

2024 Juvenile Detention Facilities Isolation and Strip Search Incidents Report



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2024 JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY ISOLATION AND STRIP SEARCH INCIDENTS REPORT¹

I. Background

In 2023, the Minnesota passed a law regulating juvenile detention facilities by restricting strip searches and disciplinary isolation practices ([Minn. Stat. § 241.0215](#)). The language mandates that strip searches can only occur under specific conditions with prior approval and documentation and requires that juveniles cannot be disciplined through physical or social isolation except for certain safety reasons.

[Minn. Stat. § 241.0215, subd. 6](#) requires the DOC to file a written report with to legislature by February 15 of each year, reporting on a variety of data related to the number of strip searches and isolation as discipline incidents at juvenile facilities licensed by the commissioner of corrections.

The Minnesota Department of Corrections is required to report on the following for the prior calendar year:

1. How often strip searches were performed.
2. How often juveniles were isolated.
3. The length of each period of isolation used and, for juveniles isolated in the previous year, the total cumulative amount of time that the juvenile was isolated that year.
4. Any injury to a juvenile related to a strip search or isolation, or both, that was reportable as a critical incident.

The data in the report must provide information on demographics of juveniles who were subject to a strip search and juveniles who were isolated, including age, race, and gender.

The report must also identify any facility that did not comply with statute or rules adopted by the DOC in conformity with this section.

II. Juvenile Detention Strip Searches

In calendar year 2024, 33 unclothed body searches – also known as strip searches – were performed in juvenile detention facilities. Figures 1-3 depict the demographics of the individuals searched.

¹ The total cost of salaries, printing, and supplies incurred in the development and preparation of this report was approximately \$100 (reported as required by Minn. Stat. §3.197). This report can be provided in another format upon request.

Figure 1. Age of Individuals in Juvenile Detention Strip Searched

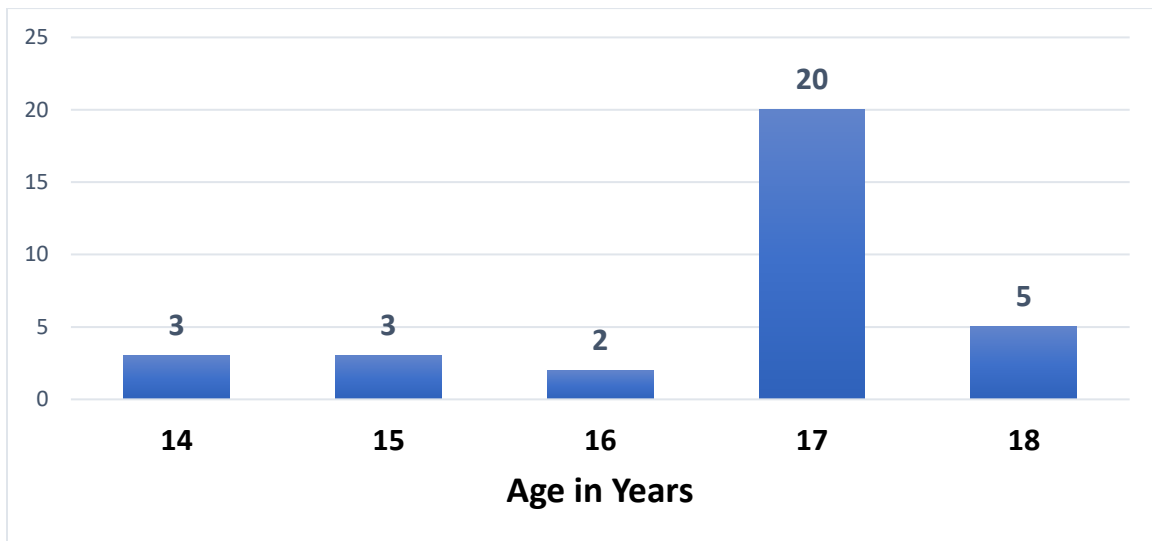


Figure 2. Race of Individuals in Juvenile Detention Strip Searched

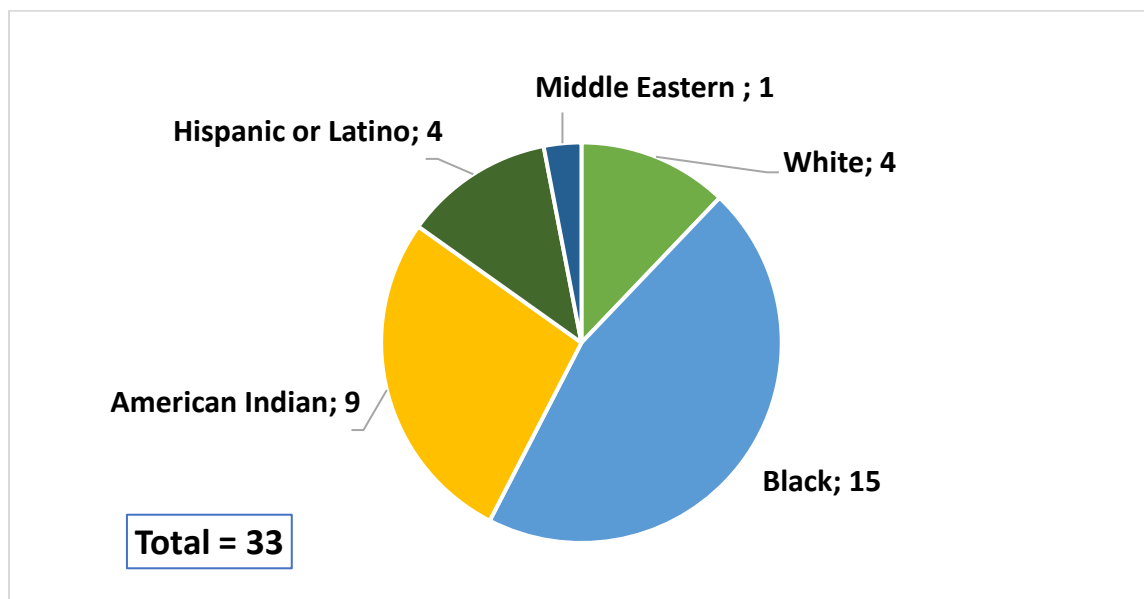
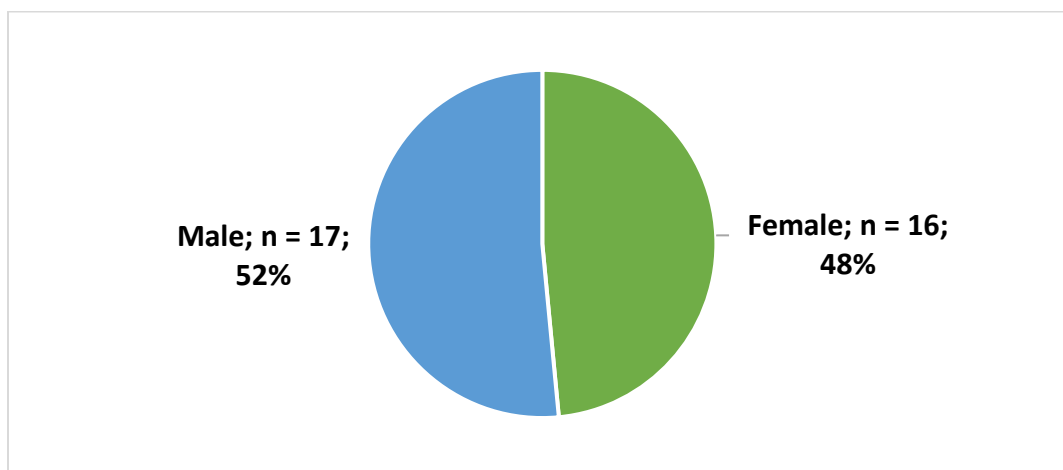


Figure 3. Gender of Individuals in Juvenile Detention Strip Searched



No critical incidents occurred during these searches. No individuals were injured related to the searches. All searches were reviewed and determined to be justified according to rule.

III. Juvenile Isolation Incidents Data

In accordance with the passage of MS 241.0215, effective January 1, 2024, the use of “disciplinary room time” (DRT), as previously defined in Rule 2960, was prohibited. Prior to this change, the term “isolation” was used interchangeably with terms like “disciplinary room time” and “seclusion,” though seclusion was also not an approved restrictive technique under Rule 2960.

Following the prohibition on DRT, the Department of Corrections collaborated with the Minnesota Juvenile Detention Association (MNJDA) to develop alternative interventions. As a result, new language was drafted to replace DRT with “Safety-Based Separation” (SBS), which was formally adopted on January 13, 2025.

During 2024, the department worked closely with facilities, educating them about the new prohibition and offering technical assistance on the evolving language. While monitoring compliance, programs that were still engaging in DRT were not cited for non-compliance, as the new requirements would not be enforced until January 2025. Regardless, the department actively responded to any egregious violations related to isolating, separating, or secluding children. These instances were addressed with corrective action and citations, as appropriate.

In calendar year 2024, the department did not have a system in place to track or collect data on the use of DRT, as programs were not required to report such data. However, programs that began implementing safety-based separation (SBS) did attempt to submit data on its use, which is being maintained and reviewed as of January 2025. This data has been used to educate and guide programs in properly implementing SBS.

The department is working with Minnesota Information Technology (MNIT) to finalize a reporting mechanism for SBS, ensuring that facilities will report data on its use beginning in 2026. As for the data available for 2024, it is anticipated that it would be highly inaccurate due to the lack of a formal reporting system at the time.

The transition from disciplinary room time to safety-based separation is an ongoing process, and the department remains committed to supporting facilities with the necessary guidance and technical assistance. As we continue to refine data collection methods and ensure proper implementation, we anticipate better reporting and oversight starting in 2026.