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August/2016



JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE — JDAI

DAKOTA COUNTY JUVENILE DATA TRENDS

Dakota County Juvenile Corrections continues to closely monitor and track key indicators of out-of-home placements including:

1. Number of youth screened for detention/detention alternatives (using the Risk Assessment Instrument or RAI)
2. Number of detentions
3. Number of staff overrides of RAI scores
4. Number of youth entering the Juvenile Services Center (JSC) due to probation violations
5. Total number of youth of color admitted.

In this issue of the JDAI newsletter, we will look more closely at this last indicator, comparing the first two quarters for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016. JSC admissions encompass all youth who entered the JSC, both pre and post adjudication, including those who were released, sent to detention alternatives, or detained. In the 1st quarter of 2016, data showed how, if the rate of admissions remained constant, Dakota County would be on track to have more JSC admissions in 2016 than the previous two years. Data for the 2nd quarter shows Dakota County is still on that track.

the percentage of youth of color (YOC) in the facility for both quarters was 46%. In 2015, the YOC percentage increased to 52% and was 53 by the end of the 2nd quarter of 2016.

Chart B

JSC Admissions Q1 & Q2 2015-2016

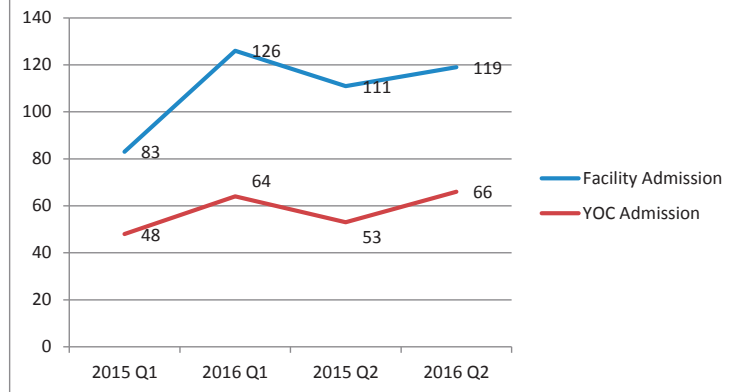


Chart B shows a quarterly comparison between 2015 and 2016. In the 1st quarter of 2016, there were 43 more overall admissions and 16 more YOC admissions than the 1st quarter of 2015. Despite the overall increase from the previous year, there is a 5% decrease in numbers of admissions from 126 in the 1st quarter to 119 in the 2nd. The number of YOC admissions into the facility increased slightly from 64 in the 1st quarter to 66 in the 2nd quarter. Coupling the YOC numbers with the declining overall admission numbers means that the percentage of YOC admitted to the JSC increased from 50% to 55%.

Chart A

JSC Admission Q1 & Q2 Combined

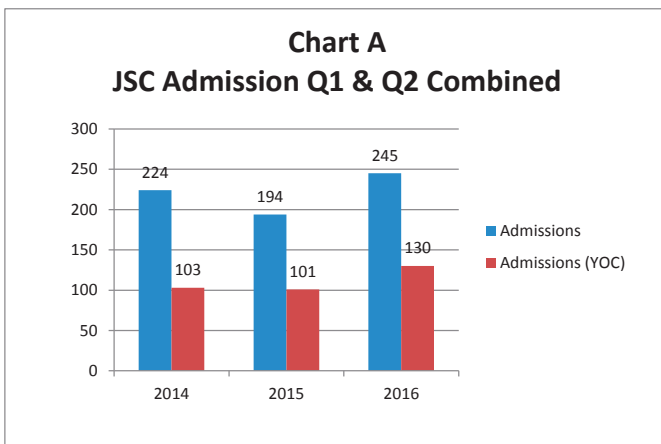
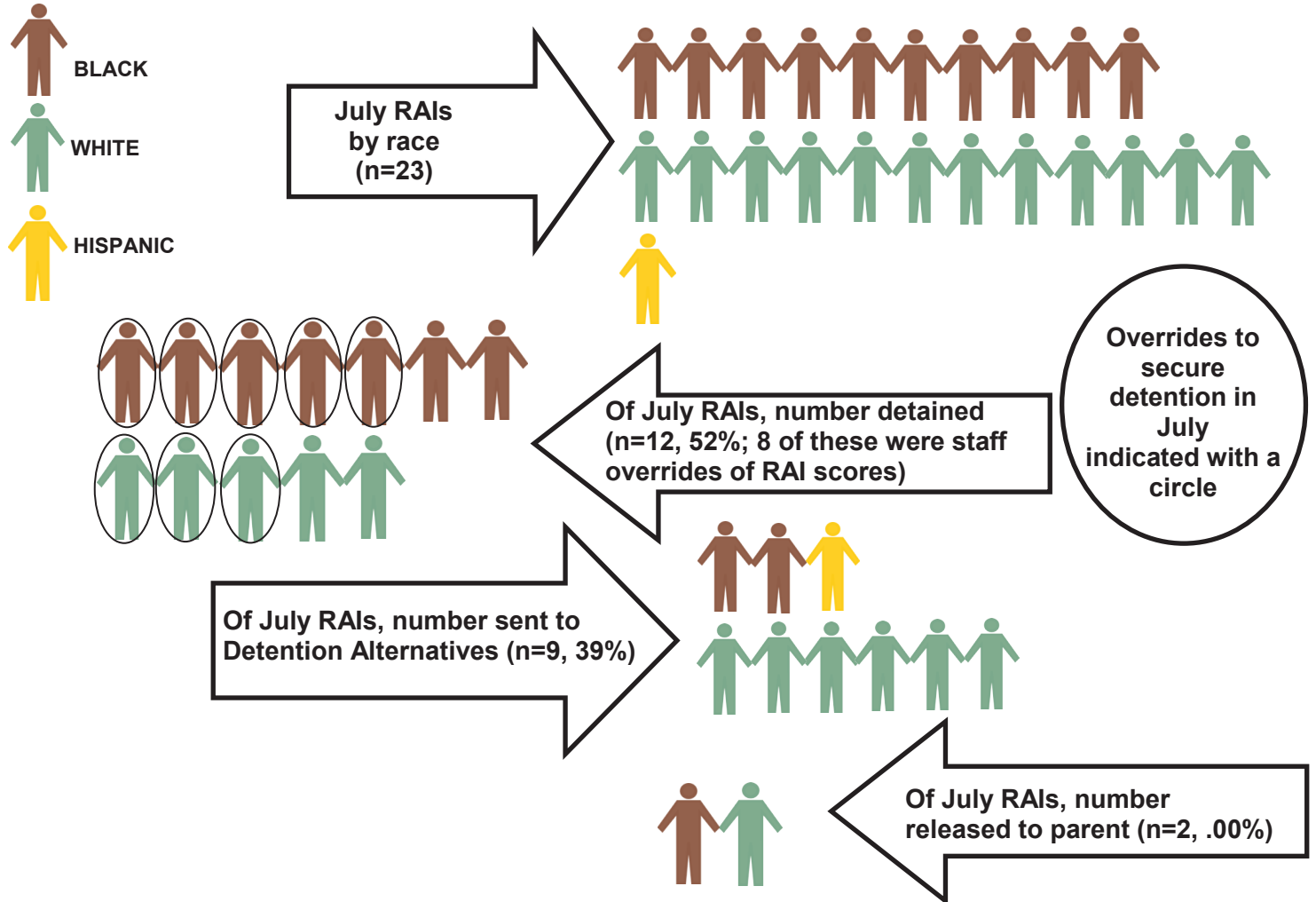


Chart A compares the combined 1st and 2nd quarter JSC admissions for the years 2014-2016. In 2014,

Although the numbers are preliminary, it is clear there is an disproportionate number of YOC admitted into the JSC. Dakota County’s JDAI work this year continues to move in the right direction. Keeping an eye on key indicators and exploring other factors pertaining to out-of-home placement will further the work of JDAI.

Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI): July Screening Results

Dakota County's Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) is the product of collaboration between Community Corrections, local law enforcement, the County Attorney's Office, and public defenders. According to Minnesota state law, secure detention can only be used between the time of arrest and first court appearance if a juvenile is a risk to public safety, and/or at risk of failing to appear for his/her first court hearing. The RAI uses objective criteria to determine a juvenile's risk level. Juveniles who pose low levels of risk are released to their families. Those who pose moderate risks may be sent to detention alternatives such as a shelter or foster care, while juveniles who pose the highest risks are held in secure detention at the JSC. RAI results may be overridden under certain circumstances by a judge or a JSC supervisor.



Placement Decisions by Race: 2016 Year to Date

Outcome	White	Black	Hispanic	Am. Indian	Asian	Other	Total
Released to ATD*	24	17	4	0	0	0	45
Shelter	19	15	2	0	0	0	36
GPS	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
House Arrest	3	2	2	0	0	0	7
Released to Parent/Guardian	4	5	2	0	0	0	11
Held in Secure Detention	49	53	11	3	3	2	121
Total	77	75	17	3	3	2	177

* Alternative to Detention

EPILOGUE: NAVIGATING THE EXPUNGEMENT PROCESS

In February's issue of the JDAI newsletter, we heard the story of a young woman named Ellie (not her real name). Ellie was on a journey through the criminal records expungement process. We saw a glimpse of her frustrations but also her optimism that she would be able to overcome the choices of her past. Since that issue, Ellie, now 21 years old, worked diligently through the process, seeking legal advice from attorneys, support of her family, and assistance from colleagues and friends.

On July 26, 2016, with an army of friends, family, her former probation officer, and other caring adults, Ellie presented her case in Dakota County Court. She spoke of the changes she made in her life to provide herself with a better future and how opportunities would open for her once her juvenile record was expunged. Ellie's petition was granted, expunging her juvenile record. Here's the epilogue to her story.

"The hardest part of the process was representing myself. I didn't know what I needed to do, what needed to be sent to the court, or even how many copies I needed to make. I sought out advice from an attorney but I had to figure it out mostly on my own.

However, once the petition was submitted and the court date was set, it was pretty much a breeze. I mostly just had a lot of anticipation about what would happen. I expected to get a lot more information in the mail about what to expect as far as what the judge would be asking me or if there was any other paperwork I needed to send. But I didn't get anything, just the date and time of the hearing.

The day of the court hearing, I was very nervous, but having the support of my family and friends was helpful. My former probation officer was there and that meant a lot to me. I also had other people there who know me and could support me.

Looking back on that day, when the judge asked me if I had anything else to say, I realized that was my moment. That was the time to have my voice heard, to use my words to explain my story and why I deserved another chance.

Once the judge said she would sign the petition I was excited!

My plan is to move forward with childcare now that I have nothing holding me back. I want to share my story as inspiration so that others don't have to go through what I did. I want to help others have the information that I didn't have.

I look forward to working with Dakota County in the future and spreading my message to other youth involved in the justice system."

ELIMINATING RACIAL DISPARITIES COMMITTEE

The ERD committee meeting for July was cancelled due to the Annie E. Casey Foundation site visit.

The next ERD Committee meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2016, in the JSC Training Room, noon - 1:30pm

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