

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

SUBCHAPTER I--GENERALLY

42 U.S.C. 5601 Sec. 101. Congressional statement of findings

(a) The Congress hereby finds that--

(1) juveniles accounted for almost half the arrests for serious crimes in the United States in 1974 and for less than one-third of such arrests in 1983;

(2) recent trends show an upsurge in arrests of adolescents for murder, assault, and weapon use;

(3) the small number of youth who commit the most serious and violent offenses are becoming more violent;

(4) understaffed, overcrowded juvenile courts, prosecutorial and public defender offices, probation services, and correctional facilities and inadequately trained staff in such courts, services, and facilities are not able to provide individualized justice or effective help;

(5) present juvenile courts, foster and protective care programs, and shelter facilities are inadequate to meet the needs of children, who, because of this failure to provide effective services, may become delinquents;

(6) existing programs have not adequately responded to the particular problems of the increasing numbers of young people who are addicted to or who abuse alcohol and other drugs, particularly nonopiate or polydrug abusers;

(7) juvenile delinquency can be reduced through programs designed to keep students in elementary and secondary schools through the prevention of unwarranted and arbitrary suspensions and expulsions;

(8) States and local communities which experience directly the devastating failures of the juvenile justice system do not presently have sufficient technical expertise or adequate resources to deal comprehensively with the problems of juvenile delinquency;

(9) existing Federal programs have not provided the direction, coordination, resources, and leadership required to meet the crisis of delinquency;

(10) the juvenile justice system should give additional attention to the problem of juveniles who commit

serious crimes, with particular attention given to the areas of sentencing, providing resources necessary for informed dispositions, and rehabilitation;

(11) emphasis should be placed on preventing youth from entering the juvenile justice system to begin with; and

(12) the incidence of juvenile delinquency can be reduced through public recreation programs and activities designed to provide youth with social skills, enhance self esteem, and encourage the constructive use of discretionary time.

(b) Congress finds further that the high incidence of delinquency in the United States today results in enormous annual cost and immeasurable loss of human life, personal security, and wasted human resources and that juvenile delinquency constitutes a growing threat to the national welfare requiring immediate and comprehensive action by the Federal Government to reduce and prevent delinquency.

42 U.S.C. 5602 Sec. 102. Congressional declaration of purpose and policy

(a) It is the purpose of this chapter--

(1) to provide for the thorough and ongoing evaluation of all federally assisted juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs;

(2) to provide technical assistance to public and private nonprofit juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs;

(3) to establish training programs for persons, including professionals, paraprofessionals, and volunteers, who work with delinquents or potential delinquents or whose work or activities relate to juvenile delinquency programs;

(4) to establish a centralized research effort on the problems of juvenile delinquency, including the dissemination of the findings of such research and all data related to juvenile delinquency;

(5) to develop and encourage the implementation of national standards for the administration of juvenile justice, including recommendations for administrative, budgetary, and legislative action at the Federal, State, and local level to facilitate the adoption of such standards;

(6) to assist States and local communities with resources to develop and implement programs to keep students in elementary and secondary schools and to prevent unwarranted and arbitrary suspensions and expulsions;

(7) to establish a Federal assistance program to deal with the problems of runaway and homeless youth;

(8) to strengthen families in which juvenile delinquency has been a problem;

(9) to assist State and local governments in removing juveniles from jails and lockups for adults;

42 U.S.C. 5653 Sec. 243. Research, demonstration, and evaluation functions of Institute

(a) The Administrator, acting through the National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, is authorized to--

(1) conduct, encourage, and coordinate research and evaluation into any aspect of juvenile delinquency, particularly with regard to new programs and methods which seek to strengthen and preserve families or which show promise of making a contribution toward the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency;

(2) encourage the development of demonstration projects in new, innovative techniques and methods to prevent and treat juvenile delinquency;

(3) establish or expand programs that, in recognition of varying degrees of the seriousness of delinquent behavior and the corresponding gradations in the responses of the juvenile justice system in response to that behavior, are designed to--

(i) encourage courts to develop and implement a continuum of post- adjudication restraints that bridge the gap between traditional probation and confinement in a correctional setting (including expanded use of probation, mediation, restitution, community service, treatment, home detention, intensive supervision, electronic monitoring, boot camps and similar programs, and secure community-based treatment facilities linked to other support services such as health, mental health, education (remedial and special), job training, and recreation); and

(ii) assist in the provision by the Administrator of information and technical assistance, including technology transfer, to States in the design and utilization of risk assessment mechanisms to aid juvenile justice personnel in determining appropriate sanctions for delinquent behavior;

(4) Encourage the development of programs which, in addition to helping youth take responsibility for their behavior, take into consideration life experiences which may have contributed to their delinquency when developing intervention and treatment programs;

(5) encourage the development and establishment of programs to enhance the States' ability to identify chronic serious and violent juvenile offenders who commit crimes such as rape, murder, firearms offenses, gang-related crimes, violent felonies, and serious drug offenses;

(5) provide for the evaluation of all juvenile delinquency programs assisted under this subchapter in order to determine the results and the effectiveness of such programs;

\*\*\*\* Two (2) number (5) were enacted

(6) provide for the evaluation of any other Federal, State, or local juvenile delinquency program;

(7) prepare, in cooperation with educational institutions, with Federal, State, and local agencies, and with appropriate individuals and private agencies, such studies as it considers to be necessary with respect to the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency and the improvement of the juvenile justice system, including--

(A) recommendations designed to promote effective prevention and treatment, particularly by strengthening and maintaining the family unit;

(B) assessments regarding the role of family violence, sexual abuse or exploitation, media violence, the improper handling of youth placed in one State by another State, the effectiveness of family-centered treatment programs, special education, remedial education, and recreation, and the extent to which youth in the juvenile system are treated differently on the basis of sex, race, or family income and the ramifications of such treatment;

(C) examinations of the treatment of juveniles processed in the criminal justice system; and

(D) recommendations as to effective means for deterring [FN1] involvement in illegal activities or promoting involvement in lawful activities (including the productive use of discretionary time through organized recreational [FN2] on the part of gangs whose membership is substantially composed of juveniles;

(8) disseminate the results of such evaluations and research and demonstration activities particularly to persons actively working in the field of juvenile delinquency;

(9) disseminate pertinent data and studies to individuals, agencies, and organizations concerned

with the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency;

(10) develop and support model State legislation consistent with the mandates of this subchapter and the standards developed by the National Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention before October 12, 1984;

(11) support research relating to reducing the excessive proportion of juveniles detained or confined in secure detention facilities, secure correctional facilities, jails, and lockups who are members of minority groups; and

(12) support independent and collaborative research, research training, and consultation on social, psychological, educational, economic, and legal issues affecting children and families;

(13) support research related to achieving a better understanding of the commission of hate crimes by juveniles and designed to identify educational programs best suited to prevent and reduce the incidence of hate crimes committed by juveniles; and

(14) routinely collect, analyze, compile, publish, and disseminate uniform national statistics concerning--

(A) all aspects of juveniles as victims and offenders;

(B) the processing and treatment, in the juvenile justice system, of juveniles who are status offenders, delinquent, neglected, or abused; and

(C) the processing and treatment of such juveniles who are treated as adults for purposes of the criminal justice system.

(b) The Administrator shall make available to the public--

(1) the results of evaluations and research and demonstration activities referred to in subsection (a) (8) of this section; and

(2) the data and studies referred to in subsection (a) (9) of this section; that the Administrator is authorized to disseminate under subsection (a) of this section.

[FN1] So in original.

[FN2] So in original. Probably should be "recreational activities)".