

# 2025 Juvenile Detention Facilities Isolation and Strip Search Incidents Report



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## 2025 JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY ISOLATION AND STRIP SEARCH INCIDENTS REPORT<sup>1</sup>

### I. Background

Minnesota passed a law in 2023 regulating juvenile detention facilities by restricting strip searches and disciplinary isolation practices ([Minn. Stat. § 241.0215](#)). It mandates that strip searches can only occur under specific conditions with prior approval and documentation and requires that juveniles cannot be disciplined through physical or social isolation except for certain safety reasons.

[Minn. Stat. § 241.0215, subd. 6](#) requires the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) to file a written report to legislature by February 15 of each year, reporting data related to the number of strip searches and isolation as discipline incidents at juvenile facilities licensed by the Commissioner of Corrections.

**The DOC is required to report on the following for the prior calendar year:**

1. How often strip searches were performed.
2. How often juveniles were isolated.
3. The length of each period of isolation used and, for juveniles isolated in the previous year, the total cumulative amount of time that the juvenile was isolated that year.
4. Any injury to a juvenile related to a strip search or isolation, or both, that was reportable as a critical incident.

The data in the report must provide information on demographics of juveniles who were subject to a strip search and juveniles who were isolated, including age, race, and gender.

The report must also identify any facility that did not comply with statute or rules.

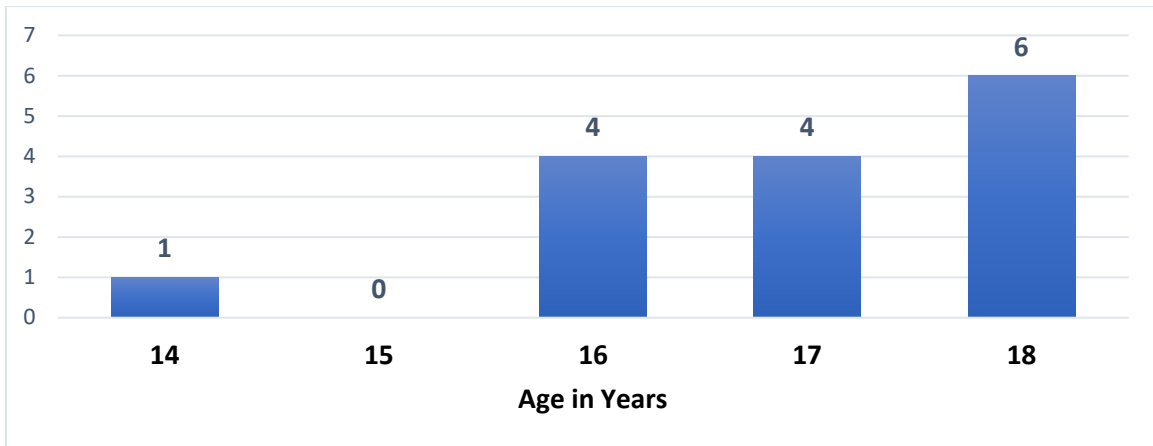
### II. Juvenile Detention Strip Searches

In calendar year 2025, fifteen unclothed body searches – also known as strip searches – were performed in juvenile detention facilities. Figures 1-3 depict the demographics of the individuals searched.

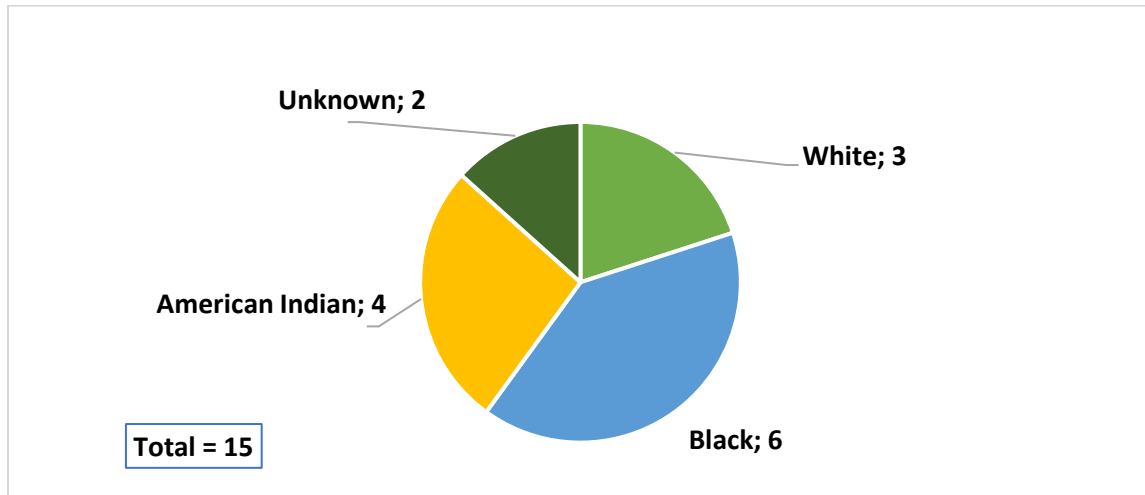
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<sup>1</sup> The total cost of salaries, printing, and supplies incurred in the development and preparation of this report was approximately \$100 (reported as required by Minn. Stat. §3.197). This report can be provided in another format upon request.

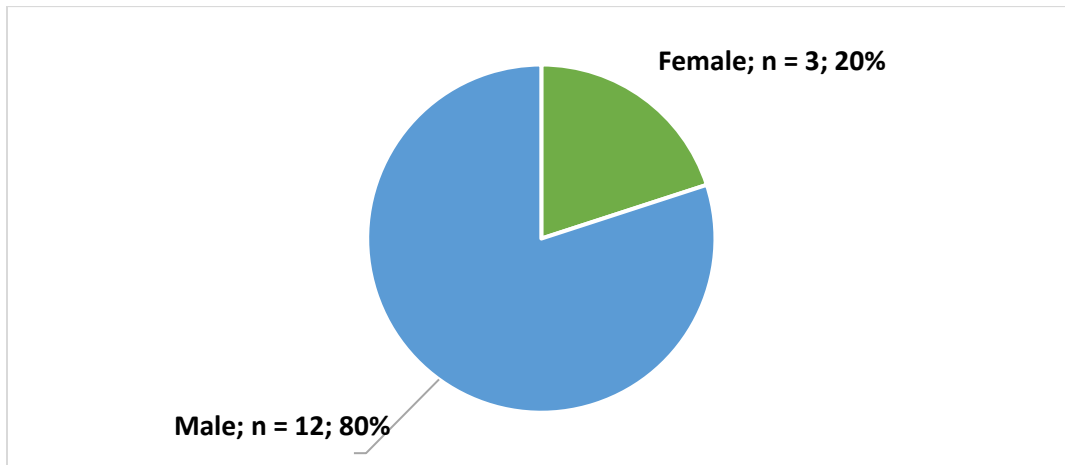
**Figure 1. Age of Individuals in Juvenile Detention Strip Searched**



**Figure 2. Race of Individuals in Juvenile Detention Strip Searched**



**Figure 3. Gender of Individuals in Juvenile Detention Strip Searched**



No critical incidents occurred during these searches. No individuals were injured related to the searches. All searches were reviewed and determined to be justified according to the rule.

### III. Juvenile Isolation Incidents Data

In accordance with the passage of Minnesota Statutes 241.0215, effective January 1, 2024, the use of disciplinary room time (DRT), as previously defined in Minnesota Rule 2960, was prohibited. Prior to this statutory change, the term “isolation” was sometimes used interchangeably with disciplinary room time or seclusion, though seclusion was not an approved restrictive intervention under Rule 2960.

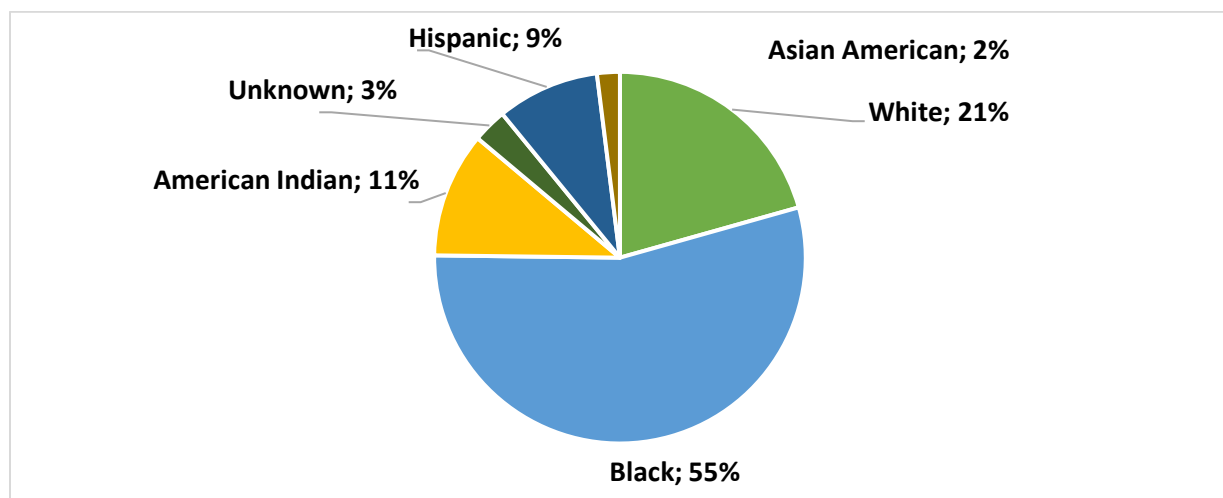
Following the prohibition of DRT, the DOC collaborated with the Minnesota Juvenile Detention Association (MNJDA) to develop alternative interventions. This work resulted in the development of Safety-Based Separation (SBS), which was adopted as replacement language and practice guidance on January 13, 2025.

The SBS data collection module within the DOC licensing portal and reporting system was not finalized by Minnesota Information Technology Services (MNIT) until the third quarter of 2025. Despite this technology limitation, facilities have been voluntarily submitting SBS data, which the DOC compiles and reviews. Beginning in calendar year 2026, facilities will be required to report SBS data using the finalized reporting system, which is expected to significantly improve statewide data reliability and oversight.

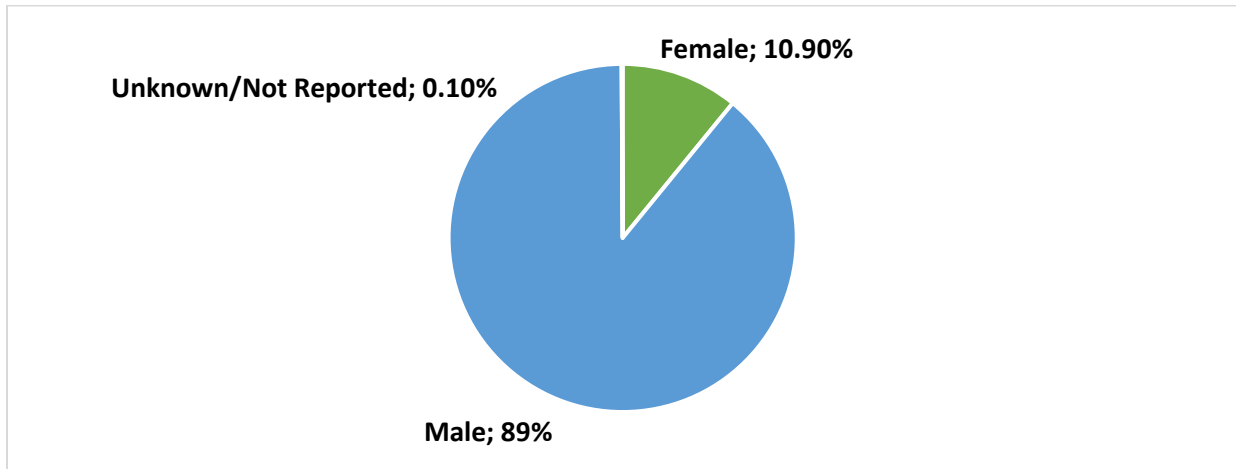
Appendix A. contains incident-level SBS data submitted by licensed facilities. Personally identifiable information, including youth names, has been removed. Based on the data:

- A total of 792 SBS incidents were reported across licensed facilities.
- The median duration of SBS incidents was approximately 2.8 hours.
- The mean duration of SBS incidents was approximately 14.41 hours.

**Figure 4. Race of Individuals - Juvenile Detention Safety Based Separation**



**Figure 5. Gender of Individuals - Juvenile Detention Safety Based Separation**



The DOC is reviewing each SBS incident to determine whether any injury occurred in connection with the separation. If an injury is identified, the incident is reviewed and addressed through the DOC’s critical incident review and licensing oversight process. Any verified injury associated with SBS would be documented, evaluated for compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, and addressed through corrective action, licensing citations, or additional technical assistance as appropriate.

Due to limitations in the initial reporting system, injury data was not consistently captured within the SBS reporting module during the reporting period. The DOC is working to enhance reporting requirements and system functionality to ensure injuries associated with separation are tracked and included in future legislative reports.