



Youth at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and History of Substitute Care January 2020

As required by Section 243.008(e), Human Resources Code, this report highlights the dual involvement of youth committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

Youth Profile

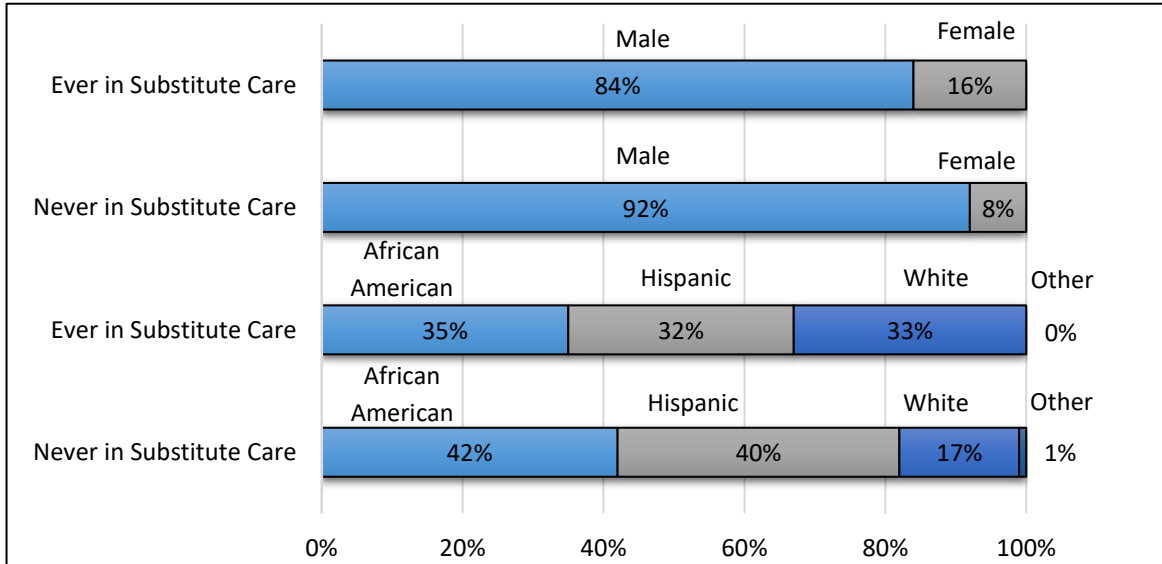
Of the 3,155 youth served by TJJD in fiscal years 2018-2019, 15% were ever in substitute care through DFPS. Substitute care is defined as 24-hour care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the Title IV-E agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes.

Greater proportion of female youth and white youth were ever in substitute care.

Youth Profile	Total TJJD Youth Served		TJJD Youth Ever in Substitute Care	
Total	3,155	100%	471	15%
Age at Admission				
10 To 14 Years	488	15%	95	20%
15 Years	762	24%	123	26%
16 Years	1,153	37%	155	33%
17 Or Older	752	24%	98	21%
Gender				
Male	2,862	91%	397	84%
Female	293	9%	74	16%
Race/Ethnicity				
African American	1,293	41%	165	35%
Hispanic	1,234	39%	149	32%
White	606	19%	156	33%
Other	22	1%	1	0%

TJJD youth ever in substitute care were similar to the total TJJD population in age breakdown. Gender and race/ethnicity showed noticeable differences. Compared to the total TJJD population, females comprised a greater proportion of TJJD youth ever in substitute care. White youth comprised one-third of TJJD youth ever in substitute care compared to one-fifth of the total TJJD population.

TJJD youth ever in substitute care differ from TJJD youth never in substitute care on gender and race/ethnicity. Compared to TJJD youth never in substitute care, female youth and white youth comprised a greater proportion of TJJD youth ever in substitute care.



Juvenile Justice System and Substitute Care Involvement

The juvenile justice involvement for the total TJJD population and for TJJD youth ever in substitute care was similar for the type of offense leading to TJJD commitment. Approximately two-thirds committed a violent offense against a person, and 95% had at least one prior referral to the juvenile justice system before commitment to TJJD.

Majority of youth committed a violent offense and had prior involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Juvenile Justice System Involvement	Total TJJD Youth Served	TJJD Youth Ever in Substitute Care
Total	3,155 100%	471 15%
Offense Type		
Violent	2,109 67%	304 65%
Property	763 24%	129 27%
Drug	87 3%	11 2%
Other	196 6%	27 6%
Entering JJ System for First Time		
Yes	198 6%	24 5%
No	2,957 94%	447 95%

Methodology

The total TJJD population included all youth served during a two-year period from 9/1/2017 to 8/31/2019 in all location types (state-operated secure facilities, state-operated halfway houses, contract placements, and parole). DFPS matched TJJD youth with their records to identify youth ever in substitute care and returned the matched data file to TJJD.