



Youth Justice

Create a state-supported grant program to help communities implement evidence-based practices that address anger, aggression, and domestic violence education, targeting the growing trend of assault charges among adolescent girls.

WHY

Communities across Tennessee are seeing a troubling rise in assault charges among adolescent girls—often rooted in unresolved trauma, lack of conflict resolution skills, and exposure to violence. These behaviors frequently reflect deeper struggles rather than criminal intent. A state-supported grant program would empower local communities to implement evidence-based interventions that reduce aggression, promote accountability, and teach emotional regulation.

This approach reinforces core values of personal responsibility, family stability, and community safety. By equipping young people with the tools to manage anger and build healthier relationships, we can prevent future involvement in the justice system, reduce recidivism, and create safer, more resilient communities across the state.

Examples of ODDJP model programs communities could implement:

Resilience, Opportunity, Safety, Education, Strength (ROSES)

Juvenile Justice Anger Management (JJAM) Treatment for Girls

Risk Detection/Executive Function Intervention

SNAP® Girls

While adolescent boys are still the majority of those under 18 committing simple assault, the number of simple assaults by adolescent girls is growing at a faster pace than their male counterparts.¹

Between 2019 and 2024, the number of simple assaults by girls under 18 increased by 17.5 percent. Among boys, it increased by 9.6 percent.¹

Of simple assaults by girls under 18 in 2024, 44 percent occurred at a residence or home.¹

In 32 percent of simple assaults by girls under 18 in 2024, the victim was a family member.¹

Since 2019, the number of simple assaults by girls where they were both the victim and offender in the situation has increased by 41 percent.¹