

# PENNSYLVANIA

# Juvenile Justice

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
Tom Wolf, Governor



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

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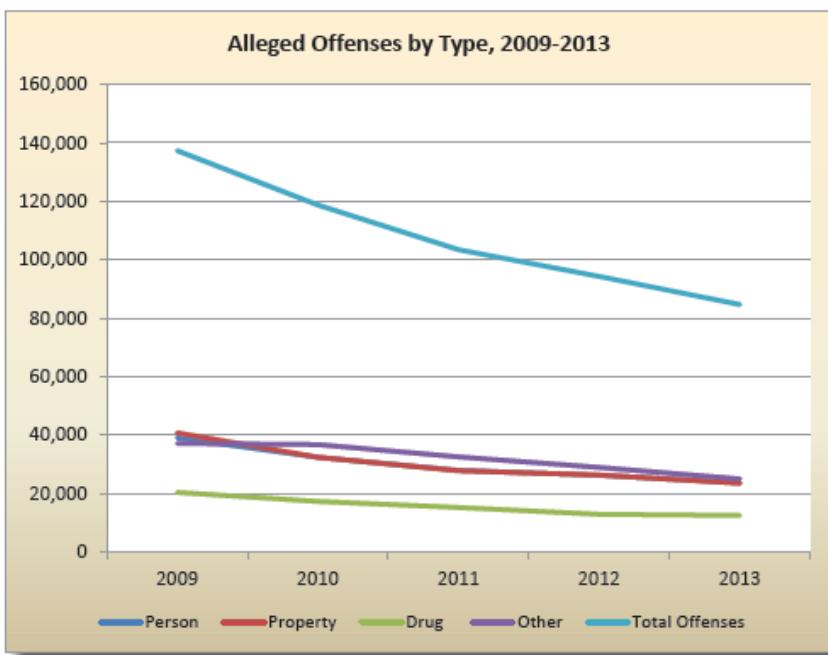
## Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions

### ***Alleged and Substantiated Offenses continue to decline in 2013***

Alleged and substantiated offenses, as reported to the JCJC from county juvenile probation departments in Pennsylvania, have declined from 2012 to 2013. There have also been significant decreases in both of these areas over a five-year period, from 2009-2013.

The total number of alleged offenses decreased 10.3% from 2012 to 2013. The largest decrease by type of alleged offense has been in "Other" offenses (-13.6%), which includes, but is not limited to: Public Order offenses such as Disorderly Conduct or Weapon on School Property; Firearms Offenses; and Certifications from the minor judiciary that a juvenile failed to comply with a lawful sentence imposed for a summary offense. Drug offenses represented the smallest proportion of alleged offenses (14.8%), while Person, Property and "Other" offenses each comprised between 28-30% of total alleged offenses in 2013.

Since 2009, the total number of alleged offenses has decreased each year and has shown an overall decrease of 38.4%. This includes a 42.3% reduction in Property offenses, and a decline in Person and Drug offenses of 39.5% and 38.6% respectively. "Other" offenses decreased 32.7% since 2009.



### **INSIDE:**

- [Steve Bishop Leaving CJT&R](#)
- [Position Announcements - JCJC CJT&R](#)
- [JCJC endorses Shippensburg University Class of 2017](#)
- [Staff Development Opportunities](#)
- [PAPPC Announces 94th Annual Training Institute](#)
- [23rd Annual Crime Victims' Rights Rally](#)
- [Research In Brief: Matching Treatment for Success](#)
- [National Juvenile Justice Announcements](#)
- [Position Announcements - NCJFCJ](#)

### **Reminders:**

[April 17-19 - National Youth Service Days](#)

[April 19-25 - Administrative Professionals Week](#)

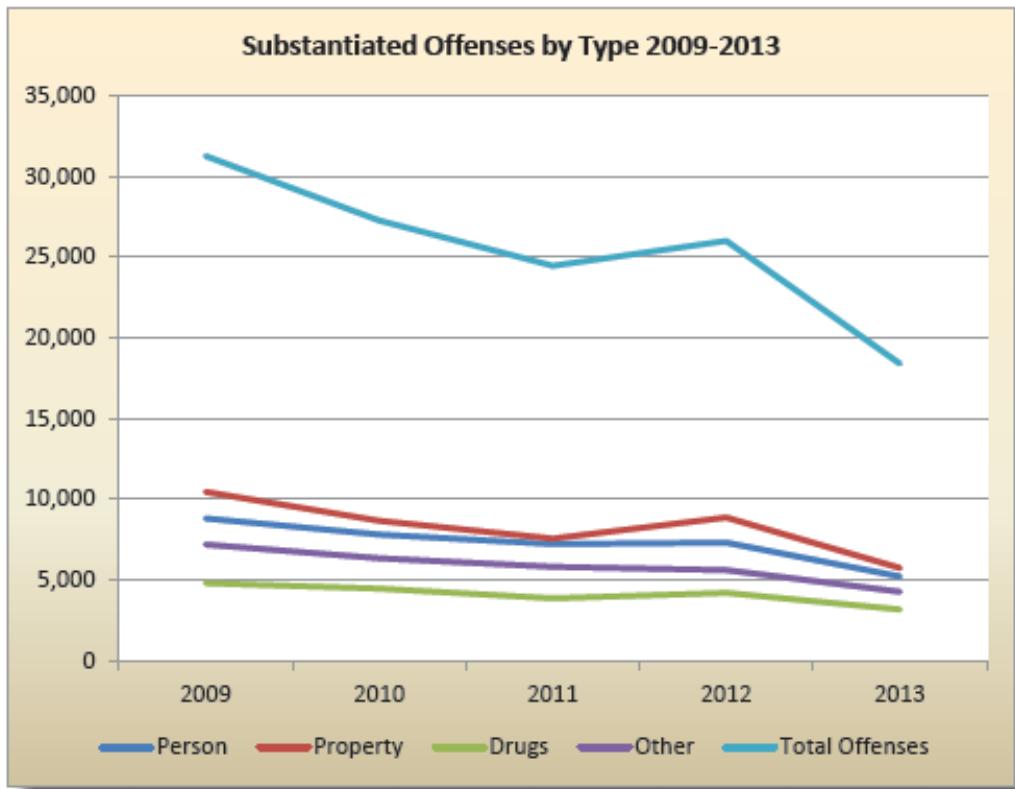
[April 19-25 - National Crime Victims Week](#)

[April - National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)

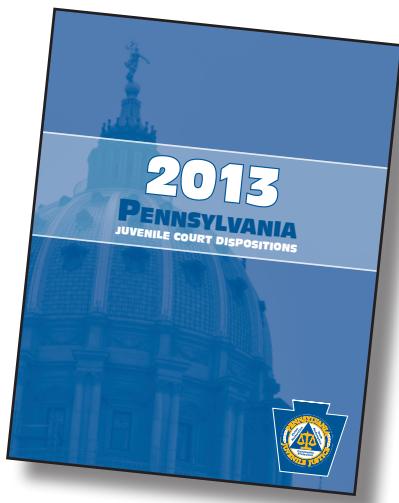
[April - National Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#)

Similar to alleged offenses, the total number of substantiated offenses decreased from 2012 to 2013 as well as overall since 2009. There was a significant reduction of 29.3% in substantiated offenses from 2012 to 2013. The largest decline within substantiated offenses was with Property offenses (35.3%), while each of the other offense categories declined by more than 23% since 2012. Property offenses (31.2%) represented the largest proportion of substantiated offenses in 2013, while Drug offenses (17.3%) were the least frequently reported offense.

The total number of substantiated offenses has decreased by 41.2% from 2009 to 2013, despite an increase of 12% from 2011-2012, including increases within each offense category. Each category of substantiated offenses remains below their respective 2009 levels.



County-specific data on alleged and substantiated offenses are contained within the appendices of the [2013 Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions Report](#).



# **Steve Bishop Leaving CJJT&R**

Stephen Bishop, Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research, has announced he will be leaving his post effective April 3, 2015. Steve has accepted a position as a Senior Policy Associate within the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Justice Strategy Group. In this role, he will be directly involved in strategies across the Foundation's juvenile justice reform efforts, which include: Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI); Expanding JDAI's Focus to the "Deep End" of juvenile justice systems; Improving Frontline Practice (focused on refining probation practice and services); and Promoting Policy Reform. He will be involved nationally in organizing and leading site implementation efforts, providing technical assistance to sites and grantees, and communicating the Foundation's focus on juvenile justice reform to policymakers, target communities and the general public.



Steve has been with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research since 2004, serving as Assistant Director of Training, Coordinator of Graduate Education and Research, Deputy Director and, since 2012, Director. Prior to JCJC, he was employed by the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Department in a variety of roles. Steve has been deeply involved with, and connected to, many of the key initiatives and issues of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system over the past number of years. His expertise and leadership will certainly be missed, and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

JCJC staff member Bob Tomassini has been appointed Acting Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research until a permanent Director can be named.

## **JCJC and CJJT&R Position Announcements**

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is seeking applicants for the position of Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research. This position is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating all programs administered at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University.

This is a civil service position. Beginning on April 15, 2015, you may create an account to apply and complete the application supplement online at [www.scsc.state.pa.us](http://www.scsc.state.pa.us) and click on the jobseekers tab. The application process closes on May 2, 2015. Applicants must possess seven years of professional juvenile justice experience which includes five years of experience as a juvenile probation officer and two years in an administrative, supervisory, or professional juvenile court consultative capacity; and a Master's degree in criminal justice, criminology, or the behavioral sciences.

Please contact Rick Steele at [ricsteele@pa.gov](mailto:ricsteele@pa.gov) or (717) 705-5633 if you have any questions or require additional information.

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The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) is currently accepting applicants for the position of Application Developer. The annual starting salary for this position is \$45,692 and includes a comprehensive benefits package. Appointments above the starting salary may be considered, and will be commensurate with the candidate's education, work experience and salary history. This position is contingent upon available annual grant funding.

Please see the full posting of job duties and required skills for this position on the homepage of the [JCJC website](#). Candidates must submit a cover letter, transcripts, and resume to Monica Iskric, Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299 or [msiskr@ship.edu](mailto:msiskr@ship.edu). Please contact Mike Tan, CJJT&R Senior Applications Developer, [dtan@pa.gov](mailto:dtan@pa.gov) or (717) 477-1445, if you have any questions or desire additional information.

# **JCJC endorses Shippensburg University Class of 2017**

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission has endorsed the following members of the Class of 2017 at Shippensburg University's JCJC Graduate Education Program: Matthew Anderson and Nelton Neal (Allegheny); Clark Sheehe (Blair); Megan Sensenig and Lori Finkbiner (Chester); Elizabeth Bryant and Mary Hann (Fulton); Honor Rounsville (McKean); Juan Rodriguez (Philadelphia); Roger Vought (Somerset); Samuel Hall and Robert Kreider (York).

Shippensburg University offers a Masters of Science degree in the Administration of Justice involving 36 credit hours. Classes are scheduled over two years and course work includes research, theory, policy, administration, leadership, and juvenile justice.

For additional information about the program, please contact Kelly Waltman-Spreha, Director of Training and Graduate Education, at 717-477-1185 or [kjwaltmanspreha@ship.edu](mailto:kjwaltmanspreha@ship.edu).

## **Upcoming Staff Development Opportunities:**

The JCJC/CJJT&R Staff Development schedule is being updated regularly with more workshops.

Please be sure that you check the listing frequently.

- **Sexual Identity, Sexual Orientation and Gender Role Issues of Adolescence**

Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center  
Barbara Orr  
4/21-22/2015

- **Motivational Interviewing 101**

Days Inn State College  
Barbara Orr  
4/30 - 5/1/2015

- **Addiction and Motivational Interviewing**

Days Inn State College  
Marilyn Stein  
5/7-8/2015

- **Responsivity and Pre-Contemplative Primer Training**

Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center  
Mark Carey  
5/8/2015

- **Case Plan Webinar - NON JCMS Counties**

5/11/2015

- **Case Plan Webinar - JCMS Counties**

5/11/2015

- **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the Juvenile Justice System**

Days Inn State College  
Gary Lewis  
5/19/2015

- **Core Competencies for Supervisors**

Days Inn State College  
Dawn Schantz, Angela Work  
5/27-28/2015

- **Advanced Reading Workshop**

Days Inn State College  
Doug McGuire  
6/3-4/2015

- **YLS Master Trainer Recertification**

Days Inn State College  
Assessment/ Case Plan Committee  
6/17-18/2015

- **And More...**

Please remember, all the details on these and other sponsored workshops may be reviewed at any time by visiting [www.jcjciems.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjciems.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.*

# **2015 JCJC AWARDS PROGRAM**

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce the 2015 JCJC Awards Program which will include eight categories as well as the youth awards contest. Nomination packets for these categories were forwarded to all Pennsylvania juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers and are available on the JCJC website [www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us).

**Juvenile Probation Supervisor** — any individual who supervises other employees, but who is not a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, as of the date of the nomination letter's postmark. This category includes all Deputy Chiefs, Assistant Directors, Supervisors, and others functioning in a similar capacity.

**Juvenile Probation Officer** — any individual who is employed as a Juvenile Probation Officer, but who is not a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer or Juvenile Probation Supervisor, as of the date of the nomination letter's postmark.

**Meritorious Service Award** — any individual not receiving remuneration for working with at risk, alleged and/or delinquent children. This individual is a volunteer committed to furthering the development of youth in the juvenile justice system.

**Residential Program** — any public or private sector program serving alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth in a residential setting. This includes foster homes, group homes, residential treatment programs, general child care facilities, shelter care facilities, detention centers, independent living programs, and other programs providing out-of-home, overnight care to children. *Previous award winners are eligible for nomination beginning in 2015.*

**Community-Based Program** — any public or private sector program, not operated by the Court, which provides community-based, non-residential care to alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth, including but not limited to, day treatment programs, in-home services, Boys and Girls Clubs, and out-patient services.

**Juvenile Court Support Service Award** — any individual who provides clerical, secretarial, management, information technology or other support services to the Juvenile Court. This includes receptionists, secretaries, clerk/typists, information technology specialists, office managers, and others functioning in a similar support capacity.

**Victim Advocate Award** — any individual who works on behalf of crime victims as a Victim Advocate in a district attorney's office, juvenile probation department, or in a community-based agency. This individual does not need to be in a position that is entirely dedicated to victims of juvenile crime, but it should be a significant part of their position.

**Court Operated Program** — any program operated by court employees which serves alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

Nomination packets have been sent to juvenile court judges, chief juvenile probation officers and agencies currently serving delinquent youth in the juvenile justice system. The Awards Committee requests that all juvenile justice professionals encourage youth under their jurisdiction to participate in the contest. Youth Awards materials must be postmarked by May 10, 2015.

Thank you for your interest and support of the 2015 JCJC Awards Program. Please contact Keith A. Graybill at (717) 705-9006 or [kgraybill@pa.gov](mailto:kgraybill@pa.gov) if you have any questions or desire additional information.



# PAPPC

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS

The Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole, and Corrections is pleased to invite you to the 94th Annual Training Institute, scheduled for **May 17-20, 2015** at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg, in Camp Hill, PA.

The theme for this year's Training Institute is: "**Collaboration: Finding Shared Pathways to Success**". Our keynote speaker this year will be **Mr. Marcus Hodges, Community Corrections Regional Administrator for the Virginia Department of Corrections and current President of the National Association of Probation Executives**. Also, the **Honorable John E. Wetzel, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections** will offer opening remarks. A plenary session will be delivered by **Mr. C. James Fox, Chief Hearing Officer for the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole**. Our closing speaker will be **Mr. Jerry Balistreri, a dynamic professional educator, administrator, trainer, speaker, author, and recognized expert in reading body language**.

As always, we will have many workshops to choose from throughout the Training Institute; workshops that will focus on our theme, as well as other aspects of Probation, Parole and Corrections.

Registration is now open! Visit [www.pappc.org](http://www.pappc.org) to register, and to obtain all of the necessary information to attend, as well as information pertaining to exhibiting and presenting! Be sure to check back for further details yet to come!

We hope that you will consider joining us in the Capitol Region for this year's Training Institute.

Leo J. Lutz  
President Designate  
PAPPC

[Click here to register](#)

## 23<sup>RD</sup> Annual Crime Victims' Rights Rally

Crime Victims' Rights Week is being celebrated April 19-25, 2015. This year's theme is "Engaging Communities, Empowering Victims." The Crime Victims Alliance of PA will be honoring victims and raising awareness of the rights and interests of crime victims on Monday, April 19th at the Harrisburg State Capitol. This event will be held at 11AM in the Capitol Rotunda. Participants will hear from victims, survivors, a District Attorney, State Victim Advocate Jennifer Storm and others. There will also be tables set up with information from agencies that provide assistance to victims. If you are an agency that works with victims and would like a table at this year's Rally, please contact Monica Iskric at [msiskr@ship.edu](mailto:msiskr@ship.edu) by March 15th.



**Source Document:** Vieira, T., T. Skilling, et al. (2009). "Matching Court - Ordered Services with Treatment Needs: Predicting Treatment Success with Young Offenders." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 36: 18.

The body of scientific knowledge related to the field of juvenile justice is growing at an exponential rate. With this knowledge, new processes leading to improved outcomes are routinely generated. Clearly, the need to have access to, and understand scientific information is critical. Unfortunately, practitioners often do not have the time to sort through the literature. With this issue in mind, in 2006, *the Colorado Division of Probation Services* began to publish **Research in Briefs (RIB's)**. These documents are intended to summarize potentially helpful research related to effective practices, as well as provide ideas for practical applications of the information. More information on RIB's can be found here: [http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB\\_Summary1213.pdf](http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB_Summary1213.pdf)

Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) rests on two interlinked foundations: the best empirical research available in the field of juvenile justice and a set of core beliefs about how to integrate this research into practice. With this in mind, as an ongoing feature of *Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice*, "**Research In Brief (RIBs)**" will provide summaries of published research related to various aspects of the JJSES. The **RIBs** will convey how various scientific studies support the JJSES Statement of Purpose.

## Matching Treatment for Success

*Reprinted with Permission from: Colorado Division of Probation Services. (November, 2012). Matching Court—Ordered Services with Treatment Needs: Predicting Treatment Success with Young Offenders.*

*Retrieved from: [http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB\\_TxMatching-Nov12.pdf](http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Administration/Probation/ResearchInBriefs/RIB_TxMatching-Nov12.pdf)*

Researchers examined the correlation between matching juvenile treatment with the RNR (risk, need, and responsibility) principles and the effects on recidivism. A sample of 122 juveniles was tracked for recidivism (a new offense), or until a cutoff date. While risk played a factor in recidivism, the study found that youth who had less than a quarter of their needs being addressed in treatment were 18 times more likely to recidivate than those whose needs were better matched. Recidivism decreased slightly with the utilization of the responsibility principle; however, due to responsibility and need overlap, the results of only matching treatment to client responsibility did not rise above a level of statistical significance.

Researchers followed 122 court ordered youth (ages 12 to 18) in Ontario for a period ranging between 14 and 65 months. This study evaluated juveniles for recidivism based upon tailoring treatment to risk, need, and responsibility. Juveniles were evaluated using YLS-CMI assessments, probation records, clinical records, and

collateral information. Records were coded for risk level, criminogenic needs, and client responsivity. Criminogenic need matching showed significant results in reducing recidivism. The study found when less than 25% of the youth's criminogenic needs were addressed, a juvenile was 18 times more likely to reoffend, and this group was at risk to reoffend earlier than their moderate and high match counterparts. If more than 50% of the juvenile's criminogenic needs were met, the youth was just over 3.5 times more likely to recidivate. In fact 50% of youth in the high (75% to 100%) needs match group never reoffended in a 4.7 year follow up period. This study evaluated responsibility matching by determining whether treatment was tailored to mental health functioning, medication needs, cognitive functioning, cultural and/or language issues, and treatment staff characteristics (i.e. a prior therapeutic alliance). While treatment matching based on responsibility showed a slight reduction in recidivism, after adjusting for risk score and criminogenic need, the results were not shown to be significant. One possible explanation is

that responsiveness needs were indirectly met through the matching of criminogenic needs.

There were two findings from the study that are noteworthy. Fifty-seven percent of juveniles in the study were diagnosed with conduct disorder and the least commonly identified criminogenic need in the study was antisocial attitudes at 21%.

### Practical Applications

- ✓ Prioritize assessments and reassessments. Accurate assessment information is needed in order to target the correct criminogenic needs.
- ✓ Probation officers should try to target the top 4 criminogenic needs: antisocial attitudes, antisocial personality, family circumstances, and antisocial peers. Impacting these needs will likely result in positive behavior change.
- ✓ Make every effort to “match” treatment with client specific attributes (learning disabilities, medication needs, cultural considerations, and physical needs).
- ✓ Capitalize on collaborative relationships with schools, therapists, parents, and family members to better serve the youth.
- ✓ Establish a good working rapport with youth and families. Youth who feel judged may be less likely to disclose struggles.
- ✓ Focus on the youth’s criminogenic needs early in supervision, as this has the best results in reducing re-offense.

### Limitations of Information

This article analyzed data from a single Canadian mental health facility, which may not be representative of other locations. The study sample consisted of only juveniles with court ordered evaluations. Information was provided by many different agencies; consistency and integrity of data may be a concern. The time at risk for recidivism was not consistent across all youth.

*Caveat: The information presented here is intended to summarize and inform readers of research and information relevant to probation work. It can provide a framework for carrying out the business of probation as well as suggestions for practical application of the material. While it may, in some instances, lead to further exploration and result in future decisions, it is not intended to prescribe policy and is not necessarily conclusive in its findings. Some of its limitations are described above.*

## JJSES Statement of Purpose

We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by: employing evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process; collecting and analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge, striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services and programs.

Readers are encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions related to the JJSES they would like to have addressed. Ideas and suggestions may be submitted to: Leo J. Lutz at [LeLutz@pa.gov](mailto:LeLutz@pa.gov).

# National Juvenile Justice Announcements

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

## National Partnership for Juvenile Services Launches Online Journal

The [National Partnership for Juvenile Services](#) has launched the online "[Journal of Applied Juvenile Justice Services](#)." This OJJDP-funded journal will provide timely information to juvenile justice practitioners and researchers on topics and issues in juvenile justice. Topics will include effective strategies for working with at-risk youth; the operation of juvenile facilities; programming, such as educational, physical, and mental health and life skills training; juvenile justice trends; legal issues affecting juvenile justice practice; ethical issues in juvenile treatment; and leadership and training in juvenile justice.

### Resources:

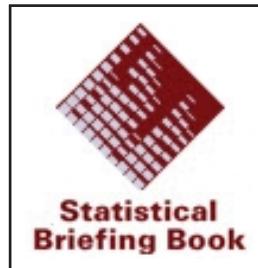
[Access](#) issues of the journal.

View the journal's [submission guidelines](#).

## OJJDP Updates Statistical Briefing Book

OJJDP has updated its [Statistical Briefing Book](#) (SBB). Developed by the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#), SBB offers easy online access to statistics on a variety of juvenile justice topics.

The following updates have recently been posted to the SBB:



### Easy Access to Juvenile Court

[Statistics](#) now includes national estimates of the more than 40 million delinquency cases processed by the nation's juvenile courts between 1985 and 2012.

[National Disproportionate Minority Contact Databook](#) now includes data through 2012. This application presents the national DMC data for the juvenile justice system and their Relative Rate Index Matrices that quantify levels of racial disparity introduced at various decision points within the system.

In addition, FAQs in the [Juveniles in Court](#) and [Juveniles on Probation](#) sections have been updated to 2012.

### Resources:

Access the [OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book](#).

Keep up with the OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## OJJDP Bulletin Summarizes Juvenile Residential Facility Census

OJJDP has released "[Juvenile Residential Facility Census, 2012: Selected Findings](#)." This bulletin presents findings from the 2012 Juvenile Residential Facility Census. This biennial survey collects information on facilities in which juvenile offenders are held and reports on the number of youth who were injured or died in custody. The data indicate that the juvenile offender population in residential placement dropped 14 percent from 2010 to 2012, and more offenders were in local facilities in 2012 than were in state-operated facilities. The survey also reports on security features used at public, state, and private facilities, including locking youth in their sleeping rooms.



### Resources:

See other publications in OJJDP's [Juvenile Offenders and Victims: National Report Series](#).

## National Center for Juvenile Justice Updates Resource Website

The [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) has released a new section of the [Juvenile Justice GPS—Geography, Policy, Practice &](#)

[Statistics](#) (JJGPS), an online resource funded by the [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#). This website features national and state information on state laws and juvenile justice practice to help chart system change. The new [juvenile justice services](#) section examines how states are organized and how they are advancing evidence-based practices and reporting system performance.

The JJGPS site also features sections on [jurisdictional boundaries](#), [juvenile defense](#), and [systems integration](#). Other sections will focus on racial/ethnic fairness and status offense issues.

### Resources:

JJGPS is one of several strategies in support of juvenile justice reform through the [Models for Change initiative](#).

The National Center for Juvenile Justice is the research division of the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#).



## **Applications Being Accepted for Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program**

The [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#) (CJJR) at [Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy](#)

is accepting applications for the [Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program](#) to be held August 3–7, 2015, in Washington, DC. The program, held in partnership with the [Center for Children's Law and Policy](#), will focus on strategies for jurisdictions to reduce overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system through a data-driven and research-based approach. Subsidies through the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS) are available. [Apply](#) by May 15, 2015.

CJJR will be hosting a webinar on April 22, 2015 at 2:00 pm EST that will provide an overview of the certificate program. To register for the webinar please click [here](#).

### **Resources:**

[Learn](#) more about CJJR's programs as part of CCAS.

[Read](#) "Racial and Ethnic Disparity and Disproportionality in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice: A Compendium."



## **OJJDP's Pathways to Desistance Bulletins Now Available in E-Book Format**

Bulletins from OJJDP's [Pathways to Desistance series](#) are now available in [EPUB](#) and [MOBI](#) formats. This series presents findings from a study investigating the factors that lead serious juvenile offenders to cease or continue offending. This study, cosponsored by OJJDP, followed more than 1,300 adolescent offenders for 7 years after their court involvement. Series topics include an overview of major findings; substance use and delinquent behavior among serious adolescent offenders; transfer of juveniles to adult court; behavioral health problems, treatment, and outcomes in serious youthful offenders; and the link between psychosocial maturity and desistance from crime.

### **Resources:**

View other OJJDP publications now [available in e-book format](#).

Learn more about EPUB and MOBI [digital formats](#) at the Government Publishing Office website.

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



### [\*\*ACCOUNTANT FINANCE DEPARTMENT\*\*](#)

### [\*\*ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT\*\*](#)



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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