

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM  
ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY (JJSES)

**IMPLEMENTATION  
REPORT  
2023**



**pennsylvania**  
JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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## INTRODUCTION

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Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system consists of a robust and ever-changing coalition of stakeholders who have advanced effective and progressive juvenile justice practices. These stakeholders have an ongoing commitment to achieving the state's Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) mission through innovation and vision, strong partnerships at both the state and local levels, cooperation with public, private, and non-profit sector service providers, and adherence to its Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) framework. The JJSES supplements BARJ, the foundation of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system, by focusing on the use of research evidence to achieve BARJ's three goals: competency development, community protection, and victim restoration. Improving youth skills reduces the likelihood of continued involvement in the juvenile justice system, resulting in safer communities and fewer victims. The JJSES shifts the way the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system operates to ensure the best outcomes for the youth it serves.

### Background

In 2010, the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO), staff from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), and the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) conceptualized what would become known as the JJSES. These system partners agreed the JJSES was needed to establish a sustainability plan for various juvenile justice reform initiatives that were in progress and to enhance efforts around the implementation of evidence-based practices throughout the state. The JJSES would ultimately become the primary driver of juvenile justice reform activities in Pennsylvania, consolidating the gains of previous years and developing strategies to sustain and enhance those efforts. In 2011, the JJSES Statement of Purpose, provided below, was created.

### ***JJSES Statement of Purpose***

*We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by:*

- *Employing evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process;*
- *Collecting and analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge,*
- *Striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services, and programs.*

Released in 2012, the *Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy Monograph* constructed the roadmap for JJSES implementation. That same year, all 67 juvenile probation departments participated in one of six regional JJSES planning meetings. As part of these activities, departments completed a self-report survey. This survey, known as the JJSES Implementation Survey, was designed to provide stakeholders with the capacity to examine implementation and sustainability of the strategy across the Commonwealth, on both a county-specific and statewide aggregate level. Since FY2012-2013, departments have completed this self-report survey on an annual basis as a condition of receiving their Juvenile Probation Services Grant funding.

More than a decade later, the JJSES Implementation Survey continues to be a valuable tool for Pennsylvania. First, it allows stakeholders to track how the juvenile justice system has changed in response to the JJSES. Second, it serves as a mechanism to identify gaps in efforts to incorporate evidence-based programming, policies, and practices. Third, by collecting data on department activities, the survey helps assess the quality of implementation of JJSES activities and identify areas that need improvement. Consequently, aggregate statewide responses to this survey assist Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system in planning ongoing support and resource development.

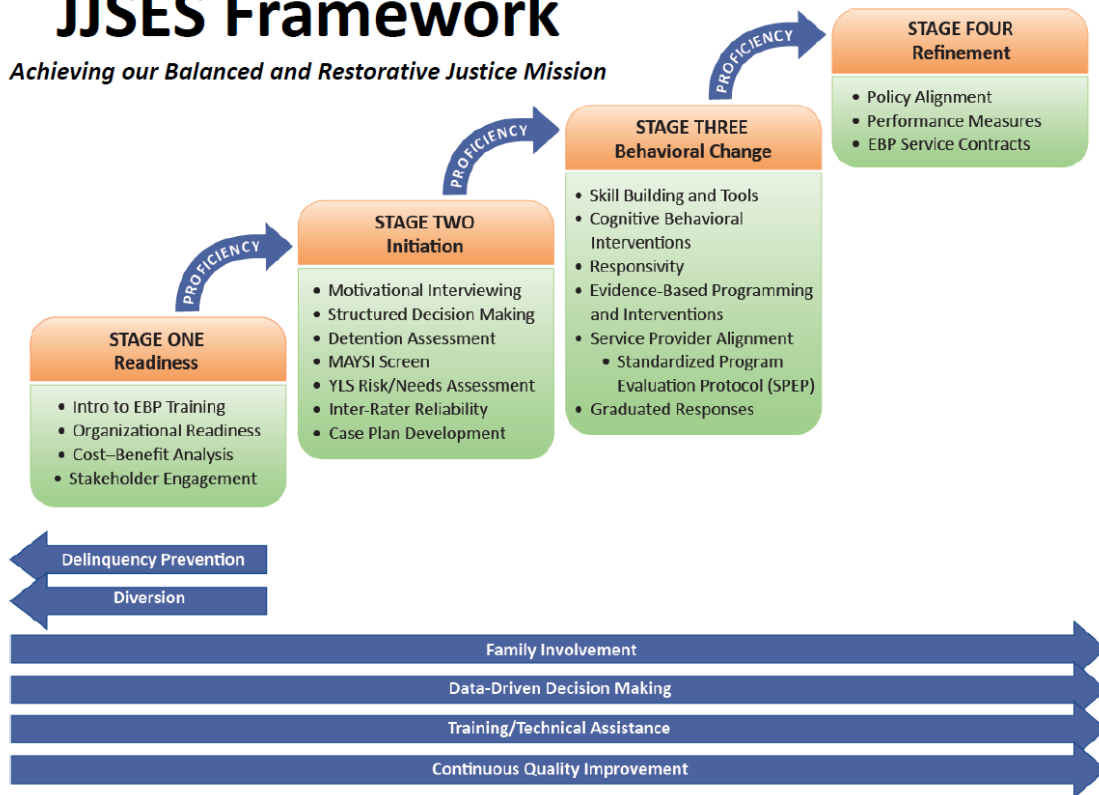
The current report serves two purposes. First, it assesses the implementation and the ongoing sustainability efforts of the JJSES in Pennsylvania over the last 12 years, as captured through the JJSES Implementation Survey. To accomplish this assessment, metrics from the original FY2012-2013 JJSES Implementation Survey and forward are analyzed.<sup>1</sup> Second, this report provides information on the most recent responses captured in the FY2023-2024 JJSES Implementation Survey to assist in understanding where the JJSES is currently and where the state's juvenile justice system is moving over the next year. Ultimately, the goal of this report is to provide a complete picture of the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system and ensure the best practices, services, programs, and policies are in place to better serve the youth of Pennsylvania.

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<sup>1</sup> This survey, however, has changed and evolved since its inception. Certain metrics in more recent versions of the survey were not included in the original FY2012-2013 survey. Additionally, some metrics from those early versions were significantly modified and amended over the years. Therefore, trend analysis in the report only includes those metrics consistently asked over time, with limited variation in the question wording. The report also includes supplemental data from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS), which is noted where applicable.

# JJSES Framework

*Achieving our Balanced and Restorative Justice Mission*



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## STAGE ONE: READINESS

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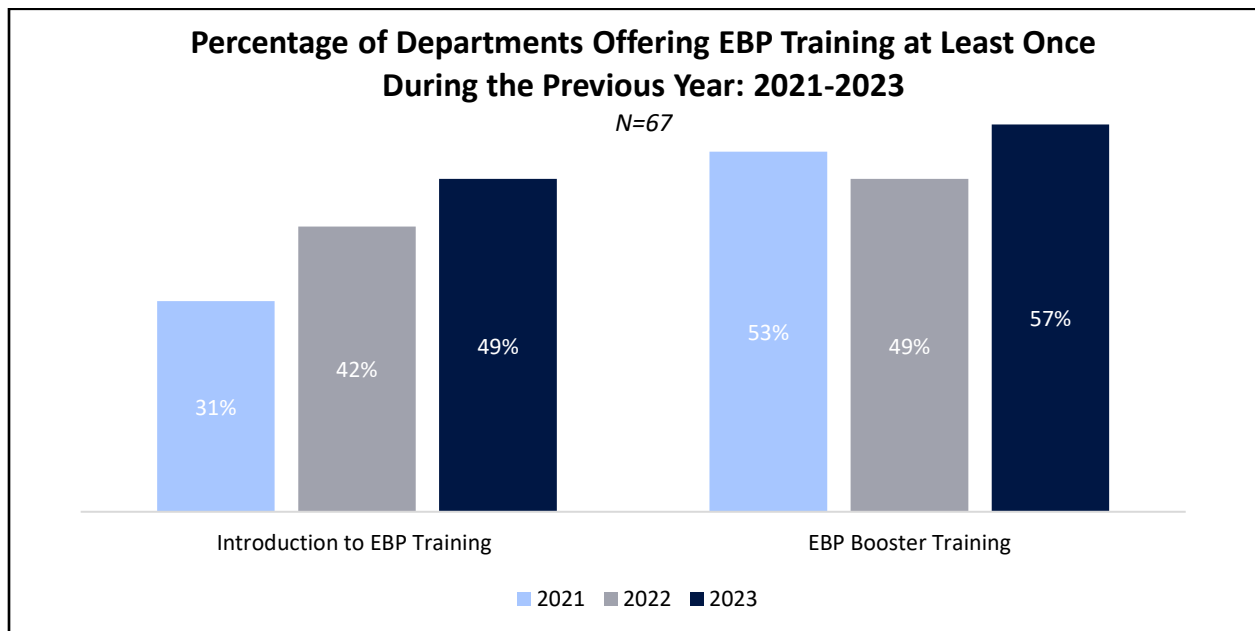
Stage One prepares the juvenile justice system and its stakeholders for the JJSES initiative. The FY2023-2024 JJSES Implementation Survey examines the Stage One activities of Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Training and Stakeholder Engagement. Demonstrating the critical and foundational nature of Stage One activities, 44 (66%) departments reported planning Stage One activities during FY2023-2024.

### Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Training

Understanding the key tenets of EBP is imperative to the proper implementation of the JJSES. Focusing on the concepts of the risk, needs, and responsivity principles, as well as effective intervention and treatment, EBP training lays the foundation for each activity within the JJSES framework. These trainings help stakeholders understand how aligning policies and practices with research evidence improves outcomes.

**Recognizing these trainings are key to successful JJSES implementation, from 2021-2023 many departments have offered Introduction to EBP Training or EBP Booster Training at least once during the previous year.**

The percentage of departments providing these trainings has steadily increased between 2021 and 2023, averaging near 50% of departments offering the trainings at least once during the previous year.



## FY2023-2024 Data

Juvenile probation officers, judges, and district attorneys were the stakeholder groups most likely to attend Introduction to EBP Training, while juvenile probation officers, judges, and service providers were the stakeholder groups most likely to attend an EBP Booster Training.

Juvenile probation officers are the stakeholders most likely to attend both types of EBP Trainings. The FY2023-2024 survey results indicate that 15 (22%) departments have a written policy to ensure that newly assigned juvenile probation officers and stakeholders are offered Introduction to EBP Training.

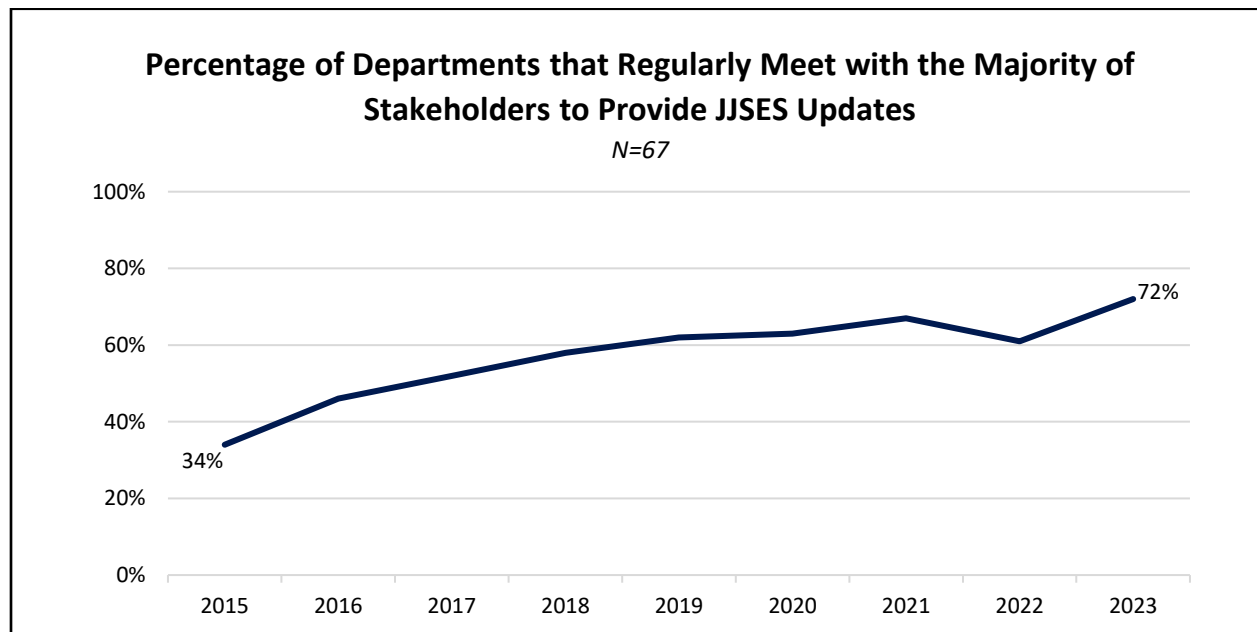
Percentage of Departments Identifying These Stakeholders as Most Likely to Attend EBP Training: FY2023-2024	
Introduction to EBP Training	EBP Booster Training
Juvenile Probation Officers (33%)	Juvenile Probation Officers (58%)
Judges (17%)	Judges (19%)
District Attorneys (17%)	Service Providers (18%)

## Stakeholder Engagement

In order for the JJSES to succeed, all key juvenile justice system stakeholders need to be invested. Judges and attorneys must know how the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS) and case plans function and their use in dispositional decision-making. Similarly, victim advocates must understand how reducing a youth's risk to re-offend ultimately enhances public safety and diminishes future harm to communities and potential victims. Finally, juvenile probation officers and service providers must commit to utilizing evidence-based practices that effectively target the criminogenic needs of youth. Uniting stakeholders around a principle, such as harm reduction, will ultimately improve outcomes for youth and their families, victims, and communities.

**Over the past nine years, the percentage of departments that regularly meet with the majority of stakeholders has increased substantially, despite a small decrease in 2022.**

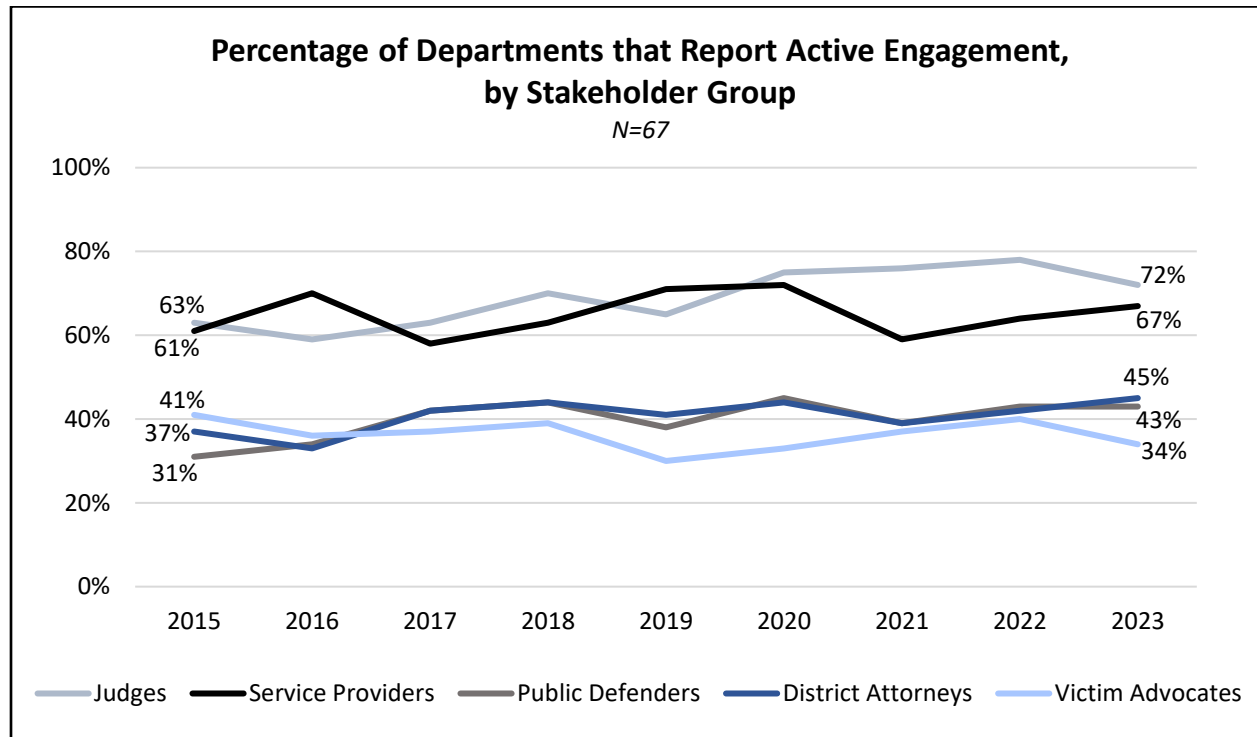
The percentage of departments that regularly meet with the majority of stakeholders to provide JJSES updates more than doubled over the past nine years, increasing from 34% of departments in 2015 to 72% of departments in 2023.





**Judges and service providers continue to be more actively engaged in JJSES activities than district attorneys, public defenders, and victim advocates.**

Despite a slight decrease in 2023, a growing number of departments reported that judges are actively engaged in JJSES activities, from 63% in 2015 to 72% in 2023. While nearly three-fourths of judges are actively engaged, district attorneys, public defenders, and victim advocates continue to be the least engaged stakeholders. On average, around 40% of departments report active engagement of public defenders, district attorneys, and victim advocates, a rate that has remained steady throughout the years. Service providers have maintained a higher level of engagement.



## FY2023-2024 Data

Staff meetings with juvenile probation officers are the most common forums where JJSES updates are shared.

Percentage of Departments Identifying Forums Used to Update Stakeholders on JJSES: FY2023-2024	
Most Common Forums	Least Common Forums
Staff Meetings with Juvenile Probation Officers (96%)	Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (24%)
Meetings with Juvenile Court Judges (93%)	Collaborative Board Meetings (32%)
Criminal Justice Advisory Board (93%)	Children’s Roundtable (64%)

Juvenile probation officers are the stakeholders most likely to be actively engaged with JJSES activities. Magisterial district judges are the stakeholder group most likely to not be engaged. Police officers are the stakeholder group most challenging to engage.

Percentage of Departments Indicating Level of Stakeholder Engagement with JJSES Activities: FY2023-2024		
Most Likely to Be Actively Engaged	Most Likely to Not Be Engaged	Most Challenging to Engage
Juvenile Probation Officers (97%)	Magisterial District Judge(s) (56%)	Police Officers (66%)
Judges (72%)	Victims (56%)	Community Members (43%)
Service Providers (67%)	Community Members (52%)	Schools (37%)

Additional data from FY2023-2024 indicate:

- Although an increasing percentage of departments engage key stakeholders, few departments (18%) have formalized this practice into policy.
- Departments do not universally share the same JJSES-related data/outcome measure reports with stakeholders. The reports most frequently discussed with stakeholders were the YLS risk level distribution (64%), placement utilization trends (60%), and YLS risk level change from initial to closing (55%).

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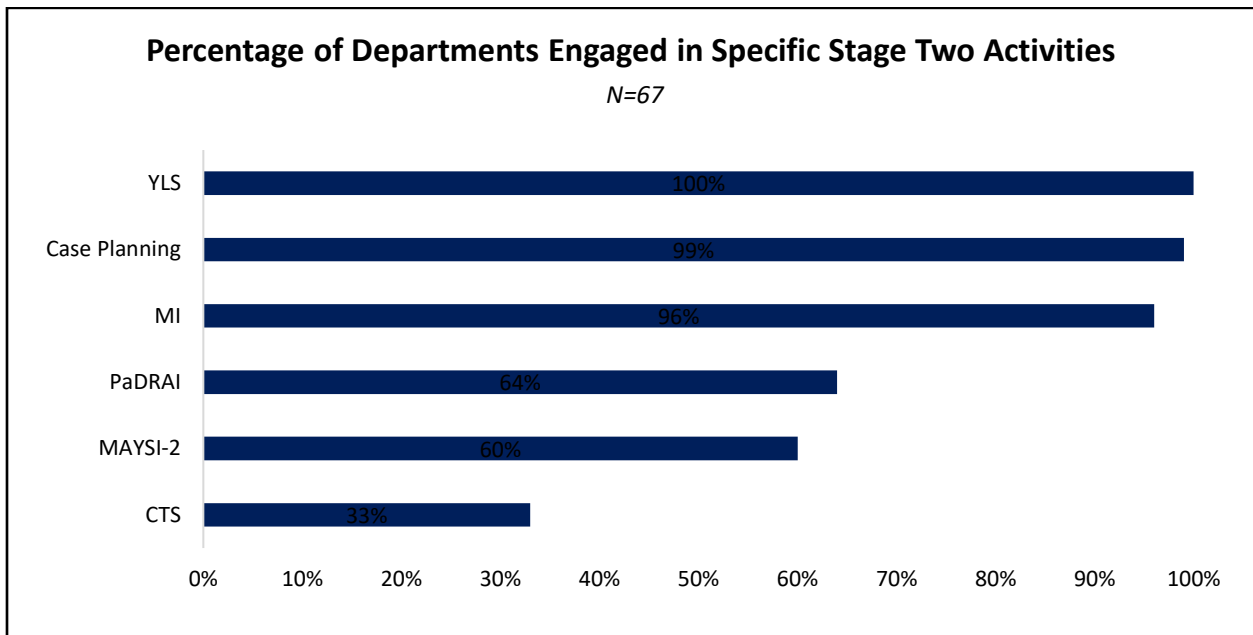
## STAGE TWO: INITIATION

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Over time, Pennsylvania has collectively progressed through the foundational steps of the “Initiation” stage of the JJSES. Stage Two introduces actuarial tools and assessment processes, preparing departments to implement the behavioral change activities of Stage Three. The FY2023-2024 JJSES Implementation Survey examines the following Stage Two activities: Motivational Interviewing (MI), Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI), Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-2), Child Trauma Screen (CTS) Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS), and Case Planning.

### FY2023-2024 Data

Survey results indicate the YLS, case planning, and MI are the most common Stage Two activities in which departments are engaged.

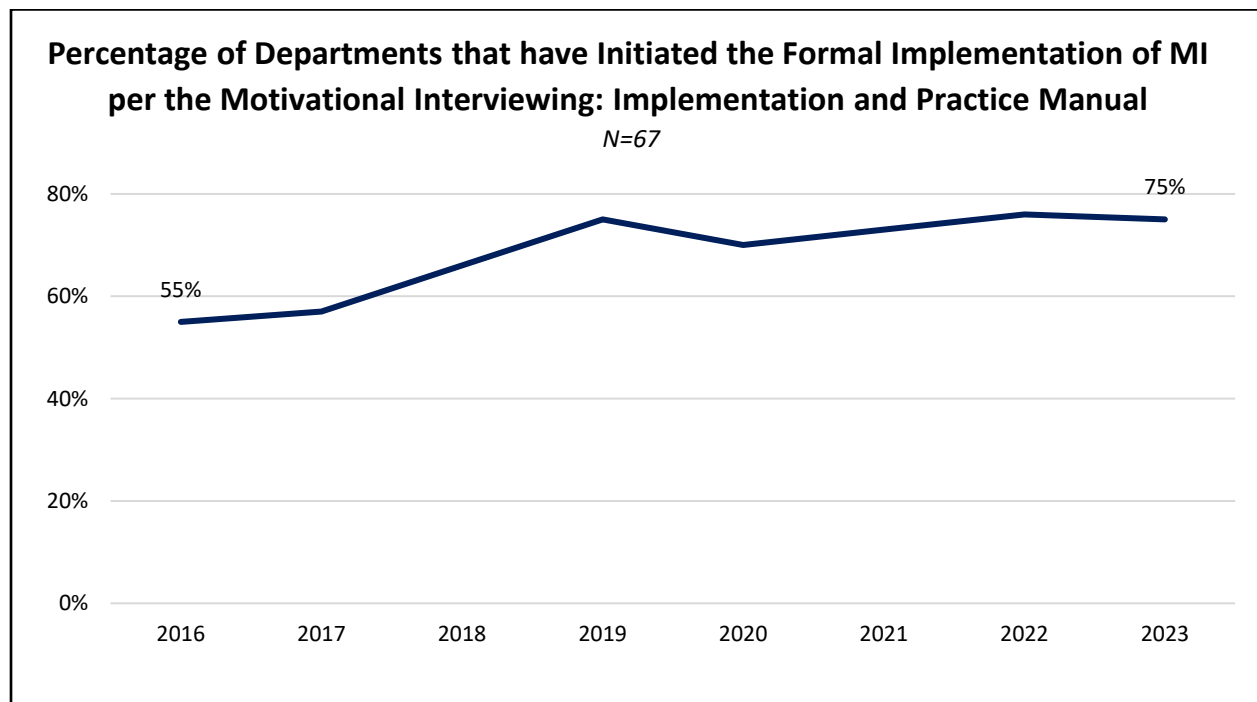


## Motivational Interviewing (MI)

Targeted efforts to fully integrate Stage Two activities began in 2016. Departments were strongly encouraged, though not required, to formally implement Motivational Interviewing (MI). An essential component of the JJSES, MI skills enhance the amount and quality of information collected during the assessment process and help engage youth and families in the creation and execution of case plans.

**Consistent progress has occurred to initiate the formal implementation of MI within departments as described in the recommended protocol of the Motivational Interviewing: Implementation and Practice Manual.**

Regardless of a slight decrease in 2023, the percentage of departments that have initiated the formal implementation of MI as described in the recommended protocol of the Motivational Interviewing: Implementation and Practice Manual has increased by 36% since 2016<sup>2</sup>.



<sup>2</sup> Throughout this report, **relative percent change** calculations between two proportions are examined. Unlike an **absolute percent point change** calculation, in which the original percentage is subtracted from the new percentage, the **relative percent change** calculation quantifies the degree to which the original proportion increases or decreases, respective to the new proportion.

## FY2023-2024 Data

**Implementation and sustainability remain strong, with high levels of MI engagement across the state. Nearly all departments in the state report being engaged in MI activities.**

In FY2023-2024, 64 (96%) departments reported being engaged in MI activities. Among these 64 departments:

- Fifty (78%) departments initiated the formal implementation of MI as described in the recommended protocol of “Motivational Interviewing: Implementation and Practice Manual.”
- Fifty-four (84%) departments reported the majority of current staff completed MI training.
- Thirty-seven (58%) departments have a written policy that incorporates MI.
  - Among these 37 departments, 31 (84%) reported the majority of current staff use MI per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 160 MI coaches.
- Forty-three (67%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for their department’s MI training and quality assurance practices.
- The most common MI quality assurance practices are booster training (53%), skills practice (47%), and coaching sessions (44%). Seventeen (27%) departments do not practice any form of MI quality assurance.
- Forty-seven (73%) departments planned additional MI activities during the fiscal year.

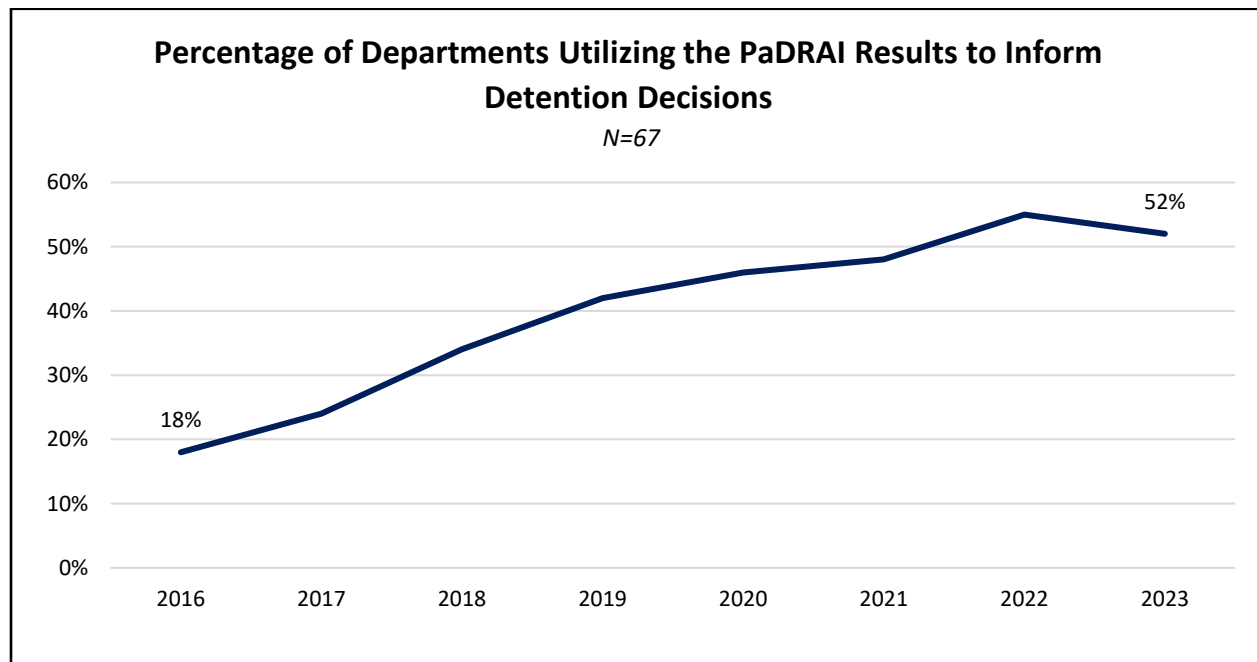
Of the remaining three departments not actively engaged in MI activities, two were previously active, one of which planned MI activities during FY2023-2024.

## Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI)

Pennsylvania continues to implement and sustain the use of screening tools that increase data-informed decision-making at critical decision points throughout the juvenile justice system. The decision to place a youth in a secure detention center represents one of the most important decisions of juvenile court processing and one of the most significant events in a youth's life. The Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI) is a concise, structured decision-making instrument used to assist in the critical decision of whether to securely detain a youth, release to an alternative to detention (ATD), or release to the custody of a parent or responsible adult during the period the youth is awaiting a juvenile court hearing. The instrument is designed to assess the risk of a youth to 1) commit additional offenses while awaiting the juvenile court hearing; and/or 2) fail to appear for the scheduled juvenile court hearing.

**Since 2016, the PaDRAI has become a critical tool used to inform the detention decision in more than half of the departments in Pennsylvania.**

In 2016, 12 departments utilized the PaDRAI results to inform detention decisions. By 2023, 35 departments reported using the PaDRAI to make such decisions. Over the past eight years, the rate of PaDRAI utilization to inform detention decisions has nearly tripled.



## FY2023-2024 Data

**The majority of departments currently using the PaDRAI continue to ensure essential implementation elements are in place such as a written policy, staff training, and quality assurance practices.**

In FY2023-2024, 43 (64%) departments reported being engaged in PaDRAI activities. Among these 43 departments:

- Thirty-five (81%) departments use results to inform detention decisions the majority of the time.
- Forty (93%) departments reported the majority of staff completed PaDRAI training.
- Thirty-nine (91%) departments have a written policy that incorporates the PaDRAI.
  - Among these 39 departments, 36 (92%) reported the majority of current staff use the PaDRAI per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 63 PaDRAI coordinators.
- Thirty-nine (91%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for their department's PaDRAI training and quality assurance practices.
- The most common PaDRAI quality assurance practices are supervisory reviews (88%), booster training (60%), skills practice (28%), and coaching sessions (28%). Two (5%) departments do not practice any form of PaDRAI quality assurance.
- Twenty-five (58%) departments planned additional PaDRAI activities during the fiscal year.

Of the remaining 24 departments not currently engaged with PaDRAI implementation, none were previously active, and two planned PaDRAI activities during FY2023-2024.

In 2023, 11,298 PaDRAI were completed in the PaJCMS.<sup>3</sup>

- The discretionary override rate was 14% (n=1,637).<sup>4</sup>
- The aggravating override to detention rate was 4% (n=466).
- The aggravating override to ATD rate was 2% (n=191).
- The mitigating override rate was 9% (n=980).

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<sup>3</sup> Data retrieved from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS).

<sup>4</sup> Discretionary overrides involve the consideration of aggravating and mitigating factors that can increase or decrease the level of pre-hearing supervision indicated by the PaDRAI. It is best practice to use discretionary overrides only when specific, verifiable factors are present that may modify the tool's indicated detention decision. The use of discretionary overrides recognizes that no assessment tool can account for every possible scenario.

## Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-2)<sup>5</sup>

Although mental/behavioral health is not a criminogenic factor to consider when assessing risk of recidivism, it is a responsivity factor that may impact the ability of youth to adequately respond to intervention(s) necessary to address identified criminogenic risk/need factors. In recognition of this, many departments adopted use of the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-2), a scientifically proven screening instrument that helps departments and service providers identify youth that may have mental or behavioral health needs to address.

### FY2023-2024 Data

**More than half of departments have implemented the MAYSI-2 and incorporated critical implementation elements, such as written policy, staff training, and quality assurance.**

In FY2023-2024, 40 (60%) departments reported being engaged in MAYSI-2 activities. Among these 40 departments:

- Twenty-seven (68%) departments reported the majority of staff completed MAYSI-2 training.
- Twenty-six (65%) departments have a written policy that incorporates the MAYSI-2.
  - Among these 26 departments, 23 (88%) reported the majority of current staff use the MAYSI-2 per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 62 MAYSI-2 coordinators.
- Thirty (75%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for MAYSI-2 training and quality assurance practices.
- The most common MAYSI-2 quality assurance practices are supervisory reviews (53%), booster sessions (25%), and skills practice (15%). Thirteen (33%) departments do not practice any form of MAYSI-2 quality assurance.
- MAYSI-2 results are most frequently used for a referral for appropriate services (88%) and to determine the need for formal clinical assessment (75%).
- Twenty-four (60%) departments planned additional MAYSI-2 activities during the fiscal year.

Of the remaining 27 departments, four were previously active. One previously active department and two others planned MAYSI-2 activities during FY2023-2024.

In 2023, 3,080 MAYSI-2 assessments were completed in PaJCMS.<sup>6</sup>

- Eighty-five percent (n=2,619) required the first screening only.
- Fifteen percent (n=461) required a second screening.
- Eighteen percent (n=564) were identified as a critical case.

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<sup>5</sup> At this time, no trend data is available for this measure. In previous surveys, respondents were asked to report on any mental health/behavioral health screening tools utilized within their department, not just the MAYSI-2.

<sup>6</sup> Data retrieved from the PaJCMS.



## Child Trauma Screen (CTS)<sup>7</sup>

As with mental health/behavioral health, trauma exposure is not a criminogenic factor to consider when assessing the risk of recidivism. However, research has identified the link between such exposure and future delinquent behavior. Trauma exposure, therefore, is considered a responsibility factor that may impact the ability of youth to adequately respond to the intervention(s) necessary to address identified criminogenic risk/need factors. The Child Trauma Screen (CTS), a 10-item screening measure of trauma exposure and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms for youth ages 6-17, has been endorsed by Pennsylvania stakeholders as the preferred trauma screening tool for departments.

### FY2023-2024 Data

**Implementation of the CTS continues to steadily expand statewide. Nearly a third of counties have already implemented the CTS, and eight (12%) additional departments planned initiation of the activity during FY2023-2024.**

Twenty-two (33%) departments reported being engaged in CTS activities in FY2023-2024. Among these 22 departments:

- Fifteen (68%) departments reported the majority of current staff completed CTS training.
- Fifteen (68%) departments have a written policy that incorporates the CTS.
  - Among these 15 departments, 12 (80%) reported the majority of current staff use the CTS per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 43 CTS coordinators.
- Nineteen (86%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for CTS training and quality assurance practices.
- The most common CTS quality assurance practices are supervisory reviews (73%), peer reviews (32%), booster training (27%), and skills practice (27%). Six (27%) departments do not practice any form of CTS quality assurance.
- CTS results are most frequently used for a referral for appropriate services (86%) and to determine the need for formal clinical assessment (82%).
- Sixteen departments (73%) planned additional CTS activities during the fiscal year.

Of the remaining 45 departments, none were previously active, and eight planned CTS activities during FY2023-2024.

In 2023, 2,225 child screenings and 284 caregiver screenings were completed in PaJCMS, resulting in 2,509 CTS assessments completed statewide.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> At this time, no trend data is available for this measure. In previous surveys, respondents were asked to report on any trauma screening tools utilized within their department, not just the CTS.

<sup>8</sup> Data retrieved from the PaJCMS.

## Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS) Risk/Needs Assessment

The YLS is a valid and reliable instrument that assesses risk for recidivism by measuring 42 risk/need factors within eight domains. The calculated risk score helps identify *who* should receive juvenile justice interventions and treatment, while the domains identify *what* criminogenic needs must be addressed with the youth. Additionally, the responsivity portion of the tool highlights *how* interventions and treatment should be delivered.

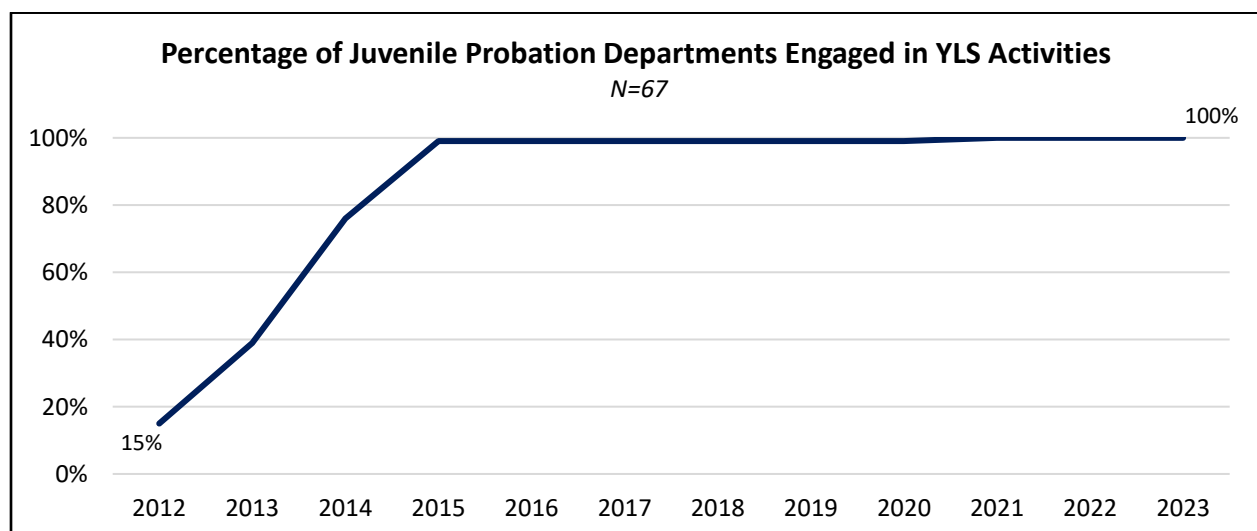
Beginning in 2009, a small cohort of juvenile probation officers were trained on the YLS, ultimately integrating it into the daily practice of their departments. By 2012, 66 of 67 departments were trained on the tool and the final juvenile probation department completed training in December 2021.

Reflecting the importance of the YLS in making the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system truly data-informed, in 2013, the members of the JCJC voted unanimously to require that, as a condition of participation in the Juvenile Probation Services Grant Program, all counties must submit JJSES Implementation Plans, for approval by JCJC staff, which address the following:

- 1) Implementation of the YLS;
- 2) Development of recommendations to the Court based upon the YLS results, including the identified risks and needs of each juvenile; and
- 3) Development of standardized case plans based upon the YLS results, which target services to meet the identified risks and needs of each juvenile.

**The YLS remains the cornerstone of the JJSES, with all 67 departments engaged in implementation and sustainability efforts.**

From 2015 to 2020, 99% of departments were engaged in YLS activities and by 2021, 100% were engaged. One hundred percent engagement has continued through 2023.



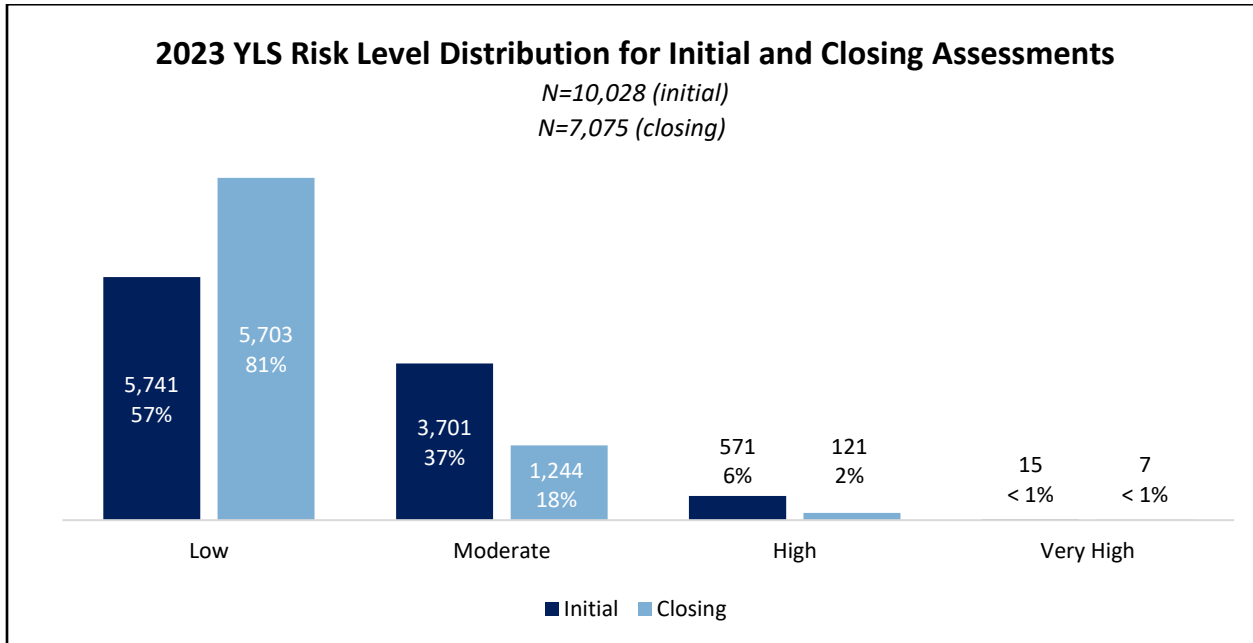
## FY2023-2024 Data

**Most departments have successfully implemented the YLS with critical implementation components and robust quality assurance practices. As the data below indicates, most departments have the majority of staff trained, a written policy, and practice quality assurance.**

Among all 67 counties, FY2023-2024 survey results indicate that:

- Sixty-six (99%) departments reported the majority of current staff completed YLS training.
- Sixty-six (99%) departments have a written policy that incorporates the YLS.
  - Among these 66 departments, 65 (98%) reported the majority of current staff use the YLS per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 220 YLS Master Trainers.
- Sixty (90%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for their department's YLS training and quality assurance practices.
- The most common YLS quality assurance practices are booster training (91%), supervisory reviews (84%), and skills practice (52%).
- Master Trainers delivered YLS booster training to 60 (90%) departments during the past year.
- Fifty-two (78%) departments reported staff completed two YLS booster cases from the Assessment Committee during the past year.
- Forty-eight (72%) departments have a service matrix to address the criminogenic needs of youth under supervision.
- Forty-nine (73%) departments planned additional YLS activities during the fiscal year.

In 2023, 21,588 YLS assessments were completed in the PaJCMS, including initial, review, and closing assessments.



Additional data from the PaJCMS:

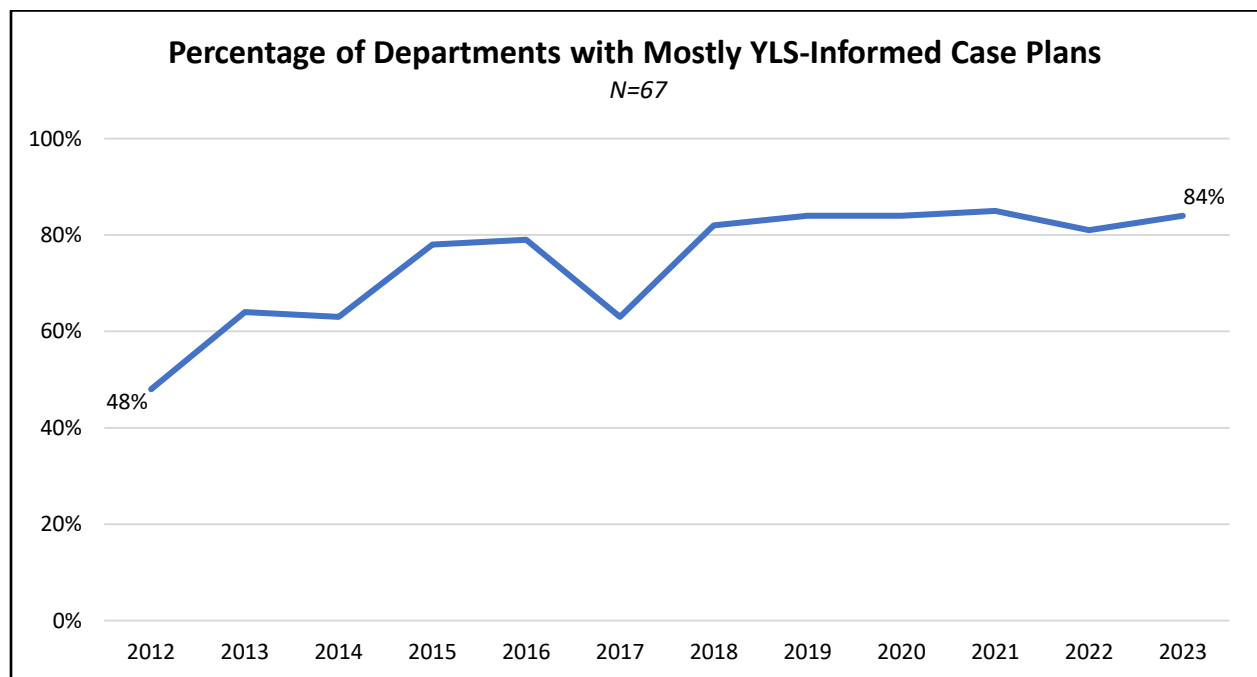
- In 2023, Education/Employment, Personality/Behavior, and Peer Relations were the domains that most frequently scored as moderate or higher on initial assessments (excluding Leisure and Recreation).
- The YLS override rate was 2% (n=507) in 2023.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Overrides of Overall Risk Level: The YLS allows flexibility for juvenile justice professionals to increase or decrease a youth's overall risk level as appropriate under prevailing conditions. This figure represents the override rate for all assessments completed in 2023 (i.e., initial, review, and closing).

## Case Planning

Case plans, a critical JJSES component, are blueprints that provide structure and direction for youth, families, and juvenile probation officers throughout the term of juvenile court supervision. Individualized case plans match assessment results, such as the YLS, to services aimed at improving the youth's competencies and reducing recidivism.<sup>10</sup> Similar to the initial YLS implementation in Pennsylvania, a small number of departments throughout the state were using YLS-informed case plans in 2009. By 2023, 66 (99%) departments reported to be engaged in case plan activities, of which 85% (n=56) develop YLS-informed case plans in the majority of cases.

**Despite a 75% increase between 2012 through 2023, the percentage of departments that develop YLS-informed case plans has plateaued since 2018.**



<sup>10</sup> While some departments used YLS-informed case plans as early as 2009, the JJSES Implementation Survey was not developed until 2012.

## FY2023-2024 Data

**Nearly all departments in the state are engaged in case planning, most of which report to incorporate key implementation and sustainability mechanisms, such as a written policy, staff training, and quality assurance practices.**

In FY2023-2024, 66 (99%) departments reported being engaged in case planning activities. Among these 66 departments:

- Fifty-six (85%) departments reported the majority of current staff completed case planning training.
- Fifty-six (85%) departments have a written policy that incorporates case planning.
  - Among these 56 departments, 54 (96%) reported the majority of current staff use case planning per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 137 case plan coordinators.
- Fifty-four (82%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for their department's case planning training and quality assurance practices.
- The most common quality assurance practices for case planning are supervisor reviews (77%), booster training (76%), and case plan coordinator reviews (56%). Ten (15%) departments do not practice any form of case planning quality assurance.
- Fifty-six (85%) departments develop a case plan that incorporates the results of the YLS and activities for juveniles and their families in the majority of cases. Six (9%) departments develop a case plan as such, but not in the majority of cases.
- Departments are most likely to incorporate the following best practice principles in their case plans: youth engagement (91%), top two or three criminogenic needs (91%), and family engagement (85%).
- Forty-seven (71%) departments planned additional case planning activities during the fiscal year.

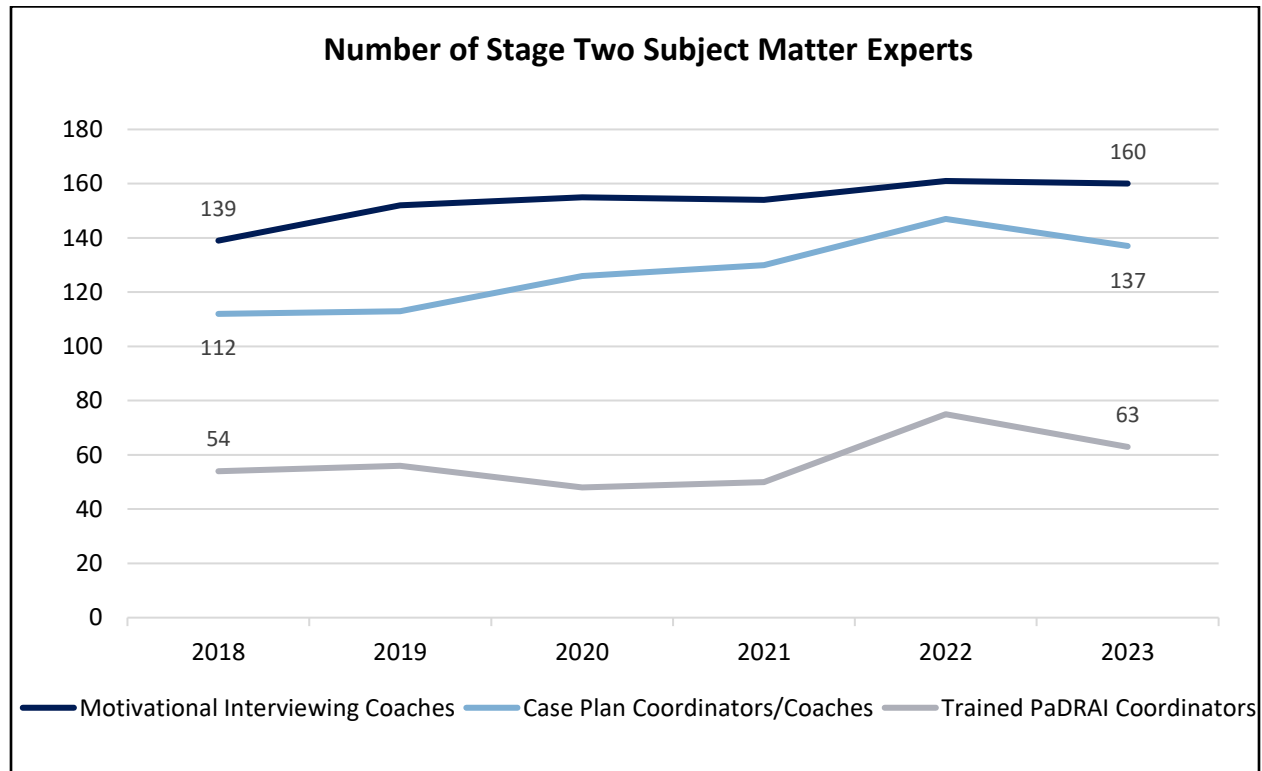
The one remaining department was not previously active in case planning but planned activities during FY2023-2024.

## Sustainability<sup>11</sup>

Pennsylvania continues to plan for and commit to the sustainability of the foundational pieces of the JJSES situated within Stage Two of the JJSES Framework. The state continues to implement steps to ensure the Stage Two activities are sustainable over time.

**Pennsylvania has developed a cadre of professionals who function as subject matter experts on Stage Two activities, providing training, technical assistance, peer support and mentoring, and contributing to Continuous Quality Improvement efforts.**

From 2018 to 2023, the number of trained subject matter experts increased throughout the state. Since 2018, the number of MI coaches increased by 15%, case plan coordinators increased by 22%, and PaDRAI coordinators increased by 17%.<sup>12</sup>



<sup>11</sup> At this time, no trend data is available for the MAYSI-2 or CTS. In previous surveys, respondents were asked to report on any mental health/behavioral health or trauma screening tools utilized within their department, not just the MAYSI-2 or CTS.

<sup>12</sup> YLS Master Trainer trend data are not yet available. Pennsylvania had 220 YLS Master Trainers in 2023.

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## STAGE THREE: BEHAVIORAL CHANGE

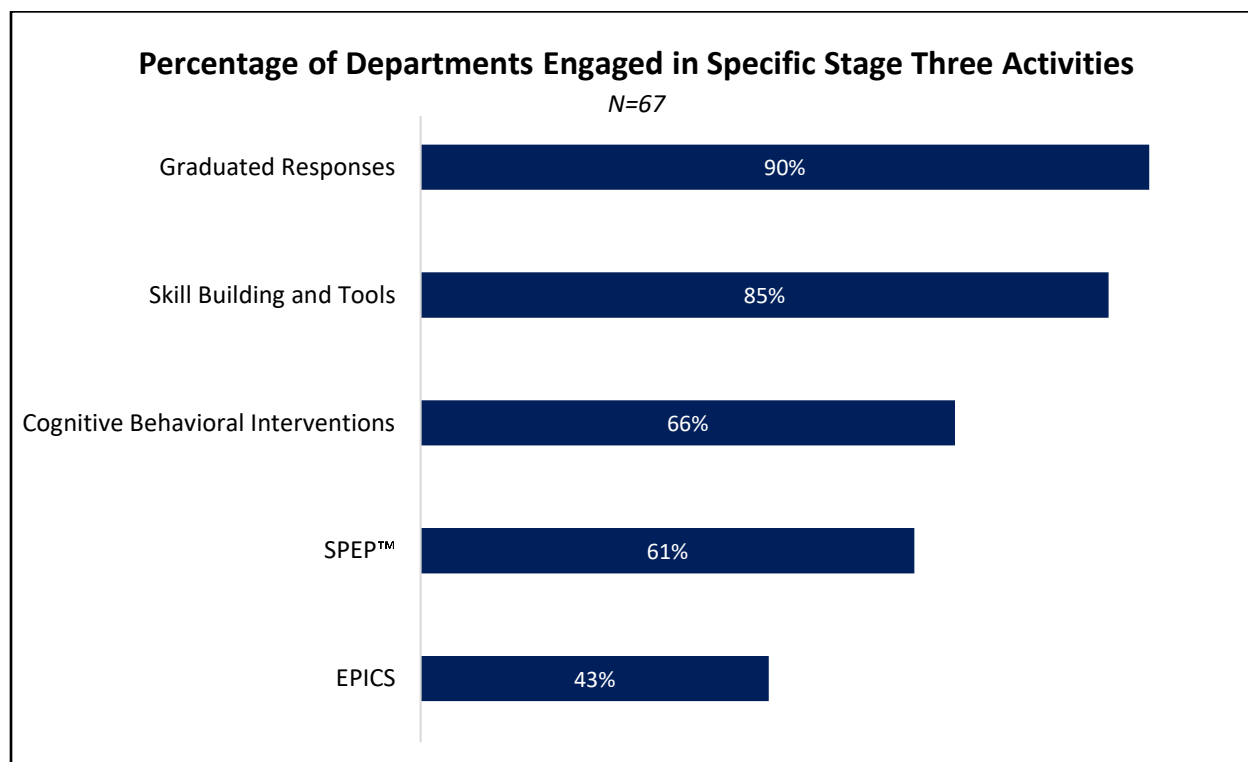
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Stage Three of the JJSES uses the information amassed from the diagnostic practices established in Stage Two to support behavioral change. Stage Three is grounded in an understanding of long-term behavioral change strategies. These strategies include implementing cognitive behavioral interventions and evidence-based programs, giving case management staff the competencies and tools necessary to ensure their sessions build skills that address criminogenic needs, and ensuring the right youth are receiving the right types of services.

The FY2023-2024 JJSES Implementation Survey examines the following Stage Three activities: Skill Building and Tools, Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI), Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP), and Graduated Responses.

### FY2023-2024 Data

**Most departments reported using graduated responses and skill building to initiate behavioral change in youth.**

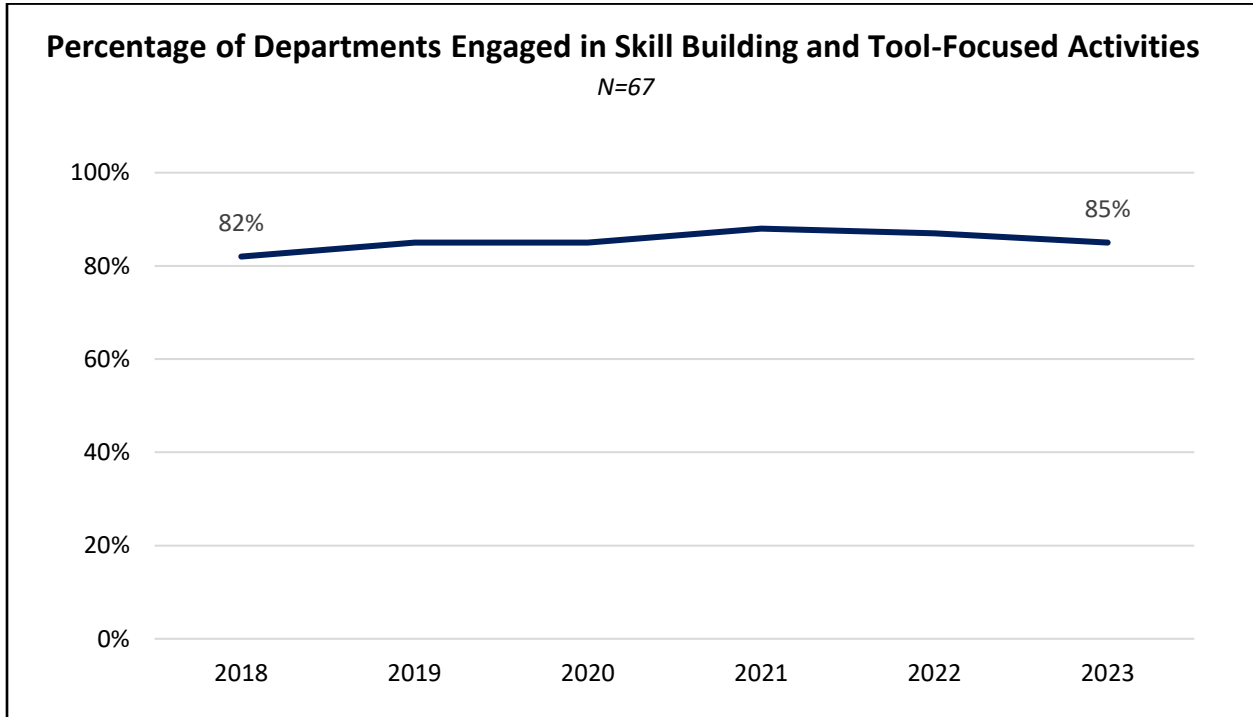




## Skill Building and Tools

A growing number of departments require juvenile probation officers to serve as “agents of change” and use skill building and tool-focused activities to help youth build competencies. Primary skill building and tool-focused activities are the Four Core Competencies (4CC), Carey Guides, Brief Intervention Tools (BITS), and the Supervisor's Evidence-Based Practices BriefCASE. Skill practice involves observing others, practicing new behaviors, receiving feedback on the practiced behaviors, and applying the behaviors in real-life situations. The JJSES provides resources to assist in these areas including training on skill practice, specific tools that juvenile justice professionals can use to structure their sessions and teach pro-social skills, and a set of guidelines that align criminogenic needs with the most common skill deficits.

**The percentage of departments using skill building and tools remains high, changing very little from 2018 through 2023.**



## FY2023-2024 Data

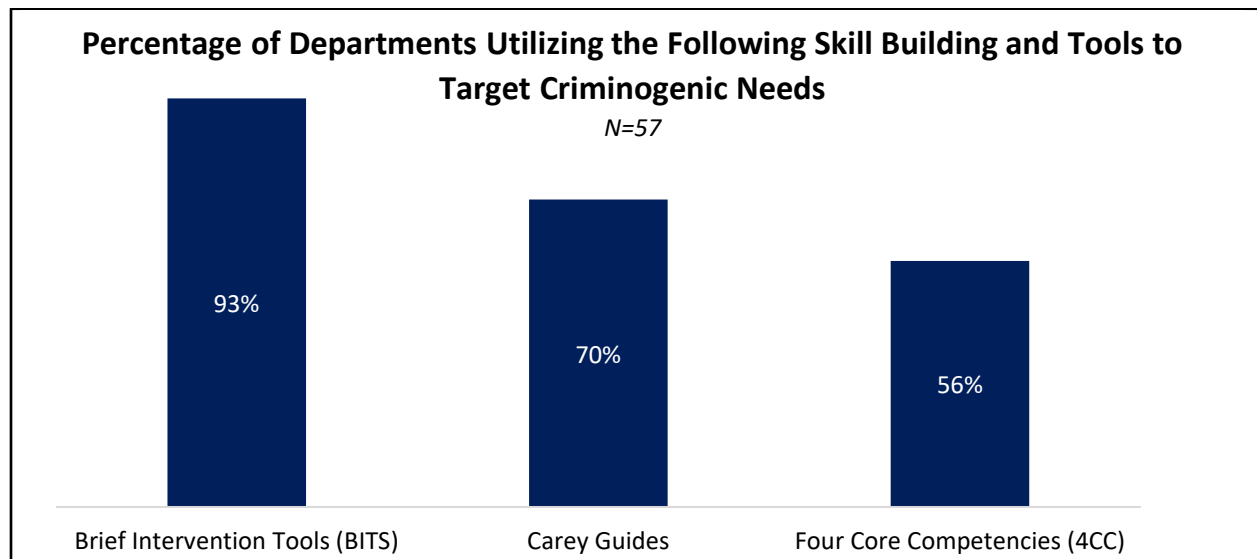
Fifty-seven (85%) departments reported being engaged in skill building and tool-focused activities in FY2023-2024. Among these 57 departments:

- Forty-two (74%) reported the majority of current staff completed training in the skill building and tools the department uses.
- Ten (18%) departments have a written policy that incorporates skill building and tools.
  - Among these ten departments, eight (80%) reported the majority of current staff use skill building and tools per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 126 trained skill building and tool coaches/coordinators.
- Thirty-four (60%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for skill building and tool training and quality assurance practices.
- The most common quality assurance practices for skill building and tool-focused activities are supervisory reviews (54%), skills practice (37%), and booster training (37%). Twenty (35%) departments do not practice any form of skill building and tools quality assurance.
- The most commonly used skill building and tools are BITS (93%), Carey Guides (70%), and Four Core Competencies (56%).
- Thirty-four (60%) departments planned additional skill building and tool-focused activities during the fiscal year.

Of the remaining ten departments, three were previously active, one of which planned skill building and tool-focused activities during FY2023-2024.

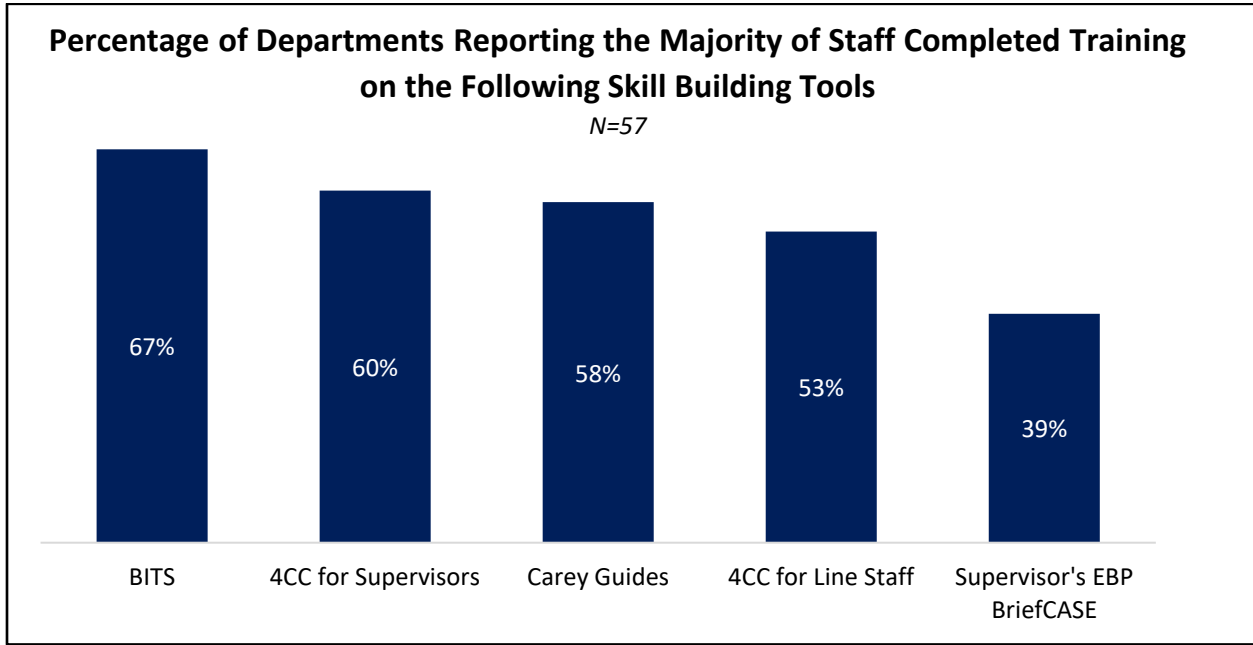
**The BITS are the most common tool used by departments to target criminogenic needs.**

Among departments engaged in skill building and tools, nearly all (93%) are utilizing the BITS.



**In addition to being the most frequently used skill building tool, BITS is the tool in which staff were most likely to be trained.**

Among those departments engaged in skill building and tool efforts, 38 (67%) report the majority of staff have completed training on the BITS.

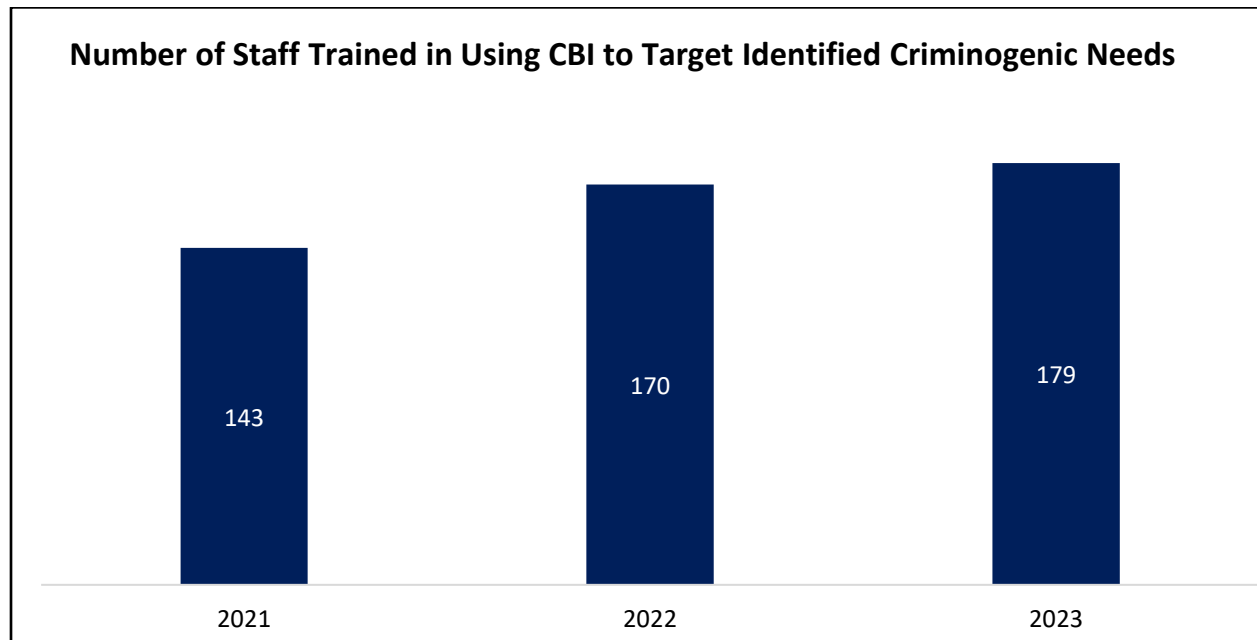


## Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI)

Cognitive behavioral interventions (CBI), delivered primarily in group settings, restructure problematic thinking patterns and attitudes, teaching youth to monitor their patterns of automatic thoughts in situations that could lead to antisocial behavior. Research indicates that CBI significantly impact delinquent behavior and recidivism among youth. CBI activities include NCTI/Crossroads®, Aggression Replacement Training® (ART), Thinking for a Change (T4C), Forward Thinking (The Change Companies®), Moral Reconciliation Therapy® (MRT), Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT).

**The number of staff trained as facilitators in the delivery of CBI increased by 25% from 2021 to 2023.**

In 2021, 143 staff were trained in using CBI to target identified criminogenic needs of youth. By 2023, 179 staff were trained, demonstrating a 25% increase in the number of staff trained over the past three years.



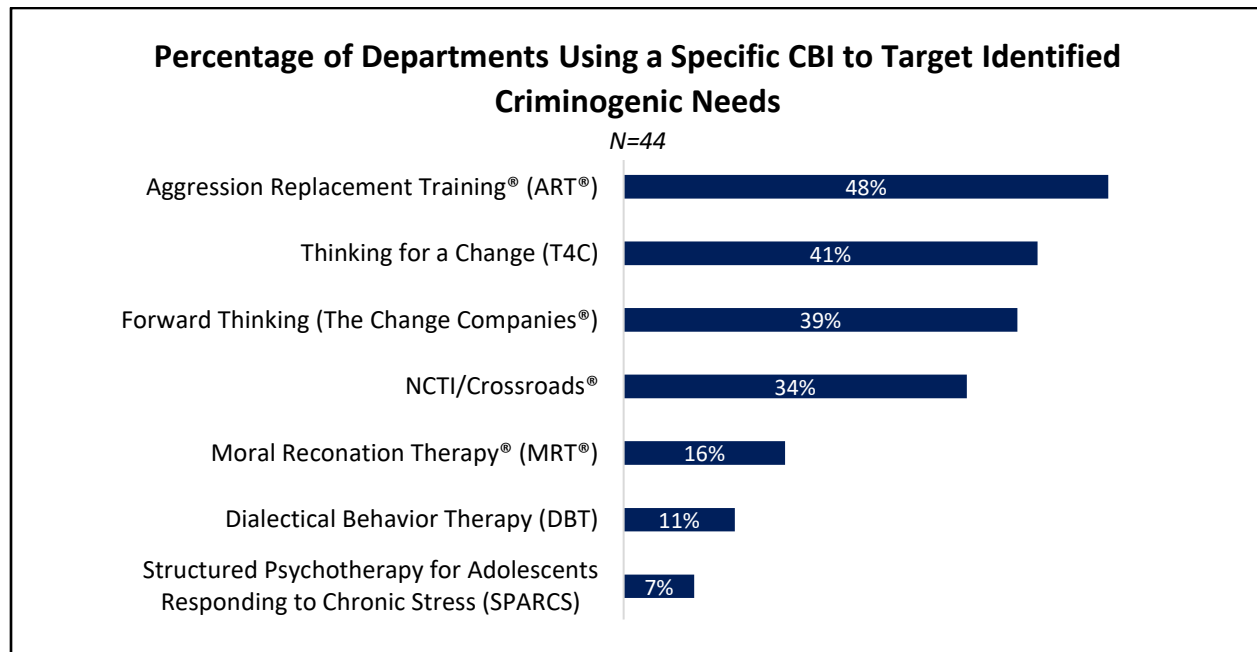
## FY2023-2024 Data

Forty-four (66%) departments reported being engaged in CBI activities in FY2023-2024. Among these 44 departments:

- Twenty (45%) reported the majority of current staff completed training in the CBI the department uses.
- Seven (16%) departments have a written policy that incorporates CBI.
  - Among these seven departments, six (86%) reported the majority of current staff use CBI per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 179 staff trained to facilitate CBI.
- Nineteen (43%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for CBI training and quality assurance practices.
- The most common CBI quality assurance practices are supervisory reviews (39%), skills practice (34%), and booster training (23%). Twenty-one (48%) departments do not practice any form of CBI quality assurance.
- The most common CBI used by departments are ART® (48%), T4C (41%), and Forward Thinking (The Change Companies) (39%).
- Twenty-one (48%) departments planned additional CBI activities during the fiscal year.

Of the remaining 23 departments, five were previously active, and two planned CBI activities during FY2023-2024.

**ART, T4C, and Forward Thinking (The Change Companies) are the most commonly used CBI in the state.**

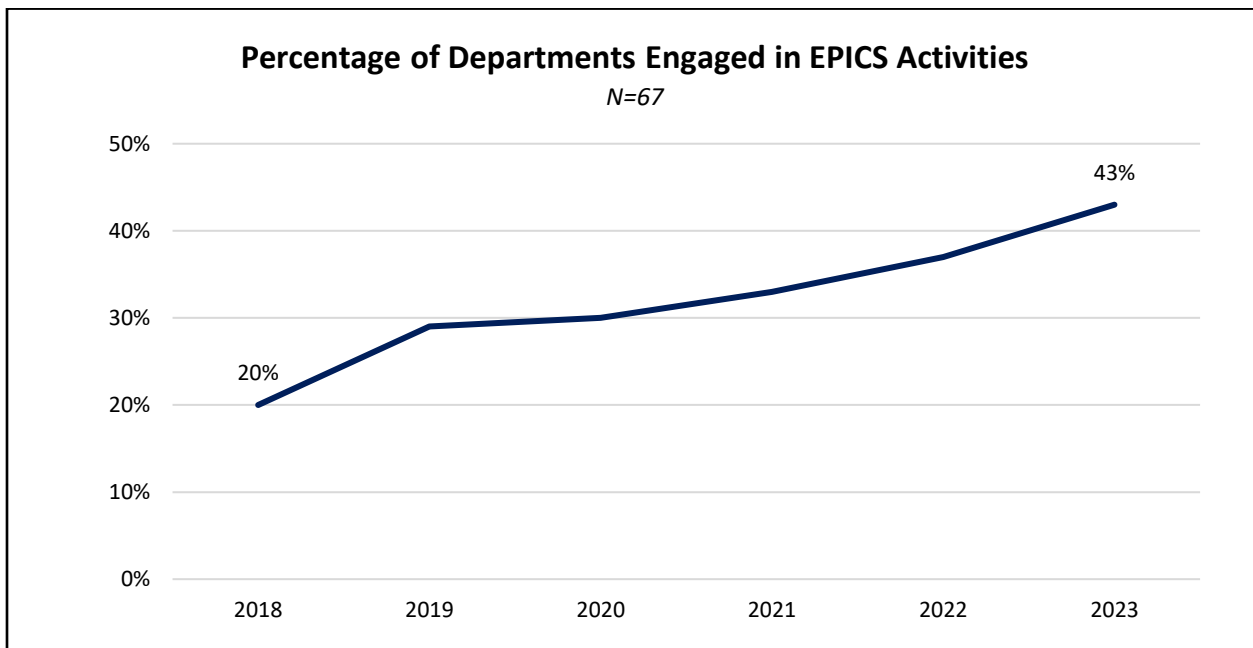


## Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)

The Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) model, developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute, uses targeted face-to-face interactions to provide youth with a sufficient “dosage” of treatment interventions and develop a collaborative working relationship. The EPICS model strives to fully utilize the time that officers spend with youth and ensure youth receive a consistent message throughout the continuum of supervision. In 2016, EPICS was selected as the model for community supervision in Pennsylvania. Since 2018, implementation and sustainability efforts to build statewide capacity of the model continue to occur.

**The percentage of departments engaged in EPICS activities has more than doubled over the past six years, with nearly half of departments statewide engaged in EPICS activities.**

In 2018, 20% of departments were engaged in EPICS activities. By 2023, 43% of departments reported EPICS engagement. The percentage of departments engaged in EPICS more than doubled between 2018 and 2023.



## FY2023-2024 Data

### **Implementation of EPICS continues to expand statewide with nearly half of departments currently reporting to be engaged in EPICS activities.**

Twenty-nine (43%) departments were engaged in EPICS in FY2023-2024. Among these 29 departments:

- Nineteen (66%) departments trained the majority of current staff on EPICS.
- Fifteen (52%) departments have a written policy that incorporates EPICS.
  - Among these 15 departments, 14 (93%) reported the majority of current staff use EPICS per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 431 staff who completed EPICS training and 114 EPICS internal coaches.
- Twenty (69%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for EPICS training and quality assurance practices.
- The most common EPICS quality assurance practices reported are supervisory reviews (69%), coaching sessions (62%), and skills practice (59%). Seven (24%) departments do not practice any form of EPICS quality assurance.
- Twenty (69%) departments planned additional EPICS activities during the fiscal year.

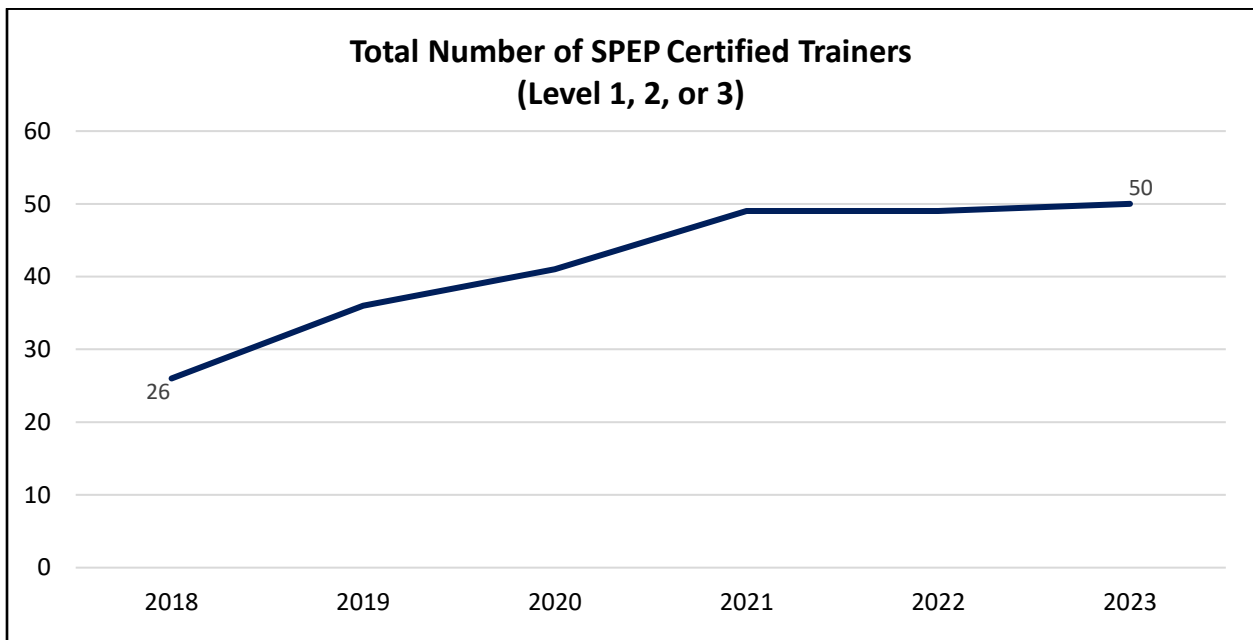
Of the remaining 38 departments, none were previously active, and two planned EPICS activities during FY2023-2024.

## Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)

Dr. Mark Lipsey from Vanderbilt University developed the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) from his meta-analysis of what works to reduce delinquency. The SPEP is a validated, data-driven rating system that determines how closely service characteristics match those associated with similar services that research studies have shown to have the best recidivism outcomes. SPEP assessments evaluate the following key components that have been found to be the most strongly related to reducing recidivism: service type, quality of service delivery, amount of service (i.e., dosage and duration), and risk levels of youth receiving the service. SPEP focuses on assessing and improving service delivery in each of these four areas.

**While the number of SPEP Certified Trainers has nearly doubled since 2018, the number of certified trainers statewide has plateaued over the last three years.**

In 2023, 50 staff were identified as either a Level 1, 2, or 3 SPEP Certified Trainer. Despite a recent plateau, the growing number of SPEP certified trainers since 2018 demonstrates juvenile probation department investment and sustainability of this activity.





## FY2023-2024 Data

Forty-one (61%) departments reported being engaged in SPEP activities in FY2023-2024. Among these 41 departments:

- Nineteen (46%) departments trained the majority of current staff on the use of SPEP results.
- Three (7%) departments have a written policy that incorporates the SPEP.
  - Among these three departments, all three (100%) reported the majority of current staff use SPEP per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 636 SPEP informed staff and 50 SPEP certified staff (i.e., Level 1, 2, or 3 trainers).
- Twenty-two (54%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for SPEP training and quality assurance practices.
- Ten (24%) departments reference the SPEP scores on the PCCD website when aligning services for youth. Sixteen (39%) departments reference the scores, but not for most decisions.
- Twenty-seven (66%) departments planned additional SPEP activities during the fiscal year.

Of the remaining 26 departments, three were previously active, and three planned SPEP activities during FY2023-2024.

The increasing number of programs and services that have gone through the SPEP process also demonstrates the degree to which this activity has become embedded in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS) conducted 531 SPEP implementations<sup>13</sup> with 66 service provider agencies since its inception and through 2023<sup>14</sup>:

- Three-hundred-thirty-four (63%) were residential, and 195 (37%) were community-based.
- Three-hundred-forty-eight (66%) were the service's first contact with SPEP; 126 (24%) were the service's second contact with SPEP; and 46 (9%) were the service's third contact with SPEP. Nine (2%) were the service's fourth contact with SPEP.

Finally, 19 Pennsylvania Academic, Career and Technical Training (PACTT) affiliate<sup>15</sup> provider agencies engaged in the SPEP process for 47 assessments through 2023:

- Forty-four (94%) were residential, and three (6%) were community-based.

Twenty-four (51%) were classified as Job-Related Intervention, and 23 (49%) were classified as Remedial Academic Training.

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<sup>13</sup> A SPEP implementation is any interaction a service has with an aspect of the SPEP Lifecycle.

<sup>14</sup> Data retrieved from Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS).

<sup>15</sup> PACTT is a public/private partnership of community-based agencies, residential facilities, and juvenile probation.

## Graduated Responses

A graduated response system uses incentives and sanctions to foster the pro-social behavior of juvenile justice-involved youth, promote accountability, restore victims, and decrease recidivism. Through a structured process that accounts for a youth's level of risk, needs, and responsivity, graduated responses recognize and reinforce positive behaviors and provide proportional responses to negative behaviors to improve short- and long-term outcomes. Responses are certain, swift, targeted, proportionate, and fair.

**The majority of departments report graduated responses engagement and continue to ensure critical implementation and sustainability components are established.**

## FY2023-2024 Data

Sixty (90%) departments report being engaged in graduated responses activities in FY2023-2024. Of these 60 departments:

- Thirty-nine (65%) departments trained the majority of current staff on using graduated responses.
- Forty-two (70%) departments have a written policy that incorporates graduated responses.
  - Among these 42 departments, 32 (76%) reported the majority of current staff use graduated responses per written policy.
- Pennsylvania has 65 graduated responses coordinators.
- Thirty-nine (65%) departments have an identified staff or unit responsible for graduated responses training and quality assurance practices.
- The most common quality assurance practices for graduated responses are supervisory reviews (63%), booster training (27%), and skills practice (20%). Seventeen (28%) departments do not practice any form of graduated responses quality assurance.
- Thirty-eight (63%) departments developed a graduated response matrix including related activities addressing the use of effective responses for non-compliant behavior and incentives for pro-social behaviors.
- Forty-three (72%) departments planned additional graduated responses activities during the fiscal year.

Of the remaining seven departments, none were previously active, and none planned graduated responses activities during FY2023-2024.

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## STAGE FOUR: REFINEMENT

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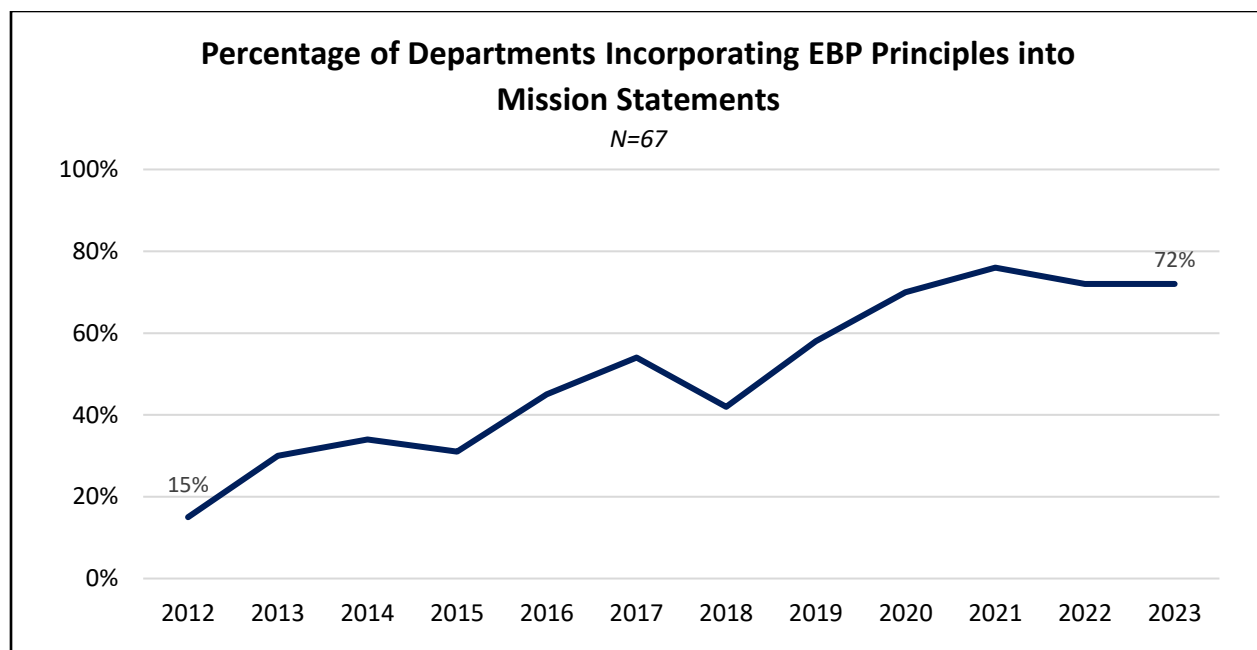
Stage Four involves developing a measurement and feedback system to ensure that evidence-based programs and practices are fully implemented and have their intended effect. As part of the Stage Four refinement process, this report measures JJSES’s implementation and identifies areas with room for improvement. The FY2023-2024 JJSES Implementation Survey examines the following Stage Four activities: Policy Alignment, Performance Measures, and Evidence-Based Practices Service Contracts. In 2023, 24 (36%) of departments planned Stage Four activities.

### Policy Alignment

Committing to evidence-based practices also means committing to evidence-based policy. Practice flows from policy, and uninformed policy can easily result in ineffective or even harmful consequences. This is especially true when it comes to implementing EBP in juvenile justice at the state and local levels.

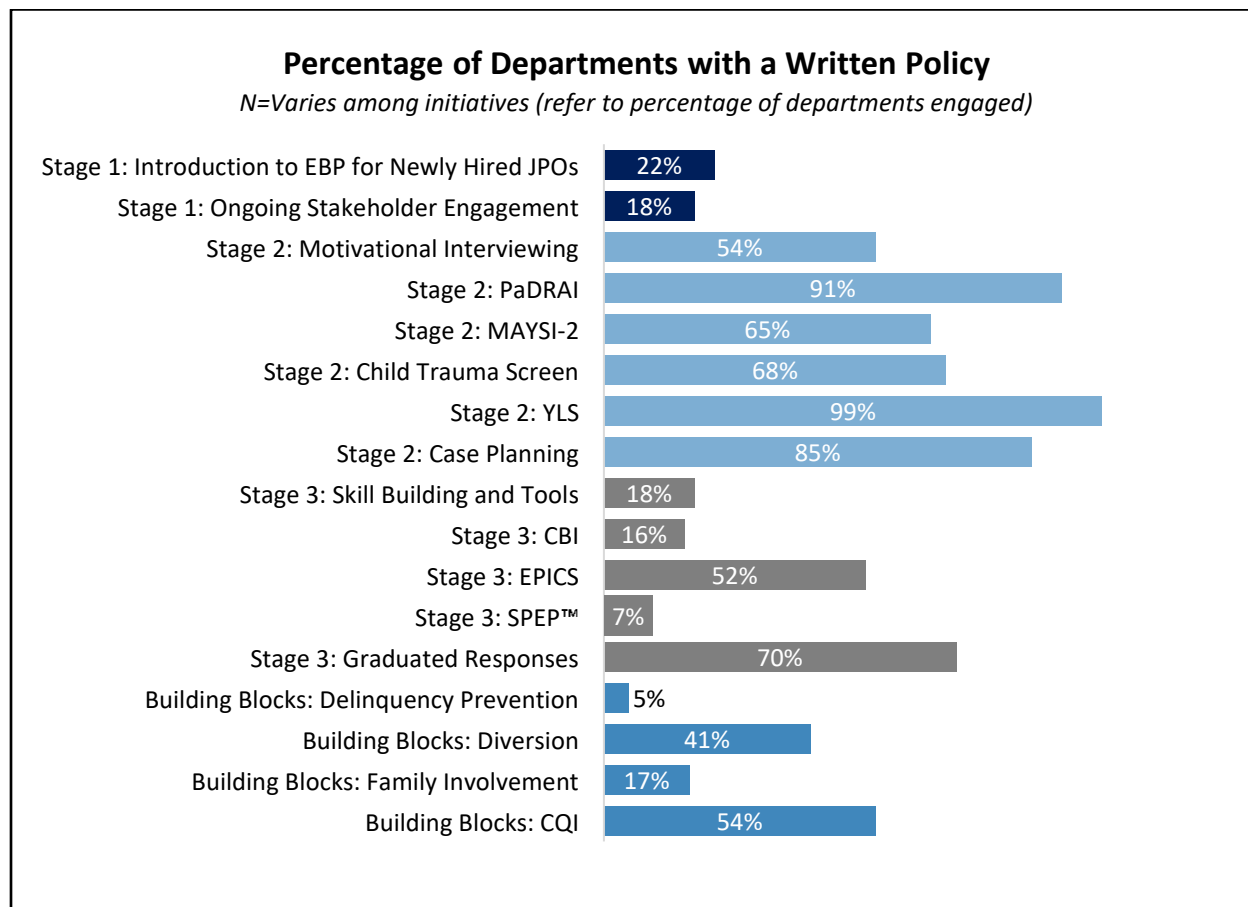
**EBP principles continue to become embedded within foundational departmental activities with almost three-fourths of departments currently reporting to incorporate EBP principles into their mission statements.**

In 2012, only 15% of departments reported incorporating EBP principles into their mission statements. By 2023, 72% of departments incorporated EBP principles into their mission statements.



## FY2023-2024 Data

**While expansion is still needed, policy alignment continues to progress throughout the state across the various activities of the JJSES.**



Pennsylvania's 67 departments reported in FY2023-2024:

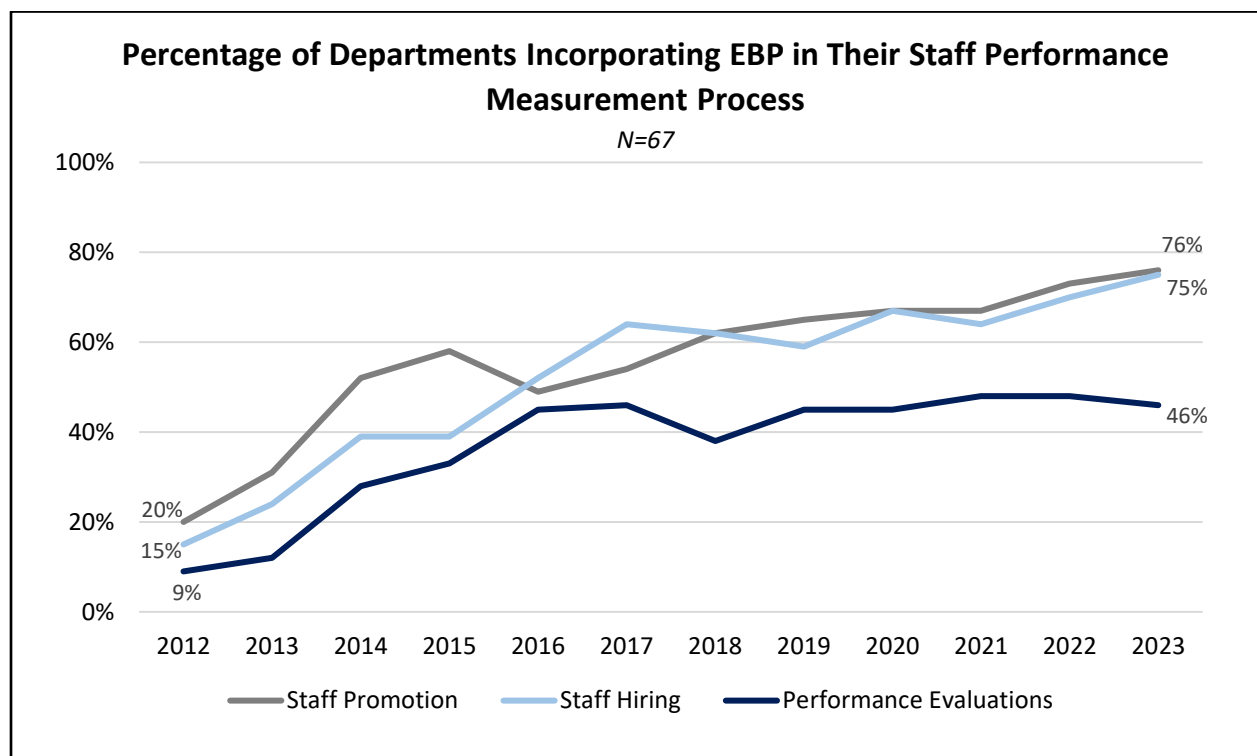
- Forty-eight (72%) departments incorporate EBP principles in their mission statements.
- Forty (60%) departments incorporate EBP principles in the majority of their policies, excluding ones reported earlier in this report.
- Sixteen (24%) departments incorporate youth and families in shaping the majority of policies.
- Thirty-four (51%) departments report the majority of their policies seek to eliminate unconscious/implicit racial bias in decision-making.
- One (1%) department has a written policy that seeks to increase staff understanding of strategies that promote racially equitable outcomes for justice-involved youth.
- Forty (60%) departments review and refine policies as needed while 14 (21%) do this annually, and 4 (6%) bi-annually.

## Performance Measures

Juvenile justice system leaders interested in determining the impact of their policies and practices on outcomes and identifying areas to improve need to put in place ways to measure the performance of their departments or juvenile justice systems. These measures help leaders determine whether their departments or systems are achieving their intended goals and outcomes. They quantify the effects of business processes, products, and services and allow for policy discussions and decisions to be "data-driven."

**Since 2012, departments have increasingly moved towards embedding EBP concepts within staff performance management processes.**

The percentage of departments incorporating EBP into staff hiring decisions increased from 15% in 2012 to 75% in 2023. Additionally, more than three-quarters (76%) of departments reported incorporating EBP in staff promotion decisions in 2023, up from 20% in 2012.



## FY2022-2023 Data

Out of Pennsylvania's 67 departments:

- Ten (15%) departments use the EBP job description template for both supervisors and juvenile probation officers. Although 23 (34%) do not use these templates, their supervisor and juvenile probation officer job descriptions reflect EBP principles.
- Eleven (16%) departments use the EBP Juvenile Probation Performance Appraisal Form for supervisors.
- Eighteen (27%) departments use the EBP Juvenile Probation Performance Appraisal Form for juvenile probation officers.
- Eleven (16%) departments implemented a Performance Self-Appraisal for supervisors.
- Sixteen (24%) departments implemented a Performance Self-Appraisal for juvenile probation officers.
- Thirty-one (46%) departments consider staff proficiency in EBP the majority of the time when conducting performance evaluations.
- Fifty (75%) departments consider EBP knowledge in staff hiring decisions.
- Fifty-one (76%) departments consider EBP proficiency in staff promotion decisions.

## Evidence-Based Practices Service Contracts

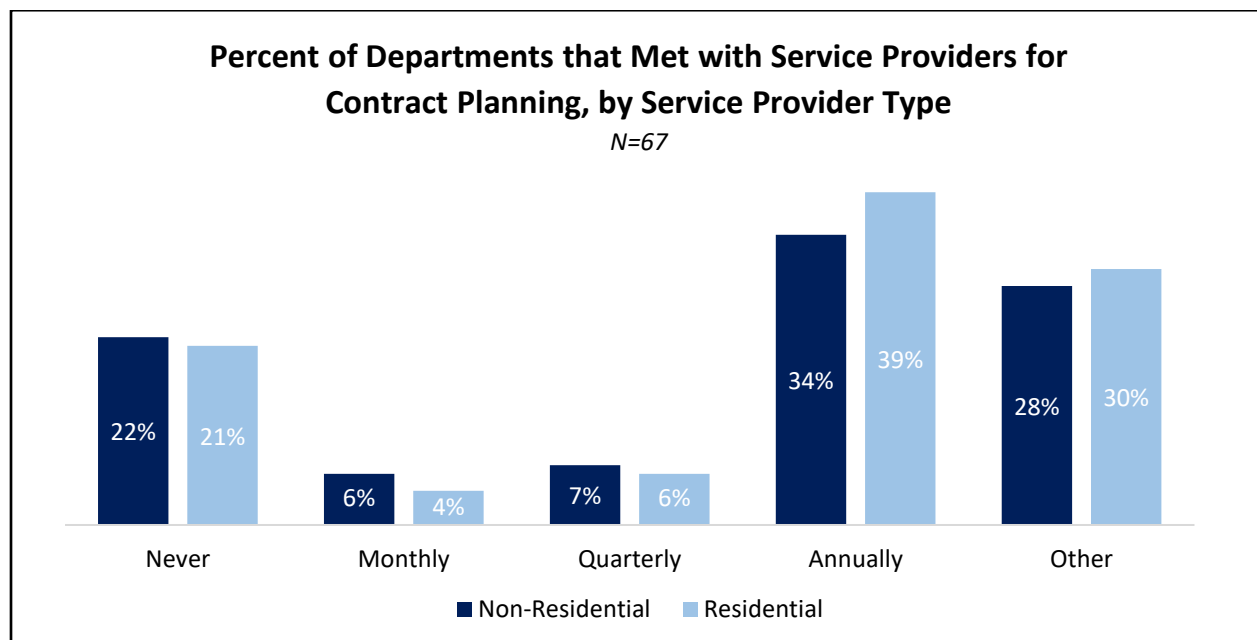
Many of the services provided to youth under juvenile justice supervision are delivered by private sector agencies and contractors. These services range from drug treatment to mental health treatment to education to employment services. They are usually provided according to the protocols and modalities of the relevant discipline. To ensure that service providers for youth understand the special circumstances leading to juvenile offending, they must become versed in evidence-based practices and work collaboratively with departments to develop treatment methods and services. An important tool in achieving this goal is the EBP service contract, which delineates the types of services required.

### FY2023-2024 Data

Out of Pennsylvania's 67 departments:

- Twenty-nine (43%) departments incorporate EBP language in their service provider contracts.
- Of the 29 departments, the following language is incorporated:
  - Twenty-one (72%) departments refer to an evaluation and outcome measures related to how effectively the program is matched to the needs of the youth.
  - Ten (34%) departments refer to a research-based process and treatment modality.
  - Ten (34%) departments reported that "other" EBP language is incorporated.
  - Seven (24%) departments refer to training service providers in the principles of EBP.
  - Eight (28%) departments refer to establishing multidimensional teams.

**More than one-third of departments meet annually with both non-residential and residential service providers for contract planning purposes.**



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## **BUILDING BLOCKS**

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JJSES considers certain activities to be “building blocks” because they cut across all four stages and articulate key principles underlying the JJSES. The FY2023-2024 JJSES Implementation Survey examines the following building blocks: Delinquency Prevention, Diversion, Family Involvement, and Continuous Quality Improvement.

### **Delinquency Prevention**

In meeting its public safety responsibilities, Pennsylvania has been proactive and has turned away from a purely reactive approach to delinquency in favor of one that supports programs that promote positive youth development in order to prevent delinquency from occurring in the first place.

### **FY2023-2024 Data**

Fifty-seven (85%) departments reported being engaged in delinquency prevention activities in FY2023-2024. Among the 57 departments:

- Twenty-three (40%) departments trained the majority of current staff in delinquency prevention.
- Three (5%) departments have a written policy that incorporates delinquency prevention.
  - Among these three departments, all three (100%) reported the majority of current staff use delinquency prevention per written policy.
- The most common delinquency prevention coalitions participated in are Drug and Alcohol Prevention Provider (44%), Single County Authority (42%), and Communities that Care (35%).
- Eleven (19%) departments access EPIS prevention services.
- The most frequent uses of the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) results are stakeholder engagement (33%), needs-based budget (32%), and program development (23%).
- Twenty-two departments (39%) planned additional delinquency prevention activities during the fiscal year.

Of the remaining ten departments, two were previously active, and none planned delinquency prevention activities during FY2023-2024.



## Diversion

Pre-adjudication diversion for all youth can occur at various decision-making points in the juvenile justice system. It can provide alternatives for youth who have not yet entered the juvenile justice system but who are at imminent risk of being charged with a delinquent act. It can occur after a youth has been charged with a crime and referred to the juvenile justice system, but prior to petition to court for formal proceedings. Finally, it can also occur after the filing of a petition but prior to a formal adjudication of delinquency. Examples of pre-adjudication diversion programs may include services available at the law enforcement level, various types of community accountability boards such as youth aid panels and peer courts, summary offense alternative adjudication programs, informal adjustment, and consent decree dispositions.

### FY2023-2024 Data

Sixty-one (91%) departments reported being engaged in diversion activities in FY2023-2024. Out of the 61:

- Thirty-six (59%) departments trained the majority of current staff in diversion.
- Twenty-five (41%) departments have a written policy that incorporates diversion.
  - Among these 25 departments, 24 (96%) reported the majority of current staff use diversion per written policy.
- The following pre-adjudication diversion options are available to youth: Informal Adjustment (100%), Consent Decree (98%), Youth Aid Panel (28%), Peer Court (11%), and Community Court (2%).
- Juvenile probation officers (100%), juvenile court judges (98%), district attorneys (98%), and public defenders (98%) were the stakeholder groups most likely to be educated on diversion. Community members (20%), victims (26%), and hearing officers (38%) were the stakeholder groups least likely to be educated on diversion.
- Twenty-three (38%) departments planned additional diversion activities during the fiscal year.

Of the remaining six departments, three were previously active, and two planned diversion activities during FY2023-2024.

## Family Involvement

Behavioral change efforts must include a youth's family and other key adults engaged in the youth's support system because they will assist in supporting and supervising the youth during probation (including helping the youth move through needed restorative actions, such as repairing harm to the victim, learning accountability, and developing competencies) and after completion of court involvement.

### FY2023-2024 Data

Sixty-three (94%) departments reported engagement in family involvement activities in FY2023-2024. Of these 63 departments:

- Thirty-two (51%) departments trained the majority of current staff on family involvement.
- Eleven (17%) departments have a written policy that incorporates family involvement.
  - Among these 11 departments, seven (64%) reported the majority of current staff use family involvement per written policy.
- Family-Focused Treatment Programs (e.g., Multi-Systemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy) (84%), Family Group Conferencing (FGC)/Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) (68%), and Family Involvement Training for staff (32%) are the most common initiatives in place to promote family involvement.
- Five (8%) departments utilize the Parenting Skills Workbooks the majority of the time. An additional 28 (44%) departments utilize the Parenting Skills Workbooks, but not the majority of the time. Setting Boundaries is the Parenting Skills Workbook most likely to be utilized.
- Fifty-two (83%) departments provide "A Family Guide to Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System" to families the majority of the time. An additional nine (14%) departments provide it to families, but not the majority of the time.
- Fifteen (24%) departments utilize a satisfaction survey for juveniles and parents the majority of the time. Three (5%) departments use one, but not the majority of the time.
- Seventeen (27%) departments utilize a satisfaction survey for victims the majority of the time. An additional three (5%) departments use one, but not the majority of the time.
- Pennsylvania has 208 staff who have completed the Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum facilitator training. Thirty-two (51%) departments engaged in family involvement activities do not have any staff trained to facilitate VCAC.
- Thirty-nine (62%) departments require youth to write an apology letter to their victim(s) the majority of the time. An additional 19 (30%) departments require youth to do this, but not the majority of the time.
- The majority of staff of 24 (38%) departments received formal training on how to interact with youth and families from different ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds in the past year. Sixteen (25%) departments offer this training on an annual basis. Seventeen (27%) departments indicated this training is never offered.

- The most common formats offered for training on how to interact with youth and families from different ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds are online (59%) and face-to-face (43%).
- Juvenile probation officers (70%), juvenile court judges (41%), and service providers (37%) were the stakeholder groups most likely to receive training on how to interact with youth and families from different ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds. Community members (3%), victims (5%), and magisterial district judges (11%) were the stakeholder groups least likely to receive this training.
- Nineteen (30%) departments plan to implement activities specifically aimed at educating probation staff in strategies that mitigate bias in decision making this fiscal year.
- Seventeen (27%) departments planned additional family involvement activities during the fiscal year.

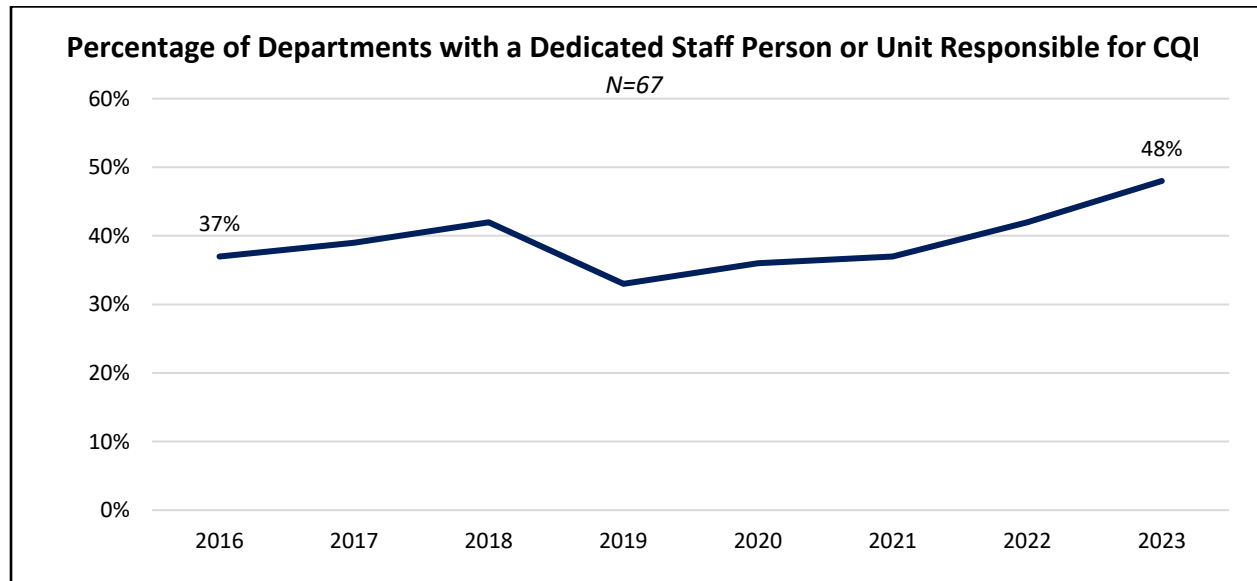
Of the remaining four departments, none were previously active, and none planned family involvement activities during FY2023-2024.

## Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

The term “continuous quality improvement,” or “CQI,” is used to describe a process that, when effectively implemented, can better ensure that a set of desired practices are delivered in the manner they were intended, continuously and over time. Research demonstrates that more effective outcomes are produced when departments introduce sound CQI processes.

**Nearly half of the departments in the state have a dedicated staff person or unit responsible for CQI efforts.**

Regardless of a decrease in 2019, the percentage of departments with a dedicated staff person or unit responsible for CQI has increased by 25% since 2016, demonstrating departmental commitment to CQI efforts and ultimately improved outcomes.



## FY2023-2024 Data

Out of Pennsylvania’s 67 departments:

- Twenty-one (31%) departments incorporate CQI into the majority of written policies. An additional 15 (22%) incorporate CQI, but not for the majority of policies.
- Pennsylvania has 133 staff with specialized roles to advance CQI.
- Thirty-two (48%) departments have a dedicated staff person or unit responsible for CQI.
- Case Planning, YLS, and Graduated Responses were reported as the most beneficial chapters of the Continuous Quality Improvement Sustainability Guide.
- Twenty-eight (42%) departments planned additional CQI activities during the fiscal year.

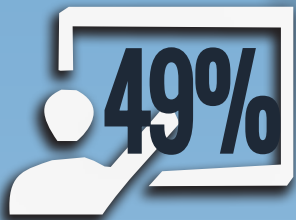
JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM  
ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY (JJSES)

**IMPLEMENTATION  
REPORT  
INFOGRAPHICS  
2023**

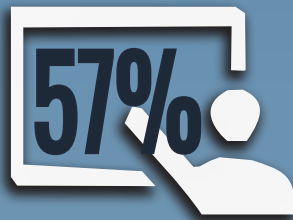


**pennsylvania**  
JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

# JJSES STAGE ONE: READINESS 2023

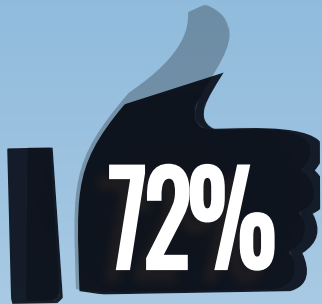


INTRO TO EBP



EBP BOOSTER

TRAINING PROVIDED AT LEAST ONCE LAST YEAR



MEET WITH THE MAJORITY OF  
STAKEHOLDERS  
TO PROVIDE JJSES UPDATES

DEPARTMENTS  
INCLUDE STAGE  
ONE ACTIVITIES

FOR FY2023-2024

44

\*N=67 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES

51 INTRO TO EBP  
TRAININGS  
PROVIDED

EBP BOOSTER  
TRAININGS  
PROVIDED 127

JPOs

JUDGES

SERVICE  
PROVIDERS

STAKEHOLDERS  
MOST ACTIVELY ENGAGED  
IN JJSES ACTIVITIES



pennsylvania

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

# JJSES STAGE TWO: MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING (MI) 2023



**64**  
DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED  
IN MI ACTIVITIES

HAVE STAFF/UNIT  
RESPONSIBLE FOR MI  
TRAINING AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE

**67%**



MOST COMMON METHODS OF  
QUALITY ASSURANCE:  
BOOSTER TRAININGS  
SKILLS PRACTICE  
COACHING SESSIONS

DEPARTMENTS  
PLANNING MI ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024

**48**

**160** MI COACHES  
STATEWIDE

**84%**

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED ON MI

**58%**

HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES MI

\*N=64 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



**pennsylvania**  
JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

# JJES STAGE TWO: PENNSYLVANIA DETENTION RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT (PaDRAI)

## 2023

**43**  
DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED  
IN PaDRAI ACTIVITIES

HAVE STAFF/UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR PaDRAI  
TRAINING AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE

**91%**

**11,298** TOTAL PaDRAI COMPLETED

**4%**

AGGRAVATING  
OVERRIDE TO  
DETENTION RATE

**2%**

AGGRAVATING  
OVERRIDE TO  
ATD RATE

**9%**

MITIGATING  
OVERRIDE  
RATE

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
PaDRAI ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024

**27**

**63** PaDRAI  
COORDINATORS  
STATEWIDE

**93%**

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED ON THE  
PaDRAI

**91%**

HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES THE PaDRAI

\*N=43 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



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# JJSES STAGE TWO: MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SCREENING INSTRUMENT VERSION 2 (MAYSI-2)

## 2023

**40**  
DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED  
IN MAYSI-2 ACTIVITIES

**75%**

HAVE STAFF/UNIT  
RESPONSIBLE FOR MAYSI-2  
TRAINING AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE

TOTAL  
MAYSI-2  
COMPLETED **3,080**

**564**

NUMBER OF  
CRITICAL CASES  
IDENTIFIED

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
MAYSI-2 ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024

**27**

**62** MAYSI-2  
COORDINATORS  
STATEWIDE

**68%**

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED  
ON THE MAYSI-2

**65%**

HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES THE MAYSI-2

\*N=40 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



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# JJSES STAGE TWO: CHILD TRAUMA SCREEN (CTS)

## 2023

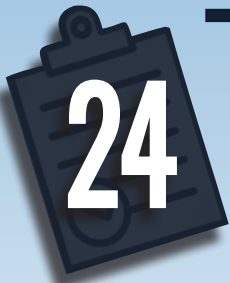
 22

DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED  
IN CTS ACTIVITIES

 86%

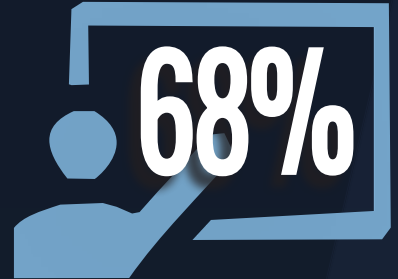
HAVE STAFF/UNIT  
RESPONSIBLE FOR  
TRAINING AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE

TOTAL  
CTS COMPLETED **2,509**

 24

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
CTS ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024

 43 CTS  
COORDINATORS  
STATEWIDE

 68%

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED ON THE  
CTS

 68%

HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES THE CTS

\*N=22 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



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# JJSES STAGE TWO: YOUTH LEVEL OF SERVICE™ (YLS)

2023

 **67** DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED  
IN YLS ACTIVITIES

 **90%** HAVE STAFF/UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR YLS  
TRAINING AND QUALITY  
ASSURANCE

YLS ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED **21,588**

 **2%** YLS OVERRIDE RATE

DEPARTMENTS HAVE A YLS  
SERVICE MATRIX **72%**

YLS RISK LEVEL DISTRIBUTION\*\*

**57%** LOW **37%** MODERATE

**6%** HIGH **<1%** VERY HIGH

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
YLS ACTIVITIES **49**  
FOR FY2023-2024

**220** YLS MASTER  
TRAINERS  
STATEWIDE

 **99%**

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED ON THE YLS

 **90%**

RECEIVED  
BOOSTER TRAININGS  
FROM A YLS MASTER TRAINER

 **99%**

HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES THE YLS

\*N=67 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES

\*\*BASED ON INITIAL  
ASSESSMENTS ONLY




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# JJSES STAGE TWO: CASE PLANNING 2023

 **66**  
DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED  
IN CASE PLANNING ACTIVITIES

 **82%**  
HAVE STAFF/UNIT RESPONSIBLE  
FOR CASE PLAN  
TRAINING AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE

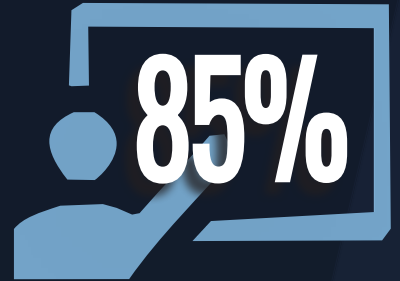
**MOST COMMON METHODS OF  
QUALITY ASSURANCE:**  
SUPERVISOR REVIEWS  
BOOSTER TRAINING  
CASE PLAN  
COORDINATOR REVIEWS



**DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
CASE PLANNING  
ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024**



**137** CASE PLAN  
COORDINATORS  
STATEWIDE

 **85%**

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED  
ON CASE PLANNING

 **85%**

HAVE A **WRITTEN POLICY**  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES CASE PLANNING

\*N=66 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



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# JJES STAGE THREE: Skill Building & Tools 2023

 **57**  
DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED

IN SKILL BUILDING & TOOLS ACTIVITIES

 **60%**

HAVE STAFF/UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR  
SKILL BUILDING & TOOLS  
TRAINING AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE

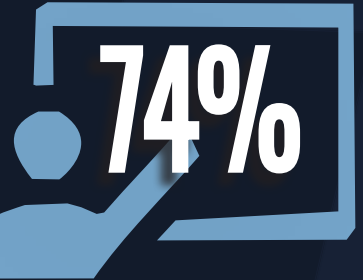


**4** CAREY GUIDES  
FOUR CORE COMPETENCIES  
MOST COMMON SKILL BUILDING & TOOLS  
UTILIZED

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
SKILL BUILDING & TOOLS  
ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024

 **35**

**126** SKILL BUILDING  
& TOOLS  
COACHES/  
COORDINATORS  
STATEWIDE

 **74%**

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED  
ON SKILL BUILDING & TOOLS

 **18%**

HAVE A **WRITTEN POLICY**  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES SKILL  
BUILDING & TOOLS

\*N=57 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



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# JJES STAGE THREE: COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS (CBI)

## 2023

### 44



DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED  
IN CBI ACTIVITIES

### 43%

HAVE STAFF/UNIT  
RESPONSIBLE FOR CBI  
TRAINING AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE

MOST COMMON CBI UTILIZED BY DEPARTMENTS:  
AGGRESSION REPLACEMENT TRAINING®  
THINKING FOR A CHANGE  
FORWARD THINKING



### 23

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
CBI ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024

\*N=44 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES

### 179

STAFF TRAINED  
TO FACILITATE  
CBI STATEWIDE

### 45%

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED ON CBI

### 16%

HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES CBI



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# JJES STAGE THREE: EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (EPICS) 2023

 **29**  
DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED  
IN EPICS ACTIVITIES

 **69%**

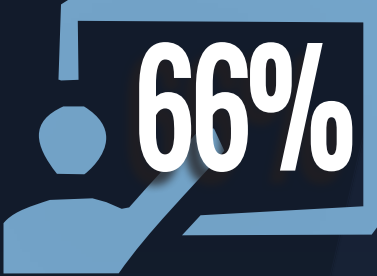
HAVE STAFF/UNIT  
RESPONSIBLE FOR EPICS  
TRAINING AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE

**114** INTERNAL  
EPICS COACHES  
STATEWIDE

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
EPICS ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024

 **22**

**431** STAFF TRAINED  
ON EPICS  
STATEWIDE

 **66%**

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED ON EPICS

 **52%**


HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES EPICS

\*N=29 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



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# JJES STAGE THREE: STANDARDIZED PROGRAM EVALUATION PROTOCOL (SPEP™) 2023

 **41**  
DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED  
IN SPEP™ ACTIVITIES

 **54%**

HAVE STAFF/UNIT  
RESPONSIBLE FOR  
TRAINING AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE

TOTAL NUMBER OF  
SERVICE PROVIDERS INVOLVED  
IN SPEP™ PROCESS\*\*

**66**

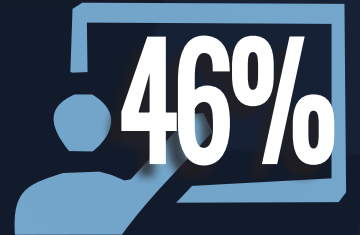
**531**

TOTAL  
SPEP™ IMPLEMENTATIONS  
CONDUCTED\*\*

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
SPEP™ ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024

**30**

**50** SPEP™  
LEVEL 1, 2, OR 3  
CERTIFIED STAFF  
STATEWIDE

 **46%**

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED  
ON THE USE OF SPEP™ RESULTS

 **636**

TOTAL NUMBER OF  
STAFF THAT  
COMPLETED  
SPEP™ INFORMED  
TRAINING

 **7%**

HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES SPEP™

\*N=41 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES  
\*\* REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE SPEP™ FOR 2023



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# JJSES STAGE THREE: GRADUATED RESPONSES 2023

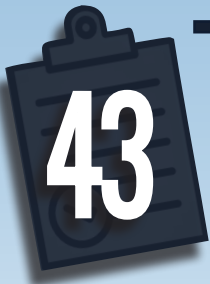


60  
DEPARTMENTS  
ENGAGED  
IN GRADUATED RESPONSES



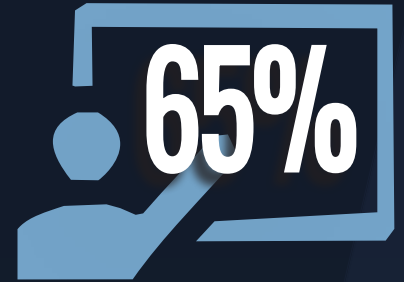
HAVE STAFF/UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR  
GRADUATED RESPONSES  
TRAINING AND  
QUALITY ASSURANCE

HAVE A  
GRADUATED RESPONSES  
MATRIX 63%



DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
GRADUATED RESPONSES  
FOR FY2023-2024

65 GRADUATED  
RESPONSES  
COORDINATORS  
STATEWIDE



HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED  
ON GRADUATED RESPONSES



HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES GRADUATED  
RESPONSES

\*N=60 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



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# JJSES STAGE FOUR: REFINEMENT 2023



29

DEPARTMENTS INCORPORATE  
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES (EBP)  
INTO CONTRACTS WITH  
SERVICE PROVIDERS

75%

TAKE EBP PROFICIENCY INTO  
CONSIDERATION IN  
STAFF HIRING DECISIONS

TAKE EBP PROFICIENCY INTO  
CONSIDERATION IN  
STAFF PROMOTION DECISIONS

76%

24

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
STAGE FOUR ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024



DEPARTMENTS UTILIZE EBP  
PERFORMANCE  
APPRAISALS FOR  
SUPERVISORS



DEPARTMENTS UTILIZE EBP  
PERFORMANCE  
APPRAISALS FOR  
JPOs



DEPARTMENTS HAVE  
A MAJORITY OF  
POLICIES  
INCORPORATING  
EBP PRINCIPLES

\*N=67 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



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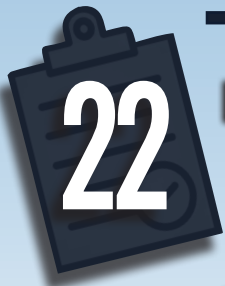
# JJSES BUILDING BLOCKS: DELINQUENCY PREVENTION 2023



DEPARTMENTS ENGAGED IN  
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION  
ACTIVITIES

19% DEPARTMENTS ACCESS  
EPIS PREVENTION SERVICES

MOST FREQUENT USE OF THE PAYS RESULTS:  
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT  
NEEDS-BASED BUDGET  
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION  
ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024

\*N=57 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES

MOST COMMON  
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION  
COALITIONS PARTICIPATED  
IN:



DRUG & ALCOHOL  
PREVENTION PROVIDER



SINGLE COUNTY  
AUTHORITY

COMMUNITIES  
THAT CARE



HAVE A **WRITTEN POLICY**  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES DELINQUENCY  
PREVENTION



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# JJSES BUILDING BLOCKS: DIVERSION 2023

✓ 61

DEPARTMENTS ENGAGED IN  
DIVERSION  
ACTIVITIES

MOST COMMON DIVERSION  
OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO YOUTH:



INFORMAL  
ADJUSTMENT



CONSENT  
DECREE



YOUTH AID  
PANEL

25

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
DIVERSION ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024



HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES DIVERSION

JPOs  
JUDGES  
DAs  
PUBLIC  
DEFENDERS

STAKEHOLDERS  
MOST LIKELY TO BE  
EDUCATED IN DIVERSION

\*N=61 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



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# JJSES

# BUILDING BLOCKS: 208

# FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

# 2023



# 63

DEPARTMENTS ENGAGED IN  
FAMILY INVOLVEMENT  
ACTIVITIES

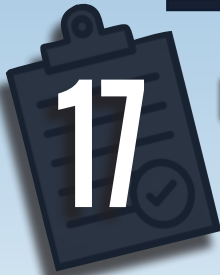


# 24%

DEPARTMENTS UTILIZE  
SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR  
JUVENILES & PARENTS  
THE MAJORITY OF THE TIME



SETTING BOUNDARIES  
IS THE PARENTING SKILLS WORKBOOK  
MOST LIKELY TO BE UTILIZED



# 17

DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
FAMILY INVOLVEMENT  
ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024



STAFF COMPLETED  
THE VCAC  
FACILITATOR  
TRAINING STATEWIDE



# 51%

HAVE THE MAJORITY OF  
STAFF TRAINED  
ON FAMILY INVOLVEMENT



HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY  
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT  
INCORPORATES FAMILY  
INVOLVEMENT

\*N=63 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



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# JJSES BUILDING BLOCKS: CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (CQI) 2023



HAVE  
STAFF/UNIT RESPONSIBLE  
FOR CQI



MOST BENEFICIAL CHAPTERS OF  
THE CQI SUSTAINABILITY GUIDE:  
CASE PLANNING  
YLS  
GRADUATED RESPONSES



DEPARTMENTS PLANNING  
CQI ACTIVITIES  
FOR FY2023-2024

133 STAFF WITH  
SPECIALIZED ROLES  
TO ADVANCE  
CQI STATEWIDE



INCORPORATE CQI INTO  
THE MAJORITY OF  
WRITTEN POLICIES

\*N=67 DEPARTMENTS  
FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



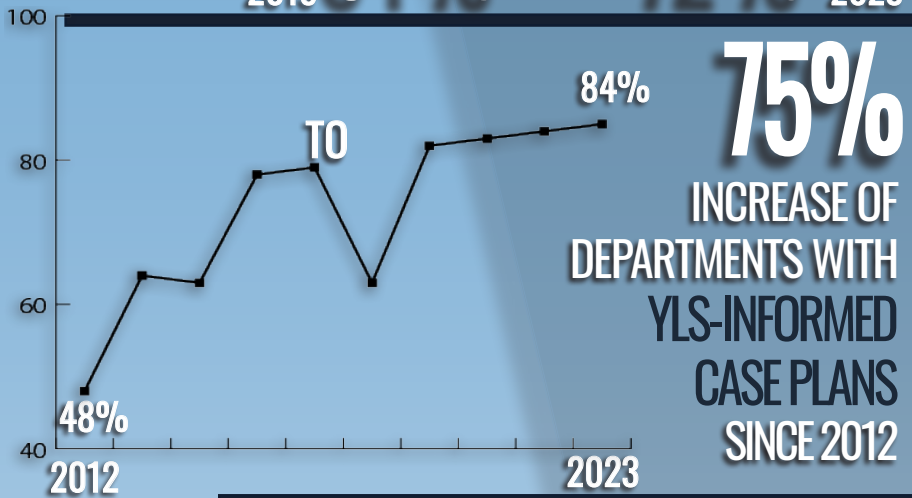
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# JJSES TREND DATA

## 2023

INCREASE IN  
PERCENTAGE OF DEPARTMENTS  
MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS  
REGARDING JJSES:

2015 **34%** → **72%** 2023



### 75%

INCREASE OF  
DEPARTMENTS WITH  
YLS-INFORMED  
CASE PLANS  
SINCE 2012



## SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

**137**

CASE PLAN  
COORDINATORS

**160**

MI  
COACHES

**63**

PaDRAI  
COORDINATORS

**65**

GRADUATED  
RESPONSES  
COORDINATORS

**50**

SPEP™ CERTIFIED  
TRAINERS

**114**

EPICS COACHES

**220**

YLS MASTER TRAINERS

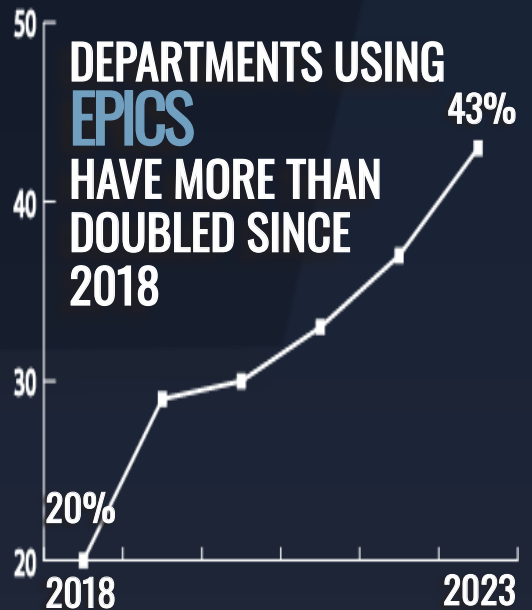
# 100%

DEPARTMENTS USE THE  
YOUTH LEVEL OF SERVICE™



**35** **12**  
2023 VS. 2016

PERCENTAGE OF  
DEPARTMENTS THAT UTILIZE  
THE PaDRAI RESULTS  
TO INFORM DETENTION  
DECISIONS NEARLY  
TRIPLED SINCE 2016



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