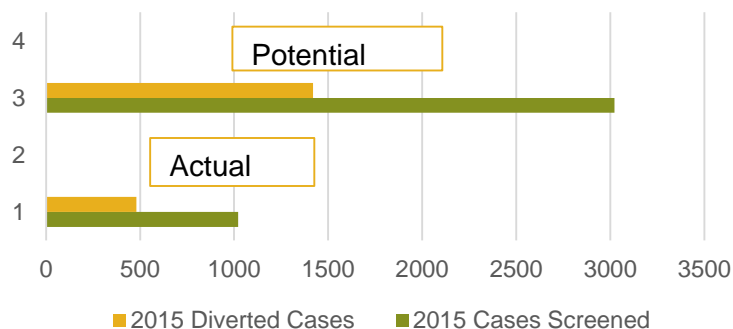
- Seeking to promote reforms that strive for a clearer purpose and theory of change within probation, one that:
 - sharpens the focus and limits the reach of the intervention;
 - defines and seeks behavioral change and personal growth in a developmentally appropriate manner; and
 - prioritizes community and family partnership.
- Selected applicants that proposed strategies that challenge and fall outside the general framework and assumptions of current practice.

Lucas County, OH (Toledo) is implementing innovations that limit the reach of probation, structure dispositional decisions and leverages family and community partnerships

2015 Lucas County Juvenile Court Filings



Assessment Center Screenings



- Nearly 2,000 more cases will be screened for diversion; 1,000 more likely diverted
- Reduction in probation caseloads

❖ Expanded Assessment Center – Misdemeanors

❖ Community Asset Mapping

❖ Family Navigators

❖ Community Advisory Board file reviews

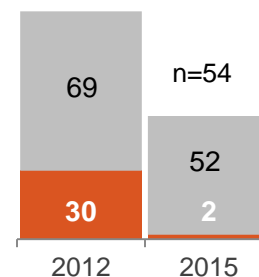
❖ Positive Youth Development

❖ Structured Decision Making Matrix



Placements

n=100



Violations of probation
Delinquency offense

Pierce County, WA (Tacoma) is partnering with families and incentivizing opportunities for positive youth development

- ❖ Opportunity-based probation – incentive grid tied to case plan
- ❖ Coordination of Services – expanded diversion
- ❖ *Pathways to Success*: family partner-led teaming for high risk cases
- ❖ Positive Youth Development programs:
 - Tacoma Boat Builders
 - 2nd Cycle (bicycle program)
 - YMCA Evening program
- ❖ Family Council





THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Developing solutions to build a brighter future for children, families and communities

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Stephen Bishop
Senior Associate, Juvenile Justice Strategy Group
sbishop@aecf.org
410-4-547-3690