

Disproportionate
Minority Contact
Reduction Plan

DMC

State of Alaska
Division of Juvenile Justice

Federal Fiscal
Year 2019

I. DMC Identification

DMC identification describes to what extent (if any) minority youth are overrepresented within the State of Alaska’s Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) system. Please see the statewide identification data included in the table below. The population data in the table represents Alaskan youth ages 10-17, reported by the American Community Survey five-year data (2012-2016). Federal definitions are used for all points of contact other than arrest. In Alaska, juvenile arrests only include apprehensions that result in referrals to the juvenile justice system.

Step One: Identifying the Problem Data Preparation Worksheet

		White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic
	Population Data	45,114	3,019	13,945	5,274	
Arrest	Number	687	188	874	30	
	Percentage	1.52%	6.23%	6.27%	0.57%	
Diversion	Number	853	220	1090	36	
	Percentage	1.89%	7.29%	7.82%	0.68%	
Pretrial Detention	Number	263	108	361	6	
	Percentage	0.58%	3.58%	2.59%	0.11%	
Secure Confinement	Number	5	5	12		
	Percentage	0.01%	0.17%	0.09%	0.00%	
Transfer to Adult Court	Number	3	1	5		
	Percentage	0.01%	0.03%	0.04%	0.00%	

II. DMC Action Plan

1. What do DMC Numbers Say About Alaska?

The DMC data referenced above was analyzed in conjunction with the calculation of the statewide relative rate index, the measure used to analyze DMC in previous years. Relative Rate Indices (RRIs) are updated annually to identify DMC in Alaska's juvenile justice system. The RRI method involves comparing the relative volume (rate) of activity for each major stage of the juvenile justice system for minority youth with the volume of that activity for white (majority) youth. Although the RRI calculation is no longer required for this report, it is a useful measure that presents DMC information in a familiar manner for system stakeholders. A comparison of both measures will continue to be used in Alaska.

Data indicate that Alaska Native/American Indian youth have the highest rate of disproportionality at arrest, followed by African American youth. This is consistent with several years of data trends in Alaska showing increased disproportionality among minority youth at contact points earlier in the system. African American youth are also more likely than their peers to be held in pretrial detention.

Recently the Alaska Department of Labor has begun tracking population data for Hispanic/Latino youth, which due to their historically lower population size, was not previously calculated. DJJ will utilize this new dataset to update the DMC data identification protocol to calculate this minority group in the future.

2. What Would Success in DMC Reduction Look Like in Alaska?

Successful DMC reduction in Alaska would primarily include lower rates of arrest among Alaska Native/American Indian and African American youth. A reduction in the rate of

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secure detention among African American youth would also be considered a success. This success can be supported by a variety of intervention activities across the state. Some examples of these activities include continued efforts to support rural diversion panels targeting Alaska Native/American Indian youth; continued support of alternative to detention programs such as electronic monitoring services and temporary non-secure shelter providers; and supporting front-end efforts to reduce DMC rates through implementation of delinquency prevention programming and working to build the capacity of local youth service providers. Partnerships with law enforcement agencies across the state will also be critical to successful DMC reduction efforts concerning the arrest point-of-contact. Lastly, reviewing and revising structured decision making tools currently in use may help lead to positive, targeted outcomes in relation to use of secure detention.

3. Alaska's DMC Reduction Goal for Next Year

Alaska's primary DMC reduction goal for next year is to reduce the arrest rate for Alaska Native youth by 0.5-1.0%. Accomplishing this reduction would represent between approximately 70 and 140 fewer arrests of Alaska Native youth. A secondary goal is to reduce the rate of secure detention among African American youth by the same rate, 0.5-1.0%. This represents a reduction of approximately 15-30 African American youth. These goals will be achieved through the following objectives:

1. Enhance Existing Infrastructure Needed to Support DMC Compliance

- Maintain DMC Coordination (.5 FTE) who works in conjunction with the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) and the Juvenile

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Justice Specialist to provide oversight, training, and program development for DMC reduction activities in Alaska

- DMC Coordinator will obtain training and technical assistance and conduct research to stay current on DMC issues, both statewide and nationally
- Provide new and updated trainings to DJJ staff on DMC issues

2. Continue and Expand DMC Identification Activities

- Continue annual population data and relative rate index analysis of state and local DMC data
- Utilize new methods for identifying racial and ethnic disparities in the DJJ system
- Develop DMC intervention strategies that focus on specific decision points with the highest disparity, specifically focusing on Alaska Native/American Indian youth

3. Expand DMC Interventions Through Targeted Training Activities

- Provide targeted trainings, information, and technical support to DJJ probation and facility staff on new or ongoing focused DMC reduction activities
- Promote understanding of DMC issues through information sheets, website, statewide staff updates, and cultural awareness trainings
- Participate in statewide and national discussions on DMC and racial and ethnic disparity issues in the juvenile justice system

4. Expand DMC Diversion Interventions

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- Continue efforts to support establishment of rural diversion panels primarily targeting Alaska Native/American Indian youth and expand rural diversion for Division staff
 - Continue funding the Youth Court Community Panel diversion programs. These programs serve all youth, including minority youth.
 - Continue alternative to detention programs, including electronic monitoring and non-secure shelter services. While these programs do not necessarily divert youth from the system, they may help address disproportionate rates of secure detention.
5. Expand DMC Interventions through Community and Stakeholder Outreach
- Update and distribute DMC outreach materials
 - Participate in local and community based workgroups and committees that address racial and ethnic disparity
 - Continue to implement delinquency prevention programs in rural Alaska communities
6. Continue DMC Prevention Interventions
- Support efforts to ‘front-end’ youth to reduce DMC rates including implementing delinquency prevention programming and working to build the capacity of local youth service providers
 - Revise internal structured decision making tools to increase effectiveness in rural areas
7. Continue and Expand Annual DMC Evaluation Activities

- DJJ will continue to collect and evaluate data to submit aggregated reports for OJJDP's DMC performance measures.

4. Is the Goal Reasonable? If Yes, Why?

With the new OJJDP framework of setting a specific standard and assessing performance against the stated goal, Alaska's 2019 DMC plan proposes these small, but hopefully manageable, reductions to establish a baseline measure for future goal setting. While the percentage of change is small, it is important to consider the corresponding number of youth that would create that change, and understand the relationship-based nature of work in the juvenile justice system and the degree of influence the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) does or does not have over a particular aspect of the work. The difficulty in attempting to influence rates of arrest is that the DJJ has little to no control over this point of contact with the system. As such, it is the intention of DJJ to target small, meaningful change and use what we learn over the next year to improve decision making and goal-setting for the next application and reporting cycle.

Over the last two years state office program staffing, including DMC support, has been unstable. A DMC support position is currently filled and is being trained. Stability in this role will help Alaska focus on targeted DMC efforts and will support implementation of initiatives to achieve the stated reduction goals.

5. What does Alaska Need From OJJDP to be Successful With Our Plan?

Alaska will need technical assistance resources and support from OJJDP specifically designed to address law enforcement arrest rates of minority youth. Given the geographic and cultural considerations of Alaska, resources targeting the challenges of rural-based and culturally responsive law enforcement would be ideal.