

## FY2019 Title II Idaho DMC Action Plan

- I. Identify data at research-based points of potential disparity. Data collection must occur in four of the five points below. At each data point, your state must provide percent of population data using the most recent U.S. Census data.

2017	Total Youth	White		Black or African-American		Hispanic or Latino		Asian		Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders		American Indian or Alaska Native		Other/ Unkown		All Minorities	
Population at risk (age 10 through 17 )	203,818.00	155,493	76%	3,734	2%	36,065	18%	4,070	2%	0	0%	4,456	2%	0	0%	48,325	24%
Arrest	7,675.00	5,116	67%	299	4%	1,188	15%	50	1%	0	0%	168	2%	854	11%	2,559	33%
Diversion	989.30	685	69%	23	2%	143	14%	5	1%	4	0%	25	2%	104	11%	304	31%
Detention	5,076.00	3,721	73%	184	4%	744	15%	13	0%	18	0%	221	4%	175	3%	1,355	27%
Commitment	187.00	134	72%	7	4%	29	16%	0	0%	1	1%	5	3%	11	6%	53	28%

\*Diversion data are collected through a one-day count with a 30% adjustment to annualize.

\* Detention data represents bookings, not individual juveniles.

2017 RRI Data for Comparison

Summary: Relative Rate Index Compared with White Juveniles									
			Reporting Period October/ 2016 through September /2017						
State :IDAHO									
County: Statewide									
			Black or African-American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders	American Indian or Alaska Native	Other/ Unknown	All Minorities
Juvenile Arrests			2.43	1.00	0.37	*	1.15	*	1.61
Cases Diverted			0.58	0.90	0.78	*	1.10	*	0.89
Cases Involving Secure Detention			0.85	0.86	0.36	*	1.81	*	0.73
Cases resulting in Probation Placement			0.88	1.06	0.76	*	0.94	*	0.89
Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities			0.89	0.93	**	*	**	*	0.79

## II Develop an Action Plan.

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

Throughout the years Idaho has investigated and addressed DMC issues, one dynamic emerged as a defining factor: DMC and the issues influencing it are highly localized.<sup>1</sup> A second dynamic affecting potential DMC is the fact the population sizes in Idaho are often very small and can lead to great variance in data from year to year.

The state implemented the Relative Rate Index (RRI) methodology for many years. RRI numbers alerted stakeholders to possible issues which could be further analyzed. Analyses often revealed procedural weaknesses such as inconsistencies in data entry, variations in methodology and definitions, and multiple data systems.

Assessments conducted in target communities in the past decade revealed that there was no bias within the system at any decision point in the system. Other factors predicted rates of involvement in the juvenile justice system including level of crime, gang involvement, and prior arrests.

Trend data indicates a general rise in disproportionality for all minorities at the point of arrest statewide. It should be noted as a data limitation that the “all minorities” category on the spreadsheets used in the past include those youth identified as “unknown/other”. Trends with specific populations and other decision points are somewhat sporadic and may be too instable to draw conclusions.

The new methodology employed by OJJDP is similar to RRI results, but it does contain some distinct differences. The new model seems to indicate the most significant disparities lie within the Black or African American youth at the point of arrest and detention, however the relative rate index

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<sup>1</sup> Preparing for Assessment – Idaho, Feyerherm, William, 2013

only reflects overrepresentation at the point of arrest. Rates of detention for Native American youth are also elevated and this holds consistently between the two methodologies.

## **2. What would success in DMC reduction look like for your state?**

Idaho implements a strategy built on the premise that DMC is a local issue requiring targeted efforts uniquely tailored to the risks and resources of specific communities. The state monitors data and engages with local community leaders when RRI data indicates possible disparities. This approach involves several important factors for successfully addressing minority overrepresentation including: community readiness, data-driven analysis, identification of causal factors, and development of strategic plans. Success is entirely dependent on collaboration between many stakeholders.

Because Idaho has never substantiated discretionary issues within the juvenile justice system, one measure of success is the continuance of community-based programming designed to address the known predictors of DMC (level of crime, gang involvement, and prior arrests).

**Goal:** Community-level programs and approaches to prevent and reduce delinquent behavior are available throughout the state.

Another measure of success for Idaho is to ensure that professionals working with youth have skill and knowledge in cultural awareness and competence

**Goal:** Juvenile Justice Professionals are aware of cultural norms, traditions, and sensitivities for the populations they serve.

## **3. How much do you want to reduce DMC next year?**

We would not anticipate any change to DMC next year other than the typical fluctuations observed every year. The state is at an early stage of implementation with a target community and

is only at the point of strategic planning. Efforts resulting from the strategic plan that might impact DMC are not in an implementation phase yet.

**4. Is that reasonable? If yes, why?**

A causal relationship between activities supported by the state through the Title II program and DMC dynamics is dependent on our ability to narrow the focus and scope of investigation. Once DMC data is identified within a local jurisdiction, further investigation can be conducted to identify causal factors. Activities to affect the causal factors driving DMC can only be addressed after these initial steps are completed. Given the fact that the current project is only at the point of strategic planning, and the fact that a new local jurisdiction has not been identified for a future project, we feel our assessment is reasonable in that statistically valid impacts to DMC are not possible and any fluctuations could be a result of chance.

**5. What do you need from OJJDP to be successful with your plan?**

The DMC Committee of the State Advisory Group voiced our needs from OJJDP very simply and succinctly: Money, Time, and Understanding. These simple elements could be achieved through the following activities.

The online DMC reporting system has been a huge support for states. The spreadsheets and calculations that are derived from that system provide a foundation for stakeholders to consider and address issues. The state does not have the resources to replicate this type of robust data analysis system.

The DMC Manual published by OJJDP has also been a great guidance document. The information contained within the manual offered thought-provoking considerations and logical approaches to

intervention. The DMC Manual was a great informational tool, but we would not recommend it be used as a regulatory tool.

Providing states with the autonomy to identify DMC issues is critical. As Idaho learned in 2010, a “statewide” assessment of DMC is meaningless due to the local nature of decision-making within the juvenile justice system. Continuance of the latitude for discretion at the state level is much appreciated and needed.

Research and training are always essential resources OJJDP can provide so states are aware of emergent trends and cutting-edge approaches to DMC reduction. Support for forums where states can share best practice approaches and learn the latest information based on valid research is critical.

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

The Idaho Juvenile Corrections Act is based on the Balanced Approach to Restorative Justice. All activities implemented by the state pursue a balance of community safety, accountability, and competency development. The Department’s mission is to develop productive citizens in active partnership with communities. DMC initiatives to date focused on crime prevention, effective policy/youth communication, anti-gang programming, stakeholder training, and community awareness. Idaho has a long history of implementing graduated sanctions that meet the needs of victims, communities, and offenders. DMC programming operates within the paradigm of restorative and graduated sanctions that are supported by validated risk and needs assessments such as the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory and the Youth Level of Service Short Screener.