This report covers activities undertaken by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention during fiscal year 2011 (October 1, 2010–September 30, 2011)
To the President, the Attorney General, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairmen of the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and Members of Congress

It is my honor to transmit the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s (OJJDP’s) annual report for fiscal year 2011. This report includes information pursuant to:


- Missing Children Program—JJDP Act of 1974, as amended; Public Law 93–415, section 404(a)(5) [42 U.S.C. 5773(a)(5)].

- Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program—Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968; Public Law 90–351, section 1808(b) [42 U.S.C. 3796ee–8(b)].

- Title V Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs—JJDP Act of 1974, as amended; Public Law 93–415, section 503(4) [42 U.S.C. 5782(4)].

- Boys & Girls Clubs in Public Housing Projects—Economic Espionage Act of 1996; Public Law 104–294, section 401(d) [42 U.S.C. 13751 note].

Respectfully submitted,

Melodee Hanes
Acting Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Washington, DC
Ensuring youth justice and safety has been a priority throughout my 30-year career in public service and law—whether it is a child who has been exposed to physical or sexual violence, a young person locked up for a minor offense like truancy, or an adolescent feeling peer pressure to join a gang. All of them deserve protection from destructive influences. And all of them deserve equitable treatment if they enter the juvenile justice system.

Research tells us that children exposed to violence are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol; suffer from depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic disorders; fail or have difficulty in school; and become delinquent and engage in criminal behavior. We also know that early intervention works in countering the effects of this violence.

To protect children from violence, prevent and intervene in delinquency, and strengthen the juvenile justice system, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) sponsored an array of programs and research in fiscal year (FY) 2011. In support of these activities, the Office awarded more than $393 million in discretionary funding and formula and block grant funding.

As a major partner in the Attorney General’s Defending Childhood Initiative, OJJDP continued its groundbreaking research and demonstration programs to address the high rates of children’s exposure to violence. Also in FY 2011, we organized the launch of the Supportive School Discipline Initiative, which aims to reform inappropriate school discipline practices that land too many of our children in the juvenile justice system needlessly. We are also continuing to work with states in our Formula Grants program to promote safe conditions for youth in confinement and reduce racial disparities. In addition, we are serving youth in Indian country, supporting mentoring programs nationwide, and helping protect young people from violence, abduction, and sexual exploitation. In these and many other areas, OJJDP collaborated closely with federal, state, local, and nonprofit partners in FY 2011.

With each step we take to make a positive difference in a child’s life, we are contributing not only to the well-being of one individual, but to the safety of communities as a whole. Serving as the voice of America’s children is important to our common welfare. Our children, and our nation, deserve nothing less.

Melodee Hanes
Acting Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
ABOUT OJJDP

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was established by Congress through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, Public Law 93-415, as amended. 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.

Mission Statement

OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and the resources to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. OJJDP supports states and communities in their efforts to develop and implement effective and coordinated prevention and intervention programs and to improve the juvenile justice system so that it protects public safety, holds offenders accountable, and provides treatment and rehabilitative services tailored to the needs of juveniles and their families.

Organization

OJJDP is composed of the Office of the Administrator, three program divisions (Child Protection, Demonstration Programs, and State Relations and Assistance), the Office of Policy Development (including the Communications Unit), and the Grants Management Unit. Appendix C summarizes each component’s role.
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Since its founding nearly 40 years ago, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has provided national leadership to federal, state, tribal, and local efforts to prevent delinquency, strengthen the juvenile justice system, and protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation.

OJJDP is the only federal agency with a specific mission to develop and disseminate knowledge about “what works” in addressing the needs of youth who are at risk or who are involved in the juvenile justice system. Drawing on that knowledge, OJJDP is working with communities across the country to replicate proven, evidence-based programs through training and technical assistance, publications, and online resources, including Webinars and the Model Programs Guide, OJJDP’s online database of evidence-based programs. OJJDP remains steadfastly committed to supporting programs that have the greatest potential for addressing juvenile delinquency, reducing the incidence of child victimization, and improving the juvenile justice system. This is not only the right
thing to do by America’s children. It makes sound economic sense and ensures the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

In addition, as the only agency at the federal level focused on youth delinquency and victimization, OJJDP is uniquely positioned to lead a national conversation about critical issues affecting youth justice and safety, raise public awareness, and influence policies and practices in the field.

In fiscal year (FY) 2011, as part of the Attorney General’s Defending Childhood Initiative, the Office prepared to launch a series of public hearings across the country on children’s exposure to violence. OJJDP’s National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence is the most comprehensive and detailed study ever conducted at the national level on this topic; the ongoing study continues to inform the initiative’s work.

The Office also was a guiding force behind the launch of a joint effort between the U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Education—the Supportive School Discipline Initiative—to address the excessive and counterproductive use of suspension, expulsion, and in-school arrests to discipline students.
SHARING WHAT WORKS: MODEL PROGRAMS GUIDE

OJJDP’s Model Programs Guide (MPG) is an online portal that contains information on more than 200 scientifically tested delinquency prevention and intervention programs. Juvenile justice practitioners, administrators, and researchers can search the database by program category to target population, risk and protective factors, effectiveness rating, and other characteristics. The MPG covers the entire continuum of youth services, from prevention through sanctions to reentry. In FY 2011, 15 new programs were added to the MPG and its associated best practices databases on the deinstitutionalization of status offenders and the reduction of disproportionate minority contact.

In support of its mission, in FY 2011 OJJDP awarded more than $393 million in grants, including more than $287 million in discretionary funding and more than $106 million in formula and block grant funding (see appendix A for a detailed breakdown).

Included in those awards was $108 million for mentoring programs, which have been shown to help youth gain confidence, improve academic performance, and avoid risky behaviors. The Office also distributed about $30 million under its Internet Crimes Against Children task force program to support law enforcement operations, training and technical assistance, and research. In addition, OJJDP awarded almost $17 million in block grants to enforce state and local underage drinking laws nationwide.

As with many federal agencies, OJJDP recently experienced dramatic cuts in congressional appropriations—about a 35-percent reduction in appropriations for juvenile justice programs in the past fiscal year alone. In the face of these constraints, OJJDP is working hard to leverage resources by forming partnerships with other federal agencies and with the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. OJJDP is partnering with agencies across all levels of government and reaching out to a range of organizations that share our mission to help children and their families. These partnerships allow for critical information sharing across disciplines, more effective problem solving, and the efficient use of resources.
Reforming School Discipline Practices

In July 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the creation of the Supportive School Discipline Initiative, a collaboration between the two agencies to target the school disciplinary policies and in-school arrests that push youth out of school and into the justice system, also known as the school-to-prison pipeline.

The announcement came 2 days after the Council of State Governments’ Justice Center released findings of a study on how school disciplinary practices impact students’ academic success and involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The researchers found that when a student was suspended or expelled, his or her likelihood of being involved in the juvenile justice system the subsequent year increased significantly. The study also determined that only 3 percent of the disciplinary actions taken by schools were for conduct for which state law mandates suspensions and expulsions; the vast majority of disciplinary actions were made at the discretion of school officials, primarily in response to violations of local schools’ conduct codes.

Within a month of launching the initiative, the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education (ED) had organized a workgroup led by OJJDP and ED staff. More than 30 federal staff are currently participating in the following activities to promote more positive school discipline practices:

- Developing a national consensus on policies and best practices.
- Coordinating research and data collection.
- Issuing guidance documents for states and localities.
- Developing training and resources.

“OJJDP does research to support best practices, and one of the things we’ve learned is that the minute a youth sets foot in detention or confinement, their prospects for success and having a job decrease dramatically and the likelihood that they will end up in the adult criminal system increases exponentially,” said OJJDP Acting Administrator Melodee Hanes. “That’s why the Supportive School Discipline Initiative is one of our top priorities.”

“Ensuring that our educational system is a doorway to opportunity—and not a point of entry to our criminal justice system—is a critical, and achievable, goal.”

—Attorney General Eric Holder
The Defending Childhood Initiative, for example, marshals resources from across DOJ and the federal government. The National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention brings together people from diverse professions and perspectives in six U.S. cities to learn from each other about the crisis of youth and gang violence and to build comprehensive solutions on the local and national levels. The Supportive School Discipline Initiative has drawn support from Atlantic Philanthropies and the California Endowment. In FY 2011, OJJDP also continued to work with the Annie E. Casey Foundation on expanding efforts to reform the juvenile justice system through alternatives to detention.

Such collaboration reaps benefits beyond the addition of fiscal resources. A partnership with Casey Family Programs in FY 2011 enriched OJJDP’s work by elevating family engagement—the involvement of families of incarcerated youth in the case planning, care, and reentry services for youth—to a top priority for the Office. In FY 2011, OJJDP convened a series of listening sessions with families of currently or previously incarcerated youth to better understand the challenges these families face, and to begin developing policy and practice recommendations to address their issues. Family perspectives have now been incorporated into numerous DOJ initiatives, including Defending Childhood and the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention.

Decades of experience in the juvenile justice field have shown that programs work best when they address the unique cultural, gender, and ethnic characteristics of the children, families, and communities they serve.

OJJDP’s Tribal Juvenile Detention and Reentry Green Demonstration Program anchors its programs in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) agricultural traditions—including organic farming and beekeeping—to promote pride in tribal history as a means of healing and recovery. OJJDP’s FY 2011 mentoring initiatives include programs specifically tailored to the needs of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, youth with disabilities, and AI/AN youth. In addition, OJJDP’s National Girls Institute serves as a training and technical assistance center for gender-specific programming. In FY 2011, the institute held 64 listening sessions across the country with girls, their parents or caretakers, and local professionals in a range of areas, including health, education, delinquency prevention, and the courts. Recommendations from these sessions are informing all of the institute’s activities, including the development of a Web site that will offer tools, information, and resources not only for service providers, but also for girls and their families.

These are just a few examples of the ways in which the Office is carefully addressing and responding
OJJDP HOLDS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT LISTENING SESSIONS

During the spring and summer of 2011, OJJDP hosted a series of Family Engagement Listening Sessions across the country, enabling OJJDP, state juvenile justice agencies, and other stakeholders to hear firsthand what families face when their child becomes involved in the juvenile or criminal justice system.

Families spoke of the frustrating circumstances leading up to their child’s involvement with the juvenile justice system. They shared their mostly unsuccessful attempts to address mounting behavior challenges and to obtain mental health services and educational responses to their child’s learning or other school-related needs. Many families had high hopes that the encounter with the juvenile justice system would be the beginning of helpful services for their child and for the family. Very few families found this to be the case once their child was incarcerated.

Instead, families faced a plethora of difficult, stressful, and, in some tragic cases, fatal challenges. Most spoke of having little or no information about their rights, their child’s rights, or the legal process at the beginning of or throughout the case. Several noted the lack of attention to their child’s medical, mental health, and educational needs. Few families received support or services for themselves while their child was incarcerated, and visiting requirements were often onerous. More than one family experienced the suicide of their child while in the system, while another family’s son died shortly after release.

Some families spoke of supportive programs their child participated in while in a juvenile justice detention facility, including learning how to manage emotions and anger, obtaining a high school diploma, or receiving college credits.

OJJDP is working on a report that compiles the families’ experiences and policy recommendations. The report will help OJJDP develop strategies to assist state juvenile justice systems in increasing positive experiences and outcomes for youth and families.
to the diverse needs of the juvenile justice field.

As described throughout this report, in FY 2011 the Office made great strides in its mission to improve youth justice and safety—by preventing and intervening in delinquency (chapter 2), strengthening the justice system (chapter 3), protecting children (chapter 4), and sharing information about the latest developments and research findings with the juvenile justice field (chapter 5). Although challenges lie ahead, the activities described on the following pages illustrate OJJDP’s commitment to working vigorously with all of its partners to build a better future for America’s children, their families, and their communities.
CONCENTRATING FEDERAL EFFORTS

As part of the Concentration of Federal Efforts Program, OJJDP administers the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ). These groups advance collaboration between agencies with responsibilities in the area of juvenile justice.

Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

The Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention brings together senior officials from the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education (ED), Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and Housing and Urban Development, along with other federal agencies, to share information and resources and to align their efforts toward the enhancement and reform of policies and practices on a range of critical issues facing at-risk children as well as youth in the justice system.

Among other FY 2011 developments, Attorney General Eric Holder, council chairperson, and Education Secretary Arne Duncan launched the Supportive School Discipline Initiative, a collaborative effort to keep children in school and out of the justice system. In addition, a federal workgroup composed of staff from OJJDP, ED, and HHS joined together to develop recommendations for integrating the voices of families more effectively into youth-serving programs.

Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice

The Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice advises the President and Congress on matters related to juvenile justice and advises the OJJDP Administrator on the work of OJJDP. A consultative body established by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended, FACJJ is composed of appointed representatives of State Advisory Groups.

During FY 2011, OJJDP worked to restructure FACJJ to facilitate deeper communication and collaboration with the leadership and staff of OJJDP, to forge stronger relationships among states and territories, and to provide more timely responses to legislative, policy, and program matters.
Research over the past four decades has yielded a wealth of information about what strategies work in preventing and intervening in youth delinquency—and which do not. For example, studies have shown that a juvenile justice response to young offenders that combines sanctions and treatment (e.g., substance abuse and mental health services, family counseling, and job skills training) has a significantly greater impact on reducing delinquency than those that do not include treatment. Using evidence-based practices not only decreases juvenile crime, it also enhances public safety while maximizing the cost-effectiveness of taxpayer dollars. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is promoting the use of evidence-based practices across all of its funded activities, including anti-gang initiatives, mentoring, youth and family drug courts, and tribal youth programs.
OJJDP is promoting the use of evidence-based practices across all of its funded activities, including anti-gang initiatives, mentoring, youth and family drug courts, and tribal youth programs.

Combating Gang Activity

Since the middle of the 20th century, gang violence in this country has become widespread. All 50 states and the District of Columbia report gang problems, and reports have increased for 5 of the past 7 years. Gang activity and its associated violence are a significant component of the U.S. crime problem.

OJJDP’s Community-Based Violence Prevention program, based on proven approaches such as the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model, the Boston Gun Project, and the Chicago CeaseFire model, aims to change community norms regarding violence, provide youth with alternatives to violence, and increase their awareness of the risks and consequences of involvement in violence. OJJDP established the program in fiscal year (FY) 2010 with sites in Denver, CO; Oakland, CA; Washington, DC; and New York, NY. In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded grants totaling $6.6 million to expand the implementation of this program to Boston, MA; Baltimore, MD; and Newark, NJ.
“In these tough budget times, it is especially important that we work together—in the community and across all levels of government—to support our young people and protect our neighborhoods.”

—Boston Mayor Thomas Menino

SIX CITIES WORK TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE

At the direction of President Obama, the U.S. Department of Justice, along with the Department of Education and other federal agencies, launched the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention in FY 2011. The forum is a network of cities and federal agencies that work together, share information, and build local capacity to prevent and reduce youth and gang violence. The first set of participating cities included Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; Memphis, TN; Salinas, CA; and San Jose, CA—with additional cities to be added in FY 2012.

After the forum’s first meeting in Washington, DC, in October 2010, the cities discussed the development of comprehensive plans to reduce violence, improve opportunities for youth, and encourage innovation at the local and federal levels. The cities presented their plans at the forum’s first annual summit, held in Washington, DC, in April 2011.

OJJDP and the Office of Justice Programs’ Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administer the Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program, a school-based curriculum taught by law enforcement officers. Developed through the collaborative efforts of experienced law enforcement officers and specialists in criminology, sociology, psychology, education, and health, G.R.E.A.T. helps young people develop life skills that will enable them to avoid gang involvement and violent behavior. In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded G.R.E.A.T. approximately $1.6 million.

In addition, OJJDP and BJA jointly sponsor the National Gang Center (NGC), a national training and technical assistance center offering proven approaches to address gang violence. NGC’s Web site provides the latest information about anti-gang programs and links to a wide range of resources that communities can use to implement community-based prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies.

Sponsored by NGC in collaboration with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the 2011 National Gang Symposium offered more than 60 workshop sessions for more than 1,000 professionals from the fields of education, law enforcement, courts/corrections, prosecution, research, and youth development. Topics included school-based gang
responses; gang prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies; gang prosecution/supervision issues; and current gang research.

Each year, OJJDP publishes the findings from NGC’s annual National Youth Gang Survey of U.S. law enforcement agencies. Released in FY 2011, Highlights of the 2009 National Youth Gang Survey reported, among other findings, that the number of jurisdictions with gang problems and the number of gangs increased more than 20 percent from 2002 to 2009, with both indicators recording a 5-percent increase in more recent years.

Through OJJDP’s 2011 Gang Field Initiated Research and Evaluation Programs, OJJDP provided approximately $2.4 million in funding to four sites across the country—the Arizona Board of Regents/Arizona State University, the Fund for the City of New York/Center for Court Innovation, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, and the RAND Corporation—to research and evaluate a range of issues, including involvement in and desistance from gang activity; the effectiveness of prevention, intervention, and reentry strategies; youth gangs in juvenile detention and correctional facilities; and how tribal communities can effectively address gang problems.

**Mentoring At-Risk Youth**

Research findings support the effectiveness of mentoring for improving outcomes across behavioral, social, emotional, and academic domains of young people’s development. Recognizing these substantial benefits, OJJDP has long supported mentoring to promote successful outcomes for at-risk youth.

In FY 2011, the Office awarded a total of $108 million to support mentoring programs. Of that total, nearly $73 million was awarded through OJJDP’s National Mentoring Programs (organizations receiving funding include Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and the National 4–H Council) and more than $21 million through the Office’s Multi-State Mentoring Initiative.

OJJDP partnered with the U.S. Department of Defense in awarding $20 million through its mentoring initiatives to nine organizations to provide mentoring for youth who have parents in the military. The mentoring grants are helping youth develop resiliency skills,
connect with other military families, acquire career training, and get involved in their communities.

Other new FY 2011 mentoring initiatives focused on child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, children with disabilities, tribal youth, and youth reentering their communities after detention.

Children may be forced into prostitution, pornography, and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation to meet their daily needs for food and shelter; they may be controlled through physical, verbal, or sexual abuse; or they may receive threats of violence against their families. They often feel isolated, afraid, and ashamed. With OJJDP funding, three organizations—Girls Educational & Mentoring Services, Inc.; the Justice Resource Institute, Inc.; and Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth—are helping communities recruit and effectively train mentors and develop a comprehensive array of support services for these victimized youth.

Compared with their nondisabled peers, youth with disabilities are more likely to experience an unintended pregnancy, drop out of school, or become involved in the juvenile justice system. Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest, Arts Tech, Be-a-Friend Program, Inc., and five other organizations are helping these young people develop self-confidence, achieve academic success, and develop social and vocational skills in close coordination with a network of community service providers.

Youth in Indian country face serious challenges, including a violent crime rate that is twice that of the general population and high rates of substance abuse and suicide. OJJDP’s awards to Big Brothers Big Sisters and the National 4–H Council are helping underserved communities engage tribal elders as mentors and offer culturally appropriate activities that reinforce tribal history, traditions, and culture.

Young people reentering the community from juvenile residential facilities often lack the support they need to change the course of their lives and avoid the destructive cycle of recidivism. Many struggle to stay in school, others lack the necessary skills to obtain meaningful employment, some may come from troubled or broken families, and many others have substance abuse and mental health problems. In FY 2011, through its Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative, OJJDP continued to fund mentoring and other support services for youth offenders to help ensure a successful transition.

Although studies have shown mentoring to be a promising intervention for youth in general, more research and evaluation are needed to highlight the specific components of mentoring programs that contribute to their success. Research indicates that
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

OJJDP continues its work with Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) to make a significant and lasting impact on the lives of children living in disadvantaged communities.

In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded more than $48 million through its National Mentoring Programs to BGCA to help local clubs launch new programs and enhance existing programs for at-risk youth. The funding enabled clubs to mentor more than 50,000 youth, more than 80 percent of whom are in programs proven to reduce substance abuse, crime, and other negative behaviors. BGCA provided mentoring funds to more than 180 Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian country and approximately 50 clubs in public housing communities. Participating clubs received support and resources to increase the number and quality of mentor-mentee matches for tribal youth. In addition, OJJDP’s FY 2011 funding supported:

- Mentoring for military-connected club members in approximately 50 clubs on military installations and 187 clubs off military installations.
- Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach programs in approximately 31 communities.
- Identification and recruitment of minority male mentors in 30 Boys & Girls Club organizations.

In 2011, OJJDP funded two research projects that are evaluating the impact of ongoing training for mentors. Other studies funded in 2011 are examining the effect of parent engagement, cross-age mentoring (high school seniors mentoring middle school youth), and advocacy-based mentoring (mentors representing a child’s concerns and
needs and influencing positive change). The goal of OJJDP’s mentoring research is to move the field toward best practices and ensure the best use of mentoring program funds.

Drug Courts: Addressing Substance Abuse in Young Offenders and Families

Juvenile drug courts combine substance abuse treatment, judicial supervision, mandatory drug testing, and sanctions and incentives to help young offenders get their lives back on track.

In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded more than $2 million to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to provide training to practitioners on best practices in juvenile drug court operations. OJJDP also aims to improve the delivery of treatment services through juvenile drug courts.

OJJDP’s support for family drug courts is designed to decrease the incidence of child abuse and neglect, intervene in family risk factors, and reduce the likelihood of negative outcomes for youth by addressing parents’ substance abuse and providing services for their children. OJJDP awarded more than $5.5 million to jurisdictions in Alabama, Illinois, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin to use best practices to implement a new family drug court or enhance an existing court.

In 2011, as OJJDP’s training and technical assistance provider to family drug courts, the Center for Children and Family Futures responded to 128 training and technical assistance requests, held an orientation for new family drug court grantees, maintained an active schedule of Webinars, and finalized a publication to assist states in developing guidelines and standards for family drug courts.

Helping Young Offenders Successfully Reenter Their Communities

In January 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder convened the inaugural meeting of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council. The council brings together 20 federal agencies to make communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization, to assist those who return from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens, and to save taxpayer dollars by lowering the costs associated with incarceration. OJJDP serves as the central resource for the council’s work in the area of juvenile reentry.
OJJDP continued to collaborate closely with BJA in FY 2011 on the implementation of the Second Chance Act (SCA) of 2007. SCA is the first legislation ever enacted authorizing federal grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, literacy classes, housing, family programming, mentoring, and other services to help reduce recidivism and offer ex-offenders a chance to lead productive lives.

OJJDP awarded funds for the planning (more than $444,000) and implementation (more than $3 million) of reentry demonstration programs in sites across the country. OJJDP also committed $5.4 million to provide mentoring for youth in critical life skills, employment preparation, and other areas necessary to ensure a successful transition back to their communities.

Reaching Out to Tribal Youth

OJJDP’s Tribal Youth Program supports efforts to prevent and control delinquency among AI/AN youth and improve tribal juvenile justice systems. In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded more than $11 million through the Tribal Youth Program to 28 tribes in 16 states.

In OJJDP’s Tribal Juvenile Detention and Reentry Green Demonstration Program, funded through a 4-year FY 2009 grant, three tribes are using agricultural and green technologies as a platform to deepen pride in traditional tribal culture, foster community service, promote academic and vocational skills, and reduce alcohol and other drug use. The program also provides tutoring and online educational opportunities as well as substance abuse and mental health counseling.

Youth have worked closely with tribal elders and experts from local universities to create community gardens. Youth are responsible for preparing the soil and nurturing and harvesting the produce, which they deliver to elderly people in need. The produce also serves as a staple in the detention centers’ kitchens, where youth learn how to prepare healthy meals incorporating traditional fruits and vegetables. Youth at the three sites have also been involved in a range of other green activities, including beekeeping, assisting in the construction of a solar power system, and launching a cleanup campaign to remove litter from tribal lands.
Tribal Youth Poised To Take Action in Indian Country

In July 2011, youth from 45 tribes across Indian country gathered in Santa Fe, NM, for the 2011 National Intertribal Youth Summit. OJJDP partnered with a range of federal agencies to organize the event, which took place at the Santa Fe Indian School.

The summit’s theme, “Youth Taking Action in Indian Country,” flowed through all activities to enhance tribal youth’s ability to influence public safety through leadership and positive community engagement. Youth developed their public speaking skills, broadened their knowledge of Native American traditions and culture, and learned about healthy lifestyle choices. The summit provided a platform for tribal youth to share their concerns with federal leaders and discuss youth-led solutions to issues in their communities.

During the week-long event, youth participated in talking circles and a town hall session, attended seminars led by subject-matter experts, and took part in a series of workshops led by traditional Native American artisans and craftsmen. They also spent a full day visiting two pueblos—San Felipe and Santa Ana—to engage in a sports/health clinic and a feast day filled with ceremonial dances and traditional food.

The summit concluded with a reflection session led by Mary Lou Leary, then-Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs. In this session, tribal youth teams shared their plans for commitment to service and leadership back home. Youth talked about developing an antidrug policy on the reservation, building a cultural center that also provides healthcare services and a safe place for youth, starting a fitness center to promote physical health, and sponsoring family days.

“I learned a lot and got a lot of new ideas to help my tribe. Seeing other Native Americans with good careers taught me that if they could do it, I could as well, which meant a lot to me.”

—Youth participant, 2011 National Intertribal Youth Summit
Ever since the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act nearly 40 years ago, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), which is mandated to carry out the Act’s provisions, has been changing the way the nation deals with troubled youth. Through its administration of the Formula Grants program and a range of other activities, OJJDP is playing a leadership role in preventing and controlling youth delinquency and improving the treatment of youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

OJJDP developed a set of performance measures that help the Office, Congress, and the juvenile justice field gauge the Office’s progress and

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1 Congress enacted the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (Pub. L. No. 93–415, 42 U.S.C. § 5601 et seq.) in 1974. This landmark legislation established OJJDP to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. On December 17, 2009, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed S. 678, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill was introduced on March 24, 2009, by Senator Patrick Leahy. H.R. 6029, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2010, was introduced by Representative Keith Ellison with cosponsor Representative Robert C. “Bobby” Scott on July 30, 2010. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor and the House Committee on the Judiciary. To obtain copies of these bills and updates on their status, go to thomas.loc.gov.
challenges. OJJDP’s performance measurement system tracks progress in accomplishing specific goals, objectives, and outcomes. Measurements include not only the number of juveniles served, hours of service provided, and staff trained, but improvements in youth’s academic performance, prosocial behavior, and reoffense rates. Performance measures enable the Office to accurately assess the effectiveness of its programs and maximize the return on tax dollars.

**Formula Grants Program**

The JJDP Act authorizes OJJDP to award formula grants to support state and local efforts in planning, operating, and evaluating projects that seek to prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system or intervene with first-time and nonserious offenders to provide services that maximize their chances of leading productive, successful lives. The program also provides funds to enhance the effectiveness of the juvenile justice
system. To receive funding, states must commit to achieving and maintaining compliance with the four core requirements of the Act.

The requirements help ensure that youth are not inappropriately incarcerated for minor offenses, that youth are kept safe and healthy in juvenile justice residential facilities, and that racial and ethnic bias do not unfairly target minority youth. These mandates require states to:

- Deinstitutionalize status offenders.
- Separate juveniles from adults in secure facilities.
- Remove juveniles from adult jails and lockups.
- Reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC) within the juvenile justice system.

OJJDP has had a successful track record in meeting these requirements. Since the JJDPA was first enacted in 1974, the detention of status offenders has decreased 97 percent, instances of youth held with adults have decreased 98 percent, and instances of youth held in adult jails and lockups have decreased 97 percent. In fiscal year (FY) 2011, all states in OJJDP’s Formula Grants program complied with the requirements for reducing racial and ethnic disparities.

OJJDP awarded more than $50 million in formula grant funds to designated state agencies in FY 2011. In addition, OJJDP made site visits, provided technical assistance, and sponsored numerous training conferences to assist states in preventing youth delinquency and implementing the four core requirements of the JJDPA.

OJJDP’s National Training and Technical Assistance Center provided 61 training and technical assistance events to 2,666 participants in 28 states under the Formula Grants program during FY 2011. The topic areas most commonly addressed were DMC, monitoring compliance with the JJDPA, juvenile justice system improvement, strategic community action planning, and delinquency prevention.

**Measuring Performance**

In 2011, states participating in the Formula Grant program reported data for a total of 1,317 grant awards, including 1,261 subgrants across 933 separate organizations. This represents more than $77 million in funded activities. Funds were allocated to activities across many program areas, with the largest proportion going to disproportionate minority contact (16 percent), delinquency prevention (13 percent), and compliance monitoring (13 percent). Formula grant programs served 257,971
STATE COMPLIANCE WITH JJDP ACT CORE REQUIREMENTS

If a state, despite its good faith efforts, fails to demonstrate compliance with any of the core requirements in any year, OJJDP will reduce its formula grant for the subsequent fiscal year by 20 percent for each requirement for which the state is noncompliant. The following table indicates (in blue) the states that received reduced FY 2011 funding for noncompliance with one or more of the JJDP Act’s core requirements.

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<th>State</th>
<th>Deinstitutionalization of status offenders</th>
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## State Compliance with JJDP Act Core Requirements (continued)

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### STATE COMPLIANCE WITH JJDP ACT CORE REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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X = reduced FY 2011 funding for noncompliance; √ = full FY 2011 funding for compliance.

1 The term “state” means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories.

2 Wyoming does not participate in the Formula Grants program.

3 The U.S. Census Bureau has exempted Puerto Rico from reporting racial statistics.
youth during the reporting period. Of these youth, 83 percent completed program requirements, 57 percent exhibited a desired change in the targeted behavior, and only 5 percent reoffended while participating in programs. Of the Formula Grant-funded programs, about 41 percent reported implementing at least one evidence-based program.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program

The premise underlying the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) program is that both individual youth offenders and the juvenile justice system must be held accountable. For youth, accountability is best achieved through a system of graduated sanctions imposed according to the nature and severity of the offense, moving from limited interventions to more restrictive actions if the offender continues delinquent activities. For the juvenile justice system, accountability involves a new set of expectations and demands, including increasing the system’s capacity to develop youth competence, to efficiently track youth through the system, and to provide restitution, community service, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative sanctions.

States and units of local government implement JABG programs in any of 17 program purpose areas, which include developing and maintaining graduated sanctions; establishing accountability, restorative justice, and reentry programs; and hiring and training additional juvenile court and corrections professionals. (For a complete list of the JABG program purpose areas, read Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program, available at www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/226357.pdf.)

Measuring Performance

The JABG program served more than 400,000 youth and/or families during the 2011 reporting period. A total of 56 JABG grantees submitted some level of performance data for the 2011 reporting period (April 1, 2010, to March 31, 2011). The

2 Targeted behaviors differed depending on the youth’s specific program goals. In the majority of cases, Formula Grant-funded programs targeted a reduction in antisocial behavior, improved school attendance, or increased social competence. The outcomes reported here represent the benefits or changes that participants experience by the time they leave or complete the program. These changes are usually noted from 0–6 months after the time they complete a program or service.
Memphis City Schools Dramatically Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact

OJJDP’s formula grants funding is helping communities across the country reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. One such community is Memphis, TN, the largest school district in the state and the 23rd largest public school system in the United States. Of the more than 100,000 students enrolled during the 2010–11 academic year, about 86 percent were identified as African American and about 6 percent as Hispanic.

In July 2007, Memphis City Schools received OJJDP formula grants funding through the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth’s DMC [Disproportionate Minority Contact] Pilot Project to implement the School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (SHAPE). The goal of the program is to reduce the number of minority students sent to juvenile detention for relatively minor offenses such as disorderly conduct, trespassing, and gambling. SHAPE has been implemented in 22 middle and high schools in Memphis.

When students commit minor offenses, SHAPE encourages school resource officers to issue a juvenile summons rather than transport students to court. If students and their parents agree to participate in SHAPE, a juvenile summons will not be filed. However, a potential summons remains active for 6 months and can be filed any time during this period. This ensures accountability and provides an incentive for youth to comply with the program’s requirements. If they comply, the potential summons is withdrawn and no charges are filed.

Students participate in a 14-week evidence-based curriculum designed to equip them with the knowledge and behavioral skills they need to be drug free, improve decision making, and change negative behaviors. Many schools ask SHAPE participants to engage in community service projects. Others organize circle discussions where students must confront how their delinquent behavior affects others. Some students are required to write an apology letter, and others to provide financial restitution.

An evaluation of the program conducted by the University of Memphis showed that transports to juvenile court from schools participating in the SHAPE program dropped 60 percent over the course of 3 years—from approximately 1,000 in the 2007–08 school year to slightly more than 400 in the 2010–11 school year.

“Tennessee would not have been able to do this without formula grants funding,” said John Hall, SHAPE’s coordinator. “In the Tennessee model, kids are participating in alternatives to the juvenile justice system like community service instead of being referred to the courts, having charges filed, or being placed in secure detention. We may be able to see a statewide transformation if things keep going the way they are going.”
states submitted information for approximately 1,478 subgrants and reported performance data for 1,256 of those subgrants. This represents approximately $78 million in funded activities. JABG grantees and subgrantees reported performance measures data regarding activities that were funded by active awards received in FY 2005 through FY 2010.3

Although funds were allocated to activities across all 17 JABG purpose areas, the activities with the largest funding allocations included accountability-based programs (27 percent), court/probation programming (9 percent), and risk/needs assessments (9 percent). Eighty-six percent of youth successfully completed program requirements, 72 percent of program youth exhibited a desired change in the targeted behavior;4 65 percent of programs reported using an evidence-based program or practice, and 9 percent of program youth reoffended during the reporting period.

Tribal Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Grants Program

OJJDP’s Tribal Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Grants (T–JADG) program provides funding competitively to federally recognized tribes to strengthen tribal juvenile justice systems and to hold youth accountable. T–JADG funds are a separate allocation within the JABG appropriation. In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded more than $1 million to four tribes: the Crow Tribe (Montana), the Hopi Tribe (Arizona), the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (North Dakota), and the White Earth Nation (Minnesota).

Measuring Performance

In FY 2011, OJJDP had 16 active T–JADG awards, representing $4.7 million in funding. Of the 16 T–JADG grantees, 15 provided performance data for the 2011 reporting period. Ninety percent of

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3 Because JABG grantees have a multiple-year funding period, they do not necessarily spend funds in the calendar year or fiscal year in which their funds are awarded. Thus, the specific funds a state may award to its subgrantees during a given fiscal year can actually derive from prior fiscal years.

4 Targeted behaviors differed depending on the youth’s specific program goals. In the majority of cases, JABG programs targeted a reduction in antisocial behavior, improved school attendance, or increased social competence. The outcomes reported here represent the benefits or changes that participants experience by the time they leave or complete the program. These changes are usually noted from 0–6 months after the time they complete a program or service.
program youth exhibited a desired change in the targeted behavior. 67 percent of program youth successfully completed program requirements, and 62 percent of programs reported using an evidence-based program or practice.

Community Prevention Grants Program

Preventing young people from engaging in delinquent behavior, thus diverting many of them from a future of criminal activity, is a central goal of the juvenile justice system in this country. Since 1994, OJJDP has administered the Community Prevention Grants (CPG) program (funded through Title V Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention), which provides funds to help communities develop and implement delinquency prevention programs. The program focuses on helping youth avoid involvement in delinquency by reducing the risk factors and enhancing the protective factors in their schools, communities, and families.

The CPG program provides funds that enable communities to address these factors in a locally suitable and sustainable manner. Local leaders are encouraged to initiate multidisciplinary needs assessments of the risks and resources in their communities and develop locally relevant prevention plans that simultaneously draw on community resources, address gaps in services or risks, and employ evidence-based strategies. The program funds delinquency prevention efforts across 19 program areas reflecting a range of activities, from mental health services to mentoring to job training. (For a complete list of the CPG program areas, read Community Prevention Grants Program, available at www.njcrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/227345.pdf.)

In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded $2.6 million in grants through the CPG program, with $50,000 going to most states. In FY 2011, states reported data for a total of 151 active subgrants from 97 subgrantees, representing more than $4 million in funded activities.

5 Targeted behaviors differed depending on the youth’s specific program goals. In the majority of cases, T-JADG programs targeted a reduction in anti-social behavior, improved school attendance, or increased social competence. The outcomes reported here represent the benefits or changes that participants experience by the time they leave or complete the program. These changes are usually noted from 0–6 months after the time they complete a program or service.
Measuring Performance
During FY 2011, CPG programs served 15,836 youth, 54 percent of whom completed program requirements. Of the 151 local programs that provided performance data during this reporting cycle, 59 percent were evidence based.

Program areas to which the greatest number of subgrants were allocated were delinquency prevention (72 subgrants), disproportionate minority contact (32 subgrants), school programs (12 subgrants), and mental health services (12 subgrants).

These local programs addressed a wide range of youth behaviors. Overall, 79 percent of youth participants exhibited positive changes in behavior targeted by the program.6 Specifically, youth showed improvements in the following areas: 87 percent improved their school attendance, 87 percent reduced their antisocial behavior, 62 percent improved relationships with their families, and 78 percent reduced their substance use. The ultimate outcome measure for delinquency prevention programs is a low offending rate among program participants. In FY 2011, the offending and reoffending rate of CPG program participants was 1.8 percent and 1.4 percent, respectively.

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program
Underage drinking is a widespread problem that can have serious social consequences. Youth who drink are more likely to abuse and become dependent on alcohol, to cause traffic injuries and fatalities, and to commit aggravated assault, property theft, and other antisocial acts.

The Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) program, the only federal initiative directed exclusively toward preventing underage drinking, supports and enhances efforts by states and local jurisdictions to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. OJJDP has administered the EUDL program since Congress created the initiative in 1998.

Under the EUDL block grants program, each state, territory, and the District of Columbia received $300,000 in FY 2011, totaling nearly $17 million. The funds support a range of activities, including compliance checks of retail alcohol outlets by law enforcement, programs to deter older youth or adults from providing alcohol to minors, party

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6 Targeted behaviors differed depending on the youth’s specific program goals. In the majority of cases, CPG programs targeted a reduction in antisocial behavior, improved school attendance, or increased social competence. The outcomes reported here represent the benefits or changes that participants experience by the time they leave or complete the program. These changes are usually noted from 0-6 months after the time they complete a program or service.
patrols to prevent drinking at large gatherings, and youth-led campaigns to reduce underage drinking.

**Measuring Performance**

During 2011, states reported data for 1,413 EUDL subgrant awards across 624 separate organizations. In this period, states reported data for more than $47 million in subgrant and statewide awards. Nationally, 76 percent of subgrants focused on enforcement, 31 percent on media initiatives, 29 percent on statewide task forces and/or coalitions, and 28 percent on education, training, and other activities.

Performance data for 2011 indicate some positive trends: 86 percent of funded projects are using an evidence-based model, 89 percent of establishments selling alcohol for consumption off their premises were in compliance (82,072 of 92,127 establishments checked for compliance), and 88 percent of alcohol establishments selling alcohol for consumption on their premises were in compliance (33,018 of 37,727 establishments checked for compliance).
Defending Children Against Victimization

Children’s exposure to violence, crime, and abuse can leave long-lasting scars, often in the form of anxiety, depression, substance abuse, truancy, and even involvement in juvenile delinquency. Despite many inroads made in the protection of children, the fact remains that children in this country continue to be victimized at alarming rates through physical and sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, abduction, bullying, and gun violence. The proliferation of child pornography and heightened online activity by predators searching for unsupervised contact with underage victims present both a significant threat to the health and safety of young people and a formidable challenge for law enforcement.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) continued its longstanding commitment to conducting research and supporting initiatives designed to help the field address crimes against children. The Office’s third National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Throwaway Children, scheduled for release in fiscal year (FY) 2014, is comprehensively measuring the
Since OJJDP established the Internet Crimes Against Children program in 1998, its task forces have reviewed more than 280,000 complaints of alleged child sexual victimization, resulting in the arrest of more than 30,000 individuals.

Children’s Exposure to Violence

Exposure to violence has become part of daily life for many of America’s children. According to the National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), sponsored by OJJDP with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 60 percent of children were exposed to violence, crime, or abuse in the past year, either directly or indirectly. Almost 40 percent of American children were direct victims of 2 or more violent acts, and 1 in 10 were victims of...
violence 5 or more times. Also, nearly 1 in 10 American children saw a family member assault another family member during the past year.\(^7\)

To address this serious problem, in September 2010 Attorney General Eric Holder launched the Defending Childhood Initiative, which aims to prevent exposure to violence, mitigate the negative effects experienced by children exposed to violence, and develop knowledge about and spread awareness of this issue.

A key component of the Defending Childhood Initiative is OJJDP’s multiyear demonstration program. In FY 2010, the Office awarded grants to eight demonstration sites for a 1-year assessment and program planning period. In FY 2011, four sites—Boston, MA; Cuyahoga County, OH; Grand Forks, ND; and Shelby County, TN—were selected to receive $2 million for 2 years to implement their comprehensive plans. Two tribes—Rosebud Sioux, SD; and Chippewa Cree, Rocky Boy, MT—received $1 million for 2 years to continue comprehensive planning and to begin implementation. Two sites—Portland, ME; and Multnomah County, OR—received $500,000 for 2 years for partial implementation. The implementation of comprehensive plans, involving cross-sector teams of local leadership, will serve as the basis for developing model programs that can be adopted by communities across the country. In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded $1.6 million to Futures Without Violence to provide training and technical assistance to the eight demonstration sites and $1.5 million to the Center for Court Innovation to conduct an evaluation of the demonstration program.

The Safe Start Center, OJJDP’s national resource center for information and training related to reducing children’s exposure to violence, received $1 million from OJJDP in FY 2011. As part of the Safe Start Initiative, OJJDP continues its partnership with the RAND Corporation to collect and disseminate process and outcome data on interventions for children exposed to violence at 10 sites. In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded more than $765,000 to RAND to conduct a national evaluation of strategies implemented at the sites.

In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded nearly $790,000 to the Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire to conduct the second wave of NatSCEV, a national longitudinal trend survey, to document changes in the incidence and prevalence of children’s exposure to violence, crime, and abuse.

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\(^7\) Indirect exposure is defined as being a witness to a violent act; learning of a violent act against a family member, neighbor, or close friend; or experiencing a threat against one’s home or school. NatSCEV studied U.S. children and adolescents ranging in age from birth to age 17.
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program

The ICAC program is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing more than 2,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. The task forces are engaged in proactive investigations, forensic investigations, and criminal prosecutions. By helping state and local agencies to develop effective, sustainable responses to online child victimization and child pornography, OJJDP has increased their capacity to address Internet crimes against children.

Since the ICAC program’s inception in 1998, more than 338,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other professionals have been trained in the United States and in 17 other countries on techniques to investigate and prosecute ICAC-related cases. In addition, ICAC task forces have reviewed more than 280,000 complaints of alleged child sexual victimization, resulting in the arrest of more than 30,000 individuals.

In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded more than $30 million to support the ICAC task forces. This support consisted of funding for law enforcement operations, training and technical assistance, and research.

ICAC task forces received more than 40,000 documented complaints of child sexual exploitation from the public and from electronic service providers in FY 2011. Investigations from these reports led to the arrest of more than 5,700 individuals, forensic examinations of more than 45,000 computers, and the referral of more than 9,800 cases to other law enforcement agencies.

In May 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ’s) Project Safe Childhood Initiative and OJJDP’s ICAC program hosted the National Strategy Conference on Combating Child Exploitation in San Jose, CA. The event is the nation’s largest training conference for law enforcement investigators, forensic experts, and prosecutors involved in combating the online exploitation of children. The conference, attended by nearly 1,300 professionals, featured highly specialized training provided by the ICAC task force program, its federal partner agencies, and other organizations.
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) observed its 27th year of operation in June 2011. As a clearinghouse and resource center, NCMEC collects and distributes data regarding missing and exploited children. In partnership with OJJDP, the center offers critical intervention and prevention services to families and supports law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and local levels in cases involving missing and exploited children. OJJDP funding for NCMEC totaled approximately $30.2 million in FY 2011.

NCMEC operates a 24-hour, toll-free missing children’s hotline (1–800–THE–LOST); a CyberTipline for the public to use to report Internet-related child sexual exploitation; and the Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP), which uses specialized computer software to determine the identities of children whose images appear in pornography.

In FY 2011, the center’s hotline received 174,994 calls. During the same period, its CyberTipline handled 277,552 reports regarding potential child exploitation or online harm to children. As of the end of 2011, a total of 3,802 identified children were in the CVIP system. During FY 2011, NCMEC assisted in the recovery of 11,690 children; since its inception, NCMEC has assisted in the recovery of 172,566 children.

NCMEC also is a key participant in the AMBER Alert program and the annual National Missing Children’s Day commemoration.

AMBER Alert

The AMBER Alert system issues media alerts when a law enforcement agency determines that a child has been abducted and is in imminent danger. The broadcasts provide information about the child and the abductor that can lead to the child’s recovery, such as a physical description of each and a description of the abductor’s vehicle. The Office of Justice Programs manages the program with the assistance of OJJDP.

With support from DOJ’s Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training, in FY 2011 OJJDP awarded a grant of more than $3.5 million to expand AMBER Alert trainings in Mexico as part of AMBER Alert’s Southern Border
AMBER Alerts for Abducted Children
Now Available on Facebook

At a press conference on January 12, 2011, Laurie O. Robinson, then-Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs and National AMBER Alert Coordinator, joined representatives of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Facebook as they announced a partnership to enable millions of Facebook users across the country to receive AMBER Alerts via their accounts. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and the safe recovery of an abducted child.

Facebook users in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands can sign up to receive AMBER Alerts for their region. Facebook users can share the AMBER Alerts with their friends. There are more than half a billion Facebook users worldwide.

“These efforts demonstrate the high priority this Administration places on child protection,” said Robinson. “While we can’t fulfill every parent’s dream and completely insulate children, we can promote programs and partnerships that protect children and help bring them home.”

The press conference was held the day before the 15th anniversary of the abduction and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman of Arlington, TX. Although her case has never been solved, it prompted the creation of the national AMBER (America’s Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) Alert program in 1996. Since that time, the program has grown into a network of 120 AMBER plans across the country. As of the end of FY 2011, the AMBER Alert program had been credited with the safe recovery of 562 children.

“The social media enable law enforcement to reach way beyond our normal footprint. . . . I can only dream and imagine what we’ll be able to accomplish with this new tool in our toolbox.”

—Col. Steven Flaherty
Superintendent, Virginia State Police
Press conference speaker
Initiative. The initiative responds to child abduction and trafficking crimes across the U.S. southern border. As a result of these efforts, the federal government of Mexico has committed to implementing the AMBER Alert program throughout the country. According to NCMEC, Mexico accounts for 47 percent of all international child abductions from the United States.

Among other 2011 highlights, a new partnership with Facebook has significantly expanded the reach of AMBER Alerts by enabling users of the social networking site to sign up to receive bulletins about missing children in their area. OJJDP also sponsored the AMBER Alert Training Symposium in FY 2011. Attendees included state, local, regional, and tribal AMBER Alert coordinators along with representatives from missing children clearinghouses, law enforcement, the media, transportation agencies, the wireless industry, NCMEC, and the Surviving Parents Coalition. The symposium was funded through OJJDP's AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) involves crimes of a sexual nature committed against juvenile victims for financial gain. These crimes include trafficking for sexual purposes, pornography, prostitution, sex tourism, stripping, and performing in sexual venues such as peep shows or clubs. At a time when the number of known CSEC cases is growing, more needs to be done to raise public awareness about this problem and to develop effective strategies to reduce its incidence.

In its ongoing effort to address this issue, in FY 2011 OJJDP awarded a grant of $1.5 million to the National Institute of Medicine to conduct a study (in collaboration with the National Research Council's Committee on Law and Justice) about the causes and consequences of CSEC and to examine current strategies to address the problem at the local, state, and federal levels.

OJJDP also awarded a $1.5 million grant to support the efforts of community service organizations to develop or enhance their mentoring capacity, facilitate outreach efforts, and increase the availability of direct services for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation or domestic sex trafficking.
MISSING CHILDREN’S DAY

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) commemorated the 28th annual National Missing Children’s Day on May 25, 2011, with a ceremony at DOJ’s Great Hall in Washington, DC. The ceremony, planned and managed by OJJDP, honored missing children and the efforts made by law enforcement personnel and citizens to protect children from harm.

Speakers at the ceremony included James Cole, Deputy Attorney General; Ernie Allen, then-President and CEO of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; and Mika Moulton, the parent of an abducted child and founder of Christopher’s Clubhouse, a community safety education program.

A video message from then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton described the State Department’s Office of Children’s Issues as a clearinghouse of resources and information for families seeking to prevent or address international parental abductions. “International parental child abduction is a painful scourge for so many, and it’s something that deeply concerns me,” she said. In 2010, the Office of Children’s Issues helped more than 575 children return to their homes.

OJJDP highlighted several publications at the event, including Guide for Implementing or Enhancing an Endangered Missing Advisory, which describes how a community can create voluntary partnerships to rapidly recover missing persons who do not fit the AMBER Alert criteria but who may be in danger.

Children’s Advocacy Centers

OJJDP’s Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) are child-focused, child-friendly programs that bring together teams of investigators, prosecutors, medical personnel, and social service and mental health professionals to provide a continuum of services to victims and nonoffending family members. CACs also coordinate the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.

OJJDP has long recognized the efficacy of the CAC model and has provided funding to support and expand access to CACs through the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990. In FY 2011, $18 million was appropriated for the program. Currently, there
are a total of 750 CACs, with approximately 150 developing centers. In 2011, CACs provided services to more than 279,000 children and provided child sexual abuse prevention education to more than 500,000 members of the public. In addition, CACs are being established in many foreign countries.

The National Children’s Alliance (NCA) serves as the accrediting and membership body for CACs and administers federal grants to develop and improve these advocacy centers. In collaboration with NCA, the National Children’s Advocacy Center and four regional CACs—in the Midwest, Northeast, South, and West—work in close partnership to provide existing and developing centers with training, technical assistance, and other services.
CHAPTER 5

Disseminating Information and Resources to the Field

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has a responsibility to keep the nation informed about pressing juvenile justice issues and promising programs to address them. As part of this mission, during fiscal year (FY) 2011 the Office completed preparations for its National Conference for Children’s Justice and Safety, scheduled for early FY 2012. The agenda for the event included 7 plenaries, 330 speakers, and more than 65 workshops and sessions as well as special tracks on children’s exposure to violence, anti-gang strategies, child protection and advocacy, truancy and dropping out, at-risk and delinquent girls, trends in tribal youth policy, evidence-based practices, and reforming the treatment of juveniles in custody, among other topics.

OJJDP continued to disseminate information about the latest developments in the juvenile justice field.
through a range of other vehicles during FY 2011, including online data tools with a wealth of statistical information; a Web site featuring information about research, programs, and funding; a listserv that alerts subscribers to important funding opportunities, resources, and events; and Webinars to keep researchers, practitioners, and policymakers up to date on trends in the field. In FY 2011, OJJDP released 25 new publications to inform the nation about critical juvenile justice issues and approaches to solving them. A list of FY 2011 publications is available in appendix B.

**Statistical Briefing Book**

Developed for OJJDP by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the online Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) provides timely and reliable answers to the most frequently asked questions from policymakers, the media, and the general public. SBB is a major source of U.S. juvenile crime and juvenile justice data. During FY 2011, the SBB page of the OJJDP Web site received nearly 14.6 million hits, and there were more than 465,000 visits to the site.
OJJDP’s National Juvenile Justice Data Collection Program

OJJDP sponsors the nation’s most comprehensive data collection program on juvenile offenders in custody and the facilities that hold them. OJJDP’s constellation of surveys on youth in custody includes the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP), the only national survey that gathers data directly from youth in custody using anonymous interviews; the biennial Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC), which collects data on facility characteristics; and the biennial Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP), which focuses on information about individual youth such as gender, race, and most serious offense. These surveys provide critical data to researchers for trend analysis as well as to OJJDP for planning and funding purposes.

In FY 2011, OJJDP published the following bulletins on SYRP and JRFC findings:

• Youth’s Characteristics and Backgrounds, the fourth bulletin in the SYRP series, reports on youth’s current and prior offenses, disposition, family and educational backgrounds, and expectations for the future. SYRP’s findings are based on interviews with a nationally representative sample of 7,073 youth in custody during 2003.

• Juvenile Residential Facility Census, 2008: Selected Findings is part of the Juvenile Offenders and Victims National Report series. The bulletin summarizes 2008 data from the biennial JRFC, which collects information about the facilities in which juvenile offenders are held: size, structure, type, ownership, and security arrangements as well as the number of juveniles who died in custody during the past 12 months.
OJJDP Web Site

The OJJDP Web site is a leading online resource for information on topics related to juvenile justice. Homepage spotlights feature breaking news on upcoming events and current funding opportunities, as well as publications and other resources. The homepage also provides ready access to information about the Office’s research, publications, and programs. A special “InFocus” feature highlights topics such as child abduction, commercial sexual exploitation of children, gang involvement, at-risk girls, and underage drinking. In FY 2011, OJJDP’s Web site received more than 45 million hits; there were more than 3 million visits to the Web site during the same period.

OJJDP News @ a Glance

OJJDP’s bimonthly online newsletter provides the most up-to-date and comprehensive information available on topics of importance to the juvenile justice field, including reentry, gang violence prevention, bullying, school discipline, children’s exposure to violence, at-risk girls, and evidence-based practices, to name a few. The newsletter also highlights major OJJDP activities, presents updates from OJJDP-funded programs, and provides links to free publications and resources. By the end of FY 2011, the newsletter had more than 30,000 subscribers.

JUVJUST

OJJDP’s electronic listserv, JUVJUST, provides e-mail notices several times a week about resources, events, funding opportunities, and other youth service-related news. JUVJUST announcements are frequently picked up by other governmental sources and private-sector media, significantly expanding the audience they reach. By the end of FY 2011, the number of subscribers had reached 26,000.

To subscribe to OJJDP News @ a Glance and JUVJUST, go to the OJJDP Web site, ojjdp.gov (click on the appropriate “Subscribe” button on the homepage). Both services are free.

Pathways to Desistance Study Series

The Pathways to Desistance study, which receives support from OJJDP, has collected the most comprehensive dataset currently available about serious adolescent offenders and their lives in late adolescence and early adulthood. Researchers conducted more than 21,000 interviews over 8 years with more than 1,300 felony offenders ages 14-18 in Philadelphia, PA, and Phoenix, AZ. Researchers also interviewed parents and peers and examined arrest records.
Established in the 1970s, Scared Straight programs are used throughout the United States as a means of deterring juvenile crime. They usually entail visits to adult prisons by at-risk youth, where youth hear about the harsh reality of prison life from inmates. The programs can involve tours of the facility, living the life of a prisoner for a full day, aggressive presentations by inmates, and one-on-one counseling. However well-intentioned these prison-visit programs may be, decades of research have shown that this approach not only does not work, but may also be harmful to youth.


“The fact that [Scared Straight] programs are still being touted as effective, despite stark evidence to the contrary, is troubling.”

—Laurie O. Robinson, then-Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs

—Jeff Slowikowski, then-Acting Administrator, OJJDP
Robinson and Slowikowski emphasized that the U.S. Department of Justice does not support Scared Straight-style programs and instead focuses on programs that research has proven effective, such as mentoring programs, which use positive relationships to modify youth’s behavior.

The op-ed piece was picked up by 165 media outlets throughout the country. Of the three states whose programs were featured in the “Beyond Scared Straight” series, two—Maryland and California—suspended their programs in January.

“It is understandable why desperate parents hoping to divert their troubled children from further misbehavior would place their hopes in a program they see touted as effective on TV, and why in years past policymakers opted to fund what appeared to be an easy fix for juvenile offending,” wrote Robinson and Slowikowski. “However, we have a responsibility—as both policymakers and parents—to follow evidence, not anecdote, in finding answers, especially when it comes to our children.”

In December 2010, OJJDP launched a publication series presenting the findings of the Pathways to Desistance study. Following are descriptions of the publications released in FY 2011:

- **Highlights From Pathways to Desistance: A Longitudinal Study of Serious Adolescent Offenders.** This fact sheet presents an overview of findings from the Pathways to Desistance study. The primary findings to date include a decrease in self-reported offending over time by most serious adolescent offenders, the relative inefficacy of longer juvenile incarcerations in decreasing recidivism, the effectiveness of community-based supervision as a component of aftercare for incarcerated youth, and the effectiveness of substance abuse treatment in reducing both substance use and offending.

- **Substance Use and Delinquent Behavior Among Serious Adolescent Offenders.** This bulletin presents key findings on the link between adolescent substance use and serious offending. Serious and chronic offenders are much more likely than other juvenile offenders to be substance users and to qualify as having substance use disorders. Dispositional factors (e.g., sensation seeking, behavioral disinhibition, poor affect regulation, stress, depression) can lead to “externalizing” behaviors such as
substance use and criminal activity. The study also found that substance use and serious offending decrease in late adolescence.

Future publications in this series will address the transfer of adolescents to adult court; psychosocial maturity and desistance from crime; mental health services for serious adolescent offenders; deterrence among high-risk adolescents; and cultural orientation, substance use, and offending among Mexican American youth.

**OJJDP MONITORS TRENDS RELATED TO JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT**

This section highlights key trends from the 1997–2010 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) and briefly summarizes information on deaths of juveniles in custody from the 2010 Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC).

Facilities included in both the CJRP and the JRFC data collections represent a wide range of facility types: secure and nonsecure as well as publicly operated (state and local) and privately operated (including long-term and short-term holding). Of all juveniles in residential placement, 69 percent were held in public facilities and 31 percent were in private facilities. In addition, tribal facilities held 177 youth, Puerto Rico held 588 youth, and the U.S. Virgin Islands held 21 youth.

**Offense Trends**

A total of 70,792 youth were held in publicly and privately operated juvenile residential facilities on the 2010 census date. The last time that so few juvenile offenders were counted in the national census of juvenile facilities was in 1989, when the tally was slightly less than 67,000. The 1-day count of juvenile offenders in residential placement in 2010 was 33 percent below the 1997 figure. Declines were seen in every general offense category: person offenses (26 percent), property offenses (47 percent), drug offenses (45 percent), public order offenses (21 percent), technical violations of probation or parole (6 percent), and status offenses, which are law violations that are not crimes for adults (52 percent).
Declines were also seen in the number of juvenile nonoffenders in residential placement in facilities that held juvenile offenders. Nonoffenders include youth held because they had been abused, neglected, or abandoned; because they require mental health or substance abuse treatment (not ordered by the court); or because they have run away, been truant or incorrigible, or violated curfew in states where these behaviors are not considered illegal. Nationally, the 1-day count of nonoffenders younger than age 21 in facilities that were holding juvenile offenders declined 22 percent from 1997 to 2010, to a low of 8,014 for the period.

Gender Trends

Although males outnumber females in residential placement more than 6 to 1 on average, since 1997 the trends for males and females in residential placement have been remarkably similar. The decline for females began 1 year later than the decline for males, but females have had a steeper decline in recent years. The drop from 1997 to 2010 was 32 percent for males and 34 percent for females.

Race/Ethnicity Trends

Nearly 48,000 minority youth were in residential placement on the 2010 census date—representing 68 percent of all offenders held, with non-Hispanic black youth accounting for 41 percent of the population.

Other than Asian youth, the residential placement rates for minority youth were higher than the overall placement rate across all years from 1997 to 2010. The placement rates were highest for black youth, followed by American Indian/Alaska Native youth and Hispanic youth. The rates for non-Hispanic white youth and Asian youth were lower than the total rates (for all race/ethnicity groups combined), with Asian youth having the lowest rates.

The total residential placement rate dropped 37 percent from 1997 to 2010. The overall placement rate in 2010 was 225 youth in residential placement for every 100,000 youth age 10 through the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction. The relative drops in rates for white (37 percent) and black (38 percent) youth were similar to the overall rate decline. Hispanic (51 percent) and Asian (76 percent) youth saw the largest relative drop in rates. The residential placement rates for American Indian/Alaska Native youth dropped relatively little over the period (25 percent).

Deaths in Residential Placement

A total of 2,132 facilities reported holding 66,654 juvenile offenders on the 2010 census date (excluding tribal facilities and facilities in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). A decline in the number of facilities has paralleled the decline in the population of juvenile offenders in residential placement facilities. Overall, there were 30 percent fewer facilities holding juvenile offenders in 2010 than in 2000.

Juvenile facilities reported a total of 11 deaths of youth younger than age 21 in residential placement for the 12 months prior to the 2010 census. Deaths of juveniles in residential placement remain relatively rare. There were five deaths from suicide and four deaths by illness/natural causes other than HIV/AIDS. There was one death from an accident and one death from an unknown cause. No homicides were reported. The death rate in 2010 (1.6 per 100,000) was substantially lower than the rate in 2000 (2.8 per 100,000).
In fiscal year (FY) 2011, OJJDP awarded more than $393 million in grants to help at-risk youth, protect children from victimization, and improve juvenile justice systems nationwide. The 514 awards were made through formula, block, and discretionary grant funding.

Formula and Block Grants

Funding through formula and block grants is available to states and territories through the state agency designated by the Governor. Juvenile Justice Specialists in each state administer the funding through subgrants to units of local government, local private agencies, and American Indian/Alaska Native jurisdictions for programs in accordance with legislative requirements. In FY 2011, OJJDP awarded more than $106 million under the following formula and block grants programs:

- Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program: $16,800,000
- Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program: $36,271,028
• Title II Formula Grants Program: $50,486,020
• Title V Community Prevention Grants Program: $2,600,000

Discretionary Grants

OJJDP awards discretionary grants to states, units of local government, and private organizations to administer programs. More than $287 million in discretionary grants was awarded in FY 2011 under the following programs:

• Attorney General’s Children Exposed to Violence Demonstration Program—Phase 2: $11,000,000
• Attorney General’s Defending Childhood Task Force: $1,000,000
• Best Practices for Juvenile Drug Courts Training: $2,091,144
• Child Protection Programs Grants: $34,884,340
• Child Protection Research Program: $1,385,000
• Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration Program: $6,596,084
• Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Purpose Area 7—Juvenile Justice Program: $1,053,637
• Defending Childhood Technical Assistance: $1,677,255
• Demonstration Programs Division Grants: $17,148,653
• Disproportionate Minority Contact Community and Strategic Planning Project: $142,042
• Evaluation of Girls’ Delinquency Programs: $753,556
• Family Drug Court Programs: $5,528,856
• Field Initiated Research and Evaluation Program: $1,872,451
• Gang Field Initiated Research and Evaluation Programs: $2,389,491

• Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Deconfliction System: $500,000

• ICAC Task Force Continuations: $19,018,652

• ICAC Task Force Program—Missouri: $335,000

• Law Enforcement Strategies for Protecting Children From Commercial Sexual Exploitation: $1,166,492

• Mentoring for Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Initiative: $1,499,831

• Mentoring for Youth with Disabilities Initiative: $2,205,393

• Mentoring Research Best Practices: $2,218,963

• Multi-State Mentoring Initiative: $21,070,000

• National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Program: $21,070,000

• National Gang Center: $2,000,000

• National Juvenile Probation Census Project: $400,000

• National Mentoring Programs: $72,930,000

• Nonparticipating State Program—Wyoming: $570,000

• Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative: $5,408,358

• Second Chance Act Juvenile Offender Reentry Program for Planning and Demonstration Projects—Implementation: $3,039,275

• Second Chance Act Juvenile Offender Reentry Program for Planning and Demonstration Projects—Planning: $444,263
• State Juvenile Justice Formula and Block Grants Training and Technical Assistance Program: $1,306,083
• State Relations and Assistance Division Grants: $850,000
• Technical Assistance Program to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation/Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: $450,000
• Tribal Youth Field Initiated Research and Evaluation Programs: $500,000
• Tribal Youth National Mentoring Program: $2,999,854
• Tribal Youth Program: $11,167,890
• Victims of Child Abuse Act Program Continuation Grants: $19,019,561

Award information for FYs 2007–11 is available on the OJJDP Web site, ojjdp.gov (click on “Funding,” then “Awards”).
Fiscal Year 2011 Publications


OJJDP News @ a Glance, July / August 2011 (newsletter). August 2011. NCJ 235188.


 Substance Use and Delinquent Behavior Among Serious Adolescent Offenders (Pathways to Desistance bulletin). December 2010. NCJ 232790.
OJJDP News @ a Glance, November/December 2010 (newsletter). December 2010. NCJ 232214.


OJJDP News @ a Glance, September/October 2010 (newsletter). October 2010. NCJ 232007.

All OJJDP publications can be viewed and downloaded from the OJJDP Web site, ojjdp.gov (select the “Publications” section). Print publications can also be ordered online at the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Web site, ncjrs.gov (select the “A–Z Publications/Products” section). The NCJ numbers at the end of the entries in the publications list above can be used to search for or order resources from NCJRS or to locate specific resources in the NCJRS library, including items produced by OJJDP.
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Administrator

Senior Advisor to the Administrator

Counselor to the Administrator

Principal Deputy Administrator

Deputy Administrator for Policy

Office of Policy Development

Deputy Administrator for Programs

Budget and Planning Division

Communications Unit

Child Protection Division

Demonstration Programs Division

State Relations and Assistance Division

2011 ANNUAL REPORT
Office of the Administrator

The Office of the Administrator (OA) establishes OJJDP’s priorities and policies, oversees the management of the Office’s divisions, and fosters collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies and associations that share OJJDP’s commitment to preventing and combating juvenile delinquency and addressing the problem of missing and exploited children.

Office of Policy Development

The Office of Policy Development (OPD) assists the OJJDP Administrator in coordinating national policy on juvenile justice. OPD advises the Administrator on policy and legal issues and how OJJDP can best accomplish its mission. OPD also provides leadership and direction for OJJDP’s research and training and technical assistance efforts and oversees the agency’s communications and planning activities.

Communications Unit

The Communications Unit (CU) is responsible for OJJDP’s information dissemination and outreach. CU develops OJJDP publications, manages its Web site and online services, and performs a range of writing and editing functions to support the Office. CU also serves as a liaison to the Office of Justice Programs on media-related issues.

Budget and Planning Division

The Budget and Planning Division handles OJJDP’s budget and planning operations and manages the Office’s research and training and technical assistance functions. The division also oversees all administrative and personnel matters.

Child Protection Division

The Child Protection Division (CPD) develops and administers programs related to crimes against children and children’s exposure to violence. It provides leadership and funding in the areas of enforcement, intervention, and prevention. CPD’s activities include supporting programs that promote effective policies
and procedures to respond to the problems of missing and exploited children, Internet crimes against children, abused and neglected children, and children exposed to domestic or community violence.

Demonstration Programs Division

The Demonstration Programs Division (DPD) provides funds to public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals to develop and support programs and replicate tested approaches to delinquency prevention, treatment, and control in areas such as mentoring, substance abuse, gangs, truancy, chronic juvenile offending, and community-based sanctions. DPD also supports and coordinates efforts with tribal governments to expand and improve tribal juvenile justice systems and develop programs and policies that address problems facing tribal youth.

State Relations and Assistance Division

The State Relations and Assistance Division (SRAD) provides funds to help state and local governments achieve the system improvement goals of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, combat underage drinking, implement delinquency prevention programs, address disproportionate minority contact, and support initiatives to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions. SRAD also supports and coordinates community efforts to identify and respond to critical juvenile justice and delinquency prevention needs.