



Detention Quality

Objective:

Ensure offending individuals are appropriately detained or sanctioned

Strategy:

Operate secure and humane detention facilities that comply with legal and regulatory requirements

Why is this strategy important?

The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention's (DAJD) core mission includes the safe, secure, humane and cost effective housing of persons committed to our programs and facilities. Secure and humane detention is critical in providing fair and just services, increasing the likelihood of rehabilitation, and in ensuring public safety. In addition, operating facilities that comply with legal and regulatory requirements serves the taxpayer by reducing legal liabilities.

How is our performance?

Violent incidents at King County adult detention facilities increased from 2009 to 2010, both inmate to inmate assault as well as inmate to staff assault. From 2010 to 2011 the number of incidents decreased, but due to a lower overall population, the rate of incidents increased for inmate to inmate assaults. Also from 2009 through 2011, findings of excessive use of force have remained very low, as have completed suicides.

King County's Jail Health Services provides clinical medical care for adults in secure detention. Jail Health Services first received National Commission on Correctional Health Care accreditation in 1992 for the King County Correctional Facility in Seattle and in 1998 for the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center (MRJC, built in 1996). Accreditation is renewed approximately every 3 years. In the last decade, accreditation was renewed in 2001, 2005, 2008, and 2011. NCCCHC standards are extremely high--meeting their numerous criteria indicate that Jail Health Services is providing safe, secure, and humane medical services for offenders.

For juvenile detention, data on incidents is tracked, but not available for reporting at this time. There have been no suicide deaths in juvenile facilities for the years 2009-2012. University of Washington Medical and Mental Health professionals screen youth for mental health issues and suicidal tendencies and provide high quality care for youth with needs in these areas.

In February, 2012, King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention successfully completed all conditions required as part of an Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Department of Justice for housing inmates in a safe and secure environment. Under the terms of the MOA, independent monitors selected jointly by the Department of Justice and King County visited the jail every four months. At each visit during the three-year monitoring period, they noted the County made steady,

progress culminating with a grade of 100 percent in meeting the standards set forth in the MOA in the areas of protection from harm, suicide prevention, medical care, environmental health, and quality improvement.

Moving forward

King County Juvenile Detention is in the process of upgrading data tracking system. During this interim period, reporting the quantity of incidents of violence is not possible. By early 2013, the reporting systems will be functional again.

In cooperation with the Jail Health Services Division of Public Health - Seattle King County, DAJD is working to maintain its historically low rate of suicides for adults and juveniles. All DAJD staff who work with inmates receive annual training on suicide prevention. In addition, the department is working with the Department of Community and Human Services on several programs focused on reentry services. These programs connect or reconnect inmates to community services after their release from custody.

Technical Notes

1. Data on violent incidents provided by King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention.
2. Inmate days is the total number of days served..

Charts and Maps

Adult Detention Violent Incidents						
	Inmate to Inmate Assaults	Inmate to Inmate Assault Rate (per 100,000 inmate days)	Inmate to Staff Assaults	Inmate to Staff Assault Rate (per 100,000 inmate days)	Findings of Excessive use of Force	Deaths by Suicide
2009	360	45	56	7	0	1
2010	598	77	149	19	2	3
2011	593	81	116	16	1	2

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention