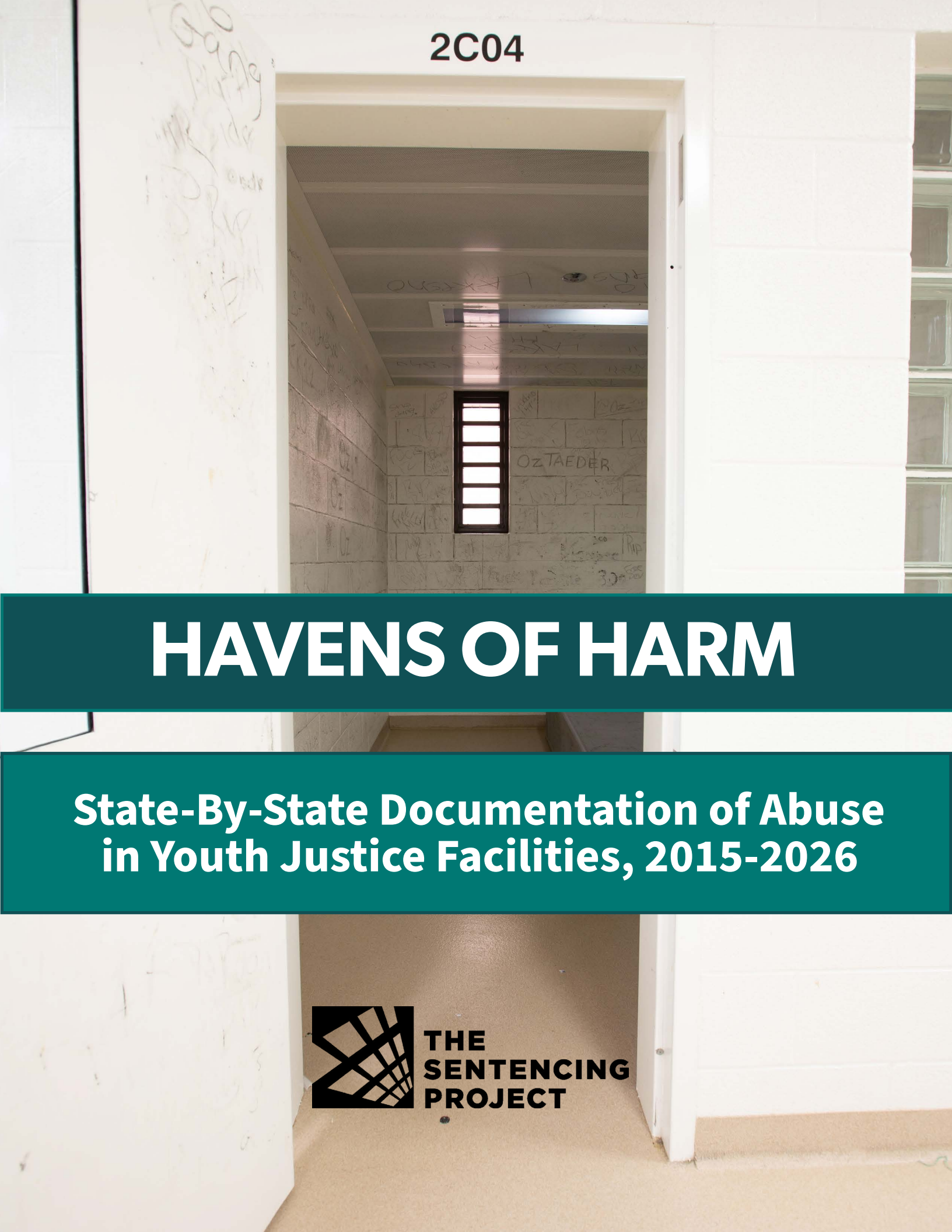


HAVENS OF HARM

State-By-State Documentation of Abuse in Youth Justice Facilities, 2015-2026

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State-By-State Documentation of Abuse in Youth Justice Facilities, 2015-2026

This publication was written by Joshua Rovner (Senior Research Analyst), Raven Lewis, Ph.D. (former Youth Justice Research Fellow), and Richard A. Mendel (Senior Research Fellow) at The Sentencing Project.

A companion publication, *Havens of Harm: Widespread Abuse in U.S. Juvenile Detention and Corrections Facilities*, describes abusive conditions and their consequences.

Warning: This publication contains many references to disturbing incidents of graphic violence, sexual abuse, inhumane treatment, and child deaths due to suicide and other causes.

Cover Photo: Ross, R. (2015). *Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center (OH): Single cell covered in graffiti.* [Photograph.] Juvenile in Justice: What happens behind the door.

The Sentencing Project promotes effective and humane responses to crime that minimize imprisonment and criminalization of youth and adults by promoting racial, ethnic, economic, and gender justice.

Published November 2026

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* Note: The Sentencing Project found compelling evidence of systemic abuse in 41 states and the District of Columbia. For the nine states that remain (Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Massachusetts, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and West Virginia), available public records did not reveal clear evidence of systematic or recurring abuses. This publication includes recent developments in Arizona, Hawaii, and North Dakota.

The Sentencing Project has employed conservative protocols to identify abusive facilities, counting only facilities where credible reports documented repeated abuses, or where youth died in custody, and because many abuses go unreported, these figures substantially undercount the number of facilities where justice-involved youth have suffered maltreatment. For more about the methodology used, consult the Methodological Appendix in Havens of Harm.[1]

[1] Mendel, R.A., Rovner, J., & Lewis, R. (2026). *Havens of harm: Widespread abuse in U.S. juvenile detention and corrections facilities*. The Sentencing Project.

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Alabama

In December 2024, two Montgomery County Youth Detention facility employees were arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting two detained boys. One employee faced first-degree sexual abuse charges; the other faced seven counts of first-degree sodomy. Reports of abuse also emerged at two other Alabama facilities. In May 2024, two employees from the Southeast Alabama Diversion Center were arrested and charged with physically abusing two boys. The employees allegedly pinned down the boys, with one placing his legs on a boy's head until the boy passed out and urinated on himself, and the other kneeling on a boy's neck. In a separate case, a mother sued the facility in November 2023 for negligence, after her 15-year-old daughter, Madison Johnson, who was supposed to be placed under suicide watch, hanged herself. Two lawsuits against Camp SAYLA described a "culture of cruelty" where children were assaulted by staff and were encouraged to fight each other. One staffer, charged with 17 counts of child abuse, beat youth with extension cords and broomsticks until they broke, and locked them in isolation for hours. Camp SAYLA was shut down in early 2024.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Camp SAYLA (Southeast Alabama Youth Leadership Academy)** – Commitment facility (closed in 2024)[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
2. **Montgomery County Youth Detention** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
3. **Southeast Alabama Diversion Center** – Detention facility[3]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Other: Death of Madison Johnson (suicide)

[1]Curtis, K., & Gerhart, C. (2024, February 9). Youth camp shut down after child abuse allegations. WTVY News; Robinson, C. (2025, August 3). *Alabama youth camp's 'culture of cruelty' forced abused kids to fight each other, lawsuits state.* AL.com.

[2]Nguyen, T. (2024, December 24). Alabama sheriff requests FBI probe into alleged sex assault at youth detention facility. *USA Today.*

[3]Curtis, K. (2023, November 20). *Mother files suit after her teen daughter commits suicide while in custody.* WTVY News. Everett, R. (2024, October 18). *Workers at Dothan juvenile center pinned teen boys to the ground with their knees, prosecutors claim.* WDHN. Robinson, C. (2025, August 3). *Alabama youth camp's 'culture of cruelty' forced abused kids to fight each other, lawsuits state.* AL.com.

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Alaska

In November 2019, a staff member at Alaska's primary juvenile detention and commitment facility, the McLaughlin Youth Center, was sentenced to 57.5 years in prison after being found guilty on multiple counts of sexually abusing a 16-year-old girl on seven occasions three years earlier.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **McLaughlin Youth Center** – State-level commitment facility (closed in 2024)[1]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff

[1] Alaska Department of Law. (2019, November 15). *Former McLaughlin staff member convicted of sexual abuse of juvenile inmate*. [Press release]; Alaska Department of Law. (2019, November 8). *Former juvenile justice officer sentenced to fifty-seven and a half years of incarceration for sexual abuse of a minor conviction*. [Press release]; Treinen, L. (2019, November 8). Officer at McLaughlin gets sentenced for sexual abuse of minor. KTUU.

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Arizona

In 2004, the U.S. Department of Justice concluded a federal investigation that found pervasive abuses at Arizona's Adobe Mountain School. The Department subsequently reached a settlement with the state, which agreed to implement reforms to address these civil rights violations. Since then, Arizona has made substantial changes to improve conditions and protect youth, and no facilities have been identified as exhibiting systemic or recurring abuse since 2015.[1]

[1]U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. (2004, January 23). *Findings letter: CRIPA investigation of Adobe Mountain School and Black Canyon School in Phoenix, Arizona and Catalina Mountain School in Tucson, Arizona;* U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. (2004, September 15). *Justice Department reaches settlement regarding conditions at three Arizona juvenile justice facilities.* [Press release]; Decker, S.H., Taylor, M., & Katz, C.M. (2012, November). *Case study of the response of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act consent decree.* National Institute of Justice.

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Arkansas

Youth were inhumanely isolated in five Arkansas juvenile facilities. The Arkansas Nonprofit News Network separately reported on the Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center (AJATC), the Dermott Juvenile Correctional Facility, and the Dermott Juvenile Treatment Center, describing youth locked in cells for excessive hours or days as routine punishment. A disabled boy held at one of the Dermott facilities was isolated in a dark cell for at least 23 and often 24 hours daily for over 90 days. At AJATC, youth reported filthy cells with visible blood and urine on the floor; one boy urinated in his food tray after being denied bathroom access. The Bureau of Justice Statistics identified AJATC as one of 12 juvenile facilities with the highest rates of high sexual victimization in its national sample. Nine lawsuits implicated AJATC and the Mansfield Juvenile Treatment Center for alleged sexual abuse involving youth aged 14-16 between 2019 and 2024; a former Mansfield staffer was imprisoned in 2023 for sexually assaulting multiple youths. At Lewisville Juvenile Treatment Center, youth reported cruel treatment by staff to an ombudsman, including being left in restraints for hours or overnight, slammed against walls, and forced to sleep on floors and urinate or defecate in cells without toilets.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center** – State-level commitment facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
    d. Other: Filthy cells, exposure to bodily fluids and waste
2. **Dermott Juvenile Correctional Facility** – State-level commitment facility[2]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Unheated in winter, youth not provided basic toiletries, rodents
3. **Dermott Juvenile Treatment Center** – State-level commitment facility[3]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
4. **Lewisville Juvenile Treatment Center** – State-level commitment facility[4]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
    d. Other: Youth urinated in foam cups or Gatorade bottles, youth given Benadryl in lieu of mental health care
5. **Mansfield Juvenile Treatment Center** – State-level commitment facility[5]

[1] Ramsey, D. (2017, May 26). Abuse again at Arkansas juvenile lockup. *Arkansas Times;* Ramsey, D. (2017, August 30). Kids in isolation: Locked away in Alexander. Arkansas Nonprofit News Network; Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019, December). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018*. Bureau of Justice Statistics; Mobley, A. (2024, January 23). Arkansas juvenile detention center companies sued over alleged child sex abuse cover-ups. KATV.

[2] Ramsey, D. (2017, August 31). Kids in isolation: Locked away in Dermott. Arkansas Nonprofit News Network; Millar, L. (2018, February 14). Locked away and forgotten. Arkansas Nonprofit News Network.

[3] Ramsey, D. (2017, August 31). Kids in isolation: Locked away in Dermott. Arkansas Nonprofit News Network.

[4] Monk, G. (2019, August 18). Ombudsman details abuses at Arkansas kids lockup; firm at helm 6 weeks is told of youths zip-tied, in pain. *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette;* Monk, G. (2020, January 16). 2 lawsuits cite abuse at Arkansas youth lockup. *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.*

[5] Digby, B. A. (2023, July 3). DYS/ROP – Serious Concerns & Issues 7/3/23 [Email]. *Arkansas Times;* Field, H. (2023, July 26). Sex, therapy, isolation: Concerns pile up in Arkansas' juvenile lockups. *Arkansas Advocate;* Mobley, A. (2024, January 23). Arkansas juvenile detention center companies sued over alleged child sex abuse cover-ups. KATV.

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California

Abusive conditions were documented in 18 California facilities since 2015. A 2019 review by the ACLU Foundation of Southern California found state and county officials used pepper spray more than 5,000 times from 2015 through early 2018, a likely undercount given that 13 of the state's 58 counties failed to provide data. More recently, San Diego's East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility – with an average daily population of 160 youth – has seen high uses of force against youth, including 623 restraint incidents and 368 pepper spray incidents in 2023. Disability Rights California found that Kings County runs a "prison-like" detention center where "youth are routinely pepper-sprayed in their cells, day rooms and classrooms, often in their face and eyes. For minor infractions, youth are shackled and 'body-slammed' by custody officers or forced to sit alone in hallways for hours at a time." In 2022 and 2023, California closed its last state-run youth prisons (N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility, O.H. Close Youth Correctional Facility, and Ventura Youth Correctional Facility); through their closure, they continued to be dangerous places, with multiple instances of youth attacked by other youth.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Alameda County Juvenile Hall** -- Detention facility[1]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
2. **Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (Los Angeles County)** -- Detention facility[2]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
    d. Other: Death of Bryan Diaz (drug overdose)
3. **Camp Barrett (San Diego County)** -- Commitment facility (closed in 2018)[3]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
4. **Camp Erwin Owen (Kern County)** -- Commitment facility[4]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
5. **Central Juvenile Hall (Los Angeles County)** -- Detention facility[5]
    a. Sexual abuse
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
6. **Central Valley Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center (San Bernardino County)** -- Detention facility[6]
    a. Sexual abuse

7. **East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (San Diego County)** -- Detention facility[7]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
8. **James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall (Kern County)** -- Detention facility[8]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
9. **Kearny Mesa Juvenile Facility (San Diego County)** -- Detention facility[9]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical or chemical (pepper spray) restraints
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
10. **Kings County Juvenile Center** -- Detention facility[10]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
    d. Other: Inadequate amounts of food
11. **Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility (Kern County)** -- Commitment facility[11]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
12. **Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (Los Angeles County)** -- Detention facility[12]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Sexual abuse by staff
    d. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
    e. Excessive solitary confinement
13. **N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility** -- State-level commitment facility (closed in 2023)[13]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
14. **O.H. Close Youth Correctional Facility** -- State-level commitment facility (closed 2022)[14]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
15. **Peterson Juvenile Hall/Camp Peterson (San Joaquin County)** -- Detention facility[15]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
16. **San Bernardino Youth Justice Center** -- Detention facility[16]
    a. Sexual abuse
17. **San Luis Obispo County Juvenile Hall** -- Detention facility[17]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of pepper spray
18. **Ventura Youth Correctional Facility** -- State-level commitment facility (closed in 2023)[18]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Excessive solitary confinement

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[1] Alameda County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. (2023, August 16). Meeting minutes: August 16, 2023.

[2] Queally, J. (2022, November 28). Inside months of chaos at L.A.'s juvenile halls: Lockdowns, staff shortages. *Los Angeles Times*; Fremon, C. (2022, December 21). The newest disturbing chapter in the struggle to get pepper spray out of LA's Juvenile Halls. *WitnessLA*; City News Service. (2022, December 28). 279 file lawsuit over alleged sexual abuse at LA County juvenile halls, camps. *LA Daily News*; Ellis, R., & Queally, J. (2023, October 13). After fatal overdose at L.A. juvenile hall, a mother grieves as drugs remain a threat. *Los Angeles Times*.

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[6] Nelson, J. (2026, May 31). 136 juveniles were sexually abused in San Bernardino County detention, lawsuit alleges. *The San Bernardino Sun*.

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[8] Disability Rights California, & Disability Rights Advocates. (2018, January). *Investigation Report: Kern County Juvenile Correctional Facilities*.

[9] San Diego County Juvenile Justice Commission. (2020). *San Diego County Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Report: Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility*.

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[13] Washburn, M. & Menart, R. (2019, February). *Unmet Promises: Continued Violence & Neglect in California's Division of Juvenile Justice*. Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.

[14] Washburn, M. & Menart, R. (2019, February). *Unmet Promises: Continued Violence & Neglect in California's Division of Juvenile Justice*. Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.

[15] Kysel, I.M. (2019, May 22). *Toxic treatment: The abuse of tear gas weapons in California juvenile detention*. ACLU Foundations of California.

[16] Nelson, J. (2026, May 31). 136 juveniles were sexually abused in San Bernardino County detention, lawsuit alleges. *The San Bernardino Sun*.

[17] Kysel, I.M. (2019, May 22). *Toxic treatment: The abuse of tear gas weapons in California juvenile detention*. ACLU Foundations of California.

[18] Washburn, M. & Menart, R. (2019, February). *Unmet promises: Continued violence & neglect in California's Division of Juvenile Justice*. Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.

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Colorado

In 2017 and again in 2026, outside examiners documented pervasive abuses in Colorado youth confinement facilities. Until 2018, state facilities employed a mechanical restraint device called "the WRAP," which had earlier been outlawed in Arkansas and labeled a form of torture.[1] The WRAP was used at least 253 times in multiple facilities in Colorado from January 2016 to January 2017. The state's Lookout Mountain correctional campus (home to three separate facilities) was closed briefly in mid-2025 following rampant chaos and violence. Conditions in the state's other juvenile facilities are also highly problematic. Indeed, there is evidence of one or more types of recurring abuse in virtually all state facilities, as documented in recent reporting by the *Denver Post* and other journalism outlets, by the state's Youth Seclusion and Restraint Working Group, and by the Office of the Child's Representative. These sources have shown that the facilities are home to over a thousand fights and assaults each year and that, thousands of times annually youth in the facilities are subjected to invasive physical restraints by staff and to mechanical restraints (such as handcuffs, shackles, or ankle chains). Instead of the WRAP, state facilities now employ a restraint tactic called the side-hold, in which youth are handcuffed and their ankles are bound together while staff members physically hold them down. This restraint was employed nearly 300 times in Colorado facilities from September 2024 to August 2025. The state's child advocate has also reported that staff are routinely strip-searching youth without justification.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Adams Youth Service Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
2. **Aspire Youth Services Center** -- Commitment facility[3]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
3. **Betty K. Marler Youth Services Center** -- Commitment facility[4]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Other: Allowed youth to drink cleaning solution in an act of self-harm
4. **Gilliam Youth Services Center** -- Detention facility[5]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
5. **Golden Peak Youth Services Center** -- Commitment facility[6]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
6. **Grand Mesa Youth Services Center** -- Combined detention and commitment facility[7]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Other: Drug overdose
7. **Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center** -- Commitment facility[8]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    d. Other: Drug overdose and rampant drug availability

8. **Marvin W. Foote Youth Services Center** -- Detention facility[9]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
9. **Phoenix Youth Services Center** -- Commitment facility[10]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
10. **Platte Valley Youth Services Center** -- Combined detention and commitment facility[11]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Other: Death of unnamed boy (drug overdose)
11. **Pueblo Youth Services Center** -- Commitment facility[12]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
12. **Rocky Mountain Youth Services Center** -- Detention facility[13]
    a. Other: Rampant availability of drugs
13. **Spring Creek Youth Services Center** -- Commitment facility[14]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Other: Drug overdose
14. **Summit Youth Services Center** -- Commitment facility[15]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
15. **Youthful Offender System** -- Facility for youth tried and convicted as adults[16]
    a. Other: Lack of food to the point of malnutrition
16. **Zebulon Pike Youth Services Center** -- Commitment facility[17]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints

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[1] ACLU Colorado (2027, March 2). DYC's punitive culture is hurting Colorado kids, and making kids and staff unsafe.

[2] Youth Seclusion & Restraint Working Group, (2018, July 1). *Semi-annual report*. Colorado Office of Children, Youth & Families.

[3] Office of Children, Youth & Families (2021, November 1). Response to General Assembly's Request for Information (RFI) #3. Colorado Division of Youth Services; Office of Children, Youth & Families (2022, November 1). Response to General Assembly's Request for Information (RFI) #1. Colorado Division of Youth Services; Office of Children, Youth & Families (n.d.). Department of Human Services #2 FY 2025-26: Data for State Owned and Operated Facilities. Colorado Department of Human Services: Tabachnik, S. (2025, March 2). Broken bones, excessive force and drug overdoses: Inside Colorado's juvenile detention facilities. *The Denver Post.*

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[7] Office of Children, Youth & Families (n.d.). Department of Human Services #2 FY 2025-26: Data for State Owned and Operated Facilities. Colorado Department of Human Services; Youth Seclusion & Restraint Working Group, (2018, July 1). Semi-Annual Report. Colorado Office of Children, Youth & Families

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[9] Tabachnik, S. (2025, March 2). Broken bones, excessive force and drug overdoses: Inside Colorado's juvenile detention facilities. *The Denver Post;* Office of Children, Youth & Families (2022, November 1). Response to General Assembly's Request for Information (RFI) #1. Colorado Division of Youth Services; Office of Children, Youth & Families (2024, November 1). Response to General Assembly's Request for Information (RFI) #1. Colorado Division of Youth Services; Office of Children, Youth & Families (n.d.). Department of Human Services #2 FY 2025-26: Data for State Owned and Operated Facilities. Colorado Department of Human Services; Youth Seclusion & Restraint Working Group, (2018, July 1). Semi-Annual Report. Colorado Office of Children, Youth & Families

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THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Connecticut

State and federal agencies have issued multiple reports about the excessive use of solitary confinement and other problems at the Manson Youth Institution, which houses adolescent males from the ages of 15 to 21. In 2019, the Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate found the facility uses physical isolation (lasting 23.5 hours per day for 1 day to 30 days per instance) "as a behavioral consequence." A 2021 investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice found that "Manson routinely isolates children for punishment." Elsewhere in the state, in 2015, the Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate found excessive use of restraint and isolation for youth in distress at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, which was subsequently closed in 2018.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Connecticut Juvenile Training School** – Commitment facility (closed in 2018)[1]
    a. Excessive use of restraints
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
2. **Manson Youth Institution** – Commitment facility for youth charged as adults[2]
    a. Excessive use of pepper spray
    b. Excessive solitary confinement

[1] Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate. (2015, July 22). Investigative facility report: Connecticut Juvenile Training School and Pueblo Unit; Thomas, J.R. (2015, September 15). State watchdog releases videos of 'dangerous' restraints, seclusions in juvenile jails. *Connecticut Mirror*.

[2] Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate. (2019, January 16). *Incarcerated/detained youth - An examination of conditions of confinement*; U.S. Department of Justice. (2021, December 21). *Justice Department Finds that Manson Youth Institution Violates the U.S. Constitution and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* [Press release]; Tillman, L. (2024, November 21). Child Advocate says problems persist at prisons for incarcerated youth. *Connecticut Mirror*.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Delaware

At the New Castle County Detention Center, several violent incidents occurred within a short period in 2019: On February 28, a large fight involving ten boys and one girl resulted in multiple injuries. Four youths were hospitalized for injuries, which included a concussion, bruising, eye swelling, and temporary vision loss. One staff member was also hospitalized after being injured while de-escalating the conflict; the incident was captured on a surveillance camera, but the state denied a newspaper's request for the footage. A second altercation on March 30 resulted in three injured youths, one of whom was hospitalized for contusions and a concussion.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **New Castle County Detention Center** – Detention facility[1]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth

[1] Jedra, C. (2019, March 4). Juvenile detention fight leaves four teens and staffer hospitalized, more injured. *The News Journal*; Jedra, C. (2019, March 21). 'Riot' or 'altercation'? Delaware won't release video of New Castle County Detention Center incident. *The News Journal*; Wilson, X., & Jedra, C. (2019, April 12). Another fight at juvenile detention center leads to hospitalization, arrests. *The News Journal*.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

District of Columbia

Abusive conditions have been documented at both of the District of Columbia's secure juvenile facilities. At the Youth Services Center, a detention facility, substantial violence has been reported in recent years. In 2024, 14 fights among youth occurred within 10 days, leading to eight arrests. In 2025, at least one youth was injured by assault almost every month. One incident involved five boys charged with assaulting and breaking the jaw of a transgender girl housed in a male unit. That same year, a former staff member was ultimately convicted of repeatedly sexually abusing a 17-year-old female resident in 2021 and 2022. Reports have also identified drug contraband at the facility, where three youths tested positive for opioids. At the New Beginnings Youth Development Center (the District's commitment facility located in Laurel, Maryland), two lawsuits were filed alleging staff violently attacked two teenage boys: one was strangled and suffered a fractured jaw in 2022, and the other was repeatedly beaten in 2023. Disability Rights DC found that staff at both facilities subjected youth to dangerous restraint practices, including prone restraints, and excessive seclusion lasting up to 23 hours per day.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **New Beginnings Youth Development Center** – Commitment facility located in Maryland[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Excessive use of restraints
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
2. **Youth Services Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
    d. Excessive use of physical restraints
    e. Other: Drug contraband

[1] Disability Rights DC. (2023, November). *Youth at risk: Dangerous restraints and excessive seclusion at DYRS facilities*; *K.P. et al. v. District of Columbia et al.*, No. 1:24-cv-01325. United States District Court for the District of Columbia (2024).

[2] Gathright, J. & Grablick, C. (2023, July 21). 'Why is my child always on lockdown?': Confinement at D.C.'s youth jail worries parents, advocates. DCist/WAMU; Oberg, T. (2024, May 15). 14 fights, 8 arrests, 4 positive drug tests in recent days at DC's secure Youth Services Center. NBC Washington; Disability Rights DC. (2025, March). Youth still at risk: A supplement to the Disability Rights DC's Youth at Risk report; Oberg, T. (2025, July 15). Trans girl housed in male unit has jaw broken in fight at DC juvenile detention. NBC Washington; Oberg, T, & Yarborough. (2025, August 6). 'Nobody was watching': DC DYRS sued after sex abuse, more victims sought. NBC Washington; U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. (2025, September 12). *Former D.C. Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services employee gets prison term for sexually abusing a minor in his care* [Press release]; U.S. Department of Justice. Oberg, T., Leslie, K., Jones, S., & Piper, J. (2025, December 8). Assaults, crowding continue inside DC youth jail as independent oversight ends. NBC Washington.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Florida

A 2017 *Miami Herald* investigation made national news when it exposed widespread staff-sponsored violence inside the Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center. Violence and abuse are pervasive throughout the state's youth justice system. A lawsuit filed against the state alleged that from mid-2017 through mid-2018, the state's detention centers employed solitary confinement with impunity: youth in detention were placed in isolation 11,738 times (4,310 different youth) from 2017 to 2018, and nearly 1,200 youths were isolated for more than 24 hours straight. At the Volusia Regional Juvenile Detention Center, the typical time in solitary confinement was 144 hours -- six full days. Additional abuses both in detention centers and correctional placement facilities have been exposed in the news or documented in annual reports from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's inspector general. At least five youth have died while in custody in Florida since 2015. That list includes Elord Revolte, who was beaten to death by more than a dozen other youths at Miami-Dade, a facility where prosecutors concluded that staff likely offered honey buns (a pastry treat) or other food as an incentive to attack other teenagers. At the Duval Regional Juvenile Detention Center, a brutal fight between two youths—allowed to proceed as a staff member watched and then did not report it—resulted in a facial fracture for one of the youths. In all, there is clear documentation of recurring abuse across 40 detention and correction facilities in Florida since 2015. Moreover, there is strong evidence that the extent of abuse in Florida's facilities is actually even greater. According to a 2017 *Miami Herald* article, "thousands of documents turned up cases where detainees allege they were denied access to the hotline phone or bribed with snacks to refrain from reporting [abuses]." Staffers at the Fort Myers Youth Academy were forbidden to call the state's abuse hotline unless given permission by top management.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Alachua Academy** -- Commitment facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
2. **Alachua Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility[2]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
    c. Other: Youth left behind during fire
3. **Bay Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility[3]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
4. **Brevard Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility[4]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Death of Andre Sheffield (meningitis)[5]
5. **Broward Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility[6]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
6. **Broward Youth Treatment Center** -- Commitment facility[7]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Other: Death of unnamed youth in custody (attributed to natural causes); staff provided drugs to youth

7. **Center for Success and Independence** -- Commitment facility[8]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
8. **Central Pasco Girls Academy** -- Commitment facility[9]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
9. **Collier Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility[10]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
10. **Duval Academy** -- Commitment facility[11]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Other: Drug overdose
11. **Duval Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility[12]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
12. **Escambia Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility[13]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Staff made death threats against youth
13. **Everglades Youth Academy** -- Commitment facility[14]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Other: Multiple instances of contraband, including drugs, provided by staff
14. **Gulf Academy** -- Commitment facility[15]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth
15. **Hastings Comprehensive Mental Health Treatment Program** -- Commitment facility[16]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth
16. **Highlands Youth Academy** -- Commitment facility[17]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
17. **Hillsborough West Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility (closed in 2026)[18]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
18. **Lake Academy** (closed in 2024); reopened as **Tampa Bay Girls Academy** (closed in 2026) -- Commitment facility
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Other: Death of Zy'kiria Bell (suicide); child overmedicated
19. **Leon Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
20. **Liberty Unit for Specialized Treatment** -- Commitment facility
    a. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth
21. **Manatee Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Death of Alleny Carbone (suicide)
22. **Marion Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
23. **Marion Youth Academy** -- Commitment facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
24. **Martin Girls Academy** -- Commitment facility
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
25. **Miami Girls Academy** -- Commitment facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Excessive solitary confinement

26. **Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging and failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth (death of Elord Revolte)
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
27. **Oak Grove Academy** -- Commitment facility
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
28. **Okaloosa Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
29. **Okaloosa Youth Academy** -- Commitment facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
30. **Okeechobee Youth Development Center** -- Commitment facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Sexual abuse by staff
31. **Okeechobee Youth Treatment Center** -- Commitment facility
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
32. **Orange Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
33. **Palm Beach County Juvenile Correctional Facility** -- Commitment facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
34. **Palm Beach Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
35. **Pasco Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
36. **Pinellas Regional Juvenile Detention Center**-- Detention facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
37. **Spring Lake Youth Academy** -- Commitment facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
38. **St. John's Youth Academy** -- Commitment facility (closed in 2022)
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
39. **St. Lucie Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
40. **Volusia Regional Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement

[1] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2018). *State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2017-2018 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2022). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2022 Annual Report*.

[2] *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022). Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2024). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2024 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2025). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2024-2025 Annual Report*. A 2024 incident involving a youth left behind during a fire involved one youth, an occurrence that does not meet this report's standards of abuse, which require multiple instances or youth. It is included due to the gravity of the event.

[3] *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022).

[4] Florida Today staff. (2015, February 22). Teen's death in Brevard jail caused by meningitis. *Florida Today;* Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2015). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2015 Annual Report*; Reutter, D. (2017, March 9). Youths still dying in Florida Juvenile Detention Centers from abuse, neglect. *Prison Legal News*; *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022).

[5] *Prison Legal News* appears to have incorrectly reported this death took place at the Broward Regional Juvenile Detention Center. Important facts reported by *Prison Legal News* align with the dates from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and other media sources regarding the death of an unnamed youth at the Brevard Regional Juvenile Detention Center. *Prison Legal News* is the source of Andre Sheffield's name. Relevant citations in the Brevard Regional Juvenile Detention Center footnote.

[6] Miller, C.M., & Burch, A.D.S. (2017, October 17). Dark secrets of Florida juvenile justice: 'honey-bun hits,' illicit sex, cover-ups. *Miami Herald*. Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2018). *State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2017-2018 Annual Report*; *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022). Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2024). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2024 Annual Report*.

[7] Miller, C.M. (2016, October 13). 17-year-old dies at Pembroke Pines drug treatment center. *Miami Herald.* Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2017). *State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2016-2017 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2018). *State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2017-2018 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2024). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2024 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2025). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2024-2025 Annual Report*.

[8] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2021). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2021 Annual Report*.

[9] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General. (2019) Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of Inspector General 2019 Annual Report; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2020). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2020 Annual Report*; Waiser, A. (2024, July 22). Girl's death, other issues, spark concerns involving other Florida facilities run by TrueCore. WFTS-TV.

[10] *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022).

[11] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2016). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2016 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2017). *State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2016-2017 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2018). *State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2017-2018 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2024). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2024 Annual Report*.

[12] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2025). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2024-2025 Annual Report*; *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022).

[13] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2016). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2016 Annual Report*; *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022).

[14] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2022). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2022 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2024). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2024 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2025). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2024-2025 Annual Report*.

[15] Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019, December). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018*. Bureau of Justice Statistics; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2020). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2020 Annual Report.*

[16] Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019, December). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018*. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

[17] 10News Staff (2017, August 18). Former youth academy staff members arrested for child abuse, neglect. WTSP.

[18] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2016). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2016 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2018). *State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2017-2018 Annual Report*; *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022).

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[21] Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019, December). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018*. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

[22] *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022); De Leon, J., & Miller, C.M. (2018, December 5). Girl tried twice to kill herself. They took her off suicide watch. It was a fatal error. *Bradenton Herald.*

[23] *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022).

[24] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2016). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2016 Annual Report*; Miller, C.M. (2017, October 13). How small rebellions by Florida delinquents snowball into bigger beatings by staff. *Miami Herald*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2021). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2021 Annual Report*.

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[29] *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022).

[30] Miller, C.M. (2017, October 13). How small rebellions by Florida delinquents snowball into bigger beatings by staff. *Miami Herald*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2018). *State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2017-2018 Annual Report.*

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[34] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2016). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2016 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2015). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2015 Annual Report*.

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[36] Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2017). *State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2016-2017 Annual Report*; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Inspector General (2023). *Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Office of the Inspector General 2022-2023 Annual Report*; *G.H. v. Department of Juvenile Justice*, No. 4:19-cv-00431. Northern District of Florida. (2022).

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THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Georgia

Three teenagers died in custody of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice within weeks of each other in 2022. Loyce Tucker, age 16, was killed by another youth as part of a fight game initiated by an officer who was later charged with one count of second-degree murder, two counts of second-degree cruelty to children, and one count of violating his oath of office. Alexis Sluder, age 16, died of a drug overdose. And another unidentified youth, age 16, died following a fight with other youth at the Eastman Youth Development Campus. A 2019 investigative reporting series in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and a 2024 report from the Southern Poverty Law Center[1] both describe an atmosphere of pervasive abuse and violence inside the facilities. Just from 2015 through 2018, there were more than 3,400 assaults and 150 sexual assaults inside the state's youth corrections facilities, and the state fired 60 correctional officers for using excessive force against teens. A 2023 audit found that the average duration of solitary confinement in all youth corrections facilities was 3.5 days in 2022. (Data about assaults, injuries and, problematic practices in Georgia are scarce at the facility level.)

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Aaron Cohn Regional Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
2. **Eastman Youth Development Campus** – Commitment facility[3]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth: death of unnamed youth (following a fight)
3. **Elbert Shaw Regional Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility[4]
    a. Other: Death of Alexis Sluder (drug overdose)
4. **Macon Youth Development Campus** – Commitment facility[5]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth
5. **Sumter Youth Development Campus** – Commitment facility[6]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
6. **Waycross Regional Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility[7]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth; death of Loyce Tucker (attacked)

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[1] Davis, D. (2024). *Only young once: Dismantling Georgia's punitive youth incarceration system.* Southern Poverty Law Center.

[2] Leggett, M. (2021, March 24). 3 Georgia youth detention employees accused of assaulting underage inmates. WBTW News13.

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THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Hawaii

Prior to 2015, evidence existed of documented abuse at both the Hale Ho'omalu Juvenile Detention Facility and the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. However, reforms to the state's juvenile correctional system—including those outlined in the state's recent three-year juvenile justice plan, an assessment project, news coverage of reductions in youth confinement, and litigation resulting in new protections for LGBTQ youth—have led to significant changes. There is no clear evidence of systemic or recurring abuse since 2015.[1]

[1] American Civil Liberties Union. (2006, June 15). *Hawai'i – R.G., et al. v. Koller, et al.*; Cicchiello, C. (2022, October 1). *How Hawaii brought its population of girls in prison to zero.* NBC News. Hawaii Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services. (2025). *Hawaii three-year comprehensive juvenile justice state plan: 2024–2026 Title II formula grant application*; Hawaii News Now. (2014, June 19). Assaults tripled at youth facility; workers not tested for drugs. *Hawaii News Now*; National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform. (2025, February). *Building a continuum of care: An assessment of Hawai'i's system of care for court-involved youth.*

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Idaho

A 2018 survey of youth in juvenile facilities conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics identified the Juvenile Corrections Center in St. Anthony as one of 12 facilities in its national sample with the highest rates of sexual victimization in the nation. Thirteen percent of the 116 youth surveyed at the facility reported experiencing sexual victimization by another youth or staff member during their incarceration. In one case, a 20-year-old male incarcerated at the facility pleaded guilty in September 2018 to sexually abusing a minor under the age of 16 and was also accused of groping two other minor boys.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Juvenile Corrections Center - St. Anthony** – Commitment facility
    a. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth

[<?>] Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018.* Bureau of Justice Statistics; Hogan, J. (2020, January 29). Parents: Sex abuse at St. Anthony juvenile center not a "surprise." *Post Register*.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Illinois

According to inspections by the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and the state's Independent Juvenile Ombudsman, as well as other accounts, excessive isolation practices have been reported across several Illinois juvenile facilities, including Illinois Youth Centers in Harrisburg and St. Charles and detention centers in Cook, Franklin, Knox, LaSalle, Winnebago, and Will counties. At the Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center and Mary Davis Detention Home, youth as young as 11 were allegedly held in isolation for up to 24 hours per day in cells the size of parking spaces, prompting lawsuits by the ACLU of Illinois in 2023 and 2024. Both facilities have since closed. At the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, a report by Equip for Equality recorded prolonged isolation along with the punitive practice of "sitting on the wall," where youth are forced to sit silently outside their cells for hours, occasionally for up to 15 days. (The practice is not confirmed by the facility handbook, but its existence was relayed by numerous youth.) Youth reported that the facility also used dangerous physical restraints, causing injuries such as broken bones, black eyes, and even a seizure. The Illinois Youth Centers (IYC) have also seen serious incidents of abuse by staff. At both IYC-Harrisburg and IYC-St. Charles in 2018, staff members allegedly severed boys' fingertips by slamming doors on their hands (two of many allegations against staff in those facilities), while an employee at IYC-St. Charles was convicted in 2021 for sexual misconduct with a youth. Ombudsman reports further describe inhumane conditions at St. Charles, including cells smeared with apparent blood and feces and extreme cold that forced youth to cut mattresses into makeshift sleeping bags to stay warm.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center** – Detention facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
2. **Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility (closed in 2024)[2]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Mold in cells, limited access to basic hygienic needs
3. **Illinois Youth Center - Chicago** – Commitment facility[3]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Mold, ice-cold showers
4. **Illinois Youth Center - Harrisburg** – Commitment facility[4]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
    d. Other: Denial of basic hygienic needs
5. **Illinois Youth Center - Pere Marquette**– Commitment facility[5]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
6. **Illinois Youth Center - St. Charles** – Commitment facility[6]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    d. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical restraints

e. Excessive solitary confinement
f. Other: Unsanitary conditions, e.g., feces and blood on walls, garbage; freezing temperatures

7. **LaSalle County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[7]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
8. **Mary Davis Home (Knox County)** – Detention facility (closed in 2026)[8]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
9. **River Valley Detention Center (Will County)** – Detention facility[9]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
10. **Winnebago County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[10]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement

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[1] Shapiro, R., Gingold, J., Wilson, E., & Kuske, A. (2023, March 17). *Youth in crisis: Stop civil rights violations against vulnerable students with disabilities at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center and its alternative school.* Equip for Equality.

[2] Albright, J. (2022a). *2022 Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center Inspection Report.* Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice; *Maurer v. Franklin*, No. 3:23-cv-02303, United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, (2023).

[3] Office of the Independent Juvenile Ombudsperson (2024). *Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report*. Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice; Office of the Independent Juvenile Ombudsperson (2025). *Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report*. Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.

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[7] Albright, J. (2022b). *2022 LaSalle County Juvenile Detention Center inspection report.* Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.

[8] ACLU of Illinois. (2025, October 1). *Federal court blocks harmful confinement policies at Knox County's "Mary Davis Home" juvenile detention facility* [Press release]; *J.B.H. v. Knox County,* No. 4:24-cv-04096-JES-JEH, United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, (2024); Carlson, J. (2026, February 4). *Mary Davis Home to begin transferring detained youth as soon as 'practicable'.* Tri States Public Radio. Carlson, J. (2026, May 22). ACLU ends two-year legal battle over conditions at Mary Davis Home. Tri States Public Radio.

[9] Albright, J. (2022c). *2022 Will County Inspection Report.* Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.

[10] Garcia, K., & Scavongelli, M. (2023, November 9). *Most juvenile detention centers in Illinois are failing to meet state standards.* Injustice Watch.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Iowa

A federal judge ordered the State Training School for Boys to stop using a restraining device called "the WRAP" on boys with mental disabilities in 2020. Judge Stephanie Rose found it to be a form of torture, violating the U.S. Constitution and the U.N. Convention Against Torture. The state was ordered to pay $4.9 million in damages and to reform its overuse of isolation as a form of punishment; boys as young as 14 were being held in isolation for weeks at a time in filthy cells. Also, though prior to 2015, the time period covered by this report, the Iowa Juvenile Home was closed in 2014 due to widespread abuses.[1]

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **State Training School for Boys** – Commitment facility[2]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Excessive use of solitary confinement
    d. Other: Filthy isolation cells

[1] *Des Moines Register* staff. (2014, March 22). Iowa Juvenile Home investigation key findings. *Des Moines Register*.

[2] Clayworth, J. (2020, March 31). Judge orders halt to use of restraint device at Iowa detention facility for boys; calls it 'torture'. *Des Moines Register*; Leys, T. (2021, November 8). Eldora boys' school violence continues, but monitor says mental health care is improving. *Des Moines Register*; Leys, T. (2021, December 15). Iowa must pay $4.9 million to lawyers in Eldora boys' school 'torture' case, appeals court rules. *Des Moines Register*.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Kansas

Cedric "CJ" Lofton died at the Sedgwick County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center in September 2021 due to the excessive restraint placed on his 135-pound body by three guards. A jury determined that, in total, five guards were responsible for his death, awarding his family $8 million in damages. Lofton had not been arrested; he was at the detention center because his father called 911 as the teenager was experiencing a mental health crisis. Upon the officers' arrival at his home, Lofton asked the officers, "Y'all here to protect me, right?" Once at the center, Lofton was held in a prone position for 39 minutes, which resulted in his death. At the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Center, staff told state auditors in 2018 that their colleagues committed violence and sexual abuse against the youth residents; survey respondents reported three incidents of sexual relationships between staff and youth. (That same survey found staff-on-staff violence was also prevalent.) In 2022, two of the guards were arrested for sexual relationships with youth at the facility.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Kansas Juvenile Corrections Center** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
2. **Sedgwick County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Physical abuse by staff leading to death of Cedric "CJ" Lofton

[1] Ujiyediin, N. (2018, December 20). Staff allege violence, sexual abuse at Kansas's only juvenile prison. KCUR; Feuerborn, M. (2022, February 2022) Kansas juvy guard arrested on inmate sex charge. KSNT; Fraym J. (2022, December 19). Kansas juvenile prison guard arrested for sex with inmate. KSNT: Roebuck, S. (2026, February 5). 5 Kan. corrections officers held liable in restraint-related death of juvenile. *Corrections1*.

[2] Hollingsworth, H. (2022, May 13). 'From crisis to death': Probing teen's last, desperate hours. Associated Press.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Kentucky

A 2024 state-commissioned assessment of Kentucky's juvenile detention centers revealed widespread overuse of solitary confinement, documenting 1,579 isolation incidents across eight facilities reported in the first 10 months of 2023, as well as insufficient procedural safeguards to prevent unnecessary isolation. A federal lawsuit filed in 2024 alleged systemic abuse and neglect across three facilities—Adair Youth Development Center, Campbell Regional Juvenile Detention Center, and Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center—between 2021 and 2023. Allegations included youth being locked in cells for extended periods without access to showers or working toilets, sexual abuse by staff, and excessive force and restraints. At Adair, a 2022 riot erupted amid reports of such mistreatment and resulted in an assault on a staff member and the sexual assault of a teenage girl. At the now-closed Lincoln Village Regional Juvenile Detention Facility, Gynnya McMillen, a 16-year-old girl, died in custody in 2016 after being restrained by multiple staff for over four minutes. State records further document at least 116 substantiated incidents of staff misconduct across Kentucky juvenile facilities between 2018 and 2021, the majority involving excessive force, including against one youth who brought shoes into his room without permission. At the Woodsbend Youth Development Center, incidents included staff placing youth in headlocks, slamming them to the ground, and breaking their wrists.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Adair Youth Development Center** – Detention and commitment facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failure to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Excessive use of physical or chemical (pepper spray) restraints
    d. Excessive solitary confinement
    e. Other: Filth, drug contraband, denial of food and showers, vermin
2. **Boyd Regional Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
3. **Breathitt Regional Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[3]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
4. **Campbell Regional Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[4]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Excessive use of physical or chemical (pepper spray) restraints
    d. Excessive solitary confinement
    e. Other: Girls strip-searched by male employees, suicide-related neglect
5. **Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[5]
    a. Excessive use of physical or chemical (pepper spray) restraints
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
    c. Other: Unhygienic conditions
6. **Jefferson Regional Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[6]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
7. **Lincoln Village Regional Juvenile Detention Facility** (closed in 2017) – Detention facility[7]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    b. Other: Death of Gynnya McMillen

8. **Mayfield Youth Development Center** – Commitment facility[8]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
9. **McCracken Regional Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[9]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
10. **Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[10]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical restraints
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
11. **Woodsbend Youth Development Center** – Commitment facility[11]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints

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[1] Cheves, J. (2023, January 23). Insiders warned of 'stomach-turning' abuse in KY juvenile facility in months before riot. *Lexington Herald-Leader;* CGL. (2024, January 29). *Kentucky juvenile justice performance assessment of facilities: Final Report.* Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice; Cheves, J. (2024, January 31). Lawsuit: Mentally ill teen girl abused in filthy cell at KY juvenile detention center. *Lexington Herald-Leader; Kennedy et al. v. Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice et al.*, No. 1:24-cv-00016-GNS. United States District Court Western District of Kentucky Bowling Green Division. (2024); Cheves, J. (2026, March 23). Judge rules that watchdog agency can continue investigation at KY juvenile jail. *Lexington Herald-Leader;* Cheves, J. (2025, July 24). 'He does not feel safe.' In KY juvenile jail, some scared youths refuse to leave cells. *Lexington Herald-Leader.*

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[5] *Kennedy et al. v. Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice et al.*, No. 1:24-cv-00016-GNS. United States District Court Western District of Kentucky Bowling Green Division. (2024): CGL. (2024, January 29). *Kentucky juvenile justice performance assessment of facilities: Final Report.* Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice.

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[7] Kates, G. (2017, May 24). Gynnya McMillen case: Kentucky to close juvenile detention center where teen died. CBS News; D'Almeida, K. (2016, April 7). *Unanswered questions abound in Gynnya McMillen's in-custody death.* Rewire News Group.

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[11] Cheves, J. (2021, October 21). 'So many flaws.' Broken bones, abuse and isolation inside Kentucky juvenile lockups. *Lexington Herald-Leader*.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Louisiana

Terrible abuses have been documented in Louisiana's four state-run youth prisons, as well as at the notorious Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, which housed youth in 2022 and 2023 to relieve overcrowded conditions in the juvenile facilities. (Youth were removed from Angola after a federal judge found that they were being held in "intolerable" conditions – locked in solitary confinement for days on end, and punished with handcuffs, pepper spray, mace and denial of family visits.) In 2022, the *New York Times* revealed pervasive abuses at the Ware Youth Center. Their coverage found that 64 attempted suicides occurred at the facility in 2019 and 2020 alone. Three youth died by suicide, including Solan Peterson (age 13), Alora Fountain (age 16), and Jordan Bachman (age 17). Peterson died after spending four days in solitary confinement, during which guards failed to check on him for hours on the night of his death. According to the *Times* reporting, guards at Ware beat and choked youth. Moreover, several guards demanded sexual acts in exchange for phone privileges. They sometimes bribed youth with food as payment to assault other children. In 2022, a feature story by the *Marshall Project*, *NBC News*, and *ProPublica* documented similarly horrific conditions at the Acadiana Center for Youth. "[T]eens in this facility, some with serious mental illness, were locked alone in their cells for at least 23 hours a day for weeks on end," the investigation found. "They were shackled with handcuffs and leg irons when let out to shower, and given little more than meals slid through slots in their doors."

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Acadiana Center for Youth** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Physical abuse by staff
    c. Sexual abuse by staff
    d. Excessive solitary confinement
    e. Excessive use of pepper spray
    f. Other: Living in filth; significant presence of feces
2. **Bridge City Center for Youth** – Commitment facility[2]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
3. **Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola** – Commitment facility, used temporarily[3]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Dangerous use of restraints
    c. Other: Excessive heat
4. **Swanson Center for Youth at Monroe** -- Commitment facility[4]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
    c. Other: Staff as source of contraband; youth held in rooms with feces
5. **Ware Youth Center** – Commitment facility[5]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Sexual abuse by staff
    d. Excessive solitary confinement
    e. Other: Deaths of Jordan Bachman (suicide), Alora Fountain (suicide), Solan Peterson (suicide)

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

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[5] Shutzer, M., & Mueller, R.L. (2022, October 30). 'Dying inside': Chaos and cruelty in Louisiana juvenile detention. *The New York Times.*

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Maine

The Long Creek Youth Development Center has been the location of several abuse allegations since 2015, as well as in prior decades. In 2016, a transgender boy, who had been bullied by other youth at Long Creek, died by suicide while purportedly under suicide watch. An independent study of the facility in 2017 found a staffing crisis leading to dangerous conditions. In 2019, the state paid $250,000 to the family of a 12-year-old boy who claimed his teeth were knocked out by Long Creek guards, and he was then denied access to dental care. (The state and Long Creek's medical provider rejected these allegations.) In 2025, a longtime guard was arrested for assaulting a 16-year-old, putting him in a headlock and lifting him off the ground.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Long Creek Youth Development Center** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Sexual abuse by staff
    d. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    e. Excessive solitary confinement
    f. Other: Death of unnamed boy (suicide)

[1] Bleiberg, J. (2017, December 14). Staffing crisis at Maine's youth prison created unsafe conditions, report finds. *Bangor Daily News* via WGME; Ferguson, C. (2021, September 10). Maine's youth prison continues to use dangerous tactics, watchdog says. *Bangor Daily News*: Ferguson, C. (2022, September 25). Lawsuit says teen was thrown in solitary confinement and abused inside Maine's youth prisons. *Bangor Daily News*: Harrison, J. (2019, December 9). Mother who said guards knocked out son's teeth at Maine's youth prison settles lawsuit. *Bangor Daily News:* Sharon, S. (2016, November 11). Transgender teen's suicide raises concerns about youth corrections center. Maine Public; Sharon, S. (2026, January 12). A longtime guard allegedly assaulted a 16-year-old at Maine's youth prison. *Bangor Daily News.*

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Maryland

"The physical condition of several facilities continues to undermine both safety and youth dignity," according to a 2026 report from the Maryland Office of the Correctional Ombudsman. For example, the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center (BCJJC), the largest youth detention facility in the state, was found to be "unsanitary, unhygienic and uncomfortable." A paraplegic youth housed in the BCJJC infirmary was seen sitting in his own waste; other youth tried to clean up the area around him to limit the stench. Staff and youth alike reported problems like a broken air conditioner and mouse infestations; youth placed towels under their doors to prevent the rodents' entrance into living quarters. Inhumane conditions have existed elsewhere in the state. For example, showers and toilets at the Charles E. Hickey School were broken for days in 2018, leading a public defender with clients in the facility to comment, "You can imagine how it starts to smell." Violence has been a persistent problem, with monitors having found physical abuse by staff members at the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center, Silver Oak Academy, and the Victor Cullen Center, where a staff member allegedly bribed two youths by promising to give them Chinese food to attack another youth.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center** -- Commitment facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
2. **Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Other: Broken air conditioning, presence of rodents, broken plumbing
3. **Charles E. Hickey School** – Detention facility[3]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Other: Expired foods, bugs in food, unsanitary kitchen, broken plumbing
4. **Cheltenham Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility[4]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Other: Refusal to provide necessary medical care
5. **J. DeWeese Carter Center** -- Commitment facility[5]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
6. **Lower Eastern Shore Children's Center** -- Commitment facility[6]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
7. **Morning Star Youth Academy** -- Commitment facility[7]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
8. **Silver Oak Academy** – Private commitment facility[8]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
9. **Thomas J.S. Waxter Children's Center** – Commitment facility (closed in 2022)[9]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Other: Extreme temperature fluctuations and faulty plumbing
10. **Victor Cullen Center** – Commitment facility[10]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from assaults by other youth
    c. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
11. **Western Maryland Children's Center** – Detention facility[11]
    a. Excessive use of solitary confinement

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[8] Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2015). *Fourth quarter report and 2015 annual review*. State of Maryland; Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2017). *Fourth quarter report and 2016 annual review*. State of Maryland; Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2018). *Fourth quarter report and 2018 annual review*. State of Maryland; Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2019). *Fourth quarter report and 2019 annual review*. State of Maryland; Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2020). *Fourth quarter report and 2020 annual review*. Office of the Attorney General.

[9] Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2018). *Fourth quarter report and 2018 annual review*. State of Maryland; Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2020). *Fourth quarter report and 2020 annual review*. Office of the Attorney General; Costello, D. (2023, December 7). 'Scarred for life': 20 women sue over alleged sexual abuse at Waxter detention facility in Maryland. *The Baltimore Sun.*

[10] Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2015). *Fourth quarter report and 2015 annual review*. State of Maryland; Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2016). *Fourth quarter report and 2016 annual review*. State of Maryland; Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2017). *Fourth quarter report and 2016 annual review*. State of Maryland; Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2017). *Fourth quarter report and 2016 annual review*. State of Maryland; *John Does (VC) 1-8 v. State of Maryland, et al.* (2023, October 1); Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2017). *Fourth quarter report and 2016 annual review*. State of Maryland; Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2022). *Fourth quarter report and 2022 annual review*. State of Maryland.

[11] Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (2025). *Fourth quarter report and 2024 annual review*. State of Maryland.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Michigan

Wolverine Health Services ran two facilities, one for detention and one for commitment, that have been home to horrific abuses. The detention center (which also housed youth in the foster care system) was closed by the state in 2021 for "willful and substantial" violations of 10 state rules and regulations, including physical abuse and "unsafe and improper" restraints. Fourteen-year-old Madison Totzkay died by suicide while at the commitment facility, the Secure Treatment Center, in 2019. One supervisor there was counseled for unprofessional behavior 18 times over a four-year period, yet continued to receive positive evaluations. In 2024, 14 people formerly housed at the treatment center (all between 13 and 17 years old) sued for sexual abuse committed against them. The complaint describes "a hotbed of rape and sexual molestation," including of a 16-year-old boy who was violently undressed and raped by a staff member while another employee watched. At the Osceola Youth Center (then known as the Muskegon River Youth Home), guards were alleged to have pummeled one youth who had been sexually assaulted by a different guard.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Muskegon River Youth Home (now the Osceola Youth Center)** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Other: Denial of basic hygiene; death of Jon Vanderpool (suicide)
2. **Vista Maria** -- Commitment facility (closed in 2025)[2]
    a. Physical abuse
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
3. **William Dickerson Juvenile Detention Center (Wayne County)** – Detention facility[3]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
4. **Wolverine Health Services Juvenile Detention Facility** – Detention facility (closed in 2021)[4]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Sexual abuse by staff
5. **Wolverine Secure Treatment Center** – Commitment facility[5]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
    b. Other: Death of Madison Totzkay (suicide)

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[1] Usher, K. H. (2018, June 20). Youth home targetted by lawsuit after suicide. *Cadillac News*; Miller, M. (2025, April 29). Man sues Michigan juvenile detention facility, alleging physical and sexual abuse. MLive; *Calhoun v. Wayne County, et al.*, No. 2:26-cv-11615-SDK-CI. United States Court for the Eastern District of Michigan Southern Division (2026).

[2] Erickson, E. (2026, April 13). 'House of horrors': 6 former residents sue Vista Maria, allege years of abuse, systemic failures. WDIV; Shalhout, F. (2026, April 15). 55 women allege decades of abuse at Dearborn Heights girls facility in lawsuit. MLive; Burns, G. (2026, April 18). 'They were traumatizing traumatized girls': Dozens accuse Michigan facility of horrific abuse. MLive.

[3] Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. (2024, January 3). Re: License #CE820414010; Kostiuk, L. (2026, May 18). Federal lawsuit alleges teen sexual abuse, systemic failures at Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center. ClickonDetroit/Local 4.

[4] Murdock, R. (2021, April 9). Documents show abuse allegations that led to closing of Wolverine juvenile facility in Buena Vista; MLive. Waterman, C. (2025, May 6). Michigan man alleges horrific sex abuse, torture by staff at juvenile detention centers. MLive.

[5] Waterman, C. (2019, October 30). Suicide at secure youth detention center in Saginaw County investigated. MLive; Murdock, R. (2021, September 29). Lawsuit reveals details on teen's death at Wolverine juvenile facility in Saginaw County. MLive; Waterman, C. (2024, May 15). Lawsuit alleges culture of sex abuse at former Wolverine juvenile facility in Saginaw County. MLive.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Minnesota

In 2023, a local television station (KARE 11) reported that solitary confinement, called Disciplinary Room Time (DRT), was used excessively in the state's three largest juvenile facilities: Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center, Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Center, and the Minnesota Correctional Facility – Red Wing. Together, these facilities ordered youth into DRT for five or more days nearly 700 times between 2018 and 2022. One boy who was sent to Red Wing at age 14 said that while in segregation, he had to earn his daily hour of out-of-cell time and sometimes did not receive it at all; one youth at Hennepin was ordered into isolation for 34 days. A state inspection found that these practices violated children's rights and were partly driven by understaffing. In response, in 2023 Minnesota banned most uses of solitary confinement in juvenile facilities. There have also been numerous reports of physical and sexual abuse in Minnesota facilities. In Ramsey County, state investigators found "serious maltreatment" of youth (describing staff-on-youth assaults) in 2023 and 2024; in the earlier incident, a youth was violently thrown to the ground and later found unresponsive and bleeding. At Red Wing, lawsuits allege staff sexually abused at least two youths between 2015 and 2018. In October 2024, staff at Red Wing were accused of providing inadequate care leading up to the suicide death of a 16-year-old. Mesabi Academy, a private facility, closed in 2016 after reports found that youth were encouraged to fight in "fight clubs" and that a staff member broke a youth's clavicle. As of 2021, 17 former Mesabi residents had received $1.495 million in settlements.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[1]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
2. **Mesabi Academy** – Commitment facility (closed in 2016)[2]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
3. **Minnesota Correctional Facility – Red Wing** – Commitment facility[3]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
    c. Other: Death of unnamed youth (suicide)
4. **Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[4]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement

[1] Stahl, B., Leamanczyk, L., & Eckert, S. (2023, February 23). KARE 11 Investigates: Juvenile lockups routinely order kids into solitary confinement. KARE 11; Stahl, B., Leamanczyk, L., & Eckert, S. (2023, May 19). KARE 11 Investigates: Gov. Walz signs bill to end use of juvenile solitary confinement. KARE 11; Minnesota Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Licensing Division. (2023a, March 29). *Maltreatment investigation memorandum: Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center* (Report No. 202210368); Minnesota Department of Corrections (2024, December 4). *Facility inspection report: Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center.*

[2] Scheck, T., & Gilbert, C. (2016, May 26). A failure of oversight: State, county and federal supervision didn't convey worry about Mesabi Academy. *APM Reports*; Eischens, R. (2017, December 19). More families sue Mesabi Academy owner. APM Reports; Schnek, T. (2021, February 21). Final investigation reveals 'fight club,' lack of oversight among problems at Mesabi. APM Reports; Schnek, T. (2021, April 2). Former residents of troubled youth facility receive settlement money. APM Reports.

[3] CBS Minnesota. (2019, June 4). *'A real systemic failure': Red Wing juvenile inmate sues over alleged sexual abuse by officer.* CBS News; *Doe v. Hanson et al.*, No. 62-CV-19-3910. District Court State of Minnesota. (2019); Stahl, B., Leamanczyk, L., & Eckert, S. (2023, February 23). KARE 11 Investigates: Juvenile lockups routinely order kids into solitary confinement. KARE 11; Stahl, B., Leamanczyk, L., & Eckert, S. (2023, May 19). KARE 11 Investigates: Gov. Walz signs bill to end use of juvenile solitary confinement. KARE 11; Richardson, C. (2025, March 28). Investigation into teen's death at juvenile detention facility reveals flaws. *Republican Eagle.*

[4] Minnesota Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Licensing Division. (2023b, October 4). *Maltreatment investigation memorandum: Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Center* (Report No. 202304025); Minnesota Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Licensing Division. (2024, June 5). *Maltreatment investigation memorandum: Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Center* (Report No. 202401376); Stahl, B., Leamanczyk, L., & Eckert, S. (2023, February 23). KARE 11 Investigates: Juvenile lockups routinely order kids into solitary confinement. KARE 11; Stahl, B., Leamanczyk, L., & Eckert, S. (2023, May 19). KARE 11 Investigates: Gov. Walz signs bill to end use of juvenile solitary confinement. KARE 11.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Mississippi

At the Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center, a boy with post-traumatic stress disorder told investigators he was held in solitary confinement for 570 hours (approximately 24 days) over seven months between 2017 and 2018, one of dozens of examples of the center's excessive use of solitary confinement. The boy, who was physically abused by staff over a three-day period (including the use of leg restraints), slit his wrists with a toothbrush, and officers did not report the incident to mental health professionals on site. Staff also used restraints excessively and in ways that posed medical risks. Unsafe conditions continued. For example, in 2021, two guards were fired for smuggling in marijuana and tattoo guns to youth. A federal consent decree to address the treatment of youth held at the facility ended in 2022 on the agreement of all parties.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center** – Detention facility[1]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
    c. Other: Staff delivering contraband to youth, including marijuana

[1] *J.H. v. Hinds County, Mississippi*, No. 3:11-cv-00327, complaint for injunctive and declaratory relief, United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi (2011); *J.H. v. Hinds County, Mississippi*, No. 3:11-cv-00327, settlement agreement, United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi (2012); *J.H. v. Hinds County, Mississippi*, No. 3:11-cv-00327, amended motion for an extension of the consent decree and a corrective action plan or, in the alternative, contempt, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi (2018); Dixon, J. (2020, April 24). Youth detention center officers terminated for contraband. WLBT; Wade, M. (2021, October 27). JPS teacher at Henley, Young Youth Court School arrested. WLBT3; Crown, K. (2022, November 2). Hinds juvenile detention center comes off consent decree as county celebrates. *Mississippi Free Press*.

Missouri

In March 2024, 17-year-old Romeo Calhoun died at the St. Charles County Juvenile Justice Center. According to his mother, Romeo battled multiple mental health conditions and was denied access to his needed medication for 10 days prior to his death. (Though news reports at the time noted that an investigation was underway, The Sentencing Project did not find news coverage of the results of that investigation.) Elsewhere in the state, a St. Louis County Councilmember asked the Attorney General to investigate allegations of abusive conditions, i.e., sexual abuse of youth and residents denied access to bathrooms, at the St. Louis Juvenile Detention Center, but his request was apparently never answered.[1]

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **St. Charles County Juvenile Justice Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Other: Death of Romeo Calhoun (cause not reported)

[1] Solomon, B. (2023, October 11). St. Louis County councilman asks attorney general to investigate youth jail. KSDK.

[2] First Alert 4 Staff & Andrews, J. (2024, March 7). 17-year-old dies in St. Charles County Juvenile Justice Center. KMOV; Thomas, M. (2024, March 7). St. Charles County investigates juvenile detention center death. Fox2.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Nebraska

Several of Nebraska's juvenile facilities make excessive use of isolation practices. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of Nebraska Child Welfare reported 8,479 room confinement incidents in fiscal year 2024–2025, with youth spending a total of 127,276 hours in room confinement; 9% of those isolation episodes were for at least 24 hours. In 2023-2024, 15% of room confinement incidents lasted at least 24 hours, with "youth refused to comply" as the number one reason for all uses of solitary. Seven of the state's eight youth facilities reported room confinement incidents of 24 hours or longer during 2024-25 or in at least one other year. Douglas County Youth Center has consistently reported the highest use and longest durations of room confinement; in 2024–2025, 92% of its 448 incidents involved youth being confined for 24 hours or more. In addition to excessive solitary confinement, YRTC-Geneva (Nebraska's state-run facilities are called Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers, or YRTCs), a commitment facility for girls, was closed in 2019 due to unsafe and unsanitary conditions, including mold and mildew in the girls' cells, fire hazards, and structural damage. Girls were relocated to YRTC-Kearney, despite that facility's own history of deteriorating conditions identified in a 2026 OIG investigation. In 2025, multiple allegations of staff sexual abuse at YRTC-Kearney resulted in at least two employees resigning, another being placed on leave, and a fourth being criminally charged. In January 2026, the state announced plans to move boys out of Kearney to other facilities.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Douglas County Youth Center** – Detention facility[1]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
2. **Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
3. **Madison County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[3]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
4. **Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility** – Commitment facility for youth criminally convicted[4]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
5. **Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Geneva** – Commitment facility (closed in 2019)[5]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Mold and mildew, fire hazards, and structural damage
6. **Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Hastings** – Commitment facility[6]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
7. **Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney** – Commitment facility[7]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
8. **Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Lincoln** – Commitment facility[8]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement

[1] Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. (n.d.). *Juvenile room confinement reports*. Relevant to this location: 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025.

[2] Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. (n.d.). *Juvenile room confinement reports*. Relevant to this location:2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025.

[3] Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. (n.d.). *Juvenile room confinement reports*. Relevant to this location: 2022-2023 and 2024-2025.

[4] Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. (n.d.). *Juvenile room confinement reports*. Relevant to this location: 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021.

[5] Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. (n.d.). *Juvenile room confinement reports*. Relevant to this location: 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019. Office of the Public Counsel/Ombudsman & Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. (2021, January 5). *Special report of investigation: The deterioration and closure of Geneva Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center;* Schulte, G. (2020, February 16). Juvenile facilities in Nebraska rocked by violence, escapes. The Associated Press.

[6] Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. (n.d.). *Juvenile room confinement reports*. Relevant to this location: in 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025.

[7] Schulte, G. (2020, February 16). Juvenile facilities in Nebraska rocked by violence, escapes. The Associated Press; Gentzler, S. (2025, October 12). Pattern of alleged staff sex abuse at Nebraska's youth detention center emerges in court. *Nebraska Examiner*; Gentzler, S. (2026, January 21). State planning to move boys from troubled Kearney youth center to Omaha. *Nebraska Examiner*; Gentzler, S. (2026, July 18). Kearney center's culture allowed sexual abuse of teens in state custody, new investigation finds. *Flatwater Free Press*; Ashford, M. (2026, July 28). Report points to 'hypersexualized environment' at Kearney YRTC in investigation into sex abuse of youth detainees. Nebraska Public Media; Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. (n.d.). *Juvenile room confinement reports*. Relevant to this location: in 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025

[8] Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. (n.d.). *Juvenile room confinement reports*. Relevant to this location: in 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Nevada

Nearly 100 people incarcerated in Nevada's juvenile facilities have alleged sexual abuse (before and after 2015) at the Caliente Youth Center and the Nevada Youth Training Center. (There are earlier allegations against staff at the Summit View Youth Center, the China Spring Youth Camp, and the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center that are beyond the coverage years of this report.) A federal complaint specifies the ongoing trauma from this abuse for most of the plaintiffs. Separately, a local news investigation began in 2019 after an anonymous whistleblower claimed that staff were making excessive use of chemical restraints at two juvenile commitment facilities—the Nevada Youth Training Center and Summit View Youth Center. The investigation uncovered images of a youth who sustained injuries after being pepper-sprayed while attempting to escape Summit View. It also identified similar complaints from other youth, prompting a federal civil rights investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ closed its investigation in 2022 after finding that the facilities had implemented new policies and practices that significantly reduced the use of chemical restraints, with reported incidents declining from 33 in 2019 to 2 in 2020.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Caliente Youth Center** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
2. **Nevada Youth Training Center** – Commitment facility[2]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
    b. Dangerous and excessive use of chemical restraints
3. **Summit View Youth Center** – Commitment facility[3]
    a. Dangerous and excessive use of chemical restraints

[1] *John Doe et al. v. Rich et al.*, No. 2:26-cv-01016, United States District Court of Nevada (2026); Borger, P. (2026, June 25). Federal lawsuit details decades of abuse in NV's juvenile justice system. Nevada Public Radio.

[2] Nevada Assembly Committee on Judiciary. (2023, February 14). *Minutes of the meeting of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary: Eighty-second session.* Nevada Legislature; Thompson, M. (2022, December 20). DOJ closes investigation into 2 Nevada youth facilities. *News 3*; U.S. Department of Justice. (2021, January 7). *Justice Department announces civil investigation into chemical restraint use at two Nevada juvenile facilities.* Office of Public Affairs. *John Doe et al. v. Rich et al.*, No. 2:26-cv-01016, United States District Court of Nevada (2026).

[3] Nevada Assembly Committee on Judiciary. (2023, February 14). *Minutes of the meeting of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary: Eighty-second session.* Nevada Legislature; Thompson, M. (2022, December 20). DOJ closes investigation into 2 Nevada youth facilities. *News 3*; U.S. Department of Justice. (2021, January 7). *Justice Department announces civil investigation into chemical restraint use at two Nevada juvenile facilities.* Office of Public Affairs [Press release]; *John Doe et al. v. Rich et al.*, No. 2:26-cv-01016, United States District Court of Nevada (2026).

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

New Hampshire

John H. Sununu Youth Services Center, formerly the New Hampshire Youth Development Center (YDC), has a notorious history of abuse. Almost 1,300 people have sued the facility, as well as about 50 privately operated youth facilities that are under state contract, for alleged abuse they suffered as children between 1960 and 2021, including physical and sexual abuse, excessive solitary confinement, harsh restraint practices, and other maltreatment. For example, one youth detained at YDC claimed that in 2017, when he was 14, a male staff member sexually touched him under the guise of a strip search and forced him to perform oral sex; the staffer then bribed older residents to beat the boy to silence him about the abuse. When the boy once tried defending himself, he was put in solitary confinement for approximately one week. Another boy, detained at the same facility at ages 16 and 17, alleged repeated abuse by staff between 2018 and 2019, including being beaten while handcuffed and placed in isolation for up to three days at a time for 23 hours daily, while being denied meals and bathroom access. As of early 2026, the state has agreed to pay $239 million to settle 425 claims, with hundreds more cases still pending. A 2026 report from New Hampshire's Office of the Child Advocate alleges that such serious abuses continue, which the director of the New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth, and Families disputes.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **John H. Sununu Youth Services Center, formerly New Hampshire's Youth Development Center** – Detention and commitment facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Sexual abuse by staff
    d. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    e. Excessive solitary confinement
    f. Other: Denied access to the bathroom

[1] Moon, J., & Samora, R. (2024, June 26). *Failures to act.* NHPR, *Document*, & *The Pudding*; Russell, J., & Hubler, J. (2025, August 11). Children in state care were sexually abused. How much money are they owed? *The New York Times*; Gokee, A. (2026, January 20). N.H. agrees to pay $239 million to settle claims of abuse at state-run facility. *The Boston Globe;* Bookman, T. (2026, April 10). Independent watchdog alleges abuse, punitive treatment at NH's youth detention center. New Hampshire Public Radio; Margolis, J. (2026, May 11). DCYF director disputes many of the recent allegations at youth detention center. *Concord Monitor*.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

New Jersey

In New Jersey, excessive use of solitary confinement and a host of other serious abuses have been reported across multiple juvenile facilities. At the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center, Disability Rights New Jersey received allegations of abuse and neglect, including improper use of isolation and failure to protect youth from assaults between 2023 and 2024, from at least 11 detained youth with disabilities. The organization filed a lawsuit in 2024 seeking access to investigate these claims, which was settled with Essex County in 2025. The Atlantic County Youth Detention Center (also known as the Harborfields Juvenile Detention Center) is another troubled facility. In 2024, the county sued the state's Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) over severe overcrowding, which created placement delays and dangerous conditions. Reported incidents included a youth chained to benches at police stations for prolonged hours, purportedly due to lack of space in the detention center. In one case, a youth was hospitalized after expressing suicidal ideation following 19 hours of restraint. In addition, the JJC data showed that there were multiple facilities that frequently placed youth in isolation for 24 hours or longer, including detention centers in Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Morris, Middlesex, and Union counties.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Atlantic County Youth Detention Center (also known as the Harborfields Juvenile Detention Center)** – Detention facility[1]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
2. **Bergen County Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
3. **Burlington County Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility (closed in 2020)[3]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
4. **Camden County Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility[4]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
5. **Essex County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[5]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
6. **Middlesex County Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility[6]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
7. **Morris County Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility[7]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
8. **New Jersey Training School** -- Commitment facility[8]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth
9. **Ocean County Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility[9]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
10. **Union County Youth Detention Center** – Detention facility (closed in 2019)[10]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement

[1] Cohen, L. (2024, December 9). Atlantic County sues state over dangerous juvenile detention conditions. *Breaking AC*; *County of Atlantic et al. v. New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission et al.,* No. ATL-L-1947-24, New Jersey Superior Court, (2024); Gray, M. (2024, December 19). N.J. county's juvenile detention overcrowding crisis escalates with new lawsuit. NJ.com; Juvenile Justice Commission (n.d.) Room Restriction Report for January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. State of New Jersey.

[2] Juvenile Justice Commission (n.d.) Room Restriction Report for January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. State of New Jersey.

[3] Juvenile Justice Commission (n.d.) Room Restriction Report for January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018. State of New Jersey.

[4] Juvenile Justice Commission (n.d.) Room Restriction Report for January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. State of New Jersey.

[5] *Disability Rights New Jersey v. Barcliff et al.*, No. 2:24-cv-08297-JKS-JSA,verified complaint, United States District Court of New Jersey (2023); Juvenile Justice Commission (n.d.) Room Restriction Report for January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. State of New Jersey. Brier, B. (2024, October 18). Investigation of abuse, neglect at youth detention center can proceed. *NJ Spotlight News*; *Disability Rights New Jersey v. Barcliff et al.*, No. 2:24-cv-08297-JKS-JSA, settlement agreement, United States District Court of New Jersey, (2025).

[6] Juvenile Justice Commission (n.d.) Room restriction report for January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. State of New Jersey.

[7] Juvenile Justice Commission (n.d.) Room restriction report for January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. State of New Jersey.

[8] Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019, December). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018*. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

[9] Juvenile Justice Commission (n.d.) Room restriction report for January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. State of New Jersey.

[10] Juvenile Justice Commission (n.d.) Room restriction report for January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019. State of New Jersey.

New Mexico

At the Bernalillo County Youth Services Center, a juvenile detention facility in Albuquerque, a local news story reported that, under a blanket policy, youth as young as 12 years old were routinely subjected to videotaped strip searches. Facility data showed that nearly 700 strip searches were conducted between June and October 2024, despite contraband rarely being recovered, almost all of which -- such as pens and pencils -- would have been found by routine pat-downs. One girl reported that she was strip-searched approximately 150 times over a three-year period and locked in her cell when she refused. Surveillance cameras were also installed in bathrooms and shower areas without the young residents' knowledge. In response, the New Mexico Senate Health and Human Services Committee advanced Senate Bill 322 in March 2025 to regulate strip searches and prohibit cameras in private areas; the bill did not pass.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Bernalillo County Youth Services Center** – Detention facility[1]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Privacy violations: repeated strip searches, cameras in bathrooms and showers; lack of adequate plumbing, such as toilets and sinks

[1] Bowling, J. (2023, July 19). At New Mexico's biggest jail for children, toilets and staff are lacking — but strip searches are common. *Searchlight New Mexico*; Fisher, A. (2025, March 14). As lawmakers debate banning shower cameras in children's lockups, Bernalillo County removes theirs. *Source New Mexico*; New Mexico Legislature. (2025). *S.B. 322: Strip searches & cameras.*

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

New York

In 2025, the Legal Aid Society conducted multiple visits to juvenile detention and corrections facilities and spoke with dozens of youth detained in what it described as "barbaric conditions." Investigations by the Legal Aid Society, the NYC Department of Investigation, and a federal monitor have pointed to widespread violence in these facilities, where youth have been stabbed or cut by other youth and sustained injuries requiring "stitches, wired jaws, and teeth removal." This violence correlates with the presence of contraband, including razor blades and scalpels; five Crossroads employees were sentenced in 2025 for accepting bribes to smuggle contraband. Recent incidents at Horizon include a 2023 case in which a staff member was fired and arrested for having sex with a teenage resident, and a 2022 beating of a 16-year-old boy by two supervisors, one of whom pleaded guilty in November 2024. In January 2026, a class action lawsuit was filed against the state's Office of Children and Family Services, alleging that the Brookwood, Goshen, Industry, and MacCormick juvenile placement facilities routinely subjected youth to inhumane solitary confinement between 2024 and 2025. Youth were reportedly isolated for over 20 hours per day for punishment or understaffing reasons in unsanitary cells lacking sinks, toilets, and sometimes windows or air conditioning, limiting access to drinking water, forcing youth to use containers for bodily waste, and requiring them to eat in unhygienic environments. In addition to these recent abuses, 539 individuals have joined lawsuits since April 2024 alleging sexual abuse at Horizon, Crossroads, and the now-closed Spofford facility, spanning dates from the 1960s through the 2020s.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Brookwood Secure Center –** Commitment facility[1]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Solitary housing unit is unheated and filthy
2. **Crossroads Juvenile Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Other: Staff smuggling contraband; inhumane sleeping conditions
3. **Goshen Secure Center** – Commitment facility[3]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Youth denied access to toilets, forced to urinate in bottles
4. **Horizon Juvenile Center** – Detention facility[4]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Sexual abuse by staff
    d. Other: Inhumane sleeping conditions; contraband
5. **Industry Residential Center** – Commitment facility[5]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Inhumane sleeping conditions, lack of air conditioning and toilets in cell
6. **MacCormick Secure Center** – Commitment facility[6]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement

[1] *Marcus F.. et al. v. Harris-Madden et al.*, No. 26-cv-00148, United States District Court Southern District of New York (2026).

[2] Ostadan, B. (2024, October 1). NYC facing 425 lawsuits over claims of child sexual abuse in juvenile jails. *Gothamist*; New York City Department of Investigation. (2024, October 24). *The impact of Raise the Age and Bail Reform on the city's juvenile detention facilities.* Harlem World Magazine. (2025, January 28). 539 survivors file civil lawsuits alleging decades of sexual abuse at juvenile detention center in NYC. *Harlem World Magazine.* Office of the New York State Comptroller. (2025, April 10). *Oversight of Horizon and Crossroads Juvenile Centers* (Report No. 2022-N-3). Max, S. (2025, September 29). Bronx judge tosses 450 lawsuits alleging sexual abuse in NY juvenile detention centers. *Gothamist*; Freeman, L., & Nathanson, J. (2025, October 8). *ACS's failure to remedy unconstitutional conditions in secure detention.* The Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights & A&O Shearman; New York City Department of Investigation. (2025, October 9). *Former ACS youth development specialist sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison for accepting bribes in exchange for smuggling contraband into juvenile detention center* [Press release].; Gelardi, C. (2026, January 9). The state is locking kids in solitary confinement without toilets, lawsuit alleges. *New York Focus*; The New York City Council. (2026). N.Y.C. Local Law, No. 50: *Gender-motivated violence protection law.* Tillid. (n.d.). *Horizon monitorship.*

[3] *Marcus F.. et al. v. Harris-Madden et al.*, No. 26-cv-00148, United States District Court Southern District of New York (2026).

[4] Ostadan, B. (2023, April 20). NYC juvenile detention staffer arrested, fired for sex with teenage detainee. *Gothamist*; U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. (2023, July 26). *Two supervisors charged with federal crimes in connection with beating of 16-year-old resident at Bronx juvenile detention center* [Press release]*;* U.S. Department of Justice. Ostadan, B. (2024, October 1). NYC facing 425 lawsuits over claims of child sexual abuse in juvenile jails. *Gothamist*; New York City Department of Investigation. (2024, October 24). *The impact of Raise the Age and Bail Reform on the city's juvenile detention facilities;* U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. (2024, November 12). *Bronx juvenile detention center supervisor pleads guilty in connection with beating of 16-year-old resident and false report* [Press release]*;* U.S. Department of Justice. Harlem World Magazine. (2025, January 28). 539 survivors file civil lawsuits alleging decades of sexual abuse at juvenile detention center in NYC. *Harlem World Magazine;* Office of the New York State Comptroller. (2025, April 10). *Oversight of Horizon and Crossroads Juvenile Centers* (Report No. 2022-N-3). Max, S. (2025, September 29). Bronx judge tosses 450 lawsuits alleging sexual abuse in NY juvenile detention centers. *Gothamist*; Freeman, L., & Nathanson, J. (2025, October 8). *ACS's failure to remedy unconstitutional conditions in secure detention.* The Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights & A&O Shearman; New York City Department of Investigation. (2025, October 9). *Former ACS youth development specialist sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison for accepting bribes in exchange for smuggling contraband into juvenile detention center*. [Press release]*;* Gelardi, C. (2026, January 9). The state is locking kids in solitary confinement without toilets, lawsuit alleges. *New York Focus*; The New York City Council. (2026). N.Y.C. Local Law, No. 50: *Gender-motivated violence protection law*; Tillid. (n.d.). *Horizon monitorship.*

[5] *Marcus F.. et al. v. Harris-Madden et al.*, No. 26-cv-00148, United States District Court Southern District of New York (2026); Geraldi, C. (2026, February 4). 'I'm a human rights violator': Staff at youth prison recount lockdowns, turmoil, 24-hour shifts. *New York Focus*.

[6] *Marcus F.. et al. v. Harris-Madden et al.*, No. 26-cv-00148, United States District Court Southern District of New York (2026).

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

North Carolina

A 2026 report by Disability Rights North Carolina (DRNC) found that several of the state's juvenile detention centers isolated youth in their cells for most or all of every day. Based on a 13-month monitoring effort and nearly 400 youth interviews, DRNC identified six facilities where youth spent 20 to 24 hours a day locked in cells. (Four other detention centers held youth in their cells from 17 to 19.5 hours per day.) An accompanying DRNC report highlighted particularly horrendous conditions in Madison County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC), where solitary was used excessively for minor violations such as perceived disrespect, often lasting three days, and 30 days for major violations such as fights. Youth also reported staff violence, including physical assaults, pepper-spraying, and tasing for minor or no reasons. At both MCJDC and Durham County Youth Home (DCYH), youth reportedly experienced another disturbing disciplinary measure: they were placed in cold, windowless rooms with only a hole in the floor for a bathroom and a mat or mattress for sleeping, sometimes for a week, or even longer. DRNC notified state authorities about MCJDC conditions, leading to its closure in early 2025. A 2024 class action lawsuit contested an overreliance on solitary confinement statewide, and the state is reportedly working to settle by changing policies to limit the use of solitary.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Alexander Regional Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[1]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
2. **Cabarrus Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
3. **Cumberland Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[3]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
4. **Dillon Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[4]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
5. **Durham County Youth Home** – Detention facility[5]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
    b. Other: Inhumane sleeping conditions, lack of plumbing, freezing temperatures
6. **Guilford Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[6]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
7. **Madison County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility (closed in 2025)[7]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Excessive use of chemical and physical restraints
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
    d. Other: Inhumane sleeping conditions, lack of plumbing, freezing temperatures
8. **Mecklenburg Jail North Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility[8]
    a. Other: Death of Desmond W. (suicide)
9. **Pitt Regional Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[9]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement

[1] Disability Rights North Carolina (2026a, February 19). *Behind locked doors – Inside North Carolina's juvenile detention centers*.

[2] *Doe, et al v. North Carolina Department of Public Safety et al.*, No.1:24-cv-00017, United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina (2025); Disability Rights North Carolina (2026a, February 19). *Behind locked doors – Inside North Carolina's juvenile detention centers*; CJ Staff. (2026, February 27). Settlement expected in NC juvenile detention lawsuit. *The Carolina Journal.*

[3] Disability Rights North Carolina (2026a, February 19). *Behind locked doors – Inside North Carolina's juvenile detention centers*.

[4] *Doe, et al v. North Carolina Department of Public Safety et al.*, No.1:24-cv-00017, United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina (2025); Disability Rights North Carolina (2026a, February 19). *Behind locked doors – Inside North Carolina's juvenile detention centers*; CJ Staff. (2026, February 27). Settlement expected in NC juvenile detention lawsuit. *The Carolina Journal.*

[5] Disability Rights North Carolina (2026a, February 19). *Behind locked doors – Inside North Carolina's juvenile detention centers*.

[6] Disability Rights North Carolina (2026a, February 19). *Behind locked doors – Inside North Carolina's juvenile detention centers*.

[7] Disability Rights North Carolina (2026b, February 19). *No place for kids: The closure of the Madison County Juvenile Detention Center.*

[8] Oehrli, R. (2025, January 24). Mecklenburg sheriff agrees to pay $550,000 to family of teen who committed suicide in jail. *Charlotte Observer.*

[9] Disability Rights North Carolina (2026a, February 19). *Behind locked doors – Inside North Carolina's juvenile detention centers*.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

North Dakota

The Sentencing Project found no evidence of systemic or recurring abuse in North Dakota's juvenile correctional facilities from 2015 to mid-year 2026. There was a troubling incident at the North Dakota Youth Correctional Center, a 2020 case in which a 27-year-old staff member pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a 16-year-old female resident. However, this appeared to be an isolated incident not indicative of a broader pattern of abuse at the facility.[1]

[1] The Associated Press (2019, May 8). 4 face charges in alleged riot at North Dakota youth prison; The Associated Press (2020, July 7). Juvenile detention center staffer charged with sexual abuse.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Ohio

An investigative reporting project conducted jointly by several of Ohio's leading newspapers in 2023 revealed that multiple detention and corrections facilities, including Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility, Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility, Franklin County Detention Center, Hamilton County Detention Center, and the Central Ohio Youth Center were plagued by chronic violence and shocking overreliance on solitary confinement. Follow-up reporting revealed that youth in Circleville and Indian River were subjected to 219,000 hours of solitary confinement in 2024 alone. "You cannot trust these people with your children," said Consandra Wright. Her 17-year-old son, Robert Wright Jr., was found dead in his cell at Circleville in 2020. A national survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility had one of the 12 highest self-reported rates of sexual abuse of incarcerated youth in its national sample. For almost $180,000, Cuyahoga County settled a lawsuit with four youth housed at the county's detention center who were forced to fight for the amusement of the staff. After a brutal fight at Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center, a guard dragged Damarion Allen down a set of steps and dropped him face first; he begged to be put on his back, complaining that his neck hurt and he could not walk. He has been paralyzed ever since.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Central Ohio Youth Center (Union County)** -- Detention facility[1]
    a. Other: Death of Alana Richardson, found deceased in her cell at least five hours after her death, despite staff reports that they had checked on her many times during this period
2. **Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility** -- Commitment facility[2]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
    d. Other: Death of Robert Wright, Jr., following delayed medical care.
3. **Cuyahoga Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility[3]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Other: Staff alleged to have thrown urine on a child
4. **Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center** -- Detention facility[4]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
5. **Hamilton County Detention Center** -- Detention facility[5]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
6. **Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility** -- Commitment facility[6]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
    c. Other: Lack of functioning toilet in cells, youth urinating in cups

[1] Hergesheimer, C. (2023, November 11). Girl found hours after she died in juvenile detention. What happened? *The Columbus Dispatch*.

[2] Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019, December). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018.* Bureau of Justice Statistics; Ohio General Assembly, Correction Institution Inspection Committee. (2025, January 16). Report on the unannounced inspection of Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility; Bischoff, L.A. (2025, May 6). Teens spent 219K hours in solitary confinement at 2 Ohio prisons, inspectors found. *The Columbus Dispatch*.

[3] Shaffer, C. (2017, February 18). Video shows former Cuyahoga County juvenile jail officer standing guard as inmates fight. Cleveland.com; Shaffer, C. (2018, October 23). Cuyahoga County settles lawsuit over juvenile detention center's 'fight night'. Cleveland.com; Shaffer, C. (2019, April 24). Cuyahoga County settles, avoiding lawsuit over juvenile detention center guard accused of throwing urine on boy. Cleveland.com.

[4] Laird, J. & Bischoff, L.A. (2023, November 13). Paralyzed but still wearing an ankle monitor, Ohio teen works to rebuild life after jail. *The Columbus Dispatch*; Laird, J. (2024, October 4). Ongoing violence, prolonged confinement reported at Franklin County juvenile jail. *The Columbus Dispatch*.

[5] Grasha, K. (2023, May 4). Overcrowding at Hamilton County youth center impacts safety. *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

[6] Bischoff, L.A, Knight, C., & Knapp, A.L. (2024, January 22). Kids behind bars: Chaos, violence and neglect plague youth prisons and detention centers. *The Cincinnati Enquirer*; Molnar, N. (2024, August 5). Assaults continue at Indian River youth prison in Massillon, reviews underway. *Canton Repository*; Bischoff, L.A. (2025, May 6). Teens spent 219K hours in solitary confinement at 2 Ohio prisons, inspectors found. *The Columbus Dispatch*.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Oklahoma

In a voluminous 2024 report, Oklahoma Appleseed documented egregious abuses by staff at the Tulsa County Family Center for Juvenile Justice (also called the Tulsa County Juvenile Detention Center) from 2020 to 2024, as well as the repeated failure of local authorities to take serious corrective action when abuses were reported. Among the abuses documented in the report: the arrest of one detention staffer accused of sexually assaulting several youth residents, as well as showing videos of himself raping one youth resident to other residents in the facility; the arrest of a second detention staffer accused of physical and sexual assaults against youth residents and who also sent images of his penis to a youth after their release; and allegations that the detention center's nurse sexually assaulted a youth at the facility repeatedly. In a 2024 lawsuit, 21 youths claimed they were raped or sexually abused while detained at the Tulsa facility. Many youth reported they were routinely placed in solitary confinement, sometimes for weeks at a time.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Tulsa County Family Center for Juvenile Justice** (also called the Tulsa County Juvenile Detention Center) -- Detention facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Sexual abuse by staff
    d. Dangerous or excessive use of physical or chemical (pepper spray) restraints
    e. Excessive solitary confinement

[1] *Child Doe, et al. v. Tulsa County, at al.*, No. 6:24-cv-00182-JAR, first amended complaint, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma (2024); McCarty, C. (2024). *Heinous allegations: Abuses in youth custody in Tulsa County, Oklahoma*. Oklahoma Appleseed.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Oregon

Revelations of sexual abuse have emerged in recent years: several staff at Oregon's MacLaren and Oak Creek Youth Correctional facilities have been accused of grooming and sexually abusing youth in their care. (Like many other states, Oregon houses youth over 18 years of age in its juvenile facilities; some of the claims referred to here involve emerging adults up to age 25.) Oak Creek is on a list compiled by the Department of Justice of facilities with the most accusations of sexual abuse by youth and staff. In one case, a staff member at MacLaren delivered marijuana to a 15-year-old who was being treated for substance abuse and then had sexual contact with him on multiple occasions. The youth failed his drug tests, prolonging his confinement. In addition to abuses that have occurred since 2015, the state failed to investigate more than 3,000 sexual abuse complaints from youth in prior years. This led to the firing of the state's juvenile corrections secretary, Joseph O'Leary, in 2025 and a flurry of new lawsuits regarding past sexual abuses in state facilities. In 2017, Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) published a report about the troubling conditions at the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility (NORCOR), which has a juvenile detention wing. Youth told DRO that they spent long periods of time in their cells, though there are no clocks in the facility and NORCOR does not maintain records on the use of isolation. Youth reported frequent near-24/7 lockdowns on weekends. Soon after the report was published, the Oregon Youth Authority stopped sending youth to the facility.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility** -- Corrections facility[1]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
    b. Other: Contraband
2. **Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility** -- Detention facility[2]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
3. **Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility** -- Corrections facility[3]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth

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[1] Bernstein, M. (2024, September 18). 3 more Oregon youth prison inmates file civil rights suits, alleging sexual abuse by staff. *The Oregonian*; Funk, I. (2025, March 4). Woman sentenced to 5 years for sex abuse of youth at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility. *Salem Statesman Journal*; Dake, L. (2025, December 22). Report: Oregon's largest juvenile justice facility has system-wide failures. Oregon Public Broadcasting.

[2] Radcliffe, S. (2017, December 5). *"Don't look around": A window into inhumane conditions for youth at NORCOR*. Disability Rights Oregon; Foden-Vencil, K. (2017, December 8). Oregon Youth Authority becomes 2nd agency to pull out of NORCOR. Oregon Public Broadcasting.

[3] Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019, December). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018.* Bureau of Justice Statistics; Funk, I. (2024, September 30). 6 youths allege sexual abuse while in Oregon juvenile detention facilities. *Statesman Journal*.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Pennsylvania

Multiple juvenile facilities in Pennsylvania—including the Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center (Lima), Shuman Juvenile Detention Center (Pittsburgh), Glen Mills Schools (Delaware County), Northwestern Academy Detention Center (Northumberland County), and VisionQuest New Directions in North Philadelphia—have closed after investigations and lawsuits revealed long-standing patterns of abuse. At Glen Mills Schools, a large private facility that was long considered a national model, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* found that for two decades, staff commonly beat boys and then isolated them to hide injuries. One staffer said he quit after witnessing colleagues pummel a boy until his eye was almost out of its socket. Another youth reported being beaten so badly that he could hardly walk for three weeks. Abuse has also been documented or alleged at several facilities that remain open. In 2019, Disability Rights Pennsylvania sued on behalf of youth incarcerated in Pennsylvania's youth development centers over allegations that youth with disabilities had suffered excessive and painful restraints and other physical harm by staff. That case resulted in a 2025 settlement requiring corrective action. In Philadelphia, a city oversight report and investigative journalism revealed that the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center overused isolation, with youth reporting they were routinely confined to their rooms for three to four days at a time following altercations. Staff at the facility also reportedly managed misconduct by placing "bounties" on youth they deemed "disrespectful," encouraging other youth to attack them in exchange for cheesesteaks. Finally, multiple lawsuits are pending on behalf of individuals who report being sexually abused as children in Pennsylvania's commitment facilities, including four individuals alleging abuse at Abraxas Academy (Morgantown) between 2010 and 2020; and 20 individuals reporting abuse during the 2000s and 2010s at three state-run Youth Development Centers.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Abraxas Academy (Morgantown)** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
2. **Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility (closed in 2021)[2]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Sexual abuse by staff
    d. Dangerous use of restraints
    e. Excessive solitary confinement
    f. Other: Denial of basic care and hygiene, freezing temperatures, lack of sanitation/plumbing
3. **George Junior Republic** – Commitment facility[3]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
4. **Glen Mills Schools** – Commitment facility (closed in 2019)[4]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
5. **Loysville Youth Development Center** – Commitment facility[5]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Dangerous use of restraints
6. **North Central Secure Treatment Unit** – Commitment facility[6]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Dangerous use of restraints
7. **Northwestern Academy Detention Center** – Detention facility (closed in 2016)[7]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff

8. **Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center** – Detention facility [8]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
9. **Shuman Juvenile Detention Center** (Allegheny County) – Detention facility[9]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Dangerous use of restraints
    d. Other: Drugs-youth overdosed on heroin; neglect led to suicide attempt
10. **South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit** – Commitment facility[10]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Dangerous use of restraints
11. **Summit Academy** – Commitment facility[11]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
12. **VisionQuest New Directions – North Philadelphia** – Commitment facility (closed in 2017)[12]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Other: Mildew, lack of sanitation/ plumbing, vermin, dirty conditions

[1] MacMillan, D. (2026, January 8). Trump administration jails migrant teens in facility known for child abuse. *The Washington Post*; 69 News. (2026, January 20). Youth detention center has license revoked for failing to report alleged child abuse. WFMZ; Bergmueller, J. (2026, March 10). 4 lawsuits filed against Pa. juvenile detention center allege a decade of sexual abuse. LehighValleyLive.com.

[2] Ockerman, E. (2021, March 26). Juvenile detention center staff accused of sexually abusing kids and forcing one to drink toilet water. *VICE*: Cooper, K. (2021, May 21). Allegations of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse rock Delco Juvenile Detention Center. WHYY; Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (2022). Grand jury report on the Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center at Lima ("DCJDC"); Cooper, K. (2022, December 13). Grand jury investigating abuse allegations at Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center chooses not to recommend charges. WHYY; Melamed, S. (2022, December 13). Grand jury finds sexual assault, abuse, and cover-ups at Delaware County's 'kid jail'. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

[3] McGee, J. (2024, July 22). Lawsuits allege child sexual abuse of nearly 100 victims at local juvenile detention centers. WPXI-TV.

[4] *Derrick et al. v. Glen Mills Schools et al.,* No. 2:19-cv-01541, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (2019); Gartner, L. (2019, February 20). Beaten, then silenced. *The Philadelphia Inquirer;* Gartner, L. (2019, February 27). More than 80 boys to leave Glen Mills Schools after Inquirer investigation of abuse. *The Philadelphia Inquirer;* Hanna, M. (2024, August 2). Pa. settles with former Glen Mills students for $450,000, creates new monitoring procedures. *The Philadelphia Inquirer.*

[5] Cooper, K. (2024, July 31). 'Damaged, traumatized and broken by the system': Former residents sue Pa. juvenile detention centers for institutionalized child abuse. WHYY; *Disability Rights Pennsylvania v. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services et al.*, No. 1:19-cv-00737, United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania (2025); Disability Rights Pennsylvania. (2025, March 24). *Settlement reached to address abuses at state-run youth facilities* [Press release].

[6] Cooper, K. (2024, July 31). 'Damaged, traumatized and broken by the system': Former residents sue Pa. juvenile detention centers for institutionalized child abuse. WHYY; *Disability Rights Pennsylvania v. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services et al.*, No. 1:19-cv-00737, United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania (2025); Disability Rights Pennsylvania. (2025, March 24). *Settlement reached to address abuses at state-run youth facilities.* [Press release].

[7] Cooper, K. (2024, July 31). 'Damaged, traumatized and broken by the system': Former residents sue Pa. juvenile detention centers for institutionalized child abuse. WHYY.

[8] Melamed, S. (2025, January 16). Locked up, left behind. *The Philadelphia Inquirer;* Office of the Youth Ombudsman. (2024, November 18). *Use of seclusion at the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center.* City of Philadelphia.

[9] *Post-Gazette* Editorial Board (2017, June 20). Shuman watch: 'Kind of shocking' at juvenile detention center. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*; Frederick, H. (2017, December 6). Problems at Pittsburgh's Shuman Juvenile Detention Center reflect larger issues in the integrity of the juvenile-justice system. *Pittsburgh City Paper*; Davidson, T. (2021, August 23). Shuman Juvenile Detention Center to close after state revokes license. *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*; U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Pennsylvania. (2025, May 21). Shuman Center Youth Care worker sentenced to probation for federal misdemeanor [Press release]; U.S. Department of Justice. Shook, J. (2026, March 18). Pittsburgh spends millions on juvenile detention–research points to cheaper, more effective alternatives. *The Conversation.*

[10] *R. v. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services*, No. 1:17-cv-02332, United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania (2017); Cooper, K. (2024, July 31). 'Damaged, traumatized and broken by the system': Former residents sue Pa. juvenile detention centers for institutionalized child abuse. WHYY; *Disability Rights Pennsylvania v. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services et al.*, No. 1:19-cv-00737, United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania (2025); Disability Rights Pennsylvania. (2025, March 24). *Settlement reached to address abuses at state-run youth facilities.* [Press release].

[11] Malfitano, N. (2024, April 7). Philadelphia's Juvenile Probation Dept. gets partial dismissal of counts in class action sexual abuse suit. *Legal Newsline*; McGee, J. (2024, July 22). Lawsuits allege child sexual abuse of nearly 100 victims at local juvenile detention centers. WPXI-TV.

12 Gammage, J. (2018, October 26). Accused of harming children at its North Philly shelter, VisionQuest now plans to house immigrant youth here. *The Philadelphia Inquirer.*

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Rhode Island

A 30-year-long lawsuit against the Rhode Island Training School, *Inmates of the Rhode Island Training School for Youth v. Piccola*, was closed at the behest of the parties following documented improvements in access to food, education, medical care, and other conditions in July 2017. Despite the improvements, the facility was a site of violence just a few months later, with many staff members reported being injured by youth and two youth being transported to a hospital due to brawls.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Rhode Island Training School** – Commitment facility (closed in 2017)[1]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth

[1] American Civil Liberties Union. (2017, July 25). *Inmates of the Rhode Island Training School for Youth v. Piccola*; Buteau, W. (2017, October 6). *DCYF releases review of Rhode Island Training School following several incidents*. WPRI 12.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

South Carolina

In a 2022 investigative report, the U.S. Department of Justice found that officers at South Carolina's main youth correctional facility, then called the Broad River Road Complex (BRRC)[1] frequently used dangerous tactics, even "on young people who were not engaging in physical violence or even threatening violence." The investigation verified reports "that staff hog-tied a boy using handcuffs and left him on the floor for hours, and that staff punched a boy in the face." Additionally, investigators at BRRC "confirmed abuses such as choking a boy and slamming him against the wall while he was in restraints, forcing a boy to the ground and putting body weight on him in retaliation for his disrespectful comments… twisting and breaking a boy's arm, and biting a girl's face." The federal report also found that many allegations of staff abuse were never investigated. A 2023 lawsuit cited state data showing that youth suffered 99 injuries from fights and assaults from July 2018 to May 2019. In addition, this lawsuit reported allegations that, at the nearby state-run detention center, "several children were brutally assaulted by other children, in the presence of Department of Juvenile Justice officers, who either failed to intervene or even told the victim child to stay away from the cameras so they could not be seen bleeding." The 2023 lawsuit also described troubling abuse allegations at three other state facilities. In addition, authorities in Charleston County signed a consent decree in 2026 to settle a lawsuit by Disability Rights South Carolina complaining of "medieval" and "inhumane" conditions at the county's locally operated detention center. Youth in the facility were placed in a small room with a tiny and inaccessible window (it was very high and covered in dirt and moisture), sometimes with their ankles shackled and their wrists handcuffed, the lawsuit alleged. This room was called the "wet cell" because youth were often denied bathroom breaks and forced to urinate on themselves. The lawsuit also included reports that youth were placed in a restraint chair, sometimes for arbitrary and minor offenses, for hours at a time. One youth was allegedly placed in the wet cell's restraint chair for two days.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Broad River Road Complex** -- previously operated as a commitment facility, now operating as the Midlands Evaluation and Development Center, a detention and commitment center[2]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    d. Excessive use of solitary confinement
    e. Other: Death of Easley Jeffcoat (suicide); feces-contaminated water on cell floors
2. **Charleston County Juvenile Detention Center**[3]
    c. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    d. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    e. Excessive use of solitary confinement
    f. Other: Denial of medical attention
3. **Coastal Evaluation and Development Center** (formerly the Coastal Evaluation Center)[4]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Excessive use of solitary confinement

4. **DJJ Detention Center** (co-located, though separate from, the Broad River Road Complex)[5]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
5. **Midlands Evaluation and Development Center** (formerly the Midlands Evaluation Center)[6]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Excessive use of solitary confinement
    c. Other: Urine on floors, broken plumbing
6. **Upstate Evaluation and Development Center** (formerly the Upstate Evaluation Center)[7]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Excessive use of solitary confinement

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[1] Tracking abuses at South Carolina's state-run facilities is complicated by a recent reorganization of the facilities. See: Hendrick, E. (2025, June 5). *Updates to SCDJJ Facility Names*. South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. [Press release].

[2] U.S. Department of Justice (2020, February 5). *Department of Juvenile Justice's Broad River Road Complex: Notice and Investigation*; U.S. Department of Justice & South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. (2022, April 13). *Agreement Between the United States and the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice*; U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, & U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina. (2022, April 14). *Investigation of South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice's Broad River Road Complex*; *SC NAACP v. SC Department of Juvenile Justice, first amended complaint,* U.S. District Court (Sept. 28, 2023); Orecchio-Egresitz, H. (2022, May 3). Children detained in South Carolina live with feces on floors, mold on walls, and roaches in their food, suit says. *Business Insider*; Schechter, M. (2023, December 7). 16-year-old teen dies after suicide attempt at SC's detention facility for juveniles | South Carolina Public Radio. South Carolina Public Radio; Jones, A. (2024, January 16). Mother of teen who attempted suicide while housed at DJJ speaks. WIS10. Holdman, J. (2025, November 3).

[3] *Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities v. Cannon, et al, complaint,* United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, Charleston Division (2020); Spectrum News Staff. (2026, February 4). Disability Rights SC reaches settlement in juvenile detention case. *Spectrum News*.

[4] Orecchio-Egresitz, H. (2022, May 3). Children detained in South Carolina live with feces on floors, mold on walls, and roaches in their food, suit says. *Business Insider*; *SC NAACP v. SC Department of Juvenile Justice, first amended complaint,* U.S. District Court (Sept. 28, 2023).

[5] SC juvenile justice changeups add capacity to reduce overcrowding, violence. *South Carolina Daily Gazette*.

[6] Orecchio-Egresitz, H. (2022, May 3). Children detained in South Carolina live with feces on floors, mold on walls, and roaches in their food, suit says. *Business Insider*; *SC NAACP v. SC Department of Juvenile Justice, first amended complaint,* U.S. District Court (Sept. 28, 2023).

[7] Orecchio-Egresitz, H. (2022, May 3). Children detained in South Carolina live with feces on floors, mold on walls, and roaches in their food, suit says. *Business Insider*; *SC NAACP v. SC Department of Juvenile Justice, first amended complaint,* U.S. District Court (Sept. 28, 2023).

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Tennessee

Recent investigations and lawsuits have revealed rampant abusive conditions in most of Tennessee's youth detention and correctional placement facilities. The most egregious abuses have occurred in the John S. Wilder Youth Development Center and in the Richard L. Bean Juvenile Service Center, a detention center serving Knoxville. At Wilder, a 2023 report from the Youth Law Center and Disability Rights Tennessee described pervasive physical and sexual abuse of confined youth, as well as frequent instances of prolonged solitary confinement, sometimes for 23 hours per day, in a "Therapeutic Response Unit" that was infested with roaches, spiders, lizards, and mold. A 2023 *ProPublica* news story described years of persistent overreliance on solitary confinement at the Bean Juvenile Service Center. A lawsuit filed in 2024, and still working its way through the court system, documented excessive use of solitary confinement in most of Tennessee's detention and commitment facilities, and excessive use of pepper spray and dangerous physical restraints in many facilities. Physical assaults as well as sexual assaults have also been documented in several Tennessee facilities.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Bledsoe Youth Academy** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse
    c. Dangerous use of physical restraints
2. **Davidson County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[2]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
3. **Duck River Youth Center (formerly Middle Tennessee Juvenile Detention Center)** – Detention facility[3]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
4. **Hamilton County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[4]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
5. **Hollis Academy** – Commitment facility[5]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical (pepper spray) restraints
6. **Hollis Residential Treatment Center** – Commitment facility[6]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
7. **John S. Wilder Youth Development Center** – Commitment facility[7]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Sexual abuse
    d. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical restraints
    e. Excessive solitary confinement
    f. Other: Inadequate health care and denial of health care

8. **Mountain View Academy** – Commitment facility[8]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
9. **Richard L. Bean Juvenile Service Center** – Detention facility[9]
    a. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
10. **Rutherford County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[10]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
11. **Shelby County Youth Justice and Education Center** – Detention facility[11]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
12. **Standing Tall Music City -- commitment facility[12]**
    a. Arranging or failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
13. **UHS/McDowell Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[13]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
14. **Upper East Tennessee Regional Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[14]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement
15. **Williamson County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[15]
    a. Excessive solitary confinement

[1] Office of the Child Advocate (2023, September 6). *Follow-up on out-of-state residential facility: Bledsoe Youth Academy*. State of New Hampshire.

[2] *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[3] Masters, H. M. (2023, December 28). Lawsuit alleges youth detention centers repeatedly pepper-sprayed children. *Nashville Scene*; *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024). Pfleger, P., & Swaby, A. (2026, August 12). "They're putting kids' lives at risk": How abuse in a Tennessee businessman's juvenile prisons remained under wraps. ProPublica & WPLN/Nashville Public Radio.

[4] *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al. class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[5] Masters, H. M. (2023, December 28). Lawsuit alleges youth detention centers repeatedly pepper-sprayed children. *Nashville Scene*.

[6] *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[7] Disability Rights Tennessee, & Youth Law Center. (2022, April 27). *Designed to fail: A report on Wilder Youth Development Center, a Department of Children's Services facility*; *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[8] American Civil Liberties Union (2016, April 28). ACLU-TN Joins Lawsuit Challenging Solitary Confinement of Youth [Press release]; North, J. & Sullivan, C. (2020, January 8). Records: At least 50 incidents of violence, unrest at Mountain View since 2016. WBIR 10 News; Sullivan, C., (2020, March 7). After 10News investigation, chief says grand jury will review youth prison fight case. WBIR 10News; *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al, class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[9] Pfeger, P. (2023, November 16). This Youth Detention Center superintendent illegally locks kids alone in cells. no one has forced him to stop. ProPublica & WPLN/Nashville Public Radio; *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[10] American Civil Liberties Union (2016, April 28). ACLU-TN Joins Lawsuit Challenging Solitary Confinement of Youth [Press release]; *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[11] *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[12] *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[13] *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[14] *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

[15] *John Doe 1, et al. v. State of Tennessee, et al., class action complaint,* United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville Division (2024).

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Texas

In 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice documented systemic violence and abuse inside the five long-term commitment facilities operated by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), echoing prior findings from the early 1970s, 2007, and 2011.[1] The report found that TJJD failed to keep children safe from harm. According to the report, "Children in TJJD's secure facilities are often exposed to excessive physical and chemical force. Children also spend prolonged periods of time in isolation, under stark conditions and without access to adequate mental health and educational services. And children endure sexual abuse by both staff and other children." The report offered more than 40 proposed remedies. A year later at a Texas legislative hearing, legislators stated the TJJD simply ignored the report. According to Representative Gene Wu, "One of the biggest problems is that the agency treats this report like it's nothing."

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

Dallas County Juvenile Detention Center – Detention facility[2]

a. Excessive solitary confinement
b. Other: Lack of food

1. **Evins Regional Juvenile Center** – Commitment facility[3]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical (pepper spray) restraints
    d. Excessive solitary confinement
2. **Gainesville State School** – Commitment facility[4]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth
    c. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical (pepper spray) restraints
3. **Giddings State School** – Commitment facility[5]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical (pepper spray) restraints
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
4. **McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility** – Commitment facility[6]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth
    c. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical (pepper spray) restraints
    d. Excessive solitary confinement
5. **Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex** – Commitment facility[7]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Sexual abuse by staff or other incarcerated youth
    c. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical (pepper spray) restraints

[1] Mendel, R.A. (2015). Maltreatment of youth in U.S. juvenile corrections facilities. Annie E. Casey Foundation.

[2] Office of the Inspector General. (n.d.) *Executive summary ANE-23-0183: Dallas County Juvenile Department*. Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

[3] U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. (2024, August 1). *Investigation of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department*; Merfish, B., Martinez, M, & Stafford, J. (2026). Behind the concrete walls: Uncovering conditions in Texas' five youth prisons. Texas Appleseed.

[4] Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018.* Bureau of Justice Statistics; U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. (2024, August 1). *Investigation of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department*; Merfish, B., Martinez, M, & Stafford, J. (2026). *Behind the concrete walls: Uncovering conditions in Texas' five youth prisons.* Texas Appleseed.

[5] U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. (2024, August 1). *Investigation of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department*; Merfish, B., Martinez, M, & Stafford, J. (2026). Behind the concrete walls: Uncovering conditions in Texas' five youth prisons. Texas Appleseed.

[6] Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018.* Bureau of Justice Statistics; U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. (2024, August 1). *Investigation of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department*; Merfish, B., Martinez, M, & Stafford, J. (2026). Behind the concrete walls: Uncovering conditions in Texas' five youth prisons. Texas Appleseed.

[7] Smith, E.L., & Stroop, J. (2019). *Sexual victimization reported by youth in juvenile facilities, 2018.* Bureau of Justice Statistics; U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. (2024, August 1). *Investigation of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department*; Merfish, B., Martinez, M, & Stafford, J. (2026). Behind the concrete walls: Uncovering conditions in Texas' five youth prisons. Texas Appleseed.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Vermont

The Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, which closed in 2020, was the only secure facility for delinquent youth in Vermont. Befitting a small state with a below-average crime rate, Woodside had only 30 beds -- and it occasionally sat empty. Nevertheless, it was the site of dehumanizing conditions and abusive conduct, leading Disability Rights Vermont to file lawsuits in 2019 and 2021. The 2019 settlement promised changes in the use of seclusion, restraint techniques and the treatment of youths in mental health crises. The 2021 suit -- settled for $4.5 million in damages to the six plaintiffs -- showed that the state had failed to meet its promises. The latter suit named 22 employees, including a former commissioner of the juvenile justice agency. The lawsuits document numerous horrific instances of abuse involving staff assaults, physical restraints, and solitary confinement, and -- on numerous occasions -- cutting the clothes off youth and leaving them naked for hours or days in their isolation cells. According to media coverage of the 2021 lawsuit, an emergency medical technician who was there to check a girl for a concussion "called Department of Children and Families' child abuse hotline and reported the girl was naked, covered in feces, urine and menstrual blood and was nearing hypothermia."

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center** – Commitment facility (closed in 2020)[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Excessive solitary confinement
    d. Other: Shockingly unhygienic or inhumane conditions; retaliation against youth who reported abuse

[1] Associated Press. (2019, October 10). Agency details juvenile facility reforms after court order; Kenyon, J. (2019, November 23). Jim Kenyon: Woodside 'juvie jail' facility is empty, and it should stay that way. *Valley News*; Keays, A.J. (2020, April 19). Disability Rights, state settle suit alleging 'dangerous conditions' at Woodside. *VT Digger*; Donohue, M. (2021, December 13). Vermont youths that claim abuse by 22 DCF employees at Woodside juvenile center. *Bennington Banner*; Keays, A.J. (2021, December 13). Lawsuit alleges 'conscience-shocking' use of force at Vermont's now-shuttered juvenile detention center. *VT Digger*; Keays, A.J. (2023, February 16). State to pay $4.5M to settle lawsuit over 'conscience-shocking' use of force at Woodside juvenile facility. *VT Digger*.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Virginia

At the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center, a 272-bed state-run facility, one staff member was charged with five felonies in 2025 including carnal knowledge of a minor, possession of methadone and oxycodone, and delivering vape pens to a resident. That staff member and four others were arrested for a contraband operation. In 2024, a different former Bon Air corrections officer was arrested for sexual assault of a girl confined there. Youth housed at the facility have complained about near-constant lockdowns. Residents are sometimes denied basic necessities: One youth reported being denied toilet paper due to behavior; two others reported being denied showers for three to four days due to lockdowns. A 2025 state audit found that youth concerns are often ignored. A state-funded audit does not even mention lockdowns. Investigators reviewed 37 forms requiring wellness checks and reported there was no evidence the checks were performed in 27 of those cases. Elsewhere in Virginia, 17-year-old Raven Keffer died at the Newport News Behavioral Health Center, a mental health facility that has programs for justice-involved youth, when medical staff ignored her pleas for help and denied her needed medical care. Another youth was assaulted by staff at the facility.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
    b. Excessive solitary confinement
    c. Other: Denial of basic necessities, e.g., toilet paper
2. **Newport News Behavioral Health Center** – Commitment facility (closed)[2]
    a. Other: Death of Raven Keffer (died after denial of medical care)

[1] Layne, T. (2024, October 22). Reports cite staffing shortages, safety issues, and violations at Bon Air youth correctional facility. WTRV 6 News; McAuley, K. (2025, March 28). Former correctional officer arrested for sexual assault at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. WRIC; Manzanares, K. (2025, April 1). Bon Air juvenile center fires point to broader problems. Virginia Public Media; Nadeau, R. (2025, July 18). Four charged in contraband smuggling scheme at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. WRIC; Manzanares, K., & Evans, W. (2025, December 8). State audit validates areas of concern at Bon Air JCC. Virginia Public Media.

[2] Horne, C. (2019, July 9). Investigating teen's mysterious death. WAVY; U.S. Senate Committee on Finance. (2024, June 12). *Warehouses of Neglect: How Taxpayers are Funding Systemic Abuse in Residential Treatment Facilities*

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Washington

Hundreds of youth have been included as plaintiffs in lawsuits filed recently for long-standing and pervasive sexual abuse in Washington state juvenile facilities during the past several decades, including some sexual assaults that occurred in 2015 or later. In addition, dire conditions have been reported recently at the state's largest youth correctional facility, Green Hill School, including violence, sexual abuse, and drug overdoses. More than three dozen instances of sexual abuse have been documented at the state's other remaining training school, Echo Glen, and several more at the Naselle Youth Camp before its closure in 2022. Sexual abuse was also rampant in many smaller youth correctional facilities utilized by the state's youth justice system. Repeated sexual abuse claims have been substantiated at the Parke Creek facility since 2015, for instance, and several other small facilities have had at least one instance of alleged sexual abuse since 2015 as well.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Echo Glen Children's Center** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Sexual abuse
2. **Green Hill School** – Commitment facility[2]
    a. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    b. Sexual abuse by staff
    c. Other: Drug overdoses, drug trafficking to child detainees
3. **Naselle Youth Camp** – Commitment facility (closed in 2022)[3]
    a. Sexual abuse by staff
4. **Parke Creek Community Facility** – Commitment facility
    a. Sexual abuse by staff

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[1] *A.B., et al. v. State of Washington, et al.*, No. 23-2-20053-3 SEA. Superior Court of Washington for King County. (2024, September 5); White, M. (2024, September 5). Washington sued amid allegations of sex abuse of minors by staffers in juvenile centers. KING 5 News; *A.A., et al. v. State of Washington, et al.*, No. 24-2-25097-2 SEA. Superior Court of Washington for King County. (2024, October 30).

[2] Smith, M. (2024, June 5). Fights, overdoses: Problems surface at Green Hill School, WA's teen detention facility. Fox13 Seattle; *A.B., et al. v. State of Washington, et al.*, No. 23-2-20053-3 SEA. Superior Court of Washington for King County. (2024, September 5); White, M. (2024, September 5). Washington sued amid allegations of sex abuse of minors by staffers in juvenile centers. KING 5 News; Loudenback, J. (2024, September 24). Conditions Dire at Washington State's Largest Lockup for Young Adults. *The Imprint*; *A.A., et al. v. State of Washington, et al.*, No. 24-2-25097-2 SEA. Superior Court of Washington for King County. (2024, October 30).

[3] Clemens, J. (2021, February 6). Another ex-Naselle Youth Camp worker arrested for alleged sex crime. *Chinook Observer*; *A.B., et al. v. State of Washington, et al.*, No. 23-2-20053-3 SEA. Superior Court of Washington for King County. (2024, September 5); White, M. (2024, September 5). Washington sued amid allegations of sex abuse of minors by staffers in juvenile centers. KING 5 News; *A.A., et al. v. State of Washington, et al.*, No. 24-2-25097-2 SEA. Superior Court of Washington for King County. (2024, October 30).

[4] *A.B., et al. v. State of Washington, et al.*, No. 23-2-20053-3 SEA. Superior Court of Washington for King County. (2024, September 5); *A.A., et al. v. State of Washington, et al.*, No. 24-2-25097-2 SEA. Superior Court of Washington for King County. (2024, October 30).

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Wisconsin

In December 2015, a team of 50 state investigators and lawyers took part in a massive raid on the Copper Lake School for Girls and the Lincoln Hills School for Boys, two state corrections facilities co-located in northern Wisconsin. The raid came just days after a staff member violently slammed a cell door on the foot of one resident, who later had two toes amputated as a result, and marked the culmination of four years of increasingly serious revelations of abuse inside the dual facility. The investigation later involved the FBI and led to a 2017 lawsuit filed by the Juvenile Law Center and American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin that documented excessive solitary confinement for periods up to 60 consecutive days, routine use of pepper spray at both facilities, and repeated sexual assaults of boys at the Lincoln School. Even though the lawsuit brought about an agreement to close the facilities, both facilities still remain open. Criminal complaints continued to document incidents of youth violence against other youth for several years, but conditions have reportedly improved, and the facilities were recently found to be substantially in compliance with monitoring requirements stemming from the 2017 lawsuit. Multiple instances of staff violence against youth have also been documented inside detention centers in Milwaukee and Racine Counties, and a youth died by suicide in the Racine County detention facility after staff reportedly failed to properly monitor her safety.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Copper Lake School for Girls** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical restraints
    d. Excessive solitary confinement
2. **Lincoln Hills School for Boys** – Commitment facility[2]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Failing to protect youth from violent attacks by other youth
    c. Sexual abuse by staff and youth
    d. Dangerous or excessive use of chemical restraints
    e. Excessive solitary confinement
3. **Racine County Juvenile Detention Center** – Detention facility[3]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Other: Death of Maricella Chairez (suicide)
4. **Vel Phillips Youth & Family Justice Center (also known as the Milwaukee County Children's Center)** – Detention facility[4]
    a. Physical abuse by staff

[1] Halsted, G. & Quirbach, C. (2015, December 18). Documents describe episodes of graphic violence At Wisconsin youth prison. Wisconsin Public Radio; Kelly, J. (2018, January 4). Wisconsin will close two juvenile facilities under federal investigation. *The Imprint;* Marley, P., Beck, M., & Glauber, B. (2019, April 17). Inmates still being strip searched, pepper sprayed and at risk of suicide at Lincoln Hills youth prison. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel;* Leys, T. (2019, June 20). Wisconsin pays $4 million to Iowans abused at youth detention facility after Iowa closed girls school. *Des Moines Register*; Davies, E. (2024, July 8). 7 Investigates: Analysis of Lincoln Hills youth battery cases filed in 2024. 7WSAW-TV; Otto, K. (2026, January 28). Lincoln Hills and Cooper Lake youth facilities found in compliance, triggering end to court-ordered monitoring set in place by 2017 lawsuit. Juvenile Law Center. [Press release]; *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.* (n.d.). How the Lincoln Hills crisis unfolded. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.*

[2] Halsted, G. & Quirbach, C. (2015, December 18). Documents describe episodes of graphic violence at Wisconsin youth prison. Wisconsin Public Radio; Edmondson, C. (2016, June 26). Lincoln Hills officials failed to oversee rape investigations. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*; Beck, B. (2017, June 24). Judge: Unabomber 'has less restrictive confinement than the youth at Lincoln Hills.' *Wisconsin State Journal*; Kelly, J. (2018, January 4). Wisconsin will close two juvenile facilities under federal investigation. *The Imprint;* Marley, P., Beck, M., & Glauber, B. (2019, April 17). Inmates still being strip searched, pepper sprayed and at risk of suicide at Lincoln Hills youth prison. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel;* Davies, E. (2024, July 8). 7 Investigates: Analysis of Lincoln Hills youth battery cases filed in 2024. WSAW. Otto, K. (2026, January 28). Lincoln Hills and Cooper Lake youth facilities found in compliance, triggering end to court-ordered monitoring set in place by 2017 lawsuit. Juvenile Law Center. [Press release]; *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.* (n.d.). How the Lincoln Hills crisis unfolded. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.*

[3] Handleman, B. (2018, March 28). Fired twice: Staff member at Racine County Juvenile Detention Center accused of child abuse. Fox6 News Milwaukee; Linnane, R. (2021, January 13). Maricella's Last Breath: She died alone in a cell at 16. Officials said they were devastated. They didn't say they did anything wrong. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel;* Casey, E. (2025, December 16). Investigation called for after teen allegedly assaulted at Racine detention center. Wisconsin Public Radio.

[4] Fox6 News Milwaukee. (2015, October 13). Corrections officer arrested for beating teen inmate at Milwaukee County Children's Center. Fox6 News Milwaukee; Polcyn, B. (2018, February 15). 'Completely unprovoked!' Correctional officer's attack on juvenile kept quiet for nearly a year. Fox 6 News Milwaukee; Fox 6 Now Milwaukee. (2025, October 15). Corrections officer arrested for beating teen inmate at Milwaukee County Children's Center Fox6 News ; Mandella, A. (2026, May 21). Milwaukee youth correctional officer accused of misconduct, abuse. Fox6 News Milwaukee.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Wyoming

A lawsuit filed in February 2024 described horrific abuses of youth at the Wyoming Boys School, including unlawful and excessive use of solitary confinement and mechanical restraints, among other problems. One plaintiff who suffers from multiple disabilities was placed in solitary confinement on 30 occasions, including one stay of 30 days and another stay of 45 days. He was strapped into a restraint chair at the wrists, ankles, and midsection, unable to move for up to 12 hours per day. Another plaintiff, who had serious mental health challenges, was placed in solitary on approximately 20 occasions. While in solitary, the boy was allowed out of his cell for only four to eight minutes a day to take a shower, and he was prohibited from calling his mother or his lawyer. In 2022, *WyoFile* and *the Casper Star-Tribune* also documented widespread staff assaults on youth, along with excessive reliance on physical restraints and solitary confinement.

Facilities with evidence and allegations of abuse

1. **Wyoming Boys School** – Commitment facility[1]
    a. Physical abuse by staff
    b. Dangerous or excessive use of physical restraints
    c. Excessive solitary confinement

[1] Watson, T. & Eavis, V. (2022, November 11). Violence, restraints, isolation increase at Wyoming Boys' School. *WyoFile & Casper Star-Tribune*; Watson, T. & Eavis, V. (2022, November 18). Lack of oversight, transparency hid Boys' School struggles. *WyoFile & Casper Star-Tribune*; *Chivers-King, Tolar, & Karn v. Wyoming Department of Family Services, et al.*, Case 1:24-cv-00039, Complaint and Jury Demand. United States District Court for the District of Wyoming (2026).



The Sentencing Project
1150 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 601
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 628-0871

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