

October 2012

Kids Count Special Report: JUVENILE JUSTICE



Measuring Change in
New Jersey's Treatment
of Young Offenders



Giving Every Child A Chance

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Giving Every Child A Chance

Kids Count Special Report: **Juvenile Justice**

October 2012

By Nancy Parello

When Dujon was arrested at age 17 for selling marijuana, the Jersey City youth didn't go to jail. He got a job. He got counseling. He got back on the right track.

His arrest led him into a program where he learned how to write a resume, conduct himself in an interview and, ultimately, be a dependable employee — all skills that will enable him to work while he finishes high school. These are good outcomes for Dujon and his family, but also for his neighbors, his community and the state as a whole.

Dujon benefited from a relatively new approach to young offenders. Instead of locking kids up, New Jersey now helps get them on a productive path, while ensuring they are well-supervised and not a threat to public safety. That's because research shows that locking up young offenders does little to protect the public, is costly and often makes it more likely these youth will eventually commit serious crimes.¹

For years, New Jersey did lock up juvenile offenders at alarming rates, often for minor offenses, cramming youth into overcrowded county detention centers and holding children there when they really needed mental health treatment or other services. At that time, there were simply few alternatives. In fact, in a 2004 report, the now-defunct New Jersey Office of the Child Advocate found that many youth were inappropriately confined to detention for extended periods of time.

“Although children should only be detained in limited instances to promote public safety, youth with low-level offenses, including disorderly persons offenses, and no history of flight or dangerousness, are detained in New Jersey because alternative placements and services are scarce,” the New Jersey Child Advocate wrote in 2004. “The primary reason many of these youth are in detention is because the county detention center, unlike the schoolhouse, is the only place that cannot say no.”

Smarter, Safer and Saving Tax Dollars

That has changed.

In 2004, New Jersey embarked on an effort to reduce the number of youth unnecessarily or inappropriately placed in county detention, while protecting public safety and ensuring youth appear for court dates. Known as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), this national project, led by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is also aimed at redirecting resources to fund more effective methods of preventing juvenile crime and to improving the conditions of detention facilities for youth who must have this level of supervision.

Now, eight years later, the effort has spread to 16 counties and has resulted in dramatic decreases in the number of youth locked up, while still guarding public safety. In short, New Jersey's juvenile justice system is, by and large, smarter, safer and saving taxpayer dollars.

This special New Jersey Kids Count report provides an overview of the statistics that are compiled and used as a key part of the detention alternatives initiative. Not only do these data show the progress New Jersey has made, they should be used by policymakers to inform and guide future juvenile justice reforms.

Why Detention Doesn't Work

Juvenile detention is the temporary confinement of youth accused of a crime, while they await trial or another resolution of their case. Detention is intended to house youth who pose a serious public safety or flight risk. Most youth, however, can be safely supervised in the community through the use of electronic monitoring or other means.

Research shows that youth who are detained are more likely to be committed to an institution than youth who have not been locked up. They are also more likely to reoffend.

When a young person spends time in detention, it is more likely that he will have trouble in school and difficulty finding a job. There is also no evidence that putting children in detention improves public safety.²

Detention, therefore, should be used only for the most serious, chronic youthful offenders.

What is JDAI?

At its core, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative fosters a fundamental shift in the way prosecutors, judges, law enforcement and public defenders handle juvenile crime cases. The focus moves from locking children up to returning them to their communities quickly and safely and helping them address issues that led to criminal behavior.

This has been accomplished through various methods, which are crafted by the people on the front lines in each county. Electronic monitoring and other non-detention means of supervision are commonly used. The initiative also funnels youth into services and supports, such as job training, counseling and other assistance, designed to address the causes of the delinquent behavior.

Some counties offer after-school reporting centers that provide education and therapeutic interventions for families. Others offer recreation programs to help reduce violations of in-home detention and fulfill community service requirements. In some counties, probation officers act as education liaisons to ensure youth are re-enrolled in school. Still others provide transportation for court-involved youth to and from appointments, evaluations, court hearings and dispositional placements to reduce non-appearances, which can land a youth back in detention.

Not only do these programs provide a healthy, structured way for youth to spend time, they also aim to address issues that can cause youth to engage in delinquent behavior.

The initiative is a partnership among state agencies, including the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC), which leads the effort, the Attorney General's Office, the Judiciary and the Office of the Public Defender. In addition, the New Jersey Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement oversees the initiative and considers statewide policy and practice reform. At the local level, county councils on juvenile justice system improvement are responsible for implementing local reform. The JJC provides the staffing for both the state and local councils.

In 2011, 15 New Jersey counties participated in JDAI. They are: Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Hudson, Monmouth, Bergen, Burlington, Mercer, Ocean, Union, Passaic, Somerset, Middlesex, Cumberland, and Warren. These counties are represented in the data in this report. Gloucester joined the initiative in 2012, so statistics are not yet available for that jurisdiction. Nationally, the initiative operates in more than 125 local jurisdictions. New Jersey is the only state designated as a national model for detention reform by the Casey Foundation.

NJ Leads Nation on Detention Reform

On a national level, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative operates in more than 125 jurisdictions spanning 30 states. New Jersey, however, is the only state to be designated a national model for detention reform by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which leads the initiative.

New Jersey earned this designation in late 2008 as a result of the significant outcomes the state has achieved since the initiative began. New Jersey now receives funding from the Casey Foundation to conduct 2-day working sessions with delegations from other states interested in replicating New Jersey's success.

These delegations typically include about a dozen juvenile justice professionals, including a Supreme Court justice, legislators, heads of state departments, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, police, probation officers and others. To date, delegations from eight states have participated in New Jersey's JDAI "Model Site" Program.



Saving Taxpayer Dollars

The initiative is saving taxpayers millions of dollars in various ways.

First, youth who are held in county detention centers are more likely to be remanded to the custody of the Juvenile Justice Commission for long-term incarceration. With fewer youth in detention, the JJC has seen its population shrink by 61 percent since the initiative began. It costs \$136,000 per year to detain one youth in a JJC facility, according to the New Jersey State Budget, FY 2013.

While New Jersey does not realize that level of savings because certain secure facilities must continue to operate, the JJC has been able to consolidate programs and services and lower costs, state officials said. Prior to JDAI, census at JJC facilities had continued to climb, even as juvenile crime was dropping, state statistics show.

In addition, more than 400 youth are no longer in county detention centers on any given day. It costs an estimated \$200 a day to confine youth in detention. Four counties realized such a drop in the number of detained youth that they closed their detention centers and are now sending youth who must be detained to neighboring counties. This

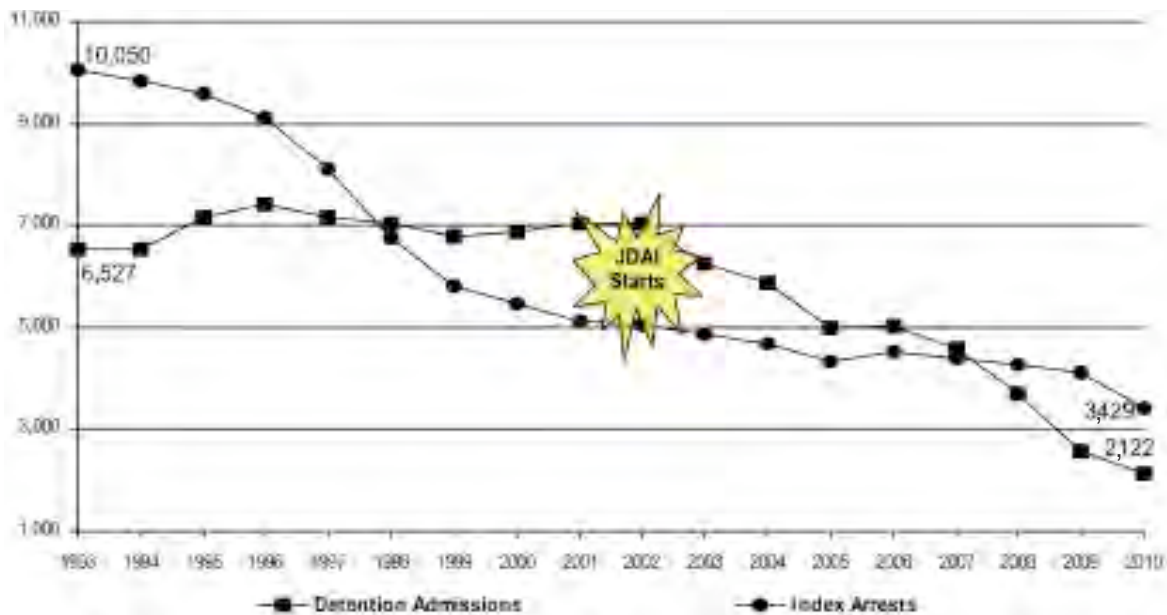
has resulted in an estimated \$16 million in savings each year, according to figures submitted by counties to the Juvenile Justice Commission. Some counties have reinvested this savings into programs and services that can help troubled youth — a smart investment that pays dividends for years to come.

JDAI Reverses Trend Toward More Detention

In the 1990s, New Jersey experienced the same drastic increase in the use of secure, institutional detention for youth, despite decreases in juvenile arrests. From 1993 to 2002, juvenile arrests for serious offenses decreased 45 percent in New Jersey and overall juvenile arrests dropped 25 percent. During the same time, the average daily population in detention increased by 38 percent and the number of youth held in Juvenile Justice Commission secure facilities held steady or increased.

This led to serious overcrowding in New Jersey's county-operated detention centers and prompted the construction of more centers. JDAI changed that.

Original JDAI Sites, Detention Admissions vs. Juvenile Index Arrests, 1993–2010



About the Stats

Most of the charts included in this report measure change from “pre-JDAI,” or before the initiative began in New Jersey, to the most current year. Because counties joined the initiative at different times, the “pre-JDAI years” are different for different counties. The following charts provide averages or totals from all the sites participating in the initiative. In Section 2, we have provided data by county for each of the indicators.

For ease of reading ACNJ rounded the numbers in this section. The percent changes however, in Section 1 are calculated based on the unrounded numbers, which may result in differences in the percent change. The unrounded numbers can be found in Section 2.

All statistics were compiled by the Juvenile Justice Commission in partnership with the local jurisdictions. The chart below shows when counties joined the initiative.

When Counties Joined JDAI

2004	Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Monmouth, Hudson
2006	Mercer, Union, Bergen, Burlington, Ocean
2009	Somerset, Passaic
2010	Middlesex, Cumberland, Warren

Use of Juvenile Detention in New Jersey

	Pre-JDAI Site Total/Average	Post-JDAI Site Total/Average(2011)	Pre-Post % Change
Admissions to Detention Facilities	10,191	4,093	-60
Average Daily Population in Detention Facilities	814	368	-55
Average Length of Stay in Detention Facilities (days)	29	32	10
Median Length of Stay in Detention Facilities (days)	12	13	13
Percentage of Youth Remaining in Detention 60 Days or More	15	17	13
Number of Juvenile Commitments to Juvenile Justice Commission Secure Facilities	1,034	407	-61
Percentage of Youth Detained for Criminal Charges	62	62	0
Percentage of Youth Detained for Violation of Probation	22	18	-16
Number of Admissions to Detention for Violation of Probation	1,729	605	-65
	2003	2010	% Change
Average Daily Population as % of Approved Capacity in Detention Facilities	97	60	-38

Reducing Reliance on Detention

Admissions to New Jersey’s county detention centers have plummeted 60 percent since the detention alternatives initiative was first introduced in 2004. In 2011, the state locked up about 6,000 fewer juveniles in one year than it did prior to JDAI implementation. On any given day, 446 fewer juveniles are spending time in a New Jersey detention center.

This has resulted in detention centers that are operating below capacity — as opposed to housing more juveniles than they are approved for, which was the case at most centers prior to the initiative. In 2010, centers in JDAI counties operated at 60 percent of capacity — a 38 percent decrease from 2003. This ranged from a low of 39 percent in Mercer to a high of 80 percent in Camden.

This shift presents an opportunity for counties to use the detention centers for purposes that can benefit youth and the communities in which they live. Retrofitting centers to serve as shelters, evening reporting centers, forensic mental health facilities and other potential uses should be actively pursued at both the county and state levels. Staff at these centers can also be re-deployed to provide other services to youth.

While detention centers are holding fewer youth, the juveniles who do go to detention tend to stay there longer.

The average length of stay has crept up 10 percent to 32 days and a higher percentage of youth are spending 60 days or more in detention. This is likely a reflection of the fact that juveniles who are detained tend to have committed more serious crimes, which take longer to adjudicate.

The fact that New Jersey is no longer locking up youth for minor offenses is also seen in a substantial 65 percent drop in the number of admissions to detention for violations of probation, which tend to be minor and able to be dealt with safely in the community.

This is significant, as previously, juveniles were routinely locked up for minor probation violations or failure to appear in court. The new practice emphasizes helping youth to meet the conditions of their probation and show up for court appearances, contributing to the substantial reduction in youth who are locked up for minor, non-violent offenses.

Where Do Youth Go?

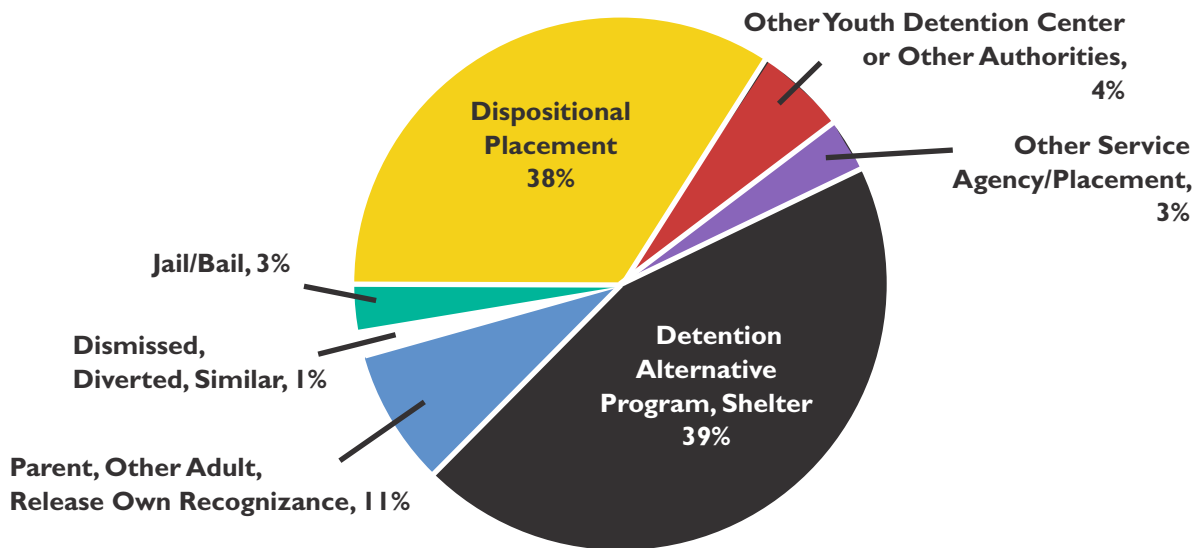
The pie chart below shows where youth go when they are released from detention. The numbers below capture only youth who spent at least some time in detention and excludes those who were immediately diverted to a detention alternative.

About one-third of youth who are arrested are immediately diverted into an alternatives program, based on a risk assessment tool that is now in use in 11 jurisdictions, according to the Juvenile Justice Commissioner. More counties are expected to begin using this tool, which should result in more youth being immediately diverted.

In 2011, most youth who spent at least some time in detention were released to a detention alternative program. This can include electronic monitoring with a “bracelet” or a GPS device, home supervision in which a probation officer or other designated person conducts frequent, unannounced visits, evening reporting centers and other types of non-detention supervision.

Roughly 11 percent of youth were released to their parents, another adult or on their own recognizance. About 39 percent were sent to a placement after their case was decided. This could be a facility with the Juvenile Justice Commission, probation or other types of supervision. The rest were placed with another agency, released on bail after being transferred to adult court (juvenile court does not allow bail), sent to a different detention center, dismissed or diverted in some other way. Since JDAI has been instituted, youth are more likely to be released with some type of supervision.

Where Youth Go After Detention



Public Safety Improves

While New Jersey was locking up fewer young offenders, juvenile crime declined significantly, with a 33 percent drop in juvenile arrests. Arrests for serious offenses, such as murder and rape, also dropped a substantial 22 percent.

In 2011, 83 percent of youth who were diverted from detention into an alternative successfully completed the program. That's an improvement from the base year, when 77 percent successfully completed.

Just 3 percent of youth re-offended while in a detention alternative, down from 5 percent in the base year, contributing to improved public safety. Roughly 15 percent of JDAI participants violated the conditions of the detention alternative, but did not commit a new crime while in the program.

Public Safety

	Pre-JDAI Site Total/Average	Post-JDAI Site Total/Average (2011)	Pre-Post % Change
Total Juvenile Arrests	53,023	35,347	-33
Juveniles Arrests for Serious Offenses*	10,327	8,090	-22

*Includes arrests for the following offenses: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft.

Detention Alternative Outcomes (Percent)

	Earliest Year Available*	2011	% Change
Youth successfully completing program	77	83	7
Youth facing new charges	5	3	-49
Youth non-compliant with probation (no new charges)	18	15	-16

* The earliest year that data are available vary for each site: 2006 for Atlantic, Camden, Essex and Monmouth counties, 2008 for Hudson, Ocean and Burlington counties, 2009 for Mercer County, 2010 for Union, Bergen and Somerset counties and 2011 for Middlesex and Warren counties. Outcomes data are not yet available for Passaic and Cumberland counties.

NJ Still Struggles with Minority Over-Representation

The decline in the use of detention has benefited all youth, but youth of color have seen the most dramatic decrease in the number of admissions to detention, plummeting 59 percent. In 2011, 5,200 fewer minority youth were sent to detention.

Still, New Jersey, like most states, continues to struggle with an over-representation of minority youth in detention. In fact, youth of color made up a slightly higher percentage of all detained youth in 2011, when compared to pre-JDAI data. In 2011, 89 percent of admissions to county detention centers were minority youth. Similar trends are seen for youth remanded to the Juvenile Justice Commission's facilities.

Youth of color are also more likely than white youth to spend more time in detention. In 2011, youth of color spent an average of 35 days in detention, compared to 26 days for white youth. They were also more likely to spend 60 days or more in detention, 18 percent compared to 12 percent of white youth detained.

This problem is pervasive in all states — not just New Jersey — and has been for many years. New Jersey has contracted with a national organization — The Burns Institute — to examine the reasons behind this persistent problem and craft solutions that could reduce the number of minority youth who are locked up. It is critical that all those working in the juvenile justice system join this effort.

Juvenile Detention, By Race

	Pre-JDAI		Post-JDAI (2011)		Pre-Post % Change	
	# Youth of Color	% Youth of Color	# Youth of Color	% Youth of Color	# Youth of Color	% Youth of Color
Number of Admissions to Detention for Youth of Color	8,854	87	3,651	89	-59	3
Average Daily Population of Youth of Color in Detention	737	91	338	92	-54	1
Youth of Color Committed to JJC	922	91	376	93	-59	2

	Pre-JDAI		Post-JDAI (2011)		Pre-Post % Change	
	Youth of Color	White Youth	Youth of Color	White Youth	Youth of Color	White Youth
Average Length of Stay (Days) in Detention for Youth of Color and White Youth	31	20	35	26	11	31
Median Length of Stay (Days) for Youth of Color and White Youth	12	9	15	11	24	33
Percentage of Youth of Color and White Youth Remaining in Detention 60 Days or More	16	9	18	12	9	40

NOTE: White youth are defined as white, non-Hispanic. Youth of color includes non-white and all Hispanic youth.

Summary

The overall success of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative is a prime example of what can happen when a group of people come together, with a common cause, to solve a common problem.

From the state to the local levels, people across New Jersey worked together to change the way New Jersey treats young offenders. Judges, prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers and others in the juvenile justice system embraced the notion that children would be better served through detention alternatives, effective programs and services and a commitment to give every youth a chance to grow into a productive adult. And they achieved results.

The JDAI success also points to another critical aspect of juvenile justice — children should be treated differently than adults in all areas, including juvenile crime. Our chances of putting youth on a productive path are improved tremendously when we address the issues that led to delinquent behavior. Not only is this good for youth, it is good for our communities and the state as a whole.

ACNJ has long monitored the functioning of the juvenile justice system through reports, analysis and by working closely with state agencies and others involved in the system. ACNJ hopes that this report is used to drive further change to the juvenile justice system so that detention for juveniles is used in only the most extreme and unpreventable cases.



A Tale of Two Teens: Hugo and Jeffrey

They both grew up in Atlantic City. They both committed the same crime — robbery. For both, it was their first offense. And they were both young and impulsive when they made the bad decision to break the law.

That's where the similarities end.

Jeffrey, now in his early 20s, was arrested in 2007, before reforms to New Jersey's juvenile justice system had taken firm hold.

Hugo was arrested in 2012, when the shift to helping young offenders get on the right path — instead of locking them up — had taken root in many counties, including Atlantic.

The boys were placed on two drastically different paths.

Jeffrey, then a high school sophomore, was sentenced to four years in the custody of the Juvenile Justice Commission, which essentially means he was taken away from his home, his school and his community to a secure lock-up for juveniles. He served 38 months — an eternity for a teenage boy.

"You don't have a high school life," Jeffrey remembers. "That whole life is gone. A piece of your life is gone. I never went to prom, never did any of that."

Hugo, on the other hand, was diverted to programs created under the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), in which he was closely supervised while living at home, attending school and working to address the issues that led to his criminal behavior.

"I made a bad choice at the time," Hugo remembers. "Before I got in this program, I was a nutcase. I had no type of self-control, none of that. When I came here, they talked to me. Then I just kept coming to the classes and understanding more how to keep it controlled, how not to blow up. Now, I'm very confident that I'm not going to get in trouble with the law again."

Hugo continues to learn the construction trade through the Youth Build program, but hopes to go to culinary school and become a chef.

"If I didn't get involved with these programs, I think I would still be doing what I was doing before," Hugo adds. "And getting in way more trouble than I did."

That is essentially what happened to Jeffrey before he was finally steered into an alternative program.

When Jeffrey was first released after serving more than three years, he went back to his old neighborhood, but lacked the supports and guidance to make it on the outside. He violated his parole twice and was sent back to the custody of the Juvenile Justice Commission.

When he was released the third time, alternatives were finally available and he went to the Males Engaged in Reducing Violence Through Gainful Employment (MERGE) program — a move that changed his life.

"My parole officer notified me about this program — how they help put you on the right path," Jeffrey says. "They help you get your license. They help you get your GED. They help you to get all the right credentials you need to set your life straight."

Jeffrey also took courses in customer service and earned a certification, which helped him land his current job as a guard for a security firm. Even though Jeffrey is now employed, living on his own and no longer under supervision, he still visits the Youth Advocate Program office that oversees the MERGE program where he has found a mentor in Al Thomas, program director.

"Sometimes I catch the bus right here so I come over here for a half hour or so and chill," Jeffrey says. "This definitely is a safe place for me. I always keep them posted on what is going on with me. I actually want a future. I want to be something. I don't want to be incarcerated."

"If I didn't get involved with these programs, I think I would still be doing what I was doing before." Hugo adds. "And getting in way more trouble than I did."

Section 2: Data by Site, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

Most of the charts included in this report measure change from “pre-JDAI,” or before the initiative began in New Jersey, to the most current year. Because counties joined the initiative at different times, the “pre-JDAI years” are different for different counties. The following charts provide site-specific data for each JDAI county. All statistics were compiled by the Juvenile Justice Commission in partnership with the local jurisdictions. The chart on the right shows when counties joined the initiative.

When Counties Joined JDAI

2004	Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Monmouth, Hudson
2006	Mercer, Union, Bergen, Burlington, Ocean
2009	Somerset, Passaic
2010	Middlesex, Cumberland, Warren

Admissions to Detention Facilities

Site	Pre-JDAI	Post-JDAI (2011)	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	469	157	-66.5
Bergen	249	115	-53.8
Burlington	284	137	-51.8
Camden	1,679	388	-76.9
Cumberland	249	185	-25.7
Essex	2,460	919	-62.6
Hudson	1,222	523	-57.2
Mercer	863	273	-68.4
Middlesex	449	299	-33.4
Monmouth	507	135	-73.4
Ocean	240	128	-46.7
Passaic	825	464	-43.8
Somerset	126	65	-48.4
Union	538	277	-48.5
Warren	31	28	-9.7
JDAI Site Total	10,191	4,093	-59.8

Average Daily Population in Detention Facilities

Site	Pre-JDAI	Post-JDAI (2011)	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	34.1	18.3	-46.3
Bergen	20.3	9.4	-53.7
Burlington	20.4	9.4	-53.9
Camden	94.6	40.4	-57.3
Cumberland	27.3	18.0	-34.1
Essex	243.6	79.0	-67.6
Hudson	86.7	38.4	-55.7
Mercer	60.0	25.7	-57.2
Middlesex	42.1	23.4	-44.4
Monmouth	40.0	12.2	-69.5
Ocean	23.7	13.3	-43.9
Somerset	9.0	5.6	-37.8
Passaic	70.2	46.4	-33.9
Union	39.2	26.2	-33.2
Warren	2.3	2.3	0.0
JDAI Site Total	813.5	368.0	-54.8

Average Daily Population as % of Approved Capacity in Detention Facilities

Site	2003	2010	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	126.2	71.9	-43.0
Bergen	45.7	56.4	23.4
Burlington	97.4	68.3	-29.9
Camden	255.8	80.0	-68.7
Cumberland	72.8	72.2	-0.8
Essex	100.7	58.6	-41.8
Gloucester	92.7	Closed	N/A
Hudson	109.7	49.7	-54.7
Mercer	119.0	39.1	-67.1
Middlesex	86.9	76.5	-12.0
Monmouth	100.0	Closed	N/A
Morris	40.8	43.7	7.1
Ocean	101.8	67.7	-33.5
Passaic	75.5	Closed	N/A
Sussex	80.8	Closed	N/A
Union	115.7	49.9	-56.9
Warren	57.4	Closed	N/A
JDAI Site Average	97.3	59.9	-38.4

Average Length of Stay in Detention Facilities

Site	Pre-JDAI	Post-JDAI (2011)	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	28.9	39.8	37.7
Bergen	27.4	31.1	13.5
Burlington	27.5	23.4	-14.9
Camden	21.3	38.2	79.3
Cumberland	33.6	30.8	-8.3
Essex	38.5	35.5	-7.8
Hudson	28.9	28.5	-1.4
Mercer	27.4	32.4	18.2
Middlesex	35.6	32.3	-9.3
Monmouth	30.3	29.2	-3.6
Ocean	34.8	38.5	10.6
Passaic	29.9	33.9	13.4
Somerset	23.8	26.3	10.5
Union	28.8	33.6	16.7
Warren	23.6	31.9	35.2
JDAI Site Average	29.4	32.4	10.2

Median Length of Stay in Detention Facilities

Site	Pre-JDAI	Post-JDAI (2011)	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	11	13	18.2
Bergen	15	22	46.7
Burlington	11	8	-27.3
Camden	11	23	109.1
Cumberland	7	6	-14.3
Essex	10	5	-50.0
Hudson	7	4	-42.9
Mercer	11	14	27.3
Middlesex	15	16	6.7
Monmouth	14	14	0.0
Ocean	23	23	0.0
Passaic	14	14	0.0
Somerset	9	8	-11.1
Union	9	9	0.0
Warren	10	20	100.0
JDAI Site Average	11.8	13.3	12.7

Percentage of Youth Remaining in Detention 60 Days or More

Site	Pre-JDAI	Post-JDAI (2011)	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	15.5	29.1	87.7
Bergen	14.2	15.8	11.3
Burlington	16.1	11.2	-30.4
Camden	6.5	23.7	264.6
Cumberland	16.7	14.6	-12.6
Essex	21.2	16.9	-20.3
Hudson	17.7	12.9	-27.1
Mercer	13.0	14.0	7.7
Middlesex	17.3	15.3	-11.6
Monmouth	15.8	17.6	11.4
Ocean	22.6	19.7	-12.8
Passaic	16.3	18.5	13.5
Somerset	7.1	8.1	14.1
Union	15.5	17.4	12.3
Warren	6.2	16.1	159.7
JDAI Site Average	14.8	16.7	12.8

Number of Admissions to Detention for Violation of Parole

Site	Pre-JDAI	Post-JDAI (2011)	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	90	13	-85.6
Bergen	47	23	-51.1
Burlington	70	17	-75.7
Camden	430	82	-80.9
Cumberland	35	28	-20.0
Essex	107	58	-45.8
Hudson	126	63	-50.0
Mercer	98	38	-61.2
Middlesex	152	109	-28.3
Monmouth	150	23	-84.7
Ocean	69	37	-46.4
Passaic	172	52	-69.8
Somerset	46	21	-54.3
Union	129	33	-74.4
Warren	8	8	0.0
JDAI Site Total	1,729	605	-65.0

Total Juvenile Arrests

Site	Pre-JDAI	Post-JDAI (2010)	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	2,809	1,749	-37.7
Bergen	4,729	3,139	-33.6
Burlington	2,607	2,008	-23.0
Camden	8,511	5,025	-41.0
Cumberland	1,457	1,293	-11.3
Essex	6,208	3,377	-45.6
Hudson	3,612	2,042	-43.5
Mercer	3,888	2,870	-26.2
Middlesex	2,781	2,287	-17.8
Monmouth	3,931	3,092	-21.3
Ocean	3,321	1,758	-47.1
Passaic	3,894	3,133	-19.5
Somerset	1,762	1,268	-28.0
Union	3,145	1,951	-38.0
Warren	368	355	-3.5
JDAI Site Total	53,023	35,347	-33.3

Juvenile Arrests for Serious Offenses*

Site	Pre-JDAI	Post-JDAI (2010)	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	845	521	-38.3
Bergen	796	639	-19.7
Burlington	448	429	-4.2
Camden	1,001	602	-39.9
Cumberland	475	371	-21.9
Essex	1,088	949	-12.8
Hudson	1,096	518	-52.7
Mercer	641	532	-17.0
Middlesex	913	727	-20.4
Monmouth	834	839	0.6
Ocean	569	389	-31.6
Passaic	737	634	-14.0
Somerset	353	331	-6.2
Union	450	519	15.3
Warren	81	90	11.1
JDAI Site Total	10,327	8,090	-21.7

*Includes arrests for the following offenses: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft.

Percentage of Youth Detained for New Charges

Site	Pre-JDAI	Post-JDAI (2011)	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	59.5	72.6	22
Bergen	72.3	61.7	-15
Burlington	52.5	62.0	18
Camden	62.8	58.8	-6
Cumberland	63.1	48.1	-24
Essex	83.9	79.4	-5
Hudson	75.2	75.0	0
Mercer	78.1	54.6	-30
Middlesex	61.7	51.2	-17
Monmouth	56.0	60.7	8
Ocean	47.5	49.2	4
Passaic	61.2	70.3	15
Somerset	46.0	55.4	20
Union	68.6	79.1	15
Warren	45.2	53.6	19
JDAI Site Average	62.2	62.1	0

Detention Alternative Outcomes — % Successful Completion

Site	Earliest Year Available	2011	% Change
Atlantic	70.6	84.3	19
Bergen	90.1	87.4	-3
Burlington	83.0	76.3	-8
Camden	81.4	82.8	2
Cumberland	N/A	N/A	N/A
Essex	78.1	84.0	8
Hudson	81.3	86.9	7
Mercer	77.6	66.9	-14
Middlesex	N/A	78.7	N/A
Monmouth	78.0	88.8	14
Ocean	72.3	76.0	5
Passaic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Somerset	52.6	90.9	73
Union	83.3	87.2	5
Warren	N/A	82.6	N/A
JDAI Site Average	77.1	82.6	7

Detention Alternative Outcomes — % New Charges

Site	Earliest Year Available	2011	% Change
Atlantic	9.5	3.5	-63
Bergen	1.0	2.2	120
Burlington	4.3	4.1	-5
Camden	4.3	1.6	-63
Cumberland	N/A	N/A	N/A
Essex	6.7	3.6	-46
Hudson	9.4	4.8	-49
Mercer	2.4	2.0	-17
Middlesex	N/A	4.3	N/A
Monmouth	6.6	2.2	-67
Ocean	0.0	2.7	N/A
Passaic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Somerset	10.5	0.0	-100
Union	3.3	4.1	24
Warren	N/A	0.0	N/A
JDAI Site Average	5.3	2.7	-49

Detention Alternative Outcomes — % Non-Compliance (No New Charges)

Site	Earliest Year Available	2011	% Change
Atlantic	19.9	12.2	-39
Bergen	8.9	10.4	17
Burlington	12.8	19.6	53
Camden	14.3	15.6	9
Cumberland	N/A	N/A	N/A
Essex	15.2	12.4	-18
Hudson	9.4	8.3	-12
Mercer	20.0	31.1	56
Middlesex	N/A	17.0	N/A
Monmouth	15.4	9.0	-42
Ocean	27.7	21.3	-23
Passaic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Somerset	36.8	9.1	-75
Union	13.3	8.8	-34
Warren	N/A	16.7	N/A
JDAI Site Average	17.6	14.7	-16

* NOTE: For all outcomes data cited above, the earliest year that data are available varies for each site. It is 2006 for Atlantic, Camden, Essex and Monmouth counties; 2008 for Hudson, Ocean and Burlington counties; 2009 for Mercer County; 2010 for Union, Bergen and Somerset counties; and 2011 for Middlesex and Warren counties. Outcomes data are not available for Passaic and Cumberland counties.

Number of Juvenile Commitments

Site	Pre-JDAI	Post-JDAI (2011)	Pre-Post % Change
Atlantic	45	30	-33.3
Bergen	14	18	28.6
Burlington	10	6	-40.0
Camden	378	109	-71.2
Cumberland	24	16	-33.3
Essex	121	27	-77.7
Hudson	118	47	-60.2
Mercer	67	25	-62.7
Middlesex	51	32	-37.3
Monmouth	34	12	-64.7
Ocean	23	16	-30.4
Passaic	53	46	-13.2
Somerset	5	5	0.0
Union	89	14	-84.3
Warren	2	4	100.0
JDAI Site Total	1,034	407	-60.6

Number of Admissions to Detention for Youth of Color

Site	Pre-JDAI		Post-JDAI (2011)		Pre-Post % Change	
	# Youth of Color	% Youth of Color	# Youth of Color	% Youth of Color	# Youth of Color	% Youth of Color
Atlantic	397	84.6	143	91.1	-64.0	7.7
Bergen	195	78.3	92	80.0	-52.8	2.2
Burlington	188	66.2	108	78.8	-42.6	19.0
Camden	1,334	79.5	333	85.8	-75.0	7.9
Cumberland	223	89.6	170	90.9	-23.8	1.5
Essex	2,423	98.5	909	98.9	-62.5	0.4
Hudson	1,147	93.9	501	95.8	-56.3	2.0
Mercer	816	94.6	248	90.8	-69.6	-4.0
Middlesex	337	75.1	247	82.6	-26.7	10.0
Monmouth	318	62.7	99	73.3	-68.9	16.9
Ocean	107	44.6	44	34.4	-58.9	-22.9
Passaic	758	91.9	435	93.8	-42.6	2.1
Somerset	88	69.8	46	70.8	-47.7	1.4
Union	509	94.6	265	95.7	-47.9	1.2
Warren	14	45.2	11	39.3	-21.4	-13.1
JDAI Site Total/Average	8,854	86.9	3,651	89.2	-58.8	2.6

* NOTE: White youth are defined as white, non-Hispanic youth. Youth of color includes non-white and all Hispanic youth.

Average Daily Population of Youth of Color in Detention

Site	Pre-JDAI		Post-JDAI (2011)		Pre-Post % Change	
	# Youth of Color	% Youth of Color	# Youth of Color	% Youth of Color	# Youth of Color	% Youth of Color
Atlantic	30.6	89.7	17.9	97.8	-41.5	9.0
Bergen	16.1	79.3	7.0	74.5	-56.5	-6.1
Burlington	13.4	65.7	8.1	86.2	-39.6	31.2
Camden	79.9	84.5	36.1	89.4	-54.8	5.8
Cumberland	25.7	94.1	16.9	93.9	-34.2	-0.3
Essex	242.6	99.6	78.4	99.2	-67.7	-0.4
Hudson	82.5	95.2	36.9	96.1	-55.3	1.0
Mercer	57.6	96.0	24.2	94.2	-58.0	-1.9
Middlesex	34.3	81.5	20.4	87.2	-40.5	7.0
Monmouth	29.8	74.5	10.3	84.4	-65.4	13.3
Ocean	10.6	44.7	6.4	48.1	-39.6	7.6
Passaic	67.2	95.7	44.5	95.9	-33.8	0.2
Somerset	7.4	82.2	4.0	71.4	-45.9	-13.1
Union	38.4	98.0	25.6	97.7	-33.3	-0.3
Warren	1.1	47.8	1.0	43.5	-9.1	-9.1
JDAI Site Total/Average	737.2	90.6	337.7	91.8	-54.2	1.3

Average (Mean) Length of Stay in Detention for Youth of Color and White Youth

Site	Pre-JDAI		Post-JDAI (2011)		Pre-Post % Change	
	Youth of Color	White Youth	Youth of Color	White Youth	Youth of Color	White Youth
Atlantic	30.8	19.0	40.5	35.1	31.5	84.7
Bergen	28.0	25.4	28.8	40.5	2.9	59.4
Burlington	27.7	27.1	24.4	19.5	-11.9	-28.0
Camden	22.8	15.3	40.1	26.8	75.9	75.2
Cumberland	35.7	14.0	31.4	25.5	-12.0	82.1
Essex	39.0	12.9	35.6	26.9	-8.7	108.5
Hudson	30.2	15.8	28.1	36.0	-7.0	127.8
Mercer	27.9	18.3	33.3	23.7	19.4	29.5
Middlesex	39.0	25.4	34.4	23.3	-11.8	-8.3
Monmouth	35.1	22.1	32.5	19.9	-7.4	-10.0
Ocean	35.5	34.3	58.1	27.0	63.7	-21.3
Passaic	30.9	17.7	35.1	17.3	13.6	-2.3
Somerset	26.5	16.7	28.7	20.8	8.3	24.6
Union	29.6	16.6	34.4	17.0	16.2	2.4
Warren	29.5	18.9	31.5	32.2	6.8	70.4
JDAI Site Average	31.2	20.0	34.5	26.1	10.6	30.5

Median Length of Stay in Detention for Youth of Color and White Youth

Site	Pre-JDAI		Post-JDAI (2011)		Pre-Post % Change	
	Youth of Color	White Youth	Youth of Color	White Youth	Youth of Color	White Youth
Atlantic	13	6	16	4	23.1	-33.3
Bergen	15	9	20	30	33.3	233.3
Burlington	10	14	8	8	-20.0	-42.9
Camden	14	7	28	19	100.0	171.4
Cumberland	7	7	5	8	-28.6	14.3
Essex	10	2	5	2	-50.0	0.0
Hudson	7	4	4	6	-42.9	50.0
Mercer	11	6	14	18	27.3	200.0
Middlesex	16	14	17	11	6.3	-21.4
Monmouth	17	8	17	9	0.0	12.5
Ocean	23	22	37	20	60.9	-9.1
Passaic	15	5	15	10	0.0	100.0
Somerset	9	8	8	6	-11.1	-25.0
Union	9	6	9	5	0.0	-16.7
Warren	7	10	24	13	242.9	30.0
JDAI Site Average	12.2	8.5	15.1	11.3	23.8	32.9

Percentage of Youth of Color and White Youth Remaining in Detention 60 Days or More

Site	Pre-JDAI		Post-JDAI (2011)		Pre-Post % Change	
	Youth of Color	White Youth	Youth of Color	White Youth	Youth of Color	White Youth
Atlantic	17.1	6.8	30.8	15.8	80.1	132.4
Bergen	14.1	14.5	14.1	22.7	0.0	56.6
Burlington	17.2	14.0	11.3	10.7	-34.3	-23.6
Camden	7.3	3.0	25.5	12.7	249.3	323.3
Cumberland	17.5	8.3	13.9	21.1	-20.6	154.2
Essex	21.5	8.0	16.9	11.1	-21.4	38.8
Hudson	18.5	9.8	13.2	7.1	-28.6	-27.6
Mercer	13.2	9.3	15.1	4.0	14.4	-57.0
Middlesex	20.0	9.0	16.0	12.5	-20.0	38.9
Monmouth	19.7	9.1	19.0	13.9	-3.6	52.7
Ocean	24.3	21.2	38.3	8.8	57.6	-58.5
Passaic	17.0	7.8	19.4	6.7	14.1	-14.1
Somerset	8.7	2.9	9.3	5.3	6.9	82.8
Union	16.0	6.9	17.8	9.1	11.3	31.9
Warren	14.3	0.0	7.7	22.2	-46.2	N/A
JDAI Site Average	16.4	8.7	17.9	12.2	9.1	40.2

Youth of Color Committed to JJC

Site	#	Pre-JDAI		Post-JDAI (2011)		Pre-Post % Change	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	40		88.9	30	100.0	-25.0	12.5
Bergen	11		78.6	14	77.8	27.3	-1.0
Burlington	8		80.0	5	83.3	-37.5	4.1
Camden	321		84.9	98	89.9	-69.5	5.9
Cumberland	24		100.0	16	100.0	-33.3	0.0
Essex	121		100.0	27	100.0	-77.7	0.0
Hudson	114		96.6	47	100.0	-58.8	3.5
Mercer	64		95.5	25	100.0	-60.9	4.7
Middlesex	42		82.4	29	90.6	-31.0	10.0
Monmouth	24		70.6	9	75.0	-62.5	6.2
Ocean	8		34.8	9	56.2	12.5	61.5
Passaic	52		98.1	45	97.8	-13.5	-0.3
Somerset	4		80.0	5	100.0	25.0	25.0
Union	88		98.9	12	85.7	-86.4	-13.3
Warren	1		50.0	5	50.0	400.0	0.0
JDAI Site Total/Average	922		90.6	376	92.6	-59.2	2.2

Nature of Departures from Detention — Where Youth Go After Offending, Percentage

	Earliest Year*— JDAI Site Average	2011— JDAI Site Average	% Change
Departure to Detention Alternative Program, Shelter (Pre-Dispo Placement)	31.0	38.8	25.2
Departure to Parent, Other Adult, ROR	21.2	11.4	-46.2
Departure to Other Service Agency/Placement	3.0	2.8	-6.7
Departure to Dispositional Placement	34.7	37.9	9.2
Departure to Jail, Bail, and/or Upon/After Waiver	1.9	2.6	36.8
Departure to Other YDC or Other Authorities	5.1	4.4	-13.7
Departure to Dismissed, Diverted, Similar	2.0	1.4	-30.0

*Departure type was not measured in most sites' pre-JDAI data, and therefore the data are reported for the "earliest full-year of data available." Those years are: 2005 for Atlantic, Camden, Monmouth, Mercer, Bergen, Ocean, Burlington; 2008 for Union, Somerset, Passaic; and 2009 for Middlesex, Cumberland and Warren.

Departure to Detention Alternative Program, Shelter (Pre-Dispo Placement), Percentage

Site	Earliest Year	2011	% Change
Atlantic	52.6	43.0	-18.3
Bergen	32.1	39.5	23.1
Burlington	18.5	35.1	89.7
Camden	38.7	38.8	0.3
Cumberland	23.4	34.4	47.0
Essex	37.9	50.3	32.7
Hudson	29.5	60.2	104.1
Mercer	28.6	41.6	45.5
Middlesex	15.5	26.7	72.3
Monmouth	40.6	34.6	-14.8
Ocean	21.8	21.3	-2.3
Passaic	42.5	50.2	18.1
Somerset	33.9	32.3	-4.7
Union	27.2	41.1	51.1
Warren	21.9	32.3	47.5
JDAI Site Average	31.0	38.8	25.2

Departure to Parent, Other Adult, ROR, Percentage

Site	Earliest Year	2011	% Change
Atlantic	6.6	4.2	-36.4
Bergen	14.6	7.0	-52.1
Burlington	40.3	14.2	-64.8
Camden	6.5	4.1	-36.9
Cumberland	34.9	27.1	-22.3
Essex	33.2	11.2	-66.3
Hudson	26.2	5.0	-80.9
Mercer	21.4	8.2	-61.7
Middlesex	17.7	11.7	-33.9
Monmouth	17.9	18.4	2.8
Ocean	8.6	7.1	-17.4
Passaic	2.7	3.0	11.1
Somerset	37.0	24.2	-34.6
Union	21.9	12.0	-45.2
Warren	28.1	12.9	-54.1
JDAI Site Average	21.2	11.4	-46.2

Departure to Other Service Agency/Placement, Percentage

Site	Earliest Year	2011	% Change
Atlantic	1.5	1.2	-20.0
Bergen	0.0	0.9	N/A
Burlington	5.7	6.0	5.3
Camden	4.3	0.8	-81.4
Cumberland	5.2	5.7	9.6
Essex	0.3	0.4	33.3
Hudson	1.4	2.3	64.3
Mercer	0.4	3.5	775.0
Middlesex	0.9	0.7	-22.2
Monmouth	5.0	6.6	32.0
Ocean	3.7	2.4	-35.1
Passaic	1.2	0.9	-25.0
Somerset	1.6	8.1	406.3
Union	0.7	2.1	200.0
Warren	12.5	0.0	-100.0
JDAI Site Average	3.0	2.8	-6.7

Departure to Dispositional Placement, Percentage

Site	Earliest Year	2011	% Change
Atlantic	32.7	32.1	-1.8
Bergen	33.3	49.1	47.4
Burlington	27.5	31.3	13.8
Camden	47.1	50.0	6.2
Cumberland	23.0	20.3	-11.7
Essex	22.2	28.3	27.5
Hudson	33.0	23.3	-29.4
Mercer	43.1	35.4	-17.9
Middlesex	54.5	56.0	2.8
Monmouth	31.0	35.3	13.9
Ocean	40.7	64.6	58.7
Passaic	47.8	39.3	-17.8
Somerset	18.9	25.8	36.5
Union	37.1	26.1	-29.6
Warren	28.1	51.6	83.6
JDAI Site Average	34.7	37.9	9.2

Departure to Jail, Bail, and/or Upon/After Waiver, Percentage

Site	Earliest Year	2011	% Change
Atlantic	1.0	9.7	870.0
Bergen	2.0	0.9	-55.0
Burlington	2.3	2.2	-4.3
Camden	1.9	2.0	5.3
Cumberland	2.0	2.6	30.0
Essex	1.1	1.7	54.5
Hudson	1.9	2.1	10.5
Mercer	0.7	2.3	228.6
Middlesex	2.9	3.0	3.4
Monmouth	2.4	3.7	54.2
Ocean	4.5	2.4	-46.7
Passaic	1.2	1.6	33.3
Somerset	2.4	3.2	33.3
Union	2.1	2.1	0.0
Warren	0.0	0.0	0.0
JDAI Site Average	1.9	2.6	36.8

Departure to Other YDC or Other Authorities, Percentage

Site	Earliest Year	2011	% Change
Atlantic	5.1	5.5	7.8
Bergen	16.7	1.8	-89.2
Burlington	4.4	9.0	104.5
Camden	1.5	2.8	86.7
Cumberland	6.7	6.8	1.5
Essex	1.5	2.5	66.7
Hudson	1.4	2.6	85.7
Mercer	2.9	4.3	48.3
Middlesex	7.0	1.3	-81.4
Monmouth	3.1	1.5	-51.6
Ocean	5.3	0.8	-84.9
Passaic	1.2	2.5	108.3
Somerset	5.5	6.5	18.2
Union	8.5	15.4	81.2
Warren	6.2	3.2	-48.4
JDAI Site Average	5.1	4.4	-13.7

Departure to Dismissed, Diverted, Similar, Percentage

Site	Earliest Year	2011	% Change
Atlantic	0.5	1.2	140.0
Bergen	0.4	0.9	125.0
Burlington	1.3	1.5	15.4
Camden	0.0	1.0	N/A
Cumberland	4.0	1.0	-75.0
Essex	2.2	5.1	131.8
Hudson	4.7	4.2	-10.6
Mercer	3.0	1.9	-36.7
Middlesex	1.6	0.7	-56.3
Monmouth	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ocean	3.7	0.0	-100.0
Passaic	3.2	2.3	-28.1
Somerset	0.0	0.0	0.0
Union	2.5	1.2	-52.0
Warren	3.1	0.0	-100.0
JDAI Site Average	2.0	1.4	-30.0



¹ Petrosino, A., Turpin-Petrosino, C., and Guckenberg, S. (2010). Formal System Processing of Juveniles: Effects on Delinquency. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 2010:1.

² Holman, B. and Ziedenberg, J. (2007). *The Dangers of Detention: The Impact of Incarcerating Youth in Detention and Other Secure Congregate Facilities*. Justice Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.

Data Sources and Technical Notes

All data and indicators included in this report are as reported by the following sources:

New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission; the *New Jersey Detention Alternatives (JDAI) 2011 Annual Data Report*, State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General; *New Jersey JDAI Site Results Report*, submitted by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, September, 2011; *Crime in New Jersey Reports for 2009 and 2010*, New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Unit.

For more information, please consult these reports or contact ACNJ directly at advocates@acnj.org.



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