

### Cautionary Note

It is critically important to note that expunged cases create a significant limitation to this study. In Pennsylvania, when a case is expunged, all of a juvenile’s identifying information pertaining to that case is “erased” and is therefore not available for analysis. Consequently, juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case expungement were omitted from the study’s sample, unless they had a separate case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 that was not expunged.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine how a particular county’s recidivism rate was affected by the number of expungements for a variety of reasons, including that the unit of measurement for the recidivism study was a *juvenile*, while the unit of measurement for an expungement was a *case* (one juvenile may have had several cases expunged).

Arguably, juveniles whose cases are expunged are presumed to be individuals who are considered to be at lower risk to recidivate (i.e., first-time, relatively minor offenders). However, since no risk assessment instruments (e.g., the Youth Level of Service) were being utilized in Pennsylvania prior to 2009, there is no way to determine the actual risk to recidivate of juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case closure. In general, counties that expunged significant numbers of cases had higher recidivism rates than their counterparts. A possible explanation for this result is that a significant number of lower risk youth were removed from the research sample in these jurisdictions.

Moreover, these recidivism rates do not take into account the specific treatment and services that were provided to juveniles while under supervision. Readers are cautioned, therefore, to make no comparisons between counties due to varying juvenile court policies and practices, including those relating to expungement. Rather, it is our goal to measure whether recidivism rates within each county decline as evidence-based practices are implemented.

County and Statewide Recidivism Rates: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009												
County	2007 Case Closures			2008 Case Closures			2009 Case Closures			Three-Year Total		
	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxx</sup>	Number of Recidivists	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Number of Expunged Cases <sup>xxxxx</sup>
	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Adams	58	254	26	63	233	3	51	201	1	172	688	30
	23%			27%			25%			25%		
Allegheny	257	1,603	181	469	1,677	363	434	1,473	300	1,160	4,753	844
	16%			28%			29%			24%		
Armstrong	7	49	0	51	275	1	6	30	1	64	354	2
	14%			19%			20%			18%		

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	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Beaver	52	301	0	45	294	2	44	252	3	141	847	5
	17%			15%			17%			17%		
Bedford	10	70	0	14	64	0	10	72	0	34	206	0
	14%			22%			14%			17%		
Berks	160	769	158	183	814	79	174	933	39	517	2,516	276
	21%			22%			19%			21%		
Blair	14	149	60	14	82	103	21	77	117	49	308	280
	9%			17%			27%			16%		
Bradford	13	67	0	12	71	5	4	18	5	29	156	10
	19%			17%			22%			19%		
Bucks	167	852	154	172	854	92	153	710	268	492	2,416	514
	20%			20%			22%			20%		
Butler	33	173	97	18	156	47	25	141	23	76	470	167
	19%			12%			18%			16%		
Cambria	64	408	20	54	253	4	53	225	3	171	886	27
	16%			21%			24%			19%		
Cameron	2	10	0	1	7	N/A**	2	9	N/A**	5	26	N/A**
	20%			14%			22%			19%		
Carbon	9	111	0	15	105	2	20	101	0	44	317	2
	8%			14%			20%			14%		
Centre	6	55	11	16	79	3	12	71	14	34	205	28
	11%			20%			17%			17%		
Chester	117	623	38	119	657	N/A**	126	626	N/A**	362	1,906	N/A**
	19%			18%			20%			19%		
Clarion	13	29	36	8	37	2	9	46	1	30	112	39
	45%			22%			20%			27%		
Clearfield	18	72	0	11	55	0	5	43	0	34	170	0
	25%			20%			12%			20%		

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	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Clinton	0	7	0	5	17	12	15	62	7	20	86	19
	0%			29%			24%			23%		
Columbia	12	70	4	13	72	2	12	83	3	37	225	9
	17%			18%			14%			16%		
Crawford	21	125	0	24	132	3	31	119	4	76	376	7
	17%			18%			26%			20%		
Cumberland	26	89	894	17	83	332	39	125	267	82	297	1,493
	29%			20%			31%			28%		
Dauphin	184	850	13	245	984	23	259	1,001	18	688	2,835	54
	22%			25%			26%			24%		
Delaware	67	298	N/A**	45	283	N/A**	56	235	N/A**	168	816	N/A**
	22%			16%			24%			21%		
Elk	8	37	4	6	28	7	12	36	5	26	101	16
	22%			21%			33%			26%		
Erie	147	708	6	173	718	4	168	780	7	488	2,206	17
	21%			24%			22%			22%		
Fayette	37	280	1	43	261	7	35	246	2	115	787	10
	13%			16%			14%			15%		
Forest	1	3	4	1	7	5	1	12	5	3	22	14
	33%			14%			8%			14%		
Franklin	84	348	4	67	336	21	69	296	27	220	980	52
	24%			20%			23%			22%		
Fulton	1	17	0	2	15	0	1	11	1	4	43	1
	6%			13%			9%			9%		
Greene	3	37	88	4	20	69	5	42	59	12	99	216
	8%			20%			12%			12%		
Huntingdon	12	52	0	8	56	0	8	46	1	28	154	1
	23%			14%			17%			18%		

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	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Indiana	10	78	1	11	65	19	8	59	14	29	202	34
	13%			17%			14%			14%		
Jefferson	18	73	98	10	52	56	12	46	21	40	171	175
	25%			19%			26%			23%		
Juniata	2	6	12	4	16	13	7	17	6	13	39	31
	33%			25%			41%			33%		
Lackawanna	67	265	102	49	204	124	34	174	116	150	643	342
	25%			24%			20%			23%		
Lancaster	112	398	7	109	441	8	76	412	5	297	1,251	20
	28%			25%			18%			24%		
Lawrence	35	202	1	26	184	6	19	94	4	80	480	11
	17%			14%			20%			17%		
Lebanon	91	301	0	59	258	0	60	226	0	210	785	0
	30%			23%			27%			27%		
Lehigh	86	899	36	109	937	21	151	987	16	346	2,823	73
	10%			12%			15%			12%		
Luzerne	81	390	318	106	630	234	87	506	84	274	1,526	636
	21%			17%			17%			18%		
Lycoming	86	297	74	73	255	20	99	382	14	258	934	108
	29%			29%			26%			28%		
McKean	14	52	91	10	44	27	12	49	17	36	145	135
	27%			23%			24%			25%		
Mercer	31	163	0	15	122	0	27	154	0	73	439	0
	19%			12%			18%			17%		
Mifflin	19	53	19	17	64	8	15	55	4	51	172	31
	36%			27%			27%			30%		
Monroe	22	245	0	39	252	4	30	278	4	91	775	8
	9%			15%			11%			12%		

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Montgomery	223	1,042	117	232	973	41	253	1,003	54	708	3,018	212
	21%			24%			25%			23%		
Montour	5	26	2	5	23	0	6	19	0	16	68	2
	19%			22%			32%			24%		
Northampton	92	566	13	89	485	11	72	424	1	253	1,475	25
	16%			18%			17%			17%		
Northumberland	40	184	53	36	155	7	33	138	5	109	477	65
	22%			23%			24%			23%		
Perry	13	63	3	25	85	32	9	54	27	47	202	62
	21%			29%			17%			23%		
Philadelphia	598	2,098	306	606	2,143	78	809	2,499	96	2,013	6,740	480
	29%			28%			32%			30%		
Pike	10	86	0	9	66	0	14	99	5	33	251	5
	12%			14%			14%			13%		
Potter	4	27	0	5	30	1	2	43	0	11	100	1
	15%			17%			5%			11%		
Schuylkill	39	301	2	47	276	7	32	214	6	118	791	15
	13%			17%			15%			15%		
Snyder	17	63	2	14	59	0	12	39	0	43	161	2
	27%			24%			31%			27%		
Somerset	13	143	5	8	73	11	6	61	6	27	277	22
	9%			11%			10%			10%		
Sullivan	0	6	0	1	8	0	0	2	0	1	16	0
	0%			13%			0%			6%		
Susquehanna	13	57	0	10	43	2	8	61	3	31	161	5
	23%			23%			13%			19%		
Tioga	16	66	8	12	66	6	12	75	4	40	207	18
	24%			18%			16%			19%		

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	Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>			Recidivism Rate <sup>x</sup>		
Union	11	38	10	8	22	11	3	25	7	22	85	28
	18%			36%			12%			26%		
Venango	4	47	18	14	75	17	14	112	26	32	234	61
	9%			19%			13%			14%		
Warren	11	73	1	12	69	3	15	66	7	38	208	11
	15%			17%			23%			18%		
Washington	87	351	4	74	279	8	56	267	4	217	897	16
	25%			27%			21%			24%		
Wayne	15	74	2	12	78	2	8	71	0	35	223	4
	20%			15%			11%			16%		
Westmoreland	74	553	88	100	581	23	101	612	34	275	1,746	145
	13%			17%			17%			16%		
Wyoming	19	68	1	8	59	3	4	45	5	31	172	9
	28%			14%			9%			18%		
York	246	1,012	57	250	1,016	128	241	958	136	737	2,986	321
	24%			25%			25%			25%		
Total:	3,827	18,882	3,250	4,132	18,910	2,122	4,206	18,439	1,912	12,165	56,231	7,284
	20%			22%			23%			22%		

<sup>x</sup> Recidivism is defined as: A subsequent adjudication of delinquency or conviction in criminal court for a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure. Expunged cases are not included in these figures.

<sup>xx</sup> This figure represents cases closed in 2007 and subsequently expunged. One juvenile may have had multiple cases expunged.

<sup>xxx</sup> This figure represents cases closed in 2008 and subsequently expunged. One juvenile may have had multiple cases expunged.

<sup>xxxx</sup> This figure represents cases closed in 2009 and subsequently expunged. One juvenile may have had multiple cases expunged.

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N/A\*\*: This data is currently unavailable.