

A PIVOTAL MOMENT:

Sustaining the Success and Enhancing the Future of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

Facts and Statistics at a Glance

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA):

- Federal legislation enacted on September 7, 1974.
- Creates a federal-state partnership on juvenile justice through which U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia voluntarily adhere to standards to improve the care and custody of court-involved youth and increase innovation in delinquency prevention.
- Authorizes federal supports and resources, including the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) at the U.S. Department of Justice, and appropriations directed to the states under the JJDPA, to help them improve their juvenile justice systems, keep youth safe and increase community safety.

The Report:

- First-of-its-kind national report released by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ), the national representation organization of state advisory groups on juvenile justice chartered under the JJDPA, and developed by CJJ, the Justice Policy Institute and JJDPA state staff.
- Based on confidential survey responses received from JJDPA state staff in as many as 53 distinct U.S. states and territories providing their assessment of state successes and state challenges with JJDPA compliance.
- Includes 20 recommendations to the President, Congress, OJJDP, the JJDPA State Advisory Groups (SAGs) and to CJJ itself to sustain the success and enhance the future of the JJDPA.

Principal Findings of the Report:

- States remain committed to goals and purposes of the JJDPA.
- Despite federal budget cutbacks, the President, OJJDP and Congress continue to provide bipartisan leadership and resources to support the mandates of the JJDPA.
- States embrace OJJDP as a critical partner to provide training, technical assistance, research and evaluation in support of JJDPA compliance and best practices around juvenile justice.
- Dramatic decreases in federal JJDPA appropriations may threaten states' abilities to maintain compliance with the JJDPA, and OJJDP's ability to support states in those efforts.
- States need special assistance from OJJDP and other knowledgeable partners to better safeguard status offenders, achieve measurable reductions in DMC (Disproportionate Minority Contact) and increase compliance successes in Native American and rural/frontier communities.
- The JJDPA is at a pivotal moment, and renewed commitments from the President, Congress and other JJDPA stakeholders are critical to sustaining the success and enhancing the future of the JJDPA.

To obtain a copy of the full Report please contact CJJ at 202-467-0864, ext. 0 or info@juvjustice.org