

The mission of Vermont court diversion programs is to engage community members in responding to the needs of crime victims, the community, and those who violated the law, holding the latter accountable in a manner that promotes responsible behavior.

Court Diversion

Court Diversion includes **three programs** that provide a cost-effective alternative to the formal court process using principles of restorative justice for approximately 5,000 individuals each year.

14 county programs are run by 12 non-profit agencies under grant agreements with the Attorney General's Office. All are members of the Vermont Association of Court Diversion Programs (VACDP).

Court Diversion

- Offenders together with those directly harmed and with community members decide how to repair the harm caused to victims and the larger community, and how to address factors that led to their breaking the law.
- Restorative justice program for adults and youth charged with a crime or delinquency, and referred by the State's Attorney as an alternative to prosecution in court
- FY 2014 — close to 1,500 individuals referred; 80% successfully completed their contract and the charge was dismissed
- FY 2013 — 10% of misdemeanor cases resolved through Criminal Division were closed after successful completion of Diversion (previous two years, 8%)
- 14% of people referred had prior involvement in the criminal justice system

Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program (YSASP)

- Voluntary program for youth aged 16 to 20 who violate Vermont's underage possession and consumption of alcohol and marijuana laws
- FY 2014 — approximately 2,900 youth referred by law enforcement; 80% successfully completed the program and the ticket was voided
- Following SBIRT (Screening Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment) approach

Driving with License Suspended Program

- Fully operational July 1, 2013
- Approximately 600 individuals have received help through this program
- Vermont Judicial Bureau hearing officer has approved over 500 motions including payment plan of reduced debt based on financial need, and satisfaction of debt by community service
- 400 Vermont drivers have regained their licensed and continue to pay off their debt.

<http://vtcourtdiversion.org/>

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