

OFFENSES AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF JUVENILES IN STATE-OPERATED CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, FISCAL YEAR 2012

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OBJECTIVE

This brief provides a profile of juveniles in state-operated correctional facilities at the end of fiscal year 2012. In the first three months of fiscal year 2012 these facilities were operated by the Texas Youth Commission (TYC). That agency was abolished and merged along with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission into the newly created Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) by SB 653, which was passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature and signed by the Governor. TJJD was created on December 1, 2011, and provided for the administration of state-operated juvenile correctional facilities for the last nine months of fiscal year 2012.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ The most common offenses for juveniles in state-operated correctional facilities were assault (22.7 percent), sex offenses (16.7 percent), burglary (15.7 percent) and robbery (15.6 percent).
- ◆ 62.6 percent of juveniles were committed for first or second-degree felonies.
- ◆ 61.0 percent of juveniles were 16 or 17 years old, 78.4 percent were African American or Hispanic, and 91.3 percent were male.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

TYC was authorized by Human Resources Code, Chapter 61. TJJD was authorized by Human Resources Code, Chapter 201.

The Human Resources Code indicates one of the purposes of the Texas Youth Commission (TYC, now Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD)) was to provide for administration of the state's correctional facilities for children and to provide a program of constructive training aimed at rehabilitation of juveniles committed to TYC. The information below provides a description of the offenses and demographics of juveniles in state-operated correctional facilities as of August 31, 2012.

OFFENSES

Fig. 1 shows the most common offenses for juveniles in state residential facilities were assault, sex offenses, burglary, and robbery. These four offenses account for 70.7 percent of all juveniles in state residential facilities as of August 31, 2012.

**FIG. 1
OFFENSES OF JUVENILES IN STATE OPERATED CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
ON AUGUST 31, 2012**

OFFENSE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Assault	324	22.7%
Burglary	225	15.7
Drug Offenses	54	3.8
Homicide	32	2.2
Robbery	223	15.6
Sex Offenses	239	16.7
Theft	105	7.3
Violation of Supervision	58	4.1
All Other Offenses	170	11.9
Total	1,430	100.0%

SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Eight juveniles (0.6 percent) were committed for a capital felony, 382 (26.7 percent) were committed for a first-degree felony, 514 (35.9 percent) were committed for a second-degree felony, 301 (21.1 percent) were committed for a third-degree felony, and 225 (15.7 percent) were committed for a state jail felony.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Fig. 2 shows that 61.0 percent of juveniles in state-operated correctional facilities on August 31, 2012, were either 16 or 17 years old.

**FIG. 2
AGE OF JUVENILES IN STATE-OPERATED CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
AUGUST 31, 2012**

AGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
12 to 14 years old	81	5.7%
15 years old	170	11.9
16 years old	375	26.2
17 years old	498	34.8
18 years old	304	21.3
19 to 20 years old*	2	0.1
Total	1,430	100.0%

* Based on counsel from the Attorney General, TYC had the authority to retain custody of determinate sentence youth beyond age 19 who were committed to TYC prior to June 8, 2007, the effective date of Senate Bill 103, which was implemented by the 80th Legislature, Regular Session 2007.

SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Fig. 3 shows that 78.4 percent of juveniles in state-operated correctional facilities on August 31, 2012 were either African American or Hispanic.

**FIG. 3
ETHNICITY OF JUVENILES IN STATE-OPERATED CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
AUGUST 31, 2012**

ETHNICITY	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
White	298	20.8%
African American	500	35.0
Hispanic	621	43.4
Other	11	0.8
Total	1,430	100.0%

SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

A total of 91.3 percent (1,306) of those in state-operated correctional facilities on Aug. 31, 2012, were male, while 8.7 percent (124) were female.

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