

Introduction to Detention

DJS operates seven detention facilities across the State to provide temporary and secure custody of youth subject to court jurisdiction. Youth may be detained at various points in the juvenile justice system. The juvenile court may order detention for youth pending a court hearing (pre- or post-disposition), pending initial placement in a committed program, or pending placement in a committed program post-ejection. Youth are most commonly detained for new complaints alleging delinquent behavior, writs and warrants issued by the court, or violations of alternative to detention (ATD) program conditions. Note that DJS detention facilities may additionally serve youth pending adult criminal charges while the transfer of jurisdiction from adult to juvenile court is being considered (see “Youth Charged as Adults Pending Transfer” on page 116).

DETENTION PROCESS

The decision whether to detain a youth is driven primarily by the juvenile court. However, juvenile detention may be authorized by DJS intake officers on a temporary basis at the request of a law enforcement officer or community detention officer. DJS is empowered by statute to detain a youth who either poses a clear risk to themselves/others, or is deemed likely to leave court jurisdiction. This emergent decision is guided by the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) (see Appendix F) and is subject to court review on the next court day. The DRAI objectively informs detention decisions by taking into account three factors: (1) the risk that a youth will reoffend or fail to appear for a court hearing, based on known risk factors in the youth’s history; (2) seriousness of the current alleged offense; and (3) factors requiring a mandatory hold regardless of risk or offense, including an outstanding writ or warrant, interstate hold, etc. Based on these three factors, the DRAI recommends either release, placement in an ATD, or detention.

DETENTION ADMISSIONS

Each detention facility operates an admissions area 24 hours a day where all youth admitted to detention are processed. An admissions officer interviews youth to collect and verify basic identifying information. The admissions officer also performs a search of the DJS information system, ASSIST, to obtain available information on a youth’s delinquency and placement history. A photograph of each youth is taken and included in the case record for identification purposes. The rules of the detention facility, including the grievance procedure, are provided to each youth in the facility handbook. Youth are issued clothing to wear in the facility. Personal clothing is cleaned, catalogued, packaged, and placed in secure storage.

The admissions process includes an initial health screening. It is performed by admissions nursing staff and consists of a review of physical health, mental health, and substance abuse needs. A full medical history and physical examination is conducted by a licensed physician or nurse practitioner within seven days of admission. In addition, youth receive preventative care by a dentist or dental trained personnel within 14 calendar days of admission.

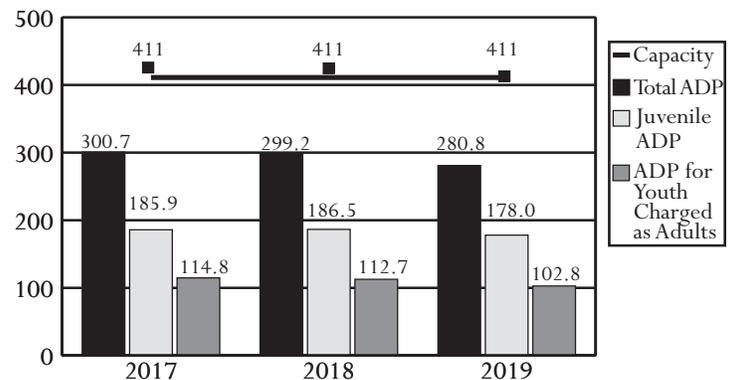
DETENTION CASE MANAGEMENT

Youth who are detained by the juvenile court are assigned a DJS community case manager and a facility case manager. The community

case manager is based in the local DJS office within the youth’s home jurisdiction. To complete a Social History Investigation, the community case manager visits the youth in detention, interviews the youth and family, and completes the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment and Service Planning (MCASP) Risk Screen and Needs Assessment. The facility case manager acts as a liaison with the court, family, community case manager, and treatment service providers while the youth is in detention.

Services Provided in Detention Facilities

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION VS CAPACITY, FY 2017-2019



Total ADP has consistently been below capacity.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

DJS Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is responsible for establishing and implementing policies governing the delivery of mental health, substance abuse, and evidence-based treatment services to youth under DJS supervision. BHS maintains a staff of licensed, certified counselors and contractors to provide complete assessments and necessary services. BHS provides integrated mental health and substance use disorder screening, assessments, and short-term crisis services in DJS detention facilities.

Upon admission to a detention center, each youth is screened by a qualified mental health professional. The screening consists of an interview, the administration of tests as appropriate, and the review