



The Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center

Juvenile Justice Evaluation Partnerships: A Focus on Detention by Statistical Analysis Centers (SACS)

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Who is JRSA?

- Organization of state Statistical Analysis Centers (SACS), researchers, and practitioners throughout government, academia and criminal justice organizations
- JRSA work focuses on policy-relevant justice research and issues
- SACS
 - Criminal justice research departments in each state
 - Created through federal legislation and are federally supported by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)
 - Collect, analyze, and disseminate justice data
 - Contribute to state policies through statistical services, research, evaluation, and policy analysis

Juvenile Justice Evaluation Partnership Projects

- Activity of the Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center (JJEC) of JRSA
- JJEC is funded by OJJDP to enhance capacity of states to conduct juvenile justice evaluations
- Purpose of partnership projects is to facilitate the development of relationships at the State level between SACS and State Advisory Groups (SAGS) to help build evaluation capacity *and* enhance States' capacities to evaluate their juvenile justice programs, policies and initiatives

Juvenile Justice Evaluation Partnership Projects (cont.)

- Competitive awards by JRSA to SACS for 9 month projects
- Projects must be supported by the juvenile justice specialist or SAG Chair and demonstrate how activities will be of use to the SAG
- Awarded annually since 1999
- Each year projects focus on a particular theme

Themes of Partnership Projects

- 1999 and 2000: no theme
- 2001: Disproportionate Minority Confinement
- 2002: Gender-Specific Programming
- 2003: Use of Secure Detention and Alternatives To Secure Detention For Juveniles

2003 Partnership Projects

- Illinois
 - Addresses lack of information about detention screening and detainment.
- Iowa
 - 1) identify the scope and nature of alternatives to secure detention services 2) examine the trends in the use of secure detention 3) research the relationship between secure detention and alternatives to secure detention 4) find out why and how decisions are made regarding the use of secure detention and alternatives to secure detention.

2003 Partnership Projects (Cont.)

- Nebraska
 - Automate the data collected by two rural detention centers to produce reports on who is being detained, the history of juveniles who are detained, and reasons why youth are detained.
- Vermont
 - 1) better understand the flow of juveniles through detention 2) reduce the use of detention for juveniles for whom other alternatives would be adequate (provided alternatives are available) 3) reduce use of the locked detention facility, and thereby increase the ability to respond to juveniles needing short-term detention 4) develop more objective measures to determine when detention is the most appropriate option.

2003 Partnership Projects (Cont.)

- 2003 projects will be completed in early 2004
- Project descriptions and/or final reports are available on the JJEC web site (www.jrsa.org/jjec/state_info/sacs.html)



For more information contact JJEC at:

<http://www.jrsa.org/jjec>

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