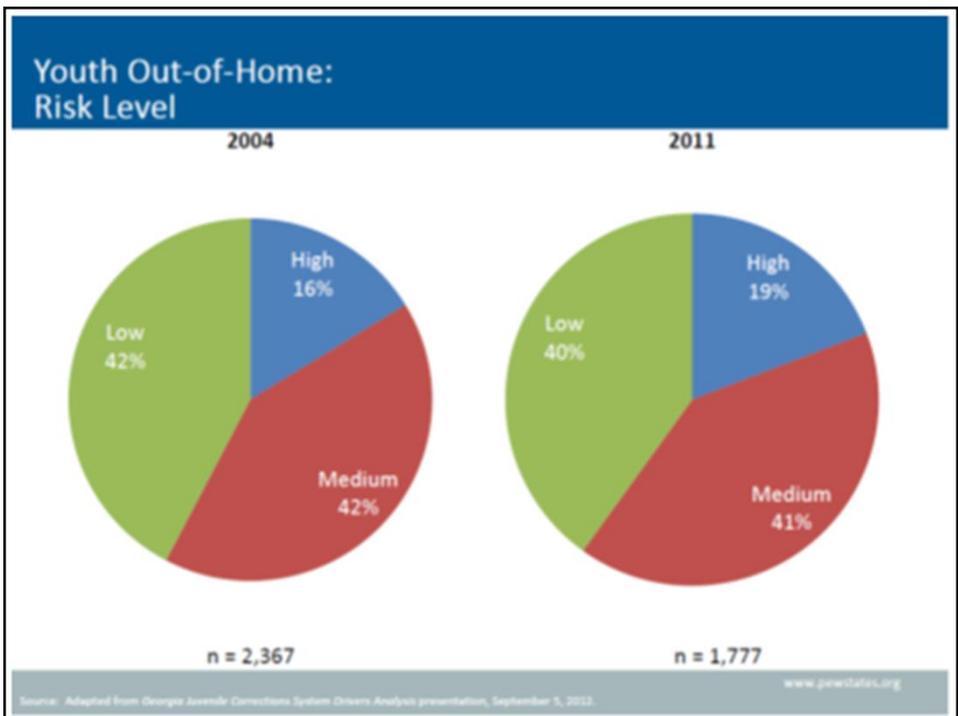
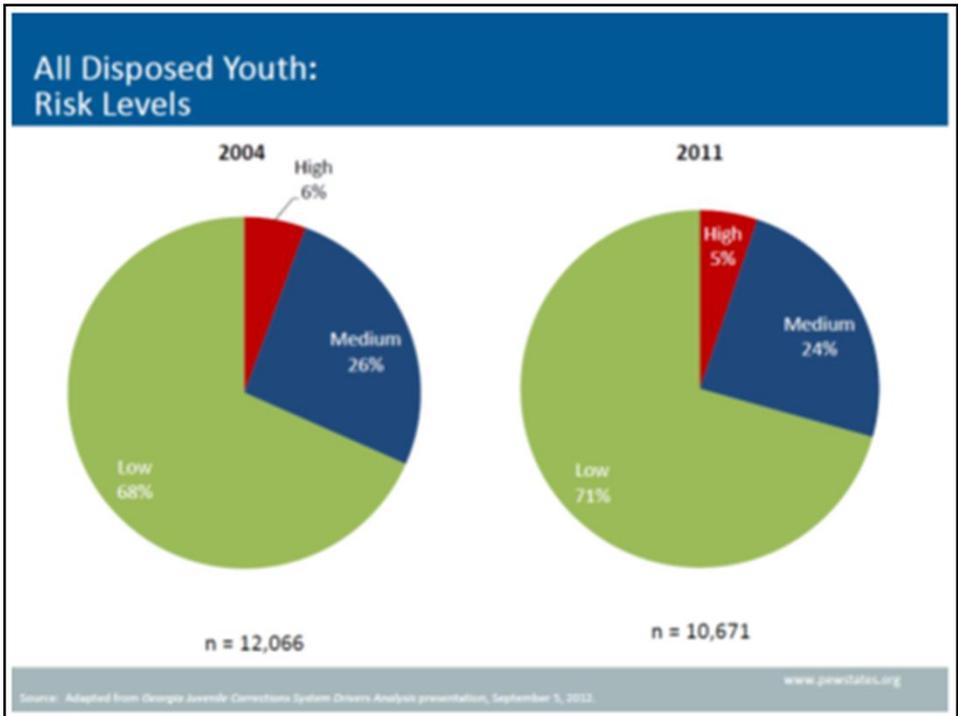


GEORGIA REFORM

Developing Alternatives for Low Risk
Offenders through Re-Investment of
Cost-Savings

Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council

- First established by Governor Nathan Deal in 2011 to reform the adult criminal justice system
- Recommendations adopted by Legislature in 2012;
- Governor Deal re-established Council in 2012 to reform the juvenile justice system and appointed Judge Teske;
- Governor contracted the Pew Trust on the States and the Annie E. Casey Foundation for technical assistance;
- Council became informed on Georgia statistics and evidence informed practices



Out of Home: Non-secure Residential

- Non-Secure Residential
 - Group homes, emergency shelters, wilderness/ outdoor, therapeutic programs
 - Can be utilized as alternatives to detention, Short Term Programs, or residential placements
 - Private facilities include numerous non-secure residential placement locations
 - DJJ accesses over 300 beds, roughly 15% are for non secure detention

Risk levels of youth in non-secure residential treatment, 2011 (snapshot date)

Risk Level	Percentage
Low	49%
Medium	40%
High	11%

Source: Risk levels adapted from Georgia Juvenile Corrections System Drivers Analysis presentation, September 5, 2012. www.pewstates.org

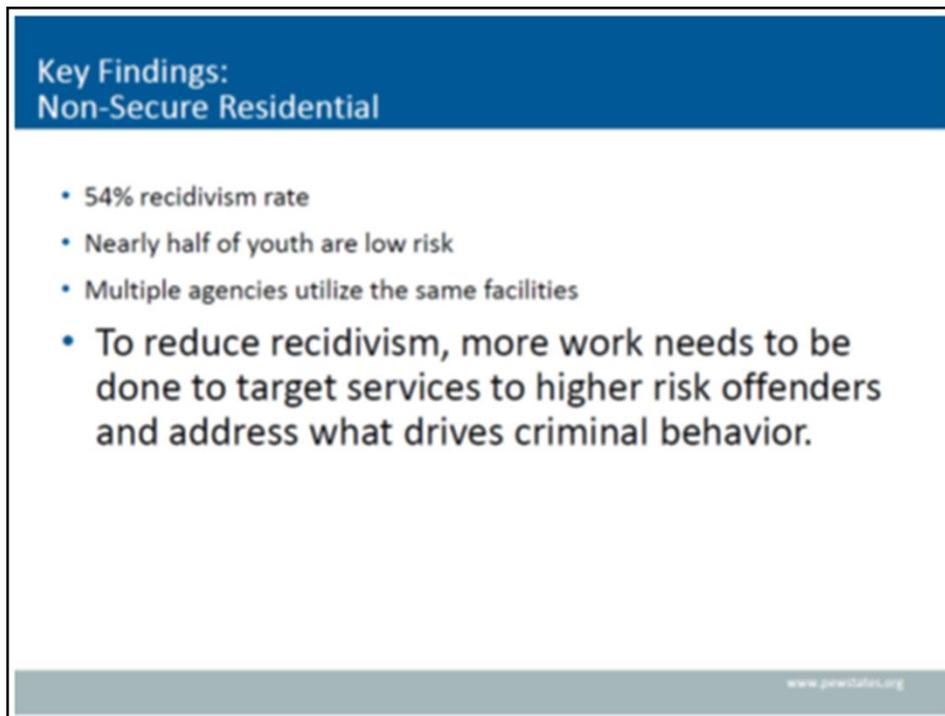
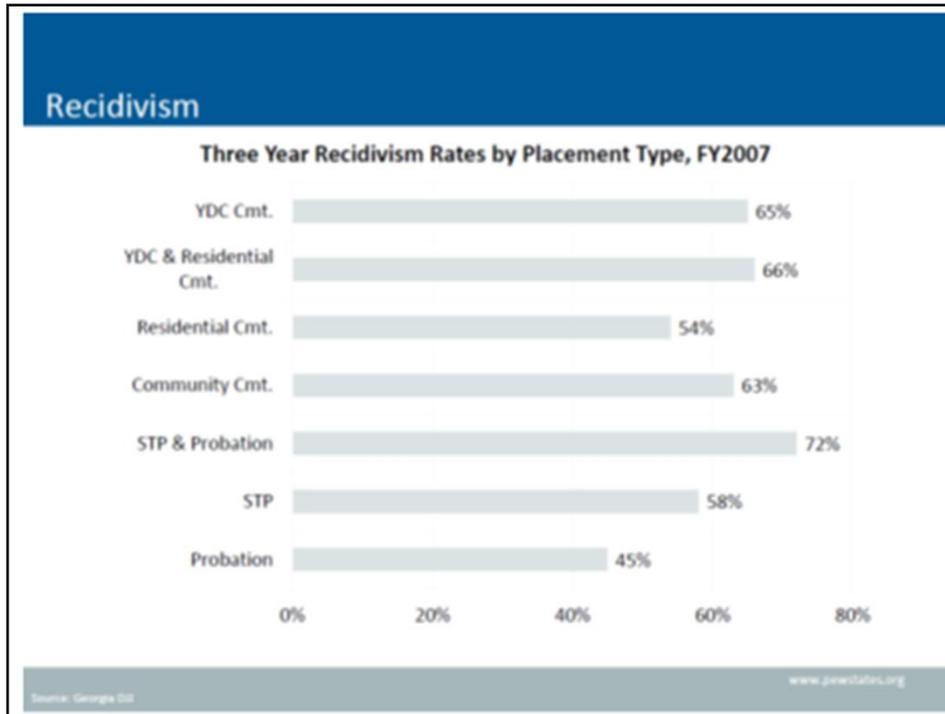
Out of Home Placement: Youth Development Campuses

- YDCs provide secure care, supervision and treatment services to youth who have been committed to the custody of DJJ
- YDCs provide youth services that include education, health and mental health services, food services, resident counseling, substance abuse units, vocational programming, and family visitation, among other services

Risk level of youth in YDC on snapshot date, 2011

Risk Level	Percentage
Low	38%
Medium	37%
High	25%

Source: Risk levels adapted from Georgia Juvenile Corrections System Drivers Analysis presentation, September 5, 2012. www.pewstates.org



Key Findings: YDCs

- 65% recidivism rate
- Key gaps include:
 - Lack of trained staff to run required groups
 - Lack of engagement with families and community stakeholders
 - No direct matching between assessment, programming and service plans
 - Lack of services for youth ages 17-21
 - Inconsistent transition efforts

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Policy Recommendations Made Law

- Judge shall not commit a child to the state on any misdemeanor offense unless there are four prior adjudications and one must be a felony.
- Judge shall perform a risk and needs assessment on every child at disposition.
- No status offender shall be placed in a secure facility.
- Designated Felonies divided into class A & B
- Schools shall not refer students to the Court without exhausting least restrictive measures.

School Referrals

When filing a complaint alleging a child in need of services, the school must show the following:

- The school district has sought to resolve the expressed problem through available educational approaches; and
- The school district has sought to engage the parent, guardian, or custodian of such child in solving the problem but such person has been unwilling or unable to do so, that the problem remains, and that court intervention is needed.

Impact of Law

- \$88 million cost savings per year for six years;
- \$55 million cost savings thereafter;
- Cost-Savings placed in Re-Investment Program that will re-direct to all juvenile courts state-wide to treat low risk youth (including students at risk)