PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS & HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

Topic: Police Reform
G-50 Irvis Office Building – Harrisburg, PA
August 20, 2020

AGENDA

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:10 a.m. Panel One:

- Brenton Lipscomb
  Community Activist
  Black Lives Matter
- Dr. Kevin Dolphin
  Founder and CEO
  Breaking the Chainz, Inc.

10:30 a.m. Questions & Answers

10:50 a.m. Panel Two:

- Dr. Jonathan Lee
  Associate Professor & Professor-in-Charge of Criminal Justice Program
  Penn State Harrisburg, School of Public Affairs
- Stephen Bishop
  Senior Associate
  Juvenile Justice Strategy Group at The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Juan Colon
  National Director of Opioids and Illegal Drug Solutions
  SAS Institute

11:20 a.m. Questions & Answers

11:40 a.m. Closing Remarks

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Testimony of Dr. Kevin Dolphin

SYSTEMIC CHANGE
POLICE REFORM & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT...

My name is Dr. Kevin Dolphin. I speak on behalf of Ms. Dorothy Scott, Ms. Terricia Radcliff, Mrs. Valerie Dolphin and the rest of our staff. I am the founder/President of Breaking The Chainz inc. A national non profit community/prison outreach organization.
I am a Prevention/Intervention Specialist, substance abuse counselor, Life Coach, Public Speaker, Trauma informed/Anger Management counselor, Mentor, Community Activist and chapter leader for Crime Survivors For Safety and Justice.

Breaking The Chainz inc. is big on EDUCATION. We feel that it is the key to change. Our organization focuses on educating individuals in public schools, juvenile facilities, county & State prisons, as well as Community Forums.

We have been boots on the ground since the conception of our organization, in 2015. We have been engaging both young and old, in every neighborhood, throughout the entire city of Harrisburg and surrounding areas. My past life experiences affords me the opportunity to be able to go anywhere and meet individuals where they are. ---Myself and other Breaking The Chainz inc staff, along with an organization called M.U.S.T (MEN,UNITED,STANDING TOGETHER) have been engaging individuals about gun violence, community restoration and police interactions for the past five years.

Understanding the problem, we could see gun violence, police brutality and an imbalance in our justice system. We were working with Chief Commissioner Thomas Carter on forming a collaboration, where we would be working alongside the Harrisburg Police Department, on bridging the gap between the police and citizens in our community. This would include everything from Gun violence, black on black crime, police brutality and racial profiling, community engagement, drug free zones and the implementation of trauma informed, cognitive development, substance abuse and other safe programs, where we would be educating police officers, as well as community citizens with our curriculums.

---These curriculums include, Conflict Resolution, Proper Decision Making, dealing with mental health and anger management.

In 2015, Breaking The chainz inc, with Chief Commissioner Carter as its keynote speaker held the city's first ever STOP THE VIOLENCE brunch. Topics discussed were: Police/Community Engagement, Gun violence and the need for community programs.

At one point it seemed as if we were making progress towards our desired goal for a safer community. Violence had even gone down. But, for some unknown reason, along with the lack of funding, our relationship with the Police Department took a sudden halt.

We had been hoping to form a coalition, with the Department, like other cities and states, such as, Baltimore, Maryland, Philadelphia, New York and even Detroit, just to name a few.

Because of what some officials saw as the lack of need for our ability to be the bridge between Police and our Community, we were unable to continue what would have prevented the city of Harrisburg from reaching the point of continued racial profiling, a high level of violence and in some cases police brutality. Despite our inability to form a working relationship with the Harrisburg Police Department, we commend Commissioner Chief Carter for his relentless efforts to maintain justice, peace and racial equality throughout our city.

---In closing, We all must understand the need for police. But, we need the type of police who are competent, compassionate, fair and able to relate to and communicate with those they serve. But, just as important, we need programs that will prevent individuals from hanging out on street corners, ending up in prison or possibly being killed by someone else or the Police.

*WE CAN CHANGE ALL OF THE LAWS IN THE WORLD,BUT OUR GREATEST INVESTMENT IS IN PROGRAMS, WHERE WE ASSIST INDIVIDUALS IN INVESTING IN THEMSELVES AND ADOPTING A PROSPEROUS AND PRODUCTIVE WAY OF LIFE...WITHOUT EDUCATION, THERE WILL NEVER BE ANY TRUE CHANGE...
Dr. Kevin E. Dolphin

Data-driven Science to improve police-public relations and to promote police accountability

by Jonathan Lee

With more than one in five people in the U.S. come in contact with the police every year, it is safe to say that the police represent local, state, and federal government to a large extent. Therefore, it is worth noting that 95% of Americans want police reform. As the unrest from the antagonistic relationship between citizens and police continues in 2020, governments at all levels are spearheading police reform with various ideas. There are two areas that need just as much attention.

Area 1: Police has to prioritize gaining trust from the public
Everyday police work would face a great deal of challenges when public confidence in the police is deficient. In many occasions an incident begins with a call and ends with a tip from the public. Public reporting behavior and cooperation with the police investigation matters to public safety, and it diminishes in the absence of public confidence in the police. In fact, there are a few studies showing that people are reluctant to report incidents to the police when police legitimacy is in doubt. When a person with criminal intent believes that people would not call police for suspicious activities, such belief promotes criminal act. More crimes lead to less confidence in the police and even less tendency to call for service or cooperate with the police.

Confidence in the police is not just about public safety. Our literature also reports that citizens' satisfaction with the police is closely associated with officers' job satisfaction. It is also reported that police and firefighters are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty. Ultimately, boosting public trust with the police could save lives of our police officers.

Ample amount of research has been conducted on determinants of individual confidence in the police over the last couple decades. Among those determinants are the nature of citizen contact with police, victimization, exposure to media coverage of police misconduct, and such socio-demographic characteristics as gender, race, age, income level and education level. As a police initiative to patch up their relationship with the public, community policing has been touted as a police-community trust builder. While there have been studies to test the effectiveness of community policing, the methodological approach has been questionable to me. With a colleague of mine, I did a survey of college students across PA in 2015. I utilized a concept of social distance between individual and police as a proxy measure of community policing. If community policing went well, you would expect to see more citizens with low social distance with police. We regressed individual's confidence in the police on all those aforementioned determinants. In the base model without social distance measure, someone with a negative contact with the police, close friends and family with a bad experience with police, and more exposure to media coverage, had lower confidence in the police. In addition, a racial minority, regardless of all other factors, had lower confidence in the police. In the final model, we included social distance as another determinant, and it dismissed the racial gap. For folks with high social distance with police, both white and black had low confidence in the police. For folks with low social distance, both white and black citizens had high confidence in the police. The implication was that when officers reach out to citizens they serve for friendship, citizens of all races build more confidence in the police.

Area 2: We should bring data-driven *science to police accountability*
The notion that police are not subjected to independent audit on their service records brings suspicion to citizens and callousness to officers. As much as the public should refrain from accusing the police of racial profiling with a small number of cases, police should be open to professional evaluation of their practices. Such evaluation could illuminate their pattern of intentional or unconscious decision making in the line of duty.

One mainstream in social science as well as criminal justice and criminology discipline has been statistical analysis. Scholars pursuing this trend have been well trained for data-driven research on crime, policing, corrections, and judicial process. Typically utilizing regression-based statistical models, academics have estimated likelihood of a hypothetical scenario. For example, I analyzed NYPD citizen contact data to analyze a pattern of officer use of non-lethal force against suspects. The highlight of the methodological advancement in this study was to contextualize situational factors in reference to neighborhood characteristics. Analysis outputs were supportive of this hypothesis. For example, while a white suspect was less likely to experience use of force by an officer, it gets even less likely when the incident took place in a predominantly white neighborhood.

Our literature also includes research on the effectiveness of police intervention using statistical models. Advanced models with panel data enable separation between pre and post intervention periods in the analysis of crime trends. In addition, use of data-driven research is not just about scrutiny on police behavior. I have used statistical models in analyzing incidents in order to identify areas of repeat offenses, assault on police officers, and weapon use by suspects. Most of these findings could help police improve their allocation of resources and better prepare their officers for unexpected situation. Ultimately, police can make use of these studies to secure more time and effort to get closer to the community.

In closing, I would like to state that we can use social science techniques to understand the situation, identify possible solutions, and test those solutions. And I have a firm belief that there are academics who are willing to lend help to local police departments all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

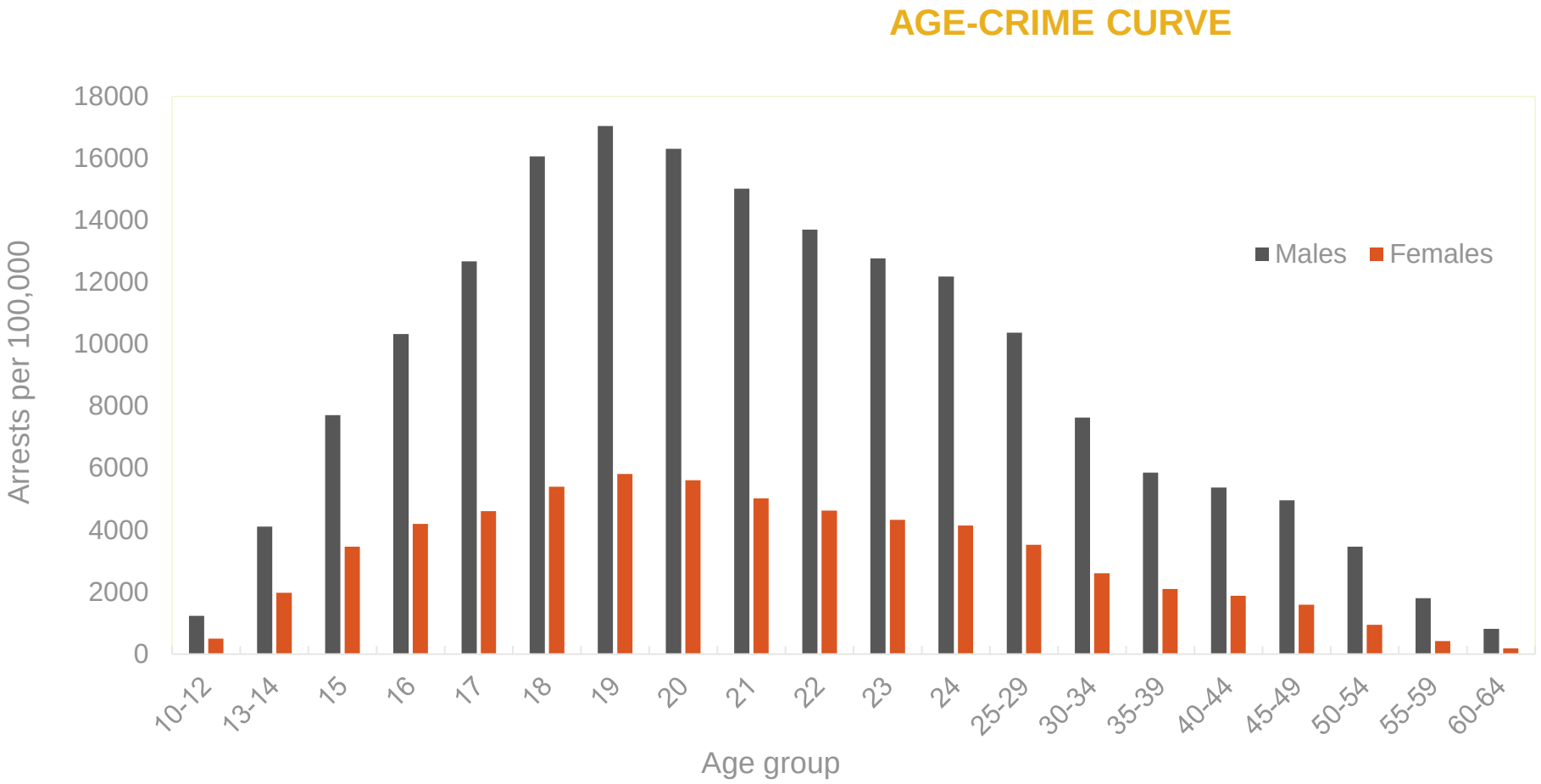
POLICE REFORM: USING DIVERSION TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND YOUTH OUTCOMES

PA House Democratic Policy Committee-PA Legislative Black Caucus Hearing

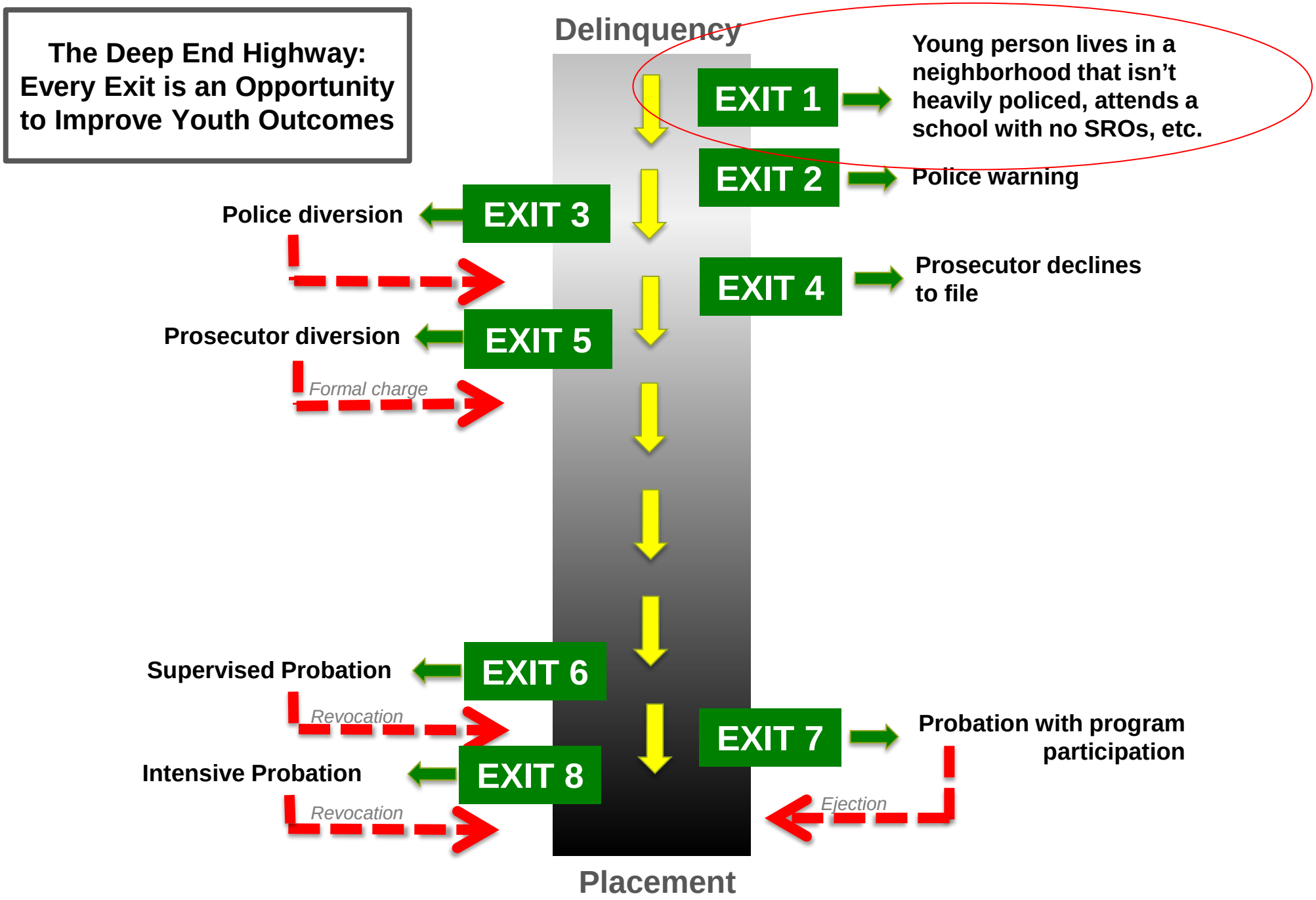
Stephen Bishop, Senior Associate

August 20, 2020

Most Young People Age Out of Risky Behavior



SOURCE: FBI Uniform Crime Report


The Deep End Highway:
Every Exit is an Opportunity
to Improve Youth Outcomes
Delinquency
EXIT 1
Young person lives in a neighborhood that isn't heavily policed, attends a school with no SROs, etc.
EXIT 2
Police warning
Police diversion
EXIT 3
EXIT 4
Prosecutor declines to file
Prosecutor diversion
EXIT 5
Formal charge
Supervised Probation
EXIT 6
Revocation
EXIT 7
Probation with program participation
Intensive Probation
EXIT 8
Ejection
Revocation
Placement

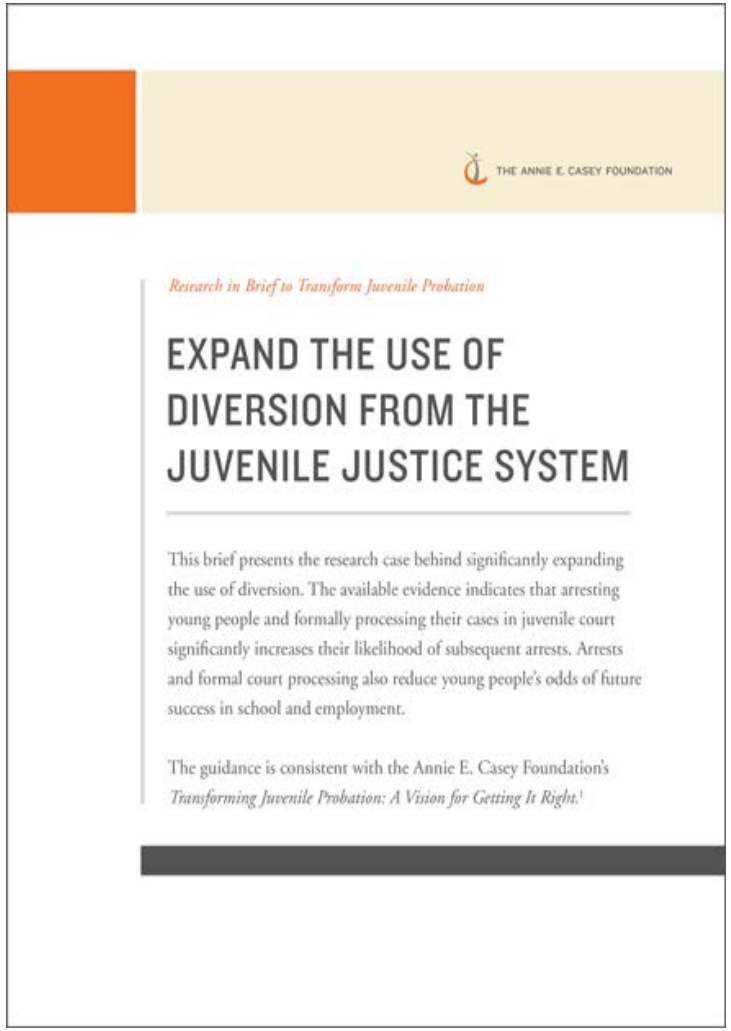
Increased Use of Diversion from Arrest and Formal System Involvement Will Improve Youth Outcomes

1. Arresting a young person for misbehavior significantly increases their odds for subsequent arrests and justice system involvement, when compared to prearrest diversion responses.

2. After a young person is arrested for a delinquent offense, formally processing delinquency cases in juvenile court substantially increases the likelihood of rearrest.

3. Youth of color are diverted from juvenile court far less frequently than their white peers, despite research showing that diversion typically improves youth outcomes.

4. Juvenile court processing is especially detrimental for youth who are not at high risk of rearrest.

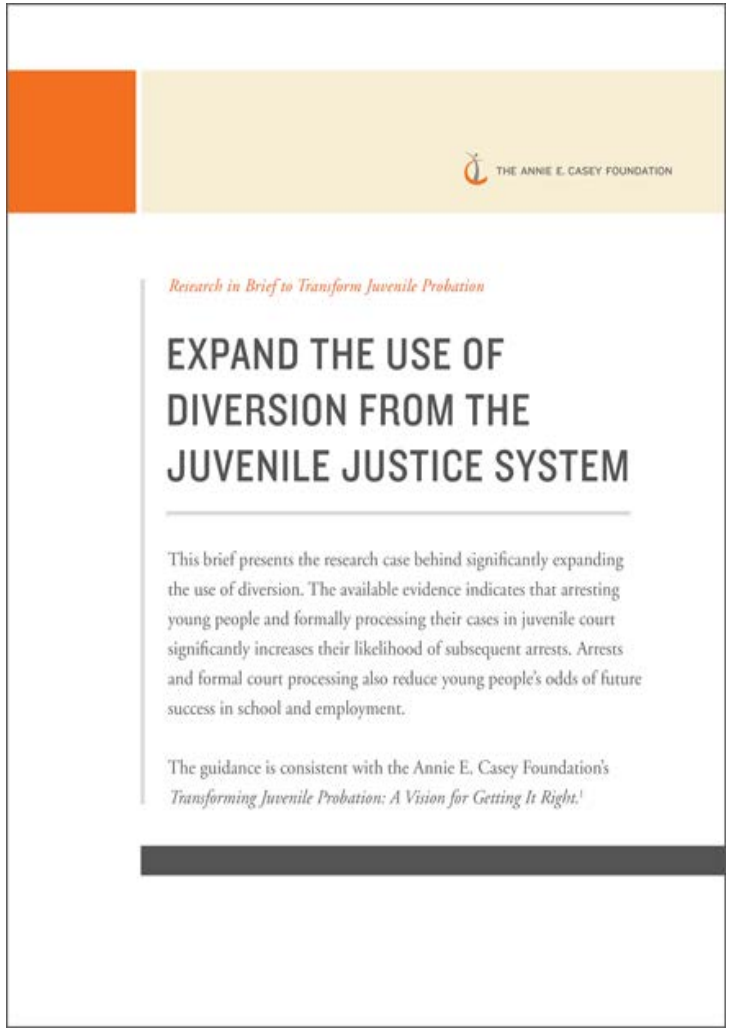


Increased Use of Diversion from Arrest and Formal System Involvement Will Improve Youth Outcomes

5. A significant share of cases formally processed in U.S. juvenile courts still involve youth who are assessed as low risk and have little or no prior record of delinquency.

6. Both arrests and formal processing in juvenile court substantially reduce young people's subsequent success in school and employment.

7. Due to the significant erosion of privacy protections provided by juvenile courts in recent years, formal processing can seriously damage young people's future opportunities for employment and higher education.



A Close Look at Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Pennsylvania

- Youth of color (YOC)were arrested at more than 2 times the rate of white youth (for Black youth, 4 times the rate of white youth)
  - Dauphin County: YOC were arrested at 2 times the rate of white youth
- Youth of color were diverted from juvenile court less than their white peers
  - Dauphin County: YOC were diverted ¾ as much as their white peers
- Youth of color were 78% of secure detention admissions (60% were Black youth)
  - Dauphin County: YOC were 88% of secure detention admissions

Increased and Appropriate Use of Diversion Would Prevent System Involvement for Thousands of Pennsylvania's Youth

Promising diversion practices:

- Pennsylvania Youth/Law Enforcement Curriculum (Statewide)
- Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program – 84% decrease in school arrests over 5 years (Philadelphia)
- Shifting responsibility for diversion services to community-based programs or non-court government agencies – all misdemeanors and non-violent felonies (Los Angeles County)

Key Principles to Effective Diversion

- Race Conscious eligibility criteria
- Community-led/non-court oversight of diversion programming
- No fail diversion

Key Takeaways

Effective police diversion programs for youth can:

- Help minimize the use of limited formal justice system resources
- Reduce trauma and harm to young people, particularly youth of color
- Connect youth and families to needed community supports and resources without having a criminal record
- Reduce racial and ethnic disparities
- Improve long-term outcomes for youth, families and communities