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## Executive summary

What is the JJDPDA? What are the core requirements of the JJDPDA? Why is the JJDPDA yet to succeed in its goals and objectives?

<sup>5</sup> The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPDA) was signed into Law in the year 1974 and was reauthorized in the year 2002. This Act was formulated to provide support to States that encouraged communities to comply to the various federal “core” protections meant to guard the children, youths and families involved with the Court and Juvenile system. Among the social problems JJDC A addresses is the lack of a <sup>1</sup> centralized juvenile justice system but rather there exists 56 juvenile justice systems operated independently by local states, territories, D.C and local governments. This caused inconsistencies and variations in policy and procedures governing how the vulnerable youths are treated in juvenile systems. Among these issues are inconsistencies in the outcomes of the youths and families involved, the <sup>1</sup> exposure to mental, physical and emotional injury. To address these issues and enhance better outcomes of the youth and communities involved, Congress passed the JJDPDA which changed the approach in which the states tackled juvenile justice.

Among the provisions of the Act include the requirement that those <sup>1</sup> involved with the juvenile system should be protected by federal standards of care, the core protections, and at the same time uphold community interests in safety and minimization of victimization of the vulnerable groups. Through the state advisory groups (SAGs), funding the prevention of delinquency and running the office of the JJDPDA, the Act has created a federal-state partnership to effectively administer juvenile justice and prevent delinquency. In addition to the partnership the Act also spells out core requirements in the form of federal standards. These standards

enhance a minimum threshold in terms of safety and <sup>7</sup> treatment of youth in the juvenile justice system.

The standards are set out in the four core requirements of the Act which also act as the basis for funding eligibility: <sup>2</sup> deinstitutionalization of the Status offenders (DSO), adult jail and lock-up removal, sight and sound separation and disproportionate minority contact (DMC). The future of the JJJPA certainly depends on the fourth core requirement, DMC, which encompasses the racial aspect of the policy. The current trends with regards to the Act's fourth requirement is the incarceration and <sup>6</sup> over-representation of the minority youths in the juvenile system (ACT4JJ Advocates, 2018). Wyoming is the only state in the U.S not in the JJJPA program.

The key elements needed in understanding the JJJPA and its impact will be based on the policy analysis framework prescribed by (Chambers, 2000). (1) Goals and objectives: The policy aims at improving outcome for youths and promoting community safety. (2) Forms of benefits delivered: the Act enhances funding for states complying with the Act, especially the four core requirements. (3) Eligibility: to benefit from the funding, states and local governments comply with the four federal protections. (4) Structure for service delivery: the policy is managed by the OJJJPA and the SAGs located in every state, territory and D.C. (5) financing: the Act and its implementation is funded by the Federal government.

### References

Chambers, D.E. (2000). *Social policy and social programs: A method for the practical public policy analyst* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

ACT4JJ Advocates. (2018). *What is the JJDPA?* Retrieved August 6, 2018, from Act 4 Juvenile Justice: <http://www.act4jj.org/what-jjdp>

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