



Report to the Legislature

# Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Court Evidence-Based Programs

RCW 13.06.050(3)



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

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Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

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**In Collaboration With**  
Washington State Human Rights Commission  
Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators

## Executive Summary

Pursuant to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 13.06.050(3), the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) Juvenile Rehabilitation program (JR), in conjunction with the Washington State Human Rights Commission (HRC), is required to report annually to the Washington State Legislature on the effectiveness of juvenile court programs funded under RCW chapter 13.06 relating to juvenile offenders in reducing racial disproportionality. In particular, that RCW section states the following:

The secretary, in conjunction with the human rights commission, shall evaluate the effectiveness of programs funded under this chapter in reducing racial disproportionality. The secretary shall investigate whether implementation of such programs has reduced disproportionality in counties with initially high levels of disproportionality. The analysis shall indicate which programs are cost-effective in reducing disproportionality in such areas as alternatives to detention, intake and risk assessment standards pursuant to RCW 13.40.038, alternatives to incarceration, and in the prosecution and adjudication of juveniles. The secretary shall report his or her findings to the legislature by December 1, 1994, and December 1 of each year thereafter.

Since the late 1990s, the focus of the state funding provided by JR to the juvenile courts, based on legislative direction, has been on disposition alternatives and evidence-based programs (EBP). This is an important shift to make note of because the focus of these programs is not to specifically reduce disproportionality. While EBPs are not specifically designed to reduce racial and ethnic disparities, evidence- and research-based programs are shown to address criminogenic risks of youth and to reduce subsequent offending. Therefore, equitable access to these programs is imperative both in terms of equity in access to services and as a means to reduce disparities in subsequent contact with the juvenile justice system.

However, the answers to the following questions outlined in the statute are **no**:

1. Have county programs reduced disproportionality?
2. In counties with high levels of disproportionality, does the analysis indicate that the program is cost-effective in reducing disproportionality?
3. Specifically, in areas of alternatives to detention, intake and risk assessment standards and other related initiatives, has there been a reduction in the disproportionate percentages of youth being sent to juvenile rehabilitation and the adult prison system?

Pursuant to RCW 49.60, the HRC exists to prevent and eliminate discrimination through the fair application of the law, the efficient use of resources and the establishment of productive partnerships in the community. On September 20, 2019, the HRC reviewed this report. The HRC is supportive of the content of the report, yet still feels they lacked the resources and expertise to provide meaningful feedback or input. In the future, JR and HRC will review the statutory requirement for HRC's involvement in this work, and move forward with recommendations for changes. In the meantime, HRC and JR will continue to work together to best fulfill the statutory reporting requirements.

Disproportionate minority confinement (or racial and ethnic disparities, RED) is used in the United States to describe the overrepresentation of youth of color in correctional facilities. The expression was introduced in 1992 when the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention described disproportionate minority youth confinement in the US. Since then, it is used to describe disproportionality issues in offender populations, including racial disparity and overrepresentation of youth of color.

The issue of racial and ethnic disparities has been a national, state and local area of focus for more than 25 years. What we have learned is that the further a youth goes into the juvenile justice system, the

more disparities exist. Many efforts to combat RED are funded and implemented at all levels of government with the assistance of multiple non-profit agencies and foundations.

The Washington State juvenile courts have long been challenged by the fact that they do not control which youth come into their care. The funding associated with this reporting requirement is received by each juvenile court from JR in the form of a Block Grant. These funds are mandated to be spent on youth under the supervision of the court who are on probation or diversion. The majority (52 percent) of funding allocated for the juvenile courts is targeted for EBPs. The benefit of investing in EBPs is twofold. The fundamental reason is that these programs decrease recidivism (relapse into criminal behavior).

Additionally, the programs delivered in the juvenile courts have a strong cost-benefit – meaning not only do they reduce recidivism, but they also do so cost-effectively. It is important to note the EBPs implemented in the juvenile courts, however, are not cost-effective at reducing disproportionality. Currently, there is no identified practice in the juvenile courts that accomplishes this.

This is the fourth consecutive report in this series delving into youth of color who receive EBPs in Washington State juvenile courts.

## Introduction

Various publications have detailed the progress made in recent years to address racial and ethnic disparity (RED) in the Washington State juvenile justice system. Many efforts are underway at the national, state and local level to reduce RED. Several of these programs are detailed in the 2013 report, [Washington State Disproportionate Minority Contact Assessment](#), produced for the [Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice](#), as well as the 2014 report to the Washington State Supreme Court Symposium, [Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System](#). Additionally, the Office of Juvenile Justice concluded a two-year Juvenile Justice System Improvement planning grant in September 2018 to reduce racial and ethnic disparities, which focuses on working earlier in youth and family's lives to prevent or limit contact with the juvenile justice system.

Many of the initiatives described in these reports address RED at the macro-level or focus on the root causes of disparities such as poverty and the relationships between police and the communities they serve. In order to develop short-term actionable and measurable outcomes, JR and the Juvenile Courts chose to take a narrow focus on the issue of racial and ethnic disparity by focusing on access to EBPs in the juvenile courts. This report is initiated by RCW 13.06.050(3) which requires an annual report on the effectiveness of programs intended to reduce racial disparities in the juvenile justice system in the state of Washington for county juvenile justice programs receiving state funding through JR. While EBPs are not specifically designed to reduce RED, evidence- and research-based programs have been shown to address criminogenic risks of youth and to reduce subsequent offending. Therefore, equitable access to these programs is imperative both in terms of equity in access to services and as a means to reduce disparities in subsequent contact with the juvenile justice system.

This work is a collaboration between JR and the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators (WAJCA) with a review by the Washington State Human Rights Commission (HRC). This is the fourth report focused on the process to reduce RED in access to juvenile court EBPs and presents information on current racial and ethnic disparities in access to EBPs in Washington juvenile courts, identified barriers to increasing equity and innovative practices that courts have implemented to address disparities.

## Background

### Defining Racial and Ethnic Disparity

Racial and ethnic disparity, or RED, refers to the disparate outcomes of similarly situated youth in the juvenile justice system. This area of examination was previously referred to as disproportionate minority contact (DMC), but in recent years there was a shift away from this term in order to better reflect the communities we serve. People of color are no longer minorities in some parts of Washington State – and to highlight that while it is possible to have proportionate numbers of youth of color in the general and justice populations, disparities in decision making can still occur. For that same reason, while RED is occasionally used to refer to racial and ethnic “disproportionality,” the term “disparity” is more accurate. For additional information on RED please see [The W. Haywood Burns Institute](#).

### Defining Evidence- and Research-Based Programs

Recent national trends are toward offering EBPs yet, surprisingly, the definition of what makes a program (or practice) evidence-based varies across locations and disciplines. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Office of Justice Programs (OJP) considers programs and practices to be evidence-based when “their effectiveness has been demonstrated by causal evidence, generally obtained through high-quality outcome evaluations.” The MacArthur Foundation uses the [Drake et. al. \(2001\)](#)<sup>1</sup> definition of evidence-based practices as “clinical or administrative interventions or practices for which there is consistent scientific evidence showing that they improve client outcomes.” As the MacArthur Foundation notes, “There is increasing convergence regarding the definitions of the terms ... [including evidence-based practices], although variation in definitions is still common.”

While these definitions share common traits, there are differences or limitations in the specificity of the definition that could allow a single program to meet the EBP definition at one agency and not be considered evidence-based by another. Within the Washington juvenile justice system, the definition of evidence-based and research-based programs was developed by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) and legislatively defined. [WSIPP defines](#) a program as evidence-based if there have been “multiple site random controlled trials across heterogeneous populations demonstrating that the program or practice is effective for the population.” A program or practice is considered research-based if there is “some research demonstrating effectiveness, but that does not yet meet the standard of evidence-based practices.”

### Current Utilization of Evidence- and Research-Based Programs in Washington Juvenile Courts

The utilization of evidence- and research-based programs increased dramatically after the Washington legislature passed the Community Juvenile Accountability Act (CJAA) in 1997. The Act incentivized local communities to implement interventions proven by behavioral science research to cost-effectively reduce recidivism among juvenile offenders. A thorough history of the implementation of EBPs in Washington juvenile courts can be found in JR’s annual [Juvenile Court Block Grant Report to the Legislature](#). Within the juvenile courts, there are now six programs offered that have WSIPP evidence-based or research-based designation (as of [December 2018](#)). They are:

- Washington State Aggression Replacement Training (WSART): Research-based
- Coordination of Services (COS): Research-based
- Education and Employment Training (EET): Researched-based
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT): Evidence-based

<sup>1</sup> [Implementing Evidence-Based Practices in Routine Mental Health Service Settings](#)

- Family Integrated Transitions (FIT): Research-based
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST): Evidence-based

While four of the programs are research-based by WSIPP standards, all six programs will be referred to as evidence-based for the remainder of the report. This is done both for simplicity and because these programs are considered evidence-based by the criteria set forward by the CJAA Advisory Committee<sup>2</sup>.

Appendix 1 lists the juvenile court EBPs offered by each county in 2019. As evidenced from this table, ART and FFT are the most prevalent programs being offered in 22 and 24 out of 33 juvenile courts respectively.

## Collection and Review of EBP Data

### Rationale for This Focus

In accordance with [RCW 13.40.510](#), the juvenile courts are required to submit proposals to JR on how to implement and deliver EBPs in their local jurisdiction. As a result of a joint focus between JR and WAJCA on addressing RED in the juvenile justice system, this process was expanded in 2015 to include questions around racial and ethnic disparities in EBPs, barriers the courts perceived in addressing these disparities, innovative approaches they have taken and proposals for future innovations to address RED. This 2019 report includes data from 2015-2019 as well as court-level program updates on progress to address RED in EBPs since the initial 2015 report.

### Data Source and Notes

In 2015, 2017 and again in 2019, court-level data was extracted from the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) and provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR) to JR. For 2019, each court administrator received a document with the count and proportion of youth by year from 2016-2018 who were eligible for each of the EBPs offered by that court as well as the proportion who started the EBP and the proportion who completed it. Youth could be counted for more than one program if they were eligible for multiple programs.

This information was disaggregated by race and ethnicity using the race codes provided by WSCCR. The seven possible race categories were:

- White
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Other

It is important to note that due to database limitations, youth can only be associated with a single race category regardless of whether they identify with two or more.

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<sup>2</sup> The CJAA Advisory Committee's purpose is to provide oversight and structure to the juvenile courts in an effort to provide a continuum of evidenced-based, research-based and promising programs consistent with state statutes.

### EBP Trends and Analysis

The following data tables represent EBP start and completion trends for the three most utilized EBPs: WSART, COS and FFT. The data covers state fiscal years 2014-2018. Additionally, for the state fiscal year 2018, a Relative Rate Index is calculated which compares EBP start and completion rates of white youth with the start and completion rates of the different youth of color (see Appendix 3 for complete Relative Rate Index data).

Figure 1: Percent of Eligible Youth Starting WSART by Race Category – 2014-2018

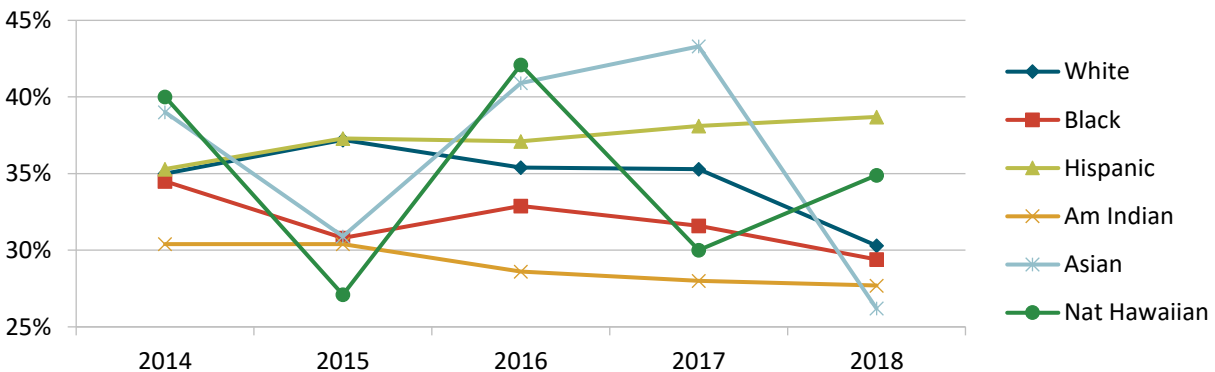


Figure 1 represents the percent of eligible youth that started WSART, by race. The average eligible youth start rate for WSART is 35 percent.

The percent of eligible youth that started WSART ranges from a low of 26 percent in 2018 (Asian) to a high of 43 percent in 2017 (Asian). American Indian youth consistently had lower start rates than other youth, while Hispanic youth frequently started WASRT at a higher rate than their peers.

For this, and all reporting, it was determined that rates within 10 percent of each other are comparable. This cutoff is not based on tests of statistical significance but rather on internal priorities to focus, at least initially, on RRIs with the largest disproportionality.

Table 1: The Relative Rate Index (RRI) for WSART Starts in SFY 2018		
Race Category	RRI	Finding
Black	0.972	Black and white youth start WSART at a comparable rate
Hispanic	1.279	Hispanic youth are 1.3 times more likely than white youth to start WSART
American Indian	0.916	American Indian and white youth start WSART at a comparable rate
Asian	0.865	Asian youth are 13 percent less likely than white youth to start WSART
Native Hawaiian	1.154	Native Hawaiian youth are 1.2 times more likely than white youth to start WSART

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Figure 2: Percent of Youth Successfully Completing WSART by Race Category – 2014-2018

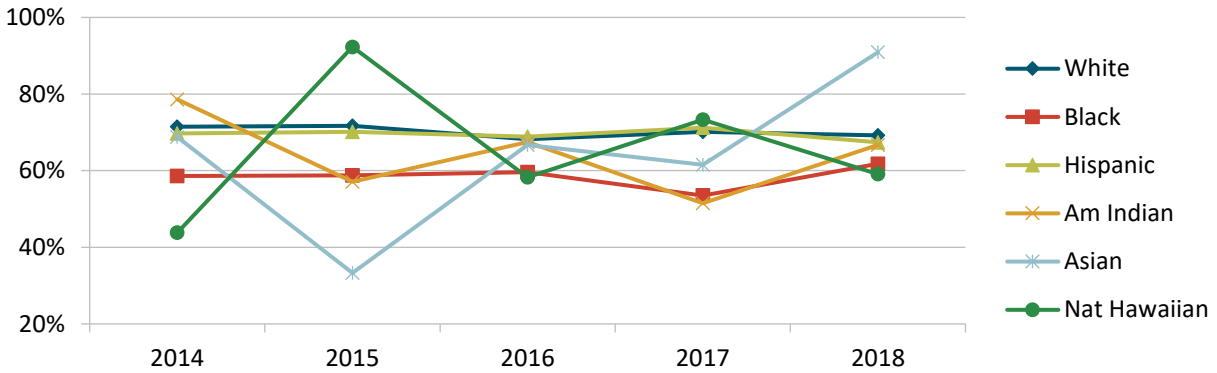


Figure 2 represents the percent of youth that successfully completed WSART, by race. The average eligible youth completion rate for WSART is 68 percent.

The percent of youth that successfully complete WSART ranges from a low of 33 percent in 2015 (Asian) to a high of 92 percent in 2015 (Native Hawaiian).

Table 2: The Relative Rate Index (RRI) for WSART Successful Completes in SFY 2018

Race Category	RRI	Finding
Black	0.893	Black youth are 11 percent less likely than white youth to complete WSART
Hispanic	0.974	Hispanic and white youth complete WSART at a comparable rate
American Indian	0.963	American Indian and white youth complete WSART at a comparable rate
Asian	1.313	Asian youth are 1.3 times more likely than white youth to complete WSART
Native Hawaiian	0.854	Native Hawaiian youth are 15 percent less likely than white youth to complete WSART



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Figure 3: Percent of Eligible Youth Starting COS by Race Category – 2014-2018

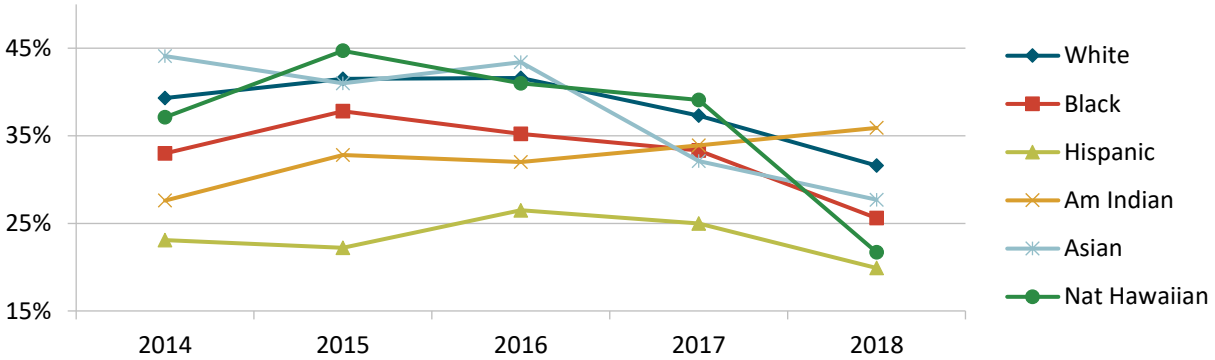


Figure 3 represents the percent of eligible youth that started COS by race category. The average eligible youth start rate for COS is 36 percent.

The percent of eligible youth that started COS ranges from a low of 20 percent in 2018 (Hispanic) to a high of 45 percent in 2015 (Native Hawaiian).

With the exception of American Indian youth, the percent of eligible youth starting COS declined for all racial groups from 2016-2018. White youth start COS at a higher rate than all youth other than American Indian youth (Table 3).

**Table 3: The Relative Rate Index (RRI) for COS Starts in SFY 2018**

Race Category	RRI	Finding
Black	0.811	Black youth are 19 percent less likely than white youth to start COS
Hispanic	0.631	Hispanic youth are 37 percent less likely than white youth to start COS
American Indian	1.287	American Indian youth 1.3 times more likely than white youth to start COS
Asian	0.878	Asian youth are 12 percent less likely than white youth to start COS
Native Hawaiian	0.689	Native Hawaiian youth are 31 percent less likely than white youth to start COS

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Figure 4: Percent of Youth Successfully Completing COS by Race Category – 2014-2018

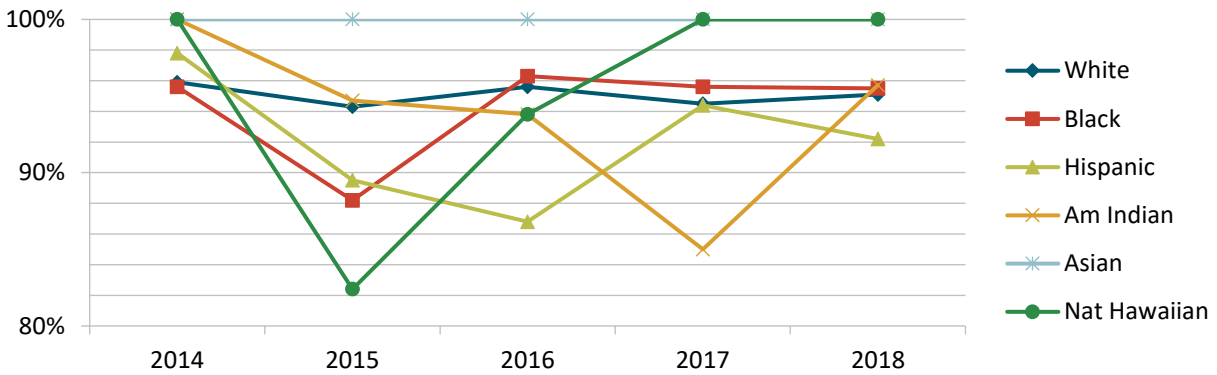


Figure 4 represents the percent of youth that successfully completed COS, by race category. The average eligible youth completion rate for COS is 95 percent.

The percent of youth that successfully complete COS ranges from a low of 82.4 percent in 2015 (Native Hawaiian) to a high of 100 percent which has occurred many times.

Table 4: The Relative Rate Index (RRI) for COS Successful Completes in SFY 2018

Race Category	RRI	Finding
Black	1.004	Black and white youth complete COS at a comparable rate
Hispanic	0.970	Hispanic and white youth complete COS at a comparable rate
American Indian	1.006	American Indian and white youth complete COS at a comparable rate
Asian	1.052	Asian and white youth complete COS at a comparable rate
Native Hawaiian	1.052	Native Hawaiian and white youth complete COS at a comparable rate

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Figure 5: Percent of Eligible Youth Starting FFT by Race Category – 2014-2018

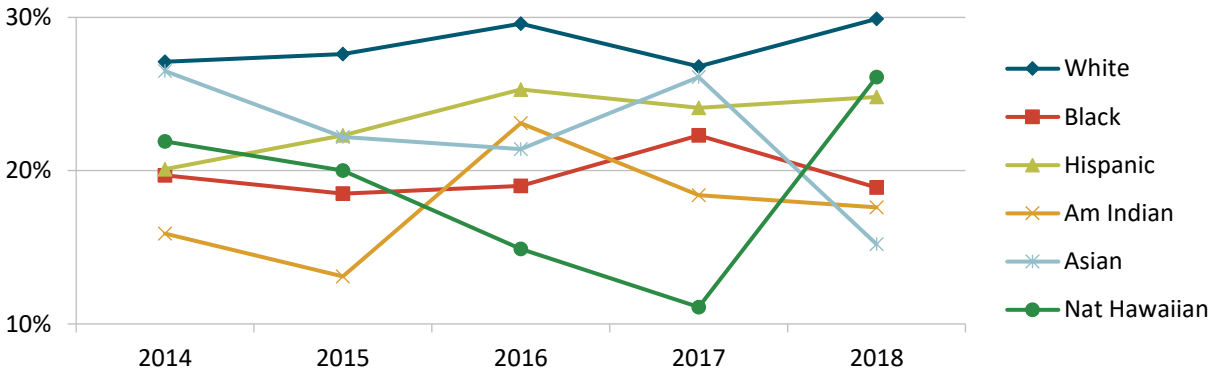


Figure 5 represents the percent of eligible youth that started FFT, by race category. The average eligible youth start rate for FFT is 25 percent.

The percent of eligible youth that started FFT ranges from a low of 11 percent in 2017 (Native Hawaiian) to a high of 30 percent in 2018 (White).

White youth who are eligible for FFT start FFT at a higher rate than all other racial groups (Table 5).

Table 5: The Relative Rate Index (RRI) for FFT Starts in SFY 2018		
Race Category	RRI	Finding
Black	0.633	Black youth are 37 percent less likely than white youth to start FFT
Hispanic	0.829	Hispanic youth are 17 percent less likely than white youth to start FFT
American Indian	0.590	American Indian youth are 41 percent less likely than white youth to start FFT
Asian	0.507	Asian youth are 49 percent less likely than white youth to start FFT
Native Hawaiian	0.872	Native Hawaiian youth are 13 percent less likely than white youth to start FFT

## RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN JUVENILE COURT EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

Figure 6: Percent of Youth Successfully Completing FFT by Race Category – 2014-2018

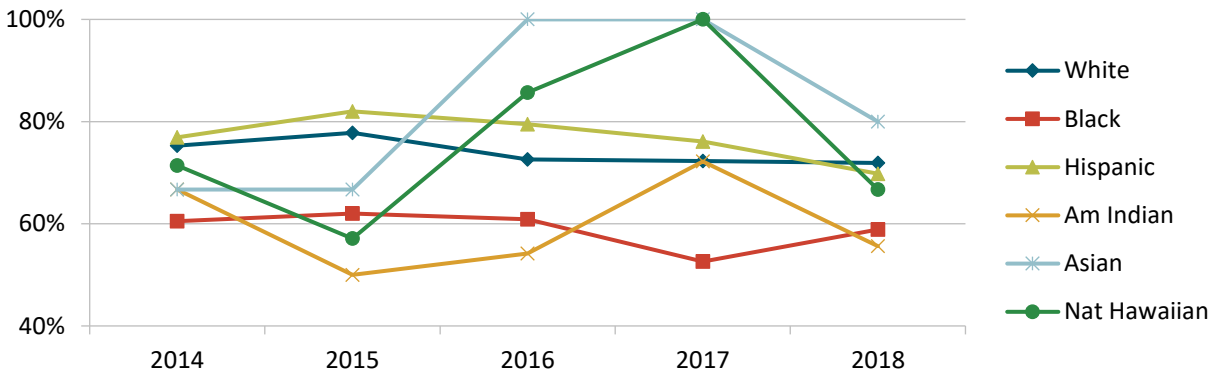


Figure 6 represents the percent of youth that successfully completed FFT, by race category. The average eligible youth completion rate for FFT is 72 percent.

The percent of youth that successfully complete FFT ranges from a low of 50 percent in 2015 (American Indian) to a high of 100 percent which has occurred for Asian and Native Hawaiian youth. Black and American Indian youth consistently have the lowest FFT completion rates.

Table 6: The Relative Rate Index (RRI) for FFT Successful Completes in SFY 2018

Race Category	RRI	Finding
Black	0.820	Black youth are 18 percent less likely than white youth to complete FFT
Hispanic	0.971	Hispanic and white youth complete FFT at a comparable rate
American Indian	0.773	American Indian youth are 23 percent less likely than white youth to complete FFT
Asian	1.113	Asian and white youth complete FFT at a comparable rate
Native Hawaiian	0.928	Native Hawaiian and white youth complete FFT at a comparable rate

## Court Reporting Process

For the 2019 reporting period, juvenile court administrators, or their designee, were asked to review their 2016-2018 court-level EBP data and respond to nine open-ended questions about how they administer EBPs in their jurisdiction and what the leading barriers are to offering EBPs. They were further asked to propose two strategies to enact over the next two years to reduce any disparities they saw in their data (see Appendix 2 for the questions). For smaller jurisdictions where there were too few youths served in EBPs to make any conclusions about disparities, in homogeneous communities where little racial and ethnic diversity exists or in courts where racial disparities were not observed in the EBP data, respondents were asked to speak to ways they could improve access to EBPs for all the youth they serve.

Through this process, juvenile courts with questions about their data and data interpretation were provided technical assistance from JR via phone and email. Juvenile court administrators were highly invested in the process and extremely responsive.

The remainder of this report will focus on the juvenile court identified issues being faced and the strategies addressing RED and any progress being made on those identified strategies.

## Overall Court Responses

Upon review of their counties' EBP data from 2016-2018, the juvenile courts identified the following leading barriers to racial and ethnic equity in EBP participation. Included are examples of practices implemented to reduce RED and strategies they enacted that they anticipate will result in measurable improvements in racial and ethnic disparities in access to EBPs. Many of the barriers identified were universal barriers to all youth served by the courts, though some were specific to racial or ethnic subpopulations.

## Barriers to Racial and Ethnic Equity in EBPs

### Language/Access to Interpreters

Access to bilingual service providers or to interpreters was one of the leading barriers to racial and ethnic equity in access to EBPs expressed by respondents. The limited availability of interpreters and the lack of additional resources to fund them or to subsidize staff who are bilingual limits who is able to receive EBPs. Many courts noted that the issue is greatest in family-based interventions because it is most frequently family members, not the justice-involved youth, who are non-English speaking.

While improved availability to interpreter services would increase the number of youth and families who could be served in EBPs, it is important to note that there are challenges with providing therapeutic interventions through an interpreter. In addition to using therapeutic language that might not be familiar to an interpreter, relationship building is hampered when done through an interpreter. We are unaware of any research on the efficacy of EBPs when offered through an interpreter.

### Engaging Indian Tribes

Having tribes involved, participating in local meetings and having a voice is critically important to local court jurisdictions. Specific engagement efforts need to be put in place on a local and statewide level.

### Family Engagement

Courts mentioned specific examples of racial and ethnic groups they were struggling to engage in. Native American, Black and Hispanic/Latino families were all mentioned by one or more court as being groups that they struggled to engage. Many respondents identified this disconnect as a weakness of the court's resources and competencies.

### Avoiding Unconscious Bias

A few courts have made the determination that there may be policies or decision-making practices that unconsciously result in disparate outcomes for youth of color in EBPs. These courts have implemented unique data review processes to track the differences and use the findings to identify and address bias.

## Barriers to Equity in EBPs

### Transportation/Geography

Transportation to EBPs was one of the most commonly identified barriers to equity in participation. Although few courts articulated how transportation was an issue unique to youth of color, it was clear that transportation was a common barrier that exacerbated existing disparities in access to EBPs. Transportation barriers are particularly common for rural jurisdictions but also affect the geographically isolated portions of more urban counties.

### Time Commitment and Timing of Group Interventions

In order to adhere to the program model and expect reductions in risk compared to those shown in the evaluations that indicated program efficacy, youth need to participate in a predefined number of sessions. Meeting EBP requirements of session frequency and length can be a challenge for youth with other pro-social commitments. For example, WSART is a time commitment of three sessions a week for 10 weeks, which can be difficult for youth and families to schedule into their existing commitments. The frequency and duration of an EBP can be challenging for youth and families to accommodate.

### Timing Within Probation Sentence

Over the past decade, there is a noticeable decrease in the length of probation sentences that youth in Washington are sentenced to. There is no single reason for this shift but many factors, including an effort to reduce the criminogenic risk caused by overserving a youth in the judicial system and financial pressures, have influenced this change. These shorter sentences do not always accommodate the length of sentences that youth need to complete an EBP.

An additional timing issue is the infrequency with which some counties offer group interventions, sometimes as rarely as annually. This makes it very difficult to coordinate probation services with the timing of when an EBP is offered. While most of these counties note that they would like to serve more youth in EBPs, frequently they are unable to run more than one group because they do not have a sufficient number of eligible youth to start a program.

### Low Numbers of Eligible Youth

Group programs (WSART and COS) require a specific number of youth to participate in order for a group to run. In counties with a small population, or a small number of youth served in their court who meet the EBP eligibility requirements, it can be very difficult to have a large enough number of youth ready and able to participate in a group EBP at any given time.

### Family Engagement

The definition of what constitutes a family is variable and driven by the youth. Getting families invested in programs is shown to be key in youth's success in EBPs. For family-based interventions (FFT, FIT, COS and MST) family involvement is required for program success. Even when family involvement is not part of the program model, such as in WSART, engagement and support from family encourages youth to succeed. Engaging families can be a challenge for many reasons, including a lack of understanding of the benefits of EBPs, personal and professional commitments that require the parent's time, parental chemical dependency, parental unavailability due to conflicting priorities or confinement and communication barriers between EBP providers and families.

## Staff Engagement

Some counties noted that staff are not always invested in EBPs and may not fully support youth to succeed in these programs. While this appears to be a limited problem, engaging staff to understand the importance of EBPs is key if they are expected to engage and support youth and their families through the EBP process.

## Staff Turnover

Many courts have expressed the challenge of losing experienced staff who provide training and coordination and having to replace them. It is costly (hiring and training) and it can set a program back by having an inexperienced staff provide treatment.

## Engaging the Community

Local community engagement is critical to the success of EBPs. Without their buy-in, they will not be effective. A community stakeholder group that meets regularly with local EBPs as a consistent agenda topic will be most effective.

## Funds for Training

Racial and ethnic disparities training is important and needs to be made available. These trainings, however, have costs associated with them. Dedicated funds need to be prioritized and made available for specific RED training.

## Statewide County Identified Solutions to Address Barriers to Equity in EBPs

Many counties have continued to address barriers to racial equity that they have identified. While most have yet to be evaluated for their efficacy, these practices are unique and show an innovative approach to addressing a common barrier experienced across multiple counties. The list of possible solutions below are areas identified that need additional focus and resource. These are just a sample of all the work being done across the state and do not identify every court currently implementing this practice. Any questions about county-level innovative practices should be directed to county staff.

## Development and Linguistic Translation of EBP Overview Documents

- For all EBPs and in multiple languages
- Counties would have regular access to the overview documents particularly when there are changes

## Statewide Training on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

- Large enough for as many (all) counties to attend
- Ongoing partnership with state and local governments

## Hiring Diverse Staff that Better Represent the Race and Cultures in Their Community

- Hire Spanish speaking probation staff to help engage families in EBP participation
- Hire Spanish speaking providers to work with youth and families more effectively

## Statewide Training on Engaging Target Groups

- Community Leaders
- Tribal Members
- Families

## Legislative Advocacy for Funding

- Transportation
- Translators
- Program Evaluation

## County Identified Responses

Below are some specific responses (identified goal and evidence of effectiveness) provided by juvenile courts that indicate some of the work and progress made to date. In some cases, juvenile courts have identified more work is necessary in these areas, and it is a goal to continue to improve.

### Clark County

Identified a goal of improving starts for Black and Latino youth in WSART and FFT.

*Evidence of progress toward goal:* With data gleaned from PACT, it was determined that Clark County made significant improvements in ART and FFT Latino starts. In 2017, the start rate in ART for Black youth was 40 percent and their start rate in 2018 rose to 44 percent. The start rate for Latino youth in ART rose from 23 percent in 2017 to 44 percent in 2018. For FFT, the start rate in 2017 for Black youth was 40 percent and in 2018 the start rate was 46 percent. For Latino youth, the start rate in 2017 was 19 percent and increased to 50 percent in 2018. Clark County also chose to focus on the number of Black youth that complete ART. In 2017, the completion rate was 63 percent and in 2018, it was 71 percent. The completion rate for Latinos in FFT also increased from 2017 to 2018 (75 percent to 80 percent).

### Kitsap County

Identified a goal of improving the completion rates of youth of color in the WSART groups held in Port Orchard.

*Evidence of progress toward goal:* Kitsap's strategy was to reassign a highly-skilled WSART lead trainer from the Port Orchard groups to the Bremerton groups in fiscal year (FY) 2016 with the intention of raising the completion rates of all youth of color who participated in WSART. The skilled trainer previously taught one Bremerton group with an overall completion rate of 83 percent. The strategy to reassign the trainer to the Bremerton classes involved:

1. Observation of the Bremerton WSART classes throughout two 10-week groups in FY 2016 to determine the techniques that seemed to be most effective in encouraging/motivating continued attendance and participation in WSART;
2. Training the other Bremerton WSART trainers in the effective techniques used;
3. Implement those techniques in FY 2017;
4. Observe WSART classes for quality assurance; and
5. Calculate the completion rates of the Bremerton groups at the end of FY 2017.

Data showed a 38 percentage point increase in the completion rates of youth of color in the Bremerton groups from FY 2016 to FY 2017.



## Pierce County

Identified two goals to work on:

1. African American youth will represent the same percent of youth served in EBPs as are represented in Diversion and Community Supervision
2. 70 percent of African American youth who participate in EBPs will successfully complete the intervention

*Evidence of progress toward goal:* In 2018, African American youth made 26 percent of the diversion population served and 31 percent of the probation population. In terms of overall youth starts in EBPs, they made up 31 percent of the population. In addition, African American children made up 50 percent of EET participants. In 2014, the Pierce County Juvenile Court Equity Team was formed. The mission of the team is to recognize and bring awareness to disparities. To become an anti-racist organization, Pierce County Juvenile Court staff seek solutions through training, relationship building and policy discussions so that every employee is valued, supported and empowered to do their best work.

## Whatcom County

Identified the goal of increasing starts and completions of Latino and Native American youth in ART.

*Evidence of progress toward goal:* The Whatcom County Juvenile Court's Community Programs Coordinator continues to collect monthly caseload data and meets with Probation Officers individually on a quarterly basis to discuss referrals and non-referrals to COS and ART. This has led to ongoing communication and collaboration to look beyond eligibility and consider suitability factors in line with risk/need/responsivity principles and youth's current state of change (i.e., instead of placing a pre-contemplative eligible youth in a program, increasing time to build engagement and motivation with the youth prior to starting an intervention). There would seem to be a correlation between this and the increase in both starts and completions of Latino and Native American youth in ART. In 2016 and 2017, 44 percent of eligible Latino youth started ART and 36 percent of those youth completed ART. In 2018, 55 percent of eligible Latino youth started ART and 80 percent of those youth completed ART. In 2016 and 2017, 19 percent of eligible Native American youth started ART and 50 percent completed. In 2018, 54 percent of eligible Native American youth started ART and 50 percent completed. While COS has been largely successful since starting the program back up in 2016, there has also been a significant improvement specific to the participation of Latino youth in the program. In 2016, zero out of 15 eligible Latino youth started COS. In 2017 and 2018, 21 of 56 eligible Latino youth (38 percent) started COS and 100 percent of those youth completed the program.

## Conclusions

JR and the juvenile courts continue to collaborate on implementing best practice approaches to better serve youth and families. A large part of these efforts is increasing access and outcomes of evidence-based and research-based programs to all youth. However, the juvenile justice system does not currently have a full complement of programs designed to meet the needs of all youth based on race, ethnicity, gender and cultural differences or on differences in the complexity of youth needs. One potential area of focus is to look at a broader array of well-designed and effective programs that can respond to the needs of those youth that the current menu of programs cannot. Specifically regarding reducing racial and ethnic disparities, much more work needs to be done. The collaborative work over the years between JR and the juvenile courts has the juvenile justice system in a better place with intentional efforts and conversations being had across the juvenile courts regarding fair access and outcomes for youth of color engaging in EBPs. These efforts will continue.

## Appendix 1: List of EBPs by County – 2019

### Evidence-Based Programs Offered in Washington State Juvenile Courts, by County 2019

#### Aggression Replacement Training (ART)

Asotin/Garfield, Benton/Franklin, Chelan, Clark, Columbia/Walla Walla, Cowlitz, Douglas, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, Yakima

#### Coordination of Services (COS)

Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Whatcom

#### Education Employment Training (EET)

Island, Jefferson, King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane

#### Family Integrated Transitions (FIT)

King

#### Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

Benton/Franklin, Chelan, Clark, Columbia/Walla Walla, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific/Wahkiakum, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Skamania, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, Whitman, Yakima

#### Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)

Benton/Franklin, King, Yakima

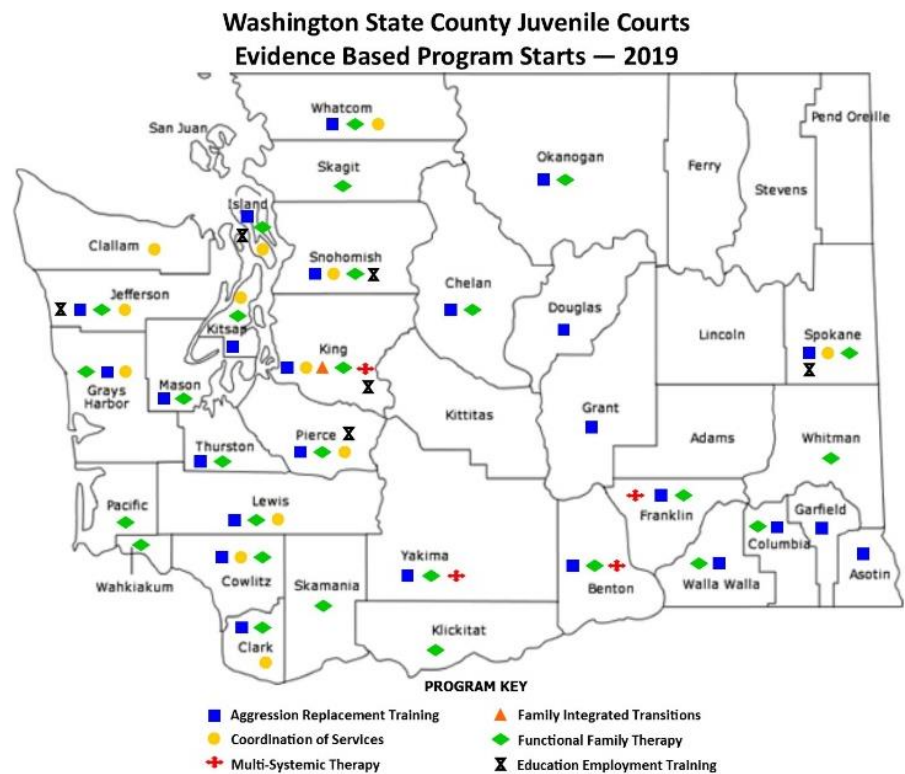


Image credit: *Juvenile Rehabilitation, 2019 Juvenile Rehabilitation Block Grant Report*

## Appendix 2: Juvenile Court RED Report



WASHINGTON STATE JUVENILE COURTS  
**RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITY (RED)**  
 QUESTIONS FOR BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

Please review the data provided regarding the racial/ethnic composition of youth starting and completing Evidence Based Programs (EBP) in your court. After reviewing the data, please complete the questions below. It is recommended that you convene a meeting with key stakeholders in your system to review this data, your current efforts to address racial and ethnic disparity (RED) in EBP utilization, and brainstorm ways to address RED.

JUVENILE COURT	JUVENILE COURT CONTACT NAME
JUVENILE COURT CONTACT PHONE NUMBER (XXX) XXX-XXXX	JUVENILE COURT CONTACT EMAIL
<b>REVIEW RED STRATEGIES AND MEASUREABLE IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
1. What <u>measurable improvements</u> did the RED issue you identified in 2017, and the corresponding strategies, result in?	
2. What successes did you encounter during this process? Did those success lead to sustainable change?	
3. What barriers did you encounter implementing these strategies?	
4. What lessons have you learned? Anything you would have done differently?	
5. What internal evidence do you have that your efforts are working? How are you measuring success?	
<b>CONTINUED RED STRATEGIES AND MEASUREABLE IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
You county is being asked to continue with strategies to reduce RED in equity and access in your court's EBP practices. You may elect to continue your strategy from before, or elect to identify a new strategy entirely. Based on the new data: How will you build onto the RED strategies you implemented in 2017 – 2019? If you are electing to focus on a new issue, identify the issue and provide two strategies that will result in <u>measurable</u> improvements in the next two years.	
6. How will you build onto the RED strategies you implemented in 2017 – 2019? If you are electing to focus on a new issue, identify the issue and provide two strategies that will result in <u>measurable</u> improvements in the next two years.	
7. Have you identified a specific population or process that is experiencing RED, and what data source(s) is being used to support this decision?	
8. Have you identified a best practice approach to support your strategy? Has the strategy been tested for its effectiveness to reduce RED with the identified population or process?	
9. Have your staff received RED training, to include implicit bias training?	

The data provided for this exercise was extracted from the PACT by the Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR). Do you have any questions or concerns with the data? If yes, please describe.

### Appendix 3: Relative Rate Index (RRI) Data – 2018

Percent of Eligible Youth that Started ART				
Race	Eligible	Starts	Start Rate	RRI
White	1,427	432	30.3%	--
Black	374	110	29.4%	0.972
American Indian	119	33	27.7%	0.916
Asian	42	11	26.2%	0.865
Hispanic	452	175	38.7%	1.279
Native American	63	22	34.9%	1.154
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>31.6%</b>	<b>--</b>

Percent of Youth that Successfully Completed ART				
Race	Starts	Completes	Completion Rate	RRI
White	432	299	69.2%	--
Black	110	68	61.8%	0.893
American Indian	33	22	66.7%	0.963
Asian	11	10	90.9%	1.313
Hispanic	175	118	67.4%	0.974
Native American	22	13	59.1%	0.854
<b>Totals</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>67.7%</b>	<b>--</b>

Percent of Eligible Youth that Started COS				
Race	Eligible	Starts	Start Rate	RRI
White	1,537	485	31.6%	--
Black	258	66	25.6%	0.811
American Indian	64	26	40.6%	1.287
Asian	65	18	27.7%	0.878
Hispanic	256	51	19.9%	0.631
Native American	46	10	21.7%	0.689
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>--</b>

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN JUVENILE COURT EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

Percent of Youth that Successfully Completed COS				
Race	Starts	Completes	Completion Rate	RRI
White	485	461	92.0%	--
Black	66	63	95.5%	1.004
American Indian	23	22	95.7%	1.006
Asian	18	18	100.0%	1.052
Hispanic	51	47	92.2%	0.970
Native American	10	10	100.0%	1.052
<b>Totals</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>95.1%</b>	<b>--</b>

Percent of Eligible Youth that Started FFT				
Race	Eligible	Starts	Start Rate	RRI
White	1,070	320	29.9%	--
Black	296	56	18.9%	0.633
American Indian	102	18	17.6%	0.590
Asian	33	5	15.2%	0.507
Hispanic	347	86	24.8%	0.829
Native American	46	12	26.1%	0.872
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>26.2%</b>	<b>--</b>

Percent of Youth that Successfully Completed FFT				
Race	Starts	Completes	Completion Rate	RRI
White	320	230	71.9%	--
Black	56	33	58.9%	0.820
American Indian	18	10	55.6%	0.773
Asian	5	4	80.0%	1.113
Hispanic	86	60	69.8%	0.971
Native American	12	8	66.7%	0.928
<b>Totals</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>69.4%</b>	<b>--</b>