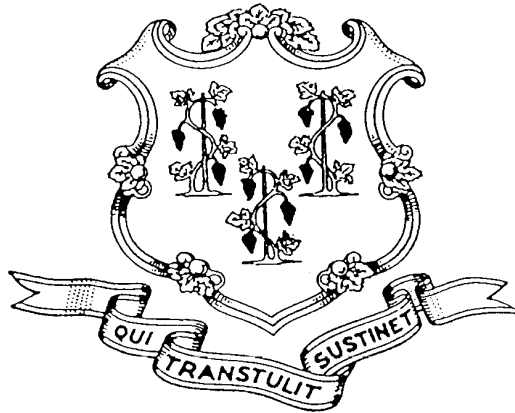


Biennial Report on Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System

A report to the governor and the General Assembly pursuant to
Public Act 11-154



Office of Policy and Management
Joshua Wojcik, Secretary
December 31, 2025

Biennial Report on Disproportionate Minority Contact

Fiscal Years 2024-2025
Office of Policy and Management
December 31, 2025

Executive Summary

The Biennial Report on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) is mandated by State law in Section 2 of [Public Act 11-154](#), AN ACT CONCERNING DETENTION OF CHILDREN AND DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. Under this law juvenile justice state agencies must submit information biennially to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) on their plans to address disproportionate minority contact throughout the juvenile justice system and on steps taken to implement those plans. The Office of Policy and Management has organized the information into this report for submission to the Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with section 11-4a. For the purposes of this report, "Disproportionate Minority /Contact" refers to the disproportionate number of juvenile members of minority groups that interact with the juvenile justice system.

Per Public, 11-154, no later than September 30, 2011, and biennially thereafter, the Commissioner of Children and Families, the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief State's Attorney, the Chief Public Defender, the Chief Court Administrator and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall submit a report on behalf of the representative department, division, office or council, to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on:

- Plans established to address DMC in the Juvenile Justice System
- Steps taken to implement plans
- Changes to policy and practices
- Shared/ Cross agency initiatives
- Training offered and completed
- Technical assistance

The following document is a compilation of the information submitted to The Office of Policy and Management by The Division of Criminal Justice Office of the Chief State's Attorney, The Office of the Chief Public Defender, and The Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, as of December 30, 2025.

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Introduction

This report was produced by the Office of Policy and Management's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division as the designated agency mandated by Public Act 11-154. This is the first iteration of this report since 2015 and much has changed since then. In previous years, a DMC subcommittee under the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) took the lead in generating this report. Since JJAC's dissolution, Connecticut has continued to examine disproportionate minority contact within the juvenile justice system through cross agency collaborations, such as the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee (JJPOC) which is organized by Tow Youth Justice Institute. Since its establishment by [Public Act 14-217](#) in 2014, [JJPOC](#) has been entrusted with accomplishing the following:

- Recommend modifications to state law pertaining to juvenile justice,
- Review and set reform goals,
- Assess the quality and accessibility of education within the juvenile justice system,
- Examine and address concerns of DMC across the juvenile justice system, and
- Assess the quality and effectiveness of programs in community supervision, congregate care, diversion, behavioral health, and other identified areas of need.

Additionally, Connecticut is working towards reengaging in the [Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention \(OJJDP\) Title II Formula Grants Program](#). OJJDP Title II funds are available to eligible states to assist in planning, establishing, operating, coordinating, and evaluating projects directly or through grants and contracts for the development and implementation of comprehensive juvenile justice plans based on the needs in their jurisdictions. This program allows states to more effectively provide education, training, research, prevention, diversion, treatment, and rehabilitation programs in the area of juvenile delinquency and programs to improve the juvenile justice system.

A core requirement of this program requires extensive examinations into Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) within our Juvenile Justice system per the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), as amended in 2018. To comply with the [JJDP's Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities core requirement](#), states must have a state plan which shall:

- Implement policy, practice, and system improvement strategies at the state, territorial, local, and Tribal levels, as applicable, to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas, by—
- Establish or designate existing coordinating bodies, composed of juvenile justice stakeholders, (including representatives of the educational system) at the state, local, or Tribal levels, to advise efforts by states, units of local government, and Indian Tribes to reduce racial and ethnic disparities;
- Identify and analyze data on race and ethnicity at decision points in state, local, or Tribal juvenile justice systems to determine which such points create racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system; and
- Develop and implement a work plan that includes measurable objectives for policy, practice, or other system changes, based on the needs identified in the data collection and analysis under subparagraph (B). [34 U.S.C. 11133(a)(15)]

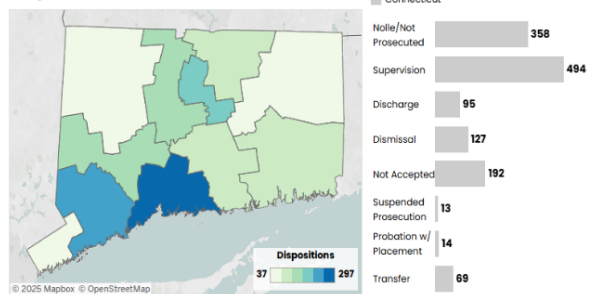
This report will focus on current work accomplished in CT over the last two fiscal years to identify and address DMC. Going forward, there will be more to report on our R/ED work in collaboration with OJJDP as a participating state of the Title II program in the next Biennial Report.

Recent Research Initiatives

A. Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard

In April 2023, TOW partnered with several stakeholders throughout the State, including the Judicial Branch and OPM's Data and Policy Analytics Unit to launch [Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard](#). The Dashboard was recommended as part of Connecticut Improving Outcomes for Youth approach, under which The Council of State Governments

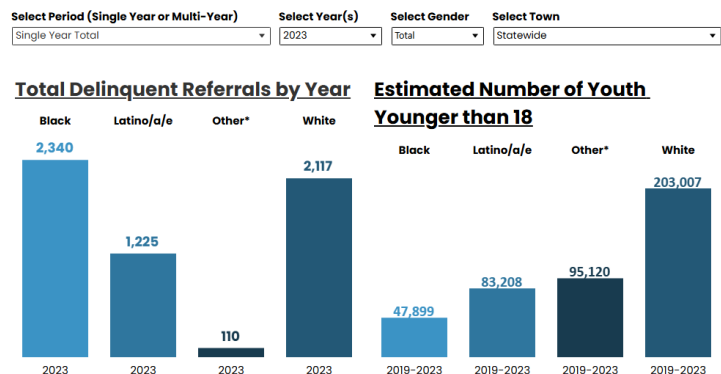
Juvenile First-Time Felony Cases: Total Dispositions



Justice Center provided intensive technical assistance, and it has been guided through implementation by the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee. The Dashboard enables users to monitor and examine juvenile justice system involvement across the state for youth of different races, ethnicities, and genders. Users can customize and interact with quarterly data that informs on delinquent referrals, detention, and disposition of first-time felonies by municipality between 2019

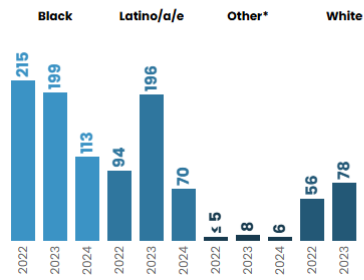
and the first three quarters of 2024. At this time, three of the four initially proposed dashboard measures have been made available to review.

In Connecticut, like many states, delinquent referrals mark the starting point of a case in the juvenile justice system. Of the total referrals received in 2023, 1,225 referrals were for individuals who identified their race as Other (Native American/Alaskan Native, Asian and, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander) with 356 identifying as female and 869 identifying as male, accounting for 21% of the referrals received. These numbers become concerning when examining referrals of Black youth who account for 2,340 referrals (40%) with 736 of those referrals identifying as female and 1,604 as male. Youth who identified as White accounted for 2,117 referrals or 37% of the total referrals in 2023. Of those referrals, 594 youth identified as female and 1,523 youth identified as male. Data pertaining to 2024 yielded stable, consistent results when compared to 2023.

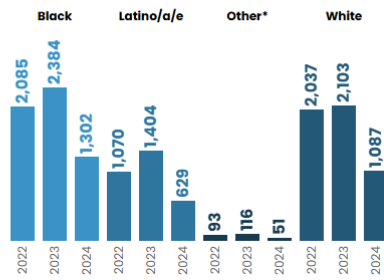


The Equity Dashboard allows the state to begin tracking how our youth move through the juvenile justice system but what does the Dashboard have to say about racial and ethnic disparity within that same system? In 2022, the data revealed that Black youth were 275% more likely than white

Juvenile Detentions by Year: Any Charge(s)



Total Referrals by Year: Any Charge(s)



juveniles to receive detention following a referral for any charge. The state's efforts may be contributing to improvements, as the likelihood of Black youth receiving detention as compared to White youth dropped from 275% to 125% in 2023. From 2021 through 2023, Latino, Black and races categorized under other, were all less likely to receive a

nolle/ not prosecuted disposition for their first time felony disposition than their White counterparts. The Dashboard also reveals a slight shift occurred in 2024 in at least one of the demographics, as Latinos have been found to be 9% more likely to receive a Nolle disposition on their first felony. The Dashboard is expected to expand to include other measures such as non-judicial handling of cases while continuing to examine other metrics identified and prioritized by stakeholders. While it will take many more years of data collection to produce enough longitudinal results to advise on trends in Connecticut, the Equity Dashboard offers a strong base to continue building on the current statistics as we monitor for anticipated systems improvements.

B. Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD)

Internal Data Analysis

Ensuring that any and all plans to better Connecticut have strong research backing has resulted in statistically relevant inquiries occurring throughout the State. The Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD) Business Intelligence (BI) team recently trained liaisons in each JBCSSD Operations discipline, including in Juvenile Probation Services (JPS) and Juvenile Residential Services (JRS), to use Tableau software, which allows JPS and JRS staff to view, use, and analyze their client data in real-time. Additionally, the BI team meets with JPS and JRS on a quarterly basis to help build and improve data dashboards. JBCSSD BI Team conducts and authors R/ED briefs that use JBCSSD's internal databases to analyze data through Racial Ethnic and Disparity lenses. During this reporting period, the JBCSSD BI Team reported on:

- An Examination of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Residential Services Discipline Utilization: This report looked at JRS discipline utilization, including loss of structured recreation, room confinement, time out in room, and time out outside room. The purpose of the report is to examine discipline utilization by performing the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) to measure risk level and by length of stay. The results revealed that the use of discipline and the disparity in use of discipline is decreasing. The report also identified that Hispanic youth lose more recreation and Black youth receive more room time.
- A Preliminary Look at Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Probation Risk Based Case Handling (RBCH): This report looked at the new JPS RBCH policy that enables CSSD Juvenile Probation to screen delinquency referrals to the court and base handling decisions on the results of the Prospective Risk Evaluation for Delinquency in Connecticut Screener ([PrediCT-S](#)) risk screening tool instead of the juvenile's charges and prior court history. The

purpose is to provide a preliminary look at the relationship between the handling decision recommendation determined by the PrediCT-S screener tool and the final handling decision on a delinquency referral. Overall, the results indicate little racial and ethnic disparity in the decision to follow or override what is recommended by the PrediCT-S assessment screener and that all racial/ethnic groups are roughly equally likely to receive a final handling decision that matches the screener recommendation.

External Data Analysis

JBCSSD frequently receives data requests from various researchers. The following data requests related to disproportionate minority contact are in the process of, or have been completed during the reporting period:

- Prevalence Estimation of Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders in Residential Juvenile Justice Facilities: Funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Urban Institute (Urban) partnered with multiple state and local juvenile justice agencies, including JBCSSD, to accurately estimate the prevalence of co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (COD) for youth in residential juvenile justice facilities and examine disparities in diagnoses by race and ethnicity. The research project initiated in February 2025 and is expected to continue until 2027.
- Examining Educational & Recidivism Trajectories of Systems-Involved Youth: A Mixed Methods, Participatory Research Project: Dr. Sukhmani Singh, Assistant Professor UConn School of Social Work, is conducting a study of Probation with Placement (PWP) clients and Probation clients within the juvenile justice system, both during their system-involvement and 1-year following their involvement. Qualitative and quantitative data from JBCSSD, Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs), Connecticut State Department of Education, and DCF will contribute to the results. The research project initiated in August 2023 and is expected to continue until 2026.
- JBCSSD Information Technology (IT) continues to contribute data on a quarterly basis to update the Equity Dashboard with the Office of Policy and Management.
- Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division IT supports a variety of legislative committees with data to help analyze R/ED across the system, including an annual data presentation to the JJPOC of the juvenile justice population overview, which includes information on race and ethnicity.

State Legislative and Policy Changes

A. Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice

The Division actively participates in the legislative process each year taking positions on, and providing testimony regarding, various legislative efforts directed at the juvenile justice system and the elimination of improper biases. Though, it bears noting that, since the release of the last DMC report in 2015, the legislature has made significant changes to the juvenile transfer statutes. To note, in 2023 the Division submitted written testimony fully supporting legislation ultimately

passed as [Public Act 23-27](#), “An Act Concerning Deceptive or Coercive Interrogation Tactics,” curtailing the use of deceptive or coercive interrogation tactics by law enforcement officers during the custodial interrogation of persons under eighteen years of age. Likewise, in 2025 the Division supported [Senate Bill 1441](#), “An Act Concerning Discretionary Transfer from Juvenile to Adult Court,” which would have permitted the discretionary transfer to adult court, under appropriate circumstances, any “serious firearm offense” not already subject to automatic transfer under [C.G.S. § 46b-127\(a\)\(1\)](#). The bill was ultimately not voted on in the Judiciary Committee.

Additionally, the Division supported sections 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of [House Bill 7250](#), “An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee”. The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee is a multi-disciplinary committee tasked with evaluating policies, practices, procedures and effective strategies related to the juvenile justice system and children and youth at risk of contact with the system. H.B. 7250 represented the collaborative recommendations approved by the voting membership of the JJPOC aimed at improving the juvenile justice system and Connecticut’s response to issues faced by this at-risk population. The bill reported favorably out of the Judiciary Committee but did not get through the House of Representatives. 2025 also brought changes to Section 2 of H.B. 7250 which endorsed the establishment of a state advisory group to oversee the implementation of the federal Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act (JJDP). As part of the JJDP, each state is also required to create an R/ED subgroup that assists with creating a plan to address R/ED throughout the state.

Not only does the Division have an impact on changing laws, but the Division also regularly assists the Judicial Branch in developing policies and forms to comply with revisions to juvenile laws. Among other changes to the juvenile justice system, it is also worth noting that all juvenile courts now participate in a screening process that aims to keep juveniles from becoming court involved. [Section 27-1A of Connecticut’s Practice Book](#) addresses how referrals for nonjudicial handling of delinquency complaints expecting any police summons accompanied by a police report alleging an act of delinquency shall be in writing and signed by the police officer and filed with the clerk of the Superior Court for juvenile matters. After juvenile identification and docket numbers are assigned, the summons and report shall be referred to the probation department for possible nonjudicial handling. If the probation supervisor or designee determines that a delinquency complaint is eligible for nonjudicial handling, the assigned probation officer shall contact the parent or guardian in advance of the summons date in order to schedule an interview with the parent or guardian and child or youth for the purpose of conducting risk and behavioral health screenings.

The Division’s most significant initiative involving policy guidance for prosecutors relating to juveniles and disproportionate minority contact over the last two years occurred in 2023 when the Division of Criminal Justice adopted the first ever set of [Connecticut Prosecution Standards](#). The Standards, drawing heavily from the American Bar Association Standards for Criminal Justice and the National District Attorneys Association National Prosecution Standards, among others, provide guidance for the professional conduct and performance of prosecutors in fulfilling their duties. Please see the following DMC-related Standards:

Conn. Prosecution Standard 1-1.3, Elimination of Improper Biases

“The prosecutor should not manifest or exercise, by words or conduct, bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic status. Nor should the prosecutor use other improper considerations, such as partisan or political or personal considerations, in exercising prosecutorial discretion. A prosecutor should strive to eliminate implicit biases, and act to mitigate any improper bias or prejudice when credibly informed that it exists within the scope of the prosecutor’s authority.

The Division of Criminal Justice should be proactive in efforts to detect, investigate, and eliminate improper biases, with particular attention to historically persistent biases like race, in all of its work. The Division should regularly assess the potential for biased or unfairly disparate impacts of its policies on the communities it serves and eliminate those impacts that cannot be properly justified.”

Conn. Prosecution Standards, Part V, Standard 5-1.4, p 167, Transfer to Adult Criminal Docket

The Standards, entitled “Juvenile Justice,” include Standards defining the primary responsibilities of prosecutors in juvenile court, juvenile prosecutor qualifications and training, and screening juvenile cases, among others. See Conn. Prosecution Standards, Part V, pp. 166-68. Of note, Standard 5-1.4 (pp. 167), governing the transfer of juvenile cases to adult court, provides:

“The transfer of cases to the adult criminal docket are dictated by statute and should only occur after consultation with the supervisor of the adult criminal court the case is proposed to be transferred to. [See C.G.S. § 46b-127\(a\)\(1\)](#)

Prosecutors should make discretionary transfer decisions on a case-by-case basis and take into account the individual factors and statutory requirements the court that hears the matter will consider, including, that (A) such offense was committed after such child attained the age of fifteen years, (B) there is probable cause to believe the child has committed the act for which the child is charged, and (C) the best interests of the child and the public will not be served by maintaining the case in the superior court for juvenile matters. In making such findings, the court shall consider (i) any prior criminal or juvenile offenses committed by the child, (ii) the seriousness of such offenses, (iii) any evidence that the child has intellectual disability or mental illness, and (iv) the availability of services in the docket for juvenile matters that can serve the child's needs.” [See C.G.S. § 46b-127\(3\)](#)

Finally, the Commentary section of the Connecticut Prosecution Standards recognizes the general decline in the number of cases being transferred to adult court in recent years and cautions prosecutors that transfer to adult court should be reserved for serious, violent, or chronic offenders. It concludes by acknowledging that a juvenile’s race, ethnicity, and gender have no place in prosecutorial juvenile law decision making.

Conn. Prosecution Standards, Part V, commentary, p. 169, Commentary (Juvenile Justice)

“Given the unique role that prosecutors play across the justice continuum, they have a responsibility to ensure that all decisions are fair and just. They must base decisions on

factors such as community safety, offender accountability, and rehabilitation. Race, ethnicity, and/or gender are never appropriate factors in decision-making. In order to ensure that decisions and policies are fair and equal, it is important to track case processing and outcomes. Data-driven practices are an important component of the fair administration of justice. Prosecutors should examine strategies and alternatives that decrease racial, ethnic, and gender disparities while maintaining community safety.”

B. Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD)

In January 2023, Juvenile Probation Services adopted Risk Based Case Handling (RBCH), a new way of assessing cases that have been referred to the Juvenile Courts in Connecticut by using the results of the Prospective Risk Evaluation for Delinquency in Connecticut (PrediCT-S) instead of the juvenile’s charges and prior court history. The PrediCT-S risk screening tool is a 10-item validated risk screening instrument that is used to determine case handling (diversion, non-judicial, or judicial). Juvenile Probation Services in collaboration with Connecticut academia has developed and validated a new comprehensive, objective risk assessment tool called the PrediCT (Prospective Risk Evaluation for Delinquency in Connecticut). This tool provides Juvenile Probation Officers with a more detailed assessment of a juvenile’s risk-relevant life domains. Several derivative instruments have been created: PrediCT Motor Vehicle Screener (PrediCT-MV-S), PrediCT Non-Judicial Screener (PrediCT-NJ-S), and most recently, PrediCT Screener (PrediCT-S). The new tool informs case handling decisions, allows Juvenile Probation Officers to target areas likely to reduce recidivism more accurately, and assigns clients into one of five supervision tiers based on their risk and needs. This homegrown, validated model is not offense-driven, but rather, a holistic approach to supervision and services. Juvenile Probation Services continues to collaborate with CCSU around the quality assurance of this model.

An important role of each state agency is to assess and identify the needs of our state. To meet Connecticut’s everchanging needs, the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division recently formed a Gender Responsive Advisory Group (GRAG) and a Transgender Advisory Group (TCAG) to address the needs of female and transgender clients and implement best practices and draft new policies to guide these populations. Additionally, new language was added to all programs and services Request for Proposals (RFPs) that encourage contracted providers to hire staff that are representative of the clients they will be working with. In 2024, the Juvenile Court Clinic (JCC) hired a Spanish-speaking clinical coordinator in the New Haven office. All contracted programs are required to offer reading materials in Spanish and can access free interpreter services for client interactions and engagement. Even so, JRS is working towards ensuring all reading materials, including pamphlets and handbooks, are available in Spanish.

Shared Committee Participation and Interagency Collaborations

A. Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee (JJPOC) R/ED Workgroup

Since its inception by [Public Act 14-217](#) in 2014, [JJPOC](#) members have been entrusted with the crucial role of evaluating our Juvenile Justice system to make recommendations to state law, set goals for reform, assess the quality of education within the juvenile justice system, assess disproportionate minority contact while also reporting to the state on the quality and effectiveness

of a variety of programs in community supervision, congregate care, diversion, behavioral health, and other areas. JJPOC currently has established 5 workgroups and 2 subgroups after identifying concerns best addressed by a dedicated group focused on the issue. This committee recently merged their Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction workgroup with the Cross Agency Data Sharing workgroup where the group remains dedicated to ensuring that the interpretation and development of race and ethnicity data, as well as strategies to address disparities within the juvenile justice system, are conducted in genuine partnership with communities of color.

One of the many significant goals outlined in [JJPOC's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#) included the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities of youth in Connecticut's juvenile justice system. Objectives included:

- Collect, review, and report publicly on race and ethnicity data at each important point of contact in the juvenile justice system.
- Interpret and develop race and ethnicity data to assist in creating strategies that address disparities in true partnership with communities of color.
- Enhance and support opportunities for localized review (community oversight) of school and police practices.
- Promote the use of racial justice assessments of policy proposals that impact school discipline and juvenile justice.
- Identify opportunities where inequities within the juvenile justice system can be effectively addressed.

The Judicial Branch participates in multiple JJPOC subcommittees and workgroups. In June 2021, DCF created a new administrative [Juvenile Justice Education Unit](#). Through [Public Act 18-31](#), an Education Subcommittee within the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) was established to provide oversight and support to DCF's Juvenile Justice Education Unit (JJEU). Since its inception, Judicial Branch's Juvenile Residential Services has worked closely with the JJEU staff to collaborate at monthly meetings to address educational concerns pre- and post-adjudication, to ensure a continuum of educational services and maintain proper recordkeeping. The JJPOC subcommittee has developed a detailed plan that also addresses concerns with overall coordination, supervision, provision, and direction of all academic services and programs for school aged youth/children who reside in juvenile justice facilities or are incarcerated.

In addition to participating in strategic planning discussions, the Judicial Branch's Juvenile Court Clinic also participates in annual JJPOC meetings to report on Juvenile Residential Services statistics. Most recently, the data presentation included a racial breakdown of the following information:

- Probation with placement orders,
- Median number of days during placement process for pretrial, disposition, and regions,
- Forensic clinical assessments,
- Inappropriate sexual behavior assessments,
- Residential placement assessment, and
- Solnit court ordered inpatient study/evaluation admissions and discharges.

As of this report, JJPOC is attended by the Delinquency Defense and Child Protection Unit of the Office of the Chief Public Defender, the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice, the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, the Department of children and Families.

For more information about initiatives being accomplished at JJPOC, please visit their website for meeting minutes, PowerPoints, and recordings:

[RE/D Workgroup Meeting Minutes](#)

[JJPOC Strategic Plan 2021-2024](#)

[JJPOC Strategic Plan 2025-2029](#)

B. Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

In 2000, [Public Act 00-154](#) was signed into law requiring the establishment of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System. In addition to developing and recommending policies to reduce the number of African Americans and Latinos comprising the pretrial and sentenced population of correctional facilities and reducing the number of African-Americans and Latinos who are victimized by crime, this commission has also been entrusted with analyzing key stages in the juvenile justice system to determine if any stage disproportionately affects racial or ethnic minorities including:

- the decision to arrest a juvenile,
- the decision to turn a juvenile over to a detention center,
- the decision to nonjudicially dispose of the case or to file a petition of delinquency, and
- the decision to resolve the case by placement on probation, placement in a residential facility.

Committee members are also charged with annually preparing and distributing a juvenile justice plan having as its goal the reduction of the number of African Americans and Latinos in the juvenile justice system. Per statute, this plan is to include and consider:

- the development of standard risk assessment policies and a system of impartial review,
- culturally appropriate diversion programs for minority juveniles accused of nonviolent felonies,
- intensive in-home services to families of pretrial delinquents and youth on probation,
- school programs for juveniles being transferred from detention centers,
- the recruitment of minority employees to serve at all levels of the juvenile justice system,
- the utilization of minority juvenile specialists to guide minority juvenile offenders and their families through the juvenile justice system, and community service options in lieu of detention for juveniles arrested for nonserious offenses.

As of this report, this committee is attended by the Delinquency Defense and Child Protection Unit of the Office of the Chief Public Defender, the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice, and the Department of children and Families.

Biennial Reports can be found on their website: [Biennial and Annual Reports – Connecticut Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System](#)

C. Statewide Advisory Council (SAC) to The Department of Children and Families (DCF)

The [State Advisory Council \(SAC\)](#) provides the Department of Children and Families with oversight and advisement. As amended in 2012, [C.G.S. § 17a-4](#) mandates the establishment of a State Advisory Council on Children and Families consisting of nineteen members appointed by the Governor:

- Two persons who are childcare professionals,
- Two persons eighteen to twenty-five years of age, inclusive, served by the Department of Children and Families,
- One child psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this state,
- One health care professional who has expertise in children's health and is licensed in the state,
- One attorney who has expertise in legal issues related to children and youth,
- Three members of one or more Youth Advisory Boards, as defined in section [17a-10c](#),
- One member of an organization that advocates for the protection and advancement of the legal rights of children,
- One member of an organization that advocates for policies to promote child welfare
- Seven persons who shall be representative of young persons, parents and others interested in the delivery of services to children and youths, including child protection, behavioral health and prevention services,
- At least four of whom shall be parents, foster parents or family members of children who have received, or are receiving, behavioral health services or child welfare services; and
- Six members representing the regional advisory councils established pursuant to section [17a-30](#), appointed one each by the members of each council.

While the DCF commissioner is not an official council member by statute, they shall be an ex-officio member of the council without vote and shall attend its meetings. SAC members, in addition to the DCF commissioner, have been tasked with prioritizing:

- The protection of children from abuse and neglect by ensuring that the state maintains an effective plan to prevent such abuse and neglect and divert children from foster care;
- The reduction and elimination of preventable child fatalities and the unnecessary removal of children from their homes;
- Permanency and stability in home placements for children, including, but not limited to, the placement of children with family members whenever possible and the successful transition from foster care of youth exiting the child welfare system;
- The reduction of disparate outcomes between minority and other populations served by the child welfare system;
- The timely, appropriate and adequate provision of services to children and families to meet the physical, mental health and developmental needs of such children; and
- Collaboration among state agencies in furtherance of the duties described in statute.

At this time, the Office of the Chief Public Defender has a representative appointed as a member of the Statewide Advisory Council (SAC) to provide oversight and advisement to the Department of Children and Families.

Council Meeting Minutes can be found on their website: [Council Meeting Minutes, Notes, & Handouts](#)

D. Youth Service Bureau (YSB)/Juvenile Review Board (JRB)

Youth Service Bureaus are local community-focused organizations that work to evaluate youth and families' needs with the goal of connecting them with appropriate programs and/or services. Connecticut has approximately [101](#) Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) that serve 137 towns. Youth Service Bureaus were established in accordance with [CT Gen Stat § 10-19m](#). This state statute ensures Connecticut Youth Service Bureaus offers targeted services as a means of diversion from the juvenile justice system and offers support to youth that are engaging in high-risk behaviors.

Most YSBs provide [Juvenile Review Board](#) (JRB) services which offer community partners a diversion process for low-risk youth as an alternative to Juvenile Court. In general, JRB services are organized and made available through ongoing collaboration with other community organizations such as the local police department or the local school district. Juvenile Review Boards exist as a mechanism for stakeholders to collaborate with the local community agencies to establish protocols for identifying, sharing information, and providing resources to support high risk youth. These services may vary by area, but most include:

- Individual and group counseling;
- Parent training and family therapy;
- Work placement and employment counseling;
- Alternative and special educational opportunities;
- Recreational and youth enrichment programs;
- Outreach programs to ensure participation and planning by the entire community for the development of regional and community-based youth services;
- Preventive programs, including youth pregnancy, youth suicide, violence, alcohol and drug prevention; and
- Programs that develop positive youth involvement.

Per statute, YSBs are to submit biennial reports to the General Assembly on the referral or diversion of children under the age of eighteen years from the juvenile justice system and the court system. The latest report can be found on the [CT YSB website](#). At this time, Connecticut's Division of Criminal Justice and the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division participate in juvenile review boards throughout the State of Connecticut.

E. Racial Profiling Prohibition Advisory Board

In 2012, [CG.S. § 54-1s](#) informed the establishment of the Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board with the primary focus on understanding, explaining and addressing disparities found through the analysis of traffic stop records. Advisory Board members work with

stakeholders to better understand the underlying causes of identified disparities. Additionally, board members are required to report any police department in violation of the Alvin W. Penn law to OPM and the [Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board](#). When a violation or disparity is identified, the board is also expected to explain to the public and stakeholders if there are justifiable reasons for such disparities.

The board shall be established within the Office of Policy and Management for administrative purposes and members must include:

- The Chief State's Attorney, or a designee;
- The Chief Public Defender, or a designee;
- The president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, or a designee;
- The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or a designee;
- Two members of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, designated by the executive director;
- The executive director of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, or a designee;
- The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or a designee;
- The Commissioner of Transportation, or a designee;
- The director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut, or a designee.

The advisory board holds a monthly public meeting to ensure oversight over the Alvin W. Penn law requirements. Currently, the CT Division of Criminal Justice are members of this advisory board.

The latest report can be found on their website: [Annual Reports – CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#)

F. Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council

In 2021, Governor Lamont signed [C.G.S. § 51-279f](#) into law, granting the [Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council](#) with the responsibility of supporting programs in CT that increase community awareness and reporting of hate crimes to combat such crimes. The council has established several subcommittees and subgroups that examine concerns pertaining to community awareness, hate speech/free speech, hate crimes prevention and education, public education outreach/campaigns, hate crime reporting and analysis, restitution programs and sentencing, law enforcement training and best practices, and administrative funding and grants. Past council legislative recommendations have included modifying or implementing restitution for victims, community service designed to remedy damage caused by any such crime, and additional alternative sentencing programs for first-time offenders and juvenile offenders.

Governor appointed Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council members or their designee includes:

- The Chief State's Attorney;

- The Chief Public Defender;
- The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection;
- The president of the Connecticut Bar Association;
- The president of the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association;
- The president of the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut;
- The president of the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association; the president of The Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association;
- The president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association; and
- The head of the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit.

The advisory council meets at least semiannually and the latest report can be found on their website: [Hate Crimes Advisory Council 2024 annual Report](#)

G. Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (TCBHC)

In response to the states’ mental health crisis, CT signed [Public Act No. 23-90](#) into law mandating the establishment of the Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee. The Committee’s key purpose is to evaluate the availability and effectiveness of prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for children's behavioral health, substance use disorders, and general well-being of children. Additionally, the law further directs the committee to assess and identify:

- Statutory and Budgetary changes to improve the children’s behavioral health system.
- Service Delivery Gaps and other missed opportunities to advance the State’s ability to offer families a set of streamlined, accessible, and responsive solutions.
- Strengths and Barriers that either support or hinder children’s behavioral health care.
- School-Based Behavioral Health Efforts that collaboratively support efforts to improve behavioral health outcomes for children.
- Disproportionate Behavioral Health Access and Outcomes for children of color and those in underserved communities such as rural parts of the state.
- Disproportionate access and outcomes across the behavioral health care system for children with developmental and intellectual disabilities.
- Quality Assurance framework(s) to maintain timely data analytics to improve both private and publicly operated behavioral health services, facilities, and programs capacity to streamline and centralize processes and operations with accountability and agility.
- Governance Structure to align state public policy and healthcare goals to ensure that all children and families, in urban, rural, and all other areas of the state, can access high-quality behavioral health care regardless of their ability to pay.
- Sustainable Workforce Needs to support the evolving behavioral health needs of children.

The TCBHC has five [workgroups](#); System Infrastructure, Services, School Based, Prevention, and Community Voices. The Community Voices Workgroup authentically engages families and children with lived experience to gain insight on needs, gaps in services, and their priorities and suggestions for improvising specific behavioral health issues and policies. The members of this workgroup practice receptive listening by providing support and feedback to the parents and youth

on the importance of their insight when they provide their expertise to the committee. Connecticut's Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division staff from Programs and Services, Information Technology, Juvenile Residential Services, Juvenile Probation Services, and Administration all participate in various meetings of the Children's Behavioral Health Committee.

The Committee's latest strategic plan on their website: [TCB 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.pdf](#)

H. Center for Children's Advocacy R/ED Reduction Project

The [Center for Children's Advocacy](#) was established in 1997 and has grown into one of the largest children's legal rights organizations in New England with offices in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport. Utilizing expert advocacy, litigation, and collaborative work with stakeholders and local agencies, the Center's [Racial Justice Project](#) works to identify and improve policies and practices to address racial and ethnic inequity in Connecticut. More specifically, this project focuses on systemic advocacy to reform policies and practices of Connecticut's education, law enforcement, and justice systems that lead to over representation of Black and Latin youth at various decision points throughout the juvenile justice system. To ensure the project's success, an R/ED Reduction Committee that holds quarterly meetings with local stakeholders to identify causes of disparity and develop interventions.

Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, Juvenile Probation Services participates in local Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R/ED) stakeholder meetings held in Bridgeport, Hartford, Hamden, New Haven and Waterbury. Additionally, Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division Business Intelligence team provides data for the meetings, which has recently included admissions to the juvenile residential centers, school-based arrests, and auto-theft referrals, all through an R/ED lens. The Judicial Branch's Juvenile Probation Services also routinely reviews court data and engages in dialogue with school systems, DCF, police and other invested groups about strategies to reduce disproportionate minority contact.

R/ED reduction strategies implemented to date include:

- New juvenile probation policies to reduce court referrals for probation violations;
- New parole policies that implemented graduated sanctions that reduced disparities in parole revocations; and
- Local and State level reforms to reduce school-based arrests and the number of youths in juvenile detention.

Membership to this committee includes stakeholders from local public schools, juvenile review boards, police departments, juvenile court, judicial juvenile probation, Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and invested professionals from community-based programs.

Training and Technical Assistance by Agency

State agencies that employ one or more employees are required by [Connecticut General Statute § 46a-54\(16\)](#) to facilitate a minimum of 3 hours of internal diversity training and education. This

training must be completed within the first six months of hiring any supervisory or nonsupervisory employees and must include:

- Information concerning the federal and state statutory provisions concerning discrimination and hate crimes directed at protected classes;
- Remedies available to victims of discrimination and hate crimes;
- Standards for working with and serving persons from diverse populations; and
- Strategies for addressing differences that may arise from diverse work environments.

Per the [Annual Report to the Connecticut General assembly and Governor: Affirmative Action Plan Data Report](#), all thirty- nine required agencies reported engaging in diversity and inclusion efforts in fiscal years 2023 and 2024.

A. The Office of the Chief Public Defender

The [Gault Center](#) offers unique training and support to assist national, state, and local organizations to advocate for policy change that centers around youth rights, interest, while highlighting their perspective. The Center was initially created with a vision of changing how people view delinquency cases by helping states to understand the importance of instituting a system of legal defenses in place for children. Its primary mission is to promote justice for all children by ensuring excellence in youth defense.

The Gault Center [Statement of Beliefs](#) include:

- All children in the legal system have ready and timely access to skilled, well-resourced, well-trained lawyers.
- All children are afforded full protection of their constitutional, statutory, and human rights.
- All children receive legal representation that is client-centered, individualized, developmentally and age-appropriate, and free of bias.
- All children have opportunities to attain their potential to become productive members of society.

The Gault Center joined with Georgetown Law’s Juvenile Justice clinic & Initiative to create the Racial Justice Training Series. This training series is a collection of resources and training that enhances the community’s ability to eradicate racial injustice in the juvenile legal system. In 2023, the [Racial Justice Training Series](#) examined systemic racism among the education system, behavioral health, and access to safe play spaces but 2024 brought a different approach. The Gault Center utilized their webinar series for a call to action for the youth defense community to transform the juvenile legal system by centering youth and their constitutional rights to freedom, liberty, and equality. This webinar offered tools from equipped youth defenders with practical tools stemming from the National Youth Defense System Standards to uphold and strengthen the constitutional rights of youth as a mechanism to break down systemic and racial injustice.

The Gault Center collaborates with nine Regional Youth Defender Centers and Connecticut has multiple representatives from the Chief Public Defender who participates on the board of the Northeast Regional Gault Center.

Additional resources can be found on their website: [Racial Justice Toolkit – The Gault Center](#)

Lastly, the Office of the Chief Public Defender sponsored multiple division employees to attend the National Association for Public Defense’s Annual Racial Justice Conferences in Montgomery, AL. The 2024 conference took place October 28th – October 31st and [workshop sessions](#) included:

- Advocating While Black: The Experience & Perspectives of Black Men in Public Defense
- Challenging Racial Bias Through Effective Motion Practice
- Dismantling the Superwoman Myth: Empowering Black Women to Embrace the Duality of Vulnerability and Strength
- Supervising Successfully Across Racial Lines
- Forgot about DEI
- Racial Justice Values in Practice
- Walk It Like You Talk It: Understanding Youth Behavior and Using Positive Language in Juvenile Justice
- White Defensiveness & The Pursuit of Justice

The 2025 conference took place on October 27th – October 30th in Montgomery, AL. [workshop sessions](#) included:

- It Takes Two: Cultivating Intentional Relationships with Allyship
- Listening to Hear: Effective Client Communication in the Pursuit of Racial Justice
- Nest Level challenges to Racially Biased Sentencing
- Policing Through our Eyes: Community Needs, Accountability, and Resistance in the Era of Overreach
- True Narratives: Framing Pain, Punishment, and the Lethality of the Civil Death Penalty
- No Justice Without Resistance: Combating White Supremacy in Immigration and Beyond
- The Legacy of Impossible
- Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome and Healing

B. Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice

In the last two years, the Division conducted numerous training, teaching, and awareness initiatives relating to juvenile law and disproportionate minority contact. Specifically, the Division provided various training courses that focused on juvenile matters for professionals such as prosecutors and law enforcement:

Date	Training Initiative
January 30, 2023	Division of Criminal Justice Training Initiative, Juvenile Matters
October 5, 2023	Chief State’s Attorney’s Training Initiative, Juvenile Matters
December 13, 2023	Deputy Assistant State’s Attorney Boot Camp, Juvenile Matters
December 10, 2024	Division of Criminal Justice Training Initiative, Juvenile Court System
March 18, 2025	Division of Criminal Justice Professional Development Training Initiative, Juvenile Probation

March 18, 2025	Division of Criminal Justice Professional Development Training Initiative, Juvenile Programs and Services
March 18, 2025	Division of Criminal Justice Professional Development Training Initiative, Juvenile Clinical, Education & Residential Services
August 5, 2025	Division of Criminal Justice Detective School, Juvenile Matters
September 16, 2025	John M. Bailey Seminar, Juvenile Matters

Additionally, the Division of Criminal Justice has provided:

- Agency-wide training to prosecutors on implicit bias at the Division of Criminal Justice’s Annual Prosecutor Conference held on June 13, 2024.
- Quarterly training on juvenile law each year at the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) to Connecticut police officers and recruits.
- Training to police officers on juvenile law at municipal police academies, including those sponsored by the New Haven and Bridgeport police departments.
- Training in juvenile law and issues related to juvenile law at the Judicial Marshal Academy.
- Participated in the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s training entitled *Combating Racism: Recognizing and Preventing the Criminalization of Normal Adolescent Behavior Among Youth of Color* in November 2023.
- Scholastic engagement by teaching courses related to juvenile matters at the Connecticut community colleges system and University of Hartford.

C. Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD)

Employment Training Requirements

The JBCSSD Training Academy (TA) requires all JBCSSD employees to complete a minimum of 40 hours of total annual training, with a minimum of 4 hours of cultural competency training. For the reporting period, Juvenile Residential Services (JRS) staff and Juvenile Probation Services (JPS) staff have completed 3,100 hours of training related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Specifically, JBCSSD JRS staff completed 1,868 hours of DEI training and JBCSSD JPS staff completed 1,232 hours of DEI training. Additionally, The Juvenile Court Clinic (JCC) staff attend an annual concise report writing training on how to cover only relevant information as a clinician and being mindful of word use and descriptors. The JCC staff also attend mandatory bias training in relation to their forensic evaluations.

The [Training Academy](#) provides a range of coordinated training. There are three levels of training:

1. Pre-service, which is required for new hires and is comprised of a mix of instructor-led and virtual training coupled with on-the-job training that is intensive, sequential, and comprehensive.
2. In-service training, which is mandatory for all veteran staff. JBCSSD policy prescribes the number of training hours that each staff member receives.
3. Leadership management training which is required for all personnel promoted to supervisory or managerial positions.

Initial training at the JBCSSD Training Academy includes [Foundations in Cultural Competency 100 and 200](#). Foundations in cultural Competency 100 is a 14-hour introductory workshop in cultural competency. The purpose is to increase communication, understanding and respect among diverse groups and address critical issues of inclusion facing our society via an understanding of the principles of cultural diversity and cultural competence. Recognizing the need for additional discussions, [Foundations in Cultural Competency 200](#) is a 7-hour, in-person advanced workshop that builds on the skills and concepts learned prior in cultural responsiveness. The goal of this training is to help participants enhance their cultural responsiveness and to continue to build a better understanding about both the role that culture plays and how to communicate effectively within our diverse society. This workshop explores topics such as, implicit bias, internalized oppression, and white privilege by utilizing activities, brief lectures, videos, and group discussion. Participants are also encouraged to explore their own personal beliefs and experiences with these topics.

JBCSSD staff additionally watched [The Color of Justice Revisited](#), the sequel to the Emmy-nominated 2013 CPTV documentary, [The Color of Justice](#), which examines the role race plays in Connecticut's juvenile justice. The Color of Justice Revisited examines Connecticut's progress in decreasing unequal treatment and how bias influences the decisions made by police officers, prosecutors, judges, and the Department of Children and families. This documentary includes interviews with Martha Stone, Executive Director of the Center for Children's Advocacy and Leanon Smith, former Director of the Center's Racial Justice Project. All JBCSSD Juvenile Probation Services staff viewed both CPTV documentaries, The Color of Justice and The Color of Justice Revisited, preservice. Additionally, JBCSSD Juvenile Probation Services hosts Candid Conversations on Race and Social Justice, a three-part training series focused on The Color of Justice Revisited documentary. These candid discussion topics included implicit bias and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) in the justice system, focus on how attitudes, experiences, and stereotypes affect young people of color and influence the decisions made by police officers, prosecutors, judges, Juvenile Probation, and other stakeholders.

Another training opportunity offered to Judicial Branch employees is [The Power of Diversity](#) training. This 3-hour training explores the challenges of recognizing, valuing and managing diversity within the workplace. Federal and State laws, cultural backgrounds, personal expectations, and professional behavior are discussed through an interactive curriculum that guides participants to the conclusion that increased diversity awareness in the work environment generates greater harmony, synergy, and productivity. This is a statutorily mandated half-day program for all employees within six months of their date of hire. Additionally, Programs and Services staff monitor training requirement compliance for contracted providers, including completion of Foundations of Cultural Responsiveness 100 and 200, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and Gender Responsive, as well as complete a minimum of 4 hours of cultural competency training.

[Training Development and Advancement](#)

In addition to the initial training required of all Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division staff, the JBCSSD Training Academy collaborates closely with the Branch's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) unit to evaluate and develop new training related to cultural competency. An annual [DEI training catalog](#) is released with 24 different courses presented via in-person, virtual, and web-based options exploring topics such as poverty, bias, autism, and

LGBTQ+ culture. Fostering a positive and productive work environment requires ongoing learning and development in DEI concepts. These courses equip staff with the knowledge and skills to build stronger relationships with colleagues and clients, ultimately leading to better outcomes for everyone. The courses and training initiatives extend to include the following:

- The JBCSSD Training Academy has partnered with JBCSSD Juvenile Residential Services to develop a Suicide Prevention booster training that addresses increased concerns of suicide for youth of color.
- The JBCSSD Training Academy developed healthcare training focused on detecting skin-related symptoms. Since its development, identified improvements include diversifying skin colors used in example photos to effectively train staff on how to detect skin-related symptoms and concerns on more than just white-skinned clients.
- Within the [Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative](#), the JBCSSD Training Academy supported the development of a Father Role training that addresses disproportionate minority contact and adverse childhood experiences.
- In collaboration with State Police and Hate Crime Investigative Unit, the JBCSSD Training Academy supported the development of a two-hour Hate Crimes training. This training familiarizes recruits with CT state statutes related to hate and bias crimes, precursors to acts based on hate and bias, the ability to recognize these types of crimes, and examines law enforcement's role in hate crime investigations/incidents.

Community Programs and Models

Connecticut was one of the first juvenile probation departments to partner with the academic community to implement and train staff on the proper use of [Forensic Cognitive Behavioral Techniques](#) (FCBT) Supervision Strategies. This model of interaction between probation officers and clients incorporates motivational, cognitive behavioral, and risk-based concepts into community supervision sessions to foster client awareness of the relationship between thinking and behavior and recidivism reduction. The success of this initiative is due to the incredible collaboration between the JBCSSD Adult Probation Services, Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), and the University of Southern Maine on a 2012 “SMART Probation” grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance. Program outcome evaluations have shown that officers trained in F-CBT practices had more risk-relevant discussions with clients, displayed more empathy, built more collaborative relationships with clients, and had lower client 6-month recidivism rates following training.

The State also engaged in the [Credible Messenger Program](#), which is a community-based program that provides an intensive mentoring/coaching and advocacy for justice-involved youth. This program matches youth to mentors with lived experience to help transform attitudes, beliefs, and actions. Credible Messengers provide support, structure, guidance, and skill-building techniques to help youth overcome life challenges, stay in school, and reduce the likelihood of reoffending. Specific data and outcomes of CM, including race, ethnicity, and gender specific data, are reviewed with the Executive Director of JBCSSD on a quarterly basis. The program serves males and

females, aged 13 to 18 years who have been determined by the PrediCT assessment tool identified to be high-risk, high-need, justice-involved youth.

The Juvenile Probation Services connected with various agencies such as Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR), NAFI, The village, and more to implement the [Linking Youth to Natural Communities \(LYNC\)](#) program. The LYNC program receives referrals directly from CT Juvenile Probation Officers to provide comprehensive services incorporating evidence-based practices that target changing behavior and recidivism reduction. This program aims to collaborate with multi-modal centers that focus on targeted services that are gender-specific, evidence-/research- based, culturally competent, and trauma informed. Core LYNC services include assessment, case management, employment soft skills, and cognitive behavioral groups (Reasoning and Rehabilitation, Seeking Safety, and Girls Circle), flexible funding, and referrals to other services that youth and families need. Specific data and outcomes of LYNC, including race, ethnicity, and gender specific data, are reviewed with the Executive Director of JBCSSD on a quarterly basis.

Connecticut leaders also launched the [Improving Outcomes for Youth](#) (IOYouth) in June 2019 to examine the impact of our state's juvenile justice system on youth, to include the elimination of truancy and defiance of school rules as delinquent offenses and the closure of Connecticut Juvenile Training School. The Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, in collaboration with the Council of State Government (CSG), developed an innovative approach to enhancing Juvenile Probation and child and family partnerships, as part of initiatives connected to IOYouth work. Guiding principles infuse wraparound approach to working with children and family. The partnership model includes six components: Engagement & Language, Family mapping, case Plan and Supervision, Child and Family Team Meeting and Quality Assurance. A Child and Family Partnership guide and training module was implemented statewide in November 2023, and Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM) have continued since. These meetings are a collaboration with the LYNC contracted programs throughout Connecticut.

Effective June 2023, Connecticut established the Connecticut School Discipline Collaborative per [Connecticut General Statute § 10-233r](#) to advise the Commissioner of Education and State Board of Education on strategies for transforming school discipline to reduce the overall and disproportionate use of exclusionary discipline. At CT School Discipline Collaborative's meeting [Commissioner's Annual Back-to-School Meeting with Superintendents](#) on March 26, 2024, CT State Department of Education outlined their priorities for 2023-2024 which included:

- Recruit and retain a diverse workforce of high-quality educators
- Support a safe and healthy learning environment for students and school staff and ensure students are present and engaged in learning
- Elevate and continuously launch our curriculum frameworks and model curricula
- Promote data transparency
- Expand career pathways and workforce development initiatives
- Evaluate, fund, and sustain programs that work
- Cultivate strategic partnerships that support all our students

Lastly, the Judicial Branch's Juvenile Probation Services also participates in the Governor's [Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap](#), a state council meets quarterly working to

eliminate academic disparities. The Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap was established to provide support to the [Achievement Gap Task Force](#) in the development of the master plan to eliminate the academic achievement gaps in Connecticut. Additional tasks include implementing the provisions of such master plan, and, if necessary, make recommendations for legislation relating to such master plan to the Joint Standing Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

Monitoring and Evaluation

All JBCSSD data dashboards are built to be able to describe any data through an RED lens. Juvenile Prosecution Services, Juvenile Residential Services, and Juvenile Programs & Services teams review data with the Executive Director of JBCSSD on a quarterly basis. Depending on the program model, JBCSSD Contract Monitors audit each juvenile program between 2-4 times a year. The audit includes contract compliance and reviewing client files, intakes, case management notes, etc. Results of the audit are provided back to program staff, and the program is required to develop and implement corrective action plans, if needed. Additionally, quality assurance for LYNC is reviewed through audio and video tapes to ensure fidelity of each program and feedback is provided monthly. Group quality assurance is also conducted for LYNC on a quarterly basis.

Juvenile Probation Services conducts multidisciplinary case reviews with system and local partners to review the cases of court-involved youth to identify effective strategies, systemic barriers, service gaps, and opportunities to enhance practice and improve effectiveness. Additionally, Juvenile Residential Services continue to screen all youth with validated, evidence-based tools to avoid misdiagnosis, and Juvenile Residential Services interventions continue to be evidence-informed, especially with youth of color. In 2025, Juvenile Residential Services also initiated regular meetings with the superintendents to review data regarding room time, specifically to look at the breakdown by race. A weekly report is generated and shared regarding the number of days a child is waiting to be placed within Juvenile Residential Services. A deidentified version of this report is shared with advocates and an identified version is shared with Juvenile Residential Services and Juvenile Probation Services staff for transparency, awareness, and improvement.

Online Resources

Topic	Link
An Act Concerning Detention of Children and Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System	Public Act 11-154
An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015	Public Act 14-217, Section 79
Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJPOC)	JJPOC The Tow Youth Justice Institute
Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Title II Formula Grant Program	Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP) Title II Formula Grants Program
Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard	Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard
An Act Concerning Deceptive or Coercive Interrogation Tactics	Public Act 23-27
An Act Concerning Discretionary Transfer from Juvenile to Adult Court	Senate Bill 1441
Transfer of Child Charged with a Felony to the Regular Criminal Docket. Transfer of Youth Aged Sixteen or Seventeen to Docket for Juvenile Matters	C.G.S. § 46b-127(a)(1) C.G.S. § 46b-127(3)
Judicial Branch- CSSD Chronicle Nov 2022	PrediCT-S
An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee	House Bill 7250
Official 2025 Connecticut Practice Book	Section 27-1A of Connecticut's Practice Book
CT Prosecution Standards	Connecticut Prosecution Standards
JJPOC Strategic Plans	JJPOC's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan JJPOC Strategic Plan 2025-2029
DCF Juvenile Justice Education Unit Oversight	Juvenile Justice Education Unit
An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee and Concerning the Transfer of Juvenile Services from the Department of Children and Families to the Court SUPPORT Services Division of the Judicial Branch	Public Act 18-31
JJPOC R/ED Workgroup	RE/D Workgroup Meeting Minutes
An Act Concerning Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System	Public Act 00-154
R/ED Commission Reports	Biennial and Annual Reports
State Advisory Council	State Advisory Council (SAC) Council Meeting Minutes, Notes, & Handouts

State Advisory Council on Children and Families. Appointment. Powers and Duties	C.G.S. § 17a-4
Youth Advisory Board. Sibling Bill of Rights. Meeting Between Caseworker and Child	C.G.S. § 17a-10c
Regional Advisory Councils. Appointments and Terms.	C.G.S. § 17a-30
Youth Service Bureaus by County	YSBs by County
Youth Service Bureaus. Report. Regulations	CT Gen Stat § 10-19m
CT Youth Connect	Juvenile Review Board SFY24 YSB Data Report Released
Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board. Membership. Duties	Connecticut General Statutes § 54-1s
Racial Profiling Prohibition Advisory Board	Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board Annual Reports – CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project
State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council Statute	Connecticut General Statute § 51-279f
Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council Website	Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council Hate Crimes Advisory Council 2024 annual Report
An Act Concerning the Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee	Public Act No. 23-90 Workgroups TCB 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.pdf
Center for Children’s Advocacy (CCA) Website	Center for Children's Advocacy
CCA Racial Justice Website	Racial Justice Project
Human Rights and Opportunities Section 46a-54. (Formerly Sec. 31-125). Commission powers.	C.G.S. § 46a-54(16)
Annual Report to the Connecticut General assembly and Governor: Affirmative Action	Affirmative Action Plan Data Report
The Gault Center	Website Racial Justice Training Series Racial Justice Toolkit – The Gault Center
National Association for Public Defense’s Annual Racial Justice Conferences	2024 Workshops 2025 Workshops
Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division Training Academy/ DEI Training	CSSD Program and Staff Development - CT Judicial Branch
JBCSSD Training Academy Catalog	Training Catalog
Documentary	The Color of Justice The Color of Justice Revisited
DCF Fatherhood Initiative	Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative
Forensic Cognitive Behavioral Techniques	Forensic Cognitive Behavioral Techniques
Credible Messenger Program	CJR Website
Linking Youth to Natural Communities	CJR LYNC Website

Improving Outcomes for Youth	CSG IOYouth Website
Connecticut School Discipline Collaborative	Connecticut General Statute § 10-233r
Commissioner's Annual Back to School Meeting discussing the CT School Discipline Collaborative	PowerPoint
Achievement Gap Task Force	Public Act 11-85