

PROFILE OF JUVENILES ON PROBATION, FISCAL YEAR 2011

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 fiscal year 2011, 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 (TJJD) by Senate Bill 653, Eighty-Second Legislature, Regular Session, 2011. TJJD was established on December 1, 2011.

KEY FACTS

- ◆ There were 17,676 juveniles on probation as of August 31, 2011.
- ◆ The most common offenses were assault and drug offenses.
- ◆ 65.4 percent of juveniles had one or two referrals at the start of probation, while 34.6 percent had three or more referrals at the start of probation.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Local juvenile probation departments are authorized by the Human Resources Code, Chapter 152. TJPC was authorized by Human Resources Code, Chapter 141.

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 (TJJD) provides technical assistance and funding to those departments. The information below provides a description of the offenses, total referrals, and demographics of juveniles on probation supervision as of August 31, 2011.

OFFENSES

Fig. 1 shows that the most common offenses for juveniles on probation are drug offenses and assault. These offenses accounted for 38.6 percent of all juveniles on probation on August 31, 2011.

**FIG. 1
OFFENSES OF JUVENILES ON DEFERRED PROSECUTION
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2011**

OFFENSE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Homicide	14	0.1%
Robbery	412	2.3
Violations, Contempt, CINS*	1,104	6.2
Sex Offense	1,199	6.8
Criminal Mischief, Graffiti, Trespassing	1,624	9.2
Burglary	2,098	11.9
Theft	2,105	11.9
Drug Offenses	2,943	16.7
Assault	3,874	21.9
All Other Offenses	2,303	13.0
Total	17,676	100.0%

* Includes Violation of Probation, Contempt of Court, and Conduct In Need of Supervision (CINS).

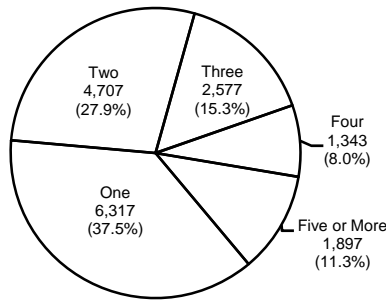
SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

- 43.4 percent (7,672 juveniles) were on probation for a felony.
- 50.3 percent (8,897 juveniles) were on probation for a Class A or B misdemeanor.
- 6.3 percent (1,107 juveniles) were on probation for a Class C misdemeanor, conduct in need of supervision, contempt of court, or violation or probation.

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 37.5 percent (6,317) of those on probation on August 31, 2011, had one referral at the start of their probation, while 19.3 percent (3,240) had four or more referrals at the start of their probation.

**FIG. 2
TOTAL REFERRALS AT THE START OF PROBATION
FOR JUVENILES ON PROBATION
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2011**

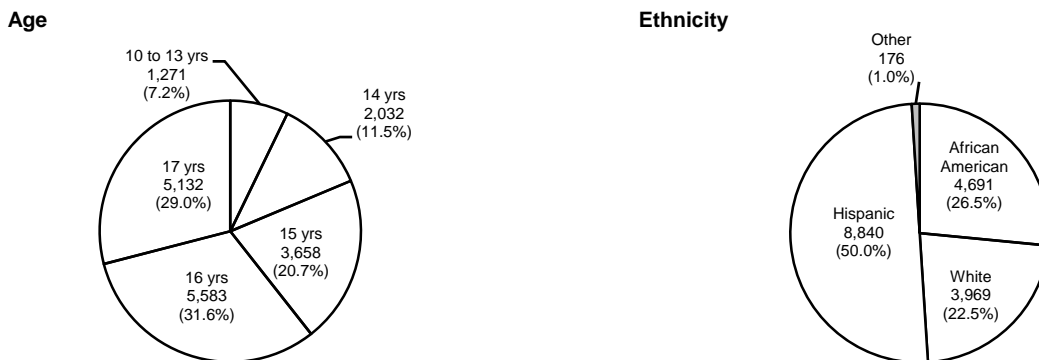


NOTE: Total referrals for 835 juveniles (4.7 percent) were not available because their probation was transferred from another county or state.
SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Fig. 3 shows the age and ethnicity of juveniles on probation. A total of 60.6 percent (10,715) of those on probation on August 31, 2011, were 16 or 17 years old, while 76.5 percent (13,531) were either African American or Hispanic. A total of 18.9 percent (3,343) were female while 81.1 percent (14,333) were male.

**FIG. 3
AGE AND ETHNICITY OF JUVENILES ON DEFERRED PROSECUTION
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2011**



SOURCE: Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

CONTACT

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