
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

Biennial Data Report Regarding Youth Committed to JJC Custody

Pursuant to P.L. 2019, c.363, which took effect on November 1, 2020, the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) shall establish a program to collect and analyze data regarding youth sentenced to a term of incarceration with the JJC, and to publish on its website biennial reports summarizing the aggregate data collected and analyzed. A description of specific data elements required under the law follows.

- A. For youth sentenced to a term of incarceration with the JJC, specific data elements required include:
 - 1) the offense for which youth were incarcerated
 - 2) the classification of the youth
 - 3) the term (length) of incarceration imposed
 - 4) whether an extended term of incarceration was imposed
 - 5) committing county
 - 6) age, gender, race and ethnicity of the youth

- B. For adjudicated youth who are paroled from JJC custody and whose parole is subsequently revoked, specific data elements required include:
 - 1) the amount of time remaining on the sentence at the time of revocation
 - 2) whether the revocation was due to a technical violation of parole conditions or a new offense
 - 3) county where the youth was originally adjudicated delinquent
 - 4) age, gender, race and ethnicity of the youth

- C. For all youth housed in JJC facilities, specific data elements required include:
 - 1) the number of incidents of violence
 - 2) the number of suicides and suicide attempts
 - 3) the number of hospitalizations
 - 4) the number of incidences of segregation/isolation

This report is prepared and published to meet the statutory requirements articulated above. The information contained in this report was gathered from existing JJC sources maintained by the Information Technology Unit, the Office of Classification, Intake, and Release, the Healthcare and Safety Services Unit, and the Office of Investigations. The report was prepared by the Research & Evaluation Unit. The law took effect on November 1, 2020; therefore, this first report reflects activity that occurred during calendar year 2021. Subsequent biennial reports will cover two-year periods, with the next report reflecting activity during 2022 and 2023.

A. Youth Committed¹ to a Term of Incarceration with the JJC – 2021

In 2021, 123 youth were committed to a term of incarceration with the JJC by the Superior Court. The data in this section describe these 123 youth.

1. Offense for which youth were incarcerated (lead/most serious offense)

	#	%
Violation of Probation	23	18.7%
<i>Underlying Offenses:</i>		
• <i>Firearms/Weapons*</i>	8	6.5%
• <i>Robbery*</i>	4	3.3%
• <i>Burglary</i>	4	3.3%
• <i>Aggravated Assault*</i>	2	1.6%
• <i>Controlled Dangerous Substances</i>	2	1.6%
• <i>Property Destruction</i>	1	0.8%
• <i>Carjacking*</i>	1	0.8%
• <i>Arson</i>	1	0.8%
Firearms/Weapons*	23	18.7%
Aggravated Assault*	22	17.9%
Homicide*	15	12.2%
Robbery*	10	8.1%
Sexual Assault*	5	4.1%
Burglary	5	4.1%
Theft	5	4.1%
Offense Against Children/Family*	4	3.3%
Controlled Dangerous Substances	4	3.3%
Obstructing Administration of Law	3	2.4%
Carjacking*	3	2.4%
Leaving Scene of Fatal Accident	1	0.8%
Total	123	100%

In 2021, 78.9% (97) of youth were committed on an offense involving violence/harm to a person or weapons (marked with an * in the table), or on a violation of probation where the underlying offense involved violence/harm to a person or weapons. In addition, youth averaged a total of 6.1 separate adjudications/convictions in their court history at the time of commitment to the JJC.

¹ The term “committed” is used to reflect both youth adjudicated delinquent and disposed in the Family Part of the Superior Court as juveniles (“juvenile court”) and youth waived to the Criminal Part of the Superior Court and convicted and sentenced as adults. The date of commitment is the date JJC receives notification that a youth has been committed (sentenced or disposed) to its custody.

2. Classification

	#	%
Committed by juvenile court	98	79.7%
Committed by criminal court	25	20.3%
TOTAL	123	100.0%

Of the 123 youth committed to a term of incarceration with the JJC, 98 were adjudicated delinquent and disposed in the Family Part as juveniles ("juvenile court"), and 25 were waived to the Criminal Part and convicted and sentenced as adults.

3. Length of term of incarceration imposed

	#	%
Less than 1 year	5	4.1%
1 year	11	8.9%
1-3 ² years	48	39.0%
3-5 years	36	29.3%
5-8 years	10	8.1%
8-12 years	7	5.7%
12+ years	6	4.9%
TOTAL	123	100.0%

The average term of incarceration imposed by the court was almost four years (3.8). The longest term of incarceration imposed was 38 years.

4. Was an extended term of incarceration imposed?

	#	%
Extended term imposed	1	1.0%
No extended term imposed	97	99.0%
TOTAL	98	100.0%

N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-44 provides for maximum terms of incarceration for youth adjudicated delinquent in juvenile court, ranging from 6 months for disorderly persons offenses to 20 years for murder. It also identifies certain circumstances where, upon application by the prosecutor, the maximum term allowed for the offense can be extended. During 2021, of the 98 youth committed to the JJC by the juvenile court, only one youth was disposed under the extended term provisions.

² When a range is provided, the first number reflects that number of years plus 1 day. For example, 1-3 years mean 1 year and 1 day to 3 years.

5. Committing county

	#	%
Camden	33	26.8%
Passaic	31	25.2%
Middlesex	13	10.6%
Burlington	8	6.5%
Essex	8	6.5%
Hudson	6	4.9%
Mercer	6	4.9%
Cumberland	5	4.1%
Union	3	2.4%
Atlantic	2	1.6%
Gloucester	2	1.6%
Monmouth	2	1.6%
Ocean	2	1.6%
Hunterdon	1	0.8%
Somerset	1	0.8%
Bergen	0	0.0%
Cape May	0	0.0%
Morris	0	0.0%
Salem	0	0.0%
Sussex	0	0.0%
Warren	0	0.0%
TOTAL	123	100.0%

6a. Age of youth at commitment

	#	%
14	3	2.4%
15	14	11.4%
16	29	23.6%
17	26	21.1%
18	27	22.0%
19	16	13.0%
20	5	4.1%
21+	3	2.4%
TOTAL	123	100.0%

The average age of youth upon commitment to the JJC was 17.7; 41.5% of youth were 18 or older.

6b. Gender of youth

	#	%
Male	116	94.3%
Female	7	5.7%
TOTAL	123	100.0%

6c. Race/ethnicity of youth

	#	%
Black	76	61.8%
Hispanic	35	28.5%
White	12	9.8%
TOTAL	123	100.0%

B. Youth Whose Parole is Revoked - 2021³

In 2021, no youth under the JJC's parole authority was subject to parole revocation, therefore, there are no data points to report in this section.

C. Incidents Involving Youth Housed in JJC Facilities - 2021

In 2021, 328 unique/unduplicated youth were served through JJC secure and residential facilities. The data in this section reflect the experiences of those 328 youth.

1. Violent incidents – substantiated assaults⁴

	#
Youth on youth assault	67
Youth on staff assault	55
Staff on youth assault	1
TOTAL	123

³ This section refers to only youth who were adjudicated delinquent and disposed to a term of incarceration with the JJC by the juvenile court and who were subsequently released under the authority granted to the JJC to parole youth, supervise youth on parole, and initiate parole revocation hearings. Waived youth are not included as the State Parole Board retains all authority over the circumstances of parole, supervision, and revocation for waived youth.

⁴ Data involving youth as the perpetrator reflect substantiated disciplinary infractions, as determined by a JJC Hearing Officer. Data involving staff as the perpetrator reflect substantiated allegations, as determined by the JJC Office of Investigations.

2. Suicides and suicide attempts

	#
Suicides	0
Suicide attempts	0
TOTAL	0

3. Hospitalizations

	#
Hospital admissions	15

While the JJC provides comprehensive medical services to youth in its care through a contract with Rutgers University, University Correctional Health Care, at times hospitalization becomes a medical necessity. Hospitalization may be needed to address an injury sustained through an incident described above or an injury sustained through recreational activity, but hospitalization is also required to address a healthcare need identified during the process of providing comprehensive, routine medical care.⁵

4. Incidences of segregation/isolation

A full report regarding the JJC's use of room restriction, as required under P.L. 2015, c.89, can be found on the JJC's website at www.njjjc.org, under [JJC Library/Reports/Forms](#). As reflected in that report, in 2021, no youth were placed in room restriction for longer than 24 hours.

⁵ For the current reporting period, the majority of the hospital admissions were in response to medical issues non-specific to incarceration (e.g., hypoglycemia, seizures). There were a few admissions related to mental health issues and ingestion of foreign bodies. Ultimately, all 15 hospitalized youth were treated and discharged.