

Pre-Court Supervision

Pre-court supervision in Maryland is a statewide program that serves to divert youth from formal juvenile court processing. Also referred to as “informal adjustment,” it is a way of holding youth accountable for their actions while avoiding formal processing in the courts. Pre-court supervision can be proposed by a DJS intake officer in a case when it is determined that the juvenile court has jurisdiction, but it would be in the best interests of the public and the youth to handle the complaint without judicial action. Youth referred for less serious offenses and with a lower risk of recidivism are those more likely to be handled informally. A pre-court supervision agreement is a contract unique to the case that outlines the purpose, proposed length, conditions of behavior, and services to be accessed. The parties agree to participate and intake staff provides support to ensure that youth and families can access services where applicable (approval by the State’s Attorney is required for a felony offense). Conditions may include short-term participation in an Evening Reporting Center (ERC) program (for first-time, serious offenders), participation in Multi-Systems Therapy (MST) or Functional Family Therapy (FFT), referrals to Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) to work with a family peer support specialist, Neighborhood Youth Panels, teen court, paying restitution, completing community service, or specialized substance abuse/mental health counseling or treatment programs.

The pre-court supervision period is usually less than 90 days, but may be extended to 180 days if a youth is required to participate in a program. The victim, the youth, and the youth’s parent/guardian must all consent to the arrangement. If the victim does not consent, the pre-court supervision term cannot proceed. The case may then be closed or forwarded to the State’s Attorney’s Office for formal processing; victims may appeal to the State’s Attorney if the case is closed. Parties may also withdraw support for the pre-court agreement at any time, though this is rare. If the conditions of the agreement are met, the case is generally closed. If terms are not successfully met, the case may be sent to the State’s Attorney for formal processing or closed. All parties to the agreement and the arresting officer are informed about the failure to complete the terms, and the subsequent decision about the case, and all have a right to appeal.

COMPLAINTS PLACED ON PRE-COURT SUPERVISION BY REGION, FY 2018-2020

Region	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
Reg-I - Baltimore City	5.4%	6.7%	5.5%
Reg-II - Central	19.6%	17.0%	19.0%
Reg-III - Western	12.0%	16.2%	17.2%
Reg-IV - Eastern	13.7%	15.5%	12.3%
Reg-V - Southern	20.5%	17.5%	18.4%
Reg-VI - Metro	28.8%	27.0%	27.6%
Total Cases	3,070	3,026	2,089

CASES BY DEMOGRAPHICS, FY 2018-2020

Demographics	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
Race/Ethnicity			
Black	53.4%	52.5%	53.8%
White	35.3%	36.4%	34.9%
Hispanic/Other	11.3%	11.1%	11.2%
Sex			
Male	72.0%	67.6%	71.0%
Female	28.0%	32.4%	29.0%
Age			
11 and under	5.2%	5.2%	5.7%
12	6.5%	7.7%	6.1%
13	9.6%	11.4%	11.2%
14	14.9%	14.6%	14.9%
15	18.3%	18.8%	19.4%
16	20.3%	19.5%	20.4%
17	23.0%	21.2%	20.4%
18-20	2.2%	1.7%	1.8%
Total Cases	3,070	3,026	2,089

- **Placement Trends:**
 - Overall placements to pre-court supervision decreased 32.0% between FY 2018 and FY 2020 and decreased 31.0% from FY 2019 to FY 2020.
 - The Metro Region comprised over one quarter of placements to pre-court supervision in all three reported fiscal years.
- **Offense Category (FY 2019-2020):**
 - The percentage of Crimes of Violence increased from 6.6% to 9.4%.
 - The percentage of Felonies increased from 7.2% to 8.9%.
 - The percentage of Misdemeanors increased from 71.2% to 73.0%.
 - Misdemeanors comprised nearly three-quarters of all alleged offenses for youth placed on pre-court supervision.
 - See the Terms and Concepts pages in the introduction section for an explanation of Crime of Violence, Felony, and Misdemeanor as the definitions are helpful when examining offense severity.
- **Completion Status:**
 - Statewide, over three-quarters of youth placed on pre-court supervision completed the terms of their agreement.
 - The percentage of successful completions ranged from 42.1% to 100% for counties having more than 10 releases.
- **Length of Stay (FY 2020):**
 - More than half of youth released from pre-court supervision had a LOS of 61-90 days.

For a detailed description of DJS’ COVID-19 response and reforms see page vi.

CASES BY OFFENSE, FY 2020

Most Serious Alleged Offense	FY2020
Offense Type	
Arson	0.7%
Auto Theft/Unauthorized Use	2.5%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	8.7%
Carjacking	0.0%
Conspiracy to Commit Offense	0.0%
Deadly Weapon	1.8%
Disturbing the Peace	2.2%
First Degree Assault-Felony	0.6%
Handgun Violation	0.0%
Malicious Destruction	6.7%
Manslaughter	0.0%
Motor Vehicle/Traffic	2.1%
Murder	0.0%
Narcotics (CDS-Felony)	3.0%
Narcotics (CDS-Misd.)	7.6%
Other/Missing ¹	7.6%
Resisting Arrest	1.1%
Robbery	4.1%
Second Degree Assault-Misdemeanor	33.0%
Sex Offense	1.8%
Theft Felony	1.6%
Theft Misdemeanor	11.6%
Trespassing	2.0%
Unspecified Misdemeanor	1.2%
Offense Category	
Crime of Violence*	9.4%
Felony	8.9%
- Person-to-Person	1.3%
- Property	4.4%
- Drugs	3.0%
- Unspecified	0.1%
Misdemeanor	73.0%
- Person-to-Person	43.5%
- Property	26.0%
- Drugs	2.2%
- Unspecified	1.2%
Ordinance Offenses	0.2%
Citations	6.4%
CINS	2.2%
Total Cases	2,089

¹ Includes: Affray, Alcohol Possession on School Premises, Alcoholic Bev. Violation, BB Gun/Pellet Gun, Destructive Device Possession, False Alarm, False Report, False Statement, Fireworks Violation, Forgery/Counterfeit, Fraud-Misdemeanor, Harassment, Identity Fraud, Reckless Endangerment, Rioting, Runaway, Telephone Misuse, Threat of Mass Violence, Truant, Ungovernable, Unlawful Visual Surveillance of Private Place, Unspecified Felony, Vaporizer Violation (Electronic Nicotine Delivery System), Violation of Local Ordinance, and Violation of Natural Resources Article.

* See Appendices K and R for COV and other offense classifications.

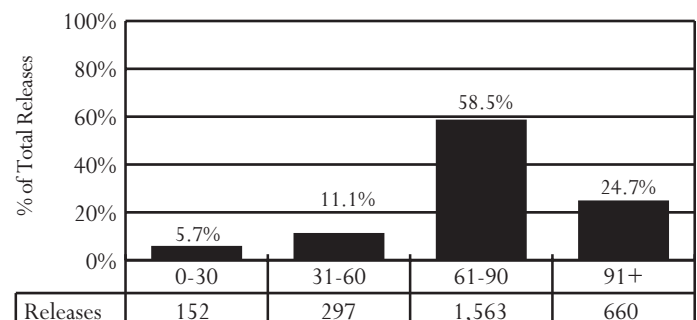
ASSIST is a live database; therefore, updates made subsequent to these data being run will not be included. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Data may not be comparable to previous Data Resource Guides due to methodology changes. All data represent only youth under juvenile court jurisdiction.

RELEASES AND COMPLETION STATUS BY COUNTY/REGION, FY 2020

County/Region	Releases	Successful	Unsuccessful [^]
R-I (Balt. City)	133	42.1%	57.9%
Baltimore City	133	42.1%	57.9%
R-II (Central)	494	81.6%	18.4%
Baltimore Co.	230	74.8%	25.2%
Carroll	129	89.9%	10.1%
Harford	56	85.7%	14.3%
Howard	79	84.8%	15.2%
R-III (Western)	446	83.6%	16.4%
Allegany	66	92.4%	7.6%
Frederick	150	80.0%	20.0%
Garrett	45	97.8%	2.2%
Washington	185	80.0%	20.0%
R-IV (Eastern)	352	85.5%	14.5%
Caroline	17	76.5%	23.5%
Cecil	64	92.2%	7.8%
Dorchester	58	86.2%	13.8%
Kent	22	95.5%	4.5%
Queen Anne's	24	100.0%	0.0%
Somerset	44	79.5%	20.5%
Talbot	24	75.0%	25.0%
Wicomico	41	82.9%	17.1%
Worcester	58	81.0%	19.0%
R-V (Southern)	490	79.0%	21.0%
Anne Arundel	307	77.2%	22.8%
Calvert	87	64.4%	35.6%
Charles	2	0.0%	100.0%
St. Mary's	94	100.0%	0.0%
R-VI (Metro)	757	66.1%	33.9%
Montgomery	530	61.9%	38.1%
Prince George's	227	75.8%	24.2%
Statewide	2,672	75.6%	24.4%

[^] Includes withdraw of consent by a third party as well as SAO overrides

PRE-COURT SUPERVISION LOS (DAYS), FY 2020 RELEASES*



* Basic agreement is 90 days but can be extended by a court to 180 days.

PRE-COURT SERVICE OPTIONS, FY 2020

Region	Service	Location
Baltimore City	Anger Management	Baltimore City
	Choice	Baltimore City
	DJS Evening Reporting Center (ERC)	Baltimore City
	Fresh Start	Baltimore City
	Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF)	Baltimore City
	Mentor MD	Baltimore City
	PACT Evening Reporting Center (ERC)	Baltimore City
	Teen Court	Baltimore City
	Victim Awareness	Baltimore City
	Central	Anger Management
Choice		All Counties
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)		All Counties
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)		All Counties
Shoplifting Abatement		All Counties
Victim Awareness		All Counties
Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF)		Baltimore Co.
Family Engagement		Carroll
DJS Evening Reporting Ctr. (ERC)		East. Balt. Co.
Teen Court		Harford
Western	Anger Management	All Counties
	Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	All Counties
	Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF)	All Counties
	Shoplifting Abatement	All Counties
	Victim Awareness and Education Program (VAEP)	All Counties
	Youthful Offender Program	All Counties
	Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	Fred./Wash.
	Truancy Court*	Frederick

* Scheduled to begin for start of next school year

Region	Service	Location
Eastern Shore	Community Conferencing	All Counties
	Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	All Counties
	Mentor MD	All Counties
	Mediation	Cecil
	Mobile Crisis	Cecil
	Neighborhood Youth Panel	Cecil
	Wraparound MD	Cecil/Wicomico
	Adventure Diversion	Dorchester
	Teen Court (Diversion)	Talbot/Caroline
	Anger Management	Wicomico
	Choice	Wicomico
	Evening Reporting Center (ERC)	Wicomico
	Kumon Learning	Wicomico
	Mentoring	Wicomico
Tri County Mediation	Wicomico	
Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF)	Wicomico**	
Southern	Anger Management	All Counties
	Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	All Counties
	Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF)	All Counties
	Mentor MD	All Counties
	Victim Awareness	All Counties
Metro	Anger Management	Both Counties
	Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	Both Counties
	Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF)	Both Counties
	Mentor MD	Both Counties
	Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	Both Counties
	Victim Awareness	Both Counties
	Evening Reporting Center Lead for Life	Montgomery
	Choice	Prince George's
	Department of Family Services/ CINS	Prince George's
	PG Evening Reporting Center (ERC)	Prince George's

** Available for all counties through Local Management Boards