

Juvenile Justice Continuum Assessment (JJCA) Analysis Plan

Subcommittee Discussion Guide

This discussion guide summarizes key points of the Analysis Plan for the Juvenile Justice Continuum Assessment and provides guiding questions to support review and approval by the subcommittee.

About the Juvenile Justice Continuum Assessment (JJCA). The JJCA is designed to take a comprehensive look at how Sonoma County’s juvenile justice system functions, from the moment youth come into contact with the system to how they exit and transition back into their communities.

Why This Matters. The results will inform Sonoma County’s Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice (CMJJ) Plan and guide decisions about funding, partnerships, and improvements to better serve youth, families, and the community.

The following **evaluation questions** serve as a guide for all planning, data collection, participatory engagement, reporting, and implementation activities. [Refer to *Evaluation Questions* section of Analysis Plan for detailed account of Guiding Principles \(page 1\) and Evaluation Questions \(page 4\).](#)

- EQ1 – Who is entering the system, and how are they diverted or processed?
- EQ2 – How are detention decisions made, and are alternatives used fairly?
- EQ3 – Are youth matched to supervision levels based on risk and needs?
- EQ4 – How are services being used, and what outcomes are youth achieving?
- EQ5 – What are the short- and longer-term outcomes for youth, including recidivism?
- EQ6 – How effectively are resources and partnerships being used to drive improvement?

Guiding Question: Do the evaluation questions reflect the priorities of Sonoma County and/or your organization?

Main JJ Continuum Assessment and Reporting Activities

The JJCA combines administrative data, community-based program records, and youth and family focus groups to build a shared evidence base for decision-making. The process is designed to ensure accountability and equity by reducing disparities, highlight evidence-based community alternatives to detention, center youth and family voice in policies and practices, and strengthen collaboration across agencies and community partners to improve outcomes for Sonoma County youth.

1. Framework ([Evaluation Questions in Analysis Plan, page 4-6](#))

- Framework is organized around key decision points and system components ([page 2](#))
- Organizing the work around six EQs (referrals/diversion, detention, supervision alignment, services, youth outcomes, system resources), linked to guiding principles ([pages 3-5](#))

2. Data Collection & Analysis ([Data Sources and Analysis Approach in Analysis Plan, pages 6-10](#))

- Extracting administrative data from Probation and justice systems.
- Standardizing metrics (referrals, detention, supervision, services, outcomes).
- Integrating external data (population baselines, school info when possible).

- Addressing data quality issues and documenting limitations. (*Limitations*, pages 17-18)
- Data Sources and Metrics (*See Appendix I: Evaluation Matrix* for details, page 19)
 - Probation & Juvenile Hall records: referrals, DRAI, supervision, programs, outcomes.
 - Community-Based Organization reports: participation, completion, outcomes.
 - Focus groups: youth and family experiences with referrals, detention, services.
 - Comparisons and trends: multi-year analysis, disparities, continuous improvement.

Guiding Questions: Are there additional outcomes or indicators we should include (e.g., mental health, family stability) from the perspective of your role and experience?

What previous measures of ‘success’ have been unhelpful or misleading? What measures will continue to be critically important in developing and implementing the CMJJ.

3. Youth & Family Engagement (*Analysis Methods* in *Analysis Plan*, pages 8-9)

- Conducting four focus groups (youth and families, in English and Spanish).
- Integrating qualitative voice to contextualize quantitative findings.
- Ensuring youth/family voice is treated as a distinct layer of analysis.

Guiding Question: How can youth and family voice be most effectively incorporated into analysis and recommendations?

4. Stakeholder/Committee Participation

- Subcommittee meetings of the JJCC and PIE team engagement.
- Iterative review/approval of drafts and findings.
- Participatory discussions to refine metrics, interpret results, and prioritize recommendations.

5. Reporting & Dissemination

- Delivering the final Juvenile Justice Continuum Assessment.
- Preparing summary products (2-pager, matrix, presentations) for funders, JJCC, and community partners.
- Ensuring accessibility of findings across technical and community audiences.

Guiding Questions: What barriers or concerns do you have for collecting or sharing the data needed for this assessment? How can we best address this?

How can we ensure findings are accessible and useful to staff, leadership, and community partners?

6. Implementation Planning

- Connecting findings to legislative mandates (JJCPA, YOBG, SB 823, JJDPA).
- Producing actionable recommendations tied to both data and stakeholder input.
- Supporting JJCC decision-making for strategic investment of resources.

Guiding Question: How might results be used to strengthen community-based alternatives and reduce detention?