



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

2022 Annual Report



Working for Youth Justice and Safety

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531

Brent J. Cohen
Acting Assistant Attorney General

Liz Ryan
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Office of Justice Programs
Building Solutions | Supporting Communities | Advancing Justice
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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

2022 Annual Report

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This report covers activities undertaken by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention during fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021–September 30, 2022).

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About OJJDP

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

A component of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP works to improve the juvenile justice system and protect children. Learn more at ojjdp.ojp.gov.

Vision

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

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.

Priorities and Principles

OJJDP is leading efforts to transform the juvenile justice system by focusing on three key priorities: treating children as children; serving children at home, with their families, in their communities; and opening up opportunities for system-involved youth. Running through these three priorities are two equally important principles: a commitment to racial equity and fairness and a promise to center the voices of impacted youth and families in our policies and programs.

Advisory Councils

Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

The Council, an independent organization in the executive branch, examines how federal juvenile delinquency programs and other federal programs and activities can be coordinated among federal, state, and local governments to better serve at-risk children and youth.

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 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 facj.ojp.gov for additional details.



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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 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) annual report for fiscal year 2022.

In fiscal year 2022, OJJDP funding helped communities across the country adopt proven programs and strategies to enhance youth justice and improve public safety. The Office continued to work closely with its federal, state, local, and Tribal partners to protect children from abuse, exploitation, abduction, and violence—and to support system-involved youth.

This report describes programs and activities the Office carried out in fiscal year 2022 to build a better future for America's youth.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Liz Ryan
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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Foreword

Youth is a time of immense promise. Young people need support to realize that latent promise. They also must be held accountable for their actions and given opportunities to learn from their mistakes. When given support and held accountable, anything is possible for America's youth. It is that potential that drives the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). OJJDP strives to enhance the welfare of America's youth and broaden their opportunities for a better future by transforming the juvenile justice system—all while advancing community safety.



As the only federal Office solely focused on youth who are involved in or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, OJJDP is committed to responding to the needs of vulnerable youth. We believe we can deliver true justice and realize positive results by centering the voices of system-involved youth and families and focusing on racial equity and fairness. In everything we do, OJJDP is guided by three clear priorities: treat children like children; keep children at home, with their families, and in their communities; and provide opportunities for system-involved youth.

In fiscal year 2022, OJJDP distributed \$405 million to fund delinquency prevention, intervention, and child protection activities aimed at building positive pathways for youth. We also provided vital support to states as they continued to enhance their juvenile justice systems to better serve youth and promote public safety.

Throughout the pages of this annual report, you will find descriptions of OJJDP's many programs and initiatives. From mentoring for youth to reentry assistance to training for juvenile justice professionals, our programs have a direct impact in communities across the country. The funding we provide to communities is a direct investment in our nation's most essential resource: our youth.

Looking back on all that we have accomplished in 2022, I feel immense pride that we are making a difference. We are building safer communities. We are encouraging accountability. We are unleashing potential. And we are doing it all with dedicated partners at the state, Tribal, and local levels. As we continue to move forward with a focus on youth and families, I am bolstered by the promise of tomorrow.

Liz Ryan
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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Contents

About OJJDP	ii
Foreword	vii
Chapter 1. Prevention	1
Mentoring Youth	1
Youth Violence Prevention	2
Bullying and Hate Crime Prevention.....	3
School Violence Prevention	3
Tribal Youth.....	4
Supporting Youth Leaving Foster Care	4
Research and Data Collection	5
Chapter 2. Intervention	7
Community Violence Intervention	7
Opioid Use	9
Drug Courts.....	10
Reentry	11
Family-Based Alternative Sentencing	12
Juvenile Justice System Reform and Reinvestment Initiative	13
Girls in the Juvenile Justice System	13
Juvenile Indigent Defense.....	14
Support for Juvenile Prosecutors.....	14
Chapter 3. Protection	17
Missing and Exploited Children.....	17
Protecting LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit Youth	19
Technology-Facilitated Crimes Against Children	20
Victims of Child Abuse Act Programs	21
Youth With Problematic or Illegal Sexual Behavior	24
Chapter 4. State Relations and Assistance	25
Title II Formula Grants Program.....	25
Nonparticipating States Program	27
Eliminating Prison Rape.....	27
Youth in Residential Placement	28
Exhibits	
OJJDP Fiscal Year 2022 Awards at a Glance	x
Connecting With the Field: Fiscal Year 2022 Highlights	15
Discretionary Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2022, by State and Territory	32

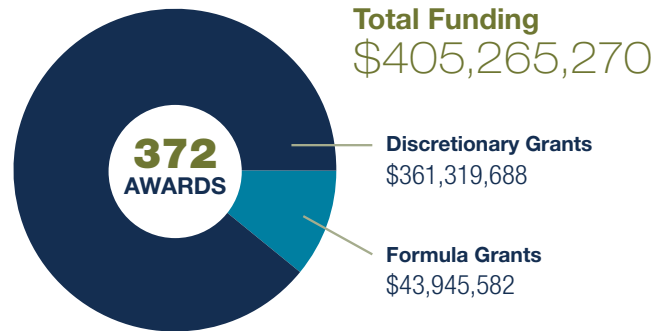
Fiscal Year 2022 Awards at a Glance

ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding

In fiscal year 2022, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded approximately \$405 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 Office's formula grants support state, local, and Tribal efforts to reduce and prevent delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and protect children from violence and abuse.



Select discretionary grants are highlighted below. Visit ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding for a complete list of awards.

Youth Mentoring

\$88,145,833

National and Multistate Mentoring Programs	\$69,245,833
Mentoring for Youth Affected by Opioid and Other Drug Misuse	\$16,250,000
National Mentoring Resource Center	\$2,650,000

OJJDP's National Mentoring Resource Center supports the work of youth mentoring practitioners across the country by advancing evidence-based practices and emphasizing positive youth outcomes.

Missing and Exploited Children

\$84,537,000

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and Related Programs	\$39,637,000
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children	\$38,700,000
AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$4,400,000
Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$1,800,000

In fiscal year 2022, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children helped resolve cases involving 27,699 children who were reported missing. The CyberTipline received 31.7 million reports regarding child sexual exploitation or online harm to children.

Victims of Child Abuse Act Program

\$47,025,841

Children's Advocacy Centers and Related Programs	\$28,333,455
Court Appointed Special Advocates Program	\$12,435,827
Child Abuse Training for Judicial and Court Personnel	\$3,556,559
Training and Technical Assistance for Child Abuse Prosecutors	\$2,700,000

In fiscal year 2022, trained volunteers from Court Appointed Special Advocates programs served abused and neglected children in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

Substance Use

\$37,957,987

Substance use continues to impact public health and safety nationwide. OJJDP provides essential funding to help communities establish or expand juvenile drug treatment courts and family treatment courts.

Family Treatment Court Program	\$15,378,189
Opioid Affected Youth Initiative	\$10,579,798
Drug Treatment Courts Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$9,000,000
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program	\$3,000,000



Delinquency Prevention and Intervention

\$36,834,030

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

Enhancing School Capacity To Address Youth Violence	\$24,905,757
Supporting Vulnerable At-Risk Youth and Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care	\$4,426,909
Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System	\$3,901,364
Supporting Effective Interventions for Youth With Problematic or Illegal Sexual Behavior	\$2,600,000
Youth Violence Prevention and Reduction Program	\$1,000,000



Reentry

\$18,050,844

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

Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Program	\$12,150,000
Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children	\$5,900,844



Youth Violence Intervention

\$16,458,608

Programs emphasize community violence intervention strategies such as street outreach, hospital-based violence intervention programs, and mediation; and support services to reduce the adverse impact of violence.

Byrne Discretionary Community Project Funding	\$8,900,000
Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence	\$6,958,608
National Gang Center	\$600,000



Juvenile Justice System Support

\$14,232,236

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

Enhancing Juvenile Indigent Defense	\$2,495,542
Juvenile Justice System Reform and Reinvestment Initiative	\$2,410,032
Family-Based Alternative Sentencing Program	\$2,250,000
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$2,100,000
Post-Secondary Education Opportunities for Child Protection Professionals	\$1,776,662
Juvenile Justice System Reform Initiative	\$1,000,000
National Resource Center for Justice-Involved LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit Youth	\$1,000,000
Community-Based Alternatives to Youth Incarceration	\$500,000
Addressing the Training Needs of Juvenile Prosecutors Program	\$350,000
Arts Programs for Justice-Involved Youth	\$200,000
Juvenile Justice Emergency Planning Demonstration Program for Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities	\$150,000



Tribal Youth

\$12,077,309

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

Tribal Youth Program	\$7,577,309
Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts	\$2,000,000
Supporting Tribal Youth: Training and Technical Assistance and Youth Leadership Development Program	\$1,500,000
Alaska Native Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project	\$1,000,000

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.

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Listening and Acting

To truly deliver justice for young people in the juvenile justice system, we must listen to them, their families, and the professionals who serve them. Throughout 2022, OJJDP held **listening sessions** on reform efforts and the future of the juvenile justice system. We listened, and we learned.

We heard from states, territories, and Tribal organizations from all regions of the country. A broad range of stakeholders participated, including prosecutors, youth defenders, corrections staff, juvenile justice agency heads, law enforcement, youth service providers, and

directly impacted youth and families. The diverse group of participants helped OJJDP hear first-hand what challenges remain in the juvenile justice system in the United States in 2022.

Young people and their families shared the difficulties that come with having a young person removed from their community and held in a facility far from home. Professionals spoke of the myriad hardships incarcerated youth face following release. They also acknowledged the ongoing issues that arise when children are prosecuted in adult courts and held in adult jails and prisons. From stakeholders across the board, we heard about the glaring disparities youth of color face throughout the juvenile justice system.

OJJDP is working to ensure that everything we do is informed by the expressed needs of youth, families, and professionals. The knowledge gained from these listening sessions will help shape our policies and direct our program funding for years to come. The Office is also committed to keeping the lines of communication open through future listening sessions, conference engagements, and site visits.

To learn more about OJJDP's listening sessions, visit ojjdp.ojp.gov/about/2022-listening-sessions.



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Chapter 1. Prevention

Mentoring Youth

Mentoring can change young lives. Mentoring has been **shown** to improve self-esteem, academic achievement, and peer relationships and reduce drug use, aggression, depressive symptoms, and antisocial acts. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has a long history of supporting mentoring programs to help young people build positive relationships and productive futures. The Office strives to increase access to mentoring programs and to improve the quality of existing programs and practices. In fiscal year (FY) 2022, OJJDP provided more than \$88 million to support mentoring programs.



Lashawn Dobbs/Unsplash

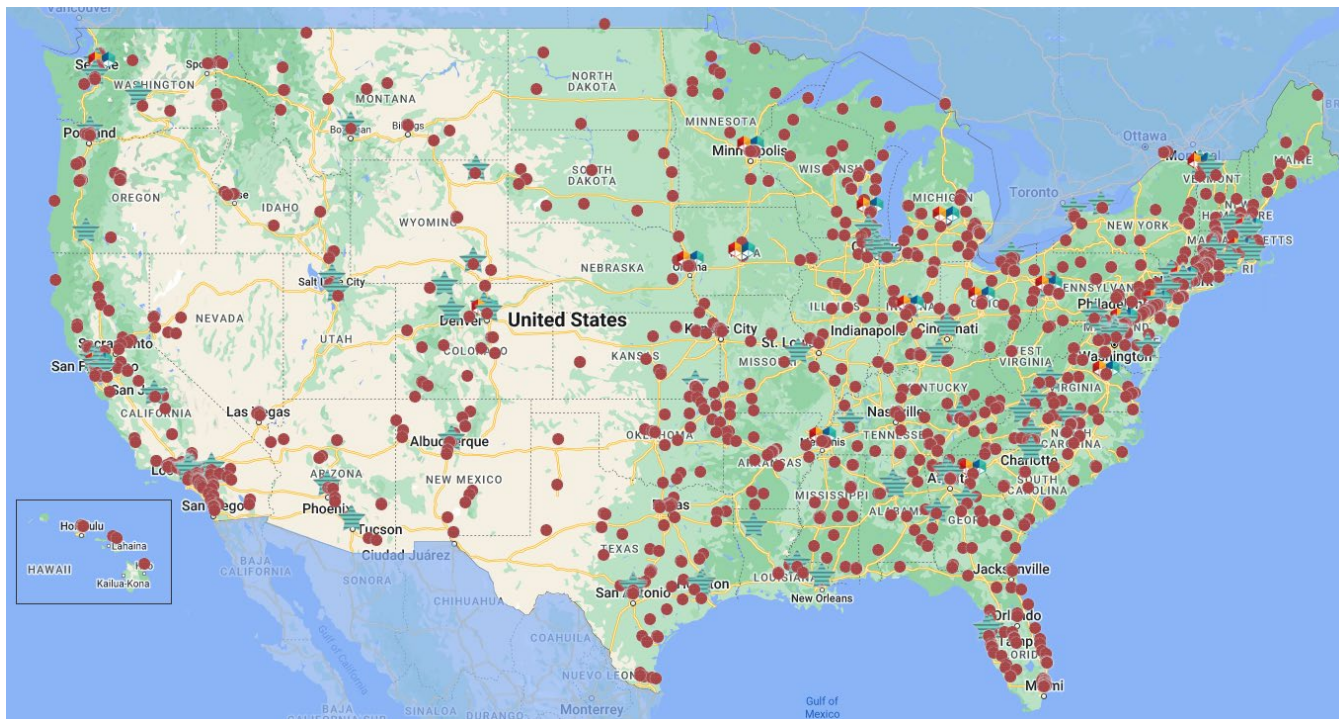
OJJDP's **National Mentoring** and **Multistate Mentoring** programs supported 19 organizations throughout the country. Using the more than \$69 million in OJJDP funding, these organizations provide targeted individual and group mentoring programs for youth who are at risk of victimization, delinquency, or juvenile justice system involvement.

Additionally, more than \$16.2 million was provided to organizations that serve youth affected by the **misuse of opioids and other drugs**. These organizations deliver targeted services to youth who are either using drugs, at risk of using drugs, or impacted by a family member's drug use.

OJJDP's **National Mentoring Resource Center** supports the work of youth mentoring practitioners across the country by advancing evidence-based practices and emphasizing positive youth outcomes. In FY 2022, OJJDP provided \$2.6 million in grant funding to support the center. In May 2022, the center launched the **Mentoring Grantee Geomap**, a dynamic online tool for identifying and accessing information about OJJDP-funded mentoring programs for youth.

Every year, OJJDP participates in the National Mentoring Summit hosted by **MENTOR**. In 2022, the event featured more than 80 workshops, including 12 led by OJJDP grantees.

OJJDP-Funded Mentoring Programs



Source: National Mentoring Resource Center

“ Mentors are a bridge to self-sufficiency and self-confidence. Good mentors motivate by example, but they also give kids the tools and skills they need to navigate the twists and turns of life. ”

—Amy L. Solomon, Assistant Attorney General, 12th annual National Mentoring Summit

Youth Violence Prevention

Preventing youth violence is an essential element for building safer and stronger communities. Too many young people are impacted by community violence as witnesses, victims, or perpetrators. To better serve youth who are at risk of becoming involved in gang activity or violence, OJJDP provided \$1 million to four sites under its **Youth Violence Prevention** initiative.

The initiative aims to increase protective factors among middle and high school youth to prevent violence and delinquent behavior. Protective factors include parental involvement and monitoring, family and peer support, and coping skills. Early intervention prevents the onset of negative behaviors and gives youth the opportunity to develop resilience and positive character traits.

Bullying and Hate Crime Prevention

Hate crimes and identity-based bullying impact communities throughout the country. In 2022, there were over 11,000 hate crime incidents committed by more than 10,000 known individuals who victimized 13,278 people, according to [Uniform Crime Reporting data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation](#).

OJJDP launched the [Preventing Youth Hate Crimes and Identity-Based Bullying](#) initiative in October 2021 to help practitioners and young people combat hate crimes. This initiative kicked off with a 2-day virtual symposium. In February 2022, the Office released a [literature review](#) on Hate Crimes and Youth that defines key terms and summarizes research on the involvement of youth in hate crimes as both victims and perpetrators.

Throughout FY 2022, OJJDP held 19 roundtables with young people on hate crimes and identity-based bullying. These roundtables were designed to educate and empower young people to lead hate crime prevention efforts. Youth shared their insights on issues including racism, antisemitism, homophobia, and prejudice toward specific religious or ethnic groups.

OJJDP also hosted a series of 13 webinars on hate crimes and identity-based bullying. The webinars provided juvenile justice professionals, law enforcement, and schools with vital information on youth hate crimes and hate groups, along with strategies to prevent hate crimes and mitigate microaggressions and implicit bias.

The Office released a one-page [fact sheet](#) on the initiative, summarizing all of the efforts to date.

School Violence Prevention

Efforts to promote school safety and better protect children must involve families and local communities to be successful.

In FY 2022, OJJDP launched the [Enhancing School Capacity To Address Youth Violence](#) initiative. Under this initiative, the Office provided nearly \$25 million to fund a service network of community-based organizations that will work directly with local schools to provide students with customized support that schools cannot offer on their own. By emphasizing collaborative approaches between schools, communities, and families, the initiative aims to solve the problem of school violence through a combination of early intervention and prevention efforts.

“ OJJDP’s Enhancing School Capacity To Address Youth Violence initiative promotes collaborations between schools and local organizations, emphasizing the role families can play in transforming youth behavior. Programs like it have the potential to significantly reduce both school and community violence. ”

—OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan

Tribal Youth

American Indian and Alaska Native communities use OJJDP funding to provide prevention, intervention, and treatment programs as well as services for Tribal youth. To streamline the grant application process for Tribes, most of the Department of Justice’s Tribal grant programs are awarded under a single solicitation—the **Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation** (CTAS). OJJDP provided nearly \$9.6 million in FY 2022 funding under CTAS for two distinct programs—the Tribal Youth Program and Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts.

The **Tribal Youth Program** supports direct programming for youth that focuses on prevention, intervention, or treatment services. In addition to implementation and continuation grants, OJJDP added a category in FY 2022 to fund planning periods for Tribes to develop strategies for improving or enhancing youth programs. OJJDP awarded nearly \$7.6 million in Tribal Youth Program funding in FY 2022.

Under the **Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts Program**, five courts received \$2 million to address the substance use challenges of court-involved Tribal youth. According to a **performance report** released in 2022, Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts achieved their main objectives between January and June 2020. During that time, 89 percent of program youth exhibited a desired change in targeted behaviors, including positive community involvement, enhanced job skills, and improved social competence, among others. Grantees served 330 youth and 212 family members.

OJJDP’s **Tribal Youth Resource Center** provides training and technical assistance to support Tribal efforts to improve juvenile justice systems. The center is helping Tribes reform and improve their juvenile justice systems while promoting youth leadership. In June 2022, the center published **Supporting Tribal Youth Attendance Achievement: A Resource To Support Community-Based Truancy Prevention Programs**. The publication was developed to help Tribal communities identify factors that contribute to chronic absenteeism and truancy and to guide the development of programs designed to keep Native youth in school. In FY 2022, OJJDP provided \$1.5 million to support the center.

To target the specific needs of Alaska Native communities, the Office awarded \$1 million to support the **Alaska Native Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project**.

In February 2022, Native youth met with OJJDP leadership to present their new report, **Healing Indigenous Lives: Native Youth Town Halls**. The report features youth perspectives on community safety and includes recommendations to OJJDP for actions to protect Native youth, promote their well-being, and hold youth who committed offenses accountable for their actions.

Supporting Youth Leaving Foster Care

Young people who have been in the foster care system run a substantial risk of negative outcomes after “aging out” of the system at 18. Without familial or other adult support, these youth may face challenges

Finding His Voice

When Colby WhiteThunder first joined the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas youth council 11 years ago, he says he was “that kid who sat in the back and didn’t say nothing.”

Fast forward to July 2022 at the **United National Indian Tribal Youth** (UNITY) annual conference in Minneapolis, MN. Still a reserved person, Mr. WhiteThunder gathered himself and—for five full minutes—addressed a crowd of approximately 2,000 Native youth, explaining why they should elect him copresident of the 2022–23 National UNITY Council executive committee.

In addition to his role as copresident, Mr. WhiteThunder also serves as a youth ambassador for OJJDP’s **Tribal Youth Resource Center** and works as an aide in his Tribe’s youth programs. There is a mentoring aspect to his work with children that appeals to him; it requires him to “maintain a certain image” and be a role model. “I watch them, and I can tell they watch me, the stuff I do,” he said.



ranging from poverty or homelessness to juvenile justice system involvement. To provide support to older youth who are transitioning out of the foster care system, OJJDP is funding pilot program sites to deliver innovative care and services. The pilot sites focus on meeting the specific needs of older youth, which may include substance use or mental health treatment, employment and education assistance, and healthcare.

In FY 2022, OJJDP awarded more than \$4.4 million under the **Supporting Vulnerable At-Risk Youth and Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care program** to support seven pilot demonstration sites. The long-term goal is to replicate the successful techniques used at these sites to create comprehensive treatment models. As part of these awards, OJJDP is funding Youth Collaboratory to provide training and technical assistance to help the sites plan and implement programming.

Research and Data Collection

OJJDP is committed to investing in quality research to enhance the juvenile justice system. Working with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), OJJDP promotes research and evaluation projects that will inform juvenile justice policy and practices.

In FY 2022, more than \$7.3 million was provided to NIJ to support several research efforts, including **Research on Juvenile Justice Topics**, which funds three research projects that are examining the prevalence of co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in juvenile residential facilities, outcomes for youth with co-occurring disorders, and youth defense delivery services. Funds were also provided to continue support of the **National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program**, which

is improving access to and use of juvenile justice data to inform policy and practice. Finally, the **Youth Mentoring Research and Evaluation** effort aims to increase the long-term impacts of mentoring and better understand the relationship between mentoring and positive youth development. Funds also supported the review and posting of content on OJJDP's **Model Programs Guide**.

Nearly \$1.3 million was also provided 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. Another \$400,000 was provided to the Bureau of Justice Statistics to archive and disseminate the Office's data at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data.

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 nearly 400 programs reviewed under the **CrimeSolutions.gov** evaluation criteria, the guide catalogs what works, what doesn't, and what's promising in juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and child protection and safety.

In fiscal year 2022, 9 programs and 10 practices were reviewed and rated for the Model Programs Guide. OJJDP also updated four topical **literature reviews**, which are available on the guide's website: Hate Crimes and Youth, Racial and Ethnic Disparity in Juvenile Justice, Substance Use Prevention Programs, and Teen Dating Violence.

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 2022, 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.

In 2022, NTTAC received more than 1,680 requests for training and technical assistance on topics such as mentoring, child safety, and juvenile justice. 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, training and technical assistance providers, nonprofit organizations, and child and family services.

NTTAC supported OJJDP's series of 16 listening sessions in fiscal year 2022 to learn about practitioners' challenges and successes, hear firsthand about the lived experience of youth in the juvenile justice system, and gather feedback and recommendations to inform the Office's priority areas. A total of 364 individuals participated in the sessions.

OJJDP's training and technical assistance network delivered 352 webinars and online trainings throughout 2022. NTTAC supported 30 of those webinars in collaboration with providers, serving 8,833 participants in FY 2022. Visit OJJDP's YouTube channel to access **webinar recordings**.

Chapter 2. Intervention

Community Violence Intervention

Violence—whether in the home, school, or community—has the potential to derail young lives. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is committed to intervening whenever possible to better protect children from violence and to help them heal when they are exposed to violence.



Cottonbro Studio/Pexels

Supporting Communities

Community engagement plays a key role in keeping youth safe and preventing antisocial behavior. Young people need safe places to play, learn, and interact with friends. They also need positive adult role models and a sense of community pride. Preventing juvenile delinquency is directly related to enhancing community safety.

The **Byrne Discretionary Community Project Funding** program provides funding to help communities address their specific criminal and juvenile justice challenges. These funds support improvements to justice systems, law enforcement services, local courts, reentry programs, prevention and intervention programs, and victim programs. OJJDP awarded \$8.9 million to 18 grantees in fiscal year (FY) 2022 under the program to prevent and combat youth delinquency. Funds were transferred from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Children Exposed to Violence

Each year, nearly 60 percent of children in the United States are exposed to violence in their homes, schools, or communities. Children’s exposure to violence, whether as victims or witnesses, is often associated with long-term physical, psychological, and emotional harm. Children exposed to violence are more likely to have difficulty in school, abuse drugs or alcohol, act aggressively, suffer from depression or other mental health problems, and engage in criminal behavior as adults. (***Children’s Exposure to Violence, Crime, and Abuse: An Update***, 2015).

To better serve children exposed to violence, OJJDP awarded more than \$6 million under the **Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence** program in FY 2022. Project sites are using the funding to develop or enhance community-based approaches to help children and their families who are exposed to violence build resilience and prevent future youth violence, delinquency, and victimization. An

Life Beyond Gangs

Adult Friends for Youth was founded in 1986 to provide healthy alternatives to gang membership and violence for youth living in low-income neighborhoods in Honolulu, HI, and other parts of Oahu. The program relies on nondirective, nonjudgmental practices and emphasizes academic achievement to encourage youth to take charge of their lives.

Under OJJDP's **Comprehensive Anti-Gang Programs for Youth** solicitation, Adult Friends for Youth provides individual and group counseling for gang members and friendship groups (groups of friends or entire youth gangs) with an average age of 15 to 16.

OJJDP's **Comprehensive Gang Model** provides Adult Friends for Youth with a structure to collaborate with community partners, implement a specialized curriculum, and advocate for the needs of youth involved in gangs. By providing educational, career, social, recreational, and community service opportunities, the program helps youth transition from gang life back into the community.

Adult Friends for Youth includes group counseling sessions after school or during the school day. Participants also receive individual assistance to help them identify alternative educational options, find employment, and avoid missing court appearances.

Excerpted from an article by Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun, President and CEO, Adult Friends for Youth.



additional amount of more than \$700,000 was provided to support training and technical assistance to help organizations that serve children, youth, and families better identify and help families at risk for violence.

Youth Gangs

One of the Justice Department's top priorities is enhancing community safety. Every individual should have a safe and secure community to call home. According to the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, community violence negatively impacts community engagement, business growth, education, local justice systems, and medical care—ultimately slowing community progress. Gangs are a significant cause of community violence, threatening the well-being and safety of youth and communities across America.

The **National Gang Center** (NGC) offers resources, training, strategic tools, and expertise to assist professionals and community members who are fighting gang activity. NGC resources support jurisdictions in their efforts to prevent youth from joining gangs, intervene with those who are gang-involved, and suppress criminal and violent street gang activity.

NGC also helps communities implement OJJDP's **Comprehensive Gang Model**. The model is a set of five core strategies—community mobilization, opportunities provision, social intervention, suppression, and organizational change and development—that offer a comprehensive, collaborative approach designed to prevent and reduce gang violence. OJJDP provided \$600,000 to support the center's continued efforts in FY 2022.

NGC led a training program in August 2022 to help outreach workers better connect with youth involved in gangs. Held in Houston, TX, the pilot training focused on skillsets needed to help hard-to-reach youth disengage from gang activities and connect with prosocial opportunities.

With funding from OJJDP, the Urban Institute released **A Research-Based Practice Guide to Reduce Youth Gun and Gang/Group Violence** in January 2022. The report offers strategies for local officials, law enforcement, and communities to reduce youth gun and gang violence.

Opioid Use

America is in the grip of an addiction crisis. According to the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, opioids continue to be the main driver of drug overdose deaths. In 2021, opioids were involved in more than 75 percent of all drug overdose deaths.

OJJDP recognizes that the impact of substance misuse among youth, their families, and communities can be a major risk factor for youth coming into contact with the juvenile justice system. To help address this crisis, the Office provided \$16 million to 16 mentoring programs in FY 2022 under the **Mentoring for Youth Affected by Opioid and Other Drug Misuse** initiative. This program supports mentoring services for youth who are currently misusing or dependent on drugs, youth at risk for misusing drugs, and youth with family members who are currently misusing or dependent on drugs. **Research** shows that adult mentors and peer-support groups for those who are misusing drugs or have misused drugs provide a sense of hope, increased self-efficacy, connections to treatment, and engagement in social networks.

OJJDP's **Opioid Affected Youth Initiative** helps states and communities address the needs of children and youth impacted by opioids. OJJDP provides funding to states and communities to develop and implement effective, data-driven, and coordinated responses to opioid abuse-related challenges and other substance use disorders that impact youth and community safety. In FY 2022, OJJDP awarded \$9 million to 13 sites under this initiative. Funding program development at the local level allows communities to meet the specific needs of their population—from opioid prevention programs for youth to programs addressing the trauma that children experience when parents struggle with addiction. All of the programs aim to reduce foster care and juvenile justice system involvement among opioid affected youth. An additional \$1.5 million was awarded to provide training and technical assistance for Opioid Affected Youth Initiative grantees.

In July, grantees attended OJJDP's Opioid Affected Youth Initiative virtual conference. Administrator Liz Ryan kicked off this 3-day event and emphasized OJJDP's commitment to preventing and addressing

substance misuse among youth. Experts from the field addressed stigma and recovery support services. The conference also featured a moderated panel of mental health advocates and youth with lived experience.

“ Substance use and dependence touch every community in this country. It is up to us to give youth and families the tools and resources they need to cope with the challenges this epidemic poses for their safety, their health, and their ability to pursue happy and productive lives. ”

— OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan, Opioid Affected Youth Initiative virtual conference

Drug Courts

Substance use continues to impact public health and safety nationwide. OJJDP provides essential funding to help communities establish or expand juvenile drug treatment courts and family treatment courts. The courts use a multidisciplinary team—composed of judges, prosecutors, community corrections officers, social workers, and treatment professionals—to help participants overcome the effects of substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. Training and technical assistance from OJJDP’s providers improve program effectiveness.

Family treatment courts strive to keep families together. OJJDP’s **Family Treatment Court Program** provides funding to ensure the safety and well-being of children involved with the child welfare system while offering parents with substance use disorders an option to reunify with their children upon completion of treatment. Grant recipients work to strengthen parenting skills, reduce incidents of child abuse and neglect resulting from addiction, promote accountability, and serve affected children. In FY 2022, OJJDP awarded more than \$15 million to 21 sites.

The **Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program** was designed to aid youth with substance use disorders who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. OJJDP provided \$3 million to four programs in FY 2022. The programs aim to strengthen family engagement and equip youth with the skills they need to lead productive, drug-free lives. Grantees can work to establish new courts or to enhance services at existing courts. Courts should also implement OJJDP’s **Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines**, which emphasize a treatment-focused approach to addressing substance use and mental health disorders among youth while encouraging family engagement.

OJJDP also provided \$9 million to two providers to offer **training and technical assistance** to both Family Treatment Court and Juvenile Drug Treatment Court program grantees.

Reentry

Reentry programs serve as an essential bridge between confinement and reintegration into the community. Providing individuals with the tools and programs to successfully reenter their communities does not just help them, it also strengthens families, reduces recidivism, and increases community safety. OJJDP's Second Chance Act programs provide specialized services to youth released from residential placement as well as promote family engagement between incarcerated parents and their children when it is in the best interest of the child.



To support the successful transition of youth from residential confinement back into society, OJJDP awarded more than \$12 million to 16 sites in FY 2022 under the **Second Chance Act: Youth Reentry program**. Youth receive educational, vocational, and job placement services while in confinement and following their release. Additional services offered include treatment for substance use, assistance locating housing, and help arranging mental and physical healthcare.

Parental incarceration can negatively impact children. Funds for reentry services for incarcerated parents and their minor children support family engagement, parental skills, and positive youth development. The Office awarded \$5.9 million in FY 2022 to support programs in correctional facilities in eight jurisdictions under the **Second Chance Act: Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children program**.

To highlight the importance of reentry efforts, the Justice Department marks Second Chance Act Month every April. In FY 2022, OJJDP held **webinars** throughout April that focused on youth reentry issues. Topics included youth housing needs, support for families, and justice system transformation.

As part of a concerted effort to solicit and listen to youth voices, the **Performance-based Standards Learning Institute**, an OJJDP grantee, held a webinar featuring four young adults who shared their reentry experiences and offered suggestions to better prepare youth involved in the justice system to successfully return to their communities. During **Raising the Bar on Juvenile Reentry: What Young People Say They Need**, panelists underscored the value of listening to youth with lived experience when developing reentry programs. They also emphasized the importance of mentoring to support youth as they work through the challenges of reentry and find a career path.

Redefining Reentry

In northwestern Ohio, OJJDP funds the **Community Treatment Center**—a demonstration project run by the Lucas County Juvenile Court for youth following short-term detention. Orientation begins prior to a youth's release; court-ordered youth attend the program 10 hours daily for approximately 6 to 9 months. Court officials develop comprehensive reentry plans unique to each participant, addressing risk factors that contributed to past behaviors, including a youth's mental healthcare needs, substance use, unmet educational and housing needs, and employment status.

The program offers participants a variety of services, such as cognitive behavioral therapy and education about substance use disorders. An arts component includes classes from the Toledo Arts Commission and drumming instruction from members of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. The program emphasizes family involvement—parents and guardians meet regularly with program staff to discuss their children's case plans and to receive updates about skills the youth have learned.

“ Together, let us recommit to empower Americans who have paid their debt to society and to provide them with a second chance to participate, contribute, and succeed. ”

*— President Joseph R. Biden, **Proclamation Recognizing April 2022 as Second Chance Month***

Family-Based Alternative Sentencing

When adults with children are sent to prison, their children face many challenges, including the loss of emotional and financial support and potential foster care placement. Keeping families together whenever possible helps increase healthy child development. OJJDP is committed to helping states and communities as they develop and implement effective alternative sentencing programs for parents and primary caregivers.

In FY 2022, OJJDP awarded \$2.2 million under its **Family-Based Alternative Sentencing Program**, which helps provide treatment and accountability to caregivers through community-based programs. By remaining in the community, parents can continue to care and provide for their children while serving their sentence. Programs also address substance use and mental health issues and provide parenting education.

In January 2022, OJJDP held a 2-day virtual listening session on the **Family-Based Alternative Sentencing program**. The event allowed participants to connect with OJJDP in real time to share insights, lived experiences, and opinions on family-based programs that would divert parents or caregivers from prison. OJJDP engaged with nearly 900 attendees on the first day alone.

The OJJDP-funded **Family-Based Justice Center** launched a website in October 2022. It offers resources to assist OJJDP grantees and state, local, and Tribal stakeholders that are implementing family-based alternative sentencing programs.

Juvenile Justice System Reform and Reinvestment Initiative

One of OJJDP's priorities is to serve children at home, with their families, in their communities, whenever possible and consistent with public safety. 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 the vast majority of youth.

The **Juvenile Justice System Reform and Reinvestment Initiative** will support recidivism-reduction policies and practices and the strategic reinvestment of cost savings into effective prevention and intervention programs. In FY 2022, OJJDP awarded \$2.4 million to two states to help them develop juvenile justice policies to reduce reoffending and improve outcomes for youth. States may use funding to support a variety of system-improvement efforts, including automatic expungement and sealing of juvenile records, expanding community-based nonsystem responses to delinquency, strengthening supports to families with incarcerated and system-involved children, and ending the use of fees and fines.

The program is supported with targeted **training and technical assistance**. In FY 2022, OJJDP provided \$1 million for training and technical assistance to help states develop and implement research-based, data-informed policies and procedures that reduce recidivism and racial and ethnic disparities and improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.

Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

Girls involved in the juvenile justice system face a host of challenges and have a critical need for services. In FY 2022, OJJDP awarded \$3.9 million in funding under its **Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System program**. The program provides prevention and early intervention services specifically for girls who come into contact 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 work with girls effectively.

Juvenile Indigent Defense

Nearly every state falls short of its constitutional obligation to provide effective legal representation for children. Few children in this country currently have access to a qualified youth defender. To address this shortcoming, OJJDP awarded nearly \$2.5 million under the **Enhancing Juvenile Indigent Defense** program in FY 2022.



Forja2/Unsplash

The program is striving to ensure that all youth involved in the juvenile justice system have access to high-quality, specialized legal representation and resources that address the collateral consequences of juvenile justice system involvement. Funds are also used to train court personnel, improve data collection efforts, and identify and implement replicable strategies.

Support for Juvenile Prosecutors

Juvenile prosecutors play a key role in ensuring that youth crime in communities is being addressed fairly. Prosecutors address both young people's needs for interventions and services to reduce reoffending and the rights of victims and witnesses.

In FY 2022, OJJDP provided \$350,000 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. Training and technical assistance programs cover a wide variety of topics, including charging decisions, diversion, evidence, preparing for hearings and trials, and building relationships between youth and law enforcement.

Connecting With the Field

Fiscal Year 2022 Highlights

In fiscal year 2022, 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.

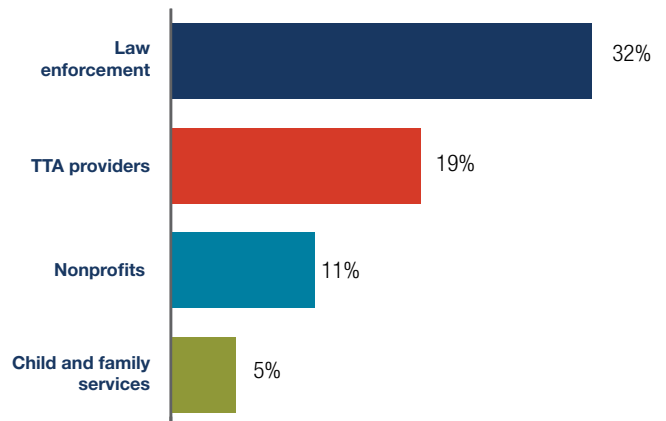


Training and Technical Assistance

In fiscal year 2022—

- OJJDP received 1,680 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 (41 percent), child safety (36 percent), and juvenile justice (11 percent).
- OJJDP delivered 352 webinars and online trainings. OJJDP’s NTTAC supported 30 of those webinars in collaboration with TTA providers, serving 8,833 participants.

Top Requesting Entities

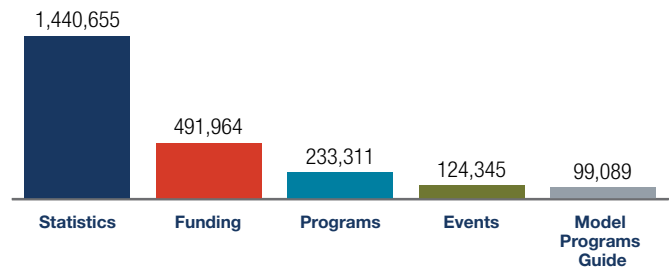


Digital Outreach

In fiscal year 2022—

- Nearly 32,000 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 8,286 Twitter and 7,034 Facebook followers.
- Approximately 40,000 subscribers received e-mails through OJJDP’s JUVJUST listserv with announcements of publication releases, research findings, funding opportunities, and events.

Areas of Interest to OJJDP’s Constituents, by Webpage Views



Connecting With the Field

Fiscal Year 2022 Highlights



Communications Releases

In fiscal year 2022, OJJDP—

- Released six issues of the *OJJDP News @ a Glance* newsletter and the following publications:
 - » *Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2019* (Fact Sheet)
 - » *Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2019* (Bulletin)
 - » *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 2021 Annual Report*
 - » *Patterns of Juvenile Court Referrals of Youth Born in 2000* (Bulletin)
 - » *Trends in Youth Arrests for Violent Crimes* (Fact Sheet)
- Released five blog posts highlighting OJJDP programs:
 - » *Priorities That Keep Kids' Best Interests at the Heart of What We Do*
 - » *New OJJDP Initiative Promotes Community-Based Alternatives to Youth Incarceration*
 - » *OJJDP Launches Youth and Family Partnership Working Group*
 - » *Reentry Starts Here—A Toolkit Designed To Improve Youth Reentry*
 - » *OJJDP Is Taking Action To Achieve an Equitable Juvenile Justice System*
- Published seven In Focus fact sheets:
 - » *Child Protection: Law Enforcement*
 - » *Children's Advocacy Centers*
 - » *Drug Courts*
 - » *Improving Youth Defense*
 - » *Support for Prosecutors Who Work With Youth*
 - » *Tribal Youth Initiatives*
 - » *Youth Gangs*
- Posted two Model Programs Guide literature reviews:
 - » *Hate Crimes and Youth*
 - » *Substance Use Prevention Programs*
- Released three data snapshots—visually compelling, one-page research highlights—on:
 - » *Arrests of Youth Declined Through 2020*
 - » *Characteristics and Trends of Youth Victims of Suicide and Homicide, 2020*
 - » *Dating Violence Reported by High School Students, 2019*

INFOCUS
 Dept. of Justice
 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 March 2022

Tribal Youth Initiatives

As part of its longstanding support of American Indian and Alaska Native communities, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds programs, training, and technical assistance that help Tribal justice systems and strengthen existing youth and justice services.

OJJDP participates in the Justice Department's Collaborative Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), which allows any federally recognized Tribe to submit a single application for several of the Department's Tribal grant programs. The Office supports two justice areas with the solicitation—the Tribal Youth Program and Tribal juvenile justice systems.

From the Field

OJJDP's Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) recently released a new guide to help Tribal youth justice systems improve their juvenile justice systems and improve prevention, intervention, and treatment approaches that benefit youth. The guide is available at <https://www.ojjdp.gov/tribal-youth-justice-system>.

For More Information

Learn more about OJJDP's programs for Tribal youth at www.ojjdp.gov/programs/tribal-youth-justice-system and services.

OJJDP
 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 ojjdp.gov

2021 Annual Report

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Working for Youth Justice and Safety

OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Arrests of Youth Declined Through 2020

Estimates based on data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program highlight trends in youth arrests

The number of arrests involving youth fell 84% between the 1990s peak and 2020.

Youth under age 12 and females each accounted for about 2 of every 10 youth involving youth in 2020.

The number of youth arrests for violent crimes in 2020 was one-third the number in 2000.

The decline in arrests since 1998 was greatest for youth that are female, youth under age 12, and youth of color.

Outstanding Briefing Book

Access more information on juvenile justice in the *Outstanding Briefing Book*, a collection of the best research, data, and analysis on juvenile justice from the past decade. The *Briefing Book* is available at www.ojjdp.gov/outstanding-briefing-book.

U.S. Department of Justice
 Office of Justice Programs

JUVENILE JUSTICE STATISTICS
 NATIONAL REPORT SERIES BULLETIN

April 2022

Dear James, OJJDP Acting Assistant Attorney General, Justice Science, No. 10222222

Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2019

State Residences

Highlights

The 2019 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJR) shows that the number of youth in residential placement declined 25% to 36,474 in 2019 from the 2017 census. The number of youth in residential placement declined 25% to 36,474 in 2019 from the 2017 census. The number of youth in residential placement declined 25% to 36,474 in 2019 from the 2017 census.

For More Information

Learn more about CJR at www.ojjdp.gov/cjr and services.

OJJDP
 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 ojjdp.gov

Chapter 3. Protection

Missing and Exploited Children

When a child goes missing or is exploited, lives are fundamentally changed. Ensuring child safety is paramount to achieving community safety.

The **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** (NCMEC) is an information clearinghouse and resource center for families of missing and exploited children and the professionals

who serve them. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has supported NCMEC since its inception in 1984. In fiscal year (FY) 2022, OJJDP awarded NCMEC \$38.7 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 2022, NCMEC helped resolve cases involving 27,699 children who were reported missing. The CyberTipline received and made available to law enforcement 31.7 million reports regarding child sexual exploitation or online harm to children. NCMEC received 113,173 calls on its hotline, and law enforcement officials worked with the center to identify 4,745 victims of CSAM who were documented in the Child Victim Identification Program.

To help professionals better respond to, investigate, and prosecute cases of missing and exploited children, OJJDP provided \$1.8 million to the **Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance program in FY 2022**. The program provides essential education resources to prosecutors, law enforcement officers, child protection personnel, medical providers, and other child-serving professionals.



rfstudio/Pexels

Training Professionals To Protect Children

Identifying children who have been exposed to violence is essential, so they can receive the trauma-informed care they need. Although anyone can and should report suspected child abuse or exposure to violence, these incidents are often first noticed by a **mandated reporter** or child protection professional. It is important that undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs for child protection professionals include information on evidence-based methods for screening children for exposure to violence.

Through the **Post-Secondary Education Opportunities for Child Protection Professionals Program**, OJJDP is providing more than \$1.7 million to two training and technical assistance providers as they work to create training resources to be integrated into existing educational programs. The grantees are also reviewing existing curricula to determine where gaps exist and how best to address those gaps.

AMBER Alert Program

The **AMBER Alert** early warning system notifies the public when a child has been abducted. Established in 1996, the AMBER Alert program contributed to the recovery of 1,121 children from its inception through the end of FY 2022.

The **AMBER Alert program** activates 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. 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.

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, thereby increasing the chances that an abducted child will be recovered safely. In FY 2022, NCMEC partnered with Instagram to add an AMBER Alert feature on the social media platform to notify users of missing children in their area.

OJJDP awarded \$4.4 million to support the **National AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program** in FY 2022. The program aims to improve law enforcement's response to abducted children and encourage public participation in their recovery. Subject matter experts and family members who have experienced a child abduction offer instruction, case study examples, and interactive scenarios as part of the program's popular courses.

OJJDP established the **Child Abduction Response Team (CART)** initiative in 2006 to offer law enforcement agencies a multiagency—often multijurisdictional—resource for rapid deployment when searching for an abducted or endangered child. OJJDP has supported the CART initiative since its launch and, to date, has provided **no-cost training** to more than 8,000 CART members. There are 137 active CARTs nationwide.

In March 2022, OJJDP convened the **National AMBER Alert and AMBER Alert in Indian Country Symposium**. AMBER Alert coordinators, Tribal coordinators, clearinghouse managers, and other stakeholders from across the nation attended the 2-day virtual event. The conference focused on trends in the technologies used to facilitate a collaborative response to child disappearances, with an emphasis on Tribal relations and lessons learned through case studies.

National Missing Children's Day

Each year in May, OJJDP leads the commemoration of National Missing Children's Day, which includes a ceremony honoring the heroes who work to save children and prosecute those who seek to harm them. On May 25, 2022, OJJDP led the 39th commemoration of National Missing Children's Day. National Missing Children's Day honors individuals for their extraordinary efforts to find and help missing children and bring to justice those who commit child sexual abuse and crimes against children. During the event, held at the U.S. Department of Justice, 12 courageous individuals were honored.



OJJDP's annual Missing Children's Day poster contest creates an opportunity for schools, law enforcement, and child advocates to discuss child safety strategies with youth, parents, and guardians. Sue L., a fifth grader from Los Angeles, CA, won the 2022 poster contest. Her winning artwork is pictured above.

The Department recognized four members of the Wisconsin Internet Crimes Against Children task force and an Assistant U.S. Attorney of the Western District of Wisconsin, five special agents from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service headquarters and field offices, and an assistant special agent in charge and intelligence analyst from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

“ Every day, law enforcement professionals, advocates, and citizens alike step up to protect children from harm, reunite missing children with their families, and provide support in the aftermath of a traumatic event. Today, the Justice Department is proud to honor some of these heroes and recognize them for their tireless work to create a safer and better world. ”

—Attorney General Merrick B. Garland

Protecting LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit Youth

Recognizing the needs of LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit youth, OJJDP developed a new framework to guide its approach to working with this population, including recommendations for their treatment within the juvenile justice system. In FY 2022, the Office provided \$1 million to create a **National Resource Center for Justice-Involved LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit Youth**. The center will provide training, technical assistance, and other resources to juvenile justice practitioners to assist them in meeting the needs of justice-involved youth who identify as LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit.

Technology-Facilitated Crimes Against Children

Online predators use constantly evolving technology to target children for sexual exploitation. Children spend more time online than ever before. This combination makes youth today uniquely vulnerable to online attacks. To help protect children, law enforcement officials must continuously adapt and improve their investigative techniques.



Kat Wilcox/Pexels

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program

The **Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program** (ICAC program) helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet crimes against children. This assistance encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education.

The **ICAC program** received \$31.2 million in FY 2022 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 4,719 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies throughout the 50 states—have reviewed 1.5 million reports of online child exploitation, resulting in the arrest of nearly 129,000 people since the program’s inception in 1998.

During the same period, more than 850,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other professionals were trained in techniques to investigate and prosecute ICAC-related cases. In FY 2022 alone, the task forces conducted approximately 167,400 investigations of technology-facilitated crimes against children. The task forces also continued to focus on public awareness and education, making more than 11,000 presentations on Internet safety.

The ICAC task forces conducted nearly 2,870 regional law enforcement trainings on child exploitation in FY 2022. Approximately 42,700 people attended these trainings, which provided a forum for information sharing and collaboration among federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies to combat technology-facilitated crimes against children.

Partnering To Protect Children

In June 2022, OJJDP and the Department of Justice convened the National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation in Atlanta, GA. Sessions focused on the investigation and prosecution of technology-facilitated crimes against children, with workshops designed to expand the efforts and knowledge base of law enforcement investigators and prosecutors.

The 2022 training featured more than 160 speakers who offered 38 hands-on, computer-based workshops and 99 lecture-based sessions. They addressed a wide range of topics, including legal issues, sextortion, investigative tools, officer wellness, Internet safety, and how to process and investigate CyberTips. More than 1,600 professionals attended in person or via livestream, with some traveling from Australia, Brazil, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

In addition to funding the ICAC task forces, OJJDP awarded six 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 \$5.4 million to seven organizations to provide training and technical assistance and program support to the task forces.

Victims of Child Abuse Act Programs

No child should be abused, neglected, or victimized. In addition to the immediate physical and mental suffering, abused children may experience severe and long-lasting 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

To provide trauma-informed services to young victims, OJJDP has supported **children's advocacy centers** (CACs) for decades. CACs 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.

In FY 2022, OJJDP awarded more than \$22.5 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. This subgrant program enables the expansion of CAC services into underserved areas, including rural, Tribal, and remote locations, as well as the expansion of services at existing centers. The program also funds services for victims of child sexual abuse material and helps military installations address child abuse.

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. Additionally, \$750,000 was awarded under the **Victims of Child Abuse Act Tribal Children’s Advocacy Centers Training and Technical Assistance Program** to support federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native communities in improving investigative responses and treatment services for victims of child abuse and their families.

Finally, the Office funded two publications for professionals to use when interviewing children with disabilities who may have experienced trauma. Authored by the **Zero Abuse Project**, **Interviewing Children with Disabilities: A Practical Guide for Forensic Interviewers** discusses features of various disabilities that are common in children and how they can influence forensic interviews. **Child Victims with Disabilities: A Guide for Prosecutors** addresses the roles prosecutors play when advocating for child victims with distinctive physical, cognitive, and emotional needs.

Ensuring Children Feel Protected

Jacob* entered foster care at age 4 after being “exposed to things that no child should ever experience,” shared Laura Farmer, executive director of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program of Southwest Missouri. CASA of Southwest Missouri engages 305 volunteers to serve more than 400 children annually. Jacob’s **CASA volunteer** became a steady, reliable presence, bonding with him through regular visits.

A child enters foster care every 45 seconds, according to estimates by the National CASA/Guardians ad Litem (GAL) Association for Children, an OJJDP grantee. Judges appoint volunteer advocates to assist children as they maneuver through dependency court and its myriad processes. A simple principle guides the CASA/ GAL program: Every child deserves a stable, one-on-one relationship with an adult who offers knowledgeable guidance and support.

“When Jacob went to court, he was the only child in a room full of adults who were all making decisions for him,” Ms. Farmer said. “He was scared and hid behind his CASA volunteer. That’s when the volunteer knew Jacob felt safe with him and trusted him.”

The volunteer continued advocating for Jacob and, eventually, the child moved into his grandparents’ home. On his adoption day, Jacob hugged his CASA volunteer and told him, “You’re my best friend.”

**Jacob is a pseudonym used to protect the child's identity.*

Court Appointed Special Advocates

Children should not have to navigate the legal or social service systems alone. 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 system and that they are placed in safe, permanent homes.



To expand national membership and accreditation services for state and local programs, OJJDP awarded more than \$12.4 million under the **Court Appointed Special Advocates Training, Technical Assistance, and Subgrants program**. The funding will also provide resources and training and technical assistance to volunteer advocates and other child welfare system stakeholders across the nation.

Child Abuse Training for Judicial and Court Personnel

Decreasing the amount of time children spend in foster care helps improve outcomes for children and families. Through a \$3.5 million award to the **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**, OJJDP is supporting improved court practices in child maltreatment cases—helping kids spend less time in foster care. The project provides 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 key goals of the training are to help professionals avoid placing children in foster care whenever possible and promote the reunification of parents and children following a necessary foster care placement. The practitioners are also learning how to coordinate information and services across juvenile justice and child welfare systems to achieve safe, permanent placements for abused and neglected children.

Child Abuse Training for Prosecutors

Prosecutors pursuing child abuse and neglect cases encounter significant obstacles, including enormous caseloads and a formidable burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt. In FY 2022, OJJDP **awarded** \$2.7 million under the **VOCA Training and Technical Assistance for Child Abuse**

Prosecutors program to fund the development of an array of training and technical assistance resources. The resources include regional prosecutor institutes, experiential training courses, a national conference, an interactive simulation platform, and a fellowship program for prosecutors from marginalized communities. By improving prosecutor training and confidence, the program aims to enhance the quality of the criminal prosecution of child abuse cases.



Youth With Problematic or Illegal Sexual Behavior

OJJDP awarded \$2.6 million under its **Supporting Effective Interventions for Youth With Problematic or Illegal Sexual Behavior** program in FY 2022. The program is designed to prevent sexual reoffending among youth and to promote healing by providing targeted funding to communities. OJJDP funds will support four project sites and a training and technical assistance provider. The sites will deliver effective intervention and supervision services for children and youth with sexual behavior problems and treatment services for their victims and families.

Chapter 4. State Relations and Assistance

Title II Formula Grants Program

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) **Title II Formula Grants program** provides funding directly to states and territories to carry out prevention and intervention services for youth and improve their juvenile justice systems. OJJDP awarded more than \$43.9 million in fiscal year (FY) 2022 formula grants to 46 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories.



Steven Abraham/Unsplash

The **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974** created OJJDP and the Title II Formula Grants program. In late 2018, the **Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA)** was signed into law. The new legislation reauthorized and substantially amended the JJDP Act.

The Title II program is one of OJJDP's primary tools for helping states and territories:

- Divert children from adult courts and facilities.
- Invest in effective community-based programs that provide delinquency prevention services, early intervention, and treatment for at-risk and system-involved youth.
- Expand funding for programs that create safe, nurturing spaces for children to spend time when not in school.
- Provide community-based alternatives to incarceration.
- End the use of detention for status offenses.

Funds distributed to states under the Formula Grants program can be used for a wide array of efforts, including positive youth development, mental health and substance use treatment, reentry and aftercare services, and job readiness. To receive Title II funding, states must prepare and implement a comprehensive 3-year juvenile justice and delinquency prevention plan; establish a state advisory

group (SAG) to provide policy direction; and comply with the four **core requirements** of the JJDP Act—deinstitutionalization of status offenders, separation of youth from adults in secure facilities, removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and reducing racial and ethnic disparities.

State-by-state compliance status for fiscal years 2006 through 2022, and fiscal year 2022 compliance determination standards, can be viewed on the **OJJDP website**.

Support to the States

Throughout FY 2022, OJJDP provided critical training related to the Title II program, including sessions geared to designated state agency representatives, juvenile justice specialists and compliance monitors, SAG members, and **Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice** members.

OJJDP held its annual State and Tribal Relations and Assistance Division national training conference in November 2021. Approximately 200 participants engaged in interactive discussions, panels, and workshops throughout the 3-day event. The annual meeting aims to enhance implementation of OJJDP's Title II Formula Grants program and support compliance with the **core requirements**.

The event emphasized the importance of youth engagement. The “Leading With Youth Voice” session discussed promoting youth and young adult engagement in program and policy development. A session on young adult SAG members focused on strategies for increasing youth engagement, support, and retention. Additionally, sessions focused on addressing racial and ethnic disparities and supporting LGBTQ+ youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

Throughout FY 2022, OJJDP provided assistance and resources to Title II grantees. The Office worked with training and technical assistance providers to launch juvenile justice specialist and compliance monitor certificate training programs. OJJDP also provided technical assistance, including quarterly webinars for state representatives and training for new SAG members.

Funding Outcomes

Formula grant funding allows states to provide direct assistance to young people who have been, or are at risk of becoming, involved in the juvenile justice system. The following are examples of how some states are using their funding to improve outcomes for youth.

- Idaho developed a program to address the needs of low-risk youth involved in the justice system. The program has helped 109 youth who committed status offenses avoid secure confinement and find community-based resources. Working with a mental health clinician, youth and families receive comprehensive assessments and referrals, helping youth avoid future system involvement.
- Minnesota launched a juvenile justice-mental health curriculum and training program that provides juvenile justice facilities with free, onsite education for all staff. The training helps staff better triage and respond to the mental health crises of youth residents. The state also hired a health and resiliency coordinator to enhance mental health services for young people in the system.

- North Carolina is supporting juvenile court alternatives for students with disabilities, including students from historically marginalized communities. The program seeks to keep these students out of juvenile court by educating parents and juvenile counsel on the special education issues relevant to a student’s criminal charges. Students also receive representation in the school setting to address deficient special education and behavior supports to help avoid behavior challenges or criminal charges.

Training and Technical Assistance for Formula Grantees

States and territories must comply with the JJDP Act core requirements in order to receive their full formula grant funding allocations. This funding is essential to the continued and improved operation of their juvenile justice systems, as well as prevention and intervention efforts. Training and technical assistance is vital for states and territories as they strive to meet the requirements of the Act and expand successful programs to better serve more youth and families. Professional associations, coalitions, and partnerships are uniquely positioned to provide targeted training and technical assistance to states and territories.

In FY 2022, OJJDP provided \$2.1 million toward **training and technical assistance** for states and territories. The funds were awarded to seven different organizations representing important juvenile justice constituencies. The goal of these projects is to help states and territories strengthen their capacity to comply with the JJDP Act core requirements; administer formula grant awards effectively; and build stronger juvenile justice systems that better serve youth, families, and communities.

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.

The FY 2022 Nonparticipating States awards were made in conjunction with the FY 2023 awards and will be included in the 2023 Annual Report.

Eliminating Prison Rape

The **Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003** (PREA) aims to end sexual abuse 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.

Visit the **OJJDP website** for more information on the PREA program and its funding.

Youth in Residential Placement

OJJDP funds statistical data collections to monitor trends related to youth in residential placement. The [2019 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement](#) and the [2020 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

Juvenile Justice Statistics Show Changing Patterns

In August 2022, OJJDP and the National Institute of Justice published a fact sheet, [Trends in Youth Arrests for Violent Crimes](#), which provides an analysis of violent crime among youth based on 2020 arrest data.

In 2020, there were an estimated 424,300 arrests involving persons younger than age 18—38 percent fewer than the number of arrests in 2019, and half the number of arrests compared to 5 years earlier. Less than 1 in 10 (8%) of these arrests were for a violent crime. The data show that the estimated number of youth arrests for violent crime, which includes murder, robbery, and aggravated assault, had declined since the mid-2000s.

The agencies also released [Patterns of Juvenile Court Referrals of Youth Born in 2000](#). The bulletin describes the patterns of juvenile court referrals of more than 160,000 youth born in 2000 from 903 selected U.S. counties. Fewer than 1 in 13 (7 percent) of youth in the cohort were initially referred to juvenile court for a violent crime and nearly one-third (29 percent) of youth were first referred for a property offense. More than 60 percent of youth in the cohort did not return to juvenile court after their first referral.

Youth Justice Action Month

Every October, the Department of Justice and its federal, state, and local partners commemorate [Youth Justice Action Month](#) (YJAM). During YJAM, OJJDP partners with advocates and youth-serving agencies to organize events and online activities to raise awareness and inspire action on behalf of young people impacted by the justice system.

YJAM began as a bereaved mother's plea for meaningful reform. Tracy McClard's teenage son, Jonathan, died by suicide in 2008 while locked in solitary confinement in an adult jail. The number of youth in U.S. adult jails and prisons has steadily declined since 2010, but adult facilities still hold thousands of children. On a typical day in 2021, about [2,000 youth](#) under age 18 were confined in adult jails in the United States.

[Children incarcerated with adults](#) lack age-appropriate services, such as therapy and educational and vocational training. They are more likely than their peers in youth facilities to be held in solitary confinement, and to suffer physical and sexual abuse—leaving them with lasting trauma. Youth charged as adults are 34 percent more likely to be rearrested than those who spent time in the juvenile justice system.

staffed by county, city, or municipal employees) held 39 percent of all youth in residential placement. State and private facilities held 38 and 23 percent of this population, respectively.

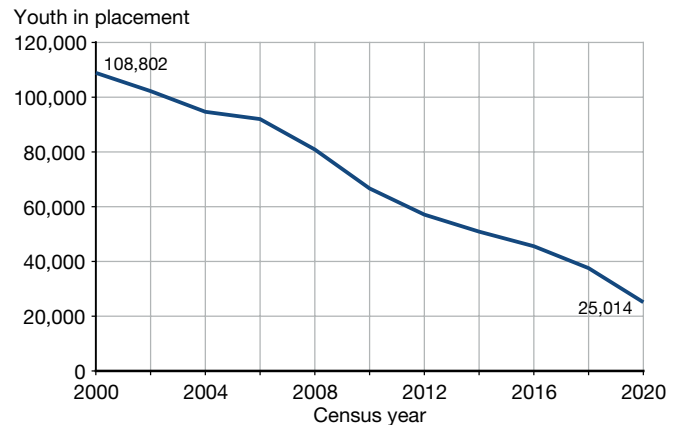
In 2019, residential treatment centers, detention centers, and group homes outnumbered other types of facilities. Residential treatment centers made up 30 percent of all facilities, detention centers made up 34 percent of all facilities, and group homes made up 13 percent of facilities. Other facility types included long-term secure facilities, shelters, reception/diagnostic centers, and ranch/wilderness camps.¹

Trends

A total of 25,014 youth were held in publicly and privately operated juvenile residential facilities on the October 2020 census date. The number of youth held in residential placement decreased 77 percent between 2000 and 2020, bringing the overall count to its lowest level since 1975.

In 2020, 78 youth were in placement for every 100,000 youth in the U.S. population.²

The number of youth in placement fell 77% between 2000 and 2020



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.

¹ Respondents were allowed to select more than one facility type category, although the majority (83 percent) selected only one.

² 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.

Race/Ethnicity

Youth of color 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.³ One-third (33 percent) of committed youth and 8 percent of detained youth remained in placement 6 months after admission.

Deaths in Residential Placement

Juvenile facilities reported 10 deaths of youth younger than 21 in residential placement for the 12 months prior to the 2020 census. Deaths of youth in residential placement remain relatively rare; the death rate in 2020 was 4.0 per 10,000 youth in placement.

Use of Isolation and Restraints

In 2020, 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 2,000 people age 17 or younger at midyear 2021.⁴ A total of 329 people age 17 or younger were under the custody of federal or state prisons at the end of 2021.⁵

³ 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.

⁴ Zeng, Z. 2022. *Jail Inmates in 2022—Statistical Tables*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

⁵ Carson, E.A. 2022. *Prisoners in 2022—Statistical Tables*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

National Juvenile Court Data Archive

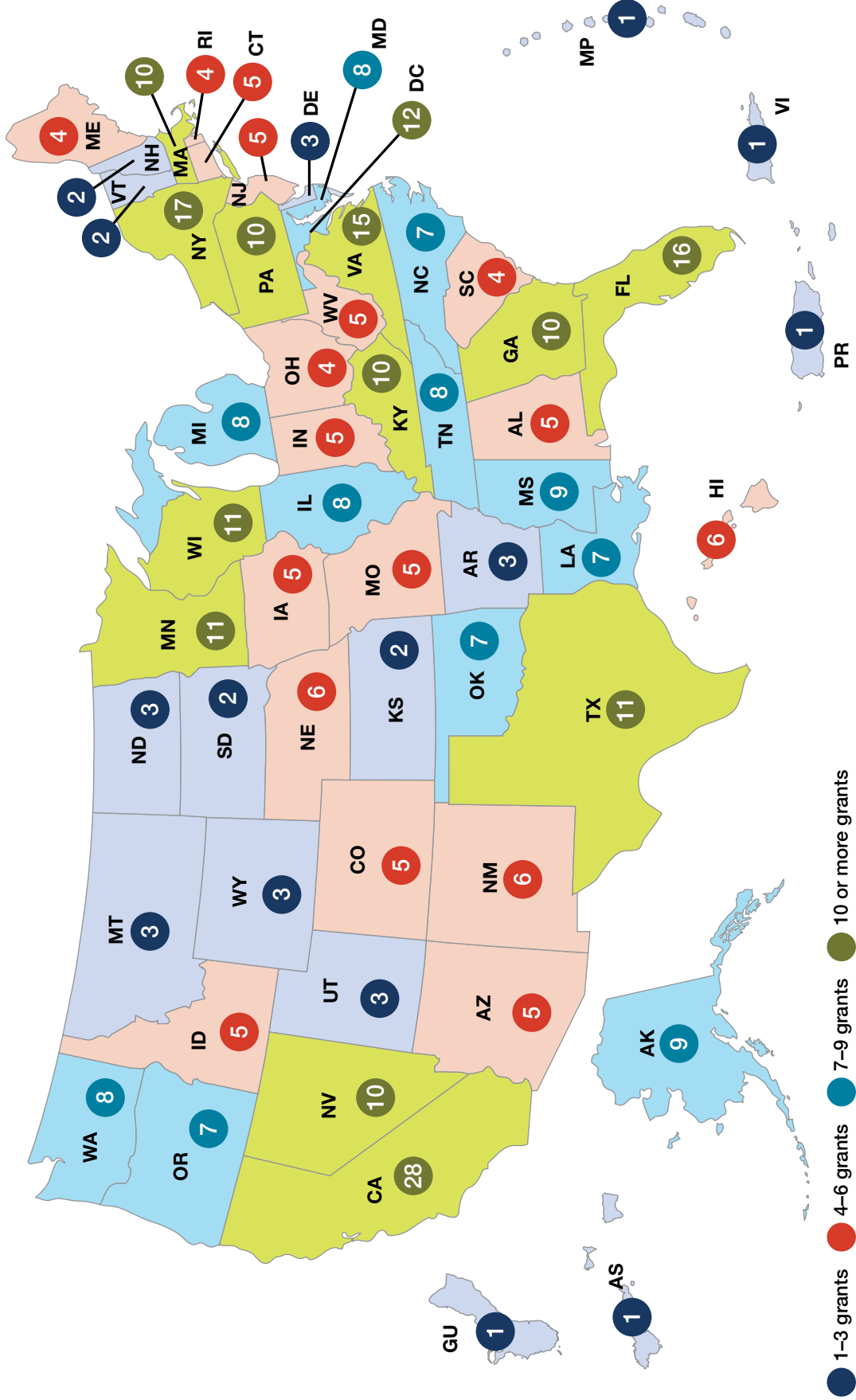
The **National Juvenile Court Data Archive** collects and disseminates information and statistics about delinquency and status offenses handled by juvenile courts, expands the coverage of reporting court jurisdictions, and increases the quality and timeliness of juvenile court data. The archive is supported by OJJDP and managed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. In fiscal year 2022, the archive was updated to include juvenile court statistics through 2020 and an updated **Juvenile Court Statistics** report was under development. The report presents national estimates on the 508,400 delinquency cases and 57,700 petitioned status offense cases handled by courts with juvenile jurisdiction in 2020.

Statistical Briefing Book

OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book provides timely and reliable access to the latest juvenile justice data. In fiscal year 2022, the Office added—

- A new data visualization feature to **Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement** that presents national trends detailed by age, gender, and race, as well as most serious offense and placement status.
- Updated data on a range of topics, including population characteristics, children's living arrangements, teen mothers, children in poverty, child maltreatment, time of day of violent crime against and by youth, youth sexual assault victimization, suicide victims, homicides, arrests involving youth, and juveniles tried as adults.
- Four data snapshots that highlight policy-relevant trends and findings on dating violence reported by high school students, youth suicide and homicide victims, arrests of youth, and characteristics of youth in residential placement facilities.

OJJDP Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2022, 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 2022, the Office awarded 372 grants totaling more than \$405 million.

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

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