

The background is a solid teal color. There are several decorative elements: a large, semi-transparent teal circle on the left side, a smaller semi-transparent teal circle in the upper right, and a solid red vertical rectangle in the top right corner. The text is centered and reads:

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

JDAI, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, was founded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation that focuses on a juvenile justice system reform with five main objectives:

- ❖ Decrease the number of youth unnecessarily detained
- ❖ Reduce the number of youth who fail to appear in court or re-offend pending a judicial decision
- ❖ Redirect public funds that would be spent on detention towards more effective processes, programs, and public safety strategies
- ❖ Improve conditions of confinement
- ❖ Reduce racial and ethnic disparities

JDAI is a **PROCESS** not a **PROGRAM**

It helps create a restructuring of the juvenile justice system beyond detention through eight core strategies:

COLLABORATION

The coming together of disparate juvenile justice system stakeholders and other potential partners (like schools, community groups, the mental health system) to confer, share information, develop system-wide policies, and to promote accountability

Three reforms:

- ❖ Since 2008, Yellowstone has developed a stakeholder committee to help come together and meet on the strategies of JDAI and the implementation in JDAI. There was a community meeting on March 25, 2014 discussing the progress of alternatives to detention and different programs for the youth in the community.
- ❖ There is a JDAI site coordinator who is actively working on bringing the community together to work on issues facing Yellowstone County. There is a JDAI newsletter sent out each month giving information, updates, and statistical facts relating to JDAI in Montana
- ❖ There is an implemented plan of action to develop JDAI further

An example of a Yellowstone County JDAI newsletter

YELLOWSTONE JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE

June 2014

BIG STEPS

Congratulations to Judge Mary Jane Knisely on being appointed to the Montana Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council!

"The Montana Juvenile Justice Advisory Council was established by Governor Forrest Anderson in August 1972 to examine existing juvenile legislation and juvenile correctional facilities, and to recommend revisions in the law."

<http://www.mt.gov/mt/home.do?org=mt&page=1191914>



Van Jones of CNN's Crossfire speaking at the 21st National Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Conference

NATIONAL JDAI CONFERENCE

On June 2-4 three Yellowstone County JDAI members, Laura Watson, Brooke Baracker-Taylor, and Emily Willis traveled across the country to Philadelphia for the National JDAI Conference. There were other delegates from across Montana and thousands of people from all over the country there to attend workshops and learn from one another. The subjects ranged from exploring mental health services in juvenile justice to how to re-write probation orders so that the youth better understand their compliance. There were many excellent speakers including author Nell Bernstein, who has written several best-selling books on the justice system, and Van Jones of CNN's "Crossfire."

Here is a link to an article about Van Jones's talk at the conference:

['Unlikely' Alliance Promotes De-incarceration of Young People](#)

"I'll never forget talking to the dean of the law school," said Jones. "How can we be in this building, and you can't walk out the front door and can't see equal justice anywhere. The response: "Well, those kids you are talking about are drug pushers. Our kids are experimenting in drugs."

LOOKING FORWARD

The probation violation study is almost complete. JDAI for the month of July will be reviewing the past two studies, the case processing study and the probation violation study, to assess the weaknesses and strengths of Yellowstone County and propose recommendations for moving forward.

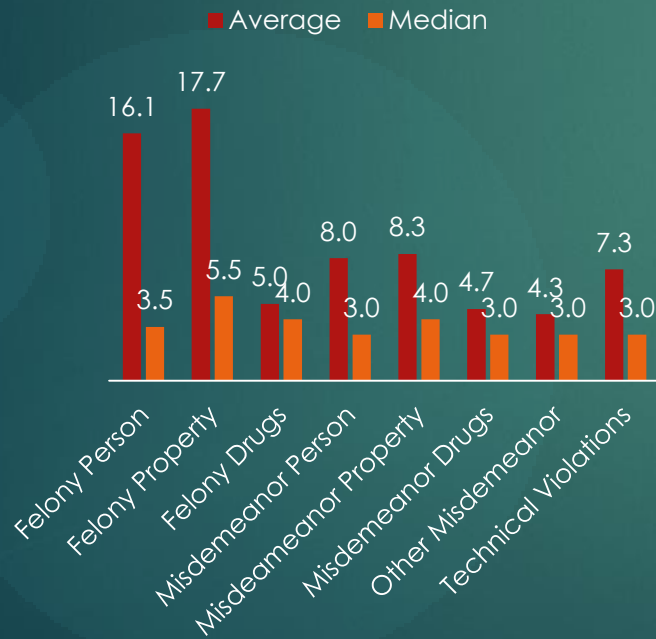
DATA DRIVEN DECISIONS

- ▶ Yellowstone County analyzes their data to pinpoint where changes need to be made..
- ▶ Yellowstone County has created a probation violation study, a case processing study, and monthly detention data statistics for the newsletter.

Average Length of Stay by Offense

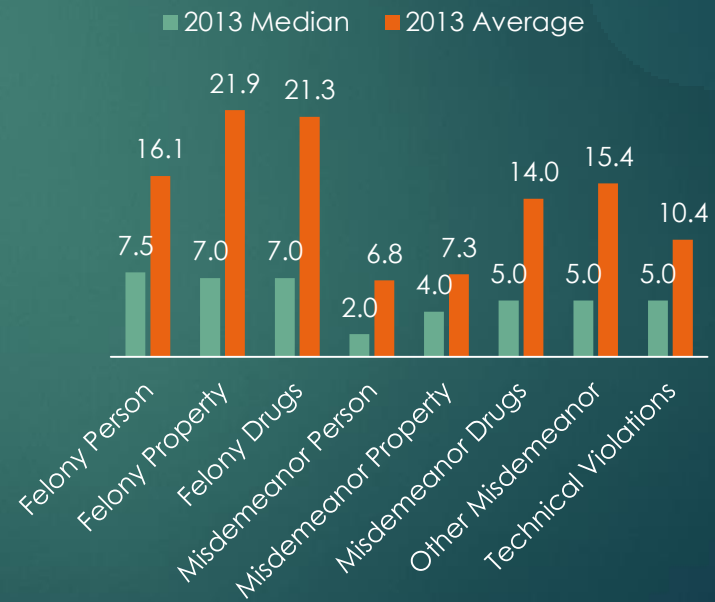
2008

Average Length of Stay by Offense
CY 2008



2013

Average and Median Length of Stay
Offense
CY 2013



Average Length of Stay by Race

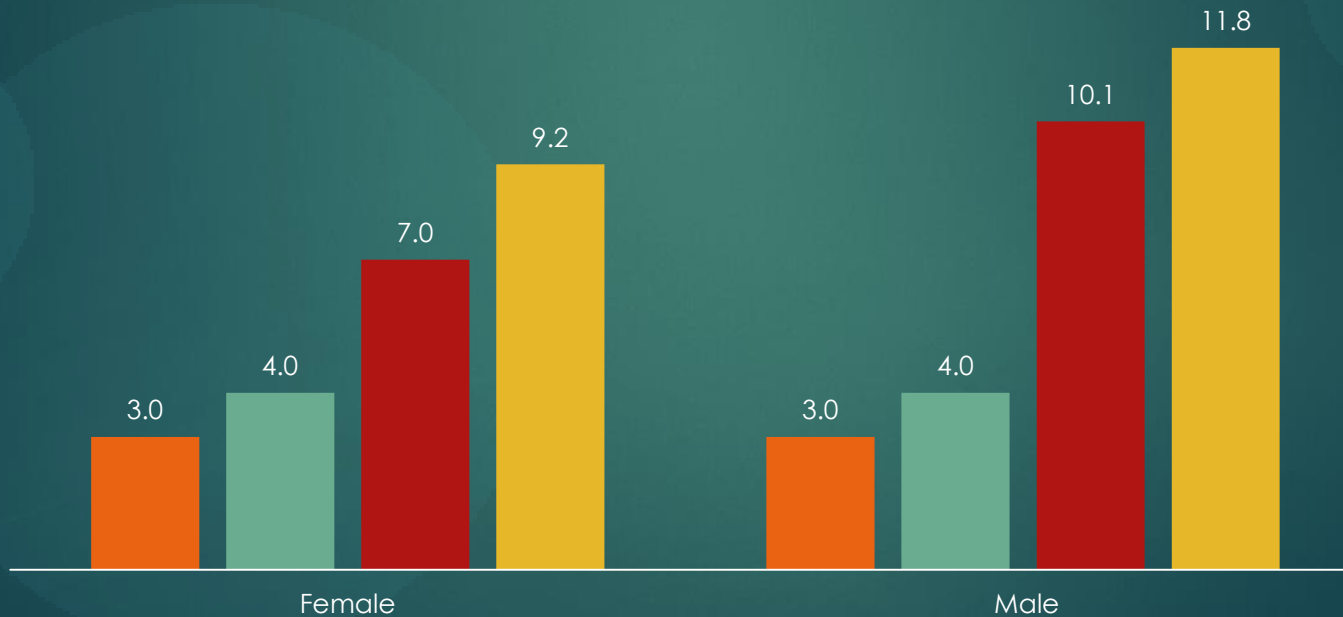
Average and Median Length of Stay in Days by Race
CY 2008 Compared to CY 2013



Average Length of Stay by Gender

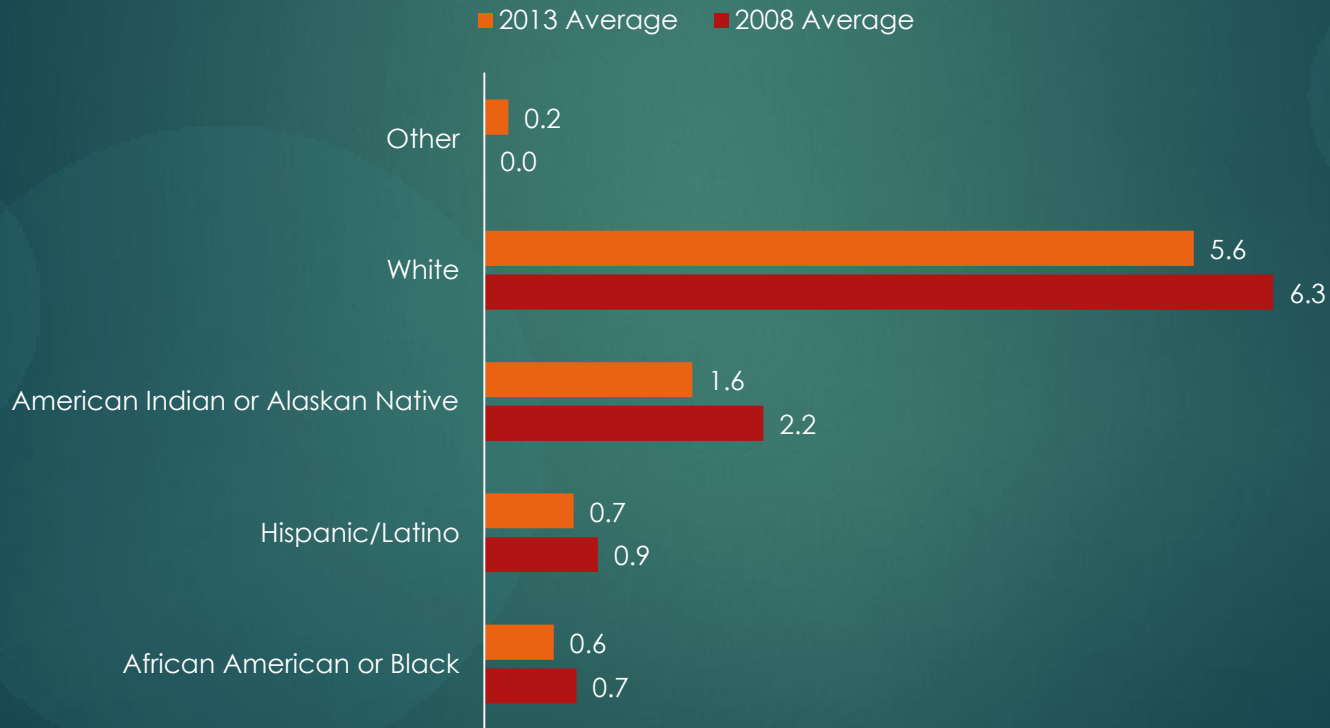
Average and Median Length of Stay by Gender
Cy 2008 compared to CY 2013

2008 Median 2013 Median 2008 Average 2013 Average



Average Daily Population by Race

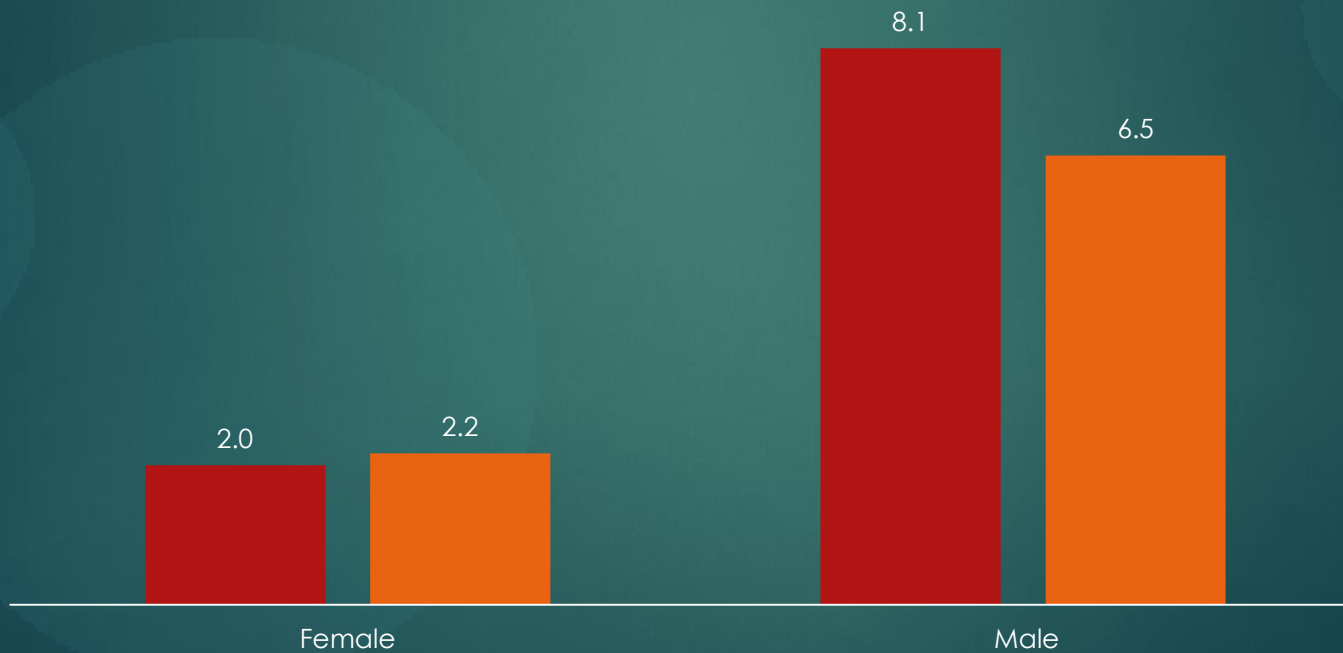
Average Daily Population by Race
CY 2008 Compared to 2013



Average Daily Population by Gender

Average Daily Population by Gender
CY 2008 Compared to 2013

■ 2008 Average ■ 2013 Average



OBJECTIVE ADMISSIONS

❖ Objective Screening Instruments

Yellowstone County created its own Detention Risk Assessment instrument to facilitate objective detention and alternatives to detention decisions. That tool was adopted for statewide use. It was evaluated and found to be unbiased.

DETENTION RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT – JPO

Youth's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Date: _____
 Officer Completing Assessment: _____ Race: _____ Gender: _____

Does youth meet statutory criteria for detention?	___ X ___ Yes
---	---------------

If the youth does not fall into the numbered category please respond with a -0- for the categories point totals.

1. The youth was taken into custody on a valid warrant or pick up order	15	+
2. Most Serious: Offense Alleged in Current Referral		
Felonies against Persons.....	15	
Other Felonies.....	10	+
Misdemeanors against Persons.....	7	
Other Misdemeanors.....	5	
3. Additional Offense: Alleged in Current Referral		
One or More Additional Current Felony Offenses.....	5	+
One or More Additional Misdemeanor or Violation of Probation/Parole Offenses.....	3	
4. Prior Admissions of Guilt		
Two or more prior admissions of guilt for felony offenses.....	6	
One prior admission of guilt for a felony offense.....	4	
Two or more prior admissions of guilt for misdemeanor or status offenses.....	3	+
Two or more prior admissions of guilt for probation/parole violations.....	2	
One prior admission of guilt for any misdemeanor or status.....	1	
5. Referrals Pending Adjudication		
One or more pending referrals for a felony offense.....	8	
Two or more pending referrals for other offenses.....	5	+
One pending referral for other offense/offenses.....	2	
6. Supervision Status		
Intensive or Close Supervision (Drug/Treatment Court, House Arrest, Group Home).....	10	
Formal Release Conditions.....	5	
On Probation.....	5	+
On Parole.....	5	
7. Warrant History		
Two or More Warrants.....	3	+
One Warrant.....	1	
Total Score		+

Indicated Decision: ___ 0-9 Release ___ 10-14 Detention Alternative ___ 15+ Secure Detention

Final Decision: _____

Override Justification:

Override Approved: _____ Date: _____

Probation Officer: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION

▶ Law Enforcement Relief and Response Line:

Yellowstone County identified the need for support services to assist local law enforcement when a Court Services Officer is not available. The team will respond to law enforcement when the youth does not necessarily need to be detained but an alternative is not available. They will respond to law enforcement and have the authority to place a youth in shelter care for up to 72 hours.

▶ Objectives:

- Decrease the amount of time law enforcement needs to spend on a call involving a youth
- Provide an on-site response to law enforcement dealing with a youth
- Locate youth's parent or legal guardian to whom they can be released
- Offer an immediate response to youth and families in crisis.

▶ Partner Family Member Assault Assessment:

- ▶ The focus will be on crisis intervention, stabilizing the family situation and moving the youth/family into outpatient services as quickly as possible.
- ▶ A minimum of 4 therapeutic sessions will be provided in this assessment. The family will be engaged as much as possible in these sessions but their participation is not required.
- ▶ A discharge summary and recommendations for future case planning will be provided to Youth Court Services, Chief within 5 days of discharge.

CASE PROCESSING REFORMS

❖ **Post-Arrest**

❖ **At the initial appearance**

- ▶ Speedy Review
- ▶ Calendaring

❖ **Pending Adjudication**

- ▶ Timely Hearings (in the afternoon so there is time to meet with counsel)
- ▶ Notification
- ▶ Continuances

❖ **Adjudication to Disposition**

- ▶ Fixed time frames are established for dispositional report preparation.
- ▶ Reports arrive too late to the respective parties to allow for any action except a request for a continuance to review the report.

❖ **Disposition to Placement**

❖ **Other:**

- ▶ Bi-weekly staffing's with County Attorney's office

Case Processing Impact

2012

Petition Filed to Initial Appearance

- ▶ Average: 42 Days
- ▶ Average Detention Days: 13.25

Initial Appearance to Adjudication/Change of Plea

- ▶ Average: 29 Days
- ▶ Average Detention Days: 1

Adjudication/Change of Plea to Disposition

- ▶ Average: 17 Days
- ▶ Average Detention Days: 18.5

2013

Petition Filed to Initial Appearance

- ▶ Average: 27 Days Average
- ▶ Detention Days: 7

Initial Appearance to Adjudication /Change of Plea

- ▶ Average: 7 Days
- ▶ Average Detention Days: .4

Adjudication/Change of plea to Disposition

- ▶ Average: 26 Days
- ▶ Average Detention Days 23

SPECIAL DETENTION CASES

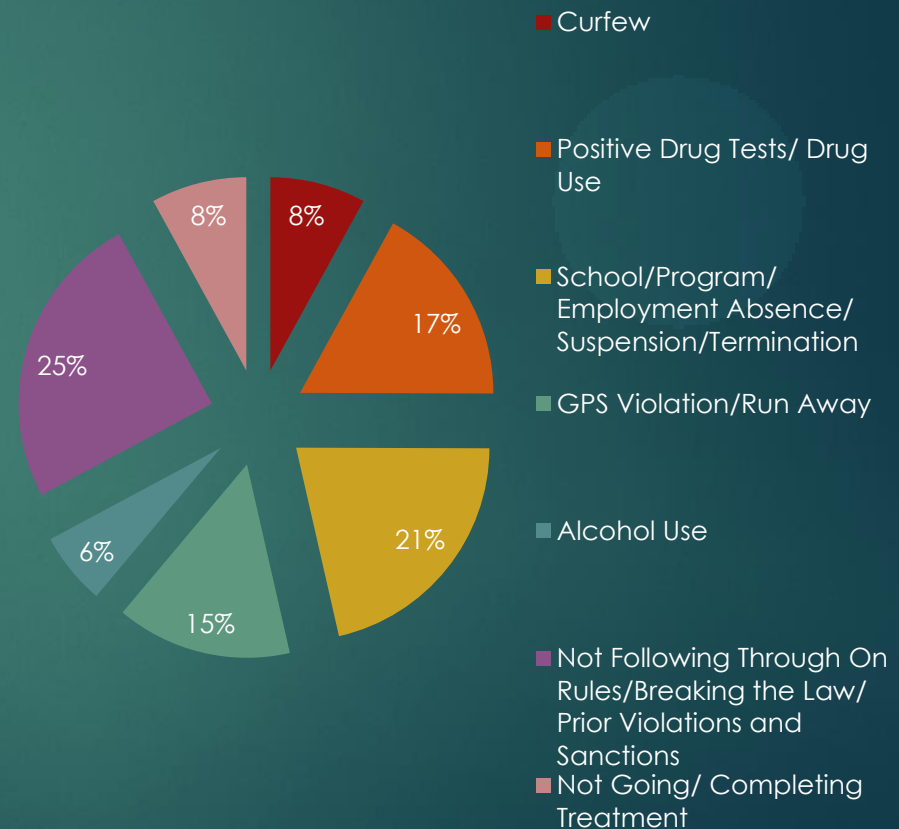
Special Detention Cases:

Children detained on warrants, children detained for probation violations, and children in post-adjudication or post-disposition detention waiting for placement.

JDAI Strategies and Solutions for Minors with Probation Violations:

- ❖ Gathering adequate data
- ❖ Adopting written guidelines
- ❖ Mandatory risk screening
- ❖ Supervisory review of detention recommendations
 - ❖ Yellowstone is considering re-writing probation rules for less detention time for not following rules
- ❖ Non-judicial handling of technical violations
 - ❖ Yellowstone does this and most are handled by probation officers
- ❖ Alternative programs for juvenile probation violators
 - ❖ This is an aspect that Yellowstone County is looking into further
- ❖ Consider a non-detention policy for technical probation violators

Probation Violations 2013



REDUCING RACIAL DISPARITIES

Strategies for Addressing Racial Disparities in Yellowstone County:

- ❖ Collect data and conduct research to document where disparity occurs
- ❖ Build coalitions and alliances with communities and minorities within the community
- ❖ Minimize opportunities for discriminatory decisions by creating objective instruments and guidelines free of racial bias

CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT

Assessment:

The Youth Services Center has conducted a conditions of confinement report and passed in all sections. It is keeping their inspections up to date and following JDAI regulations.