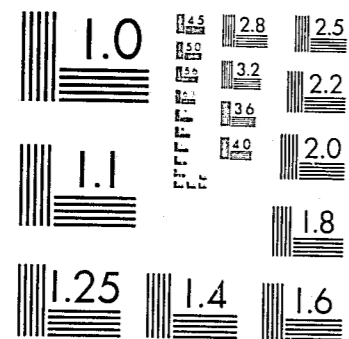


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U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

# Children in Custody: Advance Report on the 1982 Census of Public Juvenile Facilities

December 1983

U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice

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## General Findings

The average daily population in publicly-operated juvenile custody facilities nationwide was appreciably higher in 1982 than in 1979, while the number of facilities housing these residents remained about the same. The increase in residents centered on delinquents, mainly those committed to long-term institutional settings. The number of status offenders--whose conduct would not be a crime if performed by an adult--continued to decline. Girls in custody increased at a slower pace than boys, and those in long-term facilities actually declined. Over one-fourth of all delinquents in custody had been involved in a violent crime, about 1 in 20 in an alcohol- or drug-related violation, and the rest in a property or public order offense.<sup>1</sup>

The 1982 Census of Public Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and Shelter Facilities--the first taken since 1979--revealed that the average number of residents in public juvenile facilities in the United States was slightly over 50,000, 5 percent higher than in both 1977 and 1979.<sup>2</sup> Six out of seven were males. As in

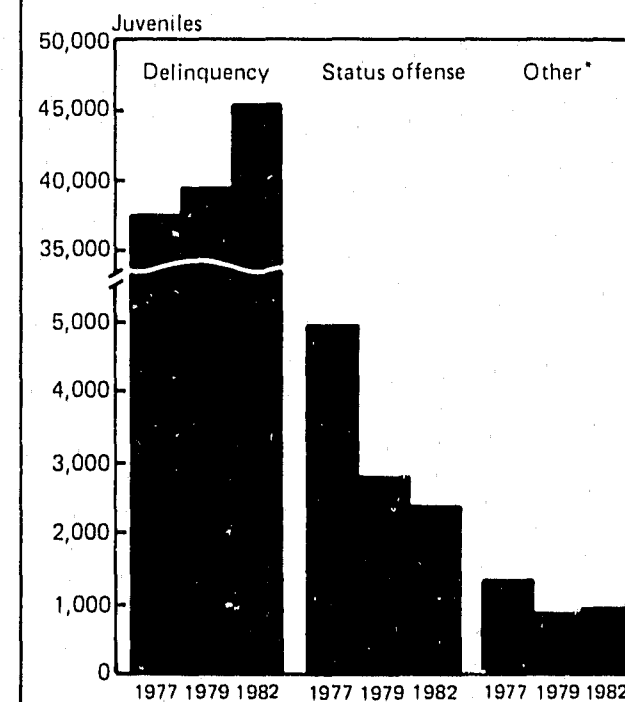
<sup>1</sup>Preliminary data from a similar census of privately operated facilities show a sizable population increase and, unlike the public sector, a substantial increase in facilities. An advance report on private facilities is scheduled for release early in 1984.

<sup>2</sup>About half the data in this report refer to the January-December 1982 annual period; in addition to average daily number of residents, are admissions and departures, average age, average length of stay, and expenditures. Other data are one-day counts as of February 1, 1983. For the most recent census, the one-day count was changed from the usual reference date of December 31 to the following February 1 to obtain a more representative enumeration of juveniles after the fluctuations in the short-term population during the holiday period. Comparisons of 1979 and 1982 short-term populations should take into account that one-day figures for 1979, dated December 31, were relatively lower than those for 1982. Had the 1979 census not been taken at yearend, the one-day counts for the short-term and, hence, for the total population

past years, there were about 2,000 adults, mainly "youthful offenders" committed under authority of the criminal courts. The number of residents per 100,000 age-eligible youth, mainly those 10-17 years, rose from 167 in 1979 to 184 in 1982. Increases in this ratio prevailed in 6 of every 10 States, with Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, New Jersey, South Dakota, and Washington State posting gains of 25 percent or more.

Housing for the 1982 public juvenile custody population was provided by a total of 1,023 facilities nationwide, slightly more than in 1979. A little fewer than half of these were short-term facilities, used mainly for detention

FIGURE 1.  
Juveniles in Public Facilities, by reason held,  
1977, 1979 and 1982



\*Dependency, neglect, abuse, emotional disturbance, mental retardation, or physical handicap.

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prior to adjudication, and the remainder were long-term establishments, chiefly for post-adjudication placement. During the 3-year period, there was a small increase in the number of "institutional" facilities, those with a relatively high degree of physical and staff control, and a small decrease in "open" facilities, those featuring minimal or no inhouse controls and weekly or more frequent unescorted access to community resources.<sup>3</sup>

For every juvenile in public short-term facilities in 1982, there were over two in long-term establishments. The ratio of persons detained pending adjudication or placement to those committed was about 3 to 1. A small group of persons who entered custody voluntarily accounted for less than 1 percent of all residents.

Extending a trend which has been underway since the mid-1970's and is a key objective of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, the number of status offenders in public long-term facilities fell by about one-fifth between 1979 and 1982.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Two jurisdictions transferred a number of open facilities to private operators. Facilities enumerated in the 1977, 1979, and 1982 censuses were classified as either open or institutional, based on responses to questions on the degree of access to the community and the extent of inhouse physical and staff controls. The great majority of facilities commonly known as detention centers, diagnostic centers, or training schools, and a significant proportion of ranches, fell into the institutional category, whereas most of those identified as shelters or group homes, as well as some ranches, were classified as open. Tables showing cross-classification of the two sets of terms are contained in *Children in Custody: A Report on the 1977 and 1979 Censuses on Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and Shelter Facilities* (in publication).

<sup>4</sup>Between 1975 and 1977, there was a substantial increase in the number of status offenders in the private sector (possibly as an alternative to commitment to public facilities); but declines were

Growth in the number of delinquents in long-term facilities also was noted in the late 1970's but not of the magnitude of the 9 percent increase recorded in the 1979-82 period. The net increase consisted of a 20 percent gain among those in institutional settings and a 15 percent drop in those in open environments. These changes may reflect a rise in the number of more serious offenders among the Nation's juvenile population or a diversion of nonviolent delinquents from the public to the private sector.

Data available for the first time on the specific offenses of juveniles in public facilities were obtained for 87 percent of all delinquents, juveniles whose acts would be subject to criminal court jurisdiction if committed by adults. About half of the delinquents were in custody for a property crime, the most serious being burglary, arson, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Over a quarter of all delinquents in custody were involved with a violent crime, including 20 percent implicated in the most serious of the "FBI Index" crimes--murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Compared with males, females showed a relatively high incidence of drug- and alcohol-related offenses, as well of acts against public order.

Linked to the continuing decline in the number of status offenders in public custody facilities, the female share of the total juvenile population dropped from about one-fourth in the first half of the 1970's to 13 percent in 1982. Their share in the long-term facility population during that interval dropped from about one-fifth to 11 percent.

There is strong evidence that blacks accounted for a relatively larger proportion of the 1979-1982 increase of juveniles in public custody facilities than whites, especially among long-term residents.<sup>5</sup> Within the latter group, the minimum increase for blacks was 14

<sup>5</sup>Race data for 1982 were not reported on 4 percent of the total 1982 juvenile count, 9 percent of the short-term juvenile residents, and 1 percent of the long-term. For 1979, the shortfall was 6 percent of the juvenile total, 10 percent of the

percent and the maximum for whites, 5 percent. Among all juveniles in public facilities, blacks accounted for approximately 2 1/2 times the share of U.S. blacks in the general population age 10-17, with an even higher proportion among juveniles in long-term facilities.

The proportion of Hispanics among juveniles in public long-term facilities rose from 10 to 11 percent between 1979 and 1982. In contrast, Hispanics accounted for 8 percent of juveniles in the general population in 1982.

Despite the 1979-82 increase in juveniles in custody, the number of admissions during 1982 was lower than the 1979 intake by some 30,000, or 6 percent. The entire decline was in admissions to short-term facilities, while the number of entrants to long-term facilities remained almost the same.

The average age of females in 1982 was lower than that of males, 15.1 compared with 15.5, the same figures as in 1979. The average length of stay of committed juveniles in long-term facilities was slightly lower than in 1979, 183 to 189 days; for persons detained in short-term facilities awaiting adjudication or commitment, the average stay was the same, 13 days.

Nationwide, the size of staff in public juvenile facilities increased between 1979 and 1982, but the extent of increase is not known because some States reporting volunteer person-

nel in 1979 did not do so in 1982. There were gains in excess of 10 percent in about one-sixth of the States and declines of that magnitude in about one-eighth. Overall, the number of residents per full-time staff member rose from 1.0 to 1.1, indicating that employee increases did not keep up with juveniles coming into the system.

Expenditures within the public sector rose more rapidly during 1979-1982--an annual average of more than \$100 million--than in any previous year since the series was started early in the 1970's. The operating cost per resident rose from \$16,509 to \$21,926, an average annual increase higher than that of the 1977-79 period but somewhat below 1975-77.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census conducted the 1982 Census of Public Juvenile Facilities for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Detailed results of the enumeration will be published together with State and national tables, a description of data collection methods, a glossary, and questionnaire facsimiles in one or more forthcoming reports.

Information in this advance report is preliminary and subject to revision; preliminary results on the Census of Private Juvenile Facilities will be released in a report similar to this one.

Table 1. Selected characteristics of public juvenile custody residents and facilities, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1979, and 1982

Characteristic	1974	1975	1977	1979	1982
<b>Annual period</b>					
Average daily number of residents <sup>1</sup>	46,753	48,794	48,032	47,803	50,399
Number of admissions <sup>1</sup>	647,175	641,189	614,385	568,802	536,122
Number of departures <sup>1</sup>	640,408	632,983	622,151	560,751	528,552
Expenditures (thousands of dollars)					
Capital	508,630	594,146	707,732	842,466	1,148,294
Operating	24,536	34,510	29,366	53,278	43,256
Total	484,094	559,636	678,366	789,188	1,105,038
Per capita operating cost (dollars) <sup>1</sup>	10,354	11,469	14,123	16,509	21,926
<b>One-day count</b>					
Number of residents					
Juvenile	47,268	49,126	45,920	45,396	50,799
Male	44,922	46,980	44,096	43,234	48,701
Female	34,783	37,926	36,921	37,167	42,182
Adult	10,139	9,054	7,175	6,067	6,519
Total	2,346	2,146	1,824	2,162	2,098
Number of facilities					
Short-term	829	874	992	1,015	1,023
Long-term	371	387	448	464	459
Total	458	487	544	551	564
Number of staff					
Full-time	46,276	52,534	61,060	61,108	58,654
Part-time	39,391	41,156	43,322	44,350	45,376
Total	6,885	11,378	17,738	16,758	213,278
Juveniles per full-time staff member	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1

NOTE: Annual periods are for the calendar year, although some data, especially on expenditures, may be based on the fiscal year. One-day counts are as of June 30 for 1974 and 1975 and December 31 for 1977 and 1979. The most recent one-day count was changed from December 31 to the following February 1 to obtain a more representative enumeration of residents after the fluctuations of the holiday period.  
<sup>1</sup>All residents, both juvenile and adult.  
<sup>2</sup>Generally includes community volunteers but not some 4,600 in California and large but unspecified numbers in Ohio and South Carolina excluded from the count by reporting authorities.

Table 2. Offenses of delinquents in public juvenile custody facilities, 1982

Offense <sup>1</sup>	All delinquents			Detained			Committed		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,351</b>	<b>40,400</b>	<b>4,951</b>	<b>11,917</b>	<b>10,185</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>33,434</b>	<b>30,215</b>	<b>3,219</b>
Violent crime	12,164	11,169	995	2,657	2,415	242	9,507	8,754	753
More serious	8,901	8,311	590	1,968	1,827	141	6,933	6,484	449
Less serious	3,263	2,858	405	689	588	101	2,574	2,270	304
Property crime	22,624	20,648	1,976	4,512	4,032	480	18,112	16,616	1,496
More serious	16,644	15,460	1,184	3,392	3,091	301	13,252	12,369	883
Less serious	5,980	5,188	792	1,120	941	179	4,860	4,247	613
Alcohol-related	638	520	118	209	164	45	429	356	73
Drug-related	1,601	1,378	223	480	398	82	1,121	980	141
Public order	2,582	1,989	593	735	522	213	1,847	1,467	380
Not available	5,742	4,696	1,046	3,324	2,654	670	2,418	2,042	376

NOTE: Instead of the usual December 31 reference date, the one-day count for 1982 was changed to February 1 of the following year to obtain a more representative enumeration of residents after the fluctuations of the holiday period.  
<sup>1</sup>Examples of specific offenses in each category are: More serious violence--murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault;

property crime--burglary, arson, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft; less serious property crime--vandalism, forgery, counterfeiting, fraud, stolen property, and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; alcohol related--drunkenness, liquor law violation, and driving under the influence of alcohol; drug-related--manufacture or growing, distribution, and possession/use; public order--weapons offense, prostitution.

Table 3. Selected characteristics of public juvenile custody residents (juveniles only) and facilities, by type of facility, 1979 and 1982

Characteristic	All facilities		Short-term		Long-term	
	1979	1982	1979	1982	1979	1982
<b>Number of juveniles</b>	<b>43,234</b>	<b>48,701</b>	<b>12,185</b>	<b>15,203</b>	<b>31,049</b>	<b>33,498</b>
Sex						
Male	43,234	48,701	12,185	15,203	31,049	33,498
Female	37,167	42,182	10,004	12,420	27,163	29,762
Average age (years)						
Male	6,067	6,519	2,181	2,783	3,886	3,736
Female	15.3	15.4	15.1	15.2	15.6	15.6
Total	15.5	15.5	15.2	15.3	15.7	15.7
Total	15.1	15.1	15.0	15.1	15.4	15.3
Race						
White	43,234	48,701	12,185	15,203	31,049	33,498
Black	26,053	27,805	7,313	8,472	18,740	19,333
Other	13,752	18,020	3,446	4,848	10,306	13,172
Not reported <sup>1</sup>	950	1,104	203	400	747	704
Ethnicity						
Hispanic	2,479	1,772	1,223	1,483	1,256	289
Non-Hispanic	43,234	48,701	12,185	15,203	31,049	33,498
Total	4,395	5,727	1,439	2,020	2,956	3,707
Total	38,839	42,974	10,746	13,183	28,093	29,791
Physical environment						
Institutional facilities	43,234	48,701	12,185	15,203	31,049	33,498
Open facilities	31,562	38,431	11,274	13,904	20,288	24,527
Total	11,672	10,270	911	1,299	10,761	8,971
Custodial status						
Detained	43,234	48,701	12,185	15,203	31,049	33,498
Committed	11,552	13,156	10,860	12,348	692	808
Voluntary admission	31,381	35,178	1,278	2,829	30,103	32,349
Total	301	367	47	26	254	341
Reason held						
Delinquency	43,234	48,701	12,185	15,203	31,049	33,498
Institutional	39,519	45,351	10,806	13,963	28,713	31,388
Open	30,136	36,809	10,381	13,043	19,755	23,766
Status offense	9,383	8,542	425	920	8,958	7,622
Institutional	2,789	2,390	1,052	985	1,737	1,405
Open	1,215	1,318	751	703	464	615
Other <sup>2</sup>	1,574	1,072	301	282	1,273	790
Total	926	960	327	255	599	705
Average length of stay (days)						
Detained	107	106	15	18	184	178
Committed	14	15	13	13	22	28
Total	178	163	69	68	189	183
<b>Number of facilities</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>564</b>
Physical environment						
Institutional facilities	1,015	1,023	464	459	551	564
Open facilities	609	621	402	389	207	232
Total	406	402	62	70	344	332
Community access						
About daily	1,015	1,023	464	459	551	564
About weekly	305	311	71	83	234	228
Less than weekly	185	137	36	29	149	108
Never	125	158	45	47	80	111
Total	400	417	312	300	88	117
Security level						
Strict	1,015	1,023	464	459	551	564
Medium	291	311	235	253	56	58
Minimal or none	313	319	164	153	149	166
Total	411	393	65	53	346	340

NOTE: Average age and average length of stay data are for January through December; all other data are based on one-day counts. For 1982, the one-day count was changed from December 31 to the following February 1 to obtain a more representative enumeration of juveniles after the fluctuations of the short-term population during the holiday period. Since figures for 1979 cannot be adjusted to reflect the typically larger post-holiday population,

comparisons of 1979 with 1982 short-term and total populations should be made with caution.  
<sup>1</sup>In 1979 race data on 1,976 juveniles in 51 Florida facilities were not reported; for the more recent year, there were 1,772 juveniles in several States for whom race data were not reported.  
<sup>2</sup>This category consists of persons held for dependency, neglect, abuse, emotional disturbance, or mental retardation and persons admitted by self or parent without adjudication.

Table 4. Selected characteristics of public juvenile custody system—States, 1979 and 1982

State	Residents				Facilities		Staff		Expenditures <sup>2</sup>	
	1979		1982		1979	1982	1979	1982	1979	1982
	Number	per 100,000 age-eligible population <sup>1</sup>	Number	per 100,000 age-eligible population <sup>1</sup>						
United States <sup>3</sup>	47,803	167	50,399	184	1,015	1,023	61,108	<sup>4</sup> 58,654	842,467	1,148,296
Alabama	659	119	712	133	26	25	905	967	8,724	11,216
Alaska	138	242	170	283	2	4	127	199	4,024	8,010
Arizona	657	179	587	160	18	17	772	610	10,108	13,577
Arkansas	348	110	290	95	9	7	428	381	5,465	6,173
California	11,446	378	13,449	456	113	111	16,516	<sup>4</sup> 11,269	182,255	271,540
Colorado	611	161	543	145	14	11	580	487	8,227	12,935
Connecticut	186	59	130	46	4	4	372	390	6,098	7,020
Delaware	244	294	240	316	5	4	169	233	3,583	4,953
District of Columbia	487	676	338	497	14	4	421	367	7,991	9,950
Florida	2,296	197	2,199	189	52	51	1,807	1,949	31,531	27,508
Georgia	1,290	190	1,316	198	23	26	1,199	1,411	16,288	24,524
Hawaii	136	109	135	110	4	3	133	153	2,625	3,252
Idaho	175	135	185	136	2	3	165	296	3,347	4,570
Illinois	1,341	100	1,689	134	24	22	1,944	1,733	29,391	34,795
Indiana	1,143	149	1,182	163	16	18	1,015	1,233	15,395	18,426
Iowa	397	101	360	98	12	13	563	560	8,475	9,852
Kansas	610	204	600	207	13	13	823	915	14,259	17,763
Kentucky	740	145	614	126	38	37	698	1,017	9,256	15,519
Louisiana	1,031	191	1,395	263	13	13	1,033	1,098	18,059	22,009
Maine	179	113	220	147	1	1	269	277	3,656	4,943
Maryland	1,007	187	1,103	202	15	16	1,093	935	14,693	20,265
Massachusetts	149	22	143	24	10	8	291	315	4,304	4,822
Michigan	1,882	162	1,760	165	50	57	2,341	2,225	42,928	53,989
Minnesota	807	142	655	124	23	22	983	920	15,499	19,527
Mississippi	398	105	459	124	10	8	602	443	8,204	6,201
Missouri	1,014	181	906	171	50	51	1,256	1,035	15,631	17,108
Montana	173	152	154	148	7	7	199	227	4,247	4,464
Nebraska	234	114	233	117	5	4	292	319	4,116	4,912
Nevada	417	401	449	420	8	8	317	363	7,630	10,627
New Hampshire	170	133	130	106	1	2	180	184	3,111	3,462
New Jersey	1,501	147	1,747	186	50	52	2,254	2,181	28,656	37,453
New Mexico	407	211	423	221	7	9	294	431	7,476	11,134
New York	1,369	80	1,521	96	55	41	2,723	3,302	43,878	78,969
North Carolina	820	140	754	131	23	23	1,194	1,327	13,357	15,931
North Dakota	101	116	93	108	6	3	130	98	1,956	2,015
Ohio	2,857	192	3,082	220	55	70	4,366	<sup>4</sup> 3,443	43,811	55,322
Oklahoma	573	146	519	131	11	15	1,053	1,230	16,470	29,574
Oregon	841	250	857	265	13	14	767	783	14,249	17,251
Pennsylvania	1,188	76	1,178	81	28	34	1,726	1,898	30,745	49,424
Rhode Island	85	68	94	81	2	2	178	192	3,407	5,561
South Carolina	766	198	803	213	9	12	750	<sup>4</sup> 566	7,183	21,100
South Dakota	141	150	169	190	5	5	136	159	2,675	2,554
Tennessee	1,234	198	1,055	176	27	25	1,372	1,017	16,514	18,149
Texas	1,634	96	1,980	111	30	34	1,734	2,447	23,233	36,200
Utah	278	136	161	70	10	9	296	607	5,352	5,106
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	1,473	203	1,520	221	51	58	1,933	3,550	26,337	35,355
Washington	996	185	1,240	239	30	29	1,581	1,991	29,606	30,450
West Virginia	302	116	124	48	9	6	290	180	3,543	2,249
Wisconsin	701	105	559	90	10	10	733	619	12,877	17,480
Wyoming	171	244	173	237	2	2	105	122	2,022	3,088

NOTE: Residents are average daily population during a calendar year. Expenditure data cover either a fiscal or calendar year. The numbers of facilities and staff are one-day counts; for 1982, the one-day count was changed from December 31 to the following February 1 to obtain more representative statistics after the fluctuations in the short-term facility population during the holiday period. Age used is that at which the juvenile court no longer has original jurisdiction. Figures used for the age-eligible

population are based on the 1980 Census of Population and appropriate updating.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes the total of capital and operating expenditures.  
<sup>3</sup>State details may not add to the national totals because of rounding.  
<sup>4</sup>The decrease from 1979 is mainly due to the exclusion by some State authorities of a large number of volunteers from the count submitted, including approximately 4,600 in California and unspecified large numbers in Ohio and South Carolina.

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