

Probation Data Snapshot from December 1, 2024

A Probation Oversight Commission Analysis of the Booking Charges of Youth Detained at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

The mission of the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) is to re-imagine probation services in the County of Los Angeles to achieve accountability, transparency, and healing of the people served by and working for the Probation Department.

BACKGROUND

Probation recently reported at a public meeting that 30% of youth detained at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (“Los Padrinos”) are booked on offenses of murder, attempted murder, or manslaughter. The Probation Department provided the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) with a “snapshot” of all the youth detained at Los Padrinos on December 1, 2024, that allows the POC to analyze that claim and provide information about the charges and reasons for detention of all the youth at Los Padrinos.

On December 1, 2024, 252 youth were detained at Los Padrinos. Importantly, over 85% of the youth detained at Los Padrinos are pre-adjudication, meaning that a judge has not yet determined whether they are responsible for the crime for which they were arrested and booked. The POC analyzed the data and found as follows:

BOOKING CHARGES

Reported 30% (76 Youth)

- PC187 (murder): 51 cases or 20%
- PC 664/187 (attempted murder): 24 cases or 9%
- PC 192 (manslaughter): 1 case = less than 1%
- **Total = 76 out of 252 youth or 30%, confirming Probation’s statement.**

So, who are the other 70% (218 youth)?

- Youth booked on other 707(b)¹ offenses: 91 or 36%
- Youth booked on non-707(b) offenses²: 73 or 29%
- Youth with no charge listed: 12 or 5%³

REASON FOR INTAKE

Of the total population, most youth are detained on new arrests, however Bench Warrants, Arrest Warrants, intercounty transfers, changes of plan (778) or other categories account for **82 youth or 33%** of the detained population.

¹ Welfare and Institutions Code Section 707(b) provides a list of crimes considered the most violent and dangerous. If a youth is booked for one of these crimes, Probation must detain the youth until they are seen by a judge.

² Probation has discretion to detain or not detain youth booked on non-707(b) charges with exceptions (particularly crimes involving firearms). A review of Probation’s intake data for January-June 2024 showed that they recommend detention approximately 70% of the time.

³ Two (2) youth in the dataset have no charge listed but are checked off as 707(b) so the POC chose to include them in the “youth booked on other 707(b) offenses” category.

MOST COMMON CHARGES

Most Common 707(b) Charges Among Youth at Los Padrinos

- PC187 (Murder): 51
- PC211 (Robbery) = 46
- PC 664/187 (Attempted murder) = 24
- PC245 (Assault) = 20 (35 total PC245 cases, 15 are not booked as 707(b) crimes)

Most Common Non-707(b) Charges Among Youth at Los Padrinos

Charges	Count	Description
PC245 (A)(1) and (C)	15	Assault
PC29610 and 29610(A)	10	Minor in possession of firearm
VC10851(A)	4	Taking a vehicle without owner's consent / "joyriding"
PC66/211	4	Attempted Robbery

CONCLUSION

While reviewing the charges facing youth in pre-disposition detention is an important and interesting exercise, it is crucial to recall that the Juvenile Justice system is distinct and different from the adult system. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 202 describes the system as follows (emphasis added):

*“The purpose of this chapter is to provide for the protection and safety of the public and each minor under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and to preserve and strengthen the minor's family ties whenever possible, **removing the minor from the custody of his or her parents only when necessary for his or her welfare or for the safety and protection of the public.** If removal of a minor is determined by the juvenile court to be necessary, reunification of the minor with his or her family shall be a primary objective. If the minor is removed from his or her own family, it is the purpose of this chapter to secure for the minor custody, care, and discipline as nearly as possible equivalent to that which should have been given by his or her parents.”*

In sum, while the crime committed is a part of the analysis, the law clearly states that removal of a youth from their home (detention) may only occur to protect the youth or the public from threats to their safety. Detention decisions must consider other factors beyond the charge. For more information about this, please see the POC Town Halls on the detention process available here: <https://poc.lacounty.gov/town-halls>.