

## Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2013

In 2012, members of the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform studied Georgia's juvenile justice system and crafted recommendations to improve public safety and reduce costs. These recommendations and resulting legislation, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2013, reorganized, revised, and modernized Title 15, Chapter 11 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, a section of our law known as the Juvenile Code.

In addition to improving public safety and reducing costs, the new code aimed to strengthen family relationships in order to allow each child to live in safety and security.

Policies and practices include:

- Increased use of evidence-based programs
- Treating youth in the community rather than in secure facilities
- Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program, which aims to reduce recidivism

**DJJ Mission Statement:** Adopted in 2020, the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice transforms young lives by providing evidence-based rehabilitative treatment services and supervision, strengthening the well-being of youth and families, and fostering safe communities.<sup>1</sup>

## Signs of Progress from 2013 to 2019<sup>2</sup>

↓ **54%** reduction in short-term secure confinement

↓ **43%** reduction in secure detention

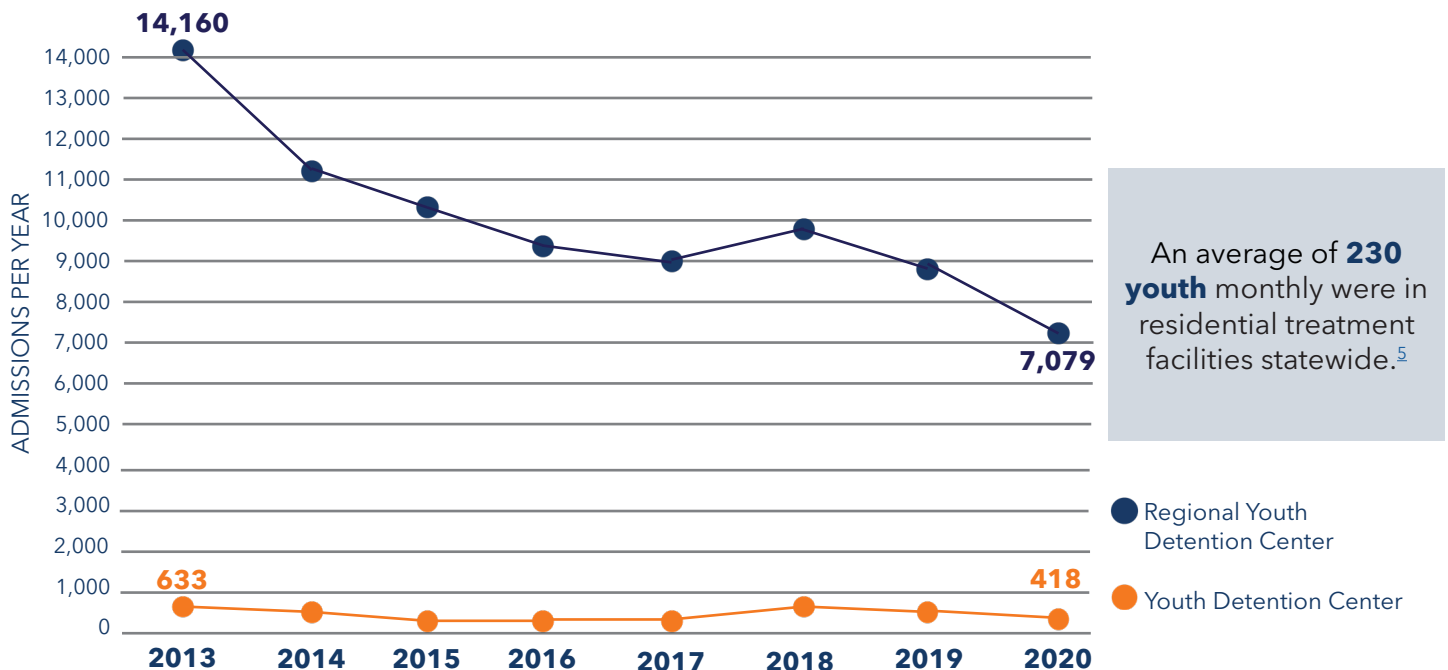
↓ **19%** reduction in overall commitments to DJJ

## Georgia Youth in Secure Residential Facilities

The Department of Juvenile Justice has two secure residential facilities for juveniles in custody:

Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDCs) provide temporary, secure care and supervision to youth who have been charged with offenses or who have been adjudicated delinquent and are awaiting placement.<sup>3</sup>

Youth Development Campuses (YDCs) provide secure care, supervision, and treatment services to youth committed to DJJ custody for the short and long-term.<sup>4</sup>



## SUPPORTING HIGH-RISK YOUTH ON PROBATION

Grant	Administered by	Purpose
JJIG	Juvenile Justice Incentive Grants	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
CSG	Community Service Grant	Department of Juvenile Justice
		To maximize the impact on public investment on public safety by reducing the number of out-of-home placements of youth through the use of evidence-based programs.

### FUNDING OF JJIG AND CSG

	Initial*	Current	
JJIG	State	\$5 million	\$7.8 million <sup>6</sup>
	Federal	\$1 million	\$300,000 <sup>7</sup>
CSG	State	\$1.6 million	\$2.1 million <sup>8</sup>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$7.6 million</b>	<b>\$12 million</b>

\*JJIG was initially funded in 2013 and CSG in 2014

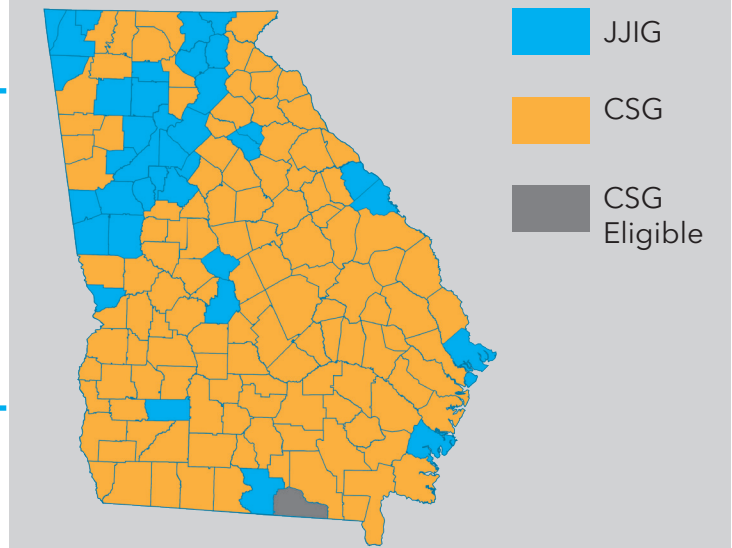
### COST SAVINGS OF JJIG AND CSG

Cost per year for out-of-home placement	\$90,000+
Number of youth diverted in FY21 with a successful outcome	936
Avoided cost of detaining youth in FY21 due to diversion	\$84.2 million

## IMPLEMENTATION OF JJIG AND CSG

Between JJIG and CSG, all of Georgia's counties are eligible to receive evidence-based services.

- These grants provide funding and technical support for juvenile courts to deliver evidence-based treatment programming for juvenile offenders in their home communities.
- 70% of youth served through JJIG and CSG in FY19 were Black. Black youth made up 52% of juvenile arrests in 2019.<sup>9</sup>



**More than 12,000** youth have received evidence-based services through JJIG or CSG from FY14 to FY21.<sup>10</sup>

## JJIG and CSG OUTCOMES IN GEORGIA<sup>11</sup>

Out-of-Home Placements	Program Completion	School Engagement
<b>78% JJIG</b> <b>69% CSG</b>	<b>72% JJIG</b> <b>81% CSG</b>	<b>95% JJIG</b> <b>91% CSG</b>
Reduction in out-of-home placements in 2021 compared with FY21 baseline	Successful completion rate in 2021 for youth in JJIG and CSG programs	Youth who were actively enrolled in or had completed school in 2021

**In FY21, JJIG served 821 and CSG served 438 at-risk youth across Georgia.**

## JJIG and CSG EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Botvin LifeSkills Training	Group-based intervention that addresses the social and psychological factors that contribute to substance use, delinquency, and violence
Brief Strategic Family Therapy	Individual-based family intervention that addresses adolescent behavior problems, family functioning, and prosocial behaviors
Connections Wraparound	Individual-based family intervention for probated youth that addresses emotional and/or behavioral problems, and uses youth and family teams to coordinate services
Multidimensional Family Therapy	Individual-based family intervention that addresses substance abuse, delinquency, and behavioral/emotional problems, while promoting positive attachments to pro-social supports
Multi-Systemic Therapy	Intensive individual-based family intervention that addresses the environmental factors that impact chronic and/or violent youth offenders
Aggression Replacement Training	Group-based intervention that addresses aggression and violence by improving moral reasoning and social skill competency
Functional Family Therapy	Individual-based family intervention that addresses delinquency, violence, substance use, and/or disruptive behavior disorders by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors
Thinking for a Change	Group-based intervention that addresses the criminogenic thinking of offenders by developing, problem-solving, and social skills



JJIG Program



JJIG and CSG Program

## OTHER SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Youth Tracking Program	Tracking services provides intensive surveillance and monitoring allowing juvenile offenders to remain at home pending further court action
High Intensity Team Supervision	Community-based, in-home detention placement alternative for community supervised youth
Georgia Interstate Compact for Juveniles	Processes incoming and outgoing supervision transfer from other states, as well as the return of runaways, accused delinquents, absconders or escapees
Adult detention facility monitoring	Annual inspection by DJJ at the 173 adult detention facilities that temporarily hold or detain juveniles
Gang Prevention	Specialized gang training for employees to serve in the Community Security Risk Group, which enhances the identification, tracking and support to DJJ gang-affiliated youth that enter the Georgia juvenile justice system



## Sources for Juvenile Justice Update

- 1 "About Us," Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. Accessed November 18, 2022. <https://djj.georgia.gov/about-us>.
- 2 "Georgia Juvenile Justice Data Clearinghouse: Juvenile Justice Decision Points Time Series," Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Accessed November 18, 2022. <https://juveniledata.georgia.gov/node/22>.
- 3 "2020 Annual Report," Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, <https://online.pubhtml5.com/howr/fjpk/#p=1>;  
"2019 Annual Report," Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, <https://online.pubhtml5.com/howr/lxly/#p=1>;  
"2018 Annual Report," Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, <https://online.pubhtml5.com/howr/lxly/#p=1>.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 "2020 Annual Report," Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, <https://online.pubhtml5.com/howr/fjpk/#p=1>.
- 6 "Georgia Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Evaluation Report: Year 8." Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government, 2020. <https://cjcc.georgia.gov/grants/grant-subject-areas/juvenile-justice/juvenile-justice-incentive-grant-program>.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, Personal Communication (November 2022).
- 9 "Juvenile Justice Decision Points Time Series." Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. <https://juveniledata.georgia.gov/node/22>.
- 10 "2020 Annual Report," Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, <https://online.pubhtml5.com/howr/fjpk/#p=1>;  
"2019 Annual Report," Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, <https://online.pubhtml5.com/howr/lxly/#p=1>;  
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- 11 "Community Services Grant Year Seven: 2020-2021," Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice and the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government, 2021; "Georgia Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant 2020-2021," Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government, 2021.