

U.S. Department of Justice
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**PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FIELD
ON THE INTERSTATE COMPACT
ON JUVENILES**

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PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FIELD ON THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON JUVENILES

Findings from a National Survey

**A Joint Project of
the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
and the National Institute of Corrections**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Interstate Compact on Juveniles, referred to as the ICJ or Compact, was established in 1955 to manage the interstate movement of adjudicated youth, the return of non-adjudicated runaway youth, and the return of youth to states where they were charged with delinquent acts. As the population managed by the ICJ has grown, various juvenile justice authorities have identified problems associated with the Compact. At the same time these concerns were growing, the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators, which governs the Compact, and members of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators tracked the review of a similar compact that manages the interstate movement of adult probationers and parolees. The adult compact manages larger numbers of cases, but is similar in many ways to the ICJ.

Review of the adult compact included a national survey in 1998 to collect statistics on compact activity and to solicit opinions from officials at various levels of corrections organizations. The results were useful in documenting problem areas and opinions from the field for changes desired with the adult compact. Through an arrangement between the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Institute of Corrections, the NIC Information Center conducted a similar survey on the Interstate Compact on Juveniles. The current project included surveys of three audiences within the juvenile justice system.

1. Juvenile Compact administrators,
2. Juvenile justice agency administrators, and
3. Field staff of juvenile justice agencies.

Summary of Survey Findings

- The ICJ manages an estimated 15,000 active cases that have been transferred from the state where a youth was adjudicated to another state for supervision (approximately one case is managed by the ICJ to every 7.7 cases managed by the adult compact).
- States responding to the survey indicate that approximately one-third of the requests to transfer cases are denied by the receiving states.
- On average, 1.59 full-time staff positions are assigned to manage Compact business at the state level.
- Using the same nine-point rating scale, all three surveyed groups rated the overall Compact performance as slightly above the mid-point, in the “Adequate” range.
- The most common problems cited with the Compact are listed below.
 1. Conducting business through the Compact is too slow and cumbersome.
 2. Response of sending states to violations, and efforts to return violators to sending states, present a range of conflicts and inconsistent practices.
 3. Too many youth are allowed to relocate before receiving states receive notice of the move or have approved the transfer.
- The most common recommendations to improve the Compact are listed below.
 1. Better enforcement and accountability measures.
 2. More training regarding the Compact for local judges and other state and local juvenile justice officials.
 3. Improve the quality and speed of communication procedures within the Compact.

BACKGROUND

Interstate compacts, which have the force and effect of statutory law, are formal agreements between or among two or more states. Like any state law, these agreements require passage of legislation and approval by governors. According to the Council of State Governments (*Interstate Compacts & Agencies 1998, 1999*), more than 180 compacts have been established, most of them since World War II. The compacts address a wide variety of issues of common interest to the participating states, including bridges and port authorities, education, gambling and lotteries, transportation, and management of emergencies. Compacts typically establish governing structures that provide representation for participating states and define mechanisms for funding by the states. The rules established by the compacts' governing bodies override any conflicting laws enacted by member states. If a proposed compact will infringe on federal powers, Congress must first approve its establishment.

More than a dozen compacts have been established for crime control and corrections. The oldest, established in the 1930s, is the Interstate Compact on Parole and Probation, which oversees interstate transfers and movement of adults released to community supervision. That compact provided a precedent for a similar agreement among states, the Interstate Compact on Juveniles (ICJ). Initiated in 1955, the ICJ had by 1973 secured the participation of all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The ICJ regulates the transfer across state lines of juveniles released on probation and parole.

The ICJ was established with five primary purposes as described below by the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators' (AJCA) "Rules and Regulations."

1. To ensure that adjudicated juveniles are provided adequate supervision and services in the receiving state as ordered by the adjudicating judge or parole authority in the sending state.
2. To ensure that the receiving community is protected.
3. To return non-adjudicated runaway youth, absconders, and escapees to their home states.
4. To return juveniles charged as being delinquent to a demanding state other than their home state where they are alleged to have committed a delinquent act.
5. To make contracts for cooperative institutionalization in member states for delinquents needing special services. Community protection has been facilitated by the regulation of client interstate travel, the monitoring of offender adjustment in the receiving state, and the removal of the probationer or parolee from the receiving state's community upon violation. Reintegration of the offender and rehabilitative efforts have been historically assisted by ensuring probation and parole program continuity across state boundaries.

Compact Governance

Like its adult compact counterpart, the ICJ defines a method for governance comprised of representatives of the member states. Article XII states: “ That the governor of each state shall designate an officer who, acting jointly with like officers of other party states, shall promulgate rules and regulations to carry out more effectively the terms and provisions of this compact.” The Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators is the organization of state officers that forms the governing body of the ICJ. The Association does not have a national office or staff. It relies on elected officers and an executive board to carry out the business of the Association, which conducts two meetings a year with all state officers. The Association operates on a budget derived from an annual assessment of \$400 to member states. Figure 1 depicts the organizational chart of the Association.

How the Interstate Compact on Juveniles Works

Compact business is generally conducted in the following manner.

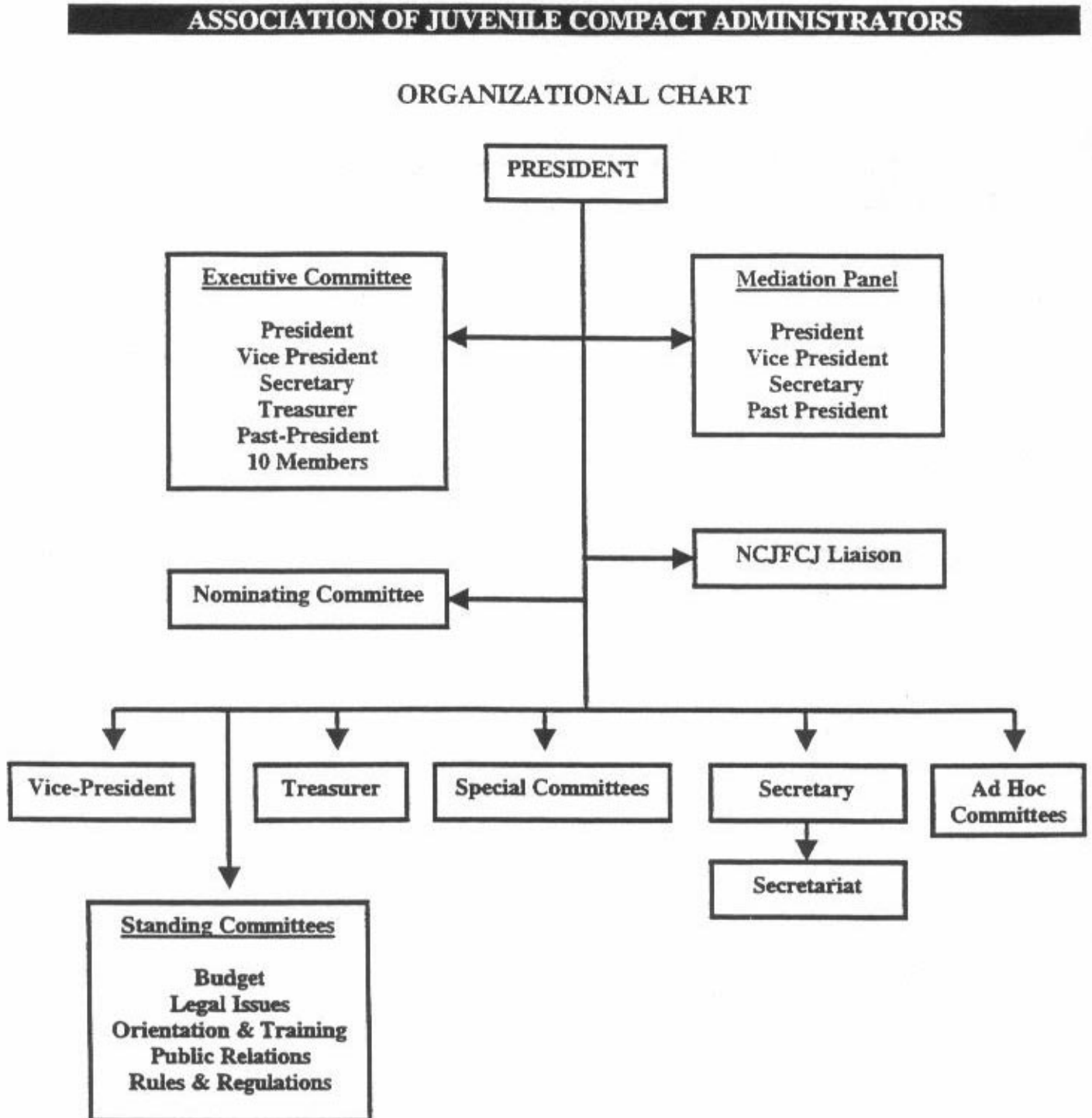
1. When a local juvenile justice office or authority intends to transfer a juvenile to another state, the local office sends case information and forms to the ICJ compact administrator or designee within the state, called the “sending state.”
2. The compact administrator then transfers the material to the administrator or designee of the “receiving state” in which the relocation is to take place.
3. The receiving compact administrator then forwards the request and material to the appropriate local agency in the receiving state for investigation.
4. The same communication process is reversed after the receiving state reviews the request and accepts or rejects the transfer request. Any subsequent communication dealing with the case also follows the same communication flow, with most communication conducted by paper through the mail.

In addition to handling the interstate transfers of juvenile probationers and parolees, the ICJ also oversees the return of runaways and status offenders, and interstate investigations of delinquents are also overseen through the Compact. The rules for transfers, protocols, time frames for response, required forms and other procedures are defined by the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators.

Pressures on the Adult Compact

In the 1980s, the adult compact began to show the strains of managing an exploding number of adult offenders within a governing structure limited in resources. Federal grants and technical assistance were provided to bolster the adult compact administrators’ efforts to address problems of slow communication, inappropriate responses to transferred offenders’ violations, noncompliance by some member states, and the inability to accurately document problems and resolve conflicts among members.

Figure 1. Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators (Organization Chart)



Despite efforts to correct those problems, the adult compact operations came under increasing criticism and scrutiny during the 1990s. Highly publicized crimes committed by adult offenders transferred through the compact (or allowed to transfer without compact oversight) drew critical attention of elected officials and the news media. Questioning the ability of the adult compact to adequately manage the movement of adult offenders, some state legislatures began to consider measures that threatened the intent of the adult compact for mutual state cooperation. Administrators of the adult compact and other corrections officials again sought assistance from federal agencies and other sources to improve the system of managing movement of adult offenders from state to state.

Responding to those concerns, the National Institute of Corrections' (NIC) Advisory Board assigned a committee to review the concerns of state officials. The committee endorsed a national survey of adult compact administrators and adult community corrections agency administrators and field staff to document the level of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the adult compact system. The committee also held public hearings to solicit input from a range of justice officials and interest groups affected by the adult compact.

The NIC survey results not only identified concerns from the field, but also collected recommendations for how to improve to the adult compact operations. As a result of reviewing the survey analysis, a variety of professional organizations began to support an amendment of the adult compact by all participating states and territories. These organizations included the Parole & Probation Compact Administrators' Association, American Probation and Parole Association, and the Council of State Governments. As of mid-year 2000, eight state legislatures had passed legislation to reorganize the adult compact and more states were expected to address the proposal during the 2001 legislative year.

Adult Compact Changes Prompt a Review of the ICJ

As that activity relating to the adult compact evolved, a number of juvenile justice officials began to question whether similar problems and issues needed to be addressed with the ICJ. In addition, other problems unique to the juvenile compact system had surfaced. Several officials proposed that the juvenile justice community should begin to carefully review the ICJ to determine the extent of juvenile compact system flaws and consider interventions to correct problems. In March 1999, the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators identified a number of problems of concern to their members. These included:

- Inability to enforce compact rules,
- The conflict of parental rights to relocate to other states with their children vs. rights of states to reject supervision transfers of delinquents based on risk factors,
- Lack of training to juvenile justice officials regarding the ICJ,
- Limited resources to return runaways and violators to sending states,
- Low priority of the ICJ in some state systems,
- Slow processing of ICJ business, and
- Potential liability risks for ineffective management of interstate movement of youth.

Survey of Juvenile Justice Officials

Some members of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) also expressed concerns that juvenile compact issues needed to be addressed. After discussion with representatives of both the CJCA and the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) entered into an agreement with the National Institute of Corrections to conduct a survey of juvenile justice officials similar to the survey relating to the adult compact. The survey was designed to:

1. Measure general satisfaction with the Compact from management, compact administrative, and field staff levels of the juvenile justice system.
2. Identify the specific problems of most concern in the field regarding the Compact.
3. Solicit suggestions regarding improving Compact operations.

Through the agreement between OJJDP and NIC, the survey was conducted by the same office, the NIC Information Center, that conducted national surveys relating to the adult compact in 1986 and 1998.

PROJECT METHOD

The project involved separate surveys to the three target audiences: 1) juvenile Compact administrators, 2) juvenile justice agency administrators, and 3) juvenile justice agency field staff. The three audiences provided distinct perspectives from the critical organizational levels of juvenile justice services involved with the Compact.

SURVEY A: Juvenile Compact Administrators

The staff most knowledgeable and involved with the ICJ are the state Compact administrators or their deputies who daily process Compact business. The state offices are the funnels through which all communication flows involving transfers, return of violators or runaways, and other Compact case processing . Using the AJCA roster of state offices, a six-page survey was sent to the individual in each state that appeared to be directly involved in the daily operations of the Compact. That survey instrument, attached to this report as “Survey A,” was the most detailed of the three surveys. It included questions regarding numbers of cases processed through the Compact and rankings of Compact problem areas. Surveys were sent to 58 Compact administrators in all states and the District of Columbia. Forty-seven (47) Compact administrators from 43 states responded.

SURVEY B: Juvenile Justice Agency Administrators

The membership directory of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators was used to identify agency heads that would be surveyed to seek the perspectives of agency administrators. In some states with supervision functions of adjudicated youth split between executive and judicial branch agencies, juvenile court administrators were added to the mailing of a two-page survey instrument, attached as “Survey B.” Sixty-nine (69) surveys were distributed to agency administrators in all states and the District of Columbia. Forty-four (44) administrators representing 39 states responded.

SURVEY C: Juvenile Justice Field Staff

The agency administrators receiving Survey B were supplied two to four copies of a field staff survey and asked to distribute them to staff in local offices who were involved or familiar with Compact issues. That survey is attached to this report as “Survey C.” As with the adult survey, this process of distribution was not a systematic effort to obtain proportionate response based on the size of the state, but to seek at least some feedback from field staff of juvenile justice agencies. In three states, however, the field staff survey was more widely distributed than intended, resulting in a disproportionate number of responses from those states. The data analysis was modified, as later described, to balance the over-representation of responses from those states. One hundred eighty-three (183) field staff from 36 states responded to Survey C.

SURVEY RESPONSES

General Observations

Nationwide Compact Activity and Administration

- An estimated 15,000 juveniles were being supervised at mid-year 1999 in locations outside the states in which they were adjudicated.
- By comparison with a similar national survey of the Interstate Compact on (adult) Parolees and Probationers, there are 7.7 adults being supervised in other states for every juvenile case supervised in another state through the ICJ.
- Two-thirds of the states involved in the ICJ report that 30-33% of the requests to transfer cases between states were denied.
- The processing or return of violators to sending states was cited as a problem by all three responding groups, but accurate statistical information on return of violators is not available. The limited number of states reporting on this issue indicated that they bring back 63% of cases requested for return by the receiving states managing their cases, but that only 35% of the cases are returned by other states when violations are reported and return is requested.
- The average number staff designated to perform Compact administrative functions at the state level is 1.59 full-time employees. The staffing levels range from a low of one-fourth of a full-time staff member to 6.5 full-time employees.
- State Compact administrators are appointed by governors in over three-fourths of the reporting states. However, most administrators are supervised by an agency head or other top or mid-level agency manager.
- As with the adult compact, ICJ data collection is not systematic from state to state and current reporting procedures do not provide detailed information for Compact officials or agency administrators to use in analyzing Compact activity and addressing operational problems.

Compact Performance

- Using a nine-point scale to rate overall Compact performance, all three juvenile justice agency audiences (Compact administrators, agency administrators, and field staff) rated performance slightly better than the mid point in the “adequate” range.

Compact Problem Areas

- The three survey audiences identified similar problem areas, but prioritized them in different ways. The most serious Compact problems listed by the three groups are compared below.

Compact Administrators

1. Youth are allowed to relocate before notice to, or approval by, the receiving state.
2. Conducting business through the Compact is too slow.
3. Special populations (sex offenders) are not properly managed through the Compact.
4. Conflicts are not resolved between rights of parents to relocate with their children and rights of states to reject transfers deemed unacceptable.
5. States that have transferred cases will not return youth who are reported to be violators and recommended for return to sending states.

Agency Administrators

1. Conducting business through the Compact takes too long.
2. Problems associated with processing violators being supervised in other states have not been solved.
3. The Compact has no effective mechanisms to enforce its rules.
4. Too many youth are allowed to relocate prior to notice or approval by the receiving state.
5. Adequate resources are not always available to manage cases processed through the Compact

Field Staff

1. Conducting business through the Compact is slow and cumbersome.
2. The responses to many reports of violations and recommendations to return violators are often slow or inappropriate.
3. Youth are allowed to relocate prior to notice and approval of transfers by receiving states.
4. The reporting of case activity through the Compact is slow and incomplete.
5. Some jurisdictions do not follow Compact rules.
6. Receiving states cannot exercise the same options with Compact cases that they can with in-state cases.

Recommendations for Compact Improvements

- Compact administrators, agency administrators, and field staff offered numerous suggestions to address Compact problems. The most common recommendations are listed below.

Compact Administrators

1. Improve the procedures for responding to violation reports and returning violators.
2. Strengthen the Compact's rule enforcement and accountability provisions.
3. Improve the Compact's management of special offender populations - especially sex offenders.
4. Review and clarify Compact rules and update the Compact manual to avoid misinterpretations.
5. Clarify criteria for rejecting transfers to address the conflict between rights of parents and rights of states.
6. Provide more training to local officials regarding the rules and procedures of the Compact.
7. Make better use of communication and information technology.

Agency Administrators

1. Establish better enforcement and accountability measures for the Compact.
2. Improve training for judges and other local officials regarding the Compact.
3. Apply information technologies to improve the speed and quality of communications.
4. Allow more direct communication between local agencies involved in case management.
5. Provide adequate resources for all state Compact offices.
6. Clarify and simplify the operating guidelines and manual used by the Compact.
7. Improve the training for state Compact office staff.

Field Staff

1. Permit more direct communication between local agencies involved in Compact cases.
2. Increase the speed of communication in conducting business through the Compact.
3. Provide more training to all local and staff officials involved in the Compact.
4. Enforce compliance with Compact rules and hold non-compliant jurisdictions accountable.
5. Require sending states to be more responsive to violation reports and recommendations for return of violators.
6. Authorize a broader range of options for receiving states to use in responding to violations in Compact cases.
7. Revise and streamline Compact forms.

Compact Activity and Administration

Survey A was sent to 58 Compact or deputy Compact administrators in the fifty states and the District of Columbia. Forty-seven (47) of the 58 administrators responded representing 43 of the 51 jurisdictions. Survey A asked for more detailed information regarding Compact activity and administration, including:

- numbers of active Compact cases being supervised for other states or by other states on June 30, 1999;
- numbers of transfer requests processed during the year ending June 30, 1999, and the number of the requests accepted or rejected;
- numbers of cases that resulted in violations and returns to sending states;
- staffing levels of state Compact offices; and
- information regarding appointment and supervision of Compact administrators.

As with the compact that oversees interstate movement of adult offenders, the Interstate Compact on Juveniles does not have a history of data collection or reporting that accurately and completely documents Compact activity. It appears that addressing Compact policy and operational issues frequently must rely on the use of anecdotal information, or dealing with individual case problems rather than systems issues.

Compact Transfers

Compact administrators were asked to identify the numbers of cases that were actively being supervised through the Compact by and for other states on June 30, 1999. Of the 43 jurisdictions responding, 37 were able to provide full or partial responses regarding active cases that were being supervised through the Compact within their state, or active cases originating from their state that were transferred to other locations. The responses are reflected in Figure 2.

An estimated 15,000 active cases are managed through the Compact.

The responses reflect the wide variation in Compact activity among states. For example, California was managing 4,765 active Compact cases compared to 22 cases in North Dakota. The disparity in those numbers alone points to the different pressures placed on some states strictly due to volume and potential for other states to devote individual attention to cases processed through the Compact. The responses also reflect the ability or inability of various offices to accurately document the business being managed through the Compact.

The far right columns of Figure 2 present 1) the net gain or loss of cases due to transfers in and out of the state through the Compact, and 2) a ratio based on cases transferred in and out of the individual states. A ratio of "1.0" represents an even exchange of one case being transferred in state for every case transferred out. Other examples: a ratio of "2.0" represents 20 cases transferred in for every ten cases transferred out of state; a ratio of "0.5" represents 5 cases transferred in state for every ten cases transferred out.

Figure 2. Juvenile Compact Populations, June 30, 1999

/ Cases Supervised by Other States / Cases Supervised for Other States / Net Flow of Cases

	<i>Probation</i>	<i>Parole</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Probation</i>	<i>Parole</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Gained(Lost)</i>	<i>Ratio</i>
<i>Alaska</i>	21	0	1	57	8	3	46	3.1
<i>Arizona</i>	192	67	0	191	43	0	(25)	0.9
<i>California</i>	2,565	159	0	1,925	116	0	(683)	0.7
<i>Colorado</i>	457	50	0	156	44	0	(307)	0.4
<i>Delaware</i>	124	28	0	64	9	0	(79)	0.5
<i>Florida</i>	934	96	3	728	152	0	(153)	0.9
<i>Georgia *</i>	-	-	199	-	-	192	(7)	1.0
<i>Hawaii</i>	9	2	0	35	8	0	32	3.9
<i>Idaho</i>	73	10	1	95	23	0	34	1.4
<i>Illinois</i>	N/A	128	0	N/A	110	0	(18)	0.9
<i>Indiana</i>	N/A	25	0	N/A	50	0	25	2.0
<i>Iowa</i>	14	2	0	49	19	0	52	4.3
<i>Kansas * 2/2000</i>	-	-	295	-	-	254	(41)	0.9
<i>Kentucky</i>	72	73	24	67	75	25	(2)	1.0
<i>Louisiana</i>	207	87	0	83	49	0	(162)	0.4
<i>Maine</i>	13	0	0	12	0	0	(1)	0.9
<i>Massachusetts</i>	N/A	48	0	N/A	7	0	(41)	0.1
<i>Minnesota</i>	90	0	0	116	17	0	43	1.5
<i>Mississippi</i>	52	27	0	148	21	0	90	2.1
<i>Nebraska</i>	84	20	0	102	10	0	8	1.0
<i>New Hampshire</i>	45	2	0	43	26	0	22	1.5
<i>New Jersey</i>	106	47	0	130	47	0	24	1.2
<i>New Mexico</i>	142	24	0	85	20	0	(61)	0.6
<i>New York</i>	N/A	58	0	N/A	67	0	9	1.2
<i>North Dakota</i>	12	3	0	4	3	0	(8)	0.5
<i>Ohio</i>	81	70	0	120	33	0	2	1.0
<i>Oklahoma</i>	79	26	N/A	140	39	N/A	74	1.7
<i>Oregon</i>	379	88	0	530	136	0	199	1.4
<i>Rhode Island</i>	43	0	0	61	0	0	18	1.3
<i>South Carolina</i>	186	85	N/A	326	54	N/A	109	1.4
<i>Tennessee</i>	230	70	1	256	81	11	47	1.2
<i>Texas</i>	421	116	N/A	401	112	N/A	(24)	1.0
<i>Utah</i>	98	14	0	141	21	0	50	1.4
<i>Washington</i>	255	80	0	292	67	0	24	1.0
<i>West Virginia</i>	30	0	0	90	5	0	65	3.2
<i>Wisconsin</i>	404	94	0	424	108	0	34	1.1
<i>Wyoming</i>	49	0	0	27	8	0	(14)	0.7

Because not all jurisdictions responded to the survey, a count of active Compact cases was not available. However, an estimate was constructed using results of a similar survey of adult compact administrators in 1998. The ratio of juvenile to adult compact cases in the 37 states listed in Figure 2 was 7.7 adult cases for every juvenile case. Applying this same ratio to the number of adult cases reported in all states and the District of Columbia resulted in an estimated 15,000 active cases being managed by ICJ at mid-year 1999.

115,362 adult compact cases / 7.7 = 14,982 estimated juvenile compact cases

(Source for adult statistics: *A Field Evaluation of the Interstate Compact for Probation and Parole: Findings from an NIC Survey*, LIS, Inc., National Institute of Corrections, 1998.)

Transfer Acceptance/Denials

Compact administrators were also asked to identify the number of cases that were referred for transfer in and out of their states. Figure 3 summarizes the responses from states that reported total cases referred for transfer and were also able to track numbers of cases accepted, denied, or pending final action. Figure 4 summarizes responses from states that reported numbers of cases processed for transfer, but were not able to break down the outcomes of the transfer requests. Twenty-three states provided complete information regarding the number of transfer requests that were accepted or denied, and another six states provided those numbers for only parole or aftercare cases. Following is a summary.

30-33% of requests to transfer cases through the Compact are denied by the receiving states.

Transfer Requests to Other States

5,351 cases referred to other states for transfer of supervision
3,599 cases accepted by other states (67%)
775 cases denied by other states (14%)
762 cases pending (14%)
215 transfer requests cancelled or outcome unknown (4%)

Transfer Requests from Other States

4,624 cases referred from other states for transfer of supervision
3,247 cases accepted for supervision (70%)
747 cases denied transfer (16%)
556 cases pending (12%)
74 transfer requests cancelled or outcome unknown (2%)

Figure 3. Acceptance and Denial of Compact Transfer Requests (Year Ending June 30, 1999)

	Transfer Requests To Other States				Transfer Requests From Other States			
	<i>Referred</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>Denied</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Referred</i>	<i>Accepted</i>	<i>Denied</i>	<i>Pending</i>
<i>Alaska</i>	9	6	1	2	29	27	2	7
<i>Arizona</i>	369	218	49	44	241	160	28	24
<i>California*</i>	159	109	34	16	130	116	10	4
<i>Colorado</i>	364	200	33	22	226	124	18	9
<i>Delaware</i>	152	137	15	-	73	63	10	-
<i>Georgia</i>	510	276	216	-	512	275	197	-
<i>Hawaii</i>	11	11	-	-	36	34	2	-
<i>Idaho</i>	229	229	-	-	150	150	-	-
<i>Illinois*</i>	128	108	20	-	110	103	7	-
<i>Indiana*</i>	25	15	0	10	50	40	1	9
<i>Kentucky</i>	108	96	9	3	132	121	4	7
<i>Louisiana</i>	300	294	6	0	160	132	58	0
<i>Maine</i>	80	13	45	22	72	12	44	16
<i>Massachusetts</i>	104	93	11	-	13	12	1	-
<i>Minnesota</i>	104	52	21	21	173	101	44	22
<i>Missouri</i>	86	86	0	0	209	209	0	0
<i>Nebraska*</i>	36	10	6	5	10	10	0	0
<i>New Jersey</i>	449	156	58	233	274	136	62	116
<i>New Mexico</i>	219	180	37	2	137	120	17	0
<i>New York*</i>	67	53	9	5	58	42	13	3
<i>North Dakota</i>	48	48	-	-	31	31	-	-
<i>Rhode Island</i>	49	43	6	0	65	61	4	0
<i>South Carolina</i>	209	145	47	17	227	161	52	14
<i>Tennessee</i>	187	106	19	62	294	168	37	89
<i>Texas</i>	654	315	62	277	652	351	81	220
<i>Utah</i>	88	52	18	18	106	69	20	16
<i>Washington</i>	529	481	48	0	304	282	22	0
<i>West Virginia</i>	30	25	2	-	97	89	8	-
<i>Wyoming</i>	48	42	3	3	53	48	5	0
TOTALS	5351	3599	775	762	4624	3247	747	556

* Parole/Aftercare cases only.

**Figure 4. Compact Cases Processed for Transfer (Year Ending June 30, 1999)
Acceptance/Denial Decision Unknown**

	<i>Transfer Requests To Other States</i>	<i>Transfer Requests From Other States</i>
<i>Alabama</i>	128	245
<i>California*</i>	704	509
<i>Florida</i>	622	631
<i>Illinois*</i>	459	274
<i>Iowa</i>	60	138
<i>Mississippi</i>	79	169
<i>Nevada</i>	208	229
<i>New Hampshire</i>	47	69
<i>Oklahoma</i>	105	179
<i>Oregon</i>	203	298
<i>Virginia</i>	496	316
<i>Wisconsin</i>	498	532
TOTALS	3609	3589

** Probation cases only*

Return of Violators

All three survey groups identified issues dealing with violators as a significant Compact problem. Specific states were sometimes identified as having a history of failing to cooperate with receiving states to return violators. Other related

problems included delays in returns that complicated and unnecessarily extended the placement of violators in local detention or non-secure facilities, lack of collaboration to identify alternatives to the return and revocation of violators, discharging violators to avoid revocation, and general unresponsiveness from some jurisdictions. However, consistent documentation was not available from all states regarding such cases. There does not appear to be a systematic process for identifying the numbers of cases involved in controversies dealing with violators and their return to sending states. In addition, there has been no method to systematically identify the states or local jurisdictions that are frequently involved in such controversies. These problems therefore tend to be addressed on a case-by-case basis with no strategies for system-wide solutions. Figure 5 provides a summary of the states that provided information on the processing of violators.

In some states, almost two-thirds of the violators who were asked to be returned to sending states were not returned.

Figure 5. Return of Violators

	<i>Cases Supervised in This State for Other States</i>		<i>Cases Supervised in Other States for This State</i>	
	<i>Violators Requested to be Returned</i>	<i>Violators Not Returned as Requested</i>	<i>Violators Requested to be Returned</i>	<i>Violators Not Returned as Requested</i>
Alaska	2	2	0	0
Arizona	30	21	33	14
Delaware	12	12	8	7
Hawaii	0	0	0	0
Illinois *	17	0	15	1
Kentucky	28	23	11	8
Louisiana	15	6	25	5
Massachusetts *	2	0	8	0
Mississippi	1	0	0	0
Missouri **	10	8	8	3
Nebraska *	2	0	2	0
New Jersey *	2	0	2	0
New Mexico	7	5	5	2
North Dakota	2	0	0	0
Rhode Island	0	0	3	3
Utah	2	2	0	0
West Virginia	9	6	1	1
Wisconsin	36	30	18	6
Wyoming	3	2	5	2
	180	117	144	52

* Parole or Aftercare Cases Only

** Estimate

In the 19 states listed above, 180 cases being supervised within the state for other states were reported to the sending state as violators with a recommendation to return the juvenile. In 65% (117) of those cases the juveniles were not returned to the sending state. The respondents report that in the 144 cases that had been transferred to other states and were identified as violators with recommendations for return, only 36% (52) of the violators were not returned. The low rate of response indicates that this

issue requires additional research before meaningful analysis can occur.

Compact Staffing Levels

Forty-one (41) states provided information regarding the staffing levels of state Compact offices, with states reporting an average of 1.59 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions assigned to administering the ICJ. The lowest staffing level reported by any state was 0.25 FTE, or staffing of approximately 10 hours per week devoted to Compact administration in a 40-hour work week. The highest staffing level reported by any state was 6.5 FTE assigned to Compact administrative functions. There are no specific guidelines regarding the Compact staffing levels, but survey respondents from several states identified inadequate resources for state Compact offices as a problem.

On average, 1.59 full-time staff positions are assigned to manage Compact affairs at the state level.

The chart below shows the distribution of staffing levels among the responding states. The staffing levels are only for state Compact offices that provide administrative services and do not include indirect services to support the ICJ or the staffing of local agencies and field staff involved in the supervision or case management of Compact cases at the field level.

Less than 1 FTE	10 states (24%)
1.0 to 1.8 FTE	22 states (54%)
2 to 5 FTE	7 states (17%)
6 to 6.5 FTE	2 states (5%)

Compact Administration

Are high level policy-makers interested in Compact issues? Do Compact administrators have access to such officials to address Compact problems? The answers to these questions vary from state to state. This survey asked states to identify who appoints and supervises Compact administrators. Forty-one (41) states responded to this question, with governors by far the most common state official appointing juvenile Compact administrators. The summary of reported appointing authorities follows.

In most states, Compact administrators are appointed by governors.

- Appointed by governors in 32 states (78%).
- Appointed by head of executive branch agency in six states (15%).
- Appointed by parole board chair in one state (2%).
- Appointed by judicial branch agency head in one state (2%).
- Two co-administrators appointed by governor and executive agency head in one state (2%).

<i>Number of Responses</i>	1	3	6	10	10	4	5	4	1
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	2%	7%	14%	23%	23%	9%	11%	9%	2%

Compact Performance

All three surveyed groups generally rated the Compact as working “adequately” when asked to rate Compact performance using the same nine-point scale shown below. The scores were just above the mid-range for all three groups, with Compact administrators rating the Compact slightly higher than the respondents from the other two organizational levels.

Agency administrators, Compact administrators and field staff generally agree that the Compact is working “adequately.”

Overall, how well do you think the Compact is working?

Compact Administrators’ Responses

	<i>Very Poorly</i>			<i>Adequately</i>				<i>Very Well</i>	
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Number of Responses</i>	0	4	0	7	9	9	9	5	3
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	0%	9%	0%	15%	20%	20%	20%	11%	6%

The average rating of Compact performance by the 46 responding Compact administrators was **5.76** on the nine-point scale.

Agency Administrators’ Responses

	<i>Very Poorly</i>			<i>Adequately</i>				<i>Very Well</i>	
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Number of Responses</i>	0	0	2	10	10	11	10	1	0
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	0%	0%	5%	23%	23%	25%	23%	2%	0%

The average rating of the Compact performance by the 44 responding agency administrators was **5.45** on

the 9-point scale.

Field Staff Responses

Responses to Survey C were received from 183 field staff in 36 states. The distribution of the survey instrument to field staff inadvertently exceeded the intent in three states, resulting in an over-

representation of the viewpoints of those states. In those three states, an average of 29 field staff responded, while in the remaining 33 states an average of three field staff responded.

The following chart displays the rating of Compact performance by field staff within the 36 states. Thirty-six state scores were derived, one score for each of the states responding to Survey C, by averaging the responses of field staff from within the state. The distribution of those state average scores is depicted below.

Overall, how well do you think the Compact is working?

	<i>Very Poorly</i>			<i>Adequately</i>				<i>Very Well</i>	
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Average of State Rating</i>	0	1	3	6	10	11	4	1	0
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	0%	3%	8%	17%	28%	31%	11%	3%	0%

Problem Areas

Agency administrators and field staff were asked to identify Compact problem areas in an open-ended question, while Compact administrators were provided a listing of problems to rate, divided into 1) in-state issues and 2) issues involving other Compact states. After the structured rating, Compact administrators were also free to add their own problem areas to the list. The three most common problem areas cited by all respondents are listed in the box to the upper right. Many respondents are frustrated by the length of time it takes to conduct business through the Compact, with months elapsing in some cases before notice of transfers, responses to violation reports, or other critical information moved through Compact communication channels.

Compact’s Major Problems:

- 1. Slow/cumbersome process.**
- 2. Dealing with violators.**
- 3. Youth relocate before notice to, or approval by, receiving states.**

Another area drawing criticism dealt with managing violators. Respondents reported that sending states were often slow to respond to violation reports, would not retake cases when asked, or in some cases responded inappropriately by discharging cases. The third common problem area was the movement or relocation of youth before sending states received notice of the move or could approve the transfer request. In many cases, youth had been in the receiving states for several months before officials in the receiving states were informed.

The problem areas rated and identified by Compact administrators are summarized below. Figure 6 reports problems identified by Compact administrators within their own states, and Figure 7 rates problems outside the state, as rated by 46 Compact administrators. Problem areas are arranged from highest average rating to lowest.

Figure 6. Compact Administrators’ Rating of Problem Areas Within State

Compact operations problem areas within state...

<i>Problem area within state (Average rating score)</i>	<i>Not a Problem</i>		<i>Moderate Problem</i>		<i>Serious Problem</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
Needs of special offenders are not addressed (3.34)	7	8	9	8	15
Compact is not a priority with policy makers (2.93)	7	9	17	6	7
Judges do not follow Compact regulations (2.81)	5	16	9	8	5
Information systems/technology applications are inadequate (2.80)	7	12	16	7	5
Local officials are unaware of Compact rules (2.77)	2	11	16	11	5
Compact office has inadequate resources (2.76)	8	12	13	9	4
Local offices are not responsive (2.44)	7	17	19	3	1
Field staff receive inadequate training regarding Compact (2.43)	6	19	16	5	0

Compact is inappropriately involved in managing runaways (2.13)	18	14	7	1	5
Parole board does not follow Compact regulations (1.40)	24	8	3	0	0

Other problems listed by Compact Administrators within their states were...

Serious Problems

- No intermediate sanctions for juvenile violators (2 respondents).
 - Inadequate funding for Compact cases.
 - Detaining status offenders from other states.
 - Detention center costs for holding out-of-state youth (2 respondents).
 - Lack of funds to return juveniles.
 - Need for interstate transportation staff.
- 24
- Sex offenders released without proper planning.
 - National surveys do not reflect actual workload.
 - Agencies' refusal to return probation violators.
 - Lack of power/authority for Compact administrators.
 - Administrators will not detain in compliance with Compact.

Moderate Problems

- No opportunities to train field staff.
- Lack emergency transportation funds.
- Compact forms need to be revised.

Figure 7. Compact Administrators' Rating of Problem Areas Involving Other States*Compact operations problem areas involving other states...*

<i>Problem area outside state (Average rating score)</i>	<i>Not a Problem</i>		<i>Moderate Problem</i>		<i>Serious Problem</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
Juveniles are sent to our state without approval (3.55)	2	10	9	9	15
Transfer processes are slow and cumbersome (3.34)	4	10	17	7	7
Conflict between parental rights and the right of states to reject transfers based on risk (3.11)	7	9	10	10	9
Sending states do not retake violators (3.04)	9	8	9	8	10
Communication technologies are outdated (2.95)	6	12	14	4	9
Sending states will not retake runaways and status offenders (2.83)	10	6	13	9	5

Compact's conflict resolution process is ineffective (2.60)	8	13	12	8	2
Some states are too restrictive in accepting cases (2.57)	7	17	11	8	2
Compact policies are unclear and outdated (2.50)	8	13	16	2	3
Receiving states provide services at levels below the levels in our state (2.43)	10	10	20	3	1
Exchange of information is complicated by confidentiality (2.00)	20	12	6	4	2
Sending states expect services beyond the levels provided to juveniles from our own state (1.40)	16	19	8	1	0

Other problems listed by compact Administrators involving other states were...

Serious Problems

- Refusal by some states to use ICJ forms.
- Lack of sanctions for violators (2 respondents).
- Compact not uniformly administered from state to state.
- Compact administrators do not control day-to-day outcomes.
- No alternatives if transfers of some home placements are rejected.

Other Problems

- Some states seem to “dump” juveniles and do not cooperate in finding acceptable solutions.
- No rights for receiving states to refuse inappropriate transfers.
- Lack of adequate funding to serve Compact cases.

Problem Areas Identified by Agency Administrators

Forty-four (44) agency administrators representing 39 states provided the following responses to the identification of problems with the Compact. The responses are paraphrased and listed in order from most to least frequently mentioned issue.

10 Responses

- The slow, cumbersome process of conducting business through the Compact.
- Complications stemming from some states' unwillingness or inability to return violators/runaways, or to appropriately respond to cases recommended for return to sending states.

9 Responses

- Lack of effective mechanisms to enforce compliance with Compact rules or to hold participating jurisdictions accountable.
- Youth being allowed to relocate to states before investigation and acceptance of receiving states, sometimes with extensive periods elapsing before receiving jurisdictions are aware of the moves.
- Inadequate resources dedicated to Compact cases, resulting in slow follow-up and substandard service for some case management.

6 Responses

- Lack of training for local judges and other officials.

5 Responses

- Poor management of high risk populations, especially sex offenders, moving between states.

4 Responses

- Inadequate resources and training for staff of some state Compact offices.
- Inconsistencies in levels of service among states in delivery of Compact-related services.
- Lack of understanding of Compact rules by local officials and judges.
- Failure to provide adequate resources for adequate investigative and supervision services to Compact cases in some states.
- Inconsistencies among states' approaches to the Compact caused by different interpretations of the Compact and constantly changing state statutes.

3 Responses

- Conflicts created by parental relocations with home plans that may conflict with state laws (such as sex offender residences) or with state risk guidelines.
- Compact is not a high priority with policy makers in some states.

2 Responses

- Liability created by some jurisdictions' and officials' failure to comply with the Compact.
- Ineffective mediation process.
- Lack of uniformity regarding the age of youth to be managed under the ICJ.
- Lack of clarity in current policies and guidelines for the Compact.
- No national database, lack of technology applications, for improving communication and case tracking.
- Lack of authority of receiving states to impose sanctions to violators.
- Overlapping jurisdiction with the Compact on Placement of Children.

1 Response

- Lack of substantive case law to reenforce Compact.
- Incomplete or inaccurate information provided with transfer records.
- Sending states will not pay for mandated treatment services.
- Requiring escorts with youth moving to receiving states.
- Limited options available to receiving states in dealing with violators.
- Housing expenses related to processing runaways return to state of origin.
- Compact does not reflect current public policy focus on public safety.
- Security surveillance for flight layovers of youth being transferred.

Problem Areas Identified by Field Staff

Summarized below are the responses from field staff regarding problems with the Compact. The responses are also paraphrased to allow clustering of similar themes. If one or more of the field staff identified the issue within the state, it is represented as an “Issue of Concern” for that state. The issues are arranged from most to least frequently identified issues within a state.

Issue of Concern in 33 of 36 States

- Conducting business through the Compact is slow and cumbersome.

Issue of Concern in 24 of 36 States

- Responses to violations of Compact cases are problematic. Some states will not return violators, some will delay response for recommendations, or inappropriately react by dismissing cases.

Issue of Concern in 18 of 36 States

- Youth are allowed to relocate to states before any notice, investigation, or approval of the transfer request and are in the community for months (in some cases) before receiving states are aware of the relocation.

Issue of Concern in 12 of 36 States

- Receiving states do not provide adequate or timely reporting of progress/problems of cases being supervised through the Compact.

Issue of Concern in 11 of 36 States

- In some states, judges and other officials do not follow Compact rules in processing transfers and movement of adjudicated youth.
- Since jurisdiction of Compact cases remains with the sending states, receiving states have limited options to respond to violations or use of intermediate sanctions without approval from sending states.

Issue of Concern in 9 of 36 States

- There is confusion and inconsistency regarding the age of youth to be managed through the Compact.
- Local officials are not able to communicate directly with the local officials of other states involved in a case, slowing and complicating the transfer of information needed for case management.
- Forms and information needed for cases processed through the Compact are too often incomplete or inaccurate.

Issue of Concern in 8 of 36 States

- Processing and management of high risk cases through the Compact (especially sex offenders) is inadequate.
- Criteria for acceptance/rejection of transfer requests is not clear and varies among states.
- Services and supervision of youth lapses for long periods during the processing of transfers.
- Conflicts frequently arise between the rights of parents/guardians to relocate to other states with their children, and the rights of states to deny transfers based on unacceptable living arrangements or risks presented to receiving states.

Issue of Concern in 7 of 36 States

- Local agencies do not have adequate resources to manage/serve Compact cases.

Issue of Concern in 6 of 36 States

- Inconsistencies result in Compact services among states due to state laws that conflict with the rules or intent of the Compact, and measures to resolve those conflicts are ineffective.

Issue of Concern in 4 of 36 States

- Local officials experience problems with the transportation and transfer of runaways and violators.

Issue of Concern in 3 of 36 States

- Some states will not enforce the court-ordered conditions of sending states.
- The process of conducting transfers, and services for Compact cases, vary within a state.

Issue of Concern in 2 of 36 States

- The Compact is unable to enforce compliance with its rules.
- The Compact is inappropriately involved with non-adjudicated youth.
- Youth transferred through the Compact do not have access to essential medical services.
- Out-of-home placement decisions and procedures become unnecessarily complicated with Compact cases.
- Field staff and local officials do not receive adequate training regarding the Compact.

- Detention or housing costs of violators and runaways managed through the Compact places financial burdens on receiving states.
- Restitution orders are not enforced with Compact cases.
- Some sending states expect levels of service for transferred cases that are higher than required or expected of receiving states through Compact regulations.

Issue of Concern in 1 of 36 States

- The Compact does not provide a vehicle to transfer status offenders needing service or supervision.
- There is confusion with some cases as to whether social services or juvenile justice agencies should manage the transferring youth.
- Policies and procedures for managing warrants of youth processed through the Compact need to be revised to avoid complications in detaining and transferring youth from other states.
- Compact procedures become unnecessarily complex in dealing with youth who frequently move back and forth between parents/guardians in different states.
- The Compact offices are not accessible in non-business hours to respond to arrests and other emergencies requiring immediate action.
- Some states misuse travel permits in allowing movement of youth across state lines.
- The state Compact office does not provide technical assistance and is not always responsive to needs of field staff.

Recommendations From the Field

Compact administrators, agency administrators, and field staff were all asked through an open-ended question to provide their recommendations to address Compact problems. The three audiences clearly had different priorities in their recommendations, but in their top seven recommendations, three common themes emerged from the survey groups that are summarized in the box to the right.

Improve the Compact by:

- 1. Developing better enforcement and accountability measures.**
- 2. Providing more training to local and state juvenile justice officials.**
- 3. Improving the speed and quality of communication - - - use technology.**

- 1) The recommendation that all three agreed was one of their highest priorities was the development of provisions to enforce compliance with rules of the Compact and measures to hold states accountable. The Compact is perceived as currently having little or no ability to address non-compliance. As previously mentioned, the lack of consistent data collection and reporting also complicates clear documentation of problem areas or levels of non-compliance.
 - 2) All three groups agreed that training for local officials, including juvenile court judges, needed to be improved.
 - 3) A third priority recommendation was to speed up communication within the Compact, especially with the use of information technology to replace the reliance on written reports through the mail.
- Following are summaries of the recommendations provided by the three survey audiences.

Compact Administrators Recommendations

Thirty-five (35) of the 46 state Compact administrators and deputy Compact administrators responding to the survey offered recommendations in this open-ended question. Their responses are listed below, paraphrased and ranked in order of most to least frequently mentioned issue.

15 Responses

- Improve the procedures for responding to violation reports and returning violators. (Including adherence to time frames, safer methods of transportation, adequate funding for travel, and provisions to avoid discharge or other inappropriate responses to reported violations and recommendations for return of violators to sending states.)

13 Responses

- Strengthen the rule enforcement and accountability provisions for jurisdictions involved in the Compact.
- Improve the management of special offender populations, especially sex offenders, transferred through the Compact. (Including better treatment and transitional preparation, closer review of home placements involving prior victims, and elimination of transfers prior to receiving state investigation of proposed residence.)

10 Responses

- Review and clarify Compact rules and regulations to avoid misinterpretation and to update the Compact manual.

- Revise the rules on transfer acceptance criteria to establish a uniformity and to address the conflict between parental rights vs. state's rights to deny transfer based on risk factors.

9 Responses

- Provide more training to judges, court staff, law enforcement, detention personnel, and other local officials involved in the Compact to increase awareness and understanding of Compact rules and procedures.

8 Responses

- Provide adequate resources for state Compact offices to conduct Compact business in a timely, efficient manner.

7 Responses

- Make better use of information technology to improve the speed and quality of interstate communication and Compact management. (Initiatives to address this area are currently being addressed by AJCA's Technology Committee, including an evolving website for the Compact.)

6 Responses

- Establish funding sources to return runaways and status offenders in a timely manner. (This includes a recommendation to formally include managing interstate movement of status offenders and runaways, since no other authority is now formally involved with this population. The recommendation conflicts with other administrators' opinions that the Compact should not formally be involved with status offender/runaway issues.)

5 Responses

- Eliminate the Compact's involvement in status offenders and runaways. (See preceding paragraph.)
- Expand operations of a national Compact office to include resources for legal advice on Compact issues for state offices.
- Develop new alternatives and responses to sanction and support violators when sending states are not inclined to return violators.
- Provide increased authority for states to reject transfers when dangerous home placements are proposed, especially for high risk offenders (including sex offenders).

4 Responses

- Develop improved legal analysis and interpretation of legal questions arising from the interface of state statutes with Compact rules, especially questions raised by local judges.
- Establish mandatory data collection and reporting requirements of state offices to better document Compact activity, including a national database to track cases.
- Clarify the age of offenders that are to be managed under the Juvenile Compact and the compact for adult parolees and probationers, with clear procedures for coordination between the two.
- Involve representatives of all states in national meetings and participation in rule making of the Compact.
- Restrict the movement of youth (especially high risk cases) to sending states before transfer notices and investigations are complete.

3 Responses

- Increase the speed of communications involving transfers, including family relocations.
- Involve higher level officials in Compact policy formulation to increase awareness, commitment, and potential for enforcement of rules.
- Revise and update forms currently used by the Compact.

2 Responses

- Unify Compact offices in states where they are divided to establish a single point of contact and improve efficiency of operations.
- Clarify policies and funding responsibilities of state and local governments related to placement of violators in secure and non-secure facilities pending processing and return to sending states through the Compact.
- Elevate the status of state Compact offices within their agencies and systems.
- Address safety concerns in the use of commercial airlines for transporting unaccompanied youth through the Compact during transfers or return as violators.
- Develop a national fund to be used for emergency Compact cases to purchase detention, monitoring, or other special services.

1 Response

- Increase awareness of policy-makers of the importance and potential problems of the Compact.
- Seek uniformity and full participation of all jurisdictions on Compact amendment issues of Runaways, Rendition, and Out-of-State Confinement.
- Expand the use of an appeal process for reconsideration of rejected transfer requests.
- Provide more timely notice of changes within state Compact offices, such as changes in address, phone numbers, contacts, etc.
- Make better use of existing grievance and enforcement provisions of the Compact.
- Increase training for staff of state Compact offices.
- Clarify the jurisdictional boundaries of the Juvenile Compact with those of the Interstate Compact for Placement of Children.
- Receive more assistance from federal agencies such as OJJDP and NIC.
- Empower smaller, executive committees to make more policy decisions for the Compact.

Juvenile Justice Agency Administrators' Recommendations

Forty-four (44) administrators of executive and judicial branch agencies involved in the delivery of juvenile justice services offered recommendation to improve the Compact. The responses are paraphrased and listed in order from most to least frequently mentioned issue.

13 Responses

- Establish better enforcement and accountability measures for the Compact, with some recommending use of fines or withholding federal funds for non-compliance.
- Improve training for local judges and officials regarding the Compact and ICJ rules.

10 Responses

- Use technology to improve the speed and quality of communication among jurisdictions.

6 Responses

- Allow direct communication between local jurisdictions to improve and speed up their interactions.
- Provide adequate resources for state Compact offices.
- Revise, clarify and simplify the operating guidelines and manual of the Compact.

4 Responses

- Improve the training provided for staff of state Compact offices.

3 Responses

- Ensure that information packets involving Compact cases are complete and accurate.
- Provide adequate resources to deal with returns of runaways and violators.
- Clarify the roles and jurisdiction of the ICJ and the Interstate Compact for Placement of Children (ICPC) - possibly the ICJ managing all delinquent youth and the non-delinquent youth managed by the ICPC.

2 Responses

- Standardize the age groups to be managed by the ICJ and the compact managing adult offenders.
- Transfer “jurisdiction,” not just “supervision,” of delinquent youth through the Compact.
- Establish a central office with legal counsel to manage the Compact.

1 Response

- Establish a more effective grievance process to resolve transfer conflicts.
- Increase the level of federal financial support for the Compact.
- Establish a central fund to deal with emergency Compact case expenses.
- Enact federal laws to clarify the authority and responsibilities of states regarding detention of delinquent youth from other states.
- Provide reporting instructions for youth allowed to travel to other states if prior notice is provided to receiving states.
- Place Compact administration in appropriate state agency to elevate its status.
- Improve the national forums in which Compact affairs are addressed.
- Provide for more frequent and efficient means to review and modify Compact rules.

Juvenile Justice Field Staff's Recommendations

Recommended by Field Staff in 17 of 36 States

- Permit staff of local agencies involved in an interstate case to communicate directly with each other without all communication routed through state Compact offices.

Recommended by Field Staff in 14 of 36 States

- Speed up the communications within the Compact, and use better information technologies to conduct business.

Recommended by Field Staff in 13 of 36 States

- Provide more training to local officials, field staff, and state Compact administrators regarding operation of the ICJ.

Recommended by Field Staff in 11 of 36 States

- Enforce provisions of the Compact and hold non-compliant jurisdictions more accountable.
- Require sending states to be more responsive in dealing with violators being supervised in other states.

Recommended by Field Staff in 9 of 36 States

- Develop a broader range of responses for receiving states to employ with Compact violators, with consideration to transfer full case jurisdiction (not just supervision functions) to receiving states.
- Revise and streamline the forms used in transferring cases between states.

Recommended by Field Staff in 7 of 36 States

- Establish a consistent policy on age of youth to be supervised through the ICJ.
- Ensure that accurate and complete information needed with case transfers is provided with information packets (discharge dates, special conditions, etc.).

Recommended by Field Staff in 6 of 36 States

- Provide adequate resources for state Compact offices.
- Require notification to receiving state and reporting instructions for youth permitted to travel prior to approval of a transfer request.

Recommended by Field Staff in 4 of 36 States

- Establish and enforce minimum service standards for states providing supervision of Compact cases.
- Make more resources available for supervision and management of Compact cases.
- Establish clearer policies regarding the criteria to accept or reject transfer requests.

Recommended by Field Staff in 3 of 36 States

- Improve reporting procedures from receiving to sending states on case progress.
- Provide additional resources for local agencies to process and return runaways.

Recommended by Field Staff in 2 of 36 States

- Relax Compact protocols for youth involved in frequent relocations between parents.
- Give receiving states more flexibility in establishing early discharges from supervision.
- Expedite the process of youth arrested or detained in other states.

Recommended by Field Staff in 1 of 36 States

- Combine the adult and juvenile compacts.
- Ensure sending states provide funds to receiving states for special services required by the sending states.
- Clarify and update rendition and return policies of the Compact.
- Transfer only “serious” cases or higher risk youth through the Compact.
- Have contingency plans to deal with rejection of transfer requests or violations of supervision resulting in requests to return youth to sending states.
- Involve all state representatives in meetings and decisions of the Compact Association.
- Improve the processing of warrants through the Compact.
- Clarify the weight of parental rights in making decisions to accept or reject transfer requests.
- Create a “service” orientation with Compact offices, rather than a “bureaucratic” approach.
- Improve case tracking to speed up the process of discharging cases.
- Exclude the Compact from managing non-delinquents (runaways, status offenders).
- Develop strategies to meet the health service needs of youth transferred or moved through the Compact.
- Publish and distribute basic rules of the Compact to a wider audience of local officials and field staff.
- Consolidate Compact operations within a single agency in the state.
- Develop better procedures to collect and enforce restitution ordered by sending states.

ATTACHMENTS

