

Supplement to Iowa's DMC Compliance Plan

1. What do your DMC numbers tell you about your jurisdiction?

In Iowa, African-American youth are 5 times more likely to be charged (taken into custody/arrested) than White youth. The front end of the system starts disproportionate. The majority of the crimes that African-American youth are charged with are low-level misdemeanors. The system needs to have a method to detour the low-level African-American youth from entering the juvenile justice system.

2. What safeguards will you put in place to ensure that as you work to reduce DMC, you are still protecting the public, holding youth accountable, and equipping youth to live crime-free, productive lives?

Pilot communities (Waterloo, Iowa City, Davenport, and Fort Dodge) have initiated pre-charge diversion programs for low-level misdemeanor offenses. Technical Assistance (TA) from the Center for Children's Law & Policy has assisted the pilot sites to provide meaningful diversion services that hold youth accountable and provide learning opportunities. The TA included drafting a pre-charge diversion policy and each community has local teams (e.g. law enforcement, prosecution, defense, juvenile court services, schools, etc.) that will monitor the recidivism of the participating diverted youth.

3. Is your reduction plan for DMC reasonable? IF so, why?

Yes, it is reasonable. It is a pilot effort, so any issues will be identified and addressed prior to statewide implementation. The TA received is based on evidence based practice, and requires the coordination and collaboration of local teams to monitor progress. The policies have been reviewed and approved by the State Court Administrator.