



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.

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 juvenile detention centers in Washington State located?
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. As of January 2017, all courts across the state are now 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. Washington State Juvenile Detention Facilities.

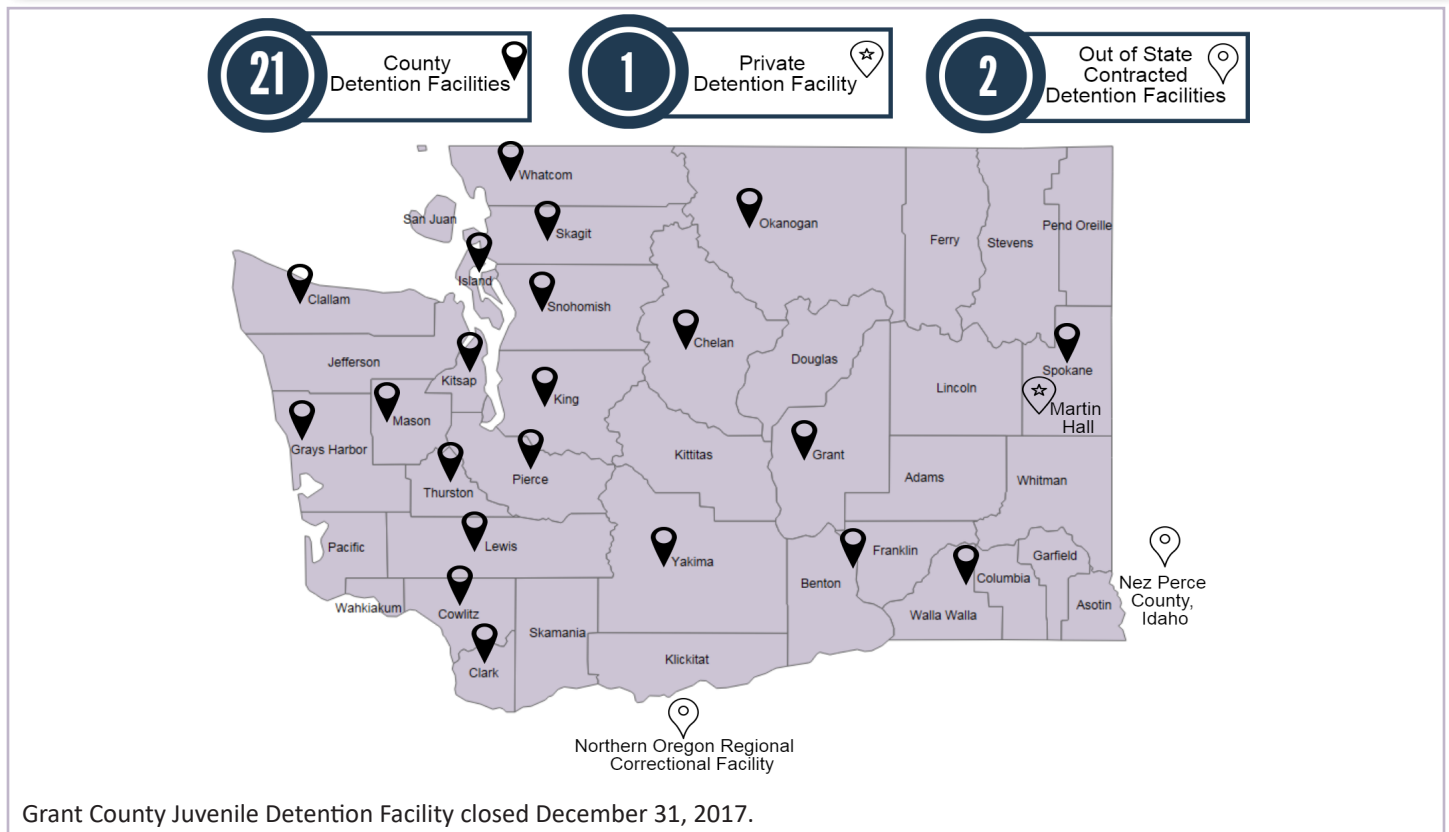




Figure 1 shows the locations of the juvenile detention facilities that served court-involved youth in Washington State during the 2017 calendar year. The vast majority of youth were placed in one of the state's 21 county-operated juvenile detention facilities. A smaller number of youth, depending on their geographic location, were placed in the privately-operated facility, Martin Hall, or a juvenile detention facility 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 275 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 county¹, 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 youth who were placed in a juvenile detention facility.

Table 1 shows the total number of detention admissions by county, 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, 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 4.2% 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.



Table 1. Detention 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) x 1,000)	Change in Total Admits from 2016
Adams	55	31	2,913	10.6	N/A
Asotin	23	20	2,184	9.2	N/A
Benton	816	307	23,677	13.0	+126 (18.3%)
Chelan	400	178	8,066	22.1	+10 (2.6%)
Clallam	369	125	5,853	21.4	+57 (18.3%)
Clark	977	546	54,020	10.1	+155 (18.9%)
Columbia	14	10	376	26.6	0
Cowlitz	689	255	11,261	22.6	+60 (9.5%)
Douglas	196	80	4,914	16.3	-4 (2.0%)
Ferry	10	5	610	8.2	N/A
Franklin	219	123	12,867	9.6	-147 (40.2%)
Garfield	0	0	195	0.0	N/A
Grant	350	193	12,377	15.6	-70 (16.7%)
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	728	191,573	3.8	-85 (6.2%)
Kitsap	526	240	24,442	9.8	-39 (6.9%)
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	228	121	4,256	28.4	-120 (34.5%)
Pacific	40	22	1,654	13.4	-3 (7.0%)
Pend Oreille	38	20	1,215	16.5	N/A
Pierce	1,490	870	89,208	9.8	-64 (4.1%)
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	794	430	80,386	5.3	-207 (20.7%)
Spokane	831	400	50,279	8.0	-16 (1.9%)
Stevens	104	45	4,621	9.7	+24 (30.0%)
Thurston	565	278	27,125	10.2	-43 (7.1%)
Wahkiakum	6	4	385	10.4	-2 (25.0%)
Walla Walla	198	85	5,874	14.5	+9 (4.8%)
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	+60 (9.8%)
JR hold	260	147	-	-	+23 (9.7%)
Total	12,882	6,438	724,321	8.9	-556 (4.2%)*

*Statewide change in total admissions only includes counties with complete data in both 2016 and 2017.

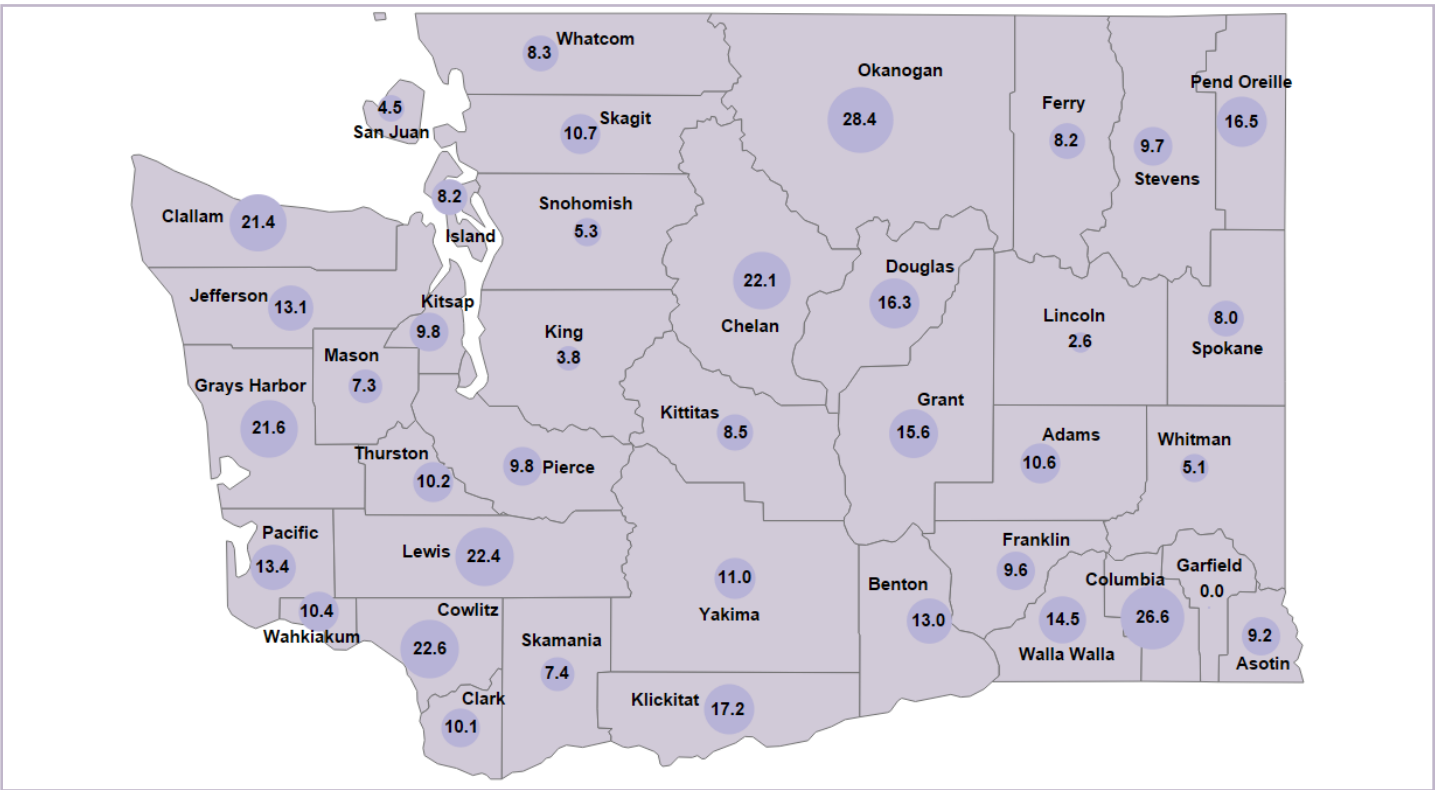
Note: N/A=Not Available



How prevalent was a 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 overall youth-level population-based rate of detention in 2017 was 8.9 per 1,000 youth. In other words, if one were to select 1,000 youth aged 10 to 17 in the state, approximately nine of them would have been admitted to a juvenile detention facility on at least one occasion in 2017². This rate was slightly lower than last year's rate of 9.3 youth per 1,000.

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.



² 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, 27.6% 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.*

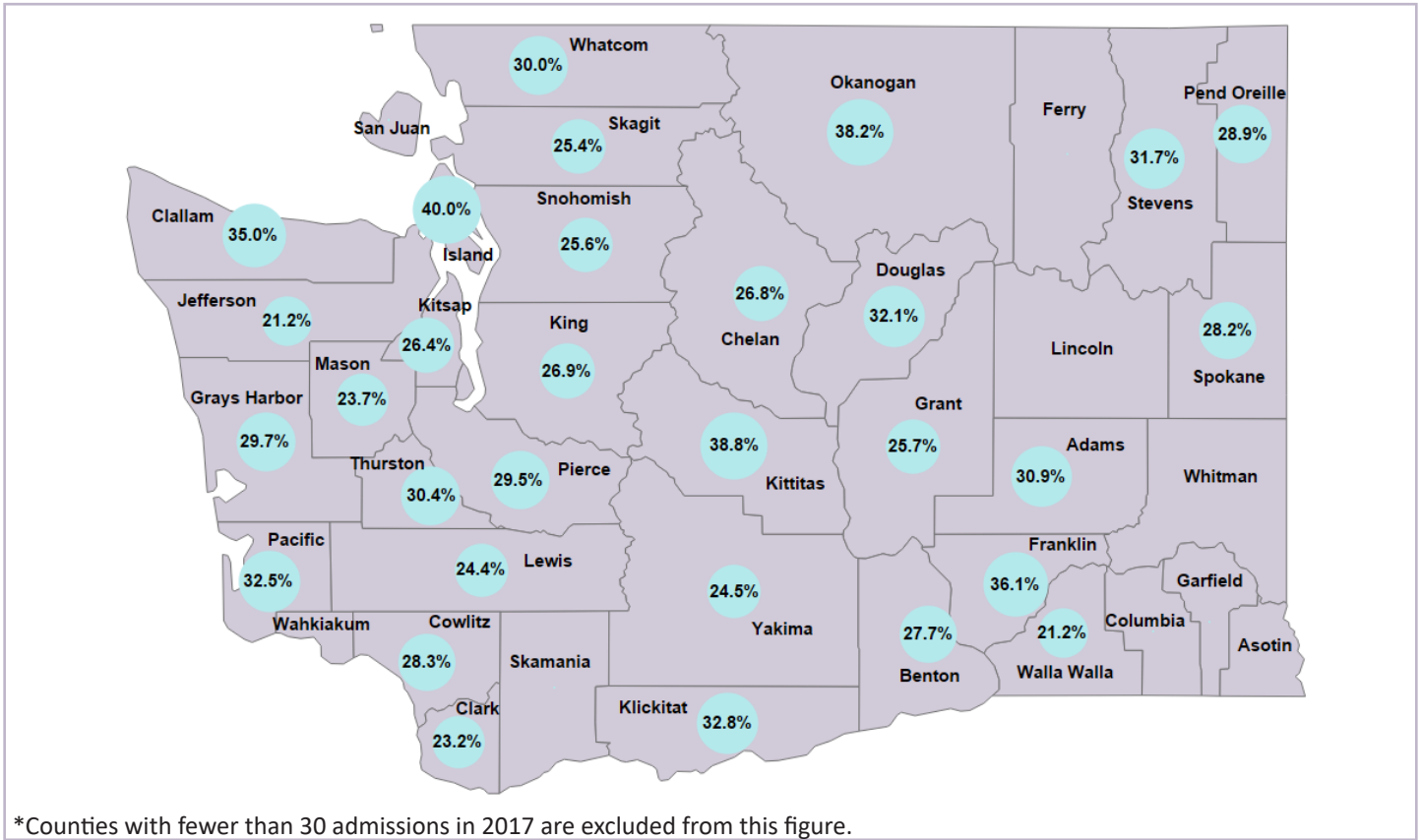




Table 2. Admissions to Detention in 2017 by Gender and County.

County (Number of Admissions)	Female	Male	Unknown
Adams (55)	17	38	0
Asotin (23)	12	11	0
Benton (816)	226	589	1
Chelan (400)	107	292	1
Clallam (369)	129	240	0
Clark (977)	227	749	1
Columbia (14)	2	12	0
Cowlitz (689)	195	494	0
Douglas (196)	63	132	1
Ferry (10)	2	8	0
Franklin (219)	79	140	0
Garfield (0)	-	-	-
Grant (350)	90	260	0
Grays Harbor (283)	84	199	0
Island (135)	54	80	1
Jefferson (52)	11	41	0
King (1,296)	348	948	0
Kitsap (526)	139	387	0
Kittitas (67)	26	41	0
Klickitat (61)	20	41	0
Lewis (365)	89	276	0
Lincoln (5)	0	5	0
Mason (76)	18	56	2
Okanogan (228)	87	134	7
Pacific (40)	13	27	0
Pend Oreille (38)	11	27	0
Pierce (1,490)	439	1047	4
San Juan (5)	2	3	0
Skagit (307)	78	229	0
Skamania (14)	6	8	0
Snohomish (794)	203	591	0
Spokane (831)	234	588	9
Stevens (104)	33	66	5
Thurston (565)	172	393	0
Wahkiakum (6)	4	2	0
Walla Walla (198)	42	156	0
Whatcom (320)	96	224	0
Whitman (25)	4	21	0
Yakima (673)	165	508	0
JR hold (260)	23	236	1
Total (12,882)	3,550	9,299	33

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

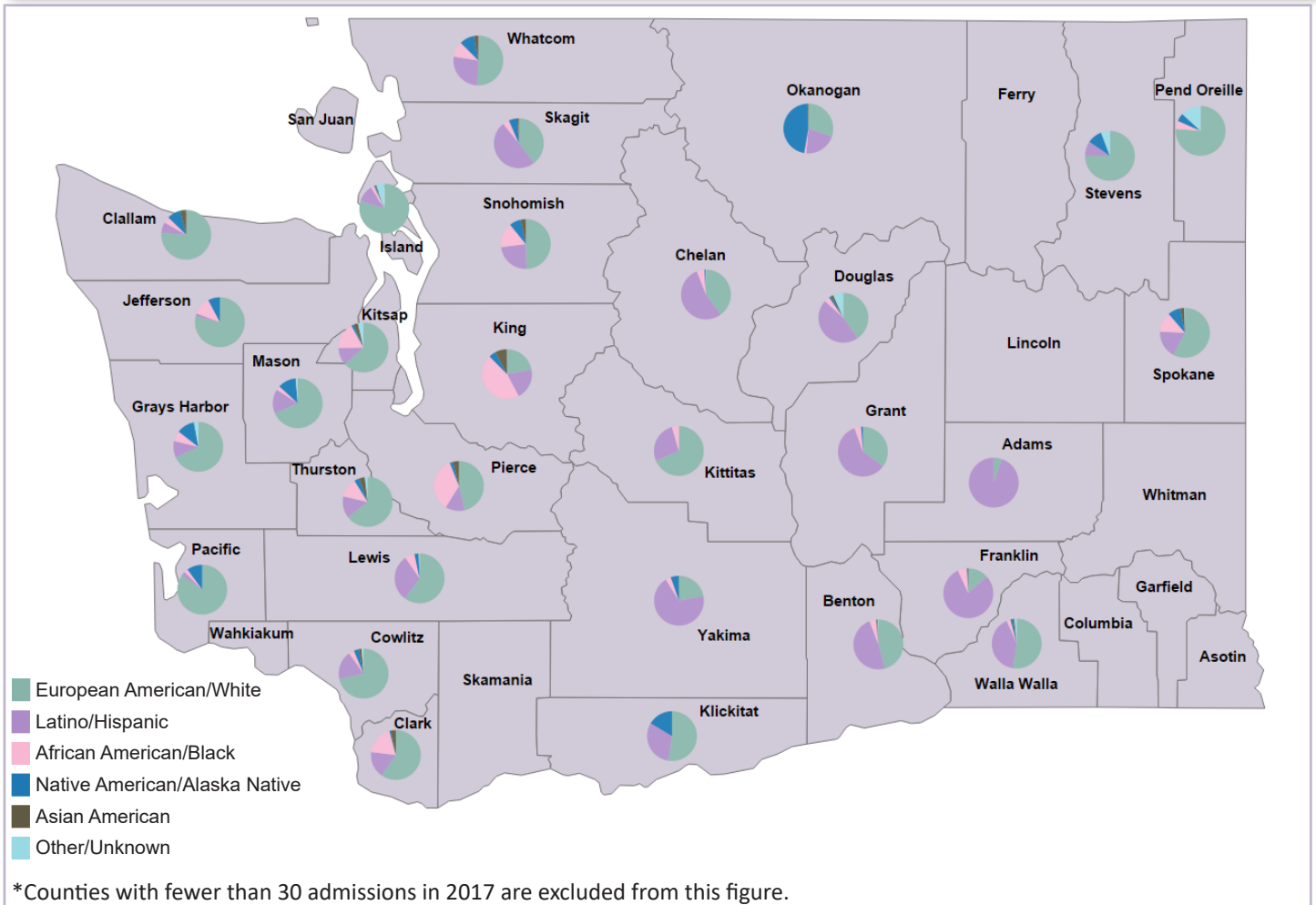


Figure 4 shows the admission-level racial/ethnic breakdown of detention admissions for all counties that had at least 30 admissions in 2017 (please see Table 3 for the racial/ethnic breakdown in each county). In order to prevent individuals from possibly being identified (especially in smaller jurisdictions with limited racial/ethnic diversity), cells in Table 3 with fewer than 10 cases³ are not shown, except in the instance when doing so does not provide any identifying information. Across all counties as well as JR holds, 49.0% of all admissions to detention in 2017 involved a European American/White youth, 27.2% involved a Latino/Hispanic youth, 15.6% involved an African American/Black youth, 4.8% involved a Native American/Alaska Native youth, and 2.6% 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.

⁵ 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.

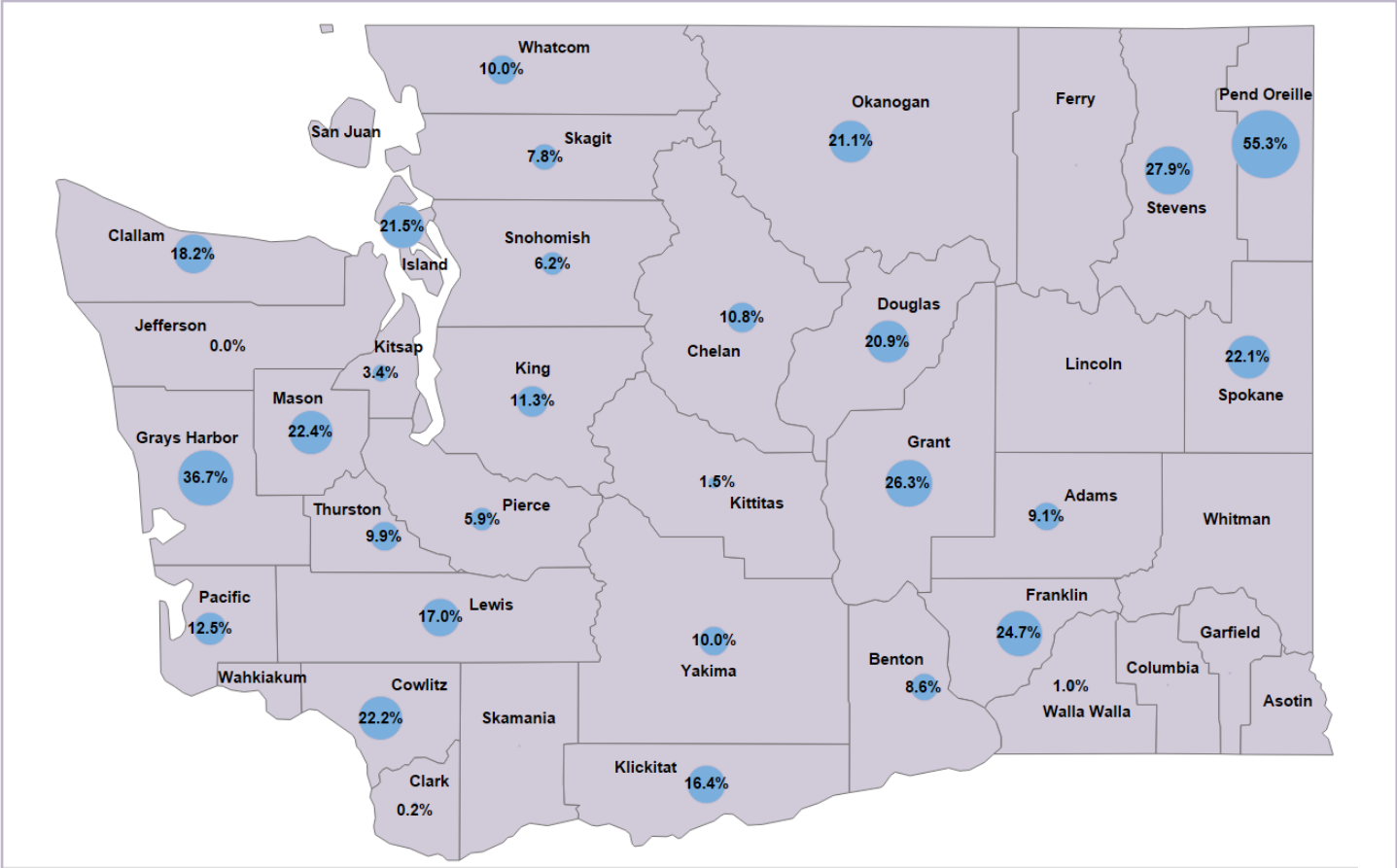
County (Number of Admissions)	European American/ White		Latino/ Hispanic		African American/ Black		Native American/ Alaska Native		Asian American		Other/ Unknown	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Adams (55)			52	94.5								
Asotin (23)	23	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Benton (816)	374	45.8	395	48.4	35	4.3						
Chelan (400)	160	40.0	216	54.0	20	5.0						
Clallam (369)	281	76.2	26	7.0	15	4.1	33	8.9	14	3.8	0	0.0
Clark (977)	583	59.7	169	17.3	184	18.8			33	3.4		
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 (219)	29	13.2	175	79.9	13	5.9						
Garfield (0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grant (350)	123	35.1	208	59.4	15	4.3						
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 (526)	334	63.5	59	11.2	91	17.3					19	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 (228)	69	30.3	48	21.1			107	46.9				
Pacific (40)	34	85.0										
Pend Oreille (38)	29	76.3										
Pierce (1,490)	690	46.3	187	12.6	524	35.2	31	2.1	58	3.9	0	0.0
San Juan (5)												
Skagit (307)	122	39.7	152	49.5	13	4.2	17	5.5				
Skamania (14)												
Snohomish (794)	394	49.6	186	23.4	128	16.1	61	7.7	25	3.1	0	0.0
Spokane (831)	479	57.6	150	18.1	108	13.0	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 (565)	364	64.4	80	14.2	71	12.6	19	3.4	21	3.7	10	1.8
Wahkiakum (6)												
Walla Walla (198)	104	52.5	81	40.9								
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 (12,882)	6,306	49.0	3,509	27.2	2,016	15.6	623	4.8	330	2.6	98	0.8

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

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)⁴. 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 12.0% 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 (5.4% of all admissions), followed by truancy petitions (4.5%). Admissions for dependency-related matters were less common (2.1%), and admissions for CHINS petitions or another non-offender matter⁵ were very rare (<0.1% of all admissions). There was a 16.0% decrease in admissions for non-offender matters between 2016 and 2017, with the greatest decrease (-29.9%) 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.*



*Counties with fewer than 30 admissions in 2017 are excluded from this figure.

⁴ In some counties, in rare instances, non-offender youth may be charged with a criminal contempt, in which case the detention admission would not show up as being related to a non-offender matter. However, there is no indication that this practice is used with any regularity.
⁵ These were coded as non-offender admissions, but did not identify a specific non-offender matter.



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

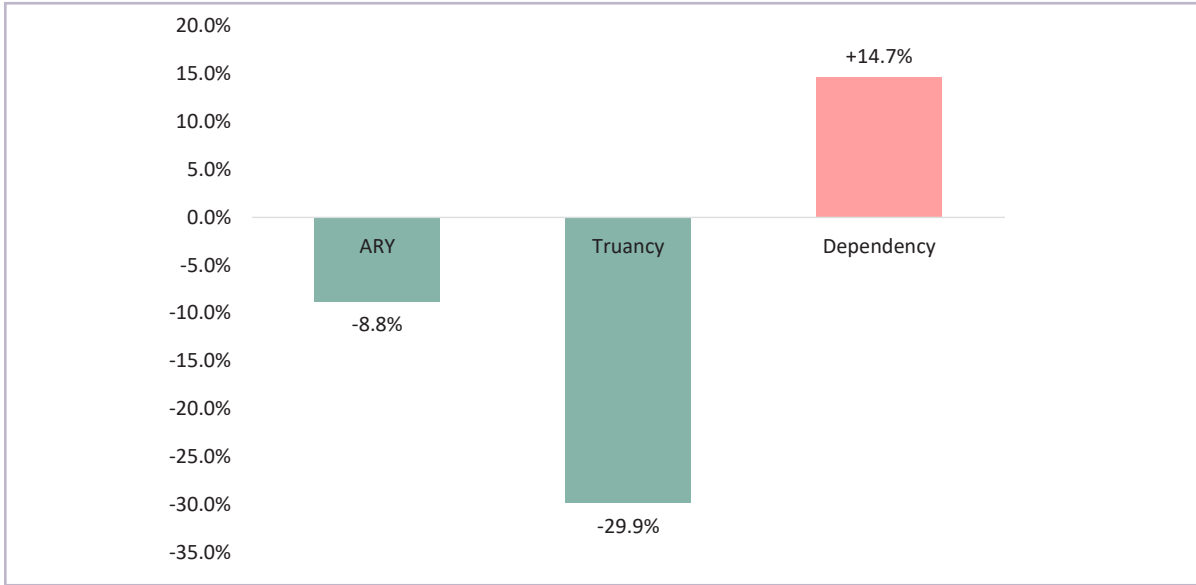
County (Total Number of Admissions)	Non-Offender Admissions	= Truancy	+ ARY	+ Dependency	+ CHINS & Other	Change in Non- Offender Admits from 2016
Adams (55)	5	5	0	0	0	N/A
Asotin (23)	8	8	0	0	0	N/A
Benton (816)	70	37	32	0	1	-10 (12.5%)
Chelan (400)	43	22	21	0	0	0
Clallam (369)	67	34	27	6	0	+5 (8.1%)
Clark (977)	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 (219)	54	41	11	2	0	-71 (56.8%)
Garfield (0)	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Grant (350)	92	87	5	0	0	+8 (9.5%)
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 (526)	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 (228)	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 (1,490)	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 (794)	49	4	35	10	0	-49 (50.0%)
Spokane (831)	184	16	118	50	0	+61 (49.6%)
Stevens (104)	29	10	14	5	0	+8 (38.1%)
Thurston (565)	56	7	40	8	1	+11 (24.4%)
Wahkiakum (6)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walla Walla (198)	2	0	2	0	0	0
Whatcom (320)	32	6	16	9	1	-30 (48.4%)
Whitman (25)	9	8	1	0	0	0
Yakima (673)	67	10	27	30	0	-14 (17.3%)
JR Hold (260)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (12,882)	1540	575	691	268	6	-285 (16.0%)*

*Statewide change in non-offender admissions only includes counties with complete data in both 2016 and 2017.

Note: N/A=Not Available



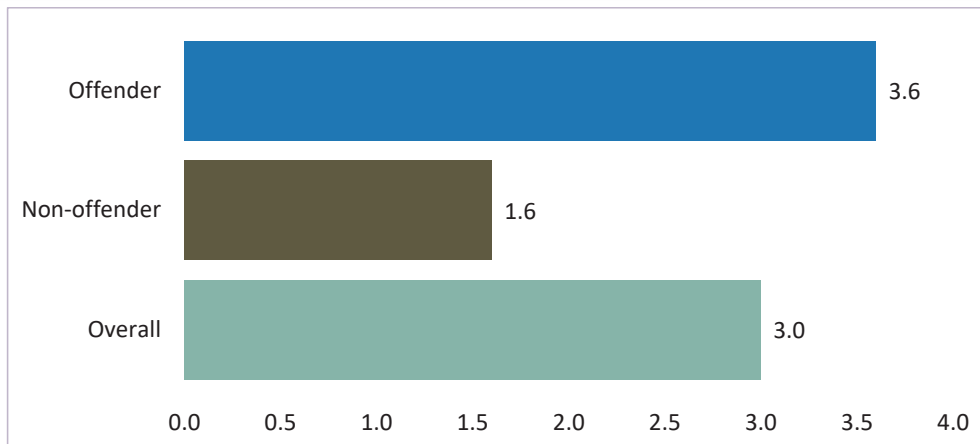
Figure 6. Change in Detention Admissions for ARY, Truancy, and Dependency Matters from 2016 to 2017.



How long did a typical detention admission last in 2017?

Figure 7 shows the median length of stay⁶ 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 9.1 days, while the median length of stay was 3.0 days, indicating that half of all admissions were shorter than three days and half were longer. As shown in Figure 7, the median length of stay for admissions related to an offender matter (3.6 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.



⁶ 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 and 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.