



## Fact Sheet: Maryland

### Key Facts:

- Although anyone can file a delinquency complaint, the vast majority (94.46%) of referrals come from the police.<sup>1</sup>
- The majority of youths arrested are 15-, 16-, or 17-year-olds (68.2%).<sup>2</sup>
- Approximately 33.9% of youths are arrested for property offenses, and 25.8% for person-to-person offenses.<sup>3</sup>
- The rate of non-violent crime arrests for youths is at its lowest point in the past 6 years, 162.4 per 10,000 youths (1.6%).<sup>4</sup>
- The rate of violent crime arrests for youths is down significantly from the year 2000, (54.0 arrests per 10,000 youths versus 49.3 arrests per 10,000 youths).<sup>5</sup>
- Even though the juvenile justice system serves youths aged 7 to 21, the majority of those served are between 14 and 18 years old.<sup>6</sup>
- In the 2006 fiscal year, 49.1% of referrals of African American youths resulted in a petition being filed, as opposed to the same outcome for 32.9% of white youths.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2006, 7.8% of cases ended in a commitment disposition.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, 275 (1.48%) of youths were transferred into adult court.<sup>9</sup>

### Major Developments:

- In 2004, the US Department of Justice opened an investigation into the Cheltenham Youth Facility and Charles H. Hickey, Jr. School under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA).<sup>10</sup> Allegations included staff abuse, youth-on-youth violence, self-harm of youthful offenders, and abusive confinement practices.<sup>11</sup>
- Since this CRIPA investigation began, the results of the most recent semi-annual report (issued December 2006) show significant improvements and an increase in compliance with measures set forth by the investigatory team.<sup>12</sup>
- Baltimore City is a site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), dedicated to decreasing youth placements and increasing the use of community-based alternatives to incarceration.<sup>13</sup>

### What Maryland Law Says:

- There is not currently a minimum age at which a youth may be prosecuted as an adult.<sup>14</sup>
- There are eight juvenile detention centers throughout Maryland. Youth may be placed in detention centers only prior to trial and disposition, and for parole violations.<sup>15</sup>

- Maryland has a Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU) that is responsible for reviewing and reporting on Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) residential programs across Maryland. Responsibilities include evaluating treatment of and services offered to youth, physical facility conditions, adequacy of staffing, and the child advocacy grievance process;<sup>16</sup>
- The extended age of delinquency jurisdiction is 20.<sup>17</sup>
- Special protections are required during pre-trial detention for youths of any age in adult jails.<sup>18</sup>
- There are five government-operated juvenile correctional facilities in Maryland, as well as nine private facilities.<sup>19</sup>
- Initial commitments to a state facility last from 30 to 120 days, and can be increased or decreased. Commitments are reviewed within five months of the initial placement and every five months after.<sup>20</sup>
- A 15-year-old who commits any criminal offense or a youth of any age who commits any capital offense may be transferred to adult court. A 14-year-old who commits a capital offense or a 16-year-old who commits murder or a person or weapons offense is automatically transferred to adult court;<sup>21</sup> and
- There is no minimum age at which a youth can be sentenced to life without parole.<sup>22</sup>

*"Maryland's juvenile justice system is a national embarrassment. Funding has expanded, but outcomes have worsened. . . These conditions pave the way to our catastrophically high recidivism rate."*

--Matthew H. Joseph, The Examiner, "Matthew H. Joseph: Ways to fix juvenile justice in the first 100 days." 26 Feb. 2007

### State Resources:

#### **Department of Juvenile Services**

Donald W. DeVore, Secretary  
120 W. Fayette St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Tel: (410)230-3100; Fax: (410)333-4199  
Email: [devored@djs.state.md.us](mailto:devored@djs.state.md.us)

#### **Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative**

Bart Lubow  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
701 St. Paul St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
Telephone: 410-547-6600  
fax: 410-547-6624  
<http://www.aecf.org/initiatives/jdai/>

#### **Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition**

Angela Conyers Johnese  
8 Market Place, 5th Floor  
Baltimore, MD, 21202-4034  
Phone: 410-547-9200  
Fax: 410-547-8690  
<http://www.acy.org/>

#### **Department of Correction**

6776 Reisterstown Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215  
410-585-3300

#### **State Juvenile Justice Specialist**

Mr. James Antal  
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Phone: 410-321-3521 ext. 333  
Email: [jamesa@goccp-state-md.org](mailto:jamesa@goccp-state-md.org)  
<http://www.goccp.org/>

#### **State Advisory Group Chair**

Reverend James G. Kirk  
Phone: 410-255-7378  
Email: [kirkjgk@comcast.net](mailto:kirkjgk@comcast.net)

*Prepared by the Campaign for Youth Justice*

---

<sup>1</sup> National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006, March 27). *NCJJ State Profiles: Maryland*. Retrieved June 27, 2007 from

<http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/profiles/MD06.asp?state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FMD06.asp&topic=Profile>; Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. (2006). *FY 2006 Annual statistical report: Statistical information on intake, and programs provided to youth in the Maryland juvenile justice system*. Available from

<http://www.djs.state.md.us/publications.html>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> 2007 Maryland Kids Count Partnership. (2007). *Children safe in their families and communities*. Maryland Kids Count 2007 Data. Available at <http://www.acy.org/2007%20Kidscount%20files/ChildrenSafeFamiliesandCommunities.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> See Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, 3.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. (2007). *Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA)*. Retrieved July 23, 2007, from <http://www.djs.state.md.us/cripa.html>

<sup>11</sup> Loucks, A., Schlozman, B., Deshields, T., Cutlar, S., & Weiss, D. (2005). *United States v. State of Maryland (6/30/05)*. Retrieved July 23, 2007, from [http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/split/documents/split\\_maryland\\_comp\\_6-30-05.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/split/documents/split_maryland_comp_6-30-05.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. (2004). Community Justice. *Maryland Department of Juvenile Services*. Retrieved June 27, 2007 from [http://www.djs.state.md.us/community\\_justice.html](http://www.djs.state.md.us/community_justice.html)

<sup>13</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2007). *JDAI sites and contacts*. The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Helping vulnerable kids and families succeed. Retrieved July 25, 2007, from

<http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/JuvenileDetentionAlternativesInitiative/SitesAndContacts.aspx>

<sup>14</sup> Amnesty International USA. (2005). *The Rest of Their Lives: Life Without Parole for Child Offenders in the United States*. Available from <http://www.amnestyusa.org/document.php?lang=e&id=ENGUSA2005101205002>

<sup>15</sup> See National Center for Juvenile Justice, 5.

<sup>16</sup> Maryland Attorney General. (2007). Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit. *Maryland Attorney General: Douglas F. Gansler*. Retrieved July 27, 2007, from <http://www.oag.state.md.us/JJMU/>

<sup>17</sup> Goemann, M. (2007). *Children Being Tried as Adults: Pre-trial Detention Laws in the U.S.*. Washington, DC: Campaign for Youth Justice.

---

<sup>18</sup> Goemann, M. (2007). *Children Being Tried as Adults: Pre-trial Detention Laws in the U.S.*. Washington, DC: Campaign for Youth Justice.

<sup>19</sup> See National Center for Juvenile Justice, 5.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006, March 27). *Maryland Transfer Provisions*. Retrieved June 27, 2007 from

<http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/asp/transfer.asp?topic=Transfer&state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FMD06.asp>

<sup>22</sup> See Amnesty International USA, 14.