



### AFTERNOON PLENARY ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2023 JAMES E. ANDERSON PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

#### “Together We Can: Building Safe, Strong, and Healthy Communities”



The plenary session will be facilitated by Michael Umpierre with contributions from a panel of varied system and community partners who will describe their unique roles, programs, and strategies that contribute to the health, safety, and well-being of youth, families, and communities.

Michael Umpierre is the Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR), where he is responsible for overseeing all of CJJR’s programs, initiatives, research, and operations.

Michael has dedicated his career to improving the lives of youth, particularly those who are underprivileged, vulnerable, and most in need. He has a wealth of experience as a juvenile justice administrator, national trainer and consultant, public defender and youth advocate. His previous experience includes serving as the Chief of Staff of the District of Columbia’s cabinet-level juvenile justice agency, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, Program Coordinator of the National Center for Youth in Custody, and trial attorney at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. He has also worked at several youth advocacy organizations including the Youth Law Center, National Center for Youth Law, Legal Services for Children, and Pacific Juvenile Defender Center.

Michael received a B.A. in Public Policy from Stanford University and a J.D. from Yale Law School, and is a recipient of the prestigious John Gardner Public Service Fellowship and Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. Michael and his wife Rachael are the proud parents of their son Alexander and daughter Josephine.

#### INSIDE:

- Tyler McCoy Joins JCJC.....2
- Pennsylvania Rule of Juvenile Court Procedure 405.....2
- Governor Shapiro Proclaims Juvenile Justice Week October 1 - 7, 2023.....3
- Save the Date: 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice .....3
- Community Garden Project, Lawrence County .....4
- JCJC’s Graduate Education Program Alumni Spotlight .....5
- 2023 JCJC Data Infographics Released .....6
- 2022 JJSES Implementation Survey Results.....8
- Pennsylvania’s 2022 Juvenile Court Annual Report Highlights.....10
- Staff Development Highlights .....11
- Organizational Leadership Development for Criminal Justice Professionals: A Review .....11
- JCJC Technology User Group .....11
- Technology Corner.....12
- Annual SPEP™ Combine .....12
- National Juvenile Justice Announcements .....13

# JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION UPDATES

## TYLER MCCOY JOINS JCJC



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce that Tyler McCoy has joined our team as our new Business Analyst 2 at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) on September 25, 2023. Born and raised in Chambersburg Pennsylvania, Tyler began his career in retail management for AT&T. In 2019, Tyler joined the Department of Transportation and was the Site Supervisor for the Driver's License Center in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Later in 2021, Tyler pivoted in his career and accepted a role outside of the Commonwealth as a Project Coordinator supporting technical projects to get more exposure to IT. Tyler is excited to join the JCJC and to continue to grow his skills in IT.

In his free time, Tyler enjoys spending time with his wife and 10-month-old son. Tyler also enjoys golfing with his friends.

## PENNSYLVANIA RULE OF JUVENILE COURT PROCEDURE 405

On September 11, 2023, the Supreme Court adopted Pennsylvania Rule of Juvenile Court Procedure 405 governing the admission of a certified forensic lab report in lieu of the expert appearing and testifying in court.

This new rule is intended to increase the consistency among the bodies of rules for prosecutors and defenders crossing over from criminal proceedings to delinquency proceedings, as well as to relieve the burden of experts appearing when lab reports are uncontested. Under this rule, the attorney for the Commonwealth may seek to admit a forensic laboratory report as evidence without expert testimony if the notice requirements are met and no demand for the presence of the expert is made. If the juvenile makes such a demand, the expert is required to testify before the report can be admitted into evidence.

Please note, due to the prompt adjudicatory hearing requirements if a juvenile is detained, the new rule applies only to any adjudicatory hearing of a non-detained juvenile. Additionally, nothing in the rule is intended to preclude a stipulation agreed to by the parties for the admission of the report without the expert's presence.

The order, rule text, and adoption report can be found using the following links:

Order: <https://www.pacourts.us/assets/opinions/Supreme/out/Order%20Entered%20-%20105665665238847394.pdf?cb=1>

Rule Text: <https://www.pacourts.us/assets/opinions/Supreme/out/Attachment%20-%20105665665238847837.pdf?cb=1>

Adoption Report: <https://www.pacourts.us/assets/opinions/Supreme/out/Adoption%20Report%20-%20105665665238847846.pdf?cb=1>

This rule becomes effective January 1, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact JCJC Executive Director Bob Tomassini at [rtomassini@pa.gov](mailto:rtomassini@pa.gov) or (717) 787-6910.

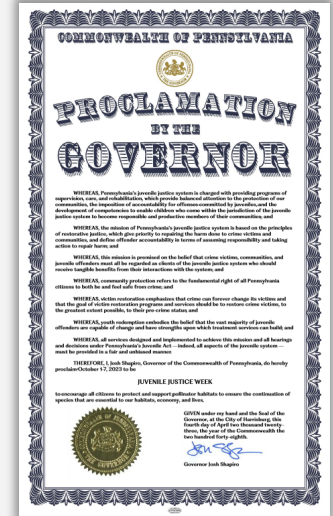
# GOVERNOR SHAPIRO PROCLAIMS JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK

## OCTOBER 1 - 7, 2023

Governor Josh Shapiro proclaimed the week of October 1 – October 7, 2023 as Juvenile Justice Week in Pennsylvania. Juvenile probation departments across the Commonwealth are encouraged to utilize Juvenile Justice Week as an opportunity to engage the public about the mission and outcomes of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system.

The proclamation notes that Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system is charged with “providing programs of supervision, care, and rehabilitation, which provide balanced attention to the protection of our communities, the imposition of accountability for offenses committed by juveniles, and the development of competencies to enable children who come within the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system to become responsible and productive members of their communities.”

We encourage Chief Juvenile Probation Officers to send media accounts of local Juvenile Justice Week activities to [ra-oajcjnews@pa.gov](mailto:ra-oajcjnews@pa.gov) for publication in a special section celebrating Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice Week. Please have all entries submitted by October 20, 2023.



# SAVE *the* DATE

Click [here](#) to register or visit the link below.

*Hilton Harrisburg*

**NOVEMBER  
1-3, 2023**

*2023 James E. Anderson*  
**PENNSYLVANIA  
CONFERENCE  
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

To register, visit: <https://www.jcjcjems.pa.gov/CPS/ConferenceDefault.aspx>.

**HOTEL INFORMATION** - 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-jcjcevents@pa.gov](mailto:ra-jcjcevents@pa.gov).

### COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT, LAWRENCE COUNTY

*Submitted by Lawrence County Juvenile Probation Department*

Since its inception in 2005, the Community Garden Project has grown and transformed over the years, making it one of the most successful endeavors created by the Lawrence County Juvenile Probation Department that helps juveniles pay back victims of crime within the community.

The project's main goal is to teach accountability to the juveniles by working in the garden – from seed to sow – to pay off fines and make restitution that's owed to their victims. This program also instills in the youth the importance of giving back to their community while learning skills to nourish and grow a garden.

Three different programs participate in the Garden Project:

- **AMENDS** – Created for individuals who have a nonpayment of fines at the magistrate level.
- **Community Awareness Response Program (CARP)** – Assigned as a community service program.
- **RESTORE** – Implemented so juveniles can work to pay off up to \$500 toward court costs and restitution owed in their cases.

The Garden Project not only provides the opportunity for juveniles in need of community service hours, but it also teaches them how to till, plant, and tend a garden while paying off their fines. The youth pick the produce and sell them to the community at the courthouse.



In 2016, the project added a Pumpkin Decorating Contest using the gourds grown in the garden. The contest rules were simple: purchase a pumpkin at the juvenile probation department, decorate it and enter it to be judged. Community members and courthouse employees voted on their favorite pumpkins, with a winner announced and awarded a prize. A live auction followed in which the pumpkins were awarded to the highest bidder. All proceeds benefited the RESTORE fund.

In 2017 and 2018, Spurdute Farms donated the pumpkins, and from 2019-2021, the Juvenile Probation Department donated plastic pumpkins for the contest.

In 2019, a silent auction was added as a trial run in conjunction with the pumpkin decorating contest. Twenty-one handcrafted items were featured and auctioned as part of the fundraising campaign. For community service hours, juveniles on probation would help create craft items from beginning to end. More than \$500 was raised that year.

“There are a lot of community service opportunities out there but not many like this,” said Amy Paiano, Probation Office Aide. “The kids may not enjoy pulling apart pallets, sanding and painting them, but in the end, some are very excited to see what they help create.”

She added, “It’s something they can be proud of. And if we can help in any way – to give them the skills they didn’t have before or see they can make things without a lot of money – then, I think it’s worth our efforts.”

A talented crafter and artist, Paiano has helped spearhead this initiative and helps create most of the projects.



Two projects shared the spotlight in 2020 and 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 craft auction, featuring 35 items, was held online and raised more than \$600. The following year, 68 items were created or donated and displayed in person, raising more than \$1,300. Among the items featured were wood creations made from pallets, which were broken down, sanded and painted into works of art.

Last year, the silent auction featured 62 handcrafted items, raising more than \$1,800.

“The Juvenile Probation Office has been supported since the beginning of this adventure from the entire courthouse and its employees, including judges and county commissioners,” noted Lisa Haddad, Deputy Chief and a key member of the initiative, “The craft auction has become quite the event where staff start to have bidding wars with each other, all for a good cause, supporting our juveniles and the RESTORE working restitution program.

“It has been an overall morale booster, while at the same time raising funds to keep kids working,” she added, “Staff can’t wait to see what one-of-a-kind items we’ve come up with next.”

The final touches are being added to this year’s crafts, as more than 65 items will be on display before the bidding begins during the last week of September. As in the past, all proceeds from the 2023 auction will benefit the RESTORE program.

As soon as the auction closes and tables are cleared, the juvenile probation department begins planning for next year’s auction and pumpkin decorating contest.

## JCJC’S GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

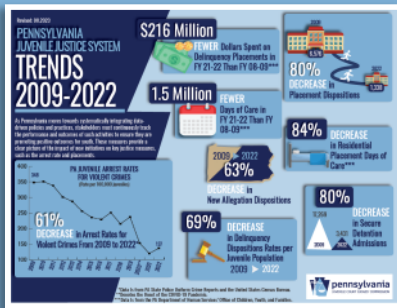
**How did the coursework in the Graduate Education Program advance your knowledge and skills while working in Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system?**

*As a recent graduate of the Administration of Juvenile Justice education program, I fully endorse the program as it has impacted me in both a professional and personal capacity. The various counties represented in the program generated diverse discussions and the connections I fostered became a place for brainstorming and information sharing long after graduation from the program. The course work connected me to the bigger picture of the juvenile justice system goals and why continued research is imperative for advancing our work with youth and families. With a focus on leadership, policy development, and strategic planning, I returned to my department driven to share what I had learned about planning at the macro and micro levels in our juvenile justice system. I highly recommend challenging yourself through the graduate education opportunity!*

**Chandelle Cantrone – Class of 2021  
Lancaster County Office of Juvenile Probation**

# 2023 JCJC DATA INFOGRAPHICS

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission releases 9 new infographics illustrating statewide statistics in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

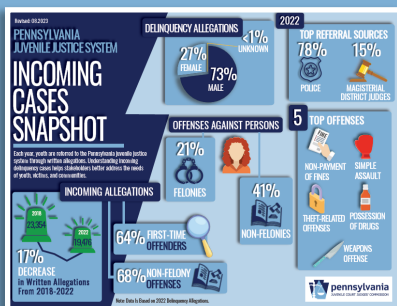
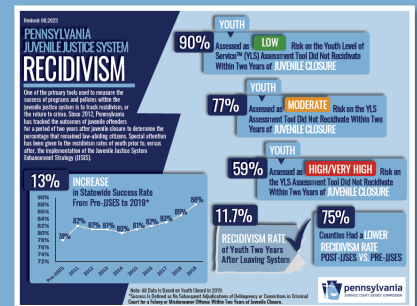


## Juvenile Justice Trends

The Juvenile Justice Trends infographic provides a clear picture of the impact of the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system on key measures, such as arrest rate and placements. This infographic presents data from 2009 to 2022.

## Recidivism

Recidivism is one of the primary tools used to measure the success of programs and policies within the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. The Recidivism infographic provides current recidivism measures and compares recidivism rates before and after the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy.

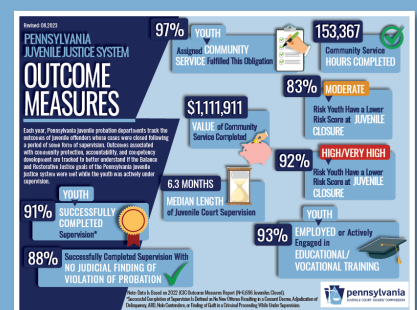


## Incoming Cases Snapshot

The Incoming Cases Snapshot infographic provides readers the opportunity to understand incoming juvenile delinquency cases in Pennsylvania. The infographic includes the five top offenses, top referral sources, and incoming demographic breakdowns in 2022.

## Outcome Measures

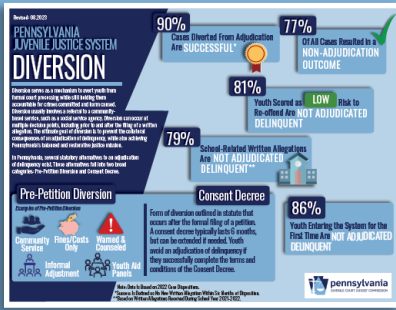
The Outcome Measures infographic presents various statistics associated with the community protection, accountability, and competency development goals in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. The infographic illustrates measures like the completion of community service obligations, successful completion of supervision, and the engagement in education/vocation training by youth.



To view infographics, visit [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov).

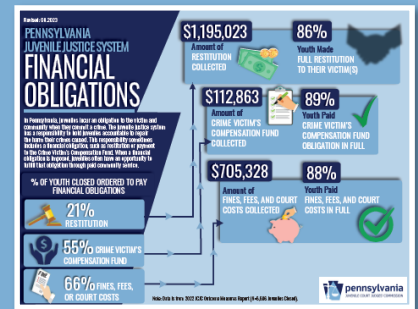
## Diversion

The goal of Diversion is to prevent collateral consequences of an adjudication of delinquency, while also achieving Pennsylvania's balanced and restorative justice mission. The Diversion infographic provides information on various diversion options available in Pennsylvania, as well as information on the utilization and success rate of this important dispositional tool.



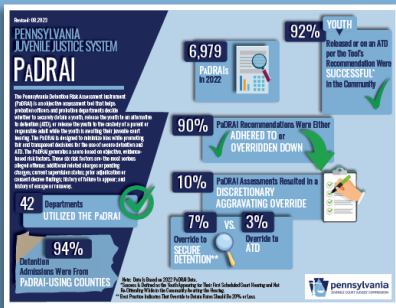
## Financial Obligations

Accountability can mean that the youth incurs a financial obligation to the victim and the community. The Financial Obligations infographic displays measures in which obligations resulted in restitution, payment to the Crime Victim's Compensation fund, or fines, fees, and court costs.



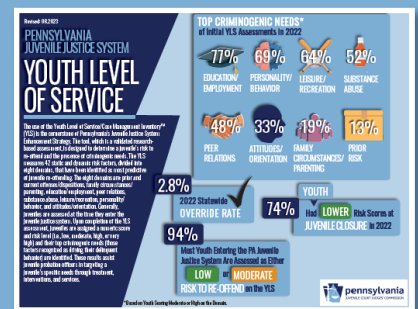
## PaDRAI

The Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI) is designed to minimize bias while promoting fair and transparent decisions for the use of secure detention and alternatives to detention. The PaDRAI infographic provides a statewide view on the use of the PaDRAI and overall decision making on the use of secure detention.



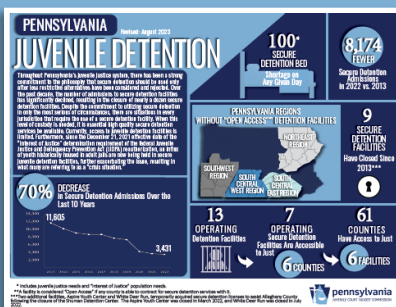
## Youth Level of Service

The Youth Level of Service™ (YLS) is the cornerstone of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. The results of the YLS assist juvenile probation officers in targeting a juvenile's specific needs through treatment, interventions, and services. The YLS infographic provides insight to the criminogenic needs of youth and assessed risk levels at initial assessment and juvenile closure.



## Juvenile Detention

The Juvenile Detention infographic is the first of its kind produced by the JCJC. This infographic examines the "crisis situation" surrounding juvenile detention in Pennsylvania. Readers are provided insight into statewide detention admissions, "Open Access" detention facilities, and the detention bed shortage in Pennsylvania.



To view infographics, visit [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov).

Download our mobile app and have all of the  
**2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice**  
details in the palm of your hand!

Scan the QR Code or visit:  
<https://my.yapp.us/JCJC2023>



## 2022 JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS

In conclusion of a multi-part newsletter series pertaining to the 2022 Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Implementation Survey results, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is eager to share the trend data infographic to demonstrate the progress of the JJSES in Pennsylvania.

The annual JJSES Implementation Survey, completed by all juvenile probation departments, provides stakeholders with the capacity to examine implementation and sustainability of the JJSES across the Commonwealth. The [2022 JJSES Implementation Report](#) includes a trend data analysis of the implementation and sustainability of the JJSES in Pennsylvania, as captured through the survey over the last 11 years.

More than a decade has passed since the inception of the JJSES, and the trend data is indicative that JJSES activities have become increasingly embedded within the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. Stakeholder engagement is a critical element to the success of the JJSES. According to the 2022 JJSES Implementation Report, the percentage of juvenile probation departments that regularly meet with the majority of stakeholders almost doubled between 2015 and 2022, increasing from 34% to 61% of departments.

The Youth Level of Service™ (YLS), arguably the cornerstone of the JJSES, has been put into daily practice with all juvenile probation departments across the Commonwealth currently active and engaged in implementation and sustainability efforts. The percentage of juvenile probation departments with YLS-informed case plans in the majority of cases has increased 75% since 2012.

Continuing to plan for and commit to the sustainability of the JJSES, Pennsylvania has developed a cadre of professionals who function as subject matter experts on JJSES activities, providing training, technical assistance, peer support and mentoring, and playing an important role in Continuous Quality Improvement efforts. From 2018 to 2022, the number of Motivational Interviewing (MI) coaches increased 16%, case plan coordinators increased 31%, and trained Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI) coordinators increased by 39%.

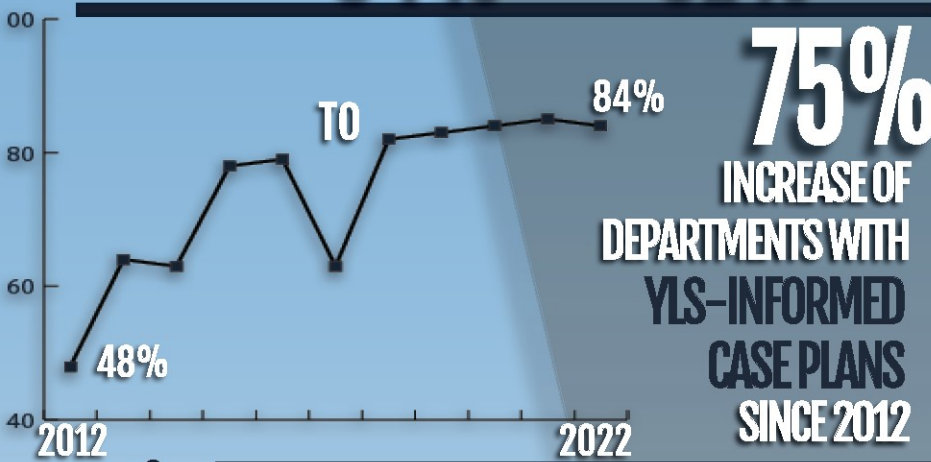
The JCJC, Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO), and Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) are committed to supporting and sustaining the JJSES activities over time. As evidenced by the 2022 JJSES Implementation Report, JJSES activities continue to expand within juvenile probation departments throughout the Commonwealth, further refining the initiative and improving Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.



# JJSES TREND DATA 2022

INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE OF DEPARTMENTS  
MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS  
REGARDING JJSES:

2015 **34%** → **61%** 2022



**75%**  
INCREASE OF  
DEPARTMENTS WITH  
YLS-INFORMED  
CASE PLANS  
SINCE 2012



## SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

**147**

CASE PLAN  
COORDINATORS

**161**

MI COACHES

**75**

PaDRAI  
COORDINATORS

**69**

GRADUATED  
RESPONSES  
COORDINATORS

**49**

SPEP™ CERTIFIED  
TRAINERS

**108**

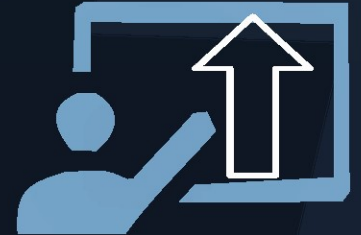
EPICS COACHES

**224**

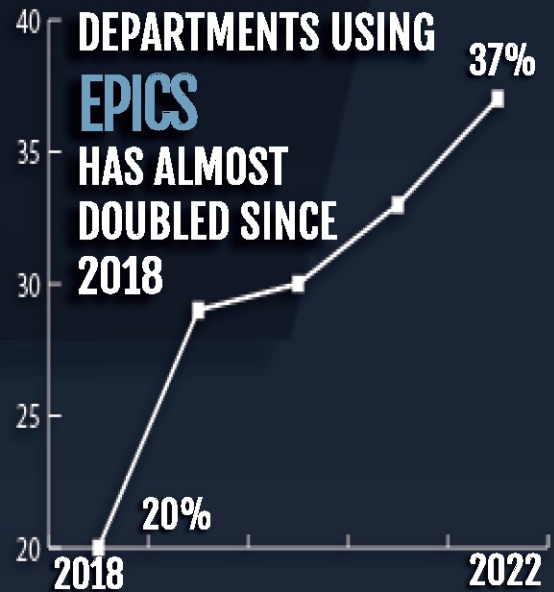
YLS MASTER TRAINERS

**100%**

DEPARTMENTS USE THE  
YOUTH LEVEL OF SERVICE™



PERCENTAGE OF  
DEPARTMENTS THAT UTILIZE THE  
**PaDRAI RESULTS**  
TO INFORM DETENTION  
DECISIONS NEARLY  
TRIPLED SINCE 2016



DEPARTMENTS USING  
**EPICS**  
HAS ALMOST  
DOUBLED SINCE  
2018



**pennsylvania**

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION

# PENNSYLVANIA'S 2022 JUVENILE COURT ANNUAL REPORT

## Delinquency Dispositions - Most Serious Alleged and Substantiated Offenses

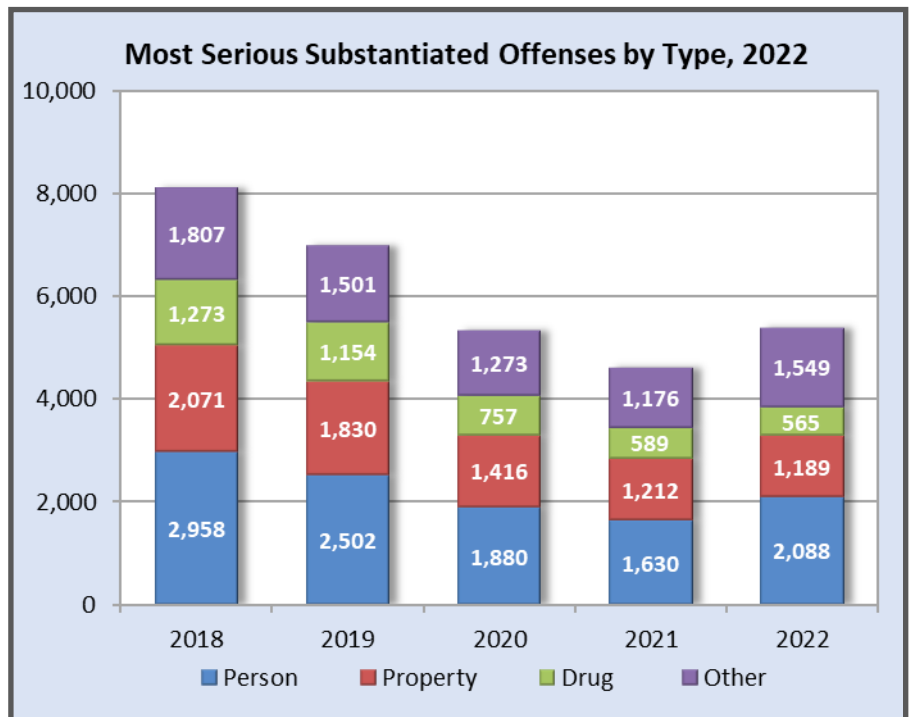
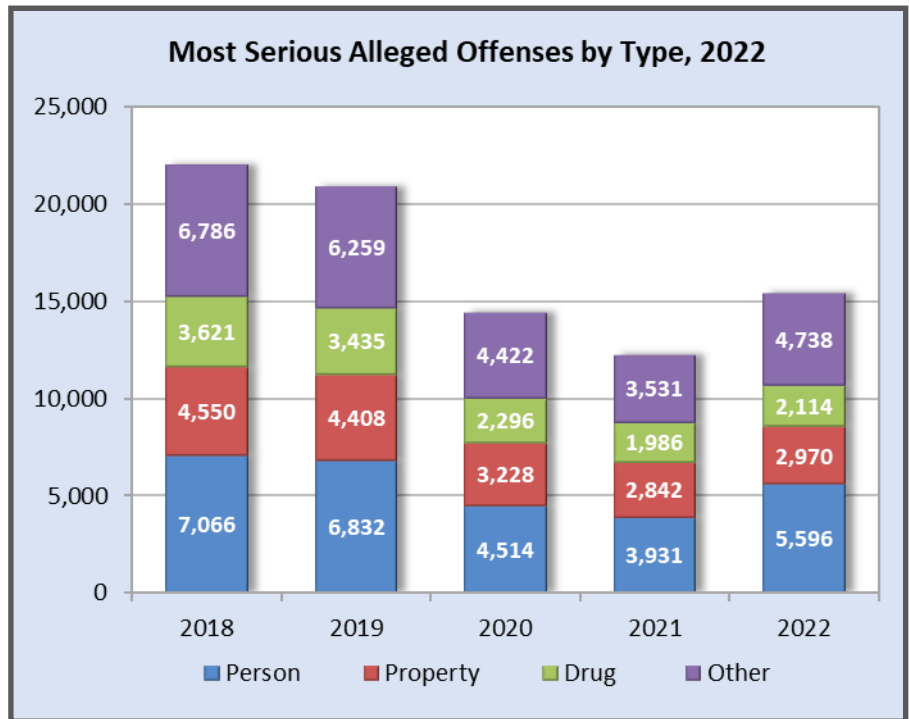
Most serious alleged offenses\* in Pennsylvania have increased by 25.5% from 2021 to 2022 and have decreased by 30.0% from 2018 to 2022. The number of alleged offenses within the Person Offense category has shown the largest increase (42.4%) from 2021 to 2022, followed by “Other” Offenses (34.2%), Drug Offenses (6.4%), and Property Offenses (4.5%). Since 2018, Drug Offenses have shown the sharpest decline (41.6%). Property and “Other” Offenses have also declined considerably, 34.7% and 30.2%, respectively. Person Offenses decreased 20.8% over this five-year time period.

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

From 2021 to 2022, the difference in the number of substantiated offenses varied across offense types. “Other” and Person Offenses increased, 31.7% and 28.1%, respectively, during this time period. While the number of substantiated offenses decreased for Drug (4.1%) and Property (1.9%) Offenses. The total number of substantiated offenses in 2022 remained well below 2018 levels (5,391 vs. 8,109). Similarly, each category of substantiated offenses (Person, Property, Drug, and “Other”) remained below their respective 2018 levels.

*\*A substantiated offense is any petitioned offense the court finds the juvenile committed.*

County-specific data on Most Serious Alleged and Substantiated Offenses can be found in the appendices of Pennsylvania’s 2022 Juvenile Court Annual Report at: <https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Research-Statistics/Disposition-Reports/2022-Juvenile-Court-Annual-Report.pdf>.



# STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS: A REVIEW

Dr. Francia Done Henry and Charles Chavez of MION Consulting presented the **Organizational Leadership Development for Criminal Justice Professionals** workshop on September 14, 2023, to 15 chiefs, deputy chiefs, and supervisors. Through training and support from internal and external resources, the MION Consulting Leadership Development Program seeks to train, encourage, and mentor the future cadre of juvenile probation leadership through training and development to ensure that the organizational mission of leading through excellence and professionalism are cultivated and sustained for juvenile probation's chiefs, deputy chiefs, and supervisors now and in the future.

This workshop received very positive feedback, as one participant stated: "after attending the workshop, I have begun to develop a strategic plan for the juvenile side of our department to help stay focused on the mission and improve the systems and processes that are in place. I also benefited from suggestions on time management and developing trust and personal relationships with coworkers." Another participant commented: "overall, I thoroughly enjoyed this training and its presenters...I received a lot of reassurance as well as insight on leadership and how I can continue to improve." Other feedback about this workshop was that it was "fantastic", "beneficial", and participants would participate in future follow-up workshops that dive into sub-topics discussed during this workshop.

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) continues to schedule more leadership development workshops in 2024. These workshops are designed to provide current and potential juvenile justice leaders with valuable tools, skills, and knowledge to enhance their personal and professional growth as they continue to lead the advancement of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

If you would like to recommend a workshop and/or trainer for the 2024 Staff Development Schedule, then please contact Sonya Stokes, JCJC Director of Professional Development, at 717-477-1294 or [systokes@ship.edu](mailto:systokes@ship.edu).

### October

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

### 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.jcjcjems.pa.gov](http://www.jcjcjems.pa.gov)



## JCJC Technology User Group

October 12, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Morning Session 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Infographics - IT Projects and Processes - Professional Development  
Data Integrity/Annual Report - County Showcase (Supervisor Module)

### Afternoon Session 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

County Showcase (Custom Reports) - PaJCMS Enhancements - PaJCMS Q&A

Registration available at [www.jcjcjems.pa.gov](http://www.jcjcjems.pa.gov)

Hyatt Place State College

## TECHNOLOGY CORNER

### PaJCMS Redesign

### *Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System*

The redesign of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) is in process by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's (JCJC) Information Technology Division. The redesign is important as it updates much of the outdated technology used in the current PaJCMS, particularly the way the information is sent between the servers where the information is stored and the front end where the users can see and update the information. Upon release, this front end will include cutting edge technology and functionality including an improved visual appeal, and friendliness with mobile devices. PaJCMS currently uses a multipage application approach. Multipage applications require every screen to be loaded from the servers when visited. This loading becomes a very time-consuming task, and it puts stress on the servers which causes slow screen load times. The redesign will use Angular, a framework developed and maintained by Google. Angular is used to build single page applications where a single page gets loaded and only part of the page gets updated or changed during an end-user's interaction with the application. This improves the system's performance by loading only the resources needed during one session. Angular will help improve the screen loading speed which in turn will have a performance gain and lead to an enhanced user experience.



# EPIS

Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support

## The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™): Annual SPEP™ Combine

Join us for this year's Annual SPEP™ Combine, to be held virtually on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 9:00am. The SPEP™ Combine is an annual event that provides opportunities for education and collaboration across the varying levels of SPEP™ implementation. Attendees will be wide ranging, with participation from Level 2 and Level 3 SPEP™ trainers, Level 1 SPEP™ Implementation Specialists, and Juvenile Probation Office staff/service providers that have completed SPEP™ Informed training. As the SPEP™ continues to grow throughout the Commonwealth, we expect this to be our largest turnout yet!

The theme for the session, *SPEP™ in PA: More Than Just a Score*, will provide examples of tailored implementations designed to meet the varied needs of counties across the Commonwealth, as well as an overview on the improved technical assistance offered through the SPEP™ Performance Improvement process. Showcasing newly created Implementation Science resources, facilitators will share ideas on how the resources can be best utilized across a variety of service implementations. Additionally, attendees will learn more about how they can utilize best practices around service quality in other aspects of their work.

The session will conclude with regional breakout discussions, allowing for networking and collaboration to strategize about additional engagement opportunities for all participating counties.

For more information about attending the SPEP™ Combine, please contact Kris Glunt, SPEP™ Project Manager, at [ktg10@psu.edu](mailto: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:

### NIJ ARTICLE DISCUSSES FINDINGS OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE SURVEY

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has published a new article on its website discussing the findings of a longitudinal study funded by NIJ examining teen dating violence.

The article describes the results of the [National Survey on Teen Relationships and Intimate Violence \(STRiV\)](#), the first comprehensive national household survey focused on teen dating violence consisting of six waves of data collection conducted with a single sample of parents/caregivers and youth over seven years. Findings from the research reveal the prevalence, characteristics, contexts, and development of teen dating abuse perpetration and victimization. The article describes how the findings inform potential intervention and prevention strategies to reduce teen dating violence and sexual harassment.

#### RESOURCES:

- Read OJJDP's [teen dating violence literature review](#).
- Access OJJDP's [data snapshot](#) on teen dating violence from OJJDP's [Statistical Briefing Book](#).
- Access [teen dating violence resources](#) from the [Office of Justice Programs](#).

### ATTEND THE OJJDP VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM ON PREVENTING YOUTH HATE CRIMES AND IDENTITY-BASED BULLYING

OJJDP will host its second [Preventing Youth Hate Crimes and Identity-Based Bullying Virtual Symposium](#) October 17-18, 2023, from 12 to 5 p.m. ET.



This two-day virtual symposium coincides with Bullying Prevention Month and will focus on how to prevent extremist hate groups from radicalizing youth and provide bullying prevention strategies for young people. Presenters will discuss current research and trends, support for vulnerable youth, and strategies to prevent online radicalization and cyberbullying. OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan will provide opening remarks.

#### RESOURCES:

- Learn about [OJJDP's Preventing Youth Hate Crimes & Identity-Based Bullying Initiative](#) and our first symposium.
- View past Preventing Youth Hate Crimes & Identity-Based Bullying [webinars](#).
- Access [OJJDP's Hate Crimes and Youth Literature Review](#).
- Access the OJJDP-supported [Stopbullying.gov](#) website for bullying prevention resources.
- Follow OJJDP on [X formerly known as Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

### OJJDP ADMINISTRATOR RYAN'S NEW BLOG DISCUSSES 49TH YEAR OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

In a new [blog](#) post, OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan discusses the 49th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) and its impact on OJJDP's vision for juvenile justice reform. Signed into law on September 7,



1974, the Act established OJJDP to support local, state, and Tribal efforts to protect youth, strengthen families, and enhance community safety.

Administrator Ryan's blog notes that each year OJJDP awards hundreds of millions of dollars in grant funding nationwide to support juvenile justice reforms, prevent child exploitation and abuse, and improve outcomes for youth leaving detention and reentering their communities. "In fiscal year 2022 alone, OJJDP awarded more than 370 grants totaling more than \$405 million in discretionary and formula grant funds to states, Tribal communities, and local jurisdictions to help safeguard youth and prevent delinquency," Ryan writes.

The blog highlights two overarching principles that guide the work of OJJDP: a commitment to racial equity and fairness; and a promise to partner with youth and families who are directly impacted by the juvenile justice system.

The Administrator's blog also describes OJJDP's work in advancing its three priorities:

Treating children as children.

Serving youth at home, with their families and in their communities.

Providing opportunities for young people who come into contact with the justice system.

"OJJDP looks forward to working with its diverse stakeholders to bolster our greatest natural resource: our youth," Administrator Ryan writes.

#### RESOURCES:

- Learn about [OJJDP's priorities](#).
- Access [Admin Liz Ryan's Monthly Calls](#) for more in-depth conversation on youth justice in the field.
- Learn more about the [JJDP Act](#) and the [Juvenile Justice Reform Act](#).
- 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](mailto:ra-oajcnews@pa.gov).

To subscribe to Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice, please send your request to [ra-oajcnews@pa.gov](mailto: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.

