

# One-Time Census of Populations in Mississippi's Juvenile Detention Centers and County Jails

## Executive Summary

### Introduction and Background

Section 7 of House Bill 387 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature requires PEER to conduct a one-time census of populations in juvenile detention centers and in county and municipal jails in Mississippi.

The bill identifies the following nine data elements for collection:

1. number of individuals detained for a new offense or delinquent act;
2. number of individuals detained for pretrial;
3. number of offenders detained for a revocation of supervision;
4. average sentence length for new jail sentences by offense type;
5. average sentence length for offenders in jail for a probation revocation;
6. average sentence length for offenders in jail for a parole revocation;
7. percentage of sentences in each category offense type, including whether the offense was violent, property, drug, or public order. All drug offenses shall include the type of drug implicated in the offense, as well as the type of offense, such as possession, sale, or manufacture;
8. average length of stay by offense type; and
9. for individuals awaiting trial, the average length of stay from the time of their arrest to the time of indictment and from the time of indictment to trial.

### County and Municipal Jail Census Data

The lack of a uniform reporting method or system for use by counties within the state inhibits the collection of data for analysis as required by H.B. 387. Without a centralized database, collection of the data prescribed in H.B. 387 is possible only by contacting each individual county sheriff's office.

In preparation for data collection, PEER learned that a similar census had been undertaken in the spring of 2018 by the MacArthur Justice Center. However, PEER determined that the county jail data collected by the MacArthur Justice Center lacked the necessary elements to be fully evaluated in accordance with H.B. 387. Furthermore, the limitations in the data prevent judicial officers from proper execution of duties as prescribed in Rule

8.5(c) of the Mississippi Rules of Criminal Procedure, which can result in unjust incarceration periods and a waste of state resources.

Exhibit A, pages vii-viii, presents the data that PEER was able to elicit from the Justice Center database, reflective only of the inmate counts and minimum and maximum days in custody, as submitted by the counties for dates ranging from October 2017 through March 2018.

## **Improving Data Collection and Uniform Reporting**

Because of the current limits of data collection and lack of uniform reporting as described in this report, PEER examined current jail census practices to evaluate an alternative method that could produce the data necessary for analysis in accordance with H.B. 387 and determined that the Administrative Office of Courts could provide an effective option for centralized collection of the necessary data.

With proper collection, judicial officers would have the information as set out in Rule 8.5(c) needed to make determinations for release of individuals being held on misdemeanor charges who are not a threat to society and/or may not be able to make bail. This reduces the likelihood of extended incarceration periods and could provide substantial cost savings to the state.

**Exhibit A: County Inmate Counts and Time Served for Periods Reported from October 2017 through March 2018**

COUNTY	INMATE COUNT	MINIMUM DAYS	MAXIMUM DAYS	MEDIAN DAYS*
Adams	65	1	601	85
Alcorn	89	1	1,448	69
Amite	48	7	377	63
Attala	33	2	472	62
Benton	11	1	381	39
Bolivar	42	5	1556	97
Calhoun	40	0	644	57
Carroll	40	1	83	40
Chickasaw	13	5	144	22
Choctaw	1	111	111	111
Claiborne	16	1	97	14
Clarke	11	4	836	185
Clay	65	1	1,335	153
Coahoma	47	2	1,542	274
Copiah	59	0	1,543	23
Covington	23	0	522	44
DeSoto	579	5	1,150	138
Forrest	87	92	1,223	225
Franklin	13	4	291	142
George	110	1	1,533	44
Greene	7	5	133	60
Grenada	57	1	455	220
Hancock	123	1	720	48
Harrison	1,068	0	1,078	41
Hinds	625	0	1,948	176
Holmes	6	99	249	189
Humphreys	6	109	903	455
Issaquena	2	19	236	128
Itawamba	8	95	915	229
Jackson	57	9	706	112
Jasper	373	32	1,260	191
Jefferson	7	113	154	133
Jefferson Davis	22	4	379	98
Jones	179	0	797	77
Kemper	9	2	384	132
Lafayette	39	0	754	49
Lamar	36	67	1,910	178
Lauderdale	246	1	1,439	133
Lawrence	15	20	313	54
Leake	20	5	400	57

Lee	28	87	667	224
Leflore	86	1	1,633	105
Lincoln	150	3	762	73
Lowndes	174	0	2,203	56
Madison	79	77	1,373	207
Marion	55	90	1,181	234
Marshall	114	0	581	22
Monroe	43	14	630	67
Montgomery	26	0	0	0
Neshoba	87	2	524	50
Newton	14	9	395	148
Noxubee	19	0	916	101
Oktibbeha	76	1	581	76
Panola	83	0	1,645	126
Pearl River	262	0	1,573	62
Perry	29	1	171	38
Pike	200	-3	911	91
Pontotoc	102	0	1,014	47
Prentiss	75	10	1,281	50
Quitman	7	5	926	160
Rankin	282	5	1,952	923
Scott	48	0	271	10
Sharkey	9	56	1,889	120
Simpson	64	1	1,450	113
Smith	11	17	843	96
Stone	34	3	514	126
Sunflower	38	0	182	17
Tallahatchie	24	2	681	85
Tate	81	0	1,385	56
Tippah	66	0	432	39
Tishomingo	31	9	594	106
Tunica	11	100	535	248
Union	72	1	923	83
Walthall	25	1	426	39
Warren	129	1	709	56
Washington	97	2	1,249	143
Wayne	53	3	866	127
Webster	2	631	631	631
Wilkinson	10	11	351	147
Winston	11	3	540	208
Yalobusha	31	19	579	57
Yazoo	57	2	952	105

\*Median = midpoint of minimum and maximum range.

SOURCE: MacArthur Justice Center.

## Juvenile Detention Center Data

Because juvenile detention centers only hold individuals who have committed a “delinquent act” by court order, this population cannot be analyzed in the same manner as adult detainee populations in county and municipal facilities.

PEER surveyed each of the 15 juvenile detention centers within the state regarding the three data requests of H.B. 387 relevant to the juvenile population: the number of individuals being held, their race and gender, and length of detainment.

Exhibit B summarizes the responses from each facility.

**Exhibit B: Juvenile Detention Center Data, as of April 30, 2018**

Facility Location	Adams	Alcorn	DeSoto	Forrest	Harrison	Hinds	Jackson	Jones
Number of Juveniles Detained	9	8	22	8	25	23	13	7
Race/Gender								
Females, Black	2	3	3	1	1	4		4
Females, White	1	1	2				3	
Males, Black	5	1	11	7	16	19	2	2
Males, White	1	2	4		8			1
Males, Arabic		1					8	
Males, Hispanic			2					
Average Length of Stay Prior to April 30, 2018	5 days	3 days	20 days	10 days	7 days	61 days	23 days	18 days

  

Facility Location	Lee	Leflore	Lowndes	Rankin	Warren	Washington	Yazoo
Number of Juveniles Detained	5	14	11	13	21	7	3
Race/Gender							
Females, Black	1	5	2		4	1	
Females, White	1			1	4		3
Males, Black		8	8	8	10	5	
Males, White	3	1	1	4	4	1	
Males, Arabic							
Average Length of Stay Prior to April 30, 2018	7 days	9 days	48 days	9 days	15 days	4 days	9 days

SOURCE: PEER survey of state juvenile detention centers.

## Recommendations

The Legislature should consider amending the following to eliminate the data limitations found in this report and meet the state's judicial and economic interests as described herein:

- MISS. CODE ANN. § 9-21-3 (1972) to require the Administrative Office of Courts to implement a uniform and centralized reporting system; to develop a guide for each county sheriff's office regarding the uniform terms and forms to use when recording a detainee's incarceration to reflect the data required by H.B. 387 and requiring the offices to upload to a database maintained by the Administrative Office of Courts annually; and to provide public access to any resulting centralized database, which shall contain the names of detainees awaiting trial and exclude all other detainees held in county facilities for other reasons; and
- MISS. CODE ANN. §§ 19-25-63 and 47-1-21 regarding jail dockets kept by sheriffs to provide useful reporting requirements in accordance with Rule 8 of the Mississippi Rules of Criminal Procedure (2018) and to assist policymakers in making economic decisions related to incarceration.

**For more information or clarification, contact:**

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