



Detention Capacity

Objective:

Ensure offending individuals are appropriately detained or sanctioned

Strategy:

Maintain adequate levels of secure detention for violent and repeat offenders

Why is this strategy important?

Detention facilities protect public safety while also providing one means of sanctioning offenders. The Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) is responsible for operating jail facilities for both adults and juveniles and must ensure that there is adequate capacity in our detention facilities while operating safe and humane facilities in an efficient and effective manner.

For adults, there are two jail facilities: the King County Correctional Facility (KCCF) in downtown Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center (MRJC) in Kent. For juveniles, there is one facility: the Youth Services Center (YSC) in Seattle. DAJD also operates several programs that provide alternatives to secure detention for both adults and juveniles.

How is our performance?

Since 2009, neither our adult nor juvenile facilities have rejected law enforcement bookings due to a lack of capacity. Before 2009, there were rarely capacity issues; 2009 is the first year for which we are tracking data for measurement of the Strategic Plan.

For adult detention, use of the jail has decreased since 2009, while electronic home monitoring (EHD) has varied with a slight increase between 2009 and 2011. King County has forecasted these reductions and been largely successful in planning for secure detention decreases in capacity. King County's Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention improved jail budgeted forecasts, using 90 percent of forecasted capacity in 2011 compared to 78 percent in 2009. Work release is nearly always at its capacity, although use of Work Release has decreased slightly as has forecasted capacity. Forecast capacity for EHD has been primarily based on the assumed use of EHD -- it's less of a capacity issue that it is of a "this is about where we expect the population to be."

For the juvenile population, use of secure detention has also decreased from an average daily population of 95 in 2007 to 70 in 2011. The budgeted capacity for juvenile detention is 84 beds. The current physical capacity of the building is 220 youth. The 220 capacity includes beds in halls that have been repurposed due to a sustained lower population.

Use of secure detention is affected by law enforcement and prosecutorial filing decisions, sentencing practices, and modifications to the adult and juvenile criminal codes.

Moving forward

DAJD continues to work with all of the Criminal Justice System agencies to achieve better outcomes and service levels for the public and the Criminal Justice agencies. DAJD plans to continually improve in its ability to provide data to decision makers to allow them to craft solutions to better utilize resources.

DAJD continues to adjust forecast levels to react to the rapidly changing criminal justice landscape. The population reduction in the adult and juvenile systems is a trend that is being seen in local detention facilities across the country.

Technical Notes

1. Detention data and forecasted budgeted capacity provided by Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention. Physical capacity refers to the space available to house inmates. Forecasted capacity refers to the budget for staffing that is adopted in the year prior.
2. Average Daily Population (ADP) is the total number of inmate detention days divided by the number of days in the year. ADP is a result of how many inmates are admitted into secure detention and how long they stay in the facility.

Charts and Maps

Adult Detention Secure (Jail) Facility Use

	Actual Average Daily Pop	Physical Capacity	% Capacity Used	Forecasted Capacity	% of Forecast Used
2009	2,174	3,039	71%	2,771	78%
2010	2,123	3,039	70%	2,430	87%
2011	1,998	3,039	66%	2,229	90%

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

Adult Detention Work Release (Partial Custody)

	Actual Average Daily Pop	Physical Capacity	% Capacity Used	Forecasted Capacity	% of Forecast Used
2009	163	180	91%	168	97%
2010	151	180	84%	168	90%
2011	142	180	79%	168	85%

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

Adult Detention Electronic Home Detention

	Actual Average Daily Pop	Physical Capacity	% Capacity Used	Forecasted Capacity	% of Forecast Used
2009	59	105	56%	105	56%
2010	73	105	70%	90	81%
2011	62	105	59%	105	59%

Note: These defendants remain in their own home. As such, physical capacity refers to the program capacity.

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

Juvenile Secure Detention Population and Capacity

	Average Daily Pop	Budgeted Capacity	
2007	95		
2008	90		
2009	83		
2010	89		
2011	70		
2012		84	

Data Source: King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention