

 **Amanda Wareham** <awareham@fpjdc.org>

to me ▾

Thu, Sep 17, 1:36 PM



I am reaching out in response to your recently received public records request relative to deaths in custody. I also hope to offer feedback that may be of assistance with your ongoing research. The Florida Parishes Juvenile Justice District is a 5-parish political subdivision of the State of Louisiana; it is overseen by the Florida Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission. Our Detention Center serves the District and is overseen by the Board of Commissioners, our Executive Director, and is not a branch of the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office. We are grateful to report that our facility has never experienced a death in custody.

The Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center does not receive, nor submit, Form CJ-9 entitled, "Deaths in Custody...". To sample specific submissions of that form, you may best be served by reaching out to the State of Louisiana's Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ). We do submit an annual Survey of Sexual Victimization to the Census Bureau who act as a collection agent for the U.S. Department Of Justice , Bureau Of Justice Statistics (relative to PREA). This survey only vaguely captures deaths in custody, because the measure is aggregated with other data.

The survey question reads, "*Between January 1 and December 31 how many persons were admitted to or discharged from this facility?*" The survey requires the inclusion of any deaths to be captured within the overall number of residents released/discharged during the sample year. Survey instructions continue with, "*Include all persons discharged from this facility after a period of confinement including sentence completion, pretrial releases, transfers to adult jurisdictions or to other States, and deaths.*" Hence, the number of deaths is not isolated on this document either. Conventional discharges or transfers cannot be differentiated from any actual deaths. From a research perspective, this form would likely be of little assistance to you, so I would like to share an alternative method of obtaining information.

Effective July 1, 2013, all juvenile detention facilities in the state of Louisiana were mandated to meet established standards, to be inspected, and to be licensed by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) per Title 67: SOCIAL SERVICES, Part V. Child Welfare, Subpart 8. Residential Licensing, Chapter 75. Juvenile Detention Facilities. These standards define all deaths in a licensed facility as a critical incident and mandate they be reported to the Licensing Section of the Department of Children and Family Services. Due to this, the DCFS Licensing Section, a single source, would be able to provide you with data specific to your metric of interest from all licensed juvenile detention facilities across the State of Louisiana.

I hope that this information is helpful as you work to complete your J.D. in the Spring. If you have any questions, or if I may be of further assistance, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

**Amanda L. Wareham***PREA Coordinator & Executive Assistant**Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center**28528 Hwy. 190 | Covington, LA 70433**985-893-6292 x 119 - 985-893-6294, fax**"It is easier to build strong children than to fix broken men." - Frederick Douglas**To learn more about our award winning juvenile detention center, visit us online at [FPJDC.org](http://FPJDC.org) and like our page on [Facebook!](https://www.facebook.com/FPJDC)*