



OJJDP

J. Robert Flores, Administrator

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JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN

Juvenile Arrests 2001

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In 2001, law enforcement agencies in the United States made an estimated 2.3 million arrests of persons under age 18.* According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), juveniles accounted for 17% of all arrests and 15% of all violent crime arrests in 2001. The substantial growth in juvenile violent crime arrests that began in the late 1980s peaked in 1994. In 2001, for the seventh consecutive year, the rate of juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses—murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—declined. Specifically, between 1994 and 2001, the juvenile arrest rate for Violent Crime Index offenses fell 44%. As a result, the juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate in 2001 was the lowest since 1983. From its peak in 1993 to 2001, the juvenile arrest rate for murder fell 70%.

These findings are derived from data reported annually by local law enforcement agencies across the country to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Based on these data, the FBI prepares its annual *Crime in the United States* report, which summarizes crimes known to the police and arrests made during the reporting calendar year. This information is used to characterize the extent and nature of juvenile crime that comes to the attention of the justice system. Other recent findings from the UCR Program include the following:

- ◆ Of the nearly 1,630 juveniles murdered in 2001, 39% were under 5 years of age, 67% were male, 52% were white, and 44% were killed with a firearm.
- ◆ Juveniles were involved in 10% of murder arrests, 14% of aggravated assault arrests, 31% of burglary arrests, 24% of robbery arrests, and 23% of weapons arrests in 2001.
- ◆ In the peak year of 1993, there were about 3,800 juvenile arrests for murder. Between 1993 and 2001, juvenile arrests for murder declined, with the number of arrests in 2001 (1,400) about one-third that in 1993.
- ◆ Arrests of juveniles accounted for 12% of all violent crimes cleared by arrest in 2001—specifically, 5% of murders, 12% of forcible rapes, 14% of robberies, and 12% of aggravated assaults.
- ◆ Juvenile arrest rates for burglary declined 66% between 1980 and 2001.
- ◆ Between 1994 and 2001, the aggravated assault arrest rate for both the youngest (under age 13) and the oldest (age 17) juveniles declined, but the decline was proportionally much greater for the older juveniles than the younger juveniles (38% versus 9%).
- ◆ The disparity in violent crime arrest rates for black juveniles and white juveniles declined substantially between 1980 and 2001.
- ◆ In 2001, the juvenile arrest rate for Property Crime Index offenses reached its lowest level since at least the 1960s.

* Throughout this Bulletin, persons under age 18 are referred to as juveniles. See Notes on page 12.

A Message From OJJDP

In 2001, the juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate declined for the seventh consecutive year. The rate increased dramatically from the late 1980s through 1994 and then began its steady downward trend. By 2001, the rate had fallen 44% from its 1994 peak, reaching its lowest level since 1983.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) tracks four offenses—murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—in its Violent Crime Index. The juvenile arrest rate for each of these offenses has been declining steadily since the mid-1990s; for murder, the rate fell 70% from its 1993 peak through 2001.

Although these and many other statistics about juvenile crime trends are encouraging, there are reasons to remain vigilant. For example, arrests of females for various offenses are increasing more (or decreasing less) than arrests of males, and the overall juvenile arrest rate for simple assault in 2001 remained near its all-time high.

Juvenile Arrests 2001 summarizes and analyzes national and state juvenile arrest data derived from the FBI report *Crime in the United States 2001*. This information is an important resource for those working to sustain the nation's progress in reducing juvenile violence.

What do arrest statistics count?

To interpret the material in this Bulletin properly, the reader must have a clear understanding of what these statistics count. The arrest statistics report the number of arrests made by law enforcement agencies in a particular year—not the number of individuals arrested, nor the number of crimes committed. The number of arrests is not equivalent to the number of people arrested, because an unknown number of individuals are arrested more than once in the year. Nor do arrest statistics represent counts of crimes committed by arrested individuals, because a series of crimes committed by one individual may culminate in a single arrest, or a single crime may result in the arrest of more than one person. This latter situation, where many arrests result from one crime, is relatively common in juvenile law-violating behavior because juveniles are more likely than adults to

commit crimes in groups. This is the primary reason why arrest statistics should not be used to indicate the relative proportion of crime committed by juveniles and adults. Arrest statistics are most appropriately a measure of flow into the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Arrest statistics also have limitations for measuring the volume of arrests for a particular offense. Under the UCR Program, the FBI requires law enforcement agencies to classify an arrest by the most serious offense charged in that arrest. For example, the arrest of a youth charged with aggravated assault and possession of a controlled substance would be reported to the FBI as an arrest for aggravated assault. Therefore, when arrest statistics show that law enforcement agencies made an estimated 202,500 arrests of young people for drug abuse violations in 2001, it means that a drug abuse violation was the most serious charge in these 202,500 arrests. An

unknown number of additional arrests in 2001 included a drug charge as a lesser offense.

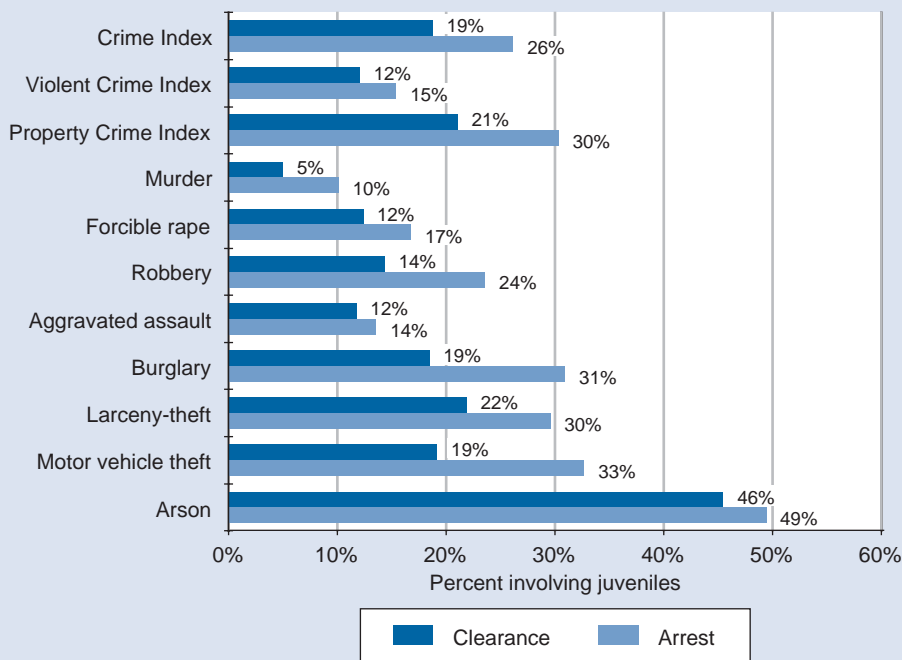
What do clearance statistics count?

Clearance statistics measure the proportion of reported crimes that were resolved by an arrest or other, exceptional means (e.g., death of the offender, unwillingness of the victim to cooperate). A single arrest may result in many clearances. For example, 1 arrest could clear 40 burglaries if the person was charged with committing all 40 of these crimes. Or multiple arrests may result in a single clearance if the crime was committed by a group of offenders. For those interested in juvenile justice issues, the FBI also reports information on the proportion of clearances that were cleared by the arrest of persons under age 18. This statistic is a better indicator of the proportion of crime committed by this age group than is the arrest proportion, although there are some concerns that even the clearance statistic overestimates the juvenile proportion of crimes.

For example, the FBI reports that persons under age 18 accounted for 24% of all robbery arrests but only 14% of all robberies that were cleared in 2001. If it can be assumed that offender characteristics of cleared robberies are similar to those of robberies that were not cleared, then it would be appropriate to conclude that persons under age 18 were responsible for 14% of all robberies in 2001. However, the offender characteristics of cleared and noncleared robberies may differ for a number of reasons. If, for example, juvenile robbers were more easily apprehended than adult robbers, the proportion of robberies cleared by the arrest of persons under age 18 would overestimate the juvenile responsibility for all robberies. To add to the difficulty in interpreting clearance statistics, the FBI's reporting guidelines require the clearance to be tied to the oldest offender in the group if more than one person is arrested for a crime.

In summary, while the interpretation of reported clearance proportions is not straightforward, these data are the closest measure generally available of the proportion of crime known to law enforcement that is attributed to persons under age 18.

The juvenile proportion of arrests exceeded the juvenile proportion of crimes cleared by arrest in each offense category, reflecting the fact that juveniles are more likely to commit crimes in groups and are more likely to be arrested than are adults



Data source: *Crime in the United States 2001* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002), tables 28 and 38.

Murders of juveniles in 2001 fell 40% from 1993 peak

Each *Crime in the United States* report presents estimates of the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. A large portion of most crimes are never reported to law enforcement. Murder, however, is one crime that is nearly always reported. Therefore, murder is the crime for which the FBI data are most complete and most valid.

There were an estimated 15,980 murders reported to law enforcement agencies in 2001, or 5.6 murders for every 100,000 U.S. residents in 2001. This represents a 3% increase over the 15,522 murders in 1999—the year with the fewest murders in the last 30 years. The relatively low number of murders in 2001 is underscored by the fact that there were essentially the same number of murders in 2001 as in 1970, when the population was about 30% smaller.

Of all murder victims in 2001, 90% (or 14,350 victims) were 18 years of age or older. The other 1,630 murder victims were under age 18. This figure is slightly above the 2000 estimate but about 40% below that of the peak year of 1993, when about 2,840 juveniles were murdered. The last year in which fewer than 1,600 juveniles were murdered was 1984.

Of all juveniles murdered in 2001, 39% were under age 5, 67% were male, and 52% were white. Compared with all murdered juveniles, murdered children under age 5 had a smaller percentage of male victims (55%) and a slightly larger percentage of white victims (55%). Almost half (48%) of murdered juveniles were ages 13 to 17. Of these murdered teenagers, 45% were white and 21% were female.

In 2001, 63% of all murder victims were killed with a firearm. Adults were more likely to be killed with a firearm (66%) than were juveniles (44%). However, the involvement of a firearm depended greatly on the age of the juvenile victim. Whereas 17% of murdered juveniles under age 13 were killed with a firearm in 2001, 72% of murdered juveniles age 13 or older were killed with a firearm. The most common method of murdering children under age 5 was by physical assault; in 51% of these murders, the offenders' only weapons were their hands and/or feet.

The number of juvenile arrests in 2001—2.3 million—was 4% below the 2000 level and 20% below the 1997 level

Most Serious Offense	2001 Estimated Number of Juvenile Arrests	Percent of Total Juvenile Arrests		Percent Change		
		Female	Under Age 15	1992– 2001	1997– 2001	2000– 2001
Total	2,273,500	28%	32%	-3%	-20%	-4%
Crime Index total	587,900	29	37	-31	-28	-5
Violent Crime Index	96,500	18	33	-21	-21	-2
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	1,400	10	12	-62	-47	-2
Forcible rape	4,600	1	38	-24	-14	-1
Robbery	25,600	9	24	-32	-35	-4
Aggravated assault	64,900	23	37	-14	-13	-1
Property Crime Index	491,400	31	38	-32	-29	-6
Burglary	90,300	12	38	-40	-30	-6
Larceny-theft	343,600	39	39	-27	-30	-6
Motor vehicle theft	48,200	17	25	-51	-26	-2
Arson	9,300	12	64	-7	-9	8
Nonindex						
Other assaults	239,000	32	43	30	-2	2
Forgery and counterfeiting	5,800	36	11	-27	-26	-8
Fraud	8,900	33	16	-5	-18	-9
Embezzlement	1,800	44	7	152	24	-10
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	26,800	17	27	-45	-37	-6
Vandalism	105,300	13	44	-29	-22	-7
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	37,500	11	34	-35	-26	0
Prostitution and commercialized vice	1,400	69	15	-8	-5	15
Sex offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	18,000	8	54	-10	6	1
Drug abuse violations	202,500	15	17	121	-7	0
Gambling	1,400	3	13	-53	-47	-17
Offenses against the family and children	9,600	37	37	109	-11	6
Driving under the influence	20,300	18	5	35	5	-3
Liquor law violations	138,100	32	10	21	-9	-11
Drunkenness	20,400	21	13	4	-21	-10
Disorderly conduct	171,700	30	40	34	-21	1
Vagrancy	2,300	19	25	-37	-24	-10
All other offenses (except traffic)	397,200	26	28	27	-13	-3
Suspicion	1,300	36	33	-53	-42	9
Curfew and loitering	142,900	31	28	34	-29	-13
Runaways	133,300	59	38	-25	-30	-6

- ◆ In 2001, there were an estimated 1,400 juvenile arrests for murder. Between 1997 and 2001, juvenile arrests for murder fell 47%.
- ◆ Females accounted for 23% of juvenile arrests for aggravated assault and 32% of juvenile arrests for other assaults (i.e., simple assaults and intimidations) in 2001. Females were involved in 59% of all arrests for running away from home and 31% of arrests for curfew and loitering law violations.
- ◆ Between 1992 and 2001, there were substantial declines in juvenile arrests for murder (62%), motor vehicle theft (51%), and burglary (40%) and major increases in juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations (121%).

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2001* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002), tables 29, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40. Arrest estimates were developed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

The juvenile share of crime has declined

The relative responsibility of juveniles and adults for crime is hard to determine. Research has shown that crimes committed by juveniles are more likely to be cleared by law enforcement than are crimes committed by adults. Therefore, drawing a picture of crime from law enforcement records is likely to give a high estimate of the juvenile responsibility for crime.

The clearance data in the *Crime in the United States* series show that the proportion of violent crimes attributed to juveniles by law enforcement has declined in recent years. The proportion of violent crimes cleared by juvenile arrests grew from about 9% in the late 1980s to 14% in 1994 and then declined to 12% in 2001.

In the period since 1980, the proportion of murders cleared by juvenile arrests peaked in 1994 at 10% then dropped to 5% in 2001—the lowest level since 1987 but still above the levels of the mid-1980s.

The juvenile proportion of cleared forcible rapes peaked in 1995 (15%) and then fell, with the 2001 proportion (12%) still above the levels of the late 1980s (9%). The juvenile proportion of robbery clearances also peaked in 1995 (20%); it fell substantially by 2001 (14%) but was still above the levels of the late 1980s (10%). The juvenile proportion of aggravated assault clearances in 2001 (12%) was slightly below its peak in 1994 (13%) and substantially above the levels of the late 1980s (8%). The proportion of Property Crime Index offenses cleared by juvenile arrests in 2001 (21%) was below all but 2 years in the 1980s and 1990s.

Juvenile arrests for violence in 2001 were the lowest since 1988

The FBI assesses trends in the volume of violent crimes by monitoring four offenses that are consistently reported by law enforcement agencies nationwide and are pervasive in all geographical areas of the country. These four crimes—murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—together form the Violent Crime Index.

After years of relative stability in the number of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests, the increase in these arrests between 1988 and 1994 focused national attention on the problem of juvenile violence. After peaking in 1994, these arrests dropped each year from 1995 through 2001. For all Violent Crime Index offenses combined, the number of juvenile arrests in 2001 was the lowest since 1988. The number of juvenile aggravated assault arrests in 2001 was lower than in any year since 1990. With the exception of 2000, the number of juvenile arrests in 2001 for murder was lower than in any year since 1984, and the number for forcible rape was the lowest since 1976. Finally, the number of juvenile arrests for robbery was lower in 2001 than in any year since at least the early 1970s.

In the 10 years between 1992 and 2001, the decline in the number of violent crime arrests was greater for juveniles than adults:

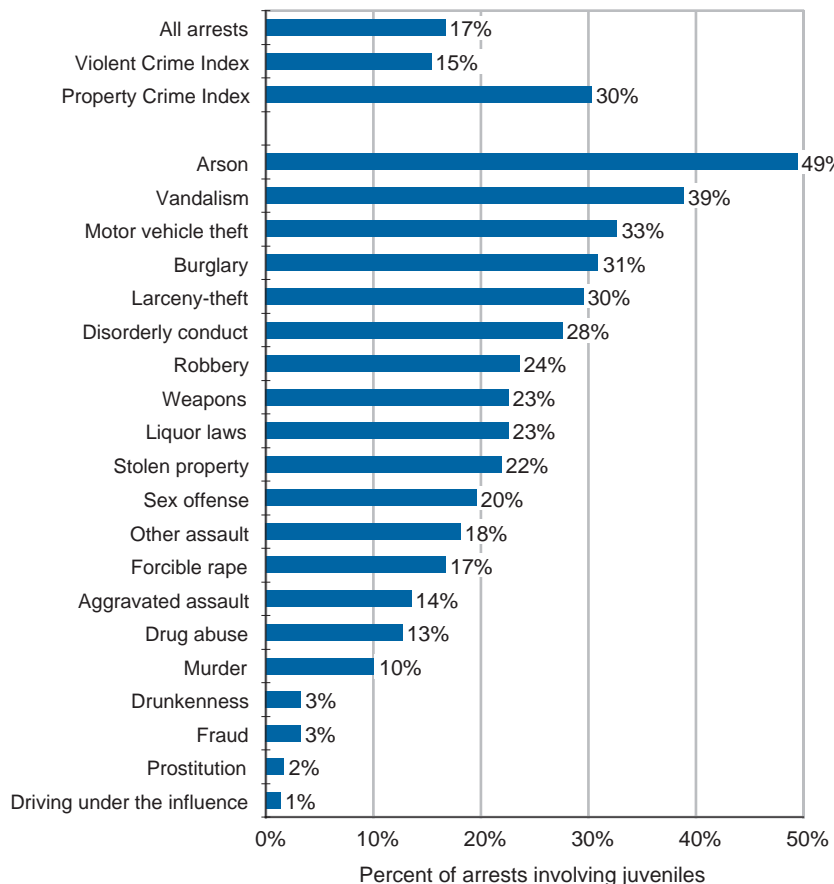
Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Arrests 1992–2001	
	Juvenile	Adult
Violent Crime Index	-21%	-9%
Murder	-62	-29
Forcible rape	-24	-29
Robbery	-32	-23
Aggravated assault	-14	-3

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2001*, table 32.

Few juveniles were arrested for violent crime

In 2001, there were 296 arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses for every 100,000 youth between 10 and 17 years of age. If each of these arrests involved a different juvenile (which is unlikely), then no more than 1 in every 330 persons ages 10–17 was arrested for a Violent Crime Index offense in 2001, or about one-third of 1% of all juveniles ages 10–17 living in the U.S.

In 2001, juveniles were involved in about 1 in 10 arrests for murder (or 10% of arrests for murder), 1 in 8 arrests for a drug abuse violation, and 1 in 3 arrests for larceny-theft, burglary, or motor vehicle theft



Data source: *Crime in the United States 2001* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002), table 38.

Juvenile arrests for property crimes in 2001 were the lowest in at least three decades

As with violent crime, the FBI assesses trends in the volume of property crimes by monitoring four offenses that are consistently reported by law enforcement agencies nationwide and are pervasive in all geographical areas of the country. These four crimes, which form the Property Crime Index, are burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

For the period from 1988 through 1994, during which juvenile violent crime arrests increased substantially, juvenile property crime arrest rates remained relatively constant. After this long period of relative stability, juvenile property crime arrests began to fall. Between 1994 and 2001, the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate dropped 41%, to its lowest level since at least the 1960s. More specifically, juvenile burglary arrest rates have been declining since at least the early 1980s. In 2001, the juvenile larceny-theft arrest rate was at its lowest level and the juvenile motor vehicle theft arrest rate was near its lowest level since at least 1980.

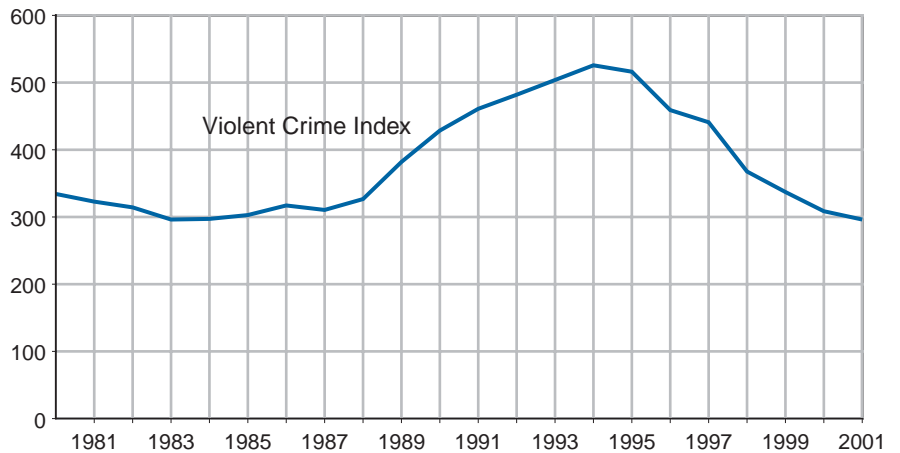
Most arrested juveniles were referred to court

In most states, some persons under age 18 are, due to their age or by statutory exclusion, under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system. For arrested persons under age 18 and under the original jurisdiction of their state's juvenile justice system, the FBI's UCR Program monitors what happens as a result of the arrest. This is the only instance in the UCR Program in which the statistics on arrests coincide with state variations in the legal definition of a juvenile.

In 2001, 19% of arrests involving youth eligible in their state for processing in the juvenile justice system were handled within law enforcement agencies, 72% were referred to juvenile court, and 7% were referred directly to criminal court. The others were referred to a welfare agency or to another police agency. The proportion of arrests sent to juvenile court has increased gradually from 1990 to 2001 (from 64% to 72%). In 2001, the proportion of juvenile arrests sent to juvenile court was similar in cities (72%), suburban counties (74%), and rural counties (71%).

The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate in 2001 was at its lowest level since 1983—44% below the peak year of 1994

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17

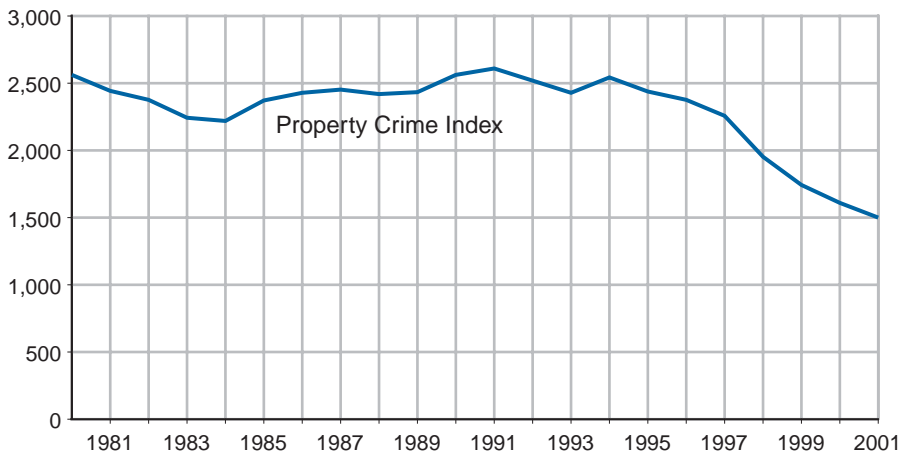


- ◆ All the growth in the juvenile violent crime arrest rate that began in the latter part of the 1980s was erased by 2001.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

After years of relative stability, the juvenile arrest rate for Property Crime Index offenses began a decline in the mid-1990s that continued through 2001

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17

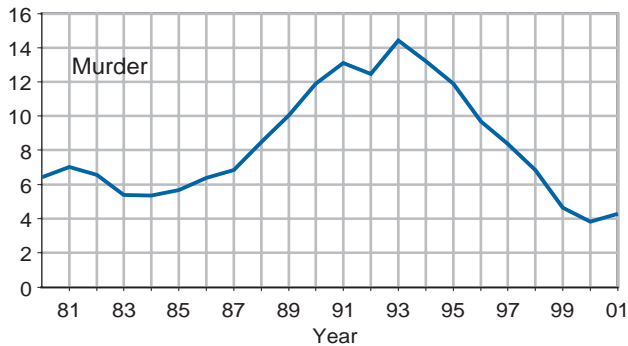


- ◆ The relatively stable juvenile arrest rate trend between 1980 and the mid-1990s for Property Crime Index offenses stands in stark contrast to the Violent Crime Index arrest rate trend.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

Among the four Violent Crime Index offenses, only aggravated assault had a juvenile arrest rate in 2001 that was not at or near its lowest level in two decades

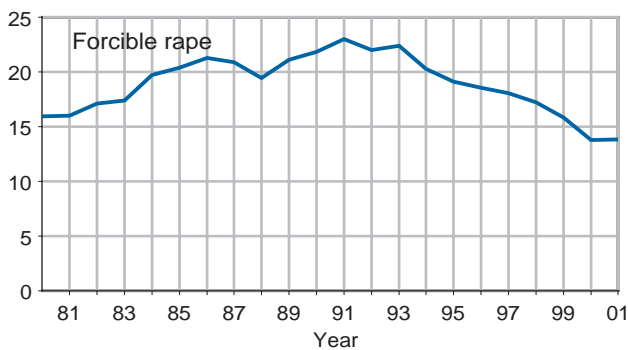
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Murder

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for murder peaked in 1993. In that year, there were about 3,800 arrests of persons under age 18 for murder.
- ◆ Between the mid-1980s and 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for murder more than doubled.
- ◆ Between 1993 and 2001, the juvenile arrest rate for murder fell 70%, resting at a level lower than any experienced in the 1980s and 1990s.

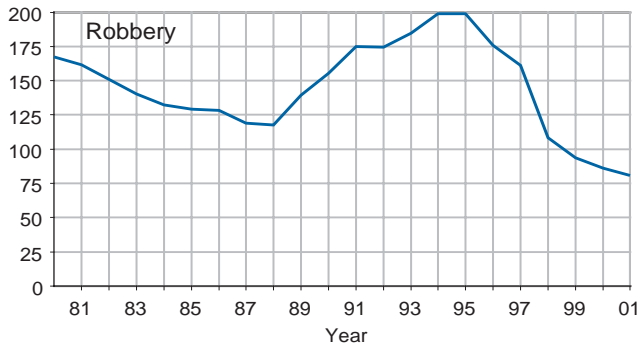
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Forcible Rape

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape did not vary as much as the rates for the other violent crimes over the period of 1980 to 2001, although it did follow the general pattern of growth and decline over the period.
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape increased 44% between 1980 and 1991 and then fell; by 2001, it was 13% below the 1980 rate, at its lowest level in at least two decades.

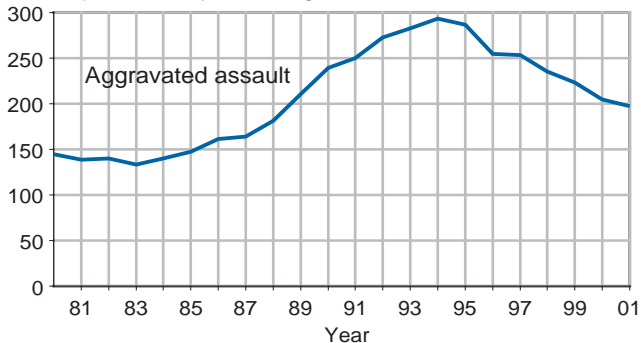
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Robbery

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for robbery declined during much of the 1980s, falling 30% between 1980 and 1988.
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for robbery increased 70% between the low year of 1988 and the peak years of 1994 and 1995, to a level 19% above the 1980 rate.
- ◆ Between the peak years and 2001, the juvenile arrest rate for robbery declined substantially (59%), falling to its lowest level in two decades.

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Aggravated Assault

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault doubled between 1980 and 1994. Its increase between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s generally paralleled the increases for murder and robbery.
- ◆ Unlike the juvenile arrest rate trends for murder and robbery, however, the decline in the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault between 1994 and 2001 did not erase the increase that began in the mid-1980s. Although the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault fell 33% between 1994 and 2001, the 2001 rate was still 37% above the 1980 level.

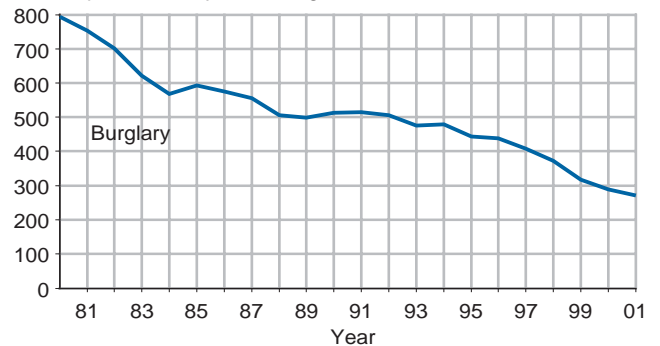
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

Juvenile arrest rate trends for the four Property Crime Index offenses show very different patterns over the 1980–2001 period

Burglary

- ◆ Unlike the juvenile arrest rates for any of the other Index offenses, the rate for burglary declined consistently and substantially between 1980 and 2001. Over this period, the burglary arrest rate was cut by two-thirds (66%).
- ◆ In 1980, there were an estimated 230,500 juvenile arrests for burglary; by 2001, this figure had fallen to 90,300.
- ◆ Between 1992 and 2001, the number of arrests for burglary declined substantially for both juveniles and adults (40% and 29%, respectively).

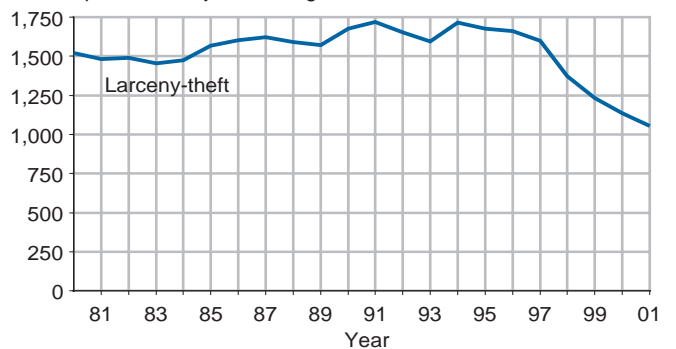
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Larceny-Theft

- ◆ The relatively large volume of larceny-theft arrests ensures that the Property Crime Index arrest trends will reflect the larceny-theft trends. Therefore, it should be recognized that the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest trends may not (and in the 1980–2001 period did not) reflect the juvenile arrest trends for the other crimes in the Index.
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft remained relatively constant between 1980 and 1997, then fell by one-third (34%) in the brief period between 1997 and 2001.

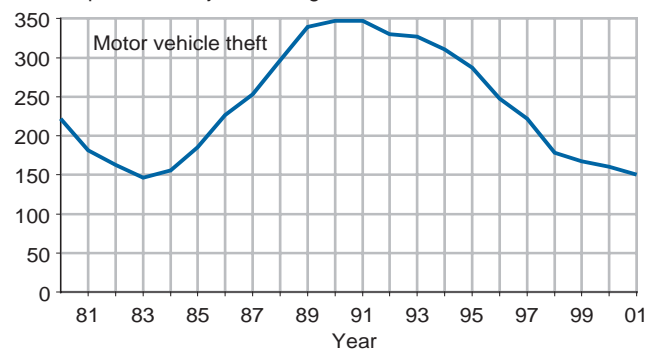
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Motor Vehicle Theft

- ◆ After falling between 1980 and 1983, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft soared, increasing 138% between 1983 and 1990.
- ◆ After the 1990 peak, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined both consistently and substantially, so that by 2001 the rate was just 3% above its lowest level of 1983 and 57% below its 1990 peak.
- ◆ Between 1992 and 2001, the number of arrests for motor vehicle theft declined 51% for juveniles and 13% for adults.

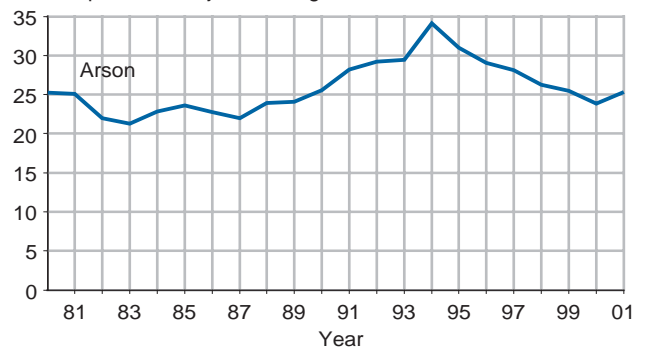
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Arson

- ◆ After being relatively stable for most of the 1980s, the juvenile arson arrest rate grew 55% between 1987 and 1994. The rate then declined each year between 1994 and 2000, falling 30% from the 1994 peak. Between 2000 and 2001, the rate increased slightly.
- ◆ With the exception of running away from home and curfew and loitering law violations (crimes for which only juveniles can be arrested), arson is the offense with the greatest proportion of juvenile arrests. In the 1980s, an annual average of 40% of all arson arrests involved juveniles; between 1990 and 2001, the annual average was 50%.

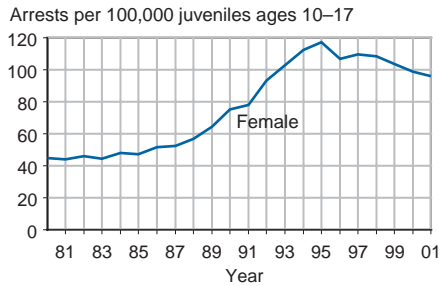
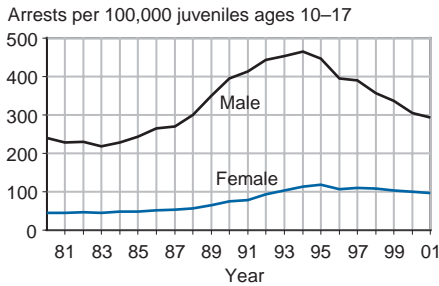
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



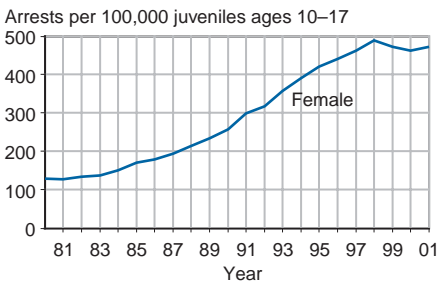
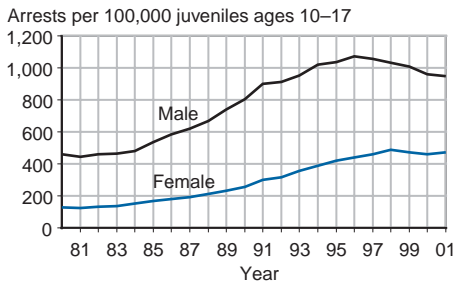
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

Between 1980 and 2001, juvenile arrest rates increased proportionately more for females than for males, especially for violent crimes

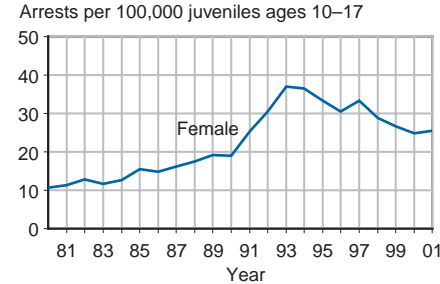
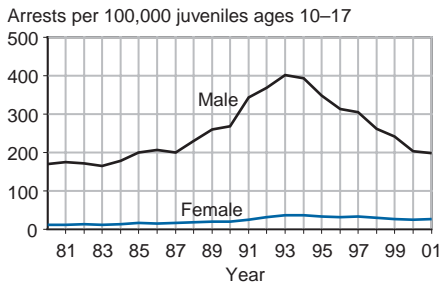
Aggravated assault



Other (simple) assault



Weapons



- ◆ The change in the female juvenile arrest rate between 1980 and 2001 was greater than the change in the male rate for aggravated assault (113% vs. 22%), simple assault (257% vs. 109%), and weapons law violations (140% vs. 16%).

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

In 2001, 28% of juvenile arrests were arrests of females

Law enforcement agencies made 645,000 arrests of females under age 18 in 2001. Between 1992 and 2001, arrests of juvenile females generally increased more (or decreased less) than male arrests in most offense categories.

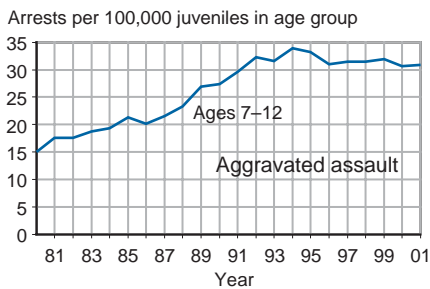
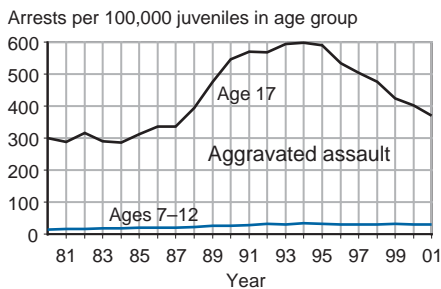
Percent Change in Juvenile Arrests 1992-2001

Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Juvenile Arrests 1992-2001	
	Female	Male
Robbery	-29%	-32%
Aggravated assault	24	-21
Burglary	-22	-42
Larceny-theft	-3	-37
Motor vehicle theft	-34	-54
Simple assault	66	18
Vandalism	7	-32
Weapons	-8	-37
Drug abuse violations	201	110
Liquor law violations	38	14
Curfew and loitering	57	26
Runaways	-21	-29

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2001*, table 33.

The larger increases in female arrests for assault are also seen in adult arrest trends. Between 1992 and 2001, while adult male arrests for aggravated assault declined 9%, adult female arrests increased 33%; similarly, adult female arrests for simple assault increased far more than adult male arrests (58% versus 8%). Therefore, the growth in female violent crime arrests appears related to factors that affect both juveniles and adults.

The aggravated assault arrest rates for preteens and older juveniles both increased substantially between 1980 and 1994, but the subsequent decline was much greater for older juveniles



- ◆ Between 1980 and 1994, the aggravated assault arrest rate for preteens and youth age 17 increased 126% and 99%, respectively. From 1994 through 2001, the rate for older youth dropped 38%, while the rate for preteens fell just 9%. As a result, in 2001, the arrest rate for older youth was 23% above its 1980 level and the rate for preteens was still double (106%) its 1980 rate.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities

The racial composition of the juvenile population in 2001 was 78% white, 17% black, 4% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% American Indian. Most Hispanics (an ethnic designation, not a race) were classified as white. In contrast to their representation in the population, black youth were overrepresented in juvenile arrests for violent crimes, and, to a lesser extent, property crimes. Of all juvenile arrests for violent crimes, 55% involved white youth, 43% involved black youth, 1% involved Asian youth, and 1% involved American Indian youth. For property crime arrests, the proportions were 68% white youth, 28% black youth, 2% Asian youth, and 1% American Indian youth.

Most Serious Offense Black Proportion of Juvenile Arrests in 2001

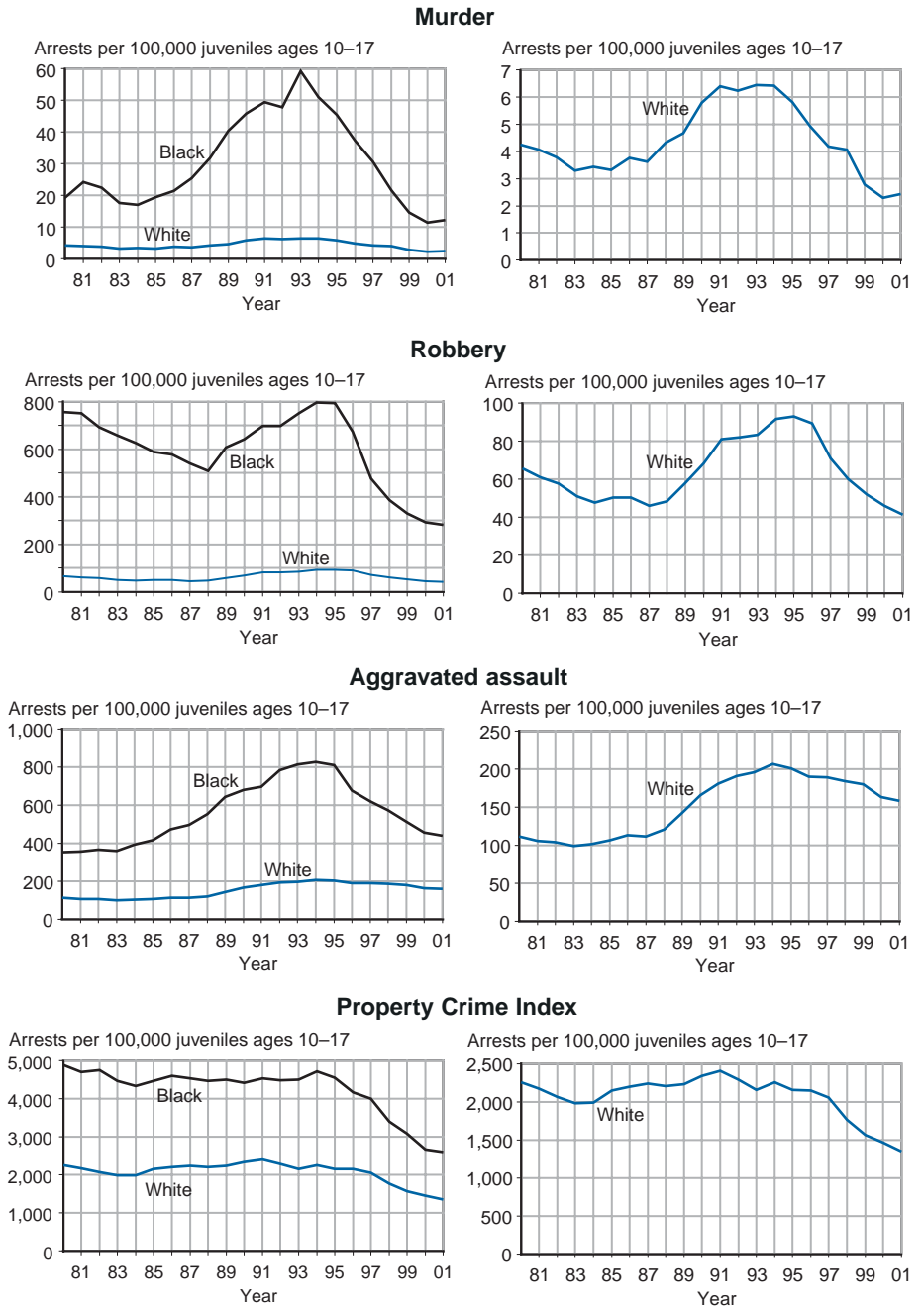
Murder	48%
Forcible rape	37
Robbery	58
Aggravated assault	36
Burglary	25
Larceny-theft	28
Motor vehicle theft	41
Weapons	32
Drug abuse violations	27
Curfew and loitering	27
Runaways	19

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2001*, table 43.

The Violent Crime Index arrest rate (i.e., arrests/100,000 juveniles in the racial group) in 2001 for black juveniles (766) was more than 3 times the rate for American Indian juveniles (239) and white juveniles (213) and nearly 7 times the rate for Asian juveniles (111). For Property Crime Index arrests, the rate for black juveniles (2,595) was 40% greater than the rate for American Indian juveniles (1,829), about double the rate for white juveniles (1,343), and more than 3 times the rate for Asian juveniles (729).

Over the period from 1980 through 2001, the black-to-white disparity in juvenile arrest rates for violent crimes declined. In 1980, the black juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate was 6.3 times the white rate; in 2001, the rate disparity had declined to 3.6. This reduction in arrest rate disparities between 1980 and 2001 was primarily the result of the decline in black-to-white arrest disparities for robbery (from 11.5 in 1980 to 6.8 in 2001), which was greater than the decline for aggravated assault (3.2 to 2.8).

The general decline in juvenile arrest rates from the mid-1990s through 2001 was greater for black youth than white youth

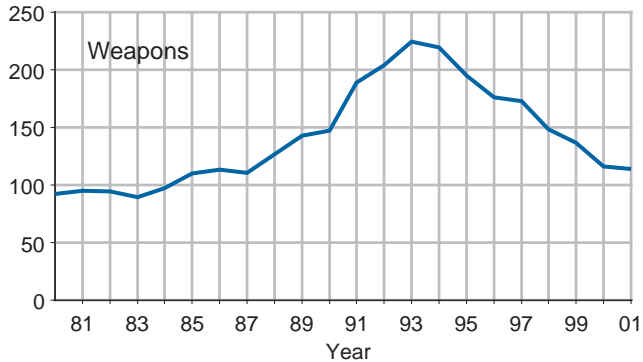


- ◆ Murder arrest rates in 2001 were near their lowest levels since at least 1980 for both white youth and black youth. Between 1993 and 2001, murder arrest rates for white juveniles declined 62%, while the rate for black juveniles declined 79%.
- ◆ In 2001, the robbery arrest rates for both white youth and black youth were at a 20-year low. Unlike the white rate, the black rate in 2001 was substantially below its levels of the 1980s.
- ◆ The 2001 aggravated assault arrest rate for black juveniles was much closer to its 1980 level than was the rate for white juveniles.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

Trends in juvenile arrest rates for weapons law violations and for murder were similar between 1980 and 2001

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17

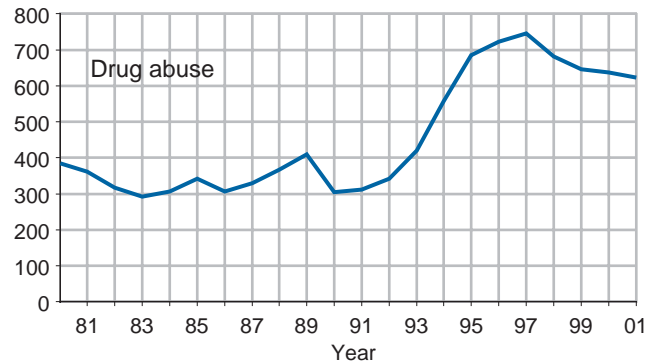


- ◆ The juvenile arrest rates for weapons law violations and for murder more than doubled between 1987 and the peak year of 1993.
- ◆ After 1993, both rates fell substantially. The juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations was cut in half, falling 49% and returning to the 1987 level.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

The juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations soared in the mid-1990s

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17

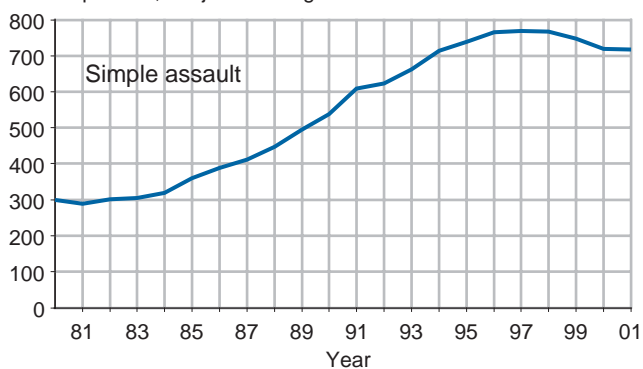


- ◆ Between 1980 and 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations remained within a limited range. Between 1993 and 1997, however, the rate grew 77%. By 2001, the rate had fallen 16% from its 1997 high.
- ◆ During the period from 1992 to 2001, juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations increased 121%, while adult arrests grew 33%.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

Unlike juvenile arrest rates for other violent crimes, the rate for simple assault did not decline substantially in the latter part of the 1990s

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17

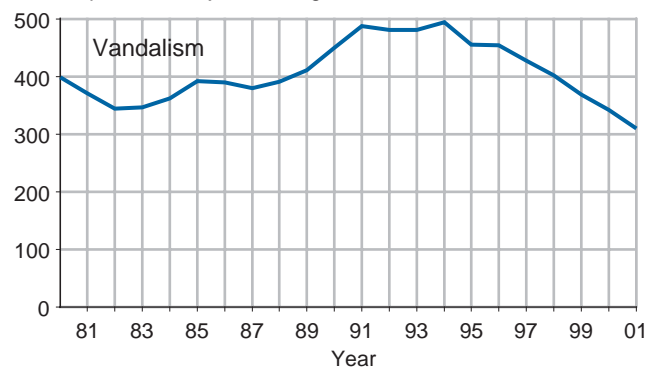


- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for simple assault increased substantially between the early 1980s and the late 1990s—more than 150% between 1983 and 1997.
- ◆ The rate fell slightly (7%) between 1997 and 2001, remaining in 2001 near its historically high levels.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

The juvenile arrest rate for vandalism in 2001 was at its lowest level in two decades

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for vandalism rose 44% between 1982 and 1994, its peak year in the 1980–2001 period.
- ◆ Between 1994 and 2001, the rate declined 37%, erasing all of the earlier growth and falling to its lowest level since at least 1980.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

State variations in juvenile arrest rates may reflect differences in juvenile law-violating behavior, police behavior, and/or community standards

State	Reporting Coverage	2001 Juvenile Arrest Rate*				State	Reporting Coverage	2001 Juvenile Arrest Rate*			
		Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Weapons			Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Weapons
United States	73%†	320	1,572	636	115	Missouri	82%	284	1,754	621	115
Alabama	75	127	888	265	34	Montana	57	176	2,209	194	25
Alaska	90	268	2,121	487	97	Nebraska	78	114	2,297	804	102
Arizona	95	274	2,036	936	78	Nevada	98	266	2,227	653	157
Arkansas	71	114	1,269	381	73	New Hampshire	53	117	1,127	830	37
California	100	416	1,326	583	162	New Jersey	96	366	1,095	828	187
Colorado	78	247	2,358	811	156	New Mexico	46	302	1,368	716	188
Connecticut	90	326	1,389	701	93	New York	32	290	1,380	704	96
Delaware	90	392	2,215	465	277	North Carolina	91	317	1,684	474	164
District of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Dakota	86	53	2,074	389	56
Florida	100	607	2,336	857	113	Ohio	53	213	1,331	419	85
Georgia	48	286	1,423	468	119	Oklahoma	94	248	1,540	444	67
Hawaii	88	212	1,691	467	28	Oregon	92	178	2,110	575	84
Idaho	92	152	2,322	535	114	Pennsylvania	79	411	1,386	589	99
Illinois	23	931	2,598	2,827	446	Rhode Island	91	250	1,363	597	123
Indiana	69	371	1,481	445	41	South Carolina	30	410	1,411	643	142
Iowa	70	186	1,662	361	36	South Dakota	48	160	2,688	861	77
Kansas	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	Tennessee	80	188	988	448	99
Kentucky	22	242	1,675	700	65	Texas	97	199	1,424	592	63
Louisiana	72	403	2,161	602	91	Utah	76	117	2,461	558	112
Maine	97	107	1,964	581	51	Vermont	84	66	771	312	21
Maryland	71	531	1,903	1,538	218	Virginia	77	131	880	378	86
Massachusetts	81	418	706	434	41	Washington	79	272	2,260	548	118
Michigan	83	149	1,160	374	59	West Virginia	49	37	462	108	10
Minnesota	73	152	1,824	578	79	Wisconsin	17	741	3,184	977	499
Mississippi	41	110	1,747	586	90	Wyoming	98	165	1,930	951	116

* Throughout this Bulletin, juvenile arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of arrests of persons ages 10–17 by the number of persons ages 10–17 in the population. In this table only, arrest rate is defined as the number of arrests of persons under age 18 for every 100,000 persons ages 10–17. Juvenile arrests (arrests of youth under age 18) reported at the state level in *Crime in the United States* cannot be disaggregated into more detailed age categories so that the arrest of persons under age 10 can be excluded in the rate calculation. Therefore, there is a slight inconsistency in this table between the age range for the arrests (birth through age 17) and the age range for the population (ages 10–17) that are the basis of a state's juvenile arrest rates. This inconsistency is slight because just 2% of all juvenile arrests involved youth under age 10. This inconsistency is preferable to the distortion of arrest rates that would be introduced were the population base for the arrest rate to incorporate the large volume of children under age 10 in a state's population.

† The reporting coverage for the total United States in this table (73%) includes all states reporting arrests of persons under age 18. This is greater than the coverage in the rest of the Bulletin (68%) for various reasons. For example, Florida was able to provide arrest counts of persons under age 18 but was not able to provide the age detail required to support other presentations in *Crime in the United States 2001*.

NA = *Crime in the United States 2001* reported no arrest counts for this state.

Interpretation cautions: Arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of youth arrests made in the year by the number of youth living in reporting jurisdictions. While juvenile arrest rates in part reflect juvenile behavior, many other factors can affect the size of these rates. For example, jurisdictions that arrest a relatively large number of nonresident juveniles would have higher arrest rates than jurisdictions where resident youth behave in an identical manner. Therefore, jurisdictions that are vacation destinations or regional centers for economic activity may have arrest rates that reflect more than the behavior of their resident youth. Other factors that influence the magnitude of arrest rates in a given area include the attitudes of its citizens toward crime, the policies of the jurisdiction's law enforcement agencies, and the policies of other components of the justice system. **Consequently, comparisons of juvenile arrest rates across states, while informative, should be made with caution.** In most states, not all law enforcement agencies report their arrest data to the FBI. Rates for these states are necessarily based on partial information. If the reporting law enforcement agencies in these states are not representative of the entire state, then the rates will be biased. **Therefore, reported arrest rates for states with less than complete reporting coverage may not be accurate.**

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI's *Crime in the United States 2001* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002), tables 5 and 69, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census' *Census 2000 Summary File 1*, table P14, Sex by Age for the Population Under 20 Years [Web site data files].

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Office of Justice Programs

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Notes

In this Bulletin, “juvenile” refers to persons under age 18. This definition is at odds with the legal definition of juveniles in 2001 in 13 states—10 states where all 17-year-olds are defined as adults and 3 states where all 16- and 17-year-olds are defined as adults.

FBI arrest data in this Bulletin are counts of arrests detailed by age of arrestee and offense categories from all law enforcement agencies that reported complete data for the calendar year. (See *Crime in the United States* for offense definitions.) The proportion of the U.S. population covered by these reporting agencies ranged from 63% to 94% between 1980 and 2001, with the 2001 coverage being 68%.

Estimates of the number of persons in each age group in the reporting agencies’ resident populations assume that the resident population age profiles are like the nation’s. Reporting agencies’ total populations were multiplied by the U.S. Bureau of the Census’ most current estimate of the proportion of the U.S. population for each age group.

Data source note

Analysis of arrest data from unpublished FBI reports for 1980 through 1997 and from *Crime in the United States* reports for 1998–2001 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1999–2002, respectively); population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census for 1980–1989 from *U.S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1980 to 1999* [machine-readable data files available online, released April 11, 2000], for 1990–1999 from *Intercensal Estimates of the United States Resident Population by Age and Sex: 1990 to 2000* [machine-readable data files available online, downloaded November 27, 2002], and for 2000–2001 from *Table US-EST2001-ASRO-02-National Population Estimates-Characteristics* [machine-readable data files available online, released January 21, 2003].

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Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of OJJDP or the U.S. Department of Justice.

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