

# Overview of Kentucky's Juvenile Justice System

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# Juvenile Justice Reforms



- Kentucky was the 4<sup>th</sup> highest (among 50 states) for youth locked up for status offenses.
- DJJ spent half of its \$102 million dollar budget on out of home placements. Detention beds and beds in the youth development centers cost over \$100,000 per year.
- In addition, DCBS spent **\$6 million** in fiscal year 2012 for out-of-home placement of status offenders.
- Significant resources were used on out-of-home residential placement for low-level status and public offenders.
- Time violators/misdemeanants spent out-of-home is about the same as those adjudicated on felonies.
  - Has increased 31% and 21%, respectively over the past decade.
- Lack of community services/alternatives likely contributed to DJJ and DCBS commitments and more youth being placed out-of-home.

# Key SB 200 Policy Changes



- Require court-designated workers (CDWs) to utilize screening and assessment and graduated responses in diversion
- Codify mandatory diversion for certain youth and restrict county attorney and judge overrides
- Establish Family, Accountability, Intervention and Response (FAIR) teams to provide oversight and support youth in diversion

# Key SB 200 Policy Changes



- Prohibit DJJ commitment for most youth adjudicated for probation violation, misdemeanor or Class D felony
- Cap probation, commitment and out of home placement length for misdemeanors and Class D felonies
- Require use of risk assessment, graduated responses and changes to treatment planning process

# Court Designated Worker (CDW) Program



Located within Kentucky's Administrative Office of the Courts:

- CDWs are responsible for placing children in alternative placements prior to arraignment, conducting preliminary investigations, and formulating, entering into, and supervising diversion agreements and performing such other functions as authorized by law or court order.
  - Coordinate the statewide Family, Accountability, Intervention and Response (FAIR) Teams which provide enhanced case management support and services for diverted youth.
  - Implement the Truancy Diversion Program to address Kentucky's truancy issues.
  - Administers the Kentucky Teen Court Program located in 22 counties.

# Data drives outcomes...

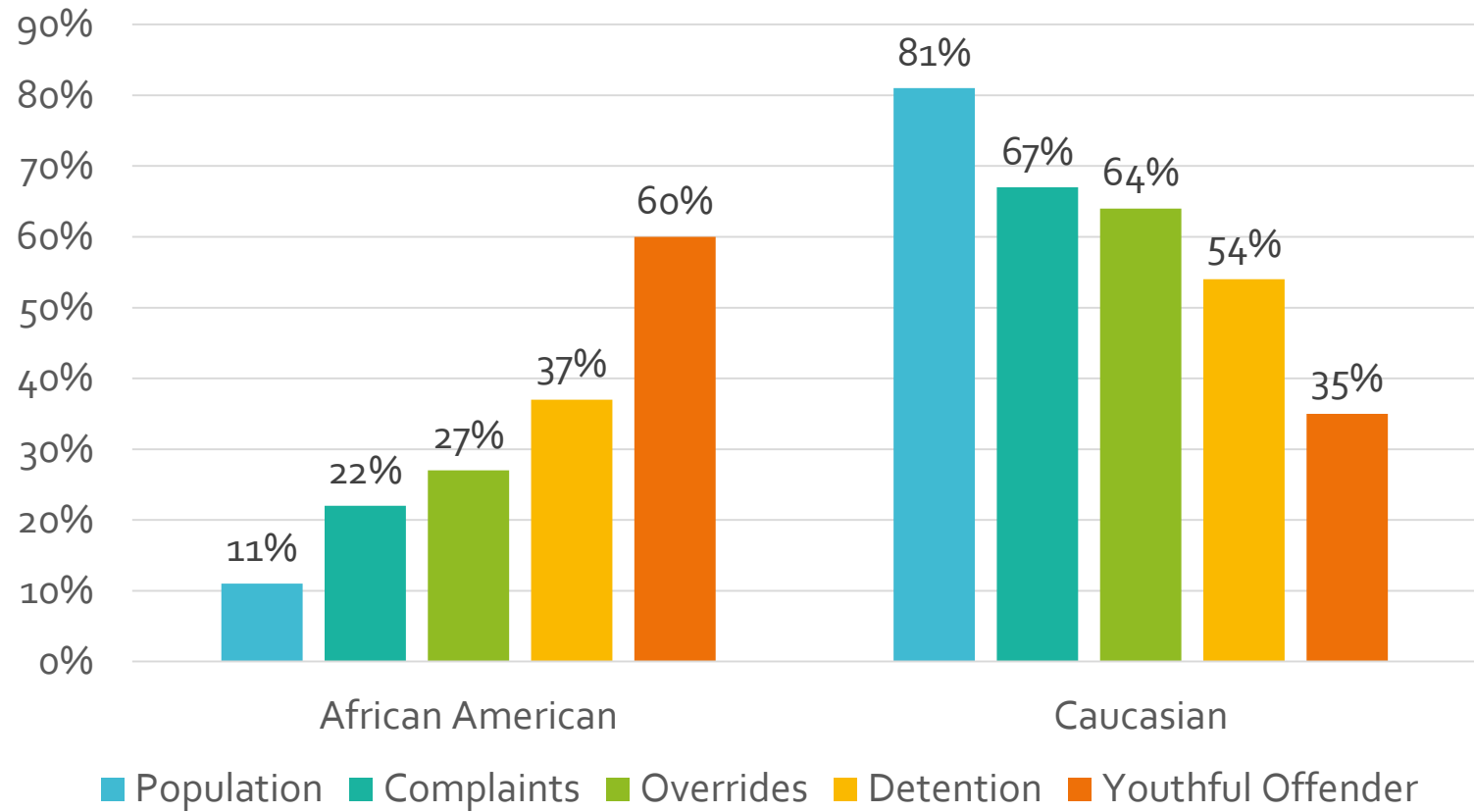
- Understanding the population
- Tracking recidivism
- Ability to follow a youth throughout the juvenile justice system
- Analyze gaps or service barriers to improve outcomes; expedite service access
- Develop public accessible web-based juvenile justice data depository



# Percentage of Youth at Contact Points by Race January – June 2018



## Senate Bill 200 Behaved Exactly as Intended – But Only For White Youth



# Data drives relationships...

- Established a joint implementation plan
- Held local community partner meetings in each judicial district (60 judicial districts/120 counties) in 2014 and 2017
- Provide training to the Judiciary, community partners on PEI, graduated response protocol, best practices in diversion



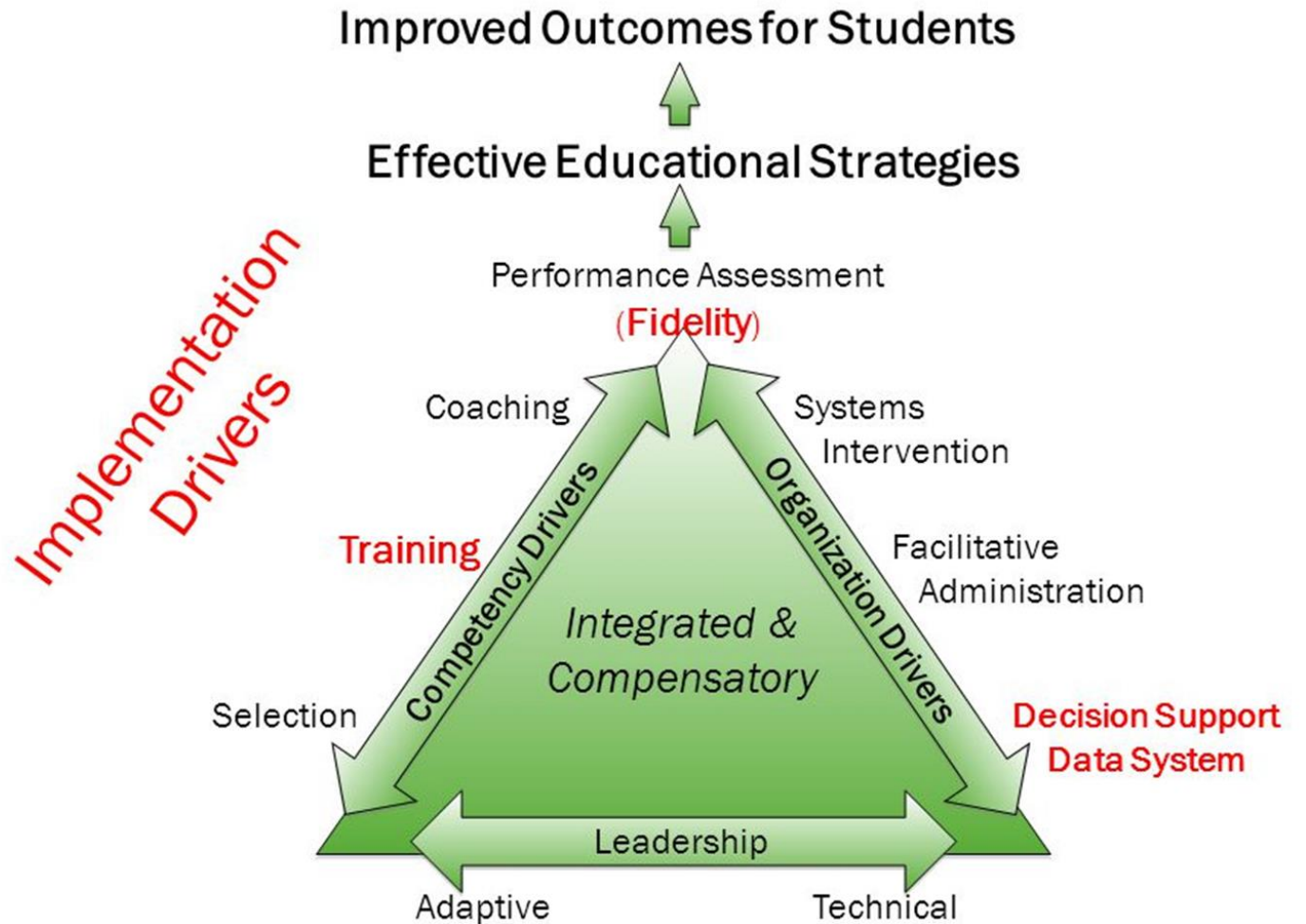


# Data drives culture change...

- Workforce development
  - Restructuring front line staff based upon data
  - Established a career ladder
- Local action planning on data outcomes
- Training on Implicit Bias, Cultural Collisions
- Discussing and problem-solving service array barriers and access at the local level



# Implementation Science





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