

## The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Data Analysis: Analysis of Outcomes

### Background

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (Casey) pursues a variety of activities intended to meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families.<sup>1</sup> Launched in 1992, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a Casey Foundation program that focuses on the detention component of juvenile justice. The objective of JDAI is to reduce the unnecessary detention of juveniles. The goals of the initiative are to:

1. Reduce the reliance on secure confinement
2. Improve public safety
3. Reduce racial disparities and bias
4. Save taxpayers' dollars
5. Stimulate overall juvenile justice reforms

JDAI currently has a national representation of approximately 100 sites across 25 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>2</sup>

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC) selected JDAI as a model for best-practices outcomes and, with a grant from the Casey Foundation, King, Pierce, Spokane, Whatcom and Yakima Counties began implementing JDAI in 2004. Yakima ceased being a formal JDAI site in 2007. Benton/Franklin Counties joined the initiative in July

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<sup>1</sup> Information available May 20, 2008 from <http://www.aecf.org>

<sup>2</sup> Information available May 20, 2008 from <http://www.aecf.org/Home/MajorInitiatives/JuvenileDetentionAlternatives/JuvenileDetention.aspx>

### Summary

This report contains analyses of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative in the juvenile courts of Benton/Franklin, King, Mason, Pierce, Spokane, and Whatcom Counties.

This report describes initiative outcomes across time, among JDAI sites, and in comparison statewide between JDAI sites and counties not participating in JDAI. Since implementing JDAI in 2004:

- Average daily population (ADP) in detention at JDAI counties has decreased by 23.3% as compared to a decrease of 10.8% for counties not participating in JDAI.
- JDAI counties decreased the average length of stay (ALOS) in detention by 12.6% as compared to a decrease of 5.0% for non-JDAI counties.
- Detention admissions have decreased by 12.3% for JDAI counties as compared to 6.2% for non-JDAI counties.
- Both JDAI and non-JDAI counties saw reductions in measures of racial disproportionality.

2007 and Mason County recently joined in 2009. These counties represent about one-half of Washington State's youth population ages 10-17 and approximately one-half of Washington's juvenile referrals.<sup>3</sup> GJJAC sought an agent to evaluate and assist data collection, analysis, and reporting for JDAI in Washington State and contracted with Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR) in March 2008.

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<sup>3</sup> Information available May 20, 2008 from <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ljj/JDAI.shtml>

## Data

The data used in this study was collected from various county and state sources. Census-based population data including demographic data is from the Office of Financial Management. Arrest data is from annual statistics produced by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.<sup>4</sup> Detention data, including admissions and length of stay, have been supplied by the JDAI counties and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

## Population Context

From 2004 through 2008, JDAI sites accounted for about 52% and non-JDAI sites for 48% of Washington State's juvenile population ages 10-17. The juvenile population is approximately 32% minority for JDAI counties, compared to 23% for the non-JDAI counties.

Both JDAI and non-JDAI counties have experienced similar growth in their youth populations. During the last ten years, this segment of the population has on average experienced an annual growth of approximately 0.5% at counties participating in JDAI as compared to 0.8% for non-JDAI counties.

JDAI and non-JDAI counties exhibit similar characteristics with regard to overall juvenile population size, percentage of the total population, demographic composition, and growth within this segment of the population.

## Arrests

During this last decade, as the youth population has generally increased in size, the rate of arrests per 1,000 juvenile's ages 10-17 has generally decreased. Prior to the introduction of JDAI, the average annual change in arrest rate was a decrease of approximately 7% for JDAI counties, and 9% for non-JDAI counties. Starting in 2004, this yearly decrease was 2% for JDAI counties, and 3% for non-JDAI counties.

<sup>4</sup> Starting in 2002 there is significant under reporting of juvenile arrests by law enforcement in Spokane County. Data has been interpolated to compensate for this under reporting

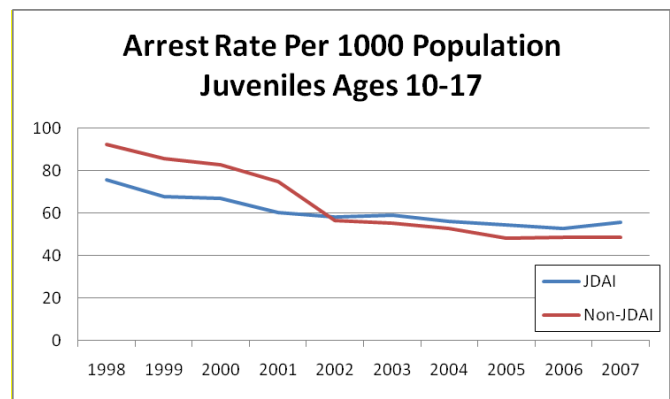


Figure 1

## Results

### Admissions

The counties participating in JDAI experienced a decrease in admissions of 12.3% between 2003 and 2007, an average decrease of 3.1% per year. To contrast, counties not participating in JDAI experienced a decrease of 6.2% between 2003 and 2007, or 1.5% per year (Figure 2).

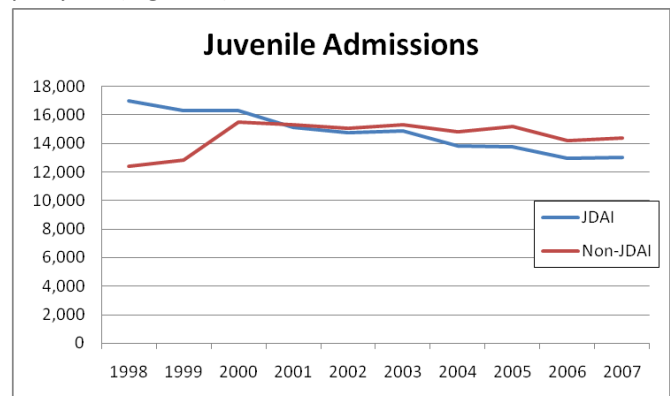


Figure 2

Prior to the introduction of JDAI in Washington, the counties participating in JDAI experienced an increase in the admissions rate of 8.6% between 1998 and 2003 (Figure 3). Subsequently, these counties experienced a decrease of 11.7% between 2003 and 2007 under JDAI. To contrast, counties not participating in JDAI experienced an increase of 23.6% from 1998 to 2003, and an increase of 7.2% between 2003 and 2007.

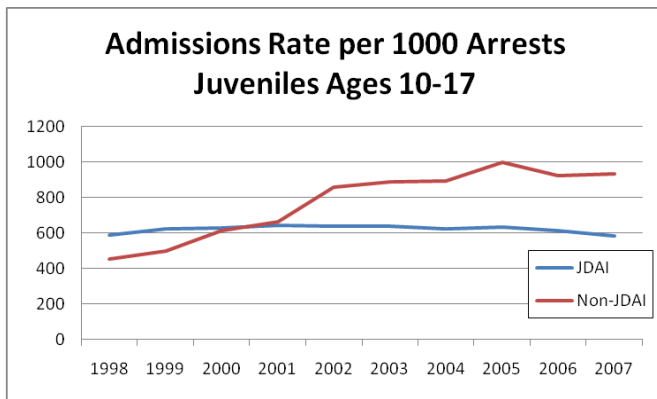


Figure 3

### Average Daily Population

The JDAI counties average daily population decreased 23.3% between 2003 and 2007, in contrast to non-JDAI counties' decline of 10.8% (Figure 4).

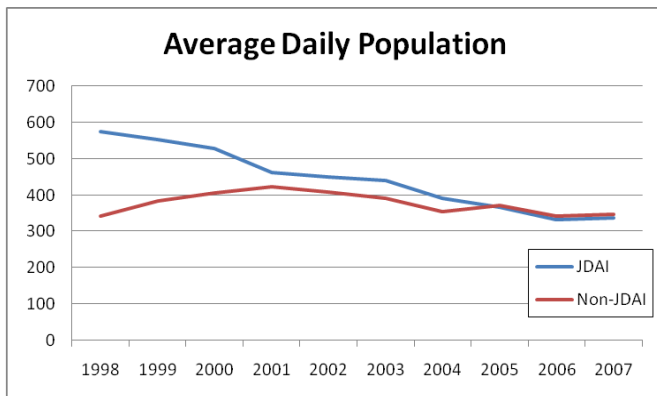


Figure 4

Differences between JDAI and non-JDAI sites appear in arrest-adjusted ADP. JDAI counties' arrest-adjusted ADP fell 19.6% between 2003 and 2007, in contrast to an increase of 0.2% in non-JDAI counties.

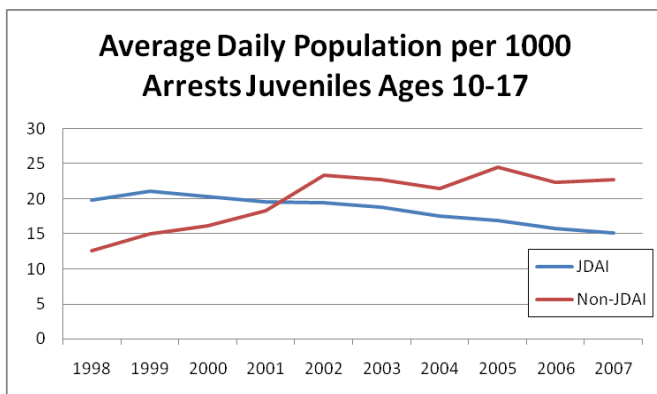


Figure 5

### Average Length of Stay

The JDAI counties experienced a decrease of 12.6% between 2003 and 2007, an average decrease of 3.2% per year. To contrast, counties not participating in JDAI experienced a decrease of 5.0% between 2003 and 2007, or 1.2% per year (Figure 6).

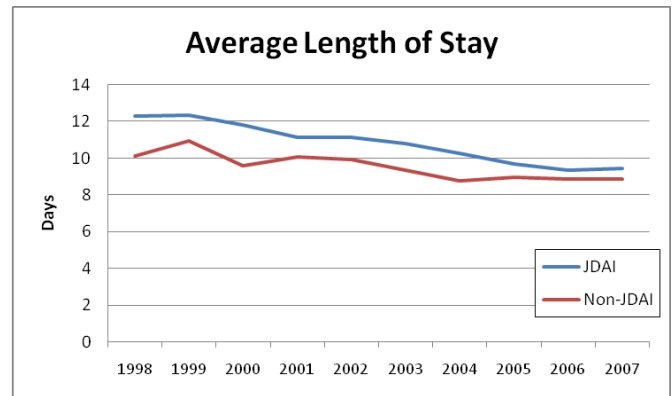


Figure 6

### Disproportionate Minority Contact

In addition to the evaluation of general effectiveness above, it is important to analyze the impact of JDAI on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system. DMC is a well-documented and pervasive issue.

### Admissions

Between 2003 and 2007 the population-adjusted admissions rate for minorities at JDAI sites dropped 11.6% and fell 6.9% for non-JDAI sites (Figure 7).

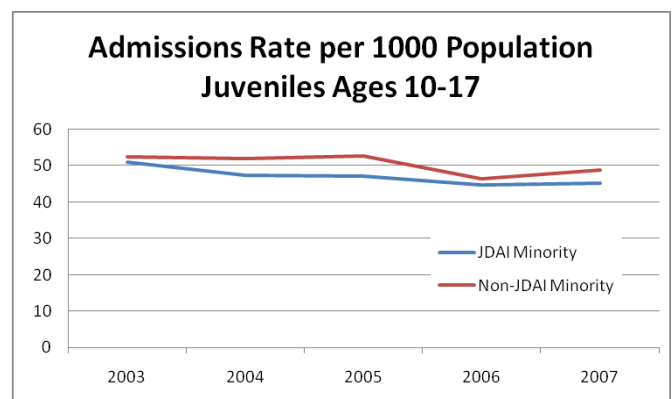


Figure 7

### Average Daily Population<sup>5</sup>

Between 2003 and 2007 the population-adjusted ADP for Minorities at JDAI sites decreased 25.5% as compared to 10.4% for non-JDAI sites (Figure 8).

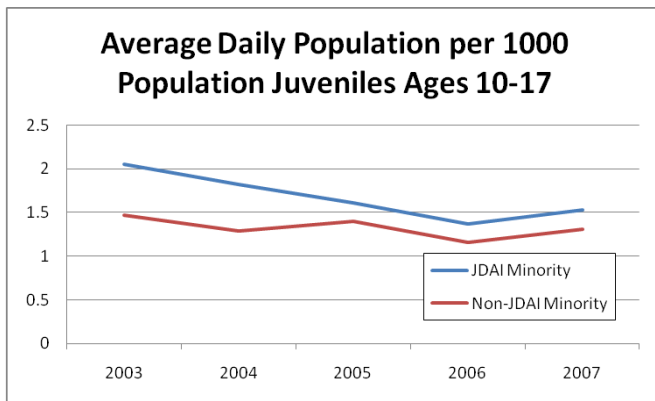


Figure 8

### Average Length of Stay

Between 2003 and 2007 the average length of stay for Minorities at JDAI sites decreased 9.6% as compared to 3.7% for Non-JDAI sites. (Figure 9)

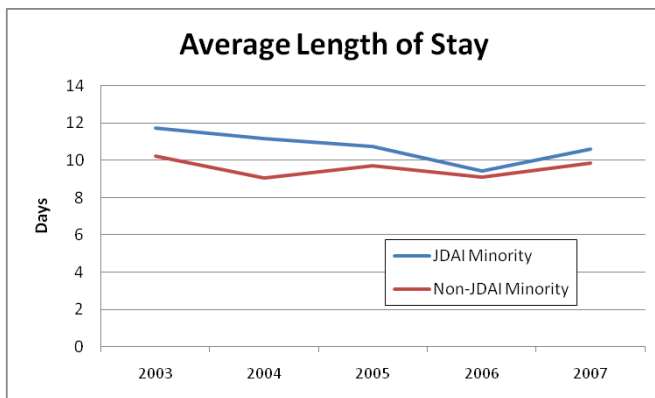


Figure 9

Minorities experienced a greater reduction in the admissions rate, ADP and ALOS in JDAI counties than in non-JDAI counties.

### Relative Rate Index for Admissions (RRI)

Both JDAI and non-JDAI sites reduced the RRI during the period of JDAI activity. In 2003, sites not participating in JDAI had a RRI of 3.90 (Figure 10); that is, minority youth were admitted to detention 3.9 times the rate that Caucasian Non-Hispanic youth were

admitted to detention. In 2003, future JDAI sites had a RRI of 2.41, admitting Minority youth to detention at a rate 2.41 times that of Caucasian Non-Hispanic youth.

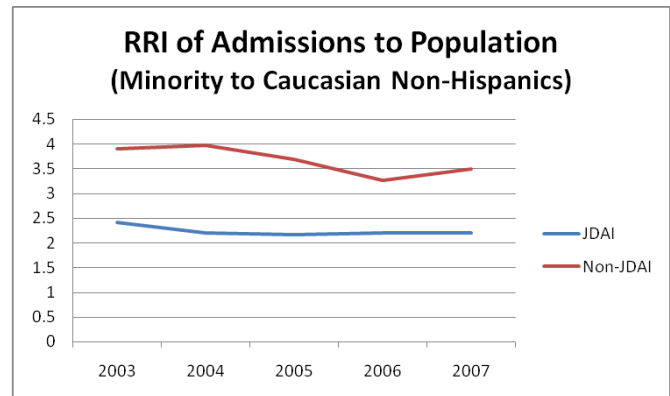


Figure 10

By 2007, sites not participating in JDAI had reduced the RRI to 3.50. JDAI sites during the same time had reduced the RRI to 2.21.

### Conclusions

With regard to juvenile population size, growth, demographics and arrests rates, the JDAI sites as a whole are comparable to non-JDAI sites. The results of the analysis indicate that JDAI is associated with a large reduction in the arrest-adjusted detention admissions rates and ADP. During the same period, counties not participating in JDAI saw an increasing rate of detention admissions and ADP relative to arrests.

Counties participating in the JDAI reform initiative experienced a substantially greater decrease (12.6%) in the average length of stay in detention than counties not using JDAI (5.0%).

Racial disproportionality was reduced in both JDAI and non-JDAI counties. This pattern was consistent across measures of detention use (admissions, ADP, and ALOS) and the RRI for admissions.

For further information, contact the Washington State Center for Court Research at (360) 705-5312  
<http://www.courts.wa.gov/wscrr/>

<sup>5</sup> Minority admissions and ALOS data excludes King County