



PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 32, Number 1

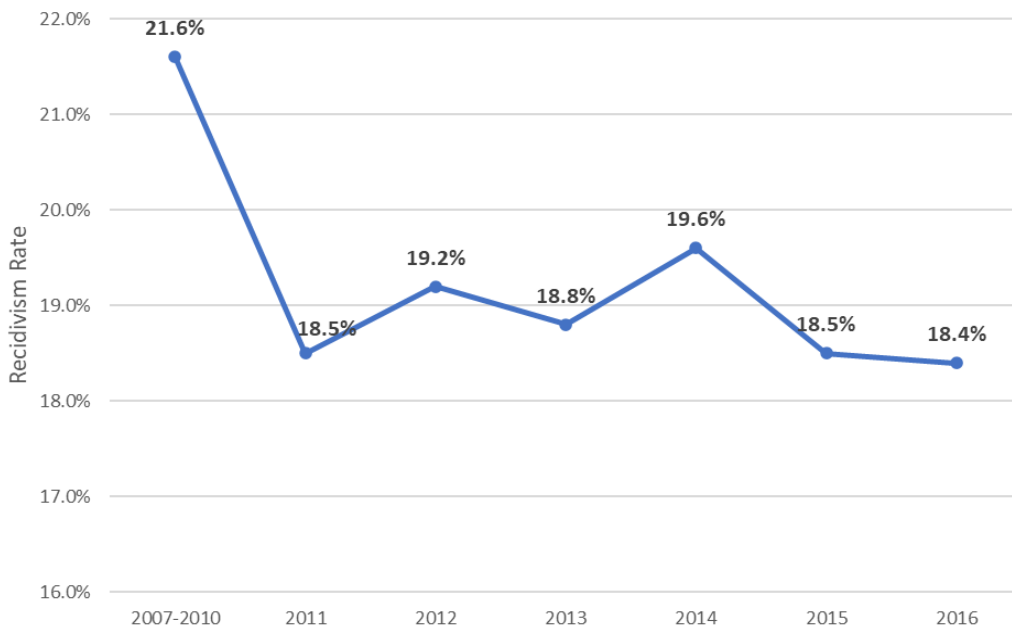
January 2021

JCJC Releases *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles with Cases Closed 2007-2016*

Last month, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) released its sixth recidivism report entitled: *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles with Cases Closed 2007-2016*. The current study updates the analysis of recidivism trends and predictors to include juveniles with a case closure in 2015 and 2016. This report is part of Pennsylvania's longstanding effort to measure the impact of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) on recidivism and other youth outcomes. Data for this project was compiled from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court's (AOPC) Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS). Recidivism is defined as: A subsequent delinquency adjudication in juvenile court or conviction in criminal court for either a misdemeanor or felony offense within two years of case closure.

This is Part 1 of a four-part series meant to highlight key findings from this report. Part I features general recidivism findings, while subsequent articles will present data on demographics, offense characteristics, and YLS risk levels, as they relate to recidivism. To review a copy of the full report, please visit: www.jcjc.pa.gov.

Recidivism Rate for Juveniles with Cases Closed, 2007-2016



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PLEASE NOTE:

The dates for the 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice are November 3-5, 2021.

- As the figure on page 1 shows, for juveniles with cases closed in 2015 and 2016, the recidivism rate was 18.5% and 18.4%, respectively. 2016's recidivism rate (18.4%) is the lowest since the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) began tracking recidivism.
- The table below compares the statewide recidivism rate in the "pre-JJSES" (2007-2010) period to the "post-JJSES initiation" (2011-2016) period. In the right column is the percentage change in recidivism rates between the two periods. This figure is arrived at by taking the difference between the "post-JJSES initiation" and "pre-JJSES" rates and then dividing this number by the "pre-JJSES" rate. The bottom of the table shows that, statewide, there was a 13.0% decrease in the recidivism rate between the "pre-JJSES" and the "post-JJSES initiation" periods.*
- The full report also presents this data separately for each county (not shown here). The report finds that almost three-quarters of counties (49/67 or 73%) had an average recidivism rate in the "post-JJSES initiation" era (2011-2016) that was below their average recidivism rate in the "pre-JJSES era" (2007-2010). Among the 49 counties with a lower "post-JJSES initiation" than "pre-JJSES" recidivism rate, the mean percentage decrease in recidivism was 21.2% and the median percentage decrease was 16.7%.

Statewide Recidivism Rates for Juveniles with Cases Closed "Pre-JJSES" (2007-2010) and "Post-JJSES Initiation" (2011-2016)					
	"Pre-JJSES" (2007-2010)		"Post-JJSES Initiation" (2011-2016)		Comparison of "Pre- and Post-JJSES Initiation" Recidivism
	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Recidivism Rate	Number of Juveniles with Cases Closed	Recidivism Rate	Percentage Change in the Recidivism Rate Post-JJSES Initiation Compared to Pre-JJSES
Statewide Total:	72,738	21.6%	105,756	18.8%	13.0%

* Due to the many factors outside of the control of the juvenile justice system that affect recidivism rates, and also may vary over time, the reader is cautioned against drawing strong conclusions about changes in the performance of the state's juvenile justice system based on the data presented above. See the Limitations section of the recidivism report for a discussion of this issue.

In response to the growth of violent juvenile crime in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) developed the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders. The terms "serious," "violent," and "chronic" emerged as part of an effort by researchers to identify the subset of juveniles that research shows account for a disproportionate share of offending and re-offending, and to focus court interventions on this group. The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) wanted to have a research-based method for identifying which youth were at higher risk of reoffending based on their offense profile. For these reasons, starting with the publication of the first recidivism report in May 2013, JCJC has presented data on the relationship between Serious, Violent, and Chronic offending and recidivism.

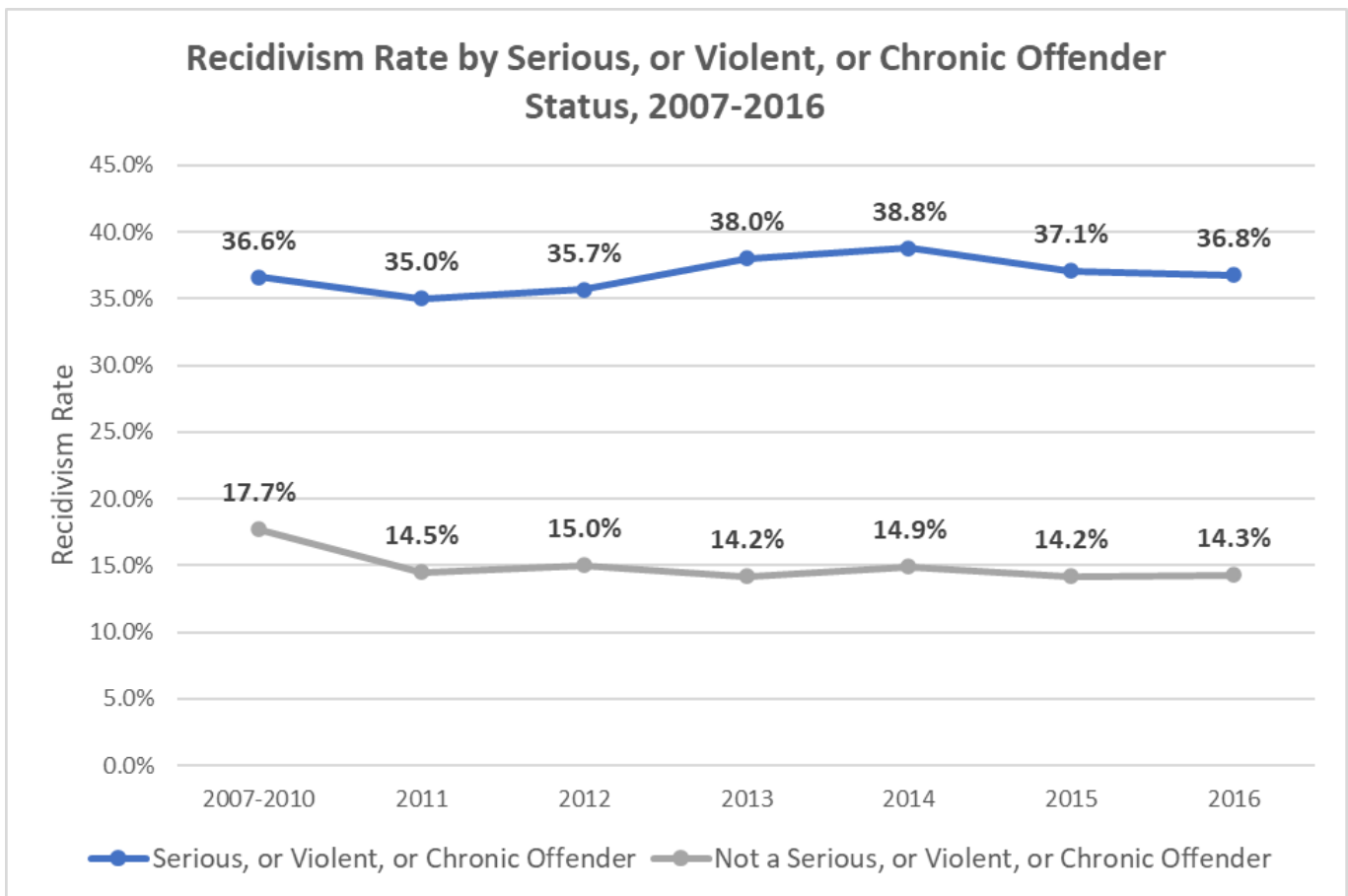
JCJC consulted with the former Director of OJJDP, James “Buddy” Howell, who provided guidance on which offenses in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Management System (PaJCMS) should be considered “serious” and “violent” and how to utilize Serious, Violent, and Chronic youth offending classifications (defined below) in research on recidivism.

Serious Offender: A juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent in juvenile court at any point in his or her juvenile offending history for one of the following offenses: burglary, theft (felonies only), arson, drug trafficking (manufacture/deliver/possession with intent to deliver), and extortion (theft by extortion).

Violent Offender: A juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent in juvenile court at any point in his or her juvenile offending history for one of the following offenses: homicide or non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping, and select firearm/weapon offenses.

Chronic Offender: A juvenile who has four or more previous written allegations for separate incidents that occurred prior to the date of the 2007-2016 case closure.

- The figure below presents data on recidivism rates between 2007 and 2016 separately for juveniles with cases closed who were Serious, or Violent, or Chronic (SVC) and juveniles who met none of those criteria. The data shows that, for SVC youth, the recidivism rate has fluctuated, without a clear-cut trend. By contrast, the recidivism rate for non-SVC youth for each of the “post-JJSES initiation” years (2011 through 2016) was below the non-SVC recidivism rate average for the “pre-JJSES” years (2007 to 2010). Given the general decline in recidivism that occurred “post-JJSES initiation” when compared to “pre-JJSES”, this additional piece of data suggests that the biggest declines occurred for youth with a less severe offense history.



BARBARA BARNES RETIRES FROM JCJC



On January 15, 2021, Barbara Barnes retired from her position as Administrative Assistant with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC).

A lifelong resident of Harrisburg, Barbara was employed as a Maintenance Administrator at Verizon for 30 years prior to joining the JCJC in 2004. While employed with the JCJC, Barbara served as the personal assistant to JCJC Executive Directors Jim Anderson, Keith Snyder, and Rick Steele, in addition to performing other administrative duties for the agency. She also worked closely with all Commission Judges and their staff as well as judges and staff throughout the Commonwealth.

A key contributor to the James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, Barbara was always visible, helpful, outgoing, and pleasant with all conference attendees. Her smile and friendly demeanor were present at each annual event, and the friendships she established over the years have been countless.

A member of the Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Barbara helped establish the church's bookstore, where she worked for 10 years. She has also been a member of the African American Quilters Gathering of Harrisburg since 2010, and at the request of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) was commissioned to create a quilt that is currently displayed in the Pennsylvania Judicial Center (PJC).

In retirement, Barbara plans to continue quilting, traveling, and spending time with her three granddaughters.

Thank you, Barbara, for your outstanding service to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement!



COUNTY SPOTLIGHT



ELIZABETH FRITZ RETIRES AS CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER IN LEHIGH COUNTY

Elizabeth "Beth" Fritz retired from the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department on January 8, 2021, after nearly 40 years of service to the juvenile justice system. Beth began her career as an intake probation officer with the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department in 1982. She was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief Probation Officer in 2007 and Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in 2009. She was honored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission as Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year in 2002, and as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year in 2012.



Beth's appointment as chief coincided with many significant changes in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. Consequently, she has been at the forefront of implementing these changes

both in Lehigh County and at the state level. She was a member of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team from its inception until her recent retirement.

Beth's track record and leadership in implementing evidence-based practices stands out as truly exceptional. Not only has she vigorously sought to learn and understand every aspect associated with this paradigm shift in juvenile justice policy and practice, but she has been proactive in making this a shared learning experience with her line staff, supervisors, and court. For example, Lehigh County was one of the initial counties to implement the YLS and the standardized case plan and obtain training on motivational interviewing for all staff. More recently, Beth and her staff have set the benchmark for institutionalizing a culture of continuous quality improvement, which has fundamentally changed the way Lehigh County administers policies, programs, data collection, and outcomes. To be sure, Lehigh County's work to advance continuous quality improvement has become a model for the state.

Under Beth's direction, Lehigh County has been at the forefront of several other juvenile justice reform initiatives. In 2009, the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department received a grant through the MacArthur Foundation for the implementation of School Justice Panels as a diversion option. The department also participated in various activities related to detention reform, including participation in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), opening an Evening Reporting Center, and implementing a standardized detention risk assessment instrument.

Beth served on numerous advisory committees within Lehigh County. She chaired the Youth and Violence Task Force, was a member of the local Children's Roundtable, the Education Truancy Committee, and the Criminal Justice Advisory Board. Furthermore, Beth played a critical role in establishing a protocol between the juvenile probation office and the Office of Children and Youth Services on shared case responsibility cases.

Beth has been actively involved with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. She has been a member of the Council's Executive Committee since 2007, where she served as a member of both the Detention and Standards Committees. More recently, Beth served in key leadership roles as the Council's Secretary in 2012 and 2013, and as President in 2014 and 2015.

As a leader within the Chief's Council, Beth helped to establish and co-chair both the Assessment and the Case Plan Committees. The importance of these two committees cannot be overstated as they steer the implementation and sustainability of cornerstone elements of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. Under Beth's leadership, Pennsylvania's work in the areas of risk assessment and case planning have received national recognition. Dr. Gina Vincent, Co-Director of Implementation Science & Practice Advances Research Center at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, graciously made the following statement about Beth's leadership and dedication to the field of juvenile justice:

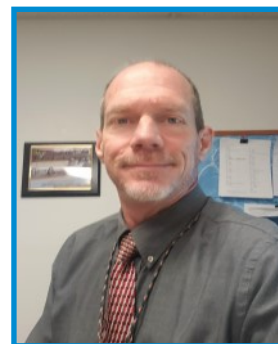
"I have known and had the pleasure of working with Beth Fritz for over 10 years – since the time she became heavily involved in implementation of the YLS/CMI throughout the state. I have worked with many different leaders at all levels of juvenile justice, the behavioral health system, and academia for that matter. Rarely have I met anyone with as much drive, managerial and organizational skills, and dedication to continuous advancement as Beth Fritz. She has the unique ability to operate as both a visionary leader and a workhorse who does the job of 10 people. Interpersonally, she is wonderful to work with, has considerable compassion for youth and their families, and has helped spread evidence-based practices that will benefit them across the county. I am truly grateful that I get the opportunity to continue working with her."

Beth graduated from Kutztown University in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and earned her master's degree in Administration of Justice through the JCJC-sponsored Graduate Education Program in 1986. Beth resides with her husband, Bill, in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania. She has three adult children, Justin, Rachael, and Matthew.

Beth's impact on Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system can be summed up accurately in the following statement from JCJC Executive Director, Rick Steele: "It is hard for me to imagine anyone who has had more impact on PA's juvenile justice system in the past ten years than Beth, and her contributions will undoubtedly continue to impact our work for years to come. She will certainly be missed."

WELCOME CHIEF RICK ACKERMAN FRANKLIN COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION

On November 20, 2020, Rick Ackerman was sworn in as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Franklin County by the Honorable Angela R. Krom, Administrative Judge for Juvenile Court, and the Honorable Shawn D. Meyers, President Judge.



Rick earned his bachelor's degree in Juvenile Justice from Shippensburg University in 1991. During his senior year at Shippensburg University, he did an internship with Franklin County Juvenile Probation and upon graduation, was hired as a juvenile probation officer. During that time, Rick was a line-officer and in 1995 became a school-based officer. In 2000, he was promoted to supervisor and in 2016 was appointed as the deputy chief.

In addition to his juvenile justice experience, Mr. Ackerman is active at both local and state levels. Rick serves on several Criminal Justice Advisory Boards and chairs the Juvenile Justice Committee for Franklin County. He is also a member of the Research Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and worked with the Family Involvement committee in the past. Mr. Ackerman's initial plans as chief include continuing Franklin County's implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy and expanding the use of EPICS throughout the department.

When away from work, Rick enjoys spending time with his wife and 2 children traveling to their favorite vacation spots in Pigeon Forge, OshKosh, Cocoa Beach, and Cayman Islands.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Did you know each year the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) and the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R) combines State Police juvenile arrest figures, federally compiled juvenile population numbers, and data that is entered into PaJCMS to create a picture of how minority youth experience the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system compared to their white counterparts? This project, known as the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) report, began as a federal reporting requirement for Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and has expanded to provide important insights to probation offices to see where inequities throughout the court process may occur. JCJC will be presenting this data in iDashboards to aid visualization in the near future.

If you would like to receive a report on your county's data for 2019, or prior years, or have any questions regarding DMC, please contact Becky Anderson at c-reanders@pa.gov.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

February

- 2-3 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation Professional - Virtual
- 8-12 EPICS - Virtual
- 16-19 EPICS - Virtual
- 23 Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse - Virtual

March

- 16 Taking Care of Yourself as a Helper - Virtual

April

- 4 The Next Generation: Management of the Sex Offender in a Digital World - Virtual

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov

JCJC GRADUATE EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT



Andrew Benner graduated from Moravian College in May of 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and began his career working in the field at Bowling Brook Preparatory School. At Bowling Brook, Andrew worked as a teacher, counselor, coach, and mentor with high-risk youth in a residential setting. This initial job experience helped form the foundation and focus for how Andrew approaches his current position and role in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System. This experience shaped his desire to provide adequate treatment and services for high-risk youth, as well as to provide youth the skills needed to become successful and productive members of society.

In November 1998, Andrew began working as a probation officer in Cumberland County Juvenile Probation. He served as the county's school-based/community-based officer for the Carlisle Community and worked in that capacity through 2014. Andrew received his Master of Science in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University in 2002 through the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) Graduate Education Program. Andrew was promoted to supervisor in 2014 and in 2019 was appointed to Cumberland County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. Andrew has provided leadership in implementing evidence-based practices in Cumberland County since 2010 as a probation officer, supervisor, and Chief.

In addition, Andrew has been involved with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers since 2015 and co-chaired the Technology Committee from 2015-2019. He now serves as the co-chair of the Chief/Provider committee. Andrew also serves and supports the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy Project as Co-Chair of the Graduated Response committee and is involved in other stage-related activities.

It has been almost 20 years since Andrew completed the JCJC Graduate Education Program. In reflecting over those years, Andrew stated that "The relationships that were formulated during those years continue today. Most of my colleagues that completed the program with me are in leadership positions throughout the state or are serving in other capacities as juvenile justice professionals statewide and nationally. The JCJC Graduate Education Program allows you to build lasting relationships, gain valuable understanding of the differences across the state, and provides the tools necessary to become the next generation of juvenile justice leaders."

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EPICS (February 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12) and (February 16, 17, 18, and 19)

The purpose of this training and the EPICS model is to teach juvenile probation officers how to apply the principles of effective intervention and core correctional practices to community supervision practices. The EPICS model is designed to use a combination of monitoring, referrals, and face-to-face interactions to provide the offenders with a sufficient “dosage” of treatment interventions and make the best possible use of time to develop a collaborative working relationship. The EPICS model helps translate the risk, needs, and responsibility principles into practice. Community supervision officers or case managers are taught to increase dosage to higher risk offenders, stay focused on criminogenic needs, and to use a social learning, cognitive behavioral approach to their interactions.

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse (February 23)

This training program is offered as a three-hour overview presentation. The program reviews the elements of child abuse, including the legal definitions and categories and indicators of abuse. The training provides an overview of mandated reporting obligations, including how to make a report, protections for those who report and liabilities for failing to report.



Taking Care of Yourself as a Helper (March 16)

The main objective of this workshop is to become more proficient at self-care in the physical, emotional, and mental realms, allowing us to deal more effectively with the demands and “occupational hazards” of being a change agent/helper. It is imperative – not a luxury, but a necessity – that helpers pay pro-active attention to self-care. We will develop understanding of our professional and personal limits, focus on ways to self-examine so as to avoid “burnout” and cynicism, more fully recognize what we can and cannot directly control with our clients, increase our awareness of when we’re overwhelmed and need support, determine ways we can regularly get that support, learn the importance of developing ourselves in our private lives, and become more proficient in recognizing and accepting our distinctive needs and ways to get those needs met appropriately. All of this is geared toward the overall recognition of the concept that it is a “win/win” situation for clients and helpers when professionals take adequate care of themselves.

The Next Generation: Management of the Sex Offender in a Digital World (April 8)

Cell phones, tablets, gaming systems, and social media have created a new challenge for the management of juveniles with problematic sexual behaviors in the community. These devices can give those individuals unfettered access to victims, pornography as well as a host of other materials that could trigger a relapse. This is further complicated by a lack of knowledge and understanding of the technology by those individuals responsible for the management or treatment of this population. During the training, the participants will be introduced to best practices for the management of individuals with these devices; current research on static and dynamic risk factors; live demonstration of the darker and seedier side of these devices; and a demonstration of how these devices can be monitored and/or searched.

If you are interested in participating in any of these training opportunities, please log into the [JCJC Events Management System \(JEMS\)](#) for more information. If you have questions regarding any trainings, please contact Sonya Stokes, JCJC’s Director of Professional Development at systokes@ship.edu.

JCJC GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE

JCJC Graduate Education Open House

February 25, 2021

12 noon - 1:00 p.m. (11:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada))

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ship.zoom.us/j/99834105363>

Meeting ID: 998 3410 5363

Passcode: Please contact systokes@ship.edu

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,99834105363#,,,,*281846# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,99834105363#,,,,*281846# US (Chicago)

The Open House is open to Juvenile Probation Officers who would like to receive more information on the program and/or are interested in applying.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN THE
**ADMINISTRATION OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE**
ENROLLING NOW FOR FALL 2021
Apply today at SHIP.EDU/APPLY

Key Program Features:

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

Program Contact: Sonya Stokes at systokes@ship.edu



For program information, visit:
www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/Graduate-Education



Call for Presentations

The 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 3 - November 5, 2021
Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

The 2021 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges will be held November 3-5, 2021 at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers.

Each year the Conference includes workshops that highlight practices, programs and initiatives that exemplify best-practices related to the various components of Pennsylvania's Balanced & Restorative Justice mission and our Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). This year's workshops will take place on Thursday, November 4, 2020. The workshops will be 90 minutes in length and will be repeated via morning and afternoon sessions.

We enthusiastically welcome submissions for presentations. Interested parties can complete and submit the following presentation proposal form. Please note that up to two facilitators from each selected workshop will receive free Conference registration and meals (facilitators are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses).

Submissions for presentations are due by Friday, April 2, 2021, and can be directed to Leo J. Lutz, Director of Policy and Program Development at lelutz@pa.gov.

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (CQI) CONSULTANT

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (PCCJPO) is seeking applicants for a consultant to provide training and technical assistance to support Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) efforts within PA's Juvenile Justice System.

The CQI Consultant will be primarily responsible to provide county-specific support to assist juvenile probation departments in the development, implementation, and sustainability of CQI practices and processes to reinforce desired evidence-based practices and ensure fidelity of those practices. The CQI consultant will assist counties in the development and ongoing management of CQI practices and processes including:

- Establishment of local CQI committee(s)
- Prioritization of CQI areas and timelines
- Development of logic models
- Selection of CQI processes and policies
- Identification of expertise for implementing CQI processes
- Development of opportunities for continuous learning
- Development of data collection and utilization plans
- Utilization of data to identify areas for improvement
- Development of improvement plans

Furthermore, the CQI Consultant will provide support to the state-level CQI Committee including:

- Develop and prepare updates, revisions, and additions to guidance provided in the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Sustainability Planning Guide
- Assist in identifying training needs, developing curriculum, and delivering training programs for judges, juvenile probation officers, and other juvenile justice system stakeholders
- Assist in analyzing data and identify trends regarding the effectiveness of juvenile justice programs, policies, and practices

The CQI Consultant will work closely with the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team and collaborate with JCJC's Director of Quality Assurance in Juvenile Justice.

The application process closes Friday, February 26, 2021. Applicants must possess six years of professional juvenile justice experience which includes four years as a juvenile probation officer, or equivalent experience, and two years of experience developing, designing, or implementing evidence-based practices and supporting CQI practices and processes within a juvenile probation department as an administrator, supervisor, or consultant; and a master's degree in Criminal Justice, Criminology, or the Behavioral Sciences.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to:

Chadwick Libby, President, PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers

100 Chestnut Street, 2nd Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17191

Or at clibby@dauphinc.org

The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or age and it does not retaliate against persons who file a discrimination complaint or lawsuit, who complain about discrimination; or who participate in a discrimination proceeding, such as being a witness in a complaint investigation or lawsuit. Complaints may be directed to the PCCJPO Executive Officers under Contact at <https://www.pachiefprobationofficers.org/> or to the PA Human Relations Commission at www.phrc.pa.gov.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

For the past few years, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Probation Officers' Research Committee has focused its efforts on disseminating research findings to probation officers and departments. While research on a variety of juvenile justice issues can help inform and improve probation practice, there are often barriers to practitioners being able to apply research to their work. They may simply lack access to scholarly journal articles, some of which require a subscription or academic affiliation. In addition, the jargon and complex statistical methodologies used by researchers in scholarly journal articles can be hard to sift through and comprehend. Finally, research evidence may clearly support certain probation practices or programming (e.g., research on graduated responses suggests that rewards should be used more often than sanctions in probation supervision), but questions remain about how practitioners can best apply research evidence to their everyday work. The Research Committee seeks to make it easier for juvenile probation officers and other court officials to access, comprehend, and apply research evidence to improve their county juvenile justice systems.

Recently, the Research Committee, under the new leadership of Justin Popovich, Chief Probation Officer of Bradford County, has developed a new idea for making research more accessible. Starting in the next couple of months, the members of the Committee will conduct 10-20 minute Zoom interviews with researchers on what their findings show and how, practically speaking, their research can be utilized to improve the interventions and programming received by youth in the juvenile justice system. Roughly every 2-3 months, the Research Brief section of the newsletter will feature a summary of and key excerpts from those interviews, and a link to the interview itself. The goal with this new format is to present research in an engaging way that allows researchers to clearly explain the practical implications of their work and is easily accessible to the readers of this newsletter.

The Research Committee also has a website that archives pertinent, quality materials pertaining to the JJSES. The website has been up and running for almost a year now, and the direct link is: https://www.viethconsulting.com/news_archive_headlines.php?org_id=PCJP&snce=0#. It can be found under the "Resources" tab on the main page of the Chiefs' Council's webpage and the title of the page is "Research Committee." Please visit our website and stay tuned for more information on the video interviews with researchers.



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP RELEASES FACT SHEET ON DELINQUENCY CASES IN JUVENILE COURT

OJJDP has released "[Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2018](#)." This fact sheet presents statistics on delinquency cases handled in U.S. juvenile courts from 2005 to 2018. During that period, the number of delinquency cases involving juveniles declined 55 percent. Decreases were experienced across four offense categories: property, public order, person, and drug law violation cases. The estimates are based on data from more than 2,500 courts with jurisdiction over 87 percent of the nation's juvenile population in 2018. This fact sheet is derived from the OJJDP-sponsored report "[Juvenile Court Statistics 2018](#)" and was developed with support from the National Institute of Justice.

RESOURCES:

- Learn more about the OJJDP-sponsored [National Juvenile Court Data Archive](#).
- See OJJDP's [Statistical Briefing Book](#) for additional information on juvenile court case processing.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: RESEARCH ON JUVENILE JUSTICE TOPICS

The [National Institute of Justice \(NIJ\)](#), in collaboration with OJJDP, has released its fiscal year 2021 [Research on Juvenile Justice Topics](#) solicitation. NIJ seeks proposals for studies that advance knowledge and understanding about juvenile justice responses to the COVID-19 pandemic or the deinstitutionalization of status offenders.

- Grants.gov deadline: February 25, 2021.
- JustGrants applications are due by March 11, 2021.

NOTE: Applicants will submit the SF-424 and the SF-LLL in Grants.gov and the FULL application including attachments in [JustGrants](#).

RESOURCES:

- Visit NIJ's [funding page](#) for details about this and other funding opportunities.
- See NIJ's [solicitation FAQ page](#).





NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP ANNOUNCES NEW MENTORING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OJJDP has announced the following fiscal year 2021 funding opportunities:

- [OJJDP FY 2021 Multistate Mentoring Programs Initiative](#)
Grants.gov deadline: February 23, 2021.
JustGrants applications are due by March 9, 2021.
[Register](#) for the February 2, 2021 solicitation-related webinar.
View related [FAQs](#).
- [OJJDP FY 2021 National Mentoring Programs](#)
Grants.gov deadline: February 23, 2021.
JustGrants applications are due by March 9, 2021.
View related [FAQs](#).

NOTE: Applicants will submit the SF-424 and the SF-LLL in Grants.gov and the FULL application including attachments in JustGrants at <https://justgrants.usdoj.gov/>.

RESOURCES:

- Visit the [funding page](#) for details about these and other OJJDP funding opportunities.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

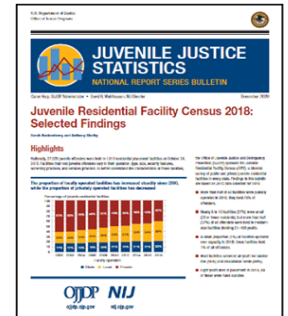
NOTICE OF CANCELLATION AND INTENT TO REPOST SELECT FISCAL YEAR 2021 SOLICITATIONS

- OJJDP has cancelled the seven solicitations listed below due to a technical issue in [JustGrants](#). OJJDP is working on the issue and intends to repost these solicitations as soon as it is resolved. Applicants who have already applied will be notified of the issue and invited to reapply.
- OJJDP FY 2021 Children's Advocacy Centers National Subgrants Program
- OJJDP FY 2021 Delinquency Prevention Grants Program
- OJJDP FY 2021 Family Drug Court Program
- OJJDP FY 2021 Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program
- OJJDP FY 2021 Opioid Affected Youth Initiative
- OJJDP FY 2021 Second Chance Act Youth Offender Reentry Program
- OJJDP FY 2021 Supporting Tribal Youth: Training and Technical Assistance and Youth Leadership Development

Stay tuned to JUVJUST and JustGrants for announcements about the reposting of these solicitations along with the new deadlines for [Grants.gov](#) and [JustGrants](#). Also, visit the [funding page](#) for updates on these solicitations and other OJJDP funding opportunities. Questions can be directed to the NCJRS Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov.

OJJDP/NIJ RELEASES FINDINGS FROM 2018 JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY CENSUS

OJJDP and the National Institute of Justice have [released](#) "Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018: Selected Findings." This [bulletin](#) presents findings from OJJDP's Juvenile Residential Facility Census, a biennial survey of public and private juvenile residential facilities in every state. Findings from the 2018 census show that nationally, 1,510 facilities housed 37,529 juvenile offenders under age 21. The data also indicate that the number of youth in residential placement continues a two-decade decline. View [data snapshot](#).



RESOURCES:

- Visit the [OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book](#) to access information on juvenile residential facilities, including the [Juvenile Residential Facility Census Databook](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP BULLETIN EXAMINES JUVENILE RECORD EXPUNGEMENT



OJJDP has [released](#) "Expunging Juvenile Records: Misconceptions, Collateral Consequences, and Emerging Practices." The [bulletin](#) discusses common misconceptions surrounding expungement and provides information about the collateral consequences of juvenile records. Youth with juvenile records frequently experience collateral consequences of their arrest or adjudication, which may include difficulty accessing educational services, obtaining employment, and finding and maintaining housing. The bulletin highlights promising federal, state, and local practices that have been implemented to lessen the impact of collateral consequences on youth.

RESOURCES:

- [Learn about](#) OJJDP's juvenile reentry and community supervision programs.
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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

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