

WCCF Quarterly Detention Report Methodology and Descriptions

Statewide Data (front page):

Breakdown by Offense:

The underlying offense that the juvenile commits to come to detention is recorded by the facility at admission and coded by the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) to fall into one of the following categories: person, property, drug, status, public order or other offense. OJA provided the counts for each category for the specified time frame.

The primary purposes of detention are to protect the community from dangerous kids and to ensure their appearance in court. Crimes against persons are usually considered more dangerous than other types of crime. WCCF calculated the percentages of all crimes statewide to portray how detention is being used in comparison to the level of dangerousness of underlying offenses.

Breakdown by Race:

The race of the juvenile is also reported upon admission. The classifications are White, Black, Asian, Hispanic, Native American or Unknown. The Unknown category contained too low of a number to be included in the graph. OJA provided the total number of each race that entered detention for this time period.

Racial disparity in the juvenile justice system has received increased attention recently. WCCF calculated the percentages of each race represented in detention statewide and presented information about the percentage of Whites and Black ages 10-16 in the general population. If there was no disparity in representation, the percentages for each group would be similar. Population estimates were obtained using the "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2007" which can be accessed online at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/ezapop>.

Average Daily Population:

The number of juveniles in any given facility varies greatly from day to day. Additionally, the number of beds available in each facility is also very different around the state. OJA, with assistance from the Department of Corrections, provided the average daily population for this time period and the capacity for each facility. WCCF reported the estimated total daily population for the state on an average day, by totaling the average daily populations of facilities.

Information is also presented on operating capacity. Caution should be taken when using the average daily population numbers to make decisions, because some days the number will be much higher as well as much lower. Each facility needs to be able to house the

number of juveniles on their highest capacity day. It is not ideal to be operating with over 80% of beds filled for the majority of the time.

Average Length of Stay:

The number of days a juvenile is detained is recorded when they are released. OJA provided the average length of stay for each facility for this time period. To accurately calculate the statewide average, WCCF calculated the number of days juveniles were in care for each facility. This was determined by multiplying the total number of admissions by the average length of stay for each facility. The total number of days in care for all facilities was then divided by the total number of admissions statewide to determine the average daily population.

Average Age at Admission:

Average age of juveniles by facilities was provided by OJA. The average age for all facilities is very similar to the average age for the state. WCCF calculated average age by multiplying the average age by facility by the number of kids admitted. The total for all facilities was then divided by the total number of kids admitted to get the statewide average age for this period.

The end of year reports break out the ages of all kids in detention for the year. Data about numbers in each age were provided by OJA. The age range typically stated for delinquency is 10 to 16 years of age. Detention facilities housed youth ages 9 through 18. The percentages for ages other than 12 to 17 were too small to be significantly included in the graph.

Percentage of Girls Admitted:

Detention data also included information on gender. OJA provided data on the numbers of males and females admitted to each facility in the specific time span. Lincoln Hills and Oconto County facilities do not accept girls, therefore girls in those areas will be sent to other facilities. Percentages were calculated using total girls admitted divided by total admissions. The range of girls admitted in specific facilities is reported on the back page of the report.

Facility Specific Data (back page):

Percentages of Status Offenses:

State and Federal laws discourage the holding of status offenders in secure detention facilities. Status offenders are usually truants or runaways, neither of which poses a significant risk to the community. However, by statute, detention may be used if the juvenile is a flight risk or has violated a court order in certain ways.

With the data of underlying offense type provided by OJA, WCCF calculated percentages of offense types for each facility. Those facilities with the highest overall percentages for status offenses are reported for the time period.

Percentages of Person Offenses:

In comparison to status offenses, offenses against persons pose more of a risk to the community. Protecting the community is the primary purpose for secure detention. With the data of underlying offense type provided by OJA, WCCF calculated percentages of offense types for each facility. Those facilities with the highest overall percentages for person offenses are reported for the time period.

Percentages of Minority Population:

Due to the high racial disparity in the juvenile justice system, WCCF examined each facility in terms of racial representation. The percentages presented in the graph are the facilities with the highest percentage of minorities in comparison to other facilities. This includes juveniles who identify as Black, Asian, Hispanic or Native American.

To obtain a general sense of the comparison to the general population, WCCF obtained population estimates for the corresponding counties using the “Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2007” which can be accessed online at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/ezapop>. Lincoln Hills and the Northwest Regional facilities were excluded from this examination. All facilities had higher minority representation in detention than in the general population.

The Relative Rate Index (RRI) is a different calculation that can demonstrate the likelihood for a juvenile of a particular race to be detained in comparison to a white juvenile in a particular county. WCCF is not utilizing RRI for this report. For more information on RRI please visit <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/dmcdm/asp/whatis.asp> or contact WCCF about your particular county.

Percentages of Property Offenses:

Property crime represents the largest proportion of underlying offenses for juvenile in detention. Using OJA’s data, WCCF calculated the percentage for each facility and presented the range in this time period’s report.

Additional Information about the Data:

- The majority of data reported by OJA and included in this report is information reported by facilities through the statewide Juvenile Secure Detention Registry. This data is utilized by OJA to help monitor compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act).
- Of facilities specifically noted in this report, it should be noted that several facilities serve a regional function in that they detain juveniles from other nearby counties.