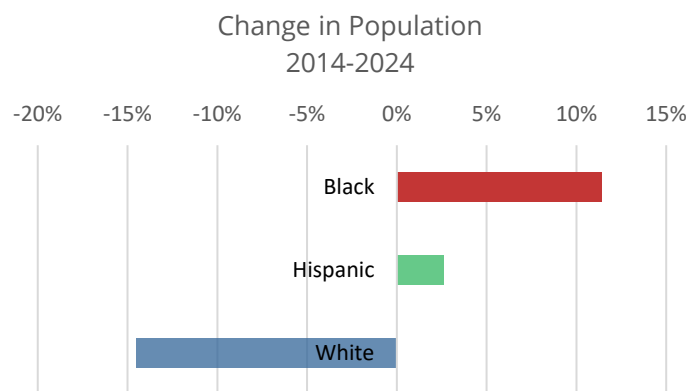


January 2025

The Center for Improving Youth Justice (CIYJ) monitors trends in youth justice to help understand how the system is evolving and to ensure practices and policies stay effective, equitable and aligned with the best interests of young people. CIYJ's Performance-based Standards program provides youth justice agencies with research-based practice standards and a continuous data collection-analysis-improvement process to continually monitor conditions and quality of life in their facilities. Trends that emerged from the national aggregate data in October 2024 include:

The average daily population of young people committed to secure facilities is increasing. The average daily population in detention centers has more than doubled since the drastic reduction during the COVID-19 pandemic. The average daily population in correction facilities has increased by about 40% since the COVID-related reduction.

Young people of color are comprising a greater percentage of facility populations. In 2024, the percent of Black youth in facilities increased to 38.6%, Hispanic youth increased to 20.5% and White youth decreased to 28.4%. The percentage of young people who identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native (8%), Asian (0.7%), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (1.5%) and other (2.3%) stayed relatively the same.



The average length of stay in facilities increased since 2022. Black youth stayed about 245 days (16 days longer) in 2024, Hispanic youth stayed 251 days (18 days longer) and White youth stayed 290 days (three days longer).

Other population trends to watch:

- Slightly more young people were confined for person offenses- 46% in 2024, up from 44% in 2020,
- More young people identified as male- 94% in 2024 and 90% in 2020 and
- A few more young people were parents- 17.8% in 2024 increased from 16% in 2020.
- About 75% continue to have identified mental health treatment needs.

What staff and young people said:

- More staff reported they were satisfied with their jobs, 83% in 2024, up from 81% in 2022 and
- More young people reported they trust staff, 69% in 2024, up from 67% in 2022.

For more information please visit our [website](#).