

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Annual Commitments: Demographic Data

Fiscal Year 2020



INTRODUCTION

Juveniles referred to the juvenile court and subsequently adjudicated delinquent may receive several different dispositions, one being commitment to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC). Disposition to the ADJC is governed by statute and the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration. Arizona Revised Statutes §8-342 (A) states, “A child under the age of fourteen years shall not be committed to the department of juvenile corrections nor shall a dependent or incorrigible child be awarded to the department of juvenile corrections.”

Arizona Code of Judicial Administration Part 6, Chapter 3, Section 6-304 Commitment Guidelines provides judges with the following guidelines:

1. When considering the commitment of a juvenile to the care and custody of ADJC, the juvenile court shall:
 - a. Only commit those juveniles who are adjudicated for a delinquent act and whom the court believes require placement in a secure care facility for the protection of the community;
 - b. Consider commitment to ADJC as a final opportunity for rehabilitation of the juvenile, as well as a way of holding the juvenile accountable for a serious delinquent act or acts;
 - c. Give special consideration to the nature of the offense, the level of risk the juvenile poses to the community, and whether appropriate, less restrictive alternatives to commitment exist within the community; and
 - d. Clearly identify, in the commitment order, the offense or offenses for which the juvenile is being committed and any other relevant factors that the court determines as reasons to consider the juvenile a risk to the community.
2. The juvenile court shall not consider juveniles for commitment to ADJC when charged with an incorrigible offense(s).

Of the juveniles adjudicated delinquent, very few meet criteria for and are dispositioned to ADJC. It is the least frequently used disposition in juvenile court. In FY19, 208 youth received a disposition to and where received by the ADJC. This report presents various demographic and key information about these youth.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR NEW COMMITMENTS

GENDER	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Male	147 (92.5%)	189 (94.5%)	175 (92.6%)	191 (91.8%)	186 (89.9%)
Female	12 (7.5%)	11 (5.5%)	14 (7.4%)	17 (8.2%)	21 (10.1%)
TOTALS	159 (100%)	200 (100%)	189 (100%)	208 (100%)	207 (100%)

RACE/ETHNICITY	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Hispanic	65 (40.9%)	94 (47.0%)	82 (43.4%)	94 (45.2%)	93 (44.9%)
Caucasian	50 (31.4%)	46 (23.0%)	36 (19.0%)	39 (18.8%)	42 (20.3%)
African American	8 (5.0%)	26 (13.0%)	31 (16.4%)	31 (14.9%)	31 (15.0%)
American Indian	9 (5.7%)	5 (2.5%)	5 (2.6%)	4 (1.9%)	8 (3.9%)
Mexican National	4 (2.5%)	14 (7.0%)	10 (5.3%)	3 (1.4%)	5 (2.4%)
Bi-Racial	22 (13.8%)	14 (7.0%)	23 (12.2%)	36 (17.3%)	28 (13.5%)
Asian	1 (0.6%)	1 (0.5%)	2 (1.1%)	1 (0.5%)	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	159 (100%)	200 (100%)	189 (100%)	208 (100%)	207 (100%)

AGE	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
13 years old or younger	-	-	-	-	-
14 years old	6 (3.8%)	15 (7.5%)	20 (10.6%)	17 (8.2%)	18 (8.7%)
15 years old	30 (18.9%)	33 (16.5%)	41 (21.7%)	42 (20.2%)	40 (19.3%)
16 years old	57 (35.8%)	67 (33.5%)	52 (27.5%)	71 (34.1%)	69 (33.3%)
17 years old	44 (27.7%)	44 (22.0%)	37 (19.6%)	39 (18.8%)	54 (26.1%)
17 years old > 6 month	22 (13.8%)	41 (20.5%)	39 (20.6%)	37 (17.8%)	21 (10.1%)
18 years old	-	-	-	2 (1.0%)	5 (2.4%)
TOTALS	159 (100%)	200 (100%)	189 (100%)	208 (100%)	207 (100%)

COUNTY	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Apache	-	1 (0.5%)	-	3 (1.4%)	-
Cochise	3 (1.9%)	21 (10.5%)	15 (7.9%)	7 (3.4%)	5 (2.4%)
Coconino	4 (2.5%)	2 (1.0%)	5 (2.6%)	4 (1.9%)	-
Gila	8 (5.0%)	2 (1.0%)	6 (3.2%)	5 (2.4%)	3 (1.4%)
Graham	1 (0.6%)	4 (2.0%)	3 (1.6%)	4 (1.9%)	5 (2.4%)
Greenlee	-	2 (1.0%)	-	2 (1.0%)	1 (0.5%)
La Paz	2 (1.3%)	-	-	-	-
Maricopa	86 (54.1%)	103 (51.5%)	110 (58.2%)	110 (52.9%)	113 (54.6%)
Mohave	8 (5.0%)	8 (4.0%)	12 (6.3%)	15 (7.2%)	16 (7.7%)
Navajo	4 (2.5%)	1 (0.5%)	2 (1.1%)	-	2 (1.0%)
Pima	9 (5.7%)	12 (6.0%)	7 (3.7%)	19 (9.1%)	17 (8.2%)
Pinal	9 (5.7%)	4 (2.0%)	8 (4.2%)	8 (3.8%)	3 (1.4%)
Santa Cruz	2 (1.3%)	5 (2.5%)	3 (1.6%)	7 (3.4%)	3 (1.4%)
Yavapai	8 (5.0%)	13 (6.5%)	4 (2.1%)	8 (7.2%)	13 (6.3%)
Yuma	15 (9.4%)	22 (11.0%)	14 (7.4%)	16 (7.7%)	26 (12.6%)
TOTALS	159 (100%)	200 (100%)	189 (100%)	208 (100%)	207 (100%)

DELINQUENCY DATA FOR NEW COMMITMENTS

Youth formally enter the juvenile court system when a referral is made. Referrals are submitted to the County Attorney alleging a youth between the ages of 8 and 17 years old committed a delinquent or incorrigible act. Referrals can be made by police, parents, school officials, probation officers, other agencies or individuals requesting the juvenile court take jurisdiction over the juvenile's conduct. In FY20, the majority of youth committed to ADJC had between 6 to 10 referrals prior to commitment to ADJC. Youth committed to ADJC frequently had multiple referrals result in petitions being filed and subsequent adjudications of delinquency. In FY20, the majority of commitments had 2-3 adjudications. Adjudications here are counted as those falling on separate dates and for criminal offenses only. Adjudications for technical probation violations are excluded. The most serious offense resulting in commitment to ADJC were Class 6 felonies that were either property crimes or crimes against persons. If a youth is committed for probation violation, the most serious underlying offense is used.

NUMBER OF ADJUDICATIONS	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
1 Adjudication	9 (5.7%)	30 (15.0%)	24 (12.7%)	16 (7.7%)	31 (15.0%)
2-3 Adjudications	57 (35.8%)	55 (27.5%)	56 (29.6%)	71 (34.1%)	89 (43.0%)
4-5 Adjudications	54 (34.0%)	67 (33.5%)	61 (32.3%)	66 (31.7%)	42 (20.2%)
6-7 Adjudications	26 (16.4%)	33 (16.5%)	36 (19.0%)	31 (14.9%)	34 (16.4%)
8 or More	13 (8.2%)	15 (7.5%)	12 (6.3%)	24 (11.5%)	11 (5.3%)
TOTALS	159 (100%)	200 (100%)	189 (100%)	208 (100%)	207 (100%)

NUMBER OF REFERRALS	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
1 Referral	3 (1.9%)	19 (9.5%)	13 (6.9%)	4 (1.9%)	11 (5.3%)
2 Referrals	6 (3.8%)	9 (4.5%)	6 (3.2%)	9 (4.3%)	9 (4.3%)
3-5 Referrals	30 (18.9%)	39 (19.5%)	25 (13.2%)	34 (16.3%)	36 (17.4%)
6-10 Referrals	49 (30.8%)	46 (23.0%)	58 (30.7%)	67 (32.2%)	61 (29.5%)
11-15 Referrals	36 (22.6%)	48 (24.0%)	40 (21.2%)	44 (21.2%)	52 (25.1%)
16 or More	35 (22.0%)	39 (19.5%)	47 (24.9%)	50 (24.0%)	38 (18.4%)
TOTALS	159 (100%)	200 (100%)	189 (100%)	208 (100%)	207 (100%)

FELONY CLASS LEVEL	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Class 1 Felony	-	-	-	-	-
Class 2 Felony	9 (5.7%)	11 (5.5%)	20 (10.6%)	6 (2.9%)	15 (7.2%)
Class 3 Felony	38 (23.9%)	51 (25.5%)	34 (18.0%)	37 (17.8%)	40 (19.3%)
Class 4 Felony	18 (11.3%)	32 (16.0%)	26 (13.8%)	41 (19.7%)	38 (18.4%)
Class 5 Felony	13 (8.2%)	25 (12.5%)	12 (6.3%)	12 (5.8%)	18 (8.7%)
Class 6 Felony	66 (41.5%)	65 (32.5%)	79 (41.8%)	90 (43.3%)	86 (41.5%)
Misdemeanor w/Prior Felonies	14 (8.8%)	15 (7.5%)	16 (8.5%)	19 (9.1%)	9 (4.3%)
Misdemeanor Only*	1 (0.6%)	1 (0.5%)	2 (1.0%)	3 (1.4%)	1 (0.5%)
TOTALS	159 (100%)	200 (100%)	189 (100%)	208 (100%)	207 (100%)

*FY 2016 Criminal Justice Budget Reconciliation Bill (Laws 2015, Chapter 17) altered the requirements for admission to ADJC facilities requiring juveniles to have committed a felony in the past or be adjudicated as mentally ill if they have only committed a misdemeanor.

MOST SERIOUS COMMITTING OFFENSE	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Property Offenses	66 (41.5%)	72 (36.0%)	79 (41.8%)	76 (36.5%)	61 (29.5%)
Crimes Against Persons	49 (30.8%)	61 (30.5%)	54 (28.6%)	64 (30.8%)	62 (30.0%)
Drug Offenses	20 (12.6%)	39 (19.5%)	33 (17.5%)	27 (13.0%)	37 (17.9%)
Public Order Offenses	16 (10.1%)	18 (9.0%)	11 (5.8%)	23 (11.1%)	23 (11.1%)
Weapons Offenses	6 (3.8%)	5 (2.5%)	9 (4.8%)	9 (4.3%)	21 (10.1%)
All Other Offenses	2 (1.3%)	5 (2.5%)	3 (1.6%)	9 (4.3%)	3 (1.4%)
TOTALS	159 (100%)	200 (100%)	189 (100%)	208 (100%)	207 (100%)

OTHER IMPORTANT NEW COMMITMENT DATA

For this report, serious mental illness statistics represent youth who have been diagnosed by a qualified ADJC mental health professional as having a psychiatric disorder that causes significant functional impairment requiring structured psychiatric and/or psychological services provided in a specialized mental health unit or moderate functional impairment requiring frequent psychiatric and/or psychology services and possible monitoring. Substance problems indicate youth who have been assessed by a qualified ADJC mental health professional as having a substance use disorder(s), varying in degree, which requires treatment on a specialty unit or part of core programs.

Special education statistics represent new commits with a disability that receive specialized services addressing their educational needs based on their Individualized Education Plan.

Dually adjudicated youth are those who have been found both dependent and delinquent and are therefore involved in both systems. Here, dually adjudicated youth are those whose responsible party at the time of commitment was a Department of Child Safety (DCS) official rather than a parent or other guardian.

About 48 percent of the youth committed to ADJC in FY20 were identified as being gang-involved. These youth met the criteria for and were a validated documented gang member in GangNet, a cross-jurisdictional gang intelligence database, before or at the time of commitment.

ADJC uses the AZYAS (Arizona Youth Assessment System) to determine overall risk to recidivate. The AZYAS contains validated tools developed by the University of Cincinnati that are utilized in juvenile probation as well. Risk levels reflected in the table below are from the time of intake assessed through the Residential tool. The majority of juveniles committed to ADJC are moderate or high risk to recidivate.

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Serious Mental Illness	72 (45.3%)	92 (46.0%)	59 (31.2%)	84 (40.4%)	103 (49.7%)
Substance Problems	131 (82.4%)	166 (83.0%)	160 (84.7%)	176 (84.6%)	177 (85.5%)
Special Education	43 (27.0%)	60 (30.0%)	47 (24.9%)	48 (23.1%)	53 (25.6%)
Dually Adjudicated	29 (18.3%)	34 (17.0%)	51 (27.0%)	43 (20.7%)	41 (19.8%)
Gang Involved*	58 (36.5%)	90 (45.0%)	92 (48.7%)	95 (45.7%)	100 (48.3%)
Risk (AZYAS)					
Low	24 (15.1%)	41 (20.5%)	24 (12.8%)	31 (14.9%)	38 (18.4%)
Moderate	66 (41.5%)	87 (43.5%)	96 (51.3%)	106 (51.0%)	81 (39.1%)
High	69 (43.4%)	72 (36.0%)	67 (35.8%)	71 (34.1%)	88 (42.5%)
TOTALS	159	200	189	208	207

* Statistics were updated with data from the Department of Public Safety, which altered previous year's numbers.

TOTAL ADJC POPULATION

Total Number of Juveniles in ADJC Secure Care Custody*					
	As of 6/30/2016	As of 6/30/2017	As of 6/30/2018	As of 6/30/2019	As of 6/30/2020
Adobe Mountain School	184	182	176	216	217
TOTALS	184	182	176	216	217

*Includes new commitments, re-commitments, parole revoked, and pending revocation juveniles.

Total Number of Juveniles on Parole					
	As of 6/30/2016	As of 6/30/2017	As of 6/30/2018	As of 6/30/2019	As of 6/30/2020
Home	47	26	30	27	48
Abscond	17	7	4	8	9
Residential Treatment Center	14	8	5	7	9
TOTALS	78	41	39	42	66

Total Number of Interstate-In					
	As of 6/30/2016	As of 6/30/2017	As of 6/30/2018	As of 6/30/2019	As of 6/30/2020
Males	90	80	61	54	62
Females	16	22	16	11	11
TOTALS	106	102	77	65	73

LENGTH OF STAY SERVED

Although most juveniles committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) receive a court-ordered minimum length of stay by a juvenile court judge, the Department has the discretion to keep a juvenile until they have completed their appropriate program or until they reach the age of majority. The tables below indicate the average length of stay a juvenile remained in a secure facility within each status.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY SERVED BY STATUS IN MONTHS

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
New Commitment (secure care)	10.7	8.3	7.7	9.2	10.7
Parole Revoked (secure care)	5.3	4.8	5.3	5.9	6.7
Parole (community)	4.5	3.5	3.2	3.9	3.7

MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY SERVED BY STATUS IN MONTHS

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
New Commitment (secure care)	8.6	6.4	6.5	7.9	8.8
Parole Revoked (secure care)	4.6	3.9	4.6	5.4	8.4
Parole (community)	3.2	2.8	2.3	3.4	2.8

Secure Care – New Commitment

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
30 Days or Less	-	7 (3.7%)	2 (1.0%)	-	-
31-90 Days	6 (2.3%)	11 (5.9%)	13 (6.8%)	9 (5.4%)	5 (2.5%)
91-150 Days	40 (15.6%)	36 (19.1%)	34 (17.7%)	23 (13.7%)	17 (8.4%)
151-210 Days	40 (15.6%)	53 (28.2%)	61 (31.8%)	33 (19.6%)	31 (15.3%)
211-270 Days	49 (19.1%)	23 (12.2%)	32 (16.7%)	44 (26.2%)	41 (20.1%)
271-365 Days	51 (19.8%)	21 (11.2%)	25 (13.0%)	27 (16.1%)	43 (21.2%)
Over 365 Days	71 (27.6%)	37 (19.7%)	25 (13.0%)	32 (19.0%)	66 (32.5%)

Secure Care – Parole Revoked

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
30 Days or Less	12 (7.8%)	16 (11.4%)	8 (9.2%)	2 (2.8%)	3 (3.6%)
31-90 Days	23 (15.0%)	24 (17.1%)	13 (14.9%)	12 (16.7%)	15 (18.1%)
91-150 Days	51 (33.3%)	54 (38.6%)	27 (31.0%)	18 (25.0%)	9 (10.8%)
151-210 Days	32 (20.9%)	21 (15.0%)	19 (21.8%)	18 (25.0%)	15 (18.1%)
211-270 Days	17 (11.1%)	7 (5.0%)	11 (12.6%)	11 (15.3%)	17 (20.5%)
271-365 Days	11 (7.2%)	12 (8.6%)	3 (3.4%)	6 (8.3%)	19 (22.9%)
Over 365 Days	7 (4.6%)	6 (4.3%)	6 (6.9%)	5 (6.9%)	5 (6.0%)

DISCHARGES

A discharge occurs when a youth is released from ADJC custody. Discharge can occur for different reasons such as the youth may become an adult in which ADJC loses jurisdiction, or the youth may be transferred to the adult court for adult charges, or may have earned an absolute discharge. An absolute discharge means ADJC has granted an end to the juvenile's commitment to ADJC and they are released with no further ADJC jurisdiction.

DISCHARGES	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Turned 18 or 19	231 (77.0%)	169 (69.8%)	150 (76.1%)	123 (74.1%)	140 (76.9%)
Absolute Discharge	34 (11.3%)	43 (17.8%)	14 (7.1%)	23 (13.9%)	13 (7.1%)
Transferred to Adult Jurisdiction	25 (8.3%)	17 (7.0%)	15 (7.6%)	17 (10.2%)	24 (13.2%)
ICE Discharge	9 (3.0%)	10 (4.1%)	16 (8.1%)	2 (1.2%)	2 (1.1%)
Other	1 (0.3%)	3 (1.2%)	2 (1.0%)	1 (0.6%)	3 (1.6%)
TOTALS	300 (100%)	242 (100%)	197 (100%)	166 (100%)	182 (100%)



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