



Fact Sheet: Ohio

Key Facts:

- The RECLAIM Ohio program reallocates funds from juvenile correctional facilities to counties as a financial incentive to develop community-based alternatives to incarceration.¹ In 2006, the average daily population of committed youth was 1,730, a significant reduction from 1993's average daily population of 2,121.
- In order to be institutionalized, a youth must have committed an offense while he or she was over 10 years of age.²
- In 2006, 9,090 youths in Ohio were adjudicated, but only 1,496 (16.5%) were committed to a state-operated facility.³
- In 2006, 43.9% of the youth adjudicated were black, but 53.6% of these black youths were committed to a facility. Conversely, 52.5% were white, but only 40.3% of white youths were committed.⁴
- Over one-third of offenses resulting in commitment of youth were property offenses.⁵
- In 2006, 86.2% of adjudicated delinquents were males, and 13.8% were females. Of these youths, 92.7% of those committed were male whereas 7.3% were female.⁶
- Ohio has 12 community correctional facilities, each with its own specialized programming services, including but not limited to Sex Offenders, Communication Skills, and Anger Management.⁸

What Ohio Law Says:

- The *Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure* explicitly state that, "In all appropriate cases formal court action should be avoided and other community resources utilized to ameliorate situations brought to the attention of the court".⁹
- The extended age of delinquency jurisdiction is 20.¹⁰
- Pre-trial detention in adult jails is permitted for youths of any age. The child must be "beyond the range of touch of all adult detainees" and be supervised at all times.¹¹
- The youngest age at which a youth can be prosecuted as an adult is 14.¹²
- Judges are free to issue the sentence they see fit to the offense.¹³
- Youths can be held one of the state's 41 juvenile detention facilities for a maximum of 90 days before and after adjudication and as a disposition.¹⁴
- A youth as young as 10 years of age may receive a blended sentence for murder and certain other felonies;¹⁵ and
- The youngest age at which a youth can be sentenced to life without parole is 14.¹⁶
- In May of 2007, the United States Department of Justice issued a letter of findings in their Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) investigation of the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility in Delaware, Ohio. Listed problems include but are not limited to inappropriate use of physical force, inadequate grievance reporting procedures, and deficient health care services (mental, physical, and dental).⁷

"To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children... whenever possible, in a family environment, separating the child from the child's parents only when necessary for the child's welfare or in the interests of public safety."

--Purpose Clause for Delinquency Proceedings, State of Ohio

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Prepared by the Campaign for Youth Justice

¹ National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006, April 17). *NCJJ State Profiles: Ohio*. Retrieved June 25, 2007 from <http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/profiles/OH06.asp?state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FOH06.asp&topic=Profile>

² Ibid.

³ Ohio Department of Youth Services. (2007, March). *Profile of youth adjudicated or committed for felony offenses fiscal year 2006*. Available from <http://www.dys.ohio.gov/dysweb/OhioAdjudicationReport.aspx>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ohio Department of Youth Services. (2006). *Fiscal Year 2006. Agency Information*. Retrieved June 25, 2007 from <http://www.dys.ohio.gov/dysweb/FY2006DYSAmissions.aspx>

⁶ See Ohio Department of Youth Services, 4.

⁷ Kim, W.J. (2007, May 9). Letter to Governor Ted Strickland, *Re: Investigation of the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, Delaware, Ohio*. Retrieved August 2, 2007, from http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/split/documents/scioto_findlet_5-9-07.pdf

⁸ Ohio Department of Youth Services. (2006). *Community Correctional Facilities. Juvenile Justice in Ohio*. Retrieved June 25, 2007 from <http://www.dys.ohio.gov/dysweb/CommCorrectionalFacilities.aspx>

⁹ The Supreme Court of Ohio. (n.d.). Rule 9. Intake. *Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure*. Retrieved June 25, 2007 from

<http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/Rules/juvenile/default.asp>

¹⁰ National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006, April 17). *NCJJ State Profiles: Ohio*. Retrieved June 25, 2007 from <http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/profiles/OH06.asp?state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FOH06.asp&topic=Profile>

¹¹ Goemann, M. (2007). *Children Being Tried as Adults: Pre-trial Detention Laws in the U.S.*. Washington, DC: Campaign for Youth Justice.

¹² 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=ENUSA2005101205002>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ See National Center for Juvenile Justice, 2.

¹⁵ National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006, April 17). *Ohio Transfer Provisions*. Retrieved June 25, 2007 from [http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/asp/transfer.asp?topic=Transfer&state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FOH06.as](http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/asp/transfer.asp?topic=Transfer&state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FOH06.asp)

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¹⁶ See Amnesty International USA, 12.