

# YOUTH IN CUSTODY OR UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

**DEFINITION:** Number and rate of children in custody or under the supervision of the Office of Juvenile Justice, including those in either secure or non-secure custody and those on probation or parole.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Louisiana's juvenile justice system has experienced many changes over the past decade. In 1998, the Department of Justice and the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana filed a lawsuit alleging that Louisiana failed to provide safe conditions for youth in custody and had failed to provide adequate education, medical, dental, and mental health services. A settlement agreement was established in 2000, then revisited and renegotiated several times before Louisiana was finally released from federal oversight in 2006.

The Louisiana legislature passed the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (Act 1225) in 2003. Act 1225 put into law several key recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Commission, which was formed specifically to develop a plan to reform Louisiana's juvenile justice system. Act 1225 includes several provisions designed to reduce the state's overreliance on incarceration of juveniles.

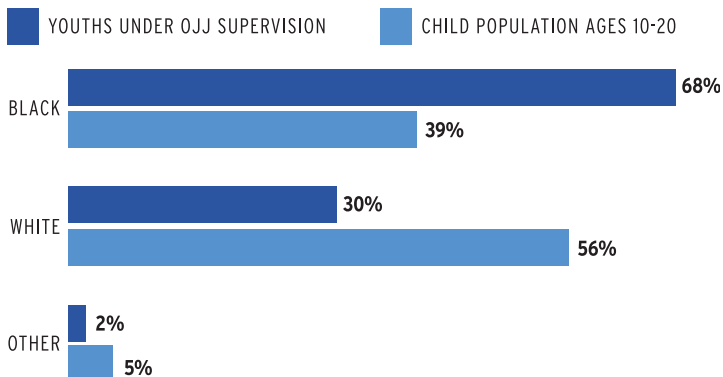
Louisiana's reform efforts have yielded significant reductions in the number of children under the supervision or in the custody of the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ). The number of Louisiana youth in secure custody declined by 67% between 2000 and 2007, falling from 1,485 to 486. During the same time period, the total number of youth who are either under OJJ supervision or in OJJ custody fell by more than 40%, from 7,933 children to 4,661 children statewide.<sup>1</sup>

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

Youth of color are over-represented in Louisiana's juvenile justice system. In 2007, there were 12 black youth under OJJ supervision or in OJJ custody for every 1,000 black youth ages 10-20 in Louisiana. By contrast, just four white youth were under OJJ supervision or in OJJ custody for every 1,000 white youth ages 10-20.

National research has shown that, despite only a modest difference in the number of crimes committed by white youth and black youth, black children are arrested at much higher rates than white youth. Once they are arrested, black youth are more likely to be detained, more likely to be formally charged in juvenile court, more likely to be placed in secure detention, more likely to be waived to adult court, and more likely to be incarcerated if waived to adult court.<sup>2</sup> Several jurisdictions that are affiliated

## RACE AND ETHNICITY OF YOUTH UNDER OJJ SUPERVISION COMPARED TO TOTAL POPULATION OF CHILDREN AGES 10-20 IN LOUISIANA 2007



"Other" includes American Indian, Asian, Two or More Races, Hispanic and Pacific Islander

with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) have successfully reduced racial disparities through a combination of data-driven reform efforts (e.g. utilizing an objective risk screening of arrestees and using structured responses to probation violations) and careful data analysis to identify and address racial disparities at key decision points.<sup>3</sup> Louisiana has five active JDAI sites operating in Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans parishes.

## CHART DATA SOURCES

Office of Juvenile Justice and Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Child population by race: 2007," KIDS COUNT Online Data Center, retrieved from [www.kidscount.org/datacenter](http://www.kidscount.org/datacenter).

## DATA SOURCES

Number of youth under OJJ supervision: Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice, by special request

Number of youth ages 10-20: C. Puzanchera, T. Finnegan, and W. Kang, "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations," retrieved from [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop).

## DATA NOTES

Data reflect the population count for September 1, 2007.

## RATE CALCULATION

$1,000 * (\text{number of youth under the supervision of the Office of Juvenile Justice} \div \text{total number of youth ages 10-20})$

$1,000 * (\text{number of black youth under the supervision of the Office of Juvenile Justice} \div \text{total number of black youth ages 10-20})$

<sup>1</sup> Data received from the Office of Juvenile Justice, by special request.

<sup>2</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *2008 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, (Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2008), 14.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

# YOUTH UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE BY RACE

2007	TOTAL		BLACK		WHITE		RACIAL DISPARITY RATIO*
	No.	Rate per 1,000 youth ages 10-20	No.	Rate per 1,000 youth ages 10-20	No.	Rate per 1,000 youth ages 10-20	
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	<b>4,661</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,172</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
Acadia	66	7	38	16	28	4	4
Allen	69	19	33	37	34	13	3
Ascension	31	2	19	LNE	10	LNE	n.a.
Assumption	25	7	16	LNE	9	LNE	n.a.
Avoyelles	80	13	53	24	26	7	3
Beauregard	39	7	9	LNE	27	6	n.a.
Bienville	6	LNE	6	LNE	0	0	n.a.
Bossier	91	5	49	10	38	3	3
Caddo	196	5	178	8	18	LNE	n.a.
Calcasieu	56	2	24	3	32	2	2
Caldwell	15	LNE	11	LNE	<5	LNE	n.a.
Cameron	16	LNE	<5	LNE	13	LNE	n.a.
Catahoula	8	LNE	8	LNE	0	0	n.a.
Claiborne	7	LNE	7	LNE	0	0	n.a.
Concordia	13	LNE	10	LNE	<5	LNE	n.a.
De Soto	87	21	59	29	28	14	2
East Baton Rouge	152	2	146	4	6	LNE	n.a.
East Carroll	34	24	33	30	<5	LNE	n.a.
East Feliciana	13	LNE	11	LNE	<5	LNE	n.a.
Evangeline	65	11	44	20	21	5	4
Franklin	46	15	40	31	5	LNE	n.a.
Grant	15	LNE	5	LNE	9	LNE	n.a.
Iberia	301	25	230	47	68	10	5
Iberville	63	13	44	16	19	LNE	n.a.
Jackson	9	LNE	<5	LNE	5	LNE	n.a.
Jefferson	165	3	133	6	29	1	7
Jefferson Davis	20	4	<5	LNE	17	LNE	n.a.
La Salle	12	LNE	8	LNE	<5	LNE	n.a.
Lafayette	232	7	169	16	57	3	6
Lafourche	115	8	64	22	44	4	6
Lincoln	105	11	84	20	21	4	5
Livingston	79	4	15	LNE	63	4	n.a.
Madison	52	24	44	28	8	LNE	n.a.
Morehouse	79	18	61	26	18	LNE	n.a.
Natchitoches	79	11	67	20	12	LNE	n.a.
Orleans	179	5	176	6	<5	LNE	n.a.
Ouachita	252	10	186	16	65	5	3
Plaquemines	11	LNE	6	LNE	5	LNE	n.a.
Pointe Coupee	26	8	22	15	<5	LNE	n.a.
Rapides	50	3	42	6	8	LNE	n.a.
Red River	13	LNE	9	LNE	<5	LNE	n.a.
Richland	40	13	35	26	5	LNE	n.a.
Sabine	45	13	19	LNE	23	10	n.a.
St. Bernard	<5	LNE	<5	LNE	<5	LNE	n.a.
St. Charles	71	8	36	13	35	6	2
St. Helena	<5	LNE	<5	LNE	0	0	n.a.
St. James	8	LNE	6	LNE	<5	LNE	n.a.
St. John the Baptist	7	LNE	6	LNE	0	0	n.a.
St. Landry	147	10	116	16	31	4	4
St. Martin	175	22	121	40	53	11	4
St. Mary	110	13	72	22	35	8	3
St. Tammany	256	7	98	18	155	5	3
Tangipahoa	101	5	77	11	23	2	6
Tensas	20	24	19	LNE	<5	LNE	n.a.
Terrebonne	88	5	54	13	24	2	6
Union	43	14	23	21	20	10	2
Vermilion	114	14	55	32	54	8	4
Vernon	29	3	7	LNE	22	3	n.a.
Washington	128	19	72	27	56	14	2
Webster	68	12	50	19	16	LNE	n.a.
West Baton Rouge	44	12	25	16	19	LNE	n.a.
West Carroll	23	14	7	LNE	16	LNE	n.a.
West Feliciana	12	LNE	5	LNE	6	LNE	n.a.
Winn	34	16	25	33	9	LNE	n.a.

\*The racial disparity ratio was calculated by dividing the black rate by the white rate. The resulting number demonstrates the degree to which black youth are more (or less) likely to be under the supervision of the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ). A ratio of one shows that the rates are the same for both racial categories, while ratios greater than one reflect higher rates of black youth under OJJ supervision. The statewide disparity ratio of 3 shows, for example, that the black rate is 3 times that of the white rate.

n.a. The racial disparity ratio was not calculated for any parish in which there were fewer than 20 black or white youth under OJJ supervision.

LNE [low number of events] is used because the rate or percent may be unreliable.