

**Federal Advisory Committee on  
Juvenile Justice (FACJJ) 2009  
Annual Request for Information (ARI)**

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*Presented by CSR, Incorporated*

*August 2009*

## ARI Areas of Inquiry

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- ▶ Key current and emerging juvenile justice issues
- ▶ Recommendations to the President, Congress, and the OJJDP Administrator
- ▶ Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and information about the coordinator for each state and territory
- ▶ Areas of difficulty with the DMC requirement
- ▶ Promising programs/practices for DMC reduction, and if awarded additional funds for DMC, how funds would be used
- ▶ Part 2 was optional and asked for information on the following:
  - Other promising juvenile justice programs and practices and whether these were addressed in the 3-year plan
  - Types of technical assistance OJJDP could offer that would be helpful to states/territories

## Methods and Response Rate

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- ▶ Respondents from 52 of 56 states and territories (92%) entered at least some data
- ▶ Mandatory questions had a response rate of 80%
- ▶ Every responder selected at least three Current and Emerging Issues, with most states selecting four to five
- ▶ Web-based ARI accepted data between February 9 and May 29, 2009

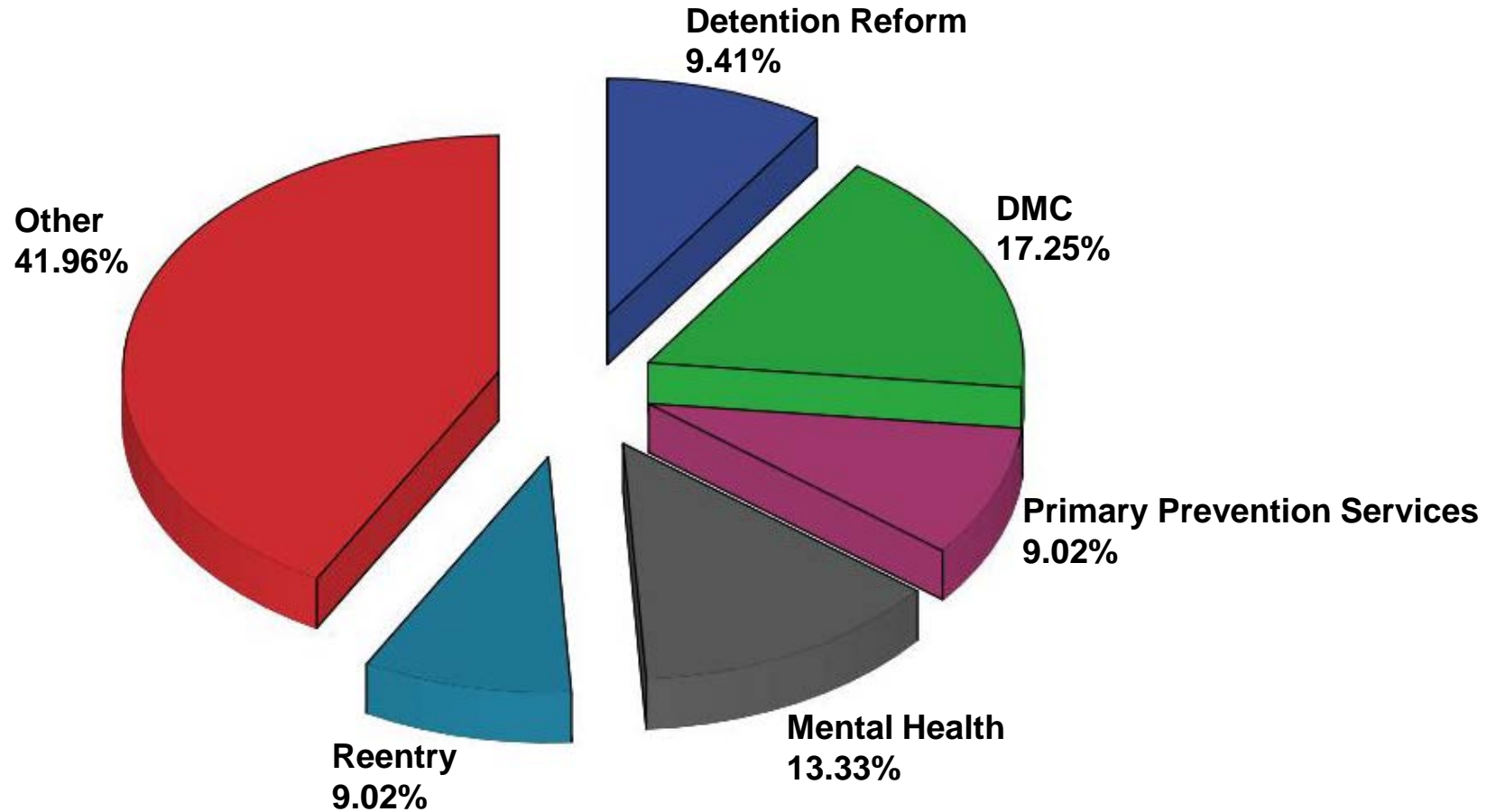
## Key Current and Emerging Issues

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- ▶ The top 5 issues reported by respondents were:
  1. Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) ( $n = 44$ )
  2. Mental Health Assessment and Treatment ( $n = 34$ )
  3. Detention Reform ( $n = 24$ )
  4. Lack of Primary Prevention Services ( $n = 23$ )
  5. Juvenile Reentry ( $n = 23$ )
  
- ▶ DMC and Mental Health also were the top 2 issues from 2008.

# Top Five Juvenile Justice Issues

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## How are these issues affecting your state?

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- ▶ DMC
  - Lack of culturally specific interventions
  - Disparities in local juvenile justice systems
    - Minorities waived to adult court more than whites
  - Difficulties with providing services in rural communities
  
- ▶ Mental Health assessment and treatment
  - Shortages of services for juveniles
  - Inability of agencies to share information

## How are these issues affecting your state? *(cont.)*

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- ▶ Detention Reform
  - Lack of resources and educational material
  - Shortage of financial assistance
  - Deinstitutionalization of status offenders
  - Lack of detention alternatives
  
- ▶ Juvenile Reentry
  - Lack of counseling and training to families and communities
  - Lack of school-based programs
  - Lack of communication with schools
  - Shortage of transition programs

## **How are these issues affecting your state? (cont.)**

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- ▶ **Primary Prevention Services**
  - Lack of funding
  - Lack of gender-specific programs
  - Lack of school-based programs



# Recommendations to the President & Congress: *Research & Evaluation*

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- ▶ Place more emphasis on juvenile justice research
- ▶ Develop more evidence-based programs & practices
- ▶ Conduct cost-benefit research on juvenile justice programming
- ▶ Better assessment of mental health treatment programs
- ▶ Offer leadership with regard to national research agenda for juvenile justice
- ▶ Better assessment of legislation for juveniles
  - Adam Walsh Act and SORNA may be a hindrance to juvenile treatment

# Recommendations to the President & Congress: *Leadership & Funding*

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- ▶ Reauthorization of JJDP Act:
  - Provide states with funds to enable them to comply with the Act
  
- ▶ Decreased funding means fewer juvenile services. We need more funding for:
  - Mental health services and substance abuse programs
  - DMC
  - Rural programs for juveniles
  
- ▶ Enact legislation to make it easier to share information—this is difficult with HIPAA and FERPA.

## Recommendations to Congress

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- ▶ Address knowledge of the juvenile justice system among members of Congress:
  - Education is needed
  - The impact of lost funding should be made clear

# Recommendations to the OJJDP Administrator

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- ▶ System reform
  - MacArthur Foundation’s Model for Change
  - Annie E. Casey Foundation’s JDAI
  - Reforms of administration of OJJDP
  
- ▶ Funding
  - Less discretionary funding
  - More funding for Title II, Title V, JABG, and EUDL programs
  - More training and technical assistance for those programs

# Recommendations to the OJJDP Administrator

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## ▶ Research

- More research and evaluation
  - Especially on evidence-based programs and practices
- Need for judicial training in evidence-based programs and practices
- Gender-specific programs, DMC programs

## ▶ Legislation

- More DMC funding
- Greater focus on interagency cooperation & information sharing
- More programs for juvenile sex offenders

# Recommendations to the FACJJ

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- ▶ New ideas
  - Have a Native Sovereign Nation representative
  - Have FACJJ play an expanded role in OJJDP
  - Do NOT have predetermined focus areas of the ARI
    - Gang prevention and intervention not addressed this year

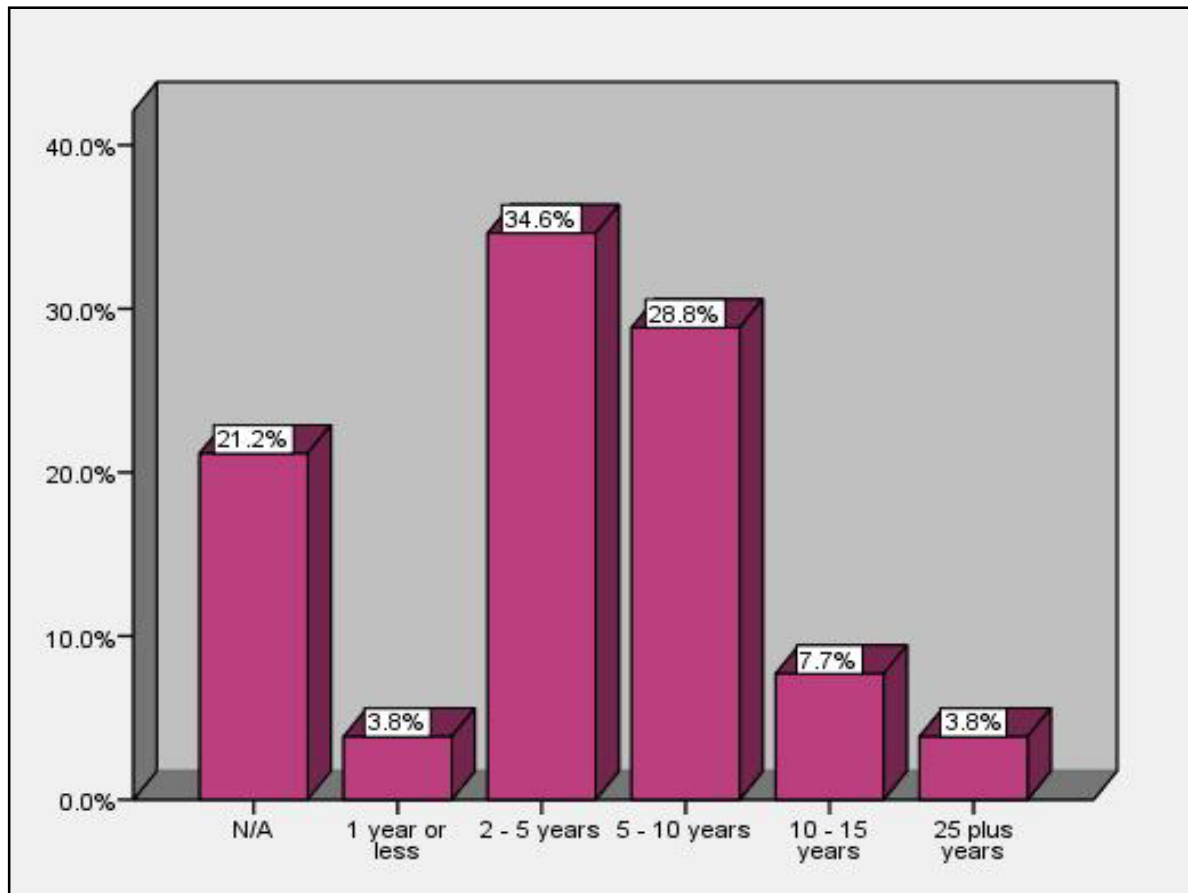
## Focus on DMC

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- ▶ Employment
  - 54% of respondents said DMC coordinator was part-time
  - One-third of respondents said DMC coordinator was full-time
  - 13.5% of respondents don't have a DMC coordinator
  
- ▶ Funding
  - 61.5% of respondents said DMC coordinator was funded by Federal government Title II funds
    - Most work full time
  - 5 respondents said DMC coordinator was state-funded
    - 4 of these work part time

## Focus on DMC (cont.)

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## Focus on DMC (cont.)

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- ▶ Areas of Difficulty
  - Lack of funding for DMC, 36%
  - Lack of DMC programs for specific DMC issues, 25%
  - Shortage of necessary data, 24%
  
- ▶ If respondents had more funding:
  - Hire DMC coordinator full time
  - Raise DMC awareness
  - Fund research & evaluation of DMC

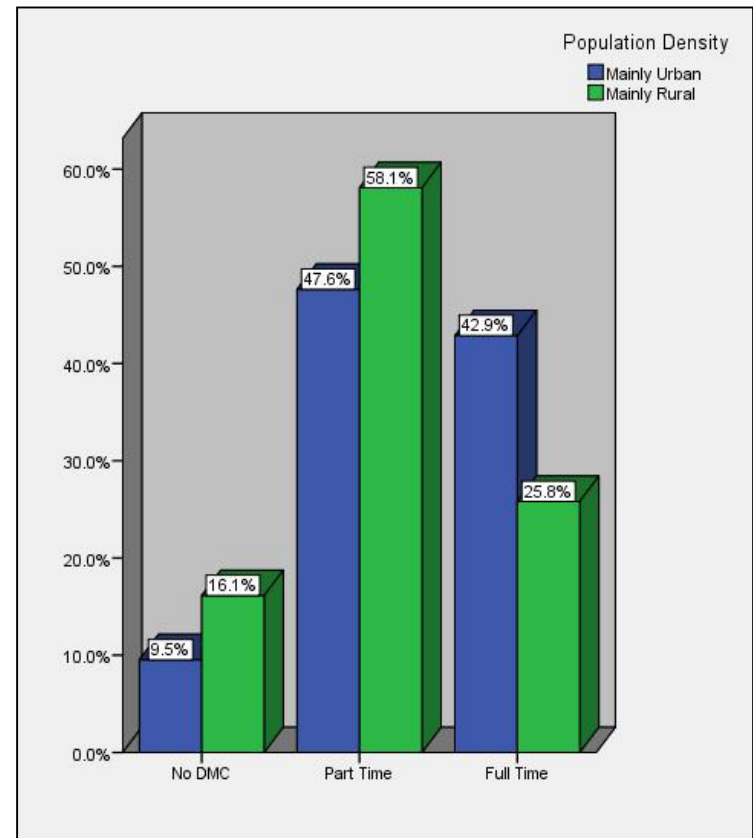
## Focus on DMC (cont.)

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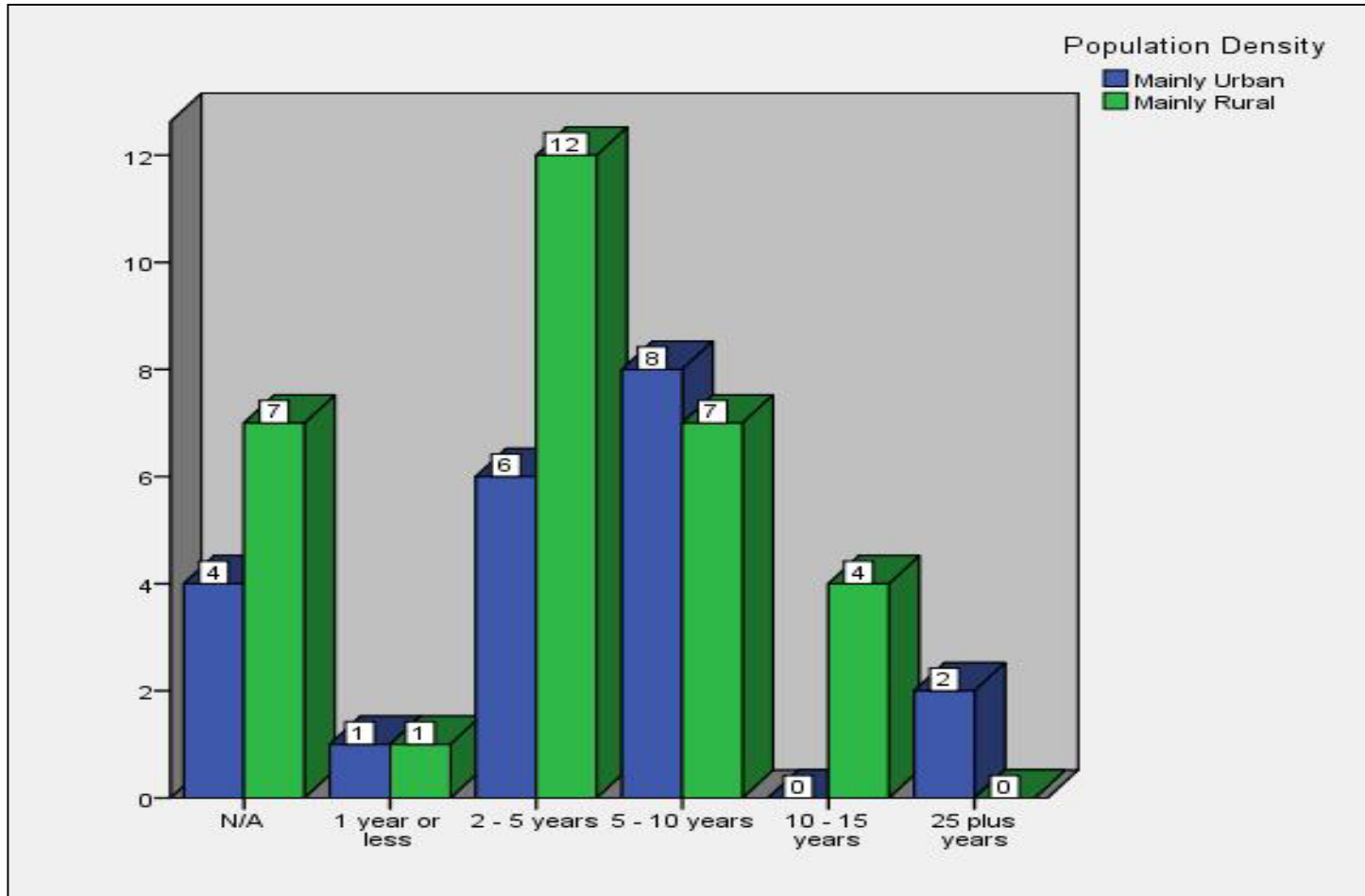
- ▶ Funding (cont.)
  - Fund assessment of community-specific DMC
  - Address needs of Hispanic youth
  - Keep DMC at forefront of juvenile justice
  - Create statewide database of DMC and DMC programs
  - Provide training and technical assistance on DMC to communities
  - Implement a DMC advisory group

## DMC Coordinator Employment Status by Population Density

- ▶ Part-time DMC coordinators:
  - 58% rural
  - 47% urban
- ▶ Full-time DMC coordinators:
  - 42.9% urban
  - 25.8% rural



# Length of Time DMC Coordinator Established by Population Density



## Areas of Difficulty by Population Density

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- ▶ The main areas of difficulty the respondents ranked were:
  - Lack of DMC programs to address the DMC need
  - Lack of funding
  - Lack of necessary data
- ▶ **Rural** populations reported more difficulties than urban populations

	Mainly Urban	Mainly Rural
DMC Programs	10	16
Funding	17	22
Necessary Data	12	15

## OPTIONAL QUESTIONS: Promising Programs and Practices

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The responses on promising programs and practices touched on 11 themes:

- DMC
- Gender-based programs
- School-based programs
- Mental health programs
- Reentry and aftercare programs and services
- Detention reforms
- Prevention programs
- Development, policy improvement, training, and compliance
- Deinstitutionalization of status offenders
- Intervention programs
- Other programs

## Categories of Assistance OJJDP Could Offer States/Territories

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- ▶ Disseminating research findings (conferences, bulletins, toolkits, etc.): n = **16**
- ▶ Conducting new research: n = **9**
- ▶ Developing evidence-based programs: n = **12**
- ▶ Developing assessment tools: n = **6**
- ▶ Providing training & technical assistance with evaluation: n = **12**
- ▶ Developing model policies and regulations: n = **3**
- ▶ Suggesting content areas and training topics for OJJDP conferences: n = **8**

## Discussion

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- ▶ How was the online process?
- ▶ How was the timing of the survey?
- ▶ Were there particular challenges to responding to the ARI this year?
- ▶ Did the questions elicit the desired responses?
- ▶ How should the draft report be revised?
- ▶ How could the process be improved?