

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Wolf, Governor



Juvenile Justice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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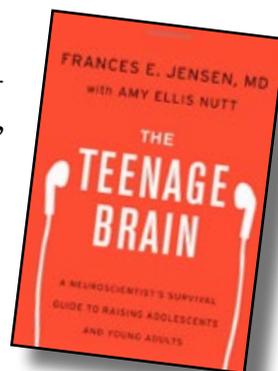
Plenary Speaker Announced for the 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice



Dr. Frances Jensen, Professor of Neurology and Chair of Neurology at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, will be the featured morning Plenary Speaker for the 2016 James E. Anderson Conference on Juvenile Justice on November 3, 2016. Dr. Jensen is also the Co-Director of the Penn Translational Neuroscience Center and a Trustee of the Franklin Institute. She formerly served as Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, Director of Translational Neuroscience, and senior neurologist at Boston Children's Hospital and the Brigham and Women's Hospital. She is a graduate of Cornell Medical College and did her

neurology residency training at the Harvard Longwood Neurology Residency Program.

Author of the book, "The Teenage Brain," released by Harper Collins in January 2015, Dr. Jensen is an advocate for the awareness of adolescent brain development, its unique strengths and vulnerabilities, as well as the impact on medical, social, and educational issues unique to teenagers and young adults. These issues will be woven into her plenary session, with a focus on connecting the ever-growing research on adolescent brain development with juvenile justice policies and practices.



The 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 2-4, 2016 at Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

Registration Opens in August!

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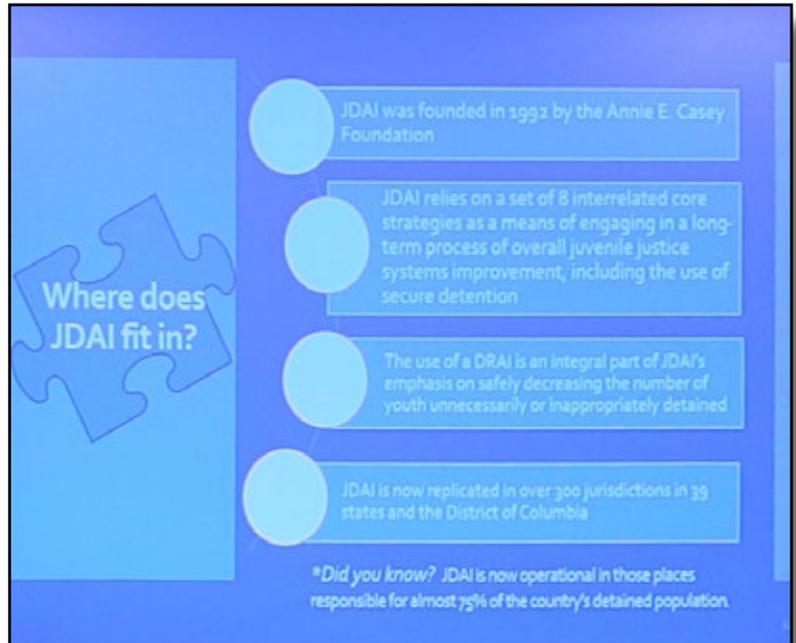
Statewide Implementation of the PaDRAI Begins

Since 2009, the Detention Ad Hoc Committee of the Chiefs Council has led the development, testing and validation of a detention risk assessment instrument appropriate for statewide use. The statewide tool, now known as the PaDRAI, was carefully cultivated by a dedicated workgroup which included juvenile justice professionals, information technology specialists, technical assistance experts and a university researcher. Early this year, testing and validation studies concluded with favorable results, setting the stage for statewide implementation to begin.

To initiate statewide implementation, interested county chiefs were asked to identify PaDRAI coordinators who would be responsible for training local staff on the use of the PaDRAI and overseeing local QA efforts related to the tool. Accordingly, on May 11, 2016, forty-nine staff from twenty-six counties attended the first PaDRAI coordinators workshop at the Toftrees in State College, PA.

The one day workshop was delivered by members of the PaDRAI workgroup, and was designed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to launch the implementation of the tool in their respective counties. The specific topics covered in the workshop included: the fundamental principles and science of detention risk assessment, the importance of alternatives to detention, the development and format of the tool, the use of the tool, and recommended strategies for local implementation.

At the conclusion of the workshop, all newly trained coordinators were assigned to support teams led by members of the PaDRAI workgroup. These support teams will give coordinators direct access to advice and technical assistance. Regular support team conference calls are also planned in order to provide sustained communication and support to our statewide PaDRAI implementation.



One of the cornerstones of the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system is the concept of **fundamental fairness**. According to this concept, we strive to ensure that all youth are treated in the same manner under similar circumstances. Consequently, a key component of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) is the use of structured decision making tools designed to help juvenile justice professionals make consistent, appropriate, effective and fundamentally fair decisions. These tools are based on research and provide clarity to many key decision points in our system. One such tool is a detention risk assessment instrument which guides the probation officer's decision around the use of pre-adjudicatory detention.

Tom Kern of Erie County Juvenile Probation Awarded Juvenile Justice Professional of the Year at 2016 PAPPC Annual Training Institute

Congratulations to Tom Kern, Deputy Chief of Erie County Juvenile Probation, winner of the 2016 Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections' (PAPPC) Juvenile Justice Professional of the Year award. Every year, the PAPPC selects a Juvenile Justice Professional that demonstrates superior leadership qualities and contributes in a meaningful way to the juvenile justice system. Tom has spent the last twenty-four years serving the youth in Erie County. During his time in Erie County, Tom has held a variety of positions including city and county line staff probation officer, specialized intensive probation officer, team coordinator, supervisor and his current role as Deputy Director. Tom was instrumental in starting and supervising various programs such as: Drug Treatment Court, Community Oriented Policing/Probation and opening two satellite offices in the interest of Community Based Probation.



His vast experience in the world of juvenile justice allows Tom to be a tremendous leader and mentor to those that work with him. Tom has been at the forefront of moving many initiatives forward in Erie County. He was instrumental in his work through the Balanced and Restorative Justice Initiative by teaching youth on Probation. Through this initiative, Tom taught juveniles basic skills around vehicle maintenance including how to perform oil changes and pre-inspection checklists. Tom has played a foundational role in establishing community service and volunteer programs all throughout Erie County that are designed to not only restore, but better the community. As Erie County transitioned into activities within the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), Tom again was a key player leading the charge. Tom established various JJSES committees within the department and plays an active role within each of those committees. His natural leadership, talent, and dedication have allowed the juvenile probation department to implement these activities with fidelity and success, as well as, setting an example across the state for other counties to follow.

In addition to his dedication to the juvenile probation department, Tom is a Nationally Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Addictions Counselor, and PA Certified Co-occurring Disorders Professional. With these extremely important certifications, Tom has been able to support and help teens with chemical addictions in his private practice and other teens by volunteering his own time as a mentor for Chemically Dependent Teenagers Anonymous (CDTA). In addition, Tom is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and works part-time in his private practice where he continues to serve youth with a variety of mental health and emotional needs.

Please congratulate Tom Kern on this tremendous achievement and honor!



During the May 13th general membership meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, Robert J. Stanzione was recognized for his 40+ years of dedicated service to Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. Mr. Stanzione retired as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Bucks County on December 4, 2015. Introducing Mr. Stanzione and presenting him with a plaque acknowledging his service are William H. Rufe, IV, Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Bucks County, and Ms. Teresa Wilcox, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, McKean County and current president of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

Partnering for Success: Improving Family Involvement in Youth Development Centers

Submitted by Sebrina Doyle, Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center at Penn State University and Gail Yoder, Department of Human Services, Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services

The Family Involvement Project for residential facilities was born out of a desire to help families whose youth were receiving services in Youth Development Centers (YDCs) become more involved in their child's treatment to ensure they would be able to support the youth when he or she came home. In order to realize this goal, the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services partnered with staff at YDCs and researchers from Penn State University to form a team with policy, practice, and research perspectives. This partnership was supported beginning in October of 2014 with a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

The team began by identifying barriers to family engagement including a lack of family motivation to be involved, families' adversarial stance to working with anyone "in the system", challenges due to family distance from the facility, and unhealthy youth-caregiver relationships; all of which could affect caregiver knowledge and support of youth treatment accomplishments. While many challenges cannot be addressed overnight, the team sought to identify things that could be strengthened with minor tweaks to the system.

After examining current practices to communicate with and involve families, several research-informed strategies were identified to assist counselors. One of the basic strategies employed was the use of a colorful brochure to give families a positive picture of the facilities and the services they would be offered. This brochure includes a handwritten note from the counselor, which is sent in a hand-addressed envelope. While this change may seem trivial, research shows that people are more likely to read and respond to materials when they are personalized. Other strategies identified included:

- Increasing family members' understanding of the "language of change" through additional brochures that described important elements of the youth's Cognitive Behavioral Treatment program,
- Scripts for speaking with parents that utilized motivational interviewing strategies,
- Structured communication protocol used weekly to improve youth-caregiver communication, and
- Increased/reaffirmed expectations and support for counselors around making regular check-in calls to caregivers.

To establish evidence of effectiveness for these changes, methods to measure fidelity and outcomes expected were identified. These practice changes are currently being evaluated at Youth Forestry Camp 3, North Central Secure Treatment Unit, and Loysville Youth Development Center to determine the impact that these small changes have made for the youth and families. Counselors are seeing differences in their own interactions with parents and in the communication between the youth and their caregivers. We are hopeful that these changes will lead to facilities being viewed as partners instead of adversaries, and that youth will be better supported in the positive changes they are making when they get home. With proper long term support, we expect that youth will be more likely to use the skills that they learned in treatment, and less likely to return to the delinquent behaviors.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS



ACCOUNT SPECIALIST



RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

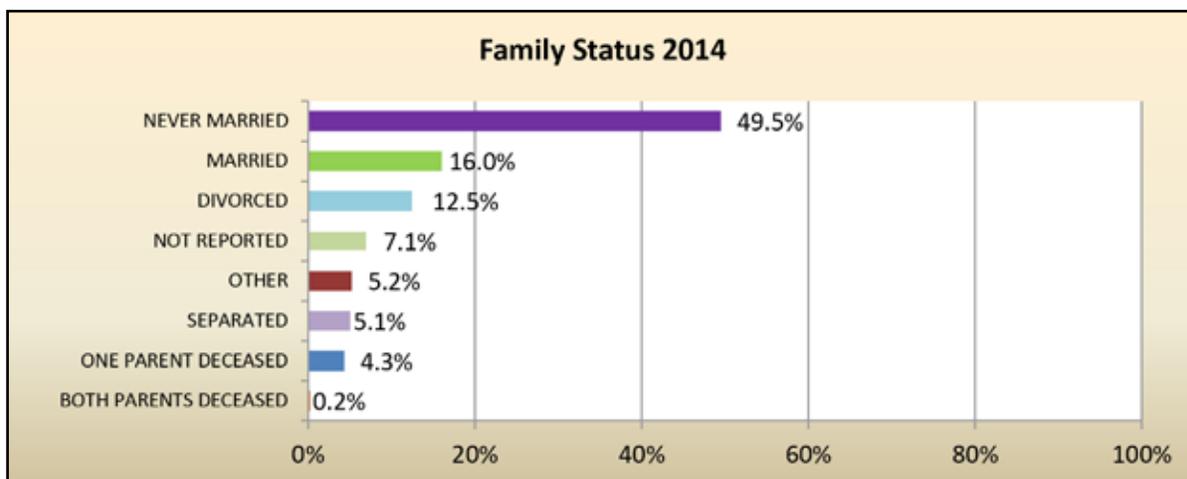
2014 Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions

Juvenile Demographics

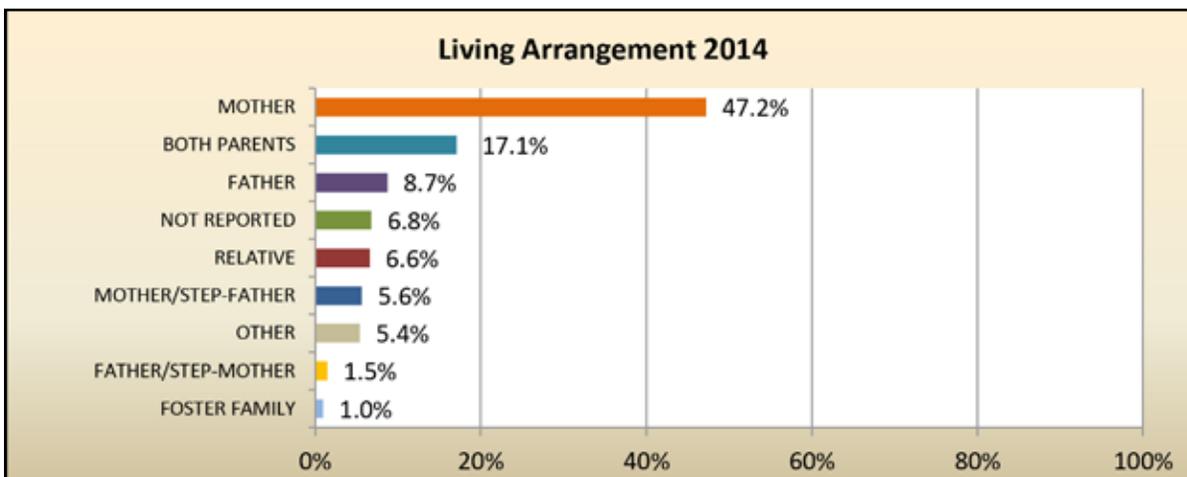
Family Status, Living Arrangement and Race/Ethnicity

As we continue with the series of newsletter highlights on the [2014 Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions report](#), this issue examines the Family Status, Living Arrangement and Race/Ethnicity of juveniles active with Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice in 2014.

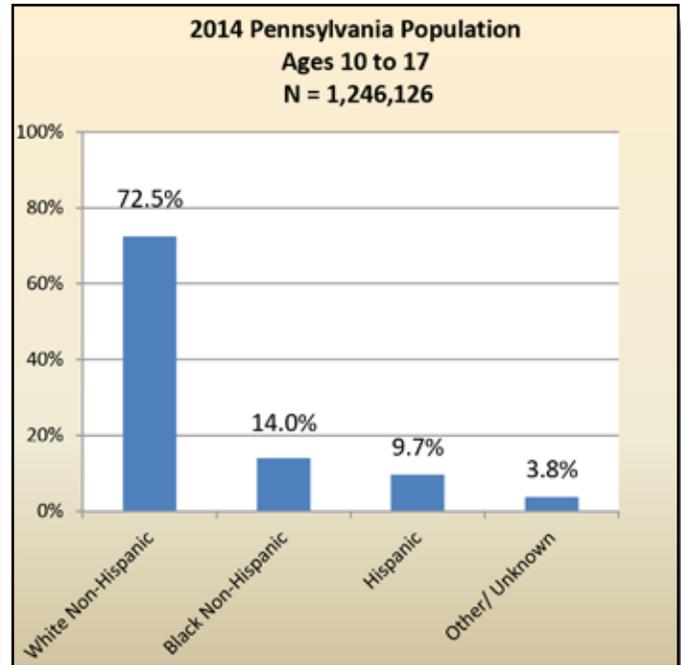
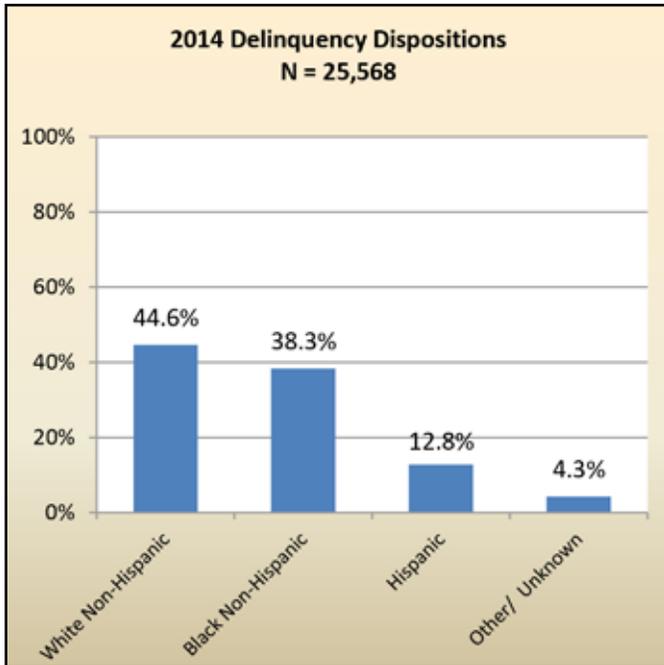
In juvenile delinquency dispositions, youth whose biological parents were reported as Never Married represent the largest group—more than 49%. In only 16% of cases, the biological parents were reported as Married at the time of disposition.



In 2014, 47.2% of youth resided only with their mother, while only 17.1% of juveniles resided with both biological parents.



In 2014, White Non-Hispanic youth represented the largest racial/ethnic category for all delinquency dispositions. However, in comparison to the racial/ethnic distribution of all youth in Pennsylvania, ages 10-17, the representation of all delinquency dispositions receiving delinquency dispositions is disproportionate: 14% of the total population versus 38.3% for Black Non-Hispanic youth. When excluding Philadelphia and Allegheny County, Black Non-Hispanic youth represent 8.1% of the youth population, but 26.8% of all delinquency dispositions.



County-specific data on juvenile demographics are contained within the appendices of the [2014 Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions report](#).

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

HEROIN AND OTHER OPIATES WORKSHOP TO BE FEATURED AT PITT - BRADFORD CAMPUS

Did you know that between 2007 and 2012 heroin use doubled in the United States? Today we have an estimated 1.2 million heroin users in the U.S., with half of young people who have used heroin reporting prescription pain killer (opioids) abuse prior to starting their heroin use.



On August 11, 2016, on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh - Bradford, Dr. Paul Martin will lead an in-depth discussion on heroin and other commonly abused opioids, drug dependence, drug tolerance, and drug half-life. Additionally, he will discuss who gets addicted and how heroin and other opioids get into the community and workplace. Common signs of abuse, addiction, and withdrawal, along with treatment options (including narcan) will also be outlined.

Additional information is included in the [JCJC Event Management System \(JEMS\)](#).

ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The Online Professional Development Area of [JEMS](#) is now active, and the first of many forthcoming learning opportunities has been posted. The workshop, "Tools to Advance the Development of Effective Case Plans," is a free webinar that was converted to the online workshop format. Participants can access the workshop anytime, and as many times as they wish.

All you need to participate in the workshop is a [JEMS](#) account. Once logged in to the [JEMS](#) website, users can now see a selection of courses. As mentioned, this is the first of many to come, and we would love to hear your feedback.

Please email your comments on the course or suggestions for future courses to ra-jcjservices@pa.gov.



UPCOMING EVENTS

August

- 11 Heroin and Other Opiates
- 22-26 Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional - Session I

September

- 7-8 Mood Disorders
- 15 Case Plan Forum
- 19-23 Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional - Session II
- 28 Supervisor's EBP BriefCASE
- 28-29 Refusal Skills in a Relapse Perspective

October

- 4-5 Sexting and the Dangers of Technology
- 12-13 Youth Level of Service (YLS) Master Trainer Certification
- 13-14 Ten Steps to Recidivism Reduction
- 19 Taking Care of Yourself

November

- 2-4 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice
- 30 Supervisor's EBP BriefCASE

Information and registration details of sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting www.jcjservices.state.pa.us for regular updates to the schedule.

Case Plan Forum Planned

September 15, 2016 - Days Inn, State College

Given its utility to the application of evidence based practices, case planning is a critical component of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. Effective case planning is gaining empirical support as an effective model for use with youthful offenders in bringing about long term behavioral change and reducing risk to recidivate (Lipsey, 2009).

The case plan is the blueprint for the youth while under the Court's supervision. More specifically, case plans are written documents that articulate goals and activities that are to be completed during a period of a youthful offender's supervision. The goals and activities outlined in a youth's case plan are the result of a collaborative process aimed at linking criminogenic needs to goals and activities aimed at producing long-term positive behavior change.

On September 15th, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers are sponsoring a **Case Plan Forum**. The forum will focus on the discussion of practical strategies for the implementation and use of a case plan in a juvenile probation department. This workshop is specifically for chiefs, deputy chiefs, and key staff responsible for implementing the case plan within their department.

This workshop will explore the current statewide efforts to support the development and implementation of effective case planning. Participants will discuss the current research supporting the practice of case planning, case plan policy development, effective case plan skills, and training related to case planning. The workshop will also discuss various tools and state level support available to counties including the Chiefs Council's Assessment/Case Plan Committee, the Case Plan Handbook, the Field Base Case Plan, and training.

Registration for this workshop is now available through the [JCJC Event Management System \(JEMS\)](#) and is only available to chiefs, deputy chiefs and county case plan coordinators.

Source: Lipsey, M. (2009). The primary factors that characterize effective interventions with juvenile offenders: A meta-analytic overview. Victims and Offenders, 4, 124-147.

- SAVE THE DATE -

The 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 2-4, 2016 at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

**Youth Awards
Program & Dinner**

Wednesday, November 2

**Annual Training
& Awards Program**

Thursday, November 3

Resource Day 2016

Friday, November 4

The 2016 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will conclude with Resource Day, during which representatives from residential and community based programs, along with other service providers and vendors, will be available to discuss their programs with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice community. This informal marketplace will offer an important opportunity for consumers to learn about new and innovative services.

Conference Registration Opens in August!

www.jcjc.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System

Calendar and PO Schedule

Among the many unique features added to the PaJCMS application in October 2015 was the advanced capabilities of the *calendar*. This feature can be used to schedule future appointments, hearings and other events that can then be displayed and filtered from the Probation Officer and Supervisor's startup screens. Clicking on any date on the calendar will filter the probation officer's list of upcoming events to only show those on that given day. Additionally, the filters on the list itself can be used to filter by a specific juvenile or event type. These enhancements encourage users, specifically probation officers to schedule new appointments out in advance. Using the filters and/or the interactive calendar to see appointments, provides an idea of what is upcoming on a specific day or for a specific juvenile.

County Customization using LTM's

All sixty-seven counties across Pennsylvania track information in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS). This information is used to generate the annual disposition report, provide data for research, and evaluate new initiatives implemented under the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. While much of the information is standardized to allow comparison across all sixty-seven counties, certain dispositions or other terms may differ from county to county. In order to accommodate as many users as possible, this standardized information is customized per county and stored in Lookup Tables that County Administrators can access using the Lookup Table Maintenance (LTM) screen. Currently many of the information fields in PaJCMS can be customized using their corresponding LTM screen. From this same screen, some of these fields, such as Family Status, Hearing Type, or Disposition, are then associated with the language used in reporting statewide data. This way, each county can track dispositions, hearings and other information in terms with which they are familiar.

For any questions about using these features, Probation Offices are welcome to contact the staff at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research and the PaJCMS Help Desk.

Announcing a Unique Learning Opportunity for Probation and Parole Professionals

The 2nd Annual Juvenile Probation Reform Academy (JPRA), developed exclusively for juvenile probation and parole professionals, will be held August 29-30, 2016 in Cleveland, OH. The JPRA is designed to instruct probation and parole directors and managers on the core principles demonstrated by research to reduce recidivism and improve other outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system. Participants will develop strategies for applying this research to their own agencies and will learn how to conduct a systematic review of agency policies, practices, and performance, and implement agency-wide reforms. The JPRA is developed in partnership by the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) and the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center.

To learn more about the 2nd Annual Juvenile Probation Reform Academy, please visit: <http://rfknrcjj.org/events/jpra-aug2016/>

Now Accepting Applications!

Juvenile Probation Reform Academy

**Hosted by the American Probation and Parole Association's
41st Annual Training Institute**

August 29-30, 2016 ♦ Cleveland, Ohio





National Juvenile Justice Announcements

The following announcements are reprinted from JUVJUST, an OJJDP news service:

OJJDP BULLETIN PROVIDES OVERVIEW OF JUVENILES IN RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT

OJJDP has released “[Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2013](#).” The bulletin presents information from the 2013 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, a biennial survey of public and private juvenile residential facilities that the U.S. Census Bureau conducted and OJJDP sponsored. The data indicates that the number of juveniles held in residential placement, as a result of an offense, has declined 48 percent since 1997. Racial and ethnic minority youth accounted for 68 percent of youth in residential placement in 2013, with black males making up the largest share. The national detention rate for black youth was nearly 6 times the rate for white youth, and their commitment rate was more than 4 times the rate for white youth.



Resources:

See other publications in OJJDP’s [Juvenile Justice Statistics: National Report Series](#).

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2017 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ SERVICE AWARDS

The [Office for Victims of Crime](#) is now accepting nominations for the 2017 [National Crime Victims’ Service Awards](#) to recognize individuals, teams, programs, and organizations who demonstrate outstanding service in support of victims of crime. The [Tomorrow’s Leaders Award](#) will honor and highlight youth as old as 24 years who have supported victims of crime and raised awareness about bullying, peer pressure, domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, child abuse, campus sexual assault, and/or victimization of minority communities. Nominations are due July 31, 2016.

Resources:

[Submit a nomination online](#).

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#) (CJJR) is accepting applications for its remaining 2016 certificate programs:

The [Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Certificate Program](#) will be held October 24-28 in Washington, DC. This program, held in partnership with the [Center for Children’s Law and Policy](#), will focus on data-driven and research-based strategies that jurisdictions can employ to reduce overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system. Apply by July 22, 2016.

The [Multi-System Integration Certificate Program](#) will be held November 10-16 in Washington, DC. This training will offer resources to improve outcomes for crossover youth. The program will highlight CJJR’s [Crossover Youth Practice Model](#) and include a focus on family engagement, behavioral health, education, and racial and ethnic disparities. Apply by August 5, 2016.

Resources:

Click here to [apply to either program](#).

Email questions to jjreform@georgetown.edu.

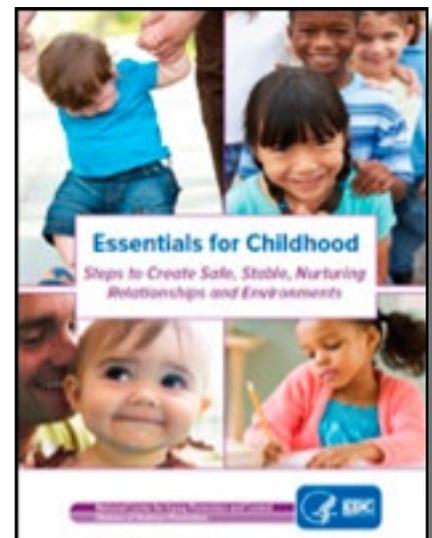
GUIDE ON SAFE CHILDHOOD RELATIONSHIPS AND ENVIRONMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) has released “[Essentials for Childhood: Steps to Create Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments](#).”

This guide provides evidence-based strategies to help communities build safe and stable relationships and environments that will protect children and prevent child maltreatment.

Resources:

[View and download](#) the guide.



OJJDP BULLETIN PRESENTS LATEST FINDINGS ON CHILD ABDUCTIONS BY STRANGERS

OJJDP has released “[Child Victims of Stereotypical Kidnappings Known to Law Enforcement in 2011](#).” This [bulletin](#) summarizes findings about child kidnappings by strangers and acquaintances (called stereotypical kidnappings by the authors) in 2011 based on data from the law enforcement component of the third National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART), sponsored by OJJDP. The authors compared 2011 data with NISMART-2 data collected in 1997.



Key findings include:

An estimated 105 children were kidnapped by strangers or slight acquaintances in the survey year in cases that law enforcement investigated as a stereotypical kidnapping, similar to the estimate in the 1997 survey (115 children).

Most kidnappings involved the use of force or threats, and about three in five victims were sexually assaulted, abused, or exploited.

Victims were, most commonly, ages 12 to 17, girls, white, and living in situations other than with two biological or adoptive parents. Half of all stereotypical kidnappings in 2011 were sexually motivated crimes against adolescent girls.

Fewer stereotypical kidnappings ended in homicide in 2011 than in 1997 (8 percent versus 40 percent). Cases involving 92 percent of the victims in 2011 ended when the child was recovered, compared to 57 percent in 1997.

Resources:

Find more bulletins in OJJDP’s [National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children](#) series.

Visit OJJDP’s [Missing and Exploited Children’s Program](#) website.

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO DEVELOP RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUTH VICTIMS AND WITNESSES IN COURT

The [Office for Victims of Crime](#) (OVC) is accepting applications for its [FY 2016 Child Victims and Witnesses Going to Court: A Package of Support Materials](#). OVC will award \$1 million to an organization to develop a package of resource materials to support young victims and witnesses during their participation in the court process. The successful applicant, working with subject matter experts and partnering with a national stakeholder group, will develop and disseminate materials for criminal justice personnel, advocates, and others who work with young victims and witnesses to use. Applications are due by July 15, 2016.

Resources:

Visit OJJDP’s [funding page](#) for details about OJJDP funding opportunities.

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University. Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by e-mail to rtomassini@pa.gov.

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