

2013

# Annual Report



making a **difference**

Kentucky Court Designated Worker Program





# Court designated workers have successful record in helping Kentucky's youth

John D. Minton Jr.  
Chief Justice of Kentucky

Since its creation in 1986, the Court Designated Worker Program has become a vital part of the Kentucky court system. Court designated workers help juveniles avoid formal court appearances through diversion programs, which teach young people to be accountable for their actions and encourage them to avoid other encounters with the law.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the CDWs, thousands of Kentucky youth have been able to put their mistakes behind them and move forward with hope for a brighter future.

Now – nearly 30 years later – the CDW Program begins an exciting new era as it plays a key role in juvenile

justice reform in the commonwealth. Starting in 2012, representatives from all three branches of state government worked together on a task force to make long overdue improvements to our juvenile justice system. Their hard work resulted in the passage of Senate Bill 200 in 2014. This important legislation provides alternatives to incarceration by enhancing the treatment and services available to troubled youth.

This is an exceedingly positive development for the young people of Kentucky and I am proud that our CDWs will be working alongside state and local leaders to make juvenile justice reform a success.

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## Disclaimer

The data from the Court Designated Worker Case Management System is subject to changes, reprogramming, format modifications and availability at the direction of the Administrative Office of the Courts and may not at any particular moment reflect the most up-to-date status of court cases due to ordinary limitations, delays or errors in the system's operation.



# Progress Report: How CDW Program helps give young people a second chance

Rachel Bingham, Executive Officer  
Department of Family and Juvenile Services  
Administrative Office of the Courts

## Highlights for Calendar Year 2013

It is my pleasure to present the first annual report for the Court Designated Worker Program in Kentucky. This report meets the requirements of Senate Bill 200, which was passed in 2014 to provide important reforms to Kentucky's juvenile justice system. As part of that legislation, the CDW Program will enhance its data collection, analysis and reporting.

SB 200 also requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to take the lead in establishing the Family Accountability, Intervention and Response – FAIR – Teams, adopt and implement a validated risk- and needs-assessment tool, and provide comprehensive training for court staff and community partners.

All of these efforts have a common goal, which is to reduce the number of incarcerated youth by offering a stronger system of treatment and diversion to address underlying issues that can lead to trouble with the law.

The CDW Program is well-positioned to take on these new responsibilities. We have a strong foundation on which to grow and I am proud to report highlights of what the program accomplished in 2013.

CDWs carried out important work statewide as they:

- » Took 23,819 complaints.
- » Entered 9,555 diversions.
- » Conducted 12,585 status offense pre-complaints.
- » Assisted with the release of 7,278 juveniles detained in custody by law enforcement.
- » Screened 9,533 youth with GAIN-SS, the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs-Short Screen.

I hope you will enjoy reading the 2013 Kentucky Court Designated Worker Program Annual Report. I appreciate your support of this program and its commitment to the well-being of Kentucky youth.

# CDW Program at forefront of juvenile justice reform in Kentucky

SB 200 steers more youthful offenders to treatment instead of detention

In August 2014, Gov. Steve Beshear joined state and local leaders to ceremonially sign legislation that revamps Kentucky's juvenile justice system by steering more young offenders into community-based treatment instead of locking them up in detention centers.

Senate Bill 200 seeks to improve the overall effectiveness of Kentucky's juvenile justice system. The legislation calls for early intervention programs and an enhanced pre-court process for youth who are habitual runaways or engage in certain non-violent acts, such as truancy. Under the new law, court designated workers will use evidence-based tools to screen and assess youth and make referrals for appropriate services before cases are referred to the county attorney. The reforms are expected to reduce the number of status and public offenders entering the court system.

"Senate Bill 200 represents an important first step in addressing juvenile justice reform in our Commonwealth, and gives us the opportunity to address the underlying issues that are often the cause of young people acting out," Gov. Beshear said. "The result is less crime, smarter spending, and better outcomes for Kentucky's most-troubled kids."

The bill limits the commitment of certain lower-level offenders and how long they may be placed out-of-home, reserving longer placement in expensive out-of-home facilities for more serious offenders.

The measure also establishes an oversight council, which will monitor the effectiveness of the policies and make recommendations based on the findings. And it directs that any savings achieved from the reforms be reinvested into a fiscal incentive program for local evidence-based prevention programs.

The bill is the result of work by the bipartisan Unified Juvenile Code Task Force with assistance from the Pew Charitable Trusts. The task force met for two years with juvenile justice and social service workers, court officials, school officials and other stakeholders.

Deputy Chief Justice Mary C. Noble of the Supreme Court of Kentucky was part of the nine-member group, which had representatives from all three branches of state government.

"Providing options that will improve the lives of our young people is an important responsibility and one that this task force took seriously," Chief Justice of Kentucky John D. Minton Jr. said. "The group looked at how community-based services can offer alternatives to incarceration for youth involved in the justice system. In many cases, offering treatment and supervision is more cost-effective and does a better job of preparing these young people for a brighter future."

SB 200 requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to take the lead in establishing the Family Accountability, Intervention and Response – FAIR – Teams, adopt and implement a validated risk- and needs- assessment tool, and provide comprehensive training for staff and community partners. These initiatives are closely aligned with the work of the CDW Program.

Fourteen jurisdictions will serve as pilot sites for the FAIR teams and an enhanced case management process. The AOC will host community partner meetings in each jurisdiction to provide education about juvenile justice reform and identify FAIR Team members and community resources to support the efforts of the CDW Program.

Kentucky judges and court personnel worked closely with state, county and local officials and treatment providers to implement the changes by December 2014. Most reforms will take effect in the summer of 2015.

*Note: Some information from this story came from an Aug. 28, 2014, news release from the Office of Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear.*

## Courts have enhanced record-tracking role under Senate Bill 200

Senate Bill 200 requires the CDW Program to produce an annual report offering a detailed analysis of the youth served by the program. The 2013 CDW Program Annual Report is the first such report prepared under this mandate. The data in this report comes from the CDWCMS, the electronic case management system used by the CDW Program.

The changes in reporting can be found in KRS 605.020, which was amended in part to read:

(6) (a) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall collect and track data, and provide an annual report to the oversight council created in KRS 15A.063 containing the following information:

1. The number and type of complaints received by each court-designated worker;
2. The outcome of each complaint, including whether a referral was made to the county attorney or the Department for Community Based Services;
3. The number of children committed to the Department for Community Based Services pursuant to KRS Chapter 620 who were originally charged with status offenses under KRS Chapter 630 or whose cases were amended from status to dependency, neglect, and abuse; and
4. Whether a child who successfully completed a diversion agreement was, within one (1) year following completion of the agreement, adjudicated a public offender or convicted in the adult court of a criminal offense.

## Appropriate Placements

It is always the intent of the CDW to find the least-restrictive placement option. CDWs have five least-restrictive alternatives to consider when making placement decisions:

- » Parent or custodial guardian, unless prohibited by the court for alleged abuse.
- » Responsible adult, such as a relative, neighbor or friend of family.
- » Emergency shelter.
- » Crisis stabilization units, if applicable.
- » In-patient mental health assessment, if applicable.

## Diversion Agreements

The goal of diversion is to reduce further involvement in the court system. CDWs follow established criteria to determine if a juvenile is eligible to participate in a diversion agreement or if the case, by law, must be referred to formal court. If the juvenile is eligible and agrees to the informal process, he or she enters into a diversion agreement with the CDW.

The diversion agreement holds juveniles accountable for past actions and provides tools to manage current behavioral issues. These tools include:

- » Prevention and education programs, such as Truancy Diversion and Teen Court Diversion
- » Service learning projects
- » Community service
- » Restitution
- » Curfew
- » School attendance
- » Counseling
- » Treatment

The CDW monitors juveniles throughout the diversion program. This helps ensure they are given the tools and skills necessary to make better decisions in the future.

When the juvenile successfully completes a diversion program, the case is dismissed and no formal court record is created.

## About the CDW Program

When a young person is in trouble, positive intervention can mean the difference between a bright future and one with challenges. In Kentucky, court designated workers process complaints against juveniles under age 18, giving CDWs the opportunity to help thousands of children and teens every year.

The Court Designated Worker Program began in 1986 when the Kentucky General Assembly established a statewide pre-court program. The program addresses complaints filed against juveniles prior to any action taken in formal court.

Every Kentucky county has the services of a CDW who is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The CDW Program operates under the direction of the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The CDW Program ensures due process for juveniles by involving them in the complaint review process and explaining their rights under the law. They are also informed of the options for handling their case, whether informally through a diversion agreement or formally through the court system.

When appropriate, juveniles are diverted from the formal court system. Those who are eligible for diversion will not have a formal court record if they successfully complete the supervised educational and treatment-based program agreed upon in a pre-court contract, called a diversion agreement.

## Mission of Court Designated Workers

To reduce delinquency among Kentucky's youth through a collaboration of statewide pre-court services and programs that promote education and accountability.

## Duties of a Court Designated Worker

CDWs are responsible for:

- » Processing all public and status complaints on children under age 18.
- » Assisting in the custody process.
- » Conducting preliminary investigations and interviews.
- » Developing and supervising diversion agreements.

The CDW receives all complaints, which fall into two categories, status offenses and public offenses. Status offenses are non-criminal forms of juvenile behavior, such as running away from home, not attending school, tobacco and alcohol offenses, and exhibiting beyond-control behaviors at home or at school.

Public offenses are actions which, if committed by adults, would be crimes. They are defined in the same terms as adult charges (such as felonies, misdemeanors and violations).

Anyone can file a complaint against a juvenile, including a police officer, victim, parent or school official. Juveniles who have a complaint filed against them are given the opportunity to meet with a CDW.

## Custody Instead of Arrest

Under Kentucky's juvenile justice system, children under age 18 are taken into custody instead of being arrested. CDWs assist law enforcement officials in finding appropriate placements such as with parents or guardians, relatives or an emergency shelter. Detention may be authorized by a judge if there are concerns that a juvenile may reoffend or fail to appear for court.

# Glossary

*The following definitions describe the terms used by the CDW Program. Please note that the terms are used in pre-court situations and may differ from the terms used in formal court settings.*

**Beyond Control of Parents.** A child who has repeatedly failed to follow the reasonable directives of his or her parents, legal guardian or person exercising custodial control or supervision other than a state agency. The behavior results in danger to the child or others and does not constitute behavior that would warrant the filing of a petition under KRS Chapter 645 (the Mental Health Act of The Unified Juvenile Code).

**Commitment.** A court order that places a child under the custodial control or supervision of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, or another facility or agency until the child reaches age 18 unless otherwise provided by law.

**Complaint.** A verified statement that sets forth allegations regarding a child and contains sufficient facts supporting any subsequent petition that may be filed in court.

**Complaint Close Date.** Date that the complaint was closed.

**Complaint Filing Date.** Date that a complaint was signed by the complainant.

**Contempt of Court.** A willful disobedience of a court order or willful interference with the administration of justice.

**Diversion Agreement.** An agreement between a court designated worker and a child charged with committing a public or status offense, designed to hold the child accountable for his or her behavior and, if appropriate, to secure services for the child. The purpose of a diversion agreement is to serve the best interest of the child and provide redress for his or her behavior without court action and without the creation of a formal court record.

**Habitual Runaway.** Any child found by the court to have been absent from his or her place of lawful residence without the permission of his or her custodian for at least three days during a one-year period.

**Habitual Truant.** Any child who has been found by the court to have been reported as a “truant” as defined in KRS 159.150(1) two or more times during a one-year period. (A “truant” is a child between the ages of 6 and 18 who has been absent from school without a valid excuse for three or more days, or tardy without a valid excuse on three or more days.)

**Child/Juvenile.** Any person who has not reached his or her 18th birthday, unless otherwise provided.

**KRS.** Kentucky Revised Statutes are the laws of the commonwealth of Kentucky.

**Petition.** A verified statement that sets forth allegations regarding a child, which initiates formal court involvement in the child’s case.

**Public Offense.** An action that would be a crime if committed by an adult, whether a felony, misdemeanor or violation.

**Restitution Payment.** Full or partial compensation paid to the victim of a status or public offense.

# Glossary

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**Retain in Custody.** After a child has been taken into custody, the continued holding of the child by a law enforcement officer for a period of time not to exceed 12 hours when authorized by the court or the court designated worker for the purpose of making preliminary inquiries.

**Secure Juvenile Detention Facility.** Any physically secure facility used for the secure detention of children other than any facility in which adult prisoners are confined.

**Status Offense.** An action which, if committed by an adult, would not be a crime. The behavior, which is unique to juveniles and is not to be considered criminal or delinquent, includes offenses such as beyond control of parents or school, habitual truant, habitual runaway, and various alcohol and tobacco offenses.

**Unified Court System.** Kentucky has a unified court system that provides centralized administration and standardized judicial organization statewide to streamline legal matters and reduce duplication of efforts.

## Definitions Used in CDW Case Management System

*The statistical information in this report is from the Court Designated Worker Case Management System. The CDWCMS is a statewide CDW database maintained by the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The following definitions explain the methodology used to produce the statistical reports.*

**Number of Juveniles.** Each juvenile is assigned a unique identifier the first time he or she is entered into the CDW Case Management System. That identifier remains with the juvenile for each subsequent referral/complaint, ensuring that the CDWCMS maintains a count of distinct juveniles.

**Number of Complaints/Referrals.** The terms complaint and referral are interchangeable. A juvenile may have more than one complaint during any given time frame. A complaint may be a status complaint or a public complaint. Status complaints are those that include offenses unique to juveniles, such as beyond control, habitual truant, runaway, and various alcohol and tobacco offenses. Public offenses are those that would be crimes if committed by adults and, thus, are not unique to juveniles; the same types of charges that can also be brought against adults (such as felonies, misdemeanors and violations).

**Number of Referrals by Case Close Reason.** The case close reason, or outcome, is the definitive action taken and recorded in the CDWCMS regarding how a particular complaint/referral ended. The case close reason date is used to determine when the complaint will be counted and reported for statistical purposes.

**Referrals Filed/Closed.** The date that complaints/referrals are filed are obtained by a query by referral filing date. The same is true for complaints/referrals closed, which are queried by the closing date.

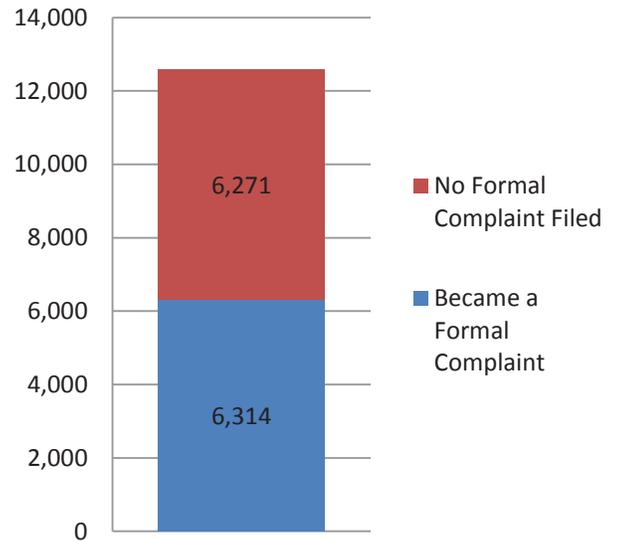
**Intake Action Date.** Date that the intake action (release or detention) is applied.

# CDW Program: An Overview by the Numbers

## Pre-Complaint Conferences

CDWs conducted 12,585 pre-complaint conferences for status offenses in 2013 and only 6,314 resulted in the filing of a formal complaint for the offense. A pre-complaint conference gives CDWs the opportunity to coordinate a young person's case management and any prevention services prior to a complaint being filed. The effective use of the pre-complaint process reduced the need to file complaints by 50 percent.

Pre-Complaint Conferences for Status Offenses CY 2013

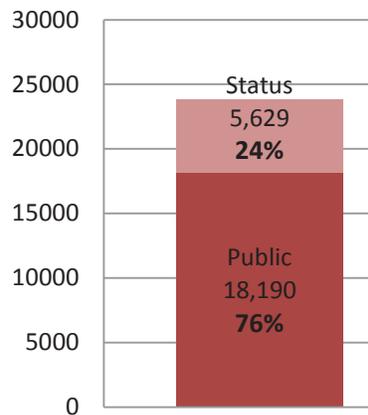


## Public & Status Complaints

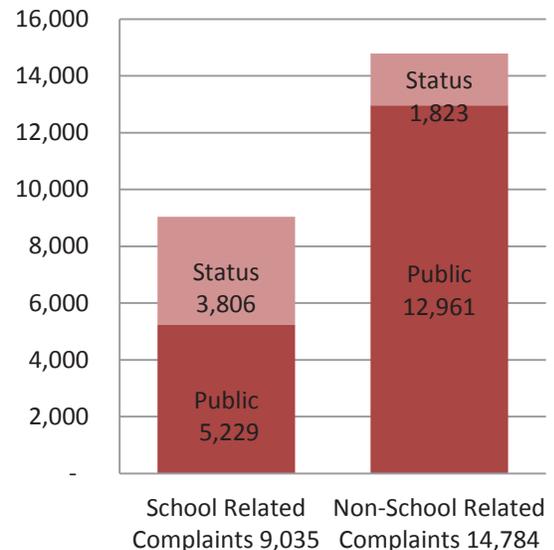
Of the 23,819 complaints filed on juveniles in 2013, 76 percent were for public offenses and 24 percent were for status offenses.

Thirty-eight percent of the 23,819 complaints were school related and 62 percent of the complaints were non-school related.

Public & Status Complaints Filed CY 2013

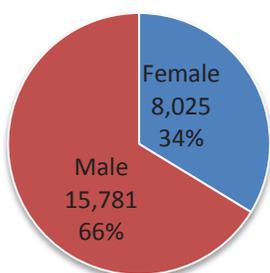


School & Non-School Related Complaints Filed CY 2013



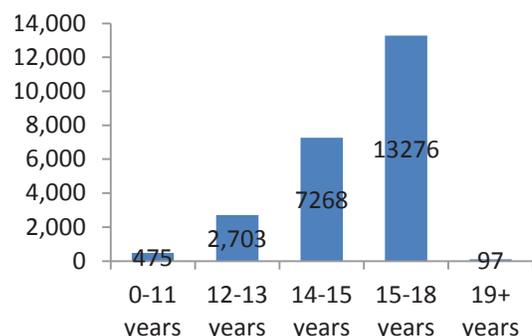
Of the 23,819 complaints, 66 percent were filed against males and 34 percent were filed against females. Note: 13 unknown genders.

Complaints Filed by Gender CY 2013



Of the 23,819 complaints filed in 2013, 55 percent were filed against youth ages 15 to 18 years old.

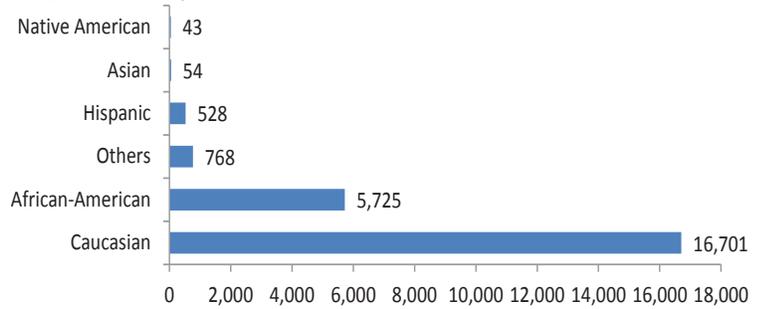
Complaints Filed by Age CY 2013



# CDW Program: An Overview by the Numbers

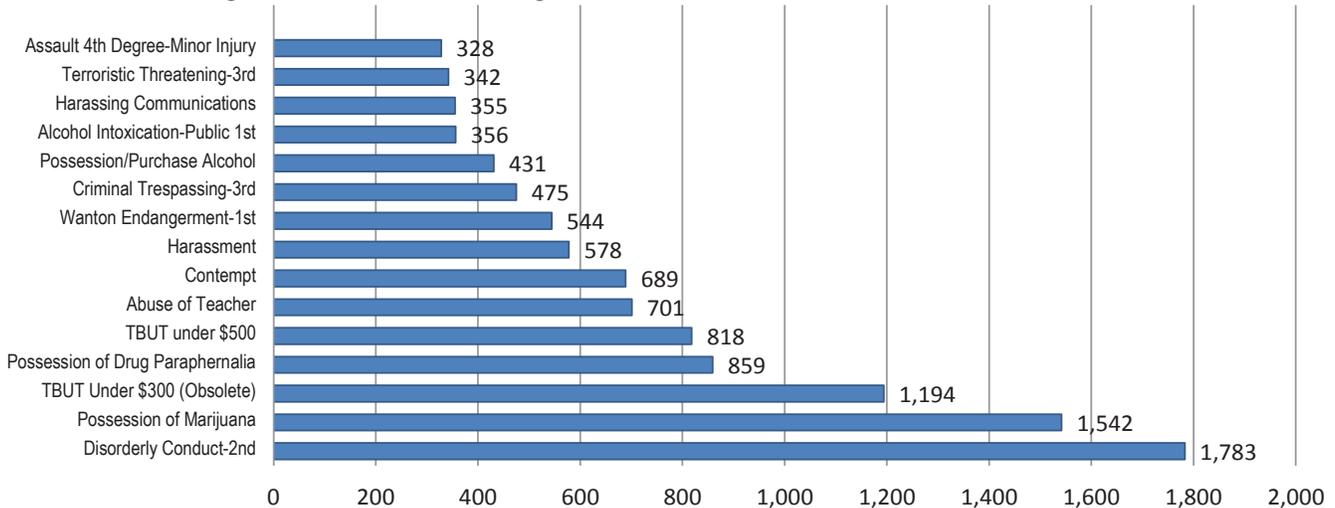
Seventy percent of the complaints filed were against Caucasian youth and 24 percent were against African-American youth. The remaining complaints were filed against Hispanic, Asian, Native American and other youth.

**Complaints Filed by Race CY 2013**



Of the 15 most common charges filed with the CDW Program, 58 percent involved five offenses: disorderly conduct-2nd degree, possession of marijuana, theft by unlawful taking under \$300, possession of drug paraphernalia and theft by unlawful taking under \$500.

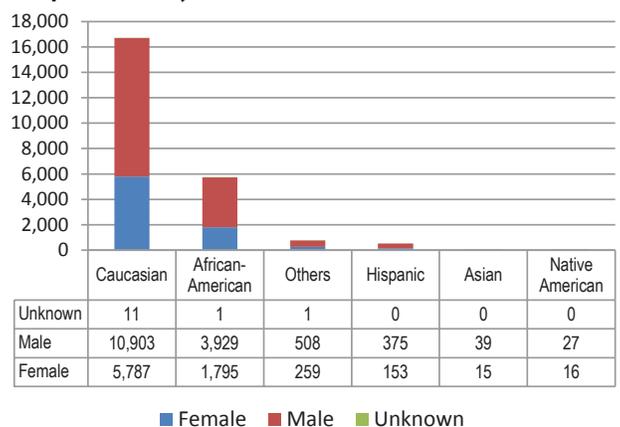
**15 Most Common Charges Filed With Statewide CDW Program CY 2013**



## Public & Status Complaints by Race & Gender

	Caucasian	African-American	Native American	Asian	Hispanic	Others	Total	
<b>PUBLIC</b>	12375	4810	29	45	370	561	18190	
Female	3792	1390	9	12	91	159	5453	30%
Male	8575	3419	20	33	279	401	12727	70%
Unknown	8	1	0	0	0	1	10	0%
<b>STATUS</b>	4326	915	14	9	158	207	5629	
Female	1995	405	7	3	62	100	2572	46%
Male	2328	510	7	6	96	107	3054	54%
Unknown	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16701</b>	<b>5725</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>23819</b>	

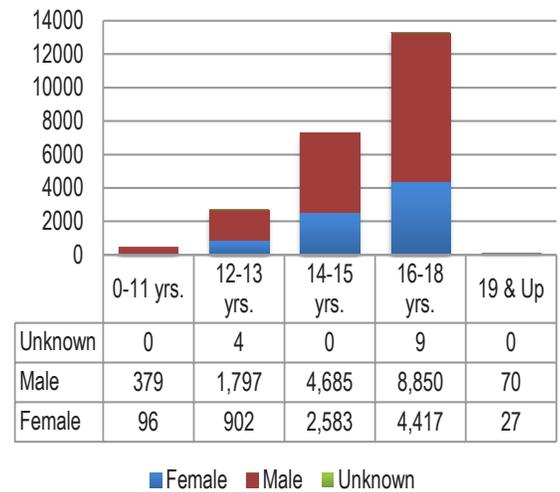
**Complaints Filed by Race & Gender CY 2013**



# CDW Program: An Overview by the Numbers

## Complaints Filed by Age & Gender

	0-11 yrs.	12-13 yrs.	14-15 yrs.	16-18 yrs.	19 & Up	Total
<b>PUBLIC</b>	414	2,028	5,366	10,288	94	18,190
Female	76	612	1,696	3,044	25	5,453
Male	338	1,413	3,670	7,237	69	12,727
Unknown	0	3	0	7	0	10
<b>STATUS</b>	61	675	1,902	2,988	3	5,629
Female	20	290	887	1,373	2	2,572
Male	41	384	1,015	1,613	1	3,054
Unknown	0	1	0	2	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>7,268</b>	<b>13,276</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>23,819</b>



## Custody & Release

A juvenile can be taken into custody by a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe the child has committed an offense. The law enforcement officer may release the child to a parent, relative, guardian or custodian upon his or her written promise to appear with the child in juvenile court. However, children are eligible for detention if:

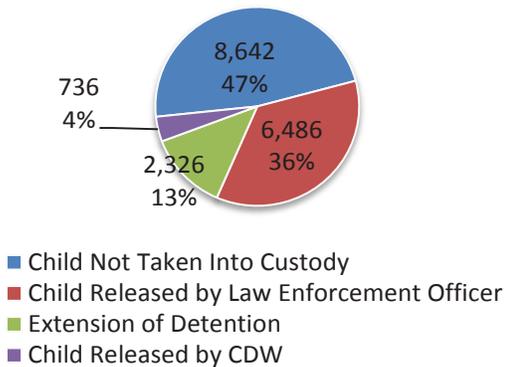
- » There is reasonable belief the child is unlikely to appear in court.
- » Detention is essential to protect the child or the community.
- » The child is charged with a serious offense.
- » A parent, guardian or custodian cannot be located or is unwilling to take custody.
- » The child has a reasonable basis for requesting detention.

Once a child has been taken into custody, a CDW will respond to the custody site and determine if the child meets the criteria for detention. The CDW will contact a judge if the child is eligible to be detained. If the child is held in a Juvenile Detention Center, a detention hearing must be held after the child is taken into custody. At the detention hearing, the judge:

- » May dismiss the charges and release the child if there is no probable cause the child has committed an offense.
- » Has the discretion to release the child to his or her parents, guardians or custodians upon promise to reappear in juvenile court.
- » May order the child to surrender his or her driver's license as a condition of release.
- » May order continued detention if there is reasonable belief the child is unlikely to reappear; if detention is essential to protect the child or the community; if the parent, guardian or custodian cannot be located or is unwilling to take custody; or if the child has a reasonable basis for requesting detention.

# CDW Program: An Overview by the Numbers

**Custody Outcomes of 18,190 Public Complaints CY 2013**



## Custody Outcomes From Public & Status Complaints

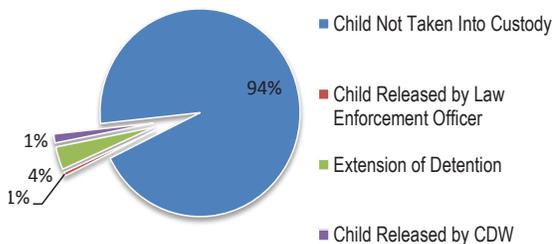
The majority of youth with public and status complaints are not taken into custody.

Of the 18,190 young people with a public complaint, 47 percent were not taken into custody. Of those taken into custody, 36 percent were released by a law enforcement officer, 13 percent were housed in detention at the direction of the judge pending a court hearing and 4 percent were released by the CDW.

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Of the 5,629 youth with a status complaint, 94 percent were not taken into custody. Four percent of the children had an extension of detention and the remaining 2 percent were released by a law enforcement officer or CDW.

**Custody Outcomes of 5,629 Status Complaints CY 2013**



## Preliminary Inquiry

Kentucky's Unified Juvenile Code directs whether a juvenile complaint is eligible to be processed formally in a court setting or informally through a diversion agreement. A young person has the right to waive the informal processing of his or her case and request a formal court hearing to determine the validity of the allegations.

The AOC has developed the Preliminary Inquiry Formal/Informal Processing Criteria and Recommendations (JW-40) form, which gives CDWs a checklist of the criteria set out in the Unified Juvenile Code.

## Formal Process

Young people charged with a felony offense involving the use of a firearm, a sexual offense, contempt of court, or probation violation are not eligible for the informal process. Similarly, CDWs always refer to formal court any cases involving youth who violate emergency protective orders.

## Informal Process

Court designated workers are statutorily authorized to informally process a total of three status or nonfelony public offense complaints per child and, with the written approval of the county attorney, one felony complaint that did not involve the commission of a sexual offense or the use of a deadly weapon. A young person who is eligible for informal processing will be able to avoid court and participate in a diversion program. A youth's eligibility is based on legal criteria and input from the person filing the complaint and/or the victim, along with the court and the county attorney. A juvenile who is eligible for informal processing must agree to participate in a diversion program.

# CDW Program: An Overview by the Numbers

## Diversion Agreements

In 2013, 6,348 public offenses and 3,207 status complaints were handled through diversion agreements. A diversion agreement is a contract – also called a case plan – that the CDW negotiates with the child. The goal of the diversion agreement is to hold the child accountable for his or her behavior, secure services for him or her if appropriate, and serve the best interest of the child while providing redress and restitution for his or her offenses without court action and without creating a formal court record.

Case plans are customized to fit the individual needs of the child. The CDW draws upon community resources and a variety of tools and programs to incorporate prevention, education, accountability and treatment (if applicable) to resolve a complaint. Successful diversion agreements have produced a significant amount of money in the form of restitution.

### Diversion Term(s) within Diversion Agreements

	CY 2013		
	Diversion Agreement Terms	Juveniles*	Complaints*
Assault Workbook/Service Learning Project	1,031	984	1,029
Bullying Workbook/Service Learning Project	210	196	210
Character Counts!	174	164	174
Community Service Work	1,853	1,752	1,848
Community Works	46	45	46
Counseling Assessment	2,129	2,028	2,126
Counseling Referral	3,175	2,882	3,168
Criminal Mischief Workbook/Service Learning	345	321	345
Curfew	1,829	1,692	1,824
Drug/Alcohol Education	108	103	108
Educational Diversion Assignment	2,943	2,763	2,941
Educational Seminar/Program (Specify)	946	910	944
Families Workbook/Service Learning Project	321	309	319
Farmer's, Families, Friends , & Fitness Work	14	13	13
Harassment/Internet Safety Workbook/Service	224	212	224
Letter of Apology	2,709	2,528	2,705
Look Before You Leap	80	77	79
Making Choices	72	65	72
Making It On Your Own	16	13	15
No Negative Contact	1,590	1,502	1,583
Other	1,894	1,786	1,887
Report to CDW	2,968	2,792	2,963
Restitution	277	253	274
School Attendance	5,316	4,946	5,305
Service Learning Project (Individual)	6,835	6,339	6,820
Service Learning Workbook	275	264	274
Street Law for Juvenile Justice Programs	119	112	119
Substance Education Activity Program	351	330	350
Substance Workbook : Journal	250	239	250
Taking Active Control Today	1	1	1
TBUT Workbook/Service Learning Project	1,287	1,242	1,285
Teen Court Diversion	221	211	221
Theatre In Diversion	19	18	19
Truancy Diversion Program (Promise)	45	45	45
Truancy Diversion Program (TDP)	558	546	558
Truancy Workbook/Service Learning Project	1,481	1,455	1,477
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,712</b>	<b>8,893</b>	<b>9,677</b>

# CDW Program: An Overview by the Numbers

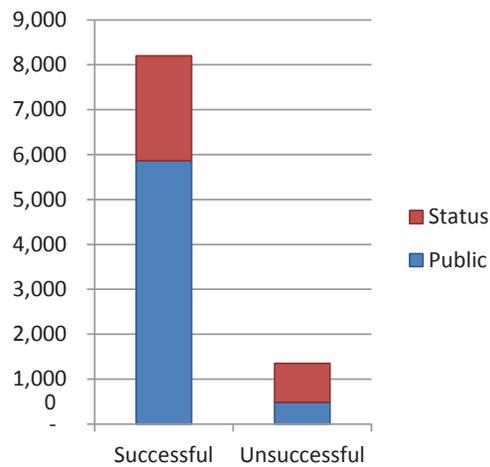
## Diversion Program Success

Of the 6,348 public complaints handled through diversion agreements, 5,868 were successfully completed. Of the 3,207 status complaints handled through diversion, 2,334 were successfully completed.

**Diversion Agreements by Type of Complaint CY 2013**

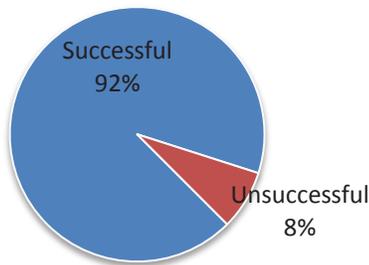


**Completed Diversion Agreements by Type of Complaint CY 2013**

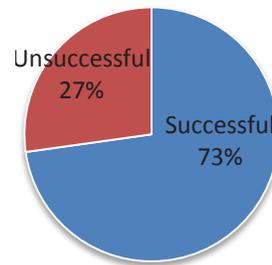


Of the 5,868 diversions for public offenses, 92 percent were successful. Of the 2,334 diversions for status offenses, which are typically more challenging and complex, 73 percent were successful.

**Success of Diversion Agreements for Public Offenses CY 2013**

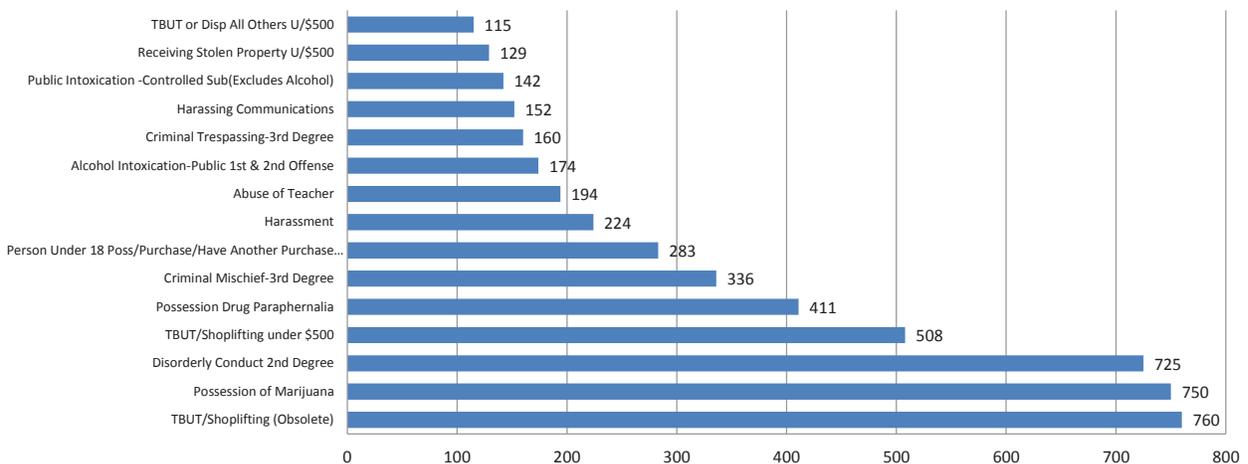


**Success of Diversion Agreements for Status Offenses CY 2013**



Of the 15 top offenses charged within public complaints, 63 percent involved five offenses: charges of theft by unlawful taking/shoplifting, possession of marijuana, disorderly conduct 2nd degree, theft by unlawful taking/shoplifting under \$500, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

**Top 15 Offenses Within Public Complaints Filed With Diversion Agreement CY 2013**



# CDW Program: An Overview by the Numbers

## Formal Court Action

Complaints must be referred for formal court action if they cannot be resolved through the diversion process and the county attorney determines they meet the criteria for probable cause. There are several reasons a CDW may not be able to resolve the case through diversion:

- » The child voluntarily enters a diversion agreement and violates the terms or conditions of the agreement.
- » The CDW consults with the child and possibly amends the diversion agreement but the child still fails to meet the terms or conditions of the agreement.

CDWs must exhaust all efforts to amend the original diversion agreement before referring the case to formal court. The table below provides a breakdown of how cases were closed in the Court Designated Worker Case Management System by close case reason and the number of complaints in each category.

PUBLIC		% Complaints	STATUS		% Complaints
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>
	Successful Diversion	34%		Successful Diversion	34%
	CDW Referred Case to Formal Court	22%		CDW Referred Case to Formal Court	15%
	County Attorney Referred Case to Formal Court	16%		Court Attorney Referred Case to Formal Court	11%
	Judge Referred Case to Formal Court	9%		Unsuccessful Diversion	11%
	Child Failed to Appear for Preliminary Interview	3%		Child Failed to Appear for Preliminary Interview	7%
	Unsuccessful Diversion	3%		County Attorney Requested Informal Process/Dismissal	7%
	Child Requested Formal Court Hearing	2%		Judge Referred Case to Formal Court	6%
	County Attorney Requested Informal Process/Dismissal	2%		Child Requested Formal Court Hearing	2%
	No Probable Cause	2%		No Probable Cause	1%
	Youthful Offense Referral	2%			
	Reason Unknown	0%			
	Court Generated Charge	0%			

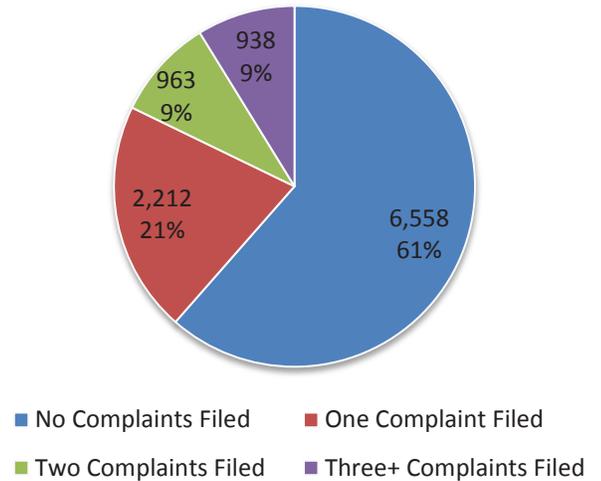
# CDW Program: An Overview by the Numbers

## Juvenile Recidivism

The CDW Program produced a juvenile recidivism study in February 2014 using information from the CDW Case Management System. The study included 10,671 juveniles whose first complaint was filed during calendar year 2010 and who had a successful or unsuccessful diversion. The study looked at whether additional complaints were filed for each juvenile between January 1, 2010, and December 31, 2012.

Of the 10,671 juveniles, the majority – 61 percent – did not reoffend or have any subsequent complaints filed during the specified time frame.

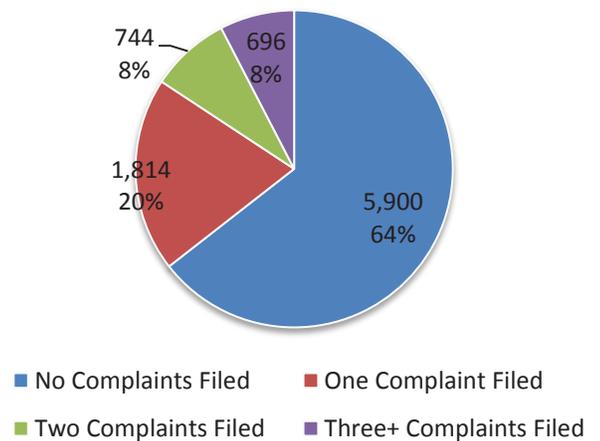
Subsequent Complaints Filed Against Youth With Successful & Unsuccessful Diversions ♦ Jan. 1, 2010 - Dec. 31, 2012



## Successful Diversions

Of the 9,154 young people who successfully completed a diversion program, 64 percent had no additional complaints filed against them and only 20 percent had one subsequent complaint filed with the CDW office. This indicates that youth who successfully complete a diversion program have a high probability of not incurring a new complaint for at least a two-year period. Given the rate of developmental change during the adolescent years, tracking the impact of the CDW Program on the behavior of young people beyond two years becomes increasingly problematic.

Subsequent Complaints Filed Against Youth With Successful Diversions ♦ Jan. 1, 2010 - Dec. 31, 2012

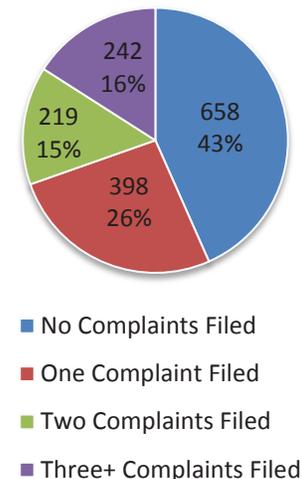


## Unsuccessful Diversions

Of the 1,517 youth who were unsuccessful in completing a diversion program, 57 percent had subsequent complaints filed with the CDW Program and 43 percent had no additional complaints filed against them.

The youth with additional complaints were more likely to be high-needs cases. It is reasonable to assume that these young people had needs that were greater than the diversion program alone could meet. It can also be assumed that the young people who avoided additional complaints were able to receive the services they needed through the formal court process.

Subsequent Complaints Filed Against Youth With Unsuccessful Diversions ♦ Jan. 1, 2010 - Dec. 31, 2012



# Training and Professional Development

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## Training & Professional Development

Continuing education is an important part of the CDW Program. The Department of Family and Juvenile Services provides regular training to CDW supervisors and staff. The training opportunities offered in 2013 included:

- » Best Practices in Diversion
- » Family Engagement Training, provided by the Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children
- » Identifying and Understanding Human Trafficking, provided by the Domestic Violence Association and Catholic Charities
- » CDW Assessment of the Truancy Affidavit: What Is Considered Adequate?
- » Review of Intent: Juvenile Detention Criteria (JW39) and Least-Restrictive Placement Options
- » Adolescent Brain Development
- » Interviewing and Communication Strategies
- » Better Access to Mental Health Services and Resources, provided regionally by mental health providers



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## **Acknowledgments**

2013 Court Designated Worker Annual Report  
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Printed With State Funds, February 2015