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Juveniles in Residential Placement, 1997–2008

by Melissa Sickmund

OJJDP's National Juvenile Justice Data Collection Program monitors trends in the residential placement of juvenile offenders

The number of juvenile offenders in residential placement in publicly and privately operated juvenile facilities has declined steadily since 2000. In 2008, fewer than 81,000 juvenile offenders were housed. This is the fewest juvenile offenders counted in a national census of juvenile facilities since 1993, when the tally was slightly less than 79,000.

Jeff Slowikowski, Acting Administrator

Prior to 1997, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) sponsored the Children in Custody (CIC) Census of Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and Shelter Facilities. In 1997, OJJDP replaced CIC with the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP), a 1-day count of juvenile offenders (accused and adjudicated delinquent and status offenders) held in juvenile facilities nationwide. CJRP provides detailed information on all juveniles in residential facilities in the United States, including gender, birth date, race and/or ethnicity, most serious offense, state where the offense occurred, whether the





juvenile is being held pre- or postadjudication, and admission date. In 2000, OJJDP launched the Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC) as a companion to CJRP. JRFC also collects a 1-day count of the placement population but focuses on facilities, including facility ownership, operation, services, security, crowding, and injuries and deaths in custody. OJJDP generally conducts each census during alternating years.

Facilities included in these two data collections represent a wide range of facility types: secure and nonsecure; public (state or local), private, and tribal; and long-term and short-term holding. Juvenile facilities are known by many different names across the country: detention centers, juvenile halls, shelters, reception and diagnostic centers, group homes, wilderness camps, ranches, farms, youth development centers, residential treatment centers, training or reform schools, and juvenile correctional institutions. Some facilities resemble adult prisons or jails, some resemble campuses, and others resemble houses.

The 2000 JRFC registered the largest population of juvenile offenders in residential placement—108,802—since CIC was expanded in 1974 to include private facilities.

In 2008, 263 juvenile offenders were in placement for every 100,000 juveniles in the general population

CJRP reports state placement rates (the number of juvenile offenders in placement for every 100,000 juveniles in the general population) based on the state where the offense was committed. Youth held out of state are counted in the state that placed them. State placement rates in 2007 varied substantially, from a high of 513 in South Dakota to a low of 69 in Vermont. Eleven other states had rates less than 200: Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Delaware and Wyoming were the only states other than South Dakota with rates greater than 400. Nearly half (46%) of all juvenile offenders in residential placement were held by the 6 states with the largest placement populations: California, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York

State where offense occurred (upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction)	Number of juvenile offenders in public or private residential placement, 2007	Residential placement rate, 2007
U.S. Total	86,814	279
Alabama (17)	1,650	325
Alaska (17)	321	383
Arizona (17)	1,485	208
Arkansas (17)	810	261
California (17)	14,034	329
Colorado (17)	1,752	339
Connecticut (15)	426	148 401
Delaware (17) Dist. of Columbia (17)	369 288	588
Florida (17)	5,733	315
Georgia (16)	2,736	286
Hawaii (17)	129	101
Idaho (17)	528	298
Illinois (16)	2,565	204
Indiana (17)	2,727	382
lowa (17)	954	294
Kansas (17)	1,146	370
Kentucky (17)	1,116	247
Louisiana (16) Maine (17)	1,350 204	321 150
Maryland (17)	930	149
Massachusetts (16)	969	167
Michigan (16)	2,748	274
Minnesota (17)	1,317	230
Mississippi (17)	450	131
Missouri (16)	1,227	218
Montana (17)	210	204
Nebraska (17)	708	359
Nevada (17)	996	348
New Hampshire (16) New Jersey (17)	156 1,677	125 176
New Mexico (17)	378	170
New York (15)	3,612	239
North Carolina (15)	1,035	144
North Dakota (17)	213	322
Ohio (17)	4,332	341
Oklahoma (17)	864	219
Oregon (17)	1,299	330
Pennsylvania (17)	4,554	344
Rhode Island (17)	312	282
South Carolina (16) South Dakota (17)	1,200 456	292 513
Tennessee (17)	1,263	191
Texas (16)	7,035	287
Utah (17)	867	262
Vermont (17)	45	69
Virginia (17)	2,124	261
Washington (17)	1,527	218
West Virginia (17)	570	320
Wisconsin (16)	1,422	269
Wyoming (17)	249	443

Note: State of offense was not reported for 1,748 juveniles.

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Between 1997 and 2008, the decline in placement rates (26%) was not as sharp as the decline in arrest rates (33%)



Declines in state residential placement rates were widespread across the country



Definitions

The residential placement rate is the number of juvenile offenders assigned a bed in a public or private facility on the census date per 100,000 youth ages 10 through the state's upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction in the general population. The juvenile arrest rate is the number of arrests involving juveniles per 100,000 youth ages 10 through 17 in the general population.

For further information

OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book (ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb) provides access to CJRP data through two data analysis tools, the CJRP Databook and Easy Access to the CJRP. The Briefing Book also includes information on JRFC through bulletins that summarize each wave of data collection.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Community Capacity Development Office; the National Institute of Justice; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART).