



PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

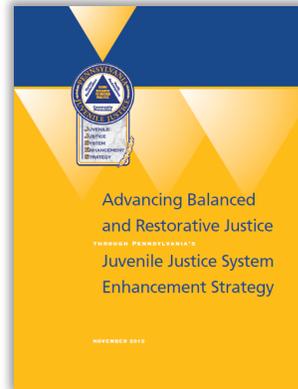
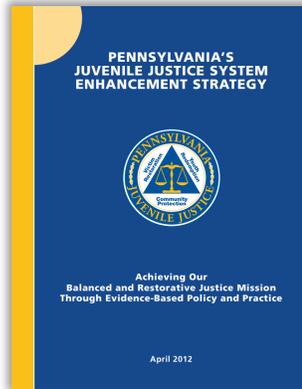
The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 35, Number 2

February 2024

2023 JJSES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team was proud to share our many accomplishments throughout 2023 in December's *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice* newsletter. This month the Leadership Team highlights the JJSES Project during 2023 with an in-depth list of its year-end accomplishments. Note, peer mentorship is available to assist with JJSES implementation and/or help provide continuous quality improvement (CQI) of JJSES activities.



Stakeholder Engagement

- The Stakeholder Engagement Starter Kit, including Stakeholder Engagement Practices, Stakeholder Engagement Policy Outline, and two Stakeholder Engagement Policy Examples, was released and posted to the JCJC Strategic Plan dashboard.
- The Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) 101 training was revised and subsequently continues to be adapted for use with various stakeholders and presentation formats by mid-2024.
- The Stage 1 Committee continued its efforts with stakeholder engagement by growing its membership to include representatives from the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers' (PCCJPO) Community Engagement and Family Engagement Committees.
- A proposal focused on educational stability was submitted to and approved by the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services for presentation at their 2024 Annual Conference.

Family Engagement

- The committee was renamed from "Family Involvement" to "Family Engagement." Family Involvement suggests families participate in activities predetermined for them whereas Family Engagement recognizes that families should be part of the decision-making process.
- The committee continued its efforts to grow its membership to include members with lived experience within the juvenile justice system.

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- A shift in the committee’s approach focused on retraining all things family engagement such as the basics of what family engagement means within the JJSES framework and how to utilize existing resources to engage families actively and effectively.
- The PCCJPO Family Engagement Committee developed an in-person workshop scheduled for 2024.

Victim Awareness

- An assessment of the Impact of Crime Curriculum for Juvenile Offenders was completed by the PCCJPO Victim Awareness Committee. That assessment led to revisions and updates to the curriculum. The curriculum’s rollout is expected in 2024.

Motivational Interviewing (MI)

- 160 juvenile probation officers are MI coaches. MI was supported by two MI Coaches Forums with 23 participants and MI 101 with 18 participants.

Youth Level of Service™ (YLS) and Case Planning

- 220 juvenile probation officers are certified YLS Master Trainers. The YLS was supported by a Master Trainer Certification workshop with 14 participants certified as YLS Master Trainers and three Master Trainer Recertifications with 85 participants, 52 participants, and 9 participants recertified, respectively.
- 137 juvenile probation officers are case plan coaches.
- The YLS User Ratings Guide was updated.
- The YLS policy adherence study was utilized to guide policy refinement in juvenile probation departments.
- A Pennsylvania-specific YLS validation study was initiated.
- A comprehensive online training titled “Case Planning Fundamentals” was developed.
- Case planning was supported by a Case Planning 101 workshop with 72 participants.
- The format of YLS Master Trainer and Case Plan Coordinator calls was modified. The calls are now Learning Community Meetings hosted via the Microsoft Teams collaboration platform.

Child Trauma Screen (CTS) and Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument: Version Two (MAYSI~2)

- 265 MAYSI licenses are assigned to juvenile probation officers in 45 counties.
- 43 juvenile probation officers are trained CTS coaches.
- 22 counties have accessed the CTS training curriculum made available via the Brainier Learning Management System (LMS). Additional advancements include peer mentorship to support the curriculum’s implementation, development of policy and practices, and ongoing technical assistance.
- 2 CTS/MAYSI~2 Learning Community Meetings were held with 25 participants and 29 participants, respectively.
- A validation study was begun to learn if the established CTS cut score captures justice-involved youth clinically known to have trauma in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system.
- The CTS/MAYSI~2 Steering Committee continues to advance trauma screening education and mental health assessment education and to promote the use of the CTS and MAYSI~2 during the intake process.

Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI)

- 63 juvenile probation officers are trained as PaDRAI coaches.
- A second validation study of the PaDRAI was initiated.

Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)

- 431 juvenile probation officers have completed EPICS training. Twenty-three of these 431 juvenile probation officers participated in EPICS training during 2023. Two EPICS workshops for juvenile probation officers were held with 7 participants from 4 different counties and 16 participants from 7 different counties, respectively.

- 114 juvenile probation officers are trained as EPICS Internal Coaches, including 10 new Internal Coaches. Eighteen (18) Internal Coaches participated in the EPICS Train the Trainer (TOT) Certification program. Twelve (12) EPICS TOTs took part in coding EPICS session tapes to promote skill building and fidelity, and 29 EPICS session tapes were coded by the EPICS TOTs.
- The EPICS Steering Committee continues to support quality EPICS implementation, expansion, and continuous quality improvement (CQI).

Graduated Responses (GR)

- 2 Peer Mentor Learning Community Meetings were held, and participants received program updates, technical assistance, and support. The statewide Peer Training Network includes 19 GR peer mentors. Additionally, 2 coaching sessions for GR coordinators were held with 36 participants and 46 participants, respectively.
- A prototype GR policy was finalized.
- A GR Advisory standard was finalized and adopted.
- Pennsylvania's GR system was presented during the American Probation and Parole Association's Regional Training Institute in Philadelphia.
- A GR and a GR-Technical Assistance Mentorship (GR-TAM) overview handouts were developed and distributed at the 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice. Also, the GR Steering Committee hosted a table at the conference's Resource Day.
- An online training titled "Adolescent Development and Juvenile Probation" was developed in partnership with Dr. Naomi Goldstein and released via the Brainier LMS.

Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol™ (SPEP)

- 636 SPEP informed stakeholders and 50 SPEP certified staff, i.e., Level 1, 2, or 3 trainers, are in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.
- 20 SPEP service implementations occurred in a residential setting, 13 SPEP service implementations occurred in a community-based setting, and 1 SPEP service implementation occurred in both a community-based and residential setting.
- 11 SPEP baseline assessments were completed. Forty-five percent (5 out of 11) were rated as having "High Quality of Service Delivery." Fourteen SPEP reassessments were completed. Fifty percent (7 out of 14) had both the Basic and Program Optimization Percentage Scores increase between the baseline and current reassessment, 21% (3 out of 14) had the Quality of Service Delivery increase between the baseline and current reassessment, and 57% (8 out of 14) sustained "High Quality of Service Delivery" between the baseline and current reassessment. Nine "Other" SPEP assessments were completed. Thirty-three percent (3 out of 9) were rated as having "High Quality of Service Delivery."
- Quarterly SPEP Advisory Group Meetings were held.
- A SPEP revalidation study was initiated.
- Professional development regarding the SPEP included a Level 1 SPEP Specialist Training with 9 participants from 5 counties; quarterly SPEP Level 2 Trainer: Process Development Group Meetings; 3 SPEP Learning Community Meetings; 3 SPEP Informed Community Meetings; a SPEP Combine, which brought together the SPEP Learning and SPEP Informed Communities for education and collaboration; 7 provider-focused SPEP Informed Trainings; 8 juvenile probation-focused SPEP Informed Trainings. Overall, 6 new counties initiated a department wide SPEP Informed Training, and 150 juvenile probation officers participated in a SPEP Informed Training.
- Various resources were developed and refined to support SPEP, including a Service Impact Map to better connect the components of Organizational Response to Drift and Quality of Service Delivery, the EPIS Service Development and Implementation Manual to support providers in better manualizing their ser-

vices, and Feedback Reports to include county-specific data when multiple counties are represented in a SPEP cohort. (All Level 1 counties receive a copy of the Feedback Report if they had referred youth that were included in the cohort.)

- Various additional infographics were designed to share project-related data with stakeholders, including quarterly articles printed in the JCJC's *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice* newsletter.
- The rollout of strategic Regional Assist implementations of community-based services continued in partnership with multiple juvenile probation departments.
- The EPISCenter hosted a table at the 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice's Resource Day.

Refinement

- 22 county CQI assessments were completed to assist juvenile probation departments with prioritizing their CQI efforts.
- 6 logic models were created outlining the fundamental tenets of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system: accountability, community safety, competency development, professional development, data-driven decision making, and EBP.
- The development of a standardized CQI Position package was completed, including a job description template for a JJSES CQI position, a companion document with non-JJSES CQI-specific position language, and a performance appraisal template for statewide use.
- The services screen in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System was refined.
- The construction of a standardized EBP service contract template for statewide use was begun.

Racial/Ethnic Disparities (R/ED)

- An article about community outreach and R/ED in recognition of Black History Month was printed in the JCJC's *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice* newsletter.
- Training and other materials related to implicit bias and cultural competency are in development by Racial and Equity Specialists from Allegheny County and Philadelphia County.
- Community events, including the Historically Black Colleges & Universities Festival, were shared during the PCCJPO's General Membership Meetings.
- A R/ED statement of purpose was created and included in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan on the JCJC Strategic Plan dashboard and PCCJPO website.

James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

- 838 attendees were onsite for the 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

PCCJPO Website for JJSES and Other Juvenile Justice Resources

- The design, access, and navigability to available JJSES and other juvenile justice resources, documents, and contacts was improved, including a link to the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan.

Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan and Infrastructure

- The 36th Annual Strategic Planning Session was held at Seven Springs Mountain Resort on June 7-9, 2023. A presentation summarized the findings of the CQI Consultant's work, a discussion involved how Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system defines and measures "implementation", and an activity was facilitated to prioritize various juvenile justice system priorities. Also, work was done to develop a 5-year strategic plan that will promote advanced engagement by all counties in the sustainability of the JJSES.

The 2023 JJSES accomplishments are also available at:

<https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Publications/Documents/JJSES/2023%20JJSES%20Accomplishments.pdf>

MYTH



VS.

FACT



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission continues its monthly series, "Myth vs. Fact," which addresses common misconceptions of the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. Using a combination of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System data and scholarly research conducted by the field more broadly, this series will provide data-driven facts on all topics juvenile justice.

This month's installment addresses a circulated myth surrounding out-of-home residential placement use in the Commonwealth. Future iterations of this series will address myths surrounding topics like the use of diversion and graduated responses, as well as more general principles of evidenced-based best practice.

MYTH

Many youth, some as young as 10 years old, are sent to out-of-home residential placement for minor infractions, including failure to pay fines.

FACT

Most youth placed in out-of-home residential facilities were there for felony and against-person offenses. No youth whose most serious charge was non-payment of fines received a disposition to out-of-home residential placement in 2022.

The following is an overview of all written allegations received during 2022:

- Approximately 15% (n = 2,873) of written allegations received during 2022 had non-payment of fines as the most serious charge. The most common dispositions received for these non-payment of fines cases were payment plan for fines/costs to be paid (43%) and informal adjustment (27%). Only 0.4% of non-payment allegations were adjudicated delinquent, and no youth under the age of 13 were adjudicated delinquent for non-payment allegations. Finally, no youth whose most serious charge was non-payment of fines was disposed to out-of-home residential placement.
- Approximately 31% of written allegations received during 2022 had a felony offense as the most serious charge. Approximately 12% of these felony offenses resulted in a placement disposition.
- Approximately 54% of written allegations received during 2022 had a misdemeanor offense as the most serious charge. Only 3% of these misdemeanor offenses resulted in a placement disposition.

Additionally, all dispositions to out-of-home residential placement (n = 1,352) during 2022 were examined.

- Placement dispositions accounted for just 5% of all dispositions in 2022.
- Approximately 63% of placements were for felony and against-person offenses.¹
- The most common offenses among dispositions to placement were theft-related offenses (14%), fire-arm-related offenses (13%), and simple assault (11%).
 - Approximately 7% (n = 97) of dispositions to placement were for youth ages 10-13 at the time of disposition. Among this age group, the most common offenses were theft-related offenses (17%) and indecent assault (11%).

¹An additional 21% (n = 287) of placement dispositions were referred as alleged felony offenses but were adjudicated as misdemeanors.

GLADE RUN AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



Glade Run Lutheran Services operates an Afterschool Enrichment Program for youth involved with Butler Juvenile Court Services and/or Children and Youth Services at the Grace Community Wellness Center in Butler. The program was designed in collaboration and support with Butler County Juvenile Court Services to provide structure and positive prosocial activities for adolescents with challenging households and/or minimal parental supervision. The program operates from immediately after school until 6:30 p.m. Research indicates that crimes among youth peak between the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This unsupervised and unstructured time after school is the highest contributor to youth crime in the United States.

The afterschool program starts with participants getting a bite to eat followed by a homework check. Other activities that occur on an individual basis are community service opportunities, psychoeducation groups, recreation activities, job searches, and the evidence-based interactive journaling opportunity called *Forward Thinking*®. Many times, incentives are offered to the youth who are actively participating and working towards change. Glade Run staff are in constant communication with the youth's family and provide regular progress reports back to the juvenile probation officer or caseworker. Glade Run will also provide transportation if needed and has provided support to families/youth around basic needs. The afterschool program extends its programming into the summer with the hours changing from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Many times, youth enter the Afterschool Enrichment Program with resistance and skepticism. The Glade Run staff has found that over time they are able to engage these youth and help them imagine a future that they have not previously considered. After over a year of operating the program, some youth now come back to the program, check in, and report positive changes that they are making in their lives. The Glade Run Afterschool Program will continue to keep our lights on, stay fully staffed, and fully committed to the youth of Butler County who need a safe and welcoming place to decide if they want their lives to take a different path.

"Juvenile Court Services is happy to have partnered with Glade Run Lutheran Services. Their hard work and dedication towards the Afterschool Program has made a positive impact on the youth we refer to them. We are pleased with the results and are confident there will be continued success in the future," stated Sue Stover, Deputy Director, Butler County Juvenile Court Services.

PENNSYLVANIA COMPLEX CASE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Submitted by Abigail Wilson, Director, PCCYFS Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Education Services

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services commissioned the Autism Services, Education, Resources, & Training Collaborative (ASERT) to conduct a [needs assessment](#) of Pennsylvania's children, youth, and young adults with complex needs, and the systems supporting them. Information was gathered through focus groups and surveys of children, youth, young adults, their families, and providers.

While youth ages 0-21 with complex needs are a diverse group, some of the most common characteristics of these individuals include:

- complex trauma such as abuse, neglect, and developmental and institutional trauma
- multiple and complex diagnoses across the developmental, physical, and mental health domains
- potential diagnostic overshadowing due to an intellectual disability and/or autism diagnosis
- complex communication needs
- inconsistent presentation of behaviors and symptoms across settings
- disrupted education

While Pennsylvania has a foundation of services for young people, these services have primarily been developed for the general population. Fewer supports and services are in place for individuals with complex needs. These youth are significantly more likely to have experienced institutionalized care; poverty; co-occurring mental health needs; mental, behavioral, or developmental disorders; anxiety or depression; or neglect or abuse.

As a result of the qualitative data collected for the report, collaborators recognized five **emerging themes** identifying problems in reaching at-risk youth with necessary supports and services:

Communication

Participants noted the lack of communication and coordination across service systems. Improving the quality of information on children and youth, e.g., social histories, and the coordination of these across systems would improve services to this population. Systems and families often disagree on the services a child needs. Additionally, families may feel disengaged from planning processes and may feel that they do not have a voice in their child's treatment plan.

Availability of Services and Programs

Parents note one of the most significant barriers to obtaining services for their children is the dearth of services and programs in their geographic location. Frequent insurance denials delay services, as do inconveniences such as long waiting times when individuals are "too acute" for care. Residential programs and inpatient treatment become the default when other options are unavailable. Hospital representatives noted an increase in emergency department visits from children, youth, and young adults and almost all (91%) attributed these visits to a lack of resources for children with complex needs.

Awareness and Navigation of Resources

Almost half of families surveyed reported difficulties in navigating the help systems in place. Even more families indicated difficulties understanding the services and programs available to their child. Many families indicated a lack of awareness of how these programs and services benefit their child, cross-system planning, and pooling of resources. The families' lack of knowledge extended to navigating complex insurance processes.

Staffing

Participants noted areas of concern such as barriers with staffing, citing provider availability and qualifications, burnout, recruitment and retention problems, training, and motivation. Shortages in staffing exacerbate problems with service availability. Additional problems included low wages, intense job duties, and lack of career advancement.

Trauma-Informed Supports

Participants noted the importance of specific, individual trauma history in planning treatment, as well as an increase in cases of anxiety, depression, and trauma history. Respondents noted that staff should receive more trauma-informed training, as well as the identifying the importance of periodically evaluating systems that serve children, youth, and young adults with complex needs, and their families.

In the future, this report may be used to influence programs and systems. The report concludes with an [Youth-with-Complex-Needs-A-Blueprint-Workgroup-Report.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#). for ensuring that Pennsylvania's youth with complex needs have access to appropriate supports and services in a timely manner.



DID YOU KNOW...

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission was statutorily established in 1959.

Call for Presentations

November 6 - November 8, 2024

Hilton Harrisburg

Are you enthusiastic about enhancing Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system with your professional expertise? Do you want to spread your message to 1,000 of your colleagues? We cordially welcome submissions for the 2024 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, to be held on November 6-8, 2024, at the Hilton Harrisburg.

The conference focus will be rooted in responsivity in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. Each year the conference includes workshops that highlight practices, programs, and initiatives which exemplify the various components of Pennsylvania's Balanced & Restorative Justice mission and the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. Workshops are to encourage dialogue among professionals, spark imagination, and discover solutions to our system's ongoing challenges.

This year's conference workshops will take place on Thursday, November 7, 2024. Themes may include but are not limited to professional alliance skills, diversity and/or inclusion, stakeholder engagement, and responsivity factors. **Interested parties should complete and submit the following presentation proposal form by Friday, May 3, 2024.**

The 2024 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice is sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges.

Presentation Proposal Form

Click here to download
or visit:



<https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/AnnualConference/Documents/2024%20Conference%20Documents/2024%20Call%20for%20Presentations.docx>

To complete the form and submit online, please visit: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQsgB1U2bbEf8Wpob3iZS_UDhpZ5Mr8iYxNeQEP1UM1BFWjVWODI3NDIxODdURzIOWlpPRU5WTi4u

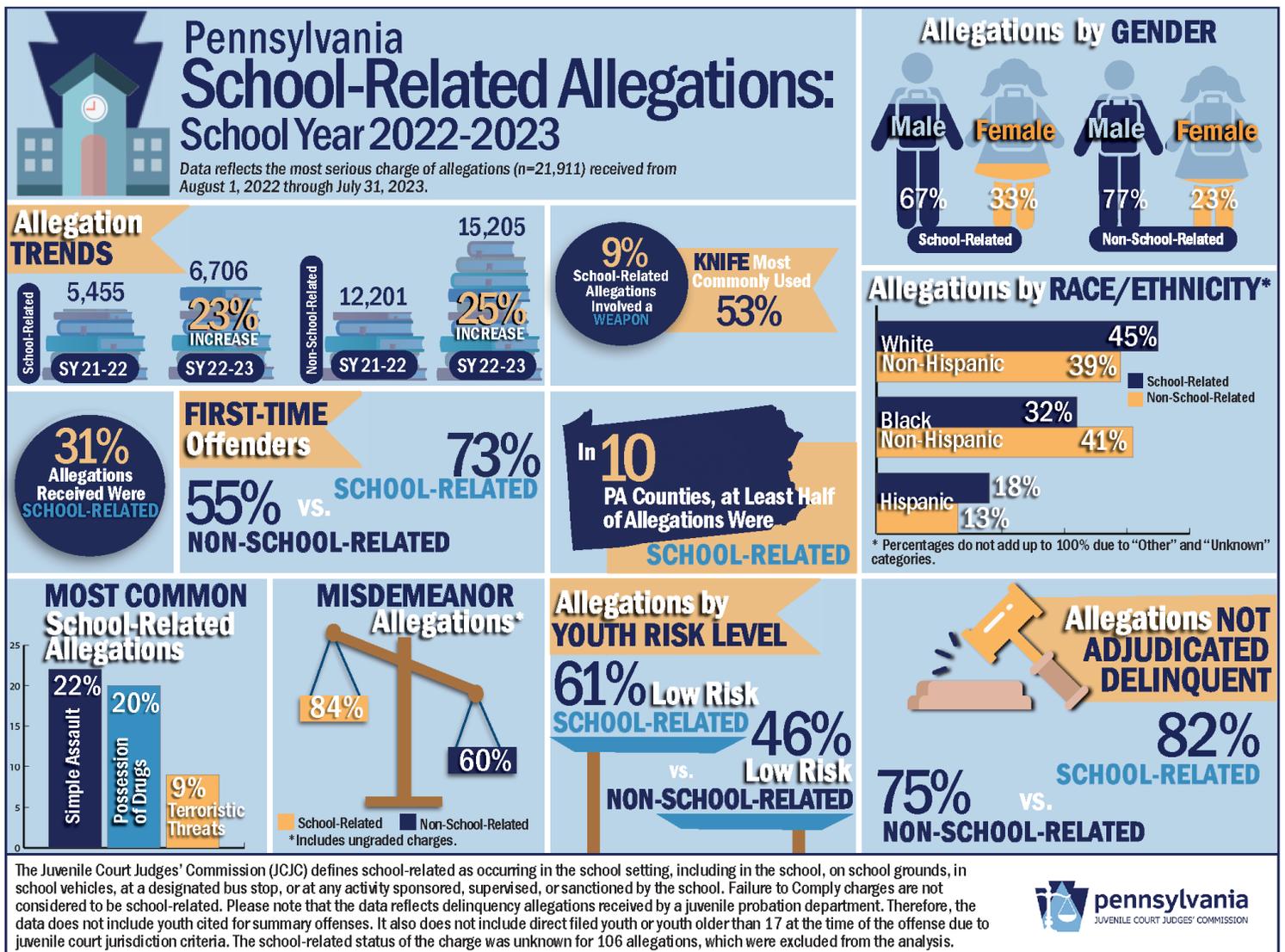
JUVENILE DIVERSION SURVEY

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) requests your assistance to complete, and further disseminate, a survey that will assist the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJJPC) and PCCD with gathering relevant information related to current resources and gaps in local diversion policy, practices, and programming. The utilization of diversion policies, practices, and programs, in appropriate cases, can reduce the impact of formal involvement with the juvenile justice system for youth who commit minor offenses, while ensuring balanced and restorative justice.

PCCD recognizes the importance of capturing feedback from our stakeholders. Please complete the survey below and feel free to forward the survey link to any stakeholder you deem appropriate. This survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is extremely important as results from the survey will help shape effective strategies and drive positive change in our approach to diversion. The information collected through this survey may also be used to make future funding and policy recommendations to the JJJPC.

The survey link can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCCDJJDiversion>

Please contact PCCD staff, Teresa Wilcox tewilcox@pa.gov with any questions or assistance in completing the survey.



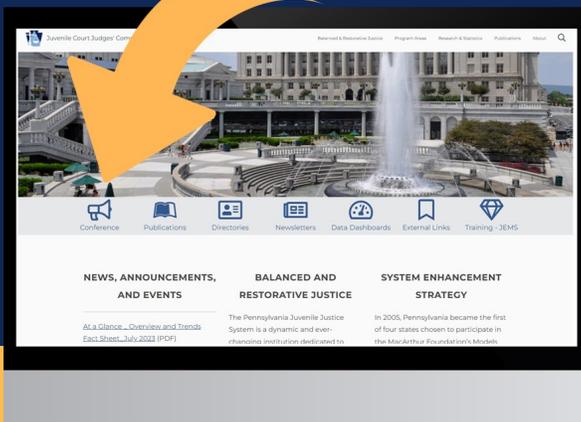


ANNOUNCEMENT

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE JAMES E. ANDERSON JUVENILE JUSTICE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



How to Nominate



1. Go to www.jcjc.pa.gov
2. Select the  "Conference" Icon
3. Fill Out the Nomination Form
4. Then Submit It!

DEADLINE:

JUNE 3, 2024

For questions, contact Angel Stewart at angstewart@pa.gov or
Keysla Rodriguez at keyrodrigu@pa.gov.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH: UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA AND ITS IMPACT



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is excited to have William Kellibrew present the "Trauma-Informed Approach: Understanding Trauma and Its Impact" virtual training workshop on March 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

William has served as a global advocate for human, civil, children's, and victims' rights for over 20 years and authored his memoir, *Resilient Rose, the Rebirth of Dignity*. He has extensive experience implementing trauma-informed and healing-centered approaches in systems of care, including violence prevention, victim services, and mental health fields. He is a certified child safety and strategic planning professional and provides training, expert facilitation, and technical assistance on behalf of federal agencies, states, and national associations including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, the trade organization for mental health commissioners throughout the United States and U.S. Territories.

William currently works with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America as a Child and Club Safety Director for the Southeast Region, focusing on providing leadership and guidance through training, resources, consultation, and advocacy in the areas of Child and Club Safety. He also frequently serves as a plenary speaker for conventions and conferences.

William is no stranger to trauma. In 2008, William's traumatic childhood story of resilience was featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, CNN, MSNBC, *Washington Post*, *Daily Beast*, and a host of media outlets, globally. In 2011, William was recognized by the **White House as a 'Champion of Change'** and in 2013, he received the Voice Award from SAMHSA for his work across the country as a peer/consumer leader. In 2015, he received several awards including the U.S. Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award for his humanitarianism.

March

- 5 Equity, Wealth, Race, and Racism in the Justice System - Virtual
- 7 Trauma-Informed Approach: Understanding Trauma and Its Impact - Virtual
- 14 Ethics, Confidentiality, and Legal Standards - Virtual
- 20 Graduated Response Coordinator Learning Community - Virtual
- 21 Autism and the Brain - Virtual
- 26-27 Officer Safety and Well-Being - State College
- 27 Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships: The Importance of Recognizing Abuse - Virtual

April

- 3 Enhancing Probation Services: The Importance of Social Support Systems - State College
- 3-5 Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum Training for Facilitators - Greensburg
- 9 How to Win at Any Relationship - Virtual
- 15-19 Juvenile Probation Officer Academy - Camp Hill
- 16 Family Engagement - Effective Strategies for Engaging Youth and Families - State College
- 18 Let's Keep It Balanced (and Restorative): Trauma-Informed Strategies for Meeting Victims' Needs - Mechanicsburg
- 23-24 SPEP™ Level 1 Specialist Training - Virtual

May

- 13-15 EPICS Training for Juvenile Probation Officers - Pending - Eastern Region
- 17 Train the Trainer/Facilitator: How to Deliver Engaging and Impactful Presentations to Adult Learners - Mechanicsburg
- 23 SPEP™ Level 1 Learning Community - Pending
- 30 SPEP™ InfoCom - Virtual

For full schedule and registration information, please visit www.jcjcjems.pa.gov.

William received his Associate of Arts degree from the University of the District of Columbia, his Bachelor of Science degree in business management from the University of Maryland Global Campus, and has a Master of Social Work degree with a clinical behavioral health concentration from the University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Social Work.

William credits his grandmother, God, family, and other supportive people who created a safer space for him to heal and thrive.

Join us for the “Trauma Informed Approach: Understanding Trauma and Its Impact” virtual training workshop. It is currently open for registration in JCJC Event Management System ([JEMS](#)). Contact Sonya Stokes, Director of Professional Development if you have any questions about these or any other professional development opportunities at systokes@ship.edu.

PENNSYLVANIA TEAM PARTICIPATES IN A CHILDREN’S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY LAB

The American Public Human Services Association, Annie E. Casey Foundation®, Casey Family Programs (CFP), Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), Health Management Associates (HMA), National Association of Medicaid Directors, and National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors partnered to build out an exciting opportunity for selected states to participate in a Children’s Behavioral Health Policy Lab on February 7-9, 2024. Eighteen states submitted application materials for this convening. Pennsylvania was one of nine states, along with Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin, invited to the event via the competitive selection process. The Pennsylvania Team was led by Jonathan McVey, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Human Services, and included representatives from the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission; Bureau of Children’s Behavioral Health Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Bureau of Policy, Analysis and Planning, Office of Medical Assistance Programs; Bureau of Special Education, Department of Education; Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations, Office of Developmental Programs; and Office of Children, Youth and Families.

The intent of the three-day convening was to help create a dialogue among state agencies and stakeholders working to improve outcomes for children and youth with complex behavioral health needs and their families, and to build a state-specific actionable roadmap. The convening opened with a plenary panel comprised of families and youth with lived experiences. Next, a discussion commenced with an exploration of the background and the imperative driving this initiative, shedding light on the state selection process, and highlighting key aspects of the proposal, including each team’s partners contributing to different portions of the roadmap. Finally, three sessions were facilitated around a specific topic to improve outcomes for children and youth. Each session—governance, financing, and service arrays—opened with a spark session to energize and focus each team in preparation for delving into that particular topic and closed with reflections by each state team.

The Pennsylvania team had a distinct advantage over the other eight state teams as the Blueprint Workgroup for Youth with Complex Needs recently completed their report, *Improving the Lives of Children, Youth, and Young Adults with Complex Need and Their Families*. Therefore, the Pennsylvania team worked with their assigned CFP, CWLA, and HMA facilitators to shift the team’s focus at the convening from building an actionable roadmap to identifying the initial steps needed to implement the already built blueprint report. The blueprint report is available at [Youth-with-Complex-Needs-A-Blueprint-Workgroup-Report.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#).



EPIS

Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support

SPEP™ 2024: Consistency in Classification

Pennsylvania's Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) Project will focus on refining and aligning the service classification process in 2024. Appropriately classifying services is at the foundation for the SPEP assessment. It sets the stage for all therapeutic services that are engaged in the SPEP process. Additionally, it establishes the appropriate Amount of Service targets for a given service.

The service identification and classification process was reviewed with all participants at the February 6th SPEP Learning Community. This booster session was intended to align all relevant stakeholders with the process and the resources available to successfully classify services in the field. This session was designed to precede the regional in-person Learning Community session(s) scheduled for May 23rd, where attendees will participate in a hands-on training experience and put the service classification process and tools into action. The in-person session(s) will include an inter-rater reliability segment, as well as the opportunity for the eastern and western parts of the state to ensure consistency in their responses.

Consistent service classification strategies become even more important as the SPEP Project evolves. The [SPEP Activity Map](#) provides a visual representation of services across the state that are engaged with SPEP. The addition of the "It's Classified" package expands opportunities for more services to be classified and added to the map and allows juvenile probation officers to have a greater repertoire of interventions to which they can refer youth.

If you have any questions about SPEP, please contact Kris Glunt, SPEP Project Manager, at ktg10@psu.edu.



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- Practical courses designed for juvenile justice professionals with an emphasis on evidence-based practices.

Apply Now!



Program Contact: Sonya Stokes at systokes@ship.edu



For program information, visit:
www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/Graduate-Education

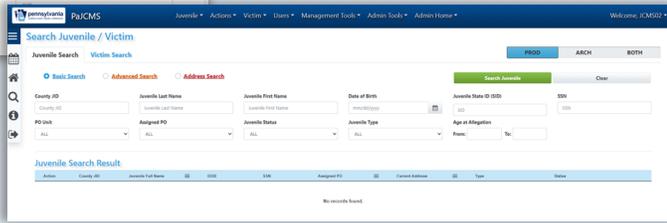
TECHNOLOGY CORNER



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is utilizing responsive web design for its Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) rewrite.

Responsive web design is a web development approach that creates dynamic changes to the appearance of a website depending on the screen size and orientation of the device being used to view it. This feature helps optimize the user experience and performance of the website no matter what device you may choose to use (desktop, laptop, mobile, tablet, etc.). To the left are two examples showing how responsive

web design creates changes to the appearance of the website to account for the specific device being used. The image to the far left shows what the new PaJCMS may look like if viewed on a mobile device, while the image below it shows what the new PaJCMS may look like if viewed on a desktop or laptop.



Host: National Partnership for Juvenile Services

Date: April 15-17, 2024

Location: Live! Hotel, Baltimore, MD

Goal: Improve youth access to resources and therapeutic tools that enhance the youth's long-term success using technology.

Forum Overview: Educational programs within congregate care settings have begun to utilize devices to connect with external support services (continuing education, supplemental academic programming, etc.). While some residential and community-based services are providing youth with tablets to better connect with community and family supports as well as clinical tools, many are uncertain about how to overcome the cyber security risks. This forum will share the most current approaches to safely provide access to youth, to monitor and manage risk while improving outcomes for youth.

Audience:

- Juvenile Justice Residential & Secure Care Service Providers
- Juvenile Probation Chiefs
- Community-Based Service Providers
- Clinical Directors
- Alternative Education Administrators
- Agency IT Directors (or their delegates)
- Others Interested in the Implementation & Utilization of Technology in JJ Settings

More Information:

- Event Planner: Abby.Schrum@npjis.org
- Program Chair: Wayne.Bear@npjis.org

NCSC FACILITATES JUVENILE JUSTICE WORKSHOPS IN VIETNAM

Reprinted with permission from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Read the original article at: <https://www.ncsc.org/newsroom/at-the-center/2024/ncsc-facilitates-juvenile-justice-workshops-in-vietnam>.

January 31, 2024 -- Earlier this month, NCSC facilitated four juvenile justice workshops in Vietnam titled *International Experience in Handling Juvenile Offenders*.

A team of four juvenile justice practitioners, judges, and court officers from Pennsylvania and Arizona traveled to Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, Ha Long, and Hanoi to deliver presentations to representatives from Vietnam's Supreme People's Court, National Assembly, and judges from across the country.

NCSC's International Programs Division (IPD) was key in bringing together the team of juvenile justice experts. "Their identification was done in consultation with colleagues in domestic divisions who work on juvenile justice reform in the U.S.," said Senior Program Manager Violaine Autheman. Autheman noted that the visit, organized through and funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, offers an example of internal collaboration between international and domestic divisions, leveraging NCSC's domestic work with state courts.

During the workshops, presenters discussed best practices in juvenile justice developed through decades of work in U.S. state courts, the importance of language and terminology in juvenile justice legislation and court proceedings, and the necessity of separate procedures for juveniles and adults.

Presenters also offered feedback on Vietnam's new draft juvenile justice law. Vietnam is currently experiencing a rise in juvenile delinquency. Like juveniles in the U.S., young people in Vietnam may feel scared and vulnerable and experience negative impacts due to their involvement in the justice system.

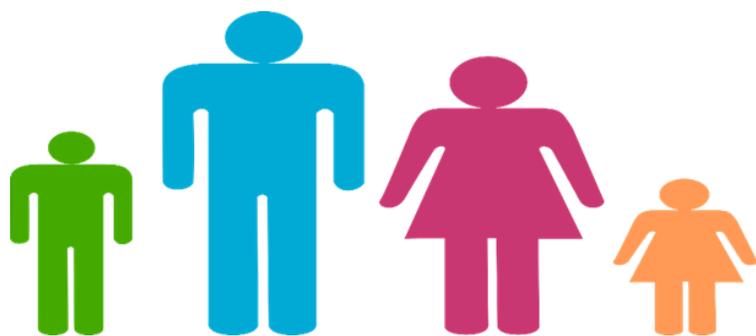
The division recently organized workshops for Vietnamese court officers and hosted Vietnamese delegations in the U.S. to discuss juvenile justice systems, diversion programs, legislation, virtual hearings, plea bargaining, and court administration.

Since its founding more than 30 years ago, the international division has worked in over 70 countries to strengthen institutional accountability and responsiveness and expand access to justice by offering technical assistance and training to improve justice systems and services. NCSC is currently working in more than 30 countries.

Visit our website to learn more about the [International Programs Division](#).



Pictured left to right: David Evrard (Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Allegheny County, PA), Judge Michael George (Presiding Judge, Adams County, PA), Violaine Autheman (Sr. Program Manager, IPD, NCSC), Judge Paul Cozza (Juvenile Judge, Allegheny County, PA), and Judge Peter Hochuli (Juvenile Judge, Pima County, AZ).



April 16, 2024
Hyatt Place,
State College
9am – 4pm

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENT

The Family Involvement Committee is proud to present a workshop designed to introduce Juvenile Probation Officers to the foundational principles of FAMILY ENGAGEMENT. Participants will be provided strategies to effectively engage families in all stages of supervision and through all JJSES activities from intake to case closure. This workshop will also provide guidance on effectively introducing and utilizing resources to include *A Family Guide to Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System* and the interactive *Parenting Workbooks*.

The workshop will conclude with a panel comprised of justice-involved family members, youth, and family advocates, who will share their unique perspectives and experiences engaging with the Juvenile Justice System. Participants will hear firsthand from family members with lived experience, who will provide honest insight on their involvement, reactions, struggles, and successes navigating our juvenile justice system.

This workshop is ideal for all Juvenile Probation Officers, Supervisors, and those individuals a department may wish to identify as a Family Engagement Coach. Coaches can be helpful with a department's effort to ensure families have the opportunity to engage in all aspects of supervision and will leave this workshop with examples to share with their departments.

Register in JCJC Event Management System (JEMS)

www.jcjemms.pa.gov



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE, FEBRUARY 2024



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), February 2024.

This month's feature stories focus on an OJJDP-funded center launched by Georgetown University to reduce racial

and ethnic disparities in youth justice, and the ways two jurisdictions are using diversion programs to provide community-based services to youth while improving public safety.

"From the Field" features an effort led by the Silicon Valley Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to help parents protect their children from financial sextortion. The issue also highlights OJJDP's plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act throughout 2024.

Other features in this issue—

- [Tribal Connections](#)
- [News in Brief](#)
- [New Publications](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

RESOURCES:

- [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), February 2024 (NCJ 308436) is available [online](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR YOUTH REENTRY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

OJJDP, in partnership with the [American Institutes for Research](#) (AIR), is seeking two fellows with lived experience in the juvenile justice system for its "[2024 Youth Reentry Technical Assistance Fellowship Program](#)."

Selected applicants will serve as members of the [Youth Reentry Technical Assistance Center](#), funded by OJJDP and coordinated by AIR.

Fellows will work with the center to develop resources and policies to help system-involved youth successfully reenter their communities and support OJJDP's [Second Chance Act](#) grantees.

This paid fellowship runs from February 2024 through September 2026, offering comprehensive training and professional development.

RESOURCES:

- Access OJJDP youth reentry [resources](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

ACCESS THE JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS 2021 REPORT

The [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) has released "[Juvenile Court Statistics 2021](#)." This report describes delinquency and petitioned status offense cases handled in U.S. courts with jurisdiction over juvenile populations between 2005 and 2021.

Characteristics are presented on an estimated 437,300 delinquency cases and 51,500 petitioned status offense cases handled in 2021. The report also tracks caseload trends from 2005 to 2021. Data include case counts and rates, juvenile demographics, and offenses charged. Key findings include:

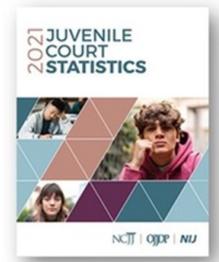
Person offenses accounted for the largest share of the delinquency caseload (37 percent) in 2021.

Fifty-three percent of delinquency cases involved youth younger than 16. Twenty-seven percent involved females and 44 percent involved white youth.

This report draws on data from the [National Juvenile Court Data Archive](#), funded by OJJDP and managed by the National Institute of Justice.

RESOURCES:

- See OJJDP's [Statistical Briefing Book](#) for additional information on juvenile court case processing.
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



NIJ RELEASES NATIONAL JUVENILE COURT DATA ARCHIVE SOLICITATION

The [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ), in collaboration with OJJDP, has released its [FY24 National Juvenile Court Data Archive solicitation](#).

The [National Juvenile Court Data Archive](#) collects, maintains, and makes accessible the nation's primary source of detailed information on juvenile court case processing of delinquency and status offense cases. The National Juvenile Court Data Archive is funded by OJJDP and managed by the National Institute of Justice.

RESOURCES:

- Visit OJJDP's [funding page](#) for details about OJJDP funding opportunities.
- Visit NIJ's [funding page](#) for current research, development, and evaluation funding opportunities.

This publication is produced monthly by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Guest articles are welcome; please submit by e-mail to ra-oajcjnews@pa.gov.

To subscribe to Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice, please send your request to ra-oajcjnews@pa.gov to be added to the distribution list. You will receive an e-mail alert each month when the latest edition is available.

