



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

November 20, 2025

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

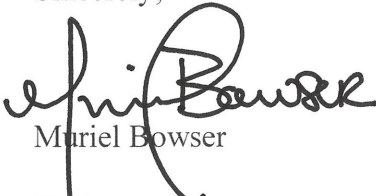
Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am pleased to transmit to the Council of the District of Columbia the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (“JJAG”) 2023-2024 Report which was prepared by the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (“OVSJG”) pursuant to section 223(a)(3)(D) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (“JJDPA”), approved September 7, 1974 (88 Stat. 1109; 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(3)(D)).

This report outlines the JJAG’s key accomplishments including efforts related to grantmaking and grants management, JJDPA compliance monitoring, as well as work related to racial and ethnic disparities within key decision points in the juvenile justice system such as arrests, diversion, detention and placement in secure confinement. These points are used to track and analyze disparities in how youth of different racial and ethnic backgrounds are treated throughout the system.

My administration is available to discuss any questions you may have regarding this report. To facilitate a response to questions about the report you may have, please contact Jennifer Porter, Director, OVSJG, at (202) 724-7216, or at jennifer.porter@dc.gov.

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser
Enclosure

**District of Columbia
Juvenile Justice Advisory Group
(JJAG)**



**2023-2024
Report to the Mayor and The Council**

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Dear Mayor Bowser,

On behalf of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG), I am writing to provide you with an overview of our key achievements and contributions during the FY 2023-2024 reporting period. JJAG has remained focused on improving the juvenile justice system by elevating the voices of young people and their families across the District in collaboration with youth-serving agencies. During FY 2023-2024 our members have actively engaged with DC agencies such as the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), Court Social Services Division (CSSD), District of Columbia Public Schools, the Office of the Attorney General and your office to uplift and enhance best practices by leveraging community feedback and systems knowledge.

A major focus this year was addressing the excessively long periods youth spent in detention while awaiting placement through the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). To understand and resolve this systemic issue, the JJAG dedicated funding to the Council for Court Excellence (CCE) to conduct a focused study recently submitted to the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice for review. This research specifically incorporated input from youth and families and helped identify gaps in inter-agency connections that contribute to delays and offered solutions to ensure these incidents were brief, non-recurring, rare, similar to the District's response to housing instability.

As an intermediate step, our discussions highlighted that a lack of Medicaid enrollment often created placement barriers. The Court Social Services Division (CSSD) took immediate action by increasing the consistency with which they verify Medicaid enrollment at initial intake, which helps to reduce unnecessary delays. JJAG aims to continue expanding resources for all youth, including those at risk of system involvement and youthful offenders. We are also committed to ensuring youth-led advising on policies and programs that prevent system involvement and to identifying strategies that reduce racial and ethnic disparities in accordance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act).

The JJAG's youth committee, Youth Leaders in Action (YLA), was highly active and served as a powerful voice for community youth. We provided ongoing support for YLA's efforts, including allocating funds for their membership in YouthMove National, a program for youth-led groups. A key achievement was YLA's direct advocacy for and support of a youth council at the Youth Services Center (YSC). After meeting with DYRS Director Abed in August 2024, YLA's leadership led to the creation and sustainability of the YSC Youth Council. YLA also partnered with the Georgetown University Juvenile Justice Clinic to fulfill many of the requests made by the council including partnering with DC Public Library to donate \$1000.00 worth of age-appropriate DC-based and graphic novels, coordinating collaboration to reintroduce chess programs led by Big Chair Chess Club, and prioritizing the development of agency coordination to reduce awaiting placement barriers. This is just the beginning of our journey to ensure those most impacted youth and families are centered in the recommendations we share with your office.

Sincerely,
Kyla Woods, JJAG Chairwoman

Dear Mayor Bowser,

As the Director of the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG), I am pleased to express my support for the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) and my gratitude for the opportunity to transmit this report of their activities, success, and areas of opportunity they have accomplished and identified.

In this report, the JJAG details their efforts to support the District in administering funded programs that improve the juvenile justice system. Their goals are in line with your aim to assure that the collaboration of the many systems, both local and federal, in which youth may appear is equitable, community informed, culturally aware and responsive. The JJAG's grant making efforts during fiscal years 2023 and 2024 focused on supporting activities surrounding school-based restorative justice programs and delinquency prevention programs. The report details the funded programming and key accomplishments. With your support, the JJAG will continue to ensure that the programming supported by the more than \$650,000 of Title II funding positively impacts youth and families and improves the juvenile justice system.

Operationally, this report also details key accomplishments and notable recognition of our JJAG. Our Youth Co-Chair was hailed nationally for elevating youth voices in system change work and our State Juvenile Justice Specialist won the prestigious Tony Gobar Outstanding JJ Specialist Award. The JJAG has recruited youth leaders with lived experience with juvenile justice-system involvement to advise system leaders on ways that we can balance public safety and our systemic values of evidence-based and trauma informed care to youth, which you will see summarized in the JJAG's system reform proposal and report titled *Create New Opportunities for "Persons In Need of Supervision" (PINS) to Succeed Without Legal System Intervention: District of Columbia Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Recommendation to Mayor Bowser*.

Thank you for your continued dedication to juvenile justice and public safety, as demonstrated by your support of the JJAG as our state advisory group. I look forward to the continued commitment and collaboration to support the JJAG and the youth of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



Jennifer L. Porter, Director
Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants

Introduction

The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) of 1974, Pub. L. No. 93-415, 88 Stat. 1190, Sept. 7, 1974, created a federal-state partnership to “provide national leadership, coordination and resources to prevent juvenile victimization and respond appropriately to juvenile delinquency.” The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) is the sole State Administering Agency that secures and manages federal grant funds related to juvenile and criminal justice for the District of Columbia. Mayor’s Order 2009-13 establishes the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) as the required State Advisory Group (SAG) to receive Federal Formula funds, Title II, Part B, per section 223(a)(3) of the JJDP Act.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG)

In accordance with the JJDP Act, the JJAG may consist of between 15 to 33 members appointed by the Mayor. The members have training, subject matter expertise and special knowledge concerning delinquency prevention, treatment of juveniles in the delinquency system, and a cross-section of relevant youth services knowledge that includes behavior, health, and education needs. The composition and membership of the JJAG are specified at 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(3), in the Mayor’s Order and JJAG by-laws.

I. Active Membership

- Billy Easley, Locally Elected Official
- Brittany Mobley, Public Defender Services
- Carline Modl, Metropolitan Police Department
- Daniel Barnes, Youth Member
- Hon. Darlene Soltys, DC Superior Courts
- Erica Barnes, Department of Behavioral Health
- Jenise Patterson, Community Member
- Kyla Woods, Chairperson
- LaShelle Richmond, Community Member
- Lisette Burton, Community Member
- Nataly Del Valle, Community Member
- Penelope Spain, Community Member
- Ra’Chelle Dennis, Community Member
- Sheila Clark, Department of Human Services
- Shyra Dowling, District of Columbia Public Schools
- Terri Odom, DC Superior Courts/ Court Social Services Division
- Turnesha Fish, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
- Z’Nyah Wright, Youth Member

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Act (JJDP) and Funding Streams

I. Title II Formula Grant Program

This program supports state and local efforts in planning, establishing, operating, coordinating, and evaluating projects directly or through grants and contracts with public and private agencies for the development of more effective education, training, research, prevention, diversion, treatment, and rehabilitation programs in the areas of juvenile delinquency and programs to improve the juvenile justice system.

II. Title II Program Area Focus

OVSJG, on behalf of JJAG and in accordance with the District's current State Plan for administering Title II Funds, administered funding in the following focus areas:

- **Delinquency Prevention:** Comprehensive juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs that meet needs of youth through collaboration of the many local systems before which a youth may appear, including schools, courts, law enforcement agencies, child protection agencies, mental health agencies, welfare services, health care agencies and private nonprofit agencies offering youth services.
- **Compliance Monitoring/Racial and Ethnic Disparities:** monitoring for compliance with the core requirements and providing training and technical assistance on the core requirements to secure facilities; and programs, research, or other initiatives primarily to address the disproportionate number of youth members of minority groups who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, pursuant to the requirement at 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(15).
- **Planning and Administration:** Activities related to state plan development, other pre-award activities, and administration of the Formula Grants Program, including evaluation, monitoring, and staffing, pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 11132(c).
- **JJAG Operations:** Activities related to carrying out the state advisory group's responsibilities under Section 223(a) (3) of the JJDP Act.

III. Funded Programs

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) – Compliance Monitoring and RED Coordination

The CJCC employs the District's Compliance Monitor and Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator (CM/RED). This staff member is responsible for helping to ensure that the District is in compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act

(JJJPA). The CM/RED's responsibilities include identifying and classifying all District facilities that should be included in the monitoring universe, conducting site visits and inspections of those facilities, collecting and analyzing admissions/intake data from each secure facility and the court, providing technical assistance to facilities to help ensure compliance, and completing the annual compliance monitoring report. The CJCC also utilizes grant funding to conduct Juvenile Justice Training and Technical Assistance sessions that focus on specific juvenile justice issues that have a nexus to the JJJPA core requirements or reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system.

- FY23 Award: \$90,000.00
- FY24 Award: \$108,000.00

Access Youth, Inc. – Restorative Justice in Schools at Ballou High School

Access Youth's Restorative Justice in Schools (RJ) program is designed to provide trauma-informed, evidence-based interventions for at-risk high school students at Ballou and Eastern High Schools and Hart and Kelly Miller middle schools to reduce suspension rates and school-based arrests and ultimately reduce juvenile delinquency and justice system involvement.

- FY23 Award: \$173,320.29
- FY24 Award: \$425,000.00

Multicultural Career Internship Program- Delinquency Prevention at the Columbia Heights Education Campus (CHEC)

This is a trauma-informed, care based, juvenile delinquency prevention program delivered to approximately 150 at-risk youth in Columbia Heights, Washington, DC. The project provided trauma-informed counseling, prevention of risk behaviors (e.g., drug prevention and gang prevention and intervention), youth development support (e.g., conflict resolution and healthy lifestyles and relationships education and skill building), and academic assistance (e.g., tutoring and academic mentoring) to engage youth in education and divert them from delinquency or possible delinquent/risky behavior.

- FY23 Award: \$200,00.00
- FY24 Award: \$180,000.00

CASA DC

CASA DC connects court-involved DC youth with the 1:1 support of a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate. Volunteers provide mentoring support to youth & best interest advocacy in court. CASAs are recruited from the community & undergo extensive training to inform their work. Volunteers are guided by professional staff. CASA DC's BRIDGES program was founded in 2019 to support justice-involved youth, emphasizing youth dually involved in the child welfare & justice systems, building on CASA DC's two decades of expertise in supporting foster youth.

- FY23 Award: None
- FY24 Award: \$150,000.00

Open City Advocates (OCA)

OCA models an innovative solution in juvenile defense in Washington, DC, and nationwide. Through its direct client services, OCA provided holistic legal representation and mentoring to approximately 45-60 youth yearly, ranging from 16-25 years old, who are (or were formerly) committed to the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). The racial disparity of youth in the delinquency system is extreme, and OCA's program addresses it by providing each youth has a dedicated and zealous defender with specialized expertise in representing youth as they transition into young adulthood. By collaborating with the courts, DC agencies, and community-based organizations, OCA magnifies its impact both locally and nationally.

- FY23 Award: \$ 5,000.00
- FY24 Award: \$10,000.00

Key Accomplishments for the JJAG and the District's Juvenile Justice System

I. Contributions to System Improvement

Throughout the reporting period, JJAG remained a key convener for cross-agency and community leaders, especially youth, and vector for their input to DC leaders. JJAG received updates on plans from multiple DC agencies and offices of the Mayor and provided input to incorporate proven practices, as well as community, youth, and family input. The JJAG also enabled Title II grantees to provide program updates and accomplishments, share needs, and receive collaboration from agency and community leaders. In addition, individual JJAG members testified on multiple pieces of proposed legislation at the DC Council. JJAG also engaged legislators' offices at multiple meetings to learn about upcoming legislation, ask questions, raise concerns, and make recommendations.

Addressed Systemic Issues Creating Long Detention Periods for Youth Awaiting Placement

During 2024, discussions at JJAG meetings repeatedly spotlighted excessively long periods in detention for awaiting placement through DYRS. The JJAG decided that focused study of the issue, including youth and family input, would help the multiple agencies involved identify and address barriers to efficient youth placements. Therefore, the JJAG dedicated funding to the CCE to study the issues contributing to long periods in detention while awaiting placement for DC youth. The study focused on the experiences of youth and families, as well as leveraged the JJAG's power as a convener to find gaps in the connections between agencies that led to delays.

CSSD took an intermediate step during the reporting period. CSSD increased their consistency by asking for Medicaid enrollment cards to verify enrolled status for young people at the initial intake meeting. In the JJAG's cross-agency conversations about delays to placement, DYRS advised that lack of Medicaid enrollment caused barriers to prompt placement and that CSSD had the earliest possible opportunity to begin enrollment for youth who were not yet enrolled or for whom enrollment had lapsed. Some families may think they are enrolled but are not, and confirming enrollment status at intake can help reduce unnecessary delays.

CCE presented its final report to the JJAG and shared it with the Mayor's office after this reporting period.

Steered Federal Resources Based on Community Needs

The JJAG's State Plan for FY2024-26 identified the following goals:

1. To develop and strengthen preventative services and advise on local policy changes designed to reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.
2. To improve the juvenile justice system through coordination, strategic resource allocation, technical assistance, and collaborative planning.
3. Maintain District compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP.

State Plan Goals

The District is focused on expanding resources that meet the needs of all youth, including youth at risk of system involvement, youthful offenders of delinquent acts, and youth engaged in status offense behaviors. The District is also committed to advising on programs and local policy that prevent system involvement for young people and to identifying existing strategies and exploring new or enhanced strategies that reduce racial and ethnic disparities in our juvenile justice system. Thus, JJAG, on behalf of the District of Columbia, will continue to focus on delinquency prevention, compliance monitoring for the four core requirements, and racial and ethnic disparity reduction work in the 2024-2026 District of Columbia State Plan.

Youth Leaders in Action (YLA): Youth Leadership and Engagement

Throughout 2023 and 2024, Youth Leaders in Action (YLA), the JJAG's youth committee, remained extremely active and engaged in community outreach and served as active ambassadors of community youth voice to the JJAG. The JJAG provided ongoing support for YLA's efforts and allocated funds to support YLA's membership in YouthMove National, a technical assistance and peer learning program for youth-led groups.

In a crucial contribution to youth voice opportunities within DYRS, YLA's leadership directly led to the creation and sustainability of a youth council within the YSC. In August of 2024, YLA met with DYRS Director Abed and advocated for the development of a Youth Council at YSC. The JJAG developed a new partnership with Georgetown University Juvenile Justice Clinic to support the new youth council at YSC. Further pushing the youth council into existence, YLA scheduled a first meeting for and with youth council at YSC. YLA heard from detained youth at this meeting and shared their concerns and requests with the JJAG, in addition to leadership at YSC.

Youth at YSC requested new programming during detention, including Clinical Therapy, Business/Entrepreneurship, Animal Therapy, Music Program (Sound Engineering), Spoken Word/Poetry, Anger Management, ADHD Management, and Art. They also requested more recreational time in the gym to exercise. In addition, the youth advised that crucial programming in the community would help them. They recommended more afterschool programming, Credible Messengers for non-committed youth, a reentry clothing stipend, and safer alternatives to the Achievement Centers and the Balanced and Restorative Justice project (BARJ).

In addition to these programming requests, the YSC-detained youth advised YLA that they needed more books to read while in detention. Following the request from young people at YSC and with support from partners at Georgetown University Juvenile Justice Clinic, YLA partnered with the DC Public Library to secure several hundred youth-friendly books to be donated to YSC. Books included those requested by the young people and recommended by librarians.

In addition to this major contribution to youth leadership opportunities in DC's juvenile justice system, YLA conducted several other activities.

Associated with Youth Justice Action Month (YJAM), YLA conducted multiple outreach events in the community and shared their learning with JJAG through a presentation at the March 2024 meeting.

- YLA members volunteered at the Maya Angelou School at New Beginnings Youth Development Center to support mock interviews for students.
- YLA created a Mission Statement to cement their commitment to youth in the District.
- As evidence of its continuing national reputation for excellent youth leaders, JJAG youth and community members attended and spoke at the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's 2024 National Conference.

Compliance Monitoring and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Efforts

The JJAG annually funds a Compliance Monitor and Racial Ethnic Disparities Coordinator to support the District's efforts in maintaining compliance with the JJPDA. These grant funds support a full-time staff person employed by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). During this reporting period, the Compliance Monitor conducted site visits for 13 sites, including police precincts and DYRS facilities that securely detain youth in the District. The Compliance Monitor also works with agencies to streamline the data collection and data verification processes among system partners to enable effective reporting on the core requirements of the JJPDA. This information is also shared with the JJAG via memorandum and inserted here for reporting purposes.

The District has submitted all FY23 Compliance Monitoring data to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), which has reviewed, accepted and certified the data. The District has submitted FY24 Compliance Monitoring data to OJJDP for review on July 8, 2025, however, it has not yet been certified by OJJDP.

Compliance Monitoring FY23 and FY24

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act has four core protections:

- Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)
- Sight and Sound Separation

- Removal from Adult Jails and Lock Ups Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)

The Compliance Monitor completes annual site visits to various facilities and engages in ongoing data collection and analysis to ensure that the District is complying with the core requirements of the JJDP.

The Compliance Monitor completed site visits at the following facilities in FY23 and FY24:

Facility Name	Facility Address	Public/Private	Non-Residential/Residential/Both	Juveniles Only/Adults Only/Both	Facility Type	Co-located Facility (Y/N)	FY23 Inspection Date	FY24 Inspection Date
Juvenile Processing Center	5002 Hayes Street NE	Public	Residential	Juveniles Only	Juvenile Lockup	Y	06/29/2023	11/9/2023
First District Police Station	101 M Street SW	Public	Residential	Adults Only	Adult Lockup	N	12/27/2022	11/9/2023
Second District Police Station	3320 Idaho Ave NW	Public	Residential	Adults Only	Adult Lockup	N	12/29/2022	11/13/2023
Third District Police Station	1620 V Street NW	Public	Residential	Adults Only	Adult Lockup	N	12/29/2022	11/13/2023
Fourth District Police Station	6001 Georgia Ave NW	Public	Residential	Adults Only	Adult Lockup	N	12/29/2022	11/13/2023
Fifth District Police Station	1805 Bladensburg Rd NE	Public	Residential	Adults Only	Adult Lockup	N	12/29/2022	11/13/2023
Sixth District Police Station	5002 Hayes Street NE	Public	Residential	Adults Only	Adult Lockup	Y	06/29/2023	11/9/2023
Seventh District Police Station	2455 Alabama Ave SE	Public	Residential	Adults Only	Adult Lockup	N	12/27/2022	11/9/2023
Youth Services Center	1000 Mt Olivet Rd NE	Public	Residential	Juveniles Only	Juvenile Detention Facility	N	05/11/23	11/16/2023
New Beginnings Youth Development Center	8400 River Road, Laurel	Public	Residential	Juveniles Only	Juvenile Correctional Facility	N	05/11/23	11/16/2023
DC Jail	1901 D Street SE	Public	Residential	Adults Only	Adult Jail	N	03/30/2023	11/21/2023
Court Holding	500 Indiana Ave NW	Public	Non-residential	Adults Only	Adult Lockup	Y	04/04/2023	11/7/2023
DYRS At Risk Court Holding	500 Indiana Ave NW	Public	Non-residential	Juveniles Only	Juvenile Lockup	Y	04/04/2023	11/7/2023

The District did not have any JJDP violations in FY23 and was in compliance with the core requirements of the Act. The data submitted to OJJDP by the District in July 2024 has been accepted and certified. OJJDP has confirmed that there were no JJDP violations in D.C. in FY23.

The FY24 data was submitted to OJJDP on July 8, 2025, and has not yet been certified, but the preliminary data indicates that there were no JJDPA violations in FY24 and the District remains in compliance with the core requirements of the JJDPA.

The District had no DSO violations in FY23. Five status offenders, who were out-of-state residents, were securely detained at YSC in FY23, in accordance with the Interstate Compact on Juveniles. In FY24, the preliminary data shows that the District had no DSO violations. The District securely detained three out-of-state youth with status offenses in FY24, in accordance with the Interstate Compact on Juveniles.

The District did not have any Sight and Sound Separation violations in FY23 or FY24. The District did not have any Jail Removal violations in FY23 or FY24.

RED Data – Certified FY23 Data and Preliminary FY24 Data

Below is the RED Data that the District submitted to OJJDP for FY23:

Table 1: District of Columbia Juvenile Population Data (EZPOP 2020)

	White	Black	Hispanic/ Latino*	American Indian	Asian	Total
Number	32,536	70,149	22,253	278	4,372	129,588
% of Population	25.1%	54.1%	17.2%	0.2%	3.4%	100%

Table 2: Involvement in Juvenile Justice System Touchpoints, by Race/Ethnicity (FY2023)

	Race:	White	Black	Hispanic/ Latino*	American Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Alaska Native	Total
Population (EZPOP - 2020)		32,536	70,149	22,253	278	4,372	--	--	129,588
ARREST	Number	8	1,362	29	--	--	--	--	1,403**
	% of Pop.	0.02%	1.94%	0.13%	--	--	--	--	
	% of Arrests	0.57%	97.08%	2.07%	--	--	--	--	
DIVERSION	Number	3	332	16	--	1	--	--	353+
	% of Pop.	0.01%	0.47%	0.07%	--	--	--	--	
	% of Diversion	0.85%	94.05%	4.53%	--	--	--	--	
SECURE DETENTION	Number	4	478	19	--	2	--	--	504++
	% of Pop.	0.01%	0.68%	0.09%	--	--	--	--	
	% of Detention	0.79%	94.84%	3.77%	--	--	--	--	
SECURE CONFINEMENT	Number	--	112	2	--	--	--	--	114
	% of Pop.	--	0.16%	0.01%	--	--	--	--	
	% of Confine	--	98.25%	1.75%	--	--	--	--	
ADULT TRANSFER	Number	--	28	1	--	--	--	--	29
	% of Pop.	--	0.04%	0.00%	--	--	--	--	

	% of Transfers	--	96.55%	3.45%	--	--	--	--
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Table 3: FY20, FY21, FY22, FY23 Comparison of Percent of Black Youth Involved at Each Touchpoint and Percent of All Youth at Each Touchpoint Who Were Black

		FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Change from FY20-23
Population (EZPOP 2020)		70,149	70,149	70,149	70,149	
ARREST	% of Population	2.48%	1.85%	1.90%	1.94%	-0.54%
	% of Arrests	91.44%	94.32%	94.02%	97.08%	5.64%
DIVERSION	% of Population	0.55%	0.28%	0.33%	0.47%	-0.08%
	% of Diversion	90.02%	96.20%	96.67%	94.05%	4.03%
SECURE DETENTION	% of Population	0.57%	0.33%	0.27%	0.68%	0.11%
	% of Detention	92.20%	95.10%	95.45%	94.84%	2.64%
SECURE CONFINEMENT	% of Population	0.12%	0.13%	0.10%	0.16%	0.04%
	% of Confine	92.13%	92.93%	93.42%	98.25%	6.12%
ADULT TRANSFER	% of Population	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.00%
	% of Transfer	92.59%	95.65%	94.74%	90.32%	-2.27%

Table 4: FY20 to FY23 Comparison of the Number of Black Youth Involved at Each Touchpoint

		FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	# change from FY20-23
ARREST	# of Arrests	1,741	1,296	1,336	1,362	-379
DIVERSION	# of Diversions	388	193	232	332	-56
SECURE DETENTION	# of Detention	402	233	189	478	76
SECURE CONFINEMENT	# of Confinement	82	92	71	112	30
ADULT TRANSFER	# of Transfer	25	22	18	28	3

Below is the FY24 RED Data:

Table 1: District of Columbia Juvenile Population Data (EZPOP 2023)

	White	Black	Hispanic/ Latino*	American Indian	Asian	Total
Number	31,783	67,571	22,668	292	4,278	126,592
% of Population	25.1%	53.4%	17.9%	0.2%	3.4%	100%

*Denotes Hispanic of any race.

Table 2: Involvement in Juvenile Justice System Touchpoints, by Race/Ethnicity (FY2024)

	Race:	White	Black	Hispanic/ Latino*	American Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Alaska Native	Total
Population (EZPOP - 2023)		31,783	67,571	22,668	292	4,278	--	--	126,592
ARREST	Number	8	1,462	66	0	0	--	--	1,536
	% of Pop.	0.0%	2.2%	0.3%	0%	0%	N/C**	N/C	
	% of Arrests	0.5%	95.2%	4.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
DIVERSION	Number	8	160	2	0	0	--	--	170
	% of Pop.	0%	0.2%	0%	0%	0%	N/C	N/C	
	% of Diversion	4.7%	94.1%	1.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
SECURE DETENTION	Number	2	502	17	0	0	--	--	521
	% of Pop.	0%	0.7%	0.1%	0%	0%	N/C	N/C	
	% of Detention	0.4%	96.4%	3.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
SECURE CONFINEMENT	Number	0	67	2	0	0	--	--	69
	% of Pop.	0%	0.1%	0%	0%	0%	N/C	N/C	
	% of Confine	0%	97.1%	2.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
ADULT TRANSFER	Number	2	80	2	0	0	--	--	84
	% of Pop.	0%	0.1%	0%	0%	0%	N/C	N/C	
	% of Transfers	2.4%	95.2%	2.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	

*Denotes Hispanic of any race. Calculations include unique events as opposed to unique individuals to demonstrate the number of times juveniles of each race/ethnicity touched the system. “% of Pop” = % of the juvenile population for the specified race/ethnicity that was involved at the particular touchpoint. ** N/C = Not calculable

Table 3: FY21, FY22, FY23, and FY24 Comparison of the Number of Black Youth Involved at Each Touchpoint

		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	# change from FY21-24
ARREST	# of Arrests	1,296	1,336	1,362	1,462	+166
DIVERSION	# of Diversions	193	232	332	160	-33
SECURE DETENTION	# of Detention	233	189	478	502	+269
SECURE CONFINEMENT	# of Confinement	92	71	112	67	-25
ADULT TRANSFER	# of Transfer	22	18	28	80	+58

Table 4: FY21, FY22, FY23, and FY24 Comparison of Percent of Black Youth Involved at Each Touchpoint and Percent of All Youth at Each Touchpoint Who Were Black

		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	Change from FY21-24
Population (EZPOP 2023)		67,571	67,571	67,571	67,571	
ARREST	% of Population	1.85%	1.90%	1.94%	2.18%	+18.9%
	% of Arrests	94.32%	94.02%	97.08%	95.18%	+0.9%
DIVERSION	% of Population	0.28%	0.33%	0.47%	0.24%	-28.6%
	% of Diversion	96.20%	96.67%	94.05%	94.12%	-2.2%
SECURE DETENTION	% of Population	0.33%	0.27%	0.68%	0.75%	+112.1%
	% of Detention	95.10%	95.45%	94.84%	96.35%	+1.4%
SECURE CONFINEMENT	% of Population	0.13%	0.10%	0.16%	0.10%	-23.1%
	% of Confine	92.93%	93.42%	98.25%	97.10%	-4.5%
ADULT TRANSFER	% of Population	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.12%	233.3%
	% of Transfer	95.65%	94.74%	96.55%	95.24%	2.8%

Conversely, White, Asian and Hispanic/Latino youth are underrepresented at each touchpoint in D.C.’s juvenile justice system. In FY24, White youth make up 25.1% of the District’s youth population, but only represent 0.5% of juvenile arrests, 4.7% of diverted cases, 0.4% of securely detained youth and 2.4% of transfers to the adult system. In FY24, White youth are overrepresented in diversions (they make up 4.7% of diversions, despite representing only 0.5% of arrests), and Hispanic/Latino youth are underrepresented in diversion (they only make up 1.2% of diversions, despite representing 4.3% of arrests).

The number of Black youth who were arrested, securely detained and transferred to adult court increased from FY21 and FY24. For example, 1,296 Black youth were arrested in D.C. in FY21 and that number increased to 1,462 in FY24, meaning that 166 more Black youth were arrested in FY24 compared to FY21. Secure detention of Black youth increased during the period from FY21 to FY24 from 233 to 502. Adult transfers of Black youth almost quadrupled between FY21 and FY24, reflecting a change in the United States Attorney’s Office’s juvenile adult transfer decision making. The number of Black youth who were diverted and securely confined decreased during that same period.

District Efforts to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)

During FY23 and FY24, more than 90% of the juveniles who were arrested, securely detained, securely confined and charged as adults in D.C. were Black, even though Black youth only made up around 54% of the District’s juvenile population. While the District has decreased the number of Black youth at each contact point of the system, Black youth are the only racial/ethnic group that are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system compared to their percentage of the total juvenile population.

Consistent with the District’s efforts to reduce the exposure and involvement of juveniles in the justice system, success in reducing R/ED would be a reduction in the number of Black youth who enter the juvenile justice system at each touchpoint. The District is currently engaged in focused strategies that can help achieve this goal, including juvenile diversion programs, alternatives to prosecution, and specialty courts.

The District has a number of ongoing and planned efforts to limit juvenile involvement in the justice system. Some of these efforts are described below.

Ongoing Efforts:

Juvenile Diversion Programs

Juvenile diversion programs in the District are important for addressing racial and ethnic disparities particularly in arrest, where the overrepresentation of youth begins.

The Alternatives to the Court Experience (ACE) is a program for youth who have committed status offenses and low-level delinquency offenses whom the government has elected not to prosecute. The program is operated by DHS, in collaboration with the CSSD, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), OAG, DBH, and community-based service providers. MPD can divert youth to ACE prior to completion of the booking process based on specified eligibility criteria, which were further expanded in January 2020 (see MPD General Order 305.01: https://go.mpdconline.com/GO/GO_305_01.pdf). OAG may also divert youth to the ACE program, on a case-by-case basis, in lieu of prosecution.

The Parent and Adolescent Support Services (PASS) program, through the DHS, serves District families with youth ages 10-17 who have committed status offenses, including truancy. The PASS program works cooperatively with juveniles and their families and provides intensive case management services to identify and address behavior and service needs designed to reduce the need for intervention from the juvenile justice system. PASS can accept referrals from schools, community members, as well as juvenile justice system agencies.

DHS also operates the Strengthening Teens Enriching Parents (STEP) program, which works with youth up to 17 years old who are reported missing to the MPD. Case managers provide outreach to assess why the youth has left home and, together with the family, implement services with community partners and other District agencies to reduce the likelihood of future missing persons reports and increase family stability. Participation in the STEP program is voluntary and lasts for up to 6 months depending on the needs of the youth and family. While participating in the program, youth receive case management and a range of services based on the youth's and family's needs, including stabilization services, temporary housing for youth, mentoring, mediation, and behavioral health interventions. This program aims to reduce the number of status offender cases that are referred to the juvenile justice system.

Alternatives to Prosecution

OAG exercises a number of alternatives to prosecution to help limit deeper penetration into the juvenile justice system. The alternatives include Consent Decrees (CDs), Deferred Prosecution Agreements (DPAs), Deferred Disposition Agreements (DDAs) and the Restorative Justice Program.

A CD is an agreement that a youth shall be placed on probation before a plea or finding of involvement in a crime. The decree is usually six months in length and does not require further hearings, unless requested because the youth is not complying with conditions of release. A DPA is pre-trial diversion. If the juvenile successfully completes the agreed-upon terms, the charges can be dismissed. This approach aims to hold young people accountable while potentially avoiding formal conviction. A DDA is a pre-sentencing diversion, where a youth's sentence is deferred after they have entered into a guilty plea. If a youth successfully completes the terms of the DDA, their guilty plea can be withdrawn, and the case is dismissed. If a youth does not successfully fulfill the conditions of the DDA, the Court will impose a sentence based on their guilty plea. Youth who are placed on a CD, DPA and DDA can be referred to OAG's Restorative Justice Program, as a condition of their supervision.

OAG's Restorative Justice Program was launched in 2016. OAG uses Restorative Justice (RJ) conferencing, in lieu of prosecution, to resolve conflicts by focusing on repairing harm and empowering victims. RJ involves, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offense to collectively identify and address harm, needs, and obligations to heal and put things as right as possible. At its core, the RJ program values accountability, healing, and inclusion. RJ programs also hold youth accountable by helping them to address the harm they may have caused in their community, to their victims, and to their families or schools. The youth participating in this program perform community service, pay restitution, and participate in victim-offender mediations, restorative circles, and restorative justice conferences.

Specialty Courts

The District operates specialty courts to help avoid deeper penetration into the justice system for particularly vulnerable juveniles.

The Here Opportunities Prepare you for Excellence (HOPE) Court was established in 2018 by DC Superior Court, in collaboration with OAG and the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), to prevent youth who became involved in the juvenile justice system as a result of being subject to or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation from further penetrating the juvenile justice system. HOPE Court connects eligible and suitable juveniles and their parent(s), guardians, or custodians with services and supports that are designed to rehabilitate youth and reduce their risk of being victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the future.

The Juvenile Behavioral Diversion Program (JBDP) is an intensive, non-sanction-based mental health court designed to connect juveniles and status offenders with appropriate mental health services and supports in the community. JBPD has three tracks: a pre-plea track for first-time, nonviolent youth; a pre-disposition track for youth who enter a plea and agree to meet certain conditions with the option of having their case dismissed; and a post-disposition track for youth with medium level offenses who must successfully complete the program as a condition of probation.

Legislation

In 2016, the DC Council passed the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act (CYJAA), D.C. Law 21-238, effective April 4, 2017, which brought about a number of changes to limit juvenile exposure to the justice system. In summary, the CYJAA strengthens the presumption

against pre-disposition detention of a child, reduces the number of unnecessary arrests of children, bans the secure detention of status offenders, transfers youth charged as an adult to the custody of the DYRS (juvenile justice agency), ends the commitment to the DYRS of children under 10 years of age, terminates the commitment of status offenders on their 18th birthday, improves communication for the families of committed juveniles about commitment and the resources available to them, and authorizes the sealing of juvenile arrest records.

Juvenile Justice Training and Technical Assistance Sessions

Each year, the CJCC conducts several training and technical assistance sessions to inform juvenile justice and youth-serving agencies and organizations in the District about evidence-based practices for addressing the needs of system-involved youth and to create a platform for agencies to share their experiences—both successes and challenges. Sessions focus on particular juvenile justice issues and aim to identify solutions. The CJCC conducted two virtual sessions during FY22. The first session was focused on effective restorative justice programs and practices. The second session identified challenges and solutions with respect to ensuring racial equity in the juvenile justice and criminal justice data sharing lifecycles.

The CJCC continues to work with the Juvenile Justice Committee and member agencies to implement the action items identified during each of these sessions. Summaries of these sessions can be accessed through the following link: <https://cjcc.dc.gov/page/training-and-technical-assistance-01>.

In FY25, the CJCC is planning a technical assistance session on the best practices regarding the use of juvenile risk assessment in informing decision-making in the juvenile justice system.

Collaboration among Juvenile Justice Stakeholders

JJAG serves as the State Advisory Group for the District of Columbia. The JJAG is comprised of directors of juvenile justice agencies, prosecutors, public defenders, mental health professionals, community leaders, and most importantly youth. The purpose of the JJAG is to provide active consultation to the Mayor and government agencies regarding the provision of comprehensive delinquency prevention programs that meet the needs of youth through the collaboration of local systems with which youth interface. Specifically, the JJAG leads the development of the District's three-year statewide plan; advises the Mayor and government agencies regarding compliance with the core requirements of the JJDPA; and obtains input from youth with experience navigating the juvenile justice system. The JJAG has established several subcommittees, including a Policy and Legislative Committee, which advises on proposed legislation and agency policies that may impact system-involved youth. The JJAG also has a Racial and Ethnic Disparities subcommittee, which aims to reduce the overrepresentation of racial minorities in the District's juvenile justice system.

The Compliance Monitor is employed by the CJCC, which is comprised of the local and federal justice system leaders in the District. The CJCC identified juvenile justice as one of its strategic priority areas. On behalf of the council, CJCC staff, including the District's Compliance Monitor, convene a number of committees and workgroups that aim to identify solutions to systemwide issues and enhance system operations. The CJCC convenes two juvenile justice-related committees, each of which contributes to the goal of limiting juveniles' exposure to the justice system.

- The Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC): The JJC serves as the executive body for the District’s juvenile justice system and is charged with setting juvenile justice strategic priorities. The JJC is chaired by the presiding judge of the Family Court Division of the D.C. Superior Court and has several subcommittees and workgroups to help fulfill its goals.
- The Juvenile Justice Data Committee (JJDC): The Juvenile Data Committee meets every other month to identify and seek to understand the trends across each phase of the juvenile justice system from diversion and arrest to probation and commitment. The JJDC reports key trends to the JJC, which then works to identify solutions when needed.

Planned and Recently Initiated Efforts

Building a Local Continuum of Care to Support Youth Success

In February 2024, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded an 18-month grant to generate a continuum of care implementation plan to support youth success in the District. As part of this project, D.C. will build on previously completed asset mapping to identify current services available to at-risk and justice-involved youth, as well as any gaps in services. Through data analysis and a review of best-practices and model sites, the District will develop a plan for the implementation of continuum of care for youth and families.

Improving Identification and Outcomes of Crossover Youth

On May 5, 2024, the Council for Court Excellence (CCE) released a report commissioned by the Office of the D.C. Auditor (ODCA) entitled A Broken Web: Improved Collaboration is Needed for D.C.’s Crossover Youth. The report highlighted the fact that several District agencies fail to utilize a definition of crossover youth (i.e., youth with a history of both child-welfare and juvenile justice involvement) that is consistent with D.C. Code, which makes it challenging to identify the full population of crossover youth. In addition, the report found that there is insufficient communication, collaboration and data sharing among agencies regarding this population of vulnerable youth. The report recommends that the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) and the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) develop and utilize evidence-based protocols, policies, programs and services specific to crossover youth and for preventing crossover from one system to another. Following the release of CCE’s report, JJC members identified improving services to crossover youth as a priority area that member agencies should focus on addressing. The District is currently in the process of hiring a contractor to assist the city in improving its ability to identify and develop a collaborative case processing model for crossover youth to prevent youth involved in the child welfare system from crossing over into the juvenile justice system or prevent their deeper penetration into the juvenile system.

Focus Groups with Youth, Families, Community members, and Social Service Agencies

In May 2024, the CJCC engaged a contractor to carry out a series of focus groups with at-risk youth, juvenile justice involved youth, the families of system-involved youth, community members in high crime areas and community-based organizations to better understand the drivers of youth violence in the city. The focus groups are geared towards answering four research questions:

- What motivates youth to engage in violent crimes?
- What are some effective strategies to discourage youth involvement in violent offenses?
- What are fair ways to hold youth accountable for their actions?
- Are youth and families aware of available support services and are there barriers to accessing those services?

A final report including findings and recommendations is due at the end of FY25.

Juvenile Sequential Intercept Mapping

The District's Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is facilitating Sequential Intercept Model mapping for individuals under the age of 18 and for transitional aged youth (TAY) 18-25. The Sequential Intercept Model details how youth and TAY with mental health and substance use disorders come into contact with and move through the criminal justice system, and how they interact with different intercept points in the system including 1. Community Services, 2. Law Enforcement, 3. Detention and Court Hearings, 4. Jails and Courts, 5. Re-entry, and 6. Community Corrections. This mapping will allow District leaders to assess the current resources available to youth and TAY, as well as gaps in services that should be addressed. When the District completed sequential intercept mapping in its adult criminal justice system, it led to some meaningful system changes, so the hope is that the exercise will yield similar results for the juvenile justice system in D.C.

Truancy Reduction Pilot Program

During the 2024-25 school year, the District initiated a truancy reduction pilot program through the Department of Human Services (DHS) to reduce absenteeism for youth in five selected high schools, as truancy is a known risk factor for juvenile justice involvement. The plan is to expand the pilot to additional schools, including middle schools during the 2025-26 school year.

211 Warmline

The 211 Warmline is a collaborative initiative led by the District of Columbia's Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) in partnership with other key District agencies that strives to create a unified social services network to support residents with centralized access to resources and referrals. The Warmline is part of a broader initiative led by CFSA, known as Keeping Families Together (KDCFT), which aims to shift from a traditional child welfare model to a child and family well-being system with the goal of connecting families to needed resources without the trauma of unnecessary involvement in the child welfare system.

DC CARES Program

In FY25, the District launched the D.C. CARES program, a pre-arrest diversion program, aimed at child-welfare involved youth who have been exposed to domestic violence in their households. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) contracts with Sasha Bruce Youthworks, a community-based organization, to provide case management, service referrals, and respite care for children involved in family violence dynamics.

DC Youth Leadership OASIS Prevention Program

The primary goal of the Oasis Program, administered by the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), is to reduce the risk of youth's contact with the juvenile justice system. This is achieved by serving at-risk youth aged 10-17 and strengthening their protective factors through intervention and building of their strengths and those of their families. This is accomplished by providing 16 weeks of mentorship, civic engagement, and exposure to new experiences outdoors and across their community that will help deter youth from the criminal justice system involvement. Every month, the program serves a new cohort of 10 youth.

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