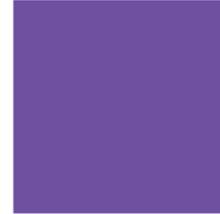
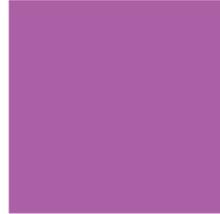
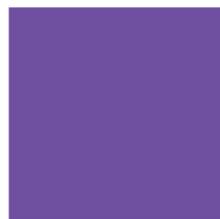
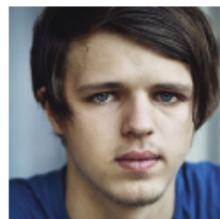




Juvenile Court Statistics



2017



Online resources

National Center for Juvenile Justice

ncjj.org

The National Center for Juvenile Justice'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 Juvenile Justice Geography, Policy, Practice & Statistics web site.

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 47 million delinquency cases processed by the nation's juvenile courts between 1985 and 2017. Preformatted tables describe the demographic characteristics of youth involved in the juvenile justice system and how juvenile courts process these cases. Users can also create their own analyses beginning with 2005 data to explore relationships among a youth's demographics and referral offenses, and the court's detention, adjudication, and disposition decisions. 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.

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 2005 to present for more than 25 offense categories, and include separate presentations by gender, age, and race.

Juvenile Court Statistics 2017

Sarah Hockenberry
Charles Puzzanchera

June 2019

National Center for Juvenile Justice

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Juvenile Court Statistics would not be possible were it not for the state and

local agencies that take the time each year to honor our requests for data and documentation. The following agencies contributed case-level data or court-level aggregate statistics for this report:

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

Alaska—Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice.

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

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

California—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—Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia.

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

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.

Kentucky—Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts.

Maryland—Department of Juvenile Services.

Massachusetts—Administrative Office of the Courts.

Michigan—State Court Administrative Office, Michigan Supreme Court.

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 Supreme Courts, Administrative Office of the Court.

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; Hamilton County Juvenile Court; and Lucas 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.

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.

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Preface

Juvenile Court Statistics 2017 describes delinquency cases and petitioned status offense cases handled between 2005 and 2017 by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction. National estimates of juvenile court delinquency caseloads in 2017 were based on analyses of 577,407 automated case records and court-level statistics summarizing an additional 61,655 cases. Estimates of status offense cases formally processed by juvenile courts in 2017 were based on analyses of 58,768 automated case-level records and court-level summary statistics on an additional 5,122 cases. The data used in the analyses were contributed to the National Juvenile Court Data Archive (the Archive) by more than 2,500 courts with jurisdiction over 87% of the juvenile population in 2017.

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.

In 2019, to ensure efficiency and coordination of all Office of Justice Programs (OJP) research activities, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) assumed management of the juvenile justice research, evaluation, and statistical data collection projects funded by OJJDP, including the National Juvenile Court Data Archive.

Chapter 1

Introduction

This report describes delinquency and status offense cases handled between 2005 and 2017 by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction. 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 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

¹ Mechanisms 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.

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 2017 are based on analyses of individual case records from nearly 2,200 courts and aggregate court-level data on cases from nearly 400 courts. Together, these courts had jurisdiction over 87% of the U.S. juvenile population in 2017. National estimates of petitioned status offense cases for 2017 are based on case records from more than 2,000 courts and court-level data from more than 200 courts, covering 77% 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).

With each annual release of data, estimates for prior years are revised and

replaced. There are two primary reasons for this. First, data submissions from contributing jurisdictions, particularly case-level data submissions, can change as newer data files submitted to the Archive replace previously submitted files. Second, the estimation procedure used by the Archive utilizes county level population estimates, which are revised by the Census Bureau each year. Therefore, readers should not compare estimates from *Juvenile Court Statistics* reports produced in different years, but should compare estimates across trending years within a *Juvenile Court Statistics* report.

Structure of the Report

Chapters 2 and 3 of this report present national estimates of delinquency cases handled by the juvenile courts in 2017 and analyze caseload trends since 2005. 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 2017 and caseload trends since 2005. 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 412-246-0833.

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 1985-2017*, 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 calcu-

lated 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 2017 and examines trends since 2005.

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 2017, courts with juvenile jurisdiction handled an estimated 818,900 delinquency cases.
- In 1960, approximately 1,100 delinquency cases were processed daily. In 2017, juvenile courts handled about 2,200 delinquency cases per day.
- The number of delinquency cases processed by juvenile courts decreased 51% in the 13 years between 2005 and 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of cases decreased for all offense categories: property 57%, public order 54%, person 45%, and drugs 42%.

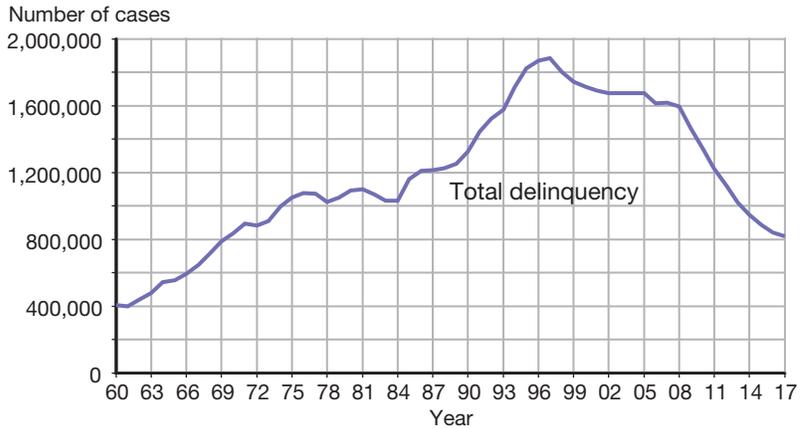
Offense profile of delinquency cases:

Most serious offense	2005	2017
Person	26%	29%
Property	37	32
Drugs	11	13
Public order	26	25
Total	100%	100%

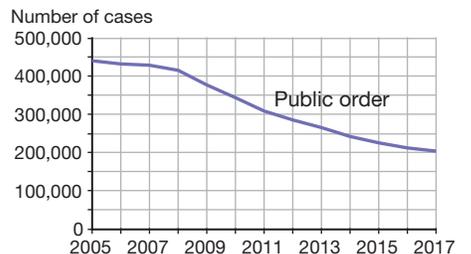
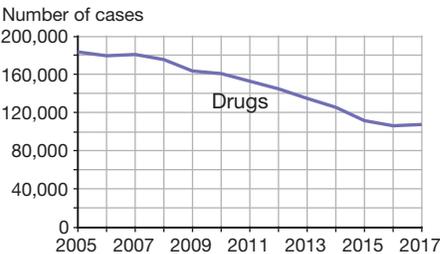
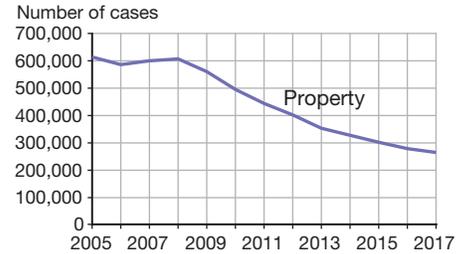
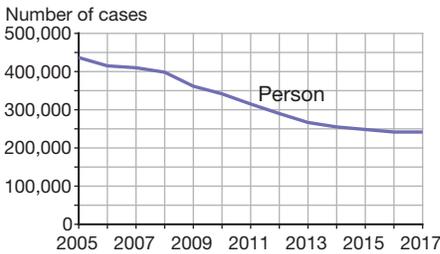
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- The offense profile of the court's 2017 delinquency caseload was similar to that of 2005, but had slightly greater proportions of person and drug offenses and slightly smaller proportions of property and public order offenses.

The 2017 juvenile court delinquency caseload was double (102%) the 1960 caseload



Delinquency caseloads in 2017 for property and public order offenses were at their lowest level since 2005



Counts and Trends

In the last 10 years (2008–2017), the number of cases handled by juvenile courts has decreased for nearly all offenses

Most serious offense	Number of cases 2017	Percent change		
		10 year 2008–2017	5 year 2013–2017	1 year 2016–2017
Total delinquency	818,900	-49%	-20%	-2%
Total person	241,400	-39	-9	0
Criminal homicide	1,100	-8	50	21
Rape	8,400	-14	3	6
Robbery	21,600	-35	3	10
Aggravated assault	26,600	-38	6	3
Simple assault	153,000	-39	-13	-2
Other violent sex offenses	7,500	-37	-22	5
Other person offenses	23,300	-50	-10	1
Total property	265,600	-56	-25	-5
Burglary	54,100	-49	-13	0
Larceny-theft	111,300	-60	-37	-11
Motor vehicle theft	17,100	-28	49	10
Arson	2,500	-62	-33	-5
Vandalism	41,500	-60	-20	1
Trespassing	23,700	-57	-20	-3
Stolen property offenses	8,700	-52	-18	-5
Other property offenses	6,800	-54	-11	4
Drug law violations	107,400	-39	-20	1
Total public order	204,500	-51	-23	-4
Obstruction of justice	104,800	-46	-20	-3
Disorderly conduct	51,300	-58	-31	-9
Weapons offenses	18,100	-52	-21	0
Liquor law violations	4,800	-72	-33	-8
Nonviolent sex offenses	11,900	1	16	7
Other public order offenses	13,700	-57	-34	-3

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

- Between 2008 and 2017, offenses with the largest percentage decrease in caseloads included liquor law violations (72%) and arson (62%).
- Trends in juvenile court cases were similar to trends in arrests² of persons younger than 18. The number of juvenile court cases involving robbery and aggravated assault cases decreased during the 10-year period between 2008 and 2017 (35% and 38%, respectively). The FBI reported that the number of arrests involving persons younger than age 18 charged with aggravated assault or robbery offenses also decreased during this period (down 45% and 49%, respectively).
- Between 2008 and 2017, the volume of juvenile court cases involving burglary or larceny-theft cases decreased (49% and 60%, respectively), and the FBI reported that arrests of persons under age 18 decreased 63% each for burglary and larceny-theft offenses.
- Unlike most other offenses, the number of juvenile court cases involving criminal homicide increased substantially in the 5-year period between 2013 and 2017 (50%), with most of the increase occurring in the last year (21% between 2016 and 2017). The FBI reported a 23% increase in the number of juvenile arrests involving criminal homicide between 2013 and 2017.

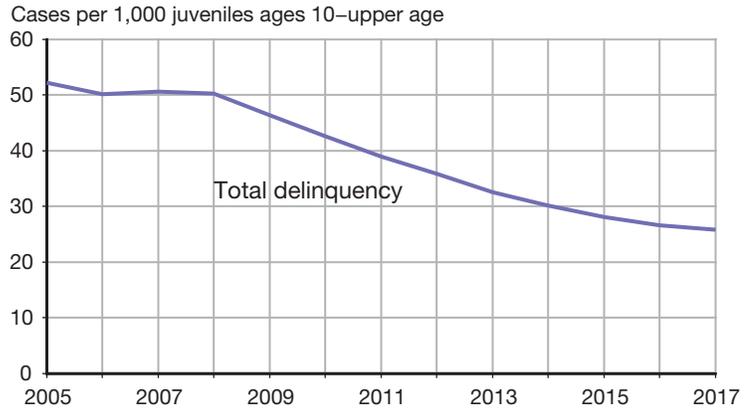
² The annual series of data tables from the FBI's *Crime in the United States* provides information on arrests and tracks changes in the general nature of arrests. The arrest trends reported above are from *Crime in the United States 2017*, supplemental tables, available at ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2017/crime-in-the-u.s.-2017.

Case Rates

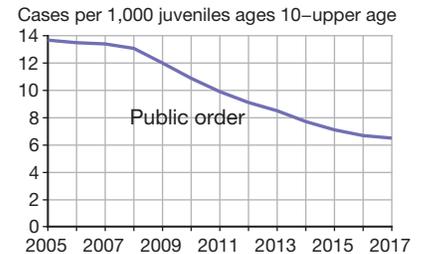
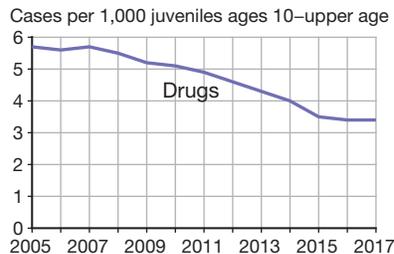
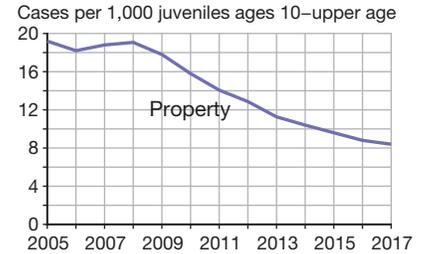
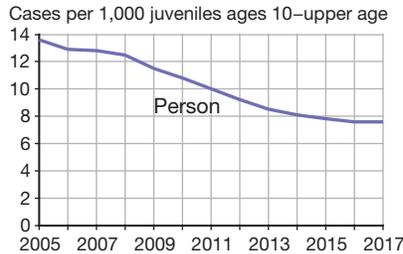
- More than 31 million youth were under juvenile court jurisdiction in 2017. Of these youth, 79% were between the ages of 10 and 15, 12% were age 16, and 9% were age 17. The small proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds among the juvenile court population is related to the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction, which varies by state. In 2017, youth age 16 in 2 states were under the original jurisdiction of the criminal court, as were youth age 17 in an additional 7 states.
- In 2017, juvenile courts processed 25.8 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 remained stable between 2005 and 2008 and then declined 49% to the 2017 level. As a result, the overall delinquency case rate in 2017 was 50% below the 2005 level.³
- Between 2005 and 2017, case rates decreased 56% for property offense cases, 53% for public order offenses, 44% for person offenses, and 41% for drug law violations.

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.

The delinquency case rate declined from 52.2 per 1,000 juveniles in 2005 to 25.8 in 2017



Between 2005 and 2017, case rates decreased the most for property offenses (from 19.2 to 8.4 per 1,000 juveniles)



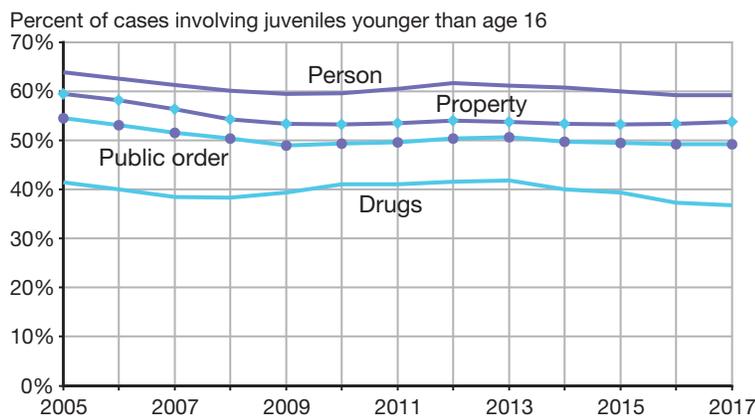
Age at Referral

Of the 818,900 delinquency cases processed in 2017, 52% involved youth younger than 16, 27% involved females, and 44% involved white youth

Most serious offense	Number of cases	Percentage of total juvenile court cases, 2017		
		Younger than 16	Female	White
Total delinquency	818,900	52%	27%	44%
Total person	241,400	59	30	41
Criminal homicide	1,100	31	14	30
Rape	8,400	62	4	54
Robbery	21,600	46	11	13
Aggravated assault	26,600	53	25	32
Simple assault	153,000	61	37	42
Other violent sex offenses	7,500	73	6	59
Other person offenses	23,300	62	30	58
Total property	265,600	54	25	43
Burglary	54,100	54	11	37
Larceny-theft	111,300	52	36	45
Motor vehicle theft	17,100	50	22	31
Arson	2,500	74	14	53
Vandalism	41,500	61	18	54
Trespassing	23,700	55	21	43
Stolen property offenses	8,700	47	13	28
Other property offenses	6,800	50	26	50
Drug law violations	107,400	37	25	56
Total public order	204,500	49	28	42
Obstruction of justice	104,800	41	27	40
Disorderly conduct	51,300	63	37	42
Weapons offenses	18,100	53	11	34
Liquor law violations	4,800	31	33	61
Nonviolent sex offenses	11,900	61	22	60
Other public order offenses	13,700	49	24	48

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

In 2017, juveniles younger than 16 accounted for more than half of all delinquency cases, including 59% of person offense cases



- The proportion of cases involving juveniles age 15 or younger varied by offense category. Between 2005 and 2017, younger juveniles accounted for a smaller proportion of drug and public order cases than of person and property offense cases.

- In 2017, juveniles younger than 16 accounted for three-quarters (74%) of juvenile arson cases.

Offense profile of delinquency cases by age group:

Most serious offense	Age 15 or younger	Age 16 or older
2017		
Person	34%	25%
Property	34	31
Drugs	9	17
Public order	24	26
Total	100%	100%
2005		
Person	29%	22%
Property	38	35
Drugs	8	15
Public order	25	28
Total	100%	100%

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

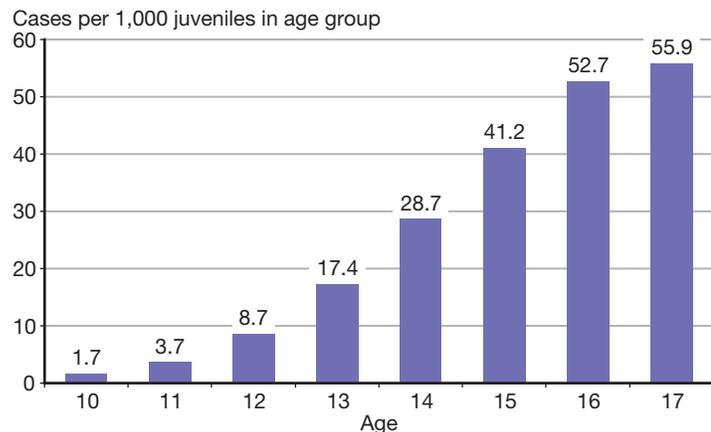
- Compared with the delinquency caseload involving older juveniles, the caseload of youth age 15 or younger in 2017 included larger proportions of person and property offense cases and smaller proportions of drug and public order offense cases.

- Compared with 2005, the caseload in 2017 for both younger and older juveniles involved slightly greater proportions of person and drug offense cases, and slightly smaller proportions of property and public order offense cases.

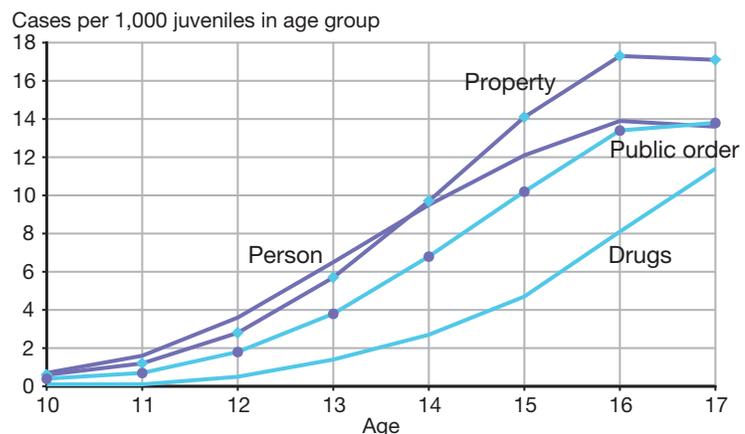
Age at Referral

- Although, in general, more 17-year-olds than 16-year-olds are arrested, the number of juvenile court cases involving 17-year-olds (164,100) was lower than the number involving 16-year-olds (203,000) in 2017. The explanation lies primarily in the fact that in 9 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 2017, the delinquency case rate for 17-year-olds (55.9) was nearly twice the rate for 14-year-olds (28.7) and more than 3 times the rate for 13-year-olds (17.4).
- 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 (11.4) was more than 8 times the rate for 13-year-olds (1.4).
- For public order offenses in 2017, the case rate for 17-year-olds (13.8) was nearly 4 times the rate for 13-year-olds (3.8) and the property offense case rate for 17-year-olds (17.1) was 3 times the rate for 13-year-olds (5.7).
- For cases involving person offenses, the case rate for 17-year-olds (13.6) was double the rate for 13-year-olds (6.5).

In 2017, delinquency case rates increased with the referral age of the juvenile



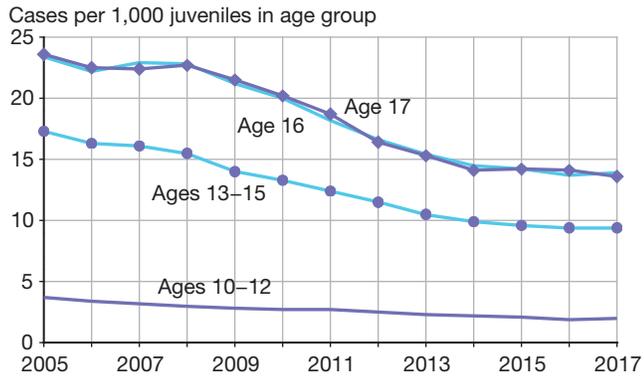
Case rates increased continuously with age for drug and public order offense cases, while person and property offense case rates leveled off after age 16



Age at Referral

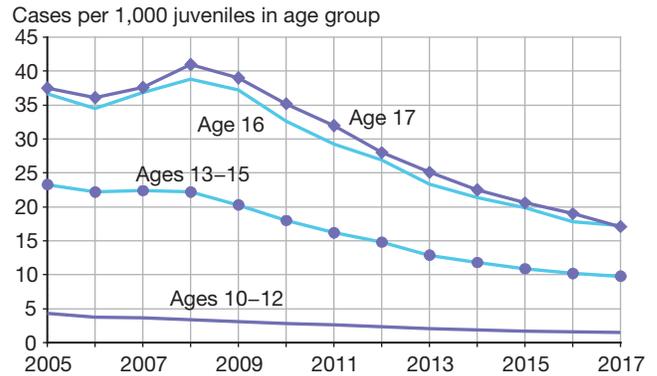
Trends in case rates were similar across age groups between 2005 and 2017 for each general offense category

Person offense case rates



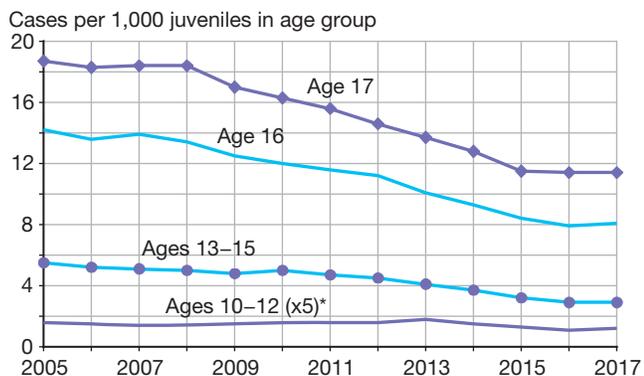
- Between 2005 and 2017, person offense case rates were at their highest in 2005 for all age groups.
- Since 2005, person offense case rates for all age groups declined through 2017: down 47% for youth ages 10–12, 46% for youth ages 13–15, 41% for 16-year-olds, and 42% for 17-year-olds.

Property offense case rates



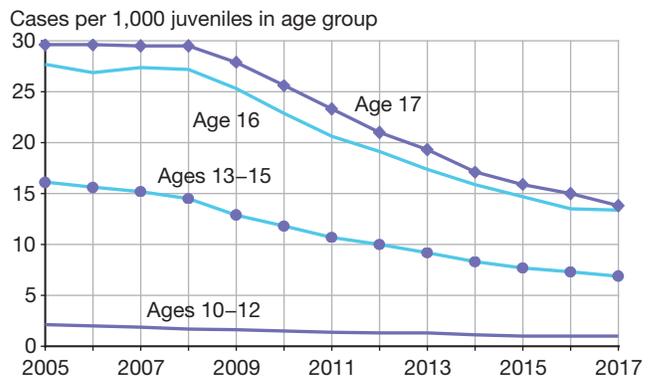
- Property offense case rates were at their highest in 2005 for youth ages 10–12 and 13–15, and peaked in 2008 for youth ages 16 and 17, before declining through 2017.
- Property offense case rates were lower in 2017 than in 2005 for all age groups. In 2017, the case rate for juveniles ages 10–12 was 65% less than the 2005 rate, the rate for juveniles ages 13–15 was 58% less, the rate for 16-year-olds was 53% less, and the rate for 17-year-olds was 54% less.

Drug offense case rates



- Drug offense case rates reached their low point in 2016 for youth ages 10–12 and age 16, while rates were at their lowest levels in 2017 for youth ages 13–15 and age 17. Compared with 2005, rates in 2017 were 28% lower for youth ages 10–12, 47% lower for youth ages 13–15, 43% lower for 16-year-olds, and 39% lower for 17-year-olds.

Public order offense case rates



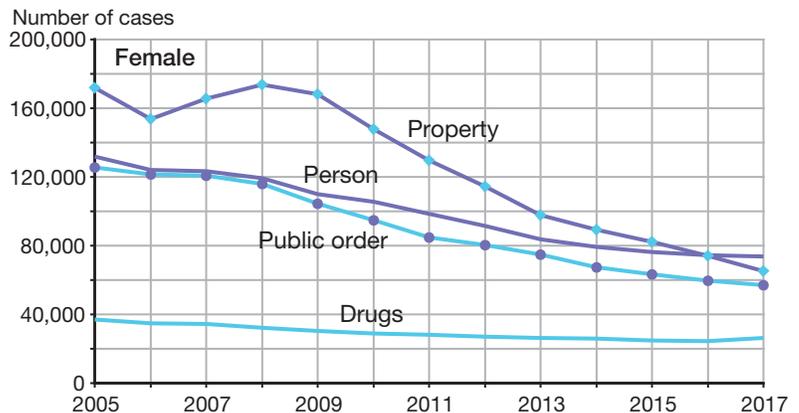
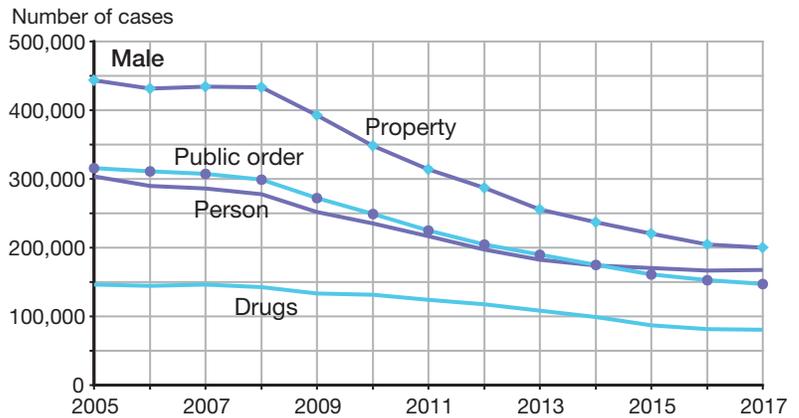
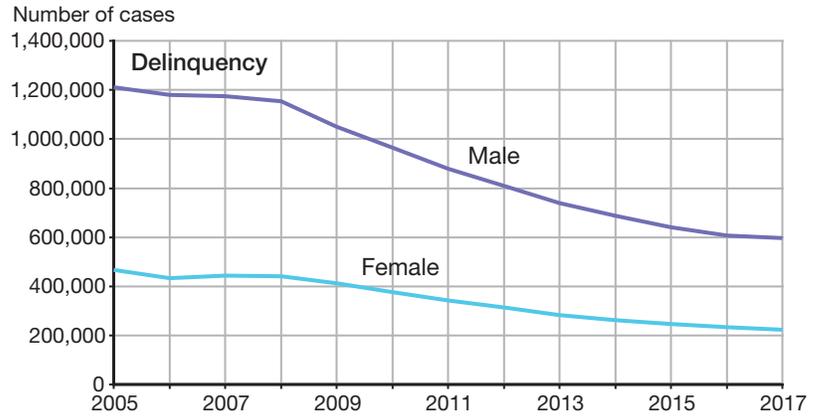
- Public order case rates for all age groups were at their lowest levels in 2017 since at least 2005. Case rates declined at a similar pace for all age groups: 55% for youth ages 10–12, 57% for youth ages 13–15, 52% for youth age 16, and 53% for youth age 17.

* 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

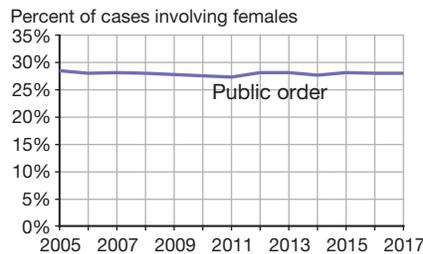
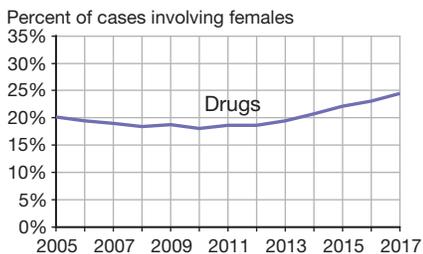
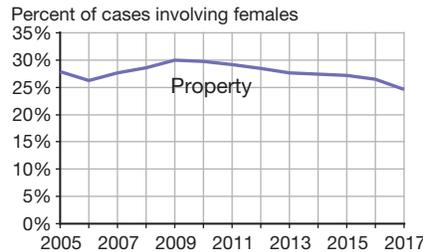
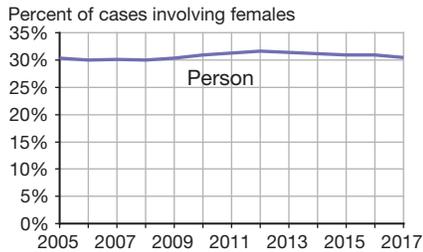
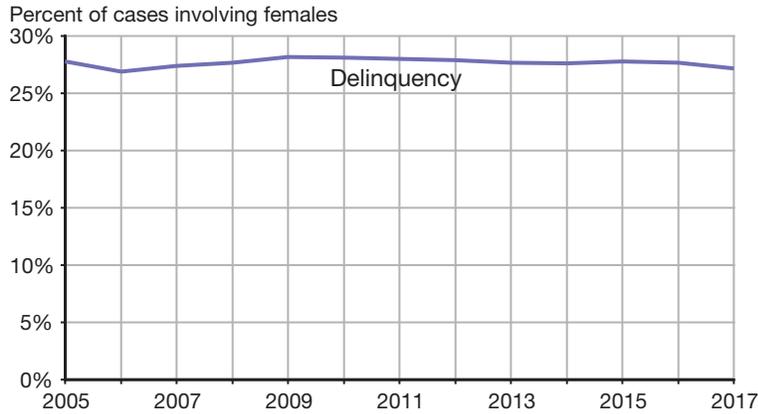
- Males were involved in 73% (596,500) of the delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts in 2017.
- The average annual decrease in the male and female delinquency caseloads was very similar for all offense types between 2005 and 2017. The average decrease was slightly larger for males than females for cases involving drug offenses (5% vs. 3%), equal for person (5% each) and public order (6% each), and slightly less for property (6% vs. 8%).
- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of property offense cases involving males was at its highest level in 2005, and the female caseload peaked in 2008. Between their respective peaks and 2017, the male caseload declined 55% while the female caseload fell 62%.
- Drug offense cases involving males were level between 2005 and 2008, before decreasing 45% through 2017. Drug offense cases involving females decreased steadily between 2005 and 2017, and in 2017 the number of cases was 29% below the level in 2005.
- The public order offense caseload decreased at a similar pace for both males and females between 2005 and 2017 (53% and 55%, respectively).

The overall decline in the male and female delinquency caseloads between 2005 and 2017 was similar (51% and 52%, respectively)



Gender

Females accounted for 27% of the delinquency caseload in 2017 — similar to 2005 (28%)



- Between 2005 and 2017, the female proportion of the person offense caseload has remained steady, from 30% to 31%.
- The female proportion of the drug offense caseload decreased from 20% in 2005 to 18% in 2010 and then increased to 25% by 2017.

Offense profile of delinquency cases for males and females:

Most serious offense	Male	Female
2017		
Person	28%	33%
Property	34	29
Drugs	14	12
Public order	25	26
Total	100%	100%
2005		
Person	25%	28%
Property	37	37
Drugs	12	8
Public order	26	27
Total	100%	100%

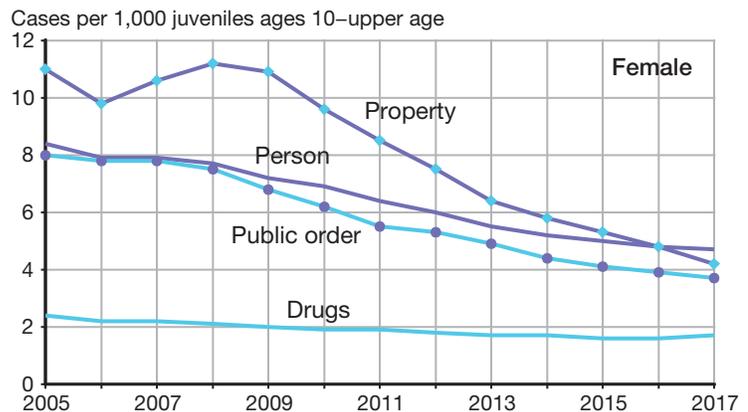
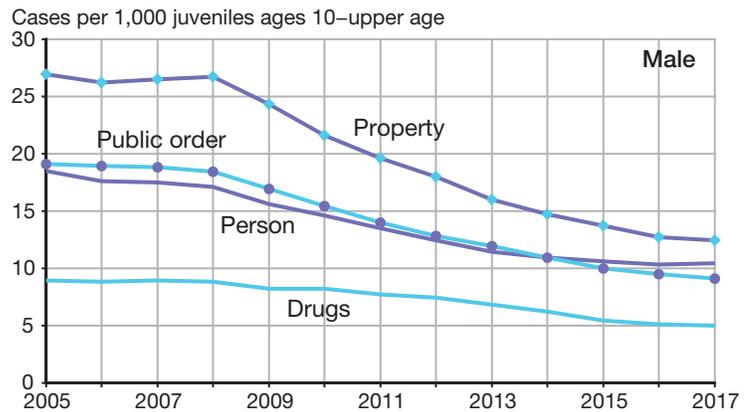
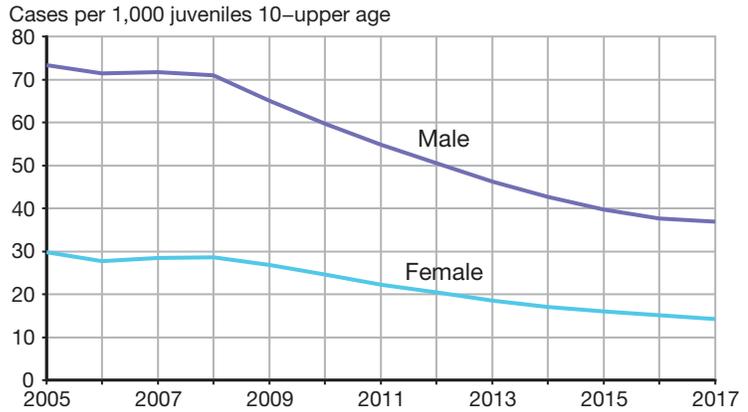
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- For both males and females, the property and public order offense proportions of the delinquency caseloads were less in 2017 than in 2005.
- In 2017, the male caseload contained greater proportions of drug and property offenses than the female caseload.
- The male caseload contained smaller proportions of person and public order offenses than the female caseload in 2017.

Gender

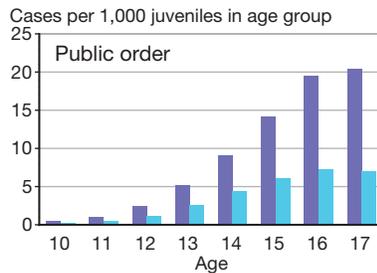
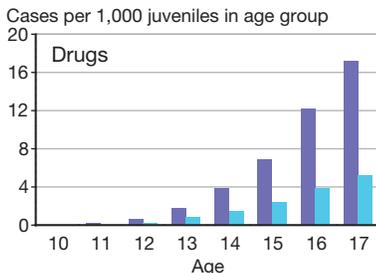
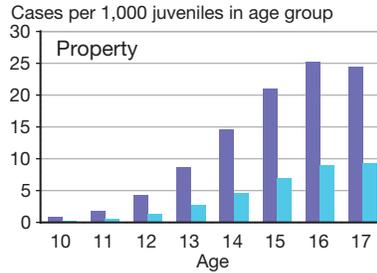
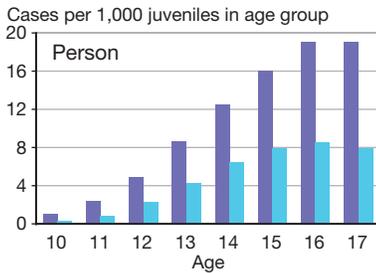
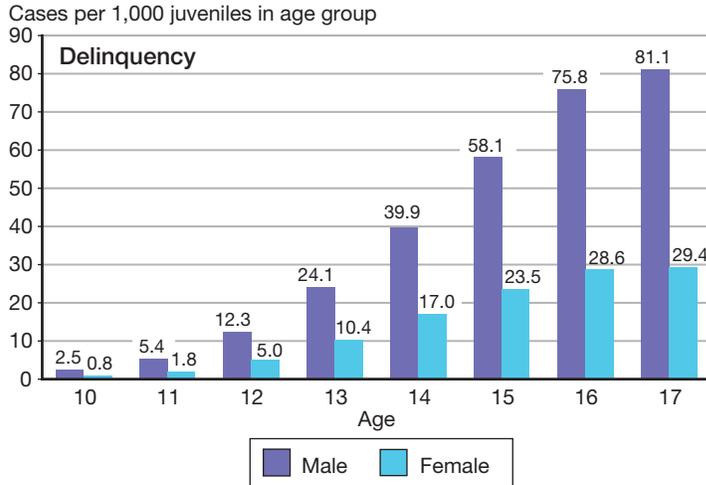
- The decrease in the delinquency case rate was similar for males and females between 2005 and 2017 (50% and 52%, respectively). Most of the decline occurred between 2008 and 2017 (down 48% and 50%, respectively).
- In 2017, the delinquency case rate for males was 2.6 times the rate for females, 36.9 compared with 14.3.
- With the exception of person cases involving males and drug offense cases involving females (which were both at their lowest in 2016), case rates in 2017 for all offense types were at their lowest level since 2005 for both males and females in 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2017, male case rates decreased 44% each for drug offenses and person offenses, 52% for public order offenses, and 54% for property offenses. The patterns in case rate decreases were similar for females, down 28% for drug offenses, 44% for person offenses, 54% for public order offenses, and 62% for property offenses.
- Despite a decrease in the disparity between male and female delinquency case rates between 2005 and 2017, the male case rate for drug offenses was 3.0 times that of the female case rate. Male rates were between 2.2 and 2.9 times female rates for all other offense types in 2017.

Despite decreases in case rates for both males and females, the male case rate remained at least twice the rate of females for all years between 2005 and 2017



Gender

In 2017, the delinquency case rate for males and females increased steadily through age 17



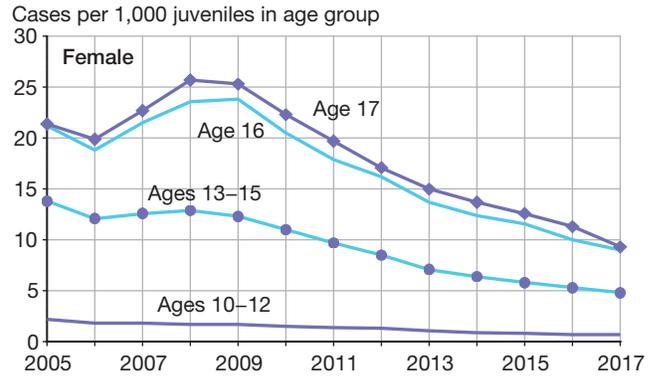
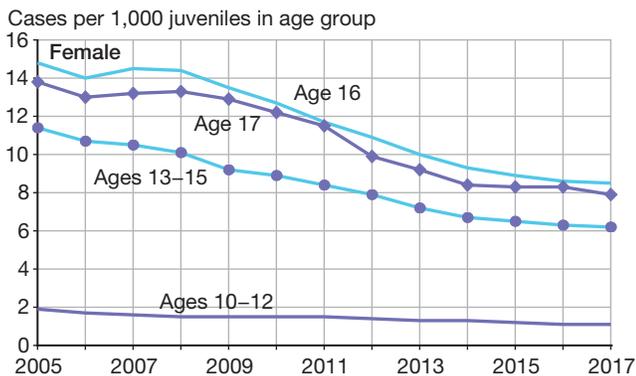
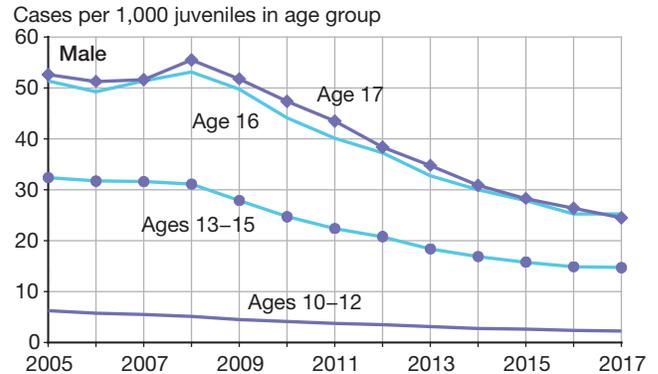
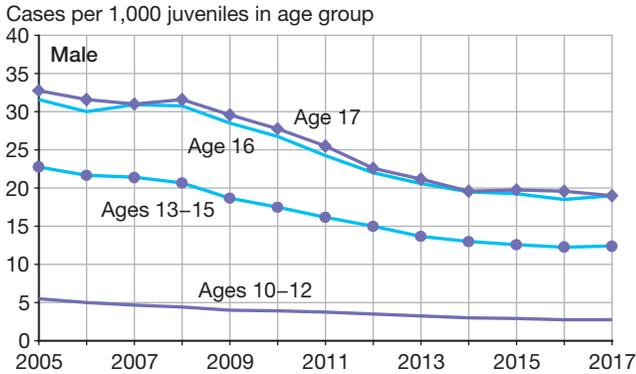
- In 2017, the difference between age-specific male and female delinquency case rates was greatest for the younger juveniles. The male delinquency rate for 10-year-olds was 3.1 times the female rate; for 11-year-olds, the male case rate was 3.0 times the female rate.
- In 2017, the case rate for person offenses increased through age 16 for males and leveled off, and the case rate for property offenses increased through age 16 and decreased for 17-year-olds. Case rates increased through age 17 for drug and public order offenses.
- 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 2017, the drug offense case rate for 17-year-old males was 24.9 times the rate for 12-year-old males; among females, the drug offense case rate for 17-year-olds was 17.8 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 13 years

Person offense case rates

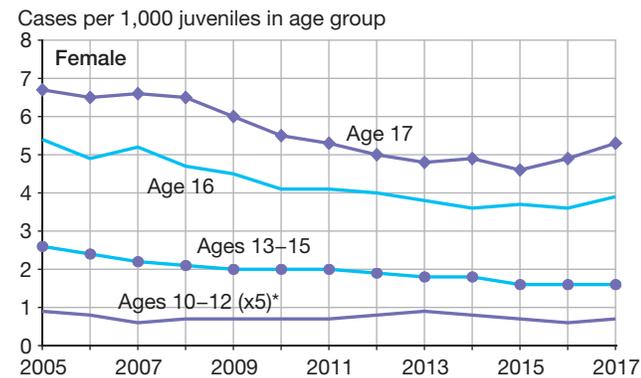
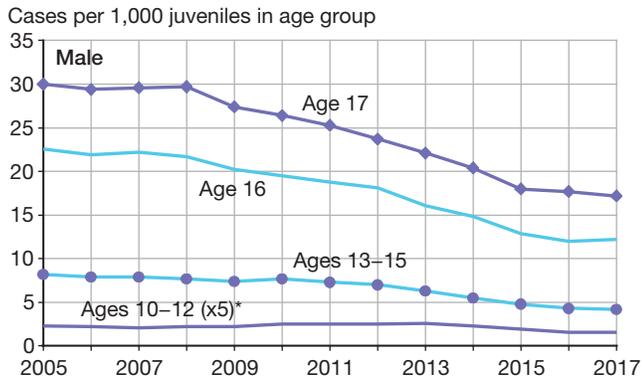
Property offense case rates



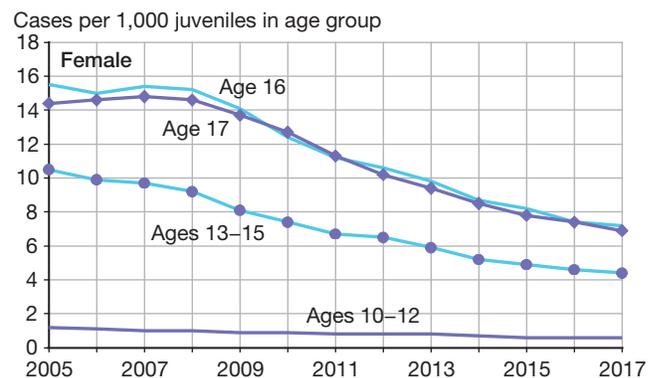
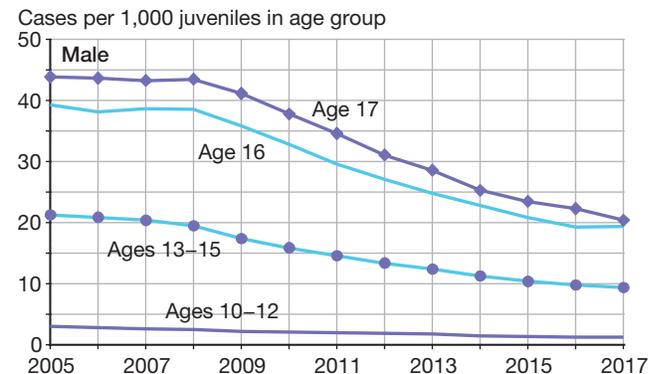
- In the last 13 years (2005 through 2017), male person offense case rates decreased for all age groups: 49% for youth ages 10-12, 46% for youth ages 13-15, 40% for youth age 16, and 42% for 17-year-olds.
- During the same period, female person offense case rates followed a similar pattern as males, decreasing 41% for youth ages 10-12, 46% for youth ages 13-15, 42% for 16-year-olds, and 43% for 17-year-olds.
- Male property offense case rates decreased to their lowest levels in 2017 for all age groups except 16-year-olds.
- Between 2005 and 2017, male property case rates decreased 63% for youth ages 10-12, 55% for ages 13-15, 51% for age 16, and 53% for age 17.
- Age-specific property offense rates for females were at their lowest level for all age groups in 2017.

Gender

Drug offense case rates



Public order offense case rates



- The male drug offense case rate decreased 31% between 2005 and 2017 for youth ages 10–12, while case rates decreased 49% for youth ages 13–15, 46% for youth age 16, and 43% for youth age 17. Most of the decreases occurred between 2008 and 2017 (down 26% for youth ages 10–12, 46% for youth ages 13–15, 44% for youth age 16, and 42% for youth age 17).
- Female drug offense case rates for youth ages 10–12 increased 5% from 2005 to 2013, before decreasing 23% in 2017. Case rates for females ages 13–15 and age 16 decreased relatively steadily between 2005 and 2017 (39% and 28%, respectively). Despite a 14% increase in the case rate for 17-year-olds between 2015 and 2017, the 2017 rate was 21% less than the 2005 rate.

- Except for males age 16, whose lowest level was in 2016, across all other gender and age groups, public order offense case rates in 2017 were at their lowest level since 2005.
- Between 2005 and 2017, public order case rates decreased at a similar pace for both males and females across all age groups. Male case rates decreased 57% for youth ages 10–12, 56% for youth ages 13–15, 51% for youth age 16, and 53% for youth age 17. Similarly, female case rates decreased 50% for youth ages 10–12, 59% for youth ages 13–15, 53% for youth age 16, and 52% for youth age 17.

* 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

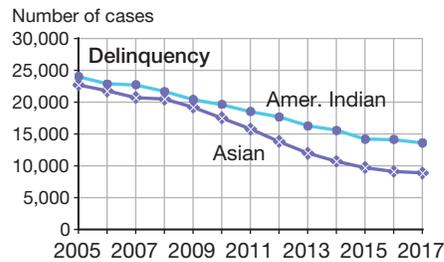
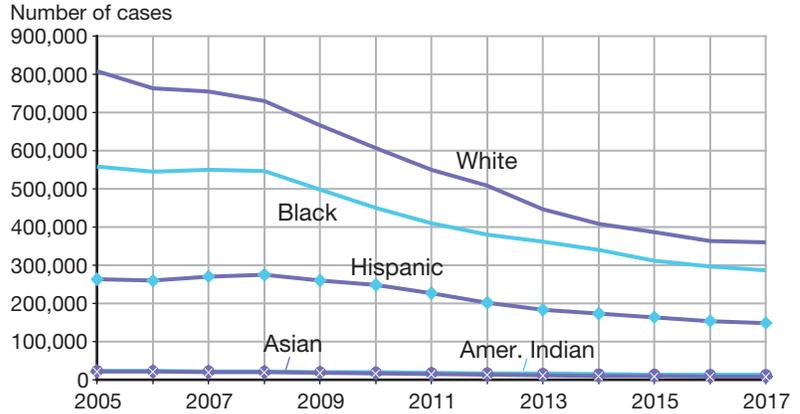
- Between 2005 and 2017, delinquency cases declined 61% for Asian⁴ youth, 55% for white youth, 49% for black youth, and 43% each for Hispanic⁵ and American Indian⁶ youth.
- The number of property offense cases involving black youth and Hispanic youth peaked in 2008 before decreasing through 2017 (47% and 57%, respectively).
- In 2017, the offense profile was similar to that of 2005 for all racial groups.
- The offense profile was similar for all races; property offenses accounted for the largest proportion of case-loads, followed by person, public order, and drug offense cases.

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

⁵ Persons of Hispanic ethnicity are treated as a distinct race group and are excluded from the other four race groups, with one important exception. Data provided to the Archive from many jurisdictions did not include any means to determine the ethnicity of American Indian youth. Rather than assume ethnicity for these youth, they are classified solely on their racial classification; as such, the American Indian group includes an unknown proportion of Hispanic youth.

⁶ The racial classification American Indian (usually abbreviated as Amer. Indian) includes American Indian and Alaskan Native.

The number of delinquency cases decreased substantially for all race groups between 2005 and 2017



Across all racial groups, property cases accounted for the largest proportion of the delinquency caseload

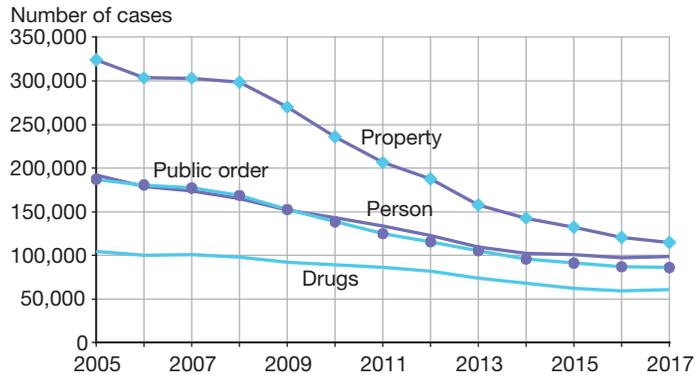
Most serious offense	Offense profile of delinquency cases				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Amer. Indian	Asian
2017					
Person	27%	33%	28%	26%	25%
Property	32	35	29	37	37
Drugs	17	7	16	17	14
Public order	24	26	27	19	24
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2005					
Person	24%	32%	22%	23%	21%
Property	40	32	35	41	44
Drugs	13	8	12	12	8
Public order	23	28	32	24	26
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

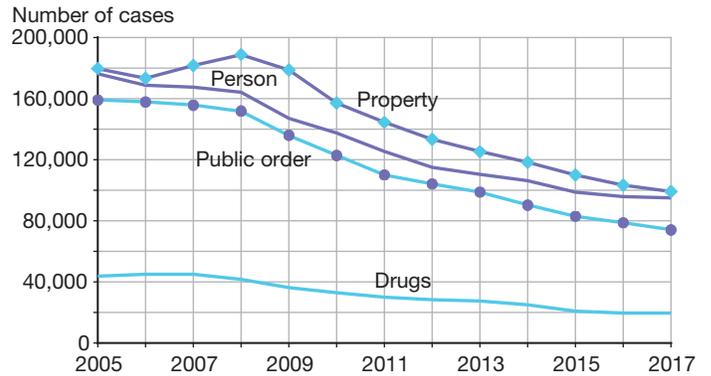
Race

Between 2005 and 2017, the number of cases decreased for all racial groups and offenses

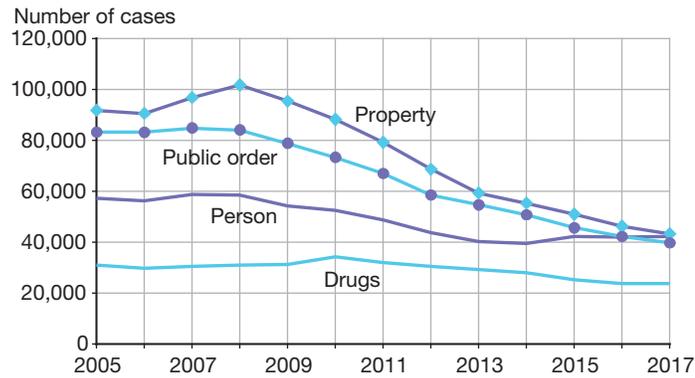
White



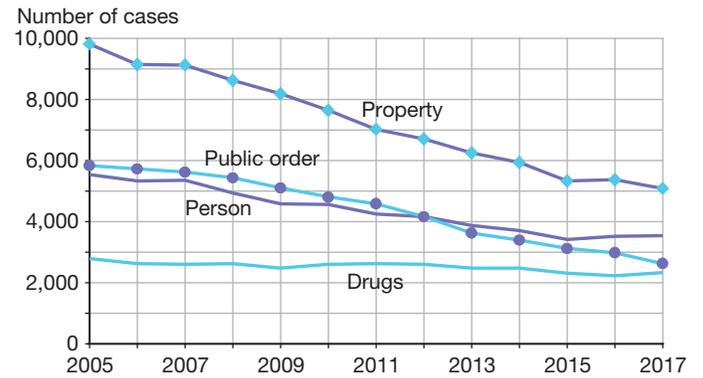
Black



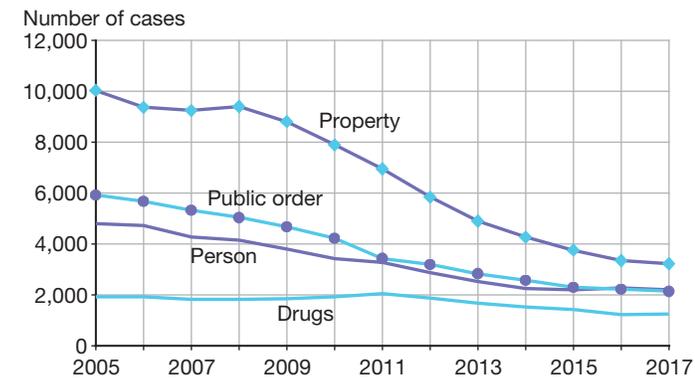
Hispanic



American Indian



Asian



Percent change in number of cases, 2005–2017:

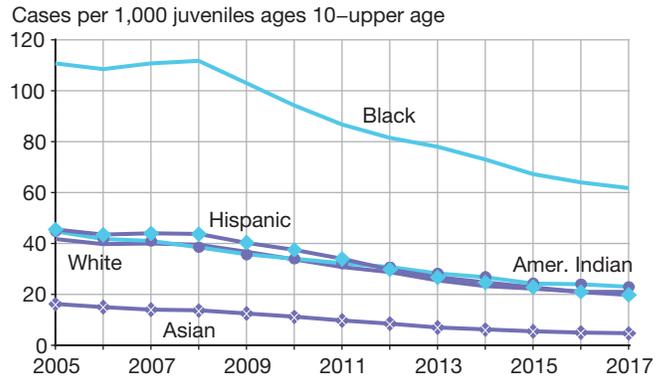
Most serious offense	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
Delinquency	-55%	-49%	-43%	-43%	-61%
Person	-49	-46	-26	-36	-54
Property	-65	-45	-53	-48	-68
Drugs	-42	-55	-23	-17	-35
Public order	-54	-53	-52	-55	-64

Race

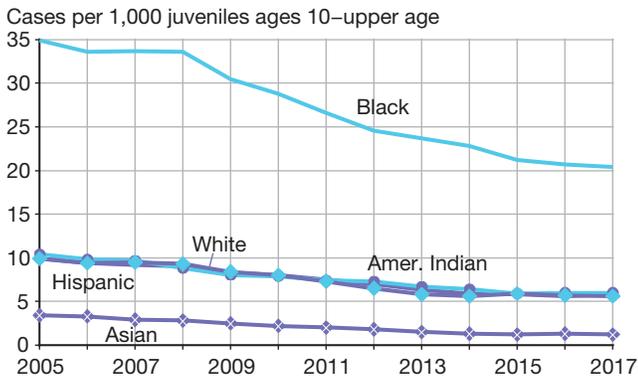
Between 2005 and 2017, delinquency case rates declined for youth of all racial groups: 50% for whites, 44% for blacks, 56% for Hispanics, 49% for American Indians, and 71% for Asians

- In 2017, the total delinquency case rate for white youth and Hispanic youth was similar (21.0 and 19.9, respectively). The case rate for black juveniles (61.8) was about triple the rates for white youth, Hispanic youth, and American Indian youth (23.0), and more than 13 times the case rate for Asian youth (4.7).
- In 2017, the person offense case rate for black juveniles (20.4) was more than 3 times the rate for Hispanic youth (5.6), white youth (5.8), and American Indian youth (6.0), and more than 17 times that of Asian youth (1.2).
- Case rates in 2017 were lower than in 2005 for each racial group for all four offense categories.

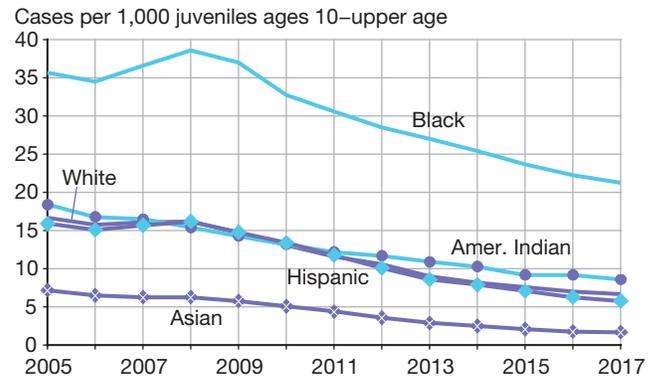
Delinquency



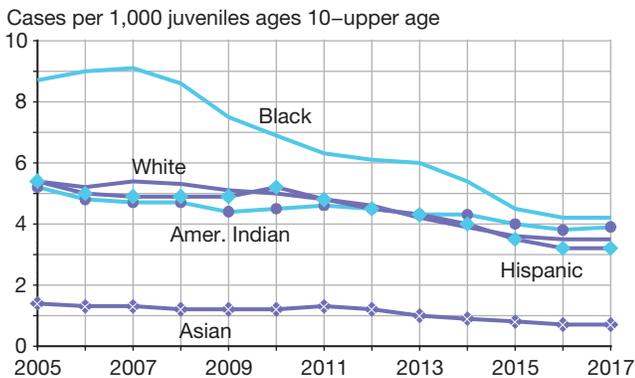
Person



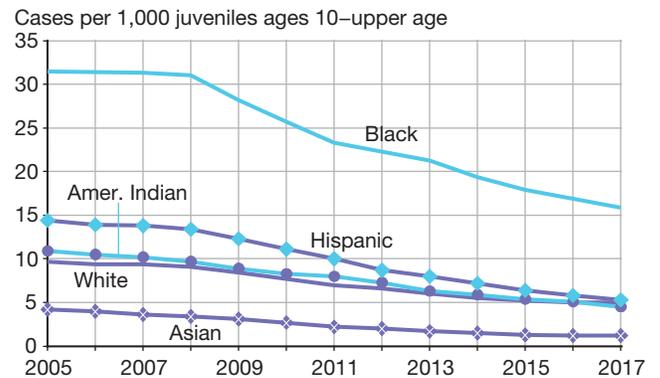
Property



Drugs

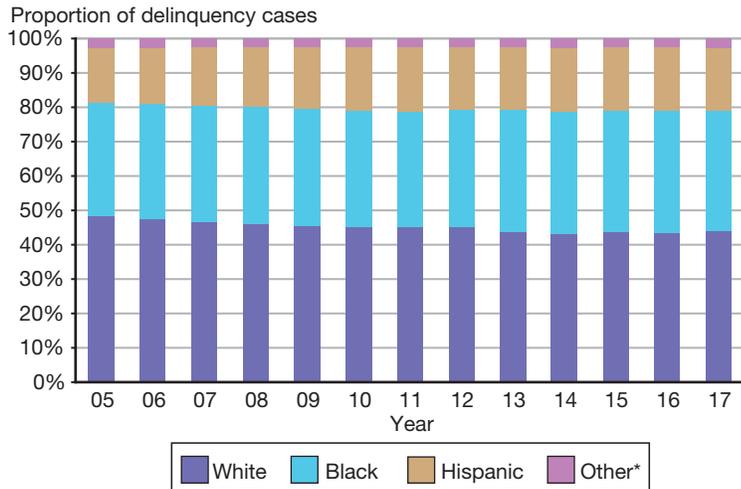


Public order



Race

In 2017, 44% of all delinquency cases involved white youth: 41% of person offense cases, 43% of property offense cases, 56% of drug offense cases, and 42% of 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 2017, white youth made up 54% of the U.S. population under juvenile court jurisdiction, black youth 15%, Hispanic youth 24%, American Indian youth 2%, and Asian youth 6%.

Racial profile of delinquency cases:

Race	2005	2017
White	48%	44%
Black	33	35
Hispanic	16	18
American Indian	1	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 2005 and 2017, from 48% to 44%.
- The proportion of delinquency cases involving black youth, Hispanic youth, and American Indian youth increased between 2005 and 2017.

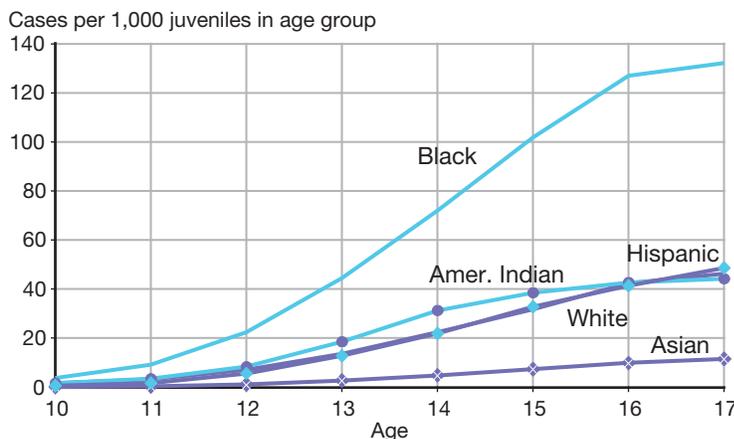
Racial profile of delinquency cases by offense:

Race	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order
2017				
White	41%	43%	56%	42%
Black	39	37	18	36
Hispanic	17	16	22	19
Amer. Indian	1	2	2	1
Asian	1	1	1	1
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
2005				
White	44%	53%	57%	42%
Black	40	29	24	36
Hispanic	13	15	17	19
Amer. Indian	1	2	2	1
Asian	1	2	1	1
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

- In 2017, the delinquency case rate for 13-year-olds was more than 7 times the rate for 10-year-olds for each racial group.

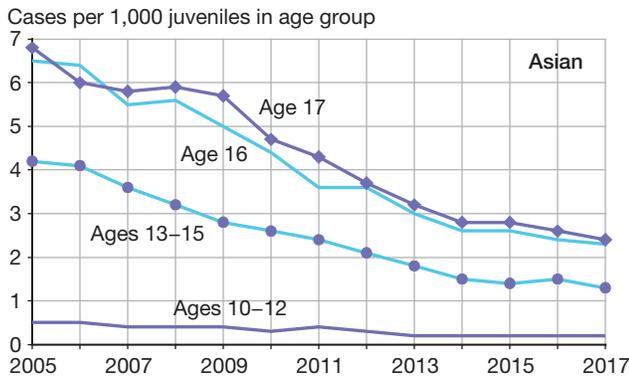
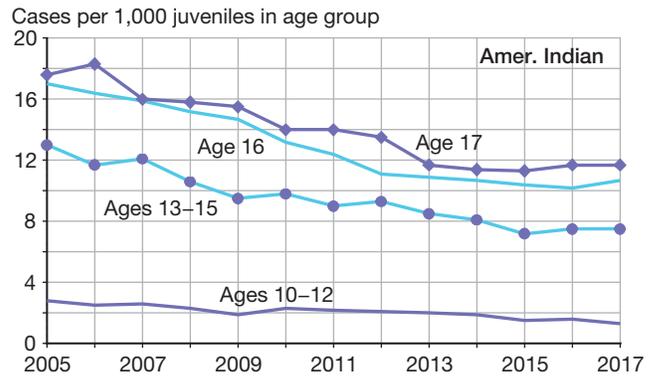
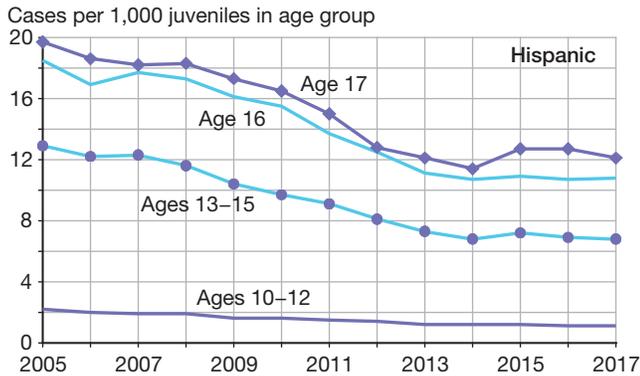
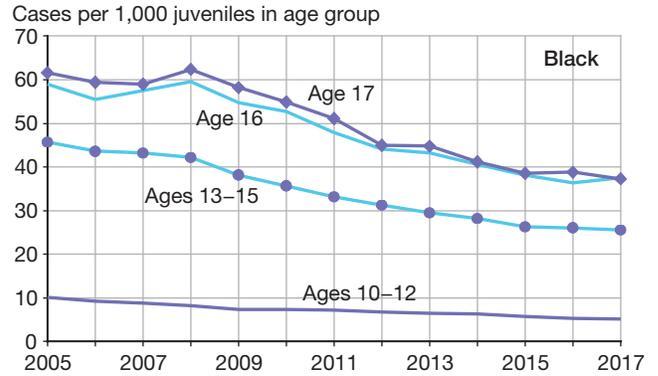
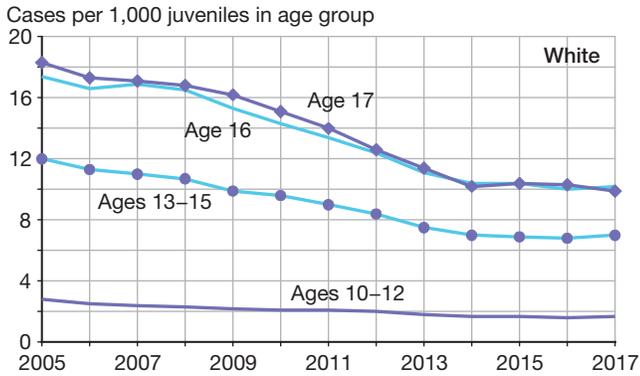
Case rates for juveniles increased with age, regardless of race



Race

Case rates for person offenses in 2017 were lower than those in 2005 for all age groups for all races

Person offense case rates

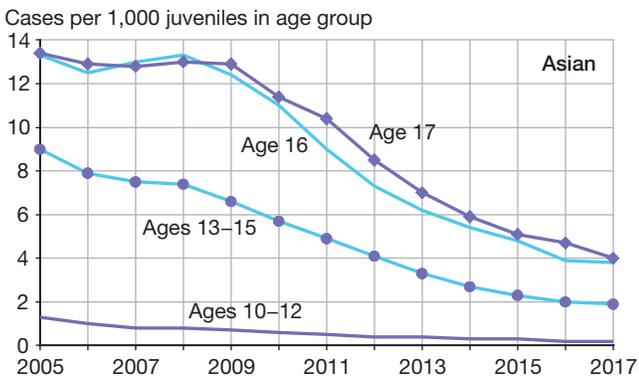
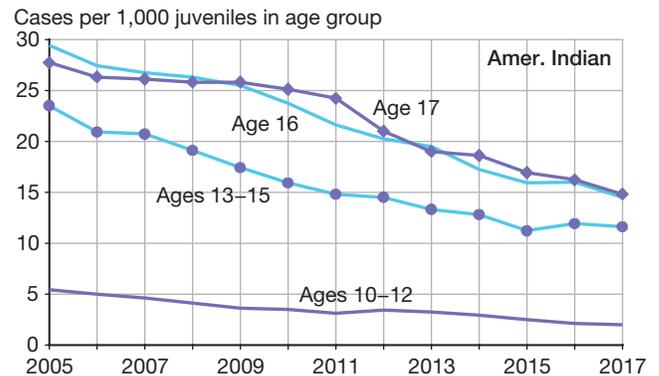
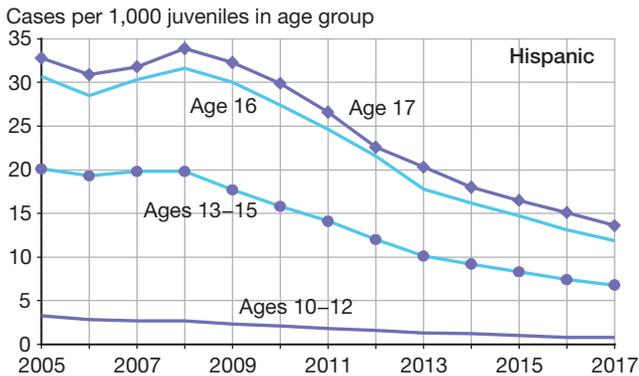
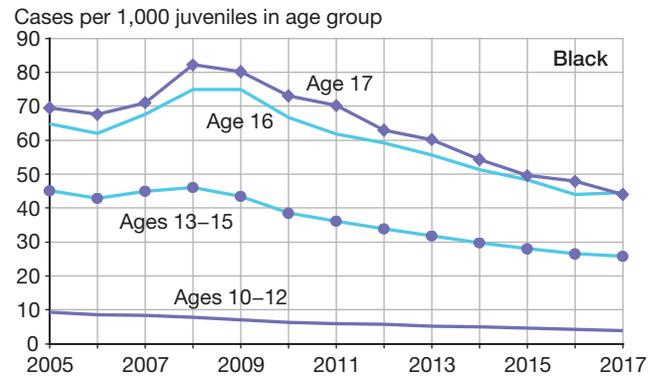
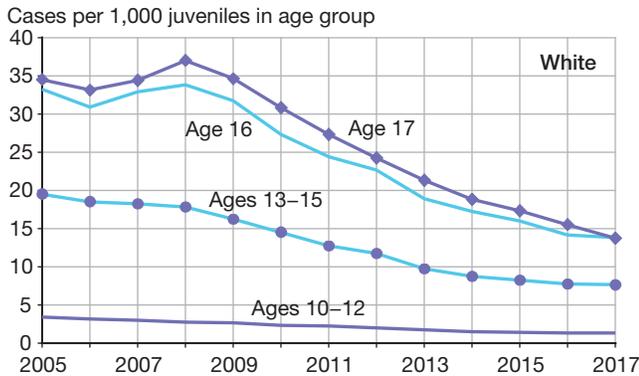


- The pattern of decrease in person offense case rates was similar for black, American Indian, and Hispanic youth between 2005 and 2017; case rates decreased more for younger youth (ages 10-12 and 13-15) than for older youth (ages 16 and 17).
- For white youth, the relative decline in person offense case rates between 2005 and 2017 was about the same for each age group (between 41% and 46%). For Asian youth, the decrease was greatest for youth ages 13-15, followed by youth age 16 and age 17, and finally youth ages 10-12.
- In 2017, person offense case rates for 17-year-olds increased from the 2014 historic low level for Hispanic youth, and the 2015 low level for American Indian youth.

Race

Property offense case rates were at their lowest level in 2017 for nearly all age groups within each racial category

Property offense case rates

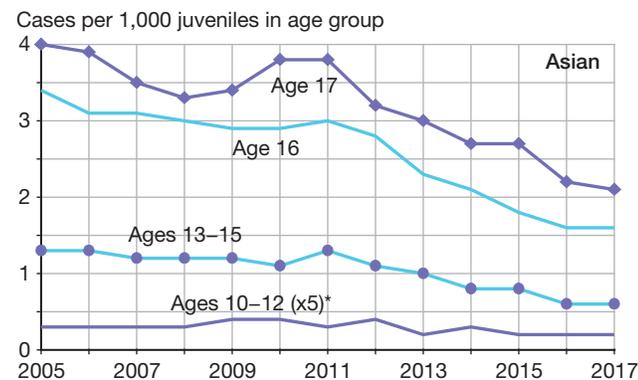
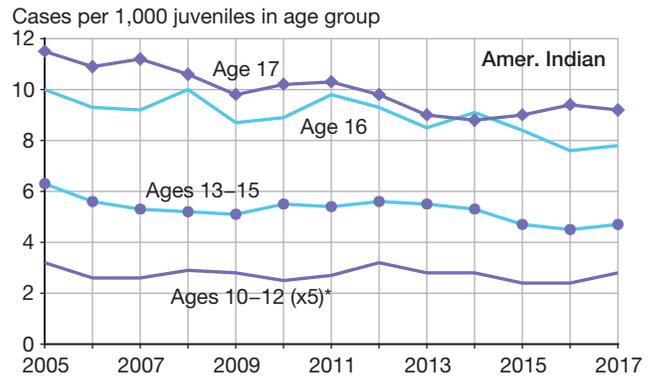
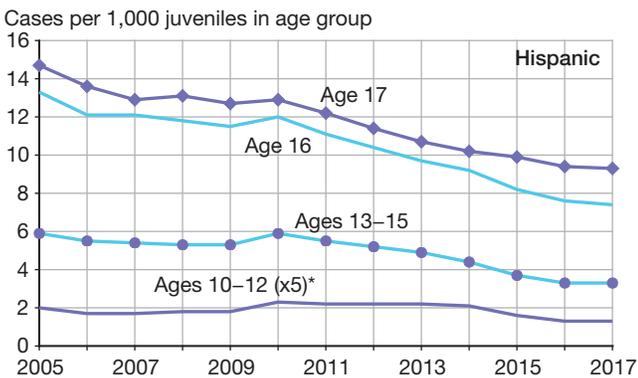
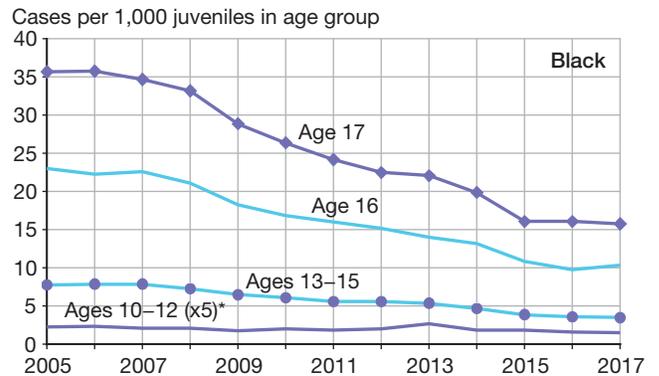
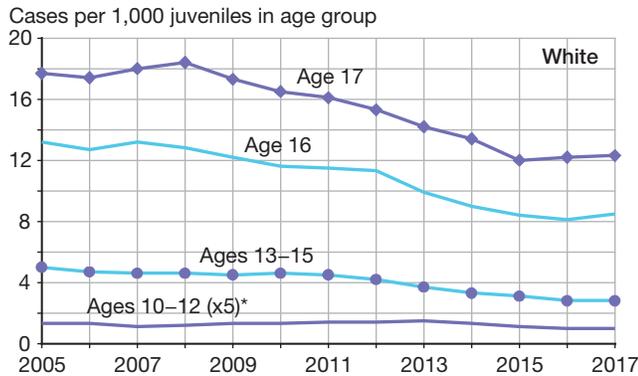


- Between 2005 and 2017, among all racial groups, property offense case rates decreased more for youth ages 10-12 and 13-15, than youth age 16 and age 17.
- Property offense case rates decreased the least for black youth age 16 and age 17 (32% and 37%, respectively), and decreased the most for Asian youth ages 10-12 and ages 13-15 (86% and 79%, respectively) between 2005 and 2017.

Race

Drug offense case rates for all age groups within each racial category declined in the 13-year period 2005–2017

Drug offense case rates



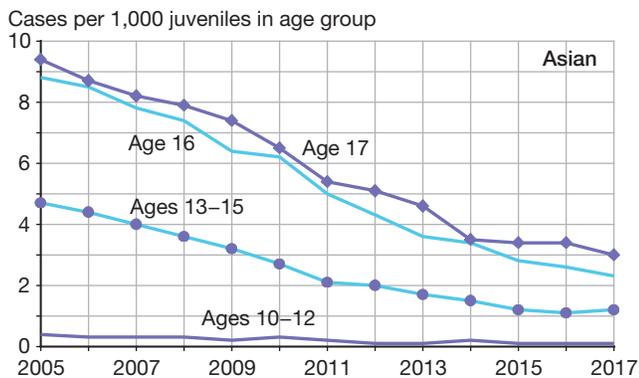
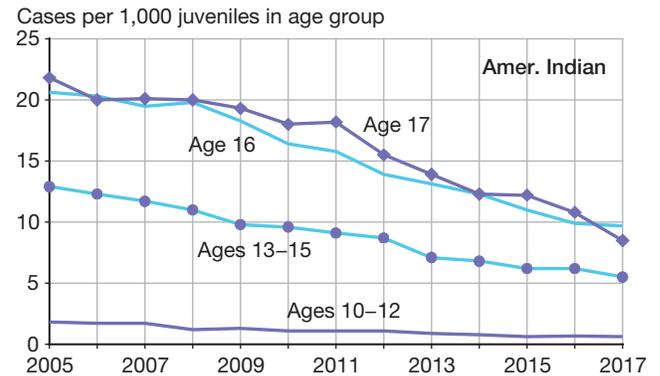
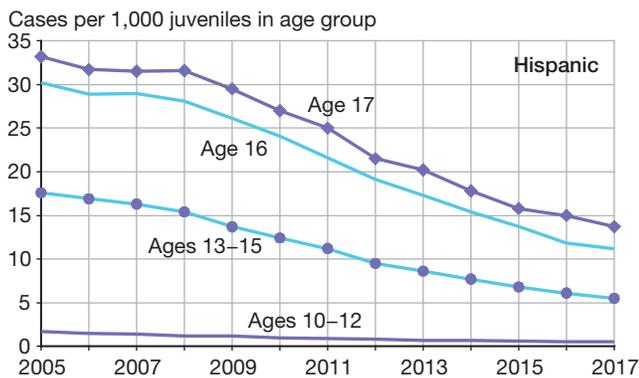
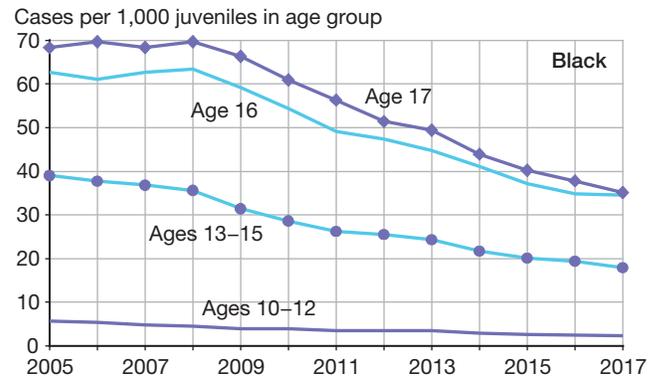
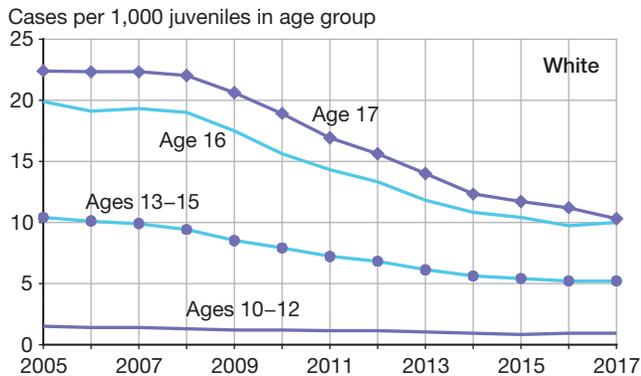
- Although changes in age specific case rates for drug offenses varied by racial group between 2005 and 2017, case rates decreased for all age groups for all races.
- Between 2005 and 2017, age-specific case rates for all racial groups decreased by at least 20% for youth age 17, while decreases in other age groups varied.

* 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

In 2017, public order case rates were at the lowest level since 2005 for all age groups in all racial categories except white youth younger than 17 and Asian youth ages 13–15

Public order offense case rates

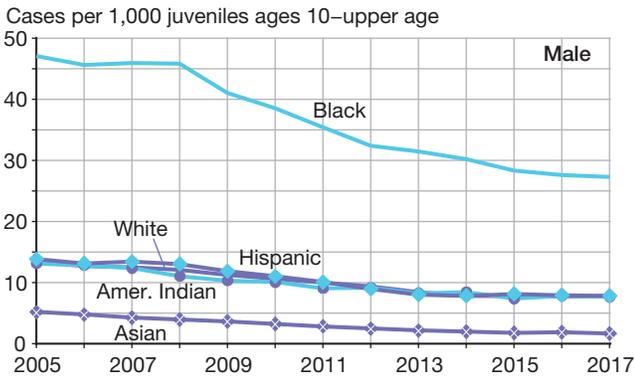


- Between 2005 and 2017, age-specific public order case rates decreased least for white youth ages 10–12 (39%) and most for Asian youth ages 13–15 (76%).
- Case rates for white youth were at their lowest in either 2015 (ages 10–12) or 2016 (ages 13–15 and age 16) before increasing through 2017.
- Asian case rates decreased through 2016 for youth ages 13–15 and then increased slightly in 2017.
- With the exception of white youth and American Indian youth, public order case rates decreased more for youth ages 10–12 and ages 13–15 than for youth age 16 and age 17 between 2005 and 2017.

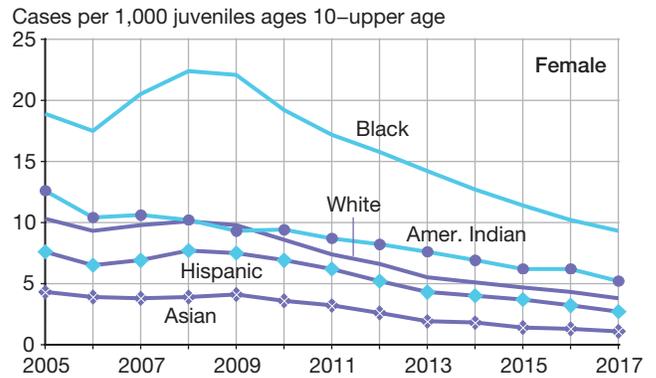
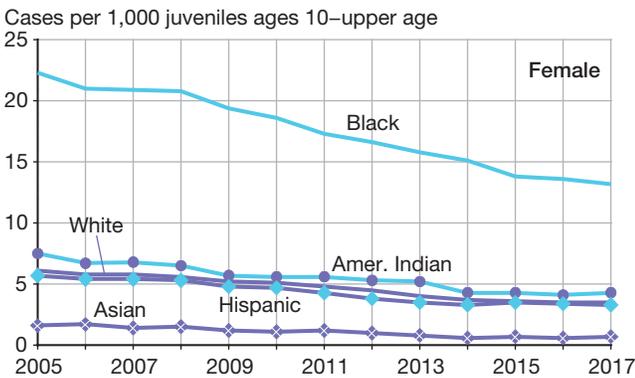
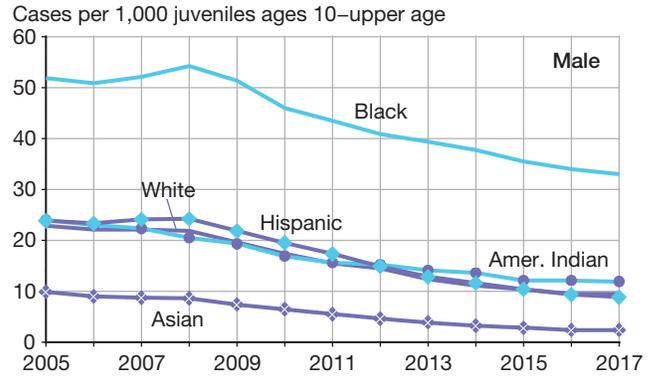
Race

For both males and females, case rates for black youth were higher than rates for all other racial groups for all offense categories except drug offenses involving females

Person offense case rates



Property offense case rates

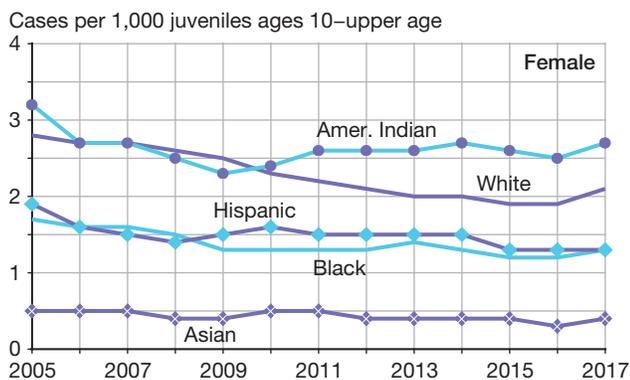
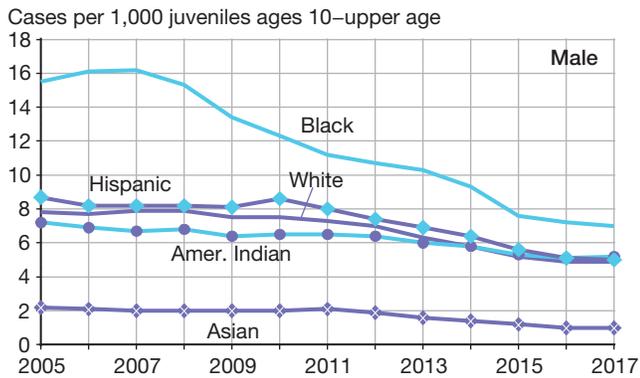


- For all years between 2005 and 2017, person offense case rates for black males were 3 to 4 times higher than the corresponding rates for white, Hispanic, and American Indian males, and 9 to 16 times higher than those for Asian males.
- In 2017, the person offense case rate for black females (13.2) was 20 times the rate for Asian females (0.7) and 3 to 4 times the rate for Hispanic females (3.3), white females (3.5), and American Indian females (4.3).

- Among males and females, property offense case rates were lower in 2017 than in 2005 for all racial groups.
- Between 2005 and 2017, cases involving Asian youth showed the largest relative decrease in property offense case rates. During this period, the property case rate for Asian males decreased 76% and the rate for Asian females decreased 75%.

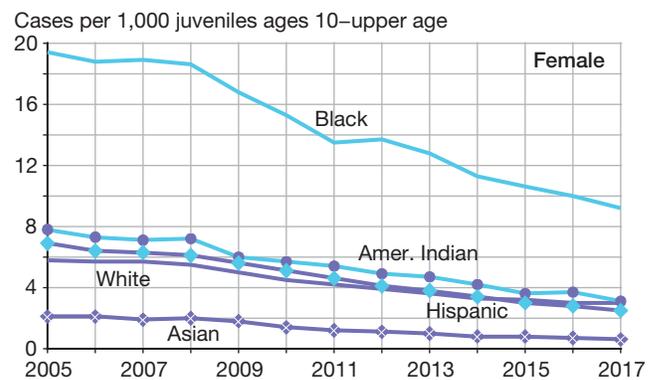
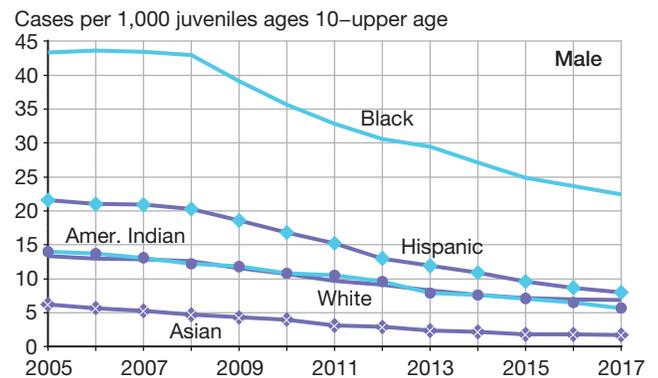
Race

Drug offense case rates



- For all years between 2005 and 2017, drug offense case rates were higher for black males than for males of all other races. In 2017, the rate for black males (7.0) was about 7 times the rate for Asian males, and at least 1.4 times the rate for white males, Hispanic males, and American Indian males.
- In 2017, the drug offense case rate for American Indian females was higher than the corresponding rate for all other race groups: 1.3 times the rate for white youth, double the rates for Hispanic youth and black youth, and more than 7 times the rate for Asian youth.

Public order offense case rates



- Between 2005 and 2017, cases involving Asian youth showed the largest relative decrease in public order offense case rates for males and females. During this period, the public order case rate for Asian males decreased 73% and the rate for Asian females decreased 71%.
- In 2017, the public order offense case rate for black males was nearly 3 times the rate for Hispanic males, more than 3 times the rate for both white males and American Indian males, and more than 13 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.

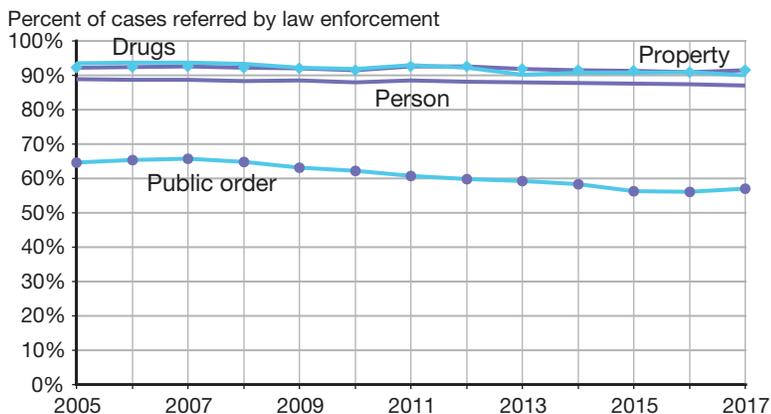
Disposition: Disposition options include commitment to an institution or other residential facility, probation supervision, or a variety of other sanctions, such as community service, restitution or fines, or referral to an outside agency or treatment program. This

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 2017 and examining trends from 2005 through 2017.

Referral

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



- Between 2005 and 2017, law enforcement agencies were the primary source of delinquency referrals for each year.
- In 2017, 81% of all delinquency cases were referred by law enforcement; however, there were variations across offense categories.
- Law enforcement agencies referred 90% of drug law violation cases, 92% of property offense cases, 87% of person offense cases, and 57% of public order offense cases in 2017.
- For each year between 2005 and 2017, 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 a smaller proportion of all delinquency cases in 2017 (81%) than in 2005 (84%).

Drug and property offense cases were most likely to be referred by law enforcement, compared with other offense types



Source of referral profile, 2017:

Referral source	Delinquency	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order
Law enforcement	81%	87%	92%	90%	57%
School	4	4	1	5	5
Relative	1	2	1	1	2
Other	14	8	6	4	36
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

Detention

- The number of delinquency cases involving detention decreased 48% between 2005 and 2017 to its lowest level in the analysis period. The largest relative decline since 2005 was for drug offense cases involving detention, down 57%, compared with 51% for public order offenses, 47% for property offenses, and 43% for person offenses.
- Despite the decrease in the volume of delinquency cases involving detention, the proportion of cases detained was slightly larger in 2017 (26%) than in 2005 (24%).
- Between 2005 and 2017, the use of detention decreased for drug law violation cases (from 23% to 16%), while the use of detention increased for all other offenses. The use of detention increased from 31% to 33% for person offense cases, from 19% to 23% for property offense cases, and from 26% to 27% for public order offense cases.

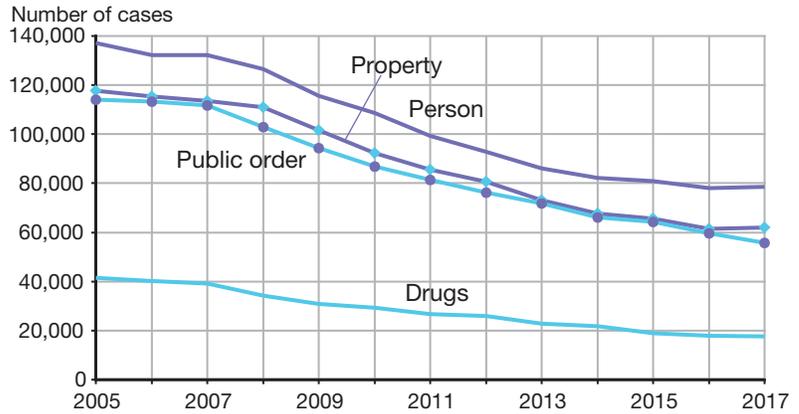
Offense profile of detained delinquency cases:

Most serious offense	2005	2017
Person	33%	37%
Property	29	29
Drugs	10	8
Public order	28	26
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	410,500	213,700

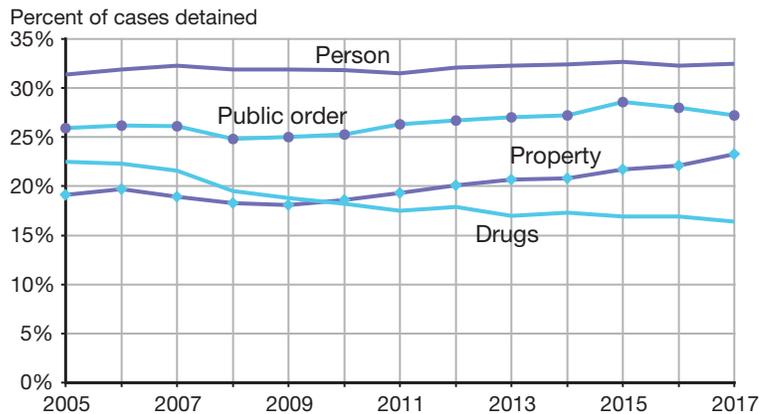
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- Compared with 2005, the offense characteristics of the 2017 detention caseload had a larger proportion of person offenses and slightly smaller proportions of drug and public order offenses.

The number of cases involving detention decreased between 2005 and 2017 for all offense categories

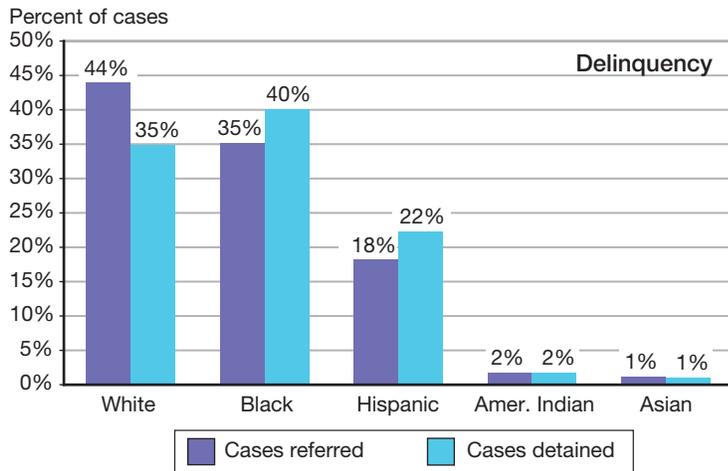


Between 2005 and 2017, the proportions of cases involving detention increased slightly for person, property, and public order offense cases and decreased for drug offense cases

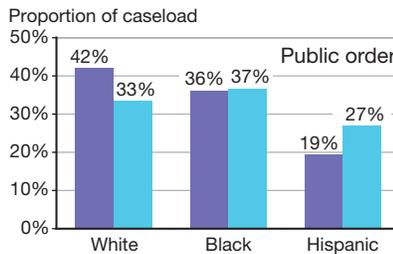
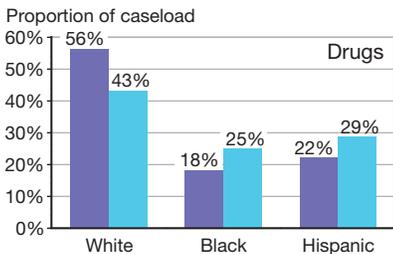
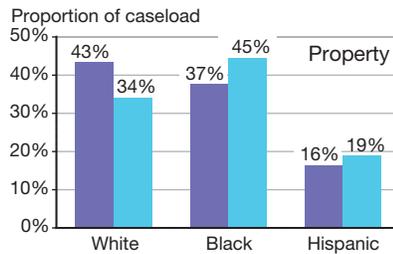
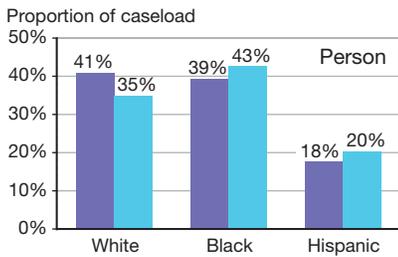


Detention

Black and Hispanic youth represented a larger share of the overall detention caseload than of the overall delinquency caseload in 2017



- In 2017, black youth accounted for 35% of the overall delinquency caseload, compared with 40% of the overall detention caseload. Hispanic youth accounted for 18% of the overall delinquency caseload and 22% of the overall detention caseload.
- White youth accounted for a smaller proportion of the detention caseload (35%) compared with the delinquency caseload (44%).
- Black and Hispanic youth accounted for larger proportions of the cases detained than of the cases referred for all offense categories in 2017.
- White youth accounted for a smaller proportion of the cases detained than of the cases referred for all offense categories in 2017.



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

Detention

Age

- In each year from 2005 through 2017, delinquency cases involving youth age 16 or older were more likely to be detained than were cases involving youth age 15 or younger.
- For all years between 2005 and 2017, person offense cases were more likely to involve detention than were other offenses for both youth age 15 and younger and those age 16 and older.

Gender

- In 2017, male juveniles charged with delinquency offenses were more likely than females to be held in secure facilities while awaiting court disposition. Overall in 2017, 28% of male delinquency cases involved detention, compared with 21% of female cases.

Offense profile of detained delinquency cases by gender, 2017:

Most serious offense	Male	Female
Person	35%	44%
Property	31	22
Drugs	9	7
Public order	26	27
Total	100%	100%

Race

- Cases involving white youth were less likely to be detained than cases involving all other racial groups for most years between 2005 and 2017 across offense categories.
- In 2017, person and public order offense cases involving Hispanic youth were more likely to involve detention (38% each) than those involving all other races.

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

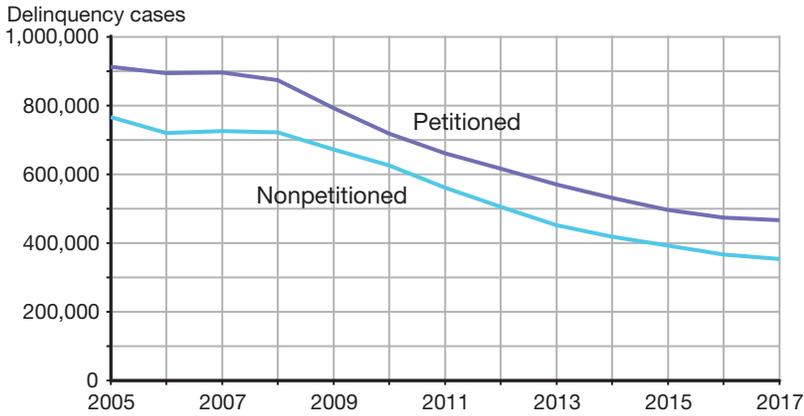
Most serious offense	Percentage of cases detained			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2017				
Delinquency	25%	27%	28%	21%
Person	31	35	35	27
Property	23	24	26	15
Drugs	16	16	18	13
Public order	25	30	29	22
2005				
Delinquency	24%	26%	26%	20%
Person	30	34	33	28
Property	18	20	22	13
Drugs	22	23	23	19
Public order	24	28	27	23

Detention was more likely for cases involving Hispanic youth than cases involving youth of other racial groups

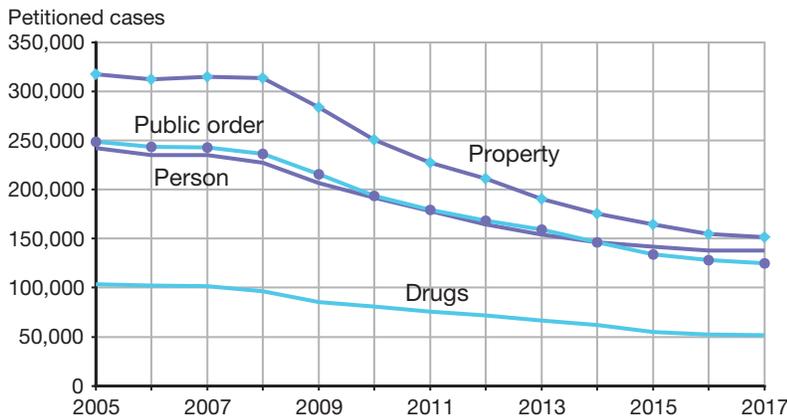
Most serious offense	Percentage of cases detained				
	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2017					
Delinquency	21%	30%	32%	26%	25%
Person	28	35	38	33	30
Property	18	28	27	22	19
Drugs	13	22	21	16	15
Public order	22	28	38	35	33
2005					
Delinquency	21%	27%	29%	25%	24%
Person	29	32	37	31	33
Property	17	22	22	20	18
Drugs	17	32	27	21	20
Public order	24	25	32	32	27

Intake Decision

Each year between 2005 and 2017, delinquency cases were more likely to be handled formally, with the filing of a petition for adjudication, than informally



Regardless of offense type, the number of petitioned cases decreased between 2005 and 2017



- Between 2005 and 2017, the likelihood that a delinquency case would be handled informally (without filing a petition for adjudication) decreased at a similar rate as formally handled cases. As the overall delinquency caseload decreased 51% between 2005 and 2017, the number of non-petitioned cases decreased 54% to its lowest level in 2017, and the number of petitioned cases decreased 49%.
- The largest relative decrease in the number of petitioned cases between 2005 and 2017 was seen in property offense cases (52%), followed by drug offense cases and public order offense cases (50% each) and person offense cases (43%).

Offense profile of delinquency cases, 2017:

Most serious offense	Nonpetitioned	Petitioned
Person	29%	30%
Property	32	32
Drugs	16	11
Public order	23	27
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	352,500	466,400

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

- In 2017, the offense profiles of non-petitioned and petitioned delinquency cases were similar but the non-petitioned caseload had a greater proportion of drug law violations and a smaller proportion of public order offenses.

Intake Decision

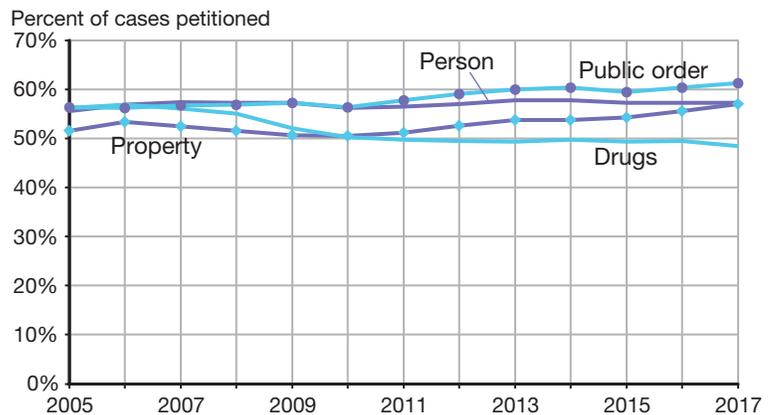
- The overall likelihood of formal handling was greater for more serious offenses within the same general offense category. In 2017, for example, 72% of aggravated assault cases were handled formally, compared with 50% of simple assault cases. Similarly, 73% of burglary cases and 76% of motor vehicle theft cases were handled formally by juvenile courts, compared with 48% 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 2017; females accounted for 24% and white youth accounted for 40% of petitioned cases.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the likelihood of formal processing increased: from 56% to 61% for public order cases, from 52% to 57% for property offense cases, and from 56% to 57% for person offense cases.
- In 2017, 48% of drug offense cases were petitioned—a lower percentage than in 2005, when 56% were petitioned.
- Between 2005 and 2009, property offense cases were less likely than cases in each of the other general offense categories to be handled with a petition for adjudication; since 2010, drug offense cases were the least likely.

In 2017, juvenile courts petitioned 57% of all delinquency cases

Most serious offense	Petitioned cases	Percentage of total delinquency cases	Percentage of all petitioned cases, 2017		
			Younger than 16	Female	White
Total delinquency	466,400	57%	50%	24%	40%
Total person	138,000	57	56	27	37
Criminal homicide	900	82	30	12	30
Rape	6,100	73	63	3	53
Robbery	18,200	85	46	11	13
Aggravated assault	19,300	72	51	23	30
Simple assault	76,500	50	59	35	40
Other violent sex offenses	5,500	73	73	4	59
Other person offenses	11,500	49	57	28	51
Total property	151,300	57	53	20	39
Burglary	39,300	73	53	9	36
Larceny-theft	53,700	48	50	29	40
Motor vehicle theft	13,000	76	50	20	29
Arson	1,600	66	70	16	54
Vandalism	22,100	53	59	18	51
Trespassing	10,900	46	55	18	37
Stolen property offenses	6,900	80	45	12	25
Other property offenses	3,800	56	46	26	50
Drug law violations	52,000	48	33	21	55
Total public order	125,100	61	45	26	40
Obstruction of justice	77,800	74	39	26	38
Disorderly conduct	22,600	44	61	35	43
Weapons offenses	11,300	62	47	9	28
Liquor law violations	1,400	30	33	30	58
Nonviolent sex offenses	6,200	52	57	17	58
Other public order offenses	5,900	43	50	22	50

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

Between 2005 and 2017, the use of formal processing increased in all general offense categories except drug offense cases



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
2017				
Delinquency	54%	60%	60%	49%
Person	54	61	60	50
Property	56	59	61	45
Drugs	43	51	51	42
Public order	56	66	63	56
2005				
Delinquency	51%	58%	57%	47%
Person	53	59	58	49
Property	49	55	56	40
Drugs	53	59	58	48
Public order	52	61	58	52

Between 2005 and 2017, the likelihood of formal processing increased for cases involving all race groups except Asian youth

Most serious offense	Percentage of cases petitioned				
	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2017					
Delinquency	52%	63%	56%	58%	53%
Person	52	62	57	58	56
Property	52	64	55	61	46
Drugs	47	58	44	46	43
Public order	58	65	61	62	68
2005					
Delinquency	51%	59%	53%	56%	56%
Person	51	60	55	55	61
Property	49	57	50	51	51
Drugs	51	70	55	50	59
Public order	56	58	53	66	62

Age

- In each year between 2005 and 2017, delinquency cases involving juveniles age 16 or older were more likely to be petitioned than were cases involving younger juveniles.
- In 2017, 54% of delinquency cases involving youth age 15 or younger were petitioned, compared with 60% of cases involving older youth.

Gender

- Between 2005 and 2017, the likelihood of formal case processing for delinquency cases increased slightly for males (from 57% to 60%) and females (from 47% to 49%).
- Between 2005 and 2017, for both males and females, the likelihood of formal case processing decreased for drug offense cases (down 7 and 6 percentage points, respectively). The use of formal case processing increased slightly for all other offense types for both males and females, with the largest increases occurring for males involved in property and public order offense cases and females involved in property offense cases (up 5 percentage points each).

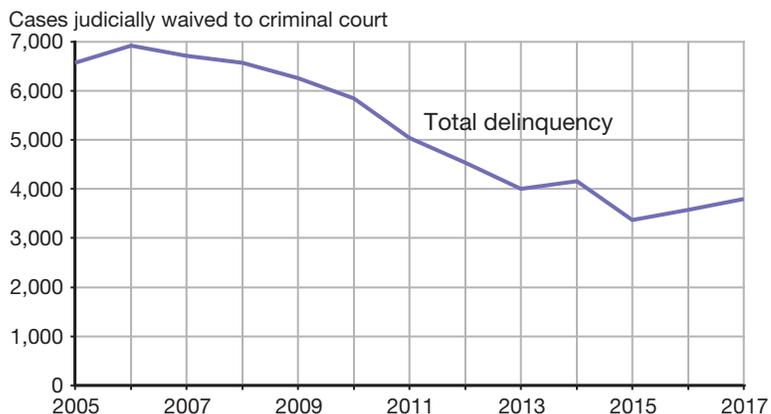
Race

- The proportion of delinquency cases petitioned decreased between 2005 and 2017 for Asian youth (down 3 percentage points), and increased between 1 and 4 percentage points for all other race groups.
- For each year between 2005 and 2017, drug offense cases involving black juveniles were more likely to be petitioned than were such cases involving any other racial group.

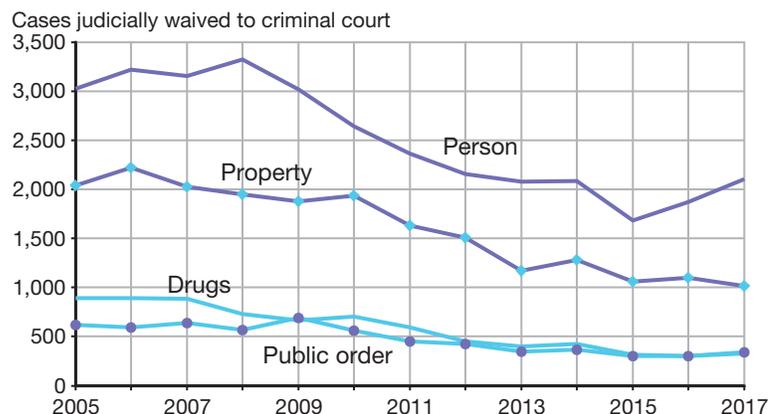
Waiver

- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of delinquency cases waived to criminal court was at its highest in 2006 (6,900). Despite an increase between 2015 and 2017, the number of cases waived in 2017 was 45% below the 2006 level.
- The number of judicially waived person offense cases increased 10% between 2005 and 2008, fell 49% to its lowest level in 2015, and then increased 25% by 2017. Despite the recent increase, the number of person offense cases judicially waived in 2017 was 30% less than the number in 2005.
- The number of drug offense cases judicially waived remained stable between 2005 and 2008 before falling 63% by 2017.
- For public order offenses, the number of waived cases decreased 45% between 2005 and 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the largest number of judicially waived cases involved person offense cases.
- Historically, the number of cases judicially waived declined after 1994 and 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 decreased 42% between 2005 and 2017

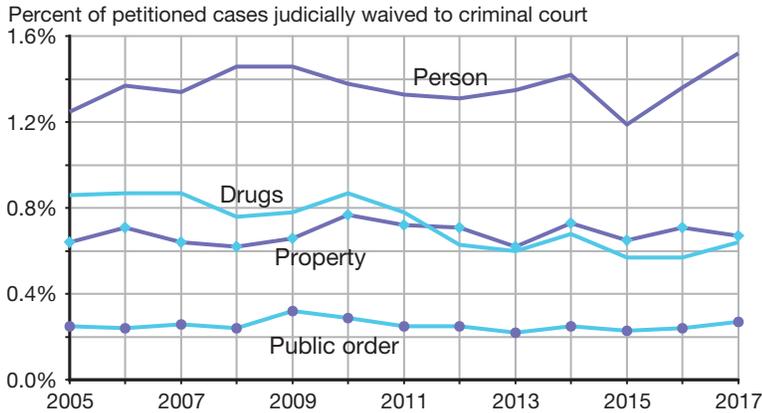


Since 2005, the number of cases judicially waived to criminal court decreased the most for drug offenses (63%), followed by property (50%), public order (45%), and person offenses (30%)

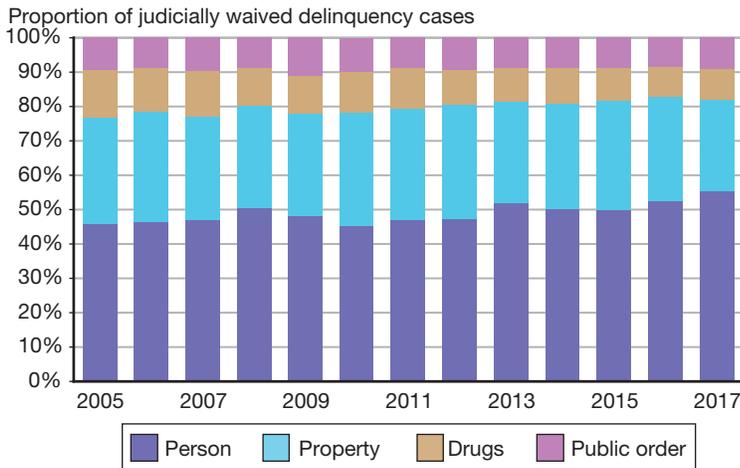


Waiver

For all years from 2005 to 2017, cases involving person offense cases were most likely to be judicially waived



Between 2005 and 2017, the offense profile of the judicially waived caseload changed slightly—the share of person offense cases increased while the share of most other offense cases decreased



- During the reporting period, the likelihood of waiver for person offense cases was at its highest level in 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the proportion of property and public order offense cases that were judicially waived fluctuated, with the likelihood of waiver being slightly higher in 2017 than in 2005.
- Despite some fluctuation in the latter years of the analysis period, the proportion of judicially waived drug offense cases was lower in 2017 than in 2005.
- The proportion of the waived caseload involving person offenses grew between 2005 and 2017. In 2005, person offense cases accounted for 46% of the waived caseload; by 2017, person offense cases were 55% of the waived caseload.
- The proportion of all waived delinquency cases that involved a property offense as the most serious charge was 31% in 2005 and 27% in 2017, and ranged between 29% and 33% over the time period.
- Drug offense cases represented 14% of the judicially waived cases in 2005 and 9% in 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2017, public order offense cases comprised 8% to 11% of the waived caseload.

Waiver

Age

- In 2017, 1.4% of all petitioned delinquency cases involving juveniles age 16 or older were waived to criminal court, compared with 0.2% of cases involving younger juveniles.
- For both age groups, the probability of waiver remained relatively stable between 2005 and 2017.

Gender

- The proportion of person offense cases judicially waived increased from 1.6% in 2005 to 1.9% in 2017 for males.
- The proportion of drug offense cases judicially waived decreased from 1.0% in 2005 to 0.8% in 2017 for males and from 0.4% to 0.2% for females.

Race

- The likelihood of judicial waiver among cases involving white youth was slightly lower in 2017 (0.6%) than in 2005 (0.7%); the likelihood for cases involving black youth was higher in 2017 (1.1%) than in 2005 (0.8%).
- In 2017, cases involving person offenses were more likely than other offenses to be waived for youth of all races: 1.1% among white juveniles, 2.1% among black juveniles, 1.2% among Hispanic youth, 1.8% among American Indian juveniles, and 1.0% 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

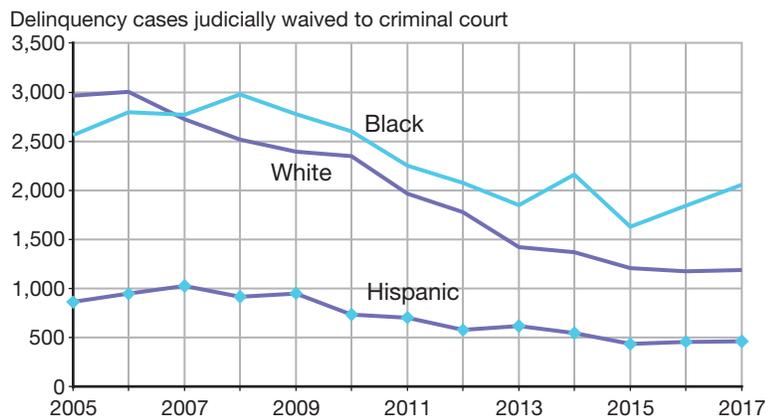
Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases judicially waived			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2017				
Delinquency	0.2%	1.4%	1.0%	0.2%
Person	0.4	3.0	1.9	0.4
Property	0.1	1.3	0.8	0.3
Drugs	0.1	0.9	0.8	0.2
Public order	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.1
2005				
Delinquency	0.2%	1.4%	0.9%	0.3%
Person	0.4	2.7	1.6	0.4
Property	0.1	1.4	0.7	0.3
Drugs	0.1	1.3	1.0	0.4
Public order	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.1

Person 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	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2017					
Delinquency	0.6%	1.1%	0.6%	0.8%	0.4%
Person	1.1	2.1	1.2	1.8	1.0
Property	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.2
Drugs	0.5	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.0
Public order	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.4
2005					
Delinquency	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.9%	0.5%
Person	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.2
Property	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.4
Drugs	0.8	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.2
Public order	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3

Waiver

The number of delinquency cases judicially waived to criminal court was lower in 2017 than in 2005 for all race groups



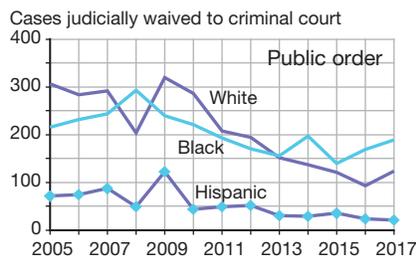
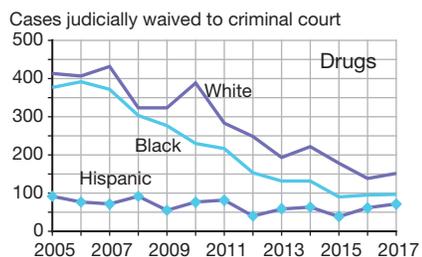
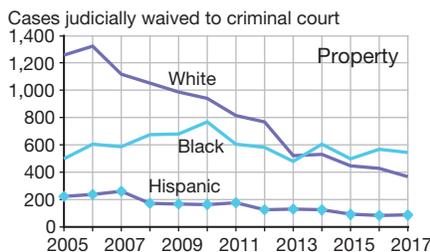
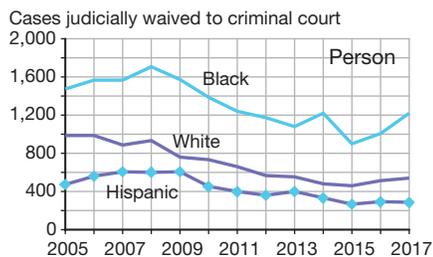
- The number of judicially waived cases involving white youth declined 60% between 2005 and 2017.
- For black juveniles, the number of judicially waived cases increased 16% between 2005 and 2008, fell 45% to its lowest level in 2015, and then increased 26% by 2017.
- The number of judicially waived cases involving Hispanic youth increased 19% between 2005 and 2007 and decreased 58% to its lowest level in 2015 before a slight increase in 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of judicially waived cases decreased the most for drug offenses involving black youth (75%) and property offenses involving white youth (71%).

Offense profile of waived cases:

Most serious offense	White	Black	Hispanic
2017			
Person	46%	60%	62%
Property	31	27	18
Drugs	13	5	15
Public order	10	9	5
Total	100%	100%	100%
2005			
Person	33	58	55
Property	42	19	26
Drugs	14	15	11
Public order	10	8	8
Total	100%	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.

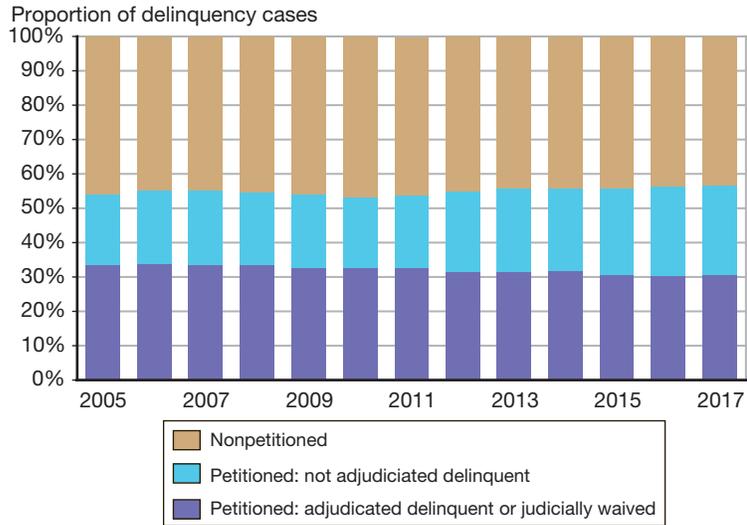
- In 2017, person offense cases accounted for the largest proportion of judicially waived cases for all racial groups.
- The proportion of person cases waived was largest for Hispanic youth compared with all other race groups in 2017.



Adjudication

- In 2005, 34% of all delinquency cases resulted in either adjudication of delinquency or waiver to criminal court. This proportion decreased to 31% in 2017.
- In general, the likelihood of being adjudicated delinquent was greater for more serious offenses within the same general offense category.
- Within the 2017 person offense category, 57% of petitioned aggravated assault cases were adjudicated delinquent, compared with 47% of simple assault cases.
- In the property offense category in 2017, similar proportions of petitioned burglary and motor vehicle theft cases were adjudicated delinquent (59% and 58%, respectively), compared with 50% of larceny-theft cases.
- Among public order offenses in 2017, 59% of obstruction of justice cases were adjudicated delinquent, compared with 48% of disorderly conduct cases.
- Youth younger than 16 accounted for 50% of all adjudicated delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts in 2017, females accounted for 21%, and white youth accounted for 41%.

The proportion of formally processed delinquency cases that resulted in a delinquency adjudication or waiver changed little since 2005



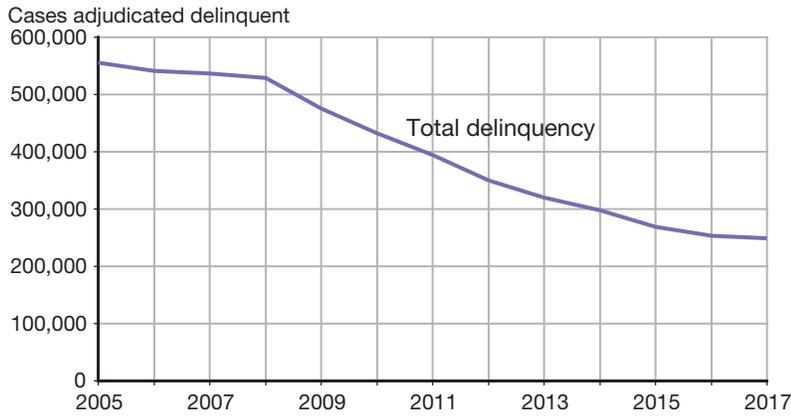
In 2017, youth were adjudicated delinquent in more than half (53%) of petitioned delinquency cases

Most serious offense	Cases adjudicated delinquent	Percentage of total petitioned cases	Percentage of all adjudicated cases, 2017		
			Younger than 16	Female	White
Total delinquency	248,100	53%	50%	21%	41%
Total person	71,200	52	56	24	37
Criminal homicide	400	47	34	14	35
Rape	3,400	56	68	3	53
Robbery	11,600	63	47	10	13
Aggravated assault	11,000	57	50	22	30
Simple assault	35,700	47	59	32	40
Other violent sex offenses	3,200	59	73	4	61
Other person offenses	6,000	52	58	24	52
Total property	80,600	53	54	17	40
Burglary	23,300	59	54	7	36
Larceny-theft	26,800	50	52	25	42
Motor vehicle theft	7,500	58	52	19	30
Arson	900	52	71	15	54
Vandalism	10,900	50	58	18	52
Trespassing	5,000	46	56	19	39
Stolen property offenses	4,100	60	47	11	26
Other property offenses	2,100	54	49	24	56
Drug law violations	26,700	51	35	20	55
Public order offenses	69,600	56	45	24	40
Obstruction of justice	45,800	59	40	25	38
Disorderly conduct	10,900	48	64	33	47
Weapons offenses	6,200	55	44	8	25
Liquor law violations	700	49	36	29	60
Nonviolent sex offenses	3,200	52	59	12	59
Other public order offenses	2,800	47	51	20	51

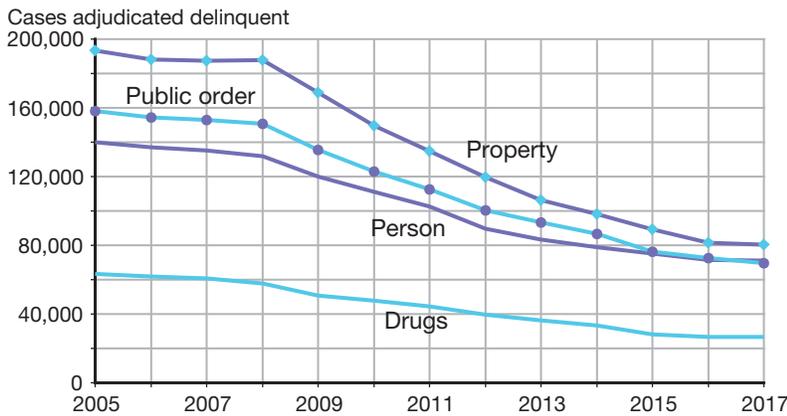
Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Adjudication

Between 2005 and 2017, the number of cases in which youth were adjudicated delinquent decreased 55%



Since 2005, the number of cases adjudicated delinquent decreased for all general offense categories



- The annual number of delinquency cases in which youth were adjudicated delinquent steadily decreased from 555,400 in 2005 to its lowest level in 2017 (248,100).
- The number of adjudicated property offense cases was at its lowest level in 2017 (from 193,400 in 2005 to 80,600 in 2017).
- The number of adjudicated person offense cases decreased 49% from 140,200 cases in 2005 to 71,200 cases in 2017.
- The number of adjudicated cases decreased 58% for drug offense cases and 56% for public order cases between 2005 and 2017.

Offense profile of cases adjudicated delinquent:

Most serious offense	2005	2017
Person	25%	28%
Property	35	32
Drugs	11	11
Public order	29	29
Total	100%	100%
Cases adjudicated delinquent	555,400	248,100

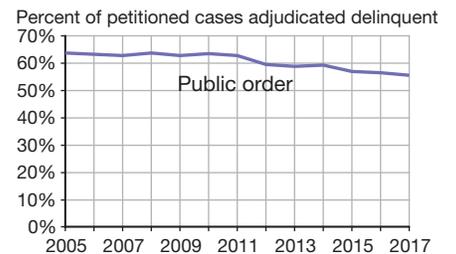
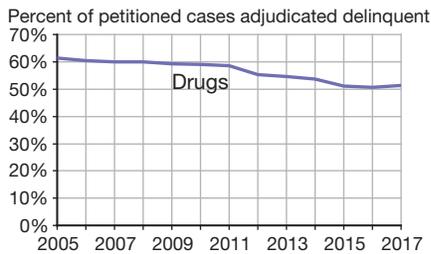
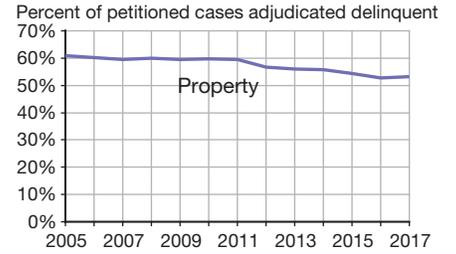
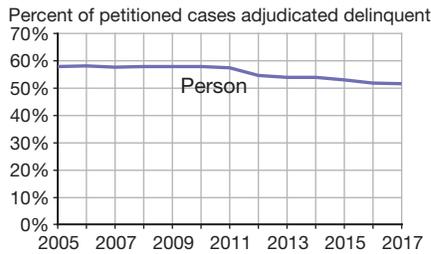
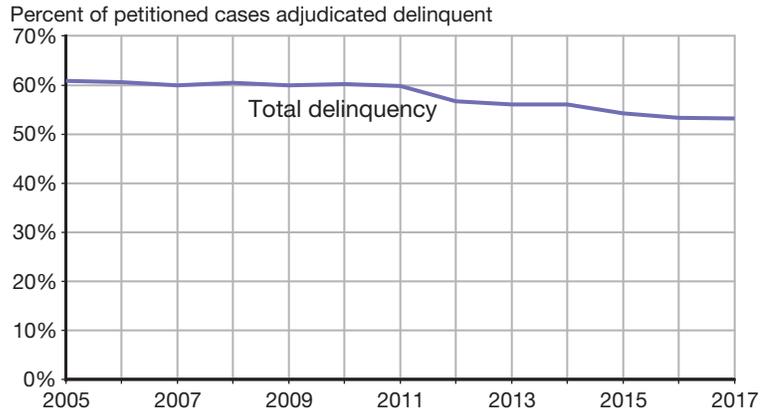
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- Compared with 2005, the 2017 adjudicated delinquency caseload included a greater proportion of person offense cases, a smaller proportion of property offense cases, and equal proportions of drug and public order offenses.

Adjudication

- The likelihood of a delinquency adjudication was less in 2017 than in 2005 for all offense types (by 6 to 10 percentage points).
- The likelihood of adjudication among cases involving a property offense decreased from 61% to 53% between 2005 and 2017.
- The likelihood of adjudication among drug offense cases followed a similar pattern, decreasing from 61% to 51% between 2005 and 2017.
- Among public order cases, the likelihood of adjudication decreased from 64% to 56% between 2005 and 2017.
- Cases involving public order offenses were slightly more likely than any other offense to result in a delinquency adjudication each year between 2005 and 2017.

The likelihood of delinquency adjudication decreased from 61% of petitioned cases in 2005 to 53% in 2017



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
2017				
Delinquency	54%	53%	55%	48%
Person	52	52	54	46
Property	54	52	55	47
Drugs	55	50	52	49
Public order	55	56	57	51
2005				
Delinquency	62%	60%	62%	58%
Person	59	56	60	53
Property	62	60	62	56
Drugs	64	60	61	62
Public order	64	64	64	62

Delinquency cases involving black youth were less likely to result in a delinquency adjudication than were cases involving youth of all other races

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated delinquent				
	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2017					
Delinquency	53%	50%	59%	57%	53%
Person	51	50	58	53	51
Property	54	51	58	55	53
Drugs	52	48	54	60	48
Public order	56	51	63	60	57
2005					
Delinquency	62%	58%	65%	67%	62%
Person	59	55	63	65	64
Property	62	58	64	66	58
Drugs	62	59	64	68	59
Public order	65	60	68	70	68

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 2005 and 2017.
- For drug offense cases involving juveniles age 16 and older, the likelihood of adjudication decreased from 60% to 50% between 2005 and 2017.

Gender

- Between 2005 and 2017, male cases generally were more likely to be adjudicated delinquent than were female cases.
- Between 2005 and 2017, for females, the likelihood of a delinquency adjudication decreased for all offense types (between 7 and 13 percentage points).

Race

- Between 2005 and 2017, the likelihood of a delinquency adjudication decreased 9 percentage points for white youth, and 8 percentage points for black youth, and 6 percentage points for Hispanic youth.
- In 2017, cases involving Hispanic juveniles were more likely to result in a delinquency adjudication than cases involving all other races.

Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

- The number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement decreased 55% from 2005 to its lowest level in 2016, then increased slightly in 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of cases involving the use of out-of-home placement decreased 67% for drug offense cases, 57% for public order offense cases, 55% for property offense cases, and 46% for person 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.

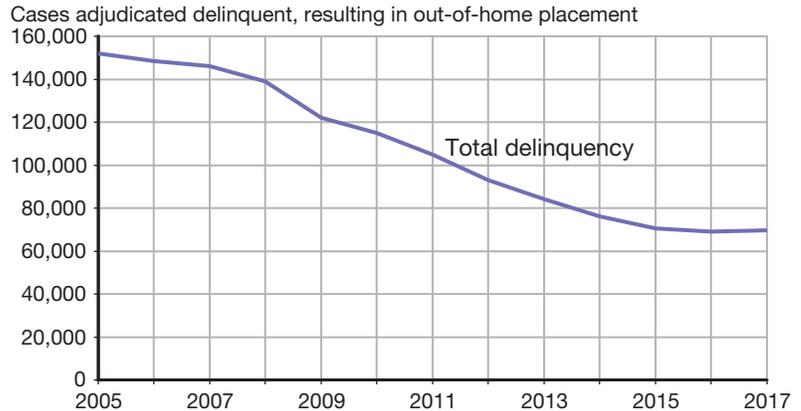
Offense profile of cases adjudicated delinquent, resulting in out-of-home placement:

Most serious offense	2005	2017
Person	27%	31%
Property	33	32
Drugs	9	7
Public order	31	30
Total	100%	100%
Cases resulting in out-of-home placement	152,000	69,700

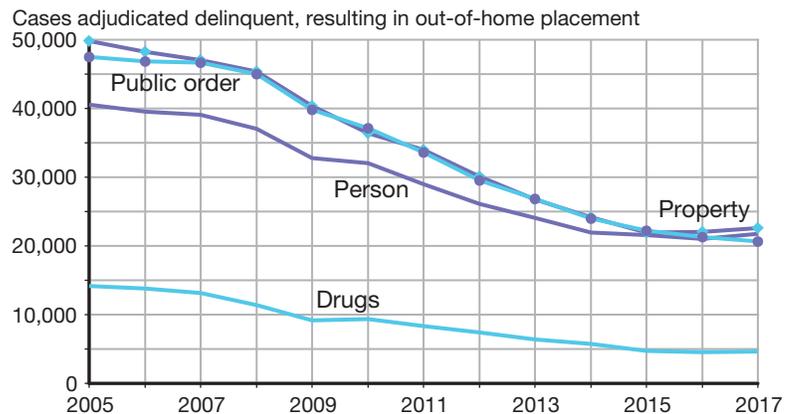
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In 2005 and 2017, property offense cases accounted for the largest share of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement.

The number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement decreased from 152,000 in 2005 to 69,700 in 2017

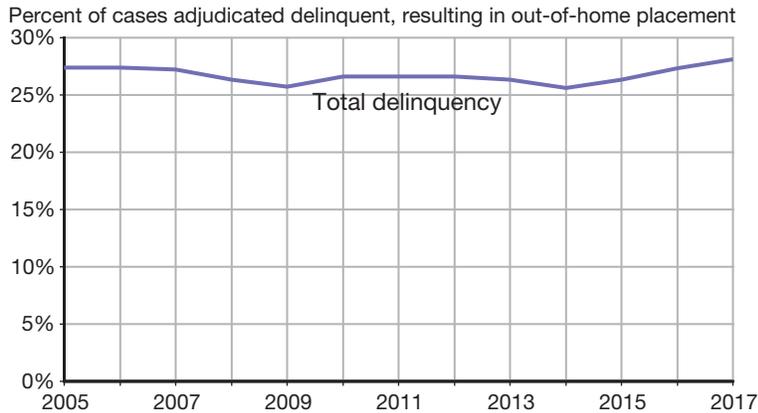


In 2017, the number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home place was at its lowest level for public order offenses

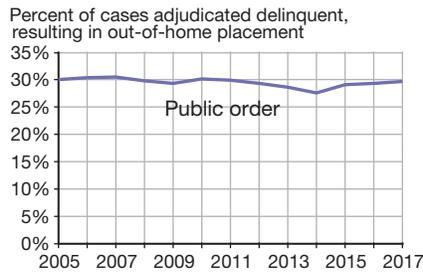
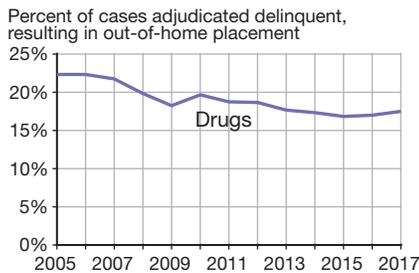
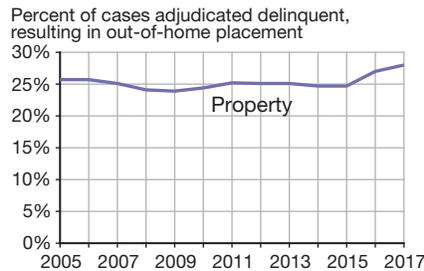
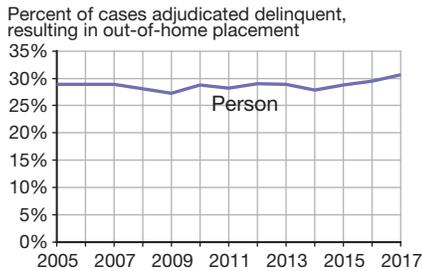


Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

The court ordered out-of-home placement in 28% of all cases adjudicated delinquent in 2017



- The proportion of adjudicated delinquency cases that resulted in out-of-home placement was very stable over the period 2005 to 2017, ranging from 28% to 26%.
- The likelihood that an adjudicated case would result in out-of-home placement was also very stable between 2005 and 2017 for person, property, and public order offense cases.
- The proportion of drug offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement declined from 22% in 2005 to 18% in 2017.



Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

Age

- Unlike all other offense categories in 2017, drug offense cases involving juveniles age 16 or older adjudicated delinquent were slightly less likely to result in out-of-home placement than were cases involving youth age 15 or younger.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the use of out-of-home placement for youth age 15 and younger declined for drug and public order offense cases, and increased slightly for person and property offense cases. For youth age 16 and older, the use of out-of-home placement declined for drug offense cases and increased slightly for all other offense types.

Gender

- For males in 2017, person and public order offense cases adjudicated delinquent were most likely to result in out-of-home placement (33% and 32%, respectively), followed by property cases (30%), and cases involving drug offenses (19%).
- For females in 2017, adjudicated person and public order offense cases were most likely to result in out-of-home placement (24% each), followed by property cases (20%) and drug offense cases (14%).

Race

- After adjudication, the likelihood of out-of-home placement in 2017 was greater for Hispanic youth (33%) than for black (32%), American Indian (26%), white (22%), or Asian youth (18%).
- The proportion of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement was smaller in 2017 than in 2005 for white and Asian youth, and greater for all other race groups.

Between 2005 and 2017, the likelihood of out-of-home placement remained relatively stable but varied by offense

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
2017				
Delinquency	26%	30%	30%	22%
Person	28	34	33	24
Property	26	30	30	20
Drugs	18	17	19	14
Public order	26	33	32	24
2005				
Delinquency	26%	29%	29%	22%
Person	27	32	31	23
Property	24	28	28	18
Drugs	21	23	23	17
Public order	28	32	32	25

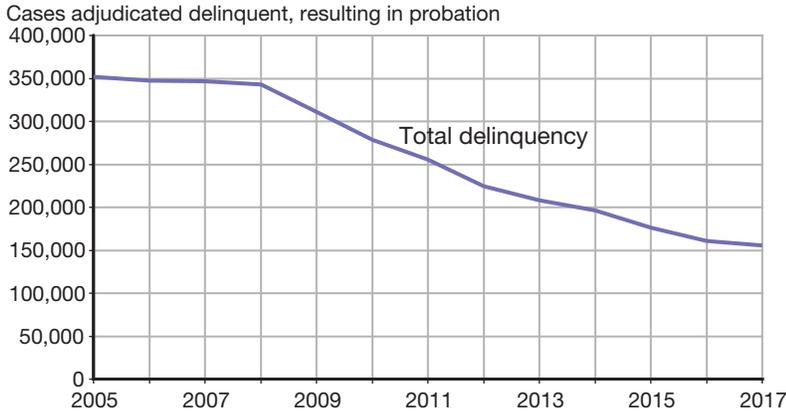
In 2017, adjudicated public order cases involving Hispanic youth were most likely to receive a disposition of out-of-home placement, across all offense and racial categories

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated delinquent, resulting in out-of-home placement				
	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2017					
Delinquency	22%	32%	33%	26%	18%
Person	25	33	35	32	23
Property	22	33	32	26	13
Drugs	14	24	21	19	NA
Public order	23	33	37	24	22
2005					
Delinquency	24%	31%	32%	24%	24%
Person	26	31	32	27	28
Property	23	30	29	23	23
Drugs	16	31	27	18	22
Public order	27	31	36	25	23

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

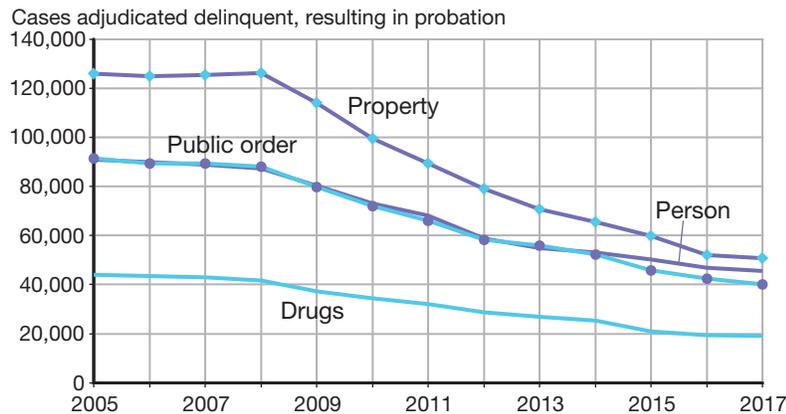
Dispositions: Probation

The number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in probation declined 56% between 2005 and 2017



- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in an order of probation decreased 56%, compared with a 54% decrease in the number of cases that resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of cases resulting in probation decreased at a similar pace for all offense groups: 60% for property offenses, 56% each for drug and public order offenses, and 50% for person offenses.

The number of adjudicated property offense cases resulting in an order of probation fell 60% since 2005



Dispositions: Probation

- Despite a decrease in the volume of cases between 2005 and 2017 (352,200 and 155,500, respectively), the proportion of adjudicated cases with probation as the most restrictive outcome remained the same (63%).
- Between 2005 and 2017, the likelihood of probation for cases adjudicated delinquent was relatively stable for all offense categories.

Offense profile of cases adjudicated delinquent, resulting in probation:

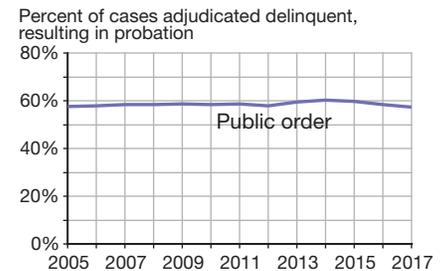
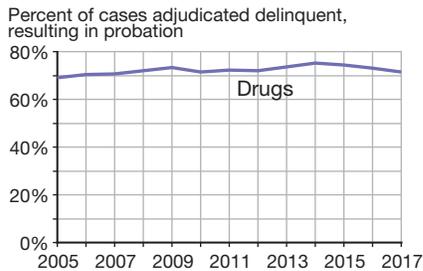
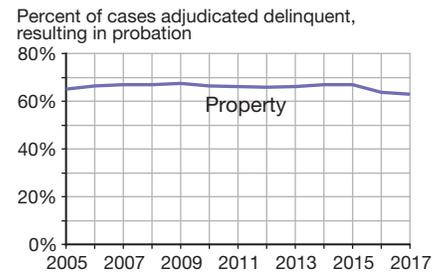
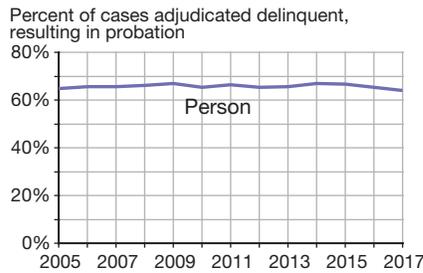
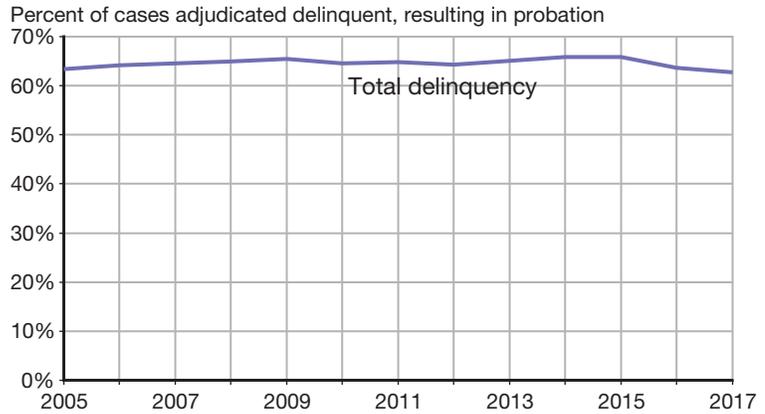
Most serious offense	2005	2017
Person	26%	29%
Property	36	33
Drugs	12	12
Public order	26	26
Total	100%	100%

Cases resulting in formal probation 352,200 155,500

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

- In 2017, 33% of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in probation involved property offenses, 29% involved person cases, and 26% involved public order cases.
- The offense characteristics of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in probation changed little between 2005 and 2017, with a slight increase in the proportion of cases involving person offenses and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of cases involving property offenses. The proportion of drug and public order offense cases remained the same.

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
2017				
Delinquency	65%	61%	62%	65%
Person	67	60	63	69
Property	65	61	62	65
Drugs	73	71	72	72
Public order	60	56	57	58
2005				
Delinquency	66%	61%	63%	66%
Person	67	61	63	69
Property	67	63	64	68
Drugs	72	67	68	74
Public order	60	55	57	59

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	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2017					
Delinquency	65%	60%	62%	61%	75%
Person	68	62	61	63	73
Property	66	60	62	57	80
Drugs	73	68	72	68	NA
Public order	57	57	58	60	73
2005					
Delinquency	65%	61%	64%	66%	68%
Person	67	63	65	68	65
Property	66	63	66	67	68
Drugs	72	63	70	74	67
Public order	57	56	61	59	70

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 decreased slightly between 2005 and 2017 from 66% to 65%.
- Among youth age 16 or older, the overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation remained the same between 2005 and 2017, 61% each.
- For both age groups in 2017, adjudicated cases involving drug offenses were more likely to result in probation than cases in other offense categories.

Gender

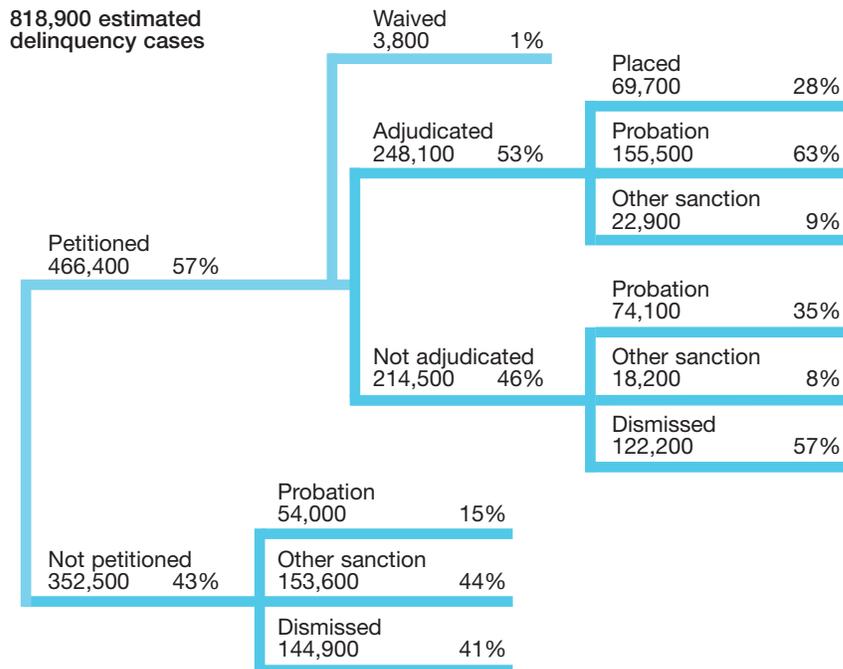
- The overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation decreased slightly between 2005 and 2017 for females (from 66% to 65%) and males (from 63% to 62%).
- For females in 2017, drug offense cases adjudicated delinquent were most likely to be placed on probation (72%), followed by person (69%) and property offense cases (65%). Public order offense cases were least likely to result in formal probation (58%).

Race

- Between 2005 and 2017, the overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation decreased slightly for black, Hispanic, and American Indian youth, remained the same for white youth, and increased for Asian youth.
- In 2017, among white youth, drug offense cases that were adjudicated delinquent were most likely to be placed on formal probation (73%), followed by adjudicated person and property offense cases (68% and 66%, respectively) and public order offense cases (57%).

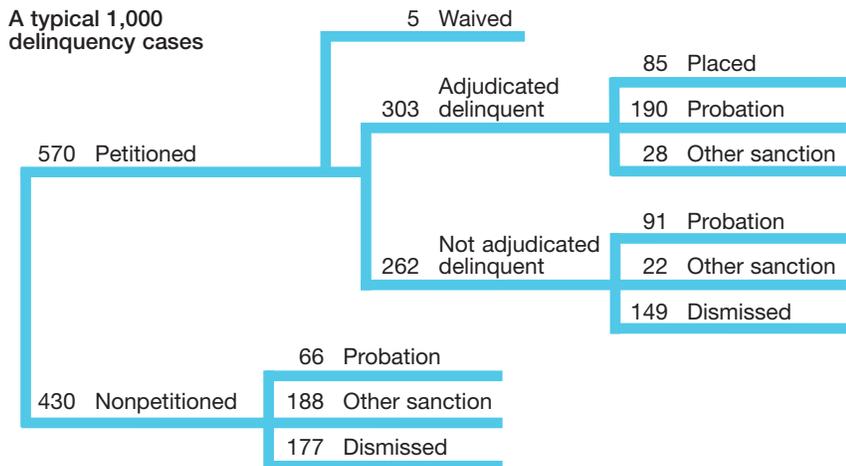
Case Processing Overview, 2017

- In 2017, 57% (466,400) of the estimated 818,900 juvenile court cases were handled formally (with the filing of a petition).
- In 2017, 1% (3,800) of all formally processed delinquency cases were judicially transferred to criminal court.
- In 2017, 53% (248,100) of the cases that were handled formally (with the filing of a petition) resulted in a delinquency adjudication.
- In 63% (155,500) of cases adjudicated delinquent in 2017, formal probation was the most severe sanction ordered by the court.
- In 2017, 28% (69,700) of cases adjudicated delinquent resulted in placement outside the home in a residential facility.
- In 9% (22,900) of cases adjudicated delinquent in 2017, 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.
- In 46% (214,500) of all petitioned delinquency cases in 2017, the youth was not subsequently adjudicated delinquent. The court dismissed 57% of these cases, while 35% resulted in some form of informal probation and 8% in other voluntary dispositions.
- In 2017, the court dismissed 41% of the informally handled (i.e., nonpetitioned) delinquency cases, while 15% of the cases resulted in voluntary probation and 44% 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 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing Overview, 2017



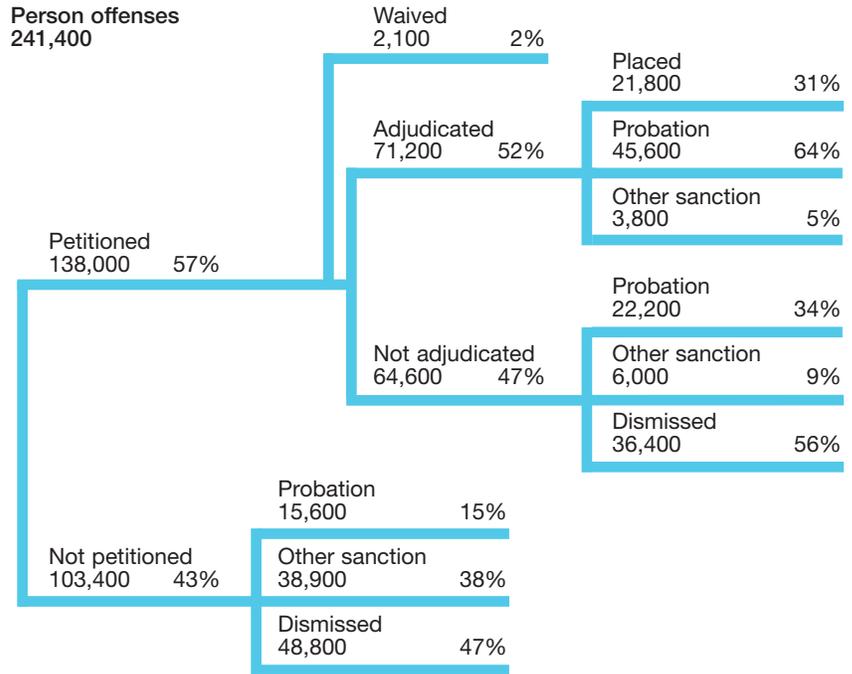
Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

- For every 1,000 delinquency cases processed in 2017, 570 were petitioned for formal processing and 430 were handled informally.
- Of the cases that were adjudicated delinquent, 63% (190 of 303) received a disposition of probation and 28% (85 of 303) 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 (113 of 262), including informal probation and other dispositions such as restitution.
- Although juvenile courts in 2017 handled more than 4 in 10 delinquency cases without the filing of a formal petition, 59% 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, 2017

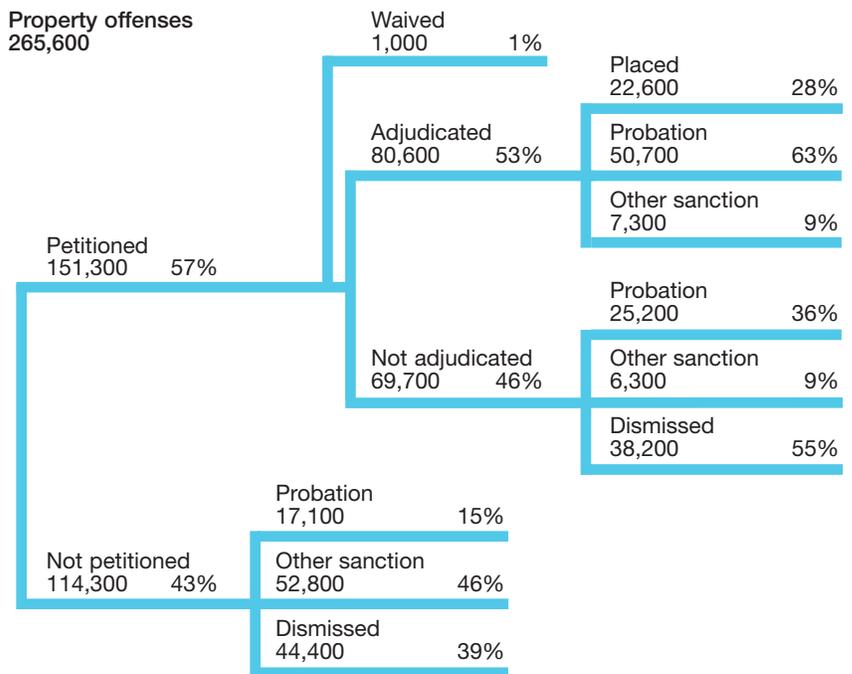
Person Offense Cases

- In 2017, 52% (71,200) of all formally processed person offense cases resulted in a delinquency adjudication.
- Formal probation was the most severe sanction ordered by the court in 64% (45,600) of the adjudicated person offense cases in 2017.
- Once adjudicated, person offense cases were more likely to result in out-of-home placement (31%) than public order offense cases (30%), property offenses cases (28%), and drug offense cases (18%).
- In 2017, 15% of person offense cases that were handled informally resulted in probation; 47% were dismissed.
- Juvenile courts waived jurisdiction in 2% (2,100) of all petitioned person offense cases in 2017.



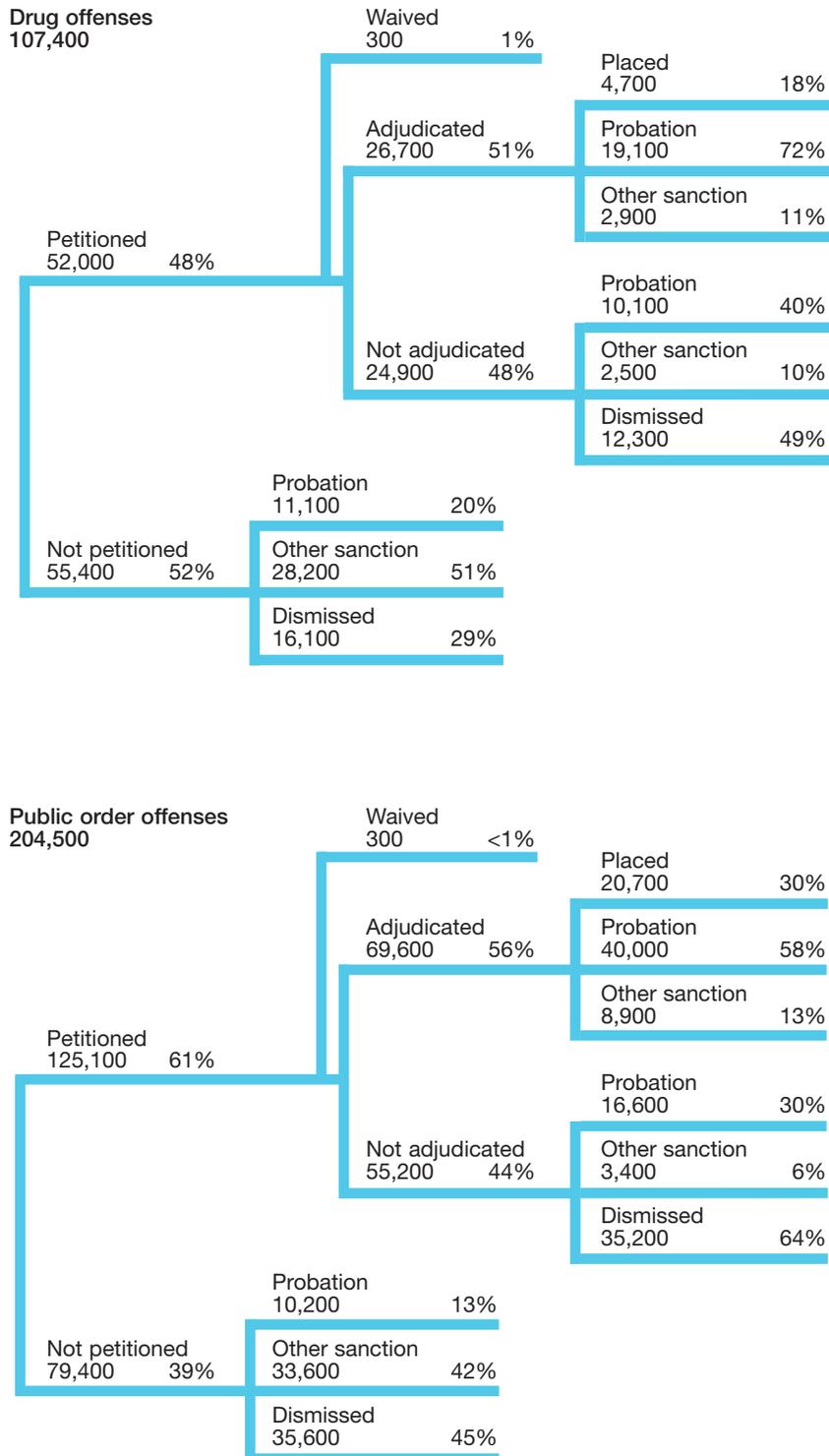
Property Offense Cases

- Juvenile courts handled more than half (57%) of all property offense cases formally in 2017. Of these formally handled cases, 53% (80,600 cases) were adjudicated delinquent.
- In 2017, 50,700 (63%) of the adjudicated property offense cases resulted in probation as the most severe sanction; another 28% (22,600) resulted in out-of-home placement. Other sanctions, such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency, were ordered in 9% (7,300) of the petitioned property offense cases following adjudication.
- Property offense cases were equally as likely as person offense cases to be petitioned for formal processing. Once petitioned, however, property offense cases were slightly 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 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by Offense Category, 2017



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 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Drug Offense Cases

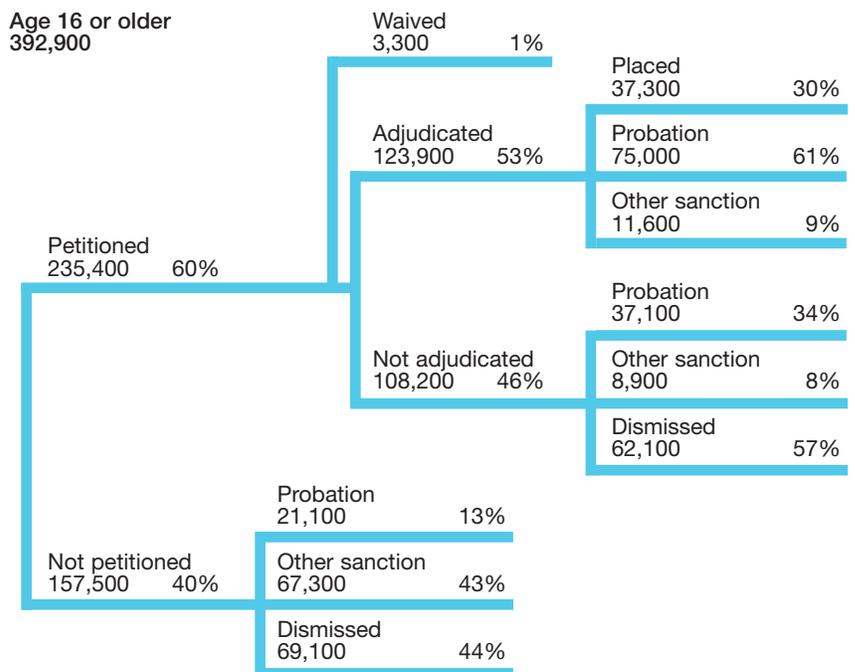
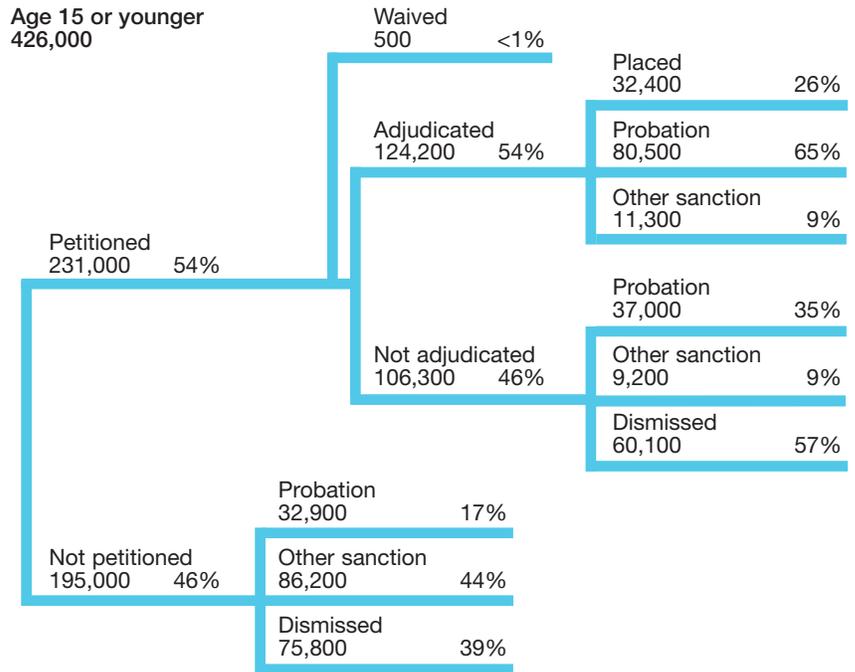
- In 2017, 51% (26,700) of all petitioned drug offense cases resulted in the youth being adjudicated delinquent; 72% (19,100) of these cases received probation as the most severe sanction, and another 18% (4,700) resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Other sanctions, such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency, were ordered in 11% (2,900) of petitioned drug offense cases following adjudication in 2017.
- Juvenile courts waived jurisdiction in 1% (300) of all petitioned drug offense cases in 2017.
- More than half (52%) of drug offense cases were informally handled in 2017; 71% of the informally handled drug offense cases resulted in probation or some other sanction.

Public Order Offense Cases

- In 2017, the majority (61%) of all public order offense cases were handled formally, with the filing of a petition for adjudication.
- Once adjudicated delinquent, 58% of public order offense cases in 2017 resulted in probation as the most severe sanction, 30% were placed out of the home, and 13% resulted in other sanctions.
- In 2017, 39% of all public order offense cases were handled informally. Of the informal cases, 45% were dismissed, while the remaining cases resulted in some form of court sanction, including probation, restitution, community service, or referral to another agency.

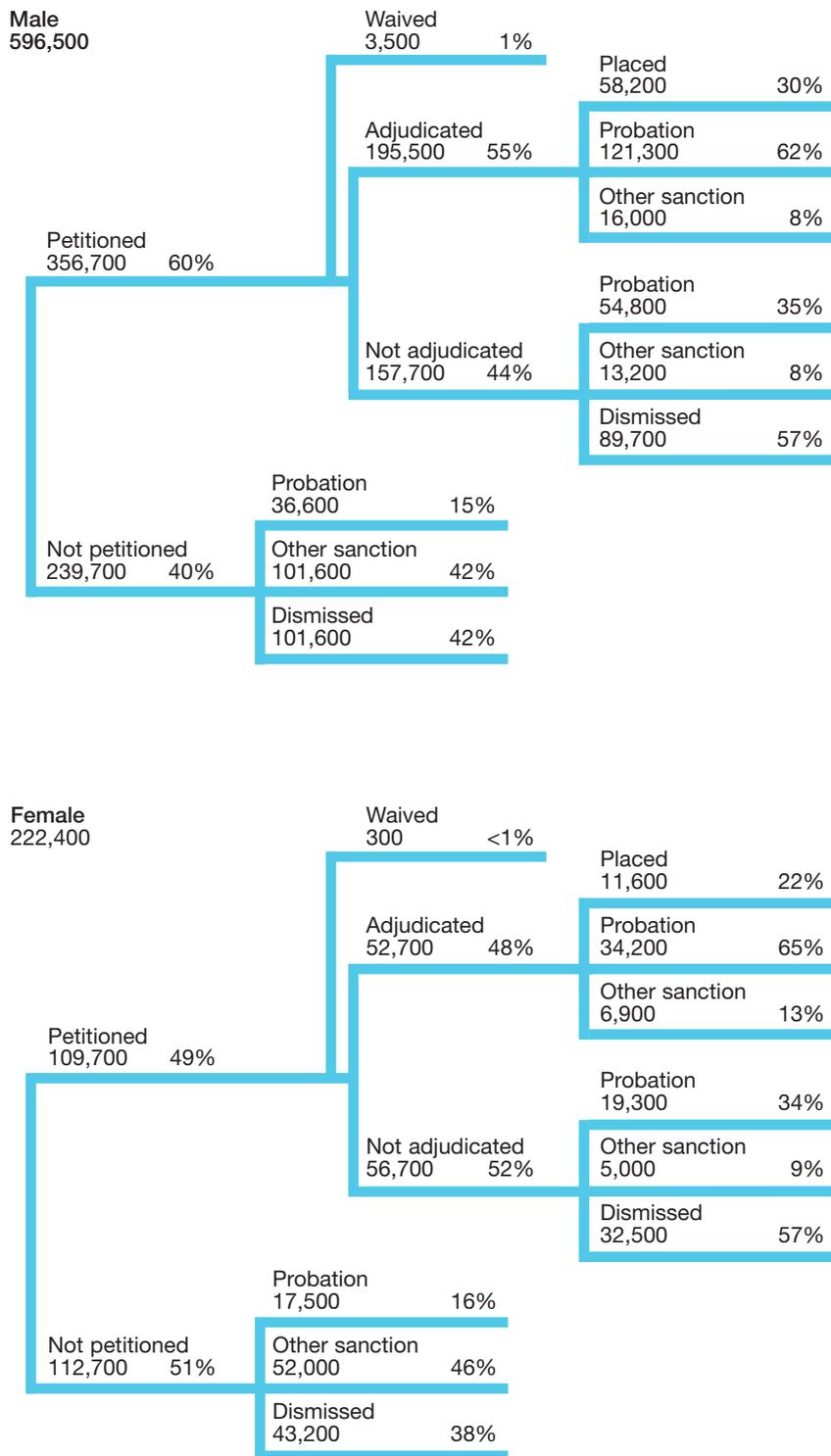
Case Processing by Age, 2017

- In 2017, 54% (231,000) of all delinquency cases involving youth age 15 or younger and 60% (235,400) 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 54% of all formally processed cases in 2017; cases involving youth age 16 or older were adjudicated delinquent in 53% of all such cases.
- The proportion of petitioned cases waived to criminal court in 2017 was less than 1% for youth age 15 or younger, compared with 1% for youth age 16 or older.
- In 2017, 26% of cases adjudicated delinquent involving youth age 15 or younger and 30% of such cases involving youth age 16 or older resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Probation was ordered as the most severe sanction in 2017 in 65% of the adjudicated cases involving youth age 15 or younger, compared with 61% of adjudicated cases involving youth 16 or older.
- Among cases formally adjudicated in 2017, equal proportions of cases involving youth age 15 or younger and youth age 16 or older resulted in other sanctions (9% each).
- For youth age 15 or younger, 46% of all delinquency cases were handled informally in 2017; of these cases, 17% resulted in a disposition of probation and 39% were dismissed. Among older youth, 40% of all delinquency cases were handled without the filing of a petition for adjudication in 2017; 13% 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 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by Gender, 2017

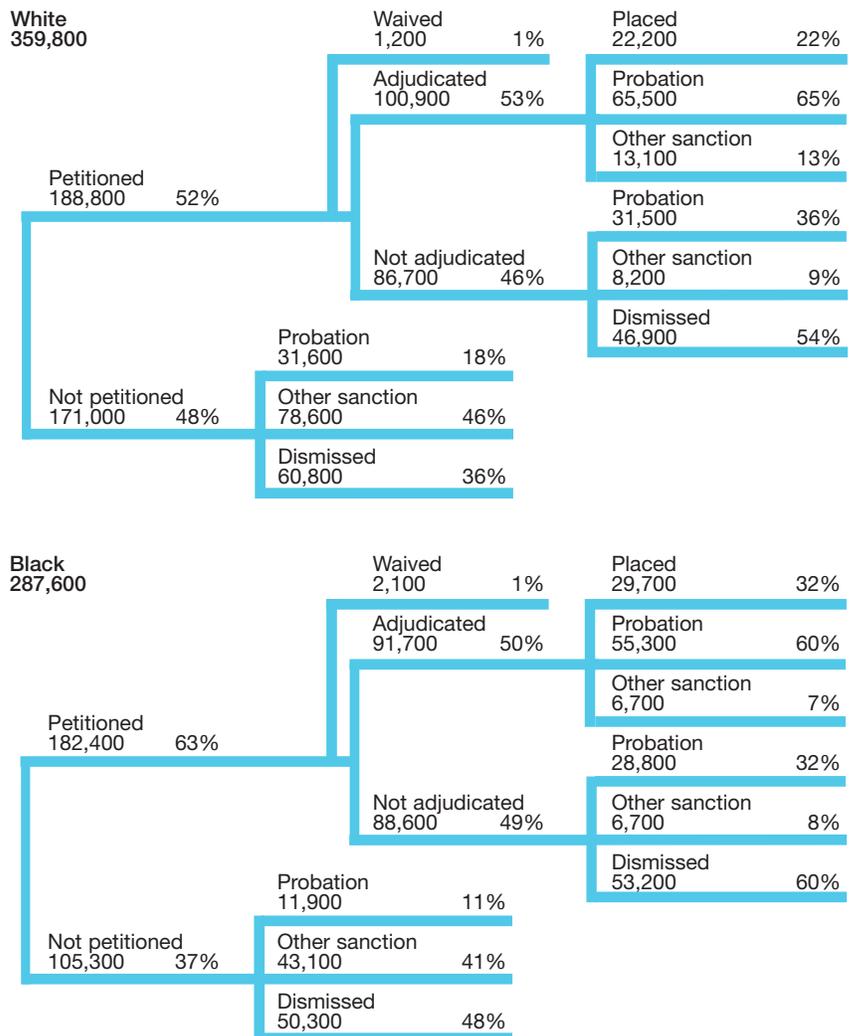


- In 2017, 60% of delinquency cases involving males were handled with the filing of a petition for adjudication, compared with 49% of those involving females.
- Once petitioned, cases involving males in 2017 were more likely to result in a delinquency adjudication than were cases involving females (55% vs. 48%).
- Delinquency cases involving females in 2017 were less likely to be waived to criminal court than those involving males.
- Once adjudicated delinquent, 30% of cases involving males in 2017 resulted in out-of-home placement, compared with 22% of those involving females.
- Of the adjudicated cases involving males, 62% received probation as the most severe sanction, and 8% resulted in other sanctions such as restitution or community service.
- Among adjudicated cases involving females in 2017, 65% received probation as the most severe sanction and 13% resulted in other sanctions.
- Informally handled delinquency cases involving males were less likely than those involving females to receive probation in 2017 (15% and 16%, respectively); male cases were more likely than female cases to be dismissed (42% vs. 38%).
- In 2017, informally handled delinquency cases involving females were more likely to result in other sanctions than those involving males (46% vs. 42%).

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 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

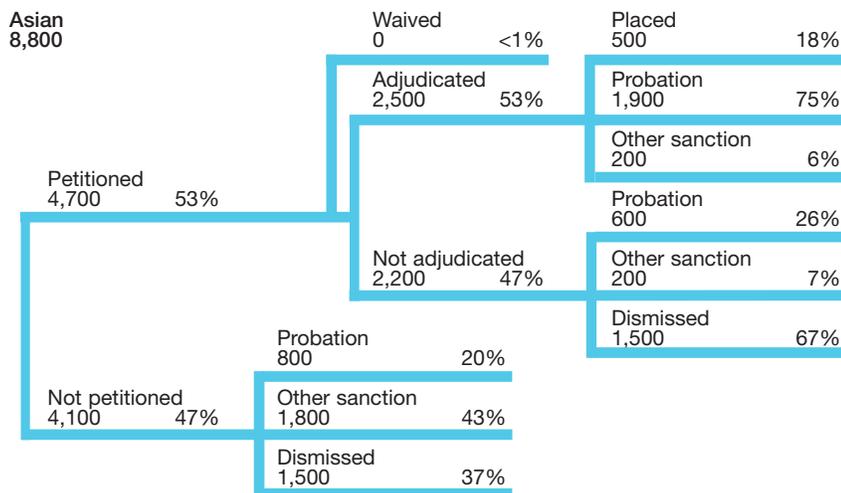
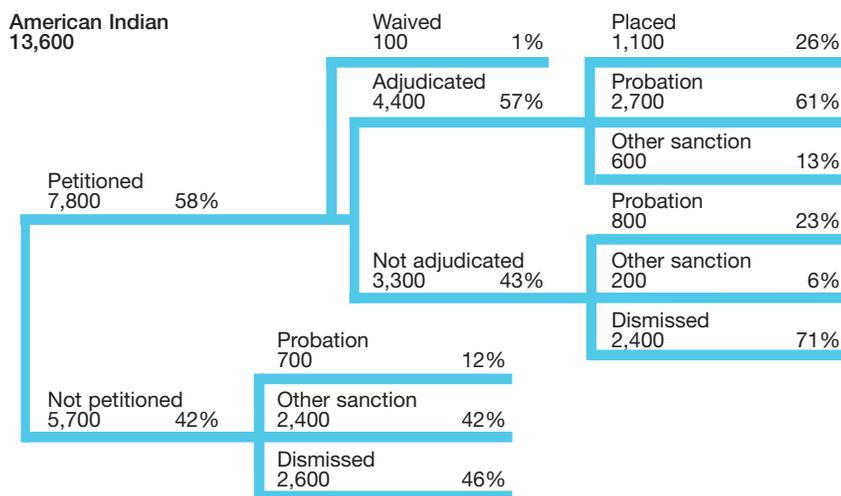
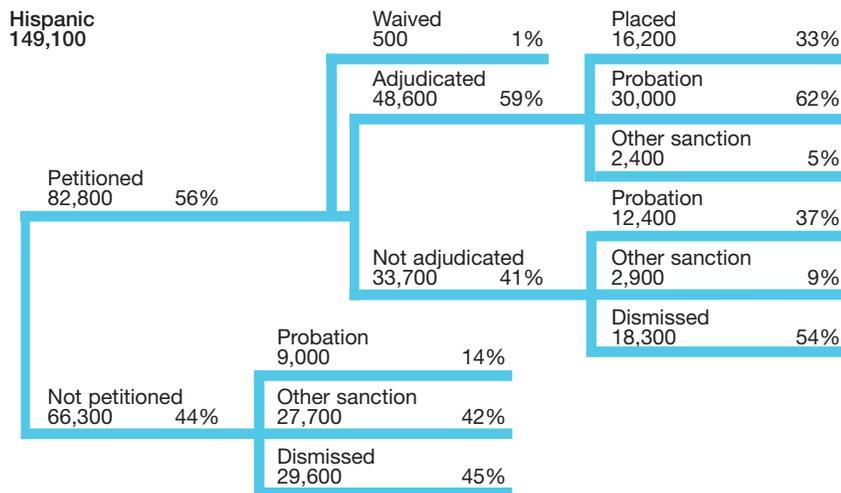
Case Processing by Race, 2017

- In 2017, delinquency cases involving white youth were less likely to be handled formally (52%) than those involving black youth (63%), Hispanic youth (56%), American Indian youth (58%), or Asian youth (53%).
- Once petitioned, cases in 2017 involving black youth (50%), white youth (53%), Asian youth (53%), and American Indian youth (57%) were less likely to be adjudicated delinquent than were cases involving Hispanic youth (59%).
- For all racial groups in 2017, about 1% or less of petitioned delinquency cases resulted in waiver to criminal court.
- In 2017, adjudicated delinquency cases involving Hispanic youth were more likely to result in out-of-home placement (33%) than cases involving all other races. Black youth were ordered to residential placement in 32% of adjudicated cases. Asian youth (18%) and white youth (22%) were less likely than American Indian youth (26%) to be ordered to residential placement.
- For adjudicated cases involving black youth in 2017, probation was the most severe sanction ordered in 60% of the cases and 7% 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 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by Race, 2017



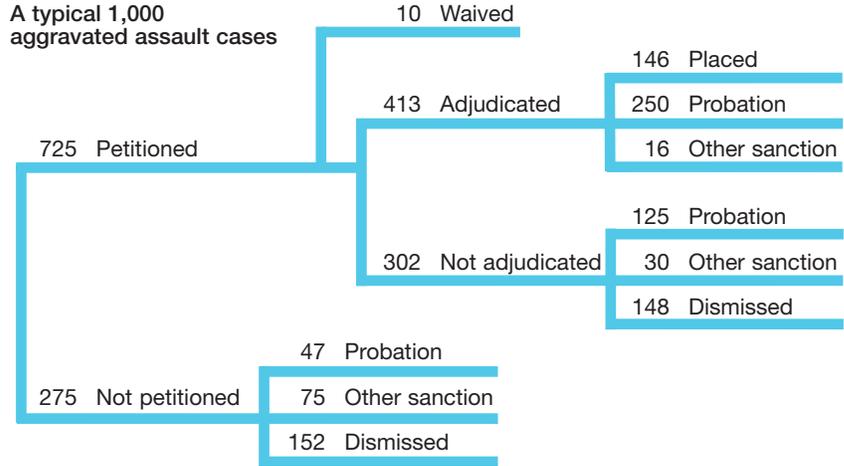
- For adjudicated cases involving American Indian youth in 2017, probation was the most severe sanction ordered in 61% of the cases and 13% resulted in other sanctions.
- In 75% of the adjudicated cases involving Asian youth in 2017, probation was the most severe sanction; 6% resulted in other sanctions such as restitution or community service.
- In 2017, 48% of delinquency cases involving white youth were handled informally, compared with 37% of cases involving black youth, 44% of cases involving Hispanic youth, 42% of cases involving American Indian youth, and 47% of cases involving Asian juveniles.
- Informally handled delinquency cases involving black youth in 2017 were more likely to be dismissed (48%) than those involving American Indian youth (46%), Hispanic youth (45%), Asian youth (37%), or white youth (36%).
- In 2017, informally handled delinquency cases involving white youth were most likely to result in other sanctions such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency (46%), compared with cases involving Asian youth (43%), Hispanic or American Indian youth (42% each), or black youth (41%).

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 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by Selected Individual Offense, 2017

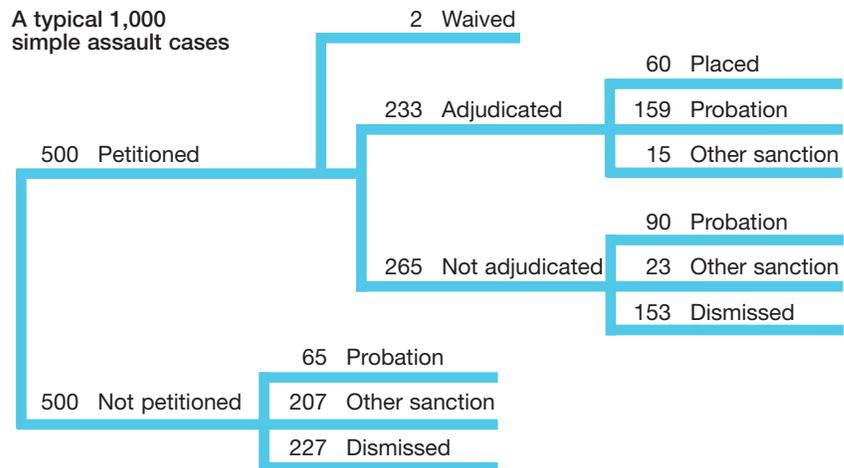
Aggravated Assault Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 10 of every 1,000 aggravated assault cases to criminal court in 2017, compared with 2 of every 1,000 simple assault cases.
- In 2017, 42% of aggravated assault cases received some formal sanction or were waived to criminal court (423 of 1,000).
- In 2017, 15% of aggravated assault cases received a formal sanction of out-of-home placement (146 of 1,000) and 25% were placed on formal probation (250 of 1,000).
- Of all aggravated assault cases referred to juvenile courts in 2017, 30% were eventually released or dismissed (300 of 1,000)—20% of the petitioned cases and 55% of those that were informally handled.



Simple Assault Cases

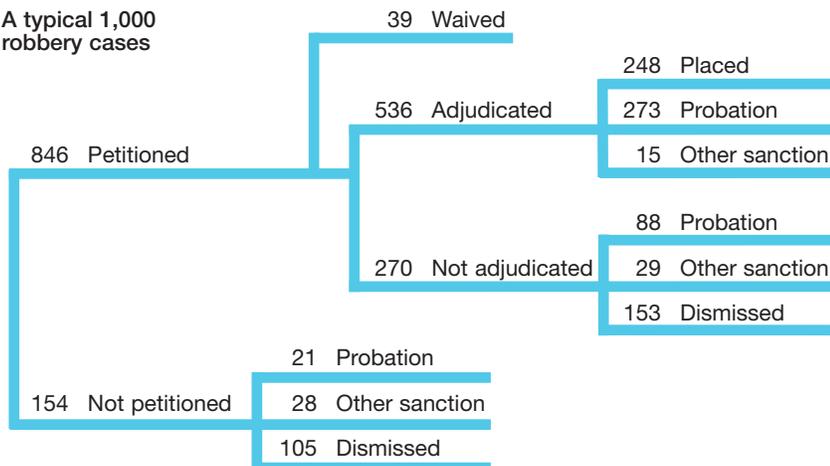
- Of every 1,000 simple assault cases handled in 2017, 235 received some formal sanction or were waived to criminal court.
- In 2017, 6% of simple assault cases resulted in the juvenile receiving a formal sanction of out-of-home placement (60 of 1,000) and 16% were placed on formal probation (159 of 1,000).
- Juveniles received informal sanctions in 38% of simple assault cases processed in 2017 (385 of 1,000).
- Of all simple assault cases referred to juvenile courts in 2017, 38% were eventually dismissed (380 of 1,000)—31% of the petitioned cases and 45% of those that were informally handled.



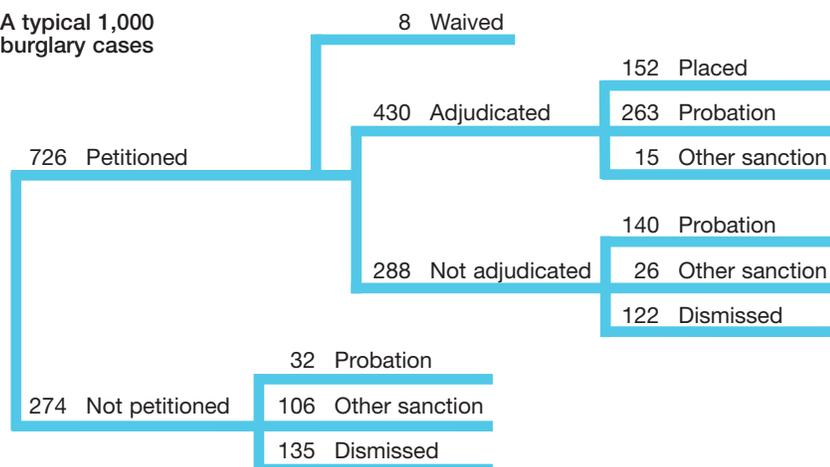
Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Case Processing by Selected Individual Offense, 2017

A typical 1,000 robbery cases



A typical 1,000 burglary cases



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 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

Robbery Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 39 of every 1,000 robbery cases to criminal court in 2017.
- In 2017, juvenile courts ordered formal sanctions or waived jurisdiction in 58% of all robbery cases (576 of 1,000).
- In 2017, 25% of robbery cases received a formal sanction of out-of-home placement (248 of 1,000) and 27% resulted in formal probation (273 of 1,000).
- Of all robbery cases referred to juvenile court in 2017, 15% were not petitioned; the majority (68%) of these cases were dismissed.

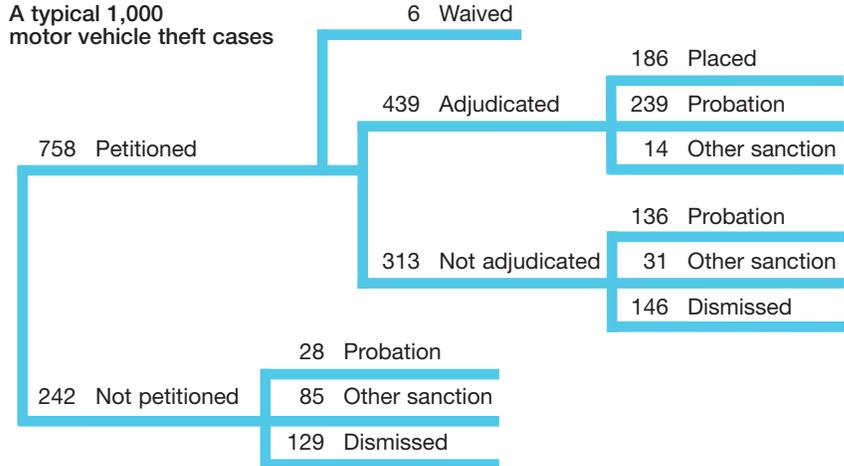
Burglary Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 8 of every 1,000 burglary cases to criminal court in 2017.
- Juvenile courts ordered formal sanctions or waived jurisdiction in 60% of all formally handled burglary cases in 2017 (438 of 726).
- In 2017, 152 of 1,000 burglary cases received a formal sanction of out-of-home placement and 263 of 1,000 resulted in formal probation.
- More than one-quarter (27%) of all burglary cases referred to juvenile courts in 2017 were handled informally and nearly half of these cases (135 of 274) were dismissed.

Case Processing by Selected Individual Offense, 2017

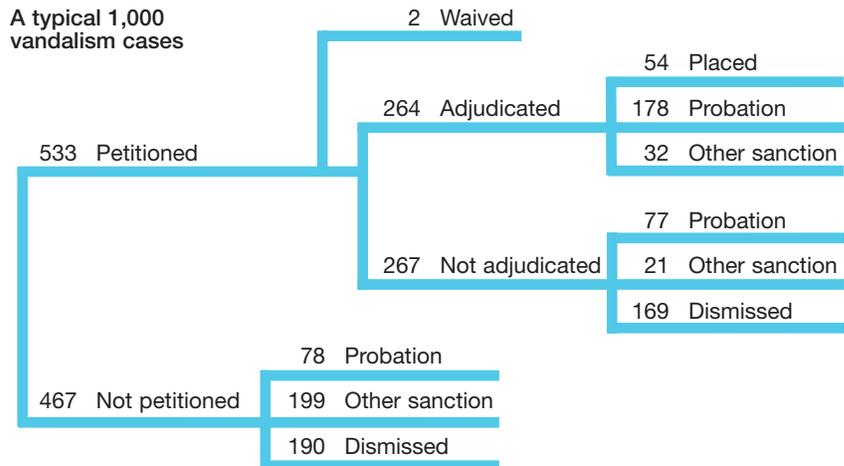
Motor Vehicle Theft Cases

- Juvenile courts waived less than 1% of motor vehicle theft cases to criminal court in 2017 (6 of every 1,000).
- In 2017, nearly half (45%) of motor vehicle theft cases referred to juvenile courts resulted in formal court sanctions or waiver to criminal court.
- About 42% of motor vehicle cases adjudicated delinquent in 2017 resulted in out-of-home placement (186 of 439).
- Nearly one-quarter of motor vehicle theft cases referred to juvenile courts in 2017 were handled without the filing of a petition (242 of 1,000).



Vandalism Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 2 of every 1,000 vandalism cases to criminal court in 2017.
- More than half of vandalism cases referred to juvenile courts in 2017 were handled formally (533 of 1,000). Of these cases, 50% were adjudicated delinquent (264 of 533).
- In 2017, 67% of petitioned vandalism cases adjudicated delinquent resulted in a court sanction of probation (178 of 264), and 20% resulted in out-of-home placement (54 of 264).
- Juvenile courts handled 467 of every 1,000 vandalism cases informally (without a petition) in 2017. Youth received informal sanctions in 59% of these nonpetitioned cases.



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 2005 through 2017 are available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/court/faqs.asp.

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.

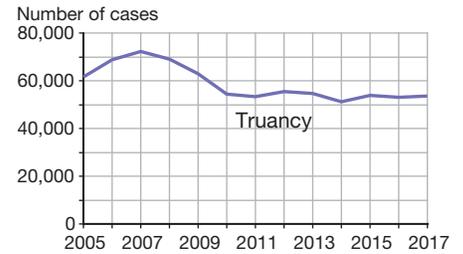
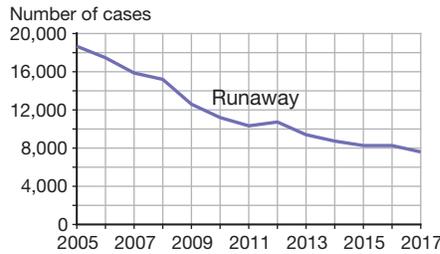
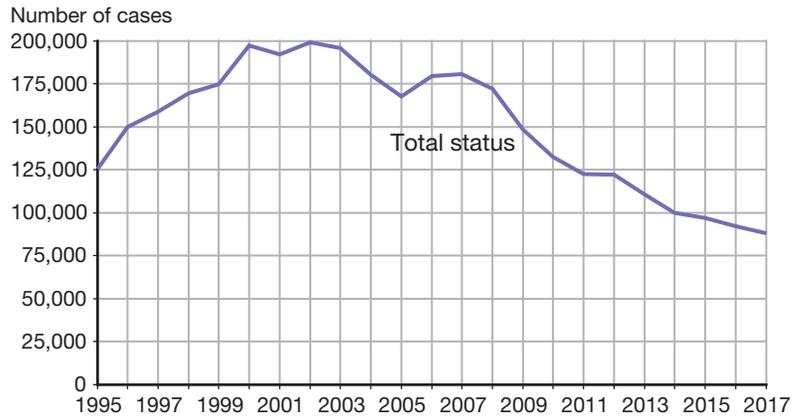
Juvenile courts may adjudicate petitioned status offense cases and may order sanctions such as probation or out-of-home placement. While their cases are being processed, juveniles charged with status offenses are sometimes held in secure detention. (Note that the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 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 2017 and examines trends since 2005, 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 2017, U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction petitioned and formally disposed an estimated 87,900 status offense cases.
- The number of petitioned status offense cases processed by juvenile courts decreased 48% between 2005 and 2017.
- The number of petitioned runaway cases processed by juvenile courts decreased 59% between 2005 and 2017 (from 18,700 to 7,600).
- The number of petitioned truancy cases processed by juvenile courts increased 17% between 2005 and 2007 and then declined 26% through 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2007, the number of petitioned curfew cases increased 16% and then declined 73% through 2017 (4,700).
- The number of petitioned ungovernability cases in 2017 (7,500) was 63% below the 2005 level (20,200).
- The number of petitioned liquor law violation cases increased 12% between 2005 and 2007 and then decreased 75% through 2017.

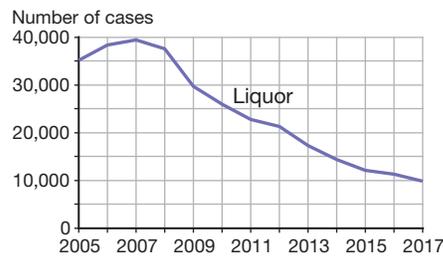
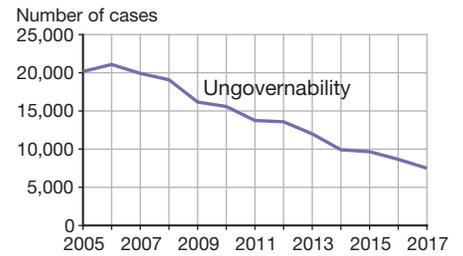
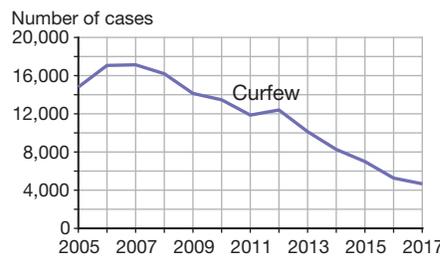
Between 1995 and 2002, the formally handled status offense caseload increased considerably (59%) and then declined 56% through 2017



Offense profile of petitioned status offense cases:

Most serious offense	2005	2017
Runaway	11%	9%
Truancy	37	61
Curfew	9	5
Ungovernability	12	9
Liquor	21	11
Miscellaneous	10	5
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	167,700	87,900

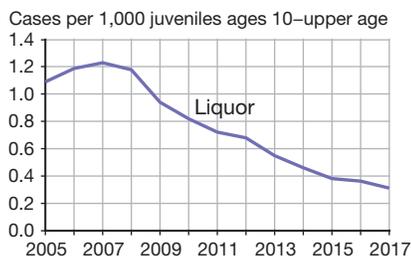
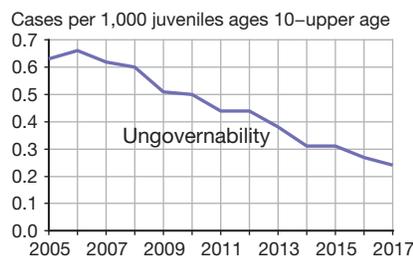
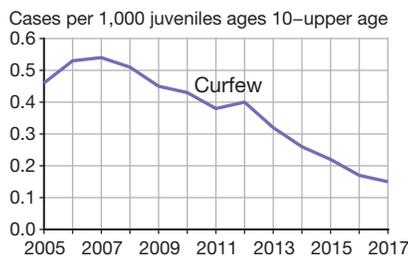
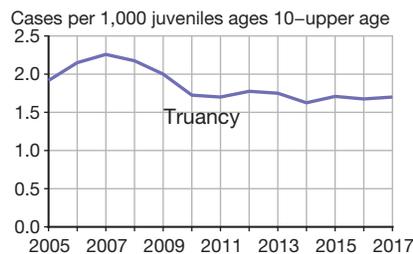
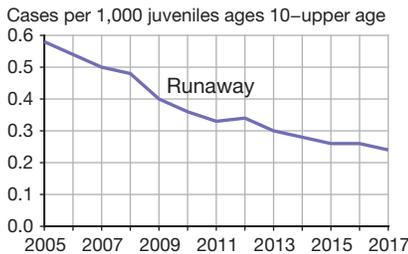
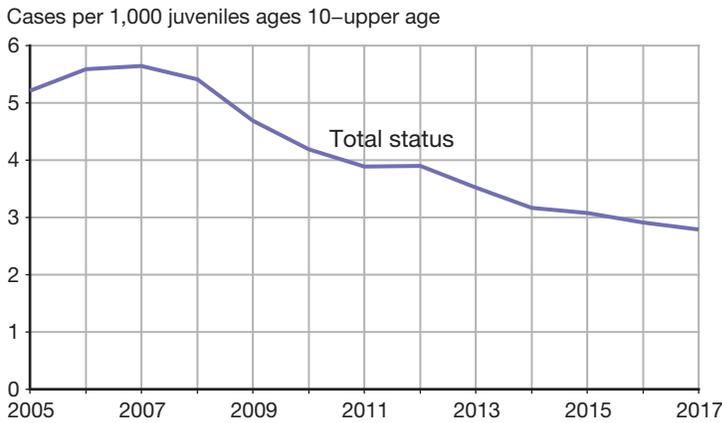
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.



- Compared with 2005, a larger proportion of the court's petitioned status offense caseload in 2017 involved truancy and smaller proportions of all other status offenses.

Case Rates

Petitioned status offense case rates decreased from 5.2 to 2.8 per 1,000 juveniles between 2005 and 2017



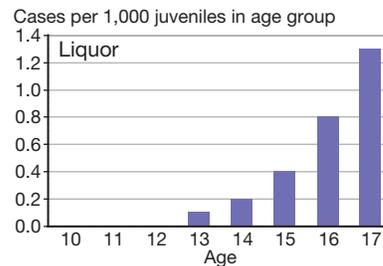
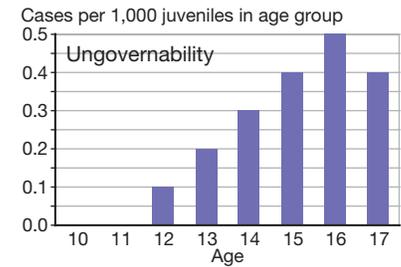
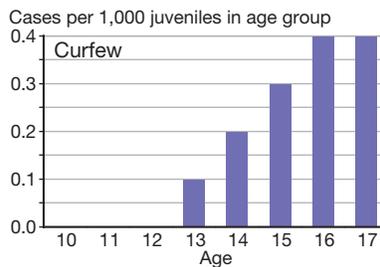
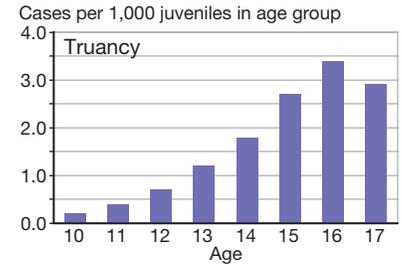
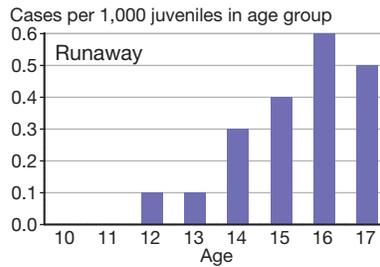
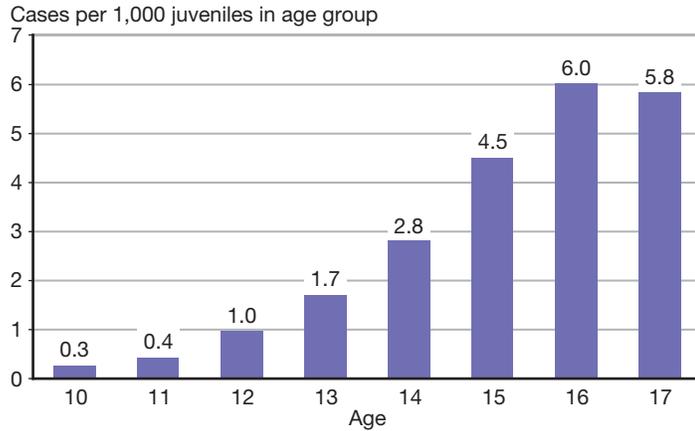
- In 2017, juvenile courts formally processed 2.8 status offense cases for every 1,000 juveniles in the population—those age 10 or older who were under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.
- The total petitioned status offense case rate decreased 47% between 2005 and 2017.¹
- Between 2005 and 2017, the petitioned runaway case rate decreased 59%.
- The petitioned truancy case rate increased 18% between 2005 and 2007, and then declined 25% through 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2007, the petitioned curfew violation case rate increased 17% and then decreased 72% by 2017.
- The petitioned ungovernability case rate declined 62% between 2005 and 2017.
- The petitioned liquor law violation case rate increased 13% between 2005 and 2007, and then decreased 75% by 2017.

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 2017, 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 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 (1.3) was 22 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.

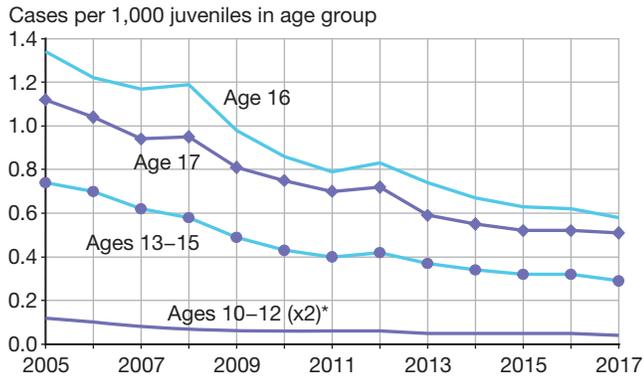
In 2017, status offense case rates increased with the age of the juvenile through age 16, then decreased slightly for 17-year-olds



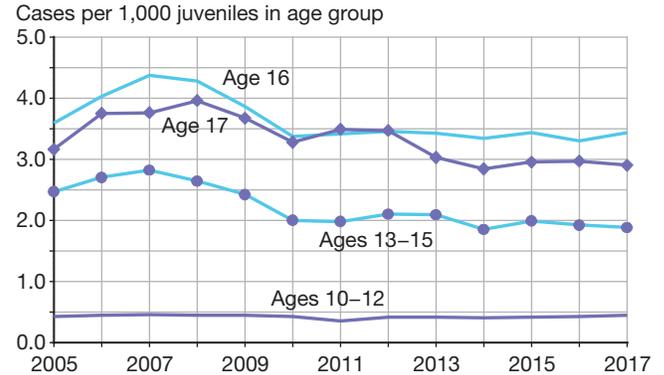
Age at Referral

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

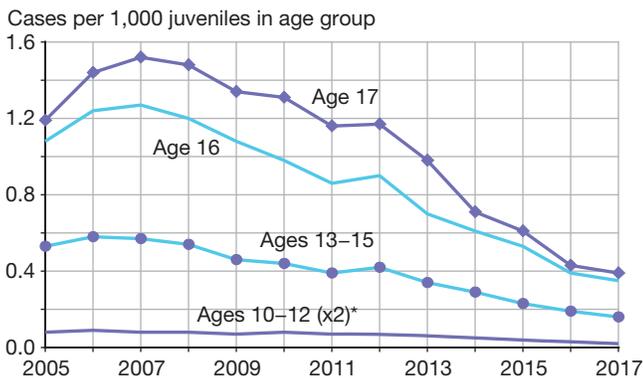
Runaway case rates



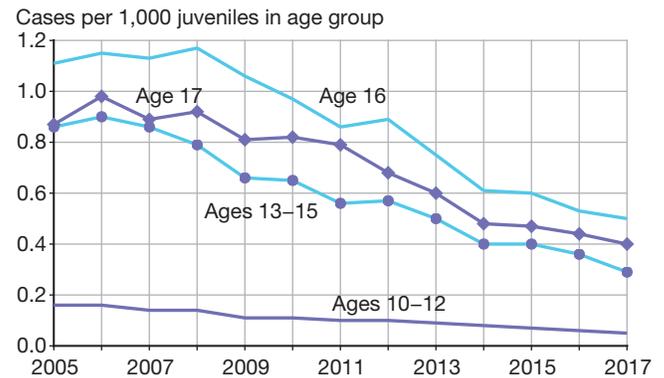
Truancy case rates



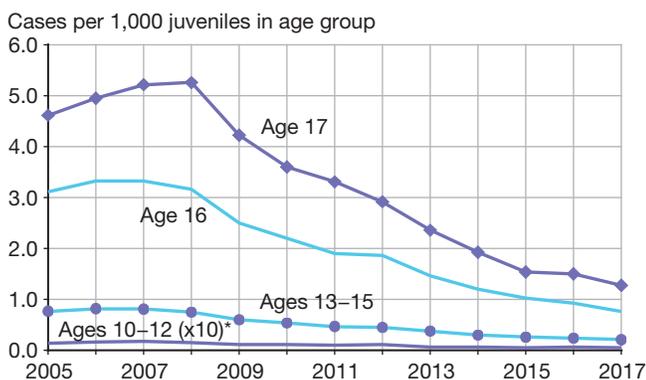
Curfew case rates



Ungovernability case rates



Liquor law violation case rates



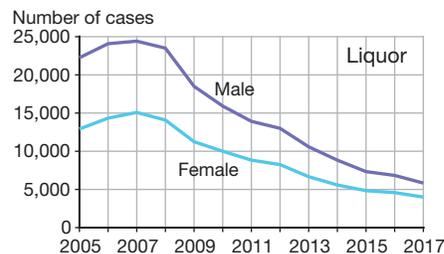
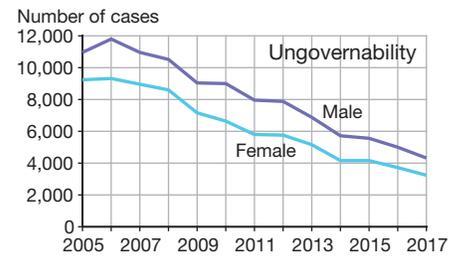
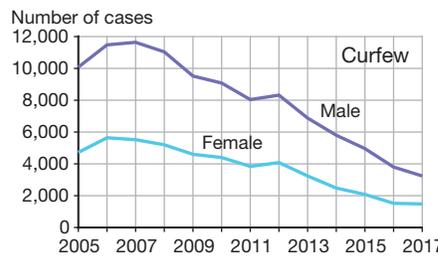
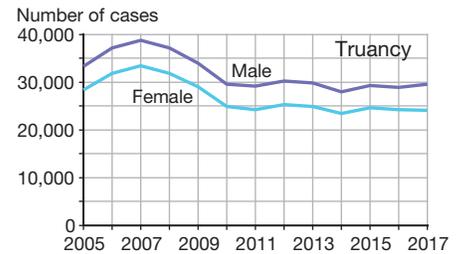
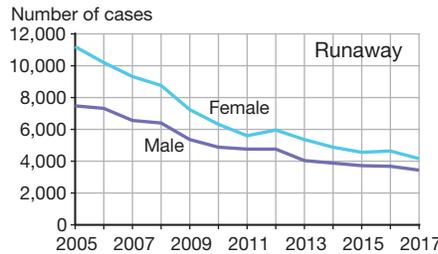
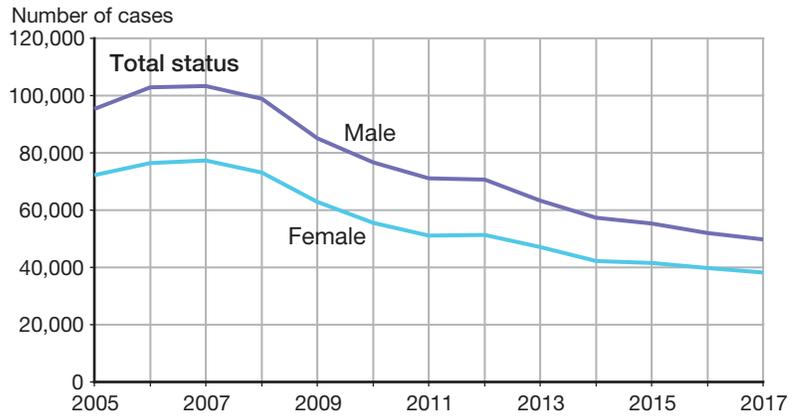
- Case rates for petitioned runaway cases decreased the most for youth ages 10–12 and 13–15 between 2005 and 2017 (65% and 61%, respectively).
- Despite relative stability in recent years, truancy case rates for most age groups increased slightly between 2014 and 2017.
- The decrease in case rates between 2005 and 2017 for petitioned ungovernability cases was greater for younger youth (ages 10–12 and 13–15) than older youth (ages 16 and 17).
- Depending on age, case rates for petitioned curfew offenses and petitioned liquor law violations grew between 2005 and either 2007 or 2008, before decreasing through 2017.

* 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

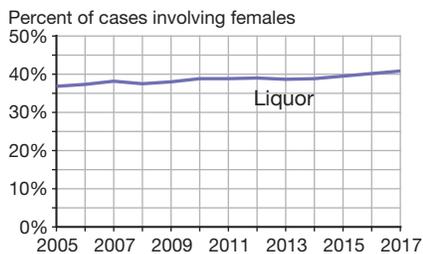
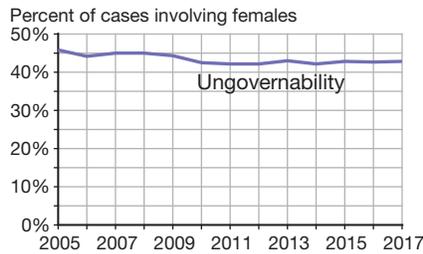
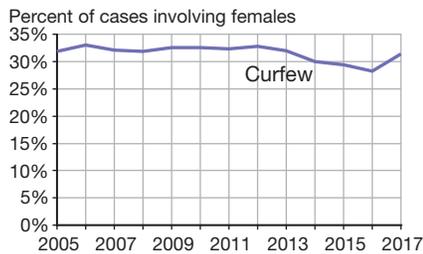
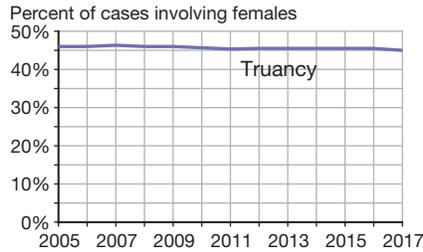
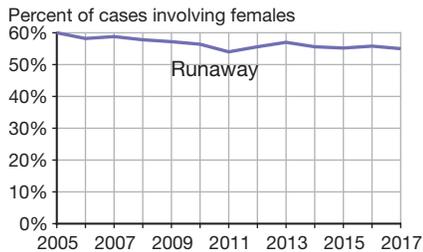
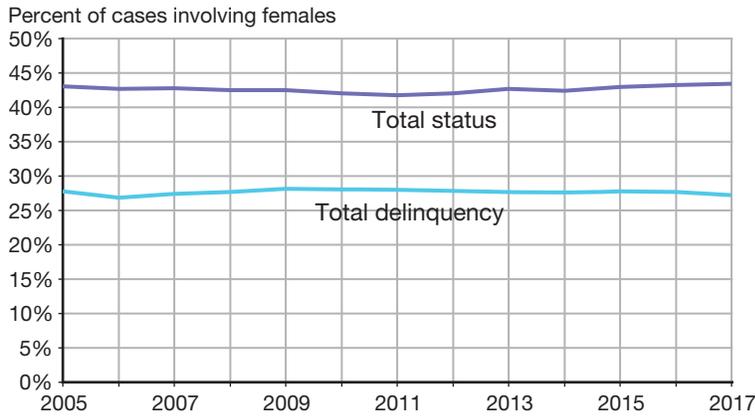
- Overall, the relative decrease in petitioned status offense cases between 2005 and 2017 was similar for males and females (48% and 47%, respectively).
- Between 2005 and 2017, the petitioned runaway caseload decreased 54% for males and 63% for females.
- Between 2005 and 2007, the number of petitioned truancy cases increased 16% for males and 18% for females, then decreased through 2017 (24% for males and 28% for females).
- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of petitioned truancy cases outnumbered all other status offense cases for both males and females.

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 57% of the total petitioned status offense caseload in 2017.
- In 2017, males accounted for the majority of curfew (69%), liquor law violation (59%), ungovernability (57%), and truancy (55%) cases.
- Females accounted for 55% of petitioned runaway cases in 2017, 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
2017		
Runaway	7%	11%
Truancy	59	63
Curfew	6	4
Ungovernability	9	8
Liquor	12	10
Miscellaneous	7	3
Total	100%	100%
2005		
Runaway	8%	15%
Truancy	35	39
Curfew	11	7
Ungovernability	11	13
Liquor	23	18
Miscellaneous	12	8
Total	100%	100%

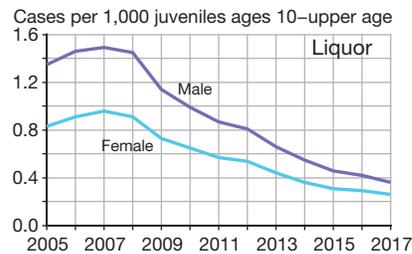
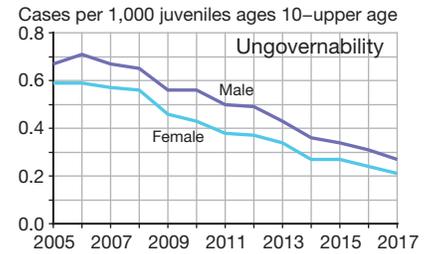
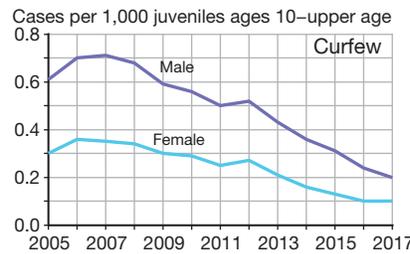
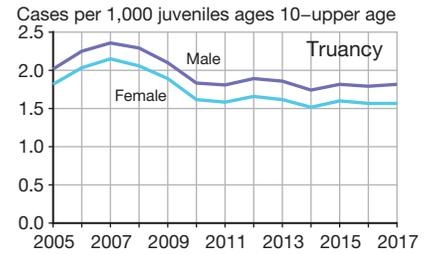
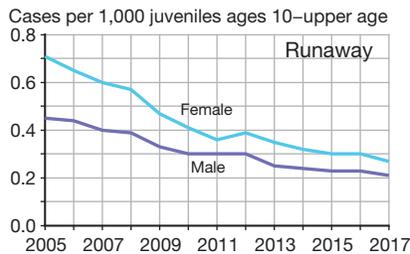
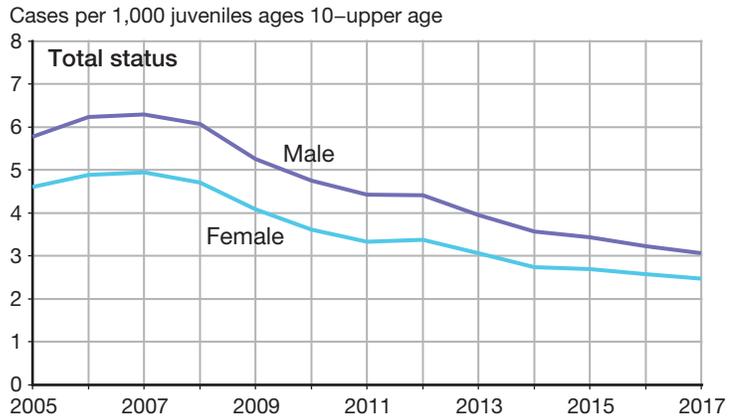
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- Truancy cases accounted for over half of the petitioned status offense caseload for both males and females in 2017.

Gender

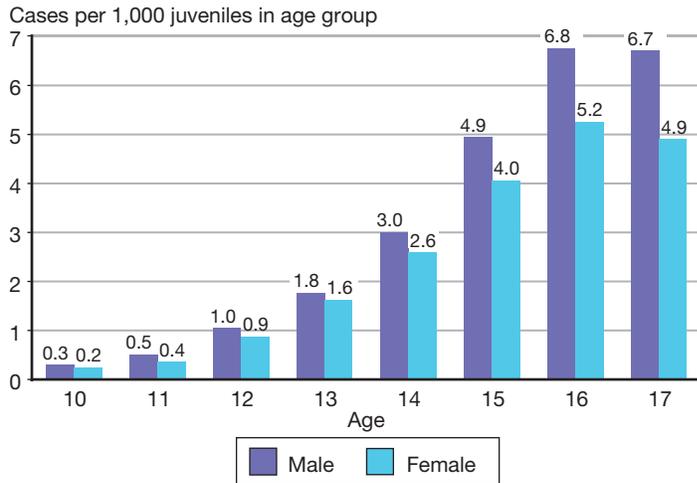
- The petitioned status offense case rate decreased for both males and females between 2005 and 2017 (47% and 46%, respectively).
- Runaway case rates declined between 2005 and 2017 for both males (53%) and females (62%).
- Between 2005 and 2017, the truancy case rate for both males and females was greater than the rate of any other status offense category.
- For both males and females, the case rates for truancy cases increased between 2005 and 2007 (17% and 18%, respectively) before declining through 2017 (23% and 27%, respectively). A similar pattern occurred for curfew cases: male case rates increased 16% and female case rates increased 17% between 2005 and 2007, before declining through 2017 (72% and 73%, respectively).
- Between 2005 and 2017, case rates for ungovernability declined 60% for males and 65% for females.

The petitioned status offense case rates followed similar patterns for males and females between 2005 and 2017

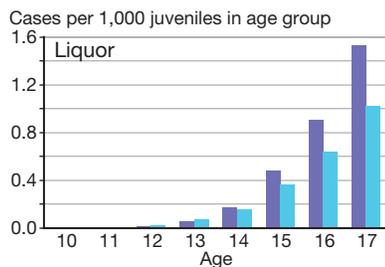
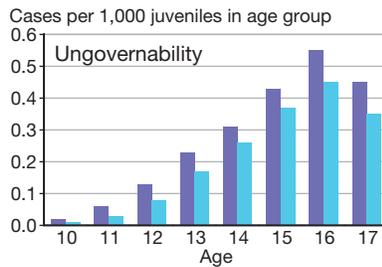
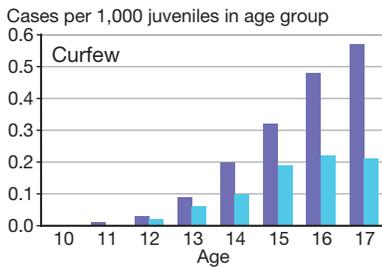
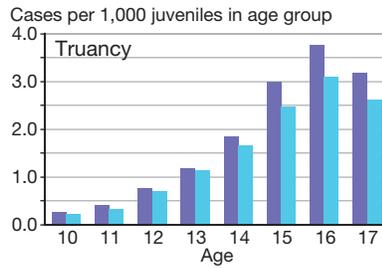
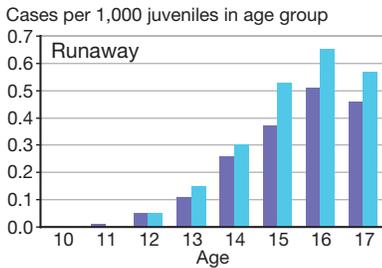


Gender

In 2017, the status offense case rate for males and females increased through age 16 and dropped slightly for 17-year-olds



- After age 11, case rates for running away were higher for females than for males in 2017.
- In 2017, petitioned case rates for running away, truancy, and ungovernability peaked at age 16 for both males and females.
- Petitioned case rates for curfew violations peaked at age 16 for females and continued to increase through age 17 for males.
- For both males and females, petitioned status offense case rates increased continuously with age for liquor law violations in 2017.
- In 2017, curfew case rates for males were at least double curfew case rates for females for most ages.
- The largest disparity in the ungovernability case rate between males and females was among youth age 11. The case rate for males age 11 was double the case rate for females of the same age.



Race

- The petitioned status offense caseload decreased the most for white youth (51%) between 2005 and 2017, followed by black youth and Asian youth (43% each).
- Between 2005 and 2017, across racial groups and offenses, the number of cases decreased with the exception of truancy cases involving Hispanic youth.
- In 2017, truancy cases made up the greatest proportion of the caseloads for youth of all race groups.

Racial profile of petitioned status offense cases:

Race	2005	2017
White	68%	63%
Black	20	22
Hispanic ²	8	10
American Indian ³	3	3
Asian ⁴	2	2
Total	100%	100%

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

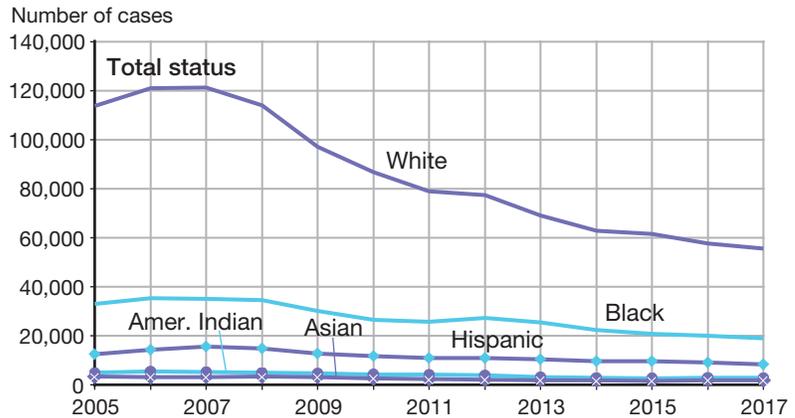
- White youth made up 54% of the population under juvenile court jurisdiction and 63% of the petitioned status offense caseload in 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the proportion of petitioned status offense cases involving white youth decreased and the proportion involving black youth and Hispanic youth increased.

² Persons of Hispanic ethnicity are treated as a distinct race group and are excluded from the other four race groups, with one important exception. Data provided to the Archive from many jurisdictions did not include any means to determine the ethnicity of American Indian youth. Rather than assume ethnicity for these youth, they are classified solely on their racial classification; as such, the American Indian group includes an unknown proportion of Hispanic youth.

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.

The petitioned status offense caseload decreased for all racial groups between 2005 and 2017



The number of petitioned status offense cases decreased more for white youth (51%) than youth of any other race between 2005 and 2017

Most serious offense	Percent change in number of cases, 2005–2017				
	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
Status	-51%	-43%	-33%	-41%	-43%
Runaway	-64	-53	-54	-62	-82
Truancy	-17	-11	7	-5	-2
Curfew	-71	-59	-77	-70	-78
Ungovernability	-65	-60	-54	-50	-48
Liquor law	-74	-67	-65	-56	-80

The proportion of truancy cases increased across all racial groups between 2005 and 2017

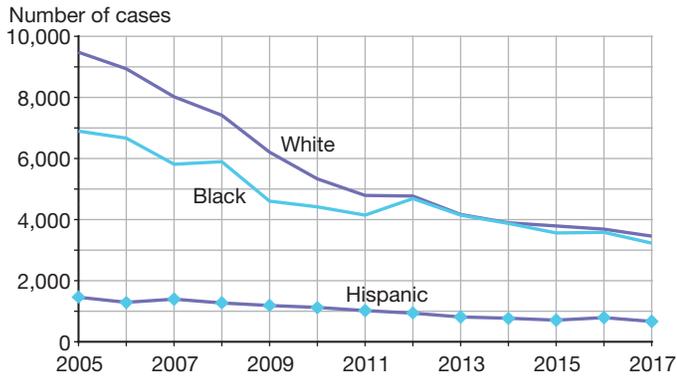
Most serious offense	Offense profile of status offense cases				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Amer. Indian	Asian
2017					
Runaway	6%	17%	8%	4%	5%
Truancy	61	55	70	56	79
Curfew	5	9	4	6	3
Ungovernability	8	14	4	3	2
Liquor law	13	3	11	28	5
Miscellaneous	7	2	3	4	5
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2005					
Runaway	7%	17%	9%	4%	12%
Truancy	39	39	51	33	47
Curfew	8	15	9	14	9
Ungovernability	10	19	5	3	3
Liquor law	26	5	20	39	14
Miscellaneous	10	6	6	7	14
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

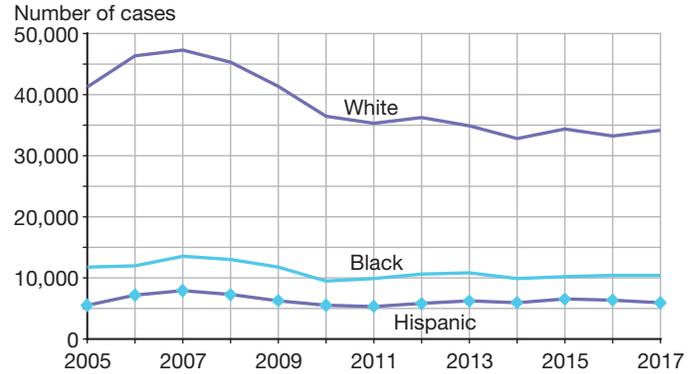
Race

Between 2005 and 2017, the petitioned status offense caseload declined the most for liquor law violation cases involving white youth (74%)

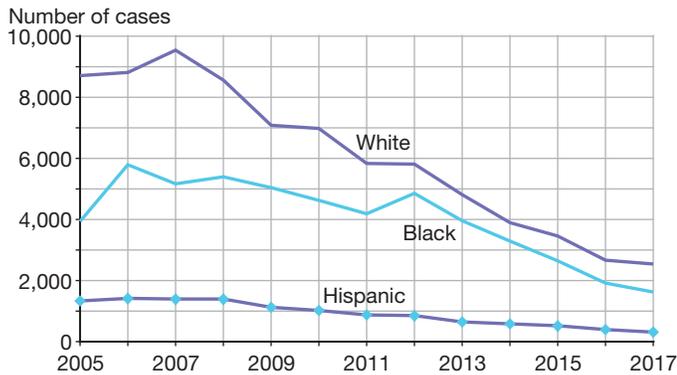
Runaway



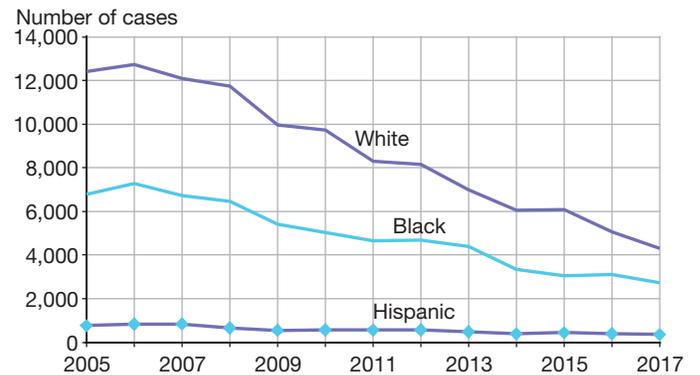
Truancy



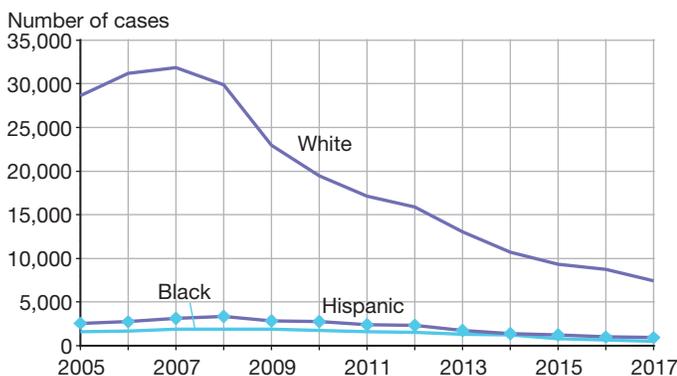
Curfew



Ungovernability



Liquor law violation



- The number of petitioned runaway cases decreased by at least half for all three race groups between 2005 and 2017.
- The number of truancy cases increased for Hispanic youth (7%) and decreased for white youth and black youth (17% and 11%, respectively) between 2005 and 2017.
- The decrease in the curfew caseload between 2005 and 2017 was greater for white youth (71%) and Hispanic youth (77%), and smaller for black youth (59%).
- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of petitioned ungovernability cases decreased by at least 54% for all three race groups.

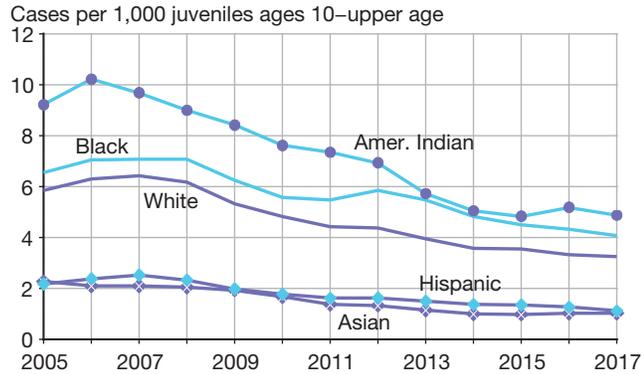
Note: Case counts for American Indian and Asian youth are not shown in the offense graphs above because their numbers are too small for display.

Race

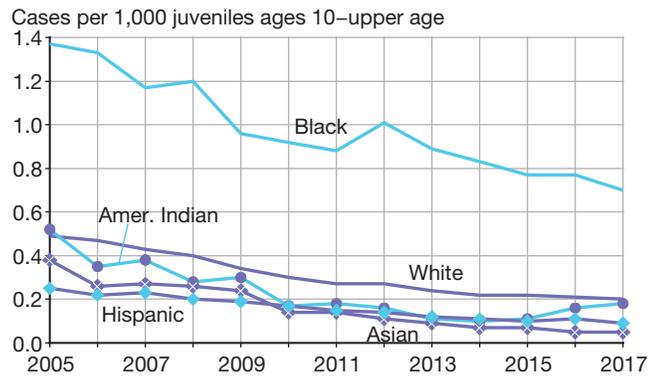
- Between 2005 and 2017, petitioned status offense case rates decreased 54% for Asian youth, 48% for Hispanic youth, 47% for American Indian youth, 44% for white youth, and 38% for black youth.
- For all years between 2005 and 2017, the total petitioned status offense case rate for American Indian youth was higher than that for juveniles of all other racial categories.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the runaway case rate decreased 49% for black youth, 59% for white youth, and 65% for Hispanic youth. Despite declines for all racial groups, the runaway case rate for black youth in 2017 was more than 3 times the rate for white youth and American Indian youth, and more than 7 times the rates for Hispanic youth and Asian youth.
- Compared with all other status offense types, truancy case rates decreased the least for all race groups between 2005 and 2017, down 24% for Asian youth, 17% for Hispanic youth, 14% for American Indian youth, 6% for white youth, and 4% for black youth.

Between 2005 and 2017, petitioned status offense case rates decreased for all race groups

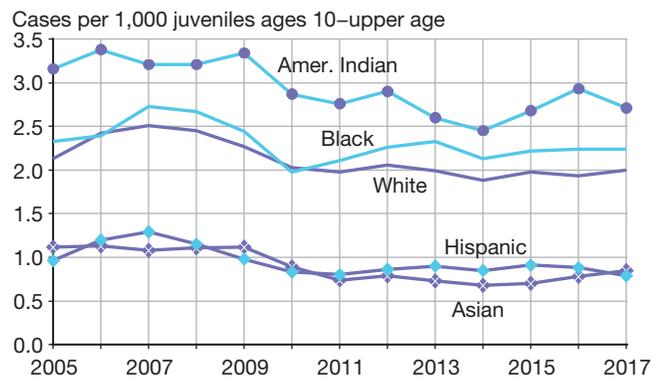
Total status offense case rates



Runaway case rates



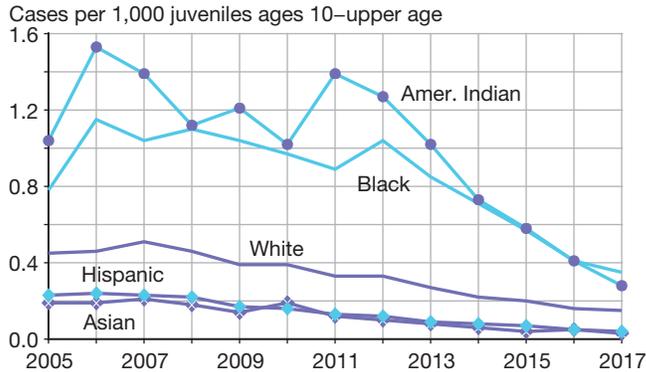
Truancy case rates



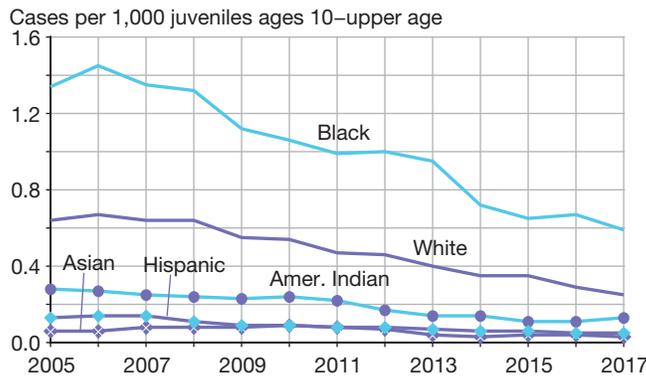
Race

Case rates varied by racial group and offense between 2005 and 2017

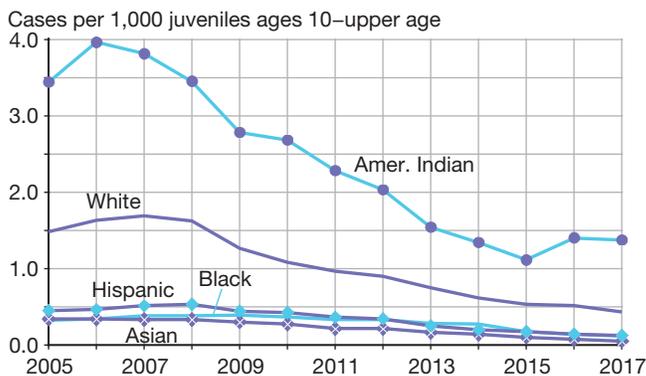
Curfew case rates



Ungovernability case rates



Liquor law violation case rates



- Between 2005 and 2017, curfew case rates decreased most for Asian youth and Hispanic youth (83% and 82%, respectively), followed by American Indian youth (73%), white youth (67%), and black youth (56%).
- In 2017, the ungovernability case rate for black juveniles was more than twice the white rate.
- American Indian juveniles had the highest case rate for liquor law violations in each year between 2005 and 2017. In 2017, the liquor law violation case rate for American Indian youth was more than 3 times the rate for white youth, and more than 11 times the rates for black youth, Hispanic youth, and Asian youth.

Source of Referral

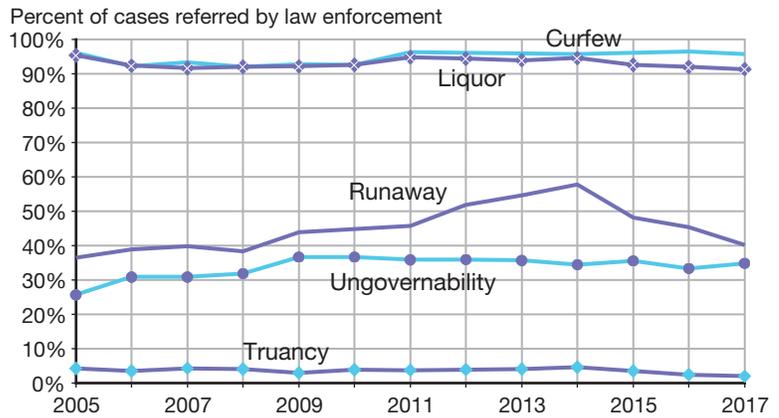
- Status offense cases can be referred to court intake by a number of sources, including law enforcement agencies, schools, relatives, social service agencies, and probation officers.

Percentage of petitioned status offense cases referred by law enforcement:

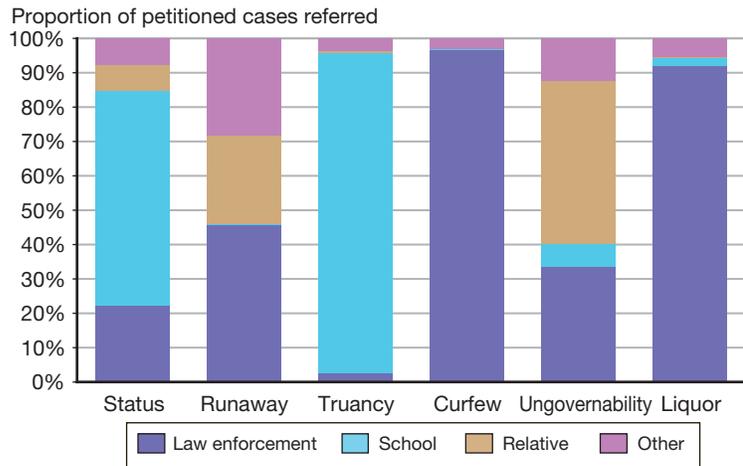
Most serious offense	2005	2017
Total status	34%	20%
Runaway	36	40
Truancy	4	2
Curfew	96	96
Ungovernability	26	35
Liquor law	95	91

- In 2017, law enforcement agencies referred one-fifth (20%) of the petitioned status offense cases disposed by juvenile courts.
- Compared with 2005, law enforcement referred larger proportions of runaway and ungovernability offense cases in 2017.
- Schools referred 93% of the petitioned truancy cases in 2017.
- Relatives referred 47% of the petitioned ungovernability cases in 2017.

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

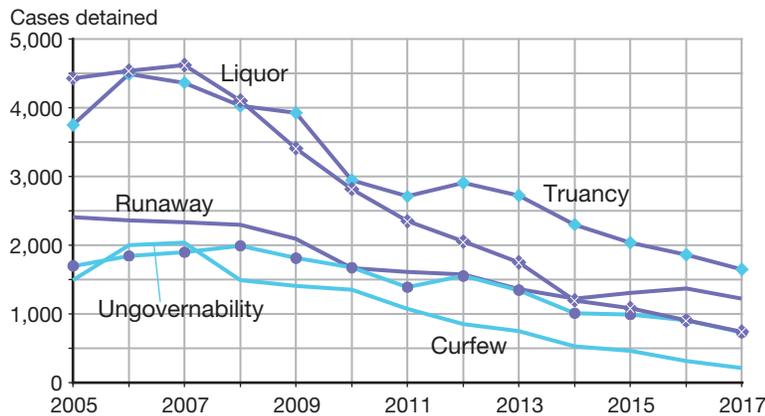


The source of referral in 2017 for petitioned status offense cases varied with the nature of the offense

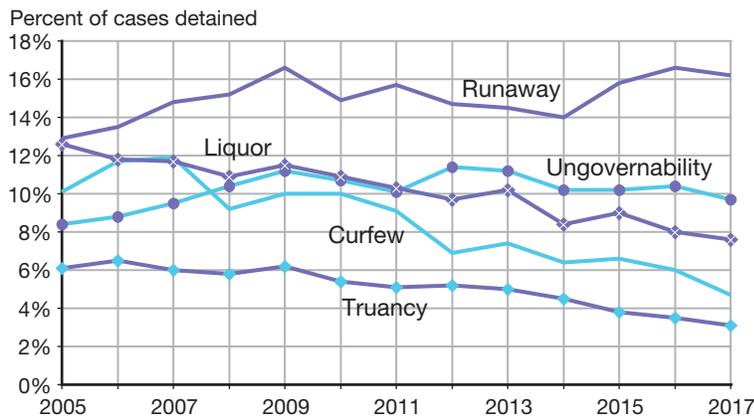


Detention

The number of cases involving detention decreased substantially between 2005 and 2017 for all case types



Between 2005 and 2017, truancy cases were least likely to involve detention, and runaway cases were the most likely



- The number of petitioned status offense cases involving detention decreased 68% between 2005 and 2017 (from 15,500 to 4,900).
- The decline in the volume of petitioned status offense cases involving detention resulted in a smaller proportion of cases detained in 2017 (6%) than in 2005 (9%).
- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of petitioned cases involving detention decreased: 85% for curfew cases, 83% for liquor law violation cases, 57% for ungovernability cases, 56% for truancy cases, and 49% for runaway cases.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the likelihood of detention increased for runaway and ungovernability cases, and decreased for truancy, curfew, and liquor law violation cases.

Offense profile of detained status offense cases:

Most serious offense	2005	2017
Runaway	16%	25%
Truancy	24%	33%
Curfew	10%	4%
Ungovernability	11%	15%
Liquor law	29%	15%
Miscellaneous	11%	7%
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	15,500	4,900

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

- Compared with 2005, the offense characteristics of the 2017 status offense detention caseload involved a greater proportion of runaway, truancy, and ungovernability cases, and a smaller proportion of curfew and liquor law violation cases.

Adjudication

- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of status offense cases in which the youth was adjudicated a status offender decreased from 88,800 to 32,900.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of cases in which the youth was adjudicated a status offender decreased for all offense types: liquor law violation (78%), curfew (75%), runaway (68%), ungovernability (67%), and truancy (35%).

Offense profile of cases adjudicated a status offender:

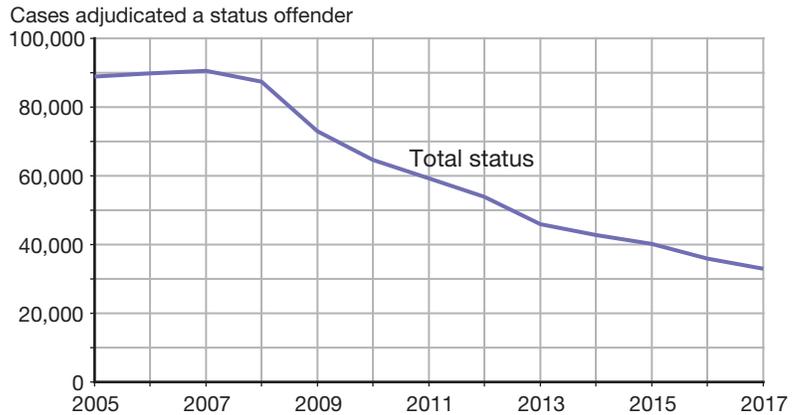
Most serious offense	2005	2017
Runaway	9%	8%
Truancy	28	48
Curfew	11	7
Ungovernability	12	11
Liquor law	27	16
Miscellaneous	14	10
Total	100%	100%

Cases adjudicated a status offender 88,800 32,900

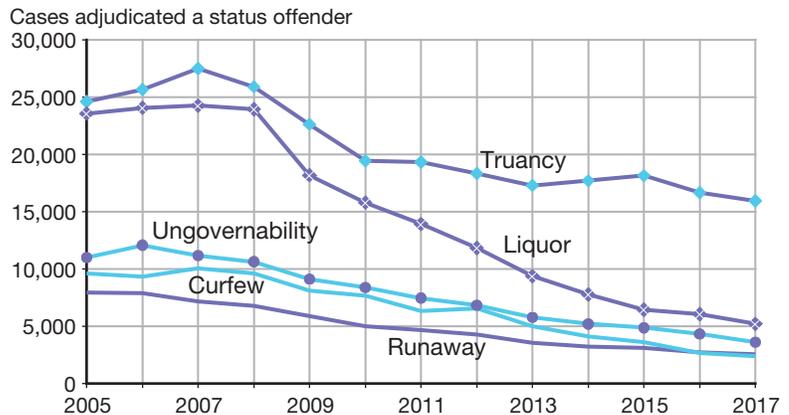
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In both 2005 and 2017, cases involving truancy and liquor law violations made up the largest proportions of the adjudicated caseload.
- The 2017 adjudicated status offense caseload had a much greater proportion of truancy offenses and smaller proportions of all other offenses than the 2005 caseload.

Between 2005 and 2008, the number of cases in which the youth was adjudicated a status offender remained stable and then declined 62% through 2017

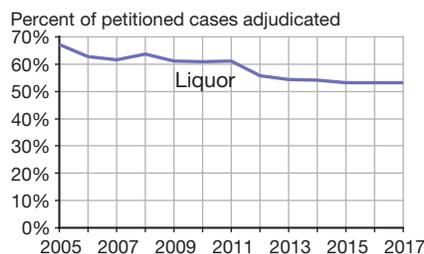
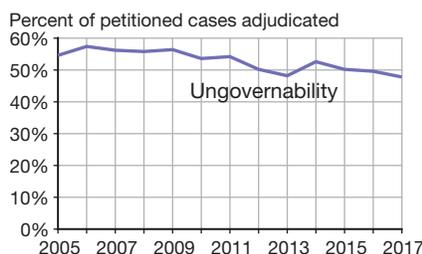
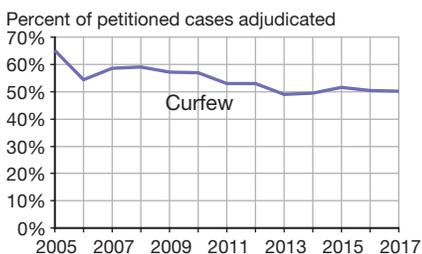
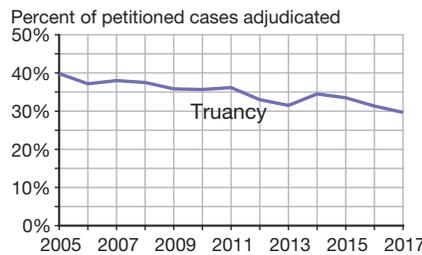
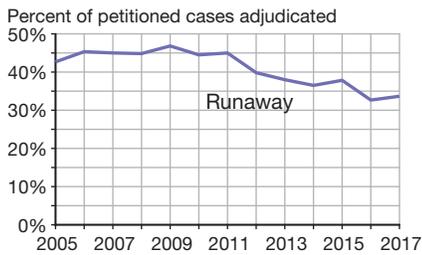
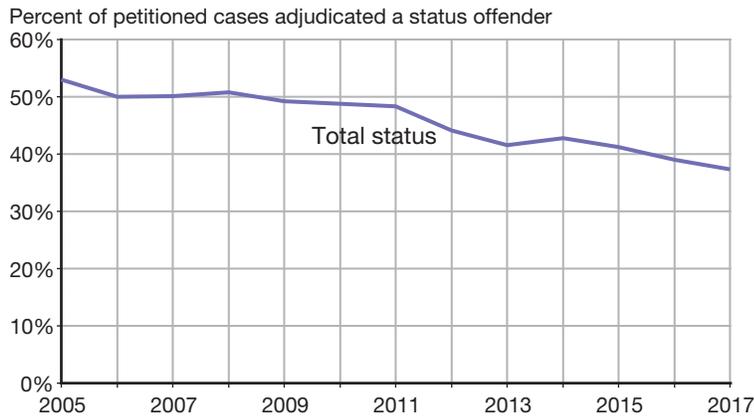


Between 2005 and 2017, the number of cases in which the youth was adjudicated a status offender decreased for all status offense categories



Adjudication

The likelihood of adjudication for petitioned status offense cases decreased from 53% in 2005 to 37% in 2017



- Among status offense categories in 2017, adjudication was least likely in petitioned truancy cases (30%) and most likely in cases involving curfew and liquor law violations (50% and 53%, respectively).
- The likelihood of petitioned runaway cases resulting in adjudication decreased from 43% in 2005 to 34% in 2017.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the likelihood of adjudication among petitioned curfew cases decreased from 65% to 50%.
- The likelihood of adjudication for petitioned ungovernability cases decreased from 54% to 48% between 2005 and 2017.
- The likelihood of adjudication among petitioned liquor law violation cases decreased from 67% in 2005 to 53% in 2017.

Percentage of petitioned status offense cases adjudicated, 2017:

Most serious offense	15 or younger	16 or older	Male	Female
Total status	36%	39%	39%	35%
Runaway	35	33	33	35
Truancy	29	31	31	28
Curfew	49	51	49	52
Ungovern.	49	46	48	47
Liquor law	57	52	55	51

Most serious offense	White	Black	Hisp.	Other
Total status	41%	31%	31%	37%
Runaway	41	26	38	NA
Truancy	31	29	22	28
Curfew	63	30	59	NA
Ungovern.	51	41	62	NA
Liquor law	53	46	54	58

NA: Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

The number of petitioned status offense cases in which youth were adjudicated a status offender and ordered to out-of-home placement declined from 7,100 in 2005 to 2,200 in 2017.

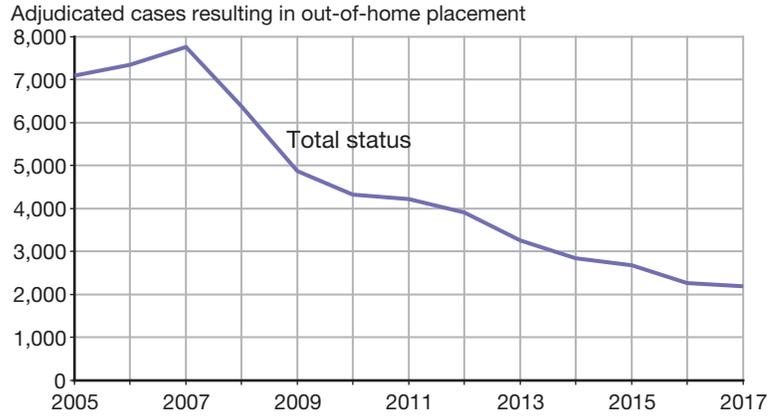
Offense profile of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement:

Most serious offense	2005	2017
Runaway	21%	23%
Truancy	19	31
Curfew	3	1
Ungovernability	25	24
Liquor law	19	7
Miscellaneous	13	14
Total	100%	100%
Cases resulting in out-of-home placement	7,100	2,200

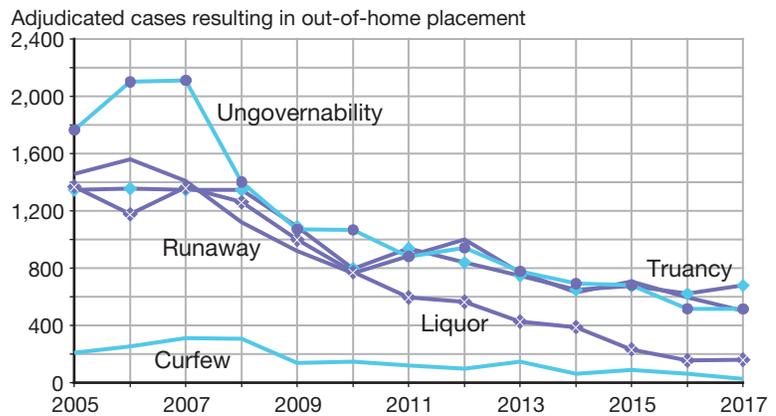
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

In 2005, ungovernability cases accounted for the largest share (25%) of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in out-of-home placement; in 2017, truancy cases accounted for the largest share (31%).

The number of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement declined 69% between 2005 and 2017

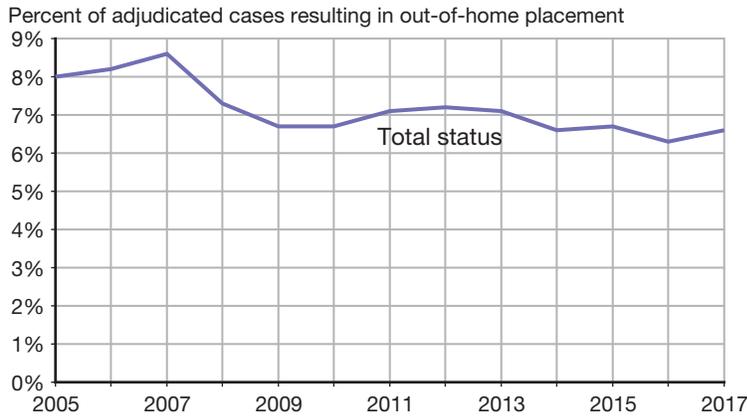


The number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in out-of-home placement declined between 2005 and 2017 for all offense types



Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

The court ordered out-of-home placement in 7% of all adjudicated status offense cases in 2017



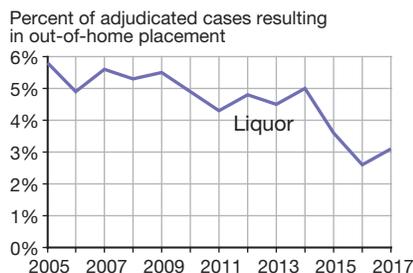
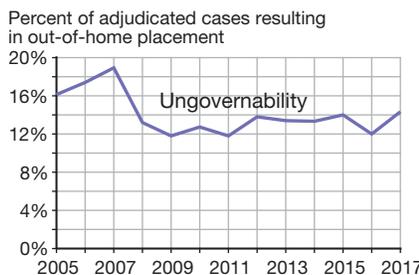
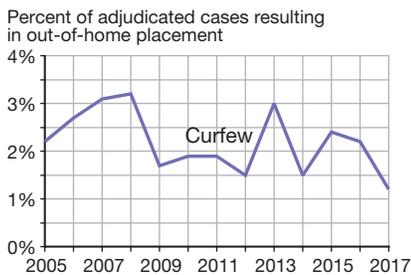
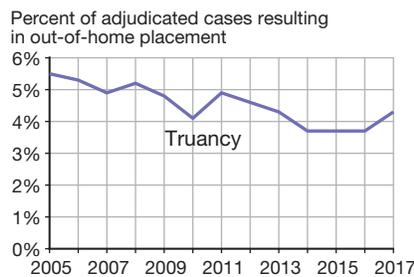
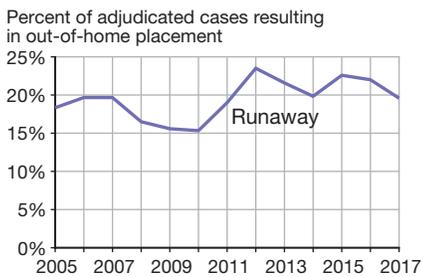
- The likelihood that an adjudicated status offense case would result in out-of-home placement decreased between 2005 and 2017 for all status offense categories except runaway, which increased 2 percentage points.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the largest decline in the proportion of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement was seen in cases involving liquor law violations (down 3 percentage points).

Percentage of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement, 2017:

Most serious offense	15 or younger	16 or older	Male	Female
Total status	7%	6%	7%	7%
Runaway	21	18	18	21
Truancy	4	4	4	4
Curfew	2	1	1	1
Ungovern.	13	16	16	12
Liquor law	4	3	3	3

Most serious offense	White	Black	Hisp.	Other
Total status	6%	10%	6%	3%
Runaway	20	23	11	NA
Truancy	4	6	5	2
Curfew	1	3	2	NA
Ungovern.	15	12	18	NA
Liquor law	2	6	4	5

NA: Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.



Dispositions: Probation

- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in an order of probation decreased 64%, compared with a 69% decrease in the number of cases resulting in out-of-home placement.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the number of adjudicated status offense cases receiving probation decreased for all offense types: liquor law violation (81%), curfew (76%), ungovernability (69%), runaway (66%), and truancy (40%).

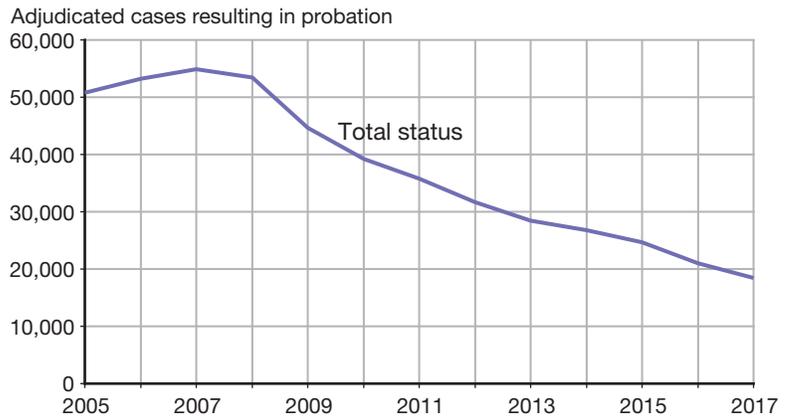
Offense profile of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in probation:

Most serious offense	2005	2017
Runaway	10%	10%
Truancy	31	52
Curfew	6	4
Ungovernability	16	14
Liquor law	27	14
Miscellaneous	9	7
Total	100%	100%
Cases resulting in formal probation	50,800	18,500

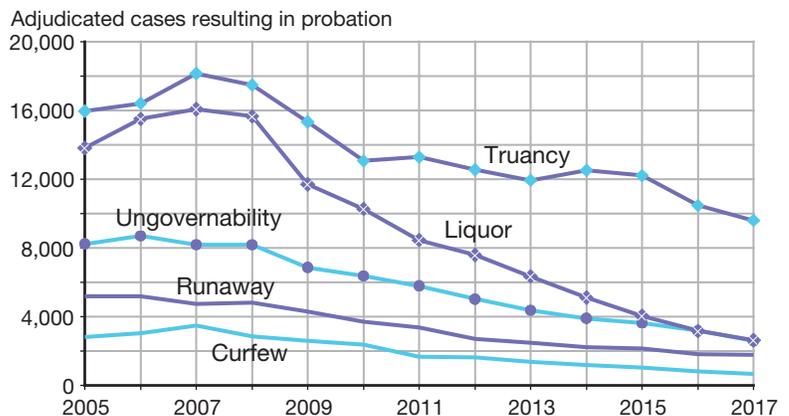
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In 2017, most adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in probation involved truancy offenses (52%), followed by ungovernability and liquor law violations (14% each).

Between 2005 and 2008, the number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in probation increased 8% and then declined 66% by 2017

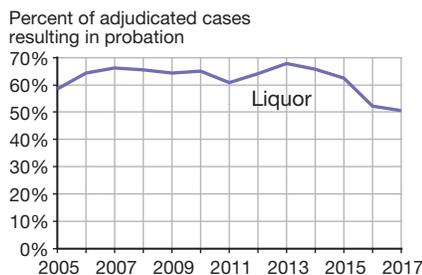
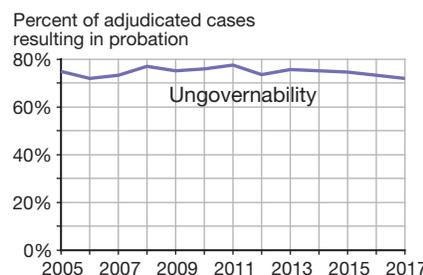
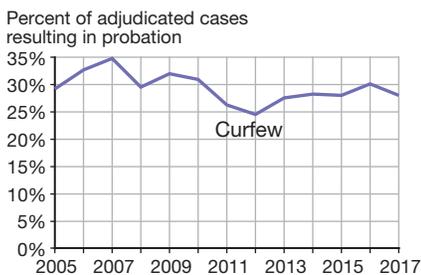
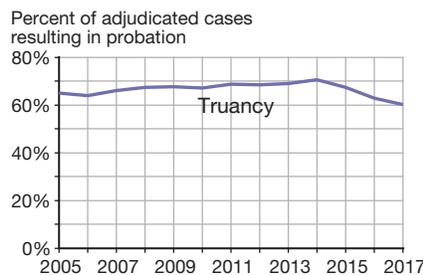
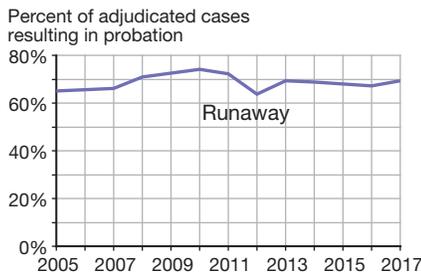
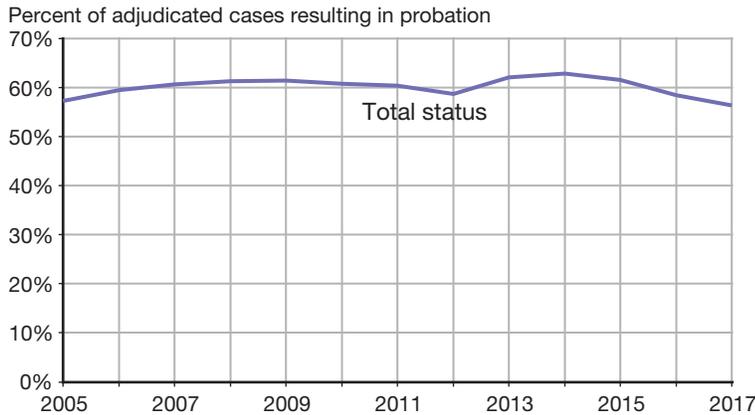


Between 2005 and 2017, the number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in probation decreased in all major status offense categories



Dispositions: Probation

Between 2005 and 2017, the use of probation as the most restrictive disposition in adjudicated status offense cases increased for runaway offenses and decreased for all other offenses



■ Probation was the most restrictive disposition used in 56% of the adjudicated status offense cases in 2017 and 57% of the adjudicated caseload in 2005.

■ In 2017, probation was ordered in 69% of adjudicated runaway cases, 60% of truancy cases, 28% of curfew violations, 72% of ungovernability cases, and 51% of cases involving liquor law violations.

Percentage of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in probation, 2017:

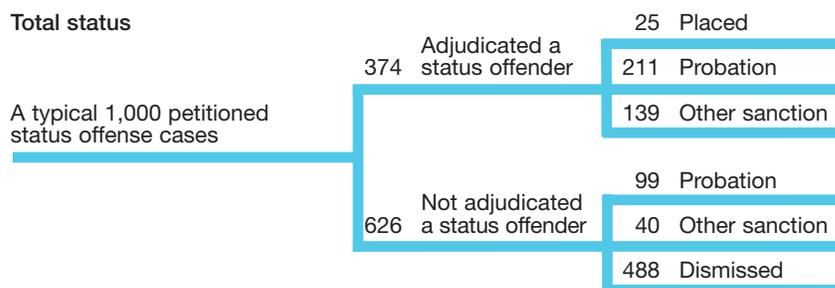
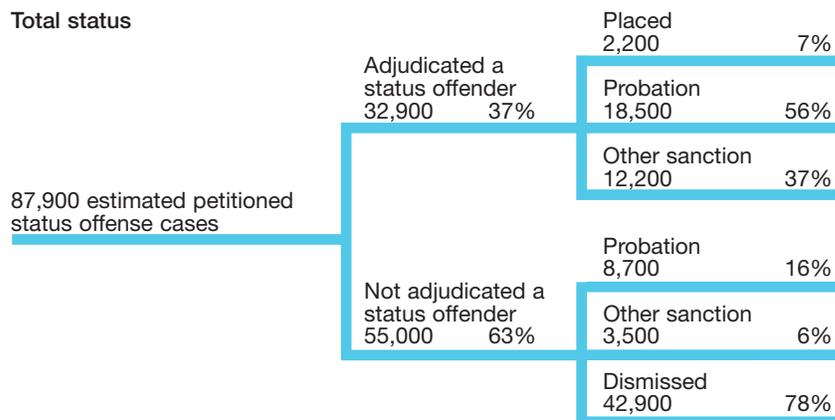
Most serious offense	15 or younger	16 or older	Male	Female
Total status	60%	52%	56%	57%
Runaway	68	70	68	70
Truancy	64	55	61	59
Curfew	32	25	30	24
Ungovern.	74	69	70	74
Liquor law	49	51	54	46

Most serious offense	White	Black	Hisp.	Other
Total status	50%	78%	61%	48%
Runaway	69	66	79	NA
Truancy	60	65	58	46
Curfew	24	33	53	NA
Ungovern.	72	73	63	NA
Liquor law	51	50	61	40

NA: Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

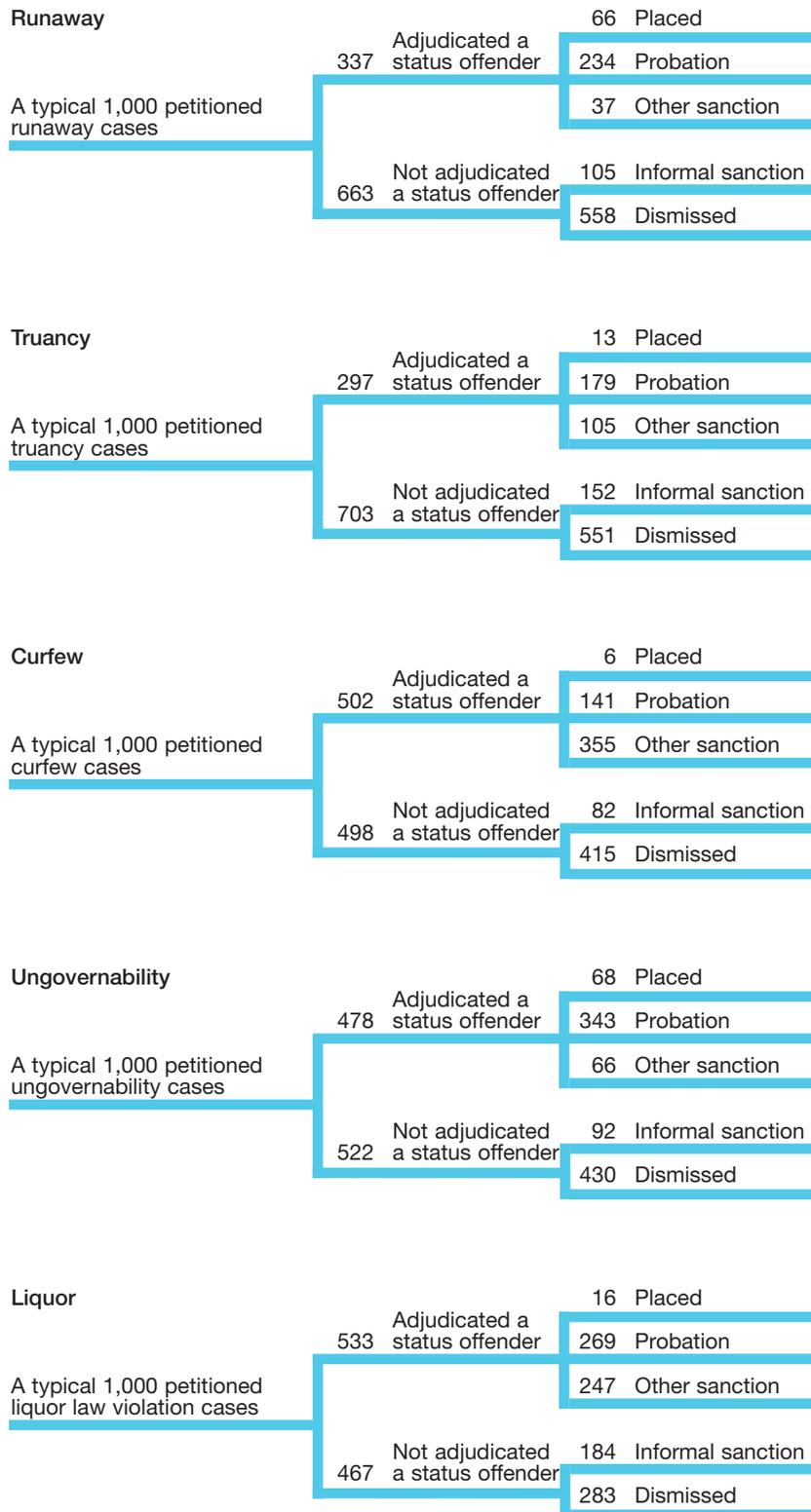
Case Processing Overview, 2017

- In 2017, 37% of petitioned status offense cases resulted in adjudication.
- In 56% of adjudicated status offense cases, formal probation was the most restrictive sanction ordered by the court.
- In 2017, 7% of adjudicated status offense cases resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Dispositions with minimal continuing supervision by probation staff were ordered in 37% of status offense cases adjudicated in 2017—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 63% of formally handled status offense cases in 2017, the juvenile was not adjudicated a status offender. The court dismissed 78% of these cases, while 16% resulted in some form of informal probation and 6% in other voluntary dispositions.
- For every 1,000 status offense cases formally processed by juvenile courts in 2017, 211 resulted in formal probation and 25 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, 2017



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 (66 of 337 cases), but formal probation was a more likely outcome (234 of 337).
- Among petitioned runaway cases in 2017, youth were not adjudicated a status offender in 663 of a typical 1,000 cases. Of these 663 cases, 84% (558) were dismissed.

Truancy Cases

- In 2017, of a typical 1,000 formal truancy cases, 179 resulted in formal probation and 13 were placed out of the home.

Curfew Violation Cases

- In 2017, for every 1,000 petitioned curfew violation cases, 141 resulted in formal probation and 6 were placed out of the home.
- Among petitioned cases involving curfew violations in 2017, youth were not adjudicated a status offender in 498 of a typical 1,000 cases. Of these 498 cases, 83% (415) were dismissed.

Ungovernability Cases

- For every 1,000 petitioned ungovernability cases in 2017, 343 resulted in formal probation following adjudication and 68 were placed out of the home.

Liquor Law Violation Cases

- Among petitioned liquor law violation cases in 2017, the most likely outcome was formal probation (269 of 1,000); out-of-home placement was ordered in 16 of a typical 1,000 cases.
- In 2017, among petitioned liquor law violation cases, youth were not adjudicated as status offenders in 467 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.

The aggregation of the JCS-compatible standardized case-level data files constitutes the Archive's national case-level database. The compiled data from

Table A-1: 2017 Stratum Profiles for Delinquency Data

Stratum	County population ages 10–17	Counties in stratum	Counties reporting compatible data				
			Number of counties			Percentage of counties	Percentage of juvenile population
			Case-level	Court-level	Total*		
1	Fewer than 14,054	2,672	1,815	329	2,104	79%	81%
2	14,054–51,000	327	245	40	272	83	84
3	51,001–122,700	108	87	9	92	85	87
4	More than 122,700	35	31	9	34	97	98
Total		3,142	2,178	387	2,502	80	87

* 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: 2017 Stratum Profiles for Status Offense Data

Stratum	County population ages 10–17	Counties in stratum	Counties reporting compatible data				
			Number of counties			Percentage of counties	Percentage of juvenile population
			Case-level	Court-level	Total		
1	Fewer than 14,054	2,672	1,708	194	1,902	71%	72%
2	14,054–51,000	327	223	11	234	72	72
3	51,001–122,700	108	76	3	79	73	75
4	More than 122,700	35	30	0	30	86	90
Total		3,142	2,037	208	2,245	71	77

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 2017, case-level data describing 577,407 delinquency cases handled by 2,178 jurisdictions in 38 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, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, 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 80% of the nation's juvenile population in 2017. Compatible court-level aggregate statistics on an additional 61,655 delinquency cases from 387 jurisdictions were used from 8 states: (Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, and Wyoming). In all, the Archive collected compatible case-level data and court-level statistics on delinquency cases from 2,502 jurisdictions containing 87% of the nation's juvenile population in 2017 (table A-1).

Case-level data describing 58,768 formally handled status offense cases from 2,037 jurisdictions in 36 states met the criteria for inclusion in the sample for 2017. The states included Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, 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 74% of the juvenile population. An additional 208 jurisdictions in Indiana, Nebraska, and Wyoming had compatible court-level aggregate statistics on 5,122 petitioned status offense cases. Altogether, compatible case-level and court-level data on petitioned status offense cases were available from 2,245 jurisdictions containing 77% of the U.S. juvenile population in 2017 (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. More information about the reporting sample for the current data year and previous years since 1985 is available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezajcs/asp/methods.asp.

Table A-3: Content of Case-Level Data Sources, 2017

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
Arkansas	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	FL
Georgia	GA	GA	GA	GA	GA	–	GA	GA	GA
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	KY	KY	KY
Maryland	MD	MD	MD	MD	MD	–	MD	MD	MD
Minnesota	MN	MN	MN	–	MN	–	MN	MN	MN
Mississippi	MS	MS	MS	MS	MS	MS	MS	MS	MS
Missouri	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO	MO
Montana	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	–
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
South Carolina	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC
South Dakota	SD	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	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	–
Washington	WA	WA	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	98%	98%	94%	77%	96%	59%	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, Hamilton, and Lucas 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 in 2017, 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, Hispanic,² 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.

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

¹ County-level intercensal estimates were obtained for the years 2005–2017. The following data files were used:

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. 2018. *Vintage 2017 Postcensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States (April 1, 2010, July 1, 2010–July 1, 2017), 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 6/27/18, following release by the U.S. Census Bureau of the unbridged Vintage 2017 postcensal estimates by 5-year age groups].

² In this report, Hispanic ethnicity is handled as a race category. All other racial categories exclude youth of Hispanic ethnicity.

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 2017 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 caseloads: 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 five racial groups: white, black, Hispanic, American Indian (including Alaskan Native), and Asian (including Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander). Thus, juvenile resident population estimates are developed for 15 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 15 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 15 age/race population groups. Case rates (number of cases per 1,000 juveniles in the population) are then developed for the 15 age/race groups within each of the four strata.

For example, assume that a total of 2,785,000 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 18,139 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 6.5, or:

$$(18,139 / 2,785,000) \times 1,000 = 6.5$$

Comparable analyses are then used to establish the stratum 2 case rates for black youth, Hispanic youth, American Indian youth, and Asian youth in the same age group (30.4, 8.6, 11.6, and 2.4, 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 15 age/race groups. This separation is accomplished by assuming that, for each jurisdiction, the relationships among the stratum's 15 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 12,100 white youth, 4,000 black youth, 5,400 Hispanic youth, 300 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 caseload that came from each age/race group, as follows:

$$\text{White: } (6.5 \times 12,100) / [(6.5 \times 12,100) + (30.4 \times 4,000) + (8.6 \times 5,400)] + (11.6 \times 300) + (2.4 \times 800) = 31.2\%$$

$$\text{Black: } (30.4 \times 4,000) / [(6.5 \times 12,100) + (30.4 \times 4,000) + (8.6 \times 5,400)] + (11.6 \times 300) + (2.4 \times 800) = 48.2\%$$

$$\text{Hispanic: } (8.6 \times 5,400) / [(6.5 \times 12,100) + (30.4 \times 4,000) + (8.6 \times 5,400)] + (11.6 \times 300) + (2.4 \times 800) = 18.4\%$$

$$\text{American Indian: } (11.6 \times 300) / [(6.5 \times 12,100) + (30.4 \times 4,000) + (8.6 \times 5,400)] + (11.6 \times 300) + (2.4 \times 800) = 1.4\%$$

$$\text{Asian: } (2.4 \times 800) / [(6.5 \times 12,100) + (30.4 \times 4,000) + (8.6 \times 5,400)] + (11.6 \times 300) + (2.4 \times 800) = 0.8\%$$

The jurisdiction's total caseload of 500 would then be allocated based on these proportions. In this example, it would be estimated that 31.2% of all cases reported in the jurisdiction's aggregate statistics involved white youth, 48.2% involved black youth, 18.4% involved Hispanic youth, 1.4% involved American Indian youth, and the remaining 0.8% 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 156 cases involving white youth, 241 cases involving black youth, 92 cases involving Hispanic youth, 7 cases involving American Indian youth, and 4 cases involving Asian youth age 15 or younger.

The same method is used to disaggregate the case counts reported by those jurisdictions that could only report aggregate court-level statistics for jurisdictions with an upper age of 16 (10 age/race groups) and an upper age of 17 (15 age/race groups). 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 15 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 populations for the reporting counties are used to generate a revised set of case rates for each of the 15 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 15 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 15 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 14,833 petitioned delinquency cases involving white 16-year-olds from stratum 2 counties. Assume also that the national case-level database for that year contained 9,338 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 1.59 because:

$$14,833 / 9,338 = 1.59$$

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 supervision 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 gener-

ally 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. In this report, Hispanic ethnicity is considered a separate race. Each of the other racial categories excludes persons of Hispanic ethnicity. An important exception must be noted. Data provided to the Archive did not always allow for identification of

Hispanic ethnicity for cases involving American Indian youth. Specifically, data from many jurisdictions did not include any means to determine the ethnicity of American Indian youth. Rather than assume ethnicity for these youth, they are classified solely on their racial classification; as such, the American Indian group includes an unknown proportion of Hispanic youth.

- **White**—A person having origins in any of the indigenous peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
- **Black**—A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- **Hispanic**—A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.
- **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, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, other violent sex acts, 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 category used in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR), in which murder/nonnegligent manslaughter does not include negligent manslaughter or vehicular manslaughter.

- ◆ **Rape**—Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. This includes certain statutory rape offenses where the victim is presumed incapable of giving consent. This definition includes the offenses of rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object. Unlike the prior definition for “forcible rape,” the current definition of rape is gender neutral and does not require force. The term is used in the same sense as the FBI's revised rape definition (implemented in 2013) in the UCR.
- ◆ **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 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. 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 violent sex offenses**—Includes unlawful sexual acts or contact, other than rape, between members of the same sex or different sexes against the will of the victim which can involve the use or threatened use of force or attempting such act(s). Includes incest where the victim is presumed to be incapable of giving consent.
- ◆ **Other offenses against persons**—Includes kidnapping, 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.
 - ◆ **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. 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. 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.
 - ◆ **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. (Many states have decriminalized prostitution for minors and view this as commercial sexual exploitation of children under Safe Harbor laws.)
- ◆ **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.
 - ◆ **Tuancy**—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.

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, attendance officers, and school resource 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 7 states (Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin). In the remaining 41 states and the District of Columbia, the upper age of jurisdiction was 17. Between 2016 and 2017, four states with upper ages below 17 amended statutes to conform with the national majority; however, the enacted legislation will not take effect until 2018 or later. 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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3700 South Water Street, Suite 200 | Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2363
(412) 227-6950 | www.ncjj.org