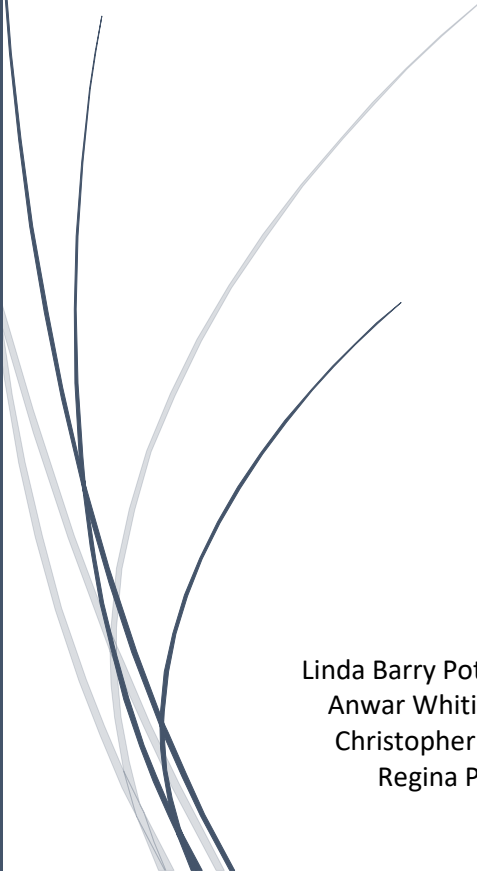




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RED Plan for Maine

Racial & Ethnic Disparities Reduction
Plan



Linda Barry Potter, Juvenile Justice Specialist & Compliance Monitor
Anwar Whiting, Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator
Christopher Northrup, Co-Chair Maine's JJAG R/ED Committee
Regina Phillips, Co-Chair Maine's JJAG R/ED Committee

**2023 PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE RACIAL & ETHNIC CORE
REQUIREMENT OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 2018**

Pursuant to Section 223(a)(22) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 (JJDP), and the reauthorization of the Act in 2018, states and territories must address specific delinquency prevention and system improvement efforts to reduce, the disproportionate number of Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) youth who have contact with the youth justice system. Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) exists if the rate of contact with the youth justice system of a BIPOC group is significantly different than the rate of contact for non-Hispanic Whites or other BIPOC groups.

Per the JJRA 34 U.S.C. 11133(a)(15)(A), states comply with finding racial and ethnic disparities, by establishing or designating existing coordinating bodies, composed of juvenile justice stakeholders, (including representatives of the educational system) at the State, local, or tribal levels, to advise efforts by States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes to reduce racial and ethnic disparities within the State.

The purpose of this core requirement is to ensure equal and fair treatment for every youth (regardless of membership in a BIPOC or a majority population group) involved in the youth justice system. A state achieves compliance with this core requirement when it meets the requirements set forth in Formula Grants Consolidated Regulation 28 C.F.R. Part §31.303(j). These include addressing R/ED continually through, assessment, intervention, evaluation, and monitoring. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) require States to carry out these five phases or core strategies to satisfy this mandate:

Maine uses the population numbers off the EAZPOP website utilizing the 2020 Census and broken down by all state and then counties also. Maine uses the age range of ages 12 – 17 to represent those most likely to have juvenile justice system involvement. The site then provides data about what the numbers/and or percentages are for the White, Black, Native American, Native Alaskan, Asian, Native Hawaiian or South Pacific Islander and the Hispanic population. The Hispanic population is arrived at by looking across all race categories and who also selected Hispanic ethnicity to arrive at the numbers for this state. You can see the table below with the 5

points of contact broken out by race and ethnicity. Any percentages that are bolded are identified as having disparity in relation to the White population. Maine also breaks out data down county by county around the five points of contact. This provides the R/ED Committee with more localized information to work with when deciding what data to drill down on- and where to look in an effort to partner with counties, communities and local police with higher levels of disparity for the Black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian or South Pacific Islander populations.

MAINE’s 2021 R/ED DATA:

<u>Race</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Native American or Alaskan Native</u>	<u>Asian</u>	<u>Native Hawaiian or South Pacific Islander</u>
<u>Population</u>	106084	4492	3605	1121	2253	1
<u>Referral</u>	<u>1265</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Percentage</u>	<u>1.19%</u>	<u>2.49%</u>	<u>1.50%</u>	<u>2.05%</u>	<u>0.58%</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Diversion</u>	<u>492</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Percentage</u>	<u>38.89%</u>	<u>24.11%</u>	<u>27.78%</u>	<u>30.43%</u>	<u>30.77%</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Detention</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Percentage</u>	<u>6.96%</u>	<u>19.64%</u>	<u>11.11%</u>	<u>17.39%</u>	<u>7.69%</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Secure Care</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Percentage</u>	<u>1.03%</u>	<u>3.57%</u>	<u>5.56%</u>	<u>8.70%</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Adult Transfer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

ANALYSIS OF THE RED DATA

Maine’s R/ED data for 2021 most groups show a marked decreased number of youths who were referred, detained, or committed from previous years due to the continued impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic and the stay-at-home orders that affected Maine from March 2020 – September 2021. There was a slight increase in Hispanic and Native American’s that were diverted as well as an uptick in Asian referrals. Again, this year Maine has had zero cases transferred to the adult court.

There are still significant disparities around referrals for BIPOC and Hispanic youth at most of the five points of contact with the juvenile justice system. Lower diversion numbers show the impact of the Restorative Justice and Diversion providers not being able to work due to

Pandemic protocols. JJAG acknowledges that diversion opportunities vary in scope and scale across the state and Maine wants to ensure that all youth have equal access to appropriate diversion options.

When looking at disproportional percentages in Maine we continue to see significantly higher percentages of Blacks and Hispanics when compared to Whites, a contributing factor is the smaller number of those populations within Maine compared to Whites.

Overall Maine referred fewer youth into the youth justice system and detained fewer at the pre-trial and commitment fewer youth due to Pandemic protocols and work from the multidisciplined Regional Care Teams.

GOAL for 2023 TO REDUCE RED BY 10%:

After comparing 2020 to 2021, referral data Maine saw lower overall numbers being referred to the system, but also lower numbers being diverted due to ongoing Pandemic protocols. Maine did achieve its goal of lowering disparities by 10% when comparing the annual data. It is up to all who work or refer to the juvenile justice system to continue to keep these numbers going in that direction after the Pandemic protocols are lifted.

Maine attributes this to the pandemic affect rather than to any great change in our police forces or with our Juvenile Community Corrections Officers. What we did learn from the pandemic is that our families benefited from having services to assist them and their youth to stay in the community like help with rent, data bills, food, therapy, clothes, emergency safety etc. This was accomplished in a joint effort with DOC Community Corrections flex funds and dedicated funding by the JJAG for Regional Care Teams. On the referral form for the RCT the JCCO's indicated if this was helping keep a youth at home and out of detention, and more than 90% of them answered YES to this question. Supporting the stability of all families within the Maine Juvenile Justice System cannot be understated in its positive effect.

Maine's goal for the reporting of FY 23 is to once again see racial and ethnic disparities continue to decline at 10% or more, as the R/ED Committee plan moves into its third year of implementing goals in Maine's BIPOC communities.

WHAT SUCCESS IN MAINE WOULD LOOK LIKE

Success in Maine will be reflected by keeping detention and commitment numbers for youth at or below 40 youths. Success will be the ability to establish smaller more therapeutic facilities for youth detained or committed inside or closer to their home communities. Success will be having attendant care beds available in Auburn and north of Bangor, as an alternative to detention. Success will be supporting more of our families within their own communities and ensuring that more crisis beds are available to our youth rather than detention beds. Success will be ensuring all our local police forces in Maine have access to community -based diversion options and know about them. Main JJAG will continue to support restorative justice programs, alternatives to detention and incarceration, alternative to suspension or expulsion in our schools, and helping youth grow, thrive and find their voices and speak out for their needs within their local communities.

WHAT MAINE CAN USE FROM OJJDP:

Maine could benefit from Information on how to ensure accuracy and fidelity with these small pockets of BIPOC youth around the State.

Information on working with immigrant and refugee youth, ideas on how support youth in dealing with the two worlds they often live in. Ideas on supporting parents in understanding what their children are experiencing.

Help for our R/ED Committee in setting action steps that will span the next Three-Year plan to bring racial and ethnic disparities down in Maine to zero, while working with communities and police departments to see where bias affects them and help build awareness around this issue to lower the rates of disparity to zero.

**WHAT SAFEGUARDS WILL BE PUT IN PLACE TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY
WHILE HOLDING YOUTH ACCOUNTABLE AND REDUCING RED:**

Youth can still be held accountable by restorative justice measures within their own communities and diversion programs. With the Juvenile Community Correction Officer's using their substantial motivational interviewing skills and knowledge of the stages of change to assist youth in developing emotionally socially and academically and showing them how successful they are and how to build on that for positive behavior change. Maine JJAG will continue to invest in small community-based agencies and innovative ideas that help youth in Maine to avoid contact with the youth justice system. Maine remains committed to the Credible Messenger's and it continues to grow and expansion into more areas of the state. Maine remains committed to the Youth Advocate Program for youth on formal probation or on community reintegration. JJAG continue to support the Cultural Engagement Mentors for the Houlton Band of Maliseet's tribe as well as the Miq'Mak and Spiayik tribes in Norther Maine. This effort has brought 15 unique youth to each Club to participate in activities that teach social and emotional growth, decision making, tribal values, traditional crafts, dance and stories, and nutritional food and snacks.

RED GOALS:

RED Goal #1: The R/ED Committee will connect with community-based organizations that serve youth at each point of the juvenile justice system (Arrest, Diversion, Detention, Reintegration).

- **RED Objective #1:** The R/ED Committee will identify community-based programs, whose staff reflect the youth they are working with, to directly source funding for racial and equity programming, at each point of the system.
- **RED Objective #2:** The R/ED Committee will hold a quarterly meeting (4 per year) with identified community-based organizations to create collaboration across the continuum of care.
- **RED Objective #3:** The DMC coordinator will meet with JCCO's working in regions where RED magnitude is greatest on a weekly basis to ensure challenges and success are accounted for and incorporated into the development of RED strategies.

RED Goal #2: The R/ED Committee will assist community-based organizations with support to address needs of vulnerable populations.

- **RED Objective #1:** The R/ED Committee will organize or support racial and equity trainings to community-based organizations who work with vulnerable youth, across the state.
 - **RED Objective #2:** The R/ED Committee will analyze available data of vulnerable populations and make data-informed decisions for program improvements across all points of the system.
 - **RED Objective #3:** The DMC coordinator will meet weekly with YOC that are securely detained to improve understanding of factors that may have impacted outcomes across various points of contact.
- **RED Goal #3:** The DMC Coordinator/RED Committee will work with youth serving systems to update juvenile policies and procedures.
 - **RED Objective #1:** The DMC Coordinator/RED Committee will organize or support training for judges, courts, defense attorneys, police academy, and other juvenile justice personnel on adolescent development, race and equity, and gender-responsivity, across the state. The committee will prioritize training based on opportunity.
 - **RED Objective #2:** The DMC Coordinator/RED Committee will organize or support racial equity training for the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (State Advisory Group).
 - **RED Objective #3:** The DMC Coordinator/RED Committee will organize or support Effective Police Interactions with Youth (EPIY) training, across the state.

- **RED Objective #3:** The DMC Coordinator/RED Committee will work collaboratively with all youth serving systems to advance juvenile policies and procedures that improve racial equity across all points of system contact.

- **RED Goal #4:** The DMC Coordinator/RED Committee will work with systems, schools and community-based organizations to connect with justice involved youth across all parts of the system, to amplify youth voice to help promote racial equity.
 - **RED Objective #1:** The DMC Coordinator/RED Committee will seek to involve youth on the committee.
 - **RED Objective #2:** The DMC Coordinator/RED Committee will organize and begin a 'RED Youth Group,' to improve youth voice in the system.
 - **RED Objective #3:** The DMC Coordinator/RED Committee will organize and support the EIPY & Mirror/Mirror Project training.