

Revised: 04. 2024

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

PaDRAI

The Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI) is an objective assessment tool that helps probation officers and probation departments decide whether to securely detain a youth, release the youth to an alternative to detention (ATD), or release the youth to the custody of a parent or responsible adult while the youth is awaiting their juvenile court hearing. The PaDRAI is designed to minimize bias while promoting fair and transparent decisions for the use of secure detention and ATD. The PaDRAI generates a score based on objective, evidence-based risk factors. These six risk factors are: the most serious alleged offense; additional related charges or pending charges; current supervision status; prior adjudication or consent decree findings; history of failure to appear; and history of escape or runaway.

41 Departments
UTILIZED THE PaDRAI

94%
Detention
Admissions Were From
PaDRAI-USING COUNTIES

11,378

PaDRAIs
in 2023



63% INCREASE*
Since 2022

91%

YOUTH

Released or on an ATD
per the Tool's
Recommendation Were
SUCCESSFUL**
in the Community

94%

PaDRAI Recommendations Were Either
**ADHERED TO or
OVERRIDDEN DOWN**

6%

PaDRAI Assessments Resulted in a
**DISCRETIONARY
AGGRAVATING OVERRIDE**

4%

Override to
**SECURE
DETENTION*****

vs.

2%

Override to
ATD



Note: Data Is Based on 2023 PaDRAI Data.

* In January 2023, Counties Were Encouraged to Administer the PaDRAI on Every New Allegation to Promote Fundamental Fairness, Resulting in Policy Change in Some Counties, But Not All.

**Success Is Defined as the Youth Appearing for Their First Scheduled Court Hearing and Not Re-Offending While in the Community Awaiting the Hearing.

*** Best Practice Indicates That Override to Detain Rates Should Be 20% or Less.



pennsylvania
JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION