

Redirection: Reducing Juvenile Crime in Florida

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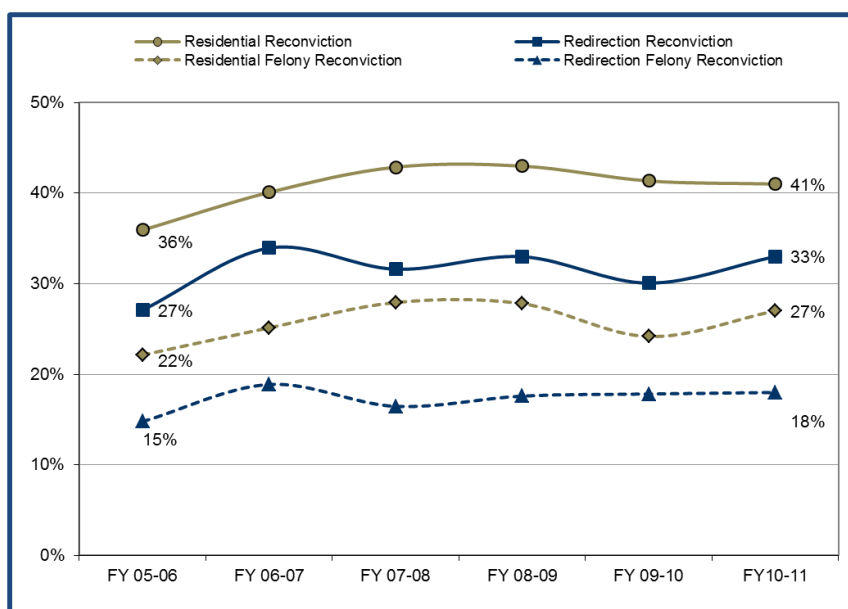
Statewide Outcomes

Redirection Continues to be a Cost-Effective Strategy

The Redirection Project is a Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) intervention funded by the Florida Legislature and managed by Evidence-Based Associates. The project *redirects* juvenile offenders from residential confinement to community-based alternatives proven to reduce

Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Functional Family Therapy (FFT) or Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT).

This report presents results from an independent evaluation of the Redirection Project by the Justice Research Center (JRC). Statewide



delinquency. Developed as a cost-effective option for youthful offenders, these alternatives tailor services to the individual risks and needs of youth and their families. Youth may be diverted from residential confinement to one of three evidence-based programs delivered to youth and their families in the community. These programs include:

recidivism outcomes of youth completing Redirection services in 2010-11 were compared to a matched sample of youth who completed residential programs. Full results are presented in the accompanying report and appendices.¹

¹ Winokur Early, K., Hand, G., & Blankenship, J. (2013). *Florida Redirection Cost-Effectiveness Evaluation*. Tallahassee, FL: Justice Research Center.

Key Findings

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Rates of felony recidivism for youth completing Redirection services were **38% lower** than the matched sample of residential youth.

Rates of subsequent juvenile commitment, adult probation or adult prison were **33% lower** for Redirection youth.

Redirection services cost an average of **\$27,000 less** than the cost of incarcerating a youth in a residential facility.

Redirection **avoided \$30 million** in residential commitment costs in fiscal year 2010-11.

Over the last six years, serving youth in Redirection saved Florida taxpayers more than **\$124 million dollars**.

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Results

Redirection Compared to Residential Commitment

Youth who completed Redirection services had lower rates of re-offending than a matched residential sample, as well as the population of all youth completing low, moderate and high risk residential programs in fiscal year 2010-11. Redirection achieved rates of re-arrest, felony arrest, felony conviction, and subsequent placement that were statistically significantly lower than residential commitment.

Redirection youth were less likely to be arrested within 12 months of release than their residential counterparts. When they were re-arrested, they were less likely to be arrested for a felony and less likely to be convicted, placed in a residential facility or to receive adult sanctions.

A total of 1,106 youth completed Redirection services in fiscal year 2010-11, at an average cost per completion of \$9,429.² In comparison, it cost Florida an average of \$36,743 for each youth in the matched

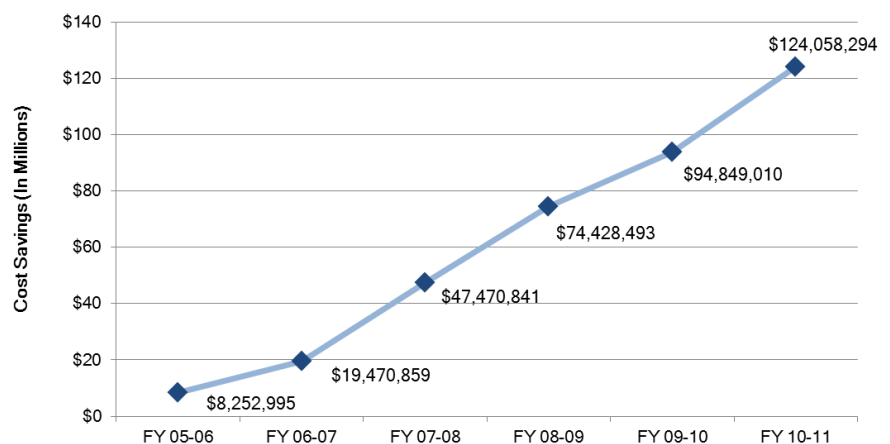
commitment study sample.³ The difference between serving similar risk youth in Redirection versus residential commitment was \$27,314 per youth.

Diverting 1,106 juveniles to community Redirection services avoided more than \$30 million dollars in confinement expenditures in 2010-11. Cumulative cost savings achieved by Redirection services were substantial. Over the last six years, more than \$124 million in residential expenditures have been avoided as a result of the Redirection Project.

Fiscal Year	Completions	Cost Per Completion			Total Saved Utilizing Redirection
		Residential	Redirection	Difference	
FY 05-06	305	\$34,774	\$7,715	\$27,059	\$8,252,995
FY 06-07	392	\$39,471	\$10,854	\$28,617	\$11,217,864
FY 07-08	905	\$40,235	\$9,296	\$30,939	\$27,999,982
FY 08-09	858	\$41,969	\$10,550	\$31,419	\$26,957,652
FY 09-10	858	\$35,332	\$12,697	\$22,635	\$19,420,517
FY 10-11	1,106	\$36,743	\$9,429	\$27,314	\$30,209,284
Six Year Total	4,424				\$124,058,294

As more youth continue to be served through the evidence-based programs offered through the Redirection Project, and if Redirection programming continues to achieve significantly better recidivism outcomes than residential commitment, then the State of Florida can expect to continue to receive a significant return on its investment in these juvenile justice services.

Residential Costs Saved Serving Youth in Redirection Project



² Redirection Project expenditures for MST, FFT, and BSFT services totaled \$10,428,922.45 in fiscal year 2010-11.

³ Average costs per residential completion for FY 2010-11 were based upon expenditures reported in the DJJ Program Accountability Measures (PAM) Report. See full report for detail.