

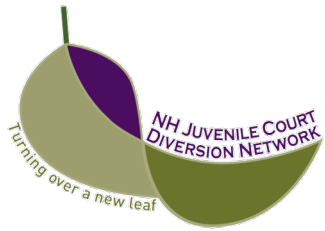
NH JUVENILE COURT DIVERSION NETWORK

Why Diversion?

Statute **NH RSA169 Delinquent Children-B:10 Juvenile Diversion** includes provisions for Police and Courts to refer **first-time offenders** for diversion services.

The law states:

I-a. **Prior to** filing a delinquency petition with the court, **the arresting agency** or prosecutor shall screen the petition for **participation in diversion**.



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Hence, **Police** are intended to be the **primary referral sources:**

Address _____ Telephone number _____

6. The petitioner represents that the juvenile is **DELINQUENT** in that he/she is alleged to have committed the offense of _____ contrary to RSA _____ Check: Felony offense Class A Class A Misdemeanor Felony offense Class B Class B Misdemeanor

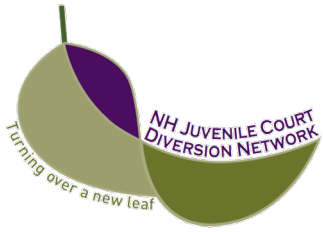
7. Date(s) and time(s) of alleged offense _____

8. Location of alleged offense _____

9. Details or facts of alleged offense _____

10. Petitioner screened this case for Diversion and determined it inappropriate because: _____

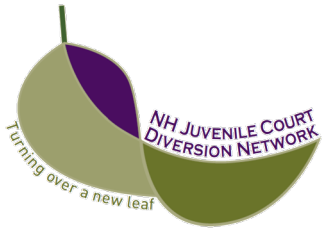
SEE BACK FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS



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Why is Pre-Court so critical?

- **Community handles the consequences**, so JPPO caseloads are not needlessly increased.
- **Judges can focus on serious offenses.**
- Diversion consequences are **often tougher than court, higher accountability and comprehensive.**
- Leaves **fear of court as leverage** for those that need to enter Juvenile Justice system for noncompliance.

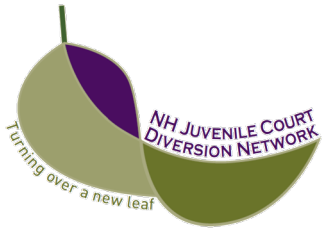


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Why is a comprehensive approach so important?

- Only **76.2%** of NH youth indicated their parents had **clear rules** for their behavior.
- **30.7%** have ever **lived with someone** with alcohol or drug problem
- **15.8%** rode with a **driver who had been drinking** alcohol
- **14.8%** saw or heard **domestic violence** at home
- **9.3%** had a **family member in jail** or in prison

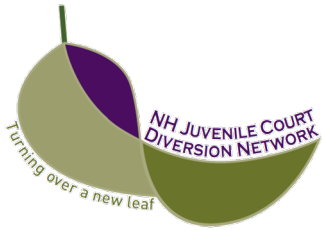
(NH 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 57,326 students)



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At the same time, teens across NH are engaging in risky behavior... In 2015:

- **10.8%** drank alcohol **before age 13**
- **29.9%** **currently drink** alcohol
- **22.2%** **currently use** marijuana
- **6.8%** **currently use prescriptions** without a doctor's Rx
- **15.3%** considered attempting **suicide**



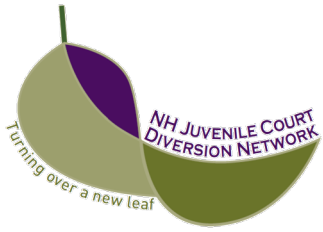
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In addition, among programs reporting 2014 data:

- **20% were arrested** for a substance-related offense while **twice as many (42.3%) reported use of alcohol or drugs during intake.**

Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Drug Abuse:

- Recognized Diversion's critical role in **early identification** of teen substance use.
- Granted funds so we can introduce an **evidence-based screening tool for all arrested youth** sent to diversion.



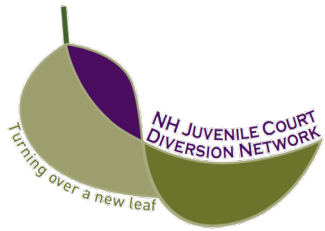
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Accredited Juvenile Court Diversion programs:

- hold youth **accountable**
- get parents **involved**
- track our **results** and
- adhere to rigorous **Accreditation Standards.**

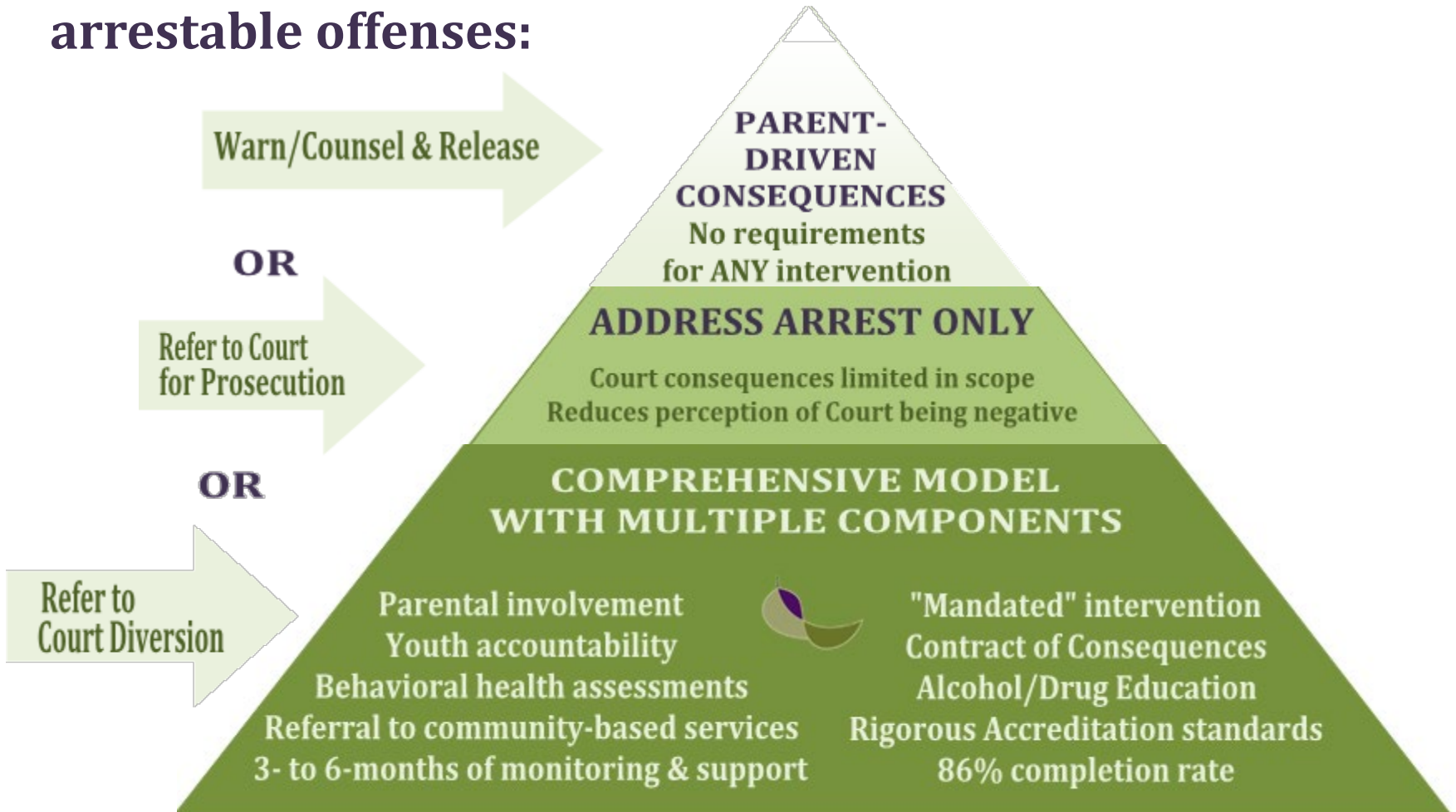


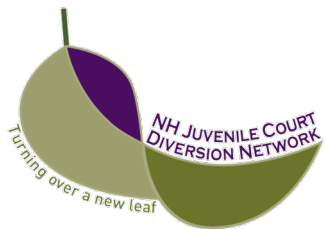
We are *not* “tree-hugging do-gooders”



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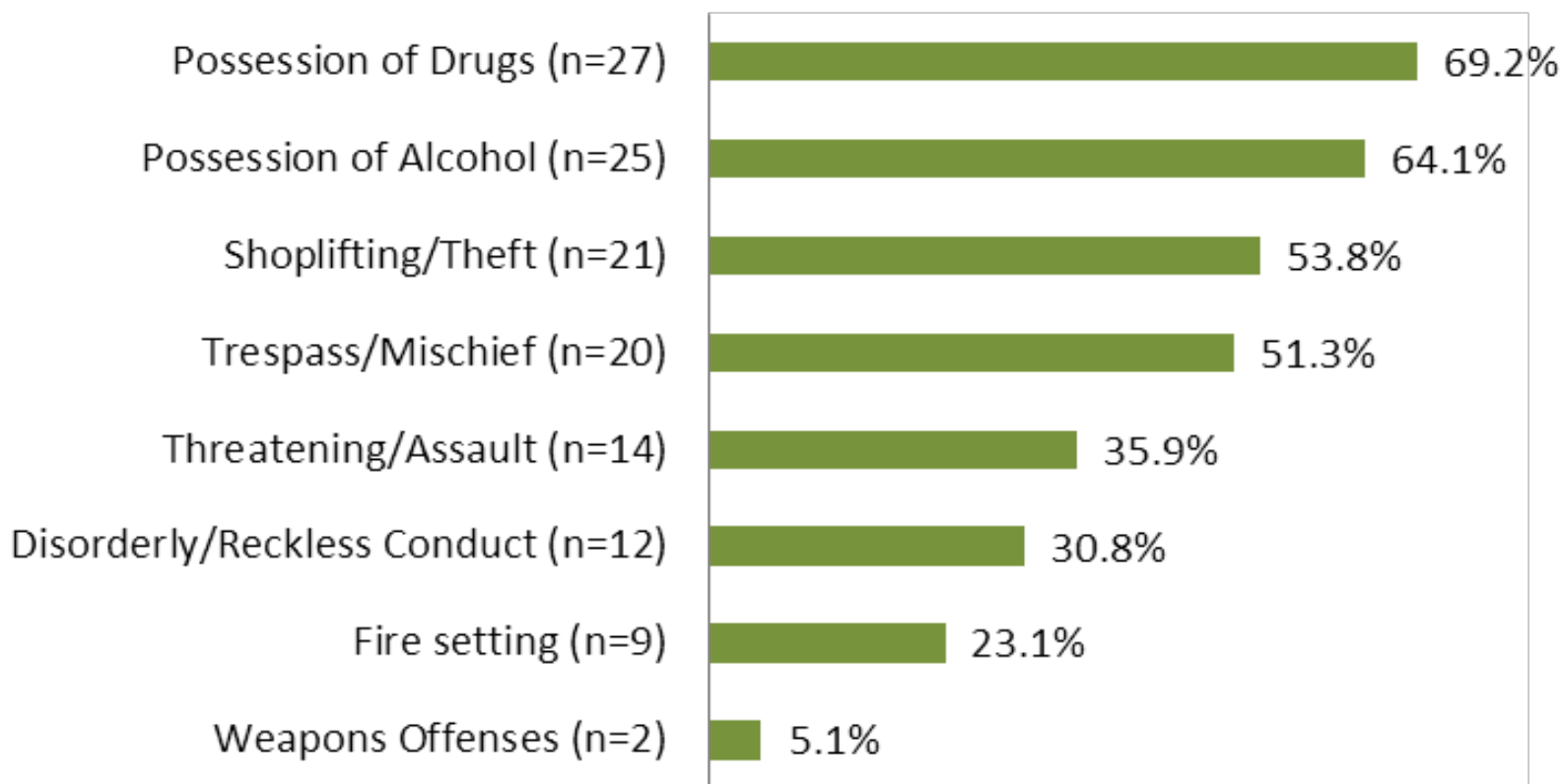
Law enforcement has 3 options when juveniles commit arrestable offenses:

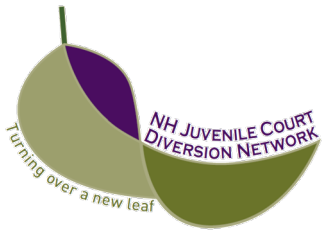




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In a 2013 survey of 49 NH Police Chiefs, the most common offenses referred to diversion:





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Youth participating in an accredited program:



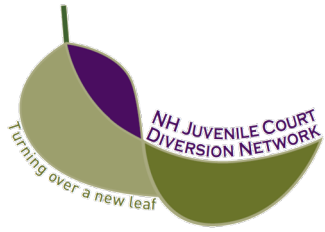
Participate in an assessment (including parent) to **identify strengths and needs** including **substance misuse**.



Meet with a **panel of volunteers** (some may be teens) or staff members to **discuss their case** and develop a **written contract**.



Receive a **contract of consequences** tailored to their unique strengths/ needs, **including concerns beyond arrest** (i.e., referral to treatment).



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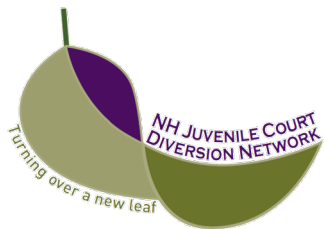
Attend **educational classes** addressing **alcohol/drug issues, risky decision-making, etc.** Participate in **community service** and/or pay **restitution.**



Spend approximately **three to six months** working on goals outlined in their contract.

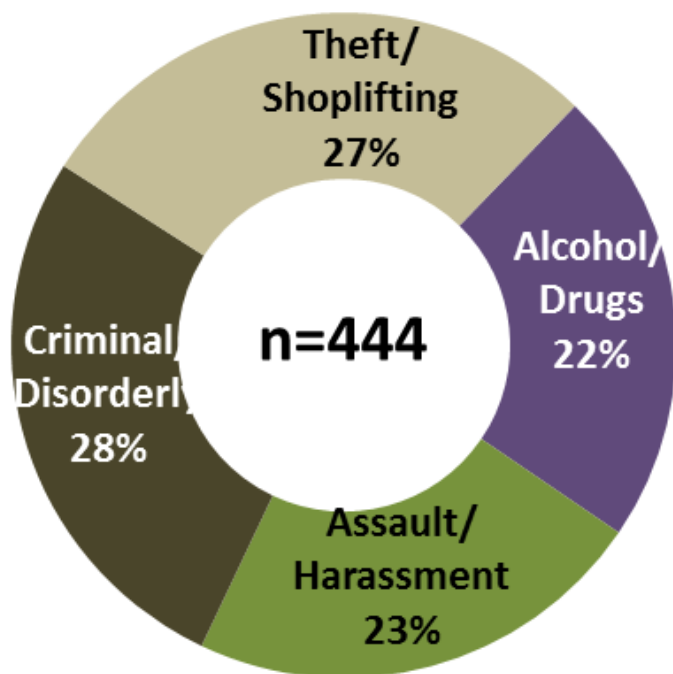


Have their **case closed with no juvenile court conviction**, provided the contract is complete with **no further offenses** committed. Statewide, the completion rate is **86%**.



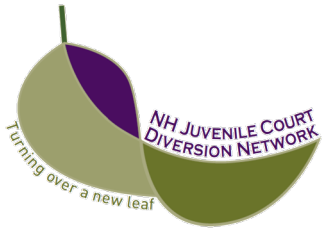
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A 2016 Recidivism Study of youth diverted in 2012 showed:



- **78% arrest-free one year after program completion**
- **58.3% arrest-free three years after program completion**

Recidivism tracked for JUVENILE and ADULT court.



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Next Steps:

- **Refer 2-3 pilot cases** in the next month to test out the program.
- **Talk with other departments** in your region that partner with accredited juvenile court diversion programs.
- **Observe a nearby diversion panel** to see first-hand how your youth and families can benefit.

www.NHCourtDiversion.org