



TEXAS CRIMINAL
JUSTICE COALITION

Dallas County Juvenile Justice Data Sheet

Under SB 653, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) has been made responsible for partnering with “local county governments, the courts, and communities to promote public safety,”¹ as well as for “producing positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities.”² To ensure these mandates are met, stakeholders must familiarize themselves with the information pertinent to their community.

The information included within this data sheet reflects the most recent juvenile data for Dallas County.

County Overview³

- **Youth Population (age 10 to 16):** 257,908
- **Youth Referred to TJJD:**⁴ 4,962
- **Youth Referred with Past Traumatic Experience:** 2,398 (48%)
- **Youth Referred with Diagnosed Mental Illness:** 1,527 (31%)
- **Youth Referred but Not Adjudicated:** 2,979
- **Youth Securely Detained Pre-Adjudication:**⁵ 2,840
- **Average Days from Referral to Disposition:** 58
- **Youth Adjudicated to Probation:** 1,779
- **Youth Adjudicated to Secure Placement:**⁶ 451
- **Youth Committed to State Secure Facilities:** 100
- **Youth Certified as Adults:** 14

Investment in Community Programming

Reducing the number of youth adjudicated to residential facilities can only be achieved if stakeholders strongly invest in “a consistent, county-based continuum of effective interventions, supports, and services.”⁷ The programs delineated below are the current services within Dallas County that can be utilized as alternatives to incarceration.

Grant X⁸ and U⁹ Funded Programs:¹⁰

- Electronic Monitoring
- Family Preservation
- Intensive Supervision

Total Funding Allocated for Grant U & X programs in Dallas County: \$556,041

Additional Programs Run by the County Juvenile Probation Department:

- Anger Management
- Cannabis Youth Treatment
- Community Service Restitution
- Drug Court Diversionary Program
- Drug Intervention
- Family Preservation Program
- Family Therapy
- Front End Diversionary Initiative Program
- Functional Family Therapy
- Girls Circle
- Group Therapy
- Home Detention
- Home Detention Post-Adjudication Program
- Individual Psychotherapy
- Marzelle Hill Transition Center
- Mental Health Court
- Placement Transition Program
- Positive Development Group
- Pre-Adjudication Intensive Supervision
- Sex Offender Group
- Special Needs Diversionary Program
- Substance Abuse Day Treatment
- Substance Abuse Supportive Outpatient Treatment
- Truancy Enforcement Center
- Vision Regeneration Inc.

Contracted Programs Provided by the County Juvenile Probation Department:

- Boot Camp
- Dallas County Advocate Program
- Educational Services
- Electronic Monitoring – Post Adjudication
- Gang Prevention/Intervention
- Home Detention
- Intercept Family Preservation Program
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Vocational Programming
- Youth Conversion Mentorship Program

Additional Youth-Based Programs Provided within the Community:

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Boy Scouts of America
- Boys and Girls Club
- Community of Faith
- Dallas Challenge – Truancy Center
- Freeman Junior Development Program
- Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas
- Girls Inc.
- IASIS Learning Center
- Minors in Possession
- Project START
- REACH for Success Youth Intervention Program
- Teens at Work
- United Way Dallas
- YMCA
- Youth Advisory Committee

County-Level Juvenile Facilities¹¹

Table 1: Dallas County Juvenile Detention Center (Pre-Adjudication)	
Cost per day per youth ¹²	\$115.00
Average daily population	215 youths
Average length of stay	23 days
Annual number of youth in seclusions ¹³	510
Annual number of physical restraints used on youth	173
Annual number of injuries	36

Table 2: Dallas County Juvenile Residential Drug Treatment Program (Post-Adjudication)	
Cost per day per youth	\$115.00
Average daily population	82 youths
Average length of stay	107 days
Annual number of youth in seclusions	0
Annual number of physical restraints used on youth	23
Annual number of injuries	0

Table 3: Lyle B. Medlock Treatment Facility (Post-Adjudication)¹⁴	
Cost per day per youth	\$105.00
Average daily population	106 youths
Average length of stay	262 days
Annual number of youth in seclusions	194
Annual number of physical restraints used on youth	140
Annual number of injuries	1

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the data provided in this data sheet, please contact Jennifer Carreon at (512) 441-8123, ext. 103, or by email at jcarreon@TexasCJC.org.

References

¹ Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.002(1).

² Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.002(2).

³ Data provided to the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) by TJJD, April 2012.

⁴ A youth is formally referred to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department if face-to-face contact is made with a designated juvenile office for having engaged in delinquent activity within the Department's jurisdiction.

⁵ A pre-adjudication detention center is a secure residential facility (public or private) used for temporary placement of youth who have been accused of committing an offense.

⁶ A post-adjudication placement involves a secure residential facility (public or private) where youth are placed after disposition of their case.

⁷ Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.003(1).

⁸ The Intensive Community-Based Program (Grant X) is used by local juvenile probation departments for "enhanced or additional community based programs and services for jailable misdemeanor and felony offenders." In 2011, 8,392 youth were served under Grant X funds; 81% of those youth received treatment via programming. Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, *Annual Report to the Governor and Legislative Budget Board*, December 2011.

⁹ The Intensive Community-Based Pilot Program (Grant U) is used by local juvenile probation departments with populations over 335,000 to serve youth with chronic and serious offenses via community-based programming. In 2011, 839 youth across eight counties (Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis) were served by Grant U funding. Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, *Annual Report to the Governor and Legislative Budget Board*, December 2011.

¹⁰ As of September 2011, these grants were consolidated under Grant A along with Grants F, H, Z, L, O, R, V, and Y.

¹¹ Data provided to TCJC by TJJD, April 2012.

¹² This number was obtained via TJJD's Facility Registry. This is the only cost made public; it reflects the per-youth expense that another county would pay to place their youth within this facility.

<http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/publications/other/searchfacilityregistry.aspx>.

¹³ Inappropriate use of solitary confinement (also known as disciplinary seclusions) and physical restraints (also known as use of force) in juvenile secure facilities create major barriers to successful rehabilitation. These concerns are especially serious for traumatized youth and youth with mental health issues. *See, e.g.*, L.M. Finke "The Use of Seclusion is Not an Evidence-Based Practice" (2001), and G.R. Hodas "Responding to Childhood Trauma: The Promise and Practice of Trauma Informed Care" (2006).

¹⁴ This facility houses males ages 13 through 17 who have committed offenses that require secure placement; more information available at <http://www.dallascounty.org/department/juvenile/medlockfacility.html>.