

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 32, Number 9

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Save the Date: 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania

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REGISTRATION IS OPEN! 2021 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice: Building Strong Alliances with Youth, Families, Victims, and Communities

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Juvenile Court Section of the Conference of State Trial Judges, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce the 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will take place virtually Wednesday, November 3, 2021, through Friday, November 5, 2021.

Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system has always strived to engage its stakeholders and build strong partnerships in pursuit of the most effective services, therefore, the theme for this year's Conference is **Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice**: **Building Strong Alliances with Youth, Families, Victims, and Communities**. The Conference will provide an opportunity to discuss a host of important issues that juvenile justice professionals contend with and address the innovative practices being developed in response to current system challenges.

The opening plenary will discuss building relationships and creating an environment conducive to positive youth development while the closing plenary

will inspire participants to re-center on the purpose behind the implementation of system reforms and evidence-based practices. A variety of professional workshops that focus on relevant, timely topics and prevailing issues facing juvenile justice professionals will also be offered. The agenda (outlined on page 2) highlights best-practices, programs, and initiatives that exemplify Pennsylvania's Balanced & Restorative Justice (BARJ) mission and the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). **All Conference events will be delivered LIVE.**

Registration is FREE for all participants, presenters, and exhibitors! <u>Click here to register.</u>

From the comfort of your own space, we look forward to seeing you at the Conference!



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2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice 41st Annual Professional Awards Program - LIVE!

November 4th - 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Wednesday, November 3rd Professional Caucuses......1:00 - 2:30 PM Judges & Hearing Officers Training......1:00 - 4:15 PM Chief/Service Provider Forum2:45 - 4:00 PM **Thursday, November 4th** James P. Harris, Jr., the current Superintendent of the Woodland Hills School District in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania will discuss building relationships and creating an environment conducive of positive youth development. Workshops will be offered on both Thursday and Friday mornings. The workshops feature a wide range of topics, including: Best Practices to Intervene and Advocate for Autistic The Importance of Connection: Understanding the Role • Youth in the Juvenile Justice System of Workplace Culture and Psychological Safety on Employee Engagement, Productivity, and Retention Ten Years of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol in Pennsylvania: Past, Present, and Future Advancing Continuous Quality Improvement: A Provider & Probation Partnership Exploring the Phenomenon of Social Media Addiction A Conversation on Restorative Justice in Practice A Conversation on Cultural Competency for Juvenile Justice Professionals and Stakeholders (*Ethics Credits) Advancing Graduated Responses through Peer Mentorship and Technical Assistance The Role of Organizational Context and Culture in the Implementation of Evidence-Base Practices (for manag-Understanding Adolescent Sexual Orientation and Geners and supervisors) der Identity Issues **PACTT Project Overview and Public Reports** Improving Youth Outcomes Through Machine Learning: • The First Match Program 41st Annual Awards Program1:30 - 3:30 PM Join us at the awards ceremony as we recognize the 2021 Professional Award recipients. All professional award winner biographies and projects submitted by youth award winners will be on display throughout the conference. Friday, November 5th Workshops will be offered on both Thursday and Friday mornings. The workshops feature a wide range of topics (see above).

Dr. Brian Lovins, PhD., a Principal with the consulting group, Justice System Partners, will deliver a closing

Dr. Brian Lovins, PhD., a Principal with the consulting group, Justice System Partners, will deliver a closing session that will inspire participants to re-center on the purpose behind the implementation of system reforms and evidence-based practices.

Exhibitors information will be displayed throughout the conference in our Virtual Exhibitors gallery.

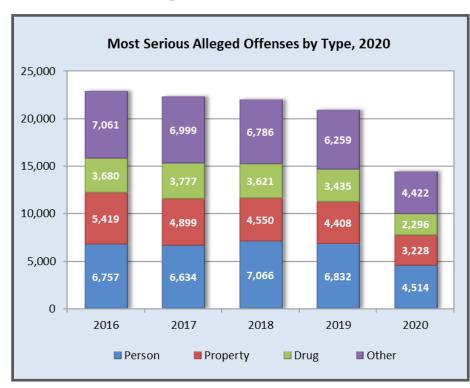
PENNSYLVANIA'S 2020 JUVENILE COURT ANNUAL REPORT

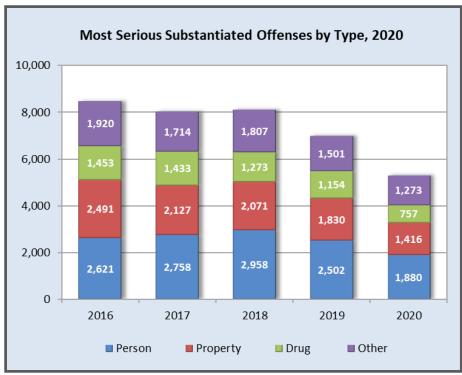
Delinquency Dispositions – Most Serious Alleged and Substantiated Offenses

Most serious alleged offenses* in Pennsylvania have decreased by 30.9% from 2019 to 2020 and have decreased by 36.9% since 2016. The number of alleged offenses within the Person offense category has shown the largest decrease (33.9%) from 2019 to 2020, followed by Drug offenses (33.2%), "Other" offenses (29.3%), and Property offenses (26.8%). Since 2016, Property offenses have shown the sharpest decline (40.4%). Drug and "Other" offenses have also declined considerably, 37.6% and 37.4%, respectively. Person offenses decreased 33.2% over this five-year time period.

*Most serious alleged offenses are compiled based on the most serious alleged offense for each juvenile delinquency disposition.

Similar to the most serious alleged offenses, the number of substantiated offenses* also declined in this time period. From 2019 to 2020, the largest decrease occurred in the Drug offense category (34.4%), followed by Person offenses (24.9%), Property offenses (22.6%), and "Other" offenses (15.2%). The total number of substantiated offenses in 2020 remains well below 2016 levels. Similarly, each category of substantiated offenses (Person, Property, Drug, and "Other") remained below their respective 2016 levels.





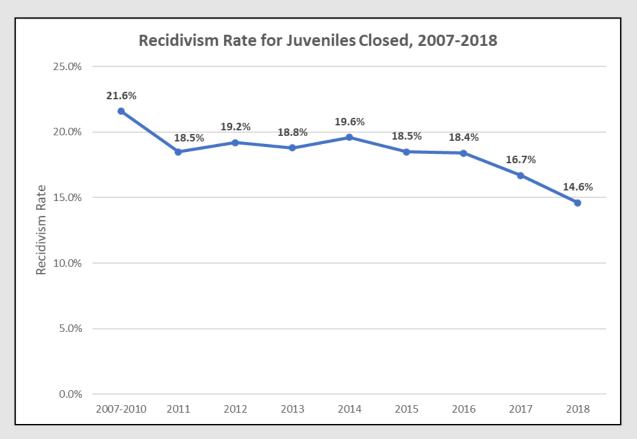
^{*}A substantiated offense is any petitioned offense the court finds the juvenile committed.

County-specific data on Most Serious Alleged and Substantiated Offenses can be found in the appendices of the Pennsylvania 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report at https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Research-Statistics/Disposition Reports/2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report.pdf.

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE RECIDIVISM REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Last month, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) released its seventh recidivism report, entitled: *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles Closed 2007-2018*. The current study updates the analysis of recidivism trends and predictors to include juveniles closed in 2017 and 2018. This report is part of Pennsylvania's longstanding effort to measure the impact of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) on recidivism and other youth outcomes. Data for this project was compiled from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court's (AOPC) Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS). Recidivism is defined as: A subsequent delinquency adjudication in juvenile court or conviction in criminal court for either a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure.

This is Part I of a four-part series meant to highlight key findings from this report. Part I features general recidivism findings, while subsequent articles will present data on demographics, offense characteristics, and YLS risk levels, as they relate to recidivism. To review a copy of the full report, please visit: www.jcjc.pa.gov.



- As the above chart shows, for juveniles closed in 2017 and 2018, the recidivism rate was 16.7% and 14.6%, respectively. The 2017 and 2018 recidivism rates are the lowest since the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) began tracking recidivism and continue the trend of "post-JJSES initiation" rates being below the "pre-JJSES" rate (21.6% for the years 2007-2010).
- ➤ It is possible that 2018's low recidivism rate was impacted by the reduction in crime and delinquency that occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (see the 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report). However, the recidivism rate for juveniles closed in 2017 was also lower than in past years—and the 2017 recidivism rate was not affected by the pandemic because Pennsylvania's definition of recidivism only counts new adjudications and convictions that occur within two years of case closing.

County and Statewide Recidivism Rates for Juveniles Closed "Pre-JJSES" (2007-2010) and Post-JJSES Initiation (2011-2018)								
	"Pre-JJSES" (2007- 2010)		2011-2014		2015-2018		Comparison of "Post-JJSES Initiation" (2011- 2018) with "Pre- JJSES" Recidivism Rates (2007-2010)	Comparison of 2015-2018 with 2011-2014 Recidivism Rates
County	Number of Juveniles Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles Closed	Recidivism Rate	Percentage Change in the Recidivism Rate	Percentage Change in the Recidivism Rate
Total:	72,738	21.6%	74,450	19.0%	59,066	17.1%	-16.1%	-9.7%

The table above compares the statewide recidivism rate in the "pre-JJSES" (2007-2010) period to the "post-JJSES initiation" (2011-2018) period. In addition, to facilitate analysis of more recent trends, recidivism rates for the earlier (2011-2014) and later years (2015-2018) within the "post-JJSES initiation period" are also presented. **The full report also presents this data separately for each county (not shown here).**

- > Statewide, there was a 16.1% decrease in the recidivism rate between the "pre-JJSES" (2007-2010) and the "post-JJSES initiation" (2011-2018) periods.¹
 - ° Over three-quarters of counties (51/67 or 76%) had a recidivism rate in the "post-JJSES initiation" era (2011-2018) that was below their rate in the "pre-JJSES" era (2007-2010).
- > Statewide, there was a 9.7% decrease in the recidivism rate between the years 2011-2014 and 2015-2018.²
 - Sixty percent of counties (40/67) had a recidivism rate for the years 2015-2018 that was below their rate for 2011-2014.

¹Appearing in the second column to the right is the percentage change in recidivism rates between the "pre-JJSES" (2007-2010) and "post-JJSES initiation" periods (2011-2018). This figure is arrived at by taking the difference between the "post-JJSES initiation" rates (not shown but a combination of the 2011-2014 and 2015-2018 data presented) and "pre-JJSES" rates. Then, this number is divided by the "pre-JJSES" recidivism rate.

²Appearing in the right most column is the percentage change in recidivism rates between the earlier and later parts of the "post-JJSES initiation" period (2011-2014 compared to 2015-2018). This figure is arrived at by taking the difference between the 2015-2018 and 2011-2014 recidivism rates and dividing this number by the 2011-2014 rate.



COUNTY SPOTLIGHT



WESTMORELAND COUNTY HOLDS FAMILY FUNFEST

Submitted by Westmoreland County

For the past 5 years, our Family FunFest has been held at Twin Lakes Park in Greensburg with great success. However, in 2020 things were a little different, and many events went virtual in light of the pandemic. Our department decided that it was best for us to do the same by using our social media platform. While things looked a little different, the goal of showcasing many of our county's health and wellness providers, as well as providing "a little free, family fun" was still the same. We had a great following but realized that nothing beats sharing the resources and fun face-to-face.

For the 2021 Juvenile Court Week celebration and the 6th year of Family FunFest, our Family and Community Involvement planning committee forged ahead with planning our event to be held in person, returning to Twin Lakes. We made some minor adjustments, such as moving the date back to September from October, as well changing from our "fall" theme. We invited many of our past attendees, as well as several new providers, to offer valuable resources and services to our community. The event continues to be entirely free to everyone that attends, and there is fun and family-friendly activities for all ages.

We hosted a petting zoo, planted sunflowers, and added an area for families to take photos in front of the serene and picturesque lake area. Approximately 30 local agency providers and businesses participated by setting up resource tables as well as crafts for the youth that attended, such as decorating pencil boxes, building a wooden planter, and slime-making, just to name a few. Families were also able to grab a bite to eat as well, enjoying flame-grilled hotdogs, chips, and cookies. The weather was perfect with sunshine and a light breeze, making it a beautiful afternoon in the park.

Overall, our department's Family FunFest and the return to an in-person celebration was a success. Our goal has been, and remains, to bring FREE FAMILY FUN to the communities that we serve, as well as exposing families to the health and wellness services that they may not be aware of that are available to them. Our event had a favorable turnout, and we look forward to planning next year's celebration.

To learn more about our Family FunFest, here is the link to the Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation's Facebook page—https://www.facebook.com/WESTCOJPO.



THE PENNSYLVANIA REDUCING RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN JUVENILE JUSTICE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

On September 20-24, 2021, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) hosted Georgetown University's Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program (R/ED Certificate Program) is an intensive training program operated jointly by the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) and the Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP), that supports local jurisdictions in their efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in their juvenile justice systems. This program examines the over-representation of youth of color in county juvenile justice systems, disparate treatment of youth of color as compared to white youth within the juvenile justice system, and unnecessary entry and movement deeper into the juvenile justice system for youth of color. While the program primarily addresses disparities in the juvenile justice system, it also focuses on the relationship between disproportionality in the juvenile justice system and disparate treatment in other child-serving systems, including child welfare and education.

Since 2013, CJJR and CCLP have partnered to hold eight Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Certificate Programs, bringing more than 300 child-serving leaders from teams across the country to Georgetown. The recent event was the first time the R/ED Certificate Program has been delivered outside of Georgetown.

Twenty-two Pennsylvania counties were invited to apply for participation in the program with recommended team members to include: The senior juvenile justice administrator in the jurisdiction; juvenile court judge; law enforcement leader; community partner/leader of a community-based organization; youth/family representative; and the individual who will be responsible for coordinating local efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Following the application and review process, seven counties were selected to participate in the program: Allegheny, Chester, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, Philadelphia, and York. A state team was also invited to participate, to support the participating counties, and to provide technical support to any county interested in developing strategies to address racial and ethnic disparities that may exist within their jurisdiction.

Through a series of modules delivered by Pennsylvania and national experts, the week-long program provided information about specific strategies to address racial and ethnic disparities at all key decision points of the juvenile justice system, as well as discussing key topics such as implicit bias, racial trauma, addressing overarching issues and organizational/agency capacity, and navigating racial equity reform in the context of current events.

Each team is responsible for the development of a data-driven local Capstone Project reform effort and will receive technical assistance from CCLP and CJJR throughout the 18 months of the project. The Capstone Project allows participants to apply what they learned from the Certificate Program toward new or existing efforts to reduce overrepresentation and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

COMMONWEALTH V. KOGER

On June 4, 2021, a Superior Court decision was released in Commonwealth v. Christopher Albert Koger upholding an appeal of a violation of probation (VOP) finding (see link below). The Superior Court found that because the court did not advise Mr. Koger of the specific conditions of his probation and parole at the time of the initial sentencing, the court could not have found he violated these conditions.

In this case, a standard set of conditions of probation had been signed in conjunction with the probation officer after sentencing, and it was one of these conditions that led to the alleged VOP. As the sentencing court had not specifically referenced the specific alleged violation, it was therefore successfully argued that the alleged violation was not imposed by the court and could therefore not lead to a VOP.

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission will be issuing guidance to juvenile court judges, hearing officers, and chief juvenile probation officers regarding the imposition of rules and conditions of probation on juveniles placed under the supervision of county juvenile probation departments.

For additional information on this matter feel free to contact Rick Steele (ricsteele@pa.gov) or Bob Tomassini (rtomassini@pa.gov).

https://www.pacourts.us/assets/opinions/Superior/out/J-A06036-21o%20-%20104795940137030609.pdf?cb=1

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

The most recent PaJCMS update released on August 31, 2021, included several major changes that affect different modules within the application. As a result, we would like to highlight some of the larger enhancements below. If you have any questions regarding the PaJCMS release, please contact the PaJCMS Helpdesk at RA-ICICHELPDESK@pa.gov.

Outcome Measures

The Outcome Measures screen now matches the most current paper form. The fingerprints and photographs question has been split into two separate questions. Similarly, the DNA collection question has also been split into two questions. Minor changes to questions regarding the case plan on the competency development section were also changed to more closely match the paper form.

PaDRAI

The PaDRAI screen now requires a PaDRAI for all detention decisions. Mandatory Detentions are no longer considered overrides and are instead tracked with a simple "yes" or "no" question on the PaDRAI screen that asks if it is a mandatory detention.

Technical Violation

A question has been added to the disposition screen to specify whether a youth has been placed at a dispositional review hearing as a result of a technical violation. This question will only be visible upon selecting a dispositional review hearing that results in a disposition of placement. In addition, an informational bubble to the right of the question can be referenced for a clear definition of what constitutes a technical violation.

File Upload Size

Previously, the maximum file size that could be uploaded at one time was 4MB. In this update the maximum size has been increased to 8MB. If multiple files are being uploaded at once, the total size must be smaller than this amount.

JJSES RELATED AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In the coming months, there are several JJSES professional development opportunities available. On October 19, 2021, Dr. Keith Cruise, professor and director of Clinical Training in the Department of Psychology at Fordham University and Co-Director of the Center for Trauma Recovery and Juvenile Justice (CTRJJ), will be presenting, "Understanding, Identifying, and Responding to Traumatic Stress Reactions in Justice-Involved Adolescents: What Juvenile Probation Officers Need to Know" training virtually. This training is currently open in JEMS for registration. In this training juvenile justice professionals will increase their trauma-informed knowledge base including identifying the rates of lifetime traumatic event exposure and trauma reactions among adolescents who are involved in the juvenile justice system. This training will also highlight practical skills that juvenile probation officers can use to support trauma-exposed adolescents who are system-involved emphasizing the link with delinquency risk reduction efforts.

Also open for registration in JEMS and being presented virtually are the EPICS Coaches Forum on October 5 and 7, 2021, and the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument: Version 2 (MAYSI~2) on October 28, 2021. The EPICS Coaches Forum is opened to previously trained EPICS coaches and is designed as a booster to increase their coaching and coding skills. The MAYSI~2 training will provide a history and description of the MAYSI~2, implementation guidance including the development of policy and procedure, a tutorial to access the assessment in PaJCMS, and information specific to administration and interpretation of the results. Following the training, ongoing technical assistance and support will be provided as requested by each county.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

October

- Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster
 Series: 2 Coding and Inter-Rater Reliability
 Virtual
- 5-7 EPICS Coaches Forum Virtual
- 5-28 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professional - A Blended Learning Course
- 12 Case Planning Training for Coordinators Series: 3 New or Revised Implementation of Case Planning - Virtual
- 13 YLS Master Trainer Recertification 2021 Virtual
- 18-22 EPICS Virtual
- 19 Understanding, Identifying, and Responding to Traumatic Stress Reactions in Justice-Involved Adolescents: What Juvenile Probation Officers Need to Know - Virtual

October (cont.)

- 21 YLS Master Trainer Recertification 2021 Virtual
- 28 MAYSI~2 Virtual

November

- 9 Adolescent Brain Development Virtual (not open yet)
- Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster Series: 3 Coding, Traps, and Giving Feedback Virtual

December

9 Adolescent Brain Development - Virtual

Registration available at

<u>www.jcjcjems.pa.gov</u>



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

DELINQUENCY AND STATUS OFFENSE CASE DATA UPDATED IN OJJDP'S STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK

OJJDP has updated its <u>Statistical Briefing Book</u> (SBB) with national estimates of delinquency and petitioned status offense cases processed in juvenile courts through 2019.

The SBB provides easy access to the latest data and resources on a range of juvenile justice topics, including:

- A <u>Data Snapshot</u> that describes the characteristics and outcomes of delinguency cases handled in juvenile court in 2019.
- The <u>Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics</u> data analysis and dissemination tool.
- Frequently Asked Questions about <u>Juveniles in</u> Court and Juveniles on Probation.
- A <u>Special Topics</u> section that describes the involvement of Hispanic youth in the juvenile justice system and details trends across racial and ethnic groups.

The National Center for Juvenile Justice, the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, maintains the SBB for OJJDP.

RESOURCES:

- Access the full list of <u>Data Snapshots</u> and <u>Data Analysis</u> <u>Tools</u> on the Statistical Briefing Book.
- Learn more about OJJDP's National Juvenile Court Data Archive.
- Follow OJJDP on Twitter and Facebook.

DATA SNAPSHOTS REVEAL COVID-19 IMPACT IN JU-VENILE JUSTICE FACILITIES

The <u>Performance-based Standards (PbS) Learning Institute</u> has released two new <u>Data Snapshots</u> summarizing the impact of COVID-19 in juvenile justice facilities.

The snapshots highlight information collected in April 2021 about how COVID-19 visitation protocols affected family engagement, and how the decreased use of restraints in facilities improved the youth's relationships with the staff.

The data snapshots are:

Responding to the Pandemic: What Families Said About Their Experiences

This brief discusses family members' perspectives on their child's well-being and how they engaged with their child during the pandemic. Data show 89 percent of family members felt that their child was safe at the facility. Ninety-six percent reported speaking to their child between October 2020 to April 2021, typically by phone.

Responding to the Pandemic: Use of Restraints and Staff-Youth Relationships

Data show a decrease in the use of restraints in facilities and more youth reporting positively about their relationships with the staff. This brief explores the relationship between the two trends. Data

was reported voluntarily by 148 correction, detention, assessment, and community-based residential programs in 32 states.

Launched in 1995 by OJJDP, PbS sets juvenile justice standards to

achieve positive outcomes for youth. **RESOURCES**:

- View OJJDP's Guidance for Juvenile Justice Facilities During COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Access OJJDP's <u>Data Snapshots</u> from OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book.
- Follow OJJDP on Twitter and Facebook.

NIJ JOURNAL ARTICLE DISCUSSES NEEDS OF DUAL SYSTEM YOUTH

The National Institute of Justice has published a new <u>article</u> in the *NIJ Journal* discussing the challenges faced when addressing the needs of youth involved in both child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The article recommends conducting timely and systematic identification of dual system youth, improving collaboration across child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and assessing services provided. The article also describes the <u>OJJDP Dual System Youth Design Study</u>, highlighting best practices for jurisdictions to prevent maltreatment and delinquency among dual system youth.

RESOURCES:

- <u>View and download</u> the OJJDP Dual System Youth Design Study.
- <u>Read</u> the OJJDP literature review "Intersection of Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems."
- Follow OJJDP on Twitter and Facebook.

OJJDP'S MODEL PROGRAM GUIDE UPDATES RESTORATIVE JUSTICE LITERATURE REVIEW

OJJDP's Model Programs Guide <u>literature reviews</u> provide practitioners and policymakers with relevant research and evaluations on more than 50 juvenile justice topics and programs.

OJJDP recently updated the "Restorative Justice for Juveniles" literature review. This review focuses on programs that emphasize repairing the harm caused by the criminal behavior of justiceinvolved youth. The review also explores the restorative justice framework, target populations, goals and models of restorative justice programs, and the effectiveness of programs.

The Model Programs Guide offers additional literature reviews on a variety of topics, including bullying, drug courts, mentoring, and juvenile reentry.

RESOURCES:

- Learn more about OJJDP's Model Programs Guide.
- Read about OJJDP's Literature Reviews Development Process.
- Follow OJJDP on Twitter and Facebook.

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

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