

Preliminary Quantitative Data Reported to Maine Juvenile Justice Task Force

Youth Committed to Long Creek Youth Development Center

Maine Juvenile Justice System Assessment

The data reviewed, which were provided by the Department of Corrections, covered the 55 youth who spent time in commitment at Long Creek Youth Development Center between June 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019. Due to the small number of youth, it is difficult to perform statistical analyses. This is a summary of descriptive data generated by Dr. Naomi Goldstein and her colleagues at Drexel University and reported to the Juvenile Justice System Assessment and Reinvestment Task Force on December 18, 2019, by Mark Soler, Executive Director, Center for Children's Law and Policy.

Demographics

Age: Median age at commitment: 16.33. 49% of committed youth were 17-19 years of age

Gender: 84% boys, 16% girls

Race: 82% White, 16% Black/African-American

Percentage American citizens: 100%

County of offense: 58% of youth were arrested in Androscoggin, Cumberland, or York county

Residence prior to commitment: Nearly 75% of youth lived at home/with family, with extended family, or with a friend; 25% were noted as living at a "Residential Program" before their Long Creek commitment

Prior involvement in juvenile justice system: On average, youth had 2-3 prior detentions and no prior commitments

Prior involvement in child welfare system:

- Nearly 66% had at least one child welfare assessment during their lifetime
- Nearly 46% had at least one indicated or substantiated child welfare claim in their lifetime
- 20% were removed from their home at least once for child welfare issues

Offenses

Most serious offense type:

- 58% Person offenses, 36% Property offenses, under 4% Drug/Alcohol, 2% Other
- Assault or Aggravated Assault (38%) was the most common most serious adjudicated offense, followed by Theft (18%)
- For 42% of committed youth, their most serious offense was *not* a crime against persons
- For 31% of committed youth, the most serious adjudicated offense was related to theft, criminal mischief, drug possession, or disorderly conduct.

For 44% of youth, the most serious charge *adjudicated* was categorized at a lower class (i.e., less serious) level than their most serious charge at arrest.

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Youth Level of Service (YLS) risk scores (indicating risk of recidivism)

Note: YLS administration occurred at a range of time points (i.e., before, during, after commitment) and therefore comparisons across risk level groups should be made with caution.

- 22.9% scored in the low risk range, 47.9% medium risk, 22.9% high risk, 6.3% very high risk
- 71% of committed youth were designated low or medium risk

Length of Stay (LOS)

Median LOS of 26 youth in sample with release dates before 5/31/2019: 534.5 days (range: 153 to 985 days)

Youth with high YLS scores had a shorter median LOS than youth with low or medium YLS scores

- Median LOS for high risk youth ($n = 4$): 321 days
- Median LOS for medium risk youth ($n = 14$): 535 days
- Median LOS for low risk youth ($n = 8$): 580 days

Nearly 70% of youth in the sample with release dates were classified as low- or medium-risk; those youth spent approximately seven months *longer* at Long Creek than youth classified as high risk

Length of Stay by Offense:

Most Serious Adjudicated Offense	N	Mean LOS	Median LOS	LOS Range
Theft	3	694	634	566 - 882
Terrorizing	1	606	606	606 - 606
Assault/Aggravated Assault	11	580	594	153 - 985
Drug Possession	2	555	555	249 - 862
Robbery	1	447	447	447 - 447
Criminal Mischief	2	397	397	273 - 522
Burglary/Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	2	393	393	239 - 547
Criminal Threatening	1	380	380	380 - 380
Sexual Assault/Unlawful Sexual Contact	2	380	380	259 - 502
Manslaughter/Conspiracy to Commit Murder	1	346	346	346 - 346