PHILADELPHIA POLICE SCHOOL DIVERSION PROGRAM:
DISMANTLING THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

ALAMEDA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE FORUM
A CROSS-SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP

TO KEEP KIDS IN SCHOOL AND OUT OF COURT
“I did not become a police officer to lock up our children.”

~ KEVIN BETHEL
Co-Founder, Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program
SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE IN PHILADELPHIA

Zero-Tolerance Policies

School Security Measures
- Metal detectors
- 320 School Police Officers

School Disciplinary Practices
- 32,000 suspensions annually

Justice System Involvement
- 1,600 school-based arrests annually
8th Largest Public Education System in the U.S.

218 Schools

134,500 Students

320 School District Police Officer (non-sworn)

84 Philadelphia Police Officers
PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

- School District of Philadelphia
- 134,000 students
- 1600 arrests

Demographics:

- Hispanic/Latino: 51%
- African American: 80%
- White: 20%
- Multiracial: 14%
- Asian: 8%

1600 arrests are predominantly African American.
PHILADELPHIA’S COLLABORATING PARTNERS

- Police Department
- DHS
- School District
- Family Court
- DA’s Office
- Community Providers
- Behavioral Health
- Public Defender
- JDAI Task Force
- Drexel University
THE DIVERSION PROCESS

Incident Occurs

School makes disciplinary decision

School police contact PPD

PPD determines offense eligibility

PPD calls intake center – youth’s eligibility determined

DHS & police visit youth’s home

Arrested

Serious

Prior

Refer to community provider

SUMMARY/MISDEMEANOR

Begin Diversion Services
INTENSIVE PREVENTION SERVICES (IPS)

Core Components:
- Academic support
- Social/emotional competency building
- Mentoring
- Recreation
- Work ready programming
- Community service
- Engagement with parental involvement
- Victim-Offender conferencing
OUTCOMES: ARRESTS

- Pre-Diversion: 1580
- Year 1: 486
- Year 2: 472
- Year 3: 433
- Year 4: 308

Percentage decrease from Pre-Diversion: 71%
OUTCOMES: BEHAVIORAL INCIDENTS

Pre-Diversio

Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4
---|---|---|---
5,291 | 5,397 | 5,615 | 5,425

14.75%

School and Service Outcomes

Reduction in disciplinary transfers
Acceptance of services
1-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES: DIVERTED VS. ARRESTED YOUTH

Arrested: 27%

Diverted: 14%

86% of diverted youth remain arrest-free
1-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES: RACE/ETHNICITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Arrested Youth</th>
<th>Diverted Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latin</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1-YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES: GENDER

- Male
  - Arrested Youth: 30%
  - Diverted Youth: 17%

- Female
  - Arrested Youth: 18%
  - Diverted Youth: 8%
“I didn’t want to get put away. You can’t come back after that. You’ve got a record, and people look at you differently. [At PPSDP], the counselors I had were awesome. They wanted to see us succeed.”

MALIK GRANT ~ PPSDP participant
STAY INFORMED.
STAY CONNECTED.
STAY ENGAGED.

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