



PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 34, Number 10

October 2023

WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2023 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

The 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will hold thirteen separate training workshops on Thursday, November 2, 2023. The workshops this year will highlight programs, practices, and initiatives that benefit, engage, and apply to youth, communities, and stakeholders in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system or that exemplify best practices related to the various components of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. These workshops will be repeated in both the morning and afternoon sessions for conference participants.

THE WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

- Meeting the Needs of Youth With Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Creating Trauma-Informed Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems
- Juvenile Adjudicative Competency to Stand Trial: Issues, Concerns, and Programming Options
- Engaging Justice-Involved Youth Through "Homegrown" Services
- From the Front Lines: Perspectives From Youth and Staff Involved in America's Gun Violence Epidemic
- Building Caring Connections for Youth: The Black Girls Equity Alliance
- How the Juvenile Justice System Can Better Serve Victims
- The Juvenile Court's Role in Prevention
- Engage With Us: Embracing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Outreach Efforts in Probation Services
- Best Practices for Providing Educational Services in Juvenile Justice Settings
- Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: Some Trends You Should Know
- Interest of Justice Determinations: What Juvenile Justice Professionals Need to Know
- Engaging Crisis Intervention Teams to Improve Mental Health Services

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Annual Awards Program

On September 6, 2023, the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC) Awards Committee convened to select the recipients of the 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice Annual Awards.

This year’s JCJC Awards Committee included Chair Patrick Micco (Lawrence) and Committee Members Mary Jo Battle (Erie), Michaella Mowers (Westmoreland), Nelton Neal (Allegheny), Kevin Perluke (Luzerne), Justin Popovich (Bradford), Mark Rhoads (Forest), Amy Warner (Philadelphia), Abigail Wilson (PCCYFS), Angel Stewart (JCJC), and Keysla Rodriguez (JCJC). After much deliberation, the Committee selected the following 2023 Annual Award winners:

Congratulations

Chief JPO of the Year:	Amanda Gallagher (Washington)
Juvenile Probation Supervisor:	Michelle Harris-Alexander (Chester)
Juvenile Probation Officer:	Fabiola Gerhard (Lehigh)
Juvenile Court Support Service:	Tracey Weir (Allegheny)
Victim Advocate:	Jamie Hanlon (Dauphin)
Meritorious Service:	Kevin Jackson (Nominated by Dauphin)
Court-Operated Program:	Allegheny County Drug and Alcohol Unit (Allegheny)
Residential Program:	Adelphoi Village Middle Creek Female Secure Program (Nominated by Berks)
Community-Based Program:	Wesley Family Services Aggression Replacement Training (Nominated by Allegheny)

The JCJC would like to congratulate this year’s Annual Award winners, and thank everyone for their submissions. Please join us at our Annual Awards Program on November 2, 2023. For event information, please visit www.icjc.pa.gov.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice Mobile App

Download the mobile app for the 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice from Yapp and have all the conference details in the palm of your hand.

With the mobile app, attendees are able to view:

- A schedule of events that includes times, locations, descriptions
- The speakers with included bios
- The important documents like CJE and CLE
- A floor plan map of the hotel to assist in finding events that you might want to attend
- A list of exhibitors that will be present on Friday's Resource Day
- The push notifications that will alert attendees of important information and upcoming events
- A list of workshops, descriptions, and (in some cases) supplemental workshop materials

Visit <https://my.yapp.us/JCJC2023> on your device and click "Download" to download the Yapp app. Or you can visit the link on your computer and text yourself the download link. Finally, you can use your camera to scan the QR code.


Once downloaded, simply open Yapp and you will see the 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice event.

To build your own personalized agenda, open the conference by clicking on the icon on the home screen. Then, click on "Schedule" located on the bottom of the home screen. Then choose the type of session you would like to add to your schedule. In the example to the right, "Workshops" was selected. Then select the event you would like to add, select "Add to My Schedule." Do this for all the events you wish to attend. To view your personalized agenda, select the calendar icon in the top right corner of the schedule screen.

2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

Install on your mobile device

1. On your smartphone, visit <https://my.yapp.us/JCJC2023> or use the QR code

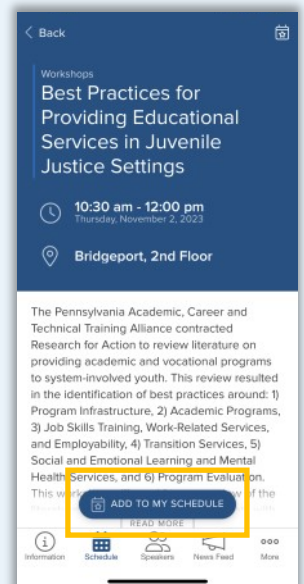
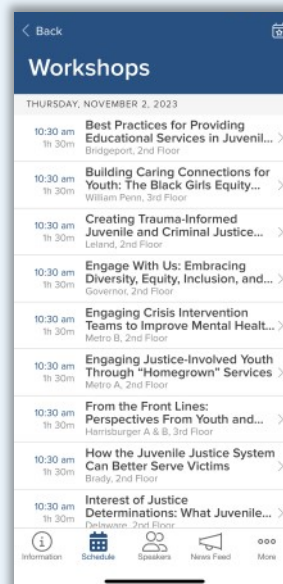
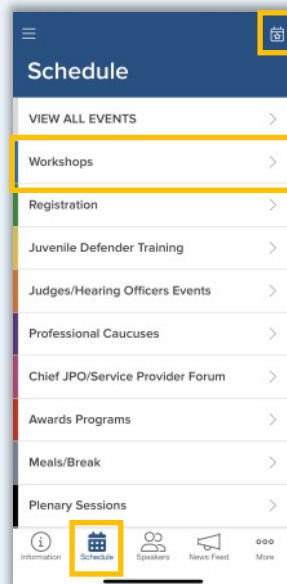


Enlarge

2. Follow the instructions on screen (it's a quick, two step process)

Already have the Yapp App installed?

1. Tap "Download existing app" or the green "+" button (top right)
2. When asked for the Yapp ID, enter: **JCJC2023**
3. Press the device keyboard's enter button, or tap "Add" at top right



WASHINGTON COUNTY: LEADER AND JOBS PROGRAMS SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Amanda Gallagher, Chief, Washington County Probation Department

Washington County put together some highlights of activities the youth active with their department participated in this summer. For example, youth are referred to the Leadership Enhanced Attitude Development Educational Rehabilitation (LEADER) program to help develop self-esteem, social skills, independent living skills, and to improve academic/classroom skills through positive leadership traits. LEADER deters youth from delinquent activity within the community, reduces placement costs, and returns the youth to the community as a productive member. Youth are referred to the Jobs program based on their assessed need to acquire job-related skills and experiences.

Under the guidance of Supervisor Nick Davidson, who recently celebrated 39 years with the courts, youth in both the LEADER and Jobs programs were very active with treatment services and educational programming, and were out in the community learning to be of service and some new ways to spend free time. Some of the activities highlighted were The Riverbank Clean up in Donora removing trash from the riverbank and Community Work Service Projects at the Marrianna Outdoorsman Association which included youth painting benches, cleaning event spaces, planting flower beds, and building and installing mile markers at the Claysville Trail. The Jobs program also maintains a large stretch of the trail throughout the summer months. The LEADER program assisted in preparing the Pony World Series Field for the World Series to take place by pulling weeds, mulching, and stacking the coolers. The youth participated in the BASS Fishing Program run by juvenile probation officers Josh Tustin, Greg Papson, and Patrick Bonner.

An ongoing vegetable garden project with both programs took place throughout the spring and summer. The youth built raised garden beds from scratch at the Job program located at the Washington County Airport and continued to maintain their previously built garden at the LEADER program located at Washington Park Elementary School. Both gardens had successful yields of veggies this year and the youth learned how to make pickles and salsa among other meals. Thanks to juvenile probation officer Kelly Boyd and juvenile probation monitor Patrick Frey for their leadership and dedication throughout the summer on the garden project.

The youth are also involved with Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and therapists from Innersight facilitates a psychoeducational group for the youth aimed at improving their emotional well-being, developing healthier coping mechanisms, and fostering positive relationships in their daily lives. The Sexual Trauma Treatment and Recovery Services (STTARS) program, a victim service agency, gave the youth a presentation on sexual harassment, date rape and date rape drugs, and online safety, and the Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission presented programming related to alcohol and addiction, marijuana, opioid abuse, and e-cigarettes and vaping.



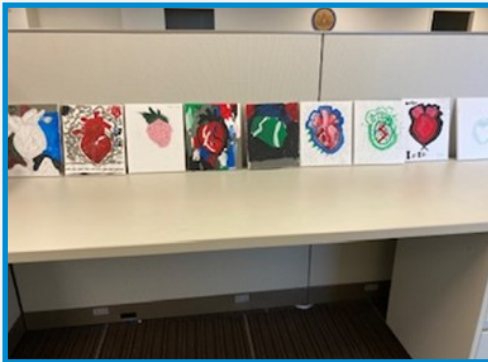
PHILADELPHIA FAMILY COURT CELEBRATES JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK

Submitted by Philadelphia Family Court Juvenile Probation Department

October 1-7, 2023, marked Juvenile Justice Week in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Activities were scheduled throughout the week by Juvenile Probation's Community Relations Unit to acknowledge staff contributions as well as engage youth in constructive events throughout the City of Philadelphia. The theme for the week was centered around "healing." Also during the week, the Honorable Margaret T. Murphy, Administrative Judge for Family Court, presided over a swearing-in ceremony for 15 juvenile probation officers.

Healing Through Sports

This event took place at the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Center. A skills drill and relay with youth were part of the activities. Youth enjoyed a co-ed kickball game that juvenile probation officers and the Department of Human Services staff participated in.



Healing Through Art and Through Entrepreneurship

In partnership with the Mural Arts Program, the arts event focused on engaging youth with how they can utilize painting to cope, express, and release feelings they may have surrounding traumatic events. During the second community event, young people were introduced to the world of t-shirt printing and design. Through hands-on workshops and mentorship, participants learned the art of designing and printing unique t-shirts.

Juvenile Probation Officer Trainee Swearing-In Ceremony

Swearing-In Ceremony of 15 new juvenile probation officers presided by the Honorable Margaret T. Murphy.



Healing Through Conversation

An evening was spent with families who had been impacted by gun violence. It was an opportunity to discuss how gun violence impacted their lives. Stakeholders from Mother's in Charge and Voices by Choices aided in the facilitation of the conversation. Representatives from various victim service departments throughout the city were present for the community event and provided resources to families.

Healing Through Self-Care

This event was offered to all juvenile probation staff. Led by our Community Relations Unit, the training was designed as an opportunity to create a space to experience movement and meditation. It was also an opportunity to re-affirm the importance of self-care as a preventative measure to manage stressors and maintain positive wellbeing.

Thank you to our Community Relations Unit for coordinating these events, and for making 2023 Juvenile Justice Week memorable!!

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

JCJC TECHNOLOGY USER GROUP RECAP

The Juvenile Courts Judges' Commission (JCJC) Technology User Group was held on October 12, 2023, in State College. Thirty-two participants from 18 counties attended this informative event, which was only the second in-person Technology User Group since 2018. The morning session covered Infographics, Research Updates, IT Projects & Processes, Data Integrity regarding the Annual Report, and a county showcase of the PaJCMS Supervisor Module presented by Deputy Chief Shawn Forbes, Allegheny County. The afternoon session included information on PaJCMS Enhancements, a county showcase of the custom PaJCMS Reports demonstrated by Connie Barone, Westmoreland County, and a PaJCMS question and answer session. All sessions were well-received, and the feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. If anyone would like information on having custom reports created for your county, please contact the JCJC Help Desk at RA-JCJCHELPDESK@pa.gov.

We look forward to our next JCJC Technology User Group!

November

- 9 Graduated Responses (GR) Peer Mentoring - Virtual
- 15 Case Planning 101 Training for Coordinators: A Foundational Training Curriculum for Implementation in Your County Department - State College

Registration available at www.jcjcems.pa.gov



The 2024 JCJC
Staff Development
Schedule,
to be released in December.

REGIONAL FORUMS HELD FOR THOSE THAT SERVE VICTIMS OF JUVENILE CRIME

Submitted by Angela Mackley, Victim Services Committee Chair and Franklin County Juvenile Probation Deputy Chief

Two forums for those that serve victims of juvenile crime were held across Pennsylvania. These forums provided the opportunity to learn more about restorative practices for the victims of juvenile crime as well as networking opportunities for those working in the field. The 2022 Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Victim Advocate of the Year, Diane Weaver-Thomas, was the keynote speaker. She shared her role and responsibilities as a Restorative Practices Advocate, information on the differences between community dialogue and victim offender dialogue, and the Healing Rivers Project. She also had attendees participate in a mock victim offender dialogue to demonstrate the process.



Eighty-six people registered for events that occurred at the Center for Victims in Allegheny County and Berks County. Connections were made and resources were shared by all who attended. The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer's Victims Services Committee is already making plans for next year's forums.

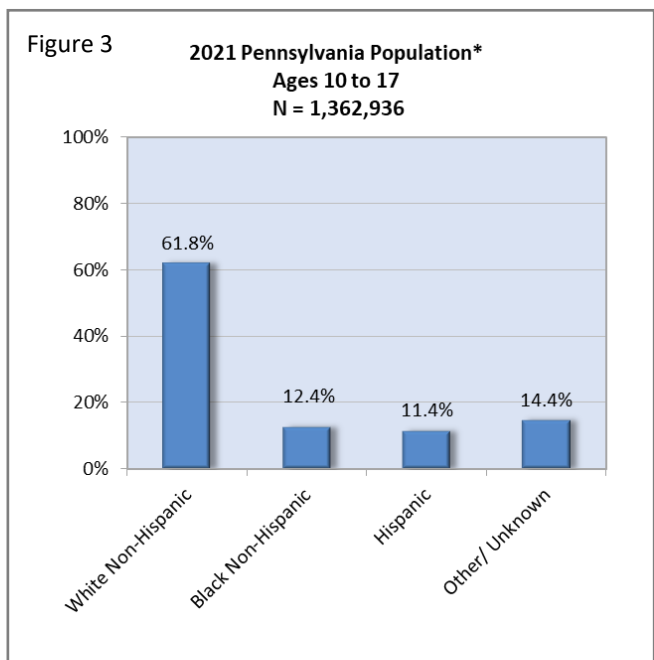
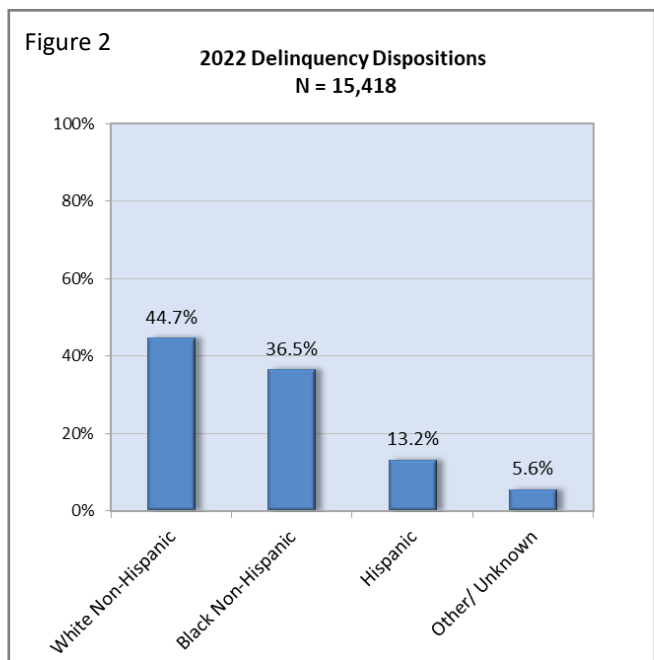
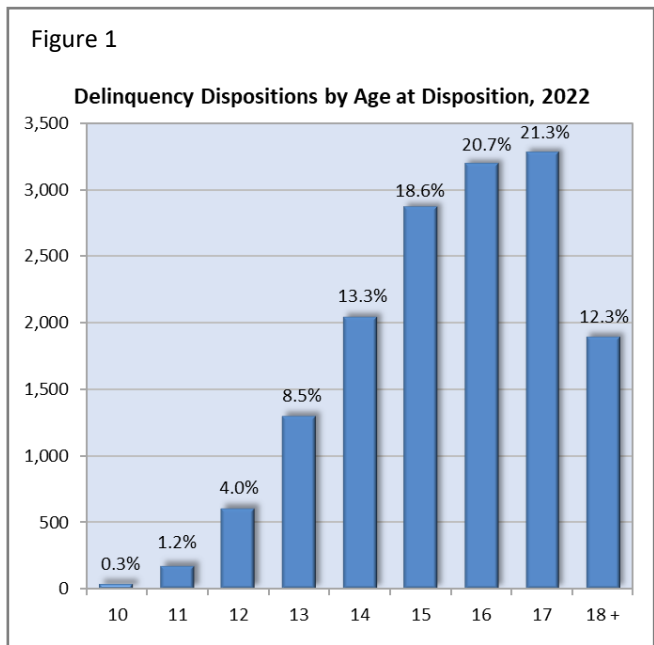
PENNSYLVANIA'S 2022 JUVENILE COURT ANNUAL REPORT

Juvenile Demographics, School-Related Offenses and YLS Assessments

As we wrap up the series of newsletter highlights on the Pennsylvania 2022 Juvenile Court Annual Report, this issue examines the juvenile demographics, including age and race/ethnicity, and the newly added school-related offenses and initial Youth Level of Service™ (YLS) assessments of juveniles who entered the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System in 2022.

Seventeen-year-olds accounted for 3,282 (21.3%) of all juvenile delinquency dispositions in 2022, representing the most dispositions for any age group (See Figure 1). Juveniles aged 16 accounted for 3,192 (20.7%), while 15-year-olds accounted for 2,866 (18.6%) of the dispositions.

In 2022, White Non-Hispanic youth represented the largest racial/ethnic category for all delinquency dispositions (See Figure 2). However, in comparison to the racial/ethnic distribution of all youth in Pennsylvania ages 10-17 (See Figure 3), the representation of Black Non-Hispanic youth is disproportionate: 12.4% of the total population versus 36.5% of all delinquency dispositions. When excluding Philadelphia County and Allegheny County, Black Non-Hispanic youth represent 7.2% of the youth population, but 27.5% of all delinquency dispositions.



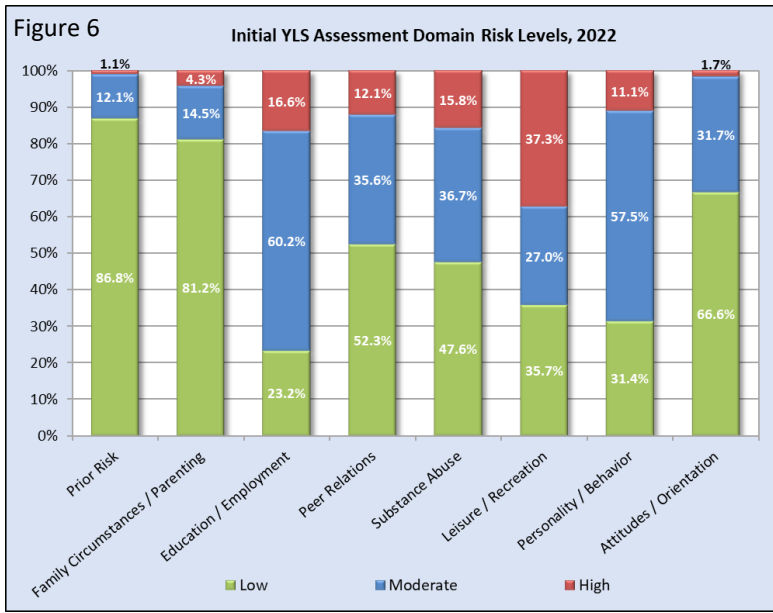
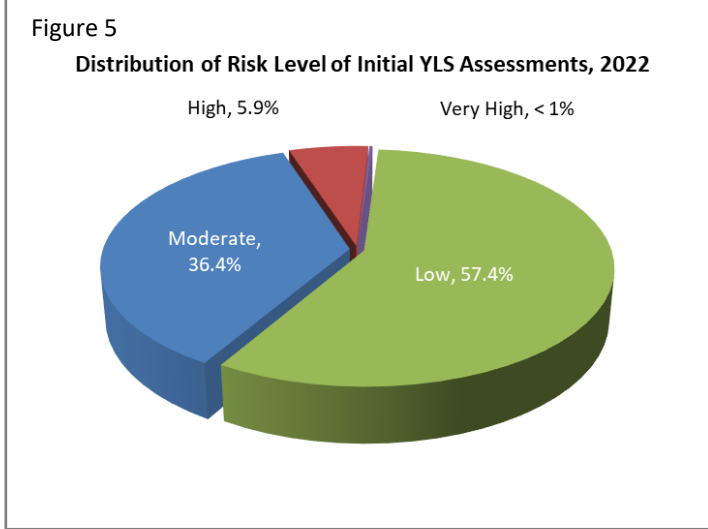
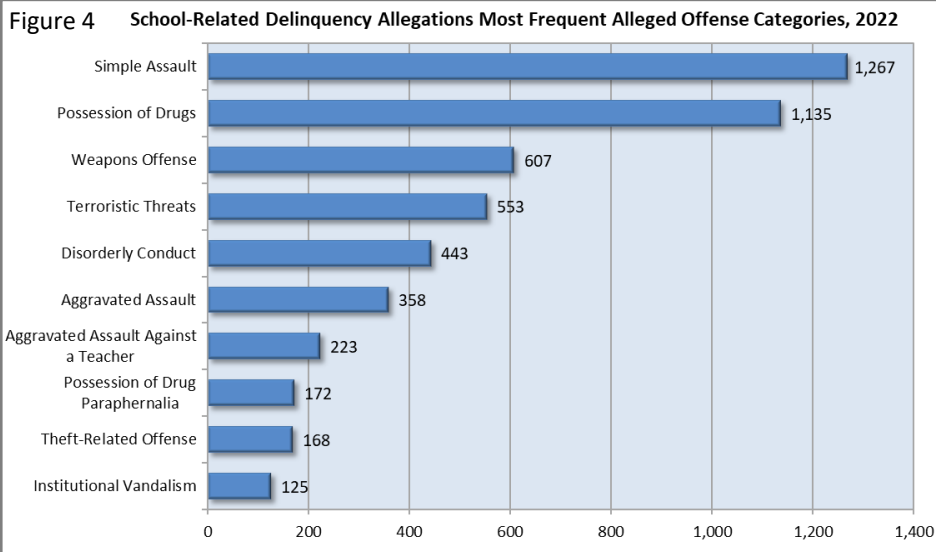
*United States Census Bureau data was used to calculate population statistics in this report. In previous years, these population figures were retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control. As such, the reader is cautioned when comparing population figures in this report to previous Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Annual Reports. At the time of publication of this report, the United States Census Bureau had not yet published 2022 population figures. Consequently, 2021 population figures were utilized, which can be retrieved here: <https://data.census.gov>.

In 2015, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission added a field to the statewide Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) to identify school-related offenses, making this a mandatory field in June 2021. A school-related offense is defined as any offense committed in the school setting, including in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop, or at any activity sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the school.

Failure to comply offenses are not included. The information in Figure 4 was compiled based on the most serious alleged offense for each juvenile delinquency allegation received in Pennsylvania in 2022. That is, only one offense per delinquency allegation is counted in those figures. There were 6,154 delinquency allegations received in 2022 with a most serious alleged offense identified as school-related, which is 31.6% of all delinquency allegations.

The YLS, the cornerstone of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy, is designed to: 1) identify a juvenile's risk to re-offend and 2) identify those criminogenic needs that are driving a juvenile's delinquent behavior. Statewide data indicate that most juveniles entering the juvenile justice system are either low or moderate risk to reoffend (57.4% and 36.4%, respectively) (See Figure 5). Additionally, statewide data indicate that juveniles are most likely to have needs related to the YLS domains of Education/Employment, Personality/Behavior, and Leisure/Recreation (See Figure 6).

Additional juvenile demographic information, school-related allegations and weapon use, as well as county-specific data can be found at: <https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Research-Statistics/Disposition Reports/2022 Juvenile Court Annual Report.pdf>.





EPIS

Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support



International Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™) Learning Lab

An international Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™) Learning Lab (SLL) has recently been established through a collaborative effort between EPIS at Penn State University and Dr. Gabrielle Chapman (Center for Translational Justice Research at Vanderbilt University), with support from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), and the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO). An inaugural SLL meeting was held in May of this year, with a subsequent meeting held in September. Participation has had a broad reach, with attendance by SPEP™ implementation staff from 13 different states, as well as Australia.

The SLL events are centered on the three SPEP™ practice pillars of Partnership, Education, and Transparency, and are designed to bring implementation staff together from multiple jurisdictions to connect, collaborate, and learn. The meetings will provide opportunities for peer learning, problem solving, and developer updates. The first session served as a foundational meeting, outlining the overall philosophy and the format for future meetings, and identifying topics of interest. The most recent session focused on Service Classification — providing participating jurisdictions with an opportunity to share their current resources, identify their current practices, and troubleshoot their common challenges.

Pennsylvania remains a leader and innovator in the implementation of the SPEP™, and the SLL will provide a platform for the SPEP™ Process Development Team to continue to strengthen the implementation practices here in Pennsylvania, while also supporting positive growth of the SPEP™ on a global level.

Those with questions about the SPEP™ SLL are encouraged to contact Kris Glunt, SPEP™ Project Manager, at ktg10@psu.edu.



PennState
College of Health and
Human Development

**EDNA BENNETT PIERCE
PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER**



Send Us Your Juvenile Justice Week Activities!

If you have held Juvenile Justice activities in your county recently, email us at ra-oajcnews@pa.gov and we'll feature them in a future issue.



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

President Biden [proclaimed](#) October 11, 2023, as International Day of the Girl. The proclamation highlights the Administration's ongoing steps to support girls' education, promote gender equality, and ensure the safety and wellbeing of girls and young women.

The White House also released a [fact sheet](#) enumerating investments in young people and girls across the globe including OJJDP's [Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System](#). OJJDP awarded more than \$4 million in new funding awards to help communities develop, enhance, or expand early intervention programs and treatment services for girls who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

Yesterday, OJJDP Administrator Ryan attended the "Girls Leading Change" celebration where [First Lady Jill Biden honored 15 young women leaders](#), selected by the White House Gender Policy Council, who are leading change and shaping a brighter future in their communities across the United States.

"These young women are protecting and preserving the earth, writing and sharing stories that change minds, and turning their pain into purpose. Together, they represent the potential of young people across the country, and it is my hope that others can learn from the power of their innovation, strength, and hope."

—First Lady Jill Biden



RESOURCES:

- Read the White House's first-ever "[U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence: Strategies for Action](#)."
- Read and download the OJJDP's bulletin on "[Girls in the Juvenile Justice System](#)."
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), September/October 2023.

This issue's [Message from the Administrator](#) and a special feature highlight Youth Justice Action Month and the importance of gathering input from youth on how the juvenile justice system can be made more responsive to their needs.

The top story reports on the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's September meeting, which focused on a Harris County, TX, program which offers a variety of community-based services for system-involved youth in one location.

The Tribal Connections section features an Indigenous youth research-

ing the effects of invasive plant species on traditional medicinal plants, a program designed to deter substance misuse by strengthening the resilience of youth living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska's one-stop Youth Crisis Intervention Center.

Other features in this issue—

- [Deterring Violence with Opportunity](#)
- [Pride Justice Resource Center Provides Training, Resources to Ensure Equity for Justice-Involved LGBTQ2S+ Youth](#)
- [News in Brief](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

RESOURCES:

- [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), September/October 2023 (NCJ 307310) is available [online](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [Facebook](#).

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS RELEASES 2022 SCHOOL CRIME AND SAFETY REPORT

The [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) (BJS) and the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (NCES) have released [Report on Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2022](#).

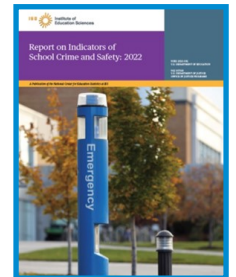
This is the 25th edition of an annual report that provides the most recent national data on crime and safety in schools. It serves as a reference for policymakers and practitioners to develop effective programs and policies aimed at violence and school crime prevention.

The report highlights select findings from 23 [indicators](#) on various school crime and safety topics. It examines data on violent deaths and school shootings, nonfatal criminal victimization, bullying victimization, and teacher victimization. The report also presents statistics on discipline problems, gangs, hate-related speech, weapons, and illegal drugs, as well as data on student perceptions of school safety.

This report includes [Indicator 2: Incidence of Victimization at School and Away From School](#), which presents data from BJS's [National Crime Victimization Survey](#). Each of the 23 indicators is featured in the [Condition of Education](#) report on the NCES website.

RESOURCES:

- See [OJJDP's Model Programs Guide](#) to learn about programs promoting school safety.
- View the federal school safety website [SchoolSafety.gov](#).
- [Learn](#) about OJJDP's data analysis tools.
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as 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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