Zero Youth Detention



A call to action to take immediate steps to lead with racial justice to not only further reduce the use of secure detention for youth in King County, but to launch this county on the journey to eliminate it.

The road map



Objective 1: Lead with racial equity Identify and eliminate policies that result in racial disproportionality

Invest in the workforce

Objective 2: Prevent youth from entering the juvenile legal system



Support community based response to youth and families in crisis so that legal system involvement is rare and the last resort

Provide access to high quality, community based services for communities, youth, families, and victims Support development of restorative policies and practices to keep youth engaged in school



Objective 3:
Divert youth from the formal legal process and detention to community based options

Divert youth from law enforcement arrest and/or citation Divert youth from referral, case filing, and adjudication

Divert youth from secure detention



Ensure arrested and detained youth receive trauma-informed, culturally responsive, developmentally appropriate care

Reengage youth from detention into community Expand family support and engagement opportunities and connections Objective 4:
Support youth and families to reduce recurrence of legal system involvement and improve health outcomes



Objective 5:
Align and optimize connections between systems to increase effectiveness

Align systems through partnership, common goals, outcomes and indicators Utilize data and technology to optimize connections between legal, community, and service systems Support policy reform that improves the lives of youth, children, and families and reduces legal system involvement

THE FACTS

King County has reduced the number of youth in detention by 36% since 2013.

Despite reductions in youth detention, racial disparities have increased. Youth of color and youth who are Native are 5 times more likely to be detained than white youth in King County.

There is little relationship between youth incarceration and overall youth crime in the community.

Restorative justice has been shown to reduce recidivism and produce greater satisfaction for most victims of crime.

By a margin of 7 to 1, victims prefer increased investments in crime prevention and programs for at-risk youth over more investments in prisons.

All youth have a better chance at a positive adulthood when they don't interact with the juvenile legal system.

Learn more

Website: kingcounty.gov/zero-youth-detention

Blog: zeroyouthdetention.com **Email:** zydinfo@kingcounty.gov