



## Harris 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,”<sup>1</sup> as well as for “producing positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities.”<sup>2</sup> 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 Harris County.

### County Overview<sup>3</sup>

- **Youth Population (age 10 to 16):** 394,464
- **Youth Referred to TJJD:**<sup>4</sup> 8,809
- **Youth Referred with Past Traumatic Experience:** 1,715 (19%)
- **Youth Referred with Diagnosed Mental Illness:** 1,228 (14%)
- **Youth Referred but Not Adjudicated:** 6,089
- **Youth Securely Detained Pre-Adjudication:**<sup>5</sup> 2,946
- **Average Days from Referral to Disposition:** 86
- **Youth Adjudicated to Probation:** 2,762
- **Youth Adjudicated to Secure Placement:**<sup>6</sup> 706
- **Youth Committed to State Secure Facilities:** 96
- **Youth Certified as Adults:** 38

### 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.”<sup>7</sup> The programs delineated below are the current services within Harris County that can be utilized as alternatives to incarceration.

#### Grant C Funded Programs:<sup>8</sup>

- Freedom Schools
- Mental Health Wraparound Team
- Multi-Systemic Therapy
- Parenting with Love and Limits

**Total Funding Allocated for Grant C programs in Harris County: \$637,119**

**Grant X<sup>9</sup> and U<sup>10</sup> Funded Programs:<sup>11</sup>**

- Counseling
- Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy
- Experiential Education
- Gang Prevention and Intervention
- Life Skills
- Mentoring Program
- Pace Youth Program
- Wrap-Around Services
- Youth Advocate Program

**Total Funding Allocated for Grant U & X programs in Harris County: \$728,215**

**Additional Programs Run by the County Juvenile Probation Department:**

- Auxiliary Juvenile Services
- Community Service Restitution
- D Tag
- Educational Services
- Educational Workshop Series
- Electronic Monitoring
- Forensic Services
- Gang Education
- GED Enrollment
- Girls Program
- High School Educational Program
- Intensive Supervision
- Juvenile Consequences Partnership
- Kinder Shelter
- Mental Health Court
- Parent Child Workshop
- Project 17 Program
- Rhema
- Ropes

**Contracted Programs Provided by the County Juvenile Probation Department:**

- Aldine Youth Life Skills Program
- Anger Control Training
- Building Engagement Leadership and Assets
- C3 Institute
- Cease Addiction Now
- Cease Aggression Now

- Consequences of Gang Activity
- Counseling
- Educational Programming
- Educational Support
- Equine Assisted Therapy (Boys and Girls)
- Girls Circle Aftercare
- Journey to Success Session
- Juvenile Tracker
- Leadership Development and Youth Service
- Moral Development Training
- Multi-Systemic Therapy
- Outreach Workshop Series
- Pace Proper Self Esteem Academics (Boys Only)
- Peer-Family Support
- Placement Diversion
- Ropes
- Sex Offender Counseling
- Substance Abuse Education
- Therapeutic Counseling
- Title-1 Former Charter Mentorship Program
- Youth Advocacy Program

**Additional Youth-Based Programs Provided within the Community:**

- 3D Academy
- Alliance for Multicultural Community Services
- Baytown Center for Mental Health
- Child and Family Program
- Children at Risk
- Communities in Schools
- Community Family Centers
- Contemporary Learning Center
- Council on Drugs and Alcohol
- DePelchin Children's Center for Mental Health
- Faith Lutheran Church
- Fifth Ward Enrichment Program
- Girls Incorporated of Greater Houston
- Hope Alive Ministries
- Shield Bearer Counseling Center
- University of Houston Clear Lake – Children Psychological Services
- University of Texas Mental Science Institute – Children and Family Counseling
- YMCA

## County-Level Juvenile Facilities<sup>12</sup>

**Table 1: Harris County Juvenile Justice Center**

Cost per day per youth <sup>13</sup>	\$209.06
Average daily population	195 youth
Average length of stay	21 days
Annual number of youth in seclusions <sup>14</sup>	1,771
Annual number of physical restraints used on youth	0
Annual number of injuries	64

**Table 2: Leadership Academy<sup>15</sup>**

Cost per day per youth	\$192.72
Average daily population	59 youth
Average length of stay	158 days
Annual number of youth in seclusions	735
Annual number of physical restraints used on youth	177
Annual number of injuries	8

**Table 3: Burnett Bayland Reception Center**

Cost per day per youth	\$152.34
Average daily population	94 youth
Average length of stay	93 days
Annual number of youth in seclusions	21
Annual number of physical restraints used on youth	76
Annual number of injuries	10

**Table 4: Harris County Residential Assessment Unit**

Cost per day per youth	\$209.06
Average daily population	16 youth
Average length of stay	18.5 days
Annual number of youth in seclusions	162
Annual number of physical restraints used on youth	0
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](mailto:jcarreon@TexasCJC.org).

## References

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<sup>1</sup> Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.002(1).

<sup>2</sup> Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.002(2).

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

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

<sup>7</sup> Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.003(1).

<sup>8</sup> The Community Corrections Diversion Program (Grant C) is used by local juvenile probation departments to divert youth from a state secure facility commitment to community supervision. In 2011, 3,650 youth received Grant C-funded programming, placement, services, or specialized supervision; approximately 77% of those youth successfully completed supervision. Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, *Annual Report to the Governor and Legislative Budget Board*, December 2011.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> As of September 2011, these grants were consolidated under Grant A along with Grants F, H, Z, L, O, R, V, and Y.

<sup>12</sup> Data provided to TCJC by TJJD, April 2012.

<sup>13</sup> 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.tjtd.texas.gov/publications/other/searchfacilityregistry.aspx>.

<sup>14</sup> 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).

<sup>15</sup> The Harris County Juvenile Probation Department has three options when placing a youth post-adjudication: the Leadership Academy, the Burnett Bayland Reception Center, and the Harris County Residential Assessment Unit. Placement within these facilities is contingent upon each youth's specialized needs.