



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE**  
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**MARIA Z. MOSSAIDES**  
DIRECTOR

January 9, 2024

Michael D. Hurley  
Clerk of the Senate  
24 Beacon St. Rm. 335  
Massachusetts State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Clerk Hurley,

As chair of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board (JJPAD), and pursuant to MGL Chapter 119 Section 89, I am pleased to submit to you the 2023 JJPAD Annual Report. The report highlights the work of the JJPAD Board over the past year and presents data on Massachusetts' juvenile justice system. This year's annual report:

- Describes juvenile justice system data trends, including:
  - Annual Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) trends compared to FY22
  - Highlighting an uptick in the use of the juvenile justice system during FY23. Arrests and court involvement, especially for youth alleged of misdemeanor or lower-level offenses, rose compared to the year before
  - Widening racial and ethnic disparities, particularly at the initial stages of the system.
- Summarizes the JJPAD Board's work in 2023, including:
  - The Board's two new research projects: (1) focusing on the pretrial phase of the state's juvenile justice system and (2) focusing on youth with child welfare and juvenile justice system involvement ("dually involved youth").
  - The Childhood Trauma Task Force (CTTF)'s 2023 work.
  - Monitoring of initiatives launched as a result of JJPAD Board recommendations, including the Massachusetts Youth Diversion Program, as well as the Center on Child Wellbeing and Trauma.

The JJPAD Board was established as a permanent entity by "An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform" in 2018. The Board 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 report is attached to this email and is available for download at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/jpad-2023-annual-report/download>

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

We are grateful for your 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 of Massachusetts.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maria Z. Mossaides".

Maria Z. Mossaides  
Director, Office of the Child Advocate