

FACTSHEET: Maine Youth in Confinement

January 2020

The following presents data on Maine youth who were either committed or detained at Long Creek at the end of December 2020. The data was analyzed by the University Of Southern Maine, Cutler Institute, for the Maine Department of Corrections with the goal of informing strategies and policy discussions to help support positive outcomes for all justice involved youth. For more information and further data please see: maine.gov/corrections/juvenile-services

Key Findings

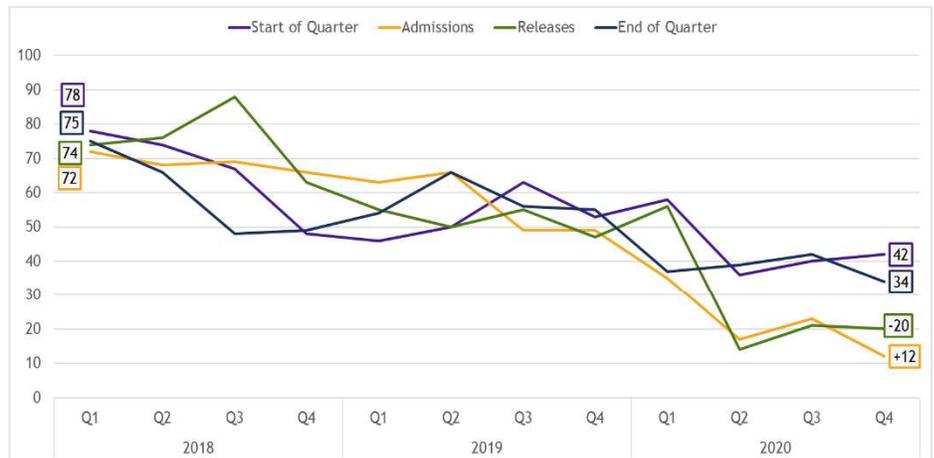
- Overall, the confined youth population in Maine has decreased 56% (78 to 34) since the start of 2018 and admissions have decreased 83% (72 to 12) in that same time period.
- In 2020, the average daily confinement population decreased 36%, down to 36 youth on average for Q4 compared to 51 in Q1 in 2020.
- At the end of Q4, 2020 there were a total of 34 youth in confinement. Of those youth, 5 were female, 7 identified as BIPOC, and 63% were between the ages of 16-19.
- In 2020, the pandemic resulted in increased efforts to divert youth into alternatives to detention and to release youth into community-based supports. Many of these practices could be continued after the pandemic ends.

Definitions & Terms

Average Daily Population (ADP) represents the average of the total population count each day throughout the quarter.

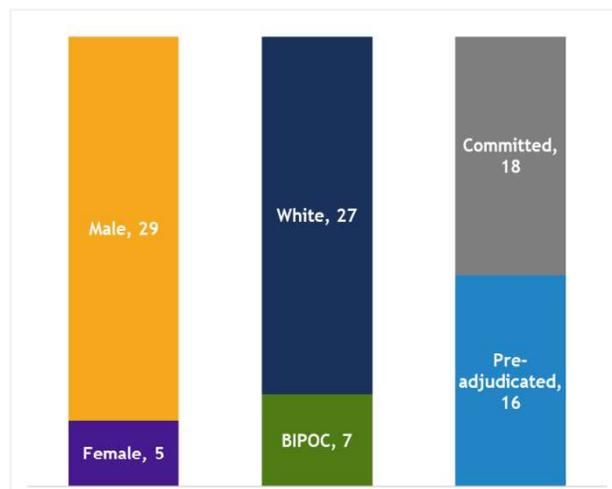
BIPOC represents all youth who identified as Black or African American, Indigenous or Native American, or another Person of Color. These categories have been grouped together to protect confidentiality due to small sample sizes.

Figure 1: Maine Committed and Detained Youth Population



The figure above shows the downward trend of the number of committed and detained youth in Maine in the last 3 years. This includes population counts at the start and end of each quarter, as well as the number of admissions and releases.

Figure 2: Committed and Detained Youth- End of December, 2020



The figure above shows the population of committed and detained youth at the end of December 2020. In total, there were 34 youth at the end of 2020 confined at Long Creek. At that time, 54% were between the ages of 14 to 17 years olds and 46% were 18 to 23 years old. Eighteen of those youth were committed and among those who were committed, 67% were there for a misdemeanor offense, and another 33% were there for a felony offense.