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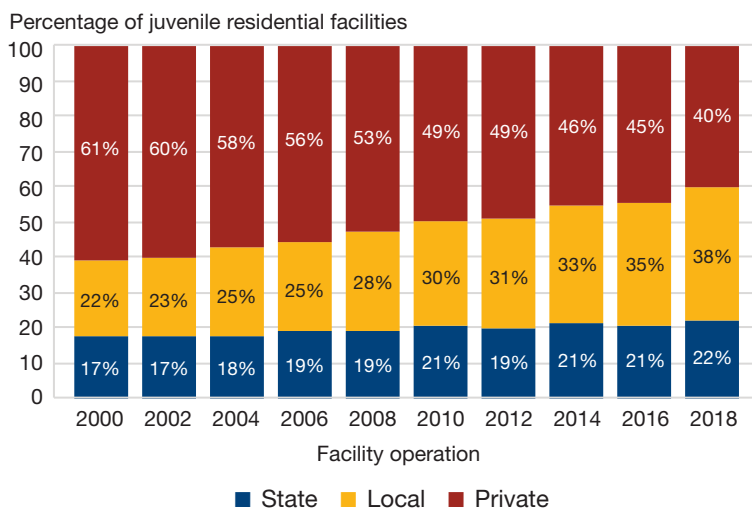
Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018: Selected Findings

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Highlights

Nationally, 37,529 juvenile offenders were held in 1,510 residential placement facilities on October 24, 2018. Facilities that hold juvenile offenders vary in their operation, type, size, security features, screening practices, and services provided. To better understand the characteristics of these facilities,

The proportion of locally operated facilities has increased steadily since 2000, while the proportion of privately operated facilities has decreased



the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) sponsors the Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC), a biennial survey of public and private juvenile residential facilities in every state. Findings in this bulletin are based on JRFC data collected for 2018.

- More than half of all facilities were publicly operated in 2018; they held 73% of offenders.
- Nearly 6 in 10 facilities (57%) were small (20 or fewer residents), but more than half (57%) of all offenders were held in medium-size facilities (holding 21–100 youth).
- A small proportion (1%) of facilities operated over capacity in 2018; these facilities held 1% of all offenders.
- Most facilities screened all youth for suicide risk (95%) and educational needs (88%).
- Eight youth died in placement in 2018; six of these were ruled suicides.

A Message From OJJDP and NIJ

Facilities that house juvenile offenders differ by type, size, security features, screening practices, and the services they provide. To understand how these facilities operate, OJJDP sponsors a biennial survey of public and private juvenile residential facilities in every state. Findings reported in this bulletin are based on data collected from the latest Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC).

JRFC collected data on October 24, 2018, to acquire a snapshot of the facilities that house youth charged with or adjudicated for law violations. These data indicate that 1,510 facilities housed 37,529 offenders younger than age 21, continuing a two-decade decline in the number of youth in residential placement. More youth were held in county, city, or municipally operated facilities than in state-operated facilities, and facility crowding affected a relatively small proportion of these youth. Most responding facilities routinely evaluated all youth for suicide risk, substance abuse, and their educational and mental health needs.

We hope this bulletin will become an important resource for informing and supporting efforts to ensure that the nation's juvenile residential facilities are safe and that youth in custody receive the treatment and services they need.

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The Juvenile Residential Facility Census provides data on facility operations

Facility census describes 2,208 juvenile facilities

In October 2018, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administered the 10th Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC). JRFC began in 2000 with data collections occurring every other year. JRFC routinely collects data on how facilities operate and the services they provide. It includes questions on facility ownership and operation, security, capacity and crowding, and injuries and deaths in custody. The census also collects supplementary information each year on specific services, such as mental and physical health, substance abuse, and education.

JRFC does not capture data on adult prisons or jails, nor does it include facilities used exclusively for mental health or substance abuse treatment or for dependent children. Thus, JRFC includes most, but not all, facilities that hold juvenile offenders (i.e., youth who were charged with or adjudicated for law violations). The reporting facilities may also hold adults or youth held for nonoffense reasons (e.g., abuse/neglect, mental health/substance abuse problems), but data were included only if the facility held at least one juvenile offender on the census date.

In this bulletin, the term resident is used when discussing facility size or crowding, as these are characteristics related to all persons in the facility. The terms offender and youth are used when discussing all other information directly related to offenders who were younger than 21 on the census date.

The 2018 JRFC collected data from 2,208 juvenile facilities. Analyses in this bulletin were based only on data from facilities housing juvenile offenders on the census date (October 24, 2018); 1,510 facilities were included in the analyses. Excluded from the analyses were data from 1 facility in the Virgin Islands, 16 tribal facilities, and 681 facilities that held no juvenile offenders on that date.

The 1,510 facilities housed a total of 37,529 offenders who were younger than 21 on the census date. This represents the fewest such youth in residential placement since the 1975 Children in Custody Census (the predecessor data collection to JRFC) and JRFC's companion collection, the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, which reported 43,580 offenders in juvenile facilities on the 2017 census date. From 1975 to 2000, the data collections recorded increasingly larger 1-day counts of juvenile offenders in public and private residential placement facilities. From 2000 to 2018, those increases were erased, resulting in the lowest census population recorded since 1975.

Local facilities were more numerous, but state facilities held nearly as many youth

Historically, local facilities (those staffed by county, city, or municipal employees) held fewer juvenile offenders than state facilities, even though they comprised more than half of all public facilities. In recent years, the gap narrowed and, in 2018, local facilities held more youth than state facilities.

	Facilities		Juvenile offenders	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,510	100%	37,529	100%
Public	903	60	27,469	73
State	331	22	13,221	35
Local	572	38	14,248	38
Private	607	40	10,060	27

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

In 2018, JRFC asked facilities if a for-profit agency owned and/or operated them. Of the reporting facilities, only a small percentage said that these types of agencies owned (5%) or operated (8%) them. In both cases, these facilities tended to hold 100 or fewer residents and were most likely to classify themselves as residential treatment centers.

On October 24, 2018, 60% of juvenile facilities were publicly operated; they held 73% of juvenile offenders

State	Juvenile facilities			Juvenile offenders			State	Juvenile facilities			Juvenile offenders		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private		Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
U.S. total	1,510	903	607	37,529	27,469	10,060	Missouri	50	45	5	798	744	54
Alabama	38	13	25	915	477	438	Montana	13	4	9	117	81	36
Alaska	18	8	10	243	207	33	Nebraska	11	5	6	435	246	186
Arizona	17	11	6	786	525	261	Nevada	11	–	–	540	–	–
Arkansas	24	15	9	459	360	99	New Hampshire	3	–	–	42	–	–
California	104	76	28	4,239	3,726	510	New Jersey	24	–	–	507	–	–
Colorado	21	13	8	837	744	90	New Mexico	16	–	–	288	–	–
Connecticut	3	–	–	81	–	–	New York	75	20	55	891	390	501
Delaware	8	–	–	105	–	–	North Carolina	27	20	7	474	387	87
District of Columbia	5	–	–	87	–	–	North Dakota	7	–	–	90	–	–
Florida	62	23	39	2,301	1,011	1,293	Ohio	67	60	7	1,815	1,725	90
Georgia	30	27	3	1,317	1,236	78	Oklahoma	25	14	11	441	336	102
Hawaii	3	–	–	39	–	–	Oregon	33	21	12	696	540	159
Idaho	17	14	3	438	360	78	Pennsylvania	94	22	72	2,307	696	1,611
Illinois	28	23	5	912	828	84	Rhode Island	9	1	8	138	66	72
Indiana	62	31	31	1,329	756	573	South Carolina	17	7	10	501	363	138
Iowa	33	10	23	627	231	396	South Dakota	14	7	7	150	102	48
Kansas	20	12	8	402	315	87	Tennessee	20	11	9	423	231	192
Kentucky	29	22	7	453	423	30	Texas	86	71	15	4,194	3,654	540
Louisiana	30	15	15	711	486	225	Utah	25	14	11	351	228	123
Maine	1	–	–	48	–	–	Vermont	2	–	–	15	–	–
Maryland	24	12	12	510	414	99	Virginia	38	–	–	951	–	–
Massachusetts	36	22	14	288	177	111	Washington	31	–	–	690	–	–
Michigan	46	28	18	1,473	762	711	West Virginia	46	10	36	576	213	363
Minnesota	39	18	21	531	357	174	Wisconsin	40	21	19	588	429	159
Mississippi	16	–	–	204	–	–	Wyoming	12	6	6	183	144	36

Notes: "State" is the state where the facility is located. Youth sent to out-of-state facilities are counted in the state where the facility is located, not the state where they committed their offense. Cell counts for the number of offenders have been rounded to the nearest multiple of three to preserve the privacy of residents. Detail is not displayed in states with one or two private facilities to preserve the privacy of individual facilities.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Training schools tend to be state facilities, detention centers tend to be local facilities, and group homes tend to be private facilities

Facility operation	Facility type							
	Total	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/ diagnostic center	Group home	Ranch/ wilderness camp	Training school	Residential treatment center
Number of facilities	1,510	625	116	37	240	27	164	553
Operations profile								
All facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Public	60	93	34	81	28	59	77	35
State	22	21	3	68	14	26	59	19
Local	38	72	30	14	14	33	19	16
Private	40	7	66	19	72	41	23	65
Facility profile								
All facilities	100%	41%	8%	2%	16%	2%	11%	37%
Public	100	64	4	3	7	2	14	21
State	100	40	1	8	10	2	29	32
Local	100	78	6	1	6	2	5	16
Private	100	7	13	1	29	2	6	59

■ Detention centers, reception/diagnostic centers, ranch/wilderness camps, and training schools were more likely to be public facilities than private facilities.

■ Most shelters, group homes, and residential treatment centers were private facilities.

■ Detention centers made up the largest proportion of all local facilities and nearly two-thirds of all public facilities.

■ Detention centers and residential treatment centers accounted for the largest proportions of all state facilities (40% and 32%, respectively); training schools accounted for 29%.

■ Residential treatment centers accounted for 59% of all private facilities, and group homes accounted for 29%.

Notes: Counts (and row percentages) may sum to more than the total number of facilities because facilities could select more than one facility type. Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Confinement features and size varied across types of facilities

Facilities varied in their use of confinement features

Overall, 49% of facilities said that, at least some of the time, they locked youth in their sleeping rooms. Among public facilities, 81% of local facilities and 69% of state facilities reported locking youth in sleeping rooms. Few private facilities locked youth in sleeping rooms (8%).

Percentage of facilities locking youth in sleeping rooms

Facility operation	Percentage
Total	49%
Public	77
State	69
Local	81
Private	8

Note: Percentages are based on facilities that reported security information (12 of 1,510 facilities [1%] did not report).

Among facilities that locked youth in sleeping rooms, most did this at night (87%) or when a youth was out of control (80%). Locking doors whenever youth were in their sleeping rooms (61%) and locking youth in their rooms during shift changes (55%) were also fairly common. Fewer facilities reported locking youth in sleeping rooms for a part of each day (21%) or when they were suicidal (22%). Very few facilities reported that they locked youth in sleeping rooms most of each day (1%) or all of each day (less than 1%). Seven percent (7%) had no set schedule for locking youth in sleeping rooms.

Facilities indicated whether they had various types of locked doors or gates to confine youth within the facility (see sidebar, this page). Of all facilities that reported confinement information, 64% said they had one or more confinement features (other

than locked sleeping rooms), with a greater proportion of public facilities using these features than private facilities (87% vs. 30%).

	Percentage of facilities	
	No confinement features	One or more confinement features
Total	36%	64%
Public	13	87
State	13	87
Local	13	87
Private	70	30

Note: Percentages are based on facilities that reported confinement information (12 of 1,510 facilities [1%] did not report).

Among detention centers, training schools, and reception/diagnostic centers that reported confinement information, more than 9 in 10 said they had one or more features (other than locked sleeping rooms).

Facilities reporting one or more confinement features (other than locked sleeping rooms)

Facility type	Number	Percentage
Total facilities	960	64%
Detention center	605	97
Shelter	33	28
Reception/diagnostic center	35	95
Group home	42	18
Ranch/wilderness camp	10	37
Training school	158	96
Residential treatment center	268	50

Note: Detail sums to more than totals because facilities could select more than one facility type.

Among group homes, nearly 1 in 5 facilities said they had locked doors or gates to confine youth. Facility staff also serve to confine youth. For some facilities, their remote location is a feature that also helps to keep youth from leaving.

The Juvenile Residential Facility Census asks facilities about their confinement features

- Are any young persons in this facility locked in their sleeping rooms by staff at any time to confine them?
- Does this facility have any of the following features intended to confine young persons within specific areas?
 - ◆ Doors for secure day rooms that are locked by staff to confine young persons within specific areas?
 - ◆ Wing, floor, corridor, or other internal security doors that are locked by staff to confine young persons within specific areas?
 - ◆ Outside doors that are locked by staff to confine young persons within specific buildings?
 - ◆ External gates in fences or walls *without* razor wire that are locked by staff to confine young persons?
 - ◆ External gates in fences or walls *with* razor wire that are locked by staff to confine young persons?

Overall, 29% of facilities reported having external gates in fences or walls with razor wire. This arrangement was most common among reception/diagnostic centers (60%), training schools (55%), and detention centers (50%).

In general, the use of confinement features increased as facility size increased

Facility size is determined by the number of residents held at the facility on the census date. Although the use of confinement generally increased as facility size increased, the proportion of facilities holding more than 200 residents using these features was lower than the proportion of facilities holding between 101 and 200 residents. Eight in ten (80%) facilities holding between 101 and 200 residents reported using one or more confinement features, compared with 76% of facilities holding more than 200 residents.

Although the use of razor wire is a far less common confinement measure, more than half (53%) of facilities holding more than 200 youth said they had locked gates in fences or walls with razor wire.

The number of facilities that reported holding more than 200 residents has declined since 2006

In 2006, 3% of facilities held more than 200 residents, compared with 1% in 2018. Additionally, the proportion of youth held at these facilities has also decreased. In 2006, 24% of youth held in facilities on the census date were in large facilities, compared with 10% of youth held in 2018.

Large facilities were most likely to be state operated

Less than a quarter (23%) of state-operated facilities (75 of 331) held 10 or fewer residents in 2018. In contrast, 41% of private facilities (250 of 607) were that small. In fact, these small private facilities made up the largest proportion of private facilities.

More than half of facilities were small (holding 20 or fewer residents), although more than half of juvenile offenders were held in medium facilities (holding 21–100 residents)

Facility size	Number of facilities	Percentage of facilities	Number of offenders	Percentage of offenders
Total facilities	1,510	100%	37,529	100%
1–10 residents	506	34	2,646	7
11–20 residents	351	23	4,377	12
21–50 residents	426	28	11,890	32
51–100 residents	159	11	9,491	25
101–200 residents	51	3	5,325	14
201+ residents	17	1	3,800	10

■ Although the largest facilities—those holding more than 200 residents—accounted for 1% of all facilities, they held 10% of all youth in placement.

■ Inversely, although the smallest facilities—those holding 10 or fewer residents—accounted for 34% of all facilities, they held 7% of all youth in residential placement.

Note: Column percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Among group homes, those holding 20 or fewer residents were most common

Facility size	Facility type						
	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school	Residential treatment center
Number of facilities	625	116	37	240	27	164	553
Total facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
1–10 residents	28	54	24	63	15	5	27
11–20 residents	24	29	5	25	11	13	23
21–50 residents	34	10	16	9	52	40	32
51–100 residents	11	5	24	2	22	24	14
101–200 residents	3	1	24	1	0	13	4
201+ residents	1	0	5	0	0	4	1

■ 63% of group homes and 54% of shelters held 10 or fewer residents. For other facility types, this proportion was 28% or less.

■ 5% of reception/diagnostic centers and 4% of training schools held more than 200 residents. For other facility types, this proportion was 1% or less.

Notes: Facility type counts sum to more than 1,510 facilities because facilities could select more than one facility type. Column percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Facility size	Facility operation		
	State	Local	Private
Total facilities	331	572	607
1–10 residents	75	181	250
11–20 residents	64	138	149
21–50 residents	108	188	130
51–100 residents	52	50	57
101–200 residents	25	11	15
201+ residents	7	4	6

State-operated facilities made up 22% of all facilities and accounted for 41% of facilities holding more than 200 residents. Private facilities constituted 40% of all facilities and accounted for 49% of facilities holding 10 or fewer residents.

Facility crowding affected a relatively small proportion of youth in custody

One in six youth were in facilities that were at or over their standard bed capacity

Facilities reported both the number of standard beds and the number of makeshift beds they had on the census date.

Occupancy rates provide the broadest assessment of the adequacy of living space. Although occupancy rate standards have not been established, as a facility's occupancy surpasses 100%, operational functioning may be compromised.

Crowding occurs when the number of residents occupying all or part of a facility exceeds some predetermined limit based on square footage, utility use, or even fire codes. Although it is an imperfect measure of crowding, comparing the number of residents to the number of standard beds gives a sense of the crowding problem in a facility. Even without relying on makeshift beds, a facility may be crowded. For example, using standard beds in an infirmary for youth who are not sick or beds in seclusion for youth who have not committed infractions may indicate crowding problems.

Eighteen percent (18%) of facilities said that the number of residents they held on the 2018 census date put them at or over the capacity of their standard beds or that they relied on some makeshift beds. These facilities held 16% of offenders in 2018 compared with 42% of offenders in 2000. In 2018, 1% of facilities reported being over capacity (having fewer standard beds than they had residents or relying on makeshift beds). These facilities held 1% of offenders. In comparison, 8% of facilities in 2000 reported being over capacity and they held 20% of offenders.

Only a small percentage of public detention centers, training schools, and residential treatment centers reported operating above capacity in 2018

Facility type	Percentage of facilities at their standard bed capacity			Percentage of facilities over their standard bed capacity		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
Total	17%	12%	25%	1%	1%	0%
Detention center	12	10	32	1	2	0
Shelter	20	13	23	0	0	0
Reception/diagnostic center	8	7	14	0	0	0
Group home	23	16	25	0	0	0
Ranch/wilderness camp	15	13	18	0	0	0
Training school	15	13	19	1	1	0
Residential treatment center	22	16	25	0	1	0

Notes: A single bed is counted as one standard bed, and a bunk bed is counted as two standard beds. Makeshift beds (e.g., cots, rollout beds, mattresses, and sofas) are not counted as standard beds. Facilities are counted as over capacity if they reported more residents than standard beds or if they reported any occupied makeshift beds. Facilities could select more than one facility type.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Facilities holding between 101 and 200 residents were the most likely to be crowded

Facility size	Number of facilities	Percentage of facilities under, at, or over their standard bed capacity			Mean number of makeshift beds at facilities over capacity
		<100%	100%	>100%	
Total facilities	1,510	82%	17%	1%	2
1–10 residents	506	82	18	0	0
11–20 residents	351	80	19	1	1
21–50 residents	426	83	16	1	1
51–100 residents	159	86	13	1	5
101–200 residents	51	76	22	2	9
201+ residents	17	82	18	0	0

Notes: A single bed is counted as one standard bed, and a bunk bed is counted as two standard beds. Makeshift beds (e.g., cots, rollout beds, mattresses, and sofas) are not counted as standard beds. Facilities are counted as over capacity if they reported more residents than standard beds or if they reported any occupied makeshift beds. Facilities could select more than one facility type.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

In 2018, only public facilities reported operating above capacity

No privately operated facilities exceeded standard bed capacity or had residents occupying makeshift beds on the 2018 census date. For publicly operated facilities, the proportion was 1%. In contrast, a larger proportion of private facilities (25%) compared with public facilities (12%) said they were operating at 100% capacity. Of publicly operated facilities, a slightly larger proportion of state-operated facilities than

locally operated facilities exceeded capacity (2% and 1%, respectively).

Facility operation	Percentage of facilities at or over their standard bed capacity		
	≥100%	100%	>100%
Total	18%	17%	1%
Public	13	12	1
State	19	17	2
Local	10	9	1
Private	25	25	0

Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Use of makeshift beds varied widely

Eleven facilities reported that they had youth occupying makeshift beds, averaging 2 such beds per facility. Although some facilities rely on makeshift beds, many others operate well below standard bed capacity. On average, there were 18 unoccupied standard beds per facility. This average masks a wide range: 1 facility with 149 residents had 140 standard beds and 9 residents without standard beds; another facility with 596 standard beds had 116 residents, leaving 480 unoccupied beds.

Nationwide, 273 juvenile facilities (18%) were at or over standard capacity or relied on makeshift beds

State	Total facilities	Number of facilities under, at, or over capacity			Percentage of offenders in facilities at or over capacity		State	Total facilities	Number of facilities under, at, or over capacity			Percentage of offenders in facilities at or over capacity	
		<100%	100%	>100%	100%	>100%			<100%	100%	>100%	100%	>100%
U.S. total	1,510	1,237	262	11	15%	1%	Missouri	50	38	11	1	28%	2%
Alabama	38	30	8	0	19	0	Montana	13	8	5	0	67	0
Alaska	18	14	3	1	54	5	Nebraska	11	10	1	0	3	0
Arizona	17	14	3	0	16	0	Nevada	11	7	3	1	43	3
Arkansas	24	18	6	0	26	0	New Hampshire	3	—	—	—	—	—
California	104	87	17	0	19	0	New Jersey	24	22	2	0	2	0
Colorado	21	16	4	1	7	18	New Mexico	16	15	1	0	6	0
Connecticut	3	—	—	—	—	—	New York	75	59	16	0	18	0
Delaware	8	8	0	0	0	0	North Carolina	27	24	3	0	13	0
District of Columbia	5	4	1	0	10	0	North Dakota	7	7	0	0	0	0
Florida	62	48	13	1	20	1	Ohio	67	59	7	1	12	5
Georgia	30	25	5	0	18	0	Oklahoma	25	16	9	0	41	0
Hawaii	3	—	—	—	—	—	Oregon	33	28	5	0	10	0
Idaho	17	15	2	0	16	0	Pennsylvania	94	68	26	0	29	0
Illinois	28	24	3	1	4	6	Rhode Island	9	6	3	0	13	0
Indiana	62	53	9	0	5	0	South Carolina	17	14	3	0	8	0
Iowa	33	27	6	0	38	0	South Dakota	14	11	2	1	4	28
Kansas	20	14	6	0	17	0	Tennessee	20	17	3	0	16	0
Kentucky	29	23	6	0	8	0	Texas	86	79	7	0	4	0
Louisiana	30	23	7	0	25	0	Utah	25	22	3	0	15	0
Maine	1	—	—	—	—	—	Vermont	2	—	—	—	—	—
Maryland	24	23	1	0	1	0	Virginia	38	35	3	0	8	0
Massachusetts	36	27	9	0	35	0	Washington	31	27	4	0	10	0
Michigan	46	40	6	0	10	0	West Virginia	46	27	16	3	33	11
Minnesota	39	37	2	0	5	0	Wisconsin	40	34	6	0	6	0
Mississippi	16	13	3	0	10	0	Wyoming	12	10	2	0	18	0

Notes: A single bed is counted as one standard bed, and a bunk bed is counted as two standard beds. Makeshift beds (e.g., cots, rollout beds, mattresses, and sofas) are not counted as standard beds. Facilities are counted as over capacity if they reported more residents than standard beds or if they reported any occupied makeshift beds. Facilities could select more than one facility type. "State" is the state where the facility is located. Youth sent to out-of-state facilities are counted in the state where the facility is located, not the state where they committed their offense.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Most youth were evaluated for educational needs and attended school while held in facilities

Facilities that screened all youth for educational needs held 89% of the youth in custody

As part of the information collected on educational services, the JRFC questionnaire asked facilities about their procedures regarding educational screening.

In 2018, 88% of facilities that reported educational screening information said that they evaluated all youth for grade level and educational needs. An additional 4% evaluated some youth. Only 8% did not evaluate any youth for educational needs.

Of the 73 facilities in 2018 that screened some but not all youth, 71% evaluated youth whom staff identified as needing an assessment, 34% evaluated youth with known educational problems, 50% evaluated youth for whom no educational record was available, and 11% evaluated youth who came directly from home rather than from another facility. In addition, 28% reported evaluating youth based on some “other” reason.

In 2018, those facilities that screened all youth held 89% of the juvenile offenders in custody. An additional 3% of such youth in 2018 were in facilities that screened some youth.

Most facilities used previous academic records to evaluate educational needs

The vast majority of facilities (93%) that screened some or all youth for grade level and educational needs used previous academic records. Some facilities also administered written tests (60%) or conducted an education-related interview with an education specialist (60%), intake counselor (37%), or guidance counselor (27%).

Most facilities reported that youth in their facility attended school

Ninety-five percent (95%) of facilities reported that at least some youth in their facility attended school either inside or outside the facility. Facilities reporting that all

youth attended school (76% of facilities) accounted for 76% of the juvenile offender population in residential placement. Reception/diagnostic centers were the least likely to report that all youth attended school (59%), while ranch/wilderness camps were the most likely to report that no youth attended school (11%). Facilities with

The smallest facilities were the least likely to evaluate all youth for grade level

Education screening	Facility size based on residential population						
	Total	1–10	11–20	21–50	51–100	101–200	201+
Total facilities	1,510	506	351	426	159	51	17
Facilities reporting	1,434	474	337	411	147	48	17
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth screened	88	81	89	94	93	98	82
Some youth screened	4	6	3	3	5	0	0
No youth screened	8	13	8	3	1	2	18

■ Facilities holding 101–200 youth were the most likely to evaluate all youth for grade level in 2018.

Notes: Reporting total excludes two facilities that did not indicate which youth were screened. Column percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors’ analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Most facilities evaluated youth for grade level between 24 hours and 7 days after arrival

When youth are evaluated for educational needs	Number of juvenile facilities			As a percentage of facilities that evaluated youth for grade level		
	All facilities	All youth evaluated	Some youth evaluated	Facilities that evaluated	All youth evaluated	Some youth evaluated
Total reporting facilities	1,324	1,266	58	100%	96%	4%
Less than 24 hours	315	308	7	24	23	1
24 hours to 7 days	1,048	1,003	45	79	76	3
7 or more days	90	79	11	7	6	1
Other	29	21	8	2	2	1
Facilities not evaluating (or not reporting)	186	–	–	–	–	–

Note: Reporting facilities sum to more than 1,324 because they could select more than one time period.

Source: Authors’ analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

21–50 residents were most likely to report that all youth attended school (81%), while facilities with 101–200 residents were least likely (65%) to have all youth attend school. Facilities reporting that no youth attended school (5%) accounted for 4% of all juvenile offenders in residential placement.

Facilities offered a variety of educational services

Facilities that provided both middle and high school-level education housed 96% of all juvenile offenders. Ninety-four percent (94%) of all facilities provided high school-level education, and 89% provided middle school-level education. Most facilities also reported offering special education services (83%) and GED preparation (71%). A much smaller percentage of facilities provided vocational or technical education (41%) and post-high school education (38%).

In 2018, facilities were asked if they communicated information regarding the education status, services, and/or needs of youth departing their facility to the new placement or residence; 88% of facilities said that they did. Most of these (88%) said that they communicated education status information for all youth departing the facility.

Detention centers were most likely to report that all youth attended school (82%), and all facilities holding more than 200 residents reported that all or some youth attended school

Facility type	Percentage of facilities with youth attending school			
	Total	All youth	Some youth	No youth
Total facilities	100%	76%	18%	5%
Detention center	100	82	15	3
Shelter	100	77	22	2
Reception/diagnostic center	100	59	32	8
Group home	100	63	29	8
Ranch/wilderness camp	100	67	22	11
Training school	100	77	23	1
Residential treatment center	100	76	16	8
Facility size				
1–10 residents	100%	75%	18%	7%
11–20 residents	100	74	21	5
21–50 residents	100	81	16	3
51–100 residents	100	75	18	8
101–200 residents	100	65	27	8
201+ residents	100	71	29	0

Note: Row percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Most facilities provided middle and high school-level education

Education level	Facility type							
	All facilities	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school	Residential treatment center
Elementary school	48%	66%	74%	49%	23%	30%	38%	35%
Middle school	89	95	97	84	80	74	93	88
High school	94	97	97	92	91	89	99	91
Special education	83	86	86	81	76	81	98	83
GED preparation	71	69	77	78	71	70	89	71
GED testing	49	38	53	73	55	59	80	54
Post-high school	38	27	29	65	44	59	73	42
Vocational/technical	41	25	37	73	50	67	79	49
Life skills training	60	51	54	73	65	67	74	69

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Most facilities reported screening youth for substance abuse problems

Facilities that screened all youth held 70% of the juvenile offenders in custody

In 2018, 75% of facilities that reported information about substance abuse evaluation said that they evaluated all youth, 12% said that they evaluated some youth, and 13% did not evaluate any youth.

Of the 174 facilities that evaluated some but not all youth, 86% evaluated youth that the court or a probation officer identified as potentially having substance abuse problems, 66% evaluated youth that facility staff identified as potentially having substance abuse problems, and 60% evaluated youth charged with or adjudicated for a drug- or alcohol-related offense. Those facilities that screened all youth held 76% of the juvenile offenders in custody. An additional 12% of offenders were in facilities that screened some youth.

The most common form of evaluation was a series of staff-administered questions

The majority of facilities (78%) that evaluated some or all youth for substance abuse problems had staff administer a series of questions about substance use and abuse, 66% visually observed youth to evaluate them, 55% used a self-report checklist inventory that asks about substance use and abuse to evaluate youth, and 41% used a standardized self-report instrument, such as the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory.

Drug testing was a routine procedure in most facilities in 2018

As part of the information collected on substance abuse services, JRFC asked facilities if they required any youth to undergo drug testing after they arrived at the facility. The majority of facilities (69%) reported that they required at least some

youth to undergo drug testing. Of facilities that reported testing all or some youth, the most common reason for testing was a request from the court or the probation officer (68% for facilities that tested all youth, 69% for facilities that tested youth suspected of recent drug or alcohol use, and 66% for facilities that tested youth with substance abuse problems).

Facilities holding 1–10 youth were the least likely to evaluate all youth for substance abuse problems

Substance abuse screening	Facility size based on residential population						
	Total	1–10	11–20	21–50	51–100	101–200	201+
Total facilities	1,510	506	351	426	159	51	17
Facilities reporting	1,436	475	337	412	147	48	17
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth screened	75	71	75	78	80	79	82
Some youth screened	12	13	12	10	13	17	18
No youth screened	13	16	13	12	7	4	0

Note: Column percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Nearly 7 in 10 reporting facilities evaluated youth for substance abuse within their first day at the facility

When youth are evaluated for substance abuse	Number of juvenile facilities			As a percentage of facilities that evaluated youth for substance abuse		
	All facilities	All youth evaluated	Some youth evaluated	Facilities that evaluated	All youth evaluated	Some youth evaluated
	Total reporting facilities	1,254	1,080	174	100%	86%
Less than 24 hours	861	808	53	69	64	4
24 hours to 7 days	453	378	75	36	30	6
7 or more days	102	66	36	8	5	3
Other	64	21	43	5	2	3
Facilities not evaluating (or not reporting)	256	–	–	–	–	–

Note: Facilities sum to more than 1,254 because they were able to select more than one time period.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Circumstances of drug testing	Percentage of facilities
All youth	
After initial arrival	31%
At each reentry	26
Randomly	29
When drug use is suspected or drug is present	51
At the request of the court or probation officer	68
Youth suspected of recent drug/alcohol use	
After initial arrival	37%
At each reentry	24
Randomly	31
When drug use is suspected or drug is present	55
At the request of the court or probation officer	69
Youth with substance abuse problems	
After initial arrival	27%
At each reentry	23
Randomly	31
When drug use is suspected or drug is present	50
At the request of the court or probation officer	66

In 2018, JRFC asked facilities if they communicated information regarding the substance abuse status, services, and/or needs of youth departing their facility to the new placement or residence; 59% of facilities said that they did. Of these facilities, many (75%) said that they communicated substance abuse status information for all youth departing the facility.

Substance abuse education was the most common service provided at all reporting facilities

Substance abuse service	Facility size based on residential population						
	Total	1–10	11–20	21–50	51–100	101–200	201+
Total facilities	1,510	506	351	426	159	51	17
Facilities reporting	1,115	348	252	334	122	44	15
Substance abuse education	97%	96%	95%	98%	97%	100%	100%
Case manager to oversee treatment	52	49	55	49	53	66	73
Treatment plan for substance abuse	75	76	73	74	78	80	93
Special living units	6	3	2	5	16	23	53
None of above services provided	1	2	2	1	0	0	0

■ Of the facilities holding more than 100 residents that reported providing substance abuse services, all of them provided substance abuse education and were more likely than smaller facilities to have special living units in which all young persons have substance abuse offenses and/or problems.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

The majority of facilities that provided substance abuse counseling or therapy were most likely to provide services on an individual basis

Service provided	Facility type							
	Total	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school	Residential treatment center
Total facilities	1,510	625	116	37	240	27	164	553
Facilities reporting counseling	762	242	60	21	143	15	93	327
Individual	91%	93%	92%	81%	92%	80%	90%	89%
Group	83	78	87	90	85	93	90	85
Family	43	35	45	52	48	13	42	51
Facilities reporting therapy	975	301	78	27	172	20	148	432
Individual	97%	95%	95%	93%	98%	100%	99%	97%
Group	83	73	81	89	84	90	95	88
Family	50	39	49	48	46	35	55	63

■ In 2018, detention centers, shelters, and group homes were most likely to provide individual counseling, and ranch/wilderness camps were most likely to provide individual therapy.

■ Ranch/wilderness camps were the most likely to provide group counseling, and 95% of training schools reported providing group therapy.

■ Half of all facilities provided family therapy and less than half provided family counseling.

Note: Counts (and row percentages) may sum to more than the total number of facilities because facilities could select more than one facility type.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Most youth were evaluated for mental health needs while held in facilities

In nearly two-thirds of facilities, in-house mental health professionals evaluated all youth held

Facilities provided information about their procedures for evaluating youth's mental health needs. Among facilities that responded to mental health evaluation questions in 2018, 70% reported they evaluated all youth for mental health needs using an in-house mental health professional. These facilities held 64% of offenders on the census date. Facilities that reported using an in-house mental health professional to evaluate some youth (30%) held 25% of youth.

In 2018, a greater proportion of privately operated than publicly operated facilities said that in-house mental health professionals evaluated all youth (88% vs. 59% of facilities reporting mental health evaluation information). However, in a greater proportion of public facilities than private facilities (41% vs. 12%), in-house mental health professionals evaluated some youth.

Evaluation by in-house mental health professional	Facility type	
	Public	Private
Total reporting facilities	774	428
All reporting facilities	100%	100%
All youth screened	59	88
Some youth screened	41	12

Facilities also indicated whether treatment was provided onsite. Facilities that said they provided mental health treatment inside the facility were likely to have had all youth evaluated by an in-house mental health professional. Facilities that did not provide onsite mental health treatment were more likely to have had some youth evaluated by an in-house mental health professional.

Evaluation by in-house mental health professional	Onsite mental health treatment?	
	Yes	No
Total reporting facilities	1,077	125
All reporting facilities	100%	100%
All youth screened	74	30
Some youth screened	26	70

In 2018, JRFC asked facilities if they communicated information regarding the mental health status, services, and/or needs of youth departing their facility to the new placement or residence; 88% of facilities said that they did. Most of these (75%) said that they communicated mental health status information for all youth departing the facility.

The largest facilities were most likely to have in-house mental health professionals evaluate all youth for mental health needs

In-house mental health evaluation	Facility size based on residential population						
	Total	1-10	11-20	21-50	51-100	101-200	201+
Total facilities	1,510	506	351	426	159	51	17
Facilities reporting	1,202	335	277	386	142	46	16
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth evaluated	70	69	69	68	73	83	81
Some youth evaluated	30	31	31	32	27	17	19

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Reception/diagnostic centers were more likely than other types of facilities to have in-house mental health professionals evaluate all youth for mental health needs

In-house mental health evaluation	Facility type						
	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school	Residential treatment center
Total facilities	625	116	37	240	27	164	553
Facilities reporting	542	82	33	118	18	159	473
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth evaluated	49	61	88	76	78	85	85
Some youth evaluated	51	39	12	24	22	15	15

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

The most common approach to in-house mental health evaluation was to screen all youth by the end of their first day or first week at the facility

When youth are evaluated for mental health needs	Number of juvenile facilities			As a percentage of facilities that evaluated youth in-house for mental health needs		
	All facilities	All youth evaluated	Some youth evaluated	Facilities that evaluated	All youth evaluated	Some youth evaluated
	Total reporting facilities	1,200	835	365	100%	70%
Less than 24 hours	478	410	68	40	34	6
24 hours to 7 days	523	384	139	44	32	12
7 or more days	44	23	21	4	2	2
Other	155	18	137	13	2	11

■ In 66% of facilities that reported using an in-house mental health professional to perform mental health evaluations, they evaluated all youth for mental health needs by the end of their first week in custody.

Notes: Percentage detail may not sum to total because of rounding. Two facilities that reported youth were evaluated did not report when they were evaluated.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Of facilities that reported using in-house mental health professionals to conduct mental health evaluations, 35% of juvenile offenders were in facilities that evaluated all youth on the day they arrived at the facility

When youth are evaluated for mental health needs	Number of offenders			As a percentage of offenders in facilities that provided in-house evaluation for mental health needs		
	All facilities	All youth evaluated	Some youth evaluated	Facilities that evaluated	All youth evaluated	Some youth evaluated
	Total offenders residing in reporting facilities	33,376	23,844	9,532	100%	71%
Less than 24 hours	13,792	11,532	2,260	41	35	7
24 hours to 7 days	14,517	10,509	4,008	43	31	12
7 or more days	1,004	530	474	3	2	1
Other	4,063	1,273	2,790	12	4	8

■ Facilities reporting that they evaluated all youth by the end of their first week held 66% of juvenile offenders who resided in facilities that reported using in-house mental health evaluation procedures.

Note: Percentage detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Most offenders were held in facilities that evaluate all youth for suicide risk on their first day

Facilities that screened all youth for suicide risk held 94% of the youth in custody

As part of the information collected on mental health services, the JRFC questionnaire asks facilities about their procedures regarding screening youth for suicide risk.

In 2018, 95% of facilities that reported information on suicide screening said that they evaluated all youth for suicide risk. An additional 1% said that they evaluated some youth. Some facilities (4%) said that they did not evaluate any youth for suicide risk.

In 2018, a larger proportion of public than private facilities said that they evaluated all youth for suicide risk (97% vs. 92%).

In 2018, among facilities that reported suicide screening information, those that screened all youth for suicide risk held 97% of juvenile offenders who were in residential placement—up from 78% in 2000. An additional 1% of such youth in 2018 were in facilities that screened some youth.

Suicide screening	2000	2018
Total offenders	108,802	37,529
Offenders in reporting facilities	103,508	36,082
Total	100%	100%
All youth screened	78	97
Some youth screened	16	1
No youth screened	6	1

Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Some facilities used trained counselors or professional mental health staff to conduct suicide screening

More than half (55%) of facilities that screened some or all youth for suicide risk reported that mental health professionals with at least a master’s degree in psychology

or social work conducted the screenings. More than one-third (37%) used neither mental health professionals nor counselors whom a mental health professional had trained to conduct suicide screenings.

Facilities reported on the screening methods used to determine suicide risk. Facilities could choose more than one method. Of facilities that conducted suicide risk screening, a majority (77%) reported that they incorporated one or more questions about suicide in the medical history or intake process to screen youth, 39% used a form their facility designed, and 25% used a form or questions that a county or state juvenile justice system designed to assess suicide risk. Approximately half of facilities (51%) reported using the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI)—41% reported using the MAYSI full form, and 9% used the MAYSI suicide/depression module. Very few facilities (less than 1%) used the Voice Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children.

Of facilities that reported screening youth for suicide risk, 90% reassessed youth at some point during their stay. Most facilities (88%) reported rescreening on a case-by-case basis or as necessary. An additional 40% of facilities also reported that rescreening

occurred systematically and was based on a variety of factors (e.g., length of stay, facility events, or negative life events). Less than 1% of facilities did not reassess youth to determine suicide risk.

All facilities used some type of preventive measure once they determined a youth was at risk for suicide

Facilities that reported suicide screening information were asked a series of questions related to preventive measures taken for youth determined to be at risk for suicide. Of these facilities, 63% reported placing at-risk youth in sleeping or observation rooms that are locked or under staff security. Aside from using sleeping or observation rooms, 85% of facilities reported using line-of-sight supervision, 88% reported removing personal items that could be used to attempt suicide, and 75% reported using one-on-one or arm’s-length supervision. Half of facilities (50%) reported using special clothing to prevent suicide attempts, and 29% reported removing the youth from the general population. Twenty percent (20%) of facilities used special clothing to identify youth at risk for suicide, and 19% of facilities used restraints to prevent suicide attempts.

Suicide screening was common across facilities of all sizes

Suicide screening	Facility size based on residential population						
	Total	1–10	11–20	21–50	51–100	101–200	201+
Total facilities	1,510	506	351	426	159	51	17
Facilities reporting	1,437	476	337	412	147	48	17
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth screened	95	91	95	97	100	94	100
Some youth screened	1	1	2	0	0	4	0
No youth screened	4	9	3	3	0	2	0

Note: Column percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors’ analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Group homes were the least likely to screen youth for suicide risk

Suicide screening	Facility type						
	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school	Residential treatment center
Total facilities	625	116	37	240	27	164	553
Facilities reporting	609	115	35	221	24	163	514
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth screened	99	92	100	81	83	100	96
Some youth screened	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
No youth screened	1	7	0	18	17	0	2

Note: Column percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

In 2018, the majority (93%) of juvenile offenders in facilities that screened for suicide risk were in facilities that conducted suicide screenings on all youth on the day they arrived

Suicide screening	When suicide risk screening occurs					
	Total	Less than 24 hours	24 hours to 7 days	7 days or more	Other	Never or not reported
Number of facilities that screened						
Total	1,374	1,268	92	1	13	136
All youth screened	1,360	1,261	86	1	12	0
Some youth screened	14	7	6	0	1	0
Percentage of facilities that screened						
Total	100%	92%	7%	0%	1%	–
All youth screened	99	92	6	0	1	–
Some youth screened	1	1	0	0	0	–
Number of offenders						
In facilities that screened	35,549	33,180	1,916	75	378	1,980
In facilities that screened all youth	35,179	32,963	1,764	75	377	0
In facilities that screened some youth	370	217	152	0	1	0
Percentage of offenders						
In facilities that screened	100%	93%	5%	0%	1%	–
In facilities that screened all youth	99	93	5	0	1	–
In facilities that screened some youth	1	1	0	0	0	–

■ Nearly all facilities (99%) that reported screening for suicide risk said they screened all youth by the end of the first week of their stay at the facility. A large portion (92%) said they screened all youth on their first day at the facility. These facilities accounted for 93% of juvenile offenders held in facilities that conducted suicide screenings.

■ Very few facilities that reported screening for suicide risk reported that they conducted the screenings at some point other than within the first week of a youth's stay (1%). Facilities that conducted screenings within other time limits gave varying responses. For example, some facilities reported that screenings occurred as needed or as deemed necessary. Some reported that screenings were court ordered. A small number of facilities indicated that screenings occurred before youth were admitted.

Note: Percentage detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

JRFC asks facilities about certain activities that may have occurred in the month before the census date

In addition to information gathered on the census date, JRFC collected data on the following questions for the 30-day period of September 2018:

- Were there any unauthorized departures of any young persons who were assigned beds at this facility?
- Were any young persons assigned beds at this facility transported to a hospital emergency room by facility staff, transportation staff, or by an ambulance?
- Were any of the young persons assigned beds here restrained by facility staff with a mechanical restraint?

- Were any of the young persons assigned beds here locked for more than 4 hours alone in an isolation, seclusion, or

sleeping room to regain control of their unruly behavior?

Sports-related injuries were the most common reason for emergency room (ER) visits in the previous month

Reason for ER visit	Percentage of facilities
Total	33%
Injury	
Sports-related	35
Work/chore-related	2
Interpersonal conflict (between residents)	24
Interpersonal conflict (by nonresident)	4
Illness	30
Pregnancy	
Complications	2
Labor and delivery	0
Suicide attempt	10
Nonemergency	
No other health professional available	10
No doctor's appointment could be obtained	8
Other	31

Note: Percentages are based on facilities that reported emergency room information (29 of 1,510 facilities [2%] did not report).

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

One-sixth of facilities (17%) reported unauthorized departures in the month before the census date

Facility type	Number of facilities		Percentage of reporting facilities with unauthorized departures
	Total	Reporting	
Total facilities	1,510	1,436	17%
Detention center	625	608	3
Shelter	116	115	45
Reception/diagnostic center	37	35	3
Group home	240	221	32
Ranch/wilderness camp	27	24	17
Training school	164	163	4
Residential treatment center	553	514	26

- Shelters and group homes were most likely to report one or more unauthorized departures.

Note: Detail may sum to more than the totals because facilities could select more than one facility type.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Facilities were more likely to report using mechanical restraints than locking youth in some type of isolation; use of these practices differed by facility type

Facility type	Percentage of reporting facilities	
	Used mechanical restraints	Locked youth in room for 4 or more hours
Total facilities	27%	22%
Detention center	45	42
Shelter	6	4
Reception/diagnostic center	60	34
Group home	3	0
Ranch/wilderness camp	33	4
Training school	53	41
Residential treatment center	15	12

- Reception/diagnostic centers and training schools were the most likely facilities to use mechanical restraints (i.e., handcuffs, leg cuffs, waist bands, leather straps, restraining chairs, strait jackets, or other mechanical devices) in the previous month. Detention centers and training schools were the most likely to lock a youth alone in some type of seclusion for 4 or more hours to regain control of their unruly behavior.

- Group homes were the facilities least likely to use either of these measures.

Note: Percentages are based on 1,436 facilities that reported information on mechanical restraints and locked isolation, out of a total of 1,510 facilities.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Facilities reported eight deaths of youth in placement over 12 months—six were suicides

Youth in residential placement rarely died in custody

Facilities holding juvenile offenders reported that eight youth died while in the legal custody of the facility between October 1, 2017, and September 30, 2018.

Routine collection of national data on deaths of youth in residential placement began with the 1988–1989 Children in Custody (CIC) Census of Public and Private Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and Shelter Facilities. Accidents or suicides have usually been the leading cause of death. Over the years 1988–1994 (CIC data reporting years), an average of 46 deaths were reported nationally per year, including an annual average of 18 suicides. Over the years 2000–2018 (JRFC data reporting years), those averages dropped to 16 deaths overall and 6 suicides.

Residential treatment centers reported three of the eight deaths in 2018—one accidental death, one suicide, and one resulting from an illness/natural cause. Detention centers and training schools accounted for two deaths each as the result of suicides. Shelters accounted for one of the eight deaths—a suicide.

There is no pattern in the timing of deaths in 2018

In 2018, the timing of death varied between 6 and 204 days after admission. Two suicides occurred about 1 week (6 days and 8 days) after admission; another occurred within 23 days. The remaining suicides occurred 4, 6, and 7 months after admission. One death as a result of an illness occurred 1 month after admission. The remaining death, an accident, occurred approximately 4 months (122 days) after admission.

During the 12 months prior to the census, suicides were the most commonly reported cause of death in residential placement

Cause of death	Total	Inside the facility			Outside the facility		
		All	Public	Private	All	Public	Private
Total	8	5	2	3	3	2	1
Suicide	6	4	2	2	2	2	0
Illness/natural	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Accident	1	0	0	0	1	0	1

■ In 2018, an equal number of deaths occurred at private facilities and public facilities—four each.

Notes: Data are reported deaths of youth in custody from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. None of the deaths from illness were AIDS related.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

In 2018, the death rate was higher for private facilities than for public facilities

Cause of death	Deaths per 10,000 youth held on the census date, October 24, 2018		
	Total	Public facility	Private facility
Total	2.1	1.5	4
Suicide	1.6	1.5	2
Illness/natural	0.3	0	1
Accident	0.3	0	1

Type of facility	Deaths per 10,000 youth held on the census date, October 24, 2018		
	Total	Public facility	Private facility
Detention center	1.1	1.2	0
Shelter	9.7	0	15.8
Training school	2.0	2.4	0
Residential treatment center	2.1	0	3.9

■ The death rate in 2018 (2.1) was lower than that in 2000 (2.8). Of the 30 reported deaths of youth in residential placement in 2000, accidents were the most commonly reported cause. In 2018, suicides were most common.

Notes: Data are reported deaths of youth in custody from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. None of the deaths from illness were AIDS related. One death was reported in a privately operated shelter, but the relatively small size of the population of youth held in such facilities in 2018 (approximately 630 youth) results in a high death rate.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

Of the total deaths in residential placement (eight), five involved males and three involved females

Race/ethnicity	Cause of death							
	Total		Suicide		Illness/natural		Accident	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	5	3	4	2	1	0	0	1
White non-Hispanic	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	1
Black non-Hispanic	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Other race/ethnicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Data are reported deaths of youth in custody from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

Source: Authors' analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [machine-readable data file].

The Juvenile Residential Facility Census asks facilities about deaths of young persons at locations inside or outside the facility

During the year between October 1, 2017, and September 30, 2018, did any young persons die while assigned to a bed at this facility at a location either inside or outside of this facility?

If yes, how many young persons died while assigned beds at this facility during the year between October 1, 2017, and September 30, 2018?

What was the cause of death?

- Illness/natural causes (excluding AIDS)
- Injury suffered prior to placement here

- AIDS
- Suicide
- Homicide by another resident
- Homicide by nonresident(s)
- Accidental death
- Other (specify)

What was the location of death, age, sex, race, date of admission to the facility, and date of death for each young person who died while assigned a bed at this facility?

The Juvenile Residential Facility Census includes data that tribal facilities submitted

OJJDP works with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to ensure a greater representation of tribal facilities in the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement and JRFC data collections. As a result, the 2018 JRFC collected data from 16 tribal facilities. The tribal facilities were in Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota and held 116 youth charged with or adjudicated for an offense (up from 113 in 2016, when 14 facilities reported).

Tribal facilities were asked what agency owned and/or operated their facilities. The tribe owned and operated 11 of the 16 facilities. The remaining five facilities

were either owned by the tribe and operated by the federal government or owned by the federal government and operated by the tribe.

Each tribal facility identified itself as a detention center, and one also identified itself as a training school. Tribal facilities were small, most holding 20 or fewer residents; 79% of juvenile offenders were held at facilities that held between 1 and 20 residents. On the census day, almost all facilities (14) were operating at less than their standard bed capacity, and the remaining 2 facilities were operating at capacity. Standard bed capacities ranged from 6 to 198; only 2 facilities had more than 100 standard beds.

Fifteen of the 16 tribal facilities reported locking youth in their sleeping rooms. Among tribal facilities that locked youth in their rooms, 14 did so when the youth were out of control. Thirteen facilities locked youth in their rooms at night, 10 facilities locked youth in rooms during shift changes, and 8 locked youth in their rooms whenever the youth were in their rooms. Eight facilities locked youth in their rooms when youth were suicidal, and three facilities locked youth in their rooms for part of each day. One facility stated there was no set schedule for locking youth in rooms.

Other OJJDP data collection efforts describe youth in residential placement

JRFC is one component in a multitiered effort to describe the youth placed in residential facilities and the facilities themselves. Other components include the following:

- National Juvenile Court Data Archive: Collects information on sanctions that juvenile courts impose.
- Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement: Collects information on the demographics and legal attributes of each youth in a juvenile facility on the census date.

Resources

OJJDP's online Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) offers access to a wealth of information about youth crime and victimization and about youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Visit the Juveniles in Corrections section of the SBB at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/corrections/faqs.asp for the latest information about youth in corrections. The Juvenile Residential Facility Census Databook is a data analysis tool that gives users quick access to national and state data on the characteristics of residential placement facilities, including detailed information about facility operation, classification, size, and capacity.

Data sources

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Variable. *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for the years 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 [machine-readable data files]. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau (producer).

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