



Juvenile Disposition Summary

Fiscal Year 2022

The Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) received 1,763 juvenile dispositions rendered by Washington State juvenile courts in Fiscal Year 2022.¹ This report describes those dispositions.

Washington State Juvenile Sentencing Guidelines

The Washington State juvenile code mandates a system of presumptive sentencing guidelines for juvenile offenders.

The presumptive standard range for an offense² is a function of the seriousness of the current offense (current offense category) and criminal history (prior adjudication score).

Although the level of presumptive sanction increases with offense seriousness and prior adjudication score, the increase is not linear (see Figure 1).

Generally, current offense seriousness outweighs prior adjudication score.

Courts also have the option of using several sentencing alternatives to the standard range.

Current Offense Category

While the juvenile system uses adult crime statutes, individual offenses are assigned a more differentiated juvenile “current offense category” (with + and – added to differentiate within a class) for sentencing purposes. While juvenile offense categories generally parallel adult felony classes (i.e., Class B felonies are typically B+, B, or B- category offenses), that is not universally the case.

Prior Adjudication Score

The seriousness of criminal history is summarized by the “prior adjudication score.” Prior felony adjudications count as one point each, and misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors count as one-quarter point. The prior adjudication score is the sum of the points for all prior adjudicated offenses, with fractions rounded down.

¹ Juvenile courts are required by statute (RCW 13.50.010(9)) to report all dispositions to the Caseload Forecast Council.

² Washington’s juvenile code, while paralleling the adult criminal justice system in most respects, retains traditional juvenile court terminology where juvenile offenders are “adjudicated” rather than “convicted” of “offenses” rather than “crimes.” This report uses the juvenile and adult terms interchangeably, recognizing that in some cases, absolute accuracy is subordinated to readability.

Prior adjudications do not affect the standard range for any current offense that is not a felony. Any current offense that is a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor will always involve local sanctions regardless of the youth’s prior adjudication score.

Standard Range: Confinement to Juvenile Rehabilitation vs. Local Sanction

The juvenile sentencing guidelines specify two types of presumptive penalties: a standard range of confinement under the supervision of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families’ Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) for more than thirty days or a local sanction administered at the county level.

Standard ranges exceed 30 days, include a minimum and a maximum term, and are served in a Juvenile Rehabilitation facility. Juvenile Rehabilitation has the limited discretion to set a release date between the minimum and maximum terms. Youths do not earn a sentence reduction for good behavior.

Local sanctions are supervised by county probation departments. Courts sentencing youths to local sanctions have the discretion to select from a menu of options including confinement, home monitoring, private residence, community supervision, fines, community service and work crew.

The presumptive sanction for category “B+” or higher offenses (Class A felonies and some violent Class B felonies) is a standard range of confinement in a Juvenile Rehabilitation facility.

Less serious offenses, the equivalent of B and C felonies, carry a presumption of a standard range of confinement or a local sanction, depending on the offense categories and prior adjudication scores.

Misdemeanors or gross misdemeanors carry a presumptive local sanction.

Figure 1. Option A - Juvenile Offender Sentencing Grid Standard Range (RCW 13.40.0357)

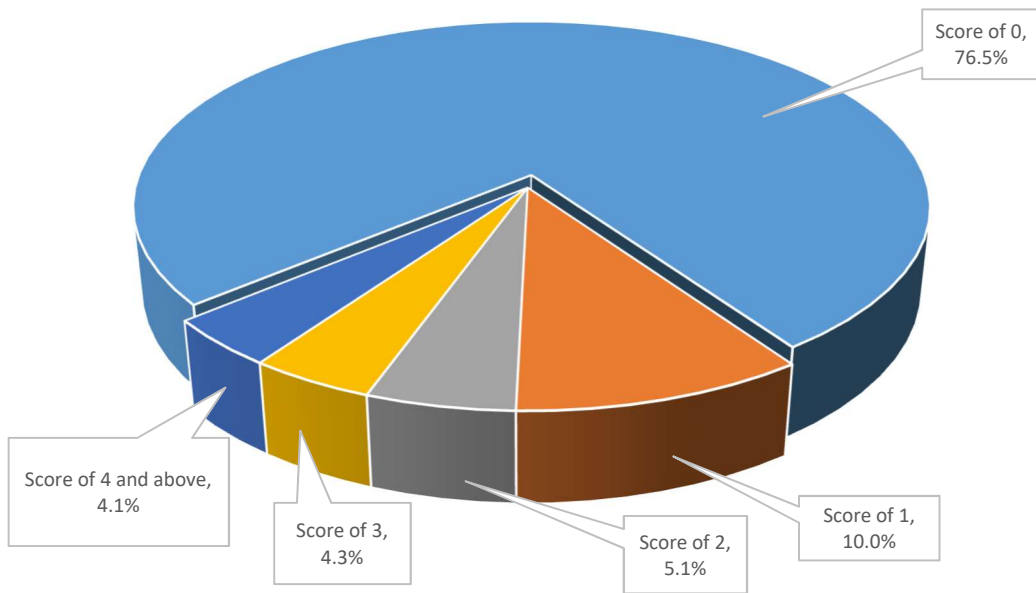
Current Offense Category	Standard Range Sanction				
A++	129 to 260 weeks for all category A++ offenses				
A+	180 weeks to age 21 for all category A+ offenses				
A	103-129 weeks for all category A offenses				
A-	30-40 weeks	52-65 weeks	80-100 weeks	103-129 weeks	103-129 weeks
B++	15-36 weeks	52-65 weeks	80-100 weeks	103-129 weeks	103-129 weeks
B+	15-36 weeks	15-36 weeks	52-65 weeks	80-100 weeks	103-129 weeks
B	LS	LS	15-36 weeks	15-36 weeks	52-65 weeks
C+	LS	LS	LS	15-36 weeks	15-36 weeks
C	LS	LS	LS	LS	15-36 weeks
D+	LS	LS	LS	LS	LS
D	LS	LS	LS	LS	LS
E	LS	LS	LS	LS	LS

Prior Adjudication by Score	0	1	2	3	4 or more
-----------------------------	---	---	---	---	-----------

Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Juvenile Court Dispositions

Most youths sentenced in FY 2022 had little or no criminal histories. About three quarters (76.5%)³ of those sentenced were youths with no prior adjudications or less than three non-felony charges. Another 10% had prior adjudication scores of one. The remaining 13.5% had prior adjudication scores of two or more (Figure 2).

Figure 2. FY 2022 Juvenile Dispositions by Prior Adjudication Score⁴



Demographics

Table 1 shows the dispositions distribution by gender, race/ethnicity, and age range. Most youths sentenced in FY 2022 were male (79.9%), and more than half were Caucasian (51.1%). The least common racial group was Asian/Pacific Islander (4%).

Youths ranged in age from 12 to 17, but most were clustered at the upper end of the age range. The most common ages at disposition were from 15 to 17, comprising 68.9% of the total.

³ This is comprised of 1,064 dispositions with scores of zero and 284 dispositions with score of 0.25, 0.5 or 0.75.

⁴ Fractions are rounded down meaning a score 1.75 is reported as a score of 1.

Table 1. Demographics

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	1,409	79.9%
Female	354	20.1%
	1,763	100.0%
Race/Ethnicity⁵		
African American	233	13.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	71	4.0%
Caucasian	901	51.1%
Hispanic ⁶	390	22.1%
Native American	84	4.8%
Total	1,763	100.0%
Age Range (at Disposition)		
10 years old or younger	0	0.0%
11 years old	0	0.0%
12 years old	45	2.6%
13 years old	112	6.4%
14 years old	218	12.4%
15 to 17 years old	1,214	68.9%
18 years old and older	174	9.9%
Total	1,763	100.0%

Race/Ethnicity: Dispositions vs. State Population

Minorities are typically disproportionately over-represented in juvenile offender populations. One common method of measuring disproportionality is to construct a ratio of the percentage of a given race/ethnicity in a target population to the percentage in the general population. If the percentages are the same, the disproportionality ratio is 1.0. If the percentage is greater in the target population (e.g., juvenile offenders) than in the state population, the ratio will be greater than 1.0 which indicates an “over-representation.” Likewise, a ratio less than 1.0 indicates an “under-representation.” The magnitude of the ratio indicates the degree of disproportionality.

Table 2 presents the race/ethnicity breakdown of the FY 2022 juvenile dispositions compared to the 2021 OFM state population distribution.⁷

The last column presents the disproportionality ratio. For example, the disproportionality ratio for Native American youths is 3.3. In other words, the proportion of Native Americans sentenced (4.8%) was 3.3 times the proportion in the general population (1.5%). In contrast, the disproportionality ratio for Caucasian is 0.9, which means the proportion of juvenile dispositions involving Caucasian is 0.9 times less than the proportion of Caucasian in the state population.

⁵ Race/Ethnicity was missing on 84 dispositions (4.8%).

⁶ The ethnicity data in juvenile dispositions submitted by counties to the CFC are often missing or reported inconsistently. While Hispanic is generally considered an ethnic group, it is often reported as a race on the juvenile dispositions. If the Race category is unknown or blank on the juvenile dispositions, the CFC records ethnicity as race if it is available.

⁷ The state population data used for this analysis is the 5 to 17 year old cohort.

Asian/Pacific Islanders are the most “under-represented” racial group in the offender population with a disproportionality ratio of 0.5.

Table 2. Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality⁸

Race/Ethnicity	% FY 2022 Juvenile Dispositions	% FY 2021 Washington State Juvenile Population⁹	Disproportionality Ratio
African American	13.2%	4.5%	2.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.0%	8.3%	0.5
Caucasian	51.1%	54.9%	0.9
Hispanic	22.1%	22.0%	1.0
Native American	4.8%	1.5%	3.3
Missing/Unknown ¹⁰	4.8%	8.7%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	
(n)	1,763	1,236,131	

County

As would be expected, most juvenile dispositions occur in the more populated counties in the state.

Table 3 shows the number of juvenile dispositions by county. King County had the highest number of dispositions (173 or 9.8%), followed by Spokane County (162 or 9.2%), and Pierce County (132 or 7.5%).

Together, these three counties (King, Spokane and Pierce) accounted for more than a quarter of all dispositions in the state. In contrast, 21 of 39 counties had less than 100 dispositions each and 10 of the smallest counties had less than 10 dispositions per county.

⁸ In calculating the disproportionality ratio, data provided by Office of Financial Management (OFM) Forecasting and Research Division is used to compare juvenile dispositions to the general statewide population. OFM population data categorizes Hispanic as an ethnic group and not a race. Since the categorization of race as reported on the juvenile dispositions used by the CFC is not consistent with the categorization of race in the OFM population data, the CFC’s disproportionality ratio calculation is likely to be different from the actual ratio.

⁹ OFM State Population for ages 5 to 17.

¹⁰ Race/Ethnicity was missing on 84 dispositions.

Table 3. Juvenile Dispositions by County

County	Number	County	Number
Adams	13	Lewis	57
Asotin	23	Lincoln	N/A
Benton	125	Mason	33
Chelan	45	Okanogan	34
Clallam	45	Pacific	11
Clark	103	Pend Oreille	N/A
Columbia	N/A ¹¹	Pierce	132
Cowlitz	65	San Juan	N/A
Douglas	16	Skagit	36
Ferry	N/A	Skamania	N/A
Franklin	61	Snohomish	103
Garfield	N/A	Spokane	162
Grant	67	Stevens	37
Grays Harbor	26	Thurston	74
Island	18	Wahkiakum	N/A
Jefferson	10	Walla Walla	19
King	173	Whatcom	66
Kitsap	35	Whitman	N/A
Kittitas	12	Yakima	127
Klickitat	N/A		
Total all counties: 1,763			

Type of Court Disposition

The vast majority of dispositions (1,695 or 96.1%) were the result of guilty pleas; only 27 (or 1.5%) of dispositions involved youths adjudicated guilty following a juvenile court hearing. The remaining dispositions (41 or 2.3%) were revoked deferred and “Alford” pleas.¹²

¹¹ (N/A): Less than 10 juvenile dispositions.

¹² An Alford Plea is when a defendant enters a plea of guilty without making an admission of guilt.

Locus of Sanction

Most youths (87.6%) are sanctioned at the local (county) level with the remainder of FY 2022 dispositions resulting in confinement in a state operated JR facility (Figure 3). The range of confinement for JR commitments was an average minimum of 61.7 weeks and an average maximum of 86.7 weeks (Table 4).

Figure 3. Locus of Sanction

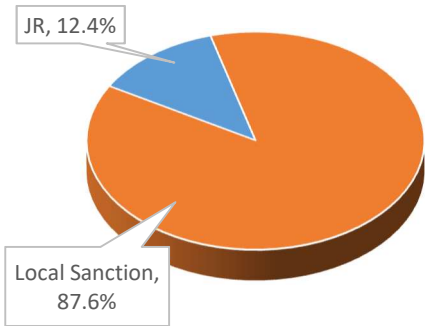


Table 4. Confinement Ordered by Placement Type

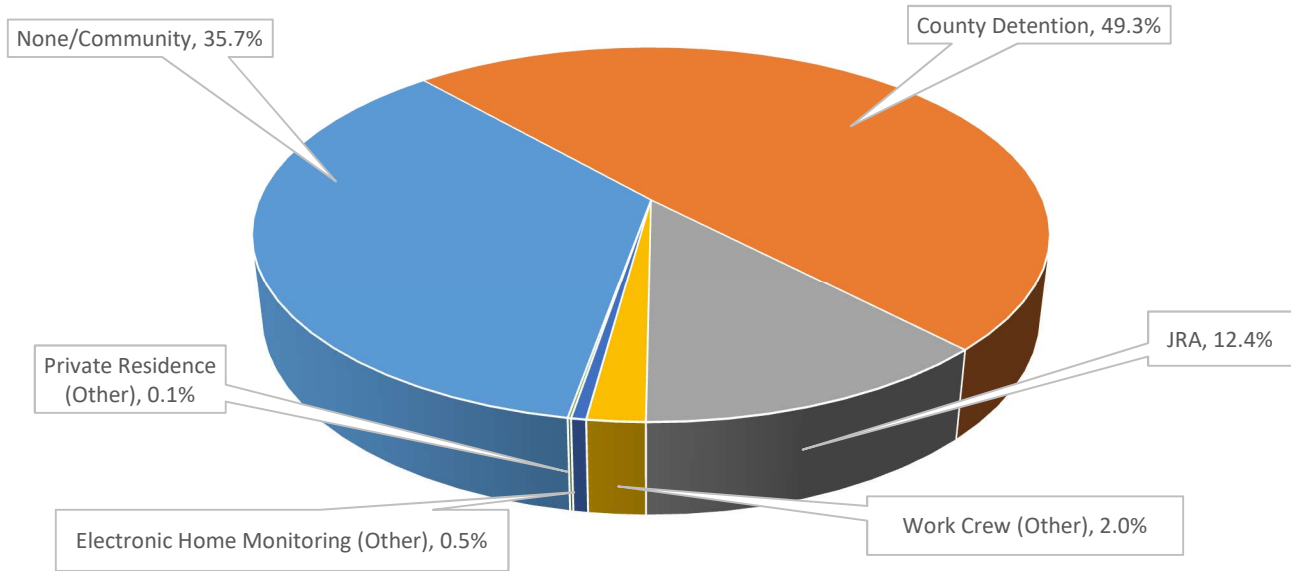
Placement Type	Average Sanction
JR	61.7 to 86.7 Weeks
County Detention	17.5 Days
Work Crew	3.4 Days
Electronic Monitoring	41.1 Days

Local Sanctions

“Local sanction” is the presumptive sentencing range for youths at the lower end of the offense seriousness/prior adjudication score continuum. Most (87.6%) of the FY 2022 dispositions resulted in sentences to local sanctions at the county level.

Nearly half (49.3%) of youths sentenced to local sanctions were assigned some confinement in county detention, with an average sentence of 17.5 days. Another 35.7% received community supervision without detention. The remaining 2.6% received some other sanction (work crew, electronic home monitoring, private residence, etc.). The average order of electronic home monitoring was 41.1 days. The average work crew order was 3.4 days.

Figure 4. Local Sanction by Type



Felony and Non-felony Offenses

Of the 1,763 juvenile dispositions imposed in FY 2022, most of the offenses committed were for non-felony (gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor) offenses. Felonies accounted for 36.9% of all offenses committed (Table 5).

Table 5. Felony and Non-felony Offenses

Offense	Number	Percent
Felony	960	36.9%
Gross Misdemeanor	1,384	53.1%
Misdemeanor	260	10.0%
Total	2,604	100.0%

Felony Offenses

There were 960 felony offenses imposed in the 1,763 juvenile dispositions. Offenses within the Homicide offense category were the most serious felony offenses committed by juveniles, with an average minimum term of 86.9-week and an average maximum term of 126.5-week confinement. The second most serious felony offense category was Kidnapping, with an average minimum sentence of 49.3 weeks and an average maximum sentence of 68.3 weeks (Figure 5 and Table 6). On average, felony offenses included 7.6 months of community supervision in addition to any confinement.

Figure 5. Felony Offense Categories - Average Confinement by Weeks

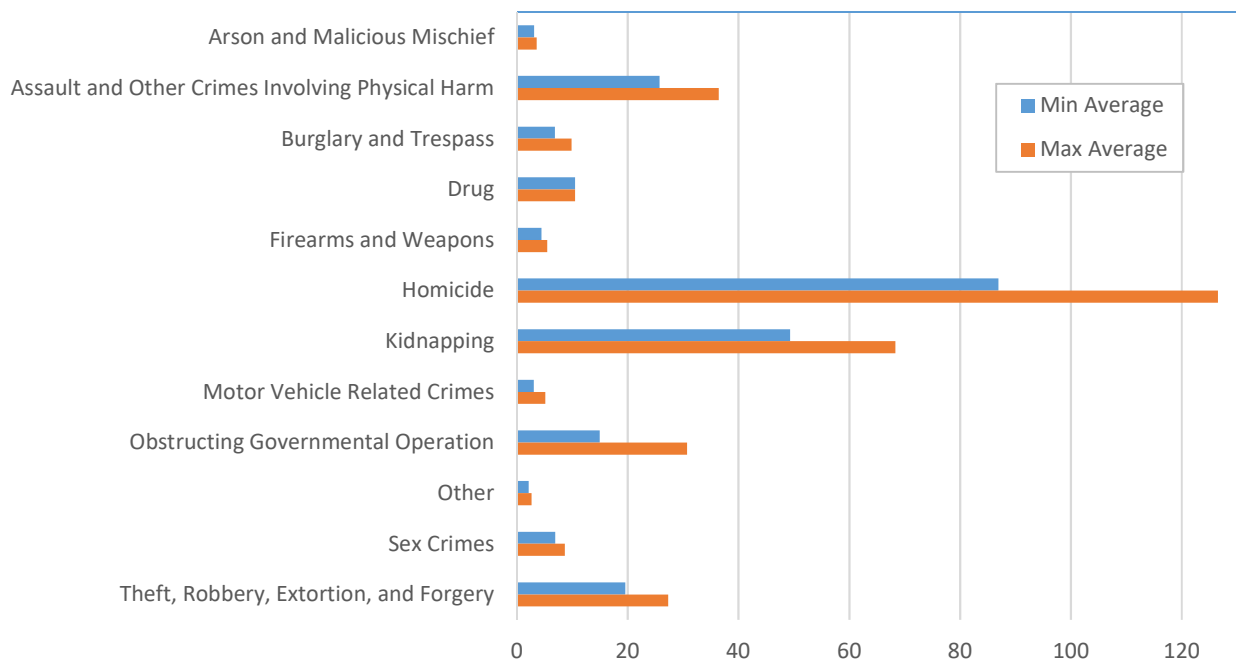


Table 6. Average Confinement Ordered by Felony Offense Categories

Felony Offenses by Category	Number	Average Term (Weeks)	
		Minimum	Maximum
Arson and Malicious Mischief	44	3.1	3.6
Assault and Other Crimes Involving Physical Harm	239	25.8	36.5
Burglary and Trespass	87	6.9	9.9
Drug	16	10.4	10.4
Firearms and Weapons	100	4.5	5.5
Homicide	8	86.9	126.5
Kidnapping	3	49.3	68.3
Motor Vehicle Related Crimes	20	3.1	5.2
Obstructing Governmental Operation	4	15.0	30.8
Other	65	2.2	2.6
Sex Crimes	150	7.0	8.8
Theft, Robbery, Extortion, and Forgery	224	19.6	27.3
Total	960		

Non-Felony Offenses

Within the 1,763 juvenile dispositions, 1,644 gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor offenses were imposed. The offenses within the categories of Assault and Other Involving Physical Harm were the most common non-felony offenses, with an average sentence of 9.3-day confinement. The average community supervision imposed for gross misdemeanors and misdemeanors was 6 months.

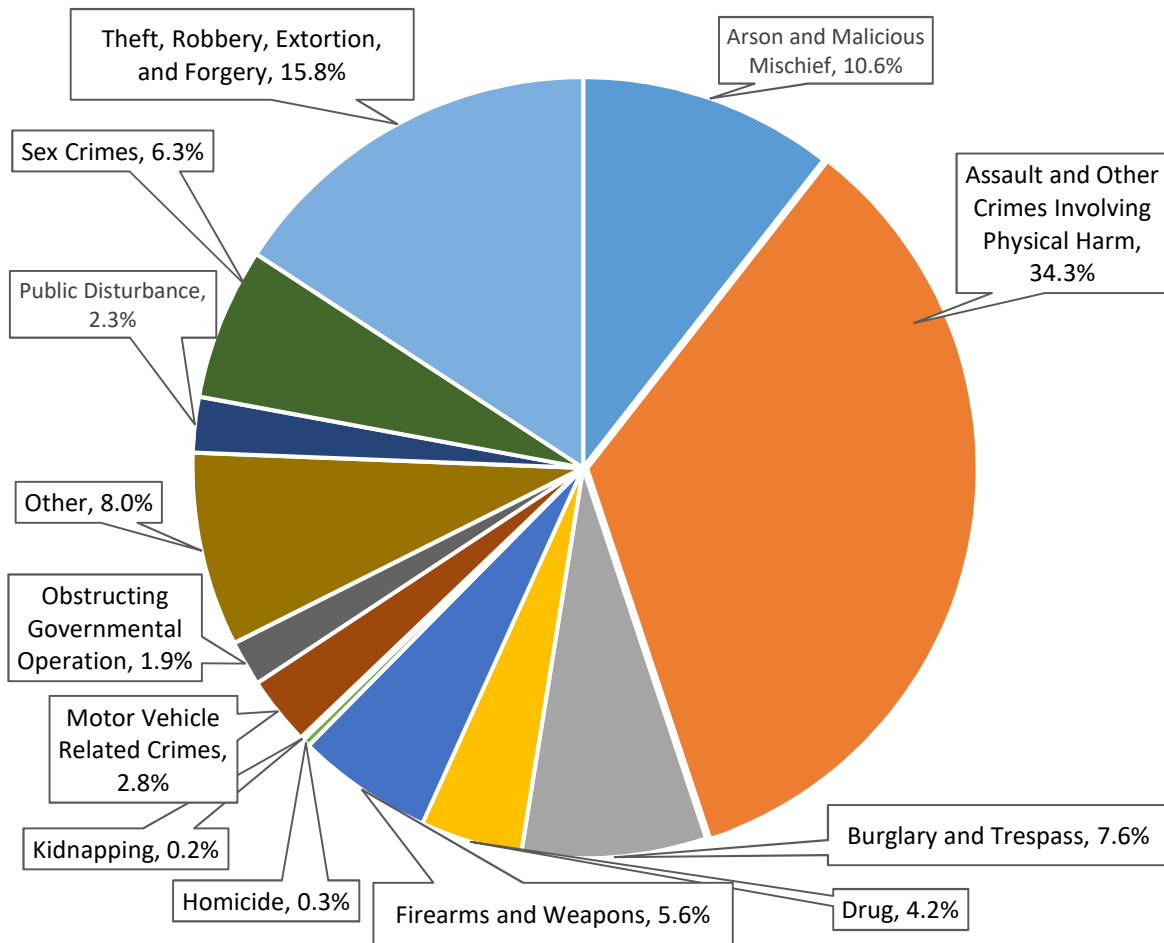
Table 7. Average Confinement Ordered by Non-Felony Offense Categories

Non-Felony Offenses by Category	Number	Average (Days)
Arson and Malicious Mischief	231	6.5
Assault and Other Crimes Involving Physical Harm	655	9.3
Burglary and Trespass	112	5.9
Drug	94	9.6
Firearms and Weapons	47	7.0
Kidnapping	1	0.0
Motor Vehicle Related Crimes	54	2.4
Obstructing Governmental Operation	45	5.0
Other	144	8.0
Public Disturbance	60	2.3
Sex Crimes	14	28.4
Theft, Robbery, Extortion, and Forgery	187	8.9
Total	1,644	

Table 8. Distribution of Offense by Categories

Offense by Category	Number	Percentage
Arson and Malicious Mischief	275	10.6%
Assault and Other Crimes Involving Physical Harm	894	34.3%
Burglary and Trespass	199	7.6%
Drug	110	4.2%
Firearms and Weapons	147	5.6%
Homicide	8	0.3%
Kidnapping	4	0.2%
Motor Vehicle Related Crimes	74	2.8%
Obstructing Governmental Operation	49	1.9%
Other	209	8.0%
Public Disturbance	60	2.3%
Sex Crimes	164	6.3%
Theft, Robbery, Extortion, and Forgery	411	15.8%
Total	2,604	100.0%

Figure 6. Distribution of Offense Category



Violent and Non-violent Offenses

The great majority (90.1%) of FY 2022 juvenile adjudications were for offenses classified as non-violent (Table 9). Non-violent offenses carried an average minimum sentence of 15.8-day and an average maximum sentence of 19.7-day confinement.

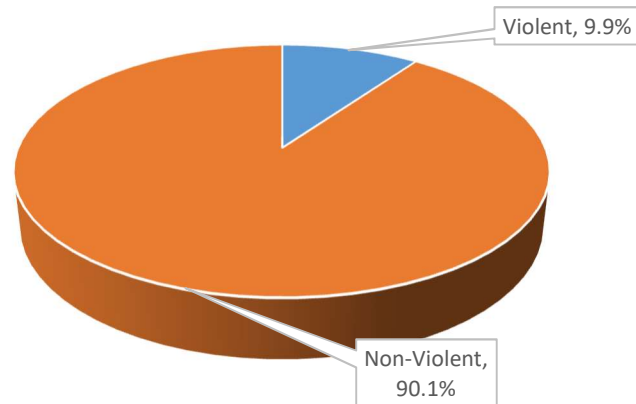
Table 9. Violent and Non-Violent Offenses

Offense	Number	Average Term
Serious Violent	16	129 to 162 Weeks
Violent	241	35 to 50 Weeks
Non-Violent	2,347	15.8 to 19.7 Days
Total	2,604	

Adjudications for juvenile “serious violent offenses”¹³ were extremely rare in FY 2022, accounting for only 16 (or 0.6%) of 2,604 offenses committed. Total confinement for serious violent offenses carried an average range of 129 to 162 week confinement in JR.¹⁴

There were an additional 241 juvenile adjudications for offenses categorized as violent, with an average confinement range of 35 to 50 weeks.

Figure 7. Violent and Non-Violent Offenses



Suspended Disposition Alternatives

The state juvenile law permits a number of alternatives to the standard presumptive sentencing ranges (Option A), depending on the current offense, criminal history, and treatment needs of the youth. There are three “alternative” dispositions which allow a court to impose a sentence, and then suspend that sentence in favor of a community based local sanctions disposition. These three alternatives are based on compliance with appropriate treatment goals.

1. Suspended Dispositions (Option B) (RCW 13.40.0357)

Option B provides authority to the court to suspend a portion of the standard range confinement time in order for the youth to participate in a treatment or education program. The court imposed approximately 49 Option B suspended dispositions with an average minimum confinement of 1.8 days, a suspended range of confinement with an average minimum of 150.1 days and an average maximum of 277.2 days, and an average of 8.9 months of community supervision.

¹³ “Serious violent offense” is a subcategory of violent offense and means:

(i) Murder in the first degree; (ii) Homicide by abuse; (iii) Murder in the second degree; (iv) Manslaughter in the first degree; (v) Assault in the first degree; (vi) Kidnapping in the first degree; (vii) Rape in the first degree; (viii) Assault of a child in the first degree; or (ix) An attempt, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy to commit one of these felonies. (RCW 9.94A.030(45))

¹⁴ Most individuals under the age of 18 committing “serious violent offenses” are sentenced as adults and therefore are not technically juvenile offenders. These sentences are reported in a separate CFC publication: “Statistical Summary of Adult Felony Sentencing: Fiscal Year 2022” available on the CFC website.

2. Chemical Dependency/Mental Health Disposition Alternative (CDMHDA) (Option C) (RCW 13.40.165)

During FY 2022, 6 dispositions were imposed under the Mental Health Disposition Alternative (MHDA) and 39 dispositions were imposed under the Co-Occurring CDMHDA option. CDMHDA provides chemically dependent/Mental Health youth with an alternative disposition that includes mental health, drug or alcohol treatment. Mental Health Disposition Alternatives and Co-Occurring CDMHDA respectively involved an average confinement of 0 days and 3 days, a suspended range of confinement with an average minimum of 63.2 days and 61.5 days; an average maximum of 87.7 days and 79.5 days; and an average of 12 months and 10.2 months of community supervision.

3. Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA) (RCW 13.40.162)

During FY 2022, 150 dispositions were imposed under the Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative option. SSODA authorizes the court to suspend the standard range disposition and impose inpatient or outpatient treatment for certain sex offenses. The court may impose a number of special conditions as a prerequisite of the suspended disposition. SSODA dispositions carried an average minimum confinement of 2.7 days, a suspended range of confinement with an average minimum of 169.2 days and an average maximum of 190.3 days, and an average of 23.8 months of community supervision.

Table 10. Juvenile Disposition Alternatives

Alternative	Average Range of Confinement (Days)				Supervision (months)	
	Number	Confinement		Suspended		
		Min	Max	Min		Max
CDDA	-	-	-	-	-	
Co-Occurring CDMHDA	39	3.0	3.0	61.5	79.5	10.2
Mental Health Disp.	6	-	-	63.2	87.7	12.0
Option B – Suspended Disp.	49	1.8	1.8	150.1	277.2	8.9
SSODA	150	2.7	2.7	169.2	190.3	23.8

Manifest Injustice Offenses (Option D)

In addition to the alternatives described above, the court may depart from the standard range by imposing a Manifest Injustice order either above or below the standard range.¹⁵ Of the dispositions imposed in FY 2022 for the 2,604 offenses, 180 received a manifest injustice order (6.9%) in FY 2022, as detailed in Table 11.

¹⁵ The court may declare a “Manifest Injustice” and sentence outside the standard range when the facts and circumstances of a case or characteristics of the juvenile lead to the conclusion that dispositions ordered within the standard range would be manifestly unjust. The court’s findings of a Manifest Injustice must be supported by clear and convincing evidence and its justification entered into the record.

Table 11. Ratio of Manifest Injustice (MI) by Offenses

Category By Offenses	Total Offenses	Offenses were ordered in Standard Range	Offenses with MI	Ratio of MI
Arson and Malicious Mischief	275	264	11	4.0%
Assault and Other Crimes Involving Physical Harm	894	832	62	6.9%
Burglary and Trespass	199	186	13	6.5%
Drug	110	106	4	3.6%
Firearms and Weapons	147	140	7	4.8%
Homicide	8	5	3	37.5%
Kidnapping	4	3	1	25.0%
Motor Vehicle Related Crimes	74	74	-	0.0%
Obstructing Governmental Operation	49	47	2	4.1%
Other	209	205	4	1.9%
Public Disturbance	60	59	1	1.7%
Sex Crimes	164	122	42	25.6%
Theft, Robbery, Extortion, and Forgery	411	381	30	7.3%
Total	2,604	2,424	180	

The most common reasons for mitigated Manifest Injustice sentences were “other mitigating factor” and “all parties agree to mitigated sentence.” The most cited reasons for aggravated Manifest Injustice sentences were “other aggravating factor,” “all parties agree to aggravated sentence,” and “recent criminal history or failed to comply with diversion agreement” as shown in Table 12.

Table 12. Total Manifest Injustice Reasons

Mitigating Reasons		Number
Acted under strong and immediate provocation		2
All parties agree to mitigated sentence		16
One year or more between current offense and prior offense		3
Other Mitigating Factor		26
Suffered mental or physical condition that reduced capability for the offense		4
The conduct neither caused nor threatened serious bodily injury or did not contemplate the conduct would cause or threaten serious bodily injury		5
Aggravating Reasons		
All parties agree to aggravated sentence (up)		24
Finding of sexual motivation		8
Heinous, cruel or depraved		1
Highly likely to reoffend		3
Impose a serious and clear danger to society		7
Leader of criminal enterprise		1
Need the structure, intensive treatment, training and supervision		6
Other aggravating factor		29
Other complaints resulting in diversions or guilty plea not listed in history		2
Recent criminal history or failed to comply with diversion agreement		22
Standard range too lenient considering priors		13
Stipulation and associated findings of law previously filed in this matter (see Hilyard)		1
Victim was particularly vulnerable		19
While committing or fleeing from offense inflicted or attempted to inflict injury		12

Summary

This report details characteristics of the 1,763 FY 2022 Washington State juvenile offender dispositions reported to the Caseload Forecast Council.

As the data shows, more than three quarters (79.9%) of the dispositions involved young males. Most youths sentenced in juvenile court have little or no criminal history. In fact, approximately 60.4% of dispositions were imposed to youths with no prior offenses.

Similarly, most youths sentenced in court were there for relatively minor crimes. Almost two thirds (63.1%) of the youths sentenced in FY 2022 were sentenced for offenses that were gross misdemeanors or misdemeanors.

Washington is among the small number of states with presumptive sentencing guidelines for juvenile offenders. Although courts have access to a variety of sentencing alternatives for youths with specific treatment needs (sex offenders, chemical dependency/mental health issues, and Option B), the majority of youths (93.1%) are sentenced under the presumptive sentencing guidelines.

One of the intents of the Washington juvenile code and its system of presumptive sentencing guidelines is to promote accountability and proportionality in the sentencing of youths. The data in this report support the conclusion that these intents are being realized, at least to the extent that the severity of sanctions ordered by the courts tend to increase with the seriousness of the offense and the extent of prior criminal history.

There was racial/ethnic disproportionality in the sentenced population. Compared to the state as a whole, those adjudicated in FY 2022 were more likely to be Native Americans or African Americans.

While it is beyond the scope of this report to determine the causes of gender and racial/ethnic disproportionality in the sentenced population, the data is clear that it persists.

This report is updated annually. It, along with prior annual reports, is available on the Caseload Forecast Council's (CFC) website: www.cfc.wa.gov.

The juvenile disposition data contained in this report come from Washington Disposition forms sent to the CFC by the courts. Data include all juvenile dispositions known to the CFC that were imposed between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022 (FY 2022). Data elements entered into the CFC database and used in the report include race, gender, type of sentence, current offense, offense history, offender score, and the imposed terms of confinement and community supervision.

Comments or questions may be directed to:

**Duc Luu | Database and Sentencing Administration Manager | Duc.Luu@cfc.wa.gov
Caseload Forecast Council P.O. Box 40962, Olympia, WA 98504-0962**