

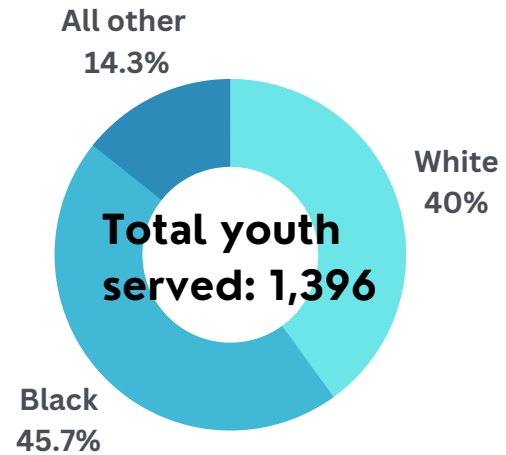


PRE-CHARGE DIVERSION



STATEWIDE RESULTS (SFY 2015-2022)

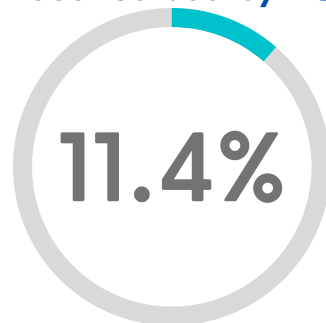
Pre-Charge Diversion (PCD) programs provide a standardized structure to keep low-risk youth out of the juvenile justice system and ensure that youth have equal access to the benefits of diversion for non-serious offenses (e.g. disorderly conduct, shoplifting, simple assault, interference with official acts).



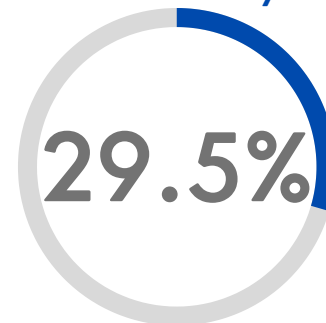
Youth in Pre-Charge Diversion had **lower recidivism*** compared to similar youth** served by Juvenile Court Services.

DEMONSTRATED
SUCCESS

Youth served by PCD



Youth served by JCS



RECIDIVISM

Benefits of Pre-Charge Diversion

Avoids Juvenile Justice System Contact

PCD programs forgo a referral to Juvenile Court Services and utilize immediate/direct referral of youth to diversion programs that hold youth accountable for the specific offense with no Juvenile Court Services involvement.

A Community

Investment in Youth
Six PCD invested communities in Iowa enter data into CJJP's tracking application to measure program impact on recidivism: Davenport, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Muscatine, Johnson County, and Spencer.

Reduces Disproportionate Minority Contact

PCD is an effective strategy to reduce the overrepresentation of youth of color at the earliest stage of the juvenile justice system as racial and ethnic disparities are often more pronounced for less serious offenses such as those addressed by PCD.

*Recidivism is defined as a new complaint within 1 year of the end of the service excluding civil penalties, contempt of court, civil infractions, non-scheduled violations, scheduled violations and unknown violations.

**Youth that exited JCS supervision with a simple misdemeanor allegation (or below) on their first complaint.



PRE-CHARGE DIVERSION



PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS

First Judicial District

Description: Restorative Diversion Program facilitated by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and focuses on addressing harms through restorative justice principles.

Counties/ communities impacted: multiple

Funding sources: state and federal

Second Judicial District

Description: Youth with first-time disorderly conduct, theft-5th, interference with official acts, or criminal mischief-5th allegations are referred to Athletics for Education and Success. Youth participate in TruThought, a cognitive restructuring program.

Counties/ communities impacted: Fort Dodge

Funding sources: local, state, and federal

Note: Lutheran Services in Iowa (Spencer) ceased programing in 2020.

Fifth Judicial District

Description: The Second Chance Program utilizes Restorative Justice Practices to intervene and connect no- and low-risk youth (charged with identified simple and/or serious misdemeanor level allegations by the Des Moines Police Department) to evidenced-based approaches, interventions, and services. The program is offered to all youth that qualify at no cost. The Second Chance Program is based on cross-system collaborations with an emphasis on reducing disproportionate contact of youth of color.

Counties/ communities impacted: Des Moines

Funding sources: local and state

Sixth Judicial District

Description: Shoplifting Diversion is a 90-minute values clarification class designed for first offense shoplifting. The program is run by United Action for Youth. It includes both a child and parent component.

Counties/ communities impacted: Johnson

Funding sources: local, state, and federal

Description: LADDERS (Learning Alternative Daily Decisions to Ensure Reasonable Safety) is a four-hour program for youth who engage in disorderly behavior and could otherwise be charged with Disorderly Conduct to address how he/she can handle conflict in the future. The program is run by the Linn County Community Based Services Program.

Counties/ communities impacted: Johnson

Funding sources: local, state, and federal

Note: Cedar Rapids Police Department facilitates some PCD programming, but does not currently enter data to be tracked by CJJP.

Seventh Judicial District

Description: Youth with first-time simple misdemeanor allegations participate in TruThought to learn about positive decision making skills through group activities facilitated by Scott County Juvenile Court Services.

Counties/ communities impacted: Davenport

Funding sources: local and state

Description: Youth with first-time simple misdemeanor level offenses and their families participate in advocacy and prevention programming facilitated by PCD Coordinators employed by Scott County Detention and Diversion.

Counties/ communities impacted: Davenport

Funding sources: local, state, and federal

Description: In lieu of receiving first time simple misdemeanor charges, youth are referred to an online course that teaches them about thinking barriers, positive decision making, and goal setting. The program is presented by Muscatine County Juvenile Court Services, Muscatine Police Department, and Muscatine Community School District.

Counties/ communities impacted: Muscatine County

Funding sources: local and state

Implementation Successes

- In 2019, CJJP partnered with the Children’s Center for Law & Policy to develop a PCD toolkit (linked).
- CJJP launched a web-based application to track youth referrals and participation in select PCD programs. This application allows for consistent data collection across the programs, outcome tracking and the utilization of data to identify opportunities to expand diversion, including the ability to evaluate and enhance existing efforts.