

# What JDAI Stakeholders Should Know About Law Enforcement

## Crippling lack of training and policies for officers' interactions with youth

Nationwide, law enforcement officers receive little or no training on adolescent brain development, effects on adolescent behavior of exposure to trauma, harmful impacts of incarceration, and other aspects of juvenile justice, and few departments have issued developmentally-appropriate, trauma-informed policies to guide officers in their interactions with youth.



champions up and down the LEA chain of command, JDAI stakeholders must keep in mind the organizational culture of law enforcement, and strive to be strategic in how they approach LEA personnel and work with them over time.



## Messaging for making (or restoring) the initial connection

Who to connect with and how to 'sell' JDAI's key to success.



## Frequent frustration

Officers report frequent frustration in their dealings with youth and the juvenile justice system due to lost time and a widespread perception that the system often fails to provide meaningful consequences for misbehavior or responsive services for needy youth (and their families).



## Building Consensus on the Detention Screening Process

The creation and use of an objective detention screening tool to guide detention decisions is the bedrock of JDAI, but—without effective outreach—objective screening may meet resistance from law enforcement personnel.



## Tension and disparities in treatment of youth in low-income communities of color

Surveys regularly find that urban youth of color hold negative views of law enforcement and say that officers often treat youth in disrespectful or abusive ways. Youth today—especially black youth—are growing up in what has been described as an “era of distrust” of the police, and their perceptions have dropped in recent years to a decades-long low. Black and Latino youth become distrustful of police around ages 7 to 9.



## Creating better options for low-risk, high need youth

From the very beginning of the initiative, JDAI sites have been partnering with service providers to devise new approaches for youth who come in contact with the justice system repeatedly due to serious personal or family challenges, but pose minimal risk to public safety.



## Influence of local culture and history on interactions with youth

The history and characteristics of the community and the organizational culture of the law enforcement agency play an important role in determining law enforcement agencies' willingness and capacity to participate in JDAI.



## Promoting more effective law enforcement practices for youth

Conversations and connections initiated by JDAI have enabled law enforcement agencies in numerous sites to initiate constructive changes in their practices toward youth.



## Effective strategies for outreach to law enforcement by JDAI stakeholders

From the initial outreach to the ongoing recruitment of potential JDAI

## Examples of effective JDAI-law enforcement partnership

Examples of effective partnerships are persuasive and help allay concerns of LEA leaders.

