



Governor Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg  
San Wong, Director

## **IOWA'S TITLE II FORMULA GRANT 3-YEAR PLAN 2018 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Foreword**

The Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR), Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) serves as the State Planning Agency (SPA) for the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA). CJJP also houses the State of Iowa's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). Additionally, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) serves as the JJDPA mandated State Advisory Group (SAG).

In September 2017, the JJAC held a planning retreat related to improving the juvenile justice system in Iowa. During this retreat, the JJAC reviewed relevant juvenile justice data, trends and research in order to develop priorities for the next three years.

This summary provides an overview of the data examined, the priorities that were developed, and the collaborative efforts that are the core of Iowa's Three-Year Plan for the JJDPA Title II Formula Grant for the years of 2018 to 2020. Iowa will use funding (\$400,000) from the 2018 JJDPA formula grant to support these priority areas.

### **Background and Data**

CJJP collects, manages, and analyzes a variety of data focused on improving the juvenile justice system in Iowa. Most of this data is maintained in the Iowa Justice Data Warehouse (JDW). The data used includes graduation rates, suspensions, complaints (referrals to JCS), charges, diversions, petitions filed by JCS, adjudications, detention holds, formal probations, waivers to criminal (adult) court, and studies of unique populations.

The following bullet points highlight selected statewide data depicted within the full report. The statistics are categorized by the section they appear under within the report. They are not specific to any judicial district, region or county.

DATA AND REMARKS PROVIDED BELOW ARE INCLUDED TO DEMONSTRATE THE NEED FOR CONTINUED JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM THROUGH HIGHLIGHTING SELECT JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM DATA POINTS

**16%**

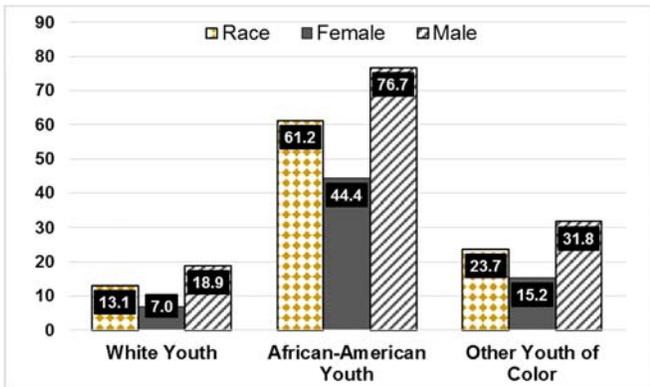
THE YOUTH POPULATION IN IOWA DECREASED 1.7% FOR WHITE YOUTH, YET INCREASED **16%** FOR MINORITY YOUTH.



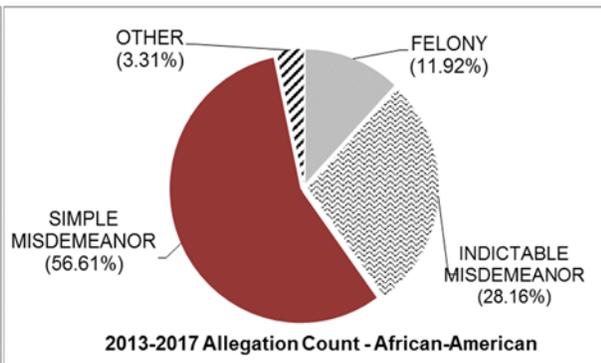
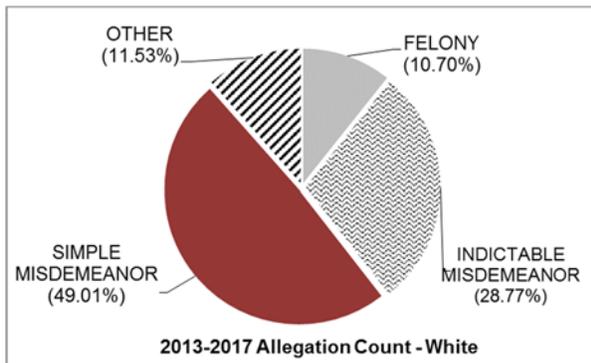
ALL YOUTH OF COLOR HAVE GRADUATION RATES LOWER THAN WHITE YOUTH

**21%**

MINORITY ENROLLMENT IN IOWA INCREASED **21.4%**, WHILE WHITE ENROLLMENT DECREASED 2.5%.



SUSPENSION RATES FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN YOUTH ARE **4.7 TIMES** HIGHER THAN THOSE OF WHITE YOUTH.



- CURRENT DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT (DMC) WORK ADDRESSES JUVENILE ENTRY INTO THE SYSTEM, WHICH RESULTS IN THE LARGE COMPOSITIONS OF MISDEMEANORS.
- THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF OVER-REPRESENTATION ARE AT THE FRONT END OF JUVENILE JUSTICE PROCESSING FOR THE LOWEST LEVEL OF OFFENSE.

TRENDS IN  
JUVENILE JUSTICE DECISION POINTS  
DECREASED



**17.4%** FOR COMPLAINTS



**15.3%** FOR DIVERSIONS



**5.1%** FOR PETITIONS



**11.8%** FOR ADJUDICATIONS



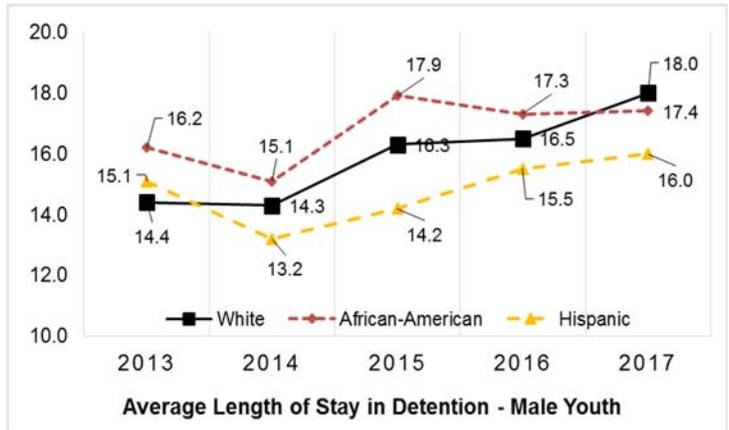
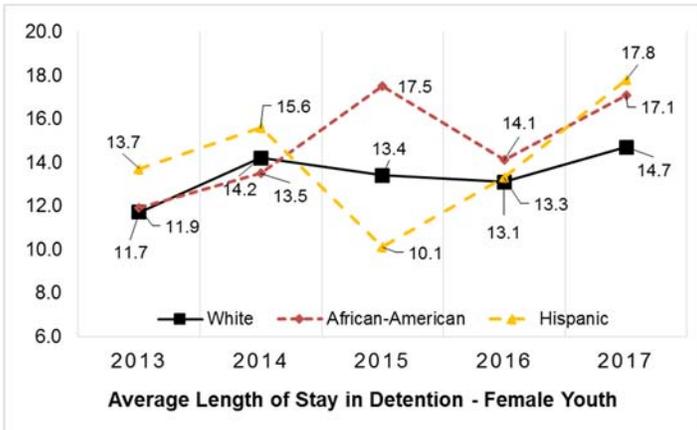
**10.1%** FOR FORMAL PROBATIONS



**29.4%** FOR ADULT COURT WAIVERS

**21.1%**

STATEWIDE  
DETENTION HOLDS  
DECREASED **21.1%**  
FROM 2013 TO 2017.

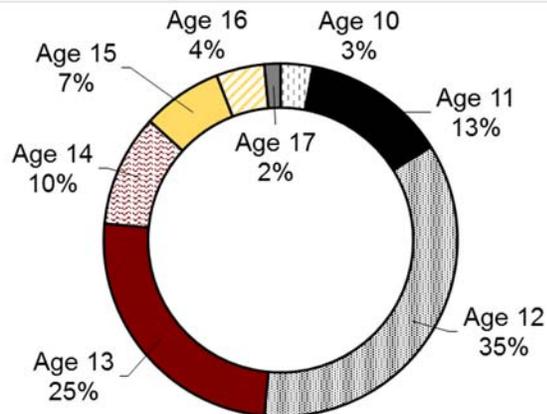


THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY FOR  
DETENTION HOLDS INCREASED FOR  
ALL RACE AND GENDER GROUPS.

## Age at First Offense

is one of a limited number of static factors able to predict likely recidivism

- IN THE SERIOUS, VIOLENT, CHRONIC FEMALE OFFENDERS COHORT, 52 OF 68 FEMALES (76%) WERE 13 OR YOUNGER WHEN THEY RECEIVED THEIR FIRST COMPLAINT.
- OF THOSE 52 GIRLS AGE 13 OR YOUNGER, 44% WERE AFRICAN-AMERICAN, AND 46% WERE WHITE.



Age at First Complaint - STS Eligible Females

## **Three-Year Priorities**

The following priority areas were identified during the September 2017 planning retreat. During subsequent council meetings and meetings of the council's sub-committees these priorities were further developed to include goals, objectives, and action steps. The following summary includes the priority area and goals.

### **Priority: Effective and Promising Practices**

- Goal One: Adoption of evidence and research based juvenile justice practices statewide.
- Goal Two: Collaborate with key juvenile justice entities to support innovative and promising practices that show the potential to develop a research/evidence base, particularly for marginalized populations.

### **Priority: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Trauma**

- Goal One: Raise awareness of the inter-relation between mental health, substance abuse, trauma and delinquency.
- Goal Two: Determine what pathways, if any, exist for collecting data on mental health, substance use, and trauma among delinquent youth.
- Goal Three: Examine need for a sub-committee or other means for conducting this work.

### **Priority: Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)**

- Goal One: Minimize system contact for low risk youth of color by developing formal, statewide diversion opportunities through implementation of structures and policies at early juvenile justice system processing.
- Goal Two: Formalize collaboration with Iowa Task Force for Young Women
- Goal Three: Investigate issues regarding refugee and immigrant youth with the intent of eventually informing and educating JCO's and judges.
- Goal Four: Research and affect change for deep-end youth of color eligible for State Training School (STS) placement according to Iowa Code §232.52(2).

### **Priority: Female Equity**

- Goal One: Make the experiences and needs of girls who are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system (i.e. black, native, and LGBT youth) central to the ongoing work of the ITFYW.
- Goal Two: Establishment of a specialized setting(s) for serious, violent, and chronic offenders as well a systemic measures to reduce the need for such a setting as outlined in the recommendations of the Iowa Girls Justice Initiative report.
- Goal Three: Fill the gaps and improve the quality in the continuum of care for girls in both residential and community-based services settings with well-defined options that allow for differential responses based on culture, risk level, development and needs.
- Goal Four: Dedicated state funds for equitable treatment of females in the juvenile justice system.

### **Priority: Compliance Monitoring**

- Goal One: Maintain Iowa's compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act's core requirements of Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, sight & sound separation, jail removal, and Disproportionate Minority Contact.

## Projects and Initiatives

To achieve these priorities and goals the CJJP and JJAC will work with multiple national, federal, state, and local partners and systems. The primary strategy is to align with current state and local initiatives; including, the Juvenile Justice System Improvement (JJSI) project, the Juvenile Reentry System (JReS) Task Force, and the Governor’s Children System State Board. Additionally, CJJP and JJAC will utilize technical assistance from national experts, and partner with Juvenile Court Services (JCS), State Court Administration, Department of Human Services, law enforcement, juvenile detention, and local initiatives and planning groups.

The collaborative process of these activities will provide meaningful and long-lasting change in policy and practice that will improve the juvenile justice system, and support programs and services that will improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.

### **Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project**

The JJSI project was initiated with a grant from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for the purpose of developing a comprehensive statewide plan to improve Iowa’s juvenile justice system. The project has allowed CJJP and other state stakeholders to partner with national experts from the Council of State Governments Justice Center, National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown to conduct an extensive, statewide assessment of Iowa’s juvenile justice system in order to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Six working groups have been established to examine the identified priorities and create a plan for improvement and implementation. These small working groups will continue to have the benefit of national resources and leadership from partners throughout the project. The topic areas for the six working groups and how they align with the juvenile justice priorities of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council’s 3-year plan:

<b>JJSI Working Group Tasks</b>	<b>Related JJAC Priority Area</b>
Support/Revise the Detention Screening Tool Establish statewide policies for Detention	Effective/Promising Practices
Establish statewide policies for screening and diversion Identify needed enhancements to Iowa Court Information Systems to improve data collection	Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Trauma
Develop statewide opportunities for pre-charge diversion Identify communities for intensive DMC efforts/TTA Support trainings on implicit/explicit bias to reduce DMC	DMC
Identify youth access to mental health care improvements Develop a service inventory by Judicial District	Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Trauma & Effective/Promising Practices

Address lack of services for serious, violent females Examine adult waivers and extended jurisdiction	Female Equity
Make structural changes to Court Administration and JCS to improve standardization, procurement, delivery, quality assurance, and oversight	Effective/Promising Practices

### **Juvenile Reentry System Task Force**

Iowa receives support and technical assistance from OJJDP’s 2nd Chance Grant to plan and implement a juvenile reentry system. Research reflects that Iowa’s recidivism rate in 2012 for delinquent youth returning from the Iowa Boy’s State Training School at Eldora was 71% overall, and 83% for African-American youth. Delinquent youth returning from group care placement have recidivism rates of 48% overall, and 60% for African-American youth. A diverse, state-level Juvenile Reentry Task Force (JRTF) was created in January 2015. The JRTF developed and released a comprehensive JReS plan in July 2015. The plan seeks to reduce reentry recidivism rates by 50% over five years. Major JReS plan components being implemented include: development of a standardized structure and policy related to placement and reentry; standardization and establishment of policy related to the utilization of IDA and other assessment tools; broad engagement and participation in reentry planning related to permanency and transition planning; introduction of Youth Transition Decision Making Teams for youth returning from STS and other select group care settings; engagement of youth in evidence-based programs upon release from placement; and, Utilization of technology to better connect formal and informal supports for delinquent youth in placement.

### **Governor’s Children System State Board**

This board will establish a platform to begin developing a children’s mental health system to improve the well-being of children and families, provide educational growth and coordinate mental health care. This board will move Iowa’s children’s mental health system forward without delay, laying the groundwork for future legislation.

This board has been appointed by Governor Reynolds and will begin meeting in August 2018.

### **Local Collaborations**

Iowa will allocate the majority of the JJDP formula grant funds to the eight JCS offices. These offices are responsible for developing a local juvenile justice plan with community stakeholders and local partners. These plans need to address the specific juvenile justice needs in their respective communities, while addressing the priorities developed by the JJAC.

## Further Juvenile Justice Efforts

In addition to the above listed projects and initiatives, CJJP has specific and ongoing work around disproportionate minority contact, females in juvenile justice, the creation and use of multiple data driven tools and statewide standardization of best practices to improve the juvenile justice system in Iowa.

### **Program Narrative and Supporting Documentation**

Full versions of the [Three Year Plan Program Narrative](#) and [Juvenile Needs Analysis Data Elements](#) of the *Title II Formula Grant 3-Year Plan 2018* can be found at the [CJJP Juvenile Justice Reports Page](#).

The [Three Year Plan Program Narrative](#) provides key juvenile justice system planning data and an expanded discussion of priority areas and related project work. The [Juvenile Needs Analysis Data Elements](#) provides expanded data to assist state and local officials with policy and practice decisions. Data are provided for school discipline, charges, complaints, diversions, dispositions, detention holds and a population of serious, violent and chronic female offenders.

Some of the data are similar to those provided in the [Executive Summary of Iowa's 2018 Disproportionate Minority Contact \(DMC\) Compliance Plan](#), which also includes the 2017 DMC matrices. Similarly, there are state and local [intervention reports](#) available that are complementary to the data reports.