



PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 32, Number 8

August 2021

AFTERNOON PLENARY SPEAKER ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2021 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE



Dr. Brian Lovins is a Principal for Justice System Partners, a consulting group that works to improve public safety and outcomes for justice-involved individuals through evidence-based strategies and systems, relying on data-based decisions and practices. Dr. Lovins earned his PhD in Criminology from the University of Cincinnati, and he currently serves as the President-Elect for the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA). In his current role, Dr. Lovins routinely helps jurisdictions understand their local systems,

helps stakeholders analyze and interpret their data, and provides practical, real-world solutions to addressing today's justice system challenges.

Prior to joining Justice System Partners, Dr. Lovins was the Assistant Director for Harris County Community Supervision & Corrections Department (CSCD) and Associate Director for the University of Cincinnati's Corrections Institute. Dr. Lovins developed a statewide juvenile risk assessment (Ohio Youth Assessment System: OYAS) and adult risk assessment (Ohio Risk Assessment System: ORAS) and has also worked to validate a series of post-adjudication (TRAS) and additional pre-trial risk assessments. Dr. Lovins has been invited to present to over 200 agencies and routinely trains agencies in the principles of effective intervention, risk assessment, and the delivery of cognitive-behavioral interventions.

Dr. Lovins has received the 2020 Edward J. Latessa Practitioner Research Award from the American Society of Criminology-Division on Corrections and Sentencing for his continued body of work in helping community corrections move forward. He has also been honored with the Dr. Simon Dinitz Award by the Ohio Community Corrections Association and the David Dillingham Public Service Award from the International Community Corrections Association, as well as being recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Cincinnati. His publications include articles on risk assessment, sexual offenders, effective interventions, probation reform, and cognitive-behavioral interventions. Dr. Lovins is the principal author in the publication, "[*Probation Officer as a Coach: Building a New Professional Identity.*](#)"

INSIDE:

- EPICS Statewide Sustainability... 2
- Save the Date: 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice... 2
- Pennsylvania's Juvenile Court Annual Report Highlights..... 3
- JCJC Position Announcement: Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research 4
- David Stager Retires Tioga County Probation 5
- Suicide Prevention Month 6
- EPIS - SPEPT™ Service Classification..... 7
- Technology Corner 8
- Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professional 9
- Staff Development Highlights 9
- 2021 FGDM Conference..... 10
- National Juvenile Justice Announcements 11

2021 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY

Given the ongoing uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission has decided to hold the 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice virtually on November 3 – 5.

Conference events will include the 41st Annual Awards Program, Two Plenary Sessions, Professional Workshops, and more. A training program will also be available to Juvenile Court Judges and Delinquency Hearing Officers.

Additional details and registration information will be provided as they become available. For those who made accommodations for this year's planned in-person event, please remember to cancel your reservations.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (EPICS) STATEWIDE SUSTAINABILITY

In 2016, Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI), was selected by the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team as our model of community supervision. Since 2016, the JJSES Leadership Team has worked to take EPICS to scale and build statewide capacity. To that end, we worked with UCCI to conduct an EPICS Training of Trainer (TOT). Eight juvenile probation officers from across the Commonwealth and a representative from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) were selected to participate in the EPICS TOT course, facilitated by Dr. Jennifer Pealer of UCCI.

The TOT course consisted of a classroom portion followed by five months of skill development. The classroom portion concluded in January 2021 and the skill development phase recently concluded in August 2021. During the skill development phase, the nine EPICS TOT participants delivered EPICS training and coaching to a total of 57 juvenile probation officers in Pennsylvania.

On behalf of the JJSES Leadership Team, we would like to extend our gratitude and recognize the EPICS TOT participants, along with their respective chiefs, for participation and completion of the certification program.

Sean Sprankle, Allegheny County

Darlene Ayres, Montgomery County

Bill Keim, Berks County

Kim Lukens, Montgomery County

Juan Roman, Berks County

Michaela Mowers, Westmoreland County

Lai-Onda Welcome, Chester County

Angel Stewart, JCJC

Honor Rounsville, McKean County

The newly certified EPICS TOTs will continue to facilitate EPICS trainings allowing for the expansion and sustainability of the EPICS model throughout Pennsylvania. Please contact Bill Keim, Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Berks County, wkeim@countyofberks.com, or Angela Work, JCJC Director of Quality Assurance in Juvenile Justice, awork@pa.gov, with inquires or for further information.

A virtual EPICS Coaches Forum is scheduled for October 5 and 7, 2021. Registration will be available in JEMS.



NOW BEING HELD VIRTUALLY

SAVE the DATE

2021 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

November 3 - 5, 2021

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2020 JUVENILE COURT ANNUAL REPORT

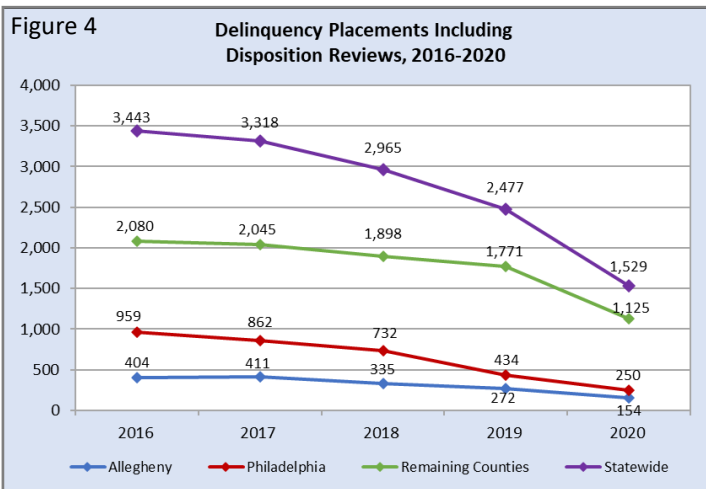
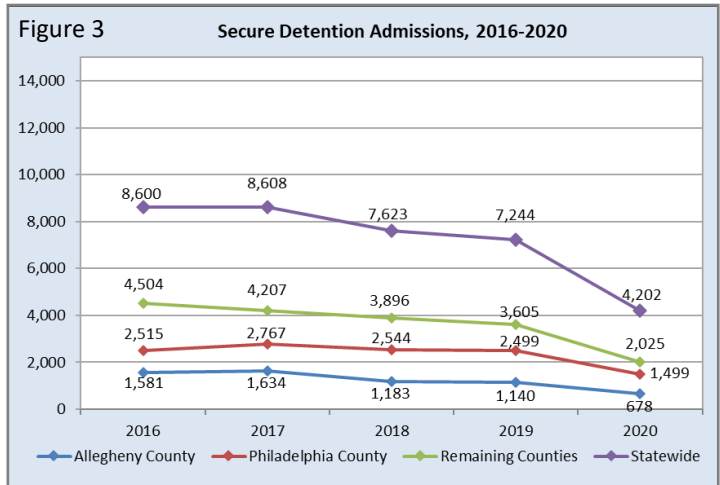
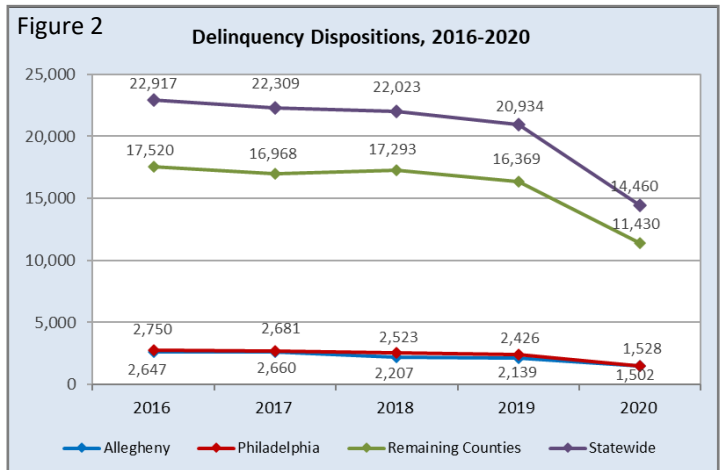
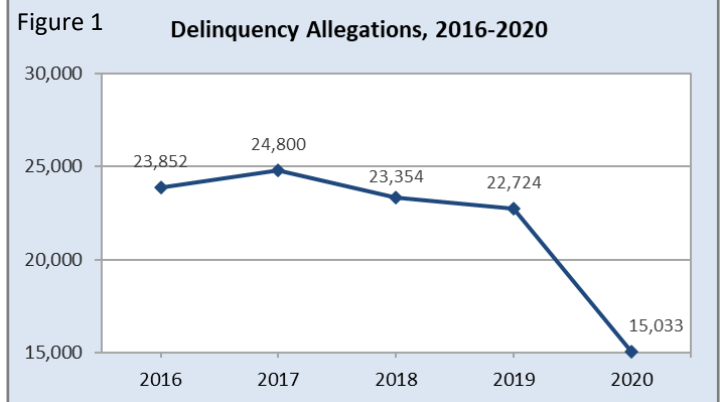
Allegations, Dispositions, Secure Detention, and Placements

There were 15,033 delinquency-related allegations in Pennsylvania during 2020. This represents a 37.0% decrease from 2016, and a 33.8% decrease from 2019 (see Figure 1).

Delinquency dispositions statewide in Pennsylvania have decreased in each of the last five years (see Figure 2). This includes a 30.9% decrease from 2019, and an overall decrease of 36.9% since 2016. Allegheny County reported a decrease of 28.6% from 2019 to 2020, and Philadelphia County reported a 38.1% decrease for this time period.

Detention admissions have declined statewide since 2016, with a 51.1% overall decrease and a 42.0% decrease from 2019 to 2020 (see Figure 3). Allegheny County detention admissions decreased by 40.5% from 2019 to 2020, and Philadelphia County admissions decreased by 40.0% during the same time period.

Delinquency placements have declined each year between 2008 and 2020, with an overall decrease of 79.5% statewide over that time period (see Figure 4). Between 2019 and 2020, there was a 38.3% decrease in placements. The 1,529 delinquency placements in 2020 represented 5.1% of all delinquency dispositions. Delinquency placements in Allegheny County decreased 43.4% from 2019 to 2020 and placements in Philadelphia County decreased 42.4% for this time period.



County-specific data on delinquency allegations, delinquency dispositions, secure detention admissions, and delinquency placements can be found in the appendices of Pennsylvania's 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report at: <https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Research-Statistics/Disposition-Reports/2020-Juvenile-Court-Annual-Report.pdf>.

Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Position Announcement

Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is seeking applicants for the position of Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) located at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Position Description:

This position is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating all programs administered at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research including: oversight of the agency's Professional Development and Graduate Education Programs; the agency's Information and Technology Division, including the design and implementation of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System and activities associated with data collection, data analysis, and publication of juvenile court dispositions and other related juvenile justice information. This position also oversees juvenile justice-related research projects and provides technical assistance to juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers.

- This is a Civil Service Permanent Full-Time Position - *The examination announcement for this position is available at:*

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau/jobs/3176430/juvenile-justice-training-and-research-director?keywords=juvenile%20justice&paqetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

Qualifications:

Applicants must possess seven years of professional juvenile justice experience which includes 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 Richard D. Steele, JCJC Executive Director, at ricsteele@pa.gov or (717) 787-6910 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Application Deadline: September 3, 2021



COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

DAVID STAGER RETIRES TIOGA COUNTY PROBATION



On August 2, 2021, David Stager retired from his position as the Chief Probation Officer of Tioga County after 41 years of exceptional service, 35 as Chief. Chief Stager, of Wellsboro, PA, graduated from Mansfield University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice Administration. David began his career in the field as a Corrections Officer at the Tioga County Jail, where he stayed until 1978 before becoming a Municipal Police Officer in Mansfield Borough. In 1979, David was hired as a Probation Officer for Tioga County and was responsible for supervising approximately 125 adult and juvenile offenders at the time. He was subsequently promoted to Supervisor in 1985, where he was responsible for mid-level management of a seven-member department. This promotion occurred while David was pursuing his Master of Science degree in Administration of Justice through the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Graduate Education program at Shippensburg University, which he completed in 1986. David also earned his promotion to Chief Probation Officer in 1986.

In 1993, David became DUI Coordinator for Tioga County, overseeing the Department's Court Reporting Network evaluations and Alcohol Highway Safety School Program, as well as acting as a liaison between the DUI Association and the Court. In 1995, Chief Stager became the Coordinator for Tioga County's Intermediate Punishment Program, which involved collaboration with the Tioga County Prison Board and local service providers to coordinate care for participants in the treatment-based program. In 1997, David started teaching as an Adjunct Faculty member at the Pennsylvania College of Technology, which he continued to do throughout his career. In 2005, David was named the "Chief Juvenile Probation Officer" of the year in Pennsylvania. At the end of his career, David managed an integrated Adult and Juvenile Probation Department consisting of 22 staff members, an annual budget of over 1.6 million dollars and an overall caseload of over 700 combined offenders.

David has been integral to the betterment of both the adult and juvenile justice systems through his leadership and participation in various organizations and committees. His dedication to the field and service to Tioga County is clearly demonstrated through his involvement in a variety of state and local initiatives. At the time of his retirement and throughout his career, David was a member of the Tioga County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB), Mid-Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA), Pennsylvania Driving Under the Influence Association, and Tioga County Law Enforcement Association. David was also a member and past executive member/chairperson of the Pennsylvania Association of Probation, Parole and Corrections (PAPPC), County Chief Adult Probation & Parole Officers Association of Pennsylvania, Human Services Agency Advisory Board and Tioga County Communities that Care initiative. From 2000-2001, David was the Secretary for the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers' (PCCJPO) executive council. From 2002-2003, David was the Vice President of the same. He was also previously a chair of the Technology Committee and a member of the Juvenile Case Management Committee of the PCCJPO.

In the larger community, David is a current/past member of the Tioga County Chapter of the National "First Tee" Program, the local Laurel Pro-Am Charity Golf Tournament, Youth Leadership program for Tioga County, Knights of Columbus local chapter, Trout Unlimited, Tioga County Employees Federal Credit Union (past president), and the Wellsboro Area Little League.

David considers the greatest accomplishment of his career to be his expansion of Tioga County's Probation Department from an eight-person staff in 1986 to a 22-person crew by 2009, which was largely maintained until his retirement this year. Most notably, this was done while he simultaneously reduced the county taxpayer percentage of the overall budget from 61% in the early 1990's to less than 37%. This was done while the number of referrals/active cases stayed the same throughout. David's efforts in obtaining state funding to offset the costs of additional staff, while spreading caseloads and creating specialized caseloads, are certainly something to applaud.

In his retirement, David plans on spending his time hunting, fishing, golfing, and gardening. He will also enjoy having more time with his beautiful wife, children, and grandchildren.

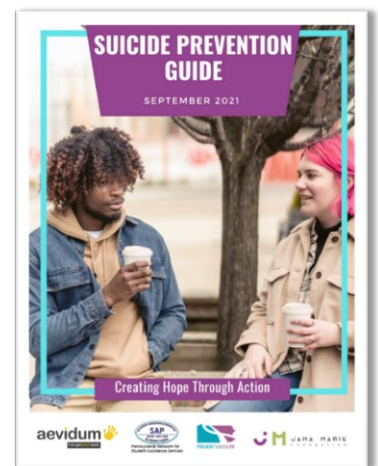
Chief Stager, we thank you for all that you have contributed to both the adult and juvenile justice systems and wish you well in your retirement!



In the United States, September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Within the month of September, the week of the 5th- 11th is designated as National Suicide Prevention Week, with September 10th being recognized as World Suicide Prevention Day.

Although it can be prevented, sadly, suicide is a leading cause of death in the state of Pennsylvania. In an effort to address this public health matter, the Wolf Administration announced a statewide Suicide Prevention Task Force in May of 2019, which developed a statewide suicide prevention plan to reduce suicide in Pennsylvania. Additionally, local county suicide prevention task forces and advocacy groups continue to promote awareness, offer education, and provide resources to further support efforts in preventing suicide throughout the Commonwealth. For example, the collaborative efforts of the Jana Marie Foundation, Aavidum, Prevent Suicide PA, Pennsylvania Network for Student Assistance Services (PNSAS), and Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Youth Suicide Prevention Grant have developed a [resource guide](#) in support of National Suicide Prevention Month.

The [resource guide](#) provides information and education on crisis resources and actionable steps to raise suicide prevention awareness. In addition, the guide offers examples of activities that can be employed to promote the importance of suicide prevention including ideas for events, training, communication, safe messaging, social media posts, virtual backgrounds, and a sample proclamation, among others.



If you or someone you know is in crisis or in need of assistance, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255).



EPIS

Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support

The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™): Service Classification

264

Baseline Assessments conducted which resulted in a **Full SPEP™ Score**

53%

of the assessments were identified as **“Skill Building”**

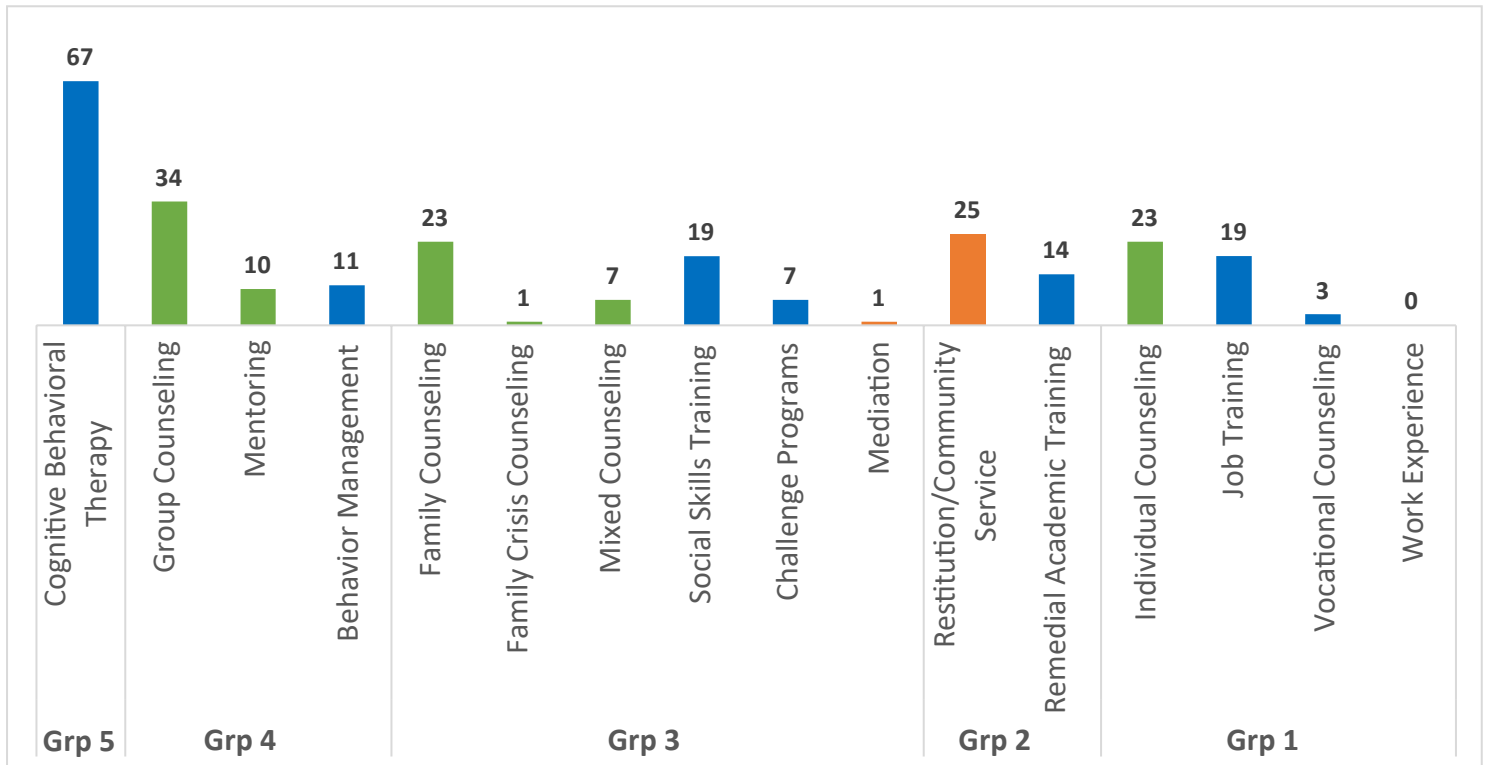
37%

of the assessments were identified as **“Counseling”**

10%

of the assessments were identified as **“Restorative”**

The SPEP™ is based on the *meta-analytic research* of Dr. Mark Lipsey from Vanderbilt University. Analyzing over 700 controlled studies involving juvenile justice interventions, Dr. Lipsey determined *Therapeutically Oriented Approaches* had a positive impact on recidivism reduction. The therapeutic approaches included **Skill Building**, **Counseling**, and **Restorative** services. Dr. Lipsey identified *16 different categories* for services found in the research. Each service classification was assigned to one of five groups according to its average level of impact – **Group 5 Services have the greatest capacity for recidivism reduction potential**. In Pennsylvania, all but one service classification (i.e., work experience) have been assessed at least one time; some services have been assessed multiple times. The chart below reflects the total number of initial (i.e., baseline) SPEP™ assessments in each classification.



Note: data compiled August 1, 2021

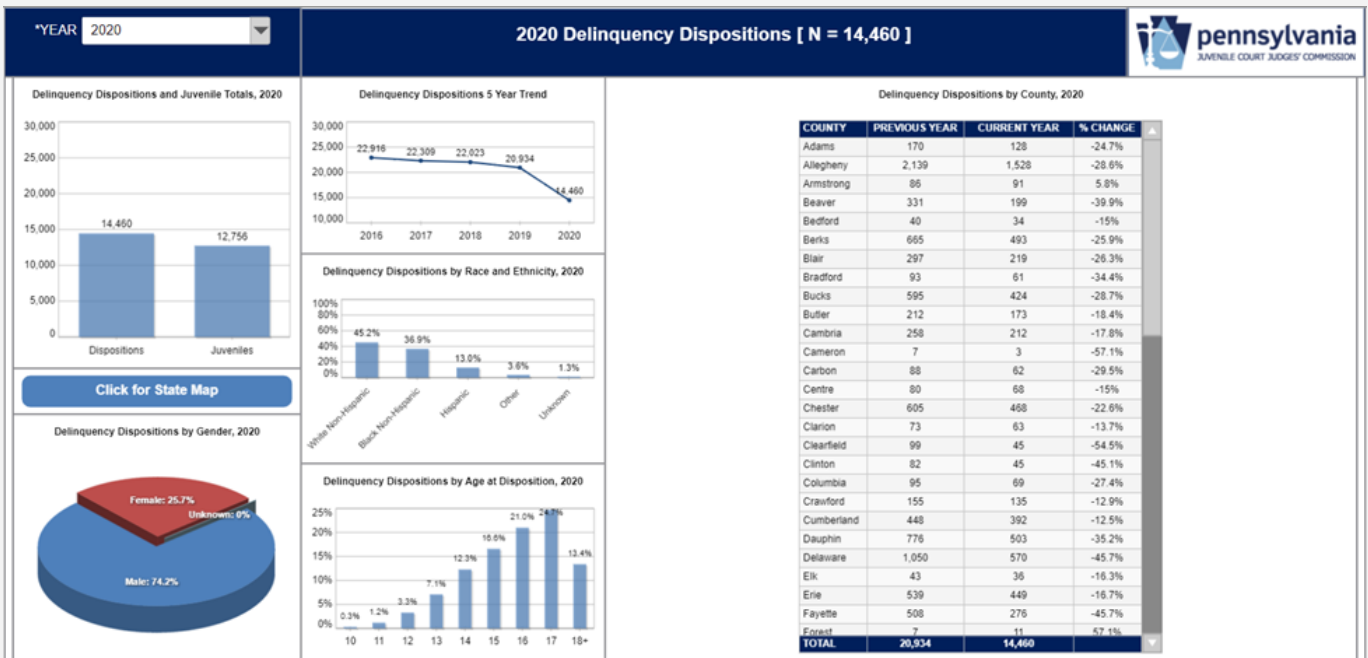


PennState
College of Health and
Human Development

EDNA BENNETT PIERCE
PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

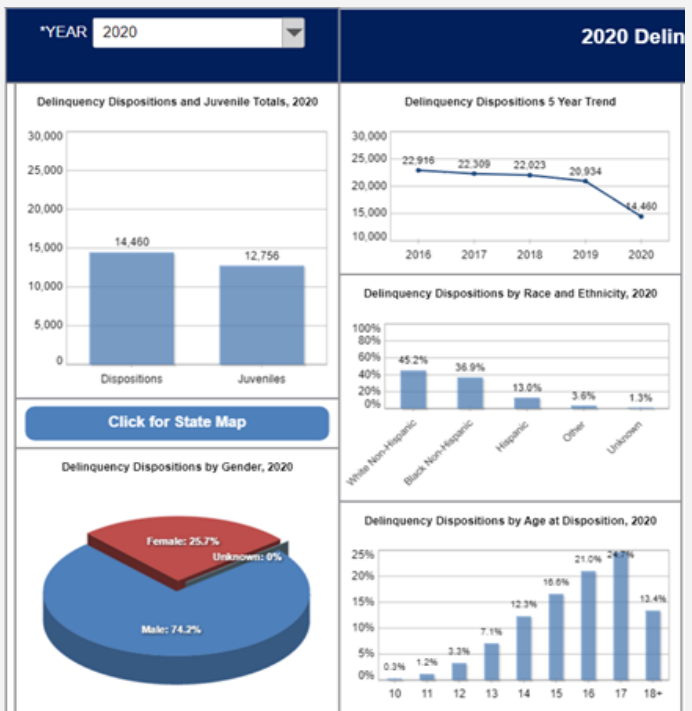
Last year, the JCJC Juvenile Court Annual Report dashboard was released for public access in the iDashboards application. This dashboard mirrors many of the charts and tables in the published PDF report on the topics of Allegations, Dispositions, Placements, and Detentions. Each of those topics are organized on separate dashboard pages to report statewide and county totals, with separate charts for Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity. These interactive charts can be clicked on to open additional tables that report breakout values for the selected data type. Additionally, tables are provided in each topic to report 5-year trends and to show comparison of current year to previous year counts.



Also available are county-level state maps that report total counts by county for each of the topics. The dashboard pages display data for one year at a time, with a drop-down selector to display annual report data for previous years. With the recent release of the published 2020 Juvenile Court Annual Report, the iDashboards data has been updated with 2020 data and is ready for viewing.

Access to this dashboard is provided through the link below and does not require a login.

<https://www.jcjdashboards.pa.gov/idashboards/viewer?guestuser=guest&dashID=507>



ORIENTATION FOR THE NEW JUVENILE PROBATION PROFESSIONAL

The JCJC will once again be offering the Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professional virtually. It will be held on October 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 28, 2021, using the Zoom platform. Registration will open in JEMS in the beginning of September.

The curriculum is facilitated by several presenters, including JCJC staff, veteran system professionals, and specialized consultants. The orientation is delivered with a combination of online curriculum delivery and virtual delivery presentations. This program provides new juvenile probation officers with a strong foundation and a solid working knowledge of the current juvenile justice system in operation.

Additional professional development opportunities being offered virtually and currently open in JEMS:

- September 22-24, 2021, Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum Training for Facilitators
- September 29, 2021, Case Planning Training for Coordinators Series: 2 The Integration of Case Planning and EPICS
- October 5, 2021, Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster Series: 2 Coding and Inter-Rater Reliability
- October 12, 2021, Case Planning Training for Coordinators Series: 3 New or Revised Implementation of Case Planning
- October 19, 2021, Understanding, Identifying, and Responding to Traumatic Stress Reactions in Justice-Involved Adolescents: What Juvenile Probation Officers Need to Know
- November 9, 2021, Hidden and Unconscious Bias: Recognizing Hidden Prejudices That Impact How We Do Our Jobs (**not yet opened in JEMS for registration*)
- November 16, 2021, Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster Series: 3 Coding, Traps, and Giving Feedback
- December 9, 2021, Adolescent Brain Development

Please contact Sonya Stokes, Director of Professional Development, systokes@ship.edu if you have any questions.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

September

- 15 YLS Master Trainer Recertification 2021 - Virtual
- 22-24 Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum Training for Facilitators - Virtual
- 28 YLS Master Trainer Recertification 2021- Virtual
- 29 Case Planning Training for Coordinators: 2 The Integration of Case Planning and EPICS - Virtual

October

- 5 Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster Series: 2 Coding and Inter-Rater Reliability Virtual
- 12 Case Planning Training for Coordinators Series: 3 New or Revised Implementation of Case Planning - Virtual
- 13 YLS Master Trainer Recertification 2021 - Virtual

October (continued)

- 19 Understanding, Identifying, and Responding to Traumatic Stress Reactions in Justice-Involved Adolescents: What Juvenile Probation Officers Need to Know - Virtual
- 21 YLS Master Trainer Recertification 2021 - Virtual

November

- 16 Motivational Interviewing Coaches Booster Series: 3 Coding, Traps, and Giving Feedback - Virtual

December

- 9 Adolescent Brain Development - Virtual

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov

GOOD AFTERNOON

Child Welfare Professionals and Community

The PA Statewide FGDM Leadership Team is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the **2021 Virtual Biennial Pennsylvania FGDM Conference**, to be held **September 29 and 30, 2021**, and can be accessed through the link below. This year's conference will be held virtually, on both days, from 9:00AM - 12:00PM. We are excited to bring to you two amazing keynote speakers, Jodi Pfarr, Minneapolis, MN (September 29th) and Mary Montague, Northern Ireland (September 30th). In addition to our keynote speakers, participants will be able to choose one workshop session each day. This year's conference will provide workshops meaningful to Judges, Juvenile Court Hearing Officers, Attorneys, Child Welfare Administrators, Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice professionals and other community members. **We invite you to join us and share this with folks in your county, as you deem appropriate.**



The theme this year is **“Adjusting Our Lens: Gaining Perspective by Challenging Perceptions,”** which will focus on the critical role leaders have in examining how to better engage, communicate and identify FGDM opportunities for children and families served by the child welfare and dependency systems.

Our first keynote speaker this year is **Jodi Pfarr**. Jodi's *“The Urgency of Awareness”* session will provide a deeper look into a few of the more common societal categorizations placed upon us by ourselves or others and how the categorizations impact our life experiences and, thereby, the work we do with children and families. A better awareness and understanding of these categories will lead to better engagement of families and FGDM growth within your communities.

Our second keynote speaker, **Mary Montague**, will join us from Northern Ireland. Mary's *“Knowing Me, Knowing You: Diversity Works!”* will invite attendees to examine the personal values that underpin professional's work with children and families. Mary will also examine how these values can create “diversity triggers” that impede our work to better engage families in the agency, court and community. Mary has developed and delivered mediation interventions and training programs in areas such as the Balkans, Afghanistan, Pakistan region and Sudan.

**There will be no registration fee for this virtual conference.
Registration deadline is September 27, 2021.**

Full Brochure

Register

Any additional conference questions should be directed to Christy Stanek at Christy.Stanek@pacourts.us or 412-616-1079.

On behalf of the FGDM Leadership Team and FGDM Conference Planning Committee, we look forward to seeing you!



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS RELEASES 2020 SCHOOL CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT

The Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Education Statistics have released the *Report on Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2020*.

This annual report provides the most recent data on school crime and student safety from national surveys of students, teachers, principals, and post-secondary institutions.

The report highlights select findings from 22 indicators on various school crime and safety topics, including violent deaths and school shootings; nonfatal student and teacher victimization; school environment (such as bullying and incident and discipline problems); gangs and hate-related speech; fights, weapons, and illegal substances; student perceptions of school safety; discipline, safety, and security practices; and campus safety and security.



[View Report](#)

RESOURCES:

- See [OJJDP's Model Programs Guide](#) to learn about programs promoting school safety.
- View the federal school safety website [SchoolSafety.gov](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

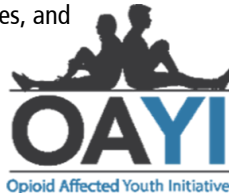
OJJDP LAUNCHES OPIOID AFFECTED YOUTH INITIATIVE WEBSITE

OJJDP recently launched the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI) website. OAYI helps nationwide project sites to develop data-driven and coordinated responses to opioid abuse and other substance use disorders affecting youth, families, and communities.

The website highlights OJJDP-funded OAYI grantees and serves as a central hub to share and document the impact of implemented strategies designed to combat the opioid epidemic.

Information featured on the website includes:

- OAYI goals, objectives, and strategies
- Profiles of grantee project sites
- Highlights of grantee activities and outcomes



The website also features data visualization that allows users to interact with charts, graphs, and maps.

RESOURCES:

- Learn more about OJJDP's [opioid-focused prevention and intervention programs](#).
- Learn about OJJDP-funded [drug courts](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

NOW AVAILABLE: GUIDANCE ON THE DETECTION & MITIGATION OF COVID-19 IN CONFINEMENT FACILITIES

As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing COVID-19 response efforts, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in partnership with the Department of Justice, is providing financial assistance to Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) funding recipients to respond to COVID-19 in confinement facilities, including juvenile justice facilities, within their jurisdictions.

A total of \$700,000,000, made available through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, will be awarded to the current 64 ELC recipients according to a formula based on the recipient's jurisdictional incarcerated population.

The CDC has released [Detection & Mitigation of COVID-19 in Confinement Facilities Guidance](#) to provide further information.

The Guidance highlights areas such as:

- Allowable costs
- Process for budget submission
- Required tasks
- Performance measures
- Summary of reporting requirements

Also see a related [press release](#) to learn more about the Administration's efforts.

RESOURCES:

- [Read](#) OJJDP's Guidance for Juvenile Justice Facilities During COVID-19 Pandemic
- [View](#) PbS data snapshots summarizing the impact of COVID-19 in juvenile justice facilities.

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

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

