

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Annual Commitments: Demographic Data

Fiscal Year 2023



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). Commitment 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 committed to ADJC. It is the least frequently used disposition in juvenile court. In FY23, 109 youth received a disposition to and were received by ADJC. This report presents various demographic and key information about these youth¹.

¹ Due to rounding, the totals presented in each table may not precisely equal 100%. The presence of a hyphen (-) within a cell indicates a value of zero.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR NEW COMMITMENTS

GENDER*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Male	191 (91.8%)	186 (89.9%)	104 (80.0%)	114 (90.5%)	96 (88.1%)
Female	17 (8.2%)	21 (10.1%)	26 (20.0%)	12 (9.5%)	13 (11.9%)
TOTALS	208 (100%)	207 (100%)	130 (100%)	126 (100%)	109 (100%)

* Youth are counted by their biological gender.

RACE/ETHNICITY	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Hispanic	94 (45.2%)	93 (44.9%)	56 (43.0%)	56 (44.4%)	37 (33.9%)
Caucasian	39 (18.8%)	42 (20.3%)	22 (16.9%)	16 (12.7%)	18 (16.5%)
African American	31 (14.9%)	31 (15.0%)	17 (13.1%)	16 (12.7%)	15 (13.8%)
American Indian	4 (1.9%)	8 (3.9%)	9 (6.9%)	3 (2.4%)	7 (6.4%)
Mexican National	3 (1.4%)	5 (2.4%)	2 (1.5%)	1 (0.8%)	-
Bi-Racial	36 (17.3%)	28 (13.5%)	23 (17.7%)	33 (26.2%)	31 (28.4%)
Asian	1 (0.5%)	-	1 (0.8%)	1 (0.8%)	1 (0.9%)
Other	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	208 (100%)	207 (100%)	130 (100%)	126 (100%)	109 (100%)

AGE	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
14 years old	17 (8.2%)	18 (8.7%)	9 (6.9%)	6 (4.8%)	8 (7.3%)
15 years old	42 (20.2%)	40 (19.3%)	25 (19.2%)	24 (19.0%)	19 (17.4%)
16 years old	71 (34.1%)	69 (33.3%)	48 (36.9%)	32 (25.4%)	30 (27.5%)
17 to 17.5 years old	39 (18.8%)	54 (26.1%)	20 (15.4%)	25 (19.8%)	31 (28.4%)
17 years 6 month to 18	37 (17.8%)	21 (10.1%)	25 (19.2%)	36 (28.6%)	14 (12.8%)
18 years old	2 (1.0%)	5 (2.4%)	3 (2.3%)	3 (2.4%)	7 (6.4%)
TOTALS	208 (100%)	207 (100%)	130 (100%)	126 (100%)	109 (100%)

COUNTY	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Apache	3 (1.4%)	-	-	1 (0.8%)	1 (0.9%)
Cochise	7 (3.4%)	5 (2.4%)	4 (3.1%)	9 (7.1%)	3 (2.8%)
Coconino	4 (1.9%)	-	2 (1.5%)	-	-
Gila	5 (2.4%)	3 (1.4%)	1 (0.8%)	2 (1.6%)	3 (2.8%)
Graham	4 (1.9%)	5 (2.4%)	2 (1.5%)	4 (3.2%)	4 (3.7%)
Greenlee	2 (1.0%)	1 (0.5%)	3 (2.3%)	1 (0.8%)	-
La Paz	-	-	-	-	-
Maricopa	110 (52.9%)	113 (54.6%)	54 (41.5%)	60 (47.6%)	50 (45.9%)
Mohave	15 (7.2%)	16 (7.7%)	4 (3.1%)	7 (5.6%)	12 (11.0%)
Navajo	-	2 (1.0%)	1 (0.8%)	-	1 (0.9%)
Pima	19 (9.1%)	17 (8.2%)	12 (9.2%)	14 (11.1%)	17 (15.6%)
Pinal	8 (3.8%)	3 (1.4%)	7 (5.4%)	7 (5.6%)	2 (1.8%)
Santa Cruz	7 (3.4%)	3 (1.4%)	-	-	-
Yavapai	8 (7.2%)	13 (6.3%)	7 (5.4%)	4 (3.2%)	10 (9.2%)
Yuma	16 (7.7%)	26 (12.6%)	33 (25.4%)	17 (13.5%)	5 (4.6%)
TOTALS	208 (100%)	207 (100%)	130 (100%)	126 (100%)	109 (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. Youth committed to ADJC frequently have multiple referrals as well as multiple adjudications of delinquency. 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 offenses resulting in commitment to ADJC range in seriousness from Class 6 felonies up to Class 1 felonies. Committing offenses range in type as well such as property, crimes against persons, drugs, weapons, etc. If a youth is committed for probation violation, the most serious underlying offense is used and reflected in the tables below.

NUMBER OF ADJUDICATIONS	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
1 Adjudication	16 (7.7%)	31 (15.0%)	23 (17.7%)	32 (25.4%)	23 (21.1%)
2-3 Adjudications	71 (34.1%)	89 (43.0%)	41 (31.5%)	45 (35.7%)	46 (42.2%)
4-5 Adjudications	66 (31.7%)	42 (20.2%)	45 (34.6%)	24 (19.0%)	22 (20.2%)
6-7 Adjudications	31 (14.9%)	34 (16.4%)	13 (10.0%)	13 (10.3%)	9 (8.3%)
8 or More	24 (11.5%)	11 (5.3%)	8 (6.2%)	12 (9.5%)	9 (8.3%)
TOTALS	208 (100%)	207 (100%)	130 (100%)	126 (100%)	109 (100%)

NUMBER OF REFERRALS	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
1 Referral	4 (1.9%)	11 (5.3%)	11 (8.5%)	14 (11.1%)	3 (2.8%)
2 Referrals	9 (4.3%)	9 (4.3%)	3 (2.3%)	2 (1.6%)	7 (6.4%)
3-5 Referrals	34 (16.3%)	36 (17.4%)	23 (17.7%)	29 (23.0%)	24 (22.0%)
6-10 Referrals	67 (32.2%)	61 (29.5%)	37 (28.5%)	33 (26.2%)	36 (33.0%)
11-15 Referrals	44 (21.2%)	52 (25.1%)	33 (25.4%)	25 (19.8%)	18 (16.5%)
16 or More	50 (24.0%)	38 (18.4%)	23 (17.7%)	23 (18.3%)	21 (19.3%)
TOTALS	208 (100%)	207 (100%)	130 (100%)	126 (100%)	109 (100%)

FELONY CLASS LEVEL	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Class 1 Felony	-	-	2 (1.5%)	3 (2.4%)	2 (1.8%)
Class 2 Felony	6 (2.9%)	15 (7.2%)	12 (9.2%)	8 (6.3%)	10 (9.2%)
Class 3 Felony	37 (17.8%)	40 (19.3%)	27 (20.8%)	26 (20.6%)	15 (13.8%)
Class 4 Felony	41 (19.7%)	38 (18.4%)	25 (19.2%)	33 (26.2%)	28 (25.7%)
Class 5 Felony	12 (5.8%)	18 (8.7%)	15 (11.5%)	16 (12.7%)	17 (15.6%)
Class 6 Felony	90 (43.3%)	86 (41.5%)	46 (35.4%)	39 (31.0%)	36 (33.0%)
Misdemeanor w/Prior Felonies	19 (9.1%)	9 (4.3%)	2 (1.5%)	1 (0.8%)	-
Misdemeanor Only*	3 (1.4%)	1 (0.5%)	1 (0.8%)	-	1 (0.9%)
TOTALS	208 (100%)	207 (100%)	130 (100%)	126 (100%)	109 (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 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Property Offenses	76 (36.5%)	61 (29.5%)	40 (30.8%)	29 (23.0%)	28 (25.7%)
Crimes Against Persons	64 (30.8%)	62 (30.0%)	36 (27.7%)	51 (40.5%)	46 (42.2%)
Drug Offenses	27 (13.0%)	37 (17.9%)	28 (21.5%)	18 (14.3%)	9 (8.3%)
Public Order Offenses	23 (11.1%)	23 (11.1%)	15 (11.5%)	9 (7.1%)	11 (10.1%)
Weapons Offenses	9 (4.3%)	21 (10.1%)	6 (4.6%)	11 (8.7%)	9 (8.3%)
All Other Offenses	9 (4.3%)	3 (1.4%)	5 (3.8%)	8 (6.4%)	6 (5.5%)
TOTALS	208 (100%)	207 (100%)	130 (100%)	126 (100%)	109 (100%)

In most circumstances, ADJC has jurisdiction over youth until their 18th birthday per Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 8-202(G). However, if the state files a notice of intent to retain jurisdiction, then ADJC can retain jurisdiction over a youth who is at least seventeen until the youth's 19th birthday per Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 8-202(H). This law went into effect on August 3, 2018.

New Commitments Subject to Extended Jurisdiction					
COUNTY	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Apache	-	-	-	-	-
Cochise	1 (9.1%)	-	-	2 (6.3%)	1 (5.0%)
Coconino	2 (18.2%)	-	-	-	-
Gila	-	-	1 (5.0%)	-	-
Graham	-	-	-	-	-
Greenlee	-	-	-	-	-
La Paz	-	-	-	-	-
Maricopa	4 (36.4%)	9 (75.0%)	15 (75.0%)	24 (75.0%)	12 (60.0%)
Mohave	3 (27.3%)	2 (16.7%)	1 (5.0%)	1 (3.1%)	3 (15.0%)
Navajo	-	-	-	-	-
Pima	1 (9.1%)	1 (8.3%)	3 (15.0%)	2 (6.3%)	2 (10.0%)
Pinal	-	-	-	1 (3.1%)	-
Santa Cruz	-	-	-	-	-
Yavapai	-	-	-	1 (3.1%)	2 (10.0%)
Yuma	-	-	-	1 (3.1%)	-
TOTALS	11 (100%)	12 (100%)	20 (100%)	32 (100%)	20 (100%)

OTHER IMPORTANT NEW COMMITMENT DATA

For this report, significant 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 involved youth are those who are involved in both the dependency and juvenile justice systems. Here, dually involved youth are those whose responsible party at the time of commitment was a Department of Child Safety (DCS) official or Tribal Caseworker rather than a parent or other guardian.

About 24 percent of the youth committed to ADJC in FY23 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 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Significant Mental Illness	84 (40.4%)	103 (49.7%)	72 (55.4%)	54 (42.9%)	64 (58.7%)
Substance Problems	176 (84.6%)	177 (85.5%)	107 (82.3%)	86 (68.3%)	89 (81.7%)
Special Education	48 (23.1%)	53 (25.6%)	38 (29.2%)	35 (27.8%)	44 (40.4%)
Dually Involved	43 (20.7%)	41 (19.8%)	22 (16.9%)	24 (19.0%)	14 (12.8%)
Gang Involved	95 (45.7%)	100 (48.3%)	42 (32.3%)	41 (32.5%)	42 (38.5%)
Risk (AZYAS)*					
Low	31 (14.9%)	38 (18.4%)	20 (15.4%)	32 (25.6%)	21 (19.3%)
Moderate	106 (51.0%)	81 (39.1%)	45 (34.6%)	47 (37.6%)	58 (53.2%)
High	71 (34.1%)	88 (42.5%)	65 (50.0%)	46 (36.8%)	30 (27.5%)
TOTALS	208	207	130	126	109

**Some youth did not have an AZYAS completed.*

TOTAL ADJC POPULATION

Total Number of Juveniles in ADJC Secure Care Custody*					
	As of 6/30/2019	As of 6/30/2020	As of 6/30/2021	As of 6/30/2022	As of 6/30/2023
Males	199	201	130	133	107
Females	17	16	18	15	13
Adobe Mountain School Total	216	217	148	148	120
TOTALS	216	217	148	148	120

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

Total Number of Juveniles on Parole					
	As of 6/30/2019	As of 6/30/2020	As of 6/30/2021	As of 6/30/2022	As of 6/30/2023
Home	27	48	54	25	36
Abscond	8	9	11	7	1
Residential Treatment Center	7	9	7	3	5
TOTALS	42	66	72	35	42

Statistics presented in the Interstate-In represent youth subject to the Interstate Compact being supervised in the state of AZ. The compacting states to this Interstate Compact recognize that each state is responsible for the proper supervision or return of juveniles, delinquents and status offenders who are on probation or parole. It is the purpose of this compact, through means of joint and cooperative action among the compacting states, to ensure that the adjudicated juveniles and status offenders subject to this compact are provided adequate supervision and services in the receiving state as ordered by the adjudicating judge or parole authority in the sending state.

Total Number of Interstate-In					
	As of 6/30/2019	As of 6/30/2020	As of 6/30/2021	As of 6/30/2022	As of 6/30/2023
Males	54	62	50	67	58
Females	11	11	11	6	11
TOTALS	65	73	61	73	69

LENGTH OF STAY

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 time a juvenile remained in ADJC’s jurisdiction within each status.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY SERVED BY STATUS IN MONTHS

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
New Commitment (secure care)	9.2	10.7	9.5	8.1	10.2
Parole Revoked (secure care)	5.9	6.7	6.3	5.8	6.3
Parole (community)	3.9	3.7	4.0	5.5	4.3

MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY SERVED BY STATUS IN MONTHS

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
New Commitment (secure care)	7.9	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.4
Parole Revoked (secure care)	5.4	6.8	6.5	6.2	6.2
Parole (community)	3.4	2.8	3.0	4.0	3.2

Secure Care – New Commitment

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
30 Days or Less	-	-	13 (5.9%)	5 (4.1%)	1 (0.7%)
31-90 Days	9 (5.4%)	5 (2.5%)	8 (3.6%)	9 (7.4%)	4 (2.9%)
91-150 Days	23 (13.7%)	17 (8.4%)	20 (9.1%)	6 (5.0%)	8 (5.8%)
151-210 Days	33 (19.6%)	31 (15.3%)	34 (15.5%)	39 (32.2%)	27 (19.7%)
211-270 Days	44 (26.2%)	41 (20.1%)	60 (27.3%)	27 (22.3%)	35 (25.5%)
271-365 Days	27 (16.1%)	43 (21.2%)	42 (19.1%)	17 (14.0%)	27 (19.7%)
Over 365 Days	32 (19.0%)	66 (32.5%)	48 (21.8%)	18 (15.0%)	34 (24.8%)

Secure Care – Parole Revoked

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
30 Days or Less	2 (2.8%)	3 (3.6%)	4 (6.5%)	4 (5.5%)	2 (4.0%)
31-90 Days	12 (16.7%)	15 (18.1%)	8 (12.9%)	11 (15.1%)	8 (16.0%)
91-150 Days	18 (25.0%)	9 (10.8%)	9 (14.5%)	10 (13.7%)	9 (18.0%)
151-210 Days	18 (25.0%)	15 (18.1%)	15 (24.2%)	23 (31.5%)	11 (22.0%)
211-270 Days	11 (15.3%)	17 (20.5%)	13 (21.0%)	17 (23.3%)	11 (22.0%)
271-365 Days	6 (8.3%)	19 (22.9%)	10 (16.1%)	7 (10.0%)	7 (14.0%)
Over 365 Days	5 (6.9%)	5 (6.0%)	3 (4.8%)	1 (1.4%)	2 (4.0%)

DISCHARGES

A discharge occurs when a youth is released from ADJC custody. A discharge can occur for different reasons, such as the youth may become an adult, in which case ADJC loses jurisdiction, or the youth may be discharged 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 from ADJC's jurisdiction.

DISCHARGES	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Turned 18 or 19	123 (74.1%)	140 (76.9%)	146 (78.5%)	115 (70.1%)	102 (75.6%)
Absolute Discharge	23 (13.9%)	13 (7.1%)	18 (9.7%)	27 (16.5%)	13 (9.6%)
Discharged to Adult Jurisdiction	17 (10.2%)	24 (13.2%)	14 (7.5%)	18 (11.0%)	20 (14.8%)
ICE Discharge	2 (1.2%)	2 (1.1%)	2 (1.1%)	-	-
Other	1 (0.6%)	3 (1.6%)	6 (3.2%)	4 (2.4%)	-
TOTALS	166 (100%)	182 (100%)	186 (100%)	164 (100%)	135 (100%)



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