

DRAFT - JDAI Video Talking Points

- JDAI is more than simply reducing use of detention; it is a comprehensive juvenile justice system improvement initiative. JDAI is based upon eight core, interconnected strategies that address the primary reasons why youth are unnecessarily or inappropriately detained.
- The eight core strategies include: Collaboration, Data Driven Decisions, Objective Admissions, Alternatives to Detention, Expedited Case Processing, Special Detention Cases, Reducing Racial Disparity and Conditions of Confinement.
- While any of these eight core strategies can be effective on their own, system improvement and maximum results in reduction of detention populations is only achieved when all the core strategies are intentionally and effectively applied.
- Detention has a role in the juvenile justice continuum of interventions. Detention should be used for public safety and to ensure appearance at court hearings for youth who pose a flight risk. These purposes are integral to all state juvenile codes.
- JDAI is about placing the right youth in the right intervention at the right time. Most youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system are lower risk youth: status offenders, first time property offenses, etc. Therefore most youth should remain in their homes during pre and post phases of juvenile court actions.
- Reducing racial and ethnic disparities is very complex. While JDAI sites around the country have been successful in reducing the number of youth of color in detention, the actual disproportionality for youth of color has increased.
- Reducing racial disparities requires specific strategies aimed at eliminating bias and ensuring a level playing field for youth of color. Racial and ethnic disparities are the most stubborn aspect of detention reform. Real lasting change in this arena requires committed leadership, on-going policy analysis and targeted policies and programming. Further, it requires collaboration of all systems that bring youth in contact with the juvenile justice system (including law enforcement, child welfare and community agencies).
- It is critical, when looking at racial and ethnic disparities to unbundle issues of diversity from issues of equity and separate structural causes from individual causes. Efforts to change policy and practice should focus on structural issues.
- Some JDAI jurisdictions have been successful in reducing racial/ethnic disparities by certain measurements such as rate of detention and reduction of days in detention for youth of color over time or to achieve equity in how youth are sanctioned for probation violations.
- Data reporting of disparities at all juvenile justice decision points is important to identify which racial/ethnic groups are overrepresented and to develop specific strategies to achieve equity for all youth.