



**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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The DAI and DMC Impact

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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The DAI and DMC Impact

Essential principles behind the Detention Assessment instruments are:

- Objectivity
- Uniformity
- Risk Based



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The DAI and DMC Impact

- 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 DAI and DMC Impact

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 DAI and DMC Impact

- 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 and DMC Impact

- 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 and DMC Impact



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		15
<input type="checkbox"/> Aggravated child molestation (16-6-4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Aggravated sexual battery (16-6-22.2)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aggravated sodomy (16-6-2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Armed robbery w/ firearm (16-8-41)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Murder (16-5-1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rape (16-6-1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary manslaughter (16-5-2)		
Class II		12
<input type="checkbox"/> Aggravated assault (16-5-21)	<input type="checkbox"/> Child molestation (16-6-4)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aggravated assault, correctional officer (16-5-21.2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal attempt / kidnapping (16-4-1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aggravated assault, intent to rape/rob (16-5-21.1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal attempt / murder (16-4-1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aggravated battery (16-5-24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hijacking a motor vehicle (16-5-44.1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Armed robbery, no firearm (16-8-41)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hijacking an aircraft (16-5-44)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Arson, first degree (16-7-60)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kidnapping (16-5-40)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Arson, second degree (16-7-61)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs, possession for sale - Sched. I or II (16-13-30(b))	
<input type="checkbox"/> Battery, school official (16-5-21.1(1))	<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs, trafficking methamphetamine (16-13-31)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Carrying weapons within school safety zone/functions/property (16-11-127.1)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Armed robbery, controlled substance from pharmacy (16-8-41)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs, possession for sale near park/housing project (16-13-32.5)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs, possession for sale in/at/near school (16-13-32.4)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs, trafficking cocaine/illegal drugs/marijuana (16-13-31)		
Class III		10
<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal damage to property, first degree (16-7-22)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs, possession for sale - Schedule III, IV or V (16-13-30 (h))	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cruelty to children (16-5-70)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs, purchase / possession - Schedule I or II excluding 1 oz or less of marijuana (16-13-30 (e))	
<input type="checkbox"/> Escape, w/ dangerous weapon (16-10-52 (b))	<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs, criminal attempt/trafficking methamphetamine (16-4-1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicular homicide (14-6-393 (a))		
<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs, possession for sale - marijuana (16-13-30(j))		
Class IV		8
<input type="checkbox"/> Arson, third degree (16-7-62)	<input type="checkbox"/> Involuntary manslaughter (16-5-3)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Burglary (16-7-1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cruelty to children (Misdemeanor) (16-5-70)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Escape (Misdemeanor) (16-10-52)	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicular homicide (Misdemeanor) (40-6-393 (b))	
Class V		6
<input type="checkbox"/> All other felony offenses; high and aggravated misdemeanors		
Class VI		4
<input type="checkbox"/> All other misdemeanor offenses, including possession of 1 oz or less of marijuana (16-13-2 (b))		
Class VII		2
<input type="checkbox"/> Status or administrative offenses, including technical violation of probation or aftercare; court detention order; DJJ Order (56)		
2. Additional Current Charges in this Referral		
2+ additional current felony charges		3
1 additional current felony charge		2
1+ additional misdemeanor, status offense, or VOP charges		1
No additional current charges		0
		Score:

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		Rev. 9/27/06
3. Additional Charges Pending Adjudication		
3+ additional pending charges		3
2 additional pending charges		2
1 additional pending charge		1
No other pending charges		0
		Score:
4. Prior Adjudicated Charges Actual # felonies: _____ Actual # misdemeanors: _____		
1+ prior adjudications for violent felony offenses (Class I - IV against the person)		
3+ prior adjudications for felony charges		6
2 prior adjudications for felony charges		5
1 prior adjudication for a felony charge		4
2+ prior adjudications for misdemeanor charges		3
1 prior adjudication for a misdemeanor charge		2
No prior felony or misdemeanor adjudications, but 1 or more status offense adjudications		1
No prior adjudications		0
		Score:
5. Prior Adjudicated Probation Violations, Administrative Revocations		
6+ prior technical violations		3
3 - 4 prior technical violations		2
1 - 2 prior technical violations		1
No prior technical violations		0
		Score:
6. Prior Escapes, Runaways, or Failure to Appear (FTA)		
3+ prior court orders/warrants or DJJ apprehension orders for escape, runaway or FTA		
1 - 2 prior court orders/warrants or DJJ apprehension orders for escape, runaway or FTA		5
No prior court orders/warrants or DJJ apprehension orders for escape, runaway or FTA		3
		Score:
7. Current Legal Status		
Under jurisdiction of Superior Court		
Committed to DJJ as a designated felon		6
Committed to DJJ for a delinquent offense		5
On probation for delinquency or committed as a status offender		3
On probation for status offense		2
No current legal status		1
		Score:
8. TOTAL DETENTION ASSESSMENT SCORE :		
E. DETENTION DECISION		
9. Detention Score Classification:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Score of 12 or more	High Risk - detain unless discretionary overrides	
<input type="checkbox"/> Score of 8 - 11	Medium Risk - release with conditions, subject to judicial authorization unless policy or discretionary overrides	
<input type="checkbox"/> Score of 2 - 7	Low Risk - unconditional release unless policy or other overrides	



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The DAI and DMC Impact

- The Detention Assessment Instrument is race-neutral and should 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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