

# REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE 2010

Submitted by the  
Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

**AJJAC**  
our kids • our state • our future



It is the mission of the **Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee** to provide support, advice and guidance to the government and citizens of the State of Alaska, in accordance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, to help reduce and prevent juvenile crime, while ensuring that Alaska's youth are provided meaningful opportunities to succeed.

**The mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is:** Hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior. Promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities. Assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.

## Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee 2010 Annual Report Disproportionate Minority Contact

### The Focus of this report

The Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) in collaboration with the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is pleased to present the 2010 Annual Report to the Governor. The Annual Report is a requirement of federal juvenile justice funding received by the DJJ from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

OJJDP awards federal juvenile justice Formula and Title V grant funds annually to states that are in compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act. The JJDP Act requires a citizen's advisory committee (AJJAC) which is appointed by the Governor under Administrative Order number 137 and compliance with the four core mandates.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) is one of the four core mandates. The focus of this report is to increase awareness of the critical impact of DMC on youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

### The four core requirements of the JJDP Act

**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 Contact in the Juvenile Justice System:** States must identify and work towards eliminating any overrepresentation of minority youth to ensure a fair system for all youth.

**The importance of compliance with the JJDP Act:** The goals of the federal Act are to help state and local governments prevent and control juvenile delinquency, and to improve the juvenile justice system. The Act also seeks to protect juveniles in the juvenile justice system from inappropriate placements and from the physical and psychological harm that can result from contact with adult inmates.

States and territories in compliance with the Act receive federal Formula Grant and Title V funds. In 2009, Alaska received approximately \$600,000 in Formula Grant funds and \$33,486 in Title V funds. This funding was used for alternative to detention programs, Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Native pass-through grants, delinquency prevention programs, compliance monitoring, DMC reduction activities and other system improvement activities.

**Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)** exists when the percentage of minority youth in contact with the justice system is higher than the overall percentage of that minority group in the total population.

In 1994, DJJ and Alaska's state advisory group (AJJAC) began looking at DMC in our state, focusing on Anchorage and Fairbanks due to the highest juvenile populations.

In 2006, DJJ requested intensive federal technical assistance on DMC from OJJDP. As a result of this technical assistance a report was completed and DJJ has implemented several recommendations.\*

**Key findings were:**

DMC exists throughout the Alaska juvenile justice system, but the highest rates are at Arrest, Detention, Diversion from court, and Petition to court. The highest rates of DMC existed at two main points of contact: **Decision-making at intake:** Minority youth were more likely to be detained and petitioned than white youth. **Decision making at detention:** Minority youth were more likely than white youth to receive detention screening.

Specifically, in Anchorage, Alaska Native and African-American youth were four times as likely to be referred as white youth. While in Fairbanks the disparities are much larger and affect Alaska Native youth to a greater degree than African-American youth with more than six times as likely to be referred as white youth.

**Alaska DMC Rates:** State data shows that DMC affects all minority youth, but the minority groups with the highest DMC rates are: Alaska Native, Pacific Islander and African-American.

### **System Improvements Implemented to reduce DMC:**

Based on the findings, the following Juvenile Justice system improvement activities have been implemented through the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and may have an impact to reduce DMC.

#### **Statewide Level:**

- Implemented the Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI) to guide decisions about when secure detention is necessary to protect the public;
- Implemented the Youth Levels of Services Inventory (YLS) to assess factors linked to delinquent behavior, probation staff design case plans to address these factors;
- Performance-based Standards (PbS) an ongoing data-driven, quality improvement and accountability system for juvenile justice facilities was implemented;
- Expanded the Transitional Services Program to include Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks to better prepare institutionalized youth for successful release to communities;
- Formed the DJJ Alaska Native Youth Recidivism Work Group;
- DJJ, AJJAC and other partners have travelled to rural communities to seek input on how to work better with Alaska Native youth and families;
- DMC training includes DJJ staff training; DMC presentations at statewide Youth Court Conferences; DMC presentations to Transitional Services Program Coordinators; and other community DMC presentations;
- Diversion programs such as Youth Court;
- Alternatives to Detention programs such as non-secure shelters and electronic monitoring; and
- Provide programs in collaboration with the Department of Labor to such as vocational training, apprenticeships, job skills, and finding housing.

Since 1994, AJJAC and the Division of Juvenile Justice have been consistent partners in analyzing data and working to reduce DMC in Alaska. Today there are local DMC workgroups in Anchorage, Fairbanks and the focus is expanding to rural communities.

### DMC Resources:

- The State of Alaska – Division of Juvenile Justice  
DMC website:  
[www.hss.state.ak.us/djj/dmc/](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/djj/dmc/)
- Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:  
[www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dmc/](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dmc/)
- \* Report: *An Examination of the Factors that Influence Justice Decision Making in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska: An Assessment Study - 2006 Report* by Michael J. Leiber, Ph.D., Joseph Johnson, M.A., and Kristan Fox, B.A.  
<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/djj/information/default.htm>
- AJJAC Annual Reports to the Governor:  
<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/djj/information/default.htm>
- AJJAC members are available to provide DMC trainings.

### Alaska DMC Contact:

Angelina Ahrens  
DMC Coordinator  
Division of Juvenile Justice  
(907) 465-2212

### DMC Strategy:

**An example of a re-entry program focused on vocational training.**

One minority youth's success working through a vocational training program.

*"I was always getting into trouble. When I started this program I was given positive reinforcement and help with problems to stay out of the juvenile justice system.*

*The program staff are really resourceful and help me to become money smart. Right now I feel more mature and responsible; I come to work earlier than I need to and I am better at expressing myself. I have recently bought a dependable car and I'm starting to build some credit for myself at my bank.*

*At work I have been placed in a lead position. I teach at the Alaska Military Youth Academy which has given me great self confidence in working with people."*

## **DMC Reduction Activities in Alaska**

- 1994** – AJJAC DMC Workgroup, federal DMC technical assistance
- 1996 & 2001** – DMC identification studies
- 2002** – part-time DMC Program Coordinator hired, improved DMC data collection
- 2003** – Local DMC data collection begun – Anchorage & Fairbanks
- 2004** - DMC website, DMC conference held, improved DJJ detention screening
- 2006** - DMC brochure, public education, assessment studies, mapping research
- 2007** - DMC training and Undoing Racism Workshops around state,  
DMC Presentations began at Statewide Youth Court Conferences
- 2008** - DMC reduction grant awarded
- 2009** – DMC 101 presentations in Fairbanks,  
New part-time DMC Program Coordinator at DJJ  
DMC VISTA volunteer for Anchorage

## **AJJAC's 2010 Juvenile Justice Recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature**

1. Appoint a Special Assistant to the Governor to oversee activities to reduce racial disparities throughout the juvenile justice system and other social service systems including, public health, mental health, and substance abuse prevention/intervention, and to coordinate collaboration between these systems.
2. Support DJJ in continuing to implement its systems improvements that help reduce racial disparity through objective procedures for making detention and case planning decisions, programs to divert youth from detention and court.
3. Encourage the legislature to fund prevention/diversion/re-entry programs to reduce the number of youth coming into the system and vocational education to assist those who are transitioning out.

In State Fiscal Year 2010, Alaska received over 1 million in federal juvenile justice grant funds from OJJDP. These funds are awarded to the Department of Health and Social Services and administered by the Division of Juvenile Justice.

## FY10 Juvenile Justice Grant Awards

### Supported by Federal JJDP Act Grant Funds

---

#### **Formula Non-Secure Attendant Care Shelter Grants**

AK Family Services-Saxton Youth Shelter	Wasilla	Non-secure shelter	13,100
Covenant House Youth Reception Center	Anchorage	Non-secure shelter	33,260
Juneau Youth Services	Juneau	Non-secure shelter	14,060
Presbyterian Hospitality House	Fairbanks	Non-secure shelter	21,740
Providence Kodiak Island Counseling Center	Kodiak	Non-secure shelter	6,620
Residential Youth Care	Ketchikan	Non-secure shelter	20,000
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Sitka	Non-secure shelter	17,849

#### **Formula Native American Pass-Through Grants**

Aleutian Pribilof Island Association	Aleutians	VPSO victimization training	10,000
Alaska Native Justice Center	Anchorage	Aggression Replacement Training	10,000
Fairbanks Native Association	Fairbanks	Native Youth Culture	10,000

#### **Title V Delinquency Prevention Grants**

City of Seward	Seward	Delinquency Prevention	45,000
Kenaitze Indian Tribe	Kenai	Delinquency Prevention	35,060

#### **Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant**

Nat'l Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence	Juneau	Youth-led prev. coalition	20,000
Nome Community Center	Nome	Youth-led prev. coalition	40,000
Communities in Schools (FY08 – 10)	Bethel	Youth-led prev. coalition	54,900

#### **Congressional Earmark Program**

##### **Alaska Youth Court and Community Panel Program**

United Youth Courts of Alaska	Statewide	Training and Tech. Assist	39,910*
Anchorage Youth Court	Anchorage	Youth Court	54,753
Juneau School District	Juneau	Youth Court	39,953
Kenai Peninsula Youth Court	Kenai, Homer	Youth Court	50,000
Ketchikan Youth Court	Ketchikan	Youth Court	45,000
Kodiak Teen Court	Kodiak	Youth Court	30,000
Nome Community Center	Nome	Youth Court	30,000
North Star Youth Court	Fairbanks	Youth Court	45,000
Valdez Youth Court	Valdez	Youth Court	20,000
City of Wasilla, Mat-Su Youth Court	Mat-Su Valley	Youth Court	50,000
Communities in Schools	Bethel	Youth Court	15,010

\*Program ended September 2009

---

## Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee Members

---

Carol Brenckle	AJJAC Chair	Kenai	398-8228
Vicki Blankenship	AJJAC Vice Chair/ Compliance Monitoring Workgroup Chair	Fairbanks	479-9511
Barbara Tyndall	Secretary/Legislative Workgroup Chair	Fairbanks	488-1433
Beverly Jenkins	DMC Workgroup Chair	Anchorage	770-5932
Laura Ogan	Youth Workgroup Chair	Palmer	232-4937
Christopher Allridge		Anchorage	242-6735
Tina Woods		Anchorage	561-5633
Judy Norton-Eledge		Anchorage	349-8309
John Combs		Palmer	746-0366
Larry LeDoux		Juneau	465-2802
Michael Reed		Anchorage	227-7527
Samantha Wheaton	Youth Member	Anchorage	
Courtney Enright	Youth Member	Ketchikan	
Michael Jeffery		Barrow	852-4800 ext. 0
Jeff Budd		Sitka	747-4821
Lisa Typpo	Youth Member	Anchorage	
 <b>DJJ Staff:</b>			
Barbara Murray	Juvenile Justice Specialist	Juneau	465-2116
Angelina Ahrens	Disproportionate Minority Contact	Juneau	465-3855
Candace Brower	Compliance Monitoring	Juneau	465-8463
Shari Paul	Youth Court/ Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws	Juneau	465-3572

---

Funds for printing this report were provided through a federal grant (Grant #-2008-JF-FX-0059) from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in accordance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended. 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.