



J. Robert Flores, Administrator

JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN

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Juvenile Arrests 2004

Howard N. Snyder

In 2004, law enforcement agencies in the United States made an estimated 2.2 million arrests of persons under age 18.* According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), juveniles accounted for 16% of all arrests and 16% of all violent crime arrests in 2004. The substantial growth in juvenile violent crime arrests that began in the late 1980s peaked in 1994. In 2004, for the tenth consecutive year, the rate of juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses—murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—declined. Specifically, between 1994 and 2004, the juvenile arrest rate for Violent Crime Index offenses fell 49%. As a result, the juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate in 2004 was at its lowest level since at least 1980. From its peak in 1993 to 2004, the juvenile arrest rate for murder fell 77%.

These findings are derived from data reported annually by local law enforcement agencies across the country to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Based on these data, the FBI prepares its annual *Crime in the United States* report, which summarizes crimes known to the police and arrests made during the reporting calendar year. This information is used to characterize the extent and nature of juvenile crime that comes to the attention of the justice system. Other recent findings from the UCR Program include the following:

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

- ◆ Of the estimated 1,590 juveniles murdered in 2004, 38% were under 5 years of age, 68% were male, 51% were white, and 48% were killed with a firearm.
- ◆ Juveniles were involved in 12% of all violent crimes cleared in 2004—specifically, 5% of murders, 12% of forcible rapes, 14% of robberies, and 12% of aggravated assaults.
- ◆ In the peak year of 1993, there were about 3,790 juvenile arrests for murder. Between 1993 and 2004, juvenile arrests for murder declined, with the number of arrests in 2004 (1,110) 71% below the 1993 level.
- ◆ Females accounted for 24% of juvenile arrests for aggravated assault and 33% of those for other assaults in 2004, far more than their involvement in other types of violent crimes.
- ◆ Between 1980 and 2004, the juvenile arrest rate for simple assault increased 106% for males and 290% for females.
- ◆ The disparity in violent crime arrest rates for black juveniles and white juveniles declined from 6-to-1 in 1980 to 4-to-1 in 2004.
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined consistently and substantially between 1990 and 2004, falling 66%.
- ◆ Between 1995 and 2004, juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations fell 8% for males and increased 29% for females.

A Message From OJJDP

Juvenile Arrests 2004 summarizes and analyzes national and state juvenile arrest data presented in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's report *Crime in the United States 2004*. The Bulletin provides baseline information for those who monitor the nation's progress in addressing juvenile crime.

The juvenile arrest rate for Violent Crime Index offenses declined again in 2004 for the tenth consecutive year, falling to half its 1994 peak and reaching its lowest level since at least 1980. The rate for each of the Violent Crime Index offenses—murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—has declined steadily since the mid-1990s. Between 1995 and 2004, the decline in the number of violent crime arrests was greater for juveniles (31%) than adults (14%). Juvenile arrest rates for Property Crime Index offenses also declined in 2004, reaching their lowest level in at least three decades.

The large declines in both the Violent Crime and Property Crime Indexes from the mid-1990s through 2004 indicate a broad-based and general reduction in the delinquent behavior of America's youth. However, although many statistical trends in juvenile crime are encouraging, problems remain. For example, between 1980 and 2004, juvenile arrest rates for both drug abuse and weapons law violations increased substantially. During the same period, juvenile arrest rates for simple assault increased more than twice as much for females as for males.

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What do arrest statistics count?

To interpret the material in this Bulletin properly, the reader must have a clear understanding of what these statistics count. The arrest statistics report the number of arrests made by law enforcement agencies in a particular year—not the number of individuals arrested, nor the number of crimes committed. The number of arrests is not equivalent to the number of people arrested, because an unknown number of individuals are arrested more than once in the year. Nor do arrest statistics represent counts of crimes committed by arrested individuals, because a series of crimes committed by one individual may culminate in a single arrest, or a single crime may result in the arrest of more than one person. This latter situation, where many arrests result from one crime, is relatively common in juvenile law-violating behavior because juveniles are more likely than adults to

commit crimes in groups. This is the primary reason why arrest statistics should not be used to indicate the relative proportion of crime committed by juveniles and adults. Arrest statistics are most appropriately a measure of flow into the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Arrest statistics also have limitations for measuring the volume of arrests for a particular offense. Under the UCR Program, the FBI requires law enforcement agencies to classify an arrest by the most serious offense charged in that arrest. For example, the arrest of a youth charged with aggravated assault and possession of a controlled substance would be reported to the FBI as an arrest for aggravated assault. Therefore, when arrest statistics show that law enforcement agencies made an estimated 193,900 arrests of young people for drug abuse violations in 2004, it means that a drug abuse violation was the most serious charge in these 193,900 arrests. An

unknown number of additional arrests in 2004 included a drug charge as a lesser offense.

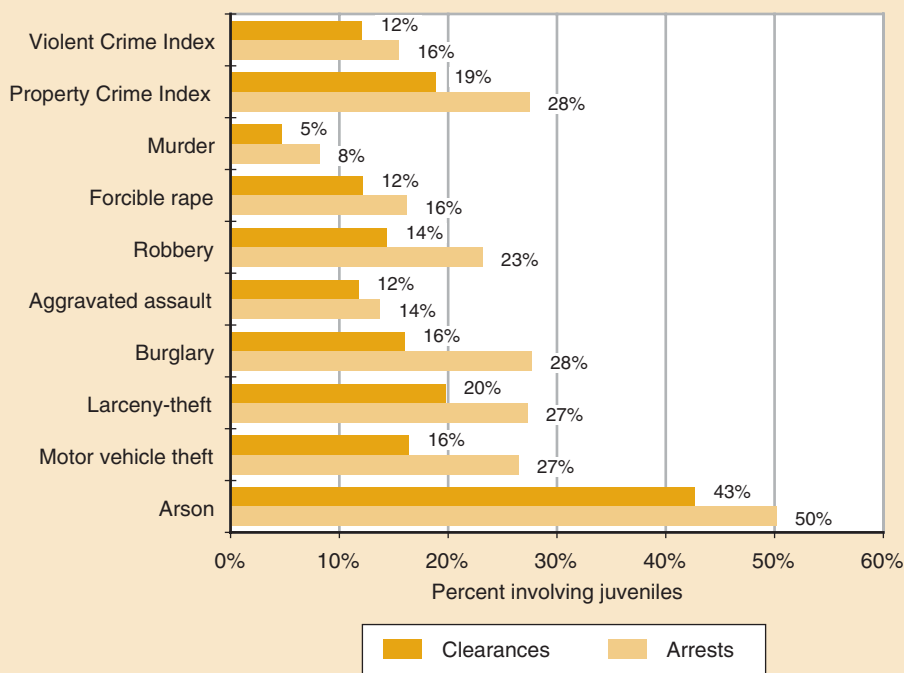
What do clearance statistics count?

Clearance statistics measure the proportion of reported crimes that were resolved by an arrest or other, exceptional means (e.g., death of the offender, unwillingness of the victim to cooperate). A single arrest may result in many clearances. For example, 1 arrest could clear 40 burglaries if the person was charged with committing all 40 of these crimes. Or multiple arrests may result in a single clearance if the crime was committed by a group of offenders. For those interested in juvenile justice issues, the FBI also reports information on the proportion of clearances that involved offenders under age 18. This statistic is a better indicator of the proportion of crime committed by this age group than is the arrest proportion, although there are some concerns that even the clearance statistic overestimates the juvenile proportion of crimes.

For example, the FBI reports that persons under age 18 accounted for 23% of all robbery arrests but only 14% of all robberies that were cleared in 2004. If it can be assumed that offender characteristics of cleared robberies are similar to those of robberies that were not cleared, then it would be appropriate to conclude that persons under age 18 were responsible for 14% of all robberies in 2004. However, the offender characteristics of cleared and noncleared robberies may differ for a number of reasons. If, for example, juvenile robbers were more easily apprehended than adult robbers, the juvenile proportion of cleared robberies would overestimate the juvenile responsibility for all robberies. To add to the difficulty in interpreting clearance statistics, the FBI's reporting guidelines require the clearance to be tied to the oldest offender in the group if more than one person is involved in the crime.

In summary, while the interpretation of reported clearance proportions is not straightforward, these data are the closest measure generally available of the proportion of crime known to law enforcement that is attributed to persons under age 18.

The juvenile proportion of arrests exceeded the juvenile proportion of crimes cleared by arrest or exceptional means in each offense category, reflecting the fact that juveniles are more likely to commit crimes in groups and are more likely to be arrested than are adults



Data source: *Crime in the United States 2004* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2005), tables 28 and 38 (updated 2/17/2006).

The number of juveniles murdered in 2004 was near the 25-year low

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

An estimated 16,140 murders were reported to law enforcement agencies in 2004, or 5.5 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 2004. Prior to 1999, the last year in which the U.S. murder rate was under 6.0 was 1966.

Of all murder victims in 2004, 90% (or 14,550 victims) were 18 years of age or older. The other 1,590 murder victims were under age 18 (i.e., juveniles). The number of juveniles murdered in 2004 was slightly above the 2003 figure (1,570). However, prior to 2003, the only other year in the 25-year period between 1980 and 2004 in which fewer than 1,600 juveniles were murdered was 1984. The 2004 figure is 45% 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 33%.

Of all juveniles murdered in 2004, 38% were under age 5, 68% were male, and 51% were white. Compared with older juvenile murder victims, victims under age 13 in 2004 were more likely to be female (47% vs. 17%) and less likely to be black (39% vs. 53%).

In 2004, 66% of all murder victims were killed with a firearm. Adults were more likely to be killed with a firearm (69%) than were juveniles (48%). However, the involvement of a firearm depended greatly on the age of the juvenile victim. In 2004, 14% of murdered juveniles under age 13 were killed with a firearm, compared with 79% of murdered juveniles age 13 or older. The most common method of murdering children under age 5 was by physical assault: in 48% of these murders, the offenders' only weapons were their hands and/or feet, compared with only 4% of juvenile victims age 13 or older and 5% of adult victims. In 2004, knives or other cutting instruments were used in 9% of juvenile murders and 14% of adult murders.

The 2.2 million arrests of juveniles in 2004 was 22% fewer than the number of arrests in 1995

Most Serious Offense	2004 Estimated Number of Juvenile Arrests	Percent of Total Juvenile Arrests		Percent Change		
		Female	Under Age 15	1995– 2004	2000– 2004	2003– 2004
Total	2,202,000	30%	32%	-22%	-9%	-2%
Violent Crime Index	91,100	19	32	-31	-5	-1
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	1,110	9	12	-63	-8	0
Forcible rape	4,210	3	38	-22	-10	0
Robbery	25,340	10	24	-44	-5	0
Aggravated assault	60,450	24	35	-23	-6	-2
Property Crime Index	452,300	34	36	-40	-15	-3
Burglary	81,600	12	35	-39	-15	-4
Larceny-theft	323,500	42	37	-38	-14	-2
Motor vehicle theft	39,300	17	25	-53	-21	-9
Arson	7,800	14	61	-34	-10	-3
Nonindex						
Other assaults	249,900	33	43	8	7	1
Forgery and counterfeiting	4,900	34	15	-47	-31	5
Fraud	7,500	36	18	-35	-29	-2
Embezzlement	1,000	37	5	-21	-46	-12
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	23,300	17	27	-49	-18	-4
Vandalism	103,400	14	44	-32	-11	-4
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	40,500	11	35	-30	11	6
Prostitution and commercialized vice	1,800	72	12	36	44	7
Sex offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	18,000	9	51	12	-3	0
Drug abuse violations	193,900	17	17	-4	-6	-2
Gambling	1,700	3	15	-30	27	-5
Offenses against the family and children	5,800	38	35	-24	-30	-10
Driving under the influence	19,900	21	2	20	-10	-3
Liquor law violations	130,200	35	10	-4	-22	-5
Drunkenness	16,900	23	12	-30	-23	-4
Disorderly conduct	198,800	32	42	-2	7	2
Vagrancy	4,800	28	31	-45	105	-12
All other offenses (except traffic)	379,000	28	28	-13	-11	-2
Suspicion (not included in totals)	600	25	28	-72	-50	18
Curfew and loitering	137,400	31	29	-15	-12	-8
Runaways	119,300	59	35	-46	-18	-1

- ◆ In 2004, law enforcement agencies made an estimated 60,450 juvenile arrests for aggravated assault. Between 1995 and 2004, the annual number of such arrests fell 23%.
- ◆ In 2004, females accounted for 30% of all juvenile arrests, 19% of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests, and 34% of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests.
- ◆ In 2004, youth under the age of 15 accounted for about one-third of all violent and property crime arrests.
- ◆ Between 1995 and 2004, the annual number of juvenile arrests declined in nearly all offense categories, with some of the larger declines in arrests for murder, motor vehicle theft, running away from home, robbery, burglary, and larceny-theft.

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

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2004* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2005), tables 29, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40 (updated 2/17/2006). Arrest estimates were developed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

The juvenile share of crime in 2004 was less than in the mid-1990s

The relative responsibility of juveniles and adults for crime is difficult to determine. Crimes committed by juveniles are more likely to be cleared by law enforcement than are crimes committed by adults. Therefore, drawing a picture of crime from law enforcement records is likely to give a high estimate of juvenile responsibility for crime.

Clearance data show that the proportion of violent crimes attributed to juveniles by law enforcement has declined in recent years. The juvenile proportion of violent crimes cleared by arrest or exceptional means grew from between 9% and 10% in the 1980s to 14% in 1994; after 1994, the proportion fell somewhat, remaining near 12% between 1997 and 2004.

Since 1980, the juvenile proportion of murders cleared peaked in 1994 at 10%. Between 2000 and 2004, the proportion was 5%—the lowest proportion since 1987 and slightly above the levels of the mid-1980s. The juvenile proportion of cleared forcible rapes peaked in 1995 (15%) and then fell; however, the 2004 proportion (12%) was still above the levels of the late 1980s (9%). The juvenile proportion of robbery clearances also peaked in 1995 (20%); it fell substantially by 2004 (14%), but was still above the levels of the late 1980s (10%). The juvenile proportion of aggravated assault clearances in 2004 (12%) was slightly below its peak in 1994 (13%) and substantially above the levels of the late 1980s (8%). The juvenile proportion of Property Crime Index offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means in 2004 (19%) was at its lowest level since at least 1980.

Juvenile arrests for violence in 2004 were the lowest since 1987

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

After years of relative stability, the number of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests increased between 1988 and 1994 and then fell substantially and (with one exception) consistently from 1995 through 2004. For all Violent Crime Index offenses combined, the number of juvenile arrests in 2004 was the lowest since 1987. The number of juvenile aggravated assault arrests in 2004 was lower than in any year since 1988. The number of juvenile arrests in 2004 for murder and the number for forcible rape were both lower than in any year since at least 1980. Finally, even with the marginal 3% increase in the number of juvenile arrests for robbery between 2002 and 2003, the counts for the years 2002 through 2004 were still lower than in any year since at least 1980.

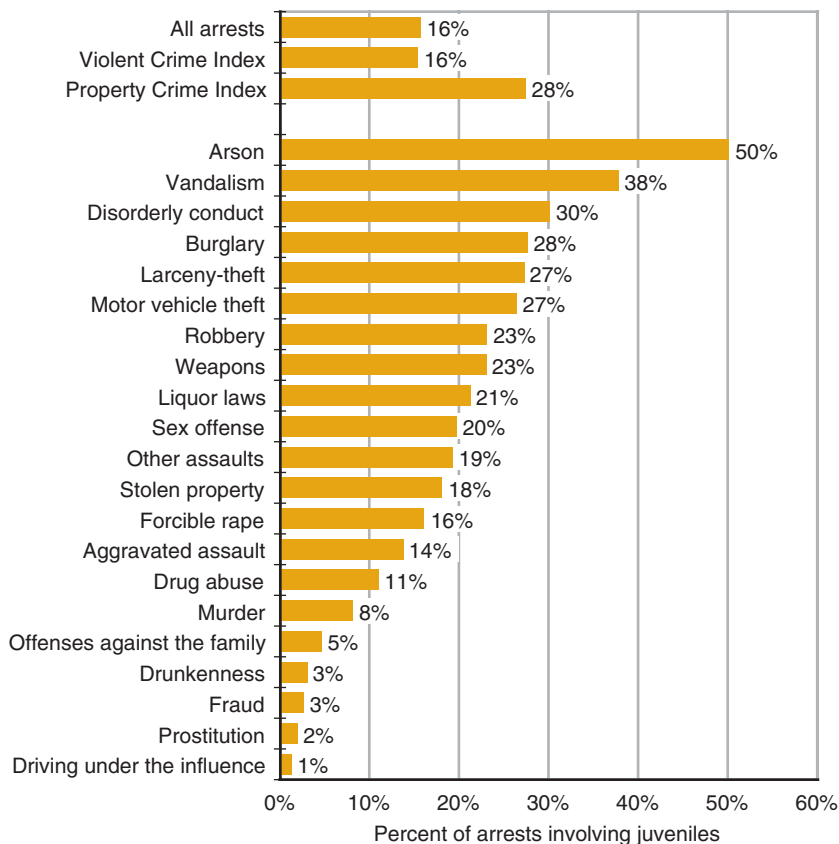
In the 10 years between 1995 and 2004, the number of arrests in most offense categories declined for both juveniles and adults, and the decline was generally greater for juveniles than adults:

Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Arrests 1995–2004	
	Juvenile	Adult
Violent Crime Index	-31%	-14%
Murder	-63	-25
Forcible rape	-22	-17
Robbery	-44	-14
Aggravated assault	-23	-13
Property Crime Index	-40	-13
Burglary	-39	-10
Larceny-theft	-38	-16
Motor vehicle theft	-53	-1
Simple assault	8	-7
Weapons law violations	-30	-27
Drug abuse violations	-4	26
Disorderly conduct	-2	-23

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2004*, table 32 (updated 2/17/2006).

The exceptions to the general pattern were the offenses of simple assault and disorderly conduct. The reason for the difference for these offenses is unclear.

In 2004, juveniles were involved in 1 in 12 arrests for murder, 1 in 9 arrests for a drug abuse violation, and 1 in 4 arrests for a weapons violation, robbery, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and burglary



Data source: *Crime in the United States 2004* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2005), table 38 (updated 2/17/2006).

Juvenile arrests for property crimes in 2004 were the lowest in at least three decades

As with violent crime, the FBI assesses trends in the volume of property crimes by monitoring four offenses that are consistently reported by law enforcement agencies nationwide and are pervasive in all geographical areas of the country. These four crimes, which form the Property Crime Index, are burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

For the period from 1988 through 1994, during which juvenile violent crime arrests increased substantially, juvenile property crime arrest rates remained relatively constant. After this long period of relative stability, juvenile property crime arrests began to fall. Between 1994 and 2004, the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate dropped 47%, to its lowest level since at least the 1970s. Juvenile burglary arrest rates have been declining since at least the 1970s. In 2004, the juvenile arrest rates for larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft were both at their lowest levels since at least the 1970s.

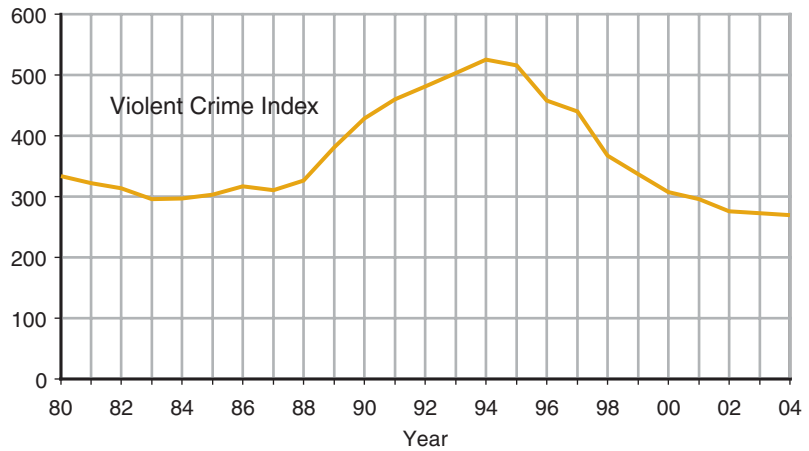
Most arrested juveniles were referred to court

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 2004, 21% of arrests involving youth eligible in their state for processing in the juvenile justice system were handled within law enforcement agencies and released, 70% were referred to juvenile court, and 7% were referred directly to criminal court. The others were referred to a welfare agency or to another police agency. The proportion of juvenile arrests sent to juvenile court increased from 1980 to 2004 (from 58% to 70%). In 2004, the proportion of juvenile arrests sent to juvenile court was similar in cities (69%) and nonmetropolitan counties (68%) and higher in the metropolitan areas outside of cities (76%).

The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate in 2004 was lower than in any year since at least 1980 and half the peak rate in 1994

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17

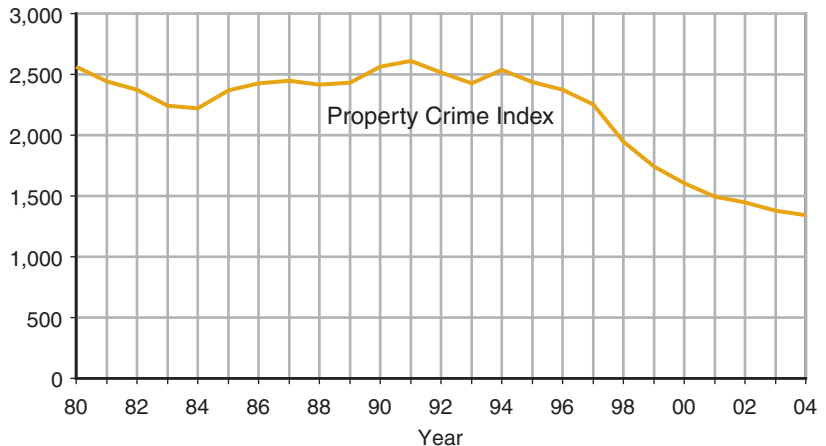


- ◆ In 2004, there were 269 arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses for every 100,000 youth between 10 and 17 years of age. If each of these arrests involved a different juvenile (which is unlikely), then about 1 in every 370 persons ages 10–17 was arrested for a Violent Crime Index offense in 2004, or about one-third of 1% of all juveniles ages 10–17 living in the U.S. (Because some juveniles likely were arrested more than once, the actual percentage is probably lower.)

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 2004

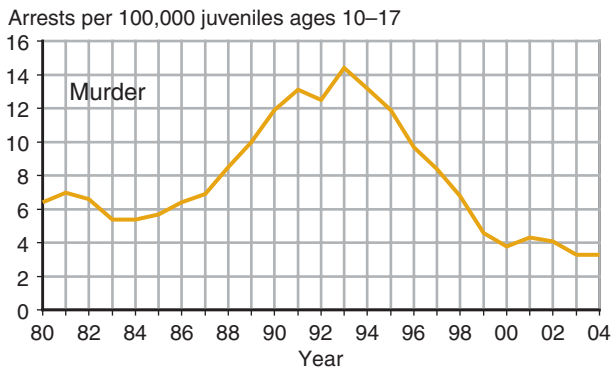
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for Property Crime Index offenses in 2004 was about half the 1980 level—down 48% over the period. The large declines over the last decade in the two arrest indexes the FBI uses to monitor juvenile crime indicate a substantial reduction in the law-violating behavior of America's youth.

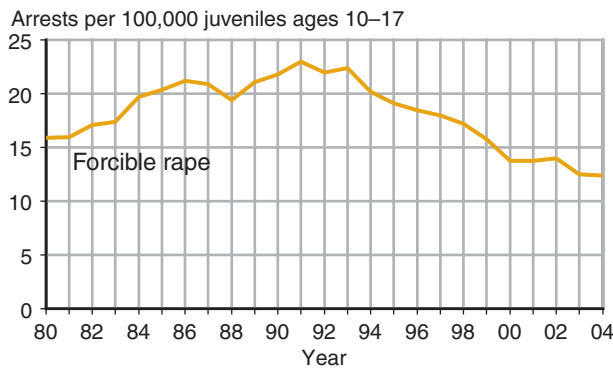
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. [See data source note on p. 12 for detail.]

In 2004, juvenile arrest rates for murder, forcible rape, and robbery were at or near their lowest levels since at least 1980; the same was not true for the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault



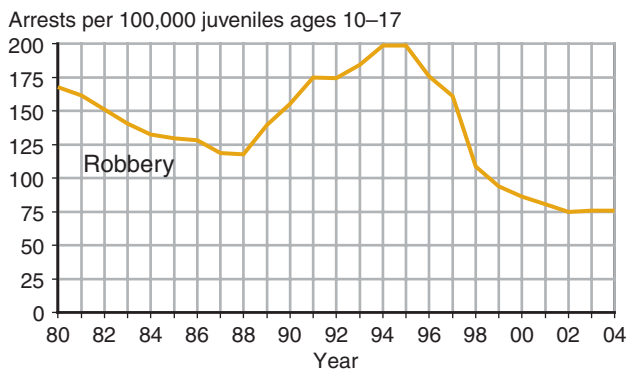
Murder

- ◆ Between 1980 and 2004, the juvenile arrest rate for murder peaked in 1993. In that year, there were an estimated 3,790 arrests of juveniles for murder.
- ◆ From the mid-1980s to the peak in 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for murder more than doubled.
- ◆ With one minor exception, the juvenile arrest rate for murder fell each year after 1993, so that by 2004 it was 77% below the peak 1993 rate. In 2004, there were an estimated 1,110 arrests of juveniles for murder.



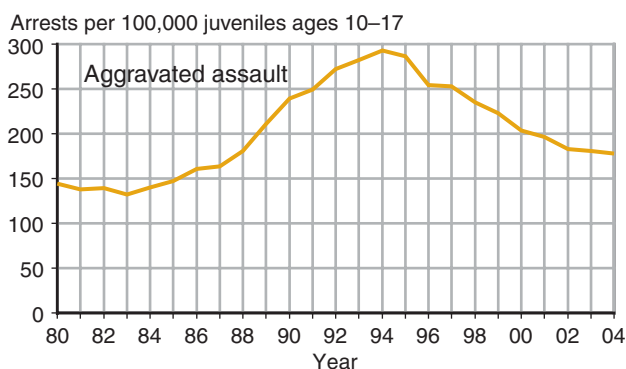
Forcible Rape

- ◆ 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 1980–2004 period, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape peaked in 1991, 44% above its 1980 level.
- ◆ After 1991, with minor exceptions, the juvenile arrest rate dropped annually through 2004. By 1999, it had returned to its 1980 level. By 2004, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape had fallen to a point 22% below the 1980 level, 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 1994–95 moved the rate above the 1980 level, a pattern found in each of the other Violent Crime Index offenses.
- ◆ Like the other Violent Crime Index offenses, the juvenile arrest rate for robbery declined substantially after its mid-1990s peak, falling 62% from 1995 through 2004—to a point 55% below its 1980 level and 35% below its previous low point in 1988.



Aggravated Assault

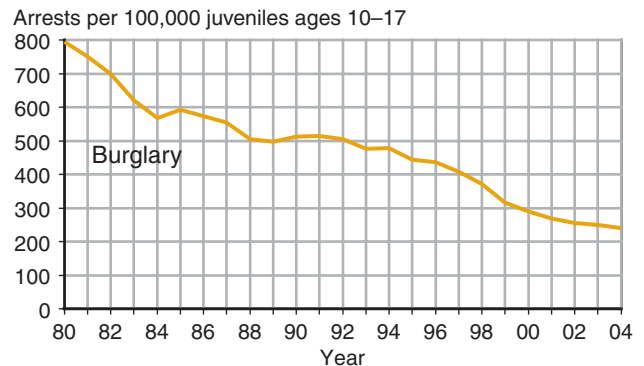
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault doubled between 1980 and 1994. As with the other crimes in the Violent Crime Index, the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault fell from the mid-1990s to 2004; for aggravated assault, the decline from 1994 through 2004 was 39%.
- ◆ Unlike the juvenile arrest rates for other crimes in the Violent Crime Index, the rate for aggravated assault in 2004 was not at its lowest level in the 1980–2004 period. The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault in 2004 was, in fact, 23% above 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.]

Juvenile arrest rate trends for the four offenses that make up the Property Crime Index show very different patterns over the 1980–2004 period, bringing the utility of the Index into question

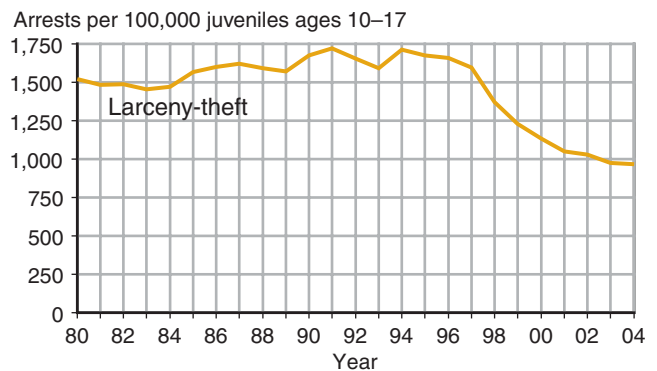
Burglary

- ◆ Unique in the set of Property Crime Index offenses, the juvenile arrest rate for burglary declined almost consistently and fell substantially between 1980 and 2004. In 2004, the juvenile arrest rate for burglary was less than one-third of what it was in 1980, down 70%.
- ◆ This large fall in juvenile arrests between 1980 and 2004 was not replicated in the adult statistics. Between 1995 and 2004, the number of juvenile burglary arrests fell 39%, while adult burglary arrests dropped just 10%. 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%.



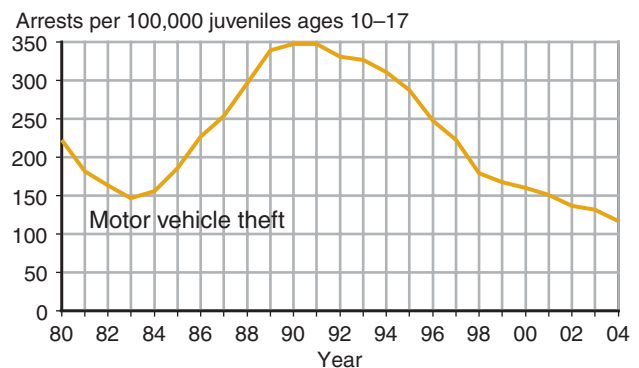
Larceny-Theft

- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft remained essentially constant between 1980 and 1997, then fell 39% in the relatively brief period between 1997 and 2004.
- ◆ In 2004, 72% of all juvenile arrests for Property Crime Index offenses were for larceny-theft. Therefore, the trend in juvenile arrests for Property Crime Index offenses largely reflects 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 thought about separately.



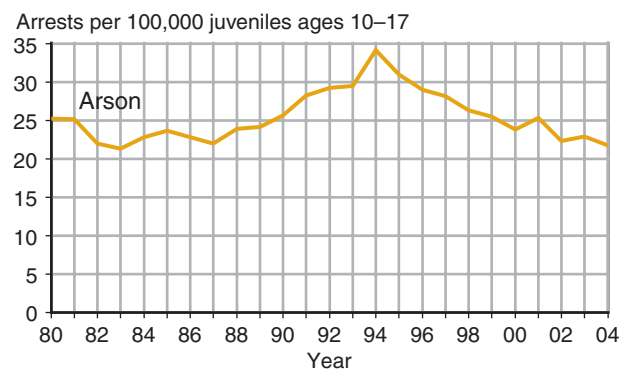
Motor Vehicle Theft

- ◆ 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 2004, falling 66%. The rate was lower in 2004 than in any other year in the 1980–2004 period.
- ◆ This large decline in juvenile arrests was not replicated in the adult statistics. For example, between 1995 and 2004, the number of juvenile arrests for motor vehicle theft fell more than 50%, while adult arrests remained constant.



Arson

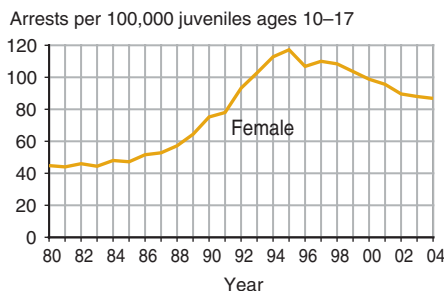
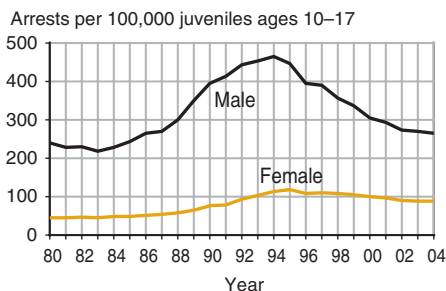
- ◆ After being relatively stable for most of the 1980s, the juvenile arrest rate for arson grew 20% between 1990 and 1994.
- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for arson declined substantially between 1994 and 2004, falling 36% over the period, to its lowest point (with the exception of 1983) in the 1980–2004 period.



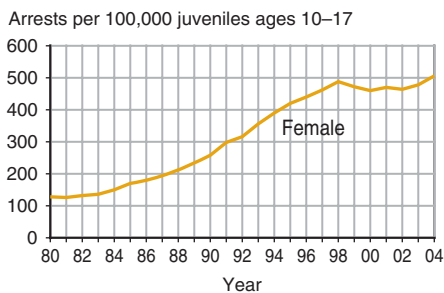
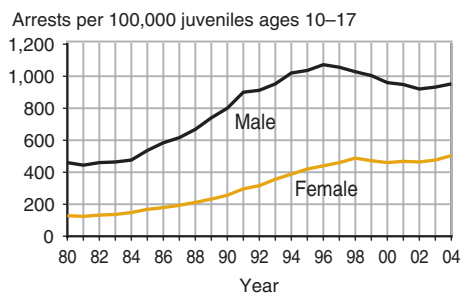
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. [See data source note on p. 12 for detail.]

Unlike the female rates, the male juvenile arrest rates for aggravated assault and weapons law violations in 2004 were near their low points for the 1980–2004 period

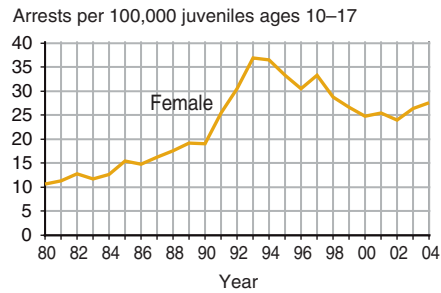
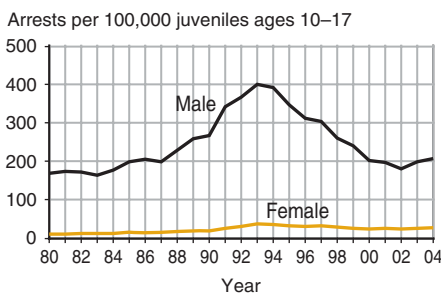
Aggravated assault



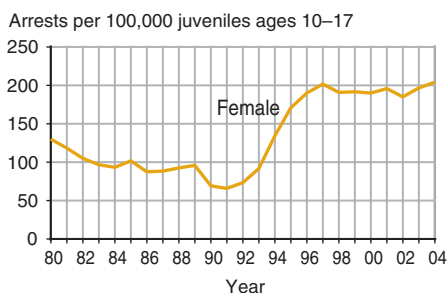
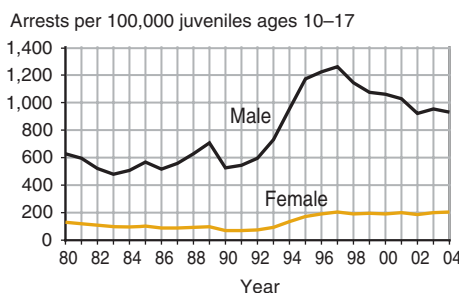
Other (simple) assault



Weapons



Drug abuse violations



- ◆ The growth in juvenile arrest rates from 1980 to 2004 was considerably greater for females than males for the offenses of aggravated assault (93% vs. 11%), simple assault (290% vs. 106%), and weapons law violations (160% vs. 22%).
- ◆ For drug abuse violations, the increase between 1980 and 2004 in the female juvenile arrest rate was similar to the increase in the male rate (57% vs. 48%).

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 2004, 30% of juvenile arrests involved females

Law enforcement agencies made 658,000 arrests of females under age 18 in 2004. Between 1995 and 2004, arrests of juvenile females decreased less than male arrests in most offense categories; in some categories, female arrests increased while male arrests decreased.

Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Juvenile Arrests 1995–2004	
	Female	Male
Violent Crime Index	-11%	-35%
Aggravated assault	-3%	-28%
Simple assault	31	-1
Property Crime Index	-21	-46
Burglary	-26	-41
Larceny-theft	-19	-47
Motor vehicle theft	-47	-54
Vandalism	-8	-35
Weapons	-1	-32
Drug abuse violations	29	-8
Liquor law violations	17	-13
DUI	69	11
Disorderly conduct	33	-13

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2004*, table 33 (updated 2/17/2006).

Gender differences also occurred in the assault arrest trends for adults. Between 1995 and 2004, adult male arrests for aggravated assault fell 17%, while female arrests rose 7%. While adult male arrests for simple assault fell 12% between 1995 and 2004, adult female arrests rose 16%. Therefore, the disproportionate growth in the female proportion of assault arrests over this period was related to factors that affect both juveniles and adults. In contrast, while juvenile female arrests for weapons law violations remained essentially constant over the 1995–2004 period, weapons-related arrests of juvenile males, adult males, and adult females all fell about 30%.

The greater decline in male arrests compared with female arrests for Property Crime Index offenses seen for juveniles between 1995 and 2004 was also seen in adult arrests, with adult male arrests falling 17% and adult female arrests falling 5%. Similarly, while the female proportion of juvenile drug abuse violation arrests grew between 1995 and 2004 (with a 29% increase in female arrests and an 8% decline in male arrests), the female proportion of adult drug abuse violation arrests also grew (with a 38% increase in arrests for females and a 23% increase for males).

Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities

The racial composition of the juvenile population in 2004 was 78% white, 17% black, 4% 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 2004, 52% involved white youth, 46% involved black youth, 1% involved Asian youth, and 1% involved American Indian youth. For property crime arrests, the proportions were 69% white youth, 28% 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 2004

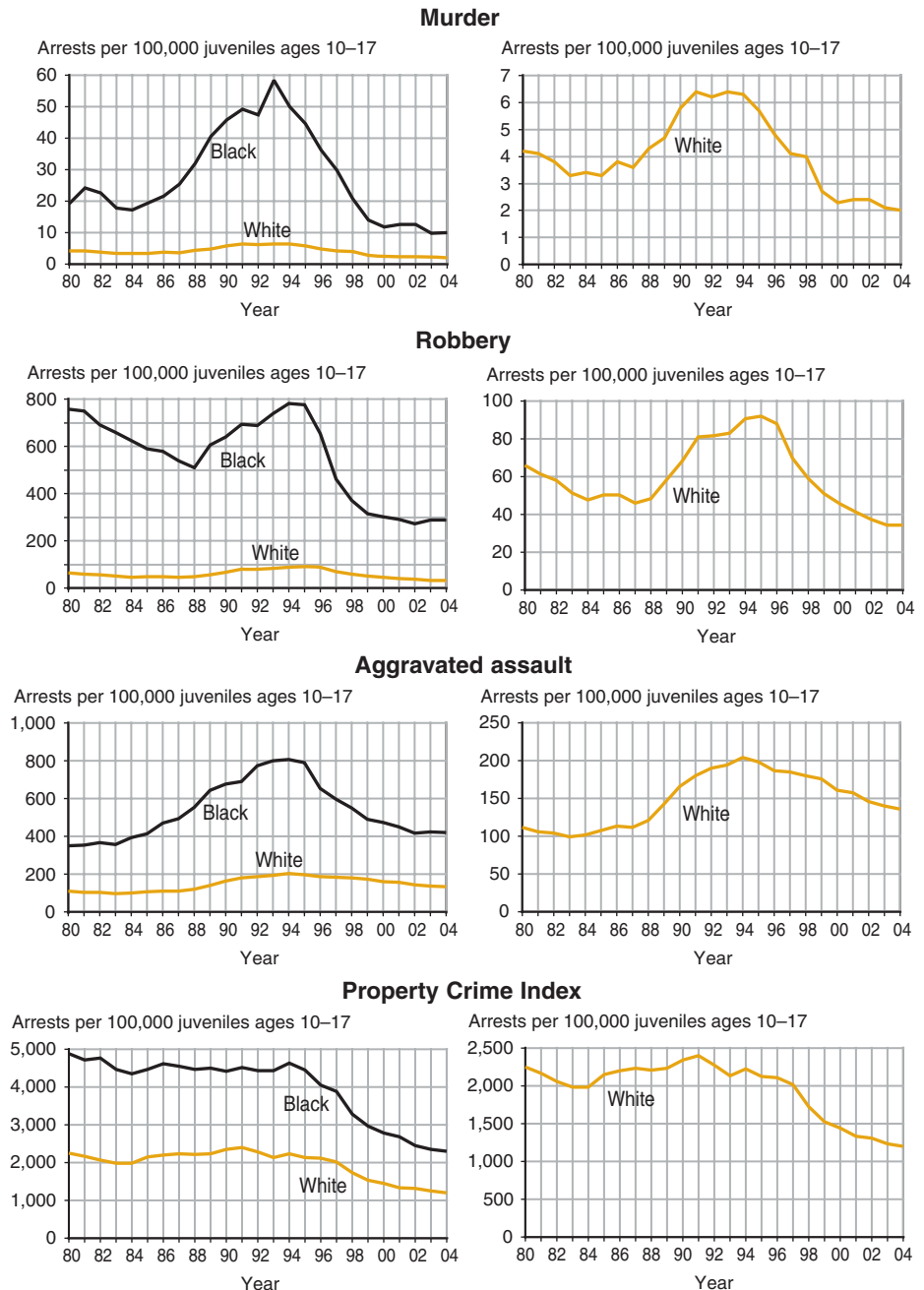
Murder	50%
Forcible rape	34
Robbery	63
Aggravated assault	39
Simple assault	37
Burglary	27
Larceny-theft	27
Motor vehicle theft	40
Weapons	33
Drug abuse violations	27
Runaways	21
Vandalism	18
Liquor laws	5

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2004*, table 43 (updated 2/17/2006).

The Violent Crime Index arrest rate (i.e., arrests per 100,000 juveniles in the racial group) in 2004 for black juveniles (746) was more than 4 times the rates for American Indian juveniles (173) and white juveniles (182) and almost 10 times the rate for Asian juveniles (78). For Property Crime Index arrests, the rate for black juveniles (2,288) was about double the rates for American Indian juveniles (1,300) and white juveniles (1,198) and 4 times the rate for Asian juveniles (557).

Over the period from 1980 through 2004, the black-to-white disparity in juvenile arrest rates for violent crimes declined. In 1980, the black juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate was 6.3 times the white rate; in 2004, the rate disparity had declined to 4.1. This reduction in arrest rate disparities between 1980 and 2004 was primarily the result of the decline in the disparity for robbery (from 11.5 in 1980 to 8.4 in 2004), because the disparity for aggravated assault changed little (3.2 vs. 3.1).

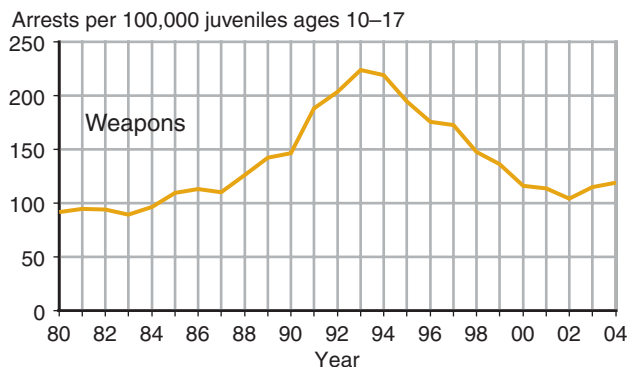
The trends in annual arrest rates for white juveniles and black juveniles were similar over the 1980–2004 period



- ◆ Juvenile murder arrest rates in 2004 remained near their lowest level since at least 1980 for white youth and black youth. In 2004, the white rate was just 31% of its 1993 peak and the black rate was just 17% of the 1993 level.
- ◆ Between 1980 and 2004, robbery arrest rates declined 48% for white juveniles and 62% for black juveniles, and Property Crime Index arrest rates dropped 47% for white youth and 53% for black youth.
- ◆ Between 1980 and 2004, the aggravated assault arrest rates for white juveniles and black juveniles increased similarly (22% and 19%, respectively).

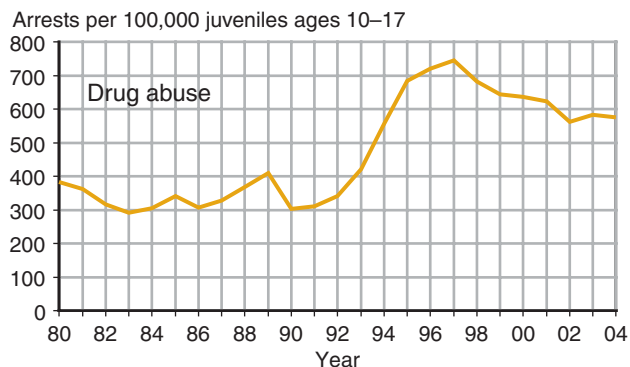
Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. [See data source note on p. 12 for detail.]

Although it increased slightly from 2002 to 2004, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations in 2004 was still about half its 1993 peak



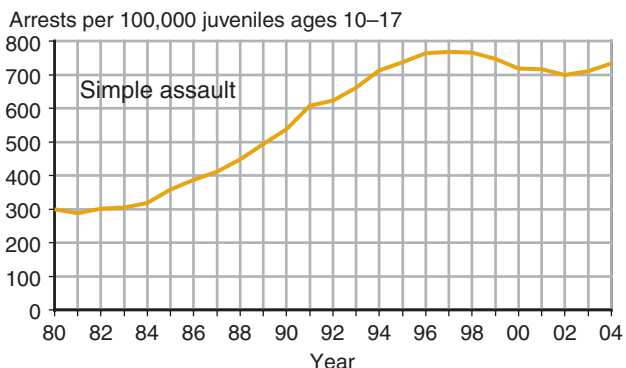
- ◆ Between 1980 and 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations increased more than 140%. Then the rate fell substantially, so that by 2004, the rate was 30% above the 1980 rate.
- ◆ Between 1980 and 1993, the arrest rates for weapons law violations for both white juveniles and black juveniles increased substantially (116% and 214%, respectively). Then both fell substantially, so that by 2004, both rates were about one-third above their 1980 levels (29% and 35%, respectively).

The juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations was relatively constant in the 1980s but rose considerably in the 1990s



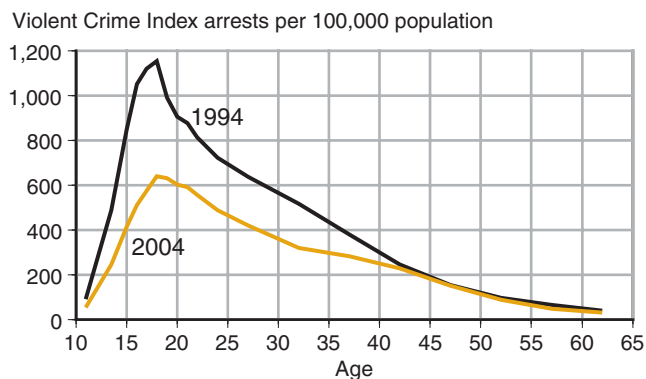
- ◆ Between 1990 and 1997, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations increased 145%. The rate declined somewhat between 1997 and 2004 (down 23%), but the 2004 rate was still almost double the 1990 rate.
- ◆ Over the 1980–2004 period, the white juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations peaked in 1997 and held relatively constant through 2004 (down 9%). In contrast, the black rate peaked in 1995 and by 2004 had fallen 44% from its peak level.

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



- ◆ The juvenile arrest rate for simple assault increased 145% between 1980 and 2004, holding essentially constant between 1994 and 2004, a period when the aggravated assault arrest rate fell 39%.
- ◆ Between 1980 and 2004, the juvenile arrest rates for simple assault for white youth and black youth more than doubled (138% and 143%, respectively). Between 1994 and 2004, the simple assault rates for both whites and blacks remained essentially constant, while their aggravated assault rates fell (33% and 48%, respectively).

Between 1994 and 2004, the age-specific arrest rates for Violent Crime Index offenses fell substantially for all ages under 40



- ◆ Juvenile ages showed the largest decline—falling about 50% in each age group from 13 through 17. Between 1994 and 2004, the Violent Crime Index arrest rate for youth ages 10–12 fell 41%. The rate for 18-year-olds fell 44% over this period, while the rates for those ages 19–34 fell about 34%.
- ◆ From 1994 to 2004, the Violent Crime Index arrest rates for those ages 40–54 changed very little, while the rates for those ages 55–64 declined about 20%.

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	2004 Juvenile Arrest Rate*					State	2004 Juvenile Arrest Rate*				
	Reporting Coverage	Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Weapons		Reporting Coverage	Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Weapons
United States	77%†	285	1,395	587	122	Missouri	83%	289	1,613	622	96
Alabama	88	125	760	245	30	Montana	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Alaska	97	204	1,599	375	52	Nebraska	93	119	1,942	615	99
Arizona	97	236	1,796	833	79	Nevada	97	271	1,686	328	72
Arkansas	53	142	1,481	383	63	New Hampshire	76	73	804	601	11
California	94	347	1,109	495	189	New Jersey	97	360	884	661	217
Colorado	86	228	2,012	707	148	New Mexico	76	266	1,236	634	148
Connecticut	83	295	1,194	565	97	New York	51	260	1,117	529	82
Delaware	91	491	1,762	661	173	North Carolina	71	243	1,361	423	179
District of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Dakota	81	59	1,866	385	72
Florida	100	468	1,951	764	147	Ohio	68	148	1,063	379	65
Georgia	36	335	1,542	607	165	Oklahoma	97	196	1,610	486	82
Hawaii	87	237	1,369	371	35	Oregon	95	221	2,033	623	76
Idaho	91	162	1,880	530	134	Pennsylvania	86	419	1,177	560	133
Illinois	23	985	1,857	2,534	385	Rhode Island	100	222	1,340	563	161
Indiana	73	323	1,283	448	29	South Carolina	16	277	1,051	427	86
Iowa	85	246	1,835	378	31	South Dakota	55	90	1,575	416	68
Kansas	71	157	1,190	513	64	Tennessee	82	236	1,173	541	112
Kentucky	25	248	2,083	892	82	Texas	99	190	1,329	608	67
Louisiana	70	401	1,977	597	76	Utah	64	174	2,622	598	171
Maine	100	101	1,749	566	33	Vermont	84	66	484	256	19
Maryland	100	511	1,965	1,245	234	Virginia	87	120	814	316	88
Massachusetts	72	270	509	355	40	Washington	76	236	1,970	474	124
Michigan	93	147	902	313	56	West Virginia	58	58	601	164	25
Minnesota	70	170	1,702	595	94	Wisconsin	72	212	3,018	896	223
Mississippi	51	125	1,514	571	100	Wyoming	97	126	1,689	1,038	99

* Throughout this Bulletin, juvenile arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of arrests of persons ages 10–17 by the number of persons ages 10–17 in the population. In this table only, arrest rate is defined as the number of arrests of persons under age 18 for every 100,000 persons ages 10–17. Juvenile arrests (arrests of youth under age 18) reported at the state level in *Crime in the United States* cannot be disaggregated into more detailed age categories so that the arrest of persons under age 10 can be excluded in the rate calculation. Therefore, there is a slight inconsistency in this table between the age range for the arrests (birth through age 17) and the age range for the population (ages 10–17) that are the basis of a state's juvenile arrest rates. This inconsistency is slight because just 1% of all juvenile arrests involved youth under age 10. This inconsistency is preferable to the distortion of arrest rates that would be introduced were the population base for the arrest rate to incorporate the large volume of children under age 10 in a state's population.

† The reporting coverage for the total United States in this table (77%) includes all states reporting arrests of persons under age 18. This is greater than the coverage in the rest of the Bulletin (72%) for various reasons. For example, Florida was able to provide arrest counts of persons under age 18 but was not able to provide the age detail required to support other presentations in *Crime in the United States 2004*.

NA = *Crime in the United States 2004* reported no arrest counts for the District of Columbia or 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 2004* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2005), tables 5 and 69 (updated 2/17/2006), and population data from the National Center for Health Statistics' *Estimates of the July 1, 2000–July 1, 2004, United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2004 Postcensal Series by Year, County, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable data files available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm>, released 9/8/2005].

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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 revisions of the data published in *Crime in the United States 2004* that are available online at http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_04/, released 2/17/2006; 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 4/11/2000]; 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 <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm>, released 7/26/2004]; and population data for 2000–2004 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, 2004, United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2004 Postcensal Series by Year, County, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable

data files available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm>, released 9/8/2005].

Notes

In this Bulletin, “juvenile” refers to persons under age 18. This definition is at odds with the legal definition of juveniles in 2004 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 2004, with the 2004 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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