

Guide to the Louisiana Quarterly Juvenile Justice Indicator Reports

In 2009 the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera), working in collaboration with the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) and the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) through the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change initiative, developed a template for reporting Louisiana juvenile justice data indicators on a regular basis. The resulting quarterly sets of statistical indicators are intended to provide state and local stakeholders up-to-date pictures of youth who are committed to the care of OJJ. The indicator reports can be used in all areas of Louisiana juvenile justice planning to identify trends, make comparisons, and to facilitate information sharing regarding OJJ's youth population. The report is not intended to offer analysis of the indicators, but can be used to identify areas in need of further investigation of interest to a wide variety of stakeholders.

This document serves as a guide to the indicator reports and includes the following sections: Data Definitions, Report Roadmap, and Annotated Charts.

Data Definitions

The data source for the quarterly indicator reports is the OJJ Juvenile Electronic Tracking System (JETS). It is a server based system that combines a front-end interface through Lotus Notes and a database backbone using DB2. The comprehensive system tracks many components of the care a youth receives under commitment with OJJ along with demographic and narrative information. For the purpose of these reports, the legal status of the youth within the quarter is used as the basis for all counts. The following are definitions of terms commonly used in these reports.

Legal Status is defined as follows: the judicial disposition of the juvenile's case (custody, probation or parole); the case type (delinquent or FINS); and, in custody cases based upon a delinquency offense, the type of location to be used to serve the youth (secure or non-secure). In the case of multiple legal statuses (concurrent or overlapping), the legal status is based on the youths' most restrictive or deepest penetration in the system. The following legal statuses are represented in the quarterly indicator report:

	LEGAL STATUS	LABEL IN REPORT	DESCRIPTION
CUSTODY	Custody Secure Delinquent (CSD)	Secure Delinquent	The most restrictive status. Most youth classified CSD will be housed in male state secure care facilities or the female facility at Ware. Other CSD youth can be found in detention, parish jails and other locations with respect to their pending status for placement.
	Custody Non-Secure Delinquent (CND)	Non-Secure Delinquent	Less restrictive custody status, ordinarily out-of-home placement.
	Custody Non-Secure FINS (CNF)	FINS Custody	Status offenses such as truancy and ungovernable, ordinarily out-of-home placement.
SUPERVISION	Probation Delinquent (PBD)*	Probation –Delinquent	Typically as a direct judicial determination or achieved after leaving Custody Non Secure Delinquent status. Mostly in-home placement.
	Probation FINS (PBF)*	Probation – FINS	Status offenses such as truancy and ungovernable, mostly in-home placement.
	Parole Delinquent (PRD)	Parole	Typically achieved after leaving Custody Secure Delinquent status. Mostly in-home placement.

* The quarterly indicators presented are a reflection of the youth population under the care of the Office of Juvenile Justice. Locally operated probation offices exist in East Baton Rouge, Calcasieu, Caddo, Rapides and Jefferson parish and are not included. However, youth committed to OJJ from these locations are represented.

Youth Served is defined as the number of clients who were committed to OJJ's care for at least one day during the quarter. In other words, youth served reflects the volume of youth in each legal status category over the time period. Youth may be reflected multiple times if they leave OJJ's care but later return.

Commitment refers to youth assigned to OJJ for supervision or custody in residential or secure care following a court adjudication of delinquency or Families in Need of Services (FINS).

Rates are used to adjust the number of youth served for differences in population. In this report, a rate is defined as the number of youth in OJJ care (by their legal status) divided by the parish or state youth population age 10-17 and multiplied by 1,000. This establishes a standardized statistic for parish-to-parish and parish-to-state comparisons of juvenile justice involvement. For example, a statewide secure custody rate of 2 indicates that for every 1,000 youth age 10-17 in Louisiana, 2 youth have a secure custody legal status. Population estimates come from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).¹

¹ Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2009). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2008." Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>

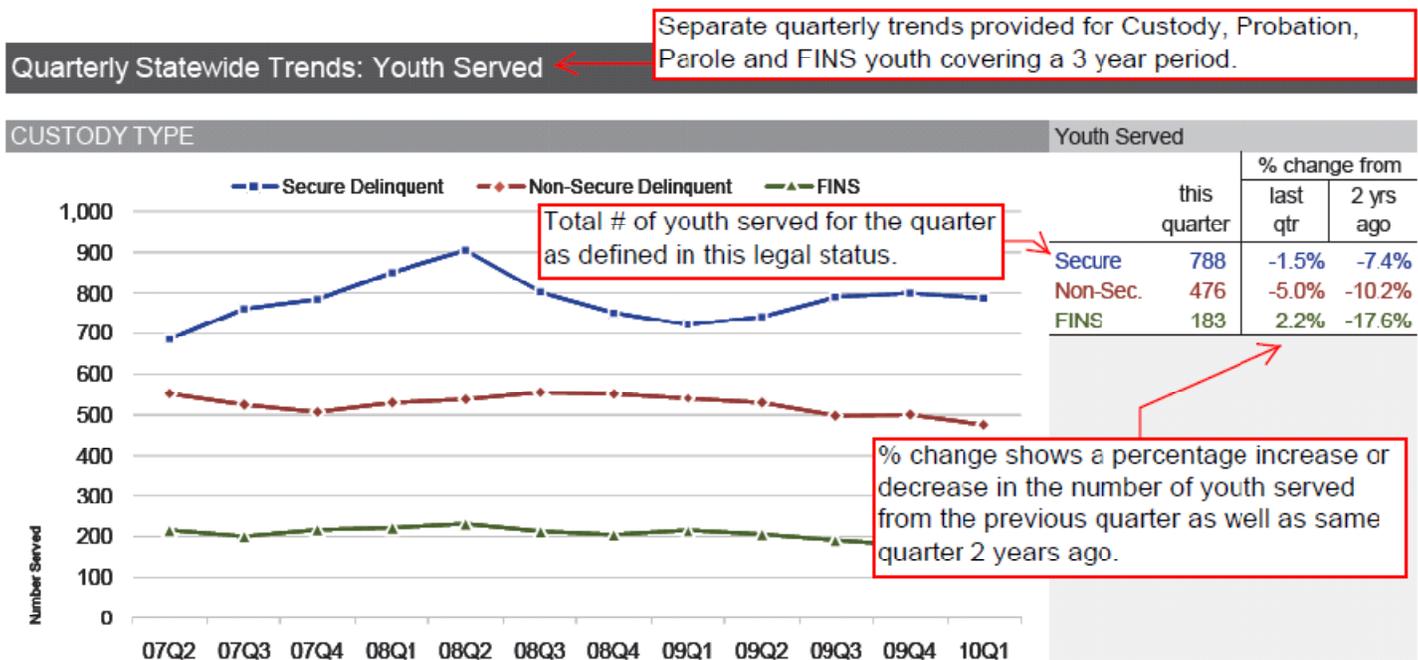
Report Roadmap

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide 3-year trends for secure delinquent, non-secure delinquent, and FINS custody, probation and parole <p style="text-align: right;">Page 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide trends for the percentage of female and African American youth in custody categories Statewide rates by race for youth committed to OJJ <p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish-level rates for the most recent quarter's custody statuses <p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish-level detailed tables for secure delinquent, non-secure delinquent, and FINS custody <p style="text-align: right;">Pages 4-6</p>
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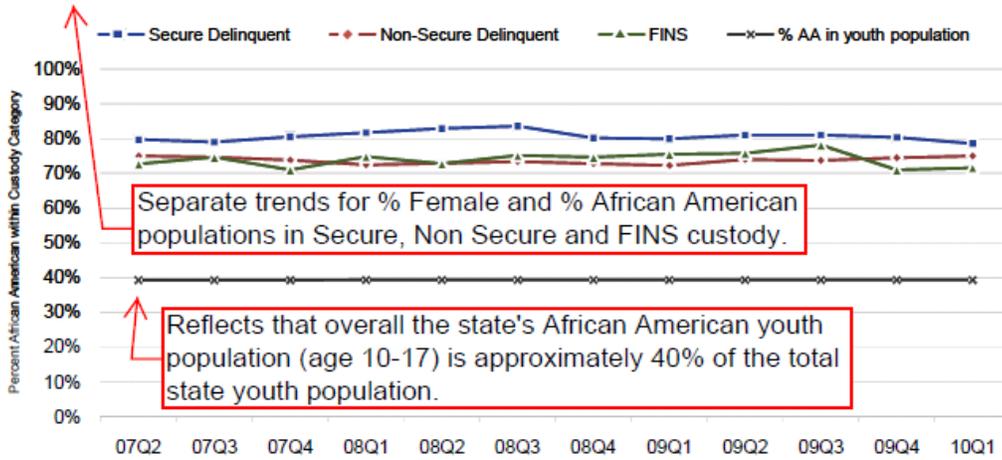
Annotated Charts

The following section provides a page-by-page guide to the contents of the report, including a series of annotated sample charts explaining what each depicts.

Page 1: Overall statewide trends for secure delinquent, non-secure delinquent, and FINS custody; probation and parole for the 3 year (twelve quarter) period. The column to the right of the line charts show the actual numbers for the most recent quarter in each category and how they have changed since the previous quarter and 2 years ago.



CUSTODY TYPE BY % AFRICAN AMERICAN

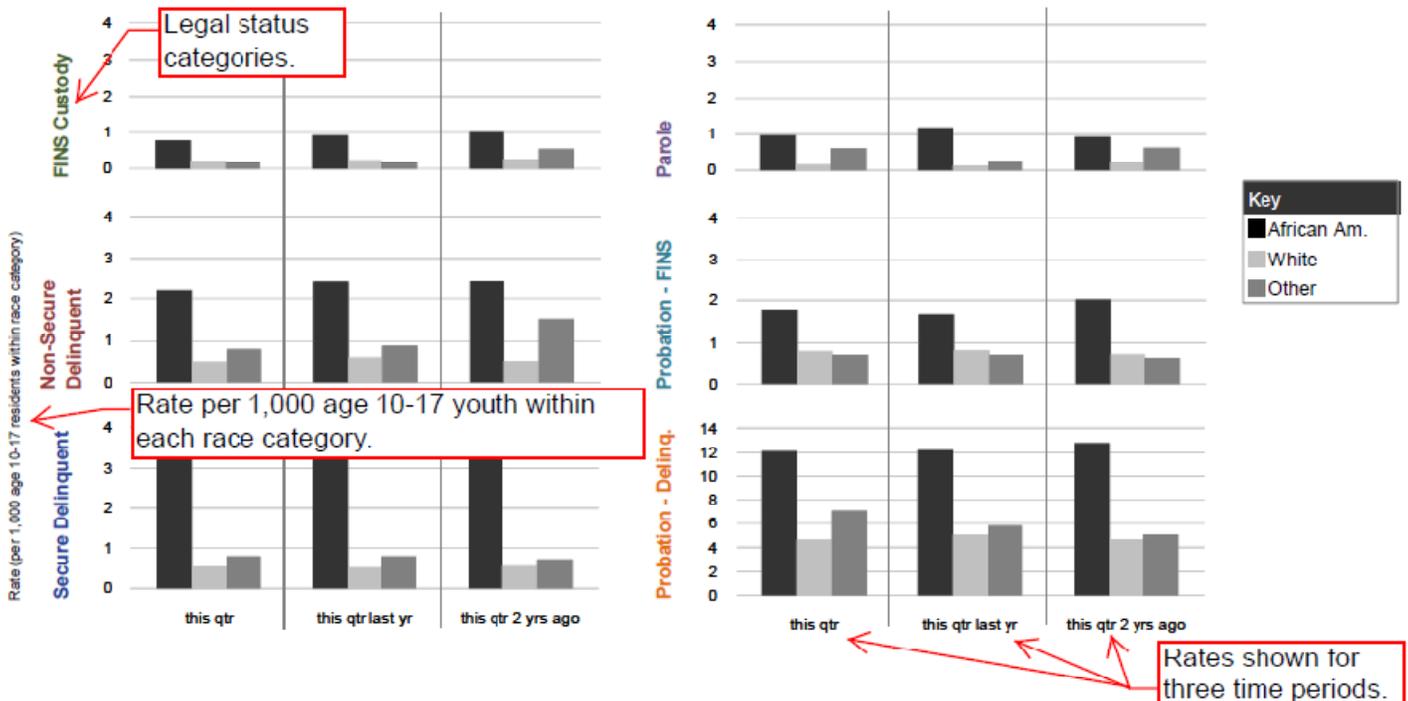


Youth Served: African American			
	this quarter	% change from	
		last qtr	2 yrs ago
Secure	619	-3.7%	-10.9%
Non-Sec.	357	-4.3%	-7.0%
FINS	131	3.1%	-21.1%
Youth Served: White			
Secure	160	7.4%	7.4%
Non-Sec.	112	-4.3%	-17.0%
FINS	49	-2.0%	-3.9%
Youth Served: Other			
Secure	9	12.5%	28.6%
Non-Sec.	7	-36.4%	-36.4%
FINS	3	50.0%	-40.0%

Youth served by race and custody categories.

Page 2 (cont'd) Bar charts display statewide rates broken down by race (African American, White, and Other) for the current quarter, the same quarter the previous year, and the same quarter 2 years ago. Race rates are calculated per 1,000 age 10-17 residents within their respective race categories. For example, a white secure custody rate of 1.5 means that for every 1,000 age 10-17 white residents, 1.5 have a secure custody status.

CUSTODY TYPE, PROBATION, AND PAROLE RATES BY RACE

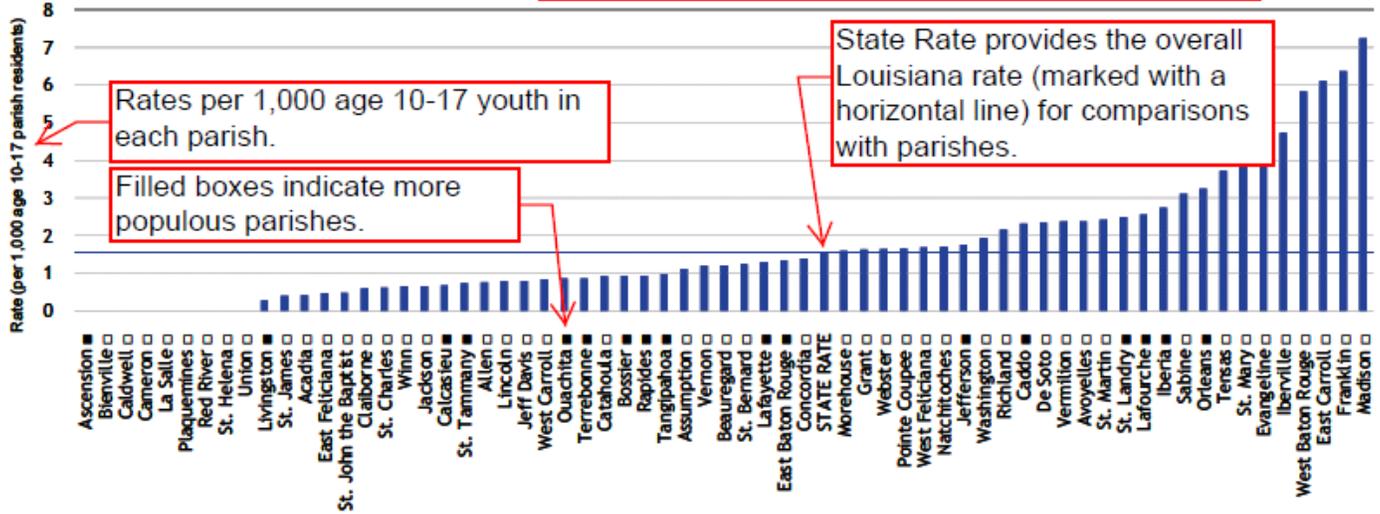


Page 3: The current quarter's rates for custody statuses broken down by parish. Filled boxes indicate more populous parishes (those with a population greater than the state mean – the overall Louisiana population divided by 64). The overall state rate is marked with a horizontal line allowing for comparison with individual parishes.

Current Quarter: Parish Comparisons by Custody Type

SECURE DELINQUENT CUSTODY

Separate current quarter rates by parish are provided for Secure, Non Secure and FINS custody youth.



Pages 4–6: Tables for secure delinquent, non-secure delinquent, and FINS custody broken down by parish. These show raw numbers and rates for the current quarter, the previous quarter, and the same quarter the previous year. We then use variance charts to show how each parish's custody rate compares to the overall state custody rate (a green bar to the left means that the parish has a lower rate than the state; a red bar to the right means that the parish rate is higher than the state rate). Trend lines (sparklines) show the direction that each parish's custody numbers have been moving over the most recent 12 quarters. Lastly, we show the percentage of females and African Americans in each category, and use another variance chart to show how the African American custody rate compares to the parish's overall custody rate (red bars to the right indicate that the parish has a higher rate among African Americans than among the overall population; green bars to the left mean that the African American rate is lower than the parish's overall rate).

Separate current quarter summaries provided for Secure, Non Secure and FINS custody youth.

Secure Delinquent Custody														
2009 4th Quarter	This Quarter		Last Quarter		This Quarter Last Year		This Qtr's variance from state rate		12 Qtr Trend Rate*	Demographics				
	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	-10	+10		This Qtr Percent	This Qtr Percent	This Qtr Rate**	Variance from overall rate	
State total ▶	842	1.71	822								6%	80%	3.49	■
Acadia □	2	0.27	2								0%	50%	0.58	
Allen □	1	0.38	3								0%	0%	0.00	
	0	0.00	0								0%	100%	1.93	■
	2	0.74	1								0%	82%	5.60	■
	1	2.38	10								0%	0%	0.00	■
	6	1.45	10	2.42	6	1.45					0%	0%	0.00	■
Bienville □	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.61	■				N/A	N/A	0.00	
Dossier ■	15	1.16	16	1.24	9	0.70					13%	67%	2.00	■
Caddo ■	64	2.29	62	2.21	66	2.36					5%	94%	3.76	■
Calcasieu ■	15	0.72	13	0.62	19	0.91	■							
	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	■							
	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.18	■				0%	100%	1.04	
	1	0.91	1	0.91	1	0.91					0%	67%	1.97	
	1	0.60	1	0.60	2	1.19	■							
	3	1.39	4	1.85	3	1.39								
De Soto □	7	2.33	5	1.67	11	3.67	■				14%	86%	4.26	■
East Baton Rouge ■	65	1.37	67	1.41	49	1.03					3%	94%	2.28	■
East Carroll □	5	5.1					■							
East Feliciana □	0	0.00					■							
Evangeline □	18	4.0					■							
Franklin □	15	6.8					■							
Grant □	4	1.63	5	2.04			■							
Iberia ■	26	2.85	22	2.42			■							
Iberville □	15	4.44	12	3.55			■				20%	93%	7.56	■
Jackson □	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	■							
Jeff Davis □	2	0.53	2	0.53	2	0.53								
Jefferson ■	75	1.61	69	1.48	67	1.44								
La Salle □	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	2.46	■							
Lafayette ■	34	1.47	39	1.69	46	1.99					6%	88%	3.99	■

Total number of youth served under a Secure legal status this quarter.

Parish Rate:
of youth / parish youth population * 1000:
7/2999 * 1000 = 2.33

State Rate:
of youth / state youth population * 1000.
For the secure population this quarter:
842/492,628 * 1000 = 1.71.

The number of youth from this parish in the current quarter under a Secure legal status.

Sparkline graphic shows 3 year trend.

Variance graphic helps to show if the parish is above (red) or below (green) the state rate for youth under a Secure legal status.

Female and African American percentage of youth under a Secure legal status for each parish.

Variance graphic compares the African American rate with the overall parish rate.