

TOPIC: Out-of-Home Placement History of Juvenile Offenders Sentenced as Adults

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SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

This brief is a preliminary exploration of the question, “How many juvenile offenders sentenced as adults had previous contact with the foster care system?” To answer this question, the Research and Data Analysis Division (RDA) examined the 10-year out-of-home placement histories of a sample of Washington State juvenile offenders with cases adjudicated in State Fiscal Years 2008 through 2012 and who were sentenced as adults (either through exclusive adult jurisdiction or a decline hearing).

The following tables show the percent of youth with one or more out-of-home placements 10 years prior to the month charges were filed for the adjudication of interest. Placement rates are presented by fiscal year, adult-decline status, and demographics.

Key findings are as follows:

- Overall, 16.5 percent of these youth had experienced at least one out-of-home placement in the 10 year period preceding the relevant filing date. This stands in contrast to 5.3 percent for all medically eligible youth who were 15 to 19 years of age in SFY 2013.
- There was no significant difference in the prior out-of-home placement rates with respect to sentencing status: exclusive adult jurisdiction or discretionary or mandatory declines.
- White, non-Hispanic youth had the lowest rates of prior out-of-home placements and younger offenders (15-16) had higher rates of out-of-home placements over the prior 10 years.

	Youth Sentenced as Adults	Any Out-of-Home Placement in Prior 10 Years (Percent)
STATE FISCAL YEAR CHARGED		
2008	120	22.5% ¹
2009	148	14.2%
2010	118	14.4%
2011	77	14.3%
2012— <i>partial year</i>	17	17.6%
Total	480	16.5%
STATUS		
Exclusive Adult Jurisdiction	205	16.1%
Discretionary Decline	234	17.1%
Mandatory Decline	41	14.6%
Total	480	16.5%

¹ The higher percentage in 2008 may be attributable to a data system conversion in 1998.

	Youth Sentenced as Adults	Any Out-of-Home Placement in Prior 10 Years (Percent)
AGE		
15	8	25.0%
16	148	21.6%
17	321	13.7%
18	2	50.0%
19	1	0.0%
Total	480	16.5%
RACE/ETHNICITY		
White (not Hispanic)	123	13.0%
Any Minority	346	18.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	31	16.1%
Black	130	21.5%
Native American	58	27.6%
Unknown	11	0.0%
Hispanic (any race)	163	14.7%
Total	480	16.5%
GENDER		
Male	450	16.4%
Female	30	16.7%
Total	480	16.5%

TECHNICAL NOTES

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) provided RDA 708 records of youth with cases adjudicated from calendar year 2007 through 2011 (this analysis uses fiscal years), and who were sentenced as adults either through exclusive adult jurisdiction or a decline hearing. Of these records, originally produced by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), 4 were duplicates, 11 could not be linked to DSHS records, and 52 records were for offenders with multiple adjudications. In the latter case, only the earliest adjudication was used in this analysis. There were 19 records for which a case could not be found in the Washington State Institute for Public Policy Criminal Justice Database.

Children’s Administration CAMIS and FAMLINK records were used to identify offenders who experienced an out-of-home placement in the 10-year pre-period. Placement episodes prior to July 1997 are not available; therefore offenders without a full 10-year history (n=142) were also dropped from the analysis, leaving a final sample of 480 youth for whom charges were filed in State Fiscal Years 2008 through 2012. Due to this data restriction, the placement histories described here do not reflect placements that occurred during the first five to nine years of life, depending on the age at filing.