

Juvenile Detention Alternatives & the Impact on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)"

Forum to Increase Evidence-Based Practices by Addressing
Disparities in the System

Efforts to Eliminate DMC

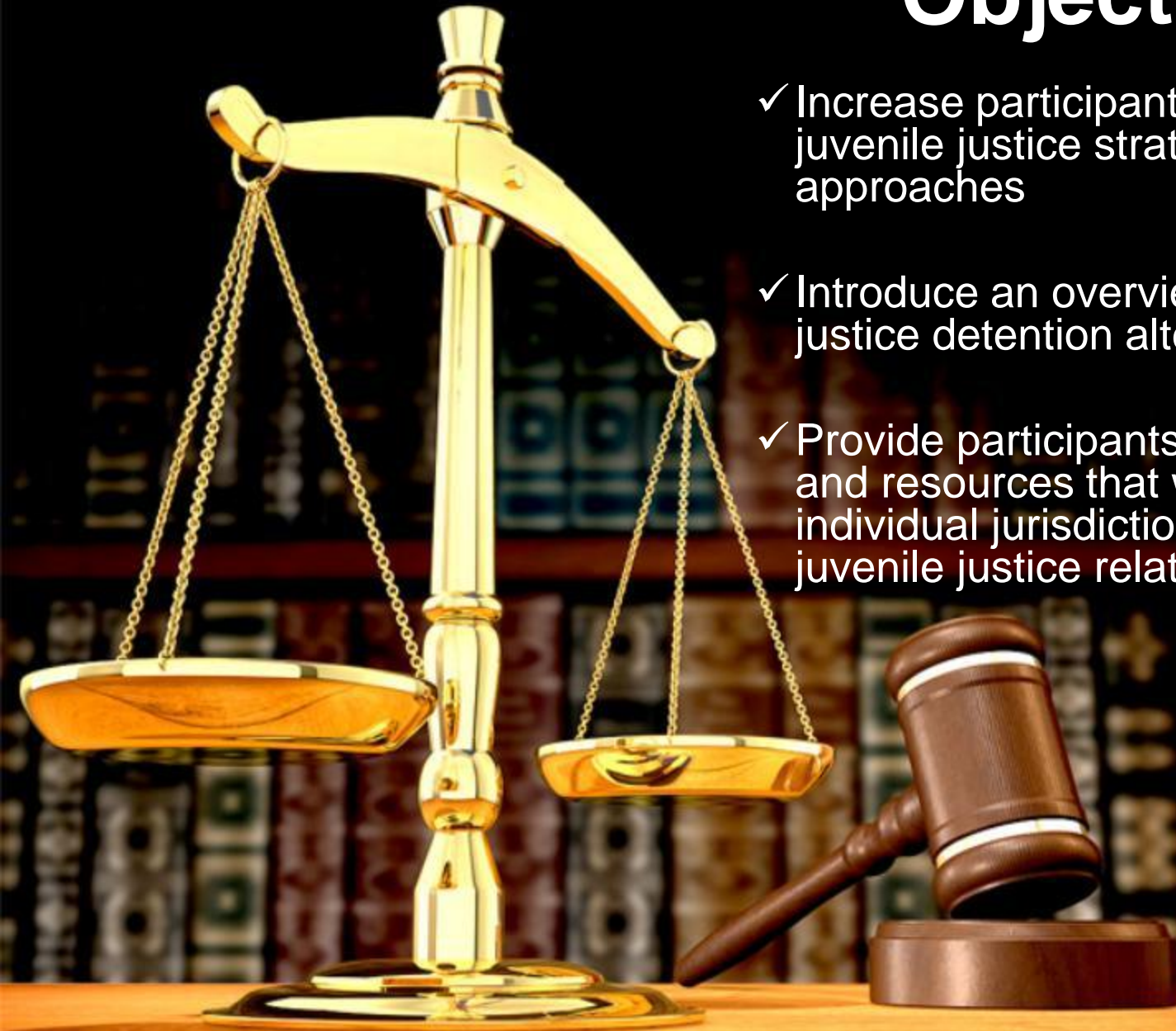
Georgia Public Safety Training Center

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Objectives

- ✓ Increase participant knowledge of juvenile justice strategies and approaches
- ✓ Introduce an overview of juvenile justice detention alternatives
- ✓ Provide participants with information and resources that will assist efforts in individual jurisdictions to address juvenile justice related issues





A Quick Look at the Criminal Justice System

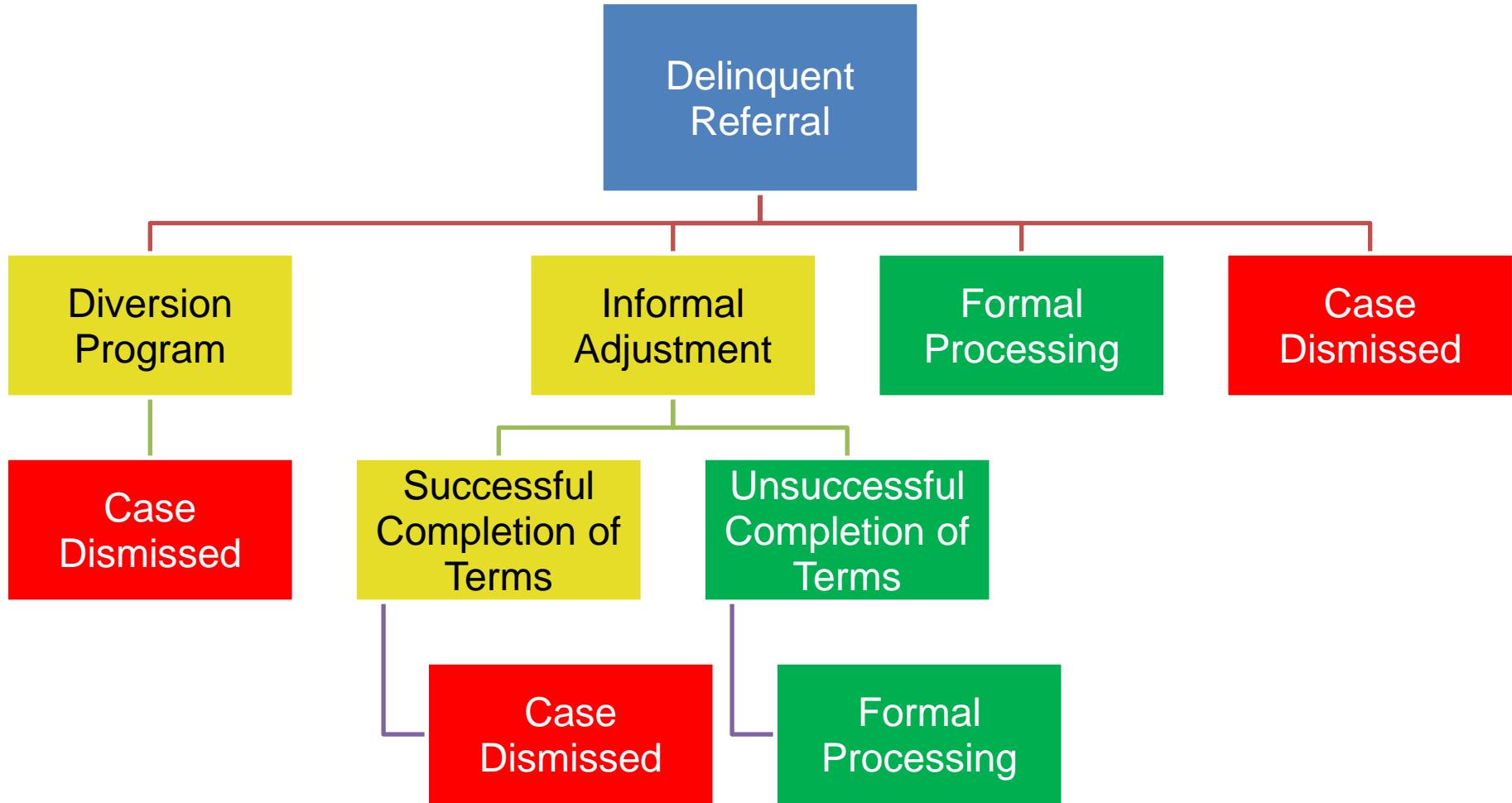
Adult System

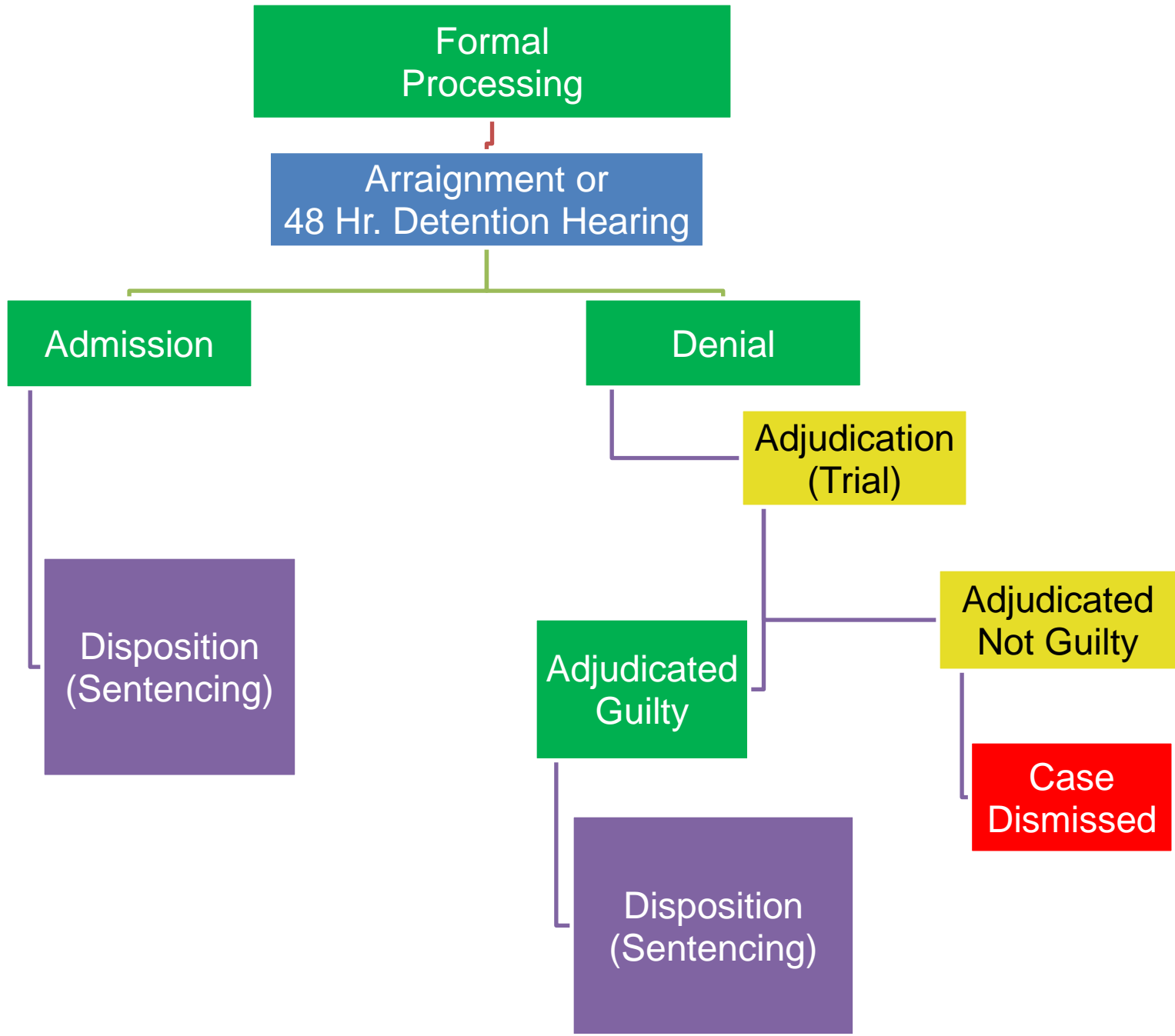
- Protect the community
- Prevent crime through incarceration and punishment
- Limited efforts at treatment or rehabilitation

Juvenile System

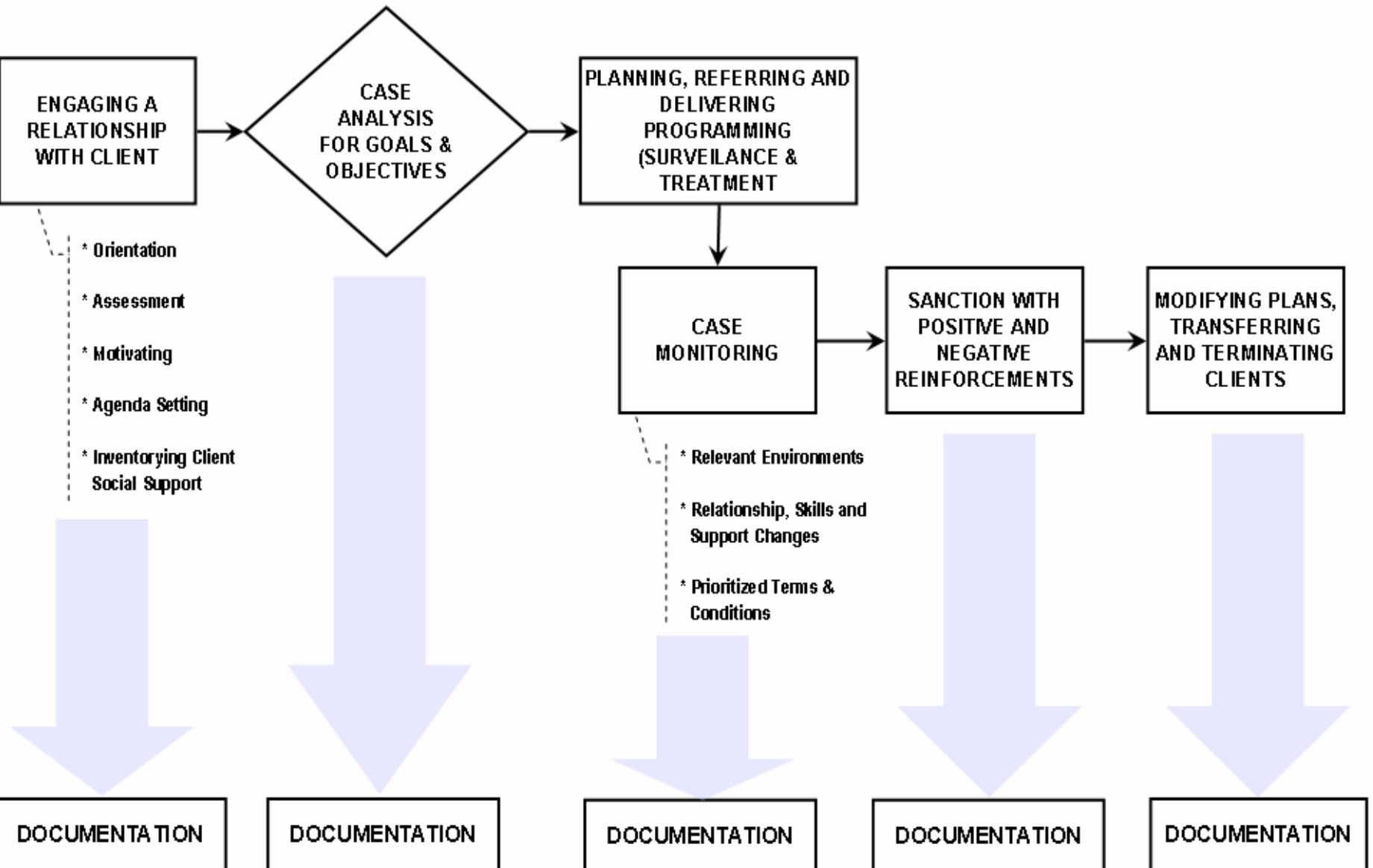
- Protect the community
- Prevent crime through treatment, rehabilitation and supervision
- Prevent crime through building and restoring core competencies of youth
- Punishment is not used as a means to prevent crime

Case Processing Options





BASIC OFFENDER SUPERVISION PROCESS





Juvenile Justice Case Planning

- Assess each child's individual status through the utilization of a validated risk and needs assessment instrument
- Develop an individualized treatment plan based on the results of R & N assessment
- Re-assess every 3-6 months or when new offense occurs
- Revise treatment plan if necessary
- Supervise child's behavior and interaction with service providers and other parties in child's natural community environment.

Risk Factors

Individual or environmental characteristics, conditions, or behaviors that increase the likelihood that a negative outcome will occur.

Protective Factors

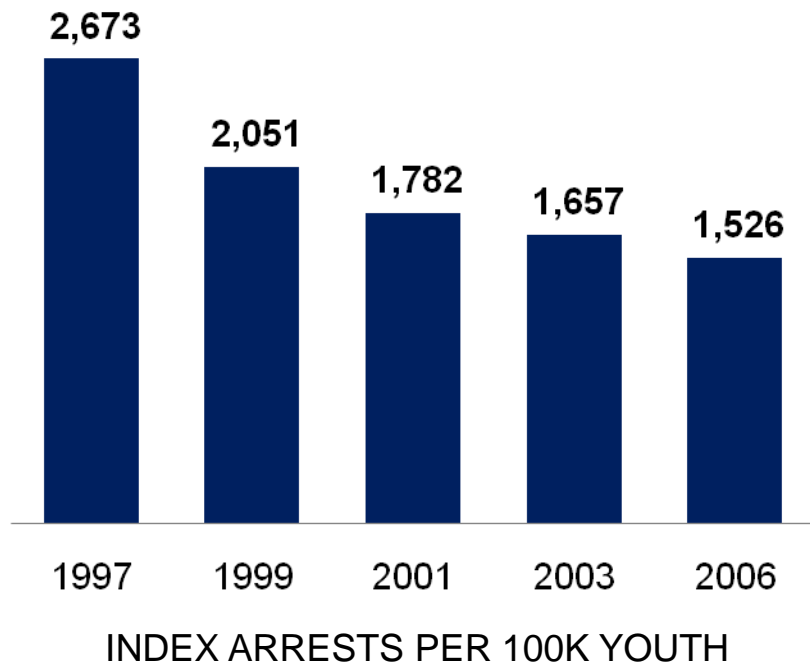
Individual or environmental characteristics, conditions, or behaviors that reduce the effects of stressful life events; increase an individual's ability to avoid risks or hazards; and promote social and emotional competence to thrive in all aspects of life now and in the future.

School Connectedness

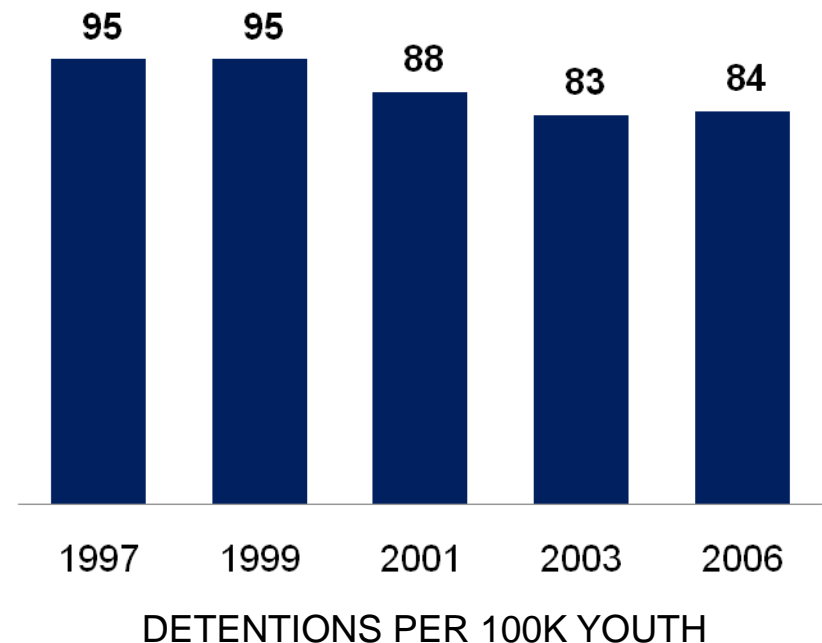
The belief by students that adults and peers in the school care about their learning as well as about them as individuals.

Arrests for serious juvenile offenses

Index arrests have declined by 43%...



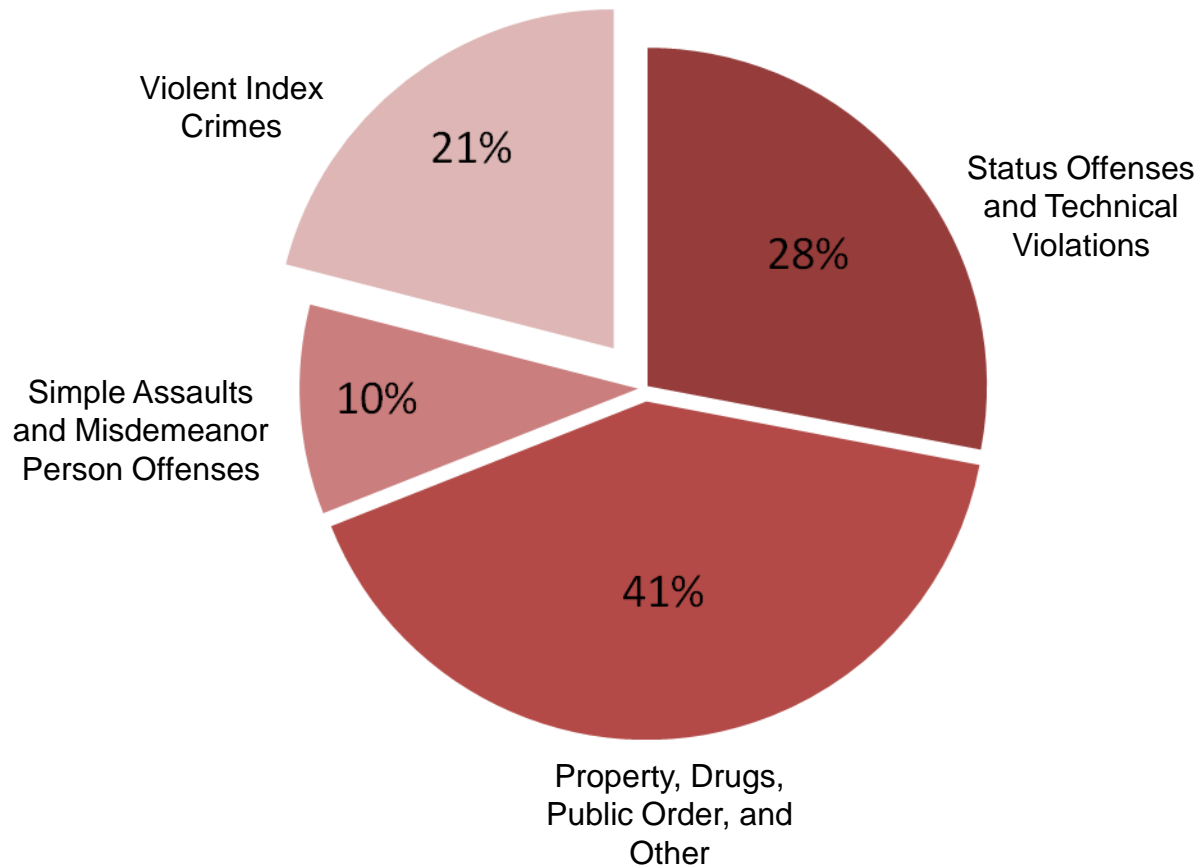
...but detention has only declined by 12%



NOTE: Index arrests are classified as more serious crimes including murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson; skip in 2005 for detention data is due to “unforeseen delay in mail-out” for Census of Juveniles in Residential Facilities for detained population.

Nationally, less than one quarter of detained youth are charged with violent crimes

OFFENSE PROFILES: Detained Youth in the United States, 2006



Why do we use Detention Assessment Instruments??

DETAIN pending a
scheduled court
hearing

RELEASE pending
a scheduled court
hearing

Does the child pose a significant risk of threat to public safety between now and the next court hearing?

How many factors are considering before making the decision?

What are those factors?

Do personal opinions impact decisions?

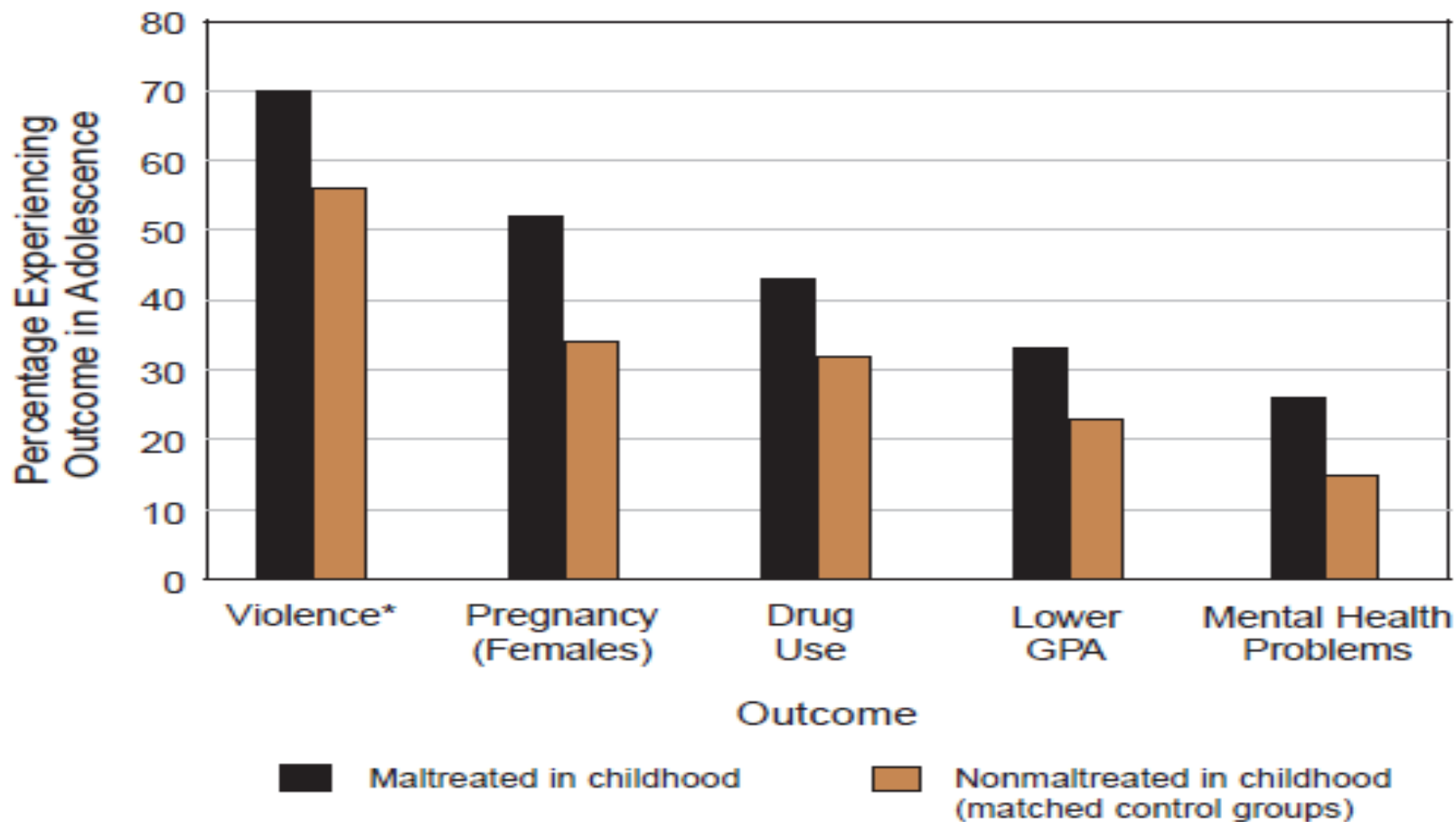
What is the likelihood of the child not appearing at the next court hearing?

How can we minimize the risk of further delinquent behavior prior to next hearing?

Are decisions made consistently regardless of who is asking and answering the questions?



Figure 1: Relationship Between Child Maltreatment and Various Outcomes During Adolescence

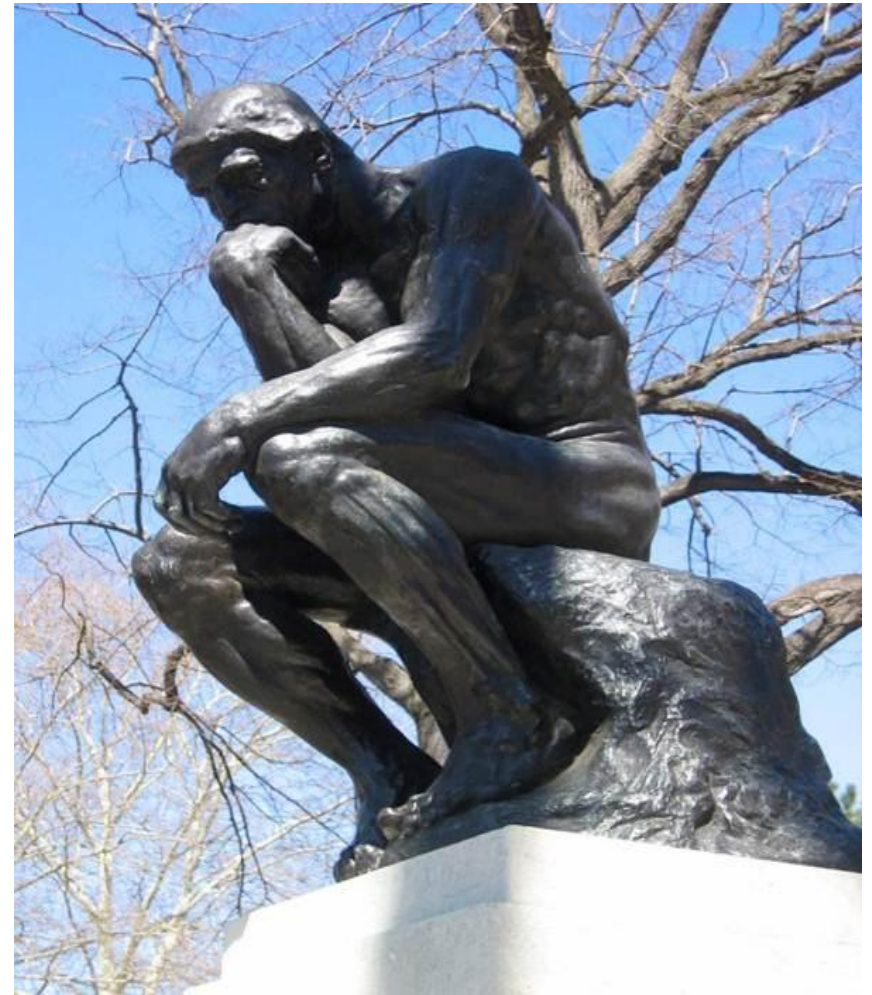


* Violence is a measure of self-reported involvement in one or more of the following: assault, assault with a weapon, involvement in gang fights, and forcible robbery.

Kelley, B.T., Thornberry, T.P., and Smith, C.A. 1997. *In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment*. Bulletin. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Cognitive Restructuring

- EBP research indicates Cognitive Restructuring is essential to risk and recidivism reduction.
 - ✓ Targets criminogenic risk factors
 - ✓ Builds protective factors
 - ✓ Promotes tools for pro-social lifestyle



Cognitive Restructuring

A psychotherapeutic process of learning to identify and dispute irrational and maladaptive thoughts.

-- Wikipedia

The process of replacing maladaptive thought patterns with constructive thoughts and beliefs.

-- Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine

SCHOOL CONNECTEDNESS

School connectedness is a strong protective factor against delinquency.

US Surgeon General. (2001). *Youth Violence: A Report of the Surgeon General*.

School connectedness was found to be the strongest protective factor for both boys and girls to decrease substance use, school absenteeism, early sexual initiation, violence, and risk of unintentional injury (e.g., drinking and driving, not wearing seat belts).² In this same study, school connectedness was second in importance, after family connectedness, as a protective factor against emotional distress, disordered eating, and suicidal ideation and attempts.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *School Connectedness: Strategies for Increasing Protective Factors Among Youth*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2009.

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