



## **Detain Offenders Appropriately**

### **Objective:**

Ensure offending individuals are appropriately detained or sanctioned

### **What is happening in King County?**

The incarceration rate for the King County jails is substantially lower than the national average for all jails across the country. This is true for both adult and juvenile populations. The most recent national data is from 2010, which showed a rate of 242 incarcerated adults for every 100,000 persons in the population at large. In contrast, King County's adult incarceration rate in 2010 was only 140 per 100,000. In 2011, the adult incarceration rate dropped to 130 per 100,000. Nationally, incarceration of juveniles at local facilities in 2010 was 67 per 100,000 youth. In King County, the rate was 52. The rate dropped even further in King County in 2011, to 41 individuals incarcerated per 100,000 youth residents.

In addition, the incarceration rate overall and for every ethnic group has decreased since 2006. Moderate annual decreases have resulted in an overall decrease of slightly over 20 percent for King County between 2006 and 2011.

Differences in incarceration rates among ethnic groups are significant, however. African Americans are incarcerated at a rate of more than 7 times that of White and 17 times that of Asian/Pacific Islander populations. Native American residents are also incarcerated at a higher rate--nearly three times the rate of White and six times the rate of Asian/Pacific Islander populations. Both African Americans and Native Americans are incarcerated at a higher rate than the average in King County and in jails nationwide.

The reduction in the juvenile incarceration rates between 2010 and 2011 extends a long term trend of a declining use of secure detention. The most recent decline is likely the result of two factors: a continued reduction in juvenile arrests and an ongoing emphasis on evidence-based treatment programs, alternatives to detention, and programs that divert youth with low level charges from the formal court system. However, despite these overall positive trends, youth of color remain significantly overrepresented in detention when compared to their presence in the general population.

### **What role does King County play?**

King County plays a major role in preventing criminal activity, responding to crime, and administering the criminal justice system. The county's key criminal justice organizations include the Sheriff's Office, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Office of Public Defender, Superior Court, Department of Judicial Administration, and District Court.

The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) is responsible for operating jail facilities for both adults and juveniles. For adults, there are two jail facilities: the King County Correctional Facility (KCCF) in downtown Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center (MRJC) in Kent. For juveniles, there is one facility: the Youth Services Center (YSC) in Seattle. DAJD also operates several programs that provide alternatives to secure detention for both adults and juveniles.

DAJD adult facilities hold inmates for all felonies in the county, misdemeanors committed in the unincorporated areas of the county, and by state agencies (pre and post conviction). In addition, certain King County cities, including the City of Seattle, contract with DAJD to house their misdemeanor inmates. The State Department of Corrections contracts for beds to house post-sentence violators.

The Youth Services Center houses juveniles accused of felony and misdemeanor crimes throughout King County. Juveniles may be detained either pre- or post-adjudication. Juvenile alternatives to secure detention programs are also based at the Youth Service Center.

The Department of Community and Human Services administers numerous programs to reduce justice involvement for both juveniles and adults; and Public Health - Seattle & King County provides jail health services in the adult facilities. Medical and mental health services at the Youth Service Center are provided through contract with the University of Washington Department of Pediatrics Adolescent Medicine Division and Child Psychiatry Department.

Reducing impacts of involvement with the criminal justice system is a major priority for King County. Recent criminal justice planning efforts call for additional alternatives to detention and feature programs that demonstrate measurable success in reducing re-entry into the justice system. With the Veterans and Human Services Levy, the county will expand criminal justice programs designed to help veterans and others in need achieve and maintain stability in the community and stay out of jail. Several of the strategies in the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Action Plan, funded by the one tenth of one percent sales tax, are intended to have similar positive effects for persons with serious mental illness and/or substance abuse problems. King County also has a Criminal Justice Initiatives to help people in the criminal justice system with unmet mental health or substance abuse needs connect to treatment services, stable housing, and other supports as alternatives to incarceration.

### **What else influences these indicators?**

Crime and incarceration rates are affected by variable and persistent economic and social conditions and inequalities. Incarceration rates are influenced by discharge rates from institutional and criminal justice facilities, as well as the availability of mental health and substance abuse treatment services, and supportive housing and employment for persons exiting those facilities. Incarceration rates are also affected by charging decisions, sentencing practices, and modifications to the adult and juvenile criminal codes.

### **Related Links**

[Juveniles in Residential Placement Fact Sheet](#)

## Technical Notes

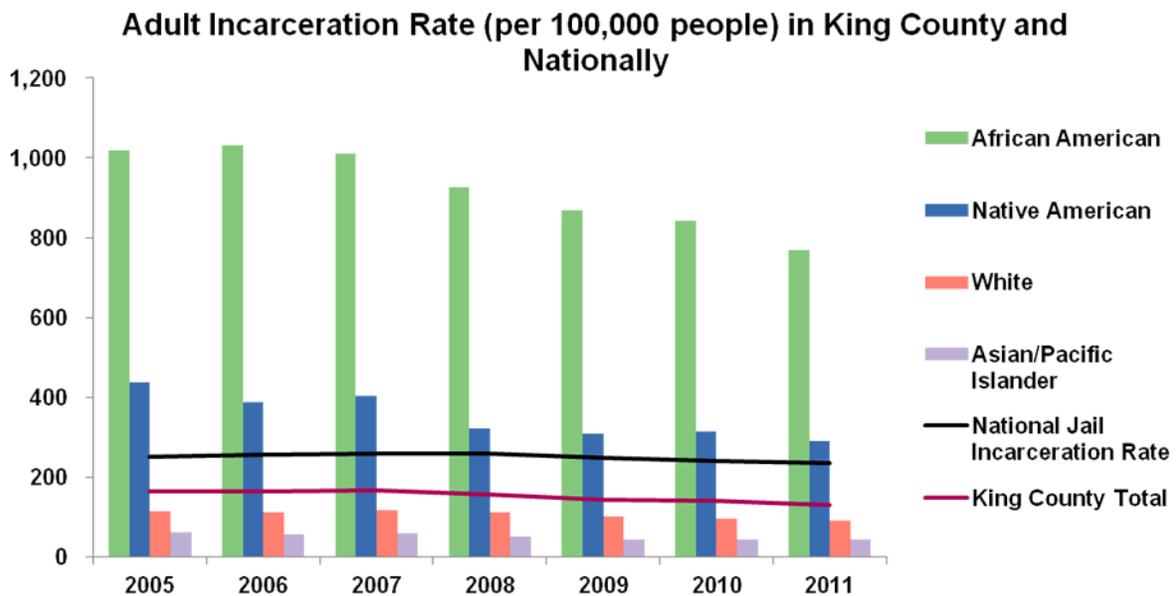
1990-2000 Population Estimates: Population Estimates for Public Health Assessment, Washington State Department of Health, Vista Partnership, and Krupski Consulting. January 2009. 2001-2009 estimates: Provisional, APDE 2012. Prepared by: Public Health-Seattle & King County; Assessment, Policy Development & Evaluation Unit; 4/2012.

National adult incarceration rates from Bureau of Justice Statistics, Jail Inmates at Midyear 2011, Table One.

County population ages 10-17 provided by King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention for years 2007-2010. 2011 King County youth population (ages 10-17) was extrapolated King County DAJD data.

National juvenile incarceration rates from Office of Juvenile Justice, Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2012). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2011." Youth included from ages 10-17 and incarcerated in local facilities

## Charts and Maps



Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention and Bureau of Justice Statistics

## Adult Incarceration Rate per 100,000 (2011 County Population estimated)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
African American	1,017	1,031	1,010	926	868	843	769
Native American	437	387	404	323	308	315	290
White	114	113	118	111	102	97	90
Asian/Pacific Islander	62	58	59	52	44	44	45
King County Total	165	165	168	156	145	140	130
National Jail Incarceration Rate	252	256	259	258	250	242	236

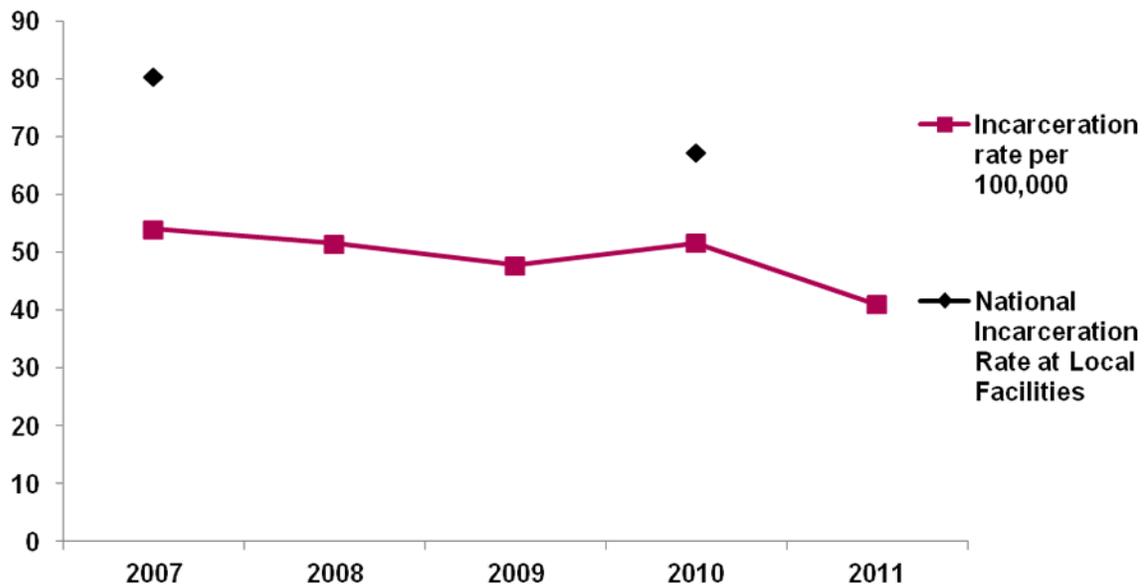
Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention and Bureau of Justice Statistics

## Change in Adult Incarceration Rates

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Cumulative
White	-0.6%	3.6%	-5.4%	-8.2%	-5.2%	-7.0%	-21.2%
African American	1.4%	-2.1%	-8.3%	-6.2%	-2.9%	-8.8%	-24.4%
Native American	-11.4%	4.5%	-20.1%	-4.6%	2.3%	-7.8%	-33.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	-5.7%	1.5%	-11.1%	-15.5%	-1.0%	1.8%	-27.5%
Total	-0.1%	1.7%	-6.8%	-7.3%	-3.4%	-7.0%	-21.1%

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

## Juvenile Incarceration rate per 100,000



Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention and the Office of Juvenile Justice

## Juvenile Incarceration Rate

	Incarceration rate per 100,000	Average Daily Population	National Incarceration Rate at Local Facilities
2007	54	95	80
2008	52	90	
2009	48	83	
2010	52	89	67
2011	41	70	

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention and the Office of Juvenile Justice