

State variations in juvenile arrest rates may reflect differences in juvenile law-violating behavior, police behavior, and/or community standards

State	1999 Juvenile Arrest Rate*					State	1999 Juvenile Arrest Rate*				
	Reporting Coverage	Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Alcohol Violation†		Reporting Coverage	Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Alcohol Violation†
Total United States	69%‡	366	1,844	668	626	Missouri	58%	312	2,273	703	432
Alabama	93	148	932	270	238	Montana	49	315	3,496	126	1,616
Alaska	90	279	2,302	493	615	Nebraska	92	119	2,716	688	1,640
Arizona	92	316	2,334	943	1,240	Nevada	97	288	2,526	839	938
Arkansas	95	228	1,573	400	460	New Hampshire	39	124	1,262	664	1,509
California	100	498	1,643	633	379	New Jersey	96	409	1,417	942	458
Colorado	62	300	2,874	839	1,602	New Mexico	57	357	1,973	812	896
Connecticut	95	339	1,445	738	204	New York	32	336	1,745	719	264
Delaware	100	766	2,002	654	535	North Carolina	88	334	1,717	534	323
District of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Dakota	74	92	2,154	333	2,890
Florida	100	672	2,713	946	175	Ohio	53	248	1,509	414	684
Georgia	31	188	1,603	514	460	Oklahoma	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hawaii	88	220	2,076	513	289	Oregon	94	203	2,531	490	1,502
Idaho	86	196	2,546	516	1,650	Pennsylvania	77	422	1,425	532	811
Illinois	23	1,058	2,637	2,841	34	Rhode Island	100	246	1,570	667	219
Indiana	58	393	1,705	514	888	South Carolina	23	400	2,113	1,060	764
Iowa	81	267	1,998	450	1,337	South Dakota	71	167	2,375	772	2,796
Kansas	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	Tennessee	51	250	1,804	591	388
Kentucky	11	516	2,291	1,251	528	Texas	90	235	1,682	628	544
Louisiana	75	461	2,381	710	298	Utah	68	253	2,675	579	1,424
Maine	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	Vermont	81	60	796	345	1,569
Maryland	60	304	1,982	947	519	Virginia	68	191	1,469	453	489
Massachusetts	78	454	734	433	363	Washington	74	335	3,073	544	1,159
Michigan	82	195	1,108	326	693	West Virginia	52	95	999	220	472
Minnesota	85	275	2,381	763	1,832	Wisconsin	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mississippi	40	189	2,095	770	566	Wyoming	98	146	2,455	879	3,644

* Throughout this Bulletin, juvenile arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of arrests of persons ages 10–17 by the number of persons ages 10–17 in the population. In this table only, arrest rate is defined as the number of arrests of persons under age 18 for every 100,000 persons ages 10–17. Juvenile arrests (arrests of youth under age 18) reported at the State level in *Crime in the United States* cannot be disaggregated into more detailed age categories so that the arrest of persons under age 10 can be excluded in the rate calculation. Therefore, there is a slight inconsistency in this table between the age range for the arrests (birth through age 17) and the age range for the population (ages 10–17) that are the basis of a State's juvenile arrest rates. This inconsistency is slight because just 2% of all juvenile arrests involved youth under age 10. This inconsistency is preferable to the distortion of arrest rates that would be introduced were the population base for the arrest rate to incorporate the large volume of children under age 10 in a State's population.

† Alcohol violations include liquor law violations, drunkenness, and driving under the influence.

‡ The reporting coverage for the total United States in this table (69%) includes all States reporting arrests of persons under age 18. This is greater than the coverage in the rest of the Bulletin (63%) because Florida was able to provide arrest counts of persons under age 18 but was not able to provide the age detail required to support most other presentations in *Crime in the United States 1999*.

NA = *Crime in the United States 1999* reported no arrest counts for this State.

Interpretation cautions: Arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of youth arrests made in the year by the number of youth living in reporting jurisdictions. While juvenile arrest rates in part reflect juvenile behavior, many other factors can affect the size of these rates. For example, jurisdictions that arrest a relatively large number of nonresident juveniles would have higher arrest rates than jurisdictions where resident youth behave in an identical manner. Therefore, jurisdictions that are vacation destinations or regional centers for economic activity may have arrest rates that reflect more than the behavior of their resident youth. Other factors that influence the magnitude of arrest rates in a given area include the attitudes of its citizens toward crime, the policies of the jurisdiction's law enforcement agencies, and the policies of other components of the justice system. **Consequently, comparisons of juvenile arrest rates across States, while informative, should be made with caution.** In most States, not all law enforcement agencies report their arrest data to the FBI. Rates for these States are necessarily based on partial information. If the reporting law enforcement agencies in these States are not representative of the entire State, then the rates will be biased. **Therefore, reported arrest rates for States with less than complete reporting coverage may not be accurate.**

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI's *Crime in the United States 1999* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2000), tables 5 and 69, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census' *Estimates of the Population of States by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1999* [machine-readable data file available online, released August 30, 2000].