



Data Snapshot of Youth Incarceration in Kansas

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In Kansas, youth are incarcerated in the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) in Topeka. A second facility, the Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility was permanently closed on March 3, 2017. Though the number of youth in custody has declined over the past decade, Kansas still uses secure and nonsecure placements at a higher rate than other states. According to the most recent data available, Kansas was the fifth-highest state in the nation for committing and placing youth out of home.¹ On June 30, 2016, 953 youth were in the custody of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC 2017).²

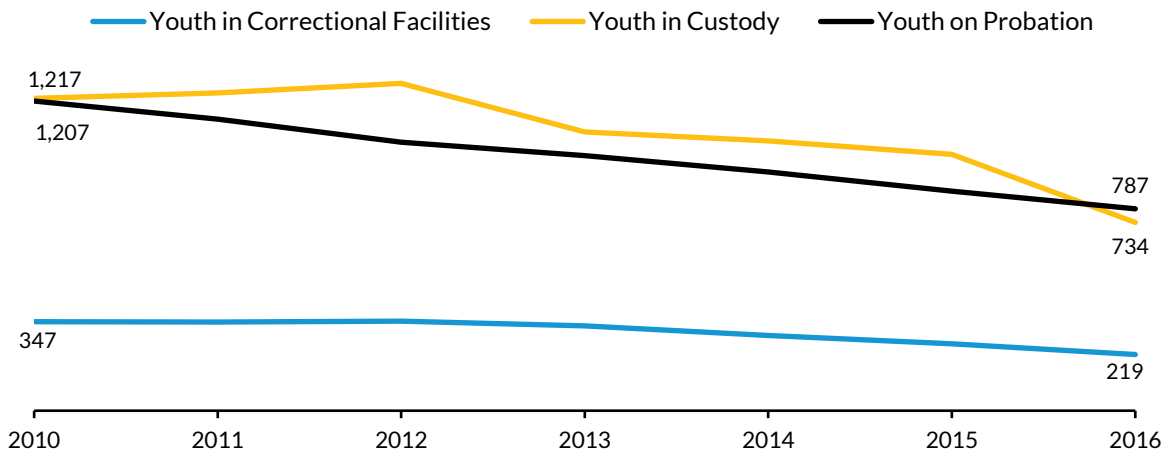
Youth imprisonment is costing the state millions of dollars each year and providing little in return. Kansas spends 7 of every 10 of its juvenile services dollars incarcerating young people (KDOC 2015, 2017). Yet, more than 40 percent of youth released from youth prisons are reincarcerated within three years (CSG 2015), and less than half of those in other, nonsecure facilities are successfully discharged from programming.³ In contrast, Kansas spends approximately 3 percent of its budget on community-based prevention or rehabilitation programs despite the fact that research has shown that alternatives to incarceration reduce recidivism by 20 percent on average and save \$2 to \$10 for every \$1 invested (Przybylski 2008; WSIPP 2004).

Youth Imprisonment Has Declined 37 Percent, but Length of Stay Has Increased

Between 2010 and 2016, the number of youth imprisoned in juvenile correctional facilities (JCFs) declined 37 percent (KDOC 2017). During the same period, the number of youth under juvenile custody (i.e., in out-of-home placements, home treatment, Youth Residential Center [YRC] II placements, foster care, and other facilities that are not JCFs) decreased 40 percent and the number of youth placed on probation declined 35 percent (figure 1).⁴

FIGURE 1

Kansas Youth Incarceration, 2010–16



Source: Kansas Department of Corrections, *Annual Report 2016* (Topeka: Kansas Department of Corrections, 2017).

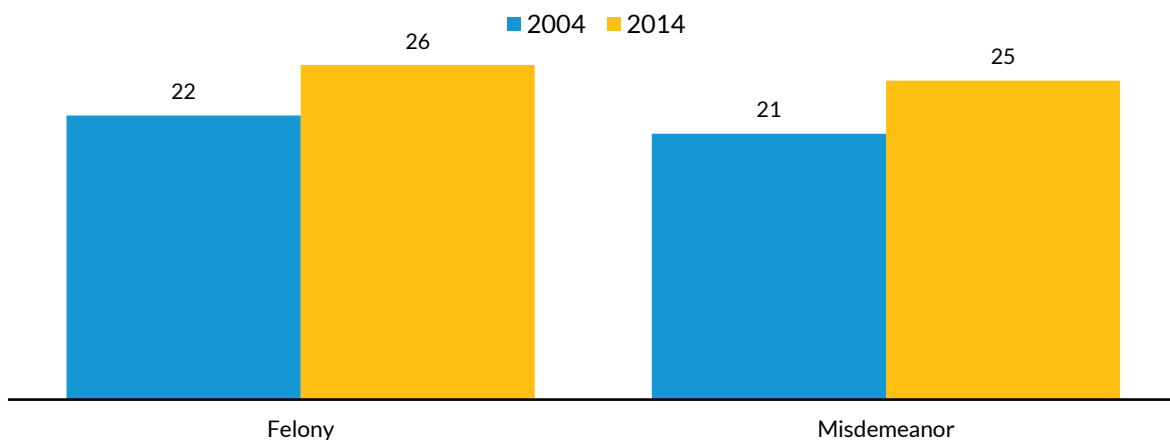
Note: The juvenile custody population includes out-of-home placements, foster care, home treatment, psychiatric residential treatment center, Youth Residential Center IIs, and AWOL designations, but not those in juvenile correctional facilities.

Admissions to Kansas’s JCFs are also on the decline. Between 2008 and 2016, average monthly admissions were cut almost in half—from 37 youth to 21.⁵

While admissions have declined, length of stay has increased 30 percent in the last decade (figure 2). In 2014, the average length of stay for youth placed out of home was 15 months (Kansas Juvenile Justice Workgroup 2015).

FIGURE 2

Average Length of Stay for Kansas Youth Placed in Juvenile Correctional Facilities (months)



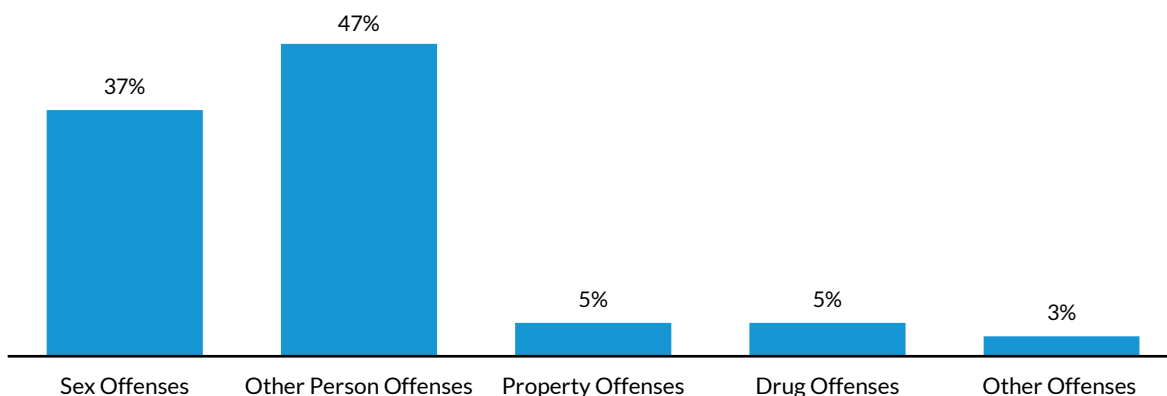
Source: Kansas Juvenile Justice Workgroup, *Final Report* (Topeka: Kansas Juvenile Justice Workgroup, 2015).

Most Youth Are Imprisoned for Person Offenses

Approximately four out of five boys imprisoned in JCFs (84 percent) were adjudicated for person offenses (figure 3), of which more than one in three (37 percent) were sex offenses (KDOC 2017). Seventy-four percent of youth in JCFs were assessed as moderate or low risk; only 26 percent were considered high risk (CSG 2015).

FIGURE 3

Kansas JCF Population by Offense Type, 2016 (percent of boys only)

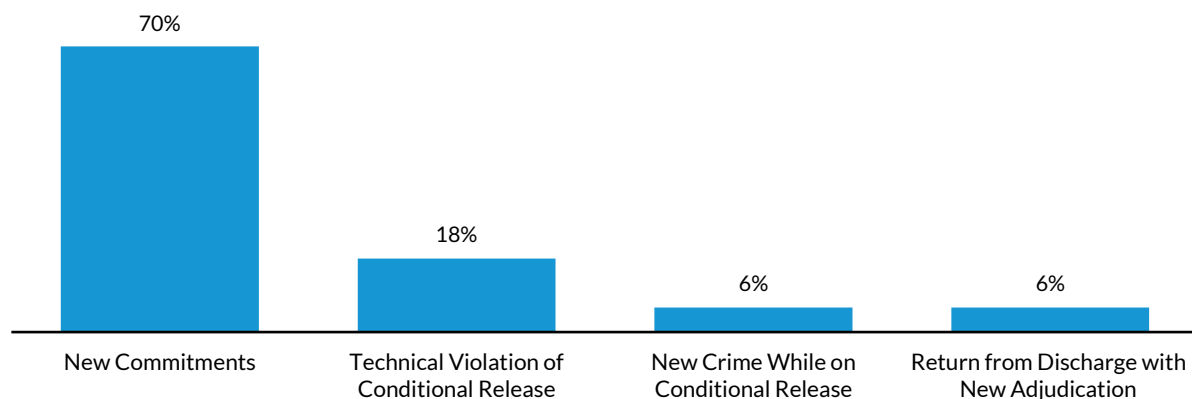


Source: Kansas Department of Corrections, *Annual Report 2016* (Topeka: Kansas Department of Corrections, 2017).

In fiscal year 2016, more than two thirds of youth were admitted for new commitments.⁷ Eighteen percent were admitted for technical violations of their conditions of release, however, which could include acts that are not criminal offenses, such as missing an appointment, violating curfew, or testing positive for alcohol use.⁸

FIGURE 4

Admissions to Juvenile Correctional Facilities by Type, 2016



Source: "Juvenile Correctional Facility Population Activity, Fiscal Year 2017," KDOC, <https://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/juvenile/population/jcf/view/>.

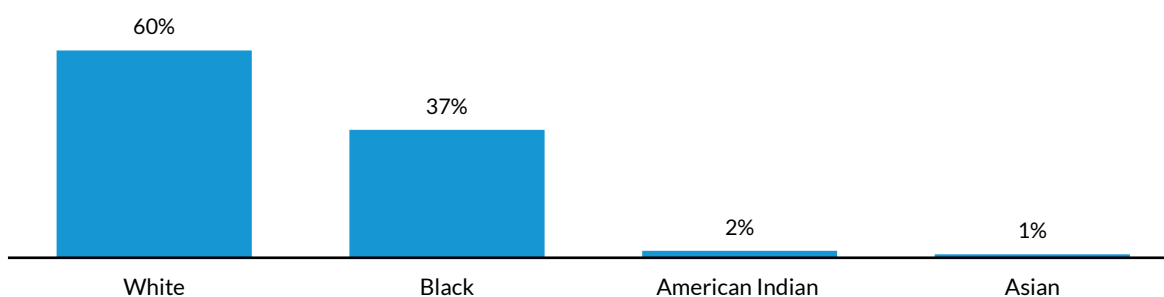
Kansas Disproportionately Incarcerates Black Youth

Black youth are disproportionately incarcerated in Kansas’s youth prisons: 37 percent of imprisoned youth in 2016 were Black (KDOC 2017), whereas 7 percent of Kansas’s youth population is Black (figure 5).⁹

Youth of color make up 59 percent of Kansas’s imprisoned youth and 50 percent of detained youth.¹⁰ In 2013, compared with White youth,^{Error! Reference source not found.} Black youth in Kansas were

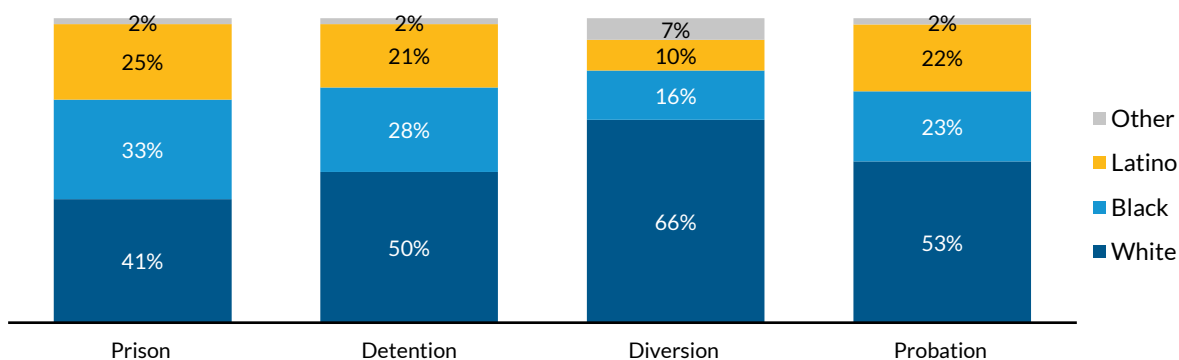
- 5.6 times more likely to be detained,¹²
- 6.6 times more likely to be committed,¹³ and
- 6.2 times more likely to be incarcerated out of home.¹⁴

FIGURE 5
Juvenile Correctional Facility Population by Race, 2016



Source: Kansas Department of Corrections, *Annual Report 2016* (Topeka: Kansas Department of Corrections, 2017).

FIGURE 6
Racial and Ethnic Disparities across Kansas’s Juvenile Justice System, 2014

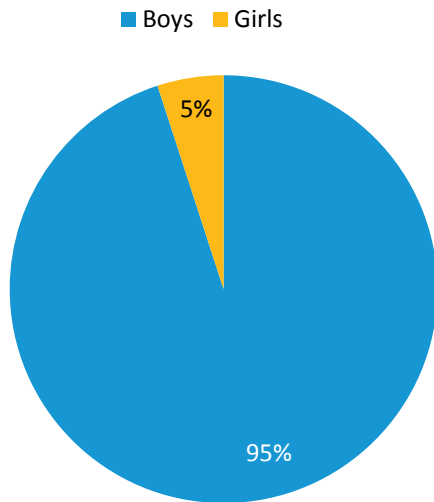


Source: “Unbalanced Juvenile Justice,” W. Haywood Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness and Equity, accessed March 13, 2017, <http://data.burnsinstitute.org>.

Notes: “Prison” includes youth placed in secure residential or correctional facilities following a court disposition. “Other” includes Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, and mixed race.

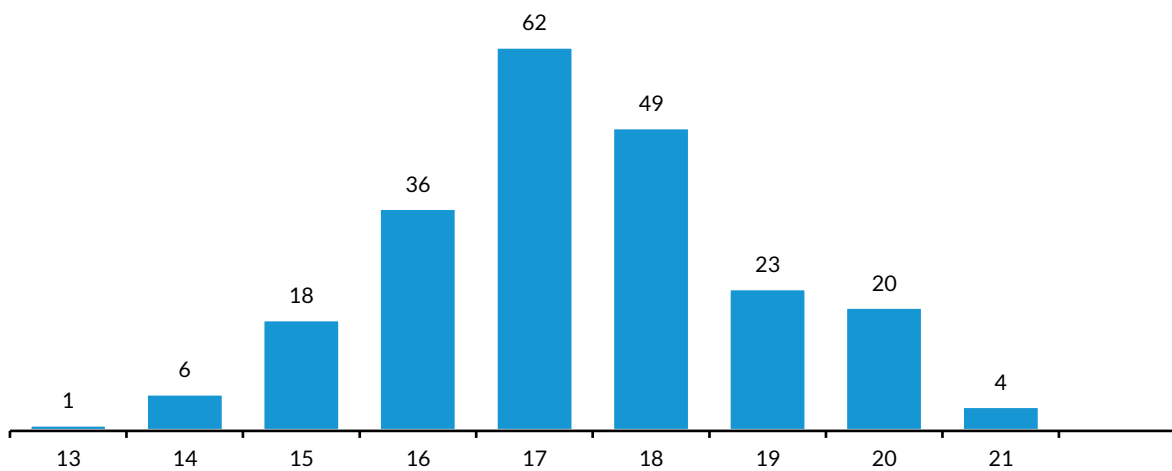
Kansas's youth prisons are also overwhelmingly male, and most incarcerated youth are 17 or 18 years old (figures 7 and 8; KDOC 2015).

FIGURE 7
Kansas Juvenile Correctional Population by Gender, 2016



Source: Kansas Department of Corrections, *Annual Report 2016* (Topeka: Kansas Department of Corrections, 2017).

FIGURE 8
Kansas Juvenile Correctional Facility Population by Age, 2016
Number of youth



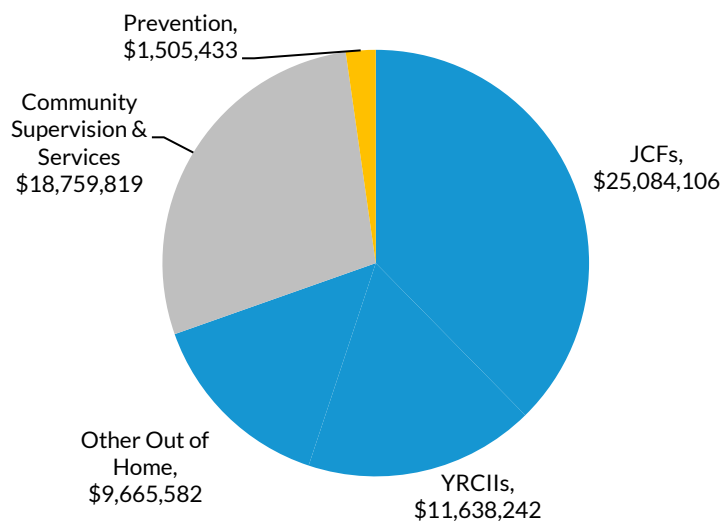
Source: Kansas Department of Corrections, *Annual Report 2016* (Topeka: Kansas Department of Corrections, 2017).

Kansas Spends \$7 of Every \$10 on Youth Incarceration

Kansas spends \$7 of every \$10 of its juvenile services resources incarcerating young people and experiences high recidivism rates (CSG 2015; KDOC 2015, 2017). In contrast, Kansas spends approximately 3 percent of its budget on community-based prevention programs (figure 9, table 1).

FIGURE 9

Kansas Department of Corrections Youth Services 2016 Budget



Source: Kansas Department of Corrections, *Annual Report 2016* (Topeka: Kansas Department of Corrections, 2017).

TABLE 1

Spending on Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 2016

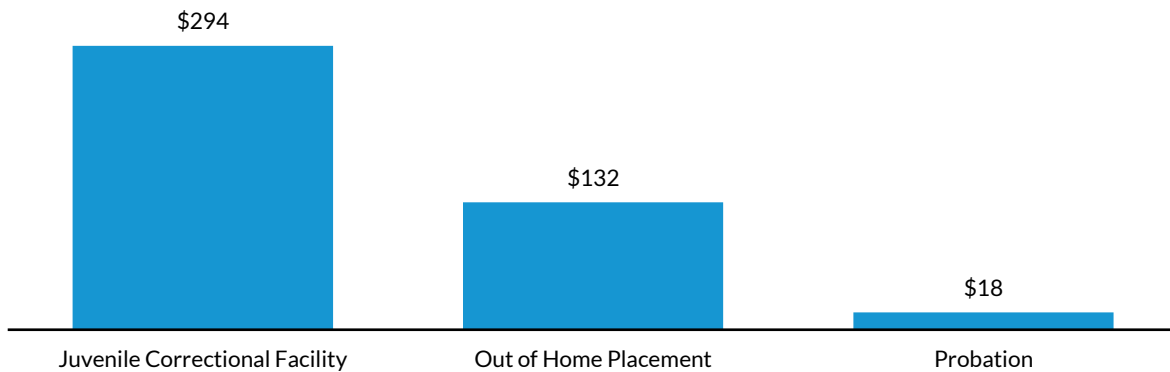
	Total expenditures	Annual cost per JCF resident	Daily cost per resident
Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex	\$15,747,859	\$119,997	\$314.70
Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility	\$9,336,247	\$102,229	\$273.57

Source: Kansas Department of Corrections, *Annual Report 2016* (Topeka: Kansas Department of Corrections, 2017).

In 2016, Kansas spent an average of \$294 a day to incarcerate one youth compared with \$18 a day to supervise one youth on probation (figure 10; KDOC 2017).

FIGURE 10

Daily Cost per Youth by Placement Type, 2016



Source: Kansas Department of Corrections, *Annual Report 2016* (Topeka: Kansas Department of Corrections, 2017).

Note: Out of home placement includes youth held in a wide range of placements like YRCIIs, detention, emergency shelters, transitional living and community integration programs, residential treatment facilities, and foster care placements.

Beyond JCFs, a large percentage of Kansas’s juvenile services budget is spent on YRCII placements, which have been found largely ineffective in improving youth outcomes (KDOC 2015). Fewer than half of youth held in YRCIIs were discharged successfully (meaning released from court to home or a less intensive placement type), according to a review by the Kansas Juvenile Justice Workgroup (2015). Further, the majority of youth discharged from YRCIIs were still in out-of-home placements six months later.

Information on Community-Based Treatment and Alternatives Is Limited

The availability of evidence-based services in the community is limited. According to the 2015 Kansas Juvenile Justice Workgroup (2015) report, Kansas courts lack evidence-based alternatives to out-of-home placements, and those that do exist are not monitored for quality. Additionally, after youth are released from a JCF, they may be sent to another out-of-home placement rather than returning to the community. Another 2015 analysis found that 33 percent of all youth released from JCFs were placed in another residential placement as part of reentry (CSG 2015).

SB367 Reforms Aim to Provide Better Return on Investment in Youth Corrections

In 2015, the Kansas Juvenile Justice Workgroup was created and tasked with developing policy recommendations to reduce juvenile justice system costs and improve outcomes for system-involved

youth. The resulting legislation, SB 367, enacted in April 2016, encompasses a number of reforms, including reducing the use of pre-adjudication detention; mandating diversion for some youth; implementing a statewide system of structured, graduated responses for probation violations; expanding targeted services and interventions; focusing out-of-home placement on high-risk youth; defining time frames for case lengths; increasing evidence-based programs in the community; and establishing a Juvenile Justice Improvement Fund to ensure that costs averted from out-of-home placement reductions are shifted to community-based services. Some provisions in the law went into effect in July 2016, while others will be phased in through 2019. If fully enacted, the legislation is expected to reduce the number of youth sent to out-of-home placements by about 60 percent between 2016 and 2021.¹⁵

Though it is still early to measure outcomes, Kansas invested \$2 million in expanding evidence-based community alternatives to incarceration for youth.¹⁶ In 2016, targeted community-based treatment for sex offenses was implemented statewide. As of February 2017, Functional Family Therapy is offered in every county in the state, and the DOC is piloting Multisystemic Therapy and Youth Advocate Programs in specific counties.¹⁷ In addition, the Kansas youth custody population declined more than 40 percent between January 2016 and January 2017.¹⁸

Notes

¹ “Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement: 1997–2013,” US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, accessed March 13, 2017, <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>.

² This total includes 734 youth in the custody population (out of home placements, foster care, home treatment, psychiatric residential treatment center, youth residential center [YRC] II facilities) and 219 held in juvenile correctional facilities.

³ See KDOC (2015). The analysis focuses on YRC II facilities, which are nonsecure residential facilities for youth.

⁴ See KDOC (2017). Youth in custody includes all youth adjudicated to the Kansas Department of Corrections and placed somewhere other than a juvenile correctional facility. Some of these youth live at home or in a foster care placement.

⁵ “Juvenile Correctional Facility Population Activity, Fiscal Year 2017,” KDOC, <https://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/juvenile/population/jcf/view>, p. 3 (Average Monthly Frequency); “Juvenile Correctional Facility Population Activity, Fiscal Year 2008,” KDOC, data as of July 7, 2008, <https://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/juvenile/archived-pop-reports/2008/juvenile-correctional-facilities/view>, p. 3 (Average Monthly Frequency).

⁶ “Juvenile Correctional Facility Population Activity, Fiscal Year 2017,” KDOC, <https://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/juvenile/population/jcf/view>, p. 2.

⁷ “Juvenile Correctional Facility Population Activity, Fiscal Year 2017,” <https://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/juvenile/population/jcf/view>, p. 3.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ “Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990–2015,” US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, accessed March 13, 2017, <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>.

¹⁰ “Unbalanced Juvenile Justice,” W. Haywood Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness and Equity, accessed March 13, 2017, <http://data.burnsinstitute.org>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Detention is defined as placement in a secure facility pending an adjudication hearing, transfer to adult court, disposition, or transfer to another jurisdiction.

¹³ Commitment is defined as court-ordered placement to a facility following adjudication.

¹⁴ Out of home includes detention, commitment, and youth sent to a facility as part of a diversion agreement in lieu of adjudication.

¹⁵ Kansas Department of Corrections, "Governor Brownback Signs Juvenile Justice Legislation," news release, April 11, 2016, https://www.doc.ks.gov/newsroom/releases/SB_367.

¹⁶ Communication from the Kansas Department of Corrections, December 2016.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "Statewide Month End Population: Placements for Youth in the Custody of DOC on the Last Day of Each Month," KDOC, accessed March 13, 2017, <http://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/juvenile/population/custody/view>.

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