

For more information on the...

DMC Resource Center (DMCRC)

The DMC Resource Center has a web site with links to OJJDP, CJJP, DMC Committee meeting minutes and other important information about the DMC Resource Center. Brad Richardson, Ph.D., DMC Coordinator, (319) 335-4924, brad-richardson@uiowa.edu.

Go online at: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~nrcfcp/dmcrcc>

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP)

CJJP carries out research, policy analysis, program development and data analysis activities to assist policy makers, justice system agencies and others to identify issues of concern. CJJP also administers federal and state grants to fund projects to provide prevention, services, and otherwise improve the operation and effectiveness of Iowa's juvenile justice system. Dave Kuker, Juvenile Justice Specialist, dave.kuker@iowa.gov, (515) 281-8078.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC)

Members of the JJAC are appointed by the Governor according to federal law to oversee Iowa's use of the federal Juvenile Justice Formula Grant. JJAC also helps to develop plan to improve Iowa's juvenile justice system. Carl Smith, Ph.D., Chair of JJAC, carl.smith@drake.edu, (515) 271-3936.

DMC Committee

The DMC Committee was organized to assist Iowa's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council in the implementation of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act's Disproportionate Minority Confinement requirement. A major focus of the DMC Committee is to address the overrepresentation of minority youth in secure settings. Marvin Spencer, Chair of the DMC Subcommittee, marvin.spencer@jb.state.ia.us, (319) 291-2506.

National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice

The National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice provides technical assistance, staff training, research and evaluation, and library research on family-based programs and issues to public and private human services agencies in states, counties, and communities across the United States. As a project of the University of Iowa's School of Social Work, the NRC/FCP's mission is to promote family-centered, culturally responsive practice across human service systems. Miriam Landsman, Ph.D., Executive Director, (319) 335-4934.

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Save the dates--November 30 & December 1, 2006
Visit us on the web at www.uiowa.edu/~nrcfcp/dmcrcc

DMC Resource Center
Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in Iowa's Juvenile Justice System

National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice
University of Iowa School of Social Work
in collaboration with
State of Iowa Department of Human Rights
Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP)
Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC)
DMC Committee

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DMC in the U.S.: Why the concern?

Overrepresentation of minority youth in secure detention is also referred to as disproportionate minority confinement. Nationally, as well as in Iowa, minority youth confinement significantly exceeds the proportion of minority youth in the general population. Beginning in 2002, by referring to *contact* rather than *confinement*, work to reduce DMC encompasses all stages of the juvenile justice process.

This brochure has been designed to provide information about DMC and the work going on in Iowa to address the issue.

History of DMC and the JJDP Act

- 1974** U.S. Congress passed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act), "to provide a comprehensive coordinated approach to the problems of juvenile delinquency."
- 1988** Congress amended the JJDP Act requiring that States address DMC in their three-year State plans.
- 1992** DMC was elevated to a core requirement in the JJDP Act with future funding eligibility tied to State compliance.
- 2002** JJDP Act Reauthorization broadened the DMC concept by requiring states to "address juvenile delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce the disproportionate number of juvenile members of minority groups, who come into contact with the juvenile justice system."

States participating in Federal Formula Grants move through the following five phases to address DMC:

- **Identification.** To determine the extent to which DMC exists.
- **Assessment.** To assess the reasons for DMC, if it exists.
- **Intervention.** To develop and implement intervention strategies to address these identified reasons.
- **Evaluation.** To evaluate the effectiveness of the chosen intervention strategies.
- **Monitoring.** To note changes in DMC trends and to adjust intervention strategies as needed.

The Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP) defines minority populations as African Americans, American Indians, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics although, in practice, "American Indians" has been interpreted to include American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and others.

DMC in Iowa

What has been done to *Identify and Assess* DMC?

According to U.S. Census 2000, minority youth in Iowa comprise approximately nine percent (9.2%) of the total youth population ages 10 to 17. State juvenile detention facility statistics **identified** African American youth as comprising nearly one-third (33%) of all youth held in juvenile detention facilities and other secure settings (e.g., the state training school for boys in Eldora). Latino and Native American youth are overrepresented in Iowa's juvenile justice system at similar rates.

An **assessment** conducted with data from the 1980s and early 1990s showed that while legal factors, such as crime severity and prior record, account for some of the DMC, minority youth, especially African American youth, had an increased probability of receiving more severe outcomes than white youth in the same situation. The findings varied by the court and stage in the proceedings. Detention information from Iowa's Juvenile Data Warehouse show that for the period between 1998 and 2002, minority youth in detention comprised almost thirty percent (29.4%) of the detention population. That means that minority youth are overrepresented by 300%.

What is being done to address DMC?

Iowa is currently working on the **intervention phase** of the core requirement to address DMC. The State of Iowa DMC Committee is working with the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice (NRC/FCP) at the University of Iowa to coordinate the DMC Resource Center. The Center serves as a resource for state and local officials' as well as community members' efforts to impact Disproportionate Minority Contact. The goal is to reduce the overrepresentation of minority youth by implementing objective risk assessments, alternatives to confinement, and cultural competency training and education.

The DMC Resource Center's major tasks are to:

- Provide Intensive Technical Assistance (TA) to local planning entities in six communities in Iowa;
- Build consensus on priority issues with the DMC Committee, CJJP and the Intensive TA sites;
- Develop outcome measures and indicators of results;
- Provide training and education about DMC;
- Maintain a statewide information dissemination system;
- Assist with local DMC task force development; and
- Convene a fifth annual statewide DMC conference- November 30-December 1, 2006 in Des Moines, IA.

DMC Community Partnerships in Iowa

Issues related to DMC are not unlike the issues associated with so many of today's social problems where disparity is correlated with minority status such as systemic biases, academic achievement scores, out-of-home placement, family dynamics, delinquency, and racial profiling. To reduce DMC, policies, laws, and practices in the decision-making process must be reviewed. Initiatives that involve children, families, neighborhoods, and local providers serving minority youth are also needed.

State officials, local community task forces, and private citizens all need to take an active part in this process of reducing DMC in Iowa. The DMCRC is working to build these community partnerships. Contact us to learn how to get involved in your community.

Key Terms and Phrases

Terms commonly used to discuss factors related to DMC:

Disparity- The probability of receiving a particular outcome (for example, being detained in a short-term facility vs. not being detained) that differs for distinct groups. Disparity in decision-making may in turn lead to overrepresentation.

Privilege- Benefits, advantages or immunities attached to a majority position in society. These automatic privileges, about which people are typically unaware, include being advantaged in terms of race, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic class, gender, age, physical ability, sexual identity, sexual orientation, or religion.

Culture- Entire sets of values, behaviors, attitudes, social interactions, social organization, symbols and meaning, language and communication patterns that distinguish a group of people.

Cultural Competency-

- **For the individual:** being capable of functioning effectively in the context of cultural differences.
- **For the organization:** practice skills, attitudes, policies, and structures, which come together in a system, agency or group of professionals to function effectively in the context of cultural differences.

The DMC Resource Center is funded by the Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning. Contents are solely the responsibility of the DMC Resource Center and do not necessarily represent the official positions of the Division, State of Iowa or University of Iowa.