Juvenile Temporary Detention Center

Monthly Indicators Report: September 2026

The Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) provides temporary secure housing for youth from the age of 12 through 17 years, who are awaiting adjudication of their cases by the Juvenile Division of the Cook County Courts. The Center also houses youth who have been transferred from Juvenile Court jurisdiction to Criminal Court. These youth would otherwise be incarcerated in the county jail.

The Circuit Court of Cook County JTDC Monthly Indicators Report presents key metrics that monitor facility population, room confinement, and disciplinary incidents. All analyses were conducted by the Research and Evaluation Unit of the Office of the Chief Judge using data provided by the JTDC.

JTDC Population Overview

Admissions, Releases, and Averge Daily Population

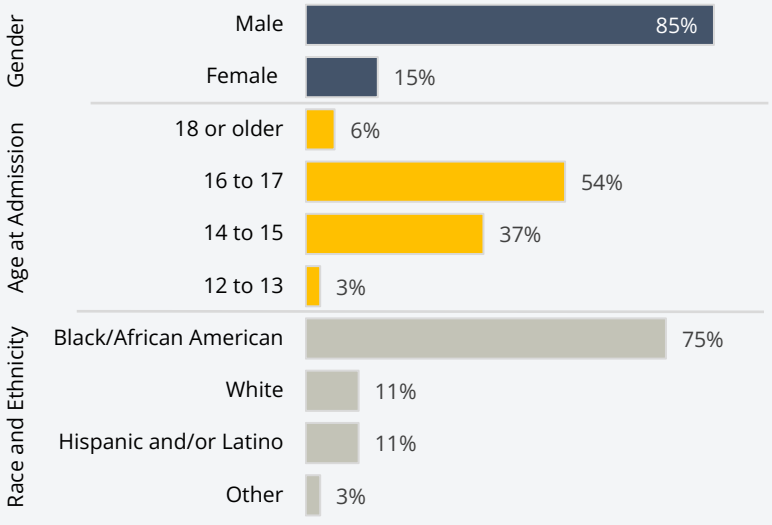
For September 2026, a total of 123 youth were admitted into the JTDC and 137 youth were released from the center. The average daily population for September 2026 in JTDC was 133 youth.

Admissions to the Center by Age, Gender, and Race

Figure 1 provides a demographic breakdown of the **123 youth who were admitted** to the JTDC in September 2026.

- Male youth accounted for 85% of all admissions for the reporting period.
- 16 and 17 year olds accounted for 54% of admissions, followed by those 14 and 15 years of age (37%), 12 to 13 years of age (3%), and 18 or older (6%).
- Black/African American youth accounted for 75% of detention admissions in September 2026.

Figure 1. JTDC Admissions by Gender, Age, and Race & Ethnicity, September 2026 (n=123)



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Charges Among Youth Admitted to the JTDC

Table 1 lists the charges for which youth were admitted to the JTDC during the month. Data for sixteen youth were missing information on charges in the files provided by the JTDC. The remaining 107 youth had 147 total charges, with most youth having only one charge associated with their case.

Table 1: Charge Description for Youth Admitted to the JTDC: September 2026

Charge Description	Count of Charges
Unlawful Use of a Weapon	39
Battery or Assault	26
Juvenile Arrest Warrant	22
Other Gun Related	10
Armed Robbery	10
Threat	7
Murder	4
Criminal Trespass	4
Burglary	3
Robbery	3
Drug Possession or Other Drug Related	3
Vehicular Hijacking	3
Flee/Resist/Obstruct	2
Reckless Conduct	2
Theft/Retail Theft	2
Attempted Murder	1
Criminal Damage to Property	1
Armed Violence	1
Involuntary Manslaughter	1
Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle	1
Other	2
Total Charge Count	**147**
Total Individuals Admitted w/ Charge Data*	**107**

* 16 of the 123 youth admitted to the JTDC during the reporting month were missing charge information in the files the JTDC provided to the OCJ R&E Unit.

Key Indicators

The following sections present data for five key indicators aross three categories including:

Category	Indicator
Total time in detention	1: Length of Stay (number of "bed days" spent in the JTDC)
Room Confinement due to Incident: Use of room confinement due to disciplinary, behavioral management, medical/mental health, or non-behavioral related incidents	2A: Number and percent of JTDC population confined to room for one or more disciplinary, behavioral management, medical/mental health, or non-behavioral related incidents 2B: Number of room confinement events by incident type 2C: Average and median duration of room confinement by incident type
Total time confined to rooms	3: Average number of non-sleeping hours per day confined to room

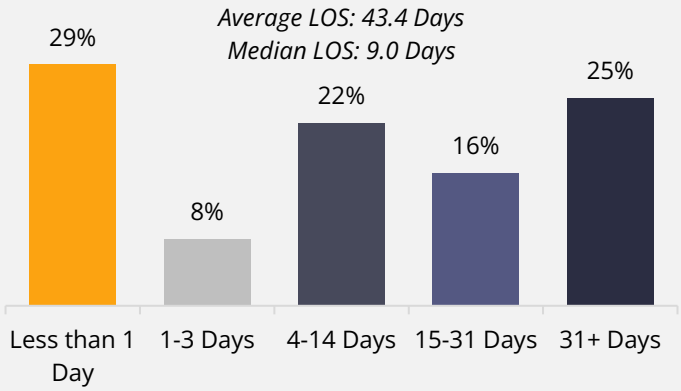
Total Time in Detention

Indicator 1 – Length of Stay

Figure 2 shows length of stay (LOS) for youth released from the JTDC during the reporting period. LOS is calculated based upon the release file provided monthly by the JTDC. During the reporting period a total of **137 youth were released from the JTDC**.

- Of the youth released, 29% were detained for less than one day.
- 8% were detained between 1-3 days, 22% were detained between 4-14 days, and 16% were detained for 15-31 days. The remaining 25% of youth spent more than 31 days in the detention center.
- The average LOS stay was approximately 43 days; the median stay was approximately 9 days.

Figure 2. JTDC Length of Stay for Youth Released: September 2026 (n=137)



Room Confinement Due to Incident

While detained at the center, youth may be confined to their rooms in response to specific incidents that fall into three categories.

Disciplinary: Disciplinary confinements are described in two subcategories:

- Major Rules Violations (MRV): include confinments due to issues like intimidation or threats against peers or adults, physical fights between two youth, physical assaults, inciting a major disturbance, possession of hazardous contraband, unauthorized movement, failure to comply, and malicious destruction of property.
- Extraordinary Circumstances (EC): are confinements due to participation in major group disturbance resulting in injury to residents or staff, physical assault against adult, premeditated blindsided violent attack, and superintendent holds.

Medical and Mental Health: Medical and Mental Health confinements are at the request of medical or mental health staff.

Non-Behavioral: Non-Behavioral confinements are where youth choose to stay in their rooms (self-confinement). This can also include when a youth is on a court return.

Additionally, the center places individuals in their rooms during first and second shift changes - these periods are called “Secured Reflection”. For clarity, administrative functions like staff rotations and secured reflections are not counted as non-behavioral confinements in the following analyses.

Indicator 2A: Number and Percentage of Youth Confined to Room Due to Incident

Not every youth in the detention center is involved in an incident that results in room confinement for disciplinary, medical/mental health, or non-behavior related reasons, while other youth are confined multiple times for the same or different type of incident.

Table 3 summarizes use of room confinement for individual youth during the month. There were 227 individuals in the JTDC during the month; of these 40% (91 of 227) were confined to their rooms one or more times due to an incident.[1]

- 31% (70 of 227) were confined to their room due to a disciplinary incident,
- 11% (24 of 227) were confined to their room due to a medical/mental health incident, and
- 12% (27 of 227) chose to stay in their rooms for self-confinement or after sleeping hours or were awaiting court (non-behavioral confinements).

Table 3. Number and Percent of Youth Confined to Room at Least One Time During the Month by Incident Type: Total JTDC Population September 2026 (n = 227)*

Confined to Room due to Incident	Youth with No Room Confinement		Youth with One or More Room Confinement	
	Row Count	Row Percent Of Total Population	Row Count	Row Percent Of Total Population
Room Confinement for any Incident	**136**	**60%**	**91**	**40%**
Room Confinement for Disciplinary Incident	157	69%	70	31%
Room Confinement for Medical/Mental Health	203	89%	24	11%
Room Confinement Non-Behavioral	200	88%	27	12%

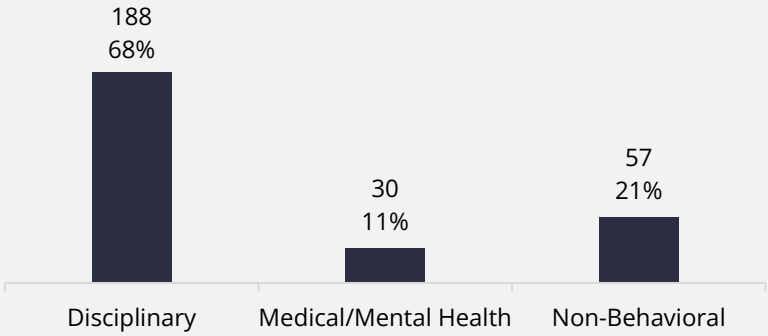
*Youth could be confined for different types of incidents; a single individual could be counted in each row above. For example, a youth confined to room for a medical reason and for self-reflection at any time during the month would be counted in each respective row.

Indicator 2B: Total Room Confinement Events by Incident Type

There were 275 room confinement events among the 227 youth in the JTDC during the month.

As seen in **Figure 3**, most of the confinements were for a disciplinary incident (68%, 188) or a non-behavioral incident (21%, 57). Confinement for medical or mental health reasons made up 11% (30) of incidents. Although not depicted here, most confinements for non-behavioral incidents were "self-confinements" after room time or sleeping hours.

Figure 3. Number of Room Confinements by Incident Type: September 2026 (n=275)



[1]Because youth may be confined for different types of incidents, a single individual could be counted in each row in Table 3.

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Indicator 2C: Average and Median Duration of Room Confinement by Incident Type

As seen in **Figure 4**, each confinement incident lasted an average of one hour and 55 minutes, with a median of one hour and 33 minutes.

On average, disciplinary confinements averaged about two hours, medical or mental health averaged one hour and 55 minutes, and non-behavioral incidents averaged about one hour and 39 minutes.

Figure 4. Average and Median Duration of Room Confinement by Incident Type: Sep 2026

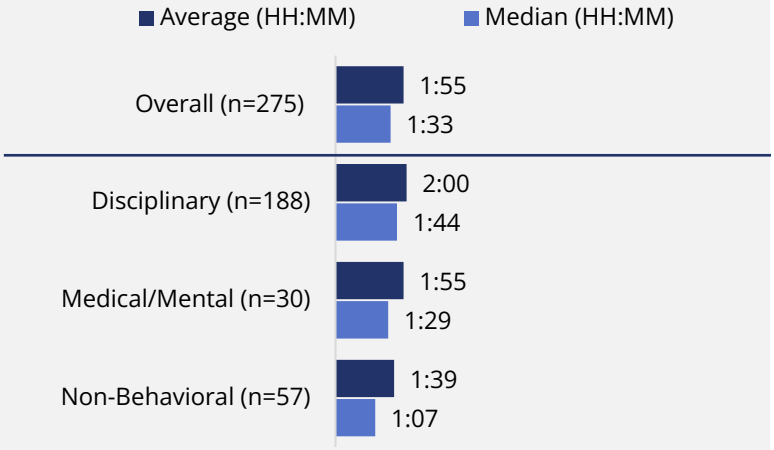


Table 4 provides detail on the **average duration of disciplinary room confinements** imposed due to a major rule violation (MRV) or extraordinary circumstance (EC). The table shows violation type, average number of hours of room confinement per incident, and median duration of confinement. The five most common reasons for disciplinary room confinement were major security risks, fights, intimidation or threats against an adult or a peer, and concurrent minor infractions.

Table 4. Disciplinary Room Confinements and Duration of Confinements: September 2026

Reason for Disciplinary Room Confinement	Number of Incidents	Avg. Duration (HH:MM)	Median Duration (HH:MM)
Total Disciplinary Room Confinement Incidents	**188**	**2:00**	**1:44**
Security Risk (Major)	45	2:09	1:40
Fights	33	2:25	2:09
Intimidation or Threats Against an Adult	28	1:43	1:36
Intimidation of Threats Against a Peer	27	1:58	1:52
Concurrent Minor Infractions	19	1:19	1:24
Physical Assault Against Peer(s)	9	2:24	2:12
Physical Assault Against an Adult(s)	9	1:45	1:44
Premeditated Blindsided Violent Attack	7	2:51	2:15
Malicious Destruction of County Property	4	1:59	1:34
Other as Approved by the Superintendent	3	0:50	0:50
Possession of Hazardous Contraband	2	0:58	0:58
Participation in a Group Assault	1	2:09	2:09
Sexual Misconduct	1	1:00	1:00

Total Time Confined to Rooms

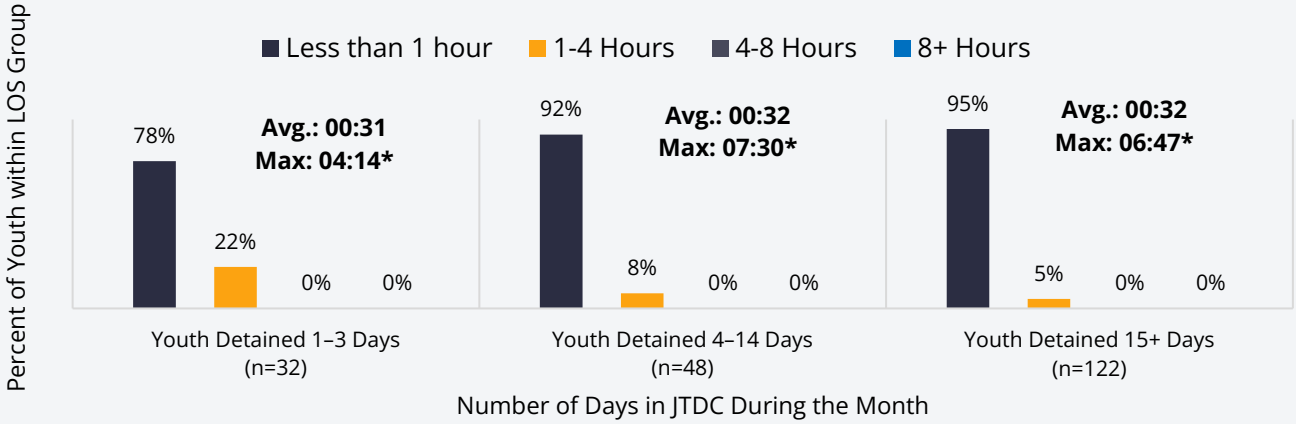
Indicator 3: Non-Sleeping Hours Per Day Individual Youth Spend Confined to Room

In addition to room confinement for disciplinary, medical/mental health, or non-behavior related reasons, the center also places youth in their room during shift changes or "secured reflection" as a standard security protocol used primarily to maintain safety and security within the facility during staff transition - these periods general last about 30 minutes.

Non-sleeping hours per day in room for each youth were calculated as the hours confined to room, divided by the number of bed days the youth was in the facility during the month. Non-sleeping hours confined include the incidents described in Indicator 2, as well as shift change and other staff rotations. Because the number of days that youth are detained at the JTDC varies, hours per day in room were calculated for three lengths of stay categories: 1-3 days, 4-14 days, and 15 or more days within the month. Youth housed at the JTDC for less than 1 day or who had an undetermined length of stay were excluded (25 youth), resulting in 202 youth in total for the current reporting month.

Figure 5 shows, by number of days detained, the percentage of youth who, on average, spent: 1) less than 1 non-sleeping hour per day in their room; 2) between 1-4 hours; 3) between 4-8 hours; and 4) eight or more non-sleeping hours per day in their rooms. Over three-fourths of the youth (78%) who were detained 1-3 days spent on average less than one non-sleeping hour per day in their room. Most youth detained in the JTDC for 15 days or longer (95%) and 4 to 14 days (92%) spent less than one non-sleeping hour on average per day in their room.

Figure 5. Average Non-Sleeping Hours per Day Confined to Room by Number of Days in JTDC: September 2026



*The maximum refers to the longest confinement event for each group of detained youth (disciplinary, non-behavioral, and medical or mental health). Combining the confinement time for the month divided by the number of bed days in the reporting month, may result in overall confinement being more or less than the longest confinement event recorded for the month.

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