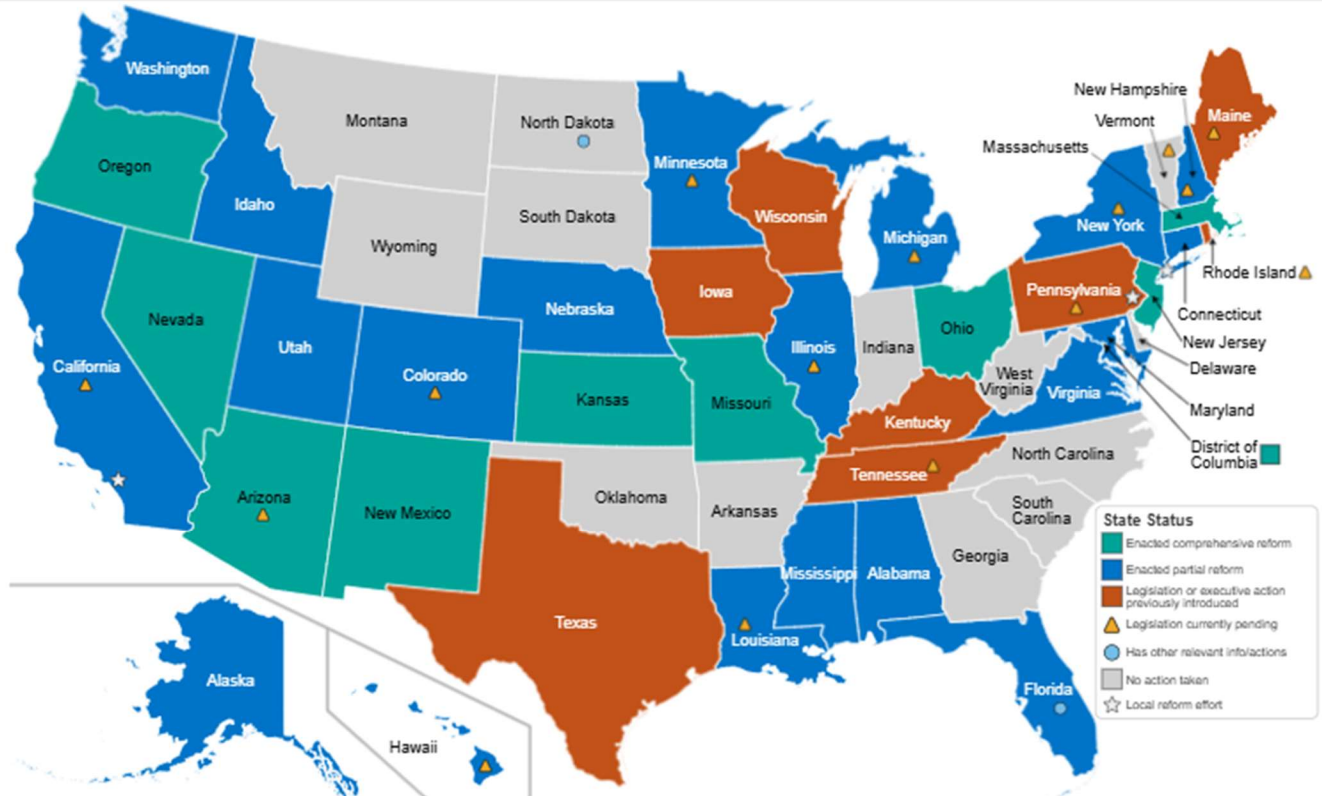


Vermont is One of Just a Handful of States Who Have Taken No Action On Foster Youth Benefits



Source: Children's Advocacy Institute

Transportation of Children Data

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 Sheriff's 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

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

A Vermont Child in an Out-of-State Facility

Another child, 817 miles away at Millcreek Behavioral Health (Acadia; Arkansas), required monitoring for suicidal ideation following multiple suicide attempts.⁹ She was regularly strip searched and, at least twice, subjected to a vaginal cavity search.¹⁰ In 2018, the child was restrained by four staffers after she refused a strip search. During the restraint, a staffer touched her breast and made her squat naked in the shower for a forced vaginal cavity search.¹¹ Even though she endured the indignity of nightly strip searches, staff failed to notice evidence of new self-harm on the child's body (scars and wounds) until Disability Rights Arkansas alerted staff to their existence.¹² Years later, finally out of RTFs, she gave birth to two boys.¹³ Following an overdose, she lost custody of her sons and, two months later, died by overdose.¹⁴

OCYFA 2025 – 2026 Annual Report Data

The Data

- **461 total instances of restraint or seclusion were identified by DCF and OCYFA in 2025**, compared to 324 in 2024 and 92 in 2023. 17 total programs reported at least one instance, compared to four in 2024 and one in 2023. See [Table 1, next page](#).
 - 57 unique children and youth were involved in the 461 instances, an average of eight instances per child. The youngest child was six at the time of the incident, and the oldest was 17 and a half. **Thirteen children experienced 10 or more restraints or seclusions.** The median age for the 461 instances was 13. In 20 instances, the OCYFA was unable to identify the child in the report based on the information received.
 - 210 instances (46%) had a known duration. 251 (54%) had an unknown duration. Of those with a known duration, the average duration time was 22 minutes, and the median and mode were both 10 minutes.
 - **Transgender youth experienced at least 13% of all restraints in 2025 (52/386).**
 - Several serious injuries related to restraints were reported, including broken bones, ingested glass, and serious medical episodes. **Chemical restraint was used at least once.** Several incidents resulted in reports to out-of-state child protection hotlines.
-

Restraints and Seclusions of Children Under Ten Years Old

- Children under 10 years of age experienced a disproportionate number of restraints and seclusions in 2025, comprising 11% of children (6 out of 57) but 29% of instances (135/461).
 - Six children under 10 years old experienced 135 total instances of restraint or seclusion—88 restraints and 27 seclusions—**an average of 22.5 restraints or seclusions per child.** One child experienced 21 restraints and 23 seclusions before their eighth birthday. One of these seclusions lasted 60 minutes. See Table 3 on [pages 24-26](#).
 - At least 23% (31 of 135) of instances involving children under age 10 were not reported to the OCYFA. Rather, OCYFA found the incidents through an examination of DCF case notes. Of those that were reported, 53 instances of restraint or seclusion of children under 10 years of age were reported to the OCYFA more than 30 days after the incident occurred.
 - **Children under 10 experienced 70% of all seclusions known to the OCYFA in 2025 (47/67).**
-