



PENNSYLVANIA'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM'S RECIDIVISM RATE DROPS TO LOWEST LEVEL

This month, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) released its latest recidivism report, which highlights Pennsylvania's juvenile justice recidivism rate of **11.7%** for youth ending supervision in 2019, the lowest it has been since the state began tracking it in 2007.

The report, titled *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles Closed 2007-2019*, measures the rate at which young people who have left the juvenile justice system commit a new felony or misdemeanor offense that results in a new finding of guilt in juvenile court or criminal court.

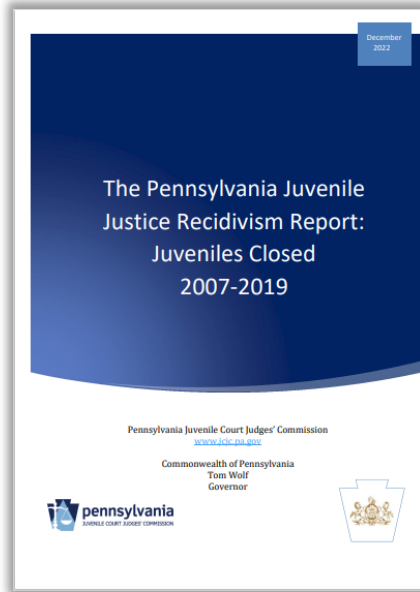
This report is part of Pennsylvania's longstanding effort to measure the impact of the juvenile justice system on the youth it serves, as well as the success of the state's current reform initiative, the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). Initiated in 2011, the JJSES seeks to employ evidence-based practices at every stage of the juvenile justice system, collect and analyze the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts, and continuously improve the quality of decisions, services, and programs.

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).

The report defines recidivism 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 article is the first of a four-part series presenting 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.



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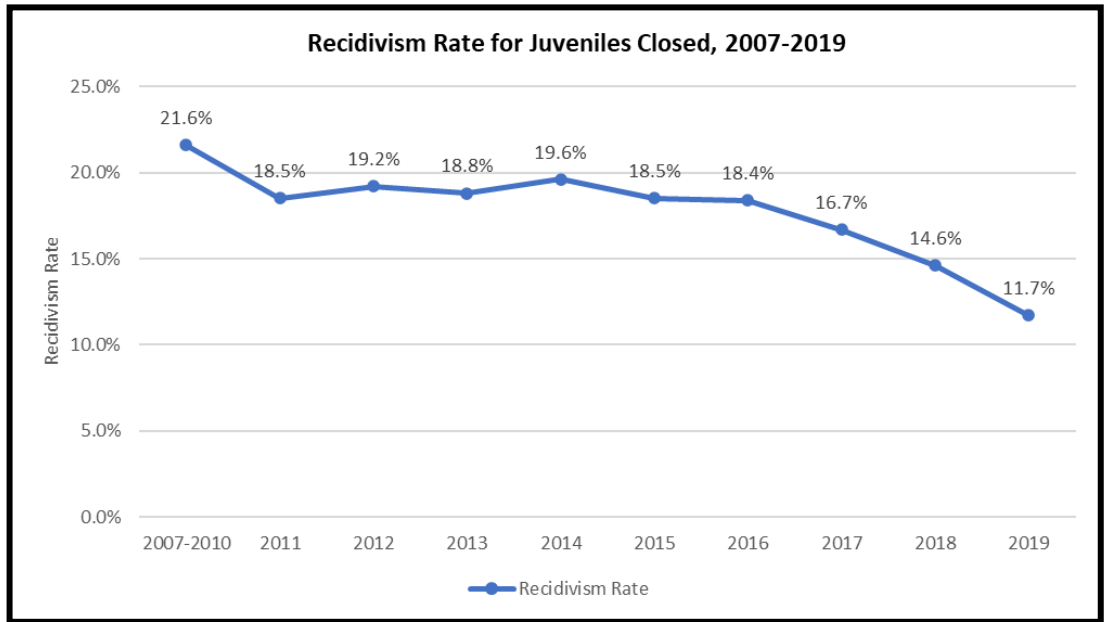
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Findings from the current recidivism report indicate that Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system continues the trend of “post-JJSES initiation” recidivism rates being below the “pre-JJSES initiation” rate (21.6% for the years 2007-2010), demonstrating concrete results in the area of public safety.

While certain portions of the study period overlapped with the COVID-19 pandemic, recidivism rates were steadily declining in the years leading up to its onset.



Statewide, the recidivism rate decreased 25.9% between the “pre-JJSES” (2007-2010) and the “post-JJSES initiation” (2011-2019) periods. The “post-JJSES initiation” recidivism rates of three-quarters of counties (50/67 or 75%) were below their “pre-JJSES” rates. Among these 50 counties, the mean percentage decrease in recidivism rates was 21.7%, and the median percentage decrease was 20.4%.

The full report is available on the JCJC website at www.jcjc.pa.gov.

SAVE *the* DATE

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2023 James E. Anderson

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COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

JON FRANK RETIRES FROM BLAIR COUNTY



After nearly 35 years of service, Jon Frank retired as the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Blair County Juvenile Probation Department on January 6, 2023. Jon began his career in 1988 as a Juvenile Probation Officer in Blair County. Since that time, he has served his community as a Juvenile Probation Officer, Supervisor, Deputy Chief, and Chief. Jon was instrumental in establishing Blair County as an early leader in the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. For example, Blair County was one of the initial ten counties to implement the use of the YLS Risk Assessment Instrument.

Jon has been involved extensively as a pillar of the Blair County community for decades. He has networked with other local leaders with the Leadership Blair County program offered via the Blair County Chamber of Commerce. He was an active member of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, where he served as Chair of the Public Relations Committee. Jon was also the Council's Secretary for two terms. He was actively involved in the Blair County Healthy Coalition, Youth League, and Blair County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB). Jon served on the state's Mental Health Clinical Committee, as well as the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Awards Committee. He led his region's Children's Roundtable initiative with local Children, Youth, and Family leaders. Jon worked to establish relationships with local schools and pilot community crisis intervention methods to local law enforcement. Throughout his career, Jon never missed an opportunity to assert himself as a leader.

Jon holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Penn State University and a Master of Science in Administration of Juvenile Justice from Shippensburg University. Outside of the professional world, Jon sits on the Board of Directors of his local credit union and he is involved with acts of service through his church. He is an avid Penn State Football fan, food connoisseur, loving husband to his wife Shelly, and father to his beloved son Nicholas. Those close to Jon know that he is very caring in nature and always goes out of his way to envelop a positive outlook, even in difficult situations. Best wishes on a happy retirement, Jon!

TECHNOLOGY CORNER



JCJC Technology User Group

Thursday, March 16, 2023

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce that it will be holding the JCJC Technology User Group meeting in person on Thursday, March 16, 2023, in State College, PA. The format of the meeting will include all JCJC's technology applications. Registration for the Technology User Group meeting will be through the [Juvenile Events Management System \(JEMS\)](#). A notification will be sent to all counties as soon as registration is open in JEMS along with an agenda.

We will be hosting the event at the **Ramada Conference Center, 1450 S. Atherton St., State College, PA.** If you have any questions, please contact the PaJCMS help desk at RA-JCICHELPDESK@pa.gov.

COURTNEY WAGAMAN JOINS JCJC STAFF

On January 18, 2023, Courtney Wagaman joined the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission as the Director of Quality Assurance in Juvenile Justice. Courtney began her career at KidsPeace National Centers before moving to The IMPACT Project, a community-based provider of foster care and diversion services. Initially, Courtney was a clinician providing clinical therapy to juveniles placed in foster care through the courts. After serving in various supervisory capacities for the agency, Courtney was promoted to Executive Director/COO in 2015. During her tenure, she focused on quality programming and ongoing improvements to better meet the needs of youth, families, and the community. In addition to her work leading The IMPACT Project, Courtney was an integral part of various statewide and county initiatives including the Quality Improvement Initiative with the National Center for Juvenile Justice, Contract Monitoring for Counties and Providers, Child Welfare Council, Public Policy Workgroups and most recently, a member of Lehigh County's Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity team.



Courtney holds Bachelor of Arts degrees (double major) in English and Psychology from Washington & Jefferson College, as well as a Master of Science in Psychology from Villanova University. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, particularly attending her children's various events; all vacations, especially those involving sunshine; and the opportunity for a good run, yoga, or a great book.

JCJC WELCOMES THREE JUVENILE COURT CONSULTANTS

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is excited to announce that Stephanie Black, Adrienne Robbins, and William Rumbaugh joined the agency's staff on January 18, 2023, as Juvenile Court Consultants. In this role, they will be responsible for conducting court consultative visits to review department policies, practices, and statistics, as well as to observe courtroom procedures, provide technical assistance and advice to juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers, and will represent the agency on various statewide committees and activities. Additional information on each of the three new consultants can be found below.

STEPHANIE BLACK



Stephanie began her career as a Community Service Supervisor in 2009 at the Auglaize County Juvenile Probation Department in Ohio. In 2011, she continued her career at the Adams County Department of Probation Services in Pennsylvania as a Community-Based and Placement Juvenile Probation Officer. Most recently, Stephanie worked as a Continuous Quality Improvement Probation Officer at Franklin County Juvenile Probation. Throughout her career, Stephanie has been actively involved as a PaDRAI Coordinator, Case Plan Coordinator, Victim Community Awareness Curriculum Trainer, EPICS Coach, Youth Aid Panel Monitor, and a member of various county and non-profit committees. Stephanie holds a bachelor's degree from Cedarville University in Psychology, and a Master of Science in Administration of Juvenile

Justice from the JCJC Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University. Stephanie is excited to be working at JCJC and can be reached at 717-317-3874 or stepblack@pa.gov.

ADRIANNE ROBBINS



Adrienne began her career as residential program worker for a facility in State College, PA. She then relocated to Snyder County, PA and worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer at Snyder County Probation. While at Snyder County Probation, Adrienne implemented and oversaw evidence-based practices within the shared juvenile and adult probation department. She trained both juvenile and adult officers in motivational interviewing and provided on-going support including regular booster trainings and coaching sessions with all staff. Adrienne facilitated both the Victim and Community Awareness Curriculum with juveniles and Thinking for a Change (T4C) with adults. She also worked collaboratively with Snyder County Children and Youth Services to track outcomes for all in-house programming as well as with contracted service providers for both agencies. Adrienne holds a bachelor's degree from the Pennsylvania State University in Human Development and Family Studies and a Master of Social Work from Temple University. She is currently a licensed social worker and most recently provided both individual and couples therapy within a private practice setting in Selinsgrove, PA. Adrienne is looking forward to working closely with county probation departments and juvenile court judges. She can be reached at 717-216-7267 or adrobbins@pa.gov.

WILLIAM RUMBAUGH



Bill was previously employed with the Butler County Juvenile Probation Department for 32 years. He retired from Butler County as a Supervisor in January 2023. While employed by Butler County, Bill was responsible for the implementation and administration of JJSES activities. Bill was a YLS Master Trainer, Case Plan Coordinator, EBP Brief-CASE Instructor, and was trained in Carey Guides and Bits. In addition, Bill was also a facilitator of Butler County's Adolescent Sex Offender Group, which was the JCJC Program of the Year in 1994, and an Underage Drinking and Other Drugs Group. Bill is a past-President of the Butler County Law Enforcement Officers Association. Bill holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Criminology, and a master's degree in Administration of Justice from the JCJC Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University. He is excited for the opportunity to continue his juvenile justice career at the state level, and he can be reached at 717-395-8330 or at wrumbaugh@pa.gov.

Welcome

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

THE JCJC 2023 TRAINING CALENDAR IS ON ITS WAY!

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission will be releasing a 2023 training calendar soon. There are, however, currently training courses opened in JEMS for registration and more to be added as they are finalized.

The first in-person training, **EPICS End User Training**, is scheduled for February 13-15, 2023, at the Scholar Hotel, State College, PA. Go to [JEMS](#) to register.

EPICS End User Training – The goal of this training is to teach probation officers how to apply the principles of effective intervention to community supervision practices. The training teaches officers how to use the EPICS model to target higher risk offenders and their criminogenic needs using cognitive-behavioral interventions and core correctional practices.

Upcoming Trainings:

February 7

SPEP™ Level 1 Learning Community (virtual)

February 8

Time Management (virtual)

February 13-15

EPICS End User (State College)

February 16

SPEP™ InfoCom (virtual)

February 22

Being Color Brave and Culturally Humble (virtual)

More trainings will be released soon along with the 2023 Training Calendar.

www.jcjcjems.pa.gov



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- Nationally recognized program, taught by highly qualified and experienced faculty.
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- A hybrid 33-credit program.
- Summer coursework fully online and 3 face-to-face weekend sessions during the fall and spring semesters.
- A cohort-based program designed to enhance professional networking across the Commonwealth.
- Practical courses designed for juvenile justice professionals with an emphasis on evidence-based practices.

Program Contact: Sonya Stokes at systokes@ship.edu



For program information,
visit:

www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/Graduate-Education

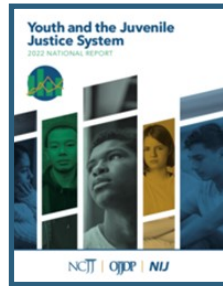


NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP/NIJ-SUPPORTED NATIONAL REPORT AVAILABLE ON YOUTH AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The National Center for Juvenile Justice has released "Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: 2022 National Report." This is the fifth edition of a comprehensive report on youth victimization, offenses committed by youth, and the juvenile justice system's response. The report—previously known as "Juvenile Offenders and Victims"—offers juvenile justice practitioners and policymakers the most reliable information on youth and their involvement with the juvenile justice system through the 2019 data year.



This report was developed with funding awarded by OJJDP and managed by the National Institute of Justice.

[Order](#) your hardcopy today!

RESOURCES:

- Visit the [OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book](#) to learn more about juvenile offending and victimization and youth involved in the juvenile justice system.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

40TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST NOW OPEN



OJJDP invites fifth graders to participate in the 40th Annual National Missing Children's Day poster contest. The theme of this year's poster contest is "Bringing Our Missing Children Home."

This contest creates an opportunity for teachers and school administrators, law enforcement personnel, and other child advocates to discuss the issue of missing and exploited children with youth, par-

ents, and guardians and to promote child safety.

View and download the [poster contest packet](#) for additional information, including contest rules, submission deadlines, and contact information for state contest managers.

The Department of Justice will recognize the poster contest winner at the National Missing Children's Day ceremony on May 24, 2023.

Submissions due by March 1, 2023.

RESOURCES:

- View the [poster contest packet in Spanish](#).
- Visit [OJJDP's National Missing Children's Day web page](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP OBSERVES AMBER ALERT AWARENESS DAY

Join OJJDP in Observing AMBER Alert Awareness Day. January 13 is AMBER Alert Awareness Day. The [AMBER Alert](#) early warning system notifies the public when a child has been abducted. It was named in remembrance of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was abducted and murdered in Arlington, Texas, on January 13, 1996.

OJJDP has partnered with the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) (NCMEC) for over 30 years to help recover missing children and prevent child victimization. In fiscal year (FY) 2022, OJJDP awarded more than \$38.7 million to NCMEC and \$4.4 million to the [National AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program](#). OJJDP also supports AMBER Alert programs in Tribal communities through its [AMBER Alert in Indian Country Initiative](#).

Watch our updated video, "Keeping Hope Alive: The AMBER Alert Program," for the history of the AMBER Alert system.



RESOURCES:

- View the [AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program Fact Sheet](#).
- View OJJDP's latest issue of [The AMBER Advocate](#).
- Read about [AMBER Alerts on Instagram](#).
- Access OJJDP's Missing and Exploited Children [webpage](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

APPLY NOW FOR ADVANCING RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IN YOUTH LEGAL SYSTEMS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#) (CJJR) at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy is accepting applications for its [Advancing Racial Justice and Equity in Youth Legal Systems Certificate Program](#) to be held April 24–28, 2023, in Washington, DC. This training is designed to help local jurisdictions promote racial justice and equity in their systems of care, focusing on the youth legal system.

Topics include:

- Addressing implicit bias and racial trauma in the youth legal system.
- Identifying connections between systems of care and inequity.
- Creating strategies and solutions based in anti-racism frameworks.
- Planning sustainable reform efforts in the youth legal system.

RESOURCES:

- Learn about [CJJR's Certificate Programs](#).
- 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-oajcnews@pa.gov.

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