



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

April 7, 2026
Michael D. Hurley
24 Beacon St. Rm. 335
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Timothy Carroll
24 Beacon Street, Rm. 145
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Clerks Hurley and Carroll,

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 2025 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 25 (FY25) trends, which show the number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system remained stable compared to FY24.
 - A continued increase in the use of arrests, compared to summons. For the third year in a row, a higher portion of cases entered Juvenile Court through arrest rather than summons.
 - Youth who enter the juvenile justice system are facing increased levels of pretrial involvement, such as being given conditions of release rather than being released on personal recognizance.
 - A focus on specific cohorts of youth within the system. Youth involved with the child welfare system are overrepresented at the deep end of the system, while racial and ethnic disparities persist, particularly at the initial stages of the system.
- Summarizes the JJPAD Board's work in 2025, including:
 - An update on the Board's ongoing research project focused on youth with child welfare and juvenile justice system involvement (dually involved youth).
 - The Childhood Trauma Task Force's (CTTF's) 2025 work.
 - Monitoring of initiatives launched as a result of JJPAD Board recommendations, including the Massachusetts Youth Diversion Program (MYDP) and the OCA's Juvenile Justice Data Website.
 - Current and prior legislation impacting the juvenile justice system.

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/jipad-2025-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