



JHB Report: Potentially Eligible Youth for Providence Juvenile Hearing Board, CY 2018 – CY 2019

The report below estimates how many youth, by petition, could have potentially been seen by the Providence Juvenile Hearing Board (JHB) from January 1st, 2018 – December 31st, 2019. Historically, the utilization of the Providence JHB for youth has been low, but it is unclear whether that is due to ineligibility of the youth to the board, a filled JHB calendar, or other system level factors. In order to estimate the breadth of youth who may be able to be seen by the Providence JHB each year we used Rhode Island Family Court data, presented below.

RI Family Court provided data of youth who were arrested in Providence and subsequently a petition filed over the two-year period. Demographics, case addresses and other pertinent information was provided. The Providence JHB does not allow children to be referred if they are the following:

- Over 17 years of age at time of arrest
- Assault charges, and general serious offense (defined here by a delinquent petition)
- Truancy charges; although truancy charges are not seen by the Providence JHB, there is no statutory requirement to exclude trancy cases.

There are a few other key indicators that are less clear on if they make a youth ineligible. Furthermore, they may be important places to intervene to provide more access to children who have been historically excluded from the JHB. Those include:

- Resident of Providence
- Former petitions filed in court
- Excess number of charges in a single arrest
- Former or current involvement in DCYF

To better understand the breadth of potential referrals to the Providence JHB, we included the youth who were non-residents of Providence, had former petitions filed in court, any number of charges and former or current involvement in DCYF, by unduplicated petition, since theoretically, each time they are arrested, the youth is potentially eligible for the JHB. A limitation of this report is that this estimate may be a slight over count of as a single event could have two different petition numbers. We attempted to control for this by calling a petition unique if they are filed on separate dates. When including these youth, the Providence JHBs by our estimates had at least 275 youth petitions in CY 2018 and at least 288 youth petitions in CY 2019 that were eligible for the Providence JHB. Notably, the majority of these youth petitions are for Black Non-Hispanic, Hispanic any race and Other/multiracial Non-Hispanic youth, and most live in Providence.

Table 1. Potentially Eligible[^] Providence[&] JHB Youth[#], Demographic and Legal Characteristics, CY 2018

		N (%)
Gender	Male	112 (41)
	Female	163 (59)
Age* (median, min, max)		15 (12, 17)
Race/Ethnicity	White Non-Hispanic	32 (12)
	Black Non-Hispanic	105 (38)
	Hispanic (any race)	102 (37)
	Other/Multiracial Non-Hispanic	31 (11)
	Unknown	5 (2)
Providence Residence [†]	Yes	219 (80)
	No	53 (19)
	Out of State	3 (1)
Number of Charges (mean)		1 (1, 4)
Prior Criminal Petition **	Yes	161 (59)
	No	114 (42)
Prior DCYF Petition	Yes	42 (16)
	No	233 (84)

Data Notes:

Data source: RI Family Court; data are current as of 10/22/2020.

[^]Excluded from this population are children who are older than 17 years old at time of arrest, those that crimes are delinquent charges or habitual truant charges

[&]Providence is defined by arrest location

[#]Duplicated at the child level – unduplicated at the petition level. A single event may have more than one petition number.

*Age at time of court filing

[†] Defined by Case Address

**Prior Criminal Petition includes any petitions filed prior to the first petition in this calendar year filed

Table 2. Potentially Eligible[^] Providence[&] JHB Youth[#], Demographic and Legal Characteristics, CY 2019

	N (%)
Gender	
Male	117 (41)
Female	171 (59)
Age* (median, min, max)	15 (11, 17)
Race/Ethnicity	
White Non-Hispanic	28 (10)
Black Non-Hispanic	126 (44)
Hispanic (any race)	96 (33)
Other/Multiracial Non-Hispanic	29 (10)
Unknown	9 (3)
Providence Residence [†]	
Yes	238 (83)
No	42 (15)
Out of State	8 (3)
Number of Charges (mean)	1 (1, 4)
Prior Criminal Petition **	
Yes	145 (50)
No	143 (50)
Prior DCYF Petition	
Yes	33 (11)
No	255 (89)

Data Notes:

Data source: RI Family Court; data are current as of 10/22/2020

[^]Excluded from this population are children who are older than 17 years old at time of arrest, those that crimes are delinquent charges or habitual truant charges

[&]Providence is defined by arrest location

[#]Duplicated at the child level – unduplicated at the petition level. A single event may have more than one petition number.

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