



Gaines County Juvenile Justice Data Sheet

Under SB 653, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) has been made responsible for partnering with “local county governments, the courts, and communities to promote public safety,”¹ as well as for “producing positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities.”² To ensure these mandates are met, stakeholders must familiarize themselves with the information pertinent to their community.

The information included within this data sheet reflects the most recent juvenile data for Gaines County.

County Overview³

- **Youth Population (age 10 to 16):** 1,656
- **Youth Referred to TJJD:**⁴ 42
- **Youth Referred with Past Traumatic Experience:** 12 (29%)
- **Youth Referred with Diagnosed Mental Illness:** 7 (17%)
- **Youth Referred but Not Adjudicated:** 25
- **Youth Securely Detained Pre-Adjudication:**⁵ 15
- **Average Days from Referral to Disposition:** 191
- **Youth Adjudicated to Probation:** 15
- **Youth Adjudicated to Secure Placement:**⁶ Fewer than 5
- **Youth Committed to State Secure Facilities:** 0
- **Youth Certified as Adults:** 0

Investment in Community Programming

Reducing the number of youth adjudicated to residential facilities can only be achieved if stakeholders strongly invest in “a consistent, county-based continuum of effective interventions, supports, and services.”⁷ The programs delineated below are the current services within Gaines County that can be utilized as alternatives to incarceration.

Contracted Programs Provided by the County Juvenile Probation Department:

- High Sky Stay Together

Additional Youth-Based Programs Provided within the Community:

- Boys and Girls Club
- Youth Zone

County-Level Juvenile Facilities⁸

Garza County Regional Juvenile Center ⁹	
Cost per day per youth ¹⁰	\$115.00
Average daily population	9 youth
Average length of stay	13 days
Annual number of youth in seclusions ¹¹	100
Annual number of physical restraints used on youth	24
Annual number of injuries	2

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the data provided in this data sheet, please contact Jennifer Carreon at (512) 441-8123, ext. 103, or by email at jcarreon@TexasCJC.org.

References

¹ Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.002(1).

² Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.002(2).

³ Data provided to the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) by TJJD, April 2012.

⁴ A youth is formally referred to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department if face-to-face contact is made with a designated juvenile office for having engaged in delinquent activity within the Department's jurisdiction.

⁵ A pre-adjudication detention center is a secure residential facility (public or private) used for temporary placement of youth who have been accused of committing an offense.

⁶ A post-adjudication placement involves a secure residential facility (public or private) where youth are placed after disposition of their case.

⁷ Codified at Texas Human Resources Code, Section 201.003(1).

⁸ Data provided to TCJC by TJJD, April 2012.

⁹ Gaines County does not have a juvenile detention center (pre-adjudication facility) or secure residential placement facility (post-adjudication). Youth who are referred to TJJD from Gaines County are detained (pre-adjudication) in the Garza County Regional Juvenile Center. Separately, post-adjudication placements of youth from Gaines County vary by need and proximity to home.

¹⁰ This number was obtained via TJJD's Facility Registry. This is the only cost made public; it reflects the per-youth expense that another county would pay to place their youth within this facility.
<http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/publications/other/searchfacilityregistry.aspx>.

¹¹ Inappropriate use of solitary confinement (also known as disciplinary seclusions) and physical restraints (also known as use of force) in juvenile secure facilities create major barriers to successful rehabilitation. These concerns are especially serious for traumatized youth and youth with mental health issues. *See, e.g.*, L.M. Finke "The Use of Seclusion is Not an Evidence-Based Practice" (2001), and G.R. Hodas "Responding to Childhood Trauma: The Promise and Practice of Trauma Informed Care" (2006).