



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

# 2021 Annual Report



Working for Youth Justice and Safety

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**Office of Justice Programs**  
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**Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**  
Working for Youth Justice and Safety  
*ojjdp.ojp.gov*

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

# 2021 Annual Report

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This report covers activities undertaken by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention during fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020–September 30, 2021).

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# About OJJDP

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was established through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Public Law 93–415.

A component of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP works to prevent delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and protect children. Learn more at [ojjdp.ojp.gov](https://ojjdp.ojp.gov).

## Vision Statement

OJJDP envisions a nation where our children are free from crime and violence. If they come into contact with the justice system, the contact should be rare, fair, and beneficial to them.

## Mission Statement

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.

## Advisory Councils

### Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

An independent body within the executive branch of the Federal Government, the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention coordinates federal programs and activities related to delinquency prevention, the care or detention of unaccompanied juveniles, and missing and exploited children.

The council comprises 11 *ex officio* members, 2 affiliate members, and 10 nonfederal practitioner members named by the President and Congress. The *ex officio* members include the Attorney General (who serves as chair) and the OJJDP Administrator (who serves as vice chair).

Visit [juvenilecouncil.gov](http://juvenilecouncil.gov) for more information.



### Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice

The Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice is a consultative body composed of appointed representatives of state advisory groups from each state. The committee advises the President, Congress, and the OJJDP Administrator on juvenile justice issues and concerns.

See [facjj.ojp.gov](http://facjj.ojp.gov) for additional details.





**To the President, the Attorney General, the President *pro tempore* of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairs of the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Chair of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, and Members of Congress:**

It is my privilege to transmit the fiscal year 2021 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Annual Report.

In fiscal year 2021, OJJDP funding helped communities across the country adopt proven programs and strategies to prevent and intervene in delinquency and support system-involved youth. The Office also continued to work closely with its federal, state, local, and Tribal partners to protect children from abuse, exploitation, abduction, and violence.

This report describes programs and activities the Office carried out in fiscal year 2021 to build a better future for America's youth.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chyrl Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chyrl Jones  
Acting Administrator  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



# Foreword

Nothing brings a mission into focus like a crisis. Whether it is a global pandemic or a personal emergency, a crisis has a way of crystallizing goals and clarifying priorities.

It is with that sense of unwavering focus that the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and its state, Tribal, and local partners faced the many challenges that came our way in 2021. We innovated. We collaborated. We focused on the mission: to prevent and respond to youth delinquency and victimization.

In fiscal year 2021, OJJDP distributed nearly \$344 million to fund mentoring initiatives, children’s advocacy centers, gang prevention programs, drug treatment courts, and many other activities aimed at building positive pathways for youth. We supported the states as they continued to reform their juvenile justice systems to better serve youth.

Citing the adverse effects of system involvement, President Biden called for a national shift from incarceration to prevention when he proclaimed October 2021 as **National Youth Justice Action Month**. In 2021, we funded programs that rely less on punishment and more on youth mentoring, community building, drug use interventions, and other prosocial measures that can bring long-lasting, positive change. Instead of seeing the worst, we are seeking the best.

OJJDP also supported the **White House Community Violence Intervention initiative** aimed at reducing gun violence. We encouraged grantees to use strategies that engage youth, their families, and their communities to help reduce gang violence.

As part of our ongoing efforts to respond to the needs of Tribal communities, we published our *Tribal Consultation Response*. The report summarizes discussions at OJJDP’s first-ever Tribal consultation and outlines the Office’s commitments to our partners in Indian country.

At OJJDP, we believe in the power of prevention. We know that every child deserves to live a life free from violence. We also support second chances, and are committed to ensuring that our juvenile justice system is fair and benefits the youth it serves.

As I reflect on 2021, I feel proud of the many investments we have made in young people throughout this country and grateful for the tremendous efforts of OJJDP’s state, Tribal, and local partners. Faced with extraordinary challenges, juvenile justice professionals stayed true to the mission. The focus remained on youth—on their safety, their development, and their future.

Chyrl Jones  
Acting Administrator  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention





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# Fiscal Year 2021 Awards at a Glance

[ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding](http://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding)

In fiscal year 2021, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded approximately \$344 million in grants. OJJDP awards discretionary grants through a competitive process to states, units of local government, Tribal jurisdictions, and organizations to administer juvenile justice and child protection programs. The Formula Grants program, authorized under Title II, Part B, of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, supports states, local jurisdictions, and Tribes working to reduce and prevent delinquency and to improve their juvenile justice systems.

OJJDP awarded only discretionary grants in fiscal year 2021. The Office awarded fiscal year 2021 formula grants in fiscal year 2022.

**Total Funding**  
\$343,990,228



- 26.0% Youth Mentoring
- 23.5% Missing & Exploited Children
- 12.5% Victims of Child Abuse Act Program
- 8.9% Substance Use
- 6.6% Youth Gangs & Violence
- 6.5% Juvenile Justice System Support
- 5.1% Delinquency Prevention & Intervention
- 4.2% Reentry
- 4.1% Tribal Youth Initiatives
- 2.6% Other

Select grants are highlighted below. Visit [ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding](http://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding) for a complete list of awards.

## Youth Mentoring

**\$89,448,792**

National Mentoring Programs	\$43,000,000
Multistate Mentoring Programs	\$27,603,792
Mentoring for Youth Affected by the Opioid Crisis and Drug Addiction	\$16,000,000
National Mentoring Resource Center	\$2,845,000

OJJDP's National Mentoring Resource Center provided 11,870 hours of technical assistance in response to requests from 535 mentoring organizations in fiscal year 2021.

## Victims of Child Abuse Act Program

**\$43,117,934**

Children's Advocacy Centers and Related Programs	\$28,817,104
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Training, Technical Assistance, and Subgrants Program	\$11,171,647
Child Abuse Training for Judicial and Court Personnel	\$3,129,183

In fiscal year 2021, trained volunteers from approximately 950 CASA programs served abused and neglected children in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

## Missing and Exploited Children

**\$80,807,927**

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)	\$36,922,517
Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program	\$29,560,410
ICAC Program Support and National Training	\$5,125,000
AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$4,400,000
Strengthening ICAC Technological Investigative Capacity	\$3,000,000
Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$1,800,000

In fiscal year 2021, NCMEC's CyberTipline received and made available to law enforcement 22.4 million reports regarding child sexual exploitation or online harm to children.

## Substance Use

**\$30,606,676**

OJJDP funds drug courts that use multidisciplinary teams of court, corrections, and treatment professionals to help youth and families overcome the effects of substance use.

Family Drug Court Program	\$13,843,132
Opioid Affected Youth Initiative	\$8,902,804
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program	\$7,860,740

# Fiscal Year 2021 Awards at a Glance

[ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding](http://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding)



## Youth Gangs and Violence

\$22,792,759

Programs emphasize community violence intervention strategies such as street outreach, hospital-based violence intervention programs, and mediation by neighborhood change agents.

Comprehensive Youth Violence Prevention and Reduction Program	\$14,865,205
Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence	\$7,002,598
National Gang Center	\$924,956



## Delinquency Prevention and Intervention

\$17,364,715

To address delinquency, funded programs focus on early intervention and increasing protective factors for youth.

Delinquency Prevention Grants Program	\$9,753,044
Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System	\$4,675,000
Supporting Effective Interventions for Adolescent Sex Offenders and Children With Sexual Behavior Problems	\$2,936,671



## Tribal Youth Initiatives

\$14,254,687

OJJDP's culturally informed initiatives are designed to promote the success and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

Tribal Youth Program	\$7,115,427
Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts	\$4,400,000
Supporting Tribal Youth: Training and Technical Assistance and Youth Leadership Development Program	\$2,739,260



## Juvenile Justice System Support

\$22,318,484

These awards fund resources, training, and technical assistance to support states' system improvement efforts.

Nonparticipating States Program	\$8,940,025
Juvenile Justice System Reform Initiative	\$7,974,712
Enhancing Juvenile Indigent Defense	\$2,212,266
Family-Based Alternative Sentencing Program	\$1,500,000
Post-Secondary Education Opportunities for Child Protection Professionals	\$892,118
Addressing the Training Needs of Juvenile Prosecutors	\$500,000
Juvenile Justice Emergency Planning and Demonstration Program	\$299,363



## Reentry

\$14,437,638

OJJDP's Second Chance Act awards help grant recipients implement and sustain effective reentry programs for youth returning to their communities after confinement.

Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Program	\$9,970,249
Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children	\$4,467,389

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was established through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Public Law 93-415. A component of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP works to prevent and address delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and protect children.



# Chapter 1. Prevention

## Mentoring Youth

A mentoring relationship with an adult or older peer can help support a youth's positive development. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) mentoring work aims to increase opportunities for youth to have mentors and improve the quality of the mentoring they receive. In fiscal year (FY) 2021, OJJDP awarded more than \$89 million to support mentoring programs and services for youth.



Through its **National Mentoring programs** and **Multistate Mentoring programs** initiatives, the Office provided nearly \$71 million to 26 organizations throughout the country. The programs fund one-on-one, group, and peer mentoring for youth who face substantial risks of delinquency, victimization, and juvenile justice system involvement.

OJJDP also provided \$16 million to directly support 20 mentoring programs for youth affected by the opioid crisis and substance use disorders. These programs offer vital support to youth who are either at risk of or are using drugs, and youth impacted by a family member's drug use.

OJJDP's **National Mentoring Resource Center** works to improve the quality and effectiveness of youth mentoring through increased use of evidence-based practices and by sharing practitioner innovations. In FY 2021, the center provided 11,870 hours of technical assistance in response to 535 requests from mentoring organizations. OJJDP supported the center's work with nearly \$3 million in grant funding.

In January 2021, OJJDP participated in the National Mentoring Summit hosted by **MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership**. The annual event brings together practitioners, researchers, government and civic leaders, and youth to strengthen mentoring programs. More than 2,800 people attended the virtual summit. Prior to the summit, OJJDP hosted a virtual training session on federal grant requirements, best-practice standards, and available resources for new mentoring grantees, including training and technical assistance offered by the National Mentoring Resource Center.

## Mentoring in Action

“Don’t give up even if it’s hard,” is the sage advice of 13-year-old Adam, a participant in the OJJDP-supported **4-H Mentoring of Utah County** program. Adam is the oldest child in a large family. His mother wanted him to participate in the mentoring program to help him avoid negative influences in the wider community, including high rates of drug use.

Adam likens achieving life goals to doing tricks on a trampoline. “If you want to learn how to do a front flip on a trampoline, don’t get discouraged if you fall on your back,” he said. “Keep learning and working toward your goal.”

Operated by Utah State University, Utah 4-H Mentoring is a nationally recognized program designed for youth ages 9–15 and their families. The program operates in areas with high rates of poverty and above-average rates of delinquency and substance use.

With a focus on prevention, Utah 4-H Mentoring helps young people like Adam build successful futures. The goal of the program is to reduce delinquent behaviors, such as opioid and other drug use, and increase positive outcomes for mentees and their families.



Adam found inspiration and renewed focus in the 4-H Mentoring of Utah County program.

*“ You help young Americans find a purpose and a positive path through mentoring. Your work is noble. Your results are tangible. Your impact is undeniable. ”*

*—OJJDP Acting Administrator Chyrl Jones, 2021 National Mentoring Summit*

## Tribal Youth

OJJDP’s **Tribal youth initiatives** help American Indian and Alaska Native communities prevent victimization and delinquent behavior, reduce violent crime, and improve Tribal juvenile justice systems. In FY 2021, the Office awarded more than \$11.5 million to support Tribal youth initiatives as part of the Department of Justice’s **Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation** (CTAS). CTAS allows Tribes to submit a single application for most of the Department’s Tribal grant programs. OJJDP supports two purpose areas within the solicitation—the Tribal Youth Program and Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts.

Tribes use funding awarded under the **Tribal Youth Program** to improve their juvenile justice systems and provide prevention, intervention, and treatment programs for youth. OJJDP awarded more than \$7.1 million to 14 geographically diverse grantees in FY 2021. The Office awarded an additional \$4.4 million to 11 participating courts under the **Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts** program. The courts will use the funding to better address the substance use challenges of court-involved Tribal youth.

OJJDP also provided \$2.7 million to the **Tribal Youth Resource Center** to support a **training and technical assistance and youth leadership development** program. The program is helping Tribes improve their juvenile justice systems and promote youth leadership in the areas of juvenile justice reform and delinquency prevention.

In FY 2021, OJJDP continued its efforts to increase Tribes' access to juvenile justice funding and improve coordination with Tribal communities.

The Office released the **OJJDP Tribal Consultation Response**, which summarizes and responds to issues discussed at the June 2020 Tribal consultation with 288 Tribal leaders and representatives. Through the consultation, OJJDP sought input on the best ways to collaborate with and support Tribes when implementing **Juvenile Justice Reform Act 2018** provisions that impact Tribal youth. The Office also sought to understand and address the barriers Tribes face when applying for funding, and encourage them to apply for additional funding opportunities beyond the CTAS grants.

One of the ways OJJDP is ensuring that Tribal communities are aware of and apply for all of the funding opportunities available to them is by highlighting relevant opportunities in the **OJJDP News @ a Glance** newsletter. In addition to funding opportunities, the newsletter's newly created Tribal Connections section highlights best practices and resources specifically for Tribes.

The Office has also pledged to take a number of other actions to increase Tribal engagement, including adding Tribal representation to relevant federal advisory committees, ensuring that each state advisory group includes a Tribal representative, and adding a consultation session to its biennial Tribal Youth conference.

A record-breaking number of people participated in the 2021 **OJJDP Tribal Youth Virtual National Conference**. Approximately 800 attendees took part in carefully curated sessions, panels, and workshops designed to promote the success and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native youth. Sessions focused on using technology to support Tribal youth, strengthening resilience, and integrating cultural approaches to juvenile justice.



## Supporting Juvenile Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts

Although there has been a steady decline in arrests of youth in Indian country in recent years, **substance use—including alcohol and opioids—by Native Americans** remains prevalent. During the past 50 years, there has been a growing interest in **healing to wellness courts** from Tribes that are looking for opportunities to expand and enhance their youth services.

These courts provide youth with individualized, restorative, and culturally grounded case management services, including treatment, intensive supervision, and referral to community resources. By fostering close collaborations among a multidisciplinary team of stakeholders—including the judge, attorneys, treatment provider, case manager, probation officer, child welfare representative, and education provider—juvenile Tribal healing to wellness courts have proven to be a powerful mechanism for supporting youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system.

OJJDP's **Tribal Youth Resource Center** provides free training and technical assistance to help Tribal communities plan, develop, and implement juvenile Tribal healing to wellness courts. The center's resources and training, which are available to all Tribes, help communities address substance use and prevent youth from entering or moving further into the juvenile justice system.

## Delinquency Prevention

OJJDP provided nearly \$10 million to seven sites under its **Delinquency Prevention Grants program** in FY 2021. The awards support state, local, and Tribal efforts to redirect youth who are at risk for delinquency or who have committed a delinquent act from deeper involvement with the juvenile justice system. Funded sites work to reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors for youth in their homes, schools, and communities.

Tribal grantees will develop and implement culturally informed programs that address the needs of Tribal youth and enhance responses to delinquency in their communities. To increase the availability and types of community-based delinquency prevention programs, OJJDP required states funded under this program to provide subgrants to units of local government.

The program is helping to address a critical need in rural and high-poverty areas by supporting collaborative partnerships, training for providers, and the use of telemental health services and other technologies to improve the quality and efficacy of services that youth receive.

## Research and Data Collection

Promoting quality research and data collection helps improve the functioning of the nation's juvenile justice systems. OJJDP funds research and data collection on delinquency, victimization, and youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

In FY 2021, OJJDP provided \$5.2 million to the National Institute of Justice to fund a variety of **juvenile justice and public safety-related research and evaluation projects**. These projects include longitudinal research studies that focus on delinquency and crime throughout the life-course, and a project to improve the measurement of recidivism among youth. Funds also supported the review and posting of content on OJJDP's Model Programs Guide website.



The Office also provided nearly \$1.3 million to the U.S. Census Bureau to continue data collection activities under the **Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement** and the **Juvenile Residential Facility Census**. These data collections provide valuable information about youth in residential placement and the facilities that hold them. OJJDP provided another \$400,000 to the Bureau of Justice Statistics to archive and disseminate the Office's data at the **National Archive of Criminal Justice Data**.

## Training and Technical Assistance

OJJDP provides training and technical assistance for practitioners in the juvenile justice and child protection fields to better serve youth, families, and communities. In fiscal year 2021, the Office continued to support the **National Training and Technical Assistance Center** (NTTAC) as the one-stop shop for accessing OJJDP's training and technical assistance resources and services. NTTAC's resources are available to the public.

In 2021, NTTAC received more than 1,780 requests for training and technical assistance on topics such as mentoring, child safety, and delinquency prevention. These requests came from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The types of organizations that requested support included law enforcement, community-based organizations, youth service agencies, education, and child and family services.

Through NTTAC, OJJDP provided important resources and more than 1,000 trainings to the juvenile justice community and allied professionals, including 919 webinars and online training sessions, which served more than 37,000 participants. Webinars keep researchers, practitioners, and policymakers up to date on trends in the field. Visit OJJDP's YouTube channel to access **webinar recordings**.



# Chapter 2. Intervention

## Opioid Use

The opioid crisis is ravaging lives across the nation. Between 1999 and 2019, overdose deaths due to opioids increased 500 percent among **youth ages 15 to 24**. In 2019 alone, more than 3,700 youth in this age group died from an opioid overdose.

In fiscal year (FY) 2021, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provided \$16 million to 20 mentoring programs under the **Mentoring for Youth Affected by the Opioid Crisis and Drug Addiction** initiative to help address this crisis. The funding supports services and interventions—as part of a prevention, treatment, and supportive approach—for children, youth, and families who have been impacted by substance use.

The Office also awarded \$8.9 million to 11 communities and a technical assistance provider under the **Opioid Affected Youth Initiative**. Project sites are using the funds to develop coordinated, data-driven responses to opioid and other substance use disorders that affect youth, families, and communities. Launched in 2021, the **Opioid Affected Youth Initiative website** shows grantees' progress as they implement program strategies. The website also features **data visualization** tools that allow users to interact with charts, graphs, and maps.



*“ Substance use disorder touches families in every community, and it is essential that we invest in a broad range of services, including prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services for mental health and substance use. ”*

*—President Joseph R. Biden,  
Proclamation on National Youth Substance Use Prevention Month, 2021*

## Drug Courts

OJJDP-funded drug courts use a multidisciplinary team—composed of judges, prosecutors, community corrections officers, social workers, and treatment professionals—to help youth and families overcome the effects of substance use.

## Colorado Drug Treatment Court Helps Families Mend

The Jefferson County (CO) Family Integrated Treatment Court helps its clients establish and maintain sobriety and improve their parenting skills. Families typically spend 15–18 months in the program, although reunification between parents and children can occur at any point.

A **3-year, \$861,290 grant** from OJJDP allows the court to maintain a public health nurse on staff. The nurse coordinates healthcare for the families and ensures every child receives a developmental assessment. The funding also helped the court to establish an evidence-based parenting curriculum for impacted families and train peer recovery specialists—parents who have demonstrated a sustained period of recovery who the court hires to support newer clients.

Program evaluations found that children of parents who successfully complete the program spend less time in out-of-home care, are more likely to reunite with their parents, and are less likely to reenter the child welfare system. In May 2021, OJJDP selected the Jefferson County court to serve as a mentor court for the **2021–2022 Family Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Peer Learning Court program**.

OJJDP’s **Family Drug Court program** serves parents and guardians who require treatment for a substance use disorder and who are involved with the child welfare system as a result of child abuse or neglect. Grant recipients work to strengthen parenting skills, reduce incidents of child abuse and neglect resulting from addiction, promote accountability, and serve affected children. The 14 grant recipients received a total of \$13.8 million in FY 2021 to enhance their programs.

Funding awarded under the **Juvenile Drug Treatment Court program** is helping 11 jurisdictions establish programs that address substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders in justice-involved youth. The programs are also helping to strengthen family engagement and equip youth with the skills they need to lead productive, drug-free lives. OJJDP provided nearly \$7.9 million under this program in FY 2021.

To increase program effectiveness and the long-term success of program participants, OJJDP continues to make robust **training and technical assistance** available to all drug courts that serve youth and families.

## Youth Violence Intervention

In FY 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration and the Department of Justice announced several investments in **community violence intervention strategies** to reduce gun violence. “In this endeavor, we will engage our communities as critical partners. And through our grantmaking, we will support programming at all stages—from the earliest violence interruption strategies to postconviction reentry services,” said **Attorney General Garland**.

A number of OJJDP programs emphasize community violence intervention strategies, which include street outreach, group and hospital-based violence intervention programs, and mediation by neighborhood change agents. The programs also aim to build trust between youth, the community, and law enforcement.

## Preventing and Reducing Youth Violence

Too many **young people experience violence** within their homes, schools, and communities every day. Emergency departments treat more than 1,000 youth daily for physical assault-related injuries. Although youth in all communities are impacted by violence, some youth are at greater risk than others. Homicide is the leading cause of death for Black youth and LGBTQ+ teens are more likely than their heterosexual peers to experience multiple forms of violence.

Under the **Comprehensive Youth Violence Prevention and Reduction program**, OJJDP distributed approximately \$14.9 million among 15 project sites to develop and implement intervention- and deterrence-focused strategies to reduce gun and gang violence perpetuated by youth. The funding is also helping sites implement multisystemic approaches that provide gang-involved or at-risk youth alternatives to violence, and encourage close collaboration among community-based organizations, service providers, and law enforcement. OJJDP's **National Gang Center** is providing training and technical assistance to enhance the sites' efforts.

## Children Exposed to Violence

Exposure to violence can cause children significant physical, mental, and emotional harm, with long-term effects that can last well into adulthood. It can also increase youth's likelihood of becoming involved in the juvenile or criminal justice systems. To address this issue, OJJDP awarded \$7 million under the **Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence** program in FY 2021. Project sites are using the funding to develop or enhance services for affected children and implement community intervention strategies that address youth delinquency. The funding also supports training and technical assistance to organizations that serve children, youth, and families so they can better identify and help families at risk for violence.

## Youth Gangs

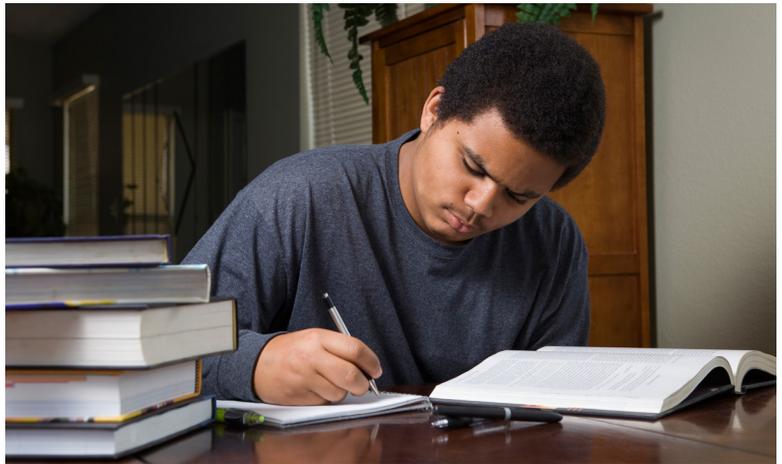
The **National Gang Center** provides information, training, and technical assistance to help communities address their chronic or emerging gang problems. Supported by an FY 2021 award of nearly \$925,000, the center continues to guide state, local, and Tribal jurisdictions as they work to prevent gang violence, reduce gang involvement, and suppress gang-related crime. The National Gang Center will also help OJJDP grant recipients and interested jurisdictions develop community violence intervention strategies that are tailored to their specific needs.

*“ Violence is ending young lives and upending communities. It must stop. OJJDP and its partners are committed to making sure every community, town, and city— every place that youth and their families call home—is a safe place to grow. ”*

*—OJJDP Acting Administrator Chyrl Jones*

## Reentry

In an April 2021 blog post titled “[Supporting Youth During Reentry Week and Beyond](#),” OJJDP Acting Administrator Chyrl Jones outlined the Office’s commitment to helping youth reenter their communities successfully after detention. “We believe in second chances at OJJDP. A youthful misstep should not permanently derail the course of a young person’s life,” she said. “We are proud to work alongside our Tribal, state, and federal partners to develop promising reentry practices, support effective programs, and address barriers to successful reentry so rehabilitated youth can lead productive lives.”



Under the [Second Chance Act Youth Reentry program](#), OJJDP awarded nearly \$10 million to 13 sites in FY 2021 to support the successful transition of youth from residential confinement back into society. The youth will receive educational, vocational, and job placement services while in confinement and following their release. They will also receive treatment for substance use, assistance locating housing, and help arranging mental and physical healthcare.

The Office also awarded nearly \$4.5 million to support programs in correctional facilities that encourage family engagement between parents and their minor children. The grants, awarded to six jurisdictions under the [Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children](#) program, fund reentry services for parents and programs that support positive youth development.

## Model Programs Guide

OJJDP’s [Model Programs Guide](#) is an online repository of evidence-based prevention, intervention, and reentry programs and practices for juvenile justice practitioners, policymakers, and communities.

With approximately 366 programs reviewed under the [CrimeSolutions.gov](#) evaluation criteria, the guide catalogs what works, what does not, and what is promising in juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and child protection and safety.

In fiscal year 2021, the Model Programs Guide added 17 programs and 7 practices. OJJDP also updated three topical [literature reviews](#), which are available on the guide’s website: Restorative Justice for Juveniles; Intersection of Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems; and Arts-Based Programs and Arts Therapies for At-Risk, Justice-Involved, and Traumatized Youth.

## Family-Based Alternative Sentencing

Families with parents or primary caregivers serving prison sentences experience the loss of critical supports, such as consistent caregiving, income, and housing. OJJDP's **Family-Based Alternative Sentencing program** helps grant recipients implement community-based initiatives to divert parents and primary caregivers from prison. To reduce the likelihood of a parent's future involvement in the criminal justice system, an FY 2021 award of \$750,000 is helping to address participants' underlying issues related to mental and behavioral health and substance use. The program also aims to improve parenting skills, increase family preservation, and promote healthy child development. Another \$750,000 award supports training and technical assistance to the project site to help ensure improved child, parent, and family outcomes.

## Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

In FY 2021, the Office continued to promote evidence-based and gender-specific approaches to address the needs of girls in the juvenile justice system. OJJDP provided nearly \$4.7 million to help 11 jurisdictions develop and expand programs that provide prevention and early intervention services for girls involved in the juvenile justice system.

This funding is helping communities better serve girls with risk factors—such as chronic truancy, running away, substance use, and family instability—that increase their likelihood for continued or deeper involvement with the juvenile justice system. The funding is also helping develop or expand curriculums for detention center staff, law enforcement, judges, and other practitioners to ensure they have the skills to implement the programs effectively. OJJDP provided the funding under its **Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System** program.

### Community-Based Program Helps Girls Reach Their Full Potential

"Girls at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system often face issues...that require a unique response, one the juvenile justice system is not well-positioned to address," says Aggie Pappas, vice president of program innovation and strategic implementation at **Pace Center for Girls**.

The center provides middle school and high school academics along with life skills, coaching, and counseling to girls who are involved in or at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system. The free program, which serves about 3,000 girls annually at 22 locations across Florida and Georgia, helps participants heal from trauma, build prosocial skills, and reduce unhealthy behaviors.

OJJDP has supported Pace with multiple grants since the center opened in 1985. A recent **3-year, \$425,000 grant** allowed the center to launch the Reach Counseling program, which focuses on behavioral therapy. Pace reports that compared to 71 percent of program participants who had no involvement with the juvenile justice system when they started, 95 percent had no involvement with the juvenile justice system 1 year after completing the program.

## Juvenile Indigent Defense

Juvenile defenders play a critical role in ensuring fairness and equity for youth and families, and in preserving public confidence in the juvenile justice system. However, factors such as excessive caseloads, inadequate compensation, and a lack of juvenile-specific training may prevent youth from receiving effective legal counsel. To address these challenges, OJJDP awarded nearly \$2 million under the [Enhancing Juvenile Indigent Defense](#) program in FY 2021.



Grant recipients work to improve the quality and availability of legal services, respond to gaps in practice, and ensure that youth in the juvenile justice system have access to resources that address the collateral consequences of justice system involvement. Funds are also used to train court personnel, improve juvenile courts' data collection efforts, analyze a jurisdiction's youth defense delivery system, and identify and implement successful strategies that may be replicable across jurisdictions.

A \$250,000 award to a training and technical assistance provider is helping to build the capacity of the youth defense bar and improve the quality of representation available to youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

## Support for Juvenile Prosecutors

Due to the specialized nature of juvenile court proceedings, state prosecutors who are tasked with prosecuting youth often encounter challenges that are vastly different from those associated with the prosecution of adults.

In FY 2021, OJJDP provided \$500,000 under the Addressing the Training Needs of Juvenile Prosecutors program to support professional development that is tailored to the unique needs and challenges of juvenile prosecutors and their support staff.

Prosecutors will receive training on timely topics such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on juvenile court processing, effective practices for handling serious offenses, the dynamics of juvenile homicide, and how to adopt a victim-centered approach to juvenile prosecution.

In addition to training on trial techniques and procedural law, the program also emphasizes the role of juvenile prosecutors in building relationships between youth and law enforcement.

# Expunging Juvenile Records

Youth with juvenile records frequently experience collateral consequences of their arrest or adjudication, including difficulty finding employment, serving in the military, and accessing higher education and housing.

Released in fiscal year 2021, *Expunging Juvenile Records: Misconceptions, Collateral Consequences, and Emerging Practices* discusses the most common misconceptions surrounding the expungement of juvenile records and highlights emerging practices that federal, state, and local governments are taking to address the issue.

These practices include enacting ban-the-box legislation, strengthening laws to limit access to juvenile records, and sponsoring expungement clinics.



# Connecting With the Field

## Fiscal Year 2021 Highlights

In fiscal year 2021, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provided timely and reliable information to help juvenile justice practitioners prevent and respond to delinquency and child victimization. Connecting with the field ensures that vital information and resources reach the people who are working to make a difference in the lives of youth.

Select training and technical assistance and communications efforts are highlighted below. For more information, visit [ojjdp.ojp.gov](http://ojjdp.ojp.gov).

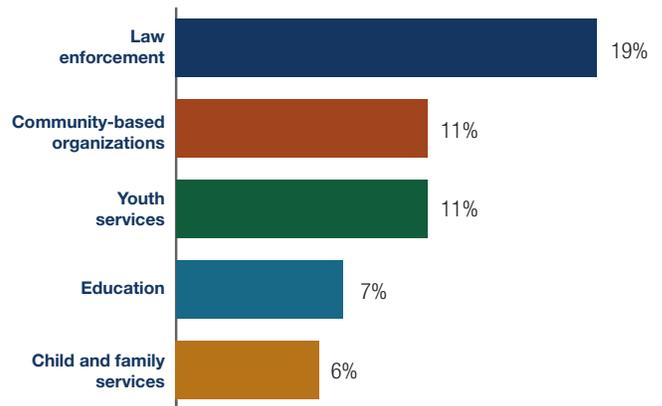


### Training and Technical Assistance

In fiscal year 2021 —

- OJJDP received 1,783 requests for training and technical assistance via TTA360, OJJDP's online request system. Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia submitted requests.
- The most requested training topics were mentoring (32 percent), child safety (27 percent), and delinquency prevention (11 percent).
- OJJDP delivered 1,018 trainings, including 919 webinars and online trainings. More than 37,800 professionals participated in the webinars, which were designed to keep researchers, practitioners, and policymakers up to date on trends in the field.

### Top Five Requesting Entities

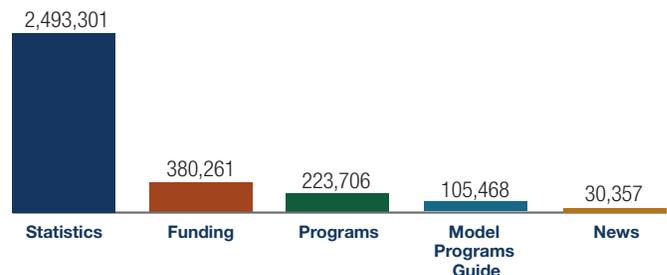


### Digital Outreach

In fiscal year 2021 —

- More than 29,000 juvenile justice and child protection professionals were subscribed to *OJJDP News @ a Glance*, the Office's award-winning newsletter.
- OJJDP shared up-to-date information with its 7,757 Twitter and 6,678 Facebook followers.
- Approximately 33,000 subscribers received e-mails through OJJDP's JUVJUST listserv with announcements of publication releases, research findings, funding opportunities, and upcoming events.

### Areas of Interest to OJJDP's Constituents, by Webpage Views



# Connecting With the Field

## Fiscal Year 2021 Highlights



### Communications Releases

In fiscal year 2021, OJJDP—

- Released six issues of the *OJJDP News @ a Glance* newsletter, a blog post titled “Supporting Youth During Reentry Week and Beyond,” and the following publications:
  - » *Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2018* (Fact Sheet)
  - » *Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 2018* (Fact Sheet)
  - » *Drug Courts* (Fact Sheet)
  - » *Expunging Juvenile Records: Misconceptions, Collateral Consequences, and Emerging Practices* (Bulletin)
  - » *Juvenile Arrests, 2019* (Bulletin)
  - » *Juvenile Residential Facility Census, 2018: Selected Findings* (Bulletin)
  - » *Juvenile Violent Victimization, 1995–2018* (Bulletin)
  - » *Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2017* (Bulletin)
  - » *Guidance for Juvenile Justice Facilities During COVID-19 Pandemic*
  - » *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 2020 Annual Report*
  - » *OJJDP Tribal Consultation Response* (Report)
  - » *Kilah Davenport Child Protection Act of 2013: 2020 Report to Congress*
  - » *2020 Annual Report to Congress: Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act*
- Published four In Focus fact sheets:
  - » *Improving Juvenile Indigent Defense*
  - » *Sexual Behavior Problems in Children and Adolescents*
  - » *Support for Prosecutors Who Work With Youth*
  - » *Title II Formula Grants Program*
- Posted three Model Programs Guide literature reviews:
  - » *Arts-Based Programs and Arts Therapies for At-Risk, Justice-Involved, and Traumatized Youths*
  - » *Intersection of Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems—A Product of the Model Programs Guide*
  - » *Restorative Justice for Juveniles*
- Released three data snapshots—visually compelling, one-page research highlights—on:
  - » The Decline in Arrests of Juveniles, 2019
  - » Trends and Characteristics of Delinquency Cases Handled in Juvenile Court, 2019
  - » Trends and Characteristics of Youth in Residential Placement, 2019

**INFOCUS**  
November 2020

**Sexual Behavior Problems in Children and Adolescents**

Research suggests that adolescents commit about one-third (33.6 percent) of an offense against juvenile victims. These behaviors can include aggression or control of sexual contact, sexual contact that causes harm to a child or adult, and child sexual abuse and exploitation. Research also indicates that adolescents with sexual behavior problems are at a higher risk for other forms of delinquency, violence, and developmental issues.

**From the Field**

OJJDP grantees have been instrumental in addressing the needs of children and adolescents who have developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities. OJJDP grantees have been instrumental in addressing the needs of children and adolescents who have developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities. OJJDP grantees have been instrumental in addressing the needs of children and adolescents who have developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities.

**OJJDP Tribal Consultation Response**

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

**OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

**Trends and Characteristics of Delinquency Cases Handled in Juvenile Court, 2019**

Delinquency continued to rise in 2019 for property, drug, and public order offenses, but fell for violent offenses. Delinquency cases handled in juvenile court in 2019 were more likely to be handled in juvenile court than in 2018. Delinquency cases handled in juvenile court in 2019 were more likely to be handled in juvenile court than in 2018.

**U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

**Juvenile Arrests, 2019**

**Highlights**

- » After increasing in recent years, the juvenile arrest rate for males fell 6% in the first year of the data for robbery and aggravated assault in 2019.
- » Juvenile arrest rates for property crimes have declined in recent years. In 2019, juvenile arrest rates for property crimes, burglary and motor vehicle theft, were 10% lower than in 2018.
- » In 2019, the highest rates of juvenile arrests were for juveniles ages 15–19.
- » Male and female juvenile arrest rates have declined in the last 10 years. However, the decline in juvenile arrests has been greater for males than for females in every age group.
- » Juvenile arrest rates for violent crimes have declined in the last 10 years. However, the decline in juvenile arrests has been greater for males than for females in every age group.



# Chapter 3. Protection

## Missing and Exploited Children

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has supported the **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** (NCMEC) since the center's inception in 1984. NCMEC is an information clearinghouse and resource center for families of missing and exploited children and the professionals who serve them. In fiscal year (FY) 2021,

OJJDP awarded NCMEC \$36.9 million to fund its activities. The center received an additional \$6 million through an interagency agreement between OJJDP and the U.S. Secret Service.

**NCMEC operates** a 24-hour, toll-free missing children's hotline (1-800-THE-LOST); the CyberTipline—a reporting system for suspected online child exploitation; and the Child Victim Identification Program, which uses specialized software to identify and locate children whose images appear in child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

In FY 2021, NCMEC helped resolve cases involving 27,268 children who were reported missing. The CyberTipline received and made available to law enforcement 22.4 million reports regarding child sexual exploitation or online harm to children. NCMEC received 109,968 calls on its hotline, and law enforcement officials worked with the center to identify 642 victims of child sexual abuse material who were documented in the Child Victim Identification Program.

OJJDP's **Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance program** helps prosecutors, law enforcement officers, child protection personnel, medical providers, and other child-serving professionals strengthen multidisciplinary responses to cases of missing and exploited children, and to more effectively investigate and prosecute these cases. The Office awarded \$1.8 million under this program in FY 2021.

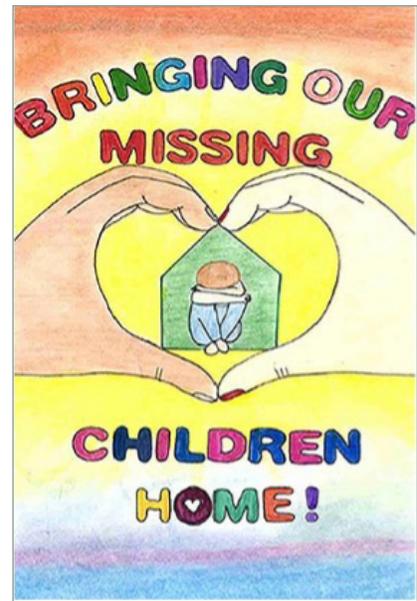
## National Missing Children's Day

Each year, at the National Missing Children's Day ceremony, the U.S. Department of Justice honors the exemplary efforts of law enforcement personnel and private citizens who have helped recover missing children or protect children from exploitation. The event is planned and managed by OJJDP.



Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, OJJDP launched a [website](#) on May 25, 2021, to commemorate the day, forgoing an in-person ceremony. The website features information about the award recipients and video remarks from guest speakers who lauded the heroic efforts of the award recipients. Speakers included Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, Office of Justice Programs Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Amy L. Solomon, OJJDP Acting Administrator Chyrl Jones, and NCMEC President and Chief Executive Officer John F. Clark.

OJJDP conducts a national poster contest as part of the annual Missing Children’s Day commemoration. The contest creates an opportunity for schools, law enforcement, and child advocates to discuss child safety strategies with youth, parents, and guardians. Fifth grader Heidi P. V. from Kansas won the 2021 poster contest.



Winning artwork from the 2021 National Missing Children’s Day poster contest.

*“ These brave and resourceful professionals have earned our greatest respect and deserve our deepest gratitude. The Department of Justice is proud to stand with these heroes, and we are grateful to the thousands of law enforcement officers and missing children’s advocates throughout the nation who work so hard to protect our children. ”*

*— Attorney General Merrick B. Garland*

## AMBER Alert Program

The **AMBER Alert** program is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, and the wireless industry to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases. Law enforcement informs broadcasters and state transportation officials about the abduction, triggering alerts on radio, television, highway signs, cell phones, and other electronic means.

OJJDP engages NCMEC to oversee the **secondary distribution** of AMBER Alerts to national partners such as Google, Facebook, the Federation for Internet Alerts, and the Out of Home Advertising Association. Secondary distribution of AMBER Alerts enhances state and local efforts by ensuring that the alerts reach the greatest number of people possible and increasing the chances that an abducted child will be recovered safely.

To meet the training needs of AMBER Alert coordinators and state missing children’s clearinghouse managers during the pandemic, OJJDP’s **AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance program**, funded at \$4.4 million, provided live trainings through online platforms in FY 2021.

Subject matter experts and family members who have experienced a child abduction or exploitation offered instruction, case study examples, and interactive scenarios as part of these popular courses. The program also convened the **National AMBER Alert and AMBER Alert in Indian Country Virtual Symposium** in August 2021. AMBER Alert coordinators, Tribal coordinators, clearinghouse managers, and other stakeholders from across the nation attended the 3-day event.

The AMBER Alert system is used in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. It is also used in parts of Indian country and internationally in 31 countries. Now in its 26th year of operation, the AMBER Alert program had contributed to the recovery of 1,082 children by the end of FY 2021.

## Technology-Facilitated Crimes Against Children

As children spend more time online, law enforcement officials need information and resources to help them adapt their investigative techniques and keep pace with the constantly evolving technology that online predators use to target children for sexual exploitation.

### Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program

The **Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force program** received \$29.5 million in FY 2021 to maintain a national network of 61 multiagency, multijurisdictional ICAC task forces engaged in investigations, forensic examinations, and prosecutions of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation.

ICAC task forces—comprising more than 5,400 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies throughout the 50 states—have reviewed 1.3 million reports of online child exploitation, resulting in the arrest of more than 118,750 people, since the program’s inception in 1998.

During the same period, more than 806,550 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other professionals received training on techniques to investigate and prosecute ICAC-related cases. In FY 2021 alone, the task forces conducted approximately 135,350 investigations of technology-facilitated crimes against children. The task forces also continued to focus on public awareness and education, making nearly 6,000 presentations on Internet safety that reached an estimated 520,000 people.

The ICAC task forces conducted nearly 2,660 regional law enforcement trainings on child exploitation in FY 2021. Approximately 38,280 people attended these trainings, which provided a forum for

## AMBER Alert in Indian Country

The Navajo Nation issued its **first AMBER Alert** on November 25, 2020, after two young girls were taken from their uncle’s home in New Mexico. Within 30 minutes of the alert being issued in New Mexico and Arizona, where the abductor was thought to be headed, the girls were recovered safely.

Harlan Cleveland, director of the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management, attributes the recovery effort’s success to 3 years of comprehensive planning, intensive training, and test simulations for such an event. “Thankfully, we were prepared.”

information sharing and collaboration among federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies to combat technology-facilitated crimes against children.

In addition to funding the ICAC task forces, OJJDP awarded four organizations a total of \$3 million under the **Strengthening ICAC Technological Investigative Capacity** program to develop investigative tools and technologies and train law enforcement and prosecutors in investigative methods. OJJDP also awarded a total of \$5.1 million to 4 organizations to fund specialized training and technical assistance to the 61 task forces and their affiliate agencies.



In September 2021, the Office held a virtual orientation for new ICAC task force commanders. OJJDP staff provided an overview of the program's history and goals, grant requirements, and operational and investigative standards. NCMEC representatives discussed resources for law enforcement, including the center's CyberTipline, technical assistance, and Child Victim Identification Program. The event featured additional presentations on OJJDP-funded training resources, the ICAC task force website and affiliate database, and legal issues in ICAC cases.

## **National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation**

OJJDP convened a virtual National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation in June 2021. The annual training expands the knowledge base of law enforcement, prosecutors, and digital forensic examiners who investigate or prosecute technology-facilitated crimes against children.

Nearly 2,350 law enforcement and prosecutorial professionals attended the event from U.S. states and territories, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Philippines, and Turkey. The 5-day training offered 120 sessions on topics such as emerging investigative strategies, legal issues, identifying and working with victims, understanding predatory behaviors, and officer wellness and safety.

## **Victims of Child Abuse Act Program**

Too many children suffer from child abuse, neglect, and other victimization experiences that can lead to trauma. OJJDP's Victims of Child Abuse (VOCA) Act program aims to improve outcomes for victims of child abuse and ensure that the professionals who work with affected youth and families have access to effective training and resources. The following initiatives comprise OJJDP's VOCA Act program.

## Children’s Advocacy Centers

**Children’s advocacy centers** (CACs) provide trauma-informed services to young victims. The centers coordinate the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse using multidisciplinary teams of professionals from child protective and victim advocacy services, law enforcement and prosecution, and the medical and mental health fields. OJJDP has supported children’s advocacy centers for decades.

In FY 2021, OJJDP awarded \$21.3 million to the **National Children’s Alliance** under the **Children’s Advocacy Centers National Subgrants program**. The funding supports local CACs, state chapters, and multidisciplinary teams that investigate and respond to child abuse. The program also funds services for victims of child sexual abuse material and helps military installations address child abuse. The National Children’s Alliance received an additional \$2.5 million to help ensure that CACs across the country have the necessary training and technical assistance to meet the national standards for membership and accreditation.

OJJDP also awarded \$5 million under the VOCA Regional Children’s Advocacy Centers program to continue operations at four regional centers—one located in each of the U.S. Census regions. The regional centers offer technical assistance and indepth training to develop new or strengthen existing multidisciplinary teams, local CACs, and state chapters.

## Court Appointed Special Advocates

The **National Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardians ad Litem Association**, together with its state and local member programs, supports and promotes court appointed volunteer advocacy on behalf of abused and neglected children involved in dependency proceedings. Volunteers from the association’s network of 950 programs help ensure that these children do not get lost in the legal or social service systems and that they are placed in safe, permanent homes.

In FY 2021, OJJDP awarded more than \$11 million under the **Court Appointed Special Advocates Training, Technical Assistance, and Subgrants program** to expand national membership and accreditation services for state and local programs. The funding will also provide resources and training and technical assistance to volunteer advocates and other child welfare system stakeholders across the nation.

## Training for Child Protection Professionals

The goal of OJJDP’s **Postsecondary Education Opportunities for Child Protection Professionals** program is to ensure that future mandated reporters and practicing child protection professionals receive training on how to identify and screen children for exposure to violence.

Grant recipients are developing evidence-based curriculums that will be integrated into undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs for child protection professionals, including social workers, mental and medical health professionals, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers.

## Child Abuse Training for Judicial and Court Personnel

OJJDP remains committed to improving court practice in child maltreatment cases and decreasing the amount of time children spend in foster care. Through a \$3.1 million award to the **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**, OJJDP is providing judicial, legal, and social service professionals with **training and technical assistance** to improve their understanding of and response to child abuse cases, including cases involving families impacted by opioids and other substances.

The training is helping the professionals prevent placement in foster care where possible and promote the safe reunification of parents and children when foster care placement cannot be avoided. The practitioners are also learning how to coordinate information and services across the juvenile justice and child welfare systems to achieve safe, permanent placements for abused and neglected children.

In FY 2021, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges added 12 new sites to its **Implementation Sites Project**. Funded by OJJDP, the project provides guidance to participating sites as they develop new policies, practices, and programs to improve safety, permanency, and positive outcomes for children involved in child welfare cases. A designated judge oversees each site's efforts. As of March 2021, a total of 37 jurisdictions in 20 states have now committed to implementing best practices to improve the courts' handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

## Youth With Problematic or Illegal Sexual Behavior

OJJDP's **Supporting Effective Interventions for Adolescent Sex Offenders and Children With Sexual Behavior Problems** program is designed to prevent youth from repeating illegal sexual behavior, promote healing, and provide services for victims and their families. In FY 2021, the Office awarded more than \$1.9 million to four project sites and \$1 million for training and technical assistance to the sites. Project sites will provide intervention and supervision services for children and youth with sexual behavior problems and treatment services for their victims and families.

### Combating Youth Victimization

OJJDP released ***Juvenile Violent Victimization, 1995–2018*** in fiscal year 2021. The bulletin presents findings from a data analysis of youth victims and victimization. Overall, the rate of violent victimization for youth has declined since 1995 but remained unchanged from 2015 to 2018. Youth ages 12 to 17 were most likely to be victimized by someone they knew (54 percent), and less likely than adults to be victimized by a stranger.

The information presented in the bulletin is intended to help law enforcement, child protection officials, and other stakeholders safeguard the nation's youth.

# Chapter 4. State Relations and Assistance

## Title II Formula Grants Program

The **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974** established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and created the **Title II Formula Grants program**.

Through this program, OJJDP provides grants to states, territories, and the District of Columbia (referred to hereafter as “states”) to help improve prevention and intervention services for juveniles and enhance the states’ juvenile justice systems. Funded efforts include programs that promote positive youth development, mental health and substance use treatment, reentry and aftercare services, and job readiness.



To receive Title II funding, states must meet all eligibility requirements and commit to achieving and maintaining compliance with the Act’s core requirements. The core requirements obligate participating states to deinstitutionalize youth who commit status offenses, prevent the detention of juveniles who have been charged as adults in secure adult facilities, separate juveniles from adults in secure facilities, remove juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and address racial and ethnic disparities in their juvenile justice systems.

Each participating state must also submit a comprehensive 3-year plan addressing program goals and establish a state advisory group. The Governor-appointed advisory groups provide input on a state’s use of Title II funds and support compliance with the above-mentioned statutory protections for youth.

In late 2018, the **Juvenile Justice Reform Act** (JJRA) was signed into law, which reauthorized and substantially amended the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Passage of the JJRA necessitated a review of states’ compliance monitoring processes and development of new procedures to guide the administration of the Title II Formula Grants program. Due to the internal review, OJJDP awarded fiscal year (FY) 2021 formula grants in FY 2022.

## Support to the States

OJJDP's State Relations and Assistance Division, which oversees the distribution of funds under the Formula Grants program, continued to support designated state agency representatives, state advisory group members, and other stakeholders with comprehensive training and technical assistance throughout FY 2021.

The Division hosted its annual national training conference in November 2020. The 3-day virtual conference featured 34 interactive discussions, panels, and workshops designed to help juvenile justice specialists, state advisory group members, racial and ethnic disparity coordinators, and compliance monitors implement and comply with the requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, including as **amended by the JJRA**. More than 450 participants, including 23 youth and 55 representatives from Tribal entities, attended the event.

In partnership with the **Center for Coordinated Assistance to States**, the Division also launched a 15-module certificate program for new juvenile justice specialists and compliance monitors. The program took place from December 2020 through June 2021 and provided participants with a wealth of information and resources to help them carry out their duties effectively. In FY 2021, the Division also began planning a certificate program for racial and ethnic disparity coordinators. The program will begin in 2022.

Other activities OJJDP undertook in FY 2021 to support the states included convening monthly calls with designated state agency representatives to share best practices and practical resources; designing individualized training to improve the knowledge, skills, and practices of state advisory group members in several states; and relaunching a **community-of-practice hub** to connect practitioners to resources and peer support.

## COVID-19 Guidance for Juvenile Justice Facilities

In June 2021, OJJDP released updated **guidance** to help juvenile justice facilities safeguard the mental and physical health of young people in custody during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and provide a safe and healthy workplace for staff and compliance monitors.

Among other recommendations, OJJDP advised that facilities continue to take a multipronged, layered approach to protect youth, staff, and visitors (e.g., through universal mask use, physical distancing, testing, cleaning, disinfecting, and ensuring adequate ventilation) and consult guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health departments.

## Funding Outcomes

Formula grant funding allows states to provide direct assistance to juveniles who have been, or are at risk of becoming, involved in their juvenile justice systems and to individuals who remain under extended juvenile jurisdiction. Following are examples of how some states are using formula grant funds to improve outcomes for youth.

- To divert them from delinquent behavior, the District of Columbia offers youth an opportunity to build healthy life skills by participating in a program that combines mentoring, trauma counseling, gang prevention, conflict resolution, and academic components. The program serves 100 youth who are at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system.
- Georgia funded local juvenile courts that provide evidence-based programming in the community as alternatives to detention. The state's formula grant also supported three cultural awareness trainings for juvenile justice stakeholders. More than 800 professionals—including almost 400 police officers—attended the trainings.
- Montana offers life skills training, classes on financial literacy, academic support, and other programs to foster positive youth development. Most of the participating youth report a positive change in attitude and behavior, decreased substance use, and lower rates of delinquent behavior.
- New Mexico provides cost-effective, nonsecure alternatives to detention for youth in Dona Ana County who have been arrested, referred to the Juvenile Probation Office, or are at risk of such referrals.
- Tennessee funded a program to support youth who have experienced significant trauma. Following program completion, 77 percent of the participants and their families noticed a decrease in trauma symptoms. In addition, less than 1 percent of youth who completed the program engaged in delinquent behavior the following year.

## Nonparticipating States Program

OJJDP's Nonparticipating States program provides funding to nonprofit organizations in states that have chosen not to participate, or that have been found ineligible to participate, in the Title II Formula Grants program.

In FY 2021, OJJDP made three awards under the Nonparticipating States program to private nonprofit and local public agencies in Connecticut, Nebraska, and Texas. The funds, totaling more than \$8.9 million, will be used to support the states' compliance with the Act's core requirements.

## Native American Pass-Through Funding

Pass-through funds are issued by a federal agency to a state agency or institution and are then transferred to other state agencies, units of local government, or other eligible groups.

States pass funds through to eligible Tribes under the Title II Formula Grants program to support the Tribes' juvenile justice and delinquency prevention activities. The amount of pass-through funding is based on the number of youth who live on Tribal lands. To be eligible for pass-through funding, a Tribe must be federally recognized, have a law enforcement function, and agree to comply with the core requirements applicable to the detention and confinement of youth.



## Eliminating Prison Rape

The **Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003** (PREA) aims to end sexual misconduct by residents and staff in all types of correctional facilities. OJJDP's **Prison Rape Elimination Act program** supports PREA-related compliance efforts in state-run correctional facilities that house youth.

OJJDP assesses a 5-percent penalty against a state's formula grant funding for each year the state fails to comply with the PREA requirements. The funds are proportionally distributed to states that have submitted the required certification or assurances based on the juvenile population of the participating state.

## Juvenile Justice System Reform Initiative

Many youth are confined for nonviolent offenses. Confinement separates young people from their families and communities at a pivotal developmental stage. Evidence-based programs operating within communities are better positioned to serve these youth.

OJJDP awarded nearly \$8 million to eight states under the **Juvenile Justice System Reform Initiative** in FY 2021 to help them address their specific reform challenges. The funding supports research-based recidivism-reduction policies and practices and the strategic reinvestment of cost savings into effective prevention and intervention programs. States may use the funding to support a variety of efforts, including ending the use of solitary confinement for youth, providing mental health and

trauma-informed services to youth who are incarcerated, and promoting practices that reduce trial delays and ensure bond consideration in a timely manner.

## Youth in Residential Placement

OJJDP conducts statistical data collections to monitor trends related to youth in residential placement. The **2019 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement** and the **2018 Juvenile Residential Facility Census** provided valuable information about youth in residential placement and the facilities that hold them.

### Facility Types

The data collections include a wide range of facility types—secure, nonsecure, publicly operated (state and local), and privately operated (including long- and short-term holding). In 2019, local facilities (those staffed by county, city, or municipal employees) held 39 percent of all youth in residential placement. State and private facilities held 35 and 26 percent of this population, respectively.

In 2019, residential treatment centers, detention centers, and group homes outnumbered other types of facilities. Residential treatment centers made up 30 percent of all facilities and housed 23 percent of youth held for an offense. Detention centers made up 34 percent of all facilities and housed 40 percent of youth held for an offense. Group homes made up 13 percent of facilities and housed 7 percent of youth held for an offense. Other facility types included long-term secure facilities, shelters, reception/diagnostic centers, and ranch/wilderness camps.<sup>1</sup>

### Trends

A total of 36,479 youth were held in publicly and privately operated juvenile residential facilities on the October 2019 census date. The number of youth held in residential placement decreased 65 percent between 1997 and 2019, bringing the overall count to its lowest level since 1975. In 2019, 114 youth were in placement for every 100,000 youth in the U.S. population.<sup>2</sup>

## Improving Data on Youth in Residential Placement

OJJDP's **Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement** and **Juvenile Residential Facility Census** provide the most comprehensive information available on national- and state-level trends and characteristics of youth in residential placement.

OJJDP is working with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to review and redesign both data collections to improve the quality, completeness, and utility of the data. In February 2021, NIJ released an **article** about the effort to enhance the collections to generate the most reliable statistics available on youth in residential placement and the facilities in which they are held.

<sup>1</sup> Respondents were allowed to select more than one facility type category, although the majority (81 percent) selected only one.

<sup>2</sup> The placement rate is the count of youth in juvenile residential facilities on the census date per 100,000 youth age 10 through the upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction in each state.

## Offense Profiles

The vast majority of youth in residential placement in 2019 were held for delinquency offenses (96 percent). Person offenses accounted for 43 percent of youth held and property crimes accounted for 21 percent. Technical violations and public order offenses accounted for equal proportions of youth held for a delinquency offense (14 percent each), and drug offenses accounted for 4 percent. Youth in placement for status offenses (conduct that would not be a crime if committed by an adult) made up 4 percent of the population.

## Age

Overall, youth ages 16–17 accounted for more than 50 percent of youth in residential placement, and youth ages 13–15 accounted for 32 percent of those in residential placement.

## Sex

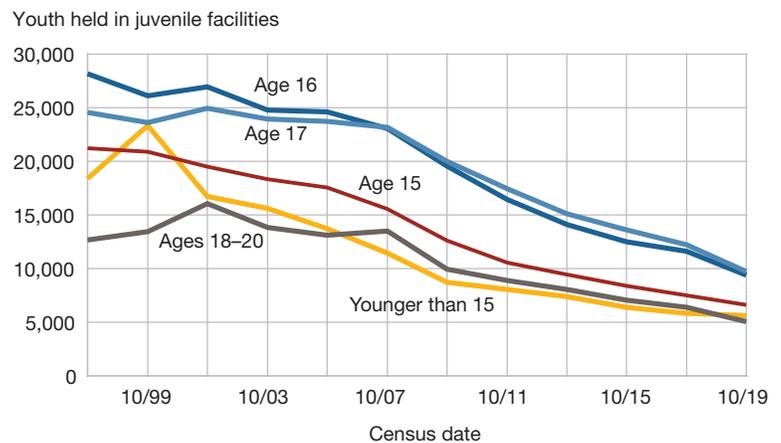
Males accounted for 85 percent and females accounted for 15 percent of youth in residential placement.

## Race/Ethnicity

Minority youth accounted for 46 percent of the U.S. juvenile population and 67 percent of youth in residential placement in 2019. The population of youth held in residential placement for a delinquency or status offense was 41 percent Black, 33 percent white, and 20 percent Hispanic. Youth of other races, including those of two or more races, accounted for 6 percent of youth in residential placement.

## Time in Placement

The median days in placement at the time of the 2019 census was 113 days for youth who had been committed and 26 days for those who had been detained.<sup>3</sup> One-third (33 percent) of committed youth and 8 percent of detained youth remained in placement 6 months after admission.



<sup>3</sup> The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement captures information on the number of days since admission for each youth in residential placement. These data represent the number of days the youth had been in the facility up to the census date.

## Deaths in Residential Placement

Juvenile facilities reported eight deaths of youth younger than 21 in residential placement for the 12 months prior to the 2018 census. Deaths of youth in residential placement remain relatively rare; the death rate in 2018 was 2.1 per 10,000 youth in placement.

## Use of Isolation and Restraints

In 2018, more than one in four facilities reported using mechanical restraints in the previous month. About one in five facilities reported locking youth alone in some type of seclusion for 4 or more hours to regain control of their behavior.

## Youth in Jails and Prisons

County and city jails held 2,300 people age 17 or younger at midyear 2020.<sup>4</sup> A total of 352 people age 17 or younger were under the custody of federal or state prisons at the end of 2020.<sup>5</sup>

*“ OJJDP is extremely grateful to our partners. Together, we are helping more children find safe havens, more youth plot positive paths, and more families realize success. ”*

*—OJJDP Acting Administrator Chyrl Jones*

## Research To Improve Data Collection on Youth Who Reoffend

State and local agencies and researchers routinely use measures of reoffending to gauge the performance of juvenile justice systems. However, how data are collected, analyzed, reported, and used to inform decisionmaking varies widely.

To help OJJDP improve the collection and use of data on reoffending among youth, the National Institute of Justice funded five research projects in fiscal years **2020** and **2021**. The findings will fill gaps in existing research, advance more robust measurement of reoffending, and support jurisdictions' use of data to identify priorities, develop responses, and monitor and assess their juvenile justice policies and programs.

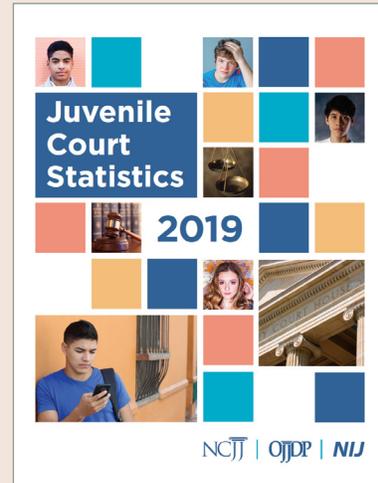
<sup>4</sup> Minton, T.D. and Zeng, Z. 2021. *Jail Inmates in 2020—Statistical Tables*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>5</sup> Carson, E.A. 2020. *Prisoners in 2020—Statistical Tables*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

# National Juvenile Court Data Archive

The **National Juvenile Court Data Archive** collects and disseminates information and statistics about delinquency and status offenses handled by juvenile courts, expands the coverage of reporting court jurisdictions, and increases the quality and timeliness of juvenile court data. The archive is supported by OJJDP and managed by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

In fiscal year 2021, the archive was updated to include juvenile court statistics through 2019 and an updated **Juvenile Court Statistics** report was released. The report presents national estimates on 722,600 delinquency cases and 90,500 petitioned status offense cases handled by courts with juvenile jurisdiction in 2019.

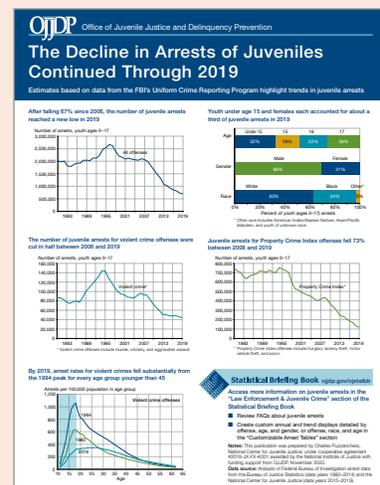


# Statistical Briefing Book

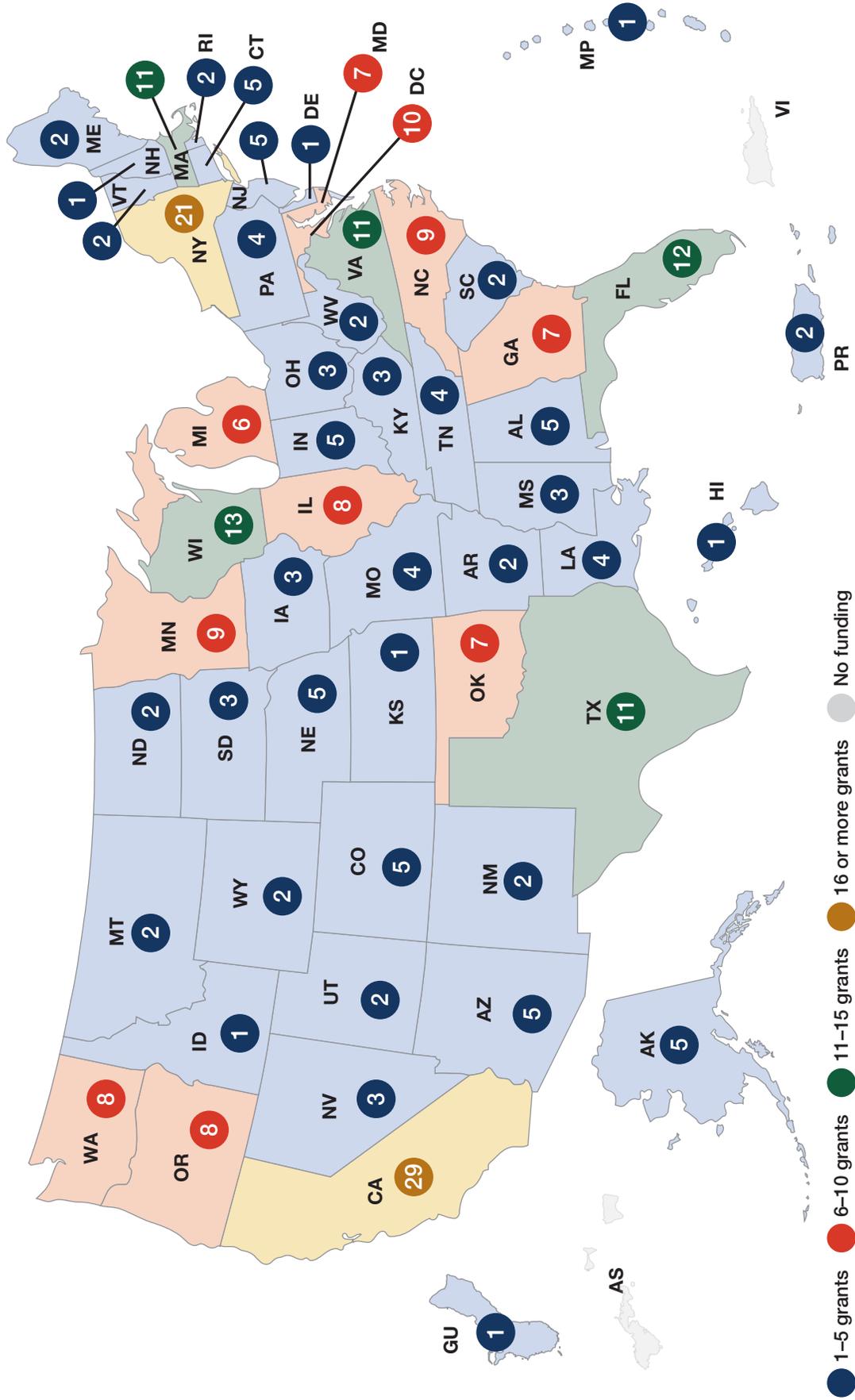
OJJDP's **Statistical Briefing Book** provides timely and reliable access to the latest juvenile justice data. In fiscal year 2021, the Office added—

- Answers to new frequently asked questions describing **teen dating violence** among high school students.
- Updated data on a range of topics, including children's living arrangements, teen mothers, high school completion and dropout, children in poverty, child maltreatment, suicide victims, and homicides. Other updated topics included jurisdictional boundaries, delinquency and petitioned status offense cases in juvenile courts, youth in juvenile residential placement facilities, and victimization in facilities that hold youth.
- Three **data snapshots** that highlight policy-relevant trends and findings on youth held in residential placement, arrests of youth, and delinquency cases in juvenile court.

Visit [ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb](http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb) for more information.



# Discretionary Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2021, by State and Territory



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's grants support state, local, and Tribal efforts to reduce and prevent delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and protect children from violence and abuse. In fiscal year 2021, the Office awarded 289 discretionary grants totaling nearly \$344 million.





**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Justice Programs  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
8660 Cherry Lane  
Laurel, MD 20707-4651



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