



Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
State Level Detention Reform

Coalition of Juvenile Justice Conference, April 2008

Stephanie Vetter, JDAI Senior Consultant, Annie E. Casey Foundation
The Honorable Michael Mayer, CJJ Midwest Region Chair & Minnesota SAG Member
The Honorable Paul Lawrence, CJJ Immediate Past National Chair & New Jersey SAG Member
Beth Mohler Stinnett, State JDAI Coordinator, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Minnesota

JJAC engaged its largest 3 counties in detention reform (JDAI) to:

- reduce racial disparities
- use JDAI as a platform for broader system reforms



Minnesota

\$805,000 has been granted to support detention reform, creating:

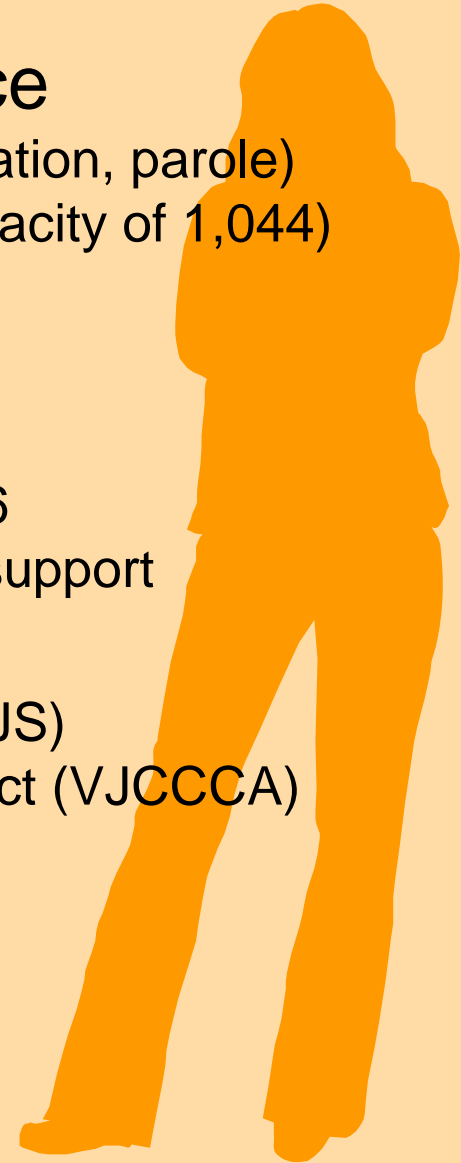
- 1) Infrastructure (a JDAI coordinator position for each county, a state JDAI coordinator)
- 2) Support for non-metro counties development of detention reform plans
- 3) A system analysis and recommendations to address racial disparities with the Burns Institute

New Hampshire

- Strong leadership on policy formation re: use of detention
- Immersion in detention reform concepts
 - Judicial conferences
- NH SAG allocated \$57,000 to support reforms
- Growing number of reform sites

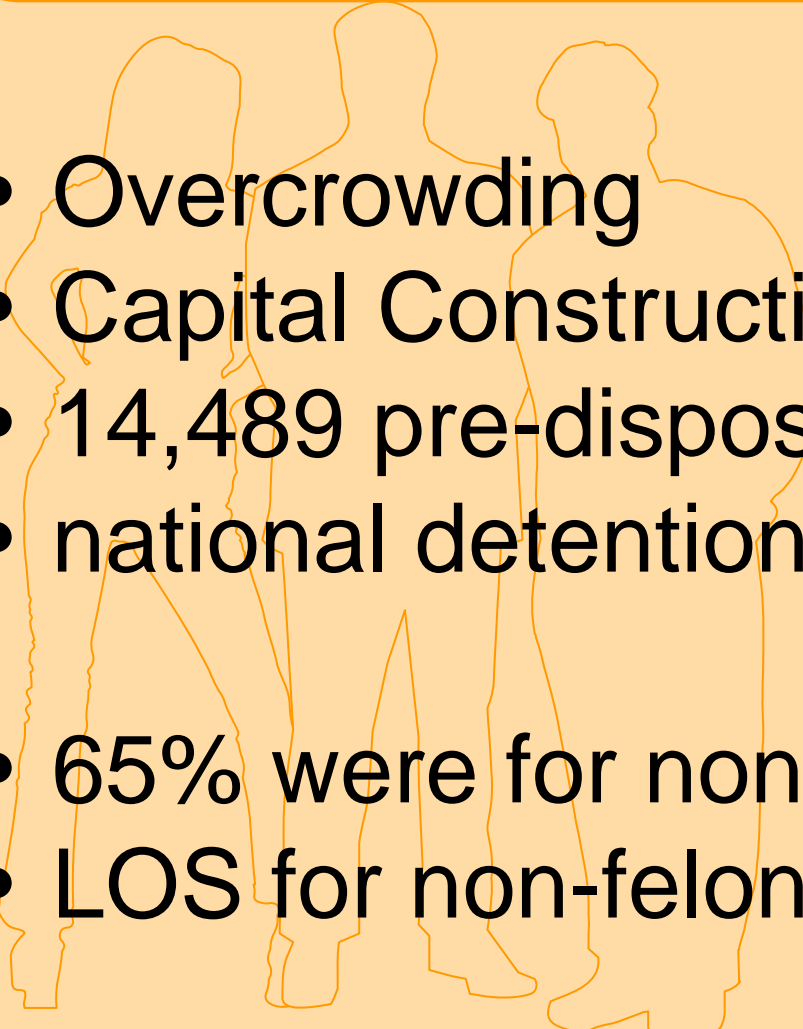
Virginia

- **State Department of Juvenile Justice**
 - 32 court service units (intake, diversion, probation, parole)
 - 7 juvenile correctional centers (combined capacity of 1,044)
 - 3 halfway houses
 - statewide data gathering environment
- **Secure Detention Homes**
 - 25 facilities with a combined capacity of 1,456
 - locally owned and operated with some state support
- **Funding for Services**
 - Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
 - Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)
Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)
- **Other (Code / Legal / Data)**
 - Jurisdiction / Transfers
 - Detainable offenses
 - Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI)



Virginia Pre-JDAI, FY 2003

- Overcrowding
- Capital Construction
- 14,489 pre-dispositional placements
- national detention rate
- 65% were for non-felonious offenses
- LOS for non-felony cases was 22 days



Virginia

Getting Started

- JDAI Champion
- Site Selection
- SAG Allocation of \$653,000 to support reforms
 - to initiate programs and services to reduce the number technical violators
 - day & evening reporting centers
 - Expeditor positions

Virginia

- Reprioritization of state 3-year plan
- SAG Composition
- DAI Public Safety Outcome Study
- Immersion of Stakeholders in detention reform
 - Judicial Conferences
 - Public Defender Conferences
 - Virginia Juvenile Justice Association
- 2nd Generation Reform Efforts



Virginia JDAI Site Results

ADMISSIONS

17%

FY 2003 – 3,471
FY 2007 – 2,882

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

27%

FY 2003 – 242
FY 2007 – 177

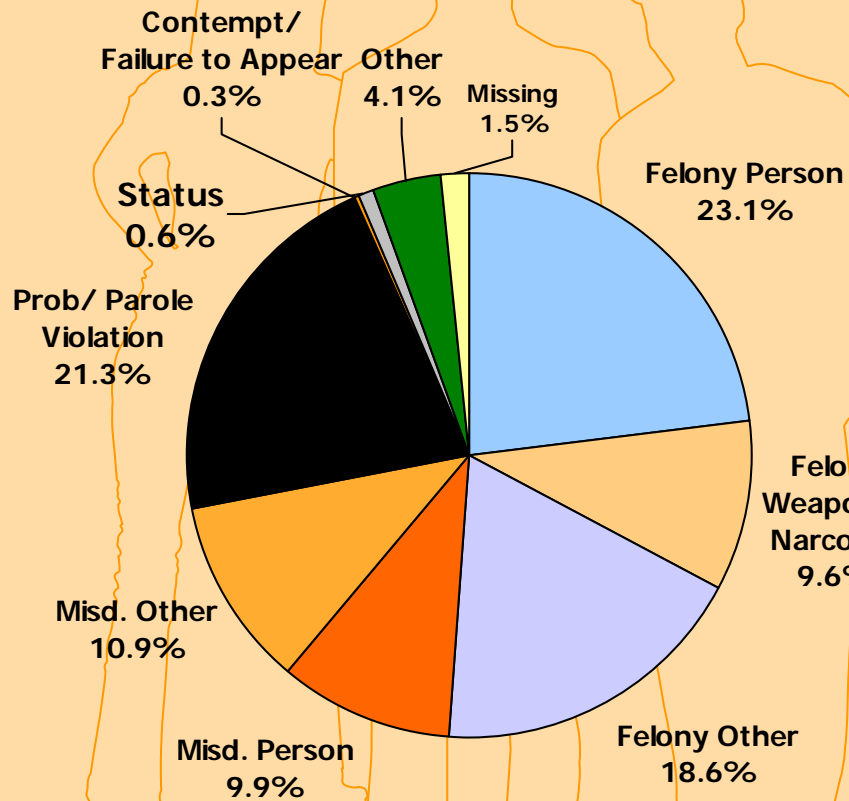
LENGTH OF STAY

19%

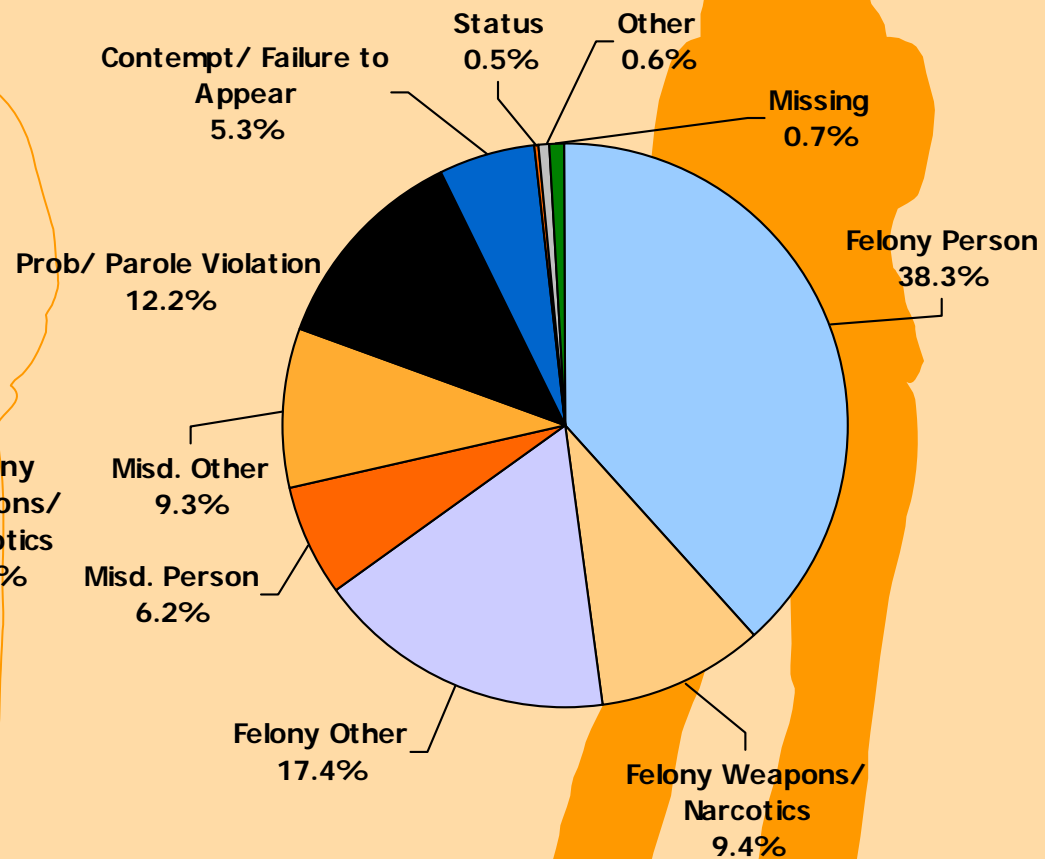
FY 2003 – 27
FY 2007 – 22

Detention Population Composition in JDAI Sites

Pre-JDAI (FY 2003)

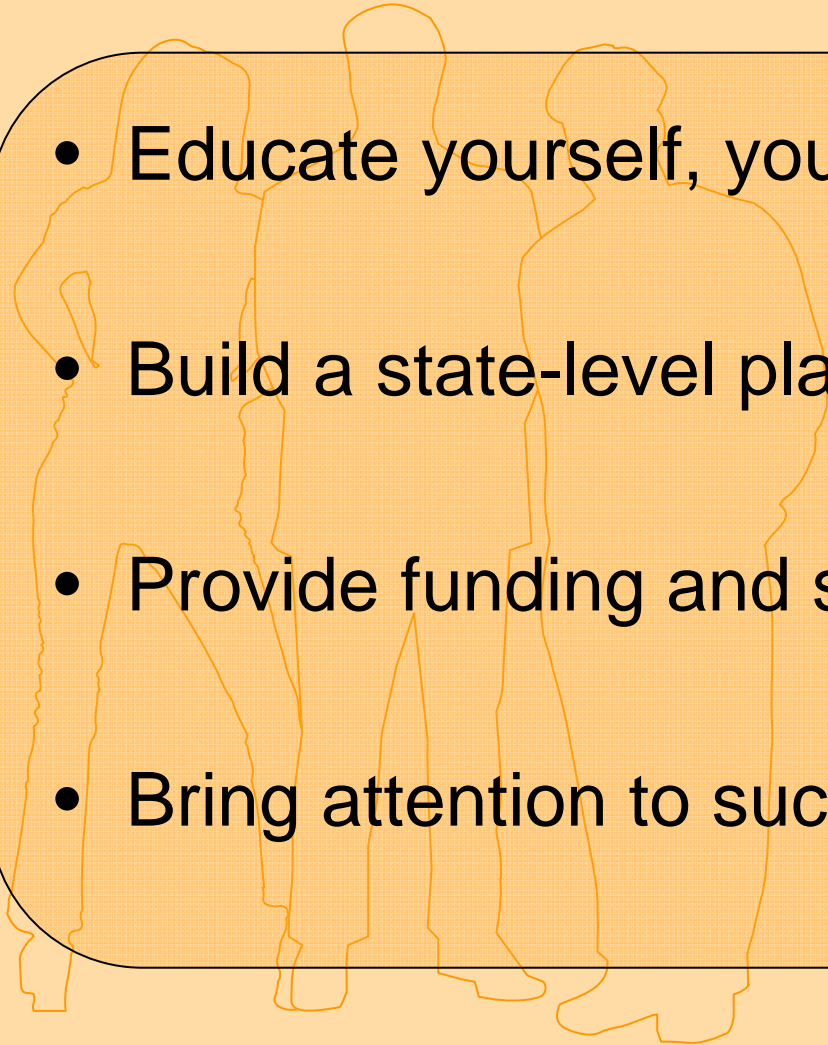


Post-JDAI (FY2007)



SAG Can Support Detention Reform

- Educate yourself, your SAG and others
- Build a state-level planning team
- Provide funding and staffing
- Bring attention to success and stay focused



Lessons Learned

- SAGs are influential conveners
- Small grants can have a great impact
- Influence is a precious commodity
- Embracing detention reform strategies strengthens SAG work



Resources

- JDAI Help Desk: www.jdaihelpdesk.org
- CJJ Annual JJ Report 2003
- National Association of Counties Guide
- 2005 OJJDP Bulletin
- The Dangers of Detention
Justice Policy Institute, 2006
- State-Level Detention Reform:
A Practice Guide for SAGs

