



J. Robert Flores, Administrator

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Juvenile Arrests 2006

Howard N. Snyder

In 2006, law enforcement agencies in the United States made an estimated 2.2 million arrests of persons under age 18.* Juveniles accounted for 17% of all violent crime arrests and 26% of all property crime arrests in 2006. The substantial growth in juvenile violent crime arrests that began in the late 1980s and peaked in 1994 was followed by 10 consecutive years of decline. Between 1994 and 2004, the juvenile arrest rate for Violent Crime Index offenses fell 49%, reaching its lowest level since at least 1980. However, this long-term downward trend was broken in 2005 with a 2% annual increase in Violent Crime Index arrests followed by a 4% increase in 2006. More specifically, 2005 and 2006 saw increases in juvenile arrests for murder and robbery but continued declines in arrests for forcible rape and aggravated assault.

These findings are derived from data that local law enforcement agencies across the country report annually 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:

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

- ◆ In 2006, 10% (or 1,780) of all murder victims were under age 18. Although 33% of all juvenile murder victims were under age 5, this proportion varied widely across demographic groups.
- ◆ After about a decade of substantial decline, the number of juveniles murdered with firearms increased in 2004, 2005, and 2006, while murders by other means continued to decline.
- ◆ In 1994, 1 of 6 alleged murder offenders known to law enforcement was under age 18. In 2006, this ratio was 1 in 11.
- ◆ Juveniles were involved in 13% of all violent crimes cleared in 2006—specifically, 6% of murders, 12% of forcible rapes, 17% of robberies, and 12% of aggravated assaults.
- ◆ The growth in the juvenile murder arrest rate from 2004 to 2006 returned it to near its 2002 level, but even with this increase the rate in 2006 was still 73% below its 1993 peak.
- ◆ Between 1997 and 2006, juvenile arrests for aggravated assault decreased more for males than for females (24% vs. 10%). During this period, while juvenile male arrests for simple assault declined 4%, female arrests grew 19%.
- ◆ In 2006, although the juvenile population was only 17% black, black juveniles were involved in 51% of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests and 31% of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests.

A Message From OJJDP

Juvenile Arrests 2006 summarizes juvenile data cited in the FBI report *Crime in the United States 2006*.

Juvenile arrests for violent crimes increased modestly in 2005 and 2006. However, as the number of such arrests in 2004 was smaller than in any year since 1987, the number of juvenile arrests for violent crimes for 2006 was relatively low. Juvenile arrests for property crimes continued to decline and in 2006 were at their lowest level since at least 1980 (the first year of available data for this report).

The proportion of female offenders entering the juvenile justice system has grown. Although juvenile arrests for violent crimes declined 22% for males between 1997 and 2006, they decreased only 12% for females in the same period.

The Violent Crime Index rate for black juveniles in 2006 was 5 times the rate for white and American Indian juveniles and 12 times the rate for Asian juveniles. Although this represents an increase in the black/white juvenile violent arrest rate disparity of 4-to-1 in 1999, it is less than that of the 1980s, when it was between 6- and 7-to-1.

As evidenced by the preceding examples, this Bulletin provides baseline information that can be used in monitoring America's progress in addressing juvenile crime.

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. Arrest statistics report the number of arrests that law enforcement agencies made 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 that arrested individuals commit because a series of crimes that one individual commits 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 one should not use arrest statistics to indicate the relative proportion of crime that juveniles and adults commit. Arrest statistics are most appropriately a measure of flow into the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Arrest statistics also have limitations in measuring the volume of arrests for a particular offense. Under the UCR Program, the FBI requires law enforcement agencies to classify an arrest by the most serious offense charged in that arrest. For example, the arrest of a youth charged with aggravated assault and possession of a 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 196,700 arrests of young people for drug abuse violations in 2006, it means that a drug abuse violation was the most serious charge in these 196,700 arrests. An

unknown number of additional arrests in 2006 included a drug charge as a lesser offense.

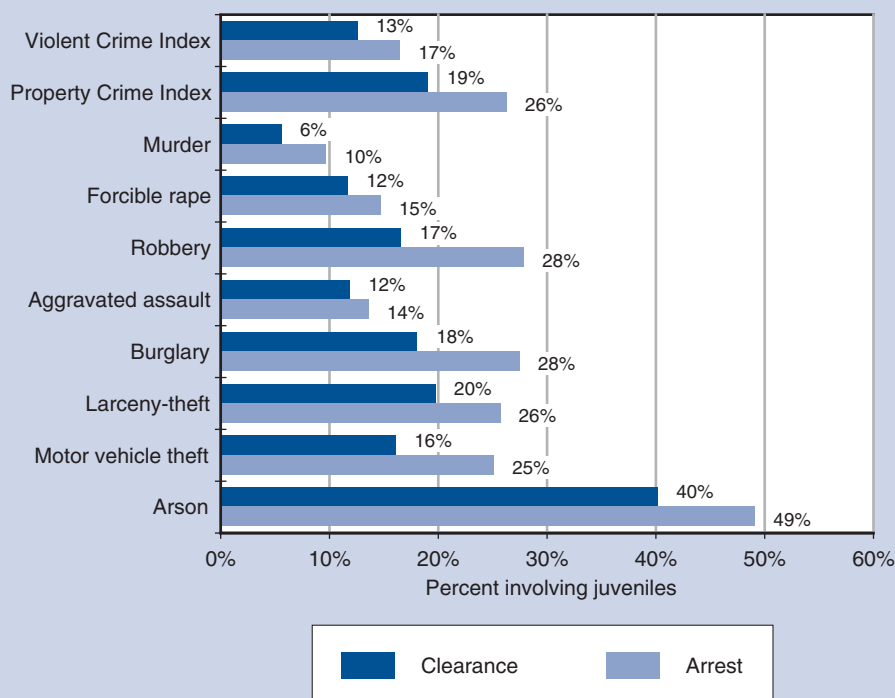
What do clearance statistics count?

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 a group of offenders committed the crime. For those interested in juvenile justice issues, the FBI also reports on the proportion of clearances that involved offenders under age 18. This statistic is a better indicator of the proportion of crime that this age group commits than is the proportion of arrests, although there are some concerns that even the clearance statistic overestimates the proportion of crimes committed by juveniles.

For example, the FBI reports that persons under age 18 accounted for 28% of all robbery arrests but only 17% of all robberies that were cleared in 2006. 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 17% of all robberies in 2006. However, the offender characteristics of cleared and noncleared robberies may differ for a number of reasons. For example, research has shown that juvenile robbers are more easily apprehended than adult robbers; consequently, the juvenile proportion of cleared robberies probably overestimates juveniles' 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 involved in the crime.

In summary, although 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 or exceptional means in each offense category, reflecting 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 2006* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2007), tables 28 and 38.

The number of juveniles murdered increased in 2004, 2005, and 2006

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

An estimated 17,030 murders were reported to law enforcement agencies in 2006, or 5.7 murders for every 100,000 U.S. residents. The murder rate in the U.S. was essentially constant between 1999 (the year with the fewest murders in the last three decades) and 2006. Prior to 1999, the last year in which the U.S. murder rate was under 6.0 was 1966.

Of all murder victims in 2006, 90% (or 15,250 victims) were 18 years of age or older. The other 1,780 murder victims were under age 18 (i.e., juveniles). The number of juveniles murdered in 2006 was 10% above the average number of juveniles murdered in the prior 5-year period, and 38% below the peak year of 1993, when an estimated 2,880 juveniles were murdered in the U.S. During this same period, the estimated number of adults murdered fell 30%.

Of all juveniles murdered in 2006, 33% were under age 5, 73% were male, and 49% were white. Of all juveniles murdered in 2006, 26% of male victims, 50% of female victims, 39% of white victims, and 27% of black victims were under age 5.

In 2006, 68% of all murder victims were killed with a firearm. Adults were more likely to be killed with a firearm (70%) than were juveniles (54%). However, the involvement of a firearm depended greatly on the age of the juvenile victim. In 2006, 18% of murdered juveniles under age 13 were killed with a firearm, compared with 82% of murdered juveniles age 13 or older. The most common method of murdering children under age 5 was by physical assault: in 50% of these murders, the offenders' only weapons were their hands and/or feet, compared with only 2% of juvenile victims age 13 or older and 4% of adult victims. In 2006, knives or other cutting instruments were used in 7% of juvenile murders and 13% of adult murders.

The 2.2 million arrests of juveniles in 2006 was 24% fewer than the number of arrests in 1997

Most Serious Offense	2006 Estimated Number of Juvenile Arrests	Percent of Total Juvenile Arrests		Percent Change		
		Female	Under Age 15	1997– 2006	2002– 2006	2005– 2006
Total	2,219,600	29%	29%	-24%	-3%	1%
Violent Crime Index	100,700	17	29	-20	8	4
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	1,310	5	8	-42	18	3
Forcible rape	3,610	2	36	-31	-20	-10
Robbery	35,040	9	23	-16	34	19
Aggravated assault	60,770	23	32	-21	-1	-2
Property Crime Index	404,700	32	33	-44	-17	-5
Burglary	83,900	11	32	-37	-6	5
Larceny-theft	278,100	41	34	-45	-19	-8
Motor vehicle theft	34,600	17	23	-53	-28	-8
Arson	8,100	14	58	-22	-5	0
Nonindex						
Other assaults	249,400	34	39	2	5	-1
Forgery and counterfeiting	3,500	33	11	-59	-34	-20
Fraud	8,100	34	15	-31	-14	-5
Embezzlement	1,400	45	4	3	-3	20
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	21,300	15	25	-45	-12	1
Vandalism	117,500	13	41	-14	10	11
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	47,200	10	33	-10	31	2
Prostitution and commercialized vice	1,600	74	14	15	16	9
Sex offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	15,900	10	47	-16	-18	-9
Drug abuse violations	196,700	16	15	-11	1	2
Gambling	2,200	3	15	-43	20	-14
Offenses against the family and children	5,200	37	31	-48	-40	-6
Driving under the influence	20,100	23	3	1	-8	9
Liquor laws	141,400	36	9	-15	-5	9
Drunkenness	16,300	25	11	-30	-7	12
Disorderly conduct	207,700	33	39	7	8	0
Vagrancy	5,000	30	33	-36	4	10
All other offenses (except traffic)	386,000	27	25	-19	-3	2
Suspicion (not included in totals)	500	22	22	-74	-72	-15
Curfew and loitering	152,900	31	27	-31	6	4
Runaways	114,200	57	33	-45	-11	-2

- ◆ In 2006, there were an estimated 60,770 juvenile arrests for aggravated assault. Between 1997 and 2006, the annual number of such arrests fell 21%.
- ◆ Between 1995 and 2004, juvenile robbery and aggravated assault arrests declined substantially (down 44% and 23%, respectively). However, in the next two years, while juvenile aggravated assault arrests continued to fall (slightly), juvenile arrests for robbery increased (11% in 2005 and 19% in 2006).
- ◆ In 2006, females accounted for 17% of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests, 32% of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests, and 16% of juvenile drug abuse arrests.
- ◆ In 2006, youth under the age of 15 accounted for about one-third of all violent (29%) and property crime (33%) arrests.

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

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2006* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2007), tables 29, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40. Arrest estimates were developed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

1 in 8 violent crimes were attributed to juveniles

The relative responsibility of juveniles and adults for crime is difficult to determine. Law enforcement is more likely to clear crimes that juveniles commit. Therefore, law enforcement records are likely to overestimate juvenile responsibility for crime.

Clearance data show that the proportion of violent crimes that law enforcement attributes to juveniles has been rather constant in recent years, holding between 12% and 13% from 1996 through 2006. The proportions of both forcible rapes and aggravated assaults fluctuated between 11% and 12% over this period, while the proportion of murders attributed to juveniles ranged between 5% and 6% between 1998 and 2006. In contrast, the proportion of robberies attributed to juveniles varied, falling from 18% to 14% between 1996 and 2002 and then increasing gradually to 17% by 2006.

In 2006, 19% of Property Crime Index offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means were cleared by the arrest of a juvenile. This was one percentage point above the level in 2005, which was the lowest level since at least the mid-1960s. For comparison, the proportion of Property Crime Index offenses that law enforcement attributed to juveniles was 28% in 1980 and 22% in both 1990 and 2000.

Juvenile arrests for violence increased in 2005 and 2006

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

Following 10 years of declines between 1994 and 2004, juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses increased 2% from 2004 to 2005, and 4% from 2005 to 2006. Given that the number of arrests in 2004 was smaller than in any year since 1987, the number of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests in 2006 was still relatively low. In fact, the number of juvenile violent crime arrests in 2006 was lower than any year in the 1990s, and just 7% above the

average annual number of such arrests between 2000 and 2005.

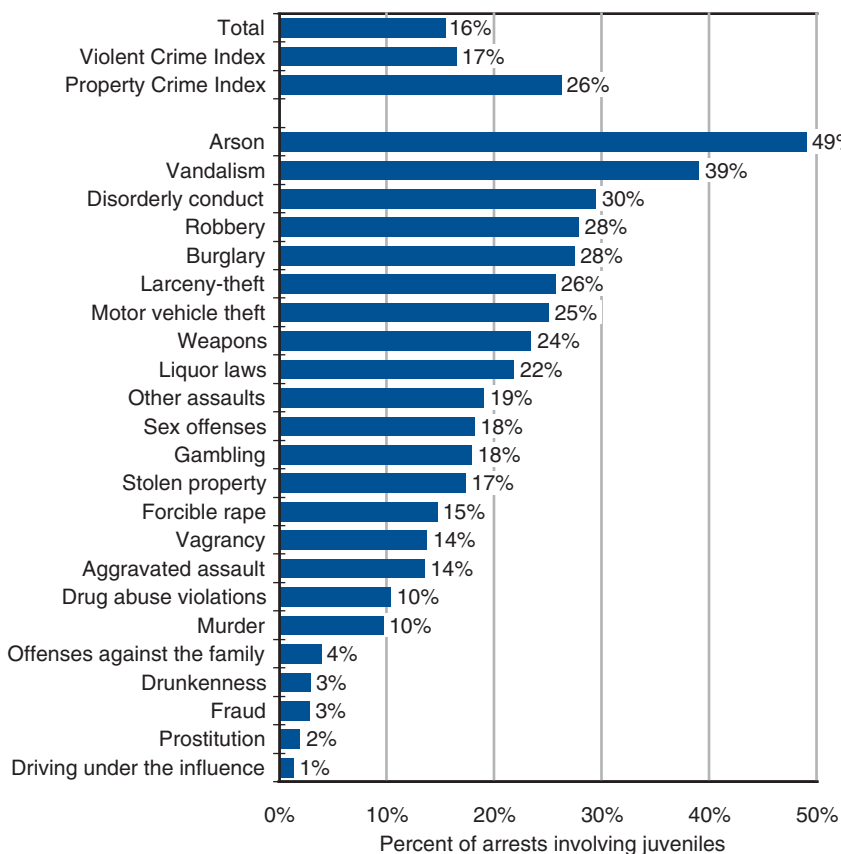
The number of juvenile arrests in 2006 for forcible rape was lower than in any year since at least 1980. With one exception (2004), the number of juvenile aggravated assault arrests in 2006 was lower than in any year since 1988. In contrast, after also falling to a relatively low level in 2004, juvenile arrests for robbery increased in 2005 and again in 2006. To put it in perspective, if the 2004–2006 increase was to continue annually into the future, it would take another 25 years for the annual number of juvenile murder arrests to return to its peak level of the mid-1990s. However, juvenile arrests for robbery increased by 19% from 2005 to 2006 following an 11% increase in the previous year. If this pace continues, the annual number of juvenile robbery arrests will return to its 1995 peak in just 4 years.

Between 1997 and 2006, the number of arrests in most offense categories declined more for juveniles than for adults:

Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Arrests 1997–2006	
	Juvenile	Adult
Violent Crime Index	-20%	-11%
Murder	-42	-12
Forcible rape	-31	-8
Robbery	-16	-3
Aggravated assault	-21	-12
Property Crime Index	-44	-14
Burglary	-37	0
Larceny-theft	-45	-18
Motor vehicle theft	-53	-2
Simple assault	2	-6
Weapons law violations	-10	-5
Drug abuse violations	-11	23

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2006*, table 32.

In 2006, juveniles were involved in 1 in 10 arrests for murder and drug abuse violations and 1 in 4 arrests for a weapons violation, robbery, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and burglary



Data source: *Crime in the United States 2006* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2007), table 38.

Juvenile arrests for property crimes in 2006 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.

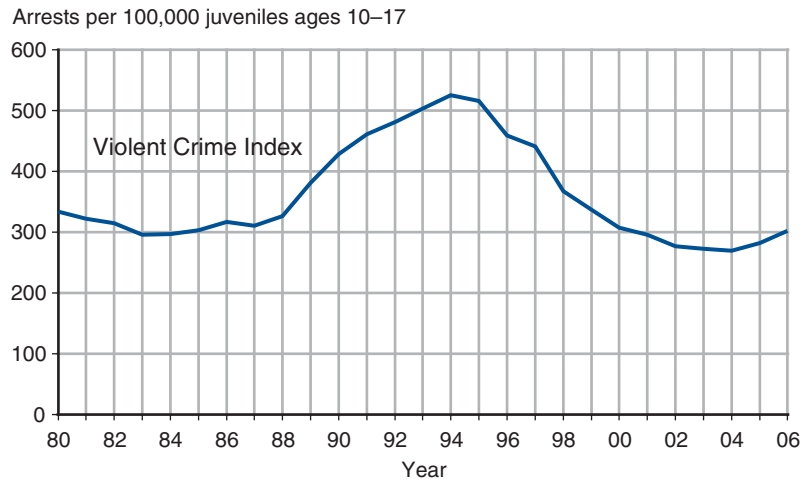
For the period 1980–1994, during which juvenile violent crime arrests increased substantially, juvenile property crime arrests remained relatively constant. After this long period of relative stability, juvenile property crime arrests began to fall. Between 1994 and 2006, the number of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests fell by half, to their lowest level since at least the 1970s. This period also saw large declines in juvenile arrests for individual property offenses—burglary (41%), larceny-theft (45%), and motor vehicle theft (61%)—making arrests for each property crime in 2006 at or near their lowest level since at least the 1970s.

Most arrested juveniles were referred to court

In most states, some persons younger than age 18 are, because of their age or by statutory exclusion, under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system. For arrested persons younger than 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 2006, 21% of arrests involving youth eligible in their State for processing in the juvenile justice system were handled within law enforcement agencies and the arrestees were released, 69% were referred to juvenile court, and 8% were referred directly to criminal court. The others were referred to a welfare agency or to another police agency. In 2006, the proportion of juvenile arrests sent to juvenile court in cities with a population of more than 250,000 (69%) was similar to the proportion sent to juvenile court in smaller cities (70%).

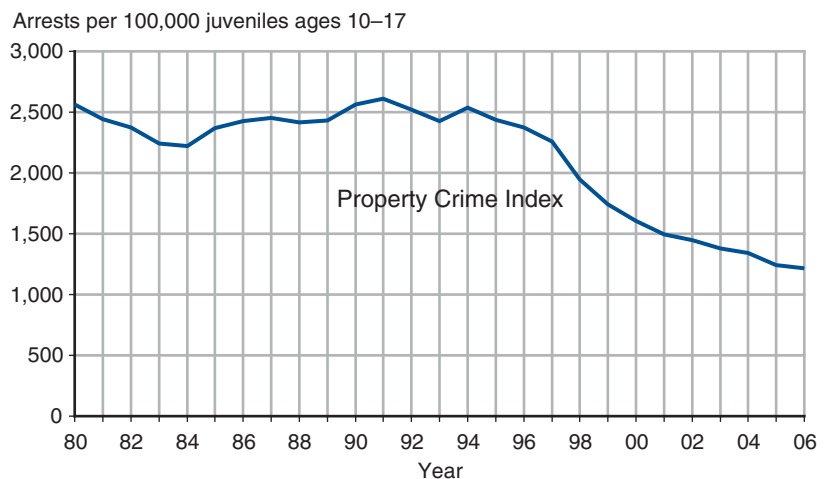
Following 2004, when it fell to its lowest level since at least 1980, the juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate increased in 2005 and 2006



- ◆ The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate increased 12% between 2004 and 2006. This increase follows a year in which the rate had reached a historically low level. To place the extent of this increase in perspective, if the rate continued to increase annually by the same amount, it would be almost 14 years before it once again reached the peak level of 1994.

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

After years of relative stability, the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate began a decline in the mid-1990s that continued through 2006

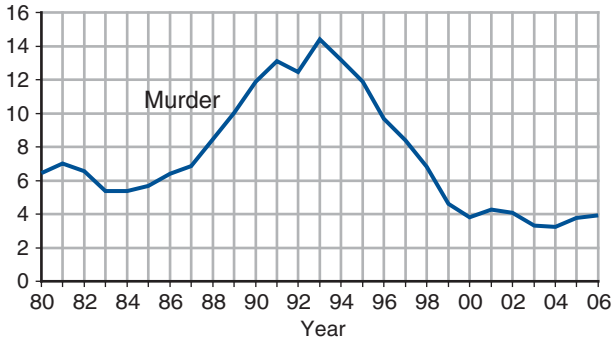


- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for Property Crime Index offenses in 2006 was less than half of what it was in 1980—down 53% over the period. The large declines over the last decade in the two arrest indexes that have traditionally been used to monitor juvenile crime indicate a substantial reduction in the law-violating behavior of America's youth over this period.

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

In 2006, the juvenile arrest rates for murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault were each well below their peak levels of the 1990s

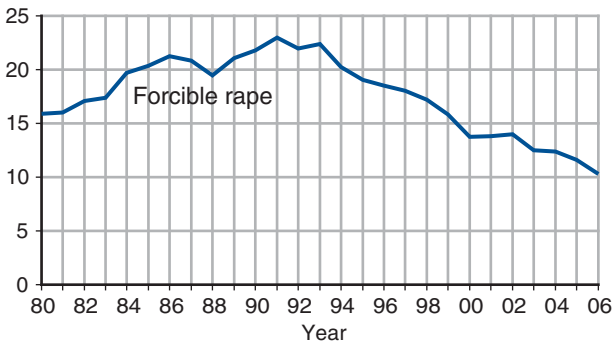
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Murder

- ◆ From the mid-1980s to the peak in 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for murder more than doubled.
- ◆ Then, with one exception (2001), the juvenile arrest rate for murder fell each year through 2004, dropping the rate to 77% below its peak in 1993.
- ◆ The growth in the juvenile murder arrest rate between 2004 and 2006 returned it to near its 2002 level; but even with this increase, the rate in 2006 was 73% below its 1993 peak.

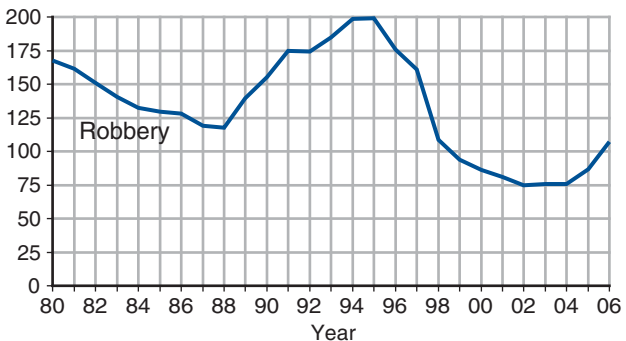
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Forcible Rape

- ◆ Following the general pattern of other assaultive offenses, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape increased from the early 1980s through the early 1990s and then fell substantially.
- ◆ Over the 1980–2006 period, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape peaked in 1991, 44% above its 1980 level.
- ◆ From 1991, with minor exceptions, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape dropped annually through 2006. By 1999, it had returned to its 1980 level. By 2006, the rate had fallen to a point 35% below the 1980 level, 55% below its 1991 peak, and to its lowest level in more than a generation.

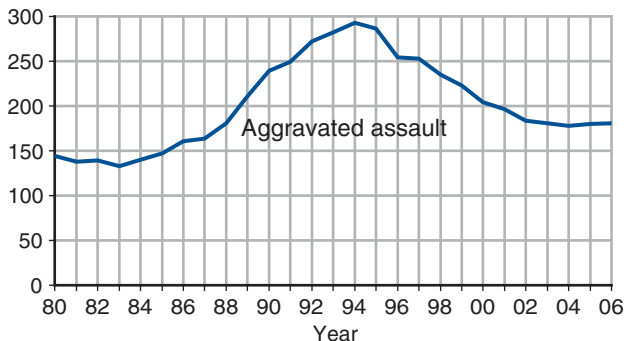
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Robbery

- ◆ Unlike the juvenile arrest rates for other violent crimes, the rate for robbery declined through much of the 1980s, reaching a low point in 1988. Then, like the violent crime arrest rate in general, the juvenile robbery arrest rate grew by the mid-1990s to a point above the 1980 level.
- ◆ The juvenile robbery arrest rate declined substantially (62%) between 1995 and 2002. However, in each of the next four years the arrest rate increased, so that by 2006 the rate was 43% above its low point in 2002 but still 46% below its 1995 peak.

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Aggravated Assault

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault doubled between 1980 and 1994 and then fell substantially and consistently through 2004, down 39% from its 1994 peak.
- ◆ After many years of decline, the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault increased slightly in both 2005 and 2006 (up 2% for the period). This pattern of relative stability between 2002 and 2006 is in contrast to the relatively large increase in the juvenile robbery arrest rate over the same period.

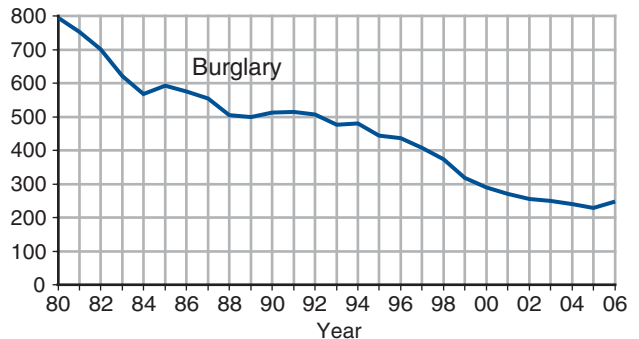
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. [See data source note on p. 12 for detail.]

Juvenile arrest rate trends for the four offenses that make up the Property Crime Index show very different patterns over the 1980–2006 period

Burglary

- ◆ Unique in the set of Property Crime Index offenses, the juvenile arrest rate for burglary declined almost consistently and fell substantially between 1980 and 2006, down 69%.
- ◆ This large fall in juvenile arrests from 1980 through 2006 was not replicated in the adult statistics. For example, between 1997 and 2006, the number of juvenile burglary arrests fell 37%, while adult burglary arrests remained essentially the same. In 1980, 45% of all burglary arrests were arrests of a juvenile; in 2006, reflecting the greater decline in juvenile arrests, just 28% of burglary arrests were juvenile arrests.

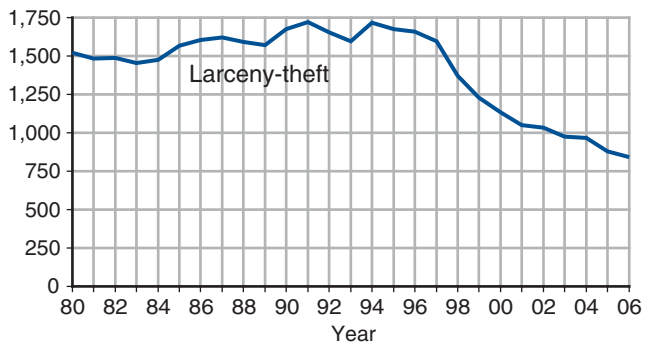
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Larceny-Theft

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft remained essentially constant between 1980 and 1997, then fell 47% between 1997 and 2006.
- ◆ In 2006, 69% of all juvenile arrests for Property Crime Index offenses were for larceny-theft. Therefore, the annual trends of juvenile arrests for Property Crime Index offenses largely reflect the pattern of larceny-theft arrests (which itself is dominated by shoplifting—the most common larceny-theft violation). As can be seen on this page, the juvenile arrest trends for individual property crimes vary considerably and, therefore, should be considered separately.

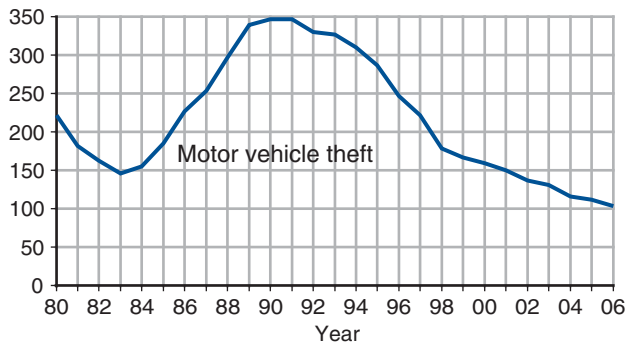
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Motor Vehicle Theft

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft more than doubled between 1983 and 1990, up 137%.
- ◆ After the peak years of 1990 and 1991, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined substantially and consistently through 2006, falling 70%. In 2006, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft was lower than in any year in the 1980–2006 period.
- ◆ This large decline in juvenile arrests was not replicated in the adult statistics. Between 1996 and 2006, the number of juvenile motor vehicle theft arrests fell more than 53%, while adult motor vehicle theft arrests decreased just 2%.

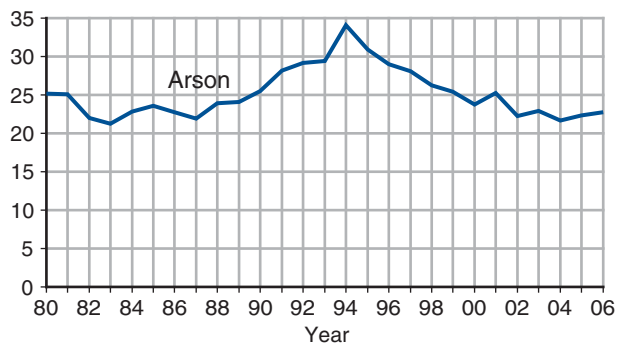
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Arson

- ◆ After being relatively stable for most of the 1980s, the juvenile arrest rate for arson grew 33% between 1990 and 1994.
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for arson declined substantially between 1994 and 2006, falling 33%.
- ◆ In the 27 years from 1980 through 2006, only 6 years had a lower juvenile arrest rate for arson than did 2006. The 2006 rate was just 7% above the lowest rate in the period.

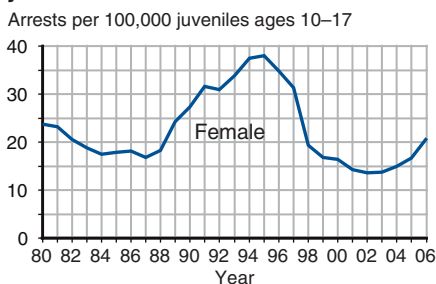
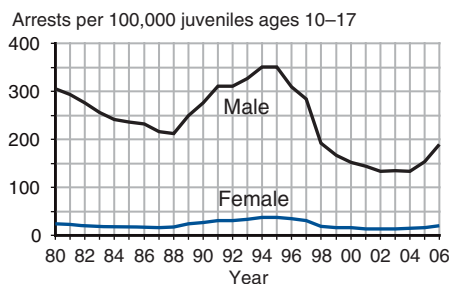
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



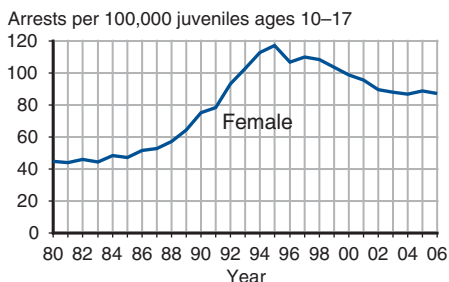
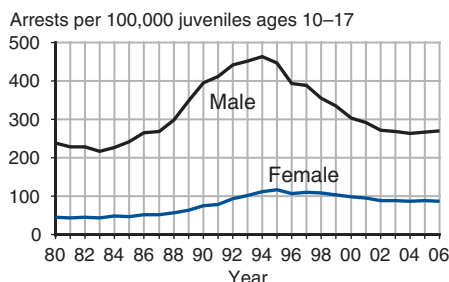
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. [See data source note on p. 12 for detail.]

Juvenile male and female arrest trends were similar for robbery and drug law violations but differed for aggravated and simple assault

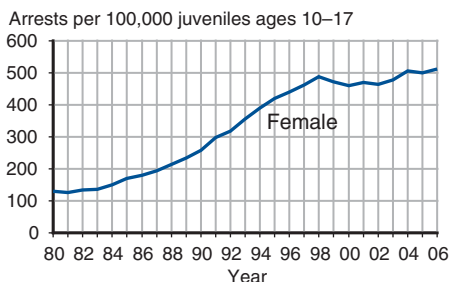
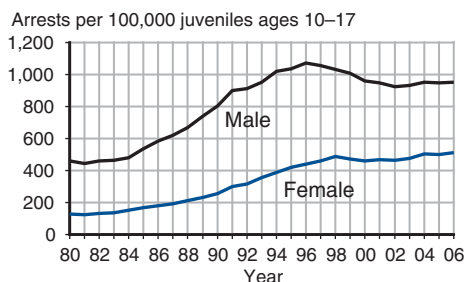
Robbery



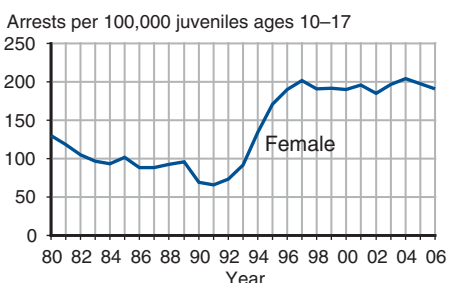
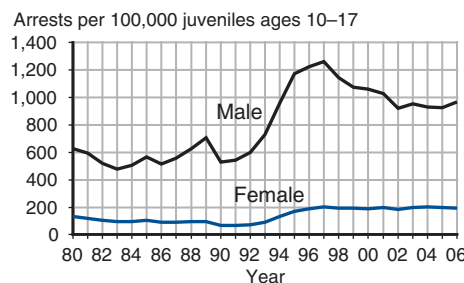
Aggravated assault



Other (simple) assault



Drug abuse violations



- ◆ A similar growth and subsequent decline in juvenile male and female robbery arrest rates between 1980 and 2006 left each below their 1980s levels (36% and 12%, respectively). Over the period, juvenile male and female drug arrest rates both increased by half (55% and 47%, respectively).
- ◆ Unlike robbery, the juvenile female arrest rate for aggravated assault did not decline after its 1990s peak as much as did the male rate. As a result, in 2006, the juvenile male arrest rate was just 13% above its 1980 level, while the female rate was almost double its 1980 rate (up 94%). Similarly, while the male arrest rate for simple assault over the 1980–2006 period doubled, the female rate quadrupled.

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

In 2006, 29% of juvenile arrests involved females

Law enforcement agencies made 641,000 arrests of females under age 18 in 2006. From 1997 through 2006, arrests of juvenile females decreased less than male arrests in most offense categories (e.g., aggravated assault); in some categories (e.g., simple assault), female arrests increased, while male arrests decreased.

Percent Change in Juvenile Arrests 1997–2006

Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Juvenile Arrests 1997–2006	
	Female	Male
Violent Crime Index	-12%	-22%
Aggravated assault	-10%	-24%
Simple assault	19	-4
Property Crime Index	-35	-48
Burglary	-31	-38
Larceny-theft	-34	-51
Motor vehicle theft	-49	-54
Vandalism	-4	-15
Weapons	5	-11
Drug abuse violations	2	-14
Liquor law violations	1	-22
DUI	39	-6
Disorderly conduct	33	-2

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2006*, table 33.

Gender differences also occurred in the assault arrest trends for adults. Between 1997 and 2006, adult male arrests for aggravated assault fell 14%, while female arrests fell 2%. Similarly, adult male arrests for simple assault fell 10% between 1997 and 2006, while adult female arrests rose 8%. Therefore, the female proportion of arrests grew for both types of assault. It is likely that the disproportionate growth in female assault arrests over this period was related to factors that affected both juveniles and adults.

Gender differences in arrest trends also increased the proportion of arrests involving females in other offense categories for both juveniles and adults. The number of drug abuse violation arrests of juvenile females grew 2% between 1997 and 2006, while juvenile male arrests declined 14%. Drug abuse violation arrests of adult females grew more than adult male arrests (33% and 21%, respectively). The greater decline in male than in female arrests for Property Crime Index offenses seen for juveniles between 1997 and 2006 was also seen in adult arrests, with adult male arrests falling 15% and adult female arrests falling 10%.

Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities

The racial composition of the U.S. juvenile population in 2006 was 78% white, 17% black, 5% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% American Indian. Most Hispanics (an ethnic designation, not a race) were classified as white. Of all juvenile arrests for violent crimes in 2006, 47% involved white youth, 51% involved black youth, 1% involved Asian youth, and 1% involved American Indian youth. For property crime arrests, the proportions were 66% white youth, 31% black youth, 2% Asian youth, and 1% American Indian youth. Black youth were overrepresented in juvenile arrests.

Most Serious Offense Black Proportion of Juvenile Arrests in 2006

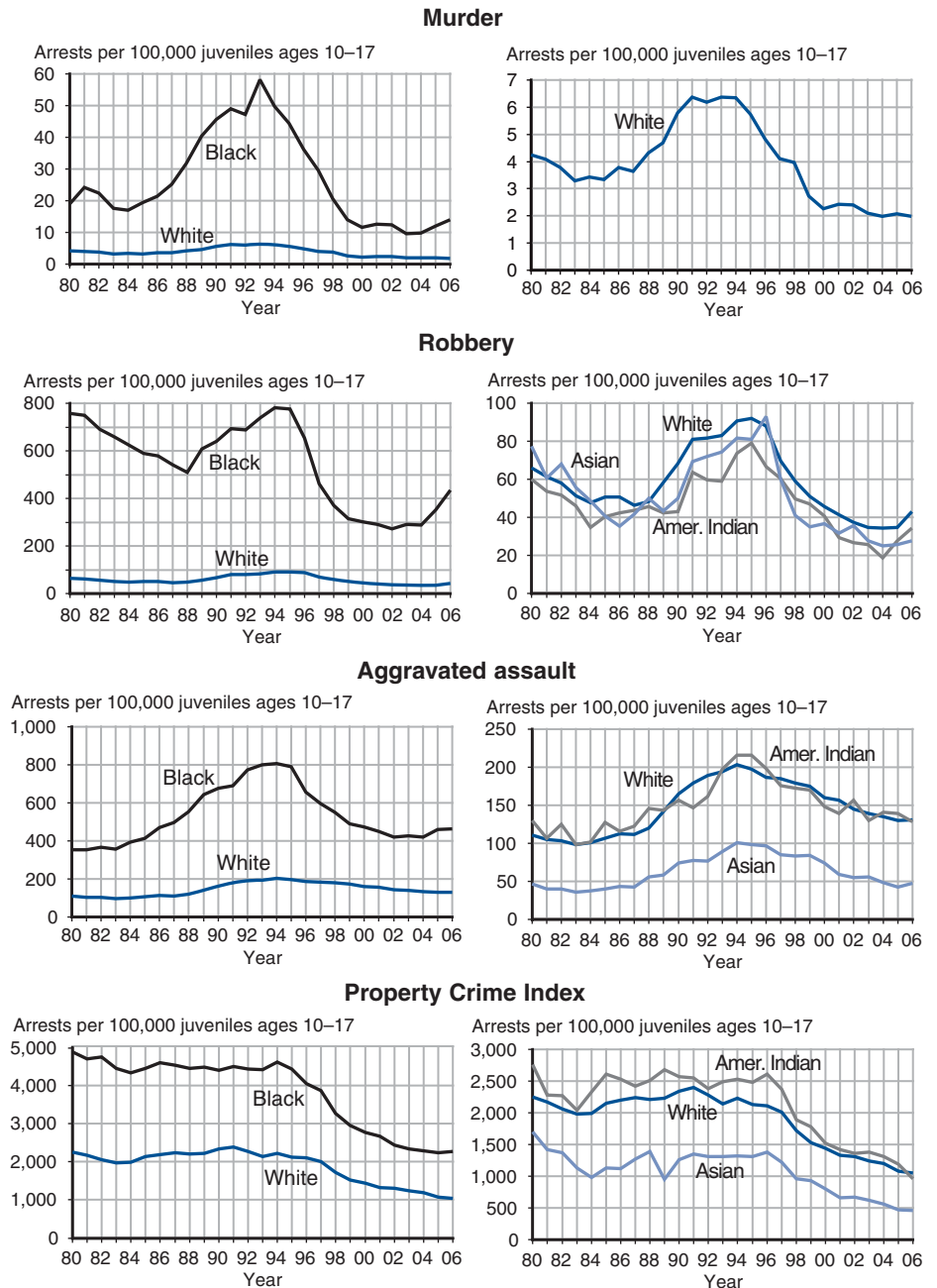
Murder	59%
Forcible rape	34
Robbery	67
Aggravated assault	42
Simple assault	39
Burglary	32
Larceny-theft	30
Motor vehicle theft	43
Weapons	37
Drug abuse violations	30
Vandalism	19
Liquor laws	5

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2006*, table 43.

The Violent Crime Index arrest rate (i.e., arrests per 100,000 juveniles in the racial group) in 2006 for black juveniles (934) was 5 times the rates for white juveniles (184) and American Indian juveniles (174) and 12 times the rate for Asian juveniles (78). For Property Crime Index arrests, the rate for black juveniles (2,278) was double the rates for white juveniles (1,046) and American Indian juveniles (954) and 5 times the rate for Asian juveniles (461).

In the 1980s, the Violent Crime Index arrest rate for black juveniles was between 6 and 7 times the white rate. This ratio declined during the 1990s, falling to 4-to-1 in 1999. Between 1999 and 2006, the racial disparity in the rates increased, reaching 5-to-1 in 2006. This increase was the result of an increase in the black rate, while the white rate declined (9% vs. -24%, respectively). More specifically, over this period, the robbery arrest rate increased for black juveniles while the white rate declined (38% vs. -16%, respectively), and the black juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault declined far less than the white rate (-6% vs. -25%, respectively).

Although annual arrest rates varied considerably across races, trends in those rates from 1980 through 2006 had many similarities



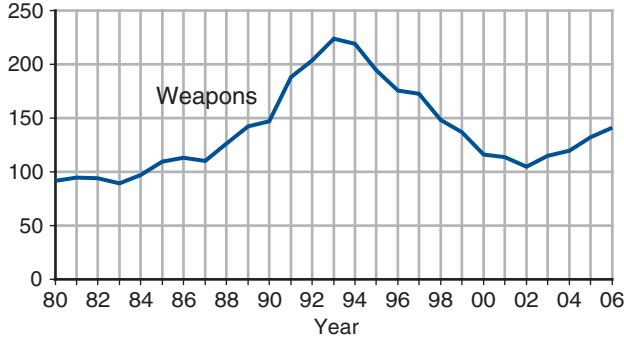
- ◆ The white juvenile murder arrest rate in 2006 was at its lowest level since at least 1980, having fallen 69% since its peak in 1993. The black rate in 2006 was still 73% below its 1993 peak, even though it increased between 2004 and 2006.
- ◆ After peaking in the mid-1990s, robbery and aggravated assault arrest rates fell substantially for all four racial groups.
- ◆ From 1994 through 2006, the Property Crime Index arrest rates dropped for juveniles in all racial groups. In fact, rates were cut in half or even more.

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

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

In 2006, the juvenile arrest rate trend for weapons law violations continued an increase that began in 2003

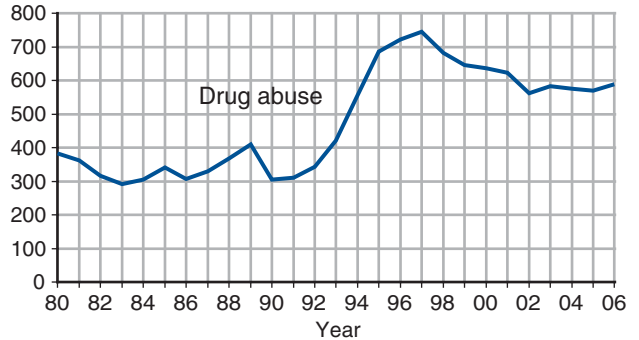
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



- ◆ Between 1980 and 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations increased more than 140%. Then the rate fell substantially, so that by 2002 the rate was just 14% above the 1980 level.
- ◆ However, between 2002 and 2006, the juvenile weapons arrest rate grew 35%, making the 2006 rate 53% above the 1980 level and 37% below its peak in 1993. During the recent growth period from 2002 to 2006, the white juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations grew 23% and the black rate grew 58%.

After a considerable rise in the 1990s, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations has trended downward from 1997 through 2006

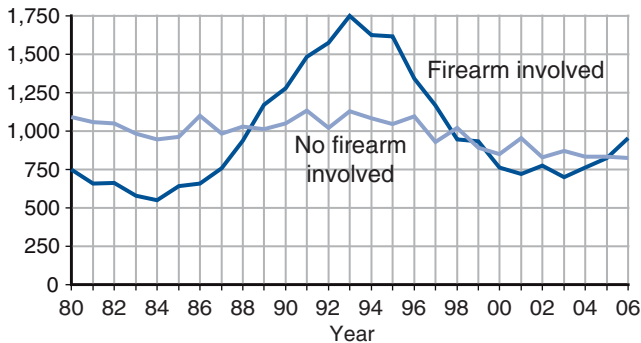
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



- ◆ Between 1990 and 1997, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations increased 145%. The rate declined 21% between 1997 and 2006, but the 2006 rate was still almost double the 1990 rate.
- ◆ Over the 1980–2006 period, the white juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations peaked in 1997 and then held relatively constant through 2006 (down 11%). In contrast, the black rate peaked in 1995 and by 2002 had fallen 49%. The growth in recent years has brought the black rate back to within 36% of its 1995 peak.

After about a decade of substantial decline, the number of juveniles murdered using a firearm increased in 2004, 2005, and 2006

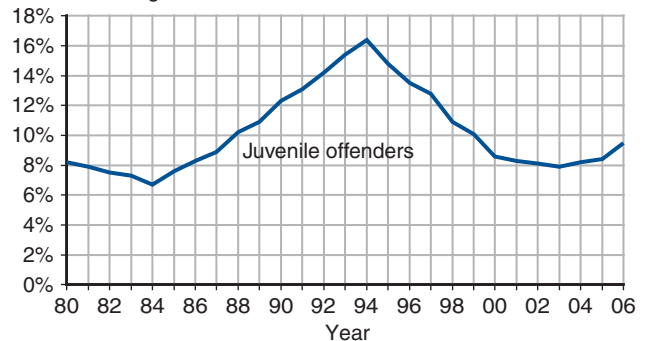
Juvenile homicide victims



- ◆ Between 1980 and 2006, juvenile murder trends were driven by the changing number of juveniles murdered with a firearm. For example, between 1993 and 2003, the number of juveniles murdered in the U.S. fell 45%, with 80% of the decline due to the drop in firearm-related murders.
- ◆ Between 2003 and 2006, while nonfirearm-related murders declined 5%, murders of juveniles by firearms increased 36%. In the early 1990s, about 61% of murdered juveniles were killed with a firearm; this percentage fell to 43% in 2001 and rose to 54% in 2006.

The juvenile proportion of alleged murder offenders known to law enforcement grew some between 2003 and 2006 but was well below the 1994 peak

Percent of alleged murder offenders known to law enforcement



- ◆ In 1994, 1 of every 6 alleged murder offenders known to law enforcement was under the age of 18. In 2006, this ratio was 1 in 11.
- ◆ Even following the growth between 2003 and 2006 in the juvenile proportion of alleged murder offenders known to law enforcement, the 2006 proportion was still lower than any year in the 1990s.

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

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

State	2006 Juvenile Arrest Rate*					State	2006 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	78%†	315	1,256	600	141	Missouri	98%	341	1,650	703	127
Alabama	80	141	592	263	37	Montana	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Alaska	96	218	1,622	314	99	Nebraska	87	106	1,892	638	91
Arizona	96	240	1,394	767	80	Nevada	99	213	1,211	504	180
Arkansas	69	239	1,217	445	77	New Hampshire	79	90	886	618	17
California	100	389	1,034	496	214	New Jersey	97	362	881	695	217
Colorado	95	220	1,573	738	149	New Mexico	65	266	1,002	618	196
Connecticut	61	403	1,128	543	119	New York	49	314	1,104	608	85
Delaware	100	607	1,491	862	171	North Carolina	76	287	1,331	454	214
District of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Dakota	90	69	1,595	399	70
Florida	100	485	1,772	789	132	Ohio	50	194	1,064	432	94
Georgia	34	377	1,243	682	188	Oklahoma	91	201	1,179	473	101
Hawaii	84	218	1,092	360	36	Oregon	84	209	1,798	550	83
Idaho	84	145	1,829	509	113	Pennsylvania	88	468	1,046	543	150
Illinois	23	1,029	1,679	2,415	308	Rhode Island	89	143	893	461	131
Indiana	59	147	1,408	477	34	South Carolina	90	342	1,043	697	204
Iowa	83	263	1,676	396	42	South Dakota	47	27	417	171	14
Kansas	65	164	895	425	64	Tennessee	81	321	1,087	624	146
Kentucky	23	371	2,092	1,387	136	Texas	96	185	1,002	548	69
Louisiana	48	436	1,585	772	132	Utah	79	117	1,793	477	142
Maine	100	92	1,435	456	38	Vermont	83	103	585	297	13
Maryland	99	583	1,890	1,173	256	Virginia	77	171	905	412	105
Massachusetts	85	362	502	387	46	Washington	82	237	1,695	490	145
Michigan	93	223	1,066	360	93	West Virginia	49	45	275	195	10
Minnesota	89	234	1,735	567	180	Wisconsin	95	297	2,583	839	261
Mississippi	56	135	1,006	518	124	Wyoming	98	138	1,521	941	87

* 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 (78%) includes all States reporting arrests of persons under age 18. This is greater than the coverage in the rest of the Bulletin (72%) for various reasons. For example, Florida provided arrest counts of persons under age 18 but did not provide the age detail required to support other presentations in *Crime in the United States 2006*.

NA = *Crime in the United States 2006* reported no arrest counts for the District of Columbia and Montana.

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 2006* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2007), tables 5 and 69, and population data from the National Center for Health Statistics' *Estimates of the July 1, 2000–July 1, 2006, United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2006 Postcensal Series by Year, County, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable data files available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm>, released 8/16/2007].

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Data source note

Analysis of arrest data from unpublished FBI reports for 1980 through 1997, from *Crime in the United States* reports for 1998 through 2003 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1999 through 2004, respectively), and from *Crime in the United States* reports for 2004 through 2006 that are available online at www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm#cius, released September 2007; 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 National Center for Health Statistics (prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau with support from the National Cancer Institute), *Bridged-race Intercensal Estimates of the July 1, 1990–July 1, 1999, United States Resident Population by County, Single-year of Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable data files available online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm, released July 26, 2004]; and population data for 2000–2006 from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau), *Estimates of the July 1, 2000–July 1, 2006, United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2006 Postcensal Series by Year, County, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable

data files available online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm, released August 16, 2007].

Notes

In this Bulletin, “juvenile” refers to persons under age 18. This definition is at odds with the legal definition of juveniles in 2006 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 2006, with the 2006 coverage being 72%.

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

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