

Juvenile Corrections Forecast 2002-2013

A Study of the State's Juvenile Corrections Population

West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

&

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Institute on Crime, Justice and Corrections

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Executive Summary

The Division of Criminal Justice Services' (DCJS) Statistical Analysis Center partnered with The George Washington University's Institute on Crime, Justice and Corrections to provide the state with this forecast of the juvenile corrections population from 2002 to 2013. West Virginia's juvenile correctional facilities, the West Virginia Industrial Home for Youth in Harrison County and the Davis Center in Tucker County, are operated by the Division of Juvenile Services and house juveniles adjudicated delinquent by a judicial officer or sentenced to a diagnostic examination by a judicial officer. DJS also operates juvenile detention centers; these are not included in this report.

This report describes the methods and statistics used to generate the juvenile forecast and is intended to inform policy-makers and planners about the forecasted population and the factors influencing the growth in the juvenile corrections population.

Between 1997 and 2002, the juvenile corrections population in West Virginia grew by an average of 6.6% per year.

The number of juveniles committed to corrections increased by an average of 2.6% per year between 1992 and 2001. In 2001, approximately 1 juvenile was committed for every 1,000 juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17.

Although the majority (76.5% in 2001) of commitments were white males, the percent of black males committed to corrections was 6 times greater than the percent of black males in the general West Virginia juvenile population. 11.3% of the commitments were black males. In the 2000 U.S. Census, 1.9% of juveniles between 10 and 17 in West Virginia were black males.

Property offenses, including burglary, theft, and property damage, continued to comprise the majority of offenses of juveniles committed to (55.6%) and confined in (50.0%) juvenile corrections. Person offenses, including assault, battery, sexual abuse, sexual assault, robbery, and homicide, were the second most frequent type of offense charged. 24.2% of the juveniles committed to corrections and 29.1% of the juveniles confined in corrections were charged with a person offense.

The majority of juveniles committed to corrections in 2001 were charged with only one offense. 8.8% of the juveniles committed four or more offenses for their current sentence.

The average length-of-stay for juveniles released in 2001 was 9.7 months. The majority of juveniles released in 2001 had been admitted in the prior year.

If current trends continue unchanged, the juvenile corrections population will grow to 222 by the end of 2007 and 279 by the end of 2013.

Introduction

Current juvenile corrections population data provided by the juvenile correctional facilities and the juvenile probation officers were used to generate this report. This report contains a description of the methodology and model used, descriptions of the data sources and correctional facilities, a statistical summary of recent trends, the assumptions upon which the projections are based, projections for the West Virginia juvenile correctional population through the year 2013, and recommendations for continuing these research efforts for the future.

Methodology

The forecast of the state juvenile corrections population was completed using Wizard 2000 projection software. This computerized simulation model mimics the flow of offenders through the state's juvenile corrections system over a ten-year forecast horizon and produces monthly projections of key offender groups.

Technical Description of the Model

The Wizard 2000 simulation model utilizes a technique that is consistent with that of a stochastic

entity simulation model. It is stochastic, or probabilistic, in the sense that random numbers are used in the modeling process, and an entity simulation in the sense that the model is conceptually designed around the movement of individuals through the correctional system. The model is also generally an example of a Monte Carlo simulation technique because random numbers are used in the process of simulating the system. Individual cases (offenders committed to corrections in West Virginia) are processed by the model based upon probabilities fed in by the researcher. These probabilities are different for each offender group: male drug offenders, male person offenders, male property offenders, male public order offenders, female drug offenders, female person offenders, female property offenders, female public order offenders, and diagnostic commitments.

When a model is loaded with accurate data, it can be reliable in forecasting a population as it will mimic the actual flow of cases through the correctional system being modeled. For the simulation model to work to its full potential, information must be gathered describing the population currently confined and all the commitments and releases from the system for a previous one-year period.

Facility Descriptions

West Virginia Industrial Home for Youth (WVIHY)

The West Virginia Industrial Home for Youth (WVIHY), is located in Harrison County at Industrial, near Salem, West Virginia. Alvin D. Ross serves as Superintendent of this maximum-security juvenile correction facility. All intakes into the juvenile correctional facilities are through WVIHY. It houses both male and female juveniles ranging in age from 10 to 21 years old. The facility contains specialized units tailored to meet the various needs of the juveniles. On January 13, 2003 the Special Program Unit was opened to provide sex offender treatment. As of February 28, 2003 the units and their capacity included:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Bed Capacity</u>
Female	22
Diagnostic Female	8
Diagnostic Male	36
Receiving	30
General Population	50
Special Program	30
Adult Commitment	30

The Davis Center (Davis)

The Davis Center is located in Tucker County at Davis, West Virginia near Blackwater Falls. Ruben M. Pena serves as Superintendent of this minimum-security facility. Davis houses only males ranging in age from 10 to 21 years old. The bed capacity of Davis is 60. The Davis Center has several programs to meet the needs of the juveniles. These programs are: Work Program, Incentive Program, Survival Skills, Recreation, and Religious Program.

Data Sources

Juvenile Corrections Database (1992 - Present)

The juvenile corrections database captures information on the juveniles committed to the state's juvenile correctional facilities. Correctional facility staff complete monthly population reports (MPRs) on all the intakes to, transfers between, and releases from the two juvenile correctional facilities (the WV Industrial Home for the Youth and the Davis Center). MPRs contain information on each juvenile, including: name, age, sex, race, home county, the type of offense, admission information, release information, and transfer information. The MPRs are submitted to Matt Arrowood, DCJS Juvenile Compliance Monitor, for review regarding legal detainment. They are forwarded to Steve Thompson, DCJS Data Entry Operator, for data entry into the juvenile corrections database.

Juvenile Justice Database (1998 - Present)

The juvenile justice database (JJDB) captures information on the juveniles referred to juvenile probation. It is maintained by DCJS per §49-7-32 and in cooperation with the WV Supreme Court of Appeals Administrative Office. Juvenile probation officers complete a JJDB form on all juveniles referred to probation. The JJDB forms contain information on each juvenile, including: name, age, sex, race, home county, type of offense, and informal and formal disposition by the court. Officers report if a juvenile is committed to juvenile corrections on these forms. The JJDB forms are submitted to Autumn Medley, DCJS Research Analyst, for review. They are forwarded to Steve Thompson, DCJS Data Entry Operator, for data entry into the JJDB.

Daily Population Report (1997 - Present)

The daily population reports capture the number of juveniles confined in both juvenile correctional facilities by gender and unit. Correctional facility staff complete a daily population report, providing the number of juveniles remaining at the end of each day. The reports are submitted to Matt Arrowood, DCJS Juvenile Compliance Monitor, for review regarding legal detainment. Selected reports were obtained from the past 5 years for use in the juvenile forecast.

Confined Population (as of May 28, 2002)

The juvenile correctional facilities maintain a database of juveniles sentenced to corrections. The database contains information on each juvenile, including: name, date-of-birth, sex, race, sentencing county, admission date, offenses, adult transfer status, diagnostic status, current facility, current unit, and sentence length. On May 28, 2002, DCJS staff obtained a copy of this database, containing information on juveniles confined on that date.

Results

Flow of Juveniles

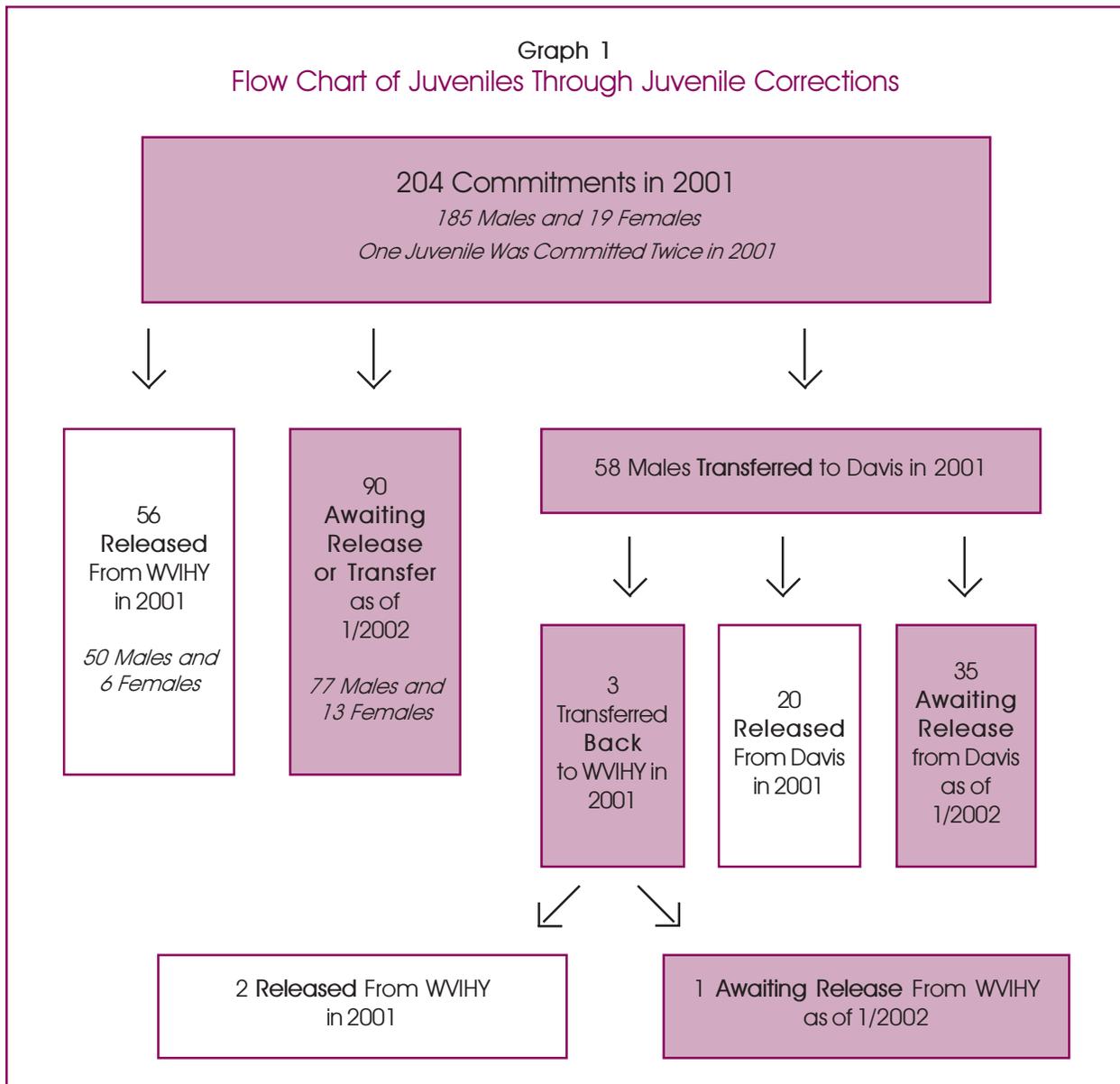
Juveniles who are committed to juvenile corrections, either for a delinquency sentence or a diagnostic examination, are admitted to the West Virginia Industrial Home for Youth (WVIHY) in Salem, West Virginia. Females must remain at WVIHY. Some male juveniles can be transferred to and from the Davis Center after admission to WVIHY. Juveniles can be released from either facility.

185 males and 19 females were committed to WVIHY in 2001. Of the 204 juveniles committed in 2001, 27.5% (56) were released by the end of the year, without being transferred to Davis. 50 of these released juveniles were male and 6 were female.

44.1% (90) remained at WVIHY, awaiting either a release or a transfer to Davis. Of these, 77 were males and 13 were females. 28.4% (58) were transferred to Davis.

5.2% (3) Davis inmates were transferred back to WVIHY. Of these, 2 were released and 1 was awaiting release as of January 2002. 34.5% (20) Davis inmates were released from Davis in 2001. 60.3% (35) Davis inmates were awaiting release from Davis as of January 2002.

The flow chart below shows only those juveniles who were committed in 2001.



Commitments

Significant Finding: The majority of juveniles committed to corrections were white males.

Significant Finding: Black males were committed to corrections at a rate six times higher than their proportion of the juvenile population.

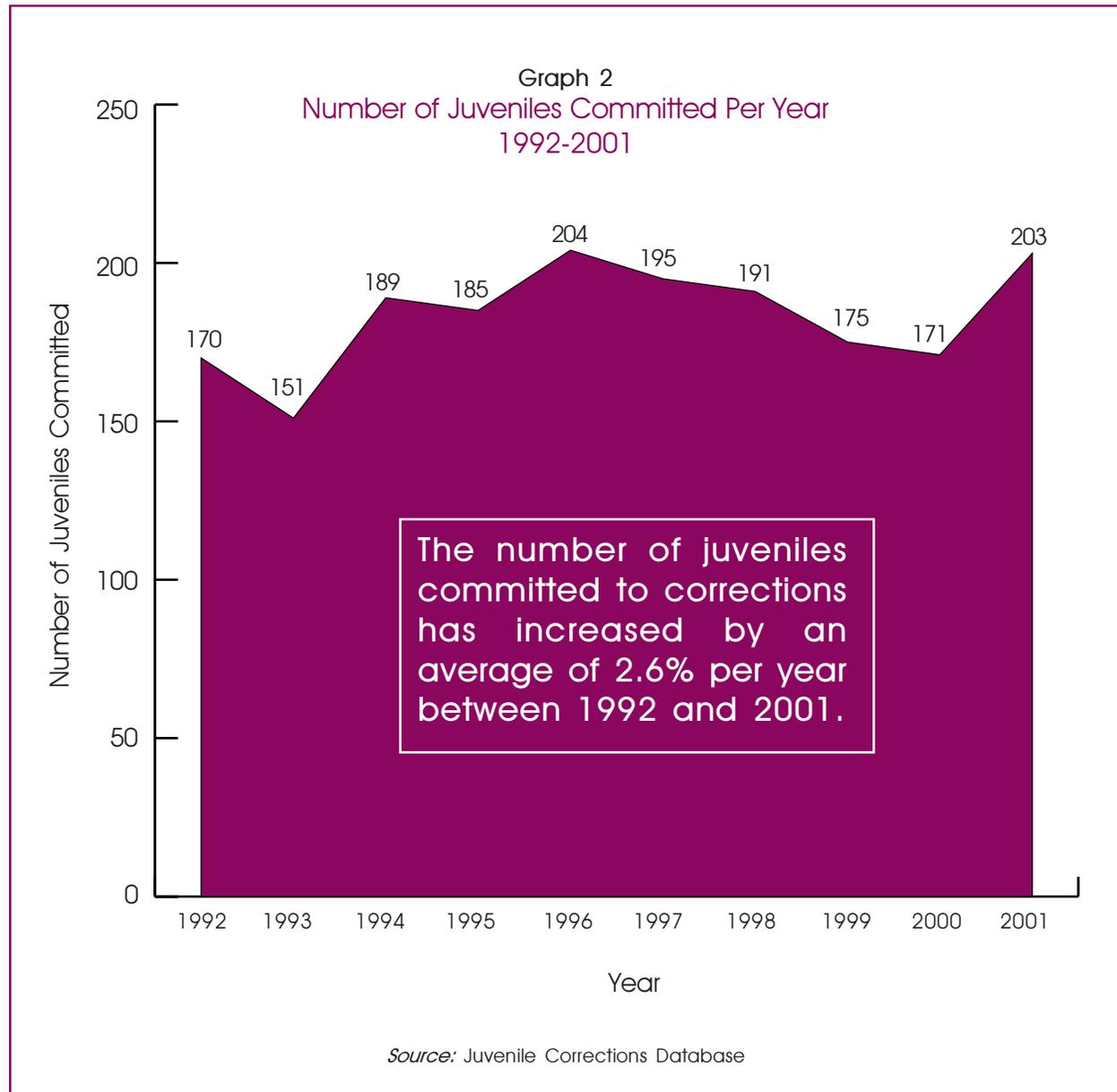
11.3% of those committed in 2001 were black males. Only 1.9% of the juveniles between 10 and 17 in West Virginia were black males.

Significant Finding: The number of juveniles committed to corrections each year increased by an average of 2.6% per year between 1992 and 2001.

Table 1
Race & Gender of Juveniles
Committed in 2001

Race	Gender	Number	Percent
White	Male	156	76.5%
Black	Male	23	11.3%
White	Female	15	7.4%
Other	Male	6	3.0%
Black	Female	3	1.5%
Other	Female	1	0.5%
Total		204	

Source: Juvenile Corrections Database



Significant Finding: Approximately 1 juvenile was committed to corrections for every 1,000 juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17.

In 2001, sixteen counties committed juveniles at a rate higher than the average, led by Greenbrier County at a rate of 4.3 for every 1,000 juveniles.

There were 396 offenses charged to the 204 juveniles committed in 2001. These offenses are broken down into broad categories which include property offenses, person offenses, public order offenses, status offenses, and miscellaneous offenses. Table 3 provides the frequencies of offenses charged to juveniles committed in 2000 and 2001.

Significant Finding: Property offenses were the most frequent offenses charged to juveniles committed in 2001.

Property offenses made up 55.6% of the offenses charged to those juveniles committed in 2001. The number of property offenses increased between 2000 and 2001, from 164 to 220 counts. Burglary, theft, and damage to property made up the majority of the property offenses in both years.

Person offenses were the second most frequent types of offenses charged, at 24.2%. Assault and battery comprised the majority of the person offenses in both 2000 and 2001. Sexual abuse and sexual assault increased from 5 counts in 2000 to 16 counts in 2001.

Table 2
Number of Juveniles Committed in 2001 by Sentencing County

County	Juvenile Population	Juveniles Committed	Rate Per 1,000	County	Juvenile Population	Juveniles Committed	Rate Per 1,000
West Virginia	189,438	203	1.1	Hampshire	2,443	2	0.8
Greenbrier	3,501	15	4.3	Brooke	2,456	2	0.8
Cabell	8,737	36	4.1	Lincoln	2,459	2	0.8
Roane	1,811	7	3.9	Boone	2,708	2	0.7
Hardy	1,332	5	3.8	Marion	5,542	4	0.7
Grant	1,145	4	3.5	Morgan	1,481	1	0.7
Wirt	746	2	2.7	Berkeley	8,986	6	0.7
Summers	1,308	3	2.3	Braxton	1,654	1	0.6
Jackson	3,216	7	2.2	Wood	9,542	5	0.5
Pocahontas	926	2	2.2	Putnam	5,935	3	0.5
Mineral	3,041	6	2.0	Harrison	7,501	3	0.4
Barbour	1,748	3	1.7	Upshur	2,537	1	0.4
Nicholas	3,095	5	1.6	Hancock	3,171	1	0.3
Wayne	4,738	7	1.5	Mingo	3,317	1	0.3
Mercer	5,988	8	1.3	Marshall	3,891	1	0.3
Logan	3,895	5	1.3	Gilmer	753	0	0.0
Pendleton	846	1	1.2	Tucker	757	0	0.0
Preston	3,495	4	1.1	Pleasants	831	0	0.0
Calhoun	901	1	1.1	Webster	1,097	0	0.0
Taylor	1,820	2	1.1	Tyler	1,121	0	0.0
Kanawha	19,444	21	1.1	Clay	1,290	0	0.0
Doddridge	948	1	1.1	Monroe	1,410	0	0.0
Fayette	4,835	5	1.0	Lewis	1,735	0	0.0
Randolph	3,029	3	1.0	Wetzel	2,051	0	0.0
McDowell	3,236	3	0.9	Mason	2,725	0	0.0
Raleigh	8,032	7	0.9	Wyoming	2,813	0	0.0
Ritchie	1,149	1	0.9	Jefferson	4,676	0	0.0
Ohio	4,878	4	0.8	Monongalia	6,716	0	0.0

Source: Juvenile Population is from the 2000 Census Bureau and includes 10 through 17 year olds. Juveniles Committed is from the Juvenile Corrections Database. Note: Incarceration Rates are calculated by dividing the number of juveniles committed by a particular county by that county's juvenile population age 10-17 years old.

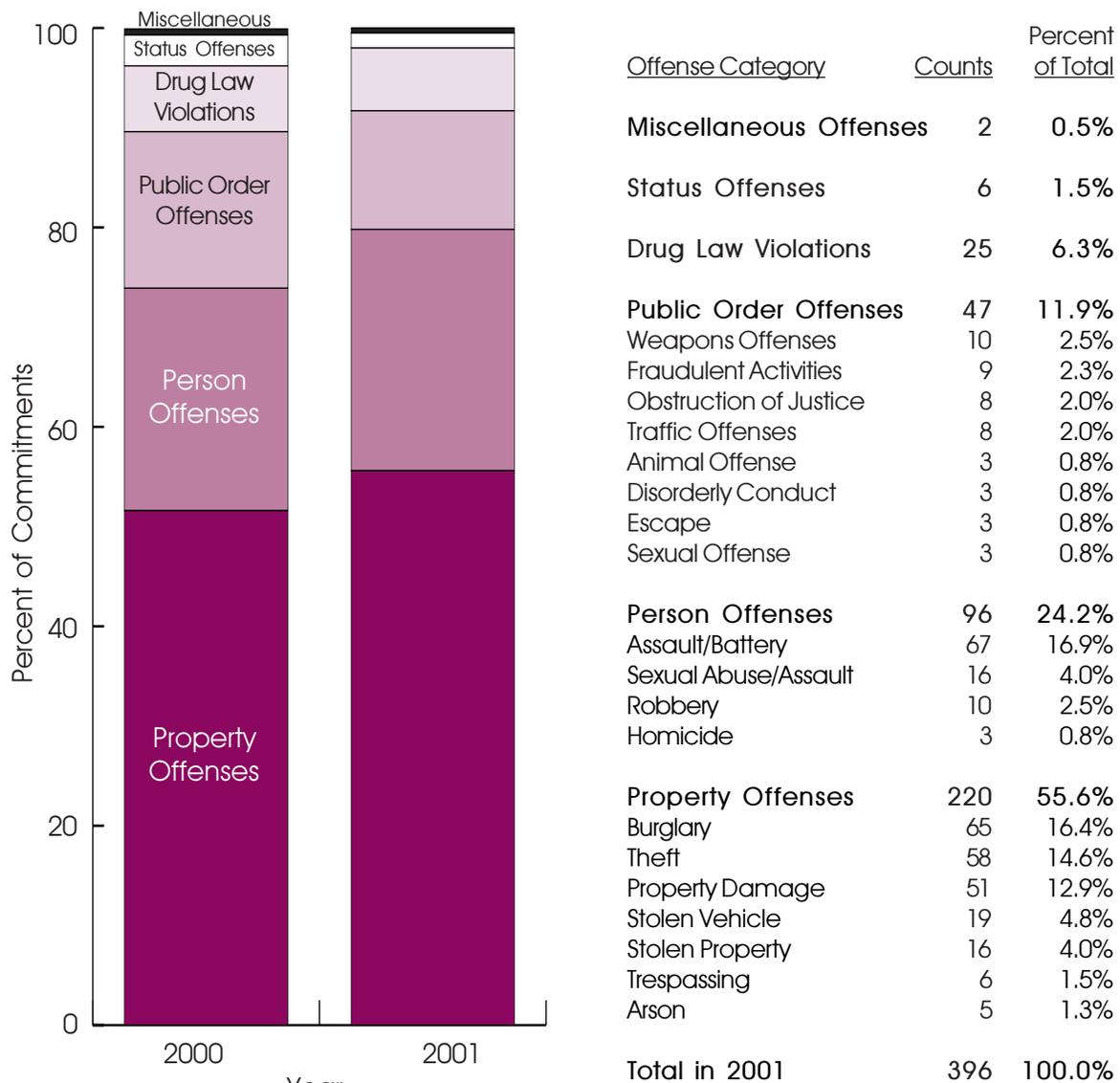
The third most frequent types of offenses charged to those committed in 2001, were *public order offenses* at 11.9%. Although weapons offenses were the most common type of public order offense in 2001, there were fewer counts in 2001 (10 counts) than in 2000 (13 counts).

Drug law violations comprise 6.3% of the offenses charged to those committed in 2001.

There were 6 counts of *status offenses* charged to those committed in 2001, at 1.5%. This percent is down from 2000, when the status offenses comprised 3.1% of offenses charged.

There were only 2 counts of *miscellaneous offenses* charged to those committed in both 2000 and 2001.

Table 3
Offenses Charged to Juveniles Committed in 2001



Source: Juvenile Corrections Database

Significant Finding: Of those juveniles committed to corrections in 2001, more than half (51.5%) had only been charged with only one offense.

Those charged with two offenses made up 25.0% of those committed. Those charged with three offenses made up 14.7% of those committed. Only 8.8% of those committed to corrections were charged with four or more offenses.

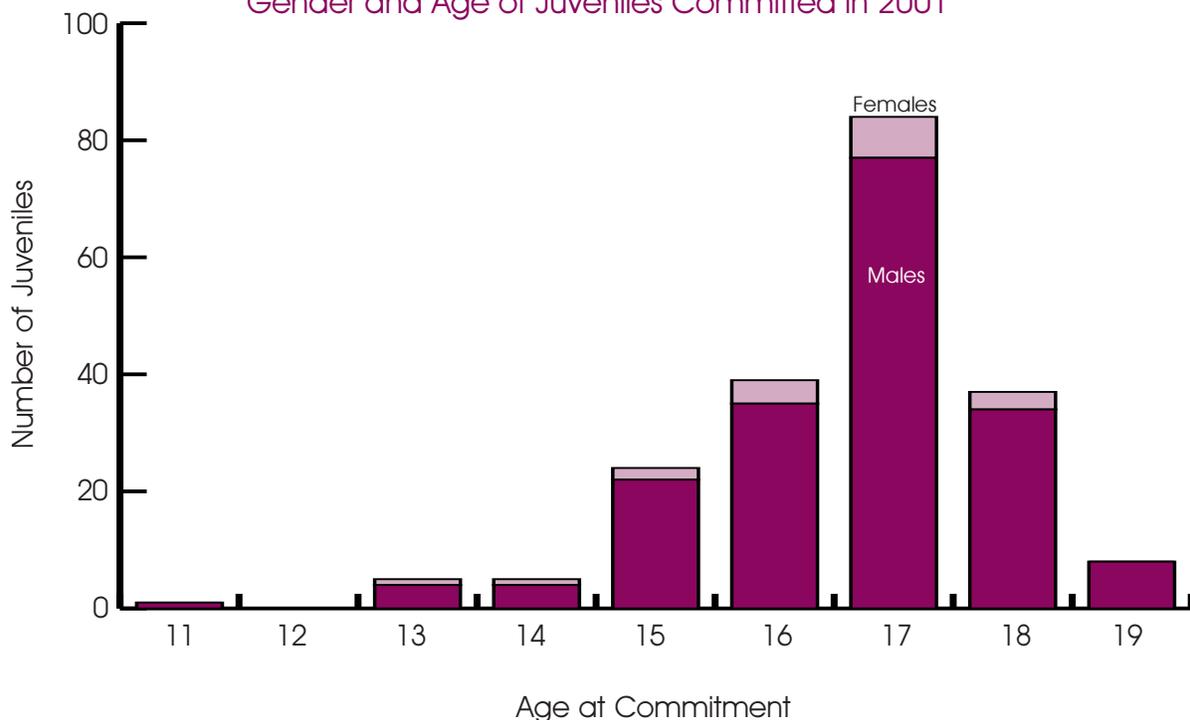
The ages of juveniles committed in 2001 ranged from 11 years to 19 years old. The average age of those committed in 2001 was 16.6 years old. The average age for males committed was 16.7 years old. The average age for females committed was 16.3 years old. 22.1% of the juveniles were 18 or 19 years old. Graph 3 describes the age and gender of juveniles at commitment.

Table 4
Number of Offenses Charged per Commitment in 2001

# of Offenses Charged	Commitments	
	#	%
One Offense	105	51.5%
Two Offenses	51	25.0%
Three Offenses	30	14.7%
Four or More Offenses	18	8.8%
Total	204	100.0%

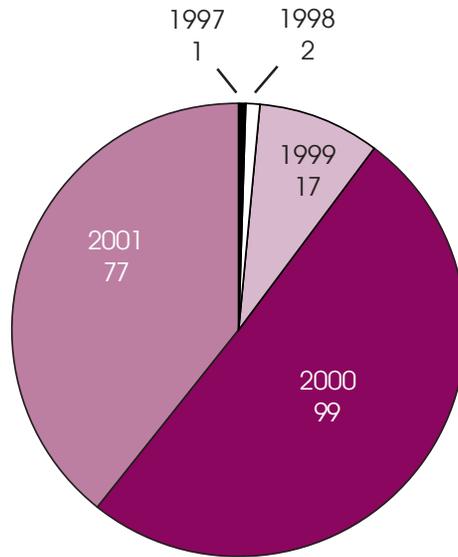
Source: Juvenile Corrections Database

Graph 3
Gender and Age of Juveniles Committed in 2001



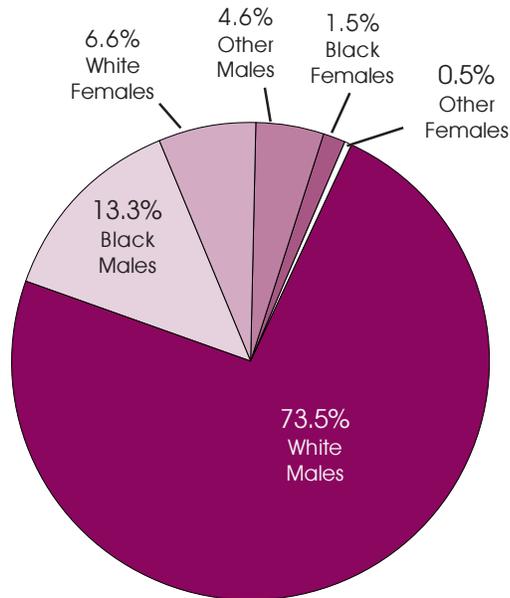
Source: Juvenile Corrections Database

Graph 4
Year of Intake for Juveniles Released in 2001



Source: Juvenile Corrections Database

Graph 5
Gender & Race of Juveniles Released from WVIHY & Davis in 2001



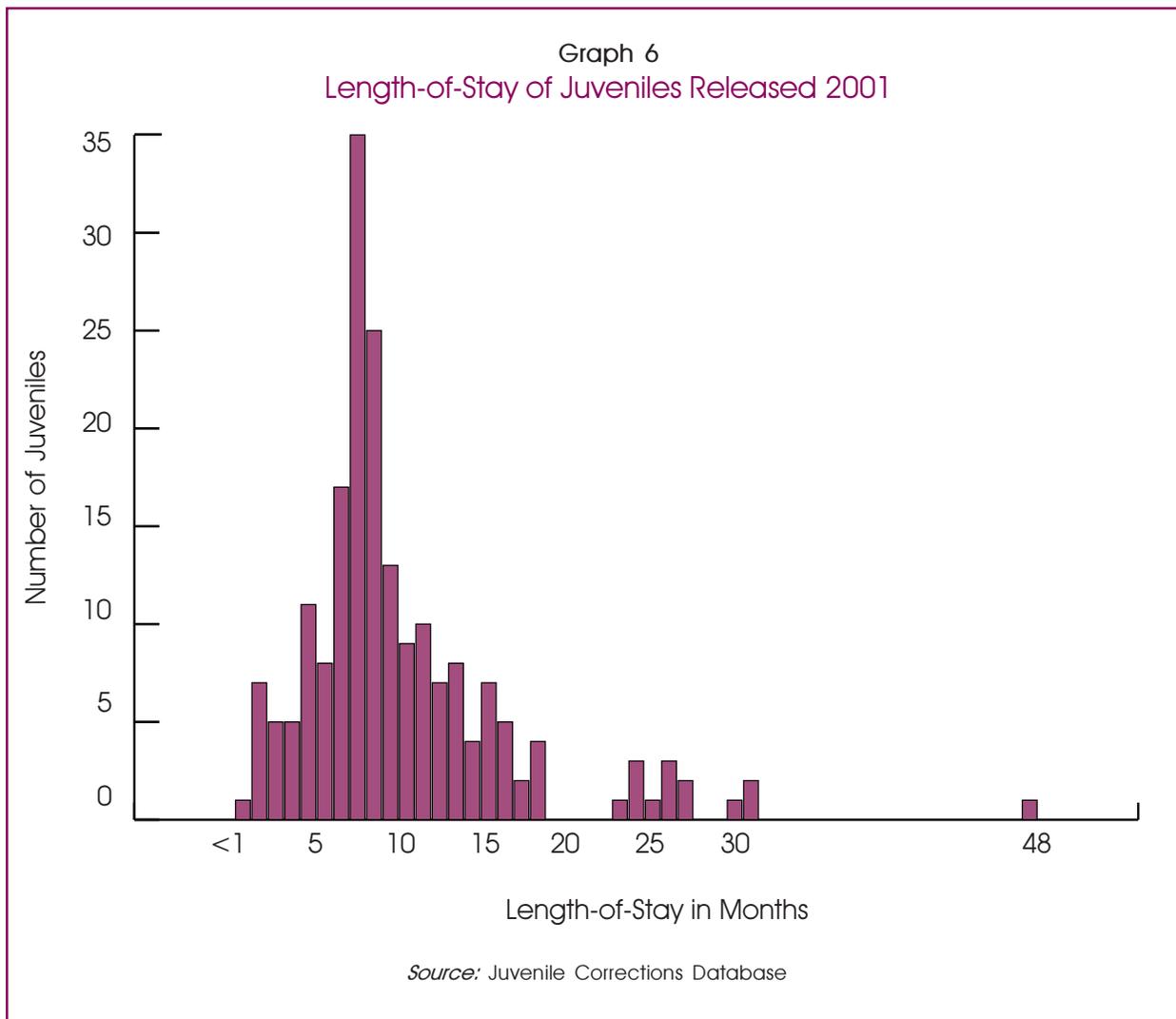
Source: Juvenile Corrections Database

Releases

Significant Finding: 196 juveniles were released from juvenile corrections in 2001. The majority of these juveniles had been admitted to juvenile corrections in 2000.

Of the juveniles released in 2001, 99 had been admitted in 2000 and 77 had been admitted in 2001. Very few were admitted prior to 2000: 17 in 1999, 2 in 1998, and 1 in 1997.

Of the 196 juveniles released in 2001, 73.5% (144) were white males. 13.3% (26) of the releases were black males. 8.5% (17) of the releases were females.



Length-of-Stay

Significant Finding: *The average length-of-stay for juveniles released in 2001 was 9.7 months.*

Significant Finding: *The average length-of-stay was 10.7 months for black males and 9.7 months for white males.*

Significant Finding: *One black male had a length of stay of 48 months. When this individual was removed from the average for black males, the average decreased to 9.2 months. The graph includes this juvenile to demonstrate how unusual this length-of-stay is.*

78.1% (153) of juveniles released in 2001 had a length-of-stay of 12 months or fewer.

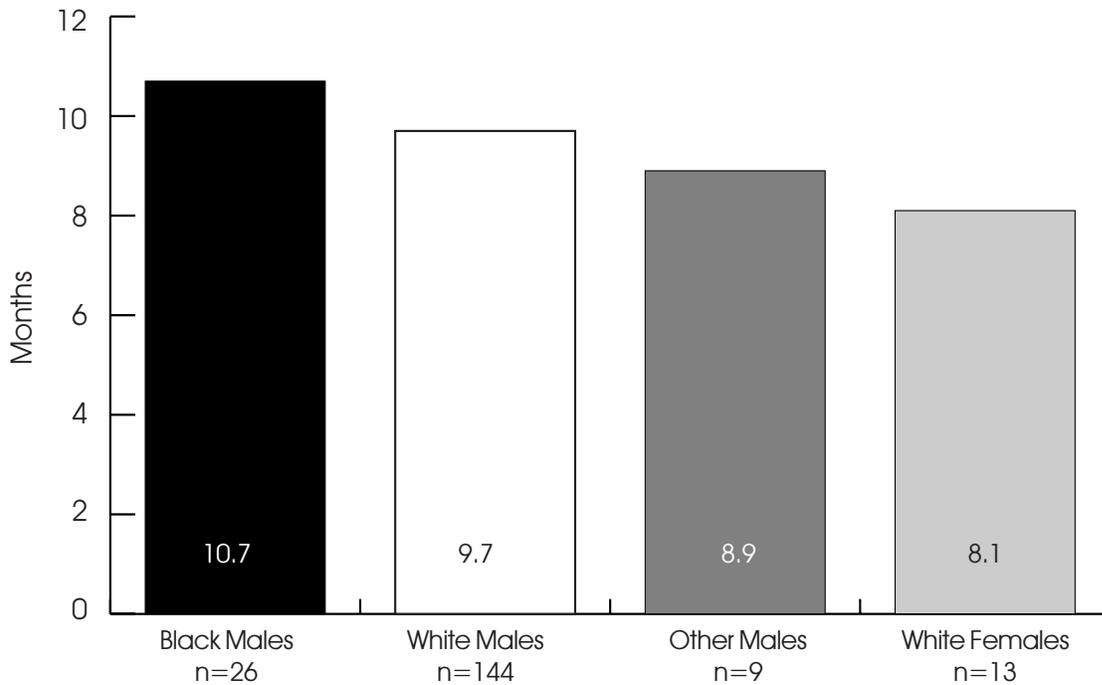
The most common length-of-stay was 7 months. 35 juveniles were released after staying exactly 7 months.

179 males were released in 2001. Those that were charged with public order offenses stayed the longest, an average of 10.8 months. Juveniles released after serving time for drug law violations had stayed an average of 8.5 months, the shortest of any male offender group. Males released for person offenses had an average length-of-stay of 8.9 months.

Of the 17 females released in 2001, only 15 were discussed in Table 5 due to low numbers for the drug and public offense categories. Person offenses received the longest average length-of-stay for females at 13.8 months. This is a much longer length-of-stay compared to the male length-of-stay for the same offense at 8.9 months. Caution should be used when interpreting these figures because the female population is much smaller than the male population.

Like the males, the majority of the females released (10) were in the property offense category. Females charged with a property offense had an average length-of-stay of 6.7 months.

Graph 7
Average Length-of-Stay of Juveniles Released in 2001



Source: Juvenile Corrections Database. Note: One black male had a length of stay of 48 months. When removed, the average for black males decreased to 9.2 months. Only a few black females and females of other races were released in 2001, therefore, there was not enough information to calculate a reliable average.

Table 5
Length-of-Stay and Number of Juveniles Released in 2001 by Offense Category

Offense Category	Males		Females	
	Number Released	Average Length-of-Stay	Number Released	Average Length-of-Stay
Drug	9	8.5 Months	<i>Too Few To Report</i>	
Person	54	8.9 Months	5	13.8 Months
Property	96	10.1 Months	10	6.7 Months
Public	20	10.8 Months	<i>Too Few To Report</i>	
Total	179	9.8 Months	15	8.5 Months

Source: Juvenile Corrections Database

Confined Juvenile Population

The confined juvenile population refers to those juveniles who are confined in a facility on any given day. In this section of the report, the confined population of WVIHY and Davis represents juveniles confined on May 28, 2002.

Significant Finding: *As of May 28, 2002 1 juvenile was confined in West Virginia for every 1,000 juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17.*

Eighteen counties, led by Pocahontas County's rate of 3.2 per 1,000 juveniles, confined juveniles at a rate above the state average.

Most (46) of the juveniles confined on May 28, 2002 were admitted earlier in the same month. 71 were admitted prior to May, but in 2002. 55 juveniles were admitted in 2001, 9 in 2000, and 1 in 1999. See Graph 8.

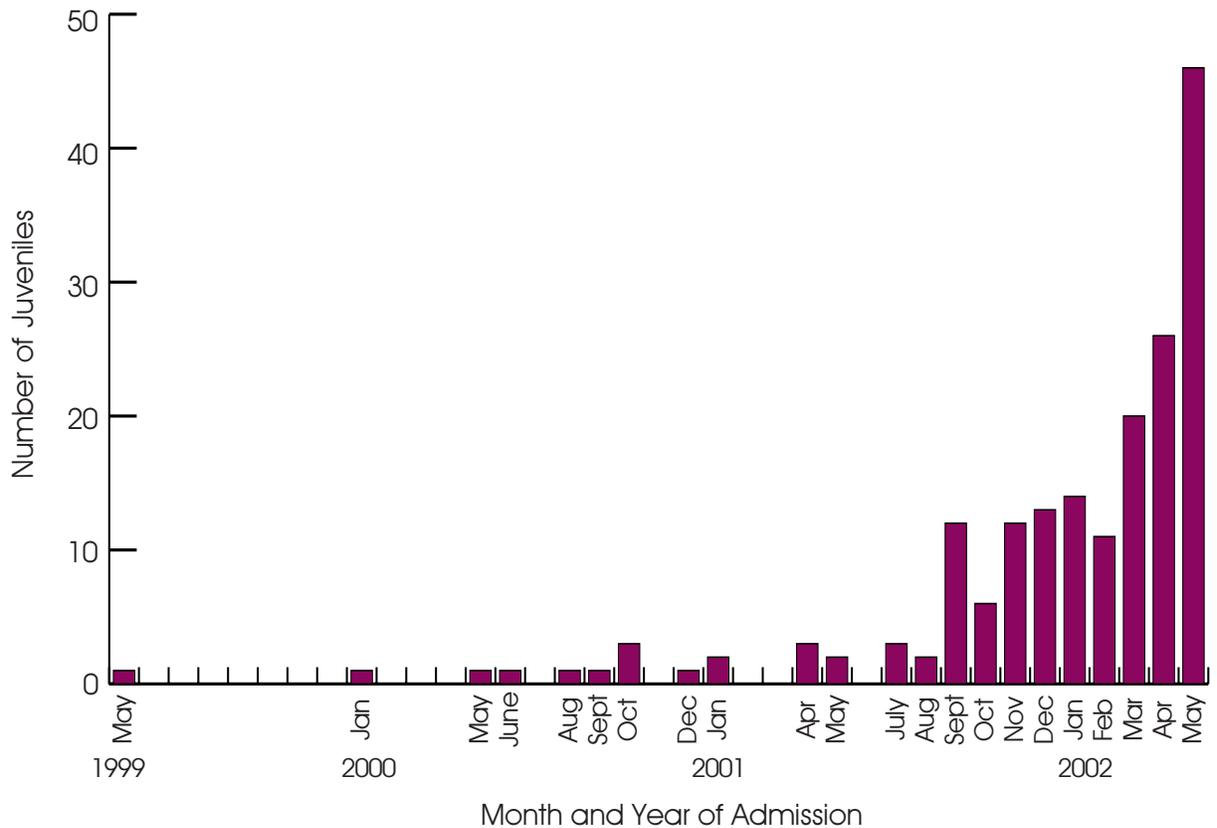
On May 28, 2002 the confined juvenile population consisted of 161 males and 22 females. 72.1% (132) were white males, 13.7% (25) were black males, and 2.2% (4) were categorized as other males. 11.5% (21) were white females and 0.5% (1) were categorized as other females. See Graph 9.

Table 6
Number of Juveniles Confined as of May 28, 2002 by Sentencing County

County	Juvenile Population	Juveniles Confined	Rate Per 1,000	County	Juvenile Population	Juveniles Confined	Rate Per 1,000
West Virginia	189,438	183	1.0	Harrison	7,501	6	0.8
Pocahontas	926	3	3.2	Upshur	2,537	2	0.8
Hardy	1,332	4	3.0	Clay	1,290	1	0.8
Greenbrier	3,501	9	2.6	Boone	2,708	2	0.7
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Jackson	3,216	5	1.6	Wetzel	2,051	1	0.5
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Wood	9,542	8	0.8	Brooke	2,456	0	0.0
Mercer	5,988	5	0.8	Monongalia	6,716	0	0.0

Source: Juvenile Population is from the 2000 Census Bureau and includes 10 through 17 year olds. Juveniles confined is from the Confined Population Database. *Note:* Rates are calculated by dividing the number of juveniles currently incarcerated by a particular county by that county's juvenile population age 10-17 years old. The juveniles are not necessarily from the sentencing county.

Graph 8
Admission Date of Juveniles Confined as of May 28, 2002



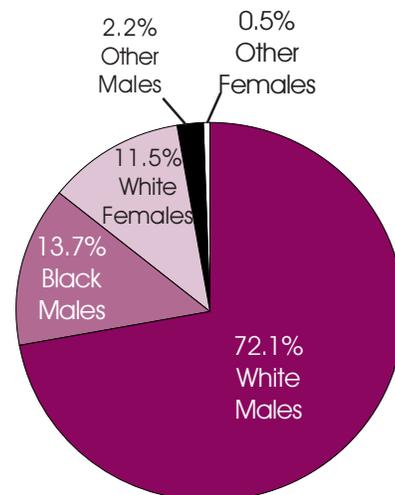
Source: Confined Population Database

On May 28, 2002, 150 of the total juvenile confined population were confined at the WVIHY. 25.7% (47) were housed in the general population unit, at the WVIHY. 16.4% (30) were housed in the diagnostic unit. 14.8% (27) were housed in the adult transfer unit. 8.7% (16) were housed in the female unit and 14.8% (27) were housed in the admission and orientation unit. Juveniles are also confined in jail or in the Davis Center. 1.6% of the juvenile confined population were temporarily located in a local or regional jail. 33 juveniles, 18.0% of the total juvenile confined population, were confined at the Davis Center.

Graph 10 describes the total juvenile confined population by facility and unit.

Table 7 describes the offenses that were charged to those juveniles who still remained confined as of May 28, 2002.

Graph 9
Gender & Race of Juveniles Confined in WVIHY & Davis as of May 28, 2002



Source: Confined Population Database

Significant Finding: *The offenses charged to the confined population were similar to the offenses charged to the admission population, suggesting that all offenders stay approximately the same amount of time.*

When the confined population is proportionally the same as the committed population, in terms of the offenses charged, it indicates that no particular offender group is “stacking up” in the facilities. For example, in the adult corrections population, 10.6% of those admitted were charged with sex offenses, but twice as many (20%) of offenders confined on any given day were charged with sex offenses. Their average length-of-stay is longer than most other offenders admitted, including, for example, DUI offenders. Sex offenders “stack up” in the adult population, whereas DUI offenders cycle through.

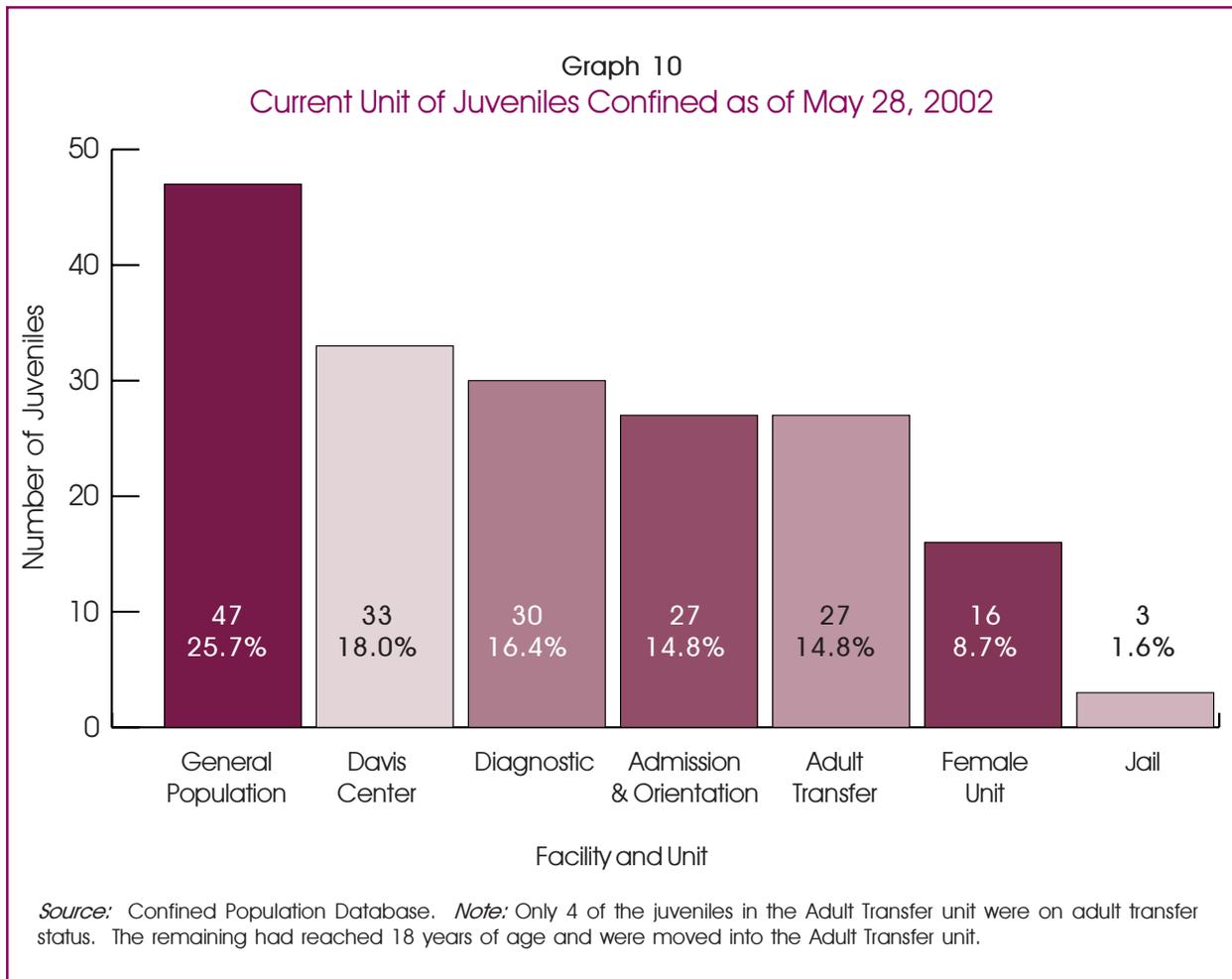
Significant Finding: *There were 358 offenses charged to the 183 juveniles confined at this time.*

Again, *property offenses* made up the majority of the offenses charged, at 50%. Breaking and entering (12.0%) and destruction of property (10.3%) were the top two property offenses charged.

Person offenses were the second most common types of offenses charged to the juveniles confined as of May 28, 2002, at 29.1%. Again, assault/battery made up the majority of the person offenses. Both sexual abuse/assault (4.7%) and murder/manslaughter (1.1%) increased slightly among the confined juvenile population, as compared to the admission population. It is important to note that the 12 counts of attempted homicide, which comprised 3.4% of the person offenses, were charged to a single juvenile.

Public Order offenses were the third most common offenses charged to those confined as of May 28, 2002, at 11.5%. This is similar to the 11.9% of public order offenses charged to the admission population. Weapons offenses were the most common public order offense in both populations. The weapons offenses increased slightly by 1.1% among the confined population.

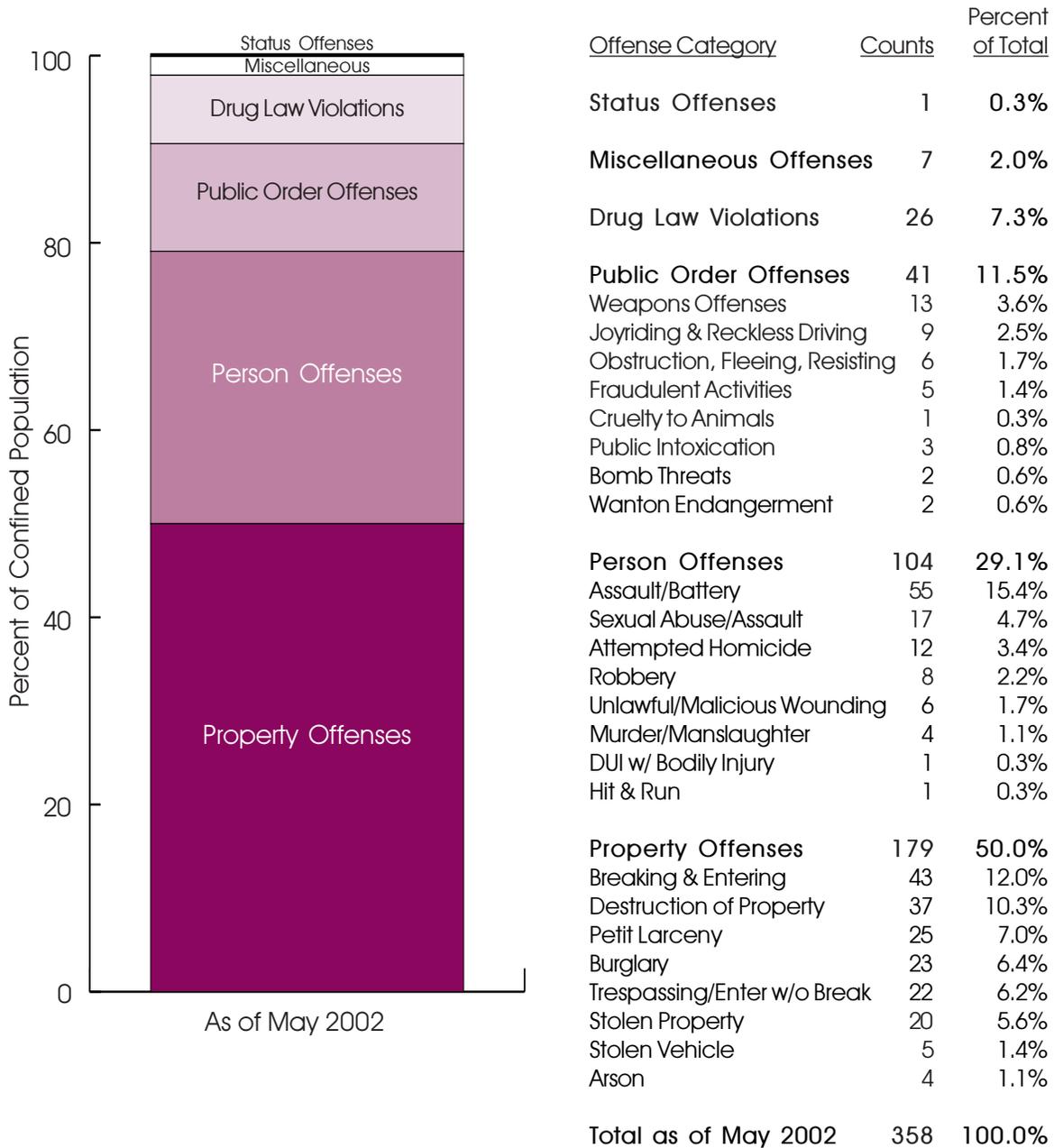
Drug law violations, made up 7.3% of the offenses charged to juveniles confined as of May 28, 2002. This was a slight increase above the 6.3% charged to those admitted in 2001.



Miscellaneous offenses increased by 1.5% among the confined population. There were 7 counts charged to those juveniles confined as of May 28, 2002 and there were only 2 counts charged to those juveniles admitted in 2001.

There was only one status offense charged in the confined juvenile population. There were 6 counts charged to those admitted in 2001.

Table 7
Offenses Charged to Juveniles Confined as of May 28, 2002



Source: Confined Population Database

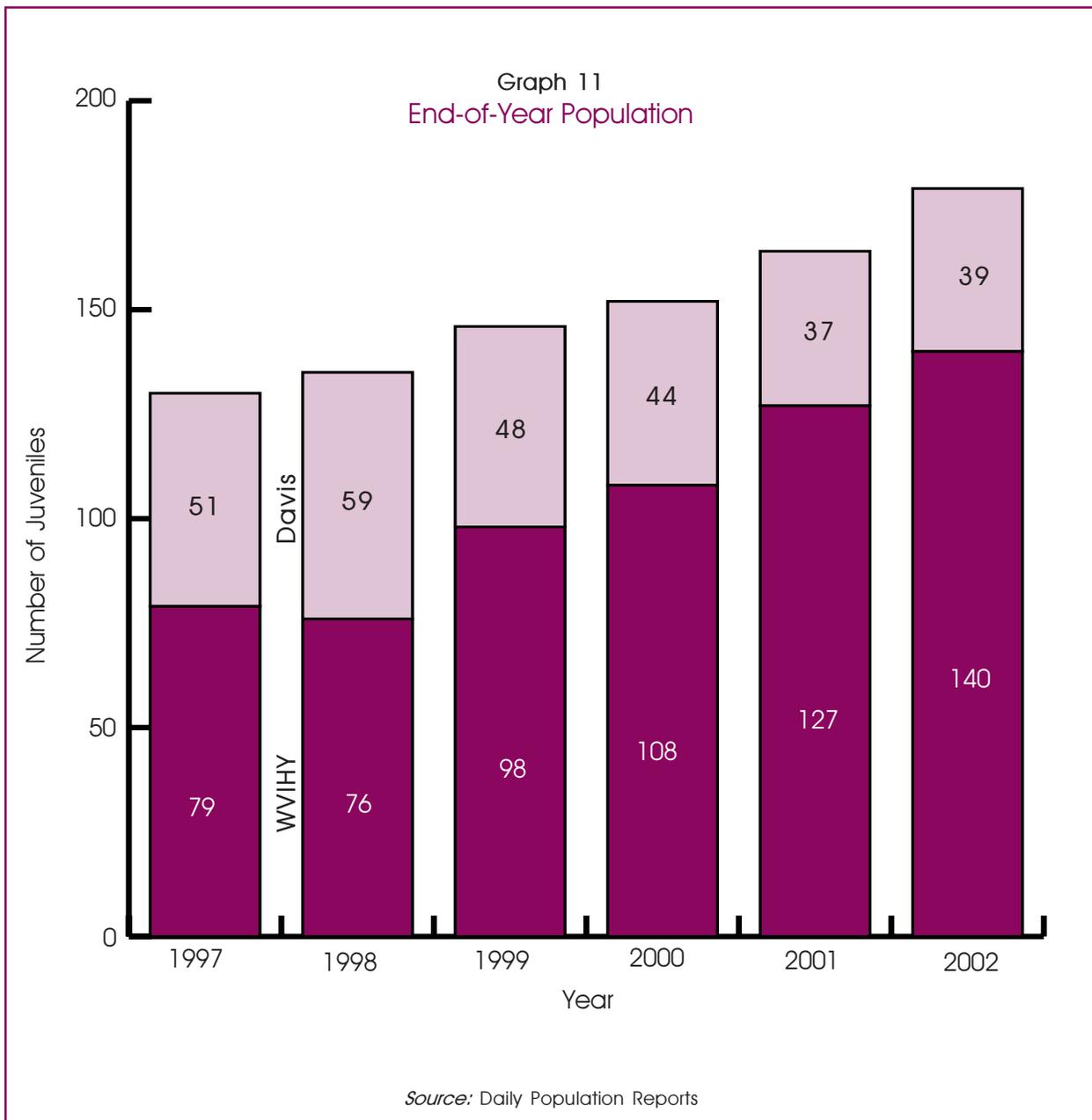
Significant Finding: The juvenile corrections population grew by an average of 6.6% between 1997 and 2002.

Significant Finding: In 2002, the average population was 143 at WVIHY and 43 at Davis.

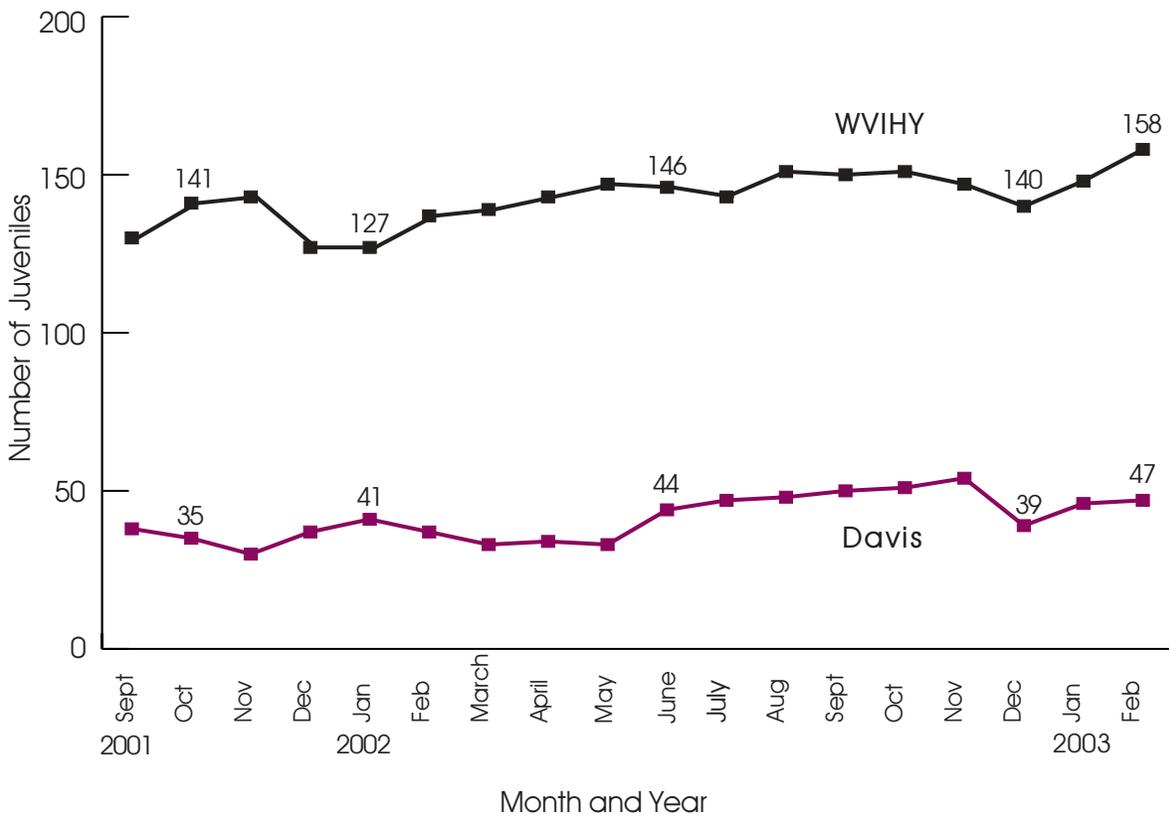
At the end of 1997, 130 juveniles were confined. This increased to 179 by the end of 2002. These figures do not include juveniles who committed an offense in juvenile corrections and were sentenced to serve time in a regional jail.

Davis housed 39 juveniles at the end of 2002, a decrease from 51 at the end of 1997. The population at Davis decreased by an average of 4.4% between 1997 and 2002.

WVIHY housed 140 juveniles at the end of 2002, an increase from 79 at the end of 1997. The population at WVIHY increased by an average of 12.6% between 1997 and 2002.



Graph 12
End-of-Month Population



Source: Daily Population Reports

Forecast Results

Key Assumptions

The juvenile corrections population forecast in this report was completed using the Wizard 2000 simulation and projections model. This model simulates the movements of offenders through the juvenile system based on known and assumed policies affecting both the volume of admissions into the system and the lengths-of-stay for juveniles who are housed within the state's two correctional facilities. It simulates the movements of individual cases, by offense category, and projects each separately.

The following key assumptions were used and have a significant impact on the projections results.

A. The composition of future annual new court commitments is assumed to be the same as the composition of admissions between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2001.

Projections in this report are based on admission and release data provided by the state for the time period January 1, 2001 to December 21, 2001. The files provided represented all admissions and releases from the Juvenile Corrections Database (WVIHY and Davis). Future admissions are assumed to "look like" these admissions in terms of the proportion of admitting charges, length-of-stay, likelihood of release, and method of release.

B. Separate forecasts were produced for the total juvenile population and diagnostic evaluation beds disaggregated by male and female.

The simulation model used for this forecast was constructed to predict male and female juvenile offender populations separately. It is important to note for any simulation model the more disaggregated the offender data is, the more precise and accurate the resulting forecast will be. The model was also constructed by analyzing the gender based data by admitting offense type. Constructing the model in this manner will add precision and accuracy to the resulting forecast.

C. Over the forecast period, new court admissions are projected to increase by an overall average of 2.6% each year through the year 2013.

The new admissions assumptions used in this forecast were developed by combining historical trends in juvenile corrections admissions for the past four years, the correlation between the historical demographic state population, the historical crime rate, and the projected demographic growth for the state.

The juvenile corrections population forecast assumes that the number of annual new commitments will increase from 203 in 2001 to 276 in 2013. This represents an increase of 73 inmates over the 11 year period with an average annual increase of 2.6 percent per year. This admissions assumption is consistent with what is being observed and forecasted across the country.

Forecast

Significant Finding: *If current trends continue without change, the juvenile corrections population will grow to 222 by the end of 2007 and to 279 by the end of 2013.*

The following page contains the juvenile corrections population projections. Projections are presented for all juvenile offenders, males, females, and diagnostics. Graph 13 illustrates the historical and projected juvenile correction populations from 1997 to 2013.

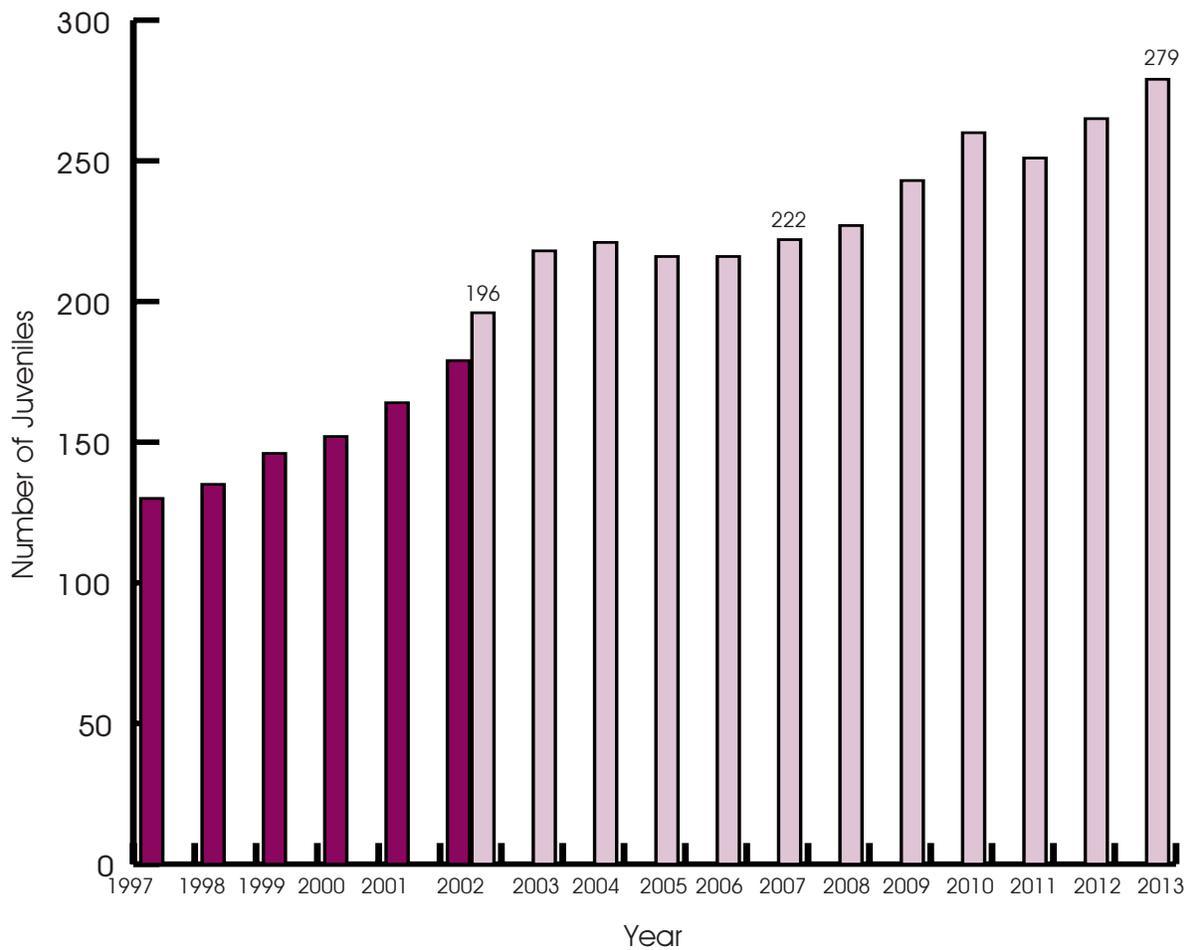
Recommendations

This report is the first forecast of the juvenile corrections population for state leaders and others to use to plan for the future. The authors of this report would like to offer several recommendations regarding its use and the production of future forecasts.

#1: Ensure High Data Quality in New Systems

The Division of Juvenile Services should be commended for the development of a new tracking system which they are currently implementing in all juvenile facilities. The system will enable researchers to obtain valuable information about the juvenile population without the burden of paper-and-pencil data collection instruments. DJS should ensure that measures are taken to ensure high data quality, such as reviewing and cleaning data on a regular basis and conducting random data quality audits. DJS should also continue to work with the Criminal Justice

Graph 13
State Juvenile Corrections Population



Statistical Analysis Center to ensure that the appropriate data elements can be used for the forecast.

#2: Produce Annual Juvenile Corrections Reports

The Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center has produced several annual juvenile corrections statistical reports, but this report is the first to include a population forecast. The CJSAC should continue to produce this report and eliminate the shorter annual reports to prevent duplication of efforts and expenses.

Future reports should assess annual changes in the types of juveniles committed to corrections and their corresponding length-of-stay, to name two important factors. This information will allow the researchers

and readers to assess the extent to which each factor contributes to the changes in the population.

#3: Continue to Cooperate with Researchers on the Topic of Racial Disparity

The Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center has shared information, as well as technical assistance, with researchers studying the topic of racial disparity. The analyses by race and gender illustrate the usefulness of the CJSAC to these endeavors.

#4: Request Additional Information and Assistance

The authors of this report are available to answer questions about the juvenile corrections population and assist others in using the information in this report.