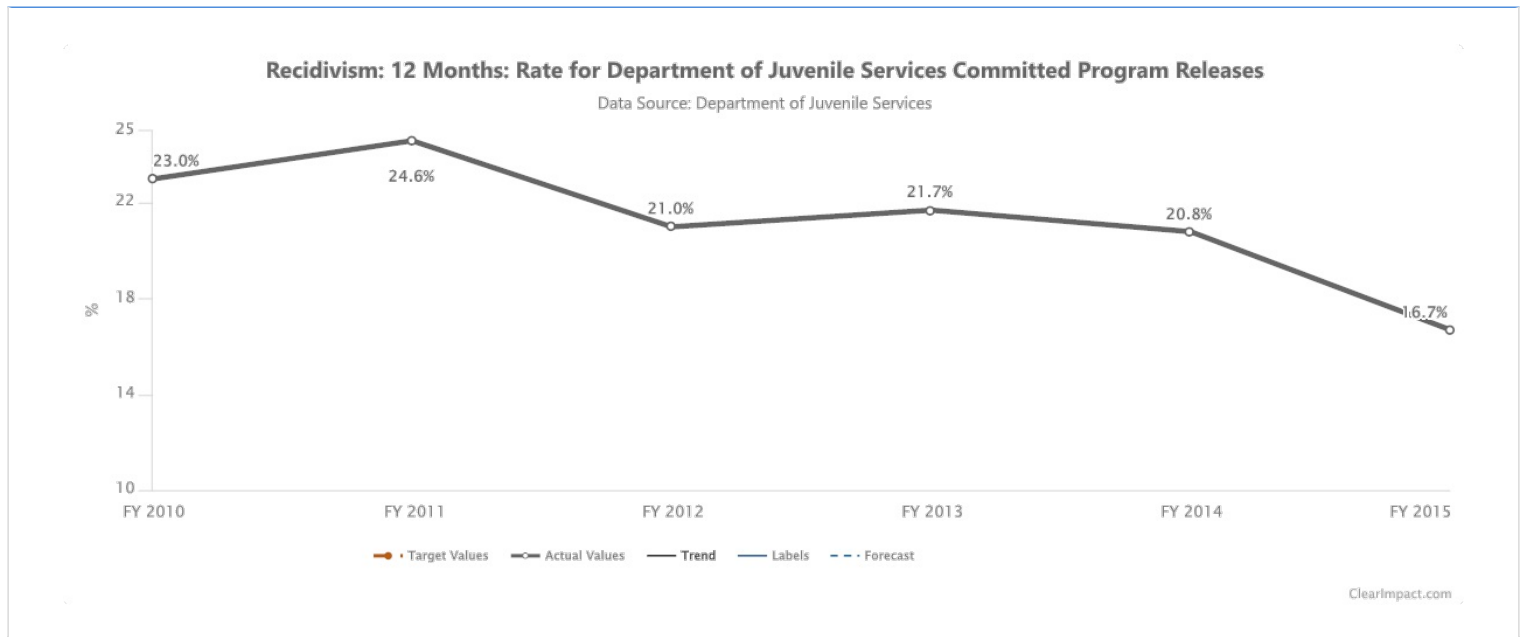


## R Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families (Statewide)

### I Recidivism: 12 Months: Rate for Department of Juvenile Services Committed Program Releases



### Story Behind the Curve

Measuring recidivism is the primary indicator of success for criminal and juvenile justice systems. While other measures of youth development are important, the primary mission of juvenile justice is to reduce delinquency, which is best captured by measuring recidivism. When comparing FY2010 and FY2015 at 12-months, the reconviction rate has decreased by 6.3 percentage points. The drop has been 4.1 points since just FY2014; the first significant decline in the primary rate of committed recidivism in a long time. Between FY 2010 and FY2014, the reconviction rate at 24 months also declined by 6.5 points.

It is important to note that the DJS-committed population has dropped by 44% in ten years from 2007 to 2016. In just the last two years - from FY 2014 to FY 2016 - the average population of DJS committed youth has dropped 36.3%, from 901.3 to 573.9. This means the number of youth released home from commitments has declined, so the rate of recidivism is of a continually decreasing cohort. The reduction in committed cases is due to decrease in referrals to DJS intake and an increase in evidence-based in-home diversion programs that have served many youth otherwise at risk for an out-of-home commitment.

## What Works

Studies have shown that recidivism rates can be positively impacted through the use of interventions that are developmentally appropriate for the age of the youth – what works with adults is not necessarily applicable to youth. The level of treatment, supervision, and security must also be appropriate for the assessed risk level of the youth. Using a valid juvenile risk-assessment tool allows this. Too much intervention for a low-risk youth, or too little for a high-risk youth will negatively impact recidivism. Recent recidivism rate declines may also be attributable to a DJS re-entry strategic plan that has structured the re-entry process to insure youth returning to the community get the appropriate services and supervision they need to be successful.

## Local Highlight

The rates of decrease in juvenile recidivism vary across regions in Maryland. Declines were greatest in the Western Region (which includes the counties of Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington), which collectively saw the recidivism rate decline from 23.2% to 14.0% between FY2013 and FY2015.

## Data Discussion

Juvenile and adult re-adjudicated/convicted recidivism rates for youth released from the Department of Juvenile Services committed programs after 12 months.