

**The 2019 Survey of Youth Detained or  
Housed in Idaho Juvenile Detention  
Centers and Juvenile Correction Centers:  
Results and Analysis**

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Prepared for the Idaho Department  
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by

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## Executive Summary

**In June of 2019, 299 juveniles detained in one of 12 Idaho Juvenile Detention Centers (JDCs) or housed in one of three Idaho Juvenile Corrections Centers (JCCs) completed a 29-item survey intended to capture their perceptions and experiences across a variety of dimensions, including their family life, community norms, and concerns about issues they anticipate facing upon release. The survey was a slight modification of one developed in 2012 by Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) administrators and members of the Youth Committee of the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC), and modified for a second administration of the survey in 2015. The data were analyzed several different ways, as is documented in this report. First, the data were analyzed in aggregate to assess overall trends and patterns among juveniles in 2019. Then, the 2019 results were compared against those from the 2012 and 2015 surveys, where applicable, to assess whether changes in perceptions or experiences were documented across the three time-points. Subsequent analyses were conducted on the 2019 data to determine whether differences in perceptions or experiences existed as a function of a number of variables, including gender, whether juveniles had parents or siblings who have been or are currently incarcerated, and whether the juveniles expressed mental health concerns, among others.**

**Some noteworthy results from analysis of the 2019 survey responses included the following:**

- **Nearly two-thirds of the juveniles reported that they have at least one parent who has been or is incarcerated, and 55% also reported that at least one sibling has had at least some justice system involvement**
- **Half of the juveniles reported living in a single-parent household, which is nearly twice the rate of Idaho children generally**
- **Just over half of the juveniles reported that at least one parent abuses drugs or alcohol in their home; 44% reported that at least one sibling abuses drugs or alcohol in their home**
- **Two-thirds reported that it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol**
- **Over 60% of the juveniles reported having been bullied at school, and nearly one-third reported having been bullied over the Internet**
- **More than 85% of the juveniles reported that this was not their first time in detention**
- **When asked to note what they anticipated to be major challenges after they were released, 55% reported drugs or alcohol, 42% reported their family or home situation, 40% reported peer pressure, 37% reported school, and 36% reported mental health**
- **The juveniles perceived community mentorship in a positive light, with more than half reporting that they believed a community mentor could help them find a job, stay out of trouble, help with drug or alcohol abuse, be someone they could talk to, and be a positive role model. Nearly three-quarters reported wanting to have a community mentor**
- **Despite some troubling risk factors, the juveniles reported some protective factors as well. For example, over 70% reported that their parents are a positive influence in their lives, and 77% reported feeling that their home is a safe place. Nearly 95% reported that there is a trusted adult in the lives who they can talk to, and nearly 85% reported having access to a counselor in their school or community**

**Relatively few differences in perceptions and experiences were found between the juveniles who completed the survey in 2019 and those who completed the survey in 2012 or 2015. In the cases where statistically significant differences were found, they tended to reveal the juveniles in the 2019 sample to have more risk factors and fewer protective factors than juveniles in one or both of the previous samples. Some noteworthy results from the comparisons between 2019 and earlier cohorts included the following:**

- Juveniles in the 2019 sample more often had at least one parent and at least one sibling who abuses drugs or alcohol
- Juveniles in the 2019 sample more often lived in single-parent households
- Juveniles in the 2019 sample more often were bullied at school and on the Internet
- Juveniles in the 2019 sample more often had problems with peer pressure
- Juveniles in the 2019 sample more often reported mental health concerns
- Juveniles in the 2019 sample less often believed their parents are a positive influence in their lives

Some noteworthy results from targeted analyses of the 2019 survey responses included the following:

- Female juveniles appeared much more at risk than their male counterparts, on a variety of dimensions; they were more often bullied, reported more negative community norms, had fewer supports, less often perceived their parents as a positive influence in their lives, and felt less safe in their homes. They also had greater post-release mental health concerns
- Juveniles who reported having abused drugs or alcohol differed from those who did not report having abused drugs or alcohol by more often having siblings who abuse drugs or alcohol, more often having parents and siblings who have been incarcerated, more often living in single-parent households, more often reporting negative community norms, more often being bullied, and more often being detained multiple times
- Juveniles who reported mental health concerns differed from those without these concerns by being more optimistic about how a community mentor could help them, having been bullied more, and more often feeling that their home or family situation will be a major challenge upon their release
- Juveniles who had been detained more than once seemed to have more risk factors than those detained for the first time, in a number of respects. For example, they were more likely to report having siblings with justice system involvement, having abused drugs or alcohol, and being subject to peer pressure. They also more often had negative community norms. They were, however, more optimistic about how a community mentor could help them
- Whether the juveniles had at least one parent who had been or is currently incarcerated was strongly associated with many outcomes. For example, those who reported having a parent who had been or is currently incarcerated were more likely than their counterparts to also have siblings who had justice system involvement. They were also more likely to report having at least one parent and at least one sibling who abuses drugs or alcohol in their home, having abused drugs or alcohol themselves, and living in a single-parent household. They were less likely to report that their parents are a positive influence in their lives. They had more negative community norms and had greater concerns about the extent to which drugs and alcohol and their family and home situations would be challenges after release
- There were relatively few differences in responses between juveniles with different racial/ethnic backgrounds. Juveniles who reported being White Only seemed to have more protective factors than other juveniles (e.g., less often had parents and siblings with justice system involvement, more often reported having a trusted adult in their lives they could talk to), whereas juveniles who reported belonging to one of the other racial/ethnic categories (Biracial/Multiracial, Hispanic Only, Native American Only, and Black Only) tended to have a more mixed profile of risk and protective factors

## Overview

Members of the Youth Committee of the IJJC, working with IDJC personnel, designed a survey in 2012 to help inform their work developing partnerships between youth and adults dedicated to juvenile justice initiatives. In 2015, revisions were made to the survey prior to a second wave of data collection, including the addition of some items asking whether a trusted adult family member or family friend that each juvenile could talk to had been incarcerated, whether each juvenile's parents and his or her siblings abused drugs or alcohol (a 2012 question combined parents and siblings into the same item, failing to differentiate between them), whether school was anticipated to be one of each juvenile's biggest challenges upon release, and whether each juvenile had at least one sibling who had been involved at various levels of the justice system (e.g., in a JDC, in a JCC, or in an adult jail or prison). In 2019, some additional revisions were made, including questions about whether each juvenile had been placed in foster care, and if so how long they stayed in foster care, whether they had siblings who were also placed in foster care, and if so, whether their siblings were placed together with them, with another family, or in a juvenile detention or treatment facility. The revised version was administered in a total of 14 JDCs and JCCs. The surveys were delivered to Dr. Tedd McDonald, a researcher working as an independent contractor on this project who has also worked on other IDJC projects as part of his responsibilities with Boise State University's Center for Health Policy. Dr. McDonald entered and analyzed the data and wrote this report. The results of these analyses, as well as some of their implications for policy and practice, are described in this report.

## Methodology

During the first week of June 2019, a survey designed to gain an understanding of the perceptions and experiences of youth detained or housed in Idaho's county JDCs or state JCCs was sent to facility administrators by Ms. Chelsea Newton, a program supervisor in Planning and Compliance for IDJC. The survey was a slight modification of one created, largely by members of the Youth Committee of the IJJC, in 2012 and administered in 2012 and again in 2015. The 2019 survey had 29 forced-choice (or "closed-ended") items and asked the juveniles to provide the following information:

1. Their age
2. Their gender
3. Their race/ethnicity (juveniles could select one or more of the following categories: White; Black; Asian; Hispanic; Native American; Pacific Islander; Other; and Unknown)
4. Whether they have any siblings
5. Whether any siblings have been placed in any of the following: A) state JCC; B) adult jail or prison; C) community diversion; D) juvenile probation; and/or E) county JDC
6. Whether there is an adult family member or family friend they can call for support
7. Whether the adult family member or family friend has been or is incarcerated
8. Whether they would call the adult family member or family friend if they needed help
9. How they felt a community mentor might help them, with the following response options: A) help them find a job; B) be a positive role model; C) help them with drug or alcohol abuse; D) help them find community resources; E) be someone they could talk to; F) help them stay out of trouble; and/or G) in another way (a blank was provided for a written response)
10. Whether they would like to have a community mentor
11. Whether they have ever been placed in foster care
12. If they had been placed in foster care, how long they stayed in foster care
13. If they had been placed in foster care, whether they had siblings who were also placed in foster care
14. If they had siblings placed in foster care, whether their siblings were placed with them, with a different foster family, or in a juvenile detention or treatment facility
15. Whether their parents are a positive influence in their lives
16. Whether there is a trusted adult in their lives who they can talk to
17. Whether they have abused drugs or alcohol
18. Whether at least one of their parents abuse drugs or alcohol in their home
19. Whether at least one of their siblings abuse drugs or alcohol in their home
20. Whether they live in a single-parent household
21. Whether it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol
22. Whether they have access to a counselor in their school or community
23. Whether this is their first time in detention
24. Whether peer pressure contributed to their crime
25. Whether they were bullied in school
26. Whether they felt like their home is a safe place
27. Whether they were bullied on the Internet (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.)
28. Whether one or both of their parents have been or are currently incarcerated
29. What they expect to be their biggest challenges after being released (juveniles could select one or more of the following response options): A) drugs or alcohol; B) mental health; C) family or home situation; D) peer pressure; E) school; and/or F) another challenge (a blank was provided for a written response)

## Results

A total of 299 juveniles were included in the 2019 sample. The juveniles in the sample ranged in age from 11 to 20 years old. As seen below in Table 1, the largest groups of juveniles were 17 (28%), 16 (22%), and 15 (16%) years old; the mean age of all juveniles was 16.25 years, with a median age of 16 years. Seventy-five percent of the juveniles reported being male, and 22% reported being female. Five juveniles, or nearly 2% of the sample, reported an “other” gender (three of these appeared to be attempts at humor [“Attack helicopter,” “Dolphin,” and “Pyrofox”], whereas two others appeared more genuine [“80% female, 20% male” and “Trans female to male”]). An additional four juveniles, representing just over 1% of the sample, indicated they preferred not to indicate their gender. A subsequent analysis (using only those cases in which a juvenile reported being male or female) revealed an age difference as a function of gender,  $t(df = 281) = -2.34, p < .05$ . This result was accounted for by female juveniles ( $M = 15.86, SD = 1.61$ ) being significantly younger on average than male juveniles ( $M = 16.37, SD = 1.53$ ).

When comparing results from data from all three survey years, it was found that the 2012 sample had a significantly greater percentage of males (84%) compared to the 2015 (75%) and 2019 (78%) samples,  $\chi^2(df = 2) = 7.34, p < .05$  (again, this analysis only used those cases in which juveniles reported being male or female). The mean age of juveniles in the three samples did not differ significantly as a function of survey year.

<b>Age in Years</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Cases</b>
11	<i>1</i>	<i>0.3</i>
12	<i>2</i>	<i>0.7</i>
13	10	3.4
14	27	9.2
15	<b>47</b>	<b>16.1</b>
16	<b>65</b>	<b>22.3</b>
17	<b>81</b>	<b>27.7</b>
18	43	14.7
19	14	4.8
20	<i>2</i>	<i>0.7</i>

*Note.* Percentages are rounded to the first decimal place, so the total percentage may not equal 100. The three highest percentages are presented in bold, and the three lowest percentages are presented in italics.

Juveniles were allowed to select multiple categories to describe their race/ethnicity, and combination categories were created as depicted in Table 2. As seen below in Table 2, the single largest group of juveniles, representing just over half of the sample, reported themselves to be White Only. Smaller numbers of juveniles reported themselves to be Biracial or Multiracial (18%; this was most often the combination of White and Hispanic) Hispanic Only (14%), Native American Only (6%) and Black Only (5%). No other race/ethnicity was reported by at least 5% of the respondents. Additional coding revealed that the three single-largest categories of juveniles were those reporting themselves to be White Only (56%), Biracial/Multiracial (18%), and Hispanic Only (17%).

Race/ethnicity information was not captured on the 2012 sample, so no comparisons on this dimension were possible.

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Cases</b>
White Only	<b>151</b>	<b>50.8</b>
Black Only	15	5.1
Asian Only	<i>1</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Hispanic Only	<b>42</b>	<b>14.1</b>
Native American Only	19	6.4
Pacific Islander Only	<i>1</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Other or Unknown	<i>14</i>	<i>4.7</i>
Biracial or Multiracial	<b>54</b>	<b>18.2</b>

*Note.* The three highest percentages are presented in bold, and the three lowest percentages are presented in italics.

A series of six questions asked the detained juveniles whether they had siblings and, if so, whether or not these siblings had been involved at various levels in the juvenile and adult justice systems. Responses to these items showed that:

- 288 juveniles (97%) reported having siblings. This percentage did not differ significantly from 2015 (95%). No information about sibling justice system involvement was collected in the 2012 survey, so comparisons to that year were not possible on this or any of the following items in this section.
- 66 juveniles (23%) reported having siblings who have been or are in a state JCC. This percentage was statistically significantly higher than that in 2015 (15%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 6.79,  $p < .01$ .
- 90 juveniles (31%) reported having siblings who have been or are in an adult jail or prison. This percentage did not differ significantly from 2015 (29%).
- 42 juveniles (15%) reported having siblings who have been or are on community diversion. This percentage did not differ significantly from 2015 (14%).
- 117 juveniles (41%) reported having siblings who have been or are on juvenile probation. This percentage did not differ significantly from 2015 (40%).
- 97 juveniles (34%) reported having siblings who have been or are in a county JDC. This percentage did not differ significantly from 2015 (35%).
- Overall, 159 juveniles (55%) had siblings who have been or are involved in at least one level of the juvenile or adult justice systems. This percentage was identical to that in 2015.

Three questions asked the juveniles whether they had an adult family member or family friend they can call for support, whether this person had been incarcerated, and whether they would call this person if they needed help.

- 280 juveniles (95%) reported having an adult family member or family friend they can call for support. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (93%) or 2015 (96%).
- 150 juveniles (52%) reported that this adult family member or family friend had been incarcerated; this percentage was significantly higher than in 2015 (39%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 10.64,  $p < .01$ . This question was not asked on the 2012 survey, so no comparison on this dimension is possible for that year.
- 271 juveniles (95%) reported they would call this person if they needed help. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (92%) or 2015 (94%).

A series of eight questions asked the juveniles about the value of a community mentor and whether they wanted to have a community mentor. Responses to these items showed that:

- 213 juveniles (73%) reported wanting to have a community mentor. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (72%) or 2015 (66%).
- 167 juveniles (56%) believed a community mentor could help them find a job. This percentage was similar to that in 2012 (58%), but both were statistically significantly lower than that in 2015 (71%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 2) = 17.83,  $p < .001$ .
- 186 juveniles (62%) believed a community mentor could be a positive role model. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (59%) or 2015 (63%).
- 152 juveniles (51%) believed a community mentor could help them with drug or alcohol abuse. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (50%) or 2015 (46%).
- 122 juveniles (41%) believed a community mentor could help them find community resources. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (36%) or 2015 (45%).
- 192 juveniles (64%) believed a community mentor could be someone they could talk to. This percentage was identical to that found in both 2012 and 2015.
- 200 juveniles (67%) believed a community mentor could help them stay out of trouble. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (also 67%) or 2015 (66%).
- 26 juveniles, or nearly 9% of the 2019 sample, wrote a response to an open-ended question regarding what else a community mentor could help them with. A content analysis procedure was used to identify common themes among the written responses. The most common response, written by 12 juveniles (or 46% of those who wrote a response), indicated that these juveniles believed a community mentor could offer emotional support and encouragement (e.g., “be there for me when I need it,” “let me talk about things without yelling at me,” “keep me motivated”). No other theme captured the responses of more than three juveniles.

A series of four questions related to foster care, which had not been used in either the 2012 or 2015 surveys, was added to the 2019 survey. Responses to these items showed that:

- 88 juveniles (of 30% all survey respondents) reported having ever been placed in foster care.
- When asked how long they had stayed in foster care, the largest percentage (26%) of those who had been in foster care reported having stayed for 0-6 months, followed by those reporting having stayed for more than two years (19%), for 6-12 months (18%), and for 1-2 years (15%). Twenty-two percent reported not being sure how long they stayed in foster care.
- 78 juveniles (or 89% of those who reported having been placed in foster care) reported that they had at least one sibling who was also placed in foster care
- 25 juveniles, or 32% of those 78 who reported having at least one sibling who was also placed in foster care, reported that they were placed in a foster family with their sibling(s). Forty-two of the same 78 juveniles (54%) reported that their sibling(s) was placed with a different foster family, whereas 10 of the remaining 11 juveniles (13%) reported that their sibling(s) was placed in a JDC or treatment facility.

A series of 14 questions asked the juveniles about a variety of issues related to their relationships, home life, communities, and behavior; these items collectively measured a number of risk and protective factors. Responses to these items showed that:

- 209 juveniles (72%) reported that their parents are a positive influence in their lives. This percentage identical to that in 2012, however both were significantly lower than that in 2015 (82%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 2) = 11.61,  $p < .01$ .

- 277 juveniles (94%) reported that there is a trusted adult in their lives who they can talk to. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (93%) or 2015 (96%). For comparative purposes, national data (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [HHS], 2019) suggest that approximately 90% of American youth have at least one adult mentor-like relationship in their school, neighborhood, or community.
- 236 juveniles (80%) reported having abused drugs or alcohol. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (81%) or 2015 (78%). National statistics from 2018 (Johnson et al., 2019) report drug and alcohol use separately, with 48% of high school seniors reporting use of any illicit drug (including marijuana) and 59% of high school seniors reporting use of alcohol.
- 151 juveniles (51%) reported at least one of their parents abuses drugs or alcohol; this percentage was significantly higher than in 2015 (43%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 4.11,  $p < .05$ . It is not possible to compare this to the 2012 sample, as those juveniles were asked a question about whether at least one of their parents *or* one of their siblings abuses drugs or alcohol. Both the 2015 and (especially) the 2019 percentages are much higher than the national statistics, which state that approximately 12% of juveniles live in a household with at least one parent with a substance use disorder (Lipari & Van Horn, 2017).
- 130 juveniles (44%) reported that at least one of their siblings abuses drugs or alcohol; this percentage was significantly higher than in 2015 (32%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 9.49,  $p < .01$ . Again, it is not possible to compare this to the 2012 sample, as those juveniles were asked a question about whether at least one of their parents *or* one of their siblings abuses drugs or alcohol. Again, both the 2015 and (especially) the 2019 percentages appear much higher than what is reported in the literature; one 2012 study (Low, Shortt, & Snyder, 2012) reported that 19% of older siblings and 10% of younger siblings of the juveniles in its sample had used alcohol or drugs.
- 145 juveniles (50%) reported living in a single-parent household. This percentage was significantly lower compared to the 2012 sample (56%), but was significantly higher than in 2015 (45%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 2) = 7.32,  $p < .05$ . For comparative purposes, the Idaho percentage of juveniles being raised in single-parent households is approximately 27% (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2019), and the national percentage is 33% (U.S. Census, 2017).
- 198 juveniles (67%) reported it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (64%) or 2015 (60%); however in both of those previous years, the question was asked only about alcohol.
- 247 juveniles (84%) reported having access to a counselor in their school or community. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (80%) or 2015 (86%)
- 44 juveniles (15%) reported being in detention for the first time. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (15%) or 2015 (14%). As a comparison, in 2015, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reported that 11% of juveniles placed in a detention center nationally were first-time offenders.
- 133 juveniles (45%) reported that peer pressure contributed to their crime. This percentage was very similar to that in 2012 (46%), but both were significantly higher than that in 2015 (37%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 2) = 6.97,  $p < .05$ .
- 180 juveniles (61%) reported being bullied in school. This percentage was statistically significantly higher than the 47% reported in both 2012 and 2015,  $\chi^2$  (df = 2) = 17.09,  $p < .001$ . All three percentages were much higher than the national average of juveniles (21%) who reported being bullied in a recent school year (HHS, 2019).
- 222 juveniles (77%) reported feeling that their home is a safe place. This percentage was similar to that found in 2012 (75%), but somewhat lower than that in 2015 (82%). The difference between the 2012 and 2015 percentages hovered on the threshold of statistical significance ( $p = .05$ ), however, the 2019 percentage did not differ significantly from that in 2015.

- 93 juveniles (32%) reported being bullied on the Internet. This percentage statistically significantly higher than that in both 2012 (20%) and 2015 (22%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 2) = 13.79,  $p < .01$ . In 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that approximately 15% of American juveniles reported being bullied on the Internet.
- 186 juveniles (63%) reported that one or both parents have been or are incarcerated. This percentage was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (62%) or 2015 (59%). All figures are much higher than a recent national estimate from the National Institute of Justice (Martin, 2017), which suggested that 11% of all juveniles have parents who have been incarcerated at least once during their childhood.

One question asked the juveniles to identify what types of issues they considered to be the biggest challenges after being released (multiple responses were allowed to this item). Responses showed that:

- 164 juveniles (55%) reported drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release. This percentage, although somewhat higher, was not statistically significantly different from that in 2012 (51%) or 2015 (47%).
- 106 juveniles (36%) reported mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release. This percentage was significantly higher than those in both 2012 (11%) and 2015 (21%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 2) = 57.51,  $p < .001$ .
- 125 juveniles (42%) reported family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release. This percentage was somewhat higher than those in 2012 and 2015 (both 35%), however, the difference only approached a level of statistical significance ( $p < .10$ ).
- 119 juveniles (40%) reported peer pressure will be one of their biggest challenges after release. This percentage was significantly higher than those in both 2012 (28%) and 2015 (29%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 2) = 12.72,  $p < .01$ .
- 109 juveniles (37%) reported school will be one of their biggest challenges after release; this percentage was not significantly different from that in 2015 (33%). This option did not exist on the 2012 survey, so no comparison to that year is possible.
- 68 juveniles, or just over 23% of the sample, wrote a response regarding other issues they believed would be one of their biggest challenges after release. A content analysis procedure was used to identify common themes among the written responses. The most common themes are summarized below, with percentages reported from the 66 juveniles who wrote at least one response:
  - Issues related to former relationships (e.g., “building the trust back with my parents,” “mainly family, mom and her boyfriend and friends,” “the people I am around”) were reported by 12 juveniles, or 18%
  - Dealing with difficult patterns of thinking (e.g., “negative self-talk,” “changing my ways of thinking,” “to look at things different and make some changes”) was reported by 10 juveniles, or 15%
  - Issues related to anger/impulse control (e.g., “anger/fighting,” “handling my emotions,” “impulsivity”) were reported by eight juveniles, or 12%
  - Dealing with members of the (presumably) opposite sex (e.g., “fronting for girls/talking to girls,” “finding a girlfriend,” “women”) was reported by eight juveniles, or 12%
  - Finding positive sources of support (e.g., “gang involvement,” “fights with other kids”) was reported by seven juveniles, or 10%

### **Factors Associated with Juvenile Gender**

After conducting analyses for all variables at the aggregate level, separate analyses were conducted to test for statistical significance as a function of the juveniles' gender. These results are presented and discussed below.

No statistically significant differences in percentages of juveniles reporting themselves to be White, Black, Asian, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, an Other race, or an Unknown race, were found as a function of gender. There was a statistically significant difference in the percentage of juveniles reporting to be Native American as a function of gender,  $\chi^2 (df = 1) = 9.06, p < .01$ . This result was accounted for by a higher percentage of female juveniles (28%) than male juveniles (13%) reporting to be Native American.

No statistically significant differences in percentages of juveniles reporting themselves to have siblings and have siblings who have been placed in any level of the justice system (i.e., in a state juvenile correction center, in an adult jail or prison, on community diversion, on juvenile probation, and in a juvenile detention center) were found as a function of gender.

No statistically significant difference in percentages of juveniles reporting having an adult family member or family friend they could call for support was found as a function of gender. Among those who reported having such a figure, there were also no gender differences in the percentages of juveniles who reported that this person had been incarcerated or in the proportion who reported that they would call this person if they needed help.

No statistically significant differences in percentages of juveniles agreeing with any of the items regarding a community mentor were found as a function of gender.

No statistically significant differences in percentages of juveniles with respect to their experiences in foster care (i.e., whether they had been placed in foster care, how long they stayed in foster care, whether they had siblings who were also placed in foster care, and whether their siblings had been placed with them or in another family/facility).

No statistically significant differences in percentages of juveniles were found, as a function of gender, for seven of the 14 risk/protective factor items. These items included: 1) whether the juveniles reported having abused drugs or alcohol; 2) whether the juveniles reported that at least one of their parents abuses drugs or alcohol; 3) whether the juveniles reported living in a single parent household; 4) whether the juveniles reported having access to a counselor in their school or community; 5) whether the juveniles reported that this was their first time in detention; 6) whether the juveniles reported that peer pressure contributed to their crime; and 7) whether one or both of their parents have been or are currently incarcerated.

Statistically significant differences in percentages of juveniles were found, as a function of gender, for seven of the 14 risk/protective factor items. These are summarized by number below.

1. A statistically significantly higher percentage of boys (76%) reported believing that their parents were a positive influence in their lives than girls (60%),  $\chi^2 (df = 1) = 6.54, p < .05$ .
2. A statistically significantly higher percentage of boys (96%) reported having a trusted adult in their lives who they can talk to (86%),  $\chi^2 (df = 1) = 9.72, p < .01$ .
3. A statistically significantly higher percentage of girls (60%) reported that at least one of their siblings abuses drugs or alcohol than boys (39%),  $\chi^2 (df = 1) = 9.01, p < .01$ .
4. A statistically significantly higher percentage of girls (80%) reported that it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol than boys (64%),  $\chi^2 (df = 1) = 5.90, p < .05$ .

5. A statistically significantly higher percentage of girls (72%) reported having been bullied at school than boys (58%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 4.49,  $p < .05$ .
6. A statistically significantly higher percentage of boys (81%) reported feeling that their homes are safe places than girls (68%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 4.35,  $p < .05$ .
7. A statistically significantly higher percentage of girls (51%) reported having been bullied on the Internet than boys (26%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 14.35,  $p < .001$ .

Two statistically significant differences were found on the items concerning biggest perceived challenges after release. These are summarized by number below.

1. A statistically significantly higher percentage of girls (49%) reported that believing that mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release than boys (32%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 6.88,  $p < .01$ .
2. A statistically significantly higher percentage of girls (59%) reported that believing that their family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release than boys (37%),  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 9.58,  $p < .01$ .

### **Associated Factors/Predictors of Drugs or Alcohol Abuse**

#### *Univariate Analyses*

- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile corrections center (94%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile corrections center (76%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 10.64,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is in an adult jail or prison (91%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is in an adult jail or prison (75%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 10.07,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is on community diversion (95%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is on community diversion (77%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 7.28,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is on juvenile probation (92%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is on juvenile probation (72%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 16.66,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile detention center (92%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile detention center (74%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 13.00,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is involved at some level of the justice system (89%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is involved at some level of the justice system (68%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 19.47,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported having a supportive adult family member or friend who had been incarcerated (85%) were more likely than those who reported having a supportive family member or friend who had not been incarcerated (74%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 5.25,  $p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing a community mentor would help them find a job (84%) were more likely than those that did not report believing a community mentor would help them find a job (74%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 4.47,  $p < .05$ .

- Juveniles who reported believing a community mentor would help them find community resources (87%) were more likely than those that did not report believing a community mentor would help them find community resources (74%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 7.00,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing a community mentor would help them with drugs/alcohol abuse (95%) were more likely than those that did not report believing a community mentor would help them with drugs/alcohol abuse (63%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 48.43,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one parent who abuses drugs or alcohol (89%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one parent who abuses drugs or alcohol (69%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 16.73,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who abuses drugs or alcohol (93%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who abuses drugs or alcohol (69%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 26.26,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported living in a single-parent household (86%) were more likely than those who did not report living in a single-parent household (72%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 8.60,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol (88%) were more likely than those that did not report believing it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol (61%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 29.56,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported that it was not their first time in detention (84%) were more likely than those who reported that it was their first time in detention (55%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 19.36,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported that peer pressure contributed to their crime (87%) were more likely than those who reported that peer pressure did not contribute to their crime (73%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 9.54,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported that they had been bullied on the Internet (87%) were more likely than those who reported that they had not been bullied on the Internet (76%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 5.09,  $p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one parent who is or has been incarcerated (83%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one parent who is or has been incarcerated (72%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 5.13,  $p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release (98%) were more likely than those that did not report believing drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release (57%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 78.09,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported not believing school will be one of their biggest challenges after release (83%) were more likely than those that did not report believing school will be one of their biggest challenges after release (73%) to report having abused drugs or alcohol,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 4.36,  $p < .05$ .

### *Multivariate Logistic Regression*

The multivariate logistic regression analysis revealed the predictors or the factors that were most strongly associated with reporting having abused drugs or alcohol to be: 1) believing drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release ( $\text{Exp}\beta = 20.0$ ); and 2) believing that a community mentor would help them with drugs or alcohol ( $\text{Exp}\beta = 3.6$ ).

## **Associated Factors/Predictors of Mental Health Concerns**

### *Univariate Analyses*

- Juveniles who reported believing a community mentor would be a good role model (41%) were more likely than those who did not report believing a community mentor would help them find a job (28%) to report believing that mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release,  $\chi^2(df = 1) = 5.18, p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing a community mentor would be someone they can talk to (44%) were more likely than those who did not report believing a community mentor would be someone they can talk to (22%) to report believing that mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release,  $\chi^2(df = 1) = 13.69, p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported that they had been bullied in school (44%) were more likely than those who did not report that they were bullied in school (24%) to report believing that mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release,  $\chi^2(df = 1) = 12.24, p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported that they had been bullied on the Internet (50%) were more likely than those who did not report that they were bullied on the Internet (30%) to report believing that mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release,  $\chi^2(df = 1) = 11.50, p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing that their family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release (46%) were more likely than those who did not report that their family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release (28%) to report believing that mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release,  $\chi^2(df = 1) = 10.56, p < .01$ .

### *Multivariate Logistic Regression*

The multivariate logistic regression analysis revealed the predictors or the factors that are most strongly associated with reporting that mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release to be: 1) reporting being bullied at school ( $\text{Exp}\beta = 2.1$ ); 2) believing that a community mentor will be someone they can talk to ( $\text{Exp}\beta = 2.1$ ); and 3) believing family or home situation will be a biggest challenge after release ( $\text{Exp}\beta = 1.9$ ).

## **Associated Factors/Predictors of Multiple Detentions**

### *Univariate Analyses*

- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is in adult jail or prison (93%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is in adult jail or prison (82%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2(df = 1) = 6.13, p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is on juvenile probation (91%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is on juvenile probation (81%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2(df = 1) = 5.60, p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile detention center (93%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile detention center (82%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2(df = 1) = 6.16, p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is in contact with some level of the justice system (92%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one

sibling who has been or is in contact with some level of the justice system (77%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 13.61,  $p < .001$ .

- Juveniles who reported believing a community mentor would help them with drugs/alcohol abuse (91%) were more likely than those that did not report believing a community mentor would help them with drugs/alcohol abuse (79%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 7.76,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing a community mentor would help them find community resources (91%) were more likely than those that did not report believing a community mentor would help them find community resources (81%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 5.48,  $p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported having abused drugs or alcohol (90%) were more likely than those that did not report having abused drugs or alcohol (67%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 19.36,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported at least one sibling abuses drugs or alcohol (93%) were more likely than those who did not report at least one sibling abuses drugs or alcohol (79%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 11.38,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing it was normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol (88%) were more likely than those who did not report believing it was normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol (78%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 5.35,  $p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release (93%) were more likely than those who did not report believing drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release (76%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 15.69,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing peer pressure will be one of their biggest challenges after release (92%) were more likely than those who did not report believing peer pressure will be one of their biggest challenges after release (81%) to report that this was not their first time in detention,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 6.07,  $p < .05$ .

### **Associated Factors of Having Parents Who Were/Are Incarcerated**

#### *Univariate Analyses*

- Juveniles who reported being Black Only (86%), Biracial/Multiracial (79%), and Native American Only (72%) were more likely than those who reported being Hispanic Only (55%) and White Only (59%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 4) = 12.18,  $p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile correction center (77%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile correction center (60%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 6.82,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is in adult jail or prison (77%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is in adult jail or prison (58%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 10.11,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is on juvenile probation (72%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is on juvenile probation (58%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 5.96,  $p < .05$ .

- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile detention center (76%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile detention center (57%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 9.51,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported having at least one sibling who has been or is in contact with some level of the justice system (73%) were more likely than those who did not report having at least one sibling who has been or is in contact with some level of the justice system (52%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 13.08,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported that the adult member or family friend who they can call for support has been incarcerated (87%) were more likely than those who did not report that the adult member or family friend who they can call for support has been incarcerated (37%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 77.25,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing a community mentor would help them with drugs/alcohol abuse (70%) were more likely than those that did not report believing a community mentor would help them with drugs/alcohol abuse (56%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 5.98,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported not believing that their parents are a positive influence in their lives (78%) were more likely than those that reported believing that their parents are a positive influence in their lives (57%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 11.84,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported having abused drugs or alcohol (67%) were more likely than those that did not report having abused drugs or alcohol (51%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 5.13,  $p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported that at least one parent abuses drugs/alcohol (83%) were more likely than those not reporting that at least one parent abuses drugs/alcohol (43%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 50.35,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported that at least one sibling abuses drugs/alcohol (76%) were more likely than those not reporting that at least one sibling abuses drugs/alcohol (53%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 15.96,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported living in a single-parent household (73%) were more likely than those who did not report living in a single-parent household (53%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 12.93,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol (69%) were more likely than those that did not report believing it is normal for kids in their community to use alcohol (51%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 9.93,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing that drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release (70%) were more likely than those who did not report that drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release (55%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 7.01,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported believing that their family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release (73%) were more likely than those who did not report that their family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release (57%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 1) = 8.75,  $p < .01$ .

### *Multivariate Logistic Regression*

The multivariate logistic regression analysis revealed the predictors or factors most strongly associated with reporting having parents who have been or are incarcerated to be: 1) having an adult family member

or family friend they can call for support who has been incarcerated ( $\text{Exp}\beta = 12.3$ ) and 2) having at least one parent who abuses drugs or alcohol ( $\text{Exp}\beta = 4.4$ ).

### Associated Factors of Race/Ethnicity

White Only N = 151 (50.7% of total sample)

Biracial/Multiracial = 54 (18.1% of total sample)

Hispanic Only N = 42 (14.1% of total sample)

Native American Only N = 19 (6.4% of total sample)

Black Only N = 15 (5.0% of total sample)

All Other (Excluded) = 17 (5.7% of total sample)

*Univariate Analyses: White Only, Biracial/Multiracial, Hispanic Only, Native American Only, and Black Only*

- Juveniles who reported being Hispanic Only (34%), Black Only (33%), Biracial/Multiracial (32%), and Native American Only (28%) were more likely than juveniles who reported being White Only (15%) to report having a sibling who has been or is in a juvenile correction center,  $\chi^2$  (df = 4) = 11.66,  $p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported being Black Only (67%), Hispanic Only (51%), and Native American Only (50%) were more likely than juveniles who reported being White Only (20%) and Biracial/Multiracial (30%) to report having a sibling who has been or is in an adult jail or prison,  $\chi^2$  (df = 4) = 28.21,  $p < .001$ .
- Juveniles who reported being Hispanic Only (59%) and Biracial/Multiracial (53%) were more likely than juveniles who reported being White Only (32%), Black Only (40%), and Native American Only (44%) to report having a sibling who has been or is on juvenile probation,  $\chi^2$  (df = 4) = 13.81,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported being Hispanic Only (49%), Biracial/Multiracial (47%), Native American Only (44%), and Black Only (40%) were more likely than juveniles who reported being White Only (24%) to report having a sibling who has been or is in a juvenile detention center,  $\chi^2$  (df = 4) = 15.63,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported being Hispanic Only (81%), Black Only (73%), Biracial/Multiracial (62%), and Native American Only (61%) were more likely than juveniles who reported being White Only (45%) to report having a sibling who has been or is in contact with some level of the justice system,  $\chi^2$  (df = 4) = 20.65,  $p < .001$ .
- Among juveniles who reported having been placed in foster care, those who reported being Biracial/Multiracial (54%) were more likely than those who reported being Hispanic Only (17%), White Only (26%), Black Only (31%), and Native American Only (38%) to report that their siblings were also placed in foster care,  $\chi^2$  (df = 4) = 15.09,  $p < .01$ .
- Juveniles who reported being Black Only (79%) were less likely than juveniles who reported being Native American Only (100%), White Only (97%), Hispanic Only (95%), and Biracial/Multiracial (89%) to report that there is a trusted adult in their lives they can talk to,  $\chi^2$  (df = 4) = 10.28,  $p < .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported being White Only (20%) and Biracial/Multiracial (13%) were somewhat more likely than juveniles who reported being Hispanic Only (5%), Native American Only (6%), and Black Only (7%) to report that this was their first time in detention,  $\chi^2$  (df = 4) = 9.47,  $p = .05$ .
- Juveniles who reported being Black Only (86%), Biracial/Multiracial (79%), and Native American Only (72%) were more likely than juveniles who reported being Hispanic Only (55%) and White Only (59%) to report having parents who have been or are incarcerated,  $\chi^2$  (df = 4) = 12.18,  $p < .05$ .

## Summary and Conclusions

The material in this report describes the analysis of Youth Survey data collected at three time-points, namely, in 2012, 2015, and 2019. Although the primary analyses were conducted on the 2019 Youth Survey results, these results were compared to those from 2012 and 2015 to determine whether any systematic differences were found in patterns of juveniles' responses across those three time points. In this final section of the report, the aggregate 2019 Youth Survey results will be discussed first, in terms of overall trends and patterns. The second section will focus on differences and similarity in results across the three years, and the third section will focus on the more targeted analyses to determine whether there were systematic differences in response patterns as a function of the juveniles' gender and race/ethnicity. This third section will also explore predictors or factors associated with drug or alcohol abuse, having mental health concerns, having been detained multiple times (i.e., recidivism), and having parents who have been or are incarcerated. The fourth and final section will provide concluding comments, particularly as they may relate to juvenile justice policy or practice.

### 2019 Aggregate Results

One of the more noteworthy findings from the analysis of the 2019 Youth Survey was that a large number of juveniles had family members who have also been, or currently were, involved with either the juvenile or adult justice systems. Fifty-five percent reported that at least one sibling has been involved in at least one level of juvenile or adult justice systems, and 63% reported that one or both parents have been or are incarcerated. Similarly, among those youth who reported having an adult family member or family friend they can call for support, 52% reported that this person has been incarcerated. Taken together, these results show that the juveniles detained in 2019 were likely to be exposed to others—likely often under their same home roofs—that had been in contact with the justice system in the past. Interestingly, although a clear majority of the juveniles reported that at least one parent has been or is incarcerated, a clear majority (72%) reported believing that their parents are a positive influence in their lives.

A related noteworthy finding involves the home and community environments in which the juveniles reporting living; many of the youth came from less than ideal circumstances with respect to healthy supervision and support. In the language of risk and protective factors, many juveniles had a considerable number of the former with fewer of the latter. With respect to the home environment, slightly over half of the respondents reported that at least one of their parents abuses drugs or alcohol. Forty-four percent reported that at least one sibling abuses drugs or alcohol, as well. Fifty percent reported living in a single-parent household, which is nearly double the state rate of 27% (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2019). Over 40% reported that their home or family situation would be one of the biggest challenges they will face after being released. Thirty percent reported having been placed in foster care. Despite these risk factors, more than three-quarters of the juveniles reported feeling that their home is a safe place, and the overwhelming majority (nearly 95%) reported having a trusted adult in their lives that they can talk to. With respect to the community environment, risk factors existed there as well. For example, two-thirds of the juveniles reported it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol; given these statistics, it is perhaps not surprising that 80% of the juveniles reported having abused drugs or alcohol themselves. Over 60% reported being bullied in school, and nearly one-third reported having been bullied on the Internet. On the positive side, 84% of the juveniles reported having access to a counselor in their school or community.

The juveniles seemed to perceive community mentorship in a positive light. Nearly three-fourths of the juveniles reported wanting to have a community mentor, and majorities believed that a community member could: 1) help them stay out of trouble (67%); 2) be someone they could talk to

(64%); 3) be a positive role model (62%); 4) help them find a job (56%); and 5) help them with drug or alcohol abuse. The juveniles were somewhat less confident that a community mentor could help them find community resources (45%).

Most of the juveniles in the 2019 Youth Survey sample were not new acquaintances to the juvenile justice system; only 14% of the respondents reported that it was their first time in detention. Many seemed to recognize that challenges awaited them after release. The biggest anticipated challenge following release reported by the largest group of juveniles was drugs or alcohol (55%), followed by family or home situation (42%), peer pressure (40%), school (37%), and mental health (36%).

### 2019 vs. Earlier Results

Although direct comparisons were not possible on all questions due to more questions being included on the 2019 Youth Survey compared to the first two iterations (particularly the 2012 survey), comparisons could be made on most questions (particularly to the 2015 survey). On most of these questions, statistically significant differences in response patterns were not discernible. In response to seven questions, however, they were. These showed that, compared to juveniles in the earlier samples, juveniles in the 2019 sample were:

- More likely to have a sibling who has been or is in a juvenile correction center
- More likely to have a supportive adult family member or family friend who had been incarcerated
- More likely to have at least one parent who abuses drugs or alcohol (this difference was to the 2015 sample only)
- More likely to have at least one sibling who abuses drugs or alcohol (this difference was to the 2015 sample only)
- More likely to report living in a single-parent household (this difference was to the 2015 sample only)
- More likely to report that peer pressure contributed to their crime (this difference was to the 2015 sample only)
- More likely to report being bullied in school and on the Internet
- More likely to report that mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release
- More likely to report that peer pressure will be one of their biggest challenges after release
- Less likely to believe that their parents are a positive influence in their lives (this difference was to the 2015 sample only)
- Less likely to believe that a community mentor could help them find a job (this difference was to the 2015 sample only)

It is noteworthy that on nearly every single statistically significant comparison, the juveniles in the 2019 sample seemed to have greater challenges facing them than in the earlier samples to which they were compared. Their family situations were markedly worse, with higher levels of substance abuse and less positive parental influence. They were more often bullied, seemed more subject to peer pressure, and had greater concerns about their mental health. These are worrisome trends, and as will be discussed later in this section, have some important implications for policy and practice.

### Targeted Analyses

A series of targeted analyses were conducted to assess for differences in responses as a function of a number of different variables, including: 1) juvenile gender; 2) juvenile race/ethnicity; 3) whether the juveniles reporting having abused drugs or alcohol; 4) whether the juveniles reported having mental health concerns (namely, by reporting that they believed mental health will be one of their biggest

challenges after release); 5) whether the juveniles reported having been in detention more than once; and 6) whether the juveniles reported having at least one parent who was/is incarcerated. These targeted analyses were performed largely in response to questions raised by members of the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission prior to the 2015 survey.

### *Differences by Juvenile Gender*

Eleven statistically significant differences in responses to questions were found as a function of juvenile gender. These showed that compared to males, females were:

- Younger in age
- More likely to report being Native American
- More likely to report having been bullied in school
- More likely to report having been bullied on the Internet
- More likely to report that at least one of their siblings abuses drugs or alcohol
- More likely to report that it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol
- More likely to report mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release
- More likely to report their family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release
- Less likely to believe that their parents are a positive influence in their lives
- Less likely to report having a trusted adult in their lives who they can talk to
- Less likely to report feeling that their home is a safe place

It is quite clear when assessing these results that females appear to be in a more difficult situation than males with respect to their home and community environments. Compared to males, females less often believed their parents are a positive influence in their lives, less often believed their homes to be safe places, and more often anticipated family or home-situation challenges upon release. Outside of the home, females' perceptions and experiences were also more negative than males'. Females were more likely to report having been bullied both at school and on the Internet, and they more often perceived drug or alcohol use as a norm among kids in their communities. They were also less likely to report having a trusted adult they could talk to. Perhaps it should be no surprise, given these results, that females were more likely than males to have concerns related to mental health after their release.

### *Differences by Drug/Alcohol Abuse*

Nineteen statistically significant differences in response patterns emerged as a function of whether or not the respondents reported having abused drugs or alcohol. Compared to juveniles who did not report drug or alcohol abuse, those juveniles who did report drug or alcohol abuse were:

- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is in a JCC
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is in an adult jail or prison
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is on community diversion
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is on juvenile probation
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is in a JDC
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is involved at some level of the justice system
- More likely to report that their supportive adult family member or family friend had been incarcerated
- More likely to believe that a community mentor would help them find a job
- More likely to believe that a community mentor would help them with drug/alcohol abuse
- More likely to report having at least one parent who abuses drugs or alcohol

- More likely to report having at least one sibling who abuses drugs or alcohol
- More likely to report living in a single parent household
- More likely to report that it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol
- More likely to report that it was not their first time in detention
- More likely to report that peer pressure contributed to their crime
- More likely to report having been bullied on the Internet
- More likely to report having at least one parent who had been incarcerated
- More likely to report drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release
- Less likely to report school will be one of their biggest challenges after release

Certain differences in perceptions as a function of self-reported drug or alcohol abuse are not particularly unexpected or useful. For example, it stands to reason that juveniles who have abused drugs or alcohol would expect a community mentor to help them with drugs or alcohol problems more than juveniles who have not abused drugs or alcohol. Similarly, it seems sensible that juveniles who have abused drugs or alcohol would be more likely to report that drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release. Some of the other results are more interesting and potentially useful. For example, the home and community environments of those juveniles who reported abusing drugs or alcohol seem less healthy than those who did not so report, as evidenced by those juveniles who abused drugs or alcohol more often reporting having parents and siblings who abuse drugs or alcohol, and perceiving alcohol and drug use as more normative among kids in their community. They more often lived in single parent households or with parents and/or siblings with justice system involvement. They also seemed more susceptible to peer pressure, and in any case were more likely than juveniles who did not report abusing drugs or alcohol to be detained more than one time.

#### *Differences by Mental Health Concerns*

Five statistically significant differences in responses to questions were found as a function of whether or not juveniles expressed post-release mental health concerns (i.e., whether or not they reported that mental health will be one of their biggest challenges after release). Compared to juveniles who did not report mental health concerns, those juveniles who did report mental health concerns were:

- More likely to believe that a community mentor would be a good role model
- More likely to believe that a community mentor would be someone they can talk to
- More likely to report being bullied in school
- More likely to report having been bullied on the Internet
- More likely to report their family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release

The examination of results concerning those juveniles who did and did not report post-release mental health concerns paints a rather stark picture of the perceptions and experiences of juveniles with post-release mental health concerns. Relative to those without such concerns, they were more often bullied, both at school and on the Internet. They more often anticipated challenges with their families or home situations upon release. Given these negative perceptions and experiences, perhaps it is understandable that they were much more optimistic about how a community mentor could help them relative to juveniles without post-release mental health concerns.

#### *Differences by Number of Detentions*

Eleven statistically significant differences in response patterns emerged as a function of whether the juveniles reported that this was their first detention. Compared to juveniles who reported this was their first detention, those juveniles who reported this was not their first detention were:

- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is in an adult jail or prison
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is on juvenile probation
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is in a juvenile detention center
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is involved at some level of the justice system
- More likely to believe that a community mentor would help them with drugs/alcohol abuse
- More likely to believe that a community mentor would help them find community resources
- More likely to report that they have abused drugs or alcohol
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who abuses drugs or alcohol
- More likely to report that it is normal for kids in their community to use drugs or alcohol
- More likely to report drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release
- More likely to report peer pressure will be one of their biggest challenges after release

An interesting picture of the perceptions and experiences of juveniles who have had multiple detentions appear in the results. They, more often than juveniles being detained for the first time, had siblings who have had contact with at least one level of the justice system, had siblings who abuse drugs or alcohol, had themselves abused drugs or alcohol, and may be susceptible to peer pressure. These results seem intuitive at some level. Whereas in the 2015 sample, juveniles with multiple detentions actually had several protective factors relative to first-time detainees (e.g., reporting that their parents are a positive influence in their lives, that their home is a safe place), no such results were found in the 2019 sample. Juveniles with multiple detentions did, however, have more positive expectations about help they could receive from a community mentor.

#### *Differences by Whether Parents Have Been or Are Incarcerated*

Sixteen statistically significant differences in responses to questions were found as a function of whether or not juveniles reported having at least one parent who has been or is incarcerated. Compared to juveniles who did not report parents who have been or are incarcerated, those juveniles who did report parents who have been or are incarcerated were:

- More likely to report being Black Only, Biracial/Multiracial, and Native American Only (and less likely to report being Hispanic Only and White Only)
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is in a JCC
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is in adult jail or prison
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is on juvenile probation
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is in a JDC
- More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been or is involved at some level of the justice system
- More likely to believe that a community mentor would help them with drugs/alcohol abuse
- More likely to report that the adult family member or friend who they can call for support has been or is incarcerated
- More likely to report that they have abused drugs or alcohol
- More likely to report that at least one of their parents abuses drugs or alcohol
- More likely to report that at least one of their siblings abuses drugs or alcohol
- More likely to report that it is normal for kids in their community to use alcohol
- More likely to report living in a single parent household
- More likely to report drugs or alcohol will be one of their biggest challenges after release
- More likely to report their family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release

- Less likely to report that their parents are a positive influence in their lives

One interesting observation regarding whether juveniles reported having parents who have been or are incarcerated is that this variable was more often statistically significantly associated with other variables than any other subjected to a targeted analysis. In other words, in terms of truly differentiating perceptions and experiences, whether juveniles have parents who have been or are incarcerated was a powerful explanatory variable. Many of the differences were related to justice system involvement; simply put, juveniles who had parents who have been or are incarcerated lived in families with high levels of justice system involvement. Compared to juveniles whose parents have not been incarcerated, those who have parents who have been or are incarcerated were more likely to have siblings who have been or are involved in at least one of four different levels of the justice system (JCC, adult jail or prison, juvenile probation, and JDC); they were also more likely to report that their adult support person has been or is incarcerated. Juveniles who have parents who have been or are incarcerated also appeared to have significantly greater pathology and dysfunction in their homes. For example, they were more likely than juveniles whose parents have not been incarcerated to report that at least one of their parents and at least one of their siblings abuses drugs or alcohol. They themselves were more likely to report having abused drugs or alcohol, and were more likely to anticipate that drugs or alcohol would be one of their biggest challenges after release. They were also less likely to believe their parents to be a positive influence in their lives, and more often anticipated that their family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release. In sum, juveniles who were raised by parents who have been or are incarcerated were considerably disadvantaged, with respect to a number of risk factors, compared to their peers without parents who have been or are incarcerated.

#### *Differences by Race/Ethnicity*

Nine statistically significant differences in responses to questions were found as a function of race/ethnicity when this construct was coded as White Only, Hispanic Only, Native American Only or Biracial/Multiracial. It is not necessarily easy to interpret all of the results because there are so many different possible comparisons among the five groups. Some effort to assess differences in responses is possible by separating the five, however, and the results are presented below.

- Juveniles who reported being White Only, compared to juveniles in one or several of the other race/ethnicity categories, were:
  - Less likely to report having at least one sibling who has been in several levels of the justice system, including in a JCC, in an adult jail or prison, on juvenile probation, and in a JDC
  - More likely to report having a trusted adult in their lives they can talk to
  - More likely to report this was their first time in detention
  - Less likely to report that at least one of their parents had been incarcerated
- Juveniles who reported being Hispanic Only, compared to juveniles in one or several of the other race/ethnicity categories, were:
  - More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been in several levels of the justice system, including in a JCC, in an adult jail or prison, on juvenile probation, and in a JDC
  - More likely to report having a trusted adult in their lives they can talk to
  - Less likely to report this was their first time in detention
  - Less likely to report that at least one of their parents had been incarcerated
- Juveniles who reported being Native American Only, compared to juveniles in one or several of the other race/ethnicity categories, were:
  - More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been in several levels of the justice system, including in a JCC, in an adult jail or prison, and in a JDC

- More likely to report having a trusted adult in their lives they can talk to
- More likely to report that at least one of their parents had been incarcerated
- Less likely to report this was their first time in detention
- Juveniles who reported being Black Only, compared to juveniles in one or several of the other race/ethnicity categories, were:
  - More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been in several levels of the justice system, including in a JCC, in an adult jail or prison, and in a JDC
  - More likely to report that at least one of their parents had been incarcerated
  - Less likely to report having a trusted adult in their lives they can talk to
  - Less likely to report this was their first time in detention
- Juveniles who reported being Biracial/Multiracial, compared to juveniles in one or several of the other race/ethnicity categories, were:
  - More likely to report having at least one sibling who has been in several levels of the justice system, including in a juvenile correction center, in an adult jail or prison, and in a juvenile detention center
  - More likely to report having a trusted adult in their lives they can talk to
  - More likely to report this was their first time in detention
  - More likely to report that at least one of their parents had been incarcerated

### The Big Picture

After all of the results have been reviewed, several important themes emerge. One of these is that, in aggregate, the juveniles who completed copies of the Youth Survey in 2019 (much like those who completed the 2012 and 2015) have come from some very challenging circumstances and have many risk factors—both at home and in the community. A majority of the juveniles have parents who have been incarcerated and siblings who have had at least some level of contact with the justice system. Substance abuse among parents and siblings is common, and the juveniles perceive their communities as places in which drug and alcohol abuse is normative. A second theme is that, for the most part, the perceptions and experiences of detained juveniles has been fairly consistent over the past seven years; on most dimensions, they were not statistically significant when responses were compared across the three survey administration years (i.e., 2012, 2015, and 2019). An important caveat, however, is that when significant differences were found, they were quite consistent in showing more risk factors for the juveniles who completed the survey in 2019 than in previous years; for example, juveniles in the 2019 sample appeared much more often bullied (both in school and on the Internet) and reported much greater post-release mental health concerns than those in the 2012 and 2015 samples. The last theme is that certain characteristics tend to differentiate which types of juveniles seem either particularly likely to be detained or in particular need of supportive services. It is this final theme that will be elaborated upon in the remainder of this report.

Parental incarceration history was a variable that was consistently associated with other variables in the data set, suggesting that it has considerable explanatory power with respect to juveniles' circumstances, experiences, and perceptions. Juveniles who reported having parents who have been or are incarcerated also more often reported that siblings have been or are in contact with the juvenile and adult justice systems; in short, they often came from family environments in which criminal or delinquent behavior may be the norm. This finding is perhaps unsurprising; there are large national and international literatures on the intergenerational nature of delinquency (e.g., Beaver, 2012). The utility of the knowledge also seems limited, as there is very little preventive work that can be done to influence youth who are known to have parents who have been or are incarcerated (e.g., it would be unethical to try to identify these juveniles before they have their own contact with the juvenile justice system). More can be accomplished, likely, by working with juveniles who report family histories of detention or incarceration through activities designed to change the juveniles' views of the normativeness of delinquent behavior. In

short, juveniles who have parents who have been or are incarcerated are at significant risk; however, once they come into contact with the juvenile justice system they may be targeted for programming that helps them understand that delinquent behavior, though common in their families, is not normative and not to be emulated.

Whether or not juveniles reported having abused drugs or alcohol was another variable that was consistently associated with other variables in the data set, suggesting that drug or alcohol abuse have explanatory power over juveniles' circumstances, experiences, and perceptions. Of course, it is impossible to ascertain whether drug and alcohol abuse is a causal agent or a consequence (i.e., whether drug or alcohol abuse causes or results from circumstances, experiences, and perceptions), however, it is certainly related to various aspects of juveniles' lives. In the 2019 survey data, juveniles who reported abusing drugs or alcohol clearly came from more difficult family circumstances than juveniles who did not report abusing drugs or alcohol, with parents and siblings frequently having greater levels of justice system contact and greater substance abuse histories of their own. In the latter case, it seems likely that parents and older siblings who abuse drugs or alcohol in the home make such abuse seem normative, or even desirable, to the juveniles who observe it. The juveniles who reported having abused drugs or alcohol more often reported multiple detentions and greater concerns about challenges with drug or alcohol abuse and school after release. Undoubtedly, juveniles with drug or alcohol abuse histories are at greater risk of recidivism without available and quality aftercare.

In the 2015 Youth Survey report (McDonald, 2015), gender differences in response patterns, particularly with respect to risk and protective factors, were noted and received considerable discussion. They should be highlighted here as well, as they have some important implications for both policy and practice. As was the case in the 2015 sample, the girls in the 2017 sample had significantly greater risk factors than boys, both in the home and outside of it. Compared to boys, girls reported more difficult lives within their homes (they less likely felt their parents were a positive influence in their lives, less often felt their homes were safe places, and more often believed their family or home situation will be one of their biggest challenges after release) and in the community (where they were more often bullied by others, and where they more often believed drug and alcohol use was normative). They also reported, more often than boys, concerns about their mental health after release. Without question, it seems that more intensive early intervention systems should be developed for girls, to protect them against bullying and to help them develop the kinds of coping skills and resilience to buffer against the negative environments they experience at home and in the community. Such early intervention efforts, perhaps coordinated by schools, sports leagues, faith communities, or other organizations that serve youth, could help girls avoid problems with substance abuse and other behaviors that ultimately steer them toward the juvenile justice system (as well as protect their mental health). Perhaps such organizations, combined with traditional mental health, substance abuse treatment, and social service providers, could be enlisted to help support girls as they are released from juvenile justice facilities.

In the 2015 Youth Survey report, race/ethnicity differences in response patterns were more difficult to study than in 2019, largely because there were not enough cases in most race/ethnicity categories to meaningfully analyze; most of the analyses in the 2015 report focused on White Only vs. Hispanic Only vs. Biracial/Multiracial, whereas in 2019, there were enough unique cases to also analyze Black Only and Native American only as racial/ethnic groups. As was the case in the 2015 analysis, the 2019 analysis showed that differences in responses as a function of race/ethnicity were not the norm across all variables, but where significant differences were found, they tended to show that juveniles who reported being White Only tended to have more protective factors and fewer risk factors than members of other racial/ethnic categories, and that juveniles who reported being Biracial/Multiracial, Hispanic Only, and Native American Only had a mixed profile—sometimes with more protective/fewer risk factors than other groups, and sometimes with fewer protective/more risk factors than other groups. Sadly, juveniles who reported being Black Only, relative to members of other racial/ethnic categories, seemed only to

have fewer protective factors and more risk factors. Why this is the case cannot be explored further with only the data collected in this study, however, it seems that future exploration would be valuable and is warranted. One possible explanation is that a number of the Black Only juveniles are members of refugee or resettlement communities (as a large percentage of recently resettled refugees in Idaho have originally come from Africa; Idaho Office for Refugees, n.d.), and refugee families (almost by definition) tend to have greater economic and social (e.g., language) challenges than members of longer-settled families. If this is the case, understanding how law enforcement and detention/corrections personnel could best work with refugee juveniles who come into contact with the justice system seems desirable. Therefore, future exploration of the circumstances of justice system-involved Black Only juveniles in Idaho seems valuable and warranted.

The results of the 2019 Youth Survey can be of great value for developing a “big picture” perspective on the juveniles detained in Idaho’s JDCs and JCCs. These results paint a portrait of juveniles with many risk factors, some of which are related to their family and community environments. Using the results to develop activities and programs to help juveniles overcome problems and make better choices, such as skills-building and resiliency-development, would certainly make sense. Although juvenile probation officers and social service providers could perhaps make some difference in terms of detoxifying the juveniles’ environments after they are released, both research and history reveal this is often impossible. Helping the juveniles navigate unstable and often unhealthy family relationships, home dynamics, and community environments may be the best option for decreasing the likelihood of future juvenile and adult justice system involvement, and increasing the likelihood of successful life outcomes for detained Idaho youth.

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