

Juvenile Detention

INDICATORS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Nearly 55,000 young persons were detained in residential placements in 2013; however, the rate of juvenile detention has been declining since 1999. Still, males and racial/ethnic minorities are heavily overrepresented in this population.

Importance

Juvenile delinquency^a has potentially high stakes for both individuals and society as a whole. Delinquency is linked to higher crime rates in adulthood and other negative outcomes.¹ One estimate suggests that between 50 and 75 percent of adolescents who have spent time in juvenile detention centers are incarcerated later in life.²

The juvenile justice system is based on the premise that adolescents have needs and capacities different from adults'. Adolescents are still developing mentally, physically, and emotionally, and they are forming their identities. As a result, juveniles who break the law should be treated differently than adults who do.³ Following a rise in juvenile crime in the late 1980s and early 1990s, 'get tough on crime' policies led to an increase in the number of children being tried as adults and being committed to adult facilities.⁴ Such settings can be harmful to adolescents. Juveniles may face higher risks of rape, assault, and suicide when placed in adult prisons, although reliable statistics are lacking.⁵ Multiple studies show, however, that those who are transferred to adult facilities are more likely to reoffend.⁶

Even in juvenile facilities, though, children may be victimized by staff members. According to a national survey conducted in 2012, an estimated 10 percent of young people in juvenile facilities reported sexual victimization by staff members or a peer.⁷ Moreover, most facilities in the United States do not deal effectively with the issues that lead youth to offend. Recidivism rates are comparable to those of adult offenders.⁸

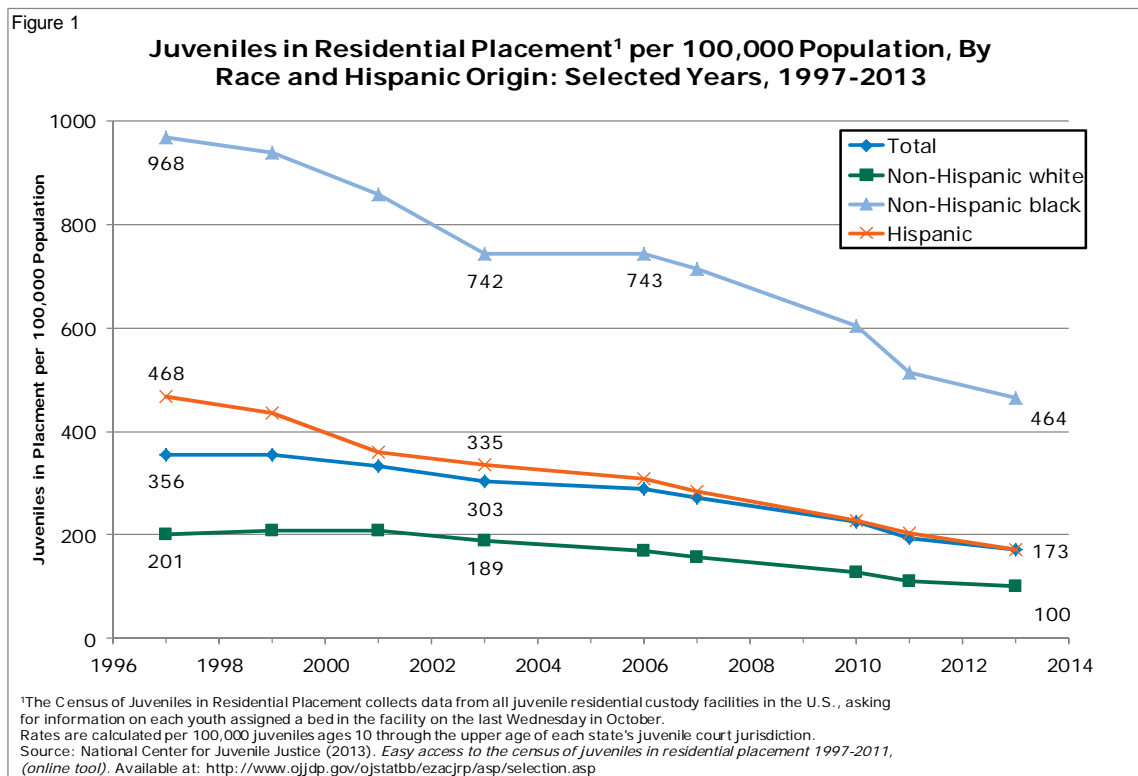
Mental health needs are often urgent for adolescents in the justice system. Many have mental illness (estimates range as high as 70 percent, with prevalence among girls as high as 80 percent, compared with 20 percent among the total adolescent population).^{9,10} In juvenile detention facilities, many of these problems go untreated or are dealt with inadequately.¹¹ Suicide rates in juvenile detention facilities are more than four times higher than for adolescents overall.¹² Suicide is even more likely for adolescents confined in isolation.¹³

^a "Juveniles" generally refers to those under age 18, but the definition varies by state; those who fall under juvenile court jurisdiction may be under 17, for example. Delinquency is defined as behavior that would be considered illegal if committed by adults.



Trends

Rates of juveniles in residential placement have fallen for more than a decade. In 2013, 173 juveniles per 100,000 population (54,000 total) were in residential placements, compared with 356 per 100,000 in 1997. The rate per 100,000 fell among whites, blacks, and Hispanics about equally (between 50 and 65 percent). (Figure 1) In that period, rates of residential placement for Asian youth fell the most (86 percent), while rates for American Indians fell the least (32 percent). (Appendix 1)

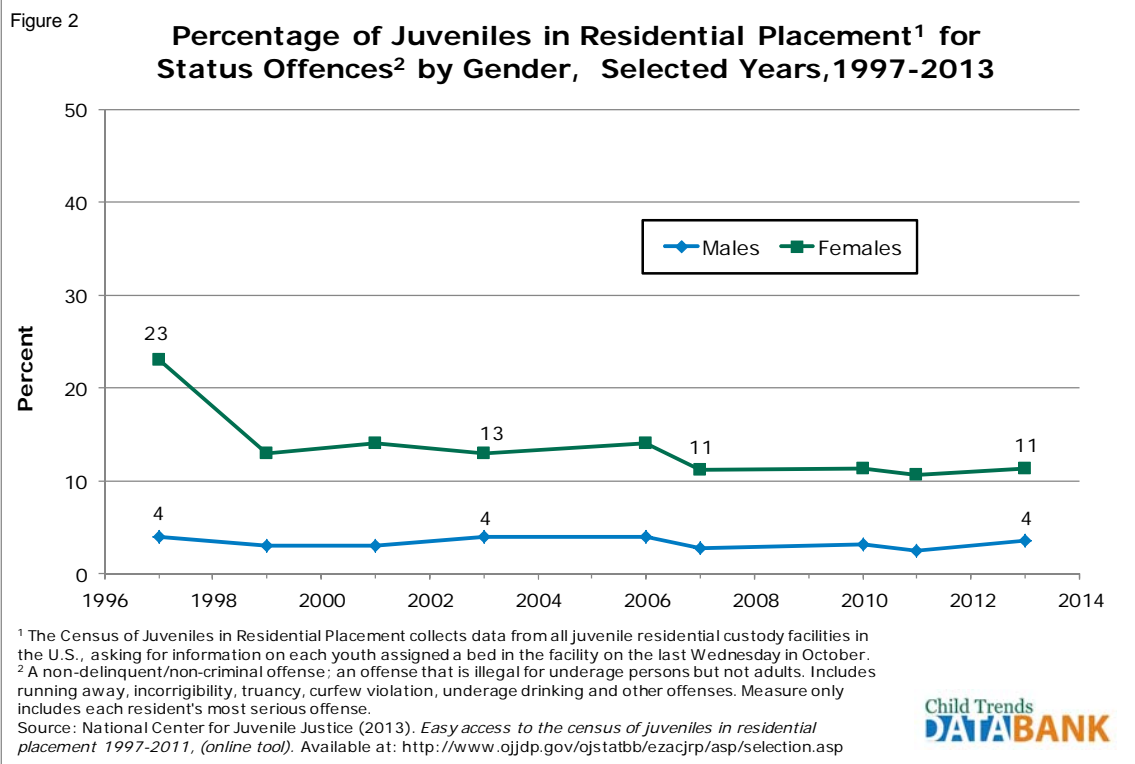


Differences by Gender

Males are much more likely than females to be in residential placement. In 2013, 86 percent of all juveniles in residential placement were male. This proportion has fluctuated, but in general has not changed since 1997. (Appendix 1)

Female adolescents are committed to facilities at higher rates than in some past years, although the rates in 2013 were lower than the 20-year peak in 1997.¹⁴ According to one study,

the majority of females in the juvenile justice system report experiencing physical, sexual, or emotional victimization. Many girls first enter the system as runaways or for other status offenses (offenses not considered illegal for adults), and cite abuse at home as one of the main reasons for leaving. Once in the system, they often do not receive adequate treatment, and may have different needs than their male counterparts.¹⁵ In 2013, eleven percent of female adolescents in residential placement were there because of status offences, compared with four percent of male adolescents. However, this gap is shrinking: in 1997, 23 percent of girls in residential placement were there because of status offences, versus four percent of boys. (Figure 2)



Differences by Type of Offense

Most juveniles in residential placement (95 percent in 2013) are there because of delinquency. The other five percent have committed status offenses (behaviors that are illegal for underage persons but not for adults, such as running away, incorrigibility [i.e., “beyond the control of parents, guardians, or custodians”], and truancy) as their most serious offense.¹⁶ In 2013, 25 percent of juveniles in residential placement had violent crimes¹⁷ as their most serious offense, and 19 percent had property crimes¹⁸ as their most serious offense. Only one percent had

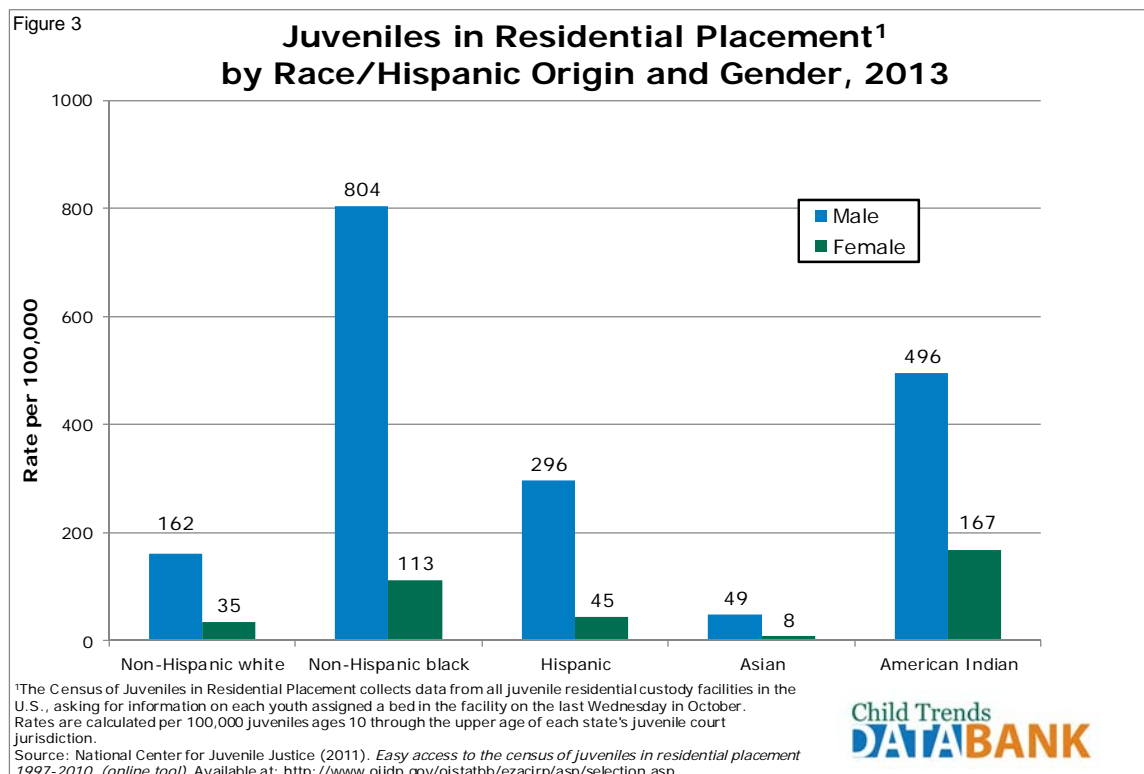
committed criminal homicide. Seven percent had committed drug-related offenses, and 11 percent had as their most serious offense disturbances to the public order. (Appendix 2)

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin¹⁹

In 2013, Asian and white males had the lowest rates of placement in juvenile detention (49 and 162 per 100,000 population, respectively). Hispanic males had a rate of 296 per 100,000, followed by American Indian males at 496, and black males at 804 per 100,000). (Figure 3)

As in the case of males, female black and American Indian adolescents had the highest rates of placement in residential detention (113 and 167 per 100,000, respectively, in 2013). White females were also less likely to be in residential placement (35 per 100,000 in 2013) than were Hispanic females (45 per 100,000). Asian females were the least likely to be in residential placement, with a rate of 8 per 100,000. (Figure 3)

Rates of residential placement for Hispanic, Asian, and black adolescents have been decreasing since 1997, while rates for white adolescents began to decline in 2001. (Figure 1) For American Indian adolescents, rates increased from 1997 to 2001, then declined through 2013, with the exception of a small uptick in 2006. (Appendix 1)





State and Local Estimates

State estimates of the number of juveniles in residential placements or corrections facilities through 2013 are available from the KIDS COUNT Data Center at:

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/42-youth-residing-in-juvenile-detention-and-correctional-facilities?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/10-19,2,20-29,3,30-39,4,40-49,5,50-52,6-9/false/133,18,17,14,12/any/319,320>

Further subgroup breaks by state through 2013 are available from the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement. Available online at:

http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacirp/asp/State_Comparison.asp

International Estimates

None available.

National Goals

None.

What Works to Make Progress on This Indicator

- See Child Trends' LINKS database ("Lifecourse Interventions to Nurture Kids Successfully"), for reviews of many rigorously evaluated programs, including the following which have been shown to be effective at reducing or preventing incarceration of young adults:
 - Functional Family Therapy: www.childtrends.org/?programs=functional-family-therapy-2
 - The Insiders Juvenile Crime Prevention Program: www.childtrends.org/?programs=the-insiders-juvenile-crime-prevention-program
 - Multisystemic Therapy: www.childtrends.org/?programs=multisystemic-therapy



- Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care:
www.childtrends.org/?programs=multidimensional-treatment-foster-care-mtfc
- Nurse-Family Partnership: www.childtrends.org/?programs=nurse-family-partnership
- Also see: Greenwood, P. (2008). Prevention and intervention programs for juvenile offenders. *The Future of Children*, 18(2), 185-210. Available at: http://www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/18_02_09.pdf; and
- Henggeler, S. W. & Schoenwald, S. K. (2011). Evidence-based interventions for juvenile offenders and juvenile justice policies that support them. *Social Policy Report*, 25(1), 3-20; and
- Lipsey, M. W., Howell, J. C., Kelly, M. R., Chapman, G., and Carver, D. (2010). *Improving the effectiveness of juvenile justice programs: A new perspective on evidence-based practice*. Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University. Available at http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ImprovingEffectiveness_December2010.pdf

Related Indicators

- Young Adults in Jail or Prison: www.childtrends.org/?indicators=young-adults-in-jail-or-prison

Definition

Juveniles in residential placement are defined as those under age 18 who were assigned a bed in a juvenile residential custody facility in the U.S. as of the last Wednesday in October in a given year.

Rates are computed per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 through the upper age of each state's juvenile court jurisdiction. The number of children younger than 10 in residential placement is not large enough to warrant the inclusion of younger age groups in the denominator of rate calculations. States' upper age limits of original juvenile court jurisdiction in 2008 are available at: <http://nicic.gov/Library/025365>



Data do not include those juveniles in adult facilities or those juveniles held exclusively in drug treatment or mental health facilities.



Data Source

National Center for Juvenile Justice (2015). *Easy access to the census of juveniles in residential placement 1997-2013, (online tool)*. Available at:

<http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacirp/asp/selection.asp>

Raw Data Source

OJJDP's Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, and 2013

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/series/241>



Appendix 1 - Juveniles in Residential Placement:¹ Selected Years, 1997-2013

	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013
Number in Placement (Thousands)	105	108	104	97	93	87	71	61	54									
	Percentage of Those in Placement									Rate per 100,000³								
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	356	355	334	303	289	272	225	196	173
Age																		
12 & younger	2.1	3.7	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.3	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
13 years	4.4	6.0	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.3	2.9	3.3	3.6	121	161	108	93	80	68	50	48	46
14 years	11.0	12.1	10.1	10.2	9.8	8.8	8.4	8.6	8.7	294	324	258	234	212	179	144	128	114
15 years	20.2	19.5	18.7	19.0	18.9	17.9	17.8	17.2	17.5	533	531	478	439	398	357	298	255	228
16 years	26.8	24.3	25.9	25.7	26.5	26.6	27.6	26.8	26.1	722	650	656	599	546	519	453	388	339
17 years	23.4	22.0	23.9	24.8	25.6	26.7	28.2	28.4	27.9	623	586	619	576	548	513	457	403	360
18 & older	12.0	12.5	15.4	14.3	14.1	15.6	14.0	14.4	14.9	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Race/Hispanic origin²																		
White	37.5	38.0	39.6	38.6	35.0	34.0	32.4	32.4	32.4	201	208	208	189	170	157	128	112	100
Black	39.9	39.3	39.0	38.0	40.2	40.8	40.9	40.0	39.8	968	937	857	742	743	714	606	521	464
Hispanic	18.4	18.2	17.3	19.1	20.5	20.8	22.0	22.7	22.7	468	435	360	335	309	284	228	202	173
Asian	2.1	2.0	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.6	195	178	119	110	80	71	47	36	28
American Indian	1.5	1.9	2.1	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	490	542	556	468	476	416	369	361	334



	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013
Males	86.4	86.5	85.5	84.9	85.0	86.4	86.7	86.4	85.7	599	599	556	502	479	458	380	330	290
	Percentage of Males in Placement									Rate per 100,000³								
Total Males in Placement (Thousands)	91	93	89	89	79	75	61	53	46									
Age																		
12 & younger	2.0	3.6	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.3	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
13 years	4.0	5.6	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.2	2.8	3.1	3.3	187	254	165	142	124	110	81	77	72
14 years	10.1	11.4	9.2	9.6	9.3	8.3	8.0	8.1	8.4	453	514	394	362	332	284	231	205	183
15 years	19.3	18.7	17.7	18.1	18.3	17.3	17.3	16.7	17.1	857	859	753	694	638	579	488	417	373
16 years	26.9	24.3	25.8	25.4	26.3	26.3	27.4	26.7	25.7	1,210	1,092	1,088	981	898	864	758	651	562
17 years	24.4	22.8	24.8	25.6	26.1	27.2	28.7	28.8	28.2	1,088	1,016	1,062	978	925	875	782	686	610
18 & older	13.3	13.6	16.8	15.6	15.3	16.6	15.0	15.4	16.0	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Race/Hispanic origin²																		
White	35.7	36.6	38.4	37.5	33.5	32.8	31.4	31.4	31.4	322	337	336	304	270	254	209	182	162
Black	40.9	40.0	39.7	38.5	41.2	41.7	41.6	40.9	40.9	1,688	1,623	1,466	1,256	1,275	1,238	1,049	903	804
Hispanic	19.3	19.0	17.9	19.8	21.2	21.5	22.7	23.4	23.1	823	764	622	577	530	494	397	350	296
Asian	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.6	346	309	203	185	139	119	80	60	49
American Indian	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	759	894	894	732	698	621	544	535	496



	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013
Females	13.6	13.5	14.5	15.1	15.0	13.6	13.3	13.6	14.3	99	99	99	94	88	76	61	54	50
	Percentage of Females in Placement									Rate per 100,000³								
Total Females in Placement (Thousands)	14	15	15	15	14	12	9	8	8									
Age																		
12 & younger	2.7	4.2	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.3	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
13 years	6.9	8.5	6.3	5.9	5.1	4.1	3.9	4.4	5.2	52	63	48	40	34	23	18	18	19
14 years	16.9	16.7	15.2	14.0	12.9	12.0	11.1	11.5	10.8	126	124	115	99	85	68	52	47	41
15 years	25.8	24.3	24.7	23.9	22.6	22.2	21.3	20.5	20.1	190	185	188	171	146	123	97	84	77
16 years	26.8	24.3	26.0	27.0	27.8	28.2	29.1	27.3	28.0	202	181	197	195	174	154	131	110	106
17 years	16.7	16.8	18.9	20.5	22.8	23.7	25.2	26.2	25.7	125	126	146	148	146	128	112	104	97
18 & older	4.3	5.2	7.1	6.9	7.5	8.7	8.0	8.6	8.7	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Race/Hispanic origin²																		
White	49.1	47.0	46.8	44.9	43.3	42.0	38.9	39.2	38.6	74	72	73	68	64	54	42	38	35
Black	33.3	34.8	35.1	35.1	34.4	35.2	36.4	34.6	33.3	224	228	227	210	193	170	146	125	113
Hispanic	12.7	12.8	13.2	14.8	16.4	16.6	17.6	18.7	20.3	91	86	83	81	76	63	50	46	45
Asian	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.5	38	40	31	31	19	20	12	11	8
American Indian	2.4	2.9	2.6	2.5	3.4	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.4	211	224	206	195	248	205	190	182	167

‡ Numbers are too small to yield a reliable rate.

¹The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement collects data from all juvenile residential custody facilities in the U.S., asking for information on each youth assigned a bed in the facility on the last Wednesday in October.

²"Hispanic" ethnicity includes persons regardless of race. These persons are not included in other race categories.

³ Rates are calculated per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 through the upper age of each state's juvenile court jurisdiction.

Source: National Center for Juvenile Justice (2013). *Easy access to the census of juveniles in residential placement 1997-2013, (online tool)*. Available at: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/asp/selection.asp>



Appendix 2: Juveniles in Residential Placement¹ by Most Serious Offense, Number, Percent, and Rate: Selected Years, 1997-2013

	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013	
Number in Placement (Thousands)	105	108	104	97	93	87	71	61	54										
	Percentage of Those in Placement									Rate per 100,000²									
Delinquency³	93.5	95.6	95.1	95.0	94.9	96.1	95.7	96.4	95.3	335	341	319	289	274	261	215	189	165	
Person⁴	33.4	34.8	33.4	34.3	34.1	35.9	36.7	37.4	36.8	119	124	112	104	99	97	83	73	64	
Criminal Homicide	1.8	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	6	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	
Sexual Assault	5.3	6.9	6.5	7.7	7.3	6.8	6.6	6.4	7.4	19	25	22	23	21	18	15	12	13	
Robbery	8.9	7.4	7.0	6.4	7.2	8.6	9.9	9.3	9.1	32	26	23	20	21	23	22	18	16	
Aggravated Assault	9.0	9.2	8.2	7.8	7.8	8.4	8.6	8.6	7.7	32	33	27	24	23	23	19	17	13	
Simple Assault	6.3	6.9	7.7	8.4	7.9	7.8	7.7	8.5	8.4	22	24	26	25	23	21	17	17	15	
Other Person	2.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.1	2.7	3.3	3.0	7	11	10	10	8	8	6	6	5	
Property⁵	30.4	29.2	28.1	27.8	25.0	24.3	24.1	23.9	23.6	108	104	94	84	72	66	54	47	41	
Burglary	11.9	11.2	11.0	10.8	9.7	9.8	10.2	10.9	10.0	42	40	37	33	28	27	23	21	17	
Theft	6.9	6.3	5.6	5.8	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.3	25	23	19	18	14	14	12	11	9	
Auto Theft	6.2	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.0	4.2	3.5	2.9	3.1	22	20	20	17	14	11	8	6	5	
Arson	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	
Other Property	4.5	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.3	3.9	4.5	16	17	16	14	13	12	10	8	8	



	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013
	Percentage of Those in Placement									Rate per 100,000 ²								
Delinquency³																		
Drug	8.6	9.0	8.7	8.3	8.6	8.2	7.0	7.0	6.5	31	32	29	25	25	22	16	14	11
Trafficking	2.7	2.7	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.0	10	10	8	6	5	5	3	2	2
Other Drug	5.9	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.7	6.5	5.6	5.8	5.5	21	22	21	19	19	18	13	11	10
Public Order⁶	9.2	9.7	10.0	10.0	10.7	12.7	11.5	11.9	11.2	35	36	35	31	31	34	26	23	19
Weapons¹¹	4.0	3.7	3.1	3.1	4.0	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.0	14	13	10	9	11	13	10	8	7
Alcohol	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Other Public Order	5.0	5.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	7.7	7.0	7.4	7.2	20	22	23	21	19	21	16	14	12
Technical Violation⁷	11.8	13.0	14.8	14.6	16.5	15.1	16.4	16.1	17.2	42	46	49	44	48	41	37	31	30
Violent Crime Index⁸	25.0	24.8	22.7	22.8	23.5	25.0	26.4	25.5	25.4	89	88	76	69	68	68	59	50	44
Property Crime Index⁹	25.9	24.3	23.4	23.1	20.4	19.8	19.8	20.0	19.1	92	86	78	70	59	54	44	39	33
Status Offense¹⁰	6.5	4.4	4.9	5.0	5.1	3.9	4.3	3.6	4.7	21	14	15	14	14	11	10	7	8
Running Away	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	5	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	1
Truancy	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.1	4	3	2	2	3	2	2	1	2
Incorrigibility	2.7	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.8	9	6	6	5	6	4	3	3	3
Curfew Violation	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Underage Drinking	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Other Status Offense	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1



	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013	1997	1999	2001	2003	2006	2007	2010	2011	2013	
	Percentage of Those in Placement									Rate per 100,000 ²									
Males in Placement (Thousands)	91	93	89	89	79	75	61	53	46										
Males																			
Delinquency ³	96.0	96.9	96.6	96.5	96.5	97.2	96.8	97.5	96.5	578	583	539	486	463	445	368	322	280	
Violent Crime Index ⁸	26.9	26.4	24.3	24.6	25.4	26.7	28.2	27.4	27.5	161	158	135	124	122	122	107	90	80	
Property Crime Index ⁹	27.0	25.0	24.4	24.1	21.3	20.4	20.5	20.9	19.8	162	150	136	121	102	93	78	69	57	
Status Offense ¹⁰	4.0	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	2.8	3.2	2.5	3.5	21	16	17	16	16	13	12	8	10	
Females in Placement (Thousands)	14	15	15	15	14	12	9	8	8										
Females																			
Delinquency ³	77.4	87.4	86.0	86.7	86.0	88.8	88.6	89.3	88.6	79	87	87	82	75	67	54	49	45	
Violent Crime Index ⁸	12.9	14.7	13.2	12.7	12.5	14.1	14.6	13.9	12.8	13	14	13	12	11	11	9	8	6	
Property Crime Index ⁹	18.8	19.8	17.9	17.6	15.9	15.9	15.1	14.1	15.2	19	19	18	17	14	12	9	8	8	
Status Offense ¹⁰	22.6	12.6	14.0	13.3	14.0	11.2	11.4	10.7	11.4	21	12	13	12	12	8	7	6	6	

¹The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement collects data from all juvenile residential custody facilities in the U.S., asking for information on each youth assigned a bed in the facility on the last Wednesday in October.

²Rates are calculated per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 through the upper age of each state's juvenile court jurisdiction.

³An offense that would be considered illegal if committed by an adult.

⁴Offenses against persons. (e. g. violence)

⁵Offenses against property. (e. g. theft)

⁶Offenses against the public order.

⁷Violations of probation, parole or valid court orders; acts that go against the conditions of probation or parole.

⁸Includes criminal homicide, violent sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

⁹Includes burglary, theft, auto theft, and arson.

¹⁰A non-delinquent/non-criminal offense; an offense that is illegal for underage persons but not adults.

¹¹Actual or attempted illegal sale, distribution, manufacture, alteration, transportation, possession, or use of a deadly or dangerous weapon or accessory.

Source: National Center for Juvenile Justice (2013). Easy access to the census of juveniles in residential placement 1997-2013, (online tool). Available at: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/asp/selection.asp>



Endnotes

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- ¹⁸ The property crime index includes burglary, theft, auto theft, and arson.
- ¹⁹ Hispanics may be of any race. Estimates of whites and blacks in this report do not include Hispanics.