

# Promoting More Effective Law Enforcement Practices For Youth



In a multitude of sites, conversations and connections initiated by JDAI have sparked changes to make law enforcement practices toward youth more equitable and effective. In some non-JDAI jurisdictions as well, law enforcement leaders have taken it upon themselves to craft innovative strategies to improve policing practices for youth.

Strategies to address these opportunities include:

## Increasing pre-arrest diversion

Some jurisdictions, most notably Florida with its statewide civil citations program, have developed or expanded the use of pre-arrest diversion, allowing youth apprehended by police for minor lawbreaking to avoid the stain and collateral consequences of an arrest record. Through this approach, Florida has decreased the number of juvenile misdemeanor arrests, reduced racial and ethnic disparities, lowered recidivism and saved millions of dollars for taxpayers.

## Reducing school arrests

Working closely with law enforcement, JDAI sites have taken steps to minimize the number of youths arrested at school for routine misbehavior. Indeed, the JDAI site in Clayton County, Georgia, has been a national leader on this issue for more than a decade—and has provided assistance to dozens of JDAI and non-JDAI jurisdictions nationwide in their efforts to reduce school arrests.

## Combating racial and ethnic disparities at arrest

In several JDAI sites, local stakeholders have spurred constructive action to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in arrests by providing data to commanders and supporting the adoption of law enforcement strategies to address them.

- Analyze data by race and ethnicity (and neighborhood).
- Devise and test strategies to reduce disparities