

Introduction

Each year, Washington's State Advisory Group reviews juvenile justice system data prepared by their staff (the Office of Juvenile Justice within the Department of Social and Health Services). These data are reviewed and utilized in the selection of priorities and focus areas to pursue with juvenile justice professionals, the Governor, and the Legislature in order to improve the juvenile justice system. In 2011 the WA-PCJJ has determined that Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) is the number one priority for the state; other identified priorities include: evidence-based or promising practices targeting minority youth, aftercare/re-entry programs, alternatives to detention--specifically, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), services to prevent truancy and suspension/expulsion, and services and programs to reduce the use of detention for status offenders held pursuant to the VCO exception. Other focus areas include: gang prevention and intervention; gender specific services (including services to children in the juvenile justice system victimized by the sex trade); mental health; and system improvement efforts, including a statewide system for youth advocacy.

Data are collected and analyzed in the following categories: demographics, school enrollment, school dropout statistics, school suspension/expulsion, youth living in poverty, adolescent pregnancies, youth employment, youth suicide, children referred to Child Protective Services, families served by Family Reconciliation Services, mental health diagnosis statistics for youth on probation, status offender filings, contempt orders and detention admissions (Truancy, ARY, CHINS), juvenile arrests, juvenile court referrals, juvenile court case referrals by disposition (i.e., diversion, commitment, etc.), juvenile detention population, and population in the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration. Data are also collected on state and local programs that operate outside the formal juvenile justice system and impact delinquency prevention or reduction.

This information is contained in the following tables, graphs and narrative.

Current Demographic Picture

Washington's total statewide population was 6.7 million in 2010, and has increased by 14 percent from the 2000 Census (grew by 830,419). A state Office of Financial Management Fact Sheet reports: "This is a 14.1 percent increase from 2000, and the lowest decadal percentage growth since 1930-40, when the Great Depression kept the growth rate down to 11.1 percent." This is the slowest rate of growth for the state in five decades.

There was a slight decrease from the 2009 total state population estimate to the Census 2010 state population count (a 0.8 percent decrease).

Juveniles continue to comprise approximately 24 percent of the state's total population, according to the Census 2010, with 1,581,354 youth ages 0-17 years old residing in Washington State. The juvenile population has increased by 4.5 percent from the 2000 Census count.

The 0-9 age group continues to represent 55 percent of the total youth population age 0-17 in 2010. This cohort increased by six percent from 2000 to the 2010 Census, and increased by 16.7 percent from the 1990 Census. The number of youth age 0-9 in the state is forecasted to increase by 13 percent by the year 2020, and by 20 percent by the year 2030.

The 10-17 age group accounts for approximately 45 percent of the total youth population. This age group increased by approximately three percent from the 2000 to 2010 Census, and increased by 36 percent from the 1990 Census. The 10-17 year old age group is forecasted to increase by approximately seven percent by the year 2020, and by 20 percent by the year 2030.

When comparing the four juvenile age groups (0-4, 5-9, 10-14 and 15-17), the 0-4 year old age group had the highest youth population increase from the 2000 to 2010 Census (11.5 percent increase), followed by the 15-17 year old age group (a 5.7 percent increase). The 5 to 9 and 10 to 14 year old age groups had a very minimal increase from 2000 to 2010 (less than one percent).

In 2010, the three age groups (0-4, 5-9 and 10-14) each comprised from 27.2 to 27.8 percent of the total juvenile population. The 15-17 year old

cohort represented approximately 17 percent of the total juvenile population in the Census 2010 count.

Trends in the state's juvenile population by gender show the percentage of girls and boys has remained constant from the 2000 Census to 2010, with boys representing approximately 51 percent of the 0-17 juvenile population, and girls representing approximately 49 percent.

Changes in the number of youth in selected age groups will make different demands upon the state. Demographic trends should influence how the state plans services for youth. Factors such as minority status, poverty, juvenile crime, and child abuse should also be considered. Public policy, funding, public awareness, types of crimes committed, and law enforcement and judicial behavior can also affect the demand for services for children.

Location of Youth

The 2010 Census shows that one-half (approximately 50 percent) of the youth in our state continue to live in three western counties: King, Pierce and Snohomish. The Office of Financial Management reports in a February 2011 press release: "Population distribution between Western and Eastern Washington remains unchanged with the same 78/22 percent split in place in 2000. However, there is a shift in the rank of the fastest-growing counties. Clark County (which grew by 23.2 percent in the last decade) was replaced by Franklin County (which grew by 58.4 percent) as the state's fastest growing county."

As of April 1, 2011, 31 of the state's 39 counties continued to meet the state's definition of a "rural" county (a county with a population density less than 100 persons per square mile, or a county smaller than 225 square miles). The remaining eight counties (Benton, Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane and Thurston) collectively comprise three-fourths (74%) of the youth population in the state; with the exception of Benton and Spokane, all of these counties are located in Western Washington.

Racial and Ethnic Distribution

The statewide juvenile minority youth population was 24.2 percent according to Census 2000, and was 39.3 according to Census 2010 data. This is a 62 percent increase in the percentage of age 0-17 minority youth in Washington over the past decade. According to an OFM February 2011 press release: "Washington grew more diversified during the last decade. The state's Hispanic and Asian American populations grew the fastest."

Population data in the 2011 juvenile justice report provides two different data sources for youth population by race/ethnicity – both the Census 2010, Summary File 1, race/ethnicity population data, and also youth population by race/ethnicity utilizing the "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2010" database; these data were derived from data originally collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and subsequently modified by the National Center for Health Statistics; these data provide Bridged Race Estimates, and are not directly comparable with Census race categories.

According to 2010 Bridged-Race Population Estimates for youth age 0-17, approximately: 65 percent of Washington's youth are White (non-Hispanic), 6 percent are Black (non-Hispanic), 2 percent are American Indian & Alaska Native (non-Hispanic), 9 percent are Asian (non-Hispanic), and 19 percent are Hispanic (of any race) – percentages have been rounded.

The 1990 Census reported that 7 percent of juveniles in the state were of Hispanic origin; according to the 2000 Census data, 12 percent of Washington's youth were of Hispanic or Latino origin; and according to 2010 Census counts, 19 percent of Washington's youth were of Hispanic or Latino origin.

The 12 counties with a juvenile minority population above the 2010 statewide average percentage (35.3%) include: Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, King, Okanogan, Pierce, Skagit, Walla Walla and Yakima. Four counties (Adams, Franklin, Grant and Yakima) have a minority youth population that is 50 percent or more of their total county youth population. Adams County continues to have the highest percentage of minority youth in the state (75% of youth age 0-17).

Forty-four (44) percent of Washington State’s minority youth reside within two western counties (King and Pierce). Thirteen counties have minority youth populations of over 10,000 youth: Benton, Clark, Franklin, Grant, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom and Yakima.

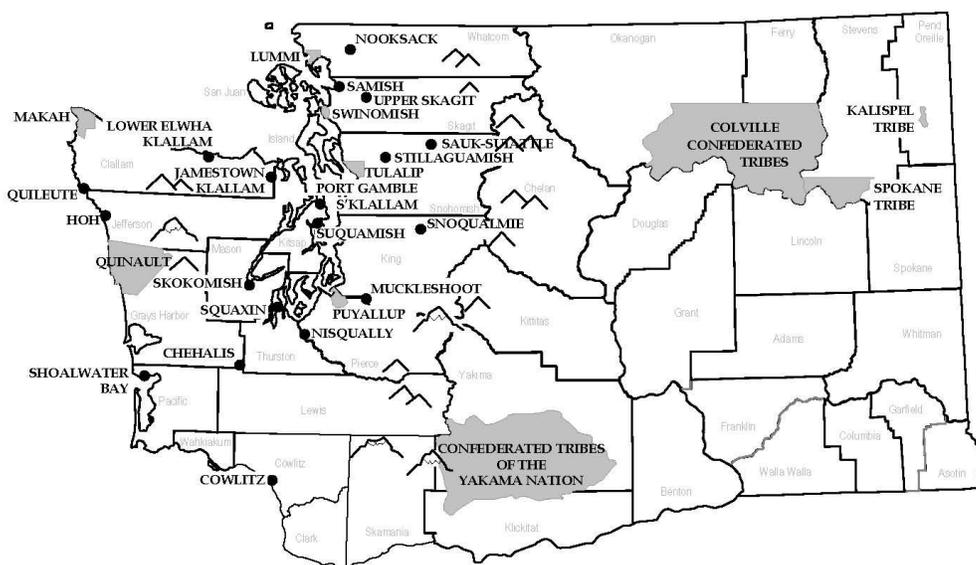
Juvenile Population of American Indians

The federal JJDP Act requires states to collect data on the juvenile population residing on reservations and off-reservation trust lands. The Act also requires states to allocate a specified portion of their Formula Grant funds to American Indian Tribes that perform law enforcement functions and who agree to comply with the core requirements of the JJDP Act. There are currently 29 federally recognized Indian Tribes in Washington

(see map below), and there are seven landless, non-federally recognized Indian Tribes.

The 2010 Census provides information on youth residing on 28 tribal reservations and trust lands (does not include Cowlitz). The 2010 Census shows there are a total of 42,296 youth (age 0-17) in the state who live on reservations and trust lands (2.7 percent of the state’s total youth population). There has been a 19 percent decrease in the age 0-17 American Indian juvenile population residing on reservations and trust lands from the 2000 Census to the 2010 Census (from 11,015 to 8,869). In 2010, approximately 37 percent of American Indian youth age 0-17 statewide resided on reservations and trust lands, while in 2000 approximately 35 percent of American Indian youth age 0-17 resided on reservations and trust lands.

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES OF WASHINGTON STATE



Map Source: Washington State Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs, at: http://www.goia.wa.gov/tribal_gov/documents/WASateTribalMap.pdf .