

ATTACHMENT 3: Other Program Attachments

Plan for Reducing DMC

Phase I and II

In 2003 the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs began gathering 2002 data to determine if DMC exists, and if so, to what extent. The data collection process was much improved over previous years, due to data system upgrades at the Minnesota Department of Corrections and the Minnesota Supreme Court. Despite the improvements however, many barriers to full and accurate reporting still exist. Chief among them are: the lack of mandate to collect and share data relative to DMC, the lack of uniform data collection and definitions, and the inability of many juvenile justice agencies to record the ethnicity of Hispanic and disaggregate Hispanic data from the various racial categories. That notwithstanding, despite missing data, Minnesota has compiled meaningful data that has shed light on the nature of DMC statewide, and three of the four counties (Hennepin, Dakota, and Anoka) with the largest concentrations of minorities in the state.

The relative rate indexes, which compare the rate of occurrence based on population for white youth with the rates of occurrence for each racial and ethnic category in the various stages of the juvenile justice system, clearly indicate that DMC exists in the Minnesota juvenile justice system. Generally, DMC appears to become more negatively pronounced when viewing data from the three selected counties. Arrests appear to have the greatest disparities among the stages of the juvenile justice system, ranging in relative rate indexes from 1.29 to 4.99 among the various racial and ethnic categories at the state level and .21 to 5.86 at the county level. Additionally, disparities appear to occur in all racial and ethnic categories at multiple stages in the juvenile justice system at both the state and county level. The degree of disparity varies widely by population, juvenile justice system stage, and jurisdiction. See spreadsheets that follow this plan for a complete summary of data by jurisdiction.

At the state level, minorities comprise roughly 16% of the 10 to 17 year old population, however, they account for more than 36% of all arrests and are arrested at a rate of almost 3 times more than white juveniles. In terms of race and ethnicity, African Americans are arrested at the highest rates (4.99) when compared to white juveniles, followed by Hispanics (3.18), American Indians (3.08), other/mixed race (1.29), and Asians (1.05).

Due to missing and limited data, we know little regarding referrals to juvenile court, cases diverted, and cases involving secure detention at the state level, however, we were able to collect data regarding post-petition diversion at both the state and county level. In addition, we were able to collect data regarding referrals to juvenile court and pre-trial diversion in Hennepin County. At the state level, the data indicates that minority juveniles on average receive diversion at a lower rate (.90) than white juveniles. Post-petition diversion rates vary by race and ethnicity, from a low of (.62) for African

Americans to a high of (1.64) for American Indians and (2.37) for other/mixed race, indicating that American Indian and other/mixed race juveniles are receiving diversion at a higher rate than white juveniles.

Minority overrepresentation at the initial stage in the juvenile justice system does not appear to have a cumulative effect at the state level in terms of an incremental increase in disparities from stage to stage; however, minorities are on average disproportionately contacted at each stage but cases resulting in delinquent findings. Some of the more noteworthy findings at the state level are:

- American Indian juveniles are involved in cases petitioned at a rate of 2.24 times more than white juveniles, although they consist of 1.5% of the 10-17 year old population.
- African American and American Indian juveniles receive probation placements at rates of .60 and .65; nearly half the rate white juveniles receive probation.
- Minority juveniles are confined in secure juvenile facilities on average 1.29 times more than white juveniles.
- Minorities account for 42% of juvenile cases transferred to adult court.

At the county level, minorities comprise the following percentages of the 10 to 17 year old population:

- 31.6% in Hennepin County
- 12.26% in Dakota County
- 9.76% in Anoka County

However, minorities account for 61% of the arrests in Hennepin County, 17.6% in Dakota County, and 13.78% in Anoka County. Minority juveniles on average are arrested at a rate of over 3 times more than white juveniles in Hennepin County, 1.53 times more in Dakota County, and 1.48 times more in Anoka County. Rates ranged from a low of .21 for Asians in Anoka County to a high of 5.86 for American Indians in Hennepin County.

In Hennepin County, the largest county in the state and the county with the largest concentration of minorities, minority juveniles on average are disproportionately contacted at each stage of the juvenile justice system but cases resulting in delinquent findings. Selected significant findings from Hennepin County data are:

- Minority juveniles on average are securely detained 1.84 times more than white juveniles.
- Asian juveniles are 7.75% of youth 10 to 17 in Hennepin County; however, they are involved in cases petitioned at a rate of 1.37 times more than white juveniles.
- Minority juveniles on average are securely confined at a rate of 1.47 times higher than white juveniles.
- Minority juveniles account for 86% of cases transferred to adult court.

Dakota County, the state's third largest county, disproportionately contacts minority juveniles at all stages but diversion. Hispanic juveniles, with a diversion relative rate

index of .60, are the only minority population to not receive diversion at a higher rate than white juveniles. Selected significant findings from Dakota County data are:

- African American juveniles are securely detained at a rate of 1.98 times higher than white juveniles.
- Minority juveniles on average are involved in cases petitioned at a rate of 1.95 times more than white juveniles.
- Minority juveniles on average are securely confined in juvenile facilities at a rate of 1.41 times higher than white juveniles.
- Minority juveniles account for 42% of cases transferred to adult court.

In the state's fourth largest county, Anoka County, minority juveniles fare somewhat better than those from the two previous counties. Minority juveniles on average are disproportionately contacted in only five of the juvenile justice stages in which data is available. Selected significant findings from Anoka County data are:

- American Indian juveniles are securely detained at a rate of 5.06 times higher than white juveniles.
- Minority juveniles on average are involved in cases petitioned at a rate of 2.05 times more than white juveniles.
- American Indian and Hispanic juveniles are confined in secure juvenile correctional facilities at rates of 1.23 and 1.13 times higher than white juveniles, although they comprise .85% and 2.22% respectively, of the 10 to 17 year old population in Anoka County.

It is important to note that the findings described in this plan were based on data that were limited in some stages due to problems with disaggregation, non-uniformity, and/or missing and incomplete data. However, the data collected and the results obtained are the most complete for Minnesota to date. This information has and will continue to be used by the Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC), state agencies, and communities to raise awareness, develop effective strategies, review existing policies and procedures, and allocate resources relative to DMC reduction. More specifically, JJAC's DMC subcommittee has used this data to make recommendations to JJAC for reducing DMC in Minnesota.

Phase III

Based on very limited data, the following activities were proposed in FY 2003:

1. Receive DMC training from OJJDP.
2. Convene meetings with the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety, Corrections, Human Services, and the MN Supreme Court to develop a data collection plan relative to DMC data.
3. Collect and analyze data gathered to determine if DMC exists.
4. If DMC exists, develop reduction strategies and allocate resources to implement the strategies.

All activities have been either implemented fully or to some extent. On October 29th, 2003, JJAC members and MN Departments of Public Safety and Corrections staff attended an OJJDP technical assistance training conducted by Dr. Michael Leiber of the University of Northern Iowa, an OJJDP consultant. The training made Minnesota aware of changes in DMC reporting, successful strategies for improving data collection, successful intervention strategies, and potential pitfalls to avoid. Meetings with the MN Department of Public Safety, MN Department of Corrections, and MN Supreme Court have occurred and are ongoing. The MN Department of Human Services will join the meetings in 2004. Developing a data collection plan designed to collect full and accurate DMC data has proven to be more difficult and time intensive than first conceived, however, meetings will continue in 2004 to develop and implement a workable statewide data collection plan. DMC data for 2002 was collected and analyzed in late 2003 and early 2004, spreadsheets, which summarize this data, follow this plan. Based on the findings that indicate that DMC exists, JJAC's DMC subcommittee recommended that JJAC allocate \$650,000 in 2004 for juvenile justice agencies and direct services providers to develop pilot projects to reduce DMC at the local level. JJAC approved this recommendation and a request for proposal was released in March of 2004. In addition, JJAC acting as the state's JCEC, has approved the use of \$390,000 of 2003 JABG state allocation award for DMC projects led by state agencies.

Phase IV and V

During FY 2004 Minnesota plans to monitor DMC trends by collecting and analyzing data from jurisdictions not included in the initial analysis. These jurisdictions will be at the city, county, or judicial district level and focus on areas with perceived DMC issues or significant concentrations of minorities. The ongoing partnership with state agencies will begin the collection process of 2003 statewide DMC data during the summer of 2004 to continually monitor DMC at the state level.

As previously noted, we plan to continue to work with pertinent state agencies to gather data and improve data collection and data accuracy. We intend to identify the appropriate lead agencies for data collection in the various segments of the juvenile justice system, create uniform data definitions, and encourage mandatory reporting by juvenile justice agencies. The JJAC's DMC subcommittee will continue to meet in FY 2004 and expand to include additional DMC stakeholders. The subcommittee intends to keep the issue of DMC in the forefront, continually seek successful evaluation-based DMC reduction strategies, and seek and/or recommend resources for DMC reduction strategies. Minnesota will commit administrative funds in the form of the State DMC Coordinator, other state agency staff time, JJAC member time, and future resources to be secured toward the efforts described above. Minnesota will also request additional technical assistance from OJJDP as it proceeds with planned activities.

Four new activities were implemented or planned regarding DMC in FY 2004 that were not included in the 2003-2005 DMC Compliance Plan.

First, as a result of receiving DMC technical assistance in October of 2003, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, appointed a state DMC Coordinator to lead the efforts of DMC reduction. The efforts of the DMC Coordinator are ongoing and are funded by administrative funds.

Second, JJAC funded in part, a two-day conference on disproportionate confinement of African Americans in the Minnesota juvenile justice system presented by Metropolitan State University. The one-time conference was held in late October 2003 in St. Paul and was attended by 300 individuals. The purpose of the conference was threefold; to share results of an assessment conducted by Metropolitan State University's, Center for Community-Based Learning on disproportionate confinement of African Americans in the juvenile justice system, to bring stakeholders together to raise awareness and begin a dialogue regarding the issue, and to seek solutions by creating ongoing mechanisms for continuing dialogue and action. Organizers and participants are currently working toward developing mechanisms for dialogue and action and annualizing the conference.

Third, JJAC committed 1.04 million dollars in JABG funds to address and develop reduction projects for DMC in Minnesota, based on 2002 DMC data results. These projects will be at both the state and local level and include state agencies, juvenile justice agencies, and direct service providers. Projects will be implemented from 7-1-04 through 5-31-06.

Fourth, the DMC subcommittee has recommended seeking additional funds from other sources in order to create additional DMC reduction projects statewide. The subcommittee has planned to identify potential funders for JJAC to consider for applying for available funds. If approved, the DMC Coordinator will develop grant proposals. A timeline has yet to be determined for this activity.

Finally, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs will require DMC projects to develop evaluation plans that must be approved prior to grant execution. These plans must be meaningful and specifically measure the project's impact on DMC. The Office of Justice Programs requires grantees to allocate grant funds to evaluation efforts and strongly encourages grantees to utilize the services of external evaluators. Additionally, through the use of consultants and staff, the Office of Justice Programs offers its grantees training and technical assistance opportunities throughout the year.