2.3.c: Decrease percentage of African American, Hispanic and Native American youth in detention from 46% to 41% by July 2017

 Reported on September 19, 2016

REDUCING RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

Department of Social and Health Services
Rehabilitation Administration
Juvenile Rehabilitation

Assistant Secretary John Clayton

September 19, 2016
DSHS Rehabilitation Administration (RA)

Rehabilitation Administration includes:
Juvenile Rehabilitation
Office of Juvenile Justice
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Special Commitment Center

Our Vision
Youth and adults succeed in rehabilitation with the support of an engaged community.

Our Mission
To transform lives by creating pathways to self-sufficiency through effective rehabilitation services and meaningful partnerships.

We Value
Collaboration
Social Justice
An Outcome Focus
Opportunities for New Beginnings

One Juvenile Justice System

Shared Goal
Public safety while providing rehabilitation to help youth become successful adults, return to the community, and avoid crimes in the future.
Background: Overall improvement with fewer identified youth in juvenile justice, but increase in percentage of identified youth of color

Fewer percent of all youth are securely held (county and state)

2010: 0.36% (24,266)  →  2015: 0.27% (19,181)  ↓ 25%

Higher percent of identified youth of color are securely held as compared to other populations (county and state)

2010: 39%  ↑  2015: 46%  ↑ 18%

Source: Partnership Council for Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Rehabilitation
Current State: Racial and ethnic disparity exists and increases at each level of the juvenile justice system

State Population Age 10-17 (706,491)

- 27% Identified Youth of Color
- 64% White Youth
- 9% Asian/Unknown

Referral to Prosecutor (22,980)

- 39% Identified Youth of Color
- 55% White Youth
- 6% Asian/Unknown

Detention (19,181)

- 43% Identified Youth of Color
- 53% White Youth
- 4% Asian/Unknown

Juvenile Rehabilitation (849)

- 51% Identified Youth of Color
- 45% White Youth
- 4% Asian/Unknown

“Identified Youth of Color” used throughout this presentation includes African-American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American youth.

Source: Partnership Council for Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Rehabilitation

Current State: The identified racial and ethnic groups have higher detention percentages than their percent of the general population.

- African American Youth: 2.5 times more
- Hispanic/Latino Youth: 1.1 times more
- Native American Youth: 3.5 times more

Source: Partnership Council for Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Rehabilitation
Current State: Racial disparities in county juvenile detention vary

Source: Partnership Council for Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Rehabilitation
Problem: School-to-prison pipeline: suspension and expulsions lead to dropout and arrest

Percent of Students Suspended/Expelled by Race (2014)

- Being suspended from school is a strong predictor of high school dropout (stronger than poverty, high number of school moves, or not living with both biological parents)
- Youth who drop out of high school are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested
- Identified youth of color students have disproportionately high percentages of dropouts

From the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Performance Data Analytics on Discipline
Problem: **School-to-prison pipeline**

Four Top Behaviors Associated with Suspensions or Expulsions (2013-2015)

Example for how chart reads: Among suspensions or expulsions of black students, 22% of those incidents were attributed to disruptive conduct.

![Chart showing top behaviors associated with suspensions or expulsions](chart.png)

From the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Performance Data Analytics on Discipline

---

**Strategies:**

- **Community, county, state partnerships**

  **Community**
  - Now
    - Communities of color engagement
    - At-risk youth grants
    - Community-based grants sponsored by Representative Pettigrew
    - Local development of school discipline alternatives
  - Future
    - Engage law enforcement
    - School districts address discipline data and policies (HB1541)

  **County**
  - Now
    - Data analysis and targeted action at each county
    - Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
  - Future
    - Implementation of Block Grant Racial and Ethnic Disparities Plans
    - Discussion with Court Administrators about laws that contribute to disparities
Strategies:

Community, county, state partnerships

**Now**
- Block grant pass through dollars requires racial and ethnic disparity reduction plan
- Reentry focus supports youth of color being successful upon release
- Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice: Arrest and Referral focus
- HB1541: Student Reengagement Plans, education for suspended youth

**Future**
- Professional staff dedicated full-time to Racial and Ethnic Disparities work

**Now**
- Results Washington attention to disparities
- Reentry Council and Executive Order

**Future**
- Increase engagement of communities of color
- Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements
Community Partner: Washington Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Grant recipient

Alma Rabadan
Youth Services Coordinator
Yakima Police Activity League (Y-PAL)

Y-PAL is designed to support Latino youth development and reduce criminal street gang activity through programs that:
- Strengthen families
- Improve school performance
- Promote pro-social development and success among youths

Community Partner: Washington Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention Grant recipient

Victoria Woodards
President/CEO Tacoma Urban League
Male Involvement Program (MIP)

- MIP is a youth violence prevention program for middle school males of color
- MIP teaches alternate options for:
  - Reducing conflict
  - Managing anger
  - Avoiding violence
- MIP provides:
  - Structured dialogue
  - Culture specific exercises
  - Group mentoring
  - Mentoring and direction from adult males of color

[Video]
Assistance Needed: We all have part of the answer
How can the Goal Council or Governor help?

1. **Provide leadership that fully addresses issues that lead youth to the door of juvenile justice:**
   - Arrest and referral, school discipline, opportunities for prevention and treatment

2. **Deepen community engagement and voice in policy-making**
   - Review and respond to data by race and ethnicity
   - Look for unique and direct ways to engage youth of color

3. **Support changes to legislation that clearly leads to racial and ethnic disparities**
   - Auto decline
   - Penalties instead of services

4. **Support your own community’s implementation of the Education Opportunity Gap bill (HB1541)**
   - Review discipline and attendance data and participate in School Discipline policy improvement
   - Recruit racially diverse teachers
   - Enhance culture competence of educators – curriculum review
   - Support educators with English as a second language learners

5. **Read, learn, and act:**
   - *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
   - *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson
   - Act:
     - Get involved where you are at
     - Be analytical and strategic about addressing the issue
     - Take a stand for juvenile justice and improved equity and fairness
## Detailed Action Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Task Lead</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work with counties and juvenile courts to come up with a more precise plan to reduce RED – develop creative approaches in future applications for successful RED reduction plans</td>
<td>John Clayton</td>
<td>Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators</td>
<td>Increased awareness of and direct action at county level regarding reducing disparities for youth of color who enter the county juvenile justice system</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>2/1/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership council utilizes limited available funds to target RED reduction in local communities</td>
<td>Director of Office of Juvenile Justice and Gordon Henry, Chair of WA-PCJJ</td>
<td>Clark and Spokane, WA-PCJJ</td>
<td>Pilots in Clark and Spokane expected to show what works/what doesn’t with school and law enforcement initiatives</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>6/30/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reach out to local jurisdictions to encourage local initiatives, community involvement, and provide seed money</td>
<td>John Clayton, Director of Office of Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>OEO, OSPI, PCJJ</td>
<td>Promote local ownership and action by the communities most impacted by racial inequities in the juvenile justice system</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>6/30/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support school-JJ partnerships – convene community partners to discuss efforts and strategies</td>
<td>Kathleen Harvey, Director of Office of Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>OEO, OSPI, Black School Administrators</td>
<td>Identify on-the-ground strategies that support RED reduction</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>12/1/16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more current information see our updated [Action Trackers](#).