



OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Shay Bilchik, Administrator

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Juveniles in Private Facilities, 1991–1995

by Joseph Moone

The juvenile population in private facilities increased 9.6% from 1991 to 1995

Private juvenile residential facilities held 39,671 juveniles on February 15, 1995. This population stood at 35,626 in 1993 and at 36,190 in 1991.

Since 1971, the Department of Justice has conducted a census of residential facilities that house juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system. The Census of Public and Private Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and Shelter Facilities seeks to count the number of juvenile delinquent and status offenders held out of their homes. Private facilities have played a significant role in juvenile corrections during the past 20 years. For the purposes of this census, a private facility is one that has the authority to house

juvenile offenders and has a population that is at least 10% offender.

Private facilities have traditionally specialized in one particular method of treatment or one type of offender. For example, a private facility might hold only status offenders or juveniles who require more intensive psychiatric treatment. Accordingly, private facilities have different types of populations than public facilities.

Almost 41% of the residents in private facilities in 1995 were not being held for a delinquent or status offense

Unlike public facilities, private facilities hold a significant number of juveniles for reasons other than a legally defined offense. Since 1991, however, private facilities have seen a drop in the proportion and number of these nonoffenders. This population decreased 1.9% from 1991 to 1995. The parallel increase in the delinquent offender population has resulted in a greater number of delinquent offenders in these facilities for the first time in this decade.

Between 1991 and 1995, private facilities experienced a substantial increase in the number of juveniles held for delinquent offenses. Over this period of time, this population grew 24.4%, from 14,433 in 1991 to 17,781 in 1995.

Status offenders have consistently comprised slightly more than 14% of the overall population

Offense Type	1991	1993	1995
Delinquent offense	39.9%	40.1%	44.8%
Status offense	14.6	14.3	14.4
Nonoffender/other	45.5	45.6	40.8

About 74% of juveniles in private facilities in 1995 were committed by the juvenile justice system

The census classifies juveniles into three legal status categories: detained (held pending adjudication or further placement), committed (held in a facility after adjudication and as part of a sentence), and voluntarily admitted (placed in the system by the

Following a decrease in 1993, the population in private facilities increased to its highest level in 1995

	Population on February 15			Percent Change	
	1991	1993	1995	1991–95	1993–95
Total Population	36,190	35,626	39,671	9.62%	11.35%
Custody Type					
Detained	2,647	2,522	3,229	21.99%	28.03%
Committed	26,975	26,623	29,457	9.20	10.64
Voluntary	6,568	6,498	6,975	6.20	7.34
Offense Type					
Delinquent offense	14,433	14,292	17,781	23.20%	24.41%
Status offense	5,274	5,087	5,700	8.08	12.05
Nonoffender/other	16,483	16,264	16,177	-1.86	-0.53
Sex					
Male	25,801	25,874	29,176	13.08%	12.76%
Female	10,389	9,752	10,495	1.02	7.62
Race					
White, non-Hispanic	20,524	19,373	20,968	2.16%	8.23%
Black, non-Hispanic	11,555	11,813	13,333	15.39	12.87
Hispanic	3,136	3,431	4,116	31.25	19.97
Other	975	1,012	1,263	29.54	24.80
Age					
Under 10	632	580	626	-0.01%	7.93%
10 to 15	20,830	19,637	21,655	3.96	10.28
16 to 17	13,089	13,676	15,454	18.07	13.00
18 and older	1,639	1,742	1,967	20.01	12.92

juvenile's own accord or on the authority of an agency other than the juvenile justice system). The detained population in private facilities has remained small, although it has shown the greatest relative increase from 1991 to 1995: 22% over this period compared with 9% for the committed population and 6% for the voluntary population.

The proportions of the population detained, committed, or voluntarily admitted to private facilities have remained stable from 1991 to 1995

Custody Type	1991	1993	1995
Detained population	7.3%	7.1%	8.1%
Committed population	74.5	74.7	74.3
Voluntary admission	18.1	18.2	17.6

Males have increased slightly as a proportion of the population in private facilities

The proportion of males increased from 71.3% to 73.5% between 1991 and 1995. The number of males held increased 13% in this period, from 25,801 to 29,176. The female population, on the other hand, decreased slightly from 1991 to 1993 and rose again to approximately the same number in 1995.

Due to the continued larger increase in the male population, the proportion of females decreased

Sex	1991	1993	1995
Male	71.3%	72.6%	73.5%
Female	28.7	27.4	26.5

While the number of white, non-Hispanic juveniles is largely the same in 1991 and 1995, the number of minority youth has increased

From 1991 to 1995, the number of white youth increased 2.6%. However, the number of black youth increased 15% and the

number of Hispanic youth increased 31%. Youth of other races (including Asian, Native American, and Pacific Islander) increased 29.5%. The growth in the number of minority youth was greater than the 11% growth in the overall population.

White juveniles have made up the majority of the private facility population each year from 1991 to 1995

Race	1991	1993	1995
White, non-Hispanic	56.7%	54.4%	52.8%
Black, non-Hispanic	31.9	33.2	33.6
Hispanic	8.7	9.6	10.4
Other	2.7	2.8	3.2

Few of the juveniles held in private facilities are 18 years of age or older

Although the majority of juveniles are under 15 years of age, the fastest growing segment of the private facility population is the group age 16 and older. Between 1991 and 1995, the number of juveniles age 16 and 17 increased 18%. The number of juveniles age 18 and older increased 20%. This increase exceeded the 11% overall growth for those years.

Over half of the juveniles in public facilities are between the ages of 10 and 15

Age	1991	1993	1995
Under 10	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%
10 to 15	57.6	55.1	54.5
16 to 17	36.2	38.4	38.9
18 and older	4.5	4.9	5.0

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