



JCJC STUDY EXAMINES RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YLS RISK LEVEL AND RECIDIVISM

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 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 (AOPC) Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS).

This is the second out of four newsletter articles that will highlight the report's key findings. This article explores the relationship of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory™ (YLS) final risk level² and recidivism. Analysis of this relationship provides validation for the tool's ability to distinguish youth who are at greater risk of recidivating from those who are at a lower risk. The YLS also provides information that can indicate whether recidivism trends are a product of juvenile justice system improvements or changes in the characteristics of closed youth.

Consistent with past years (2015-2018), youth closed in 2019 assessed as high or very high risk were much more likely to reoffend than moderate risk youth, who, in turn, were much more likely to reoffend than low risk youth (41% vs. 23% vs. 10%). See Figure 1 on the next page. These findings are in line with research that validates the YLS as a risk assessment tool³.

This latest recidivism report shows that recidivism rates have continued to decline substantially over the last few years, dropping from 19.6% in 2014 to 11.7% in 2019, the lowest it has been since the state began tracking it in 2007.

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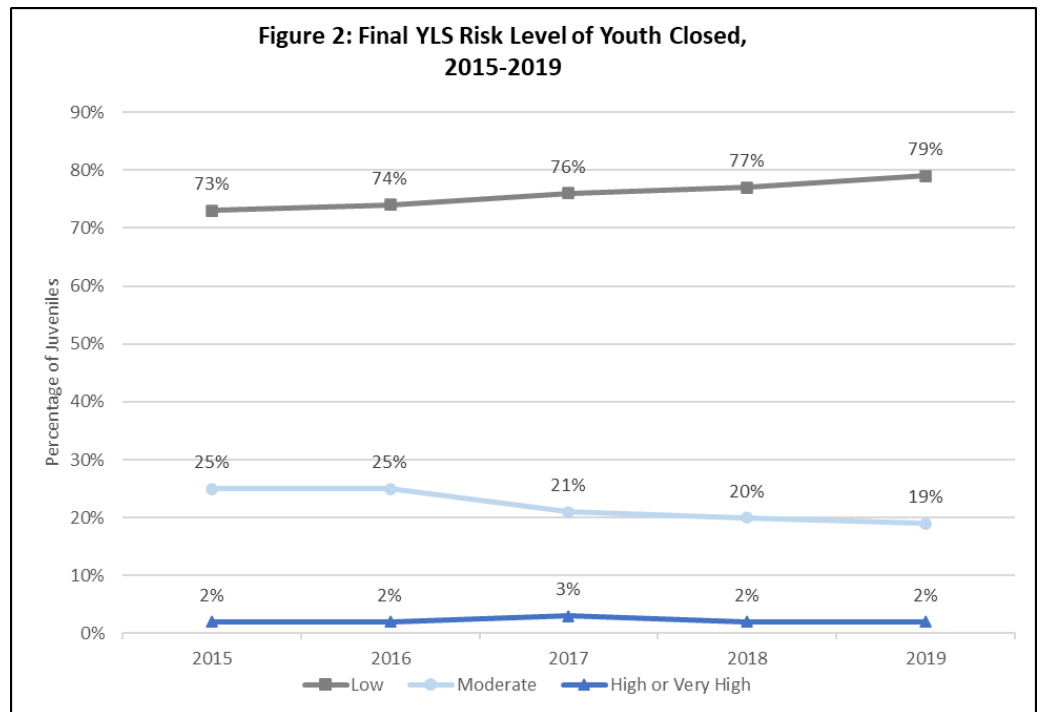
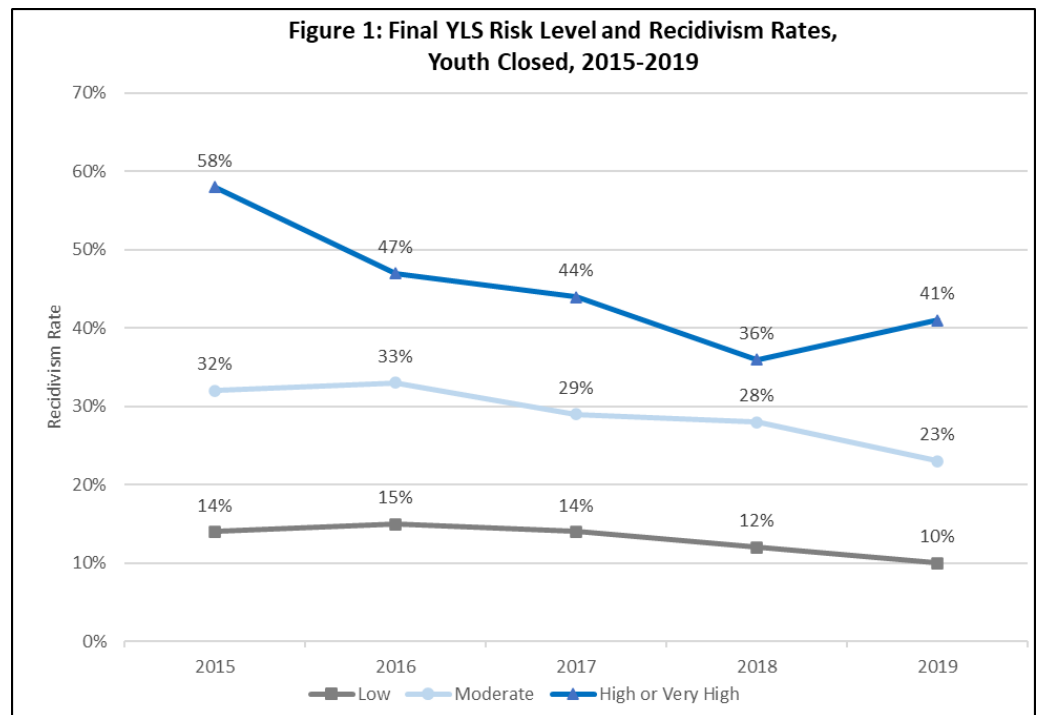
¹The term "closed youth" refers to youth terminated from juvenile court supervision. A youth could be on supervision for multiple individual cases at the time of closure.

²This report only analyzes YLS risk levels for juveniles whose last YLS assessment was six months before their closing or within 60 days after their closing and that was specifically identified in the PaJCMS as a closing assessment. The reader is cautioned that only 47% (6,571/13,996) of juveniles closed in 2019 met these criteria.

³Hoge, R.D., & Andrews, D.A. (2011). *Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory™ 2.0: User's Manual*. Multi-Health Systems, Inc.

It is important to note that, while these rates could have decreased due to better system performance, these trends could also be the result of changes in the characteristics of youth closed. For instance, if a greater percentage of youth assessed as low risk are part of the closed population, it is expected that recidivism rates will be lower compared to past years. The evidence presented in Figures 1 and 2 suggests that both hypotheses are relevant to explaining recent recidivism trends.

- The percentage of youth assessed as low risk on their final YLS increased slightly (from 73% in 2015 to 79% in 2019), while the percentage of youth assessed as moderate risk on their final YLS decreased slightly. The percentage of youth assessed as high or very high on their final YLS did not change. See Figure 2. This demonstrates that the overall population of youth in the sample population were at a slightly lower likelihood to re-offend.
- Even still, recidivism rates dropped across the board, regardless of risk level. Recidivism rates of youth assessed as high or very high risk declined the greatest, dropping from 58% in 2015 to 41% in 2019. See Figure 1. The recidivism rates of low and moderate risk youth have also declined, although less dramatically, over the last four years, from 14% and 32%, respectively, in 2015 to 10% and 23%, respectively, in 2019.



Again, the data indicates that, while the characteristics of the population of youth closed shifted (i.e., more youth were assessed as low risk), the recidivism rates for youth across all risk levels have declined, particularly for those assessed as high or very high risk.

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

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

LYCOMING COUNTY CHIEF DAVID GOODWIN MOVES TO ADULT PROBATION



David Goodwin joined Lycoming County Juvenile Probation as Chief in July 2020 after working in Clinton County Adult Probation for over 10 years. During Dave's time at Lycoming County Juvenile Probation, he implemented use of the PaDRAI and started a community service program. Additionally, Dave began an Accountability Court. He worked collaboratively with law enforcement and developed a Youth Gang Task Force. Furthermore, Dave implemented Mental Health First Aid at the high school level.

Dave looks forward to his new role as Chief of Lycoming County Adult Probation, which began in December 2022. He is specifically focused on the use of evidence-based programming including assessment tools; use of Motivational Interviewing and case planning; and ensuring use of a trauma-informed care model. Dave is excited to work with the Honorable Nancy L. Butts, President Judge, to further the goals of the probation department and the Court.

JCJC congratulates Dave in his new position and wishes him well!

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**ADMINISTRATION OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE**
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For program information,
visit:

www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/Graduate-Education

2023 JCJC AWARDS COMMITTEE

On February 8, 2023, the JCJC Awards Committee convened to discuss this year's James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice Professional and Youth Award Programs. The 2023 Awards Committee includes existing members Patrick Micco, Committee Chair and Lawrence County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer; Mary Jo Battle, Erie County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer; Justin Popovich, Bradford County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer; Amy Warner, Philadelphia County Juvenile Probation Deputy Director; Abigail Wilson, PA Council of Children Youth and Family Services Director of Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Education Services; Angel Stewart, JCJC Director of Administration and Grant Programs; and Keysla Rodriguez, JCJC Quality Assurance Assistant. In addition to the current members, the committee welcomed new members: Michaella Mowers, Westmoreland County Victim/Witness Advocate-Juvenile Probation Officer II; Nelton Neal, Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Supervisor; Kevin Perluke, Luzerne County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer; and Mark Rhoads, Forest County Chief Probation Officer.



During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the 2022 Professional and Youth Award Programs and discussed changes and improvements for 2023. In preparation for distribution, the Committee reviewed and updated the award nomination forms, which will be made available in the upcoming months. They also selected the theme for this year's Youth Awards Program as **"Believe in My Steps for Tomorrow."** Youth entering the Creative Expression Contest are to submit mixed media (e.g., poster, video, or audio) or written submissions based on their interpretation of this year's theme. The Awards Committee will reconvene this summer to select the professional and youth award winners.

Please note: all previous professional award submissions that were not winners in their category may be resubmitted for consideration.

SAVE *the* DATE

Hilton Harrisburg

**NOVEMBER
1-3, 2023**

2023 James E. Anderson

**PENNSYLVANIA
CONFERENCE
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**



Call for Presentations

The 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 1 - November 3, 2023

Hilton Harrisburg

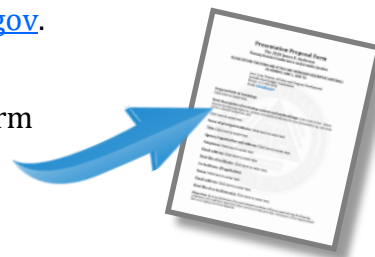
The 2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, sponsored by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges will be held November 1-3, 2023 at the Hilton Harrisburg.

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, April 28, 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.icjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/AnnualConference/Documents/Call%20for%20Presentations%202023.docx>

BUCKS COUNTY JUVENILE COURT INCREASES DETENTION SERVICES

Submitted by Ted Rice, Chief Probation Officer, Bucks County Juvenile Probation

Bucks County Juvenile Court has implemented a new program that provides increased supportive services to youth while in secure detention. The program also affords them an opportunity to be reconsidered for release home in lieu of extended waits for available program beds.

This program has been developed by the Juvenile Court with the cooperation of the Bucks County Youth Center and key Bucks County community-based providers. Youth are provided services on an intensive basis several times a week at the detention center. Parental/caregiver participation is conducted by phone and video, with follow-ups by the providers in the home if necessary.

Youth who successfully participate in the program can be reconsidered by the Court for release back into the community. They are then supervised on an intensive basis through electronic monitoring and the assigned juvenile probation officer. They also continue with the community-based provider until successfully completing the program.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

March

- 2 Developmental Trauma Disorder
Virtual
- 16 JCJC Technology User Group
State College
- 28-29 Motivational Interviewing 101
State College
- 30 Graduated Responses (GR) Coordinator Group
Virtual

April

- 4-5 Probation Officer Well-Being: Officer Strategies
That Can Promote a Safe Working Environment
State College
- 12-14 Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum Training
for Facilitators
State College
- 17-21 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation
Professional - A Blended Learning Course
Camp Hill
- 26-27 SPEPT™ Level 1 Specialist Training
Virtual

May

- 4 Being Color Brave and Culturally Humble
Virtual
- 11 SPEPT™ Level 1 Learning Community
Virtual
- 30 SPEPT™ InfoCom
Virtual

June

- 2 Child Adolescent Psychiatric Disorders
State College
- 29 Graduated Responses (GR) Peer Mentor Meeting
Virtual

August

- 31 Growing Yourself Personally and Professionally
State College

September

- 6 Addiction 101
State College
- 21 Graduated Responses (GR) Coordinator Group
Virtual

October

- 2-6 Orientation for the New Juvenile Probation
Professional - A Blended Learning Course
Camp Hill
- 16-18 EPICS End User Training
State College
- 17 SPEPT™ Combine (Level 1 and InfoCom
Collaboration)
Virtual

November

- 9 Graduated Responses (GR) Peer Mentoring
Virtual

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov



JCJC Technology User Group

March 16, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Opening Session 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

IT Projects and Processes - PaJCMS Enhancements - Professional Development Updates
Annual Report/Data Integrity - Research

PaJCMS Forum 10:30 AM - Noon

Demo and Discussion for Enhancements

Breakout Sessions 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Expungement Processing and Reports - Dashboards and Reports
Dependency Status/Community-Based Services

Registration available at www.jcjcjems.pa.gov

Ramada Conference Center, State College — Group Code JCJC2023

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Did you know... in PaJCMS, there are two ways to run the Statistical Evaluation (Stat Eval) Report? The report can be accessed from clicking on Management Tools at the top of the screen and choosing Reports from the dropdown, or while on the Juvenile Face Sheet, click on the Stat. Eval. Report button in the middle of the screen. Running the report from the Juvenile Face Sheet will run only for that juvenile, whereas running from Management Tools will run for the entire county or a specific juvenile if using the Search Juvenile feature.

We recommend a best practice of running the individual Stat Eval Report:

When entering any new hearings, charges, dispositions, or placements on a juvenile while it is still fresh in your mind; prior to closing a juvenile which could eliminate the need to “open for maintenance” to correct errors later; and prior to expunging a case or juvenile because after the record is expunged, it cannot be edited without the Help Desk’s assistance.

Correcting the Stat Eval Report’s errors quarterly can also be helpful rather than waiting for year’s end. If you have questions or need assistance in running this report, contact the Help Desk at RA-JCJCHELPDESK@PA.gov.



The Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™): What SPEP™ Can Do for You

The SPEP™ is based on the *meta-analytic research* of Dr. Mark Lipsey from Vanderbilt University, which determined that *Therapeutically Oriented Approaches* had a positive impact on recidivism reduction. The therapeutic approaches include **Skill Building, Counseling, and Restorative** services, and Dr. Lipsey identified *14 subcategories* for services found in the research. Each of these subcategories has its own corresponding targeted amount of service (duration and dosage) which reinforce the service’s recidivism reduction capacity.

Correctly classifying services provides the foundation for the SPEP™ assessment and the scoring of the additional components (e.g., Quality, Duration & Dosage, and Risk). Service classification also drives Juvenile Probation Departments’ ability to understand and utilize services efficiently & effectively, specifically as it relates to the appropriate amount of service – duration in weeks, dosage in hours.

Duration and Dosage for SPEP™ Service Types		
Service Type & Service Name	Duration or Number of Weeks	Dosage or Number of Contact Hours
Restorative Services		
Restitution/Community Service	12	60
Mediation	4	8
Counseling		
Individual Counseling	25	30
Mentoring	26	78
Family Counseling	20	30
Family Crisis Counseling	4	8
Group Counseling	24	40
Mixed Counseling	25	25
Skill Building Services		
Behavior Management	24	72
Cognitive-behavioral Therapy	15	45
Social Skills Training	16	24
Challenge Programs	4	60
Remedial Academic Program	26	100
Job Related Training		
Vocational Counseling	20	40
Job Training	25	400
Work Experience	26	520
Exceptions to SPEP™ Targeted Amount of Service		
Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®)		
Community-Based Setting	8	24
Residential Setting	10	28
Multi-systemic Therapy (MST)	13	30

Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists have the exclusive training and ongoing booster education required to accurately classify services, which is necessary to ensure fidelity with the process and ensure consistency across the state. SPEP™ Informed training and ongoing networking participation allows Juvenile Probation Officers to better utilize the SPEP™ assessments in Pennsylvania in their day-to-day work. Understanding the SPEP™ assessment process, its components, and the subsequent score can help to influence appropriate recommendations made to the Court.

For Juvenile Probation Departments that do not currently have the capacity to fully implement the SPEP™, Level 1 Specialists and SPEP™ Informed JPOs, can work together to classify services delivered to youth via the It’s Classified or Regional Assist Packages. For more information about the SPEP™, including training opportunities, please contact Kris Glunt at ktg10@psu.edu or Angela Work at awork@pa.gov.



2023 | **COURAGE**
TO CHANGE:
Leading the Way
National Symposium on Juvenile Services

National Symposium on Juvenile Services - SAVE THE DATE!

We are excited to announce that the **29th National Symposium on Juvenile Services** will be held on **October 3-6, 2023** in the award-winning Chicago suburb of Naperville, Illinois. NPJS is proud to be hosting the 2023 Symposium in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC), the Center for Coordinated State Assistance (CCAS), and the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. The theme for the Symposium is ***Courage to Change: Leading the Way***.

The **National Symposium on Juvenile Services** is a unique forum that brings together field expertise across the continuum of care. Administrators, frontline professionals, clinicians, probation officers, advocates, educators, trainers, and community supports, all coming to one location in the spirit of collaboration and professional development. The Symposium offers an irreplaceable opportunity to network and share innovative program services as well as real-life solutions to common barriers experienced across the nation (and sometimes beyond).

In advance of the Symposium, NPJS will host the **National Juvenile Services Leadership Institute** on **October 2-3, 2023**. The Institute is designed for current and new/emerging leaders in juvenile justice, with a focus toward those leaders (administrators and mid-level management) in juvenile confinement facilities including juvenile detention, corrections, and treatment centers. The NPJS Leadership Institute is an intensive day-long immersion into leadership development. Each participant will work through three modules focusing on specific areas of leadership and specific content related to each leadership style. The theme for this year's institute is: ***Leadership Triathlon: Leading for the Distance***.

A special rate is available for individuals who attend both events.

[National Symposium on Juvenile Services](#)

National Symposium on Juvenile Services Call for Presentations

NPJS is looking for engaging juvenile services and juvenile justice experts and speakers to join the lineup at the 2023 National Symposium on Juvenile Services.

The 2023 Focus Areas are:

- Improving Systems
- Improving Personnel Performance
- Improving Youth, Family and Community Outcomes
- Improving Access to Resources
- Implementation of Performance Improvement Practices

The deadline to apply is Friday, April 14, 2023.

[Symposium Call for Presentations](#)

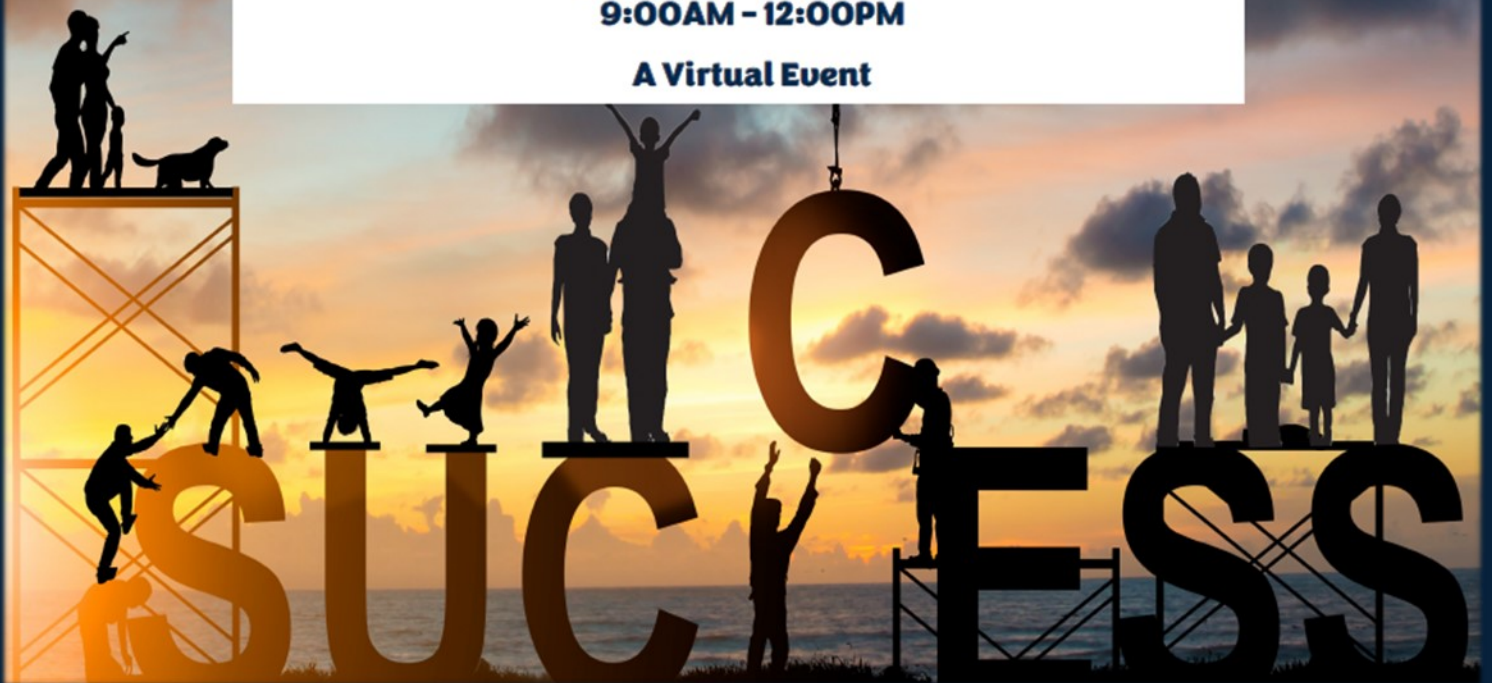
SAVE THE DATE

Family Group Decision Making Conference
Partnering with Families for Success

April 25-26, 2023

9:00AM - 12:00PM

A Virtual Event





NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OJJDP ADMINISTRATOR RYAN'S NEW BLOG CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In a new blog post, OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan discusses OJJDP's commitment to pursue racial equity and fairness in the juvenile justice system as the Office commemorates Black History Month.



Ryan discusses OJJDP's efforts to eliminate racial disparities in the juvenile justice system through its funding priorities and technical assistance provided to states. The blog highlights OJJDP's [Juvenile Justice System Reform and Reinvestment Initiative](#)—reintroduced last year—to support state efforts to reduce reoffending by youth, improve youth outcomes, and end racial and ethnic disparities. Ryan also emphasizes the Office's support of community-based alternatives to youth incarceration.

The Administrator also focuses on the integral contributions Black Americans make to every aspect of American life and highlights the achievements of two Black youth who overcame barriers that youth of color encounter.

"I hope you'll join me and OJJDP in commemorating Black History Month—in celebrating our young people's achievements while recommitting ourselves to systems and services that help them fulfill their promise," Ryan writes.

RESOURCES:

- Read about OJJDP's [priorities](#).
- Visit OJJDP's webpage on [Racial/Ethnic Disparities](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

OJJDP NEWS @ A GLANCE, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

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

This issue's Message from the Administrator outlines OJJDP's multi-pronged effort to eliminate racial disparities in the juvenile justice system. The top story features Administrator Liz Ryan's plenary remarks at MENTOR's National Mentoring Summit held in January. The issue marks National AMBER Alert Awareness Day with an update on the support OJJDP provides law enforcement and other partners to recover missing and abducted children.

The Tribal Connections section highlights the 2022 State and Tribal Relations Assistance Division Conference and the National Tribal Youth Conference, which were held concurrently; and orientation and listening sessions for new OJJDP grantees who received funding under the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation.

Other features in this issue—

- [OJJDP Supports Mentoring in Many Settings, Including Youth Detention Facilities](#)
- [Stakeholder's Corner: Compeer Promotes Mental Wellness with Friendship](#)
- [Research Central: New Report Provides Latest Data on Youth and the Juvenile Justice System](#)
- [News in Brief](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [New Publications](#)

RESOURCES:

- [OJJDP News @ a Glance](#), January/February 2023 (NCJ 305632) is available [online](#).
- Follow OJJDP on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

NEW REPORT AVAILABLE ON MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS

The [Office of Hawaiian Affairs](#) and the [Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women](#) have published the "[Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Task Force Report](#)." This is the first of a two-part report on violence against Native Hawaiian women and girls.



Key findings include:

- Native Hawaiian women and girls experience violence at rates disproportionate to their population size.
- More than a quarter of missing girls in Hawaii are Native Hawaiian.
- The average profile of a missing child in Hawaii is a Native Hawaiian 15-year-old female.
- Hawaii has the eighth highest rate of missing persons in the United States.

RESOURCES:

- Visit the Department of Justice's [webpage](#) on missing and murdered Indigenous persons.
- Visit OJJDP's Missing and Exploited Children [webpage](#).
- Visit OJJDP's Human Trafficking Resources [webpage](#).
- 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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