



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

# 2020 Annual Report

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Office of Justice Programs**  
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Washington, DC 20531

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**Office of Justice Programs**  
Building Solutions • Supporting Communities • Advancing Justice  
*ojp.gov*

**Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**  
Enhancing Safety • Ensuring Accountability • Empowering Youth  
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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

# 2020 Annual Report

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This report covers activities undertaken by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention during fiscal year 2020 (October 1, 2019–September 30, 2020).

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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 2020. This report describes programs and activities that OJJDP carried out in fiscal year 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Caren Harp

Administrator

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



# Foreword

In fiscal year 2020, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded almost \$370 million to advance state, local, and tribal efforts to address juvenile delinquency and victimization, ensure offender accountability, and enhance public safety.

Like the rest of the world, the juvenile justice field faced unforeseen challenges in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. OJJDP is particularly proud of our grantees, who quickly adapted their programs to continue serving young people. Mentoring moved online, drug courts held digital sessions, and OJJDP delivered technical assistance and offered guidance to help juvenile justice facilities manage youth during the pandemic. We all kept working—together.

The Office honed its efforts to better serve its grantees in fiscal year 2020. We prioritized grants to rural and high-poverty communities and, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, delivered trainings to improve access to funding. We initiated quarterly calls with state advisory group members to discuss their challenges and successes. We launched certificate programs for designated state agency personnel that focus on their roles and responsibilities. We also hired new staff to enhance assistance to the states and participated in training to improve our auditing practices.

OJJDP continued to address issues of national concern. A sizeable portion of our funding supported efforts to address the opioid epidemic and its impact in communities across America. We built the capacity of specialty courts to respond to the mental health needs and substance abuse disorders of youth in the juvenile justice system. We funded a program to reduce the use of isolation in juvenile facilities and replace the practice with evidence-based alternatives, as appropriate.

We also continued a decades-long commitment to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of mentoring programs nationwide. The transformative power of youth mentoring, when done correctly, cannot be overstated. Finally, we reaffirmed our dedication to the nation's tribal youth through expanded programs and convened a tribal consultation attended by nearly 300 leaders and representatives of American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The tribes told us how we can help support their youth and we listened.

This annual report highlights the various ways OJJDP led national efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system in fiscal year 2020, in accordance with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018. Challenges remain, but we are resolute. Working hand in hand with our dedicated partners at the state and local levels, we are committed to helping youth build safe, positive, and productive futures.

Caren Harp  
Administrator  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention





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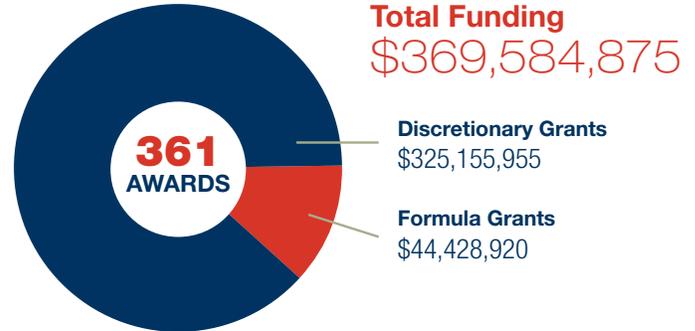
# OJJDP Fiscal Year 2020 Awards at a Glance

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

In fiscal year 2020, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded approximately \$370 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](http://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding) for a complete list of fiscal year 2020 awards.

## Youth Mentoring

**\$84,867,691**

Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative	\$82,867,691
National Mentoring Resource Center	\$2,000,000

OJJDP's National Mentoring Resource Center provided 13,742 hours of technical assistance in response to 598 requests from mentoring organizations in fiscal year 2020.

## Missing and Exploited Children

**\$76,360,597**

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children	\$35,429,092
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program	\$34,731,505
National AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$4,400,000
Missing & Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$1,800,000

In fiscal year 2020, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline received more than 24 million reports regarding child sexual exploitation or online harm to children.

## Victims of Child Abuse Act Program

**\$39,853,869**

Children's Advocacy Centers and Related Programs	\$23,387,563
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Membership and Accreditation Program and Training and Technical Assistance Project	\$10,811,655
Child Abuse Training for Judicial and Court Personnel	\$3,154,651
Training and Technical Assistance for Child Abuse Professionals	\$2,500,000

In fiscal year 2020, trained volunteers from approximately 950 CASA programs served abused and neglected children in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

## Substance Abuse

**\$33,543,643**

OJJDP's drug court programs provide services for youth and families with substance abuse challenges, specifically those related to opioid abuse or co-occurring mental health disorders.	
Family Drug Court Program	\$19,489,172
Opioid Affected Youth Initiative	\$8,977,194
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program	\$5,077,277



## Juvenile Justice System Support

\$19,548,532

Together with the Title II Formula Grants program, these awards fund resources, training, and technical assistance to support states' system-improvement efforts.

Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program	\$4,983,069
Juvenile Justice System Enhancements Program	\$4,800,000
Coordinated Assistance to States Program	\$2,000,000
Enhancing Juvenile Indigent Defense	\$1,780,990

Juvenile Justice Facility Leadership Certificate Program	\$1,500,000
Performance-Based Standards for Juvenile Programs Initiative	\$1,500,000
Reducing the Use of Isolation in Juvenile Facilities	\$1,348,059
Addressing the Training Needs of Juvenile Prosecutors	\$1,200,000
Juvenile Justice Emergency Planning and Demonstration Program	\$436,414



## Youth Gangs and Violence

\$18,195,024

OJJDP's National Gang Center offers training and strategic tools to address youth gang violence. The center provided approximately 2,850 hours of technical assistance in fiscal year 2020.

Comprehensive Anti-Gang Programs for Youth	\$10,088,944
Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence	\$7,106,080
National Gang Center	\$1,000,000



## Delinquency Prevention and Intervention

\$14,091,754

OJJDP funds comprehensive programs to prevent and intervene in juvenile delinquency.

Delinquency Prevention Program	\$7,000,000
Supporting Effective Interventions for Adolescent Sex Offenders and Children With Sexual Behavior Problems	\$4,116,754
Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System	\$2,975,000



## Alaska and Tribal Children's Advocacy Centers Expansion

\$14,300,000

By expanding the operations of children's advocacy centers in Alaska and Indian country, OJJDP is helping to ensure that child victims in even the most remote areas receive the services necessary to heal and thrive.

American Indian and Alaska Native Subgrant Program	\$7,250,000
Alaska Children's Advocacy Center Expansion Initiative for Child Abuse Victims	\$5,300,000
Training and Technical Assistance To Expand Children's Advocacy Centers Serving American Indian/Alaska Native Communities	\$1,000,000
Tribal Children's Advocacy Center Expansion Initiative for Child Abuse Victims	\$750,000

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 control juvenile delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and protect children.



## Reentry

\$11,217,584

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

SCA Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents With Minor Children	\$9,717,584
SCA Youth Offender Reentry Program	\$1,500,000



## Tribal Youth

\$7,167,261

OJJDP's culturally responsive initiatives offer mentoring, promote leadership skills in tribal youth, and help combat substance abuse.

Tribal Youth Program	\$3,328,242
Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts	\$2,039,019
Supporting Tribal Youth: Training and Technical Assistance and Youth Leadership Development Program	\$1,300,000
Alaska Native Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project	\$500,000



# Chapter 1. Prevention

## Mentoring Youth

In fiscal year (FY) 2020, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded nearly \$85 million to support mentoring programs and services for youth.

Through its **Mentoring Opportunities for Youth initiative**, the Office

provided approximately \$83 million to 36 organizations across 25 states and the District of Columbia. The initiative funded one-on-one, group, and peer

mentoring for youth who are at high risk of juvenile delinquency, victimization, and juvenile justice system involvement. The Office also funded mentoring for low-level offenders involved in the juvenile justice system. Of the \$83 million awarded under the initiative, \$14 million supported the efforts of mentoring organizations working to combat the impact of opioid and drug addiction on youth and families.

OJJDP awarded \$2 million to the **National Mentoring Resource Center** to help mentoring programs throughout the country operate more effectively. Guided by a board of nationally renowned mentoring researchers, the center enhances the quality of mentoring services by providing practitioners with resources and training and technical assistance. In FY 2020, the center provided 13,742 hours of technical assistance in response to 598 requests from mentoring organizations.

In January 2020, OJJDP participated in the National Mentoring Summit as a presenting partner. Organized by **MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership**, the event featured more than 90 workshops that showcased exemplary program models, collaborations, research, and innovations in youth mentoring.

Before the summit, OJJDP offered a training session for its new mentoring grantees on federal requirements and best-practice standards. “The orientation laid the foundation for someone new stepping into the role of being a grantee. The speakers gave me confidence that I am not alone in this, and the resources that were provided will help me pave the way to effective change,” said Christina Sanchez, a participant from Connecticut. “There are so many resources available that we were unaware of until today,” added Jackie Young, a child welfare specialist from Illinois.

In April 2020, OJJDP released **Strengthening Connections: Mentoring Youth During a Pandemic**. The blog post highlighted innovative strategies and technology OJJDP’s grantees adopted to ensure mentors could continue to mentor youth during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Mentoring in Action

The December 2019 meeting of the **Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention** included a panel discussion about federal programs that support youth mentoring. Mentees and mentors who participate in OJJDP-supported programs provided insight on how the programs impact their lives.

Frankie Lucio, a student at the High School for Law Enforcement and Justice in Houston, TX, envisions a future working for the FBI or the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

He is paired through Big Brothers Big Sisters with mentor Christina Garza, a public affairs specialist in the FBI's Houston field office. Frankie and other student mentees visit the field office once a month to get first-hand exposure to the FBI's work and to engage with their mentors.

Frankie said the monthly visits give him and his mentor "a chance to catch up on things, like how college applications are going and any questions I may have." The two share a bond that goes beyond academic and career planning. "It's like catching up with a good friend," Frankie said.



Mentee Frankie Lucio and mentor Christina Garza enjoy a light-hearted moment during a discussion about the benefits of mentoring.

*“ We can take no greater step toward securing the future health and prosperity of our nation than by investing now in the physical safety and emotional resilience of our children. These [mentoring] grants will give law enforcement officials, service providers, and children’s advocates the resources they need to combat predators, take kids out of harm’s way, and help children overcome the effects of trauma. ”*

*—OJJDP Administrator Caren Harp*

## Children Exposed to Violence

In FY 2020, OJJDP awarded more than \$7 million to seven program sites to prevent and respond to children’s exposure to trauma and violence. Funds awarded under the **Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence program** are helping grantees develop services for affected children and implement strategies to reduce crimes committed by violent juvenile offenders.

With support from OJJDP, the International Association of Chiefs of Police launched **Protecting and Serving: Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Children Exposed to Violence** in FY 2020. The online training is intended to help frontline officers identify and respond effectively to children who

have been exposed to violence and potentially traumatic events. The training is based on the OJJDP-funded **Children Exposed to Violence Classroom Course** and **Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Children Exposed to Violence Toolkit**.

## Tribal Youth

In FY 2020, OJJDP awarded more than \$7 million to support tribal youth initiatives as part of the Department of Justice’s **Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS)**. CTAS allows tribes to submit a single application for most of the Department’s tribal grant programs. OJJDP supports two purpose areas within the solicitation—the Tribal Youth Program and Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts.

Through the Tribal Youth Program, OJJDP awarded more than \$3.3 million to eight geographically diverse grantees to support prevention, intervention, and treatment programs that benefit tribal youth. The Office awarded an additional \$2 million under the Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts program. Through this program, OJJDP enhances the capacity of tribal courts to respond to the substance use challenges of court-involved youth. The funding will help the six participating courts strengthen policies, assessment tools, and service models that address alcohol and substance use in tribal communities.

An award of \$1.3 million to the **Tribal Youth Resource Center** supported training and technical assistance for tribal grantees and federally recognized tribes. The center offers regional, web-based, and onsite training as well as telephone consultations on topics ranging from court development to grant compliance. The award also helped tribes increase youth engagement and leadership—encouraging youth to support delinquency prevention and public safety efforts in Indian country.

In addition, the Office awarded \$500,000 under the **Alaska Native Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project** for training and technical assistance to OJJDP-funded tribal youth programs within the state.

Supporting tribal and rural communities is a major focus area for OJJDP. Organizations within these jurisdictions often do not apply for federal grants because they do not know about available funding or because they think the application process is cumbersome. In FY 2020, OJJDP staff and representatives from other Office of Justice Programs (OJP) bureaus led trainings in 10 states on

## Model Programs Guide

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

With approximately 350 **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 2020, the Model Programs Guide added 23 juvenile-related programs and 10 practices.

Topical literature reviews and implementation guides are also available on the Model Programs Guide website.

Access the Model Programs Guide by visiting [ojjdp.gov/mpg](https://ojjdp.gov/mpg).

## Tribal Youth Voices

Audriana (Audri) Mitchell is 1 of 12 peer guides selected to participate in the Tribal Youth Leadership Development initiative, a collaboration between OJJDP and **United National Indian Tribal Youth** (UNITY). Peer guides work to increase youth engagement, coordination, and action related to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention in Indian country.

“Youth in Indian country face many problems—gang violence, alcohol, and drug abuse,” Audri said. “As a peer guide, I want to offer not only my understanding, but also information about the tools and resources that are available to help Native youth.”

Audri and her fellow peer guides helped develop a curriculum that UNITY will use in youth trainings across the country. The trainings will emphasize leadership skills, community service, healthy lifestyles, and cultural preservation.

“Culture is an important preventive tool,” said Audri. “I believe a way that we can fight through the difficult things going on in our communities is to get back to our traditional knowledge—going to ceremonies, learning the Native language, learning traditional songs—to keep us in a healthy mindset and healthy space.”



UNITY peer guide Audri Mitchell is a Navajo member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. She attends college in Mesa, AZ. Photo is courtesy of Cheyenne Weston.

funding opportunities and offered guidance for rural and tribal communities interested in applying for Department of Justice grants. OJP’s Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan led the **initiative**.

## Consulting With Tribes

In June 2020, OJJDP convened 288 tribal leaders and representatives via webinar to **consult** with them on tribal provisions within the **Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (JJRA)**. The Office also sought to increase tribes’ awareness of juvenile justice funding.

The JJRA mandates that state advisory groups in areas with one or more federally recognized tribes include a tribal representative or a person with expertise in law enforcement and juvenile justice in Indian country. Because state advisory groups provide input on their state’s use of Title II Formula Grant funds, tribal representation will help ensure that communities across Indian country have a greater voice in state funding decisions.

In addition, the JJRA requires states to pass through a specified amount of their formula grants to tribes. OJJDP encourages states to provide additional funding above the required pass-through allocations to support effective services for tribal youth.

During the consultation, Administrator Harp provided an overview of funding opportunities available to tribes through OJJDP's discretionary grant programs. "While we receive a number of applicants from tribal communities for CTAS grants ... we receive very few applications for other OJJDP funding opportunities," she said. "Our goal is to ensure that tribal communities are aware of, and able to apply for, all applicable funding opportunities."

Participants provided valuable feedback on how OJJDP can help tribes build tribal-state partnerships that support services for youth, ensure that federally funded youth programs are culturally appropriate, and access federal guidance on grantwriting, program implementation, and sustainability.

## Delinquency Prevention

To prevent juvenile crime and promote public safety, OJJDP provided \$6 million to six states and \$1 million to two tribes under its **Delinquency Prevention program** in FY 2020. The awards supported state, local, and tribal efforts to prevent at-risk youth from becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. To increase the availability and types of community-based delinquency prevention programs within jurisdictions, OJJDP required states funded under this program to provide subgrants to units of local government. Tribal grantees will develop and implement programs that address the needs of tribal youth and enhance responses to juvenile delinquency in tribal communities.

### Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

The **Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention** is an independent body that coordinates federal programs related to delinquency prevention and missing and exploited children.

The council comprises 9 *ex officio* members, 4 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), the OJJDP Administrator (who serves as vice chair), and the Secretaries of the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, Education, Homeland Security, and Housing and Urban Development. The other *ex officio* members are the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The council met twice in fiscal year 2020 to highlight successful and promising programs and discuss opportunities for cross-agency partnerships and coordination. The December 2019 meeting highlighted federally supported mentoring services for at-risk and delinquent youth, and the March 2020 meeting focused on support for youth reentering their communities after out-of-home placement.

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



## Research and Data Collection

To help prevent and intervene in juvenile delinquency, OJJDP funds research and data collection on juvenile crime, victimization, and youth involved in the juvenile justice system. In FY 2020, OJJDP transferred \$5 million to the National Institute of Justice to fund a variety of juvenile justice and public safety-related research and evaluation projects. These projects include longitudinal research studies that focus on delinquency and crime throughout the life-course, research projects to improve the measurement of juvenile reoffending, and a survey redesign to develop national estimates on the prevalence of gangs and gang members. Funds also supported review and posting of content on OJJDP's **Model Programs Guide** website.

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

## Training and Technical Assistance

OJJDP funds training and technical assistance to help organizations better respond to and prevent delinquency and child victimization. In fiscal year 2020, OJJDP continued to support the **National Training and Technical Assistance Center** (NTTAC) as the one-stop shop for accessing OJJDP's training and technical assistance resources and services.

NTTAC manages TTA360, a system that allows OJJDP grantees and the public to submit requests for training and technical assistance. In 2020, TTA360 received more than 1,700 requests on topics such as mentoring, child safety, youth and family engagement, and delinquency prevention.

Through NTTAC, OJJDP provided important resources and more than 1,000 trainings to the juvenile justice community and allied professionals, including 375 webinars, which served more than 21,000 participants. Visit [youtube.com/OJPOJJDP](https://www.youtube.com/OJPOJJDP) and select "Playlists" to access recordings of OJJDP webinars.

# Chapter 2. Intervention

## Drug Courts

In 2018, more than 67,300 people **died from a drug overdose** in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Opioids were involved in approximately 70 percent of these deaths. In addition to the lethal consequences, substance abuse can disrupt families, result in job loss, and lead to drug-related crime. Addiction depletes social and economic resources and burdens the justice and child welfare systems.



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) juvenile and family drug courts offer a specialized way to respond to the needs of substance-abusing individuals who require targeted interventions. Juvenile drug treatment courts work to address youth's substance abuse and often co-occurring mental health challenges. Family drug courts aim to reduce incidents of child abuse and neglect that result from parental substance use.

In fiscal year (FY) 2020, OJJDP awarded \$5 million to nine jurisdictions under its **Juvenile Drug Treatment Court program** to establish new courts or enhance existing ones. The funding is helping grantees strengthen family engagement, address the root problems that may cause substance use and addiction, and empower young people to lead drug-free and crime-free lives.

In April 2020, OJJDP hosted a **three-part webinar series** to discuss how its juvenile drug treatment court grantees can enhance supervision strategies, keep youth and families engaged in treatment, and help youth build skills during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office bolsters the courts' efforts with resources and ongoing training and technical assistance.

OJJDP awarded approximately \$19 million across 21 sites under its **Family Drug Court program** in FY 2020. The program serves parents and guardians who require treatment for a substance abuse disorder and who are involved with the child welfare system as a result of child abuse or neglect. Program funds are used to expand services—such as screening, assessment, treatment, and recovery support—at existing courts. The courts are also using the funding to implement county- and statewide practices that increase collaboration with substance abuse treatment and child welfare agencies.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, OJJDP’s family drug court training and technical assistance provider experienced a 45-percent increase in requests in March 2020 (compared to March 2019) and performed 141 activities in response to these requests. OJJDP continues to disseminate resources related to COVID-19, host webinars, and guide practitioners through the changes necessary to keep participants safe.

In May 2020, Katharine T. Sullivan, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, wrote a [blog post](#) highlighting the critical role the courts play in the ongoing fight against America’s addiction crisis. Also in May, OJJDP released “[You Are Not Alone](#),” a blog post that detailed how its drug court grantees were continuing to serve youth and families during the pandemic.

## Opioid Abuse

In FY 2020, OJJDP awarded nearly \$9 million to 13 sites under the [Opioid Affected Youth initiative](#) to develop data-driven responses to opioid abuse. OJJDP also awarded \$14 million to mentoring organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a substance abuse treatment agency to provide services to youth impacted by opioids.

*“ Effective drug courts collaborate closely with community corrections, treatment providers, child welfare, schools, and social service agencies. These programs empower youth and families to move forward with their lives, free of addiction and drug-related crime. We at OJJDP are honored to support all our partners in this essential work. ”*

*—OJJDP Administrator Caren Harp*

## Juvenile Drug Treatment Court: More Graduates, Less Recidivism

The Rankin County, MS, juvenile drug treatment court serves youth with substance use disorders who have committed nonviolent offenses. The goal is to intervene before substance use leads to serious criminal behavior. Youth receive substance abuse treatment and drug tests, meet regularly with their probation officers, and are held accountable for their progress by the court.

Between 2017 and 2019, the rate of participants graduating from the program increased from 31.8 percent to 63.2 percent. Recidivism rates within 24 months of discharge decreased from 50 percent to 29.4 percent between 2016 and 2018.

The court attributes these results to a number of factors, including improved data collection, evidence-based substance abuse treatment, and family engagement.

## Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

Research has revealed the various adversities many girls face and their unique responses to trauma that place them at risk for entering the juvenile justice system. To reduce violence and victimization and to promote public safety, OJJDP provided nearly \$3 million in FY 2020 to support comprehensive, community-based services for girls.

The seven funded sites are implementing prevention and early intervention programs for girls and developing or expanding trainings to ensure juvenile justice staff have the skills necessary to serve girls in the juvenile justice system. OJJDP awarded the funds under its **Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System program**.

## Juvenile Justice and Mental Health

**Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration program** grantees are developing and implementing coordinated plans to better serve youth with mental illness. The grantees also serve youth with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Interventions supported under the program include mental health courts—a collaborative effort between juvenile justice and mental health agencies to promote public safety and improve youth outcomes through mental health and substance abuse treatment. OJJDP provided nearly \$5 million to eight sites to support this effort in FY 2020.

## Reentry

Successful reentry reduces recidivism and increases public safety. The Second Chance Act authorizes federal grants for services—such as employment and housing assistance, substance use treatment, family programming, and mentoring—to improve outcomes for people who are transitioning back to their communities following confinement.

Under the **Second Chance Act: Youth Offender Reentry program**, OJJDP awarded \$1.5 million to two sites to support the successful transition of juveniles back into society after out-of-home placement. The youth receive educational, vocational, and job placement services while in confinement and following their release. They also receive substance abuse treatment, assistance locating housing, and help arranging mental and physical healthcare.

The Office also awarded \$9.7 million to support programs within correctional facilities that encourage family engagement between incarcerated parents and their minor children. The grants, awarded to 14 jurisdictions under the **Second Chance Act: Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children program**, also fund reentry services for parents and programs that support the positive development of children with incarcerated parents.

## A Second Chance for Reentering Youth

The March 2020 meeting of the **Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention** highlighted federal and state initiatives that promote the successful reintegration of juvenile offenders into their communities.

Levi Kranz, a teen with experience in a drug treatment program and two of Iowa's juvenile justice residential facilities, described his life-changing experience at the State Training School. The school offers vocational and recreational programs for youth involved with the juvenile justice system.

At the school, Levi was mentored by people who were previously involved in the justice system and had successfully turned their lives around. "They were really understanding," Levi said. "I realized that I wanted to change."

Levi benefited from the school's decisionmaking approach, which pairs youth with a team of juvenile justice personnel, family members, school staff, and supportive individuals from the community to develop permanency and transition plans. "We made all these goals, and I saw that I could actually do something better when I got out." Levi plans to become an apprentice in carpentry after completing high school and wants to build his own home one day.



Levi Kranz (on the left) describes the mentoring, life skills, psychological, and workforce development services that helped him transition back into his community.

## Juvenile Indigent Defense

Juvenile defenders play a critical role in ensuring fairness and equity for youth and families, and in preserving public confidence in the juvenile justice system. By funding efforts that improve outcomes for indigent juvenile offenders, OJJDP is helping to reduce the risk of reoffending, enhance public safety, and increase the likelihood that these youth will become productive, law-abiding members of society.

Through its **Enhancing Juvenile Indigent Defense program**, OJJDP provided more than \$1.7 million to four jurisdictions in FY 2020 to improve the quality of juvenile indigent defense. The funding helps to ensure that young offenders have equal access to quality legal representation and resources that address the collateral consequences of system involvement. OJJDP also funds specialized training for members of the juvenile indigent defense bar, including public defenders and court-appointed counsel.

## Support for Juvenile Prosecutors

In FY 2020, the Office awarded \$1.2 million under the Addressing the Training Needs of Juvenile Prosecutors program to strengthen training and professional development for prosecutors and their staff.

The program promotes training in trial techniques, procedural law, assessing risk and protective factors for youth, and determining youth's readiness for rehabilitation. OJJDP identified \$200,000 of the award for trainings and technical assistance to support prosecutor-led engagement with law enforcement and youth.

The award is also funding a national training and technical assistance provider to enhance prosecutors' abilities to lead juvenile justice system improvements within their communities. The training is helping prosecutors design and implement proven strategies to reduce offending and improve outcomes for youth and communities.

Between June and September 2020, the National District Attorneys Association held a series of OJJDP-sponsored webinars for juvenile prosecutors. The Role of the Juvenile Prosecutor provided a historical context to juvenile court, highlighted the ethical obligations juvenile prosecutors have toward victims and offenders, and explained the rehabilitative nature of juvenile programming. Additional webinars included Principles of Child and Adolescent Development, Building Relationships Between Communities and Police: What Prosecutors Need To Know, and Substance Use Issues in Juvenile Court. More than 1,500 participants were trained through the webinar series.



## Reducing the Use of Isolation in Juvenile Facilities

OJJDP provided more than \$1.3 million to support the **Reducing the Use of Isolation in Juvenile Facilities program** in FY 2020. Grantees are working to develop policies and procedures for the use of isolation, identify data to manage and monitor its use, develop alternative options for managing youth's behavior, and train staff in this topic area.

## Juvenile Justice System Enhancements

In FY 2020, OJJDP awarded \$4.8 million to 10 jurisdictions under the **Juvenile Justice System Enhancements program** to develop, implement, and test innovative and research-based responses to communities' public safety challenges. Challenges may include chronic or emerging crime, issues related to investigating and prosecuting online child exploitation, or barriers to juvenile justice agencies' ability to address such problems.

# Connecting With the Field

## Fiscal Year 2020 Highlights

In fiscal year 2020, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provided timely and reliable information to help juvenile justice practitioners prevent and respond to delinquency and child victimization. Connecting with the field ensures that vital information and resources reach the people who are working to make a difference in the lives of youth.

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



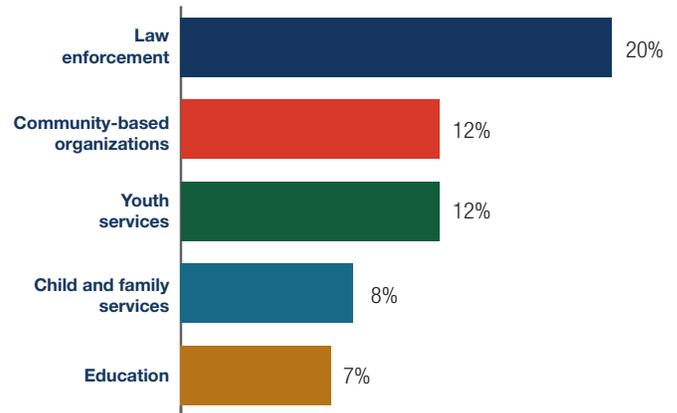
### Training and Technical Assistance

In fiscal year 2020—

- OJJDP received 1,726 requests for training and technical assistance via TTA360, OJJDP’s user-friendly online request system. Each of the 50 states submitted requests, as did the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- The most requested training topics were mentoring (47 percent), child safety (40 percent), youth and family engagement (16 percent), and delinquency prevention (13 percent).<sup>1</sup>
- OJJDP delivered 1,024 trainings, including 375 webinars. Approximately 21,570 professionals participated in the webinars, which were designed to keep researchers, practitioners, and policymakers up to date on trends in the field.

<sup>1</sup> Percentages exceed 100 percent because requesters could select more than one topic.

### Top Five Requesting Entities

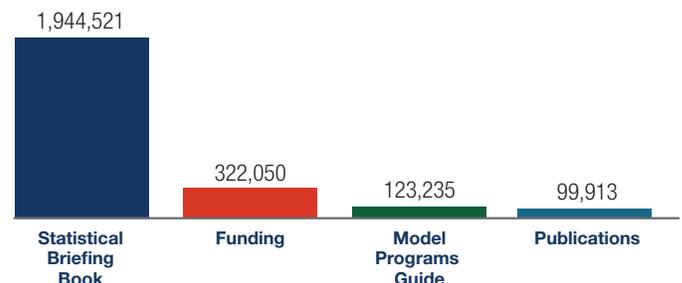


### Digital Outreach

In fiscal year 2020—

- More than 26,770 juvenile justice and child protection professionals were subscribed to *OJJDP News @ a Glance*, the Office’s award-winning newsletter.
- OJJDP shared up-to-date information with its 7,405 Twitter and 5,887 Facebook followers.
- Approximately 28,300 subscribers received e-mails through OJJDP’s JUVJUST listserv with announcements of publication releases, research findings, funding opportunities, and upcoming events.

### Topics of Interest to OJJDP’s Constituents, by Webpage Views



# Connecting With the Field

## Fiscal Year 2020 Highlights



### Communications Releases

In fiscal year 2020, OJJDP—

- Released six issues of the *OJJDP News @ a Glance* newsletter, along with the following publications:
  - » *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 2019 Annual Report*
  - » *2019 Annual Report to Congress: Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act*
  - » *Juvenile Arrests, 2018* (Bulletin)
  - » *Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2017* (Bulletin)
  - » *Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2017* (Fact Sheet)
- Released 11 In Focus fact sheets:
  - » *Child Protection: Dependency Courts*
  - » *Child Protection: Law Enforcement*
  - » *Children’s Advocacy Centers*
  - » *Drug Courts*
  - » *Eliminating Prison Rape Among Juveniles*
  - » *Emergency Planning for Juvenile Facilities*
  - » *Juvenile Reentry*
  - » *Mentoring Youth*
  - » *Supporting Youth and Families Impacted by Opioid Abuse*
  - » *Tribal Youth Initiatives*
  - » *Youth Gangs*
- Issued three data snapshots—visually compelling, one-page research highlights—on:
  - » Highlights From the 2018 Juvenile Residential Facility Census
  - » Dating Violence Reported by High School Students, 2017
  - » Arrests of Juveniles in 2018
- Posted the following blogs:
  - » You Are Not Alone: Supporting Youth and Families Impacted by Substance Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - » Strengthening Connections: Mentoring Youth During a Pandemic
  - » Commemorating National Missing Children’s Day
  - » Children’s Advocacy Centers: At the Forefront of the Fight Against Child Abuse
  - » The Invisible Faces of Runaway and Homeless Youth

**2019 Annual Report**

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Highlights from the 2018 Juvenile Residential Facility Census

The latest data reveal changes in where youth are placed and the screenings provided.

The proportion of locally operated facilities has increased steadily since 2010, while that of private facilities decreased. Since 2010, locally operated facilities have held more juvenile offenders than other-operated facilities.

The majority of facilities reported screening of all or some youth for service needs within one week of admission.

The number of deaths in facilities has decreased since 2000, suicide was the most common cause in most years.

Statistical Briefing Book

Access more information on residential facilities and youth in placement.

- Review FAQs about residential facility characteristics.
- Review data on the Juvenile Residential Facility Census.

More information is available on the OJJDP website at <https://www.ojjdp.gov>.

**TRIBAL YOUTH INITIATIVES**

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

50% of youth in tribal youth programs are female.

45th Anniversary

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

2019 Annual Report

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

50% of youth in tribal youth programs are female.

45th Anniversary

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

2019 Annual Report

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

**JUVENILE JUSTICE STATISTICS**

NATIONAL REPORT SERIES BULLETIN

July 2020

Juvenile Arrests, 2018

Highlights

- Arrests of juveniles aged 15-17 peaked in 1988, at nearly 2.7 million. Levels of juvenile arrests peaked in 1988, at nearly 2.7 million. Levels of juvenile arrests peaked in 1988, at nearly 2.7 million.
- After increasing between 2017 and 2019, the juvenile arrest rate for females had nearly tripled through 2019, while the rate for males had nearly doubled.
- After increasing between 2017 and 2019, the juvenile arrest rate for females had nearly tripled through 2019, while the rate for males had nearly doubled.

From the Field

What’s really amazing about this bulletin is that it shows the juvenile justice system is still a work in progress. It’s not just about the numbers, it’s about the people. It’s about the youth who are still in the system, and the families who are still trying to get them home.

For More Information

Access more information about OJJDP programs for tribal youth at <https://www.ojjdp.gov/programs/tribal-youth-programs-and-services>.

OJJDP

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

ojjdp.gov



# Chapter 3. Special Victims and Violent Offenders

## Missing and Exploited Children

The **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** (NCMEC) is an information clearinghouse and resource for those who are searching for missing children and working to address child victimization and sexual exploitation. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has supported the center since its inception in 1984. In fiscal year (FY) 2020, OJJDP



awarded NCMEC \$35.4 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 at 800-THE-LOST; the CyberTipline, a centralized reporting mechanism for public and electronic service providers to report instances of apparent child sexual exploitation; and the Child Victim Identification Program, which serves as a central repository for information related to child victims depicted in sexually exploitive images and videos.

In FY 2020, NCMEC helped to resolve cases involving 29,925 children who were reported missing. NCMEC's call center received 135,295 calls and its CyberTipline received and made available to law enforcement 24,133,121 reports regarding child sexual exploitation or online harm to children. Law enforcement officials worked with NCMEC to identify 1,273 child pornography victims who were documented in the center's Child Victim Identification Program.

In partnership with the White House, the center launched a **Safety Pledge campaign** in FY 2020 to combat child exploitation online. The campaign website features resources to help parents, educators, and caregivers understand the risks that children face online and learn how to respond safely. The website also offers short videos, discussion guides, tip sheets, and a pledge that adults can sign to formalize their commitment to safeguarding children online.

Through the **Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance program**, OJJDP provides assistance to prosecutors, law enforcement officers, child protection personnel, medical



have custody over the teen. Police were able to return the girl to her foster family just 1 day after she went missing. Her mother was sentenced to 2 years in jail.

“The Department of Justice is proud to honor the law enforcement officers and private citizens who showed courage, presence of mind, and an unwavering commitment to protecting children from dangerous predators,” said then-Attorney General William P. Barr. “We thank these heroes, whose actions made it possible to bring to justice those who attempted to exploit our most innocent and vulnerable citizens.”

## **AMBER Alert Program**

The **AMBER Alert program** is a partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, and the wireless industry to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases. OJJDP engages numerous partners to support the program, including NCMEC, federal law enforcement agencies, wireless carriers, Internet service providers, and social media outlets.

In FY 2020, OJJDP updated the program’s website to include information about the **AMBER Alert in Indian Country Initiative**, child recovery statistics, and enhanced training and technical assistance resources. The website also offers guidelines for issuing alerts and provides AMBER Alert contacts for each state.

OJJDP awarded \$4.4 million to support the **AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance program**, which aims to improve law enforcement’s response to missing children and encourage public participation in their recovery. In FY 2020, the program released **three checklists** to help tribal law enforcement respond in a timely manner to notifications of missing, abducted, or runaway children; investigate these cases effectively; and mobilize resources to find children quickly and efficiently.

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. Through the AMBER Alert program, a total of 1,000 children had been successfully recovered as of September 30, 2020.

## **Technology-Facilitated Crimes Against Children**

Predators searching online for unsupervised contact with minors present a significant threat to the safety of young people and a formidable challenge for law enforcement officials, who must adapt their investigative techniques to a constantly evolving array of technology.

### **Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program**

Established in 1998, OJJDP’s **Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force program** operates a national network of 61 multiagency, multijurisdictional task forces engaged in investigations, forensic examinations, and prosecutions related to technology-facilitated child sexual

exploitation. To date, the ICAC task forces—comprising more than 4,500 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies throughout the 50 states—have reviewed 1.1 million reports of online child exploitation, resulting in the arrest of more than 108,000 people.

Approximately 767,500 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other professionals have been trained on techniques to investigate and prosecute ICAC-related cases since the program’s inception. In FY 2020 alone, the task forces conducted more than 106,000 investigations of technology-

facilitated crimes against children. The task forces also continued to focus on public awareness and education, making more than 7,700 presentations on Internet safety in 2020 that reached an estimated 507,000 people.

OJJDP awarded \$28 million to **fund the work of the ICAC task forces** in FY 2020. A \$4 million award under the National ICAC Task Force Training program and a \$2 million award under the ICAC Program Support category funded training and technical assistance for the task forces. The Office also awarded \$600,000 to support the **ICAC Forensic Hiring Capacity Program for Wounded Veterans**.

The ICAC task forces conducted nearly 2,500 regional law enforcement trainings on child exploitation in FY 2020. Approximately 33,500 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 September 2020, the Office held a virtual orientation for new ICAC task force commanders. OJJDP staff led sessions on the history, goals, and activities of the ICAC Task Force program, and NCMEC representatives discussed resources for law enforcement, including the center’s CyberTipline and Child Victim Identification Program. The event featured presentations on additional OJJDP-funded training resources, the ICAC task force website and affiliate database, and legal issues in ICAC cases. The orientation concluded with a panel discussion led by experienced ICAC task force commanders.

## National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation

OJJDP convened a virtual National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation in October 2020. The training expands the knowledge base of law enforcement, prosecutors, and digital forensic examiners who investigate or prosecute technology-facilitated crimes against children.

“This work is now more important than ever,” said then-Attorney General William P. Barr in his address to the participants. “Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and school closing, children are spending more time online. The advancement of technology has provided us many ways to stay connected and learn remotely. Unfortunately, the same technology also provides predators with pathways back into our homes and can be used by strangers to target our children for sexual exploitation.”



Almost 2,500 people attended the event from across the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Canada, and Thailand. The 5-day training offered 116 sessions on topics such as emerging investigative strategies, legal issues, identifying and working with victims, understanding predatory behaviors, and officer wellness and safety.

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

OJJDP's Victims of Child Abuse (VOCA) Act program consists of several components that maximize the impact of victim services and ensure that professionals have access to training and resources to improve outcomes for affected children and families. The following initiatives are part of the VOCA suite of programs.

### **Children's Advocacy Centers**

These child-focused centers bring together professionals in medicine, law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, victim advocacy, and mental health to offer services in one location to abused children and nonoffending family members. Working together, the professionals conduct interviews and make team decisions about the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases.

In FY 2020, OJJDP awarded funding to the **National Children's Alliance** for continued support of children's advocacy centers (CACs) through a national subgrants program. The Office provided nearly \$15.4 million to fund local CACs, state chapters, and multidisciplinary teams that investigate and respond to child abuse. OJJDP awarded an additional \$2 million to fund services for victims of child pornography, and \$1 million to help address cases of child abuse on U.S. military installations.

The Office 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.

OJJDP also provided \$2.5 million under the **VOCA Training and Technical Assistance for Child Abuse Professionals program** to promote improved child interviewing techniques, thorough investigative methods, interagency coordination, and effective presentation of evidence in court.

### **Alaska and Tribal Children's Advocacy Centers Expansion**

OJJDP is working to increase the coverage and capacity of CACs in Alaska and tribal communities in the lower 48 states. In FY 2020, the Office made awards totaling \$14.3 million in support of this goal.

The National Children's Alliance received approximately \$7.2 million to establish satellite CACs via subgrants to existing Alaska-based CACs and those that serve tribal communities outside Alaska.

A satellite CAC is one that operates under the sponsorship and oversight of a National Children's Alliance-accredited CAC. OJJDP made the award under the American Indian and Alaska Native Subgrant program.

Alaska's rural nature presents unique challenges for investigating child abuse cases and treating victims. OJJDP awarded \$4.8 million under the **Alaska Children's Advocacy Center Expansion Initiative for Child Abuse Victims** to support enhancements that will increase service quality and address the infrastructure needs of existing centers. The Office also awarded \$750,000 under the **Tribal Children's Advocacy Center Expansion Initiative for Child Abuse Victims program** to improve service delivery in tribal communities outside Alaska.

Finally, OJJDP provided \$1 million to support all tribal CACs under the **Training and Technical Assistance To Expand Children's Advocacy Centers Serving American Indian/Alaska Native Communities program** and awarded an additional \$500,000 for targeted training and technical assistance to the Alaska-based CACs.

## Court Appointed Special Advocates

The **National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) 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. CASA volunteers from the association's network of nearly 950 programs help ensure that these children do not get lost in the legal or social service systems and that they are placed in safe, permanent homes.

## Children's Advocacy Centers: At the Forefront of the Fight Against Child Abuse

Too many children suffer from neglect, endure abuse, or are collateral victims of substance abuse. Children's advocacy centers provide critical services to these young victims and help to safeguard their legal rights. The centers coordinate the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse using multidisciplinary, trauma-informed teams of professionals from child protective and victim advocacy services, law enforcement and prosecution, and the medical and mental health fields.

OJJDP has proudly supported children's advocacy centers for decades. In April 2020, the Office released a **blog post** about the centers' important work and how they have adapted their practices in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The children's advocacy centers dramatically increased their use of technology and many teams opted to conduct their meetings via teleconference and implement telemental health services for victims. The National Children's Alliance also developed a **resource page** to help the centers respond to the needs of children and families through the pandemic.

In FY 2020, OJJDP awarded \$10.8 million to the National CASA Association to expand the national membership and accreditation program for state and local CASA programs. The funding is also being used to 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

Through a \$3.1 million award to the **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**,

OJJDP is providing judicial, legal, and social service professionals with training and technical assistance to improve their understanding of child abuse cases, including cases involving child victims of commercial sexual exploitation and families impacted by opioids.

The training is helping the professionals prevent placement in foster care where possible, and reunite families after placement. The practitioners are also learning how to coordinate information and services across the juvenile justice and child welfare systems to achieve safe, permanent placements for abused and neglected children.



## Youth Gangs

In FY 2020, OJJDP awarded \$10 million under the **Comprehensive Anti-Gang Programs for Youth initiative** to help communities combat gang violence using data-driven intervention and suppression strategies. OJJDP required grantees to incorporate and build upon the principles outlined in the evidence-based **OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model** as part of their multidisciplinary response to gang violence and crime.

In October 2019, OJJDP hosted a training for grantees in jurisdictions with chronic and emerging gang problems. The 3-day event included panel discussions, question-and-answer opportunities, and presentations on topics such as federal resources to combat gang activity, the importance of collaboration with juvenile justice system partners, and an overview of the types of street gangs that exist in different regions of the United States. The grantees shared their successes, challenges, and lessons learned and collaborated with OJJDP staff and other gang experts to develop short- and long-term action plans.

OJJDP's **National Gang Center** provides resources, training, and technical assistance on comprehensive, community-based, anti-gang initiatives. In FY 2020, the Office awarded \$1 million in funding to continue the center's work. The center provided approximately 2,850 hours of technical assistance, trained 2,356 people, and responded to 230 requests for information during FY 2020.

*“ Our partners in law enforcement work tirelessly to suppress gang activity and hold offenders accountable. However, communities cannot rely on suppression efforts alone to solve gang-related problems. Community leaders, social service agencies, faith-based organizations, and schools are working together to protect youth who are most susceptible to recruitment to help contain the spread of gang activity. ”*

*—OJJDP Administrator Caren Harp*

## **Adolescent Sex Offenders and Children With Sexual Behavior Problems**

OJJDP's **Supporting Effective Interventions for Adolescent Sex Offenders and Children With Sexual Behavior Problems program** is designed to prevent sexual reoffending among youth, promote healing, and provide treatment for victims and their families.

The Office awarded \$3.6 million to eight institutions to fund intervention and supervision services for adolescent sex offenders and children with sexual behavior problems as well as treatment services for their child victims and nonoffending family members. OJJDP awarded an additional \$500,000 to support training and technical assistance to the grantees.

In FY 2020, OJJDP continued to collaborate with the Department of Defense on training and technical assistance to help the military address problematic sexual behaviors among children and youth on military bases. The program provides clinical training on evidence-based treatment and is helping the Department develop guidelines for a multidisciplinary response to the issue.

# Chapter 4. State Relations and Assistance

## Title II Formula Grants Program

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provides formula grants to support the states<sup>1</sup> as they work to prevent delinquency, provide core protections for system-involved youth, and improve their juvenile justice systems.

In fiscal year (FY) 2020, the Office awarded approximately \$44.1 million through the **Formula Grants program**.

The program is authorized under Title II of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, as amended.

To receive Title II funding, states must maintain an effective system of compliance monitoring and have a state advisory group whose composition satisfies the JJDP Act's membership requirement. State advisory groups provide input on their state's use of Title II funds and are also responsible for supporting compliance with the Act's four core requirements. The core requirements obligate participating states to deinstitutionalize status offenders, separate juveniles from adult inmates in secure facilities, remove juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and address racial and ethnic disparities in their juvenile justice systems.

OJJDP requires states to submit 3-year plans that detail how the state satisfies the JJDP Act's 33 statutory requirements. In FY 2020, OJJDP also required states to submit an addendum containing compliance information required by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018. The plans are posted on OJJDP's upgraded **State Support webpages**. These webpages provide an overview of OJJDP's outcome-based approach to **reducing racial and ethnic disparities**, a list of active awards by state, FY 2020 compliance determination standards, and states' eligibility and **compliance status** from fiscal years 2006 through 2020. States' eligibility and compliance status in FY 2020 are also provided in the appendix of this report.



<sup>1</sup>Within this chapter, the term "state" refers to any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories.

## State Monitoring and Training

In FY 2020, OJJDP staff attended state conferences and state advisory group meetings, and the Office continued to prioritize a strong working relationship with the states.

In February 2020, OJJDP's State Relations and Assistance Division participated in a Government Audit Training Institute to enhance its auditing practices. Each staff member received 60 to 80 hours of training. The division conducts audits to assess the effectiveness of states' compliance monitoring systems.

The division also began planning for OJJDP's annual training conference for state representatives in FY 2020. The 3-day virtual conference, which featured interactive sessions on how to implement the Title II Formula Grants program, took place in November 2020. Compliance monitors, racial and ethnic disparity coordinators, juvenile justice specialists, state advisory group members from various states, and members of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice participated in the conference.

The **Center for Coordinated Assistance to States** continued to provide resources, training, and technical assistance in FY 2020 to ensure that the states' prevention, intervention, and juvenile justice system improvement activities complied with the core requirements. OJJDP awarded \$2 million to support this effort.

*“ Supporting rural and tribal areas is a major focus of our Office and the Department of Justice. At OJJDP, we're giving priority consideration in many of our funding selections to rural communities and areas of high or persistent poverty. We're committed to enhancing public safety in economically distressed areas that have been designated as Qualified Opportunity Zones. ”*

*—OJJDP Administrator Caren Harp*

## Funding Outcomes

The Title II Formula Grants program helps states redirect youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system onto positive paths. One of the program goals is to achieve changes in targeted behaviors such as school attendance, GED completion, gang resistance, stronger family relationships, and other areas vital to positive youth development. Select state activities for FY 2020 follow below.

- Arizona supported an evidence-based delinquency prevention program that served 389 low-income students in the Phoenix area. The program helped youth develop social and drug-resistance skills and provided their parents and other family members with parenting education and resources to prevent substance abuse.
- Maine spent the majority of its formula grant award on COVID relief efforts. The state provided funding for housing and therapy, and purchased devices and data plans to keep youth connected

during the pandemic. In addition, the state funded anti-bias training for more than 400 police officers and trained 5 practitioners on the principles of restorative justice.

- Maryland funded a diversion program to decrease the number of Baltimore youth unnecessarily placed in secure detention while awaiting their court dates. The program engages participants in activities such as goal setting, career exploration, and life skills development. The program served 81 youth in FY 2020 and all participants exhibited a decrease in antisocial behavior.
- Michigan’s formula grant funding supported three programs that concluded in FY 2020. Of the 231 youth who participated in the anti-truancy program, 73 percent showed an improvement in school attendance. Of the 47 participants in a prevention program for girls, 74 percent completed the program successfully without court involvement. The third program allowed a county to better track the effectiveness of its youth programming as a result of improved data collection by its youth-serving courts.
- Oklahoma trained 332 juvenile justice system stakeholders on effective interactions with youth. The training included information on adverse childhood experiences, the impact of trauma, and adolescent development. Trainees included judges, attorneys, school administrators, law enforcement personnel, probation and parole officers, and staff who work in juvenile facilities.

## Youth Voices in Juvenile Justice

Miguel Garcia navigated a long and difficult road to get to a promising future. Today, as a youth member of California’s state advisory group, he provides input on the allocation of Title II Formula Grant funds to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs in the state—a subject that is personal for Miguel.

Growing up in a rough area of California’s Riverside County, Miguel began hanging out with the wrong crowd and was incarcerated on serious charges in 2010. While in confinement, Miguel joined a mentoring program where he learned leadership and communication skills and was inspired to plan for a productive future.

He began taking college courses online, joined vocational training programs, and worked on an inmate construction crew. Through connections from the mentoring program, Miguel landed an internship with a member of the California State Assembly after his release. “That was my first real job when I came home. Everything kind of snowballed from there.”

In addition to his work with the state advisory group, Miguel is employed as a policy coordinator at the Anti-Recidivism Coalition—an organization that provides support and opportunities for people reentering their communities from secure confinement. Miguel plans to go to law school and continue his work in public policy and juvenile justice reform.



Miguel Garcia is a youth member of California’s state advisory group and a policy coordinator at the Anti-Recidivism Coalition in Los Angeles. Photo is courtesy of Impact Justice.

## Native American Pass-Through Funding

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

Each year, states pass funds through to tribes under the Title II Formula Grants program to support their juvenile justice and delinquency prevention activities. The amount of pass-through funding is based on the number of juveniles who live on tribal lands. To be eligible for pass-through funding, a tribe must be federally recognized, have a law enforcement function, and agree to comply with the core requirements applicable to the detention and confinement of juveniles.

OJJDP is working with its federal partners to update the process and methodology for calculating tribal pass-through funding under the Title II Formula Grants program. As a result of collaborations with the Justice Department's Office of Tribal Justice, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Census Bureau, OJJDP anticipates securing an updated list of federally recognized tribes with law enforcement functions and access to the latest data on juveniles living on those tribal lands by state and territory.

In FY 2020, funds totaling \$516,940 were passed through to federally recognized tribes under the Formula Grants program. Visit the OJJDP website for [Native American pass-through funding by state and territory](#) for fiscal years 2015 to 2020.

## Nonparticipating States Program

OJJDP's Nonparticipating States program provides funds for 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. A state may be deemed ineligible to participate in the program if OJJDP determines that it has failed to satisfy the 33 state plan requirements described in the JJDP Act.

OJJDP estimates that seven grant awards will be made under the FY 2020 Nonparticipating States program to private nonprofit and local public agencies in American Samoa, Connecticut, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Wyoming. The funds, totaling nearly \$5.9 million, will be used to support the states' compliance with the four core requirements of the Act.



## Juvenile Justice Facility Leadership

The juvenile justice field needs leaders who are trained to meet the specific needs of youth populations. In FY 2020, OJJDP provided \$1.5 million to the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators to deliver targeted training to superintendents of juvenile justice facilities and deputy directors of state juvenile justice agencies.

The certificate courses—comprising intensive training supplemented with 6 months of technical assistance—promote improved programs and consistent practices in juvenile facilities. The trainings have been well received by the field and each session filled to capacity.

During the August training for superintendents, OJJDP senior staff led a session on key provisions of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018. Other topics included conditions of confinement, reducing racial and ethnic disparities, assessing youth’s readiness for reentry, and emergency planning in juvenile justice facilities.

## Eliminating Prison Rape

The goal of the **Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003** (PREA) is to eradicate sexual misconduct by residents and staff in all types of correctional facilities. OJJDP’s **Prison Rape Elimination Act program** supports PREA-related compliance efforts in state-run juvenile correctional facilities. Each year, Governors must certify that their states are in compliance with PREA standards, provide assurance that not less than 5 percent of funding will be used to achieve compliance, or request that funds be held in abeyance.

OJJDP assesses a 5-percent penalty against a state’s formula grant funding for each year a 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. In FY 2020, OJJDP awarded \$264,605 to 12 jurisdictions to help state and local governments bring their facilities into compliance with the Act’s requirements.

## Improving Juvenile Justice Facilities

In fiscal year 2020, OJJDP provided \$1.5 million to the **Performance-based Standards (PbS) Learning Institute** to improve juvenile justice outcomes by expanding access to its program. PbS is a data-driven continuous improvement process for juvenile justice facilities, community residential programs, and reentry services. The program, which emphasizes a three-part improvement cycle—collecting, analyzing, and using data to implement reforms—is currently in use in facilities across 33 states.

OJJDP support is helping the PbS Learning Institute build the technology to transfer data from its program into a form that researchers can use to identify best practices in juvenile justice.

## Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice

The **Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice**, established by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, is supported by OJJDP. The committee is made up of 14 appointed representatives from the nation's state advisory groups and advises the President, Congress, and the OJJDP Administrator on juvenile justice issues and concerns.



The committee meets up to four times a year; all meetings are open to the public. The committee held its **fiscal year 2020 meetings** in December 2019 and in February, March, and July 2020.

During the February meeting, the Advisory Committee voted to approve the **recommendations** of three subcommittees on key issues that affect juvenile justice and delinquency prevention—facilitating compliance with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, educating the juvenile justice field, and addressing the challenges of youth and families in rural communities.

Administrator Harp led a discussion during the July meeting on how OJJDP and the states are addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted OJJDP's **guidance for states** concerning the early release of detained youth following the emergence of the novel coronavirus.

## Juveniles in Residential Placement

OJJDP conducts statistical data collections to monitor trends related to youth in residential placement. The **2017 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement** and the 2018 Juvenile Residential Facility Census<sup>2</sup> provided valuable information about juveniles in residential placement and the facilities that hold them.

### Facility Types

These 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 2018, local facilities (those staffed by county, city, or municipal employees) held 38 percent, state facilities held 35 percent, and private facilities held 27 percent of all juveniles in residential placement.

In 2017, residential treatment centers, detention centers, and group homes outnumbered other types of facilities. Residential treatment centers made up 30 percent of all facilities and held 24 percent of juvenile offenders. Detention centers made up 32 percent of all facilities and held 39 percent of juvenile offenders. Group homes made up 15 percent of facilities and held 8 percent of juvenile offenders. Other facility types reported included long-term secure facilities, shelters, reception/diagnostic centers, and ranch/wilderness camps.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Hockenberry, S. Forthcoming. *Juvenile Residential Facility Census, 2018: Selected Findings*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

<sup>3</sup> Respondents were allowed to select more than one facility type category, although the majority (81 percent) selected only one.

## Trends

A total of 37,529 youth were held in publicly and privately operated juvenile residential facilities on the October 2018 census date. The number of youth held in residential placement decreased 64 percent between 1997 and 2018, bringing the overall count to its lowest level since 1975. In 2018, 118 juvenile offenders were in placement for every 100,000 juveniles in the U.S. population.<sup>4</sup>

## Offense Profiles

The vast majority of youth in residential placement in 2017 were held for delinquency offenses (96 percent). Person offenses accounted for 41 percent of youth held and property crimes accounted for 22 percent. Technical violations (15 percent), public order offenses (13 percent), and drug offenses (5 percent) accounted for smaller percentages of youth held. 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 made up more than 50 percent of youth in residential placement, and youth ages 13–15 made up 29 percent of those in residential placement.

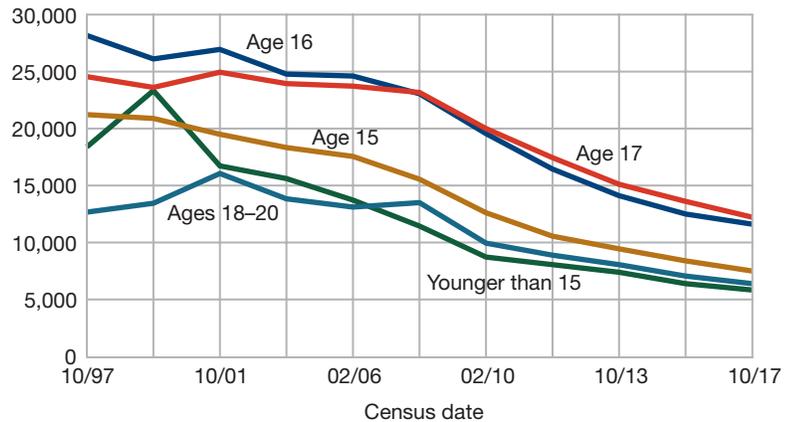
## Sex

Males made up 85 percent and females accounted for 15 percent of juvenile offenders in residential placement.

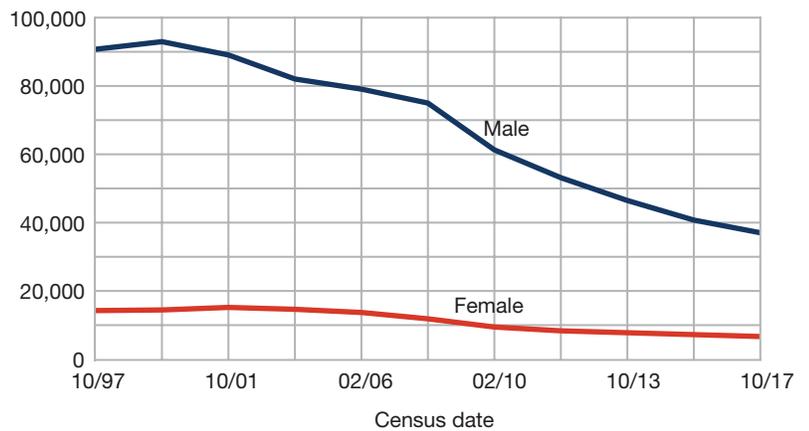
## Race/Ethnicity

Minority youth accounted for 46 percent of the U.S. juvenile population and 67 percent of juveniles in residential placement. The population of youth held in residential placement for a delinquency or status offense was 41 percent black, 33 percent white, and 21 percent Hispanic. Youth of other races, including those of two or more races, accounted for 5 percent of youth in residential placement.

Age of offenders in juvenile facilities



Sex of offenders in juvenile facilities



<sup>4</sup> The placement rate is the count of juvenile offenders 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.

## Improving OJJDP's Data on Juveniles in Corrections

To improve its juvenile corrections data collections, in fiscal year 2018, OJJDP funded an ongoing study to assess the utility of and evaluate gaps in the Juvenile Residential Facility Census and the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement.

Researchers are examining whether these data collections adequately capture recent changes in facility operations and service delivery as well as changes in federal legislation, including new requirements under the Juvenile Justice Reform Act. They are also examining whether the collections reflect emerging issues and trends in juvenile justice.

The **Redesign Study of OJJDP's Juveniles in Corrections Data Collections** will result in new instrumentation and enhanced methodologies that will improve the federal government's ability to interpret and report the national and state-level characteristics of and trends in juvenile offenders in out-of-home placement and the facilities in which they are held.

### Time in Placement

The median days in placement at the time of the 2017 census was 114 days for committed juveniles and 23 days for detained juveniles.<sup>5</sup> One-third (33 percent) of committed juveniles and 8 percent of detained juveniles remained in placement 6 months after admission.

### Deaths in Residential Placement

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

### Use of Isolation and Restraints

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

### Juveniles in Jails and Prisons

County and city jails held about 3,400 inmates age 17 or younger at midyear 2018.<sup>6</sup> Fewer than 800 inmates age 17 or younger were under the custody of state or federal prisons at the end of 2018.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement captures information on the number of days since admission for each juvenile in residential placement. These data represent the number of days the juvenile had been in the facility up to the census date.

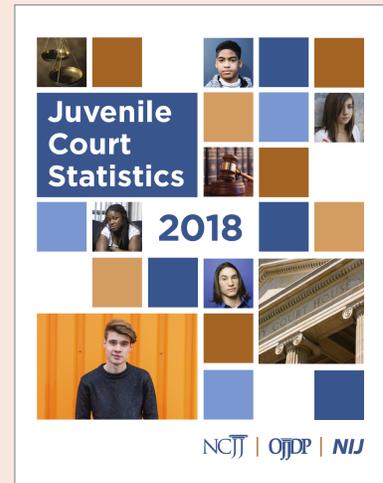
<sup>6</sup> Zeng, Z. 2020. *Jail Inmates in 2018*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>7</sup> Carson, E.A. 2020. *Prisoners in 2018*. 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 national information and statistics about delinquency and status offenses handled by juvenile courts, expands the coverage of reporting court jurisdictions, and increases the quality and timeliness of juvenile court data. The archive is supported by OJJDP and managed by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

In fiscal year 2020, the archive was updated to include juvenile court statistics through 2018 and an updated **Juvenile Court Statistics** report was released. The report presents national estimates on 744,500 delinquency cases and 97,800 petitioned status offense cases handled by courts with juvenile jurisdiction in 2018.

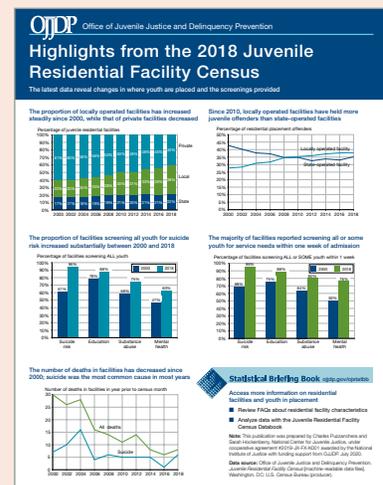


# Statistical Briefing Book

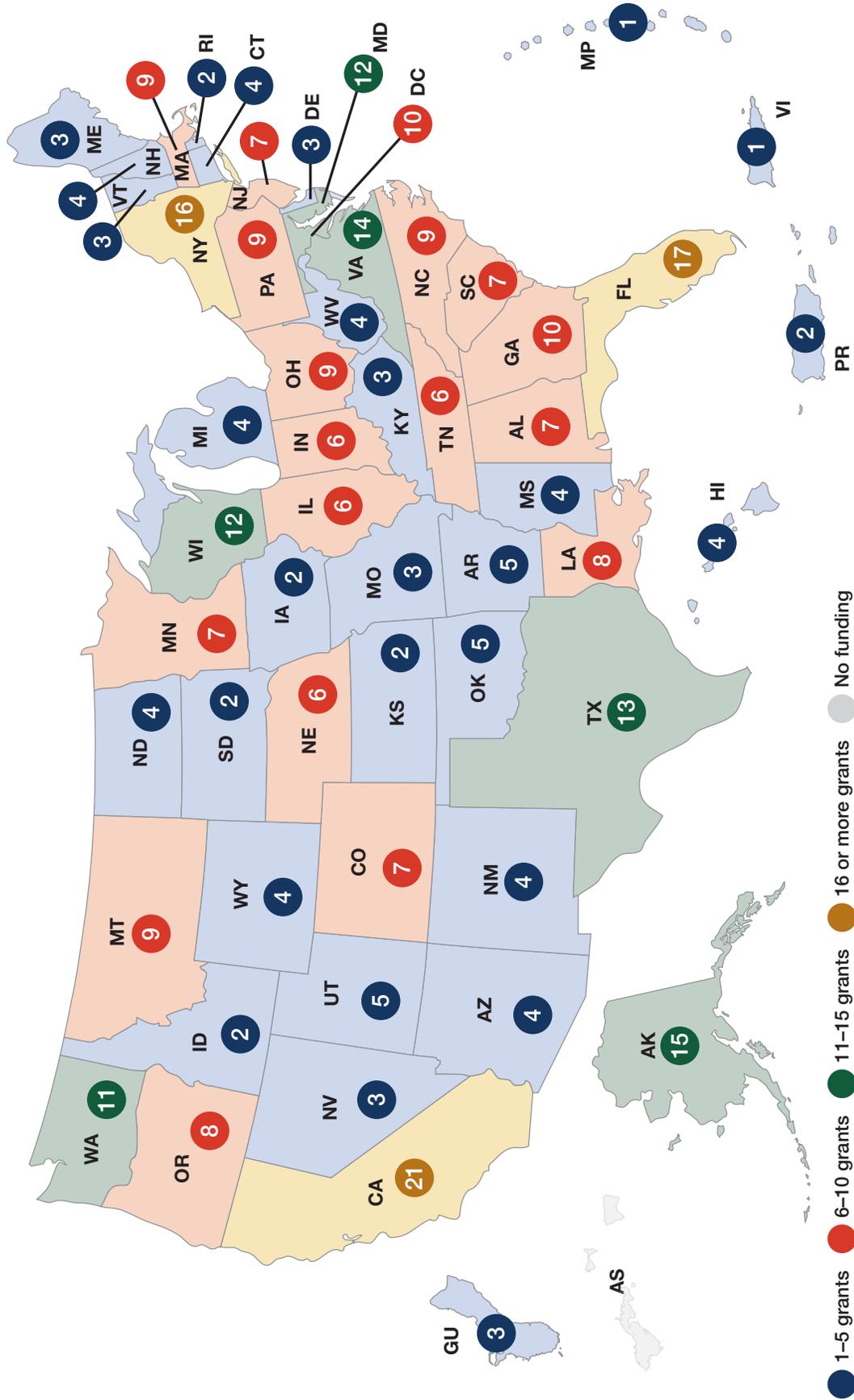
Through the **Statistical Briefing Book**, OJJDP provides timely and reliable access to the latest juvenile justice data. In fiscal year 2020, the Office added—

- Answers to new frequently asked questions describing **self-reported substance use patterns** among high school students.
- Answers to new frequently asked questions describing **suicide-related behaviors** reported by high school students.
- Updated data on topics that include children’s living arrangements, teen mothers, high school completion and dropouts, children in poverty, child maltreatment, suicide and homicide, delinquency and petitioned status offense cases in juvenile courts, and juvenile residential placement facilities.
- Three **data snapshots** that highlight policy-relevant trends and findings on juvenile residential placement, juvenile arrests, and dating violence.

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



# OJJDP Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2020, 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 2020, the Office awarded 361 grants totaling nearly \$370 million.

# Appendix. States' Eligibility and Compliance in Fiscal Year 2020

State <sup>1</sup>	Eligibility	Deinstitutionalization of status offenders	Separation of juveniles from adults in secure facilities	Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups	Addressing racial and ethnic disparities
Alabama	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Alaska	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
American Samoa	<b>Nonparticipating</b>				
Arizona	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Arkansas	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
California	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Colorado	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Connecticut	<b>Nonparticipating</b>				
Delaware	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
District of Columbia	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Florida	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Georgia	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Guam*	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	<b>Noncompliant</b>
Hawaii	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Idaho	Eligible	<b>Noncompliant</b>	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Illinois	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Indiana	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Iowa	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Kansas	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Kentucky	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Louisiana	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Maine	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Maryland	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant

<sup>1</sup>The term "state" refers to any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories.

\*Indicates states in appeal.

Nonparticipating: A state that has elected not to participate in the Title II Formula Grants program.

Ineligible: States must satisfy the state plan requirements described at 34 U.S.C. §11133(a) to qualify for funding under the Title II Formula Grants program. States that do not satisfy these requirements in a given year are ineligible to receive a Formula Grants program award for that year.

State <sup>1</sup>	Eligibility	Deinstitutionalization of status offenders	Separation of juveniles from adults in secure facilities	Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups	Addressing racial and ethnic disparities
Massachusetts	Eligible	Compliant	<b>Noncompliant</b>	Compliant	Compliant
Michigan	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Minnesota	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Mississippi	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Missouri	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Montana	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Nebraska	<b>Nonparticipating</b>				
Nevada	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
New Hampshire	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
New Jersey*	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	<b>Noncompliant</b>	Compliant
New Mexico	<b>Ineligible</b>				
New York	<b>Ineligible</b>				
North Carolina	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
North Dakota	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Northern Mariana Islands*	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	<b>Noncompliant</b>
Ohio	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Oklahoma	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Oregon	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Pennsylvania	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Puerto Rico	<b>Ineligible</b>				
Rhode Island	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
South Carolina	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
South Dakota	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Tennessee	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Texas	<b>Nonparticipating</b>				
U.S. Virgin Islands*	<b>Ineligible</b>				
Utah	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Vermont	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Virginia	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Washington*	Eligible	<b>Noncompliant</b>	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
West Virginia	Eligible	Compliant	<b>Noncompliant</b>	<b>Noncompliant</b>	Compliant
Wisconsin	Eligible	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant
Wyoming	<b>Nonparticipating</b>				



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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