

The June 2021 Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections—Use of Temporary Stabilization Units performance audit found that the Department had not always followed its policy and procedures for referring youth to temporary stabilization units (TSUs), and youth isolation can potentially have negative consequences and undermine the Department’s mission to rehabilitate youth. The Department’s status in implementing the recommendations is as follows:

Status of 4 recommendations

Implemented: 4

Unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this report concludes our follow-up work on the Department’s efforts to implement the recommendations from the June 2021 report.

Finding 1: Department has referred some youth to TSU contrary to its TSU policy and procedures, and youth isolation can potentially have negative consequences

1. The Department should follow its policy and procedure requirements for referring youth to TSU.

Implemented at 6 months

2. The Department should ensure that TSU referrals comply with its policy and procedure requirements by:

- a. Developing and implementing policies and procedures for reviewing housing unit and security staffs’ compliance with the Department’s de-escalation and TSU referral procedures to identify, track, and reduce noncompliant TSU referrals. These policies and procedures should include procedures for:

- Reviewing incident reports and other documentation associated with TSU referrals, including specifying the staff responsible and time frames for conducting these reviews. These procedures could include a risk-based approach and sampling methods for reviewing TSU referrals, as appropriate.
- Addressing individual staff members’ noncompliance with the de-escalation and TSU referral procedures, including outlining potential remedies and consequences for noncompliance, such as additional training, more frequent supervision and coaching, and disciplinary actions.
- Identifying and addressing systemic causes of noncompliance, such as the need for additional staff training, additional methods and/or tools for de-escalating and managing youth behavior, consultations and assistance from clinical staff and/or supervisors, and policy and procedure changes.

Implemented at 6 months

- b. Revising and implementing its TSU policy and procedures to address any differences between policy and standard practice as needed, including clarifying procedures for handling TSU referrals for fighting and high-risk youth.

Implemented at 6 months

- c. Ensuring any TSU policy and procedure revisions are included in staff training materials and provide staff with training on any changes.

Implemented at 6 months