

# Importance of Data and Validated Risk Assessments

Cathy Dravis, GA DJJ

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 **Dependent**

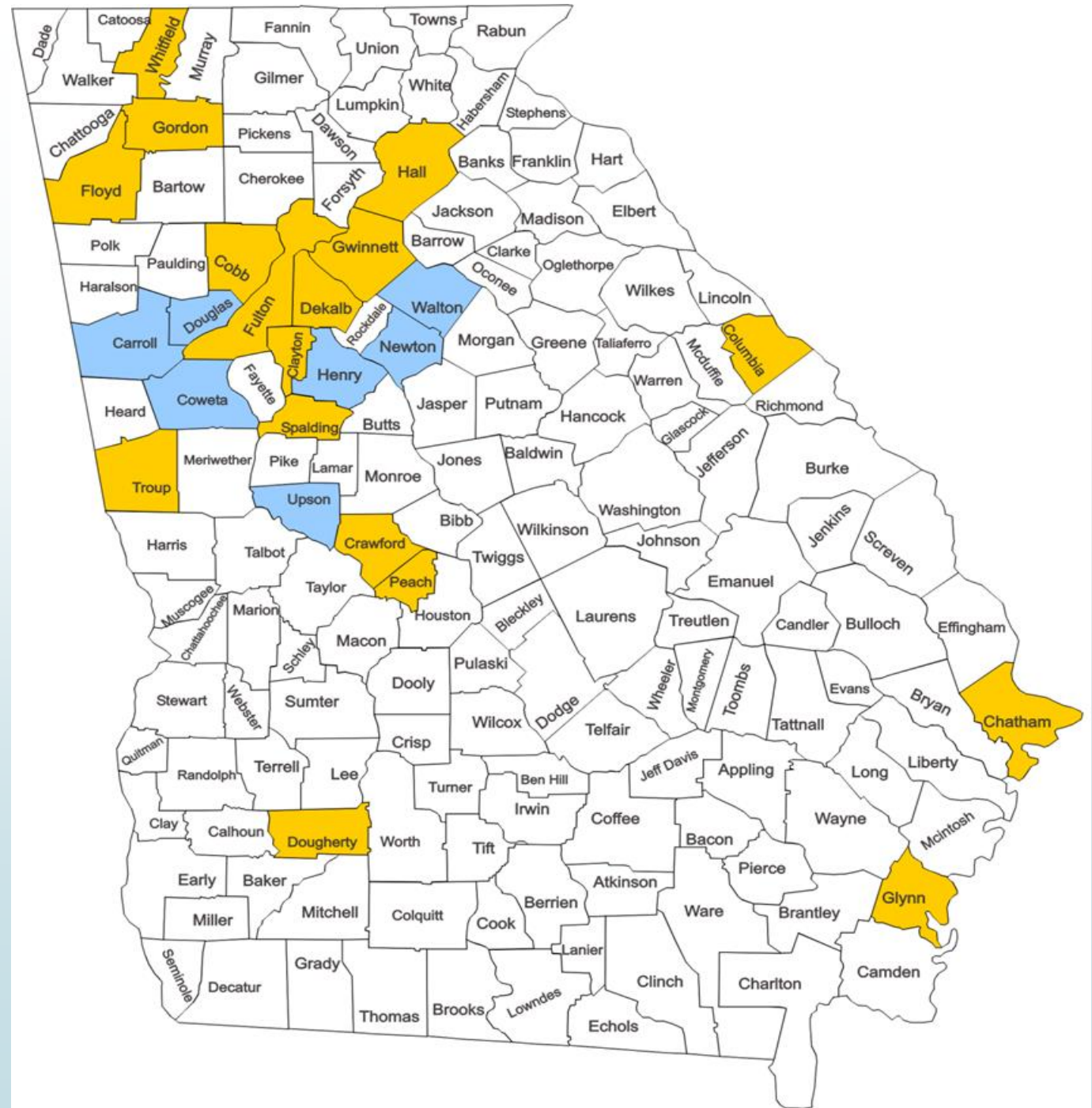
DJJ provides all intake and probation services

 **Shared**

DJJ provides either intake or probation services

 **Independent**

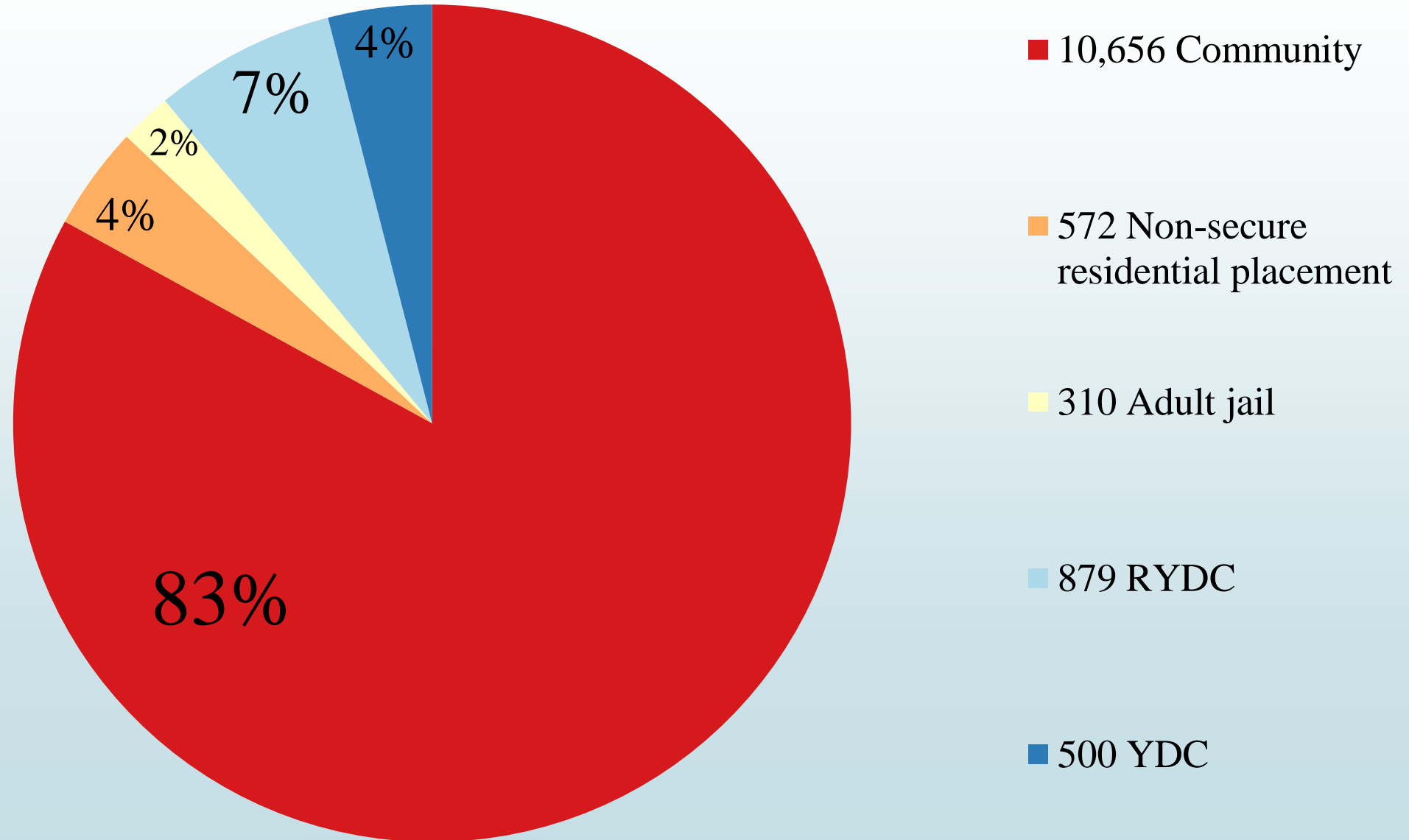
County provides all intake and probation services



# Legal Authority

- Juvenile Court jurisdiction: Delinquent youth up to age 17
- DJJ jurisdiction: Youth up to age 21
- Juvenile Complaint or Detention Order
- Intake officers designated by each court make decisions on release or detention
- Probation Order, Short Term Program Order, Secure Probation Sanctions Program, 2 year commitment to DJJ (regular)
- Designated Felony (DF) Commitment is divided into two categories, Class A and Class B with different terms in respect to length of commitment and restrictive custody.
- Regular and SB 440 Superior Court sentence (“7 deadly sins” law) – DJJ holds until age 17 & transfers to GA DOC

# Average Population for DJJ



# Intake/OnCall

- Begins at the time a call is received from law enforcement for a detention decision or a juvenile complaint form is received on a youth.
- In Dependent court DJJ staff carries out the intake process and follow DJJ policy and procedure.
- In Independent and Shared courts each county has staff that usually carries out the intake process and they do not have to follow DJJ policy and procedure.
- If a youth is detained a DAI must be completed, regardless if it is a Dependent, Independent or Shared court.
- All detained youth are housed in DJJ operated facilities.

# Juvenile Court Process

- Adjudication- youth found to be delinquent
- Disposition-
  - Probation
  - Commitment (regular and DF)
  - Short Term Program (STP)
  - Additional options

# Assessments

- Do not determine good or bad
- Predictive of future needs of criminogenic risk or criminogenic need
- Not judgment tools
- Pieces of the puzzle
- Are evidenced based
- Are nationally supported
- Must be validated

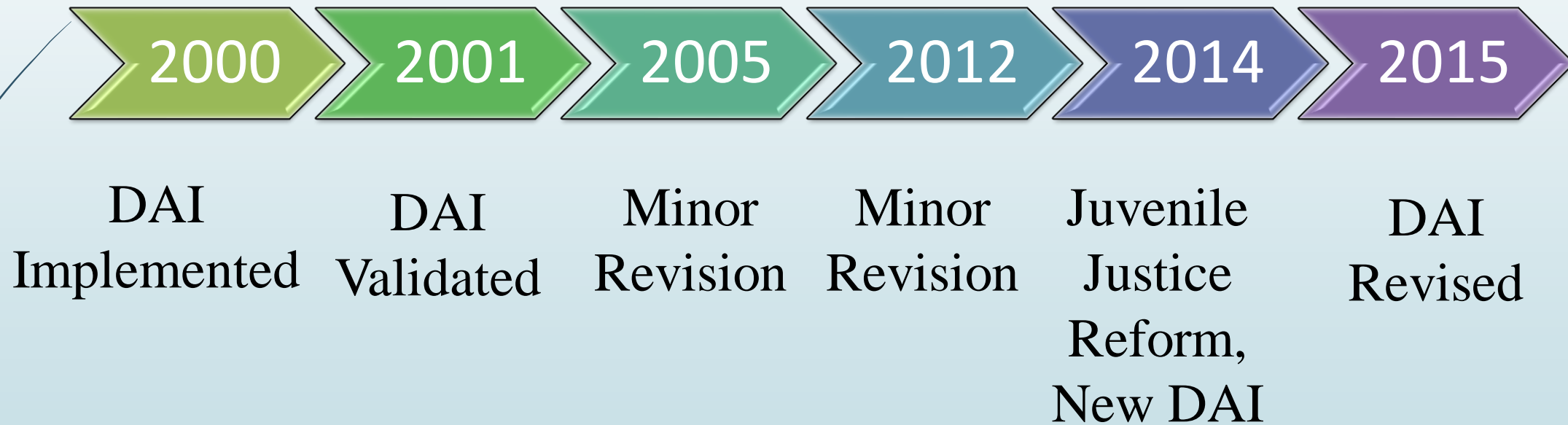
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# Georgia's Tools

- PDRA- Pre Disposition Risk Assessment
- SDM- Structured Dispositional Matrix
- DAI- Detention Assessment Instrument
- JNA- Juvenile Need Assessment



# GA DAI History



# Detention Assessment Instrument

(DAI)

- Developed through a stakeholder work group process
- Used by Independent and Dependent court staff
- Is completed at the time a detention decision is being made
- Determines immediate risk
- Reduces unnecessary or inappropriate secure confinement of youth



# Pre-Dispositional Risk Assessment

10 item tool

Will provide risk level of each youth

The risk level will drive each youth's supervision level

Is done post adjudication- pre disposition

Information gathered by interview with youth and parents/guardians

Information gathered from court records and schools, whenever possible



# PDRA Use

- ▶ The PDRA has been in use since October 2013.
- ▶ Criminal Justice Coordinating Counsel is requiring all incentive grant recipients to be utilizing the PDRA on all youth receiving grant funded services

# Structured Dispositional Matrix

The Structured Dispositional Matrix is a two axis tool

The first axis is the risk level as determined by the PDRA

The second axis is the Offense Severity of the most serious current adjudicated offense

The goal is provide the least restrictive supervision required to ensure community safety while maximizing the use of community-based resources

# Juvenile Needs Assessment

The JNA is completed post disposition

Is a buildable, living document that supports a youth through all stages of supervision

Is reviewed every 90 days along with the service plan

The Service plan is what staff use to address a youth's identified needs



# Graduated Response Approach

This tool helps provide a better way to supervise and support youth by encouraging positive behaviors as well as redirecting those negative behaviors.





# Why use assessments?



What can we do with the provided data?

# Additional Information or Questions

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