

WV Juvenile Detention Report: 2001-2003

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There were 930 admissions to West Virginia's regional juvenile detention centers in 2003. Between 1993 and 2003, there was an average of 810 admissions per year. The 2003 admissions were the highest they have been since 1999. Tiger Morton Juvenile Center had the largest number of admissions in 2003.

The state's average daily population of 79.3 exceeded the state's capacity of 78 for most of 2003. For the purposes of this report, capacity is defined as the number of beds within each detention center or the total number of beds for the state. The state's

detention capacity increased to 126 during the latter part of 2003 with the opening of the J. M. "Chick" Buckbee Juvenile Center in November 2003 and the Donald R. Kuhn Juvenile Center in December 2003. Since 2003, the state's detention capacity has increased to 212 (as of mid-year 2005) with the addition of two staff secure detention centers (Gene Spadaro Juvenile Center and Robert Shell Detention Center), a diagnostic center (Southern West Virginia Youth Diagnostic Center), and the renovation of the Lorrie Yeager Jr. Juvenile Center.

There were 709 releases in 2003 not including transfers between

State of West Virginia
Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice Services

Report Highlights

The 2003 admissions were the highest they have been since 1999.

The state's average daily population of 79.3 exceeded the state's capacity in 2003.

Roughly two-thirds (67.7%) of detained youth in 2003 were charged with two or more offenses.

The most common offenses charged in 2003 were assault and battery (21.7%) followed by probation violations (18.3%).

Ohio and Cabell counties had the highest detention rates with 9.2 and 8.8 respectively or nearly 9 juveniles per 1,000 juveniles in the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17.

The overall detention rate for the state in 2003 was 4.1 or 4 juveniles per 1,000 youths ages 10 to 17 in WV.

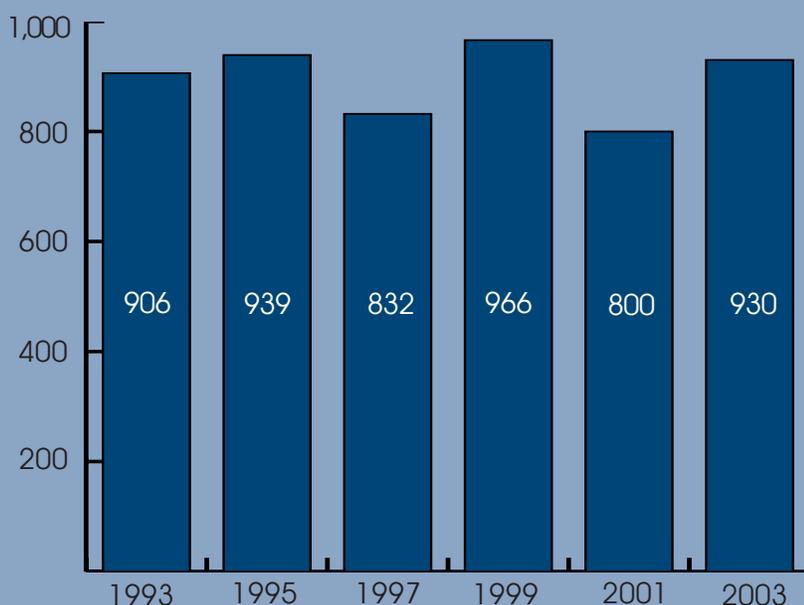
The average age of juvenile detainees was 15.7 years in 2003.

While males comprise 51.5% of the juvenile population ages 10 to 17 in WV they represented 78.1% of juvenile detainees.

Nonwhite juveniles represent 5.8% of the WV juvenile population; however they accounted for 17.1% of juvenile detainees.



Graph 1. Admissions to WV Juvenile Detention Centers, 1993-2003¹



¹The number of admissions includes juveniles who may have been admitted to a detention facility more than once.

detention centers. The median length of stay for juveniles detained in 2003 was 19 days. The median indicates that one half of the juveniles detained in 2003 stayed less than 19 days and one half of the juveniles detained stayed more than 19 days.

The average age of juvenile detainees in 2003 was 15.7 years of age. These juveniles ranged from 11 to 20 years of age. Female commitments tended to be younger than their male counterparts. The average age of female commitments was 15.4 while the average age of male commitments was 15.9.

Males were overrepresented in the proportion of detained juveniles compared to their proportion of the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17. Males comprise 51.5% of the juvenile population; however they represent 78.1% of the population of juvenile detainees in 2003.

Nonwhite youth were also overrepresented in the proportion of detained juveniles compared to their proportion of the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17. Nonwhite youth comprise only 5.8% of the juvenile population while the proportion of nonwhite youth detained by the state was 17.5%.

There were 1,922 offenses charged to the population of juveniles detained in 2003. Nearly two-thirds (67.7%) of detained youth in 2003 were charged with two or more offenses. The most common specific offenses charged in 2003 were assault and battery (21.7%) followed by probation violations (18.3%). Property offenses represent the most common broad offense category with 29.8% of all charges in 2003.

Kanawha County had the largest number of detained youth with 96, followed by Cabell County (78). Ohio and Cabell counties had the highest detention rates with 9.2 and 8.8 respectively or nearly 9 juveniles

per 1,000 juveniles in the population of youth ages 10 to 17. The overall detention rate for the state in 2003 was 4.1 or 4 per 1,000 youth ages 10 to 17 in WV.

This report presents statistics on juveniles detained and released from WV juvenile detention centers. Data in this report were taken from monthly and daily population reports generated by juvenile detention center staff and compiled by DJS. The quality of the data depends on the completeness and accuracy of the information available to detention center staff at the time a juvenile is admitted.

DETENTION ADMISSIONS

This section of the report examines the total number of admissions to detention facilities in the state for the years 2001 to 2003. When juveniles are readmitted for new charges they are counted as a new admission. Thus, unique juveniles may be counted more than once in the admission estimates. Approximately, 149 juveniles were readmitted during 2003, 123 during 2002 and 103 during 2001.

Admissions

There were 930 admissions to the WV regional juvenile detention centers in 2003. An increase from the number of admissions reported in 2001 (800) and 2002 (885) and the highest number of admissions reported since 1999.

The Tiger Morton Juvenile Center had the largest number of admissions in 2003 with 287 admissions. The second highest number of admissions was 223 at Northern Regional Juvenile Center. The Donald R. Kuhn Juvenile Center and “Chick” Buckbee Juvenile Center opened in the latter part of 2003 and began admitting juvenile detainees. The “Chick” Buckbee Center had 12 admissions and the

Donald R. Kuhn Juvenile Center had 3 admissions.

Average Daily Population

The average daily population for the state was 79.3 (Table 1). The overall average daily population for the state exceeded the state’s capacity of 78 for most of 2003. However, the total capacity of detention facilities in the state increased to 126 during the latter part of 2003 with the opening of the “Chick” Buckbee Juvenile Center in November and the Donald R. Kuhn Juvenile Center in December. The opening of these new detention facilities brought the state’s average daily population under capacity for the remaining two months of 2003. Three institutions (Sam Perdue Juvenile Center, Lorrie Yeager Jr. Juvenile Center, and Tiger Morton Juvenile Center) had an average daily population greater than their capacity in 2003.

Expansion Plans

Since 2003, DJS has increased its capacity to 212 beds with the opening of the Southern West Virginia Youth Diagnostic Center (24 beds designed for youth referred for diagnostic assessment), the Gene Spadaro Juvenile Center (24 beds), and the Robert Shell Juvenile Center (24 beds). The Lorrie Yeager Jr. Juvenile Center was expanded to include 14 more beds. The Sam Perdue Juvenile Center was temporarily reduced from 15 to 10 beds while plans for expansion include up to 24 beds at the new center. With the completion of the Vicki Douglas Juvenile Center and the Sam Perdue Juvenile Center in the spring of 2006 the total capacity will reach 235 beds.

Releases

There were 709 releases in 2003, not including transfers between detention centers. There were 725

releases in 2002 and 590 releases in 2001.

Length of Stay

The average or mean length of stay for detainees released in 2003 was 51 days; however the mean is skewed by a few detainees with very long stays thus the median length of stay is reported. The median length of stay for juveniles released in 2003 was 19 days. This number indicates that one half of the juveniles released in 2003 stayed less than 19 days and one half of the juveniles stayed more than 19 days.

Just below four percent (3.8%) of detainees in 2003 were released the same day they were admitted. Eight percent (8.1%) were detained for one day. Eighteen percent (18.3%) were

detained for more than one day to one week. Nearly thirty-two percent (31.4%) were detained for more than one week to one month. Roughly seven percent (6.6%) were detained more than one month to 44 days. An estimated 15.8% were detained from 45 to 90 days and 16.0% were detained for more than 90 days. The majority of the juveniles detained more than 90 days were juveniles awaiting commitment to WVIHY or placement in a DHHR approved facility.

The median length of stay was 18.5 days in 2001 and 28 days in 2002. The most frequently reported length of stay was 1 day in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Offenses

The offense statistics in this report are based on the offenses reported in the monthly population reports

generated by the detention centers. Offense counts are summarized by specific and broad offense category (e.g., person, property, public order, drug, status offense and miscellaneous). The unit of count for offenses is the total number of offenses charged for the total number of admissions. Juveniles may have more than one admission and/or they may be charged with more than one offense at the time of detention. Approximately one-third (32.3%) of the admissions in 2003 were charged with only one offense. Nearly forty percent (38.0%) were charged with at least two offenses and the remaining 29.7% were charged with 3 or more offenses. Moreover, juveniles may have originally been charged with other offenses that were not known or disclosed at intake.

Table 1. Admissions, Releases, and Average Daily Population by Juvenile Detention Center in 2003

Juvenile Detention Centers	Number of Admissions	Number of Releases	Average Daily Population	Capacity
Northern Regional Juvenile Center	223	200	17.0	19
Sam Perdue Juvenile Center (Formerly Southern Regional Juvenile Center)	176	128	15.8	15
Eastern Regional Juvenile Center	106	74	8.5	10
Lorrie Yeager Jr. Juvenile Center (Formerly North Central Juvenile Center)	118	76	10.5	10
Tiger Morton Juvenile Center ¹ (Formerly South Central Juvenile Center)	287	225	25.3	24
Donald R. Kuhn Juvenile Center ²	3	3	0.7	24
J.M. "Chick" Buckbee Juvenile Center ³	12	3	9.1	24
Total	925 ⁴	709	79.3	126

¹The capacity was 34 for approximately 8 months in 2003 while the facility was temporarily located at WVIHY.

²Donald R. Kuhn Juvenile Center opened on December 3, 2003.

³J. M. "Chick" Buckbee Juvenile Center opened on November 7, 2003.

⁴The admission facility is missing for five cases.

A total of 1,922 offenses were reported for the 930 admissions to juvenile detention centers in 2003. A total of 1,518 offenses were reported for the 2001 admissions and 1,882 offenses were reported for the 2002 admissions (see Table 2 for a distribution of offenses).

Property offenses were the

most common type of offenses charged in 2001, 2002, and 2003. Burglary and theft comprised the largest percentage of the property offenses in 2001 (18%), 2002 (15.1%) and 2003 (17.7%).

Person offenses were the second most common type of offense charged in 2001 (26.2%),

2002 (26.7%), and 2003 (26.0%). The most frequent person offense charged was assault/battery. Assault/battery comprised the largest proportion of all the specific offenses charged during each year of the report period.

Public order offenses were the third most common type of offense

Table 2. Offense Counts by Specific and Broad Offense Category, 2001-2003

Offense Category	2001 Offense Counts		2002 Offense Counts		2003 Offense Counts	
	Counts	% of Total	Counts	% of Total	Counts	% of Total
Property Offenses	435	28.7	516	27.4	572	29.8
Burglary	114	7.5	124	6.6	155	8.1
Theft	160	10.5	159	8.5	185	9.6
Property Damage	90	5.9	117	6.2	103	5.4
Stolen Vehicle	33	2.1	51	2.7	59	3.1
Stolen Property	34	2.2	53	2.8	47	2.4
Arson	4	0.3	12	0.6	23	1.2
Person Offenses	398	26.2	503	26.7	500	26.0
Assault/Battery	324	21.3	406	21.5	417	21.7
Robbery	15	1.0	8	0.4	25	1.3
Sexual Abuse/Assault	41	2.7	56	3.0	42	2.2
Homicide	16	1.1	24	1.3	10	0.5
Kidnapping	2	0.1	8	0.4	3	0.1
Child Abuse/Neglect	0	0	1	0.1	3	0.1
Public Order Offenses	306	20.2	399	21.2	299	15.6
Obstruction of Justice ¹	198	13.0	207	11.0	186	9.7
Weapons Offenses	68	4.5	123	6.5	59	3.1
Fraudulent Activities	15	1.0	23	1.2	20	1.0
Traffic Offenses	16	1.1	39	2.1	24	1.2
Disorderly Conduct ²	9	0.6	4	0.2	10	0.5
Animal Offense	0	0	3	0.2	0	0
Drug Law Violations	85	5.6	93	4.9	105	5.5
Status Offenses³	28	1.8	27	1.4	56	2.9
Miscellaneous Offenses⁴	47	3.1	51	2.7	37	1.9
Probation Violation	219	14.4	293	15.6	353	18.3
Total⁵	1,518	100.0	1,882	100.0	1,922	100.0

¹**Obstruction of justice offenses** included counts of obstructing an officer, running from placement, fleeing, and escape.

²**Disorderly conduct offenses** included counts of public intoxication and disturbing the peace, which were charged in conjunction with other more serious offenses.

³**Status offenses** A majority of status offense counts were charged in conjunction with delinquency offenses. The juvenile justice compliance monitor reported to OJJDP that 1 status offender in 2001, 3 status offenders in 2002, had been detained in violation of federal guidelines.

⁴**Miscellaneous offenses** include counts of conspiracy to commit a felony, prostitution and other sex offenses not involving assault or abuse, offenses designated as "other," privacy violations, trespassing and treason.

⁵Percents may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

charged in 2001, 2002, and 2003. Obstruction of justice charges comprised the largest percentage of public order offenses for all three years of the report period.

Probation violations comprised the second largest proportion (18.3%) of all the specific offenses charged during each year of the report period.

Drug law violations comprised less than six percent of offenses charged in 2001, 2002, and 2003. Drug law charges included counts

of possessing, manufacturing, selling and delivering controlled substances.

Status offenses comprised less than two percent of all offenses charged in 2001 and 2002 and less than three percent of all offenses charged in 2003. Most juveniles with status offense charges were also charged with other more serious and detainable charges.

Miscellaneous offenses also accounted for a very small proportion of the offenses charged

to detainees in 2001 (3.1%), 2002 (2.7%), and 2003 (1.9%).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF JUVENILE DETAINEES

When juveniles are readmitted for new charges, they are counted as a new admission. Of the 930 admissions for 2003, approximately 149 of the admissions were juveniles who were admitted more than once during the report period.

Table 3. Demographic Characteristics of Juvenile Detainees, 2001-2003

Demographic Characteristics	2001 Detainees		2002 Detainees		2003 Detainees	
	N	%*	N	%	N	%
Gender						
Male	564	80.9	617	81.0	610	78.1
Female	133	19.1	145	19.0	171	21.9
Total	697	100.0	762	100.0	781	100.0
Race						
White	573	82.2	629	82.5	638	81.7
Black	99	14.2	110	14.4	108	13.8
Asian	1	0.1	0	0	2	0.3
Hispanic	6	.9	3	.4	10	1.3
Biracial	16	2.3	18	2.4	19	2.4
Unknown	2	0.3	2	0.3	4	0.5
Total	697	100.0	762	100.0	781	100.0
Age						
Mean	15.8		15.8		15.7	
Standard Deviation	1.4		1.4		1.4	
Minimum	11		11		11	
Maximum	20		20		20	
Total	800		885		930	
Last Grade Completed						
Grade 8 (or lower)	73	24.2	204	33.4	248	35.8
9th Grade	89	29.5	159	26.0	196	28.3
10th Grade	82	27.1	162	26.6	152	22.0
11th Grade	46	15.2	70	11.5	78	11.3
12th Grade	12	4.0	15	2.5	18	2.6
Total	302	100.0	610	100.0	692	100.0
GED						
Yes	34	9.6	24	4.0	20	2.8
No	319	90.4	582	96.0	686	97.2
Total¹	353	100.0	606	100.0	706	100.0

¹Percentages may not equal 100.0 due to rounding.

Thus, there were 781 unique juveniles admitted during 2003. This section of the report examines the demographic characteristics of individual juveniles admitted to detention centers during 2001 to 2003. It does not count juveniles readmitted or transferred between detention facilities.

Age

The average age of juvenile detainees was 15.7 years in 2003 (Table 3). It was 15.8 in 2001 and 2002. The minimum age reported was 11 and the maximum age reported was 20 for 2001, 2002, and 2003. Female detainees tended to be younger than their male counterparts. The average age of female detainees was 15.4 while the average age of male detainees was 15.9. Female detainees were on average 4.6 months younger than male detainees.

Gender

Males were overrepresented among juveniles detained in 2003 compared to their proportion of the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17. While males comprise 51.5% of the juvenile population in WV, they represented 78.1% of juvenile detainees (Table 3). Conversely, females were underrepresented among juvenile detainees in 2003 when compared to their proportion of the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17. While females comprise 48.5% of the juvenile population in WV they represented 11.3% of juvenile detainees. These findings are consistent with 2001 and 2002 data (Table 3).

Race

Nonwhite juveniles were also overrepresented among juvenile detainees in 2001, 2002, and 2003 compared to their proportion of the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17. While nonwhite juveniles

represent 5.8% of the WV population of youth ages 10 to 17, they accounted for 17.1% of juvenile detainees in 2001, 17.2% of juvenile detainees in 2002, and 17.5% juvenile detainees in 2003 (Table 3).

Education

The largest proportion of detained youth in 2003 (35.8%) reported completing the 8th grade or less at the time of their detention (Table 3). The second most frequent grade completed at the time of detention was 9th grade (28.3%). An estimated 22.0% of detained youth reported completing the 10th grade. Nearly fourteen percent (13.9%) of the detainees in 2003 reported completing the 11th or 12th grade. Among youth detained in 2003, only 2.8% reported having received their General Education Diploma (GED).

Home County

There were 781 juveniles detained in WV in 2003 (Table 4). Kanawha County detained the largest number (96) of youth in 2003. Cabell County had the next largest number with 78 followed by Harrison (52) and Mercer (50) counties. Twenty-two counties detained between 10 and 50 juveniles in 2003. Twenty-four counties detained fewer than 10 juveniles and 5 counties reported no detainees in 2003.

Detention Rates

West Virginia detained 781 youth in 2003 at a rate of 4.12 per 1,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17. In short, WV detained approximately 4 juveniles per every 1,000 juveniles (Table 4). Although Kanawha County detained by far the largest number of youth, Ohio (9.23), Cabell (8.93), and Wetzel (8.78) counties had the highest detention rates with nearly 9 juveniles per 1,000 juveniles in the population of youth ages 10 to 17.

Marshall (8.22) and Mercer (8.35) counties had the second highest rates of detention at 8 juveniles per 1,000 juveniles. Five counties had a detention rate less than eight but greater than five. Thirty-six counties had detention rates greater than one and less than 5 and nine counties had a detention rate of 0 or less than 1.

METHODOLOGY

Data in this report were generated from records in monthly and daily population reports generated by juvenile detention facility staff and compiled by DJS. The quality of the data depends upon the completeness and accuracy of the information available at the time a juvenile is admitted or transferred.

Unit of count. The data can be analyzed by examining the number of admissions or the number of unique individual juveniles detained. When juveniles are readmitted for new charges, they are counted as a new admission, thus examining admissions may inflate the actual number of juveniles detained. Conversely, examining unique juveniles may not reveal the volume of admissions to detention centers.

Population estimates. U.S. Census 2000 figures were used to estimate the juvenile population in WV. For the purposes of this report, we utilized estimates of the population based on youths 10 to 17 years of age. Detention rates per 1,000 juveniles were derived from the total number of juveniles committed from each county divided by the population estimated for that county. The result is then multiplied by 1,000 in order to determine the rate per 1,000 juvenile residents.

Offense counts. Offense counts in this report are generated from the offenses recorded in monthly and daily population reports. Juveniles may have originally been

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

Length of stay. Length of stay was calculated by obtaining the number of days between the admission date and release date.

Average daily population. The average daily number of youth present in a given facility or the total detention population during the reporting period. Average daily population is reported for the total

detention population, and for each regional juvenile detention center.

Population ¹			Rate per 1,000 ³				
Population ¹	Number of Detainees ²	Rate per 1,000 ³	Population	Number of Detainees	Rate per 1,000		
Barbour	1,748	0	0.00	Mineral	3,041	14	4.60
Berkeley	8,986	40	4.45	Mingo	3,317	5	1.50
Boone	2,708	10	3.69	Monongalia	6,716	10	1.50
Braxton	1,654	5	3.02	Monroe	1,410	1	.71
Brooke	2,456	11	4.48	Morgan	1,481	10	6.75
Cabell	8,737	78	8.93	Nicholas	3,095	15	4.85
Calhoun	901	2	2.22	Ohio	4,878	45	9.23
Clay	1,290	3	2.33	Pendleton	846	0	0.00
Doddridge	948	4	4.22	Pleasants	831	1	1.20
Fayette	4,835	13	2.69	Pocahontas	926	0	0.00
Gilmer	753	0	0.00	Preston	3,495	7	2.00
Grant	1,145	2	1.75	Putnam	5,935	7	1.18
Greenbrier	3,501	10	2.86	Raleigh	8,032	12	1.50
Hampshire	2,443	10	4.10	Randolph	3,029	12	3.96
Hancock	3,171	8	2.52	Ritchie	1,149	5	4.35
Hardy	1,332	8	6.00	Roane	1,811	5	2.76
Harrison	7,501	52	6.93	Summers	1,308	1	.80
Jackson	3,216	14	4.35	Taylor	1,820	5	2.75
Jefferson	4,676	24	5.13	Tucker	757	3	3.96
Kanawha	19,444	96	4.94	Tyler	1,121	4	3.57
Lewis	1,735	5	2.88	Upshur	2,537	2	.79
Lincoln	2,459	8	3.33	Wayne	4,738	16	3.38
Logan	3,895	19	4.88	Webster	1,097	2	1.82
Marion	5,542	35	6.32	Wetzel	2,051	18	8.78
Marshall	3,891	32	8.22	Wirt	746	0	0.00
Mason	2,725	8	2.94	Wood	9,542	20	2.10
McDowell	3,236	13	4.01	Wyoming	2,813	1	.71
Mercer	5,988	50	8.35	Total WV	189,438	781	4.12

¹Data Source: Census 2000, US Census Bureau.
²The number of detainees represents the number of unique juveniles admitted to a detention facility.
³Rates based on 10-17 year old population.

Data Sources

The West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services' Monthly Population Reports compiled and managed by DJS staff.

U.S. Census Bureau, United States Census 2000. Assessed online at <http://www.census.gov/census2000/states/wv.html>.

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Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

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