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National Juvenile Data Analysis Program: Final Research Report

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Summary of the Project

The National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program (NJJDAP) provides NIJ/OJJDP with a central, primary source of statistical data and analyses that informs the juvenile justice community and the public on a range of important issues regarding youth and the juvenile justice system. This is accomplished by creating a strong data infrastructure that supports a wide range of needs and disseminates information in a variety of formats. The primary activities of the NJJDAP include maintaining the OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) and disseminating information via publications and presentations.

The OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book (ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book) functions as the NJJDAP's primary dissemination platform. The SBB gives juvenile justice practitioners and policymakers access to timely and reliable statistical answers to the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) about youth risk factors, offending by and against youth, and the justice system's response to law-violations. The NJJDAP also maintains the family of *Easy Access* data analysis tools available from the SBB. These tools give users access to detailed statistics on a variety of topics (covering population, law enforcement, court, and corrections data) without requiring technical sophistication. The NJJDAP produces some of the most referenced reports in juvenile justice, such as the *Juvenile Arrests*, *Juveniles in Residential Placement*, and *Juvenile Residential Facility Census: Selected Findings* bulletins, as well as the *Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: 2022 National Report*. In short, the NJJDAP is responsible for a set of essential resources that fill critical information needs for OJJDP/NIJ, the juvenile justice community, and the public.

Major Goals and Objectives

The goal of the NJJDAP is to analyze and disseminate comprehensive statistical information on youth risk behaviors, victimization, offending, the juvenile justice system's response to law-violating behavior, and related issues to facilitate greater access to and use of data by the juvenile justice community and the public.

The objectives of the NJJDAP include the following:

- Analyze, interpret, and publish available data on youth populations, offending by and against youth and risk factors relevant to juvenile justice policy and practice needs and public interest;
- Analyze, interpret, and publish information from OJJDP-sponsored statistical data collections, e.g., the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement and the Juvenile Residential Facility Census;
- Analyze, interpret, and publish information on juveniles involved in the justice system from other national data collection programs (e.g., the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting [UCR] Program, including the Summary Reporting System [SRS] and the National Incident-Based Reporting System [NIBRS]);
- Work with the OJJDP-sponsored National Juvenile Court Data Archive to disseminate juvenile court data via publications and online data analysis tools, including *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics* and *Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts*;
- Update and develop new content for the OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book and other webpages as required by NIJ/OJJDP, with relevant and timely juvenile justice statistical information;

- Respond to information requests regarding juvenile justice-related statistics and analyses from practitioners, policymakers, media, researchers, and the public;
- Work with other federal agencies and Department of Justice grantees involved in statistical data collection activities through periodic working group meetings and collaborative projects (e.g., joint analyses, presentations, and publications).

Research Questions

The NJJDAP provides answers to the most frequently asked questions about youth victimization, offending by youth, and the justice system's response to those who enter. As such, the work of the NJJDAP is to address the following questions:

1. Which youth have characteristics that increase their risk for delinquency?
2. What are the characteristics of youth who violate the law?
3. What are the characteristics of youth who are victimized?
4. How does the justice system respond to youth who violate the law and who are victimized?

Research Design, Methods, Analytical and Data Analysis Techniques

The NJJDAP is rooted in secondary analysis that capitalizes on existing national data collections to address the information needs of a diverse audience, e.g., OJJDP, NIJ, the juvenile justice community, news media, scholars, and the general public. To address this needs, the NJJDAP identifies national data sets that collect information on juvenile and criminal justice, victimization, offending, risk factors, and related issues, and analyzes and interprets data to support the project's core deliverables, namely, maintaining the SBB, preparing publications and presentations, and responding to information requests.

Maintaining and expanding the SBB has been a central component of the project since it was launched in the 1990s. The SBB includes more than 250 FAQ data displays that are routinely updated as new data become available. Another major component of the SBB is the *Easy Access* family of data analysis tools that allow users to perform custom analyses of various data sets covering populations, homicides, victims of violence (including domestic violence), juvenile court workloads, and residential placement. Maintaining the SBB involves the ability to analyze, interpret, and restructure data from a wide range of sources, including OJJDP-sponsored data collections (the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, the Juvenile Residential Facility Census, and Juvenile Court Statistics) as well as data collected by other federal agencies (e.g., BJS, FBI, CDC, and the Census Bureau).

The data that support the SBB's FAQs and the *Easy Access* tools also support the development of reports, bulletins, fact sheets, data snapshots, webinars, conference presentations, and requests for information. Some of the most widely cited publications about youth and the justice system are developed by the NJJDAP, including the *Juvenile Arrests*, *Juveniles in Residential Placement*, and the *Juvenile Residential Facility Census: Selected Findings* bulletins, as well as the comprehensive *Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: 2022 National Report* (formerly known as the *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: National Report* series). The NJJDAP is designed to transform complex statistical and research data into information that can be easily accessed and put to immediate use to address routine and emerging questions from OJJDP, NIJ, the juvenile justice community, policymakers, the media, and the general public.

Expected Applicability of the Research

The NJJDAP is a central, primary resource for statistical data to serve the critical information needs of the juvenile justice community and the public. The information and data

resources developed by the project are made available in user-friendly formats for researchers, policymakers, teachers, advocates, and the juvenile justice community through the SBB.

OJJDP has relied on the program to provide the agency with the data needed to support Racial and Ethnic Disparities analytics, state Formula Grant funding allocations, as well as data to support RFP development, speeches, and policy decisions. Beyond OJJDP, Congressional offices, federal agencies, and the news media have relied on the project's resources. State and local agencies rely on the project's resources to compare against other jurisdictions or to a national benchmark. Researchers, students, journalists, and advocates alike, have access to the data they need because of this project. Most juvenile justice textbooks use data from this project; the *Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: 2022 National Report* (and predecessors in the series) has even been used as required reading for college courses. Scholars often cite the project's numerous publications and its web-based data analysis tools and online FAQ data displays.

In short, the NJJDAP serves as a clearinghouse of information and data resources about youth and the juvenile justice system that supports the information needs of OJJDP, NIJ, state and local practitioners, academics, the media, and the general public.

Participants and Other Collaborating Organizations

The NJJDAP did not utilize outside participants or collaborating organizations.

Changes in Approach from Original Design and Reason for Change

The most significant change encountered during this award period involved the redesign of the OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book, the project's central dissemination vehicle. The intent of the SBB redesign was two-fold. First, the redesign would bring the SBB into the same website template previously adopted by other agencies under the OJP umbrella, particularly OJJDP. Second, the SBB would have access to a new content management system and new data

visualization resources for maintaining the site's web-based data analysis tools and its more than 250 frequently asked question data displays.

Although plans to redesign the SBB had been on the table for many years, it was unclear when this work would start or what level of effort it would require from the project team. Once the redesign efforts got underway, it was clear early on that the dynamic, data-heavy nature of the SBB presented unique challenges for the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), the entity responsible for executing the SBB redesign, and that the project's web-based dissemination efforts would be impacted until the redesign was complete. For example, the project experienced a moratorium (of at least 12 months) on data updates to minimize interruptions to the redesign effort. OJJDP-sponsored data collections were exempt from the moratorium, but many of the SBB's data displays were unable to be updated during this time. Additionally, project staff were tasked with reviewing all aspects of the SBB redesign to ensure consistency between data displayed on the existing SBB and the redesigned version and to work with OCIO to correct errors or provide technical guidance. These time-intensive activities were not anticipated at the time this award began. More critically, as work on the SBB redesign evolved, it became clear that migrating to the new development platform required changes to the database structure that had served the SBB since inception in the late 1990s. This was an unanticipated change with significant implications regarding efficient site maintenance. Phase 1 of the SBB redesign, i.e., migrating the SBB's more than 250 FAQ data displays into the new website template, was completed under this award. All outstanding redesign tasks will be completed under a subsequent award (15PNIJ-22-GK-01121-TITL).

Outcomes

Activities/Accomplishments

The project produced nearly two dozen statistical publications, prepared and delivered more than 30 presentations at various conferences and meetings, and updated the *Easy Access* data analysis tools and the more than 250 FAQ data displays available from the Statistical Briefing Book. See the Artifacts section for more information about these accomplishments.

Results and Findings

The results and findings developed by the NJJDAP are described in the Accomplishments and Artifacts sections.

Limitations

Not applicable.

Artifacts

List of Products

Publications

Hockenberry, S. (forthcoming). *Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2021*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

2024

Zeigler, M. and Puzzanchera, C. (2024). *Major Depressive Episodes (MDE) Among Youth, 2022. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Hockenberry, S. and Sladky, A. (2024). *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2020: Selected Findings*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

2023

Puzzanchera, C. (2023). *Trends and Characteristics of Youth in Residential Placement, 2021. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Puzzanchera, C. and Zeigler, M. (2023). *Bullying Experiences Reported by High School Students, 2021. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Zeigler, M. and Puzzanchera, C. (2024). *Major Depressive Episodes (MDE) Among Youth, 2022. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Puzzanchera, C. and Zeigler, M. (2023). *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Processing of Delinquency Cases, 2020. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Hockenberry, S. and Puzzanchera, C. (2023). *Juvenile Residential Facility Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), 2020. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

2022

Hockenberry, S. (2022). *Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2019*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Puzzanchera, C., Hockenberry, S., and Sickmund, M. (2022). *Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: 2022 National Report*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice.

Puzzanchera, C. and Hockenberry, S. (2022). *Highlights from the 2020 Juvenile Residential Facility Census. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Puzzanchera, C. (2022). *Trends in Youth Arrests for Violent Crimes. OJJDP Fact Sheet*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Puzzanchera, C. (2022). *Arrests of Youth Declined Through 2020. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Puzzanchera, C. (2022). *Characteristics and Trends of Youth Victims of Suicide and Homicide, 2020. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

2021

Puzzanchera, C. (2021). *Trends and Characteristics of Youth in Residential Placement, 2019. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

2020

Hockenberry, S. and Sladky, A. (2020). *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018: Selected Findings*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Puzzanchera, C. (2020). *The Decline in Arrests of Juveniles Continued Through 2019. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Puzzanchera, C. and Hockenberry, S. (2020). *Highlights from the 2018 Juvenile Residential Facility Census. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Puzzanchera, C. (2020). *Dating Violence Reported by High School Students, 2017. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Puzzanchera, C. (2020). *Dating Violence Reported by High School Students, 2017. OJJDP Data Snapshot*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Presentations

2024

Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: Some Trends You Should Know. Presentation at the Family Division Education Conference, Galloway, NJ. May 6, 2024.

Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: Some Trends You Should Know. Presentation at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges National Juvenile Justice Conference. Cleveland, OH. March 18, 2024.

2023

Recent National Trends in Juvenile Residential Placement. Presentation at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Philadelphia, PA. November 17, 2023.

Does the Denominator Matter? The Impact of Expanded Race Detail on Placement Rates. Presentation at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Philadelphia, PA. November 17.

Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: Some Trends You Should Know. Presentation at the Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice. Harrisburg, PA. November 2, 2023.

Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: Some Trends You Should Know. Presentation at the Northern Virginia Regional Youth Justice Transformation Symposium. Fairfax, VA. October 24, 2023.

The Influence of Prior Juvenile Court Contact on Racial/Ethnic Disparities. Presentation at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD. July 18, 2023.

Juvenile Residential Facility Census – Key Findings. Presentation at the National Institute of Justice Research Conference. Arlington, VA. May 23, 2023.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities Among Youth in Residential Placement: National Trends. Presentation at the National Institute of Justice Research Conference. Arlington, VA. May 23, 2023.

Overview of the Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: 2022 National Report. Webinar supported by OJJDP and NIJ. May 17, 2023.

Ten Juvenile Justice Trends You Should Know About – And How to Stay Current. Presentation at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' National Juvenile Justice Conference. Dallas, TX. March 20, 2023.

Juvenile Transfer to Criminal Court: Policy & Reporting Trends. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. National Harbor, Maryland. March 16, 2023.

Services Provided to Youth in Residential Placement Facilities. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. National Harbor, MMD. March 16, 2023.

What National Data Tells Us About Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Juvenile Justice System. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. National Harbor, MD. March 16, 2023.

Ten Juvenile Justice Trends You Should Know About – And How to Stay Current. Presentation at the American Probation and Parole Association Winter Regional Training Institute. Philadelphia, PA. February 14, 2023.

2022

Y2K: A Look at the Juvenile Court Careers of Youth Born in 2000. Presentation at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA. November 16, 2022.

Services Provided to Youth in Residential Placement Facilities. Presentation at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA. November 16, 2022.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities: Strengthening Equity and Measuring Progress. Presentation at the 2022 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention State and Tribal Relations Assistance Division National Training Conference. San Diego, CA. December 13-15, 2022.

Ten Juvenile Justice Trends You Should Know About – And How to Stay Current. Invited presentation for the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators Data and Analysis Committee. (Virtual). November 22, 2022.

Ten Juvenile Justice Trends You Should Know About – And How to Stay Current. Invited presentation for YouthCenter. (Virtual). October 22, 2022.

Some Data Trends You Should Know About. Virtual presentation for the Texas Juvenile Justice Administration Working with Juveniles in the Justice System Conference. September 22, 2022.

What National Data Tells Us About Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Juvenile Justice System. Presentation at the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators' Annual Business Meeting. New Orleans, LA. August 6, 2022.

Violence By and Against Youth. Invited presentation for OJJDP all staff meeting. (Virtual). September 15, 2022.

Ten Juvenile Justice Trends You Should Know About – And How to Stay Current. Presentation at the American Probation and Parole Association's 47th Annual Training Institute. Chicago, IL. August 30, 2022.

Data on Serious Crime Among Youth. Invited presentation to the Utah Juvenile Court Judges' Spring Conference. May 2022.

Data Hunting & Gathering: Where to Find Data and What to do When You Can't Find the Data You Want. Invited presentation to the National Juvenile Defender Center's Ambassadors for Racial Justice Data Webinar. (Virtual). March 2022.

Ten Juvenile Justice Trends You Should Know About – And How to Stay Current. Presentation at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges’ National Juvenile Justice Conference. Pittsburgh, PA. March 15, 2022.

2021

Rethinking Risk: Judicial Placement Decisions During the Pandemic and Beyond—Research-Informed Practice to Protect Youth and Communities. Invited presentation to the Wisconsin Court Conference. (Virtual). September 2021.

Youth Violence and the Juvenile Justice System. Presentation to the Center for Disease Control’s Division of Violence Prevention Workgroup. (Virtual). July 28, 2021.

Data Hunting & Gathering: Where to Find Data and What to do When You Can’t Find the Data You Want. Invited presentation to the National Juvenile Defender Center’s Ambassadors for Racial Justice Data Webinar. (Virtual). June 2021.

Judicial Detention and Placement Decisions: Protecting Youth and Communities During the Pandemic and Beyond—Research Informed Practice. Presentation at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges’ National Juvenile Justice Conference. (Virtual). March 2021.

2020

Fight Fake News: Be Data-Informed About Juvenile Justice Trends. Presentation at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges’ National Conference on Juvenile Justice. (Virtual). November 9, 2020.

Data Hunting & Gathering: Where to Find Data and What to do When You Can’t Find the Data You Want. Invited presentation to the National Juvenile Defender Center’s Ambassadors for Racial Justice Data Webinar. (Virtual). May 2020.

Statistical Briefing Book Updates

The OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book is the central component of the project’s web-based data dissemination activities. The SBB provides access to a family of data analysis tools that cover a range of topics and is a repository of more than 250 frequently asked question (FAQ) data displays about youth and the juvenile justice system, such as youth risk factors (e.g., poverty, living arrangements, high school dropout) victimization (e.g., child maltreatment, fatal and non-fatal violence, suicide), offending (e.g., self-report drug use, arrests), state variations in

juvenile justice structure and process (e.g., age boundaries of juvenile court, organization and administration of juvenile services, transfer to criminal court), and the juvenile justice system's response to law-violating behavior (case processing outcomes of delinquency and petitioned status offense cases handled in juvenile court, youth in residential placement, and characteristics of the facilities that hold them). Throughout the project, each FAQ data display was updated as new data became available. For space reasons, the full list of FAQs is not included here, but can be accessed from the SBB (ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/frequently-asked-questions). Similarly, the project's family of *Easy Access* data analysis tools were updated multiple times over the course of the project; the tools maintained by the project include:

Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/.

Easy Access to NIBRS Victims of Violence: ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezanibrsv/.

Easy Access to the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports: ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezashr/.

Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics: ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezajcs/.

Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts: ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaco/.

Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement: ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/.

Juvenile Residential Facility Census Databook: ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/jrfcdb/.

Data Sets Generated

The project handles numerous data files, preparing them for analyses and creating databases for the Statistical Briefing Book. The resulting data sets are available from the SBB's FAQ data displays (ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/frequently-asked-questions) and online data analysis tools (ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/data-analysis-tools).

Dissemination Activities

The project relies on a combination of web-based data dissemination through the OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book, publications and presentations at professional conferences. All data analyses and publications completed during the project were disseminated through the SBB. An OJJDP JuvJust announcement is typically prepared to announce new publications and data updates to the SBB. Occasionally, a DOJ press release will be prepared for select publications. OJJDP's social media platforms and those of the grantee organization also help promote the project's resources. Project staff also take part in conferences to disseminate findings and promote the project. See the Artifacts section for a full list of publications and presentations supported by the NJJDAP.