



MARIA Z. MOSSAIDES  
DIRECTOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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March 8, 2022

Dear Mr. Clerk,

I am pleased to submit to you the following reports on behalf of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Data (JJPAD) Board:

- Massachusetts Juvenile Justice System: 2021 Annual Report
- Improving Access to Massachusetts Juvenile Justice System Data: An Update of the 2019 Report

Both reports discuss the status of Massachusetts' juvenile justice system. The Board's **2021 Annual Report** presents an analysis of FY21 system data as well as trends since FY17. It also summarizes the JJPAD Board's work throughout 2021, including our study of the Child Requiring Assistance (CRA) system and trauma screening and referral practices, and updates on the implementation and impact of legislative changes impacting the juvenile justice system.

In "**Improving Access to Massachusetts Juvenile Justice System Data: An Update of the 2019 Report**," the Board finds that while significant progress has been made in the availability of system data since the Board's inception, challenges remain, especially when trying to report data on youth with multiple systems' involvement or when trying to assess short- or long-term outcomes for youth who were involved in the juvenile justice system. As such, the Board recommends four steps the state can take to continue to advance juvenile justice system data availability.

The JJPAD Board was established as a permanent entity by "An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform" in 2018. The Board, which I chair, consists of members representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders involved in the juvenile justice system as well as child welfare and other child serving agencies. The Legislature charged the JJPAD Board with evaluating juvenile justice system policies and procedures and making recommendations to improve outcomes.

The reports are attached to this email, and will be available for download at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/jjpadcttf-legislative-reports-and-key-documents> on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Our office is happy to further discuss these reports with you and/or your staff. Please contact Melissa Threadgill, our Director of Strategic Innovation, with any questions. She can be reached at [Melissa.Threadgill@mass.gov](mailto:Melissa.Threadgill@mass.gov).

We are grateful for the Legislature's leadership and support for the children of the Commonwealth. I look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the lives of the children and families in the Commonwealth.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Z. Mossaides", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maria Z. Mossaides  
Director, Office of the Child Advocate