

Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board

Board Meeting

November 19, 2020
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of September meeting minutes
3. Subcommittee Updates
4. 2020 Legislative Report
5. Board Member Updates

Subcommittee Report Outs

CBI Subcommittee

- Work on Model Program guide continues, with discussion remaining on four topics:
 1. Information from referrers at referral
 2. Interactions with victims
 3. Communication on unsuccessful diversion cases
 4. Role of defense counsel
- Goal is to finalize this winter

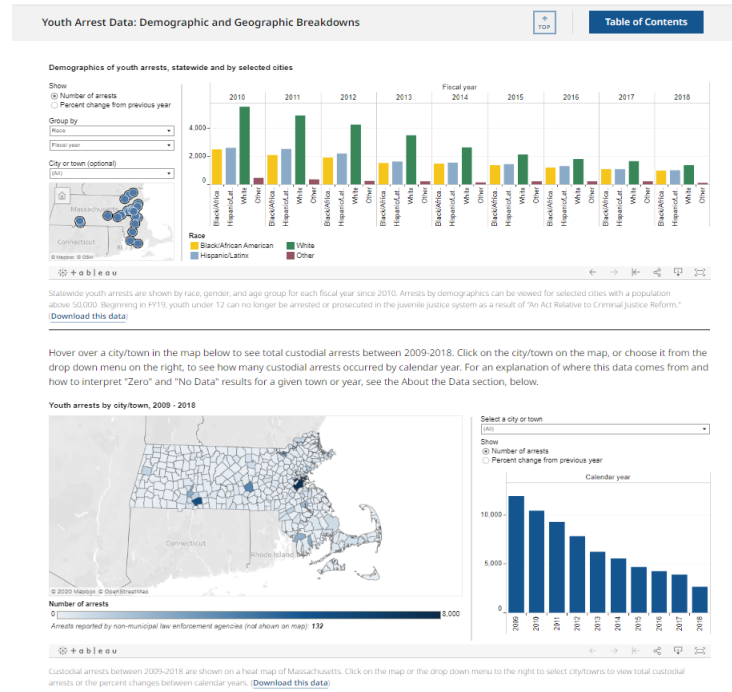
Data Subcommittee

- Juvenile Justice System Data and Outcomes Website LAUNCHED!

- 1.0 version
- 2.0 working on in 2021
- Press release and wider role out coming in conjunction with report

- Voted to finalize/advance Data Reporting Standards (included in Legislative Report, Appendix A)

- Planning for continued discussion on COVID-19 impact on data trends in 2021



Childhood Trauma Task Force

- Finalized “*Framework for Trauma-Informed and Responsive Organizations*”
- Discussed draft 2020 legislative report, focused on recommendations for implementing the *Framework*
- Vote to finalize report on December 1st

2020 Legislative Report

2020 JJPAD Legislative Report

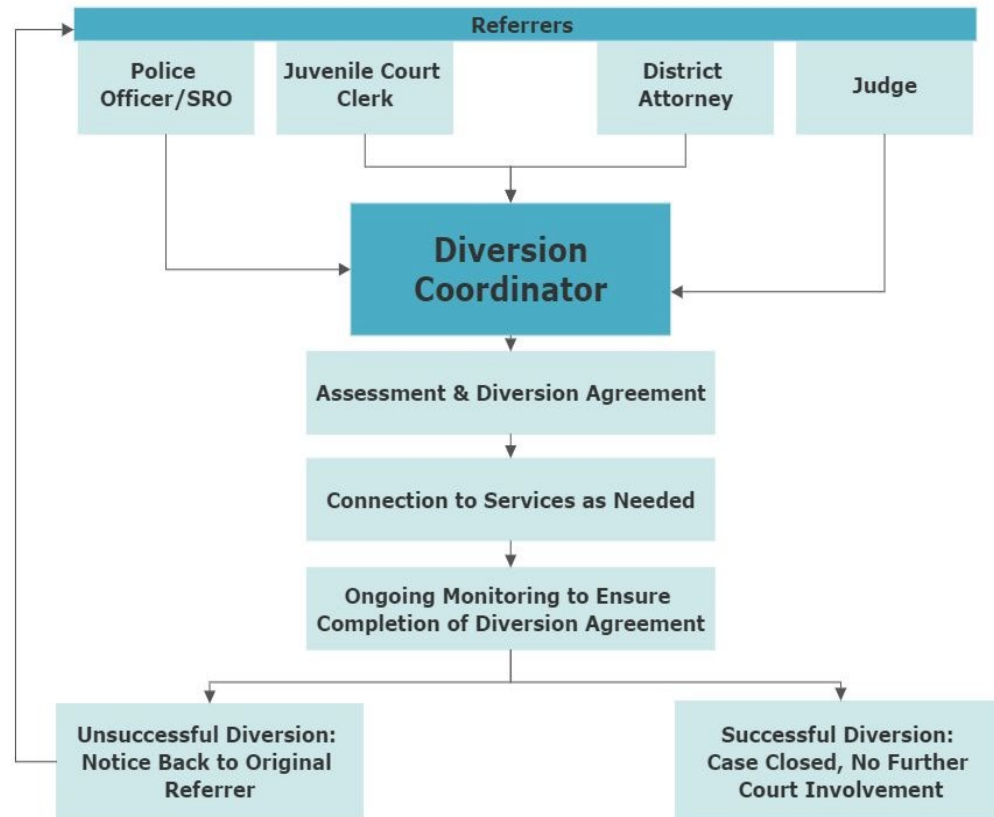
- Summary of the JJPAD Board 2020 Work
- Updates on 2019 Recommendations
- Impact of COVID-19 on Juvenile Justice
- Juvenile Justice System Data Trends

Summary of the JJPAD Board 2020 Work: CBI

Prepared to launch a statewide diversion coordination learning lab by writing a *Model Program Guide*.

Topics include:

- target audience
- current statutory framework and requirements
- diversion referral process
- developing the diversion agreement
- information sharing, and more.



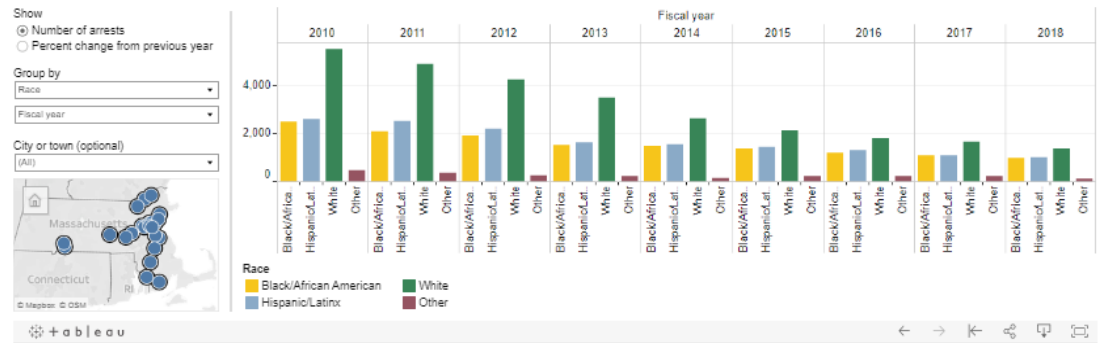
Summary of the JJPAD Board 2020 Work: Data

Improving data reporting quality and availability by:

1. Creating a *Juvenile Justice Data Website*
2. Developing *Data Reporting Standard Recommendations* to compare demographic data across agencies. (Included in report)

Youth Arrest Data: Demographic and Geographic Breakdowns

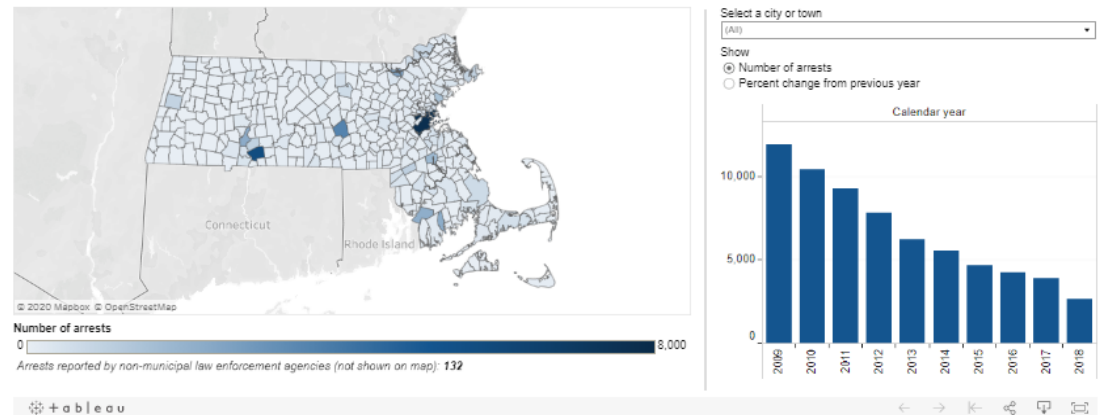
Demographics of youth arrests, statewide and by selected cities



Statewide youth arrests are shown by race, gender, and age group for each fiscal year since 2010. Arrests by demographics can be viewed for selected cities with a population above 50,000. Beginning in FY19, youth under 12 can no longer be arrested or prosecuted in the juvenile justice system as a result of "An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform." [Download this data](#)

Hover over a city/town in the map below to see total custodial arrests between 2009-2018. Click on the city/town on the map, or choose it from the drop down menu on the right, to see how many custodial arrests occurred by calendar year. For an explanation of where this data comes from and how to interpret "Zero" and "No Data" results for a given town or year, see the About the Data section, below.

Youth arrests by city/town, 2009 - 2018



Custodial arrests between 2009-2018 are shown on a heat map of Massachusetts. Click on the map or the drop down menu to select city/towns to view total custodial arrests or the percent changes between calendar years. [Download this data](#)

Summary of the JPAD Board 2020 Work: CTF

1. Established a statewide framework for trauma-informed and responsive practice.
2. Published *Protecting our Children's Well-Being During COVID-19: Recommendations for Supporting Children and Families Who Have Experienced Trauma and Stress During the Pandemic*



Updates on 2019 Recommendations



Data reporting improvements and remaining gaps (Update from June 2019 Report)



Status of recommendations re: diversion and community-based interventions (from Nov 2019 report)



Status of recommendations re: implementation challenges following *“An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform* (from Nov 2019 report)

Updates on 2019 Recommendations: Data

✓ This year's data report includes additional data on:

Arraignments	Dangerousness hearings
Probation "starts" data	DYS population "snapshot" data
DYS placement type data	DYS YES data
Youthful offender data	Improved race/ethnicity data for juvenile court data
Addition of probation gender data	Addition of DYS SOGI data

Updates on 2019 Recommendations: Data

Data challenges and gaps remaining:

School-based arrests and court referrals	Use of diversion
Pretrial decision-making	Plea offers and acceptances
Adjudications and dispositions	Responses to probation violation notices
Competency hearings and assessments	Transfer hearings
Juvenile homicide cases	

Impact of COVID-19 on Juvenile Justice and Remaining Challenges/Concerns



Youth & family impact



Agency-level response



System-wide response



Potential impact on the data

Impact of Pandemic on FY20 Data Trends

- Most data was provided annually rather than quarterly, limiting ability to analyze impact
- Estimate of general impact on FY20 based on discussions with stakeholders and available monthly/quarterly data:
 - **Reduced delinquency occurrences** due to stay-at-home advisories
 - Shift from **custodial arrests to court summons**
 - **Reduced filings** due to court closures (and first bullet)
 - **Reduced use of pretrial detention but increased use of pretrial supervision**
 - General court processing delays leading to:
 - **Increased length of stay for detained youth and increased time on pretrial supervision** (may be seen more in FY21 data)
 - **Reductions in commitments to DYS**
 - **Reductions in post-disposition probation caseload**

Continuing Impact of *An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform*

Overall trend following implementation remains clear: **significant declines in the numbers of youth who are being processed through the juvenile justice system**, driven primarily by declines in court referrals for lower-level offenses.



Caution from last year: it is common to see some movement back toward pre-reform numbers in year two of implementation. This is particularly true given the clarification the *Wallace* case provided re: first-offenses.



Caution from this year: Annual numbers decreased, but may be masking a different trend: an *increase* at some process points in the first 3 quarters and a significant decrease in Q4 due to the pandemic.

FY20 Juvenile Justice Data Trends

Diversion

Custodial arrests of youth **decreased by 4%**

Court Summons

Overnight arrest admissions **decreased by 8%**

Application for complaint **decreased by 7%**

Delinquency filings **decreased by 7%**

Arraignment occurrences **decreased by 12%***

Pretrial supervision caseload **increased 21%**

Pretrial detention admissions **decreased 15%**

Adjudication

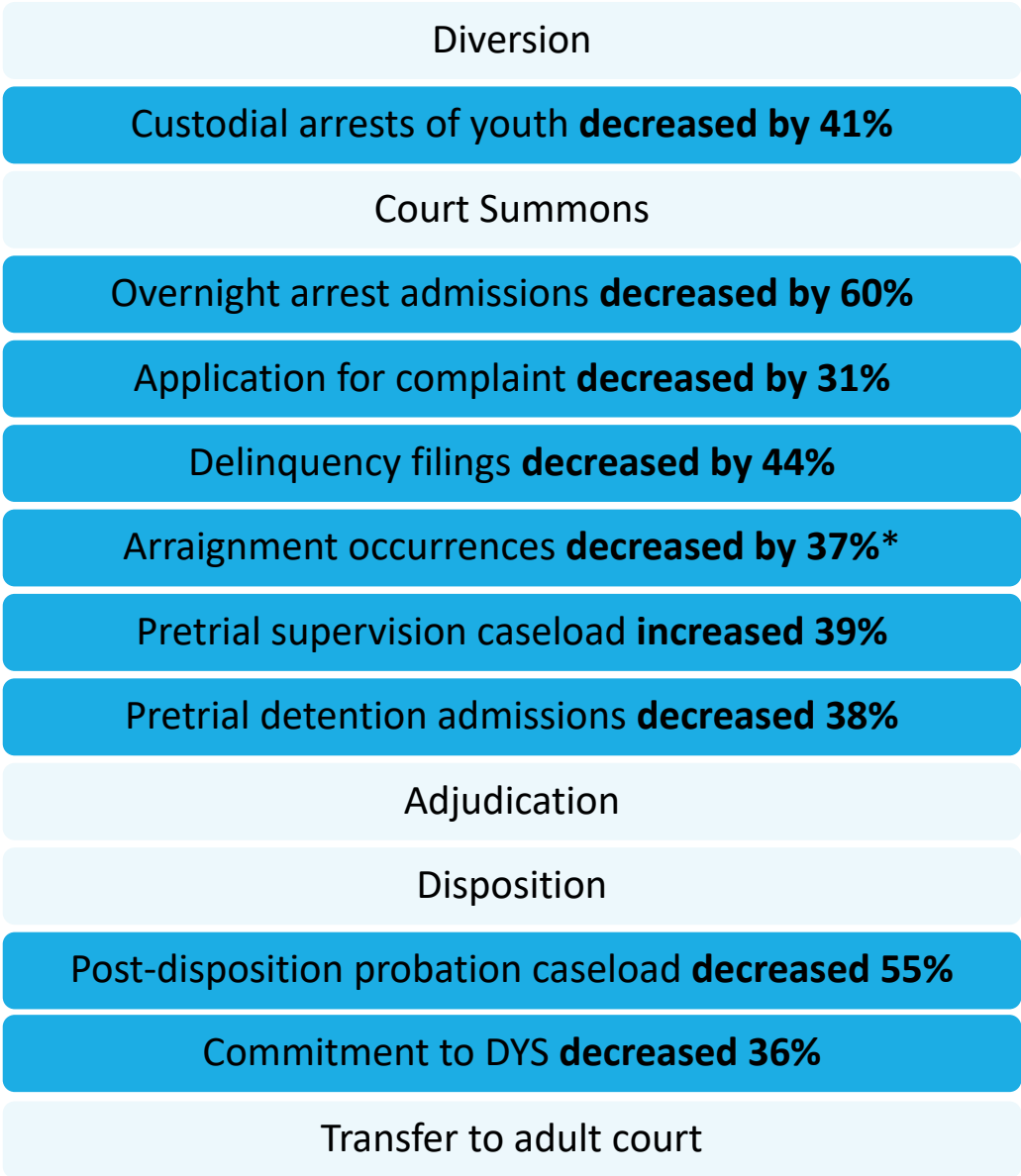
Disposition

Post-disposition probation caseload **decreased 30%**

Commitment to DYS **decreased 23%**

Transfer to adult court

Juvenile Justice Data Trends Since FY18



Driven largely by a decrease in school disturbance/public order, property, and alcohol offenses.

*Arraignment data based on Calendar Years

FY20 Juvenile Justice Data Trends: Demographics

Report details the following data at each process point, when data are available:

1. Race/ethnicity
2. Gender
3. Sexual Orientation, Transgender status and Intersex status
4. Age
5. Offense type and severity
6. County

Black and Latinx youth are still overrepresented at every process point

Juvenile Justice Process Point Data by Race/Ethnicity (FY20)					
Process Point	Hispanic/Latinx	Black/ African American	White	Other	Unknown
<i>Massachusetts Youth Population</i>	17%	10%	65%	7%	--
Custodial Arrests	33%	43%	23%	1%	0%
Overnight Arrest Admissions	38%	33%	17%	2%	11%
Applications for Complaint	22%	22%	38%	3%	14%
Arraignments (CY19 data)**	--	30%	50%	1%	18%
Delinquency Filings	27%	25%	34%	4%	10%
Pretrial Supervision	35%	25%	34%	5%	1%
Pretrial Detention Admissions	42%	33%	21%	4%	0%
Probation Post-Disposition Caseload	29%	23%	42%	5%	1%
First-time Commitments to DYS	44%	28%	24%	4%	0%
DYS Commitments Snapshot	47%	34%	16%	4%	0%

The change in utilization is not consistent across race categories

Juvenile Justice Process Point Data by Race/Ethnicity Change FY19- FY20			
Process Point	Hispanic/ Latinx	Black/ African American	White
<i>Massachusetts Youth Population</i>	2%	1%	-2%
Custodial Arrests	-12%	9%	-11%
Overnight Arrest Admissions	0%	6%	-11%
Applications for Complaint	-14%	-1%	-8%
Delinquency Filings	-17%	-1%	-13%
Arraignments	Data not presented due to missing ethnicity data		
Pretrial Supervision	No FY19 race data available for comparison		
Pretrial Detention Admissions	-26%	-15%	-18%
Probation Risk/Need Caseload	-28%	-19%	-34%
First-time Commitments to DYS	-30%	-32%	-8%

Increased Disparities for Black Youth

Juvenile Justice Process Point Data by Race/Ethnicity Change FY19- FY20			
Process Point	Hispanic/ Latinx	Black/ African American	White
<i>Massachusetts Youth Population</i>	2%	1%	-2%
Custodial Arrests	-12%	9%	-11%
Overnight Arrest Admissions	0%	6%	-11%
Applications for Complaint	-14%	-1%	-8%
Delinquency Filings	-17%	-1%	-13%
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Pretrial Detention Admissions	-26%	-15%	-18%
Probation Risk/Need Caseload	-28%	-19%	-34%
First-time Commitments to DYS	-30%	-32%	-8%

Some Progress on Disparities for Latinx Youth

Juvenile Justice Process Point Data by Race/Ethnicity Change FY19- FY20			
Process Point	Hispanic/ Latinx	Black/ African American	White
<i>Massachusetts Youth Population</i>	2%	1%	-2%
Custodial Arrests	-12%	9%	-11%
Overnight Arrest Admissions	0%	6%	-11%
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Report Edits

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Appendix B: Covid Responses

Efforts to limit the potential exposure of clinicians and youth to COVID-19 by limiting in-person sessions. To minimize potential COVID-19 exposure, juvenile court clinicians conducted virtual visits with youth for assessments and sessions. Certain assessments, such as competency evaluations, needed to be conducted in-person and rarely took place virtually. Clinicians used videoconferencing to conduct virtual visits to the extent possible; this method is preferable to telephone, although there were sometimes challenges, particularly in the first few months of the pandemic, due to technological problems and unreliable internet connections. Clinicians have been resourceful in developing techniques for overcoming technology challenges, however. ~~While using video to conduct virtual visits have been one way to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic, clinicians in many cases preferred telephone calls due to technological problems and unreliable internet connections. Although preferable to telephone, virtual visits do, make also made~~ it hard for clinicians to develop rapport with clients in ways they usually would during in-person sessions. Clinicians limited in-person interviews in courts for some juvenile court clinicians over the summer. Clinicians returning to courthouses limit time spent in lock-up areas and the courthouse to limit potential exposure.

Next Steps & Legislative Briefing

- Final OCA QC on Report
- Aiming to submit to Legislature 11/30
- The House/Senate Criminal Justice Reform Caucus has invited OCA to present on the JJPAD work at their next meeting:
 - December 3rd, 4pm
 - Invite with Zoom link to follow

Board Member Updates & Reflections

- Any new/forthcoming initiatives, policy changes, or accomplishments/bright spots/positive trends that others should be aware of
- Particular challenges/barriers you are experiencing, that you think may be relevant to other Board members and/or something this group should try to tackle collectively

Next Meeting Date:

Stay tuned...

Contact

Melissa Threadgill

Director of Juvenile Justice Initiatives

melissa.threadgill@mass.gov