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Survey of Youth in Residential Placement:

Conditions of Confinement

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SYRP
Report

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Acknowledgments

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Preface

The Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP) is the third component in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's constellation of surveys providing updated statistics on youth in placement in the juvenile justice system. It joins the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement and the Juvenile Residential Facility Census, which are biennial mail surveys of residential facility administrators conducted in alternating years. SYRP is a unique addition, gathering information directly from youth through anonymous interviews. This report is part of a series on the first national SYRP, covering its development and design and providing detailed information on the youth's characteristics and backgrounds, the conditions of their confinement, their needs and the services they received, and their experiences of victimization in placement.

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Introduction

This report, the third in the series, presents findings from the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP) about the conditions of confinement for youth in a range of different facilities and progams. Results focus on the structural and operational characteristics of these environments and indicate how youth offenders are distributed across various programs and facilities of different size and complexity.

These findings provide answers to a number of questions about the characteristics and experiences of youth in placement, including:

- How are youth grouped in living units and programs?
- Which youth are placed together?
- What activities are available in each facility?
- How accessible are social, emotional, and legal supports?
- What is the quality of the youth-staff relationships?
- How clear are the facility's rules?
- How clear is the facility's commitment to justice and due process?
- What methods of control and discipline do staff use?

The data derive from interviews with a nationally representative sample of 7,073 youth in 2003, using audio-computer-assisted-self-interview (ACASI) methodology. Facility administrators provided additional information about placement contexts, either while planning the data collection or in verifying or updating answers on their latest *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* (JRFC) survey.

The SYRP sample was drawn from the full population of state and local facilities identified by the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement and Juvenile Residential Facility Census surveys. SYRP youth resided in a nationally representative selection of 205 eligible, responsive facilities listed on the census as of 2002. These included detention and corrections facilities; community-based facilities such as shelters, group homes, and independent living programs; and camp programs, such as boot camps and forestry camps. The SYRP survey team interviewed the youth between the beginning of March and mid-June 2003.

All SYRP findings use the youth as the unit of measurement. Each participant is weighted to reflect the number of youth he or she represents in the national population of youth in placement. These weights allow the sample youth (n=7,073) to provide estimates about the full placement population (estimated at more than 100,000 youth, on a given day in 2003). All SYRP reports present findings in terms of estimated numbers (rounded to the nearest multiple of 10) and percentages (rounded to the nearest whole percent) in the national population of youth in residential placement. Thus, this report describes how the population of youth in placement is distributed across different placement settings.

The first report in the OJJDP Bulletin series on this work, *Introduction to the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement* (Sedlak, 2010), summarizes the study design and implementation. Additional details of the methodology are given in the *Survey of Youth in Residential Placement: Technical Report* (Sedlak, Bruce, Cantor, Ditton, Hartge, Krawchuk, McPherson, & Shapiro, 2012).

SYRP INFORMATION ON FACILITY STRUCTURE

During recruitment, SYRP obtained information from facility administrators about three main levels of organization: the overall facility, the primary program(s) the facility offers, and the living units within each program.

Living Unit. In order to plan for data collection, SYRP recruiters asked the facility administrators to list all distinct living units (wings, floors, pods, cottages, etc.) and to describe their function and the type of program or treatment each provides, using as many categories as apply from the typology listed in the *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* (*CJRP).*[1] If administrators reported that more than one category applied to a particular living unit, they identified a single category to describe the unit's primary program.[2] This illuminated the internal organization of the facility. Typically, multiple living units served a given primary function (i.e., were part of the same primary program). Sometimes these living units differed from each other in the secondary programs or specialized services they offered.

SYRP recruiters also gathered data on several characteristics of each living unit, including its bed capacity, security, and current residents (including both those assigned beds because they are charged with or adjudicated for an offense and nonoffenders who were there for other reasons). These data enabled SYRP to provide estimates of the number of youth in different size living units, the number in living units with daytime locks, and the number in living units with nonoffender youth.

Program. SYRP defines a program as a group of living units within a facility that provide the same primary function or type of program, identifying 9 types: detention center, training school, shelter, group home, halfway house, independent living, boot camp, ranch or forestry camp, and residential treatment. Most analyses presented in this Bulletin series simplify this listing by combining all the camps into a single "camp" category and grouping together all "community-based" programs (i.e., shelters, group homes, halfway houses, and independent living programs).

SYRP also determined whether a given program included any specialized subunits. These may be units that provided specialized treatment (e.g., substance abuse treatment, sex offender treatment) or that serve one or more secondary functions in addition to their primary function (e.g., a reception center or a detention unit within what is primarily a training school).[3] Thus, SYRP could provide estimates of the number of youth in different types of primary programs; the number whose primary programs housed one, two, or more living units; the number living in different-size primary programs; and the number residing in units that provided specialized services (e.g., sex offender treatment).

Facility. As detailed in *Introduction to the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement* (Sedlak, 2008), facilities were the first stage of the SYRP sample. Administrators' answers during recruitment about their facility's living units (their primary functions and bed capacities) provided the basis for calculating facility size (total bed capacity) and complexity (number of different living units, and their organization into different primary programs). While most institutions were single-function facilities, providing just one type of program, some were more complex, offering different programs in different sets of living units. During the SYRP field team visits, administrators also provided further information about their facility by updating or verifying the responses on their latest submission to the *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* (*JRFC*). SYRP analysts combined selected JRFC data items with the interview data in order to relate additional facility characteristics to the custody population. For example, using this information, SYRP could indicate the number of youth who were in facilities that consisted of multiple buildings on a single campus; the number held in facilities with razor wire on external fences or walls; and the number in facilities that evaluated all youth for suicide risk within 24 hours of their arrival.

Thus, by capitalizing on the supplementary data that facility administrators gave during recruitment and in updating their facility's latest JRFC submission, SYRP could classify youth in placement by the characteristics of their custody environment at multiple levels of structure—their overall facility, their primary program, and their individual living unit.

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[1] That typology lists: detention center, training school, reception/diagnostic center, halfway house, group home, boot camp, other type of camp (ranch, forestry camp, wilderness/marine program, farm), runaway/homeless shelter, other type of shelter, or something else.

[2] Note that this is very different from what is done in the other OJJDP surveys. Facility administrators answer the *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* (*CJRP*) and the *Juvenile Residential Facility Census* (*JRFC*) by marking all the different programs they offer, thereby summarizing their multiple functionalities. In contrast, SYRP insists that administrators identify the primary function of each living unit. This allows SYRP to unravel facilities' inner structures and to map them unambiguously to the participating youth, so SYRP can determine which youth in custody are in what type of primary program.

[3] Administrators of facilities participating in SYRP did not identify any living units as being primarily reception centers. Instead, all reception centers were specialized subunits within other types of primary programs.

Other information about the SYRP findings can be found in other reports in this series: *Survey of Youth in Residential Placement: Youth Characteristics and Backgrounds* (Sedlak & Bruce, 2016) and *Survey of Youth in Residential Placement: Youth's Needs and Services* (Sedlak & McPherson, 2010).

Readers should note that the number of youth in residential placement has dramatically decreased since 2003 when the SYRP data were collected. The most recent data available indicate that, on October 22, 2014, juvenile residential placement facilities held 50,821 youth nationwide (OJJDP *Statistical Briefing Book*).

Residential Settings

Facilities that hold juvenile offenders vary widely in size, organizational complexity, and layout. While many are single-function facilities, providing just one type of placement program (e.g., a boot camp, or a detention center), others are more complex. The more complex facilities offer different programs in separate groups of living units. They typically occupy multiple buildings—whether on a single campus or at multiple, distinct locations. Facilities and their programs, in turn, differ in size and security, as well as in the types of offenders they hold and the average length of stay for youth in their placement. The sidebar describes how SYRP gathers information about three main levels of facility structure—the facility, the program, and the living unit.

Organizational Complexity

Table 1 shows the distribution of youth in placement across four facility-level characteristics, beginning with organizational complexity as measured by the number of programs in the facility. Most youth (93%) live in facilities that provide a single primary program. The remaining 7% of youth are in operationally more complex facilities, which offer different programs to different subgroups.

Facility Size

About one-in-six youth (16%) are in small facilities that have a total capacity of 30 or fewer beds, while almost one-fourth (24%) are in slightly larger facilities that can sleep 31 to 60 residents. Another 18% are in facilities with 61 to 100 beds. Taken together, facilities with 100 or fewer beds house 58% of the youth. Over one-in-seven (15%) are in very large facilities with bed capacity for more than 300 residents.

Physical Layout

Just 5% of youth are in facilities that occupy only part of a larger building, while nearly one-third (31%) are in facilities that entirely occupy a single building. Exactly one-half (50%) are living in facilities that occupy more than one building at a single site or campus. Finally, about one-in-seven youth are in facilities that house residents at multiple sites or campuses.

Not surprisingly, physical layout is systematically related to facility size, as Figure 1 indicates.[1] Most youth in facilities with 30 or fewer beds are in places that occupy the entirety of a single building. While this physical layout remains relatively common for youth in facilities that sleep up to 100, there is more variability in facility layout for youth in places that house between 31 and 100. The majority of residents in larger facilities occupy multiple buildings or sites.

Table 1. Youth in placement in 2003 by facility characteristics

Facility Characteristic	Estimated Number of Youth (95% CI)		Percent of Youth (95% CI)	
Organizational complexity (number of programs)				
1	93,920	*(83,660 – 104,190)*	93	*(88 – 98)*
2 or more	7,110	*(2,200 – 12,020)*	7	*(2 – 12)*
Facility size (capacity†)				
30 or fewer	16,130	*(9,260 – 22,990)*	16	*(9 – 23)*
31 – 60	24,200	*(17,120 – 31,270)*	24	*(18 – 30)*
61 – 100	18,560	*(11,190 – 25,920)*	18	*(12 – 25)*
101 – 150	13,550	*(7,990 – 19,110)*	13	*(8 – 19)*
151 – 300	13,760	*(8,060 – 19,460)*	14	*(8 – 19)*
More than 300	14,840	*(10,300 – 19,380)*	15	*(10 – 19)*
Physical layout of facility				
Part of one building	4,900	*(1,250 – 8,550)*	5	*(1 – 9)*
All of one building	30,980	*(23,680 – 38,290)*	31	*(24 – 37)*
Multiple buildings at single site	50,690	*(42,410 – 58,970)*	50	*(42 – 58)*
Multiple campuses or sites	14,470	*(8,190 – 20,740)*	14	*(9 – 20)*
Facility owner/operator				
Government owned and operated	65,680	*(58,790 – 72,570)*	65	*(59 – 71)*
Privately owned and operated	25.620	*(19,790 – 31,450)*	25	*(20 – 31)*
Government owned, privately operated	9,740	*(3,540 – 15,930)*	10	*(4 – 15)*
Total	101,040	*(92,580 - 109,490)*	100	

Note: Estimated totals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10; estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

† As measured by the total number of standard beds.

Public vs. Private Facility Placement

The last section of Table 1 shows that nearly two-thirds of youth in placement (65%) are held in government owned and operated facilities, while one-fourth (25%) are in privately owned and operated facilities. Just 10% are in facilities that are government-owned but privately operated.

Figure 1. Youth Within Each Facility Size Category by the Physical Layout of Their Facility, 2003.
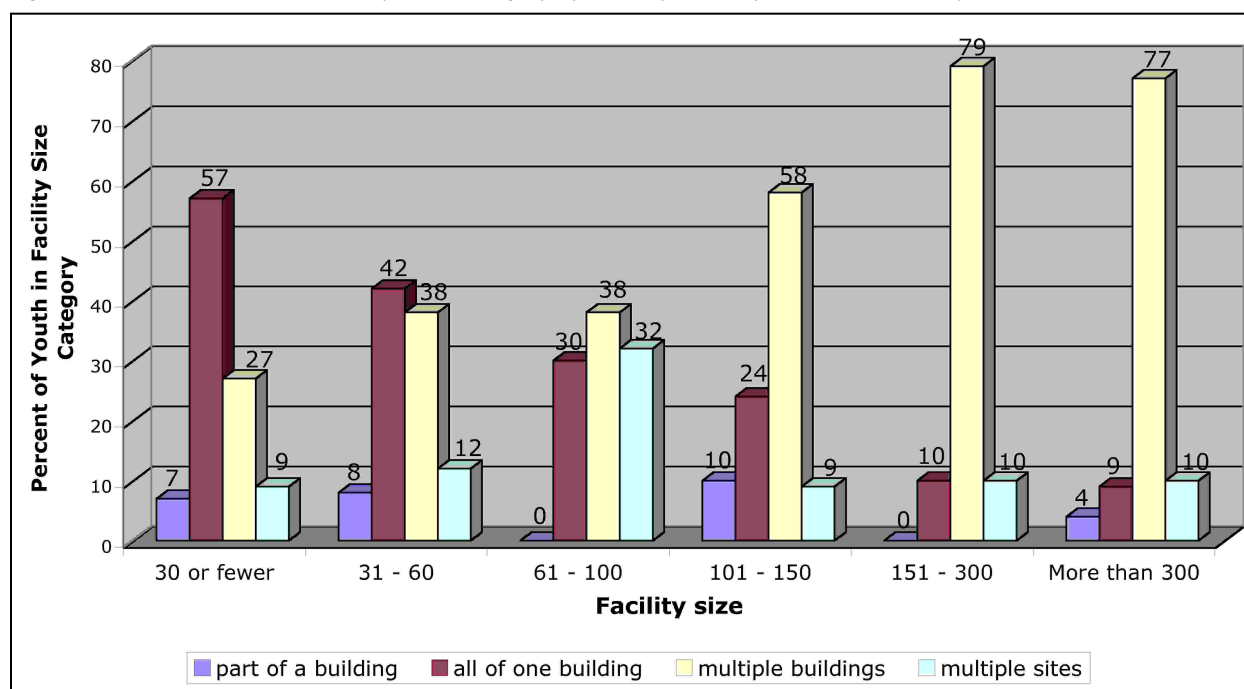
Program

Table 2 focuses on characteristics of youth's placement programs. As shown in Table 1 above, 93% of youth live in facilities that provide a single program, while 7% are in more complex facilities that house multiple programs for different subgroups of youth. The findings presented here classify youth according to their primary program. More than one-fourth of youth in placement (26%) are in detention programs, while nearly one-third (32%) are in correction programs (e.g., training schools). One-in-ten (10%) are in some type of camp program, which includes boot camps as well as ranch, farm, and forestry camps. More than one-in-six (18%) are in community-based programs, a category that comprises group homes, halfway houses, and shelters. The remaining one-seventh of youth (14%) are in residential treatment programs. Note that these program classifications reflect the primary function of a youth's living unit. Some living units have other functions as well (such as reception/diagnostic and targeted treatment); these secondary functions are described below as functions of specialized subunits.

Figure 2 arrays youth in each primary program by their facility owner-operator, government or private sector. Youth in detention centers are overwhelmingly (94%) in government-owned and operated facilities, as are large majorities of youth in camp programs (92%) and correctional facilities (71%). By contrast, majorities of youth in residential treatment and community-based programs are in privately owned and operated facilities (70% and 61%, respectively). Smaller numbers of youth are in hybrid facilities, government-owned but operated by a private entity. This arrangement is most common in corrections, where it governs 22% of youth in these programs.

Table 2.   Youth in placement in 2003 by type and characteristics of program.

Program Characteristic	Estimated Number of Youth	95% CI	Percent of Youth	95% CI
Type of Program				
Detention	26,590	(21,690 – 31,480)	26	(22 – 31)
Correction	32,260	(25,220 – 39,300)	32	(26 – 38)
Camp	9,770	(5,900 – 13,630)	10	(6 – 13)
Community-based	18,360	(12,180 – 24,530)	18	(12 – 24)
Residential treatment	14,070	(8,830 – 19,310)	14	(9 – 19)
Number of daytime locks				
0	35,770	(28,560 – 42,970)	35	(28 – 43)
1 or 2	19,000	(12,260 – 25,740)	19	(12 – 25)
3 or more	46,260	(37,410 – 55,120)	46	(38 – 53)
Total	101,040	(92,580 - 109,490)	100	

Note: Estimated totals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10; estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

Programs differ notably in size, as can be seen in Figure 3, which arrays the youth population within each program type according to the capacity of their own local program. Youth in detention programs are in places that span broadly across all size categories except the very smallest, as are youth in camp programs. In contrast, youth in other types of programs are in places of a characteristic size. Three-fourths of youth in corrections (75%) are in programs that can house more than 100 youth; more than three-in-five residents of community-based programs (63%) live in the smallest programs, with 30 or fewer beds. Youth in residential treatment are predominantly (54%) in programs designed to hold 31 to 60 youth.

Specialized Subunits

As explained above, the SYRP captures information about multiple layers of facility organization, including specialized subunits within a primary program. Overall, 26% of youth in residential placement are in programs that have one or more specialized subunits (CI 20%–32%). Figure 4 indicates that specialized subunits occur in every type of program but are less common for youth in detention and in residential treatment programs. In detention, this pattern may derive from the transitory nature of the programs; in residential treatment, the pattern may result from the fact that the programs are themselves relatively specialized. By contrast, over one-half of youth in camps (59%) are in programs with specialized subunits, as are many youth in corrections (45%), and more than one-fifth of youth in community-based programs (22%). Specialized units include reception/diagnostic units, targeted treatment subunits (e.g., for sex offenders, violent offenders, drug treatment), and different variations of the primary program (e.g., such as a camp program that includes both a boot camp and a forestry camp, or a community-based program that incorporates a shelter, group homes, and independent living subunits).

Figure 2. Distribution of Youth Within Different Programs by Their Facility Owner-Operator, 2003.
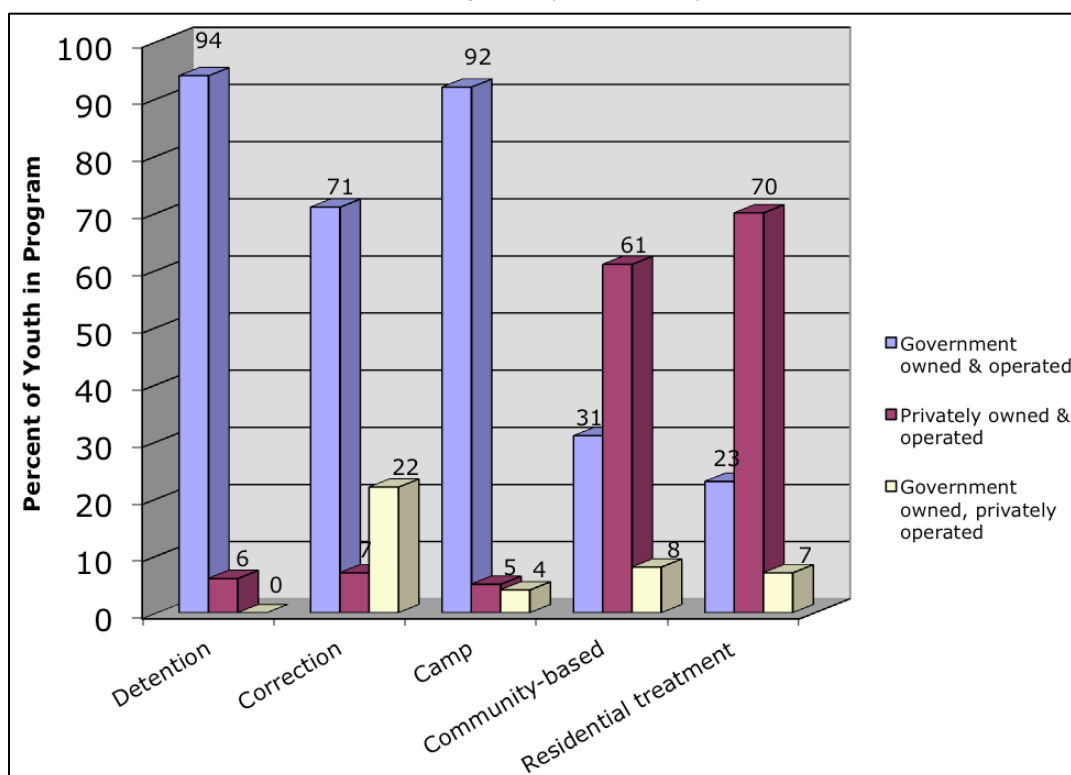
Figure 3. Youth Within Each Type of Program by the Size (Bed Capacity) of Their Program, 2003.
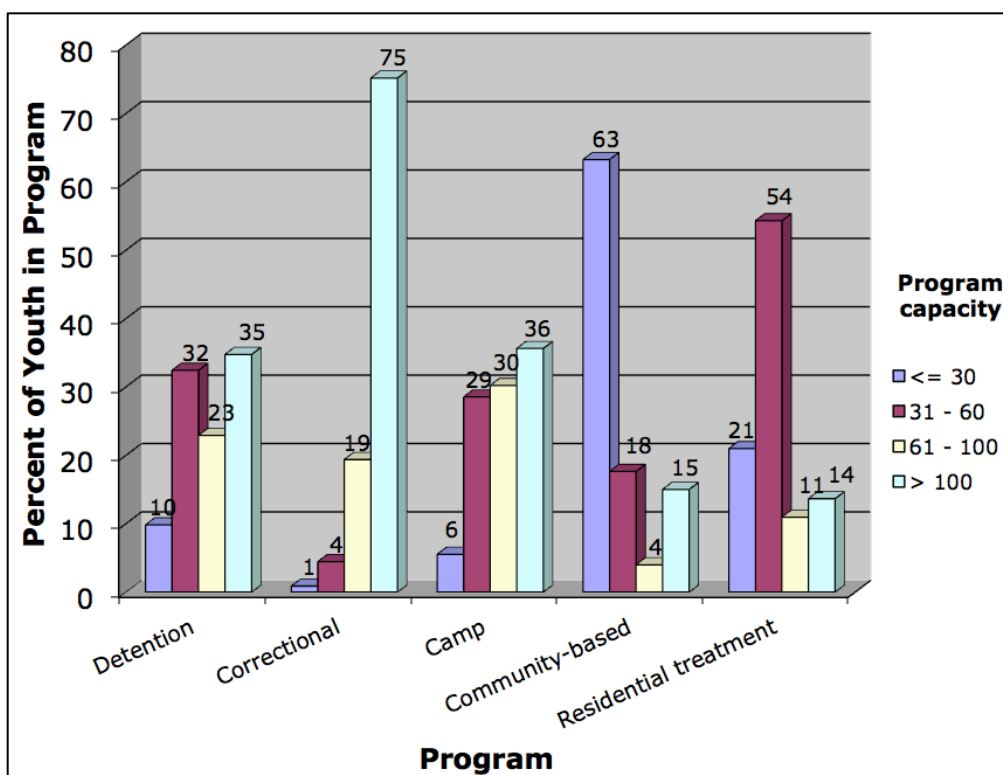
Figure 4. Youth Within Each Type of Program by Whether Their Program Has Specialized Subunits, 2003.
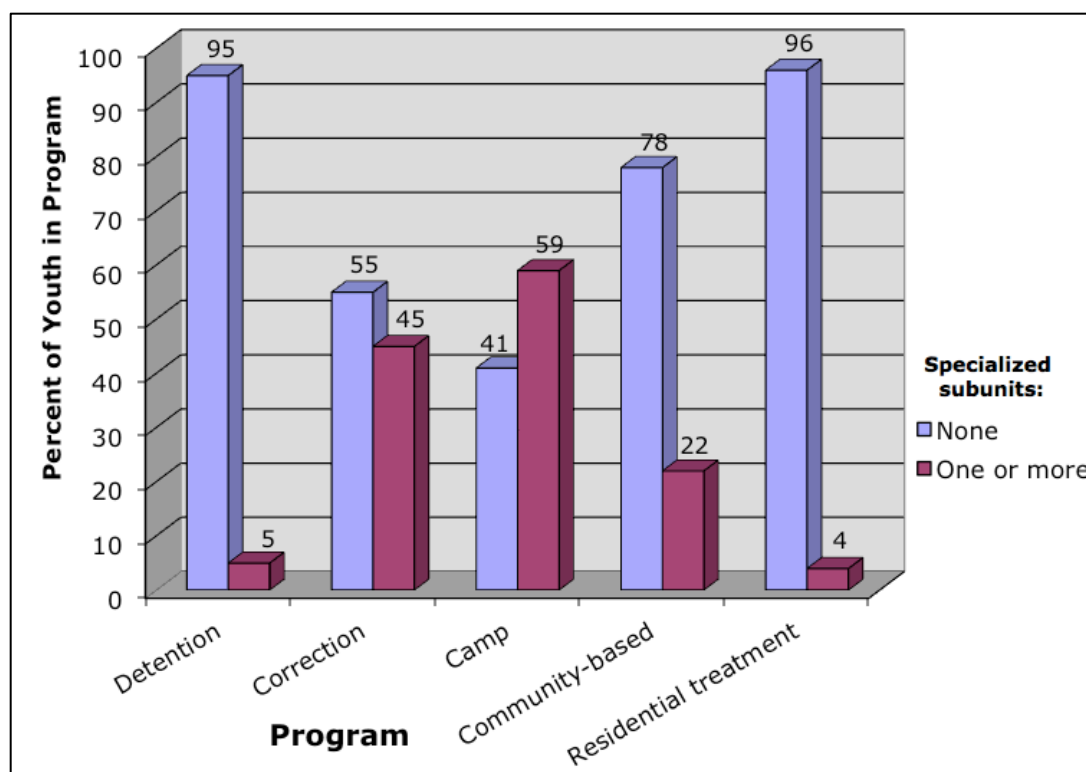
The number of distinct living units determines the degree to which the program is able to provide the types of differentiated services described above or has the capability of separating youth with different characteristics, as discussed below. Youth in placement reside in programs with an average of 5.0 living units (CI 4.5–5.5), but the number of living units in a youth's program varies with the nature of the program itself. Youth in corrections are in programs with the most living units, an average of 7.2 (CI 6.3–8.0), while those in detention are in programs with an average of 5.7 living units (CI 4.7–6.7). Residential treatment program youth are housed in an average of 3.6 living units, but the number of living units varies more in these programs (CI 1.5–5.7). Youth in community-based programs are in slightly fewer living units, an average of 2.7 (CI 1.8–3.7). Camp program youth are the least subdivided, living in an average of just 2.3 separate living units in their camp program (CI 1.6–2.9).

Security

Facilities are typically classified as staff secure or secure, depending on whether locks confine youth during the day. During SYRP recruitment, facility administrators indicate the number of locks confining youth in each living unit during the day. The central section of Table 2 presents the number of daytime locks confining youth in the program, showing that more than one-third (35%) are in programs that are staff secure, using no locks during the day. However, Table 2 also indicates that the majority of youth in placement are confined by one or more locked entries during the daytime hours. Three or more daytime locks confine nearly one-half of youth in placement (46%, CI 38%–53%).

As expected, level of security differs by program. Figure 5 displays the significant differences across program types in the number of locks confining youth during the day.

Figure 5. Youth Within Each Type of Program by Minimum Number of Locks in the Daytime, 2003.
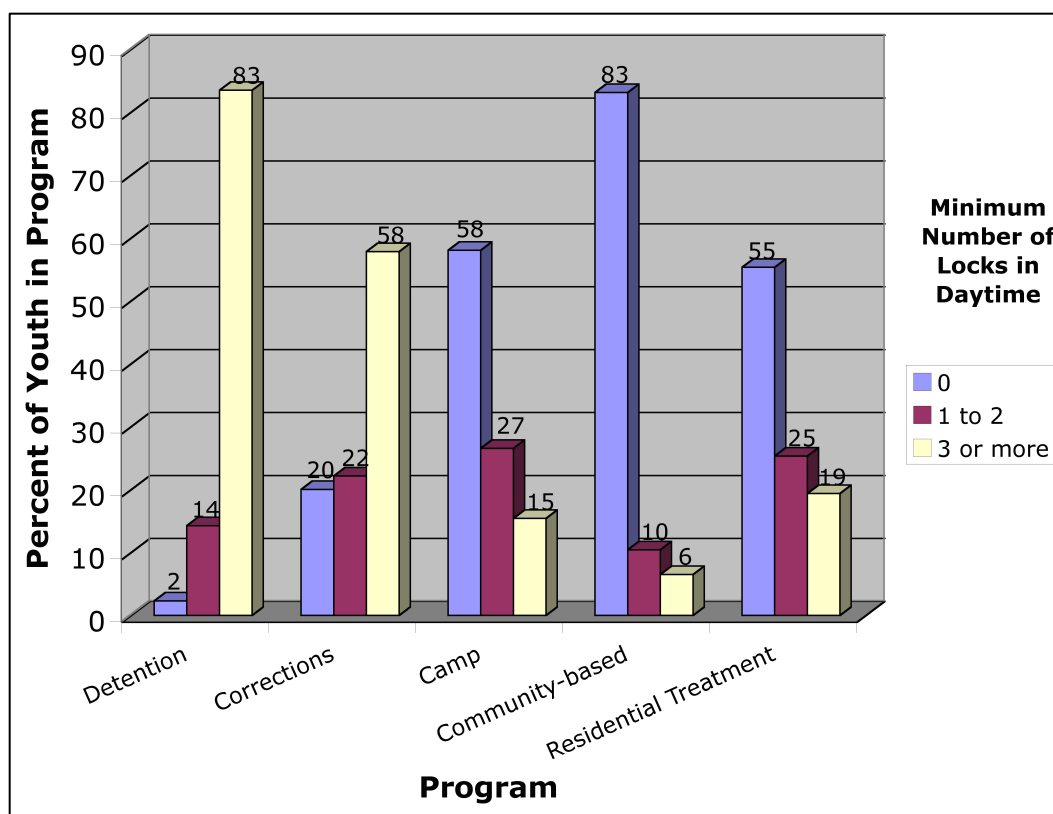
Youth in detention are the most securely held, with 83% of detained youth confined by 3 or more daytime locks and only 2% not confined by locks during the day. Correctional programs are also generally secure, with 58% of residents held by 3 or more locks. However, this group also displays more variation in security, since 20% of youth are in units that use no locks (i.e., are staff-secure) during the day. Other types of programs are more open, with majorities of their residents entirely unconfined during daytime hours. The most open settings are the community-based programs, where 83% of residents are not locked in during the day. Camp and residential treatment programs have very comparable security levels and distributions for their youth populations. While most of their residents are unlocked during daytime hours (55% in residential treatment programs; 58% in camp programs), these programs also provide differential security for subsets of youth—confining about one-fourth of their residents with one or two daytime locks (25% of residential treatment program youth; 27% of youth in camp programs) and fewer than one-fifth of their youth with 3 or more locks in the daytime (19% of youth in residential treatment programs; 15% of those in camps). In both program contexts, the need for locks depends on the nature of the program and the specific youth it serves as well as on its location (e.g., outdoor context, geographic isolation of wilderness camps).

Table 3 provides further detail about the security features confining youth in placement. Most youth reside in facilities that lock buildings (64%).[2] More than one-half (58%) are in facilities that lock wings, floors, corridors, or other security doors in order to confine some or all of their residents, and more than one-half are in facilities where staff locks day room doors (52%). Nearly six-in-ten youth (59%) live in facilities that have an external wall or fence with a locked gate of some type, and nearly two in five (39%) are in facilities where such fences or walls are topped with razor wire. One-fourth of youth in residential placement live in facilities that do not have any of the confinement features listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Youth in placement in 2003 by confining features in their facilities

Confining Feature	% of All Youth (N=101,040)		Percent of Youth in Program Whose Facilities Have the Feature				
	Percent	95% CI	Detention	Correction	Camp	Community-based	Residential Treatment
Locked buildings	64	(56-72)	89	85	23	27	47
Locked areas in buildings	58	(50-66)	92	75	11	22	34
Locked dayroom doors	52	(44-60)	82	76	11	12	22
Any external fence or wall	59	(51-67)	82	83	31	24	28
External fences or walls topped with razor wire	39	(32-46)	55	62	31	6	5
None of the above	25	(18-33)	--*	9	52	61	45
Total N	100	(92,580-109,490)	26,590	32,260	9,770	18,360	14,070

Note: Estimated totals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10; estimated percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.
* Not observed in the sample, so the frequency in the population is too small to estimate in this survey.

Youth in different programs are confined differently. A large majority of youth in detention and correction programs are in facilities that lock buildings or areas within buildings. They are also more likely than youth in other programs to live in facilities with an external fence or wall. More than one-half of youth in detention and correction programs live in facilities with razor wire on an external wall or fence. Fewer than one-in-ten youth in corrections and no youth in the detention program sample live in facilities that do not use any of the confinement methods listed in table 3. In contrast, nearly one-half of youth in residential treatment programs (45%) are in facilities with none of the listed confinement features, as are the majority of youth in community-based and camp programs.

Facilities' confining features do not differ for males and females in placement.

About one-half of youth in placement (53%, CI 47%–60%) reside in facilities that lock youth into sleeping rooms to confine them, at least under some conditions. Table 4 presents the circumstances under which facilities lock residents into their sleeping rooms. The two most common situations are for youth to be locked in at night (47%) and when they are "out of control" (40%). One-fourth of youth reside in facilities that lock youth into their sleeping rooms whenever the youth are in them.

One-fifth of youth live in a facility that locks them in during shift changes (20%). Slightly fewer youth are locked in their rooms for part of each day (19%), and 14% live in facilities that lock them into their sleeping rooms when they are suicidal. Five percent of youth in placement live in facilities that lock sleeping rooms under other circumstances, such as for disciplinary reasons, security reasons or protective custody, only in certain living units within the facility, or when a youth is sick.

Table 4.   Conditions when facilities lock youth into their sleeping rooms in 2003.

Condition	% of All Youth (N=101,040)		% of Youth in Program	
	Percent	95% CI	Detention	Other (Committed) Programs
At night	47	(40-54)	91	31
When they are out of control	40	(33-47)	79	26
Whenever they are in their sleeping rooms	25	(19-32)	64	12
During shift changes	20	(14-26)	55	7
Part of each day	19	(14-24)	41	11
When they are suicidal	14	(9-18)	No Difference	
Rarely, no set schedule	4	(1-7)	No Difference	
Other conditions	5	(2-9)	13	3
Total N	101,040	(92,580-109,490)	26,590	74,450

Note: Estimated totals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10; estimated percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.
CI = confidence interval.

Youth in detention are more likely to be locked into their sleeping rooms than youth in committed programs in general. The vast majority of youth in detention (93%; CI 79%–98%)[3] reside in facilities that lock youth into sleeping rooms under some conditions, while only 39% (CI 32%–47%) of youth in committed facilities do so. Correspondingly, more youth in detention are locked in under all but two of the conditions listed in Table 4.

Median Length of Stay

The first topical report in the SYRP series, Survey of Youth in Residential Placement: Youth Characteristics and Backgrounds (Sedlak and Bruce, 2016) describes youth's own length of stay in their current facility. Table 5 shows related information, giving the distribution of youth by the median length of stay in their program.[4] Few youth (8%) are in programs with very short median lengths of stay of one month or less. About one-fifth (21%) are in programs where median stays are between one and two months, while more than one-fourth (28%) are in programs with median stays of two to four months duration. More than one-in-six (18%) are in programs where median stays are

between four and 6 months, and one-fourth (25%) are in programs where the median stays are longer than 6 months.

Table 5.   Youth in placement in 2003 by median length of stay in their program.

Median Stay	Estimated Number	95% CI	Percent	95% CI
30 or fewer days	7,890	*(3,920 – 11,850)*	8	*(4 – 12)*
31-60 days	21,250	*(14,550 – 27,950)*	21	*(14 – 28)*
61-120 days	28,550	*(18,140 – 38,970)*	28	*(19 – 37)*
121-180 days	17,700	*(11,240 – 24,150)*	18	*(11 – 24)*
More than 180 days	25,650	*(19,740 – 31,570)*	25	*(19 – 31)*
Total	**101,040**	*(92,580 - 109,490)*	**100%**	

Note: Estimated totals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10; estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

Figure 6 shows how median length of stay varies across different programs. As expected, youth in detention programs are overwhelmingly in environments with very short median stays—28% are in detention programs where median stay is less than one month (<30 days) and another 54% are in programs where median stays are just slightly longer—between one and two months (31 to 60 days). Relatively short stays also predominate in camp programs, where a sizeable minority of residents (24%) are in settings with one- to two-month median stays, and the majority (60%) are in camps where median stays are just slightly longer: between two and four months long. Note, however, that some camp program youth (16%) are in places with relatively long stays of over 6 months (>180 days). Correction programs (training schools) typically have relatively long median stays, so it is not surprising to see that about one-half (49%) of youth in these settings are in programs with median stays longer than 6 months. By contrast, median stays in community-based and residential treatment programs are more diverse, reflecting the wide range of services these programs provide. Around one-third of the residents in these settings are in shorter-stay programs, where median stays are two- to four-months long (37% of community-based program residents and 31% of residential treatment program residents); about one-fourth are in long-stay programs, where youth remain for more than 6 months (26% of youth in community-based programs and 23% of those in residential treatment); and around one-third are in programs with intermediate stays of between four and six months (30% of residents in community-based programs and 36% of those in residential treatment).

Types of Offenders Placed in Different Programs

Youth in placement were arrested or committed for a variety of offenses. SYRP analyses characterize the kinds of offenders in placement in several ways. One approach classifies youth by their most serious career offense, which considers both the offenses that led to their current custody and any prior convictions. One might expect different programs to hold different kinds of offenders. However, SYRP shows that all types of offenders are comparably represented in each kind of program. Figure 7 shows the distribution of youth in different programs by their most serious career offense.[5]

Figure 6. Youth Within Each Type of Program by Median Length of Stay in Their Program, 2003.
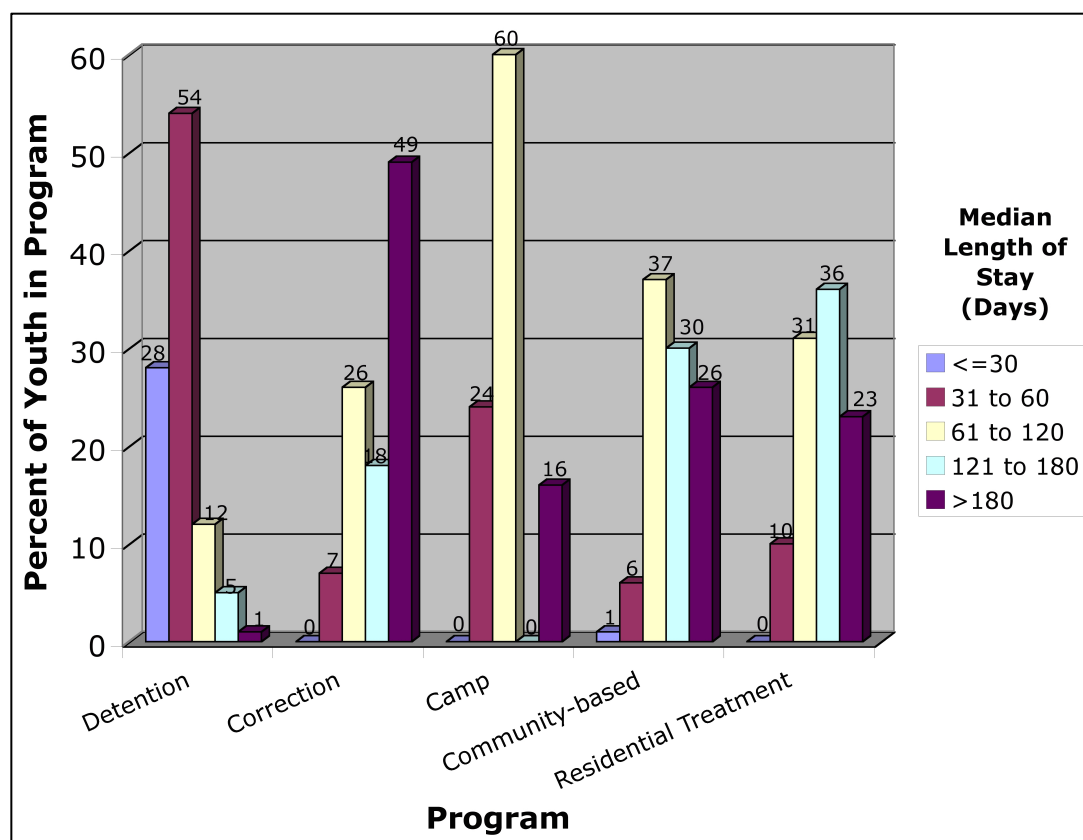
Although statistical tests do demonstrate significant differences across program types, the most striking feature of this figure is the similarity of their offender profiles—all levels of career offenders appear comparably represented in all types of programs. The few statistically significant (but slight) differences indicate that youth with the highest level of career offense (murder, rape, kidnapping) are more prevalent among residents in corrections (18%), community-based programs (16%), and residential treatment (14%) than in detention (8%) or camp programs (6%). Property offenders are most strongly represented among residents of camps (31%), compared to residents in other programs (where property offenders range between 24% and 27%). Drug and public order offenders are slightly more concentrated in detention and camp programs (11% in both, compared to 7 and 8% elsewhere); and the lowest levels of career offenders (status, technical violators, other offenses not listed in the SYRP interview) are slightly but systematically more prevalent in the detention population (9%) than they are in corrections (5%) or residential treatment (6%). It is notable that there are no significant program differences in the percentages of youth in the most common career offense category—other person offenses (i.e., all person offenses except for murder, rape, and kidnapping); between 43% and 47% of youth are in this category across the different programs.

The finding that all types of programs house all levels of career offenders may seem somewhat surprising, in light of the assumption that more serious offenders are remanded to the more secure placement contexts. However, readers should bear in mind that the career offense categories in this report depend on self-reports of both prior convictions and current offenses. Current placements

will substantially depend on current offenses and assessed risks (Austin, Johnson, & Weitzer, 2005) as well as youth's needs and the types of placements available at the time.

Figure 7. Youth Within Each Type of Program by Their Most Serious Career Offense, 2003.
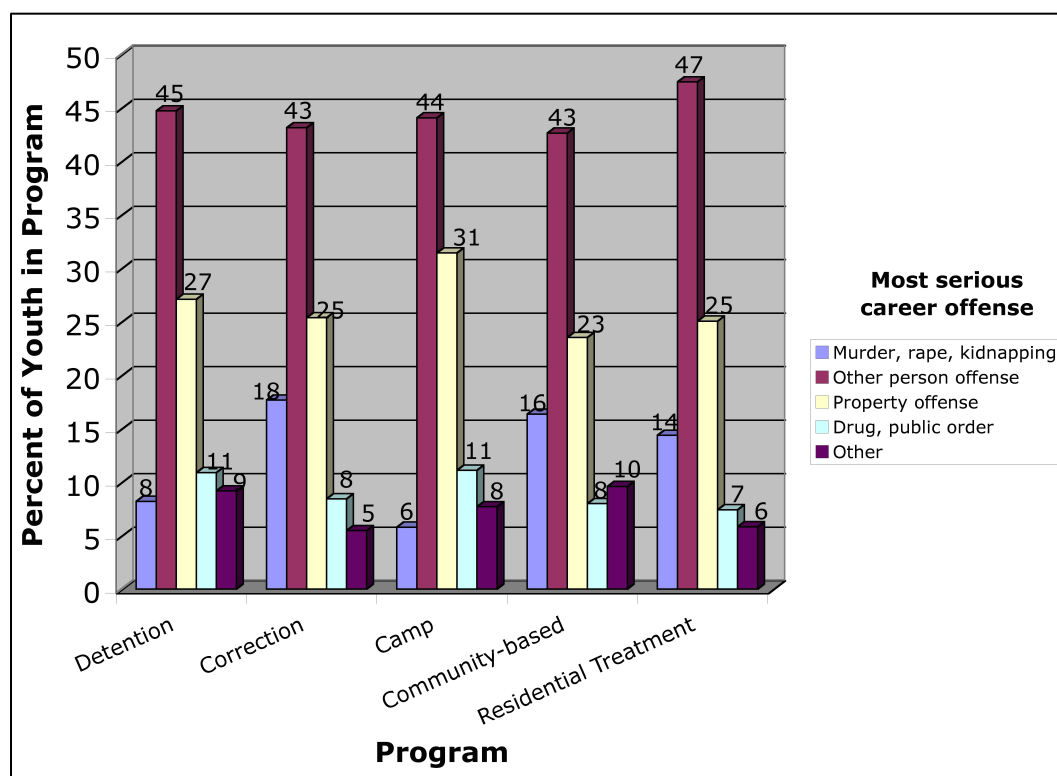
Sex Differences in Placement Contexts

Females constitute 15% of the total population of offenders in juvenile residential facilities (Sedlak & Bruce, 2016), but they are not distributed evenly across the different program types. Females account for 19% (CI 15%–23%) of youth in detention and 15% (CI 6%–25%) of the residents in community-based programs, but they represent significantly lower percentages of the population in corrections (10%; CI 6%–14%) and camp programs (3%; CI 1%–15%)[6] but a notably higher percentage of youth in residential treatment programs (29%; CI 8%–49%).

Relation to Coresidents

To minimize disruption and maximize response rates, the SYRP methodology manages youth sampling and organizes interviews by grouping youth according to their living units.[7] Apart from the practical value of this approach in implementing the study, it also provides data on which of the youth reside together. As a result, SYRP analyses can examine characteristics of youth's social environment—both in terms of the characteristics of other youth in their living unit (or program or facility) and in terms of youth's relative standing in their social context. What types of offenders

share living units or are placed together in the same program? Youth reside with others who may resemble or differ from them in age, sex, race, background experiences, and offense profiles. Placing youth who are different ages or who have dissimilar personal histories or offense records together in programs and living units may not provide them with optimal environments for growth and change.

Placement with Older Youth

Age differences mark important differences in youth's maturity and experience. These disparities are magnified during childhood and adolescence. Most experts agree that housing young juvenile offenders with older youth is a practice that should be avoided. Separation of adults and juveniles in placement is also one of the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP).

SYRP does not include juveniles who are held in adult prisons and jails—about 10,000 youth in 2003,[8] but the findings do reveal considerable age mix in juvenile facilities as well as substantial mixing of juveniles with young adults. Mixing juveniles with young adults poses challenges for implementing developmentally appropriate programming and for safety (Committee on Adolescence, 2001; Steinberg, Chung, & Little, 2004).

Among youth in placement, 28% (CI 25%–30%) are the oldest residents in their living units. Another 28% (CI 26%–30%) are just one year younger than the oldest residents. Nearly one-fourth of youth in placement (24%; CI 23%–26%) are two years younger than their oldest coresidents, while 12% (CI 11%–14%) are three years younger and 5% (CI 5%–6%) are 4 years younger than the oldest youth in their living unit. Larger age discrepancies are rarer, but do occur: SYRP shows that some youth are in living units with others who are up to eight years older. Overall, one-in-five youth (20%; CI 18%–23%) are living in units with others who are three or more years older.

The relative age of coresidents in the living unit varies by program type. Figure 8 shows that the lowest living-unit age discrepancies are among youth in detention, whereas the greatest are in residential treatment programs. More youth in detention (32%; CI 28%–36%) are the oldest in their living unit, whereas youth in residential treatment programs are the most likely (31%; C.I. 22%–40%) to be three or more years younger than their units' oldest residents. Youth in camp programs are most likely to be just one year younger (36%; CI 25%–47%). The latter finding derives at least in part from the fact that the camp programs have relatively few separate living units (as noted above), so they must house their oldest residents with younger youth.

Some juvenile facilities hold youth who are 18 years or older. SYRP represents all youth in placement in juvenile facilities who are 10 to 20 years old, but some juvenile facilities house even older young adults. Based on the age mix of SYRP participants within individual living units, it appears that more than four in ten youth under age 18 are in living units with young adults who are 18 years or older (43%, CI 34%–53%). Although the large majority of youth who are living with young adults are older juveniles (16- or 17-year-olds, 71%, CI 68%–75%), a substantial minority are 15-years-old or younger (29%, CI 25%–32%).

The likelihood of a juvenile sharing a living unit with young adults varies by type of program. Minors in detention programs are least frequently housed together with young adults (23%, CI

14%–33%), compared to the majority those in camp programs (72%, CI 54%–91%). The percentages of residents in other programs housed with young adults fall between these two extremes (corrections: 52%, CI 39%–66%; community-based: 41%, CI 24%–59%; and residential treatment: 48%, CI 31%–65%).

Figure 8. Youth Within Each Type of Program by Their Age Difference from the Oldest Coresident in Their Living Unit, 2003.
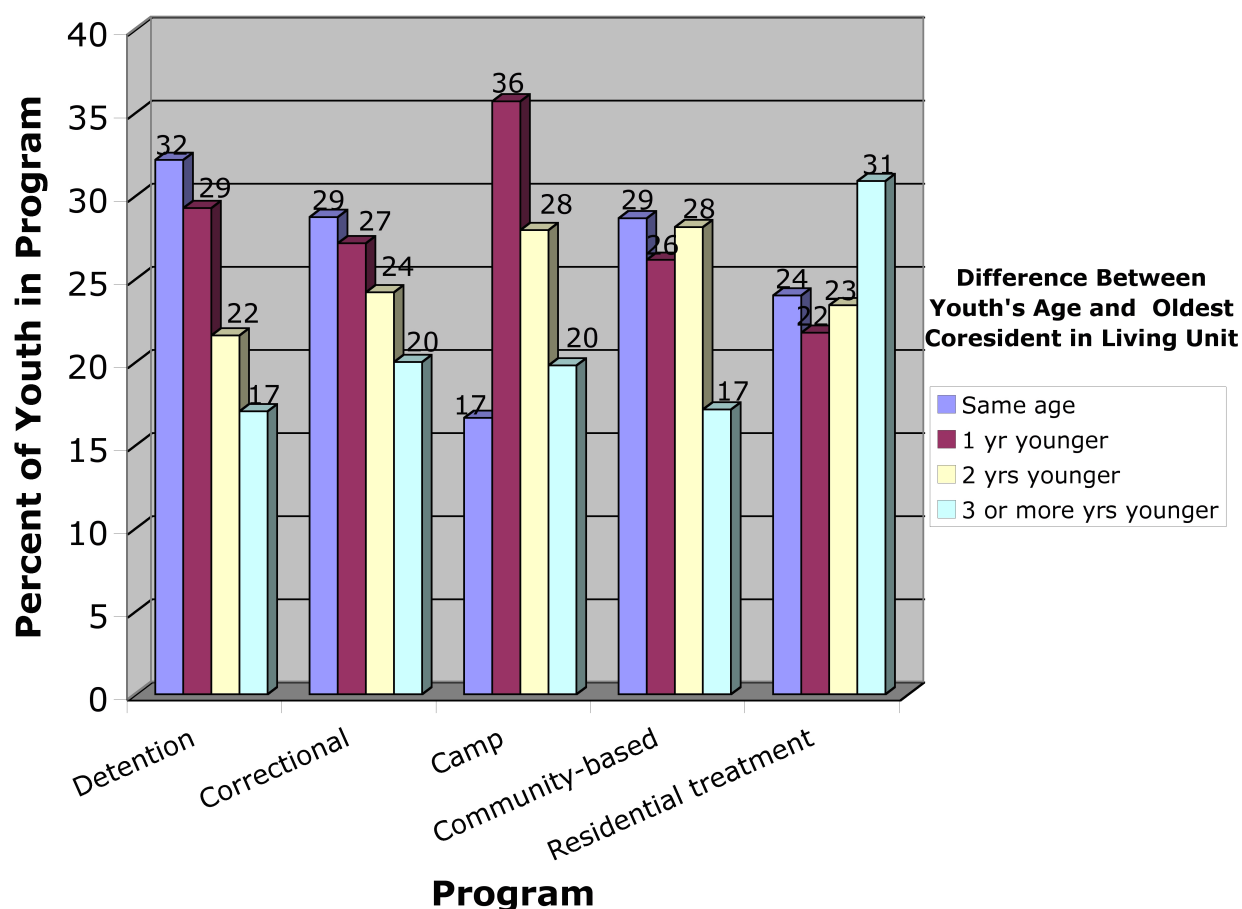
Mixed-Sex Placement

Thirty-six percent of youth in placement (CI 29%–44%) live in facilities that house both males and females. As noted above (table 1), most youth live in facilities that provide a single program, so it follows that a similar percentage of the placement population is in mixed sex programs (35%, CI 27%–42%). Coed placement at the level of living units, however, is uncommon, applying to just 6% of all youth in placement (CI 2%–10%).

Coed placements predominate in detention programs, where 86% of youth are in a coed program (CI 76%–96%) and 17% are in a coed living unit (CI 9%–26%). In contrast, only 16% of youth in other types of programs (CI 11%–22%) are in programs that include both males and females and

just 2% (CI <1%–7%)[9] are in coed living units. Residential treatment is the only committed program type with more than a negligible percentage of youth in coed living units (8%, CI 2%–30%).[10]

Single-sex placement contexts are less common for females—more females than males in placement reside in coed programs (50% of females vs. 32% of males; C.I.'s 38%–62%% and 25%–39%, respectively) and in coed living units (10% of females vs. 5% of males; C.I.'s: 4%–16% and 2%–9%, respectively).

Racial/Ethnic Placements

The racial/ethnic groups are distributed somewhat differently across three of the committed program types—corrections, camps, and residential treatment.

Figure 9 shows the percentages of Whites, Blacks/African-Americans, and Hispanics who are in each kind of program.[11] Black/African-American youth in placement are more likely to be in correction programs (42%) compared to White and Hispanic youth (24% and 31% of these groups).[12] In contrast, more of the Hispanic youth are in camp programs (17%) compared to White or Black/African-American youth (7% of each group). White youth are significantly more likely to be in residential treatment programs (20%) than are Black/African-American or Hispanic youth (9% of each group). The figure does not include detention and community-based programs, because similar percentages of each of the three principal race/ethnicity groups are in these programs (between 24% and 28% in detention, and between 16% and 20% in community-based programs).

Figure 9. Percentages of Different Race/ethnicity Groups in Different Programs, 2003.
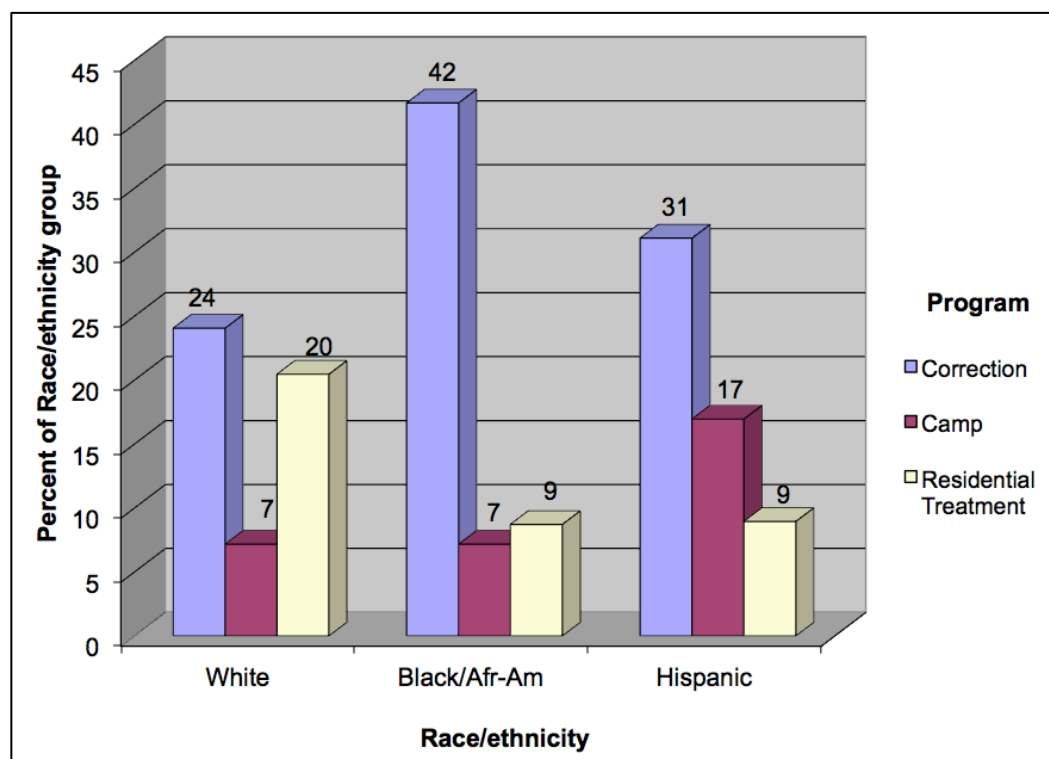
Sedlak and Bruce (2016) reported race/ethnicity differences in placement rates that reiterate the extensive literature on the disproportionate representation of youth of color in placement (Hsia, Bridges & McHale, 2004; Pope, Lovell & Hsia, 2002). The findings here on differential placements confirm that patterns found to date only in local samples (Cohen, 1991; Drakeford & Garfinkel, 2000; Kaplan & Busner, 1992; Richissin, 1999) also hold at the national level for the total population of youth in placement. The SYRP results emphasize the importance of OJJDP's core requirement that ties state formula grant funding to improving state responses to disproportionate minority confinement (DMC). SYRP offers a resource for future analyses to explore factors that might explain the observed distributions, such as youth's backgrounds, offense histories, and service needs.

Coplacement of Prior Victims

About one-fourth of youth in placement (25%, CI 23%–28%) report past experiences (prior to placement) of frequent or injurious physical abuse; nearly one-in-eight (12%, CI 10%–13%) acknowledge prior sexual abuse experiences. Further details about these earlier abuse experiences are given in the SYRP report, *Survey of Youth in Residential Placement: Youth Needs and Services* (Sedlak & McPherson, 2010). The focus here is on the finding that prior abuse victims are typically placed together with other, similar victims. The SYRP bulletin, *Nature and Risk of Victimization: Findings from the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement* (Sedlak, McPherson & Basena, 2013), examines the percentage of former victims among residents in a living unit a risk factor for a youth experiencing physical or sexual assault in custody.

SYRP results indicate that youth with experiences of physical abuse[13] or sexual abuse[14] tend to be clustered together in the same living units. These patterns could stem from deliberate programming decisions, whereby youth with similar abuse histories are housed together for specialized treatment. Clustering of abuse victims is especially strong for females. This may reflect the joint influence of two dynamics: females have fewer placement alternatives and they are more likely to have experienced prior physical or sexual abuse.

The two graphs in Figure 10 show the extent to which youth who acknowledge prior abuse experiences are clustered together in the same living units. The top graph arrays youth who did and did not report that they previously experienced frequent or injurious physical abuse according to the percent of physical abuse victims in their living units. It shows that youth who say they were physically abused in the past tend to be clustered together with each other in living units; 63% are in units where more than three-in-ten residents acknowledge similar abuse histories and very few (4%) are in units where 10% or fewer of the residents report similar abuse backgrounds. In contrast, the nonabused youth in the top portion of the figure are more evenly distributed across units with different concentrations of physical abuse victims. They are slightly more likely to be in units with lower percentages of physically abused youth: 36% are in units where 10% or fewer of the residents claim they were physically abused. Only 22% of nonvictims are living in units where more than one-in-three youth say they were physically abused.

The bottom graph in figure 10 reveals the corresponding pattern for prior sexual abuse victims. Nearly one-half of youth who say they were sexually abused previously (48%) are in living units with the highest concentrations of sexual abuse victims. In contrast, a large majority of nonvictims (72%) are in living units with the lowest percentage of other victims (10% or fewer).

Figure 10. Youth With and Without Prior Experiences of Physical Abuse or Sexual Abuse Who are Living in Units With Different Densities of Similar Victims, 2003.
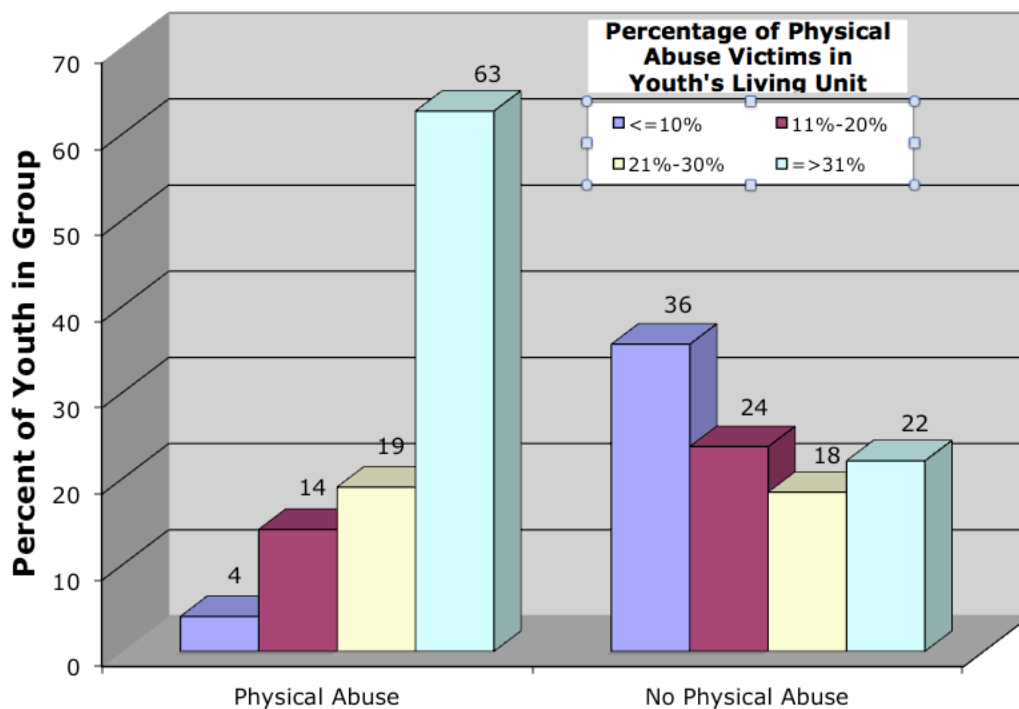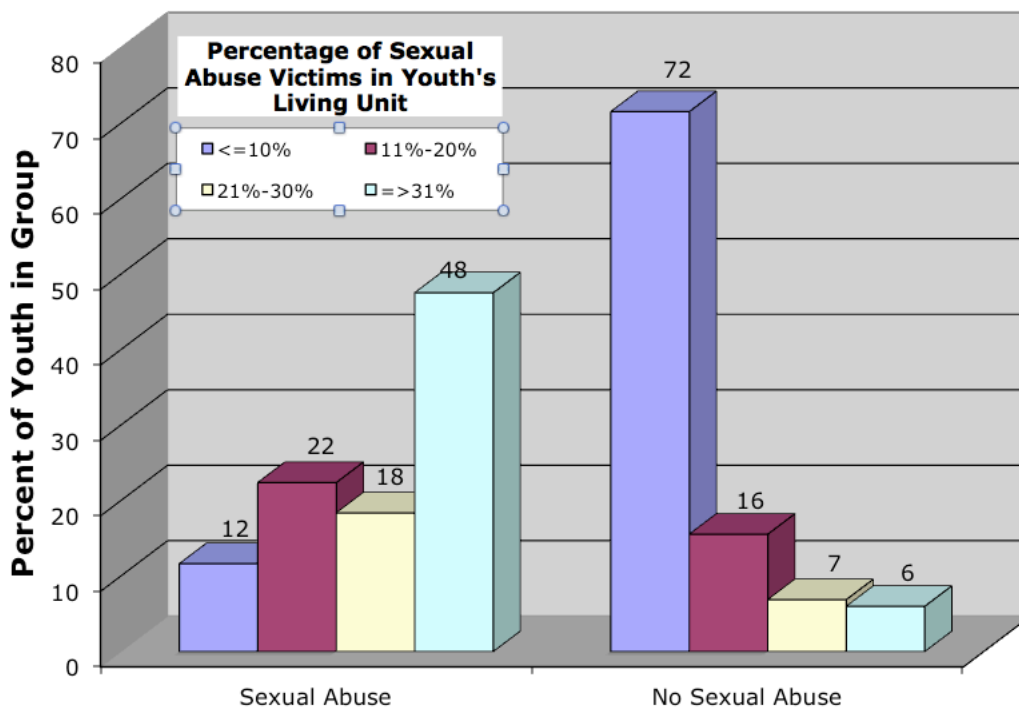
These same patterns, with victims living with higher percentages of other victims, hold for both males and females. However, significantly more females are living with higher concentrations of self-reported victims, across the board, probably because more females report prior abuse experiences (Sedlak & McPherson, 2010). Figure 11 indicates that among youth with physical abuse histories, 77% of males but 95% of females are in living units where more than 20% of residents claim they were physically abused. Although lower percentages of nonabused youth of both sexes are living with this many physical abuse victims, females are far more often in these concentrated victim units (36% of nonabused males compared to 75% of nonabused females). Indeed, the percentage of <u>nonabused</u> females who live with higher concentrations of prior physical abuse victims is nearly the same as the percentage of abused males who do so (75% and 77%, respectively).

A similar pattern is evident for prior sexual abuse: Victims of both sexes are more likely to be living with higher percentages of other victims (52% of male victims and 84% of female victims as compared to 8% of male nonvictims and 53% of female nonvictims). Here, too, more females are in living units with higher concentrations of victims and <u>nonabused</u> females resemble abused males in their rate of placement in these units.

Figure 11. Sex Differences in Placement With Higher Concentration of Prior Victims, 2003.
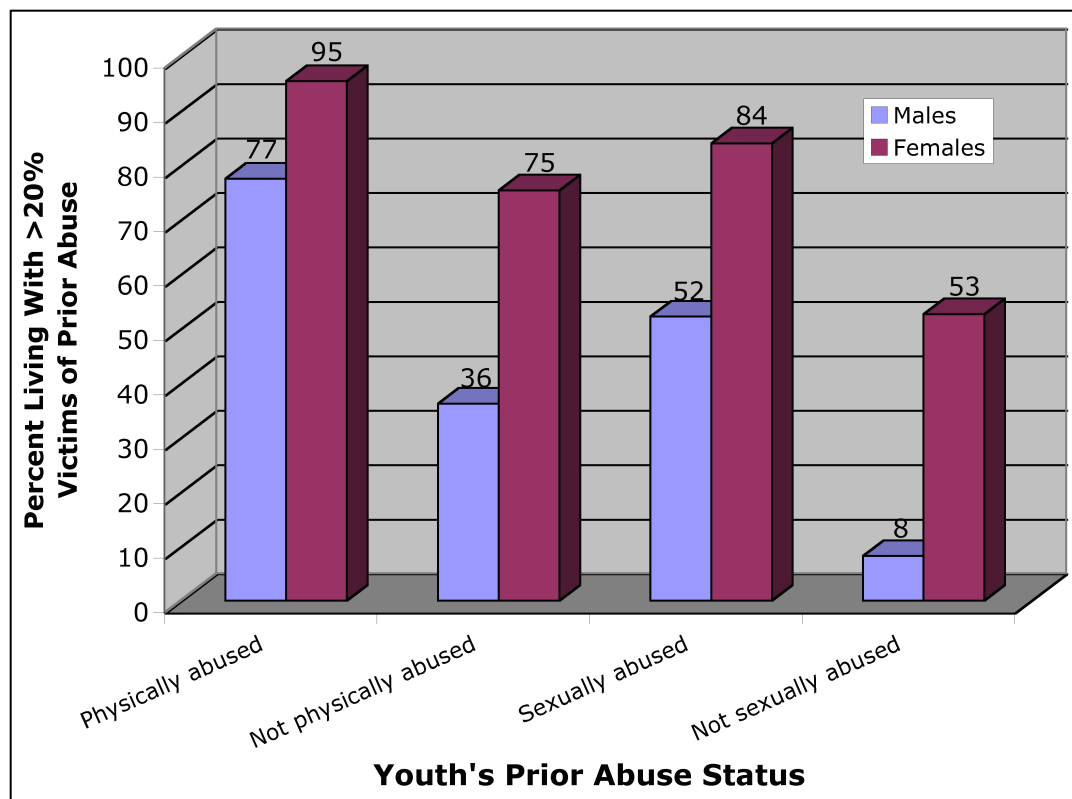
Coplacement of Offender Types

SYRP shows what types of offenders are placed together. Another report, *Survey of Youth in Residential Placement: Youth Characteristics and Backgrounds* (Sedlak and Bruce, 2016) describes the placement population by their most serious career offenses. A majority of all youth in placement (63%; CI 58%–69%) are in living units where a majority of the other residents are person offenders, as are a substantial minority (44%; CI 38%–51%) of youth who are not person offenders themselves. Not surprisingly, even higher percentages of youth are in contexts where their overall programs house primarily person offenders. Sixty-nine percent (CI 62%–77%) of all youth in placement are in programs where more than half the youth are person offenders. More than one-half of youth who are not person offenders themselves (58%: C. I.: 49%–67%) are in such programs. Thus, it is evident that some offenders with relatively minor offenses are placed with more serious offenders.

Table 6 provides further details on the placement of less serious offenders with more serious offenders. Sedlak and Bruce (2016) divided youth into the five categories shown in the first column, based on their "most serious career offense," a classification that combines all information youth report about their offenses, as the table notes explain. The second column shows the total estimated number of youth in the career offense category, which is the basis of the percentages in the row. The remaining columns give the percentages of youth in the category who are in living units or programs that also house youth with a career offense (past conviction or current charge) of murder or rape.[15]

The first row includes the most violent offenders. Over one-third of these youth (35%) live in units with a career-offense of murder (i.e., with youth who acknowledge a conviction or current charge for "killing someone") and the majority (51%) reside in living units with youth whose most serious career offense is rape ("having or trying to have sexual relations with someone against their will").[16] Interestingly, sex offenders are clustered in specialized living units with treatment programs geared toward them. Youth with a current rape offense are in living units where the majority of residents have rape offense histories (55 percent on average), whereas youth in custody for current offenses other than rape are in units where just 6 percent of residents (on average) are felony sex offenders.

Table 6 also shows that youth with less serious career offenses are less frequently housed with the most violent offenders; among youth in the least serious category (status offenders, technical parole violators, and those reporting no offense), about one-in-five (19%) are living in units with youth whose career offense is murder and about one-fourth (26%) reside with felony sex offenders.

The offender mix is even greater at the program level—approximately twice as many youth are in programs that house the most violent offenders. Two-thirds (66%) of the most serious career offenders are in programs with youth convicted of or charged with murder and more than three-fourths (78%) are in programs with youth convicted of or charged with rape. Although youth with lesser career offenses are less often in programs with the most violent offenders, the percentages are all high; majorities of youth in all categories are in programs with youth convicted of or charged with rape or murder.

Table 6. Placement in living units and programs with serious offenders in 2003, by youth's most serious career offense

Youth's most serious career offense	Career Offenders in Youth's Living Unit				Career Offenders in Youth's Program			
	Murderers		Rapists		Murderers		Rapists	
	%	(CI)	%	(CI)	%	(CI)	%	(CI)
Murder, rape, kidnapping, robbery, assault with a weapon	35	(30-41)	51	(44-57)	66	(59-72)	78	(71-84)
Assault, no weapon	27	(21-33)	32	(26-37)	57	(49-65)	63	(56-71)
Burglary, arson, or theft	28	(22-35)	36	(29- 43)	62	(53-72)	69	(61-77)
Other property offense, drug offense, public order offense, or something else	28	(21-34)	31	(24-38)	62	(55-70)	68	(59-78)
Status offense, technical parole violation, or no offense reported	19	(13-26)	26	(16-36)	52	(40-63)	64	(52-75)
Total†	30	(25–36)	39	(33–46)	62	(55–69)	71	(64–78)

Notes: Estimated totals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10; estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval. The "career offense" classification combines all information youth report about their offenses, considering all prior and current convictions (or, for youth not yet adjudicated, offenses youth are accused of committing or are charged with).

* Totals here are the denominators for the row percentages.

† This table excludes 25 youth, representing less than 0.5% of those in placement, whose answers could not classify their most serious career offense.

The percentages of youth who are in the same living unit with career offenders who report murder or rape did not differ significantly across program types. However, there are differences in the percentages of youth whose programs themselves house such offenders. Youth in detention and correction programs are most likely to have one or more youth in their programs who report a conviction or charge of murder (76%, CI 67%–84%) and are about as likely to share their program with offenders who report a conviction or charge of rape (79%, CI 72%-87%). By contrast, significantly fewer residents of community-based and residential treatment programs have youth with the most violence career offenses in their programs (38% have youth convicted or charged with murder in their program and 52% are in a program with youth convicted or charged with rape). Sixty-two percent of camp program youth (CI 36%–88%) are in a program with youth who report a conviction or current charge for murder, but the camp youth are most likely to youth convicted or charged with rape in their program (85%, CI 69%–100%).

Males are housed with these most serious offenders at more than twice the rate of females: one-third of males (33%, CI 27%–39%) but only 15% of females (CI 9%–20%) are in living units with youth who were convicted or charged with killing someone, and 43% of males (CI 36%–50%) but just 20% of females (CI 13%–27%) live with youth who have a history or current charge of rape. The program-level differences are less extreme, but still significant, with 65% of males (CI 58%–72%) in programs with murderers, compared to 45% of females (CI 33%–57%), and 74% of males

in programs with youth convicted of or charged with rape (CI 66%–82%), compared to 55% of females (CI 43%–66%).

These findings about coplacement of youth with very offenders with very different offense severities may seem somewhat surprising in light of the general assumption that more serious offenders are remanded to the more secure placement contexts. However, the career offense categories in this survey depend on self-reports of both prior convictions and current offenses. Current placements will substantially depend on current offenses and assessed risks (Austin, Johnson & Weitzer, 2005) as well as youth's needs and the types of placements available at the time.

Placement with Gang Members

This section focuses on gang membership as a characteristic of coresidents; a later section presents overall findings about gang membership in the placement population and how it affects conditions in placement. On average, youth in residential placement are in living units where 19% of residents (CI 17%– 21%) are members of gangs in the facility. Most youth (64%; C.I. 56%–71%) are living in units where 20% or less of residents are gang members, while just under one-third (30%; CI 23%–37%) are in living units where between one-fifth and one-half of residents are gang members. Very few youth 6% (CI 4%–8%), are in living units where a majority of residents are members of a gang in the facility.

The average percentage of gang members living with a youth varies significantly by program type and by youth's sex. These differences precisely track sex and program differences in rates of gang membership, which are reported below (cf. table 12).

Placement with Nonoffenders

Some facilities house nonoffender youth—youth who are in placement because the juvenile court has placed them for protection (i.e., they are neglected or abused) or custodial supervision (i.e., they are without a parent or guardian) or because their families have voluntarily placed them in a private facility for specific services, such as mental health or substance abuse treatment. SYRP includes only offender youth, but administrative data on their facilities also indicates whether they are housed with nonoffender youth. Twelve percent (CI 7%–16%) of youth in residential placement are in facilities that also house nonoffenders. Ten percent (CI 6%–14%) are in programs with nonoffenders, and 8% (CI 4%–11%) reside in primary living units with nonoffenders.

Several factors significantly relate to rates of placement with nonoffender youth. Although this section presents findings for rates of coplacement in a given program, nearly identical patterns emerge on the other structural measures (coplacement in the same facility or in the same living unit).

Rates of coplacement with nonoffender youth vary with the type of program. Twenty percent of youth in community-based and residential treatment programs are in placement with nonoffenders (CI 9%–30%) compared to only 5% of youth in detention, corrections, and camp programs (5%, CI 3%–8%).

Note that these program differences closely follow general owner/operator differences among programs (as given above in Figure 2). In fact, in privately operated facilities, one-fourth (24%, CI 12%–36%) of offender youth are in programs with nonoffenders, while this is true for only 5% (CI 3%–8%) of offenders in government-operated facilities.

Daytime security also varies systematically across program types (cf. Figure 5), so it is not surprising that youth in settings that are unlocked during the day are more often placed with nonoffenders. Seventeen percent (CI 8%–26%) of youth in unlocked settings are in programs with nonoffenders, compared to just 6% (CI 3%–10%) of those in unlocked settings.

Females are placed together with nonoffenders more frequently than males, perhaps reflecting their relatively larger representation in residential treatment programs, where nearly three in ten residents are girls. Twenty-seven percent (CI 9%–44%) of females are in programs with nonoffenders, compared to just 7% of males (CI 4%–10%).

Physical and Program Environment

The physical features of a facility and the programs it provides define day-to-day reality for youth in placement. The SYRP interview asks youth about their sleeping arrangements, the reasons for any difficulty sleeping, the cleanliness of the environment, quality of food and of the recreation and educational programs, and the amount of time they spend watching television.

Sleeping Arrangements

SYRP asks whether youth sleep in a room by themselves or with others. Slightly more than one-third of youth in placement sleep in a private room (36%, CI 30%–41%), so most youth share their room with one or more other residents. The next most common arrangement is for youth to share their room with just one other resident, a circumstance that applies to just over one-fourth of the youth in placement (27%, CI 23%–32%). One-fifth of youth (20%, CI 15%–25%) say that they share their room with two to nine others, while about one-in-six (17%, CI 12%–22%) sleep in the same room as 10 or more other residents.

Sleeping arrangements vary with security level—more youth who are locked in during the day have private sleeping rooms (42%, CI 34%–50%) compared to youth who are not locked in during the day (23%, CI 14%–32%).

Sleeping arrangements also vary with type of program (Figure 12). Most youth in detention (60%) are in private sleeping rooms. One-third of youth in corrections (35%) have a private sleeping room, but there is more variability in that context. In fact, nearly one-fourth of youth in correction programs (24%) share their room with 10 or more other residents. Youth in other kinds of programs have characteristic sleeping arrangements: youth in community-based programs typically have just one roommate (41%); those in residential treatment programs have between two and nine roommates (52%); and the majority of youth in camps (55%) share their sleeping quarters with 10 or more other residents. Boys and girls do not differ in sleeping arrangements.

Figure 12. Youth Within Each Type of Program by Number of Others Who Share Their Room, 2003.
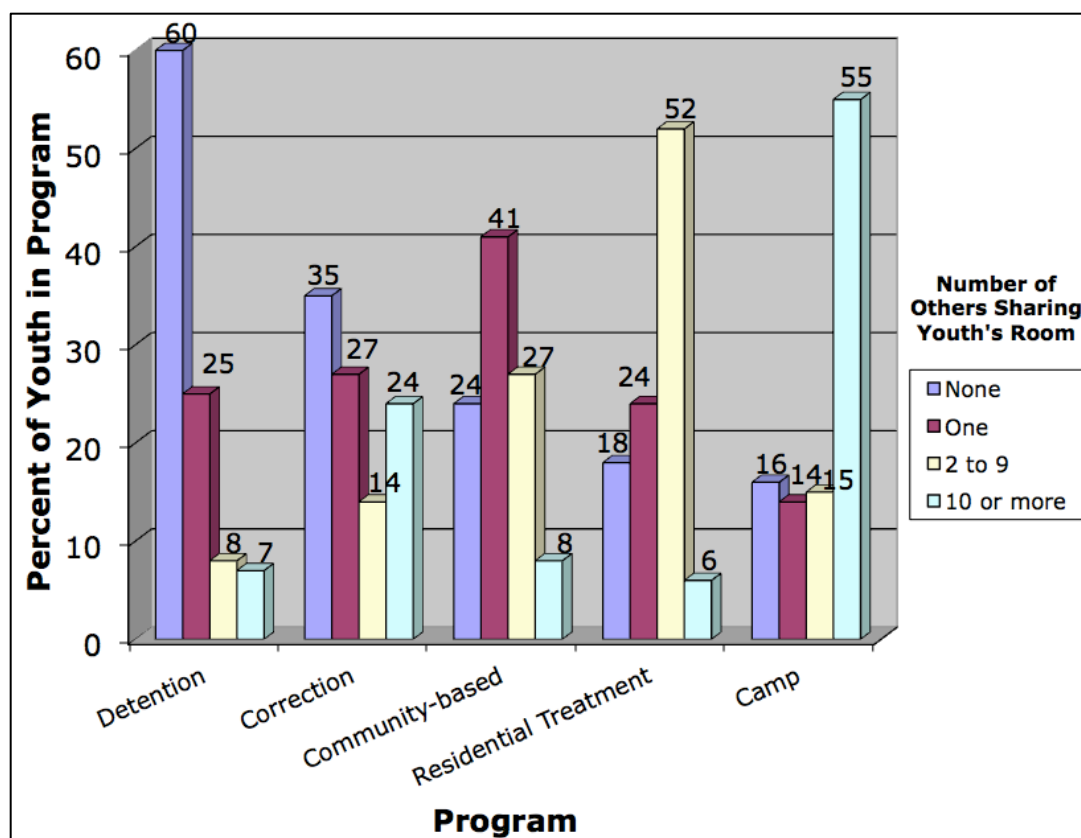
Difficulty Sleeping

Important changes in sleep patterns occur during adolescence, shifting to later circadian cycles (Carskadon, Vieri & Acebo, 1993). At the same time, traditional schedules (e.g., the early start of the school day) do not accommodate these new daily cycles, so most teens suffer from chronic sleep deprivation (Carpenter, 2001; Carskadon et al., 1998; Carskadon, 2005). Adolescents' sleep problems have been the focus of increased attention in recent years, with some policymakers recommending that schools shift their start times. Researchers have explored the implications of juveniles' sleep deprivation, documenting its association with poorer grades (National Sleep Foundation, 2006), depression (Graham, 2000), behavior problems (Stein et al, 2001) and increased suicide risk (Liu, 2004).

Table 7 shows that most youth in placement (72%; CI 69%–75%) report at least some difficulty falling asleep at night. Taken together, about one-third of youth say that they "often" or "always" have difficulty sleeping.

These findings indicate more sleep problems among youth in placement compared to high school-aged youth in the general population. While about one-third of youth in placement (34%) say they "often" or "always" have a problem falling asleep at night, only 11% of 9th to 12th graders in the

general population say they have difficulty falling asleep "every night" or "almost every night." More than one-fourth of youth in placement (28%) say they have "no problem" falling asleep, compared to 48% of 9th to 12th graders who "rarely" or "never" have that problem (National Sleep Foundation, 2006). SYRP has no information about facilities' schedules, so whether or how they may contribute to residents' sleep complaints is unknown. However, the issue deserves further attention, in light of the fact that juveniles' sleep difficulties can contribute to or mark a host of other significant problems.

Youth who have difficulty sleeping attribute their sleeplessness to one or more of the factors listed in the bottom section of Table 7. Nearly two-thirds of youth with problems sleeping (62%) say that their own thoughts keep them from sleeping. Almost one-half blame light for the problem (48%). Noise is the third-most common reason cited (38%). Slightly more than one-fourth of youth who have sleeping difficulty say that this is due to other residents (28%) or to factors not listed (27%). About one-in-seven youth say that fear keeps them awake (15%).

Table 7. Difficulty sleeping and reasons youth give for the problem, among all youth in placement in 2003 and by program, security level, and sex.[†]

Measure	All Youth		Program			Security		Sex	
	Percentage (95% CI)		Detention	Community-based	Other	Day-time Locks	No Day-time Locks	Males	Females
Difficulty falling asleep									
No problem	28	(25 – 31)	21	35	29	26	32	30	18
Sometimes difficult	38	(36 – 40)	37	38	39	38	38	38	40
Often difficult	17	(15 – 19)	20	15	16	17	16	16	23
Always difficult	17	(15 – 18)	22	12	16	19	13	16	20
Reason for difficulty sleeping[*]									
Light	48	(43 – 53)	61	34	46	53	38	47	54
Noise	38	(35 – 41)				41	31	37	43
Own thoughts	62	(60 – 64)				60	67	61	69
Other residents	28	(26 – 30)		*No difference*[††]				*No difference*	
Fear	15	(13 – 16)				*No difference*		13	23
Other factors	27	(26 –29)						27	31

Notes: Estimated totals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10; estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

† This table excludes multiracial youth as defined in the description of Table 1 in Sedlak and Bruce (2016) as well as youth excluded from that race/ethnicity distribution (*n* = 591 of the survey participants, representing 8.6% of the estimated population in placement).

* Percents of youth in each group giving specific reasons are based only on youth who reported that they had problems sleeping.

†† Subgroups that do not differ resemble the overall population of youth in placement.

The center columns in Table 7 reveal differences across programs and security levels both in the degree of difficulty sleeping and in reasons for it. Significant differences occur across three main categories of programs: detention, community-based, and other types. Youth in detention programs

profess the greatest difficulty falling asleep, with more than two-in-five (a combined total of 42%) saying they "often" or "always" have such trouble. By contrast, residents of community-based programs have the least difficulty sleeping, while youth in other programs report intermediate sleeping problems. Among the reasons youth give, light and noise are factors that differentiate the program categories. Detention center residents cite both of these reasons more frequently than youth in other programs, whereas community-based program residents are least likely to complain about these factors. The remaining problems listed do not differ across program categories, so the overall population percentages apply. A higher percentage of youth in secure environments, where living units are locked during the day, claim that it is always difficult for them to fall asleep (19% vs. 13%) while fewer securely held youth report that they have no problem falling asleep (26% vs. 32%). Those in secure placement more often blame light and noise, whereas youth who are not locked during the daytime more often attribute their sleeplessness to their own thoughts.

Females in placement report considerably greater difficulty sleeping than do males, as shown in the last columns in Table 7. Although comparable percentages (about two-in-five) acknowledge that they "sometimes" have trouble falling asleep, the sexes diverge at all other difficulty levels. More females report that they have trouble sleeping "often" (23% vs. 16%) or "always" (20% vs. 16%), whereas more males say they have no problem falling asleep (30% vs. 18%).

Males and females blame different factors for their problems falling asleep. Except for the fact that "other residents" cause sleeping problems equally often for males and females, more females ascribe their sleeplessness to every other reason listed.

Youth's Views of the Quality of Physical Conditions and Amenities

SYRP asks youth to describe their facility by choosing characteristics from the positive and negative qualities listed in Table 8. Overall, more than one-half of youth have polarized views on these items. One-fourth of youth (25%) select no positive feature to describe their facility, while slightly more (29%) identify no negative feature.

Over half (51%) say that their facility has a good school program. Substantial minorities consider their facility to be clean (46%) and regard their facility's recreational program as good (40%). The quality of food is ranked lowest among positive characteristics, endorsed by just 29% of youth. On the other hand, less than one-half of the placement population indicate even the most-cited facility problems—insects or bugs (43%), bad smells (41%), and dirty bathrooms (38%). Items crucial for personal hygiene are less problematic, with less than one-fourth (22%) complaining of dirty sheets, towels, and/or clothes and one-in-seven (14%) identifying a rodent problem in their facility. Comparable percentages of youth have extreme perspectives at either end of the spectrum: one-fourth of youth (25%) select no positive feature to describe their facility, while just slightly more (29%) identify no negative feature. The overall balance of positive and negative views is also supported by the fact that youth select about the same number of positive features (an average of 1.7, CI 1.6–1.8) as they do negative features (an average of 1.6, CI 1.5–1.7).

Youth's facility descriptions vary with their primary program and its security level, as shown in the center columns of Table 8. Overall, youth in community-based and residential treatment programs are most positive about their placement environments, whereas those in correction programs are most negative. However, youth's responses on specific features provide considerable detail. Community-based programs are the clear leader in youth's perceptions of food quality and nearly all dimensions of cleanliness. Residential treatment programs lag just slightly in most cleanliness ratings, but their youth give their school and recreation programs the highest endorsement. Food quality and the multiple facets of cleanliness receive their worst ratings in correction programs. School and recreation programs have their lowest ratings from youth in detention centers. Camp programs are intermediate in their ranking and evidence few significant differences from other program types. This occurs because youth in camp programs represent the smallest sector of the placement population (just 10%) and they agree less on their ratings than youth in other kinds of programs.

Table 8.   Youth's perceptions of the positive and negative features of their facilities, overall in 2003 and by type of program, security level, and youth's sex.

Facility characteristic	All Youth		Program					Security		Sex	
	Per cent	95% C.I.	Detention	Correction	Community-based	Camp	Residential Treatment	Locked	Not Locked	Males	Females
Positive features											
Good food	29	(26 – 32)	22	18	47	36	38	21	44	31	20
Clean	46	(42 – 49)	41	34	61	45	62	37	61		
Good school program	51	(49 – 54)	42	52	51	54	65	48	56	No difference†	
Good recreational program	40	(37 – 44)	32	41	40	39	57	36	48		
None of the above	25	(23 – 27)	32	30	16	22	13	30	16		
Negative features											
Dirty sheets, towels, clothes	22	(19 – 24)	26	26	9	37	11	26	14	23	15
Bad smells	41	(38 – 43)	42	47	31	35	37	45	32	39	50
Insects or bugs	43	(40 – 47)	40	53	33	40	44	47	36	42	52
Dirty bathrooms	38	(34 – 41)	34	46	34	40	28	42	30		
Rats or mice	14	(11 – 17)	7	23	12	15	9	No difference†		No difference†	
None of the above	29	(27 –32)	29	21	41	30	34	25	38		

Notes: Estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

† Subgroups that do not differ resemble the overall population of youth in placement.

Facilities that lock youth in during daytime hours receive significantly poorer quality ratings on all features except for the presence of rodents, where there is no difference. Locked and unlocked environments differ most in ratings of the quality of the food and in general cleanliness (differences of 23 and 24 percentage points, respectively). The relationship between higher security and poorer ratings for food quality is not simply due to the poor food ratings in detention and correction programs (generally high security programs), since further analyses indicate that the association between higher security and poorer food ratings also holds for youth in the three remaining program

types. Similarly, the relationship between security and overall cleanliness ratings also holds across program environments.

The last columns in Table 8 show that males and females differ in describing four features of their facilities. More males say that that the food is good in their facility (31% v. 20%). In the negative sphere, more females fault their facilities for insects or bugs (52% v. 42%) and for bad smells (50% v. 39%), whereas more males indicate that dirty sheets, towels, or clothes are problems in their facilities (23% v. 15%). Since the majority of the males and nearly one-half of the females in placement are in same-sex facilities, they are not describing the same facilities. To determine whether their ratings of these features differ even when they are describing similar facilities, the authors looked for sex differences among youth residing in the coed facilities. The results of this exploration reveal the same pattern of differences displayed in Table 8, albeit slightly attenuated in strength.[17] Thus, sex differences in answers about facilities' strengths and problems appear at least partly due to males' and females' different perceptions of these problems.

In describing their current placement environment, youth indicated how many hours they watch television on a typical weekday. Youth watched television an average of 2.9 hours (CI 2.7–3.2) on a typical weekday. These numbers are comparable to those in the general American population, where youth watch an average of 2.5 hours of television a day (Woodard & Gridina, 2000). The SYRP average nearly one-fourth (23%) who say they watch no television, more than one-third (37%) who watch 1 to 2 hours of television, another 23% who watch 3 to 5 hours, and 16% who watch television for 6 or more hours a day. Thus, 39% of youth in custody watch television 3 hours or more, compared to 49% of students in a large general population sample of high school students (Menino, Hemenway, Prothrow-Stith, & Browne, 2005). Interestingly the number of hours youth say they watch TV is unrelated to whether they think that their facility has a good recreation program.

Time watching television varies across the different types of placement programs. Youth in community-based programs spend the most time watching television (3.5 hrs., CI 3.0–4.1), closely followed by youth in detention (3.1 hrs., CI 2.6–3.7) and those in correction programs (3.0 hrs., CI 2.5–3.4). Youth in residential treatment report significantly lower levels of television-watching (2.4 hrs., CI 1.8–2.9) as do those in camps (1.8 hrs., CI 1.1–2.6). Television viewing time does not differ by the presence of daytime locks.

Girls watch less television than boys. While girls watch television an average of 2.4 hours a day (CI 2.0–2.8), boys watch more than one-half hour longer—3.0 hours per day (CI 2.8–3.3).

Safety

Several SYRP questions focus on issues related to youth's safety in their facilities, such as whether they know what to do in case of fire or how to get help if they are threatened, whether they ever left their facility without permission, and whether they are afraid of being attacked while living there. Other reports in this series provide additional findings on youth's safety and health, such as their experiences of actually being attacked while in the facility (beaten up, robbed or sexually assaulted), their suicidality risk, and their medical needs and treatment.[18]

As shown in Table 9, more than three-fourths of youth in placement (78%) say they know what to do in case of fire in their facility. Best practice guidelines dictate a clear, posted evacuation plan and regular, documented fire drills (Roush, 1996), yet this finding means that more than one-in-five youth in placement (22%) do not know what to do if there is a fire in their facility. Only 5% report having left their facility without permission. More than one-third of youth say they fear attack by someone (38%), which includes 25% who fear attack by another resident, 22% who are afraid that a staff member will physically attack them, and just 15% who fear attack by someone coming into the facility from the outside. Nine-in-ten youth report that they do know how to find help if they are threatened or assaulted.

Table 9. Indicators of youth safety, for all youth in placement in 2003 and by program and security condition[†]

Safety measure[†]	All Youth		Program					Security	
	Percent	(95% CI)	Detention	Correction	Camp	Community – based	Residential Treatment	Locked	Not Locked
Know what procedure to follow if there is a fire	78	(76–81)	59	81	84	89	90	73	88
Ever left their facility without permission	5	(4–6)	2	2	2	12	8	2	10
Afraid of being physically attacked by anyone	38	(35–40)	38	42	35	29	39	40	33
• By another resident	25	(24–27)	25	30	22	19	25	27	22
• By a staff member	22	(20–25)	22	28	23	13	23	25	17
• By someone coming in from outside	15	14–17)	*No Differences*					*No Difference*	
Know how to find help if someone assaults or threatens them	90	(89–91)	87	90	87	93	93	88	93

Notes: Estimated totals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10; estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

† All percents are computed on youth who answered the relevant question in each row. Data are missing for between 6 and 40 youth across the measures, reducing the estimated population total used in the denominators by <0.5%.

Patterns of answers on these questions vary across program types. Considerably fewer youth in detention report knowing the fire procedures in their facility (59%) compared with youth in all other types of programs (81% or more). More youth in residential treatment and community-based programs (about nine-in-ten) know what to do in a fire, compared with youth in correction programs (about four-in-five). Given that daytime security varies with program type, it is not surprising that more youth residing in unlocked living units know fire procedures.

Only 2% of youth in the predominantly government-operated programs (detention, correction, and camp, cf. Figure 2) say they have left their facility without permission, compared to 8% or more of youth living in community-based or residential treatment programs. There is a similar difference in percentages of AWOL youth comparing those who are confined by daytime locks (2%) with those whose living units are not locked in during the daytime (10%).

Fear of attack by anyone is most prevalent among youth in correction programs (42%). Corrections youth are significantly more fearful of attack than youth in detention or community-based programs (38% and 29%, respectively). More youth in residential treatment say they fear attack by someone (39%) than do youth residing in community-based programs, where the fewest youth are fearful an attack (29%). These overall program differences reflect differences in fear of attack by someone in the facility, either another resident or a staff member. On both measures, more youth in correctional programs fear attack than do youth residing in detention or community-based programs, while youth in detention are more fearful than residents in community-based programs. Youth in residential treatment programs are also more fearful of attack by a staff member than those in community-based programs. Paralleling these program differences, youth in locked living units are more fearful of both attack by another resident and attack by a staff member. Percentages of youth who fear attack by someone from the outside do not differ, either by program type or by the daytime security of youth's living unit.

There are slight but significant program differences in the percentage of youth who how to find help if they are assaulted or threatened. More youth in correctional, community-based, and residential treatment programs know how to find such help (90% or more) than do youth in detention (87%); more community-based program residents (93%) know how to get help than do youth in correction or camp programs (90% or less); and more youth in residential treatment programs (93%) know how to get help than those in camp programs (87%). Compared to youth in living units that use daytime locks, more youth residing in unlocked living units know how to find help if they are threatened or assaulted.

Males and females do not differ in their knowledge of fire safety procedures, the percentages who left their facility without permission, their fear of attack by a staff member, or the knowledge of how to find help if they are assaulted or threatened. More girls, however, fear being physically attacked by someone (36% of males, CI 34%–39%, vs. 44% of females, CI 41%–47%). This reflects the fact that more females fear attack by another resident (29% of females, CI 26%–32%, vs. 25% of males, CI 23%–27%) and by someone from outside the facility (23% of females, CI 20%–25%, vs. 14% of males, CI 13%–15%).

Access to Support

The SYRP asks youth about their access to different types of support in a number of ways, including their contacts with family since entering the facility, the frequency of any contact or the reasons for no contact. In addition, youth report whether they know how to find someone to talk to in the facility if they are upset. They report their access to legal representation as well, indicating whether they have a lawyer, have asked to contact a lawyer, and if so, whether they were allowed to do so.

Family Contact

Since arriving at their facility, the vast majority of youth in placement (92%) had some contact with their families, either through phone calls or visits. Nearly nine-in-ten youth talked with their family on the telephone and more than two-thirds had an in-person visit.[19]

The percentage of youth in contact with family varies by program type. While most youth have spoken on the telephone with their families, fewer youth in detention and camps have done so compared to those in other programs. More youth in the typically privately run programs (community-based and residential treatment) report in-person visits with their families. Youth in camps, which tend to be in more remote locations compared to other programs, are the least likely to have any family contact (one-in-five camp youth report no family contact). The generally shorter length of stay in detention programs may explain why nearly one-in-eight youth there (12%) have no family contact, compared to youth in correction, community-based, and residential treatment programs, who almost universally report having family contact since coming to their facilities.

Table 10. Contact with family since coming to their facility, for all youth in placement in 2003 and by program.[†]

Contact	All Youth		Program				
	Percent	(95% CI)	Detention	Correctional	Camp	Community-based	Residential Treatment
Telephone contact	88	(85 – 91)	80	92	74	93	96
In-person visits	69	(66 – 72)	67	61	63	80	82
Any contact	92	(90 – 94)	88	94	80	96	97

Notes: Estimated totals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10; estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

† All percents are computed on youth who answered the relevant question in each row. Data are missing for between 2 and 6 youth across the measures, reducing the estimated population total used in the denominators by <0.2%.

Youth also report on how often they were in touch with their family in the past month. In light of how common it is for youth to have had family contact, it is interesting to note that these contacts are also quite frequent. Nearly one-third of youth in placement have some form of family contact three or more times a week (30%, CI 26%–34%). Another 18% (CI 15%–20%) are in touch with their family twice a week; 25% (CI 21%–28%) have contact once a week; while one-fifth (20%, CI 17%–22%) have contact less often than once a week. The remaining youth (8%, CI 6%–10%) are those with no family contact at all since entering their facility (i.e., the sector of the population omitted from the last row of Table 10).

Frequency of family contact depends on a youth's program, as displayed in Figure 13. Youth in community-based programs have the most frequent family contact, followed closely by youth in residential treatment and those in detention. In all three contexts, about two-in-five youth have family contact three or more times a week (43%, 41%, and 38% in these three programs, respectively). Also, the general pattern in these programs is progressively higher percentages of youth across the increasing frequencies of contact. In contrast, youth in correction and camp programs predominantly have family contact just once a week or less.

Figure 13. Youth Within Each Type of Program by Their Frequency of Family Contact, 2003.
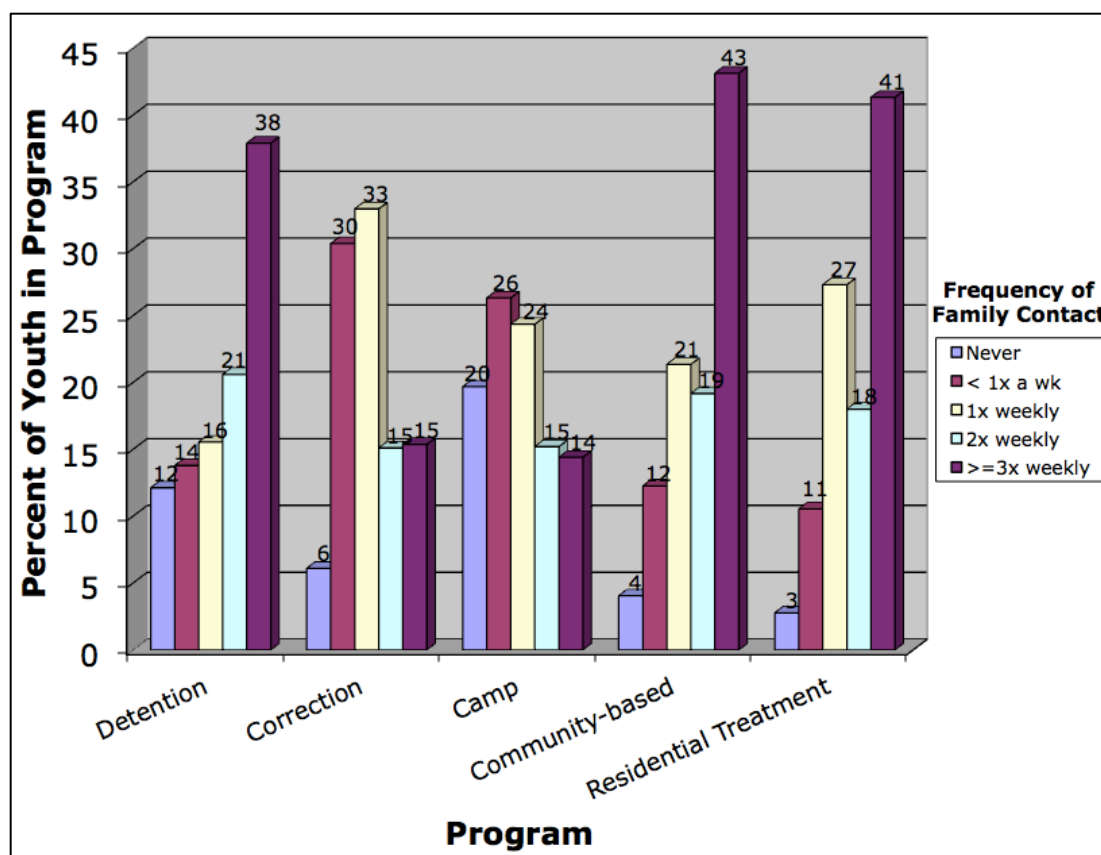
With one exception, the percentages of youth who have had family contact and their frequencies of contact do not vary by either the use of daytime locks in the living unit or youth's sex. Youth who are held by locks in the daytime are less likely to have in-person visits than youth in unlocked facilities (66% vs. 74%, CI's 63%–70% and 68%–81%).

Reasons for No Contact with Family

The SYRP asks youth with no telephone contact or no in-person visits with their family to indicate why.[20] One-third (33%, CI 29%–37%) of youth who have no in-person visits indicate that this is due to time and/or distance factors (facility visiting hours are inconvenient, or their family lives too far away). One-fifth (20%, CI 17%–23%) of those who have no phone calls or no visits attribute this to resource constraints (e.g., phone calls would be long distance, visits would cost too much or the family does not have transportation). About one-in-seven youth without contact (14%, CI 8%–20%) claim that this is because their facility does not allow it, either not allowing them to make or receive phone calls or not allowing in-person family visits. Relatively few youth without contact say it is because they do not want to talk or visit with their family (7%, 6%–9%), or because their family does not want to talk or visit with them (6%, CI 5%–8%).

Several reasons for noncontact vary by program. Youth in camp programs are much more likely than other youth to say that their facility prohibits phone calls or visits (47% of youth in camps, CI 22%–71%, vs. just 10% of other youth, CI 5%–14%). Youth in correction (30%) and residential treatment programs (22%) cite resource constraints most frequently (CI's 25%–35%, and 13%–32%, respectively), while notably lower percentages of those in detention (12%, CI 10%–14%), community-based programs (15%, CI 8%–22%), and camps (17%, CI 5%–29%) explain their noncontact on the basis of resources. Nearly one-half of youth in correctional programs who have no in-person visits with their families blame time and distance factors for this (48%, CI 42%–53%), as do 40% of those in residential treatment programs (CI 31%–48%) and 35% of those in community-based programs (CI 20%–49%). Lower percentages of youth give these reasons in camps (20%, CI 4%–37%) and detention programs (15%, CI 10%–20%). There are no program-related differences in percentages of youth who say they do not want contact with their families or vice versa.

None of these reasons for lack of family contact relate to the presence of daytime locks on living units.

In explaining why family contact does not occur, males and females provide different responses on two reasons: More females say that their lack of contact with their families is because their families do not want contact with them (11% of females, CI 7%–15%, but only 6% of males, CI 4%–7%). More males say it is because their facility prohibits contact (15% of males, CI 8%–23%, vs. 7% of females, CI 4%–9%).

One important factor that would affect youth's contact with their families is how far their placement facility is from their home. SYRP can determine whether youth are placed in the same state where they committed the offense that led to their current stay in custody. The majority of youth of all youth in placement (83%; CI 79%–88%) are in placement in the same state, and this percentage does not vary significantly by type of program, daytime security level, or youth's sex.

Regardless of whether they report having contact with their families, all youth indicate how long it would (or does) take their family to come to visit them. Travel time would be under 1 hour for 41% (CI 37%–46%) and one to two hours for 31% (CI 29%–33%). One-in-seven youth (14%, CI 12%–16%) estimate it would take their families three to four hours to come visit them, and the remaining 14% (CI 11%–17%) believe the travel would take more than four hours. Taken together, the majority of all youth in placement (59%) say that it would take their families 1 hour or longer to travel to visit them.

Youth in different programs report considerably different travel times for their families, as shown in Figure 14. Those in detention, community-based, and residential treatment programs are generally closer to home, with the largest percentages of youth in those contexts indicating they are under an hour away from their family. By contrast, youth in correction and camp programs are farther away. The majority of youth in camp programs (53%) are between one and two hours away from their families, while one-half the youth in corrections (50%) are three or more hours from their families. Travel time from family does not differ for males and females and does not vary by the presence or absence of daytime locks in youth's living units.

Emotional Support from Facility Staff

SYRP asks youth whether they know how to find a staff member to talk to if they are upset. More than four-fifths of youth in placement say "yes" to this question (84%; CI 82%–85%). While the large majority of youth in every type of program say they know how to find a staff member to talk to, there are systematic program differences. Not surprisingly, youth in residential treatment programs are significantly more likely to know how to find this kind of support (93%; CI 90%–95%) than youth in other types of programs. Youth in community-based programs rank next, with 87% (CI 83%–92%) saying they know how to find a confidante among facility staff. Reliably fewer youth in the remaining programs say they can talk to a staff member when upset. In correction programs, 82% (CI 80%–85%) of residents say they can find someone on the staff to talk to if they are upset, as do 81% (CI 78%–83%) of youth in detention programs and 77% (CI 71%–83%) of those in camps. Consistent with these program differences, fewer youth who live in units that are locked in the daytime say they know how to obtain this support (81% v. 88%; CI's 80%–83% and 86%–90%, respectively).

Figure 14. Youth Within Each Type of Program by Travel Time for Family to Visit Them, 2003.
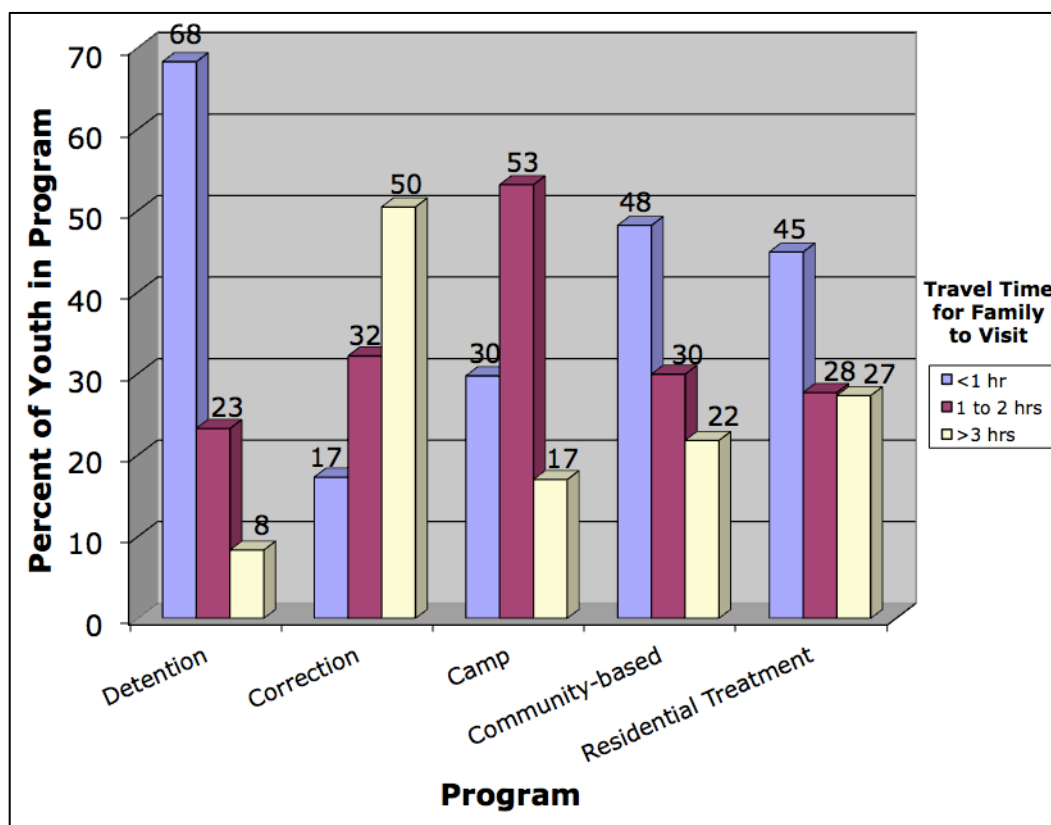
There are no sex differences in the percentages of youth who know how to find someone to talk to if they are upset.

Access to Legal Counsel

Improving access to legal counsel has been a policy concern (Hsai & Beyer, 2000; Puritz & Scali, 1998). SYRP asks youth if they have a lawyer and, whether or not they do, asks youth if they have requested to see, call, or write to a lawyer since arriving at their facility. Those who have asked to contact a lawyer indicate whether or not the facility has allowed them to do so. Table 11 summarizes their responses. Only a minority of youth in placement (42%) have a lawyer. Independent of their answers to that question, only 20% of youth in placement have requested contact with a lawyer since entering their facility. Thirteen percent say they requested to contact a lawyer and were allowed to do so. This reflects less than two-thirds (64%, CI 60%–68%) of the subset who say they asked to see, call, or write to a lawyer.[21]

Table 11.   Access to legal support, among all youth in placement in 2003 and by program type and sex

Access to a lawyer	All youth		Program					Sex	
	Percent	95% CI	Detention	Correction	Camp	Community-based	Residential Treatment	Males	Females
Have a lawyer *	42	(39–45)	50	38	29	44	43	41	49
Requested to contact a lawyer	20	(18–22)	28	20	9	15	17	19	26
Requested and allowed contact with lawyer	13	(11–14)	20	10	3†	11	11	No Difference	

Notes: Estimated totals are rounded to the nearest multiple of 10; estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

* All percents are computed on youth who answered the relevant question in each row. Data in the first row are missing for 77 sample youth (61 of whom say they do not know whether they have a lawyer); these represent 1.1% of the estimated total population in placement. Data in the remaining rows are missing for a total of 28 sample youth, representing <0.5% of the estimated total population in placement.

Access to legal support varies by program. Youth in camps are least likely either to have a lawyer (29%) or to request contact with a lawyer (9%) compared to youth in any other programs. By contrast, youth in detention programs, who are typically awaiting adjudication, are most likely to have lawyers (50%), to request to contact a lawyer (28%), and to be granted access (20%). Youth in community-based and residential treatment programs are very similar to one another in their access to legal support on all of these measures.

More females than males have lawyers. Whether or not they do, more females than males request to contact a lawyer. This difference carries through to the last row of the table, where more females than males in the placement population request and are allowed access. However, among the subset of youth who ask to contact a lawyer (not subdivided in the table), there are no sex differences in the percentages who receive access.

Whether or not youth have a lawyer is unrelated to whether they are confined by daytime locks in their living unit, but youth confined by daytime locks are more likely to request contact with a lawyer

(23% vs. 13%, CI's 20%–26% and 11%–16%, respectively). Among youth who ask to contact a lawyer, those in different security conditions appear to be equally successful in having that contact.

Facility Climate

SYRP asks questions about relationships between youth and facility staff, gang memberships, and whether youth were offered contraband.

Youth-Staff Relations

Youth distrust of facility staff and conflict with them can undermine program efforts to alter delinquent career paths as well as exacerbate discipline, control, and safety issues. To gauge the quality of youth-staff relations, SYRP asks respondents to describe staff in their facility by selecting as many as apply from a list of five positive and three negative staff characteristics. Overall, youth in placement are lukewarm in their ratings of staff.

About one-half of youth (49%, CI 47%–52%) feel staff are friendly and almost as many (47%, CI 45%–50%) describe staff as helpful. More than one-third say that staff genuinely seem to care about them (38%, CI 35%–40%), are fun to be with (38%, CI 36%–41%), and provide good role models (34%, CI 31%–36%). Some offer more negative views: about two-in-five youth in placement say staff are hard to get along with (40%, CI 38%–42%) or disrespectful (38%, 35%–41%), while about three-in-ten (29%, 27%–32%) describe staff as mean.

Two thirds of youth ascribe at least one positive characteristic to staff (68%; C.I. 65%–70%). The average youth endorses two positive staff characteristics (2.1 characteristics, CI 2.0–2.2) and only one negative characteristic (1.1 characteristic, CI 1.0–1.1), and one-half of youth in placement (48%; C.I. 45%–51%) select no negative characteristics.

Youth's perceptions of staff differ significantly across programs. The pattern of differences suggests three program groupings, as shown in Figure 16: (1) detention, (2) corrections and camps, and (3) community-based and residential treatment programs. Youth in community-based and residential treatment programs are generally more positive and less negative about staff than are youth in correctional facilities and camps. Youth in detention fall between these groups in ratings of positive staff characteristics, but they resemble youth in community-based and residential treatment programs in their use of the negative descriptors. Figure 16 indicates that this pattern applies consistently across all attributes.

Youth's perceptions of staff also vary by whether or not they live in units that are locked in the daytime—those in locked units describe staff with fewer positive (1.8 in locked units, CI 1.7–2.0 vs. 2.5 in unlocked units, CI 2.2–2.7) and more negative characteristics (1.2 in locked units, CI 1.1–1.2 vs. 0.9 in unlocked units, CI 0.8–1.0). Moreover, this pattern holds across all the specific characteristics charted in Figure 16: significantly lower percentages of youth in locked settings endorse each positive staff characteristic, while significantly higher percentages endorse each negative attribute.

Figure 15. Youth Within Each Type of Program Who Describe Facility Staff With Specific Characteristics, 2003.
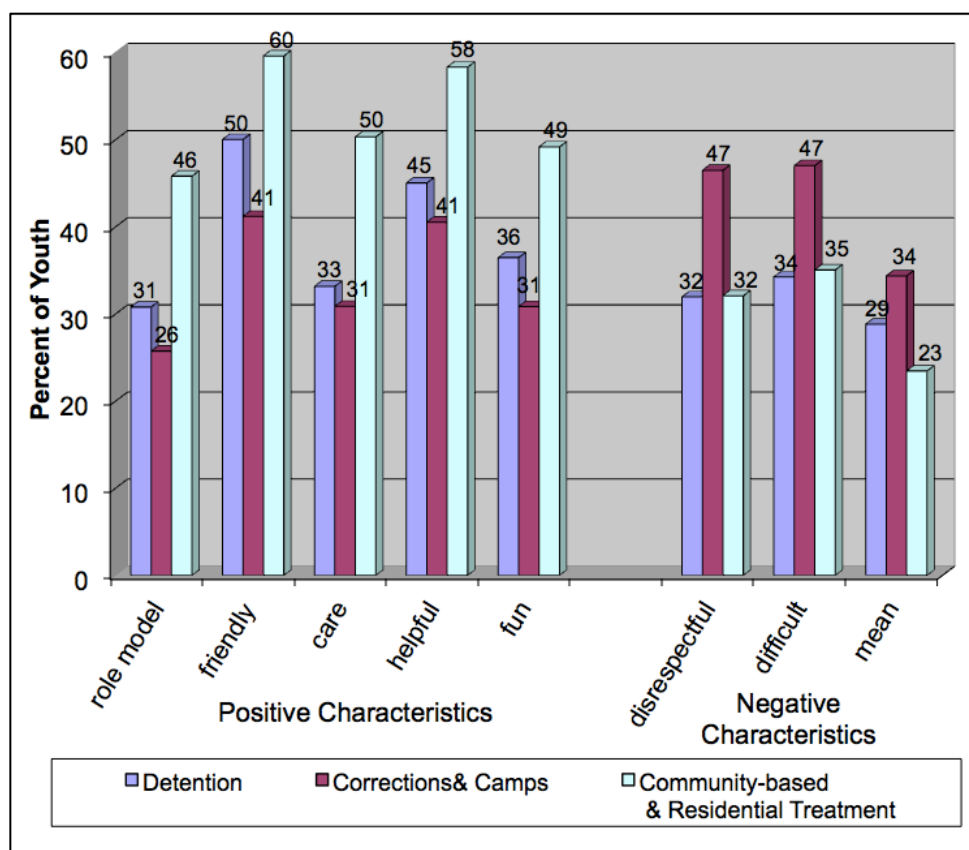
Males and females differ only with respect to their attribution of three positive staff characteristics. More females than males say their staff are friendly (57% vs. 48%, CIs 54%–60% and 46%–51%), fun to be with (51% vs. 36%, CIs 46%–57% and 33%–38%), and seem to genuinely care about you (46% vs. 36%, CIs 40%–51% and 33%–39%). On average, females endorse 2.4 positive staff characteristics (CI 2.2–2.6), compared to males' average of 2.0 (1.9–2.1). There are no sex differences in use of the negative attributes.

The youth-level ratings described above may simply reflect the relationship between individual youth and their facility personnel. Another measure of the quality of youth-staff relations summarizes the consensus within living units by using residents' average ratings, classifying youth-staff relations in the living unit as generally good, ordinary, or poor. This index defines units as having good youth-staff relations if, on average, residents endorse two or more positive staff characteristics and no negative characteristics. Living units with ordinary youth-staff relations are those where the average resident describes staff with two or more positive staff characteristics and one negative characteristic. Living units with relatively poor youth-staff relations are those where the average resident selects two or more negative characteristics or zero or only one positive attribute to describe staff.

By this classification, 17% of youth in placement (CI 12%–22%) are in living units where youth-staff relations are good overall; 39% (CI 33%–44%) are in units where youth-staff relations are of

ordinary quality; and 44% (CI 39%–49%) live in circumstances with relatively poor youth-staff relations.

The overall quality of youth-staff relations within youth's living units differs significantly across different types of programs, as displayed in Figure 16.

Figure 16. Youth Within Each Type of Program by Overall Quality of Youth-Staff Relations in Their Living Unit, 2003.
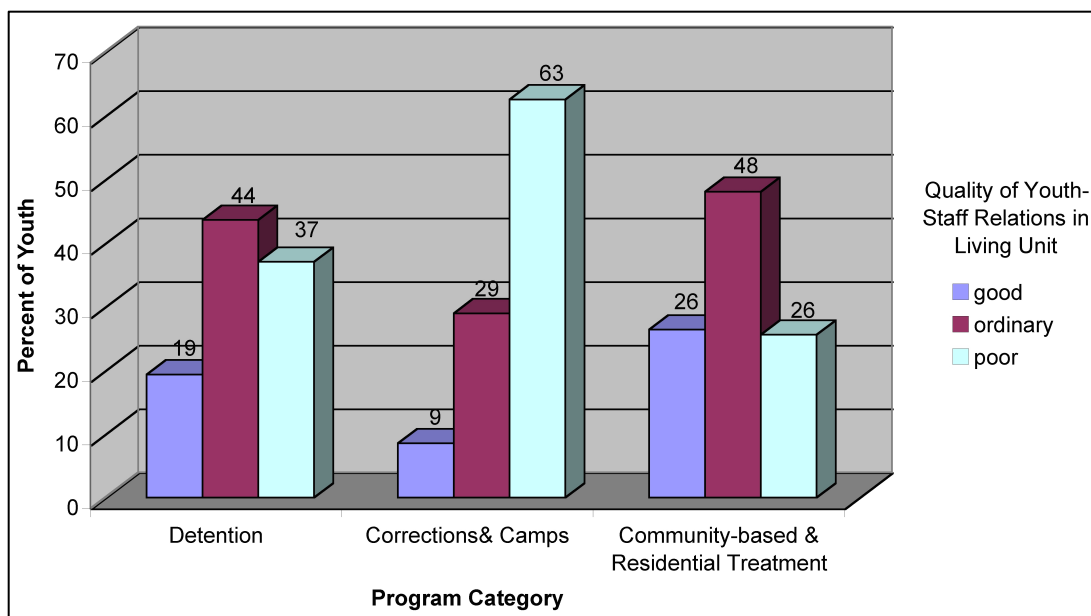
Youth in detention resemble those in community-based and residential treatment programs in the quality of youth-staff relations evident in their living units. Most of these youth live in units that have good or ordinary youth-staff relations (combined totals of 63% of detention youth and 74% of those in community-based and residential treatment programs). By contrast, 63% of youth in corrections and camps live in units with relatively poor youth-staff relations.

Not surprisingly, presence of daytime locks in the living unit also correlates with the overall quality of youth-staff relations as indexed by the consensus of residents' ratings. Youth in unlocked units are more than twice as likely to live in units with good youth-staff relations (26% vs. 12%, CIs 17%–34% and 7%–18%, respectively). Conversely, those in locked units are almost twice as likely to live where youth-staff relations are relatively poor (53% vs. 28%, CIs 46%–59% and 18%–38%).

Males and females do not differ in the overall quality of youth-staff relations in their living units.

Gang culture

Another feature that shapes conditions in placement is the extent to which youth are placed with gang members or in facilities where gangs are active. The presence of gangs in a facility can elevate conflicts and disruptions and complicate facility operations. Nearly one-third of the placement

population professes some gang affiliation—a level of gang involvement consistent with rates among high-risk youth (Thornberry, 1998), albeit higher than rates in the general population (Esbensen and Weerman, 2005; Gottfredson & Gottfredson, 2001).

Sedlak and Bruce (2016) report that 28% of youth acknowledge being members of a gang at the time of the offense that led to their current placement. SYRP also asks youth whether there are gangs in their facility and whether they currently belong to a gang in the facility. The majority of youth in residential placement (60%) say there are gangs in their facility and nearly one-in-five (19%) self-identifies as a current member of a gang within the facility. This includes 3% of youth in placement (CI 2–4%) who are current gang members but were not in a gang at the time of their latest offense. Another 12% of youth (CI 11–14%) were members of a gang at the time of their latest offense, but say they are not members of any gang inside the facility. More than one-third of current gang members (37%; CI 34%–40%) claim that being in a gang makes them safer inside the facility, but 16% (CI 13%–18%) admit that they feel pressured by the gang in the facility to do things they would not normally do.

The youth also report on fighting in their facilities, including gang fighting, and whether they themselves have been involved in fights at the facility. Three-fourths of youth (75%) report fights in their facilities since they arrived, and 40% say there are rival gang fights. Nearly one-third (32%) report they have been personally involved in fights in their facilities.

Table 12. Gangs and fights in the facility, overall in 2003 and by type of program, security level, and youth's sex.*

Measure	All Youth		Program					Security		Sex	
	Percent	95% CI	Detention	Correc-tion	Camp	Community-based	Residential Treatment	Locked	Not Locked	Males	Females
Gangs											
Gangs are in the facility	60	(57-64)	61	73	72	47	39	66	50	63	47
Youth is gang member inside the facility	19	(17-21)	17	22	30	14	12	No Difference†		20	12
Fights											
There are fights	75	(71-80)	71	92	72	67	60	79	69	78	60
There are rival gang fights	40	(36-44)	41	56	53	22	15	47	27	43	24
Youth is involved in fights	32	(29-36)	24	49	26	28	22	36	27	35	18

Notes: Estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

† Subgroups that do not differ resemble the overall population of youth in placement.

* Rows of this table exclude between 0 and 144 sample youth who did not answer the relevant question(s), representing less than 2% of the estimated total population in placement.

Gang presence, gang membership, and fighting vary across programs, as shown in Table 12. More youth in correction programs (73%) and camps (72%) report gangs in their facility, compared to those in detention (61%), community-based (47%) and residential treatment (39%) programs.

Camps and correction programs have the highest prevalence of current gang members within their resident populations (22% and 30%), whereas rates of current gang membership are lower among youth in detention (17%), community-based (14%), and residential treatment programs (12%).

Considering the characteristics of youth's living units, youth live in units where 19% of residents are members of gangs in the facility. Most youth (64%) are living in units where no more than one-fifth of the residents are gang members; three-in-ten youth in placement (30%) live in units where between one-fifth and o ne-half of youth are gang members; and 6% live in units with a majority of gang members.

Exceptionally high percentages of youth in correction programs report fighting in their facilities (92% compared to 60%-72% in other programs) and acknowledge their own personal involvement in fights (49% compared to 22%-28% elsewhere). However, program differences in reports of rival gang fights resemble the pattern for gang presence overall. Most youth in correction and camp programs (56% and 53%) report rival gang fights; the lowest rates are among youth in community-based and residential treatment programs (22% and 15%); and the percentage of detention youth who say there are rival gang fights in their facility falls between these levels (41%).

More youth in living units with daytime locks say there are gangs in their facilities (66% vs. 50%), but living with such daytime security does not relate to youth's self-reported gang membership. As displayed in Table 13, more youth in locked settings also report that there are fights and rival gang fights in their facility, and that they have been personally involved in fights. Among youth who say they belong to a gang in their facility, more youth in unlocked (staff secure) settings believe they are safer inside the facility by virtue of their gang membership than do gang members in units with daytime locks (42% v 35%: C.I.'s: 36%–48% v 31%–38%).

Males and females differ in their answers about gangs and fighting as well. The last two columns of Table 13 show that more males than females report that there are gangs in their facility and that they are members of gangs in their facility. Significantly more males also report fights and rival gang fights in their facility. Males report being involved in fights at nearly twice the rate of females (35% vs. 18%).

The presence of gangs can affect the placement environment for all youth. SYRP reveals that the presence of gangs in a facility is significantly related to the percentage of youth who say they have been offered contraband (24% versus 8% without gangs) and to the percentage of youth who are in living units characterized by poor youth-staff relations (51% versus 30% without gangs). Certain problematic conditions tend to cluster in placement environments. When problems escalate, facilities sometimes engage in last-resort control methods. For instance, when there are gangs in a facility, significantly more youth are in living units where one or more residents say that staff sprayed them with pepper spray (38% versus 18% without gangs).

Contraband

Quality of life in placement suffers when youth can more easily violate rules. One indicator of disregard for rules is the accessibility of items that are prohibited, such as alcohol, drugs, and weapons. SYRP asks youth whether anyone ever offered them certain types of contraband in the facility and, if so, who offered it to them. Table 14 reveals that 16% of youth in placement say that someone offered them contraband of some type since they came to their facility. Youth most frequently identify marijuana (12%) and other illegal drugs (10%) as the contraband available in their facility. Only 6% report offers of alcohol and just 3% of youth in residential placement say someone offered to provide them guns or knives. Youth most frequently (12%) identify other residents as their principal source of contraband offers; just 6% cite staff members and 4% someone outside the facility as the source offering the contraband.

Table 13. Contraband offers in the facility, overall in 2003, and by type of program, security level, and youth's sex.

Measure	All Youth		Program Type					Security		Sex	
	Percent	95% CI	Detention	Correction	Camp	Community-based	Residential Treatment	Locked	Not Locked	Males	Females
Contraband type											
Marijuana	12	(10-14)	6	14	9	22	5	10	15	13	6
Other illegal drugs	10	(9-12)	6	14	10	14	6	No Difference†		11	6
Alcohol	6	(5-7)	2	6	5	15	3	4	10	7	4
Guns or knives	3	(3-4)	No Difference					No Difference†		4	1
Any of the above	16	(14-19)	10	20	15	26	9	15	20	18	9
Who offered it*											
Another resident	12	(10-14)	6	17	10	16	6	No Difference†		13	6
A staff member	6	(5-7)	4	8	6	6	3	No Difference†		6	2
Someone from outside the facility	4	(3-5)	1	3	3	13	3	2	8	No Difference†	

Notes: Estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

† Subgroups that do not differ resemble the overall population of youth in placement.

* Rows in this section exclude 108 sample youth who did not answer the question, representing less than 2% of the estimated total population in placement.

The availability of contraband varies across program types. The first set of rows in Table 13 show that, across all forms of contraband, more youth in community-based, camp, and correction programs report contraband in their facilities than do youth in detention or residential treatment programs. Between 15% and 26% of youth in correction, camp, and community-based programs

report some type of contraband offer, compared to only 10% of youth in detention and 9% of those in residential treatment programs. There are also differences within the three top-ranking program types, in that more community-based youth report offers of marijuana and alcohol than youth in either camps or correction programs. Offers of contraband weapons are relatively rare overall (just 3%) so the fact that program differences are not statistically significant may simply mean that the sample provides too few cases to support reliable program-level estimates.

The programs also differ with respect to the reported source of contraband. About one-sixth of residents in correctional and community-based programs (16% to 17%) say that other residents offered them contraband, while fewer youth in camps (10%), detention, and residential treatment programs (6% in both) report offers from other residents. Staff in correction, camp, and community-based programs reportedly offered the contraband to approximately equal percentages of residents there (6% to 8%). Given the relatively open environments in community-based programs, it is not surprising that residents there are most likely to report offers of contraband from sources outside their facilities: 13% compared to only 1% to 3% of youth in other programs.

Fewer youth who are confined by daytime locks on their living units report marijuana and alcohol offers, but daytime locks are not related to the prevalence of offers of other illegal substances or weapons. Twenty percent of youth in unlocked settings say they have been offered one or more forms of contraband listed compared to 15% of youth in locked units. These subgroups do not differ with respect to whether offers were from other residents or staff, but more youth in unlocked settings report offers from persons outside their facilities.

As given in the last columns of Table 13, males report contraband offers at twice the rate of females overall. Moreover, males report offers at significantly higher rates on every type of contraband listed. Consistent with their higher frequency of offers, more males report offers of contraband from both other residents and staff. However, males and females report contraband offers from outside their facilities at comparable rates.

Rules and Justice

Clarity of Rules and Access to Due Process

SYRP asks whether youth received written rules on arrival at their facility, whether they understand the rules, and whether the rules are applied to all residents in the facility in the same way. Table 14 shows that three-fourths of youth in placement (75%) say they received a written copy of the rules when they arrived at their facilities and that the vast majority (90%) understand the rules.

Of those who do not understand the rules, most say this is because the rules keep changing (61% of those who do not understand the rules, CI 56%–65%). More than two-in-five (41% of those who do not understand the rules, CI 36%–46%) say it is because no one ever explained the rules to them and more than one-fourth (28%, CI 24%–32%) say the rules are confusing. Slightly more than one-fifth of youth who do not understand the rules (21%; CI 18%–24%) say this is due to some reason other than those listed in the question.[22]

Over two-thirds of youth in placement (68%) believe that the facility rules are applied equitably to all residents.

Although a large majority of youth provide a favorable report on each question about facility rules, just slightly more than one-half respond affirmatively to all three questions. That is, just 53% of youth say that they received and understand the rules and that they believe the rules are applied in the same manner to all facility residents.

Table 14. Awareness of and trust in rules and the grievance process, overall in 2003 and by program

Measure	All Youth		Program				
	Percent	95% CI	Detention	Correction	Camp	Community-based	Residential Treatment
Rules							
Received written rules on arrival	75	(72–77)	60	74	83	84	84
Understand the facility rules	90	(89–91)	89	89	90	92	93
Believe the rules are applied to all residents in the same way	68	(66–71)	72	62	77	70	68
No Problems on Rules Items*	53	(51–56)	45	49	66	61	58
Grievance Process							
Know how to file complaint if they are being mistreated	81	(79–84)	75	87	83	78	83
Do *not* think something bad might happen to them if they file a grievance	80	(78–82)	87	73	76	82	83
No Problems on Grievance Items*	67	(65–69)	*No Difference†*				

Notes: Estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

† Subgroups that do not differ resemble the overall population of youth in placement. There are no program differences on this overall measure because there are opposite program differences on its two components. See the explanation given in the text.

* These rows exclude sample youth who did not answer one or more of the component questions (73 youth on rules items, 57 on grievance items), in each case representing less than 1% of the estimated total population in placement.

Youth who wish to file a grievance about staff should have access to an adequate grievance process that is readily available, easy to use, and impartial (Roush, 1996). SYRP asks youth about the facility grievance process, specifically, whether they know how to use it and whether they feel they can do so without retribution. About eight-in-ten youth (81%) say they know how to file a complaint if they are mistreated, and a similar percentage (80%) says they do not think that something bad might happen to them if they file a grievance. Two factors occur together, however, for only two-thirds of youth in placement (67%), meaning that one-third of juveniles in placement have one problem or the other with the grievance process—either they do not know how to file a complaint or they are concerned about retribution if they do so.

In SYRP, it is also possible to examine youth's understanding of the rules and their views on how fairly they are applied from the vantage of all residents in their living unit group. Most youth reside in units where the majority of residents understand their facility's rules. Overall, 56% (CI 50%–62%) of youth live in units where more than 90% of residents understand the facility rules. Another 25% (CI 20%–30%) reside in units where between 81% and 90% of residents understand the rules. Fewer youth live in units where similar proportions of residents believe their facility applies the rules equitably. In fact, over one-half of youth in placement live in units (52%; CI 45%–58%) where 70% or fewer residents say the rules are fairly applied in the facility.

Youth operate in somewhat different contexts regarding their knowledge and trust in rules and access to due process depending on their program. Fewer youth in detention say they received written rules when they came to the facility (60%) compared to those in any other programs (74% to 84%). In addition, fewer youth in correction programs (74%) report receiving written rules compared to youth in community-based or residential treatment programs (84%). Despite their lower rates of receiving written rules, however, youth in detention and correction programs are comparable to those in camp and community-based programs in understanding the rules. Youth in residential treatment have a significantly higher rate of understanding (93%) than youth in detention or correction (89%). Fewer youth in correction programs (62%) say the facility rules are applied fairly across the board than do those in detention, community-based, or camp programs (70% to 77%); the percentage of youth in residential treatment programs who think the rules are applied equitably does not differ from the percentages who think this in other programs.

Table 15 reveals significant differences between two groups of programs in the percentages of youth who have no problems on any rule-related measure. Youth in detention and corrections constitute one group and those in camp, community-based, and residential treatment programs constitute the other. Fewer than one-half of youth in detention and corrections score positively on all three rule-related measures (45% and 49%), whereas majorities of youth in the other programs do so (58–66%).

As noted above, the overall percentages of youth know how to file a complaint and who do not expect retaliation if they file a grievance are similar, but Table 15 shows quite different variations across programs. Youth in detention and in community-based programs are least knowledgeable about how to file a complaint if they are mistreated (75% and 78%, respectively), whereas those in correction and camp programs are most knowledgeable (87% and 83%, respectively). The percentage of youth in residential treatment programs who know how to file a complaint falls between these extremes and this level of knowledge does not statistically differ from that in the other programs. However, detention youth have the highest level of trust in the process (87%), differing significantly from youth in all other programs, whereas youth in correction programs trust the process least (73%), differing from all other youth except those in camp programs. The last row of the table shows no program differences because there are nearly opposite patterns of program differences on the two grievance questions that cancel each other out on the combined index. That is, more youth in correction and camp programs know how to file a complaint if they are mistreated, but youth in those programs are less likely to believe that they can file a grievance without retaliation.

Youth in living units with daytime locks differ from others on two measures listed in Table 15. More youth in unlocked settings report receiving written rules on arrival at their facility (83% vs. 70%; CI

78%–88% and 66%–74%) and more youth in the open settings give answers that show no problems across the three rules questions (61% vs. 49%; CI 55%–66% and 46%–52%).

Males and female do not differ in their receipt or understanding of the rules, but more males believe that the facility rules are applied to all residents in the same way (69% vs. 63%; CI 66%–72% and 60%–67%). Also, more males respond affirmatively to all three rule-related questions taken together (54% vs. 48%; CI 51%–57% and 43%–53%). Regarding the grievance process, more males think something bad might happen to them if they file a grievance (21% vs. 16%; 18%–22% and 13%–19%).

Fair and Reasonable Treatment

Best practice fosters juvenile accountability through principles of balanced and restorative justice (Beyer, 2003), but many youth in placement do not perceive fairness or justice in their facility environments. Table 15 presents youth's perceptions of the fairness and reasonableness of their treatment. One-half of youth in placement (50%) say that residents are punished even when they have not done anything wrong and over one-third (35%) think that staff use force unnecessarily. Fewer than one-half of the youth have positive perceptions in this area, saying that staff treat residents fairly (34%), that punishments are fair (30%), that they usually deserve any punishment they receive (25%), or that problems between staff and residents can be worked out (42%).

Table 15. Perceptions of fair and reasonable treatment, overall in 2003 and by program and security level

Measure	All Youth		Program					Security	
	Percent	95% CI	Detention	Correction	Camp	Community-based	Residential Treatment	Locked	Not Locked
Residents are punished even when they don't do anything wrong	50	(48-52)	45	59	55	43	43	54	44
Staff use force when they don't really need to	35	(32-39)	30	48	37	22	33	40	27
Staff treat residents fairly	34	(32-36)	35	26	31	40	45	31	40
Punishments are fair	30	(28-32)	29	23	27	34	43	27	36
I usually deserve any punishment that I receive	25	(23-27)	22	21	24	31	36	22	32
Problems between staff and residents can be worked out	42	(40-44)	37	39	35	49	57	38	50

Notes: Estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

Perceptions of the fairness and reasonableness of treatment vary by program. In general, youth in correction and camp programs offer the most negative assessment of their treatment, those in community-based and residential treatment programs tend to be the most positive, with youth in detention falling between the two groups. More youth in correction and camp programs believe that staff members punish residents without cause (59% and 55% vs. 43–45% in other programs). Almost one-half of residents in correction programs (48%) think their staff uses unnecessary force,

which is more than twice the percentage who hold this view in community-based programs (22%). Youth in residential treatment programs endorse the positive statements in Table 15 at the highest rates, with those in community-based programs following. Youth in correction programs typically endorse the positive descriptions of their treatment at the lowest rates.

Youth's views of their treatment are also strongly correlated with whether or not they are in living units that are locked in the daytime. On every measure in Table 15, significantly higher percentages of youth living in settings with daytime locks have negative views of their treatment, more often saying that residents are punished unjustly and that staff use unnecessary force, while less often saying that staff treat residents fairly, that punishments are fair, that they deserve the punishments they receive, or that problems between residents and staff can be worked out.

The sexes differ on only two measures listed in Table 15. More males say that staff use unnecessary force (37% vs. 28%, CI 33%–40% and 24%–32%); slightly but significantly more females say that they usually deserve the punishments they receive (29% vs. 25%, CI 26%–32% and 23%–26%).

Discipline and Control

Discipline

Maintaining discipline and control is critical but challenging, considering that the large majority of youth in placement have previous involvement with the juvenile justice system and most (57%) have a history of person offenses (Sedlak & Bruce, 2016).

Table 16 presents youth's reports of disciplinary measures they personally experienced since coming to their facilities. The two most common are group punishment (punishing the group for the actions of a few), which nearly one-half of all youth in placement report receiving (49%), and removal of special privileges, like TV, which 43% of youth report. Fewer youth report personal experiences of the other disciplinary measures listed: Between 20% and 26% of youth say they were confined to their room, put into solitary confinement (locked up alone), given extra chores or forced to do physical exercise, or moved to a different location within the facility. About one-third (35%) say they were disciplined in some other way, and 16% claim they were not disciplined at all in their current facility.

The different programs evince distinctive disciplinary practices. Majorities of youth in camp (63%), correction (56%), and residential treatment (54%) programs report group punishment, while fewer youth in community-based (44%) and detention (37%) programs do so. Removal of special privileges is most prevalent among youth in residential treatment (50%) and correction (47%) programs and least common among youth in camp (35%) and detention (36%) programs. By contrast, more youth in detention and correction programs (about one-third of each group) report being confined to their own room or being placed in solitary confinement, whereas these forms of discipline are significantly less common in camp, community-based, and residential treatment programs (6% to 20%). Similarly, more youth in detention and correction programs report being moved to another location in the facility as punishment than do youth in the other programs (20%

and 24% vs. 15% to 18%). About one-third of youth in community-based and residential treatment programs (34%) are given extra chores or work as punishment, compared to about one-fourth of youth in correction and camp programs (23% and 27%, respectively) and only 10% of youth in detention. Forced physical exercise is a relatively common disciplinary practice only in camp programs, where a majority (50%) report experiencing this method. This is significantly higher than in other programs, where just 17% to 25% of residents report this practice. One-fourth of youth in detention programs (25%) say they were disciplined in some other way not on the SYRP listing, compared to 34% to 44% of youth in other programs. Also, more youth in detention (25%) than in any other program (10% to 17%) say they have not been disciplined at all since arriving at their facility.

Table 16. Disciplinary measures youth experience in their current facility, overall in 2003, and by program and security level

Measure	Percent	95% CI	Program					Security	
			Detention	Correction	Camp	Community-based	Residential Treatment	Locked	Not Locked
Group punishment	49	(45-53)	37	56	63	44	54	No Difference†	
Removal of special privileges, like TV	43	(40-46)	36	47	35	45	50	No Difference†	
Confinement to own room	26	(23-29)	36	33	9	13	20	32	15
Solitary confinement	24	(22-26)	33	34	16	6	13	32	9
Extra chores or work	23	(21-26)	10	23	27	34	34	18	33
Forced physical exercise	22	(19-25)	18	20	50	17	25	No Difference†	
Moved to different location within facility	20	(18-22)	20	24	18	15	18	22	16
Other	35	(33-37)	25	36	34	43	44	32	41
None	16	(15-18)	25	13	12	17	10	No Difference†	

Notes: Estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

† Subgroups that do not differ resemble the overall population of youth in placement.

Compared to youth in unlocked environments, more youth in settings that are locked in the daytime report being disciplined by confinement to their own room (32% vs. 15%), by solitary confinement (32% vs. 9%), and by being moved to another location in the facility (22% vs. 16%). More youth in unlocked contexts say they received extra work of chores (33% vs. 18%) or some "other" type of discipline (41% vs. 32%).

Males and females generally report similar disciplinary measures. However, more males report group punishment (50% vs. 44%, CI's 46%–54% and 39%–49%), forced physical exercise (23% vs. 18%, CI's 20%–27% and 15%–22%), and being moved to a different location within the facility (21% vs. 15%, CI's 18%–23% and 12%–19%).

Solitary confinement

If youth say they were put into solitary confinement, locked up alone, or confined to their own room, SYRP asks them about the longest time they were locked up alone, without being allowed to have contact with other youth who live there. Some may find SYRP findings on the prevalence of solitary confinement both surprising and problematic. Overall, this group represents more than one-third of youth in placement (35%, CI 32%–38%).[23] Of this subset, the vast majority (87%, CI 84%–89%) say they spent longer than 2 hours in isolation, and more than one-half (53%, CI 48%–57%) say they were isolated for longer than 24 hours.

Best practice guidelines recommend that solitary confinement exceed 24 hours only if the facility director explicitly approves and that youth who are held in solitary confinement for longer than 2 hours see a counselor (Roush, 1996). SYRP has no information on procedures for approving lengthy times in solitary confinement, but the interview does ask youth whether they talked to a counselor aobut their feelings or emotions. The majority (52%) of those isolated longer than 2 hours say they have not talked to a counselor.

Among youth who are put into solitary confinement or sequestered in their room, the maximum time youth spend in isolation varies by the three categories of programs in Figure 17. Youth in community-based and residential treatment programs tend to be isolated for shorter periods, whereas those in camps report the longest times in isolation. Youth in detention and correction programs are between these extremes—compared to youth in residential treatment and community-based programs, fewer detention/correction youth report the shortest isolation periods, while more report isolation times in the longest category. Specifically, 23% of youth in community-based and residential treatment who are isolated report that this is for less than 2 hours, which is higher than the 11% of isolated youth in detention and correction programs and the 12% of those in camps who report being isolated for such short intervals. Significantly fewer youth in camps say they are held in isolation for between 2 and 24 hours compared to youth in the other program types (20% vs. 36% and 35%), which do not differ. All three program categories differ in the percentages of youth who report isolation for the longest times: 41% of those in community-based and residential treatment programs, 54% of those in detention and corrections, and 67% of youth in camps.

Whether or not youth live in units with daytime locks also relates to the maximum time they spend in solitary confinement. Youth in unlocked settings are more likely to spend the least time in isolation, 2 hours or less, compared to youth in locked units (24% vs. 11%, CIs 17%–31% and 9%–13%), whereas those in locked settings are more likely to spend more than 2 hours in isolation (89% vs. 76%, CIs 87%–91% and 69%–83%), as well as more likely to spend more than 24 hours in isolation (54%, CI 49%–59%, versus 47%, CI 38%–56%).

Males and females held in solitary or confined to their rooms do not differ in the amount of time they spend in isolation.

Figure 17. Youth Within Each Type of Program by Their Maximum Number of Hours in Solitary Confinement or Isolation, 2003.
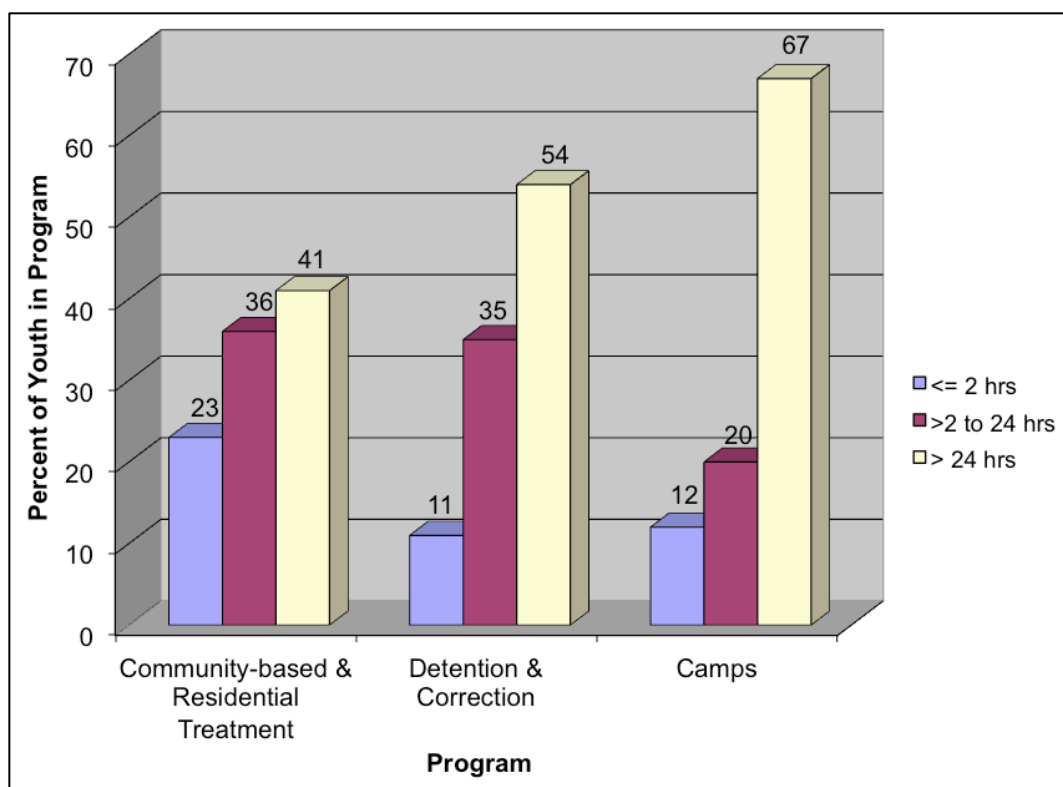
Control and Use of Restraints

Best practice dictates that restraints should be used only for youth who are out of control (Roush, 1996). More than one-fourth of youth in placement (28%) say that facility staff used some method of physical restraint on them—whether handcuffs, wristlets, a security belt, chains, or a restraint chair. Although the questions mean to ask youth about their experiences at the facility, some youth may report being put into handcuffs or wristlets, or having to wear a security belt or chains during transportation to or from the facility, which would be common for youth in more secure placement environments. This possibility should qualify interpretations of their reports regarding these restraints, which 26% and 12% of youth report.

However, this qualification would not apply to youth's answers about all experiences listed in Table 17. The table shows that the most commonly experienced procedure is strip search, reported by nearly one-half (47%) of all youth in placement. More than one-fifth of youth (21%) say they have been held down.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Performance-Based Standards program dictates using a restraint chair or pepper spray only as a last resort following appropriate protocol (Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, 2011). SYRP indicates that these practices, although infrequent, are used—7% of youth say they were sprayed with pepper spray and 4% report

being put into a restraint chair. Forty-one percent report no personal experience of any of the control procedures in Table 17.

As Table 17 indicates, the percentages of youth who report experiencing these control procedures varies by type of program. Majorities of youth in detention, corrections, and camps report being strip searched (53% to 60%), but this practice was much less frequent for youth in residential treatment programs (29%) and community-based programs (18%). Youth in correctional programs most often say they have been put into handcuffs or wristlets (40%). Fewer youth in detention and camps report this experience (27% and 21%, respectively), while those in residential treatment and community-based programs are least likely to say this occurred to them (16% and 6%). The last row in this table shows that about one-third or less of residents in detention, corrections, and camps experience none of the procedures listed, compared to one-half of youth in residential treatment and nearly three-fourths (72%) of those in community-based programs.

Although similar percentages of youth in correction and residential treatment programs report being held down (29% and 25%, respectively), the percentage of youth reporting this varies widely across different residential treatment programs. Community-based (12%) and detention (16%) program youth are least likely to report that they were held down. Security belts or chains and pepper spray are used with more youth in detention, correctional, and camp programs, although both methods are relatively infrequent. The fewest youth report experiencing a restraint chair, and the percentages who report this do not systematically vary across programs.

Table 17. Methods of control youth experienced in current facility, overall in 2003 and by program and security level.

| Control Method | All Youth | | Program Type | | | | | Security | |
	Percent	95% C.I.	Detention	Correctional	Camp	Community-based	Residential Treatment	Locked	Not Locked
Strip searched	47	(42-51)	56	60	53	18	29	55	31
Put into handcuffs or wristlets	26	(22-29)	27	40	21	6	16	34	10
Held down	21	(19-23)	16	29	19	12	25	24	16
Put into security belt or chains	12	(10-14)	14	17	14	4	9	16	5
Sprayed with pepper spray	7	(6-9)	7	11	13	3	2	8	5
Put into a restraint chair	4	(3-5)	No Difference†					No Difference†	
None of the above	41	(37-44)	33	28	36	72	50	32	57

Notes: Estimated percents are rounded to the nearest whole percent. CI = confidence interval.

† Subgroups that do not differ resemble the overall population of youth in placement.

Except for the least frequently used measure on the list (the restraint chair), more youth in units that are locked in the daytime report experiencing each of these control methods compared to youth in unlocked settings. Only one-third (32%) in locked units say they have not personally experienced any of these methods, compared to the majority (57%) of youth in unlocked contexts.

Males and females report similar exposure to these different methods of control, with two exceptions. Males more often say they were held down (22% vs. 15%, CIs 19%–24% and 13%–18%) and sprayed with pepper spray (8% vs. 3%, CIs 6%–10% and 2%–4%).

The above findings describe individual youth's personal experiences with physical control methods. These depend both on the youth's behavior and on the control methods used in the living unit or program. Another perspective on the prevalence of use of these control techniques in a youth's placement environment considers the reports of all residents in the youth's living unit, classifying youth according to the percent of residents in their unit who personally experienced one or more of the control methods listed in Table 17. More than three-in-five youth (62%, CI 57%–67%) live in units where the majority of youth report experiencing one or more of these procedures; nearly another one-fourth (24%, CI 19%–30%) are in units where between 21% and 50% of residents report these experiences; and only 14% (CI 9%–19%) are in units where these experiences are rarer.

Although personal experiences of pepper spray or a restraint chair are relatively uncommon (7% and 4% in Table 17), these practices indirectly affect a much larger segment of youth in placement. Thirty percent of youth (CI 25%–36%) live in units where one or more residents experienced the use of pepper spray and about the same percentage (29%, CI 24%–34%) live with one or more residents who received time in a restraint chair. More than one-in-five youth (21%, CI 16%–26%) live in units where more than 10% of residents personally experienced pepper spray, and 17% of youth (CI 12%–21%) live in units where more than 10% of residents had been placed in a restraint chair.

Figure 18 graphs the distribution of youth in different programs by the percentage of their unit residents who report experience of any of these control methods. Strong differences are evident, defining two major groups of programs. Large majorities of youth in detention, correction, and camp programs (76% to 81%) live in units where the majority of the residents experience one or more of these control methods. In sharp contrast, most youth in community-based programs live in units where fewer than one-half of residents experience these control methods. Those in residential treatment programs are in intermediate contexts, with a substantial minority of youth living in units that control most youth with these techniques (45%) and a slight majority (55%) living where these control methods are less prevalent.

Living unit security correlates with the percentage of residents who report experiencing these control methods. Youth in unlocked units are distributed across the spectrum on this measure, with 30% (CI 19%–42%) living in units where fewer than 21% of residents acknowledge these control experiences and 42% (CI 32%–53%) in units where the majority of residents say they have had such experiences. In contrast, nearly three-fourths of youth who are locked in during daytime hours (73%, CI 66%–79%) live in units where the majority of youth report experiencing these methods of control.

There are no sex differences in the reported prevalence of these control methods in youth's living unit.

Figure 18. Youth Within Each Type of Program by the Percent of Residents in Their Living Unit Who Experienced Any Coercive Control Method, 2003.
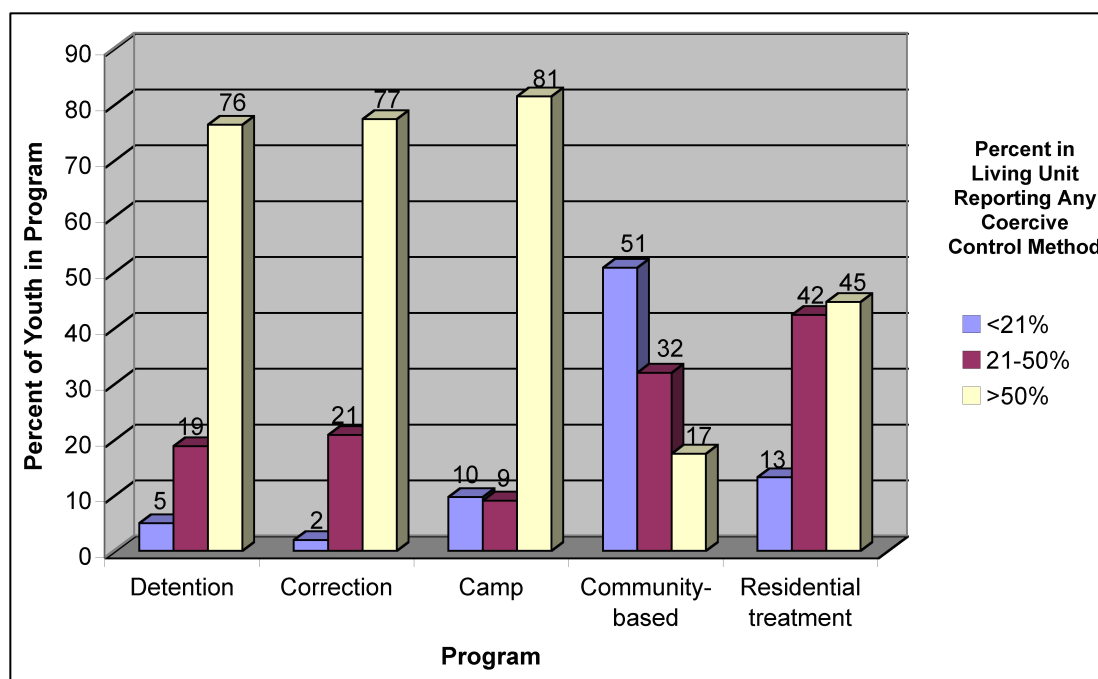
Conclusions

SYRP affords a unique perspective on youth in placement, offering youth's own views on their circumstances. In addition, the study combines youth's interview answers with administrative data from three other sources—updated JRFC and CJRP surveys and information about facility structure and operations that SYRP staff gathered when planning for data collection. By integrating these data, SYRP is able to describe the placement environment at different levels, down to the particular conditions in a youth's living unit.

Several results in this report reiterate what Sedlak and Bruce (2016) confirm in analyses of youth's characteristics and backgrounds: SYRP estimates closely track the CJRP results on strictly corresponding measures, despite different methodologies and somewhat different time references.[24] For example, the 2003 CJRP result that 68% of offender youth are held in public facilities (Snyder & Sickmund, 2006) is within the confidence interval on the SYRP estimate of 65% (CI 59%–71%). However, as also demonstrated here, all analyses to date indicate that SYRP and CJRP findings differ substantively only when they employ materially different measures.[25] Thus, the two surveys cross-validate well.

The findings here portray considerable detail about confinement conditions. Some also raise concerns that have been long-standing issues in juvenile justice (Guarino-Ghezzi & Loughran, 2006), indicating areas where future policies and practices can measurably improve the placement environments. Several areas where confinement conditions do not meet best practice guidelines and

where improvement efforts could begin include the following:

- **Prioritize developmentally appropriate programming and document its implementation and success.** SYRP revealed a considerable age mix within living units, with one in five young offenders housed in living units with offenders who are 3 or more years older than them. Additionally, more than two in five juveniles are housed with young adults who are 18 years or older. These arrangements present barriers to creating developmentally appropriate programming and undermine youth safety. Moreover, no systematic information exists regarding facilities' efforts to implement programs, interventions, or activities designed for specific age ranges or on the success of these efforts.

- **Explore factors that might explain disproportionate minority confinement.** SYRP confirms that minority youth continue to be disproportionately represented in the population of youth in placement. The study also reveals that, even within the placement population, different races and ethnicities tend to be assigned to different types of programs. Exploring the information that SYRP collects on youth's backgrounds, offense histories, and service needs may help explain these different placement rates and patterns.

- **Improve understanding of the risks and benefits of mixing different offenders versus grouping youth with similar offense histories.** SYRP indicates that a number of less serious offender youth are housed together in living units with some of the most serious offenders. It also shows that youth who are grouped together in living units often share common backgrounds, such as membership in a gang or a history of physical or sexual abuse (possibly because the facility has placed them in a specialized treatment program).

  Mixing youth with different offense histories and backgrounds raises safety concerns, but grouping youth who have committed similar offenses may enhance deviancy training, bonding with other group members around deviance and reinforcing the delinquent behavior, increasing the probability that a juvenile will recidivate on the shared crime (Bayer, Pintoff, and Pozen, 2004). Although studies have demonstrated negative effects of aggregating offenders, they have also shown that these negative effects do not occur in all circumstances or for all youth (Dodge, Dishion, & Lansford, 2006). Further research should specifically identify how and when deviance training occurs. Such research can help guide recommendations for grouping offender youth to minimize safety issues and avoid deviance training.

- **Ensure that youth know the facility fire safety procedures.** Best practice guidelines dictate a clear, posted evacuation plan and regular, documented fire drills (Roush, 1996). SYRP results show that more than one in five youth in placement (22 %) do not know what to do if there is a fire in their facility. Fire is a life-and-death matter, so efforts to improve youth's awareness of fire safety procedures are certainly warranted.

- **Place youth in locations that facilitate family contact.** Although family interventions can be more effective for delinquent youth than individual treatment (Perkins-Dock, 2001; Quinn, 2004; Quinn & VanDyke, 2004), involving families is often difficult while the youth is incarcerated. SYRP shows that most youth have contact with their families, but indicates that more than one-fourth of youth are placed a considerable distance away from their families— requiring the family to travel 3 hours or longer to visit the youth. When assigning youth to placements, the court should consider how the facility's location could affect their family's involvement in an intervention program.

- **Increase access to legal counsel, particularly before adjudication.** The *Juvenile Justice Standards* (Institute for Judicial Administration-American Bar Association, 1980), developed as a result of the 1974 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (P.L. 93–415), requires legal representation for juveniles from the outset of the court process. However, SYRP indicates that less than one-half of all youth in placement (42 %) have a lawyer and just one-half (50 %) of those held in detention facilities have a lawyer.

- **Improve the quality of youth-staff relations, require fair treatment, and establish an effective grievance process.** Positive relationships with older, prosocial role models can counteract the negative effects of placing delinquent youth with other youth offenders (Dodge, Dishion, & Lansford, 2006). Unfortunately, poor relations with staff characterize life in placement for over two in five youth (43 %). A majority of youth in placement say punishments are unfair, while over one-third feel that staff uses unnecessary force. Similarly, one-third of youth have difficulties with their facility's grievance process—either they do not know how to file a complaint or they fear retribution if they do so. Standards for staff conduct should require that staff treat youth fairly and issue fair and reasonable punishments, commensurate with the infraction. The facility should maintain a grievance process that is clear and universally understood and that includes protections for youth who submit complaints.

- **Implement best practice guidelines in use of solitary confinement and of last-resort control methods of pepper spray and a restraint chair.** SYRP indicates that, contrary to best practice guidelines (Roush, 1996), the majority of youth who were isolated longer than 2 hours did not see a counselor. When youth are held in solitary confinement for longer than 24 hours, facility staff should document the specific circumstances and verify that the facility director explicitly approved the period of confinement in that particular case. Staff should also establish timely records detailing the situations where staff use pepper spray or a restraint chair, verifying that the events warranted these measures and that staff followed appropriate protocol.

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Notes

[1] The SYRP Reports and Bulletins describe only statistically significant differences. Technical details for statistical tests are described in the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement: Technical Report.

[2] Information about confining features used in youth's facilities comes from the JRFC. Note that while a youth's facility may use a specific feature, it may not confine all youth who reside in the facility.

[3] Nearly all the confidence intervals computed for SYRP estimated percentages are symmetric, meaning that the lower and upper bound are equidistant from the estimate itself. However, with symmetric confidence intervals, the lower bound on a very small estimate could go below 0% and the upper bound on a very large estimate could go above 100%—neither of which is reasonable. When the symmetric confidence interval produced this result, the asymmetric Wilson confidence interval is presented (Brown, Cai, & Das Gupta, 2001; Newcombe, 1998; Wilson, 1927), as it is here. The Wilson confidence interval constrains the lower bound to 0% and the upper bound to 100%.

[4] This measure is based on the lengths of stay to date observed among the youth in the SYRP sample, so these median-stay measures should be regarded as minimums. Information about the total length of stay of youth in the program was not available.

[5] The graph based on youth's most serious current offense is nearly identical.

[6] This is the Wilson confidence interval.

[7] As discussed in the SYRP Bulletin Introduction to the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement, this approach permits facility administrators to plan and provide the support needed to escort and monitor youth in different units. It also maintains separation of important subgroups (e.g., boys/girls, different gangs) when convening youth into small groups for interviews.

[8] There were 6,869 youth in adult jails on June 30, 2003, and 3,006 state prisoners under the age of 18 at the end of 2003 (Harrison & Karberg, 2004).

[9] This is the Wilson confidence interval.

[10] This is the Wilson confidence interval.

[11] While there are a few differences involving non-Hispanic youth who are some other single race/ethnicity (American Indian/Alaskan Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander), that group is omitted here because it reflects only 3% of the placement population (Sedlak & Bruce, 2016). Note that multiracial youth are also omitted, since that group is heterogeneous and its members may not identify with each other but may instead affiliate with a single race/ethnicity.

[12] The comparison with White youth is statistically significant; the comparison with Hispanic youth

approaches significance (p=.06).

[13] Physically abused youth are those who say that, when living with their family or in another household, a grown-up in their life had hit, beat, kicked or physically abused them, that this happened more than 10 times, and/or that they were injured as a result.

[14] Sexually abused youth are those who say that, when living with their family or in another household, a grown-up touched the youth's private parts, made the youth touch their private parts, or forced the youth to have sex.

[15] These categories are not mutually exclusive, since a living unit or program with a murderer in residence may also have a rapist in residence, and vice versa.

[16] This measure does not take account of the number of career-offense murderers or rapists, only that there is at least one. Also, readers should bear in mind that these measures are based on self-acknowledged offenses by the other participating youth in the unit or program and that career offenses include current placing offenses, which may not yet be adjudicated.

[17] Findings for youth in coed facilities reiterate the overall findings: more males say that the food in their facility is good (26% v. 20%) and that dirty sheets, towels, and clothes are a problem (24% v. 19%), while more females say that bad smells are a problem (49% v. 41%) as are insects or bugs (46% vs. 38%).

[18] Youth's suicidality and health issues are addressed in *Survey of Youth in Residential Placement: Youth's Needs and Services* (Sedlak & McPherson, 2010), while their victimization experiences in their facilities will be covered future in-depth report.

[19] The SYRP questions ask "Have you talked with your family on the telephone" and "Have you visited with your family in person," leaving the definition of "family" to youth's interpretations.

[20] Because relatively few youth have no family contact, these analyses group their reasons for no contact, combining reasons for no phone contact and reasons for no in-person visits, where applicable. For summary reasons that apply to both forms of noncontact, estimates are based on the 2,662 sample youth who indicate some reason for noncontact, representing 35% of the total population in placement. Since problems with schedule and distance only apply to in-person visits, estimates for that reason are based on 2,348 sample youth with no in-person visits who provide an explanation for this, representing 31% of the total population in placement.

[21] While only 7% of all youth in placement indicate that they asked but were not allowed to contact a lawyer, this reflects 36% of those who say they asked to contact a lawyer.

[22] There are too few sample youth who say that their problem in understanding the rules is that the rules are hard to read to support a reliable estimate the size of this group. However, it is possible to say that they represent only about 10% of those who were given a written copy of the rules and do not understand them, which is only 0.3% of the total population of youth in placement.

[23] The time-in-solitary distribution excludes 95 youth in the sample who did not know, or would not say, their longest time locked up alone. The excluded youth reflect 3% of youth who were held in solitary or confined to their room without social contact.

[24] SYRP represents the population of youth in placement through a sample methodology, whereas CJRP provides a census; SYRP describes the population in spring, while the nearest CJRP uses an October referent day.

[25] For instance, the two surveys show different percentages of the placement population in the larger facilities that house more than 100 residents (48% in CJRP, Snyder & Sickmund, 2006; 41% in SYRP, cf. Table 1 above). However, CJRP gauges facility size by the number of youth in residence on the reference day (which includes youth in makeshift beds), whereas SYRP gauges facility size by the bed-capacity, which SYRP learns in planning for data collection. Also, CJRP reveals that 81% of offenders in placement are in facilities that use daytime locks (Snyder & Sickmund, 2006), but SYRP indicates that 35% of the offender population have no daytime locks on their living units (Table 2). This difference reflects the use of different structural levels (facility vs. living unit) in measures.