

# Legislative Update | 2024 Edition

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## CELEBRATING INNOVATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

Thank you to the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches that have all provided exceptional leadership to support and encourage an environment of state and local partnerships, which have led to amazing outcomes for Idaho’s juvenile justice system. This includes historical low levels of county probationers, detention bookings, and commitments to IDJC custody. Both state and county level juvenile justice professionals are carving innovative pathways in order to continue this success that includes diversion, intervention, and developing additional resources to help youth avoid unnecessary juvenile justice involvement (see assessment/crisis centers below). When it is absolutely necessary for youth to be involved in the juvenile justice system, these state and local partnerships are proving that the lightest touch of services necessary to internalize behavior change—thereby establishing community safety, accountability, and competency development—is of most benefit to the youth, families, and community.

## YOUTH ASSESSMENT AND CRISIS CENTERS

The Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC), Community, Operations, and Program Services (COPS) Division in collaboration with the National Assessment Center Association assisted local community providers to establish eight **Youth Assessment Centers** in Idaho. Using funding appropriated by the Idaho Legislature in FY23, centers have been established across all seven of Idaho’s judicial districts through a competitive grant process.

In the one year since project grants were awarded and funding was made available to approved projects, over 500 youth and families have been served through these local resources.

Assessment centers partner with local law-enforcement, judiciary, school systems, faith leaders and community members to establish a single point of contact to meet the needs of youth and families in Idaho.

These valuable resources will expand in FY24 through funding appropriated to the IDJC by the legislature and approved by Governor Little to support the operational success of these established centers and to expand centers into rural communities.

In FY23, the Idaho Legislature appropriated the IDJC \$4.42 million to facilitate the creation of **Youth Crisis Centers** in collaboration with the IDHW. Through a competitive grant process, four youth behavioral health community crisis center grants were awarded in 2022 in Idaho’s 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> judicial districts. Grant recipients had through FY2023 to establish their crisis centers at which time projects shifted from the IDJC to the IDHW for ongoing oversight.



## PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING (POST)

The IDJC is proud of the fantastic partnership with POST and counties that continues to meet the training needs of juvenile justice professionals. We recognize that excellence in training and certification contributes to the positive outcomes in Idaho’s juvenile justice system. IDJC, working collaboratively with POST, continually updates IDJC’s Direct Care Curricula to ensure each topic has the most recent research and content. Additionally, the Department and POST have agreed to pilot on-site IDJC Direct Care Academy training in 2024 further streamlining POST training and certification for all juvenile justice disciplines.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the following juvenile justice professionals were trained:

17 Juvenile Probation Officers

30 Juvenile Detention Officers

37 IDJC Direct Care Staff

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The IDJC COPS Division, Behavioral Health Unit provides resources to counties and tribes to provide services for individual youth based on their unique characteristics. The Unit is separated into distinct funding streams including the Community-Based Alternative Services Program, the Substance Use Disorder Services Program, and the Detention Clinician Program, each providing different services to youth and families in FY23. These funds focus on serving youth at risk of commitment to the IDJC, justice-involved youth with behavioral health issues, and youth reentering communities after state commitment. These funds complement Idaho’s Behavioral Health System (Medicaid) by maximizing its valuable resources while also providing additional gap services funding.

For this reason, the IDJC was invited to share feedback with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to develop administration guidelines of the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan (IBHP) contract. This new contract integrates Medicaid inpatient, residential, and outpatient services. The new IBHP offers a great opportunity for Idaho’s youth and their families.

Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS)

Community-Based Alternative Services (CBAS)

Detention Clinician Program

- Targeted services: substance use disorder treatment
- Funds utilized: \$2,576,126
- Total youth served: 1,061

- Targeted services: mental health & behavioral addiction treatment, commitment prevention
- Funds utilized: \$869,355
- Total youth served: 622

- Targeted services: support detention clinician positions in Idaho’s juvenile detention centers
- Funds utilized: \$660,959
- Total youth served: 1,581

Total Funds Utilized \$4,106,440

Total Youth Served 3,264

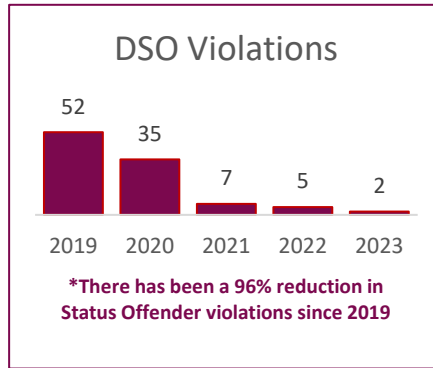
Average cost per youth in the community \$1,258

>98% of youth were not committed or recommitted to IDJC custody

## PLANNING AND COMPLIANCE

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) sets forth federal standards to ensure a minimum level of safety and equitable treatment for youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. To be eligible for the funds provided under the JJDPA, each state must comply with four core requirements: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Adult Jail and Lock-Up Removal, Sight and Sound Separation, and addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities. IDJC monitors the state's compliance with the JJDPA, and in partnership with the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC), administers plans to comply with the Act while making improvements in the state's juvenile justice system. Idaho had been out of compliance with the DSO requirement since 2017; however, with the support of the IJJC, the Idaho Supreme Court and stakeholders statewide, we are seeing our lowest numbers of DSO violations and regained compliance in September 2022.

Idaho's outstanding work was recognized nationally. Each year, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) recognizes and celebrates individuals who exemplify excellence, dedication, and commitment to juvenile justice reform nationwide. In 2023, Idaho was awarded three of the four prestigious national CJJ awards and we are honored to work beside these individuals daily at the IDJC. The 2023 Spirit of Youth Award was presented to Aide (I-TH-eh) "Sam" Moore. The 2023 JJ Specialist Award was presented to Chelsea Newton. Lastly, the A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award was presented to COPS Division Administrator, Jason Stone.



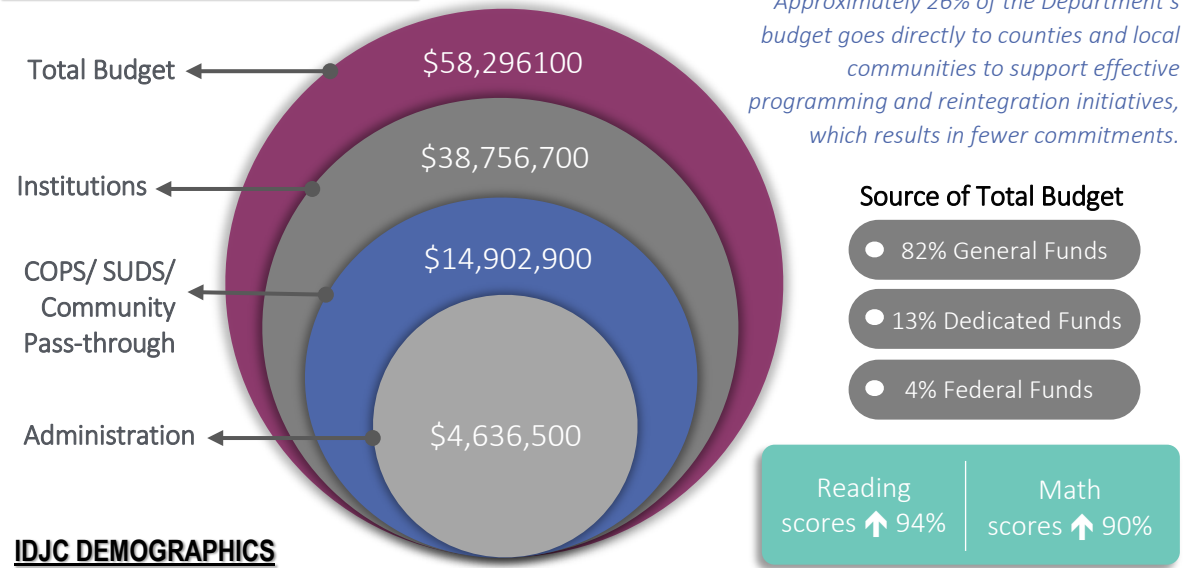
## DISTRICT LIAISONS

District Liaisons (DL's) assist in developing alternative interventions, prevention, and diversion programs as well as disseminate information statewide to keep youth from being committed to state custody and to speed the transition back to the community after treatment. They are the primary link between the Department and the local community. DL's distribute information, generate local, district, and statewide data and oversee the Juvenile Corrections Act and Tobacco Tax community pass through funds distributed quarterly to all 44 counties. DL's provide valuable juvenile justice data to Juvenile Justice Administrators and County



Commissioners every December. DL's also create and distribute district specific newsletters spreading information about, but not limited to, trainings, Assessment and Crisis Centers, available grants, changes in statewide juvenile justice software, the opening of new community resources, etc.

## FY23 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION



## IDJC DEMOGRAPHICS

<b>Gender:</b> Male – 83% Female – 17%	<b>Average Age:</b> 16.8 years old
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b> White – 63% Hispanic – 21% Black – 5% American Indian – 7% Other – 4%	
<b>Crime:</b> Property – 38% Person – 31% Sex Offense – 14% Other – 17%	
<b>Crime Level:</b> Felony – 49% Misdemeanor – 51%	<b>Mental Health Diagnosis:</b> 49%
<b>Co-occurring Disorders</b> (substance use disorder & mental health diagnosis): 32%	
<b>Substance Use Disorders:</b> 61%	<b>FY23 Recidivism Rate:</b> 30%
<b>FY23 Avg Length of Custody:</b> 13.9 months	<b>FY23 Recommitment Rate:</b> 20%

## IDAHO JUVENILE POPULATION

Due to the continued collaboration with county partners to improve policy, resources, and training, the number of youth in IDJC custody and placed on probation decreased. Further, youth were given the opportunity to avoid a formal record through diversion programs.

Average Daily Population: 144

