

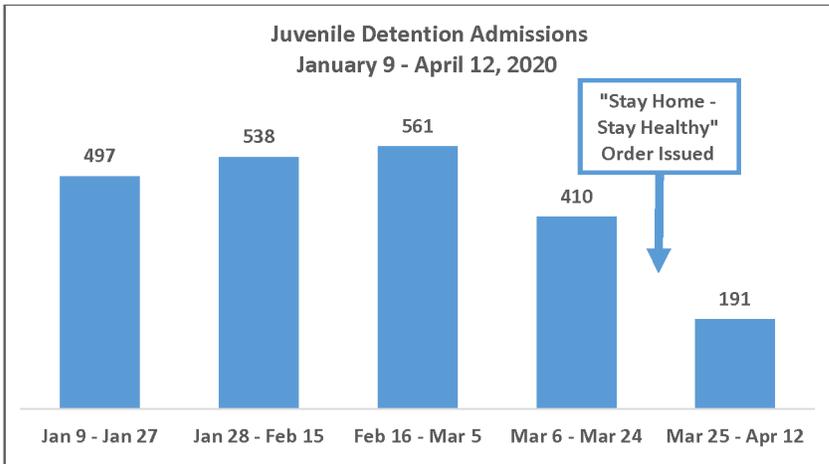


Washington State Juvenile Detention

A snapshot of the use of detention during the COVID-19 crisis

Members of the Washington State Supreme Court asked the Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR) to examine the use of juvenile detention during the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, they asked for an overview of all youth in detention at the time of the request (early April, 2020) and admission counts from the beginning of the year through the current date for comparison. This research brief was produced in response to that request.

For questions, please contact Dr. Amanda Gilman at amanda.gilman@courts.wa.gov.



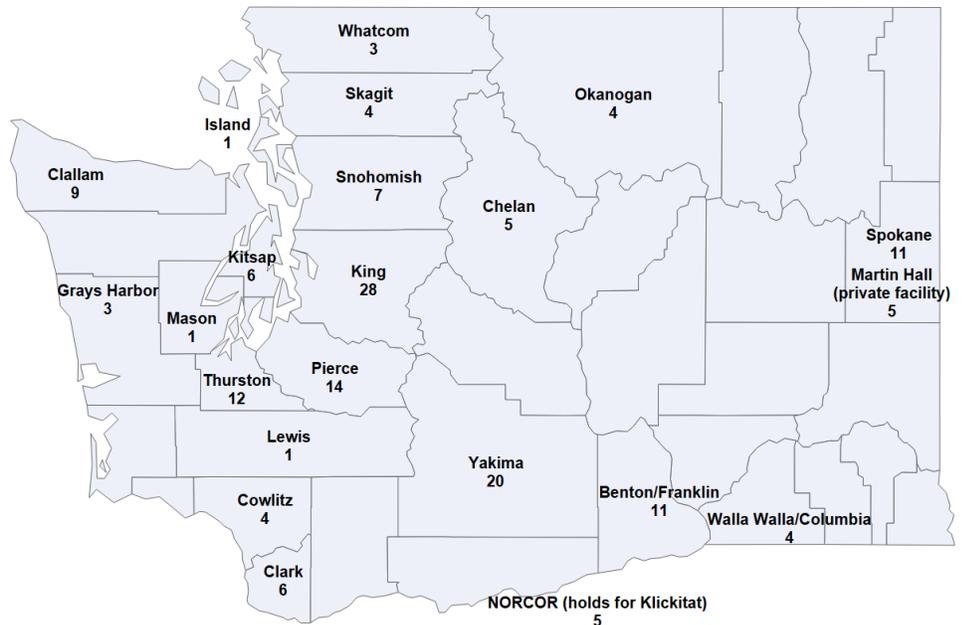
Following the “Stay Home - Stay Healthy” order, statewide admissions to juvenile detention centers dropped by up to two thirds, compared to earlier periods in January and February of 2020.

Notes:

1. There were 19 full days between when the stay-at-home order was issued and when we conducted our point-in-time count on April 13th. Thus, we show four other 19 day periods prior to the order, for comparison.

Washington State Detention Centers and Point-in-Time Counts

On the evening of April 13, 2020 there were 164 youth in a detention facility in Washington State or a contracted out-of-state facility.



Notes:

1. The count excludes youth who were under the jurisdiction of a detention facility but were out on leave or furlough and were not physically in detention.
2. Martin Hall was holding youth for Asotin, Douglas, Grant, Stevens, and Whitman Counties.

All youth in detention on the evening of April 13th were admitted for a criminal offense, and the majority were awaiting adjudication and disposition.

- 68.3%** pre-disposition hold
- 13.4%** violation of court order - offender
- 10.4%** holds for other jurisdiction
 - 6.1% hold for other in-state jurisdiction
 - 3.7% hold for out-of-state jurisdiction
 - 0.6% Tribal hold
- 6.1%** sentenced post adjudication
- 1.8%** other/unknown
- 0.0%** violation of court order - non-offender

Notes:

1. These represent the primary reason for detention. Many admissions were associated with two or more reasons.
2. Violation of a court order - non-offender relates to truancy, ARY, or CHINS petitions or a dependency matter.
3. Other in-state jurisdictions include adult superior court, courts of limited jurisdiction, and other county juvenile courts. However, some holds for adult courts will appear as pre-disposition cases, depending on coding practices in facilities.

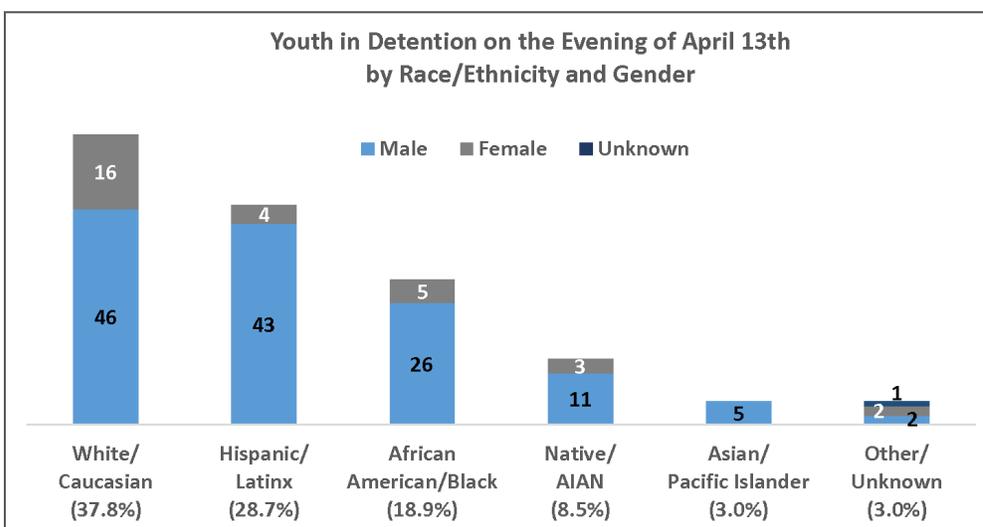
The majority of youth in detention on the evening of April 13th were admitted due to an alleged or adjudicated felony offense.

- 66.5%** felony offense
 - 16.5% serious violent offense
 - 50.0% other felony offense
- 10.4%** misdemeanor offense
- 13.4%** violation of a court order
 - 13.4% offender
 - 0.0% non-offender
- 9.8%** unknown

Notes:

1. Serious Violent Offenses are defined in [RCW 9.94A.030](#).
2. Detention episodes tied to unknown offenses are primarily holds for other jurisdictions (e.g., we do not have court case information for out-of-state and Tribal holds).
3. Total does not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Youth in Detention on the Evening of April 13th by Race/Ethnicity and Gender



Youth of color were disproportionately represented among youth in detention on the evening of April 13th.

Notes:

1. White youth make up approximately 59% of the youth population in Washington State but only 37.8% of the youth in detention on the evening of April 13th.

Recommended Citation:

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