



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020

CONTACT: TANNYR WATKINS, 202-532-3923  
TANNYR.M.WATKINS@OJP.USDOJ.GOV

\*\*\*\*\*PUBLICATION ADVISORY\*\*\*\*\*

### **NUMBER OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT DROPPED 59 PERCENT BETWEEN 1997 AND 2017**

WASHINGTON – A biennial survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census on behalf of the Office of Justice Programs’ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention revealed that the number of juvenile offenders in residential placement facilities declined 59 percent between 1997 and 2017 from 105,055 to 43,580 according to a joint OJJDP and National Institute of Justice bulletin published today.

The bulletin provides national- and state-level data from the 2017 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, which is the latest statistical analysis available. The biennial census surveys both public and private juvenile residential placement facilities in every state and the District of Columbia, and provides a detailed picture of juveniles in custody by age, race, gender, offenses, and adjudication status.

The study also found of the offenders held in residential placement in 2017, 96 percent were held for a delinquency offense, approximately 40 percent were held for a person offense, and 4 percent were held for a status offense. The national detention rate for black youth was six times the rate for white youth, and the commitment rate for black youth was four times the rate for white youth.

**TITLE:** *Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2017*

**AUTHOR:** Sarah Hockenberry, National Center for Juvenile Justice

**WHERE:** <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/juveniles-rp-2017.pdf>

-MORE-

The Office of Justice Programs, directed by Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan, provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance and other resources to improve the nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal and juvenile justice systems. More information about OJP and its components is located at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).

The year 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Department of Justice. Learn more about the history of our agency at [www.Justice.gov/Celebrating150Years](http://www.Justice.gov/Celebrating150Years).

###