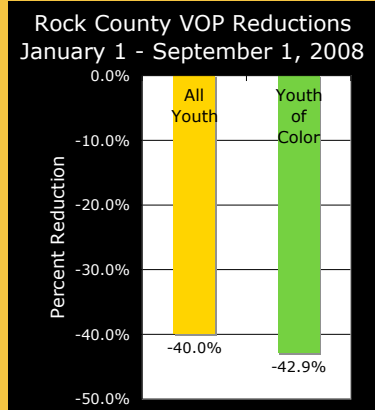


DMC eNews

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DMC Reduction: Signs of Progress



DMC Action Network sites have begun using strategic innovations to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in their jurisdictions. After only nine months of implementation, the innovations are starting to show reductions in disparities at specific decision points in some juvenile justice systems.

Above all, **most sites have dramatically improved their capacity to collect and report system data**, using the data template developed by the [W. Haywood Burns Institute](#) (as discussed in [DMC](#)

[eNews Issue #3](#)). The BI data enables system stakeholders to track the effectiveness of strategic innovations.

Rock County, Wisconsin, has reached 100% in reporting BI data. County officials also implemented a **graduated sanctions and rewards grid** for youth on probation and truant youth. The grid includes incentives for good behavior, developed by identifying community resources. Rewards include professional basketball tickets and food coupons at local restaurants. A supervisor's approval is now required before detention can be used as a sanction. This process supports the use of alternatives. From January 1 to September 1, 2008, violations of probation (VOPs) in Rock County dropped 40 percent for all youth, and 42.9 percent for youth of color.

Berks County, Pennsylvania, is using two innovations designed to reduce disparities in detention. The County is implementing a **detention assessment instrument**, which is designed to ensure that decisions to detain youth are made as objectively as possible. Berks County is also using **alternatives to detention and residential placement**, including a new **evening reporting center**. Between the first quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2009, Berks County has seen a 45% drop in the average daily population in its detention center.

Resources

[The National Council on Crime and Delinquency](#) has released a new study, [Youth Violence Myths and Realities: A Tale of Three Cities](#), which assesses "the intersection of media coverage of youth crime, public perception, public policy, and true trends and issues in youth crime in three US cities: Dallas, Texas, Washington, DC, and San Mateo, California." The study includes interviews with system practitioners and youth, and presents recommendations for improved public awareness and better juvenile justice policy.

[The National Conference of State Legislatures](#) short report, [Minority Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: Disproportionate Minority Contact](#), serves as a brief introduction to DMC and highlights strategies that are being used to reduce it. The report is designed to inform state legislative efforts in juvenile justice.

DMC eNews reports on efforts to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact in juvenile justice systems in the [DMC Action Network](#). The network is a project of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's [Models for Change](#) initiative. The [Center for Children's Law and Policy](#) (www.cclp.org) manages the network and publishes this newsletter. Contact us at DMCeNews@cclp.org or 202-637-0377 x108.



DMC Story Bank

Tackling School Referrals

In Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, minority youth are 1/3 of the population, but were 2/3 of the youth arrested. Digging deeper, we found that 1/3 of arrests came from the schools, most for minor offenses. To address this, we brought school system officials into our committees.

After seeing high arrest numbers from their schools, some administrators began working to solve student conflicts themselves instead of having the student arrested. Schools also began instituting Positive Behavior Support (PBS).

Arrest referrals dropped in two schools, but have not decreased overall yet. Ongoing challenges include changes in administration and police officers on campuses where there were none before. We expect training for officers and school staff and continued use of PBS to address these issues.

Tell us (in 120 words or fewer) how you've engaged your community in DMC reduction. Email DMCeNews@cclp.org