

## **California Juvenile Justice System Facts**

### **Arrests**

In 2007, there were 236,856 juvenile arrests in California by law enforcement:

- 134,629 (56.8%) were for misdemeanors;
- 66,191 (27.9%) were for felonies, and of those 18,050 (4.5% of all juvenile arrests) were for violent felonies; and
- 36,036 (15.2%) were status offenses (truancy, runaway, curfew, incorrigible).<sup>1</sup>

Of the 2007 arrests, 189,731 (80.1%) were referred to probation, and 44,420 (18.1%) resulted in a “counsel and release” without further action.<sup>2</sup>

### **Juvenile Court Petitions**

Of the 189,731 cases referred to probation in 2007:

- 101,816 resulted in a formal juvenile court petition being filed;
- 72,706 were closed at intake;
- 11,474 resulted in other diversion; and
- 6,472 resulted in informal supervision.<sup>3</sup>

Of the 101,816 juvenile court petitions filed in 2007:

- 61,642 resulted in a declaration of wardship over the minor;
- 19,435 juvenile court petitions were dismissed;
- 6,642 resulted in informal supervision;
- 4,959 resulted in non-wardship probation;
- 4,556 resulted in Deferred Entry of Judgment; and
- 444 resulted in other diversion.<sup>4</sup>

### **Juvenile Court Dispositions**

Of the 61,642 youth placed under juvenile court wardship in 2007:

- 35,613 were placed at home or with a relative;
- 17,599 were committed to a secure county facility (e.g., a juvenile hall or camp);
- 5,001 were committed to another public or private agency (e.g. child welfare);
- 2,197 were in a non-secure county facility; and
- 336 were committed to the California Division of Juvenile Justice (formerly known as California Youth Authority).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Justice, Division of California Justice Information Services, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Juvenile Justice in California, 2007, Table 1, “Juvenile Justice System, 2007, Fallout Chart,” pg. 56. (<http://ag.ca.gov/cjsc/pubs.php#juvenileJustice>.)

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, Table 15, “Probation Department Dispositions, 2007,” at pg. 74.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*, Table 24, “Juvenile Court Dispositions,” 2007, pg. 85.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* Table 25, “Wardship Probation Placements, 2007,” at pg. 86.

### **Delinquent Youth in Out-of-Home Care**

In 2007 in California:

- An average daily population of 6,792 youth was held statewide in juvenile halls, and of those, 4,001 were in pre-disposition (pre-sentencing) status and 2,791 were post-disposition (post-sentencing) status.<sup>6</sup>
- An average daily population of 4,289 youth lived in county probation secure camps or ranches.<sup>7</sup>

As of April 2009, there were 8,252 youth in foster care/group home placements through the probation system.<sup>8</sup>

As of June 30, 2009, there were 1,659 youth in Division of Juvenile Justice facilities.<sup>9</sup>

### **Juveniles in Adult Court**

In 2008, there were 866 cases involving juveniles direct filed in adult criminal court.<sup>10</sup>

In 2008, there were 525 hearings as to whether a youth was fit for juvenile court treatment. Youth found unfit for juvenile court treatment may be tried in adult criminal court:

- 193 youth (36.8%) were found fit for juvenile court treatment, and
- 332 youth (63.2%) were found unfit for juvenile court treatment.<sup>11</sup>

Prepared by the Youth Law Center, August 2009

*This statistical overview incorporates the most recent data available at the time it was written.*

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<sup>6</sup> California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Corrections Standards Authority, *Juvenile Detention Profile Survey – 4th Quarter, 2007* ([http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Divisions\\_Boards/CSA/FSO/Surveys/Juvenile\\_Profile/JDSRdocs/4Q07\\_JuvDS\\_summary\\_results.pdf](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Divisions_Boards/CSA/FSO/Surveys/Juvenile_Profile/JDSRdocs/4Q07_JuvDS_summary_results.pdf))

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> California Department of Social Services, Research and Development Division, "Child Welfare Services/Case Management System: Children in Out of Home Placements – Probation Supervised During April 2009," (<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/res/pdf/CWS/2009/cws1bApr09.htm>)

<sup>9</sup> State of California, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Juvenile Justice Division – Research Information Systems Unit – OBITS, "Monthly Population Report as of June 30, 2009," pg. 1. ([http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports\\_Research/docs/research/06-2009%20Monthly.pdf](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/docs/research/06-2009%20Monthly.pdf))

<sup>10</sup> California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, "Juvenile Detentions and Probation Department Dispositions, 2008."

<sup>11</sup> California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, "Fitness hearings, 2008."