



# Examples Of Effective Partnerships

## Diversion and quick assessment for low-risk youth



MULTNOMAH COUNTY, (PORTLAND) OREGON

As one of JDAI's initial pilot sites in the 1990s, Multnomah County developed the nation's first juvenile reception center — a new venue designed to screen and assess lower-risk youth who are not candidates for detention. A forward-thinking law enforcement leader, Commander Bob Kauffman of the Portland Police Bureau, played an important role in this effort, providing free space for the center in the central police precinct during its first six months of operation and developing a training program to familiarize patrol officers with the new procedures. The reception center model has since been replicated in many JDAI sites across the nation.

## Domestic violence alternatives



PIMA COUNTY, (TUCSON) ARIZONA

Soon after Pima County launched its JDAI effort in 2004, stakeholders discovered that more than 1,000 youth were being arrested each year on domestic violence charges and hundreds were being detained, most of them posing little risk to public safety. "A lot of kids were being dragged into the system unnecessarily," says Captain Paul Sayre of the Tucson Police Department. To address the problem, the county developed a Domestic Violence Alternative Center (DVAC) where officers could take lower-risk youth arrested on misdemeanor domestic assault charges for screening, assessment and referral to needed mental health and family support services. By 2011, the DVAC handled more than three-fourths of all misdemeanor domestic violence cases, and only 42 resulted in detention admissions — down from 415 in 2004. "Dropping youth at the DVAC is easier and faster than detention," says Sayre. "[My patrol officers] can drop a kid off...and get back out on the street."

## Reducing school-based arrests for youth of color



RAMSEY COUNTY, (ST. PAUL) MINNESOTA

Until he took over as commander of the Youth Service Section of the St. Paul Police Department in 2008, Gene Polyak believed that his department was upholding the law in a race-neutral way. However, once he reviewed the data with the local JDAI steering committee, Polyak says, "I began to see unfairness." After noting that African-American youth

were frequently being arrested for disorderly conduct, St. Paul narrowed its definition of what kind of behavior warranted arrest, and worked with the public schools to reduce the role of police in addressing school discipline. Since then, arrests for disorderly conduct and related offenses have dropped by 50%.

## Officer training to reduce unnecessary arrests



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, (LAFAYETTE) INDIANA

When local stakeholders examined arrest trends in 2013, they saw that youth of color were being arrested in disproportionate numbers for resisting law enforcement, disorderly conduct and battery against a public safety officer — all charges which involved significant discretion on the part of the arresting officer. "The data collected by JDAI made us realize we had to change how we responded to kids," recalls Kurt Wolf, captain of patrol in the Lafayette Police Department. Since then, the department has trained officers on adolescent development and implicit bias, and has designated arrests for the identified offenses as a standing topic in JDAI collaborative meetings. By 2015, arrests for these offenses had declined 32%, including a 39% drop among youth of color.

## Diversion in lieu of arrests at school

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Under the leadership of then-Deputy Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel in 2014, the Philadelphia Police Department revised its school policing practices to prohibit arrests for an array of common misdemeanor offenses. Student arrests fell 54% in the program's first year. Bethel credits JDAI for helping the city connect youth to local social service providers for counseling and support in lieu of arrest.



“ The beauty of [the JDAI] collaborative is that we had all the right people in the room. Everyone was on the same page, and there was already an environment of trust. ”

— KEVIN BETHEL, FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF  
PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT