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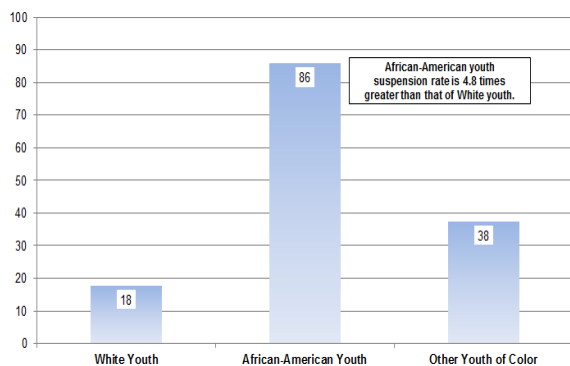
Update Regarding Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Progress of Iowa Communities

Background

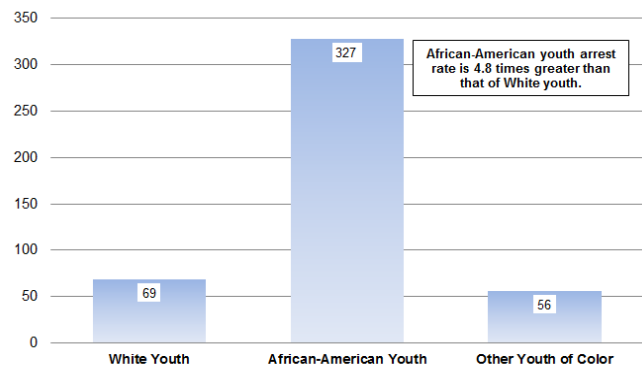
Community and Strategic Planning (CASP) Effort— The Iowa State Court Administrator’s Office (SCA) created the CASP Advisory Committee in October 2013 to develop a state plan addressing disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in the juvenile justice system. The planning was assisted with a discretionary grant awarded from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The Iowa Department of Human Rights’ Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) administered the CASP grant in a partnership with SCA. The major product of the CASP grant was a [5 Year Action Plan](#) to affect minority overrepresentation which was released in November 2014. The CASP Advisory Committee was chaired by Chief Judge Duane Hoffmeyer and its membership included judges, Chief Juvenile Court Officers (JCO) and line staff, NAACP, detention directors, law enforcement, private provider agencies, county attorneys, defense attorneys, and other stakeholders. The major finding of the CASP Advisory Committee reflects that the overrepresentation of minority youth is highest at the front end of the juvenile justice system.

African-American youth have school suspension and arrest rates about five times higher than White youth.

School Suspension Data



**Juvenile Arrest Data
 (Select Jurisdictions)**



Local Efforts

Organizing Local Cross-Agency Teams – Disproportionate minority contact reductions in Iowa’s delinquency system have been minimal. The common denominator to reduce disproportionate minority contact has been local collaborative leadership within a focused organizational model. In the summer and fall of 2015, SCA and CJJP staff attended and provided support for local DMC Collaborative meetings and/or visits with local staff regarding overrepresentation. Meetings focused on a variety of local implementation issues. All of those visits included discussion regarding, local planning, data, local leadership engagement, detention screening and/or Iowa’s school to court efforts. Local discussions and visits were held with officials in Black Hawk, Dubuque, Linn, Johnson, Polk, Pottawattamie, Scott, Webster, and Woodbury Counties. Nearly 90 persons participated in those discussions. Central office staff from the Iowa Departments of Human Services and Education participated in a number of the visits. **A number of the local efforts are instituting strategies to divert youth, who are currently being arrested in school for low-level offenses.**

Local Efforts (continued)

Local Participation in Georgetown's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform - In September of 2013, two jurisdictions, Johnson and Linn Counties, sent individual teams of local officials to Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) in Washington, D.C. to participate in the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System training. Scott County sent a team in the fall of 2015. Local officials from these communities view their participation in the training as the most significant strategy to provide a focused cross-agency approach to carry forward local efforts to affect DMC.

Results-Local Efforts

Black Hawk County Juvenile Court Services (JCS)/Judges/Waterloo Police Department (WPD) – Police Diversion and Detention Reform Programs – Goal: provide police diversion to for low risk juvenile offenders-utilize data, screening tools, detention alternatives, etc., to insure juvenile detention facility holds are only provided for public safety/court appearance.

- From 2009-2013 WPD youth arrests for White youth reduced 50% (n's=370-185), African-American youth 47% (n's=696-368).
 - In that time period, WPD youth disorderly conduct arrests for Whites reduced 48% (n's=45-23), African-Americans 66% (n's=235-79).
- For that period JCS complaints for Whites reduced 52% (n's=618-296), African-Americans 42% (n's=756-438).
- For that period, Black Hawk County juvenile detention facility holds for Whites reduced 65% (n's=71-25), African-Americans 44% (n's=103-58).

Johnson County/JCS/Judges/Iowa City Community School District (ICCSD)/Iowa City Police Department

– School Diversion Program – Goal: prevent school arrest and referral to Juvenile Court Services (JCS) for low risk juvenile offenders.

- From 2012 to 2014, ICCSD arrests reduced 61% (n's=137-53).
- For that period, ICCSD school arrests numbers for disorderly conduct went from 40 (30-African-Americans) to 18 (nine-African-Americans). Local officials are considering adding theft 5th offenders as participants in diversion programming.
 - There were 16 referrals to the diversion program (LADDERS) this past school year. Fourteen were African- Americans. All completed successfully. Four youth reoffended since completion. If there is another referral to JCS after participating in LADDERS, it is considered their first referral.
- The ICCSD district began implementing a new discipline policy this past school year in select buildings. They seek full implementation this upcoming school year.

Linn County/Local Delinquency Collaborative – School Mentoring Efforts – Goal: prevent school arrest and referral to Juvenile Court Services (JCS) for low risk juvenile offenders.

- Local officials have put efforts in place to provide mentors for young African-Americans experiencing difficulty in school as a vehicle to prevent referral to JCS.

Polk County/Local Delinquency Collaborative – Detention Reform Effort – Goal: utilize data, screening tools, detention alternatives, etc., to insure juvenile detention facility holds are only provided for public safety/court appearance.

- In the summer of 2015, the courts and JCS re-seated a task force to resume work on a variety of issues related to DMC, including detention reform.

Scott County/JCS/Judges/Davenport Community School District (DCSD)/Davenport Police Department – School Diversion Program – Goal: prevent school arrest and referral to Juvenile Court Services (JCS) for low risk juvenile offenders.

- In January 2016, DCSD with partners implemented a diversion program for first time youth offenders, teaching youth healthy decision making and communication skills. The program targets first time offending youth charged with non-traffic simple misdemeanors.

Results-Local Efforts (continued)

Woodbury County JCS/Judges/Intake Center/Sioux City Police Department – Detention Reform Program – Goal: utilize juvenile detention facility holds only for public safety protection/court appearance.

- From 2009-2013, Woodbury County juvenile detention facility holds for Whites increased 2% (n's=58-59), while decreases were experienced for African-Americans by 57% (n's=28-12), Hispanic/Latinos by 59% (n's=64-26), and Native Americans by 20% (n's=30-24).

Other DMC Implementation Activities

- Governor's Working Group on Criminal Justice Policy Reform
- Two State-Level DMC Conferences: 1) August 2015 the Iowa/Nebraska Chapters of the NAACP, Third Annual Summit on Justice and Disparities, and 2) October 2015 State Representative Helen Miller, partnering with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), provided a Criminal Justice Summit on the UNI campus.
- Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) and DMC Subcommittee Oversight
- Detention Screening Tool (DST)

Important Upcoming Activities

Reengagement Plus – March 16-18, 2016 – Dubuque - Reengagement Plus is sponsored by the National League of Cities and is their annual gathering for leaders, supporters, partners, and staff of the growing network of centers, programs, and citywide collaboratives focused on students who have left school before graduating. This year's event will include a workshop dedicated to connecting Iowa's reentry efforts of Juvenile Court Services with local schools for delinquent youth returning from out-of-home placement.

Data – Spring 2016 – CJJP will provide extensive data reports including detention, juvenile population, school discipline and select delinquency processing data to local detention reform planning collaborations in Black Hawk, Dubuque, Linn, Johnson, Polk, Pottawattamie, Scott, Webster, and Woodbury Counties. These data are seen as critical to further local DMC planning efforts. A comparable state-level Data Report was released in November 2015.

Community Planning Event – June 2016 – Approximately nine communities will be invited to bring teams to a June 2016 one-day event (potentially June 15) in Des Moines. The event will involve updating and/or developing local DMC plans. A national caliber speaker/s will facilitate the event. The Governor, Iowa's Chief Justice, Attorney General, key state legislators and agency heads will also be invited.

Report to Governor, Chief Justice, Attorney General, Key State Agency Heads – August 2016 – The first annual report of the 5-Year Action Plan will be submitted and utilized to inform and engage state-level officials and to further local DMC efforts.

For more information, please contact:

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