Washington State Juvenile Detention 2016 Annual Report



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2016 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

Dr. Amanda B. Gilman Rachael Sanford

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
Washington State Center for Court Research
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-1170
360.753.3365
wsccr@courts.wa.gov

Other AOC staff contributors: Dr. Carl McCurley, Wei Wang and Scotty Jackson

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Introduction

This inaugural detention 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 this report is to answer several fundamental questions regarding juvenile detention in Washington, including:

- 1. Where are juvenile detention centers in Washington State located?
- 2. How many admissions are there to each juvenile detention facility 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 first step towards understanding the role and impact of detention in Washington State's juvenile justice system. Given that this report is the first of its kind in the state, a significant portion of the time used to develop this report was 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. This requirement affected only a small number of courts, as most already used AOC's data management system, which automatically transmits data to AOC. As of the writing of this report, almost all courts affected by HB 2449 have begun the data transmission process, and we are hopeful that subsequent reports will include data from every court in the state. However, for the current report, data were not available for the 2016 calendar year from several courts that used the state's only privately operated juvenile detention facility, Martin Hall, and/or an out of state detention facility (see below for more detail).

In addition, given the decentralized nature of the court system in Washington State, data reporting practices vary even among courts using AOC's data management system. Thus, while preparing this report a substantial amount of time was spent reformatting data in preparation for analysis. As a result of varying coding practices across courts, it was not possible to analyze some data elements we had intended to include. We limited the current report to those data elements that appeared to be consistently recorded across all courts with available data. We intend to continue to engage courts in education and training with the goal of improving standardization and overall data quality. This will allow for increasingly comprehensive annual statewide detention reporting in the years to come. Even with these limitations, this first statewide juvenile detention report provides valuable information to all stakeholders of the Washington State juvenile justice system, and we hope that this information will be used to continue to make improvements in service delivery to the youth and families who find themselves involved with the juvenile court.

Where were youth in Washington State placed in detention in 2016?

Court-involved youth in Washington State may end up serving time in a local detention facility at some point during the adjudication process. Figure 1 presents an overview of the locations of the juvenile detention facilities that serve court-involved youth in Washington State. The vast majority of youth are placed in one of the state's 21 county-operated juvenile detention facilities. A smaller number of youth, depending on their geographic location, are placed in Martin Hall or a juvenile detention facility in a neighboring state.



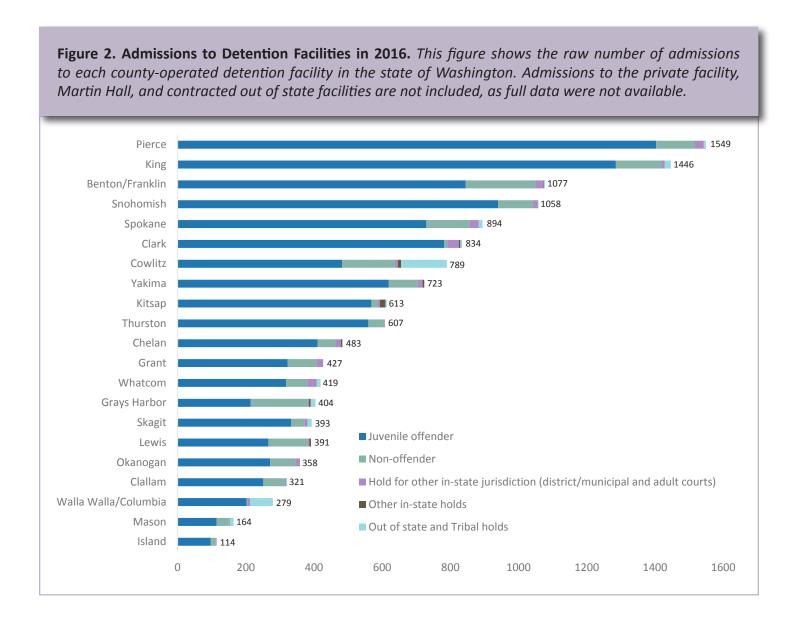
How many admissions were there to juvenile detention facilities in Washington State in 2016?

Figure 2 shows the total number of admissions for the 21 county-operated juvenile detention facilities in the state¹. Since data were not available for all admissions to the Martin Hall facility, or the out of state facilities used by some smaller counties, they are excluded from this figure. We are hopeful that future reports will include information regarding all admissions to juvenile detention facilities of youth residing in Washington State. In 2016 the Pierce County juvenile detention facility had the highest number of admissions, followed closely by the King County detention facility. The Island County detention facility had the fewest admissions in 2016. Admissions are further broken down by the reason for admission. Not surprisingly, the majority of admissions in each facility was for a juvenile offender matter. The proportion of admissions for non-offender matters varied widely by facility (see below for more information).

In addition, all facilities had at least one admission where the youth was being held for either adult criminal court or district/municipal court. These admissions are labeled as "hold for other in-state jurisdiction" in the figure. Practices regarding holding youth for other in-state, non-juvenile court jurisdictions vary by county.

¹Admission counts exclude "screen and release" episodes. Additionally, these numbers may differ from other published numbers in the state, as we count all admissions, regardless of length of stay. Other reports may exclude detention stays lasting less than four hours.

For example, 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. Since admissions to adult facilities are not included in this report, the information here should not be used to draw conclusions regarding how many youth are detained while facing charges in district/municipal courts or are charged as adults in superior court.



Finally, many county facilities have contracts to hold youth whose court involvement occurred in another state or on Tribal lands. As shown in Figure 2, some facilities had a sizable number of admissions where youth were being held for another state or a Native American Tribe (across facilities, 53 admissions were noted as being holds for a Tribe, while 234 were holds for an out of state jurisdiction). The remainder of the 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 2016. Furthermore, admissions will be counted in the county from which the youth came², regardless of where the youth was sent to serve detention. 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. For example, Grays Harbor detention facility had 404 admission in 2016 (Figure 2), but there were 351 admissions of youth from Grays Harbor in 2016 (Table 1), as the Grays Harbor facility also holds youth from other counties. 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). All but seven of the state's 39 counties are represented in the remainder of this report. Unfortunately, 2016 detention data were unavailable for Adams, Asotin, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, and Whitman Counties, which all contract with Martin Hall and/or an out of state juvenile detention facility. However, data were available from several other counties that do not have their own detention facility and are included in this report.

Table 1 includes several pieces of useful information to help guide the reader through the remainder of this report. For each county, we included the total number of detention admissions, 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 2016, and finally, the average number of detention admissions per youth. In addition, there were 237 admissions that were coded as holds for one of the state's Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) facilities³. It is important to note that some of the numbers presented below are calculated at the youth level (i.e., each youth is counted only once in 2016), while others are counted at the admission level (i.e., youth could be counted several times if they experienced several admissions), so both numbers are included in Table 1.

How prevalent was a detention episode in 2016?

Figure 3 shows the youth-level detention rates in 2016 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 (see Table 1 for the raw number of youth who experienced a detention admission as well as county population sizes to see how these rates were derived). As shown in Table 1, across all counties with available data, the overall youth-level population-based rate of detention in 2016 was 9.3 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 20164. 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. San Juan County had the lowest detention rate of the counties included in this report, though its small population size makes such calculations difficult to interpret, as a change of even a handful of admissions could impact the rate. King County had the second lowest detention rate in the state – fewer than 4 out of every 1,000 youth (or one in every 261 youth) experienced at least one detention stay in 2016. Okanogan County had the highest rate - approximately 36 youth out of every 1,000 youth (or one in every 28 youth) experienced at least one detention stay in 2016.

² When holding for another jurisdiction, detention centers record the county for which the youth is being held. We used this data field to identify the youth's home county.

³Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) facilities are operated by the state and house youth who have been adjudicated for a very serious offense

or many lower-level offenses.

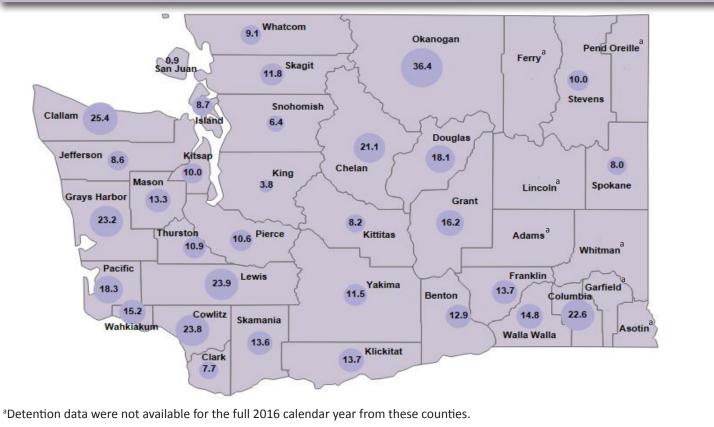
 $^{^4}$ This ra 4 te might be different with the inclusion of the seven counties whose data were not available for this report, though there is no indication it would change substantially.

Table 1. Detention Rates and Admissions per Youth in 2016 by County

County	Detention	Youth	Youth Population	Detention Rate Per 1,000	Admissions Per Youth
	Admissions	Admitted	Aged 10-17	((youth/population) x 1,000)	(admissions/youth)
Adams ^a	N/A	-	-	-	-
Asotin ^a	N/A	-	-	-	-
Benton	690	287	22,182	12.9	2.4
Chelan	390	169	8,025	21.1	2.3
Clallam	312	147	5,790	25.4	2.1
Clark	822	404	52,360	7.7	2.0
Columbia	14	8	354	22.6	1.8
Cowlitz	629	260	10,936	23.8	2.4
Douglas	200	86	4,739	18.1	2.3
Ferry ^a	N/A	-	-	-	-
Franklin	366	174	12,660	13.7	2.1
Garfield ^a	N/A	-	-	-	-
Grant	420	199	12,280	16.2	2.1
Grays Harbor	351	159	6,847	23.2	2.2
Island	120	55	6,325	8.7	2.2
Jefferson	28	17	1,981	8.6	1.7
King	1,381	731	190,864	3.8	1.9
Kitsap	565	238	23,687	10.0	2.4
Kittitas	49	35	4,293	8.2	1.4
Klickitat	55	27	1,969	13.7	2.0
Lewis	399	183	7,661	23.9	2.2
Lincolna	N/A	-	-	-	-
Mason	148	74	5,552	13.3	2.0
Okanogan	348	152	4,174	36.4	2.3
Pacific	43	30	1,643	18.3	1.4
Pend Oreille ^a	N/A	-	-	-	-
Pierce	1,554	925	87,463	10.6	1.7
San Juan	2	1	1,149	0.9	2.0
Skagit	378	146	12,348	11.8	2.6
Skamania	25	15	1,103	13.6	1.7
Snohomish	1,001	504	78,238	6.4	2.0
Spokane	847	405	50,649	8.0	2.1
Stevens	80	45	4,508	10.0	1.8
Thurston	608	298	27,441	10.9	2.0
Wahkiakum	8	5	330	15.2	1.6
Walla Walla	189	93	6,299	14.8	2.0
Whatcom	410	182	19,990	9.1	2.3
Whitman ^a	N/A	-	-	-	-
Yakima	613	361	31,386	11.5	1.7
JR hold	237	116		-	2.0
Total	13,282	6,531	705,226	9.3	2.0
		3,001	. 00,220	3.5	2.0

^aDetention data were not available for the full 2016 calendar year from these counties.

Figure 3. 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 2016.



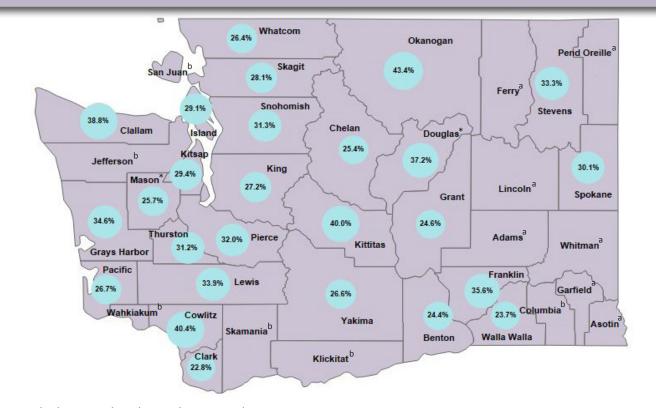
These youth-level rates are very informative, but as each youth is only counted one time in the calendar year, they may mask the variability among counties with regard to how often individual youth are being placed in detention. Thus, it is helpful to look at the average number of detention admissions per youth in 2016 (Table 1). Across all counties with available data, the average number of admissions per youth in 2016 was 2.0. At the county level the average number of admissions per youth ranged from 1.4 (Kittitas and Pacific Counties) to 2.6 (Skagit County), indicating some variability in the use of repeated detention for youth over the course of a year.

What are the demographic characteristics of youth who experienced detention in 2016?

Figure 4 shows the percentage of youth who experienced at least one detention stay in 2016 who were girls⁵. Only counties that had at least 30 youth admitted to detention in 2016 are included in this figure, to avoid potentially misleading generalizations from small populations (see Table 2 for the gender breakdown in each county with available data). Across all counties with available data as well as JR holds, girls represented 29.7% of youth who experienced at least one detention admission in 2016. Among counties that sent at least 30 youth to detention in 2016, Clark County had the lowest proportion of girls in detention (22.8%), while Okanogan County had the highest (43.4%).

⁵The current data entry system used by the courts only allows for court staff to choose between male and female; thus, unfortunately, we are unable to count the number of youth in detention whose gender identity falls outside this binary measure.

Figure 4. Girls in Detention in 2016 by County. This figure shows the proportion of youth who had at least one detention stay in 2016 who were girls.



*County had one youth with an unknown gender.

aDetention data were not available for the full 2016 calendar year from these counties.

bThese counties' rates are excluded because they had fewer than 30 youth in detention in 2016.

Table 2. Youth Admitted to Detention in 2016 by Gender and County

County (number of youth)	Female	Male
Adams (N/A) ^a	-	-
Asotin (N/A) ^a	-	-
Benton (287)	70 (24.4%)	217 (75.6%)
Chelan (169)	43 (25.4%)	126 (74.6%)
Clallam (147)	57 (38.8%)	90 (61.2%)
Clark (404)	92 (22.8%)	312 (77.2%)
Columbia (8) ^b	2 (25.0%)	6 (75.0%)
Cowlitz (260)	105 (40.4%)	155 (59.6%)
Douglas (86)*	32 (37.2%)	53 (61.6%)
Ferry (N/A) ^a	-	-
Franklin (174)	62 (35.6%)	112 (64.4%)
Garfield (N/A) ^a	-	-
Grant (199)	49 (24.6%)	150 (75.4%)
Grays Harbor (159)	55 (34.6%)	104 (65.4%)
Island (55)	16 (29.1%)	39 (70.9%)
Jefferson (17) ^b	4 (23.5%)	13 (76.5%)
King (731)	199 (27.2%)	532 (72.8%)
Kitsap (238)	70 (29.4%)	168 (70.6%)
Kittitas (35)	14 (40.0%)	21 (60.0%)
Klickitat (27) ^b	5 (18.5%)	22 (81.5%)
Lewis (183)	62 (33.9%)	121 (66.1%)

County (number of youth)	Female	Male	
Lincoln (N/A) ^a	-	-	
Mason (74)*	19 (25.7%)	54 (73.0%)	
Okanogan (152)	66 (43.4%)	86 (56.6%)	
Pacific (30)	8 (26.7%)	22 (73.3%)	
Pend Oreille (N/A) ^a	-	-	
Pierce (925)	296 (32.0%)	629 (68.0%)	
San Juan (1) ^b	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	
Skagit (146)	41 (28.1%)	105 (71.9%)	
Skamania (15) ^b	4 (26.7%)	11 (73.3%)	
Snohomish (504)	158 (31.3%)	346 (68.7%)	
Spokane (405)	122 (30.1%)	283 (69.9%)	
Stevens (45)	15 (33.3%)	30 (66.7%)	
Thurston (298)	93 (31.2%)	205 (68.8%)	
Wahkiakum (5) ^b	1 (20.0%)	4 (80.0%)	
Walla Walla (93)	22 (23.7%)	71 (76.3%)	
Whatcom (182)	48 (26.4%)	134 (73.6%)	
Whitman (N/A) ^a	-	-	
Yakima (361)	96 (26.6%)	265 (73.4%)	
JR hold (116)	16 (13.8%)	100 (86.2%)	
Total (6,531)	1,942 (29.7%)	4,587 (70.2%)	

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

*County had one youth with an unknown gender.

^aDetention data were not available for the full 2016 calendar year from these counties.

bThese counties' rates are excluded from Figure 4 because they had fewer than 30 youth in detention in 2016.

Figure 5 shows the youth-level racial/ethnic breakdown for all counties that sent at least 30 youth to detention in 2016 (see Table 3 for the racial/ethnic breakdown in each county with available data). Across all counties with available data as well as JR holds, 50.2% of youth admitted to detention in 2016 were European American/White, 25.4% were Latino/Hispanic, 15.1% were African American/Black, 5.1% were Native American/ Alaska Native, 3.1% were Asian American, and the remaining 1.2% were either unknown or fell into another racial/ethnic category. There was substantial variability in the racial/ethnic makeup of youth in detention in 2016 by county, with patterns emerging by geographic region. Counties in Central and Eastern Washington showed the highest proportion of Latino/Hispanic youth in detention, with percentages ranging from 27.6% in Okanogan County to 82.2% in Franklin County. King County and its surrounding counties (Snohomish, Kitsap, Pierce, and Thurston) had higher proportions of African American/Black youth in detention than counties in other regions, with percentages ranging from 12.1% in Snohomish County to 44.9% in King County. Outside of these regions, Clark and Spokane Counties also had notable proportions of African American/Black youth in detention (15.1% and 12.1%, respectively) and in Skagit County 47.9% of youth admitted to detention were Latino/Hispanic. The average age of youth who were admitted to detention (on the day of the admission for their most serious offense in 2016) was 16.1 years, with no substantial variability across counties (not shown in the table).

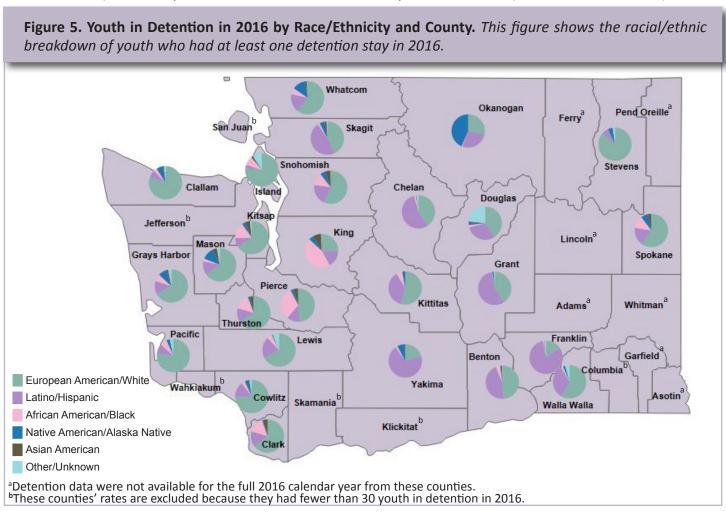


Table 3. Youth Admitted to Detention in 2016 by Race/Ethnicity

County (number of youth)	European American/ White	Latino/ Hispanic	African American/ Black	Native American/ Alaska Native	Asian American	Other/ Unknown
Adams (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asotin (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benton (287)	140 (48.8%)	129 (44.9%)	12 (4.2%)	2 (0.7%)	3 (1.0%)	1 (0.3%)
Chelan (169)	68 (40.2%)	94 (55.6%)	3 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	3 (1.8%)
Clallam (147)	118 (80.3%)	11 (7.5%)	5 (3.4%)	10 (6.8%)	1 (0.7%)	2 (1.4%)
Clark (404)	261 (64.6%)	61 (15.1%)	61 (15.1%)	4 (1.0%)	17 (4.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Columbia (8) ^b	6 (75.0%)	1 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Cowlitz (260)	193 (74.2%)	40 (15.4%)	9 (3.5%)	9 (3.5%)	3 (1.2%)	6 (2.3%)
Douglas (86)	35 (40.7%)	26 (30.2%)	2 (2.3%)	2 (2.3%)	1 (1.2%)	20 (23.3%)
Ferry (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin (174)	26 (14.9%)	143 (82.2%)	2 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	2 (1.1%)
Garfield (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grant (199)	80 (40.2%)	113 (56.8%)	1 (0.5%)	3 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (1.0%)
Grays Harbor (159)	106 (66.7%)	21 (13.2%)	11 (6.9%)	13 (8.2%)	3 (1.9%)	5 (3.1%)
Island (55)	42 (76.4%)	2 (3.6%)	5 (9.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.8%)	5 (9.1%)
Jefferson (17) ^b	13 (76.5%)	1 (5.9%)	2 (11.8%)	1 (5.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
King (731)	190 (26.0%)	117 (16.0%)	328 (44.9%)	36 (4.9%)	57 (7.8%)	3 (0.4%)
Kitsap (238)	156 (65.5%)	22 (9.2%)	37 (15.5%)	8 (3.4%)	11 (4.6%)	4 (1.7%)
Kittitas (35)	19 (54.3%)	13 (37.1%)	2 (5.7%)	1 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Klickitat (27)b	11 (40.7%)	9 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (25.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Lewis (183)	123 (67.2%)	38 (20.8%)	9 (4.9%)	1 (0.5%)	1 (0.5%)	11 (6.0%)
Lincoln (N/A)a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mason (74)	48 (64.9%)	10 (13.5%)	2 (2.7%)	9 (12.2%)	3 (4.1%)	2 (2.7%)
Okanogan (152)	43 (28.3%)	42 (27.6%)	1 (0.7%)	66 (43.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Pacific (30)	23 (76.7%)	3 (10.0%)	2 (6.7%)	1 (3.3%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (3.3%)
Pend Oreille (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pierce (925)	445 (48.1%)	122 (13.2%)	289 (31.2%)	27 (2.9%)	41 (4.4%)	1 (0.1%)
San Juan (1) ^b	1 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Skagit (146)	62 (42.5%)	70 (47.9%)	3 (2.1%)	7 (4.8%)	3 (2.1%)	1 (0.7%)
Skamania (15) ^b	11(73.3%)	2 (13.3%)	1 (6.7%)	1 (6.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Snohomish (504)	283 (56.2%)	107 (21.2%)	61 (12.1%)	26 (5.2%)	26 (5.2%)	1 (0.2%)
Spokane (405)	242 (59.8%)	72 (17.8%)	49 (12.1%)	28 (6.9%)	13 (3.2%)	1 (0.2%)
Stevens (45)	39 (86.7%)	3 (6.7%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (4.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.2%)
Thurston (298)	196 (65.8%)	41 (13.8%)	44 (14.8%)	6 (2.0%)	10 (3.4%)	1 (0.3%)
Wahkiakum (5)b	3 (60.0%)	2 (40.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Walla Walla (93)	54 (58.1%)	31 (33.3%)	2 (2.2%)	2 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (4.3%)
Whatcom (182)	110 (60.4%)	33 (18.1%)	11 (6.0%)	24 (13.2%)	3 (1.6%)	1 (0.5%)
Whitman (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yakima (361)	73 (20.2%)	253 (70.1%)	7 (1.9%)	27 (7.5%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)
JR hold (116)	58 (50.0%)	24 (20.7%)	26 (22.4%)	7 (6.0%)	1 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)
Total (6,531)	3,278 (50.2%)	1,656 (25.4%)	987 (15.1%)	331 (5.1%)	201 (3.1%)	78 (1.2%)

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

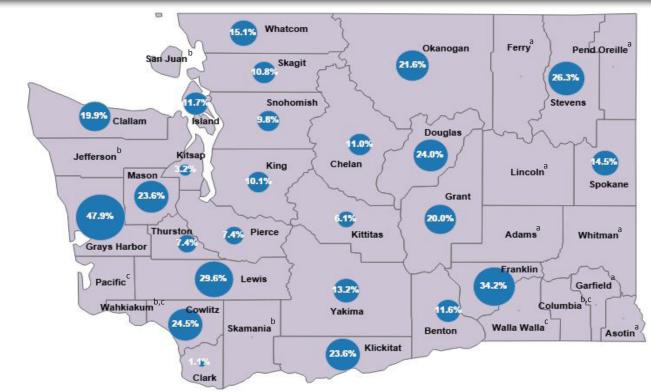
^aDetention data were not available for the full 2016 calendar year from these counties.

^bThese counties' rates are excluded from Figure 5 because they had fewer than 30 youth in detention in 2016.

What proportion of juvenile detention admissions were for non-offender matters in 2016?

Figure 6 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 2016 (see Table 4 for the breakdown in each county with available data). In addition, some counties are excluded from Figure 6 because they have case filing practices that make it difficult to determine how many detention admissions were related to a non-offender matter (see Table 4 for more information). It is important to note here that while the county-level rates and demographic data presented earlier were at the youth level (i.e., each youth was only counted once in 2016, regardless of how many admissions that youth had), data presented in this section are at the admission level. There was substantial variability across counties with regard to the proportion of detention admissions that were for non-offender matters. Among counties with at least 30 detention admissions, Clark County reported the lowest proportion (1.1%), while Grays Harbor reported the highest (47.9%). As shown in Table 4, across all counties with available data, in 13.4% of all admissions the most serious reason was a non-offender matter. Detentions for non-offender matters were most likely to occur for truancy (5.9% of all admissions), followed closely by ARY petitions (5.7%). Admissions for dependency-related matters were less common (1.7%), and admissions for CHINS petitions or another non-offender matter⁶ were rare (0.1%). Just 10 admissions for non-offender matters (0.1%) had more than one non-offender matter listed as an admission reason⁷.

Figure 6. Non-Offender Admissions to Detention in 2016 by County. This figure shows the proportion of admissions (not youth) in 2016 where the most serious reason for detention was a non-offender matter.



^aDetention data were not available for the full 2016 calendar year from these counties.

^bThese counties' rates are excluded from Figure 6 because they had fewer than 30 admissions to detention in 2016.

^cAn accurate count of non-offender admissions is not available for these counties.

⁶These were coded as non-offender admissions, but did not identify a specific non-offender matter.

⁷ All non-offender admissions for two reasons involved an ARY petition and a truancy petition.

Table 4. Breakdown of Non-Offender Admissions in 2016 by County

County (Number of Admissions)	Non- Offender Admissions (% Total)	= Truancy (% Total)	+ ARY (% Total)	+ Dependency (% Total)	+ CHINS & Other (% Total)	+ Two Reasons (% Total)
Adams (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asotin (N/A) ^a	-	-	_	-	_	-
Benton (690)	80 (11.6%)	51 (7.4%)	27 (3.9%)	2 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Chelan (390)	43 (11.0%)	25 (6.4%)	18 (4.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Clallam (312)	62 (19.9%)	41 (13.1%)	10 (3.2%)	7 (2.2%)	2 (0.6%)	2 (0.6%)
Clark (822)	9 (1.1%)	1 (0.1%)	3 (0.4%)	3 (0.4%)	2 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Columbia (14) ^{b,c}	1 (7.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (7.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Cowlitz (629)	154 (24.5%)	78 (12.4%)	64 (10.2%)	10 (1.6%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.3%)
Douglas (200)	48 (24.0%)	23 (11.5%)	25 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Ferry (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin (366)	125 (34.2%)	106 (29.0%)	17 (4.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.5%)
Garfield (N/A) ^a	-	-	- (, -	-	-	- (0.07.5)
Grant (420)	84 (20.0%)	68 (16.2%)	12 (2.9%)	2 (0.5%)	2 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Grays Harbor (351)	168 (47.9%)	90 (25.6%)	67 (19.1%)	8 (2.3%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.9%)
Island (120)	14 (11.7%)	10 (8.3%)	4 (3.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Jefferson (28) ^b	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
King (1,381)	139 (10.1%)	2 (0.1%)	53 (3.8%)	83 (6.0%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Kitsap (565)	18 (3.2%)	5 (0.9%)	9 (1.6%)	3 (0.5%)	1 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Kittitas (49)	3 (6.1%)	2 (4.1%)	1 (2.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Klickitat (55)	13 (23.6%)	10 (18.2%)	3 (5.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Lewis (399)	118 (29.6%)	62 (15.5%)	46 (11.5%)	10 (2.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Lincoln (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mason (148)	35 (23.6%)	17 (11.5%)	16 (10.8%)	2 (1.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Okanogan (348)	75 (21.6%)	61 (17.5%)	12 (3.4%)	2 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Pacific (43) ^c	1 (2.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Pend Oreille (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pierce (1,554)	115 (7.4%)	10 (0.6%)	91 (5.9%)	13 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
San Juan (2) ^b	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Skagit (378)	41 (10.8%)	3 (0.8%)	27 (7.1%)	11 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Skamania (25) ^b	3 (12.0%)	3 (12.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Snohomish (1,001)	98 (9.8%)	30 (3.0%)	67 (6.7%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Spokane (847)	123 (14.5%)	12 (1.4%)	79 (9.3%)	26 (3.1%)	6 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)
Stevens (80)	21 (26.3%)	13 (16.3%)	8 (10.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Thurston (608)	45 (7.4%)	9 (1.5%)	31 (5.1%)	5 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Wahkiakum (8) ^{b,c}	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Walla Walla (189) ^c	2 (1.1%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Whatcom (410)	62 (15.1%)	19 (4.6%)	37 (9.0%)	6 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Whitman (N/A) ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yakima (613)	81 (13.2%)	28 (4.6%)	24 (3.9%)	29 (4.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
JR hold (237)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Total (13,282)	1,781 (13.4%)	780 (5.9%)	751 (5.7%)	225 (1.7%)	15 (0.1%)	10 (0.1%)

Note: breakdown percentages may not add up to total non-offender percentage due to rounding.

^aDetention data were not available for the full 2016 calendar year from these counties.

^bThese counties' rates are excluded from Figure 6 because they had fewer than 30 admissions to detention in 2016.

^cThe proportion of non-offender admissions presented for these counties is likely an undercount, as juvenile courts in these counties sometimes file criminal contempt charges on non-offender youth, resulting in youth being coded as juvenile offenders.

How long did a typical detention admission last in 2016?

Figure 7 shows the median length of stay across all counties with available data, broken down by admissions for offender matters (including juvenile and adult) and non-offender matters⁸. 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 2016 across all counties with available data was 9.9 days, while the median length of stay was 3.2 days, indicating that half of all admissions were shorter than 3.2 days and half were longer. Overall, approximately 23% of detention stays were for less than 24 hours, while about 32% were for seven days or longer. As shown in Figure 7, the median length of stay for admissions related to an onfender matter (3.9 days) was more than two times longer than the median length of stay for admissions related to a non-offender matter (1.8 days).



1.0

1.5

2.0

2.5

3.0

3.5

4.0

4.5

0.0

0.5

Discussion and Conclusion

Given that Washington State has a decentralized court system, it is not surprising that detention practices vary widely by county. As shown above, this variability in practices results in a visible difference among counties with regard to how many youth are placed in detention, how often they go to detention, which youth are placed in detention, and the reason they are in detention (i.e., for an offender versus non-offender matter). There are likely many reasons for these differences, including court philosophy and culture regarding the role of detention, prosecutorial and judicial policies, policing practices, and geographic accessibility to detention facilities. In addition, while all counties face obstacles when serving the high needs populations in their juvenile court, it is likely that some counties' detention rates are more heavily influenced by geographically-specific factors. For example, some counties may rely more heavily on detention because suitable and safe alternatives to secure detention or residential treatment programs are not available. In some instances, secure detention may be used to provide emergency shelter and necessary services to youth when such services are not available in the community. It should be noted that in 2016 13.4% of admissions in the state were for a non-offender matter.

⁸Length of stay was calculated for each admission that ended in 2016, regardless of whether it began in 2016 or 2015.

These admission-level numbers mask the fact that many youth are being admitted to detention multiple times in a given year for a non-offender matter. In fact, over 34% of youth who were admitted to a detention facility in 2016 for a non-offender matter experienced two or more such admissions that year. Resources are needed to ensure that these high-risk and high-need youth are provided the services they need in an environment that emphasizes rehabilitation over punishment, is developmentally appropriate, and is responsive to the youth's unique needs. Another important policy question is whether these non-offender youth are being admitted as a punitive measure following a court order or as the result of a warrant being issued when there are concerns about the youth's safety. As more reliable data become available, future detention reports will examine this question further.

Results of this report show that the racial/ethnic makeup of the population of youth in detention is heavily influenced by geography. While variability by county and region is expected, it is vital that courts, in conjunction with law enforcement, strive to ensure that youth of color are not disproportionately experiencing juvenile detention relative to the region's racial/ethnic makeup. It is also important that counties, especially those counties with large populations of girls and youth of color in detention, provide services that are both gender-responsive and culturally appropriate.

This first annual statewide detention report is an important step towards a greater understanding of the role of detention in Washington State's juvenile justice system. The most immediate goal is to ensure that every admission of a Washington State youth to a secure detention facility is counted and presented in this report. As more data become available and reporting becomes more standardized across counties, this report will expand to cover other important topics regarding the use of detention.