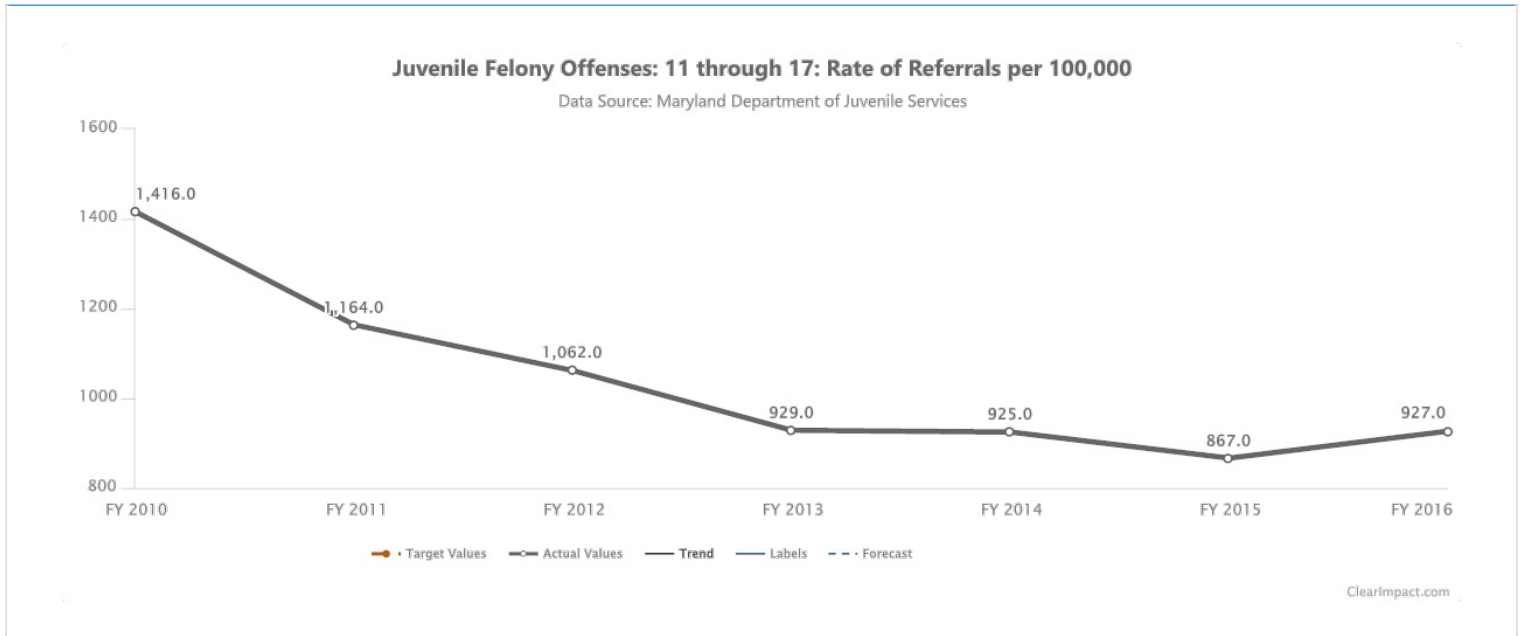


R Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families (Statewide)

I Juvenile Felony Offenses: 11 through 17: Rate of Referrals per 100,000



Story Behind the Curve

The overall rate of felony referrals dropped by more than half between FY2007 and FY2016, from 1,787 per 100,000 youth to 819 per 100,000. For age group 15 to 17, after fluctuating around 3,500 per 100,000 from FY2007 through FY2009, the juvenile referral rate for felony offenses sharply declined between FY2010 and FY2016, with FY2016 showing the lowest rate of all fiscal years reported. The drop in the rate of felony referrals mirrors the overall drop in referrals seen nationwide, and in Maryland. The overall number of juvenile complaints referred to DJS declined 56.1% over the ten years from FY2007 to FY2016, so the decline in the felony rate is in line with the overall drop.

What Works

There have been efforts by police and courts to divert more cases from coming into the juvenile system, including some felony cases. Those case that are "true diversion" cases are not referred to Department of Juvenile Services and do not appear in the data above. One program that has shown

preliminary success in diverting felony cases is Community Conferencing which formally involves youth, family and victims in coming together and dealing with the issues of the offense outside of the court system.