

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Tom Corbett, Governor



Juvenile Justice

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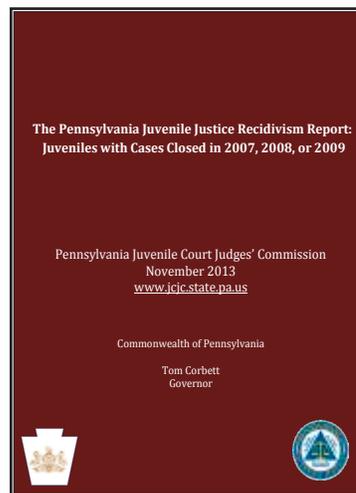
Pennsylvania's Second Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report Released

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission has recently released its second recidivism study, entitled: "The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles with Cases Closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009." Expanding on the original study that was published in April 2013, which examined juvenile delinquency cases closed in 2007, the current report contains additional recidivism information specific to juvenile delinquency cases closed in 2008 and 2009. This research project of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission was supported with funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

In 2010, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency endorsed the Statement of Purpose for Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), which is designed to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its mission of balanced and restorative justice. The JJSES seeks to employ evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process, collect and analyze the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts, and, with this knowledge, to continuously improve the quality of decisions, services, and programs.

The core premise of the JJSES is that recidivism rates can be reduced through the implementation of evidence-based practices. The goal of the study was to establish a recidivism benchmark against which the impact of the JJSES can be measured. The current report provides three years worth of data from 2007, 2008, and 2009 that will be used to set the pre-JJSES benchmark. These three years were chosen for the benchmark because JJSES implementation was not initiated in any jurisdiction until 2010.

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission cautions against comparing the recidivism rates of individual counties or individual service providers for several significant reasons. First, risk assessment instruments were rarely being used in Pennsylvania prior to 2010, so there is no way to determine the risk levels



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of youth who had been under supervision in a particular jurisdiction in 2007, 2008, or 2009. In addition, there have been varying degrees of implementation of evidence-based practices across the state. Finally, case expungement practices vary widely across the state.

It is important to note that expunged cases create a significant limitation to this study. In Pennsylvania, when a case is expunged, all of a juvenile's identifying information pertaining to that case is "erased" and is therefore not available for analysis. Consequently, juveniles with a 2007, 2008, or 2009 case expungement were omitted from the study's sample, unless they had a separate case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 that was not expunged. Arguably, juveniles whose cases are expunged are presumed to be individuals who are lower risk to recidivate. In general, counties that expunged significant numbers of cases had higher recidivism rates than their counterparts. A possible explanation for this result is that a significant number of lower risk youth were removed from the research sample in these jurisdictions.

For the purposes of this report, recidivism is defined as: *a subsequent delinquency adjudication or conviction in criminal court for either a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure.* The report was created utilizing juvenile court data received from county juvenile probation departments through the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System, as well as criminal court conviction data that was provided by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

Below are some of the major findings from the report:

- Approximately 22% of youth released from juvenile court supervision between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2009 recidivated.
- The average length of time to the juvenile's first recidivating offense that resulted in a subsequent delinquency adjudication or criminal conviction was 8 months, while the median length of time was 7 months. Approximately 80% of these offenses occurred within 12 months after case closure.
- The more written allegations a juvenile had in his or her offending history, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Juveniles with only one written allegation recidivated at a rate of 14%. Conversely, juveniles with ten or more written allegations recidivated at a rate of 56%.
- The younger the juvenile was at the time of his or her first written allegation, the more likely he or she was to recidivate. Conversely, the older the juvenile was at the time of his or her first written allegation, the less likely he or she was to recidivate.
- Males recidivated at a rate 2.5 times higher than females.
- Approximately 2 in 10 (19%) White juvenile offenders recidivated. Approximately 3 in 10 (28%) Black juveniles re-offended.
- Black males and White males re-offended at the highest rates (34% and 22%, respectively). Black females re-offended at a rate of 13%, followed by Asian males at 12%. Approximately 9% of White females re-offended, while no Asian females recidivated.
- 80% of recidivists were from "disrupted" family situations (e.g., biological parents never married, biological parents separated/divorced, one/both biological parents deceased). Only 20% of recidivists' parents were married.
- Juveniles with both parents deceased re-offended at the highest rate (32%) among all family status groups.
- Among select offenses analyzed, juveniles who committed the following recidivated at rates **lower** than the overall average: indecent assault (11%), DUI (13%), retail theft (13%), criminal mischief (17%), harassment/stalking (17%), and weapon on school property (17%).
- Among select offenses analyzed, juveniles who committed the following recidivated at rates **higher** than the overall average: unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (30%), possession with intent to deliver (33%), robbery (33%), and firearm-related offenses (39%).
- Person offenders, Property offenders, and Drug offenders all exhibited some degree of offense type specialization when re-offending. Drug offenders exhibited the highest degree of specialization when they recidivated.
- Approximately 13% of juveniles who had been under supervision for the commission of a sex offense and had their case close in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were subsequently adjudicated delinquent or convicted in criminal court within two years of their case closure (any type of offense).
- Only 1.4% juveniles who had been under supervision for the commission of a sex offense and had their case closed in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were subsequently adjudicated delinquent or convicted in criminal court for another sex offense within two years of their case closing.
- Recidivists were more than 1.5 times more likely to have had a detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience than non-recidivists (53% vs. 30%, respectively).
- Juveniles who had no detention/shelter or dispositional placement experience recidivated at a rate half of that of those who had at least one such experience (16% vs. 33%, respectively).
- Approximately 1 in 5 (21%) juveniles with a case closure in 2007, 2008, or 2009 were a "serious offender", a

“violent offender”, OR a “chronic offender”, as defined by the study.

- Only 0.4% of juveniles with a case closure were “serious, violent, AND chronic offenders”, as defined by the study, though 55% of “serious, violent, AND chronic offenders” recidivated.
- About 50% of “child offenders” were either a “serious offender”, a “violent offender”, or a “chronic offender”, as defined by the study. Only 20% of “non-child offenders” were a “serious offender”, a “violent offender”, or a “chronic offender”.

To view the full report, please visit www.jcjc.state.pa.us.



The Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Foster Care Youth

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the federal healthcare reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA. This comprehensive law has provisions to expand coverage, control healthcare costs and improve healthcare delivery.

Under the ACA, youth who were in Pennsylvania’s or another state’s foster care system and enrolled in Medicaid/Medical Assistance at any time on or after their 18th birthday will be eligible for Medical Assistance coverage until age 26 beginning Jan. 1, 2014. Individuals may apply through COMPASS, Pennsylvania’s online application for health and human services programs, or the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). Youth between 18 and 21 years of age who receive Medical Assistance under the former foster care category will be eligible for the full range of benefits available to all children under the Medical Assistance program. Individuals age 21 and older who receive Medical Assistance under the former foster care category will qualify for the most comprehensive level of benefits currently offered to adults enrolled in the Medical Assistance program. There are copayments associated with some services for individuals of any age in the former foster care category.

When current foster youth leave care at age 18 or older, they will be enrolled in Medical Assistance under the former foster care category once the paperwork verifying the date they left foster care (CY60) is received by the County Assistance Office (CAO) from the County Children and Youth Agency (CCYA). The CY60 will have the permanent address where the former foster youth will be residing. There will be no break in coverage and this initial process will require no further action from the youth.

Individuals not yet age 26, who were previously in foster care and enrolled in Medical Assistance at any time on or after their 18th birthday will need to complete a full health care application and provide all required documentation, including verification of income, in order to have eligibility determined for health care coverage. Individuals must fully answer the questions on the health care application related to former foster care status to ensure they are considered for eligibility under the former foster care category. If they do not meet eligibility criteria (*MAGI rules or other Medical Assistance rules) for any other Medical Assistance category, they will be provided coverage under the former foster care category which does not require an income or resource test.

Pennsylvania has elected to cover former foster youth from other states who meet the eligibility criteria as well. They will need to provide verification of prior placement in foster care, when they left care, and that they were receiving medical assistance while in care. Some methods of verification include prior court orders and/or letters from an official agency.

The COMPASS homepage www.compass.state.pa.us has a new hyperlink available that will navigate users to the FFM to “Learn More about Health Insurance Marketplace.” When a COMPASS application is started, there will be a health care pre-

screening to determine eligible medical benefits for existing Medical Assistance, CHIP or Federally Funded Qualified Health Plans through the FFM. COMPASS will also be used for Remote ID Proofing (RIDP) to validate the applicant applying for benefits.

If a former foster youth needs assistance in obtaining verification of prior placement in foster care and receipt of medical assistance, they should contact the Child Welfare Agency responsible for them while they were in foster care. The CCYA where they currently reside can also be a resource to assist in obtaining the required documentation. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain this verification, but if the applicant is unable to, the CAO will assist.

All individuals enrolled in the former foster care category will be subject to an annual renewal process to verify ongoing eligibility. When an individual is due for renewal, the CAO will send a renewal form in the mail that must be completed, signed and submitted with required verification, including income and resource information. The renewal form can be completed online using COMPASS in place of completing the paper renewal form provided by the CAO.

If an individual is receiving Medical Assistance, an account can be created on COMPASS to allow them to check and monitor their benefits. If an individual receiving benefits moves to a new address, it is important that they contact their local CAO to update their information. Mail from a CAO cannot be forwarded to a new address and will be returned to the CAO. This could cause coverage and/or benefits to be discontinued if requested documentation or responses are not received.

Information is now available at www.healthcare.gov, the federal information source for those seeking insurance through the FFM. The federal hotline number is 1-800-318-2596. Pennsylvania's information source is located at www.dpw.state.pa.us, where there is a large ACA Information graphic. Individuals can also have questions answered by calling the PA Consumer Service Center at 1-866-550-4355. Additionally, www.dpw.state.pa.us/applyforbenefits/index.htm is the state's link to COMPASS, where individuals can locate their county assistance office, or download a paper application.

***MAGI**

MAGI, or Modified Adjusted Gross Income, is based on federal tax rules for determining adjusted gross income. MAGI is a new provision within the federal healthcare reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, often referred to as the ACA. MAGI rules are applied to determine financial eligibility for certain coverage groups, and MA rules will apply to non-MAGI coverage groups.

Apply Now: Stoneleigh Seeks New Fellows



The Stoneleigh Foundation has released a new [Request for Letters \(RFL\)](#) and is now accepting [Letters of Interest](#).

In its current call for [Letters of Interest](#), Stoneleigh is seeking approaches that could be applied to a well-being framework across a state- or county-based juvenile justice system. This may include the development of a comprehensive well-being framework appropriate for a juvenile justice system, interest in the application of the framework on the part of key system stakeholders in a specific jurisdiction and, identification and recommendations for policy, practice and training changes that would advance the utilization of a well-being framework.

Though the interest is in proposals that would address reforms in Pennsylvania counties, Stoneleigh is accepting applications from other states provided that these can demonstrate that outcome(s) will have relevance to the Commonwealth. Please refer to the [application process](#) and the [guidelines for submitting Letters of Interest](#) on the Stoneleigh website. The deadline for the submission of the Letters of Interest is February 3, 2014, 5:00 pm EST.

The Stoneleigh Foundation awards fellowships to individuals who are developing and testing new approaches that have the potential to improve outcomes for vulnerable and at-risk children and youth. The Stoneleigh Fellowship program supports the work of accomplished practitioners, researchers, policymakers and advocates who work at the intersection of research, policy and practice to improve the systems that serve these young people. Please visit our [web site](#) to learn more about the program and about the work of our [current and former fellows](#).

Contact Diana Millner at 215.735.7080 or email dmillner@stoneleighfoundation.org

Kathleen A. McGrath Appointed Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Franklin County



Ms. Kathleen A. McGrath was appointed as the new Franklin County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer on October 30, 2013.

Ms. McGrath is a 1986 graduate of Shippensburg University, having majored in Psychology and minored in Criminal Justice. She has been employed with the Franklin County Juvenile Probation Office since 1987 when she began her career as a line juvenile probation officer. In 1994, Kathleen completed her Master's Degree in Administration of Justice through the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Graduate Education program at Shippensburg University. She was subsequently promoted to supervisor of the School-Based Probation Program and later was appointed Deputy Chief, overseeing juvenile probation operations. Ms. McGrath resides in Franklin County with her husband and 3 children.

Ms. McGrath looks forward to her leadership role within the Franklin County Juvenile Court and to continuing implementation efforts related to Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy within the department.

Crime Victims' Rights Rally
30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice

April 7, 2014

Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 6-12, 2014.

Pathways FOR VICTIM SERVICES

June 4-6, 2014
13th STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Call for Workshop Proposals
Deadline: January 10, 2014

Call for Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Award Nominations
Deadline: January 10, 2014

www.Pathways2014.org

Nominations are now being accepted for the Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Awards. New this year, nominations can now be submitted online!

Online Nominations must be submitted by January 10, 2014. Paper Nominations and supporting documents must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. January 10, 2014.

Visit the conference website for details and information about online and paper nomination submissions.

Ramada Hotel and Conference Center
State College, Pennsylvania

Tom Corbett, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Mark R. Zimmer, Chairman, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

Office of Victims' Services

COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

PENNSTATE Fayette The Eberly Campus

Upcoming Staff Development Opportunities:

The JJC/CJT&R Staff Development schedule is being updated regularly with more workshops. Please be sure that you check the listing frequently.

- Orientation For The New Juvenile Probation Professional**
 Park Inn Harrisburg West
 Mechanicsburg, PA
 Session I - 2/3-7
 Session II - 2/24-28
- Motivational Interviewing 101**
 Days Inn State College
 State College, PA
 Barbara Ulmer - 3/12-13
- Loss, Grief, Dying, Death and Childhood/Adolescence**
 Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center,
 Mechanicsburg, PA
 Bruce Schaffer 3/26-27
- Addiction and Motivational Interviewing**
 Days Inn State College,
 State College, PA
 Marilyn Stein - 4/10-11



Please remember, all the details on these and other sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting www.jcjems.state.pa.us for regular updates to the schedule.

Hosting a training you would like to see listed here? E-mail us the details and we'll list it in our next issue.

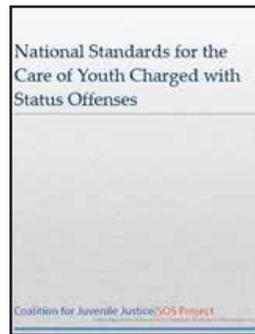


National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

Coalition for Juvenile Justice Releases Standards of Care for Status Offenders

The [Coalition for Juvenile Justice](#) has released “[National Standards for the Care of Youth Charged with Status Offenses](#).” This report, created as part of the coalition’s [SOS Project](#), provides policy and practice recommendations for limiting or avoiding court involvement for youth who commit noncriminal offenses—such as truancy or running away—and calls for an end to all secure detention for these youth. Instead, the National Standards promote system reform and the adoption of research-supported policies, programs, and practices that address the needs of youth, their families, and their communities without unwarranted juvenile justice system involvement.

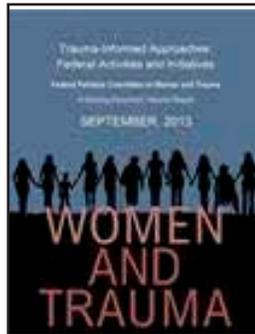


Resources:

[View and download](#) the report.

Federal Committee Releases Report on Trauma-Informed Approaches for Women and Girls

The Federal Partners Committee on Women and Trauma has released “[Trauma-Informed Approaches: Federal Activities and Initiatives](#),” developed with support from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)’s (SAMHSA’s) [National Center for Trauma-Informed Care](#). The report documents the scope and impact of violence and abuse on women and girls and highlights gender-responsive, trauma-informed approaches that more than three dozen federal agencies, departments, and offices have implemented. The report encourages other governmental and nongovernmental agencies to adopt a cross-sector, interagency, intersystem recognition of and response to trauma.



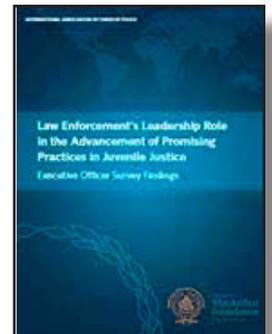
Resources:

[Download](#) the full report.

[Read](#) SAMHSA’s working document on trauma, principles, and guidance for implementing a trauma-informed approach and provide your feedback.

Law Enforcement and Juvenile Justice Report Available

The [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#), with support from the [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#), has released “[Law Enforcement’s Leadership Role in the Advancement of Promising Practices in Juvenile Justice: Executive Officer Survey Findings](#).” This report summarizes the attitudes, knowledge, and practices of nearly 1,000 law enforcement leaders nationwide on strengthening the role of law enforcement in the juvenile justice system.



Resources:

[Download](#) the full report.

[Read](#) about the MacArthur Foundation’s Models for Change initiative.

Office of Justice Programs Awards \$62 Million To Support Reentry Programs

On November 14, 2013, Attorney General Eric Holder [announced more than \\$62 million in grants](#) to strengthen adult and youth reentry programs and reduce recidivism at the state, tribal, and local levels. The grants—administered by the [Office of Justice Programs](#)’ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#)—are part of the [Attorney General’s “Smart on Crime” initiative](#). They will support programs helping adults and youth to return to their communities through probation projects, substance abuse/mental health treatment, mentoring, and technology training.

Resources: Visit OJJDP’s [FY 2013 Awards](#) page.

OJJDP FY 2013 Award Information Now Available Online

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has posted data on its fiscal year (FY) 2013 awards on its [Web site](#). The information can be sorted by solicitation, grantee, award number, award amount, and state. In FY 2013, OJJDP awarded more than \$271 million in formula, block, and discretionary grants to states, territories, local governments, and private organizations to administer programs in support of OJJDP’s mission to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and child victimization.

Resources: Access OJJDP’s FY 2013 [award information](#).

OJJDP Bulletin Examines Functional Impairment in Delinquent Youth

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has released “[Functional Impairment in Delinquent Youth](#).” The bulletin is part of OJJDP’s [Beyond Detention series](#), which examines the results of the Northwestern Juvenile Project—a large-scale longitudinal study of youth detained at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center in Chicago, IL. This bulletin presents findings on juvenile functional impairment in the school, work, home, and community settings; and in terms of behavior toward others, mood and psychiatric concerns, self-harm, substance use, and rational thought assessed 3 years after the youth were released from detention. The authors also assess youth functioning by gender, race/ethnicity, and age and discuss future implications.



Resources:

Learn more about the [Northwestern Juvenile Project](#), co-sponsored by OJJDP.

[Find](#) more bulletins in the Beyond Detention series.

[View and download](#) the bulletin.

Tools To Evaluate Impact of Law Enforcement Youth Programs Available Online

The [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#) (IACP), in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, has launched online [program impact tools](#) to assist law enforcement agencies in evaluating the effectiveness of their youth programs in reducing and preventing juvenile crime, delinquency, and victimization. This free resource includes an eight-step guide to identify youth-specific problems, articulate program goals and activities, and measure program outcomes to determine the impact on youth.



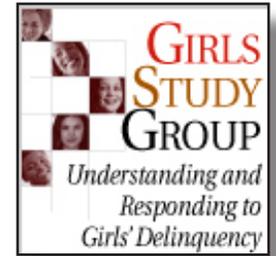
Resources:

[Access](#) the program impact tools.

[Learn more](#) about IACP’s Youth Focused Policing Resource Center.

OJJDP Bulletin Examines Developmental Patterns of Girls’ Delinquent Behavior

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has released the bulletin “[Developmental Sequences of Girls’ Delinquent Behavior](#).” The bulletin is part of a series on the findings of the Girls Study Group, which OJJDP established to guide the development, testing, and implementation of strategies to prevent and intervene in girls’ delinquency. The bulletin summarizes the methods, findings, and implications from a collaborative analysis of data that the Denver Youth Survey and the Fast Track Project collected on the developmental patterns of girls’ offending from childhood through adolescence.



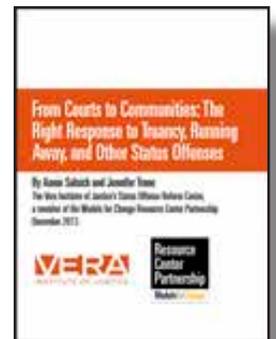
Resources:

[View and download](#) the bulletin.

[Learn more](#) about OJJDP’s research and programs regarding girls’ delinquency.

Vera Institute Releases Report on Responses to Status Offenders

The [Center on Youth Justice](#) at the [Vera Institute of Justice](#) has released “[From Courts to Communities: The Right Response to Truancy, Running Away, and Other Status Offenses](#).” This report, supported by funding from the [MacArthur Foundation’s Models for Change Resource Center Partnership](#), raises awareness about law enforcement responses to noncriminal status offenses, such as truancy, running away, curfew violations, and other risky youth behaviors. The report encourages conversations about the circumstances behind youth misbehavior and explores whether courts are equipped to address status offenses effectively.



Resources:

[View or download](#) the report.

[Read](#) about the Models for Change initiative.

Vera Institute Releases Brief on Impact of Zero Tolerance Policies

The [Center on Youth Justice](#) at the [Vera Institute of Justice](#) has released “[A Generation Later: What We’ve Learned about Zero Tolerance in Schools](#).” This policy brief examines research revealing that zero tolerance discipline policies do not make schools more orderly or safe and might have the opposite effect. Policies that push students out of school might increase their involvement in the juvenile justice system and have negative life-long effects. The brief describes alternatives to zero tolerance policies that keep young people safer and in school.



Resources:

[View and download](#) the brief.

SAMHSA Announces Systems of Care Planning and Implementation Grants

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) has announced the availability of [System of Care Expansion planning grants](#) and [implementation cooperative agreements](#) to support state, community, and tribal efforts to develop, expand, and sustain a system of care that will provide mental health services for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families and/or caregivers.



Planning grant applications are due by March 19, 2014; implementation grant applications are due by March 21, 2014.

Resources:

On January 13, 2014, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. E.T., SAMHSA will host a [Webinar](#) for prospective applicants. [Register](#) to join the Webinar.

Learn more about these [grants](#) and download the [grant application kit](#).

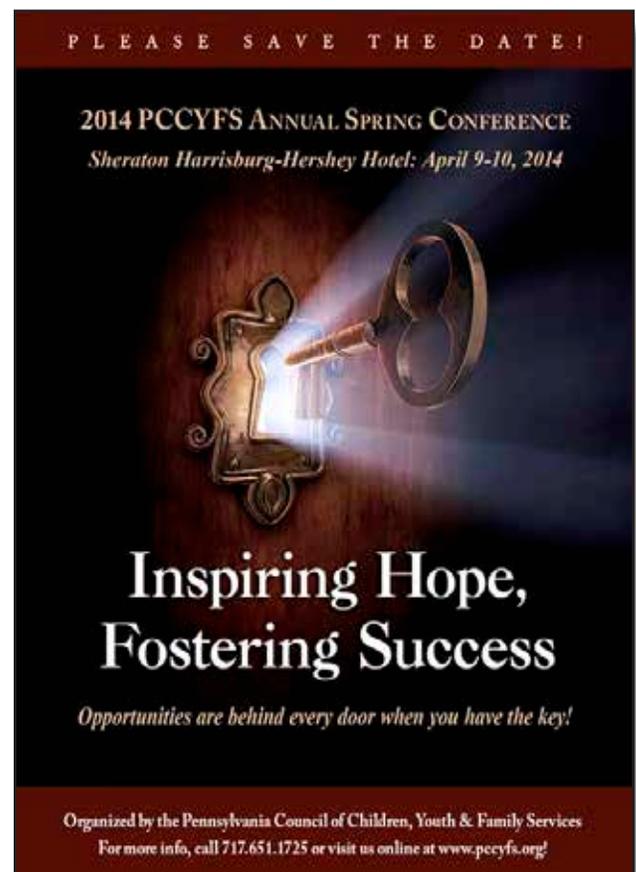
Browse [SAMHSA's funding page](#).

Webinar To Explore Evidence-Based Practice Resources

On February 6, 2014, at 2 p.m. ET, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, in collaboration with the [National Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center](#), will present “[Drilling Down: An Analytical Look at EBP Resources](#).” This 90-minute Webinar will focus on evidence-based practice (EBP) resources available to juvenile justice and youth service professionals. Panelists will discuss ways to apply EBP to daily work in the field and to be critical consumers of research evidence. Other topics will include a comparison of rating systems and additional uses for the information.

Resources:

[Register](#) and learn more about this free Webinar.



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.

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