



Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2014 National Report

Chapter 7: Juvenile offenders in correctional facilities	185
Introduction to residential placement data	186
Juvenile residential placement population	187
Offense trends in private and public facilities	188
Offender trends in juvenile facilities	189
Detained and committed populations	190
State residential placement rates	191
Offense profiles of detained offenders by state	193
Offense profiles of committed offenders by state	194
Gender variations in the residential placement population	195
Racial variations in the residential placement population	196
Racial variations in residential placement rates by state	197
Length of stay for juveniles in residential placement	198
Residential facilities	200
Crowding in juvenile residential placement facilities	203
Screening for educational, substance abuse, and mental health needs	205
Suicide risk screening in residential facilities	208
Past-month activity reporting in juvenile residential placement facilities	209
Deaths reported in residential placement facilities	210
Tribal facilities	212
Interviews with youth in residential placement facilities	213
Self-reported victimization of youth in residential placement facilities	215
Sexual victimization in residential placement facilities	217
Juveniles in adult jails	220
Juveniles in adult prisons	221
Chapter 7 sources	223

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Chapter 7

Juvenile offenders in correctional facilities

Juvenile correctional systems have many different components. Some juvenile correctional facilities look very much like adult prisons. Others seem very much like “home.” Private facilities continue to play a substantial role in the long-term residential treatment of juveniles, in contrast to adult correctional systems. In fact, nationwide there are slightly more privately operated juvenile facilities than publicly operated facilities, although private facilities hold less than half as many juveniles as are held in public facilities.

This chapter describes the population of juveniles detained in and committed to public and private facilities in

terms of demographics, offenses, average time in the facility, and facility type. The chapter also includes descriptions of juveniles held in adult jails and prisons.

The information is based on several data collection efforts by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, the Juvenile Residential Facility Census, and the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement. The information on juveniles held in adult correctional facilities is drawn from the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ Jail Census, Annual Survey of Jails, and National Corrections Reporting Program.

OJJDP's data collections are the primary source of information on juveniles in residential placement

Detailed data are available on juveniles in residential placement

Since its inception, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has collected information on the juveniles held in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. Until 1995, these data were gathered through the biennial Census of Public and Private Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and Shelter Facilities, better known as the Children in Custody (CIC) Census. In the late 1990s, OJJDP initiated two new data collection programs to gather comprehensive and detailed information about juvenile offenders in residential placement and the facilities that house them:

- Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP)
- Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC)

CJRP and JRFC are generally administered in alternating years and collect information from all secure and nonsecure residential placement facilities that house juvenile offenders, defined as persons younger than 21 who are held in a residential setting as a result of some contact with the justice system (they are charged with or adjudicated for an offense). This encompasses both status offenders and delinquent offenders, including those who are either temporarily detained by the court or committed after adjudication for an offense. These censuses do not include federal facilities or those exclusively for drug or mental health treatment or for abused/neglected youth. They also do not capture data from adult prisons or jails. Therefore, CJRP and JRFC do not include all juveniles sentenced to incarceration by criminal courts.

CJRP typically takes place on the fourth Wednesday in October of the census year. However, the census that would have occurred October 28, 2009, was postponed until the fourth

Wednesday in February 2010. CJRP asks all juvenile residential facilities in the U.S. to describe each offender under age 21 assigned a bed in the facility on the census date. Facilities report individual-level information on gender, date of birth, race, placement authority, most serious offense charged, court adjudication status, admission date, and security status.

JRFC also uses the fourth Wednesday in October as its census date and, in addition to information gathered on the census date, it includes some past-month and past-year variables. JRFC collects information on how facilities operate and the services they provide. It includes detailed questions on facility security, capacity and crowding, injuries and deaths in placement, and facility ownership and operation. Supplementary information is also collected in various years on specific services, such as mental and physical health, substance abuse, and education.

The Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP) is the third component of OJJDP's multitiered effort to collect information on the juvenile custody population. SYRP collects a broad range of self-report information (on youth's placement experience, past offense histories, education, and other important life events) from interviews with individual youth in placement.

One-day count and admission data give different views of residential populations

CJRP provides a 1-day population count of juveniles in residential placement facilities. Such counts give a picture of the standing population in facilities. One-day counts are substantially different from annual admission or release data, which provide a measure of facility population flow.

Juveniles may be committed to a facility as part of a court-ordered

disposition, or they may be detained prior to adjudication or after adjudication while awaiting disposition or placement elsewhere. In addition, a small proportion of juveniles are admitted voluntarily in lieu of adjudication as part of a diversion agreement. Because detention stays tend to be short compared with commitment placement, detained juveniles represent a much larger share of population flow data than of 1-day count data.

State variations in upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction influence placement rates

Although state placement rate statistics control for upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction, comparisons among states with different upper ages are problematic. Youth ages 16 and 17 constitute 26% of the youth population ages 10–17, but they account for more than 50% of arrests of youth under age 18, more than 40% of delinquency court cases, and more than 50% of juveniles in residential placement. If all other factors were equal, one would expect higher juvenile placement rates in states where older youth are under the juvenile court jurisdiction.

Differing age limits of extended jurisdiction also influence placement rates. Some states may keep a juvenile in placement for several years beyond the upper age of original jurisdiction; others cannot. Laws that control the transfer of juveniles to criminal court also have an impact on juvenile placement rates. If all other factors were equal, states with broad transfer provisions would be expected to have lower juvenile placement rates than other states.

Demographic variations among jurisdictions should also be considered. The urbanicity and economy of an area are thought to be related to crime and placement rates. Available bedspace also influences placement rates, particularly in rural areas.

The number of residents in placement decreased across census years, but profiles remained similar

Nearly 9 in 10 residents were juveniles held for delinquency offenses

The vast majority of residents in juvenile residential placement facilities on February 24, 2010, were juvenile offenders (89%). Juvenile offenders held for delinquency offenses accounted for 86% of all residents. Delinquency offenses are behaviors that would be criminal law violations for adults. Status offenses are behaviors that are not law violations for adults, such as running away, truancy, and incorrigibility. Some residents were held in the facility but were not charged with or adjudicated for an offense (e.g., youth referred for abuse, neglect, emotional disturbance, or mental retardation, or those referred by their parents). Together, these other residents and youth age 21 and older accounted for 11% of all residents. These proportions changed little between 1997 and 2010.

Just over half of facilities were private but held less than 1 in 3 juvenile offenders

Private facilities are operated by private nonprofit or for-profit corporations or organizations; those who work in these facilities are employees of the private corporation or organization. State or local government agencies operate public facilities; those who work in these facilities are state or local government employees. Private facilities tend to be smaller than public facilities. Thus, although there are more private than public facilities nationwide, public facilities hold the majority of juvenile offenders on any given day. In 2010, private facilities accounted for 51% of facilities holding juvenile offenders; however, they held just 31% of juvenile offenders in residential placement.

Private facilities hold a different population of offenders than do public facilities. Compared with public facilities, private facilities have a greater

The profile of juvenile offenders in residential placement changed little between 1997 and 2010

Population held	Number			Percent of total		
	1997	2003	2010	1997	2003	2010
All residents	116,701	109,094	79,166	100%	100%	100%
Juvenile offenders	105,055	96,531	70,793	90	88	89
Delinquency	98,813	92,022	67,776	85	84	86
Person offense	35,138	33,170	26,010	30	30	33
Violent offense	26,304	22,039	18,655	23	20	24
Status offenders	6,242	4,509	3,016	5	4	4
Other residents	11,646	12,563	8,373	10	12	11

Notes: Other residents include youth age 21 or older and those held in the facility but not charged with or adjudicated for an offense. Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997, 2003, and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Although the number of public and private facilities were similar in 2010, public facilities housed more than double the offenders

Population held	Number			Percent change	
	1997	2003	2010	1997–2010	2003–2010
Facilities:					
All facilities	2,842	2,852	2,259	–21%	–21%
Public facilities	1,106	1,170	1,103	0	–6
Private facilities	1,736	1,682	1,156	–33	–31
Juvenile offenders:					
All facilities	105,055	96,531	70,793	–33	–27
Public facilities	75,600	66,210	49,112	–35	–26
Private facilities	29,455	30,321	21,681	–26	–28

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997, 2003, and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

proportion of juveniles who have been committed to the facility by the court following adjudication as part of their disposition, and a smaller proportion of juveniles who are detained (pending adjudication, disposition, or placement elsewhere).

Placement status profile, 2010:

Placement status	Facility operation		
	Total	Public	Private
Total	100%	100%	100%
Committed	68	60	87
Detained	29	38	9
Diversion	2	2	4

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

Of all juveniles who were detained, 90% were in public facilities. For committed juveniles, 61% were in public facilities. Among those in residential placement as part of a diversion agreement in lieu of adjudication, 51% were in public facilities.

Overall, there was a 33% decrease in the number of juvenile offenders in residential placement between 1997 and 2010. Although the number of private facilities decreased 33% and the number of public facilities remained the same, the relative decrease in the number of juvenile offenders was greater for public facilities (35%) than private facilities (26%).

Nationally, fewer than 71,000 delinquents were in residential placement facilities on February 24, 2010

Compared with public facilities, private facilities hold a smaller share of delinquents and a larger share of status offenders

On the census date in 2010, public facilities held approximately 7 in 10 delinquents in residential placement and a little fewer than 3 in 10 status offenders. Public facilities housed more than three-quarters of those held for violent crimes (i.e., criminal homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), other public order crimes, and technical violations of probation or parole. In contrast, fewer than 6 in 10 juvenile offenders held for drug offenses were in public facilities. Nevertheless, public and private facilities had fairly similar offense profiles in 2010.

Offense profile by facility type, 2010:

Most serious offense	Facility operation		
	All	Public	Private
Total	100%	100%	100%
Delinquency	96	98	90
Person	37	38	33
Crim. homicide	1	2	0
Sexual assault	7	6	7
Robbery	10	12	6
Agg. assault	9	10	7
Simple assault	8	7	10
Other person	3	3	3
Property	24	24	24
Burglary	10	11	10
Theft	5	5	5
Auto theft	3	3	4
Arson	1	1	1
Other property	4	4	4
Drug	7	6	10
Drug trafficking	1	1	2
Other drug	6	5	8
Public order	11	11	12
Weapons	4	4	4
Other public ord.	7	7	8
Technical viol.	16	18	12
Status offense	4	2	10

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

The number of offenders held declined for all major delinquency offense groups (i.e., person, property, drugs, and public order) between 1997 and 2010

Most serious offense	Juvenile offenders in residential placement, 2010			Percent change 1997–2010		
	Type of facility			Type of facility		
	All	Public	Private	All	Public	Private
Total	70,792	49,112	21,680	-33%	-35%	-26%
Delinquency	67,776	48,199	19,577	-31	-35	-21
Person	26,010	18,890	7,120	-26	-30	-11
Criminal homicide	924	859	65	-52	-53	-36
Sexual assault	4,638	3,050	1,588	-17	-23	-1
Robbery	6,996	5,772	1,224	-25	-27	-11
Aggravated assault	6,097	4,687	1,410	-36	-38	-25
Simple assault	5,445	3,267	2,178	-18	-21	-13
Other person	1,910	1,255	655	-13	-26	26
Property	17,037	11,878	5,159	-47	-48	-42
Burglary	7,247	5,159	2,088	-42	-45	-33
Theft	3,759	2,574	1,185	-48	-50	-44
Auto theft	2,469	1,663	806	-62	-62	-62
Arson	533	366	167	-41	-46	-24
Other property	3,029	2,116	913	-35	-36	-33
Drug	4,986	2,877	2,109	-45	-55	-23
Drug trafficking	1,034	665	369	-64	-70	-46
Other drug	3,952	2,212	1,740	-36	-47	-15
Public order	8,139	5,613	2,526	-21	-23	-15
Weapons	3,013	2,168	845	-28	-34	-3
Other public order	5,126	3,445	1,681	-16	-14	-20
Technical violation	11,604	8,941	2,663	-6	-13	26
Status offense	3,016	913	2,103	-52	-41	-55

- The number of juvenile offenders held for person offenses decreased 26% between 1997 and 2010.
- Between 1997 and 2010, the number of property offenders was cut in half (47% decrease).
- The number of juvenile offenders held for drug offenses decreased 45% between 1997 and 2010.
- Overall, the number of juvenile offenders held for both public order and technical violation offenses declined since 1997 (21% and 6%, respectively). Despite this downward trend, private facilities reported holding 26% more juvenile offenders who committed technical violations.

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement for 2010 [machine-readable data files].

The number of offenders in placement in 2010 was at its lowest level since 1997

The delinquency population in placement reported by CJRP peaked in 1999

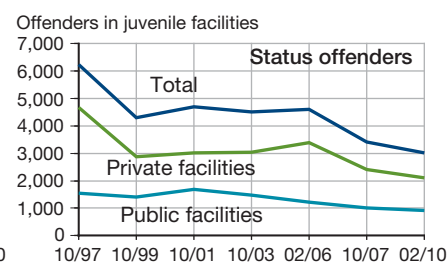
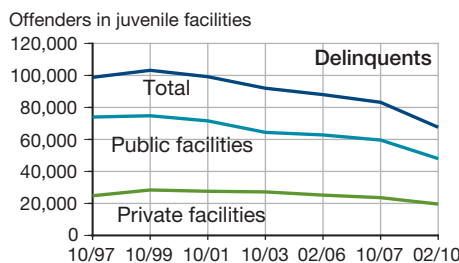
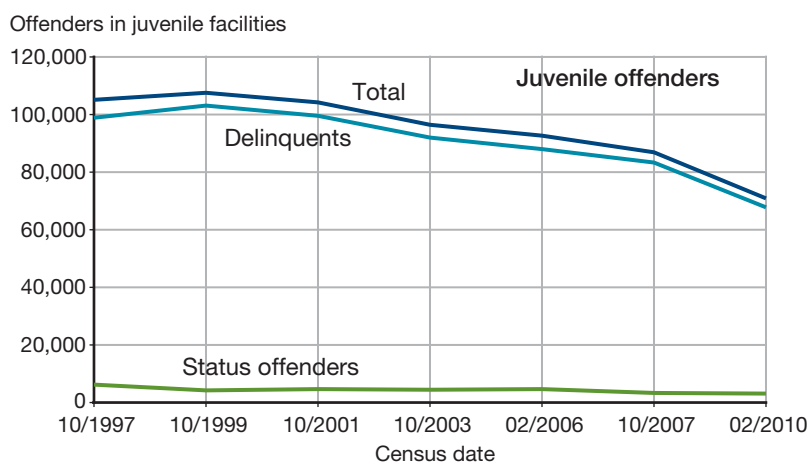
The number of delinquents held in placement increased 4% between 1997 and 1999 and then decreased 34% to its lowest level in 2010. Although the number of delinquents held in public facilities outnumbered those held in private facilities, delinquents held in private facilities accounted for 82% of the increase between 1997 and 1999. Since 1999, the number of delinquents held in public facilities decreased 36% and the number held in private facilities decreased 31%.

Private facilities reported the largest decrease in the number of status offenders held between 1997 and 2010—down 55% compared with 41% in public facilities.

Several factors may affect the placement population

While data from CJRP cannot explain the continuing decline in the number of offenders held in residential placement, they may be reflective of a combination of contributing factors. For example, the number of juvenile arrests has decreased (down 21% between 2001 and 2010) which, in turn, means that fewer juveniles are processed through the juvenile justice system. Additionally, residential placement reform efforts have resulted in the movement of many juveniles from secure, large public facilities to less secure, small private facilities. Finally, economic factors have resulted in a shift from committing juveniles to high cost residential facilities to providing lower cost options such as probation, day treatment, or other community-based sanctions.

In 2010, juvenile residential facilities held 31% fewer delinquents and 52% fewer status offenders than in 1997



- The total number of juvenile offenders in residential placement facilities rose 2% from 1997 to 1999 and then decreased 34% from 1999 to 2010. The result was an overall decrease of 33% between 1997 and 2010.
- The number of delinquents held in public facilities decreased 35% between 1997 and 2010, while the number held in private facilities decreased 21%.
- The number of status offenders held in juvenile residential facilities dropped sharply (31%) between 1997 and 1999. Between 1999 and 2006, the number of status offenders remained level, decreased in 2007, and reached its lowest level in 2010.
- The number of status offenders held in public facilities peaked in 2001 and then decreased 46% by 2010. The number of status offenders held in private facilities increased 18% between the 1999 low and 2006 and then decreased 38% between 2006 and 2010.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement for 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007, and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

From 1997 to 2010, the committed population decreased more than the detained population

Offense profiles of detained and committed offenders differed

Delinquents accounted for 98% of detained offenders and 95% of committed offenders in 2010. Compared with the detained population, the committed population had a greater proportion of youth held for most major offense groups and fewer youth held for technical violations of probation or parole. The committed population had a larger proportion of youth held for status offenses.

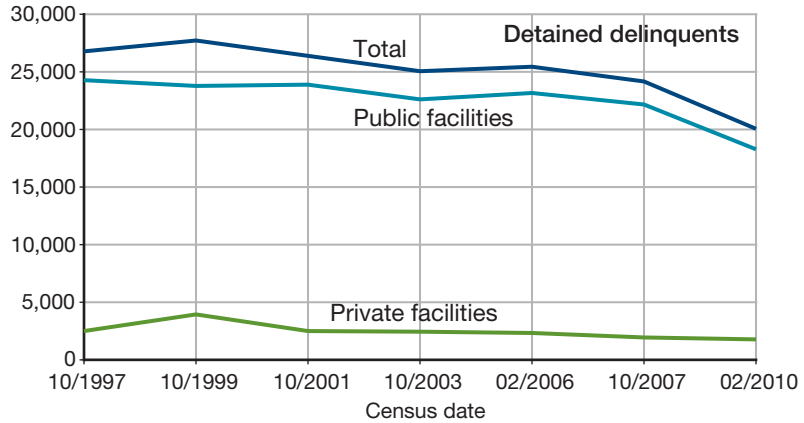
Offense profile of juvenile offenders held, 2010:

Most serious offense	Detained (20,579)	Committed (48,427)
Total	100%	100%
Delinquency	98	95
Person	35	37
Crim. homicide	2	1
Sexual assault	4	8
Robbery	10	10
Agg. assault	9	8
Simple assault	7	8
Other person	3	3
Property	22	25
Burglary	9	11
Theft	5	6
Auto theft	3	4
Arson	1	1
Other property	4	4
Drug	6	7
Drug trafficking	1	1
Other drug	5	6
Public order	12	11
Weapons	5	4
Other public ord.	7	7
Technical viol.	22	14
Status offense	2	5

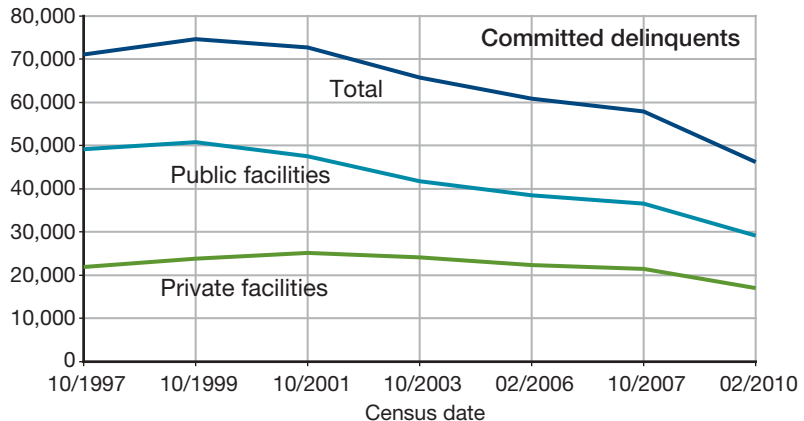
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Between 1997 and 2010, the committed delinquency population decreased 35%

Offenders in juvenile facilities



Offenders in juvenile facilities



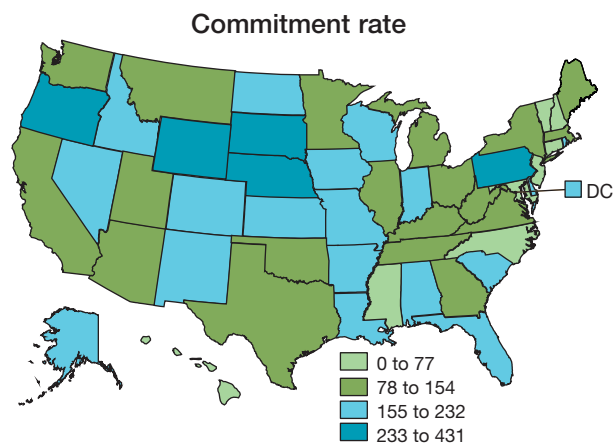
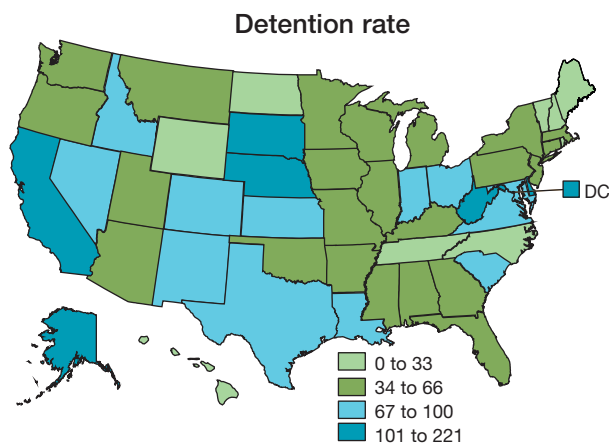
- Despite a slight increase in the number of detained delinquents (those held prior to adjudication or disposition, awaiting a hearing in juvenile or criminal court; or after disposition, awaiting placement elsewhere) between 1997 and 1999, the number of these youth remained relatively stable between 1997 and 2007 and then decreased 17% in 2010.
- The number of offenders in residential placement decreased 33% between 1997 and 2010; this trend was driven by the 41% decrease in the number of committed delinquents held at public facilities during this period.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007, and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

In 2010, 225 juvenile offenders were in residential placement for every 100,000 juveniles in the U.S. population

In 2010, the national commitment rate was 2.4 times the detention rate, but rates varied by state

State of offense	Juveniles in placement	Custody rate per 100,000			State of offense	Juveniles in placement	Custody rate per 100,000		
		Total	Detained	Committed			Total	Detained	Committed
U.S. total	70,792	225	65	154	Upper age 17 (continued)				
Upper age 17					Oklahoma	639	157	64	92
Alabama	1,101	212	52	159	Oregon	1,251	320	38	281
Alaska	282	340	123	210	Pennsylvania	4,134	316	43	254
Arizona	1,092	152	51	96	Rhode Island	249	235	3*	201
Arkansas	729	230	47	183	South Dakota	504	575	123	431
California	11,532	271	115	154	Tennessee	789	117	28	88
Colorado	1,530	287	74	201	Utah	684	191	55	136
Delaware	252	270	106	164	Vermont	33	53	19	10*
Dist. of Columbia	180	427	221	207	Virginia	1,860	224	76	144
Florida	4,815	261	48	212	Washington	1,305	183	56	126
Hawaii	120	90	20	63	West Virginia	561	317	164	153
Idaho	480	258	77	179	Wyoming	255	440	31	409
Indiana	2,010	276	76	199	Upper age 16				
Iowa	738	227	41	182	Connecticut**	315	92	38	54
Kansas	843	265	93	169	Georgia	2,133	221	48	103
Kentucky	852	186	64	121	Illinois	2,217	178	52	123
Maine	186	143	12	127	Louisiana	1,035	240	77	159
Maryland	888	143	71	66	Massachusetts	663	115	34	79
Minnesota	912	159	37	119	Michigan	1,998	209	57	151
Mississippi	357	106	51	54	Missouri	1,197	214	41	170
Montana	192	192	51	138	New Hampshire	117	97	7*	70
Nebraska	750	378	106	269	South Carolina	984	235	78	157
Nevada	717	244	80	163	Texas	5,352	203	72	129
New Jersey	1,179	123	57	65	Wisconsin	1,110	209	39	168
New Mexico	576	250	72	176	Upper age 15				
North Dakota	168	258	28	230	New York	2,637	180	35	143
Ohio	2,865	228	75	152	North Carolina	849	112	22	68



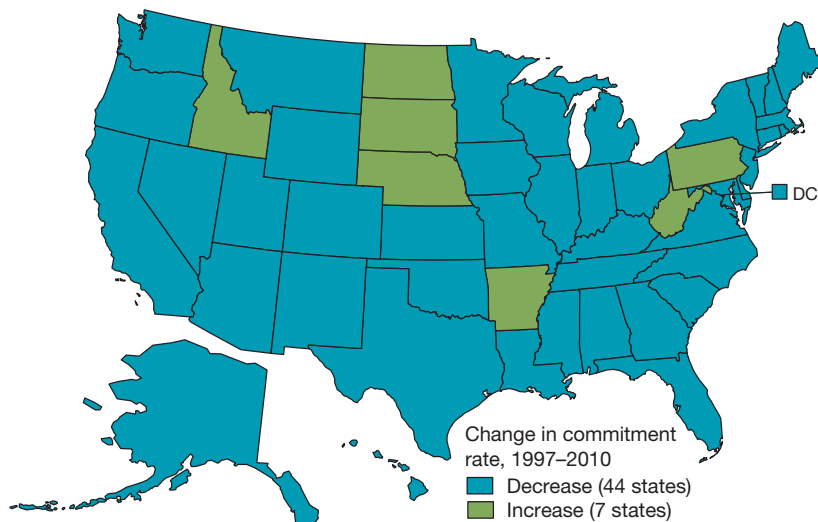
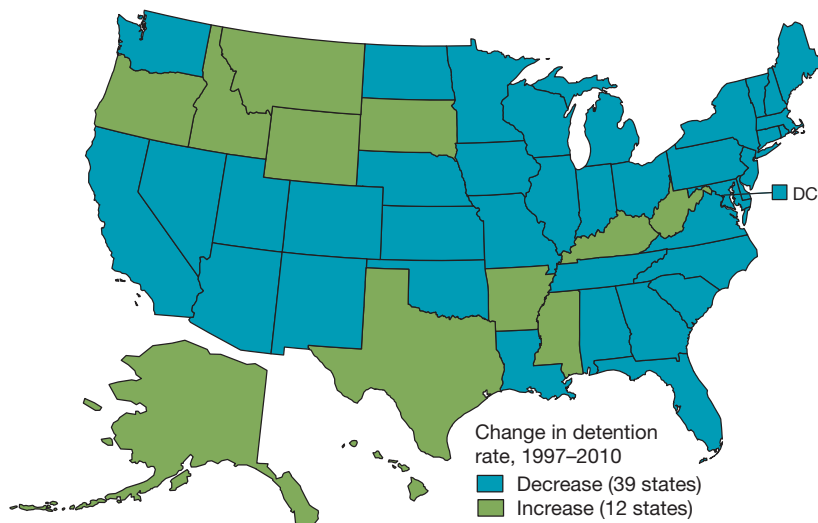
* Rate is based on fewer than 10 juveniles.

** As of 1/1/10, the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction in Connecticut changed from 15 to 16.

Notes: Custody rate is the count of juvenile offenders in custody per 100,000 youth ages 10 through the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction in each state. U.S. totals include 2,658 youth in private facilities for whom state of offense was not reported.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Although national custody rates declined from 1997 to 2010, not all states experienced a decline



- Detention rates increased in about one-quarter of the states and declined in the other three-quarters.
- Almost 9 in 10 (88%) of the states had lower commitment rates in 2010 than in 1997, but in several states the reverse was true.

Notes: Custody rate is the count of juvenile offenders in custody per 100,000 youth ages 10 through the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction in each state. As of 1/1/10, the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction in Connecticut changed from 15 to 16.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997 and 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Unlike detained youth, committed youth were in a variety of facilities

Group home facilities held the largest proportion of committed offenders (44%), but 11% were committed to detention centers. (See sidebar on page 201 for a description of facility types.)

Facility type profiles, 2010:

Facility type	Detained offenders	Committed offenders
Total	100%	100%
Detention center	86	11
Shelter	2	1
Reception/ diagnostic	2	2
Group home	5	44
Ranch/ wilderness camp	0	4
Long-term secure	5	36
Other	0	1

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

For all facilities except detention centers, the majority of offenders were committed youth

Not all offenders held in detention centers were held with detained placement status. In 2010, 23% of offenders in detention centers had been committed to the facility.

Offender population profiles, 2010:

Facility type	Detained offenders	Committed offenders
Detention center	73%	23%
Shelter	36	56
Reception/ diagnostic	32	67
Group home	4	94
Ranch/ wilderness camp	0	84
Long-term secure	6	94
Other	3	97

Note: Detail may total less than 100% because some facilities held youth other than detained or committed youth.

In 13 states in 2010, person offenders accounted for more than 40% of detained offenders

In 11 states in 2010, technical violations accounted for a greater share of detained offenders than did person offenses

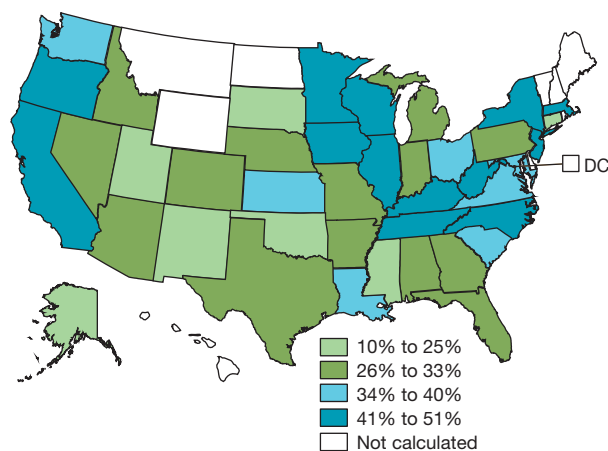
State of offense	Offense profile of detained offenders, 2010						State of offense	Offense profile of detained offenders, 2010					
	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order	Technical viol.	Status		Person	Property	Drugs	Public order	Technical viol.	Status
U.S. total	35%	22%	6%	12%	22%	2%	Missouri	32%	25%	5%	16%	20%	4%
Alabama	26	26	7	16	26	1	Montana	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alaska	21	18	0	6	38	18	Nebraska	29	21	4	20	16	10
Arizona	27	18	11	9	34	2	Nevada	26	17	13	17	27	1
Arkansas	28	26	4	18	20	4	New Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-	-
California	43	20	4	13	21	0	New Jersey	41	10	10	16	21	1
Colorado	27	30	9	22	11	2	New Mexico	24	13	7	9	44	4
Connecticut	23	7	2	9	56	2	New York	46	18	2	8	18	9
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	North Carolina	43	36	4	9	4	5
Dist. of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	North Dakota	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	31	24	6	10	29	0	Ohio	37	18	5	11	27	2
Georgia	29	34	3	12	14	7	Oklahoma	23	31	13	13	18	2
Hawaii	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oregon	41	14	2	10	33	0
Idaho	31	25	13	21	6	6	Pennsylvania	26	13	9	7	43	2
Illinois	41	21	6	9	24	0	Rhode Island	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indiana	26	28	8	9	23	5	South Carolina	34	21	3	17	17	6
Iowa	41	27	11	7	7	5	South Dakota	25	17	8	14	31	6
Kansas	35	23	7	13	18	4	Tennessee	41	27	8	10	14	2
Kentucky	46	14	9	7	19	3	Texas	28	20	8	10	33	1
Louisiana	35	30	6	13	10	6	Utah	21	18	14	11	33	2
Maine	-	-	-	-	-	-	Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland	39	24	22	8	4	2	Virginia	34	22	4	9	28	3
Massachusetts	51	22	2	17	8	2	Washington	39	32	5	10	11	2
Michigan	28	21	4	9	33	4	West Virginia	43	28	7	9	4	7
Minnesota	41	23	4	11	17	3	Wisconsin	45	30	7	10	6	3
Mississippi	10	31	12	24	19	2	Wyoming	-	-	-	-	-	-

- The proportion of juvenile offenders detained for a technical violation of probation or parole or a violation of a valid court order was less than 40% in each state, except Connecticut (56%), New Mexico (44%), and Pennsylvania (43%).
- Massachusetts had the highest proportion of person offenders among detained juveniles (51%). Mississippi had the lowest proportion (10%).
- With the exception of Maryland, the proportion of juvenile offenders detained for drug offenses was 14% or less.
- In all states but Alaska, status offenders accounted for less than 10% of detained offenders.

- Too few juveniles to calculate a reliable percentage

Notes: U.S. totals include 344 youth detained in private facilities for whom state of offense was not reported. Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Percent of detained juvenile offenders held for person offenses



Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 [machine-readable data files].

In 15 states in 2010, technical violations accounted for more than the U.S. average of 14% of committed offenders

In 20 states in 2010, person offenders accounted for more than the national average of 37% of committed offenders

State of offense	Offense profile of committed offenders, 2010						State of offense	Offense profile of committed offenders, 2010					
	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order	Technical viol.	Status		Person	Property	Drugs	Public order	Technical viol.	Status
U.S. total	37%	25%	7%	11%	14%	5%	Missouri	27%	30%	9%	11%	12%	10%
Alabama	29	22	11	8	21	9	Montana	37	48	4	4	2	4
Alaska	26	22	3	14	12	22	Nebraska	28	33	8	12	6	12
Arizona	25	26	14	13	18	4	Nevada	27	28	15	10	14	6
Arkansas	39	23	6	12	13	5	New Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-	-
California	39	18	3	14	25	1	New Jersey	44	13	10	9	24	0
Colorado	41	31	7	11	8	2	New Mexico	30	13	10	10	36	1
Connecticut	36	21	3	13	21	5	New York	40	26	6	9	6	13
Delaware	41	18	8	16	16	2	North Carolina	40	45	5	8	0	2
Dist. of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	North Dakota	22	20	12	10	2	34
Florida	29	39	9	8	14	1	Ohio	49	24	3	12	11	2
Georgia	53	26	1	11	7	1	Oklahoma	56	28	6	6	2	1
Hawaii	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oregon	51	23	3	15	7	2
Idaho	31	32	13	10	13	4	Pennsylvania	28	18	14	14	17	9
Illinois	36	24	12	11	15	2	Rhode Island	30	25	14	15	13	1
Indiana	25	30	12	16	10	7	South Carolina	37	17	3	11	27	4
Iowa	40	24	11	10	5	11	South Dakota	21	15	10	17	17	21
Kansas	48	27	9	9	2	3	Tennessee	43	30	8	5	11	3
Kentucky	37	23	7	12	13	8	Texas	48	25	6	6	15	0
Louisiana	30	41	5	10	3	11	Utah	33	22	12	26	4	4
Maine	29	51	5	13	0	0	Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland	28	29	19	7	10	6	Virginia	50	30	4	6	9	2
Massachusetts	52	24	6	13	2	2	Washington	45	28	4	12	9	1
Michigan	32	24	5	12	15	11	West Virginia	26	24	9	9	27	7
Minnesota	44	23	3	15	11	5	Wisconsin	45	27	6	16	1	5
Mississippi	21	52	7	10	11	0	Wyoming	18	20	14	6	13	28

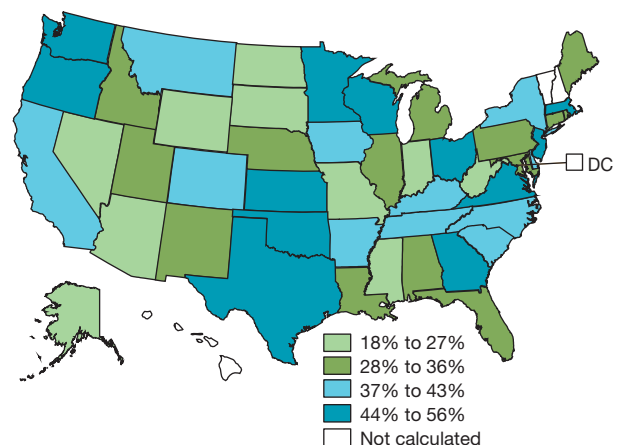
- Except for New Mexico, the number of juvenile offenders committed for a technical violation of probation or parole was less than a third of the total offenders committed in each state. In two states, technical violations accounted for 0% of committed offenders.
- Oklahoma and Georgia had the highest proportions of person offenders among committed juveniles (56% and 53%, respectively). Wyoming (18%), Mississippi (21%), and North Dakota (22%) had the lowest proportions.
- In half of all states, status offenders accounted for less than 5% of committed offenders. In four states, status offenders accounted for 0% of committed offenders.

- Too few juveniles to calculate a reliable percentage

Notes: U.S. totals include 2,188 committed youth in private facilities for whom state of offense was not reported. Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Percent of committed juvenile offenders held for person offenses



Females account for a small proportion of the residential placement population

Females accounted for 13% of offenders in residential placement

Male offenders dominate the juvenile justice system. This is especially true of the residential placement population. Males represent half of the juvenile population and are involved in approximately three-quarters of juvenile arrests and delinquency cases handled by the juvenile court each year, but they represented 87% of juvenile offenders

in residential placement in 2010. The proportion of female juveniles in residential placement was slightly greater for private facilities (14%) than for public facilities (13%) and greater for detained juveniles (16%) than for committed juveniles (12%). The female proportion among those admitted to placement under a diversion agreement was 18%. Although the number of females in residential placement has declined since 1997, their proportion of

the placement population has remained stable over the years.

One-third of females in residential placement were held in private facilities

In 2010, private facilities held 33% of females and 30% of males in juvenile residential placement. The proportion of females placed in private facilities varied substantially by offense category: 72% of all females held for a status offense were in private facilities, as were 55% held for drug offenses aside from trafficking, 39% for simple assault, and 33% for burglary. In general for both males and females, the less serious the offense category, the greater the likelihood the resident was in a private facility.

Females in residential placement tended to be younger than their male counterparts

Of all youth in custody, 38% of females were younger than 16 compared with 29% of males. For females in placement, the peak age was 16, accounting for 29% of all females in placement facilities. For males, the peak age was 17. There was a greater proportion of offenders age 18 or older among males (15%) than among females (8%).

Age profile of residents, 2010:

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%
12 and younger	1	1	1
13	3	3	4
14	8	8	11
15	18	17	21
16	28	27	29
17	28	29	25
18 and older	14	15	8

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

Females were more likely than males to be held for technical violations or status offenses

Offense profile for juvenile offenders in residential placement, 2010

Most serious offense	All facilities		Public facilities		Private facilities	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Delinquency	97	89	99	95	93	76
Person	37	32	39	33	33	30
Violent Crime Index*	28	15	31	17	22	9
Other person	9	18	8	16	12	21
Property	25	19	25	20	25	18
Property Crime Index†	21	15	20	16	21	14
Other property	4	4	4	4	4	4
Drug	7	7	6	5	10	11
Drug trafficking	2	1	1	1	2	1
Other drug	6	6	5	4	8	10
Public order	12	9	12	11	13	6
Technical violation‡	16	22	17	27	12	12
Status offense	3	11	1	5	7	24

■ Status offenders were 11% of females in residential placement in 2010—down from 21% in 1997.

■ Person offenders were 32% of females in residential placement in 2010—up from 25% in 1997.

■ Technical violations and status offenses were more common among females in placement than males. Person, property, and public order offenses were more common among males in placement than females.

* Violent Crime Index = criminal homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

† Property Crime Index = burglary, theft, auto theft, and arson.

‡ Technical violations = violations of probation, parole, and valid court order.

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Minority youth accounted for 75% of juveniles held in custody for a violent offense in 2010

More than 6 in 10 juvenile offenders in residential placement were minority youth

In 2010, nearly 48,000 minority offenders were in residential placement in juvenile facilities across the country—68% of the placement population nationwide. Black youth accounted for 41% of all offenders in placement. Between 1997 and 2010, the population of offenders in residential placement dropped 33%—the number of white youth declined 42% and the number of minority youth declined 27%.

Juvenile offenders in placement, 2010:

Race/ethnicity	Number	Percent	Percent change
			1997–2010
Total	70,792	100%	-33%
White	22,947	32	-42
Minority	47,845	68	-27
Black	28,976	41	-31
Hispanic	15,590	22	-19
Amer. Indian	1,236	2	-23
Asian	728	1	-67
Two or more*	1,315	2	134

* Two or more races do not include youth of Hispanic ethnicity.

Minorities made up a smaller share of female than male residents

In 2010, minority youth made up the majority of males and females in residential placement. Whites made up 39% of female and 31% of male juvenile offenders in residential placement. Among males, black offenders represented the largest racial proportion (42%).

Racial/ethnic profile of residents, 2010:

Race/ethnicity	Total	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%
White	32	31	39
Minority	68	69	61
Black	41	42	36
Hispanic	22	23	18
Other	5	4	7

Black youth accounted for 66% of juveniles held for robbery and 52% of those held for weapons offenses

Most serious offense	Racial/ethnic profile of juvenile offenders in custody, 2010						
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian	Two or more
Total	100%	32%	41%	22%	2%	1%	2%
Delinquency	100	32	41	22	2	1	2
Criminal homicide	100	16	45	32	2	2	2
Sexual assault	100	53	27	16	2	1	1
Robbery	100	9	66	22	1	1	2
Aggravated assault	100	22	43	30	1	2	2
Simple assault	100	37	38	18	3	1	3
Burglary	100	33	45	18	1	1	0
Theft	100	38	42	16	1	1	0
Auto theft	100	33	41	21	2	1	0
Drug trafficking	100	28	47	23	1	0	0
Other drug	100	43	33	20	3	1	0
Weapons	100	16	52	28	1	1	0
Technical violations	100	33	36	27	2	1	0
Status offense	100	44	34	11	5	2	0

11% of white youth in custody were held for sexual assault, compared with 7% of American Indian, 5% of Hispanic, and 4% each of black and Asian youth

Most serious offense	Offense profile of juvenile offenders in custody, 2010						
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian	Two or more
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Delinquency	96	94	96	98	88	94	92
Criminal homicide	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
Sexual assault	7	11	4	5	7	4	5
Robbery	10	3	16	10	3	11	8
Aggravated assault	9	6	9	12	6	14	8
Simple assault	8	9	7	6	11	6	12
Burglary	10	10	11	9	8	11	10
Theft	5	6	5	4	4	5	5
Auto theft	3	4	4	3	4	5	3
Drug trafficking	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
Other drug	6	7	4	5	8	5	5
Weapons	4	2	5	5	2	5	4
Technical violations	16	16	14	20	16	13	15
Status offense	4	6	4	2	12	6	8

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Racial categories (i.e., white, black, American Indian, Asian, and two or more) do not include youth of Hispanic ethnicity. The American Indian racial category includes Alaska Natives; the Asian racial category includes other Pacific Islanders. Totals include a small number of youth for whom race/ethnicity was not reported.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Nationally, residential placement rates were highest for black youth

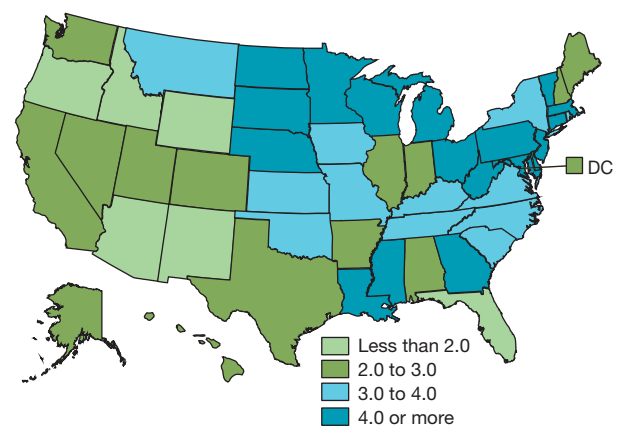
For every 100,000 black juveniles living in the U.S., 606 were in a residential facility on February 24, 2010; the rate was 228 for Hispanic youth and 128 for white youth

State of offense	Placement rate (per 100,000), 2010					State of offense	Placement rate (per 100,000), 2010				
	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian		White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
U.S. total	128	606	228	369	47	Missouri	141	587	167	89	29
Alabama	131	393	105	0	0	Montana	132	571	193	641	0
Alaska	228	643	0	647	181	Nebraska	218	1,715	431	1,201	223
Arizona	114	334	165	246	30	Nevada	155	725	225	556	81
Arkansas	142	535	231	102	61	New Hampshire	85	388	239	0	104
California	116	988	316	210	57	New Jersey	27	540	112	0	4
Colorado	205	1,201	296	589	70	New Mexico	159	651	287	193	101
Connecticut	27	361	148	285	0	New York	77	539	169	92	14
Delaware	89	705	176	0	0	North Carolina	60	249	63	106	15
Dist. of Columbia	171	501	279	0	0	North Dakota	178	448	0	1,028	0
Florida	203	652	76	51	47	Ohio	128	714	108	89	28
Georgia	76	462	123	0	19	Oklahoma	90	576	139	163	37
Hawaii	48	83	152	0	35	Oregon	275	1,213	359	568	79
Idaho	240	254	304	773	109	Pennsylvania	111	1,319	394	118	88
Illinois	107	478	116	693	17	Rhode Island	123	964	268	0	354
Indiana	207	719	169	138	51	South Carolina	128	451	73	159	0
Iowa	165	862	308	1,517	95	South Dakota	316	2,059	1,070	1,598	278
Kansas	173	1,040	309	228	36	Tennessee	64	294	72	157	55
Kentucky	135	578	179	0	0	Texas	123	530	191	94	16
Louisiana	97	473	34	0	0	Utah	154	660	304	513	132
Maine	131	448	229	244	0	Vermont	31	0	930	0	0
Maryland	47	322	79	0	9	Virginia	112	584	125	0	12
Massachusetts	54	404	265	0	39	Washington	138	624	202	466	61
Michigan	105	627	147	253	23	West Virginia	254	1,177	514	0	236
Minnesota	85	673	157	1,203	96	Wisconsin	110	1,064	104	380	159
Mississippi	38	190	33	0	0	Wyoming	403	1,080	594	649	0

- In every state but Vermont, the residential placement rate for black juvenile offenders exceeded the rate for whites.
- In more than half of all states, the ratio of the minority placement rate to the nonminority placement rate exceeded 3.5 to 1. In 4 states (Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Vermont), the ratio of minority to nonminority rates exceeded 8 to 1.

Note: The custody rate is the number of juvenile offenders in residential placement on February 24, 2010, per 100,000 juveniles age 10 through the upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction in each state. U.S. total includes 2,567 juvenile offenders in private facilities for whom state of offense was not reported. Race rates do not include youth of Hispanic ethnicity. The American Indian racial category includes Alaska Natives; the Asian racial category includes Other Pacific Islanders.

Ratio of minority custody rate to white rate



Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 [machine-readable data files].

On the 2010 census date, person offenders had been committed or detained longer than other offenders

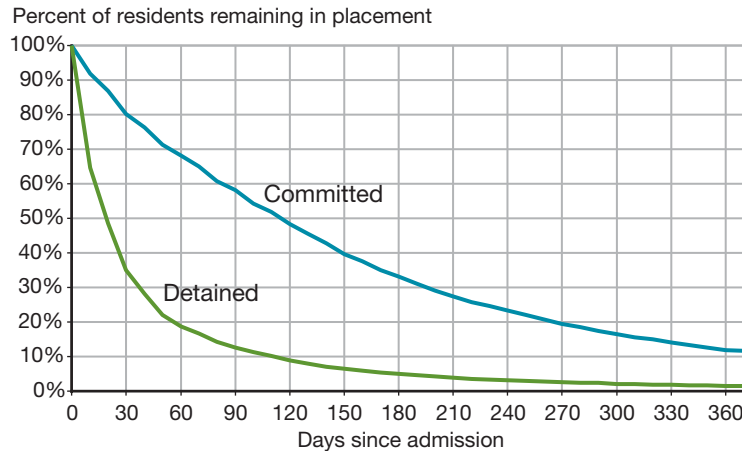
CJRP provides individual-level data on time spent in placement

Information on length of stay is key to understanding the justice system's handling of juveniles in residential placement. Ideally, length of stay would be calculated for individual juveniles by combining their days of stay in placement from their initial admission to their final release relating to a particular case. These individual lengths of placement could then be averaged for different release cohorts of juveniles (cohorts could be identified by year of release, offense, adjudication status, or demographic characteristics).

CJRP captures information on the number of days since admission for each juvenile in residential placement. These data represent the number of days the juvenile had been in the facility up to the census date. Because CJRP data reflect only a juvenile's placement at one facility, the complete length of stay—from initial admission to the justice system to final release—cannot be determined. Nevertheless, CJRP provides an overall profile of the time juveniles had been in the facility at the time of the census—a 1-day snapshot of time in the facility.

Because CJRP data are individual level rather than facility level, more averages can be calculated for different subgroups of the population. In addition, analysts can use the data to get a picture of the proportion of residents remaining after a certain number of days (e.g., what percentage of youth have been held longer than a year). This sort of analysis provides juvenile justice policymakers with a useful means of comparing the time spent in placement for different categories of juveniles.

In 2010, 33% of committed offenders but just 5% of detained offenders remained in placement 6 months after admission



- Among detained offenders (those awaiting adjudication, disposition, or placement elsewhere), 73% had been in the facility for at least a week, 56% for at least 15 days, and 35% for at least 30 days.
- Among committed juveniles (those held as part of a court-ordered disposition), 80% had been in the facility for at least 30 days, 68% for at least 60 days, and 58% for at least 90 days. After a year, 12% of committed offenders remained in placement.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Offenders' average time in the facility varied by adjudication status, offense, and facility type

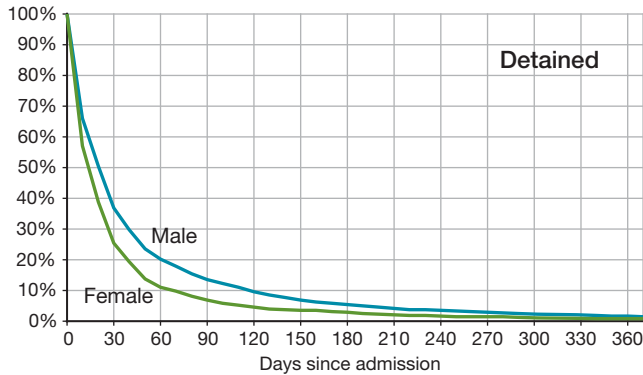
Most serious offense	Median days in placement		
	Detained (all facilities)	Committed	
		Public	Private
Total	19	106	127
Delinquency	19	107	127
Person	26	148	145
Property	16	98	121
Drugs	14	77	112
Public order	19	98	140
Technical violation	13	55	103
Status offense	13	71	128

- Half of offenders committed to public facilities remained in placement after 106 days (127 for private facilities). In contrast, half of detained offenders remained in placement after just 19 days.
- With the exception of person offenses, offenders committed to private facilities had been in the facilities longer than those committed to public facilities.
- Time in placement is driven by both punishment and treatment goals and, therefore, does not always coincide with offense seriousness. For example, among youth committed to private facilities, the average time in placement for status offenders was longer than the average for person offenders.

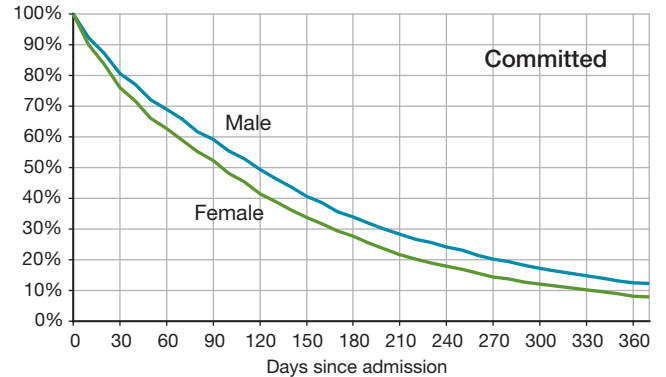
Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 [machine-readable data file].

Males tended to stay in facilities longer than females in 2010

Percent of residents remaining in placement



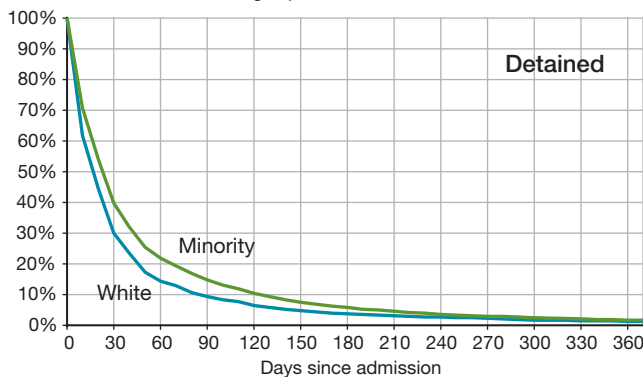
Percent of residents remaining in placement



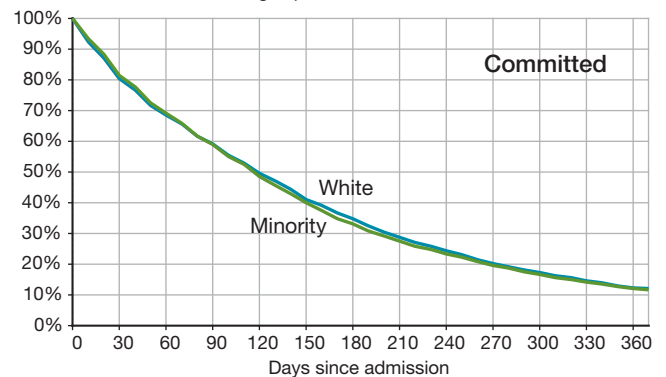
- Among detained females, 25% remained after 30 days, while 37% of detained males remained in residential placement after the same amount of time.
- After 60 days, 20% of detained males and 11% of detained females remained in residential placement.
- After 180 days (approximately half a year), 34% of committed males and 28% of committed females remained in residential placement.
- After a full year (365 days), 8% of committed females and 12% of committed males remained in residential placement.

For both minority and white youth, half of committed juveniles had been held in the facility at least 15 weeks (105 days)

Percent of residents remaining in placement



Percent of residents remaining in placement



- Among detained offenders, 28% of white youth had been in the facility at least 30 days, compared with 38% of minority youth.
- Among committed offenders, time in placement was virtually the same for white youth and minority youth.
- After 180 days, approximately one-third of both committed white and minority youth remained in custody.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 [machine-readable data files].

Although most residential facilities are small and private, most offenders are held in large public facilities

JRFC provides data on residential facility operations

In 2010, the Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC) collected data from 2,519 juvenile facilities. Analyses were based on data from 2,111 facilities, which held a total of 66,322 offenders younger than 21 on the census date (October 27, 2010) and excluded data from 6 facilities in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, 19 tribal facilities, and 383 facilities that held no juvenile offenders on the census date.

Local facilities are more numerous, but state facilities hold as many offenders

Historically, local facilities (those staffed by county, city, or municipal employees) held fewer juvenile offenders than state facilities, despite accounting for more than half of all public facilities. In recent years, the gap narrowed and, in 2010, local and state facilities held the same amount of offenders.

	Facilities		Juvenile offenders	
	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.
Total	2,111	100%	66,322	100%
Public	1,074	51	46,677	70
State	440	21	23,237	35
Local	634	30	23,440	35
Private	1,037	49	19,645	30

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

In 2010, facilities were asked if they were owned and/or operated by for-profit agencies. Of reporting facilities, only a small percentage said that they were owned (4%) or operated (7%) by these types of agencies. In both cases, these facilities tended to hold 100 or fewer residents and were most likely to classify themselves as residential treatment centers.

Residential treatment centers and group homes outnumber other types of facilities

JRFC asks respondents to identify the type of facility (e.g., detention center, shelter, reception/diagnostic center, group home/halfway house, boot camp, ranch/forestry/wilderness camp/marine program, training school/long-term secure facility, or residential treatment center). Respondents were allowed to select more than one facility type category, although the

vast majority (85%) selected only one. Slightly more than 760 facilities identified themselves as residential treatment centers and were holding juvenile offenders on the 2010 census date. Residential treatment centers made up 36% of all facilities and held 36% of juvenile offenders. Nearly 530 facilities identified themselves as group homes/halfway houses and were holding juvenile offenders. Group homes made up 25% of facilities and held 10% of juvenile offenders.

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

Facility operation	Total	Facility type						
		Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school	Residential treatment center
Number of facilities	2,111	705	137	72	528	68	188	763
Operations profile								
All facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Public	51	87	35	69	18	47	91	34
State	21	20	3	57	10	9	80	18
Local	30	67	32	13	9	38	11	15
Private	49	13	65	31	82	53	9	66
Facility profile								
All facilities	100%	33%	6%	3%	25%	3%	9%	36%
Public	100	57	4	5	9	3	16	24
State	100	33	1	9	12	1	34	32
Local	100	74	7	1	7	4	3	18
Private	100	9	9	2	42	3	2	49

- Detention centers, reception/diagnostic centers, and training schools were more likely to be public facilities than private facilities; however, a substantial proportion of reception/diagnostic centers were private.
- Most shelters were private facilities, as were group homes and residential treatment centers.
- Detention centers made up the largest proportion of all local facilities and more than half of all public facilities.
- Training schools constituted 34% of all state facilities.
- Group homes accounted for 42% of all private facilities.

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 OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

JRFC defines facility types

Detention center: a short-term facility that provides temporary care in a physically restricting environment for juveniles in custody pending court disposition and, often, for juveniles who are adjudicated delinquent and awaiting disposition or placement elsewhere, or are awaiting transfer to another jurisdiction.

Shelter: a short-term facility that provides temporary care similar to that of a detention center, but in a physically unrestricting environment. Includes runaway/homeless shelters and other types of shelters.

Reception/diagnostic center: a short-term facility that screens persons committed by the courts and assigns them to appropriate correctional facilities.

Group home: a long-term facility in which residents are allowed extensive contact with the community, such as attending school or holding a job. Includes halfway houses.

Ranch/wilderness camp: a long-term residential facility for persons whose behavior does not necessitate the strict confinement of a long-term secure facility, often allowing them greater contact with the community. Includes ranches, forestry camps, wilderness or marine programs, and farms.

Training school/long-term secure facility: a specialized type of facility that provides strict confinement for its residents. Includes training schools, reformatories, and juvenile correctional facilities.

Residential treatment center: a facility that focuses on providing some type of individually planned treatment program for youth (substance abuse, sex offender, mental health, etc.) in conjunction with residential care.

Other: includes independent living programs and anything that cannot be classified above.

Facilities varied in their degree of security

In 2010, 43% of facilities said that, at least some of the time, youth were locked in their sleeping rooms. Among public facilities, 78% of local facilities and 64% of state facilities reported locking youth in sleeping rooms. Few private facilities locked youth in sleeping rooms (9%).

	Percentage of facilities locking youth in sleeping rooms, 2010
Total	43%
Public	72
State	64
Local	78
Private	9

Note: Percentages are based on facilities that reported security information (152 of 2,111 facilities [7%] did not report).

Among facilities that locked youth in sleeping rooms, most did this at night (85%) or when a youth was out of control (79%). Locking doors whenever youth were in their sleeping rooms (59%) and locking youth in their rooms during shift changes (50%) were also fairly common. Fewer facilities reported locking youth in sleeping rooms for a part of each day (28%) or when they were suicidal (26%). Very few facilities locked youth in sleeping rooms most of each day (2%) 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 intended to confine youth within the facility. More than half of all facilities that reported security information said they had one or more confinement features (other than locked sleeping rooms). A greater proportion of public facilities (84%) than private facilities (26%) had confinement features.

	Percentage of facilities, 2010	
	No confinement features	One or more confinement features
Total	43%	57%
Public	16	84
State	15	85
Local	16	84
Private	74	26

Note: Percentages are based on facilities that reported security information (152 of 2,111 facilities [7%] did not report).

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

Facilities reporting one or more confinement features (other than locked sleeping rooms), 2010:

Facility type	Number	Percent
Total facilities	1,113	57%
Detention center	642	95
Shelter	33	25
Reception/ diagnostic center	55	79
Group home	76	16
Ranch/ wilderness camp	17	29
Training school	167	96
Residential treatment center	338	48

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

Among group homes, fewer than 1 in 5 facilities said they had locked doors or gates to confine youth. A facility's staff, of course, also provides security. In some facilities, a remote location is a security feature that also helps to keep youth from leaving.

Overall, 23% of facilities reported external gates in fences or walls with razor wire. This arrangement was most common among training schools (46%), detention centers (45%), and reception/diagnostic centers (36%).

Security increased as facility size increased

Among the largest facilities (those with more than 200 residents) that provided security information, 74% locked youth in their sleeping rooms to confine them at least some of the time. The vast majority of large facilities (80%) had one or more features (locked doors or gates) intended to confine youth.

Facility size	Percentage of facilities reporting, 2010		
	Youth locked in sleep rooms	One or more confinement features	Razor wire
Total facilities	43%	57%	23%
1–10 residents	22	31	7
11–20 residents	39	55	20
21–50 residents	55	71	30
51–100 residents	60	82	42
101–200 residents	75	85	43
201+ residents	74	80	60

Although the use of razor wire is a far less common security measure, 6 in 10 of the largest facilities said they had locked gates in fences or walls with razor wire.

Large facilities were most likely to be state operated

Few (13%) state-operated facilities (58 of 440) held 10 or fewer residents in 2010. In contrast, 45% of private facilities (468 of 1,037) were that small. In fact, these small private facilities made up the largest proportion of private facilities.

Facility size	Facility operation, 2010		
	State	Local	Private
Total facilities	440	634	1,037
1–10 residents	58	150	468
11–20 residents	95	152	234
21–50 residents	142	203	218
51–100 residents	71	89	83
101–200 residents	57	28	23
201+ residents	17	12	11

State-operated facilities made up just 21% of all facilities, and they accounted for 42% of facilities holding more than

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

Facility size	Number of facilities	Percentage of facilities	Number of juvenile offenders	Percentage of juvenile offenders
Total facilities	2,111	100%	66,322	100%
1–10 residents	676	32	3,500	5
11–20 residents	481	23	6,220	9
21–50 residents	563	27	16,340	25
51–100 residents	243	12	15,705	24
101–200 residents	108	5	13,928	21
201+ residents	40	2	10,629	16

- Although the largest facilities—those holding more than 200 residents—accounted for only 2% of all facilities, they held 16% of all juvenile offenders in custody.
- Inversely, although the smallest facilities—those holding 10 or fewer residents—accounted for 32% of all facilities, they held only 5% of all juvenile offenders in custody.

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

Small group homes holding 20 or fewer residents were the most common type of facility

Facility size	Facility type						
	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school	Residential treatment center
Number of facilities	705	137	72	528	68	188	763
Total facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
1–10 residents	22	53	11	65	7	3	20
11–20 residents	24	28	17	18	19	11	25
21–50 residents	34	14	28	12	40	29	33
51–100 residents	13	3	21	3	25	24	15
101–200 residents	6	1	17	1	6	23	4
201+ residents	3	1	7	1	3	10	2

- 65% of group homes and 53% of shelters held 10 or fewer residents. For other facility types, this proportion was less than 23%.
- 10% of training schools and 7% of reception/diagnostic centers held more than 200 residents. For other facility types, this proportion was less than 4%.

Note: Facility type counts sum to more than 2,111 facilities because facilities could select more than one facility type. Column percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

200 residents. Private facilities constituted 49% of all facilities, and they

accounted for 69% of facilities holding 10 or fewer residents.

Facility crowding affected a substantial proportion of youth in residential placement

Many juvenile offenders were in facilities with more residents than standard beds

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 passes 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.

Twenty percent (20%) of facilities said that the number of residents they held on the 2010 census date put them at or over the capacity of their standard beds or that they relied on some makeshift beds. These facilities held more than 12,001 residents, the vast majority of whom were offenders younger than 21. Thus, 15% of all residents held on the census date and 16% of offenders younger than 21 were held in facilities operating at or above their standard bed capacity. In comparison, such facilities held 21% of all residents in 2008, and they held 40% in 2000. In 2010, 2% of facilities reported being over capacity (having fewer standard beds than they had residents or relying on makeshift beds). These facilities held 3% of juvenile offenders.

Compared with other types of facilities, public training schools, detention centers, and reception/diagnostic centers were more likely to be over their standard bed capacity

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	18%	12%	25%	2%	3%	0%
Detention center	10	9	13	4	4	2
Shelter	10	8	11	0	0	0
Reception/ diagnostic center	11	8	18	3	4	0
Group home	30	16	33	0	1	0
Ranch/wilderness camp	15	19	11	0	0	0
Training school	11	9	29	4	5	0
Residential treatment center	22	17	24	1	2	0

The largest facilities 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	2,111	80%	18%	2%	6
1–10 residents	676	77	22	1	2
11–20 residents	481	80	19	1	2
21–50 residents	563	79	18	2	3
51–100 residents	243	86	11	4	4
101–200 residents	108	83	10	6	17
201+ residents	40	93	5	3	16

Note: A single bed is counted as one standard bed and a bunk bed is counted as two standard beds. Makeshift beds (e.g., cots, roll-out 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 OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

43 states held fewer juvenile offenders in 2010 than in 2008

Overall, the juvenile offender residential placement population dropped 18% from 2008 to 2010. States with declines held an average of 19% fewer juvenile offenders on the census date in 2010 than in 2008—ranging from 46% in Vermont to 3% in Arizona.

Among the seven states that had more juveniles in residential placement in 2010 than in 2008, the average growth was 27%. The number of juvenile offenders at facilities in North Dakota more than doubled (127%). Five states had increases of 13% or less (Alaska, District of Columbia, Maryland, Missouri, and Montana), and New Mexico reported an increase of 23%. Rhode Island reported virtually no change in their custody population between 2008 and 2010.

Public facilities were more likely than private facilities to be crowded

Among publicly operated facilities, 3% exceeded standard bed capacity or had residents occupying makeshift beds on the 2010 census date. For privately operated facilities, the proportion was less than 1%. However, a larger proportion of private facilities (25%) compared to public facilities (12%) said they were operating at 100% capacity.

State-operated public facilities had a slightly greater proportion of facilities

that exceeded capacity (4%) than did locally operated facilities (3%).

Facility operation	Percentage of facilities at or over their standard bed capacity, 2010		
	≥100%	100%	>100%
Total	20%	18%	2%
Public	15	12	3
State	18	13	4
Local	13	10	3
Private	25	25	0

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

Use of makeshift beds varied widely

About 40 facilities reported having occupied makeshift beds, averaging 6 such beds per facility. Some facilities rely on makeshift beds, whereas many others operate well below standard bed capacity. On average, there were 3 unoccupied standard beds per facility. This average masks a wide range: 1 facility with 122 residents had 72 standard beds and 50 residents without standard beds; another facility with 432 standard beds had 253 residents, leaving 179 unoccupied beds.

Nationwide, 422 juvenile facilities (20%) were at or over their standard capacity or relied on makeshift beds

State	Total facilities	Number of facilities under, at, or over capacity			Percentage of juvenile offenders in facilities at or over capacity		State	Total facilities	Number of facilities under, at, or over capacity			Percentage of juvenile offenders in facilities at or over capacity	
		<100%	100%	>100%	100%	>100%			<100%	100%	>100%	100%	>100%
U.S. total	2,111	1,689	383	39	13%	3%	Missouri	64	42	17	5	27%	13%
Alabama	49	44	5	0	5	0	Montana	15	13	2	0	6	0
Alaska	19	18	1	0	3	0	Nebraska	12	9	1	2	0	17
Arizona	40	33	6	1	8	1	Nevada	22	14	6	2	12	28
Arkansas	33	24	8	1	31	6	New Hampshire	7	5	2	0	11	0
California	202	138	62	2	16	1	New Jersey	39	35	4	0	3	0
Colorado	45	40	3	2	4	13	New Mexico	22	20	1	1	16	10
Connecticut	10	10	0	0	0	0	New York	126	96	29	1	9	0
Delaware	7	6	1	0	8	0	North Carolina	41	33	7	1	11	1
Dist. of Columbia	9	6	1	2	5	78	North Dakota	14	10	4	0	29	0
Florida	97	73	22	2	18	1	Ohio	77	59	13	5	20	10
Georgia	33	28	1	4	2	16	Oklahoma	36	20	16	0	27	0
Hawaii	5	5	0	0	0	0	Oregon	44	35	9	0	22	0
Idaho	20	20	0	0	0	0	Pennsylvania	131	98	32	1	21	3
Illinois	40	39	1	0	1	0	Rhode Island	11	4	7	0	29	0
Indiana	70	60	9	1	8	1	South Carolina	21	18	3	0	5	0
Iowa	63	52	11	0	13	0	South Dakota	24	20	4	0	20	0
Kansas	34	22	10	2	11	10	Tennessee	38	30	7	1	8	3
Kentucky	33	27	6	0	14	0	Texas	97	89	6	2	2	5
Louisiana	34	27	6	1	31	2	Utah	28	22	6	0	20	0
Maine	4	4	0	0	0	0	Vermont	3	3	0	0	0	0
Maryland	30	21	9	0	39	0	Virginia	52	48	3	1	5	1
Massachusetts	52	44	8	0	16	0	Washington	34	29	5	0	14	0
Michigan	63	59	4	0	4	0	West Virginia	26	21	5	0	23	0
Minnesota	55	49	6	0	13	0	Wisconsin	66	54	12	0	11	0
Mississippi	17	16	1	0	1	0	Wyoming	16	14	2	0	5	0

Note: A single bed is counted as one standard bed, and a bunk bed is counted as two standard beds. Makeshift beds (e.g., cots, roll-out 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. Offenders 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 2010* [machine-readable data file].

Most youth are in facilities that screen for educational needs, substance abuse, and mental health needs

Facilities that screened all youth for educational needs held 86% of the offenders in placement

As part of the information collected on educational services, the JRFC questionnaire asked facilities about their procedures regarding educational screening. In 2010, 87% of facilities that reported educational screening information said that they evaluated all youth for grade level and educational needs. An additional 5% evaluated some youth. Only 9% did not evaluate any youth for educational needs.

Of the 91 facilities in 2010 that screened some but not all youth, 73% evaluated youth whom staff identified as needing an assessment; 61% evaluated youth with known educational problems; 55% evaluated youth for whom no educational record was available; and 16% evaluated youth who came directly from home rather than another facility.

In 2010, those facilities that screened all youth held 86% of the juvenile offenders in placement. An additional 3% of juvenile offenders in 2010 were in facilities that screened some youth.

The vast majority of facilities (89%) that screened some or all youth for grade level and educational needs used previous academic records. Some facilities also administered written tests (67%) or conducted an education-related interview with an education specialist (61%), intake counselor (38%), or guidance counselor (25%).

Most facilities reported that youth in their facility attended school

Ninety-two percent (92%) 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

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	200+
Total facilities	2,111	676	481	563	243	108	40
Facilities reporting	1,959	624	456	519	226	99	35
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth screened	87	75	89	94	94	96	100
Some youth screened	5	8	4	3	4	3	0
No youth screened	9	18	7	3	3	1	0

■ The largest facilities evaluated all youth for grade level in 2010.

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [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 facilities	2,111	1,701	91	100%	95%
Less than 24 hours	385	378	7	21	21	0
24 hours to 7 days	1,383	1,334	49	77	74	3
7 or more days	177	151	26	10	8	1
Other	73	55	18	4	3	1
No youth evaluated (or not reported)	319	—	—	—	—	—

Note: Facilities sum to more than 2,111 because they were able to select more than one time period.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

(73% of facilities) accounted for 72% of the juvenile offender population in residential placement. Ranch/wilderness camps were the least likely to report that all youth attended school (63%) and the most likely to report that no youth attended school (15%). Facilities with 11-20 residents and 21-50

residents were most likely to report that all youth attended school (77% each), while facilities with 200+ residents were least likely (58%) to have all youth attend school. Facilities reporting that no youth attended school (8%) accounted for 9% of all juvenile offenders in residential placement.

Facilities offered a variety of educational services

Facilities that provide both middle and high school-level education housed 83% of all juvenile offenders. Ninety-one percent (91%) of all facilities provided high school-level education, and 84% provided middle school-level education. Most facilities also reported offering special education services (82%) and GED preparation (71%). A much smaller percentage of facilities provided vocational or technical education (38%) and post-high school education (31%).

Facilities that screened all youth for substance abuse problems held 66% of offenders in custody

In 2010, 70% of facilities that reported substance abuse evaluation information said that they evaluated all youth, 17% said that some youth were evaluated, and 13% did not evaluate any youth.

Of the 330 facilities that evaluated some but not all youth, 85% evaluated youth that the court or a probation officer identified as potentially having substance abuse problems, 74% evaluated youth that facility staff identified as potentially having substance abuse problems, and 57% evaluated youth charged with or adjudicated for a drug or alcohol-related offense.

Those facilities that screened all youth held 66% of the juvenile offenders in custody. An additional 16% of juvenile offenders were in facilities that screened some youth.

The most common form of substance abuse evaluation was staff-administered questions

The majority of facilities (74%) that evaluated some or all youth for substance abuse problems did so by having staff administer a series of questions that ask about substance use and abuse, 59% evaluated youth by visual

observation, 52% evaluated youth by using a self-report checklist inventory that asks about substance use and abuse, and 41% said they used a standardized self-report instrument such as the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory.

Drug testing was a routine procedure in most facilities in 2010

As part of the information collected on substance abuse services, facilities were asked if any youth were required to undergo drug testing after arrival in their facility. The majority of facilities (73%) reported that at least some youth were required to undergo drug testing. Of facilities that reported that all or some youth were tested, the reason for testing was most commonly due to a request from the court or probation officer (62% for facilities that tested all youth, 72% for facilities that tested youth suspected of recent drug or alcohol use, and 69% for facilities that tested youth with substance abuse problems).

Circumstances of testing	Percentage of facilities
All youth	
After initial arrival	26%
At each reentry	23
Randomly	31
When drug use is suspected or drug is present	52
At the request of the court or probation officer	62
Youth suspected of recent drug/alcohol use	
After initial arrival	34%
At each reentry	26
Randomly	33
When drug use is suspected or drug is present	59
At the request of the court or probation officer	72
Youth with substance abuse problems	
After initial arrival	27%
At each reentry	26
Randomly	35
When drug use is suspected or drug is present	53
At the request of the court or probation officer	69

In 2010, substance abuse education was the most common service provided at facilities

Of the facilities holding more than 200 residents that reported providing substance abuse services, all provided substance abuse education and were more likely than smaller facilities to have special living units in which all young persons have substance abuse offense and/or problems.

The majority of facilities that provided counseling or therapy were most likely to provide these services on an individual basis. In 2010, shelters were most likely to provide individual counseling and individual therapy. Training schools were the most likely to provide group counseling and 100% of reception/diagnostic centers reported providing group therapy. Across facility types, family counseling or therapy was the least likely substance abuse service provided.

In approximately 6 of 10 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 2010, 57% reported that they evaluated all youth for mental health needs and 42% evaluated some but not all youth. Only 1% said that they did not evaluate any youth (either inside or outside the facility) during their stay.

Profile of in-house mental health evaluations:

Youth evaluated	2000	2010
Facilities reporting	2,201	1,584
Total	100%	100%
All youth	50	57
Some youth	36	42
No youth	14	1

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

In 2010, a greater proportion of privately operated than publicly operated facilities said that in-house mental health professionals evaluated all youth (79% vs. 49% of facilities reporting mental health evaluation information).

Profile of in-house mental health evaluations, 2010:

Youth evaluated	Public	Private
Facilities reporting	889	695
Total	100%	100%
All youth	49	79
Some youth	51	21

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

Facilities also identified themselves according to the type of treatment they provided (if any). Facilities that said they provided mental health treatment inside the facility were more likely than other facilities to have a mental health professional evaluate all youth (66% vs. 34% of those reporting mental health evaluation information).

Profile of in-house mental health evaluations, 2010:

Youth evaluated	Onsite mental health treatment?	
	Yes	No
Facilities reporting	1,410	174
Total	100%	100%
All youth	66	34
Some youth	34	66

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

Evaluation of all youth by an in-house mental health professional was more likely in small facilities than in large facilities

Among facilities that reported mental health information, 66% of those with 1–10 residents said that all youth were evaluated for mental health needs by a mental health professional. In comparison, proportions were smaller for facilities that housed more residents (e.g., 59% for facilities with 200 or more residents).

Group homes and residential treatment centers were more likely than other types of facilities to have in-house mental health professionals evaluate all youth for mental health needs in 2010

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	705	137	72	528	68	188	763
Facilities reporting	570	80	66	331	43	169	638
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth evaluated	34	40	71	79	56	74	77
Some youth evaluated	66	60	29	21	44	26	23

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

The most common approach to in-house mental health evaluation in 2010 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	As a percentage of facilities that evaluated youth in-house for mental health needs			As a percentage of juvenile offenders in facilities that provided in-house evaluation for mental health needs		
	Facilities that evaluated	All youth evaluated	Some youth evaluated	Facilities that evaluated	All youth evaluated	Some youth evaluated
Total facilities reporting	100%	62%	38%	100%	100%	100%
Less than 24 hours	39	29	10	47	33	14
24 hours to 7 days	39	29	10	34	23	11
7 or more days	6	3	3	5	3	2
Other	16	2	14	15	2	13

■ In 58% of facilities that reported using an in-house mental health professional to perform mental health evaluations, all youth were evaluated for mental health needs by the end of their first week in custody.

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

Suicide risk screening for all youth on their first day was common, accounting for 86% of facilities and 91% of youth

Facilities that screened all youth for suicide risk held 93% of the juvenile offenders 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 2010, 89% of facilities that reported information on suicide screening said that they evaluated all youth for suicide risk. An additional 3% said that they evaluated some youth. The proportion of facilities reporting that all youth are evaluated for suicide risk increased 27 percentage points from 2000 to 2010. Fewer facilities in 2010 than in 2000 said they evaluated no youth for suicide risk.

Suicide screening profile:

Facilities	2000	2010
Total facilities	3,051	2,111
Facilities reporting	2,754	1,959
Total facilities	100%	100%
All youth screened	62	89
Some youth screened	24	3
No youth screened	15	7

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

In 2010, a greater proportion of public than private facilities said that they evaluated all youth for suicide risk (94% vs. 84%). Among facilities that reported suicide screening information, those that screened all youth for suicide risk held 93% of juvenile offenders who were in residential placement—up from 78% in 2000.

Suicide screening profile:

Juvenile offenders	2000	2010
Total juvenile offenders	110,284	66,322
Offenders in reporting facilities	104,956	60,678
Total offenders	100%	100%
All youth screened	78	93
Some youth screened	16	3
No youth screened	6	5

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

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, 65% reported placing at-risk youth in sleeping or observation rooms that are locked or under staff security. Aside from using sleeping or observation rooms, equal proportions of facilities

(83%) reported using line-of-sight supervision and removing personal items that could be used to attempt suicide, and approximately 7 in 10 facilities (71%) reported using one-on-one or arm's length supervision. More than 4 in 10 facilities (42%) reported using special clothing designed to prevent suicide attempts, and 33% reported removing the youth from the general population. Twenty-one percent (21%) of facilities used restraints to prevent suicide attempts and 18% of facilities used special clothing to identify youth at risk for suicide.

In 2010, the majority (91%) 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	Total	When suicide risk screening occurs				Never or not reported
		Less than 24 hours	24 hours to 7 days	7 days or more	Other	
Number of facilities:						
All	2,111	1,602	162	13	44	290
All youth screened	1,753	1,563	147	11	32	—
Some youth screened	68	39	15	2	12	—
Percentage of facilities that screened:						
Total	100%	88%	9%	1%	2%	—
All youth screened	96	86	8	1	2	—
Some youth screened	4	2	1	0	1	—
Number of juvenile offenders:						
In all facilities	66,322	53,067	3,125	178	1,469	8,483
In facilities that screened all youth	56,316	52,438	2,914	166	798	—
In facilities that screened some youth	1,523	629	211	12	671	—
Percentage of juvenile offenders:						
In facilities that screened all youth	100%	92%	5%	0%	3%	—
In facilities that screened some youth	3	1	0	0	1	—

■ More than 9 in 10 facilities (94%) that reported screening for suicide risk said they conducted the screenings for all youth by the end of the first week of the youth's stay at the facility. A large portion (86%) said they conducted screenings for all youth on the youth's first day at the facility. These facilities accounted for 91% of juvenile offenders held in facilities that conducted suicide screenings.

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [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 2010:

- 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?

One-fifth of facilities (20%) 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	2,111	1,959	20%
Detention center	705	679	3
Shelter	137	132	38
Reception/diagnostic center	72	70	21
Group home	528	479	35
Ranch/wilderness camp	68	58	24
Training school	188	174	9
Residential treatment center	763	698	26

- Less secure facility types were more likely to report unauthorized departures.

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

Nearly 1 in 4 facilities reported using mechanical restraints; 1 in 5 reported locking youth in some type of isolation

Facility type	Percentage of reporting facilities	
	Used mechanical restraints	Locked youth in room for 4 or more hours
Total facilities	23%	22%
Detention center	41	47
Shelter	4	4
Reception/diagnostic center	47	32
Group home	1	1
Ranch/wilderness camp	28	12
Training school	72	47
Residential treatment center	14	10

- Training schools were the most likely type of facility 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 and 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 facility type least likely to use either of these measures.

Note: Percentages are based on 1,958 facilities that reported mechanical restraints information and locked isolation information, of a total 2,111 facilities.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

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

Reason for ER visit	Percentage of facilities
Total	33%
Injury:	
Sports-related	42
Work/chore-related	2
Interpersonal conflict (between residents)	21
Interpersonal conflict (by nonresident)	4
Illness	37
Pregnancy:	
Complications	5
Labor and delivery	1
Suicide attempt	6
Non-emergency:	
No other health professional available	13
No doctor's appointment could be obtained	10
Other	25

Note: Percentages are based on facilities that reported emergency room information (32 of 2,111 facilities [1%] did not report).

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

Facilities reported 11 deaths of juvenile offenders in residential placement over 12 months—5 were suicides

Juvenile offenders rarely die in custody

Juvenile facilities holding juvenile offenders reported that 11 youth died while in the legal custody of the facility between October 1, 2009, and September 30, 2010. Each death occurred at a different facility.

Routine collection of national data on deaths of juveniles in custody began with the 1988/89 Children in Custody Census of Public and Private Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and Shelter Facilities. Either accidents or suicides have always been the leading cause of death. Over the years 1988–1994, an average of 46 deaths were reported nationally per year, including an annual average of 18 suicides. Over the years 2000–2010, those averages dropped to 20 deaths overall and 8 suicides. In 2006, the number of suicides that were reported by residential facilities (four) was at the lowest level since OJJDP first started collecting data from JRFC in 2000. There were five suicides reported in 2010.

Detention centers and residential treatment centers reported equal numbers of deaths in 2010 (four each). Detention centers accounted for two deaths due to illness, one suicide, and one death as a result of an accident. Residential treatment centers accounted for two deaths as the result of an illness, one suicide, and one death as the result of an unknown cause. Group homes accounted for 2 of the 11 deaths; both were suicides. Training schools accounted for 1 of the 11 deaths—a suicide.

Generally, suicides did not occur in the first days of a youth's stay

One suicide occurred 2 days after the youth was admitted to the facility, one occurred 4 weeks after admission, one occurred 23 weeks after admission, and the remaining two suicides

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

Cause of death	Total	Inside the facility			Outside the facility		
		All	Public	Private	All	Public	Private
Total	11	6	5	1	5	1	4
Suicide	5	3	3	0	2	0	2
Illness/natural	4	1	1	0	3	1	2
Accident	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/unknown	1	1	0	1	0	0	0

■ The deaths from illness were not AIDS related.

Note: Data are reported deaths of youth in custody from October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

In 2010, the death rate was generally higher for private facilities than for public facilities

Cause of death	Deaths per 10,000 juveniles held on the census date, October 27, 2010		
	Total	Public facility	Private facility
Total	1.6	1.3	2.5
Suicide	0.7	0.6	1.0
Illness/natural	0.6	0.4	1.0
Accident	0.1	0.2	0.0
Homicide	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.1	0.0	0.5

Type of facility	Deaths per 10,000 juveniles held on the census date, October 27, 2010		
	Total	Public facility	Private facility
Detention center	1.4	1.6	0.0
Training school	0.6	0.7	0.0
Group home	3.1	8.4	1.9
Residential treatment center	1.6	0.0	3.1

■ The death rate in 2010 (1.6) was substantially lower than that in 2000 (2.8).

There were 30 reported deaths of youth in custody in 2000; accidents were the most commonly reported cause. In 2010, suicides were the most commonly reported cause (followed closely by illness/natural death).

Note: Data are reported deaths of youth in custody from October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

occurred just over 1 year after admission. The least number of days since admission for deaths was the suicide that occurred 2 days after admission

and the greatest number of days was a death as a result of an illness after the youth had been in custody for 514 days (about a year and a half). The

JRFC asks facilities about deaths of young persons at locations inside and/or outside the facility

During the year between October 1, 2009, and September 30, 2010, 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, 2009, and September 30, 2010?

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?

Of the total deaths in custody, 5 of 11 deaths involved white non-Hispanic males; none involved females

Race/ethnicity	Cause of death											
	Total		Suicide		Illness/natural		Accident		Homicide		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	11	0	5	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
White non-Hispanic	5	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Black non-Hispanic	4	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other race/ethnicity	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Data are reported deaths of youth in custody from October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2010* [machine-readable data file].

overall median number of days since admission for deaths of juveniles in custody was 159.

Are youth in residential placement at greater risk of death than youth in general?

There is concern about the risk of death to youth in residential placement and whether that risk is greater than the risk faced by youth in the general population. Death rates for the general population (detailed by age, sex, race, ethnicity, and cause of death) can be applied to the population of juvenile offenders held in residential placement

facilities to calculate the number of deaths that would be expected if the residential placement population had the same rate of death as the general population.

Number of deaths in juvenile facilities, 2010:

Cause of death	Expected	Actual
All deaths	39	11
Suicide	8	5
Homicide	13	0
Unintentional	18	6

Note: Totals include causes not detailed. Homicide includes deaths from legal intervention. Unintentional includes illness, accidents, etc.

Overall, the actual deaths reported to JRFC were substantially lower than the expected number of deaths. The expected number of deaths was 3.5 times the actual number of deaths. Even the expected number of suicides was greater than the actual number of suicides. Residential placement facilities substantially reduce the risk of death from homicide and from accidents.

The Juvenile Residential Facility Census includes data submitted by tribal facilities

Tribal facilities responding to the JRFC tend to be small detention centers owned and operated by tribes

OJJDP worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to ensure a greater representation of tribal facilities in the CJRP and JRFC data collections. As a result, the 2010 JRFC collected data from 20 tribal facilities (up from 8 in 2008). Of the 20 facilities, 19 held juvenile offenders on the census date. The 19 held a total of 235 juvenile offenders (up from 101 in 8 facilities in 2008).

Of the reporting tribal facilities holding juvenile offenders, 10 were owned and operated by the tribe, 3 were owned and operated by the federal government, 1 was owned by the tribe and operated by the federal government, and 1 was owned by the federal government and operated by the tribe. Two facilities were owned by the tribe but operated by an ‘other’ organization (Bureau of Indian Affairs and Public Law 93-638 contract). One facility did not report ownership information but was privately operated. The remaining facility did not report ownership or operation information.

Compared with the nation’s reporting about juvenile residential facilities, tribal facilities are small. All 19 reporting tribal facilities holding juvenile offenders identified themselves as detention centers. One facility also identified itself as an ‘other’ type of facility. They held from 28 to 109 residents, with 42% of facilities holding between 11 and 20 residents.

Crowding occurs at very few tribal detention centers

Most tribal facilities reporting to the JRFC have generally not had crowding problems. In each census year, most tribal facilities were operating below their standard bed capacity. On the 2010 census day, almost all facilities

(17) were operating at less than their standard bed capacity, one was operating at capacity, and one exceeded capacity. This pattern was similar for all census years prior to 2010. Standard bed capacities ranged from 13 to 186, but only 2 facilities had more than 100 beds.

The use of mechanical restraints or locking youth in isolation rooms is uncommon in tribal facilities

In all census years, most, if not all, reporting tribal facilities said they did lock youth in their rooms. Seventeen of the 19 tribal facilities reported locking youth in their sleeping rooms. Among tribal facilities that locked youth in their rooms, most (16 facilities) did so at night, 11 did so when youth were out of control, 10 did so when youth were in their sleeping rooms, 9 did so during shift changes, and 7 did so when a youth was considered suicidal. Three facilities locked youth in their room all day and one facility reported rarely locking youth in their room.

In each JRFC collection, only a few tribal facilities reported using either mechanical restraints or isolation. In 2010, use of mechanical restraints was reported by 5 of 19 tribal facilities, and 3 facilities reported locking youth alone for more than 4 hours to regain control of unruly behavior.

Tribal facilities provide a range of services

Of the 19 tribal facilities with juvenile offenders, 15 reported assessing youth for suicide risk. Each facility said that the screening occurs within the first 24 hours of the youth’s arrival to the facility. Of the 15 facilities, 13 reported that all youth were screened for suicide risk. Eleven facilities said they reassessed suicide risk: 2 reassessed during youth’s first week of stay, 7 reassessed youth as necessary on a case-by-case

basis, and 4 reassessed systematically based on the youth’s length of stay or after certain facility events or negative life events (such as after each court appearance, every time the young person re-enters the facility, or after a death in the family).

Most (13) of the 15 facilities screening for suicide risk used untrained staff for those screenings, but trained screeners were also used: 2 facilities said mental health professionals conduct suicide screenings, and 4 said screenings were done by staff that were trained by a mental health professional. All 19 tribal facilities said they took preventative measures to reduce suicide risk.

Of the 17 tribal facilities reporting information on substance abuse services, 10 said they evaluated youth for substance abuse; 6 of those 10 said they evaluated all youth. Five facilities said they require youth to provide urine samples for drug analysis. All 10 facilities that evaluated for substance abuse provided substance abuse services either inside or outside the facility.

Thirteen of the 14 tribal facilities reporting mental health information said that mental health evaluations (other than suicide risk assessments) were provided to youth in their facilities. Two tribal facilities reported evaluating all youth and two facilities evaluated some youth. Five facilities said that evaluations were conducted only at an outside location. All 14 of these facilities reported providing ongoing therapy either onsite or at another location.

Of 17 tribal facilities reporting education information, 12 said that either all youth (11 facilities) or some youth (1 facility) were evaluated for educational needs. Just over half of these facilities conducted evaluations within 24 hours of the youth’s arrival at the facility. Most reporting tribal facilities (14) reported that youth attended school either inside or outside the facility; in 10 facilities, all youth attended school.

Interview data shed light on youth experiences in residential placement

Interviews with youth in placement for delinquent offenses reveal information not otherwise available

The Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP) is the third component of OJJDP's multi-tiered effort to collect information on youth involved in the juvenile justice system. SYRP gathers information directly from youth through anonymous interviews. SYRP surveys a national sample of youth ages 10–20 in placement because they are accused or adjudicated for offenses. Because it represents all state, local, and private facilities covered by OJJDP's Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement and Juvenile Residential Facility Census surveys, it includes both short- and long-term facilities and the full spectrum of facility programs (correctional, detention, camps, and residential treatment) and

Comparing residential facility data collections

Both SYRP and CJRP gather information about youth in residential placement. CJRP surveys residential facility administrators, while SYRP directly interviews youth. Although both collections focus on the same facilities, different terminology is used to describe some facility types. For example, long-term secure facilities (e.g., training schools) in CJRP are referred to as correctional units in the SYRP analyses. Shelters, group homes, half-way houses, and independent living programs are grouped together in SYRP analyses and referred to as community-based units.

SYRP and CJRP also differ in the frequency of data collection. SYRP has been conducted once so far, in 2003. CJRP has been conducted eight times since 1997.

community-based programs such as shelters, group homes, and independent living.

The only SYRP completed to date interviewed 7,073 youth in 2003 from 205 representative facilities. Surveys were electronic and used an audio computer-assisted self-interview system to ask questions and record answers. Youth were surveyed in small groups, seated so they could not view each other's computer screens. SYRP provides important information about conditions of confinement and youth's experiences in placement.

Youth were unevenly distributed by sex and race/ethnicity across different types of facilities

In 2003, females comprised 15% of the youth in placement but 29% of the youth in residential treatment programs. Considered another way, 27% of all females in placement were in residential treatment programs, compared with 12% of all males in placement.

Black youth in placement were more likely to be in correctional programs (42%) compared with white and Hispanic youth (24% and 31%, respectively). In contrast, more Hispanic youth were in camp programs (17%) compared with white or black youth (7% each). White youth were more likely to be in residential treatment programs (20%) than were black or Hispanic youth (9% each). Similar percentages of the three principal race/ethnicity groups were in detention and community-based programs.

Many youth in placement reported gang involvement

The presence of gangs in a facility can exacerbate conflicts and disruptions and complicate facility operations. In 2003, 31% of youth in placement professed some gang affiliation. This included 28% of youth who said they

were members of a gang at the time of the offense that led to their current placement. SYRP also asks youth whether there are gangs in their facility and whether they currently belong to a gang in the facility. The majority of youth in residential placement (60%) said there were gangs in their facility, and nearly 1 in 5 (19%) self-identified as a current member of a gang within the facility. More than one-third of current gang members (37%) claimed that being in a gang made them safer inside the facility, but 16% admitted that they felt pressured by the gang to do things they would not normally do.

A majority of youth in placement reported past serious trauma

In 2003, 70% of youth in placement said that they had "something very bad or terrifying happen" to them, and 67% said that they had "seen someone injured or killed (in person—not in the movies or on TV)."

Nearly one-third (30%) of the placement population indicated a history of prior abuse, whether frequent or injurious physical abuse (25%), sexual abuse (12%), or both (7% overlap). Analyses of SYRP data indicate significant correlations between youth's histories of past abuse and suicide-related indicators, both recent suicidal feelings and past suicide attempts.

Nearly 1 in 6 youth had been offered contraband

SYRP asks youth if they have been offered any prohibited items such as alcohol, drugs, and weapons. In 2003, 16% of youth in placement said they had been offered such contraband since they arrived at their facility. Youth most frequently had been offered marijuana (12%) and other illegal drugs (10%). Most of these youth said other residents offered the contraband. More residents in community-based programs reported offers of contraband

(26%). These offers came from both other residents (16%) and from outside the facility (13%). Additionally, males reported being offered contraband twice as often as females (18% vs. 9%).

Many youth in placement said they were treated unfairly

Half of youth in placement reported that staff punished residents without cause, and 34% claimed that staff used unnecessary force. One-third of youth in placement reported a problem with the grievance process; they either did not know how to file a complaint (19%) or were concerned about retribution if they did so (20%). Just over one-third (34%) reported that staff treated residents fairly, and 30% said punishments were fair.

Most youth knew how to find supportive facility staff and most had family contact, but less than half had a lawyer

Eighty-four percent (84%) of youth in placement said they knew how to find a staff member to talk to if they were upset.

Nearly all youth in placement (92%) reported that since arriving at their facility, they had some contact with their families, through either phone calls or visits. Nearly 9 in 10 youth talked with

their family on the telephone, and about 7 in 10 had an in-person visit. The percentage of youth in contact with family varied by program type, with fewer youth in corrections and camp programs having any contact, and those who did reporting less frequent family contact.

Many youth were placed in facilities far from their families. The majority (59%) of youth in placement said that it would take their families 1 hour or more to travel to visit them, while 28% said their families would have to travel 3 hours or more to see them.

Less than half (42%) of youth in placement reported that they had a lawyer, 20% reported they requested contact with a lawyer, and 13% reported they requested and received access to a lawyer.

More than 1 in 3 youth said they had been isolated, most for lengthy periods

In describing their experiences of discipline, 35% of youth reported being isolated—locked up alone or confined to their room with no contact with other residents. The vast majority of youth who were isolated (87%) said this was for longer than 2 hours, and more than half (55%) said it was for longer than 24 hours.

Best-practices guidelines recommend that solitary confinement exceed 24 hours only if the facility director explicitly approves and that youth who are held in solitary confinement for longer than 2 hours see a counselor. SYRP has no information on procedures for approving lengthy times in solitary confinement but did ask youth whether they talked to a counselor about their feelings or emotions. Most (52%) of those isolated longer than 2 hours indicated they had not met with a counselor since coming to their facility.

SYRP asked youth in placement to report their experience with methods of physical control

OJJDP's Performance-Based Standards dictate using a restraint chair or pepper spray only as a last resort following appropriate protocol. SYRP indicates that these practices, although infrequent, were used—4% of youth said that facility staff placed them into a restraint chair and 7% reported that staff used pepper spray on them.

These practices indirectly affect a much larger segment of youth in placement. Thirty percent (30%) of youth in placement lived in units where one or more residents experienced the use of pepper spray, and 29% of youth lived with one or more residents who received time in a restraint chair.

More than half of youth reported experiencing theft or violence while in placement

A majority of youth reported some type of victimization experience while living in the facility

SYRP asks youth about their victimization experiences while living in their current facility. Questions cover theft, robbery, physical assault or threat, and sexual assault. Taken together, 56% of youth in placement reported one or more such events.

Nearly half of youth in placement (46%) said their personal property was stolen when they were not present to protect it. Victims reported an average of 6 episodes of theft during their time in residence.

One in 10 youth in placement said that someone used force or threat to steal their personal property from them. More than one quarter (28%) of robbery victims said their assailant used a weapon, generally a sharp object other than a knife. About one-third (34%) said they were injured as a result of the robbery. Those who were injured described an average of 10 episodes; uninjured robbery victims averaged 5 episodes.

Nearly 3 in 10 youth in placement (29%) reported being a victim of physical assault or threats since coming to their facility. They described an average of 9 such attacks during their stay. Sixteen percent (16%) of victims said a weapon was involved—again, most commonly a sharp object. Although only 9% of assault victims said their assault experiences were reported to a staff member, counselor, teacher, or someone who could help them, 33% said that something was done to stop it from happening again. About 9% of all youth in placement said they were actually injured in a physical assault. Almost half of those injured (47%) required medical care for the injuries.

Four percent (4%) of youth in placement said they were victims of sexual

assault while in their current facility. This occurred an average of 6 times. Two-fifths (41%) of sexual assault victims described the forced activity as involving penetration. One-half (50%) of victims identified facility staff as their assailants, while 60% said they were victimized by another resident. Of sexual assault victims, 17% said they were threatened with a weapon during the assault, mostly with a sharp object. One-fifth (20%) were injured as a result of the assault, and 21% of injured sexual assault victims required medical care.

Different forms of violence occurred in similar circumstances

Different forms of violence tended to occur to the same youth. Youth who reported any one form of violent victimization were significantly more likely to report another type. Of youth who experienced injurious physical assault or robbery, just under half (45% and 46%, respectively) also reported experiencing at least one other type of violence. Of sexual assault victims, 60% were also robbed, physically assaulted, or both robbed and physically assaulted.

SYRP analyses show that this clustering of violent events can be explained by the fact that the different forms of violence have very similar risk factors, so all forms of violence are more prevalent among youth and in facility environments that possess these risk factors. The following paragraphs discuss the nine most important risk factors: the facility's grievance process, youth's past history of abuse, staff's reliance on physical methods of control, residents' perceptions of how fairly the rules are applied, youth's age, the facility's use of makeshift beds, youth's disability status, youth's length of stay, and the relative severity of the youth's offense.

Most physical characteristics of facilities did not relate to rates of violent victimization

When other important risk factors for violence were taken into account, most structural features of the facility (such as size, type of program, level of security) did not relate to risk of violence. The one exception was the facility's use of makeshift beds. At the time of SYRP, only 8% of youth in custody resided in facilities that reported using makeshift beds. Youth in these facilities experienced lower rates of any form of violence, and specifically of robbery and injurious physical assault. Among youth with the same other risk factors for violence, 11% of those in facilities that used makeshift beds experienced some type of violence, compared with 17% of youth in other facilities. Facilities that used makeshift beds may have structural features or staffing arrangements that allow closer observation of the youth.

The most important risk factors for violent victimization included measures of facility climate

The most important risk factors were indicators of facility climate, including an ineffective grievance process, residents' perceptions that the rules were not applied fairly, and staff reliance on physical methods of control.

The risk for all types of violence was considerably higher when youth indicated that the facility had an ineffective grievance process. For youth with the same characteristics on other risk factors, 12% of those who did not indicate problems with the grievance process experienced some form of violence, in contrast to 40% of youth who said they did not know how to file a complaint if they were mistreated and that they expected bad consequences if they did so.

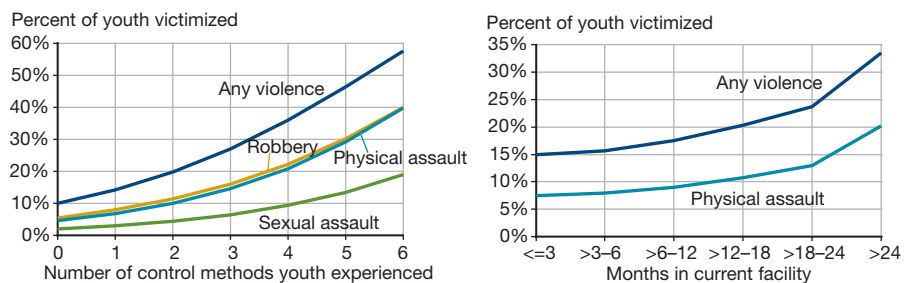
Rates of violent victimization were highest in places where youth lacked faith in the just and fair operation of their facility. The likelihood that a youth would experience violence varied directly with the proportion of residents in his or her living unit who said the rules were not applied fairly. When youth did not differ on other important risk factors, the rate of any violence ranged from 12% in living units where 1 in 10 or fewer residents thought the rules were not applied fairly to 32% in units where 9 in 10 residents thought so.

Youth's reports of violent victimization varied with their reports that staff physically controlled them by holding them down or using handcuffs or wristlets, a security belt or chains, strip search, pepper spray, or a restraint chair. The more control methods that youth experienced, the greater the likelihood that youth reported being victims of violence.

Among youth who were the same on other risk factors, the risk of violence varied by youth characteristics. Youth who reported any physical or sexual abuse while they were living with their family or in another household had a significantly higher risk of experiencing violence while in placement. Youth who reported a diagnosed learning disability had a significantly higher risk of experiencing all types of violence except sexual assault. When other factors that heighten risk for older youth were taken into account, it is younger youth who were at greater risk of being victims of violence.

The longer youth are in placement, the longer they are exposed to risk, so it is no surprise that youth who had been in a facility longer reported experiencing violence at higher rates than those with shorter stays. Youth who reported offenses that were among the most serious in their living unit had significantly higher rates of victimization.

The more control methods experienced and the longer youth's length of stay, the greater the likelihood of reported violent victimization

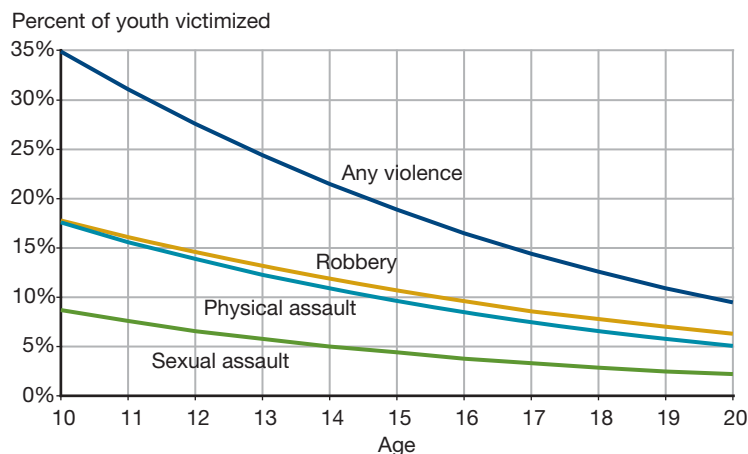


- For youth who experienced no physical control by staff, 10% reported experiencing some form of violence, compared with 58% of youth who experienced all six forms of physical control in their facility. The same trend applied to all forms of violence.
- Less than 17% of youth in placement for a year or less experienced some form of violence, compared with 24% of youth in placement between 18 and 24 months and 33% of those in placement for more than 2 years.

Note: Percentages assume that youth are equal on other important risk factors. The six methods of physical control are using force to hold youth down, handcuffs or wristlets, a security belt or chains, strip search, pepper spray, or a restraint chair.

Source: Authors' adaptation of Sedlak et al.'s *Nature and Risk of Victimization: Findings from the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement*.

Younger youth are at greatest risk of being victims of violence



- More than one-fourth of youth younger than 13 experienced some type of violence in custody, compared with 9% of 20-year-olds. This pattern applied to all forms of violence.

Note: Percentages assume that youth are equal on other important risk factors.

Source: Authors' adaptation of Sedlak et al.'s *Nature and Risk of Victimization: Findings from the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement*.

In 2012, 1 in 10 youth in state-owned or state-operated juvenile facilities reported sexual victimization

Two BJS surveys studied sexual victimization in state juvenile facilities and in private or local facilities under state contract

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) requires the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to report the incidence and prevalence of sexual violence in adult and juvenile correctional facilities. In response, BJS completed two National Surveys of Youth in Custody (NSYC), the first in 2008–09 and the most recent in 2012.

Both surveys interviewed adjudicated youth in state-owned or state-operated juvenile facilities and locally or privately operated facilities that hold adjudicated youth under state contract. The surveys included only facilities that hold adjudicated youth for at least 90 days, with more than 25% of residents adjudicated, and with at least 10 adjudicated youth.

Like the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP), NSYC uses an audio computer-assisted self-interview methodology. However, unlike SYRP, which surveyed youth in small groups, NSYC interviewed youth individually.

NSYC-1 administered the victimization survey to a national sample of 9,198 youth in 195 eligible facilities, representing 26,550 adjudicated youth held nationwide—21,170 in state facilities and 5,380 in contract facilities. In NSYC-2, 8,707 youth in 326 eligible facilities completed the victimization survey, representing 18,100 adjudicated youth nationwide—15,500 in state facilities and 2,600 in contract facilities.*

* The 27% drop in the adjudicated youth population in state facilities over the 4-year time-span is consistent with the 31% drop in the committed population seen between 2007 and 2011 in the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement. The inclusion criteria for the contract facilities differed across studies, so those totals are not comparable.

Victimization declined between NSYC-1 and NSYC-2, mostly in the category of staff misconduct

Because the samples of contract facilities were somewhat different in the two surveys, between-study comparisons are based only on the state facilities' results. The overall rate of sexual victimization in these facilities decreased from 12.6% in NSYC-1 to 9.9% in NSYC-2.

In both NSYC cycles, more than 80% of sexually victimized youth reported events that NSYC defines as staff sexual misconduct (8.2% of 9.9% in NSYC-2 and 10.7% of 12.6% in NSYC-1). More than 60% of these youth described events that did not involve any reported force or coercion. In all categories across studies, the majority of sexually victimized youth described explicit sexual acts involving the genitalia or anus.

The decreased rate of sexual victimization may partly reflect shifts in the incarcerated youth population—away from larger facilities and longer stays

In both surveys, sexual victimization rates were higher in larger facilities. Between NSYC-1 and NSYC-2, the youth populations in eligible facilities shifted away from larger facilities housing 101 or more adjudicated youth (from 65.6% down to 53.2%), and more youth were held in medium facilities with 51 to 100 youth (from 17.0% up to 24.0%).

Like SYRP, NSYC found higher victimization rates for longer-term residents, reflecting their increased exposure time. Between NSYC-1 and NSYC-2, the percentage of youth who were in their facility less than 5 months increased (from 20.9% to 26.9%), while the percentage of youth in their facility longer decreased. The victimization

How BJS measured sexual victimization in NSYC

NSYC classifies sexual victimization into two categories of youth-on-youth sexual acts and four categories involving sexual acts between staff and youth, distinguishing these categories by use of force and by the nature of the sexual acts involved.

Force. NSYC defines force broadly, including physical force, threat of force, other force or pressure, and other forms of coercion, such as receiving money, favors, protection, or special treatment.

Explicit sexual acts involving genitalia or anus. Includes all contact involving the penis, vagina, or anus, regardless of penetration.

Other sexual contacts only. Includes kissing, touching (excluding any touching involving the penis, vagina, or anus), looking at private parts, displaying sexual material, such as pictures or a movie, and engaging in some other sexual contact that did not include touching.

Youth-on-youth sexual victimization. All youth-on-youth sexual victimization must involve some form of force. NSYC defines two categories: explicit sexual acts and other sexual contacts only.

Staff sexual misconduct. Staff-and-youth sexual activity is divided into acts that involved force and acts without force. Each of these categories is further divided into the nature of the sexual activity involved: explicit sexual acts and other sexual contacts only.

rates for the longer-staying youth also decreased, additionally contributing to the decline in overall victimization.

Low sexual victimization rates correlated with positive views of facility staff

NSYC-2 youth had more positive perceptions of facility staff, with 60.0% endorsing four or more positive statements describing the staff, compared with 54.8% in NSYC-1. Also, fewer NSYC-2 youth who agreed with four or more positive descriptors of staff were victimized (4.6%) than NSYC-1 youth with similar views (7.4%).

NSYC-2 found that state facilities had higher rates of staff sexual misconduct (8.3%) than contract facilities (4.5%).

Sexual victimization rates differed by youth's characteristics and experiences

Females were victimized at a lower rate overall, but more females than males reported being forced into youth-on-youth sexual activity (5.4% vs. 2.2%). In contrast, more males reported sexual encounters with staff (8.2% vs. 2.8%). More youth who described themselves as non-heterosexual reported youth-on-youth victimization (10.3% vs. 1.5%).

Staff sexual misconduct rates were higher for youth ages 17 (8.0%) and

18 or older (8.7%) compared with those age 15 or younger (5.8%). (Note that, unlike SYRP analyses, the NSYC analyses did not compare youth who were the same on other risk factors.)

Methods and sexual assault rates differ in SYRP and NSYC

Given the many differences between the methods used in SYRP and in the BJS surveys, it is not surprising that the observed victimization rates differ.

SYRP included the full range of facilities that hold youth for offenses and included both adjudicated and pre-adjudicated youth. In contrast, the BJS surveys were restricted to state facilities and those private and local facilities that held youth offenders under state contract.

The BJS surveys also required that included facilities hold youth at least 90 days and only interviewed adjudicated youth. SYRP applied no such restrictions.

The surveys also used different definitions of sexual victimization. SYRP included only forced sexual activity, whereas BJS included any forced or pressured youth-on-youth activity and any sexual activity involving staff, including "consensual" sexual activity in the absence of any force or pressure.

Between the two NSYC cycles, the proportion of youth reporting sexual victimization generally declined

Type of victimization	Percentage of youth reporting sexual victimization in state juvenile facilities in the past 12 months	
	NSYC-1	NSYC-2
All victimization	12.6%	9.9%
Youth-on-youth (only force)	2.8	2.5
Explicit sexual acts	2.1	1.7
Other sexual contacts only	0.5	0.6
Staff sexual misconduct	10.7	8.2
Force reported	4.5	3.6
Explicit sexual acts	4.1	3.2
Other sexual contacts only	0.4	0.2
No force reported	6.7	5.1
Explicit sexual acts	6.1	4.6
Other sexual contacts only	0.5	0.5

Note: Youth who experience multiple types of maltreatment are included in each applicable category. Results exclude youth held in local or privately operated facilities.

Source: Authors' adaptation of Beck et al.'s *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012*.

More white youth reported sexual victimization by another youth than black or Hispanic youth (4.0% vs. 1.4% and 2.1%, respectively). In contrast, more black youth were involved with staff in sexual misconduct (9.6%) than were white or Hispanic youth (6.4% each).

Similar to SYRP, NSYC found that youth who were victims of sexual assaults in the past were more likely to be victims in their current facility. NSYC analyses showed that this applied to both youth-on-youth sexual assaults and staff sexual misconduct. It also applied whether considering any prior sexual assaults (17.4% vs. 8.2% without prior victim experiences) or only sexual assaults while living in another facility (52.3% vs. 8.6% without prior victim experiences). However, the latter experiences were much more strongly associated with the likelihood of victimization in the current facility.

As mentioned earlier, youth's length of stay in the facility related to their risk of victimization, with longer exposure times associated with higher victimization rates. This pattern was true both for youth-on-youth assaults (4.2% for youth in the facility a year or more vs. 1.9% for those in the facility less than one month) and for staff sexual misconduct episodes (10.1% for youth there one year or longer vs. 5.9% for those with the shortest stays).

Sexual victimization rates were related to youth's characteristics			
Youth characteristic	Percentage of youth reporting sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, 2012		
	Youth-on-youth	Staff sexual misconduct	Both youth-on-youth and staff
Sex			
Male*	2.2	8.2	9.7
Female	5.4**	2.8**	6.9**
Age			
Age 15 or younger*	2.5	5.8	7.6
Age 16	2.2	7.3	8.8
Age 17	2.4	8.0**	9.7
Age 18 or older	2.8	8.7**	10.7**
Race/ethnicity			
White, not Hispanic*	4.0	6.4	9.7
Black, not Hispanic	1.4**	9.6**	10.3
Hispanic	2.1**	6.4	7.5
Other race, not Hispanic	2.8	4.6	6.9
Multiple races, not Hispanic	2.2	6.7	8.9
Sexual orientation			
Heterosexual*	1.5	7.8	8.9
Gay, lesbian, bisexual, other	10.3**	7.5	14.3**
Any prior sexual assault			
Yes	9.6**	9.7**	17.4**
No*	1.3	7.3	8.2
Sexually assaulted at another facility			
Yes	33.5**	29.3**	52.3**
No*	1.8	7.3	8.6
Time in facility			
Less than 1 month	1.9	5.9	7.1
1–5 months*	1.9	6.3	8.0
6–11 months	2.5	8.7**	10.6**
12 months or more	4.2**	10.1**	12.4**

* Indicates comparison group.
 ** Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
 Source: Authors' adaptation of Beck et al.'s *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012*.

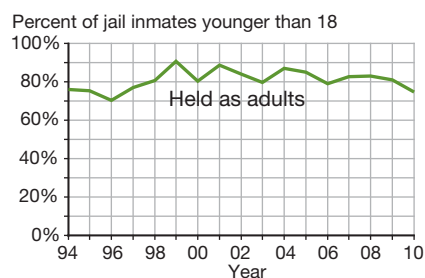
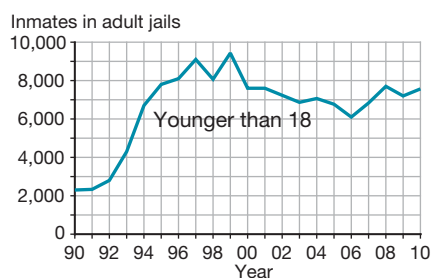
In 2010, the number of youth younger than 18 held in adult jails was well above the levels of the early 1990s

Youth younger than 18 accounted for about 1% of all jail inmates

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, an estimated 2,300 youth younger than 18 were held in adult jails on June 30, 1990. The 1-day count of jail inmates younger than 18 rose to a peak of nearly 9,500 in 1999. Since that time, the count declined 35% by 2006 to 6,100, its lowest level since 1994, and increased to nearly 7,600 by 2010—20% fewer inmates than the 1999 peak. These inmates accounted for about 1% of the total jail population, a proportion that has been consistent over the past decade. Since 1990, inmates younger than 18 have not exceeded 2% of the jail inmate population.

The vast majority of jail inmates younger than 18 continue to be those held as adults. Youth younger than 18 may be held as adult inmates if they are convicted or awaiting trial as adult criminal offenders, either because they were transferred to criminal court or

On a typical day in 2010, about 7,600 persons younger than 18 were inmates in jails in the U.S.



- Compared with 1990, in 2010 there were 229% more jail inmates younger than 18 and 84% more adult jail inmates. Most of the increase for inmates younger than 18 was between 1990 and 1999, when their number more than quadrupled.
- Between 1994 and 2010, the proportion of jail inmates younger than 18 who were held as adults has ranged between 70% and 90%.

Source: Authors' analyses of Gillard and Beck's *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1997*, Beck's *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1999*, Harrison and Karberg's *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2002*, Harrison and Beck's *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2004*, and Minton's *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2012—Statistical Tables*.

because they are in a state that considers all 17-year-olds (or all 16- and

17-year-olds) as adults for purposes of criminal prosecution.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act limits the placement of juveniles in adult facilities

The Act states that "... juveniles alleged to be or found to be delinquent," as well as status offenders and non-offenders "will not be detained or confined in any institution in which they have contact with adult inmates" This provision of the Act is commonly referred to as the "sight and sound separation requirement." Subsequent regulations implementing the Act clarify this requirement and provide that brief and inadvertent contact in non-residential areas is not a violation. The Act also states that "... no juvenile shall be detained or confined in any jail or lockup for adults" This provision is known as the jail and lockup removal requirement. Regulations exempt

juveniles being tried as criminals for felonies or who have been convicted as criminal felons from the jail and lockup removal requirement. In institutions other than adult jails or lockups or in jails and lockups under temporary hold exceptions, confinement of juvenile offenders is permitted if juveniles and adult inmates cannot see each other and no conversation between them is possible. This reflects the sight and sound separation requirement.

Some temporary hold exceptions to jail and lockup removal include: a 6-hour grace period that allows adult jails and lockups to hold alleged delinquents in secure custody until other

arrangements can be made (including 6 hours before and after court appearances) and a 48-hour exception, exclusive of weekends and holidays, for rural facilities that meet statutory conditions.

Some jurisdictions have established juvenile detention centers that are collocated with adult jails or lockups. A collocated juvenile facility must meet specific criteria to establish that it is a separate and distinct facility. The regulations allow time-phased use of program areas in collocated facilities.

Between 1997 and 2009, while prison populations grew by 23%, the number of prisoners younger than 18 fell 51%

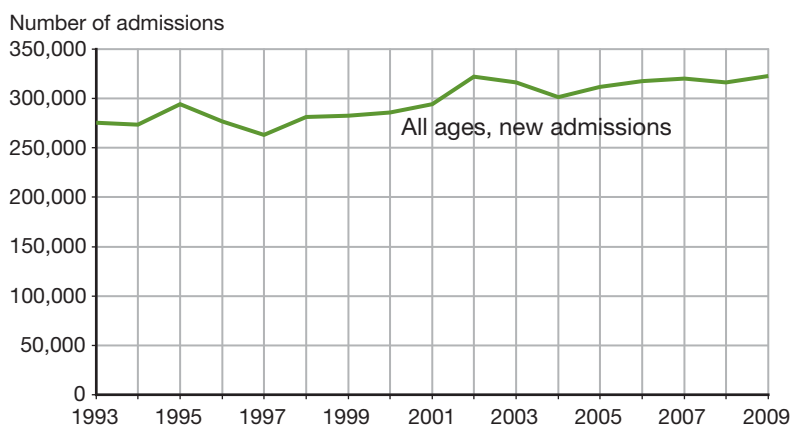
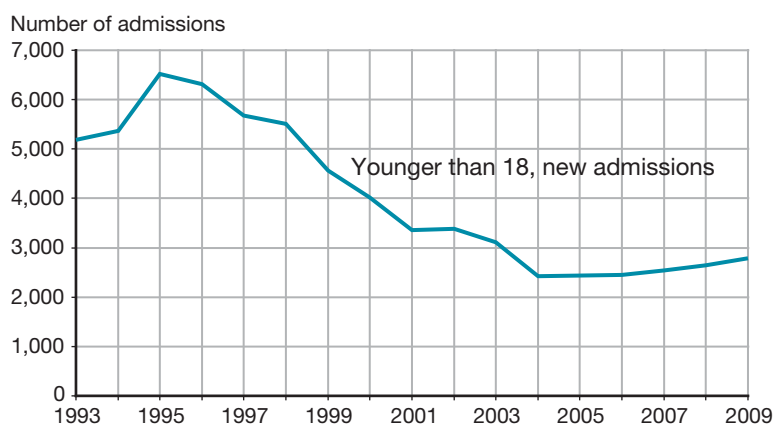
Youth younger than 18 accounted for 1% of new court commitments to state adult prisons in 2009

Based on data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP), an estimated 2,800 new court commitments to state adult prison systems in 2009 involved youth younger than age 18 at the time of admission. These youth accounted for 0.9% of all new court commitments that year—down from a peak of 2.3% in 1996. While the number of youth younger than 18 in adult prisons decreased by an average of 10% each year from 1995 to 2004, the total prison population remained relatively constant. After a decade of decline, the number of youth in adult prisons increased an average of 3% per year from 2004 to 2009.

New admissions of youth younger than 18 is not a count of “juveniles in prison”

Many youth younger than 18 committed to state prisons are in states where original juvenile court jurisdiction ends when the youth turns age 16 or 17, so these committed youth were never candidates for processing in the juvenile justice system. It is also the case that some youth, whose crimes placed them under the original jurisdiction of a juvenile court and who were subsequently transferred to an adult court and sentenced to prison, entered prison after their 18th birthday. Thus, “new court commitments that involved youth younger than 18 at the time of admission” includes many youth whose criminal activity was always within the jurisdiction of the adult criminal justice system, while it misses prisoners whose law-violating behavior placed them initially within the juvenile justice system but who did not enter prison until after their 18th birthday.

Between the 1995 peak and 2009, the number of new admissions of youth younger than 18 to state prisons dramatically decreased 57%



■ In comparison, the number of overall new admissions to state prisons between 1995 and 2009 remained relatively constant, with a slight overall increase.

Source: Authors' analyses of BJS's *National Corrections Reporting Program: Most Serious Offense of State Prisoners by Offense, Admission Type, Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin* for the years 1993–2009 [machine-readable data files].

Prisons differ from jails

Jails are generally local correctional facilities used to incarcerate both persons detained pending adjudication and adjudicated/convicted offenders. Convicted inmates are usually misdemeanants sentenced to a year or less. Under certain circumstances, jails may hold juveniles awaiting juvenile court hearings. Prisons are state or federal facilities used to incarcerate offenders convicted in criminal court; these convicted inmates are usually felons sentenced to more than a year.

Among youth newly admitted to state prisons in 2009, 7 in 10 had committed a violent offense

Youth younger than 18 accounted for 4.2% of all new court commitments to state prisons for robbery in 2009. Their proportions in other offense categories were smaller: homicide (2.1%), assault (1.6%), property offenses (0.6%), and weapons (0.9%).

Compared with young adult inmates ages 18–24 at admission, new commitments involving youth younger than 18 had a greater proportion of violent offenses (primarily robbery and assault) and a smaller proportion of drug offenses (notably, drug trafficking).

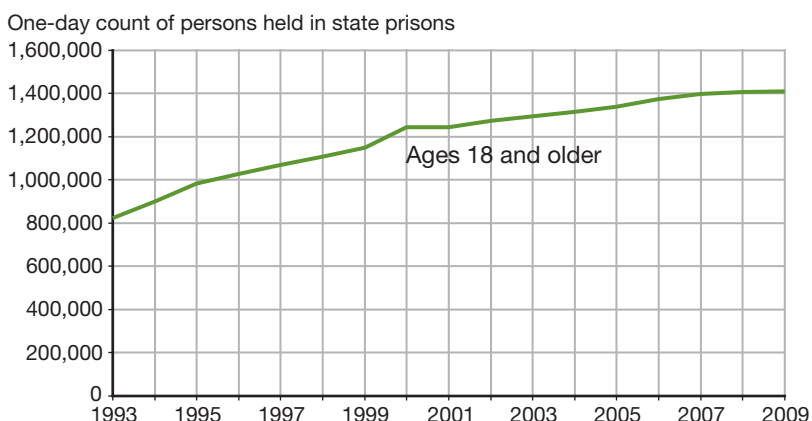
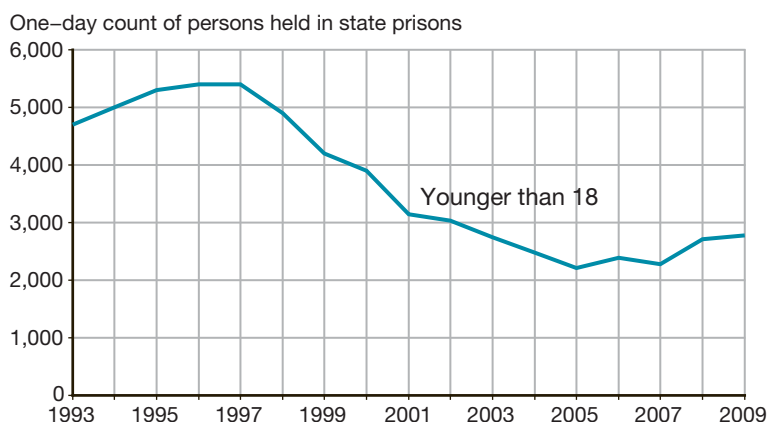
Offense profile of new admissions to state prisons, 2009:

Most serious offense	Age at admission	
	Younger than 18	18–24
All offenses	100%	100%
Violent offenses	71	38
Homicide	7	4
Sexual assault (including rape)	4	5
Robbery	39	16
Assault	19	11
Property offenses	19	30
Burglary	14	15
Larceny-theft	2	5
Motor vehicle theft	1	3
Arson	<1	<1
Drug offenses	3	21
Trafficking	1	11
Possession	1	6
Public order offenses	7	11
Weapons	5	6

Note: General offense categories include offenses not detailed.

Most youth younger than 18 newly admitted to prison in 2009 were male (87%). Whites accounted for 42% of new younger-than-18 admissions, blacks 39%, Hispanics 17%, and youth of other race/ethnicity 2%.

Between 1993 and 2009, the 1-day count of state prison inmates age 18 or older rose 71%, while the count for youth younger than 18 fell 41%



- Since the 1997 peak, the population of state prison inmates younger than 18 dropped 49% by 2009, while the population of those 18 and older grew 32%.
- In 2005, the 1-day count of youth younger than 18 held in state prisons reached its lowest point since at least 1985. From 2005 to 2009, the number increased 26%.
- In 2009, the 1-day count of prison inmates younger than 18 represented 0.2% of the total number of prisoners held that day.

Source: Authors' analyses of Strom's *Profile of State Prisoners Under Age 18, 1985–97*; Beck and Karberg's *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2000*; Sabol and Couture's *Prison Inmates at Midyear 2007*; West and Sabol's *Prison Inmates at Midyear 2008—Statistical Tables*; and West's *Prison Inmates at Midyear 2009—Statistical Tables*.

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