



Juvenile Offenders and Victims



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This Bulletin is part of the Juvenile Offenders and Victims National Report Series. The National Report offers a comprehensive statistical overview of the problems of juvenile crime, violence, and victimization and the response of the juvenile justice system. During each interim year, the Bulletins in the National Report Series provide access to the latest information on juvenile arrests, court cases, juveniles in custody, and other topics of interest. Each Bulletin in the series highlights selected topics at the forefront of juvenile justice policymaking, giving readers focused access to statistics on some of the most critical issues. Together, the National Report and this series provide a baseline of facts for juvenile justice professionals, policymakers, the media, and concerned citizens.



Juvenile Residential Facility Census, 2002: Selected Findings

Melissa Sickmund

A Message From OJJDP

OJJDP developed the Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC) to collect information about the facilities in which juvenile offenders are held. The census is designed to collect information on such characteristics as type, size, structure, security arrangements, and ownership. The biannual survey also examines a range of services provided to youth in residential facilities. In keeping with OJJDP's congressional mandate, JRFC also reports on the number of deaths of juveniles in custody. This Bulletin presents findings from the 2002 JRFC—findings that are generally positive.

JRFC data indicate that the number of juvenile offenders in custody nationwide decreased 7% between 2000 and 2002; decreases averaging 13% were seen in 36 states, while 12 states had increases averaging 11%. The number of youth who died in custody also declined between 2000 and 2002, from 30 to 26; deaths of youth in custody were substantially fewer than would be expected if the death rate for these youth were the same as that for youth in the general U.S. population.

JRFC data suggest that crowding is a problem in a significant number of residential facilities, but there are signs of improvement. In 2002, 30% of the facilities reported residential populations at the limit of available standard beds, and 6% had more residents than standard beds. Facilities that were at or over capacity held 34% of residents in 2002, down from 40% in 2000.

JRFC alternates with the biannual Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, which gathers information on youth in custody. In developing its data collection efforts in this area, OJJDP seeks to support the vital role of corrections in maintaining the safety of the community and providing essential services to confined youth.

J. Robert Flores
OJJDP Administrator

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The Juvenile Residential Facility Census provides data on facility operations

Facility census describes 3,534 juvenile facilities

In October 2002, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administered the second Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC). OJJDP administers JRFC every other year. The 2002 JRFC collected data from 3,534 juvenile facilities, 2,964 of which held a total of 102,388 offenders younger than 21 on the census date (570 facilities reported no juvenile offenders). JRFC does not capture data on adult prisons or jails, nor does it include facilities that are used exclusively for mental health or substance abuse treatment or for dependent children. Thus, JRFC

includes most, but not all, facilities that hold juvenile offenders.

JRFC is one component in a multitiered effort to describe the youth placed in residential facilities and the facilities themselves. Other components include the following:

- **The National Juvenile Court Data Archive**, which collects information on the processing of juvenile court cases and the sanctions imposed by juvenile courts.
- **The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement**, which collects information on each youth held in residential placement as a result of contact with the juvenile justice system.

- **The Survey of Youth in Residential Placement**, which collects a broad range of self-report information (on youth's custody experience, past offense histories, education, and other important life events) from interviews with individual youth in residential placement.

JRFC is designed to routinely collect information on how facilities operate and the services they provide. It includes detailed questions on facility security, crowding, injuries and deaths in custody, and facility ownership and operation. It also asks about specific services (e.g., mental health and substance abuse services).

On October 23, 2002, 40% of juvenile facilities were publicly operated; they held 69% of juvenile offenders

State	Juvenile facilities			Juvenile offenders			State	Juvenile facilities			Juvenile offenders		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private		Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
U.S. total*	2,964	1,182	1,773	102,388	70,243	31,992	Missouri	72	60	12	1,559	1,332	227
Alabama	48	12	36	1,539	827	712	Montana	24	7	15	308	177	99
Alaska	23	7	16	402	303	99	Nebraska	19	5	14	732	513	219
Arizona	51	16	32	1,892	1,488	320	Nevada	18	10	8	1,169	861	308
Arkansas	35	9	26	733	211	522	New Hampshire	8	2	6	234	137	97
California	286	122	164	17,294	15,561	1,733	New Jersey	49	42	7	2,043	1,972	71
Colorado	65	12	52	2,063	928	1,131	New Mexico	27	18	9	803	698	105
Connecticut	26	4	22	665	244	421	New York	221	51	170	4,455	2,328	2,127
Delaware	6	4	2	271	243	28	North Carolina	66	27	39	1,286	870	416
Dist. of Columbia	13	2	11	280	183	97	North Dakota	11	4	7	246	131	115
Florida	181	53	128	8,508	3,043	5,465	Ohio	97	66	31	4,480	4,023	457
Georgia	53	30	23	2,681	2,224	457	Oklahoma	56	14	41	1,010	634	351
Hawaii	5	2	3	112	99	13	Oregon	45	26	19	1,473	1,262	211
Idaho	22	14	8	466	402	64	Pennsylvania	179	33	146	5,080	1,262	3,818
Illinois	45	25	20	2,921	2,539	382	Rhode Island	14	1	13	346	233	123
Indiana	95	42	53	3,433	2,386	1,047	South Carolina	38	14	24	1,461	966	495
Iowa	65	16	49	941	376	565	South Dakota	22	8	12	598	334	256
Kansas	56	17	39	1,114	809	305	Tennessee	58	26	32	1,659	830	829
Kentucky	50	32	18	985	814	171	Texas	129	78	51	8,371	6,726	1,645
Louisiana	62	21	41	2,363	1,830	533	Utah	47	17	30	1,073	472	601
Maine	14	2	12	278	242	36	Vermont	5	1	4	61	27	34
Maryland	43	10	33	1,216	611	605	Virginia	71	63	8	2,635	2,448	187
Massachusetts	68	18	50	1,400	452	948	Washington	40	30	10	1,931	1,759	172
Michigan	94	37	57	2,856	1,353	1,503	West Virginia	23	6	17	394	281	113
Minnesota	100	24	76	1,699	886	813	Wisconsin	81	25	56	1,784	1,182	602
Mississippi	17	15	2	688	600	68	Wyoming	21	2	19	417	141	276

Note: State is the state where the facility is located. Offenders sent to out-of-state facilities are counted in the state where the facility is located, not the state where their offense occurred.

*U.S. total includes 153 offenders in 9 tribal facilities. These tribal facilities were located in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

Source: Author's analysis of Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002 [machine-readable data file].

Most states had fewer juvenile offenders held in residential placement facilities in 2002 than in 2000

The number of juvenile offenders in placement in juvenile facilities nationwide decreased 7% between 2000 and 2002

State	Percent change in juvenile offenders in custody			State	Percent change in juvenile offenders in custody		
	Total	Public	Private		Total	Public	Private
U.S. Total*	-7%	-10%	-1%	Missouri	1%	3%	-9%
Alabama	-3	-11	8	Montana	18	2	52
Alaska	19	16	27	Nebraska	-7	-11	3
Arizona	-16	-15	-20	Nevada	-1	15	-28
Arkansas	15	-28	52	New Hampshire	21	11	39
California	-10	-11	0	New Jersey	-10	-9	-31
Colorado	0	-17	20	New Mexico	-9	-17	123
Connecticut	-51	-73	-8	New York	-12	-19	-3
Delaware	-8	-1	-43	North Carolina	-17	-30	31
Dist. of Columbia	3	15	-14	North Dakota	21	25	17
Florida	17	-7	36	Ohio	-8	-7	-17
Georgia	-18	-14	-32	Oklahoma	-2	19	-27
Hawaii	-8	-7	-13	Oregon	-10	-11	-5
Idaho	-20	-14	-42	Pennsylvania	0	2	-1
Illinois	-14	-17	16	Rhode Island	-4	6	-17
Indiana	3	7	-4	South Carolina	-8	-10	-5
Iowa	-19	-5	-27	South Dakota	-7	-8	-3
Kansas	-6	-3	-14	Tennessee	-9	-20	6
Kentucky	4	8	-11	Texas	0	4	-12
Louisiana	-11	-13	-4	Utah	-5	4	-12
Maine	-7	-2	-31	Vermont	-61	4	-74
Maryland	-18	-11	-25	Virginia	-8	-6	-26
Massachusetts	-5	-20	4	Washington	-6	-9	37
Michigan	-27	-24	-29	West Virginia	3	17	-19
Minnesota	-12	-10	-13	Wisconsin	-12	-7	-19
Mississippi	-15	-24	-	Wyoming	10	-18	34

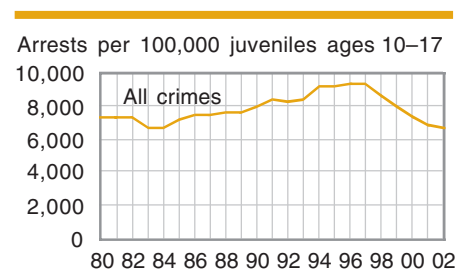
From 2000 to 2002, the number of juvenile offenders in custody decreased in 36 states

On average, these states held 13% fewer juvenile offenders on the 2002 census date than on the 2000 census date. The decline ranged from more than 50% in some states (Connecticut and Vermont) to less than 5% in others (Alabama, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island).

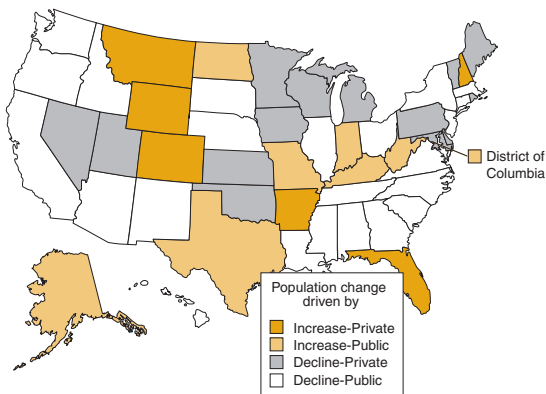
Among the 12 states that had more juveniles in residential placement in 2002 than in 2000, the average growth was 11%. Half of these states had increases of 15% or more (Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Montana, New Hampshire, and North Dakota). With the exception of Florida, the absolute increases in these states were small. Florida's juvenile offender population increased more than 4 times the other five states combined.

The decline in juvenile arrests may explain the decline in youth in custody

Juvenile arrest statistics are a measure of the flow of youth into the justice system. Nationwide, the juvenile arrest rate peaked in 1996 and has declined substantially since then (29%). The juvenile arrest rate dropped 7% between 2000 and 2002.



In 23 states, reductions in public facility populations drove declines in the number of juvenile offenders in custody



- In nine of these states, this drop occurred despite an increase in the number of juveniles held in private facilities.
- Six states experienced growth in their juvenile offender population between 2000 and 2002 driven by growth in their private facility population. In four of these states, this growth occurred despite reductions in the number of juveniles held in public facilities.

Note: State is the state where the facility is located. Offenders sent to out-of-state facilities are counted in the state where the facility is located, not the state where their offense occurred.

*U.S. total includes nine tribal facilities. These tribal facilities were located in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

In 20 states, the custody rate in 2002 was higher than the national custody rate

In 2002, 326 juvenile offenders were in custody per 100,000 youth ages 10 through the upper age of juvenile jurisdiction in each state

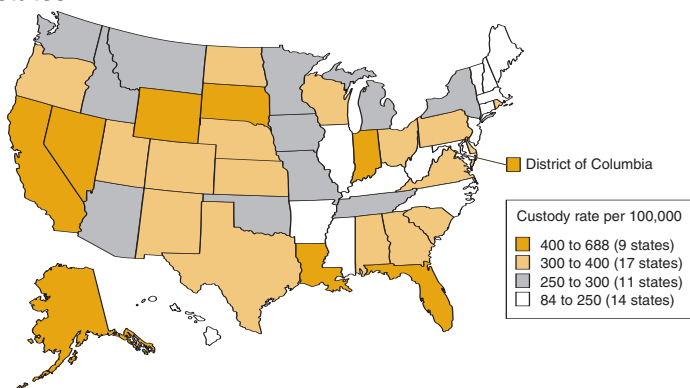
State	Custody rate per 100,000 juveniles, 10/23/2002			State	Custody rate per 100,000 juveniles, 10/23/2002		
	Total	Public	Private		Total	Public	Private
U.S. Total*	326	224	102	Missouri	273	233	40
Alabama	302	162	140	Montana	286	164	92
Alaska	435	328	107	Nebraska	358	251	107
Arizona	291	229	49	Nevada	469	345	124
Arkansas	236	68	168	New Hampshire	176	103	73
California	407	366	41	New Jersey	211	204	7
Colorado	397	179	218	New Mexico	342	297	45
Connecticut	215	79	136	New York	277	145	132
Delaware	311	279	32	North Carolina	182	123	59
Dist. of Columbia	599	392	208	North Dakota	343	183	160
Florida	473	169	304	Ohio	336	302	34
Georgia	303	251	52	Oklahoma	251	158	87
Hawaii	85	75	10	Oregon	371	318	53
Idaho	273	235	37	Pennsylvania	369	92	277
Illinois	227	198	30	Rhode Island	306	197	109
Indiana	472	328	144	South Carolina	369	244	125
Iowa	285	114	171	South Dakota	640	357	274
Kansas	346	251	95	Tennessee	259	130	130
Kentucky	231	191	40	Texas	352	283	69
Louisiana	496	384	112	Utah	354	156	198
Maine	197	171	25	Vermont	86	38	48
Maryland	190	96	95	Virginia	325	301	23
Massachusetts	236	76	160	Washington	273	249	24
Michigan	270	128	142	West Virginia	211	151	61
Minnesota	285	149	136	Wisconsin	319	211	108
Mississippi	192	173	20	Wyoming	688	233	456

The extent to which states depend on private facilities varies substantially

In most states, public facilities had more offenders younger than 21 in residential placement than private facilities; thus, public facility custody rates were higher than private facility rates. Some states rely heavily on public facilities. In seven states (California, Delaware, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia, and Washington), the public facility custody rate was more than 8 times the private facility rate.

In 11 states (Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming), the custody rate for private facilities was greater than the rate for public facilities. Some states rely heavily on private facilities. In Wyoming, the state with the highest overall custody rate, the private facility rate was nearly double the public facility rate. In Pennsylvania, the state with the largest proportion of juvenile offenders in private facilities (75%), the private facility custody rate was more than 3 times the public facility custody rate. Private facilities in some states, like Pennsylvania, also house significant numbers of youth from other states.

States with the highest custody rates included both densely and sparsely populated states



Note: State is the state where the facility is located. Offenders sent to out-of-state facilities are counted in the state where the facility is located, not the state where their offense occurred.

*U.S. total includes nine tribal facilities. These tribal facilities were located in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

Facility type is related to the kind of agency that operates/staffs the facility

Local public facilities are more numerous, but state facilities hold more youth

Local facilities (those staffed by county, city, or municipal employees) made up more than half of all public facilities but held fewer than half the juvenile offenders who were in custody in public facilities on the census date in 2002.

	Facilities		Juvenile offenders	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	2,964	100%	102,388	100%
Public	1,182	40	70,243	69
State	513	17	41,138	40
Local	669	23	29,105	28
Private	1,773	60	31,992	31

Note: Total includes 9 tribal facilities holding 153 juvenile offenders.

During the course of a year, more juveniles pass through local facilities than state facilities. This is because the majority of local facilities are detention centers, where youth stay for relatively short periods of time. In state facilities, such as training schools, stays are generally longer.

Group homes outnumber all other types of facilities

JRFC asks respondents to identify the type of facility (e.g., detention center, shelter, reception/diagnostic center, group home/halfway house, boot camp, ranch/forestry/wilderness camp/marine program, or training school/long-term secure facility). Respondents were allowed to select more than one facility type category, although the vast majority (88%) selected only one.

Detention centers tend to be local facilities, training schools tend to be state facilities, and group homes tend to be private facilities

Facility operation	Facility type							
	Total	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Boot camp	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school
Number of facilities	2,964	769	289	104	1,136	56	157	389
Total facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Public	40	80	28	52	18	68	39	67
State	17	18	5	42	10	25	16	56
Local	23	62	22	10	7	43	23	12
Private	60	19	72	48	82	32	61	33
Total facilities	100%	26%	10%	4%	38%	2%	5%	13%
Public	100	52	7	5	17	3	5	22
State	100	27	3	9	23	3	5	42
Local	100	71	10	1	12	4	5	7
Private	100	8	12	3	53	1	5	7

- Reception/diagnostic centers are nearly as likely to be private facilities as they are to be public facilities. Boot camps are more likely to be public facilities than private facilities; however, a substantial proportion of boot camps are private.
- Most shelters are private facilities, as are most ranch/wilderness camps.
- Detention centers make up 71% of all local facilities and 52% of all public facilities.
- Training schools constitute 42% of all state facilities.
- Group homes account for 53% of all private facilities.

Note: Counts (and row percents) may sum to more than the total number of facilities because facilities could select more than one facility type category.

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

More than 1,100 facilities identified themselves as group homes/halfway houses and were holding juvenile offenders on the census date in 2002. Group homes made up 38% of all facilities and held 12% of juvenile offenders. Facilities identifying

themselves as detention centers (26%) were the second most common type of facility. Detention centers held 40% of juvenile offenders in residential facilities on the census date.

Security features and size vary across types of facilities

Facilities vary in their degree of security

Overall, 32% of facilities that reported security information said that at least some of the time they lock youth in their sleeping rooms. Few private facilities locked youth in sleeping rooms (7%). Among public facilities, 73% of local facilities and 58% of state facilities reported locking youth in sleeping rooms.

Percent of facilities locking youth in sleeping rooms

Total	32%
Public	66
State	58
Local	73
Private	7

Note: Percentages are based on facilities that reported security information (127 of 2,964 facilities [4%] did not report—114 of nonreporting facilities were private facilities).

Among facilities that said they locked youth in sleeping rooms, three-quarters said they did this when the youth were out of control. One-quarter did so when youth were suicidal. Locking youth in their rooms during shift changes was fairly common (43%). More than half (54%) said they locked youth in their rooms whenever they were in their sleeping rooms. Locking youth in their sleeping rooms at night was even more common (87%). Just over one-quarter said youth were locked in their sleeping rooms part of each day. A handful of facilities said they locked youth in their rooms most of each day (1%) or all of each day (1%). Six percent said they rarely locked youth in sleeping rooms (they had no set schedule).

Facilities indicated whether they had various types of locked doors or gates intended to confine youth within the facility (see sidebar). Nearly half of all facilities that reported security information said they had one or more confinement features (other than locked sleeping rooms).

Among public facilities, the proportion was 78%; among private facilities, it was 24%.

Percent of facilities

	No confinement features	One or more confinement features
Total	53%	47%
Public	22	78
State	20	80
Local	23	77
Private	76	24

Note: Percentages are based on facilities that reported security information (127 of 2,964 facilities [4%] did not report—114 of nonreporting facilities were private facilities).

Among detention centers and training schools that reported security information, about 9 in 10 said they had 1 or more confinement features (other than locked sleeping rooms).

Facilities reporting one or more confinement features other than locked sleeping rooms

	Number	Percent
Total facilities	1,320	47%
Detention center	689	91
Shelter	71	25
Reception/diagnostic center	71	70
Group home	171	16
Boot camp	42	75
Ranch/wilderness camp	29	19
Training school	336	87
Other	166	35

Note: Detail sums to more than totals because facilities could select more than one facility type category.

Among group homes and ranch/wilderness camps, fewer than 2 in 10 facilities said they had locked doors or gates to confine youth. A facility's staff, of course, also provides security. In some facilities, remote location is a security feature that also helps to keep youth from leaving.

Overall, 16% of facilities reported external gates in fences or walls with razor wire. This arrangement was most common

among detention centers (39%), training schools (37%), and boot camps (32%).

JRFC asks facilities about their security features

Are any young persons in this facility locked into their sleeping rooms by staff at any time to confine them?

Does this facility have any of the following features intended to confine young persons within specific areas?

- Doors for secure day rooms that are locked by staff to confine young persons within specific areas?
- Wing, floor, corridor, or other internal security doors that are locked by staff to confine young persons within specific areas?
- Outside doors that are locked by staff to confine young persons within specific buildings?
- External gates in fences or walls WITHOUT razor wire that are locked by staff to confine young persons?
- External gates in fences or walls WITH razor wire that are locked by staff to confine young persons?

Are outside doors to any buildings with living/sleeping units in this facility ever locked? If yes, why?

- To keep intruders out?
- To keep young persons inside this facility?

JRFC did not ask about security features such as resident counts (roll calls), cameras, or guard towers.

Security increases as facility size increases

Among the largest facilities (those with more than 200 residents) that reported security information, 86% said they lock youth in their sleeping rooms to confine them at least some of the time. The vast majority of large facilities (90%) said they had one or more features (locked doors or gates) intended to confine youth.

Facility size	Percent of facilities reporting		
	Youth locked in sleep rooms	One or more confinement features	Razor wire
Total facilities	32%	47%	16%
1–10 residents	10	19	3
11–20 residents	24	41	10
21–50 residents	45	64	24
51–100 residents	47	70	29
101–200 residents	69	85	34
201–972 residents	86	90	64

Although the use of razor wire is a far less common security measure, more than 6 in 10 of the large facilities said they had locked gates in fences or walls with razor wire.

Large facilities were most likely to be state operated

Few state-operated facilities held 10 or fewer residents in 2002. In contrast, 46% of private facilities (807 of 1,773) were that

Facility size	Facility operation		
	State	Local	Private
Total facilities	513	669	1,773
1–10 residents	48	144	807
11–20 residents	87	148	410
21–50 residents	173	208	322
51–100 residents	76	96	177
101–200 residents	71	58	42
201–972 residents	58	15	15

Note: Data for the nine tribal facilities are not displayed.

More than half of facilities were small, but nearly half of juvenile offenders were held in large facilities

Facility size	Number of facilities	Percent of facilities	Number of juvenile offenders	Percent of juvenile offenders
Total facilities	2,964	100%	102,388	100%
1–10 residents	1,003	34	4,845	5
11–20 residents	648	22	7,806	8
21–50 residents	704	24	19,819	19
51–100 residents	350	12	20,630	20
101–200 residents	171	6	21,664	21
201–972 residents	88	3	27,624	27

- Although the largest facilities—those holding more than 200 residents—accounted for only 3% of all facilities, they held 27% of all juvenile offenders in custody nationwide.
- Inversely, although the smallest facilities—those holding 10 or fewer residents—accounted for 34% of all facilities, they held only 5% of all juvenile offenders in custody.

Note: Small facilities are those holding 20 or fewer residents, and large facilities are those holding more than 100 residents.

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

Small group homes holding 20 or fewer residents were the most common type of facility—accounting for 1 in 3 facilities overall

Facility size	Facility type						
	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Boot camp	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school
Number of facilities	769	289	104	1,136	56	157	389
Total facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
1–10 residents	18	46	13	59	0	4	2
11–20 residents	20	31	15	26	9	10	10
21–50 residents	34	15	18	10	36	50	29
51–100 residents	15	6	24	4	34	25	21
101–200 residents	9	2	18	0	20	10	23
201–972 residents	5	0	12	0	2	2	16

- 59% of group homes held 10 or fewer residents; for shelters, the proportion was 46%. For other facility types, the proportion was less than 20%.
- 16% of training schools held more than 200 residents; for reception/diagnostic centers, the proportion was 12%. For other facility types, the proportion was 5% or less.

Note: Facility type counts sum to more than 2,964 facilities because facilities could select more than one facility type category.

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

small. In fact, these small facilities made up the largest share of private facilities.

Although state-operated facilities made up just 17% of all facilities, they accounted for

66% of facilities holding more than 200 residents. Although private facilities constituted 60% of all facilities, they accounted for 80% of facilities holding 10 or fewer residents.

Facility crowding affects a substantial proportion of youth in custody

Many juvenile offenders are in facilities with more residents than standard beds

Facilities reported both the number of standard beds and the number of occupied makeshift beds they had on the census date. Occupancy rates provide the broadest assessment of the adequacy of living space. Although occupancy rate standards have not been established, as a facility's occupancy approaches 100%, operational functioning may be impaired.

Crowding occurs when the number of residents occupying all or part of a facility exceeds some predetermined limit based on square footage, utility use, or even fire codes. While an imperfect measure of crowding, comparing the number of residents to the number of standard beds gives a sense of the crowding problem in a facility. Even without relying on makeshift beds, however, a facility may be crowded. For example, using standard beds in an infirmary for youth who are not sick or beds in seclusion for youth who have not committed infractions may indicate crowding problems.

Thirty-six percent of facilities said that the number of residents they held on the 2002 census date put them at or over the capacity of their standard beds or that they relied on some makeshift beds. These facilities held more than 39,300 residents, the vast majority of whom were offenders younger than 21. Thus, 34% of all residents held on the census date and 34% of offenders younger than 21 were held in facilities operating at or above their standard bed capacity. In comparison, in 2000 such facilities held 40% of all residents. In 2002, facilities that reported being over capacity (having fewer standard beds than they had residents or relying on makeshift beds) accounted for 6% of facilities, but they held 14% of juvenile offenders.

Compared with other types of facilities, public detention centers and reception/diagnostic centers were more likely to be at or over standard bed capacity

Facility Type	Percent of facilities at their standard bed capacity			Percent of facilities over their standard bed capacity		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
Total	30%	16%	39%	6%	15%	1%
Detention center	14	10	34	18	21	2
Shelter	17	15	18	2	5	0
Reception/diagnostic center	26	19	34	10	17	2
Group home	43	29	46	1	3	1
Boot camp	16	13	22	5	5	6
Ranch/wilderness camp	25	26	24	2	2	2
Training school	23	19	31	9	13	1

Note: A single bed is counted as one standard bed and a bunk bed is counted as two standard beds. Makeshift beds (e.g., cots, roll-out beds, mattresses, and sofas) are not counted as standard beds. Facilities are counted as over capacity if they reported more residents than standard beds or if they reported any occupied makeshift beds. Facilities could select more than one facility type category. Totals include data from nine tribal facilities.

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

Larger facilities were more likely than smaller facilities to be crowded

Facility size	Number of facilities	Percent of facilities at or over their standard bed capacity			Mean number of makeshift beds
		≥100%	100%	>100%	
Total	2,964	36%	30%	6%	10
1–10 residents	1,003	39	38	1	2
11–20 residents	648	37	34	3	3
21–50 residents	704	34	24	10	7
51–100 residents	350	31	17	14	11
101–200 residents	171	37	20	16	21
201–972 residents	88	34	17	17	18

Note: A single bed is counted as one standard bed and a bunk bed is counted as two standard beds. Makeshift beds (e.g., cots, roll-out beds, mattresses, and sofas) are not counted as standard beds. Facilities are counted as over capacity if they reported more residents than standard beds or if they reported any occupied makeshift beds.

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

Public facilities were more likely than private facilities to be crowded

Among publicly operated facilities, 15% were over standard bed capacity or had residents occupying makeshift beds on the 2002 census date. For privately operated facilities, the proportion was 1%. A large proportion of private facilities (39%), however, said they were operating at 100% capacity.

State-operated public facilities had a somewhat greater proportion of facilities that

were over capacity (17%) than did locally operated public facilities (13%).

Facility operation	Percent of facilities at or over their standard bed capacity		
	≥100%	100%	>100%
Total	36%	30%	6%
Public	31	16	15
State	37	20	17
Local	26	13	13
Private	40	39	1

Note: Totals include data from nine tribal facilities.

Use of makeshift beds varied widely

More than 250 facilities reported having occupied makeshift beds, averaging 10 such beds per facility. Many facilities rely on makeshift beds, yet many operate well below standard bed capacity. On average, there were seven unoccupied standard beds per facility. This average masks a wide range: one facility with 162 residents had 72 standard beds and 90 residents without standard beds; one facility with 1,272 standard beds had 972 residents, leaving 300 unoccupied beds.

Nationwide, 1,069 juvenile facilities (36%) were at or over standard capacity or relied on makeshift beds

State	Total facilities	Percent of juvenile offenders in facilities at or over capacity					State	Total facilities	Percent of juvenile offenders in facilities at or over capacity				
		<100%	100%	>100%	100%	>100%			<100%	100%	>100%	100%	>100%
U.S. Total*	2,964	1,894	882	187	20%	14%	Missouri	72	48	20	4	27%	7%
Alabama	48	39	7	2	7	9	Montana	24	19	4	1	5	6
Alaska	23	14	5	4	12	59	Nebraska	19	16	1	2	0	33
Arizona	51	40	9	2	7	16	Nevada	18	11	5	2	39	31
Arkansas	35	25	10		22	0	New Hampshire	8	5	3		70	0
California	286	135	136	15	19	10	New Jersey	49	36	5	8	9	31
Colorado	65	41	16	8	25	36	New Mexico	27	20	4	3	9	15
Connecticut	26	17	8	1	26	7	New York	221	113	94	14	25	19
Delaware	6	3		3	0	83	North Carolina	66	52	12	2	7	4
District of Columbia	13	9	4		14	0	North Dakota	11	5	5	1	28	3
Florida	181	88	83	10	40	11	Ohio	97	58	23	16	12	21
Georgia	53	27	11	15	8	30	Oklahoma	56	24	32		42	0
Hawaii	5	4		1	0	65	Oregon	45	29	13	3	25	8
Idaho	22	17	4	1	6	5	Pennsylvania	179	125	48	6	33	5
Illinois	45	38	6	1	4	2	Rhode Island	14	4	9	1	23	64
Indiana	95	75	18	2	19	8	South Carolina	38	29	5	4	7	27
Iowa	65	46	19		36	0	South Dakota	22	13	8	1	31	1
Kansas	56	38	16	2	47	5	Tennessee	58	39	16	3	15	13
Kentucky	50	39	11		13	0	Texas	129	86	27	16	11	28
Louisiana	62	40	19	3	13	5	Utah	47	29	16	2	26	4
Maine	14	10	4		42	0	Vermont	5	3	2		28	0
Maryland	43	22	19	2	41	13	Virginia	71	49	13	9	16	18
Massachusetts	68	20	44	4	59	9	Washington	40	33	2	5	1	18
Michigan	94	67	24	3	14	4	West Virginia	23	13	6	4	10	24
Minnesota	100	79	21		16	0	Wisconsin	81	69	12		29	0
Mississippi	17	14	2	1	2	1	Wyoming	21	20	1		2	0

Note: A single bed is counted as one standard bed and a bunk bed is counted as two standard beds. Makeshift beds (e.g., cots, roll-out beds, mattresses, and sofas) are not counted as standard beds. Facilities are counted as over capacity if they reported more residents than standard beds or if they reported any occupied makeshift beds. State is the state where the facility is located. Offenders sent to out-of-state facilities are counted in the state where the facility is located, not the state where their offense occurred.

*U.S. total includes nine tribal facilities. These tribal facilities were located in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Oklahoma, and South Dakota. One of the nine tribal facilities held more residents than it had standard beds.

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

Most juvenile offenders are held in facilities that evaluate all youth for suicide risk on their first day

Facilities that screen all youth for suicide risk hold 81% of the juvenile offenders in custody

As part of the information collected on mental health services, the JRFC questionnaire asks facilities about their procedures regarding screening youth for suicide risk.

In 2002, 68% of facilities that reported information on suicide screening said that they evaluated all youth for suicide risk. An additional 17% said that they evaluated some youth. The proportion of facilities reporting that all youth are evaluated for

suicide risk increased 6 percentage points from 2000 to 2002. Some facilities said they didn't evaluate any youth for suicide risk (15%).

Suicide screening	2000	2002
Total facilities	3,061	2,964
Facilities reporting	2,754	2,837
All reporting facilities	100%	100%
All youth screened	62	68
Some youth screened	24	17
No youth screened	15	15

In 2002, a greater proportion of public than private facilities said that they evaluated all youth for suicide risk (79% vs. 60%).

JRFC asks facilities about their suicide screening procedures

After arrival at this facility, are any young persons evaluated to determine whether they are at risk for suicide?

If yes . . . Are all young persons evaluated after arrival in this facility to determine whether they are at risk for suicide?

If not all . . . Which young persons are evaluated for suicide risk?

When are young persons evaluated for suicide risk?

Who evaluates young persons for suicide risk?

Larger facilities were more likely than smaller facilities to screen all youth for suicide risk and less likely to not screen any youth in 2002

Suicide screening	Total	Facility size based on resident population					
		1-10	11-20	21-50	51-100	101-200	200+
Total facilities	2,964	1,003	648	704	350	171	88
Facilities reporting	2,837	957	614	673	339	167	87
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth screened	68	52	70	78	76	79	90
Some youth screened	17	23	15	13	16	11	9
No youth screened	15	25	15	9	8	10	1

Of the 476 facilities in 2002 that said they screened some but not all youth, 99% said they screened youth who display or communicate suicide risk; 47% said they also screened those who were known to have a prior suicide attempt; 11% said they also screened other groups of youth (e.g., youth with no mental health record available or youth who came to the facility directly from home rather than from another facility).

Detention centers, reception/diagnostic centers, and training schools were more likely than other types of facilities to screen all youth for suicide risk in 2002

Facility size	Facility type						
	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Boot camp	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school
Total facilities	769	289	104	1,136	56	157	389
Facilities reporting	754	280	101	1,074	56	153	386
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth screened	84	57	85	55	68	62	82
Some youth screened	10	24	12	20	16	13	12
No youth screened	6	19	3	24	16	25	6

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

In 2002, among facilities that reported suicide screening information, those that screened all youth for suicide risk held 81% of juvenile offenders who were in residential placement—up from 78% in 2000. An additional 12% of juvenile offenders in 2002 were in facilities that screened some youth.

Suicide screening	2000	2002
Total juvenile offenders	110,284	102,388
Offenders in reporting facilities	104,956	100,110
Total offenders	100%	100%
All youth screened	78	81
Some youth screened	16	12
No youth screened	6	7

The most common approach to suicide risk evaluations in 2002 was to screen all youth on the day they arrive at the facility

When youth are screened	Number of juvenile facilities			As a percent of facilities that screened for suicide risk		
	All facilities	Suicide screening		Facilities that screened	Suicide screening	
		All screened	Some screened		All screened	Some screened
Total facilities	2,964	1,925	476	100%	80%	20%
By end of first day	1,581	1,454	127	66	61	5
Day two through end of first week	368	271	97	15	11	4
After first week	94	67	27	4	3	1
Other	358	133	225	15	6	9
No youth screened (or not reported)	563	–	–	–	–	–

In 2002, 7 in 10 juvenile offenders in facilities that screened for suicide risk were in facilities that conducted suicide screenings on all youth on the day they arrived at the facility

When youth are screened	Number of juvenile offenders			As a percent of juvenile offenders in facilities that screened for suicide risk		
	All facilities	Suicide screening		Facilities that screened	Suicide screening	
		All screened	Some screened		All screened	Some screened
Total juvenile offenders	102,388	81,486	11,577	100%	88%	12%
By end of first day	68,853	65,343	3,510	74	70	4
Day two through end of first week	11,121	9,075	2,046	12	10	2
After first week	3,714	2,838	876	4	3	1
Other	9,375	4,230	5,145	10	5	6
No youth screened (or not reported)	9,325	–	–	–	–	–

■ Two-thirds of facilities (66%) that reported screening for suicide risk said they conducted the screenings on youth's first day at the facility. Facilities that said they screened all youth and did so on the youth's first day made up 61% of facilities that screened for suicide risk; they held 70% of the juvenile offenders in facilities that reported suicide screening.

■ Other facilities that reported they screened all youth said they conducted their suicide screenings during youth's first week at the facility. Taken together, facilities that screened all youth on the first day and those that screened all youth by the end of the first week accounted for more than 7 of 10 facilities that reported suicide screening and held 80% of juvenile offenders who were in facilities that screened for suicide risk.

■ A small proportion of facilities conducted suicide risk screenings only after the youth had been in the facility for a week. Some facilities indicated that they conducted screenings within other time limits. A number of facilities said they conducted suicide risk evaluations "at intake" but did not specify a particular timeframe. Some facilities said such screenings occurred before the youth was admitted, as part of pre-intake assessments; however, most said they made an evaluation of suicide risk based on youth's behavior or staff recommendation rather than by a particular deadline. Seven percent of facilities that screened for suicide risk used this "as needed" approach in addition to initial screenings.

– Not applicable

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

Most facilities use professional mental health staff to conduct suicide screening

More than half (56%) of facilities that screened some or all youth for suicide risk reported that the screenings were conducted by mental health professionals with at least a master's degree in psychology or social work. Some facilities also used counselors to conduct screenings. Fewer than 1 facility in 5 used neither mental health professionals nor counselors trained by a mental health professional to conduct suicide screenings.

Few facilities experience suicides or serious attempts

Eight facilities reported having a resident die of suicide during the year, and 114 reported a suicide attempt during the month prior to the census that was serious enough to require hospitalization. Together, this was 122 facilities—fewer than 4% of all facilities. Facilities identified only as "detention centers" were the most common type of facility to report a suicide or serious suicide attempt. Facilities identified only as a "group home/halfway house" were the second most common type of facility to report a suicide or serious attempt. Facilities identified only as a "training school/long-term secure" facility (with no other purpose) constituted 8 of the 122 with a suicide or serious attempt.

Facilities reporting a suicide or a past-month attempt requiring hospitalization

Facility type	Single-purpose	Multi-purpose*
Total	97	25
Detention	37	6
Shelter	4	10
Reception/diagnostic	1	7
Group home	22	10
Boot camp	1	1
Ranch/wilderness camp	5	1
Training school	8	15
Other type	19	9

*Counts sum to more than the total number of facilities because facilities could select more than one facility type category

Half of juvenile offenders are in facilities where in-house mental health professionals assess all youth

In 5 of 10 facilities, in-house mental health professionals evaluate all youth held

In addition to information on suicide screening, facilities provided information about their procedures for evaluating youth's mental health needs.

Among facilities that reported mental health evaluation information in 2002, 53% said that in-house mental health professionals evaluate all youth to determine their mental health needs. An additional 34% said in-house mental health professionals evaluate some, but not all youth. The proportion of facilities reporting that a mental health professional inside the facility evaluates all youth was somewhat higher in 2002 than in 2000. Only 13% of facilities did not have an in-house mental health professional evaluate youth.

Evaluation by in-house mental health professional	2000	2002
Total facilities	3,061	2,964
Facilities reporting mental health evaluation info	2,201	2,287
All reporting facilities	100%	100%
All youth evaluated	50	53
Some youth evaluated	36	34
No youth evaluated	14	13

Larger facilities were more likely than smaller facilities to have in-house mental health professionals evaluate all youth for mental health needs and less likely to not evaluate any youth in 2002

Evaluation by in-house mental health professional	Total	Facility size based on resident population					
		1-10	11-20	21-50	51-100	101-200	200+
Total facilities	2,964	1,003	648	704	350	171	88
Facilities reporting mental health evaluation info	2,288	629	503	592	317	160	86
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth evaluated	53	54	50	51	57	54	60
Some youth evaluated	34	25	32	39	36	44	40
No youth evaluated	13	21	18	10	7	3	0

Reception/diagnostic centers and training schools were more likely than other types of facilities to have in-house mental health professionals evaluate all youth for mental health needs in 2002

Evaluation by in-house mental health professional	Facility type						
	Detention center	Shelter	Reception/diagnostic center	Group home	Boot camp	Ranch/wilderness camp	Training school
Total facilities	769	289	104	1,136	56	157	389
Facilities reporting mental health evaluation info	591	179	96	825	52	130	372
All reporting facilities	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All youth evaluated	30	33	66	57	46	45	64
Some youth evaluated	62	46	34	22	40	35	32
No youth evaluated	8	21	0	21	13	20	4

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

JRFC asks facilities about their mental health evaluation procedures

Mental health professionals conduct evaluations or appraisals to diagnose or identify mental health needs.

Are any young persons evaluated or appraised by a mental health professional (with at least a master's degree in

psychology or social work) at a location inside this facility?

If yes . . . Are all young persons evaluated or appraised by a mental health professional inside this facility?

If not all . . . Which young persons are evaluated or appraised by a mental health professional inside this facility?

When are young persons evaluated or appraised by a mental health professional inside this facility?

A greater proportion of privately operated than publicly operated facilities said in 2002 that in-house mental health professionals evaluated all youth (62% vs. 41% of facilities reporting mental health evaluation information). However, compared with private facilities, public facilities reported a greater proportion of facilities that had at least some youth evaluated by an in-house mental health professional (91% vs. 84% of facilities reporting mental health evaluation information).

Evaluation by in-house mental health professional	Facility operation	
	Public	Private
Total reporting facilities	950	1,332
All reporting facilities	100%	100%
All youth evaluated	41	62
Some youth evaluated	50	22
No youth evaluated	10	16

Facilities also identified themselves according to the type of treatment they provided (if any). Facilities that said they provided mental health treatment inside the facility were more likely than other facilities to have a mental health professional evaluate all youth (64% vs. 32% of those reporting mental health evaluation information). However, not all facilities that said they provided onsite mental health treatment said they had an in-house mental health professional evaluate youth for mental health needs. It may be that youth were evaluated before arriving at these facilities or that outside professionals were contracted to conduct the evaluations.

Evaluation by in-house mental health professional	Onsite mental health treatment?	
	Yes	No
Total reporting facilities	1,500	787
All reporting facilities	100%	100%
All youth evaluated	64	32
Some youth evaluated	27	47
No youth evaluated	9	21

The most common approach to mental health evaluation in 2002 was to screen all youth by the end of their first week at the facility

When youth are evaluated	Number of juvenile facilities			As a percent of facilities that evaluated for mental health needs		
	All facilities	Evaluation by in-house mental health professional		Facilities that evaluated	Evaluation by in-house mental health professional	
		All evaluated	Some evaluated		All evaluated	Some evaluated
Total facilities	2,964	1,214	768	100%	61%	39%
By end of first day	357	298	59	18	15	3
Day two through end of first week	795	597	198	40	30	10
After first week	375	229	145	19	12	7
Other	456	90	366	23	5	18
No youth evaluated (or not reported)	981	–	–	–	–	–

In 2002, 17% of juvenile offenders were in facilities that had in-house mental health professionals evaluate all youth on the day they arrived at the facility

When youth are evaluated	Number of juvenile offenders			As a percent of juvenile offenders in facilities that evaluated for mental health needs		
	All facilities	Evaluation by in-house mental health professional		Facilities that evaluated	Evaluation by in-house mental health professional	
		All evaluated	Some evaluated		All evaluated	Some evaluated
Total juvenile offenders	102,388	50,326	37,237	100%	57%	43%
By end of first day	17,408	14,531	2,877	20	17	3
Day two through end of first week	34,224	22,120	12,104	39	25	14
After first week	15,285	8,920	6,365	17	10	7
Other	20,646	4,755	15,891	24	5	18
No youth evaluated (or not reported)	14,825	–	–	–	–	–

- In 45% of facilities that reported information on their mental health evaluation procedures, all youth were evaluated for mental health needs by an in-house mental health professional by the end of their first week in custody.
- These facilities held 42% of juvenile offenders who resided in facilities that reported information on their mental health evaluation procedures.

– Not applicable

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

Deaths of juveniles in custody are relatively rare—suicide was the leading cause in 2002

In 2002, 24 juvenile facilities reported a total of 26 deaths

In 1994, juvenile facilities reported that 45 juveniles died while in custody. According to the 2000 JRFC, 30 youth died in custody. In 2002, juvenile facilities holding juvenile offenders reported that 26 youth died while in the legal custody of the facility. These deaths occurred in 24 facilities. Twenty-two facilities reported single deaths; two facilities reported two deaths each.

More than half of the deaths reported occurred inside the facility (14 of 26). Public facilities accounted for most of the deaths that occurred inside the facility; private facilities accounted for most of the deaths that occurred outside the facility. Deaths inside the facility accounted for most deaths reported by public facilities; deaths outside the facility accounted for most deaths reported by private facilities. Overall, public facilities reported 16 deaths; private facilities reported 10 deaths.

All facilities reporting suicides said they evaluate all residents for suicide risk. All but two said they evaluate residents within 24 hours of arrival to determine whether the offender is at risk for suicide. Of those two, one facility said it evaluates by the end of the first week. The other said youth are screened for suicide risk at detention intake or if referred for screening by a counselor. In 2002, 122 facilities holding juvenile offenders reported transporting juvenile(s) to a hospital emergency room because of suicide attempt(s). None of these facilities also reported a suicide death.

During the 12 months prior to the census, suicide was the most commonly reported cause of death in custody, followed by accidents

Cause of death	Total	Inside the facility			Outside the facility		
		All	Public	Private	All	Public	Private
Total	26	14	11	3	12	5	7
Suicide	10	8	7	1	2	1	1
Accident	6	1	1		5	2	3
Illness/natural	6	4	2	2	2	1	1
Homicide	2	0			2	1	1
Other	2	1	1	0	1	0	1

■ Accidents were the leading cause of death for youth ages 13–17 in the general population, followed by homicide and suicide.

Note: Data are reported deaths of youth in custody from October 1, 2001, through September 30, 2002. Reported homicides were attributed to nonresidents.

Source: Author's analysis of *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2002* [machine-readable data file].

The death rate was lower for youth in custody than for youth in the general population

There has been concern about the risk of death for youth in custody and whether that risk is greater than the risk faced by youth in general. Death rates for the general population (detailed by age, sex, race, ethnicity, and cause of death) can be applied to data on the population held in juvenile residential facilities to calculate the number of

deaths that would be expected if the custody population had the same rate of death as the general population. Based on this analysis, more than 60 deaths would be expected in the custody population during 2002. This is more than double the number of deaths that were reported to JRFC.

Sources

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Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. 2001 and 2003. *Juvenile Residential Facility Census 2000 and 2002* [machine-readable data files]. Washington, DC: U.S. Bureau of the Census (producer).

Snyder, H. 2004. *Juvenile Arrests 2002*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Resources

The following publications may be viewed and downloaded at ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications.

Juvenile Arrests 2003. Summarizes and analyzes national and state juvenile arrest data presented in the FBI report *Crime in the United States 2003* (Bulletin, 2005, NCJ 209735).

Juvenile Court Statistics 2000. Profiles more than 1.6 million delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts in 2000 and reviews judicial trends since 1985 (Report, 2005, NCJ 209736).

Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report. Presents comprehensive information on juvenile crime, violence, and victimization and on the juvenile justice system (Report, 1999, NCJ 178257). *Note:* An updated edition of the *National Report* is scheduled for publication in 2006.

Juveniles in Corrections. Presents the latest available national and state-level data from the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (National Report Series Bulletin, 2004, NCJ 202885).

An OJJDP Bulletin on the **Survey of Youth in Residential Placement** is scheduled for release in 2006. The Bulletin will present information on juveniles' custody experiences, past offense histories, education, victimization, and other topics, based on interviews with youth in residential placement.

OJJDP's **Statistical Briefing Book** (ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb) is a comprehensive online resource covering various topics related to delinquency and the juvenile justice system. The **Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook**, accessible through the Briefing Book, contains a large set of predefined tables detailing the characteristics of juvenile offenders in residential placement facilities. The **Compendium of National Juvenile Justice Data Sets**, also available through the Briefing Book, is an online resource for researchers that is intended as an aid to investigations of juvenile offending, victimization, and contact with the juvenile justice system. The compendium summarizes data sets, including the **Juvenile Residential Facility Census**, and provides information on sampling, data collection procedures, instrumentation (including data collection forms), key variables, quality controls, periodicity, representativeness, data access procedures, and contacts for further information.

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