




# JUVENILE JUSTICE STATISTICS

## NATIONAL REPORT SERIES BULLETIN

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# Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2017

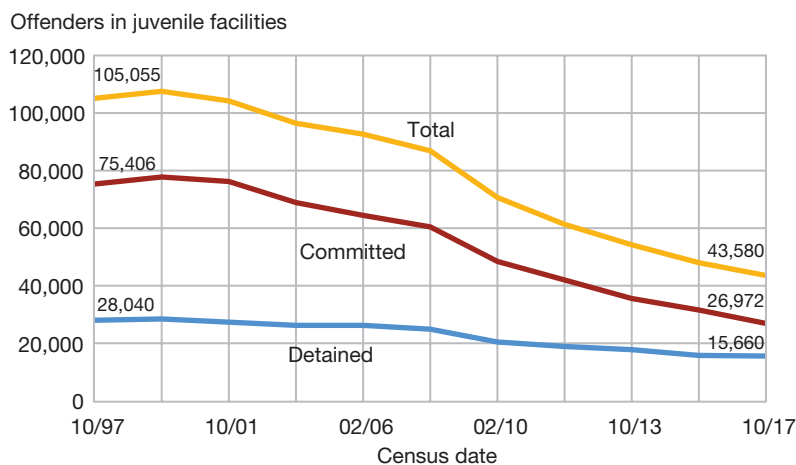
Sarah Hockenberry

## Highlights

The 2017 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) shows that the number of youth in placement continues to decline. Between 1997 and 2017, the number of youth in residential placement decreased 59% to 43,580, its lowest level since the data collection began in 1997 when 105,055 youth were held in out-of-home placement. The number of public facilities decreased 12% between 1997 and 2017, compared with 58% for private facilities. Despite this, the decrease in the number of juvenile offenders held at public facilities was slightly greater than the decrease in the number held in private facilities during the same period (down 59% and 57%, respectively).

- Of the offenders held in residential placement in 2017, 96% were held for a delinquency offense and 4% were held for a status offense. Approximately 40% were held for a person offense.
- Females accounted for 15% of the placement population, and they tended to be slightly younger than male residents.
- Minority youth accounted for 67% of youth in placement in 2017, with black males forming the largest share.
- The national detention rate for black youth was six times the rate for white youth, and their commitment rate was four times the rate for white youth.
- Private facilities accounted for 43% of facilities holding juvenile offenders in 2017, and held 29% of juvenile offenders in placement.
- Two-thirds of youth held in residential placement in 2017 were committed to the facility as part of a court-ordered disposition; the remaining youth were detained pending adjudication, disposition, or placement elsewhere, or were in the facility as part of a diversion agreement.

### Relative declines from 1997 to 2017 were greater for committed youth (64%) than for detained youth (44%)



**Note:** Total includes detained youth, committed youth, and a small number of youth in placement as part of a diversion agreement. The Census was conducted on the following dates (month/year): 10/1997, 10/1999, 10/2001, 10/2003, 02/2006 (delayed), 10/2007, 02/2010 (delayed), 10/2011, 10/2013, 10/2015, and 10/2017.

## A Message From OJJDP and NIJ

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention sponsors the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) to gather comprehensive and detailed information about youth in residential placement because of law-violating behavior. This biennial survey details the characteristics of youth held for delinquency and status offenses in public and private residential facilities in every state. The data provide a detailed picture of these youth, including their age, gender, race, offenses, and adjudication status.

The most recent CJRP data show that the number of youth in placement continues to decline. Between 1997 and 2017, the number of youth in residential placement decreased 59% to 43,580, its lowest level since the data collection began in 1997. Females accounted for 15% of the placement population, and they tended to be slightly younger than male residents. Minority youth accounted for 67% of youth in placement in 2017, with black males forming the largest share.

Juvenile justice professionals and policymakers, along with others in the field, can use the information in this bulletin to explore appropriate alternatives to confinement for young offenders, improve their conditions of confinement, and provide the programs that these youth need to help them live productive, crime-free lives.

Caren Harp  
OJJDP Administrator

David B. Muhlhausen, Ph.D.  
NIJ Director

# CJRP provides detailed data on juveniles in residential facilities

CJRP is administered biennially and collects information from all secure and nonsecure residential placement facilities that house juvenile offenders, defined as persons younger than age 21 who are held in a residential setting as a result of some contact with the justice system (that is, they are charged with or adjudicated for an offense). This encompasses both status offenses and delinquency offenses, and includes youth who are either temporarily detained by the court or committed after adjudication for an offense. The census does not include federal facilities or those exclusively for drug or mental health treatment or for abused/neglected youth. It also does not capture data from adult prisons or jails. Therefore, CJRP does not include all juveniles whom criminal courts sentenced to incarceration or placement in a residential facility.

The census typically takes place on the fourth Wednesday in October of the census year. CJRP asks all juvenile residential facilities in the United States to describe each person younger than age 21 who was assigned a bed in the facility on the census date because of an offense. Facilities report individual-level information on gender, date of birth, race, placement authority, most serious offense charged, court adjudication status, and admission date.

## One-day count and admission data give different views of residential populations

CJRP provides 1-day population counts of juveniles in residential placement facilities. Such counts give a picture of the standing population in facilities. One-day counts are substantially different from annual admission or release data, which provide a measure of facility population flow.

A court disposition may commit a juvenile to a facility, or a youth may be detained prior to or after adjudication while awaiting disposition or placement elsewhere. In addition, a small proportion of juveniles may be admitted as part of a diversion agreement. Because detention stays tend to be shorter than commitment placements, detained juveniles represent a larger share of population flow data than of 1-day count data.

## State variations influence placement rates

Although state placement rate statistics control for upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction, comparisons among states with different upper ages are problematic. Youth ages 16 and 17 constitute 26% of the general youth population ages 10–17, but they account for 53% of arrests of youth younger than age 18, 45% of delinquency court cases, and 55% of juveniles in residential placement. If all other factors were equal, one would expect higher juvenile placement rates in states where older youth are under juvenile court jurisdiction.

Differences in age limits of extended jurisdiction also influence placement rates. Some states may keep a juvenile in placement for several years beyond the upper age of original jurisdiction; others cannot. Laws that control the transfer of juveniles to criminal court also affect juvenile placement rates. If all other factors were equal, states with broad transfer provisions would be expected to have lower juvenile placement rates than other states.

Demographic variations among jurisdictions should also be considered. The urbanicity and economy of an area are thought to be related to crime and placement rates. Available bedspace also influences placement rates, particularly in rural areas.

# The number of residents in placement decreased across census years, but profiles remained similar

## More than 8 in 10 residents were juveniles held for delinquency offenses

The vast majority of residents in juvenile residential placement facilities on October 25, 2017, were juvenile offenders (85%). Youth held for delinquency offenses accounted for 82% of all residents, and those held for status offenses accounted for 3%. Delinquency offenses are behaviors that would be criminal law violations for adults and include technical violations (i.e., violations of probation, parole, and valid court order). Status offenses, such as running away, truancy, and incorrigibility, are behaviors that are not law violations for adults. Some residents were held in the facility but were not charged with or adjudicated for an offense (e.g., youth referred for abuse, neglect, or mental health problems, or those whose parents referred them). Together, these other residents and individuals age 21 or older accounted for 15% of all residents.

## Less than half of facilities were private and held less than one-third of juvenile offenders

Private nonprofit or for-profit corporations or organizations operate private facilities; those who work in these facilities are employees of the private corporation or organization. State or local government agencies operate public facilities; those who work in these facilities are state or local government employees. Private facilities tend to be smaller than public facilities and therefore hold fewer offenders, while public facilities hold the majority of juvenile offenders on any given day. In 2017, private facilities accounted for 43% of facilities holding juvenile offenders; however, they held just 29% of juvenile offenders in placement.

### The profile of juvenile offenders in residential placement changed little between 1997 and 2017

Placement population	Number			Percent of total		
	1997	2010	2017	1997	2010	2017
All residents	116,701	79,166	51,285	100%	100%	100%
Juvenile offenders	105,055	70,793	43,580	90	89	85
Delinquency	98,813	67,777	41,890	85	86	82
Person offense	35,138	26,011	17,959	30	33	35
Violent offense	26,304	18,655	12,250	23	24	24
Status offenders	6,242	3,016	1,690	5	4	3
Other residents	11,646	8,373	7,705	10	11	15

**Notes:** Other residents include youth age 21 or older and those held in the facility but not charged with or adjudicated for an offense. Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997, 2010, and 2017 [machine-readable data files].

### Public facilities outnumbered private facilities in 2017, and held more than twice as many offenders

Facility operation	Number			Percent change	
	1997	2010	2017	1997–2017	2010–2017
<b>Facilities:</b>					
All facilities	2,842	2,259	1,709	–40%	–24%
Public facilities	1,106	1,103	975	–12	–12
Private facilities	1,736	1,156	734	–58	–37
<b>Juvenile offenders:</b>					
All facilities	105,055	70,793	43,580	–59	–38
Public facilities	75,600	49,112	30,896	–59	–37
Private facilities	29,455	21,681	12,684	–57	–41

Overall, the number of juvenile offenders in residential placement decreased 59% between 1997 and 2017.

The decline in offenders held in public facilities accounted for 73% of the overall drop in the youth residential placement population between 1997 and 2017.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997, 2010, and 2017 [machine-readable data files].

Private facilities hold a different population of youth than do public facilities. Compared with public facilities, private facilities have a greater proportion of juveniles who the court has committed to the facility following adjudication as part of their disposition and a smaller proportion of juveniles who are detained pending adjudication, disposition, or placement elsewhere.

### Placement status profile, 2017:

Placement status	Facility operation		
	Total	Public	Private
Total	100%	100%	100%
Committed	62	52	86
Detained	36	46	11
Diversion	1	<1	3

**Note:** Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Of all juveniles who were detained, 91% were in public facilities. For committed juveniles, 60% were in public facilities.

# Nationwide, 43,580 juvenile offenders were in residential placement on October 25, 2017

## Public and private facility populations have fairly similar offense profiles

In 2017, delinquent youth accounted for the vast majority of juvenile offenders in both public and private facilities (98% and 90%, respectively). Compared with public facilities, private facilities had larger proportions of youth among their populations with less serious offenses (e.g., simple assault, drug offenses, and status offenses).

### Offense profile by facility type, 2017:

Most serious offense	Facility operation		
	All	Public	Private
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%
<b>Delinquency</b>	96	98	90
Person	41	43	36
Crim. homicide	2	3	1
Sexual assault	6	5	8
Robbery	11	13	7
Agg. assault	9	10	6
Simple assault	8	7	11
Other person	5	5	4
Property	22	22	22
Burglary	8	8	9
Theft	5	5	5
Auto theft	5	5	4
Arson	1	1	0
Other property	4	4	4
Drug	5	4	6
Drug trafficking	1	1	1
Other drug	4	4	5
Public order	13	12	14
Weapons	5	6	4
Other public ord.	8	7	10
Technical violation	15	17	12
<b>Status offense</b>	4	2	10

**Note:** Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

On the census date in 2017, public facilities held 73% of delinquents in residential placement and 28% of status offenders. Public facilities housed 78% of those held for violent crimes (i.e., criminal homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault). In contrast, only 64% of juvenile offenders held for drug offenses were in public facilities.

## The number of youth in residential placement declined for all offenses between 1997 and 2017

Most serious offense	Juvenile offenders in residential placement, 2017			Percent change 1997–2017		
	Type of facility			Type of facility		
	All	Public	Private	All	Public	Private
<b>Total</b>	43,580	30,896	12,684	-59%	-59%	-57%
<b>Delinquency</b>	41,890	30,431	11,459	-58	-59	-54
Person	17,959	15,912	4,558	-49	-41	-43
Criminal homicide	900	777	123	-53	-57	22
Sexual assault	2,616	1,654	962	-53	-58	-40
Robbery	4,880	4,045	835	-48	-49	-39
Aggravated assault	3,854	3,105	749	-59	-59	-60
Simple assault	3,662	2,236	1,426	-45	-46	-43
Other person	2,047	1,584	463	-7	-6	-11
Property	9,568	6,745	2,823	-70	-71	-68
Burglary	3,435	2,344	1,091	-73	-75	-65
Theft	2,106	1,519	587	-71	-70	-72
Auto theft	2,000	1,461	539	-69	-67	-75
Arson	284	223	61	-69	-67	-72
Other property	1,743	1,198	545	-63	-64	-60
Drug	2,140	1,371	769	-76	-78	-72
Drug trafficking	320	224	96	-89	-90	-86
Other drug	1,820	1,147	673	-71	-72	-67
Public order	5,572	3,742	1,830	-46	-49	-39
Weapons	2,227	1,709	518	-47	-48	-41
Other public order	3,345	2,033	1,312	-45	-49	-38
Technical violation	6,651	5,172	1,479	-46	-50	-30
<b>Status offense</b>	1,690	465	1,225	-73	-70	-74

- The number of juvenile offenders held for person offenses decreased 49% between 1997 and 2017, and the number of property and drug offenders was cut by more than half (70% and 76% decrease, respectively).
- Overall, the number of juvenile offenders held for both public order and technical violation offenses declined between 1997 and 2017 (46% each).
- The number of status offenders in residential placement was cut substantially (73%) between 1997 and 2017.

**Note:** Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

# The number of youth in placement for an offense in 2017 was at its lowest level since 1997

## The largest delinquency population reported to CJRP was in 1999

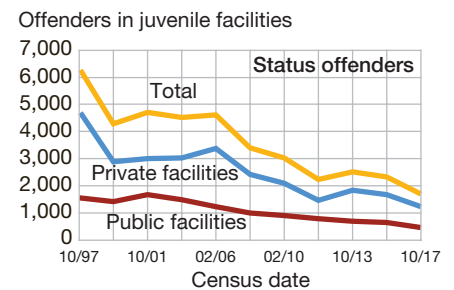
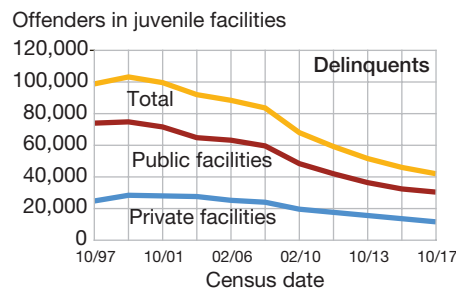
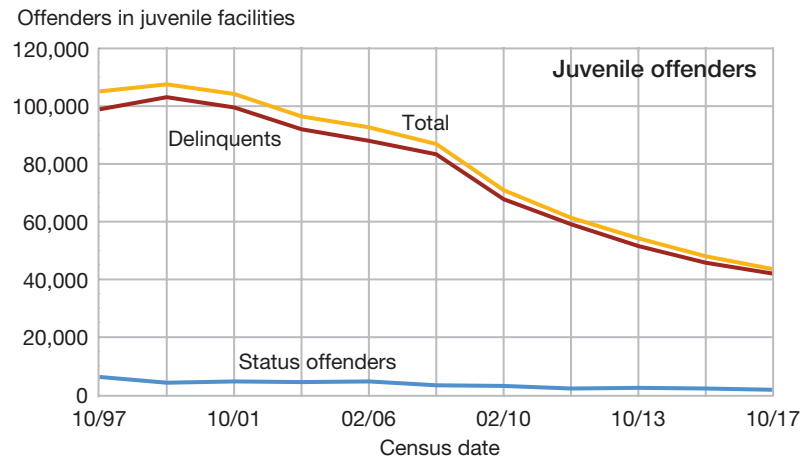
The number of delinquents held in placement increased 4% between 1997 and 1999 and then decreased 59% to its lowest level in 2017. Although the number of delinquents held in public facilities outnumbered those held in private facilities, delinquents held in private facilities accounted for 82% of the overall increase between 1997 and 1999. Since 1999, the number of delinquents held in public facilities decreased 59% and the number held in private facilities decreased 60%.

Private facilities reported the largest decrease in the number of status offenders between 1997 and 2017—down 74% compared with 70% in public facilities.

### Several Factors May Affect the Placement Population

Although data from CJRP cannot explain the continuing decline in the number of youth held in residential placement for an offense, they may reflect a combination of contributing factors. For example, the number of juvenile arrests decreased 56% between 2006 and 2015, which in turn means that fewer youth were processed through the juvenile justice system. Additionally, residential placement reform efforts have resulted in the movement of many youth from large, secure public facilities to less secure, small private facilities. Finally, economic factors have resulted in a shift from committing youth to high-cost residential facilities to providing lower cost options, such as probation, day treatment, or other community-based sanctions.

## In 2017, juvenile residential facilities held 59% fewer delinquents and 73% fewer status offenders than in 1997



- The total number of juvenile offenders in residential placement facilities rose slightly from 1997 to 1999 and then decreased through 2017. The result was an overall decrease of 59% between 1997 and 2017.
- The number of delinquents held in public facilities decreased 59% between 1997 and 2017, and the number held in private facilities decreased 54%.
- Between 1997 and 1999, the number of status offenders held in juvenile residential facilities dropped sharply (31%). Between 1999 and 2006, the number of status offenders remained relatively unchanged, then decreased 63% between 2006 and 2017. The result was an overall decrease of 73% between 1997 and 2017.
- The number of status offenders held in public facilities peaked in 2001 and then decreased 72% by 2017. The number of status offenders held in private facilities increased 18% between 1999 and 2006, then decreased 64% between 2006 and 2017.
- A greater number of delinquents were housed in public facilities than private facilities; however, a greater number of status offenders were housed in private facilities than public.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 [machine-readable data files].

# Relative declines from 1997 to 2017 were greater for committed youth than for detained youth

## Offense profiles were similar for detained and committed youth

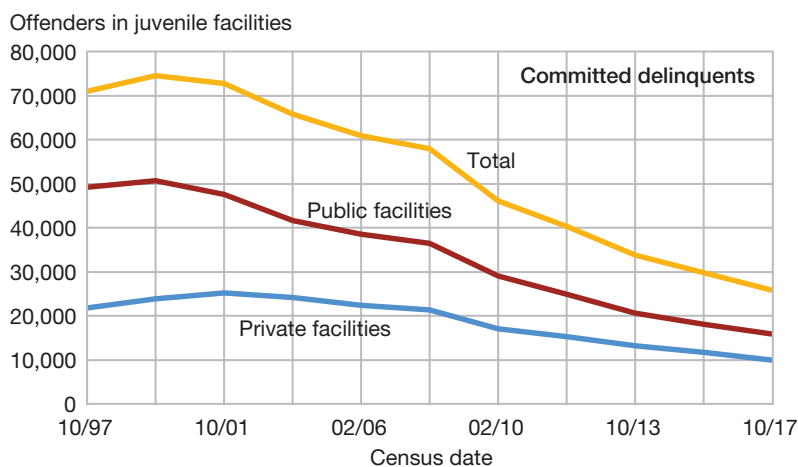
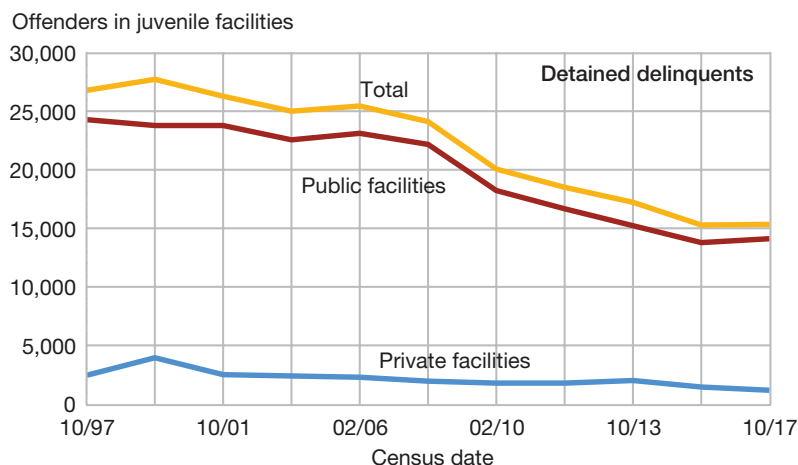
Delinquents accounted for 98% of detained offenders and 95% of committed offenders in 2017. The offense profiles for detained and committed offenders were very similar, although the committed population had a slightly larger proportion of youth held for status offenses. Status offenders accounted for 5% of committed youth and 2% of detained youth.

### Offense profile of juvenile offenders in placement, 2017:

Most serious offense	Detained (15,660)	Committed (26,972)
Total	100%	100%
Delinquency	98	95
Person	41	42
Crim. homicide	4	1
Sexual assault	4	7
Robbery	11	12
Agg. assault	10	8
Simple assault	8	9
Other person	4	5
Property	21	23
Burglary	7	9
Theft	5	5
Auto theft	5	5
Arson	1	1
Other property	4	4
Drug	5	5
Drug trafficking	1	1
Other drug	4	4
Public order	12	13
Weapons	6	5
Other public order	6	8
Technical violation	19	13
Status offense	2	5

**Note:** Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Between 1997 and 2017, the detained delinquency population decreased 43% and the committed delinquency population decreased 64%



- Despite a slight increase between 1997 and 1999 in the number of detained delinquents (those held prior to adjudication or disposition who were awaiting a hearing in juvenile or criminal court or those held after disposition who were awaiting placement elsewhere), the number of these youth remained relatively stable between 1997 and 2007 and then decreased 36% between 2007 and 2017.
- The number of youth in residential placement for an offense decreased 59% between 1997 and 2017. A 68% decrease in the number of committed delinquents held in public facilities during this period accounted for more than half of the overall decline.
- Between 1997 and 2017, declines were also evident in the number of detained and committed status offenders (74% and 72%, respectively) (not shown).

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 [machine-readable data files].

# CJRP data identify the state where the offense was committed and the state where the youth was held

Nationally, facilities reported that at least 88% of youth in residential placement on the 2017 census date had committed their offense in the same state as the facility in which they were held

State	State of offense (percentage of offenders)			State	State of offense (percentage of offenders)		
	Different from				Different from		
	Same as facility	facility	Unknown		Same as facility	facility	Unknown
U.S. total	88%	2%	10%	Missouri	96%	4%	0%
Alabama	82	1	18	Montana	89	1	11
Alaska	100	0	0	Nebraska	89	8	3
Arizona	75	0	25	Nevada	99	0	1
Arkansas	86	1	14	New Hampshire	100*	0*	0*
California	96	0	4	New Jersey	100	0	0
Colorado	90	0	9	New Mexico	90	0	10
Connecticut	76	1	23	New York	71	0	29
Delaware	85	0	15	North Carolina	83	0	17
District of Columbia	63	0	37	North Dakota	87	3	10
Florida	95	0	5	Ohio	99	1	0
Georgia	97	1	3	Oklahoma	87	0	13
Hawaii	78*	0*	22*	Oregon	98	1	2
Idaho	85	12	3	Pennsylvania	61	6	33
Illinois	94	0	6	Rhode Island	88	0	12
Indiana	86	0	14	South Carolina	91	0	9
Iowa	64	30	6	South Dakota	57	8	35
Kansas	99	0	1	Tennessee	89	1	10
Kentucky	100	0	0	Texas	96	0	4
Louisiana	100	0	0	Utah	59	11	30
Maine	100*	0*	0*	Vermont	–	–	–
Maryland	87	0	13	Virginia	98	2	0
Massachusetts	70	0	30	Washington	99	1	0
Michigan	80	4	16	West Virginia	65	0	35
Minnesota	95	1	4	Wisconsin	94	0	6
Mississippi	100	0	0	Wyoming	69	9	22

■ In 2017, information about the state where a youth committed an offense was unknown or otherwise not reported for 10% of all youth in residential placement on the CJRP census date, but there is considerable variation across states.

\*Percentage is based on a small denominator (fewer than 100 juveniles total) and may be unreliable.

– Too few juveniles (fewer than 20) to calculate a reliable percentage.

**Note:** Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

## How State Data Are Presented in This Bulletin

The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) data collection supports two ways of summarizing state information. The first is based on the state in which the offense was committed (state of offense); the second is based on the state where the facility holding the youth is located (state of facility). CJRP is an individual-level data collection of youth in placement; therefore,

the state of offense has become the primary method for presenting state data. In most cases, the state of offense and the state of facility are the same, but the proportion varies by state. There are instances, however, where the state of offense is unknown for some youth or not reported for any youth. CJRP tables organized by state of offense cannot

properly account for these youth since there is no way to determine where they committed their offense. Therefore, these youth are excluded from the state analyses in such tables, and the exclusion is noted. In 2017, all youth for whom state of offense was unknown (4,242) were held in private facilities, and 85% of these youth were held as part of a court-ordered commitment.

## The number of facilities per state varied considerably, ranging from 2 to 134 on October 25, 2017

**In the 2017 census, 21 states reported having more private facilities than public facilities**

State of offense	Number of facilities, 2017			Number of offenders, 2017			State of offense	Number of facilities, 2017			Number of offenders, 2017		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private		Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
U.S. total	1,709	975	734	43,580	30,896	12,684	Missouri	58	51	7	780	732	48
Alabama	43	14	29	804	489	315	Montana	17	7	10	183	138	45
Alaska	17	7	10	207	174	33	Nebraska	11	5	6	486	264	219
Arizona	19	12	7	531	519	12	Nevada	13	*	*	588	*	*
Arkansas	30	18	12	585	528	54	New Hampshire	4	*	*	69	*	*
California	134	88	46	5,463	4,938	525	New Jersey	27	*	*	585	*	*
Colorado	31	17	14	993	915	78	New Mexico	18	15	3	318	306	15
Connecticut	7	3	4	99	99	3	New York	80	21	59	870	402	465
Delaware	8	*	*	129	*	*	North Carolina	26	22	4	366	366	0
District of Columbia	8	2	6	93	87	6	North Dakota	12	5	7	108	75	33
Florida	77	25	52	2,712	1,182	1,530	Ohio	73	64	9	2,079	1,908	171
Georgia	35	26	9	1,068	987	81	Oklahoma	28	17	11	426	381	45
Hawaii	4	*	*	60	*	*	Oregon	39	25	14	909	714	195
Idaho	20	14	6	408	375	30	Pennsylvania	100	23	77	1,791	756	1,038
Illinois	30	25	5	1,071	1,014	57	Rhode Island	11	1	10	123	66	57
Indiana	63	31	32	1,335	864	471	South Carolina	21	9	12	546	408	135
Iowa	43	11	32	585	321	264	South Dakota	18	10	8	150	87	63
Kansas	16	12	4	423	384	39	Tennessee	26	17	9	537	384	153
Kentucky	28	22	6	555	423	132	Texas	89	71	18	3,963	3,549	414
Louisiana	32	16	16	762	549	213	Utah	29	14	15	222	192	30
Maine	2	*	*	93	*	*	Vermont	2	*	*	18	*	*
Maryland	31	12	19	549	435	114	Virginia	41	*	*	1,062	*	*
Massachusetts	50	22	28	309	192	117	Washington	32	*	*	834	*	*
Michigan	48	27	21	1,260	795	465	West Virginia	35	10	25	474	231	243
Minnesota	41	19	22	675	456	222	Wisconsin	49	22	27	630	465	162
Mississippi	17	*	*	273	*	*	Wyoming	16	6	10	183	153	30

- Seven states had fewer than 10 facilities on the census date and only 2 had 100 or more. The average number of facilities for all states was 34 in 2017.
- Although many states reported having more private than public facilities on the census date, 47 states indicated they had more offenders in their public facilities than private in 2017.
- The percent of offenders held at public facilities ranged from 42% to 100%.

\*Detail is not displayed in states with one or two private facilities to preserve the privacy of individual facilities.

**Notes:** U.S. total includes 4,242 youth held in facilities for whom state of offense was not reported and 1 youth who committed an offense in a U.S. territory. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].



# In 2017, 138 juvenile offenders were in placement for every 100,000 juveniles in the U.S. population

## Placement rates varied widely across states for both delinquent and status offenders

State of offense	Placement rate per 100,000, 2017					State of offense	Placement rate per 100,000, 2017				
	Total	Delinquency		Status offense			Total	Delinquency		Status offense	
		Public	Private	Public	Private			Public	Private	Public	Private
U.S. total	138	96	36	1†	4†	Missouri	143	123	10	7	2*
Alabama	161	96	1*	55	8	Montana	179	135	0*	41	3*
Alaska	263	221	0*	38	0*	Nebraska	231	126†	1*†	59	46
Arizona	71	69	0*	2	0*	Nevada	191	184	0*	6†	0*†
Arkansas	183	158†	8†	14†	3*†	New Hampshire	55	38	0*	14	2*
California	134	119	2	13	0*	New Jersey	64	64	0*	0*	0*
Colorado	172	157†	2*†	14	0*	New Mexico	142	134	1*	7	0*
Connecticut	27	27	0*	0*	0*	New York	63	29	1	27	7
Delaware	139	116	3*	19	0*	North Carolina	46	45	1*	0*	0*
District of Columbia	215	201	0*	14*†	0*†	North Dakota	149	95	8*	29	17
Florida	142	61†	1†	80	0*	Ohio	174	158	2	13	1
Georgia	106	98	0*	8	0*	Oklahoma	100	89	1*	11	0*
Hawaii	47	44	0*	0*	0*	Oregon	230	180	1*	49	1*
Idaho	200	180	6	15	1*	Pennsylvania	146	61	0*	72	13
Illinois	80	76	0*	4	0*	Rhode Island	127	65	0*	59	0*
Indiana	185	118	2	57	9	South Carolina	125	91†	2*†	29†	2*†
Iowa	177	97	0*	77	3*	South Dakota	162	94	0*	61†	6*†
Kansas	132	119	1*	12†	0*†	Tennessee	78	55†	2†	17†	5†
Kentucky	122	91	1*	14†	15†	Texas	138	123	0*	14	0*
Louisiana	178	124	5	44	6	Utah	54	46	1*	7	0*
Maine	78	75	3*	0*	0*	Vermont	33	27	0*	5*	0*
Maryland	90	72	0*	17	1*	Virginia	126	123	2	1*	0*
Massachusetts	48	29	1*	18	0*	Washington	115	107	1*	6	0*
Michigan	143	83	7	49	4	West Virginia	280	129	7	92	50
Minnesota	116	76	2	35	2	Wisconsin	122	89	1*	30	1*
Mississippi	83	81†	2*†	0*	0*	Wyoming	302	233	20	40†	10*†

■ Whereas most delinquents are in public facilities, most status offenders are in private facilities. State residential placement rates based only on delinquents in public facilities are very different from rates that include status offenders and offenders in private facilities. Of course, several factors influence variations in state placement rates. Differences in states' upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction, extended age of jurisdiction (i.e., how long the juvenile justice system has jurisdiction over youth for dispositional purposes), provisions for transfer to criminal court, jurisdictions' demographic composition, offenders' offense profiles, and bedspace availability in custodial facilities affect placement rates. Therefore, state placement rate comparisons should be interpreted with caution.

■ In 24 states, the placement rate for delinquency offenders held in public facilities was greater than the national rate (96).

■ The placement rate for delinquency offenders held in public facilities ranged from 27 in Connecticut to 233 in Wyoming.

\*Rate is based on fewer than 10 offenders.

†Interpret data with caution. In these states, 30% or more of the information for offense (i.e., delinquency or status) was imputed. For more information about imputation, visit the methods section of the Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement data analysis tool, available at [ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/asp/methods.asp](http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/asp/methods.asp).

**Notes:** Placement rate is the count of juvenile offenders in placement on the census date per 100,000 youth age 10 through the upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction in each state. U.S. total includes 4,242 youth in private facilities for whom state of offense was not reported and 1 youth who committed an offense in a U.S. territory.

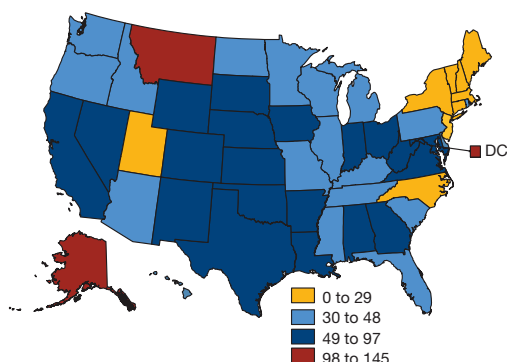
**Data source:** Authors' analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

# In 2017, the national commitment rate was 1.7 times the detention rate, but rates varied by state

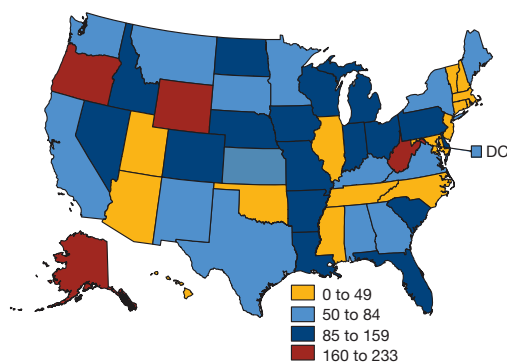
In 18 states, the commitment rate was more than double the detention rate

State of offense	Placement rate per 100,000, 2017		State of offense	Placement rate per 100,000, 2017	
	Detained	Committed		Detained	Committed
U.S. total	49	85	Missouri	32	109
Alabama	62	77	Montana	91	79
Alaska	95	164	Nebraska	71†	154†
Arizona	39	28	Nevada	79	110
Arkansas	65	116†	New Hampshire	10	43
California	65	67	New Jersey	26†	38
Colorado	62	110†	New Mexico	63	78
Connecticut	13	14	New York	13	50
Delaware	48	90	North Carolina	16	30
District of Columbia	145	69	North Dakota	33†	112
Florida	48	92	Ohio	74	99
Georgia	54	51	Oklahoma	54	44
Hawaii	28	19	Oregon	40	185
Idaho	43	157	Pennsylvania	40	104
Illinois	41	38	Rhode Island	34	87
Indiana	74†	102	South Carolina	29†	94†
Iowa	59	115	South Dakota	84	78
Kansas	66	65	Tennessee	44	33†
Kentucky	35	76	Texas	54	79
Louisiana	62†	114	Utah	15	39
Maine	25	53	Vermont	11*	22
Maryland	56	35	Virginia	66	57
Massachusetts	21	26	Washington	31	80
Michigan	35	107	West Virginia	71	207
Minnesota	38†	68	Wisconsin	31	90
Mississippi	48†	34†	Wyoming	69	233

Detention rate



Commitment rate



\*Rate is based on fewer than 10 offenders.

†Interpret data with caution. In these states, 30% or more of the offender information for placement status (i.e., detained or committed) was imputed.

**Notes:** Placement rate is the count of juvenile offenders in placement on the census date per 100,000 youth age 10 through the upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction in each state. U.S. total includes 4,242 youth in private facilities for whom state of offense was not reported and 1 youth who committed an offense in a U.S. territory.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

# Between 1997 and 2017, the number of offenders in placement declined for all demographic groups

## Youth ages 16 and 17 accounted for more than half of offenders in placement in 2017

With the exception of 1999, the proportion of offenders ages 16 and 17 ranged from 50% to 56% between 1997 and 2017. During that period, the number of offenders in placement declined 68% for youth younger than age 15, 65% for youth age 15, 59% for youth age 16, and 50% each for youth ages 17 and 18–20.

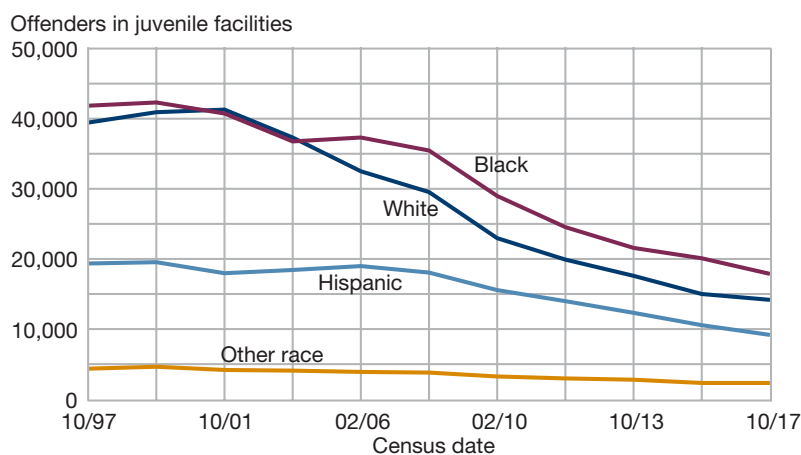
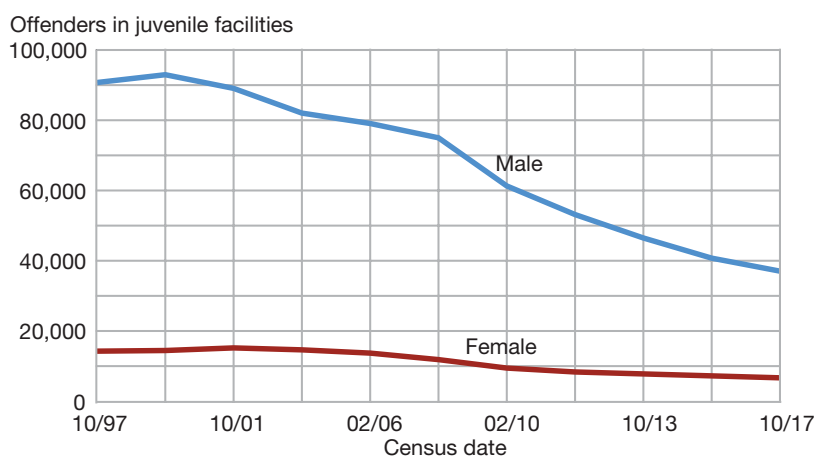
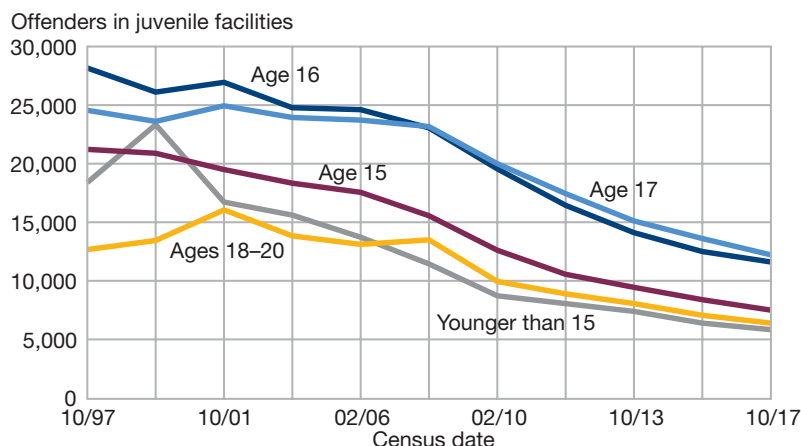
## The number of male and female offenders in placement decreased between 1997 and 2017

Male offenders in placement outnumbered female offenders for all years between 1997 and 2017. During that time, the decrease in the number of male offenders outpaced the decline in female offenders (down 59% and 54%, respectively). Despite the larger decrease for males, the proportion of males in placement remained level for all years, ranging between 85% and 87%.

## Black youth accounted for at least 38% of offenders in placement between 1997 and 2017

Minority youth in general accounted for the largest proportion of youth in placement between 1997 and 2017, ranging between 60% and 69%, with black youth accounting for 38% to 42% of the placement population. Across the data collection period, white youth accounted for approximately one-third of youth in placement. Since 1997, the number of white youth decreased 64%, followed by black youth (57%), Hispanic youth (53%), and youth of other races (46%).

## Between 1997 and 2017, the number of offenders in placement declined most for youth younger than age 15, males, and white youth



■ The number of offenders in placement in 2017 was at the lowest level since at least 1997 for all age, gender, and race groups.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

# Females accounted for a relatively small proportion of the residential placement population

## Females accounted for 15% of offenders in residential placement

Male offenders dominate the juvenile justice system. This is especially true of the residential placement population. Males represent half of the juvenile population and are involved in approximately 70% of juvenile arrests and delinquency cases that juvenile courts handle each year, but they represented 85% of juvenile offenders in residential placement in 2017. The proportion of female juveniles in residential placement was slightly greater for private facilities (16%) than for public facilities (15%) and greater for detained juveniles (18%) than committed juveniles (13%). Females represented 20% of all juveniles admitted to placement under a diversion agreement. Although the number of females in residential placement has declined since 1997, their proportion of the placement population has remained stable.

## One-third of females in residential placement were held in private facilities

In 2017, private facilities held 31% of females and 29% of males in juvenile residential placement. The proportion of females placed in private facilities varied substantially by offense category: 72% of all females held for a status offense were in private facilities, as were 41% of those held for drug offenses aside from trafficking, 35% of those held for simple assault, and 24% of those held for burglary or theft. In general for both males and females, the less serious the offense category, the greater the likelihood the youth was in a private facility.

## Females in residential placement tended to be younger than their male counterparts

In 2017, 37% of females in residential placement were younger than age 16, compared with 33% of males. For females in placement, the peak age was 16, accounting for 27% of all females in placement facilities. For males, the peak ages were 16 and 17 (26% each). There was a greater proportion of offenders age 18 and older among males (16%) than among females (10%).

## Age profile of offenders, 2017:

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%
12 and younger	2	2	2
13	4	4	4
14	10	10	11
15	18	17	20
16	26	26	27
17	26	26	26
18–20	15	16	10

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

## A greater proportion of females than males were held for technical violations or status offenses

Most serious offense	Offense profile for juvenile offenders in residential placement, 2017					
	Total		Public facilities		Private facilities	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Delinquency</b>	97	91	99	96	93	79
Person	42	35	45	37	37	30
Violent Crime Index*	30	15	33	17	23	9
Other person	12	20	11	19	14	21
Property	23	17	22	19	24	14
Property Crime Index†	19	13	19	14	20	10
Other property	4	4	4	4	4	4
Drug	5	6	4	6	6	8
Drug trafficking	1	0	1	1	1	0
Other drug	4	6	3	5	5	8
Public order	13	9	13	9	16	8
Technical violation	14	24	15	26	10	19
<b>Status offense</b>	3	9	1	4	7	21

■ Status offenders were 9% of females in residential placement in 2017—down from 21% in 1997.

■ Person offenders were 35% of females in residential placement in 2017—up from 25% in 1997.

■ Technical violations and status offenses were more common among females in placement than among males. Person, property, and public order offenses were more common among males in placement than among females.

\*Violent Crime Index = criminal homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

†Property Crime Index = burglary, theft, auto theft, and arson.

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Data source: Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

# Minority youth accounted for 67% of offenders in residential placement in 2017

## Blacks made up the largest share of youth offenders in placement

In 2017, the population of youth held in residential placement for delinquency or status offenses was 41% black, 33% white, and 21% Hispanic. Youth of other races, including those of two or more races, accounted for 5% of youth in residential placement.

Between 2007 and 2017, the population of offenders dropped 50%. The declines, however, did not affect all race/ethnicity groups equally. Since 2007, the number of white youth in residential placement for an offense dropped 52%, compared with 49% for minority youth.

### Juvenile offenders in placement, 2017:

Race/ethnicity	Number	Percent change	
		2007–2017	1997–2017
Total	43,580	-50%	-59%
White	14,215	-52	-64
Minority	29,365	-49	-55
Black	17,841	-50	-57
Hispanic	9,161	-49	-53
American Indian	752	-49	-53
Asian	361	-65	-84
Two or more	1,250	-2	122

In 2017, minority youth made up the majority of both males and females in residential placement (68% and 62%, respectively). Blacks represented the largest racial proportion among males (42%), and whites were the largest proportion among females (38%).

## Black youth accounted for 63% of juveniles held for robbery and 52% of those held for weapons offenses

Most serious offense	Racial/ethnic profile of juvenile offenders in placement, 2017					
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
<b>Total</b>	100%	33%	41%	21%	2%	1%
<b>Delinquency</b>	100	32	42	21	2	1
Criminal homicide	100	21	47	28	1	1
Sexual assault	100	54	26	16	1	1
Robbery	100	11	63	21	1	1
Aggravated assault	100	23	47	25	2	1
Simple assault	100	37	38	19	2	0
Burglary	100	30	46	18	2	1
Theft	100	36	43	16	1	1
Auto theft	100	28	44	24	2	1
Drug trafficking	100	29	38	32	0	0
Other drug	100	46	27	21	3	0
Weapons	100	17	52	26	1	1
Technical violation	100	33	35	26	2	1
<b>Status offense</b>	100	54	27	12	2	1

## In 2017, 10% of white youth in residential placement were held for sexual assault, compared with 6% of Asian youth, 5% each of American Indian youth and Hispanic youth, and 4% of black youth

Most serious offense	Offense profile of juvenile offenders in placement, 2017					
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Delinquency</b>	96	94	97	98	96	97
Criminal homicide	2	1	2	3	1	3
Sexual assault	6	10	4	5	5	6
Robbery	11	4	17	11	5	13
Aggravated assault	9	6	10	11	9	10
Simple assault	8	9	8	8	10	4
Burglary	8	7	9	7	11	11
Theft	5	5	5	4	3	5
Auto theft	5	4	5	5	5	7
Drug trafficking	1	1	1	1	0	0
Other drug	4	6	3	4	6	2
Weapons	5	3	7	6	3	4
Technical violation	15	15	13	19	21	11
<b>Status offense</b>	4	6	3	2	4	3

**Notes:** Racial categories (i.e., white, black, American Indian, and Asian) do not include youth of Hispanic ethnicity. The American Indian racial category includes Alaska Natives; the Asian racial category includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders. Totals include persons of unspecified race. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

# On the 2017 census date, person offenders had been committed or detained longer than other offenders

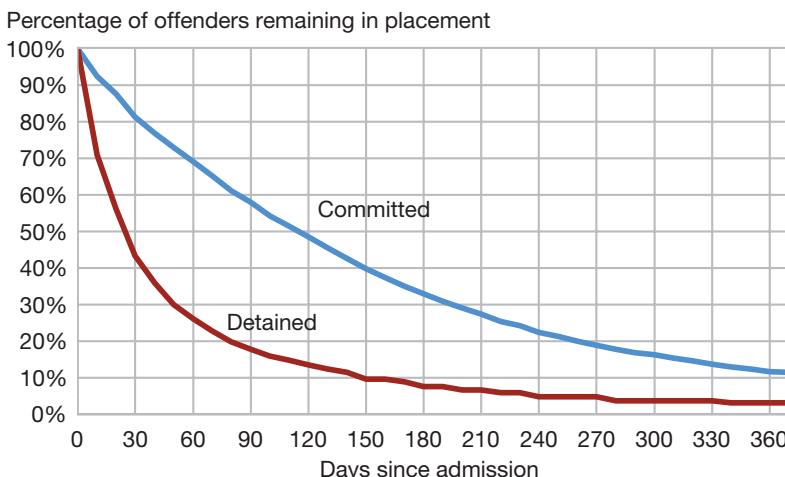
## CJRP provides individual-level data on time spent in placement

Information on length of stay is key to understanding the justice system’s handling of juveniles in residential placement. Ideally, length of stay would be calculated for individual juveniles by totaling the days of their stay in placement, from their initial admission to their final release relating to a particular case. These individual lengths of placement would then be averaged for different release cohorts of juveniles (cohorts would be identified by year of release, offense, adjudication status, or demographic characteristics).

CJRP captures information on the number of days since admission for each juvenile in residential placement. These data represent the number of days the juvenile had been in the facility up to the census date. Because CJRP data reflect only a juvenile’s placement at one facility, the complete length of stay—from initial admission to the justice system to final release—cannot be determined. Nevertheless, CJRP provides an overall profile of the time juveniles had been in the facility at the time of the census—a 1-day snapshot of time in the facility.

Because CJRP data are reported for individuals, averages can be calculated for different subgroups of the population. In addition, analysts can use the data to get a picture of the proportion of residents remaining after a certain number of days (e.g., what percentage of youth have been held longer than a year). This sort of analysis provides juvenile justice policymakers with a useful means of comparing the time spent in placement for different categories of youth.

## In 2017, 33% of committed offenders, but just 8% of detained offenders, remained in placement 6 months after admission



- Among detained offenders (those awaiting adjudication, disposition, or placement elsewhere), 79% had been in the facility for at least a week, 62% for at least 15 days, and 43% for at least 30 days.
- Among committed juveniles (those held as part of a court-ordered disposition), 81% had been in the facility for at least 30 days, 69% for at least 60 days, and 58% for at least 90 days. After a full year, 11% of committed offenders remained in placement.

**Data source:** Author’s analysis of OJJDP’s *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

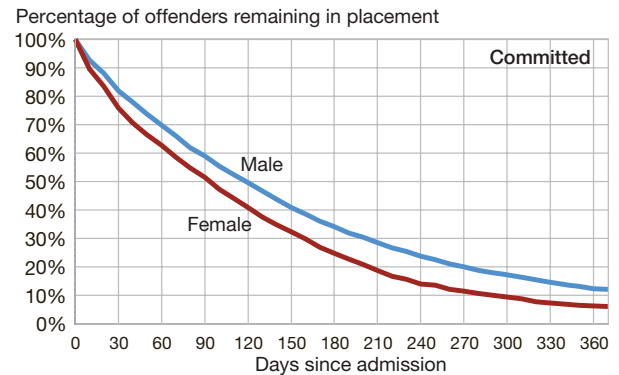
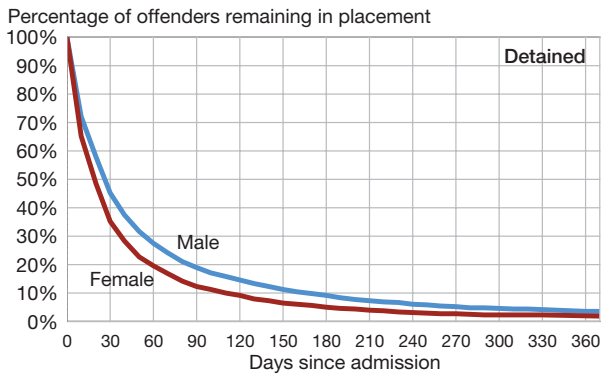
## Youth’s average time in the facility varied by adjudication status, offense, and facility type

Most serious offense	Median days in placement		
	Detained (all facilities)	Committed Public	Committed Private
All offenses	23	104	128
Delinquency	23	104	128
Person	36	139	138
Property	18	90	125
Drugs	16	71	104
Public order	22	95	150
Technical violation	16	58	104
Status offense	23	63	129

- Half of all youth committed to public facilities for an offense remained in placement after 104 days (128 for private facilities). In contrast, half of those detained for an offense remained in placement after 23 days.
- With the exception of those adjudicated for person offenses, youth committed to private facilities had been in the facilities longer than those committed to public facilities.

**Data source:** Author’s analysis of OJJDP’s *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

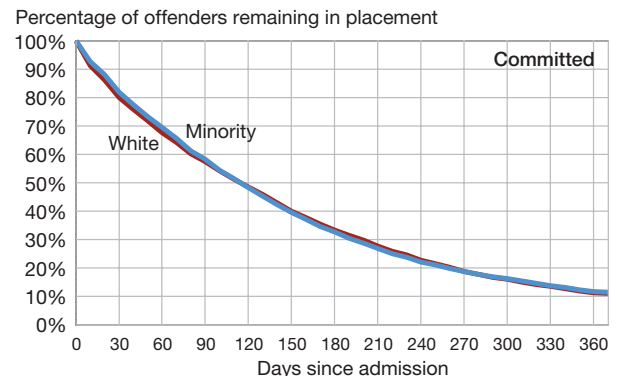
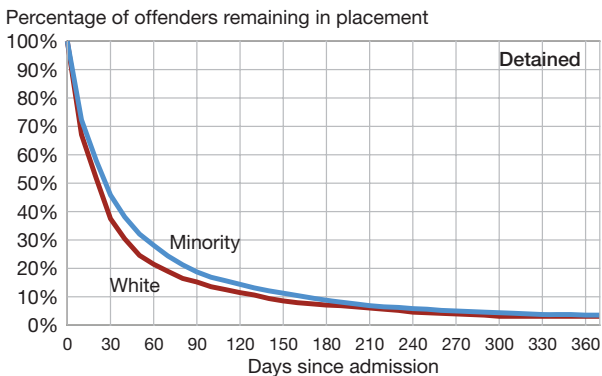
## In 2017, males tended to stay in facilities longer than females



- After 30 days, 45% of detained males and 35% of detained females remained in residential placement.
- After 60 days, 28% of detained males and 20% of detained females remained in residential placement.
- After 180 days (approximately half a year), 34% of committed males and 25% of committed females remained in residential placement.
- After a full year (365 days), 12% of committed males and 6% of committed females remained in residential placement.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

## Minority youth were detained longer than white youth, but there was virtually no difference in the time in residential placement between minority and white committed youth



- Among youth detained for an offense, 38% of white youth had been in the facility at least 30 days, compared with 46% of minority youth.
- Among youth committed for an offense, time in residential placement was virtually the same for white youth and minority youth.
- After 180 days, approximately one-third of both white and minority youth committed for an offense remained in residential placement.

**Data source:** Author's analysis of OJJDP's *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 2017 [machine-readable data files].

## CJRP Data Include the Number of Deaths in Custody

The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) asked facilities if any offenders died while in the facility's legal custody between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. In 2017, facilities reported that 10 youth died while in their

care. While CJRP only collects the number of youth who died while in residential placement, the Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC, the companion data collection to CJRP) collects information about the demographics of youth who died

as well as the cause of death. The most recent JRFC publication is available at <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/library/publications/juvenile-residential-facility-census-2016-selected-findings>.

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### Data sources

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018. *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement* for 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 [machine-readable data files]. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau (producer).

National Center for Health Statistics (prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau), *Vintage 2017 Postcensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States (April 1, 2010, July 1, 2010–July 1, 2017), by Year, County, Single-Year of Age (0, 1, 2, . . . , 85 Years and Over), Bridged Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex* [machine-readable data files available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm), released 6/27/18].

### Visit OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book for More Juvenile Placement Information

OJJDP's online Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) offers access to a wealth of information about juvenile crime and victimization and about youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Visit the "Juveniles in Corrections" section of the SBB at [ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/corrections/faqs.asp](http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/corrections/faqs.asp) for the latest information about juveniles in corrections. **Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement** is a data analysis tool that gives users quick access to national data on the characteristics of youth held in residential placement facilities. Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) questionnaires are available online by clicking SBB's National Data Sets tab and choosing CJRP in the dropdown menu.

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