



# A Look at Juvenile Adjudications in Ohio: How Differences in Spending Affects Adjudication Rates in Ohio Counties

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## ABSTRACT

This project looks to answer the question as to how have the differences in county expenditures into juvenile services affected juvenile adjudication rates? We tested this by looking at the effect of county expenditures on county adjudication rates between 2010 and 2019 in Ohio being spent by the counties. The state of Ohio leaves it up to the counties to decide how much money they are going to spend on social programs that look to combat juvenile adjudication. It is important to note that there are many programs that are set up to help these juveniles, however for this research project it was not possible to track the money spent on specific youth programs. Instead, we looked at the total cost of all programs combined. .

## RESEARCH QUESTION

How has the differences in county expenditures into juvenile services affected the adjudication rates of the juveniles?.

## HYPOTHESIS

When Counties in Ohio provide more funding for county Youth services, there is a decrease in adjudication among juvenile offenders. Whereas decreases in funding for social programs will have a decrease in adjudications of juvenile offenders.

## METHODOLOGY

Data was collected from DYS and OJJDP for county juvenile adjudications (2010-2019) and convert the raw data to a proportion of the population per 1000 juveniles. County level expenditures on youth programs for the juvenile justice system were converted to real dollars to account for inflation and adjusted to a per juvenile measure as well. We conducted a regression analysis for the group of counties and each county individually.

## RESULTS

Only 14.8% of the counties in our data set were significant to our study, while 85.2% of the counties in Ohio were insignificant to our study. Out of the 13 counties that were significant to our data, 76.9% were negatively significant, while 23.1% were positively significant. Since our hypothesis indicated that we would have negative significance this helps prove our hypothesis.

## WORK CITED

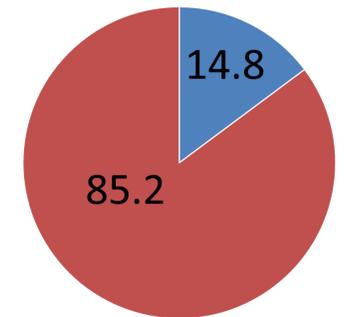
“Department of Youth Services.” *Ohio.gov*, 7 Apr. 2020, [dys.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dys/](https://dys.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dys/).

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2018)., *1980-2018*. Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Justice Department.

## GRAPH

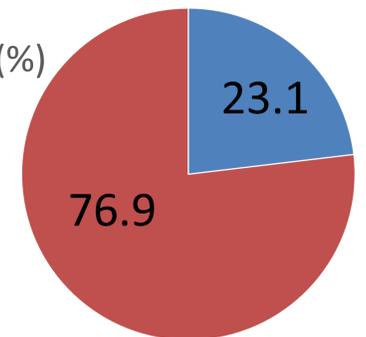
Counties significant (%)

■ Significant  
■ Insignificant



13 significant counties(%)

■ Postive Significant  
■ Negative Significant



## FUTURE RESEARCH

Overall, this project looked to better understand what the state of Ohio has done in the past ten years when it has come to juvenile adjudication. Ohio gives that power over to the county level and each county deals with it a certain way they see might be the best for their county. Which leads us to believe that is not so much about the amount of money spent, but more about the quality of the programs and services that help lower the adjudication rates.