

DCF Secure Transport Data

As requested, below please find information regarding the use of mechanical restraints and secure transports of youth in care. I apologize for the delay in forwarding this to you. My team needed to first identify where this raw data was housed, and once discovered, the report that made the raw data useable needed to be repaired. Now that we've done that, we can quickly and easily pull this data and arrange it as needed.

We made the choice to pull the data for the past five calendar years, but can easily go back as far as 2001. My understanding is that historically, mechanical restraint was a common part of youth transport; while today, it is far rarer.

The first chart reflects the number of total transports administered by a provider who could do so with mechanical restraints. This would include any Sheriff's office or, in some cases, the contracted vendor Youth Transportation Authority (YTA). The number of Total Transports, broken up by year and transportation agency, is as follows:

Secure Transports for Youth in Custody, Calendar Years 2021-2025						
Transportation Agency	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Addison County Sheriff's Dept	5		4	4	5	18
Bennington County Sheriff's Dept	11	18		4	16	49
Caledonia County Sheriff's Department	1	3				4
Chittenden County Sheriff's Dept			1		6	7
Essex County Sheriff's Dept				1		1
Franklin County Sheriffs Dept	3		1	1		5
Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept	18	6	2	5	5	36
Orange County Sheriff's Office			1			1
Orleans County Sheriff	5	2	4	1		12
Rutland County Sheriff's Dept	5		4		2	11
South Burlington City Treasurer		1				1
Washington County Sheriff's Dept		3	1		4	8
Windham County Sheriff's Department	63	27	18	21	32	161
Windsor County Sheriff's Dept	4		15	10	19	48
Youth Transit Authority, LLC		71	191	142	440	844
Grand Total	115	131	242	189	529	1206
Data Source: AHS Report Catalog, Secure Transport List Report; Transport Dates Between 1/1/2021 and 12/31/2025						

Here are the same number of transports, categorized by mechanical restraints used.

Secure Transports for Youth in Custody, Mechanical Restraint Use, Calendar Years 2021-2025						
Mechanical Restraints Used	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Anklet	19	4	1	1	5	30
Hand & Anklet					8	8
Handcuffs	1	7	6		2	16
Not Applicable	70	116	232	184	506	1108
Waist Chain	25	4	3	4	8	44
Grand Total	115	131	242	189	529	1206
Data Source: AHS Report Catalog, Secure Transport List Report; Transport Dates Between 1/1/2021 and 12/31/2025						

You may note that the overwhelming numbers of transports are categorized as "Not Applicable". This is because no mechanical restraints were utilized during those transports. Along those same lines, YTA provided the overwhelming majority of transports included in these data, and they are not done in identifiable emergency vehicle (i.e., a police cruiser). Of the 844 YTA transports, there were only 9 instances where restraints were used.

A more precise report describing the number of transports where mechanical restraints were used is the following:

Secure Transports for Youth in Custody, Where Mechanical Restraints Were Used, Calendar Years 2021-2025						
Mechanical Restraints	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Anklet	19	4	1	1	5	30
Hand & Anklet					8	8
Handcuffs	1	7	6		2	16
Waist Chain	25	4	3	4	8	44
Grand Total	45	15	10	5	23	98
Data Source: AHS Report Catalog, Secure Transport List Report; Transport Dates Between 1/1/2021 and 12/31/2025						

These data reflect a far diminished trend of transports where youth are mechanically restrained, which is aligned with the more trauma-informed approach to this work championed by the legislature, DCF and its partners.