



About OJJDP

OJJDP was established in 1974 to guide national efforts to prevent delinquency, strengthen the juvenile justice system, and protect children. OJJDP is a component of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice.

Vision

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

Mission

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

OJJDP National Conference on Youth Justice: Shaping the Next 50 Years

OJJDP is hosting three days of inspiration, innovation, and connection at the 2024 OJJDP National Conference on Youth Justice, to be held November 19 to 21, 2024, in Washington, DC.

OJJDP's first in-person conference since 2011 will bring together youth and families, grantees, leading researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders from across the U.S. who are working to transform youth justice.

Participants will be offered 72 workshops, 3 plenary sessions, and youth networking events all aimed at "Shaping the Next 50 Years" in juvenile justice. The conference will cover youth justice and delinquency prevention topics. Sessions are also geared toward young people and fostering youth and family partnerships.

This conference is the capstone event for OJJDP's yearlong celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Connect With Us!

Subscribe for News Updates

OJJDP News @ a Glance, an award-winning monthly online newsletter, features highlights of OJJDP's programs and activities, publications, training opportunities, news, and events. Subscribe now to receive the newsletter by going to [OJJDP.ojp.gov/news/newsletter](https://www.ojjdp.ojp.gov/news/newsletter).

The JUVJUST listserv provides e-mail notifications on the latest juvenile justice and youth-related publications, funding opportunities, training resources, and conferences. To subscribe to JUVJUST, go to [OJJDP.ojp.gov/Subscribe](https://www.ojjdp.ojp.gov/Subscribe).

Follow us on social media:



@OJPOJJDP



facebook.com/OJPOJJDP



youtube.com/OJPOJJDP

#OJJDPTurns50 #JJDPAAnniversary #YouthJustice



Photos used in this brochure: Copyright © 2024 AdobeStock, Shutterstock, iStock, and Unsplash unless otherwise noted.

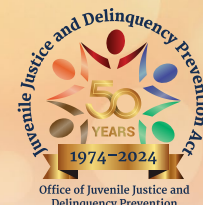
OJJDP Celebrates 50 Years of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A)

Looking Back, Moving Forward

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) marks the 50th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, known as JJDP A. The Act, which created OJJDP, was signed into law on September 7, 1974, to support local and state efforts to improve youth justice systems and advance prevention and intervention efforts.

For 50 years, the JJDP A has addressed emerging issues in juvenile justice, including jail removal, sight and sound separation, racial and ethnic disparities, and status offenses. New and emerging issues—girls in the juvenile justice system, LGBTQI+ rights, and ongoing racial and ethnic disparities—highlight the need to recommit to juvenile justice reform efforts.

Today, OJJDP continues to build on what it has learned over the last 50 years and looks to the next 50 years.



OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



@OJPOJJDP



facebook.com/OJPOJJDP



youtube.com/OJPOJJDP



Looking Back

OJJDP Priorities

Moving Forward

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Legislative Timeline*

1974: The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) was signed into law on September 7. The JJDP:

- Established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- Created the Title II Formula Grants Program.
- Instituted the first core requirements for the states: sight and sound separation and deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO).
- Created the interagency Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

1977: JJDP was amended, increasing and expanding the DSO and sight and sound separation core requirements.

1980: JJDP was amended, adding a new Jail Removal core requirement calling for the removal of children from all adult jails and lockups and adopting the Valid Court Order (VCO) exception to the existing DSO core requirement, which allowed for the secure detention of status offenders who violate a court order.

1984: JJDP was amended, enhancing the jail removal and DSO core requirements. The JJDP also created the Missing and Exploited Children's program under the Missing Children's Assistance Act, under Title IV.

1988: JJDP was amended, requiring states to submit a plan to address the overrepresentation of youth of color in secure detention/correctional facilities, jails, and lockups.

1992: JJDP was amended:

- Providing additional clarity on the DSO, jail removal, and separation core requirements and related exceptions. Disproportionate minority contact (DMC) was elevated to a core requirement for states to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.
- Adding Title V Community Prevention Grants Program to support local delinquency prevention efforts.

2002: JJDP was amended, broadening the scope of the DMC core requirement from "disproportionate minority confinement" to "disproportionate minority contact," requiring states to address racial disparities at multiple points of contact with the justice system.

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

*This is not a comprehensive list. For more information on the JJDP, go to [OJJDP.gov/about/legislation](https://www.ojjdp.gov/about/legislation).

1. Treat Children as Children

The juvenile justice field's decisionmaking must be informed by science and research to ensure young people are adjudicated fairly and given opportunities to learn and recover from youthful mistakes.

2. Serve Youth at Home, With Their Families, in Their Communities

OJJDP supports evidence-based programs that serve youth in their home communities: keeping them in school and at work, and connected with their families. Community-based programs have been shown to positively impact youth behavior and reduce reoffending. They emphasize therapeutic or educational approaches, holding young people accountable while giving them a chance for better outcomes.

3. Open Up Opportunities for System-Involved Youth

System-involved youth can move beyond past mistakes. By providing targeted services, youth get the support and guidance needed to make better choices as they move forward with their lives. These youth should have the same opportunities as youth who are not involved in the system.

Two overarching principles run through these priorities: a commitment to racial equity and fairness, and a promise to partner with youth and families who are directly impacted by the juvenile justice system.

Learn more: [OJJDP.gov/about/ojjdp-priorities](https://www.ojjdp.gov/about/ojjdp-priorities)



OJJDP Continuum of Care Framework

"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.

The graphic reflects the process for providing services to youth impacted at each stage. In an effective continuum of care, the majority of youth would be served through prevention and early/low intervention services.

The goal is to prevent youth from entering or moving deeper into the juvenile justice system.

Learn more: [OJJDP.gov/programs/continuum-of-care-for-communities](https://www.ojjdp.gov/programs/continuum-of-care-for-communities)

