



Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

❌ FICTION

Increasing reliance on detention and incarceration for juveniles is the most effective way to improve public safety.

✅ FACTS

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is an effective, data-driven, research-based, collaborative approach to youth justice. JDAI sites are committed to supporting healthy young people, strong families and safe communities. JDAI is grounded in decades of research showing that incarceration poses concrete dangers to young people, tends to threaten community safety and disproportionately affects Black, Indigenous and Hispanic youth.

RESEARCH

New Mexico's System Improvement approach is based on the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). It is designed to enable jurisdictions to safely reduce reliance on secure confinement through continuous juvenile justice system improvement. **JDAI is intended to:**

- Eliminate inappropriate or unnecessary use of secure detention
- Minimize failures to appear and incidence of delinquent behavior;
- Redirect public finances to successful reform strategies;
- Improve conditions in secure detention facilities; and
- Reduce racial and ethnic disparities. [1]

Detention is an ineffective response to crime (e.g., one peer-reviewed study concluded that pretrial juvenile detention increases the odds of felony recidivism by 33%).[2] Research shows that even a short stay in detention is associated with serious harm to young people's mental and physical well-being; to their education and employment prospects [3] and to their risk of further justice system involvement. Rigorous studies have consistently shown that Black, Indigenous and Hispanic youth referred to juvenile courts are more likely to be detained than similarly situated white youth, even when controlling for types of offending and other factors. National statistics show that nonwhite youth, and especially Black youth, are more likely to be detained than white youth across every category of offending.[4] Collaboration among system stakeholders and with community partners is at the heart of JDAI. No one agency or entity owns JDAI.[5]

JDAI IN NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

Each year Bernalillo County is awarded funds from the New Mexico State Government General Funds, through CYFD, to increase public safety through the support of data driven, evidence based juvenile justice practice and reform. The Continuum Statute requires the development of an advisory board that reflects all system and community stakeholders. This board creates strategic plans and makes data driven decisions to determine how the funding will be pent to serve the interests of community well-being. [6]

Bernalillo County joined the JDAI network in 1999. Over the next ten years, JDAI expanded to four additional counties: Doña Ana, Lea, Santa Fe and San Juan. [7]



Children's Code Reform Task Force

Undertaking Thoughtful Reform

Legislative Resource

One-Page Info Sheet
(Both sides)

FOOTNOTES

- [1] *JDAI Core Strategies*, Annie E. Casey Foundation
<https://www.aecf.org/work/juvenile-justice/jdai/jdai-core-strategies>
- [2] *The Impact of Pretrial Detention on 12-Month Recidivism: A Matched Comparison Study* (June 4, 2020)
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/001128720926115>
- [3] *The Impact of Juvenile Conviction on Human Capital and Labor Market Outcomes* (January 14, 2022)
<https://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/review/2022/01/14/the-impact-of-juvenile-conviction-on-human-capital-and-labor-market-outcomes>
- [4] *Racial and Ethnic Disparity in Juvenile Justice Processing Literature Review: A product of the Model Programs Guide*
<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/model-programs-guide/literature-reviews/racial-and-ethnic-disparity>
- [5] *Pathways to Juvenile Detention Reform, a Project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation – Collaboration and Leadership in juvenile justice reform.*
<https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/AECF-CollaborationandLeadership-1999.pdf>
- [6] *Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative of Bernalillo County*, (2023)
<https://www.bernco.gov/health-and-public-safety/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2023/09/JDAI-Pamphlet-2023.pdf> pg. 3
- [7] *Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Scale-Up: Study of Four States* (February 28, 2019)
<https://wested2024.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/29115458/Juvenile-Detention-Alternatives-Initiative-Scale-Up-Study-of-Four-States.pdf>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Presentation to the Interim Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee, *Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) in New Mexico*, Nick Costales, Craig Sparks, Judge Louis McDonald and Gerri Bachicha (2014)
<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/CCJ%20092514%20Item%205%20Juvenile%20Detention%20Alternatives.pdf>
2. *Juvenile Court Statistics 2022*, (2024)
<http://www.ncjj.org/Publication/Juvenile-Court-Statistics-2022.aspx>
(download required)

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