



March 13, 2023

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

In compliance with the requirements set forth in the Data Governance and Organization to Support Equity and Racial Justice Act (20 ILCS 65 *et. al*) (the “Act”), the Department of Juvenile Justice hereby submits a progress report detailing the action steps and progress made to enable the collection and cataloguing of data described in Section 20-15 of the Act have been standardized and, to the extent possible, the data sets and programs that are planned for the coming year.

The Act requires the Department of Juvenile Justice to “report statistical data on racial, ethnic, age, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and primary or preferred language demographics of program participants for each major program” administered by the Department of Juvenile Justice.

While “major program” is not defined in the statute, the agency has adopted the following definition provided by the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget: *a major program is a program with an enacted appropriation of greater than \$1 million in fiscal year; direct services provided to individuals and/or a reasonable expectation that demographic information can be aggregated via proxy data without substantial cost or disruption to program delivery.*¹

The Department of Juvenile Justice has further defined “program participants” as youth under the care and supervision of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Using these definitions, the Agency has identified the following programs and program participant populations for analysis: Facility Operations, Aftercare Services, Education, Mental Health Treatment, and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services.

Since the July 2022 statistical report, the Department of Juvenile Justice has taken the following actions to assess the changes needed to catalogue demographic data for each of the aforementioned programs.

1. Following its initial statistical report the Department of Juvenile Justice has determined that Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Disability Status, Gender, Primary Language, and Age have been defined and standardized for the following programs (Facility Operations, Aftercare Services, Education, Mental Health Treatment, and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services).

In the coming year, the agency will utilize the Office of Equity’s guidance to further refine and standardize definitions for the remaining demographic categories and ensure standardization exists across all programs identified in this report. The Department of Juvenile Justice will work with the Department of Innovation and Technology and the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget

¹ Programs with anonymous reporting of violations, those which utilize tele-help lines, and regulatory/licensure programs have been excluded from this definition.



in the coming months to streamline its data collection and collect the relevant data from major program participants.

As the State works to implement the Act, the Department of Juvenile Justice data stewards, information and technology staff, and diversity, equity, and inclusion leaders will work with the Department of Innovation and Technology and the Governor's Office of Management and Budget to analyze currently catalogued data, identify data gaps, and determine how to collect demographic information. Ultimately, we hope to provide valuable data and analysis that will be meaningful and inform program design and policy-making endeavors.

Very Sincerely and Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Mueller", is positioned above the typed name.

Heidi E. Mueller, Director
Department of Juvenile Justice

Healthy kids, strong families, safe communities