



OJJDP

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JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN

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Juvenile Arrests 2007

Charles Puzanchera

In 2007, law enforcement agencies in the United States made an estimated 2.18 million arrests of persons under age 18.* Overall, there were 2% fewer juvenile arrests in 2007 than in 2006, and juvenile violent crime arrests declined 3%, reversing a recent upward trend. Juvenile arrest rates, particularly Violent Crime Index rates, had increased in 2005 and again in 2006 amid fears that the Nation was on the brink of another juvenile crime wave. These latest data show increases in some offense categories but declines in most—with most changes being less than 10% in either direction.

These findings are drawn from data that local law enforcement agencies across the country report to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Based on these data, the FBI prepares its annual *Crime in the United States* statistical compilation, which summarizes crimes known to the police and arrests made during the reporting calendar year. This information is used to describe 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:

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

- ◆ Juveniles accounted for 16% of all violent crime arrests and 26% of all property crime arrests in 2007.
- ◆ Juveniles were involved in 12% of all violent crimes cleared in 2007 and 18% of property crimes cleared.
- ◆ In 2007, 11% (1,810) of all murder victims were under age 18. More than one-third (35%) of all juvenile murder victims were under age 5, but this proportion varied widely across demographic groups.
- ◆ The juvenile murder arrest rate in 2007 was 4.1 arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 through 17. This was 24% more than the 2004 low of 3.3, but 72% less than the 1993 peak of 14.4.
- ◆ Between 1998 and 2007, juvenile arrests for aggravated assault decreased more for males than for females (22% vs. 17%). During this period, juvenile male arrests for simple assault declined 4% and female arrests increased 10%.
- ◆ In 2007, although black youth accounted for just 17% of the youth population ages 10 through 17, black juveniles were involved in 51% of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests and 32% of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests.
- ◆ The 2007 arrest rates for Violent Crime Index offenses were substantially lower than the rates in the 1994 peak year for every age group under 40.

A Message From OJJDP

Juvenile Arrests 2007 summarizes the juvenile data cited in the FBI report *Crime in the United States 2007*. Thus, this Bulletin serves as a baseline for comparison for juvenile justice professionals and others seeking to assess the Nation's progress in addressing juvenile crime.

The 2007 data bring some welcome news, as the recent trend of modest increases in juvenile arrests in 2005 and 2006 has been broken.

The good news is reflected not only in the 2% decline in overall juvenile arrests and the 3% decline in juvenile arrests for violent crimes from 2006 to 2007 but also in the data for most offense categories, for males and females, and for white and minority youth.

Although this general trend is indeed encouraging, it should not be misconstrued to provide a rationale for complacency.

One area that merits our continued attention is disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with the juvenile justice system. For example, the arrest rate for robbery among black juveniles was more than 10 times that for white youth in 2007. OJJDP remains committed to supporting initiatives to reduce DMC, including improved and expanded delinquency prevention efforts in minority communities.

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What do arrest statistics count?

To interpret the material in this Bulletin properly, the reader needs a clear understanding of what these statistics count. Arrest statistics report the number of arrests that law enforcement agencies made in a given year—not the number of individuals arrested nor the number of crimes committed. The number of arrests is not the same as the number of people arrested because an unknown number of individuals are arrested more than once during the year. Nor do arrest statistics represent counts of crimes that arrested individuals commit because a series of crimes that one person commits may culminate in a single arrest, and 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. For this reason, one should not use arrest statistics to indicate the relative proportions of crime that juveniles and adults commit. Arrest statistics are most appropriately a measure of flow into the justice system.

Arrest statistics also have limitations in 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 weapon would be reported to the FBI as an arrest for aggravated assault. Therefore, when arrest statistics show that law enforcement agencies

made an estimated 43,900 arrests of young people for weapons law violations in 2007, it means that a weapons law violation was the most serious charge in these 43,900 arrests. An unknown number of additional arrests in 2007 included a weapons charge as a lesser offense.

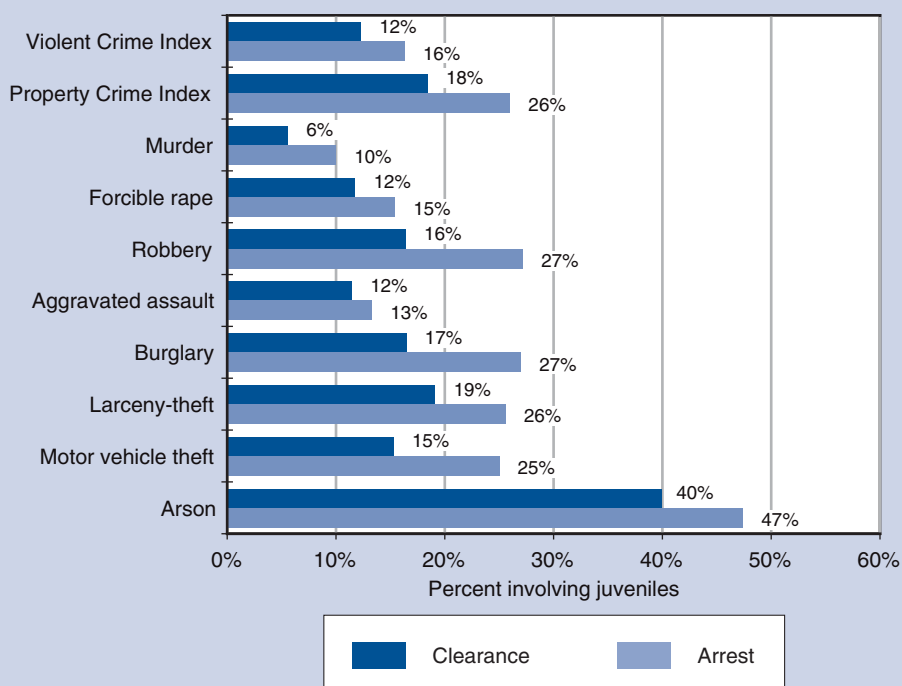
What do clearance statistics count?

Clearance statistics measure the proportion of reported crimes that were cleared (or “closed”) by either arrest or other, exceptional means (such as the death of the offender or unwillingness of the victim to cooperate). A single arrest may result in many clearances. For example, 1 arrest could clear 10 burglaries if the person was charged with committing all 10 crimes. Or multiple arrests may result in a single clearance if a group of offenders committed the crime. For those interested in juvenile justice issues, the FBI also reports the proportion of clearances that involved only offenders under age 18.

This statistic is a better indicator of the proportion of crime that this age group commits than is the proportion of arrests, although there are some concerns that even the clearance statistic overestimates the proportion of crimes committed by juveniles.

Research has shown that juvenile offenders are more easily apprehended than adult offenders; thus, the juvenile proportion of clearances probably overestimates juveniles’ responsibility for crime. To add to the difficulty in interpreting clearance statistics, the FBI’s reporting guidelines require that clearances involving both juvenile and adult offenders be classified as clearances for crimes committed by adults. Because the juvenile clearance proportions include only those clearances in which no adults were involved, they underestimate juvenile involvement in crime. Although these data do not present a definitive picture of juvenile involvement in crime, they 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 (or “closed”) by arrest in each offense category, reflecting that juveniles are more likely than adults to commit crimes in groups and to be arrested



Data source: *Crime in the United States 2007* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008), tables 28 and 38.

In 2007, about 1 in 10 (1,810) murder victims were juveniles

Each *Crime in the United States* report presents estimates of the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. Although many crimes are never reported to law enforcement, murder is one crime that is nearly always reported.

An estimated 16,930 murders were reported to law enforcement agencies in 2007, or 5.6 murders for every 100,000 U.S. residents. The murder rate was essentially constant between 1999 (the year with the fewest murders in the last three decades) and 2007. Prior to 1999, the last year in which the U.S. murder rate was less than 6.0 was 1966.

Of all murder victims in 2007, 89% (or 15,120 victims) were 18 years of age or older. The other 1,810 murder victims were under age 18 (i.e., juveniles). The number of juveniles murdered in 2007 was 9% more than the average number of juveniles murdered in the prior 5-year period, and 37% less than the peak year of 1993, when an estimated 2,880 juveniles were murdered. During the same prior 5-year period, the estimated number of adult murder victims fell 30%.

Of all juveniles murdered in 2007, 35% were under age 5, 69% were male, and 49% were white. Of all juveniles murdered in 2007, 26% of male victims, 53% of female victims, 41% of white victims, and 27% of black victims were under age 5.

In 2007, 68% of all murder victims were killed with a firearm. Adults were more likely to be killed with a firearm (70%) than were juveniles (52%). However, the involvement of a firearm depended greatly on the age of the juvenile victim. In 2007, 17% of murdered juveniles under age 13 were killed with a firearm, compared with 80% of murdered juveniles age 13 or older. The most common method of murdering children under age 5 was by physical assault: in 50% of these murders, the offenders' only weapons were their hands and/or feet, compared with only 2% of juvenile victims age 13 or older and 4% of adult victims. In 2007, knives or other cutting instruments were used in 8% of juvenile murders and 13% of adult murders.

The 2.18 million arrests of juveniles in 2007 was 20% fewer than the number of arrests in 1998

Most Serious Offense	2007 Estimated Number of Juvenile Arrests	Percent of Total Juvenile Arrests		Percent Change		
		Female	Under Age 15	1998– 2007	2003– 2007	2006– 2007
Total	2,180,500	29%	28%	-20%	-3%	-2%
Violent Crime Index	97,100	17	28	-14	5	-3
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	1,350	8	10	-23	26	3
Forcible rape	3,580	2	35	-32	-13	-2
Robbery	34,490	10	21	6	35	-1
Aggravated assault	57,650	23	31	-21	-6	-4
Property Crime Index	419,000	35	31	-33	-10	4
Burglary	81,900	12	30	-30	-3	-2
Larceny-theft	300,300	43	31	-32	-9	8
Motor vehicle theft	29,600	16	22	-49	-30	-14
Arson	7,200	12	59	-19	-7	-8
Nonindex						
Other assaults	240,700	34	39	0	-1	-3
Forgery and counterfeiting	3,100	31	12	-60	-37	-11
Fraud	7,800	36	16	-26	-6	-2
Embezzlement	1,700	42	4	5	43	25
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	22,400	18	24	-33	-9	-4
Vandalism	111,800	13	41	-14	4	-4
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	43,900	10	32	-8	12	-7
Prostitution and commercialized vice	1,500	78	13	6	1	-4
Sex offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	15,500	10	48	-15	-18	-4
Drug abuse violations	195,700	16	15	-6	0	0
Gambling	2,100	2	14	-27	9	-14
Offenses against the family and children	5,800	38	29	-46	-16	11
Driving under the influence	18,200	24	3	-17	-10	-6
Liquor laws	141,000	37	9	-20	2	1
Drunkenness	16,900	25	11	-28	3	3
Disorderly conduct	201,200	33	38	3	-1	-5
Vagrancy	3,800	29	31	51	-33	-21
All other offenses (except traffic)	378,900	26	24	-22	-3	-3
Suspicion (not included in totals)	400	24	26	-72	-25	-8
Curfew and loitering	143,000	31	26	-30	3	-5
Runaways	108,900	56	32	-36	-9	-3

- ◆ In 2007, there were an estimated 300,300 juvenile arrests for larceny-theft. Between 1998 and 2007, the number of such arrests fell by one-third (32%).
- ◆ Of the four offenses that make up the Violent Crime Index, only juvenile arrests for murder increased in 2006–2007 (up 3%).
- ◆ In 2007, females accounted for 17% of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests, 35% of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests, and 33% of juvenile disorderly conduct arrests.
- ◆ Youth under age 15 accounted for more than one-fourth (28%) of all juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses in 2007 and nearly one-third (31%) of all Property Crime Index offenses.

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

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2007* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008), tables 29, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40. Arrest estimates were developed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

One in eight violent crimes were attributed to juveniles

The relative responsibility of juveniles and adults for crime is difficult to determine. Law enforcement agencies are more likely to clear (or “close”) crimes that juveniles commit than those committed by adults. Thus, law enforcement records may overestimate juvenile responsibility for crime.

Data on crimes cleared or closed by arrest or exceptional means show that the proportion of violent crimes cleared and attributed to juveniles has been rather constant in recent years, holding between 12% and 13% from 1996 through 2007. The proportions of both forcible rapes and aggravated assaults attributed to juveniles fluctuated between 11% and 12% over this period, while the proportion of murders ranged between 5% and 6% from 1998 through 2007. In contrast, the proportion of robberies attributed to juveniles varied, falling from 18% to 14% between 1996 and 2002 and then increasing gradually to 17% by 2007.

In 2007, 18% of Property Crime Index offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means were cleared by the arrest of a juvenile. This was one percentage point less than the level in 2006; the level in 2007 was the lowest level since at least the mid-1960s. For comparison, the proportion of Property Crime Index offenses that law enforcement attributed to juveniles was 28% in 1980 and 22% in both 1990 and 2000.

Juvenile arrests for violence declined between 2006 and 2007

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

Following 10 years of declines between 1994 and 2004, juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses increased 11% from 2004 to 2006, then declined 4% through 2007. Given that the number of arrests in 2004 was smaller than in any year since 1987, the number of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests in 2007 was still relatively low. In fact, the number of juvenile

violent crime arrests in 2007 was less than any year in the 1990s, and just 3% greater than the average annual number of such arrests between 2001 and 2006.

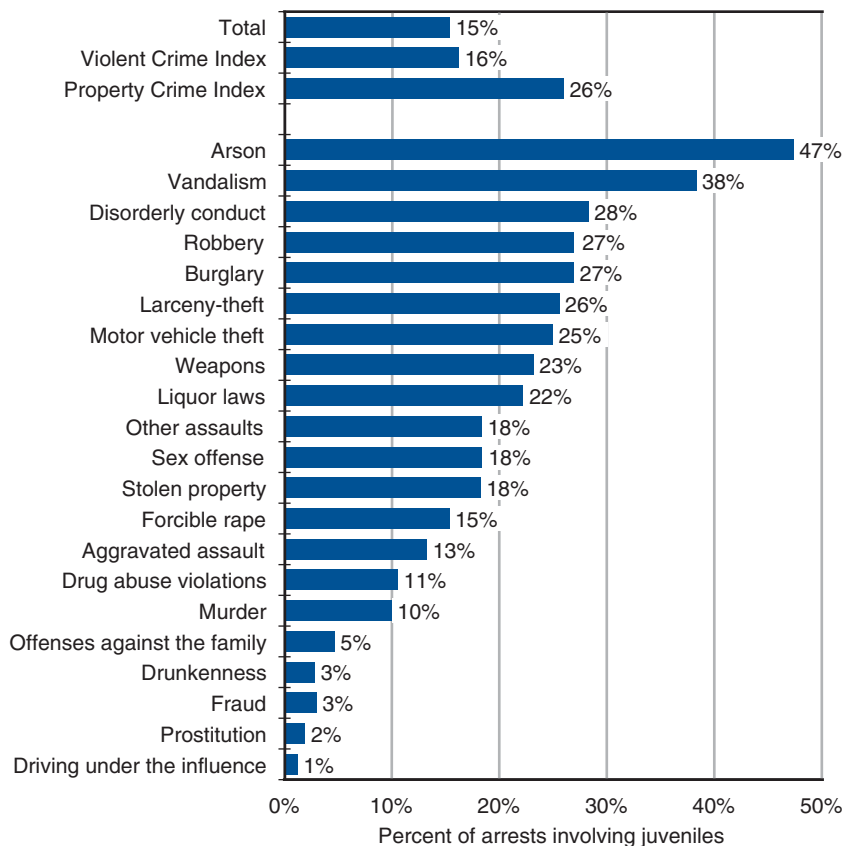
The number of juvenile arrests in 2007 for forcible rape was less than in any year since at least 1980, and the number of juvenile aggravated assault arrests in 2007 was less than in any year since 1988. In contrast, after also falling to a relatively low level in 2004, juvenile arrests for murder increased each year from 2005 to 2007. To put it in perspective, if the 2004–2007 increase was to continue annually into the future, it would take another 20 years for the annual number of juvenile murder arrests to return to its peak level of the mid-1990s. However, juvenile arrests for robbery increased more than 30% since 2004. If this pace continues, the annual number of juvenile robbery arrests will return to its 1995 peak in just 4 years.

Between 1998 and 2007, the number of arrests in most offense categories declined more for juveniles than for adults:

Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Arrests 1998–2007	
	Juvenile	Adult
Violent Crime Index	-14%	-8%
Murder	-23	-10
Forcible rape	-32	-21
Robbery	6	6
Aggravated assault	-21	-10
Property Crime Index	-33	-2
Burglary	-30	6
Larceny-theft	-42	-4
Motor vehicle theft	-53	-7
Simple assault	0	-2
Weapons law violations	-8	-2
Drug abuse violations	-6	21

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2007*, table 32.

In 2007, juveniles were involved in 1 in 10 arrests for murder and about 1 in 4 arrests for robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and weapons violations



Data source: *Crime in the United States 2007* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008), table 38.

Juvenile property crime arrests increased in 2007—the first time in 13 years

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. These four crimes, which form the Property Crime Index, are burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

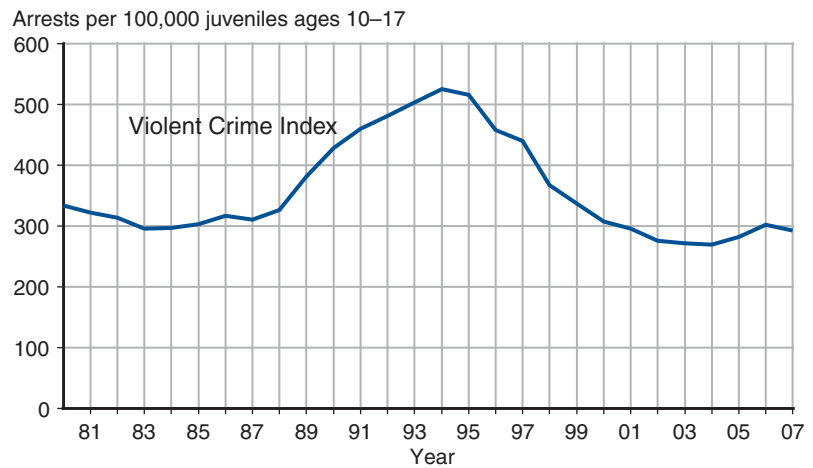
For the period 1980–1994, during which juvenile violent crime arrests increased substantially, juvenile property crime arrests remained relatively constant. After this long period of relative stability, juvenile property crime arrests began to fall. Between 1994 and 2006, the number of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests fell by half to their lowest level since at least the 1970s. However, between 2006 and 2007, the number of juvenile arrests for property crimes increased (up 4%)—for the first time since 1993–1994. This increase was a result of growth in the number of juvenile arrests for larceny-theft, which rose 8% from 2006 to 2007. Juvenile arrests for motor vehicle theft and arson reached historic lows in 2007, while arrests for burglary declined 2% since 2006.

Most arrested juveniles were referred to court

In most States, some persons younger than age 18 are, because of 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 2007, 19% of arrests involving youth who were eligible in their State for processing in the juvenile justice system were handled within law enforcement agencies and the youth were released, 70% were referred to juvenile court, and 9% were referred directly to criminal court. The others were referred to a welfare agency or to another police agency. In 2007, the proportion of juvenile arrests sent to juvenile court in cities with a population of more than 250,000 (68%) was similar to that in smaller cities (71%).

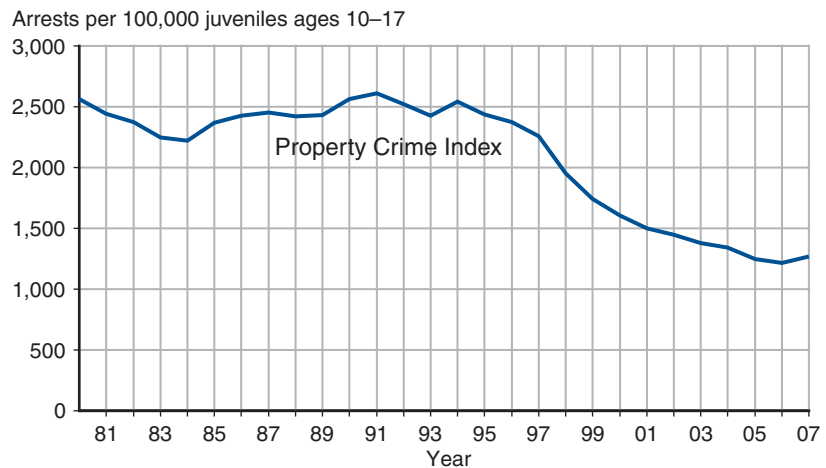
The increase in the juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate since 2004 was interrupted in 2007



- ◆ The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate reached a historic low in 2004, down 49% from its 1994 peak. This decade-long decline was followed by a 12% increase over the next 2 years, and then a 3% decline between 2006 and 2007.

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

The juvenile arrest rate for Property Crime Index offenses rose 4% between 2006 and 2007, the first increase since 1993–1994

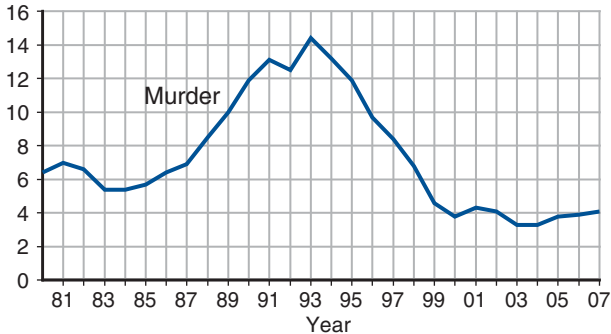


- ◆ Despite the recent increase, the 2007 juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate was 51% less than the 1991 peak. The large declines over the last decade in the two arrest indexes that have traditionally been used to monitor juvenile crime indicate a substantial reduction in the law-violating behavior of America's youth over this period.

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

In 2007, the juvenile arrest rates for murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault each remained well below their peak levels of the 1990s

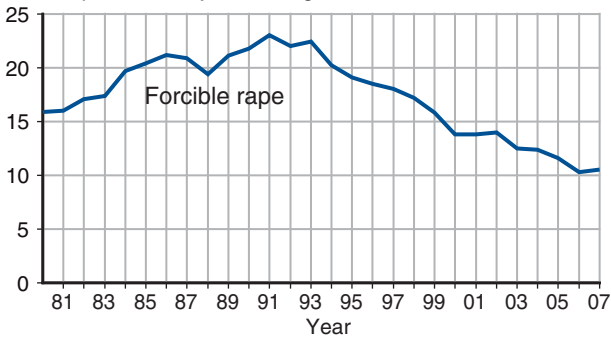
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Murder

- ◆ From the mid-1980s to the peak in 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for murder more than doubled.
- ◆ Then, the juvenile arrest rate for murder declined through the mid-2000s, reaching a level in 2004 that was 77% less than the 1993 peak.
- ◆ The growth in the juvenile murder arrest rate between 2004 and 2007 returned it to near its 2002 level; but even with this increase, the rate in 2007 was 72% less than its 1993 peak.

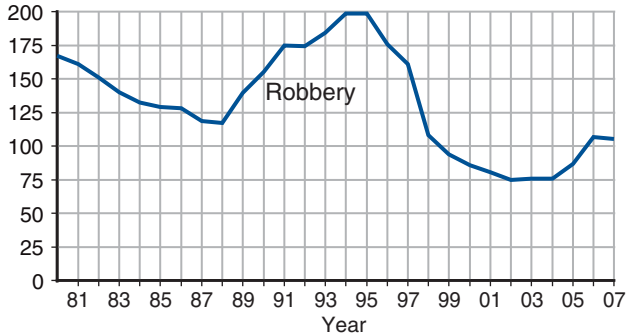
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Forcible Rape

- ◆ Following the general pattern of other assaultive offenses, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape increased from the early 1980s through the early 1990s and then fell substantially.
- ◆ Over the 1980–2007 period, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape peaked in 1991, 44% more than its 1980 level.
- ◆ With few exceptions, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape dropped annually from 1991 through 2007. By 1999, it had returned to its 1980 level. By 2007, the rate had fallen to a point 34% less than the 1980 level and 54% less than its 1991 peak.

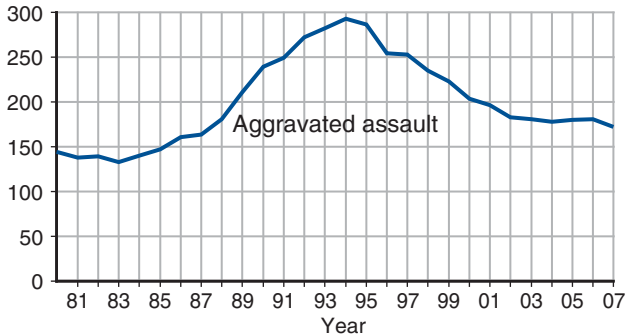
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Robbery

- ◆ In contrast with the juvenile arrest rates for other violent crimes, the rate for robbery declined through much of the 1980s, reaching a low point in 1988. Then, like the violent crime arrest rate in general, by the mid-1990s the juvenile robbery arrest rate grew to a point greater than the 1980 level.
- ◆ The juvenile robbery arrest rate declined substantially (62%) between 1995 and 2002. Since 2002, however, the arrest rate rose again, so that by 2007 the rate was 41% greater than its low point in 2002 but still 47% less than its 1995 peak.

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Aggravated Assault

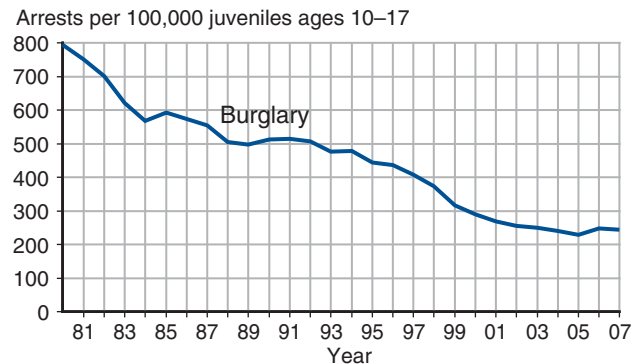
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault doubled between 1980 and 1994 and then fell substantially and consistently through 2004, down 39% from its 1994 peak.
- ◆ This pattern of decline was interrupted recently, as the juvenile aggravated assault arrest rate increased 2% between 2004 and 2006. By 2007, however, the rate declined 5%, reaching its lowest point since the late 1980s.

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

The four offenses that make up the Property Crime Index show very different juvenile arrest rate patterns over the 1980–2007 period

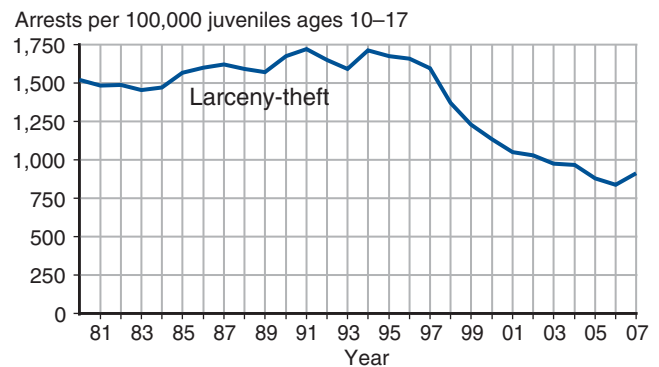
Burglary

- ◆ Unique in the set of Property Crime Index offenses, the juvenile arrest rate for burglary declined almost consistently and fell substantially between 1980 and 2007, down 69%.
- ◆ This large fall in juvenile burglary arrests from 1980 through 2007 was not replicated in the adult statistics. For example, between 1998 and 2007, the number of juvenile burglary arrests fell 30%, while adult burglary arrests increased 6%. In 1980, 45% of all burglary arrests were arrests of a juvenile; in 2007, reflecting the greater decline in juvenile arrests, just 27% of burglary arrests were juvenile arrests.



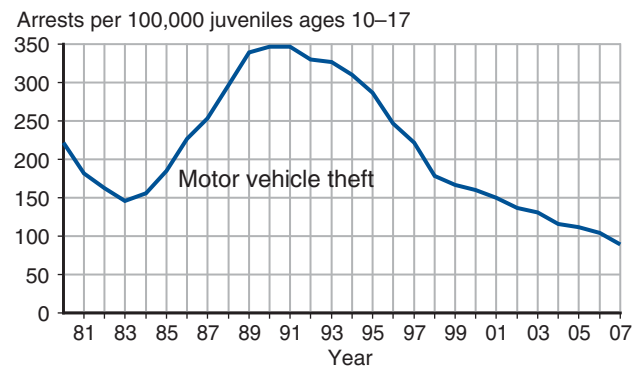
Larceny-Theft

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft remained essentially constant between 1980 and 1997, then fell 47% between 1997 and 2006, reaching its lowest point since 1980. This decline reversed in 2007, as the juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft increased 9%.
- ◆ In 2007, 72% of all juvenile arrests for Property Crime Index offenses were for larceny-theft. Thus, juvenile Property Crime Index arrest trends largely reflect the pattern of larceny-theft arrests (which itself is dominated by shoplifting—the most common larceny-theft offense).



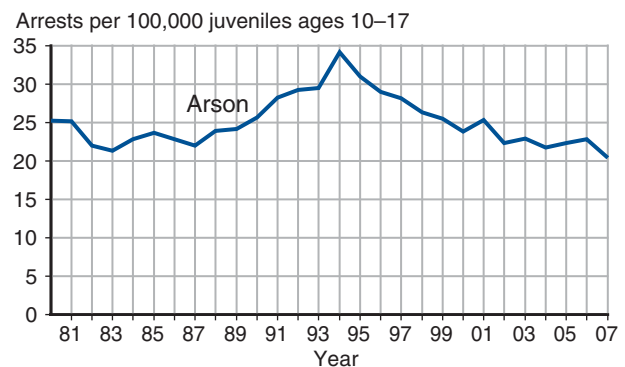
Motor Vehicle Theft

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft more than doubled between 1983 and 1990, up 137%.
- ◆ After the peak years of 1990 and 1991, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined steadily through 2007, falling 74%. In 2007, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft was lower than in any year in the 1980–2007 period.
- ◆ This large decline in juvenile arrests was not replicated in the adult statistics. Between 1996 and 2007, the number of juvenile motor vehicle theft arrests fell more than 49%, while adult motor vehicle theft arrests decreased just 7%.



Arson

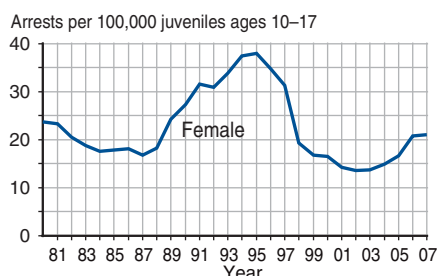
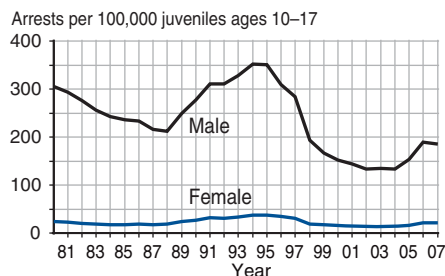
- ◆ After being relatively stable for most of the 1980s, the juvenile arrest rate for arson grew 33% between 1990 and 1994.
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for arson declined substantially between 1994 and 2007, falling 40%.
- ◆ Following an 11% decline between 2006 and 2007, the juvenile arrest rate for arson in 2007 reached its lowest point since 1980.



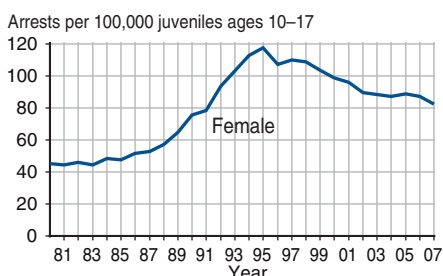
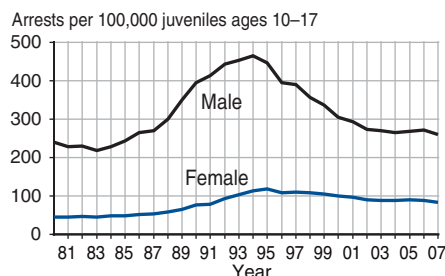
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. [See data source note on p. 12 for detail.]

Although arrest trends by gender were similar for robbery, recent trends showed greater declines for males in other offenses

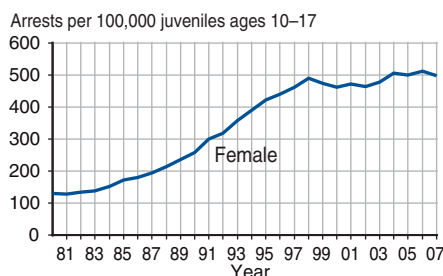
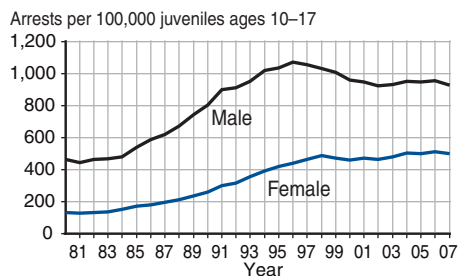
Robbery



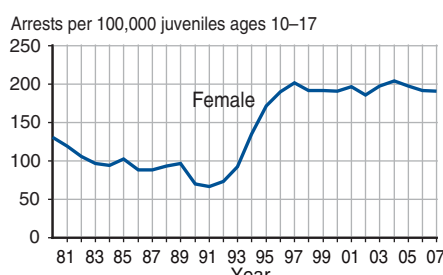
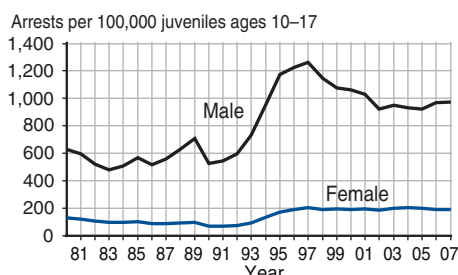
Aggravated assault



Other (simple) assault



Drug abuse violations



- ◆ Juvenile male and female robbery arrest rates both decreased through the late 1980s and climbed to a peak in the mid-1990s; by 2002, both had fallen to their lowest level since at least 1980. Following these declines, the rates for both groups increased through 2007 (39% for males and 55% for females).
- ◆ The juvenile female arrest rate for aggravated assault did not decline after its 1990s peak as much as did the male rate. As a result, in 2007, the juvenile male arrest rate was just 8% more than its 1980 level, while the female rate was 83% more than its 1980 rate. Similarly, while the male arrest rate for simple assault doubled between 1980 and 2007, the female rate more than tripled.

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

In 2007, females accounted for 29% of juvenile arrests

Law enforcement agencies made 641,000 arrests of females under age 18 in 2007. From 1998 through 2007, arrests of juvenile females decreased less than male arrests in most offense categories (e.g., aggravated assault, burglary, and larceny-theft); in some categories (e.g., simple assault, drug abuse violations, and DUI), female arrests increased, while male arrests decreased.

Percent Change in Juvenile Arrests 1998–2007

Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Juvenile Arrests 1998–2007	
	Female	Male
Violent Crime Index	-13%	-14%
Aggravated assault	-17	-22
Simple assault	10	-4
Property Crime Index	-18	-39
Burglary	-24	-31
Larceny-theft	-15	-41
Motor vehicle theft	-50	-49
Vandalism	-4	-15
Weapons	-1	-9
Drug abuse violations	6	-8
Liquor law violations	-2	-28
DUI	14	-24
Disorderly conduct	20	-5

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2007*, table 33.

Gender differences also occurred in the assault arrest trends for adults. Between 1998 and 2007, adult male arrests for aggravated assault fell 12%, while female arrests fell 1%. Similarly, adult male arrests for simple assault fell 6% between 1998 and 2007, while adult female arrests rose 11%. Therefore, the female proportion of arrests grew for both types of assault. It is likely that the disproportionate growth in female assault arrests over this period was related to factors that affected both juveniles and adults.

Gender differences in arrest trends also increased the proportion of arrests involving females in other offense categories for both juveniles and adults. The number of drug abuse violation arrests of juvenile females grew 6% between 1998 and 2007, while juvenile male arrests declined 8%. Drug abuse violation arrests of adult females grew more than adult male arrests (31% and 19%, respectively). The greater decline in male than in female arrests for Property Crime Index offenses seen for juveniles between 1998 and 2007 was also seen in adult arrests, with adult male arrests falling 7% and adult female arrests increasing 9%.

Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities

The racial composition of the U.S. juvenile population ages 10–17 in 2007 was 78% white, 17% black, 5% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% American Indian. Most juveniles of Hispanic ethnicity were included in the white racial category. Of all juvenile arrests for violent crimes in 2007, 47% involved white youth, 51% involved black youth, 1% involved Asian youth, and 1% involved American Indian youth. For property crime arrests, the proportions were 66% white youth, 32% black youth, 1% Asian youth, and 1% American Indian youth. Black youth were overrepresented in juvenile arrests.

Most Serious Offense Black Proportion of Juvenile Arrests in 2007

Murder	57%
Forcible rape	37
Robbery	68
Aggravated assault	41
Simple assault	40
Burglary	33
Larceny-theft	31
Motor vehicle theft	42
Weapons	38
Drug abuse violations	30
Vandalism	19
Liquor laws	5

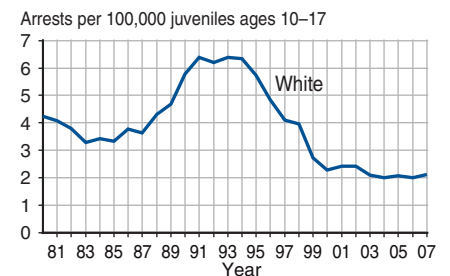
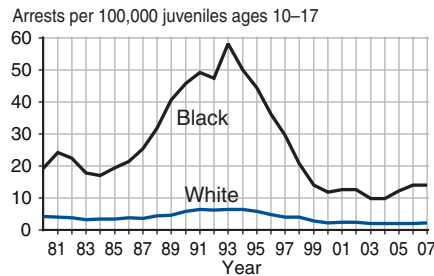
Data source: *Crime in the United States 2007*, table 43.

The Violent Crime Index arrest rate (i.e., arrests per 100,000 juveniles in the racial group) in 2007 for black juveniles (903) was about 5 times the rates for white juveniles (180) and American Indian juveniles (183) and 16 times the rate for Asian juveniles (57). For Property Crime Index arrests, the rate for black juveniles (2,453) was more than double the rates for white juveniles (1,081) and American Indian juveniles (1,147) and more than 6 times the rate for Asian juveniles (371).

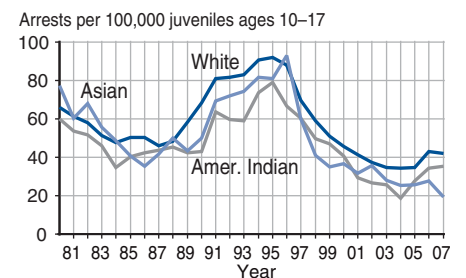
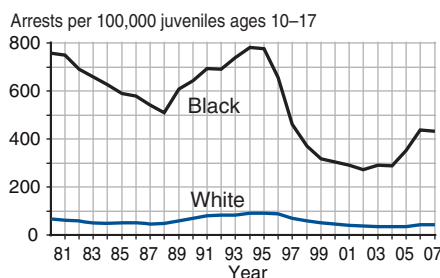
In the 1980s, the Violent Crime Index arrest rate for black juveniles was between 6 and 7 times the white rate. This ratio declined during the 1990s, falling to 4-to-1 in 1999. Between 1999 and 2007, the racial disparity in the rates increased, reaching 5-to-1 in 2007. This increase resulted from an increase in the black rate (5%) and a decline in the white rate (25%). More specifically, the robbery arrest rate increased 37% for black juveniles while the white rate declined 17%, and the aggravated assault rate declined less for black (12%) than for white juveniles (27%).

Arrest rate trends from 1980 through 2007 were similar across racial groups; the differences were in the volume of arrests

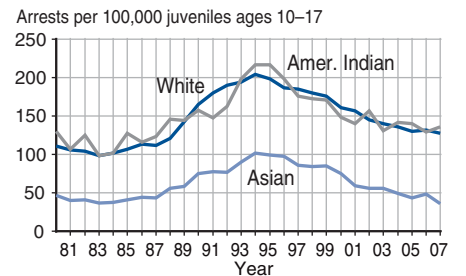
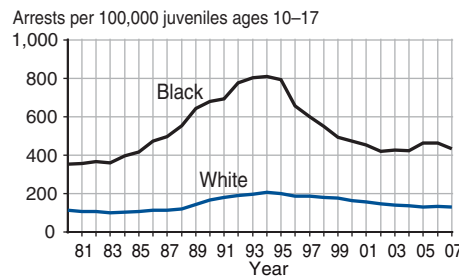
Murder



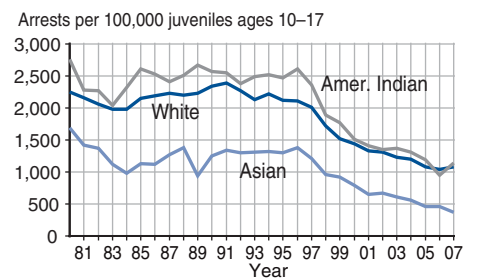
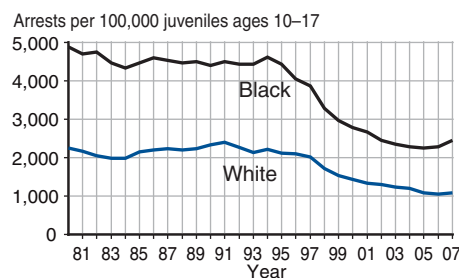
Robbery



Aggravated assault



Property Crime Index

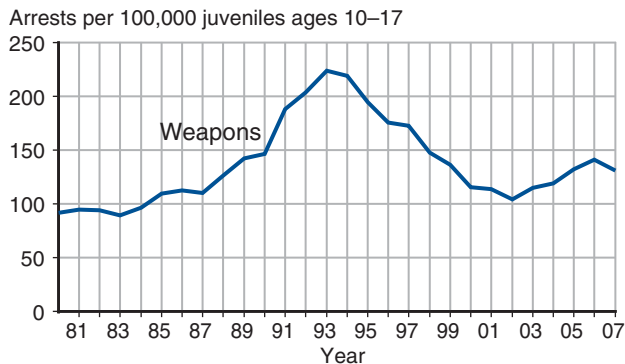


- ◆ The white juvenile murder rate in 2007 was near its lowest level since at least 1980, having fallen 67% since its 1993 peak. The black rate in 2007 was well below (76%) its 1993 peak, even though it increased since 2004.
- ◆ After peaking in the mid-1990s, robbery and aggravated assault arrest rates fell substantially for all four racial groups.
- ◆ From 1994 through 2007, the Property Crime Index arrest rates dropped dramatically for juveniles in all racial groups—declining 45% or more.

Note: Murder rates for American Indian youth and Asian youth are not presented because the small number of arrests and small population sizes produce unstable rate trends.

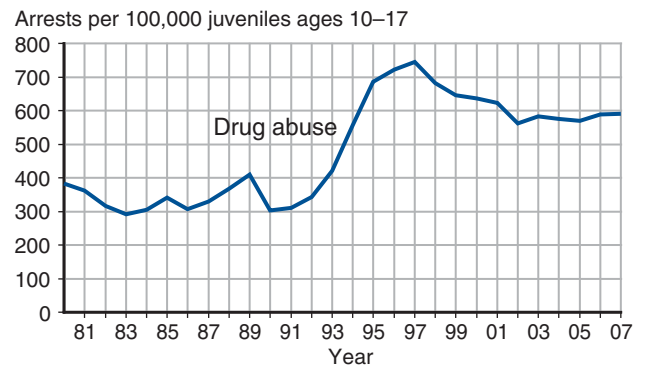
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. [See data source note on p. 12 for detail.]

The decline in the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations between 2006 and 2007 broke the trend of increasing rates that began in 2003



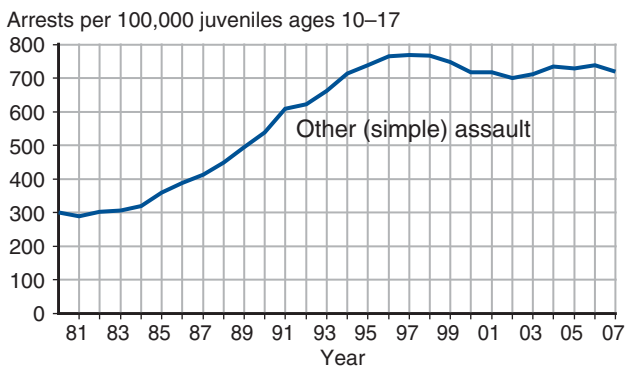
- ◆ Between 1980 and 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations increased more than 140%. Then the rate fell substantially, so that by 2002 the rate was just 14% more than the 1980 level.
- ◆ However, between 2002 and 2006, the juvenile weapons arrest rate grew 35%, then fell 7% through 2007. As a result, the rate in 2007 was 43% more than the 1980 level and 41% less than its 1993 peak. Between 2006 and 2007, the rate declined more for females (10%) than for males (6%), and more for whites (8%) than for blacks (5%).

After a period of substantial growth during the 1990s, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations declined after 1997



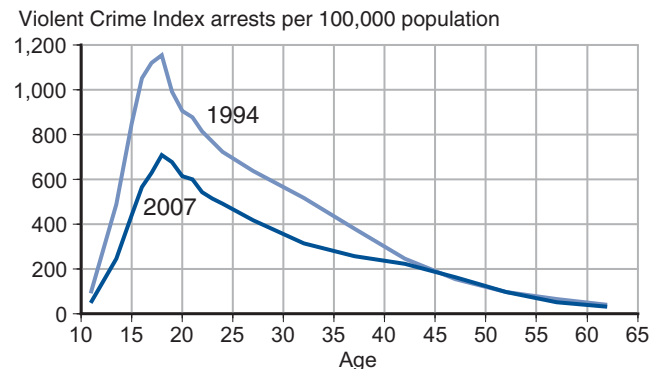
- ◆ Between 1990 and 1997, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations increased 145%. The rate declined 21% between 1997 and 2007, but the 2007 rate was still almost double the 1990 rate.
- ◆ Over the 1980–2007 period, the juvenile drug arrest rate for whites peaked in 1997 and then held relatively constant through 2007 (down 10%). In contrast, the rate for blacks peaked in 1995, then fell 49% by 2002. Despite the recent increase—23% since 2002—the rate in 2007 was 37% less than the 1995 peak.

The juvenile arrest rate for simple assault has changed little since 2000, fluctuating less than 4% in any given year



- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for simple assault increased 156% between 1980 and 1997, declined slightly through 2002, then rose again through 2006. The rate dropped 3% in 2007 to a level 6% less than the 1997 peak.
- ◆ Unlike the trend for simple assault, the juvenile aggravated assault arrest rate declined steadily since the mid-1990s, falling 41% between 1994 and 2007.
- ◆ The 2007 juvenile arrest rate for simple assault was substantially greater than the 1980 rate for most racial groups.

Between the 1994 peak and 2007, arrest rates for Violent Crime Index offenses fell substantially for every age group younger than 40



- ◆ Juveniles showed the largest decline—falling nearly 50% in each age group from 10 through 17. Between 1994 and 2007, the Violent Crime Index arrest rates for 18-year-olds fell 39%. The Violent Crime Index arrest rates for persons age 19–39 fell more than 30% for each age group.
- ◆ Over the 1994–2007 period, the Violent Crime Index arrest rates for persons age 40–54 changed little, while the arrest rates for persons age 55–64 declined.

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

State variations in juvenile arrest rates may reflect differences in juvenile law-violating behavior, police behavior, and/or community standards; therefore, comparisons should be made with caution

State	Reporting Coverage	2007 Juvenile Arrest Rate*				State	Reporting Coverage	2007 Juvenile Arrest Rate*			
		Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Weapons			Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Weapons
United States	81%†	301	1,293	590	128	Missouri	85%	257	1,573	641	97
Alabama	75	180	757	249	46	Montana	84	90	1,745	378	41
Alaska	96	220	1,559	328	68	Nebraska	85	138	1,823	644	109
Arizona	94	228	1,546	784	84	Nevada	96	238	1,313	517	152
Arkansas	66	147	1,012	381	60	New Hampshire	68	86	692	540	30
California	98	410	1,074	519	202	New Jersey	97	334	864	689	185
Colorado	90	173	1,621	741	137	New Mexico	71	279	1,045	752	178
Connecticut	93	282	1,017	442	89	New York	55	270	1,002	520	66
Delaware	99	591	1,647	819	137	North Carolina	77	318	1,431	508	215
District of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Dakota	88	79	1,874	436	43
Florida	100	477	1,864	763	106	Ohio	60	150	1,001	414	70
Georgia	62	294	1,342	591	223	Oklahoma	100	178	1,122	503	87
Hawaii	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	Oregon	94	230	1,855	603	94
Idaho	92	141	1,823	544	110	Pennsylvania	92	426	1,075	523	127
Illinois	23	913	1,547	2,152	294	Rhode Island	83	86	960	386	117
Indiana	71	209	1,510	486	59	South Carolina	95	294	1,120	705	168
Iowa	86	258	1,860	450	45	South Dakota	49	95	1,461	476	68
Kansas	64	168	952	533	77	Tennessee	79	332	1,249	626	144
Kentucky	20	343	2,168	1,360	127	Texas	91	188	1,087	593	64
Louisiana	61	364	1,617	623	113	Utah	88	120	1,879	506	133
Maine	100	63	1,477	417	44	Vermont	98	65	570	286	35
Maryland	99	548	1,876	1,192	221	Virginia	95	146	784	359	88
Massachusetts	91	307	521	377	46	Washington	75	267	1,897	540	144
Michigan	92	224	1,024	337	89	West Virginia	77	42	368	161	16
Minnesota	98	217	1,758	507	135	Wisconsin	98	298	2,634	806	233
Mississippi	37	138	1,227	495	120	Wyoming	99	124	1,748	994	85

* 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 1% 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 (81%) includes all States reporting arrests of persons under age 18. This is greater than the coverage in the rest of the Bulletin (75%) for various reasons. For example, Florida provided arrest counts of persons under age 18 but did not provide the age detail required to support other presentations in *Crime in the United States 2007*.

NA = *Crime in the United States 2007* reported no arrest counts for the District of Columbia and Hawaii.

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 2007* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008), tables 5 and 69, and population data from the National Center for Health Statistics' *Estimates of the July 1, 2000–July 1, 2007, United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2007 Postcensal Series by Year, County, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable data files available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm>, released 9/5/2008].

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Data source note

Analysis of arrest data from unpublished FBI reports for 1980 through 1997, from *Crime in the United States* reports for 1998 through 2003 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1999 through 2004, respectively) and from *Crime in the United States* reports for 2004 through 2007, which are available online at www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm#cious, released September 2008; population data for 1980–1989 from the U.S. Census Bureau, *U.S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1980 to 1999* [machine-readable data files available online, released April 11, 2000]; population data for 1990–1999 from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau with support from the National Cancer Institute), *Bridged-race Intercensal Estimates of the July 1, 1990–July 1, 1999, United States Resident Population by County, Single-year of Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable data files available online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm, released July 26, 2004]; and population data for 2000–2007 from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau), *Estimates of the July 1, 2000–July 1, 2007, United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2007 Postcensal Series by Year, County, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin*

[machine-readable data files available online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm, released September 5, 2008].

Notes

In this Bulletin, “juvenile” refers to persons under age 18. This definition is at odds with the legal definition of juveniles in 2007 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 2007, with 2007 coverage of 75%.

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. Census Bureau’s most current estimate of the proportion of the U.S. population for each age group.

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Additional juvenile arrest statistics are available online:
www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/crime/JAR.asp