

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Relative Rate Index (RRI)?

- The RRI¹ is a tool to measure racial and ethnic disparities. It was provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) within the U.S. Department of Justice. The RRI permits comparisons across decision points and all jurisdictions by calculating a relative numeric volume or relative rate. The RRI aids local community efforts in determining the level of disproportionate contact and taking the steps needed to address it.
- An RRI is created by dividing the rates for each minority group by the rate for majority youth. This provides a numeric indicator of the extent to which the rate of contact with the minority group differs from the rate of contact with the majority youth.
- The RRI calculations for each stage produce different numerical units as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1 Indiana Racial and Ethnic Disparity Decision Point Definitions

Stage	Definitions
Referrals to Juvenile Courts	A written report or document received by the probation department or prosecuting attorney indicating that a child committed a delinquent act, including a status offense under Indiana Law.
Diverted Cases	The handling of a referral without the filing of a delinquency petition.
Secure Detention	Youth placed or held in a secure detention facility pre-disposition. It also includes post-disposition detention, pending transfer to a private facility, or the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC).
Petition Filed	The Prosecuting Attorney files a written petition alleging a child is delinquent.
Found Delinquent	A court issues an order finding the child is delinquent after an adjudicatory hearing in a court of competent jurisdiction.
Probation Placement	A youth is placed on court-ordered supervision following a juvenile court disposition.
Secure Confinement	Following a court disposition, a youth is placed or held in a secure correctional facility licensed by IDOC or placed as a ward of the IDOC for housing in a correctional facility for children.
Transfer to Adult Court	An order of the Juvenile Court waives a juvenile delinquency case to a court that would have jurisdiction if the act had been committed by an adult.

¹ The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention no longer recommends using the Relative Rate Index (RRI).

Figure 2 Base for Rate of Calculations

Stage	Base for Rates
Referrals to Juvenile Courts	Per 1,000 youth population
Diverted Cases	Per 100 referrals
Secure Detention	Rate of per 100 referrals
Petition Filed	Per 100 referrals
Found Delinquent	Per 100 petitions filed
Probation Placement	Per delinquent finding
Secure Confinement	Per delinquent filing
Transfer to Adult Court	Per petition filed

- Any RRI value bolded in **GOLD** is statistically significant (differing from the neutral value of 1.0 sufficiently)
 - Starting at 1.05, higher numbers show greater levels of disproportionality at the decision points of referral, secure detention, petitions, delinquencies, confinement, and transfer to adult court.
 - A rate of less than 1.0 illustrates that a decision occurs less frequently for minority youth. For example, diverted cases and or probation would show the rate at which minority youth receive informal sanctions compared to white youth.

Question: What is the process of calculating county RRI values?

- Indiana Court Rules: Administrative Rule 1(G) requires counties to submit quarterly racial and ethnic disparities data using the INCite application to meet the federal reporting requirements.
- The reports submitted represent all of the juvenile cases in the courts.
- The “Data Entry Section” report (Figure 3) shows the number of events at each of the decision points (see Figure 4) for each county. This includes Hispanic, and non-Hispanic members of the following racial groups: White, Black/African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Other/Mixed Race.
- The rates of activity are calculated by dividing the number of events in one stage by the number of events in the proceeding stage. This calculation is performed separately for each minority group that makes up at least 1 percent of the total youth population in that jurisdiction. The county’s total population sample is comprised of youth between the ages of 10 and 17.
 - Note that OJJDP’s preferred method of collecting data is “duplicated count,” which means that youth is counted as many times as he/she receives a referral during the reporting period. This is to gauge the volume of activities instead of tracking an individual through contact points.
- Counties are provided with the Data Entry Section (Figure 3) and the RRI calculation (Figure 4) chart to review.

Figure 3 Example Data Entry Section

AREA REPORTED		Data Entry Section								
State : Indiana		Reporting Period: 10/1/2016 through 9/30/2017								
	Total Youth	White	Black or African-American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders	American Indian or Alaska Native	Other/ Mixed	All Minorities	
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)	29,962	19,705	4,987	3,278	471	33	99	1,389	10,257	
2. Juvenile Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	260	76	129	28	0	0	0	27	184	
4. Cases Diverted	127	59	46	16	0	0	0	12	68	
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	147	35	76	19	0	0	0	19	112	
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	133	17	85	12	0	0	0	15	116	
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	108	16	65	11	0	0	0	12	92	
8. Cases resulting in Probation Placement	69	8	56	3	0	0	0	8	61	
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	15	0	0	12	2	0	0	1	15	
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Meets 1% rule for group to be assessed?		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes		

Figure 4 Example Relative Rate Index Chart

Relative Rate Index Compared with : White						
	White	Black or African-American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	All Minorities
2. Juvenile Arrests	**	**	**	**	*	**
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	1.00	1.99	1.00	0.19	*	1.37
4. Cases Diverted	1.00	0.73	0.91	1.16	*	0.79
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	1.00	1.89	1.01	2.45	*	1.62
6. Cases Petitioned	1.00	1.45	1.14	0.73	*	1.34
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	1.00	0.82	0.97	**	*	0.86
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	1.00	0.85	0.93	**	*	0.87
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	1.00	3.13	2.04	**	*	2.79
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	**	**	**	**	*	**
Group meets 1% threshold?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes