Diversion through the State’s Attorney’s Office refers to avoiding a conviction and connecting offenders to services and programs, rather than sentencing them to time in custody.

Diversion can occur at many points throughout the criminal justice system and for a variety of reasons:

- Because someone is not a threat to public safety
- Because connection to services is a better intervention and outcome than being sentenced to time in custody, probation, or community service

There are 8 court-based diversion programs in Cook County for non-violent offenses:

**Deferred Prosecution Programs**
1. Misdemeanors
2. Low-level drug offenses
3. First-time felony offenders
4. Prostitution
5. Emerging adults

**Treatment Court Programs**
6. Mental Health
7. Drug Addiction
8. Veterans

Upon successful completion of a diversion program, charges are dismissed and individuals have the option to move forward with expunging or sealing their record.

As of June 2019, 8,000+ participants have been diverted under State’s Attorney Foxx.

**Commonly Diverted Charges**

- Narcotics: 65%
- Theft & Burglary: 20%
- Other: 15%

**Age Distribution**
- 18-26: 35%
- 27-33: 15%
- 34-41: 13%
- 42-49: 13%
- 50-57: 15%
- 58-64: 6%
- 65+: 2%
- Unknown: 1%

**Gender Distribution**
- Male: 72%
- Female: 25%
- Unknown: 2%

**Race/ethnicity Distribution**
- Black: 56%
- White: 25%
- Latinx: 15%
- Other: 4%
- Unknown: 15%