



The Children's
Law Center



A Fact Sheet by the ACLU, The
Children's Law Center & The Office of
the Ohio State Public Defender

Ensuring Access to Counsel in Ohio: Ohio Juvenile Justice Overview

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Juvenile Court System

- Courts of Common Pleas exercise jurisdiction over delinquency matters. Ten of Ohio's 88 counties have separate juvenile court divisions. The remaining 78 counties have juvenile court divisions combined with domestic and/or probate divisions.¹
- Over 143,216 delinquency cases were filed in juvenile courts across Ohio in 2004.²

Detention Facilities

- Ohio has 40 county or multi-county run detention facilities. These facilities are generally used as short-term detention locations for both pre-trial and post-disposition.³
- In total, the 40 facilities have 1,693 beds.⁴
- Detention facilities had 44,720 admissions in 2004.⁵

Department of Youth Services Facilities (DYS)

- Ohio has eight DYS facilities where judges may send youth found responsible for delinquent acts that would have been considered a felony if they had been an adult.⁶
- Average per diem cost to house, care and treat a juvenile offender is \$184.26.⁷
- On average, an incarcerated youth will be detained for 10.4 months in DYS.⁸
- The 2004 DYS budget was \$274 million.⁹
- Nearly 61% of the youth in DYS facilities are not in the system for violent offenses.¹⁰

ENDNOTES

¹ *State Juvenile Justice Profiles: Ohio*, National Center for Juvenile Justice, available at <http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/profiles/OH04.asp?state=OH04.asp&topic=Profile>, (2004).

² 2004 Ohio Court's Summary, pg. 99, available at

<http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/publications/annrep/04OCS/sectionH.pdf>.

³ *Services for Students with Disabilities In Ohio Detention Facilities*, Children's Law Center, at 17-20 (August 200).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Supra*, note 1.

⁶ *A Parent's Guide to the Ohio Juvenile Justice System*. Children's Law Center, at 20, (December 2005).

⁷ *Youthful Offender Statistics*, Ohio Department of Youth Services, available at www.dys.ohio.gov/youthfuloffender-stat.html, 2004.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Ohio Department of Youth Services Annual Report, at 7, (2004).