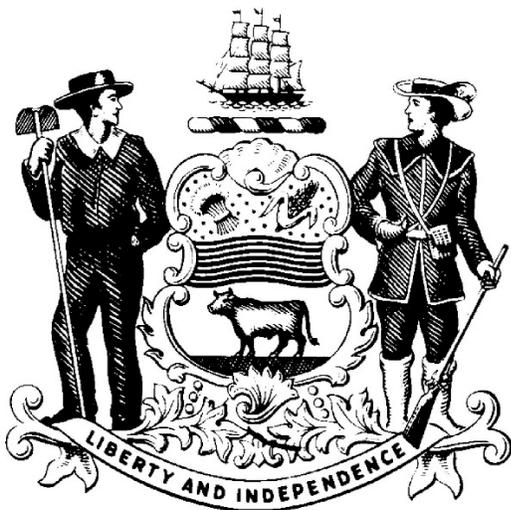


# THE DELAWARE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP

*Annual Report and Recommendations  
to Governor John Carney and the  
Delaware State Legislature*

*March 2019*





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# Delaware Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

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Wilmington, DE 19801

Michael W. Arrington  
Chair

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March 31, 2019

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (“JJAG”), was reestablished and reinvigorated by Governor John C. Carney in Executive Order Number Eleven as a specialized committee with knowledge and expertise in juvenile justice to advise the Criminal Justice Council on a variety of areas required by federal law. This report fulfills one of the requirements of Executive Order Number Eleven to provide a report to the Governor, Legislature, and the Criminal Justice Council on the state of juvenile justice in Delaware.

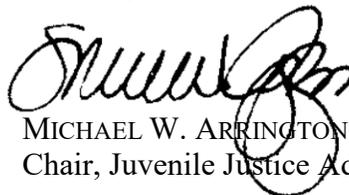
Of particular significance, the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (the “Act”) was passed by Congress and signed by the President on December 21, 2018 representing the first major update to the law since 2002. All States are required to comply with the Act in order to be eligible for federal funding for juvenile justice programs. The JJAG is pleased to report that Delaware has met the requirements of the prior version of the law and is in position to comply with the provisions of the new Act in 2019.

Additionally, Executive Order Number Eleven requires the JJAG to provide advice to ensure that assistance will be available on an equitable basis to deal with all disadvantaged youth, (including females, minority youth, and youth with mental disorders or incapacities, developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment or chronological immaturity) and to consult and coordinate its activities with those agencies and non-profit organizations which directly impact juvenile justice and delinquency prevention in this State.

The attached report highlights Delaware’s major accomplishments in juvenile justice, provides some statistics on the demographics of Delaware youth, provides information on the trends on delinquency in Delaware, and explains the process for federal funding in Delaware.

The JJAG appreciates the confidence and support of Governor Carney, the Legislature, and the Criminal Justice Council and commits to fulfilling its responsibilities under its charge.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL W. ARRINGTON  
Chair, Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

# 2018 JJAG Accomplishments

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## ***Local Accomplishments***

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) established by Executive Order Number 11 signed by Governor John Carney on July 12, 2017, with all appointments were completed by the Governor in 2018.

The JJAG resumed oversight of the Criminal Justice Council’s suite of Juvenile Justice grants totaling \$2,194,642.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group first established subcommittees and chairs for each subcommittee. The JJAG established the following subcommittees:

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP SUBCOMMITTEES	
NAME	FOCUS
Pre-Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education for expectant parents</li> <li>• Child Find &amp; Head Start</li> <li>• Preschool / Kindergarten screening</li> </ul>
Initial Contact (Pre-Arrest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools – Administrative approach vs. JJ/SROs</li> <li>• Community Centers / Youth Centers</li> <li>• Civil Citation Centers</li> <li>• Alternative approach – peer/teen courts</li> <li>• Child Welfare overlap</li> <li>• Truancy</li> </ul>
Initial Contact (Arrest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview by Police</li> <li>• Presentment</li> <li>• School Offenses</li> </ul>
Bail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines</li> <li>• Purpose</li> <li>• Access to Bail</li> <li>• Conditions of release</li> <li>• Community Alternatives</li> <li>• Transfer Between Courts</li> <li>• Access to Counsel</li> </ul>

Initial Detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental Contact</li> <li>• Assessment- Approach; Timing; Confidentiality</li> <li>• Reviews</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>
Pretrial Adjudication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Counsel</li> <li>• Case Review</li> <li>• Amenity / Transfers</li> <li>• Plea Negotiations</li> <li>• Trial Dates and Time</li> </ul>
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispositional Guidelines/Matrix</li> <li>• Assessment and Recommendations</li> <li>• Parental Involvement</li> <li>• Timing and Costs</li> <li>• Orders – Format, Sequencing, Availability</li> </ul>
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal (State System)</li> <li>• External (Contracted Levels IV/V)</li> <li>• Interface with Education &amp; Welfare</li> <li>• Parental Involvement</li> <li>• Accountability to Victim/Community</li> <li>• Measure of Success</li> <li>• Modification/Sequencing of Orders</li> <li>• Preparation for Probation</li> </ul>
Re-Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• Education Coordination</li> <li>• Vocational Skills Training</li> <li>• Family Preparation</li> <li>• Mentoring</li> </ul>
Three Year Plan (Ad-Hoc)	
System Reform Grant (Ad-Hoc)	
Disproportionate Minority Contact (Ad-Hoc)	

The JJAG provided assistance and leadership in the Delaware 149<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. That leadership played a key role in the passage of legislation that will have a profound impact on the Juvenile Justice System in Delaware. The following bills represent legislation passed by the Delaware 149<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SCOPE</b>
House Bill 6	Right to Counsel: Automatic right to counsel and limited ability to waive this right. Intro 5/10/17; Signed 10/12/17
House Bill 8	Expanding Civil Citation: to include possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and a second opportunity to participate for a different offense if 18 months have passed. Intro 5/10/17; Signed 10/12/17.
House Bill 9	Transfer: Judges have discretion to transfer many juvenile cases back to Family Court (certain offenses committed by child greater than, or equal to 16 years of age “may” rather than “shall” be prosecuted as adult). Intro 5/10/17; Signed 10/12/17
House Bill 306	Transfer: Judges may transfer any case back to Family Court except violent felony, age greater than, or equal to 16 years of age, where firearm displayed (sole mandatory transfer). Intro 1/23/18; Signed 5/3/18.
House Bill 307	Mandatory Minimum: raises age to 16 and lowers mandatory level 5 Sentence to 6 months for felonies committed with firearms. Intro 1/23/18; passed 5/3/18.
House Bill 308	Removed the sunset provision for civil citation. Intro 1/23/18; passed 4/17/18.
House Bill 339	Pre-Disposition Detention: Juveniles may not be held “pretrial” in adult facilities. Intro 3/15/18; passed 5/3/18
House Bill 442	Expanding Civil Citation to all misdemeanors. Intro 6/18/18; passed 6/28/18.
Senate Bill 54	Expungements: Expanding offenses and circumstances when child is eligible for discretionary expungements. Intro 3/30/17; passed 6/20/17.
Senate Bill 146	Expungements: Expands judicial discretion to grant expungement where felony charge was terminated in favor of child. Intro 1/23/18; passed 6/30/18.

## ***National Accomplishments***

Congress recently reauthorized the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act after operating on an expired act that had not had substantial review for 18 years. The following is a summary of the reauthorized act as compiled by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and the National Criminal Justice Association:

### **Background**

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) was first authorized in 1974. It was established to ensure states and territories meet certain common standards for how youth across the country are treated in the justice system. It did this by establishing two core protections: a prohibition on the incarceration of youth charged with status offenses (conduct that is not criminal if engaged in by an adult, such as skipping school or breaking curfew), and a requirement that youth have sight and sound separation from adult inmates. Two additional protections were added in a subsequent reauthorization: a prohibition against housing young people in adult facilities while awaiting trial as juveniles, and requiring that states address disproportionate minority contact. States receive federal formula grant funding for complying with these protections.

The Act was last reauthorized in 2002, and expired in 2007. On December 13, 2018, Congress signed HR 6964 with broad bipartisan support. Major changes to the Act include:

### **Core Requirements**

- **Racial and Ethnic Disparities:** Changes to the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) requirement to focus on Racial and Ethnic Disparities (“RED”). Requires that states collect and analyze data on racial and ethnic disparities. Requires states to determine which points create RED and establish a plan to address RED.
  
- **Sight and Sound/Jail Removal:** Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment, states are required to ensure sight and sound separation and jail removal for youth awaiting trial as adults. This protection previously applied only to youth being held on juvenile court charges. An exception continues to exist for cases where a court finds, after a hearing and in writing, that it is in the interest of justice.
  
- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenses:** Status offenses are those which relate solely to the age of the offender. Federal law generally prohibits incarceration of youth who have committed a status offense. Youth who are found in violation of a valid court order may be held in detention, but for no longer than seven days, if the court finds that such detention is necessary and enters an order containing the following: 1) identifies the

valid court order that has been violated; 2) specifies the factual basis for determining that there is reasonable cause to believe that the status offender has violated such order; 3) includes findings of fact to support a determination that there is no appropriate less restrictive alternative available to placing the status offender in such a facility, with due consideration to the best interest of the juvenile; 4) specifies the length of time, not to exceed seven days, that the status offender may remain in a secure detention facility or correctional facility, and includes a plan for the status offender's release from such facility. Such an order may not be renewed.

**Title II:**

- Is renamed the Charles Grassley Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program.
- Creates a new focus on data-driven, evidence-based, or promising prevention programs.

**Title V:**

- Is amended to permit Youth PROMISE grants to be used by local policy boards to fund delinquency prevention programs, including but not limited to: alcohol and substance abuse prevention or treatment services; tutoring and remedial education, especially in reading and mathematics; child and adolescent health and mental health services; and leadership and youth development activities.

**State Plans:**

- The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act requires the State Plan to be supported by or consider scientific knowledge regarding adolescent development and behavior, as well as the effects of delinquency prevention programs and juvenile justice interventions on adolescents.
- A state shall make the plan or amended plan publicly available by posting the plan or amended plan on the State's publicly available website.

**State Advisory Group Appointees:**

- Clarifies who may be appointed to the required State Advisory Group(SAG):
  - a. Persons, licensed or certified by the applicable state, with expertise and competence in preventing and addressing mental health and substance abuse needs in delinquent youth and youth at risk of delinquency;

- b. Representatives of victim or witness advocacy groups, including at least one individual with expertise in addressing the challenges of sexual abuse and exploitation and trauma, and particularly for the needs of youth who experience disproportionate levels of sexual abuse, exploitation, and trauma before entering the juvenile justice system;
- c. For a state in which one or more Indian Tribes are located, an Indian tribal representative (if such representative is available) or other individual with significant expertise in tribal law enforcement and juvenile justice in Indian tribal communities; and,
- d. Youth members must now be not older than 28 at the time of initial appointment.

**Required State Staff:**

- Requires the State to designate at least one individual who shall coordinate efforts to achieve and sustain compliance with the core requirements and certify whether the state is in compliance with such requirements.

**Annual Report:**

- A summary of data from 1 month of the applicable fiscal year regarding the use of restraints and isolation upon juveniles held in the custody of secure detention and correctional facilities operated by a State or unit of local government.
- The number of status offense cases petitioned to court, number of status offenders held in secure detention, the findings used to justify the use of secure detention, and the average period of time a status offender was held in secure detention;
- The number of juveniles released from custody and the type of living arrangement to which they are released;
- The number of juveniles whose offense originated on school grounds, during school sponsored off-campus activities, or due to a referral by a school official, as collected and reported by the Department of Education or similar State educational agency; and
- The number of juveniles in the custody of secure detention and correctional

facilities operated by a State or unit of local or tribal government who report being pregnant.

**National Recidivism Measure:**

- The Administrator, in accordance with applicable confidentiality requirements and in consultation with experts in the field of juvenile justice research, recidivism, and data collection, shall—
  - a. Establish a uniform method of data collection and technology that States may use to evaluate data on juvenile recidivism on an annual basis;
  - b. Establish a common national juvenile recidivism measurement system; and
  - c. Make cumulative juvenile recidivism data that is collected from States available to the public.

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Act**

- Includes a two-year reauthorization of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

# Delaware's Juvenile Justice System Structure

In Delaware, youth in the juvenile justice system under the age of 18 are not considered “criminals” except as specified in Title 10, section 1010 pertaining to cases where youth are subject to adult court jurisdiction.<sup>1</sup>

## ***Family Court and Justice of the Peace Court***

The Delaware legislature endorsed the concept of a statewide, unified Family Court with establishing legislation in 1971.<sup>2</sup> The Delaware Family Court has branches in each of its three counties. The Family Court has “original statewide civil and criminal jurisdiction over family and child matters and offenses.”<sup>3</sup> In 2005, the Family Court became a constitutional court by virtue of an amendment to the Delaware Constitution.<sup>4</sup>

In Family Court, judges and commissioners preside over all delinquency cases with judges presiding over felony cases and commissioners presiding over misdemeanor cases.

By statute, the Governor appoints 17 judges to serve in the Family Court statewide.<sup>5</sup> Judges have the authority to “[h]ear, determine, render, and enforce judgment in any proceeding before the Court.”<sup>6</sup> This includes the authority to determine and enter disposition for alleged violations of probation by youth.<sup>7</sup> Commissioners are attorneys appointed by the Governor and assigned to oversee a range of Family Court matters, such as juvenile detention hearings<sup>8</sup> and delinquency proceedings, which include but are not limited to amenability hearings, arraignments, preliminary hearings, case reviews, violation of probation hearings, and trials.<sup>9</sup> Commissioners also have the power to accept pleas and to enter disposition for children who have been adjudicated delinquent.<sup>10</sup>

Magistrates are judicial officers appointed by the governor<sup>11</sup> to preside in the Justice of the Peace

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<sup>1</sup> 10 Del.C. § 1010 (2012).

<sup>2</sup> *Family Court History*, DELAWARE COURTS, <http://courts.delaware.gov/family/history.aspx> (last visited May 28, 2017). See also 10 Del.C. § 902(a) (1971) (“In the firm belief that compliance with the law by the individual and preservation of the family as a unit are fundamental to the maintenance of a stable, democratic society, the General Assembly intends by enactment of this chapter that 1 court shall have original statewide civil and criminal jurisdiction over family and child matters and offenses as set forth herein. The court shall endeavor to provide for each person coming under its jurisdiction such control, care, and treatment as will best serve the interests of the public, the family, and the offender, to the end that the home will, if possible, remain unbroken and the family members will recognize and discharge their legal and moral responsibilities to the public and to one another.”).

<sup>3</sup> 10 Del.C. § 902(a) (1971).

<sup>4</sup> *Family Court History*, DELAWARE COURTS, <http://courts.delaware.gov/family/history.aspx> (last visited May 28, 2017). See also Del. Const. art. IV, § 1.

<sup>5</sup> 10 Del.C. § 906(a)-(b) (2008).

<sup>6</sup> 10 Del.C. § 925(9) (2009).

<sup>7</sup> 10 Del.C. § 925(18) (2009).

<sup>8</sup> 10 Del.C. § 915(c)(6) (2008).

<sup>9</sup> 10 Del.C. § 915(c)(8) (2008).

<sup>10</sup> 10 Del.C. § 915(c)(9) (2008).

<sup>11</sup> *Magistrate Screening Committee*, DELAWARE COURTS, <http://courts.delaware.gov/jpcourt/screening.aspx> (May 28, 2017).

Court. Unlike judges or commissioners, magistrates are not required to be trained in the law. Magistrates can potentially preside over bail setting hearings and some truancy appearances.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Delaware Department of Justice (DDOJ): Family Division***

The DDOJ is responsible for making all charging decisions following an arrest. A team of deputy attorneys general in the DDOJ prosecute juvenile delinquency cases in Family Court and truancy cases in the Justice of the Peace Court<sup>13</sup>. The unit is charged with coordinating between police, probation, schools, and the courts, and “seeks disposition of cases that aim to protect the community while being in the best interest of the juvenile.”<sup>14</sup>

### ***The Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families***

The Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF) is the umbrella agency that provides integrated youth services through three service groups: the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS), the Division of Family Services (DFS), and the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (DPBHS).<sup>15</sup> DSCYF’s mission is to provide a “continuum of prevention, community-based, and confinement services” to youth in Delaware’s juvenile justice system.<sup>16</sup>

The three entities have distinct obligations within DSCYF. DYRS provides services to youth ordered into its care by the Family Court. These services include detention, treatment, probation and post-disposition aftercare services. DYRS is responsible for assessing the individual needs of youth up to age 19 and collaborating with the youth’s family, school, and community to coordinate services and resources that will help the child become a positive citizen within the community.<sup>17</sup> DPBHS provides assessment, treatment, and services that range from outpatient to residential for youth up to age 18 who are dealing with mental health or substance abuse issues.<sup>18</sup> DFS investigates child abuse and neglect and dependency allegations, and offers treatment services, foster care, adoption, independent living, and child care licensing services.<sup>19</sup>

#### **a. Detention Facilities**

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<sup>12</sup> *Id. See also Frequently Asked Questions*, STATE OF DELAWARE: THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE FIRST STATE, <http://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/magistrate/faqs.shtml> (May 28, 2017).

<sup>13</sup> *Family Division: About the Division*, DELAWARE.GOV, <http://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/family/> (last visited May 29, 2017) (The Family Division also includes three other Department of Justice units: Child Support, Child Protection, and Domestic Violence and Child Abuse; cross-training to provide a range of services across the four units is the encouraged practice.).

<sup>14</sup> *Family Division: About the Division*, DELAWARE.GOV, <http://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/family/> (May 29, 2017).

<sup>15</sup> David Backes, *Delaware Improves Juvenile Justice System by Integrating Services*, RECLAIMING FUTURES (July 2, 2012), <http://reclaimingfutures.org/delaware-improves-juvenile-justice-system>; *Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families: About the Department*, STATE OF DELAWARE: THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE FIRST STATE, <http://kids.delaware.gov/aboutdepartment.shtml> (May 29, 2017).

<sup>16</sup> John Wilson et al., JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN DELAWARE 2012: THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD 2 (2012), [http://kids.delaware.gov/pdfs/yrs\\_csg\\_jjbook.pdf](http://kids.delaware.gov/pdfs/yrs_csg_jjbook.pdf) [hereinafter JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN DELAWARE].

<sup>17</sup> 31 Del.C. § 5108(b) (1995); *Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services*, STATE OF DELAWARE, <http://kids.delaware.gov/yrs/yrs.shtml> (June 6, 2017).

<sup>18</sup> *Prevention and Behavioral Health Services*, STATE OF DELAWARE, <http://kids.delaware.gov/pbhs/pbhs.shtml> (May 29, 2017); JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN DELAWARE, *supra* note 109, at 1.

<sup>19</sup> *Family Services*, STATE OF DELAWARE DEPT. OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES, <http://kids.delaware.gov/fs/fs.shtml> (June 6, 2017).

DYRS operates two secure pretrial detention facilities in Delaware. The New Castle County Detention Center (NCCDC) has 64 beds, and the Stevenson House Detention Center (Stevenson House) has 55 beds.<sup>20</sup>

Delaware made a commitment to detention reform in 2002 when the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) came to the state. At that time Delaware became a JDAI replication site with a focus on reducing the excessive placement of children and adolescents in Delaware's secure detention facilities.<sup>21</sup>

#### b. Commitment Facilities

DYRS also operates three staff-secure residential treatment facilities for youth adjudicated delinquent and ordered into secure care and treatment by the court.<sup>22</sup> The Ferris School is a hardware-secure, Level V facility that holds up to 72 adjudicated boys between the ages of 13 and 18. The average length of stay at Ferris School is six months. Ferris is intended for youth deemed to be serious or "chronic" offenders who are a risk to self or others and who require intensive rehabilitative treatment. Grace Cottage is a 14-bed, Level IV facility for girls; Snowden Cottage is a 15-bed, Level IV facility for adjudicated boys; and Mowlds Cottage is a 15-bed, Level IV transitional housing program for boys who are transitioning out of the Ferris School. Mowlds Cottage also provides for short-term commitments for youth on the aftercare program who have been committed directly by the Family Court.<sup>23</sup> The average length of stay for all programs in Mowlds Cottage is six weeks.<sup>24</sup> All facilities have an Educational Services Unit charged with providing educational programming for youth. There is no Level V facility for girls, so girls deemed to be in need of that level of care are sent to facilities in other states. Ten percent of Delaware's committed youth, both girls and boys, are sent out of state through contracts and agreements with other state facilities and agencies. This percentage includes youth adjudicated of sex offenses, as Delaware does not have any residential treatment programs for these youth.<sup>25</sup>

A 2018 report shows that DYRS served 1,600 youth, down from 5,000 youth served per year in 2012; approximately 1,008 youth are being served through community-based services, down from 3,000 in 2012; and 593 youth are placed into DYRS-operated detention or residential commitment facilities, down from 2,000 in 2012.<sup>26</sup>

Young men under 18 who are convicted and sentenced as adult offenders are incarcerated at the Youthful Criminal Offender Program (YCOP) operated by the Department of Corrections and located at the Sussex Correctional Institute – an adult facility. These youth are isolated from the general adult population until their 18th birthday due to the sight and sound restrictions that apply to children housed in adult facilities.

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<sup>20</sup> NCCDC is located in Wilmington and Stevenson House is located in Milford.

<sup>21</sup> See JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN DELAWARE, *supra* note 109, at 1. See also *Juvenile Detention Alternatives*, STATE OF DELAWARE, [http://kids.delaware.gov/yrs/yrs\\_JJ\\_Collaborative.shtml](http://kids.delaware.gov/yrs/yrs_JJ_Collaborative.shtml) (last visited May 29, 2017).

<sup>22</sup> STACY EDWARDS ET AL., STATE OF DELAWARE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL, YRS FACILITY POPULATIONS BY QUARTER FOR 2014-2016 1ST QUARTER (2016), [http://cjc.delaware.gov/sac/pdf/JuvenileJustice/YRS\\_Facility\\_Populations\\_2014-2016\\_1st\\_Quarter.pdf](http://cjc.delaware.gov/sac/pdf/JuvenileJustice/YRS_Facility_Populations_2014-2016_1st_Quarter.pdf) [hereinafter YRS FACILITY POPULATIONS BY QUARTER].

<sup>23</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN DELAWARE, *supra* note 109, at 1.

<sup>26</sup> *About the Office of Defense Services* -<https://ods.delaware.gov/office-defense-services/>

## The Office of Defense Services

The Delaware Office of Defense Services (ODS) consists of two branches, the Public Defender's Office and the Office of Conflicts Counsel. ODS provides representation to indigent adults and all children charged with an act of delinquency. While the Public Defender's Office has been in existence for over 50 years, its current structure was established in 2015.

The guiding principle of ODS is that financial means is not a barrier to obtaining zealous legal representation. Its goal is ensuring the Sixth Amendment's rights to an effective lawyer and to a fair trial are respected and realized.<sup>27</sup> Within its trial division, ODS has a unit of specially trained lawyers dedicated to representation of youth in Family Court.<sup>28</sup> In addition to providing legal representation in pending cases, ODS provides assistance in some post-disposition matters, such as expungement, as a result of recent federal grants.<sup>29</sup> ODS also participates in community outreach efforts and policy advocacy for criminal and juvenile justice improvements.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> *Our Mission* <https://ods.delaware.gov/our-mission/>

<sup>28</sup> *Our Services* <https://ods.delaware.gov/our-services/>

<sup>29</sup> *Expungements* <https://ods.delaware.gov/our-services/>

<sup>30</sup> *Our Mission* <https://ods.delaware.gov/our-mission/>

# Current Delaware Youth Demographics

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## Delaware Youth Population

Delaware experienced a decrease of 22%, shrinking from 269,770 children in 2017 to 209,703 in 2018. Of that total, 60.2% live in New Castle County while 19.9% live in Kent County, and 19.9% live in Sussex County. There has been a slight shift in juvenile population since 2010 from New Castle County to Kent and Sussex Counties.

## Gender Demographics<sup>31</sup>

The data released by the Census Bureau breaks down the juvenile population by gender. According to that data, males represent 48.4% and females represent 51.6% of juveniles under the age of 18 in the State of Delaware.

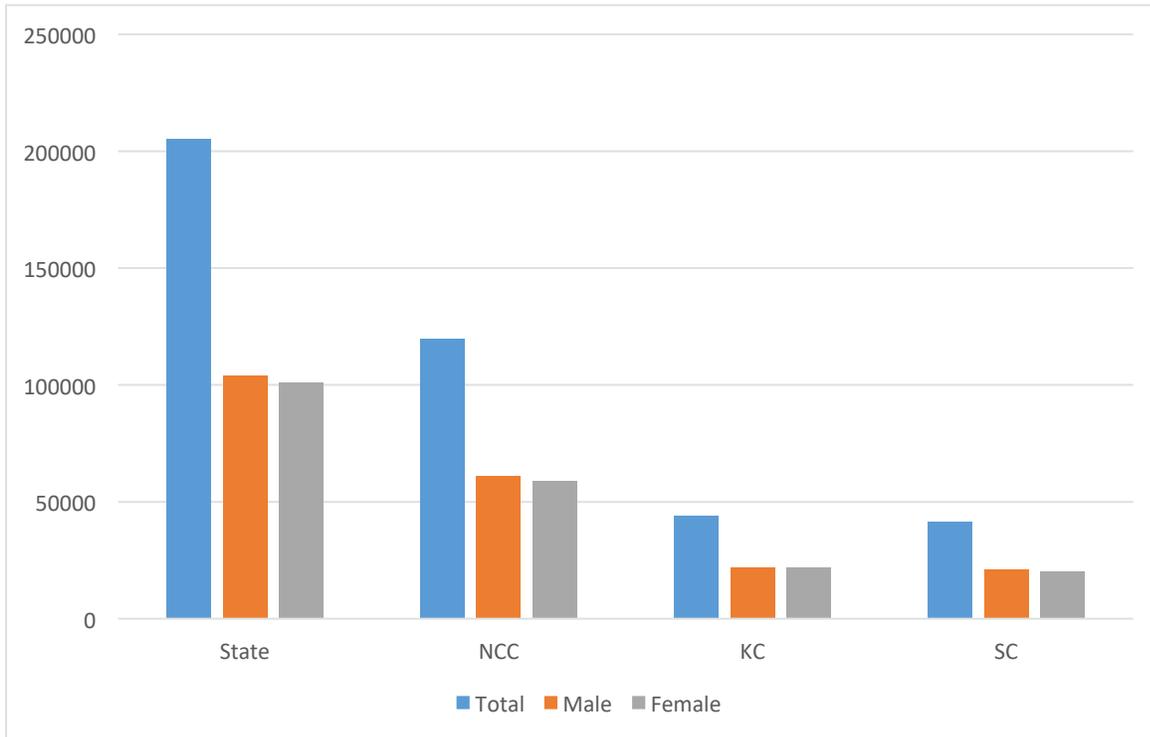
In New Castle County, 51% of the juvenile population is male, and 49% is female. In Kent County, it is 50.1% male and 49.9% female. In Sussex County, it is 50.8% male, and 49.2% female.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
NCC	64,383	61,858	126,241
KC	20,907	20,824	41,731
SC	21,199	20,532	41,731
<b>State</b>	<b>136,983</b>	<b>132,787</b>	<b>269,770</b>

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<sup>31</sup> United States Census Bureau (2016). *American Community Survey: 2016*. Washington, DC: United States Department of Commerce.

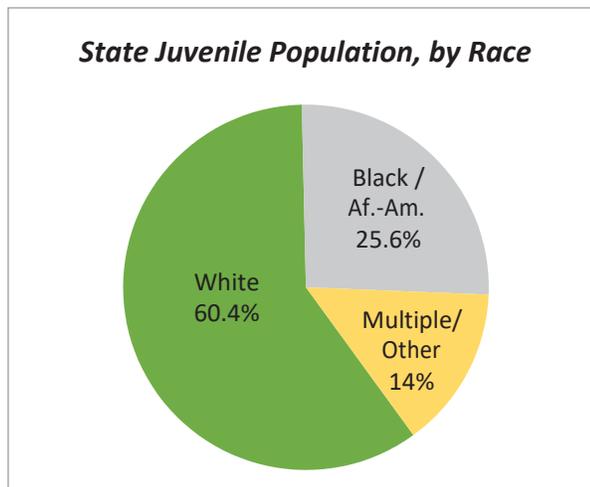
**2018 Juvenile Population, by Gender**



**Racial Demographics<sup>32</sup>**

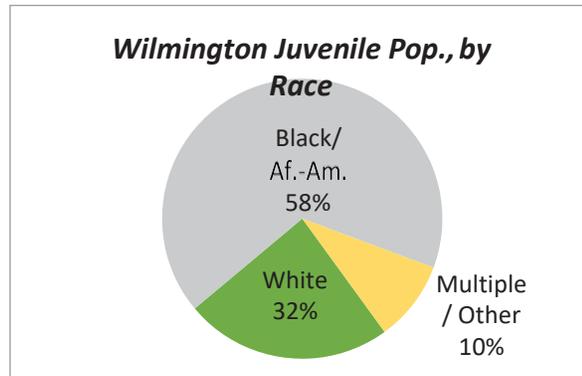
According to the US Census, the juvenile population of Delaware in 2018 was 269,770. 162,941 are White (60.4%), 69,061 African American (25.6%), and 37,768 of multiple or other races (14%).

When analyzing the racial demographics for Delaware, it is important to note that the juvenile Hispanic population grew from 5,687 in 1990 to an estimate of more than 29,915 in 2018. The Census Bureau does not list Hispanics as a distinct racial category, thus they are included in each category. Hispanics are usually included in the white category totals.

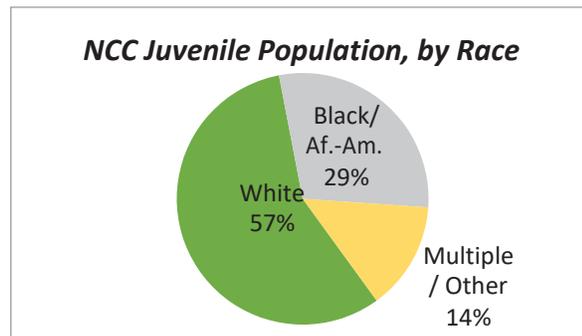


<sup>32</sup> United States Census Bureau (2016)

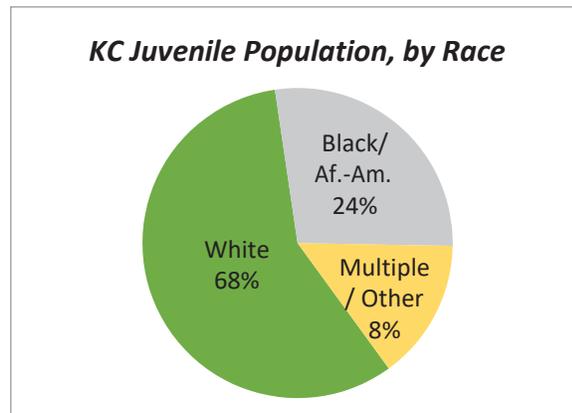
The total population of the City of Wilmington is 70,851. Currently, Wilmington is the largest city in the State of Delaware and represents 7.9% of the State's total population of 897,934. About 24.0% of the residents are children under the age of eighteen. Of Wilmington's juvenile population, 66.8% are African American, while 23.9% are White, and 9.3% are of multiple or other races.



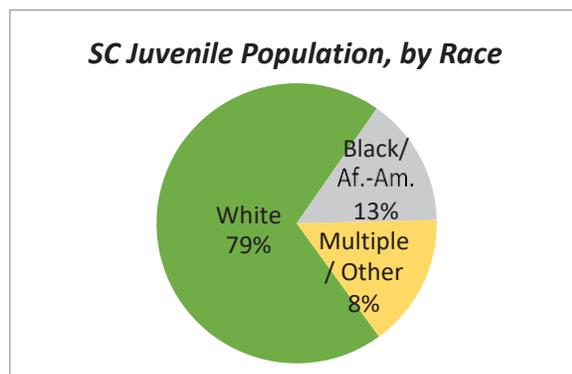
New Castle County includes the City of Wilmington and is the largest county in Delaware in terms of population. As of 2018, it represents 60% of the total state population, and the 162,001 juveniles represent 60.2% of all juveniles statewide. The racial breakdown is 65.5% White, 24% African American, and 13.9% are multiple or other races.



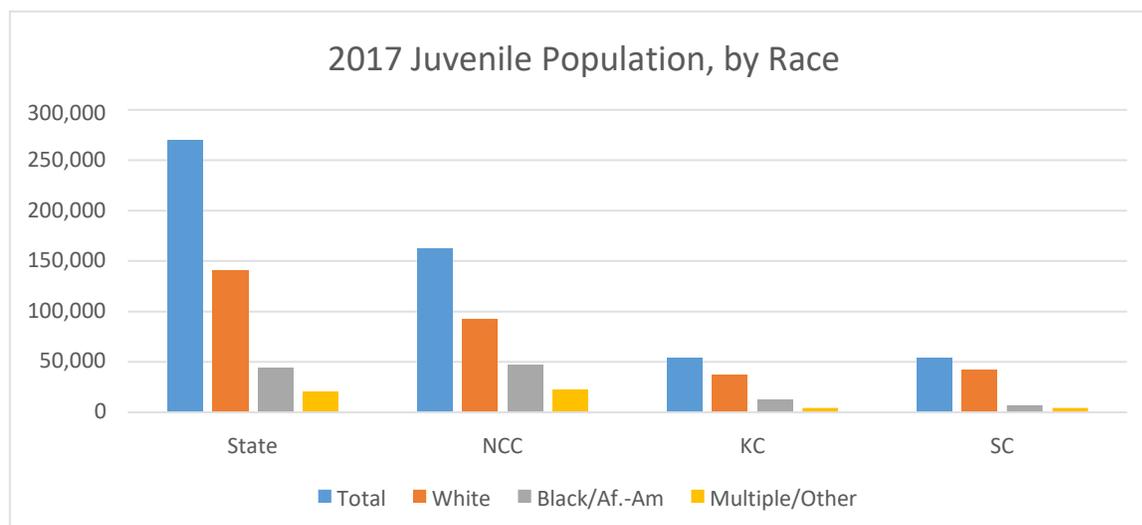
Kent County is located in the center of the state and in terms of population, is the smallest county in Delaware. The juvenile population of Kent County in 2018 was 53,885, representing 20% of the population under 18 for the entire State of Delaware. The racial breakdown for juveniles in Kent County indicates that 68% are White, 24% are African American, and 8% represent multiple or other races.



Sussex County is the southernmost county in the State of Delaware and includes both rural communities and resort towns. The juvenile population for 2018 was approximately 53,884, which represents 20% of all juveniles in the state. The racial breakdown indicates that 79% of Sussex juveniles are White, 13% are African American, and 8% represent all other races.



2017 Juvenile Population, by Race				
	WHITE	BLACK / A-A	MULTIPLE / OTHER	TOTAL
NCC	92,340	46,980	22,681	162,001
KC	36,641	12,932	4,312	53,885
SC	42,568	7,004	4,312	53,884
<b>State</b>	<b>140,160</b>	<b>44,082</b>	<b>19,912</b>	<b>269,770</b>
<i>Wilmington</i>	<i>7,092</i>	<i>12,854</i>	<i>2,216</i>	<i>22,162</i>



## Analysis of Delaware Juvenile Crime

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The number of juveniles arrested in Delaware in 2017 totaled 3,038, a 29% decrease from the 2014 total of 4,303 arrests. It continues a downward trend since 2012. In 2017, the state had an arrest rate of 14.8 arrests per 1,000 juveniles.

<i>Total Juvenile Arrests, 2012 to 2017</i>						
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Juvenile Arrests	4,616	4,233	4,303	3,751	3,351	3,038

The number of juveniles arrested in New Castle County in 2017 totaled 1,774, a decrease (26%) from the 2014 total of 2,391 arrests. It is a continuous decrease of 32% from the 2012 total of 4,616 arrests. In 2014, the county had an arrest rate of 14.3 arrests per 1,000 juveniles.

The number of juveniles arrested in Kent County in 2017 totaled 683, a 29% decrease from the 2014 total of 973 arrests. The 2017 total also represents a decrease of 35% from the 2012 total of 1,058 arrests. In 2017, the county had an arrest rate of 16.8 arrests per 1,000 juveniles, the highest juvenile arrest rate in the state.

The number of juvenile arrests in Sussex County in 2017 totaled 568, a 40% decrease from the 2014 total of 939 arrests. It is also a decrease of 38% from the 2012 total of 913 arrests. In 2017, the state had an arrest rate of 14.1 arrests per 1,000 juveniles, the lowest in the state.

<i>Juvenile Arrests by County, 2012 to 2017</i>						
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
NCC	2,645	2,360	2,391	2,134	1,944	1,774
KC	1,058	990	973	830	783	683
SC	913	883	939	736	600	568
<b>State</b>	<b>4,616</b>	<b>4,233</b>	<b>4,303</b>	<b>3,751</b>	<b>3,351</b>	<b>3,025</b>

## Part I Juvenile Crime

Over the past five years, the annual average of juvenile arrests for all Part I crimes is 920. The number of juvenile arrests for Part I crime fluctuated from 2012 to 2015, then decreased by 8% from 2016 to 2017.

The percentage of juvenile Part I arrests that are classified as violent increased for 3 years in a row from 2013 to 2015 before decreasing 23% between 2016 and 2017. In 2013, 20% of juvenile arrests for Part I crimes were violent. In 2017, it was 38%.

Juvenile arrests for Part I violent crimes increased 3 years in a row from 2013 to 2015 before decreasing 7% from 2015 to 2016. There were 242 juvenile arrests for Part I violent crimes in 2013, and there were 256 in 2017, an increase of 6%. Meanwhile, there were 955 juvenile arrests for Part I property crimes in 2013, and 671 in 2017, a decrease of 30%.

<i>Juvenile Arrests for Part I Offenses, 2012 to 2017</i>						
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Violent	254	242	267	359	334	256
Property	1,198	955	1,011	766	664	671
<b>Total Part I</b>	<b>1,452</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>927</b>

## Part I Violent Crime

Juvenile arrests for Part I violent crimes rose from 2013-2015 before falling in 2016. Part I arrests for violent offenses decreased 23% from 2016-2017. Also, while juvenile arrests for forcible rape increased, arrests for homicide, robbery and assaults have decreased.

However, from 2013 to 2017, all Part I arrests for violent crime have fluctuated annually with the exception of forcible rape which has steadily increased since 2014. Robbery and aggravated assault comprise the overwhelming majority of juvenile arrests for Part I violent crimes. In 2017, there were 95 juvenile arrests for robbery and 129 for aggravated assault. By contrast, there were 30 arrests for forcible rape and 2 arrests for homicide.

<i>Juvenile Arrests for Part I Violent Crimes, 2012 to 2017</i>						
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Homicide	2	1	4	3	9	2

Forcible Rape	7	11	10	18	28	30
Robbery	128	120	155	121	134	95
Aggravated Assault	117	110	98	217	163	129
<b>Total Part I Violent</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>256</b>

The table below breaks down the 2017 juvenile Part I violent crime arrests by county. Overall, 59.7% (compared with 70.2% in 2013) of Delaware's juvenile Part I violent crime arrests were in New Castle County. Kent County contributed 23.4% (compared with 17.4% in 2013) to the arrests and Sussex County contributed 16.4% (compared with 17.6% in 2013).

<i>Juvenile Arrests for Part I Violent Crimes, By County, 2017</i>					
	NCC	KC	SC	UNKNOWN	STATE TOTAL
Homicide	2	0	0	0	2
Forcible Rape	9	11	10	0	30
Robbery	70	14	10	1	95
Aggravated Assault	72	35	22	0	129
<b>Total Part I Violent</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>256</b>

The next two tables break out statewide juvenile arrest for Part I violent crimes by gender, from 2012 to 2017. Males accounted for the vast majority of the arrests. In 2017, males accounted for 82.9% of all juvenile arrests for Part I violent crimes. This includes 100% of homicide arrests, 97.0% of forcible rape arrests, 85% of robbery arrests, and 76% of aggravated assault arrests.

<i>MALE Juvenile Arrests for Part I Violent Crimes, 2012 to 2017</i>						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Homicide	2	1	4	3	8	2
Forcible Rape	7	10	9	17	28	29
Robbery	113	102	141	113	119	81
Aggravated Assault	86	86	73	165	122	98
<b>Total Part I Violent</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>210</b>

<i>FEMALE Juvenile Arrests for Part I Violent Crimes, 2012 to 2017</i>						
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Homicide	0	0	0	0	1	0
Forcible Rape	0	1	1	1	0	1
Robbery	15	18	14	8	15	14
Aggravated Assault	31	24	25	52	41	31
<b>Total Part I Violent</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>46</b>

### **Part I Property Crime**

The table below illustrates juvenile arrests for Part I Property Crime over the past 6 years. The arrest counts decreased in 2013, 2015, and 2016. However, the arrest rate increased from 955 arrests in 2013 to 1,011 arrests in 2014, a rise of 5.9%, and a rise of 1% between 2016 (664) and 2017 (671).

However, over the entire 6-year timeframe, from 2012 to 2017, the arrest rate decreased by 44%. Burglary arrests decreased by 29%, Larceny Theft arrests decreased by 52%, Vehicle Theft arrests decreased by 12%, and Arson arrests decreased by 19%, but 2016 to 2017, Burglary arrests increased by 18% and Vehicle Theft arrests decreased by 31.0%. Larceny Theft arrests decreased by 1%, and Arson arrests increased by 62.5%.

<i>Juvenile Arrests for Part I Property Crimes, 2012 to 2017</i>						
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Burglary	262	164	218	198	157	186
Larceny Theft	853	742	721	497	417	413
Vehicle Theft	67	40	64	55	85	59
Arson	16	9	8	16	5	13
<b>Total Part I Property</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>671</b>

<i>MALE Juvenile Arrests for Part I Property Crimes, 2012 to 2017</i>						
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Burglary	216	151	196	177	147	170
Larceny Theft	507	409	407	304	279	282
Vehicle Theft	50	30	52	46	69	52
Arson	16	7	7	14	5	13
<b>Total Part I Property</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>517</b>

<i>FEMALE Juvenile Arrests for Part I Property Crimes, 2012 to 2017</i>						
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Burglary	46	13	22	21	10	16
Larceny Theft	346	333	314	193	138	131
Vehicle Theft	17	10	12	9	16	7
Arson	0	2	1	2	0	0
<b>Total Part I Property</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>154</b>

## Part II Juvenile Crime<sup>33</sup>

Part II crimes represent the largest portion of juvenile arrests. The data in the table below reflects juvenile arrests for some of the more serious Part II juvenile crimes for the years 2012 to 2017.

From 2012 to 2017, the juvenile arrests fluctuated among all of the listed Part II offenses. Arrests for Other Assaults decreased by 41%, arrests for Other Sexual Offenses decreased by 48%, Weapon Law Violation arrests increased by 47%, arrests for Drug Offenses decreased by 45%, Driving Under the Influence arrests decreased by 85%, and Criminal Mischief arrests decreased by 8% despite a 53% spike between 2014 and 2015.

<sup>33</sup> The Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS).

However, in the past year, from 2016 to 2017, there was an increase in juvenile arrests for Other Sexual Offenses (up by 55%) and Weapon Law Violations (up by 49.1%).

<i>Juvenile Arrests for Selected Part II Offenses, 2012 to 2017</i>						
	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Other Assaults	1,183	1,143	1,107	887	806	693
Other Sexual Offenses	60	56	57	27	20	31
Weapon Law Violations	94	108	161	142	154	138
Drugs Offenses	520	520	512	376	294	285
Driving Under Influence	27	17	17	8	20	4
Criminal Mischief	156	161	131	201	167	143

## The State Advisory Group

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The JJAG is Delaware's State Advisory Group. Pursuant to the JJDP Act [34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(3)] states receiving Title II Formula Grant funds must provide an advisory group that-

*(A) shall consist of not less than 15 and not more than 33 members appointed by the chief executive officer of the State—*

*(i) which members have training, experience, or special knowledge concerning the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency, the administration of juvenile justice, or the reduction of juvenile delinquency;*

*(ii) which members include—*

*(I) at least 1 locally elected official representing general purpose local government;*

*(II) representatives of law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies, including juvenile and family court judges, prosecutors, counsel for children and youth, and probation workers;*

*(III) representatives of public agencies concerned with delinquency prevention or treatment, such as welfare, social services, mental health, education, special education, recreation, and youth services;*

*(IV) representatives of private nonprofit organizations, including persons with a special focus on preserving and strengthening families, parent groups and parent self-help groups, youth development, delinquency prevention and treatment, neglected or dependent children, the quality of juvenile justice, education, and social services for children;*

*(V) volunteers who work with delinquents or potential delinquents;*

*(VI) youth workers involved with programs that are alternatives to incarceration, including programs providing organized recreation activities;*

*(VII) persons with special experience and competence in addressing problems related to school violence and vandalism and alternatives to suspension and expulsion; and*

*(VIII) persons with special experience and competence in addressing problems related to learning disabilities, emotional difficulties, child abuse and neglect, and youth violence;*

*(iii) a majority of which members (including the chairperson) shall not be full-time employees of the Federal, State, or local government;*

*(iv) at least one-fifth of which members shall be under the age of 24 at the time of appointment; and*

*(v) at least 3 members who have been or are currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system;*

Name	Represents	Full-Time Government	Youth
Hon. Michael K. Newell	Family Court Chief Judge	X	
Hon. Kathy Jennings	Delaware Dept. of Justice	X	
Hon. Brendan O'Neill	Office of Defense Services	X	
Hon. David Jones	Family Court Commissioner	X	
Hon. Josette Manning	Secretary, DSCYF	X	
Sec. Susan Bunting	Secretary, Dept. of Education	X	
Dir. John Stevenson	Director, DYRS	X	
Trenee Parker	Director, DFS	X	
Robert Dunleavy	Director, PBH	X	
Com. Perry Phelps	Delaware Dept. of Correction	X	
Hon. Robert Coupe	Dept. of Homeland Security	X	
Chief Robert Tracy	Wilmington PD	X	
Chief Marvin C. Mailey	Dover PD	X	
Chief R.L. Hughes	Georgetown PD	X	
Michael W. Arrington, Esq.	Chair		
Melissa L. Dill, Esq.			
Joe Garcia			
Alexander Grier			
James Kane			
Gwendolyn Scott-Jones			
Corie Priest			
Shamia Turlington			
Julisa Quixchan			X
Angelis Olivo			X
Jane Lyons			X
Reginald Daniel			X
Amanda Huff			X
Morgan Smith			X
Alim Harmon			X

***Federal Funding Fiscal Year: 2010-2018***

Federal Fiscal Year	Amount	Percentage Change per year
2010	\$480,000	NA
2011	\$600,000	(-) 5%
2012	\$400,000	(+) 3%
2013	\$403,957	(-) 15%
2014	\$482,758	(-) 25%
2015	\$630,448	(-) 44%
2016	\$3,704,816	(-) 23%
2017	\$2,714,419	(+) 2%
2018	\$2,717,298	(-) 3%
<b>Title II: Formula Grants</b>		
2010	\$480,000	NA
2011	\$600,000	(+) 25%
2012	\$400,000	(-) 33%
2013	\$403,957	(+) 1%
2014	\$393,667	(-) 2.5%
2015	\$393,667	NA
2016	\$393,873	(+) .05%
2017	\$400,463	(+) 1.67%
2018	\$403,341	(+) .71%
<b>Children's Justice Act</b>		
2014	\$89,091	NA
2015	\$88,789	(+) .79%
2016	\$88,978	(+) .21%
2017	\$88,956	(-) .02%
2018	\$88,957	(+) .02
<b>Juvenile Justice Smart Grants</b>		
2015	\$147,983	NA
2016	\$996,965	(+) 574%
<b>Second Chance Act Grant</b>		
2016	\$833,736	NA
<b>DSCYF/DPBH KD Grants</b>		
2016	\$2,225,000	NA
2017	\$2,225,000	NA
2018	\$2,225,000	NA %

Title II Grantee/Address	Name/Phone #e-mail	Description	Grant Amount	Outcomes January, 2009
Child, Inc.	Michele Ostafy 302-762-8989 <a href="mailto:athornton@ymcade.org">athornton@ymcade.org</a>	Teen Dating Violence Prevention	\$70,939	A two-fold teen dating violence prevention program to include school and community-based workshops for middle and high school students as well as psycho-educational programming facilitated by a clinician for teens exhibiting dating violence tendencies.
YMCA Delaware, Inc.	Antonio Bernard 302- 257-5854 <a href="mailto:athornton@ymcade.org">athornton@ymcade.org</a>	Bear-Glasgow Family YMCA Teen Leadership	\$66,197	Engage 60 teens utilizing evidence based and evidence informed programming at the Bear-Glasgow Family YMCA. Programs include SPORT (evidence based), Teen Leaders, Teen Nights and Summer Camp focusing on substance use and crime prevention through character development, workforce skills, and healthy lifestyles.
Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.	Fred Fog 973-454-3385 <a href="mailto:ffogg@vapinc.org">ffogg@vapinc.org</a>	YAP Delinquency Prevention Program	\$132,864	Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) proposes to provide delinquency prevention programming to youth, ages 7 to 10, who are at risk of future juvenile justice involvement. YAP's approach is to provide early intervention strategies to include wraparound advocacy, education enrichment programming and evidence based PATTs.

## Preliminary Recommendations

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group offers the following recommendations to shape the focus of planning activities and where applicable dedicate resources to positively impact the fair and equitable administration of juvenile justice throughout the state:

1. The JJAG is monitoring juvenile justice reform legislation that is currently pending in the Delaware General Assembly. There are several bills at the General Assembly which are collectively referenced as the “Juvenile Justice Reform Package” during this legislative session. The collection of bills individually and collectively represent an opportunity to provide a better juvenile justice system throughout the state. As a committee, we intend to support all legislation aimed at increasing identity security of youth that have not been adjudicated delinquent of a crime; establishes a minimum age for prosecution; extends the post-disposition jurisdiction of DSCYF for youth found delinquent of a crime; establishes that the age of offense and not the age of arrest determines the jurisdiction for a person facing charges; and making underage possession/consumption of alcohol or marijuana a civil violation.
2. The JJAG supports an evaluation of the Juvenile Civil Citation Program. The Juvenile Civil Citation Program is a statewide civil alternative to the formal arrest and criminal prosecution of youth under 18 who commit certain low-level misdemeanor offenses. Its primary purpose is to prevent further delinquency, and appropriately address participating youth offenses without creating a criminal record or court intervention. The program offers law enforcement the option of issuing the youth a civil citation in lieu of arrest. During the program period, participating youth are required to contact pre-assigned community providers to complete an assessment to identify their risk and needs. They also must complete five (5) hours of community service, a community impact statement, and work towards reducing potential future contact with the juvenile justice system. An evaluation of the recently codified program could reveal the strengths of the program, its effectiveness towards the stated goals, and provide a blueprint for how best to support the program which, at present, represents only the second program of its kind and reach nationwide. This program was previously supported with federal Title II funds, thus the federal government is likely to want a program study to aid other locations in the implementation of a similar project.
3. The JJAG recommends an investment in prevention-based services for youth. As such, through the work of the Committee and through subcommittee work, membership will work to identify areas of need and under-served populations that could benefit from an infusion of prevention-based programming to meet a need in reducing juvenile interaction with the criminal justice system. When appropriate and available, the JJAG recommends the commitment of financial resources to meet the need of the community.
4. The JJAG recommends studying available data on school drop-out rates, incidents of youth violence, and poverty to determine areas of need, type, and targeted resources in an attempt to combat juvenile delinquency and the promotion of healthy communities statewide.
5. National studies reveal mentoring programs have mixed results as it relates to effectiveness, but mentoring programs resonate with some individuals. Many adults that function successfully after interaction with the juvenile justice system frequently identify the role and involvement of a mentor in their success. The JJAG recommends looking at the potential of mentoring programs as a targeted resource for specific youth throughout the state.
6. Juvenile bail continues to be an area of focus for the JJAG which established a juvenile bail subcommittee specifically to analyze and present recommendations to improve pre-trial outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. In 2018 the Juvenile Bail Subcommittee identified a need for the enhancement of the existing tool, or the development of a brand new pre-trial Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI). The JJAG recommends the commitment of state or federal resources to develop a new RAI prior to the conclusion of the 2019 calendar year.

7. Consistent with the adult justice system, re-entry services and coordination are essential to aiding the successful return to the community for juveniles exiting secure detention in our state. The JJAG will continue to seek ways to improve community-based support services for youth prior to exiting Delaware facilities, and once they are in the home setting to maximize the youth's potential for success after secure detention. The JJAG recommends the further analysis of existing re-entry services for youth within the Department of Services for Children Youth and their Families (DSCYF), and the Department of Corrections (DOC) and committing state and federal resources where applicable and available to meet the needs of the DSCYF.
8. Recent data collected by DYRS revealed issues within the family unit as constant factor identified by the youth across all ethnic groups and gender for youth held in secure detention. The JJAG understands that the committee is not in a position to be a surrogate family for youth facing, or in detention, but members of the committee believe there is an opportunity to be effective in the strengthening of family units through careful study of evidence-based practices nationwide; informational campaigns detailing available services for families; and implementing programs that place an emphasis on providing services to juveniles and their families. The JJAG recommends allocating state and local resources where applicable and appropriate to fund programs aimed at strengthening family units as a means to limit youth involvement in the juvenile justice system.
9. Finally, the JJAG is very pleased with productivity of the DSCYF/DYRS staff and the gains of the juvenile justice stakeholders in implementing effective policy to reduce the annual detention census and persons receiving services from DYRS. However, these gains for the juvenile justice system may burden other areas within the juvenile continuum of services. Our members believe the juvenile justice system is inextricably tied to the fortunes of youth at risk of detention that are being served at other doors within the continuum of care. Due to this fact, the JJAG recommends state and federal resources be identified to help other areas throughout the youth continuum of care that have become increasingly stressed by the reduction of cases in the juvenile justice system.

**Delaware Criminal Justice Council**  
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