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J. Robert Flores, Administrator

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JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN

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Juvenile Arrests 2002

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In 2002, 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 2002. The substantial growth in juvenile violent crime arrests that began in the late 1980s peaked in 1994. In 2002, for the eighth consecutive year, the rate of juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses—murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—declined. Specifically, between 1994 and 2002, the juvenile arrest rate for Violent Crime Index offenses fell 47%. As a result, the juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate in 2002 was at the lowest level since at least 1980. From its peak in 1993 to 2002, the juvenile arrest rate for murder fell 72%.

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 1,600 juveniles murdered in 2002, 38% were under 5 years of age, 64% were male, 51% were white, and 48% were killed with a firearm.
- ◆ Arrests of juveniles accounted for 12% of all violent crimes cleared by arrest in 2002—specifically, 5% of murders, 12% of forcible rapes, 14% of robberies, and 12% of aggravated assaults.
- ◆ In the peak year of 1993, there were about 3,840 juvenile arrests for murder. Between 1993 and 2002, juvenile arrests for murder declined, with the number of arrests in 2002 (1,360) about one-third that in 1993.
- ◆ The juvenile violent crime arrest rate in 2002 was lower than it had been since at least 1980, and nearly half of what it was in 1994.
- ◆ Juvenile male arrest rates for aggravated assault and simple assault fell from the mid-1990s through 2002, while female rates remained near their highest level.
- ◆ The disparity in violent crime arrest rates for black juveniles and white juveniles declined substantially between 1980 and 2002.
- ◆ In 2002, the juvenile arrest rate for Property Crime Index offenses reached its lowest level since at least the 1960s.
- ◆ Between 1993 and 2002, juvenile arrests for driving under the influence increased 46%, with the increase far greater for females (94%) than males (37%).

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

A Message From OJJDP

In 2002, the juvenile arrest rate for Violent Crime Index offenses reached its lowest level since at least 1980. The rate, which grew substantially during the late 1980s and peaked in 1994, has decreased for 8 consecutive years. In 2002, it was nearly half its 1994 peak level.

The Violent Crime Index tracks murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The juvenile arrest rate for each of these offenses has declined steadily since the mid-1990s. The relative decrease in the number of arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses has been nearly three times greater for juveniles than for adults.

Although the statistic trends are encouraging, juvenile crime remains a problem. An estimated 2,261,000 arrests of juveniles took place in 2002, including 92,160 for Violent Crime Index offenses. Arrest trends show that females are an increasing proportion of the juvenile justice population. Disproportionate involvement of minorities in juvenile arrests persisted; however, the black-to-white disparity in violent crime arrest rates declined substantially between 1980 and 2002.

Juvenile Arrests 2002 provides a summary and an analysis of national and state juvenile arrest data presented in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's report *Crime in the United States 2002*. This Bulletin offers baseline information for those interested in monitoring the nation's progress in addressing serious juvenile crime.

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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 186,600 arrests of young people for drug abuse violations in 2002, it means that a drug abuse violation was the most serious charge in these 186,600 arrests. An

unknown number of additional arrests in 2002 included a drug charge as a lesser offense.

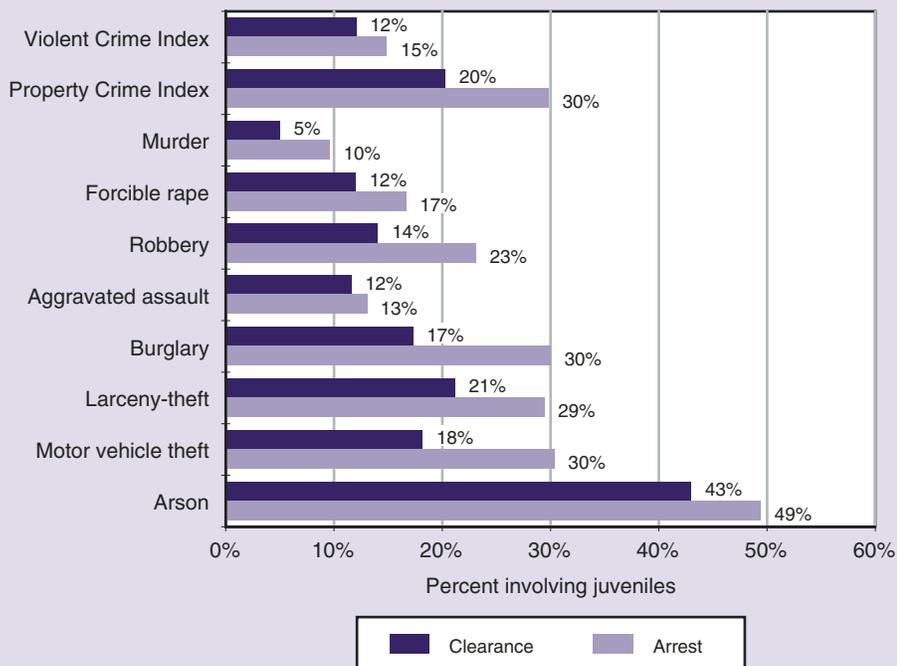
What do clearance statistics count?

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 23% of all robbery arrests but only 14% of all robberies that were cleared in 2002. 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 2002. 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 2002* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2003), tables 28 and 38.

The number of juveniles murdered in 2002 was the lowest since 1985

Each *Crime in the United States* report presents estimates of the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. A large portion of most types of crime 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.

An estimated 16,200 murders were reported to law enforcement agencies in 2002, or 5.6 murders for every 100,000 U.S. residents. This represents a 4% increase over the 15,520 murders in 1999—the year with the fewest murders in the last 30 years. The relatively low number of murders in 2002 is underscored by the fact that there were essentially the same number of murders in 2002 as in 1970, when the U.S. population was about 30% smaller.

Of all murder victims in 2002, 90% (or 14,600 victims) were 18 years of age or older. The other 1,600 murder victims were under age 18. Fewer juveniles were murdered in the U.S. in 2002 than in any year since 1985. The 2002 figure is 44% below the peak year of 1993, when an estimated 2,880 juveniles were murdered in the U.S.

Of all juveniles murdered in 2002, 38% were under age 5, 64% were male, and 51% were white. Compared with older juvenile murder victims, victims under age 13 in 2002 were more likely to be female (47% vs. 25%) and more likely to be white (56% vs. 46%).

In 2002, 67% of all murder victims were killed with a firearm. Adults were more likely to be killed with a firearm (69%) than were juveniles (48%). However, the involvement of a firearm depended greatly on the age of the juvenile victim. Whereas 19% of murdered juveniles under age 13 were killed with a firearm in 2002, 78% 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 50% of these murders, the offenders' only weapons were their hands and/or feet.

The nearly 2.3 million arrests of juveniles in 2002 was 19% fewer than the number of arrests in 1998

Most Serious Offense	2002 Estimated Number of Juvenile Arrests	Percent of Total Juvenile Arrests		Percent Change		
		Female	Under Age 15	1993–2002	1998–2002	2001–2002
Total	2,261,000	29%	31%	-11%	-19%	-3%
Violent Crime Index	92,160	18	32	-29	-17	-3
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	1,360	10	10	-64	-36	2
Forcible rape	4,720	3	37	-27	-14	-1
Robbery	24,470	9	24	-38	-21	-1
Aggravated assault	61,610	24	36	-23	-15	-4
Property Crime Index	481,600	32	37	-34	-23	-4
Burglary	86,500	11	36	-39	-26	-4
Larceny-theft	341,700	39	38	-30	-23	-3
Motor vehicle theft	45,200	17	25	-50	-15	-6
Arson	8,200	11	64	-23	-11	-10
Nonindex						
Other assaults	236,300	32	42	14	-2	1
Forgery and counterfeiting	5,100	36	13	-43	-31	-17
Fraud	9,300	33	18	-18	-20	-7
Embezzlement	1,400	41	9	73	-18	-25
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	26,100	16	27	-45	-26	-5
Vandalism	105,900	14	43	-33	-22	-2
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	35,100	11	34	-47	-24	-5
Prostitution and commercialized vice	1,500	67	15	27	-6	4
Sex offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	19,400	9	52	-9	9	1
Drug abuse violations	186,600	16	16	59	-11	-7
Gambling	1,600	3	15	-39	-8	16
Offenses against the family and children	9,400	39	37	48	-12	-6
Driving under the influence	21,800	19	2	46	-6	4
Liquor law violations	149,400	34	10	17	-22	-3
Drunkenness	18,700	22	12	-2	-26	-7
Disorderly conduct	192,900	30	40	9	-15	3
Vagrancy	2,100	24	26	-40	-37	-15
All other offenses (except traffic)	396,300	27	27	8	-20	-3
Suspicion (not included in totals)	1,400	29	25	-43	-9	49
Curfew and loitering	141,300	31	28	35	-33	-5
Runaways	125,700	60	37	-37	-27	-8

- ◆ In 2002, there were an estimated 61,610 juvenile arrests for aggravated assault. Between 1993 and 2002, the annual number of such arrests fell 23%.
- ◆ Females accounted for 24% of juvenile arrests for aggravated assault and 32% of juvenile arrests for other assaults (i.e., simple assaults and intimidations) in 2002, far more than their involvement in other types of violent crimes. Three of every five juvenile arrests (60%) for running away from home involved a female, as did 3 of every 10 arrests (31%) for curfew and loitering law violations.
- ◆ Between 1993 and 2002, there were substantial declines in juvenile arrests for murder (64%), motor vehicle theft (50%), and weapons law violations (47%) and major increases in juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations (59%) and driving under the influence (46%).

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

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2002* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2003), 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 2002.

In the period since 1980, the proportion of murders cleared by juvenile arrests peaked in 1994 at 10% then dropped to 5% in 2002—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; however, the 2002 proportion (12%) was still above the levels of the late 1980s (9%). The juvenile proportion of robbery clearances also peaked in 1995 (20%); it fell substantially by 2002 (14%) but was still above the levels of the late 1980s (10%). The juvenile proportion of aggravated assault clearances in 2002 (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 2002 (20%) was at its lowest level since at least 1980.

Juvenile arrests for violence in 2002 were the lowest since 1987

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 2002. For all Violent Crime Index offenses combined, the number of juvenile arrests in 2002 was the lowest since 1987. The number of juvenile aggravated assault arrests in 2002 was lower than in any year since 1989. With the exception of 2000, the number of juvenile arrests in 2002 for murder was lower than in any year since 1984. The number of juvenile arrests in 2002 for forcible rape was at the low levels of the early 1980s. Finally, the number of juvenile arrests for robbery was lower in 2002 than in any year since at least the early 1970s.

In the 10 years between 1993 and 2002, the decline in the number of violent crime arrests was greater for juveniles than adults:

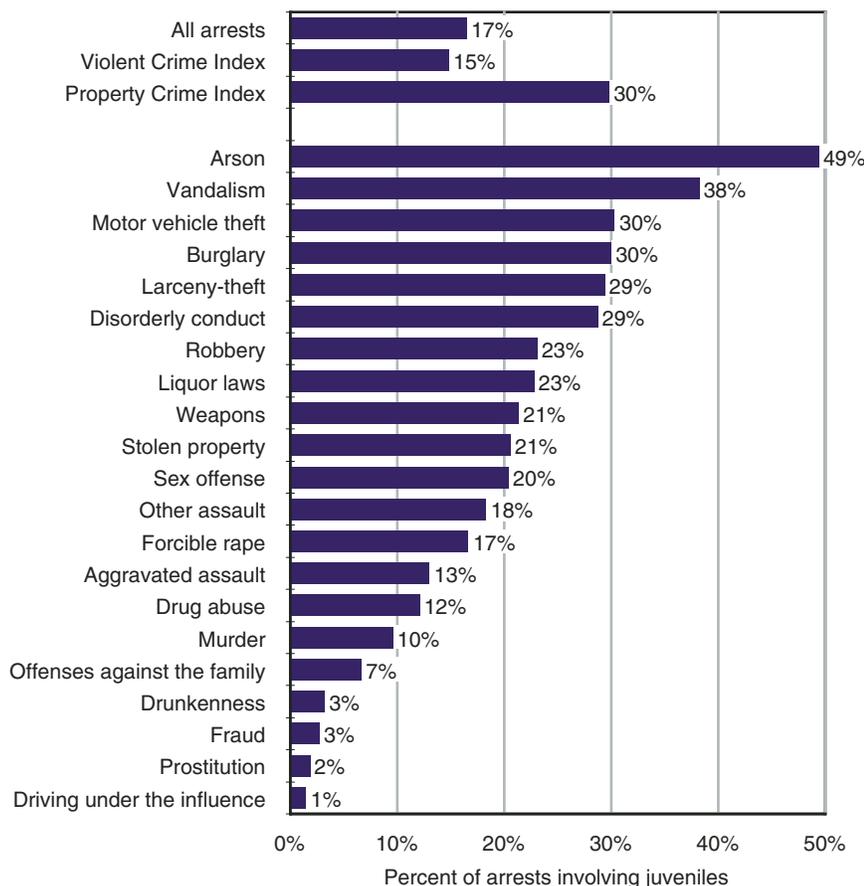
Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Arrests 1993–2002	
	Juvenile	Adult
Violent Crime Index	-29%	-10%
Murder	-64	-36
Forcible rape	-27	-26
Robbery	-38	-25
Aggravated assault	-23	-4

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2002*, table 32.

Few juveniles were arrested for violent crime

In 2002, there were 276 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 360 persons ages 10–17 was arrested for a Violent Crime Index offense in 2002, or about one-third of 1% of all juveniles ages 10–17 living in the U.S.

In 2002, juveniles were involved in 1 in 10 arrests for murder (or 10% of arrests for murder), 1 in 8 arrests for a drug abuse violation, 1 in 5 arrests for a weapons violation, and 1 in 4 arrests for robbery



Data source: *Crime in the United States 2002* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2003), table 38.

Juvenile arrests for property crimes in 2002 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 2002, the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate dropped 43%, 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 2002, the juvenile larceny-theft arrest rate and the juvenile motor vehicle theft arrest rate were at their lowest levels since at least 1980.

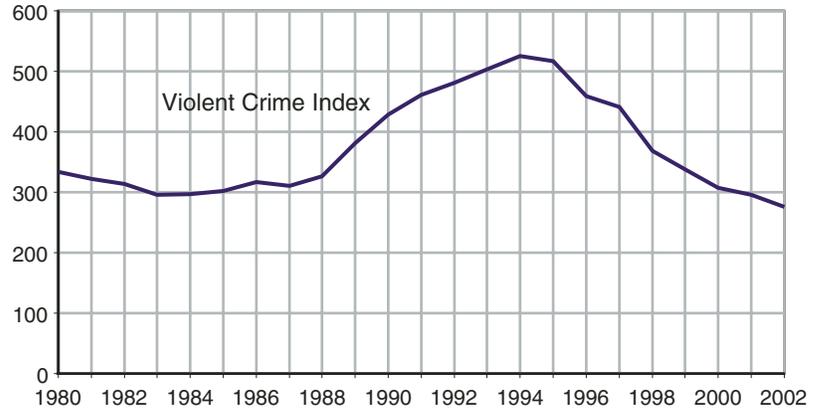
Most arrested juveniles were referred to court

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 2002, 18% of arrests involving youth eligible in their state for processing in the juvenile justice system were handled within law enforcement agencies, 73% 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 2002 (from 64% to 73%). In 2002, the proportion of juvenile arrests sent to juvenile court was similar in cities (72%), suburban counties (74%), and rural counties (72%).

The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate in 2002 was lower than in any year since at least 1980 and 47% below the peak year of 1994

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17

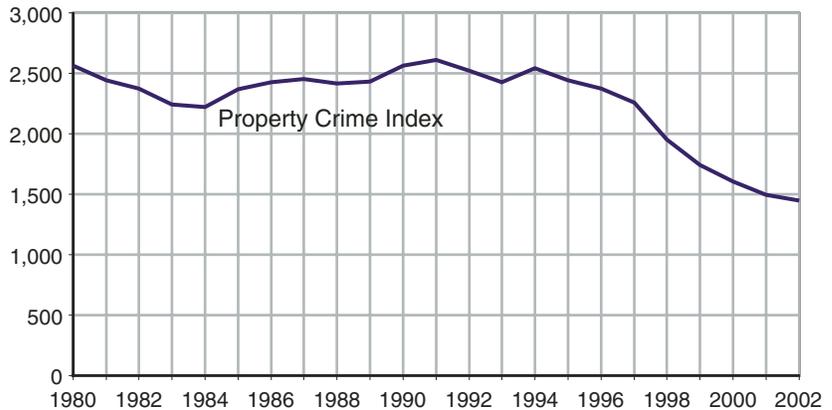


- ◆ In comparison with the juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate, the rate for young adults (persons ages 18–24) that peaked in 1992 had fallen only 28% by 2002, remaining above the rates of the early 1980s.

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

After years of relative stability, the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate began a decline in the mid-1990s that continued through 2002

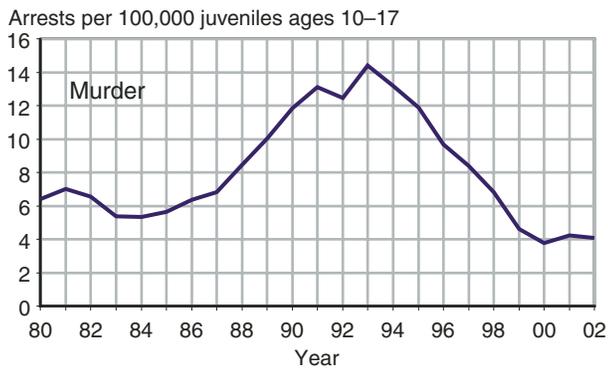
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for Property Crime Index offenses in 2002 was nearly 40% below its levels in the early 1980s.

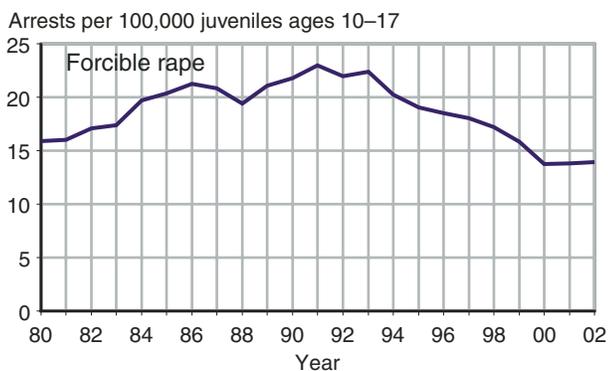
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the National Center for Health Statistics. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

In 2002, juvenile arrest rates for murder, forcible rape, and robbery were at or near their lowest levels since at least 1980; the same was not true for the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault



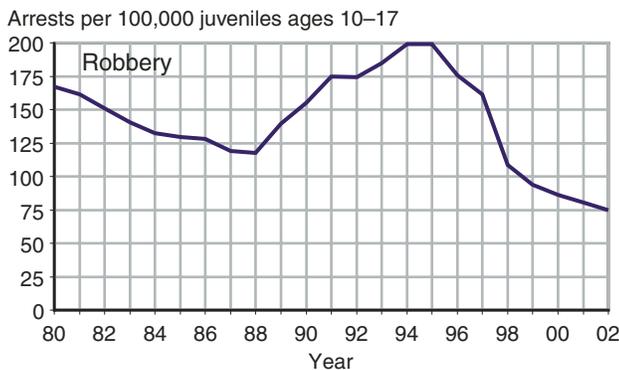
Murder

- ◆ In the period between 1980 and 2002, the juvenile arrest rate for murder peaked in 1993. In that year, there were about 3,840 arrests of juveniles for murder.
- ◆ Between the mid-1980s and 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for murder more than doubled.
- ◆ After 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for murder fell each year through 2000—a total decline of 74%. Both 2001 and 2002 saw juvenile arrest rates for murder slightly above the low level of 2000.



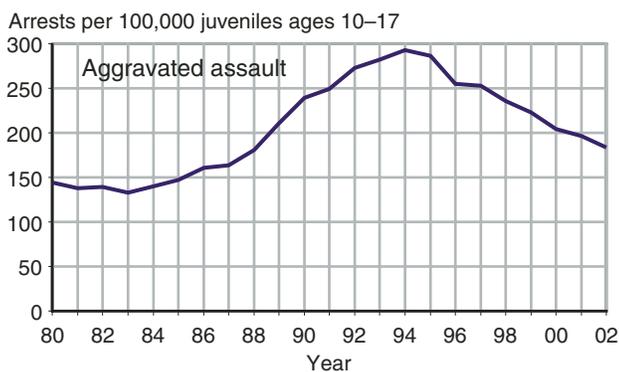
Forcible Rape

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape did not vary as much as the rates for other violent crimes over the period 1980–2002, although it did follow the same general pattern of growth and decline.
- ◆ In 1991, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape peaked for the 1980–2002 period at 44% above its level in 1980.
- ◆ After 1993, the rate fell each year through 2000, then held constant through 2002. In 2002, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape was near its lowest level of the 1980–2002 period.



Robbery

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for robbery declined during much of the 1980s, falling 30% between 1980 and 1988.
- ◆ In 1989, this trend changed and the rate grew to its high level of 1995, 69% above the 1988 level and 19% above its 1980 level.
- ◆ Between 1995 and 2002, the juvenile arrest rate for robbery fell 62%; by 2002, it was at its lowest level since at least 1980 and 36% below the low point in 1988.



Aggravated Assault

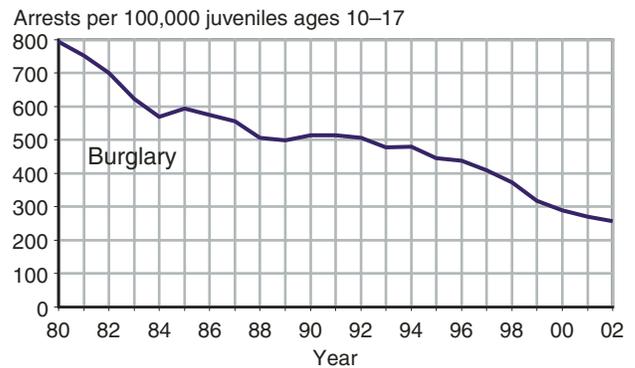
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault doubled between 1980 and 1994, generally paralleling the arrest rate trends for murder and robbery.
- ◆ Unlike the juvenile arrest rate trends for murder and robbery, the decline (of 37%) in the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault between 1994 and 2002 did not erase the increase that began in the mid-1980s. The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault in 2002 was still 27% above the 1980 level.

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

Juvenile arrest rate trends for the four offenses that make up the Property Crime Index show very different patterns over the 1980–2002 period

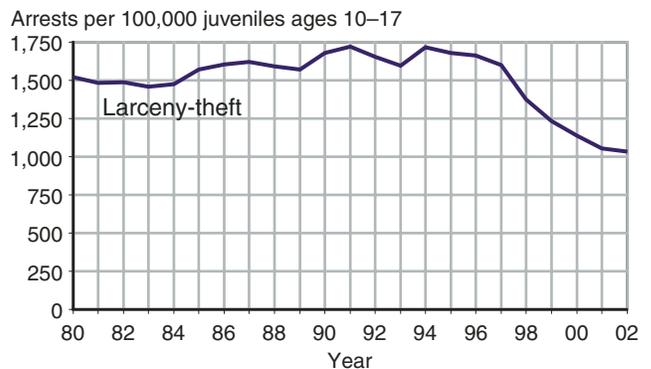
Burglary

- ◆ Unlike the arrest rate trend for any other Property Crime Index offense, the juvenile arrest rate for burglary declined consistently and substantially between 1980 and 2002.
- ◆ In 2002, the juvenile arrest rate for burglary was just one-third of what it had been in 1980.
- ◆ Between 1993 and 2002, the number of arrests for burglary declined for both juveniles and adults (39% and 24%, respectively). Similarly, in the 10-year period 1984–1993, the decline was greater for juveniles (17%) than for adults (4%).



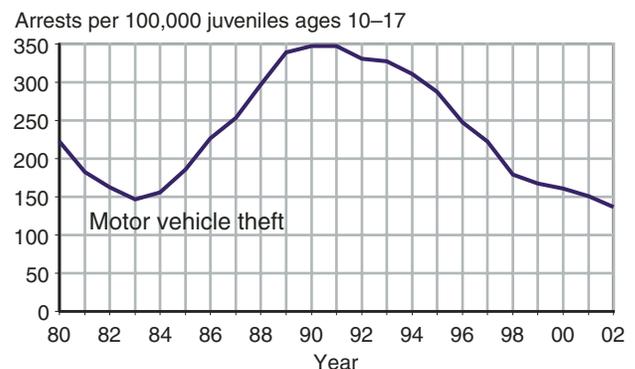
Larceny-Theft

- ◆ In 2002, 71% of all juvenile Property Crime Index arrests were for larceny-theft. The most common larceny-theft violation is shoplifting. Therefore, Property Crime Index arrest rate trends primarily reflect trends in larceny-theft and are influenced to a much lesser degree by the generally more serious property crimes of burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson.
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft remained relatively constant between 1980 and 1997, then fell 35% in the brief period between 1997 and 2002.



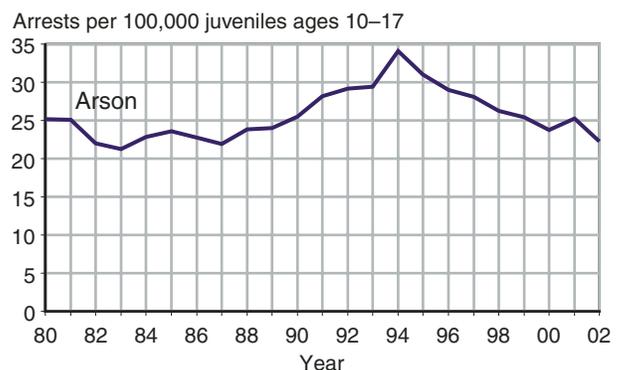
Motor Vehicle Theft

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft soared between 1983 and 1990, increasing 138%.
- ◆ After the peak years of 1990 and 1991, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined substantially and consistently through 2002, so that by 2002 the rate was at its lowest level since at least 1980.
- ◆ Between 1993 and 2002, the number of arrests for motor vehicle theft declined 50% for juveniles and just 7% for adults.



Arson

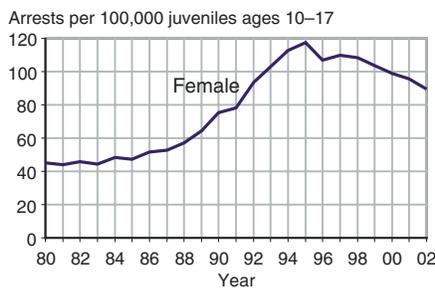
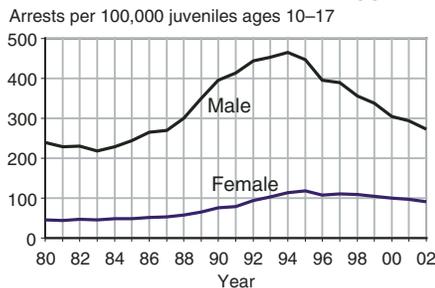
- ◆ After being relatively stable for most of the 1980s, the juvenile arrest rate for arson grew 55% between 1987 and 1994.
- ◆ With the exception of 2001, the juvenile arrest rate for arson declined each year between 1994 and 2002, falling in 2002 to a level near the lowest experienced in the 1980–2002 period.



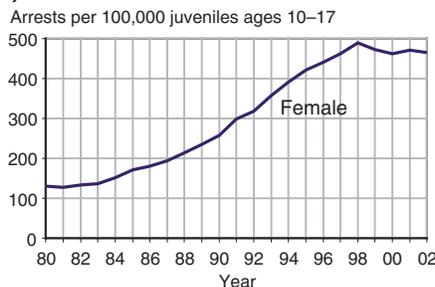
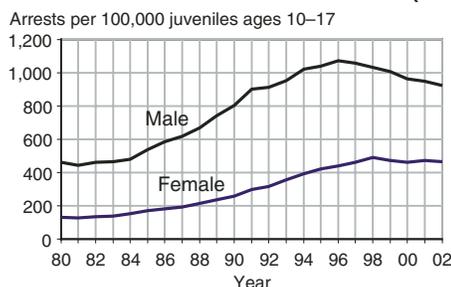
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the National Center for Health Statistics. [See data source note on page 12 for detail.]

Male juvenile arrest rates for aggravated assault and simple assault fell from the mid-1990s through 2002, while female rates remained near their highest levels

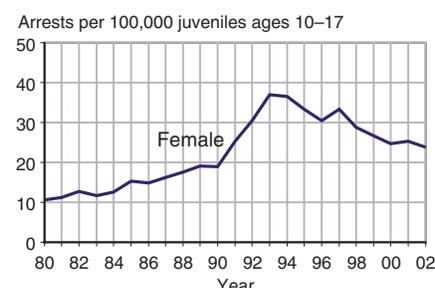
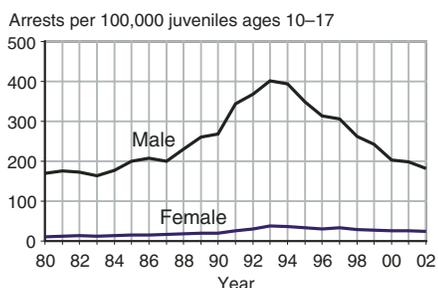
Aggravated assault



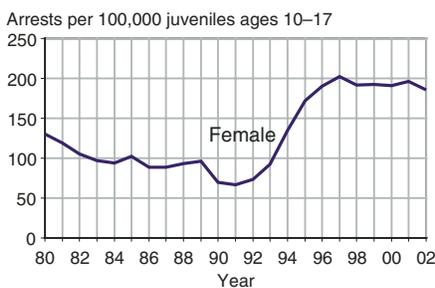
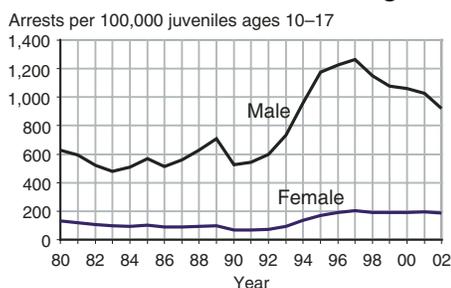
Other (simple) assault



Weapons



Drug abuse violations



- ◆ Between 1980 and 2002, the increase in the female juvenile arrest rate was greater than the increase in the male rate for aggravated assault (99% vs. 14%), simple assault (258% vs. 99%), and weapons law violations (125% vs. 7%).
- ◆ In contrast, the increase in the female juvenile arrest rate between 1980 and 2002 was comparable with the increase in the male rate for drug abuse violations (42% vs. 47%).

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

In 2002, 29% of juvenile arrests involved females

Law enforcement agencies made 654,000 arrests of females under age 18 in 2002. Between 1993 and 2002, arrests of juvenile females generally increased more (or decreased less) than male arrests in most offense categories.

Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Juvenile Arrests 1993–2002	
	Female	Male
Aggravated assault	7%	-29%
Simple assault	41	4
Larceny-theft	-11	-38
Motor vehicle theft	-41	-52
Vandalism	-6	-36
Weapons	-26	-49
Drug abuse violations	120	51
Liquor law violations	37	9
DUI	94	37
Curfew and loitering	50	29
Runaways	-35	-41

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2002*, table 33.

The larger increases in female arrests for assault were also seen in adult arrest trends. Therefore, the disproportionate growth in female violent crime arrests was related to factors that affect both juveniles and adults. Although one possible reason for the disproportionate increase in female arrests is an increase in crime, arrests can increase even when crime does not increase as a result of citizens' greater willingness to report crime to law enforcement or because a greater proportion of police contacts result in arrest.

In 2002, the percentage of juvenile arrests that involved a female was somewhat greater in central cities than in their suburbs or in the communities outside of the cities and their suburbs—a pattern most evident for larceny-theft, burglary, aggravated assault, simple assault, and running away from home.

Most Serious Offense	Female Percent of Juvenile Arrests, 2002		
	Central Cities	Suburban Areas	Other
All offenses	31%	28%	28%
Aggravated assault	26	22	21
Simple assault	35	30	30
Burglary	15	10	9
Larceny-theft	42	37	33
Runaways	62	59	58

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2002*, tables 45, 51, 57, and 63.

Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities

The racial composition of the juvenile population in 2002 was 78% white, 16% 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 in 2002, 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 70% white youth, 27% black youth, 2% Asian youth, and 1% American Indian youth.

Most Serious Offense Black Proportion of Juvenile Arrests in 2002

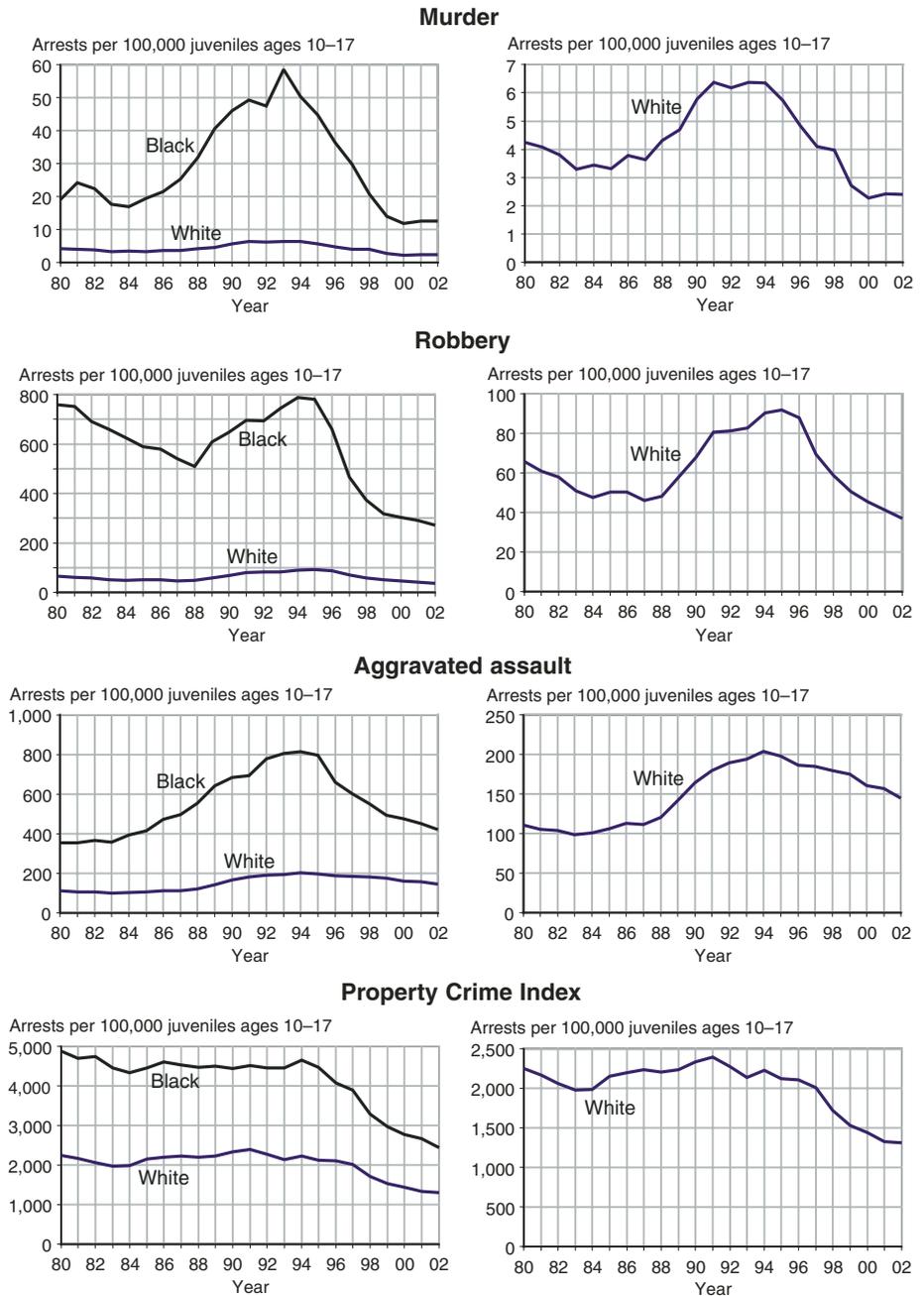
Murder	50%
Forcible rape	36
Robbery	59
Aggravated assault	37
Burglary	25
Larceny-theft	26
Motor vehicle theft	38
Weapons	31
Drug abuse violations	25
Curfew and loitering	29
Runaways	18

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2002*, table 43.

The Violent Crime Index arrest rate (i.e., arrests per 100,000 juveniles in the racial group) in 2002 for black juveniles (736) was more than 3.5 times the rates for American Indian juveniles (200) and white juveniles (196) and nearly 7 times the rate for Asian juveniles (95). For Property Crime Index arrests, the rate for black juveniles (2,448) was almost double the rates for American Indian juveniles (1,347) and white juveniles (1,308), and more than 3.5 times the rate for Asian juveniles (668).

Over the period from 1980 through 2002, 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 2002, the rate disparity had declined to 3.8. This reduction in arrest rate disparities between 1980 and 2002 was primarily the result of the decline in black-to-white arrest disparities for robbery (from 11.5 in 1980 to 7.3 in 2002), which was greater than the decline for aggravated assault (3.2 to 2.9).

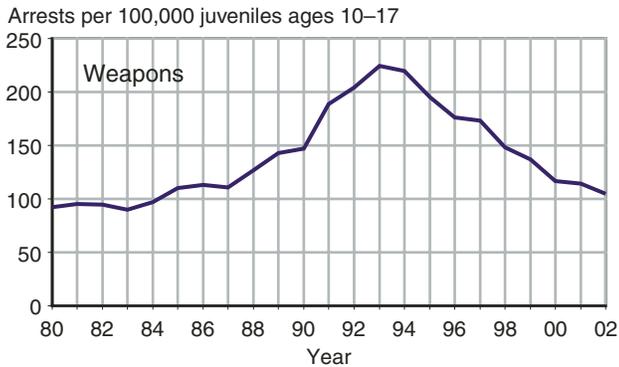
The decline in juvenile arrest rates from the mid-1990s through 2002 was proportionally greater for black youth than white youth



- ◆ Murder arrest rates in 2002 were lower than in any year in the 1980s and 1990s for both white and black juveniles. The murder arrest rate for white juveniles in 2002 was just one-third of what it had been in 1993, while the 2002 rate for black juveniles was just one-fifth of its 1993 value.
- ◆ The decline in robbery arrest rates between 1980 and 2002 was greater for black juveniles than white juveniles (64% vs. 43%).
- ◆ The Property Crime Index arrest rates for both white juveniles and black juveniles in 2002 were about half of what they were in 1980.

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

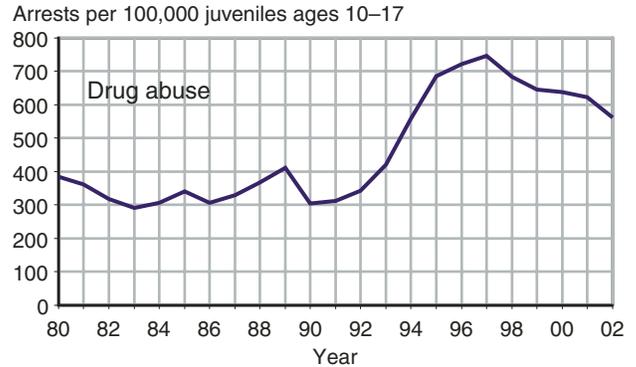
The trend in the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations from 1980 to 2002 closely parallels the trend in juvenile murder arrest rates



- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations increased more than 140% between 1980 and 1993.
- ◆ After 1993, the rate fell substantially, to within 14% of its 1980 level by 2002.

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

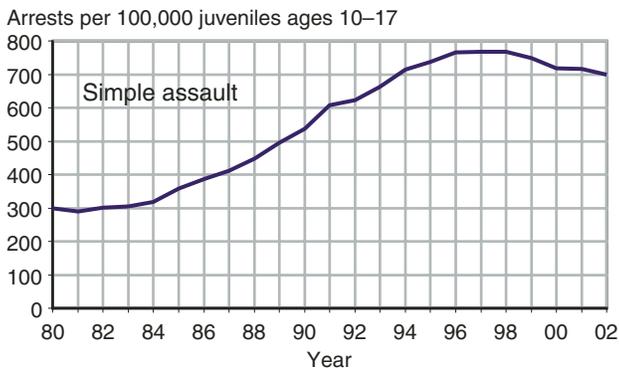
The juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations soared in the 1990s, peaking in 1997



- ◆ The arrest rate declined each year from 1998 to 2002, falling 25% from its 1997 peak. However, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations in 2002 was still 46% above its 1980 level.
- ◆ During the period from 1993 to 2002, the annual number of juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations increased 59%, while adult arrests for this crime increased 34%.

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

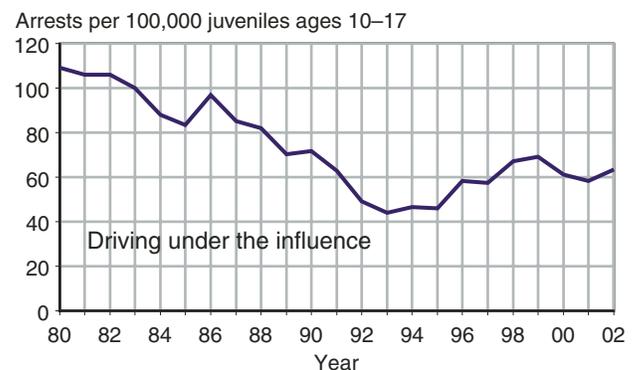
Unlike the arrest rate trend for aggravated assault, the juvenile arrest rate for simple assault did not decline substantially after the mid-1990s



- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for simple assault increased by 133% between 1980 and 2002.
- ◆ In 1980, 68% of all assault arrests (i.e., aggravated assault arrests plus simple assault arrests) were simple assaults; by 2002, this proportion had increased to 79%. Most of this increase occurred in the latter half of the 1990s, indicating a greater involvement of law enforcement in less serious offenses.

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

The juvenile arrest rate for DUI declined substantially between 1980 and the mid-1990s, followed by general increases through 2002



- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for driving under the influence in 2002 was 42% below its 1980 level, but 44% above its lowest level, in 1993.
- ◆ Between 1993 and 2002, the number of juvenile arrests for driving under the influence increased 45%, while adult arrests increased 11%. The increase in the number of arrests was far greater for female juveniles (94%) than male juveniles (37%).

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the National Center for Health Statistics. [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	2002 Juvenile Arrest Rate*					State	2002 Juvenile Arrest Rate*				
	Reporting Coverage	Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Weapons		Reporting Coverage	Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Weapons
United States	77%†	295	1,511	571	105	Missouri	84%	298	1,685	585	97
Alabama	84	138	773	219	30	Montana	66	157	2,182	270	32
Alaska	91	257	2,375	547	69	Nebraska	91	107	2,266	669	68
Arizona	95	259	1,938	740	69	Nevada	71	221	2,083	313	63
Arkansas	52	169	1,393	308	61	New Hampshire	64	118	1,062	725	15
California	99	365	1,225	549	162	New Jersey	97	354	1,039	763	178
Colorado	81	231	2,215	729	144	New Mexico	64	307	1,144	545	142
Connecticut	70	197	1,147	471	77	New York	33	314	1,485	706	96
Delaware	85	330	1,405	447	244	North Carolina	83	310	1,563	417	154
District of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Dakota	90	61	2,146	381	42
Florida	99	517	2,170	718	100	Ohio	57	185	1,105	345	66
Georgia	49	263	1,320	440	103	Oklahoma	98	243	1,476	439	83
Hawaii	77	286	1,669	429	35	Oregon	84	133	1,826	520	58
Idaho	97	157	2,254	498	111	Pennsylvania	85	398	1,258	564	98
Illinois	23	898	2,323	2,541	384	Rhode Island	98	257	1,464	577	138
Indiana	69	337	1,352	454	34	South Carolina	54	407	1,548	636	142
Iowa	91	244	1,957	417	37	South Dakota	69	80	1,686	597	76
Kansas	49	168	1,211	458	35	Tennessee	85	195	899	372	83
Kentucky	23	291	1,646	668	60	Texas	98	194	1,383	538	61
Louisiana	71	398	1,949	533	71	Utah	95	175	2,480	565	105
Maine	100	99	2,004	541	33	Vermont	86	47	750	323	15
Maryland	59	299	1,630	797	133	Virginia	86	128	862	370	73
Massachusetts	73	428	709	399	33	Washington	84	230	2,031	496	92
Michigan	96	172	964	324	54	West Virginia	51	54	541	122	22
Minnesota	83	184	2,046	614	86	Wisconsin	91	349	3,207	884	231
Mississippi	54	120	1,735	551	78	Wyoming	98	106	1,649	824	76

* 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 (77%) includes all states reporting arrests of persons under age 18. This is greater than the coverage in the rest of the Bulletin (71%) 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 2002*.

NA = *Crime in the United States 2002* reported no arrest counts for the District of Columbia.

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 2002* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2003), tables 5 and 69, and population data from the National Center for Health Statistics' *Estimates of the July 1, 2000–July 1, 2002 United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2002 Postcensal Series by Year, 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 August 1, 2003].

Notes

In this Bulletin, “juvenile” refers to persons under age 18. This definition is at odds with the legal definition of juveniles in 2002 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 2002, with the 2002 coverage being 71%.

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 through 2002 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, respectively); population data for 1980–1989 from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *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 U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990–1999 Intercensal State and County Characteristics Population Estimates* [machine-readable data files available online at http://eire.census.gov/popest/estimates_dataset.php, released June 23, 2003]; and population data for 2000–2002 from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Bureau of the Census), *Estimates of the July 1, 2000–July 1, 2002 United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2002 Postcensal Series by Year, 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 August 1, 2003].

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