KDOC Response to COVID-19
Kansas Department of Corrections
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COVID-19 Confirmed Cases
Kansas Department of Corrections
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COVID–19 Guidance: State Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
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The Psychology of COVID-19
American Corrections Association
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Coping with Stress as a Result of COVID-19
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
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COVID-19 Practice, Policy & Emergency Protocols in State Juvenile Facilities
Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators
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PREA Audits and Implementation and COVID-19
US Dept. of Justice - PREA Management
Access guidance . . .

Recommendations for Youth Justice Systems during the COVID-19 Emergency
Youth Correctional Leaders for Justice
Access guidance . . .

COVID-19 Practice, Policy & Emergency Protocols in State Juvenile Facilities
Protecting youth and staff from exposure to the virus has impacted every aspect of facility management in state juvenile justice systems. Direct care staff, managers and directors have developed creative solutions to address challenges and navigate a new era dictated by social-distancing and emergency planning. Although the state juvenile justice agency differs in its size and the types and numbers of facilities it operates, there are also common challenges and innovative practices shared by many. To capture these challenges and innovations, the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators has developed an Issue Brief that highlights a range of responses to COVID-19 reported by state juvenile justice agency directors and facility superintendents during the public health emergency.

What’s It Really Like To Be an Essential Worker In the U.S. During the Coronavirus Pandemic
In an effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19, which has sickened more than 1.5 million people worldwide (as of press time), many state and local governments have issued stay-at-home or shelter-in-place orders and closed "non-essential" businesses. Yet with millions of Americans at home trying to work remotely or home-school their children, there are also millions of "essential" workers on the frontlines. This, of course, includes doctors, nurses, and hospital staff among others in the healthcare industry, and they arguably face the brunt of COVID-19 risk and exposure.

Read more . . .
Interventions: Moving from Individual Programs

Lessons from Juvenile Justice Reforms Could Help Reduce Pandemic’s Impact on Confined Youth

As COVID-19 spreads among youth and staff in juvenile correctional facilities, some states are moving to reduce confined populations. Although motivated by urgent health concerns, many of these policies are consistent with public safety research and reflect a continuing effort by state policymakers to decrease both incarceration and crime. Read more . . .

Federal Policy Update

On Tuesday, May 12, 2020, Congress released a stimulus bill meant to help address America’s needs during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This bill included a number of juvenile justice specific provisions. The legislation provides $75 million for rapid response grants through Title II of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act. Funds available under this program will help support a variety of services, including testing of young people and staff in facilities, continued access to education and community supports for youth returning home at a time when positive tests in secure settings continue to rise. Read more . . .

Summary of juvenile justice provisions

Guidance to Juvenile Courts on Conducting Remote Hearings During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Social distancing and community shutdowns are having a deep impact on our nation’s juvenile courts. As a result, many courts have moved to “remote” hearings to handle cases. Depending on the jurisdiction, remote hearings may be via video or may only be telephonic. Some jurisdictions are holding remote hearings only for critical matters affecting youth liberty, such as detention and parole hearings. Criminal courts are handling all kinds of hearings remotely. Read more . . .

Supporting Youth and Families Impacted by Substance Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Substance abuse is a major challenge in communities across America. A 2018 national survey revealed that in the past year, more than 20 million people age 12 and older had a substance use disorder related to the use of alcohol or illicit drugs. Help youth and families overcome the effects of substance abuse and co-occurring mental health disorders, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention provides funding to help states improve the effectiveness of drug courts nationwide. Read more . . .

Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators

Utah’s Juvenile Justice System and the Work of Continued Reform

In March 2017, Utah’s Governor, Gary R. Herbert signed a law creating a comprehensive set of research-based reforms designed to improve Utah’s juvenile justice system. House Bill 239 (HB 239), was sponsored by Representative Lowry Snow and Senator Todd Weiler and was intended to keep youth who can be safely supervised in the community and out of costly residential out-of-home placements. The bill also expanded community-based programs, and standardized services to reduce disparities across racial and geographic lines, while also diverting youth charged with less serious offenses from formal court proceedings. Read more . . .

JJDP – Reentry

In Focus – JJDP – Reentry

This fact sheet summarizes the grants programs available from the U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) under the federal Second Chance Act, which authorizes federal grants for reentry services and resources that will increase the likelihood that young people leaving home after residential placement will become productive and law-abiding members of society. Read more . . .

Council of State Governments

A Look Into Court-Based Behavioral Health Diversion Interventions

Recognizing that people with behavioral health needs are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, many communities have developed alternatives to incarceration that connect eligible people to community-based treatment and supports. While efforts around preventing people from entering the criminal justice system and developing law enforcement diversion interventions are critical to connecting people to treatment in the community, this brief focuses on the efforts led by those working in courts, such as judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and court administrators. For information on other diversion opportunities, see the Act. These Diversion Interventions: Moving from Individual Programs Read more . . .

National News – COVID-19

Pandemic puts trafficking victims at higher risk

As lawmakers, all of us are focused almost exclusively on combating the coronavirus pandemic and seeking ways to mitigate its horrific impact. The United States has about a million confirmed cases of COVID-19 with over fifty-five thousand deaths. My state of New Jersey alone has well over one hundred thousand confirmed cases with over 6,000 dead. Your constituents in each of your countries, like mine, have suffered enormous devastation and loss. Read more . . .

Two Agos She Was Held Captive by Sex Traffickers; Now She’s a Member of the U.S. Advisory Council

Courtney Litvak was a student at Cinco Ranch High School (Texas) when she became immersed in the life of sex trafficking. Now she’s been appointed to President Donald Trump’s U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. Litvak came from a loving family. She was an accomplished swimmer. She lived in a safe neighborhood. She grew up in the church, and she was saving herself until marriage. Then, at the age of 18, she was being sold for sex. Read more . . .

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

For Kids Unsafe at Home, School Closure Increases Risk for Trauma

In January, Sharrar Dean, a therapist at the Family Counseling Center of Central Georgia, was seeing about 30 young clients a week. At any given time, five to seven of them were what Dean calls “at risk” — more likely to experience violence at home, or higher risk for depression, anxiety, fighting in school and entering the juvenile justice system. Read more . . .

How to Help Struggling Kids During Coronavirus

This time of year usually marks year-end celebrations and summer preparations for youth. But with regular traditions like prom and graduation on hold, and with many jobs in limbo, teenagers in Alabama aren’t sure what to expect when back to school is coming months. That uncertainty can cause a lot of stress. If anyone knows how hard this time might be for Alabama’s youth, it’s Rollins. When Rollins was a teenager, he said he got into “a bit of trouble” and was sent to the Read more . . .

New York Homeless Youth Feel Lonely, Stuck, Isolated

First he lost his job as a shift manager at McDonald’s. Then the movie theater, the bowling alley, the all the places he spent time in began to close. Now he has to finish his senior year of high school online and was on a real graduation. He’s trying to hear back on whether he got into his college of choice. Read more . . .

PEW Charitable Trusts

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National News

Governor Newsom Signs Executive Order on Division of Juvenile Justice Discharge and Reentry Process

California Governor Gavin Newsom today signed an executive order that addresses the release and reentry process at the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, so that eligible youth serving time at DJJ can be discharged safely and expeditiously. The executive order calls for all discharge and reentry hearings to be held via videoconference to minimize the youth’s and other participants’ exposure to COVID-19. Read more . . .

How Have States Improved Accountability to Victims through JRI?

People who have experienced victimization have diverse and complex needs that require attention from federal, state, and local governments. This presentation summarizes how states have engaged victims, victim advocates, and other providers throughout the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) process; outlines some strategies states have used through JRI to improve accountability to victims; and highlights creative, victim-centered policy and practice changes that states could consider to better serve victims and survivors. Read more . . .

Las Cruces Case Worker Helping Youth Who Have Aged Out of Care Plus the System-involved

Transitioning out of juvenile justice is already laborious for many young people. It’s infinitely more difficult during a global pandemic. “They’re literally coming back into the community from being in a facility so getting on their feet is what they’re trying to do,” said Jalyn Weiss, transition services coordinator for the Juvenile Justice department of the New Mexico Department of Youth and Families Department (CFYD). “Finding a job is the hardest thing for them right now,” added Weiss, who works with youth returning from Doña Ana, Otero, Lincoln and Eddy counties. “They’re not able to get all of the documents they need, such as an ID or birth certificate or Social Security Read more . . .

Human Trafficking – National

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