



Community-based Juvenile Services Aid NEBRASKA DIVERSION PROGRAMS 2012-2015

Nebraska has identified four goals of diversion (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-260.03).

Two of these are:

- (a) To provide eligible juvenile offenders with an alternative program in lieu of adjudication through the juvenile court;
- (b) To reduce recidivism among diverted juvenile offenders;

YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS

- From 7/1/12 to 6/30/15, a total of 10,518 youth were referred to one of 69 diversion programs in Nebraska.
- Male youth: 59.7% (n = 6,280); Female youth: 40.3% (n = 4,238)
- Age ranged from age 5 to age 17, with a mean of 15.10 (SD = 1.79)
- White youth are underrepresented in diversion; while Black youth are referred to diversion at twice the rate at which they appear in the population.



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(a) TO PROVIDE ELIGIBLE JUVENILE OFFENDERS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ADJUDICATION

- A total of 11,957 cases and 15,378 law violations were referred to juvenile diversion
- Most cases involved a law violation (n= 10,403; 87.0%); 4.8% of cases were for attendance issues (n=573); 3.5% were cases where the youth received a warning (n=421) and 4.7% were companion cases (n=560)
- A total of 9,304 youth enrolled in diversion (77.8% of all referrals). Of these, 77.2% (n = 7,179) completed diversion successfully; 14.6% (n = 1,355) failed to comply with the program; and 5.3% (n = 490) received a new law violation.
 - Discharge reason was not included in 908 of cases (7.6%), which may have been due to failure to close cases or cases that are still active.

Between 2 and 3 years post-diversion, youth successfully discharged had a recidivism rate of 30%; while youth unsuccessfully discharged had a recidivism rate of 51% to 61%.



(b) TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM AMONG DIVERTED JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Internal Recidivism- more than one referral to diversion

- Overall, 469 of referrals were for youth already in diversion, and the new referral became part of that time in diversion (discharge date was identical).
- Most youth were referred to diversion once (93.8%, n = 9,866); some twice (5.9%, n = 617); the remaining 3 to 5 times (0.3%, n = 33).
- For youth referred twice, those successfully discharged the first time had a significantly longer time before a new diversion referral (388 days) than those unsuccessfully discharged (229 to 236 days) or who never enrolled in the program (225 to 261 days) ([F(7,545) = 7.74, p<.001].

External Recidivism-- new law violations after diversion discharge

- Matched youth referred to diversion programs to cases filed in JUSTICE, which is Nebraska's online State Trial Court case information system.
- At 2 to 3 year follow-up, youth who successfully completed diversion recidivated at a rate of 30.2%; while youth who did not complete the program recidivated at a rate of 51.1% (discharge failed program requirements) to 61.1% (discharge with new law violation).