



Juvenile Court Statistics 2013

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Online resources

National Center for Juvenile Justice

ncjj.org

NCJJ's web site describes its research activities, services, and publications, featuring links to project-supported sites and data resources, including OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book, the National Juvenile Court Data Archive, and the MacArthur Foundation's Juvenile Justice Geography, Policy, Practice & Statistics web site.

OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book

ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb

The Briefing Book is a comprehensive online resource describing various topics related to delinquency and the juvenile justice system, including the latest information on juveniles living in poverty, teen birth rates, juvenile victims of violent crime, trends in juvenile arrest rates, and youth in residential placement facilities. The Briefing Book is also a repository for more detailed presentations of juvenile court data than are found in the annual *Juvenile Court Statistics* report.

- ◆ Under the "Juveniles in Court" section of the Statistical Briefing Book users will find the latest statistical information on trends in the volume of cases handled by the nation's juvenile courts and the court's response (e.g., detention, adjudication, and disposition decisions) to these cases. Juvenile court data are displayed in an easy-to-read, ready-to-use format, using tables and graphs.
- ◆ The Briefing Book's "Juveniles in Court" section includes an interactive tool that describes how specific types of delinquency cases typically flow through the juvenile justice system. Annual summaries are available from 1985 to present for more than 25 offense categories, and include separate presentations by gender, age, and race.

National Juvenile Court Data Archive

ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/njcda

The annual *Juvenile Court Statistics* report series is one of many products supported by the National Juvenile Court Data Archive. To learn more, visit the Archive web site.

- ◆ The Archive web site was developed to inform researchers about data sets housed in the National Juvenile Court Data Archive and the procedures for access and use of these data. Visitors can view variable lists and download user guides to the data sets. The site also includes links to publications based on analyses of Archive data.
- ◆ *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics* is an interactive web-based application that allows users to analyze the actual databases that are used to produce the *Juvenile Court Statistics* report. Users have access to national estimates on more than 40 million delinquency cases processed by the nation's juvenile courts between 1985 and 2013 and can explore trends of and relationships among a youth's demographics and referral offenses, and the court's detention, adjudication, and disposition decisions. Results of analyses can be saved and imported into spreadsheet and word processing software. Users can also view preformatted tables describing the demographic characteristics of youth involved in the juvenile justice system and how juvenile courts process these cases. This application is available from the "Products & Publications" section on the Archive web site.
- ◆ *Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts* gives users quick access to multiple years of state and county juvenile court case counts for delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases. This application is available from the "Products & Publications" section on the Archive web site.

Juvenile Court Statistics 2013

Report

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National Center for Juvenile Justice

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Arizona—Supreme Court, State of Arizona, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Arkansas—Administrative Office of the Courts, State of Arkansas.

California—Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts; and California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

Colorado—Colorado Judicial Branch.

Connecticut—Judicial Branch Administration, Court Support Services and Court Operations Divisions.

Delaware—Delaware Family Court, Administrative Office of the Courts.

District of Columbia—Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Florida—State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

Georgia—Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts.

Hawaii—Family Court of the First Circuit, The Judiciary, State of Hawaii.

Idaho—Idaho Supreme Court.

Illinois—Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Probation Services Division; and Juvenile Court of Cook County.

Indiana—Supreme Court of Indiana, Division of State Court Administration.

Iowa—Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning.

Kansas—Supreme Court of Kansas, Office of Judicial Administration.

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Minnesota—Minnesota Supreme Court.

Mississippi—Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Missouri—Office of State Court Administrator.

Montana—Office of State Court Administrator, Youth Court Services.

Nebraska—Nebraska Crime Commission.

Nevada—Division of Child and Family Services, Juvenile Justice Programs Office.

New Jersey—Administrative Office of the Courts.

New Mexico—Children, Youth and Families Department.

New York—Office of Court Administration; and Division of Criminal Justice Services.

North Carolina—North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

North Dakota—North Dakota Supreme Court, State Court Administrator's Office.

Ohio—Supreme Court of Ohio; Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Division; Franklin County Court of Common Pleas; and Hamilton County Juvenile Court.

Oklahoma—Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs.

Oregon—Oregon Youth Authority.

Pennsylvania—Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

Rhode Island—Rhode Island Family Court.

South Carolina—Department of Juvenile Justice.

South Dakota—Unified Judicial System.

Tennessee—Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Texas—Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Utah—Utah Administrative Office of the Courts.

Vermont—Vermont Court Administrator's Office.

Virginia—Department of Juvenile Justice; and Virginia Supreme Court.

Washington—Office of the Administrator for the Courts.

West Virginia—West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Administrative Office, Court Services Division.

Wisconsin—Supreme Court of Wisconsin.

Wyoming—Wyoming District Court.

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Preface

Juvenile Court Statistics 2013 describes delinquency cases handled between 1985 and 2013 and petitioned status offense cases handled between 1995 and 2013 by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction. National estimates of juvenile court delinquency caseloads in 2013 were based on analyses of 749,722 automated case records and court-level statistics summarizing an additional 44,219 cases. Estimates of status offense cases formally processed by juvenile courts in 2013 were based on analyses of 75,411 automated case-level records and court-level summary statistics on an additional 4,820 cases. The data used in the analyses were contributed to the National Juvenile Court Data Archive (the Archive) by more than 2,400 courts with jurisdiction over 84% of the juvenile population in 2013.

The first *Juvenile Court Statistics* report was published in 1929 by the U.S. Department of Labor and described cases handled by 42 courts during 1927. During the next decade, *Juvenile Court Statistics* reports were based on statistics cards completed for each delinquency, status offense, and dependency case handled by the courts participating in the reporting series. The Children's Bureau (within the U.S. Department of Labor) tabulated the information on each card, including age, gender, and race of the

juvenile; the reason for referral; the manner of dealing with the case; and the final disposition of the case. During the 1940s, however, the collection of case-level data was abandoned because of its high cost. From the 1940s until the mid-1970s, *Juvenile Court Statistics* reports were based on simple, annual case counts reported to the Children's Bureau by participating courts.

In 1957, the Children's Bureau initiated a new data collection design that enabled the *Juvenile Court Statistics* series to develop statistically sound national estimates. The Children's Bureau, which had been transferred to the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), developed a probability sample of more than 500 courts. Each court in the sample was asked to submit annual counts of delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases. This approach, though, proved difficult to sustain as courts began to drop out of the sample. At the same time, a growing number of courts outside the sample began to compile comparable statistics. By the late 1960s, HEW ended the sample-based effort and returned to the policy of collecting annual case counts from any court able to provide them. The *Juvenile Court Statistics* series, however, continued to generate national estimates based on data from these nonprobability samples.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) became responsible for *Juvenile Court Statistics* following the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. In 1975, OJJDP awarded the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) a grant to continue the report series. Although NCJJ agreed to use procedures established by HEW to ensure reporting continuity, NCJJ also began to investigate methods of improving the quality and detail of national statistics. A critical

innovation was made possible by the proliferation of computers during the 1970s. As NCJJ asked agencies across the country to complete the annual juvenile court statistics form, some agencies began offering to send the detailed, automated case-level data collected by their management information systems. NCJJ learned to combine these automated records to produce a detailed national portrait of juvenile court activity—returning to the original objective of the *Juvenile Court Statistics* series.

The project's transition from using annual case counts to analyzing automated case-level data was completed with the production of *Juvenile Court Statistics 1984*. For the first time since the 1930s, *Juvenile Court Statistics* contained detailed case-level descriptions of the delinquency and status offense cases handled by U.S. juvenile courts. This case-level detail continues to be the emphasis of the reporting series.

Chapter 1

Introduction

This Report describes delinquency cases handled between 1985 and 2013 by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction and status offense cases handled between 1995 and 2013. Courts with juvenile jurisdiction may handle a variety of matters, including child maltreatment, traffic violations, child support, and adoptions. This Report focuses on cases involving juveniles charged with law violations (delinquency or status offenses).

Unit of Count

In measuring the activity of juvenile courts, one could count the number of offenses referred; the number of cases referred; the actual filings of offenses, cases, or petitions; the number of disposition hearings; or the number of juveniles handled. Each “unit of count” has its own merits and disadvantages. The unit of count used in *Juvenile Court Statistics (JCS)* is the number of “cases disposed.”

A “case” represents a juvenile processed by a juvenile court on a new referral, regardless of the number of law violations contained in the referral. A juvenile charged with four burglaries in a single referral would represent a single case. A juvenile referred for three burglaries and referred again the following week on another burglary charge would

represent two cases, even if the court eventually merged the two referrals for more efficient processing.

The fact that a case is “disposed” means that a definite action was taken as the result of the referral—i.e., a plan of treatment was selected or initiated. It does not necessarily mean that a case was closed or terminated in the sense that all contact between the court and the juvenile ceased. For example, a case is considered to be disposed when the court orders probation, not when a term of probation supervision is completed.

Coverage

A basic question for this reporting series is what constitutes a referral to juvenile court. The answer depends partly on how each jurisdiction organizes its case-screening function. In many communities, an intake unit within the juvenile court first screens all juvenile matters. The intake unit determines whether the matter should be handled informally (i.e., diverted) or petitioned for formal handling. In data files from communities using this type of system, a delinquency or status offense case is defined as a court referral at the point of initial screening, regardless of whether it is handled formally or informally.

In other communities, the juvenile court is not involved in delinquency or status offense matters until another agency (e.g., the prosecutor's office or a social service agency) has first screened the case. In other words, the intake function is performed outside the court, and some matters are diverted to other agencies without the court ever handling them. Status offense cases, in particular, tend to be diverted from court processing in this manner.

Since its inception, *Juvenile Court Statistics* has adapted to the changing structure of juvenile court processing nationwide. As court processing became more diverse, the *JCS* series broadened its definition of the juvenile court to incorporate other agencies that perform what can generically be considered juvenile court functions. In some communities, data collection has expanded to include departments of youth services, child welfare agencies, and prosecutors' offices. In other communities, this expansion has not been possible. Therefore, while there is extensive data coverage in the *JCS* series of formally handled delinquency cases and adequate data coverage of informally handled delinquency cases and formally handled status offense cases, the data coverage of informally handled status offense cases is limited and is not sufficient to support the generation of national estimates. For this reason, *JCS* reports do not present any information on informally handled status offense cases. (Sub-national analyses of these cases are available from the National Juvenile Court Data Archive [the Archive].)

Juvenile Court Processing

Any attempt to describe juvenile court caseloads at the national level must be based on a generic model of court processing to serve as a common framework. In order to analyze

and present data about juvenile court activities in diverse jurisdictions, the Archive strives to fit the processing characteristics of all jurisdictions into the following general model:

Intake. An intake department (either within or outside the court) first screens referred cases. The intake department may decide to dismiss the case for lack of legal sufficiency or to resolve the matter formally or informally. Informal (i.e., nonpetitioned) dispositions may include a voluntary referral to a social service agency, informal probation, or the payment of fines or some form of voluntary restitution. Formally handled cases are petitioned and scheduled in court for an adjudicatory or waiver hearing.

Judicial Waiver. The intake department may decide that a case should be removed from juvenile court and handled instead in criminal (adult) court. In such cases, a petition is usually filed in juvenile court asking the juvenile court judge to waive juvenile court jurisdiction over the case. The juvenile court judge decides whether the case merits criminal prosecution.¹ When a waiver request is denied, the matter is usually then scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing in the juvenile court.

Petitioning. If the intake department decides that a case should be handled formally within the juvenile court, a petition is filed and the case is placed on the court calendar (or docket) for an adjudicatory hearing. A small number of petitions are

dismissed for various reasons before an adjudicatory hearing is actually held.

Adjudication. At the adjudicatory hearing, a juvenile may be adjudicated (judged) a delinquent or status offender, and the case would then proceed to a disposition hearing. Alternatively, a case can be dismissed or continued in contemplation of dismissal. In these cases, the court often recommends that the juvenile take some actions prior to the final adjudication decision, such as paying restitution or voluntarily attending drug counseling.

Disposition. At the disposition hearing, the juvenile court judge determines the most appropriate sanction, generally after reviewing a predisposition report prepared by a probation department. The range of options available to a court typically includes commitment to an institution; placement in a group home or other residential facility or perhaps in a foster home; probation (either regular or intensive supervision); referral to an outside agency, day treatment, or mental health program; or imposition of a fine, community service, or restitution. Disposition orders often involve multiple sanctions and/or conditions. Review hearings are held to monitor the juvenile's progress. Dispositions may be modified as a result. This Report includes only the most severe initial disposition in each case.

Detention. A juvenile may be placed in a detention facility at different points as a case progresses through the juvenile justice system. Detention practices also vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. A judicial decision to detain or continue detention may occur before or after adjudication or disposition. This Report includes only those detention actions that result in a juvenile being placed in a restrictive facility under court

¹Mechanisms of transfer to criminal court vary by state. In some states, a prosecutor has the authority to file juvenile cases directly in criminal court if they meet specified criteria. This Report, however, includes only cases that were initially under juvenile court jurisdiction and were transferred as a result of judicial waiver.

authority while awaiting the outcome of the court process. This Report does not include detention decisions made by law enforcement officials prior to court intake or those occurring after the disposition of a case (e.g., temporary holding of a juvenile in a detention facility while awaiting court-ordered placement elsewhere).

Data Quality

Juvenile Court Statistics relies on the secondary analysis of data originally compiled by juvenile courts or juvenile justice agencies to meet their own information and reporting needs. Although these incoming data files are not uniform across jurisdictions, they are likely to be more detailed and accurate than data files compiled by local jurisdictions merely complying with a mandated national reporting program.

The heterogeneity of the contributed data files greatly increases the complexity of the Archive's data processing tasks. Contributing jurisdictions collect and report information using their own definitions and coding categories. Therefore, the detail reported in some data sets is not contained in others. Even when similar data elements are used, they may have inconsistent definitions or overlapping coding categories. The Archive restructures contributed data into standardized coding categories in order to combine information from multiple sources. The standardization process requires an intimate understanding of the development, structure, and content of each data set received. Codebooks and operation manuals are studied, data providers interviewed, and data files analyzed to maximize the understanding of each information system. Every attempt is made to ensure that only compatible information from the various data sets is used in the standardized data files.

While the heterogeneity of the data adds complexity to the development of a national data file, it has proven to be valuable in other ways. The diversity of the data stored in the National Juvenile Court Data Archive enables the data to support a wider range of research efforts than would a uniform, and probably more general, data collection form. For example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is limited by necessity to a small number of relatively broad offense codes. The UCR offense code for larceny-theft combines shoplifting with a number of other larcenies. Thus, the data are useless for studies of shoplifting. In comparison, many of the Archive's data sets are sufficiently detailed to enable a researcher to distinguish offenses that are often combined in other reporting series—shoplifting can be distinguished from other larcenies, joyriding from motor vehicle theft, and armed robbery from unarmed robbery. The diversity of these coding structures allows researchers to construct data sets that contain the detail demanded by their research designs.

Validity of the Estimates

The national delinquency and status offense estimates presented in this Report were generated with data from a large nonprobability sample of juvenile courts. Therefore, statistical confidence in the estimates cannot be mathematically determined. Although statistical confidence would be greater if a probability sampling design were used, the cost of such an effort has long been considered prohibitive. Secondary analysis of available data is the best practical alternative for developing an understanding of the nation's juvenile courts.

National estimates of delinquency cases for 2013 are based on analyses of individual case records from more

than 2,200 courts and aggregate court-level data on cases from more than 200 additional courts. Together, these courts had jurisdiction over 84% of the U.S. juvenile population in 2013. National estimates of petitioned status offense cases for 2013 are based on case records from more than 2,100 courts and court-level data from 159 additional courts, covering 78% of the juvenile population. The imputation and weighting procedures that generate national estimates from these samples control for many factors: the size of a community, the age and race composition of its juvenile population, the volume of cases referred to the reporting courts, the age and race of the juveniles involved, the offense characteristics of the cases, the courts' responses to the cases (manner of handling, detention, adjudication, and disposition), and the nature of each court's jurisdictional responsibilities (i.e., upper age of original jurisdiction).

Structure of the Report

Chapters 2 and 3 of this Report present national estimates of delinquency cases handled by the juvenile courts in 2013 and analyze caseload trends since 1985. Chapter 2 describes the volume and rate of delinquency cases, demographic characteristics of the juveniles involved (age, gender, and race), and offenses charged. Chapter 3 traces the flow of delinquency cases from referral to court through court processing, examining each decision point (i.e., detention, intake decision, adjudication decision, and judicial disposition), and presenting data by demographic characteristics and offense. Together, these two chapters provide a detailed national portrait of delinquency cases.

Chapter 4 presents national estimates of status offense cases formally handled by the juvenile courts in 2013

and caseload trends since 1995. It includes data on demographic characteristics, offenses charged, and case processing.

Appendix A describes the statistical procedure used to generate these estimates. Readers are encouraged to consult appendix B for definitions of key terms used throughout the Report. Few terms in the field of juvenile justice have widely accepted definitions. The terminology used in this Report has been carefully developed to communicate the findings of the work as precisely as possible without sacrificing applicability to multiple jurisdictions.

This Report uses a format that combines tables, figures, and text highlights for presentation of the data. A detailed index of tables and figures appears at the end of the Report.

Data Access

The data used in this Report are stored in the National Juvenile Court

Data Archive at the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) in Pittsburgh, PA. The Archive contains the most detailed information available on juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system and on the activities of U.S. juvenile courts. Designed to facilitate research on the juvenile justice system, the Archive's data files are available to policymakers, researchers, and students. In addition to national data files, state and local data can be provided to researchers. With the assistance of Archive staff, researchers can merge selected files for cross-jurisdictional and longitudinal analyses. Upon request, project staff is also available to perform special analyses of the Archive's data files.

Researchers are encouraged to explore the National Juvenile Court Data Archive web site at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/njcda/ for a summary of Archive holdings and procedures for data access. Researchers may also contact the Archive directly at 412-227-6950.

Other Sources of Juvenile Court Data

With support from OJJDP, NCJJ has developed two web-based data analysis and dissemination applications that provide access to the data used for this Report. The first of these applications, *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics 1985–2013*, was developed to facilitate independent analysis of the national delinquency estimates presented in this Report while eliminating the need for statistical analysis software. It also enables users to view preformatted tables, beyond those included in this Report, describing the demographic characteristics of youth involved in the juvenile justice system and how juvenile courts process these cases. The second application, *Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts*, presents annual counts of the delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases processed in juvenile courts, by state and county. These applications are available from OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb.

Chapter 2

National Estimates of Delinquency Cases

Delinquency offenses are acts committed by juveniles that, if committed by an adult, could result in criminal prosecution. This chapter documents the volume of delinquency cases referred to juvenile court and examines the characteristics of these cases, including types of offenses charged and demographic characteristics of the juveniles involved (age, gender, and race).

Analysis of case rates permits comparisons of juvenile court activity over time while controlling for differences in the size and demographic characteristics of the juvenile population. Rates are calculated as the

number of cases for every 1,000 juveniles in the population—those age 10 or older who were under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.¹

The chapter focuses on cases disposed in 2013 and examines trends since 1985.

¹ The upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction is defined by statute in each state. See appendix B, the “Glossary of Terms,” for a more detailed discussion on the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction. Case rates presented in this Report control for state variations in juvenile population.

Counts and Trends

- In 2013, courts with juvenile jurisdiction handled an estimated 1,058,500 delinquency cases.
- In 1960, approximately 1,100 delinquency cases were processed daily. In 2013, juvenile courts handled about 2,900 delinquency cases per day.
- The number of delinquency cases processed by juvenile courts decreased 9% between 1985 and 2013.
- Between its peak year 1997 and 2013, the delinquency caseload declined 44%.
- Between 1997 and 2013, the number of cases decreased for all offense categories: property 59%, person 35%, public order 29%, and drugs 26%.
- Property offense cases accounted for the decline in the delinquency caseload between 1985 and 2013.

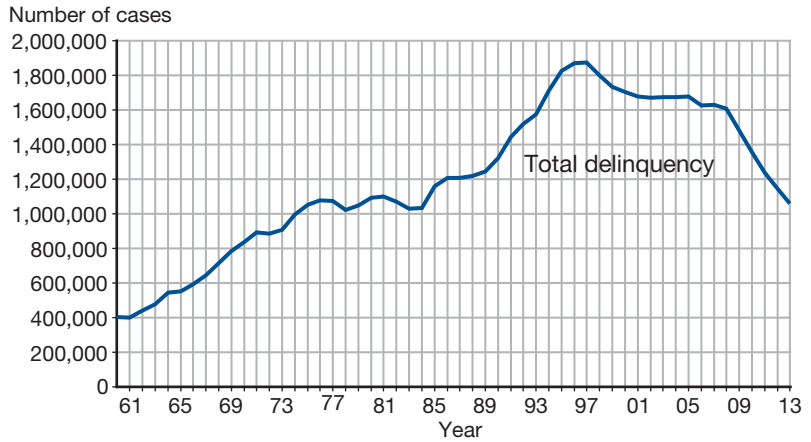
Offense profile of delinquency cases:

Most serious offense	2004	2013
Person	25%	26%
Property	38	35
Drugs	11	13
Public order	26	26
Total	100%	100%

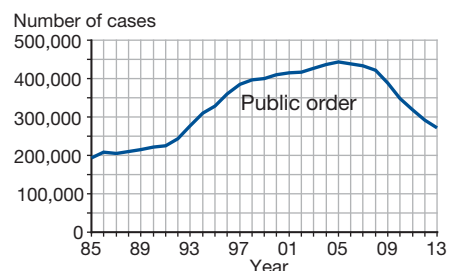
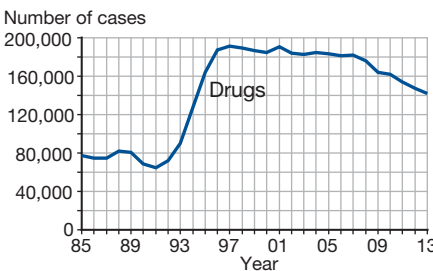
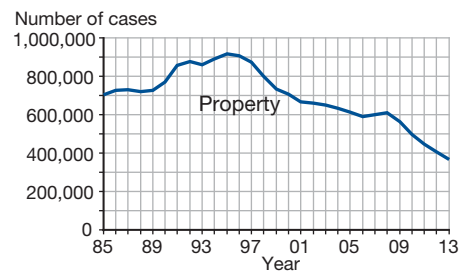
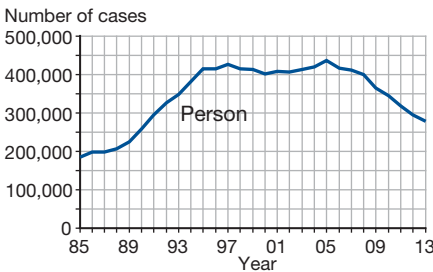
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- The offense profile of the court's delinquency caseload was similar in 2004 and 2013.

Between 1960 and 2013, juvenile court delinquency caseloads more than doubled (161%)



Between 1985 and 2013, delinquency caseloads involving drug offenses increased 83%, while person offenses increased 51%, and public order increased 40%; in contrast, the property offense caseload decreased 48%



Counts and Trends

In the last 10 years (2004–2013), the number of cases handled by juvenile courts has decreased for almost all offenses

	Number of cases 2013	Percent change			
		1985–2013	10 year 2004–2013	5 year 2009–2013	1 year 2012–2013
Most serious offense					
Total delinquency	1,058,500	-9%	-37%	-29%	-7%
Total person	278,300	51	-34	-24	-6
Violent Crime Index*	57,200	-5	-27	-26	-2
Criminal homicide	900	-28	-30	-33	-1
Forcible rape	7,500	98	-16	-5	-1
Robbery	22,000	-13	2	-25	4
Aggravated assault	26,900	-10	-42	-32	-7
Simple assault	186,400	77	-37	-25	-6
Other violent sex offenses	9,700	21	-18	-6	-3
Other person offenses	25,000	129	-28	-12	-11
Total property	366,600	-48	-42	-35	-10
Property Crime Index**	265,300	-49	-40	-33	-10
Burglary	65,300	-54	-38	-32	-11
Larceny-theft	183,400	-45	-38	-34	-10
Motor vehicle theft	11,600	-70	-65	-38	0
Arson	5,000	-24	-42	-29	-10
Vandalism	54,200	-37	-46	-40	-13
Trespassing	29,900	-44	-44	-38	-11
Stolen property offenses	10,200	-63	-48	-34	-7
Other property offenses	7,100	-61	-59	-38	-6
Drug law violations	141,700	83	-23	-14	-4
Public order offenses	271,800	40	-38	-30	-7
Obstruction of justice	132,000	97	-33	-28	-5
Disorderly conduct	74,500	66	-43	-32	-9
Weapons offenses	21,700	8	-44	-33	-7
Liquor law violations	9,000	-49	-47	-47	-23
Nonviolent sex offenses	10,600	-16	-25	-8	-2
Other public order offenses	24,000	-25	-38	-28	-3

* Includes criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

** Includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Percent change calculations are based on unrounded numbers.

- Compared with 2004, the only offense that showed an increase was robbery. Juvenile courts handled 2% more robbery cases in 2013 than in 2004.
- Between 2004 and 2013, offenses with the largest percentage decrease in caseloads included motor vehicle theft (65%), stolen property offenses (48%), and liquor law violations (47%).
- Trends in juvenile court cases paralleled trends in arrests of persons younger than 18. The number of juvenile court cases involving offenses included in the FBI's Violent Crime Index² (criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) fell 2% between 2012 and 2013. The FBI reported that the number of arrests involving persons younger than age 18 charged with Violent Crime Index offenses dropped 9% during this same period.
- Between 2012 and 2013, the volume of juvenile court cases involving Property Crime Index offenses (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) declined 10%, and the FBI reported that arrests of persons under age 18 for Property Crime Index offenses decreased 15%.

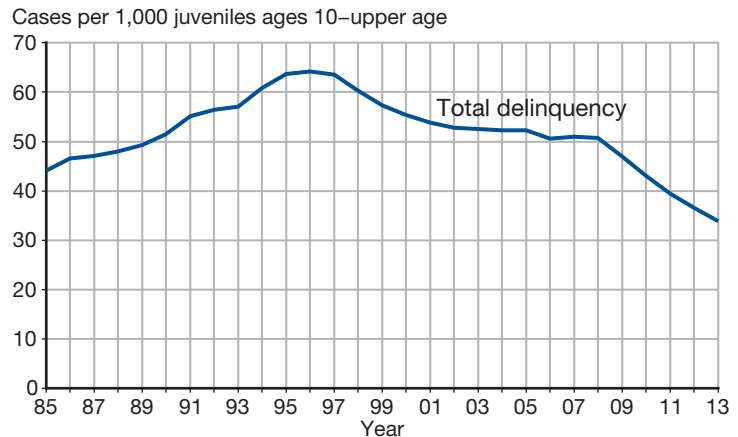
² The annual series of reports from the FBI, *Crime in the United States*, provides information on arrests in offense categories that have become part of the common vocabulary of criminal justice statistics. The *Crime in the United States* series tracks changes in the general nature of arrests through the use of two indexes, the Violent Crime Index and the Property Crime Index. Although they do not contain all violent or all property offenses, the indexes serve as a barometer of criminal activity in the United States. The arrest trends reported above are from *Crime in the United States 2013*, Table 34.

Case Rates

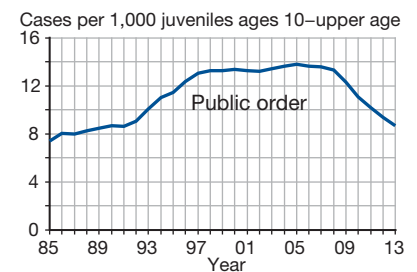
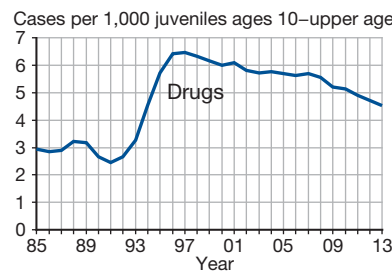
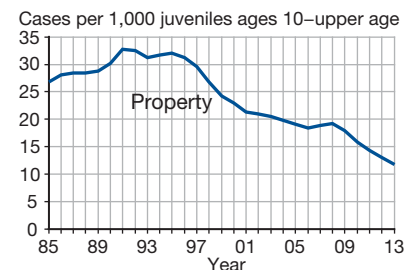
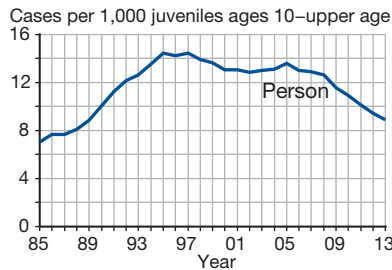
- More than 31 million youth were under juvenile court jurisdiction in 2013. Of these youth, 79% were between the ages of 10 and 15, 12% were age 16, and 9% were age 17. The small proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds among the juvenile court population is related to the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction, which varies by state. In 2013, youth age 16 in 2 states were under the original jurisdiction of the criminal court, as were youth age 17 in an additional 9 states.
- In 2013, juvenile courts processed 33.8 delinquency cases for every 1,000 juveniles in the population—those age 10 or older who were under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.
- The total delinquency case rate increased 46% between 1985 and 1996 and then declined 49% to the 2013 level. As a result, the overall delinquency case rate in 2013 was 23% below the 1985 level.³
- Between 1985 and 2013, case rates increased 54% for drug law violations, 27% for person offenses, and 18% for public order offenses.
- In contrast to other offense categories, case rates for property offenses declined 56% between 1985 and 2013.

³ The percent change in the number of cases disposed may not be equal to the percent change in case rates because of the changing size of the juvenile population.

Delinquency case rates rose from 44.1 to 64.2 per 1,000 juveniles between 1985 and 1996, and then declined through 2013 (33.8)



Between 1985 and 2013, case rates for person offenses increased 27% (from 7.0 to 8.9 per 1,000 juveniles)



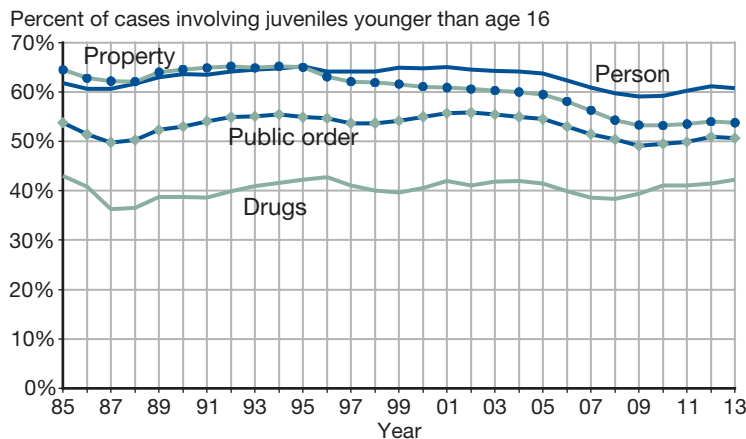
Age at Referral

Of the 1,058,500 delinquency cases processed in 2013, 53% involved youth younger than 16, 28% involved females, and 62% involved white youth

Most serious offense	Number of cases	Percentage of total juvenile court cases, 2013		
		Younger than 16	Female	White
Total delinquency	1,058,500	53%	28%	62%
Total person	278,300	61%	31%	55%
Violent Crime Index	57,200	55%	17%	43%
Criminal homicide	900	34%	13%	47%
Forcible rape	7,500	61%	5%	68%
Robbery	22,000	49%	11%	25%
Aggravated assault	26,900	58%	26%	50%
Simple assault	186,400	62%	37%	57%
Other violent sex offenses	9,700	71%	7%	71%
Other person offenses	25,000	62%	31%	65%
Total property	366,600	54%	28%	61%
Property Crime Index	265,300	53%	31%	60%
Burglary	65,300	53%	10%	58%
Larceny-theft	183,400	52%	40%	60%
Motor vehicle theft	11,600	50%	22%	58%
Arson	5,000	76%	15%	67%
Vandalism	54,200	61%	16%	73%
Trespassing	29,900	52%	21%	56%
Stolen property offenses	10,200	46%	16%	53%
Other property offenses	7,100	46%	26%	63%
Drug law violations	141,700	42%	20%	76%
Public order offenses	271,800	51%	28%	62%
Obstruction of justice	132,000	42%	28%	62%
Disorderly conduct	74,500	64%	37%	52%
Weapons offenses	21,700	60%	12%	60%
Liquor law violations	9,000	36%	31%	87%
Nonviolent sex offenses	10,600	65%	18%	73%
Other public order offenses	24,000	48%	25%	75%

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

In 2013, juveniles younger than 16 accounted for more than half of all delinquency cases, including 61% of person offense cases



- The proportion of cases involving juveniles age 15 or younger varied by offense category. Between 1985 and 2013, younger juveniles accounted for a smaller proportion of drug and public order cases than of person and property offense cases.

- In 2013, juveniles younger than 16 accounted for three-quarters (76%) of juvenile arson cases.

Offense profile of delinquency cases by age group:

Most serious offense	Age 15 or younger	Age 16 or older
2013		
Person	30%	22%
Property	35	34
Drugs	11	17
Public order	24	27
Total	100%	100%
2004		
Person	28%	21%
Property	39	36
Drugs	8	15
Public order	25	28
Total	100%	100%

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

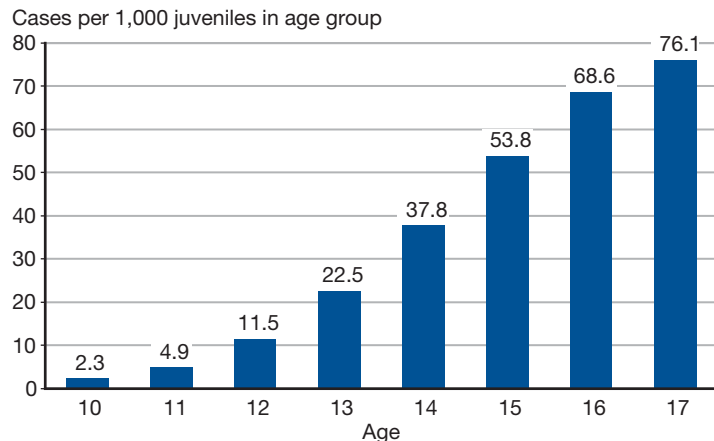
- Compared with the delinquency caseload involving older juveniles, the caseload of youth age 15 or younger in 2013 included larger proportions of person and property offense cases and smaller proportions of drug and public order offense cases.

- Compared with 2004, the caseload in 2013 for both younger and older juveniles involved slightly greater proportions of person and drugs offense cases, and slightly smaller proportions of property offense and public order offense cases.

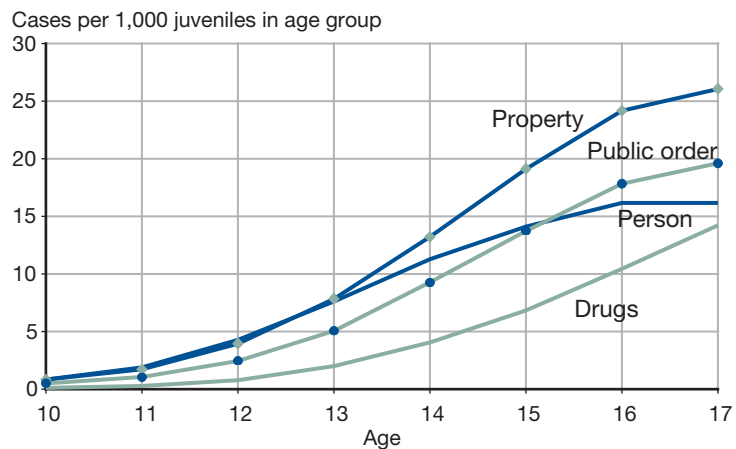
Age at Referral

- Although, in general, more 17-year-olds than 16-year-olds are arrested, the number of juvenile court cases involving 17-year-olds (205,100) was lower than the number involving 16-year-olds (259,800) in 2013. The explanation lies primarily in the fact that in 11 states 17-year-olds are excluded from the original jurisdiction of the juvenile court. In these states, all 17-year-olds are legally adults and are referred to criminal court rather than to juvenile court. Thus, far fewer 17-year-olds than 16-year-olds are subject to original juvenile court jurisdiction.
- In 2013, the delinquency case rate for 17-year-olds (76.1) was more than twice the rate for 14-year-olds (37.8) and more than 3 times the rate for 13-year-olds (22.5).
- The largest increase in case rates between age 13 and age 17 was for drug offenses. The case rate for drug offenses for 17-year-old juveniles (14.2) was more than 7 times the rate for 13-year-olds (2.0).
- For public order offenses in 2013, the case rate for 17-year-olds (19.6) was nearly 4 times the rate for 13-year-olds (5.1) and the property offense case rate for 17-year-olds (26.1) was more than 3 times the rate for 13-year-olds (7.9).
- For cases involving person offenses, the case rate for 17-year-olds (16.2) was more than double the rate for 13-year-olds (7.6).

In 2013, delinquency case rates increased with the referral age of the juvenile



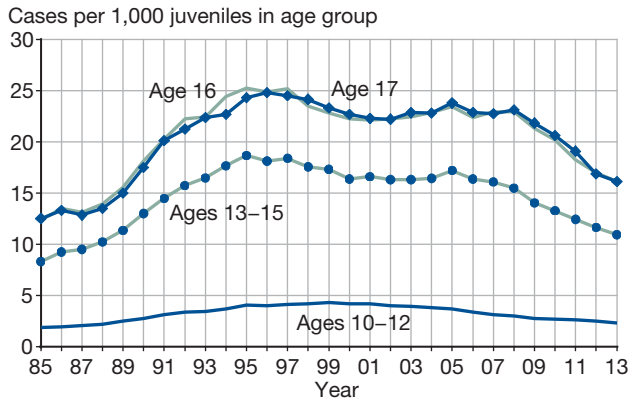
Case rates increased continuously with age for property, drug, and public order offense cases, while person offense case rates leveled off after age 16



Age at Referral

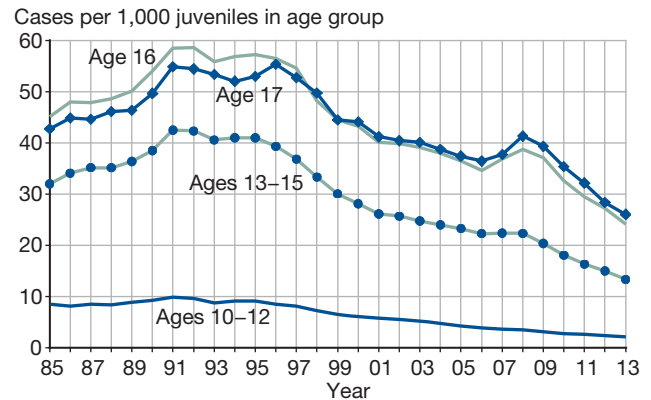
Trends in case rates were similar across age groups between 1985 and 2013 for each general offense category

Person offense case rates



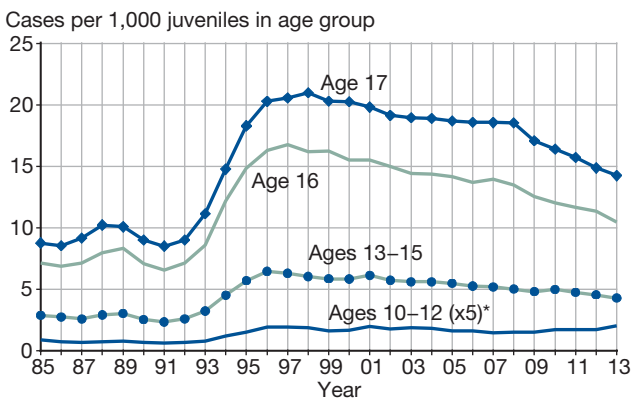
- Person offense case rates peaked in 1995 for youth ages 13–15 and 16-year-olds, in 1996 for 17-year-olds, and in 1999 for youth ages 10–12.
- Since reaching their respective peaks, person offense case rates for all age groups declined through 2013: down 46% for youth ages 10–12, 41% for youth ages 13–15, 36% for 16-year-olds, and 35% for 17-year-olds.

Property offense case rates



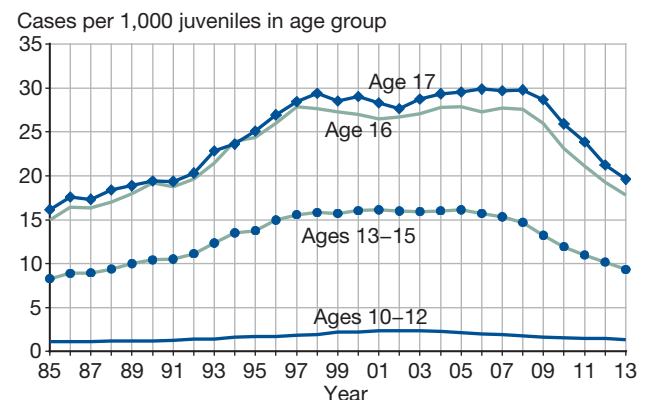
- Property offense case rates peaked in the early to mid-1990s for all age groups and then declined through 2013.
- Property offense case rates were lower in 2013 than in 1985 for all age groups. In 2013, the case rate for juveniles ages 10–12 was 74% less than the 1985 rate, the rate for juveniles ages 13–15 was 58% less, the rate for 16-year-olds was 46% less, and the rate for 17-year-olds was 39% less.

Drug offense case rates



- Drug offense case rates were at their lowest for all age groups in 1991 and then increased. Rates peaked in 1996 for youth ages 13–15, in 1997 for youth age 16, and in 1998 for youth age 17. Between their respective peaks and 2013, case rates declined 34% for youth ages 13–15, 38% for youth age 16, and 32% for youth age 17. For youth ages 10–12, drug offense case rates peaked in 2013, 5% above a previous 1996 peak.

Public order offense case rates



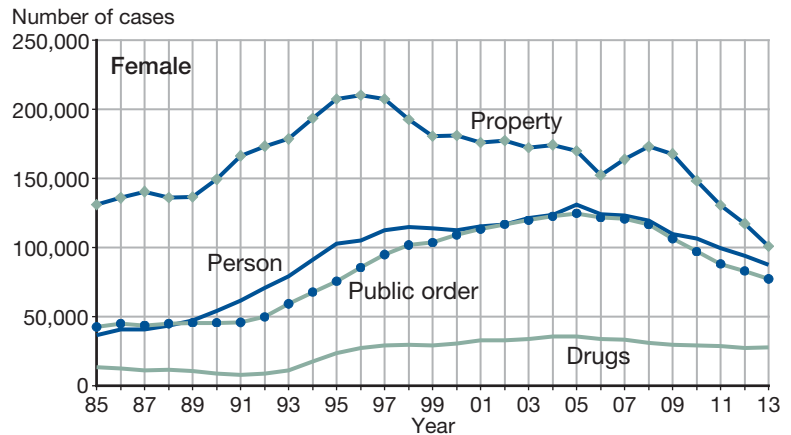
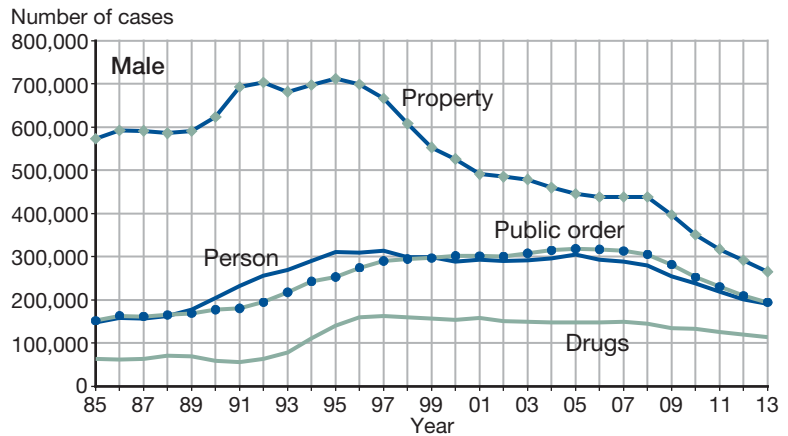
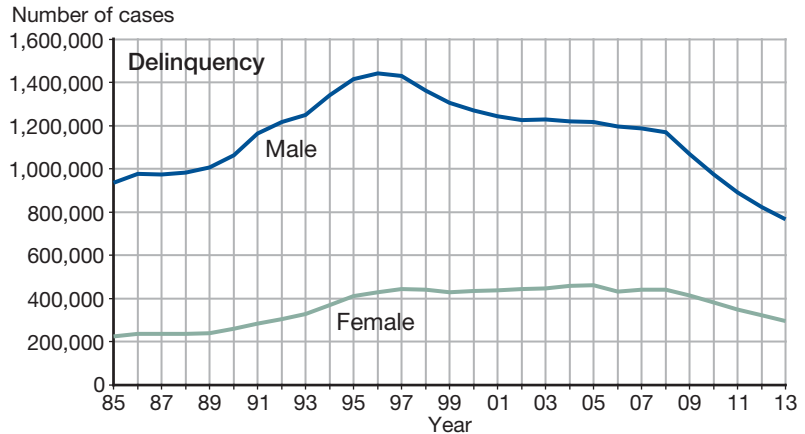
- Public order offense case rates increased by 85% or more between 1985 and each age group's peak year in the early to mid-2000s.
- Since reaching the peaks, public order offense case rates decreased by at least 34% by 2013 for each age group.

* Because of the relatively low volume of cases involving youth ages 10–12 for drug offenses, their case rates are inflated by a factor of 5 to display the trend over time.

Gender

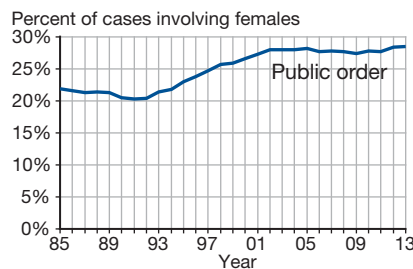
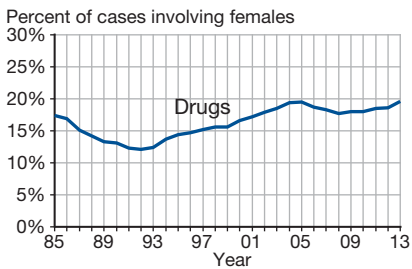
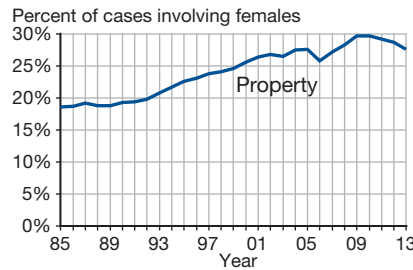
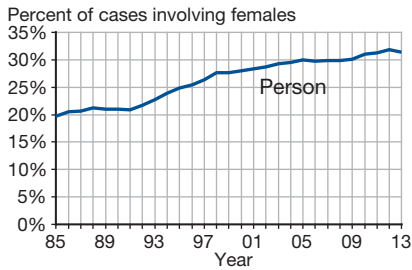
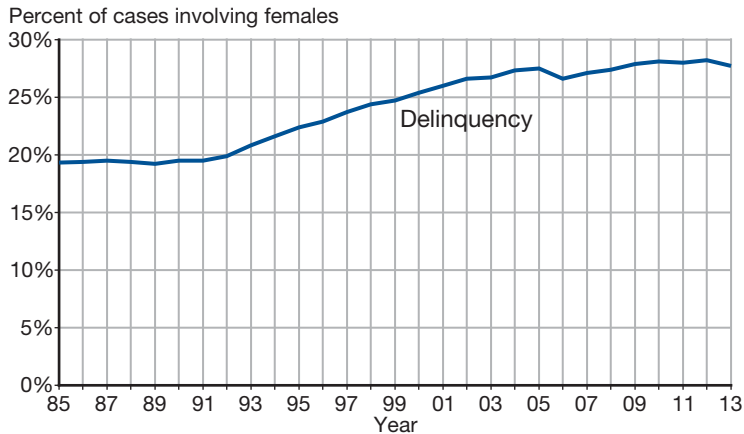
- Males were involved in 72% (764,800) of the delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts in 2013.
- Most of the growth in the male and female delinquency caseloads took place between 1985 and 1997. During that time, the growth in the female caseload outpaced the growth in the male caseload (99% vs. 53%).
- Between 1997 and 2013, the male delinquency caseload declined 47%, while the female caseload decreased 34%.
- The average annual growth in the female caseload outpaced that for males for all offense categories between 1985 and 2013.
- The number of property offense cases involving males peaked in 1995, and the female caseload peaked in 1996. Between their respective peaks and 2013, the male caseload declined 63% while the female caseload fell 52%.
- Most of the growth in the male and female drug offense caseloads occurred in the 1990s. During this period, the female drug offense caseload grew at an average rate of 16% per year while the male caseload increased at an average rate of 12% per year.
- The public order offense caseload increased steadily for males and females, reaching a peak in 2005 for both groups. Since the 2005 peak, the public order caseload declined 38% for females and 39% for males.

Between 1985 and 2013, the number of delinquency cases involving females increased 31% (from 223,400 to 293,700 cases); for males, the caseload decreased 18% (from 936,000 to 764,800 cases)



Gender

Females accounted for 28% of the delinquency caseload in 2013 — up from 19% in 1985



- Between 1985 and 2013, the female proportion of the person offense caseload has steadily increased from 20% to 31%.

Offense profile of delinquency cases for males and females:

Most serious offense	Male	Female
2013		
Person	25%	30%
Property	35	34
Drugs	15	9
Public order	25	26
Total	100%	100%
2004		
Person	24%	27%
Property	38	38
Drugs	12	8
Public order	26	27
Total	100%	100%

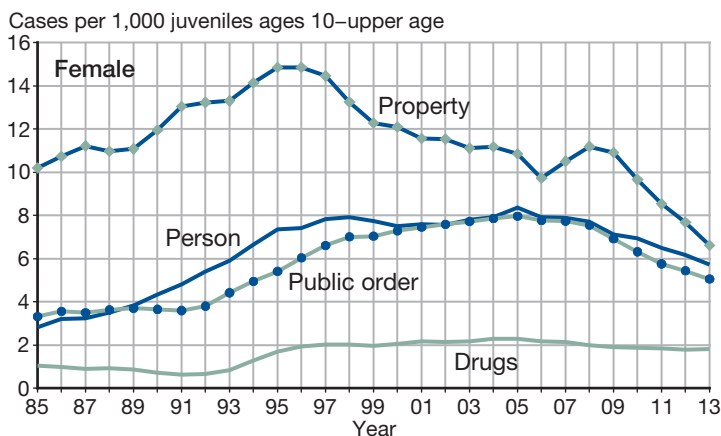
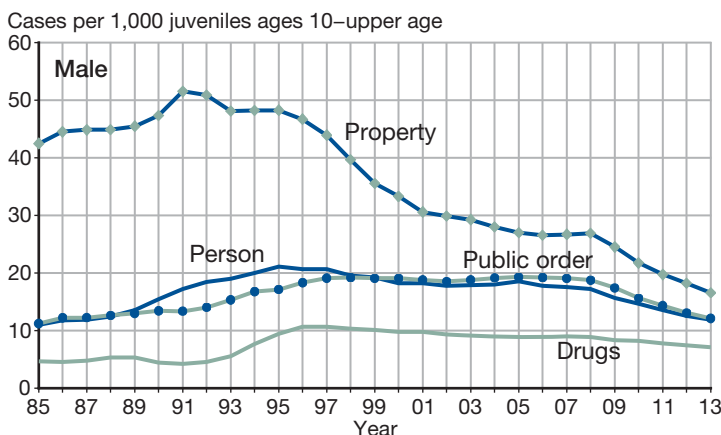
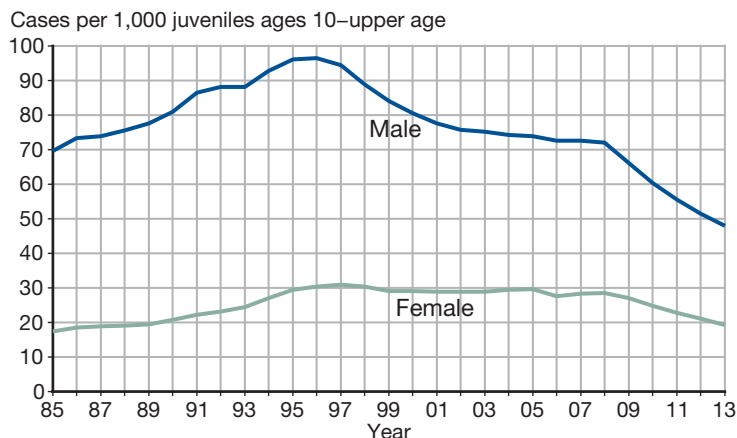
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- For both males and females, the property offense proportions of the delinquency caseloads were less in 2013 than in 2004.
- In 2013, the male caseload contained a greater proportion of drug offenses than the female caseload and a smaller proportion of person offenses.
- The male and female caseloads contained similar proportions of property and public order offenses in 2013.

Gender

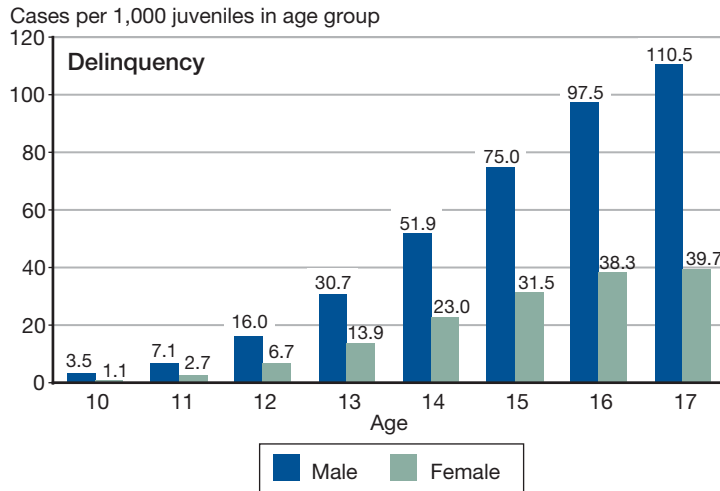
- For both males and females, the delinquency case rate increased from 1985 through the mid-1990s. For males, the rate increased 39% to its peak in 1996 and then fell 50% by 2013. The female rate grew 78% between 1985 and 1997 then dropped 38% through 2013.
- In 1985, the delinquency case rate for males was 4 times greater than the rate for females; by 2013, the male rate was about 2.5 times the female rate: 47.8 compared with 19.2.
- The male person offense case rate increased 92% through 1995 then declined 44% by 2013. The female person offense case rate reached its peak in 2005, then fell 32% over the last 8 years.
- The male property case rate increased 21% between 1985 and the 1991 peak, then decreased 68% to its 2013 low. The female property offense case rate increased 46% from 1985 to the 1995 peak, then decreased 56% to its lowest level in 2013.
- The drug offense case rate for males more than doubled between 1985 and 1997, while the female rate decreased 41% to its low in 1991 before increasing 269% to its peak in 2004. Although the drug offense case rate for females decreased through 2013, the 2013 rate was higher than the 1985 rate.
- Male and female drug offense case rates have converged since the early 1990s. In 1992, the male drug offense case rate was nearly 7 times greater than the rate for females (4.6 compared with 0.7); by 2013, the male rate was nearly 4 times greater than the rate for females (7.1 compared with 1.8).
- Public order offense case rates increased more for females than for males (52% compared with 8%) between 1985 and 2013.

Although the delinquency case rate is much higher for males than females, the female rate increased more than the male rate between 1985 and 2013

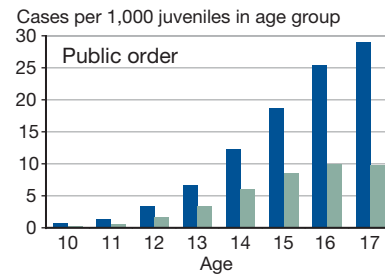
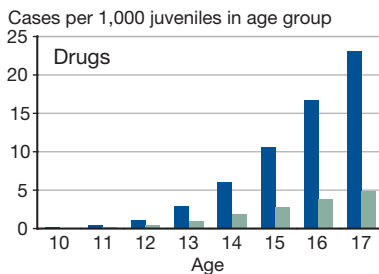
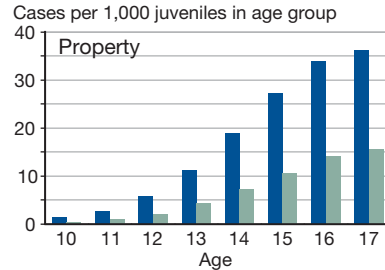
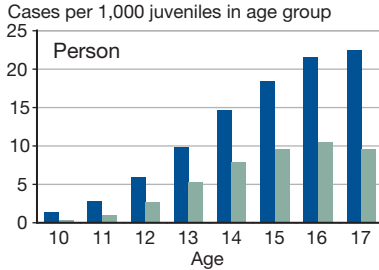


Gender

In 2013, the delinquency case rate for males and females increased steadily through age 17



- In 2013, the difference between age-specific male and female delinquency case rates was greatest for the younger juveniles. The male delinquency rate for 10-year-olds was 3.1 times the female rate; for 11-year-olds, the male case rate was 2.7 times the female rate.
- In all four delinquency offense categories in 2013, case rates increased continuously through age 17 for males. For females, case rates for property and drug offenses increased through age 17, while case rates for person and public order offenses peaked at age 16.
- In 2013, the drug offense case rate for 17-year-old males was nearly 20 times the rate for 12-year-old males; among females, the drug offense case rate for 17-year-olds was 12 times the rate for 12-year-olds.

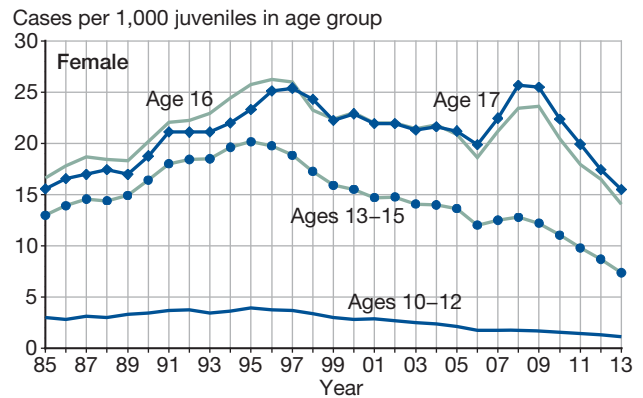
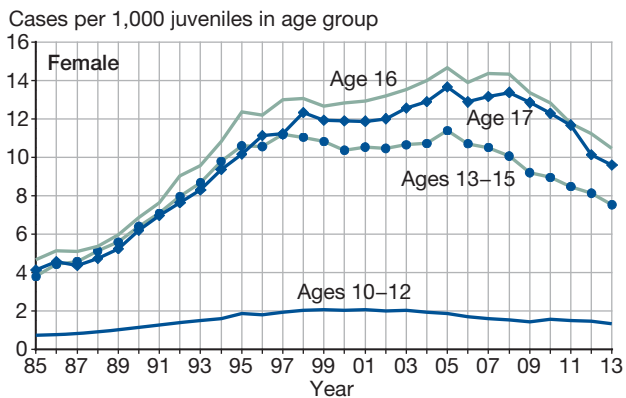
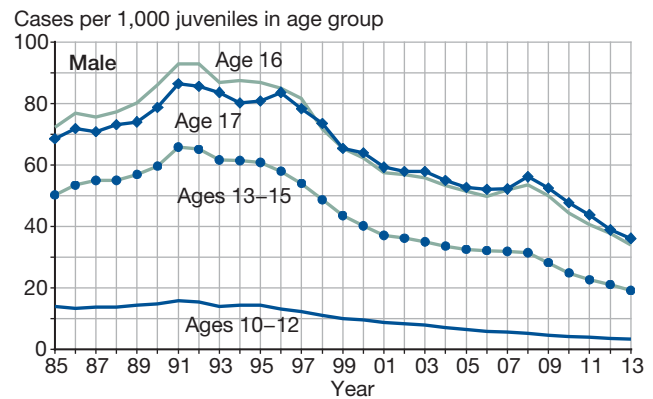
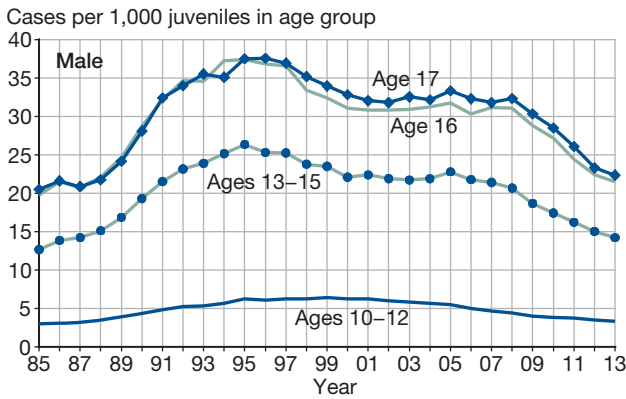


Gender

Across all age groups and offense categories, case rates for males exceed rates for females; however, rates for both males and females have declined substantially in the past 10 years

Person offense case rates

Property offense case rates

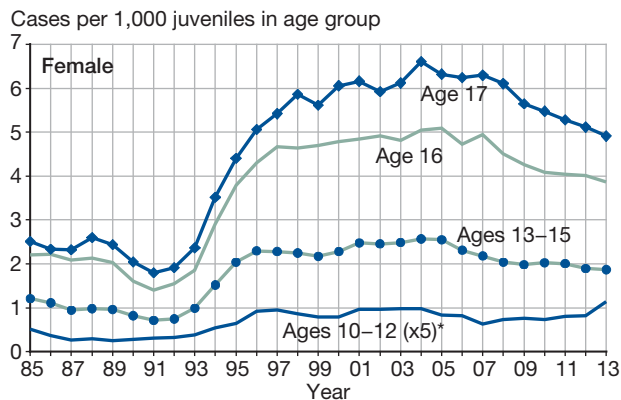
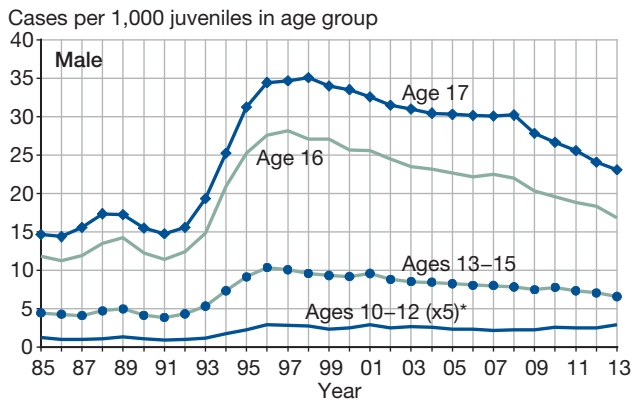


- In the last 10 years (2004 through 2013), male person offense case rates decreased for all age groups: 41% for youth ages 10–12, 35% for youth ages 13–15, 31% for 16-year-olds, and 30% for 17-year-olds.
- During the same period, female person offense case rates followed a similar pattern as males, decreasing 32% for youth ages 10–12, 30% for youth ages 13–15, 25% for 16-year-olds, and 26% for 17-year-olds.

- Male property offense case rates increased across all age groups between 1985 and the early 1990s, and then decreased to their lowest levels for all age groups in 2013.
- Between 1991 and 2013, male property case rates decreased 80% for youth ages 10–12, 71% for ages 13–15, 64% for age 16, and 58% for age 17.
- Similar to the male rates, age-specific property offense rates for females were at their lowest level for all age groups in 2013.

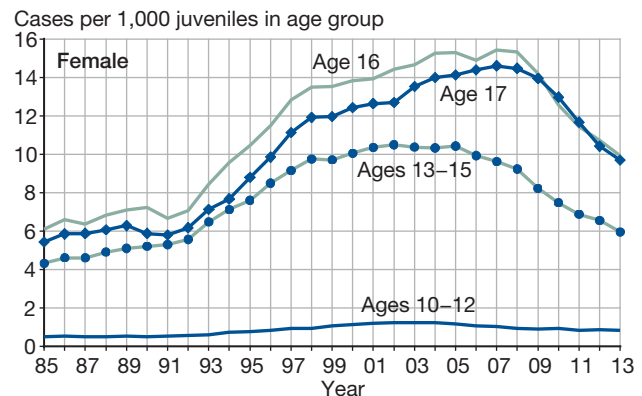
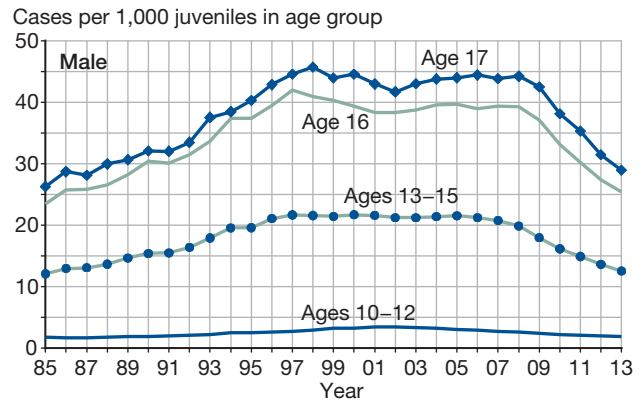
Gender

Drug offense case rates



- For males, drug offense case rates increased sharply between 1991 and 1997: 139% for males ages 10-12, 127% for ages 13-15, 138% for age 16, and 136% for age 17.
- Between 1997 and 2013, the male drug offense case rate increased 1% for youth ages 10-12, and decreased between 33% and 40% for all other age groups.
- Except for ages 10-12, female drug offense case rates increased continuously between 1991 and the early 2000s and then decreased through 2013. After a period of stability in the mid-2000s, drug offense case rates increased to the peak in 2013 for females ages 10-12.

Public order offense case rates



- Across gender and age groups, public order offense case rates increased considerably between 1985 and the late 1990s. For males, the case rate increased an average of 73% for each age group during this period; for females, the public order case rate increased an average of 114% for each age group.
- For both males and females, public order case rates for all youth declined in recent years.
- For females, public order offense case rates for ages 10-12 and ages 13-15 peaked in 2003 and 2002, respectively, and have since declined. Case rates peaked in 2007 for 16- and 17-year-olds before declining.

* Because of the relatively low volume of cases involving male and female youth ages 10-12 for drug offenses, their case rates are inflated by a factor of 5 to display the trends over time.

Race

Percent change in number of cases by race, 2004–2013:

Most serious offense	White ⁴	Black	Amer. Indian ⁵	Asian ⁶
Delinquency	-40%	-30%	-34%	-44%
Person	-37	-28	-32	-45
Property	-48	-27	-43	-50
Drugs	-22	-28	-4	-10
Public order	-39	-35	-32	-45

■ Between 2004 and 2013, the number of cases decreased for all racial groups and offenses.

Offense profile of delinquency cases by race:

Most serious offense	White	Black	Amer. Indian	Asian
2013				
Person	24%	31%	23%	21%
Property	34	35	38	40
Drugs	16	8	15	14
Public order	26	26	24	25
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
2004				
Person	22%	31%	22%	21%
Property	40	33	44	45
Drugs	13	8	11	9
Public order	25	28	23	25
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

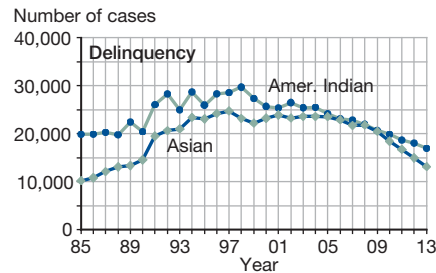
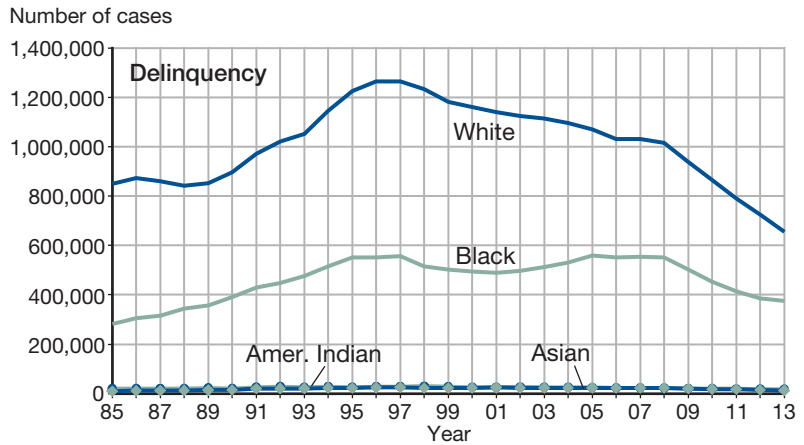
■ In 2013, the offense profile was similar to that of 2004 for all racial groups. However, the proportion of delinquency cases that involved property offenses decreased for all racial groups except black youth.

⁴ Throughout this Report, juveniles of Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race; however, most are included in the white racial category.

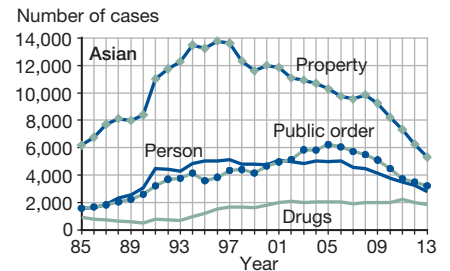
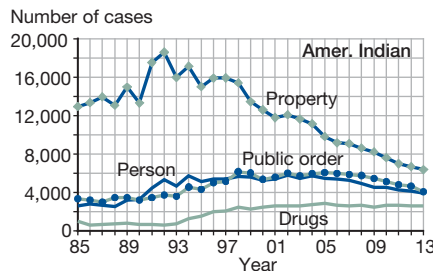
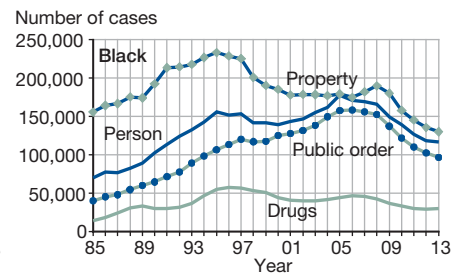
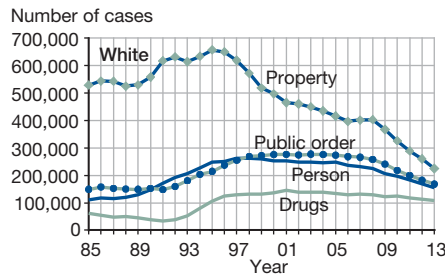
⁵ The racial classification American Indian (usually abbreviated as Amer. Indian) includes American Indian and Alaskan Native.

⁶ The racial classification Asian includes Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander.

Between 1997 and 2013, the delinquency caseload decreased for all race groups: 48% for white youth, 47% for Asian youth, 41% for American Indian youth, and 33% for black youth

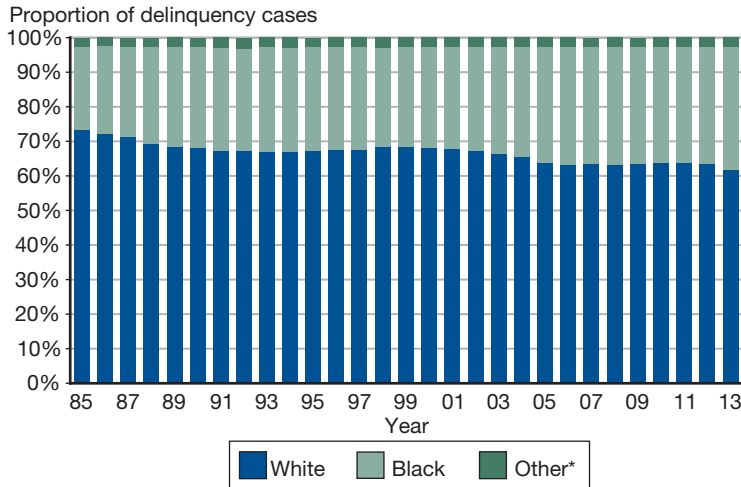


For all racial groups, the decrease in delinquency cases since 1997 has been driven by the decrease in property cases



Race

In 2013, nearly two-thirds of all delinquency cases involved white youth: 55% of person offense cases, 61% of property offense cases, 76% of drug offense cases, and 62% of public order offense cases



In 2013, white youth made up 76% of the U.S. population under juvenile court jurisdiction, black youth 16%, American Indian youth 2%, and Asian youth 6%.

Racial profile of delinquency cases:

Race	2004	2013
White	65%	62%
Black	32	35
American Indian	2	2
Asian	1	1
Total	100%	100%

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Although white youth represented the largest share of the delinquency caseload, their relative contribution declined between 2004 and 2013, from 65% to 62%.

The proportion of delinquency cases involving black youth increased from 32% in 2004 to 35% in 2013.

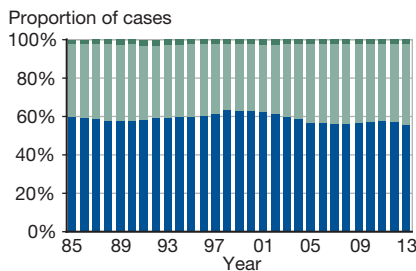
For each year from 2002 through 2013, American Indian youth made up less than 3% of the delinquency caseload; Asian youth made up 1%.

Racial profile of delinquency cases by offense:

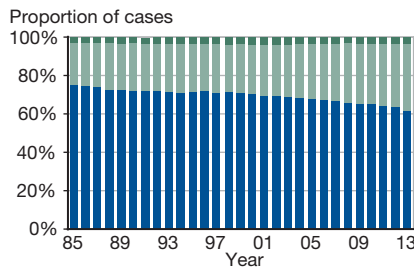
Race	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order
2013				
White	55%	61%	76%	62%
Black	42	36	21	36
Amer. Indian	1	2	2	1
Asian	1	1	1	1
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
2004				
White	59%	69%	75%	63%
Black	39	28	23	34
Amer. Indian	1	2	1	1
Asian	1	2	1	1
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

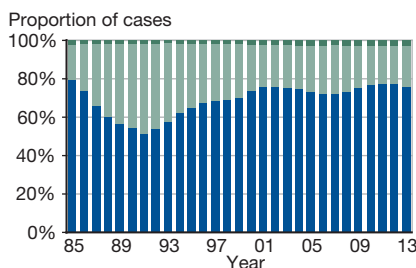
Person offense cases



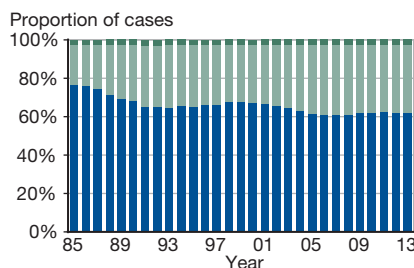
Property offense cases



Drug offense cases



Public order offense cases

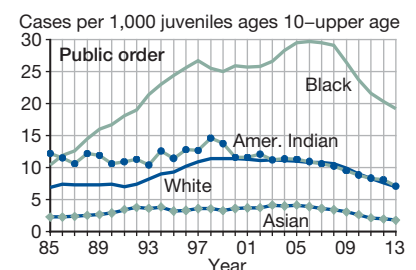
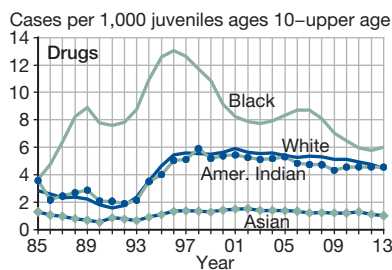
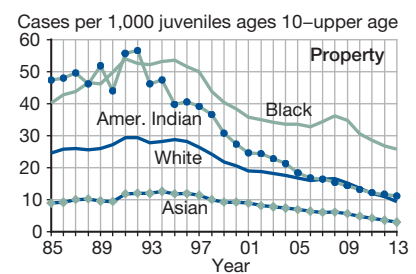
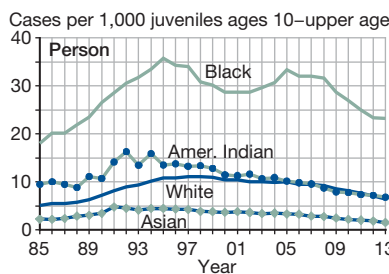
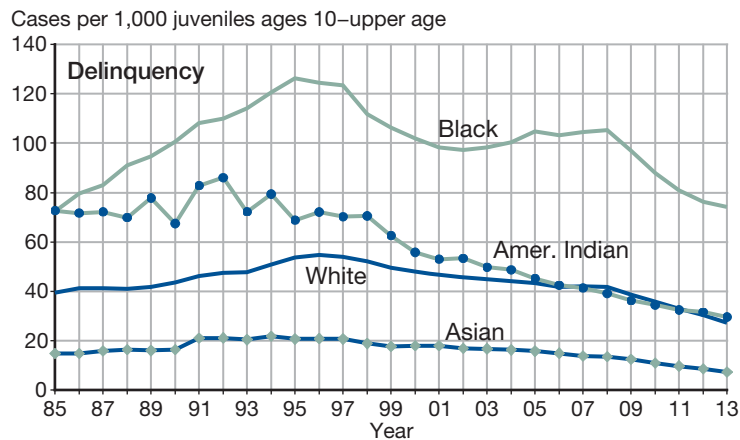


* Because American Indian and Asian proportions are too small to display individually, they are combined in the category "Other races" in the above graphs.

Race

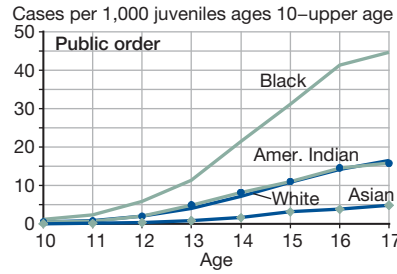
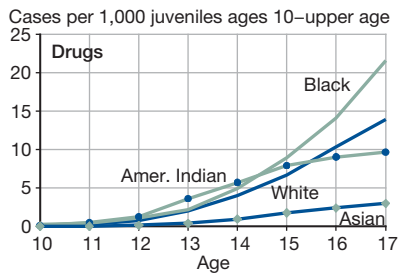
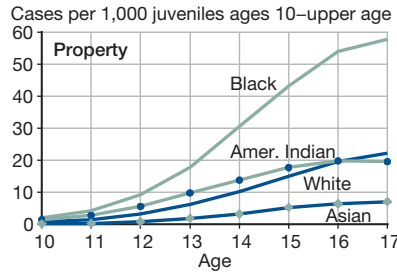
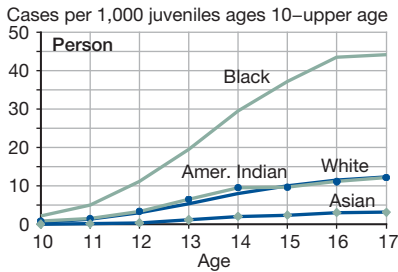
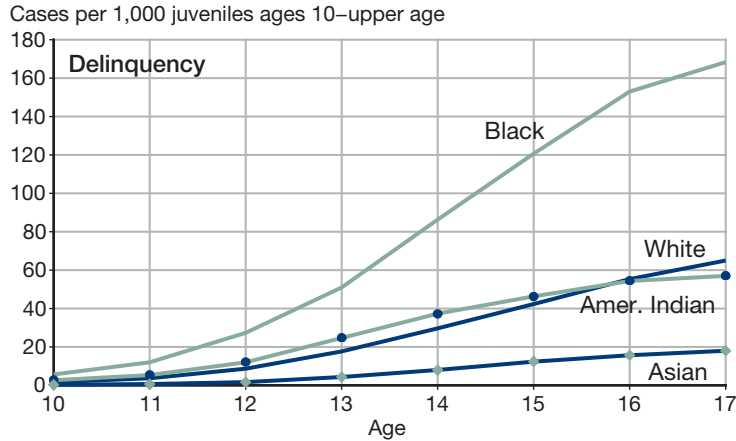
- In 2013, the total delinquency case rate for black juveniles (74.3) was more than double the rate for white juveniles (27.4) and for American Indian youth (29.6); the delinquency case rate for Asian youth was 7.3.
- The delinquency case rate for white juveniles peaked in 1996 (54.7) and then fell 50% by 2013; for black juveniles, the rate in 2013 was down 41% from its 1995 peak (126.4). The delinquency case rate for American Indian youth peaked in 1992 (86.1) and then declined 66% by 2013; for Asian youth, the peak occurred in 1994 (21.9) and fell 67% by 2013.
- Between 1985 and 2013, the person offense case rate increased 26% for white youth and 29% for black youth. The rate decreased 28% for American Indian youth and 31% for Asian youth.
- In 2013, the person offense case rate for black juveniles (23.3) was more than 3 times the rate for white youth and American Indian youth (6.5 and 6.8, respectively), and more than 12 times that of Asian youth (1.6).
- Property offense case rates in 2013 were lower than in 1985 for each racial group.
- The drug offense case rate for black juveniles increased dramatically from 1985 to 1989, leveled off, and then increased to reach a peak in 1996 (13.1) that was 254% above the rate in 1985 (3.7). Between 1996 and 2013, the drug offense case rate declined 54% for black juveniles, 23% for Asian youth, 17% for white youth, and 10% for American Indian youth.
- Between 1985 and 2013, public order offense case rates increased 85% for black juveniles (10.4 to 19.2), while they decreased 22% for Asian youth (2.3 to 1.8) and 42% for American Indian youth (12.2 to 7.1). The case rate for white youth remained relatively unchanged (6.9 to 7.0).

Between 1997 and 2013, delinquency case rates declined for youth of all racial groups: 40% for blacks, 49% for whites, 58% for American Indians, and 65% for Asians



Race

Case rates for juveniles generally increased with age for person, drug, and public order offenses, regardless of race

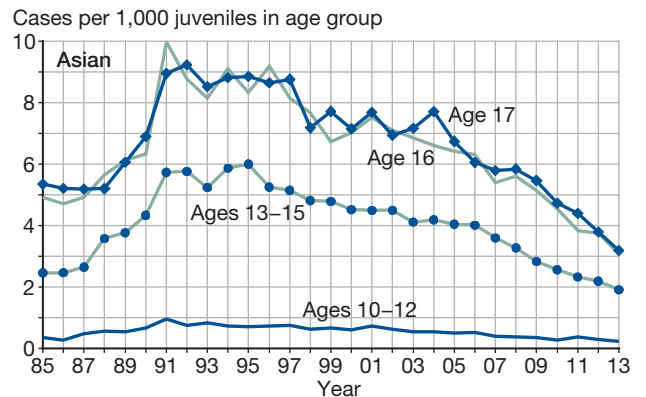
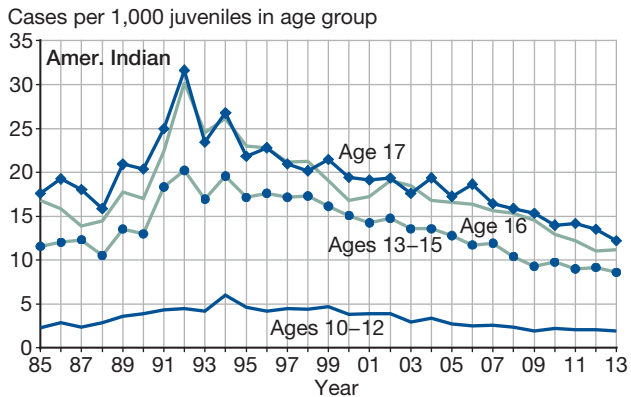
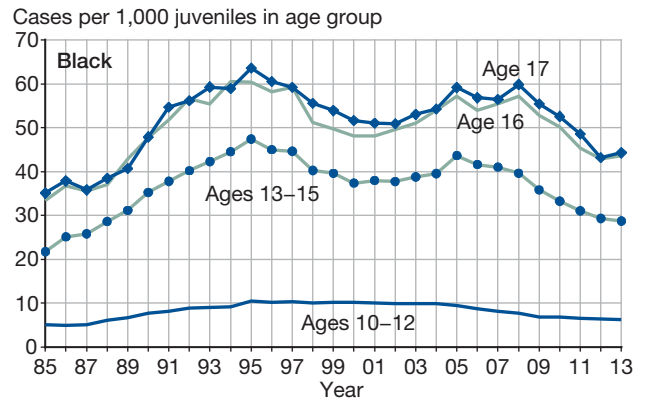
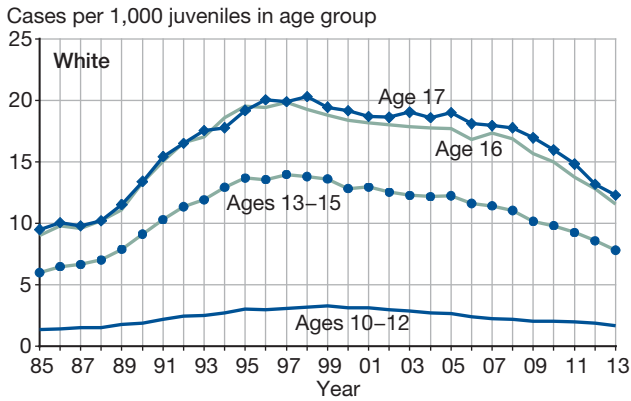


- In 2013, the delinquency case rate for 13-year-olds was more than 8 times the rate for 10-year-olds for each racial group.
- In 2013, with the exception of drug offenses, case rates in each general offense category were higher for black juveniles than those for youth of all other race categories for each age group.
- Age-specific person offense rates for black juveniles in 2013 averaged more than 3 times the rates for American Indian and white juveniles.
- In 2013, the person offense case rate for 16-year-olds was about twice the rate for 13-year-olds for all racial groups.
- For American Indian and Asian juveniles, age-specific case rates for property offenses in 2013 were higher than the rates for other offense categories.
- In 2013, racial disparity in age-specific drug offense case rates increased after age 13. By age 17, the black drug offense case rate was 1.5 times the white rate, more than twice the rate of American Indian youth, and more than 7 times the rate of Asian youth.
- Within each age group, the 2013 public order offense case rate for black juveniles was 2 to 3 times the rate for white and American Indian youth.

Race

Case rates for person offenses in 2013 were higher than those in 1985 for all age groups for white youth and black youth

Person offense case rates

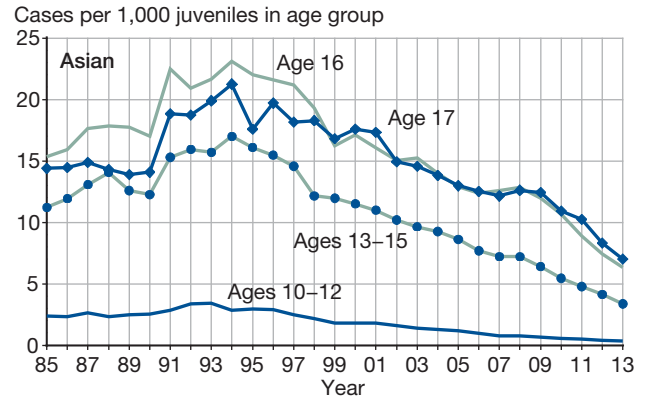
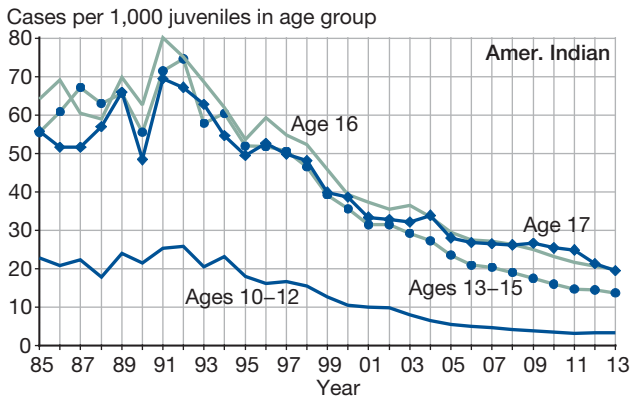
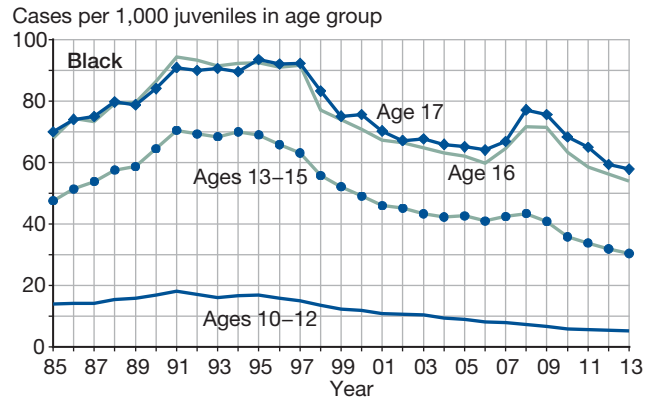
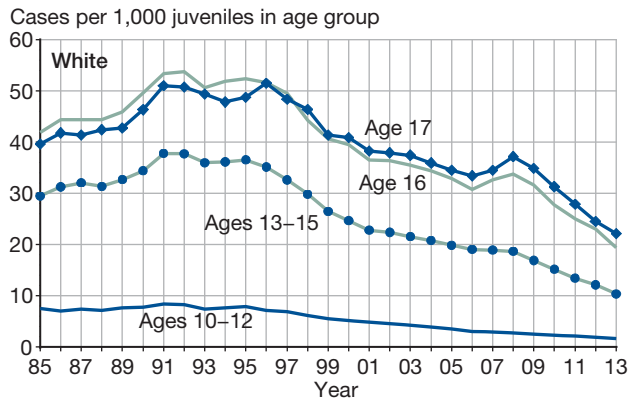


- Among white youth, person offense case rates increased dramatically for each age group between 1988 and 1998, and then decreased. Between 1998 and 2013, the person offense case rates for white youth decreased 47% for 10–12-year-olds, 42% for 13–15-year-olds, 40% for 16-year-olds, and 39% for 17-year-olds.
- Among black youth, person offense case rates increased steadily for all age groups between 1987 and 1995: 105% for 10–12-year-olds, 84% for 13–15-year-olds, 70% for 16-year-olds, and 78% for youth age 17.
- Person offense case rates for black youth decreased between 1995 and 2000, fluctuated through 2008, then decreased through 2013 for all age groups. The case rates for older youth (16- and 17-year-olds) increased slightly between 2012 and 2013.
- Person offense case rates for American Indian youth and Asian youth peaked in the early to mid-1990s for all age groups and then decreased through 2013.

Race

Property offense case rates were at their lowest level in 2013 for all age groups within each racial category, except for American Indian youth ages 10–12, which had its lowest level in 2011

Property offense case rates

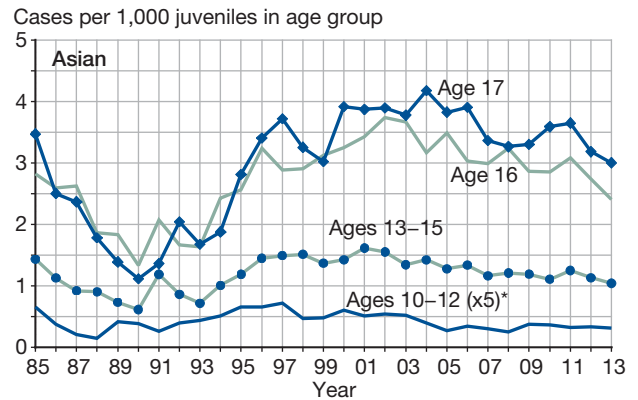
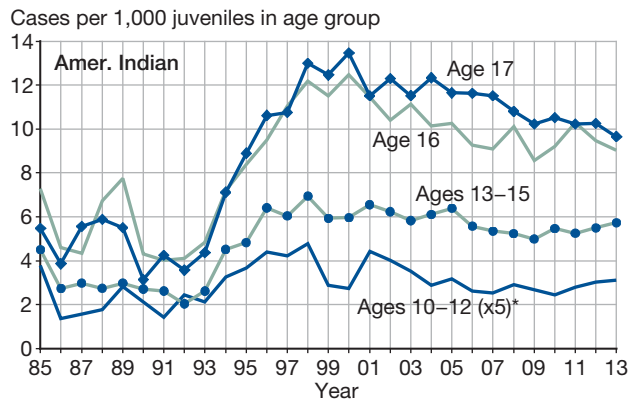
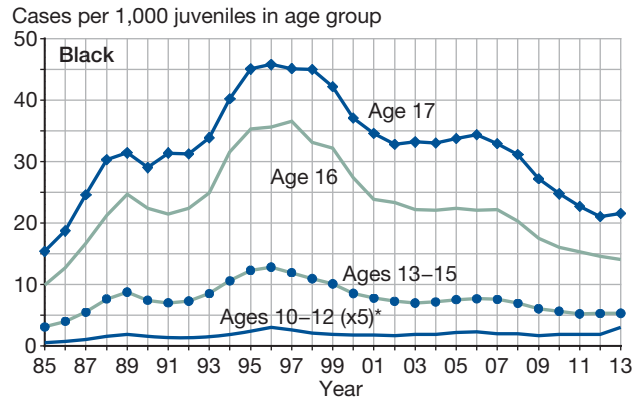
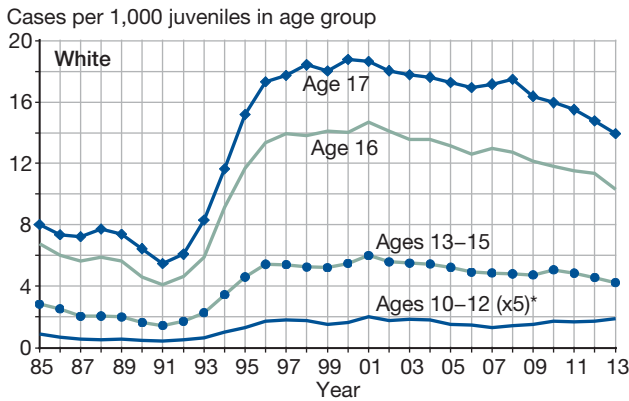


- Between 1992 and 2006, property offense case rates for whites, blacks, and Asians declined 30% or more for each age group, and the rates for American Indian youth fell 60% or more for each age group.
- Despite some fluctuation in the late 2000s for each age group, property offense case rates decreased between 10% and 66% for all racial groups between 2006 and 2013.
- As a result, property offense case rates reached their lowest level since 1985 for all ages in all racial groups except for American Indians ages 10–12, which reached its low in 2011 and increased 5% in 2013.
- Regardless of race, the largest relative decline in property offense case rates between 1992 and 2013 was for youth ages 10–12.

Race

With few exceptions, drug offense case rates for all age groups within each racial category declined in the 10-year period 2004–2013, but most remain above their 1985 levels

Drug offense case rates



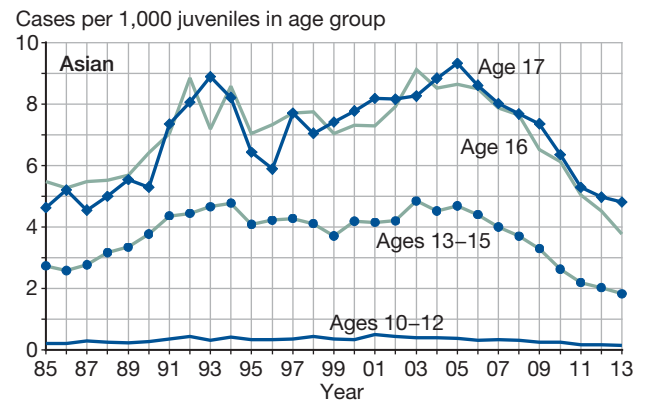
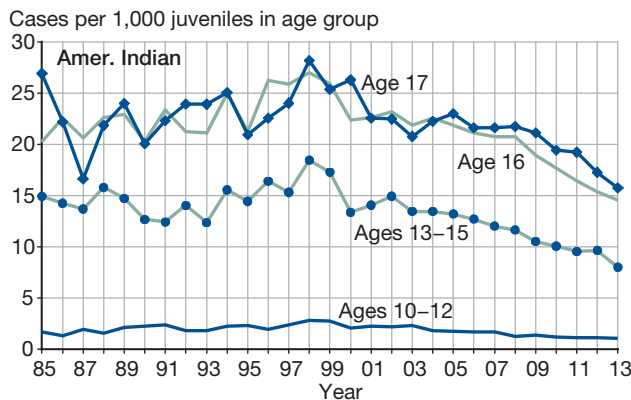
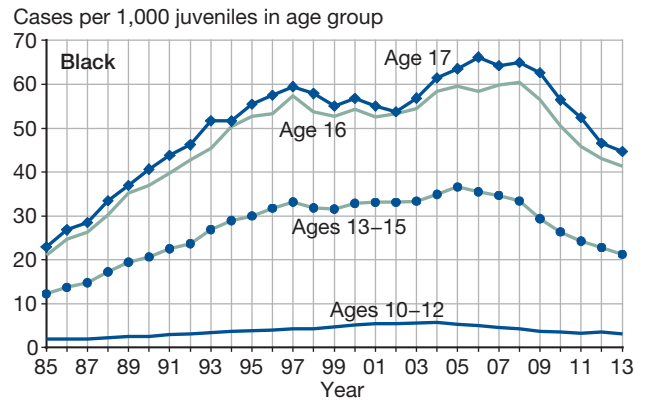
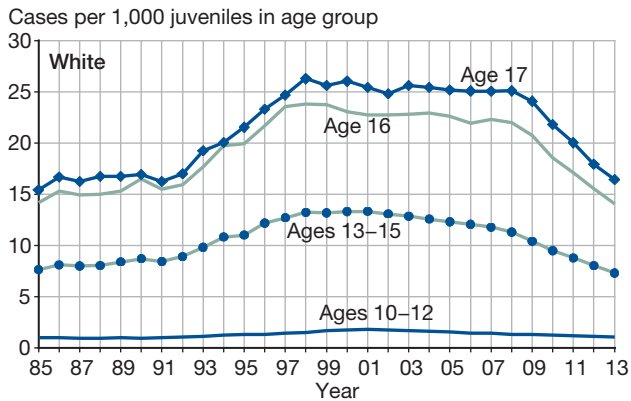
- For white youth, drug offense case rates increased dramatically for all age groups between 1991 and 2001: 358% for 10–12-year-olds, 315% for 13–15-year-olds, 257% for 16-year-olds, and 240% for youth age 17. Between 2001 and 2013, case rates declined for all age groups: 5% for youth ages 10–12, 29% for youth ages 13–15, 30% for youth age 16, and 25% for youth age 17. Despite these declines, the 2013 drug offense case rates for white youth of all ages were well above the rates in 1985.
- Drug offense case rates for black youth generally increased for all age groups into the 1990s, reaching a peak in 1997 for 16-year-olds and in 1996 for all other age groups. Between the peak and 2013, drug offense case rates for black youth decreased 59% for youth ages 13–15, 60% for youth age 16, and 53% for youth age 17; the rates remained unchanged for youth ages 10–12.
- Drug offense case rates for American Indian youth increased dramatically for all age groups between 1991 and 1998 and then decreased through 2013: 35% for 10–12-year-olds, 17% for 13–15-year-olds, and 26% each for 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds.
- The drug offense case rates for Asians peaked in 1997 for youth ages 10–12, and the early 2000s for all other ages before declining through 2013.

* Because of the relatively low volume of cases involving youth of all races ages 10–12 for drug offenses, their case rates are inflated by a factor of 5 to display the trends over time.

Race

Public order offense case rates were greater in 2013 than in 1985 for black youth of all ages; in contrast, case rates were at their lowest level in 2013 for American Indian youth of all ages

Public order offense case rates

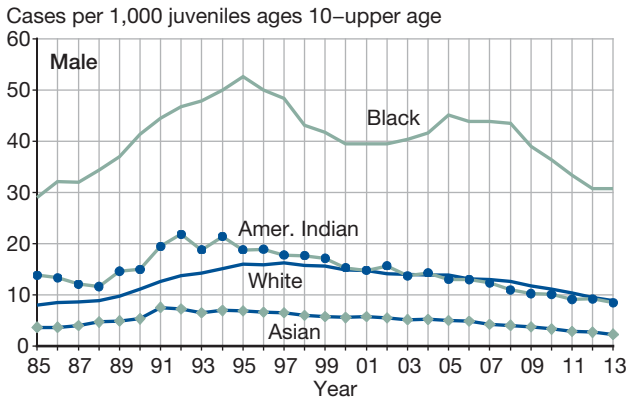


- Between 1991 and 1998, age-specific public order offense case rates for white youth increased substantially for all age groups, then stabilized through 2008 and decreased through 2013. Among white youth, the 2013 public order offense rate was 4% higher than the 1985 rate for youth ages 10–12 and 4% higher for youth age 17. Rates for youth ages 13–15 and 16-year-olds were at their lowest level.
- Between 1985 and 2013, among black youth, public order offense rates increased 67% for youth ages 10–12, 73% for youth ages 13–15, 97% for 16-year-olds, and 94% for youth age 17.
- Age-specific public order offense case rates for American Indian youth have decreased steadily in the 10 years between 2004 and 2013: 44% for youth ages 10–12, 41% for youth ages 13–15, 36% for 16-year-olds, and 29% for 17-year-olds.
- Age-specific public order case rates for Asian youth began to increase in the mid-1990s and peaked in 2001 for youth ages 10–12, in 2003 for youth ages 13–15 and 16-year-olds, and in 2005 for 17-year-olds. Since the peak years, public order case rates have decreased 41% or more for all age groups.

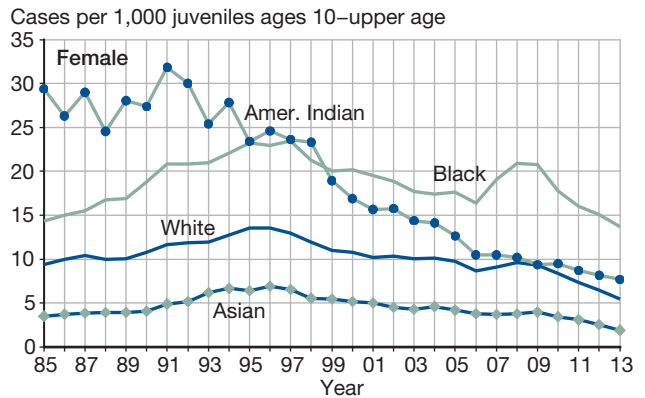
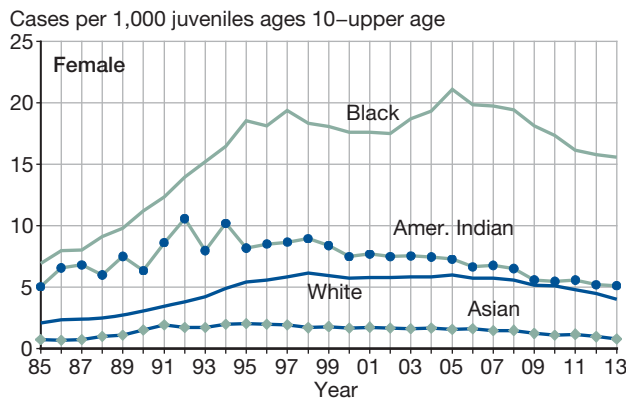
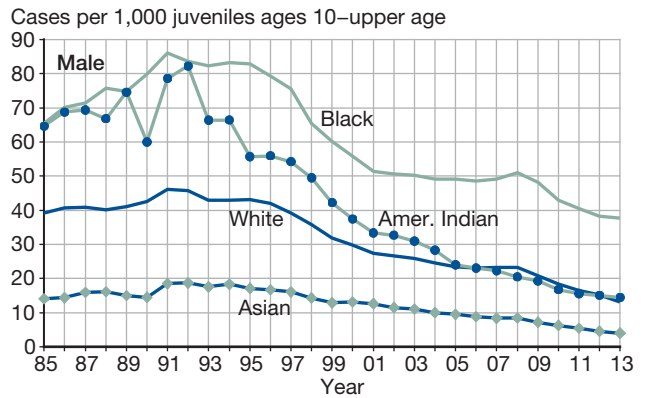
Race

For males, case rates for black youth were higher than rates for all other racial groups, regardless of offense; this was not the case for females

Person offense case rates



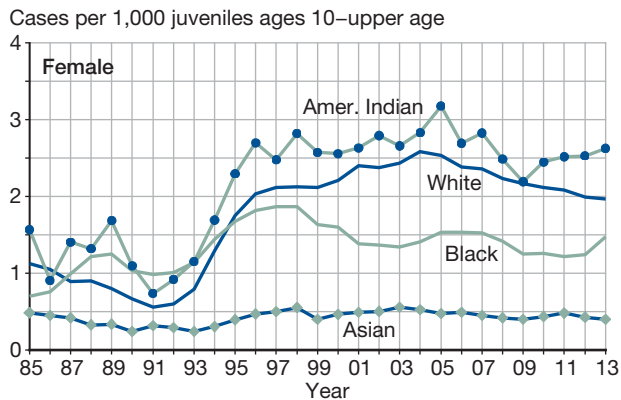
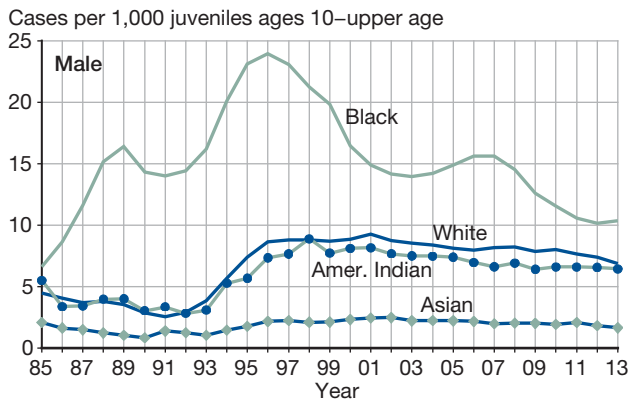
Property offense case rates



- Among males, person offense case rates peaked in the 1990s for all racial groups.
- For all years between 1985 and 2013, person offense case rates for black males were 2 to 4 times higher than the corresponding rates for white males and American Indian males, and 6 to 13 times higher than those for Asian males.
- Among females, person offense case rates for black juveniles were considerably higher than those for the other racial groups. In 2013, the person offense case rate for black females (15.6) was 14 times the rate for Asian females (0.8), nearly 4 times the rate for white females (4.0), and 3 times the rate for American Indian females (5.1).
- Among males, property offense case rates peaked in the early 1990s and then declined through 2013 to the lowest level since 1985 for all racial groups.
- Among females, property offense case rates were also lower in 2013 than in 1985 for all racial groups.

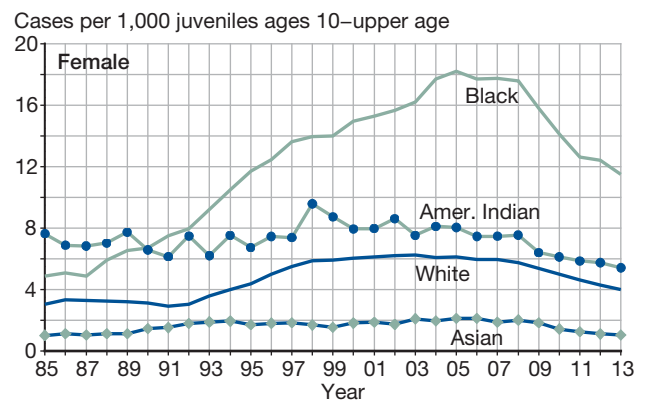
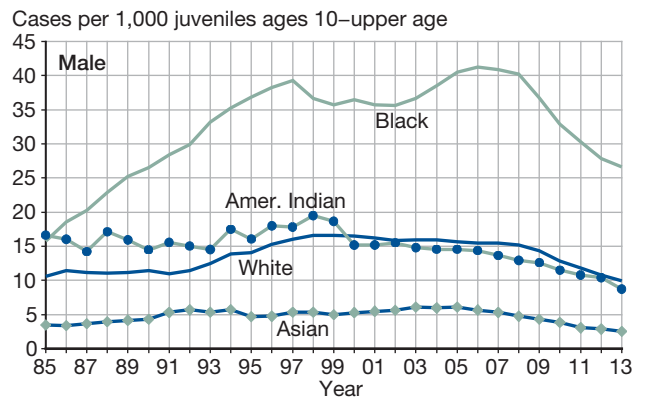
Race

Drug offense case rates



- Among males, drug offense case rates for black youth peaked in 1996 and then declined 57% through 2013.
- The large relative decline in black male drug offense case rates reduced the racial disparity in drug offense case rates. In 1996, the black male drug offense case rate was nearly 3 times the rate for white male youth, more than 3 times the rate for American Indian male youth, and 11 times the rate for Asian males. By 2013, the black rate was less than twice the rate for white and American Indian youth and about 6 times the rate for Asian juveniles.
- Among females, drug offense case rates between 1998 (the peak year for black youth) and 2013 decreased 21% for black youth, 27% for Asian youth, and 7% each for American Indian youth and white youth.
- Since 1994, drug offense case rates for American Indian females were higher than the corresponding rates for other race groups.

Public order offense case rates



- Between 1985 and 2013, cases involving black youth showed the largest relative increase in public order offense case rates for males and females. During this period, the public order case rate for black males increased 69% while the rate for black females increased 136%.
- In 2013, the public order offense case rate for black males was more than twice the rate for both white and American Indian males and 10 times the rate for Asian males.

Chapter 3

National Estimates of Delinquency Case Processing

This chapter quantifies the flow of delinquency cases referred to juvenile court through the stages of the juvenile court system as follows.

Referral: An agency or individual files a complaint with court intake that initiates court processing. Cases can be referred to court intake by a number of sources, including law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, schools, parents, probation officers, and victims.

Detention: Juvenile courts sometimes hold youth in secure detention facilities during court processing to protect the community, to ensure a juvenile's appearance at subsequent court hearings, to secure the juvenile's own safety, or for the purpose of evaluating the juvenile. This Report describes the use of detention between court referral and case disposition only, although juveniles can be detained by police prior to referral and also by the courts after disposition while awaiting placement elsewhere.

Intake: Formal processing of a case involves the filing of a petition that requests an adjudicatory or waiver hearing. Informally processed cases, on the other hand, are handled without a petition and without an adjudicatory or waiver hearing.

Waiver: One of the first decisions made at intake is whether a case should be processed in the criminal (adult) justice system rather than in the juvenile court. Most states have more than one mechanism for transferring cases to criminal court: prosecutors may have the authority to file certain juvenile cases directly in criminal court; state statute may order that cases meeting certain age and offense criteria be excluded from juvenile court jurisdiction and filed directly in criminal court; and a juvenile court judge may waive juvenile court jurisdiction in certain juvenile cases, thus authorizing a transfer to criminal court. This Report describes those cases that were transferred to criminal court by judicial waiver only.

Adjudication: At an adjudicatory hearing, a youth may be adjudicated (judged) delinquent if the juvenile court determines that the youth did commit the offense(s) charged in the petition. If the youth is adjudicated, the case proceeds to a disposition hearing. Alternatively, a case can be dismissed or continued in contemplation of dismissal. In these cases where the youth is not adjudicated delinquent, the court can recommend that the youth take some actions prior to the final adjudication decision, such as paying restitution or voluntarily attending drug counseling.

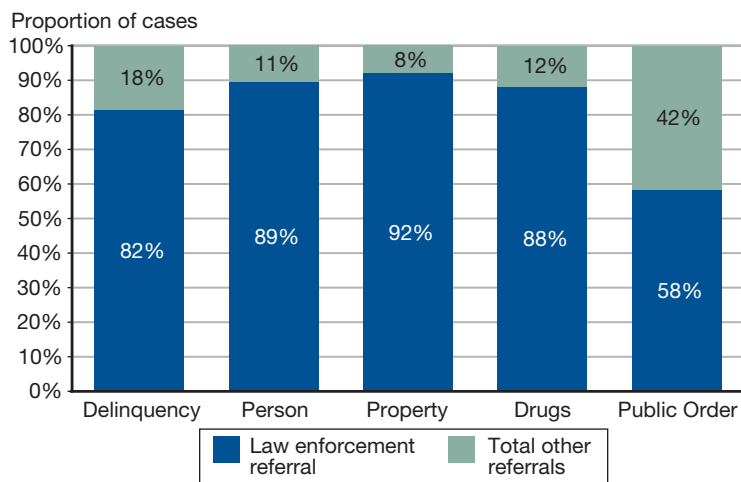
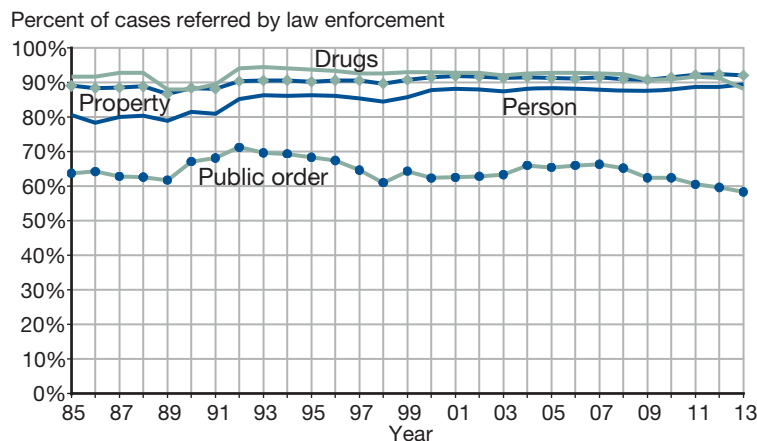
Disposition: Disposition options include commitment to an institution or other residential facility, probation supervision, or a variety of other sanctions, such as community service, restitution or fines, or referral to an outside agency or treatment program. This Report characterizes

case disposition by the most severe or restrictive sanction. For example, although most youth in out-of-home placements are also technically on probation, in this Report cases resulting in placement are not included in the probation group.

This chapter describes case processing by offense and by demographics (age, gender, and race) of the juveniles involved, focusing on cases disposed in 2013 and examining trends from 1985 through 2013.

Referral

Law enforcement agencies are the primary source of delinquency referrals to juvenile court



Source of referral profile, 2013:

Referral source	Delinquency	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order
Law enforcement	81.6%	89.5%	92.1%	88.2%	58.4%
School	2.6	2.3	1.0	3.9	4.1
Relative	1.4	1.7	1.0	2.2	1.1
Other	14.4	6.5	5.9	5.7	36.4
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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

- Between 1985 and 2013, law enforcement agencies were the primary source of delinquency referrals for each year.
- In 2013, 82% of all delinquency cases were referred by law enforcement; however, there were variations across offense categories.
- Law enforcement agencies referred 92% of property offense cases, 89% of person offense cases, 88% of drug law violation cases, and 58% of public order offense cases in 2013.
- For each year between 1985 and 2013, public order offense cases had the smallest proportion of cases referred to court by law enforcement. This may be attributed in part to the fact that this offense category contains probation violations and contempt-of-court cases, which are most often referred by court personnel.
- Law enforcement referred larger proportions of person offense cases in 2013 than in 1985.

Detention

- The number of delinquency cases involving detention peaked in 2002 and decreased 44% through 2013 to its lowest level since at least 1985. The largest relative decline since 2002 was for drug offense cases involving detention, down 55%, compared with 50% for property offenses, 43% for public order offenses, and 34% for person offenses.
- Despite the decrease in the volume of delinquency cases involving detention, the proportion of cases detained was slightly larger in 2013 (21%) than in 1985 (19%).
- Between 1985 and 2013, the use of detention decreased for public order offense cases (from 26% to 24%) and for drug law violation cases (from 21% to 14%), increased for person offense cases (from 23% to 26%), and changed little for property offense cases (from 16% to 17%).

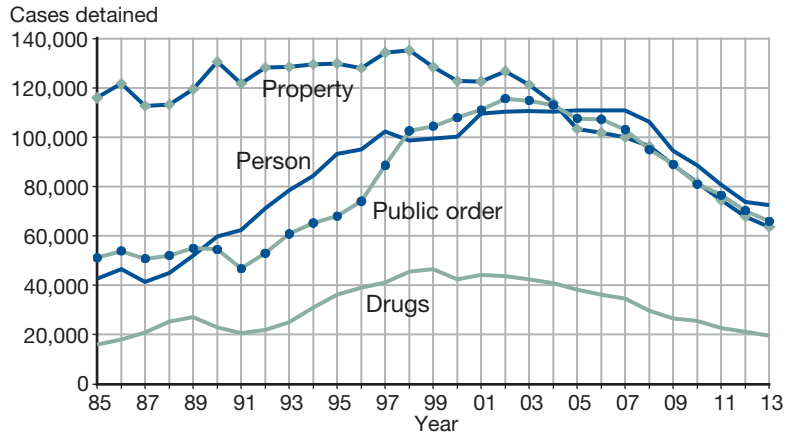
Offense profile of detained delinquency cases:

Most serious offense	2004	2013
Person	29%	33%
Property	30	29
Drugs	11	9
Public order	30	30
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	378,100	221,600

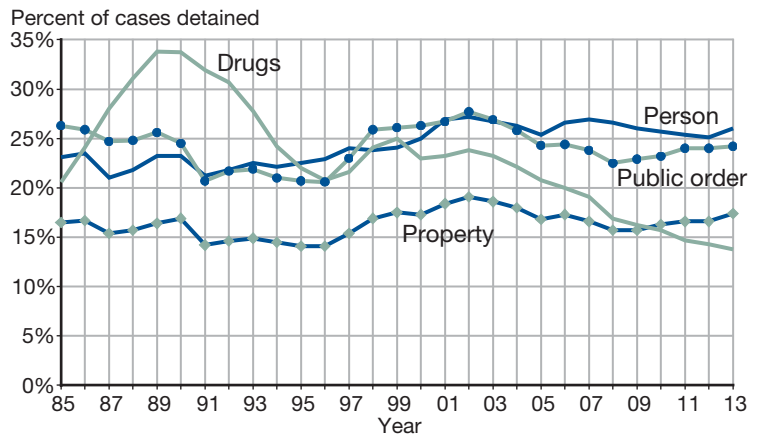
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- Compared with 2004, the offense characteristics of the 2013 detention caseload changed, involving a greater proportion of person offense cases, smaller proportions of drug and property offense cases, and equal proportions of public order offenses.

The number of cases involving detention increased between 1985 and 2013 for person, drug, and public order offenses but decreased for property offense cases

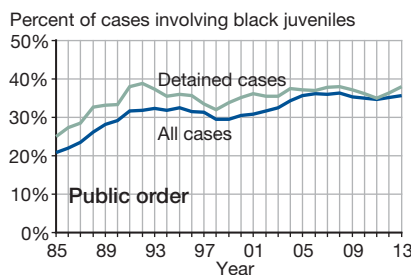
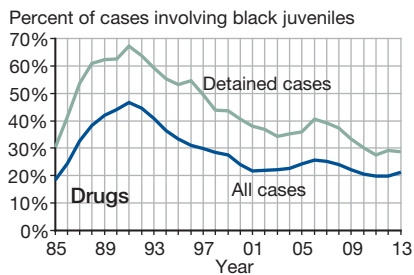
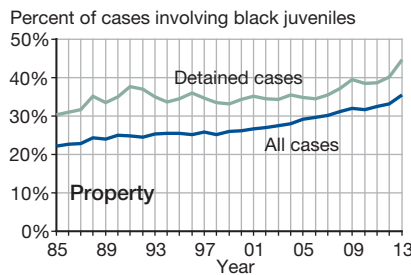
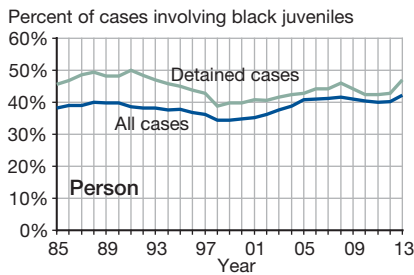
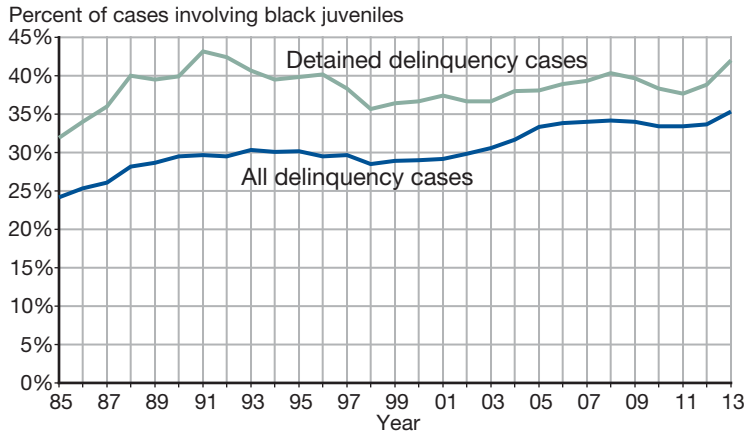


The proportion of drug offense cases involving detention reached a peak of 34% in 1989 and declined to 14% in 2013



Detention

While black youth represented 35% of the overall delinquency caseload in 2013, they made up 42% of the detention caseload



- Between 1985 and 2013, the proportion of all delinquency cases that involved black youth averaged 30%, while that average was 38% of all detained cases.
- Overrepresentation of black youth was greatest for drug offense cases. On average, between 1985 and 2013, black youth accounted for 29% of all cases involving drug offense violations but represented 44% of such cases detained.
- Between 1985 and 1991, the proportion of detained drug offense cases involving black youth increased substantially (from 30% to 67%). Since that time, the proportion of detained drug offense cases involving black youth fell, resulting in a level in 2013 that was 38 percentage points below the 1991 peak.
- Between 1987 and 1996, the proportion of detained drug offense cases involving black youth was more than 50%.
- Black youth accounted for 21% of all drug offense cases processed in 2013 but were involved in 29% of the drug offenses that involved detention.
- Black youth accounted for 42% of the person offense cases processed in 2013 and 47% of those detained.
- In 2013, the proportion of property offense cases involving black youth was 36%, while the proportion of detained property offense cases involving black youth was 45%.
- Black juveniles made up 36% of public order offense cases processed in 2013 and 38% of those detained.

Detention

Age

- In each year from 1985 through 2013, delinquency cases involving youth age 16 or older were more likely to be detained than were cases involving youth age 15 or younger.
- In contrast with 1985, person offense cases for youth age 15 or younger were more likely to involve detention than were other offenses in 2013.

Gender

- In 2013, male juveniles charged with delinquency offenses were more likely than females to be held in secure facilities while awaiting court disposition. Overall in 2013, 23% of male delinquency cases involved detention, compared with 16% of female cases.

Offense profile of detained delinquency cases by gender, 2013:

Most serious offense	Male	Female
Person	31%	38%
Property	30	23
Drugs	9	7
Public order	29	32
Total	100%	100%

Race

- Cases involving black youth were more likely to be detained than cases involving white youth in each year between 1985 and 2013 across offense categories.
- In 2013, person offense cases involving Asian youth were more likely to involve detention (32%) than those involving black, American Indian, or white youth (29%, 28% and 24%, respectively).

Detention was more likely for cases involving older youth than younger youth, and for cases involving males than females

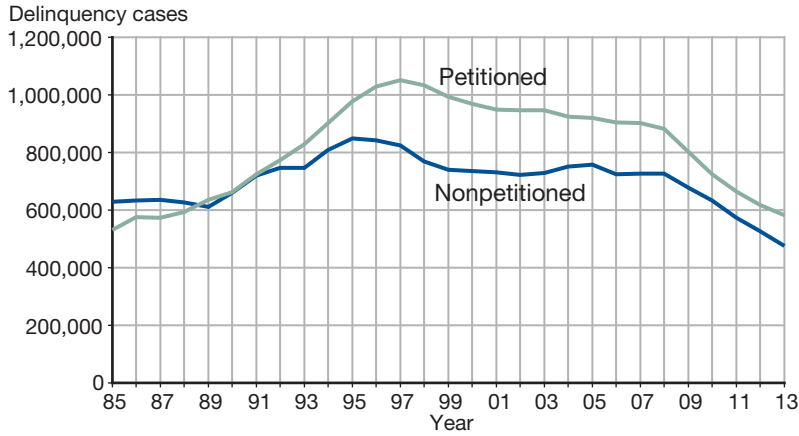
Most serious offense	Percentage of cases detained			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2013				
Delinquency	19%	23%	23%	16%
Person	24	30	29	20
Property	16	19	20	10
Drugs	12	15	14	11
Public order	21	28	26	19
2004				
Delinquency	21%	25%	24%	18%
Person	25	30	28	22
Property	17	20	20	12
Drugs	21	23	23	18
Public order	24	28	27	23
1985				
Delinquency	18%	22%	20%	17%
Person	22	26	25	17
Property	15	19	17	13
Drugs	19	22	21	18
Public order	27	25	26	29

Detention was more likely for cases involving black youth than cases involving white youth

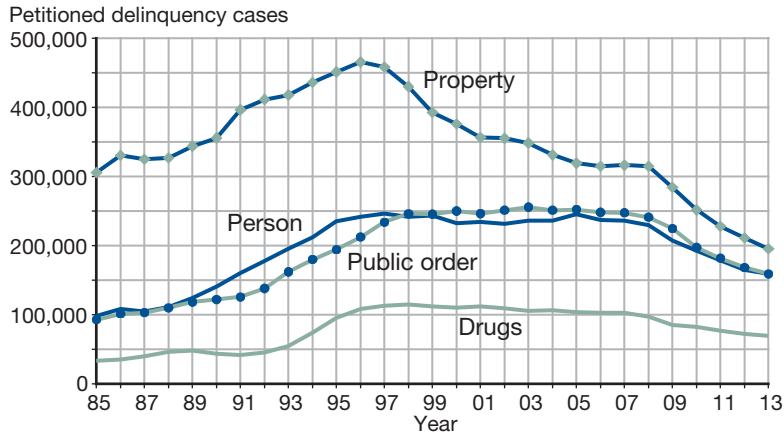
Most serious offense	Percentage of cases detained			
	White	Black	American Indian	Asian
2013				
Delinquency	19%	25%	24%	21%
Person	24	29	28	32
Property	15	22	18	15
Drugs	12	19	19	14
Public order	23	26	34	26
2004				
Delinquency	20%	27%	24%	22%
Person	25	29	27	27
Property	16	23	18	16
Drugs	18	34	21	21
Public order	24	28	32	30
1985				
Delinquency	17%	26%	22%	20%
Person	20	28	28	27
Property	15	23	18	17
Drugs	17	34	25	19
Public order	25	32	31	26

Intake Decision

Since 1989, delinquency cases were more likely to be handled formally, with the filing of a petition for adjudication, than informally



In contrast to the other general offense categories, the number of petitioned property offense cases decreased between 1996 and 2013



- Between 1985 and 2013, the likelihood that a delinquency case would be handled informally (without filing a petition for adjudication) decreased. As the overall delinquency caseload decreased 9% between 1985 and 2013, the number of nonpetitioned cases decreased 24% and the number of petitioned cases increased 10%.
- The number of petitioned cases nearly doubled between 1985 and the peak in 1997 and then declined 45% by 2013.
- The largest relative increase in the number of petitioned cases between 1985 and 2013 was seen in drug offense cases (107%), followed by public order offense cases (71%) and person offense cases (62%).
- The number of petitioned property offense cases increased 52% between 1985 and the peak in 1996 and then declined 58% by 2013.

Offense profile of delinquency cases, 2013:

Most serious offense	Nonpetitioned	Petitioned
Person	25%	27%
Property	36	34
Drugs	15	12
Public order	24	27
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	475,700	582,800

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In 2013, the offense profiles of non-petitioned and petitioned delinquency cases were very similar.

Intake Decision

- The overall likelihood of formal handling was greater for more serious offenses within the same general offense category. In 2013, for example, 74% of aggravated assault cases were handled formally, compared with 51% of simple assault cases. Similarly, 75% of burglary cases and 76% of motor vehicle theft cases were handled formally by juvenile courts, compared with 44% of larceny-theft and 46% of trespassing cases.
- Youth younger than 16 accounted for 50% of the delinquency cases handled formally by juvenile courts in 2013; females accounted for 24% and white youth accounted for 58% of petitioned cases.
- Between 1985 and 2013, the likelihood of formal processing increased: from 48% to 58% for public order cases, from 43% to 53% for property offense cases, from 43% to 49% for drug offense cases, and from 53% to 57% for person offense cases.
- Between 1988 and 1994, drug offense cases were more likely than other cases to be handled with a petition for adjudication.
- In 2013, 49% of drug offense cases were petitioned—a substantially lower percentage than in the peak year 1991, when 65% were petitioned.
- Between 1986 and 2010, property offense cases were less likely than cases in each of the other general offense categories to be handled with a petition for adjudication; in 2013, drug offense cases were the least likely.

In 2013, juvenile courts petitioned 55% of all delinquency cases

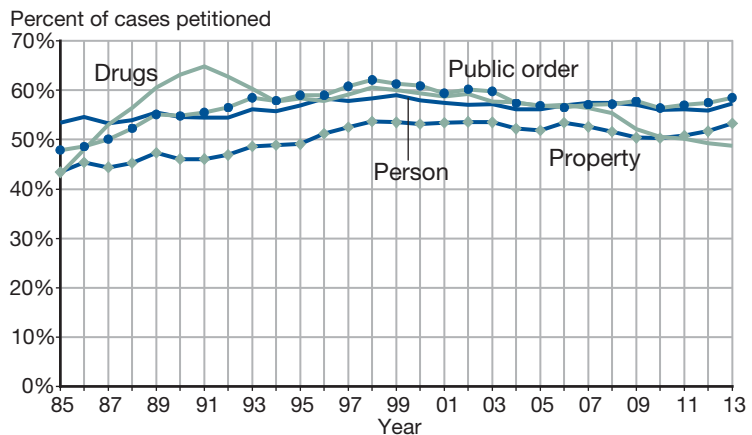
Most serious offense	Petitioned cases	Percentage of total delinquency cases	Percentage of all petitioned cases, 2013		
			Younger than 16	Female	White
Total delinquency	582,800	55%	50%	24%	58%
Total person	159,400	57	58	27	51
Violent Crime Index*	45,100	79	55	16	41
Criminal homicide	700	79	34	13	46
Forcible rape	5,500	74	63	4	68
Robbery	19,100	87	50	11	24
Aggravated assault	19,800	74	58	26	48
Simple assault	95,900	51	59	34	54
Other violent sex offenses	6,300	65	74	5	67
Other person offenses	12,100	48	57	25	60
Total property	195,300	53	52	21	57
Property Crime Index**	142,200	54	51	23	56
Burglary	48,700	75	52	9	56
Larceny-theft	81,500	44	50	32	55
Motor vehicle theft	8,800	76	49	20	57
Arson	3,300	65	71	15	63
Vandalism	28,100	52	59	16	70
Trespassing	13,600	46	49	17	51
Stolen property offenses	7,300	72	43	14	50
Other property offenses	4,100	57	42	25	61
Drug law violations	69,100	49	38	17	72
Public order offenses	159,000	58	46	26	59
Obstruction of justice	97,100	74	39	26	61
Disorderly conduct	31,200	42	60	34	49
Weapons offenses	12,500	58	54	10	56
Liquor law violations	2,600	29	33	28	86
Nonviolent sex offenses	5,900	55	62	16	74
Other public order offenses	9,700	40	48	26	69

* Includes criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

** Includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

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

Between 1985 and 2013, the use of formal processing increased in all general offense categories



Intake Decision

Formal processing was more likely for cases involving older youth than younger youth, and more likely for cases involving males than females

Most serious offense	Percentage of cases petitioned			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2013				
Delinquency	52%	59%	58%	47%
Person	55	61	61	50
Property	51	56	58	41
Drugs	44	53	50	42
Public order	53	64	61	53
2004				
Delinquency	53%	58%	58%	47%
Person	55	59	59	50
Property	50	55	57	41
Drugs	55	60	59	50
Public order	54	61	59	54
1985				
Delinquency	42%	51%	48%	36%
Person	51	58	57	41
Property	40	50	46	31
Drugs	38	47	45	34
Public order	47	49	48	47

For all years between 1985 and 2013, formal processing was more likely for cases involving black youth than cases involving white youth

Most serious offense	Percentage of cases petitioned			
	White	Black	American Indian	Asian
2013				
Delinquency	52%	61%	55%	58%
Person	53	63	54	67
Property	50	59	51	48
Drugs	47	56	49	52
Public order	56	62	67	70
2004				
Delinquency	53%	61%	54%	58%
Person	53	61	54	62
Property	50	59	50	51
Drugs	53	73	51	60
Public order	56	59	64	66
1985				
Delinquency	43%	55%	42%	42%
Person	48	63	52	56
Property	41	51	41	40
Drugs	39	60	29	31
Public order	46	54	42	47

Age

- In each year between 1985 and 2013, delinquency cases involving juveniles age 16 or older were more likely to be petitioned than were cases involving younger juveniles.
- In 2013, 52% of delinquency cases involving youth age 15 or younger were petitioned, compared with 59% of cases involving older youth.

Gender

- Between 1985 and 2013, the likelihood of formal case processing increased for males from 48% to 58% and for females from 36% to 47%.
- For females, the likelihood of formal case processing increased more for property offense cases (10 percentage points) between 1985 and 2013 than for the other general offense categories. For males, the likelihood of formal case processing increased most for property and public order offenses cases (12 percentage points each).

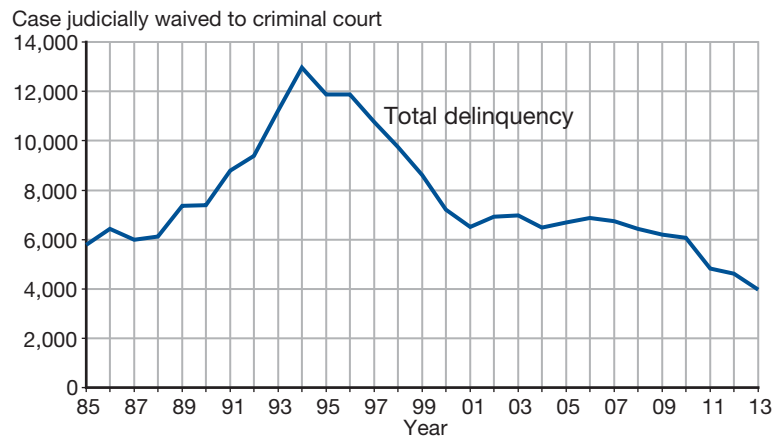
Race

- The proportion of delinquency cases petitioned increased for all racial groups between 1985 and 2013: from 43% to 52% for white youth, from 55% to 61% for black youth, from 42% to 55% for American Indian youth, and from 42% to 58% for Asian youth.
- For each year between 1985 and 2013, drug offense cases involving black juveniles were more likely to be petitioned than were such cases involving any other racial group.

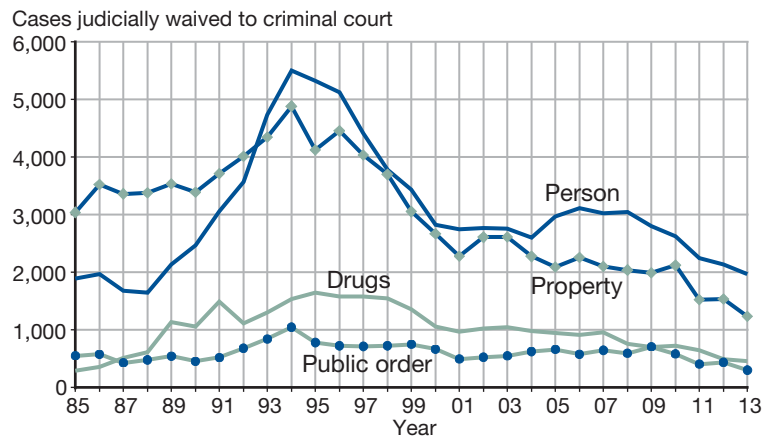
Waiver

- The number of delinquency cases judicially waived to criminal court in 1994, the peak year, was 124% greater than the number waived in 1985. This increase was followed by a 50% decline between 1994 and 2001.
 - The number of judicially waived delinquency cases remained relatively stable between 2001 and 2007 and then fell 41% between 2007 and 2013. As a result, the number of cases judicially waived in 2013 was 31% less than in 1985.
- The number of judicially waived person offense cases increased 191% between 1985 and 1994 and then fell substantially through 2004, down 53% from its 1994 peak. Between 2004 and 2008, the number of cases waived increased 17%, and then declined 35% between 2008 and 2013.
- The number of drug offense cases judicially waived increased 452% between 1985 and the peak in 1995. The number of cases waived in 2013 was 72% less than the number waived in 1995.
- Between 1985 and 1992, the largest number of judicially waived cases involved property offenses; since that time, the largest group of waived cases has been person offense cases.
- For public order offenses, the number of waived cases increased 89% between 1985 and the peak in 1994 and then declined 71% by 2013.
- The decline in the number of cases judicially waived after 1994 may be attributable in part to the large increase in the number of states that passed legislation excluding certain serious offenses from juvenile court jurisdiction and legislation permitting the prosecutor to file certain cases directly in criminal court.

The number of cases judicially waived to criminal court peaked in 1994

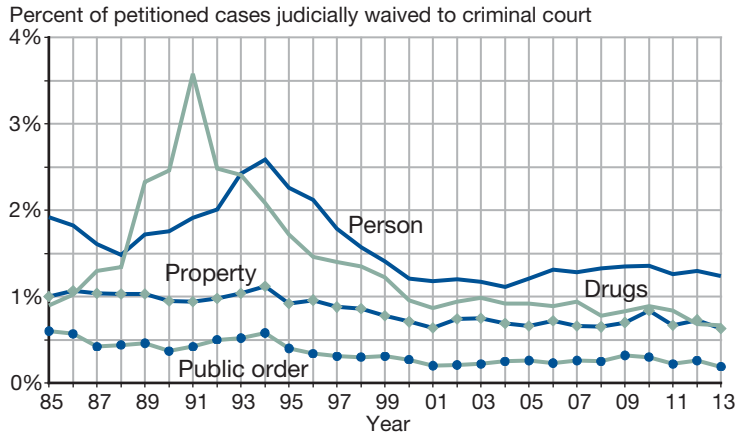


In 1985, more property offense cases were judicially waived than cases in any other offense category; in 2013, more person offense cases were waived than cases in any other category

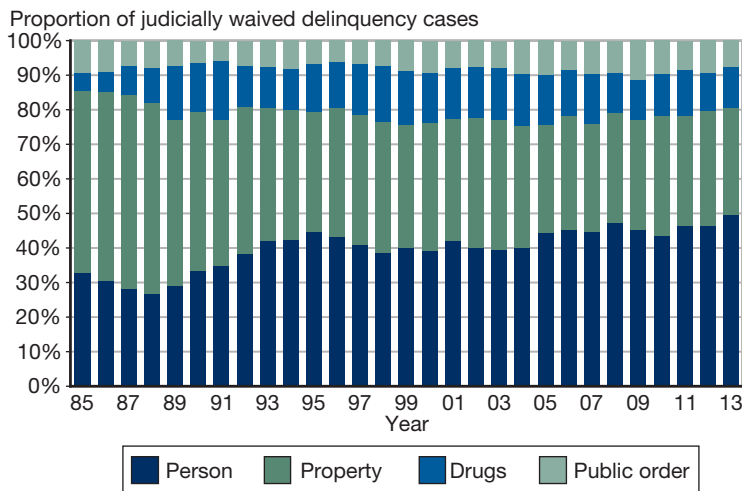


Waiver

Between 1989 and 1992, cases involving drug offenses were most likely to be judicially waived; for all other years between 1985 and 2013, person offense cases were most likely to be waived



Between 1985 and 2013, the offense profile of the judicially waived caseload changed substantially—the share of property offense cases decreased and the share of person offense cases increased



- Between 1985 and 1991, the proportion of judicially waived drug offense cases increased sharply from 0.9% to 3.6%. After peaking in 1991, the proportion of waived drug offense cases decreased, with 0.7% of drug cases being waived in 2013.
- After an initial decrease between 1985 and 1988, the proportion of judicially waived person offense cases increased to its peak level in 1994, when 2.6% of such cases were waived. The proportion declined to its lowest level in 2004 (1.1%). The proportion waived in 2013 was 1.2%.
- Between 1985 and 2013, the proportion of property offense cases that were judicially waived decreased from 1.0% to 0.6%. Following a similar pattern, the proportion of judicially waived public order offense cases decreased from 0.6% to 0.2% during the same time period.
- The proportion of the waived caseload involving person offenses grew between 1985 and 2013. In 1985, person offense cases accounted for one-third (33%) of the waived caseload; by 2013, person offense cases were 50% of the waived caseload.
- The proportion of all waived delinquency cases that involved a property offense as the most serious charge declined from 53% in 1985 to 31% in 2013.
- Drug offense cases represented 5% of the judicially waived cases in 1985; by 1991, they comprised 17% of the waived caseload. In 2013, drug offense cases made up 12% of the judicially waived caseload.
- Between 1985 and 2013, public order offense cases comprised 6% to 11% of the waived caseload.

Waiver

Age

- In 2013, 1.2% of all petitioned delinquency cases involving juveniles age 16 or older were waived to criminal court, compared with 0.1% of cases involving younger juveniles.
- For older juveniles, the probability of waiver peaked in 1994 at 3.0%, declined to 1.5% by 2000, and remained relatively stable at that level through 2013.
- This pattern was most marked in waivers for older juveniles charged with drug offenses, which peaked at 5.5% in 1991 and then steadily declined to 1.5% in 2000. In 2013, the likelihood of judicial waiver in drug offense cases involving older juveniles was 1.0%.

Gender

- The proportion of petitioned drug offense cases judicially waived increased substantially for males between 1985 and 1991 (from 0.9% to 3.7%) and decreased steadily through 2013, when the proportion of these cases was 0.7%.
- Judicially waived drug offense cases involving females followed a similar pattern. In 2013, 0.5% of petitioned drug offense cases involving females were judicially waived.

Race

- The likelihood of judicial waiver among cases involving white youth was lower in 2013 (0.6%) than in 1985 (1.0%); the pattern was similar for cases involving black youth (0.8% in 2013 compared with 1.4% in 1985).
- In 2013, cases involving person offenses were most likely to be waived for youth of all races: 1.1% among white juveniles, 1.4% among black juveniles, 1.2% among American Indian juveniles, and 0.7% among Asian juveniles.

Cases involving juveniles age 16 or older were much more likely to be judicially waived to criminal court than those involving younger juveniles

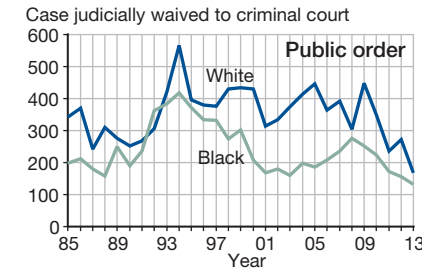
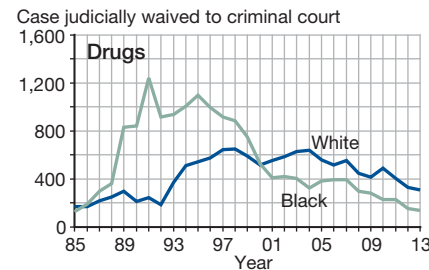
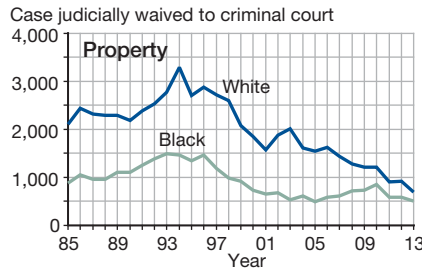
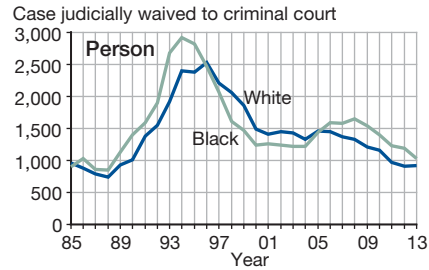
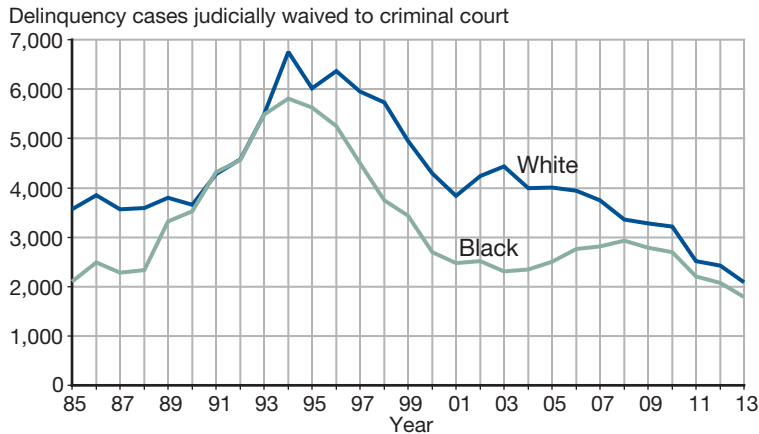
Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases judicially waived			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2013				
Delinquency	0.1%	1.2%	0.8%	0.2%
Person	0.3	2.6	1.6	0.3
Property	0.1	1.3	0.7	0.3
Drugs	0.1	1.0	0.7	0.5
Public order	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.1
2004				
Delinquency	0.2%	1.4%	0.8%	0.3%
Person	0.3	2.4	1.4	0.3
Property	0.1	1.5	0.8	0.3
Drugs	0.1	1.5	1.0	0.6
Public order	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.1
1985				
Delinquency	0.1%	2.4%	1.2%	0.4%
Person	0.3	4.2	2.2	0.5
Property	0.1	2.3	1.1	0.3
Drugs	0.1	1.4	0.9	0.6
Public order	0.1	1.2	0.7	0.2

Person and drug offense cases involving black youth were more likely than cases involving white youth to be judicially waived

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases judicially waived			
	White	Black	American Indian	Asian
2013				
Delinquency	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%	0.3%
Person	1.1	1.4	1.2	0.7
Property	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.4
Drugs	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.2
Public order	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
2004				
Delinquency	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	0.3%
Person	1.0	1.2	1.6	0.5
Property	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.1
Drugs	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.5
Public order	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
1985				
Delinquency	1.0%	1.4%	1.2%	0.4%
Person	1.8	2.1	2.1	0.9
Property	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.3
Drugs	0.7	1.5	NA	NA
Public order	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.2

NA Data are not presented because the small number of cases produces unstable estimates.

For both white juveniles and black juveniles, the number of delinquency cases judicially waived to criminal court in 2013 was well below the mid-1990s peak



- The number of judicially waived cases involving white juveniles increased 90% between 1985 and 1994, from 3,600 to 6,800, and then declined 69% to its lowest level (2,100) in 2013.
- For black juveniles, the number of judicially waived cases more than doubled between 1985 and 1994, and then fell substantially through 2003. However, between 2003 and 2008, the number of judicially waived cases grew 27% and then fell 39% through 2013.
- The number of judicially waived person offense cases involving white youth increased 166% between 1985 and 1996, and then declined 64% by 2013.
- The number of judicially waived drug offense cases involving black juveniles increased substantially between 1985 and the peak in 1991 and then declined 89% by 2013.

Offense profile of waived cases:

Most serious offense	2004	2013
White		
Person	33%	44%
Property	40	33
Drugs	16	15
Public order	10	8
Total	100%	100%
Black		
Person	52%	57%
Property	26	28
Drugs	14	8
Public order	8	7
Total	100%	100%

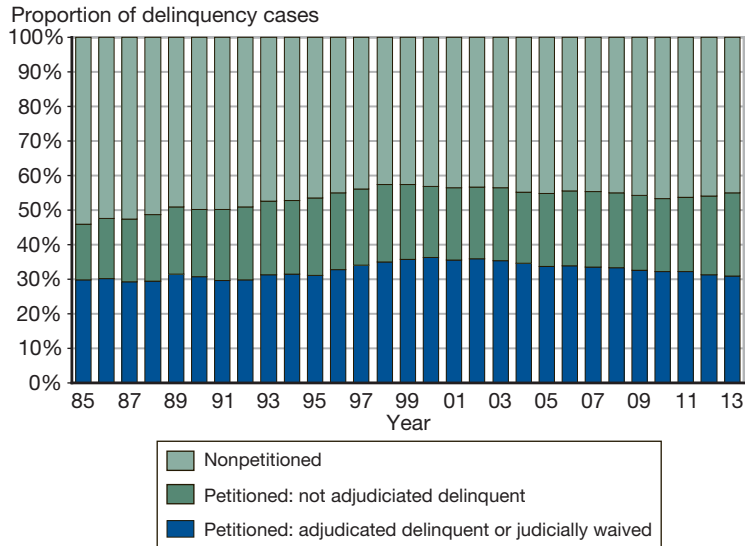
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Offense profiles are not presented for American Indian and Asian youth because counts were too small to calculate meaningful percentages.

- In 2013, person offense cases accounted for 57% of the waived cases involving black juveniles.
- In 2004, property offenses accounted for the largest share of the waived caseload for white youth (40%) but, in 2013, person offenses accounted for the largest share (44%).

Adjudication

- In 1985, 30% of all delinquency cases resulted in either adjudication of delinquency or waiver to criminal court. Despite an increase in the late 1990s, this proportion decreased in 2013 to a level similar to that of 1985 (31%).
- In general, the likelihood of being adjudicated delinquent was greater for more serious offenses within the same general offense category.
- Within the 2013 person offense category, 56% of petitioned aggravated assault cases were adjudicated delinquent, compared with 50% of simple assault cases.
- In the property offense category in 2013, equal proportions of petitioned burglary and motor vehicle theft cases were adjudicated delinquent (60% each), compared with 54% of larceny-theft cases.
- Among public order offenses in 2013, 62% of obstruction of justice cases and 56% of liquor law violation cases were adjudicated delinquent, compared with 54% of disorderly conduct cases.
- Youth younger than 16 accounted for 51% of all adjudicated delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts in 2013, females accounted for 22%, and white youth accounted for 61%.

The proportion of formally processed delinquency cases that resulted in a delinquency adjudication or waiver changed little since 1997



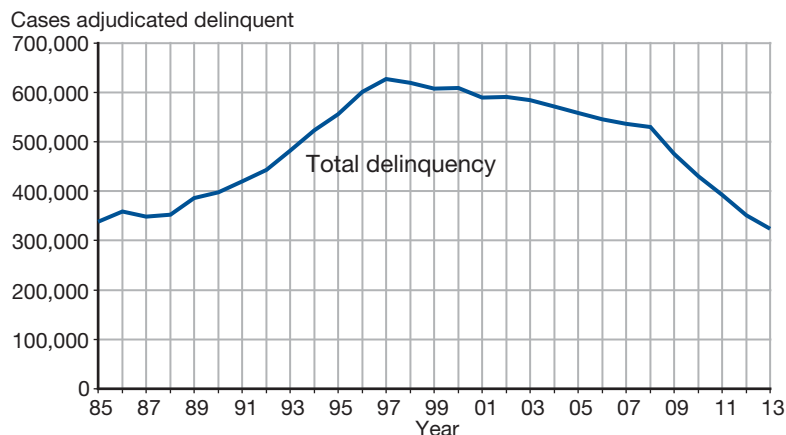
In 2013, youth were adjudicated delinquent in more than half (55%) of petitioned delinquency cases

Most serious offense	Cases adjudicated delinquent	Percentage of total petitioned cases	Percentage of all adjudicated cases, 2013		
			Younger than 16	Female	White
Total delinquency	323,300	55%	51%	22%	61%
Total person	83,900	53	59	25	53
Criminal homicide	300	47	41	15	56
Forcible rape	3,000	55	65	3	71
Robbery	11,400	60	51	10	26
Aggravated assault	11,100	56	57	24	52
Simple assault	48,100	50	60	32	57
Other violent sex offenses	3,800	61	76	4	69
Other person offenses	6,100	51	57	22	65
Total property	108,400	56	53	19	60
Burglary	29,100	60	53	8	58
Larceny-theft	44,000	54	52	29	59
Motor vehicle theft	5,300	60	51	19	59
Arson	1,900	59	73	13	63
Vandalism	14,900	53	59	15	74
Trespassing	6,700	49	50	17	55
Stolen property offenses	4,200	58	44	13	51
Other property offenses	2,400	58	42	23	63
Drug law violations	37,100	54	40	17	75
Public order offenses	93,900	59	45	25	63
Obstruction of justice	60,500	62	39	25	64
Disorderly conduct	16,700	54	61	33	51
Weapons offenses	6,800	54	52	8	56
Liquor law violations	1,500	56	35	27	85
Nonviolent sex offenses	3,200	54	62	13	77
Other public order offenses	5,200	54	47	25	73

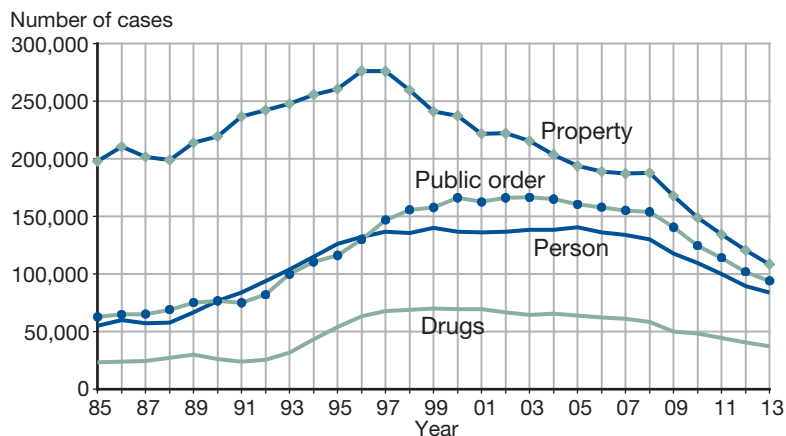
Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Adjudication

Between 1985 and 2013, the number of cases in which youth were adjudicated delinquent decreased 4%



Since 1997, the number of cases adjudicated delinquent decreased for all general offense categories



- Beginning in 1985 and continuing through 1997, the annual number of delinquency cases in which youth were adjudicated delinquent steadily increased from 338,100 to 627,200 and then declined to 323,300 in 2013.
- The number of adjudicated person offense cases increased 53% between 1985 and 2013 (55,000 vs. 83,900).
- The number of adjudicated cases involving property offenses increased 40% between 1985 (197,700) and its peak in 1996 (276,200) and then declined 61% by 2013 (108,400) for an overall decline of 45%.
- Between 1985 and 1999, the number of adjudicated drug offense cases increased 204% (from 22,900 to 69,800) and then declined 47% by 2013.
- Between 1985 and 2013, the number of public order offense cases adjudicated delinquent increased 50%, from 62,600 cases to 93,900 cases.

Offense profile of cases adjudicated delinquent:

Most serious offense	2004	2013
Person	24%	26%
Property	36	34
Drugs	11	11
Public order	29	29
Total	100%	100%
Cases adjudicated delinquent	571,300	323,300

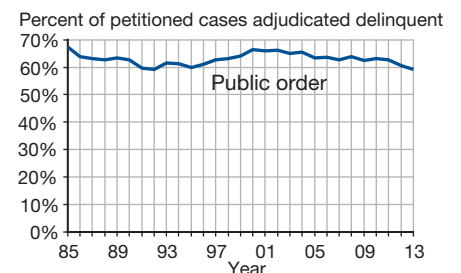
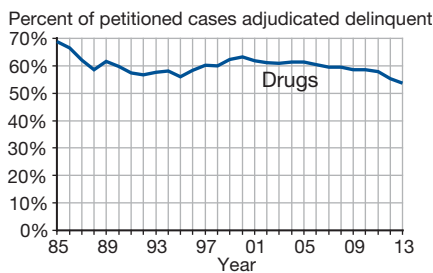
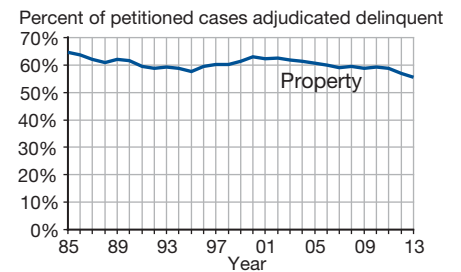
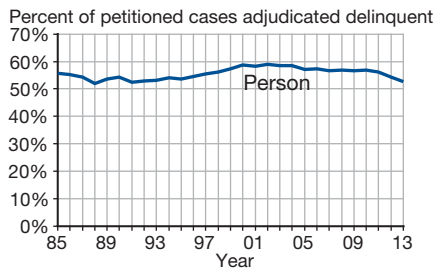
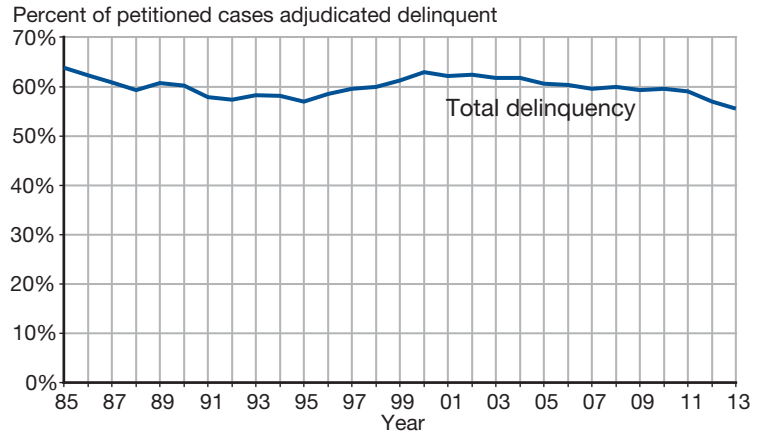
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- Compared with 2004, the 2013 adjudicated delinquent caseload included a greater proportion of person offense cases, a smaller proportion of property offense cases, and equal proportions of drug and public order offense cases.

Adjudication

- The likelihood of petitioned cases resulting in delinquency adjudication decreased from 64% to 57% between 1985 and 1995, returned to 63% by 2000, and then decreased to its lowest level (55%) by 2013.
- The likelihood of a delinquency adjudication was less in 2013 than in 1985 for all offense types (by 3 to 15 percentage points).
- Person offense cases were slightly less likely than the other offense categories to result in delinquency adjudication for all years between 1985 and 2013.
- The likelihood of adjudication among cases involving a property offense decreased from 65% to 58% between 1985 and 1995, then remained relatively stable through 2011 and decreased slightly through 2013.
- The likelihood of adjudication among drug offense cases followed a similar pattern, decreasing from 69% to 57% between 1985 and the early 1990s and then remaining relatively stable through 2011 before a similar decrease through 2013.
- Among public order cases, the likelihood of adjudication decreased from 67% to 59% between 1985 and 1992, increased to 66% in 2004, then decreased to 59% in 2013.
- Cases involving public order offenses were slightly more likely than any other offense to result in a delinquency adjudication each year between 1987 and 2013.

The likelihood of delinquency adjudication decreased from 64% in 1985 to 55% in 2013



Adjudication

Cases involving younger juveniles were slightly more likely to be adjudicated delinquent than those involving older juveniles

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated delinquent			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2013				
Delinquency	56%	55%	57%	51%
Person	53	52	55	48
Property	57	54	57	50
Drugs	56	52	54	53
Public order	58	60	60	56
2004				
Delinquency	62%	61%	63%	59%
Person	59	58	60	54
Property	62	60	63	57
Drugs	64	60	61	61
Public order	66	65	66	65
1985				
Delinquency	64%	63%	64%	60%
Person	57	55	57	50
Property	65	64	65	60
Drugs	71	67	69	66
Public order	69	65	68	66

Delinquency cases involving black youth were less likely to result in a delinquency adjudication than were cases involving white youth

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated delinquent			
	White	Black	American Indian	Asian
2013				
Delinquency	58%	51%	65%	57%
Person	55	50	63	58
Property	58	51	68	55
Drugs	56	47	65	48
Public order	62	54	63	61
2004				
Delinquency	63%	59%	67%	60%
Person	60	56	66	61
Property	63	59	67	58
Drugs	63	58	69	56
Public order	67	63	68	65
1985				
Delinquency	66%	58%	68%	58%
Person	58	53	67	58
Property	67	59	69	57
Drugs	70	65	NA	NA
Public order	69	63	67	65

NA Data are not presented because the small number of cases produces unstable estimates.

Age

- For youth age 15 and younger, person offense cases were less likely than other offense categories to be adjudicated delinquent for each year between 1985 and 2013.
- For drug offense cases involving juveniles age 16 and older, the likelihood of adjudication decreased from 67% to 52% between 1985 and 2013.

Gender

- Between 1985 and 2013, male cases generally were more likely to be adjudicated delinquent than were female cases.
- Since 2004, however, petitioned drug offense cases involving females were nearly as likely as those involving males to result in a delinquency adjudication.
- Between 1985 and 2013, for females, the likelihood of a delinquency adjudication for person offenses remained stable while the likelihood decreased for all other offense types (between 10 and 13 percentage points).

Race

- The likelihood of a delinquency adjudication decreased between 1985 and 2013 for delinquency cases involving white juveniles (8 percentage points) and black juveniles (7 percentage points). For both racial groups, the likelihood of adjudication decreased more for drug offense cases than for other general offense categories between 1985 and 2013: from 70% to 56% for white juveniles and from 65% to 47% for black juveniles.
- Cases involving American Indian juveniles were more likely to result in a delinquency adjudication than cases involving white, black, or Asian juveniles.

Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

- The number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement decreased 26% from 1985 to its lowest level in 2013. During this period, the number of cases involving the use of out-of-home placement increased 18% for person offense cases, 9% for public order offense cases, and 2% for drug offense cases, but decreased 56% for property offense cases.

- The number of cases involving out-of-home placement peaked in 1997 at 167,300 cases and then decreased 53% by 2013. Between 1997 and 2013, the number of cases resulting in out-of-home placement decreased 63% for both property offense cases and drug offense cases, 44% for person offense cases, and 40% for public order offense cases.

- Public order offense cases include escapes from institutions, weapons offenses, and probation and parole violations. This may help to explain the relatively high number of public order offense cases involving out-of-home placement.

Offense profile of cases adjudicated delinquent, resulting in out-of-home placement:

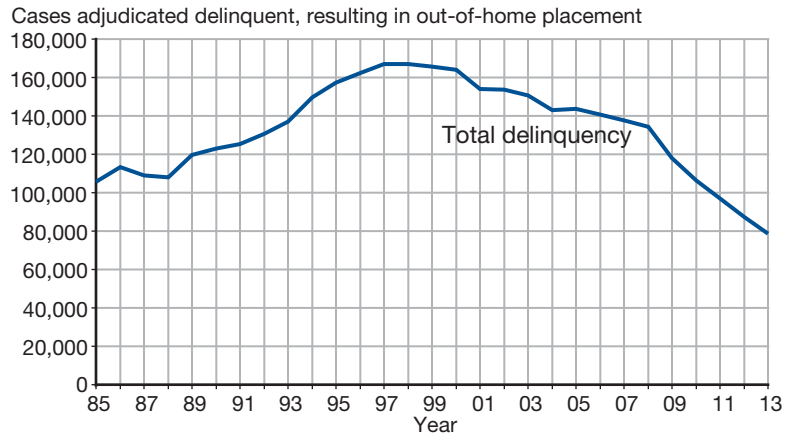
Most serious offense	2004	2013
Person	26%	29%
Property	34	33
Drugs	9	8
Public order	31	31
Total	100%	100%

Cases resulting in out-of-home placement	2004	2013
	143,300	78,700

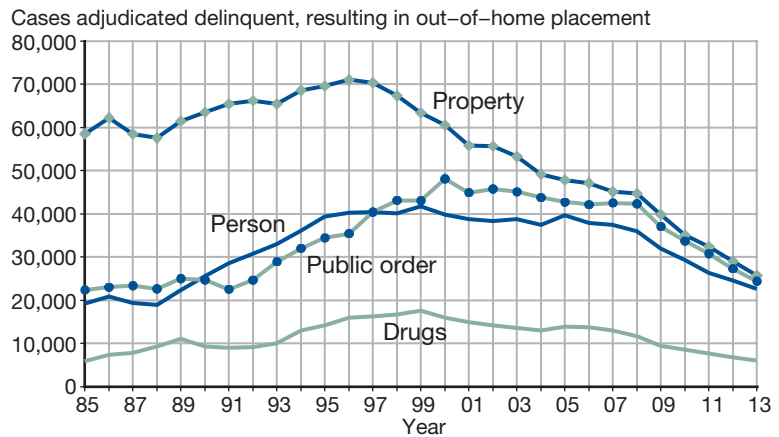
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- Property offense cases are the largest share of cases adjudicated delinquent that result in out-of-home placement, although the proportion declined slightly between 2004 and 2013.

The number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement increased 58% between 1985 and 1997 and then decreased 53% through 2013

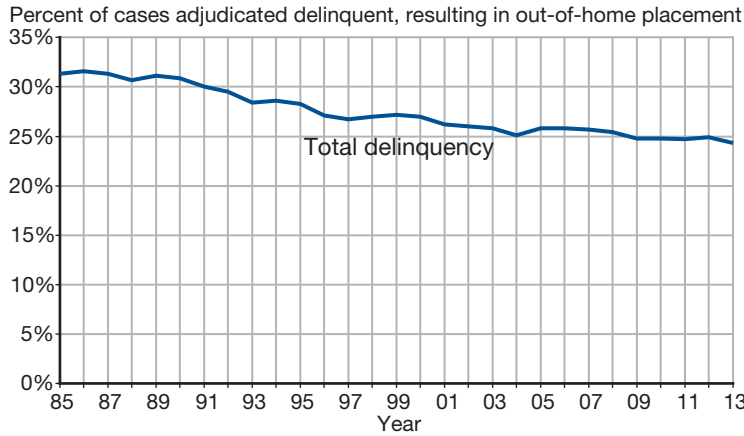


The number of property offense cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement decreased 63% between 1997 and 2013

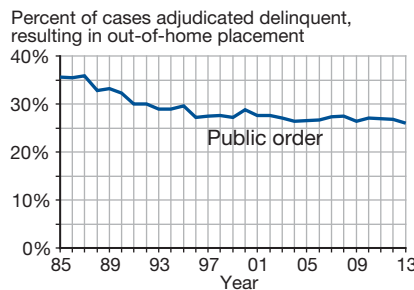
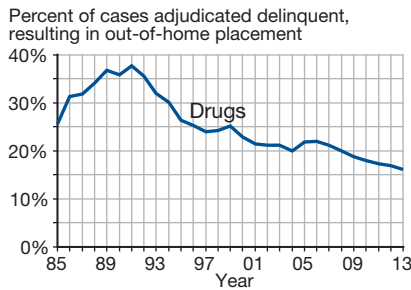
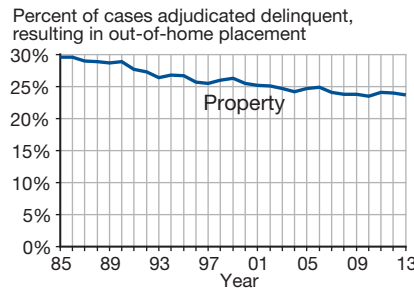
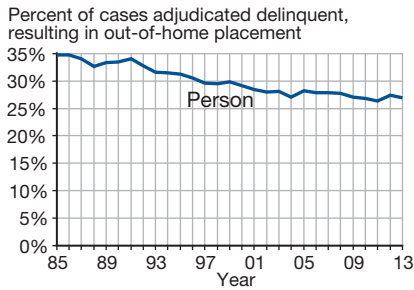


Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

The court ordered out-of-home placement in 24% of all cases adjudicated delinquent in 2013, down from 31% in 1985



- The likelihood that an adjudicated case would result in out-of-home placement decreased between 1985 and 2013 for each of the four major offense groups. The decline was smallest for property offenses (6 percentage points) and ranged between 8 and 10 percentage points for all other offenses.
- Between 1985 and 2013, the trend in the likelihood of out-of-home placement for drug offense cases differed from the trends of the other general offense categories. The proportion of adjudicated drug offense cases that resulted in out-of-home placement increased from 26% in 1985 to 38% in 1991 before decreasing through 2013. In contrast, the proportion of person, property, and public order offense cases adjudicated delinquent resulting in out-of-home placement declined between 1985 and the mid-2000s, then remained relatively constant between 2004 and 2013.



Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

Age

- In each year from 1996 through 2013, cases involving juveniles age 16 or older adjudicated delinquent were more likely to result in out-of-home placement than were cases involving youth age 15 or younger, regardless of offense.
- Between 1985 and 2013, the use of out-of-home placement declined for both younger youth and older youth across all four general offense categories. The declines for younger youth were greater than those for older youth.

Gender

- For males in 2013, person and public order offense cases adjudicated delinquent were most likely to result in out-of-home placement (29% and 28%, respectively), followed by property cases (25%), and cases involving drug offenses (17%).
- For females in 2013, adjudicated public order offense cases were most likely to result in out-of-home placement (21%), followed by person cases (20%), property cases (17%), and drug offense cases (14%).

Race

- After adjudication, the likelihood of out-of-home placement in 2013 was greater for black youth (27%) than for American Indian (24%), white (23%), or Asian youth (18%).
- For person, property, and public order offense cases, the proportion of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement was smaller in 2013 than in 1985 for all races.
- In each year between 2005 and 2013, adjudicated property, drug, and public order offense cases involving black juveniles were more likely to result in out-of-home placement than were the same case types involving juveniles of any other races.

Between 1985 and 2013, the likelihood of out-of-home placement declined more for younger youth than older youth

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated delinquent, resulting in out-of-home placement			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2013				
Delinquency	21%	27%	26%	19%
Person	24	31	29	20
Property	21	27	25	17
Drugs	14	18	17	14
Public order	21	30	28	21
2004				
Delinquency	23%	27%	27%	19%
Person	25	31	29	21
Property	23	26	26	17
Drugs	17	22	21	14
Public order	24	29	28	22
1985				
Delinquency	32%	31%	32%	27%
Person	34	36	36	28
Property	30	30	31	23
Drugs	27	25	26	23
Public order	38	33	36	35

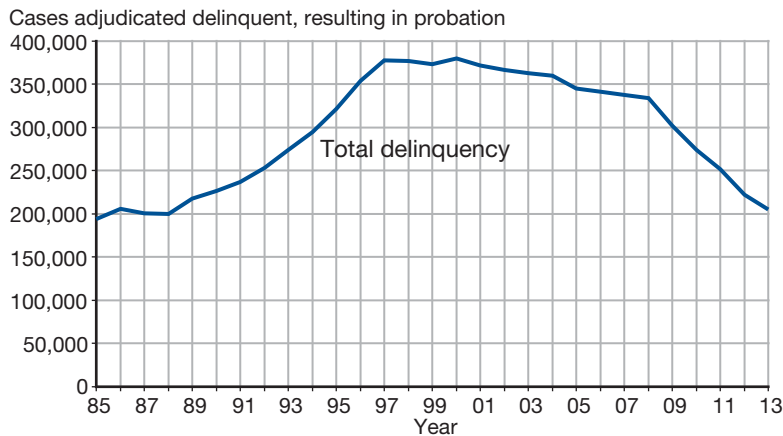
In 2013, adjudicated person offense cases involving American Indian youth were most likely to receive a disposition of out-of-home placement, across all offense and racial categories

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated delinquent, resulting in out-of-home placement			
	White	Black	American Indian	Asian
2013				
Delinquency	23%	27%	24%	18%
Person	25	29	31	20
Property	22	27	24	19
Drugs	15	21	18	NA
Public order	26	27	22	19
2004				
Delinquency	23%	29%	31%	22%
Person	26	29	34	26
Property	22	28	33	22
Drugs	16	30	21	15
Public order	26	28	30	23
1985				
Delinquency	30%	34%	41%	31%
Person	33	36	49	38
Property	29	31	39	27
Drugs	23	33	NA	NA
Public order	35	37	43	NA

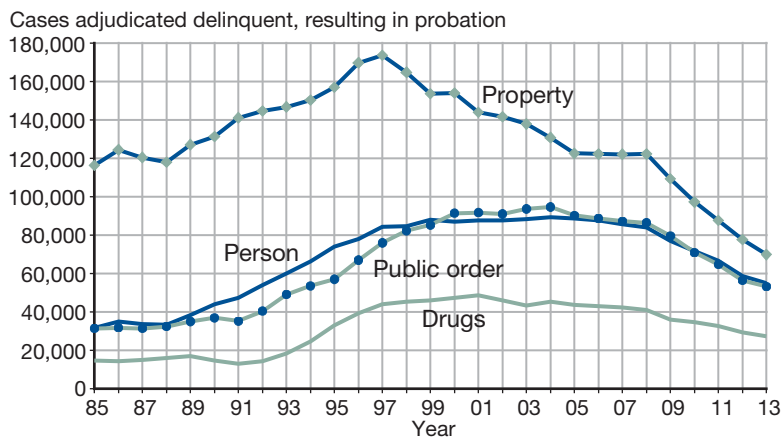
NA Data are not presented because the small number of cases produces unstable estimates.

Dispositions: Probation

After reaching a peak in 2000, the number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in probation declined 46% by 2013



The number of adjudicated property offense cases resulting in an order of probation fell 60% since the 1997 peak



- Between 1985 and 2013, the number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in an order of probation increased 6%, compared with a 26% decrease in the number of cases that resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Nearly all of the growth in the number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in probation took place between 1985 and 2000. During that period, the number of cases adjudicated and ordered to probation nearly doubled and then declined through 2013.
- Between 1985 and 2013, drug offense cases had the largest relative increase in the number of cases adjudicated delinquent that received probation (85%), followed by person offenses (74%) and public order offenses (69%). The number of property offense cases decreased 40% since 1985.
- Between 2000 and 2013, the number of adjudicated cases resulting in an order of probation decreased 55% for property offenses, 43% for drug offenses, 42% for public order offenses, and 37% for person offenses.
- Increases in the person and public order offense categories accounted for most of the growth in the number of adjudicated cases resulting in probation between 1985 and 2013.

Dispositions: Probation

- Probation was the most restrictive disposition used in 64% (205,300) of the cases adjudicated delinquent in 2013, compared with 57% (194,000) of the adjudicated caseload in 1985.
- Between 1985 and 2013, the likelihood of probation for cases adjudicated delinquent was relatively stable for person, property, and public order offense cases, varying from 7 to 11 percentage points, compared with a 19 percentage point range for drug offense cases.

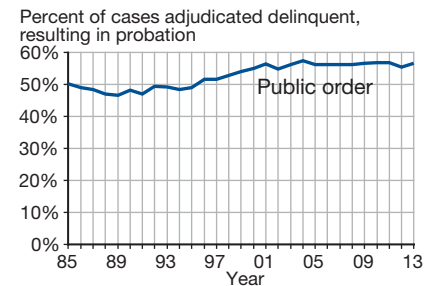
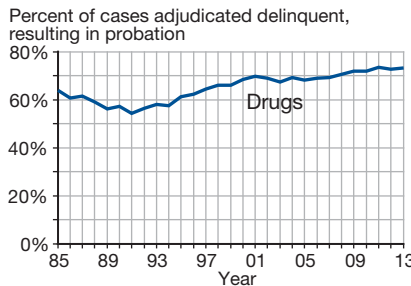
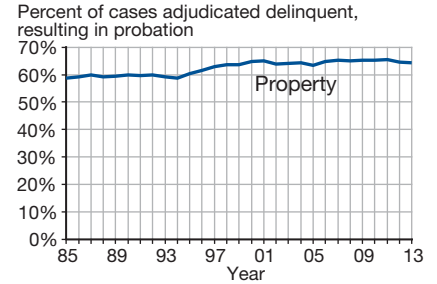
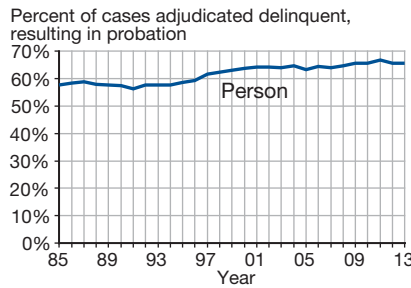
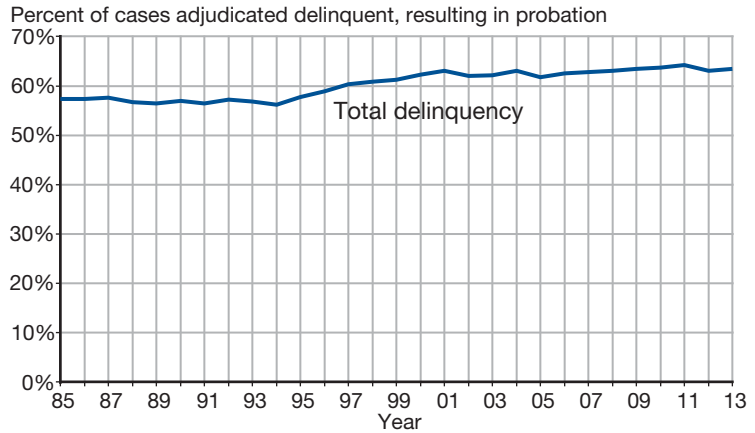
Offense profile of cases adjudicated delinquent, resulting in probation:

Most serious offense	2004	2013
Person	25%	27%
Property	36	34
Drugs	13	13
Public order	26	26
Total	100%	100%
Cases resulting in formal probation	359,900	205,300

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In 2013, 34% of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in probation involved property offenses, while person cases and public order cases each accounted for approximately one quarter of these cases (27% and 26%, respectively).
- The offense characteristics of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in probation changed little between 2004 and 2013, with a slight increase in the proportion of cases involving person offenses, no change in the proportion of cases involving drug or public order offenses, and a slight decrease in the proportion of cases involving property offenses.

Probation remains the most likely sanction imposed by juvenile courts



Dispositions: Probation

Cases involving youth age 15 or younger were generally more likely than cases involving older youth to be placed on formal probation following a delinquency adjudication

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated delinquent, resulting in probation			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2013				
Delinquency	67%	60%	63%	67%
Person	69	62	63	72
Property	67	61	64	67
Drugs	76	71	73	75
Public order	60	54	56	58
2004				
Delinquency	65%	60%	62%	66%
Person	67	60	63	69
Property	66	61	64	67
Drugs	73	67	68	75
Public order	60	55	56	60
1985				
Delinquency	59%	56%	57%	60%
Person	59	55	57	63
Property	60	57	58	63
Drugs	64	64	64	65
Public order	51	49	50	52

Since 1995, adjudicated cases involving white youth were more likely than cases involving black youth to be placed on probation

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated delinquent, resulting in probation			
	White	Black	American Indian	Asian
2013				
Delinquency	65%	61%	61%	74%
Person	67	64	60	75
Property	66	62	59	71
Drugs	74	69	72	NA
Public order	57	54	60	76
2004				
Delinquency	65%	60%	58%	69%
Person	66	63	59	68
Property	66	62	56	69
Drugs	72	61	72	73
Public order	59	55	54	68
1985				
Delinquency	57%	60%	40%	64%
Person	58	58	38	59
Property	58	62	41	67
Drugs	64	64	NA	NA
Public order	49	56	40	NA

NA Data are not presented because the small number of cases produces unstable estimates.

Age

- Among juveniles age 15 or younger, the overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation increased between 1985 and 2013 from 59% to 67%.
- Among youth age 16 or older, the overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation also increased between 1985 and 2013, from 56% to 60%.
- For both age groups in 2013, adjudicated cases involving drug offenses were more likely to result in probation than cases in other offense categories.

Gender

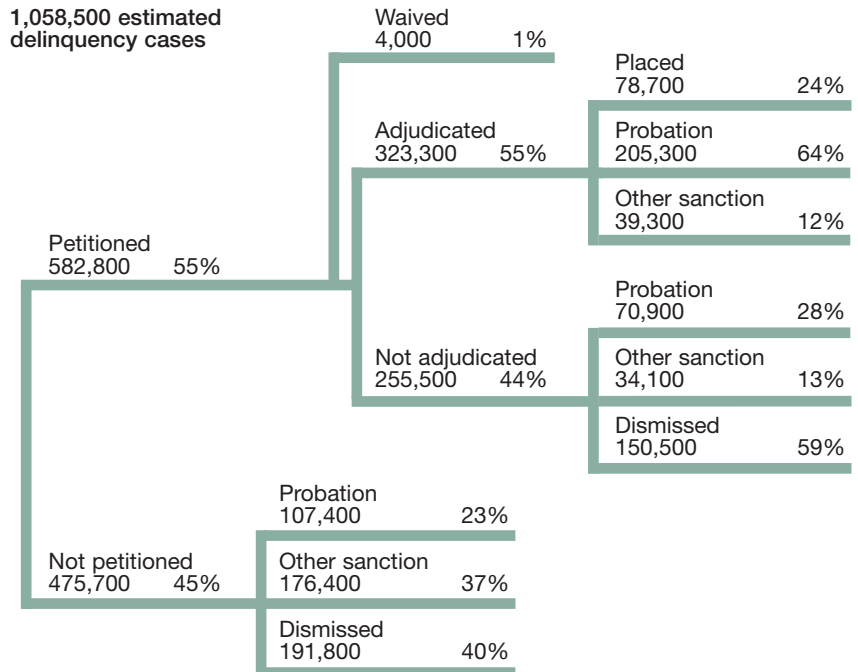
- The overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation increased for females between 1985 and 2013 (from 60% to 67%) and for males (from 57% to 63%).
- For females in 2013, drug offense cases adjudicated delinquent were most likely to be placed on probation (75%), followed by person (72%) and property offense cases (67%). Public order offense cases were least likely to result in formal probation (58%).

Race

- Between 1985 and 2013, the overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation increased for adjudicated cases involving American Indian youth (from 40% to 61%), white youth (from 57% to 65%), and Asian youth (from 64% to 74%). The increase for black youth was slight (from 60% to 61%).
- In 2013, among white youth, drug offense cases that were adjudicated delinquent were most likely to be placed on formal probation (74%), followed by adjudicated person and property offense cases (67% and 66%, respectively) and public order offense cases (57%).

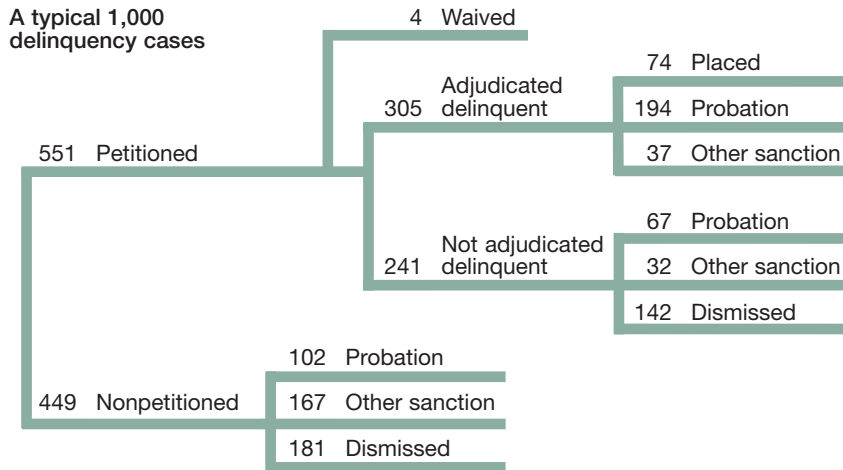
Case Processing Overview, 2013

- In 2013, 55% (582,200) of the estimated 1,058,500 juvenile court cases were handled formally (with the filing of a petition).
- In 2013, 1% (4,000) of all formally processed delinquency cases were judicially transferred to criminal court.
- In 2013, 55% (323,300) of the cases that were handled formally (with the filing of a petition) resulted in a delinquency adjudication.
- In 64% (205,300) of cases adjudicated delinquent in 2013, formal probation was the most severe sanction ordered by the court.
- In 2013, 24% (78,700) of cases adjudicated delinquent resulted in placement outside the home in a residential facility.
- In 12% (39,300) of cases adjudicated delinquent in 2013, the juvenile was ordered to pay restitution or a fine, to participate in some form of community service, or to enter a treatment or counseling program—dispositions with minimal continuing supervision by probation staff.
- In 44% (255,500) of all petitioned delinquency cases in 2013, the youth was not subsequently adjudicated delinquent. The court dismissed 59% of these cases, while 28% resulted in some form of informal probation and 13% in other voluntary dispositions.
- In 2013, the court dismissed 40% of the informally handled (i.e., nonpetitioned) delinquency cases, while 23% of the cases resulted in voluntary probation and 37% in other dispositions.



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing Overview, 2013



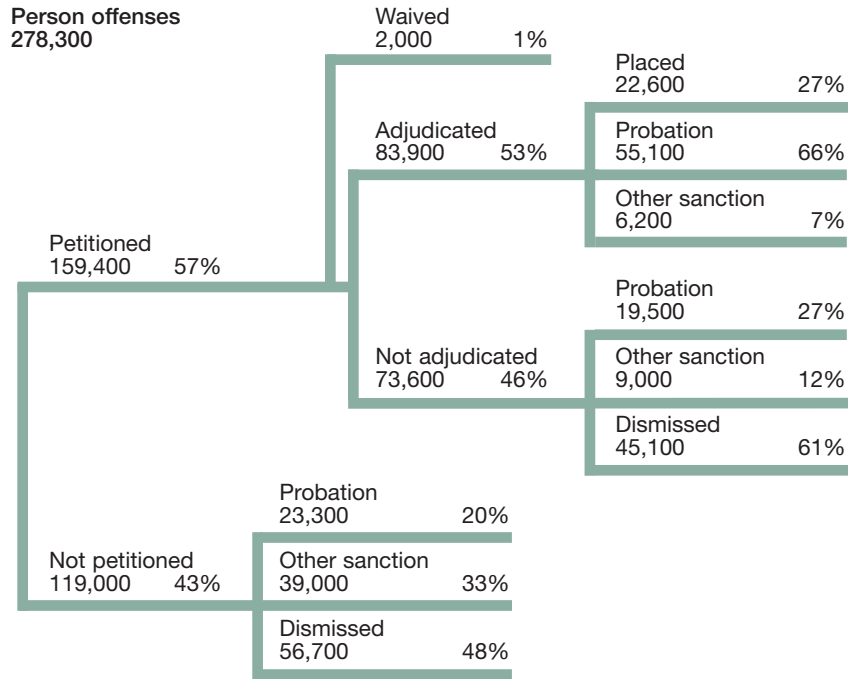
Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

- For every 1,000 delinquency cases processed in 2013, 551 were petitioned for formal processing and 449 were handled informally.
- Of the cases that were adjudicated delinquent, 64% (194 of 305) received a disposition of probation and 24% (74 of 305) were placed out of the home.
- In many petitioned delinquency cases that did not result in a delinquency adjudication, the youth agreed to informal services or sanctions (99 of 241), including informal probation and other dispositions such as restitution.
- Although juvenile courts in 2013 handled more than 4 in 10 delinquency cases without the filing of a formal petition, 60% of these cases received some form of court sanction, including probation or other dispositions such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency.

Case Processing by Offense Category, 2013

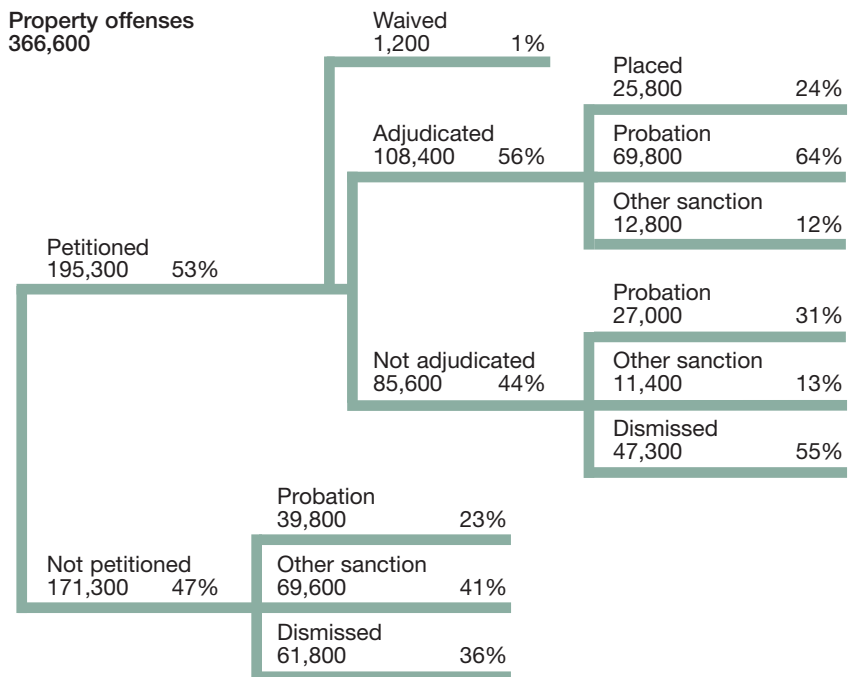
Person Offense Cases

- In 2013, 53% (83,900) of all formally processed person offense cases resulted in a delinquency adjudication.
- Formal probation was the most severe sanction ordered by the court in 66% (55,100) of the adjudicated person offense cases in 2013.
- Once adjudicated, person offense cases were about as likely as public order offense cases to result in out-of-home placement (27% and 26%, respectively) and more likely than property offenses cases (24%) and drug offense cases (16%).
- In 2013, 20% of person offense cases that were handled informally resulted in probation; 48% were dismissed.
- Juvenile courts waived jurisdiction in 1% (2,000) of all petitioned person offense cases in 2013.



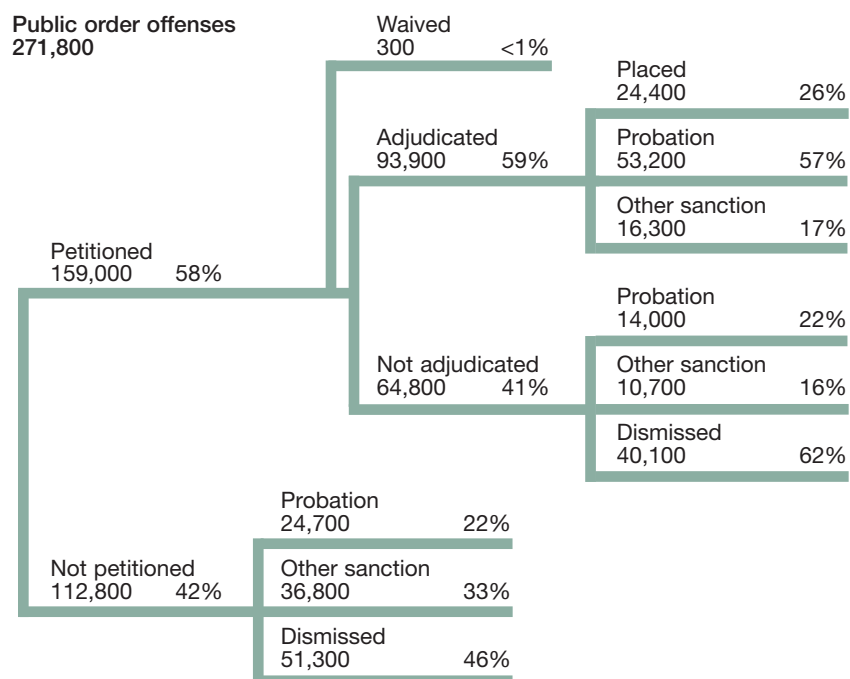
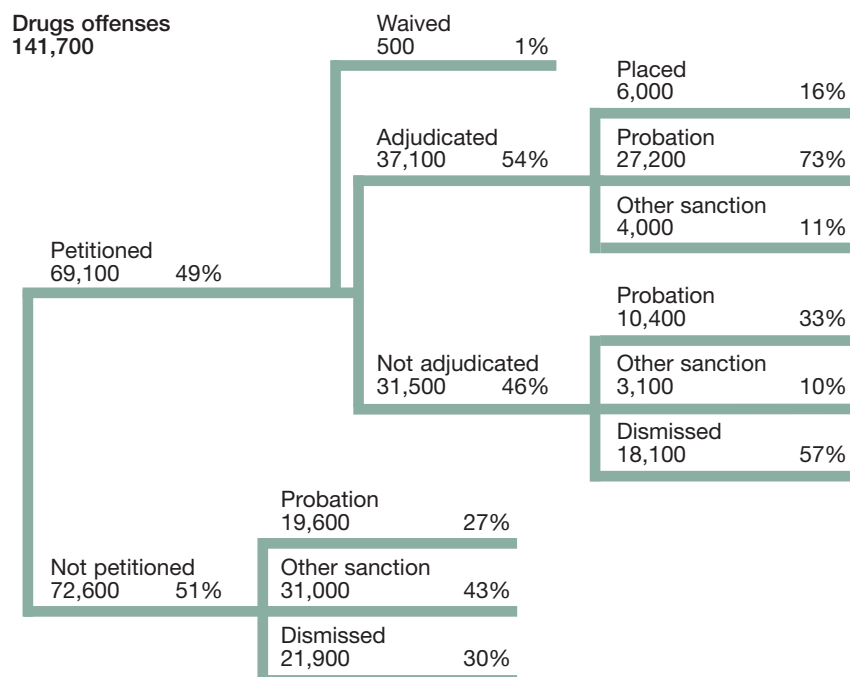
Property Offense Cases

- Juvenile courts handled more than half (53%) of all property offense cases formally in 2013. Of these formally handled cases, 56% (108,400 cases) were adjudicated delinquent.
- In 2013, 69,800 (64%) of the adjudicated property offense cases resulted in probation as the most severe sanction; another 24% (25,800) resulted in out-of-home placement. Other sanctions, such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency, were ordered in 12% (12,800) of the petitioned property offense cases following adjudication.
- Property offense cases were less likely than person offense cases to be petitioned for formal processing. Once petitioned, however, property offense cases were more likely to result in the youth being adjudicated delinquent than were cases involving person offenses.



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by Offense Category, 2013



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Drug Offense Cases

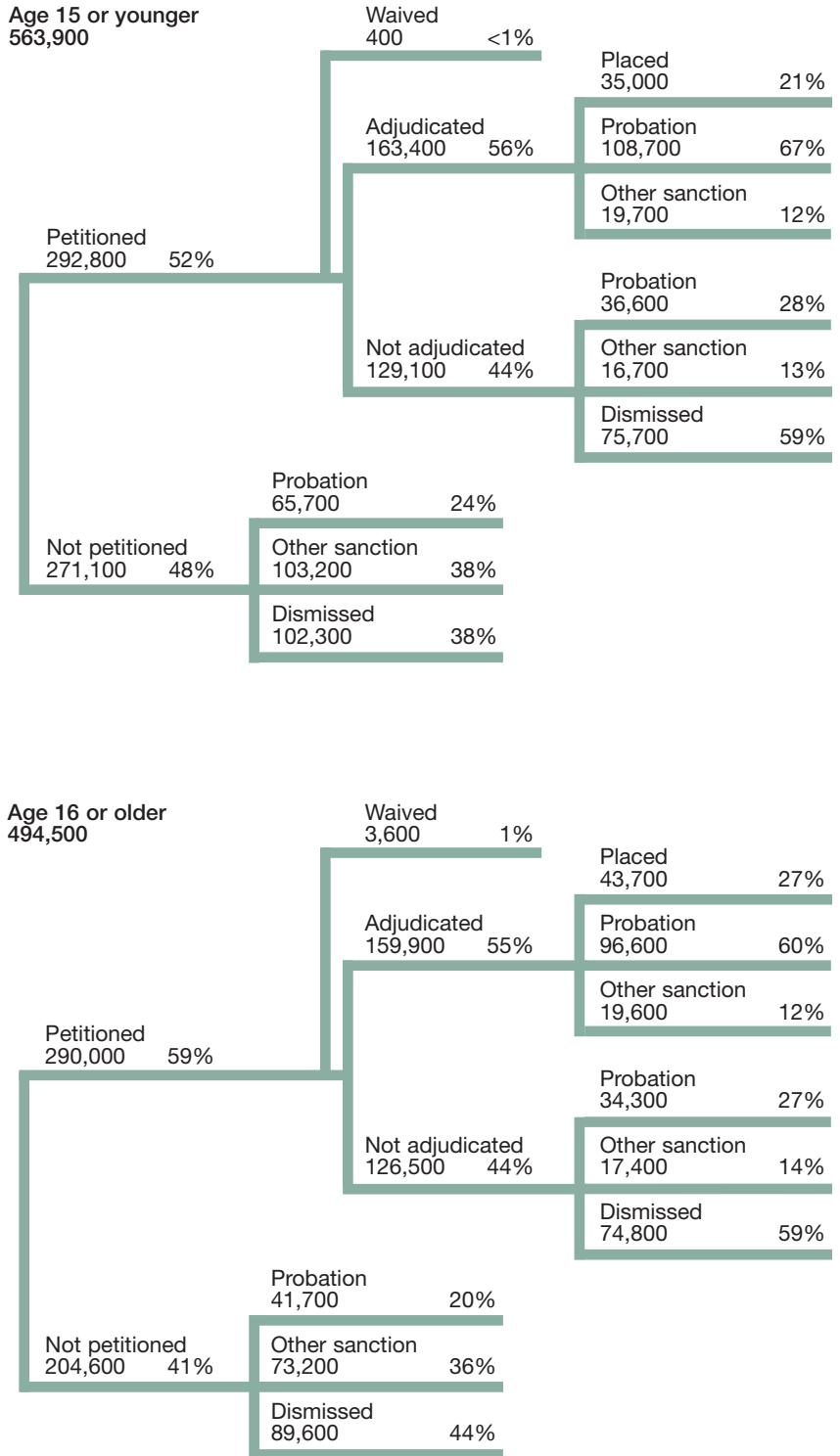
- In 2013, 54% (37,100) of all petitioned drug offense cases resulted in the youth being adjudicated delinquent; 73% (27,200) of these cases received probation as the most severe sanction, and another 16% (6,000) resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Other sanctions, such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency, were ordered in 11% (4,000) of petitioned drug offense cases following adjudication in 2013.
- Juvenile courts waived jurisdiction in 1% (500) of all petitioned drug offense cases in 2013.
- More than half (51%) of drug offense cases were informally handled in 2013; 70% of the informally handled drug offense cases resulted in probation or some other sanction.

Public Order Offense Cases

- In 2013, the majority (58%) of all public order offense cases were handled formally, with the filing of a petition for adjudication.
- Once adjudicated delinquent, 57% of public order offense cases in 2013 resulted in probation as the most severe sanction, 26% were placed out of the home, and 17% resulted in other sanctions.
- In 2013, 42% of all public order offense cases were handled informally. Of the informal cases, 46% were dismissed, while the remaining cases resulted in some form of court sanction, including probation, restitution, community service, or referral to another agency.

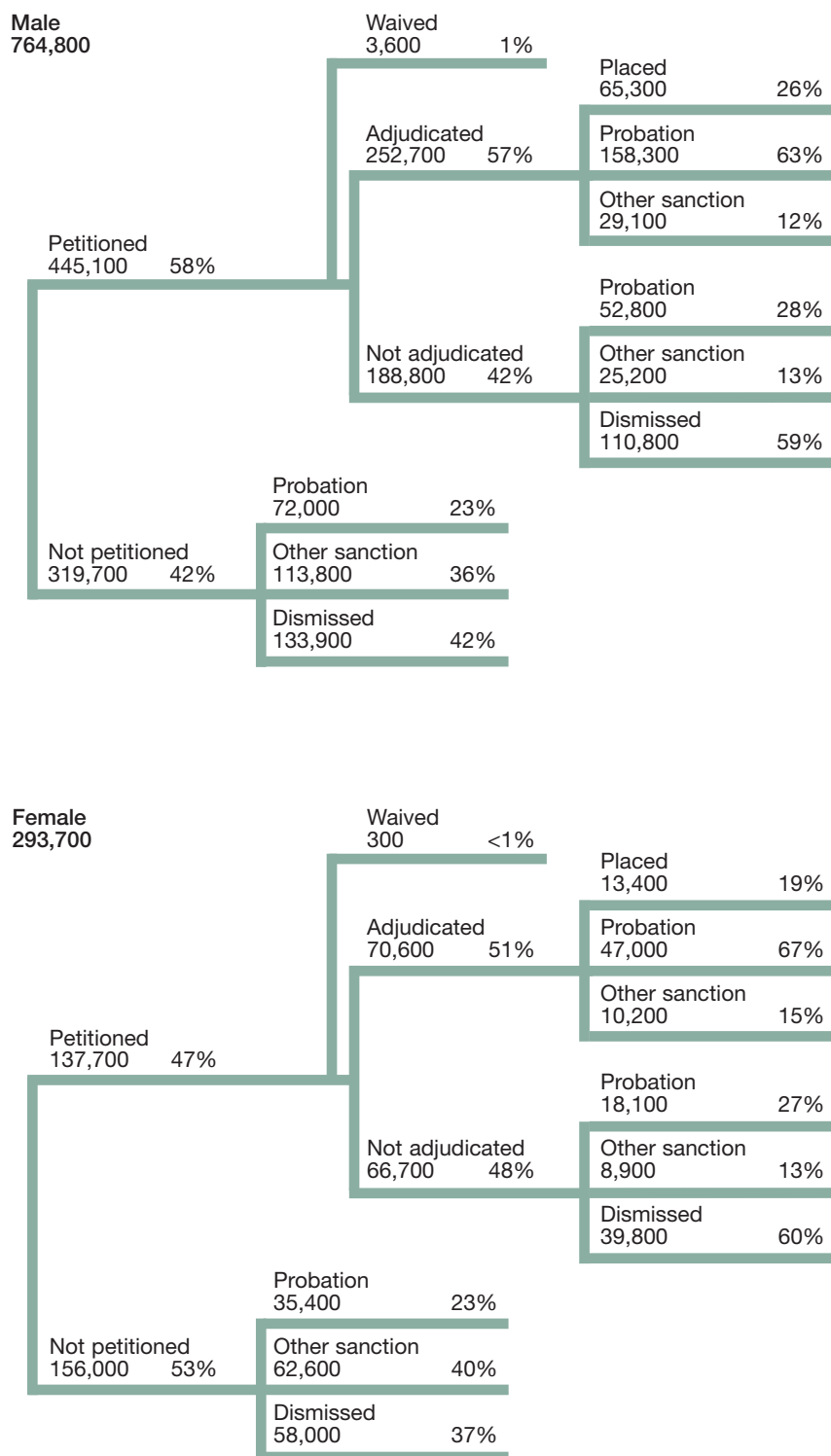
Case Processing by Age, 2013

- In 2013, 52% (292,800) of all delinquency cases involving youth age 15 or younger and 59% (290,000) of cases involving youth age 16 or older were handled formally with the filing of a petition.
- Cases involving youth age 15 or younger were adjudicated delinquent in 56% of all formally processed cases in 2013; cases involving youth age 16 or older were adjudicated delinquent in 55% of all such cases.
- The proportion of petitioned cases waived to criminal court in 2013 was less than 1% for youth age 15 or younger, compared with 1% for youth age 16 or older.
- In 2013, 21% of cases adjudicated delinquent involving youth age 15 or younger and 27% of such cases involving youth age 16 or older resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Probation was ordered as the most severe sanction in 2013 in 67% of the adjudicated cases involving youth age 15 or younger, compared with 60% of adjudicated cases involving youth 16 or older.
- Among cases formally adjudicated in 2013 involving both youth age 15 or younger and youth age 16 or older, 12% resulted in other sanctions.
- For youth age 15 or younger, 48% of all delinquency cases were handled informally in 2013; of these cases, 24% resulted in a disposition of probation and 38% were dismissed. Among older youth, 41% of all delinquency cases were handled without the filing of a petition for adjudication in 2013; 20% of these cases resulted in a disposition of probation and 44% were dismissed.



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by Gender, 2013

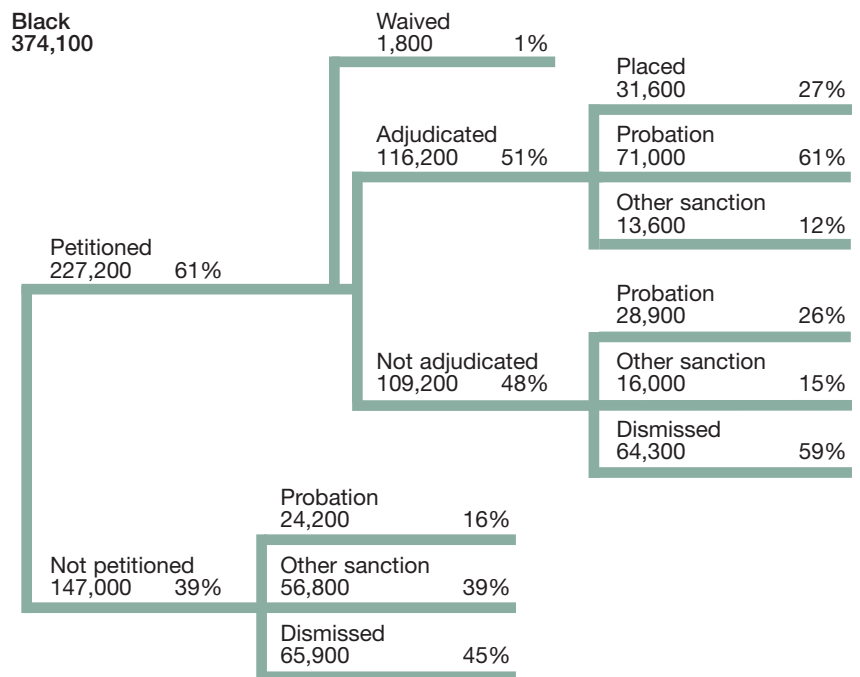
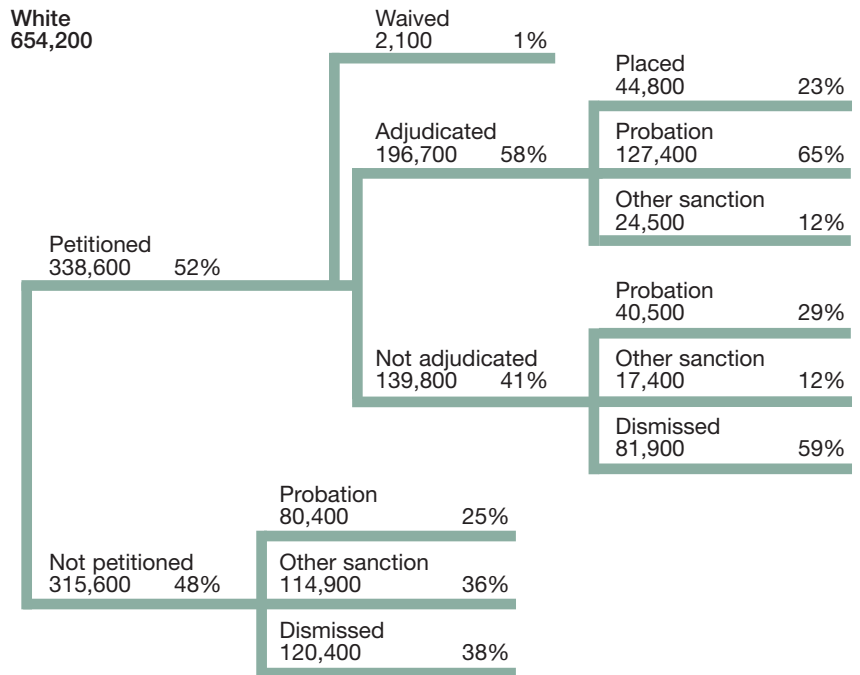


Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

- In 2013, 58% of delinquency cases involving males were handled with the filing of a petition for adjudication, compared with 47% of those involving females.
- Once petitioned, cases involving males in 2013 were more likely to result in a delinquency adjudication than were cases involving females (57% vs. 51%).
- Delinquency cases involving females in 2013 were less likely to be waived to criminal court than those involving males.
- Once adjudicated delinquent, 26% of cases involving males in 2013 resulted in out-of-home placement, compared with 19% of those involving females.
- Of the adjudicated cases involving males, 63% received probation as the most severe sanction, and 12% resulted in other sanctions such as restitution or community service.
- Among adjudicated cases involving females in 2013, 67% received probation as the most severe sanction and 15% resulted in other sanctions.
- Informally handled delinquency cases involving males were equally as likely as those involving females to receive probation in 2013 (23% each); male cases were more likely than female cases to be dismissed (42% vs. 37%).
- In 2013, informally handled delinquency cases involving females were more likely to result in other sanctions than those involving males (40% vs. 36%).

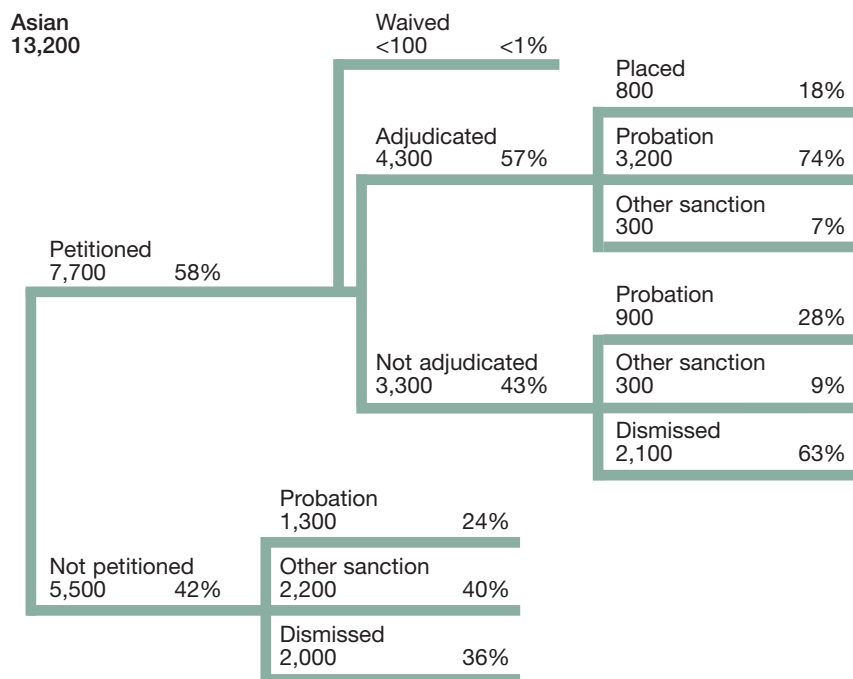
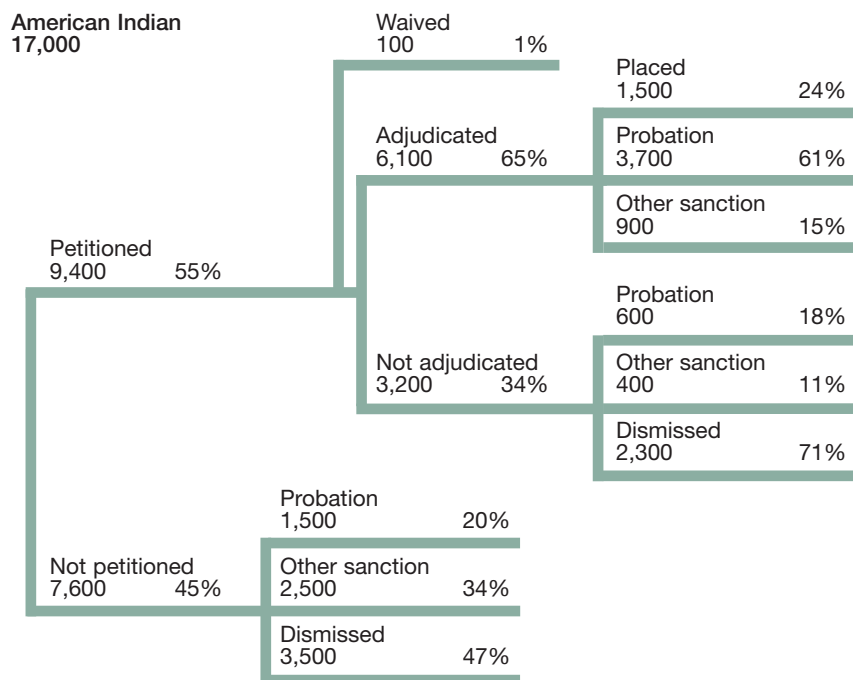
Case Processing by Race, 2013

- In 2013, delinquency cases involving white youth were less likely to be handled formally (52%) than those involving black youth (61%), American Indian youth (55%), or Asian youth (58%).
- Once petitioned, cases in 2013 involving black youth (51%), Asian youth (57%), and white youth (58%) were less likely to be adjudicated delinquent than were cases involving American Indian youth (65%).
- For all racial groups in 2013, about 1% or less of petitioned delinquency cases resulted in waiver to criminal court.
- In 2013, adjudicated delinquency cases involving black youth were more likely to result in out-of-home placement (27%) than cases involving all other races. White youth were slightly less likely than American Indian youth to be ordered to residential placement (23% and 24%, respectively). Asian youth were least likely to be ordered to residential placement (18%).
- For adjudicated cases involving black youth in 2013, probation was the most severe sanction ordered in 61% of the cases and 12% resulted in other sanctions.



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by Race, 2013



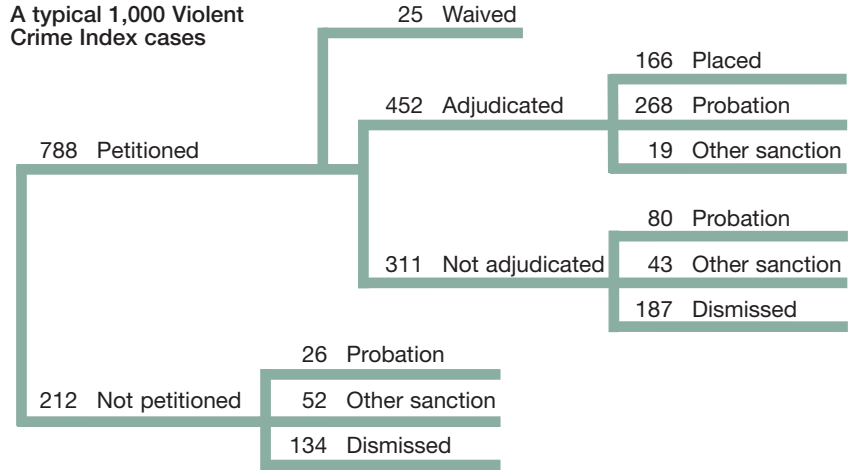
- For adjudicated cases involving American Indian youth in 2013, probation was the most severe sanction ordered in 61% of the cases and 15% resulted in other sanctions.
- In 74% of the adjudicated cases involving Asian youth in 2013, probation was the most severe sanction; 7% resulted in other sanctions such as restitution or community service.
- In 2013, 48% of delinquency cases involving white youth were handled informally, compared with 39% of cases involving black youth, 45% of cases involving American Indian youth, and 42% of cases involving Asian juveniles.
- Informally handled delinquency cases involving black youth and American Indian youth in 2013 were more likely to be dismissed (45% and 47%, respectively) than those involving white youth or Asian youth (38% and 36%, respectively).
- In 2013, informally handled delinquency cases involving Asian youth were most likely to result in other sanctions such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency (40%), followed by cases involving black youth (39%), white youth (36%), and American Indian youth (34%).

Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by FBI Offense Category, 2013

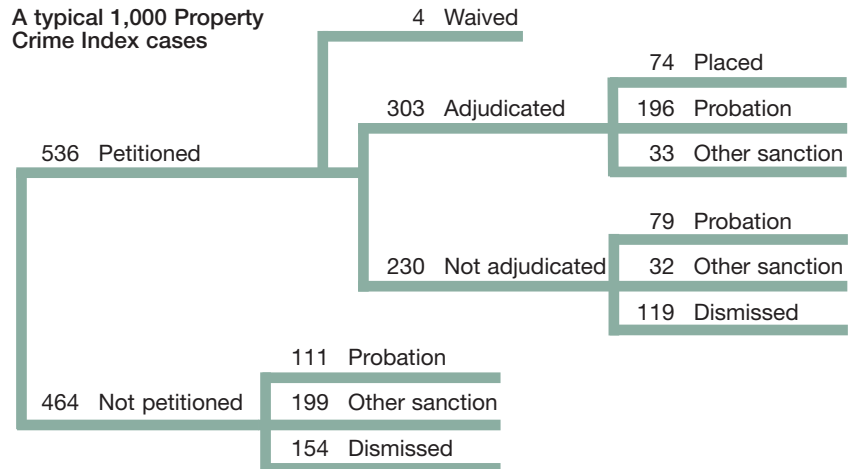
Violent Crime Index Cases

- In 2013, juvenile courts waived 25 of every 1,000 Violent Crime Index offense cases to criminal court.
- Juvenile courts ordered formal sanctions or waived jurisdiction in less than half (478 of 1,000) of Violent Crime Index offense cases handled in 2013.
- Cases involving juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Violent Crime Index offenses in 2013 were more likely to result in out-of-home placement (166 of 1,000) than were Property Crime Index offense cases (74 of 1,000).
- Cases that are not petitioned and cases in which juveniles are not adjudicated delinquent may result in informal sanctions. Thus, juvenile courts imposed some sort of sanction—formal or informal—in 68% (679 of every 1,000) of Violent Crime Index offense cases handled in 2013.



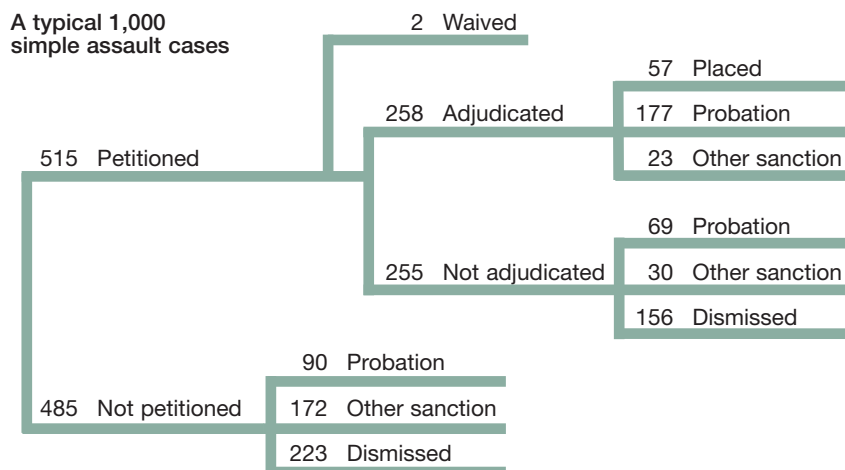
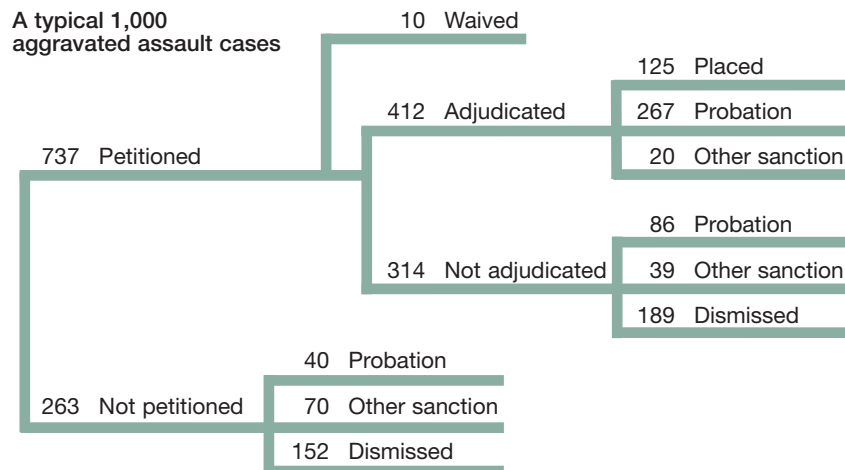
Property Crime Index Cases

- Juveniles received informal sanctions in 42% (420 of every 1,000) of Property Crime Index offense cases processed in 2013.
- Juvenile courts waived 4 of every 1,000 Property Crime Index offense cases to criminal court in 2013.
- Cases involving juveniles adjudicated delinquent for Property Crime Index offenses were more likely to result in probation (196 out of 303) than were Violent Crime Index offense cases (268 out of 452).
- More than 25% of all Property Crime Index offenses referred to juvenile courts in 2013 were ultimately dismissed (274 of 1,000)—22% of the petitioned cases and 33% of those not petitioned.



Notes: The Violent Crime Index includes criminal homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The Property Crime Index includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by Selected Individual Offense, 2013



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Aggravated Assault Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 10 of every 1,000 aggravated assault cases to criminal court in 2013, compared with 2 of every 1,000 simple assault cases.
- In 2013, 42% of aggravated assault cases received some formal sanction or were waived to criminal court (423 of 1,000).
- In 2013, 13% of aggravated assault cases received a formal sanction of out-of-home placement (125 of 1,000) and 27% were placed on formal probation (267 of 1,000).
- Of all aggravated assault cases referred to juvenile courts in 2013, 34% were eventually released or dismissed (341 of 1,000)—26% of the petitioned cases and 58% of those that were informally handled.

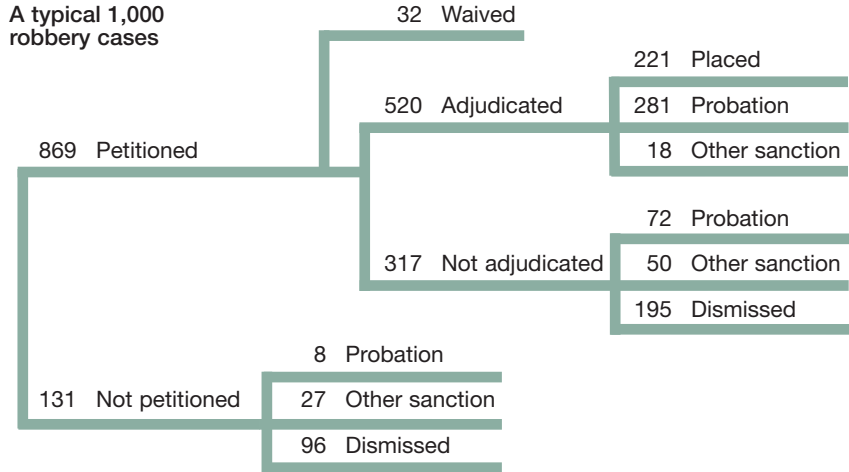
Simple Assault Cases

- Juveniles received informal sanctions in 36% of simple assault cases processed in 2013 (362 of 1,000).
- Of every 1,000 simple assault cases handled in 2013, 260 received some formal sanction or were waived to criminal court.
- In 2013, 6% of simple assault cases resulted in the juvenile receiving a formal sanction of out-of-home placement (57 of 1,000) and 18% were placed on formal probation (177 of 1,000).
- Of all simple assault cases referred to juvenile courts in 2013, 38% were eventually dismissed (379 of 1,000)—30% of the petitioned cases and 46% of those that were informally handled.

Case Processing by Selected Individual Offense, 2013

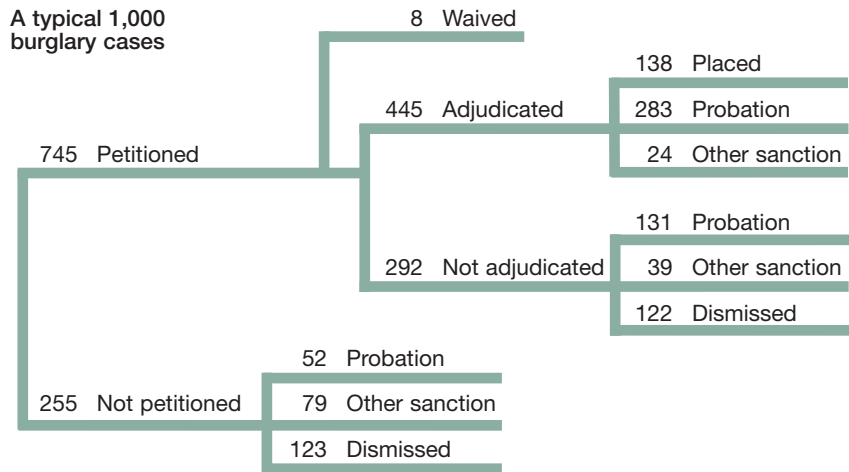
Robbery Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 32 of every 1,000 robbery cases to criminal court in 2013.
- In 2013, juvenile courts ordered formal sanctions or waived jurisdiction in 55% of all robbery cases (552 of 1,000).
- In 2013, 22% of robbery cases received a formal sanction of out-of-home placement (221 of 1,000) and 28% resulted in formal probation (281 of 1,000).
- Of all robbery cases referred to juvenile court in 2013, 13% were not petitioned; the majority (73%) of these cases were dismissed.



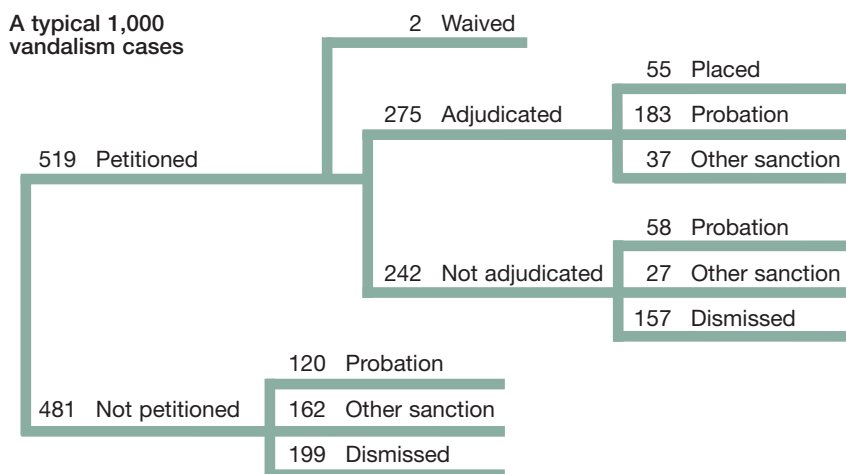
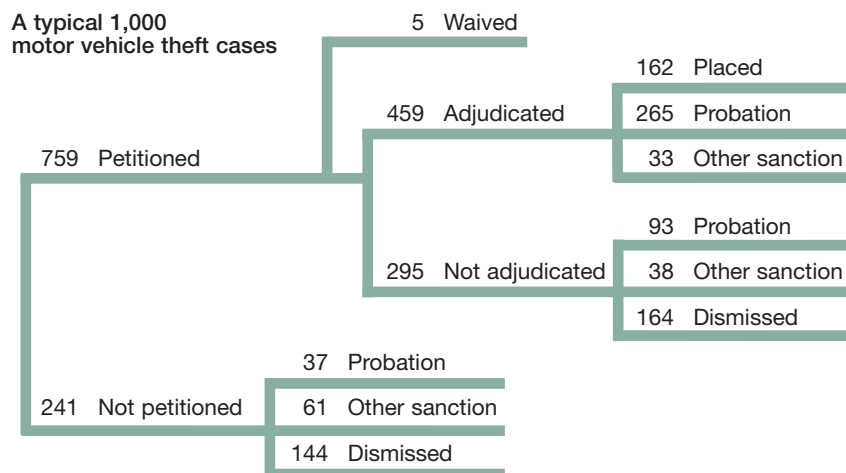
Burglary Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 8 of every 1,000 burglary cases to criminal court in 2013.
- In 2013, 60% (445 of 745) of all petitioned burglary cases resulted in the youth being adjudicated delinquent.
- Juvenile courts ordered formal sanctions or waived jurisdiction in 61% of all formally handled burglary cases in 2013 (453 of 745).
- In 2013, 138 of 1,000 burglary cases received a formal sanction of out-of-home placement and 283 of 1,000 resulted in formal probation.
- One-quarter (26%) of all burglary cases referred to juvenile courts in 2013 were handled informally and nearly half of these cases (123 of 255) were dismissed.



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by Selected Individual Offense, 2013



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 1985 through 2013 are available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Motor Vehicle Theft Cases

- Juvenile courts waived less than 1% of motor vehicle theft cases to criminal court in 2013 (5 of every 1,000).
- In 2013, nearly half (46%) of motor vehicle theft cases referred to juvenile courts resulted in formal court sanctions or waiver to criminal court.
- About 35% of motor vehicle cases adjudicated delinquent in 2013 resulted in out-of-home placement (162 of 459).
- Nearly one-quarter of motor vehicle theft cases referred to juvenile courts in 2013 were handled without the filing of a petition (241 of 1,000).

Vandalism Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 2 of every 1,000 vandalism cases to criminal court in 2013.
- More than half of vandalism cases referred to juvenile courts in 2013 were handled formally (519 of 1,000). Of these cases, 53% were adjudicated delinquent (275 of 519).
- In 2013, 67% of petitioned vandalism cases adjudicated delinquent resulted in a court sanction of probation (183 of 275), and 20% resulted in out-of-home placement (55 of 275).
- Juvenile courts handled 481 of every 1,000 vandalism cases informally (without a petition) in 2013. Youth received informal sanctions in 59% of these nonpetitioned cases.

Chapter 4

National Estimates of Petitioned Status Offense Cases

Status offenses are acts that are illegal only because the persons committing them are of juvenile status. The five major status offense categories used in this Report are running away, truancy, curfew law violations, ungovernability (also known as incorrigibility or being beyond the control of one's parents), and underage liquor law violations (e.g., a minor in possession of alcohol, underage drinking). A number of other behaviors, such as those involving tobacco offenses, may be considered status offenses. However, because of the heterogeneity of these miscellaneous offenses, they are not discussed independently in this Report but are included in discussions and displays of petitioned status offense totals.

Agencies other than juvenile courts are responsible for processing status offense cases in many jurisdictions. In some communities, for example, family crisis units, county attorneys, and social service agencies have assumed this responsibility. When a juvenile charged with a status offense is referred to juvenile court, the court may divert the juvenile away from the formal justice system to other agencies for service or may decide

to process the juvenile formally with the filing of a petition. The analyses in this Report are limited to petitioned cases.

Juvenile courts may adjudicate petitioned status offense cases and may order sanctions such as probation or out-of-home placement. While their cases are being processed, juveniles charged with status offenses are sometimes held in secure detention. (Note that the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act discourages secure detention of status offenders. States holding large numbers of status offenders in secure detention risk losing a significant portion of their juvenile justice block grant awards.)

This chapter presents national estimates of petitioned status offense cases disposed in 2013 and examines trends since 1995, including demographic characteristics of the juveniles involved, types of offenses charged, and the flow of cases as they moved through juvenile court processing. (See chapter 3 for a description of the stages of court processing.)

Counts and Trends

- In 2013, U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction petitioned and formally disposed an estimated 109,000 status offense cases.
- The number of petitioned status offense cases processed by juvenile courts decreased 13% between 1995 and 2013.
- The number of petitioned runaway cases processed by juvenile courts decreased 59% between 1995 and 2013 (from 20,700 to 8,400).
- The number of petitioned truancy cases processed by juvenile courts more than doubled between 1995 and 2003 (from 34,900 to 74,600) and then declined 25% through 2013.
- Between 1995 and 2000, the number of petitioned curfew cases increased 49% (from 13,800 to 20,500) and then declined 54% through 2013 (9,400).
- The number of petitioned ungovernability cases in 2013 (10,300) was 38% below the 1995 level (16,600).
- The number of petitioned liquor law violation cases decreased 43% between 1995 and 2013 (from 29,600 to 16,900).

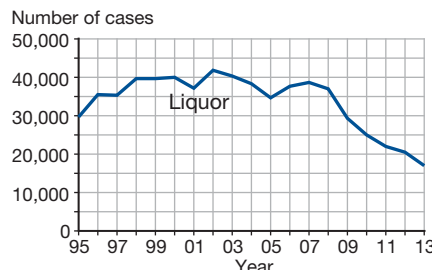
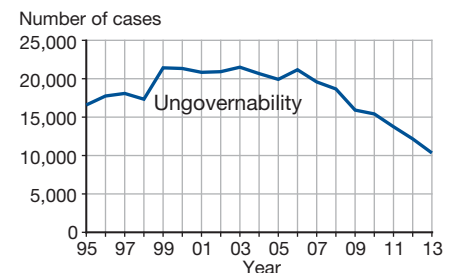
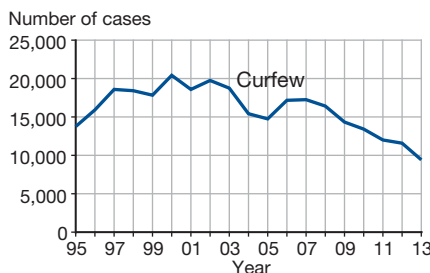
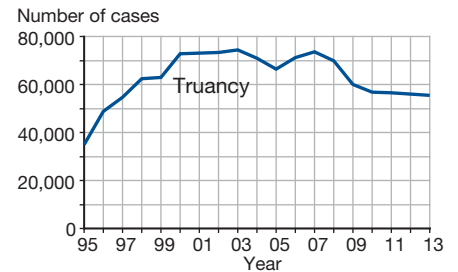
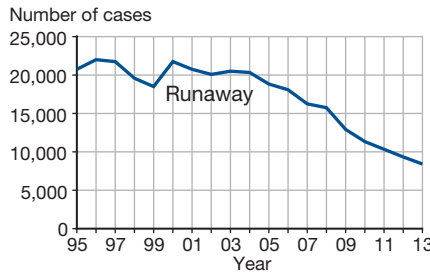
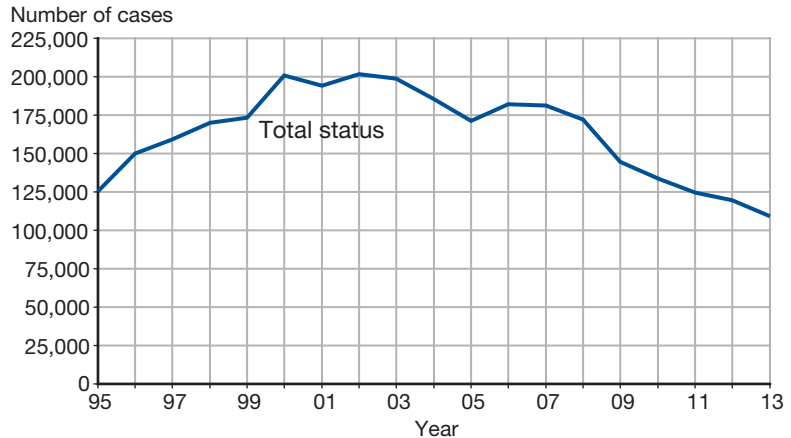
Offense profile of petitioned status offense cases:

Most serious offense	2004	2013
Runaway	11%	8%
Truancy	38	51
Curfew	8	9
Ungovernability	11	9
Liquor	21	15
Miscellaneous	11	8
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	185,400	109,000

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

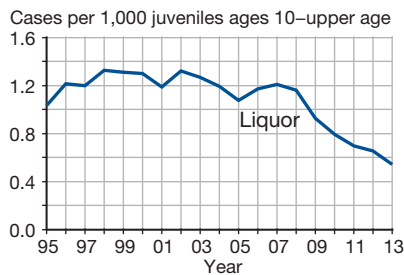
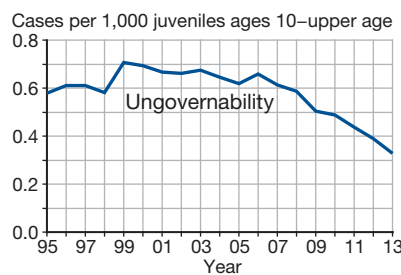
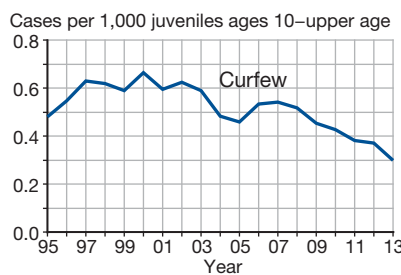
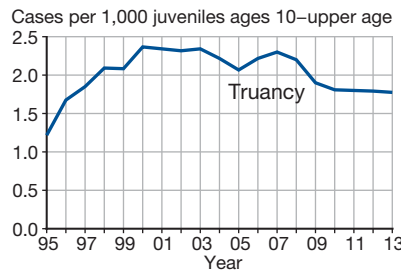
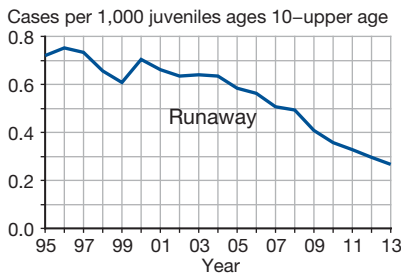
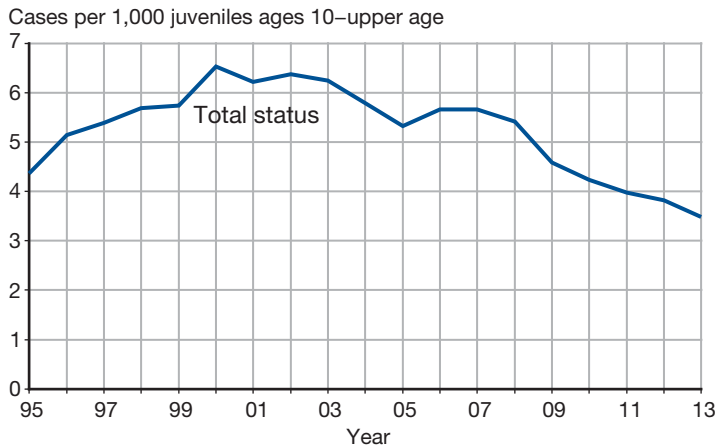
- Compared with 2004, a larger proportion of the court's petitioned status offense caseload in 2013 involved truancy and curfew cases.

Between 1995 and 2002, the formally handled status offense caseload increased considerably (61%) and then declined 46% through 2013



Case Rates

Petitioned status offense case rates decreased from 4.4 to 3.5 per 1,000 juveniles between 1995 and 2013



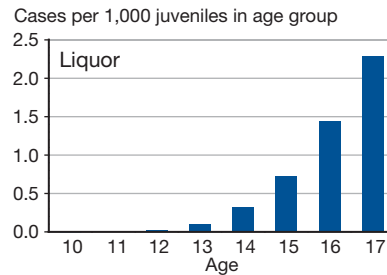
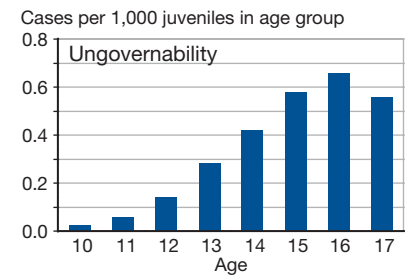
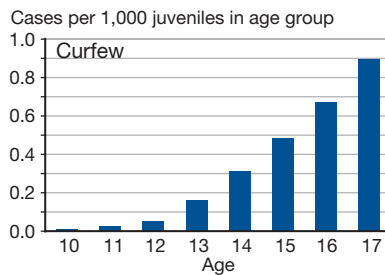
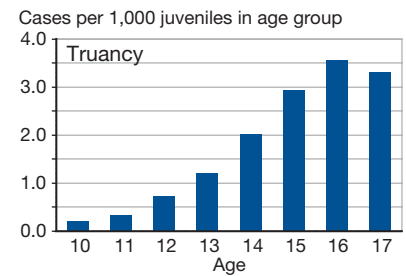
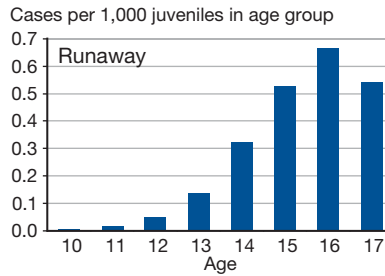
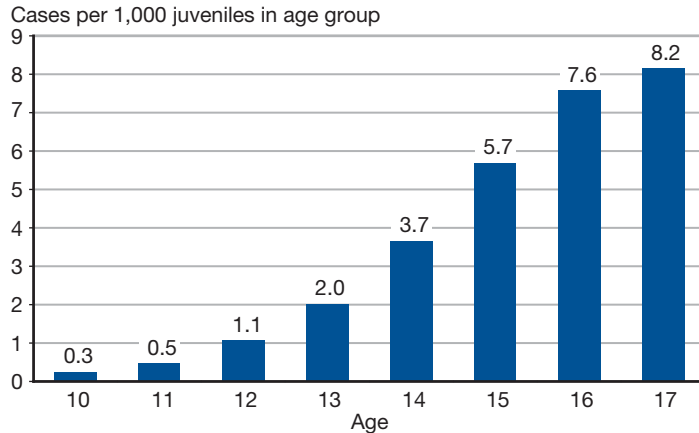
- In 2013, juvenile courts formally processed 3.5 status offense cases for every 1,000 juveniles in the population—those age 10 or older who were under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.
- The total petitioned status offense case rate decreased 20% between 1995 and 2013.¹
- Between 1995 and 2013, the petitioned runaway case rate decreased 63%.
- The petitioned truancy case rate increased steadily (95%) between 1995 and 2000, and then declined 25% through 2013.
- Between 1995 and 2000, the petitioned curfew violation case rate increased 39% and then decreased 55% by 2013.
- After reaching a peak in 1999, the petitioned ungovernability case rate declined 53% by 2013.
- The petitioned liquor law violation case rate decreased 48% between 1995 and 2013.

¹ The percent change in the number of cases disposed may not be equal to the percent change in case rates because of the changing size of the juvenile population.

Age at Referral

- In 2013, the petitioned status offense case rate for 16-year-olds was twice the rate for 14-year-olds, and the rate for 14-year-olds was more than 3 times the rate for 12-year-olds.
- The largest increase in case rates between age 13 and age 17 was for liquor law violations. The case rate for 17-year-old juveniles (2.3) was nearly 24 times the rate for 13-year-olds (0.1).
- Curfew and liquor law violation rates increased continuously with the age of the juvenile. In contrast, rates for petitioned cases involving runaway, truancy, and ungovernability were higher for 16-year-old juveniles than for 17-year-olds.

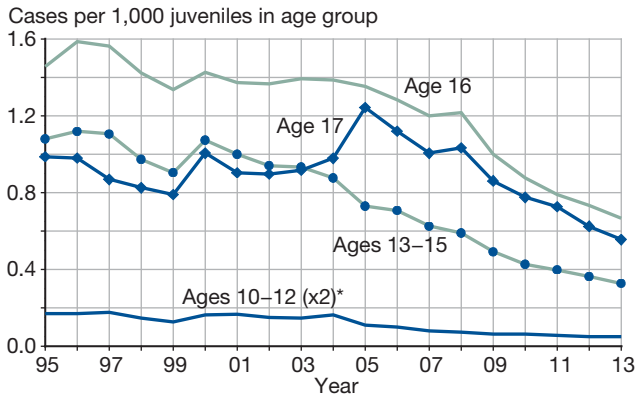
In 2013, status offense case rates increased with the age of the juvenile



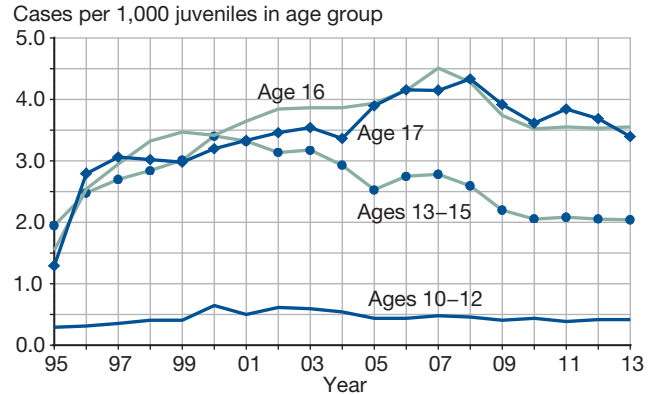
Age at Referral

Trends in case rates differed across age groups for each general status offense category

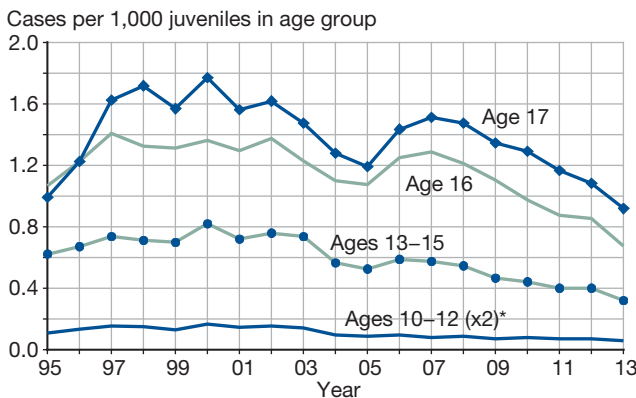
Runaway case rates



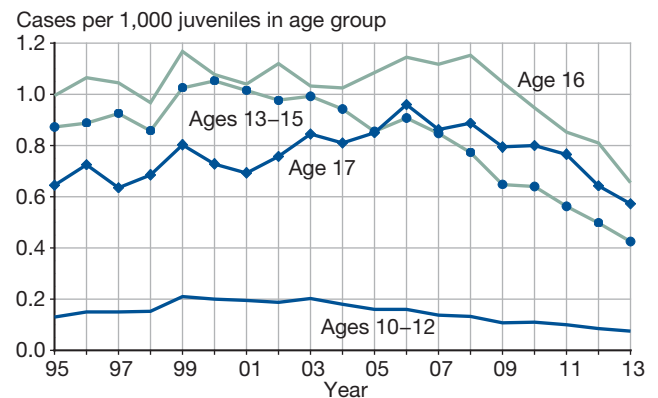
Truancy case rates



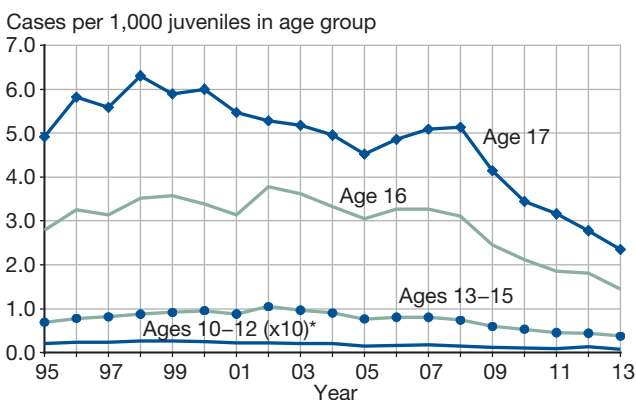
Curfew case rates



Ungovernability case rates



Liquor law violation case rates



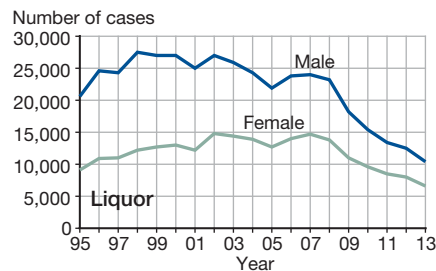
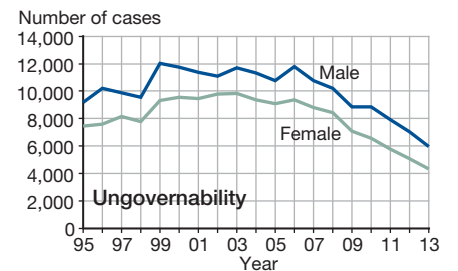
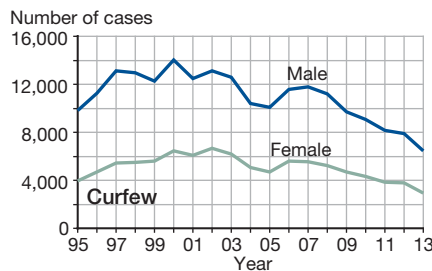
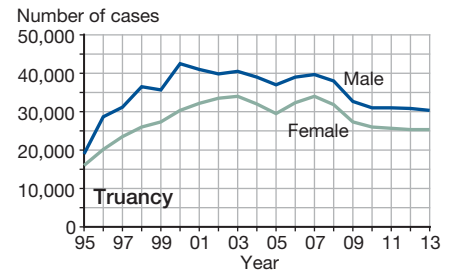
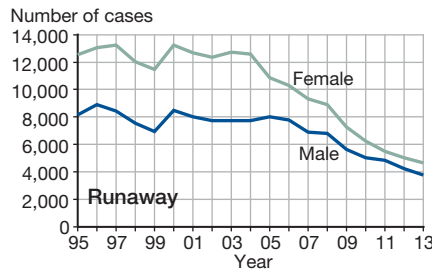
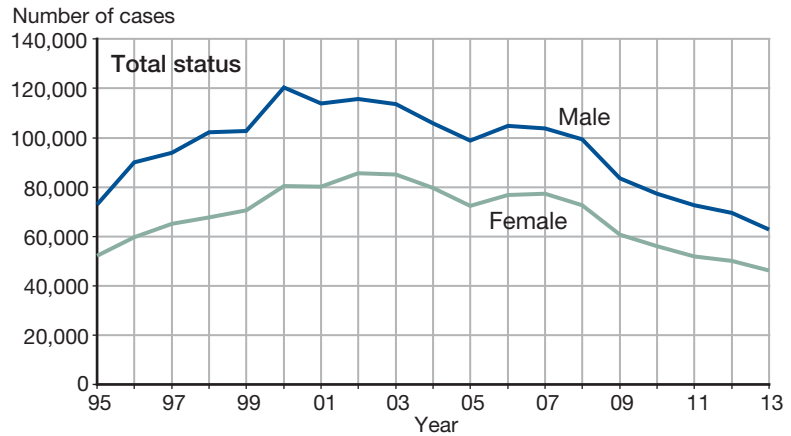
- Case rates for petitioned runaway cases decreased more for younger youth than older youth between 1995 and 2013.
- The case rates for petitioned truancy cases peaked in 2000 for younger youth and in the late-2000s for older youth before decreasing through 2013. Case rates for all youth were higher in 2013 than in 1995.
- Case rates for petitioned curfew cases for 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds have consistently declined since 2007. Case rates for all youth were lower in 2013 than in 1995.
- Case rates for petitioned ungovernability cases were lower in 2013 than in 1995 for all age groups.
- Case rates for petitioned liquor law violation cases peaked in 1998 for youth age 17 and declined 63% by 2013.

* Because of the relatively low volume of cases involving youth ages 10–12 for runaway, curfew, and liquor law violations, their case rates are inflated by a factor specified in the graph to display the trend over time.

Gender

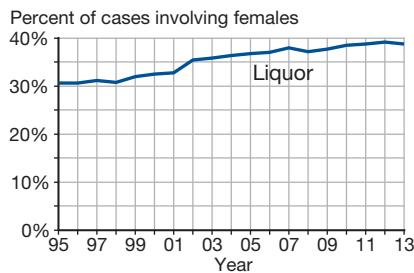
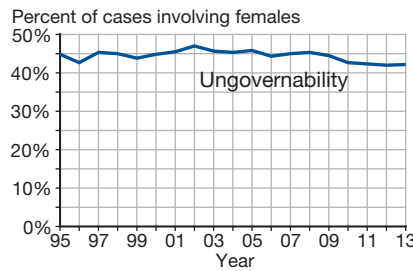
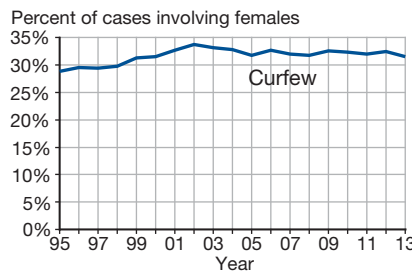
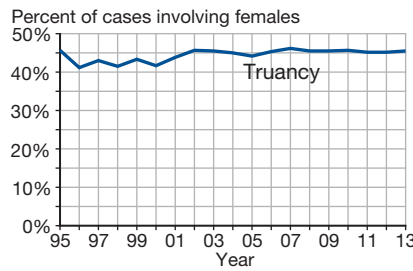
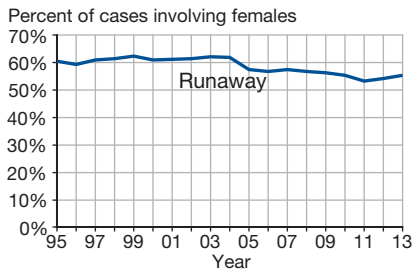
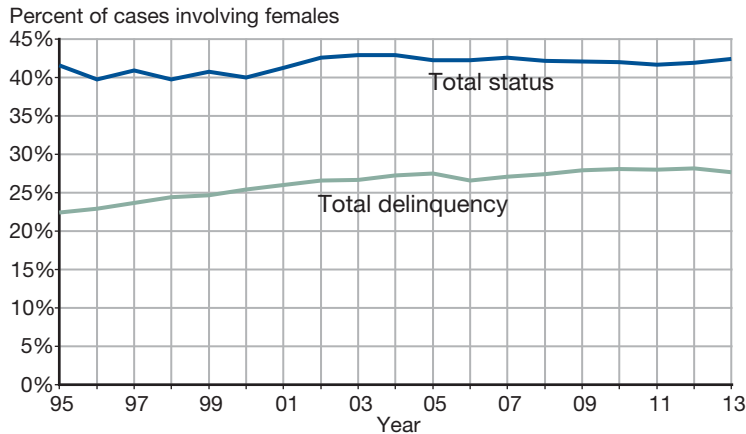
- Overall, the relative decrease in petitioned status offense cases between 1995 and 2013 was similar for males (14%) and females (11%), but the nature of the decrease varied.
- For both males and females, the number of truancy cases increased between 1995 and 2013 while all other offense case types decreased.
- Between 1995 and 2000, the number of petitioned truancy cases more than doubled for males and then fell 29% through 2013. For females, the truancy caseload more than doubled between 1995 and 2007, then fell 26% by 2013.
- Between 1995 and 2013, the petitioned runaway caseload decreased 54% for males and 63% for females.
- Between 1996 and 2013, the number of petitioned truancy cases outnumbered all other status offense cases among males; among females, petitioned truancy cases outnumbered those of all other status offense categories from 1995 through 2013.

Trends in petitioned status offense caseloads revealed similar patterns for males and females



Gender

Compared with the delinquency caseload, females accounted for a substantially larger proportion of petitioned status offenses



- Males accounted for 58% of the total petitioned status offense caseload in 2013.
- In 2013, males accounted for the majority of curfew (69%), liquor law violation (61%), ungovernability (58%), and truancy (55%) cases.
- Females accounted for 55% of petitioned runaway cases in 2013, the only status offense category in which females represented a larger proportion of the caseload than males.

Offense profile of petitioned status offense cases by gender:

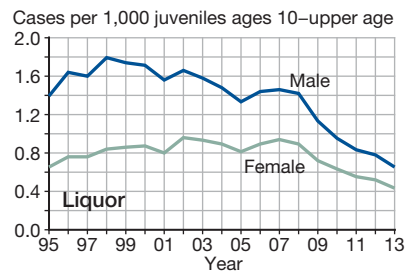
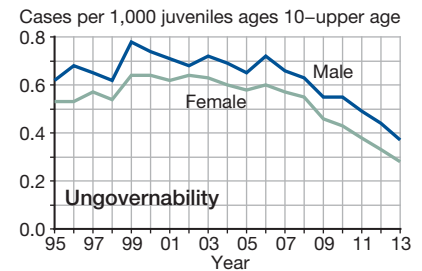
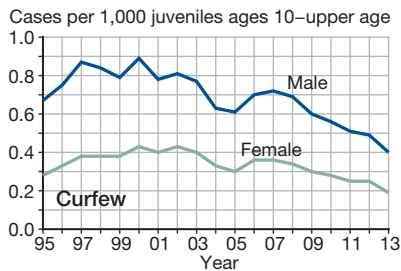
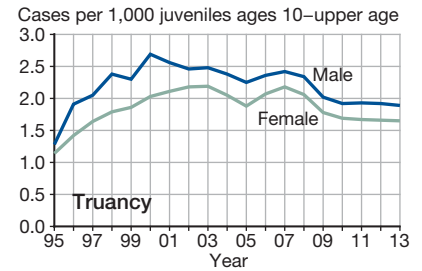
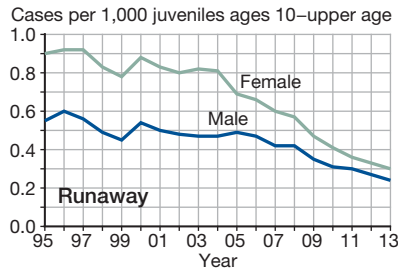
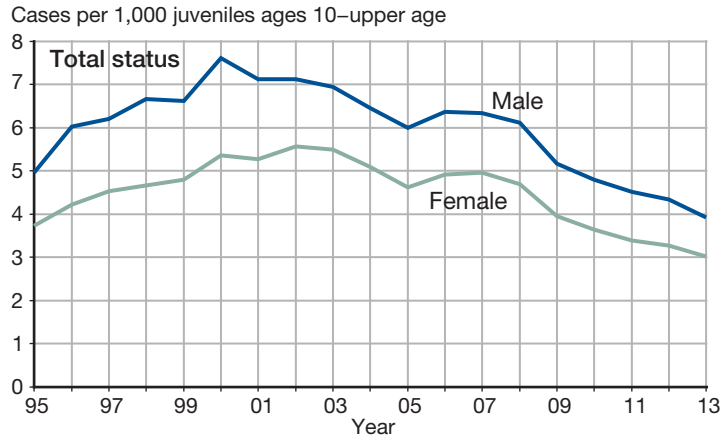
Most serious offense	Male	Female
2013		
Runaway	6%	10%
Truancy	48	55
Curfew	10	6
Ungovernability	10	9
Liquor	16	14
Miscellaneous	10	5
Total	100%	100%
2004		
Runaway	7%	16%
Truancy	37	40
Curfew	10	6
Ungovernability	11	12
Liquor	23	17
Miscellaneous	12	8
Total	100%	100%

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Gender

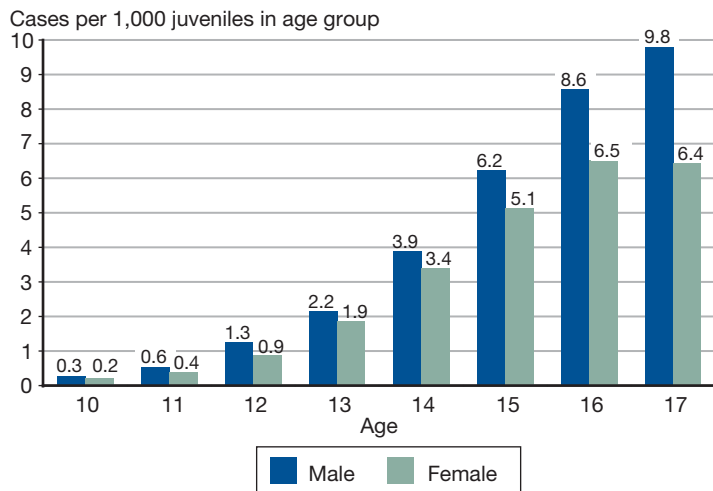
- The petitioned status offense case rate decreased for both males and females between 1995 and 2013 (21% and 19%, respectively).
- Runaway case rates declined between 1995 and 2013 for both males (58%) and females (66%).
- Between 1996 and 2013, the truancy case rate for males was greater than the rate of any other status offense category.
- Among females, the truancy case rate was higher than the rate of any other status offense category for each year between 1995 and 2013.
- For both males and females, the case rates for curfew violations increased between 1995 and 2000 and then declined through 2013. As a result, between 1995 and 2013, case rates for curfew violations decreased 32% for females and 40% for males.
- Between 1995 and 2013, case rates for ungovernability declined 40% for males and 47% for females.

The petitioned status offense case rates followed similar patterns for males and females between 1995 and 2013

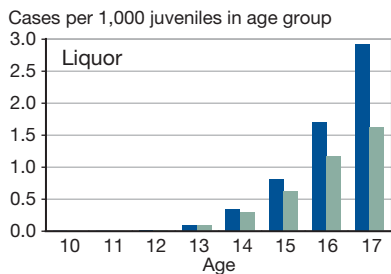
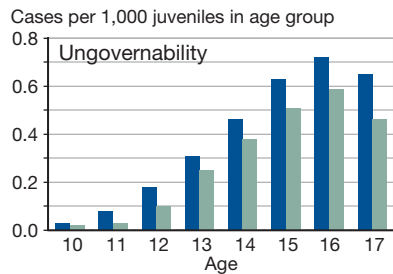
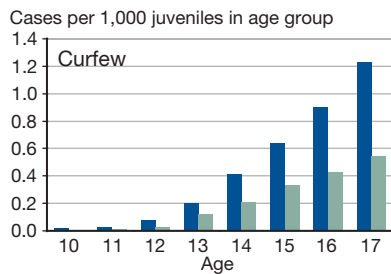
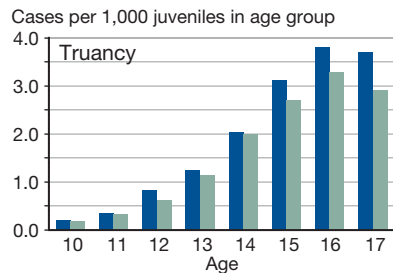
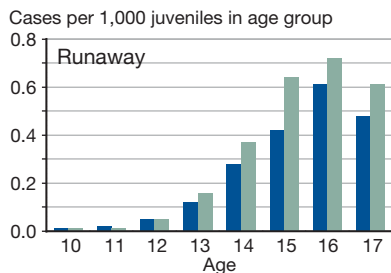


Gender

In 2013, the status offense case rate for males increased through age 17; for females the rate increased through age 16



- For males, petitioned status offense case rates increased continuously with age in 2013. For females, status offense case rates peaked at age 16.
- After age 12, case rates for running away were higher for females than for males in 2013.
- In 2013, petitioned case rates for running away, truancy, and ungovernability peaked at age 16 for both males and females.
- For both males and females, petitioned status offense case rates increased continuously with age for curfew and liquor law violations in 2013.



Race

Percent change in number of cases by race, 2004–2013:

Most serious offense	White ²	Black	Amer. Indian ³	Asian ⁴
Status	-44%	-30%	-35%	-52%
Runaway	-62	-50	-67	-75
Truancy	-22	-16	-26	-34
Curfew	-52	-4	3	-71
Ungovern.	-50	-50	-50	-43
Liquor law	-58	-22	-46	-61

■ Between 2004 and 2013, in contrast to other racial groups and offenses, the number of cases for American Indian youth increased for curfew.

Offense profile of status offense cases by race:

Most serious offense	White	Black	Amer. Indian	Asian
2013				
Runaway	6%	14%	2%	8%
Truancy	53	45	42	62
Curfew	6	15	17	7
Ungovern.	9	14	2	3
Liquor law	18	6	30	13
Misc.	8	6	6	7
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
2004				
Runaway	9%	20%	5%	16%
Truancy	38	38	37	45
Curfew	8	11	11	12
Ungovern.	10	20	2	3
Liquor law	24	5	36	16
Misc.	12	7	8	10
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

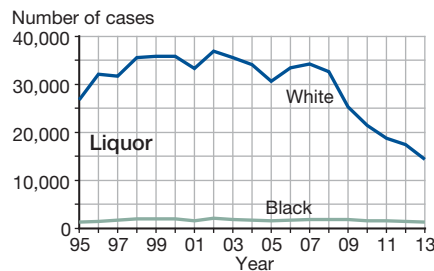
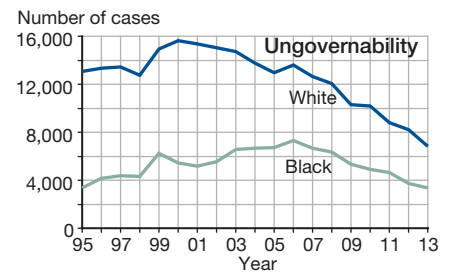
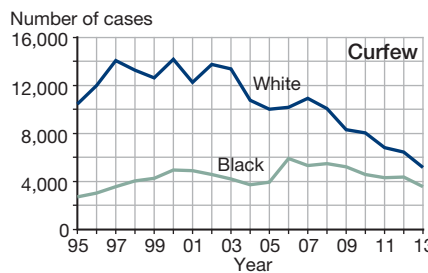
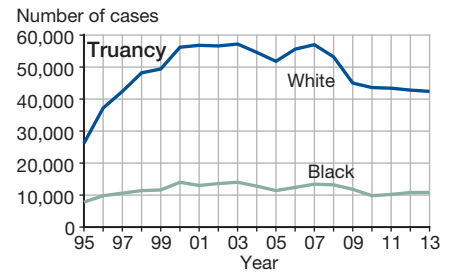
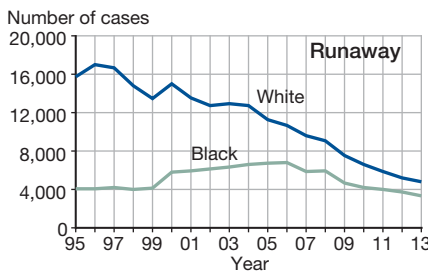
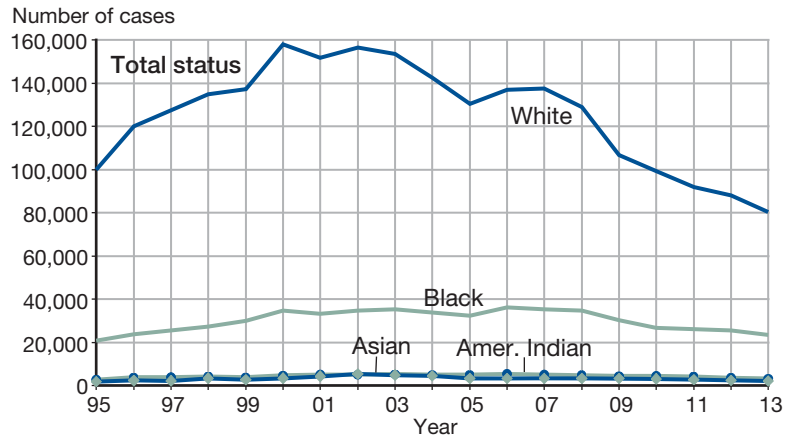
■ In 2013, truancy cases made up the greatest proportion of the caseloads for youth of all race groups.

² Throughout this Report, juveniles of Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race; however, most are included in the white racial category.

³ The racial classification American Indian (usually abbreviated as Amer. Indian) includes American Indian and Alaskan Native.

⁴ The racial classification Asian includes Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander.

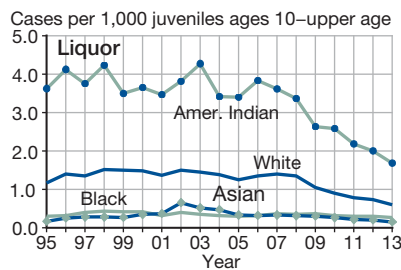
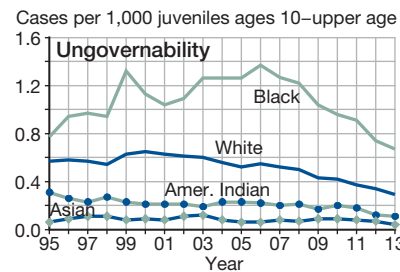
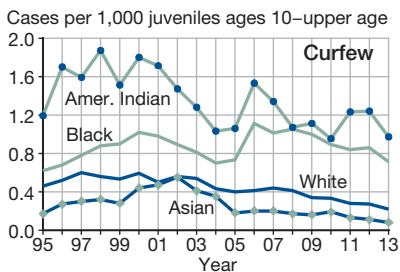
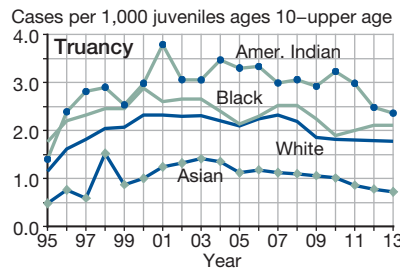
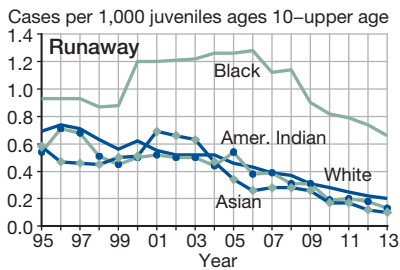
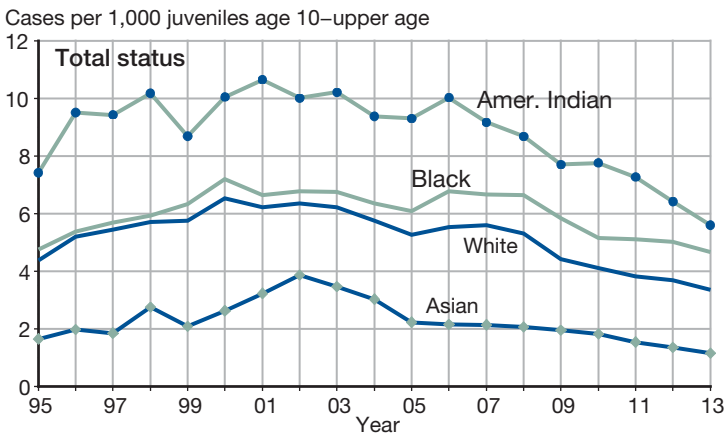
Overall, the petitioned status offense caseload has declined for all racial groups over the last 10 years



Note: Case counts for American Indian and Asian youth are not shown in the offense graphs above because their numbers are too small for display.

Race

Between 1995 and 2013, petitioned status offense case rates decreased for all race groups: 23% for white youth, 2% for black youth, 24% for American Indian youth, and 29% for Asian youth



- For all years between 1995 and 2013, the total petitioned status offense case rate for American Indian youth was higher than that for juveniles of all other racial categories. In 2013, the petitioned status offense case rate for American Indian youth was 4.8 times the rate for Asian youth, 1.7 times the rate for white youth, and 1.2 times the rate for black youth.
- Between 1995 and 2006, the runaway case rate for black youth increased 37% while the rate fell 37% for white youth. Despite declines for both groups between 2006 and 2013, the runaway case rate for black youth in 2013 was more than 3 times the rate for white youth.
- In 2013, the ungovernability case rate for black juveniles was more than twice the white rate, more than 6 times the rate for American Indian youth, and 17 times the rate for Asian youth.
- American Indian juveniles had the highest case rate for liquor law violations in each year between 1995 and 2013. In 2013, the liquor law violation case rate for American Indian juveniles was nearly 3 times the white rate, more than 6 times the rate for black youth, and 11 times the rate for Asian youth.

Source of Referral

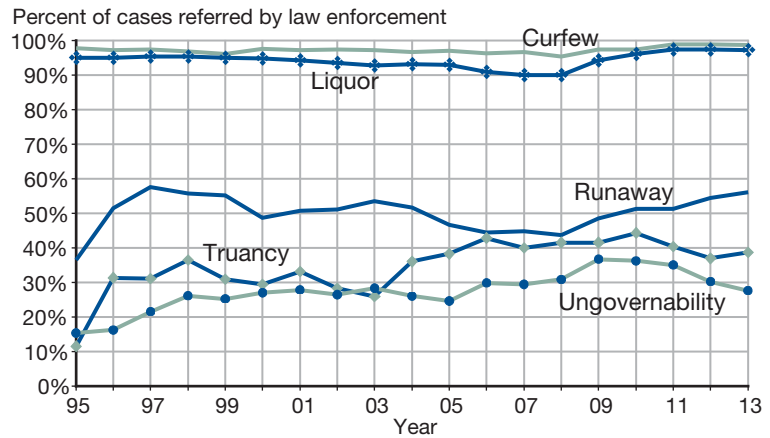
- Status offense cases can be referred to court intake by a number of sources, including law enforcement agencies, schools, relatives, social service agencies, probation officers, and victims.

Percentage of petitioned status offense cases referred by law enforcement:

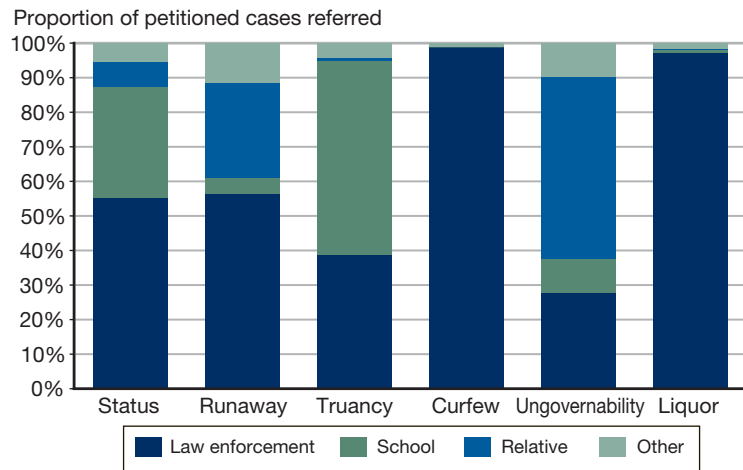
Most serious offense	2004	2013
Total status	56%	55%
Runaway	52	56
Truancy	36	39
Curfew	97	99
Ungovernability	26	28
Liquor law	93	97

- In 2013, law enforcement agencies referred more than half (55%) of the petitioned status offense cases disposed by juvenile courts.
- Compared with 2004, law enforcement referred larger proportions of all types of status offense cases in 2013.
- Schools referred 56% of the petitioned truancy cases in 2013.
- Relatives referred 53% of the petitioned ungovernability cases in 2013.

Law enforcement agencies are the primary source of referrals to juvenile court for curfew and liquor law violation cases

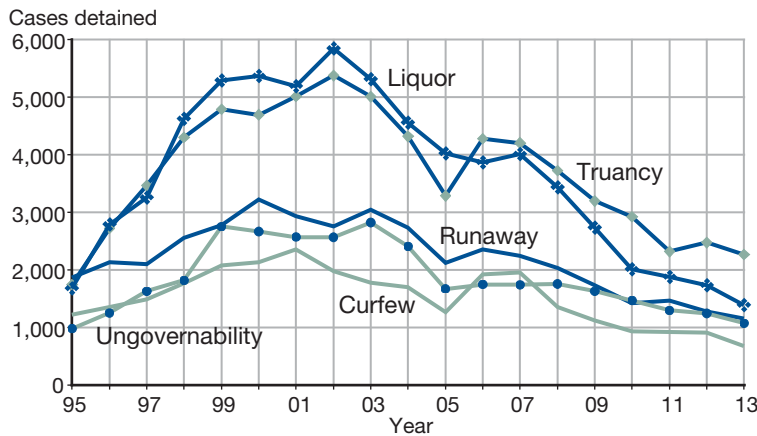


The source of referral in 2013 for petitioned status offense cases varied with the nature of the offense

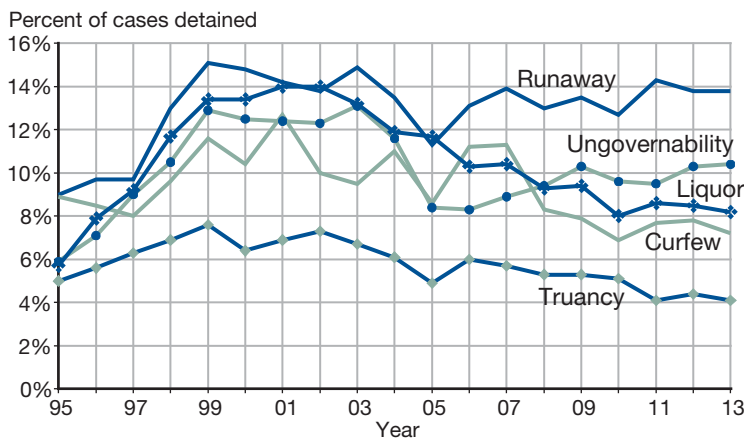


Detention

The number of cases involving detention decreased substantially between 2002 and 2013 for all case types



Between 1995 and 2013, truancy cases were least likely to involve detention, and runaway cases were the most likely



- Between 2002 (a peak year for several offense types) and 2013, the number of petitioned cases involving detention decreased 76% for liquor law violations, 66% for curfew cases, and 58% each for runaway, truancy, and ungovernability cases.
- The number of petitioned status offense cases involving detention decreased 11% between 1995 and 2013 (from 8,100 to 7,300). However, trends varied by offense type: decreases of 45% for curfew, 38% for runaway, and 17% for liquor, and increases of 30% for truancy and 9% for ungovernability.
- Despite the decline in the volume of petitioned status offense cases involving detention, the proportion of cases detained was the same in 2013 as in 1995 (7%).
- Between 1998 and 2005, cases involving liquor law violations accounted for the largest share of the detained status offense caseload. Between 2006 and 2013, truancy offense cases accounted for the largest share.

Offense profile of detained status offense cases:

Most serious offense	2004	2013
Runaway	16%	16%
Truancy	25	31
Curfew	10	9
Ungovernability	14	15
Liquor law	26	19
Miscellaneous	10	10
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	17,400	7,300

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- Compared with 2004, the offense characteristics of the 2013 status offense detention caseload involved a greater proportion of truancy and ungovernability cases, a smaller proportion of curfew and liquor law violation cases, and an equal proportion of runaway cases.

Adjudication

- Between 1995 and 2013, the number of status offense cases in which the youth was adjudicated a status offender decreased from 64,900 to 48,200.
- Between 1995 and 2013, the number of cases in which the youth was adjudicated a status offender increased 1% for truancy cases. Decreases occurred for runaway (63%), ungovernability (41%), liquor law violation (37%), and curfew cases (21%).

Offense profile of cases adjudicated a status offender:

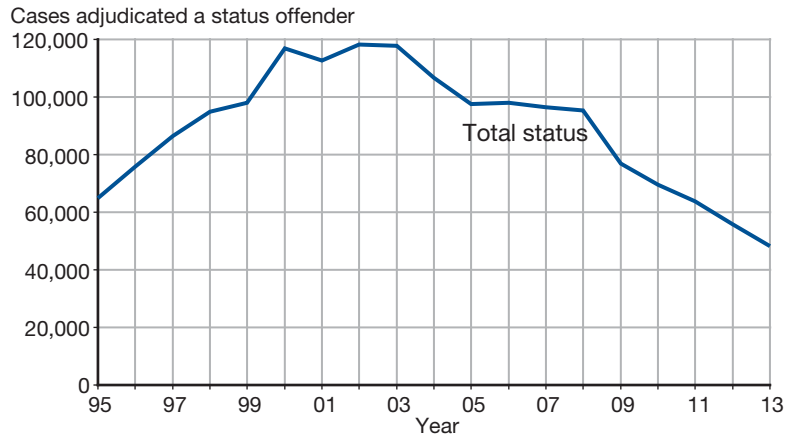
Most serious offense	2004	2013
Runaway	9%	7%
Truancy	33	39
Curfew	9	10
Ungovernability	12	11
Liquor law	24	20
Miscellaneous	13	13
Total	100%	100%

Cases adjudicated a status offender 106,600 48,200

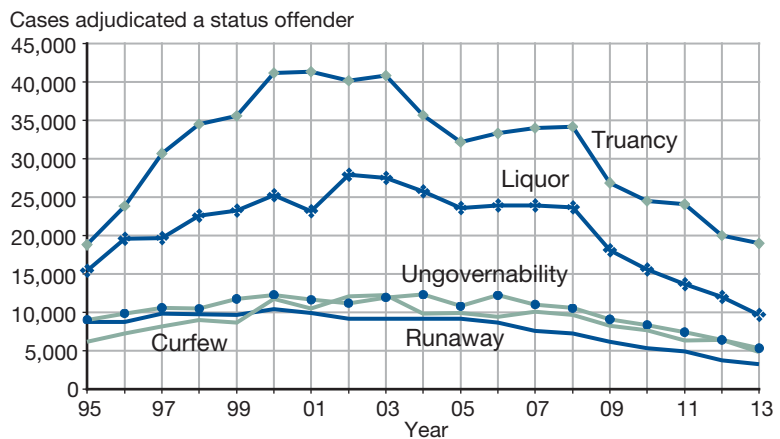
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- The adjudicated status offense caseloads for 2004 and 2013 were similar. For both years, cases involving truancy and liquor law violations made up the largest proportions of the adjudicated caseload.

Between 1995 and 2002, the number of cases in which the youth was adjudicated a status offender increased substantially (82%) and then declined 59% through 2013

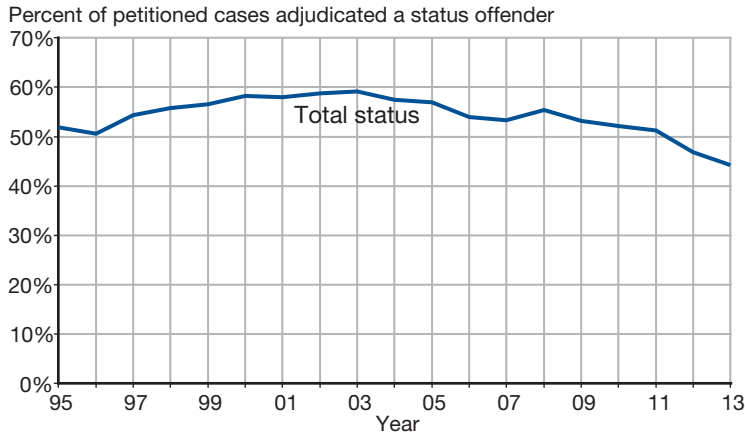


In the past 10 years (2004–2013), the number of cases in which the youth was adjudicated a status offender decreased for all status offense categories



Adjudication

The likelihood of adjudication for petitioned status offense cases decreased from 52% in 1995 to 44% in 2013



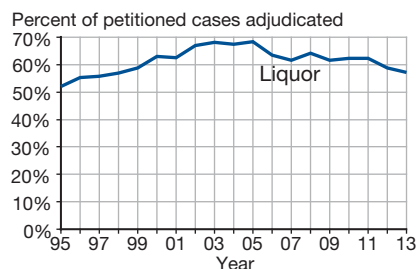
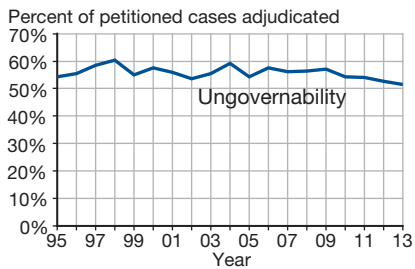
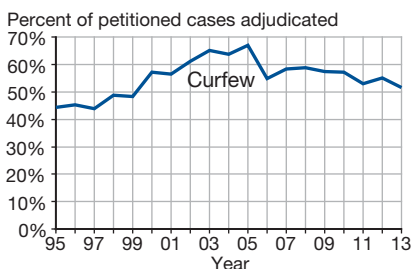
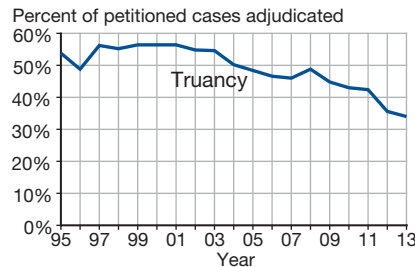
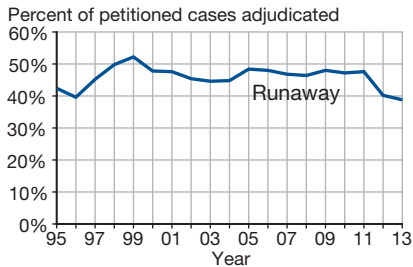
- Among status offense categories in 2013, adjudication was least likely in petitioned truancy cases (34%) and most likely in cases involving liquor law violations (57%).
- The likelihood of petitioned runaway cases resulting in adjudication peaked in 1999 (at 52%) and then declined to 39% in 2013.
- Between 1995 and 2013, the likelihood of adjudication among petitioned curfew cases increased from 44% to 52%.
- The likelihood of adjudication among petitioned liquor law violation cases increased from 52% in 1995 to 57% in 2013.

Percentage of petitioned status offense cases adjudicated, 2013:

Most serious offense	15 or younger	16 or older	Male	Female
Total status	42%	47%	46%	42%
Runaway	40	38	38	39
Truancy	33	36	35	33
Curfew	49	54	50	54
Ungovern.	52	51	53	50
Liquor law	59	56	57	58

Most serious offense	White	Black	Amer. Indian	Asian
Total status	46%	39%	46%	34%
Runaway	43	32	NA	NA
Truancy	34	35	33	25
Curfew	65	35	35	NA
Ungovern.	54	47	NA	NA
Liquor law	58	45	69	NA

NA: Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.



Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

- The number of cases in which a youth was adjudicated a status offender and ordered to out-of-home placement increased 64% between 1995 and the peak in 2000 and then declined 75% by 2013.

Offense profile of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement:

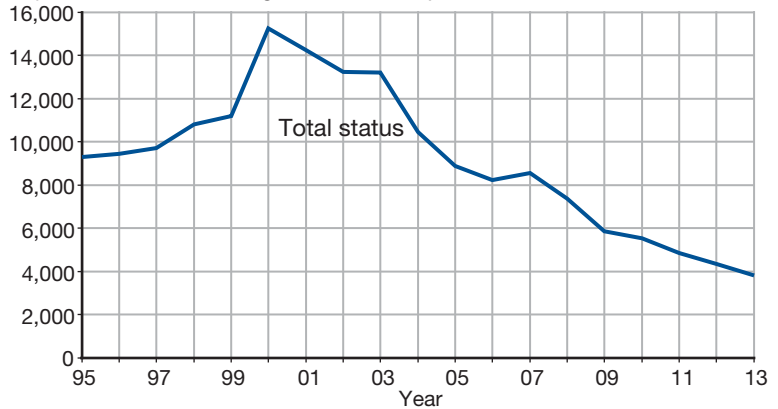
Most serious offense	2004	2013
Runaway	15%	14%
Truancy	35	20
Curfew	3	4
Ungovernability	17	17
Liquor law	18	18
Miscellaneous	13	27
Total	100%	100%
Cases resulting in out-of-home placement	10,400	3,800

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In 2004 and 2013, truancy cases accounted for the largest share of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in out-of-home placement.

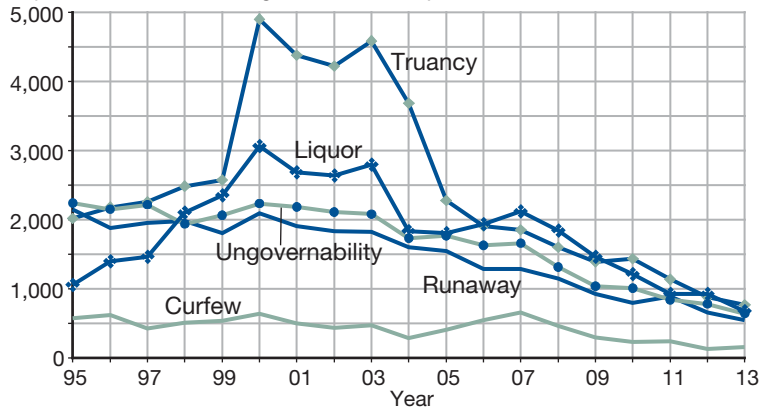
The number of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement declined 59% between 1995 and 2013

Adjudicated cases resulting in out-of-home placement



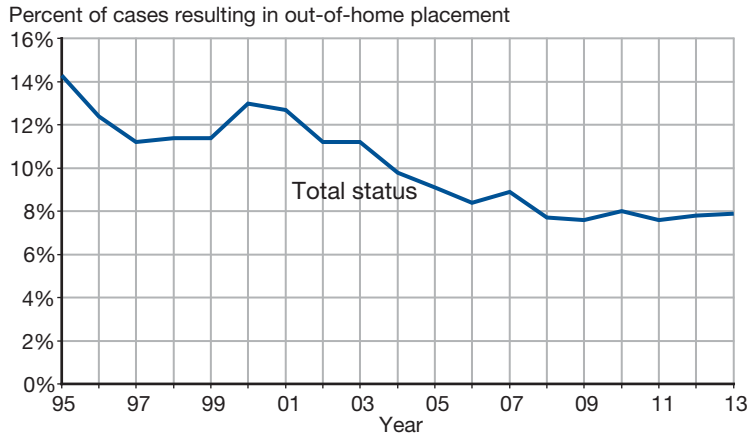
The number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in out-of-home placement varied considerably by the nature of the offense

Adjudicated cases resulting in out-of-home placement



Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

The court ordered out-of-home placement in 8% of all adjudicated status offense cases in 2013



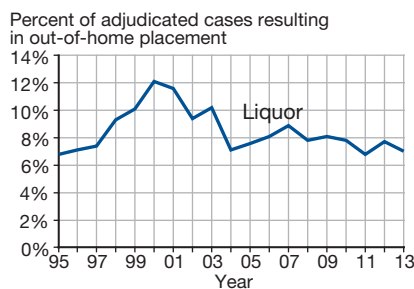
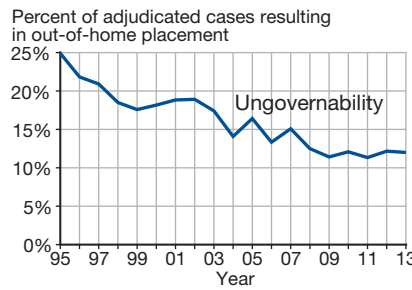
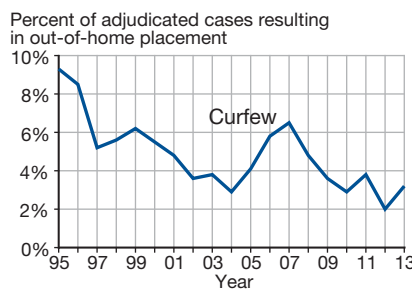
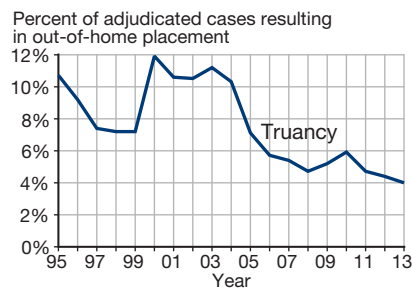
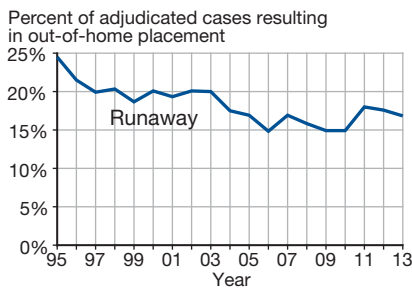
- The likelihood that an adjudicated status offense case would result in out-of-home placement decreased between 1995 and 2013 for all status offense categories except liquor law violations, which remained the same.
- Between 1995 and 2013, the largest decline in the proportion of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement was seen in cases involving ungovernability (from 25% to 12%), followed by runaway cases (from 24% to 17%), truancy cases (from 11% to 4%), and curfew (9% to 3%).
- For adjudicated liquor law violation cases, the likelihood of out-of-home placement was the same in 2013 as in 1995 (7%).

Percentage of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement, 2013:

Most serious offense	15 or younger	16 or older	Male	Female
Total status	9%	7%	7%	6%
Runaway	15	19	20	14
Truancy	4	4	5	3
Curfew	4	3	4	2
Ungovern.	12	12	11	13
Liquor law	7	7	8	5

Most serious offense	White	Black	Amer. Indian	Asian
Total status	8%	9%	8%	3%
Runaway	18	15	NA	NA
Truancy	4	3	NA	NA
Curfew	2	5	NA	NA
Ungovern.	13	9	NA	NA
Liquor law	6	11	14	NA

NA: Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.



Dispositions: Probation

- Between 1995 and 2013, the number of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in an order of probation decreased 33%, compared with a 59% decrease in the number of cases resulting in out-of-home placement.
- Between 1995 and 2013, the number of adjudicated status offense cases receiving probation decreased for all offense types: runaway (59%), curfew (43%), liquor law violation (38%), ungovernability (34%), and truancy (20%).
- Between the peak in 2000 and 2013, the number of adjudicated cases receiving probation decreased for all status offense categories: 75% for cases involving curfew violations, 67% each for runaway cases and cases involving liquor law violations, 58% for ungovernability cases, and 52% for truancy cases.

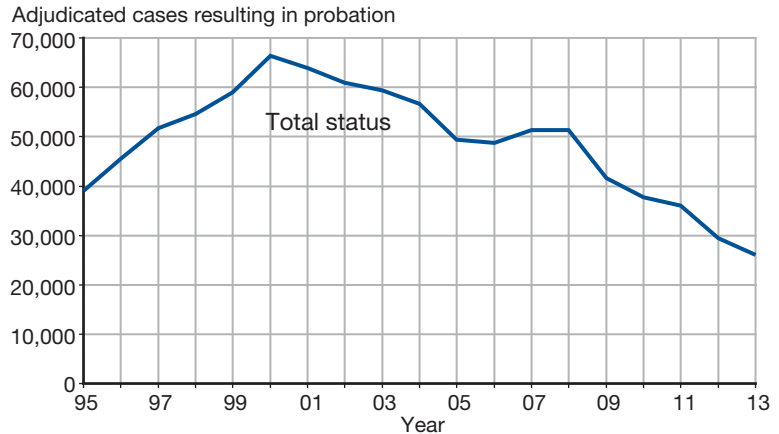
Offense profile of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in probation:

Most serious offense	2004	2013
Runaway	10%	8%
Truancy	36	43
Curfew	4	4
Ungovernability	16	14
Liquor law	25	22
Miscellaneous	8	9
Total	100%	100%
Cases resulting in formal probation	56,700	26,100

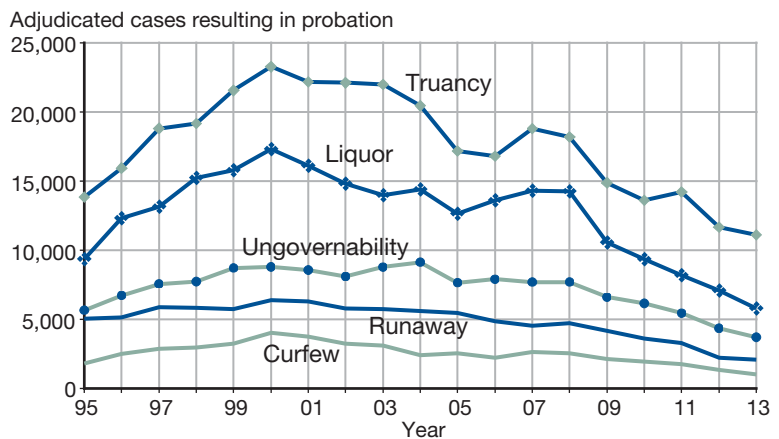
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In 2013, most adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in probation involved truancy offenses (43%), followed by liquor law violations (22%) and ungovernability cases (14%).

Between 1995 and the peak year 2000, the number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in probation increased 70% and then declined 61% by 2013

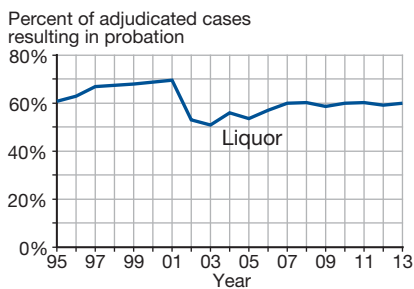
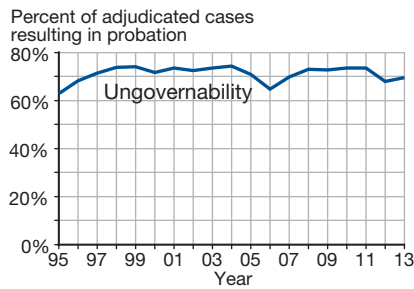
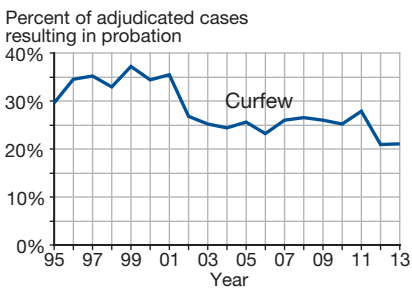
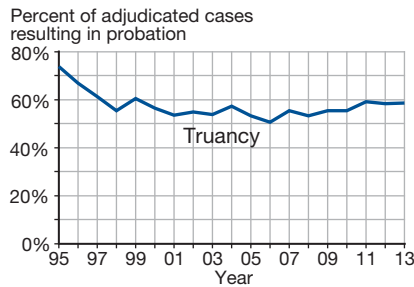
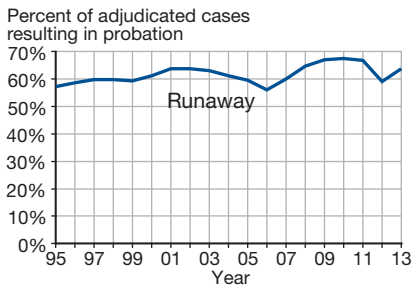
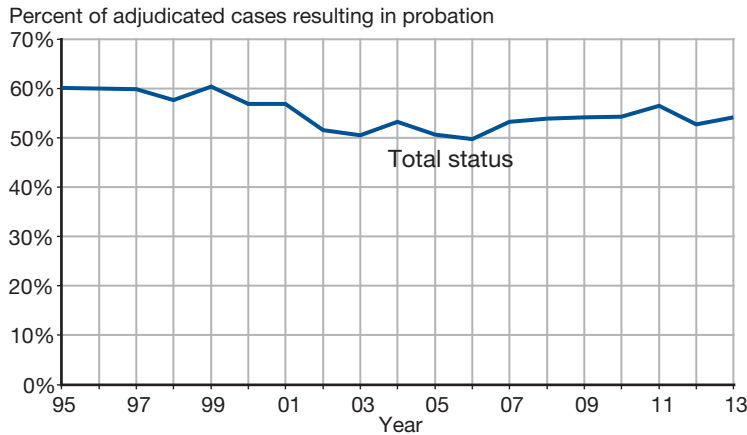


Between 1995 and 2013, the number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in probation decreased in all major status offense categories



Dispositions: Probation

The use of probation as the most restrictive disposition in adjudicated status offense cases varied with the nature of the offense



■ Probation was the most restrictive disposition used in 54% of the adjudicated status offense cases in 2013, compared with 60% of the adjudicated caseload in 1995.

■ In 2013, probation was ordered in 64% of adjudicated runaway cases, 59% of truancy cases, 21% of curfew violations, 70% of ungovernability cases, and 60% of cases involving liquor law violations.

Percentage of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in probation, 2013:

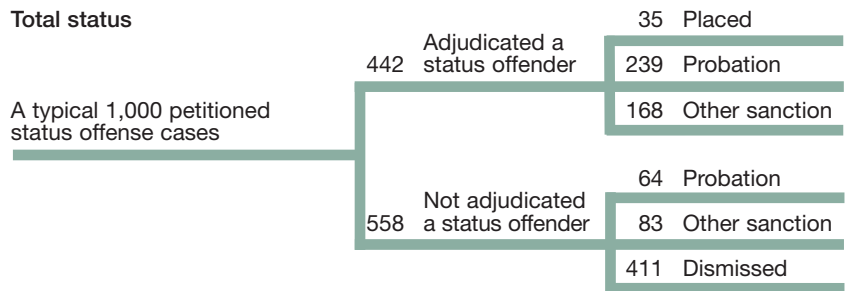
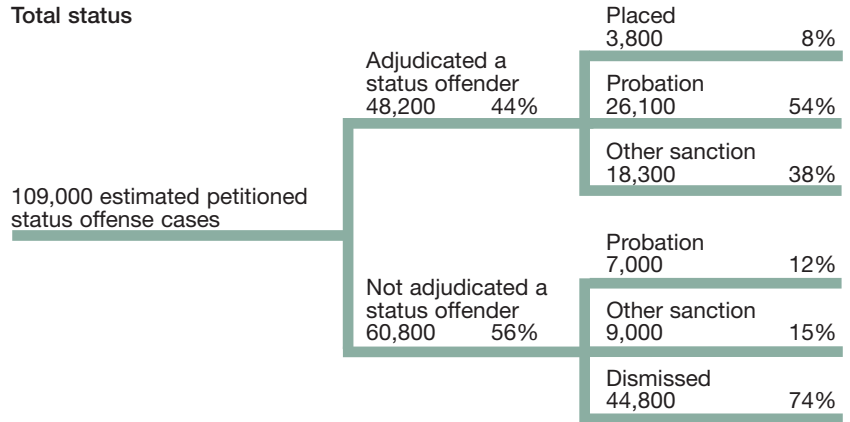
Most serious offense	15 or younger	16 or older	Male	Female
Total status	58%	50%	53%	56%
Runaway	65	63	61	66
Truancy	64	52	57	60
Curfew	24	19	22	19
Ungovern.	73	65	69	70
Liquor law	59	60	62	57

Most serious offense	White	Black	Amer. Indian	Asian
Total status	54%	54%	45%	80%
Runaway	64	61	NA	NA
Truancy	58	60	NA	NA
Curfew	22	14	NA	NA
Ungovern.	71	67	NA	NA
Liquor law	61	57	48	NA

NA: Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

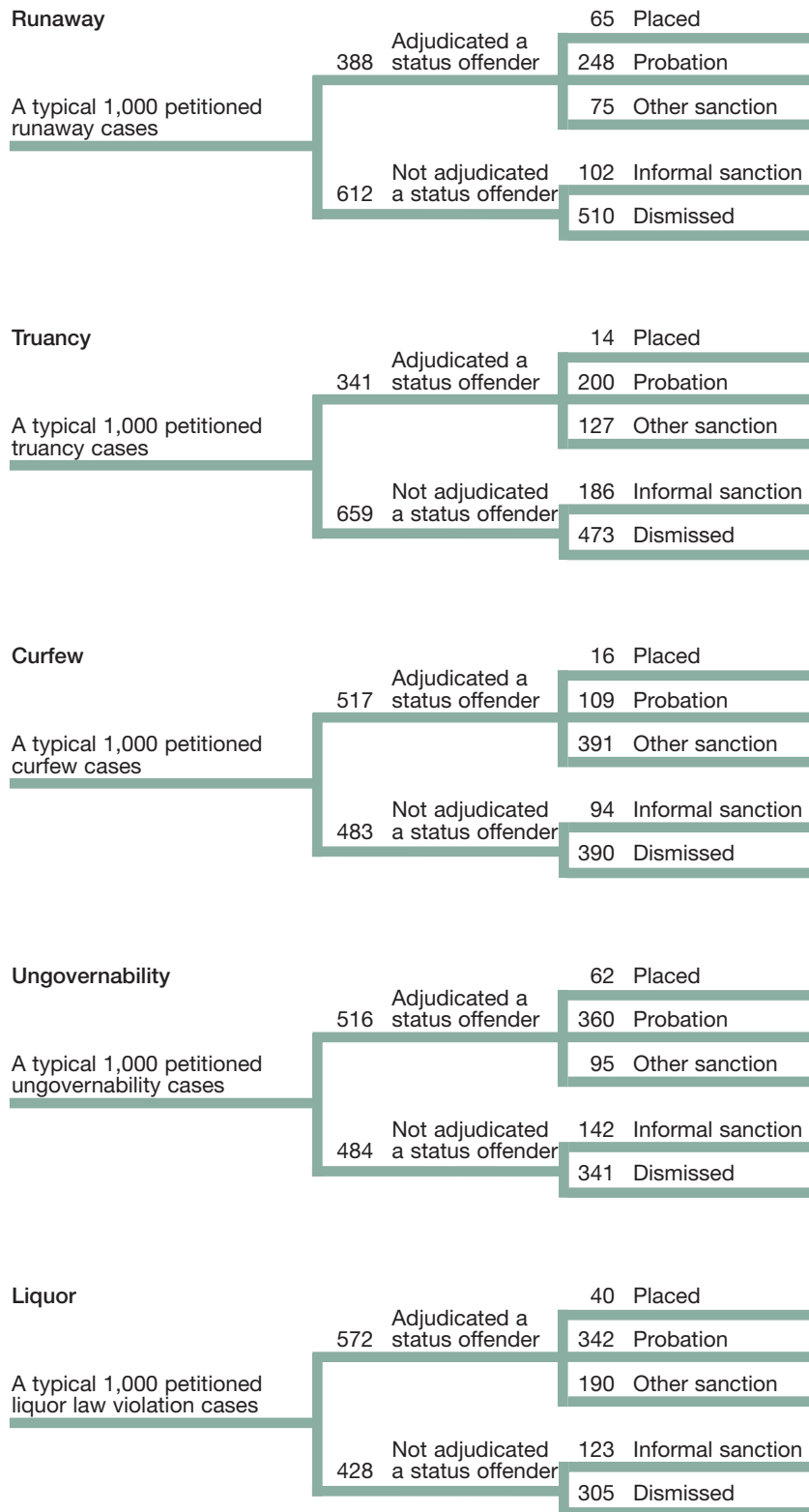
Case Processing Overview, 2013

- In 2013, 44% of petitioned status offense cases resulted in adjudication.
- In 54% of adjudicated status offense cases, formal probation was the most restrictive sanction ordered by the court.
- In 2013, 8% of adjudicated status offense cases resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Dispositions with minimal continuing supervision by probation staff were ordered in 38% of status offense cases adjudicated in 2013—the juvenile was ordered to enter a treatment or counseling program, to pay restitution or a fine, or to participate in some form of community service.
- In 56% of formally handled status offense cases in 2013, the juvenile was not adjudicated a status offender. The court dismissed 74% of these cases, while 12% resulted in some form of informal probation and 15% in other voluntary dispositions.
- For every 1,000 status offense cases formally processed by juvenile courts in 2013, 239 resulted in formal probation and 35 were placed out of the home.



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Case Processing by Offense Category, 2013



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Runaway Cases

- Among the five major status offense categories, juvenile courts were most likely to order youth to out-of-home placement following adjudication in runaway cases (65 of 388 cases), but formal probation was a more likely outcome (248 of 388).
- Among petitioned runaway cases in 2013, youth were not adjudicated a status offender in 612 of a typical 1,000 cases. Of these 612 cases, 83% (510) were dismissed.

Truancy Cases

- In 2013, of a typical 1,000 formal truancy cases, 200 resulted in formal probation and 14 were placed out of the home.

Curfew Violation Cases

- In 2013, for every 1,000 petitioned curfew violation cases, 109 resulted in formal probation and 16 were placed out of the home.
- Among petitioned cases involving curfew violations in 2013, youth were not adjudicated a status offender in 483 of a typical 1,000 cases. Of these 483 cases, 81% (390) were dismissed.

Ungovernability Cases

- For every 1,000 petitioned ungovernability cases in 2013, 360 resulted in formal probation following adjudication and 62 were placed out of the home.

Liquor Law Violation Cases

- Among petitioned liquor law violation cases in 2013, the most likely outcome was formal probation (342 of 1,000); out-of-home placement was ordered in 40 of a typical 1,000 cases.
- In 2013, among petitioned liquor law violation cases, youth were not adjudicated as status offenders in 428 of a typical 1,000 cases.

Appendix A

Methods

The *Juvenile Court Statistics (JCS)* series uses data provided to the National Juvenile Court Data Archive (the Archive) by state and county agencies responsible for collecting and/or disseminating information on the processing of youth in juvenile courts. These data are not the result of a uniform data collection effort. They are not derived from a complete census of juvenile courts or obtained from a probability sample of courts. The national estimates presented in this Report are developed by using compatible information from all courts that are able to provide data to the Archive.

Sources of Data

The Archive uses data in two forms: detailed case-level data and court-level aggregate statistics. Case-level data are usually generated by automated client-tracking systems or case-reporting systems managed by juvenile courts or other juvenile justice agencies. These systems provide detailed data on the characteristics of each delinquency and status offense case handled by courts, generally including the age, gender, and race of the youth referred; the date and source of referral; the offenses charged; detention and petitioning decisions; and the date and type of disposition.

The structure of each case-level data set contributed to the Archive is unique, having been designed to meet the information needs of a particular jurisdiction. Archive staff study the structure and content of each data set in order to design an automated restructuring procedure that will transform each jurisdiction's data into a common case-level format.

Court-level aggregate statistics either are abstracted from the annual reports of state and local courts or are contributed directly to the Archive. Court-level statistics typically provide counts of the delinquency and status offense cases handled by courts in a defined time period (calendar or fiscal year).

Each year, many juvenile courts contribute either detailed data or aggregate statistics to the Archive. However, not all of this information can be used to generate the national estimates contained in *JCS*. To be used in the development of national estimates, the data must be in a compatible unit of count (i.e., case disposed), the data source must demonstrate a pattern of consistent reporting over time (at least 2 years), and the data file contributed to the Archive must represent a complete count of delinquency and/or status offense cases disposed in a jurisdiction during a given year.

Table A-1: 2013 Stratum Profiles for Delinquency Data

Stratum	County population ages 10–17	Counties in stratum	Counties reporting compatible data			
			Number of counties			Percentage of juvenile population
			Case-level	Court-level	Total*	
1	Fewer than 13,331	2,662	1,882	183	2,026	77%
2	13,331–48,500	336	247	24	259	78
3	48,501–120,000	110	87	9	90	83
4	More than 120,000	35	33	5	33	97
Total		3,143	2,249	221	2,408	84

* Some counties reported both case-level and court-level data; therefore, the total number of counties reporting delinquency data is not equal to the number of counties reporting case-level data plus the number of counties reporting court-level data.

Table A-2: 2013 Stratum Profiles for Status Offense Data

Stratum	County population ages 10–17	Counties in stratum	Counties reporting compatible data			
			Number of counties			Percentage of juvenile population
			Case-level	Court-level	Total	
1	Fewer than 13,331	2,662	1,784	144	1,928	73%
2	13,331–48,500	336	224	12	236	71
3	48,501–120,000	110	75	3	78	73
4	More than 120,000	35	32	0	32	95
Total		3,143	2,115	159	2,274	78

The aggregation of the JCS-compatible standardized case-level data files constitutes the Archive's national case-level database. The compiled data from jurisdictions that contribute only court-level JCS-compatible statistics constitute the national court-level database. Together, these two multijurisdictional databases (case-level and court-level) are used to generate the Archive's national estimates of delinquency and status offense cases.

In 2013, case-level data describing 749,722 delinquency cases handled by 2,249 jurisdictions in 39 states met the Archive's criteria for inclusion in the development of national delinquency estimates. Compatible data were available from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio,

Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. These courts had jurisdiction over 81% of the nation's juvenile population in 2013. Compatible court-level aggregate statistics on an additional 44,219 delinquency cases from 221 jurisdictions were used from Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, New York, and Wyoming. In all, the Archive collected compatible case-level data and court-level statistics on delinquency cases from 2,408 jurisdictions containing 84% of the nation's juvenile population in 2013 (table A-1).

Case-level data describing 75,411 formally handled status offense cases from 2,115 jurisdictions in 37 states met the criteria for inclusion in the sample for 2013. The states included Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan,

Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. These courts had jurisdiction over 75% of the juvenile population. An additional 159 jurisdictions in 3 states (Idaho, Indiana, and Wyoming) had compatible court-level aggregate statistics on 4,820 petitioned status offense cases. Altogether, compatible case-level and court-level data on petitioned status offense cases were available from 2,274 jurisdictions containing 78% of the U.S. juvenile population in 2013 (table A-2).

A list of states contributing case-level data (either delinquency or petitioned status offense data), the variables each reports, and the percentage of cases containing each variable are presented in table A-3.

Table A-3: Content of Case-Level Data Sources, 2013

Data source	Age at referral	Gender	Race	Referral source	Referral reason	Secure detention	Manner of handling	Adjudication	Disposition
Alabama	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL
Alaska	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK
Arizona	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ
Arkansas	AR	AR	AR	–	AR	–	AR	AR	AR
California	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA
Colorado	–	–	CO	–	CO	–	CO	–	–
Connecticut	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT
District of Columbia	DC	DC	DC	–	DC	DC	DC	DC	DC
Florida	FL	FL	FL	FL	FL	–	FL	FL	FL
Hawaii	HI	HI	HI	HI	HI	–	HI	HI	HI
Illinois ¹	IL	IL	–	–	IL	IL	IL	IL	IL
Iowa	IA	IA	IA	–	IA	–	IA	IA	IA
Kentucky	KY	KY	KY	–	KY	–	KY	KY	–
Maryland	MD	MD	MD	MD	MD	–	MD	MD	MD
Michigan	MI	MI	MI	MI	MI	MI	MI	MI	MI
Minnesota	MN	MN	MN	–	MN	–	MN	MN	–
Missouri	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO
Montana	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	–
Nebraska	NE	NE	NE	–	NE	–	NE	NE	NE
Nevada	NV	NV	NV	–	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV
New Jersey	NJ	NJ	NJ	–	NJ	–	NJ	NJ	NJ
New Mexico	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	–	NM	NM	NM
New York	NY	NY	NY	–	NY	–	NY	NY	NY
North Carolina	NC	NC	NC	–	NC	–	NC	NC	NC
Ohio ²	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH
Oklahoma	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Oregon	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Pennsylvania	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	–	PA	PA	PA
Rhode Island	RI	RI	–	RI	RI	RI	RI	RI	RI
South Carolina	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC
South Dakota	SD	SD	SD	–	SD	–	SD	SD	SD
Tennessee	TN	TN	TN	TN	TN	–	TN	TN	TN
Texas	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX	–	TX	TX	TX
Utah	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT
Vermont	VT	VT	VT	–	VT	VT	VT	VT	VT
Virginia	VA	VA	VA	VA	VA	VA	VA	VA	VA
Washington	WA	WA	WA	–	WA	–	WA	WA	WA
West Virginia	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV
Wisconsin	WI	WI	WI	–	WI	–	WI	WI	WI
Percentage of estimation sample	97%	98%	93%	69%	97%	41%	100%	93%	84%

Note: The symbol “–” indicates that compatible data for this variable are not reported by this state.

¹ Data from Cook County only.

² Data from Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Hamilton counties only.

Juvenile Population

The volume and characteristics of juvenile court caseloads are partly a function of the size and demographic composition of a jurisdiction's population. Therefore, a critical element in the Archive's development of national estimates is the population of youth that generates the juvenile court referrals in each jurisdiction—i.e., the “juvenile” population of every U.S. county.

A survey of the Archive's case-level data shows that very few delinquency or status offense cases involve youth younger than 10. Therefore, the lower age limit of the juvenile population is set at 10 years for all jurisdictions. On the other hand, the upper age limit varies by state. Every state defines an upper age limit for youth who will come under the original jurisdiction of the juvenile court if they commit an illegal act. (See “Upper age of jurisdiction” in the “Glossary of Terms” section.) Most states set this age to be 17 years; other states have set the age at 15 or 16. States often enact exceptions to this simple age criterion (e.g., offense-specific youthful offender legislation and concurrent jurisdiction or extended jurisdiction provisions). In general, however, juvenile courts have responsibility for all law violations committed by youth whose age does not exceed the upper age of original jurisdiction.

For the purposes of this Report, therefore, the juvenile population is defined as the number of youth living in a jurisdiction who are at least 10 years old but who are not older than the upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction. For example, in New York, where the upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction is 15, the juvenile population is the number of youth residing in a county who have had their 10th birthday but are not older than 15 (e.g., they have not yet reached their 16th birthday).

The juvenile population estimates used in this Report were developed

with data from the Census Bureau.¹ The estimates, separated into single-year age groups, reflect the number of white, black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian (including Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander) youth ages 10 through the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction who reside in each county in the nation.²

¹ County-level intercensal estimates were obtained for the years 1985–2013. The following data files were used:

U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1994. *1980–1989 Preliminary Estimates of the Population of Counties by Age, Sex, and Race* [machine-readable data file]. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.

National Center for Health Statistics. 2004. *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 file]. Prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau with support from the National Cancer Institute. Available online: cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm [released on 7/26/2004].

National Center for Health Statistics. 2012. *Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States for July 1, 2000–July 1, 2009, by Year, County, Single-year of Age (0, 1, 2, ..., 85 Years and Over), Bridged Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex* [machine-readable data file]. Prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau. Available online: cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm [Released 10/26/12, following release by the U.S. Census Bureau of the unbridged intercensal estimates by 5-year age group on 10/9/12].

National Center for Health Statistics. 2014. *Vintage 2013 Postcensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States (April 1, 2010, July 1, 2010–July 1, 2013), by Year, County, Single-year of Age (0, 1, 2, ..., 85 Years and Over), Bridged Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex* [machine-readable data file]. Prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau. Available online: cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm [released on 6/26/14, following release by the U.S. Census Bureau of the unbridged Vintage 2013 postcensal estimates by 5-year age group on 6/26/14].

² Most individuals of Hispanic ancestry are coded as white.

Estimation Procedure

National estimates are developed using the national case-level database, the national court-level database, and the Archive's juvenile population estimates for every U.S. county. “County” was selected as the unit of aggregation because (1) most juvenile court jurisdictions in the United States are concurrent with county boundaries, (2) most data contributed by juvenile courts identify the county in which the case was handled, and (3) youth population estimates can be developed at the county level.

The Archive's national estimates are generated using data obtained from its nonprobability sample of juvenile courts. There are two major components of the estimation procedure. First, missing values on individual records of the national case-level database are imputed using hot deck procedures. Then the records of the national case-level database are weighted to represent the total number of cases handled by juvenile courts nationwide. Each stage of the estimation procedure will be described separately.

Record-level imputation. The first step in the estimation procedure is to place all U.S. counties into one of four strata based on their youth population ages 10 through 17. The lower and upper population limits of the four strata are defined each year so that each stratum contains one-quarter of the national population of youth ages 10 through 17.

This information is added onto each record in the national case-level database. As a result, each record in the national case-level database contains 11 variables of interest to the *JCS* report: county strata, year of disposition, intake decision, youth's age, youth's gender, youth's race, referral offense, source of referral, case detention, case adjudication, and case disposition.

By definition, the first three of these variables (i.e., county strata, year of disposition, and intake decision) are known for every case in the database. Each of the other variables may be missing for some records and given a missing value code. The estimation procedure for the *JCS* report employs a multistage process to impute information for each missing value on each case record in the national case-level database.

Within a county's set of records in the database there can be two types of missing information: record-level missing and format-level missing. For many counties, a small proportion of their case-level records are missing valid codes in data elements that are valid for most of the other records from that county. For example, the gender of a youth may not have been reported on a few records while it is known for all the other youth in the county's database. This type of missing value is "record-level missing." There are also counties in which every record in the database has a missing value code for a specific variable. For example, some court data collection systems do not capture information on a youth's pre-disposition detention. Therefore, the variable "case detention" in the national case-level data has a missing value code on each record from that county. This type of missing value is "format-level missing." (Table A-3 indicates the standardized data elements that were not available, i.e., format-missing, from each jurisdiction's 2013 data set.) The imputation process handles the two types of missing values separately.

The imputation of record-level missing values uses a hot deck procedure with a donor pool of records from the same county. First, all the records for a specific county are sorted by disposition date. Then the file is read again, one record at a time. When the imputation software identifies a record with a record-level missing value (i.e., the target record), it

imputes a valid code for this target data field. This is accomplished by locating the next record in the county file that matches the target record on all of its nonmissing values and has a nonmissing code in the target data field; this record is called the donor record. The imputation software copies the valid code from the donor record and replaces the missing value code on the target record with this nonmissing value.

Once a donor record is used in the process for a given variable, it is not used again for that variable unless no other matches can be found for another target record. There are a small number of instances in which no donor record can be found in the county file. When this occurs, the imputation software relaxes its record matching criteria. That is, instead of trying to find a donor record with identical codes on variables other than the target field, the software ignores one nonmissing variable and attempts to find a match on all of the others. In the small number of cases where this does not lead to the identification of a donor record, a second variable is ignored and the file is reread looking for a donor. Although theoretically (and programmatically) this process can be repeated until all variables but county, year of disposition, and intake decision are ignored to find a donor, this never occurred. The order in which variables are removed from the matching criteria are source of referral, detention, offense, adjudication, race, gender, and age.

Format-level imputation. After all the record-level missing values have been imputed, the process turns to format-missing information, or information that is missing from a case record because that court's information system does not report this information on their cases. The process for imputing format-missing information is similar to that used in the record-missing imputation process with the needed difference that the donor pool is

expanded. Since all records in a county are missing the target data, the donor pool for format-missing records is defined as the records from all counties in the target record's stratum with the same year of disposition and intake decision.

Using this expanded donor pool, the imputation process follows the steps described above where a target record (i.e., one with missing data) is identified and the donor pool is scanned for a match. Once a match is found, the missing information on the target record is overwritten and the donor record is flagged as having been used for that variable so it will not be reused for that variable unless all other donors are used. If a donor record cannot be found in the first pass through the donor pool, matching criteria are relaxed until a donor is found.

There is one major exception to this process of imputing format-level missing information. This exception involves the process of imputing missing race for those counties that do not report this data element to the Archive. The racial composition of a court's caseload is strongly related to the racial composition of the resident juvenile population. Creating a donor pool that ignores this relationship would reduce the validity of the imputation process. So for those few data files that did not include race, donor pools were developed that restricted the pool to counties with racial compositions similar to that of the target record's county.

This was accomplished by dividing the counties in the U.S. into four groups defined by the percentage of white juveniles in their age 10-17 populations. This classification was then added to each case record and used as a matching criterion for finding a donor record within the set of potential donor records defined by stratum, year of disposition, and intake decision.

Weighting to produce national estimates. The Archive employs an elaborate multivariate procedure that assigns a weight to each record in the national case-level database that, when used in analysis, yields national estimates of juvenile court activity. The weights incorporate a number of factors related to the size and characteristics of juvenile court case-loads: the size of a community, the age and race composition of its juvenile population, the age and race profile of the youth involved in juvenile court cases, the courts' responses to the cases (intake decision, detention, adjudication, and disposition), and the nature of each court's jurisdictional responsibilities (i.e., upper age of original jurisdiction).

The basic assumption underlying the weighting procedure is that similar legal and demographic factors shape the volume and characteristics of cases in reporting and nonreporting counties of comparable size and features. The weighting procedure develops independent estimates for the number of petitioned delinquency cases, nonpetitioned delinquency cases, and petitioned status offense cases handled by juvenile courts nationwide. Identical statistical procedures are used to develop all case estimates.

As noted earlier, all U.S. counties are placed into one of four strata based on the size of their youth population ages 10 through 17. In the first step to develop the weights, the Archive divides the youth 10–17 population for each stratum into three age groups: 10- through 15-year-olds, 16-year-olds, and 17-year-olds. The three age groups are further subdivided into four racial groups: white, black, American Indian (including Alaskan Native), and Asian (including Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander). Thus, juvenile resident population estimates are developed for 12 age/race categories in each stratum of counties.

The next step is to identify within each stratum the jurisdictions that contributed to the Archive case-level data consistent with *JCS* reporting requirements. The populations of these case-level reporting jurisdictions within each stratum are then developed for each of the 12 age/race categories. The national case-level database is summarized to determine within each stratum the number of court cases that involved youth in each of the 12 age/race population groups. Case rates (number of cases per 1,000 juveniles in the population) are then developed for the 12 age/race groups within each of the four strata.

For example, assume that a total of 3,646,000 white youth ages 10–15 resided in those stratum 2 counties that reported *JCS*-compatible case-level data to the Archive. If the Archive's case-level database shows that the juvenile courts in these counties handled 33,968 petitioned delinquency cases involving white youth ages 10 through 15, the number of cases per 1,000 white youth ages 10–15 for stratum 2 would be 9.3, or:

$$(33,968 / 3,646,000) \times 1,000 = 9.3$$

Comparable analyses are then used to establish the stratum 2 case rates for black youth, American Indian youth, and Asian youth in the same age group (35.7, 14.1, and 3.8, respectively).

Next, information contained in the national court-level database is introduced, and stratum-level case rates are adjusted accordingly. First, each court-level statistic is disaggregated into the 12 age/race groups. This separation is accomplished by assuming that, for each jurisdiction, the relationships among the stratum's 12 age/race case rates (developed from the case-level data) are paralleled in the court-level data.

For example, assume that a jurisdiction in stratum 2 with an upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction of 15 reported it processed 500 cases during the year. Also assume that this jurisdiction had a juvenile population of 11,000 white youth, 3,000 black youth, 200 American Indian youth, and 800 Asian youth. The stratum 2 case rates for each racial group in the 10–15 age group would be multiplied by the corresponding population to develop estimates of the proportion of the court's case-load that came from each age/race group, as follows:

White:

$$(9.3 \times 11,000) / [(9.3 \times 11,000) + (35.7 \times 3,000) + (14.1 \times 200) + (3.8 \times 800)] = 47.5\%$$

Black:

$$(35.7 \times 3,000) / [(9.3 \times 11,000) + (35.7 \times 3,000) + (14.1 \times 200) + (3.8 \times 800)] = 49.8\%$$

American Indian:

$$(14.1 \times 200) / [(9.3 \times 11,000) + (35.7 \times 3,000) + (14.1 \times 200) + (3.8 \times 800)] = 1.3\%$$

Asian:

$$(3.8 \times 800) / [(9.3 \times 11,000) + (35.7 \times 3,000) + (14.1 \times 200) + (3.8 \times 800)] = 1.4\%$$

The jurisdiction's total caseload of 500 would then be allocated based on these proportions. In this example, it would be estimated that 47.5% of all cases reported in the jurisdiction's aggregate statistics involved white youth, 49.8% involved black youth, 1.3% involved American Indian youth, and the remaining 1.4% involved Asian youth. When these proportions are applied to a reported court-level caseload statistic of 500 cases, this jurisdiction is estimated to have handled 238 cases involving white youth, 249 cases involving black youth, 6 cases involving American Indian youth, and 7 cases involving Asian youth age 15 or younger.

The same method is used to disaggregate into the 12 age/race groups the aggregated case counts reported by those jurisdictions that could only report aggregate court-level statistics.

The disaggregated court-level counts are then added to the counts developed from case-level data to produce an estimate of the number of cases involving each of the 12 age/race groups handled by reporting courts (i.e., both case-level and court-level reporters) in each of the four strata. The juvenile population figures for the entire reporting sample are also compiled. Together, these new stratum-specific case counts and juvenile population for the reporting counties are used to generate a revised set of case rates for each of the 12 age/race groups within each of the four strata.

Stratum estimates for the total number of cases involving each age/race group are then calculated by multiplying the revised case rate for each of the 12 age/race groups in a stratum by the corresponding juvenile population in all counties belonging to that stratum (both reporting and nonreporting).

After the stratum estimates for the total number of cases in each age/race group in each stratum has been calculated, the next step is to weight the records in the national case-level database. This weight is equal to the estimated number of cases in one of the stratum's 12 age/race groups divided by the actual number of such records in the national case-level database. For example, assume that the Archive generates a national estimate of 24,605 petitioned delinquency cases involving white 16-year-olds

from stratum 2 counties. Assume also that the national case-level database for that year contained 17,963 petitioned delinquency cases involving white 16-year-olds from stratum 2 counties. In the Archive's national estimation database, each stratum 2 petitioned delinquency case that involved a white 16-year-old would be weighted by 1.37, because:

$$24,605 / 17,963 = 1.37$$

Finally, by incorporating the weights into all analyses of the national case-level database, national estimates of case volumes and case characteristics can be produced. More detailed information about the Archive's national estimation methodology is available on request from the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

Adjudication: Judicial determination (judgment) that a juvenile is or is not responsible for the delinquency or status offense charged in a petition.

Age: Age at the time of referral to juvenile court.

Case rate: Number of cases disposed per 1,000 juveniles in the population. The population base used to calculate the case rate varies. For example, the population base for the male case rate is the total number of male youth age 10 or older under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts. (See “juvenile population.”)

Delinquency: Acts or conduct in violation of criminal law. (See “reason for referral.”)

Delinquent act: An act committed by a juvenile which, if committed by an adult, would be a criminal act. The juvenile court has jurisdiction over delinquent acts. Delinquent acts include crimes against persons, crimes against property, drug offenses, and crimes against public order.

Dependency case: Those cases involving neglect or inadequate care on the part of parents or guardians, such as abandonment or desertion; abuse or cruel treatment; improper or inadequate conditions in the home; and insufficient care or support

resulting from death, absence, or physical or mental incapacity of parents/guardians.

Detention: The placement of a youth in a secure facility under court authority at some point between the time of referral to court intake and case disposition. This Report does not include detention decisions made by law enforcement officials prior to court referral or those occurring after the disposition of a case.

Disposition: Sanction ordered or treatment plan decided on or initiated in a particular case. Case dispositions are coded into the following categories:

- **Waived to criminal court**—Cases that were transferred to criminal court as the result of a judicial waiver hearing in juvenile court.
- **Placement**—Cases in which youth were placed in a residential facility for delinquents or status offenders, or cases in which youth were otherwise removed from their homes and placed elsewhere.
- **Probation**—Cases in which youth were placed on informal/voluntary or formal/court-ordered supervision.
- **Dismissed/released**—Cases dismissed or otherwise released (including those warned and counseled) with no further sanction or

consequence anticipated. Among cases handled informally (see “manner of handling”), some cases may be dismissed by the juvenile court because the matter is being handled in another court or agency.

- **Other**—Miscellaneous dispositions not included above. These dispositions include fines, restitution, community service, referrals outside the court for services or treatment programs with minimal or no further court involvement anticipated, and dispositions coded as “other” in a jurisdiction’s original data.

Formal handling: See “intake decision.”

Informal handling: See “intake decision.”

Intake decision: The decision made by juvenile court intake that results in the case either being handled informally at the intake level or being petitioned and scheduled for an adjudicatory or judicial waiver hearing.

- **Nonpetitioned (informally handled)**—Cases in which duly authorized court personnel, having screened the case, decide not to file a formal petition. Such personnel include judges, referees, probation officers, other officers of the court, and/or agencies statutorily designated to conduct petition screening for the juvenile court.
- **Petitioned (formally handled)**—Cases that appear on the official court calendar in response to the filing of a petition, complaint, or other legal instrument requesting the court to adjudicate a youth as a delinquent, status offender, or dependent child or to waive jurisdiction and transfer a youth to criminal court for processing as a criminal offender.

Judicial decision: The decision made in response to a petition that asks the

court to adjudicate or judicially waive the youth to criminal court for prosecution as an adult. This decision is generally made by a juvenile court judge or referee.

Judicial disposition: The disposition rendered in a case after the judicial decision has been made.

Juvenile: Youth at or below the upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction. (See “juvenile population” and “upper age of jurisdiction.”)

Juvenile court: Any court that has jurisdiction over matters involving juveniles.

Juvenile population: For delinquency and status offense matters, the juvenile population is defined as the number of children between the age of 10 and the upper age of jurisdiction. For dependency matters, it is defined as the number of children at or below the upper age of jurisdiction. In all states, the upper age of jurisdiction is defined by statute. Thus, when the upper age of jurisdiction is 17, the delinquency and status offense juvenile population is equal to the number of children ages 10 through 17 living within the geographical area serviced by the court. (See “upper age of jurisdiction.”)

Nonpetitioned case: See “intake decision.”

Petition: A document filed in juvenile court alleging that a juvenile is a delinquent or a status offender and asking that the court assume jurisdiction over the juvenile or that an alleged delinquent be judicially waived to criminal court for prosecution as an adult.

Petitioned case: See “intake decision.”

Race: The race of the youth referred, as determined by the youth or by court personnel.

- **White**—A person having origins in any of the indigenous peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East. (In both the population and court data, nearly all youth of Hispanic ethnicity were included in the white racial category.)

- **Black**—A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

- **American Indian**—A person having origins in any of the indigenous peoples of North America, including Alaskan Natives.

- **Asian**—A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, Hawaii, or any of the other Pacific Islands.

Reason for referral: The most serious offense for which the youth is referred to court intake. Attempts to commit an offense are included under that offense, except attempted murder, which is included in the aggravated assault category.

- **Crimes against persons**—Includes criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, and other offenses against persons as defined below.

- ◆ **Criminal homicide**—Causing the death of another person without legal justification or excuse. Criminal homicide is a summary category, not a single codified offense. In law, the term embraces all homicides in which the perpetrator intentionally kills someone without legal justification or accidentally kills someone as a consequence of reckless or grossly negligent conduct. It includes all conduct encompassed by the terms murder, nonnegligent (voluntary) manslaughter, negligent (involuntary) manslaughter, and vehicular manslaughter. The term is broader than the Crime Index category used

in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) *Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)*, in which murder/nonnegligent manslaughter does not include negligent manslaughter or vehicular manslaughter.

- ◆ **Forcible rape**—The carnal knowledge of a person without consent, oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person without consent, or use of an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person without consent, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*. (Other violent sex offenses are classified as “other offenses against persons.”) [Note: Effective 2012, the FBI revised the definition of rape to be gender-neutral.]
- ◆ **Robbery**—Unlawful taking or attempted taking of property that is in the immediate possession of another by force or threat of force. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index* and includes forcible purse snatching.
- ◆ **Assault**—Unlawful intentional infliction, or attempted or threatened infliction, of injury upon the person of another.
 - ❖ **Aggravated assault**—Unlawful intentional infliction of serious bodily injury or unlawful threat or attempt to inflict bodily injury or death by means of a deadly or dangerous weapon with or without actual infliction of any injury. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*. It includes conduct encompassed under the statutory names: aggravated assault and battery, aggravated battery, assault with intent to kill, assault with intent to commit murder or manslaughter, atrocious assault, attempted murder, felonious assault, and assault with a deadly weapon.
 - ❖ **Simple assault**—Unlawful intentional infliction or attempted or threatened infliction of less than serious bodily injury without a deadly or dangerous weapon. The term is used in the same sense as in *UCR* reporting. Simple assault is not often distinctly named in statutes because it encompasses all assaults not explicitly named and defined as serious. Unspecified assaults are classified as “other offenses against persons.”
- ◆ **Other offenses against persons**—Includes kidnapping, violent sex acts other than forcible rape (e.g., incest, sodomy), custody interference, unlawful restraint, false imprisonment, reckless endangerment, harassment, and attempts to commit any such acts.
- **Crimes against property**—Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, vandalism, stolen property offenses, trespassing, and other property offenses as defined below.
 - ◆ **Burglary**—Unlawful entry or attempted entry of any fixed structure, vehicle, or vessel used for regular residence, industry, or business, with or without force, with intent to commit a felony or larceny. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*.
 - ◆ **Larceny**—Unlawful taking or attempted taking of property (other than a motor vehicle) from the possession of another by stealth, without force and without deceit, with intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property. This term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*. It includes shoplifting and purse snatching without force.
 - ◆ **Motor vehicle theft**—Unlawful taking or attempted taking of a self-propelled road vehicle owned by another with the intent to deprive the owner of it permanently or temporarily. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*. It includes joyriding or unauthorized use of a motor vehicle as well as grand theft auto.
 - ◆ **Arson**—Intentional damage or destruction by means of fire or explosion of the property of another without the owner's consent or of any property with intent to defraud, or attempting the above acts. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*.
 - ◆ **Vandalism**—Destroying, damaging, or attempting to destroy or damage public property or the property of another without the owner's consent, except by fire or explosion.
 - ◆ **Stolen property offenses**—Unlawfully and knowingly receiving, buying, distributing, selling, transporting, concealing, or possessing stolen property, or attempting any of the above. The term is used in the same sense as the *UCR* category “stolen property: buying, receiving, possessing.”

- ◆ **Trespassing**—Unlawful entry or attempted entry of the property of another with the intent to commit a misdemeanor other than larceny or without intent to commit a crime.
- ◆ **Other property offenses**—Includes extortion and all fraud offenses, such as forgery, counterfeiting, embezzlement, check or credit card fraud, and attempts to commit any such offenses.
- **Drug law violations**—Includes unlawful sale, purchase, distribution, manufacture, cultivation, transport, possession, or use of a controlled or prohibited substance or drug or drug paraphernalia, or attempt to commit these acts. Sniffing of glue, paint, gasoline, and other inhalants is also included. Hence, the term is broader than the *UCR* category “drug abuse violations.”
- **Offenses against public order**—Includes weapons offenses; nonviolent sex offenses; liquor law violations, not status offenses; disorderly conduct; obstruction of justice; and other offenses against public order as defined below.
 - ◆ **Weapons offenses**—Unlawful sale, distribution, manufacture, alteration, transportation, possession, or use of a deadly or dangerous weapon or accessory, or attempt to commit any of these acts. The term is used in the same sense as the *UCR* category “weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.”
 - ◆ **Nonviolent sex offenses**—All offenses having a sexual element not involving violence. The term combines the meaning of the *UCR* categories “prostitution and commercialized vice” and “sex offenses.” It includes offenses such as statutory rape, indecent exposure, prostitution, solicitation, pimping, lewdness, fornication, and adultery.
- ◆ **Liquor law violations, not status offenses**—Being in a public place while intoxicated through consumption of alcohol. It includes public intoxication, drunkenness, and other liquor law violations. It does not include driving under the influence. The term is used in the same sense as the *UCR* category of the same name. Some states treat public drunkenness of juveniles as a status offense rather than delinquency. Hence, some of these offenses may appear under the status offense code “status liquor law violations.” (When a person who is publicly intoxicated performs acts that cause a disturbance, he or she may be charged with disorderly conduct.)
- ◆ **Disorderly conduct**—Unlawful interruption of the peace, quiet, or order of a community, including offenses called disturbing the peace, vagrancy, loitering, unlawful assembly, and riot.
- ◆ **Obstruction of justice**—Intentionally obstructing court or law enforcement efforts in the administration of justice, acting in a way calculated to lessen the authority or dignity of the court, failing to obey the lawful order of a court, escaping from confinement, and violating probation or parole. This term includes contempt, perjury, bribery of witnesses, failure to report a crime, and nonviolent resistance of arrest.
- ◆ **Other offenses against public order**—Other offenses against government administration or regulation, such as bribery; violations of laws pertaining to fish and game, gambling, health, hitchhiking, and immigration; and false fire alarms.
- **Status offenses**—Includes acts or types of conduct that are offenses only when committed or engaged in by a juvenile and that can be adjudicated only by a juvenile court. Although state statutes defining status offenses vary and some states may classify cases involving these offenses as dependency cases, for the purposes of this Report the following types of offenses are classified as status offenses:
 - ◆ **Runaway**—Leaving the custody and home of parents, guardians, or custodians without permission and failing to return within a reasonable length of time, in violation of a statute regulating the conduct of youth.
 - ◆ **Truancy**—Violation of a compulsory school attendance law.
 - ◆ **Curfew violations**—Being found in a public place after a specified hour of the evening, usually established in a local ordinance applying only to persons under a specified age.
 - ◆ **Ungovernability**—Being beyond the control of parents, guardians, or custodians or being disobedient of parental authority. This classification is referred to in various juvenile codes as unruly, unmanageable, and incorrigible.
 - ◆ **Status liquor law violations**—Violation of laws regulating the possession, purchase, or consumption of liquor by minors. Some states treat consumption of alcohol and public drunkenness of juveniles as status offenses rather than delinquency. Hence, some of these offenses may appear under this status offense code.
 - ◆ **Miscellaneous status offenses**—Numerous status offenses not included above (e.g., tobacco violation and violation of a

court order in a status offense proceeding) and those offenses coded as “other” in a jurisdiction’s original data.

- **Dependency offenses**—Includes actions that come to the attention of a juvenile court involving neglect or inadequate care of minors on the part of the parents or guardians, such as abandonment or desertion; abuse or cruel treatment; improper or inadequate conditions in the home; and insufficient care or support resulting from death, absence, or physical or mental incapacity of the parents or guardians.

Offenses may also be grouped into categories commonly used in the FBI’s *Uniform Crime Reports*. These groupings are:

- **Violent Crime Index**—Includes the offenses of murder/nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.
- **Property Crime Index**—Includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Source of referral: The agency or individual filing a complaint with intake that initiates court processing.

- **Law enforcement agency**—Includes metropolitan police, state police, park police, sheriffs,

constables, police assigned to the juvenile court for special duty, and all others performing a police function, with the exception of probation officers and officers of the court.

- **School**—Includes counselors, teachers, principals, and attendance officers.
- **Relatives**—Includes the youth’s own parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, stepparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other legal guardians.
- **Other**—Includes social agencies, district attorneys, probation officers, victims, other private citizens, and miscellaneous sources of referral often only defined by the code “other” in the original data.

Status offense: Behavior that is considered an offense only when committed by a juvenile (e.g., running away from home). (See “reason for referral.”)

Unit of count: A case disposed by a court with juvenile jurisdiction during the calendar year. Each case represents a youth referred to the juvenile court for a new referral for one or more offenses. (See “reason for referral.”) The term disposed means that during the year some definite action was taken or some treatment plan was decided on or initiated. (See “disposition.”) Under this definition, a

youth could be involved in more than one case during a calendar year.

Upper age of jurisdiction: The oldest age at which a juvenile court has original jurisdiction over an individual for law-violating behavior. For the time period covered by this Report, the upper age of jurisdiction was 15 in 2 states (New York and North Carolina) and 16 in 9 states (Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin). In the remaining 39 states and the District of Columbia, the upper age of jurisdiction was 17. It must be noted that within most states, there are exceptions in which youth at or below the state’s upper age of jurisdiction can be placed under the original jurisdiction of the adult criminal court. For example, in most states, if a youth of a certain age is charged with an offense from a defined list of “excluded offenses,” the case must originate in the adult criminal court. In addition, in a number of states, the district attorney is given the discretion of filing certain cases in either the juvenile court or the criminal court. Therefore, while the upper age of jurisdiction is commonly recognized in all states, there are numerous exceptions to this age criterion.

Waiver: Cases transferred to criminal court as the result of a judicial waiver hearing in juvenile court.

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