

Illinois Circuit Court of Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center

Monthly Indicators Report: May 2023

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

The Circuit Court of Cook County JTDC Monthly Indicators Report presents a population overview followed by key around time spent in the detention center, use of room confinement for behavioral and non-behavioral incidents, and time confined to rooms. The analysis was conducted by Chapin Hall using data provided by the JTDC through the Chief Judge's Office.

JTDC Population Overview

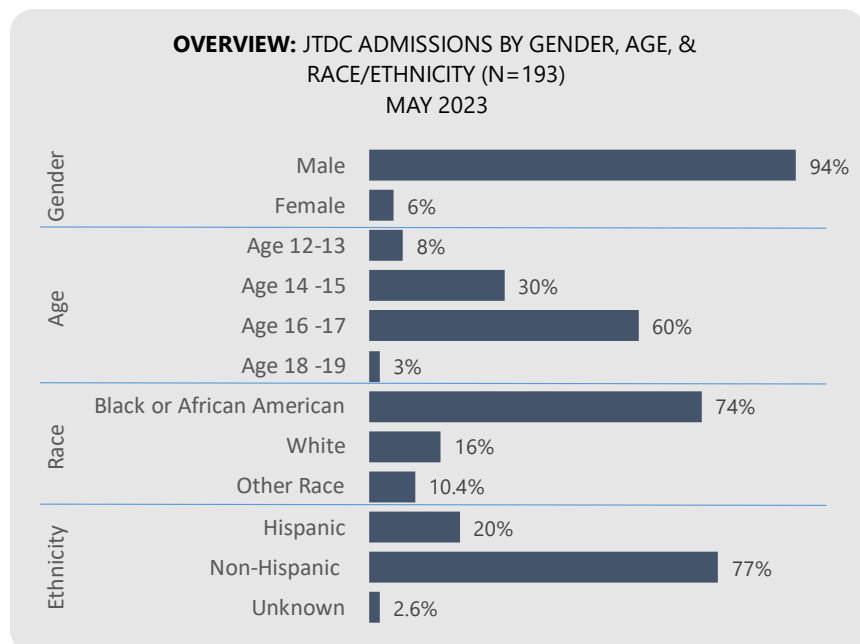
Admissions and Releases

For the reporting period a total of 193 youth were admitted into the JTDC, including 4 youth admitted as adult transfers (ATs). During the month, 195 youth that were released.

Admissions to the Center by Age, Gender, Race and Ethnicity

The following overview figure provides a breakdown of juvenile detention admissions for the reporting period by gender, age race, and ethnicity.

- Male youth accounted for 94% of admissions.
- 16 and 17 year olds accounted for 60% of admissions, followed by those 14 to 15 years of age (30%), 12 to 13 years of age (8%) and 18 -19 years of age (3%).
- Black/African American youth accounted for 74% of admissions.
- Hispanic youth accounted for 20% of all admissions.



Charges Among Youth Admitted to the JTDC

Youth admitted during the month had, on average, 1.2 charges (minimum = 1, maximum=5). The following table shows the most serious charge for which youth were admitted to the JTDC. Of the 193 youth admitted, 81 youth were charged with unlawful use of a weapon (U UW) or aggravated unauthorized use of a weapon (AGG U UW).

Most Serious Charge	Number of Youth
Armed Robbery	9
Armed Violence	2
Battery/Agg Battery/Domestic Battery/Assault	11
Burglary	2
Fleeing/Aggravated Fleeing/Attempted Fleeing	2
Juvenile Arrest Warrant	10
Murder	5
Attempted Murder	2
Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle	6
Robbery/Aggravated Robbery	3
Unlawful Possession of a Handgun	2
Unlawful Use of a Weapon/Aggravated U UW	81
Vehicular Hijacking/Aggravated Vehicular Hijacking	10
Criminal Sexual Assault/Abuse	2
Other Gun Related	1
Other	13
Missing	32
<i>Total</i>	<i>193</i>

KEY INDICATORS

The following sections present data for six key indicators across four categories including:

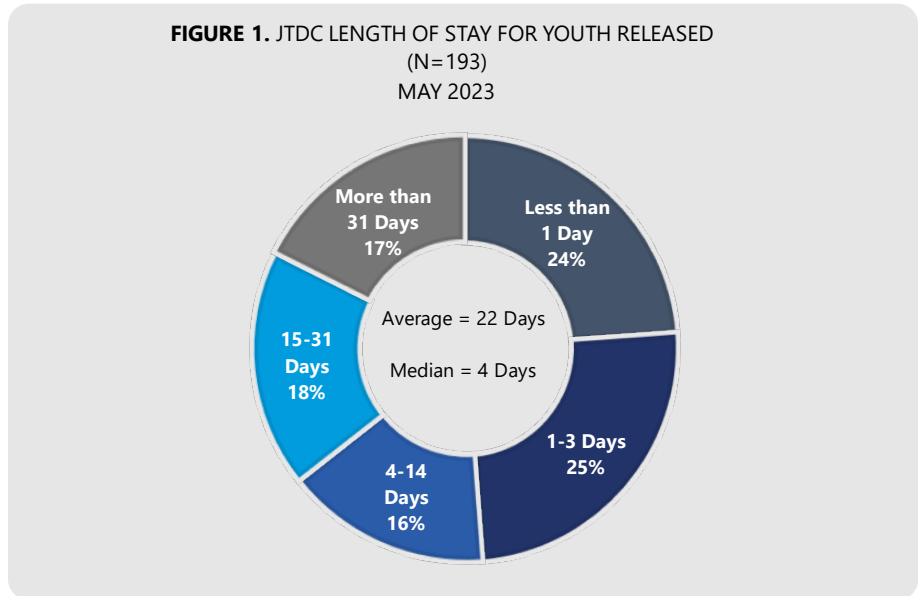
Category	Indicator
Total Time in Detention	#1 – Length of Stay
Use of Room Confinement for Discipline, Behavioral Management, Medical/Mental Health, or Non-Behavior Related Reasons	#2A – Number of Room Confinements by Type #2B – Average and Median Duration of Room Confinements #2C – Number and Percentage of Youth Confined to Rooms
Total Time Confined to Rooms	#3 – Number of Hours Per Day Confined to Rooms
Supportive Services	#4 – Number of Planned, Structured Programs & Activities

Total Time in Detention

Indicator #1 – Length of Stay

Figure 1 shows the length of stay, defined as total number of “bed days” (or an approximate 24-hour period) for youth released from the JTDC during the month. Length of stay is calculated based upon the release file provided monthly by the JTDC. During the reporting period a total of 195 youth were released from the JTDC, of which 2 were adult transfer releases. Because length of stay is considerably longer for adult transfer cases, the following chart describes length of stay only for 193 juvenile releases.

- Of youth released, 24% were detained for less than 1 day. These youth did not stay overnight at the JTDC.
- 25% were detained between 1-3 days, 16% for 4-14 days and 18% for 15-31 days. The remaining 17% of youth spent more than 31 days (more than a month) in the detention center.
- The average (mean) length of stay was 22 days; the median stay was 4 days.
- The three adult transfer cases that were released during the month (not included in Figure 1) spent significantly longer in detention with an average of 632 days.



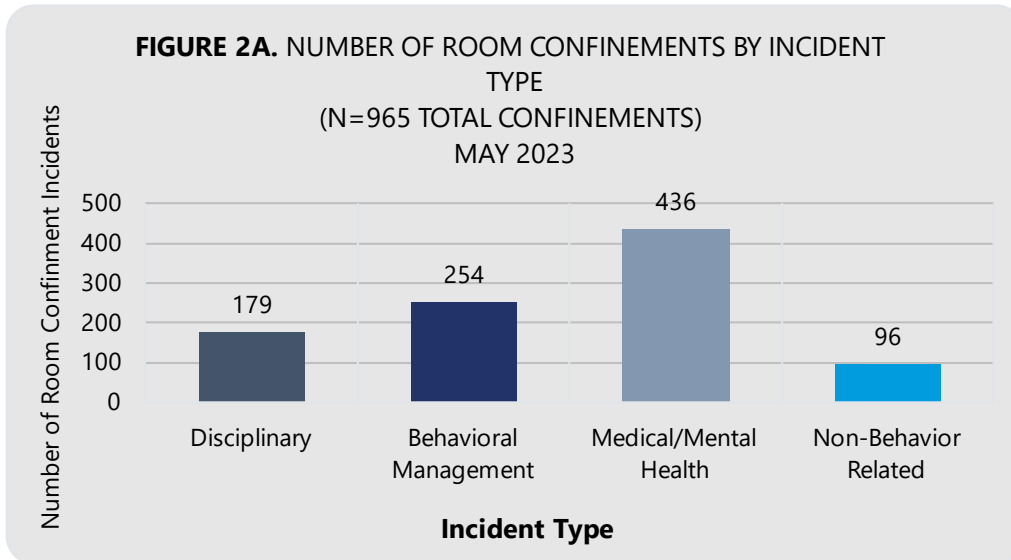
Use of Room Confinement: Behavioral & Non-Behavioral Incidents

While detained at the center, youth may be confined to their rooms for specific incidents that result in disciplinary action. **Disciplinary** incidents include **major rules violations** (e.g. intimidation or threats against peers or adults, physical fights between two youth, physical assaults, inciting a major disturbance, possession of hazardous contraband, unauthorized movement, failure to comply, and malicious destruction of property) and **extraordinary circumstances** (e.g. participation in major group disturbance resulting in injury to residents or staff, physical assault against adult, premeditated blindsided violent attack, superintendent holds). Other room confinements may occur for **Behavioral Management** incidents including “Up to an Hour” or **UTAH confinements** and **lockdowns** or **limited lockdowns due to incident** to provide the youth with a safe and secure environment. Youth may also be confined for **Medical or Mental Health** reasons, made at the request of medical or mental health staff, or for covid related rotations. Finally, youth may be confined for **Non-Behavior Related** reasons

including self-confinement or court returns. The following indicators reflect room confinement for these reasons or incidents and do not include time confined for staff rotations or sleeping hours.

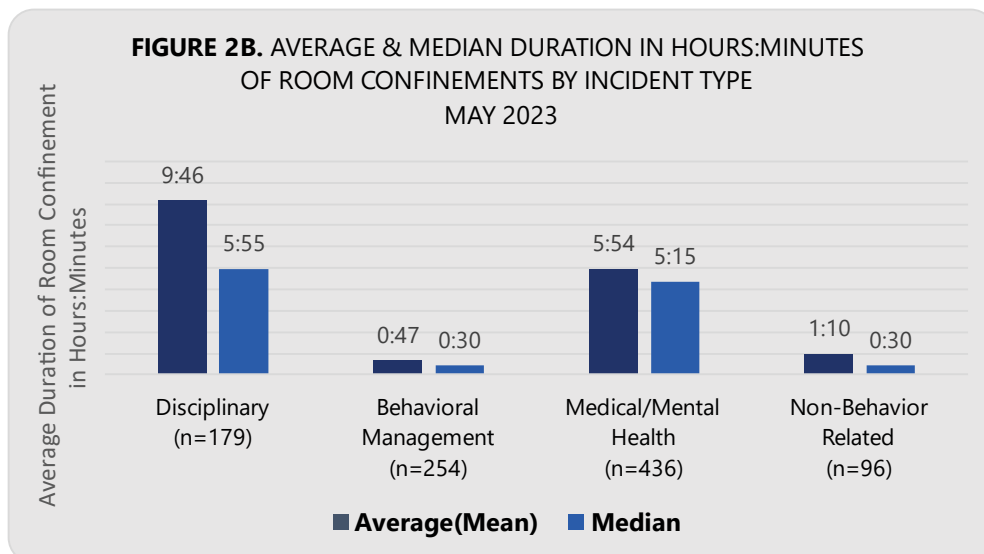
Indicator #2A: Number of Room Confinements for Disciplinary and Other Incidents

Figure 2A shows the number of room confinements that occurred during the month by incident type. There were 965 room confinements. Of these 965 confinements, 179 were used for disciplinary incidents, 254 were used for behavioral management incidents, 436 for medical or mental health incidents, and 96 for non-punitive incidents.



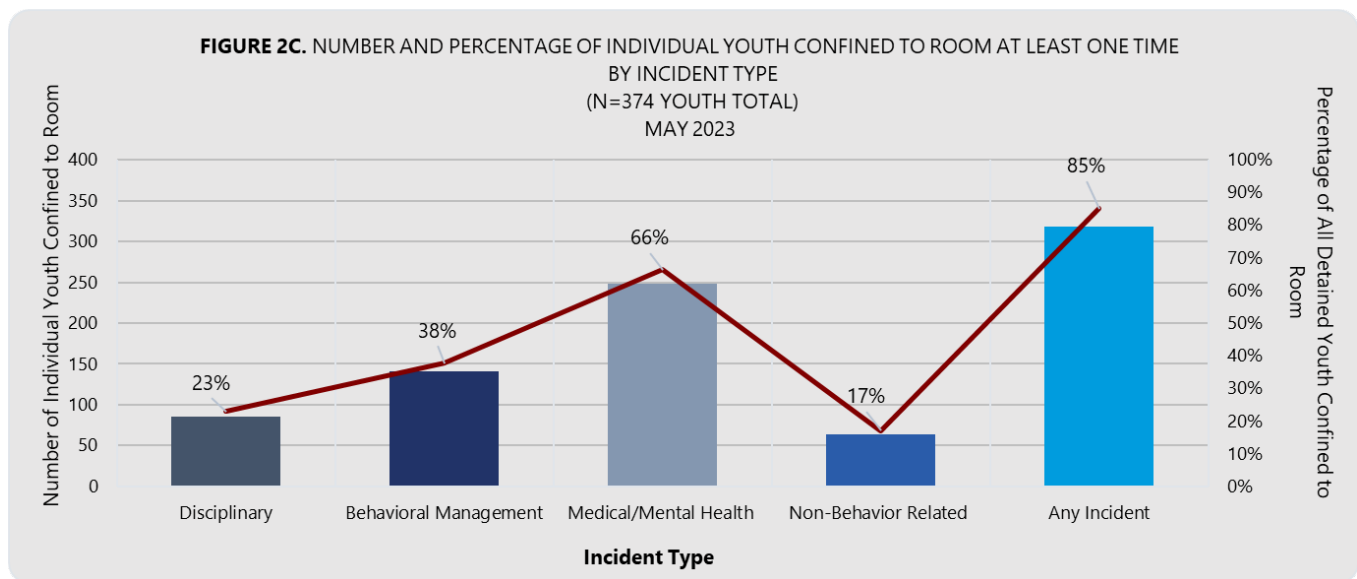
Indicator #2B: Average and Median Duration of Room Confinements

Figure 2B shows the average duration of all room confinements (in hours and minutes) that occurred during the month by incident type. For example, of the 179 disciplinary incidents, confinements lasted 9 hours and 46 minutes on average, with a median of 5 hours 55 minutes.



Indicator #2C: Number and Percentage of Individual Youth Confined to Room

The following summarizes use of room confinement among individual youth during the month. Not every youth in the detention center is involved in an incident that results in room confinement for disciplinary, behavioral management, medical/mental health, or non-behavior related reasons, while other youth are confined multiple times for the same or different type of incident. There were 374 youth identified as residing in the JTDC during the month, of which 318 or 85%, were confined to their rooms for at least one disciplinary, behavioral management, medical/mental health, or non-behavior related incident at some point during their stay. Figure 2C shows the number of individuals (bars) and percentage of all 374 detained youth (line) confined at least once for each incident type.



Total Time Confined to Rooms

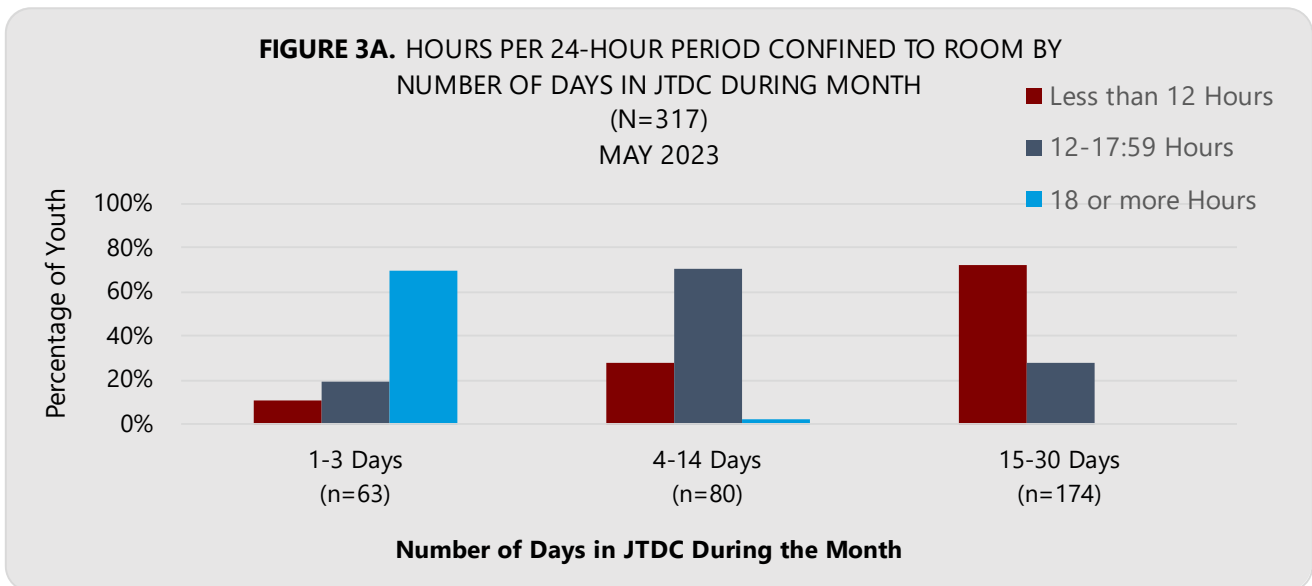
Indicator #3: Hours Per Day at the JTDC Individual Youth Spend Confined to Room

In addition to room confinement for disciplinary, behavioral management, medical/mental health, and non-punitive incidents, the center places residents in their rooms during shift changes - these periods are called "Secured Reflection". Residents are also in their rooms overnight. Bedtimes vary based on a behavioral level (Levels 1-4) and range from 8:00 pm for Level 1 to 9:45 for Level 4. Residents wake at 6:15 am on weekdays and 8:00 am on weekends. Accounting for time residents spend in their rooms during Secured Reflection and overnight in addition to confinement for an incident offers a fuller picture of the amount of time youth spend confined to their room during their stay at the center.

The following figures show the percentage of youth (by days in the JTDC during the month) who spent 1) under 12 hours per 24-hour period in their room, 2) between 12 hours and 17 hours 59 minutes, and 3) 18 hours or more. These include time confined to their room for disciplinary incidents, behavioral management, medical/mental health incidents, non-behavior related incidents as well as Secured

Reflections or staff rotations, and overnight. The time per 24-hour period for each youth was calculated as the hours confined in total divided by the number of days detained during the month¹.

Because the number of days each month that youth are detained at the JTDC varies, these figures are presented for youth at the JTDC for 1-3 days, 4-14 days, and 15-31 days.² Those youth detained for less than 1 day (no overnight stays) are excluded³, resulting in 317 youth in total. Among the 63 youth who were in detention for a short period of 1-3 days, nearly 70% spent 18 or more hours per day in their room. Conversely, among those youth with longer stays of between 15-31 days during the month, 72% spent less than 12 hours (per day) in their room. During this month, covid policies were in place at the JTDC that required youth be confined upon admission for covid testing; hence youth with shorter stays tend to spend more time, on average, in their rooms for medical reasons related to covid than youth who stay longer.



¹ For youth missing one or more day of data in the confinement log (based on admission and release files and confinement records) we imputed one thirty-minute Secured Reflection confinement and one overnight period for each missing day of data.

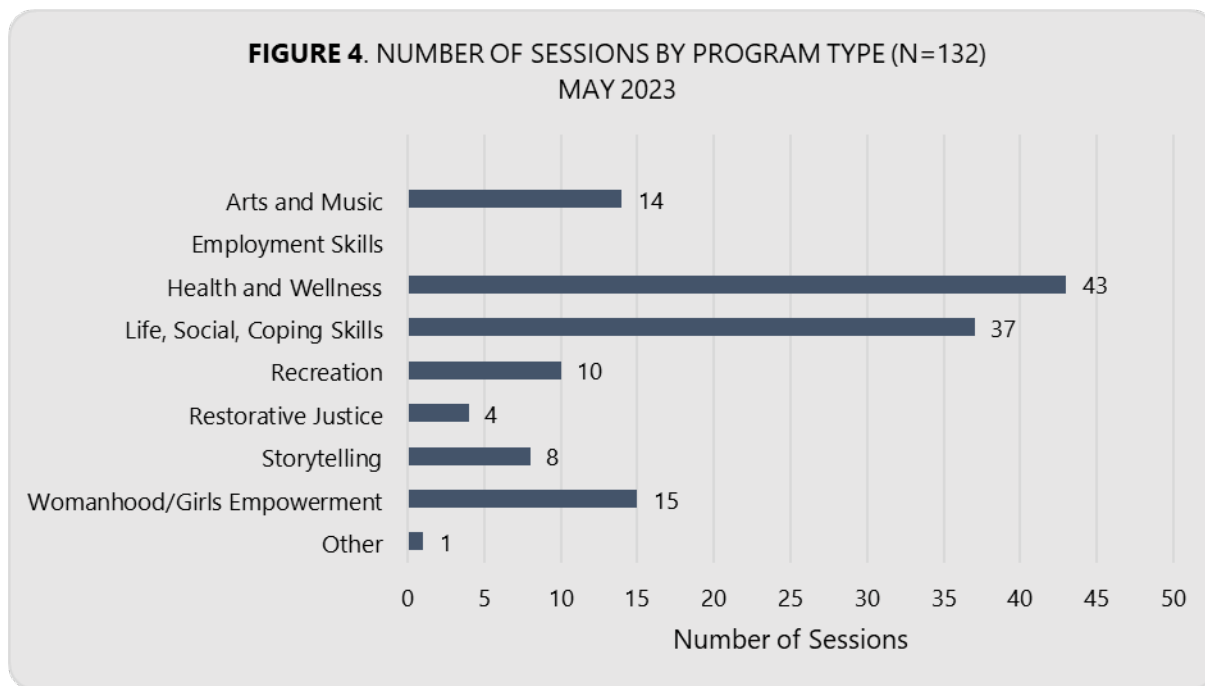
² A "day" refers to a 24-hour period.

³ The most common type of confinement among youth who spend less than 1 day at the JTDC is medical/mental health.

Programs at the JTDC

Indicator #4: Number of Planned, Structured Programs & Activities

During the month, the JTDC provided planned and structured programs and activities to youth across 132 sessions.⁴ Programs include those provided by the JTDC (typically in the afternoon/after school). They also include “Supportive Services” which are services provided during the evening hours (after school and other JTDC programs are done and before bedtime). The breakdown of these sessions by type is shown in Figure 4. The most frequently offered programming was health and wellness and life, social, and coping skills.



⁴ Data come from reports by each JTDC Center. We excluded the provision of incentives and commissary use from this analysis. Data are included for the following centers: Alpha and Medical, Destiny, Houston, Legacy, Renaissance, and WINGS. The Omega Center is excluded due to data quality issues.

Statement of Independence and Integrity

Chapin Hall adheres to the values of science, meeting the highest standards of ethics, integrity, rigor, and objectivity in its research, analyses, and reporting. Learn more about the principles that drive our work in our [Statement of Independence](#).

Chapin Hall partners with policymakers, practitioners, and philanthropists at the forefront of research and policy development by applying a unique blend of scientific research, real-world experience, and policy expertise to construct actionable information, practical tools, and, ultimately, positive change for children and families.

Established in 1985, Chapin Hall's areas of research include child welfare systems, community capacity to support children and families, and youth homelessness. For more information about Chapin Hall, visit www.chapinhall.org or @Chapin_Hall.

Acknowledgement and Disclaimer

Preparation of this report was funded by the Circuit Court of Cook County, Office of the Chief Judge.

Data were obtained by the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) and provided to Chapin Hall by the Office of the Chief Judge. Indicators were selected in partnership with the Superintendent of the JTDC and the Office of the Chief Judge. We thank Chief Judge Evans and the Office of the Chief Judge and the Superintendent of the JTDC and staff for providing data and guidance on what and how data are recorded by the JTDC. Thank you to Tom Lyons, Lauryn Lockett, and Lorena Roque of the Office of the Chief Judge and Maria Scianna and Zenaida Alonzo of the JTDC for assistance reviewing data.

All analysis was conducted by Chapin Hall. This work was reviewed by the University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work/Chapin Hall Institutional Review Board (IRB) and received a non-human subjects research determination. The analysis and interpretation of findings presented in this report are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of JTDC or the Office of the Chief Judge.

Suggested Citation

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (2023). *Illinois Circuit Court of Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Monthly Indicators Report: May 2023*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Correspondence

Gretchen Cusick, Research Fellow, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

gcusick@chapinhall.org

Bryan Samuels, Executive Director, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

bsamuels@chapinhall.org