



Hidalgo County Juvenile Justice Data Sheet

Under SB 653, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) has been made responsible for partnering with “local county governments, the courts, and communities to promote public safety,”¹ as well as for “producing positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities.”² To ensure these mandates are met, stakeholders must familiarize themselves with the information pertinent to their community.

The information included within this data sheet reflects the most recent juvenile data for Hidalgo County.

County Overview³

- **Youth Population (age 10 to 16):** 86,471
- **Youth Referred to TJJD:**⁴ 1,557
- **Youth Referred with Past Traumatic Experience:** 543 (35%)
- **Youth Referred with Diagnosed Mental Illness:** 363 (23%)
- **Youth Referred but Not Adjudicated:** 1,044
- **Youth Securely Detained Pre-Adjudication:**⁵ 598
- **Average Days from Referral to Disposition:** 44
- **Youth Adjudicated to Probation:** 513
- **Youth Adjudicated to Secure Placement:**⁶ 97
- **Youth Committed to State Secure Facilities:** 35
- **Youth Certified as Adults:** 1

Investment in Community Programming

Reducing the number of youth adjudicated to residential facilities can only be achieved if stakeholders strongly invest in “a consistent, county-based continuum of effective interventions, supports, and services.”⁷ The programs delineated below are the current services within Hidalgo County that can be utilized as alternatives to incarceration.

Grant C Funded Programs:⁸

- Wrap Around Program

Total Funding Allocated for Grant C programs in Hidalgo County: \$395,826

Grant X⁹ and U¹⁰ Funded Programs:¹¹

- Individual and Family Counseling
- Mental Health Evaluations

Total Funding Allocated for Grant U & X programs in Hidalgo County: \$117,896

Additional Programs Run by the County Juvenile Probation Department:

- Intensive Community Based Program
- Intensive Supervision
- Juvenile Court Conference Committee

Contracted Programs Provided by the County Juvenile Probation Department:

- Counseling Services
- Sex Offender Treatment

Additional Youth-Based Programs Provided within the Community:

- 21st Century After School Program
- Boys and Girls Club
- Church Based Counseling Services
- Colonias Outreach Program
- Communities in Schools
- Dropout Program
- Families in Transition
- On the Air Project
- Promotaras de Salud
- STAR Program
- Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Hidalgo
- Yes Club

County-Level Juvenile Facilities¹²

Cost per day per youth¹⁴	\$95.00
Average daily population	58 youths
Average length of stay	29 days
Annual number of youth in seclusions¹⁵	2301
Annual number of physical restraints used on youth	298
Annual number of injuries	11

Table 2: Judge Mario E. Ramirez Jr. Juvenile Justice Center (Post-Adjudication)

Cost per day per youth	\$95.00
Average daily population	30 youths
Average length of stay	197 days
Annual number of youth in seclusions	157
Annual number of physical restraints used on youth	24
Annual number of injuries	4

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the data provided in this data sheet, please contact Jennifer Carreon at (512) 441-8123, ext. 103, or by email at jcarreon@TexasCJC.org.

References

¹ Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.002(1).

² Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.002(2).

³ Data provided to the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) by TJJD, April 2012.

⁴ A youth is formally referred to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department if face-to-face contact is made with a designated juvenile office for having engaged in delinquent activity within the Department's jurisdiction.

⁵ A pre-adjudication detention center is a secure residential facility (public or private) used for temporary placement of youth who have been accused of committing an offense.

⁶ A post-adjudication placement involves a secure residential facility (public or private) where youth are placed after disposition of their case.

⁷ Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.003(1).

⁸ The Community Corrections Diversion Program (Grant C) is used by local juvenile probation departments to divert youth from a state secure facility commitment to community supervision. In 2011, 3,650 youth received Grant C-funded programming, placement, services, or specialized supervision; approximately 77% of those youth successfully completed supervision. Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, *Annual Report to the Governor and Legislative Budget Board*, December 2011.

⁹ The Intensive Community-Based Program (Grant X) is used by local juvenile probation departments for "enhanced or additional community based programs and services for jailable misdemeanor and felony offenders." In 2011, 8,392 youth were served under Grant X funds; 81% of those youth received treatment via programming. Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, *Annual Report to the Governor and Legislative Budget Board*, December 2011.

¹⁰ The Intensive Community-Based Pilot Program (Grant U) is used by local juvenile probation departments with populations over 335,000 to serve youth with chronic and serious offenses via community-based programming. In 2011, 839 youth across eight counties (Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis) were served by Grant U funding. Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, *Annual Report to the Governor and Legislative Budget Board*, December 2011.

¹¹ As of September 2011, these grants were consolidated under Grant A along with Grants F, H, Z, L, O, R, V, and Y.

¹² Data provided to TCJC by TJJD, April 2012.

¹³ Judge Mario E. Ramirez Jr. Juvenile Justice Center is Hidalgo County's pre-adjudication and post-adjudication facility.

¹⁴ This number was obtained via TJJD's Facility Registry. This is the only cost made public; it reflects the per-youth expense that another county would pay to place their youth within this facility.

<http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/publications/other/searchfacilityregistry.aspx>.

¹⁵ Inappropriate use of solitary confinement (also known as disciplinary seclusions) and physical restraints (also known as use of force) in juvenile secure facilities create major barriers to successful rehabilitation. These concerns are especially serious for traumatized youth and youth with mental health issues. See, e.g., L.M. Finke "The Use of Seclusion is Not an Evidence-Based Practice" (2001), and G.R. Hodas "Responding to Childhood Trauma: The Promise and Practice of Trauma Informed Care" (2006).