



JUVENILE JUSTICE STATISTICS

NATIONAL REPORT SERIES BULLETIN

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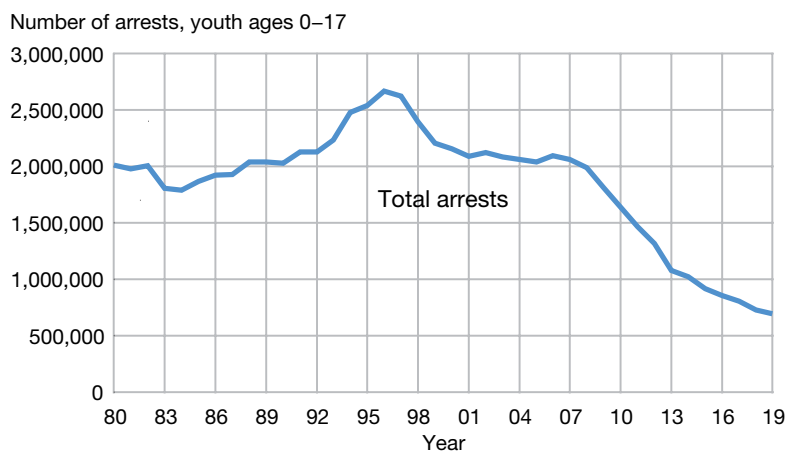
Juvenile Arrests, 2019

Charles Puzzanchera

Highlights

This bulletin documents the latest trends in arrests involving juveniles (youth younger than age 18) by drawing on arrest estimates developed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice based on analyses of data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program. Overall, juvenile arrests have been on the decline for more than two decades, but patterns vary by demographic group and offense.

In 2019, law enforcement agencies made an estimated 696,620 arrests of youth younger than 18—the fewest arrests of juveniles in nearly 4 decades



■ Arrests of juveniles (youth ages 0–17) peaked in 1996, at nearly 2.7 million. Arrests of juveniles have since declined—the number in 2019 was 74% below the 1996 peak. In comparison, arrests of adults fell 24% during the same period.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

- After increasing in recent years, the juvenile arrest rate for murder fell 6% in the last year, and the rates for robbery and aggravated assault reached a new low in 2019.
- Juvenile arrest rates for property crimes have declined in recent years. By 2019, juvenile arrest rates for larceny-theft, burglary, and arson were at their lowest levels since at least 1980, while the rate for motor vehicle theft was above its 2013 low point.
- In 2019, the violent crime arrest rate for older juveniles (ages 15–17) was lower than the rates for young adults (ages 18–20 and 21–24).
- Male and female juvenile arrest rates have declined in the last 10 years; however, the relative declines have been greater for males than for females across many offenses. As a result, the female share of juvenile arrests has grown since 1980.
- Juvenile arrest rates involving violent crimes (such as murder and robbery) tend to be much higher for black youth than for white youth. Conversely, arrest rates for liquor law violations were higher for American Indian and white youth than black youth.

A Message From OJJDP and NIJ

This bulletin summarizes recent trends in juvenile arrests in the United States based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program. The cumulative data in this bulletin reveal recent and long-term shifts in juvenile arrests based on offense, gender, and race. It is a useful tool for juvenile justice practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and others who seek to prevent, intervene in, and respond to juvenile delinquency.

The number of arrests involving juveniles in 2019 was at its lowest level since at least 1980, and much of the decline has occurred in the past 10 years. Between 2010 and 2019, the number of juvenile arrests fell 58%. Among violent crimes, arrests for robbery declined 13% and arrests for aggravated assault declined 6% between 2015 and 2019, while arrests for murder increased 10%. In 2019, there were an estimated 83,690 juvenile arrests for larceny-theft. Four in 10 (40%) of these arrests involved females, 3 in 10 (30%) involved youth younger than 15, and more than half (55%) involved white youth.

Relative declines in arrests have been greater for boys than for girls across many offenses. As a result, the female share of juvenile arrests has grown since 1980.

OJJDP and NIJ remain committed to supporting research, programs, and initiatives to combat juvenile delinquency and to provide positive outcomes for youth, their families, and their communities.

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The FBI's UCR Program provides data about juvenile arrests

What do arrest statistics count?

Findings in this bulletin are drawn from data that local law enforcement agencies across the country report to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. To properly interpret the material presented, the reader needs a clear understanding of what arrest 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 the number 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 entry into the justice system.

Arrest statistics also are limited in measuring the volume of arrests for a particular offense. Under the UCR program, the FBI requires law enforcement agencies to classify only the most serious offense charged in an 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,

* In this bulletin, "juvenile" refers to persons younger than age 18. In 2019, this definition was at odds with the legal definition of juveniles in eight states—seven states where all 17-year-olds are defined as adults, and one state where all 16- and 17-year-olds are defined as adults.

when arrest statistics show that law enforcement agencies made an estimated 16,080 arrests of young people for weapons law violations in 2019, it means that a weapons law violation was the most serious charge in these arrests. An unknown number of additional arrests in 2019 included a weapons charge as a lesser offense.

Crime in the United States Reports Data on Murder Victims

Each *Crime in the United States* report, published by the FBI, presents estimates of the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. Although many crimes are never reported, murder is one crime that is nearly always reported. An estimated 16,425 murders were reported to law enforcement agencies in 2019, or 5.0 murders for every 100,000 U.S. residents. The murder rate was essentially constant between 1999 and 2006 and then fell 22% through 2014, reaching its lowest level since at least 1980. The rate increased 19% through 2017 then fell 6% through 2019.

Of all murder victims in 2019, 92% (or 15,065 victims) were 18 years old or older. The other 1,360 murder victims were younger than age 18 (i.e., juveniles). The number of juvenile murder victims declined 33% between 2007 and 2013, reaching its lowest level since at least 1980. After reaching that historic low, the number of juvenile murder victims increased 16% through 2017, declined 6% in 2018, and then increased 4% in the past year. As a result, the number of juvenile murder victims in 2019 was 13% above the 2013 low point and 53% below the 1993 peak, when an estimated 2,880 juveniles were murdered.

Of all juveniles murdered in 2019, 32% were younger than age 5, 73% were male, 42% were white, and more than half (58%) were killed by a firearm.

In 2019, law enforcement agencies in the United States made fewer than 700,000 arrests of persons younger than 18

The number of arrests of juveniles in 2019 was 58% fewer than the number of arrests in 2010							
Most serious offense	2019 estimated number of juvenile arrests	Percent of total juvenile arrests			Percent change		
		Female	Younger than 15	White	2010–2019	2015–2019	2018–2019
Total	696,620	31%	32%	63%	-58%	-24%	-4%
Violent Crime*	44,010	21	30	49	-40	-8	-5
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	860	11	12	47	-15	10	-6
Rape*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Robbery	16,080	12	22	36	-41	-13	-7
Aggravated assault	27,070	26	35	56	-40	-6	-3
Property Crime Index	119,790	33	30	55	-67	-43	-9
Burglary	20,700	14	33	57	-68	-42	-7
Larceny-theft	83,690	40	30	55	-70	-46	-10
Motor vehicle theft	13,610	20	27	47	-14	-7	-8
Arson	1,800	15	57	69	-61	-33	-2
Nonindex							
Other (simple) assault	126,130	38	44	59	-40	-4	1
Forgery and counterfeiting	850	23	16	62	-50	-17	-18
Fraud	3,690	33	25	50	-36	-18	-22
Embezzlement	540	46	6	47	22	-8	-7
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	8,940	18	21	35	-39	-14	-4
Vandalism	31,950	20	43	70	-59	-23	4
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	16,080	10	29	56	-49	-17	-6
Prostitution and commercialized vice	290	71	14	47	-73	-51	9
Sex offense (except rape and prostitution)*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Drug abuse violation	81,320	26	20	75	-52	-18	-10
Gambling	190	29	17	58	-86	-60	7
Offenses against the family and children	3,060	41	37	67	-19	-11	-8
Driving under the influence	5,570	26	2	89	-54	-16	2
Liquor law violation	26,650	42	16	86	-72	-38	1
Drunkenness	3,470	33	15	77	-73	-37	6
Disorderly conduct	53,990	37	44	55	-65	-24	-7
Vagrancy	350	25	30	72	-84	-68	-49
All other offenses (except traffic)	144,160	30	30	67	-51	-14	3
Curfew and loitering	14,650	34	34	66	-80	-59	-27

- The number of arrests involving juveniles in 2019 was at its lowest level since at least 1980, and much of the decline has occurred in the past 10 years. Between 2010 and 2019, the number of juvenile arrests fell 58%.
- Among violent crimes, arrests for robbery declined 13% and arrests for aggravated assault declined 6% between 2015 and 2019, while arrests for murder increased 10%.
- In 2019, there were an estimated 83,690 juvenile arrests for larceny-theft. Forty percent (40%) of these arrests involved females, 30% involved youth younger than 15, and more than half (55%) involved white youth.

*Beginning in 2013, the FBI broadened the definition of rape, removing the phrase “forcible” from the offense name and description. (See the Notes on page 13 for more detail.) Due to differences in agency reporting practices, national estimates for the offenses of “rape” and “sex offenses” are not available after 2012. The “violent crimes” category (which includes murder, robbery, and aggravated assault) replaces the Violent Crime Index (which included “forcible rape”), as the latter category is no longer compatible with prior years. In any given year prior to the change in the rape definition, these three offenses accounted for more than 95% of arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses.

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

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

Juvenile arrests for violent crimes reached a new low in 2019

Juvenile arrests for violent crimes declined in the past 2 years

This bulletin uses a measure of violence that includes the offenses of murder, robbery, and aggravated assault.* Following 10 years of decline between 1994 and 2004, juvenile arrests for violent crimes increased through 2006 and then declined through 2015. After 2 years of stability, juvenile arrests for violent crimes fell 9% through 2019, reaching its lowest level since at least 1980, and 69% less than the 1994 peak.

After falling 71% between 1993 and 2004, juvenile arrests for murder increased through 2007, then declined 46% through 2012 to reach the lowest level in three decades. The number of juvenile arrests for murder increased each year between 2012 and 2018, then fell 6% through 2019. Juvenile arrests for robbery were cut in half between 1995 and 2002, increased through 2008, and then fell

*See the Notes on page 13 for differences in the definition of rape that prohibit it from being included in the measure of violent crimes for trending purposes.

47% through 2015. The number of juvenile robbery arrests increased each of the next 2 years then declined 17% through 2019, reaching its lowest level since at least 1980. The number of juvenile arrests for aggravated assault, which accounted for 61% of all juvenile arrests for violent crime in 2019, fell 68% between 1994 and 2019 to the lowest level in the last 40 years.

Juvenile property crime arrests declined each year since 2008

Law enforcement agencies nationwide consistently report data on four offenses that form the Property Crime Index—burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson—to determine trends in the number of property crime arrests.

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 a 25-year decline.

Between 1994 and 2019, the number of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests fell 84% and reached its lowest level since at least 1980. Between 2010 and 2019, juvenile arrests declined for individual property offenses: burglary (68%), larceny-theft (70%), motor vehicle theft (14%), and arson (61%).

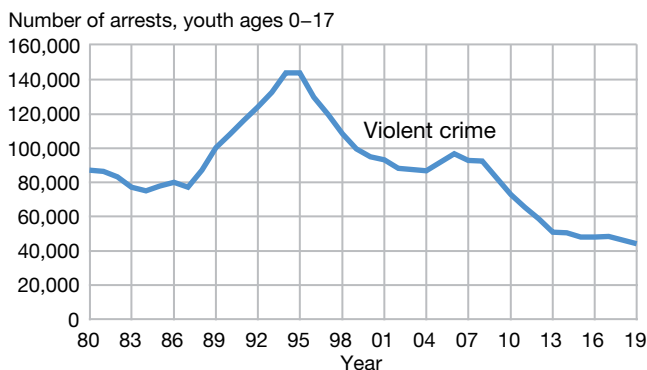
Percent change in juvenile arrests 2010–2019

Most serious offense	Juvenile	Adult
Violent crime*	-40%	-7%
Murder	-15	0
Robbery	-41	-31
Aggravated assault	-40	-1
Property Crime Index	-67	-25
Burglary	-68	-33
Larceny-theft	-70	-26
Motor vehicle theft	-14	20
Arson	-61	8
Simple assault	-40	-17
Weapons law violation	-49	7
Drug abuse violation	-52	1

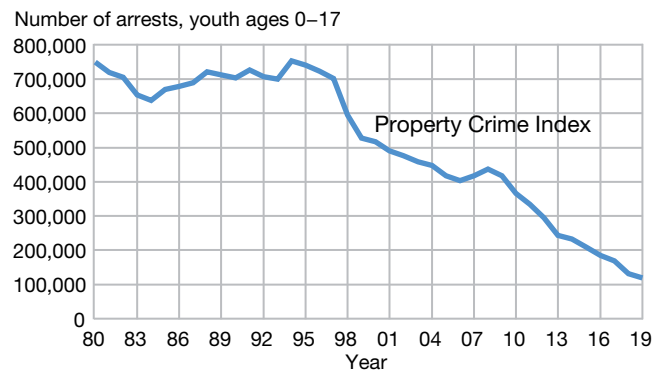
*Includes murder, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

Juvenile arrests for violent crimes and Property Crime Index offenses reached new low points in 2019



Juvenile arrests for violent crimes were down by more than half (54%) between 2006 and 2019.

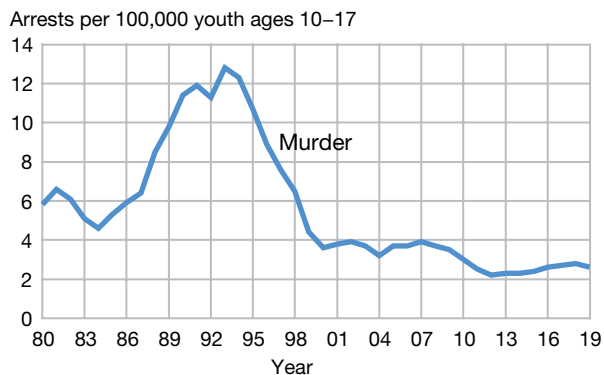


Arrests for Property Crime Index offenses have declined annually since 2008, falling 73% by 2019.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

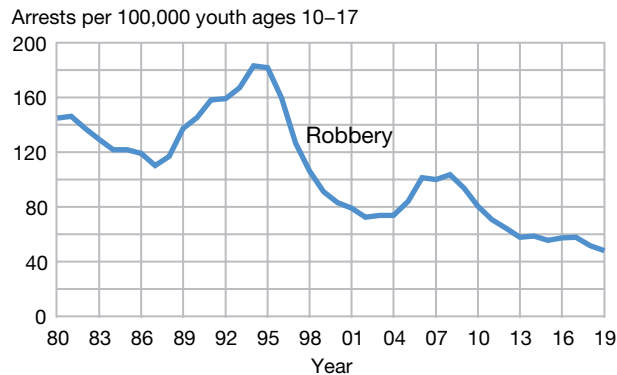
Juvenile arrest rates for robbery and aggravated assault fell to new lows, while murder declined for the first time in 6 years

Murder rate



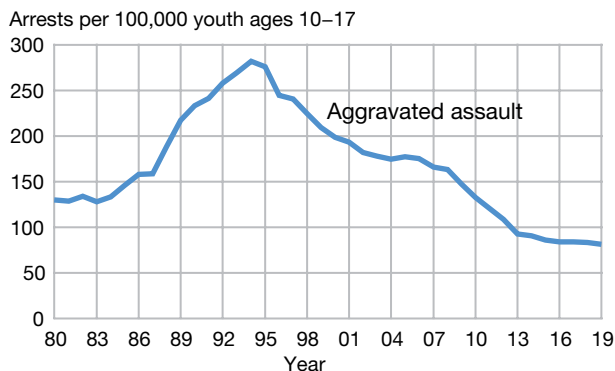
- The juvenile murder arrest rate fell 44% between 2007 and 2012, when it reached its lowest level since at least 1980. The rate increased annually through 2018 (up 27%), then fell 6% through 2019.
- Despite the increase between 2012 and 2018, the juvenile murder rate in 2019 was 80% less than its 1993 peak.

Robbery rate



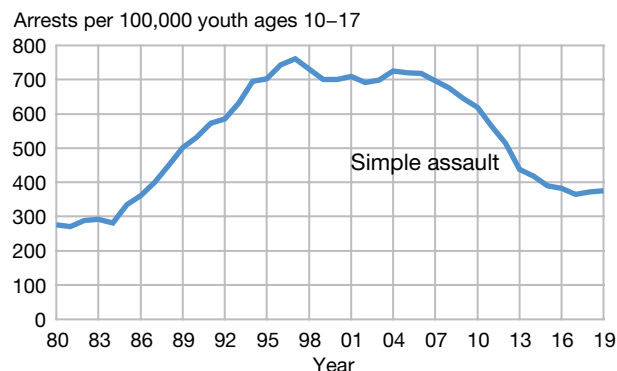
- The juvenile robbery arrest rate in 2015 reached its lowest level in more than three decades. The rate increased over the next 2 years then fell 16% through 2019 to reach a new low point. The rate in 2019 was half the 2008 rate and 74% below the 1994 peak.
- Juvenile robbery arrest rates declined for all gender and racial subgroups since 2008: 54% for males, 41% for females, 57% for blacks, 49% for Asians, 45% for whites, and 28% for American Indians.

Aggravated assault rate



- Unlike the pattern for robbery, the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault declined steadily for 25 years. Following a 39% decline in the past 10 years, the rate in 2019 was at the lowest level since at least 1980 and 71% below the 1994 peak.
- Since 2004, the relative decline in the number of juvenile arrests for aggravated assault outpaced that of adults (55% vs. 5%). As a result, 7% of aggravated assault arrests in 2019 involved a juvenile, compared with 14% in 2004.

Simple assault rate

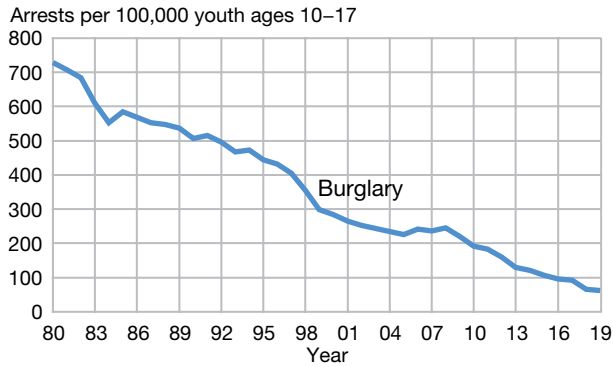


- The simple assault arrest rate was cut in half between 2004 and 2017, then increased 3% through 2019. Unlike the rate trend for aggravated assault, which reached a new low in 2019, the 2019 simple assault rate remained well above the 1981 low point.
- The relative decline in juvenile arrest rates over the past 10 years was the same for simple assault and aggravated assault (39% each).

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

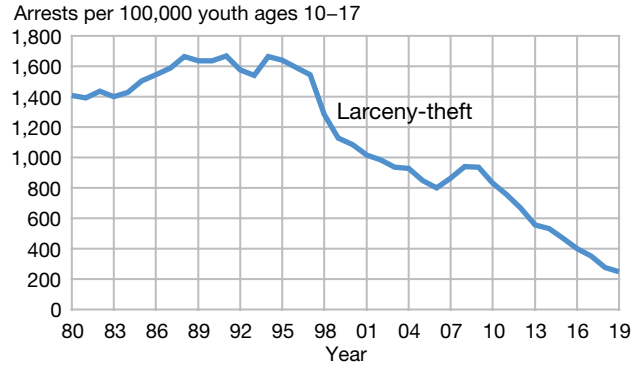
Juvenile arrest rates for burglary, larceny-theft, and arson declined more than 50% since 2010

Burglary rate



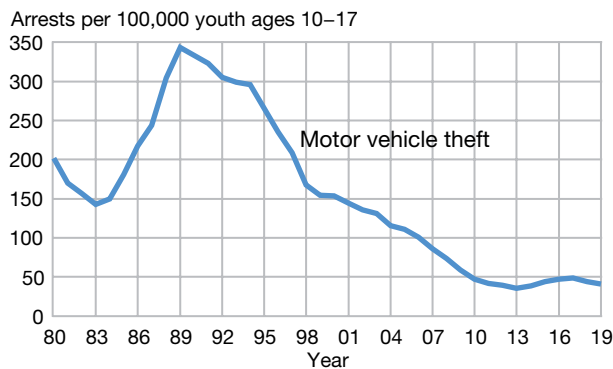
- The juvenile arrest rate for burglary declined steadily since 2008. By 2019, the rate reached its lowest level since at least 1980, and was 68% below the rate 10 years earlier.
- The large decline in juvenile burglary arrests was not reflected in the adult statistics. For example, between 2010 and 2019, the number of juvenile burglary arrests fell 68%, while adult burglary arrests fell 33%. As a result, the juvenile share of burglary arrests declined from 23% in 2010 to 12% in 2019.

Larceny-theft rate



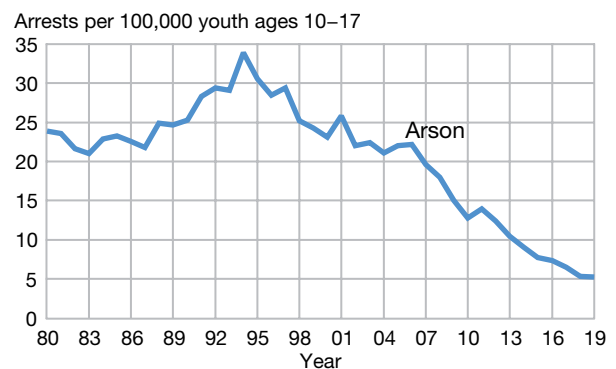
- The juvenile larceny-theft arrest rate declined steadily from the mid-1990s through 2006. This decline was interrupted by 2 years of increase, and then declined steadily to reach a new low in 2019. In 2019, the rate was 73% below the 2008 rate and 85% below the 1991 peak.
- Juvenile arrests for larceny-theft typically involve older juveniles (ages 15-17). Since 2008, older juveniles accounted for 70% or more of juvenile larceny-theft arrests.

Motor vehicle theft rate



- Like the larceny-theft pattern, the juvenile motor vehicle theft arrest rate declined considerably since the mid-1990s. However, unlike larceny-theft, the motor vehicle theft arrest rate reached its low point in 2013, then increased 39% through 2017. Following a 16% decline in the past 2 years, the 2019 rate was 17% above the 2013 low point.
- Juvenile motor vehicle theft arrest rates decreased for most demographic subgroups since 2017: 18% for males, 9% for females, 38% for Asians, 20% for blacks, and 13% for whites. The rate for American Indians increased 3% during the same period.

Arson rate

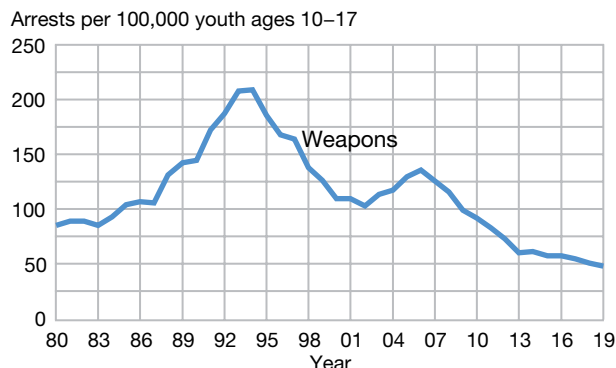


- The juvenile arrest rate for arson fell 63% since 2011, resting at a level in 2019 that was 85% below the 1994 peak.
- Arson is the criminal act with the largest proportion of juvenile arrestees. In 2019, 20% of all arson arrests were arrests of juveniles, and most of these juvenile arrests (57%) involved youth younger than 15. In comparison, 10% of all larceny-theft arrests in 2019 involved juveniles, but only 30% of these juvenile arrests involved youth younger than 15.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

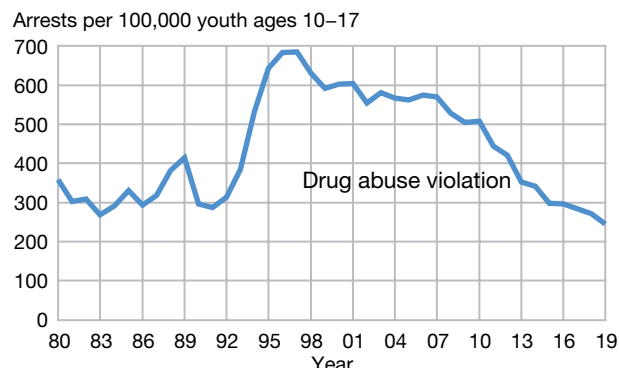
Juvenile arrest rates for weapons law violations, disorderly conduct, and drug abuse violations reached new lows in 2019

Weapons law violation rate



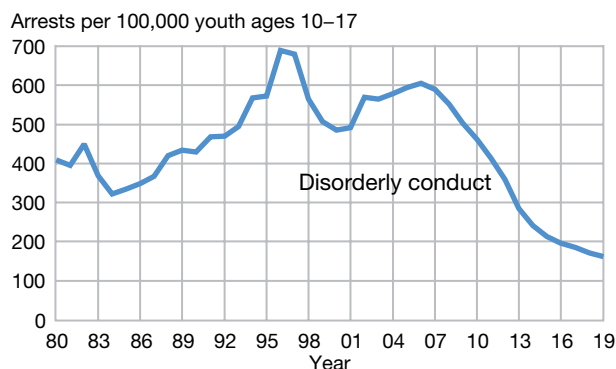
- The juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations declined considerably since the mid-1990s. This decline was interrupted between 2002 and 2006, when the juvenile weapons law violation arrest rate increased 32%. The rate has since fallen 65%, bringing the 2019 rate to its lowest level since at least 1980, and 77% below the 1994 peak.
- Juvenile arrests for weapons law violations typically involve older juveniles (ages 15–17). Since 2005, older juveniles accounted for at least two-thirds of juvenile weapons law violation arrests.

Drug abuse violation rate



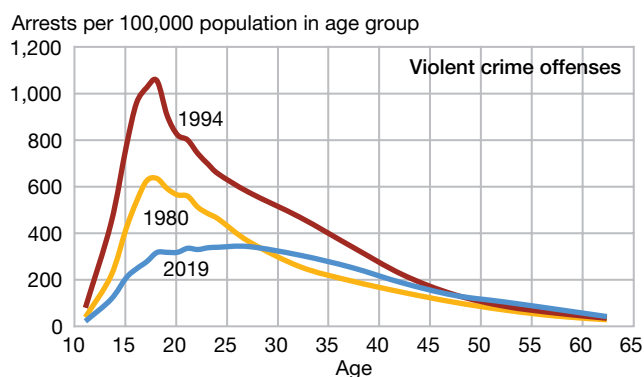
- In 2019, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations was 244.2 arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10–17—the lowest rate since at least 1980 and 64% below the 1997 peak when the rate was 684.5.
- The juvenile drug abuse violation arrest rate was cut in half in the past 10 years, falling 52% since 2010.

Disorderly conduct rate



- The juvenile arrest rate for disorderly conduct has declined annually since 2006. By 2019, the juvenile disorderly conduct arrest rate fell to its lowest level since at least 1980 and 77% below the 1996 peak.
- Since 2006, the relative decline in the number of juvenile arrests for disorderly conduct outpaced that of adults (74% vs. 48%). As a result, 17% of disorderly conduct arrests in 2019 involved a juvenile, compared with 30% in 2006.

Violent crime age rate



- Regardless of age, the violent crime (murder, robbery, and aggravated assault) arrest rate grew substantially between 1980 and 1994. During this period, the relative increase was greater for juveniles than adults.
- By 2019, arrest rates for violent crimes fell substantially from the 1994 peak for every age group younger than 50. Juveniles showed the largest decline, falling more than 70% in each age group from 10 through 17. In comparison, the rates dropped an average of 65% for young adults ages 18–20, 53% for adults ages 21–24, 40% for ages 25–29, 30% for ages 30–39, and 9% for ages 40–49.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

In 2019, one-third of juvenile property crime arrests involved females and more than 4 in 10 involved minority youth

Females accounted for 31% of juvenile arrests in 2019

In 2019, law enforcement agencies made 212,650 arrests of females younger than age 18 and 483,970 arrests of males. Although males accounted for the majority (69%) of juvenile arrests overall in 2019, the female share was relatively high for certain offenses, including liquor law violations (42%), larceny-theft (40%), simple assault (38%), and disorderly conduct (37%). Females accounted for 33% of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests and 21% of juvenile violent crime arrests in 2019.

From 2010 through 2019, arrests of juvenile females decreased less than male arrests in most offense categories (e.g., robbery, aggravated and simple assault, burglary, and drug abuse violations).

Percent change in juvenile arrests 2010–2019

Most serious offense	Female	Male
Violent crime*	-34%	-41%
Robbery	-29	-42
Aggravated assault	-36	-41
Simple assault	-36	-42
Property Crime Index	-71	-65
Burglary	-61	-69
Larceny-theft	-74	-67
Motor vehicle theft	8	-18
Vandalism	-45	-61
Weapons	-52	-48
Drug abuse violation	-24	-58
Driving under influence	-53	-54
Liquor law violation	-69	-74
Disorderly conduct	-62	-67

*Includes murder, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

Gender differences also occurred in arrest trends for adults. For example, between 2010 and 2019, adult male arrests for robbery fell 34% while adult female arrests fell 11%, and

adult male arrests for burglary fell 37% while adult female arrests fell 11%. Therefore, the female proportion of arrests grew for each offense for adults, as it did for juveniles. The number of aggravated assault arrests declined more for juvenile males (41%) than females (36%) between 2010 and 2019, while it declined 3% for adult males and increased 3% for adult females. Over the same time, the number of simple assault arrests of juvenile females fell 36% while it fell 42% for juvenile males, and adult female arrests fell 7% while male arrests fell 20%.

Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved black youth

The racial composition of the U.S. juvenile population ages 10–17 in 2019 was 75% white, 17% black, 6% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 2% American Indian. In 2019, 55% of all juvenile arrests for Property Crime Index offenses involved white youth, 42% involved black youth, 2% involved Asian youth, and 2% involved American Indian youth. For

violent crime arrests, the proportions were 49% white youth, 48% black youth, 2% Asian youth, and 2% American Indian youth. [Not all agencies provide ethnicity data through the Uniform Crime Reporting program; therefore, arrest estimates for juveniles of Hispanic ethnicity are not available.]

Proportion of juvenile arrests in 2019

Most serious offense	Black
Violent crime*	48%
Murder	50
Robbery	62
Aggravated assault	40
Simple assault	38
Property Crime Index	42
Burglary	40
Larceny-theft	41
Motor vehicle theft	50
Vandalism	27
Weapons	41
Drug abuse violation	21
Liquor law violation	7

*Includes murder, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

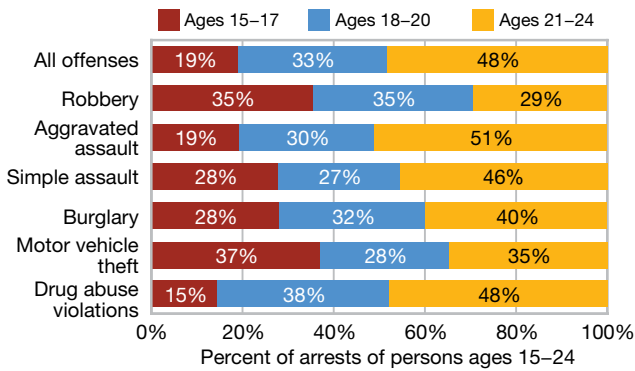
In 2019, juveniles were involved in about 1 in 5 arrests for robbery and arson and 1 in 10 arrests for larceny-theft and weapons law violations

Most serious offense	Juvenile arrests as a percentage of total arrests						
	All	Male	Female	White	Black	Indian	Asian
Total	7%	6%	8%	6%	9%	6%	6%
Murder	8	8	7	8	8	13	1
Robbery	22	23	16	17	25	11	24
Aggravated assault	7	7	8	6	8	6	4
Burglary	12	13	8	10	17	18	13
Larceny-theft	10	11	10	9	14	9	13
Motor vehicle theft	17	18	15	12	29	19	10
Arson	20	21	14	19	22	20	9
Other (simple) assault	12	11	16	11	15	10	9
Vandalism	18	19	15	18	18	16	11
Weapon	10	10	11	11	10	13	12
Drug abuse violation	5	5	5	5	4	9	6
Liquor law violation	15	13	21	17	7	18	13
Disorderly conduct	17	15	22	15	24	10	14

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

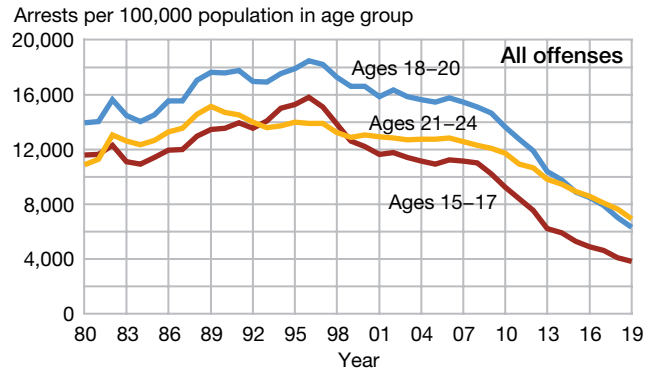
Arrest rates for older juveniles were lower than the rates for young adults

Age profile of older juveniles and young adults



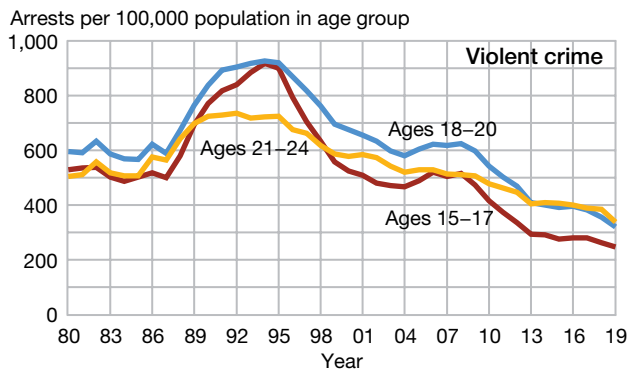
- Across most offenses, older juveniles accounted for a smaller proportion of arrests than young adults ages 18-20 or ages 21-24. For example, in 2019, juveniles ages 15-17 accounted for 19% of aggravated assault arrests of persons ages 15-24, and 15% of drug abuse violation arrests.
- Arrests for motor vehicle theft offenses did not follow this pattern. In 2019, older juveniles accounted for 37% of motor vehicle theft arrests involving persons ages 15-24, compared with 28% for young adults ages 18-20 and 35% for those ages 21-24.

All offenses



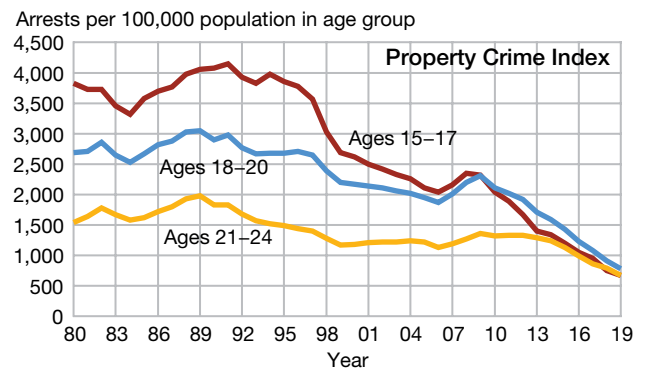
- The overall arrest rate for older juveniles and young adults ages 18-20 followed a similar pattern. Rates peaked in 1996 for both groups, then declined (76% and 66%, respectively) to reach their lowest level in 2019.
- Comparatively, the arrest rate for adults ages 21-24 peaked earlier (1989) then declined 54% by 2019 to its lowest level since at least 1980.

Violent crime



- Violent crime arrest rates for older juveniles and young adults ages 18-20 followed a similar pattern between 1980 and 2019. Rates peaked for both age groups in 1994, then fell considerably (73% and 65%, respectively) through 2019.
- Comparatively, the violent crime arrest rate for adults ages 21-24 peaked in 1992, then declined 54% through 2019. Rates in 2019 for each age group reached their lowest level since at least 1980.

Property Crime Index

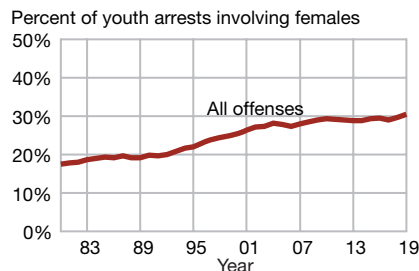
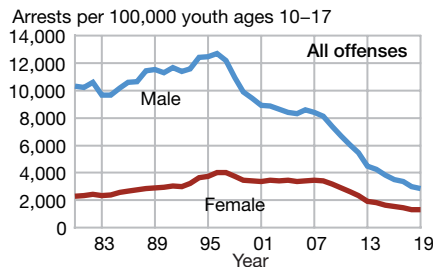


- Despite a brief interruption in the mid-2000s, Property Crime Index arrest rates declined steadily for older juveniles and young adults since the mid-1990s. In the last 10 years, rates declined 67% for older juveniles, 63% for young adults ages 18-20, and 49% for young adults ages 21-24; by 2019, Property Crime Index arrest rates for each age group were at their lowest level since at least 1980.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

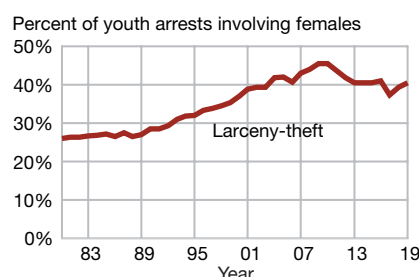
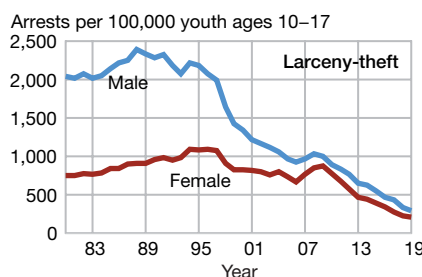
Females accounted for 3 of every 10 juvenile arrests in 2019

All offenses



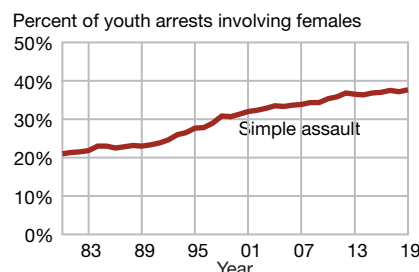
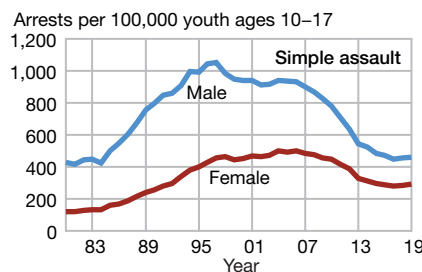
- After reaching a peak in 1996, the overall juvenile arrest rate decreased substantially through 2019 for males and females, falling to their lowest levels since at least 1980.
- The relative decline in the overall juvenile arrest rate was greater for males than females. Since 1996, the male arrest rate fell 78%, compared with 68% for females. As a result, the female share of juvenile arrests has increased, from 18% in 1980 to 31% in 2019.

Larceny-theft



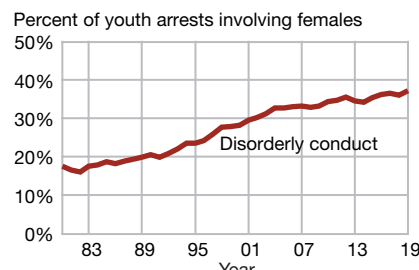
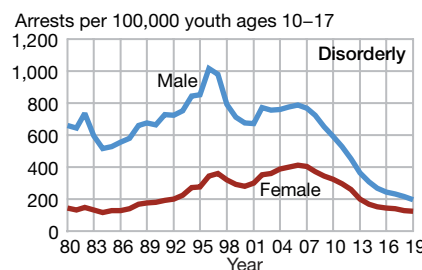
- Larceny-theft arrest rate trends were marked by two periods of substantial decline. From the mid-1990s through the mid-2000s, the decline in the male rate outpaced that of females (57% vs. 33%). In the more recent 10-year period, the female rate declined 73%, compared with 67% for males.
- The net result was that the female share of juvenile larceny-theft arrests peaked in the late 2000s, declined through 2017, then rose to 40% by 2019.

Simple assault



- The male juvenile arrest rate for simple assault peaked earlier than the rate for females (1997 and 2004, respectively). Since their peaks, rates fell more for males (56%) than for females (42%).
- By 2019, females accounted for nearly 4 in 10 (38%) juvenile arrests for simple assault.
- The disorderly conduct arrest rate for males and females declined annually between 2006 and 2019; during that period, the relative decline was greater for males (75%) than for females (70%).
- Females have accounted for at least one-third of juvenile arrests for disorderly conduct since 2006; in 2019, they accounted for 37%.

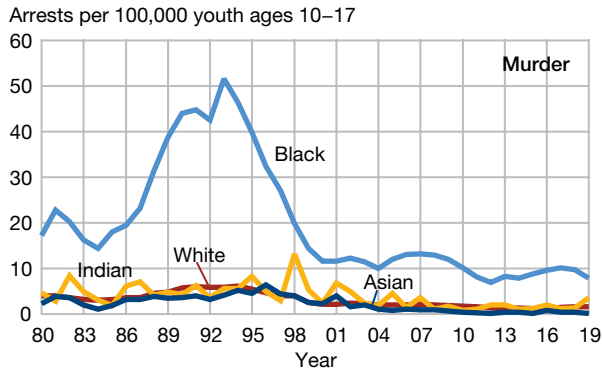
Disorderly conduct



Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

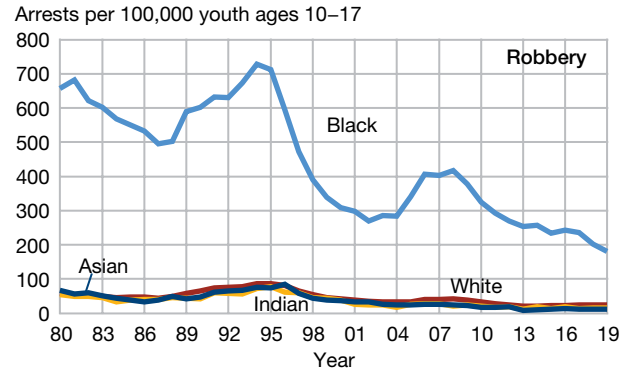
Arrest rates for murder and robbery were higher for black youth than youth of other races

Murder



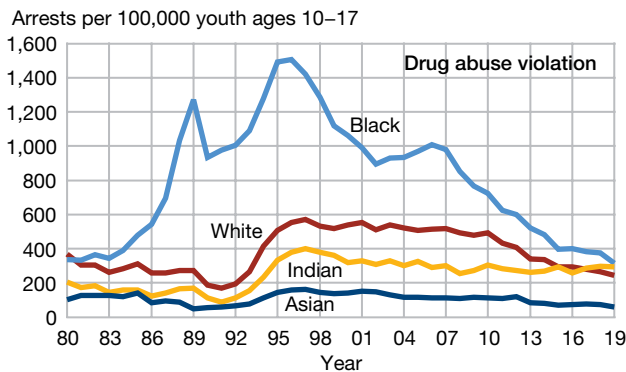
- The murder arrest rate for white juveniles reached a historic low in 2013, 82% below its 1994 peak, while the rate for black juveniles found its low point 1 year earlier, 87% below its 1993 peak. Since their respective low points, the rate for white youth increased 46% through 2019, while the rate for black youth increased 47% through 2017 then declined 23% through 2019.
- The disparity in black-to-white juvenile murder arrest rates peaked in 1993, when the black rate was nearly nine times the white rate. Following the decline in the murder arrest rate for black youth, the ratio fell below 5 to 1 in 2019.

Robbery



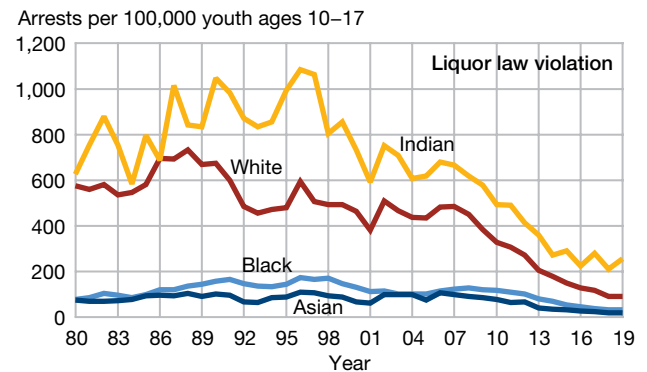
- Juvenile robbery arrest rates reached a historic low in 2013 for white, American Indian, and Asian youth. From their low points to 2019, rates increased 13% for white youth, 19% for American Indian youth, and 49% for Asian youth.
- Unlike the pattern for other race groups, the robbery arrest rate for black youth has been on the decline. Between 2008 and 2019, the robbery arrest rate for black youth fell 57%, and reached its lowest level since at least 1980.

Drug abuse violation



- In the last 10 years, the drug arrest rate declined 56% for black youth, 51% for white youth, 46% for Asian youth, and 3% for American Indian youth.
- The black-to-white ratio in the drug abuse violation arrest rate has narrowed in recent years, largely influenced by the considerable decline in the black arrest rate since the mid-1990s (79% vs. 52% for the white arrest rate). The ratio peaked in 1991, at nearly 6 to 1; by 2019, the black arrest rate was 1.3 times the white rate.

Liquor law violation



- Liquor law violations are one of the few offenses for which rates are higher for American Indian juveniles than for other race groups. The American Indian rate in 2019 was more than twice the white rate, nearly 8 times the rate for black youth, and more than 14 times the rate for Asian youth.
- White youth accounted for the overwhelming majority (86%) of juvenile arrests for liquor law violations in 2019, followed by black youth (7%), American Indian youth (6%), and Asian youth (1%).

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Juvenile Justice and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. (See data source note on page 13 for details.)

Many factors can influence state variations in juvenile arrest rates

Although state data are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting program, comparisons should be made with caution because of variations in jurisdictional standards and reporting

State	2019 reporting population coverage	Arrests of juveniles under age 18 per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17, 2019				State	2019 reporting population coverage	Arrests of juveniles under age 18 per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17, 2019			
		Aggravated assault	Larceny-theft	Drug abuse	Weapons			Aggravated assault	Larceny-theft	Drug abuse	Weapons
U.S. total	77%	83	389	234	49	Missouri	63%	107	461	335	36
Alabama	2	12	808	104	35	Montana	88	178	724	356	18
Alaska	94	158	444	216	25	Nebraska	91	32	952	573	59
Arizona	77	127	489	512	50	Nevada	96	212	414	591	93
Arkansas	88	113	506	292	39	New Hampshire	94	31	208	291	3
California	97	94	168	63	67	New Jersey	100	57	247	332	68
Colorado	85	92	619	388	68	New Mexico	65	108	183	303	49
Connecticut	100	34	400	162	43	New York	51	54	359	166	26
Delaware	100	210	597	278	64	North Carolina	69	44	383	192	51
District of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Dakota	100	68	747	444	29
Florida	100	89	597	202	45	Ohio	79	60	354	147	35
Georgia	22	62	397	231	56	Oklahoma	99	62	357	241	40
Hawaii	81	31	288	265	15	Oregon	88	80	465	378	21
Idaho	98	65	439	467	49	Pennsylvania	25	144	377	223	50
Illinois	1	140	441	822	160	Rhode Island	100	57	358	118	95
Indiana	40	73	312	270	42	South Carolina	84	73	444	318	90
Iowa	82	143	694	327	45	South Dakota	92	100	623	860	122
Kansas	55	84	313	352	30	Tennessee	95	119	566	331	66
Kentucky	97	34	272	91	23	Texas	90	85	312	282	25
Louisiana	75	188	701	253	106	Utah	89	48	616	520	46
Maine	100	20	462	240	6	Vermont	100	48	251	50	32
Maryland	100	122	656	304	103	Virginia	96	39	345	230	34
Massachusetts	86	70	122	21	18	Washington	93	62	276	124	33
Michigan	96	67	278	42	31	West Virginia	53	18	33	60	2
Minnesota	96	72	700	249	55	Wisconsin	94	91	699	489	77
Mississippi	42	42	439	158	60	Wyoming	88	66	595	901	22

NA = Arrest counts were not available for the District of Columbia in the FBI's *Crime in the United States, 2019*.

Notes: Arrest rates for jurisdictions with less than complete reporting may not be representative of the entire state. Although juvenile arrest rates may largely reflect juvenile behavior, many other factors can affect the magnitude of these rates. Arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of youth arrests made in the year by the number of youth living in the jurisdiction. Therefore, jurisdictions that arrest a relatively large number of nonresident juveniles would have a higher arrest rate than jurisdictions where resident youth behave similarly. Jurisdictions (especially small ones) that are vacation destinations or that are centers for economic activity in a region may have arrest rates that reflect the behavior of nonresident youth more than that of resident youth. Other factors that influence arrest rates in a given area include the attitudes of citizens toward crime, the policies of local law enforcement agencies, and the policies of other components of the justice system. In many areas, not all law enforcement agencies report their arrest data to the FBI. Rates for such areas are necessarily based on partial information and may not be accurate. Comparisons of juvenile arrest rates across jurisdictions can be informative. Because of factors noted, however, comparisons should be made with caution.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from *Crime in the United States, 2019* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2019) tables 3 and 22, and population data from the National Center for Health Statistics' *Vintage 2019 Postcensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States (April 1, 2010, July 1, 2010–July 1, 2019), by Year, County, Single-Year of Age (0, 1, 2, . . . , 85 Years and Over), Bridged Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex* [machine-readable data files available online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm, as of July 9, 2020].

Notes

Data source

Arrest estimates developed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics for 1980–2014 were retrieved from their Arrest Data Analysis Tool [available online at www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm, retrieved December 12, 2018]; the National Center for Juvenile Justice developed arrest estimates for 2015–2019 based on data published in the FBI's *Crime in the United States* reports for the respective years; population data for 1980–1989 are 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 are 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/nvss/bridged_race.htm, released July 26, 2004]; population data for 2000–2009 are from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau), *Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States for July 1, 2000–July 1, 2009, by Year, County, Single-Year of Age (0, 1, 2, . . . , 85 Years and Over), Bridged Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex* [machine-readable data files available online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm, as of October 26, 2012, following release by the U.S. Census Bureau of the revised unbridged intercensal estimates by 5-year age group on October 9, 2012]; and population data for 2010–2019 are from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau), *Vintage 2019 Postcensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States (April 1, 2010, July 1, 2010–July 1, 2019), by Year, County, Single-Year of*

Age (0, 1, 2, . . . , 85 Years and Over), Bridged Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex [machine-readable data files available online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm, as of July 9, 2020, following release by the U.S. Census Bureau of the unbridged vintage 2019 postcensal estimates by 5-year age group, retrieved on July 29, 2020].

Data coverage

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, 2019* for offense definitions.) The proportion of the U.S. population covered by these reporting agencies ranged from 70% to 86% between 1980 and 2019, with 2019 coverage of 70%.

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.

The reporting coverage for the total United States (77%) in the table on page 12 includes all states reporting arrests of persons younger than age 18. This is greater than the coverage in the rest of the bulletin (70%) for various reasons. For example, a state may

provide arrest counts of persons younger than age 18 but not provide the age detail required to support other subpopulation estimates.

Changes in the definition of rape in the FBI data

Since 1927, forcible rape was defined by the FBI as “the carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will.” Beginning in 2013, the FBI adopted a broader definition of rape: “Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.” Unlike the definition in place for more than 80 years, the new definition does not require force and is gender neutral.

Under current reporting practices, law enforcement agencies may submit data on rape arrests based on either the new definition or the legacy definition. Due to differences in agency reporting practices, national estimates for the offenses of “rape” and “sex offenses” are not available after 2012. Additionally, estimates for the Violent Crime Index (which included “forcible rape”) are not shown as this category is no longer compatible with prior years. More information about these changes can be found on the FBI's website [https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013/rape-addendum/rape_addendum_final].

Visit OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book for More Information on Juvenile Arrests

OJJDP's online Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) offers access to a wealth of information about juvenile crime and victimization and about youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Visit the “Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime” section of the SBB at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/faqs.asp for more information about juvenile arrest rate trends detailed by offense, gender, and race, including a spreadsheet of all juvenile arrest rates used in this bulletin.

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