

Statewide results

Oregon's 2004 Statewide Report on Juvenile Recidivism documents recidivism of all offenders for the years 1998 through 2002. Data for each of the years is remarkably similar. On average, 20,691 offenders (less than 0.5 percent of youth in the 10-17 age group) committed a crime per year. A sizable majority of offenders from that population – 65.0 percent – *did not* commit a subsequent offense within twelve months.

Data in this report confirm what is intuitively understood about juvenile crime. A small proportion of offenders commit a majority of crimes. For the five-year period, 50.7 percent of new crime is attributed to 7.9 percent of offenders. The report also associates prior law enforcement referrals and ongoing criminality. Offenders with multiple prior referrals are more likely to be involved in subsequent criminal activity.

The analysis further indicates that the ratio of offenders who do not commit new crimes varies among subgroups. The reader is encouraged to review these differences as documented in the report detail by gender, age, and ethnicity.

State of Oregon

Recidivism is based on a new criminal referral within 12 months of the initial referral. The data exclude violations and status offenses.

**Table 1: 1998 – 2002 Offenders
New Criminal Referrals**

Number of New Referrals	Number of Offenders by Year					Percent of Offenders				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
0	14,075	13,310	13,775	13,050	13,029	63.1	63.4	65.2	65.9	67.8
1	4,384	4,148	4,102	3,913	3,574	19.6	19.7	19.4	19.8	18.6
2	1,833	1,763	1,551	1,403	1,402	8.2	8.4	7.3	7.1	7.3
3	880	787	725	695	594	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.1
4	491	404	431	309	253	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.3
5	248	242	222	184	130	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.7
6 & Over	400	353	323	240	236	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.2
TOTALS	22,311	21,007	21,129	19,794	19,218	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

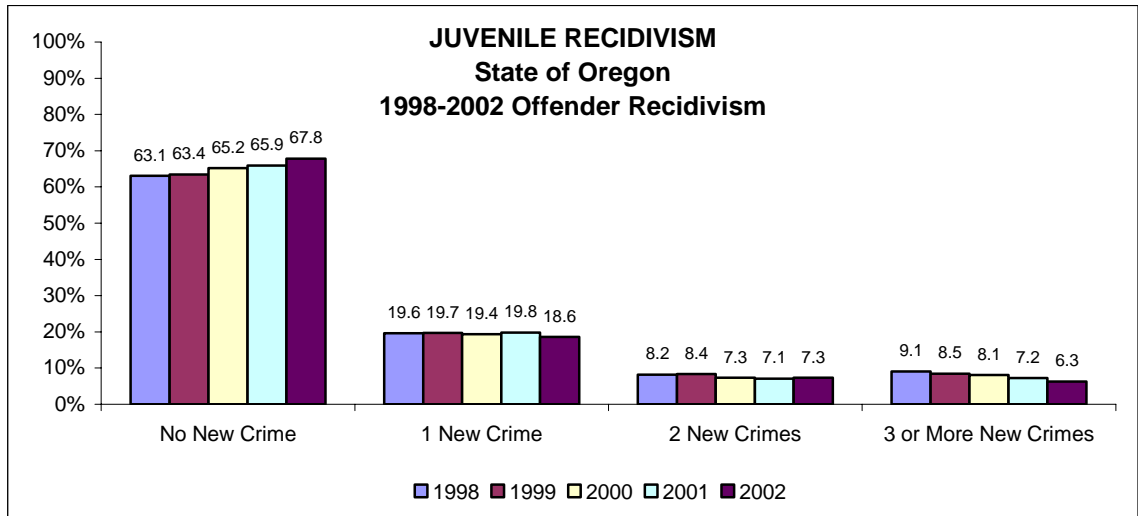
Number of New Referrals	New Referrals by Year					Percent of Overall Crime				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	4,384	4,148	4,102	3,913	3,574	25.1	26.2	27.3	30.2	30.5
2	3,666	3,526	3,102	2,806	2,804	21.0	22.2	20.6	21.7	23.9
3	2,640	2,361	2,175	2,085	1,782	15.1	14.9	14.5	16.1	15.2
4	1,964	1,616	1,724	1,236	1,012	11.3	10.2	11.5	9.5	8.6
5	1,240	1,210	1,110	920	650	7.1	7.6	7.4	7.1	5.5
6 & Over	3,549	3,001	2,831	1,997	1,896	20.3	18.9	18.8	15.4	16.2
TOTALS	17,443	15,862	15,044	12,957	11,718	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- **Number of new referrals:** The number of new referrals youth were involved in over 12 months.
- **Number of offenders:** The number of offenders corresponds to the number of new referrals. For example, in 2002, 594 offenders had 3 new referrals each.
- **Percent of offenders:** This column shows the percentage of offenders based on the total number of all offenders.
- **New referrals:** The total number of subsequent referrals per row.
- **Percent of overall crime:** The percentage of overall crime per row. For example, in 2002, 594 offenders committed 15.2% of the total new referrals.

Statewide Indications

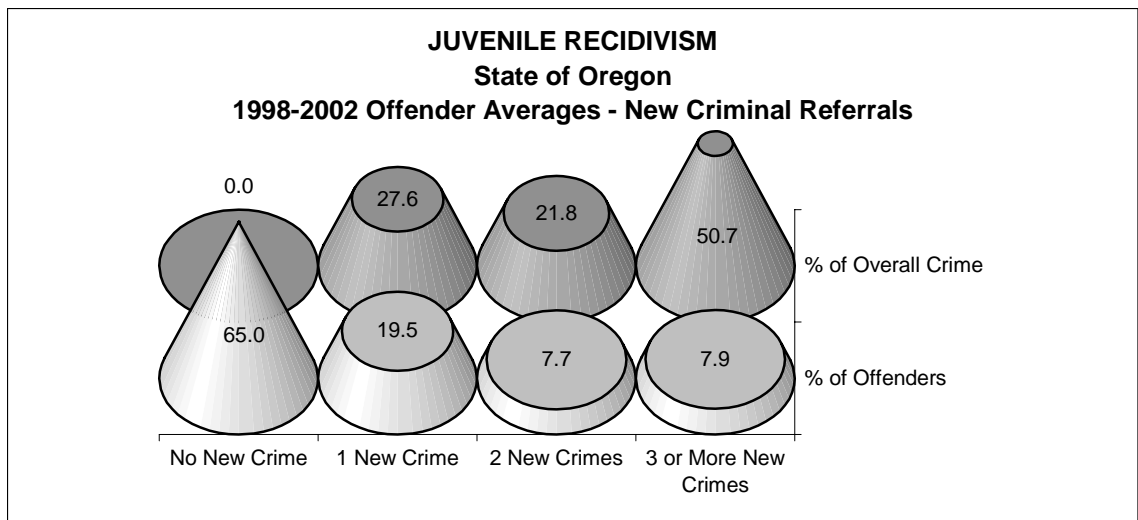
Recidivism declined in each of the last five years. In 2002, 32.2% of offenders recidivated – the lowest level ever measured by the juvenile recidivism report.

Chart 1: 1998–2002 Offender Recidivism



A minority of offenders committed a large proportion of new crimes.

**Chart 2: 1998–2002 Offender Averages
New Criminal Referrals**



Summary of findings, averages for 1998 – 2002:

- 65.0% of offenders did not commit a new crime.
- 7.9% of chronic offenders (3 or more new crimes) committed 50.7% of new crime.
- Referral Rate = 0.71 for all offenders
- Referral Rate = 4.54 for offenders with three or more new crimes.

Prior referrals

The recidivism measures in this report consider referrals received within twelve months after an initial referral during the calendar year in question. Crimes committed prior to that year are not assessed. To address the full history of juveniles in this report, Tables 2 and 3 categorize juvenile recidivism according to the number of prior referrals.

Table 2: 1998-2002 Offenders Prior Criminal Referrals

Number of Prior Referrals	Number of Offenders					Percent of Offenders				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
0	12,735	12,010	12,581	11,758	11,525	57.1	57.2	59.5	59.4	60.0
1	3,817	3,562	3,343	3,133	3,106	17.1	17.0	15.8	15.8	16.2
2 & Over	5,759	5,435	5,205	4,903	4,587	25.8	25.9	24.6	24.8	23.9
TOTALS	22,311	21,007	21,129	19,794	19,218	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 3: 1998-2002 Offenders New Criminal Referrals as a Function of Prior Criminal Referrals

Number of New Referrals	Number of Offenders														
	1998			1999			2000			2001			2002		
	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior
0	9,212	2,255	2,608	8,746	2,073	2,491	9,259	2,001	2,515	8,812	1,910	2,328	8,748	1,931	2,350
1	2,132	838	1,414	2,003	795	1,350	2,060	757	1,285	1,899	700	1,314	1,814	689	1,071
2	726	361	746	690	363	710	664	284	603	564	274	565	557	281	564
3 & Over	665	363	991	571	331	884	598	301	802	483	249	696	406	205	602
TOTALS	12,735	3,817	5,759	12,010	3,562	5,435	12,581	3,343	5,205	11,758	3,133	4,903	11,525	3,106	4,587

Number of New Referrals	Percent of Offenders														
	1998			1999			2000			2001			2002		
	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior
0	72.3	59.1	45.3	72.8	58.2	45.8	73.6	59.9	48.3	74.9	61.0	47.5	75.9	62.2	51.2
1	16.7	22.0	24.6	16.7	22.3	24.8	16.4	22.6	24.7	16.2	22.3	26.8	15.7	22.2	23.3
2	5.7	9.5	13.0	5.7	10.2	13.1	5.3	8.5	11.6	4.8	8.7	11.5	4.8	9.0	12.3
3 & Over	5.2	9.5	17.2	4.8	9.3	16.3	4.8	9.0	15.4	4.1	7.9	14.2	3.5	6.6	13.1
TOTALS	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

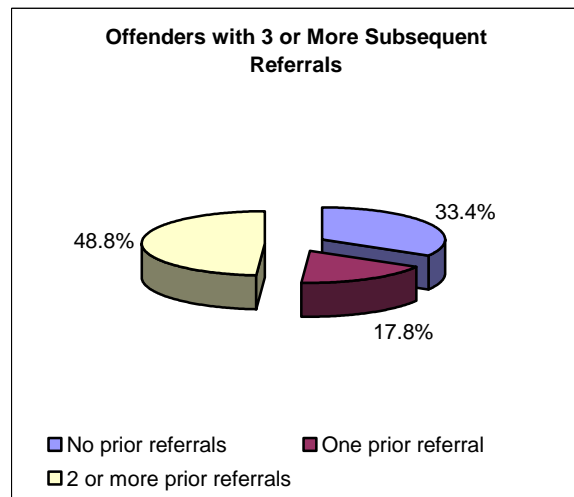
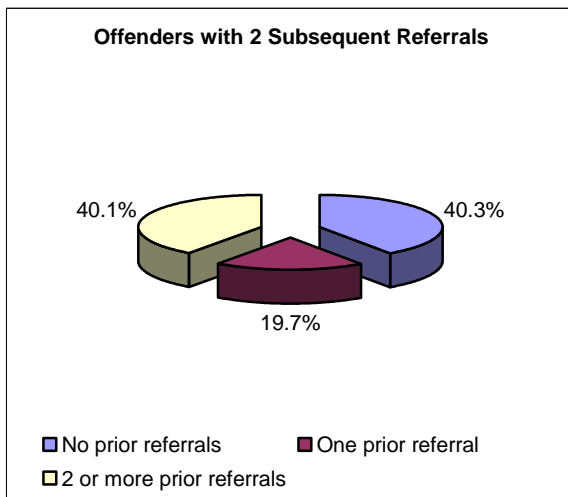
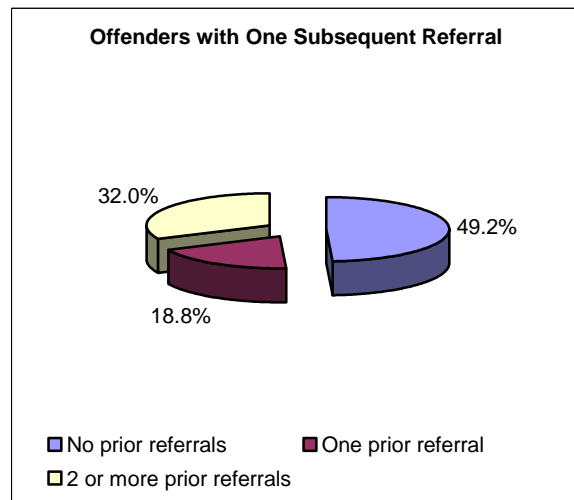
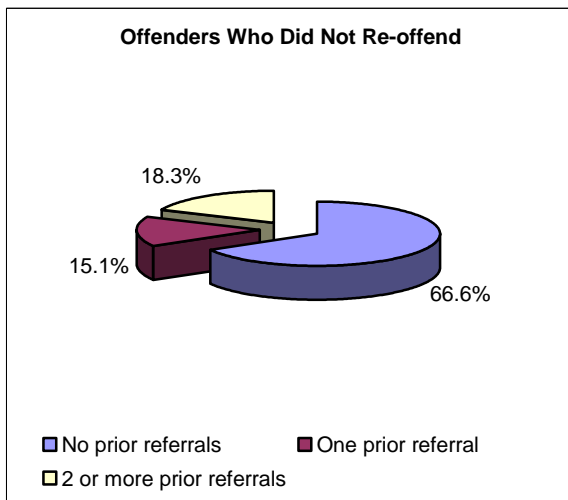
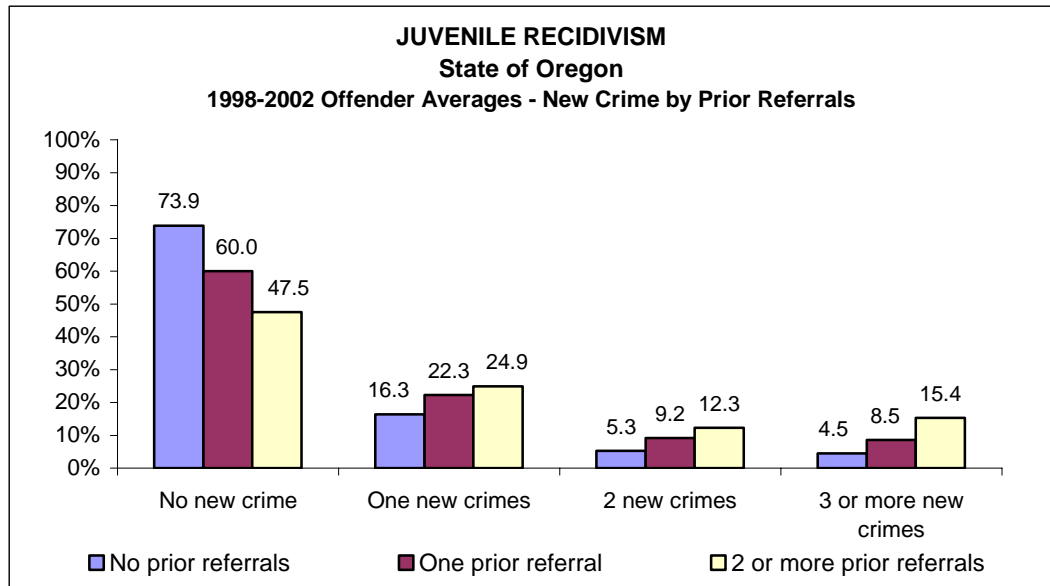
Number of New Referrals	Total New Referrals														
	1998			1999			2000			2001			2002		
	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	2,132	838	1,414	2,003	795	1,350	2,060	757	1,285	1,899	700	1,314	1,814	689	1,071
2	1,452	722	1,492	1,380	726	1,420	1,328	568	1,206	1,128	548	1,130	1,114	562	1,128
3 & Over	3,070	1,619	4,704	2,504	1,523	4,161	2,731	1,310	3,799	2,011	1,058	3,169	1,756	929	2,655
TOTALS	6,654	3,179	7,610	5,887	3,044	6,931	6,119	2,635	6,290	5,038	2,306	5,613	4,684	2,180	4,854

Number of New Referrals	Percent of Overall Crime														
	1998			1999			2000			2001			2002		
	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior	0 Priors	1 Prior	>1 Prior
0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	32.0	26.4	18.6	34.0	26.1	19.5	33.7	28.7	20.4	37.7	30.4	23.4	38.7	31.6	22.1
2	21.8	22.7	19.6	23.4	23.9	20.5	21.7	21.6	19.2	22.4	23.8	20.1	23.8	25.8	23.2
3 & Over	46.1	50.9	61.8	42.5	50.0	60.0	44.6	49.7	60.4	39.9	45.9	56.5	37.5	42.6	54.7
TOTALS	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- **Number of new referrals:** The number of new referrals youth received over 12 months.
- **Number of prior referrals:** The number of referrals youth received prior to the year's initial referral.
- **Number of offenders:** The number of offenders corresponds to the number of referrals [e.g., in 1998, 12,735 offenders had no (0) prior referrals].
- **Percent of offenders:** The percentage of offenders based on the total number of all offenders.
- **Total new referrals:** The total number of subsequent referrals per row.
- **Percent of overall crime:** The percentage of overall crime per row [e.g., in 1998, 9,212 offenders committed 0% of the new crime perpetrated by offenders with no prior referrals].

Prior referrals (continued)

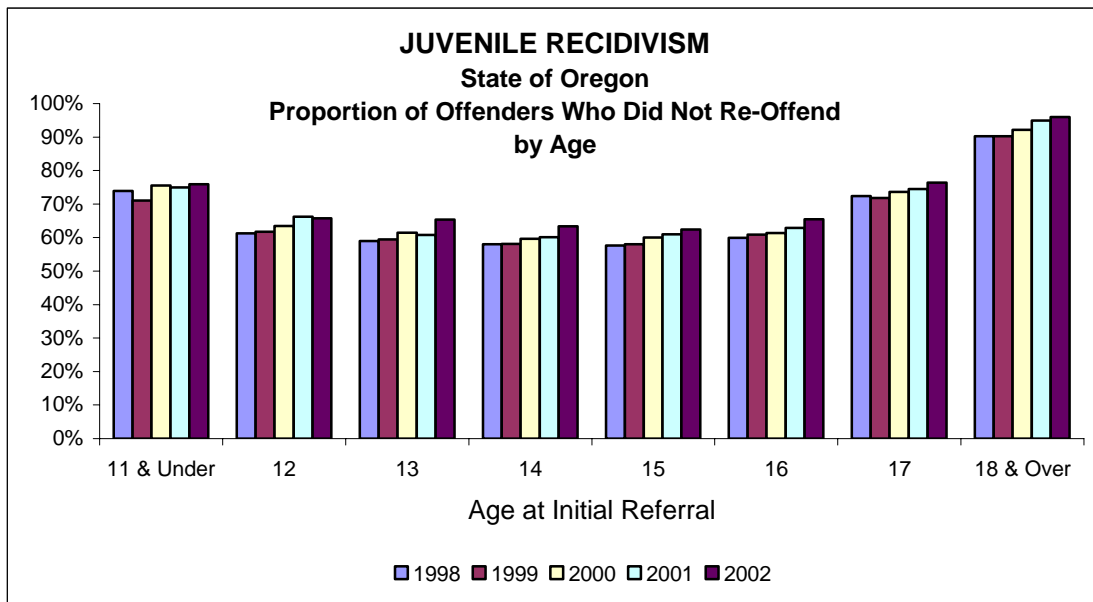
Charts 3-7: 1998-2002 New Criminal Referrals Prior History



Offender's age

Chart 8 shows the proportion of offenders by age, who did not re-offend within twelve months of their initial referral.

Chart 8: 1998-2002 Age Comparison of Offenders Who Did Not Re-Offend



The chart shows stable recidivism by age across the five years. Offenders aged 13, 14, 15, and 16 were the most likely to re-offend. Conversely, very young offenders (age 11 and under) and older youth (ages 17 and older) were the least likely to recidivate. Recidivism data on older youth in the juvenile system may be distorted, however, since further criminal activity may result in a charge as an adult. In an effort to eliminate any distortion based on age, the data have been further refined by controlling for age (see Charts 9 and 10).

Control for offenders age 16 and under

Recidivism measurements in this report represent all juvenile offenders. However, it is recognized that subsequent re-offending committed by older youth may result in adult court charges. These charges are not captured by the juvenile recidivism database. In an attempt to address the issue of older youth distorting the overall recidivism statistics, data are presented below that exclude this population. Charts 9 and 10 document that controlling for age causes a slight increase in the recidivism rate. However, this does not alter the trend of a smaller group of offenders committing the majority of new crime.

Chart 9: 1998-2002 Recidivism of Offenders Age 16 and Under

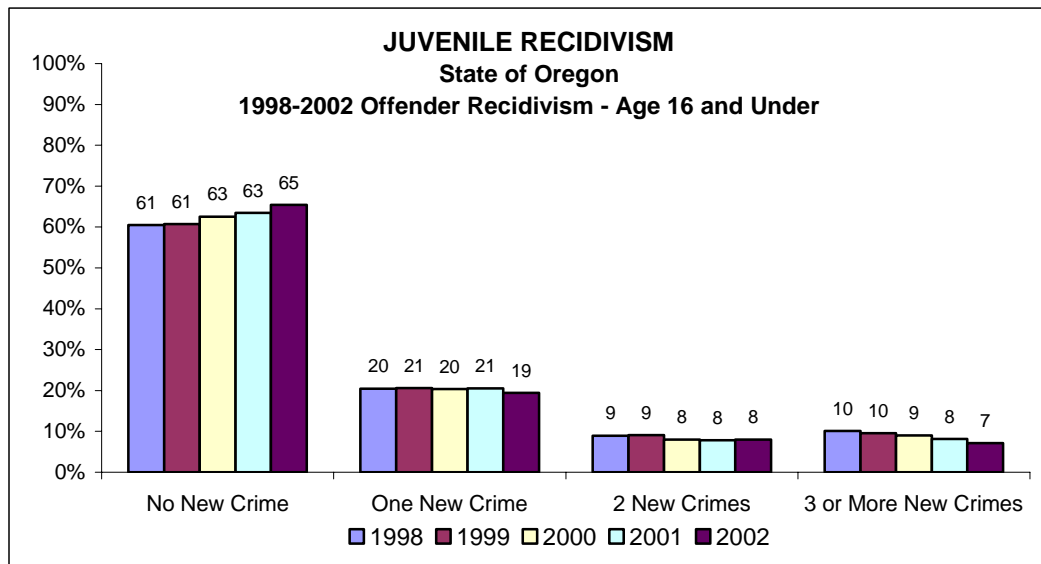
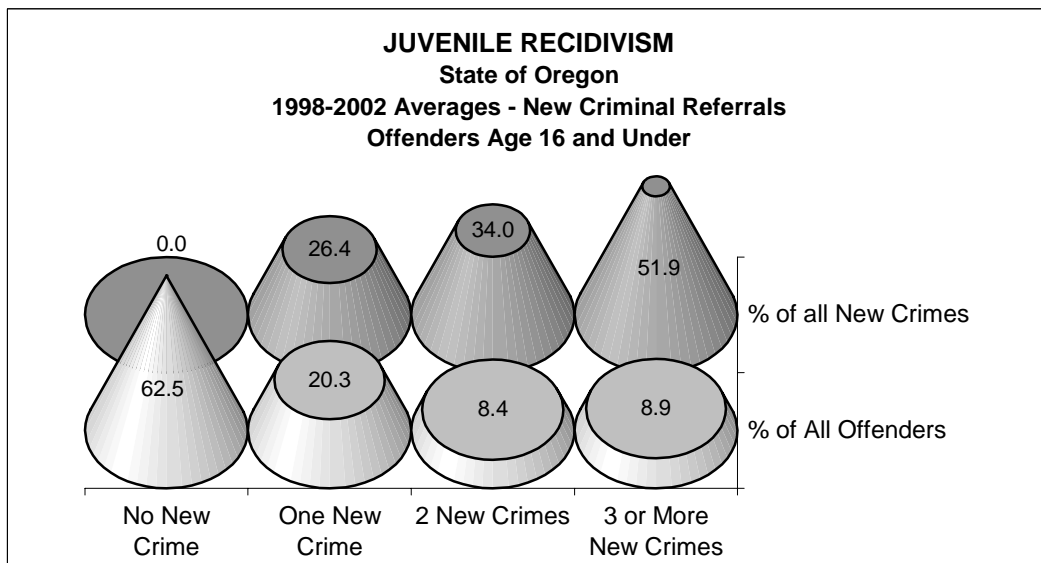


Chart 10: 1998-2002 Averages New Criminal Referrals of Offenders Age 16 and Under



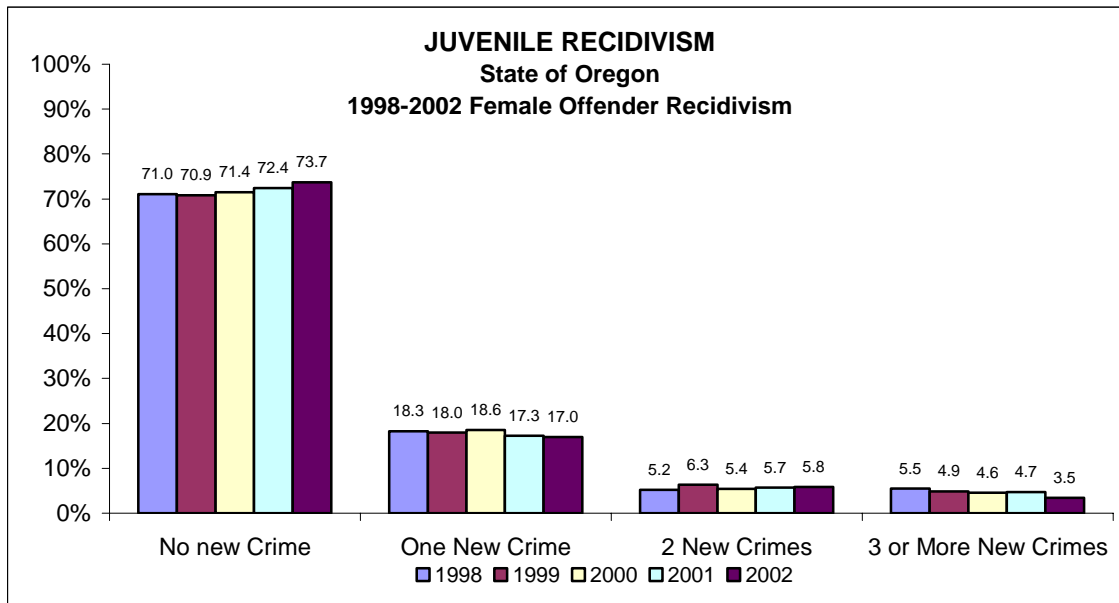
Summary of findings, 1998-2002 averages for offenders age 16 and under:

- 62.5% of offenders did not commit a new crime.
- 8.9% of offenders committed 51.9% of new crimes.

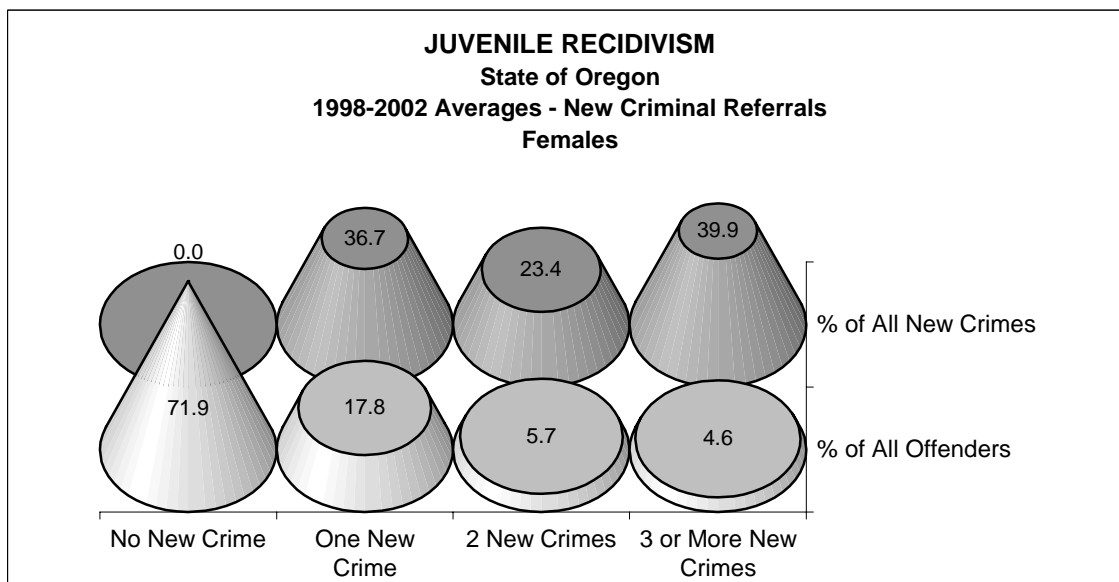
Issues by gender

Females represent approximately 28% of the offender population. Their referral rate is much lower than the rate for males. For the five-year period, 71.9% of females did not re-offend. Males compare at 62.4%. With a high proportion of females not re-offending, only 4.6% were chronic offenders. For males, 9.1% were chronic offenders.

Chart 11: 1998-2002 Female Offender Recidivism



**Chart 12: 1998-2002 Female Offender Averages
New Criminal Referrals**

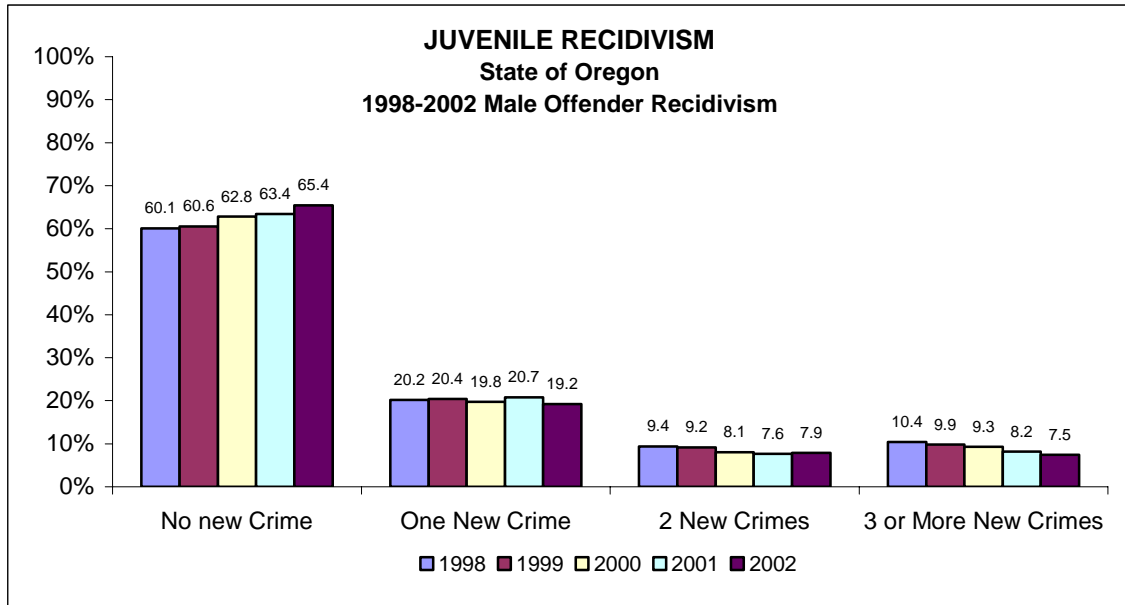


Summary of findings, 1998-2002 averages for female offenders:

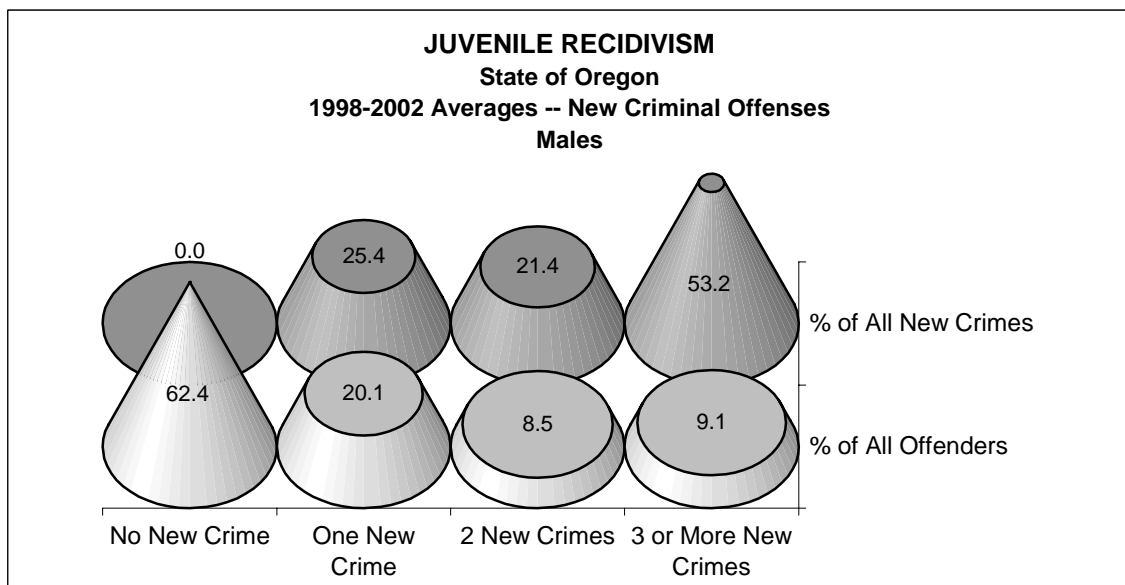
- 71.9% of offenders did not commit a new crime.
- 4.6% of offenders committed 39.9% of new crimes.

Issues by gender (continued)

Chart 13: 1998-2002 Male Offender Recidivism



**Chart 14: 1998-2002 Male Offender Averages
New Criminal Referrals**



Summary of findings, 1998-2002 averages for male offenders:

- 62.4% of offenders did not commit a new crime.
- 9.1% of offenders committed 53.2% of new crimes.

Race/Ethnicity

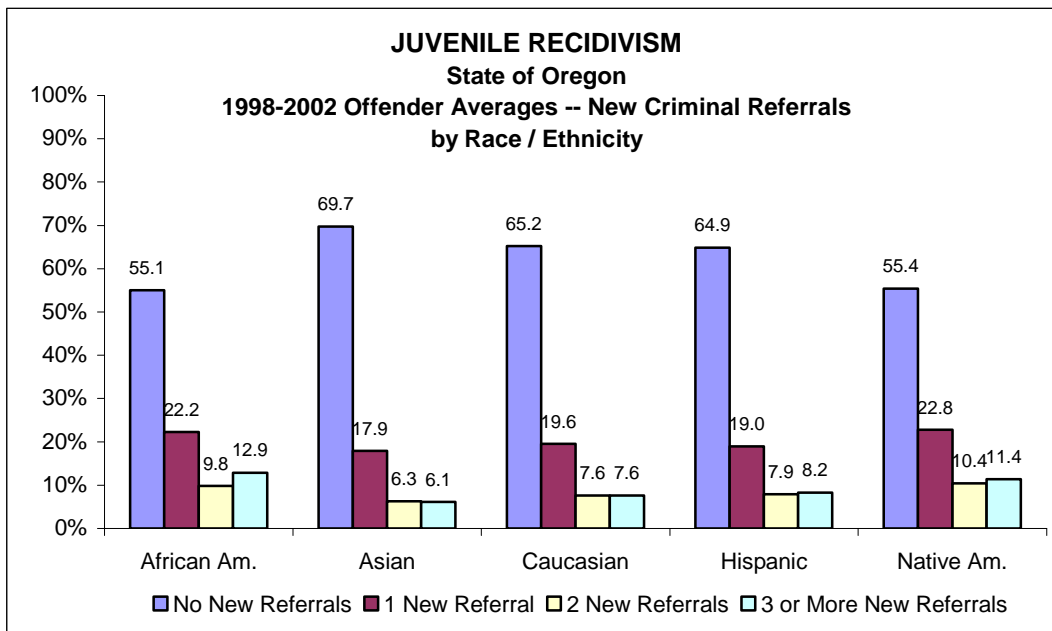
Table 3 provides an overview of the race/ethnicity of offenders for the years 1998-2002.

Table 3: 1998-2002 Offenders
Race / Ethnicity

Race / Ethnicity	Number of Offenders by Year					Percent of Offenders				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
African Am.	1,190	1,110	1,187	1,063	1,089	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.4	5.7
Asian	380	341	339	317	291	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5
Caucasian	17,830	16,626	16,055	14,662	13,780	79.9	79.1	76.0	74.1	71.7
Hispanic	2,165	2,068	2,249	2,287	2,349	9.7	9.8	10.6	11.6	12.2
Native Am.	481	475	476	460	421	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2
Unknown	265	387	823	1,005	1,288	1.2	1.8	3.9	5.1	6.7
TOTALS	22,311	21,007	21,129	19,794	19,218	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

During each of the five years surveyed, a majority of offenders of all races / ethnicities did not re-offend.

Chart 15: 1998-2002 Offender Averages
New Criminal Referrals by Race / Ethnicity



Summary of findings, averages for 1998-2002:

- African American – 55.1% did not commit a new crime.
- Asian – 69.7% did not commit a new crime.
- Caucasian – 65.2% did not commit a new crime.
- Hispanic – 64.9% did not commit a new crime.
- Native American – 55.4% did not commit a new crime.

Perspective on Oregon's population to the number of offenders

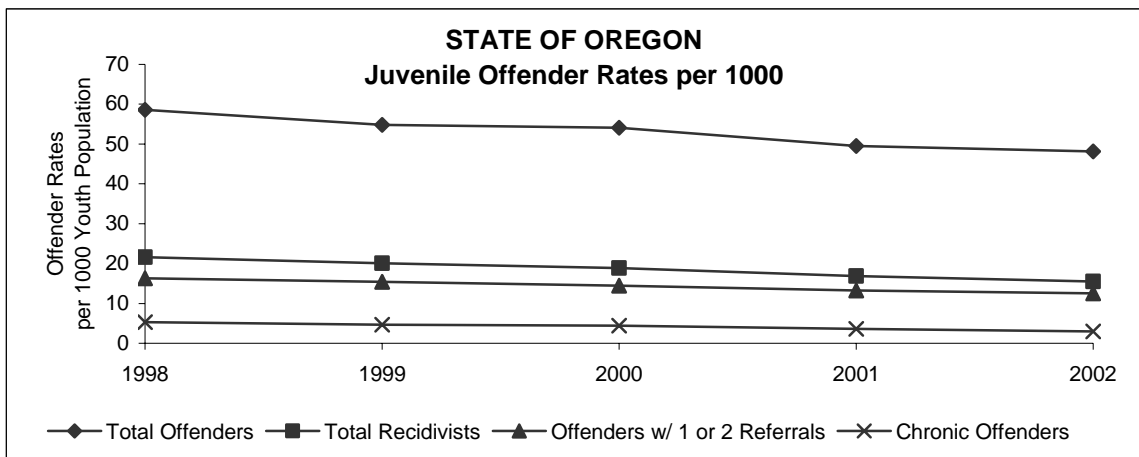
The table below compares the youth population* (ages 10-17) to juvenile offender groups for the years 1998 through 2002.

Table 4: Juvenile Offender Rates per 1000

Year	Youth Population* (ages 10-17)	Total Number of Offenders	Rate per 1000	Offenders NOT Recidivating	Rate per 1000	Offenders with 1 or 2 Referrals	Rate per 1000	Chronic Offenders	Rate per 1000
1998	380,580	22,311	58.6	14,075	37.0	6,217	16.3	2,019	5.3
1999	383,482	21,007	54.8	13,310	34.7	5,911	15.4	1,786	4.7
2000	390,511	21,129	54.1	13,775	35.3	5,653	14.5	1,701	4.4
2001	399,705	19,794	49.5	13,050	32.6	5,316	13.3	1,428	3.6
2002	399,596	19,218	48.1	13,029	32.6	4,976	12.5	1,213	3.0

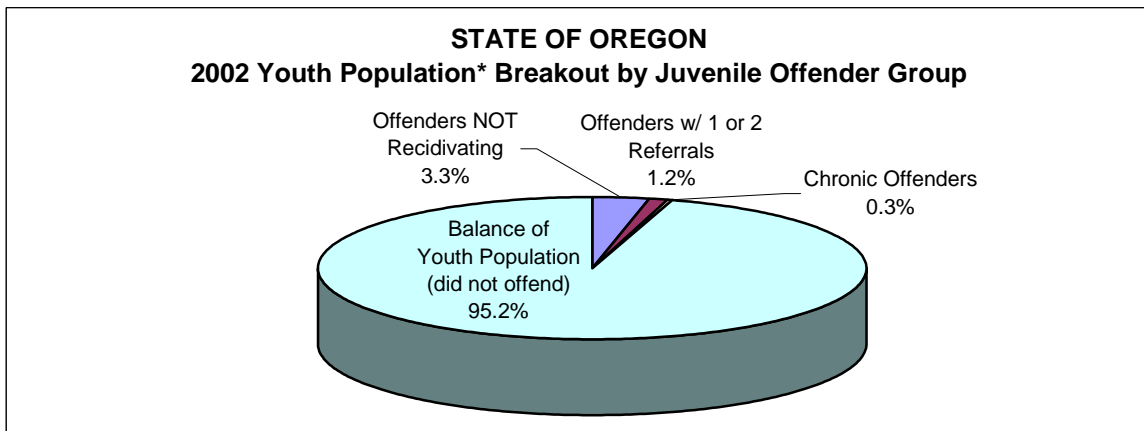
Chart 16 illustrates data from the table.

Chart 16: Juvenile Offender Rates per 1000



The chart below shows the relative size of the juvenile offender groups to the state's youth population. Data are for 2002 but can be considered representative of the 1998 through 2002 period.

Chart 17: 2002 Population* by Offender Group



* Population estimates from the Center for Population Research and Census, Portland State University.

Severity

Table 5 provides a matrix of initial offense type and re-offense type by classification of crime. For example, it shows that there were an average of 1,284 person felony offenders each year. Of that total, 394 offenders acquired an additional 703 referrals over the subsequent twelve months. Of those 394 re-offenders:

- 122 committed another person felony
- 90 committed a non-person felony
- 56 committed a person misdemeanor
- 114 committed a non-person misdemeanor

(The numbers are averages across the five years – 1998 to 2002. Type of offense reflects the most severe committing offense.)

- 46.1% (3316) of the re-offenders committed an offense equal in severity to the initial offense (shown in the shaded boxes).
- 35.9% (2579) of the re-offenders committed an offense more severe than the initial offense (shown to the left of the shaded boxes).
- 18.0% (1292) of the re-offenders committed an offense less severe than the initial offense (shown to the right of the shaded boxes).

Table 5: Severity by Crime Classification – 1998-2002 Averages

Initial Offense	Number of Initial Offenders	Number of Repeat Offenders	MOST SEVERE RE-OFFENSE (number of offenders)				Re-Offenses (number of referrals)
			Person Felony	Other Felony	Person Misd.	Other Misd.	
Person Felony	1,284	394 (31%)	122	90	56	114	703
Other Felony	4,140	1,619 (39%)	137	799	140	535	3,333
Person Misd.	2,648	969 (37%)	120	223	267	357	1,920
Other Misd.	12,536	4,236 (34%)	343	1,204	552	2,128	8,602

Note: Some referrals whose main offense involved an attempted crime were excluded from this analysis because of data collection limitations. Overall, the excluded referrals accounted for less than 1% of all referrals.

Severity scale

A severity score is assigned to each offense. The score is based on criminal codes in the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS). A "Murder" category was created which includes Aggravated Murder and Murder / Criminal Homicide.

Table 6: Severity Scale

CRIME CATEGORY	TYPE	SCORE
Person:	Murder	19
	A Felony	18
	B Felony	17
	C Felony	16
	U Felony	15
Property:	A Felony	14
Other:	A Felony	14
Property:	B Felony	13
Other:	B Felony	13
Property:	C Felony	12
Other:	C Felony	12
Property:	U Felony	11
Other:	U Felony	11
Person:	A Misdemeanor	10
	B Misdemeanor	9
	C Misdemeanor	8
	U Misdemeanor	7
Property:	A Misdemeanor	6
Other:	A Misdemeanor	6
Property:	B Misdemeanor	5
Other:	B Misdemeanor	5
Property:	C Misdemeanor	4
Other:	C Misdemeanor	4
Property:	U Misdemeanor	3
Other:	U Misdemeanor	3
Non-Criminal:	Violation	2
	Status Offense	1

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