Data Reflect Changing Nature of Facility Populations, Characteristics, and Practices

The number of youth in residential placement fell 53%, 74% in large facilities, between 2000 and 2014

In 2014, 4% of all facilities were over capacity, compared with 8% in 2000

Nearly half of all facilities were privately operated, but they held less than 30% of youth in placement in 2014

In 2014, 90% of reporting facilities evaluated all youth for suicide risk

Nearly half of training schools and detention centers reported use of isolation to control behavior

Access more information on residential facilities and youth in placement

- Review FAQs about residential facility characteristics
- Analyze data with Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement

Notes: Throughout this publication, juveniles and youth refer to those charged with or adjudicated for law violations held in residential facilities. This publication was prepared by Charles Puzzanchera and Sarah Hockenberry, National Center for Juvenile Justice, with funds provided by OJJDP through grant #2013-MU-FX-0005. August 2016.


* Locked in isolation, seclusion, or sleeping room for more than 4 hours.
† Restraints include handcuffs, leg cuffs, waist bands, leather straps, or restraining chairs. Excludes use for transportation purposes.