

Demographic Information

- Age – can be calculated at desired point in time (e.g., age at first residential placement, age at release from probation, etc.)
- Race
 - Alaskan Native
 - American Indian
 - Asian
 - Black
 - Hispanic
 - Pacific Islander
 - White
 - Unknown
- Ethnicity
 - Hispanic
 - Haitian
 - Jamaican
 - Non-Hispanic
 - Unknown
- Sex
 - Male
 - Female

Often times, race and ethnicity are combined into one "Basic Race/Ethnicity" variable which has 4 values:

- 1) Black
- 2) Hispanic
- 3) White
- 4) Other

For this 4 category classification, if a youth is Hispanic, they are coded as such regardless of their race. A youth is only coded as Black, White, Other if they are non-Hispanic.

Case Information

- Category of Offense – for each offense the youth is charged with, this variable indicates whether that offense is a
 - Felony
 - Misdemeanor
 - Other (e.g., violation of probation, traffic offense, etc.)

- Charge Level – for each offense the youth is charged with, this variable indicates the degree of the charge

○ Capital	○ Third
○ Life	○ Not Applicable
○ First	○ Unknown
○ Second	

- Offense Seriousness – an ordinal-level seriousness scale developed by FDJJ ranks the severity of offenses from most serious (felonies such as murder or grand theft auto) to least serious (misdemeanors such as misdemeanor drug possession or traffic offenses)

- Offense context variables – dummy variables indicating other useful information about an offense
 - School-related: whether the offense took place in a school
 - Firearm offense: whether a firearm was involved in an incident
 - Violent felony: whether offense qualifies as a violent felony

- Referral ID – each referral to FDJJ is assigned a unique identification number. It is important to note that multiple offense charges may be included on a single referral.

- Charge ID – each charge has its own unique identifier as well, regardless of the referral it comes in on.

- Disposition (primary) – for each offense the youth is charged with, this variable indicates the juvenile court’s decision on how to formally address the charge

- Adjudication status (primary)
 - Yes
 - Withheld¹
 - No

¹ The juvenile court, upon determining a youth has committed a delinquent act or violation of law, may elect to *withhold* adjudication of delinquency, but place the youth on probation with penalties up to (but excluding) residential commitment. This is different from *not adjudicated*, which is the court’s finding that the youth has not committed a delinquent act. [Florida Statutes 985.35 \(3\) and \(4\)](#)

- Disposition (secondary)
 - Case progression is occasionally suspended by the court when the youth fails to appear (FTA), is found Incompetent to Proceed (ITP), or for other reasons. These events are recorded as the Primary Disposition
 - Secondary dispositions record the ultimate decision of the juvenile court, where applicable, and may carry a separate adjudication status.

Recidivism

- A common outcome measured with FDJJ data is recidivism, or re-offending
- While clearly measuring recidivism can be challenging, some methods commonly used with our data include (within a specified time period):
 - Any referral for law violation
 - Technical violations of probation
 - Felony referrals only

PACT Data

- Risk to Reoffend
 - Low Risk
 - Moderate Risk
 - Moderate-High Risk
 - High Risk

It is important to note that as of May 2019, FDJJ no longer administers the PACT assessment. Youth are now given the CAT in place of C-PACT and the RAY in place of the R-PACT.

Youth who were administered a PACT before May of 2019 were often only given the pre-screen version of the PACT. The pre-screen only includes 46 of the 126 items included in the full screen. Only youth who score moderate-high or high risk to reoffend are administered the full PACT screening.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- DJJ continues to support research investigating the cumulative impact of childhood trauma on juvenile delinquency
- ACE scores, which represent the number of unique adverse experiences reported by youth, can be calculated using PACT Full Assessment responses.
- The full 10-point ACE scale is available only through Full assessments; a 7-point scale can be calculated from Pre-Screen assessments, but does not measure 3 of the 10 ACEs.

Placement history

- Location – includes youth home location, location of disposition, and location of current placement down to county-level
 - Youth’s home county
 - Judicial circuit

- Placement type
 - Diversion
 - Drug court
 - Probation (pre- and post-commitment)
 - Home detention
 - Secure detention
 - Residential (non-secure/high-risk/max-risk)
 - Conditional release

- Case processing events
 - Begin date
 - End/release date
 - Abscond
 - Escape
 - Transfers to adult system

While time-of-stay can be calculated for most youth placements given the start date and end date of a given placements, investigators seeking data for case-processing studies that include a time-to-placement outcome should carefully consult with the Office of Research and Data Integrity to ensure only the expected case events are included in the file. Weekend detention placements, assessment center visits, and detention hearings often overlap longer-term placements in probation, detention, or residential treatment.