



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION DETENTION HOLDS

July 2016

WHAT ARE DETENTION HOLDS?

When youth are brought to the Donald E. Long Detention Center, they are first assessed using the Multnomah County Risk Assessment Instrument (known as the RAI). The RAI will recommend that youth be held in detention if he/she scores 6 or higher. Additionally, the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Juvenile Services Division (JSD) has identified a set of circumstances that will require a youth be held – even if their score on the RAI screening tool does not meet the required threshold. These circumstances are also known as “policy holds” in that youth are held in detention based on administrative policy and not on the RAI score. Youth also will be held if they are detained on the grounds of one of ten circumstances known as “statutory holds” which are legislatively mandated and not under the authority of DCJ to change.

WHAT TYPES OF POLICY HOLDS AND STATUTORY HOLDS ARE USED BY JSD?

In the last seven years, JSD has developed 4 different circumstances that would activate a policy hold. The table below displays the circumstances for both policy holds and statutory holds (which are legislatively mandated) and their frequency of use during a seven-year period (2009 – 2015).

POLICY HOLDS	Number	STATUTORY HOLDS	Number
Very Serious Instant Offense	311*	Court Order	1134**
Firearm/Destructive Device (not a hoax)	164	Measure 11 Charge or Warrant	485**
Firearm/Destructive Device (under age 12)	2	Parole Violation with New Felony or Warrant	225
Escape from Secure Custody	1	Out of State Runaway	216
TOTAL	478	Warrant from Out of State	175
		Warrant from Another County	100
		Adult Detainee	99
		Parole Sanction	43
		Material Witness Warrant	16
		I.C.E.	9
		TOTAL	2502

* The most frequently used policy hold is for Very Serious Instant Offenses.

** The two most frequently used statutory holds are for Court Orders and Measure 11 Charges.

IS THE USE OF POLICY HOLDS OR STATUTORY HOLDS INCREASING OVER TIME?

No. The number of holds used each year fluctuates; however, the 7-year trend has been flat hovering around 44%. In 2015, the percent of youth held for a detention hold was 43.8% (826 holds) which is less than 1% off the average.

IS THE USE OF POLICY HOLDS OR STATUTORY HOLDS HAVING A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON YOUTH OF COLOR?

No. Overall, youth of color do not appear to be strongly negatively impacted by statutory holds or policy holds. To answer this question, the relative rate index was utilized, which compares the rates of juvenile justice contact (in this case, policy holds and statutory holds) experienced by different groups of youth. African American and Hispanic youth appear to have similar hold rates to White youth in the 2014 – 2015 calendar years. The total number of holds for Asians and Native Americans is low (21 and 13, respectively), which means that their Relative Rate Index (RRI) results should be interpreted with caution. The table below displays a breakdown of holds by race/ethnicity along with the RRI score for the 2014-2015 two-year period.

Race/Ethnicity	Statutory Holds	Policy Holds	Total Holds	RRI Statutory	RRI Policy
African American	269	35	304	1.03	0.83
Asian*	16	5	21	0.88	1.71
Hispanic	114	17	131	1.01	0.93
Native American*	12	1	13	1.07	0.55
White	199	32	231	1.00	1.00

* Since the total number of holds is so low for Asians and Native Americans, the RRI should be interpreted with caution.

ARE BURGLARY-1 INCREASING OR DECREASING AS A PERCENTAGE OF VERY SERIOUS INSTANT OFFENSES (VSIO)?

Decreasing. In 2015, Burglary-1 offenses decreased as a percentage of Very Serious Instant Offenses (VSIO) and are at their lowest level in both number ($n=2$) and percentage (8%) of VSIO in seven years. The chart below displays the number of Burglary-1 offenses (in orange) and the number of VSIOs that are not Burglary-1 (in blue) for each year for a seven-year period (2009 – 2015).

