



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

2023 Annual Report



Working for Youth Justice and Safety

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
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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

2023 Annual Report

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This report covers activities undertaken by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention during fiscal year 2023 (October 1, 2022–September 30, 2023).

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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, prevent delinquency, 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 justice and equity 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 Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention—an independent body within the executive branch—coordinates all federal programs and activities related to delinquency prevention, unaccompanied juveniles, and missing and exploited children.

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

Visit juvenilecouncil.gov for more information.



Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice

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

See facjj.ojp.gov 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 2023.

In fiscal year 2023, 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 2023 to build a better future for America's youth.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" and last name "Ryan" clearly distinguishable.

Liz Ryan
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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Foreword

Young people need care and accountability. When youth are cared for, valued, and held accountable for their actions, they can grow into healthy and thriving adults. Investing in young people can reduce crime rates and enhance public safety. Empowering young people fortifies communities and yields incalculable benefits.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) recognizes that we must balance care and accountability to enhance the welfare of America's youth and broaden their opportunities for a better future. We are proud to be leading efforts to transform the juvenile justice system into one that will treat children as children; serve children at home, with their families, in their communities; and open up opportunities for system-involved youth.

In fiscal year 2023, **OJJDP awarded more than \$446 million in grants**. This funding helped states, Tribes, communities, and localities as they worked to protect children, prevent delinquency, and improve the juvenile justice system.

OJJDP's diverse programs touch thousands of young lives. Our robust mentoring programs seek to ensure that children throughout the country have caring role models. Our child protection programs keep young people safe from dire threats—from online exploitation to real world violence. OJJDP's prevention and intervention efforts are focused on keeping children safe in their schools and communities by implementing a continuum of care framework. The continuum of care emphasizes the importance of serving more young people with prevention and low-level interventions to keep them from entering the juvenile justice system or moving deeper into it. Finally, our programs provide targeted support to state and Tribal juvenile justice systems to help young people successfully return to their communities from confinement.

You will find detailed descriptions of our programs in the following pages. Throughout these programs, a singular focus emerges—transforming juvenile justice and improving young lives.

As we continue to progress toward a juvenile justice system that balances care and accountability, I am proud of the work that we do, and I am realistic about the hurdles that still remain. Above all, I am hopeful that with the appropriate support, every young person in this nation can achieve their full potential.

Liz Ryan
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



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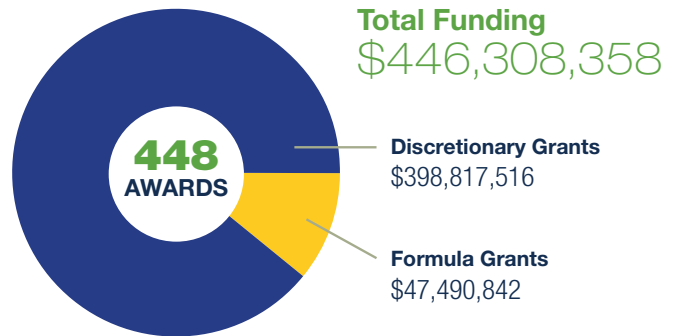
Fiscal Year 2023 Awards at a Glance

ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding

In fiscal year 2023, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded more than \$446 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 states, local jurisdictions, and Tribes working to reduce and prevent delinquency and to improve their juvenile justice systems.



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

Youth Mentoring

\$92,492,182

National and Multistate Mentoring Programs	\$70,448,043
Mentoring for Youth Affected by Opioid and Other Substance Misuse	\$16,500,000
Mentoring Programs for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System	\$2,894,139
National Mentoring Resource Center	\$2,650,000

OJJDP's National Mentoring Resource Center provided 17,320 hours of technical assistance in response to requests from 610 mentoring organizations in fiscal year 2023.

Missing and Exploited Children

\$90,062,382

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and Related Programs	\$42,378,991
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children	\$41,383,391
AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$4,400,000
Missing & Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$1,900,000

In fiscal year 2023, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children helped resolve cases involving 28,261 children who were reported missing.

Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention

\$52,288,544

Programs employ collaborative approaches involving families and community-based providers to prevent youth violence, delinquency, and victimization.

Enhancing School Capacity To Address Youth Violence	\$24,904,300
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Byrne Discretionary Community Project Funding	\$17,605,000
Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence	\$8,779,244
Youth Violence Prevention Initiative	\$1,000,000



Victims of Child Abuse Act Program

\$39,224,791

Children’s Advocacy Centers and Related Programs	\$35,224,791
Training and Technical Assistance for Child Abuse Professionals	\$3,000,000
Child Abuse Training for Judicial and Court Personnel	\$1,000,000

Children’s advocacy centers employ professionals from victim advocacy and child protective services, law enforcement and prosecution, and the medical and mental health fields to investigate, prosecute, and treat child abuse.



Substance Use

\$27,648,566

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.

Opioid Affected Youth Initiative	\$11,063,281
Family Treatment Court Program	\$10,961,425
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program	\$5,623,860



Delinquency Prevention and Intervention

\$26,517,598

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

Building Local Continuums of Care To Support Youth Success	\$17,148,262
Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System	\$4,854,495
Supporting Effective Interventions for Youth With Problematic or Illegal Sexual Behavior	\$2,800,000
Supporting Vulnerable and At-Risk Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care	\$1,714,841

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Juvenile Justice System Support

\$22,072,955

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

Family-Based Alternative Justice Program	\$5,587,051
Nonparticipating States Program	\$4,310,000
Juvenile Justice System Reform and Reinvestment Initiative	\$4,000,000
Center for Youth Justice Transformation	\$2,500,000
Enhancing Youth Defense	\$2,198,653
Center for Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice	\$1,572,019
Juvenile Justice Emergency Planning Demonstration Program for Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities	\$855,232
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Outreach and Education Subgrants Program	\$600,000
Juvenile Justice Facility Leadership Certificate Program Training and Technical Assistance	\$450,000



Reentry

\$20,226,501

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

Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Program	\$15,751,817
Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children	\$4,474,684



Tribal Youth

\$20,022,316

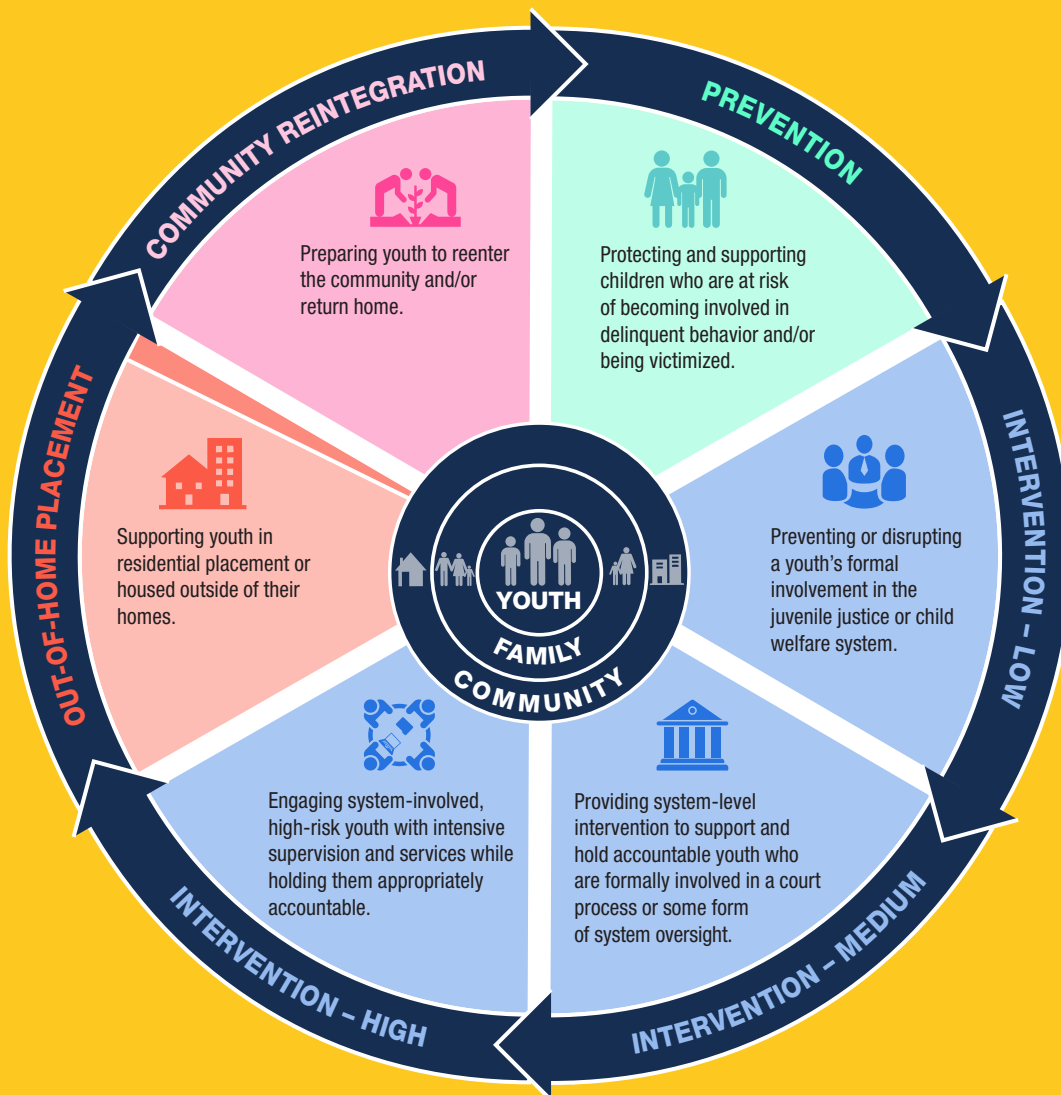
OJJDP’s culturally informed initiatives are designed to promote the success and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

Tribal Youth Program	\$14,822,316
Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts	\$5,200,000

Building Local Continuums of Care

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s (OJJDP’s) “Continuum of Care for Communities” describes a framework for youth justice services—and the dynamic and evolving nature of youth involvement in this continuum. This framework has been shown to improve youth outcomes and reduce reoffending, thereby advancing public safety. In an effective continuum of care, the majority of youth would be served through prevention and early/low intervention services. The number of youth served should decrease at each stage in the continuum.

In fiscal year 2023, OJJDP awarded \$17.1 million under the new **Building Local Continuums of Care To Support Youth Success** initiative. The initiative provided funding to state and local jurisdictions that have high rates of youth incarceration to develop a continuum of care that includes a focus on positive youth development, prevention, diversion, and treatment services. To keep at-risk young people from entering or moving deeper into the juvenile justice system, grantees are focused on delivering community-based services. The initiative also includes support for training and technical assistance to help states and local communities expand and improve services for youth.



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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) 2023, OJJDP provided nearly \$92.5 million to support mentoring programs.

OJJDP's **National Mentoring** and **Multistate Mentoring** programs supported 20 organizations throughout the country. More than \$70 million in OJJDP funding was awarded to these organizations to provide targeted individual and group mentoring programs for youth at risk of victimization, delinquency, or juvenile justice system involvement.

OJJDP introduced a new mentoring initiative in FY 2023 focused on keeping system-involved youth from moving deeper into the system through diversion or as a complement to community-based probation services. With the goal of expediting a youth's release from the system, **Mentoring Programs for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System** promotes the use of credible messengers as mentors to effectively reach and engage young people. OJJDP awarded almost \$2.9 million to six organizations under the program.

Additionally, \$16.5 million was provided to organizations that serve youth affected by the **misuse of opioids and other drugs**. These providers 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 2023, OJJDP provided more than \$2.6 million in grant funding to support the center.

Every year, OJJDP participates in the National Mentoring Summit hosted by **MENTOR**. In 2023, the event featured more than 107 in-person and virtual workshops, including 24 led by OJJDP grantees.

“Mentoring is a powerful tool that can help young people believe in their potential, their capacity to grow and change, and their ability to create a fulfilling future for themselves.”

—OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan, 13th 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, 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

OJJDP’s **Preventing Youth Hate Crimes and Identity-Based Bullying** initiative, launched in 2021, aims to help practitioners and young people combat hate crimes. OJJDP hosted the initiative’s second **virtual symposium** in October 2023 to provide juvenile justice professionals, law enforcement, and schools with tools and strategies to prevent and address incidents of hate and bullying. Presenters discussed current research and trends, support for vulnerable youth, and strategies to prevent online radicalization and cyberbullying of youth.



Alexander Grey/Unsplash

During FY 2023, OJJDP developed the *Hate Crimes and Identity-based Bullying Prevention Curriculum* for grantees, interested communities, and the field at large to use with middle- and high-school-age youth, including youth in the juvenile justice system and those at risk for involvement. The curriculum is aimed at building protective factors in youth and changing the attitude and behavior of youth who commit hate crimes.

OJJDP also hosted a webinar titled “Working with Youth and Communities to Increase Awareness and Skills to Confront Antisemitism,” and collaborated with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia to create a panel on combating hate and identity-based bullying for the “Breaking the Silence on Youth Violence” Anti-Violence Youth Summit held in July 2023.

“ It starts with us. It’s up to each of us to become role models of kindness—to teach and encourage respect for diversity. ”

—OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan, Preventing Youth Hate Crimes and Identity-Based Bullying Virtual Symposium

School Violence Prevention

School violence is an epidemic in the United States. Efforts to promote school safety and better protect children must involve families and local communities to be successful.

In FY 2023, OJJDP’s **Enhancing School Capacity To Address Youth Violence** initiative provided nearly \$22 million to fund a service network of community-based organizations at 22 sites 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 address the problem of school violence through a combination of early intervention and prevention efforts. Additionally, OJJDP awarded \$3 million to a training and technical assistance provider to help grantees build local partnerships as they plan and implement their projects.

Tribal Youth

American Indian and Alaska Native communities use OJJDP funding to provide needed services for Tribal youth and to improve their juvenile justice systems. To streamline the grant application process for Tribes, most of the Department of Justice’s Tribal-specific grant programs are awarded under a single solicitation—the **Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation** (CTAS). OJJDP provided more than \$17.5 million in FY 2023 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 Tribal youth that focuses on prevention, intervention, and treatment services. In FY 2023, OJJDP awarded \$12.3 million in Tribal Youth Program funding across 33 sites. Under the **Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts** program, 13 courts received \$5.2 million to address the substance use challenges of court-involved Tribal youth.

Indigenous Advocate, Environmental Steward

Shace Anagali Duncan, who is majoring in Native American Studies and Environmental Biology at Stanford University, was named as a **United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Earth Ambassador** in April 2023 in recognition of his contributions to environmental stewardship. While addressing his peers at the organization's national conference that year, he spoke about living in reciprocity with the land and water. He drew a link between pollution and poor mental health—especially among Indigenous people.

Mr. Duncan, who is also a youth ambassador for OJJDP's **Tribal Youth Resource Center**, spent the summer researching invasive plant species in Harvard Forest, part of the **Nipmuc Nation's ancestral land**. Harvard University's "**4,000 acre laboratory and classroom**" is devoted to research and education into forest biology, ecology, and conservation. Mr. Duncan hopes his research will take Harvard's mission a step further. By studying the effects of invasive species on traditional medicinal species, he aims to "amplify Indigenous voices in the Harvard Forest."

He is committed to creating communities where Native youth can live authentically. "I want to make a place where we can *be* ourselves," he says. "I just want to live in a place where we can be Indigenous."



Anagali Duncan applies Native values and traditions to his studies and work on environmental systems.

OJJDP's **Tribal Youth Resource Center** provides training and technical assistance to support Tribes in their efforts to improve their juvenile justice systems while promoting youth leadership. In December 2022, the **Tribal Law and Policy Institute**, which operates the center, published ***Tribal Legal Code Resource: Guide for Drafting or Revising Tribal Juvenile Delinquency and Status Offense Laws (2022 Update)***. The guide is designed to help Tribes identify and consider their unique values as they develop juvenile justice codes. In FY 2023, OJJDP provided \$2.5 million to the center to develop or enhance Tribally driven approaches along the juvenile justice continuum that range from prevention to intervention and treatment.

In December 2022, OJJDP held two conferences concurrently—the Tribal Youth National Conference and the State and Tribal Relations Assistance Division National Training Conference. The Office held the two events together to encourage greater collaboration between state officials and Tribal communities on strategies to keep Native youth out of the juvenile justice system. Organizers offered sessions developed for both audiences, including a panel discussion on ways Tribes and states can collaborate to provide alternatives to youth incarceration. The conference also highlighted Tribal best practices for supporting young people who are healing from trauma.

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 and more than 60 practices reviewed under the CrimeSolutions.gov evaluation criteria, the guide catalogs what works, what doesn't, and what's promising in the areas of juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and child protection and safety.

In FY 2023, 16 programs and 8 practices were reviewed and rated for the Model Programs Guide. New entries include **Adolescent Substance Use Treatment, Detention Diversion Advocacy Program, Parent-Involved Antibullying Programs for Youth, Risk Reduction Through Family Therapy for Adolescents,** and **Youth-Initiated Mentoring for Youth Development.** OJJDP also updated five topical **literature reviews**, which are available on the guide's website: Bullying and Cyberbullying, Children Exposed to Violence, Community-Oriented Policing and Problem-Oriented Policing, Girls in the Juvenile Justice System, and Substance Use Treatment Programs.

OJJDP held a series of virtual **Tribal consultations and listening sessions** in September and October 2023 with leaders of federally recognized Tribes, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders in Tribal communities. Stakeholders were invited to share feedback on the Office's priorities. OJJDP also sought recommendations for ways its funding can best support efforts to prevent and reduce delinquency as well as improve juvenile justice systems.

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 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 youth's specific needs, which may include substance use or mental health treatment, employment and education assistance, and healthcare.

In FY 2023, OJJDP awarded nearly \$1.5 million under the **Supporting Vulnerable and At-Risk Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care** program to support three pilot demonstration sites. The effort aims to replicate the successful techniques used at these sites to create residential-based comprehensive treatment models. OJJDP also awarded nearly \$218,000 for training and technical assistance to help the sites plan and implement programming.

Research and Data Collection

Promoting quality research and data collection helps improve the functioning of the nation's juvenile justice system. Working with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), OJJDP funds research, evaluation, and statistical analyses that will inform juvenile justice policy and practice.

In FY 2023, nearly \$9.3 million was provided to NIJ to fund a range of research and evaluation projects. The **Research on Juvenile Justice Topics** program funded two projects examining the impacts of strategies designed to provide community-based alternatives to youth incarceration and reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and one assessing data capacity and service delivery for dual system youth. **Youth Mentoring Research and Evaluation** projects are studying youth involved in the justice system and barriers they face in accessing mentoring services. Funds are also supporting the **Graduate Research Fellowship Program** for doctoral dissertation research relevant to juvenile justice. Finally, funds supported the review and posting of content on OJJDP's **Model Programs Guide** website.

Approximately \$1.2 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.

Chapter 2. Intervention

Community Violence Intervention

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



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 youth delinquency is directly related to enhancing community safety.

OJJDP's **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 \$17.6 million to 28 grantees in fiscal year (FY) 2023 under the program to prevent and combat youth delinquency.

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, use drugs or alcohol, act aggressively, suffer from depression or other mental health issues, 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 nearly \$7.8 million under the **Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence** program in FY 2023. 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 additional \$1 million was awarded to support training and technical assistance to help organizations that work with children, youth, and families better identify and serve families at risk for violence.



Daria Tumanova/Unsplash

Youth Gangs

One of the Justice Department's top priorities is enhancing community safety. 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), established in 1995 by OJJDP, offers resources, training, strategic tools, and expertise to assist policymakers and practitioners in reducing gang-related community violence. NGC helps stakeholders distinguish myths from realities about young people involved in gangs, implement data-driven solutions to prevent youth from joining gangs, and develop equitable and effective systems that empower youth to lead productive lives.

NGC helps communities implement OJJDP's **Comprehensive Gang Model**. The model promotes a set of five core strategies—community mobilization, opportunities provision, social intervention, suppression, and organizational change and development—that support juvenile justice reform and community violence intervention.

In FY 2023, NGC provided in-depth training and technical assistance to 50 OJJDP grantee sites, with a focus on reducing community violence through prevention and intervention. In June 2023, NGC co-hosted the OJJDP Grantee Convening: Building Strong Communities that Support Youth Safety, which brought together 110 grantees from diverse programs to leverage lessons learned in reducing community violence.

The **National Gang Center website** includes access to **specialized training, resources and tools**, and guidance on **evidence-based programming**. In FY 2023, NGC expanded these resources to include a **video series** on OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model, a **webinar** on using credible messengers to interrupt the cycle of violence, and a voices from the field **podcast series**.

Opioid Use

America is in the grip of an addiction crisis. According to the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#), opioids continue to be the main driver of drug overdose deaths. In 2022, 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 awarded \$16.5 million to 16 mentoring programs in FY 2023 under the [Mentoring for Youth Affected by Opioid and Other Substance 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 using drugs or have used 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 2023, OJJDP awarded \$9.5 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.

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 2023, OJJDP awarded nearly \$11 million to 14 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 \$5.6 million to seven programs in FY 2023. 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.

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 nearly \$16 million to 16 sites in FY 2023 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 \$4.4 million in FY 2023 to support programs in correctional facilities in six 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 observes **Second Chance Act Month** every April. In FY 2023, OJJDP released resources and podcasts throughout April that focused on youth reentry issues. Topics included making video visiting accessible for children, community supervision and behavior changes, and reentry planning.

“Firsts are milestones to be celebrated, but seconds can also be noteworthy. For many young people involved in the juvenile justice system, the second chance they are given following release may well be their first real opportunity to succeed.”

—OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan, [blog entry on Second Chance Month](#)

Family-Based Alternative Justice

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 2023, OJJDP awarded \$4.5 million under its **Family-Based Alternative Justice 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.

The OJJDP-funded **Family-Based Justice Center** offers training and technical assistance for OJJDP grantees and state, local, and Tribal stakeholders that are implementing family-based alternative sentencing programs. The center's tools are designed to help communities reduce family separation due to incarceration. OJJDP awarded \$1 million to support the center and its ongoing provision of training and technical assistance in FY 2023.

Juvenile Justice System Reform and Reinvestment Initiative

Among OJJDP's top priorities is serving children at home, with their families, in their communities whenever possible. Lengthy out-of-home placements in secure facilities can lead to negative outcomes for children, such as reducing the likelihood of high school completion and increasing the likelihood of adult incarceration. Positive youth outcomes and enhanced public safety are directly related.

In FY 2023, OJJDP awarded \$3 million under the **Juvenile Justice System Reform and Reinvestment Initiative** to support the efforts of three sites working to reduce reoffending and racial and ethnic disparities and to improve outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The county-level sites are using data analysis to develop, implement, and test research-based responses to youth crime and public safety challenges. Reforms can address multiple aspects of the system's interaction with youth, including arrest, diversion, adjudication and disposition, community supervision, and aftercare.

This program also includes **training and technical assistance**. OJJDP awarded \$1 million to help sites with assessments, strategic planning, and collaboration across systems and among peers.

“ My Administration has made historic investments in improving our youth justice system. We are working to shift its focus from punishment to support and making our Nation’s promise of equal justice a reality for all. ”

—President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., A Proclamation on National Youth Justice Action Month, 2023

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 2023, OJJDP awarded \$4 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.

An additional \$800,000 was awarded for training and technical assistance to support grantees as they work to develop or expand early intervention programs targeting girls.

Celebrating Girls

As part of the Biden Administration’s ongoing efforts to support girls’ education, promote gender equality, and ensure the safety and well-being of girls and young women, the White House hosted a “Girls Leading Change” celebration on the 2023 International Day of the Girl. OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan attended the celebration where **First Lady Jill Biden honored 15 young women leaders**, selected by the White House Gender Policy Council, who are leading change and shaping a brighter future in their communities across the United States.



Prior to the event, the White House released a **fact sheet** enumerating investments in young people and girls across the globe that highlighted the more than \$4 million in OJJDP funding under the **Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System** program to help communities expand early intervention programs for system-involved girls.

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 \$1.3 million under the **Enhancing Youth Defense** program in FY 2023.



Anton Danilov/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. Ultimately, the program aims to help states and localities achieve improved youth outcomes, reduced recidivism, safer communities, and increased public confidence in the juvenile justice system.

OJJDP also provided \$900,000 to a national training and technical assistance provider in FY 2023 to help states and localities enhance the availability and quality of youth defense.

Arts Programs for Justice-Involved Youth

Arts programs can provide a positive outlet for justice-involved youth. OJJDP awarded \$250,000 for five grantees to support high-quality arts programs for young people who are or have been involved in the juvenile justice system. The programs are operated through collaborations between juvenile justice systems and community-based arts organizations. The goal of the programs is to reduce juvenile delinquency, recidivism, and other high-risk behaviors by exposing young people to more prosocial activities and peers.

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Connecting With the Field

Fiscal Year 2023 Highlights

In fiscal year 2023, 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.

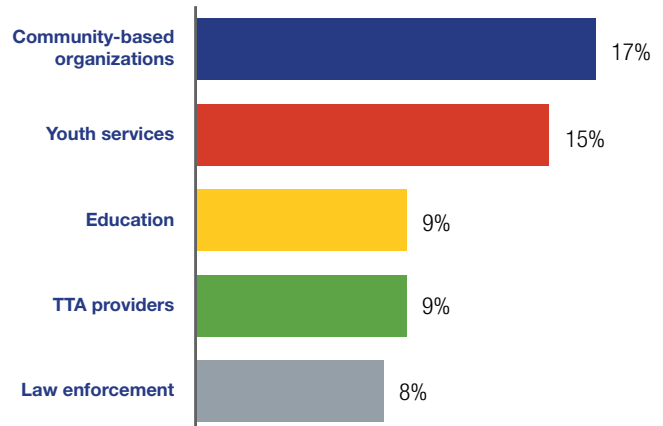


Training and Technical Assistance

In fiscal year 2023—

- OJJDP received 1,467 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 (47 percent), child safety (33 percent), and youth and family engagement (18 percent).
- OJJDP delivered 301 webinars and online trainings, serving 20,907 participants. OJJDP’s NTTAC supported 44 of those webinars in collaboration with TTA providers.

Top Five Requesting Entities

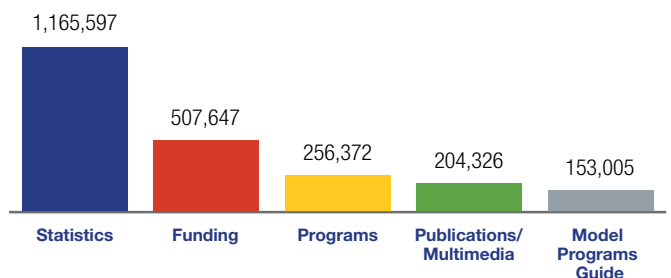


Digital Outreach

In fiscal year 2023—

- More than 36,000 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 8,471 X (formerly known as Twitter) and 7,741 Facebook followers.
- Nearly 51,000 subscribers received e-mails through OJJDP’s JUVJUST listserv with announcements of publication releases, research findings, funding opportunities, events, and more.

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



Connecting With the Field

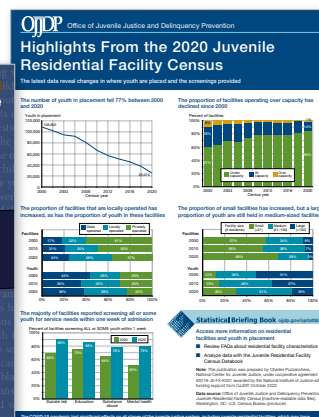
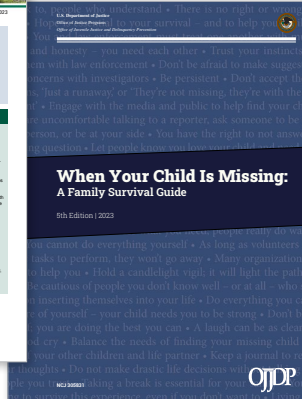
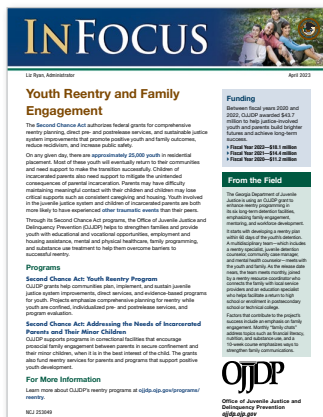
Fiscal Year 2023 Highlights



Communications Releases

In fiscal year 2023, OJJDP—

- Released six issues of the *OJJDP News @ a Glance* newsletter and the following publications:
 - » *2022 Missing American Indian and Alaska Native Persons: Age 21 and Under* (Fact Sheet)
 - » *2022 Victims of Child Abuse Act Report to Congress*
 - » *Drug Treatment Courts* (Fact Sheet)
 - » *Juvenile Court Statistics, 2020* (Report)
 - » *Preventing Youth Hate Crimes & Identity-Based Bullying Fact Sheet*
 - » *When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide, Fifth Edition*
- Released 10 blog posts highlighting OJJDP programs, including:
 - » OJJDP Calls on States to Strengthen Youth Defense Systems
 - » Real Justice Means Ensuring Opportunities for Justice System-Involved Youth
 - » Second Chances, First Opportunities
 - » Serving Justice-Involved Youth at Home, With Community Support
 - » The Scottsboro Boys: Legacy of Injustice
 - » Treating Children as Children
- Published four In Focus fact sheets:
 - » *Child Protection: Dependency Courts*
 - » *Mentoring Youth*
 - » *Title II Formula Grants Program*
 - » *Youth Reentry and Family Engagement*
- Posted five Model Programs Guide literature reviews:
 - » *Bullying and Cyberbullying*
 - » *Children Exposed to Violence*
 - » *Community-Oriented Policing and Problem-Oriented Policing*
 - » *Girls in the Juvenile Justice System*
 - » *Substance Use Treatment Programs*
- Released three data snapshots—visually compelling, one-page research highlights—on:
 - » Highlights From the 2020 Juvenile Residential Facility Census
 - » Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Processing of Delinquency Cases
 - » Trends and Characteristics of Delinquency Cases Handled in Juvenile Court, 2020



Chapter 3. Protection

Missing and Exploited Children

It is tragic when a child goes missing or is exploited. For the child and his or her loved ones, their lives can be fundamentally changed.

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. OJJDP has supported NCMEC since its inception in 1984. In fiscal year (FY) 2023, OJJDP awarded NCMEC nearly \$41.4 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 2023, NCMEC helped resolve cases involving 28,261 children who were reported missing. The CyberTipline received and made available to law enforcement 38.9 million reports regarding child sexual exploitation or online harm to children. NCMEC received 146,150 calls on its hotline, and law enforcement officials worked with the center to identify 2,425 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 awarded \$1.9 million to the **Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance** program in FY 2023. The program provides essential education resources to prosecutors, law enforcement officers, child protection personnel, medical providers, and other child-serving professionals.



Elliott Reyna/Unsplash

“Take It Down” Tool Helps To Remove Explicit Online Content

A new tool to combat child sexual exploitation is enabling youth to remove sexually explicit images of themselves from the Internet. The **Take It Down** tool, developed by the **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** (NCMEC), works by generating a unique digital fingerprint—a “hash value”—that identifies copies of sexually explicit images or videos. After youth select the content they want “hashed,” NCMEC shares the unique identifier with participating online platforms so they can detect and remove the imagery on their public or unencrypted sites and apps. Participating platforms include Facebook, Instagram, and multiple websites that feature pornographic material.

Take  Down

The launch of this tool comes as **law enforcement agencies are reporting** a dramatic rise in a crime known as **sextortion**—when children and teens are deceived or coerced into sending explicit images online and then extorted for money or additional explicit material. Perpetrators often release the images even after youth send additional images or money.

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 1,200 children from its inception through the end of 2023.

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 41 countries.

OJJDP provides grant award funding to NCMEC to administer the **secondary distribution** of AMBER Alerts to national partners such as Google, Meta (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 2023, NCMEC partnered with HotelKey—which provides property management systems to major hotel chains—to send AMBER Alert notifications to staff.

OJJDP awarded \$4.4 million to support the **National AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program** in FY 2023. 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 11,000 participants. There are 133 active CARTs nationwide.

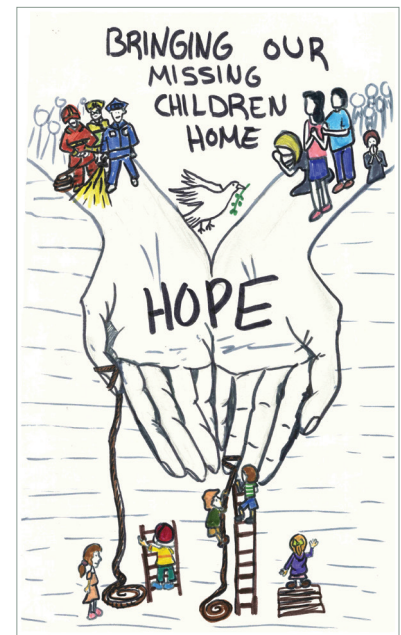
In April 2023, OJJDP convened the **AMBER Alert and AMBER Alert in Indian Country Symposium**. AMBER Alert coordinators, Tribal coordinators, clearinghouse managers, and other stakeholders from across the nation attended the 2-day event, which featured 36 sessions. The conference focused on multidisciplinary, collaborative responses to endangered, missing, and exploited children, and emphasized 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. The 40th commemoration of National Missing Children’s Day was held on May 24, 2023.

During the **event**, held at the U.S. Department of Justice, nine individuals were honored. The Department recognized seven members of the North Texas Internet Crimes Against Children task force; a detective from the Rialto, CA, Police Department; and a detective from the Palatine, IL, Police Department.

OJJDP also released the fifth edition of **When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide** at the event. Informed by parents of missing children, the guide outlines the necessary actions families should take when their child goes missing. The guide includes checklists of critical information to provide to law enforcement officers, the media, and search and rescue professionals, and suggests steps families can take to protect their financial and personal well-being.



Fifth grader Ayoub A., from Brooklyn, NY, won the 2023 National Missing Children’s Day poster contest. “The bird between the hands is a symbol of hope,” Ayoub’s submission read. “A sign and comfort to the families to keep going.”

“ Whether a child has been abducted or has just wandered away, the terror felt by a parent when their child has disappeared is overwhelming. I have great respect for the brave, resourceful, and dedicated professionals—like those in this room—who work every day to protect children from harm, reunite missing children with their families, and provide support for the community in the aftermath of a traumatic event. There is no cause more worthy of honor. ”

—Attorney General Merrick B. Garland

Protecting LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit Youth

Through an award to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, OJJDP launched the **Pride Justice Resource Center** in FY 2023 to ensure that justice-involved LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) youth are treated equitably and receive services tailored to their unique needs. The center provides training, technical assistance, and resources to juvenile justice practitioners to enhance their capacity, knowledge, and skills to improve outcomes for justice-involved LGBTQ2S+ youth.



Aedrian Salazar/Unsplash

The center's website features recordings of its webinars—including **"An Introduction to LGBTQ2S+ Justice-Involved Youth,"** which aired in June 2023—and **Supporting Family Members of LGBTQ2S+ Young People**, a tip sheet for juvenile justice providers. The site also includes **newsletters**, **events**, and other **resources**. Visitors can fill out an **online form** to request technical assistance or consult with the center about the needs of justice-involved LGBTQ2S+ youth.

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.

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program

The **Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program** (ICAC program) helps state, local, and Tribal 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 nearly \$33.3 million in FY 2023 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 almost 5,500 federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies throughout the 50 states—have reviewed 1.6 million reports of online child exploitation, resulting in the arrest of nearly 140,000 people since the program's inception in 1998.

Partnering To Protect Children

In June 2023, 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 2023 training featured more than 160 speakers who offered 38 hands-on, computer-based workshops and 113 lecture-based sessions. The sessions and workshops 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 1,500 professionals attended in person or via livestream, with some traveling from Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

During the same period, more than 923,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other professionals were trained in techniques to investigate and prosecute ICAC-related cases. In FY 2023, the task forces conducted approximately 184,700 investigations of technology-facilitated crimes against children. The task forces also continued to focus on public awareness and education, delivering nearly 10,000 presentations on Internet safety.

The ICAC task forces conducted nearly 3,050 regional law enforcement trainings on child exploitation in FY 2023. Approximately 72,300 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.

In addition to funding the ICAC task forces, OJJDP awarded four organizations almost \$2.3 million under the **Strengthening ICAC Technological Investigative Capacity program** to develop investigative tools and technologies, and train law enforcement and prosecutors in investigative methods involving technology-facilitated crimes against children. OJJDP also awarded more than \$6.8 million to six organizations to provide training and technical assistance and program support to the ICAC task forces.

Training Child Protection Professionals

The goal of OJJDP's **Post-Secondary Education Opportunities for Child Protection Professionals** program is to ensure that future mandated reporters and practicing child protection professionals receive training on how to recognize and appropriately address the impact of violence and psychological trauma on children. In FY 2023, the Office awarded nearly \$1.8 million to two grant recipients to develop evidence-based curriculums that will be integrated into undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs for child protection professionals, including social workers, mental and medical health professionals, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers.

Children’s Advocacy Centers Expand to Indian Country

The **Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**, a federally recognized Tribe located in southeastern Oklahoma, opened a children’s advocacy center in August 2023 as part of an OJJDP initiative to improve support for child victims of abuse in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The center provides access to critical services for responding to abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence. It serves Choctaw and non-Tribal children living in underserved areas of the Choctaw Reservation.

The facility is providing child victims with culturally informed care, including forensic interviews, sexual assault nursing exams, and therapy. It also provides referrals for victim services, victim advocacy, and court preparation. The Tribe received support from OJJDP’s **Victims of Child Abuse Act Tribal Children’s Advocacy Centers Training and Technical Assistance Program** to launch the center.

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** programs aim 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 programs.

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 2023, OJJDP awarded nearly \$28.7 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. The National Children’s Alliance was also awarded \$750,000 to ensure that CACs across the country have the necessary training and technical assistance to meet the **national standards for membership and accreditation**.

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

In addition, the Office awarded \$800,000 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.



Elliott Reyna/Unsplash

OJJDP funding to the National Children’s Advocacy Center and the Southern Regional Children’s Advocacy Center supported the development of several resources to help CACs improve their services, including ***Legal Guidebook for Children’s Advocacy Centers***, a guide to the legal challenges that CACs face when they are brought into criminal, civil, and family court litigations; ***Emergency Preparedness and Response Guide for Children’s Advocacy Centers: Planning for the Unexpected***; and ***Human Resources Toolkit for Nonprofit Children’s Advocacy Centers***.

“ We cannot promote youth justice or community safety unless we first protect child victims. ”

—OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan, 39th International Symposium on Child Abuse

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 \$1 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 also learn how to coordinate information and services across juvenile justice and child welfare systems to achieve safe, permanent placements for abused and neglected children.

In FY 2023, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges added 11 state and Tribal courts to its **Implementation Sites Project**, which is helping participating sites improve safety, permanency, and positive outcomes for children involved in child welfare cases. A designated judge oversees each site’s efforts. By the end of 2023, a total of 27 court systems were working to implement best practices to improve their handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

Training and Technical Assistance for Child Abuse Professionals

OJJDP awarded \$3 million to a **training and technical assistance** provider to improve the capacity of child abuse professionals to investigate, prosecute, and treat child abuse using multidisciplinary teams. The provider will conduct in-person and web-based training and deliver conference presentations to members of law

enforcement, prosecutors, service providers, Child Protective Services investigators, social workers, and adult and juvenile probation officers. The provider will also develop fact sheets covering specific aspects of child abuse response, support the **Child Abuse Library Online**, and provide online mentoring for forensic interviewers. All training and information resources provided under this effort promote the implementation of developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, and evidence-informed programs, policies, and practices.



Youth With Problematic or Illegal Sexual Behavior

OJJDP awarded \$1.8 million under its **Supporting Effective Interventions for Youth With Problematic or Illegal Sexual Behavior** program in FY 2023. The program is designed to prevent sexual reoffending among youth and to promote healing by providing targeted funding to communities. Funds support four project sites to deliver intervention and supervision services for children and youth with sexual behavior problems and treatment services for their victims and families. OJJDP also awarded \$1 million to a training and technical assistance provider to offer project sites clinical training and guidance to enhance community collaboration and family engagement.

Chapter 4. State Relations and Assistance

Title II Formula Grants Program

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 \$47 million in fiscal year (FY) 2023 formula grants to 48 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories.



Lashawn Dobbs/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** 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 **core requirements** of the JJDP Act—deinstitutionalization of status offenders, removal of juveniles charged as adults from secure adult

facilities, 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 2023, and fiscal year 2023 compliance determination standards, can be viewed on the [OJJDP website](#).

Support to the States



Elliott Reyna/Unsplash

Throughout FY 2023, OJJDP provided critical training related to the Title II program, including sessions geared to designated state agency representatives, juvenile justice specialists and compliance monitors, and SAG members.

OJJDP held its fifth annual State and Tribal Relations Assistance Division National Training Conference in December 2022. Officials from 48 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories engaged in interactive discussions, panels, and workshops throughout the three-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 was held concurrently with the Tribal Youth National Conference. The shared location was selected to encourage greater collaboration between state officials and Tribal communities on strategies to keep Native youth out of the juvenile justice system.

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.

- To ensure the juvenile justice system responds to the needs of youth and families, Rhode Island’s **Kids Count** program helped coordinate focus groups with youth who had previous contact with the juvenile justice system. Data from the focus groups will be used to better serve young people. Rhode Island is also working with a service provider to identify and address decision points where youth of color are disproportionately impacted by the system.
- In Florida, seven community organizations received funding to deliver mentoring services to youth at high risk of juvenile justice system involvement throughout the state. The mentoring programs promote youth education, teach problem-solving skills, and reduce truancy through one-on-one, group, and peer sessions. Mentees receive help with life skills and academics while developing prosocial relationships with positive adult role models.

Outreach and Education

As OJJDP prepares to mark the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in September 2024, the Office is providing funding to support events and activities in communities throughout the nation to highlight youth justice resources and local issues. These activities and gatherings will bring together youth justice agencies and organizations, impacted youth and families, local leaders, and other stakeholders.

OJJDP awarded \$600,000 for the **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Outreach and Education Subgrants Program**. These funds will be distributed to local communities in the form of subawards to raise awareness about the purposes and importance of the Act, preventing juvenile delinquency, and promoting youth justice.



- **JusticeWorks Ohio** is focused on keeping young people in Hamilton County out of the juvenile justice system with targeted evidence-based programs, including the Violation Initiative Program. The program was created to reduce out-of-home placements for youth who are not fulfilling the requirements of probation and are at high risk for court-committed placement. By strengthening family connections, the program is able to provide appropriate boundaries, direction, and support.

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 are 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.

Center for Youth Justice Transformation

OJJDP provided \$2.5 million in FY 2023 funding to create the **Center for Youth Justice Transformation**. The center will develop and implement training and technical assistance to help states, territories, Tribes, and communities reform juvenile justice systems and comply with the core requirements of the JJDP Act. The center will also develop an online education program to disseminate best practices in juvenile justice reform and deliver on-demand learning opportunities.

States will receive targeted assistance as they develop required Formula Grant state plans and implement juvenile justice system improvements. Direct input from youth and families impacted by the justice system will drive all efforts. One of the primary goals of the center is to help all states achieve compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP Act.

Center for Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice

Youth of color are **far more likely** to be arrested, referred to court, detained, and placed in correctional facilities when compared with white youth. OJJDP's new **Center for Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice** will assist states and territories in their efforts to comply with the core requirement of the JJDP Act to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. The center will develop comprehensive training and technical assistance to support states, territories, Tribes, and communities as they strive to eliminate disparities and better serve youth of color.



In FY 2023, OJJDP provided nearly \$1.6 million to fund the establishment of the center. Beyond providing practical assistance to formula grantees as they strive to meet the core requirements, the center will also form partnerships with other stakeholders to foster systemic change at every level of the justice system. Additionally, the center will provide diverse training programs on topics including cultural competency, equity, implicit bias, institutional racism, and promising interventions to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Juvenile Justice Facility Leadership Certificate Program

To improve juvenile justice facility operations and enhance outcomes for young people in confinement, OJJDP provided \$450,000 to the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators to continue supporting a national leadership program for juvenile correctional facility directors and staff. The Juvenile Justice Facility Leadership Certificate Program focuses on strategies to ensure compliance with the core requirements of the Formula Grants program. The training also addresses reducing the use of isolation; ensuring education continuity; prioritizing staff recruitment, retention, and wellness; improving conditions of confinement; and strengthening positive facility culture.

Emergency Planning for Residential Facilities

Ensuring the safety and well-being of youth and staff at juvenile justice residential facilities is paramount during an emergency. Whether it is a natural disaster, a technological failure, or a manmade incident, an emergency event may require targeted responses to protect life, property, and the environment.

OJJDP provided \$855,232 to four jurisdictions under the **Emergency Planning Demonstration Program for Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities** to develop comprehensive safety plans for juvenile justice residential facilities in the event of an emergency. While developing plans, facilities will follow the principles outlined in OJJDP's guidebook, ***Emergency Planning for Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities***.

Targeted Reform Efforts in Louisiana

In a continued effort to help Louisiana reform its juvenile justice system and better meet the needs of system-involved young people, OJJDP provided funding to the **Louisiana Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission Support Initiative**. The Southern University Law Center will use the \$250,000 in funding to assist Louisiana's efforts to improve its juvenile justice system and reduce risks to youth's physical and emotional safety while they are in the system. The project will bolster reform efforts by providing hiring assistance, community outreach, training programs on trauma-informed care, and sustainability planning.



OJJDP Administrator Liz Ryan announced the Louisiana award at a grantee kickoff meeting.

Nonparticipating States Program

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

In FY 2023, OJJDP awarded both the 2022 and 2023 Nonparticipating States funding. A total of \$4.3 million was awarded to organizations in Connecticut (2022), Nebraska (2022), Texas (2022 and 2023), and Wyoming (2022 and 2023). The funds will help the recipient organizations deliver programs and services that support the efforts of these states to meet the core requirements of the Formula Grants program and improve youth outcomes.

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 youth 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 the collection of statistical data to monitor trends related to youth in residential placement. The **2021 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 2021, local facilities (those staffed by county, city, or municipal employees) held 42 percent of all youth in residential placement. State and private facilities held 37 and 22 percent of this population, respectively.

In 2021, long-term secure facilities, residential treatment centers, and detention centers outnumbered other types of facilities. Detention centers made up 47 percent of all facilities, long-term secure facilities made up 25 percent of facilities, and residential treatment centers made up 19 percent of facilities. Other facility types included shelters, reception/diagnostic centers, group homes, and ranch/wilderness camps.¹

Trends

A total of 24,894 youth were held in publicly and privately operated juvenile residential facilities on the October 2021 census date. The number of youth held in residential placement decreased 76 percent between 2001 and 2021, bringing the overall count to its lowest level since 1975.

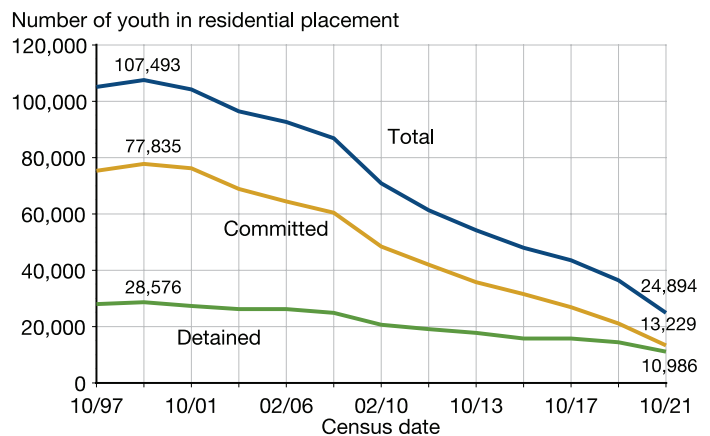
In 2021, 74 youth were in placement for every 100,000 youth in the U.S. population.²

Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court Decreased

In December 2023, OJJDP and the National Institute of Justice published a fact sheet, *Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 2020*, which provides an analysis of delinquency cases waived to criminal court based on juvenile court data.

The number of judicially waived delinquency cases decreased 77 percent from the peak number in 1995. Between 1995 and 2020, waived drug offense cases declined 86 percent. There have also been substantial declines in the number of waived property and public order offense cases.

Relative declines from 1999 to 2021 were greater for committed youth (83%) than detained youth (62%)



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.

Offense Profiles

The vast majority of youth in residential placement in 2021 were held for delinquency offenses (97 percent). Youth in placement for person offenses accounted for 48 percent of all youth held, followed by those held for property offenses (19 percent), public order offenses (16 percent), technical violations (11 percent), and drug offenses (4 percent). Youth in placement for status offenses (conduct that would not be a crime if committed by an adult) made up 3 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 30 percent of those in residential placement.

Sex

Males accounted for 86 percent and females accounted for 14 percent of youth in residential placement.

Race/Ethnicity

Youth of color accounted for 47 percent of the U.S. juvenile population and 67 percent of youth in residential placement in 2021. The population of youth held in residential placement for a delinquency or status offense was 42 percent Black, 33 percent white, and 20 percent Hispanic. Youth of other races, including those of two or more races, accounted for 5 percent of youth in residential placement.

Time in Placement

The median days in placement at the time of the 2021 census was 117 days for youth who had been committed and 30 days for those who had been detained.³ One-third (33 percent) of committed youth and 13 percent of detained youth remained in placement 6 months after admission.

Deaths in Residential Placement

Juvenile facilities reported five deaths of youth younger than 21 in residential placement for the 12 months prior to the 2021 census. Deaths of youth in residential placement remain relatively rare; the death rate in 2021 was 2.0 per 10,000 youth in placement.

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.

Statistical Briefing Book

OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book provides timely and reliable access to the latest juvenile justice data. In fiscal year 2023, the Office added—

- The National Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Databook, which gives users an understanding of the level of disparity at various stages of the juvenile justice system. The resource allows users to review counts and rates of delinquency cases processed by the juvenile justice system and then study the ratio of rates between youth of color and white youth.
- Updated data on youth in juvenile court and youth in corrections, and 2020 data to the Juveniles in Residential Facility Census Databook.
- Four data snapshots that highlight policy-relevant trends and findings on delinquency cases handled in juvenile court, how youth placement facilities responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, racial and ethnic disparities in the handling of delinquency cases, and characteristics of youth in residential placement facilities.

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.

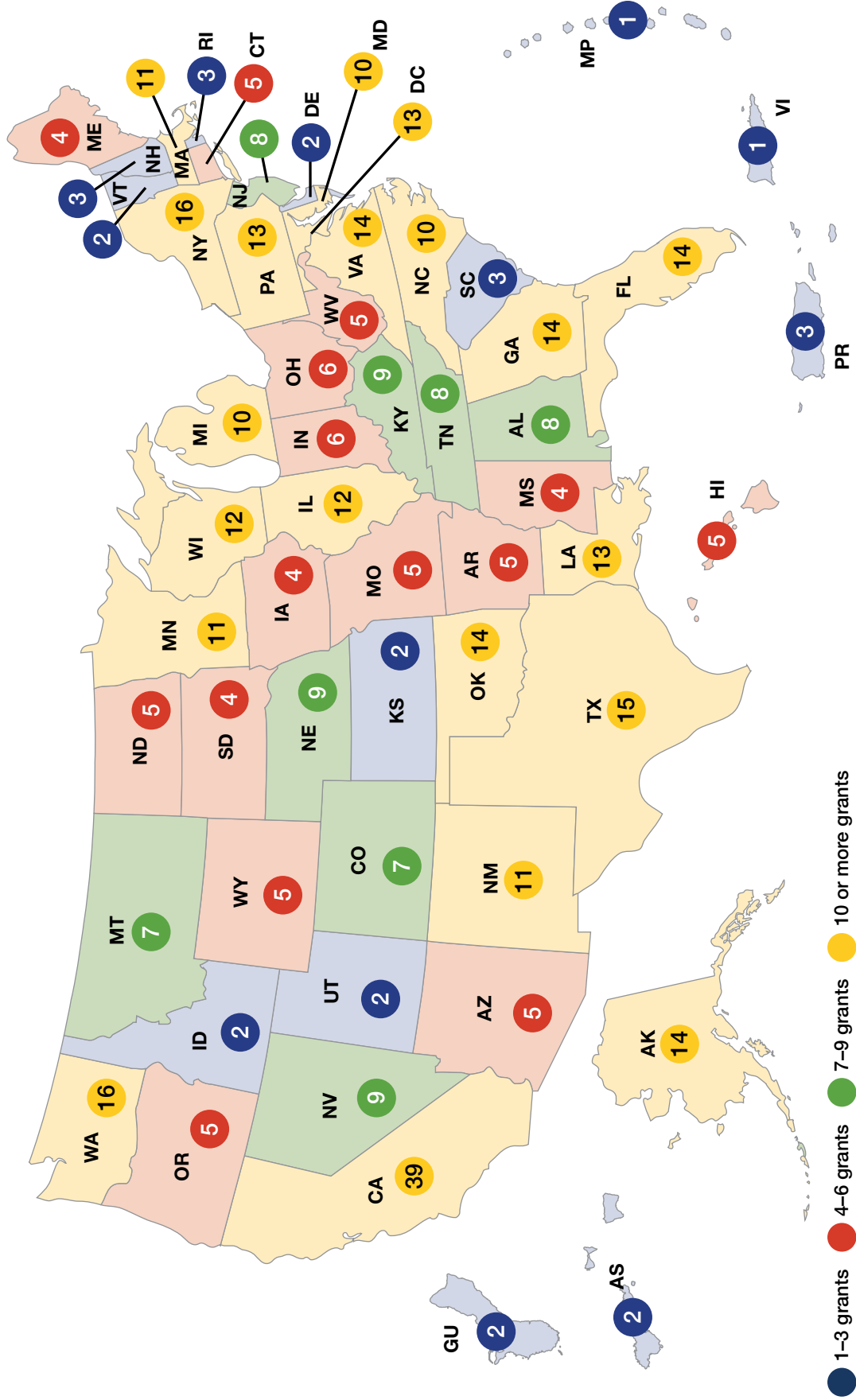
Youth in Jails and Prisons

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

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.

OJJDP Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2023, 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 2023, the Office awarded 448 grants totaling more than \$446 million.

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