

Helpful Statistics on Race and Ethnicity within Juvenile Legal Systems

**RACIAL JUSTICE TOOLKIT:
COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOURCE**

Youth defenders may find the following databases and webpages helpful to identify reliable statistics on race, ethnicity, and disparities within the juvenile legal system. Some sources provide only national data, while others provide state and local data by jurisdiction.

Statistical Briefing Book (SBB)

Summary: [The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's](https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/) (OJJDP) Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) enables users to access online information via OJJDP's website to learn more about youth involved in the juvenile justice system. This database, which was developed and is maintained by the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/), provides timely and reliable statistical answers to the most frequently asked questions from policymakers, the media, and the public. In addition, the data analysis and dissemination tools available through SBB give users quick and easy access to detailed statistics on a variety of juvenile legal system topics.

Link: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/>

Racial and Ethnic Fairness

In 2019, cases involving minority youth were 50% more likely to be referred to juvenile court for a delinquency offense than were cases involving white youth, but the level of disproportionality varied by offense and point of contact with the juvenile justice system.

Ratio of rates¹ between minority youth and white youth by decision point and offense, 2019

Decision point	All delinquency offenses	Violent Crime Index*	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Simple assault	Property Crime Index*	Burglary	Larceny	Drug offenses	Public order
Referral rate	1.5	2.6	6.9	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.0	1.6
Diversion rate	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7
Detention rate	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.5
Petition rate	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2
Adjudicated rate	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Probation rate	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Placement rate	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3
Waiver rate	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.5	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.7

Juvenile Justice Geography, Policy, Practice, & Statistics (JJGPS)

Summary: The [Juvenile Justice Geography, Policy, Practice, & Statistics](#) (JJGPS) is a collaboration between the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#), [MacArthur Foundation](#), and [Models for Change](#), to develop an online repository providing state policy makers and system stakeholders with a clear understanding of the juvenile legal system landscape in the United States. JJGPS provides stakeholders with data that tracks population changes; information related to tribal delinquency jurisdiction; a comparison of the data captured by using national data collections to calculate the relative rate index (RRI) and the disproportionate representation index (DRI); information about Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinators across the country, and progressive data.

Please note, there is no national data collection specifically designed to monitor vital signs on racial and ethnic fairness at the state-level. However, existing collections can be applied in an interim way to advance discussions. The preferred RRI indicator is easily available for a national snapshot on the issue but lacks the ability to drill into the state or local details necessary for focusing reform advocacy. The RRI addresses the contributions between nine decision points within the juvenile legal system.

Link: <http://www.jjgps.org/racial-fairness>

Relative rates data ?

Simple rates data ?

Relative rates for delinquency offenses: non-white to white ratios (2014)

Rate	Black	Hispanic	AIAN	AHPI
Referral rate	3.1	1	1.1	0.3
Diversion rate	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.9
Detention rate	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3
Petitioned rate	1.2	1	1.1	1.1
Adjudicated rate	0.9	1.1	1.2	1
Probation rate	0.9	1	1	1.1
Placement rate	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.9
Waiver rate	1.6	0.9	1.1	0.5

Easy Access to Juvenile Population Statistics

Summary: This database, which was developed and is maintained by the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/default.asp#), provides access to national, state, and county level population data detailed by age, sex, race—White, Black, Asian, and American Indian, and ethnicity—Non-Hispanic and Hispanic. The population estimates displayed were derived from data originally collected by the United States Census Bureau and subsequently modified by the National Center for Health Sciences. Defenders can use this website to create detailed population profiles for a single jurisdiction or create State Comparison or County Comparison tables.

Link: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/default.asp#>



Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2020

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Population Profiles

State Comparisons

County Comparisons

Data Source

Help

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Display Options:

☒ Count ☐ Row % ☐ Column %

Selecting:

Year 2020

Age 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

United States: Race by Age Population Estimates

Search:


Count	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
White	3,031,994	3,036,310	3,133,530	3,158,950	3,147,759	3,145,214	3,163,923	3,146,922	24,964,602
Black	692,388	695,277	715,794	712,666	693,980	682,102	675,765	670,151	5,538,123
American Indian	78,420	77,056	79,422	79,974	78,447	77,934	76,104	74,988	622,345
Asian	271,371	264,351	272,231	268,331	266,172	270,670	272,082	272,832	2,158,040
Total	4,074,173	4,072,994	4,200,977	4,219,921	4,186,358	4,175,920	4,187,874	4,164,893	33,283,110

Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics

Summary: This database, which was developed and is maintained by the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaucr/), provides access to arrest statistics at the national, state, and county level that were reported to the FBI. In many jurisdictions, data reported to the FBI are incomplete. The lower the coverage indicator, the greater the likelihood that the estimates do not accurately reflect the arrest activities of the jurisdiction. As a result, only local jurisdictions with a coverage indicator at or above 90% are displayed in this application; national estimates are always presented.

Arrest statistics are presented for 29 detailed offense categories. Defenders can select displays based on rates for youth, adults, or all ages combined. Please note, the data ends in 2014.

Link: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaucr/>



Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics: 1994-2014

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Select a State:

United States

Select a County:

United States

Select a Time Period:

☐ 1994-2000
 ☐ 2001-2007
 ☒ 2008-2014

Select a Display Option:

Counts

☐ All ages
 ☐ Adults
 ☐ Juveniles

Rates

☐ All ages
 ☐ Adults
 ☐ Juveniles

Percent of Total

☐ Adults
 ☒ Juveniles

UPDATE TABLE

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Percent of all arrests involving persons under age 18 in the United States

Search:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Coverage Indicator	76%	78%	78%	77%	77%	78%	78%
Total Arrests	15.0%	13.9%	12.5%	11.8%	10.8%	9.6%	9.1%
Violent Crime Index	16.1%	14.8%	13.7%	12.7%	11.7%	n/a	n/a
Murder/nonneg. mans.	9.7%	9.4%	9.0%	7.8%	6.5%	7.3%	7.2%
Rape	14.7%	14.5%	14.3%	14.4%	14.0%	n/a	n/a
Robbery	27.2%	25.0%	24.2%	22.3%	20.7%	20.3%	20.6%

Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics

Summary: This database, which was developed and is maintained by the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](https://www.ojjdp.gov/ezaics/), provides national estimates of delinquency cases processed by the nation's juvenile courts. With this application, users can perform unique analyses on the age, sex, and race of youth involved in these cases as well as the referral offense, the use of detention, adjudication, and case disposition. Users can also view pre-formatted tables describing the demographic characteristics of youth involved in the juvenile legal system and how juvenile courts process these cases.

These data files, developed through automated record keeping and statistical reporting systems by state and local governments, contain detailed, case level data on each case disposed within the jurisdiction. Though the design and structure of the courts' automated information systems vary, the information they collect on juvenile cases are similar, and through careful processing, the records were combined to produce a detailed national portrait of juvenile court activity.

Link: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaics/>

EZAJCS
Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics: 1985-2019

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Display Options: ☒ Count ☐ Row % ☐ Column %

Selecting:

Year of Disposition: 2019

Age at Referral: <12, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Race by Age at Referral

Search:

Count	<12	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
White	12,740	16,440	29,764	47,537	61,874	73,697	60,157	302,208
Black	9,345	13,350	24,885	39,910	54,477	61,180	45,249	248,396
American Indian	539	720	1,575	2,017	2,611	2,707	2,495	12,666
Asian/NHPI	153	387	845	1,275	1,741	2,014	1,860	8,275
Hispanic	2,924	6,042	12,761	20,646	28,857	33,359	26,069	130,658
Total	25,701	36,939	69,831	111,385	149,560	172,958	135,831	702,203

Note: The counts in the table above are estimates. While confidence intervals cannot be calculated, it is suggested that users round cell values to the nearest hundred as an acknowledgement of the limitations of these estimates. The unrounded values are provided only for the computation of percentages and rates. Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts

Summary: This database, which was developed and is maintained by the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaco/), gives users quick access to state and county juvenile court case counts for delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases. Data are from 1997 to 2017. However, this tool does not provide numbers broken down by race or ethnicity.

These data are provided to the National Juvenile Court Data Archive by some juvenile courts across the country voluntarily. They are used to develop national estimates of the delinquency and status offense cases handled by United States courts with jurisdiction over young people.

Link: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaco/>



Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts

Home

Access Case Counts

Data & Methods

Year:

2019

Jurisdiction:

Maryland

VIEW TABLE



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Maryland Juvenile Court Case Counts, 2019

Upper age of jurisdiction: 17

Counties in state: 24


Reporting Counties	2019 Population Estimates			Delinquency		Status		Dependency		All Reported Cases
	Total	10 Through Upper Age	0 Through Upper Age	Petition	Non-petition	Petition	Non-petition	Petition	Non-petition	
Allegany	70,400	5,600	12,200	120	239	*	64	--	--	--
Anne Arundel	579,200	56,900	128,900	623	1,414	0	48	--	--	--
Baltimore	827,400	80,800	178,900	1,204	1,936	0	*	--	--	--
Calvert	92,500	10,500	21,300	81	273	0	66	--	--	--
Caroline	33,400	3,600	7,900	43	108	0	20	--	--	--
Carroll	168,400	17,300	36,400	69	209	0	25	--	--	--
Cecil	102,900	11,000	23,100	143	248	*	90	--	--	--
Charles	163,300	18,500	38,900	140	518	0	5	--	--	--
Dorchester	31,900	3,100	6,700	135	249	0	17	--	--	--
Frederick	259,500	28,000	60,000	279	403	*	109	--	--	--
Garrett	29,000	2,500	5,300	24	79	*	80	--	--	--
Harford	255,400	26,900	56,600	161	321	0	22	--	--	--
Howard	325,700	37,800	78,900	188	339	0	10	--	--	--
Kent	19,400	1,400	3,000	9	87	0	12	--	--	--

Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement

Summary: This database, which was developed and is maintained by the [National Center for Juvenile Justice](https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/), provides an analysis of national and state data on the characteristics of youth held in residential placement facilities, including detailed information about the youth's age, sex, race/ethnicity—White, Black, Hispanic, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander and other—placement status, length of stay, and most serious offense.

The Census of Juvenile in Residential Placement (CJRP) collects an individual record of each youth held in juvenile residential custody facilities in the United States, as identified by the Census Bureau, with information on the youth's gender, date of birth, race, placement authority, most serious offense charged, court adjudication status, date of admission, and security status. This information is requested for all youth under 21 years of age in the facility every two years on a one-day count; however, many facilities also provide information on the housing of overflow detention populations, physical layout of the facility, separation of residents, counts of residents age 21 and older, and the use of locked doors and/or gates. The inclusion criteria for the census are: younger than 21, assigned a bed in a residential facility at the end of the day on the census reference date, charged with an offense or court-adjudicated for an offense, and in residential placement because of that offense. CRJP does not capture data on youth held in adult prisons or jails, or facilities exclusively intended for drug or mental health treatment.

Link: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>



Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement: 1997-2019

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Display Options:

☒ Count
 ☐ Row %
 ☐ Column %

Selecting:

Year of Census: 2019

Age: 12 or younger, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Placement Status General by Race

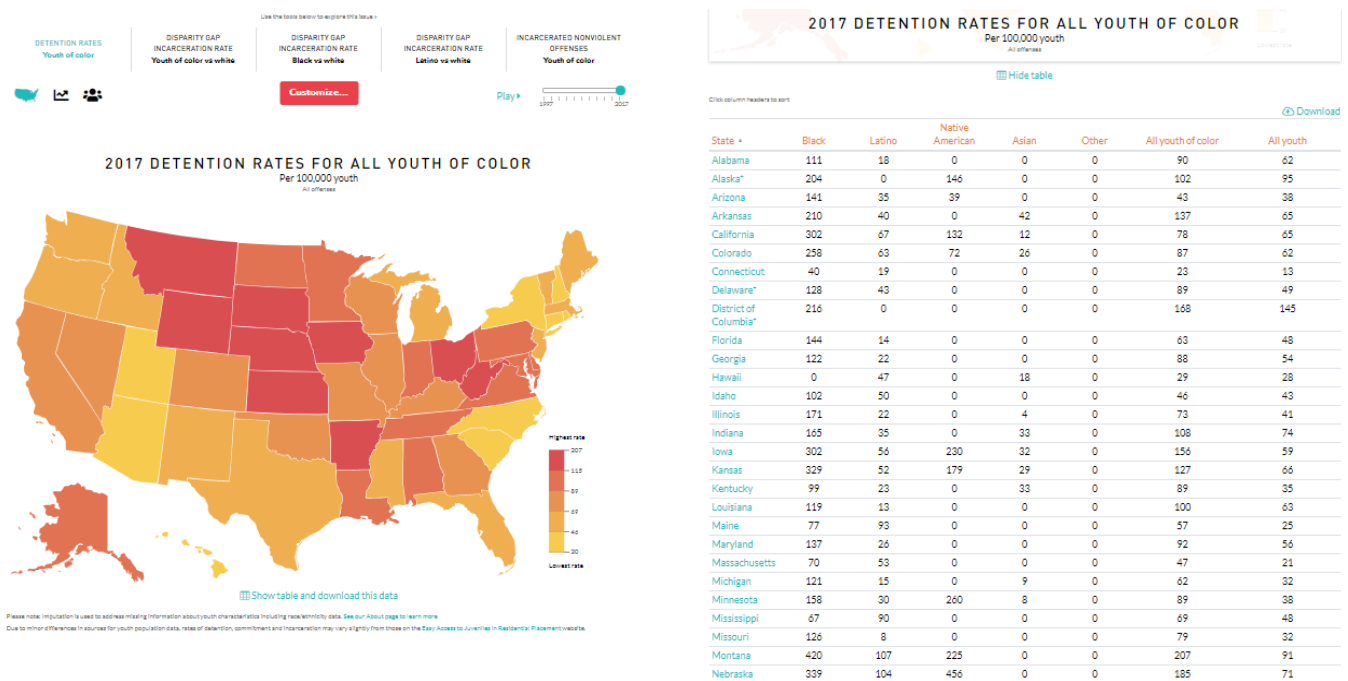
Count	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian	Pacific Islander	Other	Total
Detained	3,585	6,170	3,126	275	103	37	254	13,550
Committed	6,472	6,227	3,217	327	101	61	534	16,939
Diversion	231	151	60	6	0	3	13	464
Other/unknown	158	200	57	11	4	0	9	439
Total	10,446	12,748	6,460	619	208	101	810	31,392

United States of Disparities

Summary: This resource, which was developed and is maintained by [The W. Haywood Burns Institute](#) (Burns Institute), uses data provided by the [Office of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) (OJJDP) to create interactive tools to demonstrate the racial and ethnic disparities of youth of color in the juvenile legal system. To assist users in understanding the racial and ethnic disparities, and how juvenile justice is being administered across the United States and within local jurisdictions, the Burns Institute's interactive tool provides customizable searches that help illustrate the extent of racial and ethnic disparities in the use of incarceration in each state and nationwide. There is additional state and county level data available by clicking on any state.

Link:

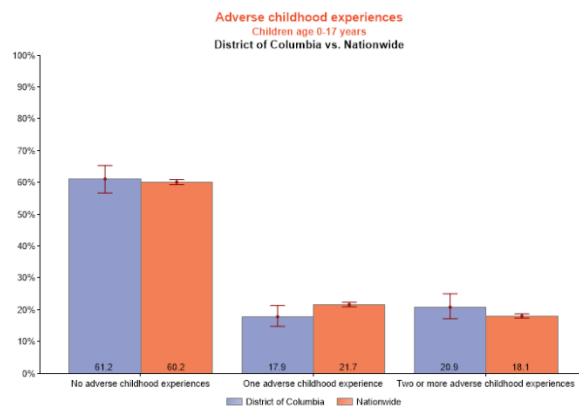
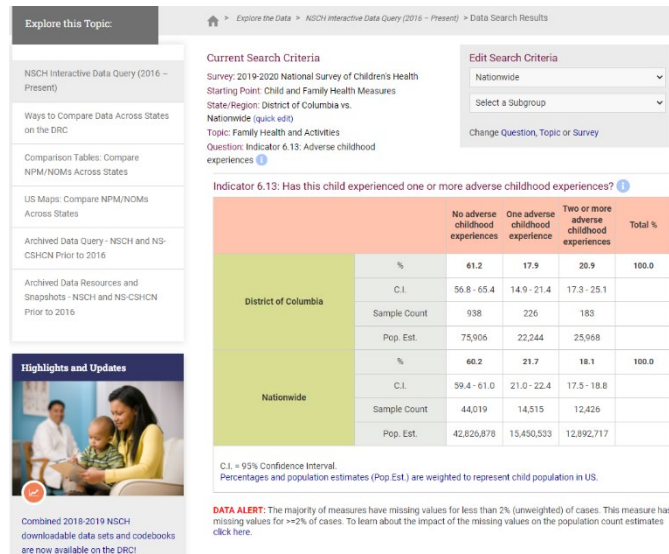
<https://usdata.burnsinstitute.org/#comparison=2&placement=1&rac=2,3,4,5,6&offenses=5,2,8,1,9,11,10&year=2017&view=map>



Children's Trauma Statistics

Summary: Using data from the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), this tool allows you to view how many youth in a particular year experienced at least one or more Adverse Child Experience (ACEs), by state and by race or ethnicity. The NSCH provides rich data on multiple, intersecting aspects of children's lives—including physical and mental health, access to quality health care, and the child's family, neighborhood, school, and social context. The NSCH is funded and directed by the [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\) Maternal and Child Health Bureau \(MCHB\)](#).

Link: <http://childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=4783&r=1>



Data Source: National Survey of Children's Health, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/data/national-surveys>

Citation: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. 2019-2020 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) data query. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). Retrieved [mm/dd/yy] from www.childhealthdata.org.

Statistics Analyzed by the Sentencing Project

Summary: [The Sentencing Project](#) has summarized some of the statistics and data, provided by the [Office of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) (OJJDP) through the [Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement](#) and the National Disproportionate Minority Contact Databook (which is no longer available), and created briefing papers on the juvenile legal system, including racial and ethnic disparities.

Links:

TRENDS IN U.S. CORRECTIONS (2021)

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/trends-in-u-s-corrections/>

FACT SHEET: BLACK DISPARITIES IN YOUTH INCARCERATION (2021)

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/black-disparities-youth-incarceration/>

FACT SHEET: LATINX DISPARITIES IN YOUTH INCARCERATION (2021)

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/latino-disparities-youth-incarceration/>

FACT SHEET: NATIVE DISPARITIES IN YOUTH INCARCERATION (2021)

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/native-disparities-youth-incarceration/>

RACIAL DISPARITIES IN YOUTH INCARCERATION PERSIST (2021)

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/racial-disparities-in-youth-incarceration-persist/>

INCARCERATED WOMEN AND GIRLS (2020)

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/incarcerated-women-and-girls/>

RACIAL DISPARITIES IN YOUTH COMMITMENTS AND ARRESTS (2016)

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/racial-disparities-in-youth-commitments-and-arrests/>

DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (2014)

[https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/disproportionate-minority-contact-in-the\)-juvenile-justice-system/](https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/disproportionate-minority-contact-in-the)-juvenile-justice-system/)