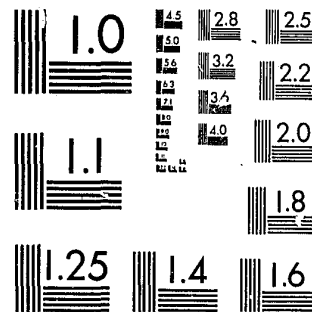


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U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Children in Custody: Advance Report on the 1979 Census of Private Juvenile Facilities

76215

U.S. Department of Justice
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Privately operated juvenile custody facilities housed slightly fewer residents nationwide at yearend 1979 than 2 years earlier--in contrast to an appreciable increase for the 1975-77 period--and the number of facilities also declined. Amounting to about 2 percent, the decrease in residents occurred alongside a similar reduction within facilities operated directly by government agencies.¹ As in the public sector, the drop in juveniles centered on those held as "status" offenders, whose conduct would not be an offense if committed by an adult (e.g., runaways, curfew violators, and truants). Reduction in the size of this group was an indication of continued efforts to deinstitutionalize status offenders, a key objective of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. The decrease in juveniles was entirely among girls, whereas the count of boys showed a small increase. The number of facilities dropped 3 percent, in sharp contrast to a 25-percent growth (mainly in community-based group homes and other "open" facilities) during the preceding intercensal period.²

Preliminary data from the 1979 Census of Private Juvenile Facilities revealed that approximately 28,700 residents were housed in 1,558 facilities throughout the country on December 31, 1979. All but 5 percent of these facilities were long-term, or post-placement, establishments. As the status offender population declined during 1977-79, the proportions held for other reasons increased. Notably, there was a 22-percent rise in voluntary admissions, juveniles who had entered a facility of their own accord or were referred by a parent, court, or school without formal adjudication. The proportion of juveniles held for delinquency (conduct that would be regarded as criminal if committed by adults) remained essentially unchanged at one-third of the total; among public facilities, by contrast, this proportion increased from 86 to 92 percent over the 2-year period. The ratio of committed to detained youth--those already placed versus those awaiting adjudication or placement--rose from 26 to 1 in 1977 to 30 to 1 in 1979, further emphasizing the private sector's principal role of providing post-adjudication care for committed juveniles. About 4 of every 5 juveniles resided in open facilities, primarily group homes, and only 1 in 5 lived in institutional establishments. By comparison, the proportions in the public sector were nearly the reverse: approximately 3 of every 4 under institutional arrangements and 1 in 4 in open settings.

The decline in the number of girls within private facilities reduced their share of the juvenile population from 30 percent in 1977 to 28 percent in 1979, returning their total to the mid-1975 level. Although juvenile females accounted for the bulk of the overall decrease, a reduction in the number of adult residents also contributed to lowering the total, an indication of progress toward the Juvenile Justice Act goal of separating juveniles from adults. As in 1977, blacks comprised a fifth of the juveniles in private facilities, a smaller proportion than in the public sector (one-third) but still in excess of their 14-percent representation in the 10-19 year age group of the general population. Youths of His-

panic origin were 7 percent of the juveniles in private facilities, nearly the same as their share of the age-relevant population at large.

Admissions to and departures from private facilities totalled 134,000 transactions in 1979, 4 percent more than in 1977. Because of the slower resident turnover in long-term care facilities, the volume remained much below that of the public sector, roughly one-tenth as large in 1977 and one-eighth in 1979. During the last 2 years of the decade, the average length of stay of a juvenile in residence declined from 270 to 261 days. The average age of juveniles remained unchanged at 14.9 years for boys and 15.0 years for girls, in each case a leveling off after dropping nearly half a year during the preceding intercensal period. The average number of juveniles per establishment at the end of 1979 was 31 for institutional facilities and 17 for open residences, virtually the same as 2 years earlier. Only 2 percent of private facilities were being used at more than 100 percent of design capacity, and almost a fifth were less than 70-percent occupied.

Private facility staff expanded 6 percent from yearend 1977 to 1979, with gains in both full-time and part-time employees, as well as in community volunteers. In combination with the overall decline in residents, the increase in staff resulted in a continued drop in the ratio of persons in custody to employees, which stood at 1.5 to 1 at mid-1974, compared with 1.2 to 1 at yearend 1979. Reflecting mainly personnel growth and inflation, total private facility expenditures climbed approximately one-fifth during 1977-79, from \$384 million to \$465 million, but lower than the rate of increase (two-fifths) for the previous census period. The annual operating cost per resident rose from \$12,269 in 1977 to \$15,377 in 1979.

Slightly more than half of all States decreased the number of residents held in private juvenile facilities during 1977-79, in contrast to gains in about three-fifths during 1975-77. Three jurisdictions with the largest decreases--Illinois (428), Washington (335), and Minnesota (213)--together were responsible for nearly two-fifths of the nationwide decline. Among States with increases, 3 accounted for half the total--Pennsylvania (464), Arkansas (215), and Tennessee (212).

As the decade ended, the highest numbers of private facility residents per 100,000 population were found in Alaska (56), South Dakota (37), and Nebraska (33), also among the highest at yearend 1977. Excluding Delaware, which had no private facilities, the lowest ratio of residents per 100,000 general population was shared by Hawaii and West Virginia (both with 2), followed by Alabama (3), and Mississippi and Virginia (4 each). The total number of residents in private facilities exceeded that in the public sector in about a third of the States.

Nearly 3 of every 5 States recorded a decrease in the number of privately operated facilities during the 2-year period ending December 31,

1979, slightly more than the proportion that experienced a decline in residents; as for the rest, there was an increase of facilities in 19 and the same number in 3. California led the reduction with 36 fewer residences, followed by Washington (28) and Minnesota (25). A transfer of at least 27 group homes from public to private operation contributed to New York's 38 facility increase, placing it in the lead of jurisdictions showing a countertrend.

Staff size increased in approximately three-fifths of all jurisdictions. California led the gainers with 694 additional personnel, followed by Pennsylvania with 508. The leading countertrend States were Illinois and Washington, with reductions of 468 and 300 workers, respectively. Nearly 4 of every 5 States increased expenditures during 1977-79, 10 of them by more than 50 percent.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census conducted the 1977 and 1979 Censuses of Public and Private Juvenile Facilities. Detailed results of those enumerations, together with State and national tables, description of data collection methods, glossary, and questionnaire facsimiles, will be contained in a forthcoming report. Information in this advance report is preliminary and subject to revision.

¹See, *Children in Custody: Advance Report on the 1979 Census of Public Juvenile Facilities* (October 1980). Final results of the enumeration of State and local government facilities are somewhat higher than the reported preliminary totals. The number of residents is approximately 45,400 (1 percent fewer than in 1977), housed in 1,115 facilities.

²Facilities enumerated in the 1977 and 1979 censuses were classified as either open or institutional, based on responses to questions on degree of access to the community and the extent of in-house physical and staff controls. The great majority of facilities identified in earlier censuses as detention centers, diagnostic centers, or training schools and a significant proportion of ranches fall into the institutional category, whereas most of those identified as shelters or group homes, as well as some ranches, can be classified as open. Additional details on this classification procedure will appear in a follow-up report.

Table 1. Selected characteristics of private juvenile custody residents and facilities, 1974, 1975, 1977 and 1979

Characteristic	1974	1975	1977	1979
Number of residents				
Juvenile	31,749	27,450	29,377	28,707
Male	31,749	27,290	29,070	28,678
Female	22,104	19,152	20,387	20,505
Adult	9,645	8,138	8,683	8,173
Male	0	160	307	29
Female	0	0	0	0
Average age (years) ¹				
Male	NA	NA	14.9	14.9
Female	14.6	15.3	14.9	14.9
Total	14.8	15.4	15.0	15.0
Number of admissions ²	53,661	56,708	67,045	69,419
Number of departures ²	47,471	50,986	61,571	64,486
Average daily number of residents ²	31,384	26,740	29,611	28,556
Number of facilities				
Short-term	1,337	1,277	1,600	1,558
Long-term	76	66	126	74
Total	1,261	1,211	1,474	1,484
Facility occupancy rate (percent) ²				
Occupied less than 70 percent	100	100	100	100
Occupied 70-100 percent	21	21	20	22
Occupied more than 100 percent	72	(79)	78	76
Total	7	(79)	2	2
Number of personnel				
Full-time	28,612	27,651	30,918	32,910
Part-time	20,600	NA	22,381	23,530
Total	8,012	NA	8,537	9,380
Juveniles per full-time staff member	1.5	NA	1.3	1.2
Expenditures (thousands of dollars)				
Capital	294,036	273,644	384,327	465,046
Operating	25,905	19,173	21,008	25,933
Total	268,131	254,471	363,319	439,113
Per capita operating cost (dollars) ³	8,544	9,516	12,269	15,377

NOTE: Data for 1974 and 1975 are as of June 30, and for 1977 and 1979 as of December 31, except for figures on admissions and departures, average daily number of residents, facility occupancy rate, expenditures, and operating costs, which are for an annual period, either calendar or fiscal year.

NA Not available.

¹Based on juvenile residents only.

²Based on all residents (juvenile and adult).

³Based on average daily number of residents.

Table 2. Selected characteristics of private juvenile custody residents (juvenile only) and facilities, by type of facility, 1977 and 1979

Characteristic	All facilities		Type of facility		Long-term	
			Short-term			
	1977	1979	1977	1979	1977	1979
Number of juveniles	29,070	28,678	843	732	28,227	27,946
Sex	29,070	28,678	843	732	28,227	27,946
Male	20,387	20,505	439	444	19,948	20,061
Female	8,683	8,173	404	288	8,279	7,885
Average age (years)	14.9	14.9	14.7	14.6	14.9	15.0
Race	29,070	28,678	843	732	28,227	27,946
White	21,917	21,650	616	546	21,301	21,104
Black	6,005	5,843	184	106	5,821	5,737
Other	1,148	1,185	43	80	1,105	1,105
Ethnic composition	29,070	28,678	843	732	28,227	27,946
Hispanic	2,096	1,906	59	41	2,037	1,865
Non-Hispanic	26,974	26,772	784	691	26,190	26,081
Adjudication status	29,070	28,678	843	732	28,227	27,946
Detained	894	736	725	462	169	274
Committed	23,089	21,738	74	199	23,015	21,539
Voluntary admission	5,087	6,204	44	71	5,043	6,133
Reason held	29,070	28,678	843	732	28,227	27,946
Delinquency	9,484	9,603	168	236	9,316	9,367
Status offense	7,438	6,291	402	246	7,036	6,045
Other ¹	12,148	12,784	273	250	11,875	12,534
Physical environment	29,070	28,678	843	732	28,227	27,946
Institutional facilities	6,445	5,456	184	264	6,261	5,192
Open facilities	22,625	23,222	659	468	21,966	22,754
Average length of stay (days)	270	261	20	55	291	272
Number of facilities	1,600	1,558	126	74	1,474	1,484
Institutional facilities	206	174	16	14	190	160
Open facilities	1,394	1,384	110	60	1,284	1,324
Frequency of community access	1,600	1,558	126	74	1,474	1,484
Daily or almost daily	1,260	1,243	NA	53	NA	1,190
Weekly or less frequently	312	281	NA	15	NA	266
Never	28	34	NA	6	NA	28
Security level	1,600	1,558	126	74	1,474	1,484
Strict	55	42	5	5	50	37
Medium	395	333	26	15	369	318
Minimal or none	1,150	1,183	95	54	1,055	1,129
Number of personnel	30,918	32,910	1,803	1,087	29,115	31,823
Payroll	26,030	27,810	1,162	851	24,868	26,959
Nonpayroll	2,232	2,421	263	143	1,969	2,278
Community volunteer	2,656	2,679	378	93	2,278	2,586

NOTE: All data are as of December 31, except average length of stay which are for the calendar year.

NA Not available.

¹In 1977 this category included 5,296 nonoffenders held for dependency, neglect or abuse, and 1,739 for emotional disturbance or mental retardation; 5,087 juveniles who admitted themselves to a facility or were referred by a parent, court, or school, without being adjudged for an offense; and 26 who were not classifiable. In 1979 the corresponding numbers were 5,030, 1,383, 6,204, and 167, respectively.

Table 3. Selected characteristics of private juvenile custody facilities--States, December 31, 1977 and 1979

State	Residents		Facilities		Staff		Expenditures ¹ (thousands of dollars)	
	1977	1979	1977	1979	1977	1979	1977	1979
United States	29,377	28,678	1,600	1,558	30,918	32,910	384,327	465,047
Alabama	147	132	15	20	174	184	901	1,546
Alaska	163	231	15	16	204	242	3,901	5,281
Arizona	731	644	38	28	746	718	10,834	13,383
Arkansas	373	588	19	27	402	489	1,776	7,428
California	3,917	3,932	286	250	3,913	4,607	55,139	66,819
Colorado	665	564	32	27	667	544	7,163	7,676
Connecticut	395	369	27	21	410	363	4,673	4,945
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	82	(D)	3	(D)	47	(D)	575	(D)
Florida	724	728	36	30	592	588	7,168	9,130
Georgia	301	263	12	10	266	276	2,255	2,519
Hawaii	58	21	5	(D)	88	30	1,483	348
Idaho	106	112	7	6	159	165	1,471	1,720
Illinois	944	516	20	12	1,069	601	16,043	9,444
Indiana	822	954	29	44	573	886	7,463	11,421
Iowa	319	434	30	44	366	638	7,534	9,835
Kansas	646	761	55	64	615	826	7,838	8,845
Kentucky	283	234	11	12	393	418	1,834	2,180
Louisiana	331	407	16	17	268	314	2,895	5,391
Maine	327	285	17	18	172	189	2,658	2,568
Maryland	688	570	44	41	714	739	8,526	7,171
Massachusetts	688	690	40	44	953	1,083	9,655	12,675
Michigan	1,092	919	49	36	1,227	1,197	17,333	19,434
Minnesota	917	704	85	60	980	866	12,301	12,059
Mississippi	169	89	9	5	86	59	1,036	630
Missouri	587	514	26	22	663	662	7,875	9,797
Montana	152	115	10	9	187	149	1,757	1,783
Nebraska	489	514	11	11	520	510	4,857	8,913
Nevada	(D)	91	(D)	7	(D)	95	(D)	1,108
New Hampshire	177	218	6	9	110	147	1,668	2,208
New Jersey	255	427	20	17	347	505	3,343	6,922
New Mexico	324	240	16	14	230	211	2,424	2,593
New York	3,459	3,319	111	149	4,564	4,913	65,798	75,841
North Carolina	403	472	31	44	379	564	4,201	6,464
North Dakota	115	91	7	6	111	107	1,636	1,885
Ohio	1,259	1,193	76	66	1,400	1,304	15,738	20,087
Oklahoma	572	648	39	35	626	623	6,436	8,595
Oregon	443	414	39	33	555	614	5,572	6,999
Pennsylvania	1,680	2,144	57	69	1,998	2,506	27,517	35,489
Rhode Island	76	121	6	11	72	146	683	1,602
South Carolina	121	144	9	8	108	125	904	1,010
South Dakota	287	235	19	17	227	242	2,636	2,951
Tennessee	209	421	9	24	224	367	1,813	4,832
Texas	1,564	1,405	47	39	1,051	1,086	11,754	16,680
Utah	163	211	16	15	157	167	1,213	1,541
Vermont	112	142	10	13	174	152	1,075	2,226
Virginia	310	213	9	6	209	210	3,179	3,325
Washington	941	606	74	46	860	560	10,502	6,581
West Virginia	20	30	6	6	46	48	271	368
Wisconsin	628	597	42	45	896	843	10,477	12,153
Wyoming	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)

D Data not shown to preserve confidentiality guarantees. Suppressed data are included, however, in entry totals.

¹Includes the total of capital and operating expenditures during either the fiscal or calendar year. Detail does not add to total because of rounding.

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