Utah’s Juvenile Justice
Disproportionate Minority Contact

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice (UBJJ) is required by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 to address the disproportionate contact of minority youth with the juvenile justice system as one of the four core requirements. In response, the Board created the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee (DMCC), which meets on a monthly basis, working to reduce and eliminate the racial disproportionality found in Utah’s juvenile justice system.

The DMCC has been successful in many of its endeavors. Accomplishments include:

- Creating a strategic plan for future DMCC activities.
- Developing cultural competency training used by Utah’s juvenile courts and Juvenile Justice Services.
- Requiring a cultural competency component for all UBJJ projects.
- Working with the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness to recommend inclusion of cultural competency requirements for all juvenile justice contracts from state and local entities.
- Partnering with the Utah Bar Association for CLE training on juvenile procedure and cultural sensitivity.
- Monitoring improvement in reporting of juvenile racial data in juvenile information system to a consistent 94%.
- Supporting numerous research projects: Race and Juvenile Sentencing in Utah; Juvenile Bootstrapping Analysis; Minority Juvenile Overrepresentation; Minority Legal Representation; and the annual Relative Rate Index survey.

Each year the DMCC conducts a Relative Rate Index survey, as required by OJJDP to qualify for federal grant funds. The RRI measures the rate at which minorities contact decision points within the juvenile justice system as compared to their white counterparts. Results from the past two years indicate that in Utah:

- African American youth are more than 2 1/2 times more likely to be arrested than whites.
- Asian and Pacific Islander youth are more than twice as likely to be arrested as whites.
- African-American and Native American youth were nearly three times more likely than whites to be referred to juvenile court.
- Latino youth are two times more likely than whites to be referred to juvenile court.
- African-American and Native American youth were nearly three times more likely than whites to be referred to juvenile court.
- Latino youth are more than twice as likely as whites to be referred from juvenile court.
- African American youth in Utah are nearly 2 1/2 times more likely to be placed in long-term secure care than whites.
- Latino youth in Utah are nearly twice as likely to be placed in long-term secure care as whites.
- Asian youth are nearly 50% more likely than whites to be diverted from the juvenile justice system.
- All minorities are either equal or less likely than whites to be found delinquent in juvenile court.

There is no difference in long-term secure placement between whites, Asian, Pacific Islander and Native American youth in Utah.

The DMCC will continue to evaluate progress in reducing disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system. Efforts will be made to ensure equity in Utah’s juvenile justice system through the RRI Survey, the promotion of projects to reduce disproportionality at key decision points and implementation of its strategic plan.

Utah Board of Juvenile Justice

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UBJJ Outcome Measures Evaluation

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice (UBJJ) has implemented a unique and useful outcome measures system to evaluate UBJJ funded programs. The system utilizes two broad-based measures founded upon the Risk and Protective Factor model of prevention developed by Hawkins and Catalano and the Youth Outcome Questionnaire. These are designed to measure changes in the most common behavioral and psychological difficulties exhibited by adolescents. Both tools are administered via a secure internet server allowing for low cost administration, increased confidentiality protection, higher completion rates, and most importantly, rapid reporting of results. The outcome reports made available to providers include a comparison of profiles from program participants at the start and end of the program. UBJJ providers are able to use this information to drive program change and to adapt their program to meet the needs of the youth they are serving.

The UBJJ outcome monitoring includes comparisons of program participants to the state’s general population and six other similar states. These comparisons are possible because the scales employed in the evaluation have been given to more than one million middle and high school youth, including approximately 200,000 youth in Utah. Providers can now show empirical evidence that they are serving an at-risk population and are helping them to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors.

This evaluation indicates that UBJJ programs are appropriately serving at-risk youth. The overall profile for youth entering UBJJ funded programs indicates these youth:

- Use more alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs than the general population of Utah youth.
- Report more frequent and heavy use of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana, than the general population of Utah youth.
- More than half report being suspended from school.
- Approximately one fourth report being arrested or have attacked another person with the intent to harm.
- Over 70% report interactions with antisocial peers and perceive rewards for antisocial behavior.
- Over 40% report attitudes favorable toward antisocial behavior.
- Approximately 70% are at risk for academic failure and report a low commitment to school.
- More than half the youth report low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization.
- Fewer than 40% of the youth report opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement in their communities.

After participating in UBJJ programs, fewer youth reported risk factors that lead to delinquency. UBJJ youth lowered their favorable attitudes towards antisocial behavior, saw fewer rewards for participating in antisocial behavior, and reported themselves to be less rebellious. In addition, fewer youth reported a low commitment to school and family conflict.

Projects showing these promising results are making a significant impact to improve our community and our youth.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year Title II Projects $245,000</th>
<th>Second Year Title II Projects $187,426</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salt Lake Co. $40,000 - Polynesian Young Women’s Self Esteem Group, Child &amp; Family Empowerment</td>
<td>Salt Lake Co. $36,225 – Family &amp; Youth Connections, Colors of Success</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tooele Co. $40,000 – Grandfamilies, Children’s Service Society</td>
<td>Salt Lake Co. $14,849 – Ocho Pasos (Eight Steps to Success), Poder Para La Familia Hispana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt Lake Co. $55,000 - Discovering Possibilities, Salt Lake County Youth Services</td>
<td>Rural Utah $42,000 – Truancy Mediation, Administrative Office of the Courts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weber Co. $75,000 – The Dream Team, Colors of Success</td>
<td>Box Elder Co. $43,952 – Youth &amp; Families Technology Instruction, Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Brigham City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide $35,000 – Protective/Risk Assessment Enhancement for Females, Juvenile Justice Services</td>
<td>Summit Co. $50,400 – South Summit Mentoring &amp; Tutoring, South Summit Healthy Community Coalition</td>
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<th>Third Year Title II Projects $170,250</th>
<th>Fourth Year Title II Projects $49,640</th>
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<tr>
<td>Washington Co. $46,500 – Southern Utah Mentoring Program, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Utah</td>
<td>Millard Co. $19,238 – Strengthening Families, Communities First, Delta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt Lake Co. $15,000 – Young Refugees of Utah, Utah Peace Institute</td>
<td>Duchesne Co. $18,527 – Ute Juvenile Mental Health, Ute Tribe Juvenile Court</td>
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<td>Salt Lake Co. $22,500 – Vietnamese Youth Delinquency Prevention, Vietnamese Volunteer Youth Association</td>
<td>Statewide $11,875 – Mothered - Fathered, Utah Humanities Council</td>
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<td>Utah Co. $60,000 – Legal Resources for Minority Wasatch Co. Youth, Legal Equity for Minority Youth Inc.</td>
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<td>Box Elder Co. $26,250 – Kids-At-Hope, Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Brigham City</td>
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<tr>
<th>On-Going Title II Projects $141,480</th>
<th>Title V Community Delinquency Prevention $140,735</th>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide $73,100 – JJDP Act Compliance Monitoring, Div. of Juvenile Justice Services</td>
<td>Millard Co. $38,224 – Reconnecting Youth, Delta City &amp; Community First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide $18,000 – Juvenile Jail Removal, Division of Juvenile Justice Services</td>
<td>Utah Co. $55,486 – Springville City Outreach to Students (SCORS), Nebo School District</td>
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<td>Statewide $50,380 – Outcome Evaluation Survey, University of Utah Criminal &amp; Juvenile Justice Services</td>
<td>Salt Lake Co. $47,025 – Granite Park Youth Development, South Salt Lake City</td>
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