

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety
State of West Virginia

1999 WV JUVENILE CORRECTIONS ANNUAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2001

Only a small percentage (0.09%) of West Virginia's juvenile population ages 10-17 were committed to West Virginia juvenile correctional facilities in 1999.

This rate is almost three times smaller than the national juvenile incarceration rate, which is 0.26% according to *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*.

175 juveniles were committed to West Virginia correctional facilities in 1999. These juveniles ranged from 12 to 19 years old and were overwhelmingly white males.

18.3% of the commitments were non-white, while the state's juvenile population is only 4.8% non-white. Non-black females were the only underrepresented group in juvenile corrections.

More than one-third (38.9%) of the juveniles were committed as a result

of a probation violation. A little less than half (44.6%) were adjudicated for more than one crime.

Assault/battery and burglary were the two most common offenses charged, comprising more than one-third (37.0%) of the offenses charged to juveniles committed in 1999.

179 juveniles were released from correctional facilities in 1999.

The average sentence served by these juveniles was almost nine months.

67.6% of the releases were juveniles committed prior to 1999. Only 33.1% of the juveniles committed in 1999 were released the same year.

The following report presents statistics on juveniles committed and released from West Virginia juvenile correctional facilities in 1999.

Data were taken from monthly population reports generated by juvenile correctional facility staff.

Division of Juvenile Services

Manfred G. Holland, *Director*
Cindy G. Largent, *Deputy Director*

The Division of Juvenile Services (DJS) under the Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety is responsible for operating and maintaining juvenile detention centers and juvenile correctional facilities in West Virginia.

Juvenile Correctional Facilities

The **WV Industrial Home for Youth (Salem)** is located one mile west of Salem on old U.S. Rt. 50 at Industrial.

It is a maximum-security juvenile facility for regular commitments. Residents include both male and female juveniles ages 10-21.

Salem also has a 30-day diagnostic unit that provides psychological, medical and educational evaluations. In 1999, Salem's 30-day diagnostic unit evaluated approximately 240 juveniles, according to Case Manager Jackie Valentine.

The statistics in the rest of this report do not include juveniles admitted to Salem's Diagnostic Unit.

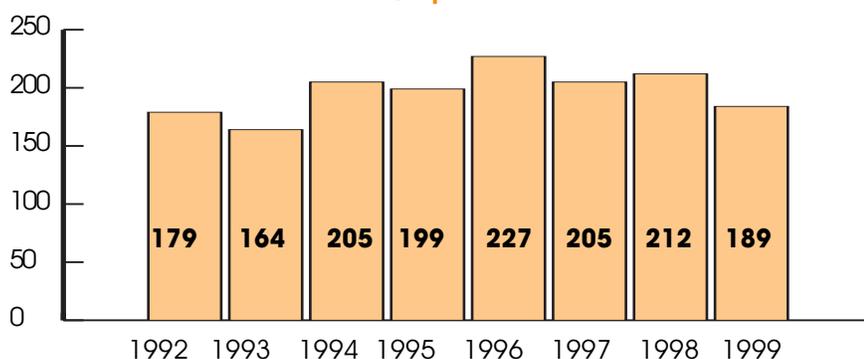
Salem currently has a 248-bed capacity. In 1999, however, Salem had a 124-bed capacity.

The **Davis Center (Davis)** is located near Black Water Falls State Park in Tucker County. It is a minimum-security juvenile correctional facility housing adjudicated delinquent males ages 10-21. Davis has a 60-bed capacity.

Juveniles committed to DJS correctional facilities are first received in the admissions and orientation unit at Salem for appropriate placement. Some male juveniles are subsequently transferred to Davis based on criteria including good behavior, educational status and response to programming.

Juvenile Correctional Facility Intakes* 1992-1999

Graph #1



*Intakes include Davis transfers returned to Salem because of non-compliance and juveniles committed more than once to serve separate sentences. **The remainder of the statistics in this report are based on juveniles, not intakes.** Therefore, the demographics and offenses of juveniles taken into Salem twice in 1999 (Davis transfers returned) are not counted twice.

Commitments

In 1999, 175 juveniles were committed to DJS correctional facilities (See chart #1). 170 were committed to Salem, and 5 were committed directly to Davis.

According to DJS Deputy Director Cindy Largent, these five direct commitments to Davis occurred prior to the implementation of new policy, which requires initial assessment of all commitments at Salem.

15.3% of the juveniles committed to Salem were released from Salem within the year, and 37.6% were awaiting release or transfer to Davis as of January 2000. Almost half (47.1%) of the juveniles committed to Salem in 1999 were subsequently transferred to Davis.

32.9% of the Davis transfers and Davis commitments were released from Davis within the year, and 50.6% were awaiting release as of January 2000. 16.5% were transferred back to Salem because of non-compliance.

28.6% of the juveniles returned to Salem from Davis were released in 1999, and 71.4% were awaiting release from Salem as of January 2000.

Overall, 66.9% of the juveniles committed in 1999 were awaiting release as of January 2000.

Releases

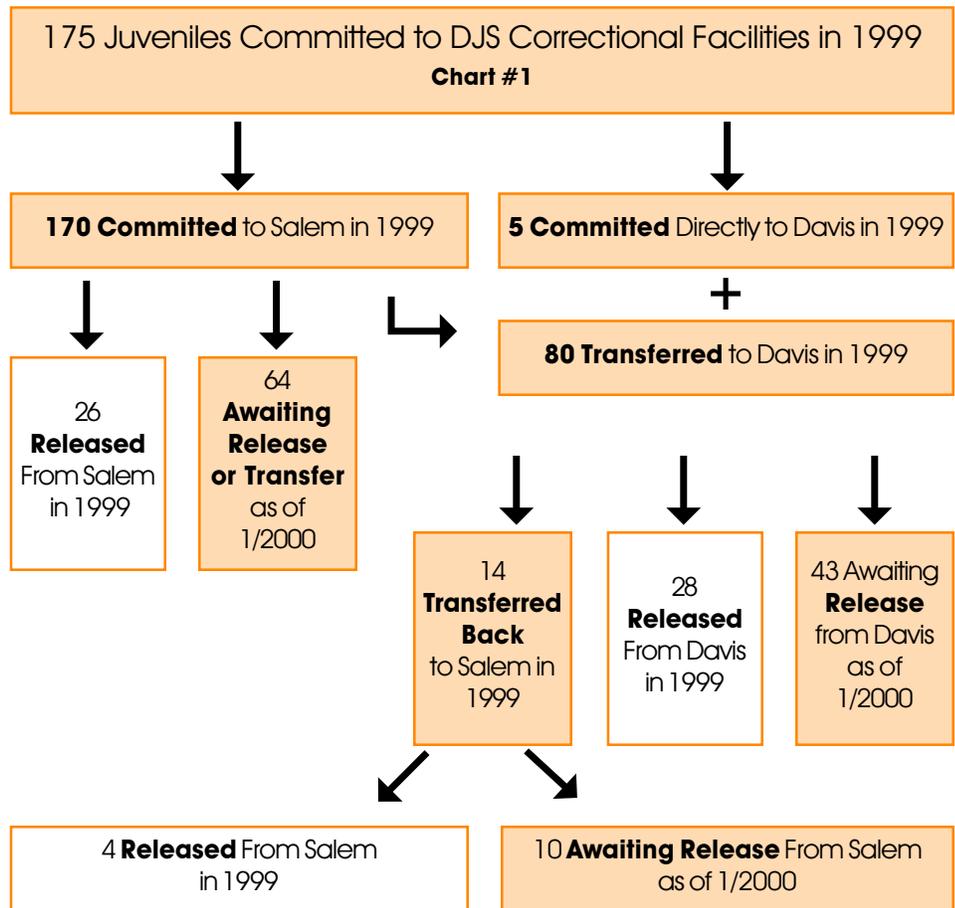
A total of 179 juveniles were released from WV juvenile correctional facilities in 1999.

32.4% were juveniles who had been committed in 1999. However, most (60.9%) were juveniles who had been committed the previous year. 5.0% had been committed in 1997, and 1.7% had been committed in 1996.

Length of Stay

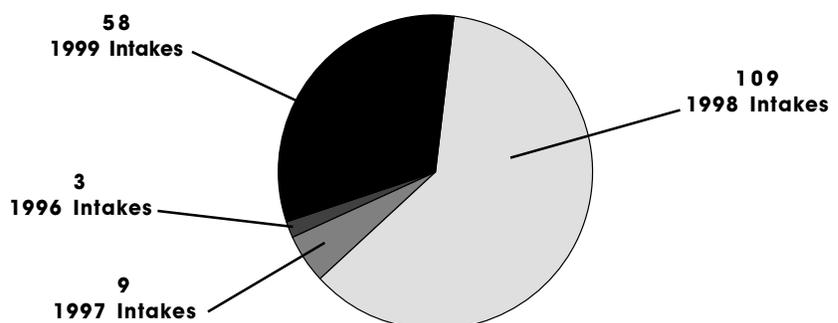
Of the juveniles released from juvenile corrections in 1999, the average length of stay was 8.9 months. This average is two months longer than the average sentence served by all juveniles released between 1992 and 1999.

Juveniles committed to Salem and subsequently transferred to Davis were



Juveniles Released in 1999 by Intake Year

Graph #2



in Salem prior to their transfers for three months or less. Most (93.7%) were only in Salem for a month or less.

Juveniles who were transferred to Davis and released in 1999 stayed an average of 7.1 months in Davis. One-fourth stayed less than six months, and 96.0% stayed a year or less.

Of the juveniles released in 1999 who were never transferred to Davis, the

average length of stay was almost ten months. More than half (56.7%) stayed eight months or less and more than three-fourths (80.4%) stayed less than a year.

According to a Children in Custody census cited in *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*, the average length of stay for juveniles committed to public facilities nationwide was 5 months.

Gender

Of the 175 juveniles committed in 1999, 90.3% were male and only 9.7% were female. All of the juveniles transferred or committed to Davis were male because Davis is a male facility.

Male juveniles are overrepresented in West Virginia's incarcerated juvenile population in contrast with the state's juvenile population ages 10-17, which is 51.6% male and 48.4% female.

Race

Minorities are also overrepresented in West Virginia's juvenile correctional facility population. 18.3% of those committed in 1999 were non-white, while the state's juvenile population is only 4.8% non-white.

81.7% of the juveniles committed in 1999 were white, 16.6% were black, and only 1.7% were other races. This racial distribution contrasts with West Virginia's juvenile population ages 10-17 that is 95.5% white, 3.9% black and 0.7% other races, according to 1998 U.S. Census Bureau data.

According to *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*, minorities comprised 34% of the national juvenile population in 1997 and 67% of the juvenile population in public correctional facilities.

Age

Juveniles committed to West Virginia correctional facilities in 1999 ranged in age from 12 to 19 years old. More than three-fourths (78.7%) of the juveniles were 15, 16 or 17. The average age was 16.4 years old, although 17 year olds were the most frequently committed age group.

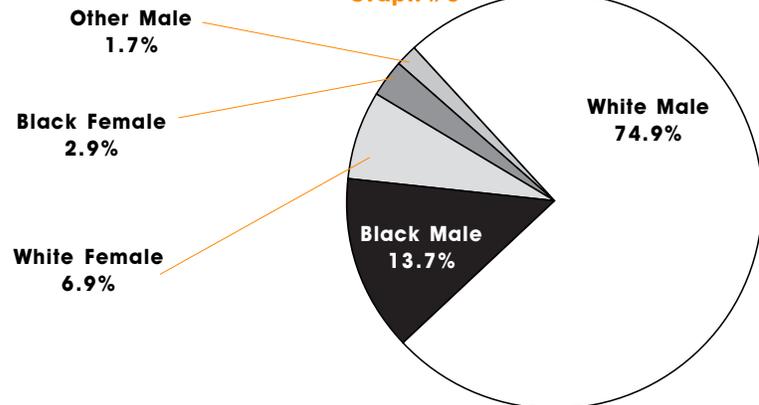
Female juveniles committed in 1999 were an average of six months younger (16) than their male counterparts (16.5).

Incarcerated juveniles who have not completed their sentence by their 18th birthday are returned to the committing court for status reconsideration. Those deemed adults are then released to the West Virginia Division of Corrections. Those retained under juvenile jurisdiction may remain in juvenile correctional facilities until their 21st birthday.

Gender & Race of Juveniles Committed in 1999

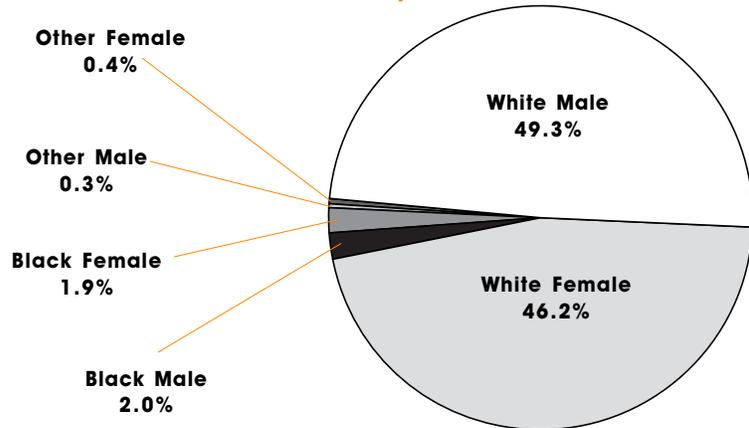
Non-Black Females were the only underrepresented group.

Graph #3



Gender & Race of WV Juvenile Population Ages 10-17

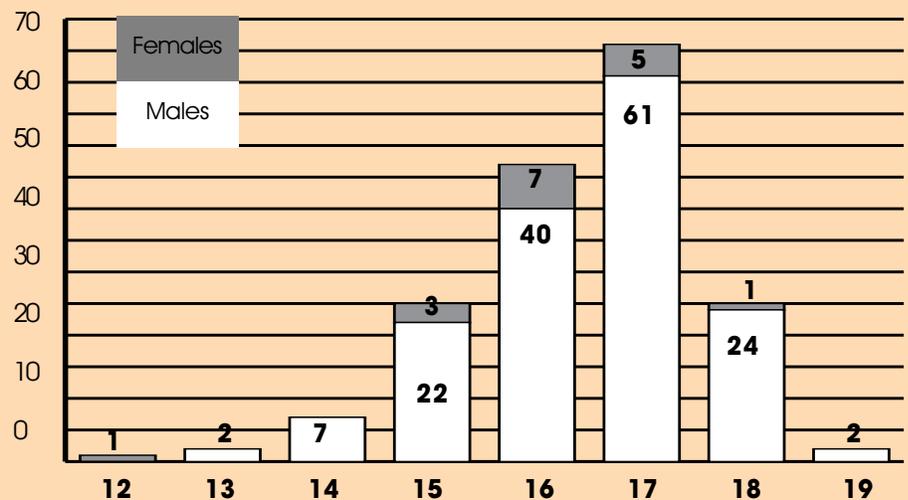
Graph #4



Source: 1998 U.S. Census Bureau Data

Age of Juveniles Committed By Gender in 1999

Graph #5



Home County

In 1999, Cabell County had the largest number (31) of juveniles committed to West Virginia correctional facilities.

Marion and Jackson counties had the next largest number with 11 each. Kanawha County had 10. Mercer County had 9. Berkeley, Mineral and Wayne counties each had 8 juveniles committed.

38 counties had five or fewer juveniles committed to West Virginia juvenile correctional facilities in 1999. 10 counties had no juveniles committed in 1999.

Incarceration Rates

West Virginia's 1999 juvenile incarceration rate is less than one-tenth of a percent (0.09%). There were 90 juveniles committed for every 100,000 juveniles in the population.

The national juvenile incarceration rate is almost three times as high, according to 1997 data published in *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*.

That year, the national incarceration rate was 0.26%. West Virginia's incarceration rate in 1997 was 0.10%. Only Hawaii and Vermont had lower incarceration rates of 0.09% and 0.04% respectively.

National incarceration rates are influenced by state variations in the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction.

More than half (34) of West Virginia's 55 counties had juvenile incarceration rates lower than the state rate. Jackson County had the highest with 0.37%. Cabell and Grant counties followed closely with 0.36% and 0.32% respectively.

While it is important to examine the number of juveniles incarcerated and the incarceration rate for each county, care must be taken in drawing conclusions from the data. Only a small number of incarcerated juveniles was used to determine the rates. Data in Table #1 should be interpreted only as a snapshot of the situation in each county. It should be evaluated in conjunction with the individual policies and resources of the counties.

1999 Juvenile Incarceration Rates By Juveniles' Home County

Table #1

Juvenile Population	Juveniles Committed	Rate	Juvenile Population	Juveniles Committed	Rate	Juvenile Population	Juveniles Committed	Rate
WV	195,036	175			0.09%			
Jackson	2,988	11	Randolph	2,978	3	Wood	8,810	4
Cabell	8,684	31	Wetzel	1,967	2	Wyoming	3,761	2
Grant	1,235	4	Hampshire	2,059	2	Ohio	4,321	2
Mineral	2,853	8	Brooke	2,664	2	Lewis	1,911	1
Calhoun	926	2	Morgan	1,289	1	Nicholas	3,403	1
Marion	5,643	11	Logan	5,605	4	Preston	3,475	1
Wayne	4,801	8	Fayette	5,723	4	Marshall	3,772	1
Hardy	1,156	2	Jefferson	4,186	3	Putnam	5,704	1
Roane	1,909	3	McDowell	4,184	3	Monongalia	6,244	1
Wirt	650	1	Mingo	4,470	3	Boone	3,414	0
Summers	1,456	2	Clay	1,386	1	Mason	2,961	0
Mercer	6,948	9	Monroe	1,417	1	Lincoln	2,837	0
Tucker	811	1	Braxton	1,466	1	Upshur	2,540	0
Pleasants	855	1	Hancock	3,450	2	Webster	1,288	0
Berkeley	7,269	8	Taylor	1,588	1	Ritchie	1,133	0
Greenbrier	3,633	4	Kanawha	19,804	10	Tyler	1,084	0
Barbour	1,829	2	Raleigh	9,748	5	Doddridge	890	0
Pocahontas	909	1	Harrison	7,505	4	Pendleton	758	0
						Gilmer	686	0

Juvenile Population Source: 1998 U.S. Census Bureau Data.

Note: Juvenile incarceration rates were calculated by dividing the number of incarcerated juveniles from a county by the county's juvenile population ages 10-17. Arrest and subsequent incarceration of juveniles under ten are rare. Incarcerated juveniles who are over 17 are charged with committing an offense(s) prior to their 18th birthday. Including these age groups in the population figures would cause the numbers to underrepresent the county rates.

Offenses

Property offenses were the most common type of offense charged to juveniles committed to juvenile correctional facilities in 1999. **Burglary and theft** comprised almost one-third of all offenses charged in 1999.

Person offenses were the second most common type of offense charged. **Assault/battery and sexual assault/abuse** charges made up almost one-fourth of all offenses charged in 1999.

Public order offenses were the third most common type of offense charged in 1999. The most frequent public order offense charged was **obstruction of justice**, which includes probation violation charges. 38.9% of the juveniles committed in 1999 were committed as a result of probation violations.

Drug law violations comprised 5.0% of the offenses charged to juveniles committed in 1999. Drug law charges included counts of manufacturing, possessing and delivering controlled substances.

Status offenses were charged only with other more serious and detainable charges. The status offenses charged to juveniles committed in 1999 included counts of incorrigibility, truancy, and underage drinking.

More than half (55.4%) of the juveniles committed in 1999 were listed with only one offense. 26.9% were listed with two, 13.1% were listed with three, and 4.6% were listed with four or more offenses.

Of the offenses charged to female commitments in 1999, 64% were person offenses (assault/battery and robbery); 28% were property offenses (burglary, damage property, stolen vehicle, theft, and trespassing); and 8% were public offenses (fraud and traffic). None of the females committed in 1999 were charged with drug violations.

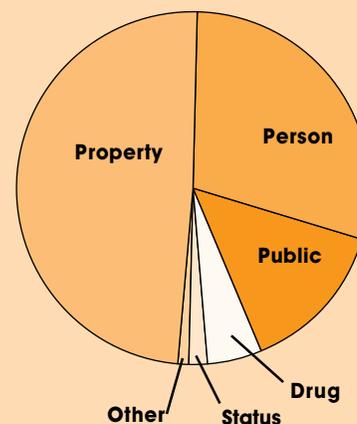
The offense statistics in this report are based only on the offenses recorded on monthly population reports (*see page 6*). Juveniles may have originally been charged with and disposed of other

Offenses Charged to Juveniles Committed in 1999

Table #2

<u>Offense Category</u>	<u>Counts</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Property Offenses	147	49.0
Burglary	56	18.7
Theft	39	13.0
Damage Property	19	6.3
Stolen Vehicle	15	5.0
Stolen Property	14	4.7
Arson	2	0.7
Trespassing	2	0.7
Person Offenses	88	29.3
Assault/Battery	55	18.3
Sexual Assault/Abuse	16	5.3
Robbery	8	2.7
Homicide	7	2.3
Child Abuse/Neglect	2	0.7
Public Order Offenses	42	14.0
Obstruction of Justice*	17	5.5
Traffic Offenses	11	3.7
Weapons Offenses	6	2.0
Fraudulent Activities	5	1.7
Disorderly Conduct**	2	0.7
Animal Offenses	1	0.3
Drug Law Violations	15	5.0
Status Offenses	5	1.7
(Secondary Charges Only)		
Miscellaneous Offenses***	3	1.0
Total	300	100%

Graph #6



***Obstruction of justice charges** included counts of absconding, obstructing an officer, fleeing, escape, contempt of court, and providing false information.

****Disorderly conduct charges** included counts of public intoxication, which were secondary to other more serious charges.

*****Miscellaneous charges** included counts of conspiracy to commit a felony and accessory to a crime. The conspiracy charges were secondary to more serious charges.

offenses that were not known at intake. Also, because many offenders commit multiple offenses, offense statistics include more than one charge for some juveniles.

Nationally, 39% of delinquent juveniles in public facilities in 1997 were committed for person offenses. 33% were committed for property offenses, and 19% were committed for public order and technical offenses, which include probation violations. 9% were committed for drug offenses, according to data published in *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*. These national percentages are based on the most serious offense charged to juvenile delinquents committed to public residential facilities on October 29, 1997.

Acknowledgments

This report is the work of Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) staff and was funded through grant 97-JJDB-051 from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Information presented in this report does not necessarily represent the opinions of the U.S. Department of Justice or the State of West Virginia.

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Capacity

In 1999, Salem had a 124-bed capacity. 12 of the beds were designated female only.

With the completion of an expansion facility, **Salem's** total capacity increased to 248 beds as of December 2000. The new 200-bed facility includes:

- a 30-bed admissions/orientation unit
- a 50-bed general male (10-17) unit
- a 30-bed male (18-21) unit
- a 30-bed female unit
- a 20-bed behavior management unit
- a 30-bed diagnostic unit
- a 10-bed infirmary unit

The female unit houses all females at Salem including regular commitments and females admitted for diagnostic treatment. Residents of the female unit are managed according to their appropriate classification.

In addition to the 200 correctional beds in the new facility, there are 48 correctional beds located in the old Standard Building. These beds will be used for special populations, according to DJS Deputy Director Cindy Largent.

Salem also has 52 beds in the Jones Building that are used for detention.

Davis has a total capacity of 60 beds for male juveniles only.

Data Source

Data in this report were taken from monthly population reports generated by juvenile correctional facility staff. The quality of the data depends on the completeness and accuracy of the information available to correctional facility staff at the time a juvenile is committed.

Works Cited

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