

**ALASKA JUVENILE JUSTICE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2001**

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Message From the Chair

As Chair of the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC), I am proud to present our 2001 Annual Report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the people of Alaska. The AJJAC is a non-partisan citizen advisory group of volunteers from throughout the State who are interested and experienced in working with our youth. We are appointed by the Governor in accordance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act.

Each year the AJJAC presents juvenile justice recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. Our recommendations are based on our collective expertise, the comments we gather at our public meetings, and the input we solicit from youth in our juvenile justice system. Our current recommendations are set out on the following page.

The AJJAC also assists the State in complying with the core mandates of the JJDP Act. This report includes an explanation of those mandates as well as an overview of our efforts to comply with the mandate to reduce disproportionate minority confinement in our juvenile justice system.

Finally, the AJJAC collaborates with the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in the distribution of federal grant funds awarded to the State by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). In FY02 these funds provided over \$460,000 to help support 28 delinquency prevention and intervention projects in 35 urban and rural communities throughout the State. Further information about those grants is included in this report.

The AJJAC members are listed at the end of this report. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about this report or other juvenile justice issues.

- Tom Begich, AJJAC Chair

Juvenile Justice Recommendations

- The AJJAC recommends that the Governor, the Legislature and the Department of Health and Social Services continue to use this committee as a resource on issues and legislation that affect youth and the juvenile justice system.
- AJJAC recommends that - following an assessment of the 2001 data on the Disproportionate Minority Confinement of youth in the juvenile justice system - training, education, and an intervention plan be implemented through all levels of the juvenile system.
- The AJJAC continues to recommend continued collaboration with the Division of Juvenile Justice in planning for and serving youth in the juvenile justice system, including the development of overall funding strategies, the monitoring of compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act core mandates, and the coordination of common training and technical assistance opportunities.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

Compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) is the basis for Alaska's eligibility for federal JJDP Act grant funds. These core requirements are:

De-institutionalization of Status Offenders: States must ensure that youth who are charged with status offenses are not placed in locked detention or correctional facilities. Status offenses are behaviors that are not criminal when committed by adults, such as drinking, violating curfew, running away, and truancy.

Sight and Sound Separation of Juvenile and Adult Offenders: States must ensure that youth who are temporarily confined in adult jails or lockups do not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates.

Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups: States must ensure that youth who are accused of delinquent acts are held for processing for no more than 6 hours in adult jails or lockups.

Disproportionate Minority Confinement in the Juvenile Justice System: States must identify and work towards eliminating any overrepresentation of minority youth in secure juvenile facilities.

Disproportionate Minority Confinement In Alaska

National data shows that the proportion of minority youth who are detained in secure facilities often exceeds their proportion in the general population. This disparity is referred to as Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC).

National studies of DMC have been available since 1969. In 1987, DMC became a major concern of the National Coalition of State Juvenile Justice Advisory Groups (now the Coalition for Juvenile Justice) with the issuance of its third annual report, An Act of Empowerment. In that report, the Coalition urged Congress to hold regional hearings on differential incarceration rates of minorities and consider amending the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act in order to "reduce inappropriate practices within the juvenile justice system."

In 1988, Congress introduced the minority overrepresentation initiative through amendments to the JJDP Act. In 1992, Congressional reauthorization of that Act included a DMC mandate that requires states and territories to develop plans to assure that all youth are treated equitably on the basis of gender, race, family income, and handicapping conditions.

In 1994, Tom Begich, chair of the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC), appointed a subcommittee headed by AJJAC member Barb Tyndall to work on DMC issues in Alaska. In the fall of that year the subcommittee received its first DMC technical assistance through the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The focus of that initial assistance was data collection because Alaska had no pertinent data available to determine the scope and location of DMC in our state. The information gathered through that assistance was presented in the Minority Youth Report published in 1996 by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the AJJAC.

Since 1997, the AJJAC, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Services, has required all juvenile justice grantees under its purview to address DMC and look for local solutions. It has funded numerous rural projects that assist minority youth. It has sent representatives to national DMC training conferences and has sponsored DMC training for Alaskan judges. It has held teleconferences with participants from around the state and with representatives of various components of the juvenile justice system, including law enforcement, probation, and the courts. The AJJAC is proud of its role in bringing the overrepresentation of minority youth to the forefront, and it is continuing to work closely with the Department of Health and Social Services to address DMC.

In 2001, the newly-formed Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) completed an updated compilation of Alaskan DMC data. That report, entitled Analysis of Minority Youth Representation, will be available in 2002. DJJ now has a system in place to update this data on an annual basis, allowing us to evaluate our success in decreasing DMC.

We are pleased to report that the AJJAC and DJJ have successfully applied for additional DMC technical assistance through OJJDP. Beginning in 2002, this intensive three-year effort will help us identify policies, practices and programs that may be used to address factors contributing to DMC in Alaska and reduce or eliminate disproportionality at key decision points in the juvenile justice system. It will also help us identify the magnitude of DMC throughout the system. We will be working with decision makers in the system and educating them to identify system indicators contributing to DMC. We will also be reviewing detention and intake criteria and working toward transitioning low-risk youth back to their homes or community-based alternatives. Ultimately we hope to find existing prevention, diversion, and early intervention programs that reduce DMC or create new programs that do so.

The AJJAC is committed to doing everything possible to see that minority youth are treated equitably in our juvenile justice system. Our journey to eradicate DMC in Alaska should begin with the juvenile justice system, but it should not end there.

AJJAC member Bernard Gatewood, who is also the Superintendent of DJJ's Fairbanks Youth Facility, put it this way: "The criminal justice system is merely a reflection of our society, and from that vantage point it seems that we are dealing with much more than a disproportionate minority confinement issue. We are dealing with a fundamental question of how minorities, particularly youth, will be viewed and dealt with in this state."

[Selected DMC Publications](#)

Achtenberg, Melanie. [Understanding Restorative Justice Practice Within the Aboriginal Context](#). Forum on Corrections Research, v. 12, n. 1, p. 32-34, January 2000.

Alaska Supreme Court Report: [Fairness and Access, Problems and Recommendations](#). Alaska Justice Forum, v. 14, n. 3, p. 1, 4-8, Fall 1997.

[Analysis of Minority Youth Representation](#). Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 2001, available at www.hss.state.ak.us/djj.

[And Justice For Some](#). Building Blocks for Youth, 2000, available at www.buildingblocksforyouth.org.

[Disproportionate Minority Confinement: Lessons Learned from Five States](#). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1998, available at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org.

[Enlarging the Healing Circle: Ensuring Justice For American Indian Children](#). Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2000, available at www.juvjustice.org.

[Justice on Trial: Racial Disparities in the American Criminal Justice System](#). Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, 2000, available at www.civilrights.org.

[Minorities in the Juvenile Justice System](#). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1999, available at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org.

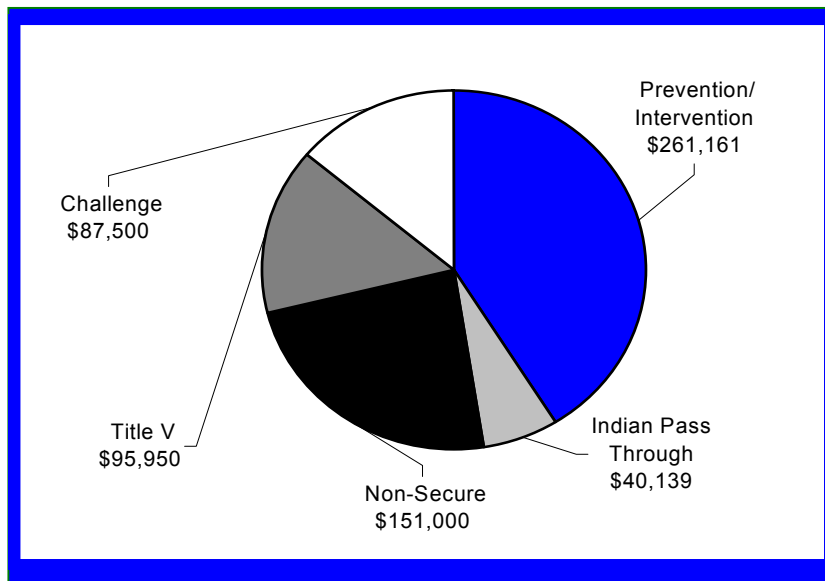
[Minority Youth Report](#), Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 1996, available at www.hss.state.ak.us/djj.

[Pursuing the Promise: Equal Justice for All Juveniles](#). Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 1993, available at www.juvjustice.org.

Schafer, N.E. [Juvenile Referrals: An In-Depth Look](#). Alaska Justice Forum, v. 15, n. 1, p. 2-5, Spring 1998.

Federal Juvenile Justice Grant Funds – FY02

The AJJAC collaborated with the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice in distributing the following federal grants received from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for FY02.



Formula Grant: These funds must first be used to support activities, such as non-secure shelters and DMC strategies, that assist the state in implementing the core requirements of the JJDP Act. The remaining funds may be subgranted to delinquency prevention and intervention projects. A portion of the funds is passed through to Native tribes to address juvenile justice needs in their jurisdictions.

Challenge Activity Grant: These funds support subgrants for specified juvenile justice activities. The AJJAC designated these funds for alternatives to school suspension projects in FY02.

Title V Delinquency Prevention Grant: These funds support subgrants to units of local government and Native tribes to support delinquency prevention projects targeting local delinquency risk factors.

The projects supported by these funds in FY02 and their geographic distribution are shown on the following list and map. Unspent funds are carried forward to future fiscal cycles.

Title V Delinquency Prevention Grants

City of Sitka	Youth Court	\$20,000
City of Valdez	Youth Court	45,302

Challenge Activity Grants

Anchorage Community YMCA	School Suspension Program	\$29,000
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Formula Grants for Delinquency Prevention

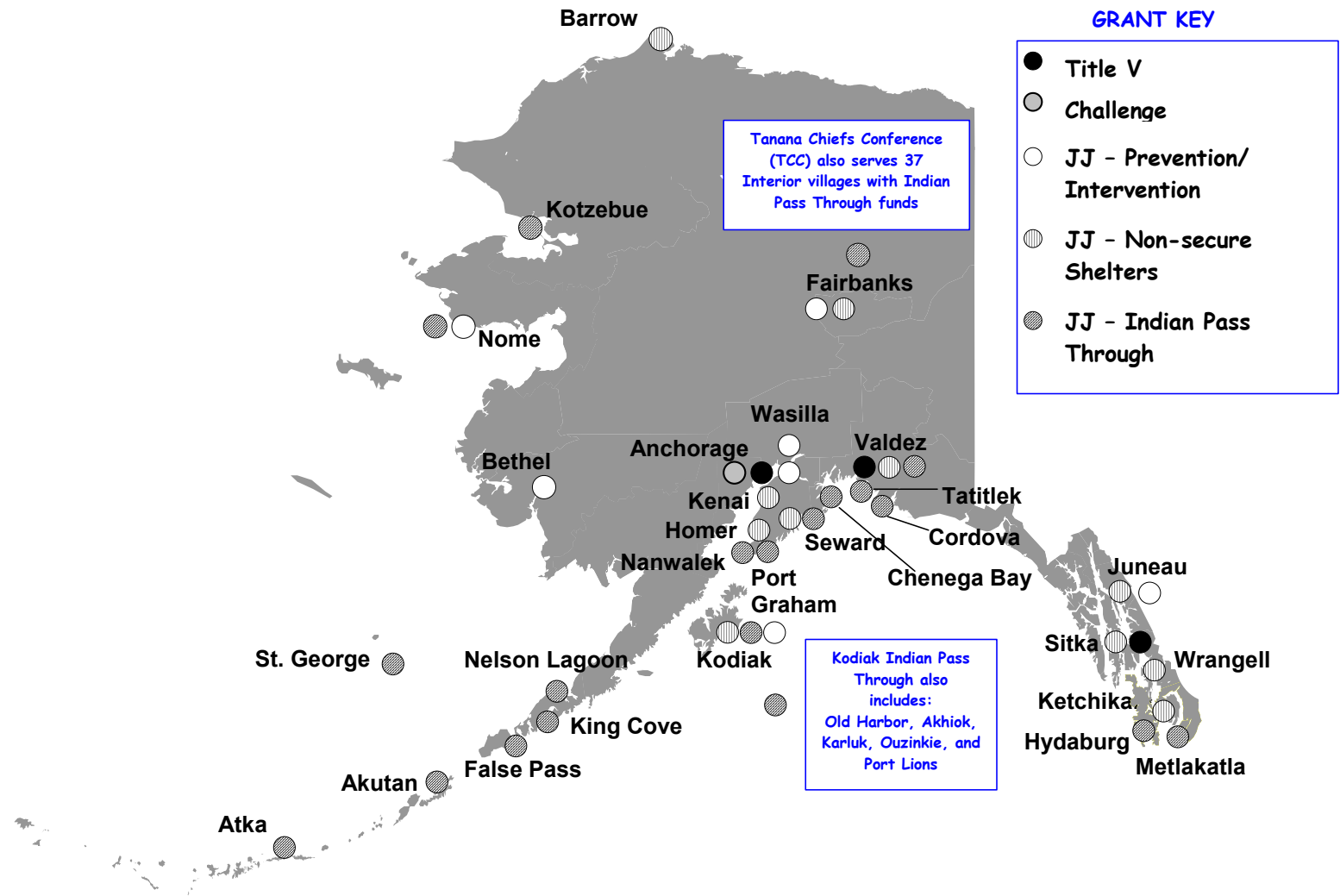
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Juneau	School-Based Mentoring	\$12,000
Boys and Girls Club of Southcentral Alaska (Anchorage)	Afterschool Activities	30,000
Fairbanks Counseling & Adoption	Challenge Activities	29,218
Kids Are People (Wasilla)	Family Mediation	29,505
Kodiak Youth Services Center	Intensive Intervention	30,000
Nome Community Center	Diversion Program	19,287
Tundra Women's Coalition (Bethel)	Anti-Violence Education	29,990

Formula Grants for Non-Secure Shelters

City of Wrangell	Non-secure Shelter	\$ 5,000
Fairbanks Native Association	Non-secure Shelter	27,000
Juneau Youth Services	Non-secure Shelter	15,000
Kenai Peninsula Community Care Ctr	Non-secure Shelter	50,000
Kodiak Youth Services	Non-secure Shelter	8,000
North Slope Borough (Barrow)	Non-secure Shelter	5,000
Residential Youth Care (Ketchikan)	Non-secure Shelter	23,000
Valdez Counseling Center	Non-secure Shelter	6,000
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Non-secure Shelter	12,000

Formula Grants for Indian Pass-Through

Aleutian Pribilof Island Association	Substance Abuse Prevention	\$ 3,709
Central Council of Tlingit and Haida	Youth Court	4,573
Chugachmiut	Youth Spirit Camp	3,354
Kawerak	Fine Arts Camp	5,946
Kodiak Area Native Association	Family Spirit Camp	3,532
Maniilaq	Youth Court	5,304
Metlakatla Indian Community	Diversion Counseling	3,753
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Youth Courts	4,617



Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee Roster

Tom Begich AJJAC Chair	Anchorage	278-1154
Vicki Blankenship Legislative Work Group Chair	Fairbanks	479-9511
Jeff Budd Focus Groups Work Group Chair	Sitka	747-4821
Bernard Gatewood	Fairbanks	457-5769
Michael Jeffery FAE/FAS Work Group Chair	Barrow	852-4800
Virgie King	Fairbanks	479-3977
Sue Lovekin AJJAC Secretary	Anchorage	269-0014
Joe Murdy	Anchorage	248-4143
Joe Pruitt Compliance Monitoring Work Group Chair	Barrow	852-7591
Abad Senquiz, Jr. AJJAC Vice-Chair	Anchorage	278-0537
Christine Smith	Fairbanks	456-7794
Tukta "Pepsi" Souksi Youth Member	Anchorage	338-3166
Barb Tyndall DMC Work Group Chair	Fairbanks	488-1433
Jaime Zellhuber Youth Member	Juneau	790-9329

Funds for the printing of this document were made available through a federal grant (Grant #-2000-JF-FX-0002) from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in accordance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended in 1992. The points of view or opinions in this document do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention or the U. S. Department of Justice.