

Defining the Target Population

Overview

As of October 14, 2021, there were 13 youth from Alameda County committed to the California Division of Juvenile Justice and a total of 55 youth detained in the Juvenile Justice Center (including 41 youth pending resolution of 707(b) offenses). This number represents 75% of the current population.

The section that follows provides an overview of the 13 youth currently committed to DJJ, with the earliest registered in 2019, as well as all youth committed to DJJ between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2020. This population most nearly resembles the population of youth likely to be committed to the SYTF.

The section also contains an overview of the number of youth with a sustained 707(b) offense who received a disposition other than a commitment to DJJ. Since the passage of Proposition 57, in 2016, there have also been three youth transfers from the juvenile to the adult system in Alameda County. Together, these three groups make up the target realignment population. However, the primary goal of this Plan is to define the Secure Youth Treatment Facility and the associated program. Thus, those committed to the Secure Track is the population of focus. If funding allows, future Plans may include the broader target population. Those youth with 707(b) offenses who are not committed to the Secure Track continue to be served by programs and facilities currently in place at the JJC and at Camp Sweeney.

Demographics

DJJ Commitments

Currently Committed Youth

For the 13 currently committed youth, their ages at commitment ranged from 15 to 20 years old, with a mean age of 18.2. Male youth comprise most of DJJ's currently committed population (12, or 92%, of all youth), compared to one female youth (8%). Youth of color make up the entire population of youth currently committed to DJJ, and are Black (46%), and Hispanic (54%).

All of the youth committed (100%) to DJJ had WIC-707(b) offenses. The currently committed youths' offenses were robbery (38%), assault with a deadly weapon or firearm (23%), voluntary manslaughter (23%), murder (8%) and lewd act with a minor (8%).

Commitments between 2016 and 2020

Between 2016 and 2020, 25 youth were committed to DJJ with ages at commitment ranging from 15 to 25 years old and a mean of 18.5. The majority of these youth were male (96%), with one female youth committed in that timeframe (4%). 68% of these youth were Black, 24% Hispanic, 4% Asian and 4% White.

The most common offense between 2016 and 2020 was robbery (36%), followed by murder (24%), and assault with a deadly weapon or firearm (16%). Voluntary manslaughter and lewd act with a minor accounted for 8% of commitments each, and rape and attempted murder accounted for 4% each.

All Other Dispositions

Between 2016 and 2020, 368 distinct youth had 459 referrals for sustained 707(b) offenses with dispositions other than commitment to DJJ. Demographics are reported here for the 368 youth. The youths' ages at the time of their referral ranged from 12 to 21, with an average age at referral of 17.5. Youths' ages at the time of their disposition also ranged from 12 to 21, with an average age of 17.9. 90% of these youth were male and 10% were female. Youth of color were disproportionately represented with 72% Black, 20% Hispanic, 4% White, 2% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% Other.

Of the 459 referrals in this timeframe, the most common offense was second degree robbery (49%), followed by first degree robbery (31%), assault with a firearm or deadly weapon (12%), carjacking (4%), and lewd acts with a minor (2%). Attempted first degree robbery, kidnapping, rape, sexual penetration by force, and shooting an inhabited dwelling combined account for the remaining 2%.

Prior Juvenile Justice System Contact

DJJ Commitments

Currently Committed Youth

For youth currently committed to DJJ, they had an average of 10 referrals to Probation, and over half (54%) had 6 or more referrals. The average age at first referral was 14.4 years old, with 31% aged 13 or younger and 15% aged 18 or older.

The average span of time between these youths' first referral and DJJ commitment was 3.8 years. Significantly, no currently committed youth went from first referral to DJJ commitment in under one year, and only 1 youth (8%) went from first referral to DJJ commitment in under 2 years. The offense for this youth was lewd act with a minor.

Before the DJJ commitment, the currently committed youth were booked into custody an average of 7.1 times, with 23% of them having 12 or more bookings prior to commitment. On average, before their DJJ commitment, youth had 6 true findings. Almost half (46%) of the youth had 5 or more true findings before the DJJ commitment.

Four of the currently committed youth (31%) had a WIC300 history indicated on their Intake or Dispositional Reports, and 1 youth (8%) had a prior contact with Child Protective Services noted on the Intake Report.

Commitments between 2016 and 2020

For youth committed between 2016 and 2020, prior to their DJJ commitment they had an average of 11 referrals to Probation. Fifteen youth (60%) had 6 or more referrals. The average age at youths' first referral was 15.2 years old, with 24% aged 13 or younger and 12% age 18 or older.

The average time span between these youths' first referral and DJJ commitment was 4.4 years. One youth (4%) went from first referral to DJJ commitment in under a year; the offense for this youth was assault with a deadly weapon. Three youth (12%) went from first referral to DJJ commitment between one and two years. One of their offenses was robbery, and the other two offenses were both lewd act with a minor.

For youth committed between 2016 and 2020, they were booked into custody an average of 7.2 times prior to their DJJ commitment, with 24% having 12 or more bookings prior to commitment. On average, these youth had 6 true findings prior to their DJJ commitment.

Ten youth (40%) had a WIC300 history indicated on either their Intake or Dispositional Reports, and one youth (4%) had a prior contact with Child Protective Services noted on their Intake Report.

All Other Dispositions

The youth in 2020 with dispositions for sustained 707(b) offenses other than commitment to DJJ had an average of 1.8 sustained 707(b) offenses and 1.4 sustained non-707(b) offenses. In 2019, youth with dispositions for sustained 707(b) offenses other than commitment to DJJ had an average of 1.7 sustained 707(b) offenses and 1.2 non-707(b) offenses. The youth with dispositions for sustained 707(b) offenses other than DJJ commitment in 2018 had an average of 1.5 707(b) and 1 non-707(b) offenses. In 2017, youth with dispositions for sustained 707(b) offenses other than commitment to DJJ had an average of 1.3 707(b) and .9 non-707(b) offenses. Finally, the youth in 2016 with dispositions for sustained 707(b) offenses other than DJJ commitment had an average of 1.3 707(b) and 1.3 non-707(b) offenses.

Projected Number of Youth to be Served in the SYTF

Based on the past five-year average (2016-2020), Alameda County Probation Department (ACPD) has projected the number of youth expected to be served. Alameda County committed an average of 5 youth per year over the last five years and therefore projects the SYTF will serve 5 youth per year. The past three-year average length of stay for Alameda County youth in DJJ is 2.8 years. It is important to note that several factors may impact the number of youth served in the SYTF. Such variables may include the

dispositional track and broader sociodemographic, political, and economic factors in Alameda County (e.g., an increase in the crime rate).

In the future, data will be tracked very closely to ensure that youth are being retained in the juvenile justice system and that the County is not seeing an increase in the number of transfer petitions filed or in the number of youth being transferred into the adult system. Similarly, data will be tracked to ensure that net-widening- which is to say an increase in commitments to the secure track as compared with commitments to DJJ- doesn't occur. Given that Alameda County has utilized less severe options for many 707(b) cases in the past, it is intended that these less severe options continue to be utilized wherever possible.

Projected Number of Youth Adjudicated of 707(b) Offenses to be Otherwise Served

In addition to the relatively small number of youth ACPD anticipates serving within the SYTF, the plan outlined will also directly serve youth adjudicated of 707(b) offenses. Based on the past five-year average (2016-2020) of youth meeting these criteria, Alameda County has projected the number of youth to be served. Between 2016 and 2020, an average of 83 youth had sustained 707(b) offenses per year, excluding the youth who were committed to DJJ.