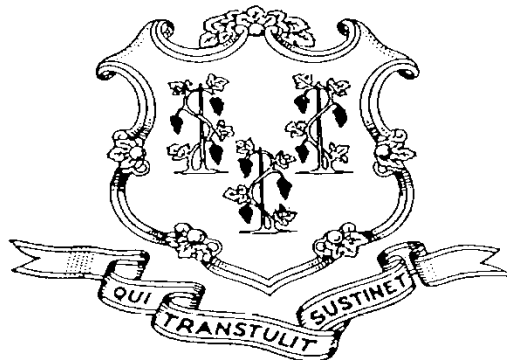


**BIENNIAL REPORT ON
DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY
CONTACT
FISCAL YEARS 2010 – 2011**

**A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 11-154**



**OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
BENJAMIN BARNES, SECRETARY
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Biennial Report on Disproportionate Minority Contact

Office of Policy and Management
December 31, 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Biennial Report on Disproportionate Minority Contact is required by state law in Section 2 of Public Act 11-154, AN ACT CONCERNING DETENTION OF CHILDREN AND DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, and reports on state juvenile justice agency plans to address disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system (DMC) and on steps taken to implement those plans.

The most recent comprehensive assessment study of DMC in Connecticut, commissioned by the state's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) with 2005-2007 data, shows that there was DMC at certain decision points in the juvenile justice system (nine of 18 points studied), for certain minority groups (generally DMC was greater for Black juveniles than for Hispanic juveniles), and for certain crimes (offenses were grouped as Serious Juvenile Offenses or SJOs, non-SJO felonies, misdemeanors, and violations). Researchers analyzed data on police, court and corrections decision points and controlled for factors that might influence how a juvenile is handled, including the nature of the offense and the juvenile's prior contact with the system.

After 20 years of data analysis and implementation of DMC recommendations, the JJAC has determined that to reduce DMC, strategies must focus on:

- Addressing DMC reduction, not general juvenile justice system improvement, and
- Changing the behavior of system practitioners, not that of youth.

JJAC efforts to reduce DMC have included:

- 1) Increasing police knowledge about youth and how to effectively interact with youth, through training and program funding.
- 2) Encouraging school/police collaboration, through program funding upon adoption of a model memorandum of agreement between the superintendent of schools and the chief of police.
- 3) Developing and implementing a tool to measure DMC within residential facilities.
- 4) Raising awareness about DMC by publishing DMC data and strategies online at www.ct.gov/OPM/JustStart or www.CTJustStart.org.

State juvenile justice agencies—Judicial Branch, Department of Children and Families, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Criminal Justice, and Division of Public Defender Services—have implemented and are planning to implement a range of data improvement efforts, policy and practice changes, shared initiatives, and training and technical assistance to address DMC. These activities are presented by type and by agency.

Biennial Report on Disproportionate Minority Contact

Office of Policy and Management

December 31, 2011

INTRODUCTION

This document is the biennial report required by state law in Section 2 of Public Act 11-154, AN ACT CONCERNING DETENTION OF CHILDREN AND DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, which was signed into law on July 8, 2011. Under this law juvenile justice state agencies must report biennially to the Office of Policy and Management on their plans to address disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system (DMC) and on steps taken to implement those plans. The Office of Policy and Management must compile the submissions and submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The process of producing this document was facilitated by the Subcommittee on Disproportionate Minority Contact of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC). This Subcommittee includes representation from all state juvenile justice agencies as well as from local schools, police departments, and advocacy organizations. The JJAC has been studying Connecticut DMC data and supporting state DMC intervention strategies because these activities are required of states receiving juvenile justice funds under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 as amended.

This report contains background information on state DMC data and a brief history of JJAC actions and products (pages 2 - 10) as well as charts of activities, both ongoing and new, of state juvenile justice agencies (pages 11 - 16). Appendix A (pages 17 - 24) provides the activities by agency and Appendix B (pages 25 - 27) provides information on the screening and assessment tools used in Connecticut.

BACKGROUND & CONNECTICUT DMC DATA

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) was established in accordance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 as amended to advise the Office of Policy and Management concerning the prevention of juvenile delinquency in Connecticut and the improvement of Connecticut's juvenile justice system. The duties of the JJAC include the approval of a comprehensive three-year juvenile justice plan, making final funding decisions on all grant applications for federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention funds, and ensuring compliance with federal mandates concerning the handling of juvenile offenders. One of those federal mandates is addressing disproportionate minority contact (DMC).

The JJAC began its DMC work by studying the data. Its first DMC subcommittee was convened in 1992. Its first funded project was a comprehensive DMC assessment study conducted by Spectrum Associates Market Research, an independent research firm. The purposes of the study were to determine if DMC existed in Connecticut's juvenile justice system and, if so, to pinpoint

where in the system DMC was occurring. Researchers analyzed data on police, court and corrections decision points and controlled for factors that might influence how a juvenile is handled, including the nature of the offense and the juvenile's prior contact with the system. "An Assessment of Minority Overrepresentation in Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System" was published in 1995 with 1991-1992 data. The data showed that certain groups of minority youth experienced harsher treatment at certain decision points for certain types of offenses. Included in the published report of the study was a set of recommendations developed by the JJAC. Study results and recommendations were shared with system practitioners and the public at regional forums.

As time passed, study data became outdated. With seven years between data sets, repetition of the study was undertaken. The second study, "A Reassessment of Minority Overrepresentation in Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System" published in 2001 with 1998-1999 data, provided thought-provoking findings over time and the opportunity to improve planning efforts. The JJAC and its Subcommittee on DMC used their hard-earned experience to develop new and more specific DMC recommendations.

Because there were many findings showing DMC had changed between the two studies, the JJAC looked closely at those parts of the juvenile justice system. At many of the decision points where DMC was found to be significantly reduced or eliminated, they identified legal or policy changes that:

- ◆ Removed or reduced practitioner discretion;
- ◆ Required additional documentation of decisions; or
- ◆ Increased oversight of discretionary activities.

These actions were collectively titled "accountability recommendations" and were identified as priority recommendations because they demonstrated evidence of being effective, and they were seen as relatively inexpensive and easy to apply. The JJAC began implementation of specific decision point recommendations through task groups.

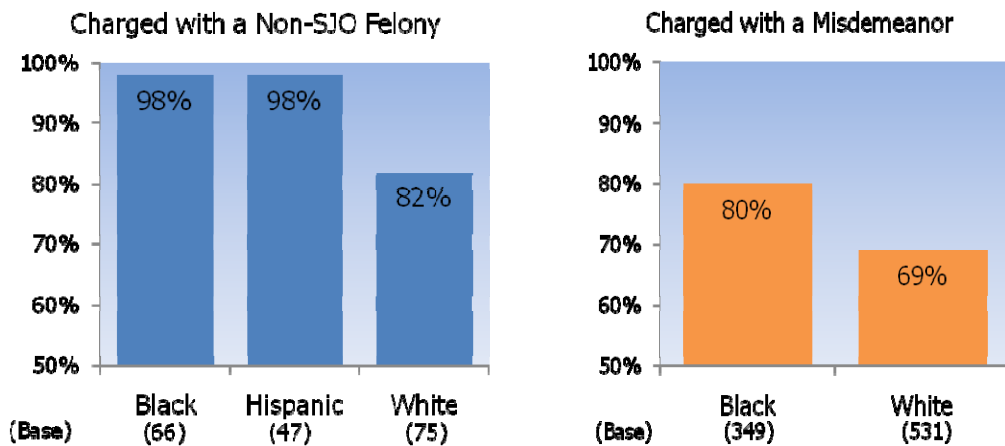
A third study, "A Second Reassessment of Disproportionate Minority Contact in Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System," used data from 2005-2007 and was published in May 2009. Like the previous two, it looked at 18 specific decision points across the entire juvenile justice system, first breaking out the data by type of offense. The offense types used were Serious Juvenile Offenses (SJOs—basically the more serious felonies), non-SJO felonies, misdemeanors, and violations. Within offense type, data was presented by race/ethnicity. The populations studied were Black, Hispanic and White. Those decision points showing DMC were then analyzed to determine if the differences in decision-making could be explained by factors known to decision-makers. Such factors might be socio-demographic information, additional offense characteristics or the juvenile's court history. In nine of the 18 decision points, the additional factors "neutralized" DMC for all offense types. At the remaining nine points the study found DMC for particular types of offenses and particular population groups. These nine findings are presented below. The full study is available at www.ct.gov/opm/dmc.

1. **Police write more incident reports on Black and Hispanic juveniles.**
 - Relative Rate Index of 3.24 for Black juveniles.
 - Relative Rate Index of 2.40 for Hispanic juveniles.

The Relative Rate Index (RRI) can be calculated at each decision point in the juvenile justice system for the minority population and for the White population and shows what happens to the minority group in terms of what happens to the White group. The RRI, above, of 3.24 for Black juveniles means that police in Connecticut are over three times more likely to write an incident report for Black juveniles as for White juveniles. The rate is calculated using general population data.

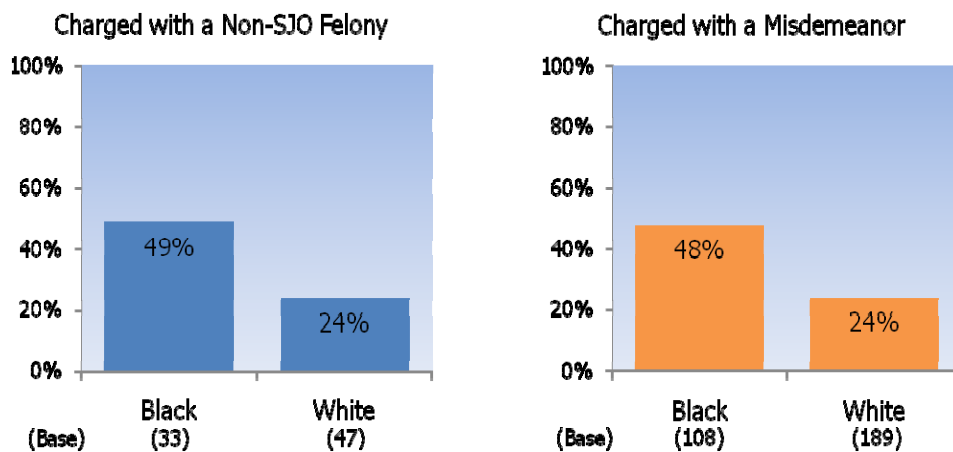
2. **Police refer Black juveniles to court more often for non-SJO felonies and misdemeanors and refer Hispanic juveniles more often for non-SJO felonies.**

REFERRED TO COURT



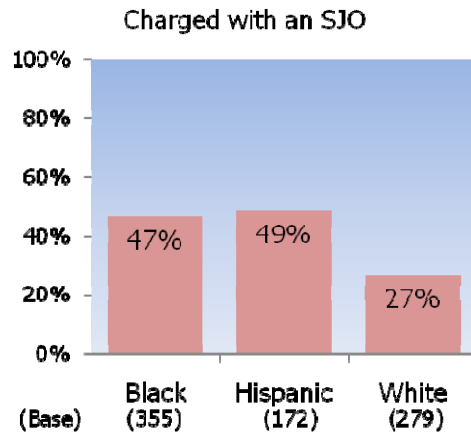
3. **Police use secure holding in the police station more often for Black juveniles for non-SJO felonies and misdemeanors.**

PLACED IN SECURE HOLDING AT THE POLICE STATION



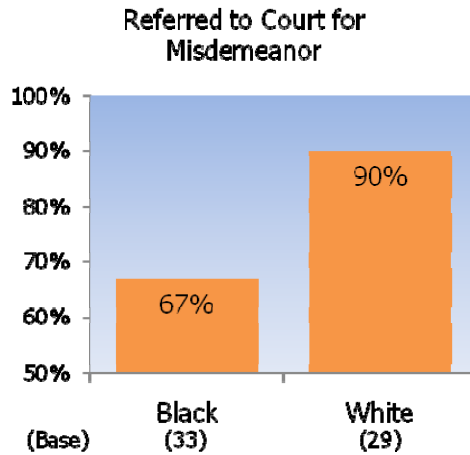
- Police more often transport Black and Hispanic juveniles to detention for Serious Juvenile Offenses (SJOs).

BROUGHT TO A DETENTION CENTER



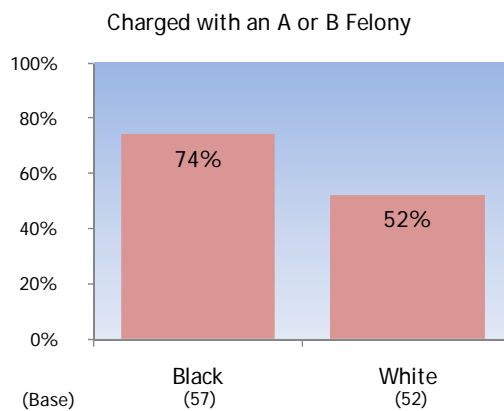
- Courts are less likely to release Black juveniles charged with misdemeanors from pretrial detention.

RELEASED FROM DETENTION PRIOR TO CASE DISPOSITION



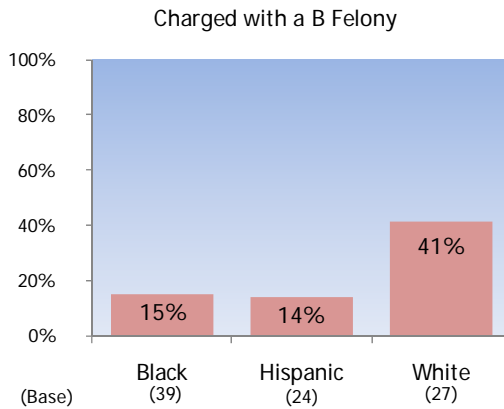
- Prosecutors are more likely to transfer Black juveniles to adult court for A or B felonies.

TRANSFERRED TO ADULT COURT



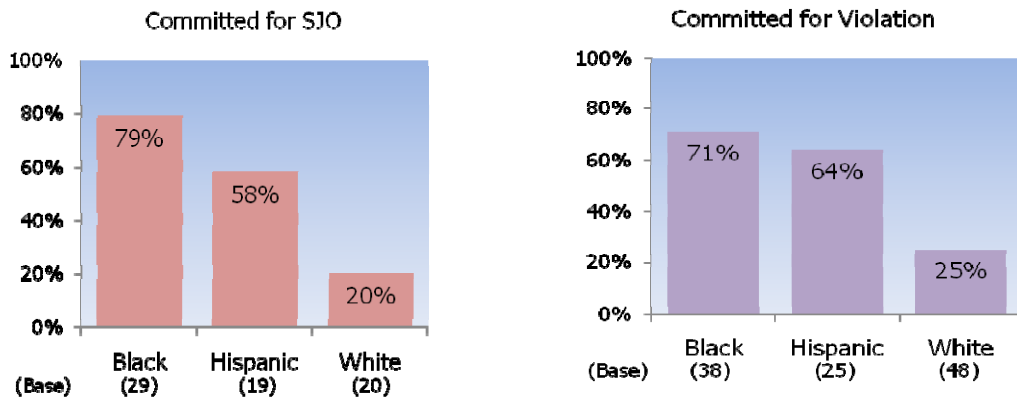
7. Fewer Black and Hispanic juveniles are transferred back to juvenile court for B felonies.

SENT BACK TO JUVENILE COURT FROM ADULT COURT



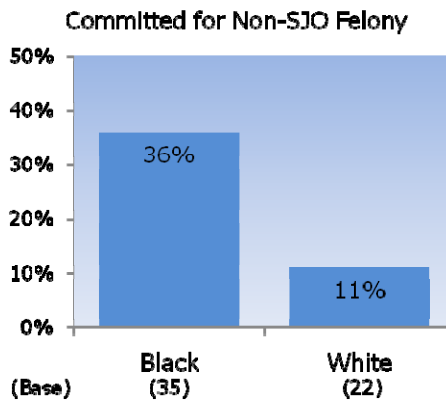
8. Corrections more often places Black and Hispanic juveniles committed for Serious Juvenile Offenses (SJOs) and violations in a secure juvenile justice facility.

PLACED AT DCF SECURE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY DURING COMMITMENT



9. Corrections keeps Black juveniles committed for non-SJO felonies in the secure facility longer.

PERCENT OF COMMITMENT SPENT AT DCF SECURE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY



The Relative Rate Index (RRI) discussed above is required from states by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. In Connecticut there are large RRIs across decision points for Black and Hispanic minority groups and the disproportionality for Blacks is much greater than that for Hispanics at almost every decision point. In general, the JJAC does not use the RRIs in its DMC planning. The primary reason for this is that Connecticut has better data in its assessment studies. The assessments incorporate into the analysis the seriousness of the juveniles' offenses and other factors known to decision-makers at the time of their decisions. However, the RRI can provide useful information. Often people suggest that DMC is an urban issue in Connecticut. The thinking is that DMC is driven by the large numbers of minority cases referred to court from the cities, where large numbers of minorities live. Using the RRI data grouped by size of city, it becomes clear that DMC is a problem across the state. The 2010 RRI data for referral to court by size of city is presented below and shows that, although police in the three large cities are over two times more likely to refer Black juveniles than White juveniles to court, they are over seven times more likely to refer Black juveniles in medium and small towns.

Referrals to Juvenile Court, 2010 Court Data (Missing Race/Ethnicity Data for 12% of Referrals) Youth Population Data, Ages 10 thru 17, 2010 U.S. Census	RRI Black	RRI Hispanic
3 Large Cities (over 124,000 in total population)	2.22	0.92
10 Medium Cities (60,000 to 124,000 in total population)	4.07	1.57
12 Small Cities (40,000 to 60,000 in total population)	4.62	1.48
54 Large Towns (15,000 to 40,000 in total population)	6.03	1.58
90 Medium/Small Towns (under 15,000 in total population)	7.07	0.93

The JJAC's activities in response to the third study are described below.

JJAC DMC INITIATIVES

The JJAC statewide DMC system improvement strategies in progress by the end of June 2011 can basically be divided into six types. A brief summary of each with future planned activities is provided below.

(1) Patrol Officer Curriculum

To address findings in the second DMC study, the JJAC recommended that a task group look into issues that would affect police handling of juveniles prior to a written incident report. This direction focused the group on the actions of patrol officers, rather than youth officers, and led to the creation of a curriculum for patrol officers called "Effective Police Interactions with Youth."

This one-day (about 5 hours) training teaches:

- The role of patrol officers in helping to eliminate the problem of disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system.
- Why adolescents tend to test boundaries, challenge authority, and have difficulty controlling impulses and making sound decisions.
- Strategies for communicating more effectively with young people and improving police/youth relations.

“Effective Police Interactions with Youth” has been evaluated using an experimental design with pre- and post-testing and a control group, and has been shown to increase knowledge and improve police attitudes towards youth. This evaluation is the subject of an article in Police Quarterly, June 2010.

As of June 30, 2011 the curriculum has been taught to over 1,000 Connecticut officers. Work is still underway to institutionalize this training by making it part of local and state police academies and standard in-service training opportunities. In addition, the Effective Police Interactions with Youth training has been shared with law enforcement officials in 12 states. Training and institutionalization efforts continue.

(2) Funding for Projects Involving Police

The JJAC supports three programs seeking to reduce DMC by providing grants to police departments or agencies working directly with local law enforcement.

The Police and Youth Program provides funding of up to \$10,000 per project to increase or enhance opportunities for youth and police to get to know each other outside of the traditional law enforcement role. The typical project under the Police and Youth Program has an early team-building component for the officers and youth, a series of activities that are enjoyable for both groups and that provide opportunities for interaction, a joint community service project, and a concluding recognition event.

Reaching for Respect provides technical assistance and mini-grants of up to \$3,000 for youth-led and youth-designed projects to improve police/youth relations. This youth engagement initiative supports direct consultation, training and on-site assistance to the teams of youth and their adult advisors. Typical mini-grant recipients are after school programs in non-profit agencies such as the YMCA.

The School/Police Task Group was convened by the JJAC to reduce school-based arrests of students. The group developed a model Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to be entered into by the superintendent of schools and the chief of police. The purpose of the MOA is to ensure a consistent response to incidents of student misbehavior, clarify the role of law enforcement in school disciplinary matters, and reduce involvement of the justice system for misconduct at school and school-related events. The JJAC decided to encourage the adoption of this MOA by offering those local communities that did so the opportunity to apply for up to \$20,000 in funds for preventive and intervention services through the School/Police **Just.START** Program.

A second project of the School/Police Task Group is modifying the Effective Police Interactions with Youth curriculum for use training school staff. In addition to providing information on how to handle students exhibiting inappropriate behavior, the new curriculum will teach about role of law enforcement in schools. All of these programs will continue for the next two years.

(3) Identification of Disproportionate Incident Reporting Management Tool (IDIR)

The Identification of Disproportionate Incident Reporting Management Tool (IDIR) is the product of a task group addressing incident reporting in public and private residential programs serving juvenile delinquents. The need for an exploration of this issue was identified in the JJAC's second study, which found that handling of incident reporting in residential facilities was one of the areas where discretionary decision-making may have resulted in DMC. The IDIR is an Excel program which provides Relative Rate Index information on incident reporting. The usefulness of the IDIR is in providing understandable data to managers who may then choose to look more closely at personnel, training or program issues. The IDIR is currently used by juvenile justice facilities operated by both the Connecticut Judicial Branch and the Department of Children and Families. Plans to standardize its use at other public and private facilities serving delinquent juveniles in Connecticut include revising contractual agreements to require its use and training providers.

(4) Legislative Changes

Detention

In the first study, there was DMC at all offense levels at the police decision point of transporting juveniles to secure detention. Between the first and second studies, a policy change was made in response to overcrowding issues (not DMC). Police had to obtain a court order to bring juveniles charged with non-SJO offenses to detention. There was no requirement for a court order to bring juveniles charged with an SJO (serious juvenile offense). As measured by the second study, when police were required to obtain a court order, DMC disappeared. An equal proportion of White and minority non-SJO juvenile offenders were transported to detention by police. However, DMC remained for Black and Hispanic juveniles accused of SJOs. These findings were still there in the third study. The JJAC recommended that a court order be required for all juveniles including those charged with SJOs. It was decided that a statutory change would be necessary to accomplish this. Legislative language to implement this recommendation was drafted and advocacy efforts began. *AN ACT CONCERNING DETENTION OF CHILDREN AND DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM* (Public Act No. 11-154) embodying this recommendation was approved by the Connecticut General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Dannel P. Malloy on July 8, 2011. Effective October 1, 2011 police in Connecticut are required to obtain a court order to bring any juvenile to a secure juvenile detention center.

State Agency Reporting

A second JJAC legislative recommendation mandates reporting on DMC by state juvenile justice agencies. This report is the first biennial report under legislative language in PA 11-154.

(5) Communication and Collaboration

For the first two studies, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) showcased study findings and JJAC recommendations at regional forums to audiences of system practitioners and the public. In order to raise awareness levels of DMC, the communications plan for the third effort was more ambitious. Key components were to:

- Seek support from top leaders in government;
- Focus on the JJAC's action recommendations and not on complicated study methodology and findings; and
- Use language to frame the issue in a way that would present DMC as something that is everyone's concern.

Communication action steps completed include:

1. Agreement on a title and logo.
2. Development of presentations for meetings and events.
3. Creation of materials for display and distribution.
4. Programming of a revised Web site explaining DMC to the general public and offering resources to practitioners – (www.CTJustStart.org) or www.ct.gov/opm/JustStart.



In order to document success with its communications plan, the JJAC gathered information from state agency juvenile justice system practitioners (except police) through an online survey conducted in fall 2010. This survey was also used to provide information to practitioners since it provided a link to the new Web site at the end of the survey. The JJAC plans to repeat this survey administration to capture changes over time in DMC awareness levels in Connecticut.

(6) Research and Data Capability

The process of conducting DMC studies often identifies problem areas with data systems. The JJAC recommended modification of data systems to consistently require the entry of, and the ability to track, data that practitioners and researchers decide is important to the decision-making process. This will facilitate future study of DMC. To implement this recommendation a Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice Data was convened and relatively small JJAC grants for data improvement have been made to both the Connecticut Judicial Branch and the Department of Children and Families.

In order to measure the effectiveness of DMC strategies implemented after 2006, the JJAC is planning a fourth assessment study for 2013.

SUMMARY OF STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT STATE AGENCY DMC PLANS AS OF JUNE 30, 2011

The following charts summarize the many steps taken by state juvenile justice agencies to address DMC as of June 30, 2011. The charts provide information organized by type of activity—data, policies & practices, shared initiatives, and training & technical assistance.

Data

Agency	Ongoing Activity
Judicial Branch	Sampling of data identifying school-based juvenile offenses
Judicial Branch	Development of internal capacity to analyze juvenile justice data and design of data reports to support review of key decision points
Judicial Branch	Implementation of the Identification of Disproportionate Incident Reporting (IDIR) tool at the detention centers
Department of Children & Families	Implementation of the Identification of Disproportionate Incident Reporting (IDIR) tool at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School
Department of Children & Families	Collection of data on child welfare from each regional office to identify whether DMC exists in child welfare
Criminal Justice, Public Defenders, Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Participation in JJAC/Office of Policy and Management survey of practitioners on DMC

SUMMARY OF STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT STATE AGENCY DMC PLANS AS OF
JUNE 30, 2011

Policies & Practices

Agency	Ongoing Activity
Judicial Branch	Use of assessment tools to inform decision-makers concerning classification, risk/need, and mental health screenings
Department of Children & Families	Use of assessment tools to inform decision-makers of the risk/need of committed delinquents and child welfare cases
Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Use of Motivational Interviewing by juvenile probation and parole officers; a client-centered, strength-based technique that changes how the staff approach juveniles and their families
Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Provision of educational advocacy for identified juveniles in delinquency and child welfare cases
Judicial Branch	Availability of alternatives to secure detention such as suspended detention orders, electronic monitoring, and community residential programs
Judicial Branch	Piloting in one court district the use of community service as an opportunity for cases to be nolleed or dismissed
Department of Children & Families	Review of decisions concerning parole by the Parole Status Review Committee, which removes discretion from individual staff persons
Department of Children & Families	Policy for contracted service providers to reduce calling police for the misbehavior of youth in placement
Department of Children & Families	Planning for implementation of the Differential Response System, which provides services without involving low risk child welfare cases with the Department of Children & Families or the court
Judicial Branch	Establishment of a Cultural Competency Advisory Committee, which develops policies such as for translation of court documents into languages other than English and training
Department of Children & Families	Staff devoted to advising on, and implementing, policies addressing cultural awareness, translators and translations
Public Defenders	Legislative advocacy to support new DMC laws

SUMMARY OF STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT STATE AGENCY DMC PLANS AS OF JUNE 30, 2011

Shared Initiatives

Agency	Ongoing Activity
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Criminal Justice, Public Defenders, Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Participation on Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) Participation on Subcommittee on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Participation on Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice Data Participation on Subcommittee on Police Training Participation on School/Police Task Group Participation on Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity (staffed by Judicial Branch) Participation on Local Interagency Service Teams (LISTs) Participation on Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs), which are local teams handling cases of juveniles accused of first time minor offenses and/or status offenses. JRBs provide police another option to referral to court
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection	Participation of State Police in Police and Youth Program grants with local towns
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection	Memorandum of Agreement between State Police and Regional School District 10 on handling student misconduct
Judicial Branch	Judicial leadership with local community collaborations on school-based arrest reduction efforts
Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Implementation of a statewide quality assurance program for delinquency and child welfare evaluations ordered by the court
Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Piloting of an education and awareness program for educators on the use of the behavioral health system in lieu of court referral
Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Implementation of interagency protocols to identify complex detention cases and to reduce time in detention for juveniles with psychiatric hospitalization

SUMMARY OF STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT STATE AGENCY DMC PLANS AS OF JUNE 30, 2011

Training & Technical Assistance

Agency	Ongoing Activity
Criminal Justice	Provision of training and technical assistance on juvenile laws and hate crimes, and on setting up and operating Juvenile Review Boards
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Criminal Justice	Assistance in designing, training and having personnel trained in Effective Police Interactions with Youth—a patrol officer training developed in Connecticut by the JJAC. Training sessions are sponsored by the JJAC
Department of Children & Families	Training of police to work more effectively with youth in placement
Judicial Branch	Training for court personnel on DCF’s Differential Response System
Public Defenders	Cultural competence training for public defender staff
Judicial Branch	Incorporation of DMC in a number of staff trainings offered by Judicial Branch
Department of Children & Families	Incorporation of DMC in a number of staff trainings offered by DCF’s training arm

SUMMARY OF STATE AGENCY PLANS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2012 AND 2013

The following charts summarize new steps planned by state juvenile justice agencies to address DMC over the next two years. Again, the charts provide information organized by type of activity—data, policies & practices, shared initiatives, and training & technical assistance.

Data

Agency	New Activity
Public Defenders	Include data elements on DMC in planning for new data management system
Judicial Branch	Collect data identifying school-based offenses
Judicial Branch	Provide training on data entry to police departments that routinely omit race/ethnicity on police reports
Department of Children & Families	Adapt assessment tool to collect the reasons for placement decisions
Criminal Justice, Public Defenders, Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Participate in OPM follow-up survey of practitioners on DMC
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Provide data for next DMC assessment study (planned for 2013)

Policies & Practices

Agency	New Activity
Department of Children & Families	Implement the Differential Response System statewide
Judicial Branch	Close one of three secure detention facilities (New Haven)
Judicial Branch	Implement the Identification of Disproportionate Incident Reporting (IDIR) tool at community residential programs
Judicial Branch	Revise juvenile probation intake policy to return summonses for minor misbehavior and thereby reduce referrals to court
Judicial Branch	Establish contract standards for working with clients with limited English proficiency

Shared Initiatives

Agency	New Activity
Judicial Branch	Implement a new law requiring a court order to detain any juvenile in secure detention
Criminal Justice, Public Defenders	Assist the Judicial Branch in developing policies and forms to comply with new law requiring a court order to detain any juvenile in secure detention
Criminal Justice	Collaborate in the development of the revised juvenile probation intake policy
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection Criminal Justice, Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Pilot Juvenile Review Board process allowing the court to divert cases to the boards
Criminal Justice, Public Defenders, Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Collaborate on DMC project of the Center for Children's Advocacy in Bridgeport and Hartford
Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Participate in the Crossover Youth Project, which will study juveniles involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and identify the prevalence of DMC for this population
Judicial Branch, Department of Children & Families	Develop and deliver system change project on concurrent permanency planning for children in foster care
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection	Use the Memorandum of Agreement between State Police and Regional School District 10 on handling student misconduct as a template for future agreements with other school districts

Training & Technical Assistance

Agency	New Activity
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection	Consider making Effective Police Interactions with Youth part of the training requirements for new local police officers and new state police troopers
Criminal Justice	Incorporate DMC into annual training for prosecutors
Public Defenders	Incorporate DMC into annual training for public defender staff

APPENDIX A

This Appendix provides both the ongoing and new steps to address DMC by agency.

Judicial Branch

Ongoing Activity as of June 30, 2011
Sampling of data identifying school-based juvenile offenses
Development of internal capacity to analyze juvenile justice data and design of data reports to support review of key decision points
Implementation of the Identification of Disproportionate Incident Reporting (IDIR) tool at the detention centers
Participation in JJAC/Office of Policy and Management survey of practitioners on DMC
Use of assessment tools to inform decision-makers concerning classification, risk/need, and mental health screenings
Use of Motivational Interviewing by juvenile probation and parole officers; a client-centered, strength-based technique that changes how the staff approach juveniles and their families
Provision of educational advocacy for identified juveniles in delinquency cases
Availability of alternatives to secure detention such as suspended detention orders, electronic monitoring, and community residential programs
Piloting in one court district the use of community service as an opportunity for cases to be nolledd or dismissed
Establishment of a Cultural Competency Advisory Committee, which develops policies such as for translation of court documents into languages other than English and training
Participation on Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) Participation on Subcommittee on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Participation on Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice Data Participation on Subcommittee on Police Training Participation on School/Police Task Group Participation on Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity (staffed by Judicial Branch) Participation on Local Interagency Service Teams (LISTs) Participation on Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs), which are local teams handling cases of juveniles accused of first time minor offenses and/or status offenses. JRBs provide police another option to referral to court
Judicial leadership with local community collaborations on school-based arrest reduction efforts
Implementation of a statewide quality assurance program for delinquency and child welfare evaluations ordered by the court
Piloting of an education and awareness program for educators on the use of the behavioral health system in lieu of court referral
Implementation of interagency protocols to identify complex detention cases and to reduce time in detention for juveniles with psychiatric hospitalization
Training for court personnel on DCF's Differential Response System
Incorporation of DMC in a number of staff trainings offered by Judicial Branch

Judicial Branch

New Activity
Collect data identifying school-based offenses
Provide training on data entry to police departments that routinely omit race/ethnicity on police reports
Collect data identifying school-based offenses
Provide training on data entry to police departments that routinely omit race/ethnicity on police reports
Close one of three secure detention facilities (New Haven)
Implement the Identification of Disproportionate Incident Reporting (IDIR) tool at community residential programs
Revise juvenile probation intake policy to return summonses for minor misbehavior and thereby reduce referrals to court
Establish contract standards for working with clients with limited English proficiency
Implement a new law requiring a court order to detain any juvenile in secure detention
Pilot Juvenile Review Board process allowing the court to divert cases to the boards
Collaborate on DMC project of the Center for Children's Advocacy in Bridgeport and Hartford
Participate in the Crossover Youth Project, which will study juveniles involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and identify the prevalence of DMC for this population
Develop and deliver system change project on concurrent permanency planning for children in foster care

Department of Children & Families

Ongoing Activity as of June 30, 2011
Implementation of the Identification of Disproportionate Incident Reporting (IDIR) tool at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School
Collection of data on child welfare from each regional office to identify whether DMC exists in child welfare
Participation in JJAC/Office of Policy and Management survey of practitioners on DMC
Use of assessment tools to inform decision-makers of the risk/need of committed delinquents and child welfare cases
Use of Motivational Interviewing by juvenile probation and parole officers; a client-centered, strength-based technique that changes how the staff approach juveniles and their families
Provision of educational advocacy for identified juveniles in child welfare cases
Review of decisions concerning parole by the Parole Status Review Committee, which removes discretion from individual staff persons
Policy for contracted service providers to reduce calling police for the misbehavior of youth in placement
Planning for implementation of the Differential Response System, which provides services without involving low risk child welfare cases with the Department of Children & Families or the court
Staff devoted to advising on, and implementing, policies addressing cultural awareness, translators and translations
Participation on Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) Participation on Subcommittee on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Participation on Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice Data Participation on Subcommittee on Police Training Participation on School/Police Task Group Participation on Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity Participation on Local Interagency Service Teams (LISTs) Participation on Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs), which are local teams handling cases of juveniles accused of first time minor offenses and/or status offenses. JRBs provide police another option to referral to court
Implementation of a statewide quality assurance program for delinquency and child welfare evaluations ordered by the court
Piloting of an education and awareness program for educators on the use of the behavioral health system in lieu of court referral
Implementation of interagency protocols to identify complex detention cases and to reduce time in detention for juveniles with psychiatric hospitalization
Training of police to work more effectively with youth in placement
Incorporation of DMC in a number of staff trainings offered by DCF's training arm

Department of Children & Families

New Activity
Adapt assessment tool to collect the reasons for placement decisions
Participate in OPM follow-up survey of practitioners on DMC
Provide data for next DMC assessment study (planned for 2013)
Implement the Differential Response System statewide
Pilot Juvenile Review Board process allowing the court to divert cases to the boards
Collaborate on DMC project of the Center for Children's Advocacy in Bridgeport and Hartford
Participate in the Crossover Youth Project, which will study juveniles involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and identify the prevalence of DMC for this population
Develop and deliver system change project on concurrent permanency planning for children in foster care

Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

Ongoing Activity as of June 30, 2011
Participation on Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) Participation on Subcommittee on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Participation on Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice Data Participation on Subcommittee on Police Training Participation on School/Police Task Group Participation on Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity Participation on Local Interagency Service Teams (LISTs) Participation on Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs), which are local teams handling cases of juveniles accused of first time minor offenses and/or status offenses. JRBs provide police another option to referral to court
Participation of State Police in Police and Youth Program grants with local towns
Memorandum of Agreement between State Police and Regional School District 10 on handling student misconduct
Assistance in designing, training and having personnel trained in Effective Police Interactions with Youth—a patrol officer training developed in Connecticut by the JJAC. Training sessions are sponsored by the JJAC

Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

New Activity
Provide data for next DMC assessment study (planned for 2013)
Pilot Juvenile Review Board process allowing the court to divert cases to the boards
Use the Memorandum of Agreement between State Police and Regional School District 10 on handling student misconduct as a template for future agreements with other school districts
Consider making Effective Police Interactions with Youth part of the training requirements for both new local police officers and new state police troopers

Criminal Justice

Ongoing Activity as of June 30, 2011
Participation in JJAC/Office of Policy and Management survey of practitioners on DMC
Participation on Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) Participation on Subcommittee on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Participation on Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice Data Participation on Subcommittee on Police Training Participation on School/Police Task Group Participation on Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity Participation on Local Interagency Service Teams (LISTs) Participation on Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs), which are local teams handling cases of juveniles accused of first time minor offenses and/or status offenses. JRBs provide police another option to referral to court
Provision of training and technical assistance on juvenile laws and hate crimes, and on setting up and operating Juvenile Review Boards
Assistance in designing, training and having personnel trained in Effective Police Interactions with Youth—a patrol officer training developed in Connecticut by the JJAC. Training sessions are sponsored by the JJAC

Criminal Justice

New Activity
Participate in OPM follow-up survey of practitioners on DMC
Assist the Judicial Branch in developing policies and forms to comply with new law requiring a court order to detain any juvenile in secure detention
Collaborate in the development of the revised juvenile probation intake policy
Pilot Juvenile Review Board process allowing the court to divert cases to the boards
Collaborate on DMC project of the Center for Children’s Advocacy in Bridgeport and Hartford
Incorporate DMC into annual training for prosecutors

Public Defenders

Ongoing Activity as of June 30, 2011
Participation in JJAC/Office of Policy and Management survey of practitioners on DMC
Legislative advocacy to support new DMC laws
Participation on Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) Participation on Subcommittee on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Participation on Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice Data Participation on Subcommittee on Police Training Participation on School/Police Task Group Participation on Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity Participation on Local Interagency Service Teams (LISTs) Participation on Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs), which are local teams handling cases of juveniles accused of first time minor offenses and/or status offenses. JRBs provide police another option to referral to court
Cultural competence training for public defender staff

Public Defenders

New Activity
Include data elements on DMC in planning for new data management system
Participate in OPM follow-up survey of practitioners on DMC
Assist the Judicial Branch in developing policies and forms to comply with new law requiring a court order to detain any juvenile in secure detention
Collaborate on DMC project of the Center for Children's Advocacy in Bridgeport and Hartford
Incorporate DMC into annual training for public defender staff

APPENDIX B

This appendix provides more information on the screening and assessment tools used in Connecticut.

Screening and Assessment Tools in Use in Connecticut to Address DMC

Judicial Branch

Brief Risk Assessment Tool (BRAT)

Used by Juvenile Probation

This tool was developed in consultation with Dr. Dennis Wagner of the National Center for Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) and in consultation with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The tool uses the top ten factors associated with predicting risk to reoffend. This tool is used to identify low risk juveniles for special handling.

Juvenile Assessment Generic (JAG)

Used by Juvenile Probation

The JAG is a 47 item, interview driven assessment tool. It measures Risk and Protective Factors in the areas of: Criminal History, Substance Abuse/Risk Taking, Distress/Family, Peers/Stake in Conformity, and Personal Values. It produces five risk factor scale scores to static and dynamic qualities influencing criminal recidivism, highlighting target treatment areas. Protective scale (total rater) scale represents decreased risk of recidivism.

Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument – MAYSI-2

Used by Juvenile Probation and Detention

Multifactorial screening for mental health issues normed on a juvenile justice population. It is a brief screening tool designed to assist juvenile justice facilities in identifying youth at admission who may have special mental health needs.

Suicidal Ideations Questionnaire (SIQ)

Used by Detention

Developed as a suicide risk screening instrument on non-juvenile justice populations, this was later compared for validity with a juvenile justice population. The SIQ assesses the frequency of suicidal thoughts in adolescents and may be used to evaluate or monitor troubled youths. Because not all depressed adolescents are suicidal and not all suicidal adolescents are depressed, the SIQ is a valuable component in a comprehensive assessment of adolescent mental health.

Drug Abuse Screening Test for Adolescents and Adolescent Alcohol Involvement Scale

Used by Detention

Both scales were adapted consistent with the American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria with validity established on psychiatric adolescent in-patients.

Delinquency Reduction Outcome Profile (DROP)

Used by Detention

DROP measures attitudes towards social problem-solving with research completed on juvenile justice populations in Connecticut. Publication is pending.

Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)

Used by Detention

This is a valid instrument for violence risk and general recidivism risk. It is shown to be a race neutral instrument with a major study of predictive validity completed in Connecticut.

Traumatic Experience Screening Instrument (TESI)

Used by Detention

This questionnaire provides self report of 20 different traumatic experiences. Requires review and follow up by a clinician.

UCLA PTSD Reaction Index (UCLA PTSD-RI)

Used by Detention

This tool screens for severity of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms according to DSM-IV TR criteria.

Department of Children & Families

COMPAS Youth

Used by Juvenile Justice

This tool is an automated risk and needs assessment for juvenile offenders. The instrument is comprehensive in its coverage of risk and protective factors. The COMPAS is designed to take advantage of recent research on the predictors and needs factors most strongly linked to delinquent behavior. It also incorporates the "strengths perspective" and contains many critical factors that may protect the high-risk youth from serious delinquency.

Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN)

Used by Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare

This is a family of evidence-based instruments used to assist clinicians with diagnosis, placement, and treatment planning. The GAIN can be used with adolescents in all kinds of treatment programs, including outpatient, partial hospitalization, residential and correctional programs.

Structured Decision Making® (SDM)

Used by Child Welfare

The SDM® model for child welfare agencies incorporates a set of evidence-based assessment tools and decision guidelines designed to provide a higher level of consistency and validity in the assessment and decision making processes and a method for targeting limited system resources to families who are most likely to subsequently abuse or neglect their children. The SDM model is now the most widely used case management model in the United States, and research has demonstrated its effectiveness.

Personal Experience Screening Questionnaire (PESQ)

Used by Juvenile Justice

The PESQ provides a quick, cost-effective way to screen 12- to 18-year-olds for substance abuse. In just 10 minutes, this brief self-report questionnaire identifies teenagers who should be referred for a complete chemical dependency evaluation.

Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument – MAYSI-2

Used by Juvenile Justice

Multifactorial screening for mental health issues normed on a juvenile justice population. It is a brief screening tool designed to assist juvenile justice facilities in identifying youth at admission who may have special mental health needs.

Suicidal Ideations Questionnaire (SIQ)

Used by Juvenile Justice

Developed as a suicide risk screening instrument on non-juvenile justice populations, this was later compared for validity with a juvenile justice population. The SIQ assesses the frequency of suicidal thoughts in adolescents and may be used to evaluate or monitor troubled youths. Because not all depressed adolescents are suicidal and not all suicidal adolescents are depressed, the SIQ is a valuable component in a comprehensive assessment of adolescent mental health.

Trauma Screening Checklist for Children (TSCC)

Used by Juvenile Justice

The TSCC evaluates post-traumatic symptomatology in children and adolescents (ages 8 to 16, with normative adjustments for 17 year-olds), including the effects of child abuse (sexual, physical, and psychological) and neglect, other interpersonal violence, witnessing trauma to others, major accidents, and disasters. The scale measures not only post-traumatic stress, but also other symptom clusters found in some traumatized children.