



The Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability
JUVENILE REHABILITATION LENGTH OF STAY TRENDS (SFY 17-22)



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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Reach out to OIAA@dcyf.wa.gov with questions.

Introduction

Each year, the Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability (OIAA) produces a report regarding the length of stay of clients in Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR). The goal of this report is to ensure that we are understanding the average length of obligation that clients in JR serve, as well as information related to the quality of how they spent their time. In June 2020, JR was selected for a National Length of Stay Training and Technical Assistance Program offered by the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators and Georgetown University. As such, previous length of stay metrics have been expanded and may have minor changes from previous years as we seek to better understand our data and improve our knowledge in this space.

Key Findings

- The average obligation length of clients has steadily increased, while the overall number of obligations that ended decreased. The average obligation length increased from 319 days in state fiscal year (SFY) 2017 to 437 days in SFY2022.
- Black or African American clients spent a substantially lower percentage of their obligation in a community facility (CF) than any other racial group, an average of 37% compared to an average of 43% for other racial groups.
- Clients whose obligation started at age 18 or 19 at the time of their admission spent a higher percentage of their obligation in a CF than clients in any other age group, an average of 51% compared to an average of 41%.
- Clients who had a Special Education designation¹ at admission spent a substantially lower percentage of their obligation in a CF, 35% compared with those without the designation (44%).
- Overall, the average percent of clients' sentencing range served, for those who had a sentencing range, decreased substantially in SFY22, as a result of policy and practice change which set a client's release date to their minimum sentence. In SFY22, clients served an average of 6% of their sentencing range.
- The only group that did not experience a reduction in the average percent of range served in SFY2022 was clients with Sex Offense types², who served 21% of their sentencing range.

About the Release Population

Data for this report were retrieved for every residential obligation that ended between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2022. This does not include parole revocations. If a client had multiple obligations during SFY 2017-2022, each obligation was counted separately. During SFY17-22, 2,631 residential obligations ended. It is important to note that clients who transferred to the Department of Corrections (DOC) and clients with consecutive obligations served longer periods of time than is captured by analyzing the data by obligation. A total of 88 obligations ended, but the client's custody was transferred to the DOC to serve the remainder of their obligation. Additionally, there were 12 cases where a client was serving a consecutive obligation, meaning that one obligation ended and another one began within two days³. For SFY17-22, transfers to DOC and consecutive obligations account for approximately 4% of the overall release cohort.

Of clients who released during SFY17-22, 57 clients were missing an initial Integrated Treatment Assessment (ITA). The ITA is an assessment that is given to clients upon admission, and has been used historically to help determine client treatment needs or risks.

Table 1 shows the release demographics for obligations that ended during SFY17-22. Male clients made up a substantially larger percentage of the release obligations than female clients, averaging approximately 90% of the overall release population. The rates of release by racial group remained relatively consistent from SFY17-22. The largest

¹ Answer to question 3A-1 on clients initial ITA was utilized to determine Special Education Designation.

² Sex Offense types include Rape 1-3, Child Molestation 1-3, and Assault with Sexual Motivation.

³ Clients with gaps of two days or less in the data were consistently confined, either in county or in a JR facility on a temporary assignment on the days between their release and the start date of their following obligation.

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percentage of releases was for clients who began their obligation at age 17. These clients accounted for exactly one third of all obligations that ended SFY17-22. Clients with person type⁴ offenses have consistently been the largest percentage of obligations that ended during SFY17-22. This group increased from 42% of release obligations in SFY17 to 56% of release obligations in SFY22. Ninety-two percent of release obligations were juvenile obligations, while adult obligations accounted for the remaining 8% of release obligations for SFY17-22. Reccommitments, or obligations where the client had served previous obligations with JR, accounted for 23% of overall release obligations. The percentage of release obligations for clients included in the Mental Health Target Population⁵ (MHTP) increased from 44% of the release population to 57% of the release population. Clients who were identified as having a Special Education designation at admission were 39% of the overall release population.

Table 1: Demographics for Clients with Obligations Ending During SFY17-22 (N=2,631)

	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022
	Percent of Total Releases					
Number of Obligations Ended	589	534	441	432	339	296
Gender						
Male	90%	91%	88%	92%	93%	89%
Female	10%	9%	12%	8%	7%	11%
Racial Group						
Alaska Native/American Indian	9%	9%	8%	7%	7%	8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2%	3%	4%	4%	3%	LT
Black/African American	23%	25%	24%	22%	26%	22%
Hispanic	24%	23%	24%	25%	27%	28%
White	41%	37%	37%	40%	35%	38%
Age at Obligation Start						
14 and under	16%	13%	11%	14%	13%	17%
15	20%	19%	18%	19%	15%	16%
16	23%	25%	27%	24%	25%	19%
17	35%	35%	34%	30%	33%	32%
18	5%	7%	8%	11%	7%	11%
Transferred to DOC						
No	97%	98%	98%	95%	98%	95%
Yes	3%	2%	2%	5%	2%	5%
Most Serious Offense Type						
Person	42%	41%	49%	47%	50%	56%
Sex	15%	15%	11%	16%	15%	11%
Property ⁶	29%	26%	22%	22%	19%	22%
Drug ⁷	5%	4%	4%	3%	LT	LT
Other ⁸	8%	10%	12%	9%	13%	8%
Sentence Type						
Juvenile	92%	94%	94%	92%	91%	91%

⁴ Person offenses includes: Assault, Kidnapping, Murder, Manslaughter, & Robbery Offenses.

⁵ Clients initial Integrated Treatment Assessment (ITA) used to determine MHTP inclusion. MHTP includes clients with a MH diagnosis (excluding Conduct Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, or Substance Use Disorder, clients taking psychotropic medications, and clients with suicidal thoughts, plans, or attempts. Clients included if any one of the criteria had been met six months prior to their Initial ITA.

⁶ Property offense types include: Arson, Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft, Possession of Stolen Property and Theft.

⁷ Drug offense types include: Possession of Controlled substances/marijuana, consumption of alcohol, and intent to sell.

⁸ Other offense types include: Forgery, animal cruelty, DUI, violation of a court order, etc.

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Adult	8%	6%	6%	8%	9%	9%
Recommitment Status						
Yes	22%	24%	20%	22%	22%	26%
No	78%	76%	83%	78%	75%	71%
Identified at Admission as MHTP						
Client in MH Target Population	44%	41%	39%	49%	53%	57%
Client not in MH Target Population	53%	58%	59%	50%	43%	41%
Special Education Designation at Admission						
Special Education designation/IEP	39%	39%	39%	37%	36%	36%
No Special Education designation/IEP	58%	60%	58%	62%	60%	62%

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

WSRDAC/M: Yes. AI/AN, Multiracial included in AI/AN counts, Black/African American, Multiracial included in Black/African American counts, and A/PI includes Multiracial, A/PI counts.

Notes: Clients with an Unknown gender, race/ethnicity, missing initial ITA information, Public Offense types, or whose obligation started at age 19 or older were not presented in the table due to low counts, but were included in overall analysis. Percentages may not add to 100% as a result.

LT: Fewer than 10 clients.

Client Movement Summary

CF Placement and Release

A key component to a quality length of stay is ensuring that clients are transitioned to the least restrictive environment that can adequately support their needs in order to provide opportunities to learn and practice skill development in a more applied way. All clients who come to JR are initially placed in an institution, and may then be considered for transition. Although JR doesn't have the authority or ability to control several aspects of a client's length of stay, such as their sentence type, there is a fair degree of discretion in the decision to place a client in a CF, as well as discretion in determining returns from CFs to institutions.

As such, it is critical to monitor such movements in order to better identify and work to resolve disproportionality where possible, particularly when related to key decision points during a client's obligation in JR.

Clients Who Went to a CF

Table 2 shows the percentage of clients, by SFY release, who spent one or more day in a CF during their obligation. About 37% of the overall releases spent one or more day in a CF during their obligation. There were no significant differences in the overall rates that clients went to a CF based on gender, racial group, or a client's recommitment status during SFY17-22. Clients whose obligation began at or below age 14 went to a CF significantly less than clients whose obligation began at ages 15-17. Clients who had Property offense types went to a CF significantly more than clients with Sex or Other offense types. Clients with adult sentences also went to a CF significantly less than clients with juvenile sentences, but this is likely related to a client's sentence structure and possible exclusion criteria specifically related to having an adult sentence. A client who may be transferring to DOC to complete their obligation, for example, would not be eligible for transfer to a CF. Clients who were either included in the MHTP or had a Special Education designation at admission went to a CF significantly less than clients who were not included in the MHTP, or did not have a Special Education designation at admission.

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Table 2: Percent of Clients who Went to a CF for Clients with Obligations Ending SFY17-22 (N=963)

	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022
	Percent that spent 1 or more days in a CF					
Overall	36%	35%	38%	37%	37%	37%
Gender						
Male	35%	35%	39%	38%	38%	37%
Female	38%	37%	37%	33%	LT	34%
Racial Group						
Alaska Native/American Indian	38%	28%	38%	47%	43%	25%
Black/African American	34%	42%	36%	36%	46%	51%
Hispanic	38%	28%	42%	32%	43%	42%
White	36%	36%	38%	33%	25%	30%
Age at Obligation Start						
14 and under	22%	28%	24%	25%	28%	33%
15	32%	30%	43%	44%	36%	38%
16	40%	38%	39%	39%	44%	44%
17	41%	38%	38%	39%	46%	38%
18	39%	39%	51%	37%	LT	30%
Most Serious Offense Type						
Person	31%	37%	37%	39%	46%	40%
Sex	33%	36%	44%	27%	14%	21%
Property	45%	36%	41%	44%	44%	42%
Other	30%	27%	35%	29%	26%	LT
Sentence Type						
Juvenile	37%	35%	38%	39%	37%	38%
Adult	LT	33%	42%	LT	41%	LT
Recommitment Status						
Yes	37%	35%	36%	45%	45%	34%
No	35%	35%	39%	35%	35%	38%
Identified at Admission as MHTP						
Client in MH Target Population	36%	35%	34%	31%	32%	28%
Client not in MH Target Population	36%	36%	42%	43%	46%	50%
Special Education Designation at Admission						
Special Education designation/IEP	26%	30%	33%	30%	33%	33%
No Special Education designation/IEP	43%	39%	43%	41%	42%	39%

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

WSRDAC/M: Yes. AI/AN, Multiracial included in AI/AN counts and Black/African American, Multiracial included in Black/African American counts

Notes: Clients with an Unknown gender, race/ethnicity or Asian/Pacific Islander, missing initial ITA information, Drug or Public Offense types, or whose obligation started at age 19 or older were not presented in the table due to low counts, but were included in overall analysis. Percentages may not add to 100% as a result.

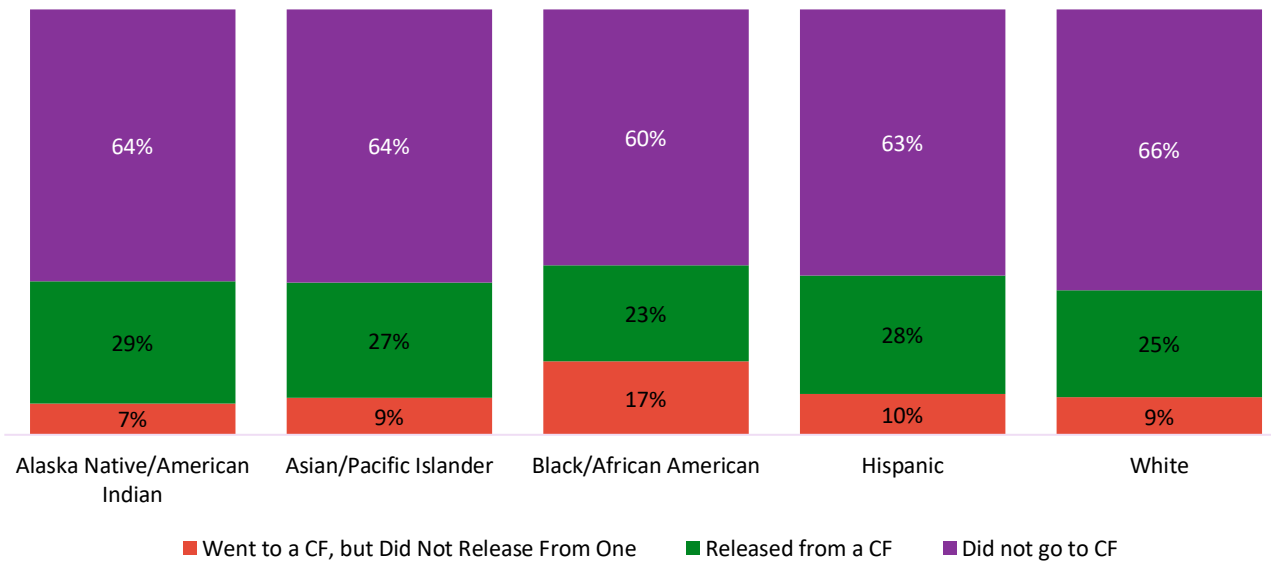
LT: Fewer than 10 clients.

Clients Who Release from a CF

Table 3 shows the percentage of clients who released from a CF, of those who spent one or more day in a CF during their obligation. This includes clients who may have been released from their obligation while on Authorized Leave (AL). As

shown in Table 2, 37% of clients who released during SFY2022 spent one or more day in a CF. Table 3 shows that 71% of those clients went on to release from a CF. The majority of clients (70%) who spent a day or more in a CF released from a CF during SFY17-22. American Indian or Alaska Native, Hispanic, and White clients released from a CF significantly more frequently than Black or African American clients for obligations that ended during SFY17-22. Figure 1 below shows the percentages of clients who did not go to a CF, clients who went, and clients who released from a CF, by racial group. As shown in Figure 3, Black or African American clients who go to a CF, but do not release from one represent a higher percentage of the release cohort than all other racial groups that released during SFY17-22. For example, 17% of Black or African American clients went to, but did not release from a CF, while less than or equal to 10% of all other racial groups experienced going to, but not releasing from a CF. Clients whose obligation began at age 18 released from a CF significantly more than clients whose obligations began at age 16 or 17. Overall, clients with Sex or Drug offense types released from a CF significantly more than clients with Person offense types. Clients with Sex offense types also released from a CF significantly more than clients with Property offense types. In addition to clients with a Special Education designation at admission going to a CF significantly less, clients with a Special Education designation at admission also released from a CF significantly less than clients who did not have a Special Education designation at admission. The differences in the rates at which groups release from a CF begins to provide some valuable insight into possible disproportionality in returns to an institution from a CF. The goal of every transfer to a CF is that the client serves the remainder of their obligation in a less restrictive facility. If clients are being placed in a CF, but are not releasing from a CF at the same rates, it is necessary to continue to explore factors which contribute to that disproportionality.

Figure 1: Client Movement to and Release from a CF by Racial Group (SFY17-22)



Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].
 WSRDAC/M: Yes. AI/AN, Multiracial included in AI/AN counts, Black/African American, Multiracial included in Black/African American counts, and A/PI includes Multiracial, A/PI.

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Table 3: Percent of Clients who Released from a CF with Obligations Ending SFY17-22, of Clients who Spent 1 or More Days in a CF (N=670)

	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022
	Percent of Clients Who Released from a CF (Of those who spent 1 or more days in a CF)					
Overall	73%	62%	75%	72%	63%	71%
Gender						
Male	72%	62%	76%	71%	64%	69%
Female	83%	59%	68%	LT	LT	LT
Racial Group						
Alaska Native/American Indian	80%	64%	77%	93%	80%	83%
Black/African American	58%	46%	74%	47%	53%	70%
Hispanic	84%	59%	80%	79%	68%	69%
White	72%	75%	77%	79%	67%	71%
Age at Obligation Start						
14 and under	57%	68%	92%	93%	67%	75%
15	74%	59%	77%	77%	72%	67%
16	70%	58%	70%	65%	68%	64%
17	75%	61%	71%	62%	57%	69%
18	100%	79%	84%	82%	LT	100%
Most Serious Offense Type						
Person	67%	49%	68%	66%	64%	76%
Sex	93%	86%	86%	95%	71%	86%
Property	66%	63%	77%	64%	64%	63%
Other	93%	67%	89%	92%	LT	LT
Sentence Type						
Juvenile	73%	63%	75%	72%	65%	72%
Adult	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT
Recommitment Status						
Yes	65%	46%	81%	56%	53%	52%
No	76%	67%	74%	78%	68%	78%
Identified at Admission as MHTP						
Client in MH Target Population	67%	63%	68%	77%	62%	71%
Client not in MH Target Population	77%	60%	79%	69%	65%	72%
Special Education Designation at Admission						
Special Education designation/IEP	73%	59%	75%	73%	48%	50%
No Special Education designation/IEP	73%	63%	75%	72%	71%	82%

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

WSRDAC/M: Yes. AI/AN, Multiracial included in AI/AN counts and Black/African American, Multiracial included in Black/African American counts.

Notes: Clients with an Unknown gender, race/ethnicity or Asian/Pacific Islander, missing initial ITA information, Drug or Public Offense types, or whose obligation started at age 19 or older were not presented in the table due to low counts, but were included in overall analysis. Percentages may not add to 100% as a result.

LT: Fewer than 10 clients.

Percent of Sentence Serviced in CFs

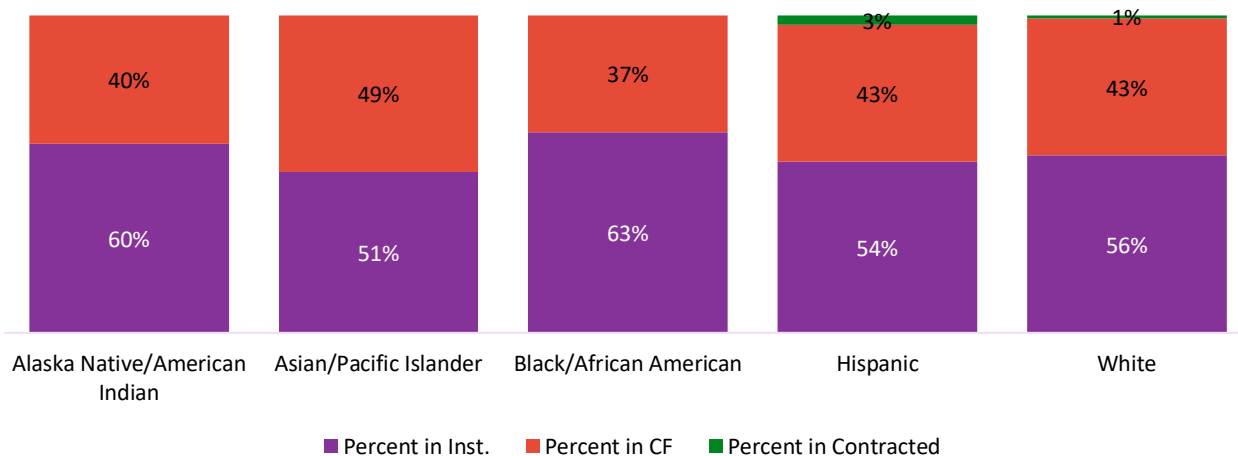
To better understand the amount of time clients spent in both the institution and CF environments, the percentage of a client’s days in a CF were calculated based on their overall days in both an institution and CF. This metric has previously been reported, but there has been a change to the calculation. In previous reports, this percentage was calculated based on the entire release population, not only those clients who spent a day or more in a CF. In order to more clearly identify possible differences between groups, these percentages have been updated to reflect only those clients who spent a day or more in a CF. Table 4 below displays the percent of a client’s obligation for clients who spent one or more days in a CF. As previously noted, 37% of clients spent a day or more in a CF. The remaining 63% did not go to a CF and would therefore have spent 0% of their obligation in a CF. In some instances, clients spent part of their obligation in a contracted JR facility, in this analysis, the Community Reentry Skills Center (CRSC).

These days are not included in the days spent in a CF, as they are separated out in analysis and presented in Table 8. Days spent on AL were also not included in the days in a CF, as those are also presented separately in Table 8.

On average, clients who spent a day or more in a CF spent approximately 41% of their obligation in a CF. Female clients (47%) spent a higher percentage of their obligation in a CF than male clients (41%) for obligations that ended during SFY17-22. When analyzed by racial group, Black or African American clients, in addition to releasing from a CF significantly less than other racial groups, spent the lowest percentage of their obligation in a CF (37%). This is an area of disproportionality which requires further exploration, as it indicates to some degree that Black or African American clients may be returned to the institution more than clients in other racial groups. Clients in the Asian or Pacific Islander racial group spent the highest percentage of their obligation in a CF (49%).

Figure 2 shows the percent of obligation spent at either an institution, CF, or at a contracted facility by racial group. Clients who were 18 or 19 at the time their obligation started also spent a higher percentage of their obligation in a CF, in addition to the 18-year-old group releasing from a CF significantly more than some other age groups. Clients with juvenile sentences spent a substantially higher percentage of their obligation in a CF than clients with adult sentences, and clients whose obligation was a recommitment spent a substantially lower percentage of their obligation in a CF than clients whose obligations were not recommitments. Lastly, clients who had a Special Education designation at admission spent a substantially lower percentage of their obligation in a CF than clients without a Special Education designation at admission. Differences that exist in the percentages of time served by various groups can begin to identify and inform future evaluation to explore the factors contributing to the disproportionality found.

Figure 2: Percent of Obligation Spent at an Institution, CF, or Contracted Facility, by Racial Group (SFY17-22)



Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

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WSRDAC/M: Yes. AI/AN, Multiracial included in AI/AN counts, Black/African American, Multiracial included in Black/African American counts, and A/PI includes Multiracial, A/PI counts.

Table 4: Percentage of Time Served in CFs for Clients with Obligations Ending SFY17-22 (N=963)

	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022
	Percent of JR Facility days in a CF (Of those who went to a CF)					
Overall	38%	37%	48%	42%	42%	42%
Gender						
Male	37%	36%	48%	42%	42%	41%
Female	44%	46%	52%	42%	LT	51%
Racial Group						
Alaska Native/American Indian	34%	44%	40%	50%	41%	LT
Black/African American	31%	28%	49%	33%	39%	43%
Hispanic	36%	38%	46%	48%	44%	47%
White	41%	43%	51%	43%	43%	37%
Age at Obligation Start						
14 and under	34%	40%	43%	53%	46%	41%
15	37%	34%	49%	43%	42%	40%
16	36%	35%	45%	38%	43%	38%
17	38%	37%	49%	41%	39%	43%
18	54%	43%	55%	48%	LT	50%
Most Serious Offense Type						
Person	35%	34%	47%	43%	43%	46%
Sex	42%	46%	48%	47%	LT	LT
Property	38%	36%	51%	37%	39%	33%
Other	51%	32%	49%	45%	39%	LT
Sentence Type						
Juvenile	38%	37%	48%	43%	44%	43%
Adult	LT	31%	45%	LT	32%	LT
Recommitment Status						
Yes	33%	27%	44%	28%	36%	29%
No	40%	41%	49%	47%	44%	47%
Identified at Admission as MHTP						
Client in MH Target Population	42%	37%	50%	45%	44%	42%
Client not in MH Target Population	33%	36%	45%	39%	39%	42%
Special Education Designation at Admission						
Special Education designation/IEP	33%	29%	42%	43%	37%	32%
No Special Education designation/IEP	40%	42%	51%	42%	44%	47%

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

WSRDAC/M: Yes. AI/AN, Multiracial included in AI/AN counts, Black/African American, Multiracial included in Black/African American counts, and A/PI includes Multiracial, A/PI counts.

Notes: Clients with an Unknown gender, race/ethnicity or Asian/Pacific Islander, missing initial ITA information, Drug or Public Offense types, or whose obligation started at age 19 or older were not presented in the table due to low counts, but were included in overall analysis. Percentages may not add to 100% as a result.

LT: Fewer than 10 clients.

Obligation Length, Institution Days, and CF Days

Obligation Length

The length of a client's obligation was calculated by using the obligation start and end dates, and removing days that were spent on Unauthorized leave (UL). The length of obligation was calculated for every client with a residential obligation, even if the client was not physically located in a JR facility during that obligation. This includes time on Temporary Assignments (TA) and time on AL. The client's obligation end date also reflects the date that their obligation ended with JR. In the instance that a client transferred to DOC, their obligation end date reflects the date that they were transferred to DOC.

Trends in Obligation Length

Table 5 shows the average obligation length for clients who released during SFY17-22. The average length of a client's obligation has steadily increased over the last six SFYs. In 2017 the average obligation length was 319 days, and in SFY2022, it was 437 days, an increase of almost four months. This could be the result of different offense types present in the JR population. The percentage of releases in Table 1 with offense types that may have shorter sentence requirements, such as Drug or Property offense types, has decreased, while the percentage of releases with Person type offenses has increased. As less serious offense types are coming to JR less, there are not lower obligation lengths to bring down the average. Female clients served significantly fewer days than male clients during SFY18-20, but the difference in obligation length has not been significant since. Overall, American Indian or Alaska Native, Hispanic, and White clients served significantly fewer days toward their obligation than Black or African American clients. Clients who admitted at age 19 or older appear to have served fewer days toward their obligations than clients who admitted at ages 16-18. This finding may not necessarily indicate that clients age 19 or older at their obligation start have shorter obligations, but reflects that those clients have less potential days in JR due to age-based limitations on jurisdiction. As indicated previously, about 4% of releases each year transfer to DOC to complete the rest of their obligation, and those days are not included in their obligation length in this analysis. Clients with Person offenses consistently had longer average obligation lengths than clients with any other offense type category.

In all years except for SFY22, Person offenses served significantly more days than Drug, Property, or Other offense types alternately. Clients with juvenile sentences served significantly fewer days than clients with adult sentences. Clients whose obligation was a recommitment to JR served significantly more days than clients whose obligations were not recommitments. In SFY17, clients who were identified as being in the MHTP served significantly more days than clients who were not, but this trend reversed and has remained for SFY20-22 releases, where clients in the MHTP served significantly fewer days than clients not in the MHTP. There were no significant differences in obligation length by a client's Special Education status at admission. It is important to remember that clients enter JR with a sentencing range. The sentencing court determines this range, and JR has limited ways in which a sentence may be adjusted—so long as the adjusted sentence remains within the court's sentencing range. As such, metrics such as obligation length and the number of days in either an institution or CF may do less to specifically identify disproportionality in JR's key decision points, but are useful and necessary to get a baseline understanding of the lengths of stay that clients are experiencing.

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Table 5: Average Length of Obligation for Clients with Obligations Ended During SFY17-22 (N=2,631)

	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022
	Length (in days)					
Overall Average Days	319	309	347	339	388	437
Gender		*	*	*		
Male	324	316	366	353	390	446
Female	276	238	208	171	364	363
Racial Group		*			*	*
Alaska Native/American Indian	315	270	378	255	371	480
Asian/Pacific Islander	201	262	342	406	360	LT
Black/African American	351	374	335	392	486	626
Hispanic	336	272	413	340	388	394
White	300	290	315	297	318	355
Age at Obligation Start						
14 and under	289	288	302	293	418	315
15	278	283	390	359	291	301
16	59	306	344	383	362	489
17	334	331	356	349	447	528
18	313	351	319	279	359	409
Most Serious Offense Type	*	*	*	*	*	
Person	370	341	401	406	486	502
Sex	332	373	395	332	333	372
Property	300	276	294	275	324	349
Drug	185	205	233	240	LT	LT
Public	LT	176	244	LT	180	LT
Other	201	259	241	210	219	384
Sentence Type	*	*	*	*	*	*
Juvenile	300	293	330	317	350	373
Adult	542	554	626	586	752	1074
Recommitment Status	*	*				*
Yes	381	361	369	376	446	515
No	302	293	342	329	369	405
Identified at Admission as MHTP	*			*	*	*
Client in MH Target Population	314	297	367	277	332	365
Client not in MH Target Population	275	322	334	400	474	545
Special Education Designation at Admission						
Special Education designation/IEP	364	296	357	339	346	411
No Special Education designation/IEP	287	318	341	339	416	453

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

WSRDAC/M: Yes. AI/AN, Multiracial included in AI/AN counts, Black/African American, Multiracial included in Black/African American counts, and A/PI includes Multiracial, API counts.

Notes: Clients with an unknown gender, racial group, missing ITA information, or whose obligation started at age 19 or older were not included in analysis due to low cell counts, but were included in the overall analysis.

LT: Fewer than 10 clients.

Average Number of Days in an Institution

The number of days a client spent in an institution includes all of the days a client was physically located in one of the three JR institutions, Echo Glen Children’s Center, Green Hill School, or Naselle Youth Camp⁹, during the analysis period. Days that a client served toward their obligation at any other location were not included in this calculation.

Trends in Institution Length of Stay

The trends in the average number of days in an institution follow the same trend as obligation length, with a steady increase in the overall average number of days spent in an institution from SFY17-22. Clients who released in SFY2017 spent an average of 255 days in an institution. This increased to 310 days for clients who released in SFY2022. Overall, male clients spent significantly more days in an institution than female clients. Black or African American clients spent significantly more days in an institution than Hispanic or White clients. There were no significant differences in the number of days that clients served by the age their obligation started. Clients with adult sentences or those whose obligation was a recommitment spent significantly more days in an institution than clients with juvenile sentences or non-recommitment obligations. In SFY17 and SFY19, clients included in the MHTP at admission spent significantly more days in a CF than clients not included in the MHTP. Similar to trends in obligation length, beginning in SFY20, clients in the MHTP spent significantly fewer days in an institution than clients not in the MHTP. The difference in groups was not significant, however, for obligations that ended in SFY22, where there was no significant difference in institution days.

Table 6: Average Days Served In an Institution for Clients with Obligations Ending SFY17-22 (N=2,623)

	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022
	Length (in days)					
Overall Average Days	255	239	248	257	273	310
Gender		*	*	*		
Male	261	245	263	268	276	319
Female	210	174	142	130	233	232
Racial Group		*				
Alaska Native/American Indian	249	211	267	162	257	418
Asian/Pacific Islander	164	143	206	248	259	LT
Black/African American	287	297	245	314	326	392
Hispanic	262	224	295	264	264	269
White	240	217	224	234	243	266
Age at Obligation Start						
14 and under	251	226	254	232	298	251
15	228	223	289	266	224	217
16	287	238	248	295	265	348
17	259	251	257	269	308	374
18	217	253	193	188	221	241
Most Serious Offense Type	*		*		*	
Person	299	257	284	300	320	340
Sex	262	279	282	263	266	321
Property	237	220	213	212	230	250
Drug	141	150	171	179	LT	LT
Public	LT	143	185	LT	159	LT
Other	162	219	175	168	183	278

⁹ Naselle Youth Camp was slated for closure by June 2023, but clients have already been transitioned to the other facilities, and Naselle was effectively closed to clients in September 2022. For more information on JR’s residential facilities, please see:

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/juvenile-rehabilitation/residential-facilities>.

JUVENILE REHABILITATION LENGTH OF STAY TRENDS (SFY 17-22)

Sentence Type	*	*	*	*	*	*
Juvenile	234	224	234	233	254	268
Adult	502	452	474	516	452	726
Recommitment Status	*	*	*	*	*	*
Yes	320	302	292	311	323	400
No	237	218	238	241	256	273
Identified at Admission as MHTP	*		*	*	*	
Client in MH Target Population	257	235	277	221	252	289
Client not in MH Target Population	212	243	226	292	308	339
Special Education Designation at Admission	*		*			
Special Education designation/IEP	258	247	277	273	272	324
No Special Education designation/IEP	215	235	226	247	280	302

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

WSRDAC/M: Yes. AI/AN, Multiracial included in AI/AN counts, Black/African American, Multiracial included in Black/African American counts, and A/PI includes Multiracial, A/PI counts.

Notes: Clients with an Unknown gender, race/ethnicity, missing initial ITA information, or whose obligation started at age 19 or older were not presented in the table due to low counts, but were included in overall analysis.

LT: Fewer than 10 clients.

Average Number of Days in CF

The number of days a client spent in a CF include all of the days, during the analysis period, that a client was physically located in one of the eight CFs: Canyon View, Oakridge, Park Creek, Ridgeview, Sunrise, Touchstone, Twin Rivers, or Woodinville. Days that a client served toward their obligation at any other location were not included in this calculation. Days spent at contracted facilities, such as the CRSC, or days on AL were also not included.

Trends in CF Length of Stay

The average number of days that clients spent in a CF increased steadily, from 162 days in SFY2017 to 265 days in SFY2022, with a dip in number of CF days in SFY20. Because this dip in average number of days does not occur in either the obligation length or average number of days in an institution, this slight decrease may be related to clients released early due to COVID in SFY2020. Some clients who had already served their minimum sentence were eligible to be released early in an effort to minimize unnecessary client exposure. If a large number of those early releases were being housed in CFs at the time of their release, then there would be an expected decrease for that period in average number of CF days. Overall, White clients spent significantly fewer days in a CF (180 days) than Asian or Pacific Islander clients did (292 days), for obligations ending during SFY17-22. Clients with Person offense types spent significantly more days in a CF than all other offense types, except for Sex offense types. Additionally, clients with Property offenses served significantly fewer days in a CF than clients with Sex offense types. Clients with juvenile sentences spent significantly fewer days in a CF than clients with adult sentences during SFY17-22. This is the result of clients with juvenile sentence types serving fewer days than clients with adult sentences. Although clients with juvenile sentences serve fewer days in a CF than clients with adult sentences, clients with juvenile sentences spent a substantially higher percentage of their obligations in a CF than adult clients (see Table 4). Clients included in the MHTP at admission or had a special education designation spent significantly fewer days in a CF than clients not in those groups.

JUVENILE REHABILITATION LENGTH OF STAY TRENDS (SFY 17-22)

Table 7: Average Days Served in a CF for Clients with Obligations Ending SFY17-22 (N=963)

	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022
	Length (in days)					
Overall Average Days	162	169	225	198	248	265
Gender						
Male	162	171	232	204	246	254
Female	157	157	170	111	LT	365
Racial Group						
Alaska Native/American Indian	153	203	211	181	247	LT
Black/African American	169	146	222	188	277	337
Hispanic	175	143	243	241	244	254
White	151	182	209	166	191	209
Age at Obligation Start						
14 and under	153	198	184	226	344	182
15	143	156	379	198	173	209
16	166	151	201	200	208	294
17	163	177	228	183	270	304
18	213	197	203	LT	438	278
Most Serious Offense Type						
Person	202	180	263	248	304	321
Sex	203	253	229	222	237	167
Property	126	136	186	128	166	155
Other	128	109	174	127	115	LT
Sentence Type						
Juvenile	161	167	220	196	239	265
Adult	LT	200	296	LT	318	LT
Recommitment Status						
Yes	155	143	192	126	211	210
No	164	178	232	224	263	285
Identified at Admission as MHTP						
Client in MH Target Population	144	155	225	159	183	237
Client not in MH Target Population	158	179	224	227	302	292
Special Education Designation at Admission						
Special Education designation/IEP	148	147	194	195	203	212
No Special Education designation/IEP	153	181	240	200	268	296

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

WSRDAC/M: Yes. AI/AN, Multiracial included in AI/AN counts and Black/African American, Multiracial included in Black/African American counts.

Notes: Clients with an Unknown gender, race/ethnicity or Asian/Pacific Islander, missing initial ITA information, Drug or Public Offense types, or whose obligation started at age 19 or older were not presented in the table due to low counts, but were included in overall analysis.

LT: Fewer than 10 clients.

Additional Movement Types and Lengths of Stay (Detention Credits, AL, UL, and Contracted Length of Stay)

In addition to the days a client may spend in a JR facility, there are other leave types that JR should monitor, such as the number of clients and days spent on UL, AL, or in a contracted facility. For these movement types, JR is primarily responsible for determining placement of clients in a contracted facility or AL, as well as ensuring that clients are not going on UL during their obligations. Table 8 shows percentage of clients with an additional movement type, and the average number of days those clients spent on an additional movement type. Overall, the percentage of clients who went on UL at some point during their obligation was about 3% of the overall releases and clients who went on UL spent an average of 48 days on UL during their obligation. A client was counted as going on UL at some point in their obligation if any movement was entered that placed the client on UL, even if the UL was not equal to or longer than a day. This definition also applies to clients who went on AL at some point during their obligation—a client was counted even if they went on AL for less than one day. Seven percent of the overall releases went on AL at some point during their obligation and clients who went on AL spent an average of eight days on AL. For this analysis, the only contracted facility utilized by the SFY17-22 releases was the CRSC, which is no longer in use by JR.

Table 8: Additional Movement Types and Lengths of Stay for Clients who had an Additional Movement Type (SFY17-22)

	SFY2017		SFY2018		SFY2019		SFY2020		SFY2021		SFY2022	
	Avg. Days	% of Clients	Avg. Days	% of Clients	Avg. Days	% of Clients	Avg. Days	% of Clients	Avg. Days	% of Clients	Avg. Days	% of Clients
Detention Credits	55	100%	66	100%	63	100%	76	100%	68	100%	85	100%
UL	12	2%	78	5%	30	3%	39	4%	55	4%	58	3%
AL	9	5%	7	5%	7	12%	9	9%	6	8%	5	3%
Contracted Facility Days	LT	LT	86	4%	71	5%	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

LT: Fewer than 10 clients.

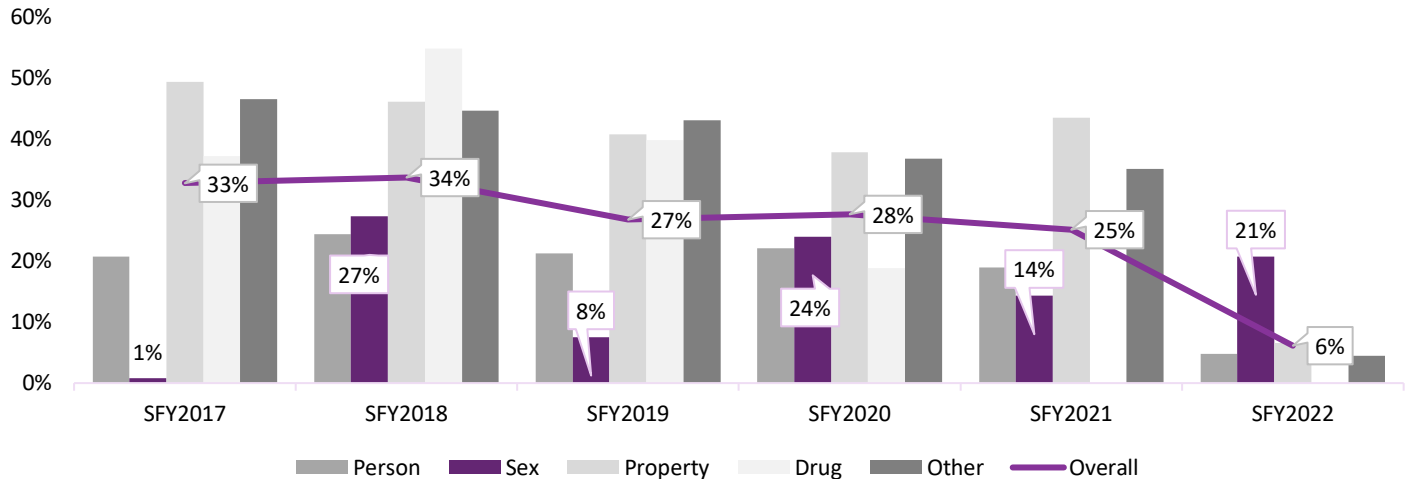
Percent of Sentencing Range Served

Many clients who have a juvenile sentence in Washington State are sentenced within a sentencing range, such as 15-36 weeks, for example. It is then within the standards and discretion of JR where in that range to release a client. As such, this metric is a way to begin to identify where there may be disproportionality in how determinations are made pertaining to release. Clients may not have had a sentencing range if they had adult sentences or straight time, when a client’s minimum release date was equal to their maximum release date. Percent of range calculations also include a client’s detention credits, which are often not served within a JR facility, but are included in the sentencing range and counted toward their release upon admission.

Table 8 below shows the percent of range served by various demographics and sentence characteristics. Percentages can be interpreted as though 0% is equivalent to a client serving their minimum number of days and 100% would be a client serving their maximum number of days. The most notable finding in this table is directly related to changes in policy and practice in SFY2022. Historically, determinations regarding a client’s release date were made through a risk assessment that is no longer being used for that purpose, as it was found too unreliable in its ability to accurately predict risk, beginning in July 2021. When JR discontinued their use of this risk assessment for purposes of determining a release date, clients were automatically set to their minimum release date. With this update to practice, it is possible for clients to receive sentence adjustments, so long as their time served does not drop below their minimum sentence, or exceed their maximum sentence. Prior to SFY2022 releases, clients with a sentencing range were serving 25-34% of their ranges. For SFY2022 releases, clients served 6% of their sentencing range, substantially less than all previous years in this analysis. All groups experienced this substantial reduction in the percentage of time served, except for clients with Sex offense types, who still served 21% of their sentencing range for SFY2022 obligation ends. Figure 3 below shows the percent of range served by offense type, with a line to indicate the overall average by SFY, and is intended to illustrate

that clients with Sex offense type who released in SFY2022 served a substantially larger portion of their obligation than any other offense groups that year.

Figure 3: Percent of Sentencing Range Served by Offense Type, SFY17-22



Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

Table 8: Percent of Sentencing Range for Clients with Obligations Ending SFY17-22, for Clients with a Sentencing Range (N=1,857)

	SFY2017	SFY2018	SFY2019	SFY2020	SFY2021	SFY2022
Percent of Range Served (Of clients with a Sentencing Range)						
Overall	33%	34%	27%	28%	25%	6%
Gender						
Male	36%	34%	29%	28%	26%	6%
Female	9%	27%	7%	17%	14%	8%
Racial Group						
Alaska Native/American Indian	35%	41%	30%	18%	9%	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	27%	17%	23%	25%	LT	LT
Black/African American	31%	34%	24%	31%	21%	3%
Hispanic	33%	35%	28%	28%	24%	6%
White	32%	34%	27%	30%	32%	9%
Age at Obligation Start						
14 and under	30%	31%	31%	23%	26%	11%
15	33%	30%	22%	24%	30%	8%
16	34%	32%	30%	33%	26%	6%
17	36%	40%	29%	27%	22%	5%
18	21%	23%	20%	31%	28%	1%
Most Serious Offense Type						
Person	21%	24%	21%	22%	19%	5%
Sex	1%	27%	8%	24%	14%	21%
Property	49%	46%	41%	38%	44%	7%
Drug	37%	55%	40%	19%	LT	LT

JUVENILE REHABILITATION LENGTH OF STAY TRENDS (SFY 17-22)

Other	47%	45%	43%	37%	35%	4%
Recommitment Status						
Yes	55%	60%	44%	47%	38%	6%
No	26%	24%	22%	21%	21%	6%
Identified at Admission as MHTP						
Client in MH Target Population	35%	42%	32%	30%	30%	9%
Client not in MH Target Population	32%	28%	24%	26%	19%	3%
Special Education Designation at Admission						
Special Education designation/IEP	38%	42%	34%	32%	35%	7%
No Special Education designation/IEP	30%	28%	21%	25%	19%	6%

Data Source: DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation. (August 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT) [2016-2022].

WSRDAC/M: Yes. AI/AN, Multiracial included in AI/AN counts, Black/African American, Multiracial included in Black/African American counts, and A/PI includes Multiracial, A/PI counts.

Notes: Clients with an Unknown gender, race/ethnicity or Asian/Pacific Islander, missing initial ITA information, Public Offense types, or whose obligation started at age 19 or older were not presented in the table due to low counts, but were included in overall analysis.

LT: Fewer than 10 clients.

Conclusion

This report sought to expand the ways in which we analyze a client’s LOS in JR. By examining both the obligation lengths, as well as some critical decision points in JR such as client movement, percentage of ranges served, and the percent of their obligation spent in a CF, we can begin to better identify areas of disproportionality which may require further investigation. In analyzing 2,631 obligations that ended during SFY17-22, the overall number of obligations ended decreased each year, while the average obligation length increased each year. Black or African American clients released from a CF significantly less than American Indian or Alaska Native, Hispanic, or White clients, and spent the lowest percentage of their obligations in a CF. Additionally, Black or African American clients had the largest percent of releases who had been transitioned to a CF and returned to and released from an institution. It is important to consider all of the metrics provided in collaboration with one another, as some groups may have spent the most days in a CF, but not the largest percentage of their obligation. For example, clients with adult sentences spent significantly more days in a CF than clients with juvenile sentences, but clients with adult sentences spent a lower percentage of their obligation in a CF than clients with juvenile sentences. The percentage of a client’s sentencing range served decreased substantially from SFY2021 to SFY2022 releases, as there was a change to practice where clients were set automatically to their minimum sentence and could be given sentence adjustments in the case of any extension. All groups experienced an overall substantial decrease in their percentage of range served from SFY21 to SFY22, except when disaggregated by offense type. Clients with Sex offense types who released in SFY22 served 21% of their sentencing ranges while all other offense types served less than or equal to 7%. Further investigation and analysis should be done to evaluate sentence adjustments and determine what is driving the substantial difference in the percent of range served by different offense types.