

History of Substitute Care for Youth at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department

January 2022

As required by Section 243.008(e), Human Resources Code, this report presents certain information about youth who have been committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) and who have received substitute care services through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

Youth Profile

Of the 2,467 youth served by TJJD in fiscal years 2020-2021, 16% were in substitute care through DFPS at some point in their lives. Substitute care is defined as 24-hour care for children who have been placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom DFPS has placement and care responsibility. Substitute care 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.

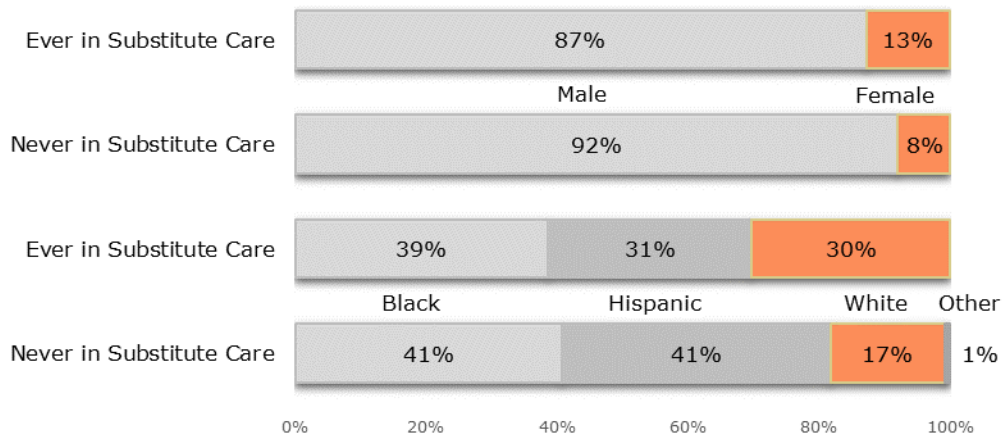
Greater proportion of female youth and white youth have been in substitute care.

Profile	TJJD Youth			
	Served 2,467		Ever in Substitute Care 383	
Total				
Age at Admission (years)				
10 to 14	354	14%	76	20%
15	562	23%	99	26%
16	920	37%	125	33%
17 and older	631	26%	83	22%
Sex				
Male	2,251	91%	334	87%
Female	216	9%	49	13%
Race/ethnicity				
Black	997	40%	148	39%
Hispanic	975	40%	119	31%
White	476	19%	116	30%
Other	19	1%	0	0%

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

TJJD youth who had ever been in substitute care were similar to the total TJJD population in age breakdown. Sex and race/ethnicity showed noticeable differences. Compared to their percentage of the total TJJD population, females and white youth accounted for a greater proportion of TJJD youth ever in substitute care.

Separating youth ever in substitute care and those never in substitute care further highlights the differences among groups. Compared with TJJD youth never in substitute care, female youth and white youth comprised a greater proportion of TJJD youth ever in substitute care. The relationship between groups was statistically significant ($p < .01$).



Juvenile Justice System Involvement

The type of offense leading to TJJD commitment was similar for the total TJJD population and for TJJD youth who had ever been in substitute care; approximately 70% in each category committed a violent offense against a person. Additionally, 93% in each category 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	TJJD Youth			
	Served	Ever in Substitute Care	Served	Ever in Substitute Care
Offense Type				
Violent	1,756	71%	277	72%
Property	479	19%	82	21%
Drug	77	3%	4	1%
Other	155	6%	20	5%
Entering Juvenile Justice System for First Time				
Yes	172	7%	26	7%
No	2,295	93%	357	93%

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Methodology

The total TJJD population included all youth served during a two-year period from 9/1/2019 to 8/31/2021 in all location types (i.e., state-operated secure facilities, state-operated halfway houses, contract placements, and parole). DFPS matched TJJD youth with its records to identify youth who had ever been in substitute care and returned the matched data file to TJJD. Chi-square test was used to analyze independence.