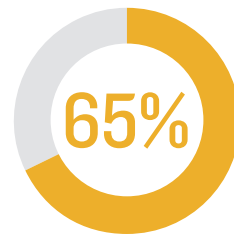


A VISION FOR GETTING IT RIGHT

Make probation a relationship-based, time-limited intervention focused on positive behavior change and long-term success for young people with serious and repeat arrest histories. Limit probation caseload sizes so officers can build productive relationships and connect youth to community support and opportunities. This requires significantly expanding the use of diversion and addressing predictable adolescent misbehavior outside of the court system.

264,900 young people were put on probation¹
 Half were informal cases – status offenses or nonadjudicated.²



Probation perpetuates vast racial disparities in youth justice

65 percent of young people held in residential custody because of technical violations were youth of color.³

Diversion for more youth because most youth grow out of delinquent behavior without any intervention



Police or school officers, prosecutors or judges opt against formal court processing for minor offenses. **Default to diversion** for misdemeanors and first-time nonviolent felonies.



Reduce disparities in the use of diversion by **diverting youth of color and white youth equitably**.



Transfer responsibility for diversion programming to non-court community partners.



No court-imposed standards dictating how frequently diversion program providers meet or speak with diverted youth (or their families).



Divert more youth to services in communities

With these criteria, at least 60 percent of juvenile cases, and likely more, will never reach juvenile court.



Consider options such as a warning, restorative justice practices or individualized service plans.



For youth at lower risk, less is more

When youth assessed as low risk are diverted, they are **45 percent less likely to reoffend** than comparable youth facing formal court processing.³



Refrain from court-imposed consequences for noncompliance. It's okay to terminate some diversion cases as unsuccessful without imposing further consequences.



Measure success in increasing the share of youth diverted from court and making services available equitably for youth in every neighborhood.

Probation for youth who pose a significant risk for serious offending without more guidance and support



Assign far smaller caseloads to probation officers, such as eight to 12 youth.



Eliminate the use of long standardized lists of conditions.

30 Currently, some youth have to manage over 30 conditions of probation.⁴



Focus probation officers' time on nurturing maturity and developing positive relationships.

10% Counseling, skill building and restorative justice **reduce reoffending by 10 percent versus 1 percent reductions from supervision**.⁵



Engage the family and youth in setting expectations and goals that are attainable and realistic.



Provide **incentives and recognition** for achievement.



Offer targeted and proportionate responses when youth neither meet expectations nor accomplish short-term goals. Minimize use of confinement and never for violations.



Take meaningful steps to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.



Provide opportunities for young people to connect with local organizations in the neighborhoods where they live.



Create mechanisms to hold leaders and staff of juvenile probation agencies accountable for positive youth results.

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