



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

March 25, 2025
Timothy Carroll, Clerk of the House
24 Beacon St. Rm. 145
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Michael D. Hurley
24 Beacon Street, Room 335
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Clerks Carroll and 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 2024 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 24 (FY24) trends compared to FY23
 - Highlighting an uptick in the use of the juvenile justice system arrests and pretrial detention in FY24. Arrests and detention 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
 - An increase in system use for girls in FY24 compared to FY23.
- Summarizes the JJPAD Board's work in 2024, including:
 - The Board's competition of its work focusing on the pretrial phase of the state's juvenile justice system and ongoing research focusing on youth with child welfare and juvenile justice system involvement ("dually involved youth").
 - The Childhood Trauma Task Force (CTTF)'s 2024 work.
 - Monitoring of initiatives launched as a result of JJPAD Board recommendations, including the Massachusetts Youth Diversion Program, which is in 9 out of 11 Juvenile Court counties.

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 uploaded to the LAWS system and is available for download at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/jpad-2024-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.

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 in the Commonwealth.

Thank you,

Maria Z. Mossaides
Director, Office of the Child Advocate