

Exploring Fines and Fees in the Youth Criminal Justice System in Pennsylvania

What do we know about how and when fines and fees are assessed in Pennsylvania?

Mary Madsen

In Pennsylvania, children are subject to the imposition of fines, fees, and restitution, just as adults involved in the criminal justice system are. Juveniles “are required to pay fines and Court costs and may be required to pay restitution,” according to a judge’s determination (see Figure 1).¹ While the legislature and the Superior Court have affirmed that assessing fines and fees that a child has no ability to pay is contrary to the rehabilitative goal of juvenile court and should be avoided, Court Rules do not currently reflect such findings.² There are also county and municipal statutes and procedures that determine whether fines and fees are applicable to a juvenile case and how much can or should be assessed. In addition to fines, fees, and restitutions, juveniles may also be required to retain their own counsel if they aren’t found indigent; the bar for indigent status is, on average, 125% or less of the federal poverty guidelines, meaning a family of three earning approximately \$26,000 a year.³

It is also possible for juveniles to be assessed fines and fees even before an adjudicatory hearing that results in an admission or judgement of guilt. After a juvenile is arrested, there are several potential courses of action that could follow; if the intake officer thinks a child needs to take part in the justice system in some form but doesn’t need to be referred to the courts, they may decide to require the youth to take part in an “informal supervision.” Informal supervision requires the child to agree to the charges and follow a plan of action, which could include taking part in a diversionary, drug and alcohol, probation or other program. Informal supervision can also involve the assessment of costs, fees, and restitution, even without formally going through the court system, with local probation offices rather than judges determining fines and fees.⁴

Because of the high level of discretion in assessing fines and fees, there is also considerable confusion and variation regarding what is allowable. Researchers for the Juvenile Justice Task Force found that roughly a third (32%) of county probation offices reported that fines or fees were always required during informal adjustments, another third (28%) reported that they were sometimes required, and another third (40%) reported that they were never required.⁵ However, 91% of the respondents said they do not consider a juvenile’s ability to pay when assess fines and fees associated with informal adjustment and 89% said they do not consider a family’s ability to pay. Conversely, 57% of respondents reported

¹ Pennsylvania. Family Involvement Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. *A Family Guide to Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System*. 2012.

² There is some matter of debate or difference in interpretation of the term “reasonable” as well as the difference between income or potential income and ability to pay, with ability to pay describing a more holistic look at a youths finances that includes both income and expenses or liabilities. For more information on legislative and judicial actions surrounding juvenile fines and fees assessments and ability to pay, see 42 Pa.C.S. § 6352(a)(5), *Commonwealth v. Fuqua* (Pa. Super. Ct. 1979), *Commonwealth v. Wood* (Pa. Super. Ct. 1982), and *Commonwealth v. B.D.G.* (Pa. Super. Ct. 2008).

³ Jessica Feierman, Nadia Mozaffar, Naomi Goldstein, and Emily Haney-Caron. *The Price of Justice: The High Cost of “Free” Counsel for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System*. Juvenile Law Center, 2018.

⁴ Pew Charitable Trusts, “System Assessment: Intake and Adjudication” (presentation, Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force, July 29, 2020).

⁵ Ibid.

assessing every youth the same standard fine or fee without consideration of a youth’s circumstances. The opaque and layered nature of fines and fees statutes and policies makes it difficult for youth, their families, and even their counsel to be comprehensively informed concerning the consequences of a particular sentence or outcome. Other research has also shown that fines and fees are often perceived by youth (or their families) as being arbitrarily assigned, which can severely undermine the rehabilitative mission of juvenile justice.⁶

The Juvenile Law Center scored each state depending on how many kinds of fines and fees youth and their families can be assessed through the criminal justice system, whether those fines and fees are mandatory or discretionary, and the kinds of consequences that can result from the assessment of fines and fees. In terms of the fines and fees, as established by law, Pennsylvania received five out of eight points; Pennsylvania received eight out of nine points regarding consequences resulting from fines and fees.

Figure 1. Pennsylvania Profile: Youth Fines and Fees Related Statutes⁷

Type ⁸	Population Affected	Explanation	Statute or Regulation
<i>Confinement, Supervision, or Treatment</i>	Parents	Cost or part of cost of adoption services, adoption subsidy, institutional services, medical care, administrative and staff costs, transportation of the child or placement	62 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 704.1
	Youth	For youth in delinquency placement, 50% of net earnings for cost of care.	62 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 344(b).
	Parents or Youth	For youth committed as mentally disabled persons, costs of admission/commitment, transportation, treatment, training maintenance, complete care, partial care, aftercare, and discharge.	42 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 6356
		Obligation on youth, and on parents if youth is unable to pay.	50 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 4501, 4502
<i>Court Costs</i>	Parents	Cost or part of cost of summons, warrants, notices, subpoenas, travel expenses of witnesses	52 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 704.1
	Youth	Reasonable costs or fees considering nature of acts and child’s earning capacity. Jurisdiction retained until youth has fully paid or has reached 21 years of age.	42 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 6352(a)(5)

⁶ *A Qualitative Study of Youth and the Juvenile Justice System*. The Pittsburgh Foundation, 2016.

⁷ “Debtors' Prison for Kids: The High Cost of Fines and Fees in the Juvenile Justice System,” n.d. <https://debtorsprison.jlc.org/>.

⁸ All of these fines and fees, as they are statutorily defined, are at the discretion of the judge rather than mandatory.

<i>Diversion and Informal Adjustment</i>	Parents	Cost or part of cost of informal adjustment	62 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 704.1
	Youth	Reasonable costs and fees including supervision fee	42 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 6323(f)
<i>Fines</i>	Youth	Reasonable costs or fees considering nature of acts and child’s earning capacity. Jurisdiction retained until youth has fully paid or has reached 21 years of age.	42 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 6352(a)(5)
		For youth on probation, appropriate fine paid from earnings of the child through participation in program for which child received minimum wage	42 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 6352(a)(6)
<i>Restitution</i>	Parents	Youth’s restitution	42 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 6310(a)
	Youth	Reasonable restitution, including contribution to restitution fund. Remains collectable after youth is 21	42. Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 6352(a)(5), 9728
		For youth on probation, appropriate restitution paid from earnings of the child through participation in program for which child received minimum wage (up to 75% of earnings may be used)	42 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 6352(a)(6)

What do we know about the impacts of fines and fees on youth involved in the criminal justice system?

As a result of fines and fees, youth involved in the criminal justice system may:

- Have to deal with their case for longer than expected
- Be put in placement
- Remain in placement longer than expected
- Incur debt for both themselves and their families
- Have additional court visits resulting in missed school or work
- Not be eligible for expungement
- Become the subject of a civil judgment

In addition to the impacts listed above, the assessment of any fines and fees have also been linked to a higher likelihood of recidivism in youths, which also increased alongside increases in amounts of the fines and fees. The likelihood of recidivism was also linked to youth who still owed costs and/or restitution at the time of their case being closed; just as higher fines and fees are linked to higher likelihoods of recidivism, the more individuals still owe when their case is closed, the higher the likelihood that they will reoffend. The same study also found that “non-Whites were more likely to still

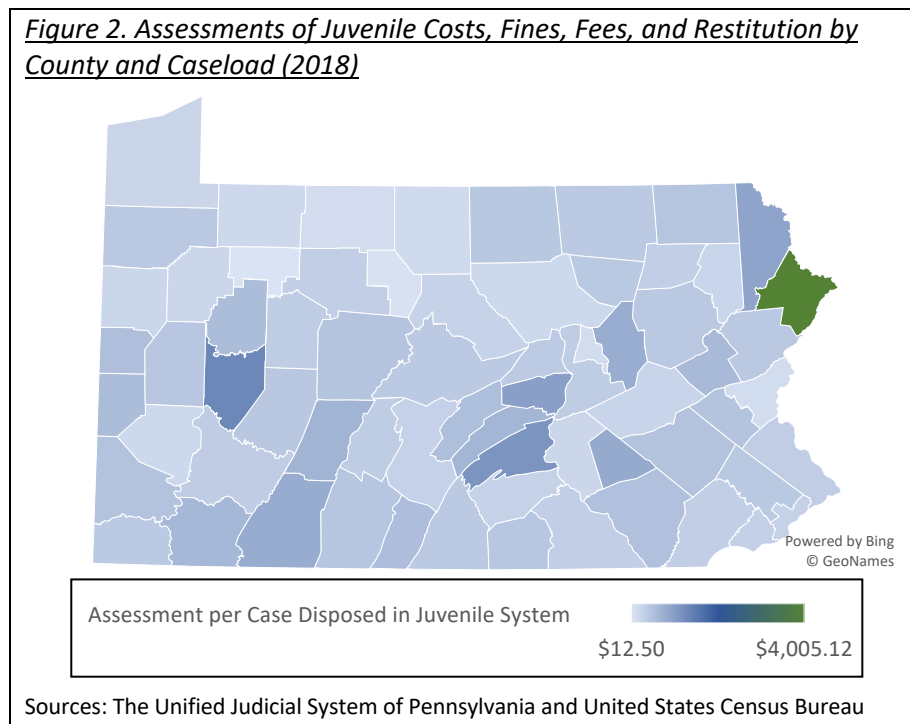
owe costs and restitution upon case closing,” which means that Black youth and other youth of color are more likely to be put in positions that are conducive to increased risk for recidivism.⁹

What is the financial burden imposed on youths and their families by fines and fees?

Fines and fees can vary from county to county, although some fines and fees are assessed according to state statutes.¹⁰ Worryingly, there is little transparency surrounding fines and fees for juveniles. An extensive search of county websites and calls to most county juvenile court and probation offices turned up very few itemized lists of fines and fees that can be assessed to youth and their families.¹¹ In addition, actual costs seem to deviate from listed or stated costs (where available); for instance, one county reported county court costs listed as \$17 for a randomly selected juvenile delinquency case while the fee schedule listed much larger amounts. Costs of prosecution can also be passed on to youth and their families, with no statute to regulate the attendant costs.

Concerning restitution, youth are deemed liable for all verified loss or damage, paid to the restitution fund for distribution to victims, dependent on their ability to pay. Parents and guardians can also be held liable for restitution payments assessed to their youth. Some courts also allow youth to pay their restitution through approved community service work (in addition to any other court-mandated community service), although it is left up to the statutes and discretion of the court.

Figure 2. Assessments of Juvenile Costs, Fines, Fees, and Restitution by County and Caseload (2018)



Youth may also be responsible for paying for other components of their sentencing, such as participation in an alcohol highway safety program in DUI cases.

In 2018, the Court of Common Pleas assessed a total of \$5,728,455.71 in juvenile court cases. These fines and fees were ordered in the 16,877 cases disposed in juvenile court, which means that cases decided in juvenile court resulted in \$339.42 in court-ordered

assessments, on average, for the year. The latest available data regarding assessments ordered by the courts in juvenile cases can be found in the appendix, broken down by county. Although costs, fees, and

⁹ Alex R. Piquero and Wesley G. Jennings. (2016). “Research Note: Justice System-Imposed Financial Penalties Increase the Likelihood of Recidivism in a Sample of Adolescent Offender.” *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, (1)16. Accessed at <https://debtorsprison.jlc.org/documents/JLC-Debtors-Prison-criminology-study-2016.pdf>.

¹⁰ “Statutes Imposing Court Costs.” ACLU-PA, January 1, 2020.

¹¹ See Appendix for a comparison between selected counties.

restitution are left up to judicial discretion, it is likely that a case that is disposed in juvenile court, either formally or informally, will

result in fines or fees. One study, focused on juveniles in Allegheny County, found that nearly all youths in their sample (94.4%) had costs imposed upon them at disposition. They also found that over a third of the youths (35.8%) were ordered to pay restitution, with mean costs and restitution totaling \$428.98.

Costs imposed on youth and their families are not limited solely to cases disposed in the juvenile court system. Although youths may enter the court system through juvenile court, they are sometimes transferred to adult criminal court with their case treated as any other case in adult court. Another significant source of fines and fees imposed on juveniles, outside of the juvenile delinquency courts within the Common Pleas Court system that provide the data included here, are the Magisterial District Courts. These courts deal with youth who are charged with citable, rather than misdemeanor or felony, offenses and civil cases. It is also important to remember that a court-ordered judgement does not preclude the possibility that youth or their families could face civil judgements for the same incident. Any payments imposed during a civil case would then be added to costs imposed in juvenile court.

When a juvenile is assessed fines and fees in more than one case, their financial obligations are automatically consolidated. Any payment made is applied to the total balance, meaning that youths do not need to make separate payments for each case.

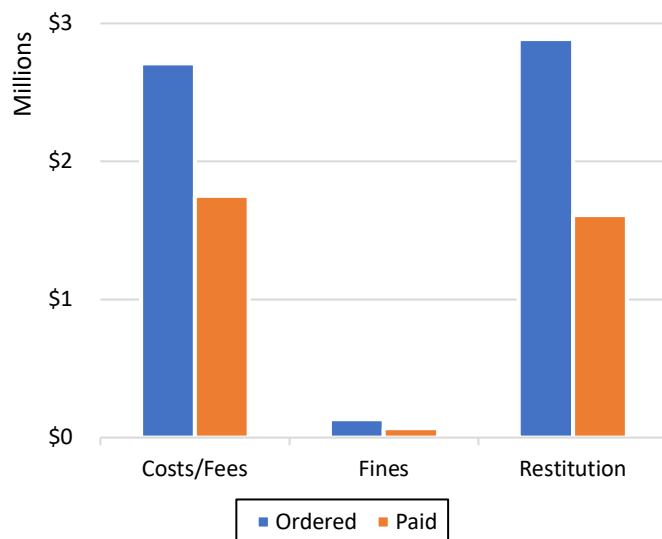
If a youth is unable to pay their financial obligations in one lump sum, it is possible to make arrangements for a payment plan. However, this is at the discretion of the judge and must be applied for and approved through the court system. Payment plan procedures and policies may also vary by court system, with some systems imposing a minimum monthly payment and/or a maximum amount per plan.

Are fines and fees assessed to youth and their families being paid?

In juvenile cases in the Common Pleas Courts, youth and their families have paid 65.16% of all payments ordered between 2009 and 2018 (see Figure 4 for more detail on collection rates). Comparatively, only 39.23% of assessments ordered in criminal court in the same period have been paid off as of the end of 2018.

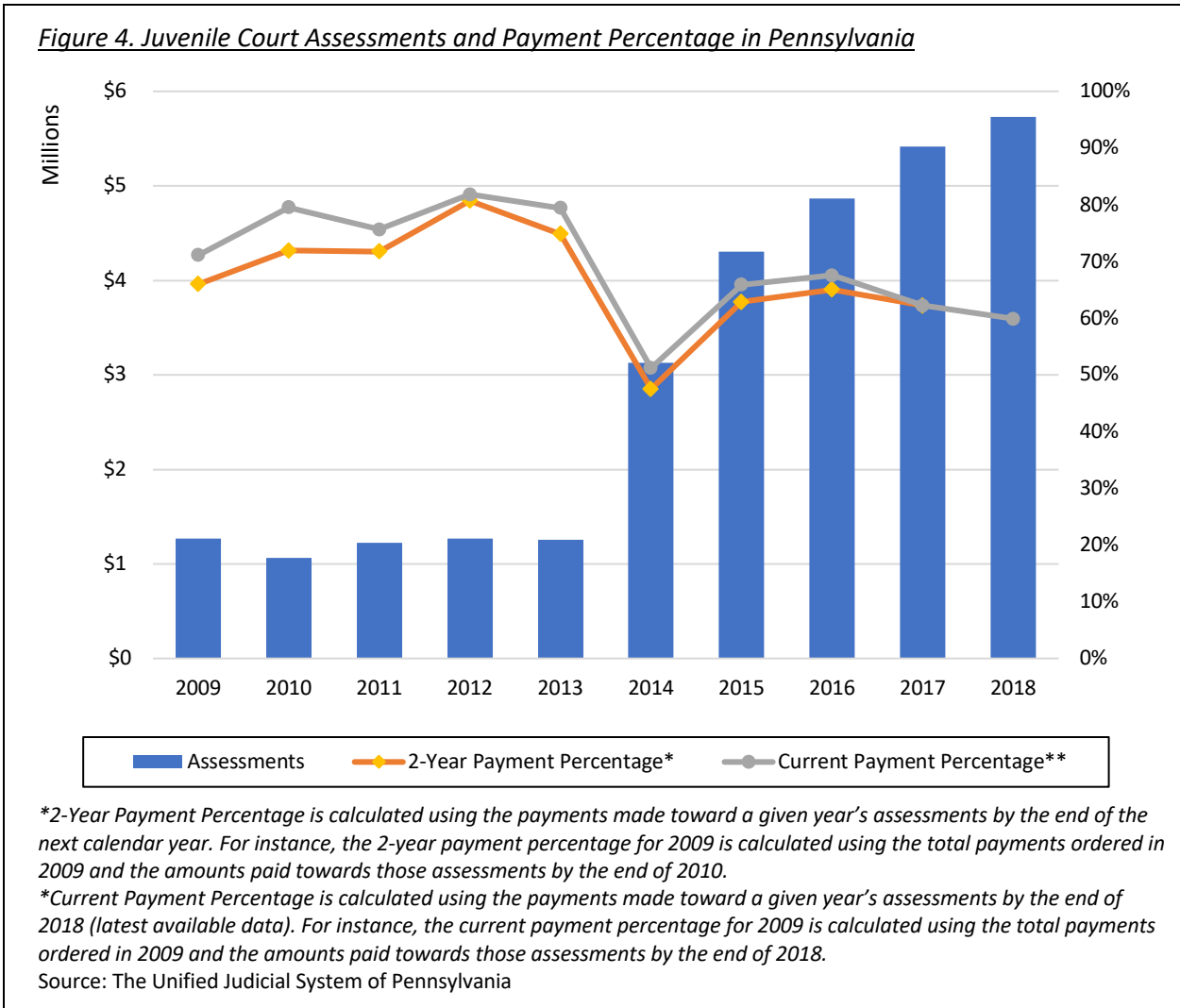
As mentioned previously, youth and their families can also face fines and fees as part of cases tried in adult Common Pleas Courts and Magisterial District Courts. When youth enter the justice system via the Magisterial District Courts, they may end up in

Figure 3. Assessments Ordered and Paid through Juvenile Court Cases by Category (2018)



Source: The Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania

juvenile Common Pleas Courts if they do not pay their assessed fines and fees. In 2018, 18% of written allegations against juveniles were for Contempt from MDJ for Non-Payment, making it the most common reason youth end up in the juvenile court system.¹²



Although the government collects and publishes data related to assessments and payments, it does not readily offer up data regarding the costs related to the collection of payments. However, research on the subject at the municipal level suggests that the costs of collection far outstrip the payments received from the efforts.

While the City of Philadelphia no longer charges parents for the cost of child placement, for both the delinquency and dependency systems, they did so as common practice for nearly two decades starting in 1998. Researchers at Temple University's Justice Lab and the Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project found that the City retained a private attorney specifically for dealing with these collections. In 2016, the

¹² Pew Charitable Trusts, "System Assessment: Allegations, Detention" (presentation, Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force, July 15, 2020).

contract for this position provided a \$156,000 base annual salary and up to \$160,000 in annual bonuses. Data from city contract reporting showed that “the attorney [had] regularly received the full annual amount of potential compensation allowed for in his annual contract ... which is more than the salary of any public City employee—including the Mayor.”¹³ Additionally, the Department of Human Services reported an additional \$107,546 budgeted for employees in charge of support actions against parents of incarcerated children.

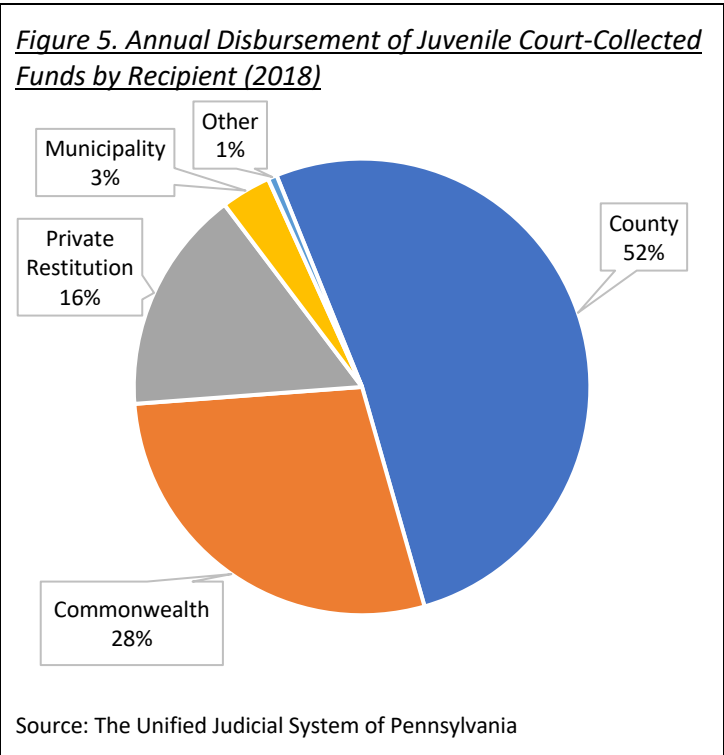
The report revealed that not all families are charged for placement costs and other are charged as “as little as \$1 a day or \$5 a month” and are only filed after the period of incarceration has ended.¹⁴ Notably, many families reported never being told about the possibility of these costs until they received the notice of the City seeking support charges. These practices often resulted in large and immediate charges being presented to youth and their families that most were unable to pay, which frequently led to wage and tax refund garnishment. In the end, the City reported collections of approximately \$630,000 per year compared to nearly \$425,000 in compensation to people involved in the collections plus the actual cost of placement (approximately \$50 million per year).

These figures also do not take into account the indirect costs presented for families who reported paying service fees for each monthly or weekly payment and the mental and emotional stress of adding another expense to an often-strapped budget, as well as the knock-on costs of the added burden on courts and enforcement agencies.

Where does the money youths and their families pay go?

Although evidence points towards fines and fees presenting an undue burden and obstacle to rehabilitation in youth court, there is also the matter of restitution. There is an argument to be made for the role of restitution in restorative justice practices that dovetail with the stated rehabilitative role of the juvenile criminal justice system (as opposed to the adult system).¹⁵

Pennsylvania law requires that the first half of all payments made by an individual are directed towards restitution rather than other kinds of fines and fees. Some counties have laws that increase that percentage to 100% of payments being put towards restitution. In 2018, restitution accounted for half (51%) of



¹³ Sela Cowger, Wesley S. Stevenson, & Kelsey R. Grimes. *Double Punishment: Philadelphia’s Practice of Charging Parents for Their Child’s Incarceration Costs*. November 2016.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Stacy Hoskins Haynes, Alison C. Cares, & R. Barry Ruback. “Reducing the Harm of Criminal Victimization: The Role of Restitution,” *Violence and Victims* (30)3, 2015, 450-469.

assessments ordered through the juvenile court system and were 55.9% paid off by the end of the year. However, records show that private restitution only accounted for 16% of the disbursements for 2018 (see Figure 5).

What is happening in Pennsylvania regarding the juvenile court system and fines and fees?

In Pennsylvania, there are several governmental bodies involved with shaping and implementing juvenile justice rules and regulations, outside the judicial and legislative branches.

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission was established in 1959 by the legislature with members nominated by the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and appointed by the governor. Members serve for three-year terms; membership currently consists of nine judges from Allegheny, Franklin/Fulton, Lancaster, Lehigh, Potter, Philadelphia, Lycoming, and Warren/Forest counties. The purpose of the commission, according to their website, is "to provide the leadership, advice, training, and support to enable Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its goals related to community protection, offender accountability, restoration of crime victims, and youth competency development."¹⁶

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) was established by statute (Act of 1978-274) to encourage and coordinate collaboration between the government and citizens of Pennsylvania regarding the justice system. PCCD is composed of 28 members, as defined statutorily, with the caveat that additional members may be appointed by the Governor "as necessary to implement programs authorized by State and Federal law."¹⁷ Members who serve on the Commission as part of the duties of their public office sit on the Commission for as long as they hold said office; members who are otherwise appointed serve for a four-year term with the possibility of one additional consecutive term. PCCD "provides leadership in system-wide coordination and in building collaboration among public servants and private citizens representing all aspects of the juvenile justice systems and victim services."¹⁸

The Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) was formed through a partnership between the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission that started as part of the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change initiative. JJSES is responsible for building capacity for working towards balanced and restorative justice within the juvenile justice system through promoting evidence-based practices and policies, collecting and analyzing data regarding the juvenile justice system, and monitoring services and programs within the juvenile system to continue making improvements.

In December 2019, Governor Wolf, along with Supreme Court Justice Saylor, and legislators from the General Assembly formed the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force. The task force is a bipartisan, interbranch effort, drawing membership from state, county, and city government, as well as activists, academics, and social service providers (educators, social workers, etc.). They are charged with "[developing] data-driven policy recommendations through stakeholder consensus with the goals of protecting public safety, ensuring accountability, containing costs, and improving outcomes for youth,

¹⁶ For more information about the commission, visit their website: www.icjc.pa.gov/

¹⁷ For more information about the specific composition of the Commission, see Section 2 of the Act of 1978-274.

¹⁸ To read more about the PCCD, visit their website: www.pccd.pa.gov/

families, and communities” for use in statutory, budgetary, and administrative changes in next year’s legislative session.¹⁹

What kinds of reforms have other jurisdictions made?²⁰

Federal

In January 2017, United States Department of Justice (DOJ) officials (Karol V. Mason, Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs, and Lisa Foster, Director of the Office for Access to Justice) distributed guidance to all recipients of DOJ funds.²¹ The advisory delineated five recommendations that courts should use in assessing fines and fees and enforcing their payment. It also built upon the foundation set by the “Dear Colleague” letter released by the DOJ in March 2016 that explained seven principles for equitable, ethical, and legal use of fines and fees.²² Specifically, the letter called on recipients to ensure their jurisdiction’s rules and procedures:

- Operate on a presumption of inability to pay when dealing with juveniles and only impose fines and fees once they have shown an ability to pay
- Require positive determination of ability to pay before levying punishment or consequences due to failure to pay
- Do not condition entry into a diversion program or other alternative to court on payment of fines and fees
- Include data collection on race, national origin, sex, and disability to identify whether certain populations are disproportionately affected by fines and fees
- Mandate consideration of how fines and fees relate to the rehabilitative goals of juvenile courts before assessment or enforcement

The advisory letter referenced the diminished culpability and unique needs and vulnerabilities of youth involved in the legal system as cause to consider the use of fines and fees more critically. It also cited the numerous federal statutes with which recipients of federal funds are required to comply, many relating to discrimination. However, this advisory was revoked by Attorney General Jeff Sessions in December 2017.

California

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors introduced a moratorium on juvenile detention fee collection in 2009. The California state legislature also passed Senate Bill 190 in 2018 to abolish all administrative fees for youth involved in delinquency cases; this bill was the first of its kind in the United

¹⁹ Pennsylvania Juvenile Task Force. *February 5, 2020 Meeting Executive Summary*. 2020.

²⁰ This list is not exhaustive.

²¹ Mason, Karol V. and Lisa Foster. *Advisory for Recipients of Financial Assistance from the U.S. Department of Justice on Levying Fines and Fees on Juveniles: Consideration for Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, and Related Statutes*. Washington: Department of Justice, 2017. <https://finesandfeesjusticecenter.org/content/uploads/2018/11/DOJ-Levying-Fines-and-Fees-on-Juveniles.pdf>.

²² To read the original seven principles, see the DOJ “Dear Colleague” letter of March 14, 2016. It can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/file/832541/download>. It is important to note that Jeff Sessions also revoked this letter during his tenure as Attorney General.

States. However, neither the moratorium nor the bill applied to the balances of fines and fees assessed or the collection of the assessments prior to their passage.

Several months after the passage of SB190, the Board of Supervisors unilaterally discharged all outstanding assessments owed by youth and their families due to their involvement in the juvenile justice system and informed families to cease payments immediately. The amount of debt discharged by the action was upwards of \$89 million and involved approximately 52,000 different accounts. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors also voted unanimously to end the assessment and collection of fines and fees to families with youth involved in the criminal justice system in 2016.

Louisiana

In 2018, the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, in New Orleans, Louisiana, issued a standing policy regarding the imposition of juvenile administrative fees. The order eliminated juvenile court assessments for physical and mental exams, care and treatment, court-ordered programs, appointed counsel, medical treatment, and probation supervision. However, the court is not able to supersede any state laws that require the imposition of juvenile administrative fees.

Maryland

In 2020, the Maryland state legislature passed House Bill 36, with unanimous Democratic and split Republican support. The bill, introduced by three Democratic Delegates, repealed juvenile courts' authority to order youth involved in delinquency proceedings and their families to pay fines and fees and prohibits courts from charging youth and their families for attorney services.

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Supreme Court issued Court Rule 3:10, which established new procedures for assessing fees, in 2016. The rule provides all youth with the right to a public defender, whether or not they or their families are able to pay for private counsel. However, the judge may assess a legal fee only after an ability-to-pay hearing. The law also mandates that counsel should not be revoked regardless of whether youth or their families actually pay the assessed legal fee. The rule also expands the kinds of proof youth and their families may offer in proving their inability to pay.

Michigan

The Michigan Supreme Court instated an order (ADM File No. 2015-12) amending ten different Court Rules, which ensured that youth (and their families) would not be incarcerated or have probation extended due to unpaid fines and fees, with the exception of individuals who the court has determined are able to pay and have made no attempt to do so. It also defined the process by which courts should determine whether or not fines and fees would pose undue hardship.

New Jersey

In 2020, the New Jersey state legislature passed Senate Bill 48, with unanimous Democratic and little Republic support. The bill, sponsored by 12 Democratic legislators, removed full payment of fines and restitution as a requirement for termination of supervision and repealed the assessment of fines and fees for certain offenses and the previously required \$30 fee per juvenile delinquency adjudication.

Nevada

In 2019, the Nevada state legislature voted unanimously to enact Assembly Bill 439, which was sponsored by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill prohibits passing the cost of court-appointed counsel, juvenile detention, court-ordered services (such as drug testing, medical care, mental health treatment, and other similar services), and diversionary, work, training, or other similar programs on to youth and their families. The bill also requires counties to pay for some medical care for youth involved in the justice system if their families do not have health coverage for them. The bill transfers these costs to federal, state, and county budgets, instead.

Washington

The Washington state legislature passed Senate Bill 5564 (the Youth Equality and Reintegration Act) almost unanimously in 2015. The act, which includes several different provisions for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, deals specifically with fines and fees through the elimination of nearly all costs except restitution. The DNA Collection Fee and the Crime Victims Penalty Assessment are still mandatory, although judges may choose to waive or reduce even those fines and fees at their discretion. Courts are also required to take ability-to-pay into account when assessing restitution or before sanctioning them for nonpayment.

Appendix

Figure 6. Caseload and Court-Ordered Payments in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Court by County (2018)²³

County Name	Residents Aged 10-17 ²⁴	Cases Disposed	Cases Disposed in Juvenile System		Net Assessments	Assessments per Resident Aged 10-17	Assessments per Case Disposed in Juvenile Court	Payments Made	
Adams	9,889	169	117	69%	\$47,597.34	\$4.81	\$406.81	\$33,797.28	71%
Allegheny	101,648	2,141	1,797	84%	\$309,487.14	\$3.04	\$172.22	\$207,430.25	67%
Armstrong	5,820	65	47	72%	\$60,794.55	\$10.45	\$1,293.50	\$29,851.25	49%
Beaver	14,768	266	174	65%	\$94,795.19	\$6.42	\$544.80	\$67,437.71	71%
Bedford	4,478	87	82	94%	\$35,167.41	\$7.85	\$428.87	\$22,655.96	64%
Berks	44,041	650	530	82%	\$248,093.14	\$5.63	\$468.10	\$170,259.08	69%
Blair	11,650	267	232	87%	\$77,822.47	\$6.68	\$335.44	\$33,802.15	43%
Bradford	6,092	110	88	80%	\$32,688.46	\$5.37	\$371.46	\$18,171.16	56%
Bucks	63,582	691	572	83%	\$182,212.58	\$2.87	\$318.55	\$144,361.80	79%
Butler	17,666	245	166	68%	\$68,592.40	\$3.88	\$413.21	\$62,975.52	92%
Cambria	11,985	297	245	82%	\$166,605.51	\$13.90	\$680.02	\$81,071.27	49%
Cameron	352	8	7	88%	\$306.25	\$0.87	\$43.75	\$306.25	100%
Carbon	6,042	97	79	81%	\$46,803.83	\$7.75	\$592.45	\$41,253.95	88%
Centre	11,402	120	97	81%	\$36,212.71	\$3.18	\$373.33	\$21,017.00	58%
Chester	57,143	596	550	92%	\$168,307.43	\$2.95	\$306.01	\$142,714.89	85%
Clarion	3,263	76	53	70%	\$29,261.86	\$8.97	\$552.11	\$9,398.07	32%
Clearfield	6,949	102	94	92%	\$42,792.10	\$6.16	\$455.24	\$19,017.81	44%
Clinton	3,622	63	55	87%	\$14,119.70	\$3.90	\$256.72	\$8,063.52	57%
Columbia	5,497	83	57	69%	\$44,186.13	\$8.04	\$775.20	\$8,575.34	19%
Crawford	8,355	121	108	89%	\$42,006.01	\$5.03	\$388.94	\$40,717.37	97%
Cumberland	23,278	421	305	72%	\$82,724.04	\$3.55	\$271.23	\$68,766.49	83%
Dauphin	27,992	1,070	880	82%	\$166,472.23	\$5.95	\$189.17	\$90,747.52	55%
Delaware	56,159	1,451	1,205	83%	\$329,059.93	\$5.86	\$273.08	\$184,819.17	56%
Elk	2,766	44	41	93%	\$12,433.76	\$4.50	\$303.26	\$5,599.18	45%
Erie	27,054	551	510	93%	\$103,736.15	\$3.83	\$203.40	\$93,888.08	91%
Fayette	11,661	201	137	68%	\$84,366.39	\$7.23	\$615.81	\$37,453.67	44%
Forest	478	7	6	86%	\$75.00	\$0.16	\$12.50	\$25.00	33%
Franklin	15,783	245	194	79%	\$72,308.42	\$4.58	\$372.72	\$45,578.37	63%
Fulton	1,397	24	19	79%	\$10,302.29	\$7.37	\$542.23	\$6,907.83	67%
Greene	3,223	36	29	81%	\$10,895.55	\$3.38	\$375.71	\$5,467.34	50%

²³ Data used in this table are available on the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania's website. Specifically, their data can be found at: <http://www.pacourts.us/news-and-statistics/research-and-statistics/dashboard-table-of-contents/>.

²⁴ Youth population estimates are provided by the Center for Disease Control. The Bridged-Race Population Estimates data can be found at: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/bridged-race-population.html/>.

County Name	Residents Aged 10-17 ²⁴	Cases Disposed	Cases Disposed in Juvenile System		Net Assessments	Assessments per Resident Aged 10-17	Assessments per Case Disposed in Juvenile Court	Payments Made	
Huntingdon	3,963	89	75	84%	\$19,581.49	\$4.94	\$261.09	\$9,526.52	49%
Indiana	7,111	82	72	88%	\$28,911.70	\$4.07	\$401.55	\$16,140.61	56%
Jefferson	4,185	87	77	89%	\$25,311.15	\$6.05	\$328.72	\$19,541.27	77%
Juniata	2,638	37	35	95%	\$22,472.18	\$8.52	\$642.06	\$7,497.92	33%
Lackawanna	20,081	396	339	86%	\$70,063.40	\$3.49	\$206.68	\$49,789.73	71%
Lancaster	57,467	797	682	86%	\$334,749.23	\$5.83	\$490.83	\$129,618.35	39%
Lawrence	8,040	107	74	69%	\$38,910.15	\$4.84	\$525.81	\$31,455.21	81%
Lebanon	14,751	243	218	90%	\$176,952.04	\$12.00	\$811.71	\$66,718.71	38%
Lehigh	38,773	606	539	89%	\$243,302.52	\$6.28	\$451.40	\$82,368.40	34%
Luzerne	29,305	385	321	83%	\$125,555.98	\$4.28	\$391.14	\$59,620.19	47%
Lycoming	10,705	272	197	72%	\$33,627.78	\$3.14	\$170.70	\$20,790.19	62%
McKean	3,904	92	80	87%	\$8,934.45	\$2.29	\$111.68	\$8,028.89	90%
Mercer	10,452	231	151	65%	\$30,145.39	\$2.88	\$199.64	\$21,001.00	70%
Mifflin	4,635	94	80	85%	\$41,918.14	\$9.04	\$523.98	\$26,362.73	63%
Monroe	17,082	228	196	86%	\$76,720.33	\$4.49	\$391.43	\$66,554.32	87%
Montgomery	83,689	865	662	77%	\$252,208.88	\$3.01	\$380.98	\$230,569.07	91%
Montour	1,668	75	70	93%	\$7,582.51	\$4.55	\$108.32	\$3,988.53	53%
Northampton	29,811	652	558	86%	\$58,447.88	\$1.96	\$104.75	\$46,671.23	80%
Northumberland	8,305	165	144	87%	\$47,145.53	\$5.68	\$327.40	\$12,801.86	27%
Perry	4,489	98	91	93%	\$101,274.06	\$22.56	\$1,112.90	\$14,798.84	15%
Philadelphia	141,485	2,735	1,388	51%	\$367,702.21	\$2.60	\$264.92	\$300,458.05	82%
Pike	5,398	60	53	88%	\$212,271.59	\$39.32	\$4,005.12	\$43,449.06	20%
Potter	1,599	32	29	91%	\$4,126.66	\$2.58	\$142.30	\$3,591.16	87%
Schuylkill	13,518	213	180	85%	\$40,375.73	\$2.99	\$224.31	\$26,904.59	67%
Snyder	4,134	61	36	59%	\$34,664.80	\$8.39	\$962.91	\$24,874.85	72%
Somerset	6,351	66	43	65%	\$33,787.20	\$5.32	\$785.75	\$28,462.06	84%
Sullivan	305	1	1	100%	\$381.00	\$1.25	\$381.00	\$381.00	100%
Susquehanna	3,626	55	47	85%	\$20,928.25	\$5.77	\$445.28	\$9,190.31	44%
Tioga	3,764	41	40	98%	\$15,696.38	\$4.17	\$392.41	\$8,446.43	54%
Union	3,922	35	29	83%	\$10,415.68	\$2.66	\$359.16	\$6,948.37	67%
Venango	4,690	108	79	73%	\$14,964.91	\$3.19	\$189.43	\$11,809.45	79%
Warren	3,565	94	82	87%	\$13,531.75	\$3.80	\$165.02	\$11,029.34	82%
Washington	18,766	308	267	87%	\$124,613.93	\$6.64	\$466.72	\$64,614.39	52%
Wayne	4,103	35	25	71%	\$22,610.85	\$5.51	\$904.43	\$15,242.80	67%
Westmoreland	31,008	584	430	74%	\$142,291.37	\$4.59	\$330.91	\$73,360.66	52%
Wyoming	2,597	40	23	58%	\$6,922.85	\$2.67	\$300.99	\$6,728.85	97%
York	46,380	1,109	988	89%	\$299,129.79	\$6.45	\$302.76	\$170,041.36	57%
Grand Total	1,220,300	21,482	16,877	79%	\$5,728,455.71	\$4.69	\$339.42	\$3,431,506.58	60%

Figure 7. Juvenile Delinquency Fines and Fees from Selected Counties

County	Fee/Charge	Amount
Northampton County ²⁵	Access to Justice	\$10
	Crime Victim Compensation	\$25
	Substance Abuse Education	\$100-300*
	DNA Testing	\$250*
	Statutory Fee	\$1.50-Misd. \$5-Felony
	Total	(Pleas 2003)\$36.50-\$590
Lehigh County ²⁶	Judicial Computer Program Surcharge	\$10.25
	Judicial Computer Project	\$8
	Access to Justice	\$33.50
	Criminal Justice Enhancement Surcharge	\$2.25
	Crime Victim Compensation	\$25
	Catastrophic Loss Benefits Continuation Fund	\$25-\$50*
	Substance Abuse Education	\$100-300*
	DNA Testing	\$250*
	Clerks Fee-Charges Before Trial	\$159.80
	Automation Fee	\$5
	Sheriff Attendance in Court	\$12
DA Juvenile Case	\$10	
Collections Judgement	\$62.50	
Postage	\$6	
Court Witness	Varies*	
Total	\$334.30-909.30+	
Delaware County ²⁷	Clerk Fee	\$125
	Witness	\$25
	Summary Offense	\$15*
	Sheriff Fee	\$40
	Subpoena	\$5 – Mail* \$25 – Personal*
	Electronic Recording	\$8
	Administrative Fee	\$25
DA	\$25/ Adjudication	
Community Service	\$25	
Bench Warrant	\$75*	
Nolle Prose	\$15/charge*	
Total	\$248-651+	
Carbon County ²⁸	Data Processing Fee	\$15
	Misdemeanor / Felony Court Costs	\$35*
	Summary Offense	\$15*
	DA Administrative Fee	\$5
	Bureau of Collections Administrative Fee	\$10
Juvenile Restitution Fund	\$25	
Fingerprinting and Photos	\$25	
Supervision Fee	\$10 – Informal \$25 – Consent Decree or Adjudication	
Total	\$105-\$140	

*Cost only applies in some cases.

²⁵ Northampton County Admin. Order No. 2003-2 (June 2003).

²⁶ Lehigh County Juvenile Probation. n.d. "Juvenile Court Costs & Fee Schedule." *Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas*. <https://www.iccpa.org/juvenile/LCCPAJuvenileCostsAndFees.pdf>.

²⁷ "Amendments to the Delaware County Juvenile Court Schedule of Costs Case #18010001MS," (May 9, 2018) and Delaware Count Misc. Doc. No. 98-80019

²⁸ Carbon County Courts Admin. Order No. 8-1998, Admin Order No. 7-2005, Admin. Order No. 8-2010, and Admin. Order No. 7-2013.
