

COVID-19 YOUTH DETENTION POPULATION SURVEY

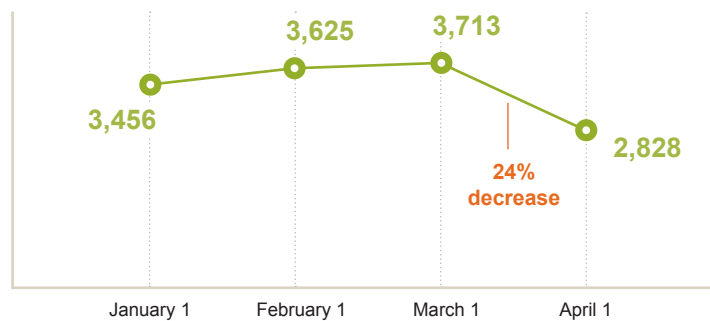
THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION



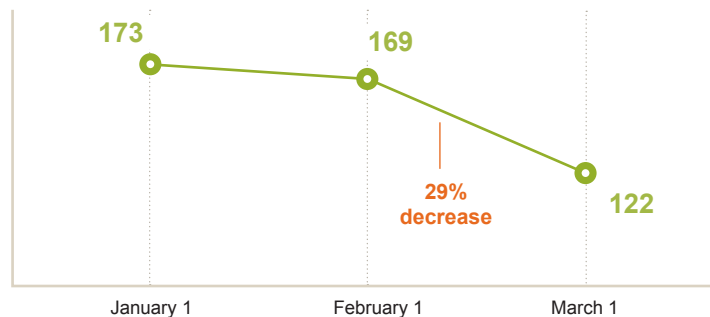
OVERVIEW

To understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth detention populations, the Annie E. Casey Foundation surveyed the JDAI® network in early April 2020 and received detention data from jurisdictions in 30 states, which represent approximately one-tenth of the counties in the United States. The Foundation will continue to survey juvenile justice agencies and report on youth detention trends. The data below were collected on or before April 17, 2020, with assistance from Empact Solutions and the Pretrial Justice Institute.

JUVENILE DETENTION POPULATIONS DECREASED 24% BETWEEN MARCH 1 AND APRIL 1, 2020

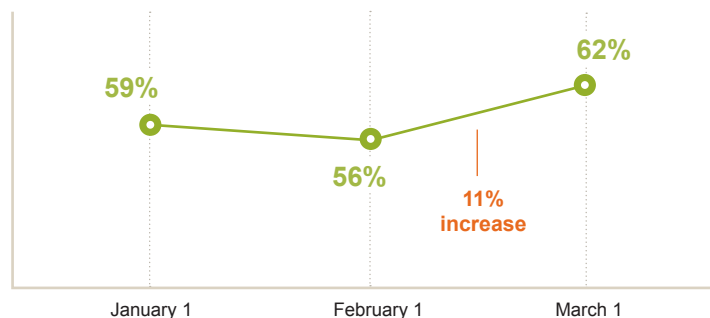


DROP IN JUVENILE DETENTION POPULATION MOSTLY DUE TO DECREASE IN AVERAGE ADMISSIONS PER DAY DURING MARCH 2020



Displaying admissions per day to account for a shorter month of February.

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS RELEASED YOUTH AT A HIGHER RATE IN MARCH 2020



Release rate: Percentage of youth spending at least one day in detention who were released during the month.

COVID-19 YOUTH DETENTION POPULATION SURVEY

The survey gathered the following information:

- **What was the total population of youth in secure detention on the first day of the month, in each of the past four months (January through April)?** This information provides the size of the population both immediately before and after the pandemic's spread in March.
- **How many young people were admitted to secure detention each month since the start of the year?** This data point provides a direct measure of the rate at which young people were coming into detention, and enables calculation of the rate at which they were leaving. The number of youth in detention at the start of the month, plus the number admitted during the month, minus the number in detention at the start of the next month, equals the number of youth who were released during the month.
- **How can this information be disaggregated by race and ethnicity?** Recognizing that sites capture racial and ethnicity data in different ways, these data help determine the best way to collect this information across sites and in as much detail as possible.
- **How many detention centers had confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 at the time of the survey among youth or staff?** This enables analysis of how the pandemic is expanding from month to month.

This survey, conducted from April 8 to 17 and covering the period from January 1 to April 1, is unique because it reports on data from hundreds of jurisdictions in close to real time. Information came from large urban counties and small rural courts, among a range of sites that collectively held more than 3,700 youth in secure detention on March 1, 2020.

DATA CAVEATS

There is no current national census against which this total can be compared to give a sense of how large a sample this survey reflects. But the most recent national census of youth in detention centers by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, dated October 2017, found that there were 15,660 detained youth in residential placement at that time. The population counted in this survey is more than one-fifth of that figure.

This is not a national estimate. This is a snapshot of a particular subset of jurisdictions — specifically communities involved in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative® (JDAI). Begun nearly three decades ago as a pilot project to reduce reliance on detention, JDAI reaches nearly one-third of the total U.S. youth population and is active in more than 300 cities and counties in 40 states and the District of Columbia. Learn more at aecf.org