

Juvenile Crime Statistics

Dept. Of Justice- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Juvenile Population Statistics (2003)

1 At the beginning of the 21st century, 1 in 4 U.S. residents was under age 18

2 The juvenile population is increasing similarly to other segments of the population
For 2002, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 72,894,500 persons in the United States were under the age of 18, the age group commonly referred to as juveniles.

3 The juvenile population reached a low point in 1984, at 62.5 million, then grew each year through 2002, increasing 17%. Current projections indicate that the juvenile population will continue to grow throughout the 21st century. The Census Bureau estimates that it will increase 14% between 2000 and 2025—about one-half of one percent per year.

4 By 2050, the juvenile population will be 36% larger than it was in 2000. In 2002, juveniles were 25% of the U.S. resident population. The Census Bureau estimates that this proportion will remain essentially constant through at least 2050; i.e., the relative increases in the juvenile and adult populations will be equivalent during the first half of the 21st century.

Chart 1:

Analysis of the change in the percentage of arrests of juveniles vs. adults from 1994-2003.

Over the 10-year period from 1994 to 2003, the percent decline in the number of arrests was greater for juveniles than for adults for each offense within the Violent Crime Index

Most serious offense	Percent change in arrests, 1994–2003								
	All persons			Juveniles			Adults		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
Total	-3%	-7%	12%	-18%	-22%	-3%	1%	-3%	17%
Violent Crime Index	-16	-20	10	-32	-36	-10	-12	-16	14
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	-36	-37	-30	-68	-69	-49	-30	-30	-28
Forcible rape	-22	-23	-1	-25	-25	-30	-22	-22	12
Robbery	-25	-26	-12	-43	-44	-38	-17	-18	-2
Aggravated assault	-12	-17	14	-26	-31	-2	-10	-15	17
Property Crime Index	-23	-27	-12	-38	-44	-21	-15	-18	-8
Burglary	-23	-26	-3	-40	-41	-27	-14	-17	9
Larceny-theft	-23	-27	-14	-35	-43	-19	-16	-19	-11
Motor vehicle theft	-26	-30	-5	-52	-54	-44	-6	-12	34
Arson	-29	-29	-24	-36	-36	-38	-18	-19	-10
Other (simple) assault	3	-4	32	10	1	36	1	-5	31
Forgery and counterfeiting	1	-4	10	-47	-46	-47	6	0	16
Fraud	-17	-21	-12	-29	-29	-27	-16	-20	-11
Embezzlement	19	2	42	15	8	28	19	2	43
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	-21	-25	6	-46	-48	-29	-11	-16	18
Vandalism	-18	-21	5	-33	-36	-11	-3	-7	16
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	-36	-36	-34	-41	-42	-22	-35	-34	-38
Prostitution and commercialized vice	-18	-22	-15	31	-24	86	-18	-22	-16
Sex offenses (except forcible rape and prostitution)	-10	-10	-3	2	0	26	-12	-13	-9
Drug abuse violation	22	20	35	19	13	56	23	21	33
Gambling	-49	-51	-37	-59	-58	-70	-48	-50	-35
Offenses against family and children	11	4	41	19	12	31	10	4	42
Driving under the influence	-6	-10	21	33	25	83	-6	-11	20
Liquor laws	16	8	45	4	-5	26	20	12	56
Drunkenness	-26	-28	-9	-11	-18	24	-26	-28	-10
Disorderly conduct	-11	-16	4	13	2	46	-19	-21	-11
Vagrancy	16	17	10	-50	-53	-37	32	36	20
All other offenses (except traffic)	17	12	38	-2	-8	17	19	14	42
Curfew and loitering law violation	-1	-3	5	-1	-3	5	NA	NA	NA
Runaway	-42	-44	-40	-42	-44	-40	NA	NA	NA

■ Between 1994 and 2003, female juvenile arrests either increased more or decreased less than male juvenile arrests in many offense categories (e.g., driving under the influence, drug abuse violations, simple assault, liquor law violations, and aggravated assault). As a result, while male juvenile arrests declined 22% over the period, female juvenile arrests declined just 3%.

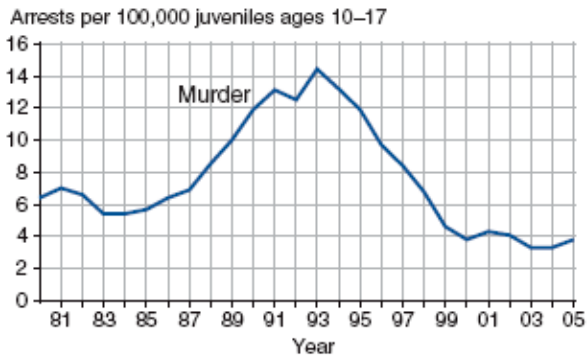
■ Between 1994 and 2003, while both juvenile and adult male arrests for simple assault changed little (1% and -5%, respectively), arrests for both juvenile and adult females increased substantially (36% and 31%, respectively). This implies that the increase in juvenile female arrests for simple assault over the period was a trend for females in general, not for juvenile females specifically.

Source: Authors' adaptation of the FBI's *Crime in the United States 2003*.

Chart 2:

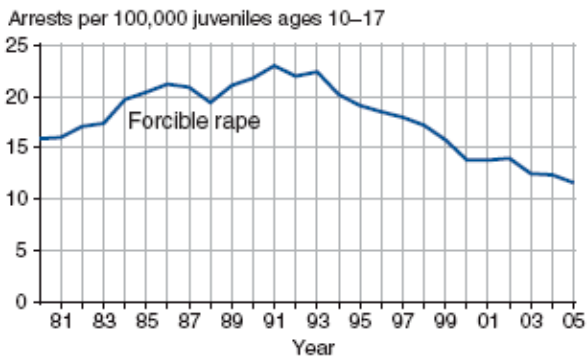
Data analysis: Juvenile Arrest Trends (Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault) 1981-2005

In 2005, the juvenile arrest rates for murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault were each well below their peak levels of the 1990s



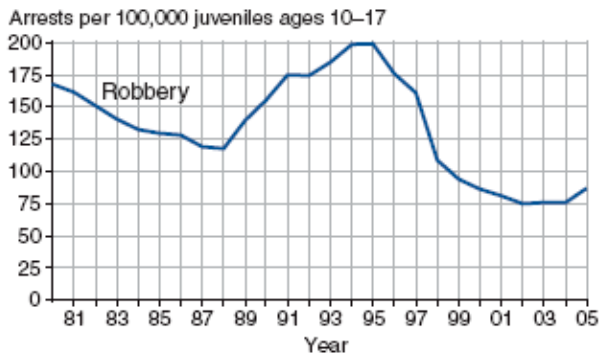
Murder

- ◆ From the mid-1980s to the peak in 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for murder more than doubled; since then, a steep decline has occurred.
- ◆ With two exceptions (2001 and 2005), the juvenile arrest rate for murder fell each year after 1993, so that by 2005 it was 74% below the peak 1993 rate.
- ◆ The 20% growth in the number of juvenile murder arrests between 2004 and 2005 increased the number to 1,260 arrests; even with this increase, the 2005 level was still well below the 1993 estimate of 3,790 arrests.



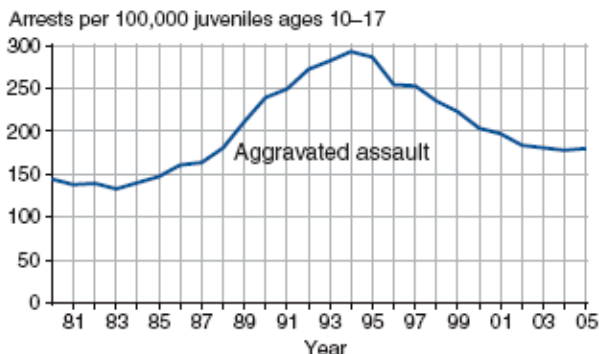
Forcible Rape

- ◆ 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 1980–2005 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 2005. By 1999, it had returned to its 1980 level. By 2005, the rate had fallen to a point 27% below the 1980 level, 49% below its 1991 peak, and to its lowest level in more than a generation.



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, 30% below its 1980 level.
- ◆ The growth in the juvenile arrest rate for robbery between 1988 and 1994–1995 moved the rate above the 1980 level, a pattern found in each of the other Violent Crime Index offenses.
- ◆ Like the juvenile arrest rates for other Violent Crime Index offenses, the rate for robbery declined substantially after its mid-1990s peak. The rate fell 56% between 1995 and 2005; however, it did increase between 2002 and 2005, returning in 2005 to its 2000 level.



Aggravated Assault

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault doubled between 1980 and 1994 and then fell substantially and consistently through 2004. After many years of decline, the rate increased slightly (1%) in 2005.
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault declined 38% from 1994 through 2005.
- ◆ Unlike the juvenile arrest rates for other crimes in the Violent Crime Index, the rate for aggravated assault in 2005 was not below its levels in the early 1980s. The rate in 2005 was, in fact, 25% more than its 1980 level.

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.]

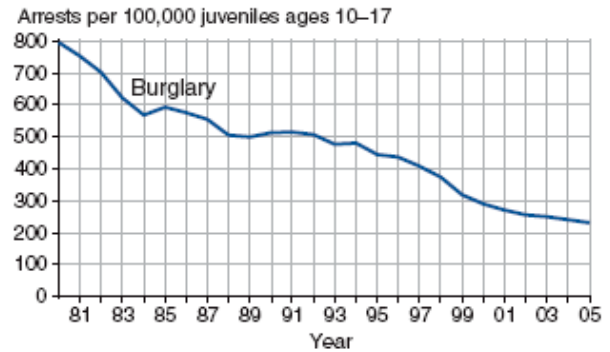
Chart 3:

Data analysis: Juvenile Arrest Trends (Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, Arson) 1981-2005

The juvenile arrest rate trends for the four offenses that make up the Property Crime Index show very different patterns over the 1980–2005 period

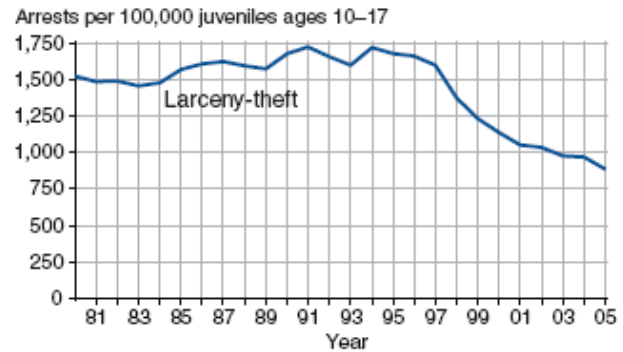
Burglary

- ◆ Unique in the set of Property Crime Index offenses, the juvenile arrest rate for burglary declined almost consistently and fell substantially between 1980 and 2005. The 2005 rate was less than one-third of the 1980 rate, down 71%.
- ◆ This large fall in juvenile arrests from 1980 through 2005 was not replicated in the adult statistics. Between 1996 and 2005, the number of juvenile burglary arrests fell 44%, while adult burglary arrests remained essentially the same. In the prior 10-year period, the juvenile and adult patterns were the same; between 1986 and 1995, both juvenile and adult arrests for burglary fell 18%.



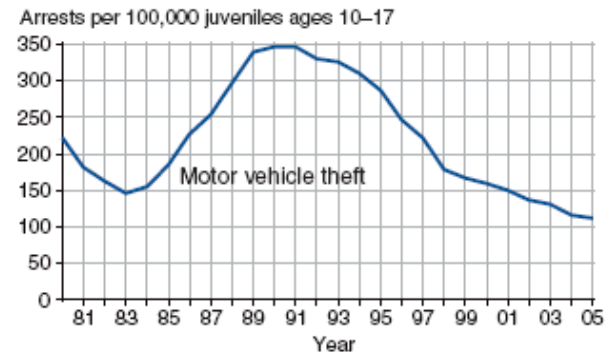
Larceny-Theft

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft remained essentially constant between 1980 and 1997, then fell 45% between 1997 and 2005.
- ◆ In 2005, 70% 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.



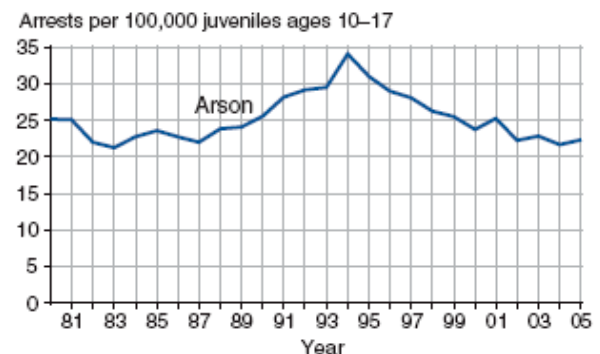
Motor Vehicle Theft

- ◆ 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 2005, falling 68%. In 2005, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft was lower than in any year in the 1980–2005 period.
- ◆ This large decline in juvenile arrests was not replicated in the adult statistics. Between 1996 and 2005, the number of juvenile motor vehicle theft arrests fell more than 54%, while adult motor vehicle theft arrests increased 8%.



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 2005, falling 34%.
- ◆ In the 26 years from 1980 through 2005, only 5 years had a lower juvenile arrest rate for arson than did 2005. The 2005 rate was just 5% above the lowest rate in the 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.]

Chart 4:

Bar Graph: Percentage of juvenile arrests for crimes committed in 2005.

