



# Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

## 2017 Annual Report

This report covers activities undertaken by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention during fiscal year 2017 (October 1, 2016–September 30, 2017).

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**Office of Justice Programs**  
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**Caren Harp**  
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**Office of Justice Programs**  
Building Solutions • Supporting Communities • Advancing Justice  
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**Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**  
Enhancing Safety • Ensuring Accountability • Empowering Youth  
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The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

To the President, the Attorney General, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairs of the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Chair of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, and Members of Congress:

It is my privilege to transmit the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) annual report for fiscal year 2017. This report describes programs and activities that OJJDP carried out in fiscal year 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caren Harp".

Caren Harp  
Administrator  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



## Foreword

Since its establishment in 1974, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has led the nation's efforts to prevent and reduce delinquency, strengthen the juvenile justice system, and protect children from abuse and exploitation. Through this leadership role, OJJDP helps states, communities, and tribes develop and implement strategies to create a juvenile justice system that protects public safety, holds offenders accountable, and empowers youth to live productive, law-abiding lives.

This report summarizes OJJDP's activities during fiscal year 2017 across a range of program areas. OJJDP supported states' efforts to comply with the core protections of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and programs that address juvenile violence, youth gangs, and delinquency.

The Office also supported initiatives to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and online predators, and efforts to reduce delinquency and substance abuse. Each chapter describes how OJJDP supported research and data collection, provided technical assistance to the field, and shared the latest resources and information to guide system improvement efforts.

For more than four decades, OJJDP has worked with its federal, state, local, and tribal partners to build a nation where our children are free from crime and violence. This document records the activities—the successes and the challenges—that OJJDP undertook in 2017 to achieve that goal.

Caren Harp  
Administrator  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention





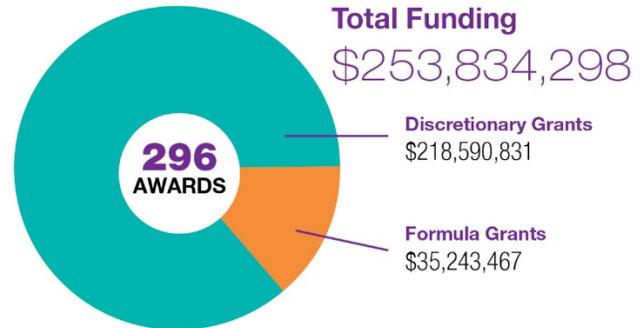
# Fiscal Year 2017 Awards

[ojjdp.gov/funding](http://ojjdp.gov/funding)

In fiscal year 2017, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded nearly \$254 million in grants.

OJJDP awards discretionary grants through a competitive process to states, units of local government, tribal jurisdictions, and organizations to administer a variety of juvenile justice and child protection programs.

The Office's formula grants support state, local, and tribal efforts to reduce and prevent delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and protect children from violence and abuse.



Select discretionary grants are highlighted below. See [ojjdp.gov/funding](http://ojjdp.gov/funding) for a complete listing of fiscal year 2017 awards.



## Youth Mentoring

\$65,321,574

Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative	\$60,783,604
Mentoring for Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Sex Trafficking Initiative	\$1,871,523
National Mentoring Resource Center	\$1,519,999
Practitioner-Researcher Partnership in Cognitive Behavioral Mentoring Program	\$996,449
Mentoring Research Partners Program	\$149,999

OJJDP's National Mentoring Resource Center provided 7,737 hours of technical assistance to 436 organizations in fiscal year 2017.



## Missing and Exploited Children

\$59,723,502

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children	\$28,338,000
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program	\$27,185,502
National AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$2,400,000
Missing & Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$1,800,000

During 2017, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children helped resolve cases involving 26,041 children who were reported missing.



## Victims of Child Abuse

\$28,336,481

To improve outcomes for abused and neglected children, OJJDP funded specialized training and technical assistance to elevate the expertise of prosecutors, judges, child abuse professionals, and court-appointed special advocates nationwide.

Children's Advocacy Centers National Program	\$13,072,636	Child Abuse Training for Judicial and Court Personnel	\$1,598,923
National Court Appointed Special Advocate Program	\$7,214,922	Training and Technical Assistance or Child Abuse Professionals	\$900,000
Regional Children's Advocacy Centers Program	\$4,800,000	Training and Technical Assistance for Child Abuse Prosecutors	\$750,000



**Tribal Youth**  
\$12,910,555

OJJDP's tribal youth initiatives helped combat substance abuse, offered mentoring, and promoted youth leadership skills and tribal identity.

Tribal Youth Program	\$7,784,359
Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts	\$2,721,029
Tribal Youth Program Training and Technical Assistance Program	\$1,505,167
Alaska Native Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project	\$900,000



**Reentry**  
\$10,606,382

Recipients of OJJDP's Second Chance Act (SCA) awards worked to enhance outcomes for youth returning to their communities after confinement, improve juvenile justice system policies and practices, and strengthen the relationships between young parents in confinement and their children.

SCA Strengthening Relationships Between Young Fathers, Young Mothers, and Their Children	\$6,078,579
SCA Implementing County and Statewide Plans To Improve Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System	\$3,527,803
SCA Juvenile Justice Systems Reform Promising Practices	\$1,000,000



**Community Violence Prevention**  
\$3,688,848

OJJDP awards helped recipients address violence in homes, schools, and communities. Funded programs reported reductions in gun violence, increases in community engagement, and more connections of youth to job training and jobs.



**Juvenile and Family Drug Courts**  
\$9,488,896

OJJDP-funded drug courts supported youth in developing skills that will help them lead productive lives free of drugs and crime. Recipients of the Office's family drug courts grants worked to reduce incidents of child abuse and neglect, intervene in families with risk factors, and reduce negative outcomes for youth affected by parental substance abuse.

Juvenile and Family Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance	\$5,446,650
Family Drug Court Statewide System Reform Implementation Program	\$2,663,275
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program	\$1,378,971



**Juvenile Justice System Improvement**  
\$7,001,517

OJJDP funding helped states develop strategic plans for juvenile justice system improvement and provided training and technical assistance to statewide juvenile indigent defense systems.

Enhancing Youth Access to Justice Initiative	\$3,652,594
Systemwide Juvenile Justice Reform Training and Technical Assistance	\$1,450,000
Girls in the Juvenile Justice System	\$848,923
National Girls Initiative	\$750,000
Systemwide Juvenile Justice Reform Planning Grants	\$300,000



**Gang Prevention**  
\$3,479,878

The OJJDP-supported National Gang Center offered best practices, training, and strategic tools, such as the Comprehensive Gang Model, to address gang violence.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention was established through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Public Law 93-415. 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.



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# Chapter 1. Preventing Youth Violence and Protecting Public Safety

## Youth Gangs

Gang violence continues to have a significant adverse impact on youth, families, and communities across America. In fiscal year (FY) 2017, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) supported states and communities in their efforts to combat youth gangs and thereby enhance public safety.



The Office awarded nearly \$3.5 million to the [National Gang Center](#) (NGC) to deliver resources, training, and technical assistance to practitioners nationwide to reduce gang-related crime and violence. The center supports comprehensive, community-based initiatives that include law enforcement, faith-based organizations, and practitioners. Key to their efforts is the dissemination of [OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model](#), an evidence-based framework for preventing and reducing youth gang violence at the community level.

In FY 2017, the center published [A Law Enforcement Official's Guide to the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model](#), which describes the model and the collaborative approach to addressing gang violence. The guide also explains the benefits of the model and outlines the essential steps for successful implementation.

In collaboration with OJJDP, NGC hosted the 2017 Comprehensive Gang Model Workshop. Grantees and other interested professionals attended the event, where they learned about best practices to conduct a thorough gang assessment and strategies to build community partnerships. Attendees also customized their own action plans to successfully implement the model at the local level.

Through the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Strategies and Programs effort, OJJDP supported community partnerships to combat gangs using prevention, intervention, and enforcement initiatives. These programs enhanced coordination of existing resources to reduce gang activity in target communities. The programs included law enforcement as an essential partner as well as local faith-based organizations, community organizations, and businesses.

Funded sites that have implemented programs based on the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model made significant strides toward reducing gang activity in FY 2017. For instance:

- Washington State's Center for Children & Youth Justice in Seattle, WA, established a multidisciplinary intervention team that serves 80 gang-involved youth and young adults every year by providing youth development and employment opportunities as well as gang awareness and avoidance strategies.
- The grantee in Spokane, WA, conducted a communitywide assessment to identify areas with the highest incidence of gang-related crime and is leading efforts to address the problem. To make programs more accessible to at-risk youth, all gang prevention programs in the target community are now offered at a single location and free transportation from schools to the location is provided.
- Fort Pierce, FL, developed a youth gang prevention, intervention, and suppression program that focused on a single high-risk community. Overall violent crime in Fort Pierce decreased 32 percent between 2016 and 2017. Gang-involved violent crime (homicides, robberies and aggravated assaults) dropped 56 percent over the same period.

*“Funded sites that have implemented programs based on the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model made significant strides toward reducing gang activity in fiscal year 2017.”*

## Community-Based Violence Prevention

Through its [Community-Based Violence Prevention program](#), OJJDP provided nearly \$3.7 million in FY 2017 to support efforts in five counties and cities to prevent and respond to youth victimization and violence, especially gun and gang violence. This funding helped grantees develop comprehensive prevention plans to address violence in homes, schools, and communities. The Office also provided technical assistance to support implementation within these communities.

Since its inception, the program has established a cohort of cities, neighborhoods, and tribes that are working to reduce and prevent youth delinquency and criminality. Stakeholder surveys reported more effective violence prevention approaches, greater opportunities for youth, improved perceptions of law enforcement, and broader engagement of community members.

## Tribal Youth

OJJDP administers several initiatives to help tribal communities reduce delinquency and improve their juvenile justice systems. In FY 2017, the Office provided nearly \$13 million to support initiatives for American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

OJJDP participates in the Department of Justice's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, which allows tribes to submit a single application for most of the Department's tribal grant programs. OJJDP supports two purpose areas within the program: the [Tribal Youth Program](#) and the Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts.

Through the Tribal Youth Program, OJJDP awarded nearly \$7.8 million to 23 geographically diverse grantees to support a wide range of programs and approaches that benefit tribal youth. Programs were designed to address truancy, combat substance abuse, and support mentoring.

The Office awarded \$2.7 million under the Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts program to respond to alcohol and substance abuse among youth younger than 21. The eight participating courts used the funds to develop or enhance their policies, procedures, assessment tools, and service models that address underage drinking in tribal communities.

An additional \$2.4 million in funding supported OJJDP's training and technical assistance providers, who worked with grantees as they developed or enhanced programs to address the needs of tribal youth.

### TRIBAL TRAINING WEBSITE

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center launched a [new website](#) in August 2017.

The website provides information and resources, including no-cost training and technical assistance, to OJJDP-funded grantees and all federally recognized tribes. It houses virtual training to improve police interaction with tribal youth.

Also available on the site is the *Paths to Wisdom: Peer to Peer Learning Series*, which was designed to help tribes develop and implement a juvenile healing to wellness court.

## Chapter 2. Decreasing Delinquency

### Youth Mentoring

Through its [Mentoring Opportunities for Youth initiative](#), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provided more than \$60.7 million in fiscal year (FY) 2017 funding to strengthen youth mentoring programs nationwide. The grantees provided services to a wide range of youth, including tribal youth, youth with disabilities, and youth in foster care.



In February 2017, OJJDP participated in the National Mentoring Summit in Washington, DC. The event, which was hosted by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, featured more than 60 workshops and brought together nearly 1,000 participants to promote and support mentoring programs.

The Office's \$1.5 million award to the [National Mentoring Resource Center](#) in FY 2017 allowed the center to continue offering comprehensive mentoring resources, references, and training materials for a nationwide audience through its website. The website also offered no-cost technical assistance for communities interested in developing or expanding their mentoring programs. During FY 2017, the center provided 7,737 hours of technical assistance to 436 organizations and hosted 15 trainings.

OJJDP also awarded more than \$1.1 million to fund two mentoring research initiatives in 2017. The [Practitioner-Researcher Partnership in Cognitive Behavioral Mentoring program](#) supported the development, implementation, and evaluation of innovative mentoring approaches for youth at high risk for juvenile justice involvement or victimization and trauma. The [Mentoring Research Partners program](#) supported partnerships between research organizations and OJJDP-funded mentoring programs for data collection and evaluation activities.

### BIGS IN BLUE MENTORING PROGRAM

In fiscal year 2017, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention provided mentoring grants to Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

The organization's "Bigs in Blue" program matches law enforcement officers with youth in the communities they serve. The police officers and young people spend time together and share experiences, which builds their relationships. The program was developed to address the strained relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve in many parts of the country.

Bigs in Blue is harnessing the power of one-on-one relationships to improve interactions between police and communities. The program has been operating in jurisdictions throughout the country since 2016, and continues to grow.



Bigs in Blue participants, Little Brother Robert and Big Brother Ryan, a match from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Virginia.

Photo provided by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Photographer: Paula Greenway.

## Girls and the Juvenile Justice System

In FY 2017, the Office continued to promote sex-specific and trauma-informed approaches to address the needs of girls in the juvenile justice system. OJJDP provided funding to five program sites (in Florida, Illinois, Missouri, and New York) to reduce reliance on confinement for girls by strengthening and expanding the use of community-based alternatives and culturally responsive programs that better meet their needs.

## Drug Courts

Family drug courts aim to reduce incidents of child abuse and neglect resulting from parental substance use, and reduce negative outcomes for youth by keeping families together. In FY 2017, OJJDP provided \$2.6 million to help Colorado, Iowa, New York, and Ohio expand the scale of family drug courts and more effectively serve families affected by parental substance abuse.

Juvenile drug treatment courts (JDTCs) help youth in the system who abuse substances get their lives back on track through treatment, judicial supervision, mandatory drug testing, sanctions, and incentives. In FY 2017, OJJDP awarded nearly \$1.4 million under the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court program to support existing JDTCs as they implemented changes to ensure a treatment-oriented approach that emphasizes family engagement and addresses the youth's substance abuse and often co-occurring mental health issues.

OJJDP also supported training and technical assistance to help family drug courts and juvenile drug treatment courts across the nation continue to improve their programs and increase their impact. The Office provided nearly \$1.5 million to support family drug courts' efforts to build capacity, assess needs, and initiate strategic planning. The awards also helped family drug courts implement program improvements and evaluate program performance and sustainability. In addition, OJJDP funded a \$2 million supplemental training grant to help improve juvenile drug treatment courts. This funding was also targeted to address the increase in opioid abuse among youth through training and resources for practitioners, families, and schools.

The Office made an additional award of \$2 million to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to support the organization's continued engagement of juvenile drug treatment courts through training and technical assistance. Finally, OJJDP supported the National Center for Juvenile Justice's development and publication of [5 Ways Juvenile Court Judges Can Use Data](#). This guide includes examples of how judges can use data to improve the functioning of their courtrooms and outcomes for youth. The publication is one in a series that is being developed through the OJJDP-funded Juvenile Justice Model Data Project.

## Police and Youth Engagement

In November 2016, the Office hosted the first [Institute for Police-Youth Engagement](#) to explore best practices and innovative approaches for improving interactions between youth and law enforcement. The International Association of Chiefs of Police, in partnership with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, supported the meeting. Law enforcement leaders from urban, suburban, and rural communities discussed current practices and policies concerning youth, opportunities for improvement, and how to develop action plans to improve police-youth engagement.

In July 2017, OJJDP invited 29 law enforcement leaders and 25 youth to participate in a second institute. Attendees discussed how to address systemic juvenile justice issues and improve local responses to youth are involved with the justice system.

## TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds training and technical assistance (TTA) to improve the capacity of organizations to respond to and prevent delinquency and child victimization. In fiscal year 2017, OJJDP continued to support the National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) as the one-stop shop for accessing OJJDP's training and technical assistance resources and services.

NTTAC operates the TTA360 request management system, which enables grantees to report their activities and allows the public to submit requests for training and technical assistance. During fiscal year 2017, TTA360 received 2,107 requests on topics such as youth and family engagement, child safety, mentoring, research to practice, and delinquency prevention.

Through monthly webinars that NTTAC produced, OJJDP provided important information and training to the juvenile justice community and allied professionals. OJJDP supported 66 webinars between October 2016 and September 2017, serving 10,685 participants.

Visit [ojjdp.gov/programs/tta.html](http://ojjdp.gov/programs/tta.html) for more information.



# Chapter 3. Protecting Children

## Internet Crimes Against Children

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) [Internet Crimes Against Children \(ICAC\) Task Force program](#) comprises 61 task forces representing more than 4,500 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. ICAC task forces are dedicated to responding to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation.

In fiscal year (FY) 2017, OJJDP awarded more than \$24 million to the task forces for law enforcement operations and public education. The Office also awarded \$3 million for training and technical assistance to help ICAC task forces improve their efforts to investigate and prosecute Internet crimes against children.

Since the program's inception in 1998, the ICAC task forces have received more than 775,000 reports of online victimization and made more than 83,000 arrests. In 2017 alone, the task forces conducted more than 66,000 investigations of technology-facilitated crimes against children. The task forces also continued to focus on public awareness and education, making more than 12,800 presentations on Internet safety in 2017 that reached more than 1.3 million people.

Through the ICAC program, OJJDP supported more than 2,000 regional law enforcement trainings on child exploitation in FY 2017. Approximately 51,000 people attended these regional events, which provided a forum for information sharing and collaboration among federal, state, tribal, and local agencies to combat technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet crimes against children.

In June 2017, the Office convened a National Training for Law Enforcement on Child Exploitation. The 3-day event brought together federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and computer forensic examiners for specialized training on investigating and prosecuting technology-facilitated crimes against children.

The nearly 1,500 participants came from across the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Canada, and Australia.

The training offered 95 classroom workshops on topics such as emerging investigative strategies, legal issues, how to identify and work with victims, understanding predatory behaviors, and officer wellness and safety.

In addition, 40 hands-on computer lab workshops highlighted specialized investigative techniques and allowed the attendees to participate in advanced courses on various peer-to-peer networks, the Darknet, and anonymization.



### OPERATION BROKEN HEART

In June 2017, the Internet Crimes Against Children task forces launched [Operation Broken Heart IV](#), an intensive, 2-month investigative effort to identify and arrest child sexual predators nationwide.

The annual operation, begun in 2014, targets those who own, make, or share child pornography; entice children online for sexual purposes; engage in the commercial sexual exploitation or prostitution of children; and engage in child sex tourism—traveling abroad to sexually abuse children in other countries.

In 2017, through Operation Broken Heart, the task forces arrested 1,012 suspected child predators from more than 40 states.

## Children Exposed to Violence

Research shows that when young people who are exposed to violence are not identified and supported, the exposure may result in academic failure, mental health issues, substance abuse, or involvement with the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Through the Children Exposed to Violence Policy Initiatives, OJJDP offered financial and technical support to four tribes and three states to improve the juvenile justice system's response to children and youth who have been exposed to trauma and violence. The FY 2016 funding, totaling more than \$3.5 million, supported grantees' efforts to change policies, practices, and tribal codes to better identify, screen, assess, and treat these children.

Police officers are often the first responders to incidents that pose threats to the safety and well-being of children. The OJJDP-funded *Enhancing Police Responses to Children Exposed to Violence: A Toolkit for Law Enforcement* was released in FY 2017 to equip law enforcement professionals with trauma-informed tools to respond to children who have been exposed to violence. The toolkit contains protocols, checklists, and other field-tested and research-informed resources.

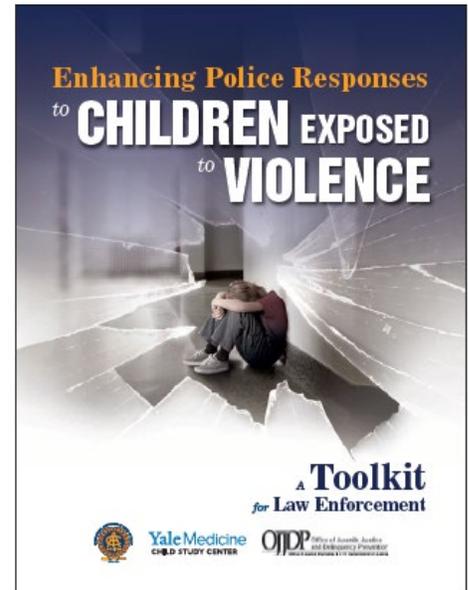
With help from OJJDP's technical assistance providers, each state is developing a comprehensive, statewide, strategic plan. The states' plans and early implementation efforts emphasize interagency reforms and cross-agency collaboration. The states are working to enhance screening practices, scale evidence-based interventions, and share information across systems.

## Changing Minds Campaign

In October 2016, OJJDP launched a national public awareness campaign called Changing Minds. The campaign was designed to raise awareness about the impact of exposure to violence on children and to motivate adults who regularly interact with youth to take action and help. The campaign includes public service announcements, videos, a website, and resource materials that describe the urgency and prevalence of children's exposure to violence. The materials emphasize that a caring adult is critical in reversing the harm done when a child is exposed to violence.

To broaden the understanding of children's exposure to violence, OJJDP provided funding in FY 2017 to expand the reach of the campaign through the development of new tools and materials. Also in FY 2017, the Office partnered with the International Association of Chiefs of Police to help law enforcement and other youth justice professionals better identify and respond to children who have been exposed to violence. This collaboration ultimately led to the toolkit for police officers mentioned above.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Yale Child Study Center are collaborating to implement a training-of-trainers model that will allow skilled law enforcement professionals to train their peers. They are also developing online training courses for law enforcement officers. Visit [changingmindsnow.org](http://changingmindsnow.org) for more information.



## Missing Children

Since 1984, OJJDP has supported the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) (NCMEC) to serve as an information clearinghouse and resource for families of missing and exploited children and the professionals who serve them. OJJDP awarded NCMEC \$28.3 million in FY 2017. The Office also transferred an additional \$6 million of U.S. Secret Service funds to the center through an interagency agreement. In addition to supporting outreach and dissemination activities, these additional funds helped the center to provide technical assistance to law enforcement agencies and personnel working to apprehend noncompliant sex offenders and to identify trends in attempted child abductions.

NCMEC operates a 24-hour toll-free Missing Children's Hotline at 800-THE-LOST; the CyberTipline, a centralized reporting mechanism in which public and electronic service providers can report instances of apparent child sexual exploitation; and the Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP), which serves as the central U.S. repository for information related to child victims depicted in sexually exploitive images and videos.

In FY 2017, NCMEC's call center received 192,321 calls and its CyberTipline received and made available to law enforcement 9,906,752 reports regarding child sexual exploitation or online harm to children. By the end of FY 2017, professionals in the field identified a total of 13,819 child pornography victims, who were documented in the center's CVIP system. During FY 2017, NCMEC helped resolve cases involving 26,041 children who were reported to be missing.

On May 24, 2017, federal and law enforcement officials, families and friends of missing children, child advocates, and others who support programs to recover missing and exploited children gathered at the Department of Justice to commemorate National Missing Children's Day. Organized by OJJDP, the annual ceremony honors the efforts that law enforcement personnel and private citizens make to recover missing and abducted children.

The Alabama and Georgia Internet Crimes Against Children task forces received the 2017 Attorney General's Special Commendation Award for a coordinated investigation of individuals suspected of possessing and distributing child pornography. The investigation spanned more than 70 law enforcement agencies and resulted in 29 arrests and the seizure of 731 digital devices as evidence.

The Missing Children's Law Enforcement Award went to Special Agent Kathryn Gamble, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, who initiated a global investigation targeting people suspected of using an online chat service to sexually exploit minors. Her efforts led to the identification of 30 child victims, and the rescue of 22 child victims from ongoing sexual abuse.

Forensic Detective Eric Kjørness of the Idaho Internet Crimes Against Children task force accepted the Missing Children's Child Protection Award for his contribution to the investigation of 15 cases of possession or distribution of child pornography in 2016. Those cases resulted in the recovery of more than 1 million child pornography images and videos.

The Missing Children's Citizen Award went to Missouri bus driver T.J. Davis whose actions led to the safe recovery of a 13-year-old girl with autism.



Advocate and invited speaker, Georgina DeJesus, one of three young women rescued in 2013 in Cleveland, OH, after being abducted and held captive for 9 years, shared her story of survival.

### 2017 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest Winner



OJJDP conducts a national poster contest as part of the annual commemoration. Audrey Link, a fifth grader from Florida, accepted the 2017 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest Award.

## Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

To respond to the needs of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic sex trafficking, OJJDP awarded more than \$1.8 million in mentoring grants and training and technical assistance in FY 2017. OJJDP funding helped three mentoring sites develop or enhance services to meet the needs of youth who are at risk or are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Mentoring programs connected youth with a caring adult to increase positive social development and protect youth from negative influences.

In June 2017, judges and court officers attended The National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking. The professionals received training and tools to identify trafficked children, or those at risk for victimization, and learned effective intervention strategies for responding to the needs of each victim.

The institute is a partnership between OJJDP, Rights4Girls, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. It is designed for both new and experienced judges and covers a range of topics, including victim demographics, risk factors, sex trafficking recruitment and control tactics, and trafficking legislation. The [institute's website](#) features a comprehensive resource page that includes sample court orders, model protocols, legal analysis, and other tools.

The OJJDP-sponsored National Criminal Justice Training Center held four training sessions in FY 2017 to improve multidisciplinary team responses to child sex trafficking cases and help practitioners establish teams in their communities. OJJDP collaborated with the center to offer a three-part webinar series on Commercial Sex Trafficking Research in September 2017. The series explored research related to commercial sex trafficking of minors and how to improve system responses to victims.

The OJJDP-sponsored AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance program also hosted several trainings for professionals working to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

## Child Abuse Prevention

OJJDP's Victims of Child Abuse Act programs were designed to enhance the effectiveness of the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. They are an important component of the Justice Department's broader initiatives to reduce crime and victimization and promote public safety. In FY 2017, OJJDP provided \$13 million to support the Children's Advocacy Centers National program, which funds local children's advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams that provide a coordinated response to child abuse. OJJDP funding supported 86 grants to these centers, as well as other organizations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

OJJDP funding also supported 29 subgrants to local children's advocacy centers to address the needs of victims of child pornography and child sex trafficking. These funds were made available through the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. The child abuse prevention awards included \$4.8 million to support four regional children's advocacy centers. The regional centers promoted evidence-based practices and a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse investigation, assessment, intervention, and prosecution to ensure better outcomes for child abuse victims and their families. In FY 2017, the centers offered onsite technical assistance and indepth team training on forensic interviews, victim advocacy, multidisciplinary teams, and vicarious trauma, among other topics.

## AMBER ALERT PROGRAM

The AMBER Alert program is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, and the wireless industry to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention engages numerous partners across the nonprofit, corporate, and technology sectors to bolster the program. Partners include the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, federal law enforcement agencies, wireless carriers, Internet service providers, social media outlets, and the Outdoor Advertising Association of America.

As of December 2017, a total of 910 children had been successfully recovered through the AMBER Alert program. Visit [amberalert.gov](http://amberalert.gov) for more information.

Additionally, OJJDP supported efforts to train an array of professionals who provide services to youth and families impacted by abuse. The Office provided nearly \$1.6 million to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to increase awareness of the complex issues confronting this population. Targeted training and technical assistance will provide judges and court personnel with the skills to address the diverse and unique needs of families that experience child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and domestic child sex trafficking.

The Training and Technical Assistance for Child Abuse Professionals grant provided \$900,000 in funding for a model training and technical assistance program for multidisciplinary teams of child abuse professionals at the state and local levels. The program offered a wide variety of onsite and web-based training and technical assistance opportunities. It also continued to support the Child Abuse Library Online, where child abuse professionals have access to research, scholarly articles, and other information.

The Training and Technical Assistance for Child Abuse Prosecutors program provided \$750,000 in funding to help attorneys and others involved in the criminal prosecution of child abuse cases enhance their ability to investigate and prosecute such crimes. The program supported training to improve child interview techniques, investigative methods, interagency coordination, interactions with child victims, and presentation of evidence in court. During FY 2017, the program supported four regional trainings on child abuse prosecution, which included more than 500 participants, as well as the second National Prosecutors Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect.

## Court-Appointed Special Advocates

Court-appointed special advocates (CASA) are volunteers who represent abused and neglected children to ensure they do not get lost in the legal or social service systems. One of the primary goals of a CASA volunteer is to help children find safe, permanent homes. These everyday citizens are screened and trained by local CASA programs.

According to the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, in 2017, more than 86,000 CASA and *guardian ad litem* volunteers helped more than a quarter million abused and neglected children. OJJDP is the primary source of funding for the National CASA program. In fiscal year 2017, the Office provided \$7.2 million to support a network of more than 900 state and local CASA programs in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

The funding, which was authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act, supported training and technical assistance aimed at enhancing state and local capacity to provide advocates for abused and neglected children. A key focus in 2017 was recruiting volunteers as well as staff members, with the goal of serving 100 percent of children in foster care. A public awareness campaign was also launched to help with volunteer recruitment efforts. Finally, the National CASA Association supported the field by awarding subgrants to programs in diverse communities.

## Youth With Sexual Behavior Problems

OJJDP's Youth With Sexual Behavior Problems program is designed to prevent sexual reoffending among youth, promote healing, and provide services for victims and their families. In partnership with the Office of Justice Programs' Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking, OJJDP made two awards totaling \$600,000 in FY 2017. The funding to two grantee sites supported a multidisciplinary approach to intervention and supervision services for youth with sexual behavior problems and treatment services for the child victims and their families.

*“OJJDP’s Victims of Child Abuse Act programs were designed to enhance the effectiveness of the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. They are an important component of the Justice Department’s broader initiatives to reduce crime and victimization.”*



## Chapter 4. Protecting Youth in the System

### Formula Grants

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provides formula grants to states to support their delinquency prevention and juvenile justice system improvement efforts. The Office awarded more than \$35 million in formula grants to designated state agencies in fiscal year (FY) 2017.

To receive funding, states must comply with the 28 state plan requirements described in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Of those requirements, four are deemed to be “core” because a state’s annual formula grant funding is reduced by 20 percent for each of the core requirements with which the state is determined to be out of compliance. These core requirements obligate participating states to (1) deinstitutionalize status offenders, (2) separate youth from adult inmates in secure facilities, (3) remove youth from adult jails and lockups, and (4) address disproportionate minority contact in their juvenile justice systems. States’ compliance data from FY 2006 to FY 2017 can be viewed on the OJJDP website: [ojjdp.gov/compliance/compliancedata.html](http://ojjdp.gov/compliance/compliancedata.html).

In addition to the funds awarded to designated state agencies in FY 2017, OJJDP conducted site visits, provided technical assistance, and sponsored training conferences to help states prevent youth delinquency and maintain or achieve compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Formula grants help states ensure that youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system are redirected onto positive paths. During FY 2017, more than 120,000 youth were served in various programs funded by formula grants. Of that number, 58 percent exhibited a desired change in the targeted behavior in the short term and 55 percent exhibited a desired change in the targeted behavior in the long term, i.e., 6 to 12 months after leaving or completing a program. Targeted behaviors included improvement in antisocial behavior, gang resistance, GED completion, school attendance, self-esteem, family relationships, and other areas vital to positive youth development.

Using OJJDP formula grants funding—

- Georgia supported evidence-based programs in the community as alternatives to out-of-home placements for juvenile offenders who are at moderate to high risk to recidivate.
- West Virginia supported a countywide initiative that used an evidence-based intervention model to prevent at-risk minority youth’s disproportionate contact with the criminal justice system.
- Oklahoma partnered with its Office of Juvenile Affairs’ senior counsel to train judges, attorneys, and juvenile justice system stakeholders on the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and the appropriate use of detention.
- Utah provided intrastate transportation for 65 juveniles from adult jails and lockups to more appropriate juvenile placements, thereby preventing violations of the Act’s jail removal requirement.

### FORMULA GRANTS PROGRAM REGULATION

In January 2017, OJJDP published amendments to the Formula Grants program regulation in the *Federal Register*, which went into effect in April 2017.

The most significant changes in the rule were the updated compliance standards for the requirement to deinstitutionalize youth who commit status offenses, as well as the separation and jail removal requirements.

The new standards will help to eliminate subjectivity in making compliance determinations.

## Juvenile Justice Improvement

Through its [Juvenile Justice System Improvement initiative](#), OJJDP supported state efforts in FY 2017 to implement improvements to their juvenile justice systems. OJJDP funding has supported planning, training, and technical assistance in Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia.



In March 2017, OJJDP staff joined policymakers, practitioners, and leaders from Washington for the state's official launch of its improvement initiative. The state used an FY 2016 OJJDP planning grant and agency-supported training and technical assistance to bring together stakeholders to collaborate on juvenile justice system improvements, including efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities.

OJJDP also met with state leaders during Utah's first improvement implementation meeting in May 2017. Utah passed a comprehensive package of policies designed to improve the state's juvenile justice system. OJJDP's training and technical assistance provider, the Crime and Justice Institute, helped Utah implement its new policies.

In FY 2017, OJJDP's [Systemwide Reform and Reinvestment initiative](#) grants helped Massachusetts—the newest state to join the initiative—develop a juvenile justice system improvement strategic plan. Community Resources for Justice will provide training and technical assistance and help the state analyze data, use appropriate risk assessment tools, identify out-of-home populations, and improve the allocation of resources.

Finally, OJJDP is continuing to study what works in juvenile justice. The Office provided \$1 million to fund the analysis of outcomes, models, and best practices that result from OJJDP's juvenile justice system improvement programs. The National Initiative for the Assessment, Synthesis, and Promotion of Effective Juvenile Justice will share promising practices, policies, and models with other jurisdictions.

## MODEL DATA PROJECT

In fiscal year 2017, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention continued its work with the National Center for Juvenile Justice and its parent organization, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, on the [Juvenile Justice Model Data Project](#). The project convened juvenile justice stakeholders and researchers to build a foundation for effective data and measurement practices in juvenile justice.

Project partners collaborated to develop model data elements with recommended definitions and coding categories that administrative data systems and other juvenile justice-related data collection efforts can adopt. Additionally, they worked to create model measures and analyses with broad and practical applications to monitor trends and assess effectiveness.

In fiscal year 2017, the project released [5 Ways Juvenile Court Judges Can Use Data](#). The publication explains how judges can use data to enhance the functioning of their courtrooms and improve outcomes for youth.

Visit [ojjdp.gov/research/juvenile-justice-model-data-project.html](http://ojjdp.gov/research/juvenile-justice-model-data-project.html) for more information.

## Indigent Defense

May 2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court ruling in the *In re Gault* case that established the right to counsel for youth in delinquency cases. OJJDP works to ensure that all youth involved with the juvenile justice system receive the guarantees of due process and equal protection, regardless of their family's socioeconomic status.

In FY 2017, OJJDP provided more than \$3.6 million to support the development and improvement of juvenile indigent defense systems throughout the country. The National Juvenile Defender Center received nearly \$1.3 million in grant funding to provide technical assistance to statewide juvenile indigent defense systems, identify gaps in practice, and develop tools and resources to enhance the quality of legal representation.

The remainder of the funding was directed toward regional and community-based organizations that are building capacity in the area of indigent defense. These funds supported community-based nonprofit organizations that provide direct civil legal services, mentoring, and reentry planning to youth in secure confinement or out-of-home placement who are transitioning, or have recently transitioned, back to their families and communities. These funds also supported the development of state or regional resource centers that will help state, tribal, and local juvenile defense systems enhance the quality of legal representation, leverage resources, and collect and analyze data to measure the effectiveness of juvenile defense initiatives.

## Juvenile Reentry

Youth who return to their communities from residential placement often need specialized services to successfully reintegrate into the community. These young people may have physical and behavioral health issues and may experience barriers to education, housing, and employment. OJJDP's Second Chance Act programs support state efforts to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth returning to their communities after out-of-home placement.



In FY 2017, to strengthen the bonds between young parents and their children, OJJDP awarded more than \$6 million through two Second Chance Act programs. These reentry mentoring programs aimed to reduce recidivism among young fathers and mothers; improve outcomes for young parents, their children, and other family members; promote responsible parenthood; and protect public safety. The programs focused on effective parenting skills and parent-child engagement, and offered services that were proven to reduce recidivism.

OJJDP also awarded \$3.5 million to support the implementation of county and statewide reentry plans in FY 2017. The plans will better align juvenile justice policy, practice, and resource allocation with what research shows works to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for juvenile offenders.

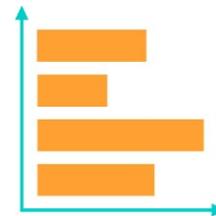
## Prison Rape Elimination Act

The purpose of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) is to “provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in federal, state, and local institutions and to provide information, resources, recommendations, and funding to protect individuals from prison rape.” (Public Law 108–79.)

States that do not comply with the Act's requirements are assessed a 5-percent penalty against their OJJDP-administered formula grant funds. In FY 2017, the Department of Justice reallocated these funds as grants to be used specifically for compliance purposes. Under the Guidance for Prison Rape Elimination Act Reallocation program, OJJDP provided more than \$252,000 to 16 jurisdictions to help state and local governments that are charged with the detention of juveniles to bring their facilities into compliance with PREA requirements.

## Juveniles in Residential Placement

OJJDP conducts statistical data collections to monitor trends related to youth in residential placement. The 2014 Juvenile Residential Facility Census and the 2015 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) provided valuable information about juveniles in residential placement and the facilities that hold them. For the latest publications and data on youth in residential placement, visit [ojjdp.gov/publications/index.html](http://ojjdp.gov/publications/index.html) or [ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb](http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb).



The Juvenile Residential Facility Census and Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement data collections include a wide range of facility types—secure, nonsecure, publicly operated (state and local), and privately operated (including long- and short-term holding). Of all juveniles in residential placement, 69 percent were held in public facilities and 31 percent were held in private facilities.

### Trends

A total of 48,043 youth were held in publicly and privately operated juvenile residential facilities on the October 2015 CJRP census date. The number of youth held in residential placement decreased 54 percent between 1997 and 2015, bringing the overall count to its lowest level since the survey was established in 1997.

### Offense Profiles

The vast majority of youth in residential placement were held for delinquency offenses (95 percent). Person offenses accounted for 38 percent of youth held, property crimes accounted for 22 percent, and drug offenses, public order offenses, and technical violations accounted for smaller percentages of youth held. Youth in placement for status offenses (conduct that would not be a crime if committed by an adult) made up 5 percent of the population.

### Age

Overall, youth ages 16–17 made up more than 50 percent of youth in residential placement and youth ages 13–15 made up 30 percent of that same population.

### Deaths in Residential Placement

Juvenile facilities reported 15 deaths of youth younger than age 21 in residential placement for the 12 months prior to the 2015 census. Deaths of juveniles in residential placement remain relatively rare; the death rate in 2015 was 3.1 per 10,000 youth in placement.

*“OJJDP works to ensure that all youth involved with the juvenile justice system receive the guarantees of due process and equal protection, regardless of their family’s socioeconomic status.”*

## STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK

Through the [Statistical Briefing Book](#), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provides timely and reliable access to the latest juvenile justice data and statistics. This resource provides users with statistical answers to frequently asked questions.

Updates to the Statistical Briefing Book in fiscal year 2017 included the following:

- The data analysis tools, Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics and Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts, were updated to include data through 2014. Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics was also updated to include county-level arrest estimates through 2014.
- Answers to frequently asked questions describing the annual number of juvenile arrests and juvenile arrest rates were updated to include information through 2015.

In addition, answers to frequently asked questions were updated to describe the number and characteristics of child maltreatment victims, trends in school crime victimization and violent crime victimization, as well as youth sexual assault victimization.

OJJDP also added new information to its innovative Data Snapshot series featured in the Statistical Briefing Book. Each 1-page snapshot uses easily understandable graphics to highlight policy-relevant data trends and findings. In fiscal year 2017, the Office released a snapshot on national estimates of delinquency cases involving Hispanic youth.

Visit [ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb](http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb) for more information.

**OJJDP'S ONLINE STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK**  
ojjdp.gov

**Your First Stop for Statistical Information on Juvenile Justice**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Statistical Briefing Book is a comprehensive online information resource on various topics related to juveniles and the justice system. Find the latest information on:

- Juvenile well-being and risk behaviors
- Juvenile court cases
- Juvenile victims and offenders
- Juveniles on probation
- Juvenile arrests
- Juveniles in corrections

Visit the OJJDP website at [ojjdp.gov](http://ojjdp.gov) and click on "Research and Statistics."

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**OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

**The National Juvenile Court Data Archive Includes Data on Hispanic Youth in 2014**

For the first time, national estimates of juvenile court cases involving Hispanic youth are available

Delinquency cases involving Hispanic youth fell 33% since 2005; white cases fell 48% and black cases 27%

Delinquency case rates are similar for Hispanic and white youth, a pattern that has been stable over time

Compared with other groups in 2014, the Hispanic caseload had a smaller proportion of person offenses

Drug offense case rates for Hispanic youth fell 26% since 2005; rates for other offenses fell by more than 40%

In 2014, more than 60% of adjudicated delinquency cases involving Hispanic youth were placed on probation

Hispanic youth were more likely than white or black youth to be adjudicated delinquent in 2014

**Statistical Briefing Book** [ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb](http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb)

Access more information on delinquency cases involving Hispanic juveniles

- Review FAQs about the Hispanic caseload
- Analyze data with Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics

Note: This publication was prepared by Sarah Hockenberry and Charles Puzoschka, National Center for Juvenile Justice, with funds provided by OJJDP through grants #2015-JF-PX-0061 and #2016-JF-PX-0021. Data source: National Center for Juvenile Justice, National Juvenile Court Collaborative, Juvenile Court Case Records (2005-2014) (https://ncesjcrs.jjic.org/).

# Connecting With the Field

## Fiscal Year 2017 Highlights

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provides practitioners, policymakers, and the public with timely and reliable juvenile justice information. In fiscal year 2017, OJJDP provided vital resources to help juvenile justice practitioners prevent and respond to delinquency and child victimization. Connecting with the field ensures that essential information and resources reach the people who are working to make a difference in the lives of youth.

Select training and technical assistance and communication efforts are highlighted below. More complete information is available at [ojjdp.gov/programs](http://ojjdp.gov/programs) and [ojjdp.gov/publications](http://ojjdp.gov/publications).

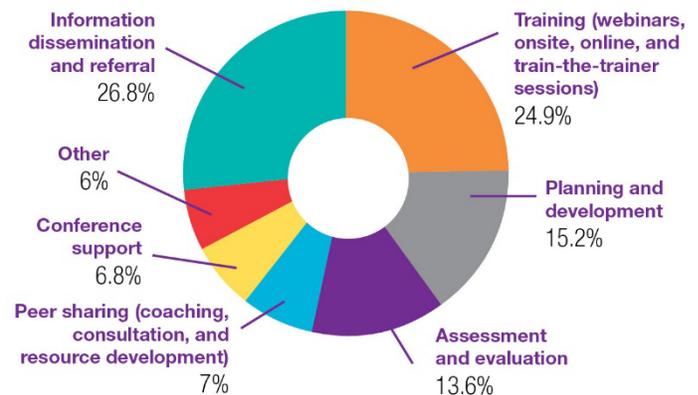


### Training and Technical Assistance

In fiscal year 2017—

- The Office received more than 2,000 requests for training and technical assistance via TTA360, OJJDP's user-friendly online request system. Each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands submitted requests.
- More than half of the requests concerned child safety (30%) and youth and families (21%).
- OJJDP delivered 934 trainings, including 319 webinars. Nearly 19,400 professionals participated in the webinars, which are designed to keep researchers, practitioners, and policymakers up to date on trends in the field.

### OJJDP-Sponsored Training and Technical Assistance, by Type



Total exceeds 100% due to rounding.



### Social Media and Email Newsletters

In fiscal year 2017—

- More than 22,000 juvenile justice and child protection professionals were subscribed to *OJJDP News @ a Glance*, the Office's award-winning e-newsletter.
- OJJDP delivered up-to-date information to its 4,210 Twitter and 3,220 Facebook followers.
- Approximately 19,700 subscribers received emails through OJJDP's JUVJUST listserv with information on publications, research findings, funding opportunities, and upcoming events.

### Topics of Interest to OJJDP's Constituents



# Connecting With the Field

## Fiscal Year 2017 Highlights



### Communications Releases

In fiscal year 2017, OJJDP developed and disseminated a range of publications on juvenile justice and child protection. Publication titles included—

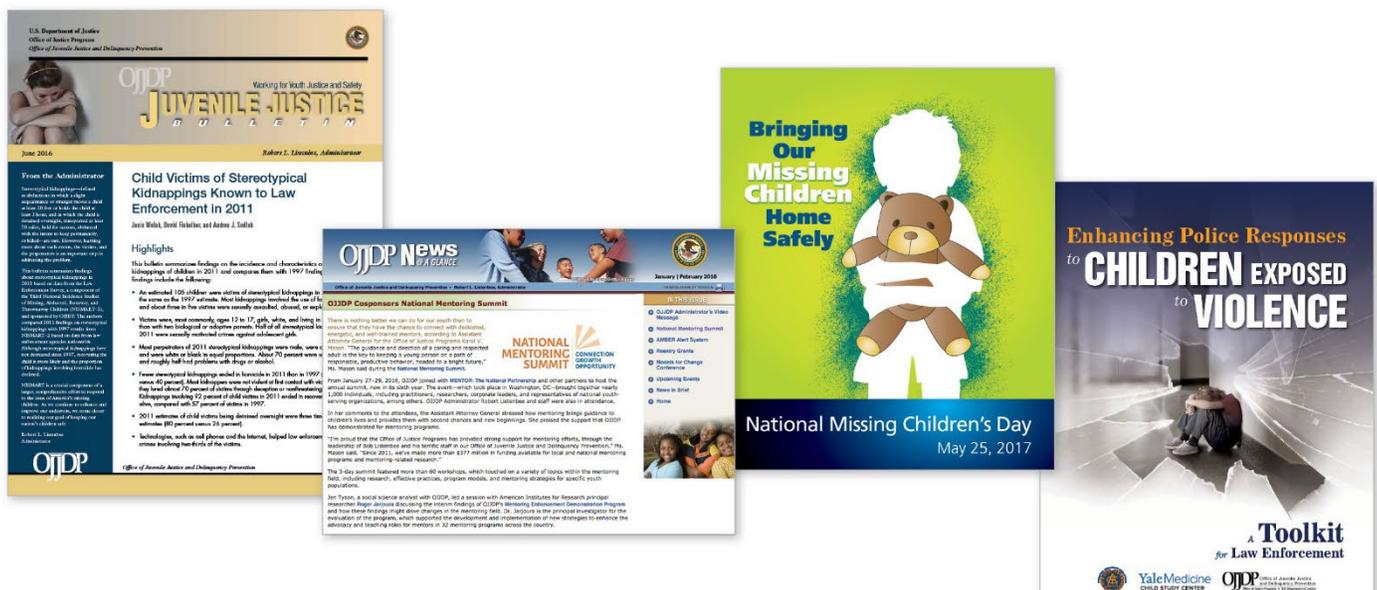
- *Drug Courts*
- *Delinquency Cases Involving Hispanic Youth, 2013*
- *Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines*
- *National Estimates of Missing Children: Updated Findings From a Survey of Parents and Other Primary Caretakers*
- *OJJDP Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Listening Session Report*
- *The Prevalence of Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships Among Children and Adolescents*
- *The Role of Technology in Youth Harassment Victimization*
- Six issues of *OJJDP News @ a Glance*



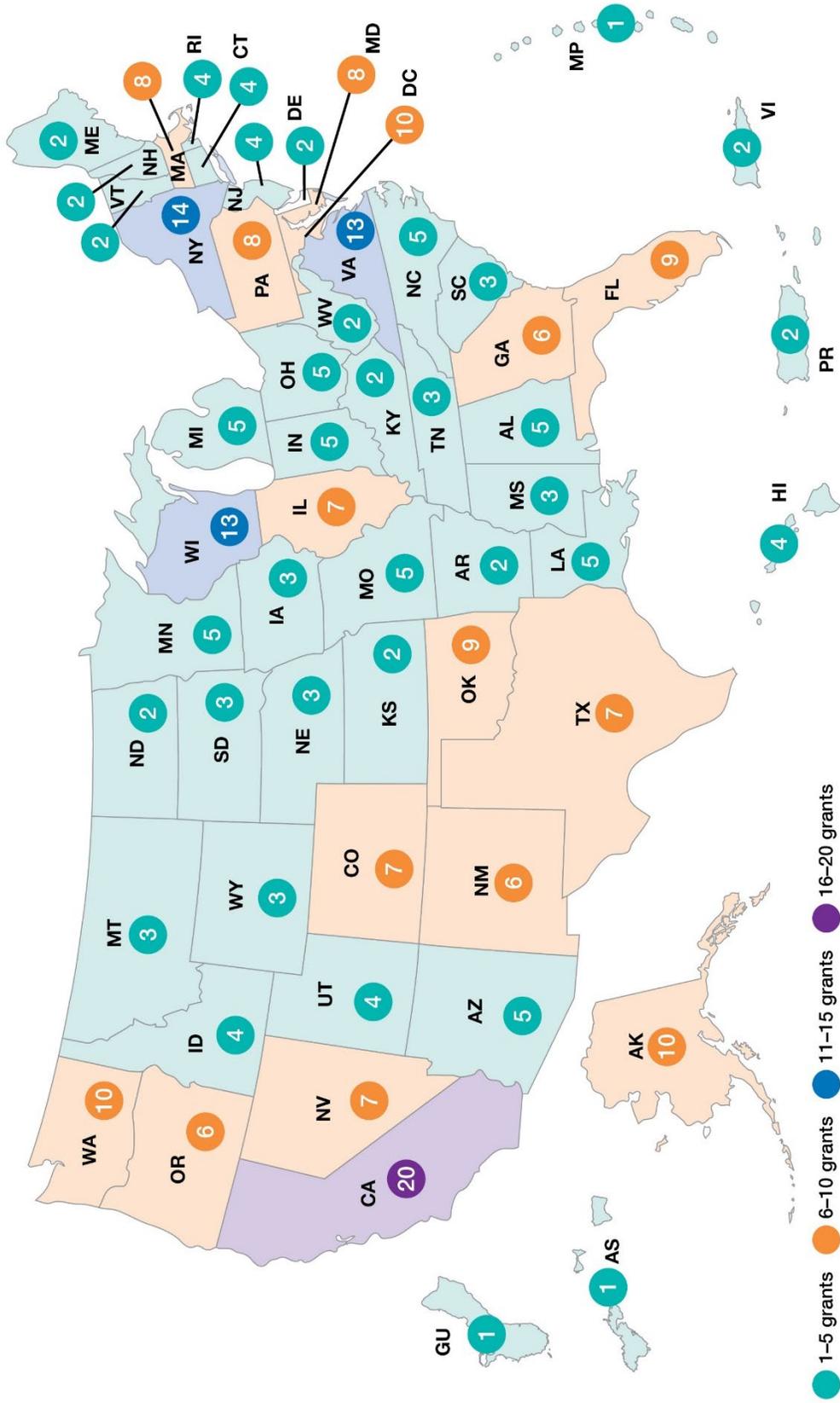
### Achievements in Communications

In fiscal year 2017—

- The National Association of Government Communicators recognized OJJDP with three awards for its communications products. The Office also received an award from the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals.



# OJJDP Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2017, by State and Territory



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's grants support state, local, and tribal efforts to reduce and prevent delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and protect children from violence and abuse. In fiscal year 2017, the Office awarded 296 grants totaling nearly \$254 million.