



Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: 2022 National Report

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Chapter 7

Youth in corrections

Juvenile correctional systems have many different components. Some juvenile correctional facilities look very much like adult prisons. Others are designed to be more home-like. Private facilities played an important role in the long-term residential treatment of youth; in fact, through 2008, there were more privately operated juvenile facilities than publicly operated facilities, although private facilities held less than half as many youth as were held in public facilities. That trend has reversed, as public facilities have outnumbered private facilities since 2010, and nearly three-fourths of youth in placement on a given day are held in public facilities.

This chapter describes the population of youth 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 youth held in adult jails and prisons. The information is based on data collected by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement and the Juvenile Residential Facility Census. Information on youth held in adult correctional facilities is drawn from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Census of Jails, Annual Survey of Jails, and National Prisoner Statistics. Information about sexual victimization experiences of youth in facilities draws on the National Survey of Youth in Custody, also conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

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

Detailed data are available on youth in residential placement

Since its inception, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has collected information on the youth 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 youth in residential placement who were charged with or adjudicated for an offense 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 a delinquency or status 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 youth sentenced to incarceration by criminal courts.

As used in this chapter, "youth" refers to persons under 21 in residential placement who were charged with or adjudicated for a law violation.

The term resident refers to all persons (i.e., those held for an offense, those held for nonoffense reasons, and some

adults) in a facility on the reference date. The resident count is used when discussing facility size and crowding, as these are characteristics related to all persons in the facility.

CJRP typically takes place on the fourth Wednesday in October of the census year. However, the census collections that would have occurred October 26, 2005 and October 28, 2009, were both postponed until the fourth Wednesday in February of the following year. CJRP asks all juvenile residential facilities in the U.S. to describe each youth 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 information about the past month and past year. 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.

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

CJRP provides a one-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.

Youth 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 youth are admitted voluntarily in lieu of adjudication as part of a diversion agreement. Because detention stays tend to be short compared with commitment placements, detained youth represent a much larger share of population flow data than of one-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 25% of the youth population ages 10–17, but they account for more than 49% of arrests of youth under age 18, more than 40% of delinquency court cases, and more than 50% of youth in residential placement. If all other factors were equal, one would expect higher residential placement rates in states where older youth are under juvenile court jurisdiction.

Differing age limits of extended jurisdiction also influence placement rates. Some states may keep a youth 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. Both CJRP and JRFC asks respondents to indicate the operation status of the facility as well as to classify what type of facility they are.

Operation status options include:

- **Public:** operated by State or local (county or municipality) government agencies in which the employees working daily in the facilities and directly with the residents are state or local government employees.
- **Private:** operated by private non-profit or for-profit corporations or organizations in which the employees working daily in the facilities and directly with the residents are employees of that private corporation or organization.

Facility classification is a self-identified question in both collections and respondents are able to select more than one classification type. The classification types include:

- **Detention center:** a short-term facility that provides temporary care in a physically restricting environ-

ment for juveniles in custody pending court disposition and, often, for youth who are adjudicated delinquent and awaiting disposition or placement elsewhere, or are awaiting transfer to another jurisdiction. In some jurisdictions, detention centers may also hold youth committed for short periods of time as part of their disposition (e.g., weekend detention).

- **Training school/long-term secure facility:** a specialized type of facility that provides strict confinement and long-term treatment generally for post-adjudication committed juvenile offenders. Includes training schools, juvenile correctional facilities, and youth development centers.
- **Reception or diagnostic center:** a short-term facility that screens juvenile offenders committed by the courts and assigns them to appropriate correctional facilities.
- **Group home/halfway house:** a long-term facility that is generally non-secure and intended for post-adjudication commitments in which young persons are allowed extensive

contact with the community, such as attending school or holding a job.

- **Residential treatment center:** a facility that focuses on providing some type of individually planned treatment program for youth (substance abuse, sex offenders, mental health, etc.) in conjunction with residential care. Such facilities generally require specific licensing by the state that may require that treatment provided is Medicaid-reimbursable.
- **Ranch, forestry camp, wilderness or marine program or farm:** long-term generally nonsecure residential facilities often located in a relatively remote area. The juveniles participate in a structured program that emphasizes outdoor work, including conservation and related activities.
- **Runaway and homeless shelter:** a short-term facility that provides temporary care in a physically unrestricted environment. It can also provide longer-term care under a juvenile court disposition order.



The number of youth in residential placement declined considerably between 1997 and 2019

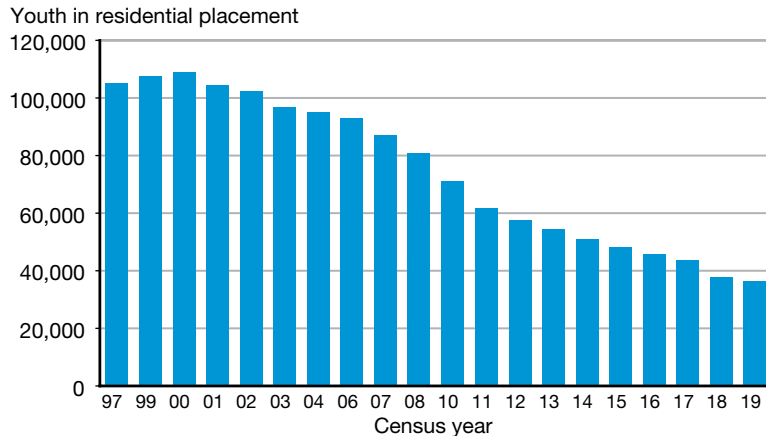
The number of youth in placement peaked in 2000 and has since declined

The number of youth in placement increased 4% from 1997 (105,055) to the 2000 peak (108,802) and then decreased 66% to the lowest level (36,479) in 2019. The relative decline in the number of youth in state and privately operated facilities was about the same (73% and 71%, respectively) between 2000 and 2019, while the number of youth in locally operated facilities fell 52%. As a result, a larger proportion of youth in 2019 were in locally operated facilities (39%) than were in state operated facilities (35%) or privately operated facilities (26%).

The number of facilities also reached a new low in 2019

After a period of increase through 2000, the number of facilities fell considerably. By 2019, the number of facilities was half the number of the

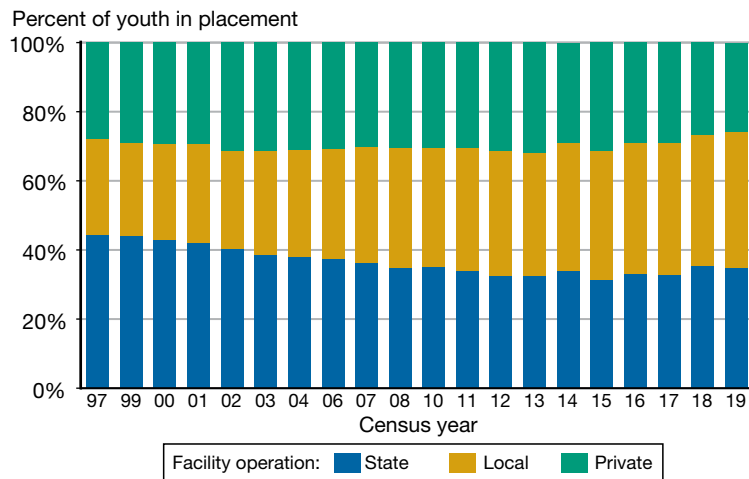
The number of youth in placement in 2019 was one-third that of the 2000 peak



- The number of youth in placement was cut in half between 2000 and 2013, then fell 33% through 2019.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* and *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 1997 through 2019.

Compared with 1997, youth in 2019 were more likely to be held in locally operated facilities than in state or privately operated facilities



- The proportion of youth held in locally operated facilities increased from 28% in 1997 to 39% in 2019. During the same period, the proportion of youth in state operated facilities declined from 44% to 35%.
- Nearly three-quarters of youth were held in public facilities (i.e., state or locally operated) in 2019, and more than half (53%) of these youth were in local facilities.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* and *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 1997 through 2019.

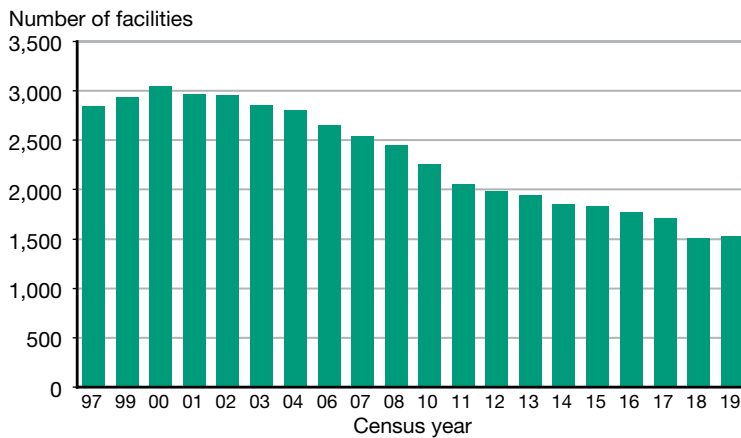
Several factors may affect the placement population

Residential placement data cannot explain the continuing decline in the number of youth held in placement for an offense, however they may reflect a combination of contributing factors. For example, the number of arrests involving youth decreased 58% between 2010 and 2019, which in turn means that fewer youth were processed through the juvenile justice system. Additionally residential placement reform efforts have resulted in the movement of many youth from large, secure public facilities to less secure, small private facilities. Finally, budgetary factors have resulted in a shift from committing youth to high-cost residential facilities to providing lower cost options, such as probation, day treatment, or community-based sanctions.

2000 peak. Most of the decline was associated with private facilities, which declined 67% since 2000, compared with a 24% decline for public facilities. Among public facilities, the decline was

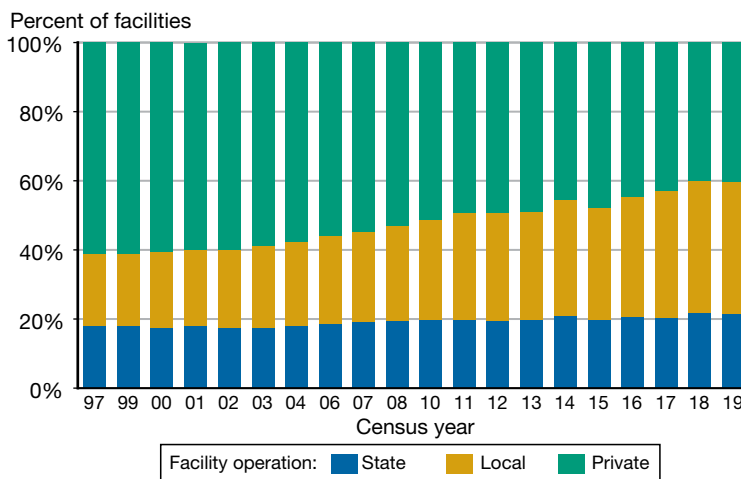
greater for state-operated (38%) than for locally operated (14%) facilities. As a result, public facilities have outnumbered private facilities each year since 2011.

The number of residential placement facilities declined 50% between 2000 and 2019



Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement and Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 1997 through 2019.

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



■ Since 2000, the proportion of facilities that were locally operated increased from 22% to 38%, while the proportion that were privately operated fell from 61% to 40%.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement and Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 1997 through 2019.

Local facilities held more youth than state or private facilities

Private facilities have outnumbered local facilities since 1997, and through the mid-2000s, private facilities held more youth than local facilities. However, given the disproportionate decline in the number of private facilities and the youth they hold, by 2019, more youth were held in local facilities, and the number of local facilities was about the same as private facilities.

Operation profile:

Facility operation	Facilities		Youth	
	1997	2019	1997	2019
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Public	39	60	72	74
State	18	22	44	35
Local	21	38	28	39
Private	61	40	28	26

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

The decrease in facilities varied by facility type

Since 2003, all facility types experienced declines in the number of facilities and the number of youth held, but the declines varied by type of facility. Detention centers outnumbered and held more youth than other facility types, but the relative decline in the number of such facilities (17%) and youth held (51%) was less than other facility types. For example, the number of residential treatment centers (RTC), introduced to the collections in 2003, fell 37% by 2019, and the number of youth in RTCs fell 56%, while the number of training schools and youth held in such facilities declined 37% and 71%, respectively.

Percent change, 2003–2019:

Facility type	Facilities	Youth
Detention center	-17%	-51%
Residential treatment center	-37	-56
Group home	-72	-62
Training school	-37	-71
Shelter	-52	-56
Ranch/forestry camp	-78	-84
Reception/diagnostic center	-79	-84

The number of youth held in large facilities—those with more than 100 residents—has declined

Fewer youth were held in large facilities in 2019 than in 1997

Facility size is based on the number of residents assigned a bed on the census reference date. Small facilities hold between 1 and 20 residents, medium facilities hold between 21 and 100 residents, and large facilities hold more than 100 residents.

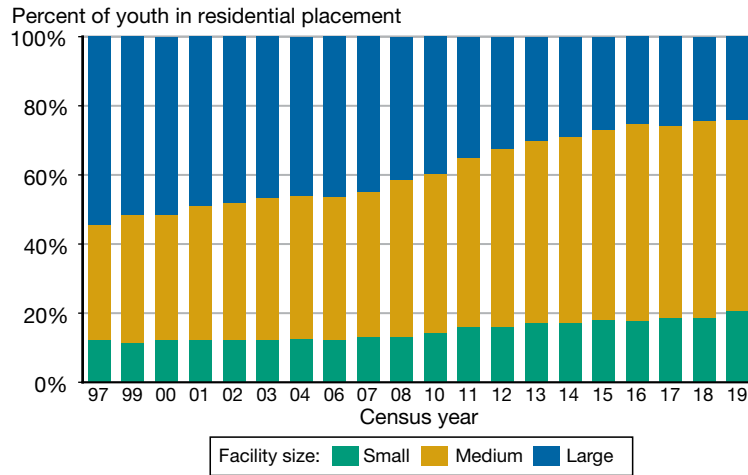
The number of large facilities fell 74% since 1997, and the number of youth in large facilities fell 85%. During the same period, the number of small facilities declined 46%, the number of medium facilities fell 39%, and the number of youth in small and medium facilities experienced the same relative decline (42% each).

Percent change, 1997–2019:

Facility size	Facilities	Youth
Small	-46%	-42%
Medium	-39	-42
Large	-74	-85

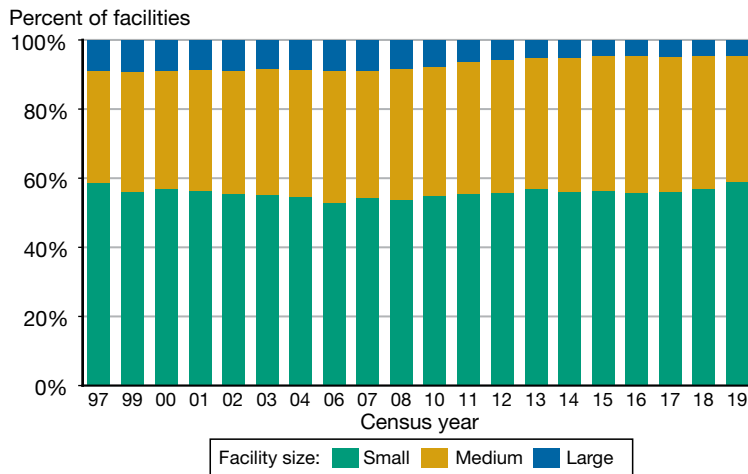
The net result of these changes was that, by 2019, large facilities accounted for a smaller share of facilities than in 1997 (4% vs. 9%), while medium facilities accounted for a larger share (37% vs. 33%). Similarly, a larger proportion of youth were held in medium size facilities (55%) than in large facilities (24%) in 2019, reversing the pattern that prevailed through 2007. Small facilities accounted for about the same proportion of facilities in 2019 as in 1997 (59%), but the proportion of youth in small facilities increased from 12% in 1997 to 21% in 2019.

More youth were held in large facilities than medium facilities through 2007, but that pattern has since reversed



- The proportion of youth in large facilities has declined steadily. In 1997, more than half (54%) of all youth were in large facilities; by 2019, about one-fourth (24%) of all youth were in large facilities. Conversely, the proportion of youth in medium facilities has increased steadily. By 2008, more youth were held in medium facilities than in large facilities, a pattern that persisted through 2019.
- The proportion of youth held in small facilities was relatively stable through the mid-2000s but has since increased. By 2019, one-fifth (21%) of youth were held in small facilities.

Small facilities outnumber medium and large facilities



- The proportion of large facilities decreased steadily since 2007, falling to 4% in 2019. Medium facilities accounted for 33% of facilities in 1997, increased to 40% in 2016, then fell to 37% in 2019. While the proportion of small facilities changed little during this period, small facilities accounted for more than half of all facilities each year since 1997.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* and *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 1997 through 2019.

The characteristics of the placement population varied by placement setting, offense, and youth demographics

Offense profiles varied based on where a youth was held

State or local government agencies operate public facilities. Private facilities include nonprofit and for-profit corporations and organizations. In general, private facilities are smaller than public facilities and tend to hold youth with less serious offenses. Therefore, private facilities house slightly different popu-

lations than public facilities. In 2019, youth held for a person offense accounted for the largest share of youth held in state, locally and privately operated facilities; youth held for a status offense accounted for a relatively larger proportion of youth in private facilities than state or local facilities. Local facilities had a larger share of youth held for technical violations than either state or private facilities.

Offense profile, 2019:

Offense	Facility operation		
	State	Local	Private
Total	100%	100%	100%
Person	51	41	36
Property	22	18	21
Drugs	3	4	6
Public order	13	14	15
Technical violation	9	21	11
Status offense	1	2	11

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

Females accounted for 15% of the residential placement population in 2019, youth ages 15–17 accounted for 71%, and Black youth accounted for 41%

Most serious offense	Number of youth in placement, 2019	Percent of youth in residential placement, 2019								
		Female	Younger than 15	Ages 15–17	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian	Two or more
Total	36,479	15%	15%	71%	33%	41%	20%	2%	1%	2%
Person	15,823	13	15	68	30	44	21	2	1	2
Criminal homicide	941	9	6	69	20	46	29	2	1	2
Sexual assault	2,362	1	18	59	55	25	16	2	1	2
Robbery	4,131	6	8	71	11	62	23	1	2	2
Aggravated assault	3,427	14	14	69	24	46	25	2	1	2
Simple assault	3,067	27	24	68	40	34	19	3	1	3
Other person	1,895	16	18	70	40	38	17	2	1	3
Property	7,503	13	16	73	32	45	17	2	1	2
Burglary	2,540	7	17	70	29	50	15	2	1	2
Theft	1,576	17	16	74	34	49	11	2	1	2
Auto theft	1,782	16	15	76	29	43	22	2	1	3
Arson	204	10	25	63	50	31	12	3	1	3
Other property	1,401	17	17	74	39	37	19	2	1	3
Drug	1,589	19	10	75	46	25	23	2	1	3
Drug trafficking	269	9	8	72	32	37	27	2	0	2
Other drug	1,320	21	10	76	49	23	22	2	1	3
Public order	5,077	10	15	71	34	40	21	2	1	2
Weapons offense	2,087	4	9	77	17	54	25	1	1	2
Other public order	2,990	14	19	66	46	31	18	2	1	2
Technical violation	5,063	22	15	74	33	36	25	2	1	3
Status offense	1,424	34	24	71	59	23	9	2	1	4

- Females accounted for a relatively larger share of youth held for a status offense (34%) or for simple assault (27%) than for other offenses.
- Across offenses, youth ages 15-17 accounted for the majority of youth in placement. However, youth younger than age 15 accounted for a relatively large share of youth held for simple assault (24%), arson (25%), or a status offense (24%).
- White youth accounted for half or more of youth held for sexual assault, arson, or a status offense, while Black youth accounted for at least half of all youth held for robbery, burglary, or a weapons offense.

Notes: Racial categories (i.e., White, Black, American Indian, and Asian) do not include youth of Hispanic ethnicity. The American Indian racial category includes Alaska Natives; the Asian racial category includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders. Totals include persons of unspecified race. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2019* [data file].

The majority of youth were in medium-sized facilities

More than half (55%) of all youth in placement in 2019 were in a medium-sized facility (21–100 residents), about one-fifth (21%) were in a small facility (20 or fewer residents), and one-fourth (24%) were in a large facility (more than 100 residents). However, the placement setting varied by offense. For example, youth held for a status offense were more likely to be in a small facility (35%) than those held for a delinquency offense (20%), and youth held for a delinquency offense were more likely to be in a medium-sized facility (56%) than those held for a status offense (44%).

Facility size profile, 2019:

Facility size	Offense		
	Total	Delinquency	Status
Total	100%	100%	100%
Small	21	20	35
Medium	55	56	44
Large	24	24	21

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

Most youth held for a status offense were in private facilities

Youth held for a status offense account for a small proportion of the overall placement population—4% in 2019. The overwhelming majority (72%) of these youth were in privately-operated facilities. Comparatively, 76% of youth

held for a delinquency offense were in a publicly operated facility.

Facility operation profile, 2019:

Offense	Facility operation		
	Total	Public	Private
Total	100%	74%	26%
Delinquency	100	76	24
Person	100	78	22
Property	100	73	27
Drugs	100	64	36
Public order	100	72	28
Tech. violation	100	80	20
Status offense	100	28	72

More than half (55%) of youth held for a status offense in 2019 were in residential treatment centers, and more than one-third (36%) were in group homes.

Detention centers held 40% of youth in placement on October 23, 2019

Percent of youth in residential placement, 2019

Most serious offense	Total	Residential placement					
		Detention center	Shelter	Group home	Residential treatment center	Training school	Other*
Total	100%	40%	2%	7%	23%	26%	3%
Person	100	40	1	7	19	31	2
Property	100	38	1	7	24	26	4
Drugs	100	34	2	7	34	18	5
Public order	100	39	1	7	27	23	3
Technical violation	100	53	2	4	17	21	3
Status offense	100	12	8	30	45	2	3

- More than half of youth in placement for a technical violation were in a detention center.
- Residential treatment centers and group homes were the most common placement setting for youth held for a status offense.

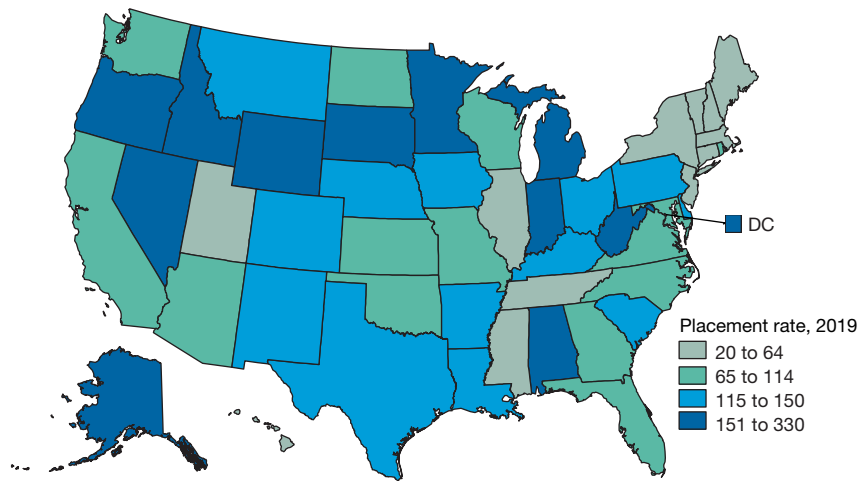
*Includes reception/diagnostic centers and ranch/wilderness camps.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2019* [data file].

In 2019, there were 36,749 youth in residential placement—114 for every 100,000 youth in the U.S. population

The national residential placement rate fell 49% between 2010 and 2019; across states, placement rates in 2019 were lower than in 2010 for all but one state

State	Youth in placement, 2019	Placement rate per 100,000		Percent change	State	Youth in placement, 2019	Placement rate per 100,000		Percent change
		2010	2019				2010	2019	
U.S. total	36,479	225	114	-49%	Missouri	588	214	108	-50%
Alabama	798	212	161	-24	Montana	138	192	133	-31
Alaska	255	342	330	-4	Nebraska	309	378	145	-62
Arizona	606	152	80	-47	Nevada	546	244	174	-29
Arkansas	465	230	146	-37	New Hampshire	24	97	20	-79
California	4,131	272	102	-63	New Jersey	513	123	58	-53
Colorado	753	286	130	-55	New Mexico	270	250	122	-51
Connecticut	96	93	27	-71	New York	837	180	54	-70
Delaware	129	270	139	-49	North Carolina	744	112	93	-17
Dist. of Columbia	117	430	262	-39	North Dakota	78	258	104	-60
Florida	2,001	261	104	-60	Ohio	1,746	227	148	-35
Georgia	1,119	220	110	-50	Oklahoma	345	157	80	-49
Hawaii	63	90	49	-46	Oregon	651	320	164	-49
Idaho	342	257	164	-36	Pennsylvania	1,566	317	129	-59
Illinois	834	178	64	-64	Rhode Island	108	236	114	-52
Indiana	1,155	276	161	-42	South Carolina	633	235	141	-40
Iowa	441	227	133	-41	South Dakota	171	575	180	-69
Kansas	360	264	113	-57	Tennessee	345	117	50	-57
Kentucky	588	186	130	-30	Texas	3,699	203	126	-38
Louisiana	693	239	143	-40	Utah	246	190	58	-69
Maine	60	143	51	-64	Vermont	18	53	33	-38
Maryland	495	143	82	-43	Virginia	918	224	109	-51
Massachusetts	288	115	46	-60	Washington	693	183	94	-49
Michigan	1,353	208	157	-25	West Virginia	483	317	291	-8
Minnesota	948	159	161	1	Wisconsin	477	209	93	-56
Mississippi	198	106	61	-42	Wyoming	147	440	239	-46



Notes: Placement rate is the number of youth in placement per 100,000 youth ages 10 through the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction in each state. U.S. totals include 2,567 youth in placement in 2010 and 1,895 youth in placement in 2019 for whom state of offense was not reported.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 and 2019 [data files].

Between 1997 and 2019, the decline in the committed population outpaced that of the detained population

CJRP documents the placement status of youth

Some youth are held in residential placement for detention purposes (e.g., youth awaiting an adjudicatory or disposition hearing in juvenile or criminal court) and those held after disposition while awaiting placement elsewhere.

Other youth are committed to a facility as part of a court-ordered sanction. In 2019, detained youth accounted for 39% of the placement population and committed youth accounted for 58%.

Offense profiles were similar for detained and committed youth

Youth held for a delinquency offense accounted for 98% of the detained population and 95% of the committed population. Youth held for a status offense accounted for 5% of the committed population and 2% of the detained population.

Offense profile of youth in placement, 2019:

Most serious offense	Detained (14,344)	Committed (21,141)
Total	100%	100%
Delinquency	98	95
Person	45	43
Criminal homicide	4	2
Sexual assault	4	8
Robbery	12	11
Aggravated assault	11	8
Simple assault	8	8
Other person	5	5
Property	20	21
Burglary	6	7
Theft	4	4
Auto theft	5	5
Arson	1	1
Other property	4	4
Drug	3	5
Drug trafficking	1	1
Other drug	3	4
Public order	13	14
Weapons	7	5
Other public order	6	9
Technical violation	16	12
Status offense	2	5

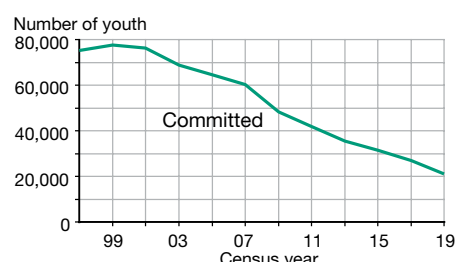
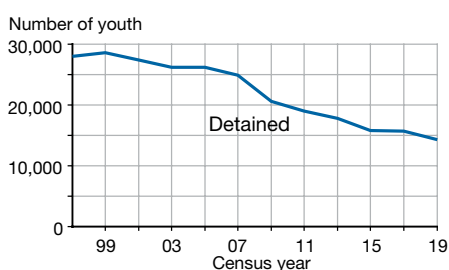
Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Detained and committed youth were held in different types of facilities

In 2019, 81% of detained youth were held in detention centers, 9% were in long-term secure facilities, and 6% were

in residential treatment centers. Among committed youth, 38% were held in long-term secure facilities, and 33% were in residential treatment centers. Group homes and detention centers each held 11% of committed youth.

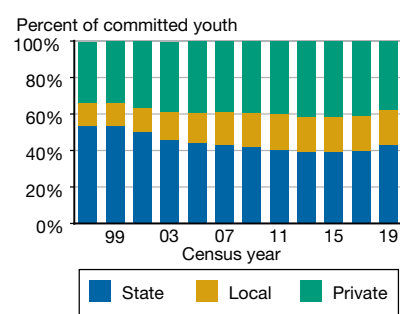
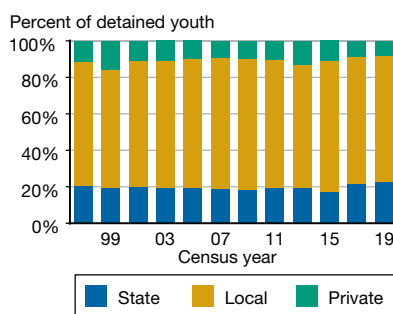
Between 1997 and 2019, the detained population decreased 47% and the committed population fell 72%



- Most of the decline in the number of youth detained took place between 2007 and 2019, during which time the population of youth in residential placement declined 42%, while the committed population declined consistently since 2001.
- Committed youth account for a larger share of the overall placement population than detained youth, but their share declined from 72% in 1997 to 58% in 2019, while detained youth accounted for a larger share in 2019 (39%) than in 1997 (27%).

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997 through 2019 [data files].

Most detained youth were held in locally operated facilities while most committed youth were in state operated facilities

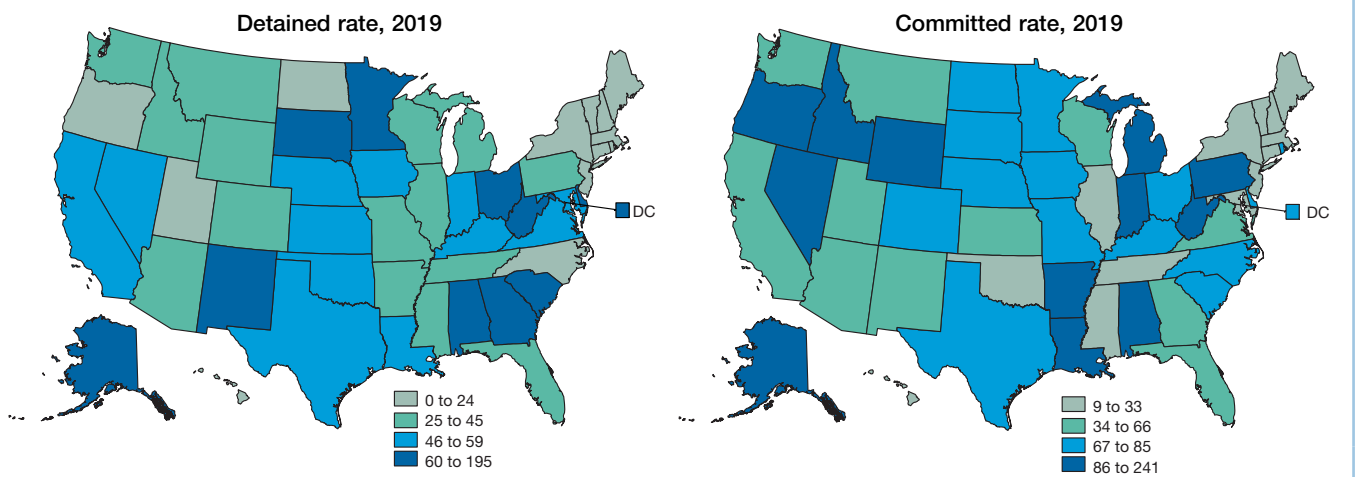


- The overwhelming majority of detained youth were held in locally operated facilities. In a typical year between 1997 and 2019, 70% of youth in detention were held in a locally operated facility.
- The number of committed youth held in state facilities fell 78% between 1997 and 2019, compared with 69% for those in private facilities and 56% for those in local facilities. As a result, a smaller proportion of committed youth were in state operated facilities in 2019 (43%) than in 1997 (54%).

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997 through 2019 [data files].

Commitment rates declined between 2010 and 2019 for all but four states, while detention rates declined for all but eight states

State	Rate per 100,000				State	Rate per 100,000			
	Detained		Committed			Detained		Committed	
	2010	2019	2010	2019		2010	2019	2010	2019
U.S. total	65	45	154	66	Missouri	41	27	170	81
Alabama	52	62 [†]	159	90	Montana	51	43	138	58
Alaska	124	85	211	241	Nebraska	106	58	269	85 [†]
Arizona	51	42	96	36	Nevada	80	56	163	108
Arkansas	47	45	182	101 [†]	New Hampshire	7*	5*	70	10
California	116	50 [†]	155	51 [†]	New Jersey	57	24	65	33 [†]
Colorado	74	44	200	85	New Mexico	72	68	176	53
Connecticut	38	17	54	9	New York	35 [†]	20	143	33
Delaware	106	71	164	68	North Carolina	22	17	68	74
Dist. of Columbia	222	195	208	67	North Dakota	28	16	230	84
Florida	48	28	211	66	Ohio	75	63	152	83
Georgia	48	60	102	50	Oklahoma	64	59	91	20
Hawaii	20	23	63	23	Oregon	38	14 [†]	281	147
Idaho	77	37	179	109	Pennsylvania	43	29	254	99
Illinois	52	39	123 [†]	24 [†]	Rhode Island	3*	22	201	76
Indiana	76	46 [†]	199	109	South Carolina	78	67	157	71
Iowa	41	48	182	75	South Dakota	123 [†]	101	432	76
Kansas	93	58	169	55	Tennessee	28	38 [†]	88	12
Kentucky	63	52	120	73	Texas	72	59	129	67
Louisiana	77	54	159	88	Utah	55	17	135	39
Maine	12	0*	127	28	Vermont	19 [†]	6*	10 ^{*†}	11*
Maryland	71	48	66	33	Virginia	76	56	144	52
Massachusetts	34	20	79	22	Washington	56	28	126	63
Michigan	57	43	151	110	West Virginia	164	115	152	170
Minnesota	37	82 [†]	119	67	Wisconsin	39	25	168	61
Mississippi	51	26	54	30	Wyoming	31	34	409	205



[†] Interpret data with caution. In these states, 30% or more of the information for placement status (i.e., detained or committed) was imputed.

*Rate is based on fewer than 10 youth.

Notes: Rate is the number of detained or committed youth in placement per 100,000 youth ages 10 through the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction in each state. U.S. totals include 493 detained youth and 1,359 committed youth for whom state of offense was not reported.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2010 and 2019 [data files].



In four states, the proportion of youth detained for a technical violation exceeded the proportion detained for a person offense

The percent of youth detained for a person offense ranged from a low of 19% in Arizona to a high of 64% in Georgia

State	Offense profile of detained youth, 2019						State	Offense profile of detained youth, 2019					
	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order	Technical violation	Status		Person	Property	Drugs	Public order	Technical violation	Status
U.S. total	45%	20%	3%	13%	16%	2%	Missouri	47%	29%	2%	10%	10%	2%
Alabama	36 [†]	27 [†]	4 [†]	15 [†]	17 [†]	1	Montana*	40	20	7	0	33	0
Alaska*	36	23	5 [†]	9	23	5 [†]	Nebraska	37	17	7	17	22	0
Arizona	19	19	10	10	39	0	Nevada	27	17	12	17	25	2
Arkansas	40 [†]	21 [†]	4 [†]	6 [†]	27 [†]	0	New Hampshire	–	–	–	–	–	–
California	53 [†]	15 [†]	1	11	20 [†]	0	New Jersey	51	8	3	14	24	0
Colorado	52	23 [†]	2 [†]	19 [†]	2 [†]	1	New Mexico	30	8	4	12	44	2
Connecticut*	40	40	0	5	10	0	New York	60	19	5	8	7	1
Delaware*	45	18	0	27	5	0	North Carolina	41	37	2	11	4	7
Dist. of Columbia*	62	21	0	17	0	0	North Dakota	–	–	–	–	–	–
Florida	40	30	3	16	10	1 [†]	Ohio	50	16	2	15	15	2
Georgia	64	27	1	7	0	0	Oklahoma	49	22	4	11	13	0
Hawaii*	40	20	0	0	40	0	Oregon*	21	16 [†]	0	11 [†]	53 [†]	0
Idaho*	38	23	15	12	4	4	Pennsylvania	36	18	7	11	27	1
Illinois	36	19	3	31	12	0	Rhode Island*	29	29	0	43	0	0
Indiana	38 [†]	21 [†]	3 [†]	16 [†]	15 [†]	7	South Carolina	33	22	1 [†]	16	23	5
Iowa	49	28	9	9	4 [†]	0	South Dakota*	44	25	3	9 [†]	19	3 [†]
Kansas	56	18	3	18	10	6	Tennessee	57 [†]	14 [†]	2	11	11 [†]	2
Kentucky	54	13 [†]	1	19	5	8	Texas	42	16	6 [†]	14	22 [†]	0
Louisiana	38	30	2 [†]	8	17	6	Utah*	29	25	0	13	33	0
Maine	–	–	–	–	–	–	Vermont	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maryland	44	22	7	9	15	1	Virginia	42	20 [†]	2 [†]	14	19	3 [†]
Massachusetts	57	17	5	19	2	0	Washington	59	16	1	12	10	1
Michigan	42	20	2	12	21	4	West Virginia	47	27	2	9	2 [†]	14
Minnesota	41 [†]	23 [†]	3 [†]	14 [†]	18 [†]	3 [†]	Wisconsin	40	28	2	23	2	2 [†]
Mississippi*	39	25	4	18	11	4	Wyoming*	29	14	14	14	14	14

■ The proportion of youth 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 Hawaii (40%), New Mexico (44%), and Oregon (53%).

■ Youth held for a status offense accounted for less than 10% of the detained population in all states but West Virginia and Wyoming.

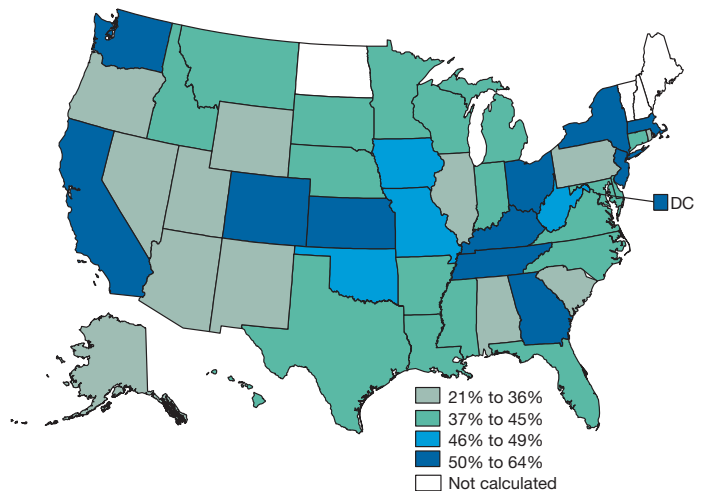
– Too few youth (fewer than 20) to calculate a reliable percentage.

*Percents in this state are based on a small denominator (fewer than 100, but at least 20 youth).

† Interpret data with caution. In these states, 30% or more of the information for offense and/or placement status (i.e., detained or committed) was imputed.

Notes: U.S. totals include 493 detained youth for whom state of offense was not reported.

Percent of detained youth held for person offenses, 2019



Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2019* [data file].

Youth held for a person offense accounted for 50% or more of the committed population in 13 states and DC

The percent of youth committed for a person offense ranged from a low of 18% in Mississippi to a high of 79% in Kansas

State	Offense profile of committed youth, 2019						State	Offense profile of committed youth, 2019					
	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order	Technical violation	Status		Person	Property	Drugs	Public order	Technical violation	Status
U.S. total	43%	21%	5%	14%	12%	5%	Missouri	32%	31%	4%	16%	8%	7%
Alabama	33	26	6	11	16	7	Montana*	45	25	10	15 [†]	5	0
Alaska	42	27	3 [†]	13	15	3 [†]	Nebraska	38 [†]	18 [†]	8 [†]	13 [†]	12 [†]	10 [†]
Arizona	27	29	10	23	12	0	Nevada	29	16	12	23	19	1 [†]
Arkansas	31 [†]	22 [†]	7	15 [†]	22 [†]	2	New Hampshire	–	–	–	–	–	–
California	37 [†]	16 [†]	4 [†]	16 [†]	26 [†]	1 [†]	New Jersey	60 [†]	10 [†]	10 [†]	15 [†]	4	0
Colorado	54	24	4	16	1 [†]	0	New Mexico	38	10	0	5	44	3 [†]
Connecticut*	36	45	0	9	9	0	New York	35	27	1	10	11	18
Delaware*	38	24	0	29	10	0	North Carolina	39	30	3 [†]	11	15	1 [†]
Dist. of Columbia*	60	10 [†]	0	20 [†]	0	0	North Dakota*	38	19	19	24	0	0
Florida	34	39	4	11	12 [†]	0	Ohio	53	18	3	13	10	3
Georgia	65	21	1	7	0	6	Oklahoma*	52	31	7 [†]	7	3	0
Hawaii*	50	20	10	10	10	0	Oregon	58	22	4	14	2	1
Idaho	30	30	11	26	4	0	Pennsylvania	38	14	10	17	12	11
Illinois	47 [†]	20 [†]	6 [†]	11 [†]	13 [†]	4 [†]	Rhode Island*	42	21	0	17	13	13
Indiana	39	18	12	19	8	4	South Carolina	30	21	3	10	34	2
Iowa	46	31	6	14	2 [†]	1 [†]	South Dakota*	50	17	8	17 [†]	8 [†]	4
Kansas	79	10	3	5	3	0	Tennessee*	18	11	7 [†]	54	4	7
Kentucky	29	11	5 [†]	15	3	37 [†]	Texas	57	17	3	10	11 [†]	2 [†]
Louisiana	46	32	2	11	3	6	Utah	44	29	2	22	0	5 [†]
Maine*	55	45	0	0	0	0	Vermont	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maryland	33	19	4 [†]	18 [†]	25 [†]	1 [†]	Virginia	59	19	2	7	10	3
Massachusetts	49	13	4	31	0	2	Washington	65	18	2	4	12	0
Michigan	40	18	5 [†]	14	14	9	West Virginia	34	17	6	10	6	28
Minnesota	44	19	2 [†]	24	8 [†]	3	Wisconsin	50	29	2 [†]	16	0	3 [†]
Mississippi*	18	61	12	3	9	3	Wyoming	19	24	19	12	17	7

- In 13 states, the proportion of youth committed for a technical violation of probation or parole, or a violation of a valid court order exceeded the national level (12%).
- Youth held for a status offense accounted for less than 5% of the committed population in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

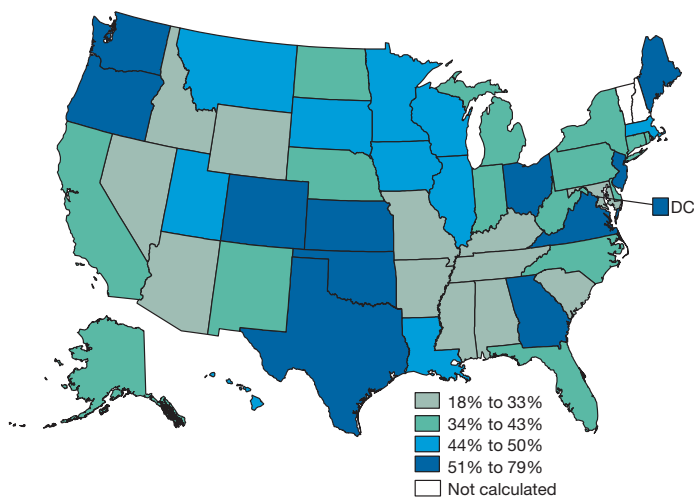
– Too few youth (fewer than 20) to calculate a reliable percentage.

*Percents in this state are based on a small denominator (fewer than 100, but at least 20 youth).

[†]Interpret data with caution. In these states, 30% or more of the information for offense or placement status (i.e., detained or committed) was imputed.

Notes: U.S. totals include 1,359 committed youth for whom state of offense was not reported.

Percent of committed youth held for person offenses, 2019



Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2019* [data file].



The proportion of youth in placement for a person offense has increased

More than 40% of youth were in residential placement for a person offense

In any given year, youth held for a person offense accounted for the largest share of the placement population. For example, in 1999, the year in which the CJRP population reached its peak, 35% of youth in placement were there as a result of a person offense and 29% were held for a property offense. However, declines in the placement population between 1999 and 2019 were not evenly spread across offenses. In fact, with the exception of youth held for a public order offense, the relative decline in the number of youth held for

a person offense was less than the decline for youth held for other offenses. As a result, the proportion of youth in placement for a person offense increased to 43% in 2019.

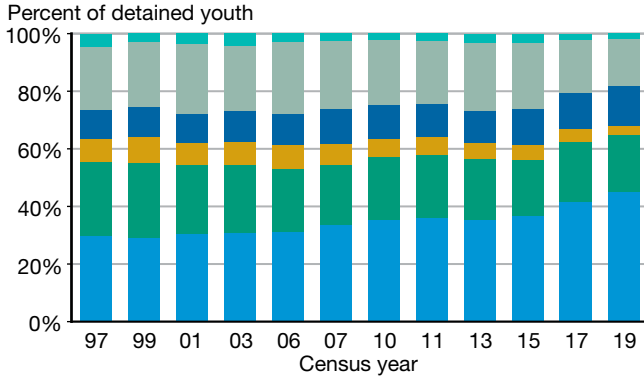
Offense profile of youth in placement:

Offense	1999	2019	Percent change 1999–2019
Total	100%	100%	-66%
Delinquency	96	96	-66
Person	35	43	-58
Property	29	21	-76
Drugs	9	4	-84
Public order	10	14	-53
Tech. violation	13	14	-64
Status offense	4	4	-67

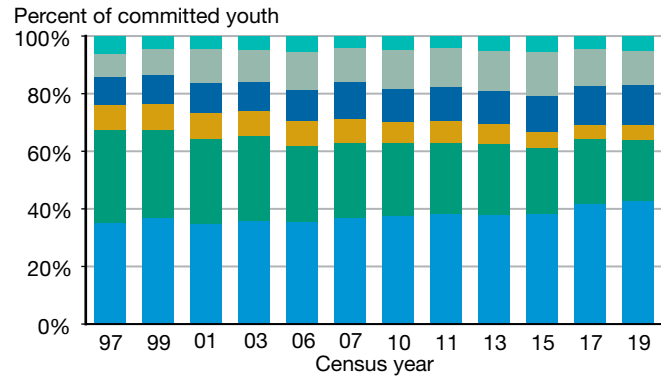
The trend in the number and proportion of youth in placement for a violent crime (criminal homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) mirrored the trend of youth held for person offenses: the number of youth in placement for a violent crime declined 59% between 1999 and 2019, but, given the larger declines in other offenses over the same period, the proportion of youth held for a violent crime increased from 25% in 1999 to 30% in 2019. Conversely, the number of youth held for a status offense declined considerably between 1999 and 2019, but the proportion of youth in placement for a status offense remained the same.

The offense profile of the detained and committed populations has changed

Detained youth



Committed youth



- The detained and committed populations have declined considerably between 1999—the year the CJRP population peaked—and 2019, but the declines varied based on offense. For example, among the detained population, the number of youth held for a drug offense declined more than 80%, and the number held for a status offense, technical violation, or a property offense fell more than 60%; the decline in youth detained for a public order (36%) or a person (21%) offense was considerably less.
- Among the committed population, the decline in the number of youth held for a drug offense (85%) or a property offense (81%) outpaced the decline in the number of youth held for other offenses: person (68%), public order (62%), technical violations (66%), and status offenses (67%).
- The net result of these declines was that the offense profile of the detained and committed populations included a larger proportion of youth held for a person offense, and a smaller proportion of youth held for a property or a drug offense. For example, in 2019, 45% of detained youth were in placement for a person offense, compared with 30% in 1997; among committed youth, the proportion held for a person offense increased from 35% to 43%. Conversely, the proportion of detained youth held for a property offense declined from 26% in 1997 to 20% in 2019; among committed youth, 22% were held for a property offense in 2019, down from 32% in 1997.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997–2019 [data files].

Females accounted for a relatively small proportion of the residential placement population

Females accounted for 15% of youth in residential placement

The juvenile justice system predominantly consists of male youth. This is especially true of the residential placement population. Males represent half of the youth population and are involved in approximately 70% of youth arrests and delinquency cases that juvenile courts handle each year, but they represented 85% of youth held in residential placement in 2019. Females accounted for a larger proportion of youth in private facilities (16%) than in public facilities (14%), a larger proportion

of the detained population (16%) than the committed population (14%). Although the number of females in placement has declined since 1997, their proportion of the placement population has remained stable.

Female percent of youth in placement:

Offense	1997	2019
Total	14%	15%
Facility operation:		
Public	12	14
Private	18	16
Placement status:		
Detained	17	16
Committed	12	14

Females in placement tended to be younger than their male counterparts

In 2019, 43% of females in placement were younger than age 16, compared with 32% of males. For females in placement, the peak age was 16, accounting for 27% of all females in placement facilities. For males, the peak age was 17 (27%).

Age profile of youth in placement, 2019:

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%
12 or younger	2	2	2
13	4	4	6
14	10	9	13
15	18	18	22
16	26	26	27
17	27	27	23
18–20	14	15	7

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 of youth in residential placement, 2019

Most serious offense	All facilities		Public facilities		Private facilities	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Delinquency	97	91	99	96	91	78
Person	44	37	47	39	37	31
Violent Crime Index*	32	16	35	19	23	8
Other person	12	21	12	21	14	23
Property	21	19	21	18	21	21
Property Crime Index†	17	14	17	13	18	16
Other property	4	4	4	4	3	4
Drug	4	5	4	4	6	8
Drug trafficking	1	0	1	1	1	0
Other drug	3	5	3	4	5	8
Public order	15	9	14	10	17	7
Technical violation‡	13	21	13	24	11	11
Status offense	3	9	1	4	9	22

■ Compared with males, a larger proportion of females were in placement for a status offense (9% vs. 3%) or a technical violation (21% vs. 13%) in 2019.

■ More than 1 in 5 (22%) females in private facilities were there for a status offense, compared with less than 1 in 10 (9%) males.

* 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, 2019* [data file].

Females were committed to placement for different offenses than males

In 2019, nearly 3,000 females were committed to placement, that is, they were in placement as part of a court-ordered sanction. About 1 in 3 (34%) females were committed to placement for a person offense, compared with 44% of males. Conversely, larger proportions of females than males were committed to placement for a status offense (12% vs. 4%) or technical violations (17% vs. 11%).

Offense profile of committed youth, 2019:

Offense	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%
Delinquency	96	88
Person	44	34
Property	22	19
Drugs	5	7
Public order	15	10
Tech. violation	11	17
Status offense	4	12

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

Placement rates for Black youth and American Indian youth exceed the rate for White youth

Black youth accounted for the largest share of youth in placement

In 2019, the population of youth in residential placement was 41% Black, 33% White, and 20% Hispanic. Relative to their proportion in the general population, Black youth were overrepresented in the placement population. In 2019, Black youth accounted for 14% of the population ages 10–20 and 41% of the placement population. American Indian youth were also overrepresented in the placement population but not to the same extent as Black youth.

Race profile of youth ages 10–20, 2019:

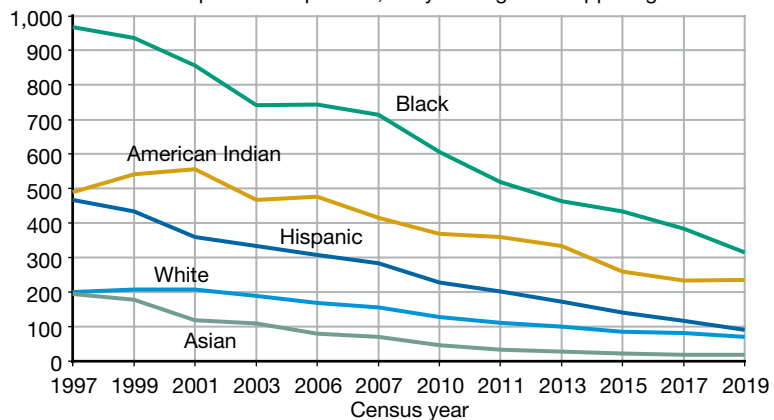
Offense	Population	Residential placement
Total	100%	100%
White	52	33
Black	14	41
Hispanic	25	20
American Indian	1	2
Asian	5	1
Two or more	4	2

Note: Racial categories (i.e., White, Black, American Indian, and Asian) do not include youth of Hispanic ethnicity. The American Indian racial category includes Alaska Natives; the Asian racial category includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders. Totals include persons of unspecified race. Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Black youth also accounted for a larger share of the detained population (46%) than White youth (26%) or Hispanic youth (23%). Among those committed to placement following a court-ordered sanction, White youth and Black youth accounted for the same proportion in 2019 (28%), while Hispanic youth accounted for 19%. American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and youth of two or more races combined to account for 6% or less of the detained and committed populations.

Residential placement rates declined for all race groups since 1997, but the rates for Black, American Indian, and Hispanic youth remain higher than the rate for White youth

Youth in residential placement per 100,000 youth ages 10–upper age



- Between 1997 and 2019, the residential placement rate declined the most for Asian youth (90%), followed by Hispanic (80%), Black (67%), White (64%), and American Indian (52%) youth. Despite these declines, placement rates were higher for Black, Hispanic, and American Indian youth than White youth each year since 1997.

Notes: Racial categories (i.e., White, Black, American Indian, and Asian) do not include youth of Hispanic ethnicity. The American Indian racial category includes Alaska Natives; the Asian racial category includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders. Rates are based on the number of youth in placement per 100,000 youth ages 10 through the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997 through 2019 [data files].

Detention and commitment rates for Black youth and American Indian youth were well above the rates for White youth

Race/ethnicity	Rate per 100,000 youth ages 10–upper age			Ratio of rates (relative to rate for White youth)		
	Total	Detained	Committed	Total	Detained	Committed
White	72	22	47			
Black	315	139	168	4.4	6.3	3.6
Hispanic	92	41	50	1.3	1.9	1.1
American Indian	236	91	140	3.3	4.1	3.0
Asian	19	8	11	0.3	0.4	0.2

- The ratio is determined by dividing the rate of each racial/ethnic minority group by the rate for White youth. A ratio of 1.0 indicates statistical parity, i.e., the rates for the comparison groups are equal. For example, if White youth and Black youth were placed at the same rate, the ratio would be 1.0. When the ratio exceeds 1.0, the rate for a particular racial/ethnic minority group exceeds the rate for White youth; when it is below 1.0, the rate for a racial/ethnic minority group is less than the rate for White youth.

Note: Racial categories (i.e., White, Black, American Indian, and Asian) do not include youth of Hispanic ethnicity. The American Indian racial category includes Alaska Natives; the Asian racial category includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders. Rates are based on the number of youth in placement per 100,000 youth ages 10 through the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement*, 2019 [data file].

Nationally, residential placement rates were highest for Black youth

For every 100,000 Black youth living in the U.S., 315 were in a residential placement facility on October 23, 2019; for American Indian youth the rate was 236 and for Hispanic youth the rate was 92

Placement rate (per 100,000), 2019						Placement rate (per 100,000), 2019					
State	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian	State	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
U.S. total	72	315	92	236	19	Missouri	80	288	24*	102*	21*
Alabama	106	294	65	0*	35*†	Montana	100	602*	101*	332	0*
Alaska	219	720	45*†	693	200	Nebraska	69	641	197	1,145	47*
Arizona	62	240	67	101	22*	Nevada	140	488	117	102*	47
Arkansas	96†	307	129†	113*†	119*†	New Hampshire	14	183*	38*	0*	0*
California	48	433	113†	212	14	New Jersey	14	245	58	0*	3*
Colorado	76	557	160	145*	52	New Mexico	277	467	58	62	0*
Connecticut	7†	74†	36†	1,163†	16*	New York	30	168	37	44*	5*
Delaware	44	390	61*	0*	0*	North Carolina	37	250	34	296	0*
Dist. of Columbia	35*†	388	84*	0*	0*	North Dakota	70	356	71*	319	247*
Florida	90	295	7	0*	9*	Ohio	84	433	86	220*	9*
Georgia	40	233	47	0*	13*	Oklahoma	53	281	37	105	26*
Hawaii	25*	0*	61	0*	30	Oregon	146	547	169	362	52
Idaho	137	980	176	580	167*	Pennsylvania	73	413	108	0*	24
Illinois	32†	218	39†	231*†	4*†	Rhode Island	72	434	77	479*	0*
Indiana	138	298	72	0*	15*†	South Carolina	63	315	49	0*	0*
Iowa	83	721	116	474*	0*	South Dakota	109	512	219	486	0*
Kansas	81	405	110	185*	56*	Tennessee*	27	124	42	0*	19*
Kentucky	89	393	75	0*	32*	Texas	74	345	116	34*	13
Louisiana	49	294	41	81*	0*	Utah	38	336	110	143*	41*
Maine	42	288	0*	0*	0*	Vermont	30	206*	0*	0*	0*
Maryland	29	182	55	0*	0*	Virginia	57	273	103	0*	14*†
Massachusetts	19	133	108	0*	6*	Washington	60	310	112	257	39
Michigan	85	458	88	174	27*	West Virginia	249	803	344	0*	0*
Minnesota	73†	621†	198†	852	46†	Wisconsin	43	485	53	328	30*
Mississippi	27	105	40*	0*	0*	Wyoming	202	556*	242	760	0*

■ In all but seven states, the residential placement rate for Black youth exceeded the rate for other race/ethnicity groups. In six states, the placement rate for American Indian youth exceeded the rate for other race/ethnicity groups.

*Rate is based on fewer than 10 youth.

†Interpret data with caution. In these states, 30% or more of the information for offense or placement status (i.e., detained or committed) was imputed.

Notes: Racial categories (i.e., White, Black, American Indian, and Asian) do not include youth of Hispanic ethnicity. The American Indian racial category includes Alaska Natives; the Asian racial category includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders. U.S. totals include 1,895 youth for whom state of offense was not reported.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2019 [data file].

Youth held for person offenses had been committed or detained longer than youth held for other offenses

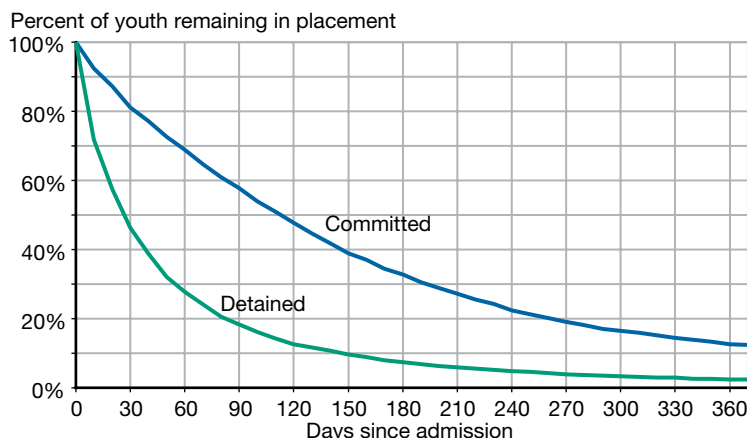
CJRP provides individual-level data on time spent in placement

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

CJRP captures information on the number of days since admission for each youth in residential placement. These data represent the number of days the youth had been in the facility up to the census date. Because CJRP data reflect only a youth’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 youth had been in the facility at the time of the census—a 1-day snapshot of time in the facility.

Because CJRP data are reported for individuals, 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 youth.

In 2019, 33% of committed youth but just 8% of detained youth remained in placement 6 months after admission



- Among detained youth (those awaiting adjudication, disposition, or placement elsewhere), 80% had been in the facility for at least a week, 64% for at least 15 days, and 46% for at least 30 days.
- Among committed youth (those held as part of a court-ordered disposition), 81% had been in the facility for at least 30 days, 69% for at least 60 days, and 58% for at least 90 days. After a full year, 12% of committed youth remained in placement

Source: Authors’ analysis of OJJDP’s *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement*, 2019 [data file].

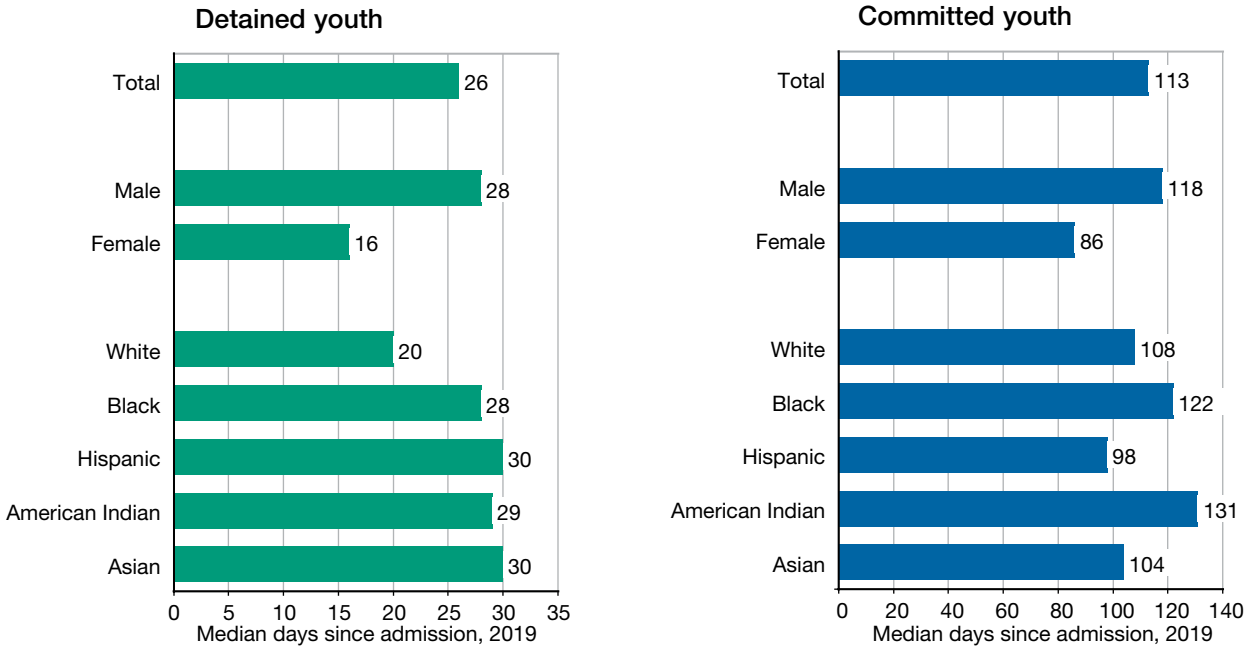
Youth’s average time in the facility varied by placement status, offense, and facility type

Most serious offense	Median days in placement, 2019		
	Detained (all facilities)	Committed	
		Public	Private
Total	26	112	115
Person	36	147	129
Property	20	97	104
Drugs	18	78	97
Public order	24	104	134
Technical violation	16	63	84
Status offense	16	83	126

- Half of all youth detained for a person offense were in a facility 36 days, twice as long as youth in detention for a drug offense (18 days).
- With the exception of those adjudicated for person offenses, youth committed to private facilities had been in the facilities longer than those committed to public facilities.
- Time in placement is influenced 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 youth held for a status offense was longer than the average for those held for a person offense.

Source: Authors’ analysis of OJJDP’s *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement*, 2019 [data file].

Among detained youth, racial and ethnic minority youth had been in placement longer than White youth



- Half of detained White youth remained in placement about 3 weeks, while half of Black, Hispanic, American Indian, and Asian youth had been in detention about 1 month.
- On average, half of all detained males had been in placement about 1 month, compared with about two weeks for detained females.
- Among committed youth, half all females had been in placement about 3 months, while committed males had been in placement about 4 months.
- Half of all American Indian youth committed to placement had been in the facility more than 4 months, about a month longer than Hispanic youth.

Note: Racial categories (i.e., White, Black, American Indian, and Asian) do not include youth of Hispanic ethnicity. The American Indian racial category includes Alaska Natives; the Asian racial category includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2019* [data file].



Nearly half of youth in residential placement on the 2018 census date were held in detention centers

JRFC provides data on residential facility operations

In 2018, the Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC) collected data from 2,208 juvenile residential facilities. Analyses were based on data from 1,510 facilities, which held a total of 37,529 youth younger than age 21 who were held for an offense on the census date (October 24, 2018). Data were excluded from 1 facility in the Virgin Islands, 16 tribal facilities, and 681 facilities that held no youth who were charged with an offense on the reference date.

Residential treatment centers and detention centers outnumbered 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, 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 (84%) selected only one. More than 600 facilities identified themselves as detention centers in 2018; they accounted for

41% of all facilities and held 46% of youth.

There were 553 facilities that identified themselves as residential treatment centers. They made up 37% of all facilities and held 37% of youth in 2018.

Facilities identified as detention centers most commonly also identified themselves as residential treatment centers (45 facilities) and training schools (44). There were 59 facilities that identified themselves as both residential treatment centers and training schools, the most common type of facility combination.

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	1,510	625	116	37	240	27	164	553
Operation profile								
All facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Public	60	93	34	81	28	59	77	35
State	22	21	3	68	14	26	59	19
Local	38	72	30	14	14	33	19	16
Private	40	7	66	19	72	41	23	65
Facility profile								
All facilities	100%	41%	8%	2%	16%	2%	11%	37%
Public	100	64	4	3	7	2	14	21
State	100	40	1	8	10	2	29	32
Local	100	78	6	1	6	2	5	16
Private	100	7	13	1	29	2	6	59

- Detention centers, reception/diagnostic centers, ranch/wilderness camps, and training schools were more likely to be public facilities than private facilities.
- Most shelters, group homes, and residential treatment centers were private facilities.
- Detention centers made up more than three quarters of all local facilities and nearly two-thirds of all public facilities.
- Detention centers and residential treatment centers accounted for the largest proportions of all state facilities (40% and 32%, respectively); training schools accounted for 29%.
- Residential treatment centers accounted for 59% of all private facilities, and group homes accounted for 29%.

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2019* [data file].



Security features varied across types and size of facilities

Facilities varied in their degree of security

In 2018, 49% of facilities said that, at least some of the time, youth were locked in their sleeping rooms. Among public facilities, 81% of local facilities and 69% of state facilities reported locking youth in sleeping rooms. Few private facilities locked youth in sleeping rooms (8%).

Among facilities that locked youth in sleeping rooms, most did this at night (87%) or when a youth was out of control (80%). Locking doors whenever youth were in sleeping rooms (61%) and locking youth in their rooms during shift changes (55%) were also fairly common. Fewer facilities reported locking youth in sleeping rooms for a part of each day (21%) or when they were suicidal (22%).

Very few facilities reported that they locked youth in sleeping rooms most of each day (1%) or all of each day (less than 1%). Seven percent (7%) had no set schedule for locking youth in sleeping rooms.

Facilities indicated whether they had various types of locked doors or gates to confine youth within the facility. Of all facilities that reported confinement information, 64% said they had one or more confinement features (other than locked sleeping rooms), with a greater proportion of public facilities using these features than private facilities (87% vs. 30%).

Confinement profile of facilities, 2019:

Facility operation	No confinement features	One or more confinement features
Total	36%	64%
Public	13	87
State	13	87
Local	13	87
Private	70	30

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

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

Facilities reporting one or more confinement features (other than locked sleeping rooms), 2019:

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

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

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

Security features increased as facility size increased

Although the majority of facilities reported using more than one confinement feature in 2018, the proportion varied by facility size. For example, about half (53%) of small facilities (those holding between 1 and 20 residents) reported using multiple confinement features, compared with 78% of medium facilities (those holding between 21 and 50 residents), and 79% of large facilities (those holding between 101 and 200 residents).

Although the use of razor wire is a far less common confinement feature—overall, less than one-third (29%) of facilities reported using razor wire—46%

of large facilities said they had locked gates in fences or walls with razor wire.

Percent of facilities reporting confinement feature, 2019:

Facility size	Youth locked in sleeping rooms	One or more confinement features	Razor wire
Total	49%	64%	29%
Small	40	53	20
Medium	61	78	41
Large	66	79	46

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

The Juvenile Residential Facility Census asks facilities about their confinement features

Are any young persons in this facility locked in their sleeping rooms by staff at any time to confine them?

Does the facility have any of the following features intended to confine young persons within specific areas?

- Doors for secure day rooms that are locked by staff to confine young persons within specific areas?
- Wing, floor, corridor, or other internal security doors that are locked by staff to confine young persons within specific areas?
- Outside doors that are locked by staff to confine young persons within specific buildings?
- External gates in fences or walls without razor wire that are locked by staff to confine young persons?
- External gates in fences or walls with razor wire that are locked by staff to contain young persons?



Facility crowding affected a relatively small proportion of youth in residential placement

Few youth 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 comprised.

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 im-

perfect 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.

In 2018, 1% of facilities reported being over capacity (having fewer standard beds than they had residents or relying on makeshift beds). These facilities held 1% of youth. In comparison, 8% of facilities in 2000 reported being over capacity and they held 20% of youth.

In 2018, only public facilities reported operating above capacity

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

Percent of facilities under, at, or over their standard bed capacity, 2019:

Facility operation	<100%	100%	>100%
Total	82%	17%	1%
Public	87	12	1
State	81	17	2
Local	90	9	1
Private	75	25	0

In 2000, 257 facilities from 41 states were over capacity; by 2018, just 11 facilities in 9 states were over

State	Number of facilities		Percent of facilities over capacity		Percent of youth in over capacity facilities		State	Number of facilities		Percent of facilities over capacity		Percent of youth in over capacity facilities	
	2000	2018	2000	2018	2000	2018		2000	2018	2000	2018	2000	2018
U.S. total	3,047	1,510	8%	1%	20%	1%	Missouri	65	50	9%	2%	16%	2%
Alabama	46	38	7	0	11	0	Montana	18	13	6	0	8	0
Alaska	19	18	5	6	6	5	Nebraska	22	11	14	0	40	0
Arizona	51	17	12	0	16	0	Nevada	15	11	27	9	39	3
Arkansas	45	24	0	0	0	0	New Hampshire	8	3	0	*	0	*
California	285	104	9	0	21	0	New Jersey	57	24	14	0	24	0
Colorado	72	21	8	5	30	18	New Mexico	27	16	15	0	44	0
Connecticut	25	3	4	*	6	*	New York	210	75	5	0	22	0
Delaware	7	8	29	0	59	0	North Carolina	67	27	12	0	22	0
Dist. of Columbia	17	5	0	0	0	0	North Dakota	13	7	0	0	0	0
Florida	166	62	10	2	23	1	Ohio	106	67	15	1	15	5
Georgia	50	30	28	0	25	0	Oklahoma	52	25	0	0	0	0
Hawaii	7	3	14	*	66	*	Oregon	48	33	13	0	23	0
Idaho	22	17	14	0	25	0	Pennsylvania	163	94	5	0	5	0
Illinois	46	28	7	4	4	6	Rhode Island	11	9	9	0	58	0
Indiana	97	62	11	0	34	0	South Carolina	42	17	10	0	15	0
Iowa	76	33	0	0	0	0	South Dakota	22	14	0	7	0	28
Kansas	51	20	4	0	25	0	Tennessee	63	20	3	0	3	0
Kentucky	58	29	2	0	4	0	Texas	138	86	16	0	38	0
Louisiana	64	30	5	0	3	0	Utah	51	25	14	0	15	0
Maine	17	1	0	*	0	*	Vermont	5	2	0	*	0	*
Maryland	43	24	7	0	13	0	Virginia	74	38	22	0	32	0
Massachusetts	71	36	8	0	14	0	Washington	42	31	7	0	24	0
Michigan	107	46	7	0	5	0	West Virginia	27	46	22	7	31	11
Minnesota	121	39	4	0	17	0	Wisconsin	94	40	1	0	22	0
Mississippi	20	16	5	0	4	0	Wyoming	24	12	0	0	0	0

*To protect the identity of specific facilities, no detail is displayed if the total number of facilities is greater than 0 and less than 5.

Notes: A single bed is counted as one standard bed, and a bunk bed is counted as two standard beds. Makeshift beds (e.g., cots, 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. "State" is the state where the facility is located. Youth sent to out-of-state facilities are counted in the state where the facility is located, not the state where they committed their offense.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 2000 and 2018 [data files].

Most facilities evaluate youth for educational, substance abuse, and mental health service needs

The JRFC asked facilities about procedures regarding educational, substance abuse, and mental health screening

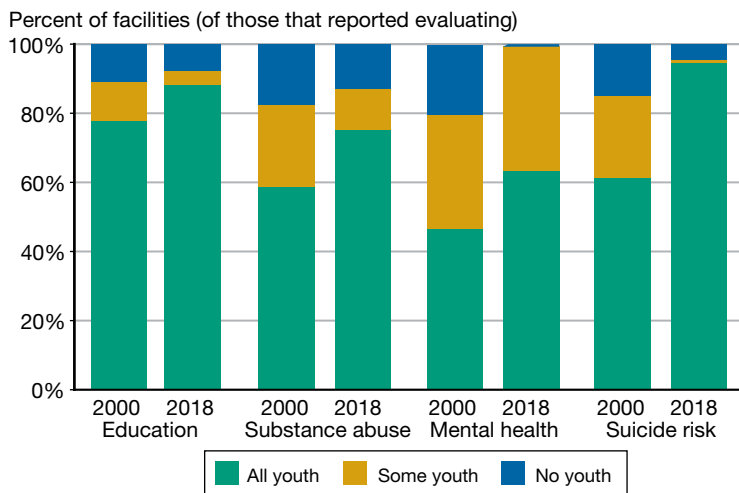
As part of the information collection on educational, substance abuse, and mental health services, the JRFC questionnaire asked facilities which youth are screened for services and when this screening takes place. Additionally, facilities are also asked to provide information about services they provide youth.

Most reporting facilities indicated they screened at least some youth for service needs. However, the proportion of facilities that screen all youth for education, substance abuse, and mental health service needs increased between 2000 and 2018.

Compared with other services, screening for substance abuse needs was least likely to occur among facilities in both 2000 and 2018. Despite this, 87% of reporting facilities indicated they screened all or some youth for substance abuse needs in 2018.

Most reporting facilities screened youth for service needs within one week of admission. In 2018, 99% of facilities screened youth within one week for suicide risk, 96% for education needs, 92% for substance abuse needs, and 77% for mental health needs. The proportion of facilities that screened youth for suicide risk within the first 24 hours increased from 69% in 2000 to 92% in 2018.

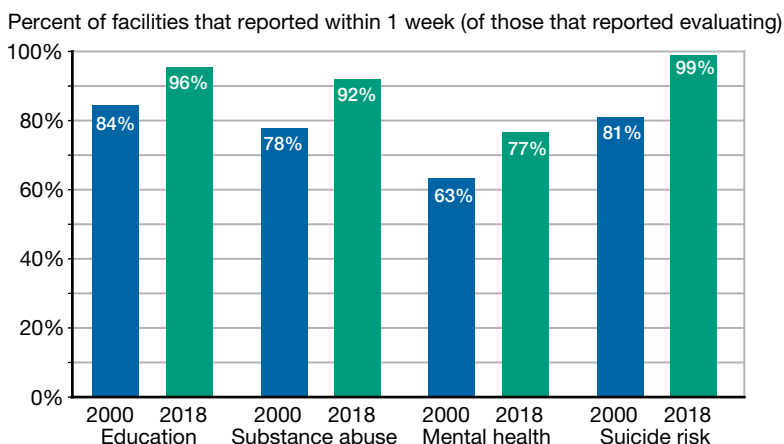
The proportion of facilities that screened all youth for service needs increased between 2000 and 2018



- Screening all youth for service needs varied by service need in 2018; 88% of reporting facilities screened all youth for educational needs, 75% screened all youth for substance abuse needs, 63% screened all youth for mental health needs, and 95% screened all youth for suicide risk.
- The practice of screening all youth increased the most for suicide risk screening between 2000 and 2018—up 33 percentage points from 61% in 2000.

Source: Authors' analysis of the OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 2000 and 2018 [data files].

The majority of facilities reported screening youth within one week of admission



- With the exception of mental health screening, more than 9 in 10 facilities screened youth for services within the first week of admission in 2018.
- Screening within the first week of admission increased across all service needs between 2000 and 2018.

Source: Authors' analysis of the OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 2000 and 2018 [data files].

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

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

Since 2000, there has been an increase in the proportion of facilities that reported evaluating all youth for grade level and educational needs. For example, in 2018, 88% of reporting facilities said they screened all youth for educational needs, up from 78% in 2000. An additional 4% of facilities in 2018 evaluated some youth and only 8% did not evaluate any youth for educational needs.

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

In 2018, those facilities that screened all youth held 89% of youth charged with or adjudicated for an offense. An additional 3% of such youth in 2018 were in facilities that screened some youth.

Procedures for evaluating youth changed little between 2000 and 2018. In 2018, the vast majority of facilities (93%) that screened some or all youth for grade level and educational needs used previous academic records. Some facilities also administered written tests (60%), or conducted an education-related interview with an education specialist (60%), intake counselor (37%), or guidance counselor (27%).

Local facilities were more likely than state or privately operated facilities to report that all youth attended school

Facility characteristic	Total	Percent of facilities		
		All youth	Some youth	No youth
Facility operation				
State	100%	76%	21%	3%
Local	100	80	17	3
Private	100	73	18	9
Facility type				
Detention center	100	82	15	3
Shelter	100	77	22	2
Reception/diagnostic center	100	59	32	8
Group home	100	63	29	8
Ranch/wilderness camp	100	67	22	11
Training school	100	77	23	1
Residential treatment center	100	76	16	8
Facility size				
Small (20 or fewer residents)	100	75	19	6
Medium (21–100 residents)	100	79	16	4
Large (>100 residents)	100	66	28	6

- Reception/diagnostic centers were the least likely to report that all youth attended school (59%), while ranch/wilderness camps were the most likely to report that no youth attended school.
- Medium facilities with 21 to 100 residents were more likely to report that all youth attended school (79%), while large facilities with more than 100 residents were least likely (66%) to have all youth attend school.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [data file].

Most facilities reported that youth in their facility attended school

Ninety-five percent (95%) of facilities reported that at least some youth in their facility attended school either inside or outside the facility. Facilities reporting that all youth attended school (76% of facilities) accounted for 76% of the youth population in residential placement. Reception/diagnostic centers were the least likely to report that all youth attended school (59%), while ranch/wilderness camps were the most likely to report that no youth attended school (11%).

Facilities offered a variety of educational services

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

Substance abuse screening and drug testing were common procedures at juvenile residential facilities

Facilities that screened all youth held 76% of youth in placement

In 2018, 75% of facilities that reported information about substance abuse evaluation said that they evaluated all youth (up from 59% in 2000), 12% said that they evaluated some youth, and 13% did not evaluate any youth.

Of the 174 facilities that evaluated some but not all youth in 2018, 86% evaluated youth that the court or a probation officer identified as potentially having substance abuse problems, 66% evaluated youth that facility staff identified as potentially have a substance abuse problem, and 60% evaluated youth charged with or adjudicated for a drug- or alcohol-related offense. Those facilities that screened all youth held 76% of youth in placement, up from 64% in 2000. An additional 12% of youth were in facilities that screened some youth.

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

Methods for evaluating youth for substance abuse needs changed very little since 2000. In 2018, the majority of facilities (78%) that evaluated some or all youth for substance abuse problems had staff administer a series of questions about substance use and abuse, 66% visually observed youth to evaluate them, 55% used a self-report checklist inventory that asks about substance use and abuse to evaluate youth, and 41% used a standardized self-report instrument, such as the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory.

Drug testing practices have changed somewhat since 2000

While drug testing was a routine practice in both 2000 and 2018, the proportion of facilities that reported that they required youth to provide a urine sample to test for drug use was slightly

Drug testing was a routine procedure in most facilities		
Circumstances of testing	Percent of facilities	
	2000	2018
All youth		
After initial arrival	18%	31%
At each reentry	15	26
Randomly	31	29
When drug use is suspected	51	51
At the request of the court or probation officer	51	68
Youth suspected of recent drug/alcohol use		
After initial arrival	28	37
At each reentry	21	24
Randomly	40	31
When drug use is suspected or drug is present	65	55
At the request of the court or probation officer	70	69
Youth with substance abuse problems		
After initial arrival	22	27
At each reentry	19	23
Randomly	42	31
When drug use is suspected or drug is present	59	50
At the request of the court or probation officer	67	66

■ In both 2000 and 2018, of facilities that reported testing all or some youth, the most common reason for testing was a request from the court or the probation officer.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 2000 and 2018 [data files].

lower in 2018 than in 2000 (72% and 69%, respectively). However it was more common for facilities to require a urine sample when youth entered and re-entered the facility in 2018 than in 2000. The practice of randomly screening youth for drug use decreased between the two years.

In 2018, substance abuse education was the most common service provided at facilities

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

The majority of facilities that provided counseling or therapy were more likely to provide those services on an individual basis. In 2018, detention centers, shelters and group homes were most likely to provide individual counseling and all training schools provided individual therapy.

Ranch/wilderness camps were the most likely to provide group counseling and 95% of training schools reported providing group therapy. Across facility types, family counseling or therapy was the least likely substance abuse service provided; half of all facilities provided family therapy and less than half provided family counseling.

Most facilities evaluated all youth for mental health needs and provided therapy

Facilities that screened all youth for mental health needs held 64% of youth

Among facilities that responded to mental health evaluation questions in 2018, 70% reported they evaluated all youth for mental health needs using an in-house mental health professional; up from 58% in 2000. These facilities held 64% of youth charged with or adjudicated for an offense on the census date, up from 43% in 2000. Facilities that reported using an in-house mental professional to evaluate some youth (30%) held 25% of youth.

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

Profile of in-house mental health evaluation by health professional, 2019:

Youth evaluated	Public	Private
Total reporting facilities	774	428
All reporting facilities	100%	100%
All youth screened	59	88
Some youth screened	41	12

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

Profile of onsite mental health treatment availability, 2019:

Youth evaluated	Yes	No
Total reporting facilities	1,077	125
All reporting facilities	100%	100%
All youth screened	74	30
Some youth screened	26	70

Individual therapy was the most common therapy provided at all reporting facilities

Facility type	Total facilities	Facilities reporting therapy	Percent of facilities		
			Individual	Group	Family
Total	1,510	1,120	98%	75%	66%
Detention center	625	468	97	57	43
Shelter	116	72	100	79	72
Reception/diagnostic center	37	30	100	90	90
Group home	240	114	97	81	75
Ranch/wilderness camp	27	18	100	72	67
Training school	164	159	96	89	72
Residential treatment center	553	466	100	89	89

- Facilities were more likely to provide individual therapy than group or family therapy in 2018.
- Of all reporting facilities, 100% of shelters, reception/diagnostic centers, ranch/wilderness camps, and residential treatment centers provided individual therapy.
- Reception diagnostic centers and residential treatment centers were more likely than other facilities to provide group and family therapy.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [data file].

Individual therapy was a common practice regardless of facility size

Facility size	Total facilities	Facilities reporting therapy	Percent of facilities		
			Individual	Group	Family
Total	1,510	1,122	98%	75%	66%
Small (20 or fewer residents)	857	561	98	70	64
Medium (21–100 residents)	585	500	98	78	67
Large (>100 residents)	68	61	98	92	79

- Large facilities (those holding more than 100 residents) were more likely than smaller facilities to provide group and family therapy in 2018.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [data file].

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

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

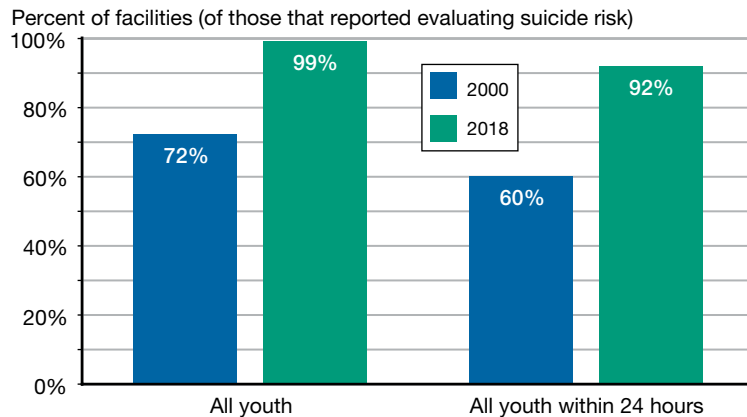
In 2018, 95% of facilities that reported information on suicide screening said that they evaluated all youth for suicide risk, up from 61% in 2000. An additional 1% said that they evaluated some youth. Some facilities (4%) said that they did not evaluate any youth for suicide risk. In 2018, the overwhelming majority of youth (94%) were in facilities that screened all youth for suicide risk.

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

More than half (55%) of facilities that screened some or all youth for suicide risk reported that mental health professionals with at least a master's degree in psychology or social work conducted the screenings. More than one-third (37%) used neither mental health professionals nor counselors whom a mental health professional had trained to conduct suicide screenings.

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

Compared with 2000, facilities in 2018 were more likely to report screening all youth for suicide risk on the youth's first day at the facility



- Nearly all facilities (99%) that reported screening for suicide risk in 2018 said they screened all youth, up from 72% in 2000.
- In 2018, a large portion (92%) said they screened all youth on their first day at the facility, up from 60% in 2000. These facilities accounted for 93% of youth charged with or adjudicated for an offense held in facilities that conducted suicide screenings in 2018, up from 74% in 2000.
- An additional 6% of facilities in 2018 said they screened all youth by the end of the first week of the youth's stay at the facility.

Source: Authors' analysis of the OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 2000 and 2018 [data files].

Of facilities that reported screening youth for suicide risk, 90% reassessed youth at some point during their stay. Most facilities (88%) reported rescreening on a case-by-case basis or as necessary. An additional 40% of facilities also reported that rescreening occurred systematically and was based on a variety of factors (e.g., length of stay, facility events, or negative life events). Less than 1% of facilities did not reassess youth to determine suicide risk.

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

Facilities that reported suicide screening information were asked a series of questions related to preventive mea-

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



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

Youth in residential placement rarely died in custody

Juvenile residential facilities reported that eight youth died while in the legal custody of the facility between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018.

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

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

There is no pattern in the timing of deaths in 2018

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

During the 12 months prior to the 2018 census, suicides were the most commonly reported cause of death in residential placement

Cause of death	Total deaths	Deaths inside the facility			Deaths outside the facility		
		All	Public	Private	All	Public	Private
Total	8	5	2	3	3	2	1
Suicide	6	4	2	2	2	2	0
Illness/natural	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Accident	1	0	0	0	1	0	1

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

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [data file].

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

Characteristic	Deaths per 100,000 youth held on the census date, October 24, 2018		
	Total	Public facility	Private facility
Cause of death			
Total	2.1	1.5	4.0
Suicide	1.6	1.5	2.0
Illness/natural	0.3	0.0	1.0
Accident	0.3	0.0	1.0
Type of facility			
Detention center	1.1	1.2	0.0
Shelter	9.7	0.0	15.8
Training school	2.0	2.4	0.0
Residential training center	2.1	0.0	3.9

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

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

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2018* [data file].

Youth in residential placement are at less 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 youth 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 youth population.

The number of deaths reported at juvenile residential facilities has decreased from 30 in 2000 to 8 in 2018. Historically, the actual number of deaths reported to JRFC were lower than the expected number of deaths, however this varied by cause of death.

For all years between 2000 and 2018, the number of homicides and unintentional deaths reported at facilities was lower than the number of expected deaths. For suicides however, the number of actual deaths reported at facilities outnumbered the number of expected deaths in several years, most

notably in 2004 where the actual number of suicides was nearly three times the expected number of suicides. As the occurrence of suicide in facilities has decreased since the early 2000s, the gap between the number of actual and expected deaths has narrowed.

For each year between 2000 and 2018, youth at residential facilities were less likely to die as a result of a homicide than from an unintended/accidental death or suicide. For most years during the same period, unintended/accidental deaths were the leading cause of death among youth in facilities.

Overall, the number of expected deaths exceeded the actual number of deaths reported by juvenile residential placement facilities each year since 2000

Year	All deaths		Suicide		Homicide		Accident	
	Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual
2000	56	30	8	7	19	4	29	19
2002	50	26	6	10	16	2	28	14
2004	45	27	6	16	14	2	24	9
2006	46	15	5	4	18	0	22	11
2008	37	14	5	6	14	1	16	7
2010	29	11	4	5	11	0	12	6
2012	22	14	4	5	9	2	9	7
2014	19	8	3	5	7	1	8	2
2016	20	6	3	1	8	0	8	5
2018	15	8	3	6	6	0	6	2

■ Deaths by suicide were a notable exception to the overall pattern. The actual number of suicide deaths reported by facilities exceeded the expected number in all but 3 years (2000, 2006, and 2016).

Notes: Deaths are reported deaths of youth in custody from October 1 of the year before the census through September 30 of the year of the JRFC reference date.

Source: Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* for 2000 through 2018 [data files].



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 works 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 2018 JRFC collected data from 16 tribal facilities. The tribal facilities were in Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota and held 116 youth charged with or adjudicated for an offense (up from 113 in 2016, when 14 facilities reported).

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

Compared with the nation's reporting about juvenile residential facilities, tribal facilities are small, most holding 20 or fewer residents. The majority (79%) of youth charged with or adjudicated for an offense were held at facilities that held between 1 and 20 residents. Each tribal facility identified itself as a detention center, and one also identified itself as a training school.

Most tribal facilities were operating under capacity

On the census day, almost all facilities (14) were operating at less than their standard bed capacity, and the remaining 2 facilities were operating at capacity. Standard bed capacities ranged from 6 to 196; only 2 facilities had more than 100 standard beds. This pattern was similar for all census years prior to 2018.

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 lock youth in their rooms. Fifteen of the 16 tribal facilities reported locking youth in their sleeping rooms in 2018. Among tribal facilities that locked youth in their rooms, 14 did so when the youth were out of control. Thirteen facilities locked youth in their rooms at night, 10 facilities locked youth in rooms during shift changes, and 8 locked youth in their rooms whenever the youth were in their rooms. Eight facilities locked youth in their rooms when youth were suicidal, and three facilities locked youth in their rooms for part of each day. One facility stated there was no set schedule for locking youth in rooms.

In each JRFC collection, only a few tribal facilities reported using either mechanical restraints or isolation. In 2018, mechanical restraints was reported by 5 of 16 tribal facilities, and 4 facilities reported locking youth alone for more than 4 hours to regain control of unruly behavior.

Tribal facilities provide a range of services

Fifteen of the 16 tribal facilities 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 13 facilities evaluated some youth. Five facilities said that evaluations were conducted only at an outside location. Thirteen facilities reported providing ongoing therapy either onsite or at another location.

Of the 16 tribal facilities, all reported assessing youth for suicide risk. Each

facility reported screening all youth within the first 24 hours of their arrival to the facility. Most (14) facilities said they reassessed youth for suicide risk at some point during the youth's stay at the facility; 9 reassessed youth as necessary on a case-by-case basis, and 8 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 16 facilities screening for suicide risk used untrained staff for those screenings, but trained screeners were also used; 9 facilities said mental health professionals conducted suicide screenings, and 3 said screenings were done by staff that were trained by a mental health professional. All 16 facilities said they took preventative measures to reduce suicide risk.

Most (10) tribal facilities said they evaluated youth for substance abuse; 5 of those 10 said they evaluated all youth. Five facilities said they require youth to provide urine samples for drug analysis. Eight of the facilities that evaluated for substance abuse provided substance abuse services either inside or outside the facility.

Of 13 facilities reporting education information, 11 said that all youth were evaluated for educational needs and 2 facilities reported that some youth were evaluated. Twelve facilities conducted evaluations within one week of the youth's arrival at the facility. All 13 reporting tribal facilities reported that youth attended school either inside or outside the facility; in 11 facilities, all youth attended school.

In 2018, 1 in 14 adjudicated youth in state-owned or state-operated facilities reported sexual victimization

BJS surveys provide estimates of 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 developed the National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC). To date, three waves of the NSYC have been administered: 2008–2009 (NSYC-1), 2012 (NSYC-2), and 2018 (NSYC-3).

The NSYC is based on interviews of 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. Youth interviews are conducted via audio computer-assisted self-interview methodology. The reference period for the NSYC is the past 12 months, or since the date of admission for youth who had been in the facility less than 12 months.

The 2018 NSYC administered the sexual victimization survey to a national sample of 6,049 youth in 327 eligible facilities, representing 12,750 adjudicated youth held nationwide. Comparatively, the 2012 NSYC sexual victimization survey was administered to 8,707 youth in 326 eligible facilities, representing 18,140 adjudicated youth nationwide.*

* The 30% drop in the NSYC estimated adjudicated youth population in state facilities between 2012 and 2018 is consistent with the 36% drop in the committed population seen between 2011 and 2017 in OJJDP's Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement data collection.

Sexual victimization declined significantly between 2012 and 2018

The overall rate of sexual victimization reported by adjudicated youth in juvenile facilities decreased from 9.5% in 2012 to 7.1% in 2018, as did the rate of youth-on-youth victimization (from 2.5% to 1.9%) and staff sexual misconduct (from 7.7% to 5.8%). Between the 2012 and 2018 NSYC collections, the estimated number of youth reporting sexual victimization fell 48%, from 1,720 to 900 victims.

In both 2012 and 2018, more than 80% of sexually victimized youth reported events that NSYC defines as staff sexual misconduct (5.8% of 7.1% in 2018 and 7.7% of 9.5% in 2012). More than 60% of these youth victims of staff sexual misconduct described events that did not involve any reported force or coercion. It is worth noting that, among youth victims of staff sexual misconduct, the proportion of victims reporting force or coercion fell from 45% in 2012 to 36% in 2018. The majority of sexually victimized youth described explicit sexual acts involving the genitalia or anus in both 2012 and 2018.

Among youth reporting youth-on-youth victimization, 33% of youth victims indicated they were threatened with physical harm, 22% reported being held down or restrained, and 22% indicated they were threatened with a weapon. Comparatively, among youth reporting staff sexual misconduct involving pressure or coercion, 13% reported being threatened with physical harm, 10% reported being held down or restrained, and 13% reported being threatened with a weapon. Nearly one-fourth (24%) of youth-on-youth victims indicated the event took place in their rooms, while 36% reported that the incident took place in other common areas on facility grounds, such as the yard/recreation area, classroom, library, or workshop.

How BJS measures sexual victimization in NSYC

As defined in the NSYC, sexual victimization involves any forced or coerced sexual activity with another youth and any sexual activity with facility staff, regardless of whether the act was completed. NSYC further 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.

For youth victims of staff sexual misconduct, nearly one-third (32%) reported the incident took place in their room, and 21.5% reported the incident took place in other common areas on facility grounds.

Sexual victimization rates differed by youth characteristics and experiences

While the overall sexual victimization rates in 2018 were similar for males and females (7.1% and 6.6%, respectively), males were much less likely to report youth-on-youth victimization than males (1.6% vs. 4.7%). In contrast, males were more likely to report staff sexual misconduct than their female counterparts (6.1% vs. 2.9%). For

both male and female victims, the majority of staff sexual misconduct reported by youth involved sexual acts, that is, sexual activity that involved touching or penetrating of sexual body parts.

Although the overall sexual victimization rate was greatest for 16-year-olds, differences between age groups were not significant. This pattern was replicated among victims of staff sexual misconduct and youth-on-youth victimization—the lone exception being that 17-year-olds were more likely than youth age 18 or older to report youth-on-youth victimization.

Overall, White youth were more likely to report youth-on-youth and staff sexual misconduct than Hispanic youth,

Changes to the sample between NSYC-2 and NSYC-3

The total number of state-owned and -operated juvenile residential facilities and the number of youth being held in them declined between administration of the 2012 NSYC-2 and the 2018 NSYC-3, while the number of locally or privately owned contract facilities increased. As a result of this change, the 2018 NSYC-3 sample included a larger number of locally or privately operated contract facilities than the 2012 NSYC-2.

To assess the impact of the differences between the 2012 and 2018 samples, BJS analyzed data from states with contract facilities that were sampled in both data collections. Their analysis showed that the overall rate of sexual victimization reported by youth had declined from an estimated 9.5% in 2012 to 7.2% in 2018. Comparatively, the estimated rate of sexual victimization using the full 2018 sample (i.e., not limited to the same contract facilities included in 2012) was 7.1%, suggesting that the sample design had little impact on the overall estimate of sexual victimization of youth in juvenile confinement facilities. Similarly small differences were found between 2012 and 2018 estimates for youth-on-youth and staff sexual misconduct. As such, 2018 estimates are based on state-owned and -operated juvenile residential facilities, and the full complement of contract facilities included in the 2018 sample.

Between 2012 and 2018, the proportion of youth reporting sexual victimization declined

Type of incident	Percent of youth reporting sexual victimization*	
	2018	2012
Total sexual victimization	7.1%**	9.5%
Youth-on-youth sexual victimization	1.9**	2.5
Forced or coerced sexual acts	1.2	1.7
Other forced or coerced sexual activity	0.5	0.6
Unknown type of forced or coerced sexual activity	0.2	0.3
Staff sexual misconduct	5.8**	7.7
Forced or coerced reported	2.1**	3.5
Sexual acts	1.8**	3.1
Other sexual activity	0.2	0.2
Unknown type of sexual activity	0.1	0.2
No report of force or coercion	3.9	4.7
Sexual acts	3.6	4.3
Other sexual activity	0.3	0.4
Estimated number of adjudicated youth	12,750	18,140
Estimated number reporting sexual victimization	900	1,720

* Reporting period is in the past 12 months, or since admission to the facility if the youth had been in the facility less than 12 months.

** Difference with the 2012 group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Note: Details do not sum to the total because of rounding and because a small proportion of youth in both years reported more than one type of victimization.

Source: Authors' adaptation of Smith and Stroop's *Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018*.

and more likely than Black youth to report youth-on-youth victimization. In fact, rates for White youth were about twice the rates of Hispanic and Black youth for both types of sexual victimization.

Youth-on-youth victimization varied according to sexual orientation and gender identity

Overall, youth who described their sexual orientation as non-heterosexual were nearly twice as likely to report sexual victimization as youth who described themselves as heterosexual (12.0% vs. 6.5%); for youth-on-youth victimization, rate differences were more substantial (8.4% vs. 1.1%). Similarly, youth who described their gender identity as different from their gender recorded at birth were nearly 3 times more likely (19.1% vs. 6.8%) to report any sexual victimization and nearly 9 times more likely (14.3% vs. 1.6%) to report youth-on-youth victimization than their peers who identify as the same gender as recorded at birth.

The NSYC also found that youth who reported sexual victimization in the past were more likely to be victims in their current facility. For example among youth who had experienced prior sexual victimization in another facility, more than half (51.0%) reported sexual victimization in 2018, and among youth who had experienced no prior victimization, 5.9% reported sexual victimization in 2018. Sexual victimization was also related to a youth's time in the facility, with longer exposure times associated with higher victimization rates. This pattern was true both for youth-on-youth victimizations (3.1% for youth in the facility a year or more vs. 1.2% for youth in the facility less than 6 months) and for incidents of staff sexual misconduct (9.3% for youth in the facility a year or more vs. 4.1% for youth in the facility less than 6 months).

Sexual victimization rates were related to youth characteristics, particularly gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity

Victim demographic	Percent of youth reporting		
	Any sexual victimization	Youth-on-youth victimization	Staff sexual misconduct
Gender			
Male*	7.1%	1.6%	6.1%
Female	6.6	4.7**	2.9**
Age			
14 or younger	4.4	2.3	3.2
15	5.9	1.6	4.8
16	8.2	2.4	6.8
17	7.3	2.4**	5.7
18 or older*	7.1	1.3	6.1
Race/ethnicity			
White, non-Hispanic*	8.5	3.1	6.3
Black, non-Hispanic	7.3	1.2**	6.7
Hispanic	4.1**	1.0**	3.2**
Other, non-Hispanic	4.7	1.9	3.8
Two or more, non-Hispanic	6.8	2.4	4.0
Sexual orientation			
Heterosexual*	6.5	1.1	5.9
Lesbian/gay/bisexual/something else	12.0**	8.4**	5.5
Not sure	6.2	5.0**	4.7
Gender identity			
Same as gender recorded at birth*	6.8	1.6	5.7
Different from gender recorded at birth	19.1**	14.3**	8.1
Not sure	26.8**	19.3**	10.8
Time in current facility			
Less than 6 months	4.9**	1.2**	4.1**
6–11 months	8.3	2.4	6.6
12 months or more*	11.3	3.1	9.3
Sexual victimization in lifetime prior to entering current facility			
Prior sexual victimization in another facility	51.0**	33.2**	30.3**
Prior sexual victimization but not in another facility	8.7**	3.6**	5.5
No prior sexual victimization*	5.9	1.0	5.3

* Comparison groups.

** Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Notes: Youth-on-youth victimization and staff sexual misconduct may not sum to any sexual victimization because some youth reported both types of victimization.

Source: Authors' adaptation of Field and Davis' *Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018 Statistical Tables*.

In 2019, the number of youth younger than 18 held in adult jails reached its lowest level since the early 1990s

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

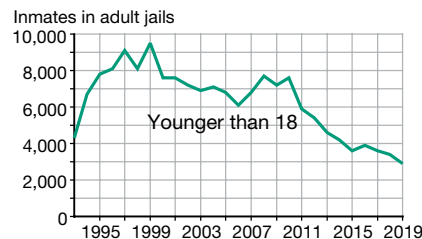
According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, an estimated 2,300 youth younger than 18 were held in adult jails on June 30, 1990. The 1-day count of jail inmates younger than 18 rose to a peak of 9,500 in 1999, declined through 2006, then rose again through 2010. Since 2010, the count fell 62%, reaching a level in 2019 (2,900) that was 69% below the 1999 peak. These youth accounted for about 0.5% of the total jail population in 2019, down from 1% in 2010. Since 1990, inmates younger than 18 have not exceeded 2% of the jail inmate population.

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

On a typical day in 2019, about 2,900 persons younger than 18 were inmates in jails in the U.S.



- Following a 62% decline since 2010, the number of jail inmates younger than 18 in 2019 was at its lowest level since the early 1990s.
- Between 1993 and 2019, the proportion of jail inmates younger than 18 who were held as adults ranged between 70% and 91%; in 2019, 76% of inmates younger than 18 were held as adults.

Source: Authors' analyses of Gillard's *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1998*; Beck's *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1999*; Beck, Karberg, and Harrison's *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2001*; Harrison and Karberg's *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2003*; Harrison and Beck's *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2004*; Minton's *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2010* — *Statistical Tables*; Minton and Zeng's *Jail Inmates in 2015*; and Zeng and Minton's *Jail Inmates in 2019*.

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 youth charged with status offenses and those not accused of any offense “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 nonresidential 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 youth who have been convicted in criminal court from the jail and lockup removal requirement. Revisions passed in 2018 require that, as of December

21, 2021, unless a court holds a hearing and finds that it is “in the interest of justice,” youth awaiting trial having been charged as adults for the purpose of prosecution in criminal court shall not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates and may not be held in an adult jail or lockup. The definition of “adult” in the new statute is tied to each state’s age of criminal responsibility and extended age of jurisdiction. There is an exception if a court holds a hearing and finds that holding the youth in an adult facility is “in the interest of justice.” If the court allows the youth held in jail, a review hearing must be held every 30 days with a 180-day maximum.

In institutions other than adult jails or lockups or in jails and lockups under temporary hold exceptions, confinement of youth charged with delinquency offenses is permitted if youth 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 youth charged with delinquency offenses 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 2000 and 2019, the number of youth younger than 18 in state prison decreased more than 80%

The number of youth under age 18 in state prisons reached a new low in 2019

Based on data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) program, 626 youth younger than age 18 were held in state prisons on December 31, 2019. The number of youth in state prisons in 2019 was well below (84%) the level in 2000, when nearly 4,000 youth were in state prison on the last day of the year. The number of youth in state prisons in 2019 accounted for 0.05% of the state prison population in that year—or 1 of every 2,000 persons in a state prison.

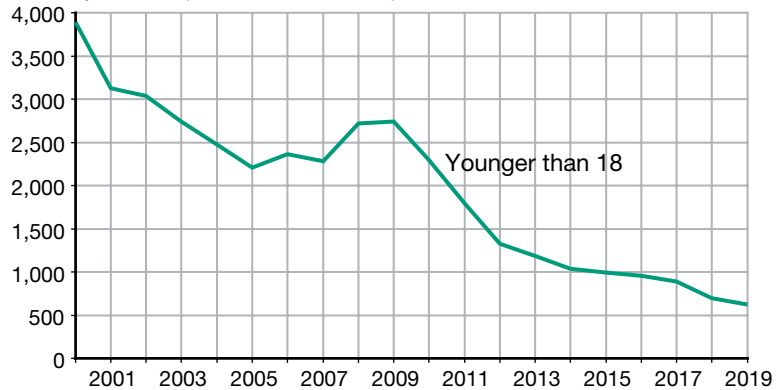
While the number of youth younger than 18 in adult prisons decreased by an average of 11% each year from 2000 to 2005, the total prison population remained relatively constant, increasing an average of 1% each year. After a period of increase through 2009, the number of youth in adult prisons decreased an average of 13% per year from 2009 to 2019.

Prisons differ from jails

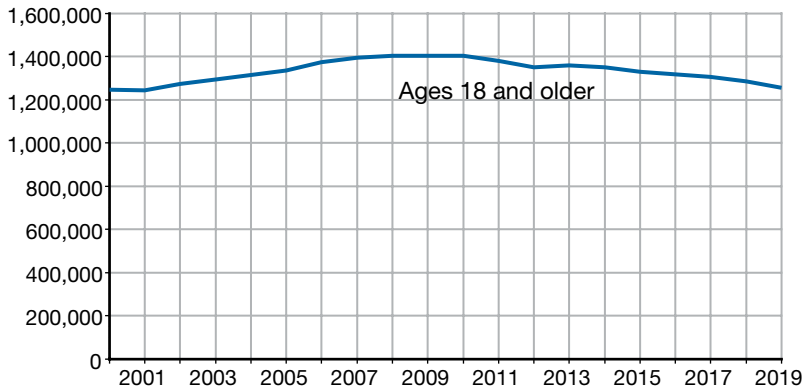
Jails are generally local correctional facilities used to incarcerate both persons detained pending adjudication and adjudicated/convicted offenders. Convicted inmates are usually misdemeanants sentenced to a year or less. Under certain circumstances, jails may hold juveniles awaiting juvenile court 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.

The 1-day count of youth younger than 18 in state prisons at yearend 2019 was 84% below the level in 2000, while the count for adults ages 18 or older in 2019 was about the same as in 2000

One-day count of persons held in state prisons



One-day count of persons held in state prisons



- The number of youth in state prisons decreased 43% between 2000 and 2005, then increased 24% through 2009. Since 2009, however, the number of youth in state prison decreased considerably, falling 77% through 2019
- The number of adults ages 18 and older in state prisons increased 13% between 2000 and 2009, the fell 11% through 2019. The net result was that number of adults in state prisons at the end of 2019 was 1% above the number in 2000.

Source: Authors' analysis of the Bureau of Justice Statistics' *Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool* [online data analysis tool].

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