



Office of the Ohio Public Defender

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JUVENILE LIFE SENTENCES IN OHIO: A SNAPSHOT

In 1998, Ohio began keeping data on children transferred to criminal court for prosecution as adults.¹ Between 1998 and 2015, Ohio's juvenile courts transferred more than 4,000 children to criminal court for adult prosecution.² Of the more than 4,000 children transferred during that time period, 611 are still incarcerated on those cases. Of those 611, 310 are serving more than 15 years, with nine individuals incarcerated for complicity or conspiracy to commit the most serious offense in their case. A breakdown of the specific terms of those 310 cases are as follows:

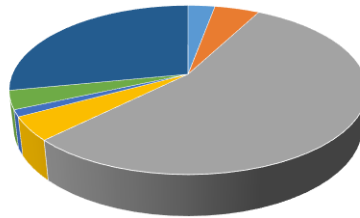
For Homicide Offenses

- At least nine are serving life without the possibility of parole
- At least 15 are serving more than 30-to-life
- At least 170 are serving more than 15, but less than 30-to-life

For Non-Homicide Offenses

- At least 14 are serving a maximum-of-life sentence
- At least four are serving more than 80 years
- At least 11 are serving between 30 and 80 years
- At least 87 are serving between 15 and 30 years for a non-homicide offense

Incarceration for Juveniles with more than 15 Years to Serve



- Life Without Parole
- Thirty to Life for Homicide Offense
- Between Fifteen and Thirty to Life for Homicide Offense
- Maximum-of-Life Sentence for Non-Homicide Offense
- More than Eighty Years for Non-Homicide Offense
- Between Thirty and Eighty Years for Non-Homicide Offense
- Between Fifteen and Thirty Years for Non-Homicide Offense

¹There is no immediate data set for children prosecuted as adults prior to 1998.

²The Ohio Public Defender received raw data from the Department of Youth Services, indicating the number of juveniles prosecuted as adults, along with their respective offenses, sentences, and counties of origin.