

# PROFILE OF JUVENILES ON PROBATION IN LOCAL SECURE PLACEMENT FACILITIES, FISCAL YEAR 2012

AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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## OBJECTIVE

Local secure juvenile placement facilities provide an opportunity to rehabilitate juveniles who cannot be safely served on supervision while living at home. Juveniles in local secure placement facilities have been placed on probation by a local juvenile probation department, but serve their supervision at a local facility instead of at home.

In the first three months of fiscal year 2012, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) monitored local secure facilities, collected data from them, and provided funding, training, and technical assistance to those facilities. TJPC was abolished and merged into the newly established Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) by Senate Bill 653, 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature. TJJD was created on December 1, 2011 and performed the functions of the former TJPC for the last nine months of fiscal year 2012.

## KEY FACTS

- ◆ There were 1,079 juveniles in local secure juvenile placement facilities as of August 31, 2012.
- ◆ The most common offense was violation of probation.
- ◆ 78.8 percent of juveniles had three or more referrals at the start of their placement.

## STATUTORY REFERENCES

TJPC and TJJD were authorized by Human Resources Code, Chapters 141 and 201, respectively.

Each year hundreds of juveniles are placed in local secure juvenile placement facilities while on probation in the juvenile justice system. These facilities are usually operated by local juvenile probation departments and provide rehabilitative services including family counseling, anger management, substance abuse treatment, and mental health treatment. Aftercare is typically provided after a juvenile is released from a facility to complete their term of probation. The information below provides a description of the offenses, total referrals, and demographics of juveniles in local secure placement facilities as of August 31, 2012.

## OFFENSES

Fig. 1 shows that violation of probation was the most common offense for juveniles in local secure facilities. This offense accounted for 39.8 percent of all offenses on August 31, 2012.

**FIG. 1,  
OFFENSES OF JUVENILES IN LOCAL SECURE PLACEMENT FACILITIES  
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012**

OFFENSE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Assault	132	12.2%
Burglary	123	11.4
Criminal Mischief, Graffiti, Trespassing	44	4.1
Drug Offenses	74	6.9
Homicide	1	0.1
Robbery	43	4.0
Sex Offenses	57	5.3
Theft	84	7.8
Violation of Probation	430	39.8
All Other Offenses	91	8.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

- 35.0 percent (378 juveniles) were in local secure placement facilities for a felony.
- 24.4 percent (263 juveniles) were in these facilities for a class A or B misdemeanor.
- 40.6 percent (438 juveniles) were in these facilities for a violation of probation or other type of offense.

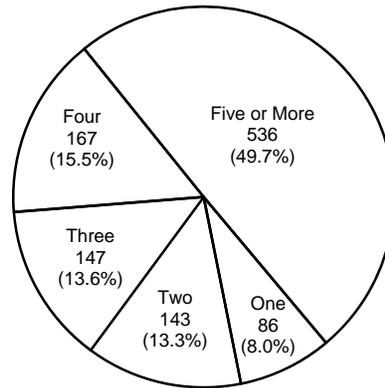
## RISK AND NEEDS

Of the 867 juveniles with an assessment to determine the risk of reoffense, 42.0 percent (364) were high risk, 47.4 percent (411) were medium risk, and 10.6 percent (92) were low risk. Of the 867 juveniles with an assessment to determine the need for treatment and services, 65.9 percent (571) were high need, 28.9 percent (251) were medium need, and 5.2 percent (45) were low need.

**TOTAL REFERRALS**

Fig. 2 shows the total number of referrals that juveniles had when they started placement. A referral occurs when a juvenile's case is processed within the juvenile justice system. A total of 78.8 percent (850) of those in local secure juvenile placement facilities on August 31, 2012, had three or more referrals at the start of placement, and 49.7 percent (536) had five or more referrals at the start of placement.

**FIG. 2  
TOTAL REFERRALS AT THE START OF PLACEMENT FOR JUVENILES  
IN LOCAL SECURE PLACEMENT FACILITIES  
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012**



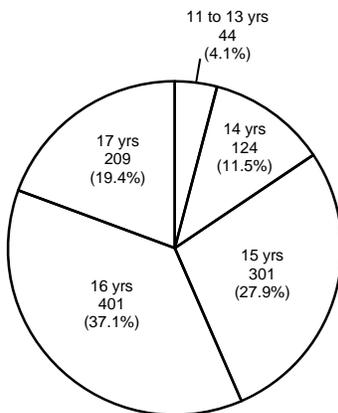
SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

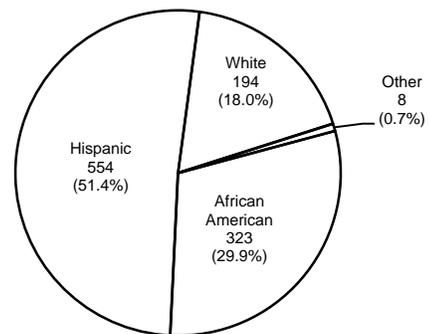
Fig. 3 shows the age and ethnicity of juveniles in local secure juvenile placement facilities on August 31, 2012. A total of 65.0 percent (702) were 15 or 16 years old, while 81.3 percent (877) were either African American or Hispanic. A total of 13.4 percent (145) were female while 86.6 percent (934) were male.

**FIG. 3  
AGE AND ETHNICITY OF JUVENILES IN LOCAL SECURE PLACEMENT FACILITIES  
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012**

**Age**



**Ethnicity**



SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

**CONTACT**

John Posey      Email: [Issuebrief@lbb.state.tx.us](mailto:Issuebrief@lbb.state.tx.us)