Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program: Stemming the School-to-Prison Pipeline

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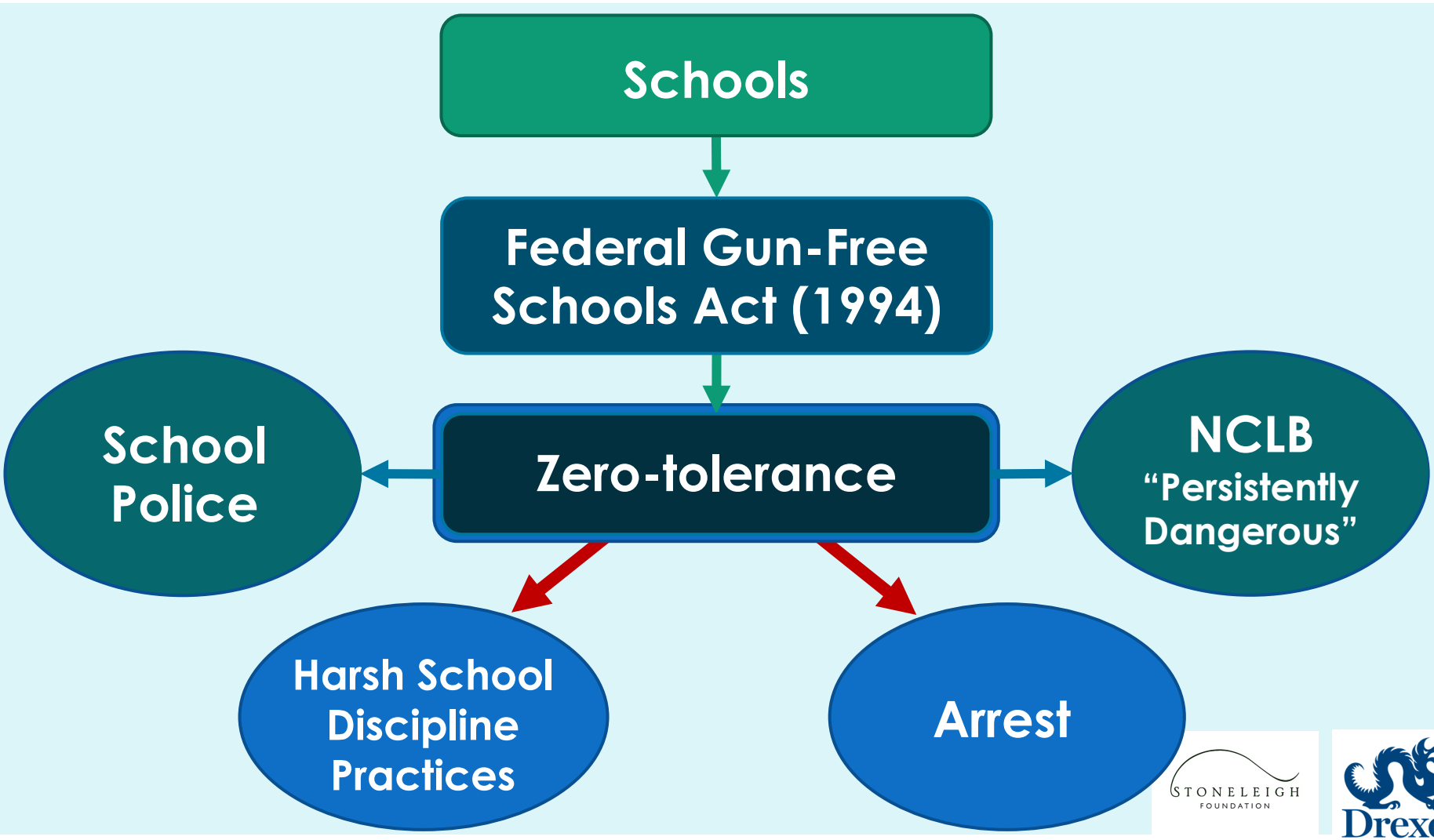
OJJDP

2014-JZ-FX-K003

SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE



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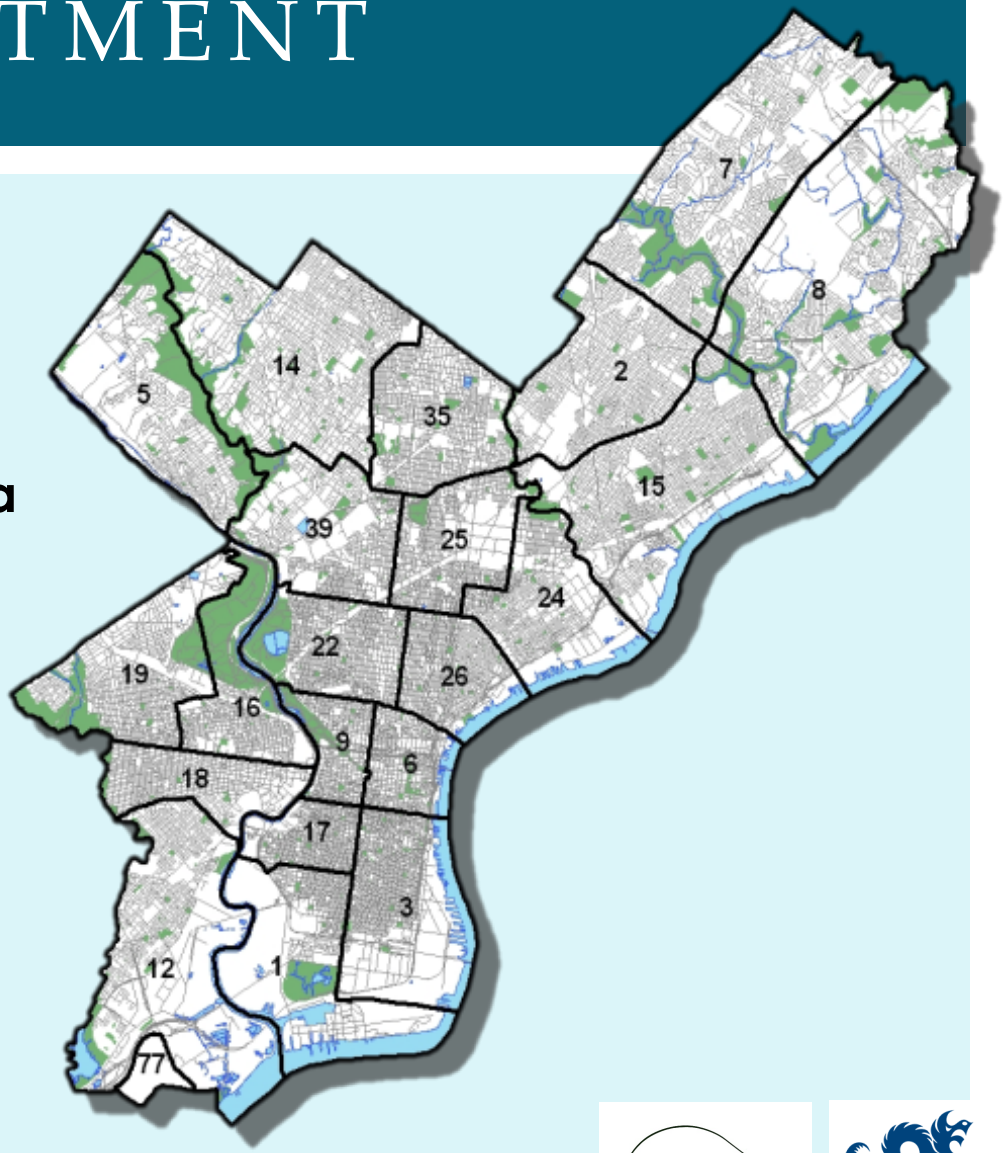
PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

5th Largest City
in the United States
1.5 Million Residents
4 Million People in Metro Area

140 Square-Miles

4th Largest Police Department
in the United States
21 Police Districts
6500 Sworn Officers
1000 Civilian



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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA OVERVIEW

8th Largest Public Education System

in the United States

218 Schools

134,500 Students

320 School District Police Officer (non-sworn)

84 Philadelphia Police Officers

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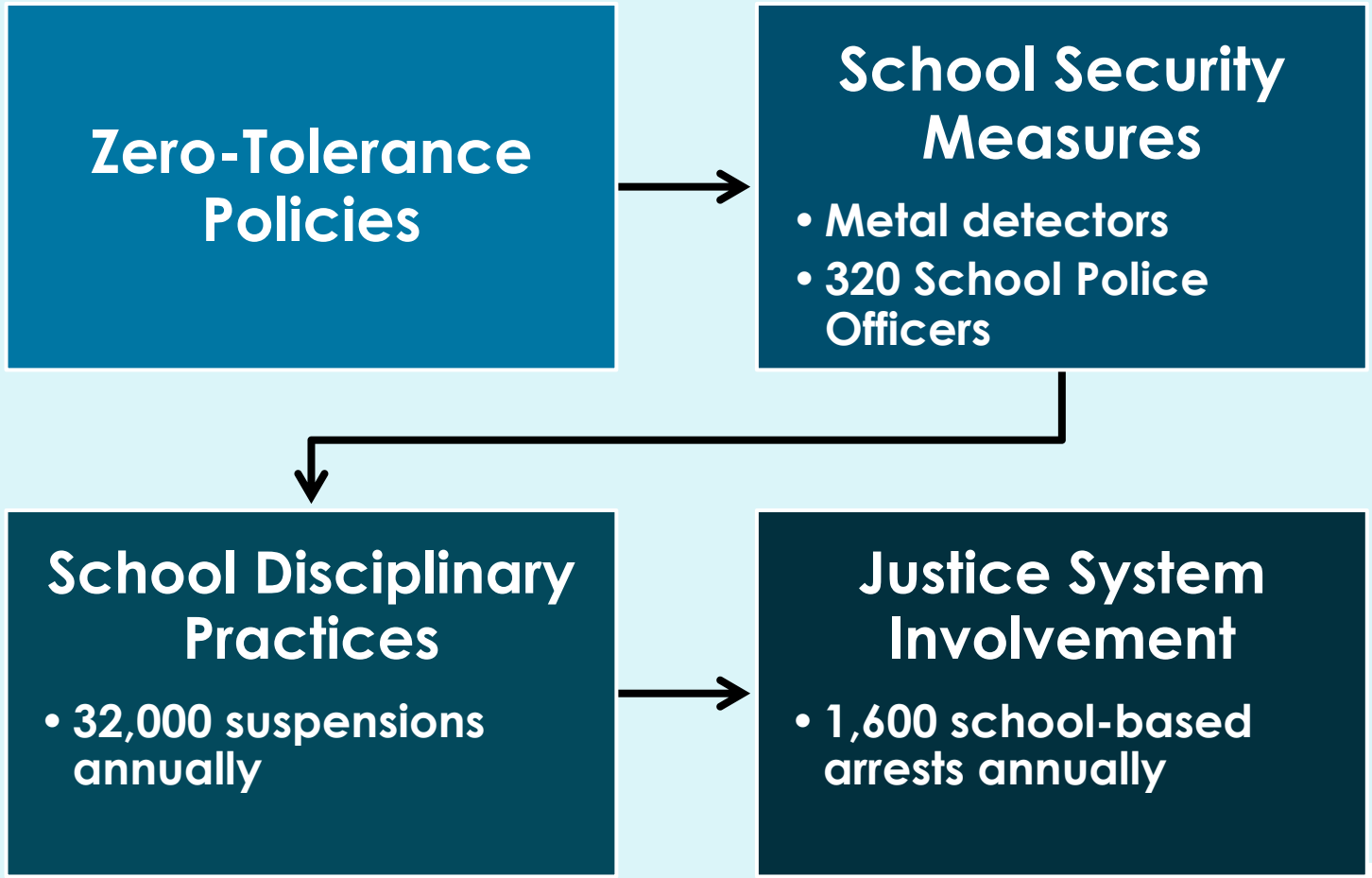
SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE IN PHILADELPHIA



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PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

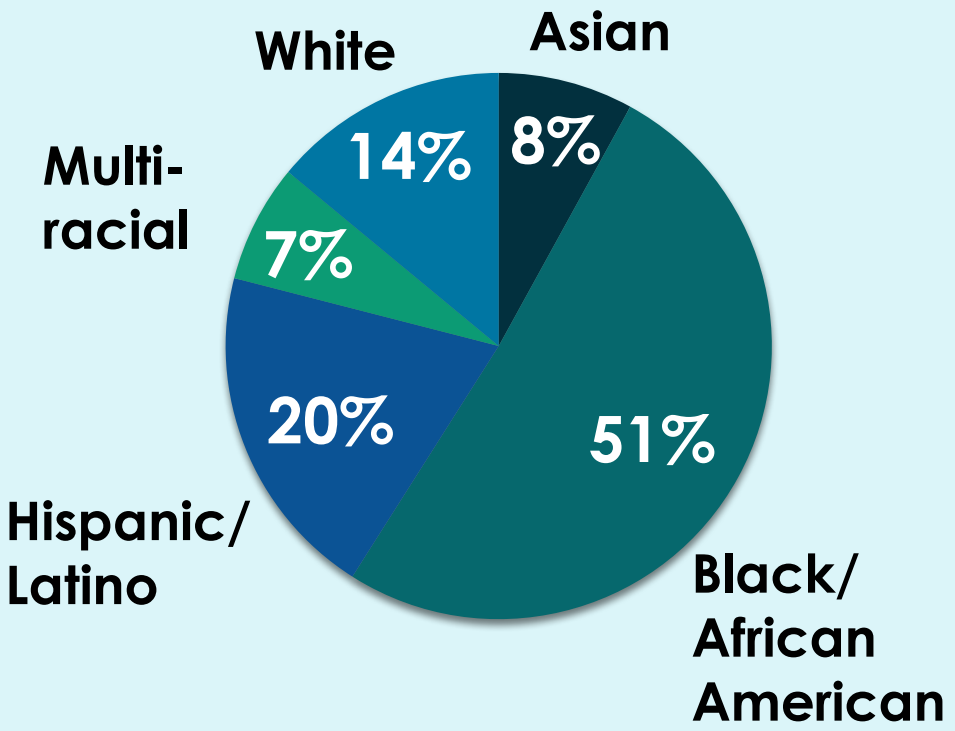
School District of Philadelphia

134,000 students

51% African American

1600 arrests

80% African American



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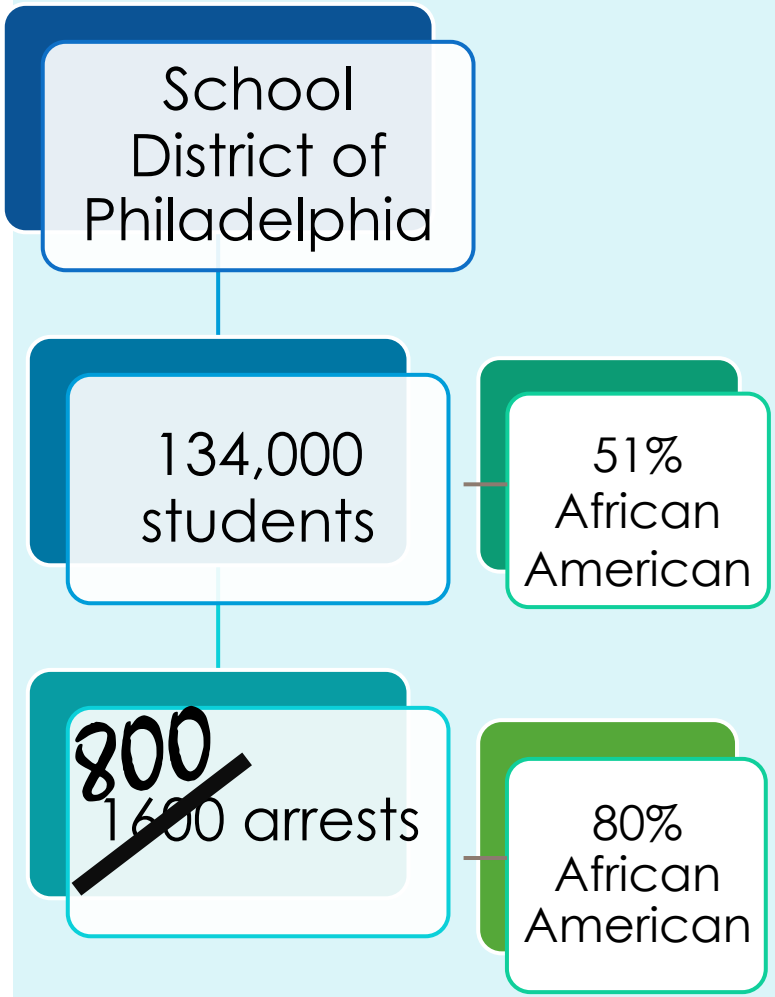
GOALS: DISMANTLING THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE



- GOALS:
  1. Reduce arrests by 50%
  2. Improve school retention rates
  3. Reduce RED in arrests & school discipline rates
  4. Provide service access

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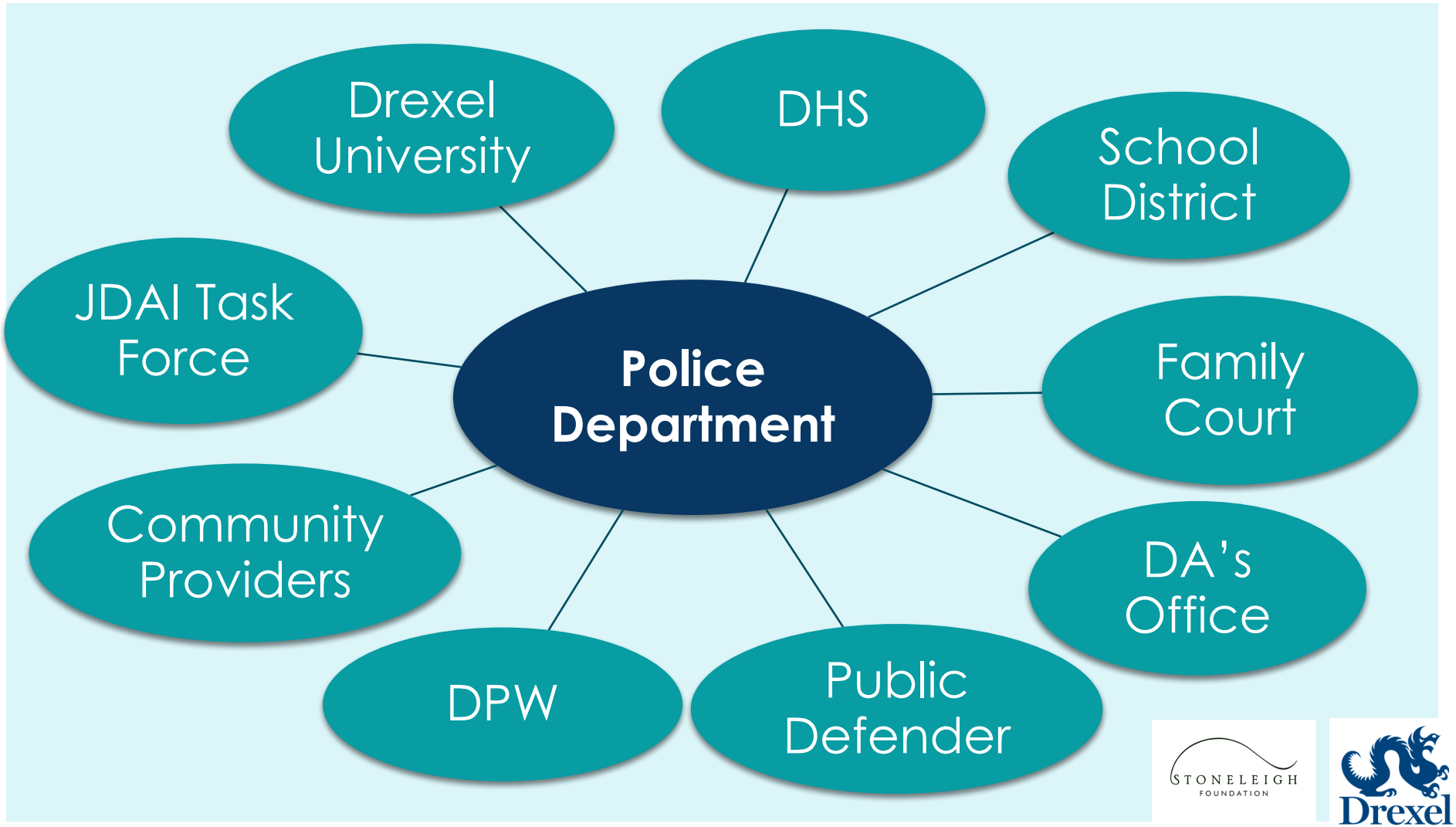
PHILADELPHIA'S COLLABORATING PARTNERS



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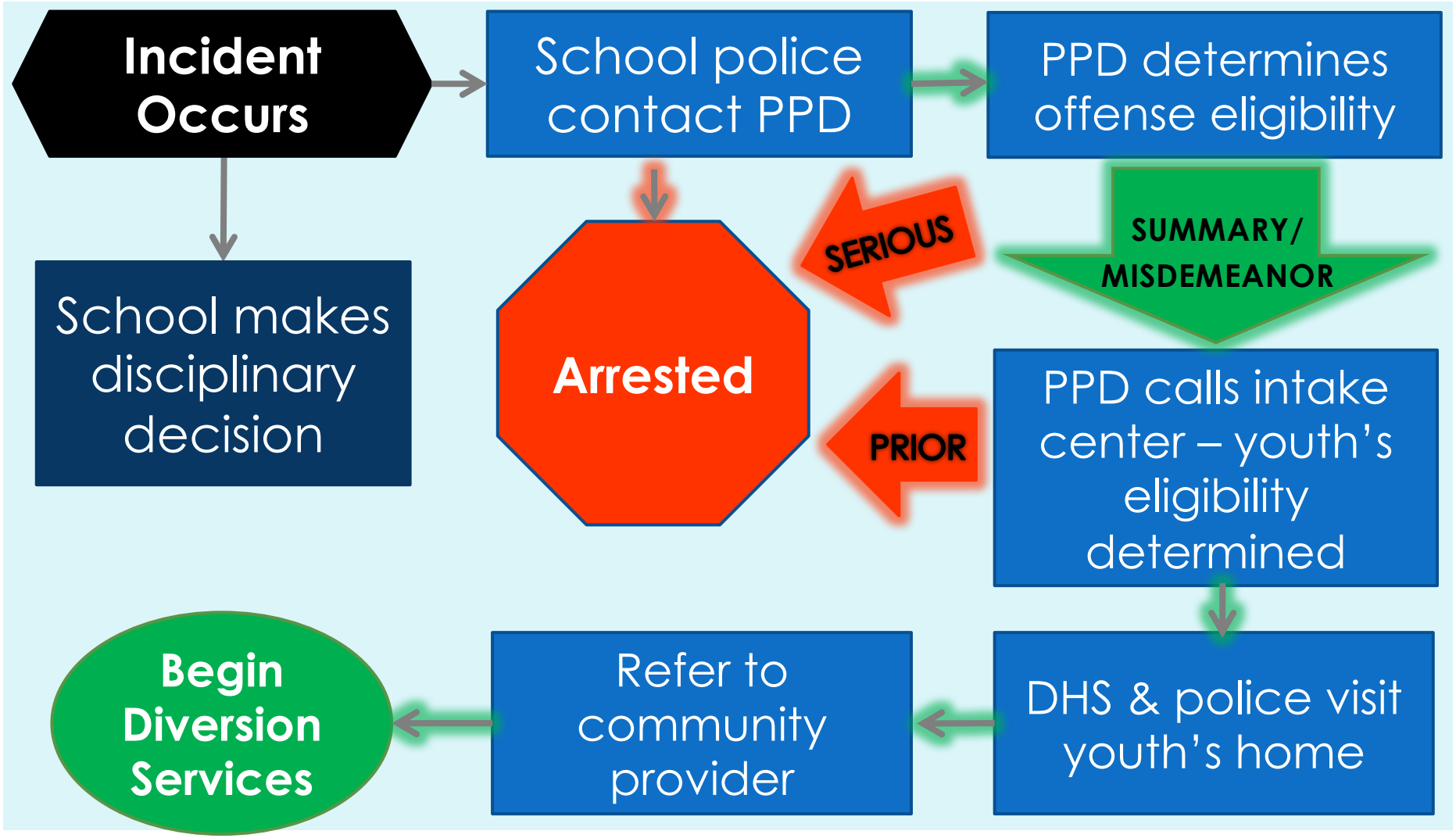
THE DIVERSION PROCESS



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

DIVERSIFIED COMMUNITY SERVICES

NORRIS SQUARE
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

INTENSIVE PREVENTION SERVICES (IPS)

Core Components:

- Academic support
- Social/emotional competency building
- Mentoring
- Recreation
- Work ready programming
- Community service
- Engagement with parental involvement
- Victim-Offender conferencing

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Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court

PHILADELPHIA POLICE SCHOOL DIVERSION PROGRAM

Year 1 and Year 2 Outcomes

SY 2014-2015

SY 2015-2016

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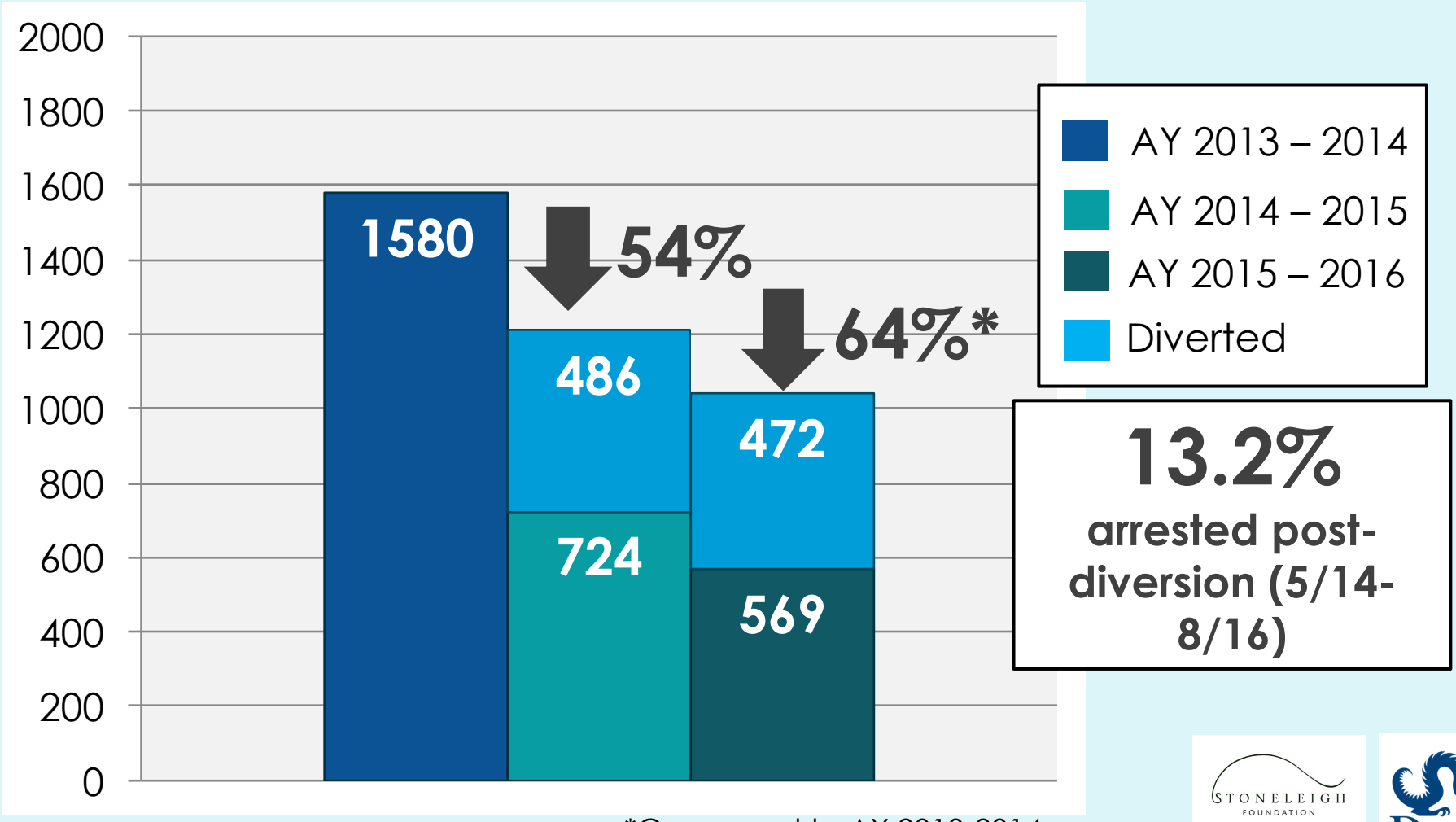
YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 OUTCOMES: ARRESTS



13.2%
arrested post-diversion (5/14-8/16)

*Compared to AY 2013-2014

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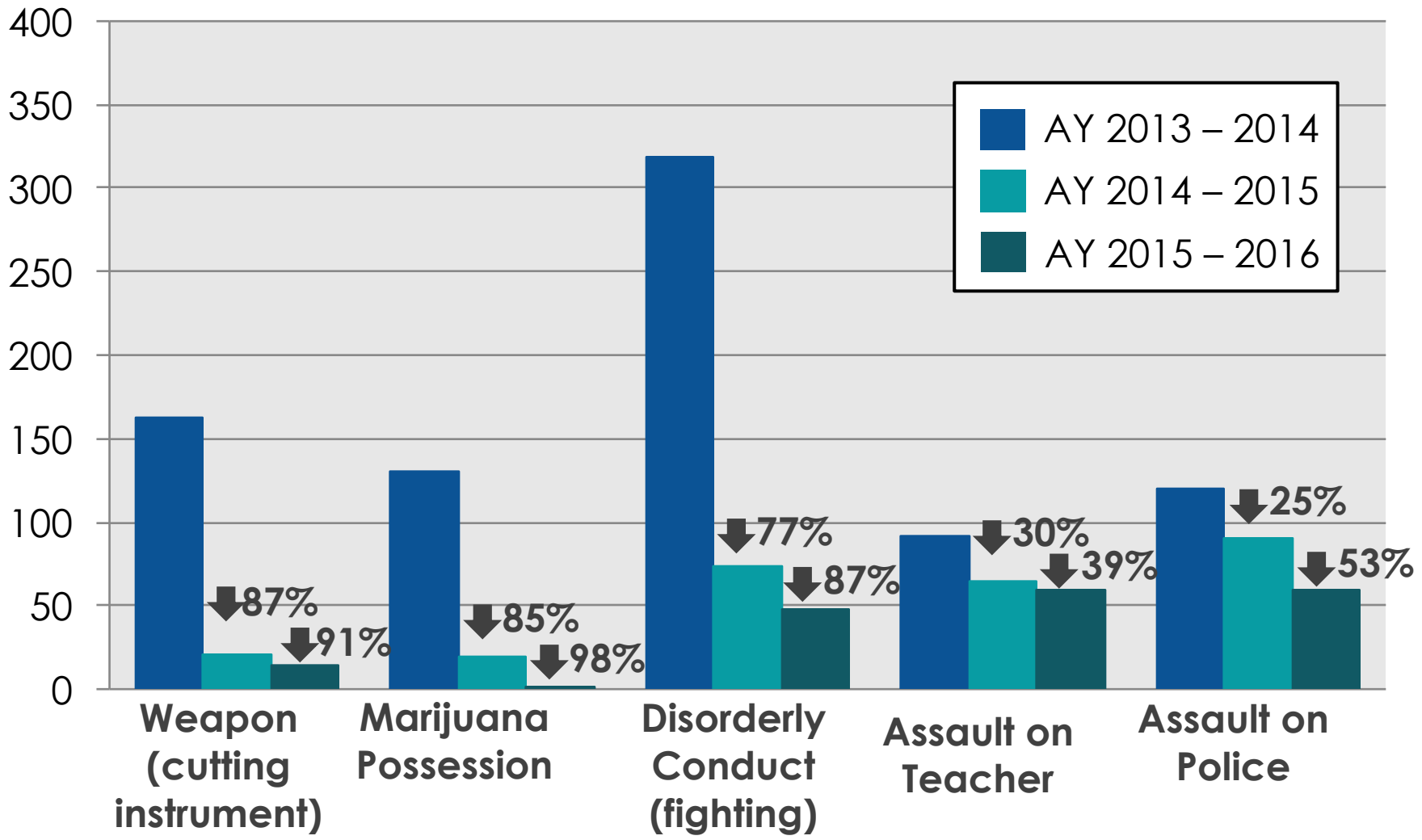
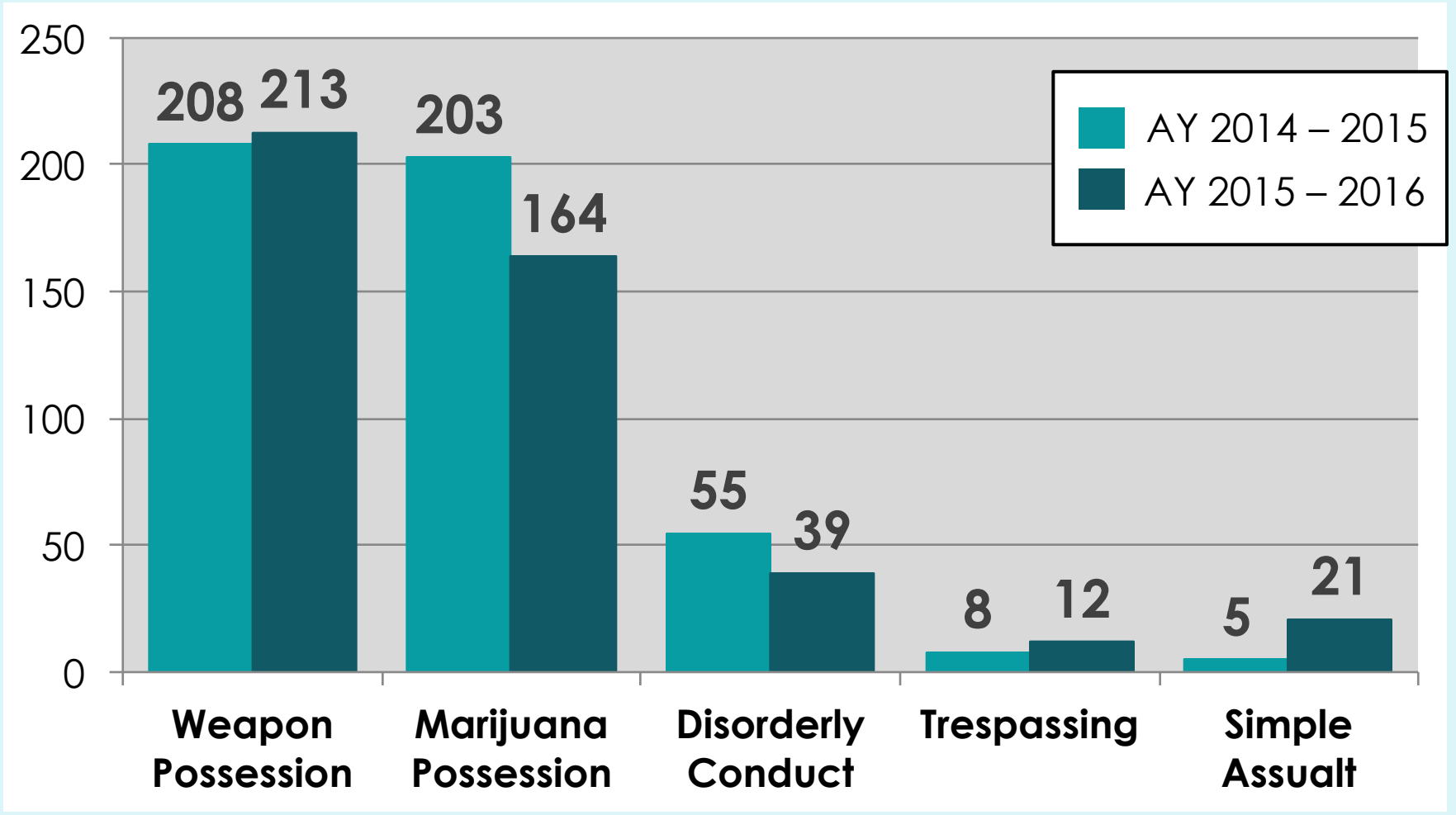
YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 OUTCOMES: ARRESTS BY TYPE



YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 OUTCOMES: DIVERSION BY TYPE OF INCIDENT



YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2: SCHOOL AND SERVICE OUTCOMES

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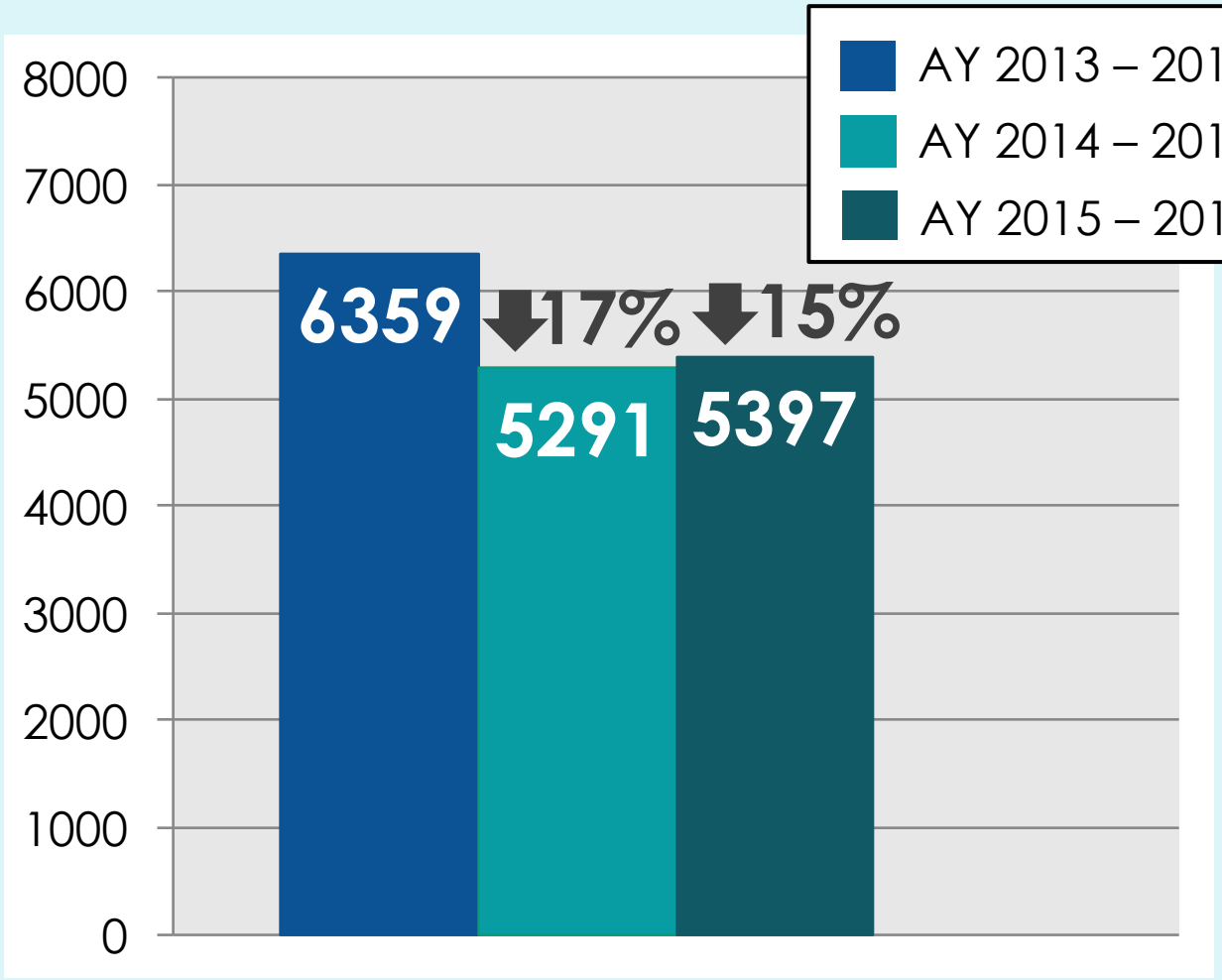
YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 OUTCOMES: BEHAVIORAL INCIDENTS



School and Service Outcomes

- **Reduction in disciplinary transfers**
- **Acceptance of services**

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YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2: WHO WAS DIVERTED?

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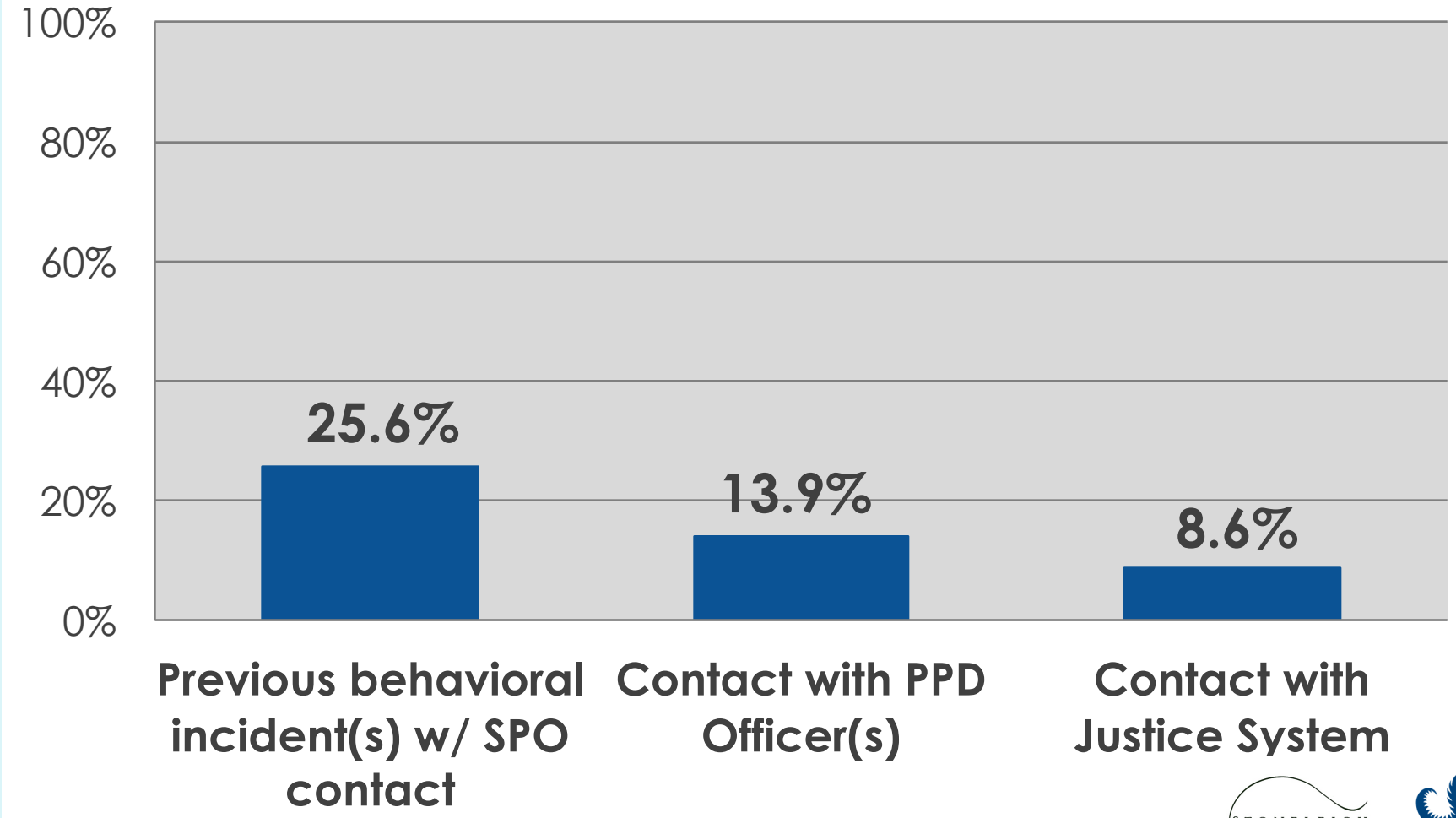
DIVERTED STUDENTS: BEHAVIORAL HISTORY



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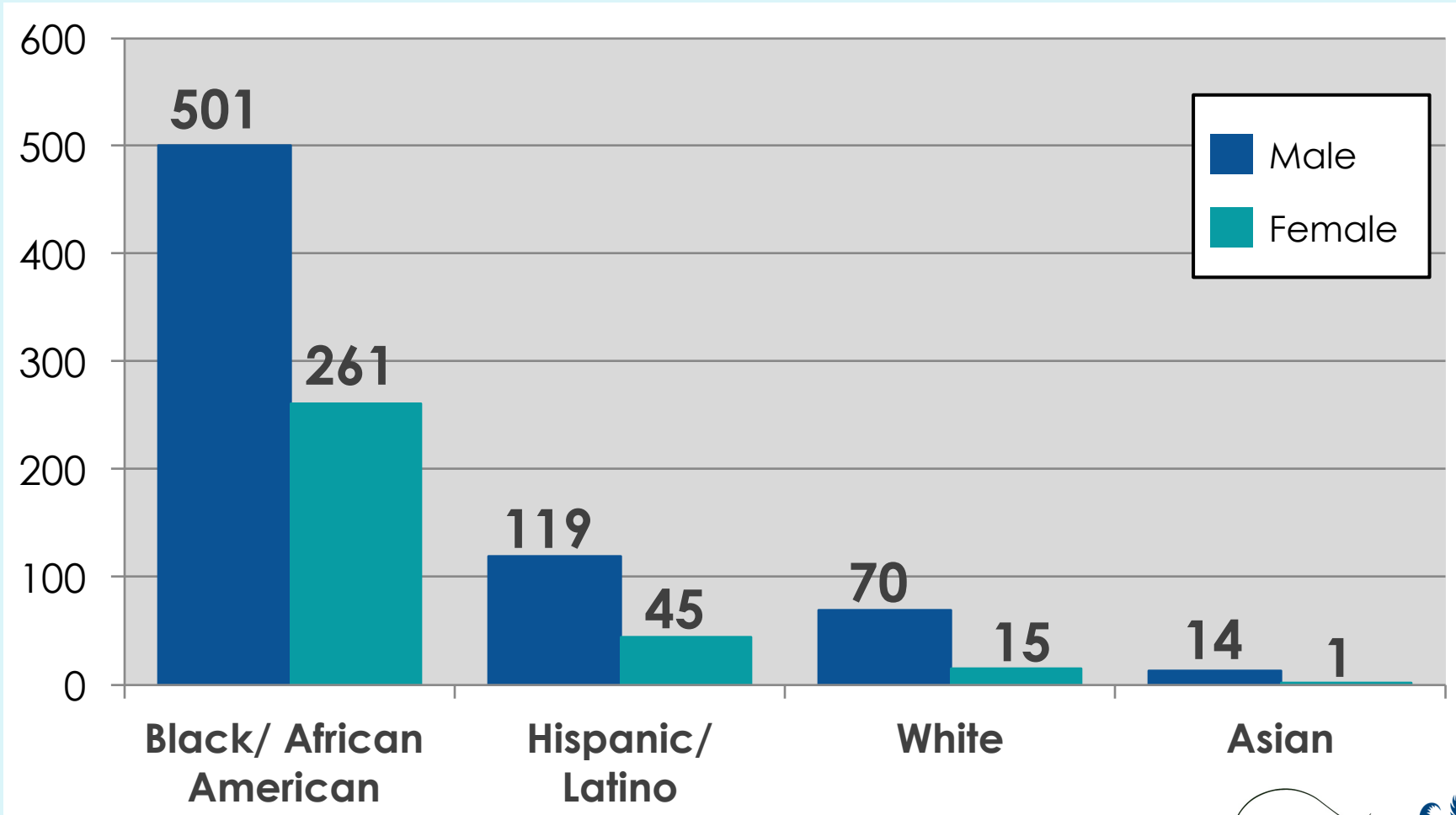
DIVERTED STUDENTS: RACE AND ETHNICITY



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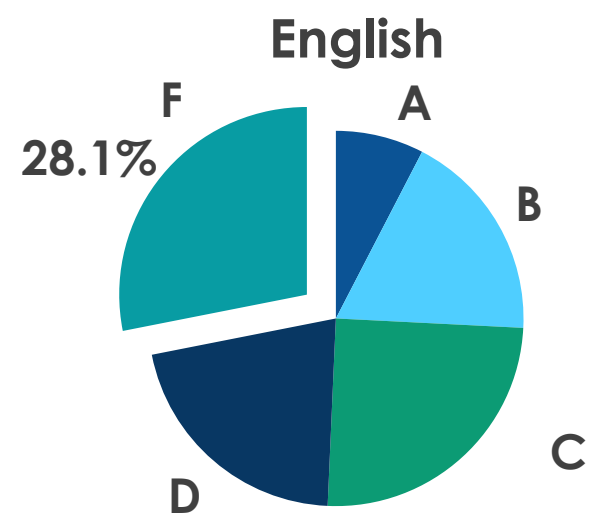
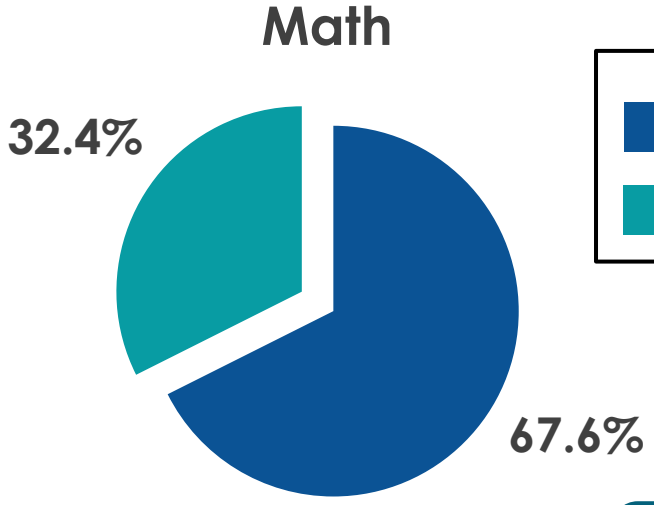
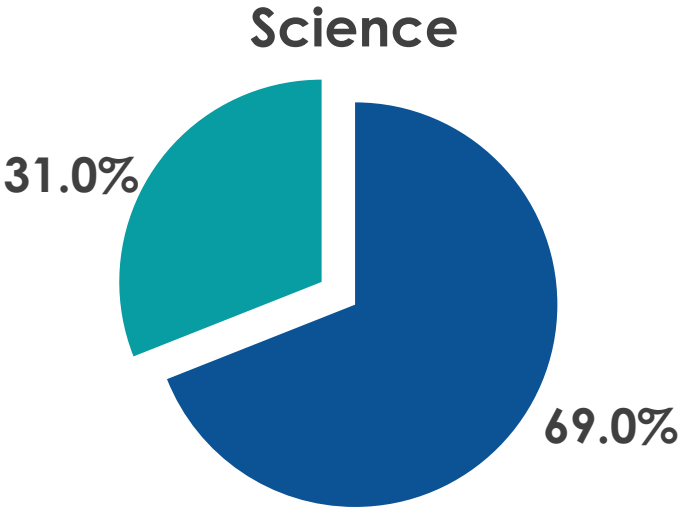
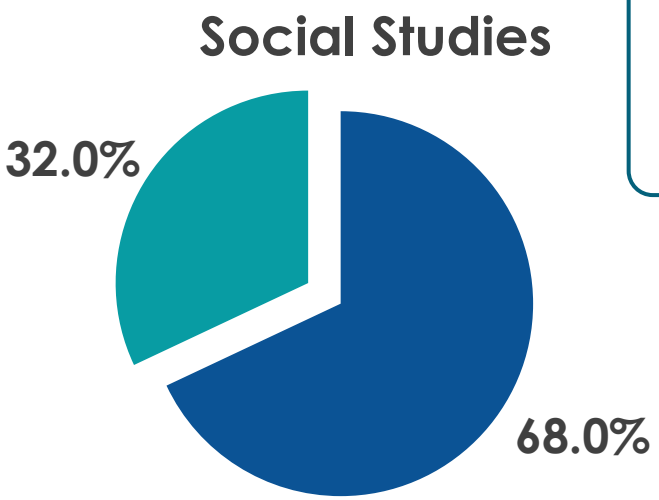
DIVERTED STUDENTS: ACADEMIC STATUS









Elevated rates of IEPs

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YEAR 2 OUTCOMES: OFFICER FEEDBACK

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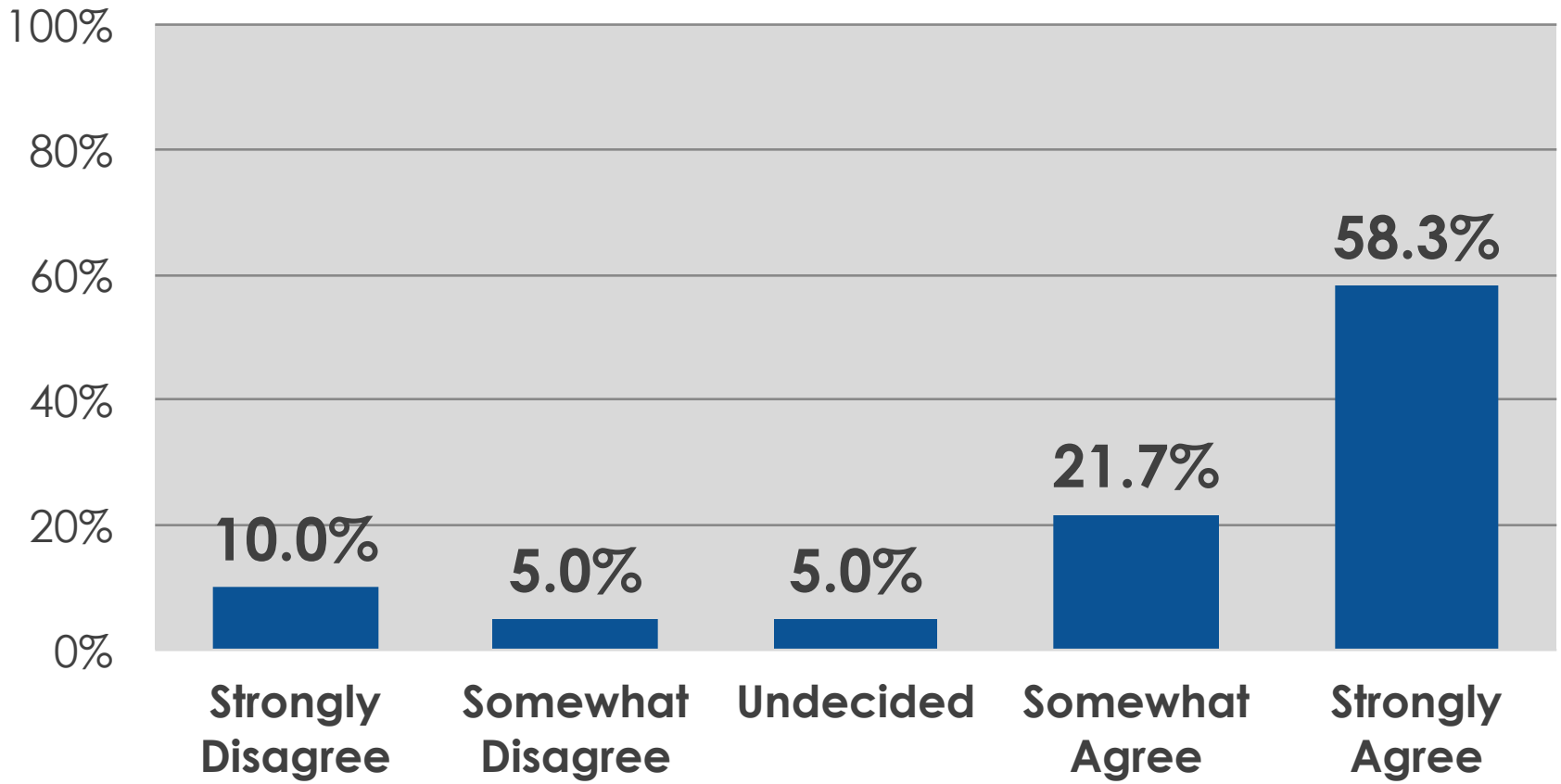
IMPLEMENTATION STUDY:
"TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE WITH THE DIVERSION PROGRAM?"



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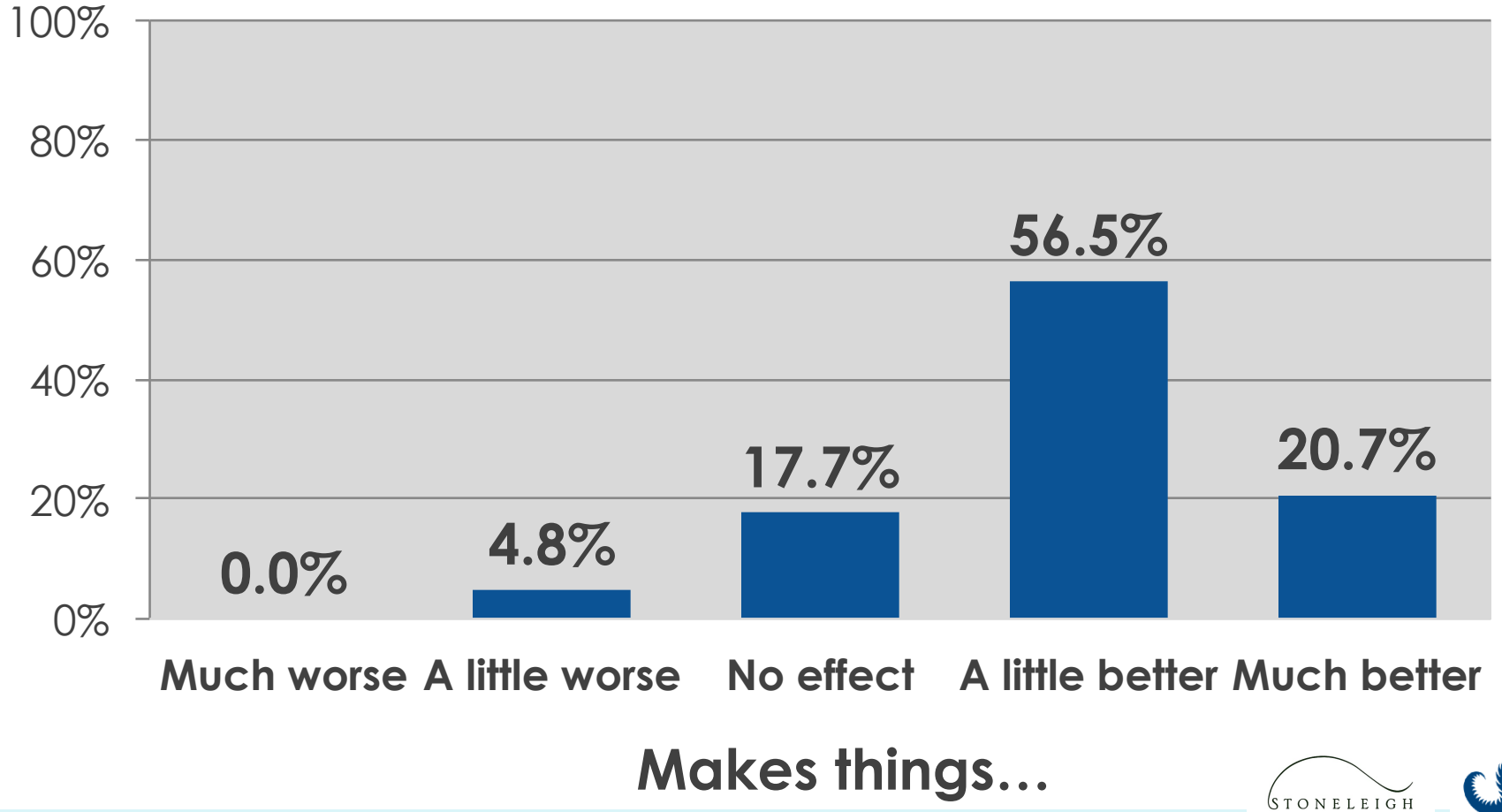
IMPLEMENTATION STUDY:
"IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, HOW IS THE DIVERSION PROGRAM AFFECTING SCHOOL SAFETY?"



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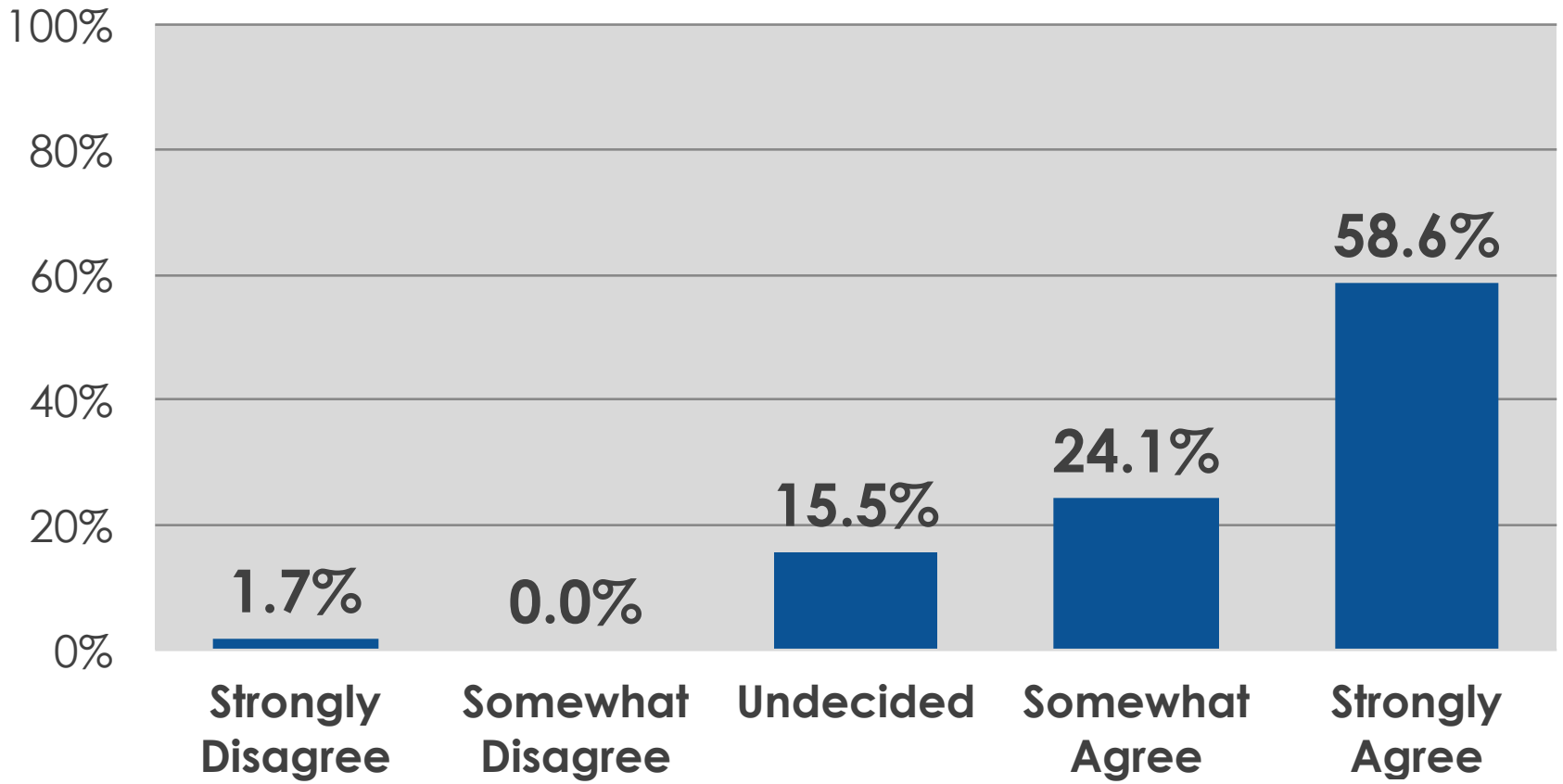
IMPLEMENTATION STUDY:
"TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU BELIEVE THE DIVERSION PROGRAM SHOULD BE DONE IN OTHER CITIES?"



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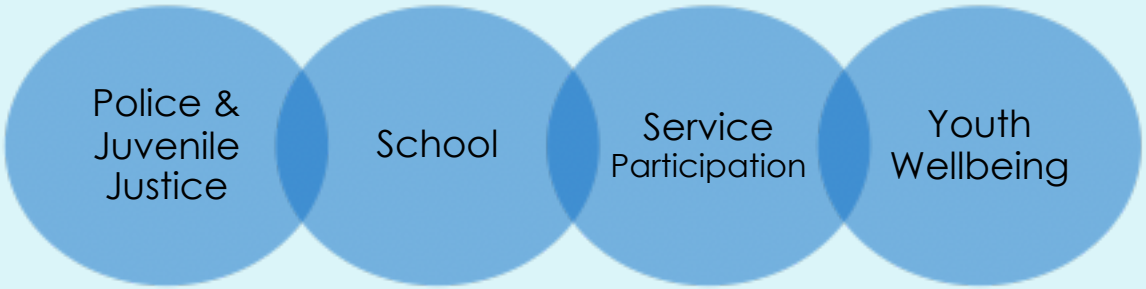
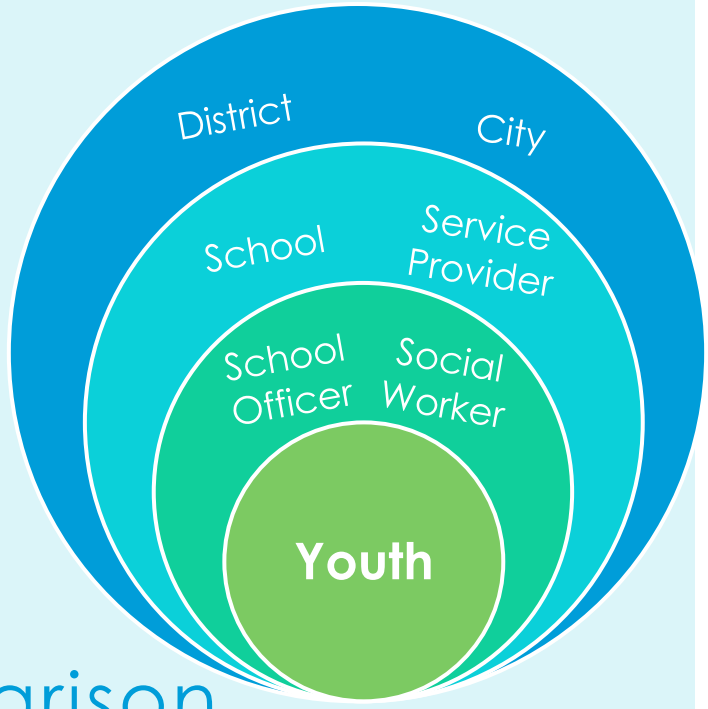
ONGOING EVALUATION

- OJJDP funding
- Evaluation components:





- Quasi-control group comparison
- Implementation study
  - PPD school officers, SDP school officers, school administrators

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EVALUATION SUMMARY

- Goal: Reduce arrest rates
  - Year 1 arrests down 54%
- Goal: Improve school retention rates
  - School disciplinary transfers down substantially
- Goal: Reduce racial and ethnic disparities
  - Equivalent reductions across groups
- Goal: Provide service access
  - Vast majority of students accepted services

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EVALUATION SUMMARY

- Successful progress towards primary goals
- Diverted youth are not "bad kids"
- PPD officers tend to express positive views of the program

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A MODEL FOR REPLICATION

- Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP)
- Interim Report of The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing
- ACLU Pennsylvania
- The White House: My Brother's Keeper Initiative

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PLANS MOVING FORWARD…

- Expansion to summary retail theft
- Trainings for school officers
- Conduct & consequences school assemblies
- Act 26 (Safe Schools Act)
- Replication

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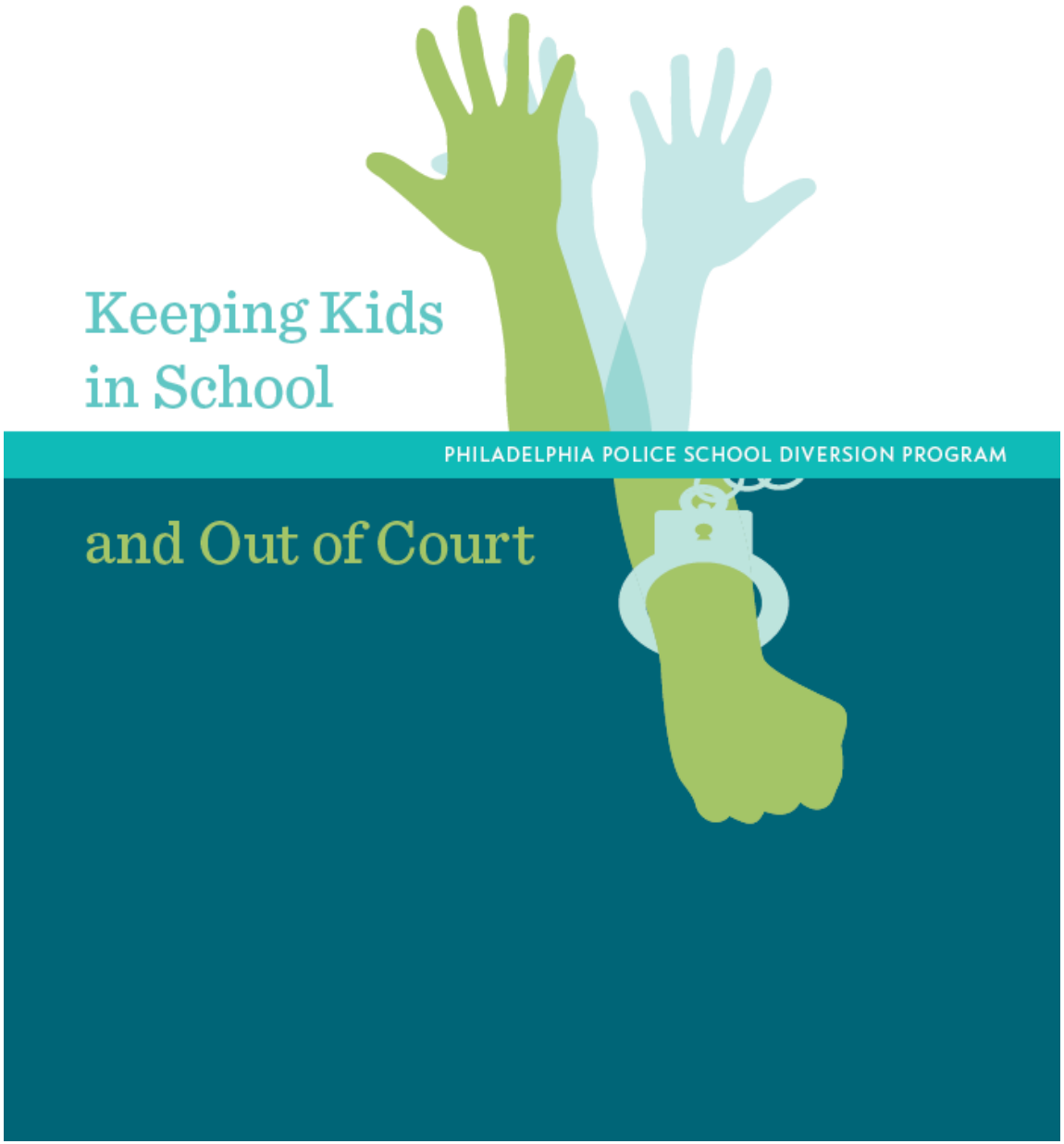

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