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# Improving Outcomes for Youth in Sonoma County, California

**May 9, 2019**

**CSG Justice Center Presenters:**

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Courtney Warren, Policy Analyst, Juvenile Justice

# About the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center



Corrections



Justice Reinvestment



Mental Health



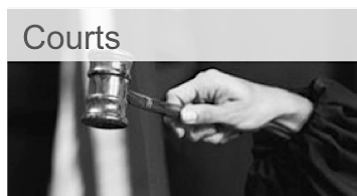
Reentry



Substance Abuse



Youth



Courts



Law Enforcement



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National nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership association of state government officials that engages members of all three branches of state government

Provides practical, nonpartisan research-driven strategies and tools to increase public safety and strengthen communities



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# About the National Reentry Resource Center



- Authorized by the passage of the Second Chance Act in April 2008
- Launched by The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center in October 2009
- Administered in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



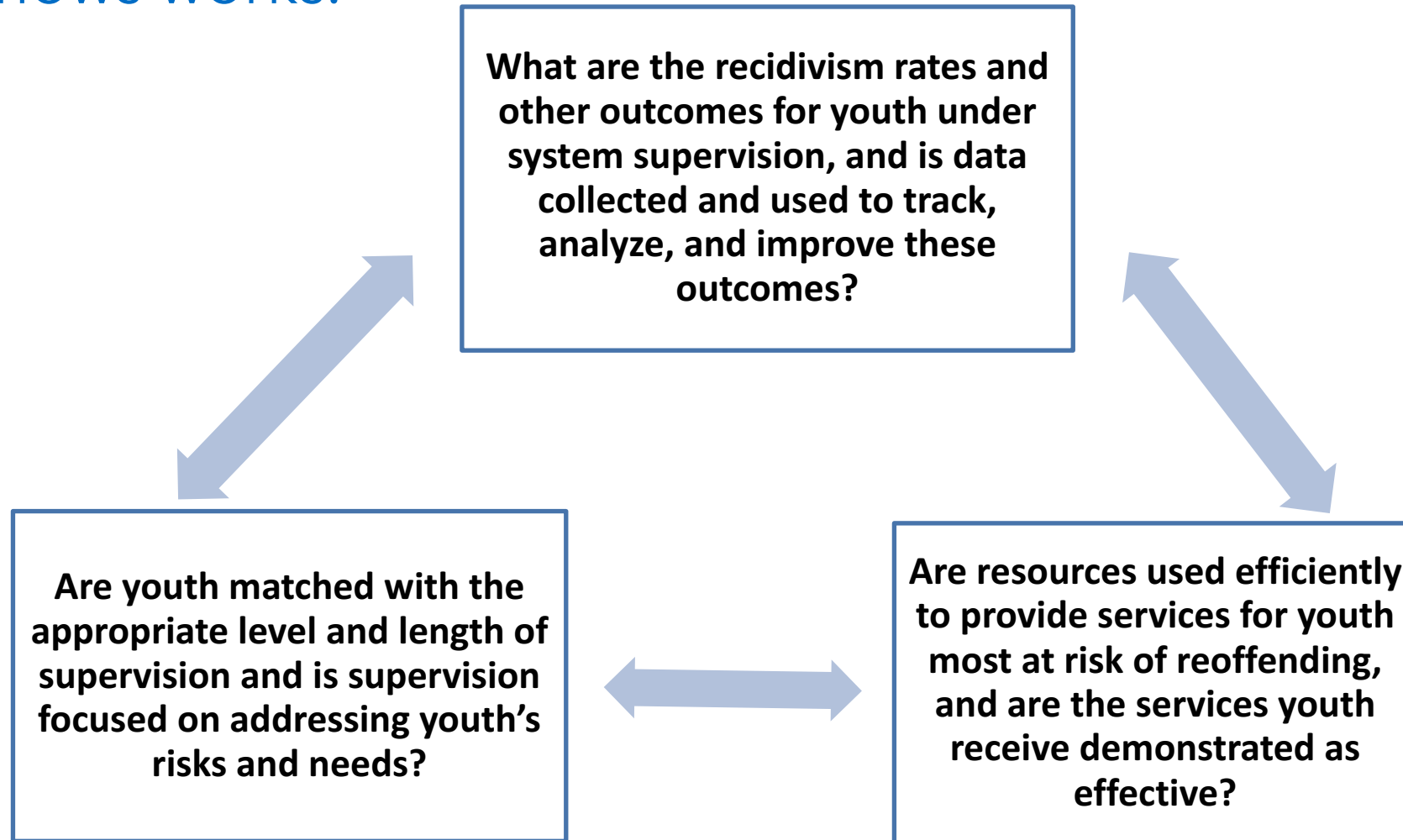
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# Improving Outcomes for Youth Initiative (IOYouth) in Sonoma County

IOYouth is a data-driven initiative that helps states and counties align their policies, practices, and resource allocation with what research shows works.



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# Sonoma County established an IOYouth task force to oversee and guide the initiative.

- Bill Carter, Behavioral Health Division Director
- Karen Feis, Human Services Director
- Vanessa Fuchs, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
- Ken Gness, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge
- Rob Halverson, Research and Program Manager, Sonoma County Probation
- Nick Klein, County Administrators Officer
- David Koch, Chief Probation Officer
- Georgia Loakimedes, Alternative Education Director, Sonoma County Office of Education
- Brad Michnevich, Juvenile Services Division Director II
- Marty Mitchell, Juvenile Hall Division Director II
- Ray Navarro, Captain, Santa Rosa Police Department
- Lawrence Ornell, Dependency Judge and Specialty Delinquency Courts
- Kathleen Pozzi, Public Defender
- Jill Ravich, District Attorney
- Melissa Segura, Probation Camp Division Director I
- Lisa Valente, Keeping Kids in School Program Manager

# The task force oversees the initiative and is responsible for determining how best to improve Sonoma County's juvenile justice system.

## TASK FORCE RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Oversee initiative and scope of work**
- **Provide strategic direction on policy option development**
- **Reach consensus on policy options and recommendations**

## CSG JUSTICE CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES

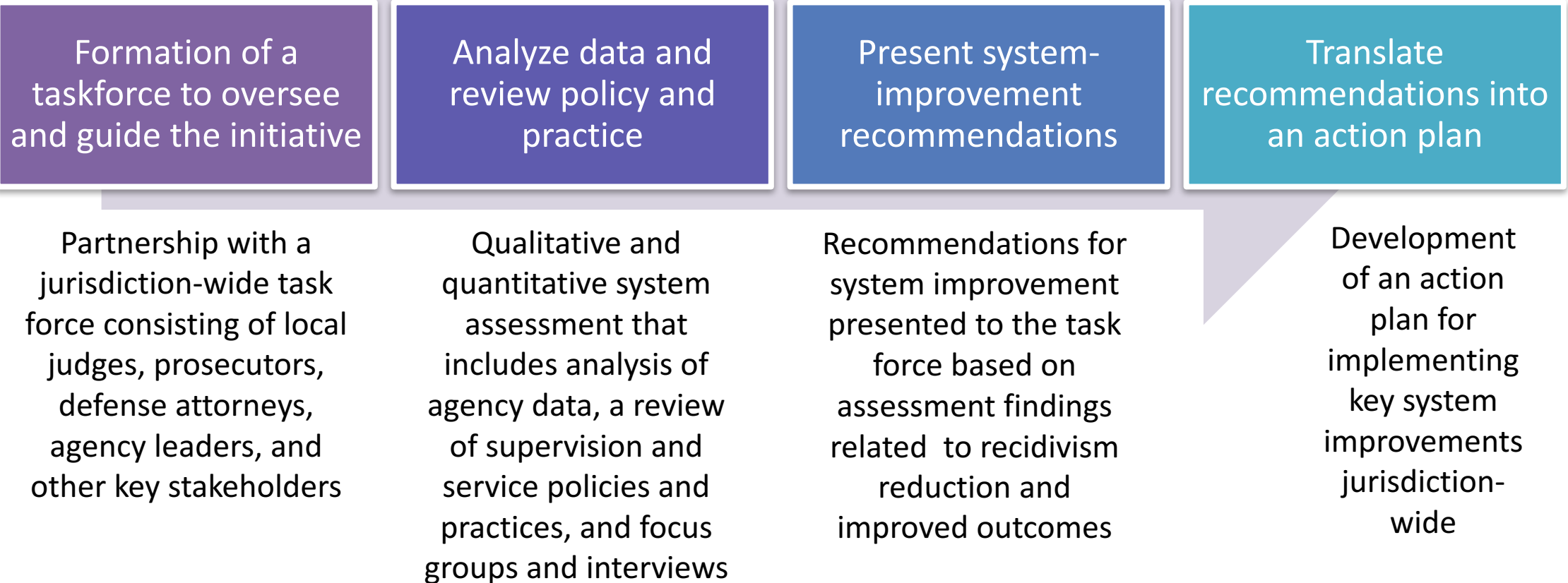
- **Identify juvenile justice system priorities**
- **Develop an action plan with recommendations and a plan for implementation**
- **Provide dedicated staff to Sonoma County**
- **Analyze system data and conduct extensive interviews/focus groups**
- **Deliver findings, present recommendations, and assist with translation into action plan**



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# The IOYouth Initiative has four key phases of work.

## 9-12 month process



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# IOYouth Initiative timeline and key deliverables.

## May 2019

- **1<sup>st</sup> Task Force Meeting**
- Focus groups on front end of system – referrals, diversion, detention

## August 2019

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force Meeting**
- Presentation of findings on front end of system
- Focus groups on probation, camp, and placement

## November 2019

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Task Force Meeting**
- Presentation of findings on probation, camp, and placement
- Focus groups to discuss potential recommendations

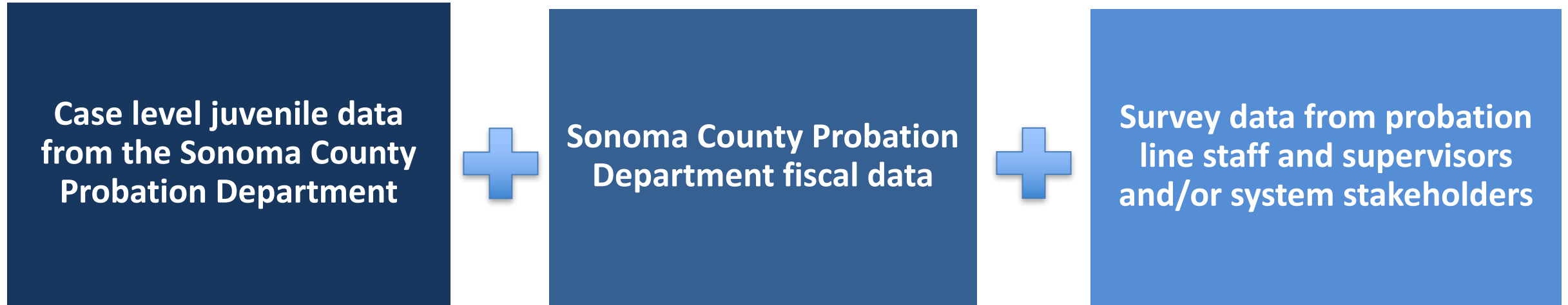
## January-March 2020

- **4<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting**
- Review and discuss findings and recommendations
- Build consensus
- Develop action plan and budget/policy proposals



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The quantitative assessment will analyze case level juvenile justice and fiscal data to understand system trends and youth outcomes.



CSG Justice Center staff will engage in a series of focus groups and interviews with system stakeholders.

Probation  
Leadership and  
Staff

Juvenile Hall/Camp  
Leadership and  
Staff

Youth & Parents

Law Enforcement

Other Youth-Serving  
Systems (Education,  
Child Welfare,  
Behavioral Health)

Community-  
based/Residential  
Providers

Public  
Defenders/DAs

Judicial Officials

County  
Administration



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The task force will develop recommendations and an action plan for improvement based on assessment findings and what the research shows works.

- Cobb County, GA
  - Develop a **service matrix that outlines specific risk and need eligibility criteria** for all internal services as well as specific referral policies and protocols for reach intervention
  - Establish **dispositional guidelines** to match youth with the right level/length of supervision
  - Ensure that the **juvenile court has regular representation at existing external forums** for service collaboration
- Cook County, IL
  - Adopt **mental health/substance use/trauma screening tools** for use with all youth pre-disposition, and eliminate the standard condition of referrals to TASC unless substance use screenings indicate the need for further assessment.
  - Reposition **probation to oversee the intake function** for all youth referred to the juvenile justice system
  - Establish more **robust diversion options** in the community



There are five crucial elements that can lead to a more successful IOYouth Initiative.

1. Strong **leadership** to champion the process and support implementation of recommendations
2. Transparent **communication** with staff and other system stakeholders
3. Transparent **sharing of data** and information
4. Agency **engagement and buy-in** to improving youth outcomes
5. Continuing conversations and reflection **in-between site visits**

The CSG Justice Center is also poised to provide additional implementation support following the development of an action plan.

### Low Intensity Technical Assistance

- Sharing examples of key performance and youth outcome measures and developing a plan for data collection
- Establishing an implementation/oversight committee and a detailed implementation plan with timelines, key deliverables and responsibilities
- Providing resources and connections to vendors, experts, and peers

### Moderate/High Intensity Technical Assistance

- Setting agendas and objectives for implementation committee and support with meeting facilitation
- Developing performance and youth outcome measures and tracking and reporting on measures
- Drafting/reviewing policies, procedures, guidelines, RFPs, budget proposals, and other materials



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## Discussion

**Are there additional data sources we should examine or conversations that we should have during the assessment process?**

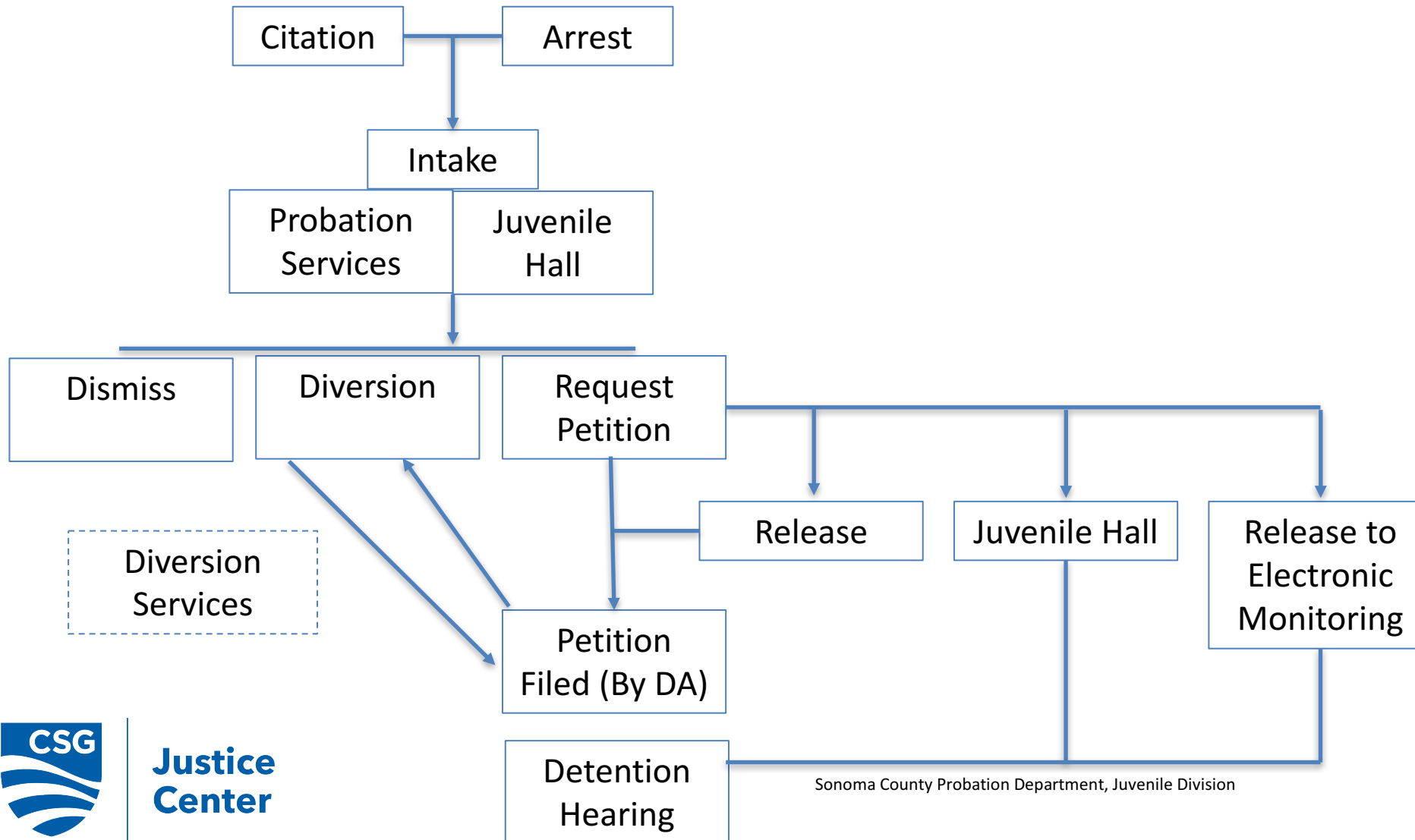
**How would you describe or define success from this initiative?**



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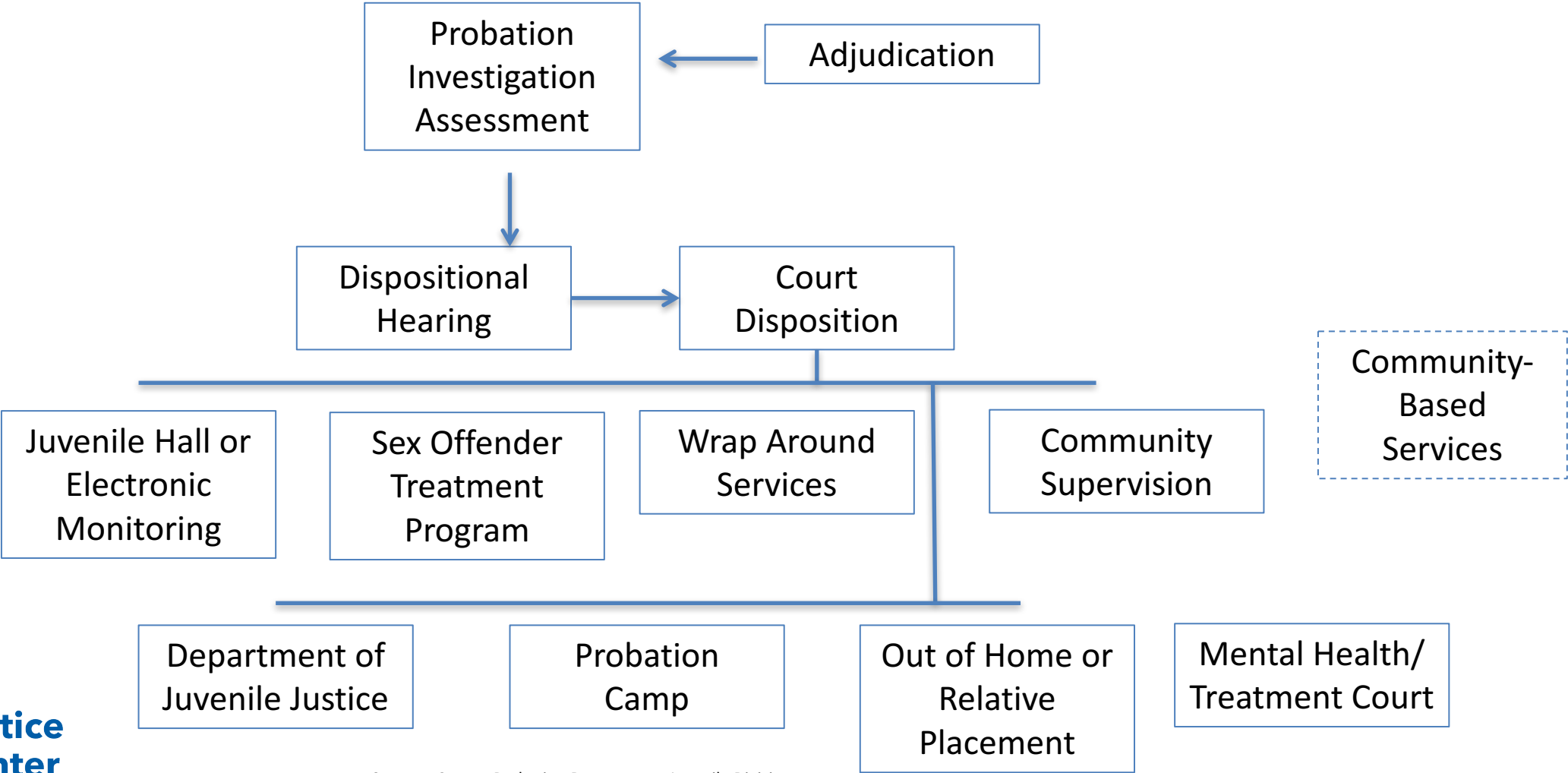
# System Challenges and Opportunities

# Juvenile Justice System Flow in Sonoma County



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# Juvenile Justice System Flow in Sonoma County - Continued



Sonoma County spends approximately \$20 million annually on its juvenile justice system.

**Juvenile Justice Budget, FY2019**

Section	Amount (millions)
Juvenile Hall	\$13.68
Juvenile Probation Camp	\$3.51
Juvenile Probation Supervision	\$3.12
Juvenile Investigations	\$1.93
Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act	\$1.73
Youthful Offender Block Grant	\$1.23

Open Budget of Sonoma County, <http://budget.sonomacounty.ca.gov/#!/year/2019/operating>



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IOYouth will build upon reforms that Sonoma County has adopted and implemented over the last several years.

## Adoption and Implementation of EBPs

- Alignment of case management approach with EBPs, including motivational interviewing, goal-based case planning, and comprehensive training for probation officers
- Implementation of Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) model

## Quality Assurance

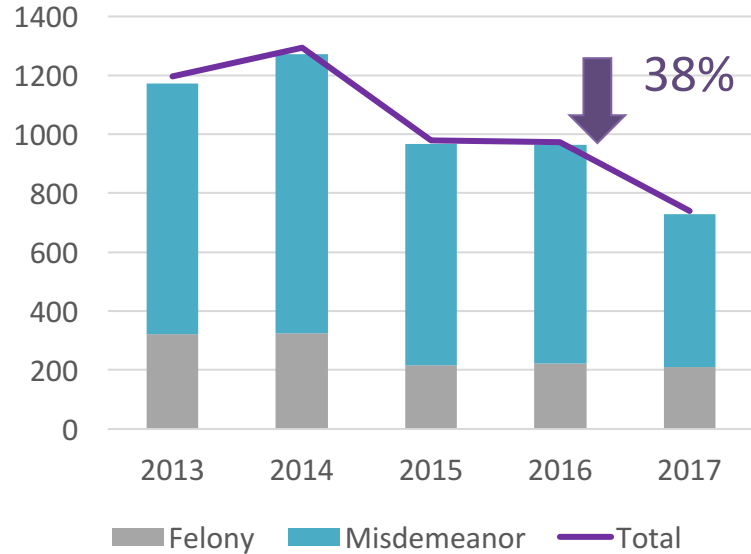
- Adoption of a Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation (PIE) Team to help measure effectiveness
- Utilization of the Correctional Program Checklist (CPC) to assess policies and practices in the Juvenile Probation Camp

## Use of Validated Assessments

- Adoption, validation and implementation of a validated risk and needs assessment (PACT)

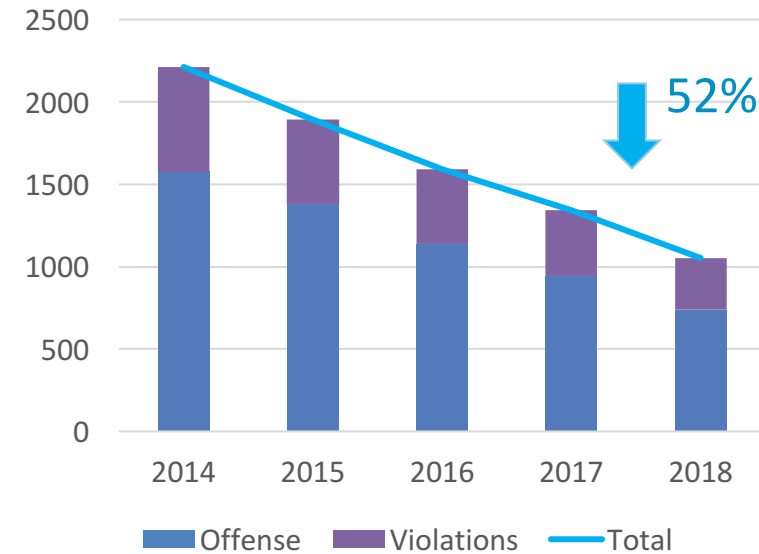
# Sonoma county juvenile arrests and delinquency referrals have declined over the last five years.

Sonoma County Juvenile Arrest by Type,  
CY2013 – CY2017



<https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/crime-statistics/arrests>

Sonoma County Delinquent Referrals by Type,  
FY2014- FY2018



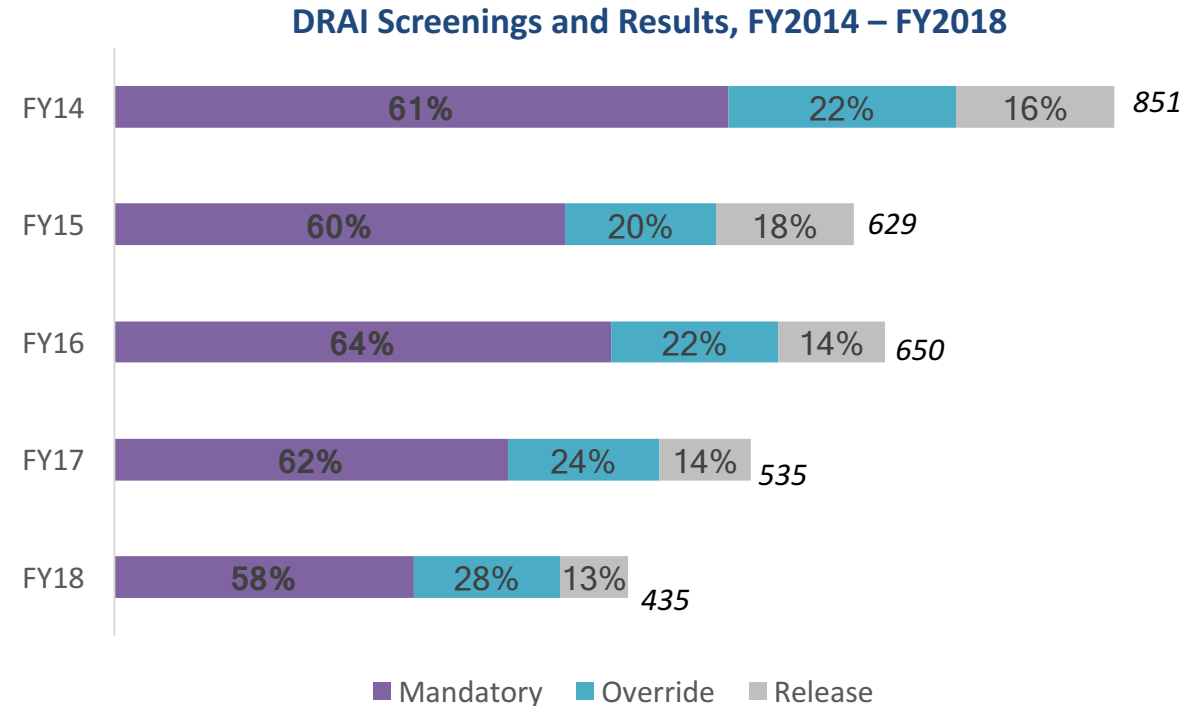
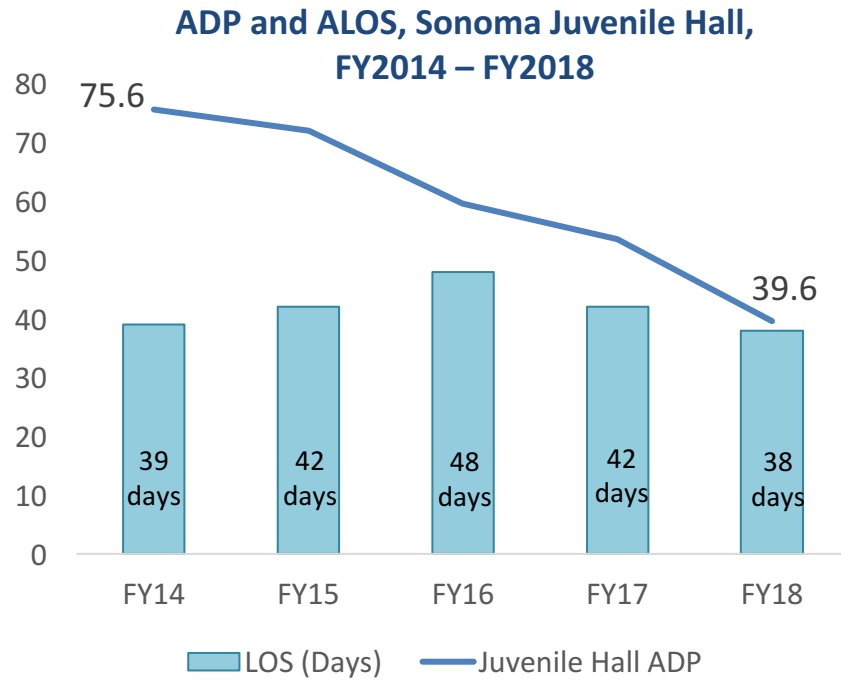
Chief Probation Officers of California Annual Data Survey

- **Juvenile arrests declined 38% between 2013 and 2017 though felony arrests increased slightly**
- **Delinquent referrals declined 52%, with violations accounting for a consistent proportion of referrals**



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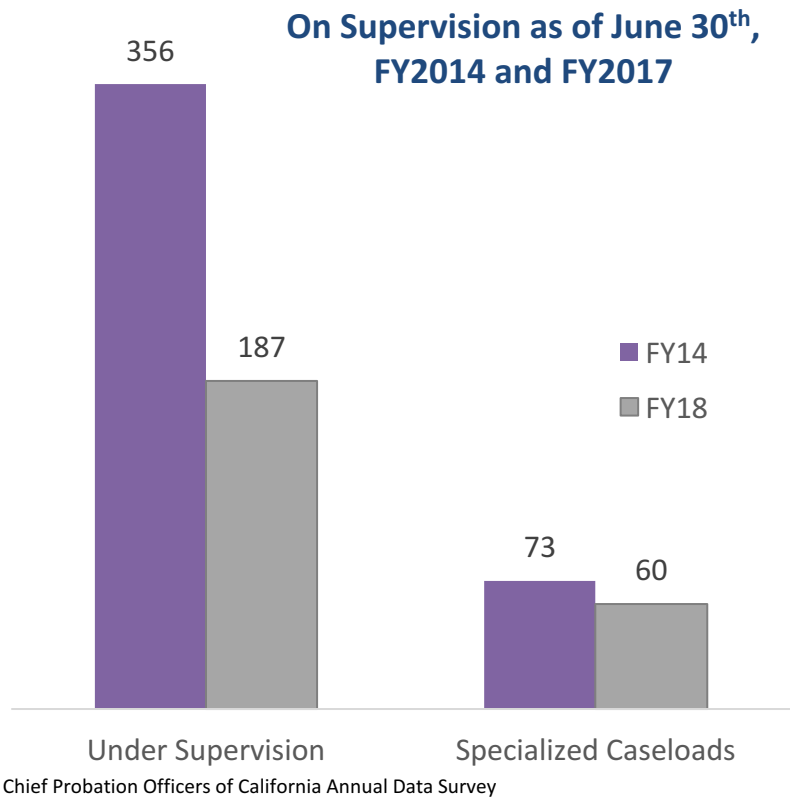
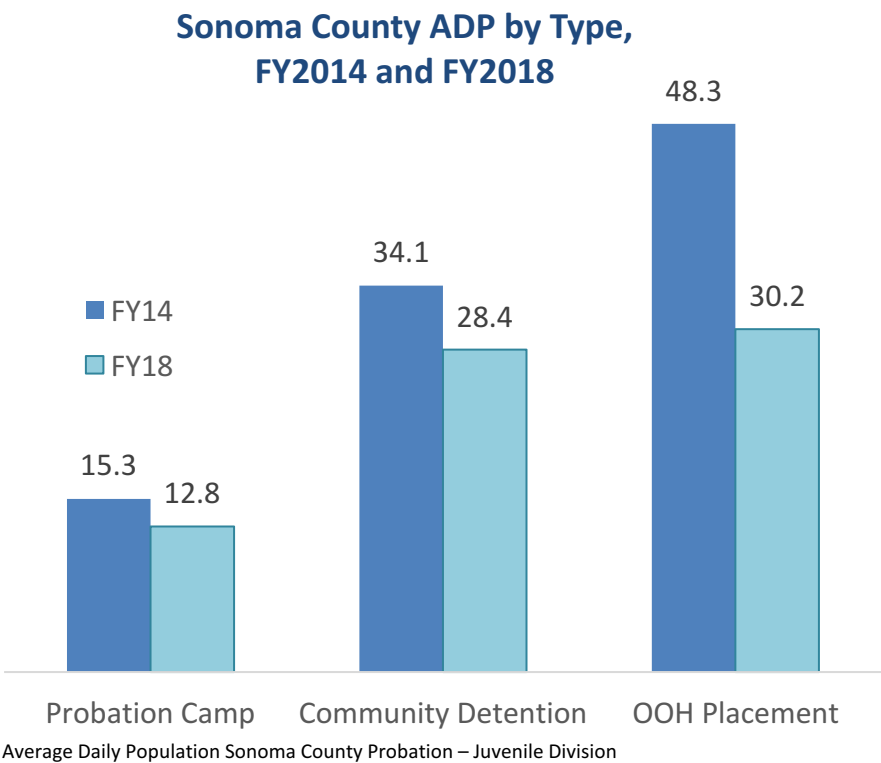
The average daily population of juvenile hall has declined 48 percent, though overrides to detention have increased as a proportion of those youth screened.



- Fewer youth are being screened for detention and most screened are detained mandatorily
- Of youth scoring as eligible for release on the DRAI, most receive an override to detain
- In FY2018, 68% of youth eligible for release were overridden to detention



# The youth population under the jurisdiction of the Sonoma County Probation juvenile division has declined in all areas.



# Juvenile justice reform efforts across California presents both opportunities and challenges to IOYouth in Sonoma County.



*Kids in Bay Area  
Juvenile Justice  
System Kept in  
Pretrial Detention at  
High Rates, Even  
When Eligible for  
Release*



*California probation  
chiefs brace for changes  
to the juvenile justice  
system*



*SF's juvenile hall would shut  
down within 3 years under  
proposal*



*Marin Voice: Managing juvenile  
offenders — the reality behind the  
rhetoric*



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Several potential areas of focus emerged from initial conversations with probation leadership and system stakeholders.

**Accessibility and  
Effectiveness of  
Community-Based Services**

**Collaboration Across  
Youth-Serving Systems**

**Community-Based  
Alternatives to Placement  
for Youth with High Needs**

**Supervision and Services  
for Young Adults**

**Impact of State Legislative  
Changes**

**Collecting, Tracking, and  
Sharing Youth and System  
Outcome Data**



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# Discussion

**Are there additional priorities that have emerged for this Initiative?**

**What concrete improvements would you like to see come out of this process?**

**Are there any potential challenges or barriers to success?  
How can Sonoma County mitigate the possible impact of state and local reform efforts?**



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## Next Steps

- Draft site visit summary and preliminary recommendations on front end of system to share with probation leadership
- Continue data and fiscal analysis and disseminate survey(s) if warranted
- Schedule and prep for August site visit and 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force meeting



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For more information, contact Nina Salomon at [nsalomon@csg.org](mailto:nsalomon@csg.org).

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