A light gray map of Washington State is centered on the page. The map shows the state's outline and internal county boundaries. The text is overlaid on the map.

Washington State

2020

**Juvenile Detention
Annual Report**

**WASHINGTON STATE CENTER
FOR COURT RESEARCH**

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Washington State Juvenile Detention

2020 Annual Report

This report satisfies the requirement of House Bill (HB) 2449 regarding the development of an annual statewide detention report.

Prepared by the Washington State Center for Court Research

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Introduction

This report was written in response to House Bill (HB) 2449, which was passed in 2016 and, among other things, requires an annual statewide juvenile detention report to be developed and presented to the legislature and other stakeholders of the juvenile justice system. The purpose of the annual report is to answer several fundamental questions regarding juvenile detention in Washington State, including the first six questions outlined below. Our intention has always been to expand this annual report to cover additional aspects of the state's use of juvenile detention, and we are happy to add question #6 to this year's report. In the 2018 annual report we added question #8, and continue to track this information.

1. Where are youth in Washington State placed in detention?
2. How many admissions are there to juvenile detention facilities annually?
3. How prevalent is a detention episode among the state's youth population?
4. What are the demographic characteristics of youth who experience detention?
5. How long does a typical detention stay last?
6. What are the primary reasons youth are admitted to detention?
7. What proportion of juvenile detention admissions are for non-offender matters?
8. How many admissions are there to Secure Crisis Residential Centers (SCRCs) annually?

While the list of topics covered in this report is not exhaustive, the report serves as a significant step towards understanding the role and impact of detention in Washington State's juvenile justice system. Since the passing of HB 2449, a substantial portion of time has been devoted to data acquisition, management, and cleaning. A stipulation of HB 2449 was that all juvenile courts, regardless of where their youth are sent to detention, are required to securely transmit their detention data to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for inclusion in this statewide report. In January 2017, all courts across the state began regularly transmitting juvenile detention data to AOC.

A note about COVID-19

This statewide detention report covers the 2020 calendar year. While we have observed a reduction in detention admissions each year since 2016 when we began publishing this report, the decrease in detention admissions between 2019 and 2020 is unprecedented. We published a report in early 2020 showing the initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on detention admissions,¹ finding that during the Governor's "Stay Home – Stay Healthy", order detention admissions decreased by as much as two-thirds compared to pre COVID-19 periods. Additional analyses have shown that juvenile detention admissions remained lower through the end of 2020. That is reflected in this report, where we see that total statewide admissions in 2020 were approximately half of what they were in 2019. The current report focuses on describing detention admissions in 2020 and trends over the last five years. We are also conducting a separate research project specifically examining the impact of the pandemic on juvenile detention, and will publish a report in 2022.

¹Gilman, A.B., & Sanford, R. (2020) Washington State Juvenile Detention: A snapshot of the use of detention during the COVID-19 crisis. Olympia, WA: Washington State Center for Court Research, Administrative Office of the Courts.

In 2020 Washington State youth were served by 20 county detention facilities, one private detention facility, two out-of-state detention facilities, and two Secure Crisis Residential Centers (SCRCs).

Figure 1 shows the locations of the juvenile detention facilities and SCRCs that served court-involved youth in Washington State during the 2020 calendar year. The vast majority of youth were placed in one of the state’s 20 county-operated juvenile detention facilities. A smaller number of youth, depending on their geographic location, were placed in Martin Hall, a privately-operated facility in Spokane County, or a juvenile detention facility in a neighboring state. In this figure we also include the location of Washington State’s two SCRCs, which are both co-located with juvenile detention centers.

Figure 1. Juvenile Detention Facilities and Secure Crisis Residential Centers Serving Washington State Youth in 2020.





In 2020 there were 5,384 admissions to juvenile detention facilities, representing a 49% decrease from 2019.

Table 1 shows the total number of admissions to juvenile detention facilities for all 39 counties in the state. Admissions to SCRCs are not included in this table. There are several important things to note, especially when comparing these numbers to other reports published by local jurisdictions.

- Admission counts exclude “screen and release” episodes, but include all admissions, regardless of length of stay. Other reports may exclude detention stays lasting less than four hours.
- Many county facilities have contracts to hold youth whose court involvement occurred in another state or on Tribal lands. Some facilities had a sizable number of admissions where youth were being held for another state or a Native American Tribe (across facilities, 31 admissions were recorded as holds for a Tribe, while 115 were holds for an out of state jurisdiction in 2020). This report excludes admissions for out of state and Tribal holds and includes only youth who were served by a county superior (juvenile or adult), district, or municipal court within the State of Washington and were admitted to a juvenile detention facility in 2020.
- Admissions are counted in the county where the youth’s case was processed,² regardless of where the youth was sent to serve detention or was picked up by police. This is an important distinction, as some counties do not have their own juvenile detention facilities and contract with a neighboring county (or counties) to hold their youth. Table 1 lists the primary facility (or facilities) used by each county. Youth may also be in a neighboring county when they are picked up on a warrant. Counting the youth this way allows for the calculation of population-based rates of detention.

In addition to showing the total number of detention admissions by county, Table 1 shows the change in the number of admissions between 2019 and 2020. While there was variability across counties, detention admissions decreased in almost all jurisdictions, and the state as a whole saw a 49.3% reduction in the number of detention admissions between 2019 and 2020.

²When holding for another jurisdiction, detention centers record the county for which the youth is being held. We used this data field to identify where the youth came from.



Table 1. 2020 Detention Admissions and Change in Admissions from 2019, by County. *This table shows the primary detention facility used by each county, the county-level (not facility-level) detention admission counts in 2020, and the change in the number of detention admissions from 2019 to 2020.*

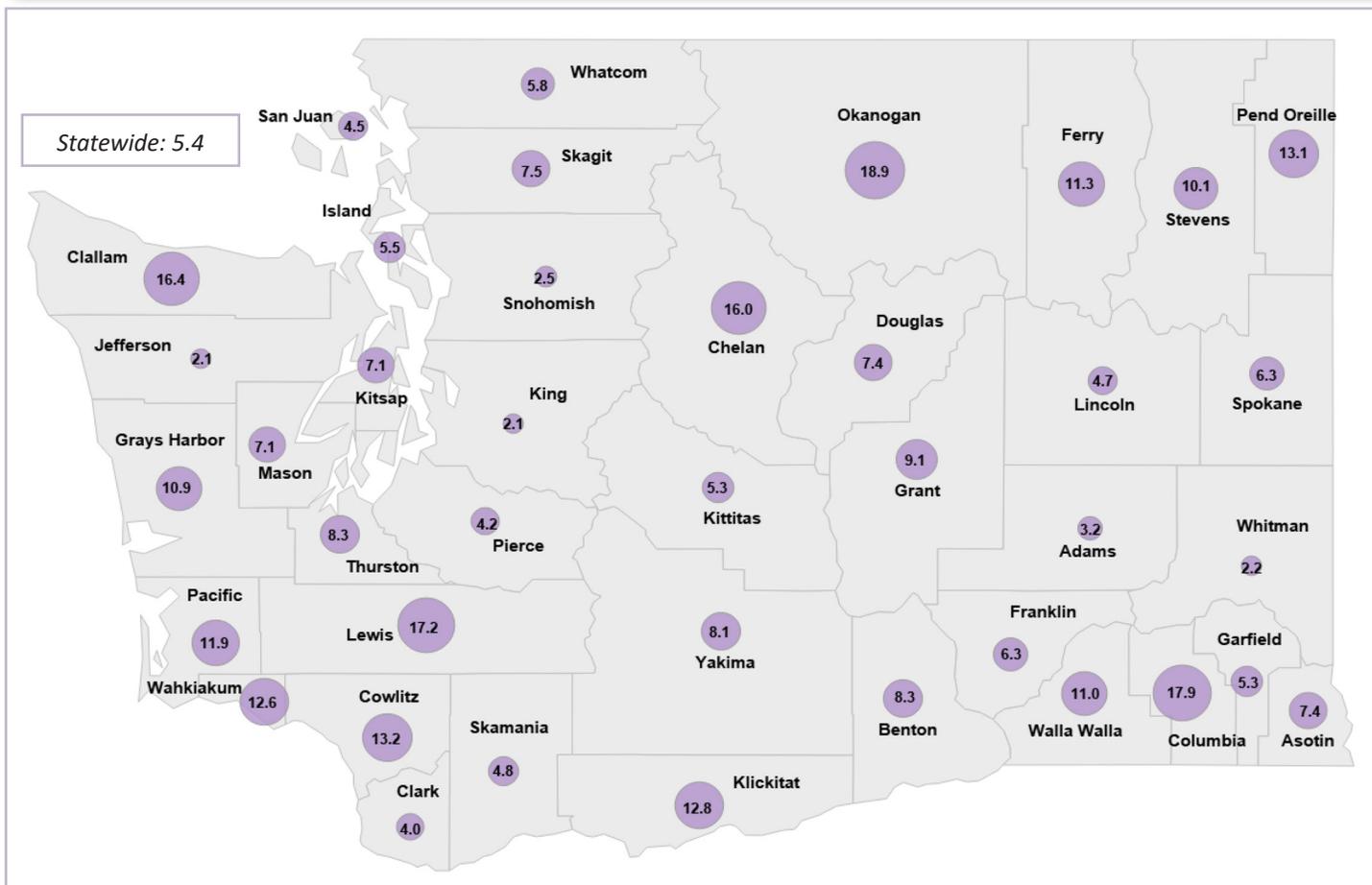
County	Primary Facility Used	Detention Admissions	Change in Total Admissions from 2019	
			N	%
Adams	Martin Hall	16	-27	-62.8%
Asotin	Martin Hall & Nez Perce (Idaho) Juvenile Detention	13	-29	-69.0%
Benton	Benton/Franklin Juvenile Detention	328	-291	-47.0%
Chelan	Chelan Juvenile Detention	177	-85	-32.4%
Clallam	Clallam Juvenile Detention	180	-116	-39.2%
Clark	Clark Juvenile Detention	238	-333	-58.3%
Columbia	Walla Walla Juvenile Detention	6	0	0.0%
Cowlitz	Cowlitz Juvenile Detention	201	-343	-63.1%
Douglas	Martin Hall & Chelan Juvenile Detention	67	-57	-46.0%
Ferry	Martin Hall	17	-2	-10.5%
Franklin	Benton/Franklin Juvenile Detention	127	-112	-46.9%
Garfield	Martin Hall	1	+1	-
Grant	Martin Hall	147	-145	-49.7%
Grays Harbor	Grays Harbor Juvenile Detention	87	-190	-68.6%
Island	Island Juvenile Detention	38	-12	-24.0%
Jefferson	Kitsap Juvenile Detention	5	-15	-75.0%
King	King Juvenile Detention	475	-468	-49.6%
Kitsap	Kitsap Juvenile Detention	256	-225	-46.8%
Kittitas	Yakima Juvenile Detention	38	-22	-36.7%
Klickitat	NORCOR (Oregon)	39	-33	-45.8%
Lewis	Lewis Juvenile Detention	168	-149	-47.0%
Lincoln	Martin Hall	8	-2	-20.0%
Mason	Mason Juvenile Detention	51	-28	-35.4%
Okanogan	Okanogan Juvenile Detention	125	-110	-46.8%
Pacific	Grays Harbor Juvenile Detention & Cowlitz Juvenile Detention	19	-28	-59.6%
Pend Oreille	Martin Hall	14	-25	-64.1%
Pierce	Pierce Juvenile Detention	436	-732	-62.7%
San Juan	Skagit Juvenile Detention	8	-4	-33.3%
Skagit	Skagit Juvenile Detention	154	-172	-52.8%
Skamania	NORCOR (Oregon)	5	+1	25.0%
Snohomish	Snohomish Juvenile Detention	253	-257	-50.4%
Spokane	Spokane Juvenile Detention	406	-347	-46.1%
Stevens	Martin Hall	61	-40	-39.6%
Thurston	Thurston Juvenile Detention	377	-203	-35.0%
Wahkiakum	Cowlitz Juvenile Detention	3	-2	-40.0%
Walla Walla	Walla Walla Juvenile Detention	91	-76	-45.5%
Whatcom	Whatcom Juvenile Detention	163	-199	-55.0%
Whitman	Martin Hall	8	-19	-70.4%
Yakima	Yakima Juvenile Detention	398	-301	-43.1%
JR hold	All	180	-42	-18.9%
Total		5,384	-5,239	-49.3%

Notes: when holding for another jurisdiction, detention centers record the county for which the youth is being held. We used this data field to identify where the youth came from. JR=Juvenile Rehabilitation.

In 2020 the youth-level detention rate was 5.4 per 1,000 youth in Washington State, down from 9.4 in 2019.

Figure 2 shows the youth-level detention rates in 2020 for every 1,000 youth (ages 12-17)³ in the county. The size of the bubble corresponds to the magnitude of the rate, so that larger bubbles indicate higher rates. For a breakdown by county, see Table 2, which shows the total number of unique youth who experienced at least one detention admission,⁴ the number of youth between the ages of 12 and 17 residing in that county,⁵ and the rate of youth who experienced at least one detention admission in 2020. The overall youth-level population-based rate of detention in 2020 was 5.4 per 1,000 youth. In other words, if one were to select 1,000 youth aged 12 to 17 in the state, approximately five of them would have been admitted to a juvenile detention facility on at least one occasion in 2020.

Figure 2. Youth-Level Detention Rates by County in 2020. This figure shows the number of youth (per 1,000 youth age 12-17 in the county) who had at least one detention stay in 2020.



³ In previous years, we used the 10-17 youth population to calculate rates. However, detention admissions for youth under the age of 12 have become increasingly uncommon. In 2020, 0.6% of detention admissions involved a youth under the age of 12. Thus, we are using the 12-17 youth population to calculate youth-level detention rates.

⁴ If a youth had a detention admission in two or more counties, the youth was counted in the county where the admission for the most serious reason occurred.

⁵ Population estimates from Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division. Version: 20201210_R01. <https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-estimates/estimates-april-1-population-age-sex-race-and-hispanic-origin>.



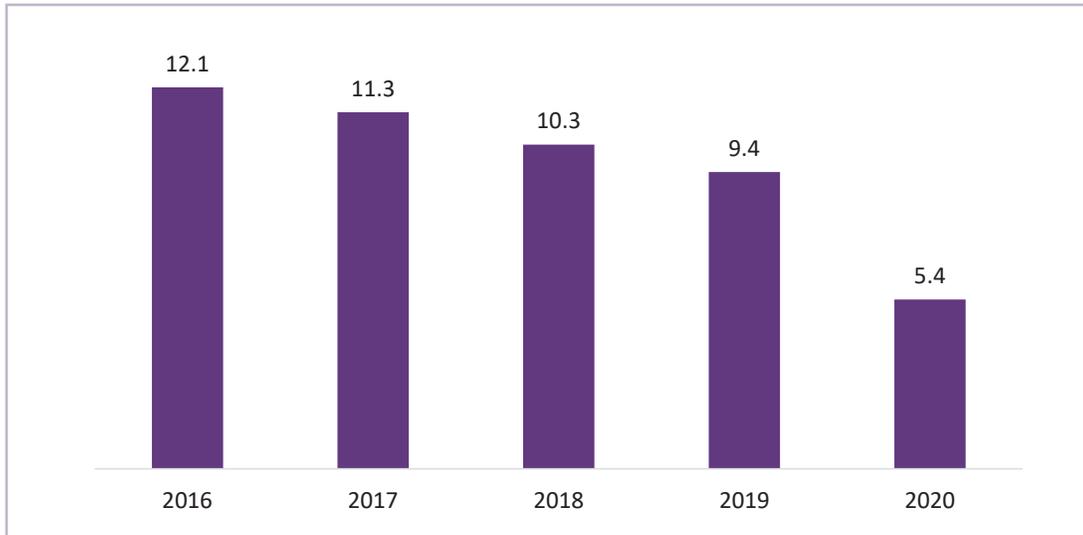
Table 2. Youth Admitted to Detention in 2020 and Population-Based Detention Rates, by County. *This table shows the number of unique youth who had at least one detention stay in 2020 and the youth-level population-based detention rates by county.*

County (Number of Admissions)	Youth Admitted	Youth Population Aged 12-17	Detention Rate per 1,000 ((Youth/Population)x1,000)
Adams (16)	8	2,500	3.2
Asotin (13)	11	1,494	7.4
Benton (328)	149	17,907	8.3
Chelan (177)	99	6,206	16.0
Clallam (180)	75	4,583	16.4
Clark (238)	161	40,170	4.0
Columbia (6)	5	279	17.9
Cowlitz (201)	112	8,504	13.2
Douglas (67)	28	3,795	7.4
Ferry (17)	6	529	11.3
Franklin (127)	64	10,081	6.3
Garfield (1)	1	187	5.3
Grant (147)	88	9,700	9.1
Grays Harbor (87)	57	5,221	10.9
Island (38)	25	4,585	5.5
Jefferson (5)	3	1,445	2.1
King (475)	325	152,609	2.1
Kitsap (256)	129	18,235	7.1
Kittitas (38)	17	3,222	5.3
Klickitat (39)	20	1,565	12.8
Lewis (168)	102	5,918	17.2
Lincoln (8)	4	850	4.7
Mason (51)	31	4,362	7.1
Okanogan (125)	61	3,236	18.9
Pacific (19)	16	1,341	11.9
Pend Oreille (14)	12	917	13.1
Pierce (436)	299	70,397	4.2
San Juan (8)	4	890	4.5
Skagit (154)	74	9,822	7.5
Skamania (5)	4	828	4.8
Snohomish (253)	155	61,890	2.5
Spokane (406)	259	41,161	6.3
Stevens (61)	35	3,455	10.1
Thurston (377)	184	22,215	8.3
Wahkiakum (3)	3	238	12.6
Walla Walla (91)	55	5,003	11.0
Whatcom (163)	93	16,023	5.8
Whitman (8)	7	3,193	2.2
Yakima (398)	211	25,989	8.1
JR hold (180)	82	-	-
Total (5,384)	3,074	570,542	5.4



Figure 3 shows the youth-level population-based detention rates for Washington State from 2016 through 2020. There was a steady decrease across the first four years from 12.1 youth in detention per 1,000 youth aged 12-17 in the population in 2016, to 9.4 per 1,000 youth in 2019. The sharp drop from 2019 to 2020 represents 2,218 fewer youth who experienced detention and 5,239 fewer admissions to detention.

Figure 3. Youth-Level Detention Rates for Washington State, 2016-2020. *This figure shows the number of youth (per 1,000 youth age 12-17 in the state) who had at least one detention stay in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020.*

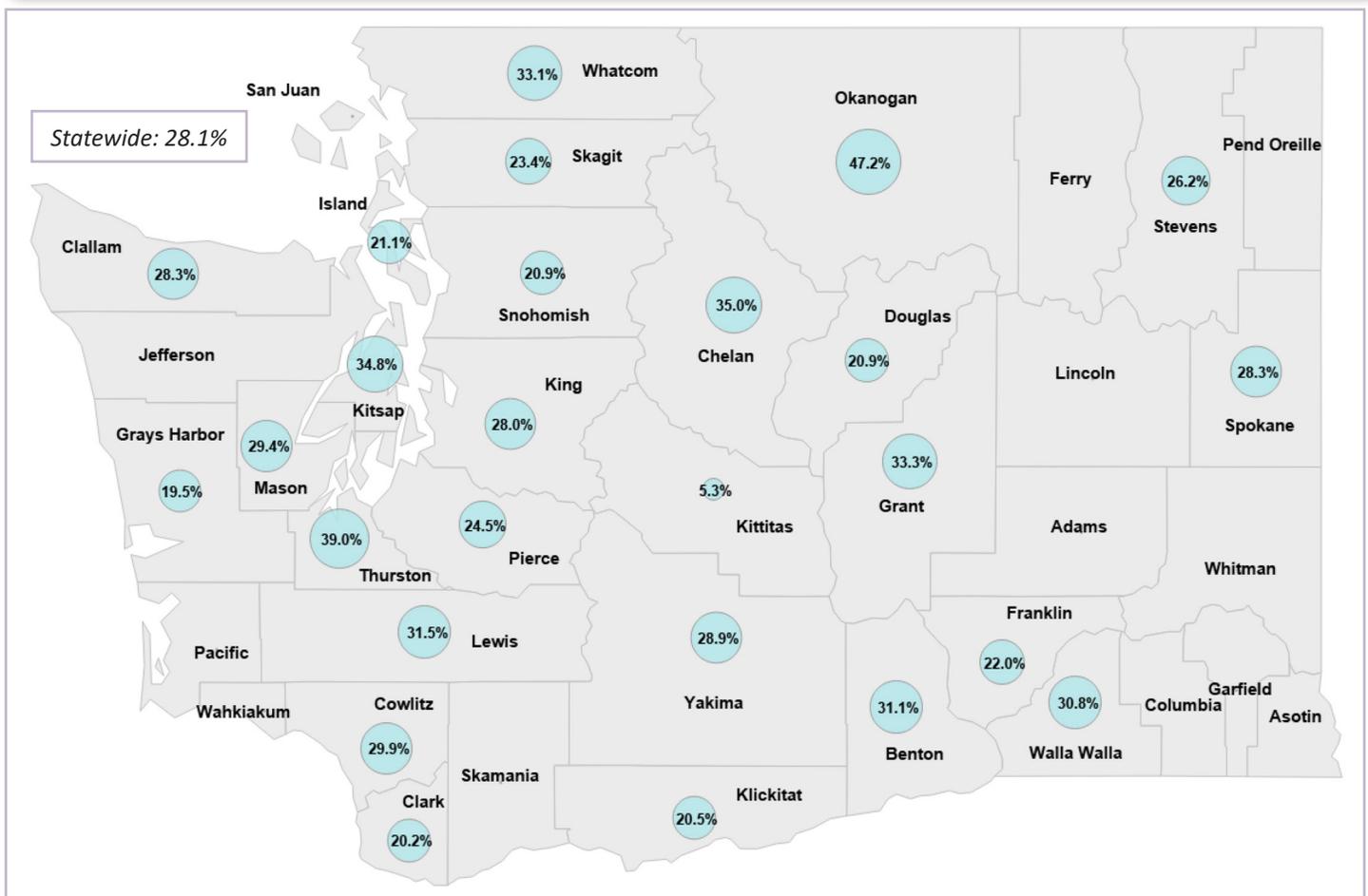


Note: the 2016 rate excludes seven very small counties for which data were not available, while the 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 rates include all counties in the state. However, when we removed data from these seven counties from the later year calculations, the rates remained the same.

In 2020 28% of admissions to detention were accounted for by girls, and 50% were accounted for by youth of color.

Figure 4 shows the percentage of admissions accounted for by girls. Only counties that had at least 30 detention admissions in 2020 are included in this figure, to avoid potentially misleading generalizations from small populations (please see Table 3 for the gender breakdown in each county). Across all counties as well as Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) holds, 28.1% of all admissions were accounted for by girls. There was no noteworthy change in the gender composition of youth in detention between 2019 and 2020.

Figure 4. Girls in Detention in 2020 by County. This figure shows the percentage of admissions accounted for by girls in 2020.



Note: counties with fewer than 30 total admissions in 2020 are excluded from this figure.



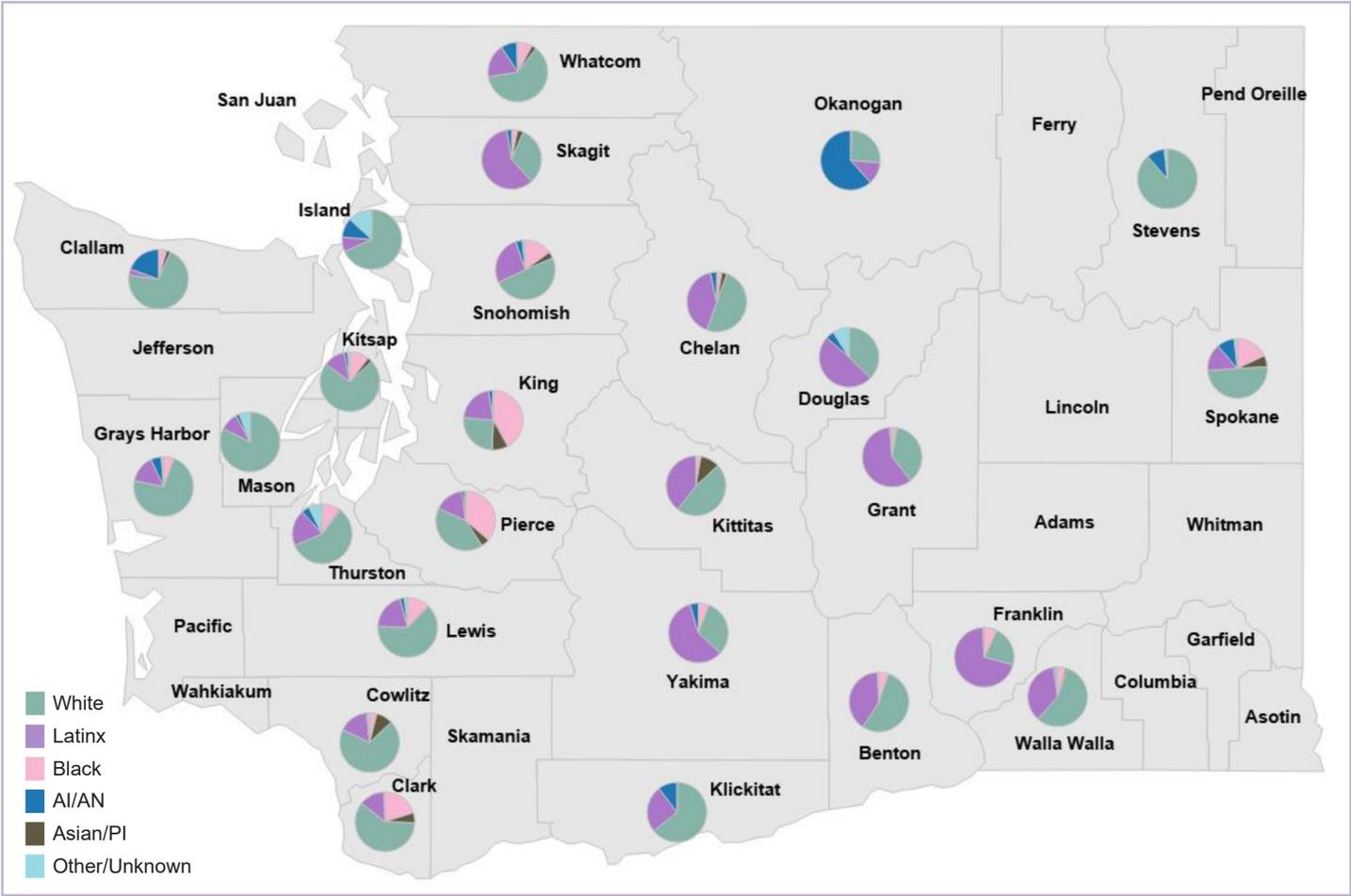
Table 3. Admissions to Detention in 2020 by Gender and County.

County (Number of Admissions)	Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%
Adams (16)	0	0.0	16	100.0
Asotin (13)	3	23.1	10	76.9
Benton (328)	102	31.1	226	68.9
Chelan (177)	62	35.0	115	65.0
Clallam (180)	51	28.3	129	71.7
Clark (238)	48	20.2	190	79.8
Columbia (6)	4	66.7	2	33.3
Cowlitz (201)	60	29.9	141	70.1
Douglas (67)	14	20.9	53	79.1
Ferry (17)	4	23.5	13	76.5
Franklin (127)	28	22.0	99	78.0
Garfield (1)	0	0.0	1	0.0
Grant (147)	49	33.3	98	66.7
Grays Harbor (87)	17	19.5	70	80.5
Island (38)	8	21.1	30	78.9
Jefferson (5)	1	20.0	4	80.0
King (475)	133	28.0	342	72.0
Kitsap (256)	89	34.8	167	65.2
Kittitas (38)	2	5.3	36	94.7
Klickitat (39)	8	20.5	31	79.5
Lewis (168)	53	31.5	115	68.5
Lincoln (8)	1	12.5	7	87.5
Mason (51)	15	29.4	36	70.6
Okanogan (125)	59	47.2	66	52.8
Pacific (19)	4	21.1	15	78.9
Pend Oreille (14)	9	64.3	5	35.7
Pierce (436)	107	24.5	329	75.5
San Juan (8)	5	62.5	3	37.5
Skagit (154)	36	23.4	118	76.6
Skamania (5)	0	0.0	5	100.0
Snohomish (253)	53	20.9	200	79.1
Spokane (406)	115	28.3	291	71.7
Stevens (61)	16	26.2	45	73.8
Thurston (377)	147	39.0	230	61.0
Wahkiakum (3)	0	0.0	3	100.0
Walla Walla (91)	28	30.8	63	69.2
Whatcom (163)	54	33.1	109	66.9
Whitman (8)	2	25.0	6	75.0
Yakima (398)	115	28.9	283	71.1
JR hold (180)	10	5.6	170	94.4
Total (5,384)	1,512	28.1	3,872	71.9

Note: percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 5 shows the admission-level racial/ethnic breakdown of detention admissions for all counties that had at least 30 admissions in 2020 (please see Table 4 for the racial/ethnic breakdown in each county). In order to prevent individuals from possibly being identified (especially in smaller jurisdictions with limited racial/ethnic diversity), cells in Table 4 with fewer than 10 cases⁶ are not shown, except in the instance when doing so does not provide any identifying information (i.e., in the Other/Unknown category). The race/ethnicity categories are listed by prevalence, from most prevalent (White) to least prevalent (Other/Unknown). Across all counties as well as JR holds, 49.1% of all admissions to detention in 2020 involved a White youth, 27.2% involved a Hispanic (Latinx) youth, 13.5% involved an African American (Black) youth, 5.5% involved a Native American/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth, and 3.2% involved an Asian/Pacific Islander (Asian/PI) youth. For context, in the 2020 statewide population of youth aged 12-17, 56.5% were White, 20.3% were Latinx, 4.5% were Black, 1.5% were AI/AN, 9.2% were Asian/PI, and 8% were Other/Unknown. There was substantial variability in the racial/ethnic makeup of youth in detention in 2020 by county, with patterns emerging by geographic region. For example, counties in Central and Eastern Washington showed high admission numbers for Latinx youth, while counties in Western Washington had higher admission numbers for Black youth than counties in other regions.

Figure 5. Detention Admissions in 2020 by Race/Ethnicity and County. *This figure shows the racial/ethnic breakdown for all detention admissions in 2020.*



Note: counties with fewer than 30 total admissions in 2020 are excluded from this figure.

⁶ If only one cell had fewer than 10 cases, the next largest cell was also excluded.



Table 4. Detention Admissions in 2020 by Race/Ethnicity and County.

County (Number of Admissions)	White		Latinx		Black		AI/AN		Asian/PI		Other/ Unknown	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Adams (16)			15	93.8								
Asotin (13)												
Benton (328)	177	54.0	132	40.2	17	5.2						
Chelan (177)	88	49.7	73	41.2								
Clallam (180)	127	70.6					35	19.4				
Clark (238)	143	60.1	33	13.9	48	20.2			13	5.5		
Columbia (6)												
Cowlitz (201)	139	69.2	33	16.4					18	9.0		
Douglas (67)	25	37.3	33	49.3								
Ferry (17)							15	88.2				
Franklin (127)	28	22.0	89	70.1								
Garfield (1)												
Grant (147)	54	36.7	87	59.2								
Grays Harbor (87)	63	72.4	13	14.9								
Island (38)	26	68.4										
Jefferson (5)												
King (475)	122	25.7	100	21.1	200	42.1	10	2.1	41	8.6	2	0.4
Kitsap (256)	185	72.3	30	11.7	27	10.5						
Kittitas (38)	18	47.4	15	39.5								
Klickitat (39)	25	64.1	10	25.6								
Lewis (168)	106	63.1	34	20.2	20	11.9						
Lincoln (8)												
Mason (51)	42	82.4										
Okanogan (125)	32	25.6	15	12.0			77	61.6				
Pacific (19)	13	68.4										
Pend Oreille (14)												
Pierce (436)	179	41.1	71	16.3	158	36.2			20	4.6		
San Juan (8)												
Skagit (154)	49	31.8	91	59.1								
Skamania (5)												
Snohomish (253)	125	49.4	68	26.9	38	15.0						
Spokane (406)	202	49.8	60	14.8	73	18.0	39	9.6	25	6.2	7	1.7
Stevens (61)	54	88.5										
Thurston (377)	219	58.1	74	19.6	37	9.8					28	7.4
Wahkiakum (3)												
Walla Walla (91)	51	56.0	33	36.3								
Whatcom (163)	101	62.0	30	18.4	13	8.0	14	8.6				
Whitman (8)												
Yakima (398)	124	31.2	233	58.5	23	5.8						
JR hold (180)	72	40.0	68	37.8	24	13.3						
Total (5,384)	2,646	49.1	1,464	27.2	729	13.5	297	5.5	171	3.2	77	1.4

Notes: to avoid potential identification of individuals, some cells with a small number of cases are not shown. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.



In order to provide a fuller picture of the demographic makeup of youth admitted to detention in 2020, Table 5 shows admissions by race/ethnicity and gender together at both the county and state level. As before, we do not show cells with counts of fewer than 10 admissions, in an effort to preserve confidentiality. Statewide, the largest share of admissions were accounted for by White boys (34.1%), followed by Latinx boys (20.0%), White girls (15.0%), Black boys (10.3%), Latinx girls (7.2%), AI/AN boys (3.9%), and Black girls (3.3%). AI/AN girls, Asian/PI youth, and youth of an unknown or other race/ethnicity made up the remaining detention admissions. As noted above, the demographic makeup of youth admitted to detention differed across the state by county.

Table 5. Detention Admissions in 2020 by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and County.

County (Number of Admissions)	White N/%		Latinx N/%		Black N/%		AI/AN N/%		Asian/PI N/%		Other/UK N/%	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Adams (16)			15 93.8%									
Asotin (13)	10 76.9%											
Benton (328)	109 33.2%	68 20.7%	102 31.1%	30 9.1%	14 4.3%							
Chelan (177)	54 30.5%	34 19.2%	50 28.2%	23 13.0%								
Clallam (180)	82 45.6%	45 25.0%					31 17.2%					
Clark (238)	112 47.1%	31 13.0%	23 9.7%	10 4.2%	42 17.6%				12 5.0%			
Columbia (6)												
Cowlitz (201)	94 46.8%	45 22.4%	28 13.9%						10 5.0%			
Douglas (67)	20 29.9%		30 44.8%									
Ferry (17)							11 64.7%					
Franklin (127)	15 11.8%	13 10.2%	77 60.6%	12 9.4%								
Garfield (1)												
Grant (147)	36 24.5%	18 12.2%	56 38.1%	31 21.1%								
Grays Harbor (87)	46 52.9%	17 19.5%	13 14.9%									
Island (38)	23 60.5%											
Jefferson (5)												
King (475)	84 17.7%	38 8.0%	75 15.8%	25 5.3%	143 30.1%	57 12.0%			32 6.7%			
Kitsap (256)	119 46.5%	66 25.8%	11 4.3%	19 7.4%	25 9.8%							
Kittitas (38)	16 42.1%		15 39.5%									



Table 5 (cont.). Detention Admissions in 2020 by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and County.

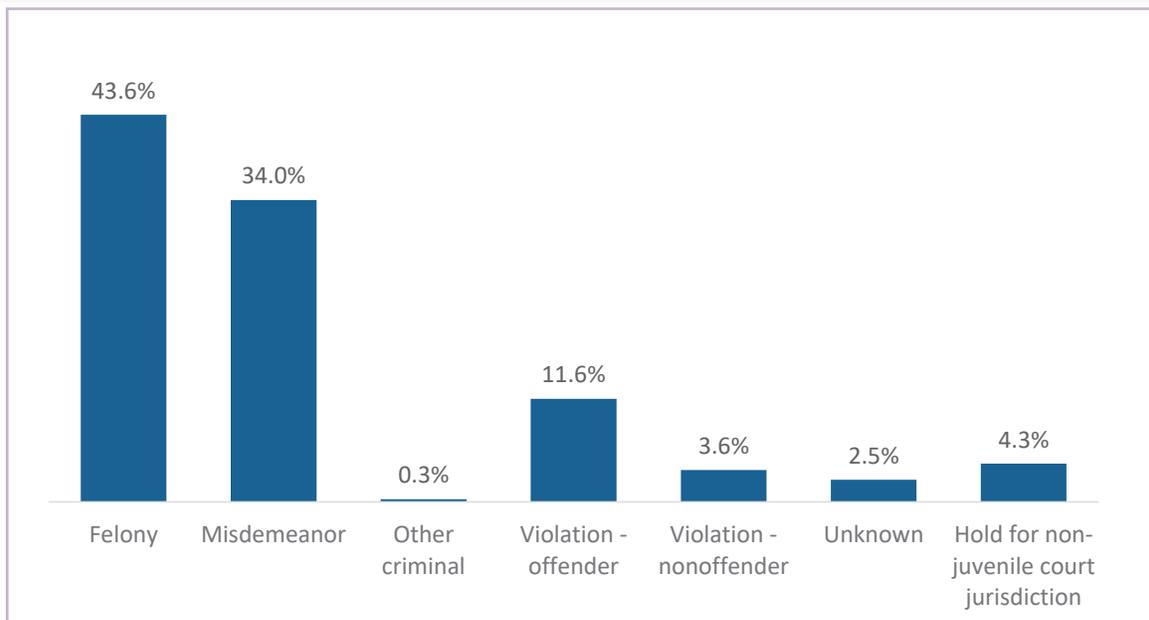
County (Number of Admissions)	White N/%		Latinx N/%		Black N/%		AI/AN N/%		Asian/PI N/%		Other/UK N/%	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Klickitat (39)	19 48.7%		10 25.6%									
Lewis (168)	71 42.3%	35 20.8%	24 14.3%	10 6.0%	13 7.7%							
Lincoln (8)												
Mason (51)	28 54.9%	14 27.5%										
Okanogan (125)	13 10.4%	19 15.2%	14 11.2%				38 30.4%	39 31.2%				
Pacific (19)	10 53.6%											
Pend Oreille (14)												
Pierce (436)	138 31.7%	41 9.4%	46 10.6%	25 5.7%	119 27.3%	39 8.9%			18 4.1%			
San Juan (8)												
Skagit (154)	37 24.0%	12 7.8%	70 45.5%	21 13.6%								
Skamania (5)												
Snohomish (253)	103 40.7%	22 8.7%	48 19.0%	20 7.9%	31 12.3%							
Spokane (406)	140 34.5%	62 15.3%	40 9.9%	20 4.9%	49 12.1%	24 5.9%	34 8.4%		22 5.4%			
Stevens (61)	39 63.9%	15 24.6%										
Thurston (377)	149 39.5%	70 18.6%	29 7.7%	45 11.9%	24 6.4%	13 3.4%	14 3.7%				12 3.2%	16 4.2%
Wahkiakum (3)												
Walla Walla (91)	35 38.5%	16 17.6%	21 23.1%	12 13.2%								
Whatcom (163)	63 38.7%	38 23.3%	22 13.5%		12 7.4%							
Whitman (8)												
Yakima (398)	76 19.1%	48 12.1%	174 43.7%	59 14.8%	19 4.8%		14 3.5%					
JR hold (180)	66 36.7%		65 36.1%		23 12.8%							
Total (5,384)	1,837 34.1%	809 15.0%	1,075 20.0%	389 7.2%	552 10.3%	177 3.3%	212 3.9%	85 1.6%	146 2.7%	25 0.5%	50 0.9%	27 0.5%

Notes: to avoid potential identification of individuals, some cells with a small number of cases are not shown. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

In 2020 the most common reason for detention was a new alleged or adjudicated felony offense.

As shown in Figure 6, statewide in 2020, 43.6% of all admissions to juvenile detention were the result of an alleged or adjudicated felony offense; 34.0% were due to an alleged or adjudicated misdemeanor offense; 11.6% were due to a violation of court order related to a criminal matter (most often a probation violation); and 3.6% were due to a violation of a court order related to a non-offender matter (a dependency case or an At-Risk Youth [ARY], Child in Need of Services [CHINS], or truancy petition)⁷ The remaining admissions were due to another criminal offense type (typically infractions), an unknown offense,⁸ or a hold for a non-juvenile court jurisdiction.⁹ Table 6 shows the primary reason for detention by county.¹⁰

Figure 6. 2020 Statewide Detention Admissions by Offense Type from Most Severe to Least Severe.



⁷ On July 1, 2020 Enrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5290 (SSSB 5290) went into effect, prohibiting the use of detention for dependent youth.

⁸ Admissions for an unknown offense are typically holds for other juvenile courts, where the reason was not recorded.

⁹ If a detention facility explicitly coded an admission as a hold for JR or a hold for adult court (superior or district/municipal) at the time of admission, those episodes are counted as a hold for non-juvenile court jurisdiction. However, it is very likely that not all holds for JR and adult court are counted in this category, as coding practices vary by facility.

¹⁰ Detention reason was measured at the time of admission. If multiple reasons were recorded at the time of admission, the most serious offense/violation was used as the primary reason. A new offense was considered more serious than a probation violation, and anything tied to an offender matter was considered more serious than a non-offender matter. For example, if a youth was admitted for a new misdemeanor offense, a probation violation, and a violation of a court order related to a non-offender matter, the primary reason was the misdemeanor offense.

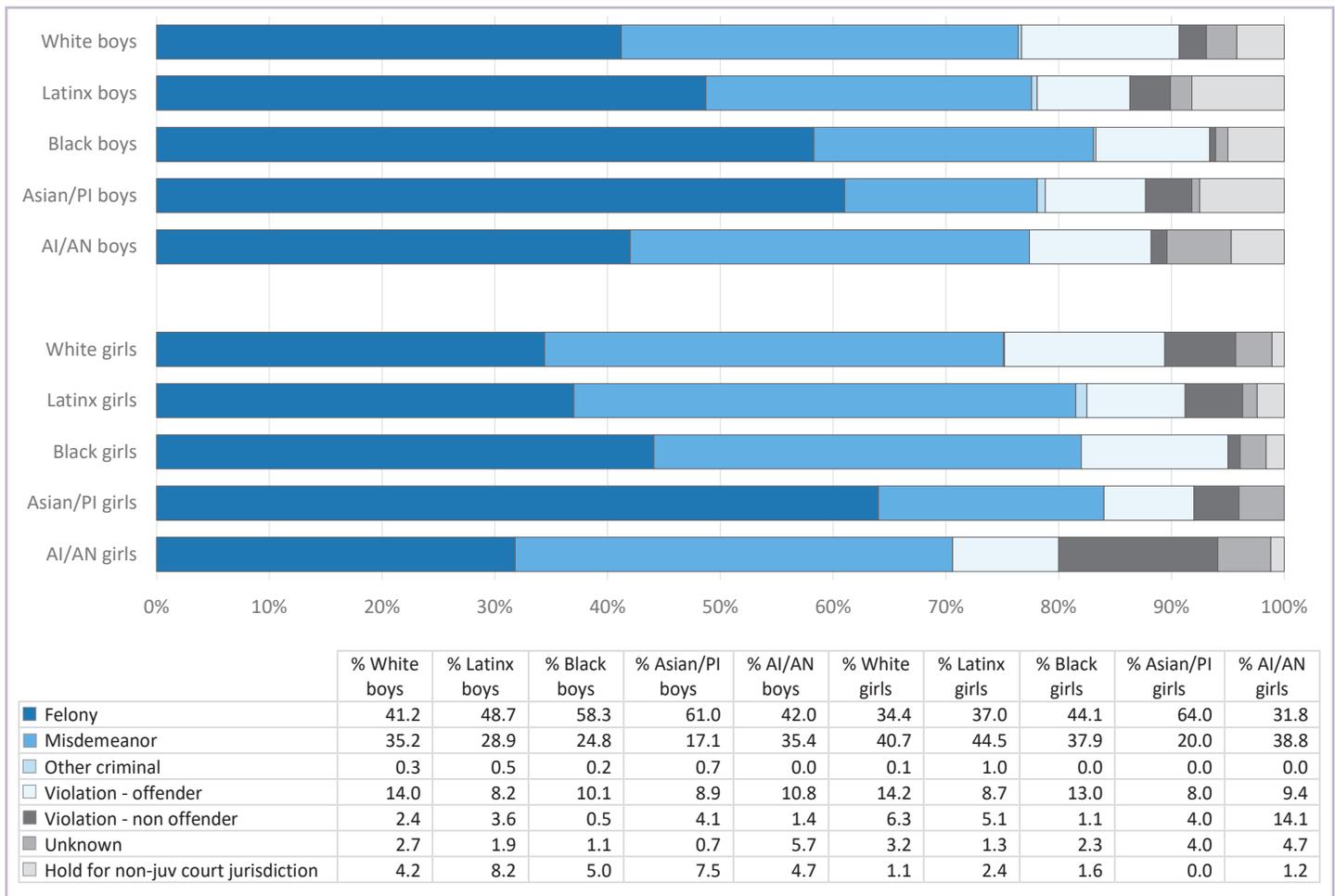


Table 6. Detention Admissions in 2020 by Offense Type and County.

County (Number of Admissions)	Felony		Misdemeanor		Other Criminal		Violation - Offender		Violation - Non Offender		Unknown		Hold for Non- Juvenile Court Jurisdiction	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Adams (16)	6	37.5	8	50.0	1	6.3	1	6.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Asotin (13)	8	61.5	4	30.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	7.7	0	0.0
Benton (328)	106	32.3	106	32.3	6	1.8	89	27.1	8	2.4	3	0.9	10	3.0
Chelan (177)	55	31.1	93	52.5	0	0.0	6	3.4	2	1.1	8	4.5	13	7.3
Clallam (180)	20	11.1	89	49.4	0	0.0	65	36.1	2	1.1	2	1.1	2	1.1
Clark (238)	127	53.4	78	32.8	2	0.8	22	9.2	1	0.4	5	2.1	3	1.3
Columbia (6)	2	33.3	4	66.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cowlitz (201)	66	32.8	79	39.3	0	0.0	27	13.4	19	9.5	10	5.0	0	0.0
Douglas (67)	26	38.8	31	46.3	0	0.0	4	6.0	6	9.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ferry (17)	5	29.4	3	17.6	0	0.0	6	35.3	2	11.8	1	5.9	0	0.0
Franklin (127)	50	39.4	35	27.6	2	1.6	25	19.7	10	7.9	2	1.6	3	2.4
Garfield (1)	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Grant (147)	52	35.4	42	28.6	1	0.7	35	23.8	13	8.8	1	0.7	3	2.0
Grays Harbor (87)	52	59.8	30	34.5	0	0.0	4	4.6	0	0.0	1	1.1	0	0.0
Island (38)	9	23.7	11	28.9	0	0.0	7	18.4	8	21.1	3	7.9	0	0.0
Jefferson (5)	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	80.0	0	0.0
King (475)	313	65.9	124	26.1	0	0.0	22	4.6	8	1.7	4	0.8	4	0.8
Kitsap (256)	88	34.4	129	50.4	3	1.2	18	7.0	18	7.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Kittitas (38)	18	47.4	14	36.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	15.8	0	0.0
Klickitat (39)	23	59.0	11	28.2	0	0.0	1	2.6	3	7.7	1	2.6	0	0.0
Lewis (168)	59	35.1	65	38.7	0	0.0	24	14.3	11	6.5	8	4.8	1	0.6
Lincoln (8)	1	12.5	1	12.5	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	4	50.0	0	0.0
Mason (51)	22	43.1	13	25.5	0	0.0	11	21.6	2	3.9	2	3.9	1	2.0
Okanogan (125)	49	39.2	37	29.6	0	0.0	13	10.4	15	12.0	10	8.0	1	0.8
Pacific (19)	8	42.1	2	10.5	1	5.3	0	0.0	1	5.3	6	31.6	1	5.3
Pend Oreille (14)	3	21.4	4	28.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	35.7	2	14.3	0	0.0
Pierce (436)	234	53.7	122	28.0	0	0.0	76	17.4	2	0.5	2	0.5	0	0.0
San Juan (8)	3	37.5	3	37.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	25.0	0	0.0
Skagit (154)	83	53.9	64	41.6	0	0.0	1	0.6	2	1.3	3	1.9	1	0.6
Skamania (5)	2	40.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0.0
Snohomish (253)	149	58.9	76	30.0	0	0.0	17	6.7	11	4.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Spokane (406)	254	62.6	70	17.2	1	0.2	48	11.8	12	3.0	12	3.0	9	2.2
Stevens (61)	16	26.2	22	36.1	1	1.6	14	23.0	7	11.5	1	1.6	0	0.0
Thurston (377)	143	37.9	186	49.3	0	0.0	30	8.0	12	3.2	5	1.3	1	0.3
Wahkiakum (3)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	100.0	0	0.0
Walla Walla (91)	31	34.1	40	44.0	0	0.0	8	8.8	3	3.3	9	9.9	0	0.0
Whatcom (163)	63	38.7	70	42.9	0	0.0	20	12.3	6	3.7	4	2.5	0	0.0
Whitman (8)	5	62.5	1	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	25.0	0	0.0
Yakima (398)	196	49.2	162	40.7	0	0.0	26	6.5	6	1.5	7	1.8	1	0.3
JR hold (180)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	180	100.0
Total (5,384)	2,349	43.6	1,830	34.0	18	0.3	622	11.6	196	3.6	135	2.5	234	4.3

Figure 7 shows the reasons for detention by each demographic group of youth. For all groups, the two most common reasons for a detention admission in 2020 were an alleged or adjudicated felony offense and an alleged or adjudicated misdemeanor offense. For boys across all racial/ethnic groups, the most common reason for detention in 2020 was a felony offense (ranging from 41.2% of admissions of White boys to 61.0% of admissions of Asian/PI boys). For AI/AN, Latinx, and White girls, the most common reason for detention was a misdemeanor offense; while for Asian/PI and Black girls, the most common reason for detention was a felony offense. It is important to note that there were only 25 admissions involving an Asian/PI female in 2020, so these results should be interpreted cautiously. For all groups, the third most common reason for detention was a violation of a court order related to an offender matter, with one exception: 14.1% of AI/AN girls in detention were admitted due to a violation of a court order related to a non-offender matter, compared to 9.4% who were admitted due to a violation related to an offender matter. For all other groups, the share of youth admitted due to a non-offender matter ranged from 0.5% (Black boys) to 6.3% (White girls).

Figure 7. 2020 Statewide Reason for Detention Admission by Race/Ethnicity and Gender.



Note: percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

We can also look at the relationship among race/ethnicity, gender, and detention reason in another way. Figure 8 shows the racial/ethnic and gender breakdown of admissions for felony offenses, misdemeanor offenses, violations related to offender matters, and violations related to non-offender matters. Here we see that White boys accounted for the largest share of felony admissions (32.2%), misdemeanor admissions (35.4%), and offender violation admissions (41.5%). White girls made up the largest share of non-offender admissions (26.0%), followed by White boys (22.4%) and Latinx boys (19.9%).

Figure 8. 2020 Racial/Ethnic and Gender Breakdown of Detention Admissions by Detention Reason.

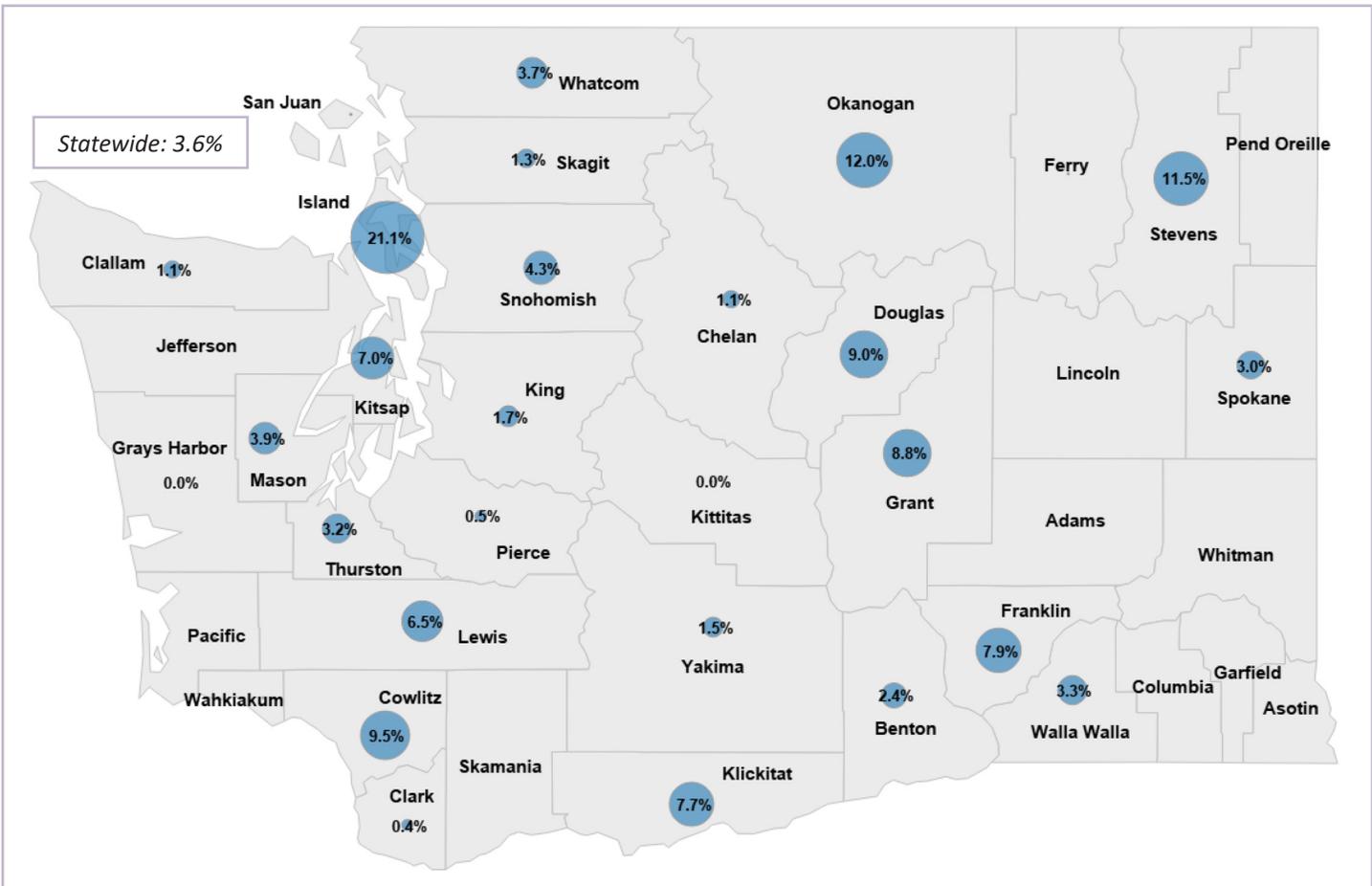


Note: percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

In 2020 there were 196 admissions to detention for non-offender matters, representing an 80% decrease from 2019.

Figure 9 shows the percent of detention admissions where the most serious admission reason was a non-offender matter for each county that had at least 30 total detention admissions in 2020 (please see Table 7 for the breakdown in each county).¹¹ There was considerable variability across counties with regard to the proportion of detention admissions that were for non-offender matters. As shown in Table 7, in 196 of the state's 5,384 total detention admissions (3.6%), the most serious reason was a non-offender matter. Of the non-offender admissions, detention admissions as a result of an ARY petition were most common (2.4% of all admissions), followed by a truancy petition (1.1%). Admissions for dependency-related matters were very rare (0.1% of all admissions), as were admissions for CHINS petitions or another non-offender matter (0.1%). There was an 80.4% decrease in the number of admissions for non-offender matters between 2019 and 2020, with the greatest decrease (-94.9%) observed for dependency-related admissions (please see Figure 10).

Figure 9. Non-Offender Admissions to Detention in 2020 by County. This figure shows the percentage of admissions in 2020 where the most serious reason for detention was a non-offender matter.



Note: counties with fewer than 30 total admissions in 2020 are excluded from this figure.

¹¹ In some counties, in rare instances, non-offender youth may be charged with a criminal contempt, in which case the detention admission would not appear as being related to a non-offender matter. However, there is no indication that this practice is used with any regularity.

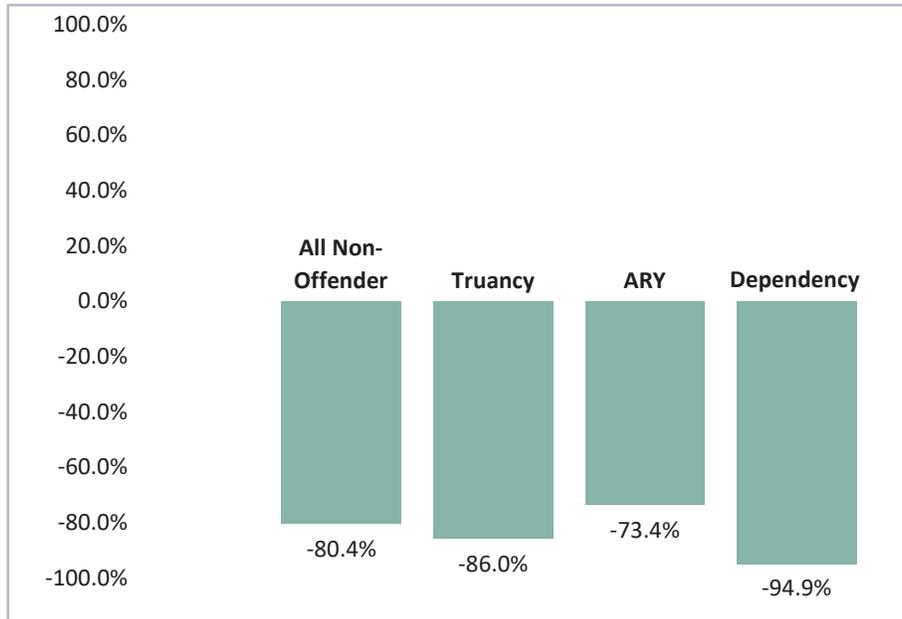


Table 7. Breakdown of Non-Offender Admissions in 2020 by County.

County (Total Number of Admissions)	Non-Offender Admissions	=	Truancy	+	ARY	+	Dependency	+	CHINS and Other
Adams (16)	0		0		0		0		0
Asotin (13)	0		0		0		0		0
Benton (328)	8		1		7		0		0
Chelan (177)	2		0		2		0		0
Clallam (180)	2		0		2		0		0
Clark (238)	1		0		1		0		0
Columbia (6)	0		0		0		0		0
Cowlitz (201)	19		15		2		0		2
Douglas (67)	6		2		4		0		0
Ferry (17)	2		0		2		0		0
Franklin (127)	10		2		8		0		0
Garfield (1)	0		0		0		0		0
Grant (147)	13		12		1		0		0
Grays Harbor (87)	0		0		0		0		0
Island (38)	8		3		5		0		0
Jefferson (5)	0		0		0		0		0
King (475)	8		0		7		0		1
Kitsap (256)	18		0		18		0		0
Kittitas (38)	0		0		0		0		0
Klickitat (39)	3		0		3		0		0
Lewis (168)	11		5		6		0		0
Lincoln (8)	1		1		0		0		0
Mason (51)	2		0		2		0		0
Okanogan (125)	15		10		5		0		0
Pacific (19)	1		0		0		1		0
Pend Oreille (14)	5		4		0		0		1
Pierce (436)	2		0		1		1		0
San Juan (8)	0		0		0		0		0
Skagit (154)	2		0		2		0		0
Skamania (5)	0		0		0		0		0
Snohomish (253)	11		3		8		0		0
Spokane (406)	12		0		11		0		1
Stevens (61)	7		0		7		0		0
Thurston (377)	12		0		12		0		0
Wahkiakum (3)	0		0		0		0		0
Walla Walla (91)	3		0		3		0		0
Whatcom (163)	6		1		5		0		0
Whitman (8)	0		0		0		0		0
Yakima (398)	6		0		4		2		0
JR hold (180)	0		0		0		0		0
Total (5,384)	196		59		128		4		5



Figure 10. Change in Detention Admissions for Non-Offender Matters from 2019 to 2020. *This figure shows the percent change in the number of admissions for all non-offender matters, Truancy, ARY, and Dependency, respectively, between 2019 and 2020.*

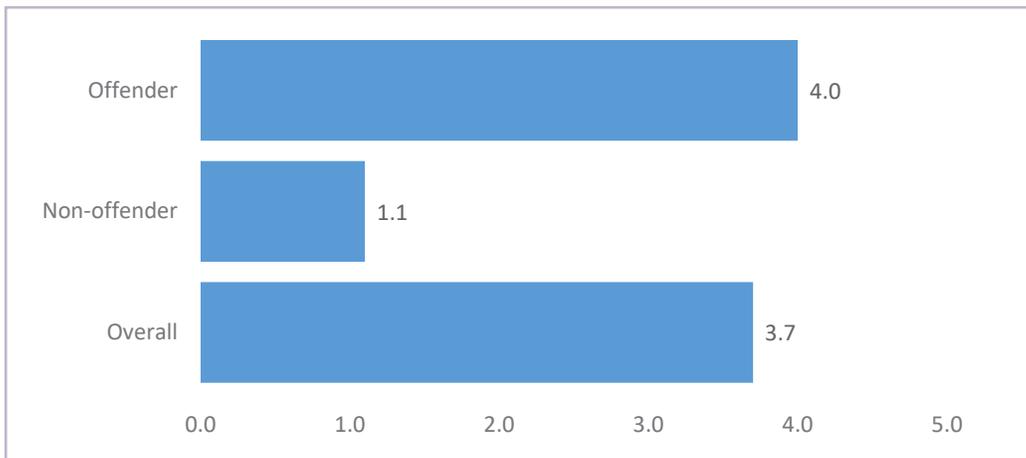


In 2020 the median length of stay for a detention admission was 3.7 days, up from 3.1 days in 2019.

Figure 11 shows the median length of stay¹² across all counties, broken down by admissions for offender matters and non-offender matters. Length of stay takes into account the time the youth physically spent in secure detention, subtracting any temporary leave, furlough time, or time spent in alternatives to secure detention (such as electronic home monitoring). The median, rather than the mean (average) is presented here because it is a more accurate measure of the “typical” length of stay in detention. Very long detention stays (e.g., for youth who are being charged as adults) tend to skew the average length of stay upward. Indeed, the average length of stay in 2020 was 12.1 days, while the median length of stay was 3.7 days, indicating that half of all admissions were shorter than 3.7 days and half were longer. The median length of stay for admissions related to an offender matter (4.0 days) was nearly four times longer than the median length of stay for admissions related to a non-offender matter (1.1 days).

¹² Length of stay was calculated for each admission that ended in 2020, regardless of when it began.

Figure 11. Median Length of Stay (in Days) in Detention in 2020.



In 2020 there were 48 admissions to the two Secure Crisis Residential Centers in Washington State, representing a 48% decrease from 2019.

As shown in Figure 1, in 2020 there were two Secure Crisis Residential Centers (SCRCs) operating in Washington State, located in Chelan and Clallam Counties.¹³ Both are co-located with the county’s juvenile detention facility; however, youth admitted to SCRCs are prohibited from having contact with youth in the main detention facility. Under current law, SCRCs are intended to provide temporary housing (up to five days) to youth who have run away from their residence and/or are found by law enforcement to be in dangerous circumstances.¹⁴ ESSSB 5290, which was passed in 2019, phases out the use of detention for non-offender matters between 2020 and 2023 and encourages the use of SCRCs in lieu of detention when confinement is deemed necessary. Thus, it is important to track how often and under what circumstances SCRCs are currently being used in the state. As shown in Table 8, in 2020 there were a total of 48 admissions to SCRCs involving 43 unique youth. Of all SCRC admissions, 75.0% were as a result of the youth running away, 22.9% were due to the youth being found in dangerous circumstances, and 2.1% were for other reasons.

Table 8. Admissions to Secure Crisis Residential Centers in 2020.

Facility	SCRC Admissions	Youth Admitted	Admission Reason					
			Runaway		Dangerous Circumstances		Other	
			N	%	N	%	N	%
Chelan SCRC	12	12	11	91.7	1	8.3	0	0.0
Clallam SCRC	36	31	25	69.4	10	27.8	1	2.8
Total	48	43	36	75.0	11	22.9	1	2.1

Notes: example of other reasons for admission to SCRC includes “transfer from another court placement”. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

¹³ Only admissions to SCRCs are included in this report. Washington also has several non-secure or semi-secure Crisis Residential Centers operating across the state which are not affiliated with detention centers. Please see: <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/hau-ohy-grantee-map-1-29-2018.pdf> for more information.

¹⁴ See <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/at-risk-youth/secure-crc>.



Conclusion

The goal of this detention report is to provide a useful tool to juvenile justice stakeholders to help evaluate practices and guide policy decisions. We hope that this information will be used to continue to make improvements in service delivery to the youth and families involved with the juvenile court. Each annual report provides an opportunity to observe trends, as well as a chance to improve data reporting and quality. We were pleased to be able to include all jurisdictions in the last four reports, and are looking forward to expanding the data elements included in each report in subsequent years. Between 2019 and 2020, Washington State saw a substantial reduction in detention admissions, with the greatest decrease seen in admissions for non-offender matters. Future reports will allow for an even more in-depth analysis of changes over time.