



Forum to Increase Evidence-Based Practices by Addressing Disparities in the System

Efforts to Eliminate DMC

The Detention Assessment Instrument and DMC Impact

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The DAI and DMC Impact



The Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI) was developed as a result of the 1998 Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation into DJJ secure facilities.

- It was determined there were great inconsistencies with the youth being detained.
- As a part of the Memorandum of Agreement with the DOJ, the agency created the establishment of "Risk Assessment Standards" and a "Detention Assessment Instrument".

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Detention assessment is seen as a best practice:

- Defined as the process of evaluating an arrested minor to determine the need for detention
- First tools used in the mid to late 1980s
- JDAI promoted and assisted with the implementation of the tools throughout the country

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The DAI and DMC Impact



- Sites that successfully use these tools:
 - More accurately identify youth who need to be detained
 - Free up resources to spend on other ways to protect the public
 - Ensure the right youth are detained
- Overrides are allowed based on mitigating or aggravating circumstances

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Essential principles behind the Detention Assessment instruments are:

- Objectivity
- Uniformity
- Risk Based

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- Objectivity
 - Based on neutral and objective factors
- Uniformity
 - Standardized and consistent
- Risk Based
 - Measure specific risks posed by the youth

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The Georgia DJJ Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI) was implemented in 2000

- Provide greater structure and consistency
- Focus the use of detention resources on high risk youth
- Reduce inappropriate detention by identifying youth who can be safely released
- Establish a basis for DJJ to monitor detention assessment operations

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- The new Juvenile Court Code, HB 242, includes language requiring the use of a detention assessment prior to making a detention decision
- The DJJ assessment tool will be used by all jurisdictions beginning on January 1, 2014
- The current tool is being reviewed by committee and will be revised by mid year 2014

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- The DAI is a standardized and validated instrument
- Measures:
 - Youth's risk to reoffend
 - Youth's risk to abscond before court

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The DAI and DMC Impact



- Incorporates 6 assessment items:
 - Most serious current offense
 - Other current offenses
 - Pending offenses
 - Past adjudications
 - History of Escapes, Runaways, or FTA
 - Current legal/supervision status

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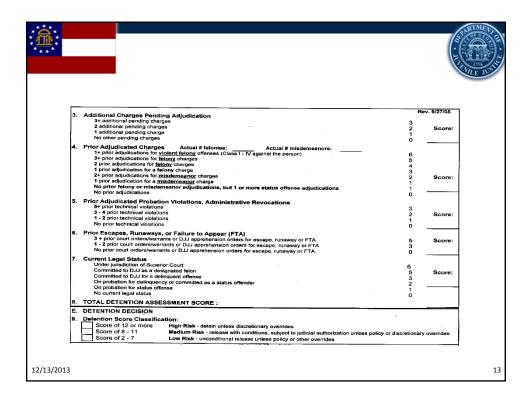


The DAI items are scored and the detention decision is based on the total:

- 12 or Above High Risk
 - Detain unless policy or discretionary overrides provided
- 8 11 Medium Risk
 - Release with conditions unless overrides provided
- 7 or Under Low Risk
 - Unconditional release unless overrides provided

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D. DETENTION ASSESSMENT 1. Most serious offense: : Class I Aggravated child molestation (16-6-4) Aggravated sodomy (16-6-2) Murder (16-5-1) Voluntary manslaughter (16-5-2) Rape (16-6-1)	15		
Class II Aggravated assaut (16-5-21) Aggravated assaut, correctional officer (16-5-21.2) Aggravated assaut, intent to raperioo (16-5-21.2) Criminal attempt / kidnapping (16-4-1) Aggravated battery (16-5-24) Aggravated battery (16-5-24) Aggravated battery (16-5-24) Higaking a motor vehicle (16-5-4-1) Higaking an aircraft (16-5-4-1) Drugs, possession for sale raperior (16-1-12-7-1) Drugs, possession for sale near part/housing project (16-13-32-1) Drugs, possession for sale near part/housing project (16-13-32-1) Drugs, possession for sale in/at/near school (16-13-32-1) Drugs, possession for sale in/at/near school (16-13-32-1) Drugs, possession for sale in/at/near school (16-13-32-1)	12		
Class III Criminal damage to property, first degree (16-7-22) Cruelty to children (16-5-70) Escape, will dangerous weapon (16-10-52 (b)) Vehicular hornicide (14-6-393 (a)) Drugs, possession for sale Schedule III, N/or Y (16-13-30 (h)) Drugs, possession for sale Schedule III, N/or Y (16-13-30 (h)) Drugs, possession for sale Drugs, possession for sale Schedule III, N/or Y (16-13-30 (h)) Drugs, possession for sale Drugs, possession for sale Schedule III, N/or Y (16-13-30 (h)) Drugs, possession for sale Schedule III, N/or Y (16-13-3	10 (16-4-1) 8		io
Class V All other felony offenses; high and aggravated misdemeanors Class VI All other misdemeanor offenses, including possession of 1 oz or less of marijuana (16-13-2 (b)) Class VII Status or administrative offenses, including technical violation of probation or aftercare; court detention order; DJJ Order (56) 2. Additional Current Charges in this Referral	6 4 2	Score:	
2+ additional current felony charges 1 additional current felony charges 1 additional current felony charge 1+ additional misdemeanor, status offense, or VOP charges No additional current charges	3 2 1 0	Score:	







- The Detention Assessment Instrument is race-neutral and <u>should</u> be developed to eliminate DMC concerns
- DAI designers need to be mindful to incorporate basic measures to remove bias from the tool:
 - Review aggravating and mitigating criteria
 - Review override criteria
 - Use a field test to measure DMC effects

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Questions or Thoughts

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