Racial/Ethnic Disparity in Juvenile Justice

The good news is that in King County, fewer youth of all races are entering the juvenile justice system and being detained. From 1998 to 2016:

- Referrals from law enforcement decreased 71%
- Juvenile filings dropped 84%
- Average daily population in secure detention fell 73%
- Commitments to state institutions decreased 61%
- Detention rate per 100K youth dropped for all race categories.

King County Juvenile Detention Rate 2006 vs 2016 (Rate Per 100,000 Youth)

Evolution of Racial/Ethnic Disparity Efforts

King County’s Disparity efforts have evolved over time.

- **Systems Approach** – early efforts concentrated on systems change. Policies applied across the board using a racial equity lens to review potential impact on disproportionality.
  - Detention Intake Criteria
  - Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI)

- **Cross System Approach** – more effectively sharing information and coordinating services for youth involved in multiple systems was the initial focus of this effort
  - Crossover Youth Practice Model
  - Pathnet

- **Targeted Approach** – specific focus on areas that directly contribute to disparity or prioritize services for youth of color
  - Screen and Release protocol
  - Tier 2 warrant expansion
  - Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS)
  - Community based partnerships (FWYAT)
  - Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee
  - Theft 3 Pilot Pre-referral (T3AM)
  - Best Starts for Kids

Strategies to Reduce Racial/Ethnic Disparity

- Racial Equity Lens
- Juvenile Drug Court
- Evidence-Based Programs
- Youth Employment Programs (EET)
- Probation Violation Study
- Community Engagement
- Alternatives to Secure Detention Program Expansion
- Court Decision Point Analysis
- Law Enforcement Pre-Booking Placement Options
- Warrant Reminder Calls
- School-Court Partnerships
- Detention Intake Criteria Revision
- Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI)
- Informal Diversion Expansion
- Improved data collection and reporting
- Racial and Ethnic Disparity Work focused on restorative justice, school discipline, diversion and probation violations