

OFFENSES AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF JUVENILES IN STATE-OPERATED CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, FISCAL YEAR 2011

AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

ID: 489

JANUARY 2013

OBJECTIVE

This brief provides a profile of juveniles in state-operated correctional facilities at the end of fiscal year 2011. In fiscal year 2011 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 (TJJJD) by SB 653, which was passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature and signed by the Governor. TJJJD was created on December 1, 2011.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ The most common offenses for juveniles in state-operated correctional facilities were assault (19.9 percent), sex offenses (17.2 percent), and robbery (17.2 percent).
- ◆ 61.4 percent of juveniles were committed for first or second-degree felonies.
- ◆ 63.4 percent of juveniles were 16 or 17 years old, 77.4 percent were African American or Hispanic, and 91.0 percent were male.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

TYC was authorized by Human Resources Code, Chapter 61. TJJJD 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 (TJJJD)) 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, 2011.

OFFENSES

Fig. 1 shows the most common offenses for juveniles in state residential facilities were assault, sex offenses, and robbery. These three offenses account for 54.3 percent of all juveniles in state residential facilities as of August 31, 2011.

**FIG. 1
OFFENSES OF JUVENILES IN STATE OPERATED CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
ON AUGUST 31, 2011**

OFFENSE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Homicide	25	1.6%
Drug Offenses	88	5.6
Theft	119	7.6
Burglary	220	14.0
Robbery	269	17.2
Sex Offenses	270	17.2
Assault	312	19.9
All Other Offenses	264	16.9
Total	1,567	100.0%

SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Nine juveniles (0.6 percent) were committed for a capital felony, 457 (29.2 percent) were committed for a first-degree felony, 505 (32.2 percent) were committed for a second-degree felony, 302 (19.3 percent) were committed for a third-degree felony, and 294 (18.7 percent) were committed for a state jail felony.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Fig. 2 shows that 63.4 percent of juveniles in state-operated correctional facilities on August 31, 2011, were either 16 or 17 years old.

**FIG. 2
AGE OF JUVENILES IN STATE-OPERATED CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
AUGUST 31, 2011**

AGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
11 to 14 years old	75	4.8%
15 years old	177	11.3
16 years old	441	28.2
17 years old	552	35.2
18 years old	306	19.5
19 to 20 years old*	16	1.0
Total	1,567	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 77.4 percent of juveniles in state-operated correctional facilities on August 31, 2011 were either African American or Hispanic.

**FIG. 3
ETHNICITY OF JUVENILES IN STATE-OPERATED CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
AUGUST 31, 2011**

ETHNICITY	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
White	341	21.8%
African American	541	34.5
Hispanic	672	42.9
Other	13	0.8
Total	1,567	100.0%

SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Ninety-one percent (1,426) of those in state-operated correctional facilities on Aug. 31, 2011, were male, while 9.0 percent (141) were female.

CONTACT

John Posey Email: Issuebrief@lbb.state.tx.us