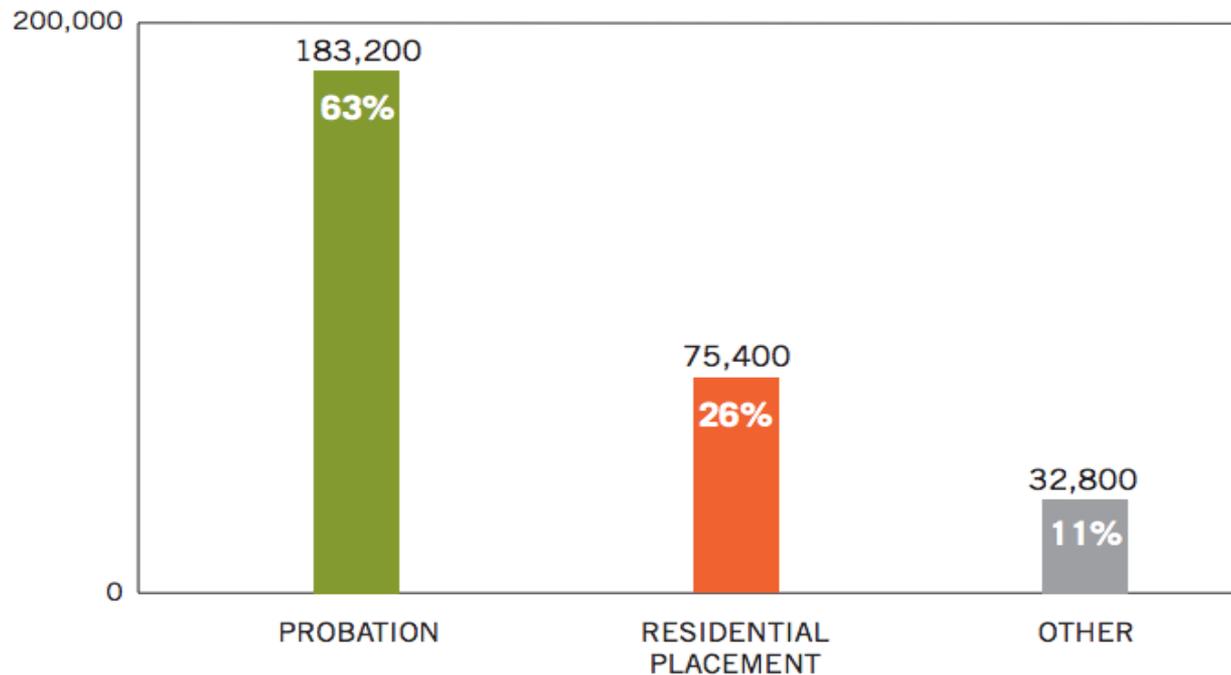

National Practice for Juvenile Probation

September 17, 2020

Reinventing Juvenile Probation

Probation supervision is the most common disposition for youth who enter the U.S. justice system.

Dispositions For Youth Adjudicated Delinquent in the U.S. (2014)



Source: Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics: 1985–2015.

Improving Probation Outcomes

- Limit formal probation for youth, except for those with the highest needs.
- Provide positive youth development activities and encourage success in school.
- Address young persons' identified needs and risk factors.
- Establish meaningful goals to reduce reoffending.

Source: Transforming Juvenile Probation. Annie Casey Foundation.

Probation Duration

- Shorter probationary sentences:
 - New York – Up to two years, can be extended
 - Florida – Depends upon the charge
 - California – Introduced SB-1134 to limit probationary period to 6 months
- Length of supervision:
 - Reviewed laws in various states, including Virginia, California, Florida, Illinois, and Missouri. Like Maryland, probation supervision in those states may extend for an indefinite time period through a certain age or until jurisdiction lapses.
- Earned compliance as a reward for positive behavior
 - South Carolina – DJJ reduces the probationary term by up to ten days each month youth is compliant.

Rules and Sanctions

- Probation Department should develop and follow a *response grid* offering predictable, calibrated and constructive responses to noncompliant behavior.
- Consequences should be meaningful to the youth but — unlike the threat of a violation and possible confinement — should not involve punitive sanctions

Source: Transforming Juvenile Probation. Annie Casey Foundation.