

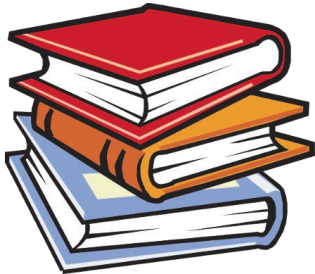
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JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE — JDAI

SHUTTING OFF THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE: SCHOOL CHARGING REDUCED

The American Civil Liberties Union coined the term “School to Prison Pipeline” to refer to “policies and practices that push schoolchildren, especially our most at-risk children, out of classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.” Dakota County’s JDAI has worked with local schools to dismantle the School-to-Prison Pipeline in our communities. Through a combination of education and programming, we are beginning to see movement in the right direction. But disparities persist, indicating considerable work remains. Reducing school based justice system referrals will remain a priority in 2016.



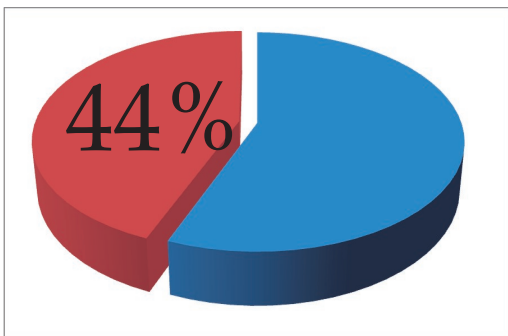
31%

Percent decrease in the number of cases (343) referred for prosecution during the 2014-2015 school year.



500

Average number of cases per year that were referred for prosecution by Dakota County schools for school years 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-2011.



Percent of school referrals into the justice system that were for “disorderly conduct,” with behaviors ranging from disrespectful to aggressive.

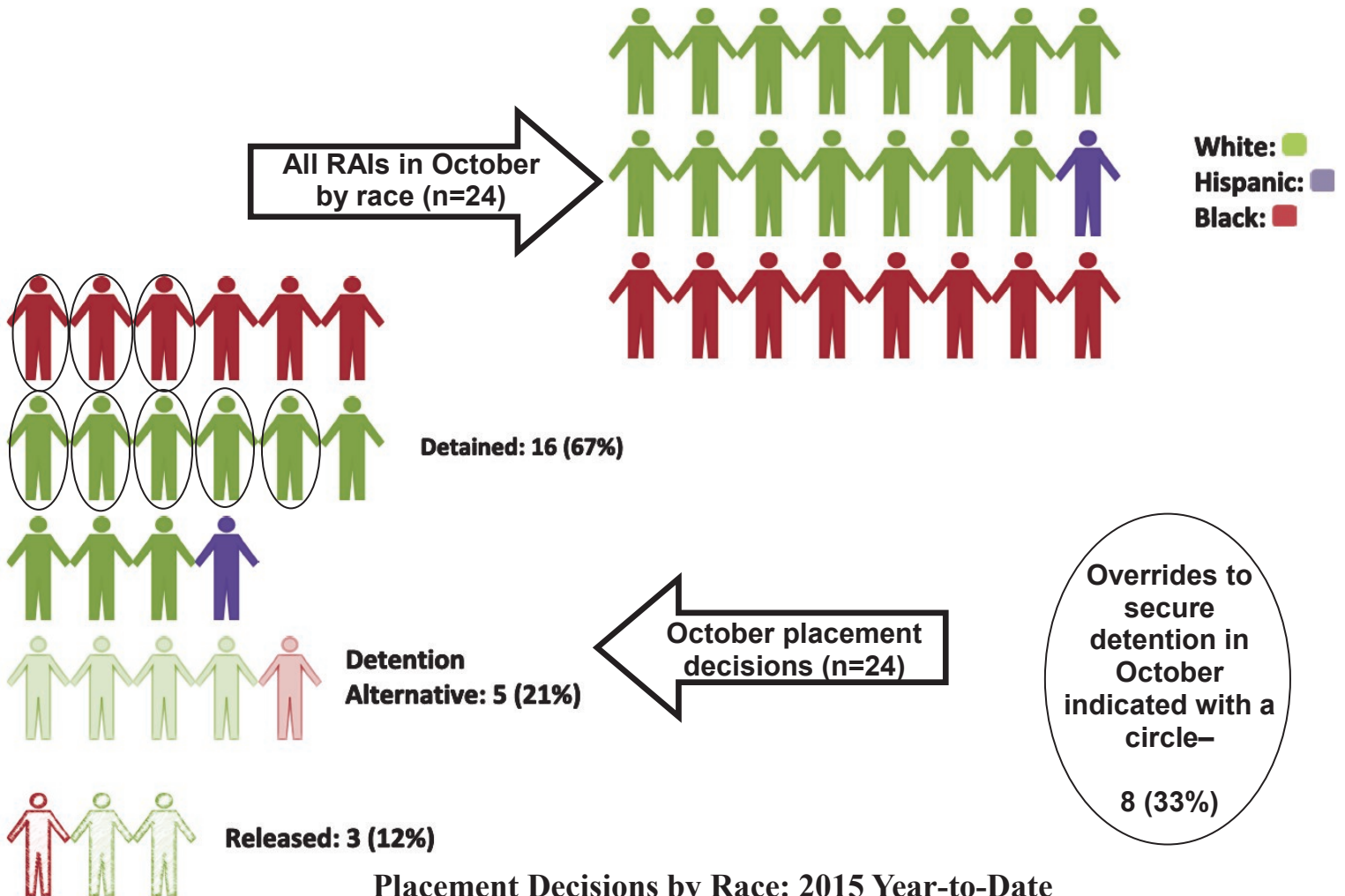


6.5 times

Rate at which Black juveniles in Dakota County are referred for charging for school related behavior compared to White juveniles.

Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI): October Screening Results

Dakota County's Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) is the product of collaboration of 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.



Outcome	White	Black	Hispanic	Am. Indian	Asian	Total
Released to ATD*	36 (34.5%)	20 (27%)	9 (38%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	66
Shelter	28	19	4	0	1	52
GPS	2	0	0	0	0	2
House Arrest	6	1	5	0	0	12
Released to Parent/Guardian	10 (9.5%)	12 (16%)	2 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	24
Held in Secure Detention	58 (56%)	42 (57%)	13 (54%)	4 (100%)	1 (100%)	118
Total	104 (50%)	74 (35.5%)	24 (11.5%)	4 (2%)	2 (1%)	208

* Alternative to Detention

2015 JDAI Workplan Update

ELIMINATING RACIAL DISPARITIES (ERD) COMMITTEE

The ERD Committee continued discussion on next steps to partner with local School Resource Officers. One idea was to host a presentation/panel discussion on effective alternatives to charging. The County Attorney's Office agreed to the effort by coordinating logistics and securing POST credit.

The group reviewed 2014-2015 Prioritizing Prosecution in Schools data. It was noted that there has been a substantial decrease in the number of charges coming from schools. The committee will look at ways to collaborate with schools that have reduced charging numbers— can they provide ideas and support to other schools?

The group continued its discussion of 2nd Quarter JSC data, identifying the need for orientation of new judges as a priority. Judge Mayer volunteered to host a JDAI event to facilitate this process.

The next ERD Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2015, in the JSC Training Room, noon –1:30 p.m.

JUVENILE ADVISORY COUNCIL (JAC)

The Community JAC continued its work on collateral consequences and expungement. The group worked to develop a brochure for juveniles on probation to include information regarding steps they can take to prepare for possible expungement requests after they leave probation. A representative of the Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services agreed to meet with the group to provide information to accurately describe the expungement process.

The Juvenile Service Center (JSC) JAC continued work to refine its strategies for expanding family engagement. The group settled on recommending expansion of visiting times and a broader list of who is allowed to visit residents of the JSC. JSC JAC members will further develop proposals before they are presented to the JSC Staff Council, and eventually to Corrections managers and the JDAI Executive Committee.

SEARCH INSTITUTE AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Search Institute, long recognized for work on identifying developmental assets to help promote positive change for youth, recently published *Don't Forget the Families..* The study highlights the power of family relationships as a critical, but often neglected, factor in the development of character strengths in children. The study recommends six shifts for organizations, communities and others who work with families to nurture key character strengths and supporting children's success in school and life:

1. Listen first to families rather than just developing and sending messages that don't resonate or motivate.
2. Focus on building relationships with families, rather than only providing programs.
3. Highlight families' strengths, even amid challenges, rather than adopting and designing approaches based on negative stereotypes.
4. Encourage families to experiment with new practices that fit into their lives, rather than giving them expert advice on what they need to do.
5. Emphasize parenting as a relationship more than a set of techniques.
6. Broaden coalitions focused on young people's success to actively engage families as a focal point for strengthening developmental relationships.

The full report can be found at: <http://www.search-institute.org/research/developmental-relationships/families> .

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