



Alternative Detention

Objective:

Ensure offending individuals are appropriately detained or sanctioned

Strategy:

Provide alternatives to secure detention to appropriate offenders

Why is this strategy important?

Alternatives to secure detention allow offenders to remain in the community while continuing to be accountable to the court either pre-trial or after sentencing. Alternatives are less costly than secure detention.

Many persons who are incarcerated have mental illness and substance abuse problems that contributed to their incarceration. By providing alternatives to jail through assessment-driven programs and services, these offender clients are able to access evidence-based, recovery-oriented treatment, training, and employment. Doing so leads to reduced jail bookings, jail days, and inmate health care costs. It also improves their housing stability and employment readiness.

How is our performance?

King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention's Community Corrections Division provides the court system, as well as the offender, with pre-trial and sentenced alternatives to secure confinement. The alternatives and services we offer strive to use evidence-based practices that promote pro-social behaviors and lifestyles (caring about the welfare and rights of others, feeling concern and empathy for them, and acting in ways that benefit others). In order to be eligible to participate, a person must be ordered to the program by the court. All persons ordered must be statutorily eligible for the program.

King County courts order offenders to alternative programs at high rates, indicating that they value alternatives to secure detention, even as average daily population for secure detention has decreased since 2009. See Justice and Safety Detention Capacity Strategy for information about jail capacity.

The Community Corrections Division's system of record is being replaced and will provide better tools for monitoring compliance in the future.

Through the King County Criminal Justice Initiative programs, over 1,000 additional clients are linked to an array of programs to deal with their underlying mental health and/or substance abuse problems. These programs include mental health and substance abuse treatment, intensive case management, and housing assistance for those experiencing homelessness.

Moving forward

King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention will improve tracking and reporting tools in the next year to better understand the proportion of participants who comply with conditions of alternative programs and the re-offense rate among participants in alternatives to detention.

There is significant support in King County to continue providing alternatives to secure detention for offenders with chemical dependency and/or mental health issues, many of whom were experiencing homelessness prior to their incarceration. These alternatives are focused on evidence-based, recovery-oriented services. Plans are to engage individuals in a longer assessment period to assure they are linked with the most appropriate alternative placement. King County will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative programs and use those results to determine future directions.

Related Links

[King County Criminal Justice Initiatives](#)

Technical Notes

Data provided by King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention and King County Department of Community and Human Services.

Definition for pro-social behavior from .

Charts and Maps

King County Criminal Justice Initiative Program

	Program Participants	Program Capacity	Program Budget
2009	1,363		
2010	1,560	606	\$ 5,077,554
2011	1,045	558	\$ 4,732,067

Data Source: Department of Community and Human Services

Community Center for Alternative Programs Basic Program

	Actual Average Daily Pop	Physical Capacity	% Capacity Used	Forecasted Capacity	% of Forecast Used
2009	82	N/A	N/A	103	80%
2010	53	N/A	N/A	103	51%
2011	57	N/A	N/A	103	55%

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

Community Center for Alternative Programs Enhanced Program

	Actual Average Daily Pop	Physical Capacity	% Capacity Used	Forecasted Capacity	% of Forecast Used
2009	102	100	102%	90	113%
2010	112	100	112%	90	124%
2011	99	100	99%	90	110%

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

Community Work Program

	Actual Average Daily Pop	Physical Capacity	% Capacity Used	Forecasted Capacity	% of Forecast Used
2009	446	N/A	N/A	375	119%
2010	492	N/A	N/A	375	131%
2011	428	N/A	N/A	375	114%

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

Helping Hands Community Service Program

	Actual Average Daily Pop	Physical Capacity	% Capacity Used	Forecasted Capacity	% of Forecast Used
2009	604	N/A	N/A	400	151%
2010	523	N/A	N/A	400	131%
2011	576	N/A	N/A	400	144%

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention