

OJJDP Celebrates 50 Years of the JJDP Act



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) marks the 50th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act, with the year-long observance “Looking Back, Moving Forward: Celebrating 50 Years of the JJDP Act.”

Throughout 2024, the Office will observe the anniversary with several events, culminating with the National Conference on Youth Justice in November.

Signed into law on September 7, 1974, this landmark legislation established OJJDP to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve juvenile justice systems.

In December 2018, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) of 2018 was signed into law, reauthorizing and substantially amending the JJDP Act.

The JJDP Act also created the Title II Formula Grants program. The program supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements and requires states to comply with four core protections:

- Deinstitutionalization of status offenders.
- Separation of youth from adults in secure facilities.
- Removal of youth from adult jails and lockups.
- Addressing disproportionate minority contact within the justice system.

Vision

OJJDP envisions a nation where all children are free from crime and violence. Youth contact with the justice system should be rare, fair, and beneficial.

Mission

OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to youth delinquency and victimization. The Office helps states, localities, and Tribes develop effective and equitable juvenile justice systems that create safer communities and empower youth to lead productive lives.

Looking Back, Moving Forward: Celebrating 50 Years of the JJDP Act

Visit [OJJDP.ojp.gov/about/jjdp-act-50](https://www.ojjdp.gov/about/jjdp-act-50) to access these products:

- JJDP Act 50th Anniversary webpage
- JJDP Act Legislative Timeline
- Save the Date page for the OJJDP National Conference On Youth Justice: Shaping the Next 50 Years
- Virtual Library

