



PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 34, Number 5

May 2023

JCJC RELEASES STATEWIDE SECURE DETENTION GAP ANALYSIS REPORT

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce the release of the report titled "Pennsylvania Secure Detention Bed Analysis." Currently, the state's secure detention situation has reached what many refer to as a "crisis situation." In response, this analysis was completed to describe the scope of the crisis, quantify projected detention needs, and identify where the greatest gaps exist based on the capacity of currently operating facilities. Highlights from the analysis are found below, and the full report is available on the JCJC website at www.jcjc.pa.gov.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE CRISIS

Many factors are currently influencing the detention crisis in Pennsylvania. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

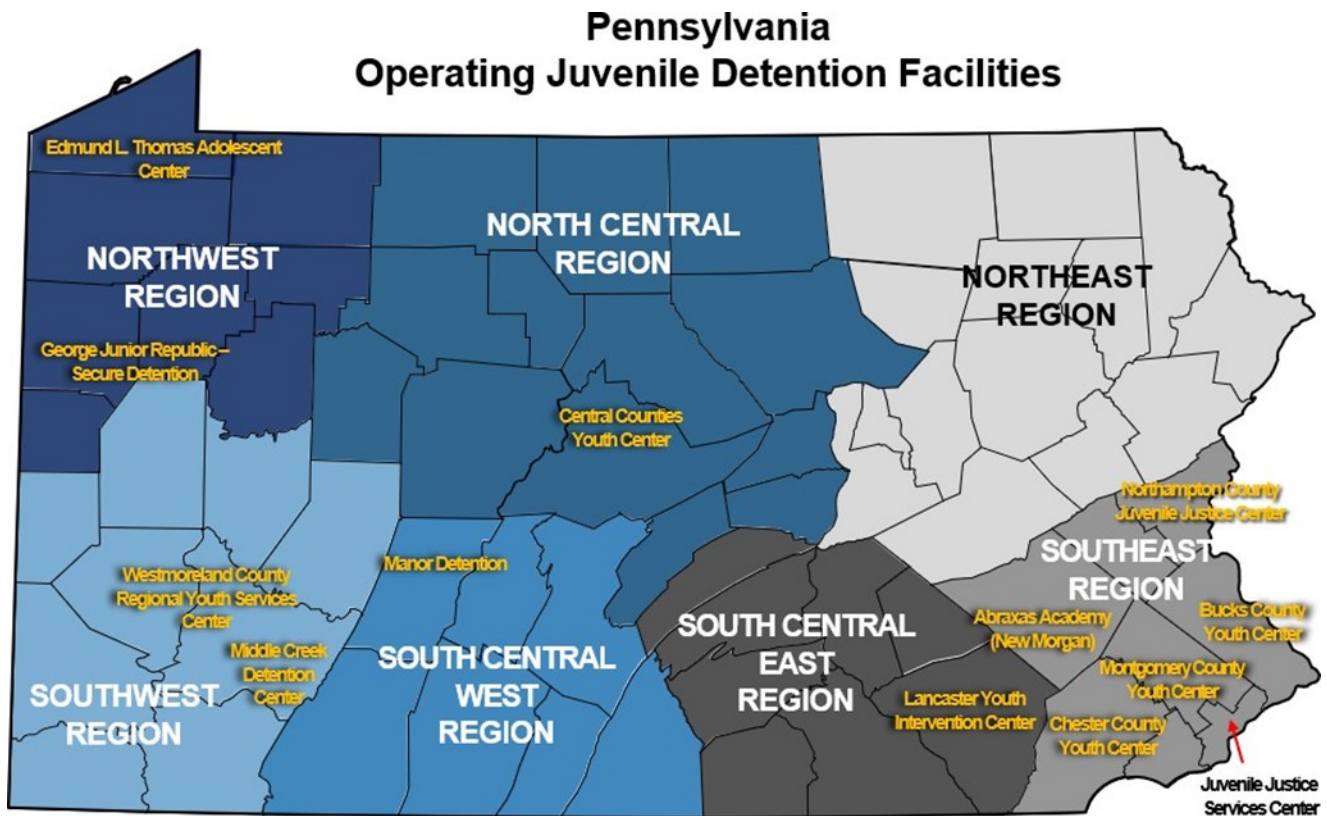
- COVID-19:** The COVID-19 pandemic impacted secure detention facilities in the same manner as virtually all industries. Staffing shortages and the cost of adapting facilities to comply with the Centers for Disease Control restrictions forced already struggling detention providers to reduce their staffed capacity or close completely.
- Detention Facility Business Model:** The state's detention facilities are independently owned and operated and therefore can decide which youth to accept and which departments with which to contract. Five of the 13 facilities in the state only accept youth from within their own counties, with limited exception. Two additional operating facilities only accept youth from Allegheny County (Manor Detention and Middle Creek). Central Counties Youth Center, which is owned by five counties, will only accept youth outside of the owning counties if availability exists. Ultimately, 57 of 67 counties vie for beds at just six Pennsylvania facilities.
- Placement Facility Waitlists:** Limited access to residential placement facilities, particularly the state-operated Youth Development Centers/ Youth Forestry Camps, further exacerbates the issue as many youth awaiting a residential placement bed are housed in detention facilities.
- "Interest of Justice" Youth:** Since the December 21, 2021, effective date of the "Interest of Justice" determination requirement of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act reauthorization, an influx of youth historically housed in adult jails are now being held in secure juvenile detention facilities.
- Increased Length of Stay in Detention:** The average and median length of stay has increased, from 17 and 11 days, respectively, in 2018 to 27 and 14 days, respectively, in 2022.

INSIDE:

2023 Pennsylvania Prevention Award Winner, "Courageously Creates"	5
Beaver County Redeem Fund and Ready Yourself Youth Ranch.....	5
Westmoreland County Celebrates National Crime Victims' Rights Week	6
2022 JJSES Implementation Survey Results.....	7
Commencement Ceremonies Held for the JCJC's Graduate Education Class of 2023.....	9
Examining Firearm Injury and Firearm Mortality Rates Among High-Risk Youth.....	9
Save the Date: 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice	10
2023 JCJC Award Program Nominations Announcement	11
Deadline Extended: JCJC Youth Scholarship Award.....	12
Staff Development Highlights	12
Technology Corner.....	13
PCCYFS 2023 Conference: A Session on Oral and Written Presentation by Service Providers	13
NCJFCJ Training Announcement.....	14
SPE™ Training	15
National Juvenile Justice Announcements	16

As of April 2023, among the 13 facilities that provide secure detention services in Pennsylvania, a total of 517 secure detention beds are licensed (the licensed capacity) by the state. However, the total number of staffed secure beds (the operational capacity) is only 404. The *licensed capacity* is the total number of beds for which a facility is authorized by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to provide secure detention services at one time. The *operational capacity* is the number of beds for which a facility has enough staff to provide secure detention services at one time, while maintaining licensing regulatory requirements. Oftentimes, the licensed capacity is different than the operational capacity. Furthermore, a facility’s operational capacity can also change daily. Therefore, the operational capacity figures presented here may not reflect operational figures on a different day.

The map below identifies the location of all operating facilities in Pennsylvania, including those that are only accessible to certain counties. The following facilities are “Open Access” and will accept youth from any county with which the facility is contracted: Abraxas Academy, Bucks County Youth Center, Central Counties Youth Center, Chester County Youth Center, George Junior Republic, and Northampton County Juvenile Justice Center.



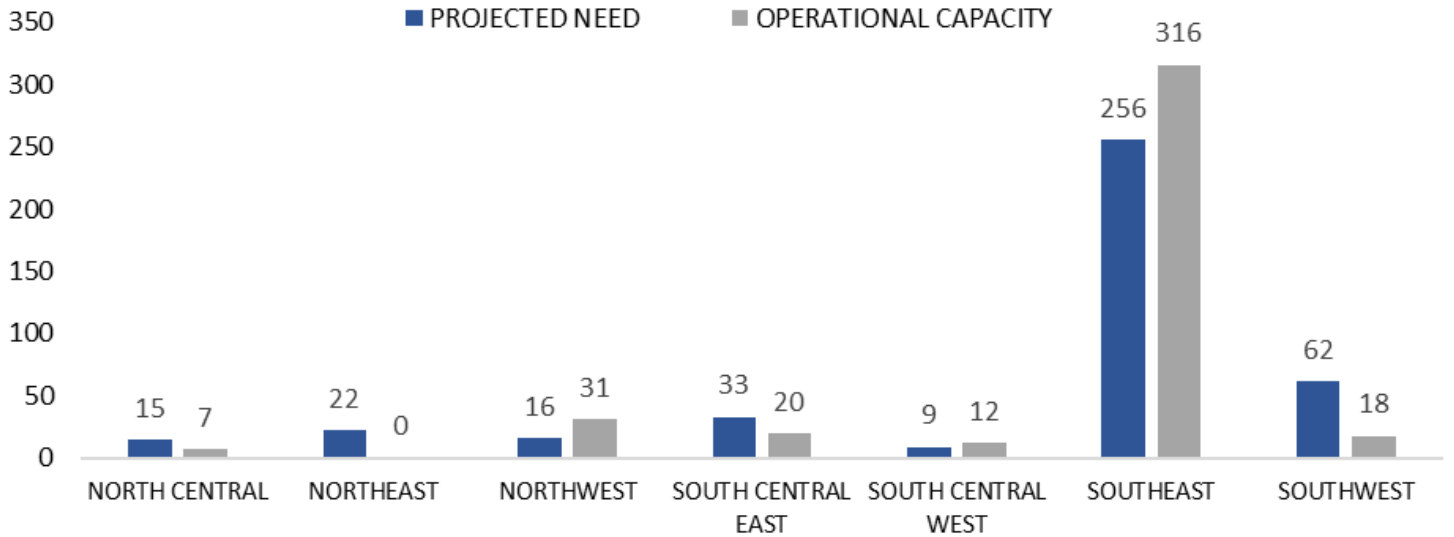
IDENTIFYING REGIONAL NEEDS

All Operating Facilities: The chart and map on the next page compare the projected needs by region against the available number of beds (indicated by the region’s operational capacity) of all 13 open secure detention facilities. Currently, the Northeast region has no open detention facilities, making it the geographic area with the greatest needs.

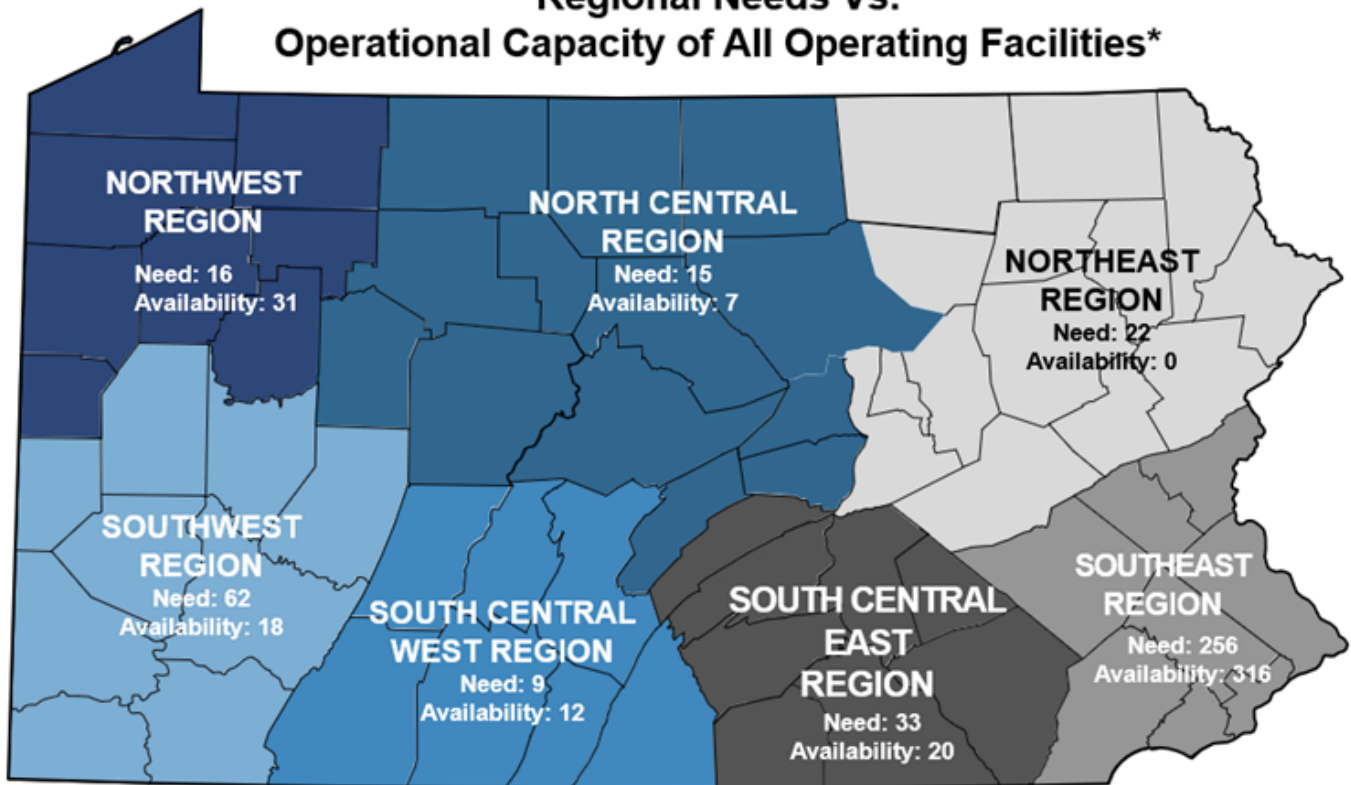
Projected Need was calculated using historical data. To calculate the projected average daily bed needs, also known as the average daily population (ADP), the following formula was used:

$$\text{(Total Number of Detention Admissions x Average Length of Detention Stay in Days)}/365$$

REGIONAL NEEDS VS. OPERATIONAL CAPACITY OF ALL OPERATING FACILITIES



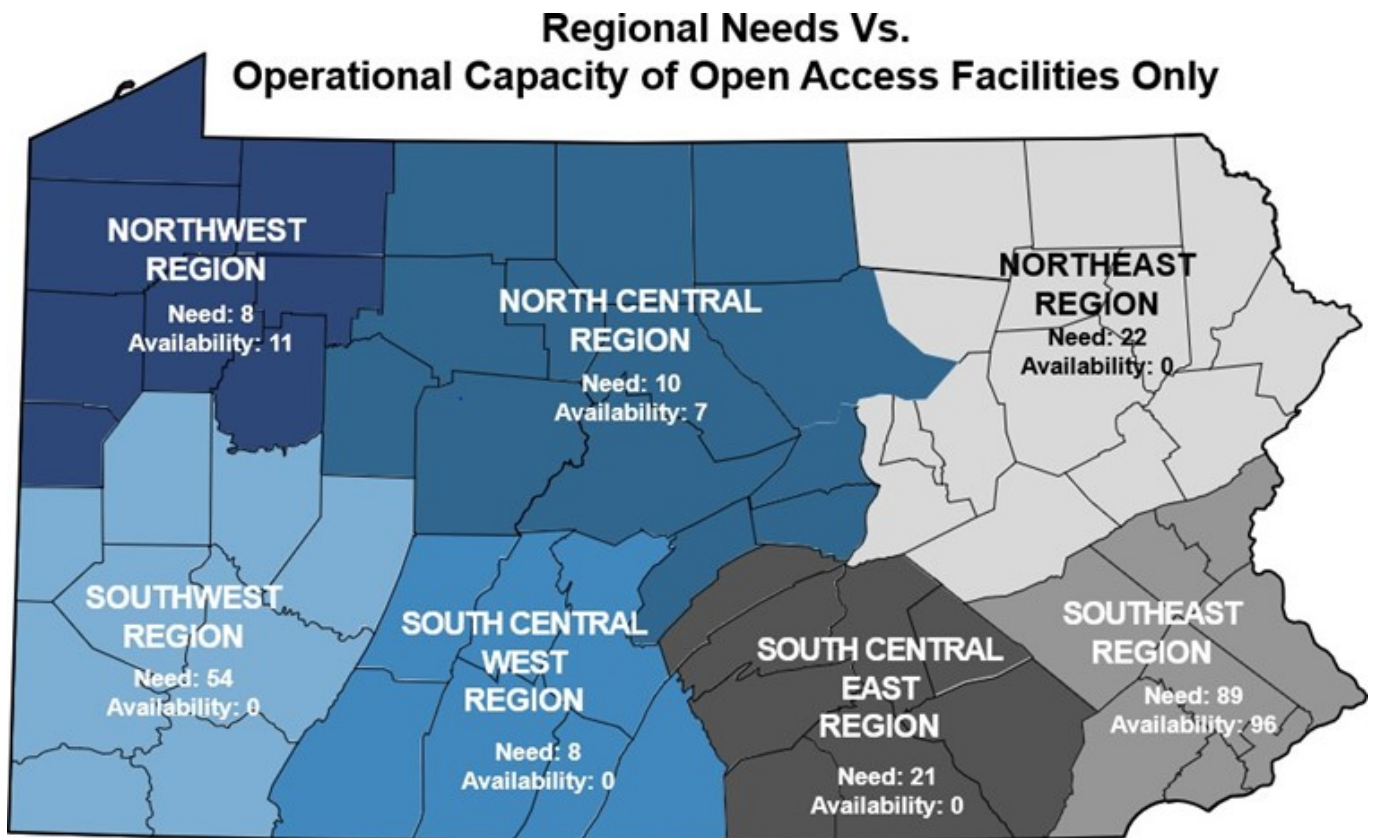
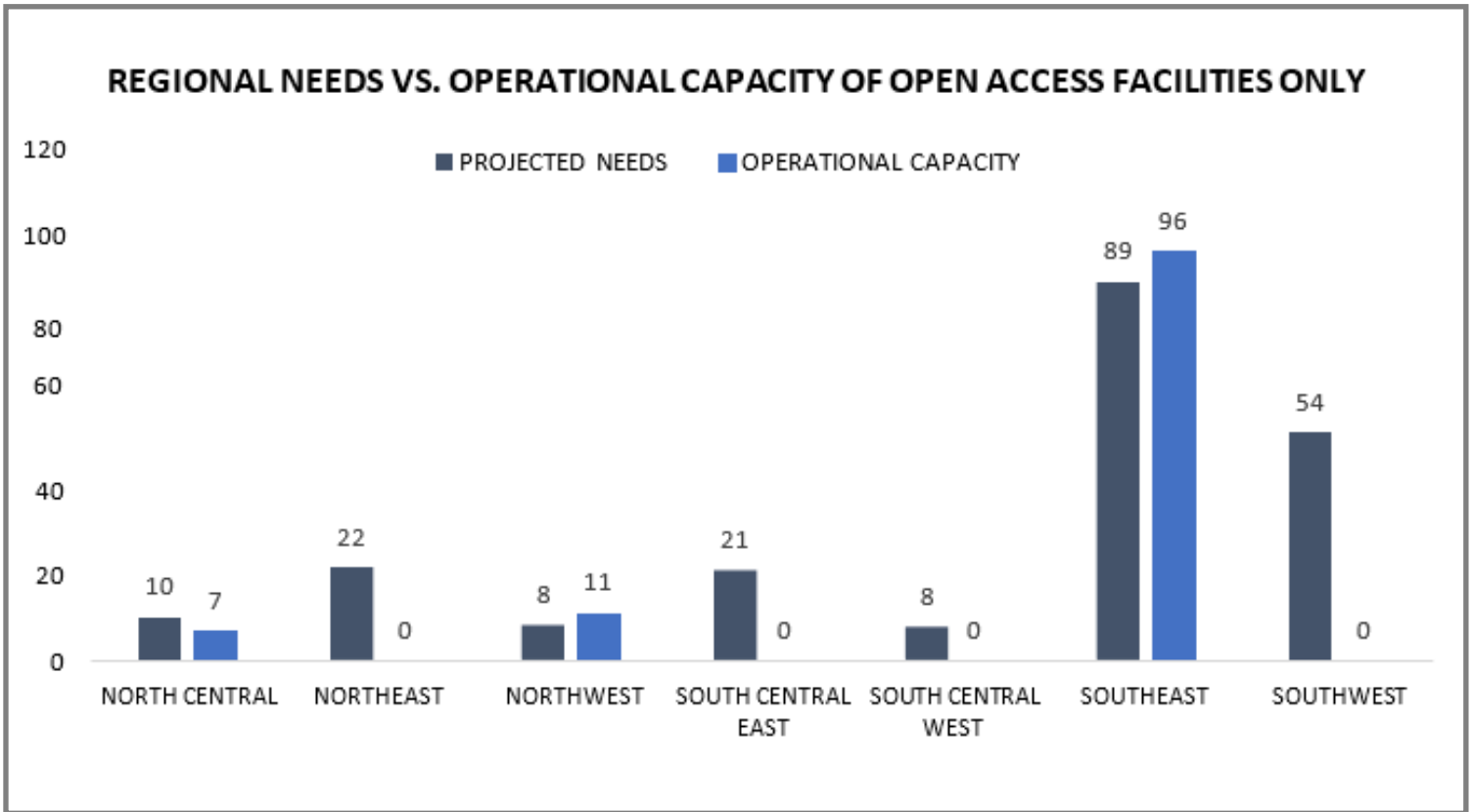
Regional Needs Vs. Operational Capacity of All Operating Facilities*



*Manor Detention and Middle Creek are included in these figures.

Open Access Facilities Only: The chart and map on the next page compare the projected needs by region against the available number of beds (indicated by the region’s operational capacity) of the “Open Access” facilities. Only the counties without access to their own detention facility are included in the figures. Currently, there are no open access detention facilities open in the Northeast region, the South Central East region, the South Central West region, and the Southwest region, which demonstrates the four geographic areas with the greatest needs.

Please Note: Allegheny County is included in the Projected Needs identified below, though Manor Detention and Middle Creek are not included in the Capacity figures.



COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

2023 PENNSYLVANIA PREVENTION AWARD WINNER, “COURAGEOUSLY CREATES”

Congratulations to Josh Leskovac, Chief of Mercer County Juvenile Probation Department. Josh won the 2023 Pennsylvania Prevention Award for “Courageously Creates” from the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA). He will be honored during Prevention Week at CPA’s Annual Conference in June. CPA will be celebrating prevention efforts occurring across the Commonwealth. The “Courageously Creates” award is given to a person who, “Exhibits collaborative and innovative approaches when it comes to prevention, science, promising programs, and community-led initiatives.” Due to his reputation and long-time membership on numerous statewide prevention boards, Josh was appointed Chair of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) Statewide Delinquency Prevention Committee where he has assisted statewide leaders in the development of strategic plans that will help guide prevention efforts in juvenile justice for years to come. Josh is a visionary and courageously creates opportunities for growth. Josh is the Chair of the Communities That Care Coalition. His department plays an active role in all the Mercer County school district’s Student Assistant Program (SAP). Most recently Josh identified Girls On The Run (GOTR) as being a potential universal prevention program for the girls in Mercer County. Josh secured court support for his department to pilot this promising program for one year. Upon determining its potential, Josh collaborated with CYS to secure funding, acquired support from the Mercer County Commissioners and coordinated with a local service provider for initial facilitation. GOTR is now being facilitated in nine school districts. Josh has laid the groundwork with many more innovative ideas to expand delinquency prevention efforts in his county and has earned the respect of his community leaders who know he will continue to ask, “What’s possible?” and “What if...?”



BEAVER COUNTY REDEEM FUND AND READY YOURSELF YOUTH RANCH

In 2007, the Beaver County Court of Common Pleas President Judge Richard Mancini created and has continued to operate a restitution program. Funds come to the program from collected unpaid fines for summary offenses that were referred by the Magisterial District Offices and any youth that is placed on consent decree or formal probation pays the cost of \$50.00 to the program. Once a youth enters the program, they may complete community service at now \$15.00/hour which goes directly towards the cost owed to the victim and the youth’s supervision fees if money is available. In 2022, there were 56 youth referred to and 35 youth that successfully completed the program. There was \$12,114.96, earned in community service hours. This money was subsequently paid to victims of crimes and used for supervision fees.

Youth can earn community service hours at the Ready Yourselfes Youth Ranch (RYYR). The youth work with not only mentors but with their families as well. It gives parents the opportunity to work alongside their child and engage in effective communication in a calming serene area. This program is offered to our youth and families throughout the year so even when a youth’s case is closed, they can continue to attend.

The RYYR has also partnered with local churches in the community to help provide transportation and meals for youth. All youth that have previously attended the camp since 2017 can continue to attend the ranch once a month through the fall and winter of each year. They can groom and ride the horses and a meal is provided. The ranch averages approximately ten youth that return to the ranch.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY CELEBRATES NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK

Submitted by Michaella Mowers, Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation

In Westmoreland County, we started the week out with a circle amongst our department, we discussed crime victims and what are some of the present issues we have seen, and discussed in depth the impact of the crime on victims. Later that afternoon, our juvenile probation officers attended a training from A Child’s Place. They discussed with our officers the things that occur when a sexual abuse or child abuse case occurs. This helped the officers see how victims of such crimes go through so much more than just coming to court. On Wednesday, our officers watched the ‘Now I Speak’ Victim Impact Training. Officers were able to see how beneficial Victim Impact Statements are during the court process. On Friday, we had a training conducted by our Deputy Chief, Kristine Demnovich, on Restorative Justice and why it is important. We then ended the week with a closing circle where officers were able to discuss ways that they themselves can make a small impact on victims that come through our office, and we had creative discussions on what we as a whole could do better. We also played victim-centered games throughout the week and officers wore the theme colors as well to show support for victims!! It was an awesome week and Westmoreland County cannot wait to see what next year’s theme is!



2022 JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS

In continuation of a multi-part newsletter series, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is excited to share the Graduated Responses infographic as an visual illustration of implementation and sustainability progress for this component of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). Through a structured process, a Graduated Response system uses incentives and sanctions to foster the pro-social behavior of juvenile justice-involved youth, promote accountability, restore victims, and decrease recidivism. According to the 2022 JJSES Implementation Survey, 55 of the 67 county juvenile probation departments in Pennsylvania report to be actively engaged in Graduated Responses activities, a 15% increase from 2021.

Following a recommendation from the [Interbranch Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force \(Task Force\)](#) Interbranch Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force (Task Force), the JCJC and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO), in collaboration with the JJSES Leadership Team Graduated Response Steering Committee (Steering Committee) and with guidance from Dr. Naomi Goldstein and Irene Kramer of Drexel University, worked to develop [Standards Governing the Development and Application of Graduated Response Protocols](#). These standards, which are intended to provide guidance to the Administrative Judge of the Juvenile Court and the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and/or designee in the administration of a graduated response system, were presented to the Commission Members of the JCJC and approved as advisory standards.

The JCJC, PCCJPO, and Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) continue to support efforts to expand the use of Graduated Responses by providing ongoing training and technical assistance to county juvenile probation departments as they integrate the use of Graduated Responses into their daily practices, ensuring the sustainability of the JJSES over time. One of the ways this is achieved is through the Graduated Response Technical Assistance Mentorship (GR-TAM) Program in which participating counties receive technical assistance in the form of consultation and mentorship from other counties that have already developed and implemented Graduated Response systems. A virtual Graduated Response Peer Mentor meeting is scheduled to take place on June 29, 2023, as well as a virtual Graduated Responses Coordinator Group meeting on September 21, 2023.

The Steering Committee oversees the activity, while peer trainers provide direct support to the counties at any stage of implementation, ensuring sustainability of the activity. Members of the Steering Committee have developed supportive resources, available in JCJC's [Strategic Planning Dashboard](#), including the Graduated Response Systems Guiding Principles and Protocol Development document. The purpose of this document is to provide: 1) a philosophical, practical, and procedural overview of graduated response systems in juvenile probation; and 2) guidance for Pennsylvania counties to use when developing and implementing local graduated response policies and protocols. The Graduated Response Systems Benchcard and Graduated Responses Key Concepts are also available in JCJC's Strategic Planning Dashboard. Additional resources developed by the Steering Committee include a protocol policy and a response matrix/incentive framework.

Registration for the upcoming Graduated Response Peer Mentor or Coordinator Group meetings is available through the [JCJC Event Management System \(JEMS\)](#). Counties that are interested in training, implementation support, or technical assistance related to Graduated Responses may contact JCJC Deputy Director, Angela Work (awork@pa.gov), or Cumberland County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Andy Benner (asbenner@cumberlandcountypa.gov).

JJSES STAGE THREE:

GRADUATED RESPONSES

2022



55

DEPARTMENTS
ACTIVELY ENGAGED
IN GRADUATED RESPONSES
ACTIVITIES



HAVE STAFF/UNITS RESPONSIBLE FOR
GRADUATED RESPONSES
TRAINING AND QUALITY
ASSURANCE

HAVE A
GRADUATED RESPONSES
MATRIX

64%



DEPARTMENTS PLANNING
GRADUATED RESPONSES
ACTIVITIES
FOR FY2022-2023

69

GRADUATED
RESPONSES
COORDINATORS
STATEWIDE



HAVE THE MAJORITY OF
STAFF TRAINED
ON GRADUATED RESPONSES



HAVE A WRITTEN POLICY
ACTIVELY IN PLACE THAT
INCORPORATES GRADUATED
RESPONSES

*N=55 DEPARTMENTS FOR ALL PERCENTAGES



pennsylvania

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES HELD FOR THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION'S GRADUATE EDUCATION CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's (JCJC) Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University! Commencement was held at Shippensburg University's H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 5, 2023. The Honorable Judge David Workman, JCJC Chair, participated in the commencement ceremony processional and was seated on the stage with Shippensburg University administrators and staff to offer congratulations to the graduates as they received their diplomas.

Prior to the commencement ceremony, the JCJC graduates were recognized with a reception, hosted at the Shippensburg University Foundation Conference Center. In attendance at the reception were Judge David Workman, Judge Mitchell Shahan, Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers President Chad Libby, staff of the JCJC, Shippensburg University administrators, and faculty of the Criminal Justice Department, as well as family and friends of the graduates.

On behalf of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and Shippensburg University, we offer our congratulations to (Seated, Left to Right) Megan McMullen (Berks), Mikayla Brumbaugh (Huntingdon), Nichole Arner (Clarion), (Standing, Left to Right) Jennifer Messner (York), Kjerstin Carl-Brown (Northumberland), Esperanza Gonzalez (Luzerne), Janelle Torres (Northumberland), Abigail Runk (York), Ashley Kitchenoff (Lancaster), and Kimberly Berzonsky (Cambria), on this outstanding achievement.



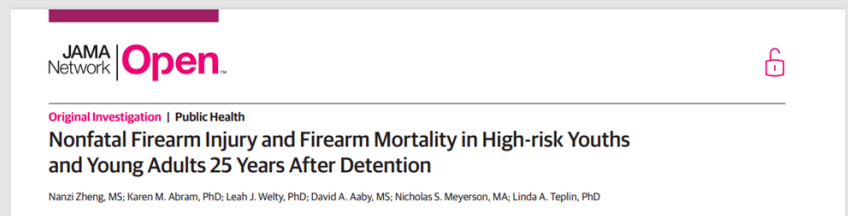
Janelle Torres, a probation officer from Northumberland County, was chosen as the Graduate Student of the Year. She will receive the Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Juvenile Justice at the James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice on November 2, 2023.

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and Shippensburg University again offer our congratulations to these students and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.

EXAMINING FIREARM INJURY AND FIREARM MORTALITY RATES AMONG HIGH-RISK YOUTH

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network recently featured the results of the first epidemiological study on firearm-related violence against juvenile justice system-involved youth. Northwestern University researchers used Northwestern Juvenile Project data to examine firearm injury and firearm mortality rates among youth after detention.

The Northwestern Juvenile Project, funded by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and National Institute of Justice, is a 25-year prospective longitudinal cohort study of 1,829 youth after juvenile detention in the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center in Chicago, Illinois.



The researchers found that:

- One-quarter of Black and Hispanic male youth in the cohort were injured or killed by firearms within 16 years after detention.
- Males in the cohort had 13.6 times the rate of firearm injury or mortality than females.
- Twenty-five years after the study began, 88 youth (4.8%) had been killed by a firearm.
- Youth previously involved with the juvenile justice system had up to 23 times the rate of firearm mortality than the general population.
- More research is needed to examine the relationship between the cohort's characteristics and higher rates. The researchers identified possible risk factors, including easy access to firearms, such as through gang involvement, substance abuse, and experiencing violence in the past, which could lead to a cycle of violence.
- Public policy recommendations include the juvenile justice system and schools adopting trauma-informed practices; medical centers expanding interventions for those who have experienced firearm violence; and improving data collection on firearm injury and death.

This free article is available online at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37083667/>. Click on the "JAMA Network Open" button in the upper right corner then click on "Download PDF".



SAVE *the* DATE

Hilton Harrisburg

**NOVEMBER
1-3, 2023**

2023 James E. Anderson

**PENNSYLVANIA
CONFERENCE
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

CONFERENCE – HOTEL INFORMATION

We are pleased to announce the room blocks at the **Hilton Harrisburg** and **Crowne Hotel** are open. Early reservations are encouraged to secure the contracted rates. Please see below for reservation details.

At the **Hilton Harrisburg**, the room block will close on 10/13/2023. Rooms are available on a first come basis. You may visit the customized link to book online, [2023 JCJC Annual Conference Room Block](#), or call 717-233-6000 and identify yourself with the Conference using **Group Code: JCJC23**. The hotel will confirm your reservation.

At the **Crowne Hotel**, the room block will close on 10/11/2023. Rooms are available on a first-come basis. You may visit the customized link to book online, [2023 JCJC Annual Conference Room Block](#), or call 717-234-5021 and identify yourself with the Conference using **GROUP CODE: CAL** in the JCJC Call-In Block. The hotel will confirm your reservation.

For general conference information, please contact us at ra-jcjevents@pa.gov.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Now Accepting Award Nominations

For the Following Categories:

Professional Awards

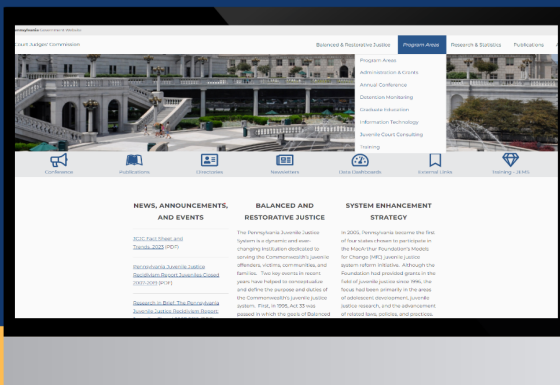
- Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year
- Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year
- Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year
- Victim Advocate of the Year
- Meritorious Service Award
- Juvenile Court Support Service Award
- Residential Program of the Year
- Court-Operated Program of the Year
- Community-Based Program of the Year

Youth Awards

- Creative Expression Contest
- Outstanding Achievement Award



How to Nominate



1. Go to www.jcjc.pa.gov
2. Select the "Conference" Tab
3. Fill Out the Nomination Form
4. Then Submit It!

DEADLINE:

AUGUST 14, 2023

For questions, contact Angel Stewart at angstewart@pa.gov or Keysla Rodriguez at keyrodrigu@pa.gov.

DEADLINE EXTENDED



Time is Running Out!

The deadline for the James E. Anderson Juvenile Justice Youth Scholarship Award nominations has been extended!

June 30, 2023

For a nomination form, please visit www.jcjc.pa.gov.

For questions, contact Angel Stewart at angstewart@pa.gov or Keysla Rodriguez at keyrodriagu@pa.gov.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

June

- 2 Child Adolescent Psychiatric Disorders - State College
- 14 Courtroom Presentation: Come Learn Better Writing and Speaking Skills - Mechanicsburg
- 15 YLS Master Trainer Recertification - Camp Hill
- 22 JCJC Technology User Group - Virtual
- 29 Graduated Responses (GR) Peer Mentor Meeting - Virtual

August

- 8-9 Motivational Interviewing (MI) Coaches - State College
- 14-16 EPICS End User Training - Greensburg
- 31 Growing Yourself Personally and Professionally - State College

September

- 6 Addiction 101 - State College
- 12 MAYSI-2 101 - Virtual
- 21 Graduated Responses (GR) Coordinator Group - Virtual
- 27 YLS Master Trainer Recertification - State College

October

- 2-6 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professional - A Blended Learning Course - Camp Hill
- 16-18 EPICS End User Training - State College
- 17 SPEPT™ Combine (Level 1 and InfoCom Collaboration) - Virtual
- 18 YLS Master Trainer Recertification - Greensburg
- 24 MAYSI-2 & CTS Coordinator Meeting - Virtual

November

- 9 Graduated Responses (GR) Peer Mentoring - Virtual

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

What Are the Upcoming Archiving and Expungement Processes in PaJCMS?

The archiving and expungement processes are two projects that are similar in execution but differ in the goal they set out to achieve. Since there are some similarities, but also key differences, each of these processes are explained in greater detail below.

Archiving Process

There is an enormous amount of data housed within the PaJCMS database. Some of this data dates back several decades. As a result, day-to-day performance within the PaJCMS web application can be negatively affected by the sheer amount of data that must be searched and sorted through to perform common daily tasks (e.g., searching for a juvenile).

The archiving process seeks to remedy this by regularly archiving records that meet certain criteria. This means that the records will no longer physically be contained within the same database but will still be accessible on-demand through the PaJCMS application. The criteria for a record to be archived are as follows:

1. The juvenile must be at least 21 years old
2. The record must have been closed for at least 10 years

Expungement Process

Due to legal requirements, expunged records must be physically separated from other data that is housed in the PaJCMS database. Much like the archiving process outlined above, the expungement process will regularly move records into a separate location.

Once a record has been expunged, it will be moved to an external location where it can reside safely away from the active records.

THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES (PCCYFS) 2023 CONFERENCE: A SESSION ON ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATION BY SERVICE PROVIDERS

On April 26, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) partnered with the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS), Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Department, and the Criminal Justice Department at Shippensburg University, to present a session at the PCCYFS 2023 Conference entitled "Oral and Written Presentation by Service Providers in the Courtroom: Insights from a Juvenile Court Judge and a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer." The session was very well attended by service providers from the delinquency and dependency systems who oftentimes appear before the court. Following an introduction and overview of the session by JCJC Executive Director Robert Tomassini, Shippensburg University Criminal Justice Professor Stephanie Jirard introduced best practices in writing thorough and professional documents commonly used by juvenile courts throughout Pennsylvania. Additionally, Prof. Jirard presented best practices regarding the oral presentation of said documents and other court testimony in the juvenile court. Her engaging teaching style, simple ideas and information, and novel approach to the material were embraced by the audience. Next, JCJC



Deputy Director Angela Work raised awareness about resources currently available through the JCJC and she showed where to find those resources on the JCJC website (<https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Publications/Pages/Juvenile-Probation-Best-Practices.aspx>). Cumberland County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Andy Benner complemented the JCJC resources with additional materials available through the Pennsylvania



Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) via its website (https://www.pachiefprobationofficers.org/juvenile_probation_best_practi.php). Finally, JCJC Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research Scott Weller moderated a panel discussion regarding oral and written presentation by service providers. The panel consisted of Lancaster County Juvenile Court Judge and JCJC Chair Hon. David Workman, Chief Benner, and BJJS Director of the Juvenile Court Services Unit Sam Lowe. Each panelist was asked a question related to oral and written presentation in the juvenile court. The panelists' answers generated quite a buzz amongst the audience and led to frank, open, and productive dialogue between the panelists and the service providers.



Justice Center

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



Courting Judicial Excellence: A Juvenile Justice Judicial Training Institute

September 24-28, 2023
Embassy Suites by Hilton Albuquerque, New Mexico
No Registration Fee

**Space is limited to 50 Judicial Officers.
Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.**

For more information, please visit:

[Courting Judicial Excellence: A Juvenile Justice Judicial Training Institute - NCJFCJ](#)



EPIS

Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support



The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™): SPEP™ Training

JJSES Stage 3 SPEP™ activity continues to spread across the state with additional juvenile probation departments receiving training to interpret SPEP™ research findings & results. During the first quarter of 2023, four department-wide SPEP™ Informed Trainings were held for the following counties: Fayette, Philadelphia, Potter, and York. Since 2019, this brings the total number of counties that have participated in a SPEP™ Informed training to thirty-eight (38), with four additional counties scheduled to receive training in the upcoming quarter. Additionally, a Level 1 SPEP™ Specialist training was held virtually on April 26 & 27. Nine juvenile probation officers representing five counties (Chester, Lycoming, McKean, Montgomery, and Philadelphia) participated in this session to increase their capacity for continued assessment of community-based and residential services.

Periodic networking sessions are provided for both the SPEP™ Informed and Level 1 Learning Communities in order to provide professional development, collaboration, and implementation support. These sessions utilize a hybrid structure of in-person and virtual meetings to ensure a consistency in application and execution of the SPEP™ throughout the state. Registration for the following sessions is now available in JEMS:

- ❖ May 11: SPEP™ Learning Community – Eastern Region to meet at PSU-Berks, Western Region to meet at PSU-Beaver
- ❖ May 30: SPEP™ Informed Community – virtual
- ❖ October 17: SPEP™ Networking: SPEP™ Informed & Learning Communities Combined – virtual

Tailored implementation packages are available to meet the varied needs of counties across the Commonwealth. These packages provide flexibility for implementation so counties can more fully realize the benefits of the SPEP™.

- ❖ It's Classified Package – an opportunity for Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists to work with providers/juvenile probation officers to classify services and provide guidance on appropriate target amount of service (e.g., duration/dosage) for optimal recidivism reduction
- ❖ Regional Assist – an opportunity for SPEP™ Informed Juvenile Probation Officers to partner with Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists and service providers to fully assess services and determine the services' potential capacity for recidivism reduction

For more information about any of our SPEP™ Packages & Training or if you'd like to host a SPEP™ training, please contact Kris Glunt, Project Manager, at ktg10@psu.edu.



PennState
College of Health and
Human Development

**EDNA BENNETT PIERCE
PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER**



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP OBSERVES NATIONAL TREATMENT COURT MONTH

May is [National Treatment Court Month](#). Join OJJDP and its partners in highlighting the important role drug treatment courts play in helping youth and families overcome the effects of substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders.

OJJDP helps communities create or expand juvenile drug treatment courts, family treatment courts, and Tribal juvenile healing to wellness courts. In 2022, OJJDP awarded more than \$29 million to drug court programs nationwide.

Awards included:

- More than \$15 million under its [Family Treatment Court Program](#).
- \$3 million to support its [Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program](#).
- \$9 million under its Drug Treatment Courts Training and Technical Assistance Program.
- \$2 million under its Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts.

OJJDP recently announced its [FY 2023 Family Treatment Court Program](#) and [FY 2023 Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program](#) funding opportunities.

OJJDP also supports:

- The [National Family Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Program](#).
- The [National Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Program](#).

RESOURCES:

- View and download OJJDP's [Drug Courts fact sheet](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP ADMINISTRATOR RYAN'S NEW BLOG DISCUSSES SCOTTSBORO BOYS LEGACY

In a new [blog](#) post, OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan discusses her recent visit to the reopening of the [Scottsboro Boys Museum](#) in Scottsboro, Alabama. The museum honors the lives and legacy of the Scottsboro Boys, nine African American teenagers who were falsely accused and imprisoned for rape in 1931.

Administrator Ryan delivered remarks at an event held at the museum commemorating the 92nd anniversary of the imprisonment, emphasizing the need for racial equity in the juvenile justice system.

"Our work will not be complete until every youth receives equitable treatment in every phase of the justice system," Ryan writes. "We cannot rest until the color of a young person's skin no longer colors the outcome of their case."

RESOURCES:

- [Read more](#) about OJJDP Administrator Ryan's remarks at the Scottsboro Boys Museum in *OJJDP News @ a Glance*, March/April 2023.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP OBSERVES MISSING OR MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS AWARENESS DAY

President Biden [proclaimed](#) May 5 as Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day in memory of the birthday of Hanna Harris, a 21-year-old Native woman from the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana who went missing on July 4, 2013.

When reported missing by her family, law enforcement did not immediately respond. Four days later a volunteer search party discovered her body. Eventually, it was learned Hanna had been raped and beaten to death, and those responsible were prosecuted in federal court.

Every year, the majority of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) reported missing are youth under the age of 18. In 2022, among AI/AN missing persons reported by law enforcement in the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC), 74 percent of females and 61 percent of males were minors. While most AI/AN youth are recovered safely, all may be endangered.

"The fact that children under the age of 18 comprise the majority of missing American Indians and Alaska Natives is not widely known," said OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan. "We need to focus our efforts on assisting Tribes and other communities to help solve the underlying problems that lead these children to go missing."

RESOURCES:

- [Visit](#) the Department of Justice's Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons webpage.
- [Read](#) the OJJDP/USMS/FBI 2022 NCIC fact sheet on missing Indigenous youth.
- Access OJJDP's Missing and Exploited Children [webpage](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

HHS SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has launched the [Children and Youth Resilience Challenge](#). This initiative invites proposals for community-led solutions to promote the resilience and mental health of children and youth affected by COVID-19 and other disasters.

Proposals that advance equity for historically underserved communities are encouraged. Community-based and youth-led organizations, youth-serving entities, and individuals are eligible to apply.

Proposals are due **July 7, 2023**.

The Challenge is part of the [President's Unity Agenda and Mental Health Strategy](#).

RESOURCES:

- Check out [OJJDP's Model Programs Guide](#) literature review on [mental health and the juvenile justice system](#).
- 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.

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.

