

PROFILE OF JUVENILES ON PROBATION, FISCAL YEAR 2012

AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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OBJECTIVE

Juvenile probation provides supervision through home and office visits, rehabilitative programs, and other services for juveniles disposed in the justice system by a juvenile court.

Juveniles on probation are supervised by local juvenile probation departments. In the first three months of fiscal year 2012, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) monitored standards and collected data from those departments. TJPC also provided funding, training, and technical assistance to those departments. TJPC was abolished and merged into the newly established Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJJ) by Senate Bill 653, 82nd Texas Legislature. TJJJ 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 15,167 juveniles on probation as of August 31, 2012.
- ◆ The most common offenses were assault, burglary, and drug offenses.
- ◆ 34.1 percent of juveniles had three or more referrals at the start of probation.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

TJPC was authorized by Human Resources Code, Chapter 141. TJJJ was authorized by Human Resources Code, Chapter 201.

Each year thousands of juveniles are placed on probation in the juvenile justice system. Local juvenile probation departments provide services while the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJJ) provides technical assistance and funding to those departments. The information below provides a description of the offenses, risk and needs, total referrals, and demographics of juveniles on probation supervision as of August 31, 2012.

OFFENSES

Fig. 1 shows that the most common offenses for juveniles on probation were assault, burglary, and drug offenses. These offenses accounted for 54.4 percent of all juveniles on probation on August 31, 2012.

**FIG. 1
OFFENSES OF JUVENILES ON PROBATION
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012**

OFFENSE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Assault	3,680	24.2%
Burglary	2,249	14.8
Conduct In Need Of Supervision	372	2.5
Criminal Mischief, Graffiti, Trespassing	1,274	8.4
Drug Offenses	2,334	15.4
Homicide	11	0.1
Robbery	358	2.3
Sex Offenses	1,169	7.7
Theft	1,482	9.8
Violation of Probation, Contempt Of Court	586	3.9
All Other Offenses	1,652	10.9
Total	15,167	100.0%

SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

- 45.4 percent (6,888 juveniles) were on probation for a felony.
- 48.2 percent (7,306 juveniles) were on probation for a Class A or B misdemeanor.
- 6.4 percent (973 juveniles) were on probation for a Class C misdemeanor, conduct in need of supervision, contempt of court, or violation or probation.

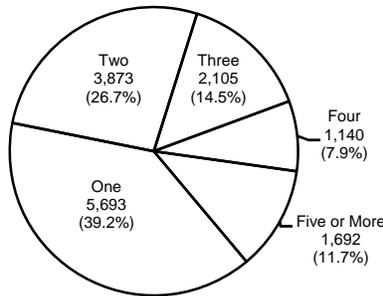
RISK AND NEEDS

Of the 12,860 juveniles with an assessment to determine the risk of reoffense, 14.6 percent (1,877) were high risk, 47.2 percent (6,075) were medium risk, and 38.2 percent (4,908) were low risk. Of the 12,851 juveniles with an assessment to determine the need for treatment and services, 32.5 percent (4,175) were high need, 44.6 percent (5,731) were medium need, and 22.9 percent (2,945) were low need.

TOTAL REFERRALS

Fig. 2 shows the total number of referrals that juveniles had when they started probation. A referral occurs when a juvenile's case is processed within the juvenile justice system. A total of 39.2 percent (5,693) of those on probation on August 31, 2012, had one referral at the start of their probation, while 19.6 percent (2,832) had four or more referrals at the start of their probation.

**FIGURE 2
TOTAL REFERRALS AT THE START OF PROBATION FOR
JUVENILES ON PROBATION
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012**



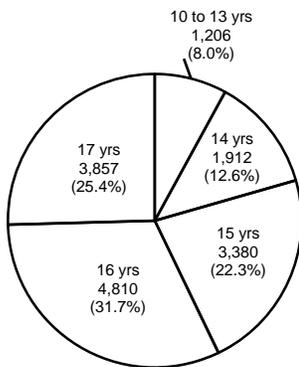
NOTE: Total referrals for 664 juveniles (4.4 percent) were not available because their probation was transferred from another county or state.
SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

DEMOGRAPHICS

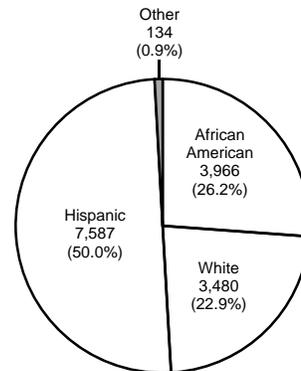
Fig. 3 shows the age and ethnicity of juveniles on probation. A total of 57.1 percent (8,667) of those on probation on August 31, 2012, were 16 or 17 years old, while 76.2 percent (11,553) were either African American or Hispanic. A total of 18.4 percent (2,795) were female while 81.6 percent (12,372) were male.

**FIG. 3
AGE AND ETHNICITY OF JUVENILES ON PROBATION AS OF AUGUST 31, 2012***

Age



Ethnicity



* Two juveniles were 18 years old. Juveniles given determinate sentence probation on or after September 1, 2011 are allowed to be under supervision until their 19th birthday.
SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

CONTACT

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