

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

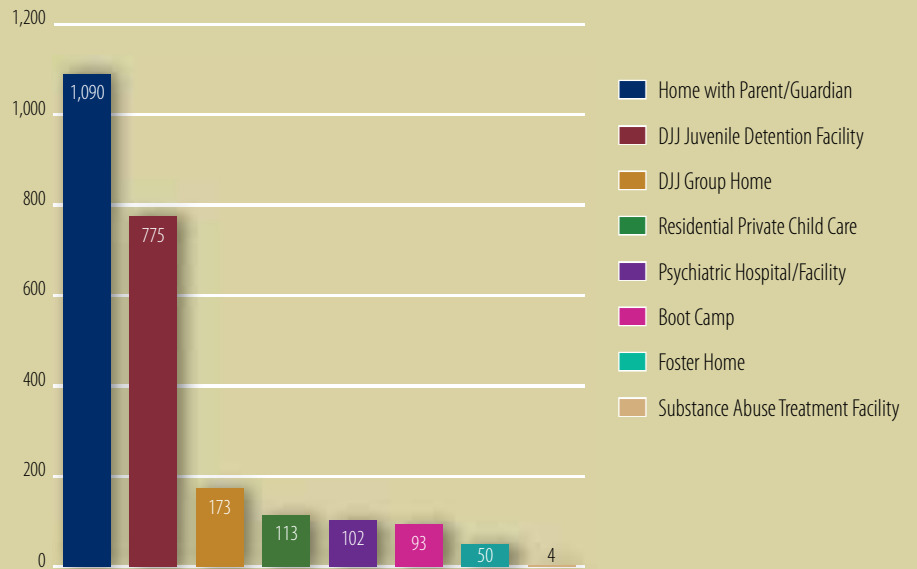
Youth need connections with their families, communities, and schools to achieve positive outcomes and successfully transition to adulthood. Courts must hold youth who commit offenses accountable but also offer opportunities for rehabilitation so youth can become productive contributing adults.

A number of case dispositions, including commitment to DJJ and probation, exist after a youth has been found to have committed a public or status offense. Commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice is one of the most serious dispositions a youth can receive. Placement options for committed youth range from living at home to placement in foster care, group homes, juvenile detention facilities, and boot camps, among others. Research has found these placement types are not equally effective in rehabilitating young offenders. 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.¹ Not only are recidivism rates high, but incarceration itself is the most significant factor in increasing the odds a youth will recidivate (commit future offenses).²

The number of youth committed nationwide declined by 17 percent from 1999 (77,928 youth) to 2006 (64,558 youth).³ During that same time period, the number of committed youth in Kentucky dropped by 2 percent.⁴ In Kentucky in 2008, 647 youth were committed to DJJ at a rate of 12 per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 19. The most frequent placement for youth committed to DJJ was at home in the care of a parent or guardian (45 percent), and another 32 percent of placements were in a DJJ juvenile detention facility.⁵ Of counties with rates calculated, Boone and Warren Counties had the lowest rates, while rates were more than three times the state rate in Grayson, Todd, and Trigg Counties.

Probation allows youth to continue living in their community while supervised by a DJJ probation officer. Probation was the second most common disposition of juvenile cases in 2008.⁶ During that year, 1,385 youth were probated at a rate of 25 per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 19. Rates were less than 15 per 10,000 in Boone, Laurel, Pulaski, Warren, and Whitley Counties, while rates were greater than 100 per 10,000 in Elliott, Fulton, Grayson, and Lyon Counties.

Placements of Youth Committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice, 2008



Note: Youth committed to DJJ may have more than one placement during a year.

Source: Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice

Though no substantial differences in crime exist, youth of color across the country are much more likely to be arrested, detained, formally charged, and placed in a locked facility.⁷ Overrepresentation of youth of color accumulates during the course of the justice process, and Kentucky data reflect this. In 2008, African-American youth constituted only 10 percent of Kentucky's child population but accounted for 20 percent of charges and 29 percent of all youth with cases that received a disposition of commitment.⁸

Kentucky can achieve the best outcomes for public safety and youth by working diligently to keep young people from becoming deeply involved with the juvenile justice system.⁹ Supporting youth in taking responsibility 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.¹⁰ Efforts must include monitoring data to identify and address points in the process where racial disparities appear.¹¹ For example, because youth of color are overrepresented at arrest and referral for formal court processing, which could be the result of unintentional bias, the use of prior arrests or adjudications as a legal factor in determining a youth's placement can result in more restrictive placements for youth of color.¹²

Data Source: Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice.

Data Note: Data do not include youth from other states.

Rate Calculation: (number of youth committed in 2008 * 10,000) / (total number of youth ages 10-19 in 2008)
 (number of youth probated in 2008 * 10,000) / (total number of youth ages 10-19 in 2008)

YOUTH COMMITTED & PROBATED

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

	2008			
	Youth Committed		Youth Probated	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Kentucky	647	12	1,385	25
Adair	1	*	23	96
Allen	4	*	4	*
Anderson	6	20	13	44
Ballard	3	*	3	*
Barren	2	*	3	*
Bath	4	*	7	48
Bell	6	17	17	48
Boone	12	7	19	12
Bourbon	2	*	0	*
Boyd	6	10	13	22
Boyle	6	16	4	*
Bracken	3	*	3	*
Breathitt	1	*	12	55
Breckinridge	3	*	12	50
Bullitt	3	*	5	*
Butler	3	*	10	60
Caldwell	3	*	11	70
Calloway	6	13	16	34
Campbell	12	10	23	19
Carlisle	3	*	3	*
Carroll	4	*	4	*
Carter	4	*	16	43
Casey	4	*	5	*
Christian	33	26	120	93
Clark	5	*	13	29
Clay	0	*	2	*
Clinton	0	*	0	*
Crittenden	0	*	0	*
Cumberland	2	*	4	*
Daviess	13	10	42	34
Edmonson	2	*	2	*
Elliott	1	*	9	103
Estill	1	*	3	*
Fayette	55	16	58	17
Fleming	0	*	9	46
Floyd	3	*	1	*
Franklin	5	*	13	22
Fulton	0	*	11	127
Gallatin	1	*	4	*
Garrard	0	*	0	*
Grant	3	*	4	*
Graves	3	*	5	*
Grayson	14	44	44	139
Green	2	*	3	*
Greenup	3	*	5	*
Hancock	1	*	6	48
Hardin	18	13	61	43
Harlan	8	20	8	20
Harrison	6	25	16	67
Hart	1	*	4	*
Henderson	16	28	17	30
Henry	0	*	2	*
Hickman	1	*	2	*
Hopkins	10	17	16	28
Jackson	2	*	1	*
Jefferson	124	14	165	18
Jessamine	9	14	26	39
Johnson	2	*	2	*
Kenton	29	14	58	27
Knott	2	*	2	*

	2008			
	Youth Committed		Youth Probated	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Knox	2	*	1	*
LaRue	0	*	3	*
Laurel	5	*	7	10
Lawrence	0	*	2	*
Lee	1	*	1	*
Leslie	2	*	1	*
Letcher	0	*	20	70
Lewis	2	*	4	*
Lincoln	1	*	4	*
Livingston	1	*	0	*
Logan	9	26	9	26
Lyon	0	*	8	109
McCracken	12	15	31	39
McCreary	7	28	0	*
McLean	3	*	6	49
Madison	20	17	40	35
Magoffin	0	*	0	*
Marion	1	*	0	*
Marshall	3	*	14	39
Martin	1	*	2	*
Mason	3	*	14	64
Meade	8	20	29	71
Menifee	0	*	1	*
Mercer	3	*	3	*
Metcalfe	2	*	8	61
Monroe	1	*	6	43
Montgomery	5	*	8	25
Morgan	0	*	13	81
Muhlenberg	2	*	2	*
Nelson	4	*	22	37
Nicholas	0	*	2	*
Ohio	2	*	18	62
Oldham	4	*	3	*
Owen	1	*	3	*
Owsley	0	*	3	*
Pendleton	2	*	8	37
Perry	6	16	19	52
Pike	0	*	1	*
Powell	2	*	5	*
Pulaski	4	*	7	10
Robertson	0	*	2	*
Rockcastle	1	*	1	*
Rowan	1	*	6	17
Russell	0	*	4	*
Scott	9	14	10	16
Shelby	1	*	9	17
Simpson	3	*	8	35
Spencer	1	*	1	*
Taylor	1	*	3	*
Todd	7	42	4	*
Trigg	6	37	5	*
Trimble	1	*	1	*
Union	0	*	3	*
Warren	12	8	18	12
Washington	0	*	3	*
Wayne	1	*	1	*
Webster	2	*	3	*
Whitley	3	*	7	13
Wolfe	1	*	1	*
Woodford	2	*	2	*

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