

State of Indiana

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council



Local JRAC 2023 Annual Report Summary

2023 Local JRAC Annual Report

September 2024

Introduction

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC), as established by Ind. Code § 33-38-9.5, continues its vital role in supporting Local Justice Reinvestment Advisory Councils (Local JRACs) across Indiana. Since their inception on July 1, 2021, Local JRACs have been tasked with advancing evidence-based and best practices in community-based sentencing alternatives and recidivism reduction. Their responsibilities include reviewing and evaluating local practices, with a focus on community-based corrections and addressing jail overcrowding. Additionally, they compile reports as directed by the State JRAC and maintain ongoing communication to implement best practices and ensure consistent data collection and reporting.

The 2023 Local JRAC Annual Report Summary builds upon the foundation laid in the previous year, highlighting the continued progress in coordinating data-driven criminal justice improvements throughout Indiana. This comprehensive report provides an in-depth look at the evolving structure of Local JRACs, their activities, performance metrics, community engagement efforts, and key accomplishments during 2023. Furthermore, it outlines the strategic focus areas identified for 2024, demonstrating a forward-thinking approach to criminal justice reform.

A significant aspect of this year's report is the feedback provided by Local JRACs, highlighting opportunities for the State JRAC to further support their development and local initiatives. This collaborative approach between state and local entities underscores the commitment to fostering a more effective and equitable criminal justice system.

By sharing these insights and supporting advancements in collaborative strategies, this report aims to drive continued evidence-based progress across Indiana's diverse communities. It serves not only as a record of

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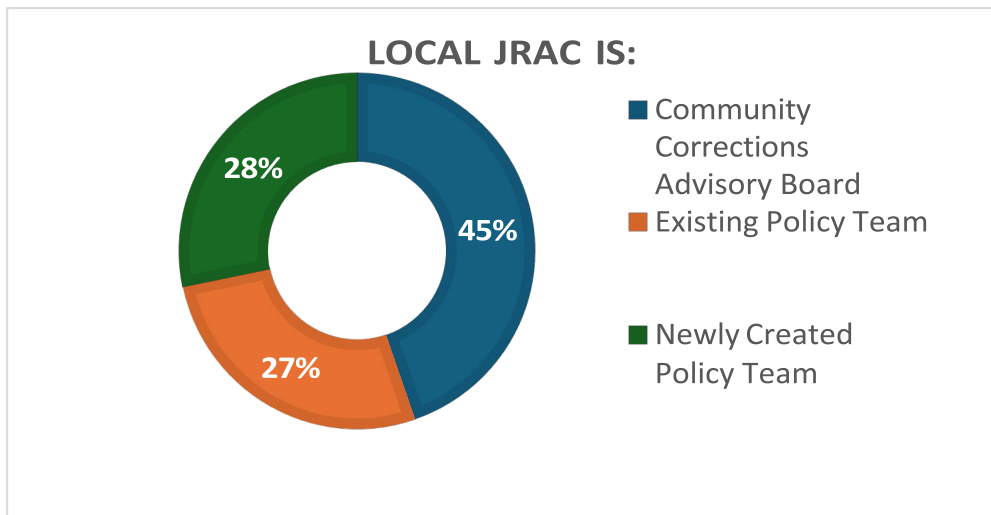
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achievements but also as a roadmap for future improvements, reinforcing Indiana's commitment to innovative and effective criminal justice practices.

Structure and Meetings:

The 2023 Local JRAC Annual Report provides insight into how Justice Reinvestment Advisory Councils are structured and operate at the local level across Indiana. The data reveals three primary organizational structures for Local JRACs:

1. Community Corrections Advisory Boards (CCABs): 45% of Local JRACs have adopted this structure.
2. Newly Created Policy Teams: 28% of Local JRACs fall into this category.
3. Existing Local Policy Teams: 27% of Local JRACs are using this structure.



The variation in organizational structures, combined with the consistency in meeting frequency, indicates that counties are adapting the JRAC model to fit their local context while maintaining a commitment to the ongoing work of justice reinvestment and reform.

Local JRAC meeting frequency:

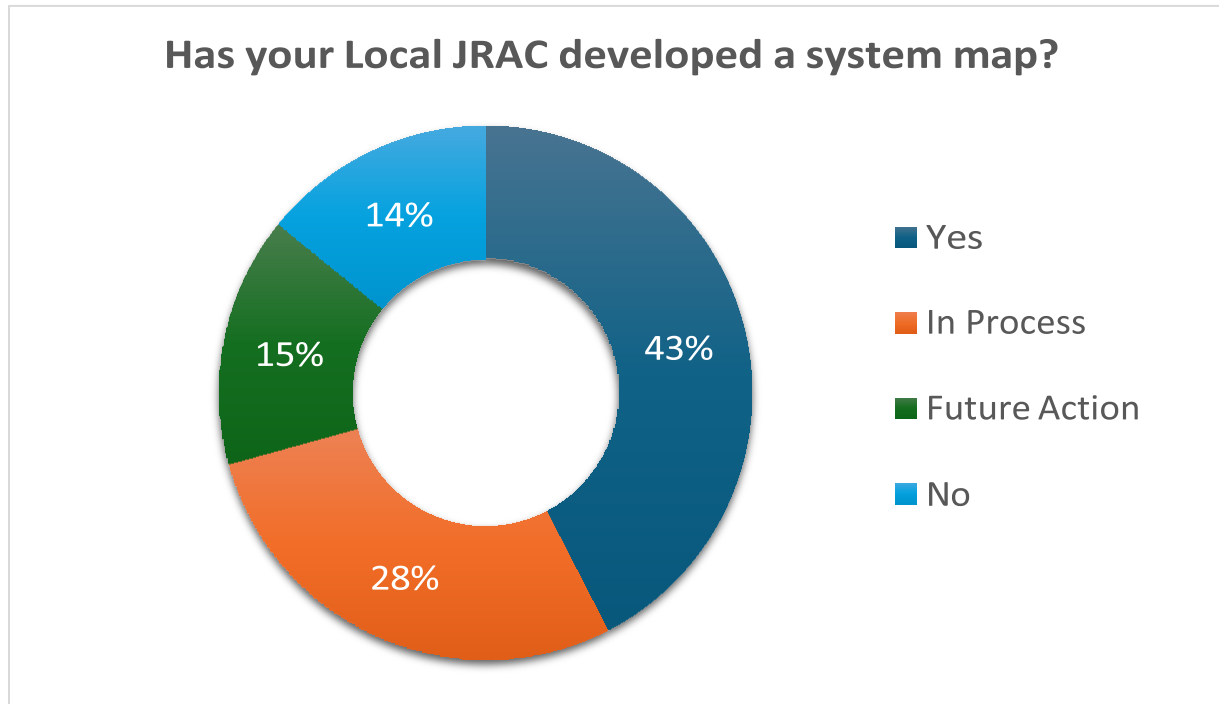
- Ninety-three percent of Local JRACs meet quarterly or more often.

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Developmental Activities information:

The 2023 Local JRAC Annual Report highlights noteworthy progress in establishing foundational structures and processes across Indiana's Local Justice Reinvestment Advisory Councils. These developmental activities are crucial for creating effective, sustainable organizations capable of driving evidence-based criminal justice improvements.



System Mapping:

Eighty-six percent of Local JRACs have either completed, are in the process, or are planning to develop system maps of their local justice processes. This activity is crucial for:

1. Understanding the current state of the local criminal justice system
2. Identifying key decision points and potential areas for improvement
3. Facilitating discussions among stakeholders about system-wide issues and opportunities

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The high percentage engaged in this activity indicates a strong commitment to data-driven, system-wide analysis and improvement.

Sequential Intercept Mapping:

Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping: 60% of Local JRACs have completed or are working on Sequential Intercept Model maps specifically focused on mental health and substance use services.

This SIM mapping process:

1. Helps identify how individuals with mental health and substance use disorders interact with the criminal justice system.
2. Highlights opportunities for diversion, treatment, and support at various points in the justice process
3. Aids in planning and implementing targeted interventions to improve outcomes for this vulnerable population.

Foundational Organizational Elements:

- **Bylaws Development:** 71% of Local JRACs have either completed or are in the process of developing bylaws. This high percentage indicates a strong commitment to establishing clear governance structures and operating procedures. Bylaws provide a framework for decision-making, membership, and other critical organizational functions.
- **Mission and Vision Statements:** 69% of Local JRACs have created or are working on mission and vision statements. This reflects a focus on defining their purpose and long-term goals, which is essential for guiding strategic planning and decision-making.

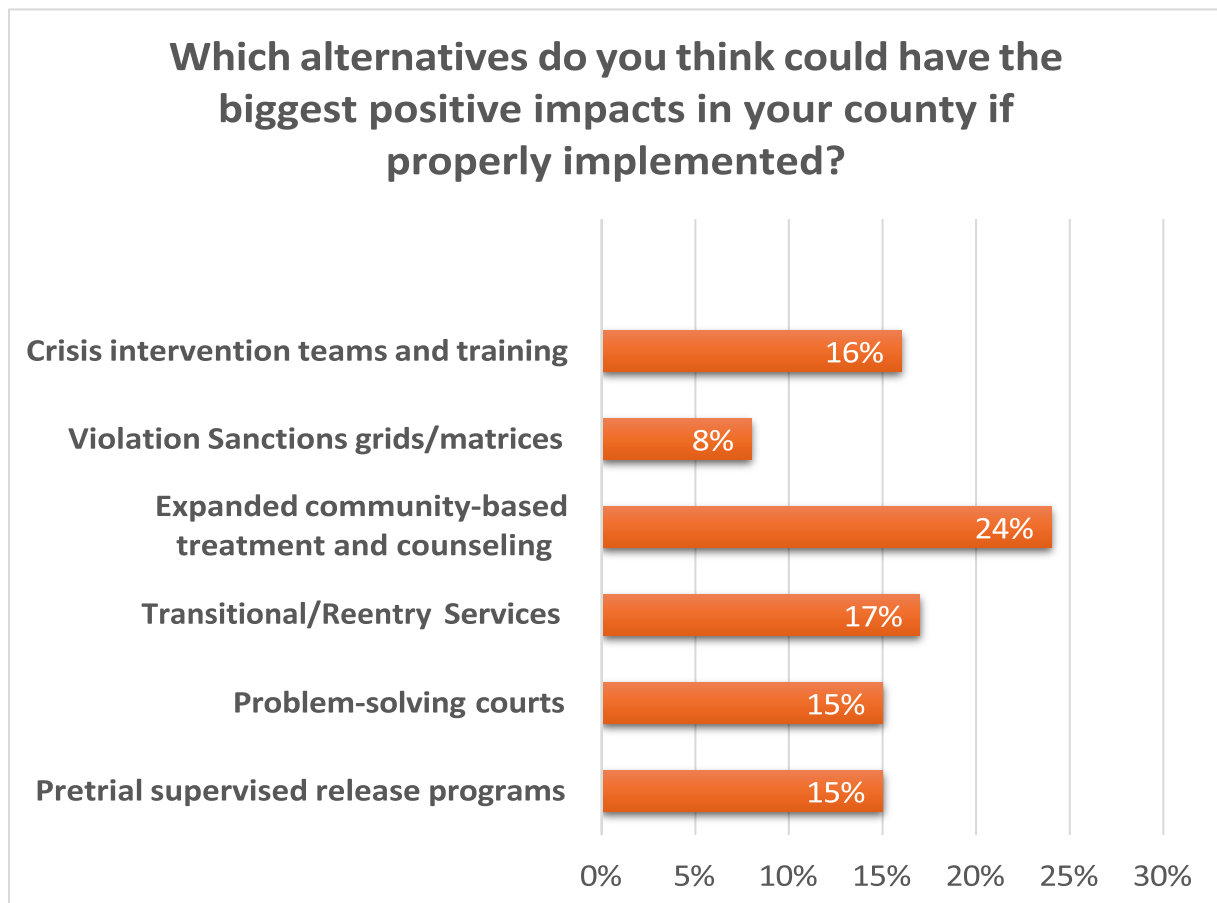
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- **Team Roles Definition:** 79% have defined or are defining team roles and responsibilities. This high rate suggests that most Local JRACs recognize the importance of clear role delineation for effective teamwork and accountability.

Priorities for 2024:

Local JRACs identified several priorities for 2024. These priorities reflect a continued commitment to evidence-based practices, data-driven decision making, and collaborative approaches to criminal justice reform. As Local JRACs work to address these areas in 2024, they will be building on the foundation laid in 2023, with the goal of creating more effective, efficient, and equitable criminal justice systems across Indiana.



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- 1. Complete System Mapping and Sequential Intercept Modeling:** With only 67% of JRACs having completed or working on system mapping, and 60% on Sequential Intercept Modeling, finishing these crucial planning tools remains a top priority for 2024.
- 2. Develop Robust Performance Measures:** A major focus for 2024 will be developing and implementing comprehensive, systemwide performance metrics. This will enable more effective tracking of progress and outcomes.
- 3. Enhance Data Collection and Analysis:** Building on the 43% of JRACs that developed strategies for data collection in 2023, a key priority is to improve data gathering processes, ensure data quality, and develop the capacity to analyze and use data for decision-making.
- 4. Expand Mental Health and Substance Use Programming:** Continuing the momentum from 2023, many JRACs plan to further expand services addressing mental health and substance use disorders. This includes implementing or enhancing crisis intervention teams, jail-based treatment programs, and community-based alternatives.
- 5. Increase Stakeholder and Community Engagement:** While 91% of JRACs have begun implementing local education strategies, enhancing these efforts, and ensuring meaningful community engagement will be crucial in 2024. This includes strategies to improve buy-in from all relevant agencies and to educate the broader community about JRAC initiatives.
- 6. Address Jail Overcrowding:** Building on the 69% of JRACs that evaluated jail crowding in 2023, continued focus on evidence-based practices to manage jail populations remains a priority. This includes

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expanding pretrial services, diversion programs, and community supervision options.

- 7. Pursue Funding Opportunities:** Many JRACs indicated plans to actively seek grant funding and other financial resources to support new initiatives and staff positions critical to their work.
- 8. Implement Quality Assurance Processes:** Only 28% of JRACs reported developing quality assurance processes for program implementation.
- 9. Enhance Cross-System Collaboration:** Several JRACs mentioned plans to improve coordination between criminal justice, mental health, and social service systems to provide more comprehensive support to individuals involved in the justice system.
- 10. Develop Strategic Plans:** With 21% of JRACs having developed a system wide strategic plan, creating comprehensive, long-term plans will be a priority for many in 2024.

What can the State JRAC do to further support your Local JRAC efforts?

Based on the feedback from Local JRACs, several key recommendations emerge for the State JRAC to enhance support and facilitate continued progress at the local level:

- 1. Provide Enhanced Training and Technical Assistance:**
 - o Offer more training on data analysis, performance measurement, and evidence-based practices.
 - o Provide technical assistance for system mapping and Sequential Intercept Modeling, as many counties expressed interest in these areas.

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- o Develop training on establishing visions, missions, and goals for Local JRACs.
- o Offer guidance on creating effective bylaws and operational structures.
- o Provide education on the Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) framework.

2. Share Best Practices and Templates:

- o Create a repository of sample documents, templates, and model programs from successful county initiatives.
- o Develop and distribute a framework or roadmap for Local JRAC formation, planning, and activities.

3. Improve Communication and Guidance:

- o Clearly communicate expectations, timelines, and reporting requirements to Local JRACs.
- o Provide more detailed explanations of the roles and responsibilities of Local JRACs.
- o Develop a comprehensive guide or manual for Local JRAC operations.

4. Enhance Data Management and Sharing:

- o Facilitate better data sharing between state agencies and Local JRACs.
- o Provide guidance on what data should be collected and how it can be effectively analyzed.
- o Help define key terminology, such as recidivism, consistently across the state.
- o Assist in developing strategies for collecting baseline data and tracking outcomes.

5. Offer Funding Opportunities:

- o Provide or identify grant opportunities to support local efforts.
- o Offer guidance on how to effectively pursue and manage grant funding.

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- o Advocate at the state level for increased funding to support local reform efforts.

6. Foster Networking and Collaboration:

- o Host an annual summit or conference for networking and training among Local JRACs.
- o Facilitate regional meetings to address familiar challenges and share solutions.
- o Create opportunities for peer-to-peer learning between counties.

7. Provide Specialized Support:

- o Offer targeted assistance to rural counties facing unique challenges, such as limited access to treatment providers.
- o Provide guidance on engaging community stakeholders and building public support for initiatives.
- o Assist in developing strategies for quality assurance and fidelity to evidence-based practices.

8. Enhance Technology and Tools:

- o Develop or provide access to data dashboard tools to help Local JRACs track and visualize their progress.
- o Create online resources and tools that Local JRACs can easily access and use.

9. Increase State-Level Engagement:

- o Send state representatives to attend local JRAC meetings when needed or requested.
- o Provide more frequent updates on state-level initiatives and how they impact local efforts.

10. Support Flexibility and Innovation:

- o Allow for flexibility and autonomy for counties to address unique local needs while providing a consistent framework.
- o Encourage and support innovative approaches to local challenges.

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11. Address Specific Content Areas:

- o Provide more resources and guidance on implementing effective pretrial services.
- o Offer support for developing and expanding problem-solving courts.
- o Share strategies for addressing mental health and substance use issues within the justice system.

12. Assist with Performance Measurement:

- o Help Local JRACs develop meaningful, consistent performance measures.
- o Provide guidance on how to use performance data to drive system improvements.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the 2023 Local JRAC Annual Report reflects a year of significant growth, collaboration, and progress in Indiana's justice reinvestment initiatives. Local JRACs across the state have demonstrated a strong commitment to evidence-based practices, data-driven decision-making, and system-wide improvements. The diverse organizational structures and high meeting frequency underscore the adaptability and dedication of local stakeholders. While challenges remain, particularly in areas of data collection, performance measurement, and resource allocation, the foundations laid in 2023 position Local JRACs for continued advancement. The priorities identified for 2024, coupled with the recommendations for enhanced state-level support, provide a clear roadmap for future development. As Indiana moves forward, the collaborative efforts between state and local JRACs promise to drive meaningful criminal justice reform, leading to more effective, efficient, and equitable justice systems across the state. The commitment and progress demonstrated in 2023 inspire confidence that Indiana will continue to be at the forefront of innovative, community-oriented approaches to justice reinvestment and reform.