

## Child Welfare and Juvenile Rehabilitation Overlap

One of the primary goals of the newly formed Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is to restructure how the state serves at-risk children and youth. To understand those at the highest risk, DCYF is identifying the system overlap in client services. One of those areas of overlap occurs between the Child Welfare (CW) and Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) systems.

To identify children and youth that have been involved in both CW and JR, we used a crosswalk of identification numbers developed by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) – Research and Data Analysis (RDA). This crosswalk identifies when the same person is present in the distinct records management system for both CW and JR.

**Table 1: CW Out-of-Home Placement (OOHP) Prior to Admission to JR**

|  | SFY 2014** |       | CY 2016 |       | CY 2017 |       | CY 2018 |       |
|--|------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
|  | N          | %     | N       | %     | N       | %     | N       | %     |
| Total JR admissions  | 632        | 100%  | 605     | 100%  | 526     | 100%  | 456     | 100%  |
| Any CW OOHP prior to JR admission  | 182        | 28.8% | 139     | 23.0% | 122     | 23.2% | 113     | 24.8% |
| Any CW OOHP lasting two months or more                                   | NA         | NA    | 78      | 12.9% | 89      | 16.9% | 77      | 16.9% |
| Any CW OOHP in the year prior to JR admission                            | 72         | 11.4% | 61      | 10.1% | 63      | 12.0% | 44      | 9.6%  |
| Any CW OOHP lasting two months or more in the year prior to JR admission | 60         | 9.5%  | 50      | 8.3%  | 50      | 9.5%  | 40      | 8.8%  |

\*\*From RDA memo from 8/27/2015, "Characteristics of Youth Entering Juvenile Rehabilitation Institutions"

Table 1 displays the information related to the overlap between CW and JR populations. This analysis shows the number of youth admitted to JR who experienced an OOHP prior to their JR sentence. The table also includes findings from a 2014 analysis conducted by RDA. In 2016, 23% of JR admissions had experienced an OOHP prior to going to JR, compared to 23.2% in 2017 and 24.8% in 2018. Almost 13% of youth admitted in 2016 experienced an OOHP that lasted two months or longer in their lifetime, compared to 16.9% in both 2017 and 2018. For those admitted in 2016, 10.1% experienced an OOHP in the year prior to entering JR, compared to 12% in 2017 and 9.6% in 2018. Finally, 8.3% of youth admitted in 2016 experienced an OOHP lasting two month or more in the year prior to JR admission, compared to 9.5% in 2017 and 8.8% in 2018.

This data shows a significant and consistent overlap between the CW and JR systems. More work is needed to explore the CW experiences of youth who end up in JR. Understanding of these experiences will lead to prevention and intervention recommendations. Further, an understanding of youth system experiences will result in numerous opportunities to better serve some of the most high-risk youth in the state.