

## Juvenile Detention: Adolescents in Residential Placements

### Headline

Between 1999 and 2001, the rate at which adolescents were held in juvenile detention dropped from 361 per 100,000 to 336 per 100,000. ([See Figure 1](#))

### Importance

Juvenile delinquency<sup>1</sup> poses high costs to both individuals and society as a whole. Oppositional, defiant, and antisocial behavior during early and middle childhood are linked to delinquency during adolescence.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, juvenile delinquency is linked subsequently to higher crime rates as adults and other negative outcomes in the future.<sup>3</sup>

The juvenile justice system is based on the premise that adolescents are different from adults, are still developing, and therefore should be treated differently.<sup>4</sup> Following a rise in juvenile crime in the late 1980s and early 1990s, 'get tough on crime' policies have led to an increase in the number of children being tried as adults and being committed to adult facilities.<sup>5</sup> Juveniles may face higher risks of rape, assault, and suicide when placed in adult prisons, although reliable statistics are lacking.<sup>6,7,8</sup>

A high percentage of adolescents in the juvenile justice system have mental health problems (with estimates ranging as high as 60 percent compared with 20 percent among the total adolescent population).<sup>9</sup> In juvenile detention facilities, many of these problems go untreated or are dealt with inadequately.<sup>10</sup> Suicide in juvenile detention facilities is more than four times as likely as adolescent suicide overall.<sup>11</sup> Adolescents confined in isolation are even more likely to commit suicide.<sup>12</sup> Additionally, between 50 to 75 percent of adolescents who have spent time in juvenile detention centers are incarcerated later in life.<sup>13</sup>

Female adolescents are being committed to facilities at much higher rates than in the past.<sup>14</sup> In one study, the majority of females in the juvenile justice system report experiencing physical, sexual, or emotional victimization. Many girls first enter the system as runaways or for other status offenses (offenses not considered illegal for adults), and cite abuse from home as one of the main reasons for leaving. Once in the system, they often do not receive adequate treatment, and may have different needs than do their male counterparts.<sup>15</sup>

### Trends

In 2001, 336 per 100,000 (or 104,413) juveniles were in residential placements, compared with 361 per 100,000 juveniles in 1999 and 359 juveniles per 100,000 in 1997. ([See Table 1](#))

While rates of non-Hispanic black, Hispanic and Asian adolescents decreased between 1997 and 2001, rates among American Indians increased during the same time period.

Rates for non-Hispanic white adolescents stayed relatively constant during the same time period. ([See Table 1](#))

### **Differences by Gender**

Males are more likely than females to be in residential placement. In 2001, 85 percent of all juveniles in residential placement were male.<sup>16</sup> ([See Table 1](#))

### **Differences by Type of Offense**

Most juveniles in residential placement are there because of delinquency (95 percent in 2001). The other 5 percent had committed status offenses (those that are illegal for underage persons but not for adults, such as running away, incorrigibility and truancy) as their most serious offense. In 2001, 23 percent of juveniles in residential placement had committed violent crimes<sup>17</sup> as their most serious offenses. Twenty-three percent of juveniles in residential placement had committed property crimes<sup>18</sup> as their most serious offenses. Only 1 percent had committed criminal homicide. Nine percent had committed drug related offenses and 10 percent had committed disturbances to public order as their most serious offense. ([See Table 2](#))

Of adolescents in residential placement, girls are much more likely than boys to be in residential placement because of status offenses, such as running away and incorrigibility. In 2001, 14 percent of females in residential placements were there because of a status offense, compared with only 3 percent of males. ([See Figure 2](#))

### **Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin**

In 2001, non-Hispanic black male adolescents were more than four times as likely as non-Hispanic white male adolescents and seven times as likely as Asian male adolescents to be in residential placements (1,477 per 100,000 non-Hispanic black male adolescents compared with 336 per 100,000 non-Hispanic male white adolescents and 205 per 100,000 male Asian adolescents). American Indian male adolescents had the second highest rate, at 975 per 100,000 in 2001, followed by Hispanic male adolescents, with a rate of 633 per 100,000 in 2001. ([See Figure 3](#))

Among females as well, non-Hispanic black adolescents and American Indian adolescents had the highest rates of placement in residential detention (228 per 100,000 and 227 per 100,000, respectively, in 2001). Non-Hispanic white female adolescents were about three times less likely to be in residential placement (74 per 100,000 in 2001), followed by Hispanic female adolescents (84 per 100,000 in 2001). Asian female adolescents were the least likely to be in residential placement, with a rate of only 31 per 100,000 in 2001. ([See Figure 3](#))

## **State and Local Estimates**

State estimates on the number of juveniles in residential placement are available in Kids Count Data Book 2004: State Profiles of Child Well-Being. Available online at: [http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/databook/pdfs\\_e/kc2004\\_e.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/databook/pdfs_e/kc2004_e.pdf)

Further subgroup breaks by state are available from the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook. Available online at: [http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/asp/State\\_Comparison.asp](http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/asp/State_Comparison.asp)

## **International Estimates**

None available

## **National Goals**

None available

## **Definition**

Juveniles who were assigned a bed in a juvenile residential custody facility in the U.S. on the last Wednesday in October.

Rates are computed per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 through the upper age of each state's juvenile court jurisdiction. The number of children younger than 10 in residential placement is not large enough to warrant the inclusion of younger age groups in the denominator of rate calculations. States' upper age limits of original juvenile court jurisdiction in 1999 are available at: <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/corrections/qa08601.asp?qaDate=20021030>.

Data do not include those juveniles in adult facilities or those juveniles held exclusively in drug treatment or mental health facilities.

## **Data Source**

Sickmund, Melissa, Sladky, T.J., and Kang, Wei. (2004). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook*. Online. Available: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/>

## **Raw Data Source**

OJJDP's Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement 1997, 1999, and 2001

## **Next Update**

2006

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<sup>1</sup> Delinquency is defined as crimes that are also considered illegal for adults.

<sup>2</sup> Eddy, J. Mark, Reid, John B., Fetrow, and Rebecca A. (Fall 2000). "An Elementary School-Based Prevention Program Targeting Modifiable Antecedents of Youth Delinquency and Violence: Linking the Interests of Families and Teachers (LIFT)," *Journal of Emotional & Behavioral Disorders* 8(3).

<sup>3</sup> Jonson-Reid, Melissa. (March/April 2004). Child Welfare Services and Delinquency: The Need to Know More. *Child Welfare* 83(2): 157-173.

<sup>4</sup> Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, *Intro to California's Juvenile Justice System*. Available at: <http://www.cjcj.org/jjic/intro.php>

<sup>5</sup> Bilchik, Shay, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (1999). "Juvenile Justice: A Century of Change," *1999 National Report Series, Juvenile Justice Bulletin*: 1-20. Available at: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/178995.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Flaherty, Michael G. "The National Incidence of Juvenile Suicide in Adult Jails and Juvenile Detention Centers," *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior*, 13(2): 85-94.

<sup>7</sup> Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. (1997). *The Risks Youth Face When They are Incarcerated with Adults*. Available at: <http://www.cjcj.org/pubs/risks/risks.html>

<sup>8</sup> Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. (1999). *The Florida Experiment: An Analysis of the Practice of Sending Kids to Adult Court*. Available at <http://www.cjcj.org/pubs/florida/florida.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Kamradt, Bruce, "Wraparound Milwaukee: Aiding Youth with Mental Health Needs," *Juvenile Justice*, 7(1): 14-23. Available at: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/178256.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Cocozza, Joseph & Skowrya, Kathleen, "Youth with Mental Health Disorders: Issues and Emerging Responses," *Juvenile Justice*, 7(1): 3-13. Available at: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/178256.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Hayes, Lindsay M., "Suicide Prevention in Juvenile Facilities," *Juvenile Justice*, 7(1): 24-32. Available at: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/178256.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Estimates vary depending on how recidivism is measured and what time period is used.

<sup>14</sup> Snyder, Howard N. (1999). "Juvenile Arrests 1998," *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, NCJ179064. Available online at: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/179064.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Hoyt, Stephanie, and David Scherer, "Female Juvenile Delinquency: Misunderstood by the Juvenile Justice System, Neglected by Social Science," *Law and Human Behavior*, 22(1): 81-107.

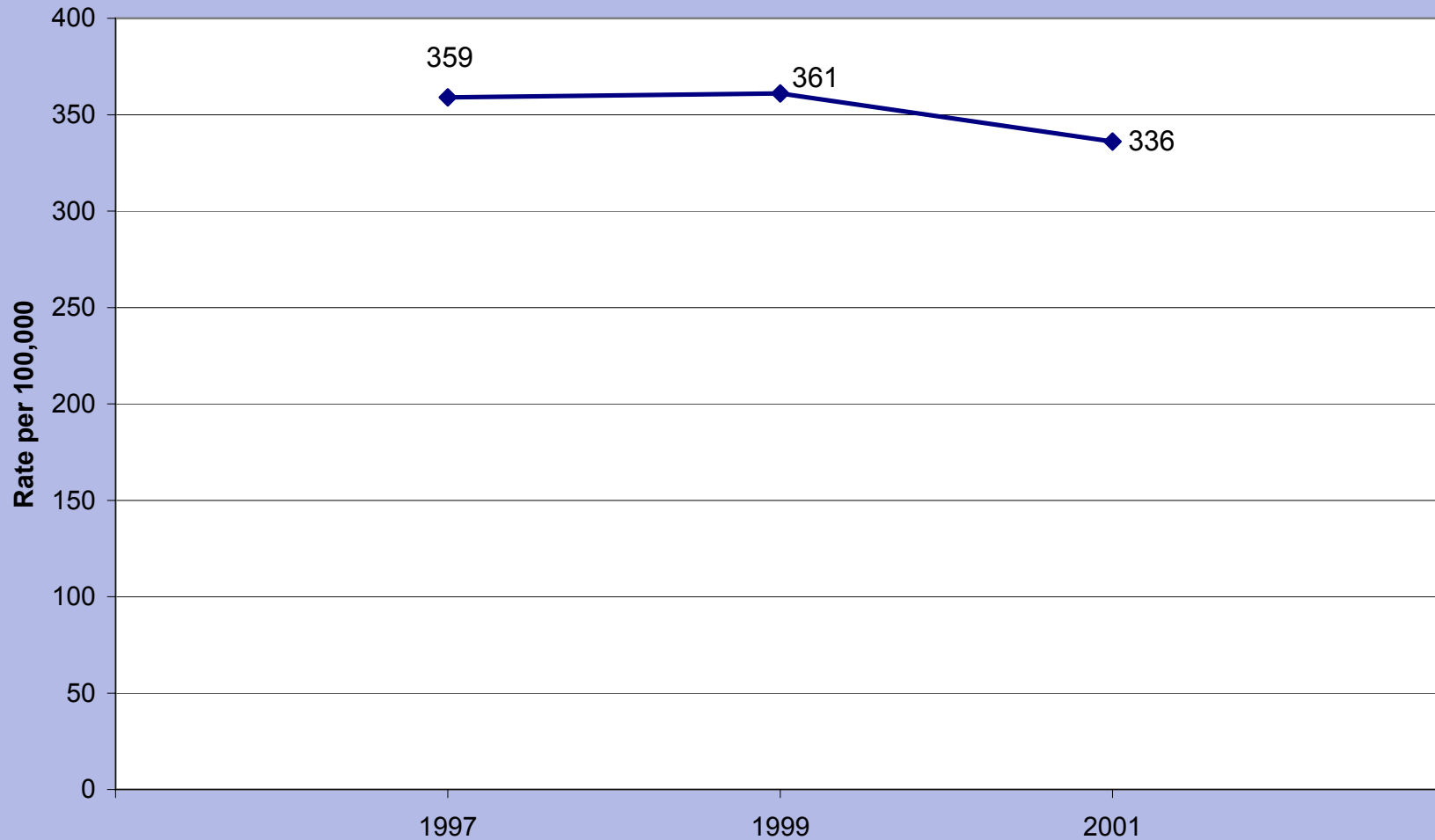
<sup>16</sup> Sickmund, Melissa, Sladky, T.J., and Kang, Wei. (2004). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook*. Online. Available: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/>

<sup>17</sup> The violent crime index includes criminal homicide, violent sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

<sup>18</sup> The property crime index includes burglary, theft, auto theft, and arson.

Figure 1

## Adolescents in Residential Placement,<sup>1</sup> 1997-2001



<sup>1</sup>The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement collects data from all juvenile residential custody facilities in the U.S., asking for information on each youth assigned a bed in the facility on the last Wednesday in October.

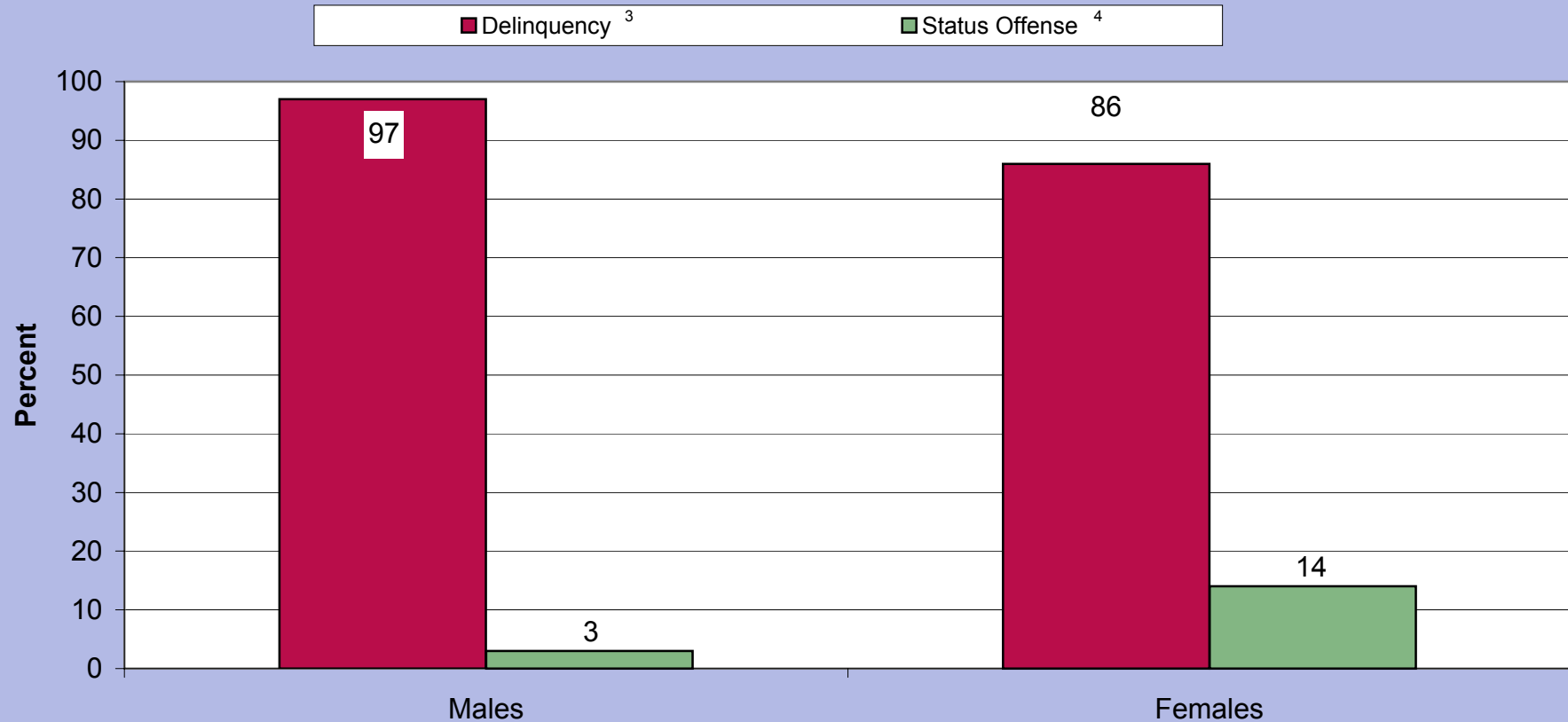
Rates are calculated per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 through the upper age of each state's juvenile court jurisdiction.

Source: Sickmund, Melissa, Sladky, T.J., and Kang, Wei. (2004). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook*. Online. Available: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/>



Figure 2

## Percent of Juveniles in Residential Placement<sup>1</sup> by Type of Offense,<sup>2</sup> by Gender, 2001



<sup>1</sup> The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement collects data from all juvenile residential custody facilities in the U.S., asking for information on each youth assigned a bed in the facility on the last Wednesday in October.

<sup>2</sup> Only includes each resident's most serious offense.

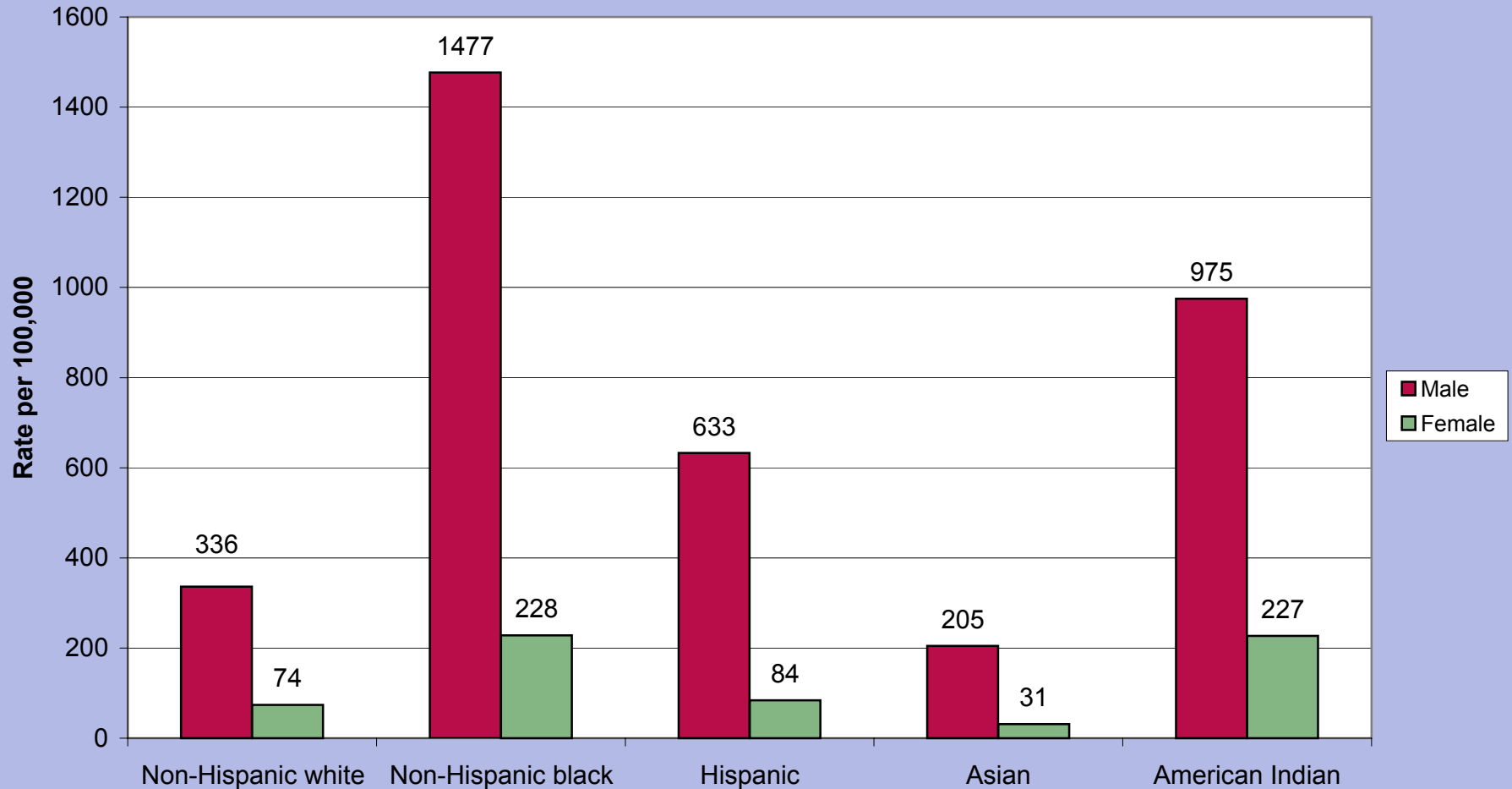
<sup>3</sup> An offense that is considered illegal for adults.

<sup>4</sup> A non-delinquent/non-criminal offense; an offense that is illegal for underage persons but not adults. Includes running away, incorrigibility, truancy, curfew violation, underage drinking and other offenses.

Source: Sickmund, Melissa, Sladky, T.J., and Kang, Wei. (2004). Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook. Online. Available: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/>

Figure 3

### Adolescents in Residential Placement, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, 2001



<sup>1</sup>The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement collects data from all juvenile residential custody facilities in the U.S., asking for information on each youth assigned a bed in the facility on the last Wednesday in October. Rates are calculated per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 through the upper age of each state's juvenile court jurisdiction. Source: Sickmund, Melissa, Sladky, T.J., and Kang, Wei. (2004). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook*. Online. Available: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/>

Table 1

Juveniles in Residential Placement, <sup>1</sup> Selected Years, 1997-2001									
	Number in placement			Percent of those in Placement			Rate per 100,000		
	1997	1999	2001	1997	1999	2001	1997	1999	2001
<b>Total</b>	105,790	108,931	104,413	100	100	100	359	361	336
<b>Total Age</b>									
12 & younger	2,164	4,210	1,852	2	4	2	-	-	-
13 years	4,627	6,674	4,448	4	6	4	121	167	109
14 years	11,584	13,224	10,499	11	12	10	294	329	258
15 years	21,251	21,026	19,565	20	19	19	540	541	482
16 years	28,284	25,956	26,992	27	24	26	729	651	666
17 years	24,754	23,675	24,988	23	22	24	621	579	621
18 & older	13,126	14,144	16,069	12	13	15	-	-	-
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>									
Non-Hispanic white	39,620	41,246	41,342	37	38	40	203	210	209
Non-Hispanic black	42,218	42,963	40,751	40	39	39	982	958	863
Hispanic	19,558	19,922	18,012	18	18	17	470	440	366
Asian	2,212	2,137	1,510	2	2	1	196	179	120
American Indian	1,619	2,013	2,177	2	2	2	493	583	608
<b>Males</b>	91,471	94,370	89,271	86	87	85	605	609	560
<b>Total Age</b>									
12 & younger	1,782	3,540	1,563	2	4	2	-	-	-
13 years	3,639	5,397	3,492	4	6	4	185	263	167
14 years	9,159	10,782	8,205	10	11	9	452	522	394
15 years	17,568	17,514	15,825	19	19	18	868	878	760
16 years	24,456	22,467	23,061	27	24	26	1,222	1,093	1,108
17 years	22,356	21,255	22,131	24	23	25	1,086	1,007	1,069
18 & older	12,513	13,398	14,994	14	14	17	-	-	-
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>									
Non-Hispanic white	32,574	34,395	34,260	36	36	38	324	341	336
Non-Hispanic black	37,455	37,908	35,442	41	40	40	1,717	1,665	1,477
Hispanic	17,730	18,042	16,008	19	19	18	824	770	633
Asian	2,004	1,905	1,317	2	2	1	348	312	205
American Indian	1,275	1,596	1,776	1	2	2	764	909	975
<b>Females</b>	14,319	14,561	15,142	14	13	15	100	99	100
<b>Total Age</b>									
12 & younger	381	669	288	3	5	2	-	-	-
13 years	987	1,278	957	7	9	6	53	65	48
14 years	2,424	2,442	2,295	17	17	15	126	125	116
15 years	3,684	3,513	3,741	26	24	25	192	186	189
16 years	3,828	3,489	3,930	27	24	26	204	181	199
17 years	2,400	2,421	2,856	17	17	19	125	123	146
18 & older	615	747	1,074	4	5	7	-	-	-
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>									
Non-Hispanic white	7,044	6,852	7,083	49	47	47	72	74	74
Non-Hispanic black	4,761	5,055	5,310	33	35	35	229	225	228
Hispanic	1,827	1,878	2,004	13	13	13	86	91	84
Asian	207	231	192	1	2	1	40	37	31
American Indian	342	417	399	2	3	3	246	212	227

<sup>1</sup>The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement collects data from all juvenile residential custody facilities in the U.S., asking for information on each youth assigned a bed in the facility on the last Wednesday in October.

Note: Rates are calculated per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 through the upper age of each state's juvenile court jurisdiction.

Source: Sickmund, Melissa, Sladky, T.J., and Kang, Wei. (2004). Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook. Online. Available: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/>

Table 2

Percentage of Juveniles in Residential Placement <sup>1</sup> by Most Serious Offense, Selected Years 1997-2001									
	Number			Percent of those in Residential Placement			Rate per 100,000		
	1997	1999	2001	1997	1999	2001	1997	1999	2001
<b>Total</b>	105,790	108,931	104,413	100	100	100	359	361	336
<b>Delinquency<sup>2</sup></b>	98,913	104,237	99,297	93	96	95	336	345	320
<b>Person<sup>3</sup></b>	35,357	38,005	34,915	33	35	33	120	126	112
Criminal Homicide	1,927	1,514	1,069	2	1	1	7	5	3
Sexual Assault	5,590	7,511	6,779	5	7	6	19	25	22
Robbery	9,451	8,212	7,328	9	8	7	32	27	24
Aggravated Assault	9,530	9,984	8,520	9	9	8	32	33	27
Simple Assault	6,630	7,448	7,999	6	7	8	23	25	26
Other Person	2,229	3,336	3,220	2	3	3	8	11	10
<b>Property<sup>4</sup></b>	31,991	31,817	29,373	30	29	28	109	105	95
Burglary	12,560	12,222	11,435	12	11	11	43	41	37
Theft	7,294	6,944	5,856	7	6	6	25	23	19
Auto Theft	6,525	6,225	6,131	6	6	6	22	21	20
Arson	915	1,126	1,045	1	1	1	3	4	3
Other Property	4,697	5,300	4,906	4	5	5	16	18	16
<b>Drug</b>	9,286	9,882	9,086	9	9	9	32	33	29
Trafficking	3,045	3,106	2,432	3	3	2	10	10	8
Other drug	6,241	6,776	6,654	6	6	6	21	22	21
<b>Public Order<sup>5</sup></b>	9,730	10,487	10,451	9	10	10	33	35	34
Weapons <sup>10</sup>	4,191	4,023	3,205	4	4	3	14	13	10
Alcohol	260	328	313	0	0	0	1	1	1
Other public order	5,279	6,136	6,933	5	6	7	18	20	22
<b>Technical Violation<sup>6</sup></b>	12,549	14,046	15,472	12	13	15	43	47	50
<b>Violent Crime Index<sup>7</sup></b>	26,498	27,221	23,696	25	25	23	90	90	76
<b>Property Crime Index<sup>8</sup></b>	27,294	26,517	24,467	26	24	23	93	88	79
<b>Status Offense<sup>9</sup></b>	6,877	4,694	5,116	7	4	5	23	16	16
Running away	1,497	1,083	1,104	1	1	1	5	4	4
Truancy	1,332	913	784	1	1	1	5	3	3
Incorrigibility	2,849	1,843	1,983	3	2	2	10	6	6
Curfew Violation	193	105	112	0	0	0	1	0	0
Underage Drinking	320	378	519	0	0	0	1	1	2
Other status offense	686	372	614	1	0	1	2	1	2
<b>Males</b>	91,471	94,370	89,271	100	100	100	605	609	560
Delinquency <sup>2</sup>	87,828	91,500	86,271	96	97	97	581	591	541
Violent Crime Index <sup>7</sup>	24,651	25,086	21,702	27	27	24	163	162	136
Property Crime Index <sup>8</sup>	24,594	23,619	21,756	27	25	24	163	152	137
Status Offense <sup>9</sup>	3,642	2,868	3,000	4	3	3	24	19	19
<b>Females</b>	14,319	14,561	15,142	100	100	100	100	99	100
Delinquency <sup>2</sup>	11,085	12,735	13,026	77	87	86	77	87	86
Violent Crime Index <sup>7</sup>	1,848	2,136	1,995	13	15	13	13	15	13
Property Crime Index <sup>8</sup>	2,700	2,898	2,712	19	20	18	19	20	18
Status Offense <sup>9</sup>	3,234	1,824	2,115	23	13	14	23	12	14

<sup>1</sup>The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement collects data from all juvenile residential custody facilities in the U.S., asking for information on each youth assigned a bed in the facility on the last Wednesday in October.

<sup>2</sup>An offense that is also considered illegal for adults.

<sup>3</sup>Offenses against persons.

<sup>4</sup>Offenses against property.

<sup>5</sup>Offenses against the public order.

<sup>6</sup>Violations of probation, parole or valid court orders; acts that go against the conditions of probation or parole

<sup>7</sup>Includes criminal homicide, violent sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

<sup>8</sup>Includes burglary, theft, auto theft, and arson.

<sup>9</sup>A non-delinquent/non-criminal offense; an offense that is illegal for underage persons but not adults.

<sup>10</sup>Actual or attempted illegal sale, distribution, manufacture, alteration, transportation, possession, or use of a deadly or dangerous weapon or accessory.  
Note: Rates are calculated per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 through the upper age of each state's juvenile court jurisdiction.

Source: Sickmund, Melissa, Sladky, T.J., and Kang, Wei. (2004). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook*. Online. Available: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/>

