



JCJC RECIDIVISM STUDY EXAMINES DIVERSION AND SERIOUS, VIOLENT, AND CHRONIC YOUTH

In January 2023, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) released *The Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Recidivism Report: Juveniles Closed 2007-2019*, which measures the rate at which closed youth¹ are adjudicated delinquent in juvenile court or found guilty in criminal court for committing a new felony or misdemeanor offense within two years. This recidivism report is part of Pennsylvania's longstanding measurement of the juvenile justice system's impact on youth and the success of its Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. Data for this project was compiled from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court's Common Pleas Case Management System.

This is the fourth installment in a series of newsletter articles that highlight the report's key findings. This article examines youth closed between 2007 and 2019 diverted from adjudication and youth who meet the definition of serious, violent, and/or chronic offenders and how those characteristics relate to recidivism.

Youth Diverted from Adjudication and Recidivism

The majority of youth closed in 2019 (63%) were diverted from adjudication. These numbers are consistent with past reports. As Figure 1 on the next page shows, youth closed in 2019 who were diverted from adjudication were almost one-third as likely to recidivate as youth who were adjudicated delinquent prior to closure (7% vs. 20%).

Serious, Violent, and/or Chronic Offending Youth and Recidivism

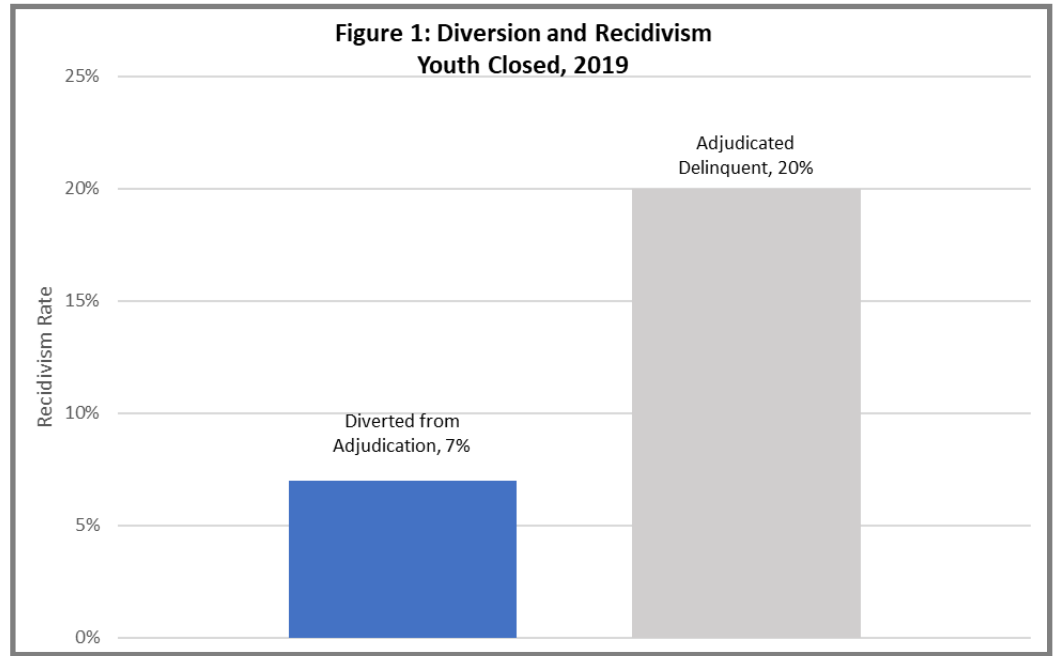
In addition to looking at system penetration, the report examines the relationship between offending patterns and recidivism. In response to the growth of violent juvenile crime in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) developed the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders. The terms "serious," "violent," and "chronic" emerged as part of an effort to identify the subset of youth that research shows account for a disproportionate share of offending and reoffending and to focus court interventions on this group. The 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, the JCJC has present-

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¹The term "closed youth" refers to youth terminated from juvenile court supervision. A youth could be on supervision for multiple individual cases at the time of closure.

ed data on the relationship between serious, violent, and/or chronic offending and recidivism. The JCJC consulted with the former Director of OJJDP, James “Buddy” Howell, who provided guidance on which offenses in the PaJCMS should be considered “serious” and “violent” and how to utilize serious, violent, and/or chronic youth offending classifications (defined below) in research on recidivism.

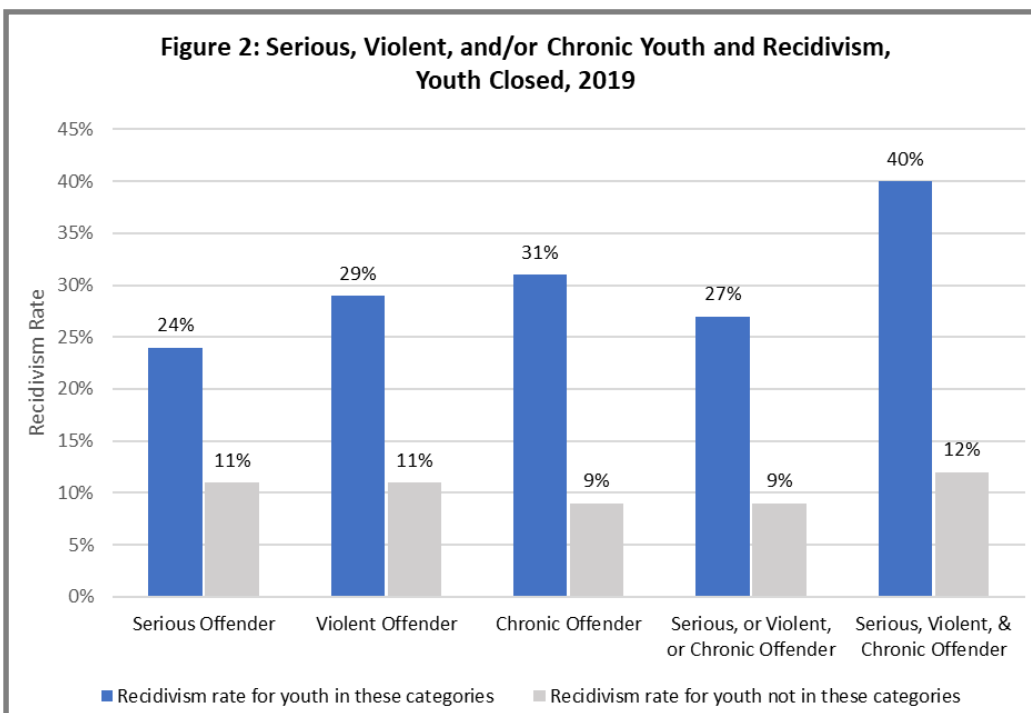


Serious Offender: A youth who has been adjudicated delinquent in juvenile court at any point in the youth’s offending history for one of the following offenses: burglary, theft (felonies only), arson, drug trafficking (manufacture/deliver/possession with intent to deliver), and extortion (theft by extortion).

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

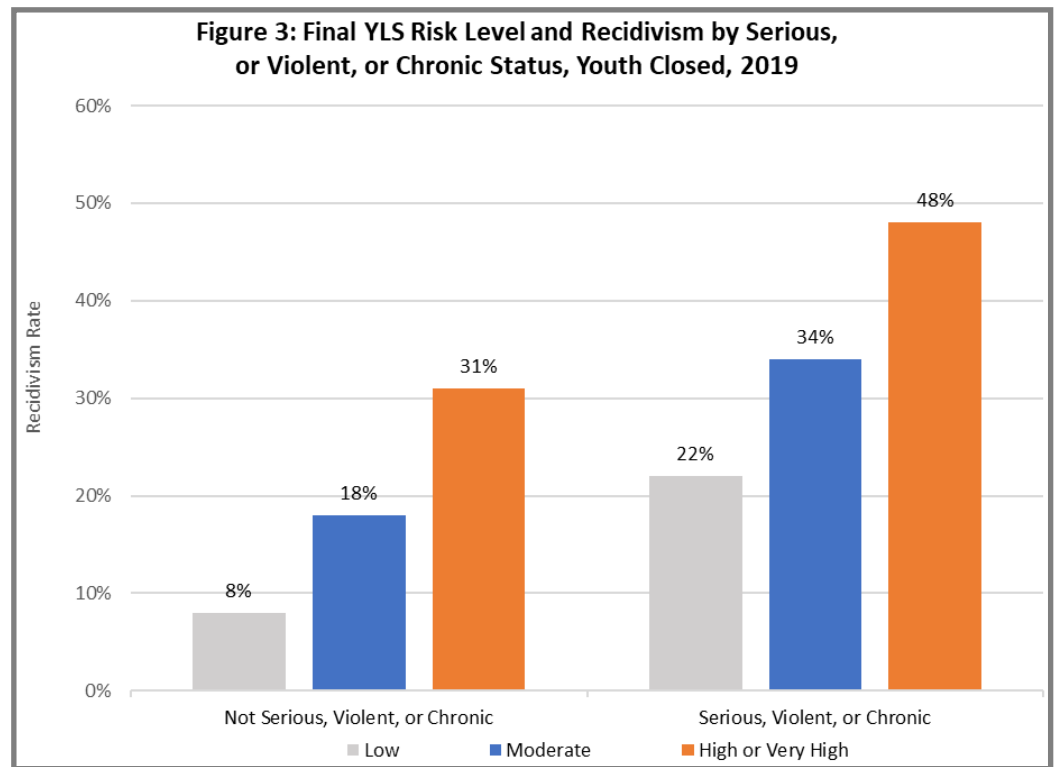
Chronic Offender: A youth who has four or more previous written allegations for separate incidents that occurred prior to the date of the 2007-2019 closure.

Serious, Violent, and Chronic Offender: A youth who meets the definition of a serious offender, a violent offender, and a chronic offender.



For each of the past 13 years, approximately one out of five youth closed met the criteria of being a serious, or violent, or chronic offender. As in previous reports, for youth closed in 2019, youth who met this criteria had higher recidivism rates than youth not in this category. See Figure 2. In addition, youth who met the criteria for being serious, violent, and chronic recidivated at a higher rate than those who only met the less restrictive criteria of being serious, or violent, or chronic offenders (40% vs. 27%).

Figure 3 demonstrates that youth who meet the serious, or violent, or chronic offender definition recidivate at higher levels when compared to youth with the same final Youth Level of Service® (YLS) risk level. At each YLS risk level, serious, or violent, or chronic youth recidivated at a much higher rate than non-serious, or violent, or chronic youth (e.g., 22% vs. 8% for low-risk youth). The impacts of both offense history, as captured by serious, or violent, or chronic status, and the YLS on recidivism should continue to be analyzed separately and together.



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



Time is Running Out!

The deadline for the James E. Anderson Juvenile Justice Youth Scholarship Award nominations is quickly approaching.

June 1, 2023

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

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

Autism and Dependency Court Regional Summits Educate and Train Dependency Court Personnel and Partners



Spearheaded by Supreme Court Justice **Kevin Dougherty** on behalf of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, two regional summits were recently held in the northeast and central regions on Autism 101, diagnosis and community support to educate and train local courthouse personnel, child welfare professionals and dependency court partners, including juvenile and adult probation and other community providers.

“Education and awareness are critical to ensuring we are providing for the needs of all Dependency Court users, especially those with autism,” Justice Dougherty said. “The more we learn, the more we grow as a system and as a community, but most importantly in our ability to be part of the type of positive change that will impact Pennsylvania families.”

Over 500 attendees, representing 60 different organizations from 25 counties, including local children and youth, courthouse personnel, law enforcement, schools and community service providers, were present between the two locations.

The regional summits are part of a five-county effort to expand locally on the work that the statewide Autism and Dependency Court taskforce has undertaken.

With nearly one in 44 children and one in 56 adults diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), judges are sure to have individuals living with autism come before

them. The primary goal of the Autism and Dependency Court Taskforce is to provide a positive dependency court experience for children and parents with ASD by increasing professional awareness and responsiveness.

The planning committee for the regional summits included:

- Lead Dependency Judge, Judge **Ryan Tira**, Lycoming County
- Children and Youth Administrator, Matthew Salvatori, Lycoming County
- President Judge **Michael Sholley**, Snyder and Union Counties
- Children and Youth Administrator, Jennifer Napp-Evans, Snyder County
- Children and Youth Administrator, Matt Erst, Union County
- Lead Dependency Judge, Judge **Jennifer Rogers**, Luzerne County
- Children and Youth Administrator, Kerry Browning, Lackawanna County
- Director, **Sandra Moore**, Office of Children and Families in the Courts
- Judicial Analyst, **Jennifer Doyle**, Office of Children and Families in the Courts ▲

more information

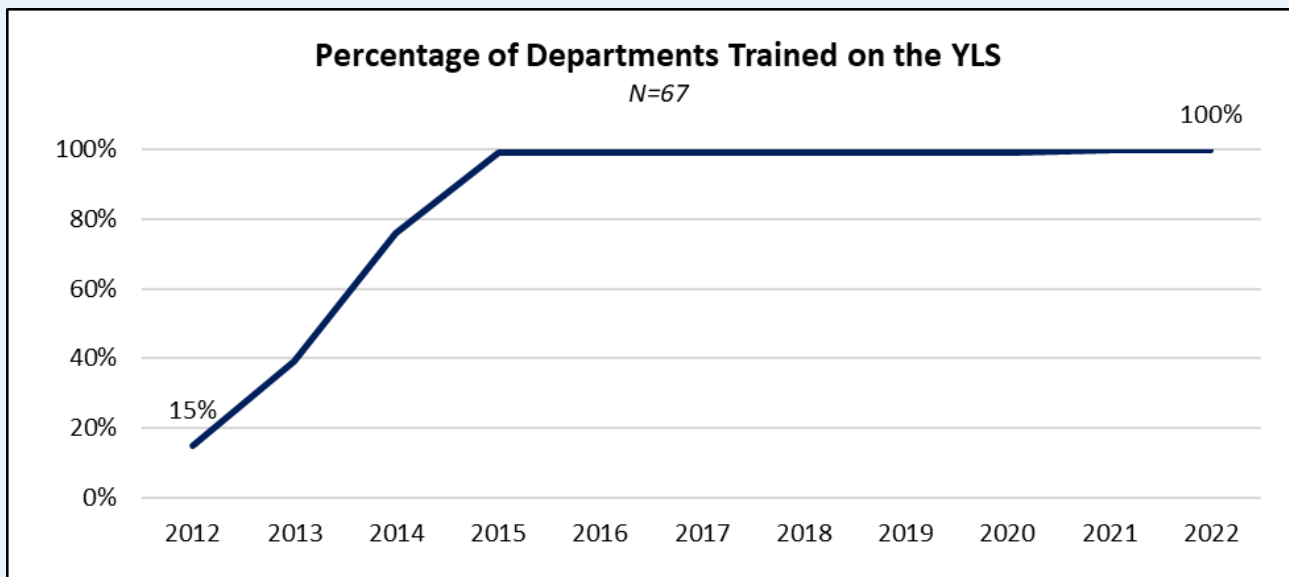
For more information, visit www.ocfcpacourts.us.

2022 JJSES IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS

Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system consists of a robust and ever-changing coalition of stakeholders who have advanced effective and progressive juvenile justice practices. These stakeholders have an ongoing commitment to achieving the state’s Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) mission through a comprehensive reform effort better known as the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). As part of the JJSES initiative, juvenile probation departments complete an annual JJSES Implementation Survey, developed to provide stakeholders with the capacity to examine the implementation and sustainability of the JJSES across both county-specific and statewide aggregate levels. The survey continues to be a valuable tool for collecting data on how the juvenile justice system has changed in response to the JJSES. It also serves as a mechanism to identify areas where there are gaps in efforts to incorporate evidence-based programming and practices. Each year, the survey results are published in a JJSES Implementation Report, offering stakeholders the opportunity to better understand the progress of the implementation and sustainability of the JJSES.

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce that the 2022 JJSES Implementation Survey results are collected and the [2022 JJSES Implementation Report](#) is now available. This report includes a trend analysis of the implementation and sustainability of the JJSES in Pennsylvania, as captured through the survey over the last 11 years and highlights the major findings of the 2022 JJSES Implementation Survey. Using a series of metrics that the JJSES Implementation Survey has consistently measured over multiple years, the report demonstrates how the JJSES has become embedded within Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system and the steps that have been taken to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives.

For example, Pennsylvania has collectively progressed through the foundational steps of the “Initiation” stage of the JJSES, including the Youth Level of Service® (YLS). The 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 chart below provides a visual illustration of one piece of the YLS implementation: formal training on the tool. From 2015 to 2020, 99% of departments were trained on the YLS, and by 2021, 100% were trained.



In this multi-part newsletter series throughout the upcoming months, the JCJC will share infographics from the 2022 JJSES Implementation Report to further illustrate the progress of the implementation and sustainability of the JJSES in Pennsylvania, using information from each county’s FY 2022-2023 JJSES Implementation Survey.

SAVE *the* DATE

Hilton Harrisburg

**NOVEMBER
1-3, 2023**

2023 James E. Anderson

**PENNSYLVANIA
CONFERENCE
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

CONFERENCE – HOTEL INFORMATION

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

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

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



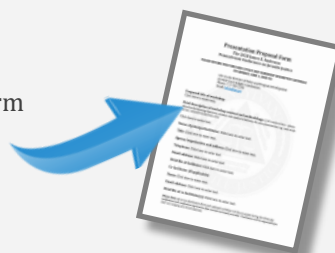
Call for Presentations Deadline Extended to May 19, 2023!

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 2, 2023. 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, May 19, 2023**, and can be directed to Leo J. Lutz, Director of Policy and Program Development, at lelutz@pa.gov.

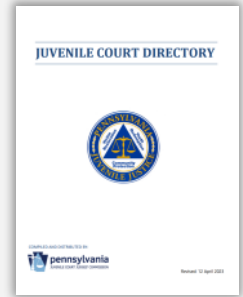
Presentation Proposal Form
Click here to download
or visit:



<https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/AnnualConference/Documents/Call%20for%20Presentations%202023.docx>

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

The Juvenile Court Directory is a comprehensive list of staff names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for organizations associated with the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system. This directory is compiled and maintained by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) and made available to the public via a link to a PDF file found on the www.jcjc.pa.gov website by clicking on the 'Directories' icon.



Included in the directory are listings for the following organizational groups:

- County Offices – juvenile court judges, hearing officers, district attorneys and public defenders, and chief and deputy chief probation officers;
- Juvenile Court Judges' Commission – current commission members, JCJC administrative staff, court consultants, and Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research staff;
- Pennsylvania Juvenile Detention Centers;
- Department of Human Services Directors;
- Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers; and
- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

This year, the directory data was moved from a Microsoft Word document into the JCJC's directory database to assist in automating the directory publishing process and to provide a single data source which can be shared among many applications and directory needs.

Manual updates will still be required to keep the directory up to date, so assistance is requested by providing notice of any changes or discrepancies. These changes can be provided to a county assigned JCJC Court Consultant, or through the JCJC Help Desk at: RA-JCJCHELPDESK@pa.gov.

SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT THE JCJC'S CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE TRAINING AND RESEARCH

On April 6, 2023, members of Shippensburg University's Criminal Justice Club and Criminal Justice Honor Society and their faculty advisor, Dr. Arelys Madero, visited the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's (JCJC) Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJT&R). Dr. Scott Weller, Director of the CJJT&R, introduced the students to the history, purpose, and impact of the JCJC, the CJJT&R, and the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). Next, Juvenile Court Consultant Stephanie Black described her previous experience as a juvenile probation officer and her current role as a juvenile court consultant.



The students then traveled on a fascinating, informative tour throughout the CJJT&R to learn about the various program areas. Mike Tan, Director of the Information Technology Department, explained the Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) and its usage for analytics, dashboards, data entry, reports, and research. He also presented an overview of the JCJC Help Desk, its work to answer questions received from juvenile probation staff statewide about the JCJC's different technologies, and the technical assistance the team offers to juvenile probation offices. The students then visited Dawn Butts, Quality Assurance Supervisor, who outlined her team's responsibilities re-

garding the Juvenile Court Annual Report, background checks, data integrity, expungements, and the JCJC's monthly newsletter. Sonya Stokes, Director of Professional Development, then related how professional development and graduate education play an important role in the well-rounded training of juvenile probation officers. Finally, the tour concluded with a review of the secure detention monitoring program. The students appreciated the knowledgeable team members who were able to answer their many questions during the visit and gave them a new perspective on a possible career. Also, the students reported that the visit gave them a much better understanding of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and the meaningful collaboration between the JCJC, juvenile probation offices, service providers, and other state and local agencies for the benefit of justice-involved youth.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

May

- 4 Being Color Brave and Culturally Humble
Virtual
- 11 SPEP™ Level 1 Learning Community - Hybrid
Virtual
- 15-17 EPICS End User Training
Reading
- 24 A Snapshot of Courtroom Presentations for Coaches
Virtual
- 30 SPEP™ InfoCom
Virtual

June

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

August

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

September

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

October

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

November

- 9 Graduated Responses (GR) Peer Mentoring
Virtual

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov

JULY 26-28, 2023

Graduate Hotel, State College, PA

SAPEN

Sexual Abuse Prevention & Education Network

Keynote Speaker CONFIRMED!!



Keynote Speaker

Elizabeth Smart

www.elizabethsmart.com

Additional speakers to
be announced SOON!!

Vendor Opportunities!!

Early Registration Discounts!!

One Day Tickets to be Available!!



REGISTRATION TO OPEN ON APRIL 1st!!

Questions?? Email us at Sapenconference@gmail.com



Justice Center
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



Courting Judicial Excellence: A Juvenile Justice Judicial Training Institute

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

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

WHY IS TRAINING NECESSARY?

Juvenile court judges are the most important public figures in the juvenile justice system — they decide whether hundreds of thousands of youth become court-involved each year and for how long, whether youth are involuntarily removed from their homes and communities, and which services they receive. Because of the important role that judges play in their communities, it is vital that they receive comprehensive training on juvenile justice issues.

However, based on a national study conducted by The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), many states lack specialized training, and many judges do not consistently receive the information and tools they need to make these critical decisions. To begin to address this gap, the CSG Justice Center and the NCJFCJ developed a first-of-its-kind judicial training institute: **Courting Judicial Excellence: A Juvenile Justice Judicial Training Institute**.

For more information, please visit:

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



NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ADDRESSES COURT-IMPOSED FINES AND FEES FOR YOUTH

On April 20, 2023, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a “Dear Colleague” letter to state and local courts and juvenile justice agencies addressing the constitutional and legal issues and policy considerations related to juvenile and adult fines and fees.

Most importantly for the juvenile justice field, the letter states that jurisdictions should presume that children and youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system should be presumed indigent and unable to pay fines and fees.

The letter highlights a number of other key recommendations and best practices regarding fines and fees, such as the importance of conducting a meaningful ability-to-pay assessment before imposing adverse consequences for failure to pay, considering alternatives to fines and fees, guarding against excessive penalties and ensuring due process protections, including the assistance of counsel when appropriate.

“The issue of fines and fees was raised by so many youth at our listening sessions and in meetings over this last year, and this guidance will have a tremendous impact on the lives of young people who’ve had contact with the justice system.”

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Liz Ryan, OJJDP Administrator

Key points regarding juvenile justice-involved youth include:

- Fundamental principles regarding fines and fees, grounded in the Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, apply to both adults and youth.
- Application fees and charges for a court-appointed lawyer can risk violating youths’ constitutional right to counsel.
- Many states and localities have already eliminated or significantly reduced the use of juvenile fines and fees.

RESOURCES:

- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS RELEASES REPORT ON YOUTH SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released a new report, Substantiated Incidents of Sexual Victimization Reported by Juvenile Justice Authorities, 2013–2018, that presents data on incidents of sexual victimization perpetrated by youth and staff in juvenile justice facilities, including characteristics of victims and perpetrators. It also provides data on victim and perpetrator outcomes.

RESOURCES:

- [View](#) the Office of Justice Programs press release.
- Visit OJJDP’s sexual exploitation of children [webpage](#).

- OJJDP’s [Statistical Briefing Book](#) (SBB) includes data on [youth victimization in juvenile facilities](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP ADMINISTRATOR RYAN DISCUSSES YOUTH REENTRY IN PBS INTERVIEW

In a new [video interview](#) posted on the *PBS NewsHour* website, OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan discusses challenges faced by youth involved in the justice system and highlights OJJDP’s work to provide these youth and their families with support.

Ryan discusses OJJDP’s [Second Chance Act programs](#), which help youth successfully transition out of the justice system and back into their communities. The Administrator emphasizes the Office’s focus on providing system-involved youth with employment skills and other resources while in confinement to support their successful reentry.

Every April, OJJDP observes [Second Chance Month](#) in support of youth’s successful reentry.

RESOURCES:

- [Access](#) OJJDP’s Second Chance Month Tool Kit.
- View and download OJJDP’s [guide](#) to juvenile reentry.
- View OJJDP’s [Juvenile Reentry Programs I-Guide](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

NGA REPORT ADDRESSES COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

The National Governors Association (NGA) released “[State Strategies To Address The Needs of Justice-Involved Youth Impacted By Collateral Consequences](#),” which explains the repercussions youth often face following release from out-of-home placement.

Key takeaways:

Justice-involved youth face a diverse range of collateral consequences that can have both immediate and long-term impacts on their well-being.

Developing a non-punitive, community-based, trauma-informed approach supported by stakeholders is key to reducing collateral consequences for justice-involved youth.

Governors’ offices can mitigate the challenges faced by policymakers seeking to address this problem by bringing attention to the issue, encouraging collaboration, building consensus among key stakeholders, and proposing legislation that addresses specific collateral consequences through targeted policies or comprehensive reform.

The report also provides recommendations for governors and state policymakers to consider when implementing strategies to reduce the impact of collateral consequences on justice-involved youth.

RESOURCES:

- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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

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