

# DCJS

## DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

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

1999 WV JUVENILE DETENTION ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2001

**T**here were 966 **admissions** to West Virginia's regional juvenile detention centers in 1999. Between 1992 and 1999, there were an average of 891 admissions per year. Admissions have increased an average of 5.0% per year.

Though the licensed capacity of the juvenile detention centers was 70 in 1999, the average daily population was 77.5. The South Central center in Dunbar was overcapacity 300 days in 1999.

When juveniles are transferred between detention centers or readmitted for new charges, they are counted as a new admission. In 1999, 756 individual juveniles were admitted at least once. Of those juveniles, 166 were transferred between centers or readmitted for new charges.

When compared to the juvenile population of West Virginia, there were fewer white females in detention than expected. All other groups were overrepresented.

More than three-fourths (79.5%) of the juveniles were 15-17 years old.

Obstruction of justice and assault/battery charges were the most frequently charged offenses to those admitted in 1999. Obstruction of justice charges include violations of alternative placement and probation, failure to appear in court, contempt of court, escape, and resisting arrest.

There were 950 **releases** from juvenile detention in 1999. These releases included transfers between facilities.

The average **length of stay** for those

released in 1999 was 29.3 days, or about one month. Only 1.2% had been detained for more than six months. All were juveniles awaiting permanent placement in corrections or a DHHR approved facility.

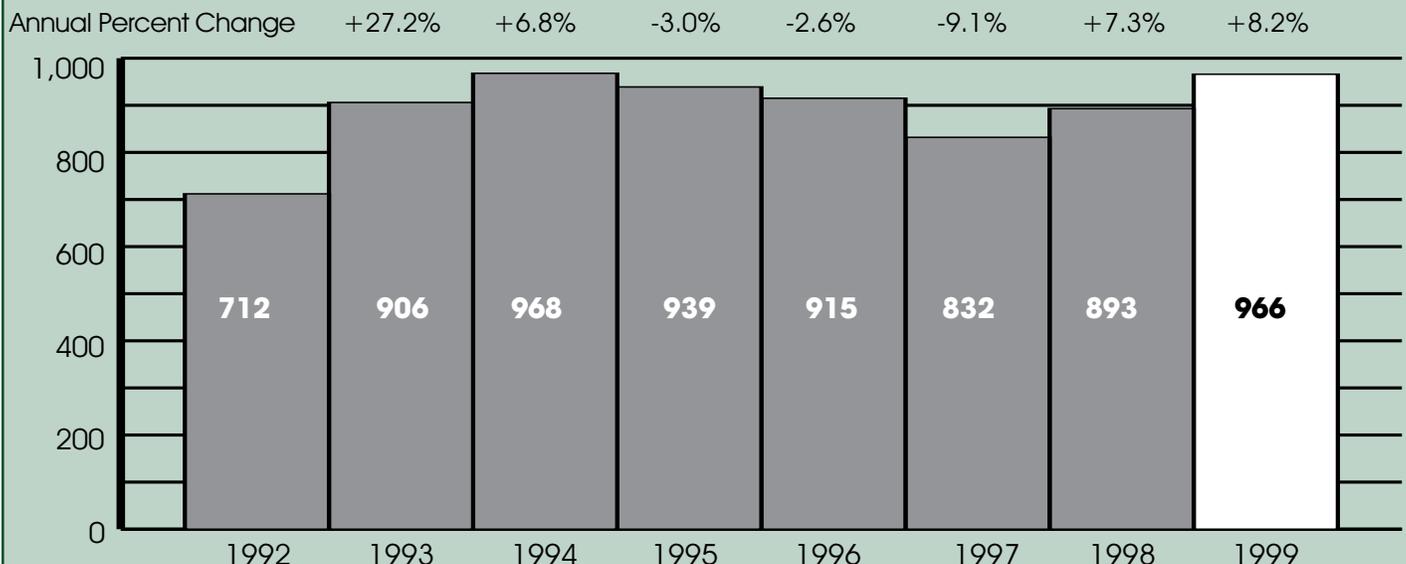
This report presents additional statistics on juveniles admitted and released from West Virginia's juvenile detention facilities in 1999.

Data in this report were taken from monthly population reports (MPRs) generated by juvenile detention center staff and collected by DCJS. 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.

Admissions to WV Juvenile Detention Centers 1992-1999

Graph #1

Admissions increased by an average of 5.0% per year.



## Division of Juvenile Services

The West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services (DJS) is responsible for juvenile detention in West Virginia. DJS operates and maintains the state's five regional juvenile detention centers with the exception of Northern, which is operated under contract with a private vendor, Youth Service System.

### Average Daily Population

In 1999, the licensed capacity of the detention centers was 70 and the average daily population was 77.5. The detention centers, in combination, were over their licensed capacity 303 days, or 83.0% of 1999.

Each center operated overcapacity during some portion of 1999. The South Central center was overcapacity the greatest (300 days) and the Southern center was overcapacity the least (139 days). Southern was the only facility that had a lower average daily

population than capacity. See Table #1 for each facility's statistics.

### Expansion Plans

Two additional juvenile detention centers are in the planning stages.

The **Donald R. Kuhn Juvenile Center** will be located in the renovated and expanded Lory-Julian School, which is in Boone County along U.S. 119. Construction is expected to begin in May 2001. The facility will provide a minimum of 24 detention beds.

The **Potomac Highlands Regional Juvenile Detention Center** will be located adjacent to the Potomac Highlands Regional Jail in Augusta. Construction is expected to begin in July 2001. The facility will provide 27 detention beds.

The South Central center was temporarily relocated to the Jones Building at the WV Industrial Home for Youth (Salem). The facility in Dunbar

closed at the end of November 2000 because its WVDHHR license expired. Juveniles were relocated on December 1, 2000.

### Length of Stay

The average length of stay for those released in 1999 was 29.3 days. For males, the average stay was 30.2 days with a standard deviation of 45.7 days. For females, the average stay was 25.8 days with a standard deviation of 32.8 days.

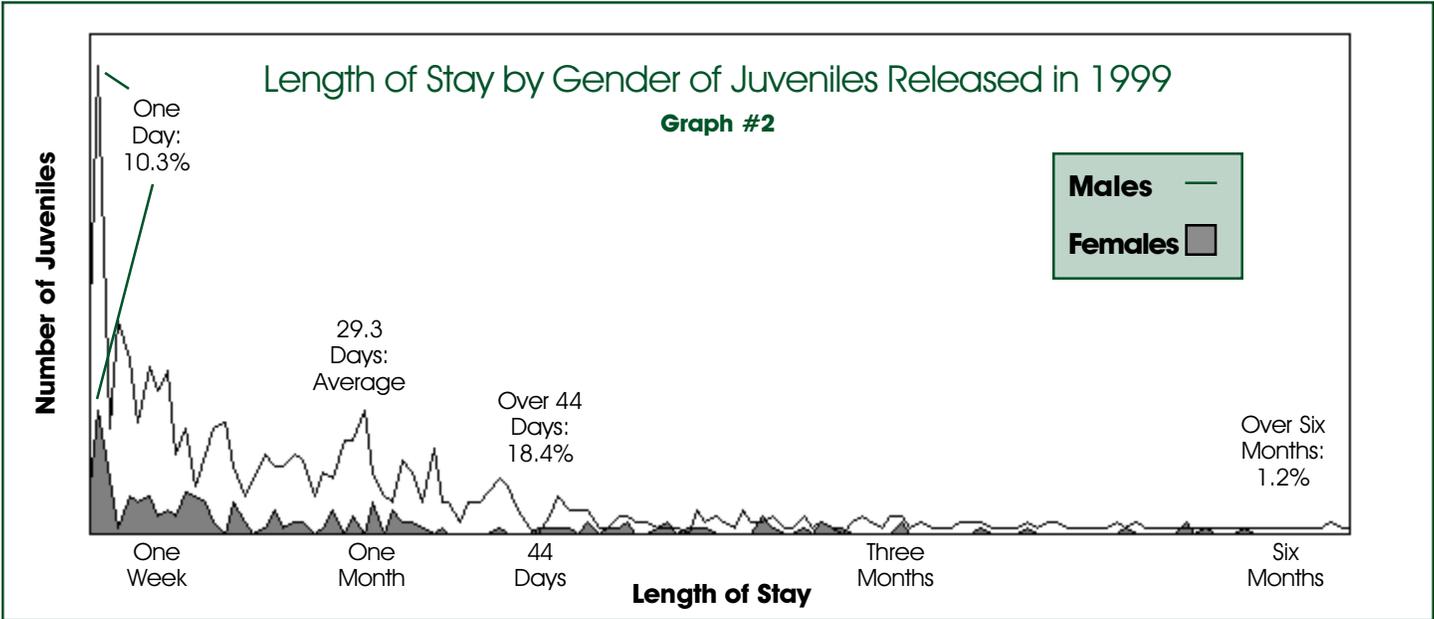
4.5% of those released in 1999 were released the same day they were admitted. 10.3% were detained for one day. 18.8% were detained for more than one day to one week. 36.6% were detained for more than one week to one month. 11.3% were detained more than one month to 44 days. 18.4% were detained more than 45 days.

See Graph #2 for the length of stays for males and females.

## Regional Juvenile Detention Centers (RJDC) in 1999

Table #1

	Number of Admissions	Number of Releases	Average Daily Population	Licensed Capacity	Number of Days Overcapacity	Percent of Year Overcapacity
<b>Northern RJDC in Wheeling</b> <i>Administrator: Ronald Mulholland</i>	237	226	17.4	16	226	61.9%
<b>Southern RJDC in Princeton</b> <i>Facility Director: Samuel Perdue</i>	184	186	14.7	15	139	38.1%
<b>Eastern RJDC in Martinsburg</b> <i>Facility Director: Janice McCown</i>	104	106	10.9	10	221	60.5%
<b>North Central RJDC in Parkersburg</b> (Formerly West Central) <i>Facility Director: Timothy Melton</i>	154	149	11.9	10	274	75.1%
<b>South Central RJDC in Dunbar</b> (Formerly The Kanawha Home for Children) <i>Facility Director: Al Leavitt</i>	287	283	22.4	19	300	82.2%
<b>Division of Juvenile Services Total</b> <i>Director: Manfred G. Holland</i>	<b>966</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>83.0%</b>



### Stays Longer Than 44 Days

Juveniles released in 1999 who stayed longer than 44 days were primarily males (80.3%). White males made up 64.7% of these juveniles, but only 49.3% of the 10-17 year old population in West Virginia. Black males made up 13.3% of these juveniles, but only 2.0% of the population. White and black females were underrepresented in this group.

Almost half of these juveniles were from Marion (15.4%), Kanawha (12.6%), Cabell (8.0%), and Logan (4.0%) counties. One-half of one percent (0.5%) of the juvenile population in Marion were released from detention in

1999 after serving more than 44 days. This does not include juveniles released in other years or juveniles who served shorter sentences.

All of the juveniles detained more than six months were juveniles awaiting commitment to Salem or placement in a DHHR approved facility.

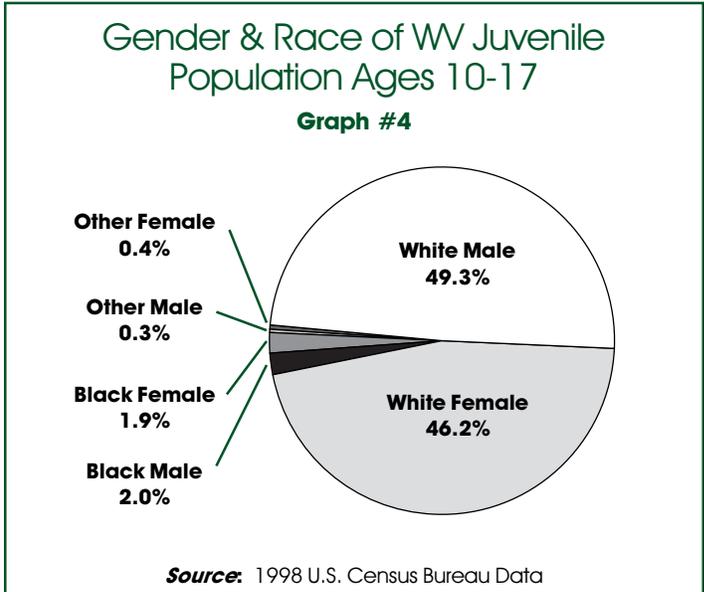
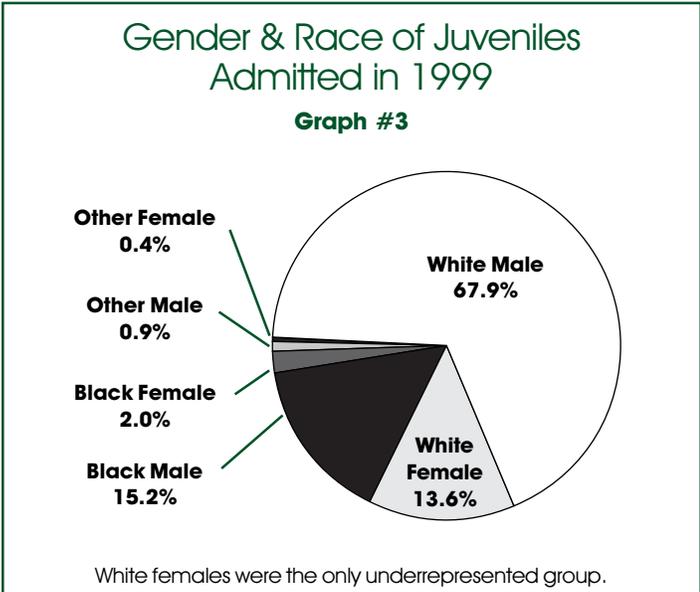
### Gender & Race

Of the 756 juveniles admitted in 1999, 84.0% were male and 16.0% were female. Males were overrepresented in comparison to females, but the rate is similar to the national figure. Females comprised 17% of the U.S. juvenile detention population in 1997, according

to *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*.

Minorities were also overrepresented in West Virginia's juvenile detention center population. 81.5% of the juveniles detained were white, 17.2% were black, and 1.3% were other races. This 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.

When comparing gender and race groups to the state's population, white females were the only underrepresented group. See Graphs #3 and #4 for gender and race percents.



## Age & Gender

More than three-fourths (79.5%) of the juveniles admitted in 1999 were 15-17 years old. The average age was 15.9 years old; however, 17 year olds were

the most frequently admitted age group. Females were an average of six months younger (15.5) than males (16). The 18-20 year old detainees were charged prior to their 18th birthday.

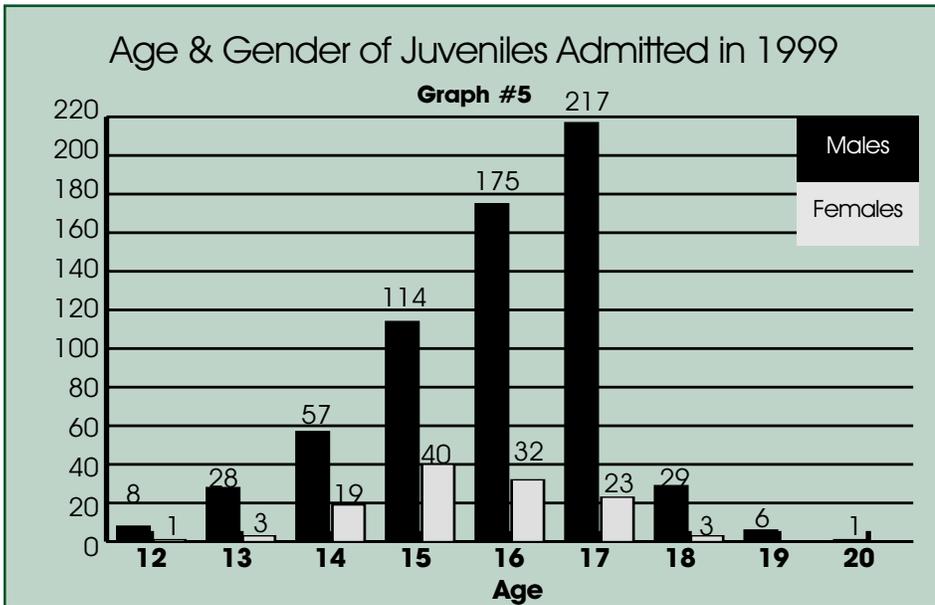
## Home County

In 1999, the largest number of admissions were from Kanawha County. Marion County had the next largest with 73. Cabell County had 60, and Ohio had 50. Thirty-one counties had 10 or fewer juveniles admitted. Four counties had no juveniles detained.

## Detention Rates

West Virginia's 1999 juvenile detention rate was 0.38%. For every 100,000 juveniles in the population, there were 380 juveniles admitted to juvenile detention centers.

More than one-third (19) of West Virginia's 55 counties had juvenile detention rates higher than the state rate. Marion County had the highest with 1.29%. Ohio had the second highest with 1.16%, and Jackson County followed closely with 1.10%.



## 1999 Juvenile Detention Rates By Juveniles' Home County

**Table #2**

Juvenile Population	Juveniles Detained	Rate	Juvenile Population	Juveniles Detained	Rate	Juvenile Population	Juveniles Detained	Rate			
<b>WV</b>	<b>195,036</b>	<b>750</b>			<b>0.38%</b>	Putnam	5,704	10	0.18%		
Marion	5,643	73	1.29%	Greenbrier	3,633	14	0.39%	McDowell	4,184	7	0.17%
Ohio	4,321	50	1.16%	Nicholas	3,403	11	0.32%	Grant	1,235	2	0.16%
Jackson	2,988	33	1.10%	Harrison	7,505	23	0.31%	Hancock	3,450	5	0.14%
Calhoun	926	8	0.86%	Clay	1,386	4	0.29%	Preston	3,475	5	0.14%
Wetzel	1,967	15	0.76%	Mineral	2,853	8	0.28%	Monroe	1,417	2	0.14%
Marshall	3,772	27	0.72%	Barbour	1,829	5	0.27%	Boone	3,414	4	0.12%
Cabell	8,684	60	0.69%	Summers	1,456	4	0.27%	Tucker	811	1	0.12%
Roane	1,909	12	0.63%	Monongalia	6,244	16	0.26%	Pleasants	855	1	0.12%
Morgan	1,289	8	0.62%	Wayne	4,801	12	0.25%	Pocahontas	909	1	0.11%
Kanawha	19,804	115	0.58%	Mingo	4,470	11	0.25%	Raleigh	9,748	10	0.10%
Brooke	2,664	15	0.56%	Wood	8,810	21	0.24%	Tyler	1,084	1	0.09%
Randolph	2,978	16	0.54%	Jefferson	4,186	10	0.24%	Upshur	2,540	2	0.08%
Hardy	1,156	6	0.52%	Wyoming	3,761	9	0.24%	Lewis	1,911	1	0.05%
Wirt	650	3	0.46%	Mason	2,961	7	0.24%	Lincoln	2,837	1	0.04%
Mercer	6,948	31	0.45%	Doddridge	890	2	0.22%	Braxton	1,466	0	0.00%
Berkeley	7,269	31	0.43%	Fayette	5,723	12	0.21%	Gilmer	686	0	0.00%
Logan	5,605	24	0.43%	Hampshire	2,059	4	0.19%	Ritchie	1,133	0	0.00%
Pendleton	758	3	0.40%	Taylor	1,588	3	0.19%	Webster	1,288	0	0.00%

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

**Note:** Juvenile detention rates were calculated by dividing the number of detained juveniles from a county by the county's juvenile population ages 10-17. Arrests and subsequent detention of juveniles under ten are rare. Detained offenders who are ages 18-21 are charged with committing offenses prior to their 18th birthday. Including these age groups in the population figures would cause the numbers to underrepresent the county rates.

## Offenses

The offense statistics in this report are based on the offenses reported on detention center monthly population reports. Juveniles may have originally been charged with other offenses that were not known or disclosed at intake.

A total of 1,401 offenses were reported for the 966 admissions to juvenile detention centers in 1999.

*Property offenses* were the most common type of offense charged. **Burglary and theft** comprised one-fifth of all offenses charged.

*Public order offenses* were the second most common type of offense charged. The most frequent public order offense charged was **obstruction of justice**, which includes probation violations.

*Person offenses* were the third most

common type of offense charged. **Assault/battery and sexual assault/abuse** charges made up almost one-fourth of all offenses charged.

*Drug law violations* comprised 7.9% of the offenses charged. Drug law charges included counts of possessing, manufacturing, selling and delivering controlled substances.

*Status offenses* comprised less than one percent of all offenses charged.

In general, juveniles charged only with status offenses cannot be legally detained in RJDC facilities.

According to the DCJS Juvenile Compliance Monitor, there was one admission to juvenile detention reported in 1999 that involved a juvenile charged with only a status offense.

Almost half (45.8%) of the 756

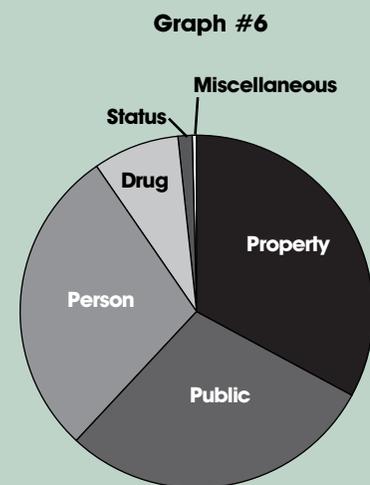
individual juveniles detained in 1999 were charged with more than one offense. 36.0% were listed with two, 7.8% were listed with three, and 2.0% were listed with four offenses.

According to national data published in *Juvenile Court Statistics 1997*, 38% of the juvenile delinquency cases that resulted in secure detention in 1997 involved property charges. 27% involved person offenses, 23% involved public order offenses, and 12% involved drug offenses.

These national percentages are based on the most serious offense charged in delinquency cases involving detention in 1997.

Offenses Charged to Juveniles  
Admitted to Juvenile Detention Centers in 1999

Offense Category	Counts	Percent of Total
<b>Property Offenses</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>32.9%</b>
Burglary	155	11.1%
Theft	126	9.0%
Damage Property	68	4.9%
Stolen Property	64	4.6%
Stolen Vehicle	25	1.8%
Arson	20	1.4%
Trespassing	3	0.2%
<b>Public Order Offenses</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>29.1%</b>
Obstruction of Justice*	322	23.0%
Weapons Offenses	58	4.1%
Fraud	18	1.3%
Maliciously Killing Animals	4	0.3%
Traffic Offenses	3	0.2%
Pub.Intox/Dis. Conduct	3	0.2%
<b>Person Offenses</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>28.5%</b>
Assault/Battery	307	21.9%
Sexual Assault/Abuse	41	2.9%
Robbery	36	2.6%
Homicide	15	1.1%
<b>Drug Law Violations</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
<b>Status Offenses**</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Offenses***</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



\***Obstruction of justice charges** included counts of violation of alternative sentence, violation of probation, failure to appear, contempt of court, escape, obstructing an officer, resisting arrest, fleeing and providing false information.

\*\***Status Offenses** included counts of incorrigibility, runaway, underage consumption and truancy.

\*\*\***Miscellaneous charges** included counts of conspiracy to commit a felony and accessory to a crime.

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