

Youth under Department of Juvenile Justice Supervision

Definition

Youth committed is the number and rate of youth assigned to the custody and control of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). *Youth probated* is the number and rate of youth assigned to DJJ for formal supervision.

Data in context

Youth need strong connections to family, community, and school to move successfully into adulthood. Courts must hold youth who commit offenses accountable yet allow them to learn from mistakes and become productive contributing adults.

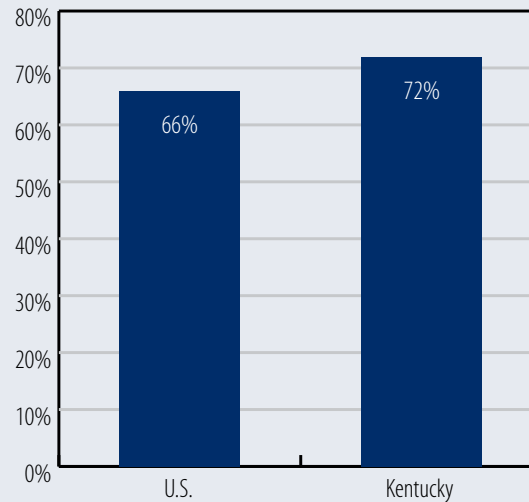
Emerging research has found that youth brain development continues past age 18, meaning young people have limited capacity to think through consequences, manage impulses, and withstand peer pressure.¹ The research also found that most youth offenders will mature out of their unlawful behavior, yet juvenile justice systems maintain measures that are not effective at reducing recidivism, such as detention or transfer of youth to adult court, which may actually increase the likelihood of reoffending.² For example, analysis of youth leaving detention facilities consistently shows rates of rearrest within 2 or 3 years ranging from 50 to 80 percent, including youth who had not committed serious offenses prior to being detained.³

In Kentucky, judicial discretion and probation were the most common dispositions of cases in 2007, and confinement (commitment to a DJJ facility) was the least common.⁴

The number of youth committed nationwide declined by 17 percent from 1999 (77,928 youth) to 2006 (64,558 youth).⁵ During that same time period, the number of committed youth in Kentucky dropped by 2 percent.⁶

Though no substantial differences in crime exist, youth of color are much more likely to be detained, formally charged, and placed in a locked facility.⁷ Overrepresentation of youth of color accumulates during the course of the justice process, resulting in the highest rates of disproportionality at the points of commitment

Percent of Youth in Custody for Non-violent Offenses, 2006



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation (2008). 2008 National KIDS COUNT Data Book.

and incarceration.⁸ In 2007, Black/African-American youth represented 10 percent of the child population in Kentucky but 28 percent of commitment dispositions and 63 percent of confinement dispositions.⁹

In 2007, the greatest percentage of youth under DJJ supervision (61 percent) remained at home in the care of a parent or guardian.¹⁰ The next most common placement was DJJ Youth Development Centers (12 percent), followed by day treatment (9 percent).¹¹

In Kentucky in 2007, 670 youth were committed to DJJ at a rate of 12 per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 19. Of counties with rates calculated, rates were half the state rate in Boone and Daviess Counties but more than three times the state rate in Lewis, Simpson, and Todd Counties. The rate of kids probated dropped slightly from 25 per 10,000 in 2006 to 24 per 10,000 in 2007. Rates were less than 15 per 10,000 in Barren, Boone, Boyd, Hopkins, and Jefferson Counties, while rates were 100 per 10,000 or greater in Christian, Fulton, Grayson, Harrison, and Morgan Counties.

Kentucky can achieve the best outcomes for public safety and youth by working to keep young people from becoming deeply involved with the juvenile justice system.¹² This includes monitoring data to identify and address points in the process where racial disparities appear.¹³ Supporting youth in becoming responsible and building healthy relationships with peers, as well as building skills to finish school and enter the workforce, increase the chance youth will learn from their mistakes and become contributing members of society.¹⁴

Data Source: Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice.

Data Note: Data do not include out-of-state youth.

Rate Calculation: (number of youth committed in 2007 * 10,000) / (total number of youth ages 10-19 in 2007)
(number of youth probated in 2007 * 10,000) / (total number of youth ages 10-19 in 2007)

- 1 Nelson, D. (2008). "A Road Map for Juvenile Justice Reform." 2008 National KIDS COUNT Data Book. Annie E. Casey Foundation. Available at <http://www.aecf.org>. Accessed August 2008.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Data obtained from Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, November 2008.
- 5 Sickmund, M., Sladky, T., and Kang, W. (2008). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook*. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Available at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov>. Accessed October 2008.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Nelson, D. (2008). "A Road Map for Juvenile Justice Reform." 2008 National KIDS COUNT Data Book. Annie E. Casey Foundation. Available at <http://www.aecf.org>. Accessed August 2008.
- 8 Annie E. Casey Foundation (2006). "Unequal Opportunities for Juvenile Justice." *Race Matters Toolkit*. Available at <http://www.aecf.org>. Accessed October 2008.
- 9 Data from National Center for Health Statistics and from Department of Juvenile Justice, November 2008.
- 10 Data obtained from Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, October 2008.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Nelson, D. (2008). "A Road Map for Juvenile Justice Reform." 2008 National KIDS COUNT Data Book. Annie E. Casey Foundation. Available at <http://www.aecf.org>. Accessed August 2008.
- 13 Ibid.
- 14 Steinberg, L., Chung, H., and Little, M. (2004). "Reentry of Young Offenders from the Justice System: A Developmental Perspective." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, vol. 1, no. 1. Available at <http://humanservices.vermont.gov>. Accessed November 2008.

Youth committed & probated (number & rate per 10,000 youth ages 10-19)

	2007			
	Youth Committed		Youth Probated	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Kentucky	670	12	1,334	24
Adair	1	*	10	41
Allen	4	*	10	41
Anderson	2	*	21	71
Ballard	2	*	5	*
Barren	3	*	7	14
Bath	2	*	2	*
Bell	4	*	10	28
Boone	9	6	15	9
Bourbon	6	23	4	*
Boyd	6	10	7	12
Boyle	7	18	6	16
Bracken	0	*	4	*
Breathitt	1	*	11	50
Breckinridge	2	*	6	25
Bullitt	7	7	27	26
Butler	1	*	7	41
Caldwell	4	*	4	*
Galloway	8	17	20	43
Campbell	13	11	19	16
Carlisle	3	*	3	*
Carroll	2	*	9	67
Carter	5	*	16	43
Casey	5	*	7	34
Christian	20	16	128	100
Clark	5	*	11	24
Clay	1	*	0	*
Clinton	0	*	2	*
Crittenden	4	*	0	*
Cumberland	1	*	2	*
Daviess	8	6	27	22
Edmonson	1	*	0	*
Elliott	0	*	5	*
Estill	0	*	6	32
Fayette	50	15	76	22
Fleming	0	*	4	*
Floyd	4	*	1	*
Franklin	6	10	18	31
Fulton	3	*	11	127
Gallatin	0	*	2	*
Garrard	2	*	1	*

	2007			
	Youth Committed		Youth Probated	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Grant	0	*	4	*
Graves	6	12	14	29
Grayson	6	19	38	121
Green	1	*	3	*
Greenup	1	*	4	*
Hancock	0	*	10	81
Hardin	27	19	49	34
Harlan	6	15	17	42
Harrison	3	*	24	100
Hart	4	*	4	*
Henderson	19	33	23	40
Henry	4	*	3	*
Hickman	1	*	4	*
Hopkins	11	19	7	12
Jackson	3	*	3	*
Jefferson	107	12	96	10
Jessamine	8	12	18	28
Johnson	3	*	3	*
Kenton	29	14	72	34
Knott	1	*	6	25
Knox	2	*	4	*
LaRue	3	*	2	*
Laurel	7	10	3	*
Lawrence	0	*	2	*
Lee	1	*	0	*
Leslie	0	*	0	*
Letcher	1	*	13	45
Lewis	7	38	11	60
Lincoln	4	*	9	28
Livingston	0	*	3	*
Logan	7	20	5	*
Lyon	1	*	2	*
McCracken	28	35	43	54
McCreary	2	*	4	*
McLean	1	*	6	49
Madison	24	21	36	32
Magoffin	3	*	0	*
Marion	1	*	3	*
Marshall	4	*	17	46
Martin	0	*	1	*
Mason	4	*	13	58

	2007			
	Youth Committed		Youth Probated	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Meade	8	20	19	47
Menifee	2	*	1	*
Mercer	3	*	3	*
Metcalfe	0	*	1	*
Monroe	4	*	4	*
Montgomery	8	25	8	25
Morgan	1	*	17	101
Muhlenberg	4	*	6	16
Nelson	6	10	12	20
Nicholas	0	*	1	*
Ohio	0	*	12	41
Oldham	4	*	4	*
Owen	2	*	3	*
Owsley	0	*	1	*
Pendleton	1	*	6	27
Perry	2	*	18	48
Pike	2	*	1	*
Powell	5	*	12	71
Pulaski	5	*	2	*
Robertson	0	*	2	*
Rockcastle	5	*	3	*
Rowan	1	*	1	*
Russell	4	*	7	33
Scott	8	13	13	21
Shelby	5	*	9	17
Simpson	9	39	6	26
Spencer	0	*	2	*
Taylor	2	*	3	*
Todd	10	62	3	*
Trigg	2	*	7	43
Trimble	1	*	0	*
Union	6	23	6	23
Warren	12	8	26	18
Washington	0	*	2	*
Wayne	0	*	2	*
Webster	4	*	2	*
Whitley	1	*	1	*
Wolfe	0	*	4	*
Woodford	1	*	1	*

* Rates were not calculated for counties with fewer than 6 occurrences.