

Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice

January 2013

BULLETIN

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative in Washington State

JDAI

What is JDAI?

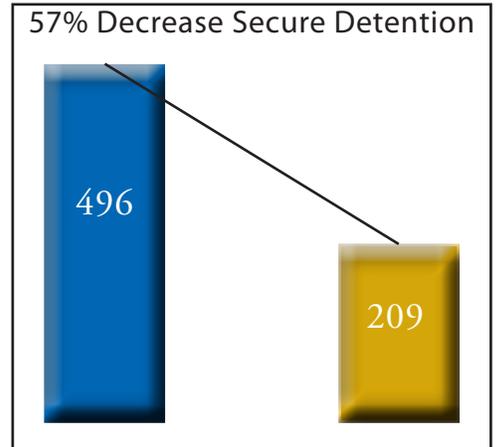
The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) was designed to support the Casey Foundation's vision that all youth involved in the juvenile justice system have opportunities to develop into healthy, productive adults.

After more than 15 years of innovation and replication, JDAI is one of the nation's most effective, influential, and widespread juvenile justice system reform initiatives.

JDAI focuses on the juvenile detention component of the juvenile justice system because youth are often unnecessarily or inappropriately detained at great expense, with long-lasting negative consequences for both public safety and youth development.

The Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice, in partnership with local county juvenile courts (see list on page 2), has adopted the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) as a detention reform and system improvement initiative, and has invested federal funding in the Initiative since 2004. The Council supports the continued expansion of this successful initiative, and has selected alternatives to detention, specifically the JDAI, as one of the top juvenile justice priorities for the state.

This Bulletin provides an overview and background information on the JDAI in Washington State, outcomes from the sites, programs implemented, cost savings, and funding streams. The Washington State Legislature has invested funds in this program since 2008 to assist with funding JDAI in Washington and provide for the expansion of the Initiative (now being implemented in approximately

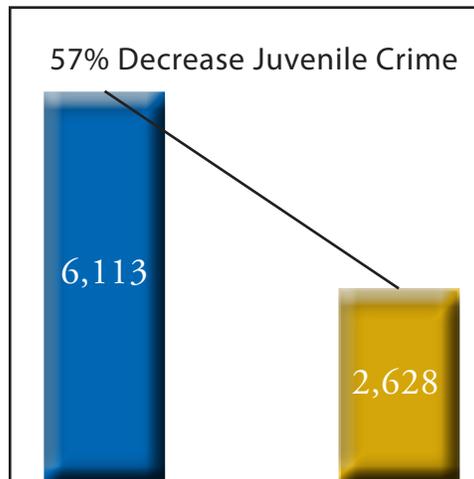


Measured by Detention Average Daily Population before JDAI to 2011

one-third of juvenile courts statewide). The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative is a proven and cost-effective way for local jurisdictions and states to improve their juvenile justice systems and achieve the desired outcomes of:

1. Increased public safety.
2. Reduced detention overcrowding and the need to build and operate expensive detention facilities.
3. Better outcomes for youth and families by safely keeping youth in their homes, schools and community.
4. Reduction of racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.
5. Redirecting scarce public funding to less expensive and proven community-based programs.

Washington Juvenile Courts using JDAI strategies have significantly reduced their use of secure detention while also achieving historically high reductions in juvenile crime.



Measured by Felony Petitions Filed before JDAI to 2011

Youth who do not pose a threat to community safety are referred to other community resources, outside of a secure detention facility, while their charge is processed. These youth have not committed a serious crime, and are not a threat to public safety. The JDAI is a system improvement initiative that encourages system decision-makers to use alternative community-based programs and services for low and moderate youth, rather than past practice of secure detention.

Background

JDAI, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, was founded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation over 20 years ago and is now the largest juvenile justice system improvement initiative in our country with 200 jurisdictions replicating JDAI in 40 states.

JDAI Core Strategies:

- Establish local leadership committees to collaboratively improve juvenile justice
- Become “data-driven” by analyzing data to guide policies & practices
- Utilize a detention risk assessment to safely make detention admission or release decisions
- Develop a continuum of community-based programs for alternatives to secure detention
- Expedite case processing times consistent with due process
- Pilot new practices to reduce need for warrants and increase compliance with court orders
- Reduce racial disparities in the juvenile justice system
- Adopt JDAI detention facility standards and inspections to increase safety & reduce liability

Funding to Support JDAI:

The Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice (WA-PCJJ) has developed a number of funding streams to support JDAI in Washington State, including funds from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Washington State Legislature, and federal Title II Formula Grant funds. The annual cost of \$362,000 is a wise investment, given the substantial savings and excellent outcomes. In SFY 2013, county sites received an average award of \$30,000 to replicate JDAI strategies within their respective jurisdictions.

Annie E. Casey Foundation	\$25,000
WA State Legislature	\$178,000
Federal Funds	\$159,000



Map Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation

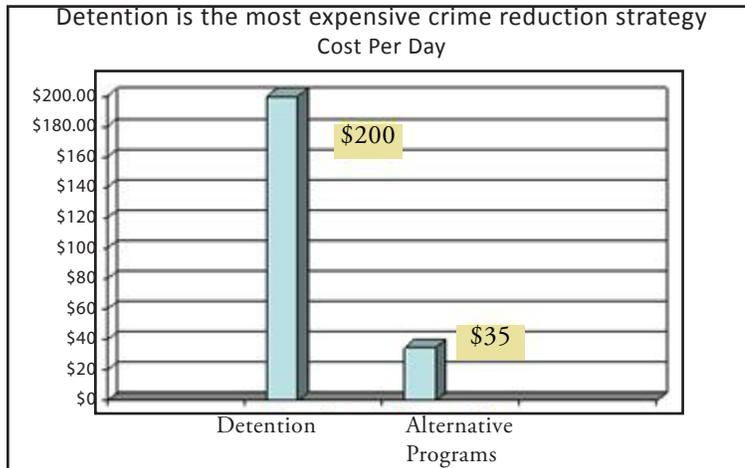
JDAI Sites in WA State:

Today, approximately 72% of Washington’s at-risk youth age 10-17 are served by juvenile courts replicating JDAI strategies:

WA’s JDAI Juvenile Courts	% of State’s Youth (Age 10-17)
King	25.4%
Pierce	12.4%
Spokane	6.9%
Whatcom	2.7%
Benton-Franklin	4.7%
Mason	0.8%
Adams	0.4%
Clark	7.4%
Snohomish	11.1%
Total (10) Counties	71.8%

Funding for JDAI supports data collection, state coordination, training, and piloting new alternative programs in local jurisdictions. Additional funding will be necessary to support new jurisdictions interested in becoming JDAI sites and joining Washington’s initiative. Continued support and dedicated funding for this initiative is critical as federal juvenile justice block grant funds continue to decline.

Cost of Secure Detention vs. Alternative Programs:



JDAI jurisdictions have developed numerous community-based alternative programs that cost significantly less than secure detention, and have demonstrated youth can remain crime-free while waiting for court.

Alternative Programming Implemented at Sites:

Washington's JDAI sites have developed a variety of community-based programs to reduce reliance on secure detention including:

- Community Service
- House arrest & structured community supervision
- Electronic monitoring, GPS and Voice Recognition Monitoring
- Domestic violence alternatives
- Weekend sanctioning programs for probation violations
- Day Reporting & alternative school programs
- Girl's Circles
- Evening Reporting



Technology advancements have produced a number of methods to ensure youth are well-supervised and do not reoffend. Electronic monitoring, GPS, and voice recognition are used by JDAI sites in Washington.



Alternative programs safely keep youth in the community to perform community service, pay restitution, stay in school and participate in rehabilitative programs to prevent reoffending.

Outcomes:

Each of the juvenile courts replicating JDAI in Washington State has safely reduced their detention populations by implementing an array of alternatives to detention programs, expediting case processing time frames, and developing a risk assessment instrument to determine which youth require incarceration.

JDAI has reduced reliance on detention, freed resources for the development of more effective alternatives, and improved the overall efficiency of local juvenile justice systems. Instead of being drawn deeper into the system, many youth in JDAI sites have been provided with new opportunities to stay connected with their schools and families, solve the problems that brought them to court, and prepare for success in life.

Conclusion:

JDAI is a proven juvenile justice model both nationally and within Washington State. Since 2004, Washington juvenile courts have been using JDAI to make our communities safer while keeping costs down, and achieving improved outcomes for youth and families. Continuing to support the successful outcomes of JDAI makes good sense for the state, local juvenile courts, the public and our youth.

The JDAI reforms have resulted in:

- Major reductions in use of secure detention
- Reduced the number of youth of color in detention
- Increased use of alternatives to detention
- Increased collaboration of local juvenile justice leaders
- Established data systems to monitor detention and DMC, and greater analysis and review of DMC data
- Implementation of the DRAI (detention risk assessment instrument) to reduce unnecessary detention and DMC
- Decrease in detention for probation violations
- Expedited case processing, fewer delays and FTA warrants
- Detention facility routine self-inspections.

For more information on how local jurisdictions can learn more about becoming a JDAI site, please contact:

Ryan Pinto, Director
Office of Juvenile Justice/DSHS
Staff to the WA State Partnership Council
on Juvenile Justice
360-902-0821
pintorm@dshs.wa.gov
PO Box 45828
Olympia, WA 98504-5828
www.dshs.wa.gov/ojj

Summary of Study Outcomes:

In 2008, the Washington State Center for Court Research* conducted a study for the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (WA State's former juvenile justice state advisory group) to evaluate and assist with data collection, analysis, and reporting for JDAI sites in Washington State. The final Report (February 2009) provided analyses of replication of the AECF's JDAI in the juvenile courts of Benton/Franklin, King, Mason, Pierce, Spokane and Whatcom counties. A summary of the report outcomes across time, among JDAI sites and in comparison statewide between JDAI sites and counties not participating in JDAI, include:

- Average daily population (ADP) in detention at JDAI counties has decreased by 23.3% as compared to a decrease of 10.8% for counties not participating in JDAI.
- JDAI counties decreased the average length of stay (ALOS) in detention by 12.6% as compared to a decrease of 5.0% for non-JDAI counties.
- Detention admissions have decreased by 12.3% for JDAI counties as compared to 6.2% for non-JDAI counties.
- Both JDAI and non-JDAI counties saw reductions in measures of racial disproportionality.

Further, the report concluded: "The results of the analysis indicate that JDAI is associated with a large reduction in the arrest-adjusted detention admissions rates and ADP. During the same period, counties not participating in JDAI saw an increasing rate of detention admissions and ADP relative to arrests."

* The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Data Analysis: Analysis of Outcomes," Washington State Center for Court Research, Administrative Office of the Courts, February 2009.