

A light gray map of Washington State with a white outline of the state's coastline and major water bodies. The map is centered on the page and serves as a background for the title text.

Washington State

2017

**Juvenile Detention
Annual Report**

**WASHINGTON STATE CENTER
FOR COURT RESEARCH**

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Washington State Juvenile Detention

2017 Annual Report

This report satisfies the requirement of House Bill (HB) 2449 regarding the development of an annual statewide detention report.

This report is a reissue of the Washington State 2017 Juvenile Detention Annual Report that was published in 2018. Due to changes in the way some counties recorded screen and release episodes that occurred partway through the 2017 calendar year, there were errors in the overall number of admissions in the original report that have been corrected in this version. This also alerted us to the fact that some counties use a unique practice for coding screen and release episodes that we were not capturing in our analyses. In this report in instances where we show changes from 2016 to 2017 we have also corrected the 2016 data based on our new knowledge of counties' coding practices. The changes in 2016 data were minor, but the reader should be aware that when comparing the numbers in the original 2016 report to those presented in this report, they will not match exactly for some counties.

Prepared by the Washington State Center for Court Research

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Introduction

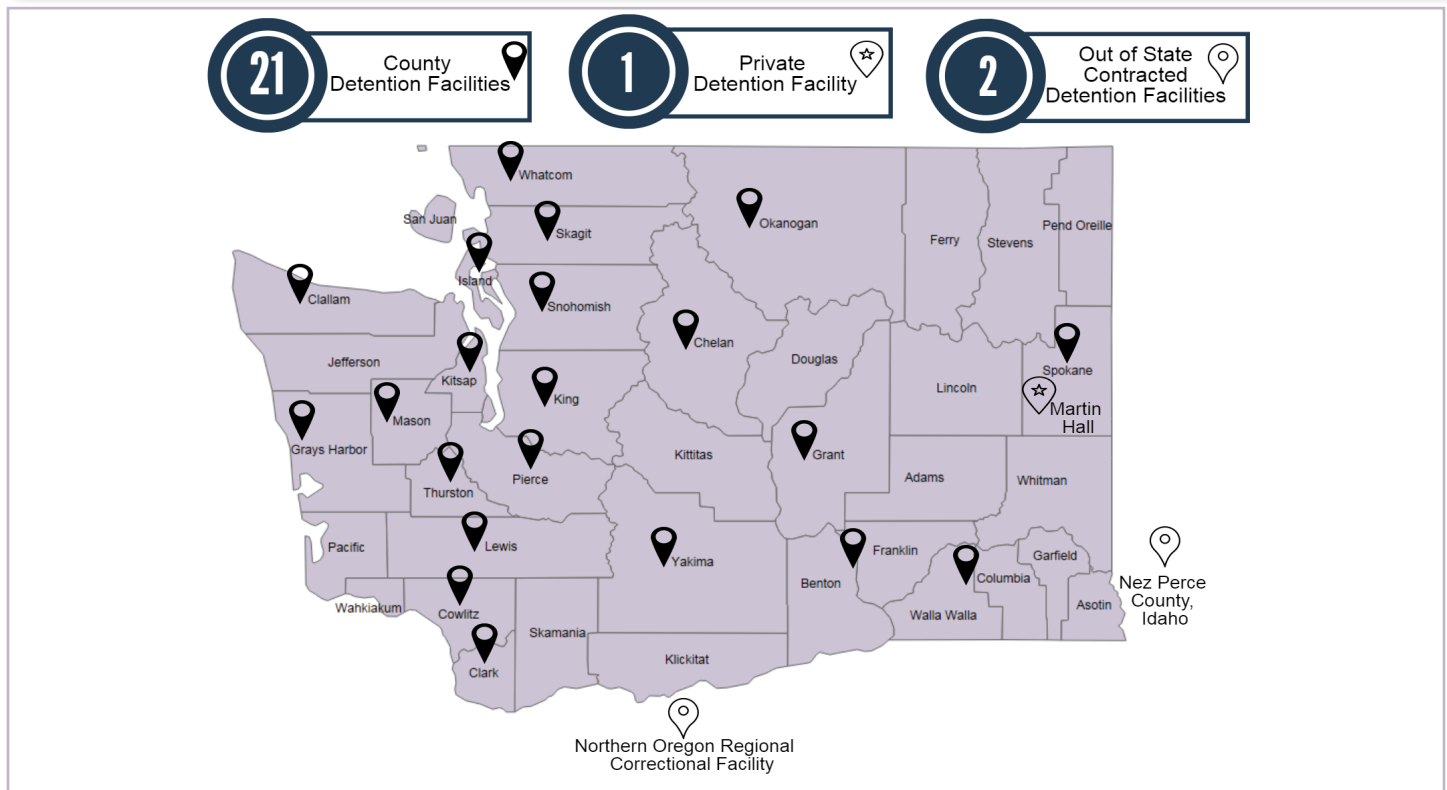
This report was written in response to House Bill (HB) 2449, which was passed in 2016 and, among other things, requires an annual statewide juvenile detention report to be developed and presented to the legislature and other stakeholders of the juvenile justice system. The purpose of the annual report is to answer several fundamental questions regarding juvenile detention in Washington State, including:

1. Where are youth in Washington State placed in detention?
2. How many admissions are there to juvenile detention facilities annually?
3. How prevalent is a detention episode among the state's youth population?
4. What are the demographic characteristics of youth who experience detention?
5. What proportion of juvenile detention admissions are for non-offender matters?
6. How long does a typical detention stay last?

While the list of topics covered in this report is not exhaustive, the report serves as a significant step towards understanding the role and impact of detention in Washington State's juvenile justice system. Since the passing of HB 2449 a substantial portion of time has been devoted to data acquisition, management, and cleaning. A stipulation of HB 2449 was that all juvenile courts, regardless of where their youth are sent to detention, are required to securely transmit their detention data to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for inclusion in this statewide report. In January 2017, all courts across the state began transmitting juvenile detention data to AOC. Thus, we are happy to report that all jurisdictions are included in the 2017 statewide report.

Where were youth in Washington State placed in detention in 2017?

Figure 1. Juvenile Detention Facilities Serving Washington State Youth in 2017.



Note: Grant County Juvenile Detention Facility closed on December 31, 2017.



Figure 1 shows the locations of the juvenile detention facilities that served court-involved youth in Washington State during the 2017 calendar year. The vast majority of youth were placed in one of the state's 21 county-operated juvenile detention facilities. A smaller number of youth, depending on their geographic location, were placed in the privately-operated facility in Spokane County, Martin Hall, or one of two juvenile detention facilities in a neighboring state.

How many admissions were there to juvenile detention facilities in Washington State in 2017?

Table 1 shows the total number of admissions to juvenile detention facilities for all 39 counties in the state. There are several important things to note, especially when comparing these numbers to other reports published by local jurisdictions.

- Admission counts exclude “screen and release” episodes, but include all admissions, regardless of length of stay. Other reports may exclude detention stays lasting less than four hours.
- Many county facilities have contracts to hold youth whose court involvement occurred in another state or on Tribal lands. Some facilities had a sizable number of admissions where youth were being held for another state or a Native American Tribe (across facilities, 44 admissions were noted as being holds for a Tribe, while 282 were holds for an out of state jurisdiction). This report excludes admissions for out of state and Tribal holds and includes only youth who were served by a county superior (juvenile or adult), district, or municipal court within the State of Washington and were admitted to a juvenile detention facility in 2017.
- Admissions are counted in the youth's home county,¹ regardless of where the youth was sent to serve detention or was picked up by police. This is an important distinction, as some counties do not have their own juvenile detention facilities and contract with a neighboring county (or counties) to hold their youth. Youth may also be in a neighboring county when they are picked up on a warrant. Counting the youth this way allows for the calculation of population-based rates of detention (i.e., the proportion of youth in each county who experienced a detention admission).

One final point to consider is that practices regarding holding youth for other in-state, non-juvenile court jurisdictions vary by county. Some counties hold youth who are charged as adults or face charges in a district/municipal court in their juvenile facilities, while others hold these youth in adult facilities. This report only includes admissions to juvenile detention facilities.

In addition to showing the total number of detention admissions by county, Table 1 also includes the total number of youth who experienced at least one detention admission, the number of youth between the ages of 10 and 17 residing in that county,² the number of youth (per 1,000 youth in the county) who experienced at least one detention admission in 2017, and finally, the change in the number of admissions between 2016 and 2017. While there was variability across counties with regard to changes in detention admissions, the state as a whole saw a 6.0% reduction in the number of detention admissions between 2016 and 2017.

¹ When holding for another jurisdiction, detention centers record the county the youth is being held for. We used this data field to identify where the youth came from.

² Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2019). “Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2018.” Online. Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>.



Table 1. Detention Admission and Youth Counts and Population-Based Rates in 2017 by County.

County	Detention Admissions	Youth Admitted	Youth Population Aged 10-17	Detention Rate per 1,000 ((youth/population)x1,000)	Change in Total Admits from 2016	
					N	%
Adams	55	31	2,913	10.6	N/A	-
Asotin	23	20	2,184	9.2	N/A	-
Benton	814	306	23,677	12.9	+124	+18.0%
Chelan	400	178	8,066	22.1	+10	+2.6%
Clallam	368	125	5,853	21.4	+56	+17.9%
Clark	741	379	54,020	7.0	-77	-9.4%
Columbia	14	10	376	26.6	0	-
Cowlitz	689	256	11,261	22.7	+60	+9.5%
Douglas	196	80	4,914	16.3	-4	-2.0%
Ferry	10	5	610	8.2	N/A	-
Franklin	217	122	12,867	9.5	-145	-40.1%
Garfield	0	0	195	0.0	N/A	-
Grant	349	193	12,377	15.6	-71	-16.9%
Grays Harbor	283	144	6,658	21.6	-68	-19.4%
Island	135	51	6,222	8.2	+15	+12.5%
Jefferson	52	24	1,837	13.1	+24	+85.7%
King	1,296	729	191,573	3.8	-85	-6.2%
Kitsap	476	203	24,442	8.3	-64	-11.9%
Kittitas	67	30	3,525	8.5	+18	+36.7%
Klickitat	61	35	2,033	17.2	+6	+10.9%
Lewis	365	171	7,626	22.4	-34	-8.5%
Lincoln	5	3	1,136	2.6	N/A	-
Mason	76	41	5,602	7.3	-72	-48.6%
Okanogan	225	118	4,256	27.7	-123	-35.3%
Pacific	40	22	1,645	13.4	-3	-7.0%
Pend Oreille	38	20	1,215	16.5	N/A	-
Pierce	1,451	837	89,208	9.4	-32	-2.2%
San Juan	5	5	1,113	4.5	+3	+150.0%
Skagit	307	130	12,168	10.7	-71	-18.8%
Skamania	14	8	1,085	7.4	-11	-44.0%
Snohomish	790	427	80,386	5.3	-210	-21.0%
Spokane	828	397	50,279	7.9	-19	-2.2%
Stevens	104	45	4,621	9.7	+24	+30.0%
Thurston	564	278	27,125	10.2	-44	-7.2%
Wahkiakum	6	4	385	10.4	-2	-25.0%
Walla Walla	193	81	5,874	13.8	+6	+3.2%
Whatcom	320	157	18,989	8.3	-90	-22.0%
Whitman	25	16	3,154	5.1	N/A	-
Yakima	673	360	32,851	11.0	+59	+9.6%
JR hold	260	147			+23	+9.7%
Total	12,535	6,188	724,321	8.5	-797	-6.0%

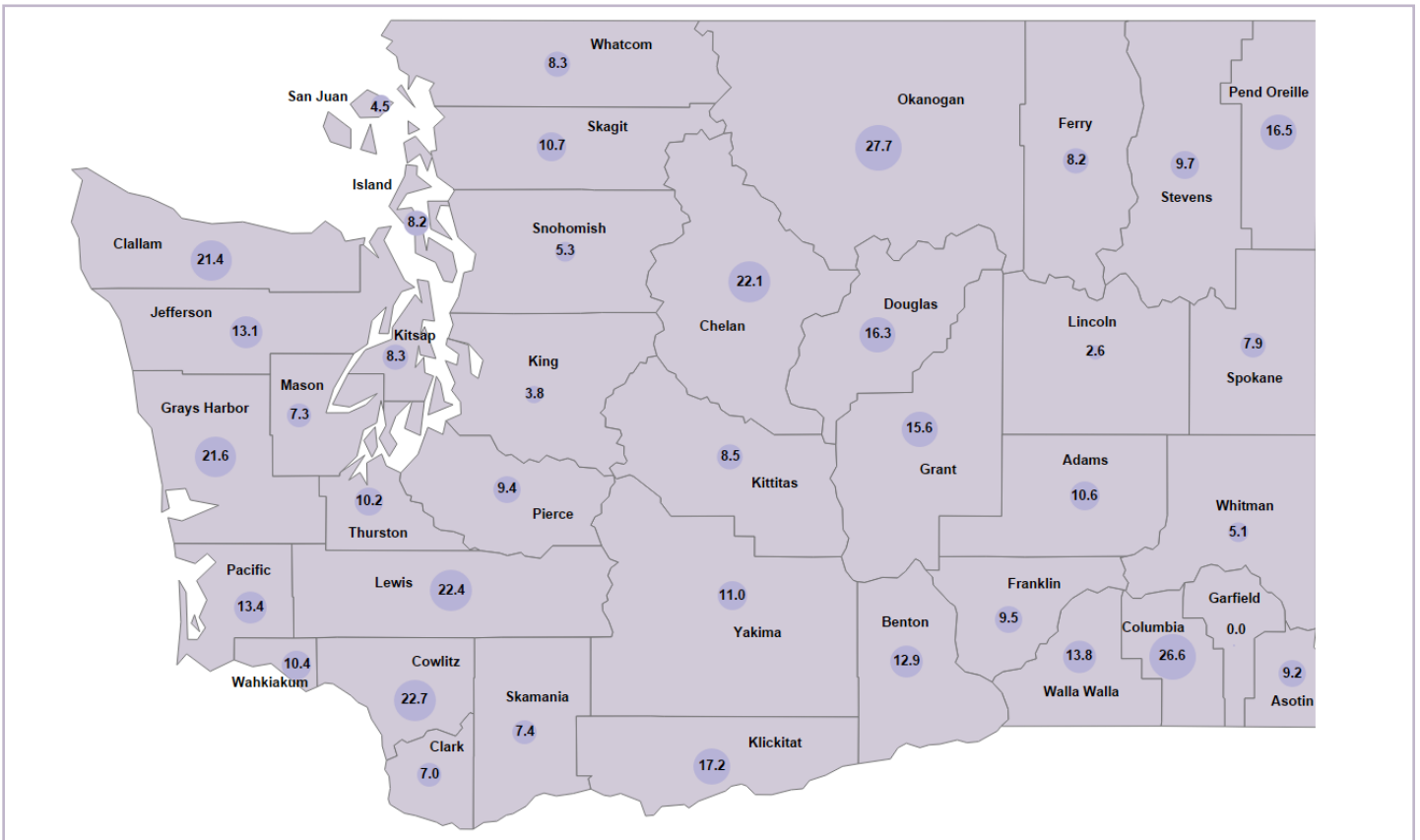
Note: statewide change in total admissions only includes counties with complete data in both 2016 and 2017.
N/A=Not Available



How prevalent was a juvenile detention episode in 2017?

Figure 2 shows the youth-level detention rates in 2017 for every 1,000 youth (ages 10-17) in the county. The size of the bubble corresponds to the magnitude of the rate, so that larger bubbles indicate higher rates. As shown in Table 1, the statewide youth-level population-based rate of detention in 2017 was 8.5 per 1,000 youth. In other words, if one were to select 1,000 youth aged 10 to 17 in the state, nearly nine of them would have been admitted to a juvenile detention facility on at least one occasion in 2017.³

Figure 2. Youth-Level Detention Rates by County. This figure shows the number of youth (per 1,000 youth age 10-17 in the county) who had at least one detention stay in 2017.



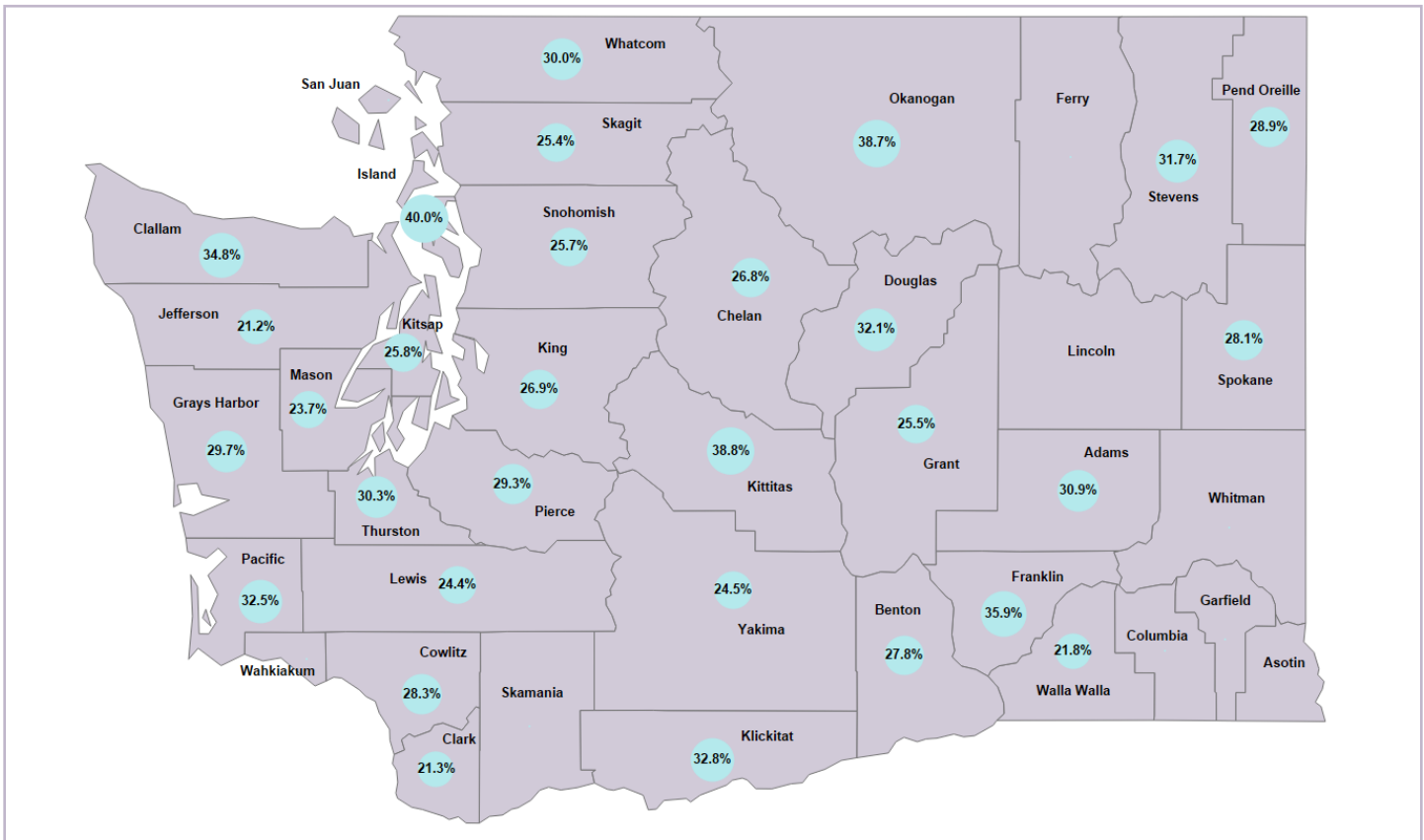
³ If a youth had a detention admission in two or more counties, the youth was counted in the county where the admission for the most serious reason occurred.



What are the demographic characteristics of youth who experienced detention in 2017?

Figure 3 shows the percentage of admissions accounted for by girls. Only counties that had at least 30 detention admissions in 2017 are included in this figure, to avoid potentially misleading generalizations from small populations (please see Table 2 for the gender breakdown in each county). Across all counties as well as JR holds, 27.5% of all admissions were accounted for by girls.

Figure 3. Girls in Detention in 2017 by County. This figure shows the percentage of admissions accounted for by girls.



Note: counties with fewer than 30 total admissions in 2017 are excluded from this figure.

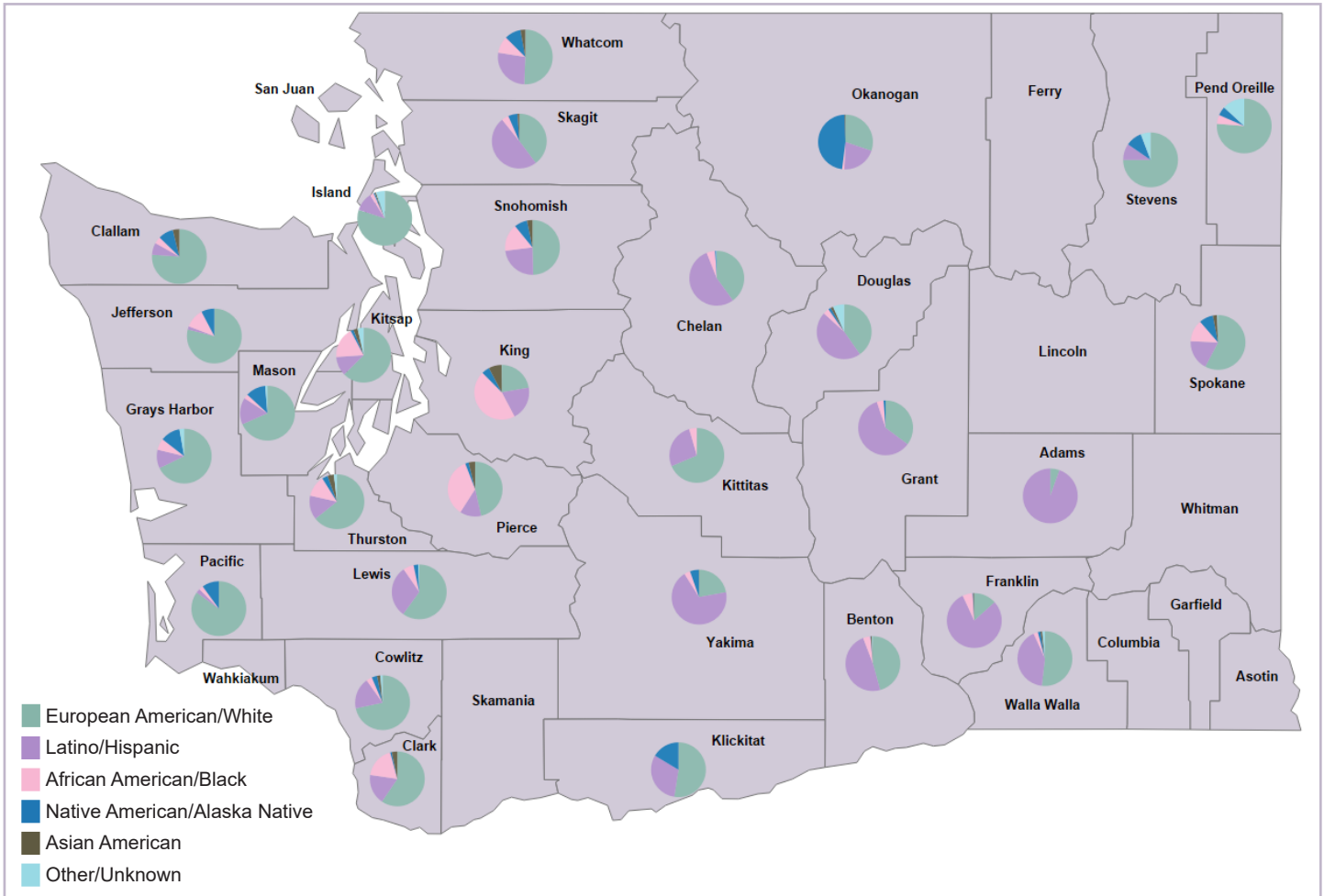


Table 2. Admissions to Detention in 2017 by Gender and County.

County (Number of Admissions)	Female		Male		Unknown	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Adams (55)	17	30.9	38	69.1	0	0.0
Asotin (23)	12	52.2	11	47.8	0	0.0
Benton (814)	226	27.8	587	72.1	1	0.1
Chelan (400)	107	26.8	292	73.0	1	0.3
Clallam (368)	128	34.8	240	65.2	0	0.0
Clark (741)	158	21.3	582	78.5	1	0.1
Columbia (14)	2	14.3	12	85.7	0	0.0
Cowlitz (689)	195	28.3	494	71.7	0	0.0
Douglas (196)	63	32.1	132	67.3	1	0.5
Ferry (10)	2	20.0	8	80.0	0	0.0
Franklin (217)	78	35.9	139	64.1	0	0.0
Garfield (0)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grant (349)	89	25.5	260	74.5	0	0.0
Grays Harbor (283)	84	29.7	199	70.3	0	0.0
Island (135)	54	40.0	80	59.3	1	0.7
Jefferson (52)	11	21.2	41	78.8	0	0.0
King (1,296)	348	26.9	948	73.1	0	0.0
Kitsap (476)	123	25.8	353	74.2	0	0.0
Kittitas (67)	26	38.8	41	61.2	0	0.0
Klickitat (61)	20	32.8	41	67.2	0	0.0
Lewis (365)	89	24.4	276	75.6	0	0.0
Lincoln (5)	0	0.0	5	100.0	0	0.0
Mason (76)	18	23.7	56	73.7	2	2.6
Okanogan (225)	87	38.7	131	58.2	7	3.1
Pacific (40)	13	32.5	27	67.5	0	0.0
Pend Oreille (38)	11	28.9	27	71.1	0	0.0
Pierce (1,451)	425	29.3	1,022	70.4	4	0.3
San Juan (5)	2	40.0	3	60.0	0	0.0
Skagit (307)	78	25.4	229	74.6	0	0.0
Skamania (14)	6	42.9	8	57.1	0	0.0
Snohomish (790)	203	25.7	587	74.3	0	0.0
Spokane (828)	233	28.1	586	70.8	9	1.1
Stevens (104)	33	31.7	66	63.5	5	4.8
Thurston (564)	171	30.3	393	69.7	0	0.0
Wahkiakum (6)	4	66.7	2	33.3	0	0.0
Walla Walla (193)	42	21.8	151	78.2	0	0.0
Whatcom (320)	96	30.0	224	70.0	0	0.0
Whitman (25)	4	16.0	21	84.0	0	0.0
Yakima (673)	165	24.5	508	75.5	0	0.0
JR Hold (260)	23	8.8	236	90.8	1	0.4
Total (12,535)	3,446	27.5	9,056	72.2	33	0.3

Note: percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 4. Detention Admissions in 2017 by Race/Ethnicity and County. *This figure shows the racial/ethnic breakdown for all detention admissions in 2017.*



Note: counties with fewer than 30 total admissions in 2017 are excluded from this figure.

Figure 4 shows the admission-level racial/ethnic breakdown of detention admissions for all counties that had at least 30 admissions in 2017 (please see Table 3 for the racial/ethnic breakdown in each county). In order to prevent individuals from possibly being identified, especially in smaller jurisdictions with limited racial/ethnic diversity, cells in Table 3 with fewer than 10 cases⁴ are not shown, except in the instance when doing so does not provide any identifying information. Across all counties as well as JR holds, 48.7% of all admissions to detention in 2017 involved a European American/White youth, 27.6% involved a Latino/Hispanic youth, 15.5% involved an African American/Black youth, 5.0% involved a Native American/Alaska Native youth, and 2.5% involved an Asian American youth. There was substantial variability in the racial/ethnic makeup of youth in detention in 2017 by county, with patterns emerging by geographic region. For example, counties in Central and Eastern Washington showed the highest admission rates for Latino/Hispanic youth, while counties in Western Washington had higher admission rates for African American/Black youth than counties in other regions.

⁴ If only one cell had fewer than 10 cases, the next largest cell was also excluded, even if it contained more than 10 cases.



Table 3. Detention Admissions in 2017 by Race/Ethnicity and County.

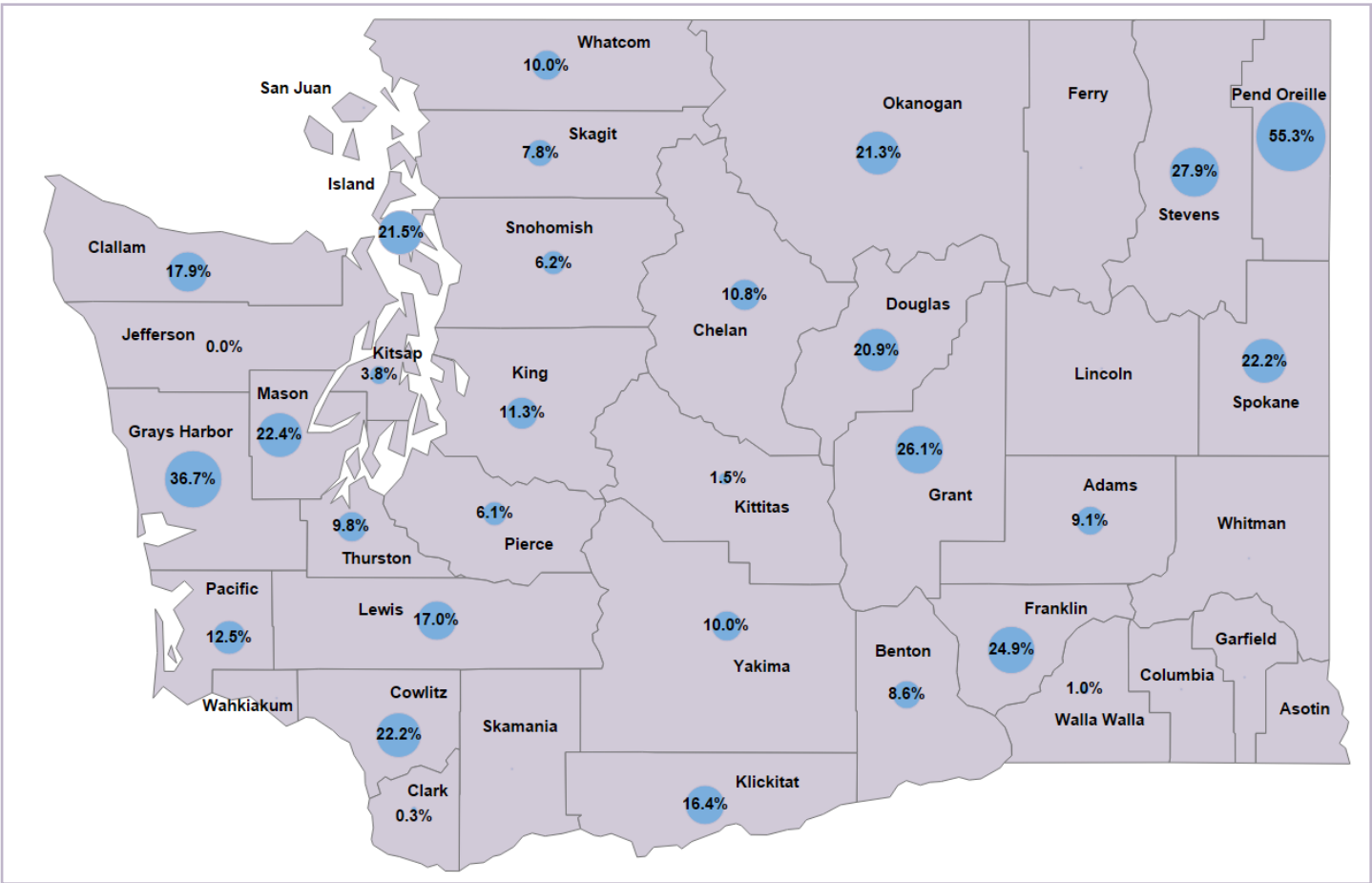
County (Number of Admissions)	European American/ White		Latino/ Hispanic		African American/ Black		Native American/ Alaska Native		Asian American		Other/ Unknown	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Adams (55)			52	94.5								
Asotin (23)	23	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Benton (814)	372	45.7	395	48.5	35	4.3						
Chelan (400)	160	40.0	216	54.0	20	5.0						
Clallam (368)	280	76.1	26	7.1	15	4.1	33	9.0	14	3.8	0	0.0
Clark (741)	441	59.5	132	17.8	137	18.5			24	3.2		
Columbia (14)	11	78.6										
Cowlitz (689)	494	71.7	127	18.4	24	3.5	22	3.2	13	1.9	9	1.3
Douglas (196)	79	40.3	91	46.4							13	6.6
Ferry (10)												
Franklin (217)	29	13.4	173	79.7	13	6.0						
Garfield (0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grant (349)	123	35.2	208	59.6	14	4.0						
Grays Harbor (283)	192	67.8	31	11.0	19	6.7	33	11.7	0	0.0	8	2.8
Island (135)	108	80.0	15	11.1								
Jefferson (52)	41	78.8										
King (1,296)	289	22.3	259	20.0	587	45.3	61	4.7	99	7.6	1	0.1
Kitsap (476)	298	62.6	54	11.3	87	18.3					17	3.6
Kittitas (67)	46	68.7	18	26.9								
Klickitat (61)	32	52.5	19	31.1	0	0.0	10	16.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lewis (365)	219	60.0	111	30.4	23	6.3	10	2.7	0	0.0	2	0.5
Lincoln (5)												
Mason (76)	52	68.4	12	15.8								
Okanogan (225)	68	30.2	46	20.4			107	47.6				
Pacific (40)	34	85.0										
Pend Oreille (38)	29	76.3										
Pierce (1,451)	675	46.5	182	12.5	509	35.1	30	2.1	55	3.8	0	0.0
San Juan (5)												
Skagit (307)	122	39.7	152	49.5	13	4.2	17	5.5				
Skamania (14)												
Snohomish (790)	392	49.6	185	23.4	127	16.1	61	7.7	25	3.2	0	0.0
Spokane (828)	478	57.7	149	18.0	107	12.9	69	8.3	21	2.5	4	0.5
Stevens (104)	78	75.0	10	9.6	0	0.0	10	9.6	0	0.0	6	5.8
Thurston (564)	363	64.4	80	14.2	71	12.6	19	3.4	21	3.7	10	1.8
Wahkiakum (6)												
Walla Walla (193)	100	51.8	80	41.5								
Whatcom (320)	162	50.6	86	26.9	32	10.0	31	9.7				
Whitman (25)	20	80.0										
Yakima (673)	149	22.1	464	68.9	24	3.6	35	5.2				
JR hold (260)	116	44.6	73	28.1	53	20.4	13	5.0				
Total (12,535)	6,101	48.7	3,455	27.6	1,947	15.5	621	5.0	315	2.5	96	0.8

Notes: to avoid potential identification of individuals, some cells with a small number of cases are greyed out. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

What proportion of juvenile detention admissions were for non-offender matters in 2017?

Figure 5 shows the percent of detention admissions where the most serious admission reason was a non-offender matter (i.e., court contempt regarding a petition for At-Risk Youth [ARY], Child in Need of Services [CHINS], Truancy, or Dependency) for each county that had at least 30 detention admissions in 2017 (please see Table 4 for the breakdown in each county).⁵ There was considerable variability across counties with regard to the proportion of detention admissions that were for non-offender matters. As shown in Table 4, across all counties, in 12.3% of all admissions the most serious reason was a non-offender matter. Of the non-offender admissions, detention admissions as a result of an At-Risk Youth petition was the most common (5.5% of all admissions), followed by truancy petitions (4.6%). Admissions for dependency-related matters were less common (2.1%), and admissions for other non-offender matters⁶ were very rare (<0.1% of all admissions). There was a 16.2% decrease in admissions for non-offender matters between 2016 and 2017, with the greatest decrease (-30.1%) observed for truancy-related admissions (please see Figure 6).

Figure 5. Non-Offender Admissions to Detention in 2017 by County. *This figure shows the percentage of admissions in 2017 where the most serious reason for detention was a non-offender matter.*



Note: counties with fewer than 30 total admissions in 2017 are excluded from this figure.

⁵ In some counties, in rare instances, non-offender youth may be charged with a criminal contempt, in which case the detention admission would not appear as being related to a non-offender matter. However, there is no indication that this practice is used with any regularity.
⁶ Other matters include CHINS petitions, a combination of two or more Becca petitions, and an unspecified non-offender matter (usually runaway).



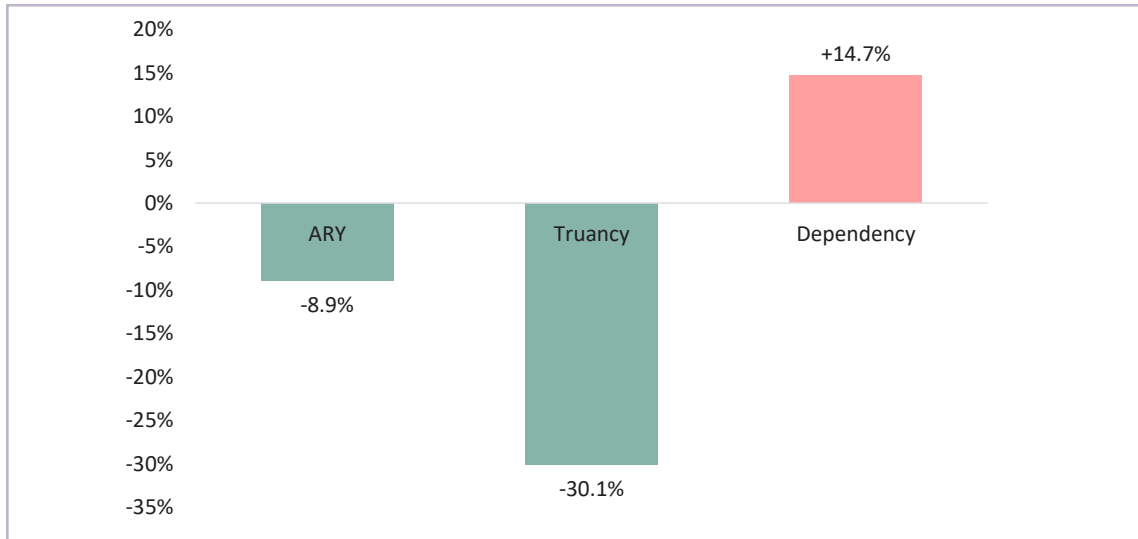
Table 4. Breakdown of Non-Offender Admissions in 2017 by County.

County (Total Number of Admissions)	Non-Offender Admissions	= Truancy	+ ARY	+ Dependency	+ CHINS & Other	Change in Non-Offender Admits from 2016	
						N	%
Adams (55)	5	5	0	0	0	N/A	-
Asotin (23)	8	8	0	0	0	N/A	-
Benton (814)	70	37	32	0	1	-10	-12.5
Chelan (400)	43	22	21	0	0	0	-
Clallam (368)	66	33	27	6	0	+4	+6.5
Clark (741)	2	0	0	1	1	-7	-77.8
Columbia (14)	2	2	0	0	0	+1	+100.0
Cowlitz (689)	153	86	56	11	0	-1	-0.6
Douglas (196)	41	24	17	0	0	-7	-14.6
Ferry (10)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-
Franklin (217)	54	41	11	2	0	-71	-56.8
Garfield (0)	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-
Grant (349)	91	86	5	0	0	+7	+8.3
Grays Harbor (283)	104	59	37	7	1	-64	-38.1
Island (135)	29	4	22	3	0	+15	+107.1
Jefferson (52)	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
King (1,296)	146	0	69	77	0	+7	+5.0
Kitsap (476)	18	0	12	6	0	0	-
Kittitas (67)	1	0	0	1	0	-2	-66.7
Klickitat (61)	10	7	3	0	0	-3	-23.1
Lewis (365)	62	41	16	5	0	-56	-47.5
Lincoln (5)	1	1	0	0	0	N/A	-
Mason (76)	17	0	13	4	0	-18	-51.4
Okanogan (225)	48	43	2	3	0	-27	-36.0
Pacific (40)	5	3	0	2	0	+4	+400.0
Pend Oreille (38)	21	6	5	10	0	N/A	-
Pierce (1,451)	88	3	77	7	1	-27	-23.5
San Juan (5)	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Skagit (307)	24	0	13	11	0	-17	-41.5
Skamania (14)	1	1	0	0	0	-2	-66.7
Snohomish (790)	49	4	35	10	0	-49	-50.0
Spokane (828)	184	16	118	50	0	+61	+49.6
Stevens (104)	29	10	14	5	0	+8	+38.1
Thurston (564)	55	7	39	8	1	+10	+22.2
Wahkiakum (6)	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Walla Walla (193)	2	0	2	0	0	0	-
Whatcom (320)	32	6	16	9	1	-30	-48.4
Whitman (25)	9	8	1	0	0	N/A	-
Yakima (673)	67	10	27	30	0	-14	-17.3
JR Hold (260)	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Total (12,535)	1,537	573	690	268	6	-288	-16.2

Notes: statewide change in non-offender admissions only includes counties with complete data in both 2016 and 2017. N/A=Not Available



Figure 6. Change in Detention Admissions for ARY, Truancy, and Dependency Matters from 2016 to 2017.

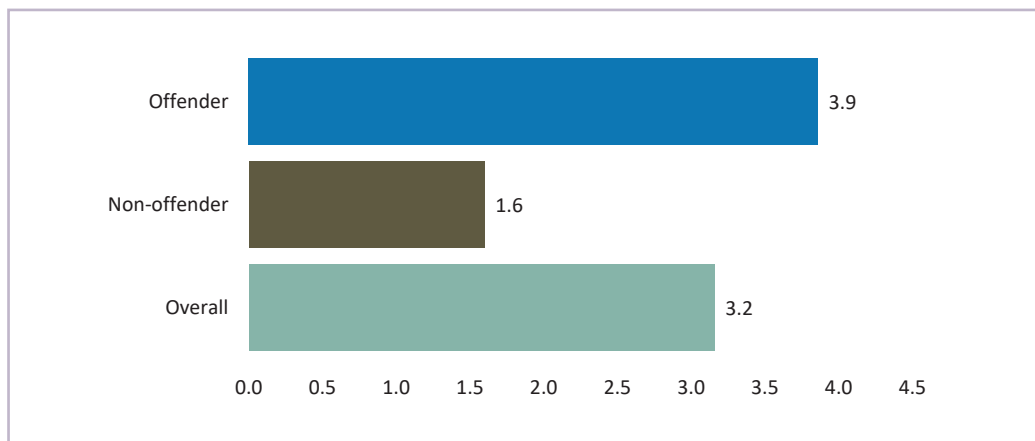


Note: the calculations of change in admissions only include counties with complete data in both 2016 and 2017 (see Table 4).

How long did a typical detention admission last in 2017?

Figure 7 shows the median length of stay⁷ across all counties, broken down by admissions for offender matters and non-offender matters. Length of stay takes into account the time the youth physically spent in secure detention, subtracting any temporary leave, furlough time, or time spent in alternatives to secure detention (such as electronic home monitoring). The median, rather than the mean (average) is presented here because it is a more accurate measure of the “typical” length of stay in detention. Very long detention stays (e.g., for youth who are being tried as adults) tend to skew the average length of stay upward. Indeed, the average length of stay in 2017 was 9.4 days, while the median length of stay was 3.2 days, indicating that half of all admissions were shorter than about three days and half were longer. As shown in Figure 7, the median length of stay for admissions related to an offender matter (3.9 days) was more than two times longer than the median length of stay for admissions related to a non-offender matter (1.6 days).

Figure 7. Median Length of Stay (in Days) in Detention in 2017.



⁷ Length of stay was calculated for each admission that ended in 2017, regardless of whether it began in 2016 or 2017.



Conclusion

The goal of this detention report is to provide a useful tool to juvenile justice stakeholders to help evaluate practices and guide policy decisions, and we hope that this information will be used to continue to make improvements in service delivery to the youth and families involved with the juvenile court. Each annual report provides an opportunity to observe trends, as well as a chance to improve data reporting and quality. We were pleased to be able to include all jurisdictions in the 2017 report, and are looking forward to expanding the data elements included in each report in subsequent years. Washington State saw a reduction in overall detention admission between 2016 and 2017 as well as a sizable reduction in non-offender admissions over the same time period. Future reports will allow for an even more in-depth analysis of changes over time.