



OJJDP FACT SHEET

Shay Bilchik, Administrator

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States at a Glance: Juveniles in Public Facilities, 1995

by Joseph Moone

On February 15, 1995, public juvenile facilities held 69,075 juveniles in residential custody

Public juvenile facilities include secure and nonsecure facilities used to hold pre- and postadjudicated individuals under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Just under 96 percent (66,236) of juveniles in public residential facilities were held for delinquent offenses, that is, offenses that would also be illegal if committed by an adult. A small number were held for status offenses, that is, offenses that are not illegal for individuals who have reached the age of majority or another age established by law. Status offenses include truancy, running away, possession of alcohol, and ungovernability. Only about 1 percent of juveniles in public facilities were placed in custody for other reasons, including dependency or neglect.

Within a State, whether a juvenile is subject to juvenile court jurisdiction may vary, depending on the specific offense with which the juvenile is charged. Some States also rely more heavily on private facilities, including facilities in other States, than others. Under California law, the California juvenile corrections system can hold offenders adjudicated in juvenile court much longer than other States' systems. In Connecticut, New York, and North Carolina, 16- and 17-year-olds are not subject to a juvenile court's delinquency jurisdiction. Ten other States set the maximum age for juvenile court jurisdiction at 16.

The average State juvenile custody population in public facilities was 1,351

Considering the average population by State further illustrates the distribution of juveniles in custody in public facilities. The 15 States with larger than average juvenile custody populations accounted for 74 percent (51,145) of the overall population.

Other indicators also show the asymmetry of the national juvenile custody population. The median custody population in juvenile facilities by State was 715. Only 12 percent of the juvenile custody population was found in States with populations below the median. Juvenile custody populations ranged from a low of 24 (Vermont) to a high of 19,567 (California).

Most of the juveniles in custody in public facilities were held for delinquent offenses

Only eight States (Tennessee, Montana, South Dakota, Missouri, Utah, Indiana, Hawaii, and Iowa) and the District of Columbia had a juvenile custody population that was less than 90 percent delinquent offenders. Nine States (Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia) held only delinquent offenders in public facilities. Nationally, about 96 percent of the juveniles in public facilities were in custody for a delinquent offense.

Two-thirds of the remainder of the population in these facilities was made up of status offenders, with the balance being

Nearly 96 percent of juveniles in public facilities nationally were there because of a delinquent offense

Offense Type	Total Juveniles	Percent
Total	69,075	100.0
Delinquent	66,236	95.9
Status	1,785	2.6
Other	889	1.3
Unknown*	165	0.2

*The responding agency was unable to classify these juveniles.

Six States held half of all juveniles in custody in public facilities

The aggregate juvenile custody population of a handful of States surpassed that of the remaining States. On February 15, 1995, California, Ohio, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois together held 50.4 percent (34,800) of the juveniles in custody in public facilities. California had the highest number of juveniles in custody in public facilities—19,567 (28 percent). The number of juveniles in custody is affected by differences in State laws, policies, and practices. For instance, the upper age of original or extended jurisdiction for juvenile court differs among the States.

Juveniles in Public Facilities, by State: February 15, 1995

	Total Population	Total Delinquent	Total Status Offenders	Total Other
United States	68,910	66,236	1,785	889
Alabama	908	882	22	4
Alaska	223	222	1	0
Arizona	1,083	1,066	11	6
Arkansas	275	274	0	1
California	19,567	19,395	46	126
Colorado	776	771	5	0
Connecticut	371	366	5	0
Delaware	164	164	0	0
District of Columbia	251	211	23	17
Florida	2,674	2,674	0	0
Georgia	2,337	2,240	81	16
Hawaii	101	73	10	18
Idaho	154	154	0	0
Illinois	2,641	2,620	19	2
Indiana	1,704	1,416	233	55
Iowa	461	332	59	70
Kansas	808	787	14	7
Kentucky	593	561	25	7
Louisiana	1,509	1,484	7	18
Maine	369	369	0	0
Maryland	715	713	2	0
Massachusetts	331	307	20	4
Michigan	1,778	1,673	87	18
Minnesota	803	724	62	17
Mississippi	641	590	21	30
Missouri	1,037	901	131	5
Montana	140	125	4	11
Nebraska	419	415	4	0
Nevada	660	633	27	0
New Hampshire	125	125	0	0
New Jersey	1,999	1,900	46	53
New Mexico	662	650	9	3
New York	2,862	2,711	151	0
North Carolina	1,051	1,028	15	8
North Dakota	97	96	1	0
Ohio	3,551	3,245	242	64
Oklahoma	392	371	8	13
Oregon	902	902	0	0
Pennsylvania	1,487	1,407	54	26
Rhode Island	155	155	0	0
South Carolina	1,062	1,031	24	7
South Dakota	261	231	30	0
Tennessee	974	870	44	60
Texas	3,505	3,374	32	99
Utah	465	395	31	39
Vermont	24	24	0	0
Virginia	2,211	2,042	106	63
Washington	1,870	1,850	7	13
West Virginia	148	148	0	0
Wisconsin	1,450	1,385	56	9
Wyoming	164	154	10	0

nonoffenders such as abused and neglected children. Nationally, only 2.6 percent of the juveniles in public facilities were there for status offenses such as running away, truancy, or liquor law violations associated with age. States with the largest percentage of status offenders in public facilities included Indiana (13.7 percent), Iowa (12.8 percent), Missouri (12.6 percent), and South Dakota (11.5 percent). Only a small number of juveniles were held in public facilities for nonoffenses such as dependency or neglect. Hawaii (17.8 percent) and Iowa (15.2 percent) held the largest percentages. Nineteen States did not hold any nonoffenders in their public facilities.

This information comes from the 1995 Census of Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and Shelter Facilities

Since 1971, the U.S. Department of Justice has conducted a biennial census of facilities that hold juveniles who have committed an offense. Each facility is requested to provide information on the number of juveniles held and the reason for custody. To allow for comparisons between censuses, the reference date for each biennial census is February 15.

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