



OJJDP FACT SHEET

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Juvenile Arrests for Driving Under the Influence, 1995

by Howard N. Snyder, Ph.D.

Law enforcement made nearly 15,000 juvenile (below age 18) arrests in 1995 for driving under the influence (DUI)

These arrests represent 1% of all arrests for DUI offenses. In 66% of these estimated 14,900 juvenile arrests, the youth was 17 years old, and in 3% the youth was under age 15. Juveniles arrested for DUI were disproportionately male (84%) and white (91%). Between 1986 and 1995, DUI arrests nationwide declined 25%. The decline was greater for juveniles than adults (49% versus 24%). In 1995, there were 50 juvenile arrests for DUI for every 100,000 persons ages 10 through 17 in the U.S. population. The juvenile DUI arrest rates for 1993 through 1995 were the lowest in the past 20 years.

Other alcohol-related juvenile arrests show smaller declines than DUI arrests in the past 10 years

While juvenile DUI arrests were cut in half between 1986 and 1995, juvenile arrests for drunkenness declined 39%, and juvenile

Reporting States with the highest juvenile DUI arrest rates in 1995 were Nebraska, Idaho, North Carolina, and Iowa

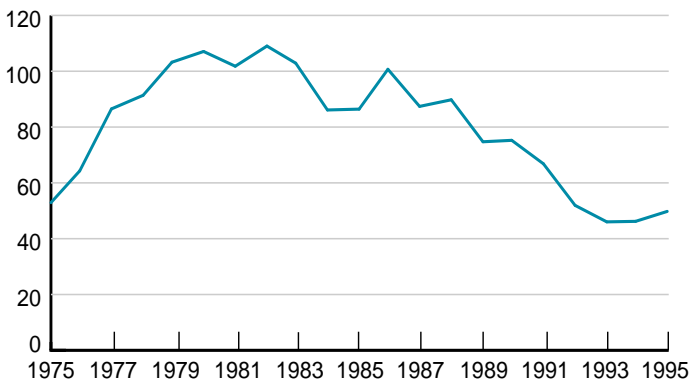
State	Percent Reporting	DUI Arrests per 100,000 Juveniles Ages 10-17	State	Percent Reporting	DUI Arrests per 100,000 Juveniles Ages 10-17
US	75	50	MO	59	42
AL	97	23	MT	0	N/A
AK	82	55	NE	90	147
AZ	92	59	NV	92	38
AR	100	91	NH	0	N/A
CA	98	48	NJ	95	28
CO	79	73	NM	27	N/A
CT	84	29	NY	87	18
DE	4	N/A	NC	97	115
DC	100	2	ND	75	80
FL	100	20	OH	47	N/A
GA	63	62	OK	99	70
HI	100	45	OR	68	69
ID	98	144	PA	13	N/A
IL	0	N/A	RI	100	20
IN	56	26	SC	96	33
IA	88	100	SD	63	70
KS	0	N/A	TN	32	N/A
KY	33	N/A	TX	96	28
LA	68	56	UT	87	60
ME	65	90	VT	51	48
MD	99	39	VA	99	50
MA	80	28	WA	66	48
MI	84	72	WV	100	30
MN	96	72	WI	99	68
MS	25	N/A	WY	90	86

N/A = Rates were classified as not available when reporting agencies represented less than 50% of the State population.

Source: Author's analysis of data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 1995*.

The 1995 juvenile arrest rate for DUI was half that of the early 1980's

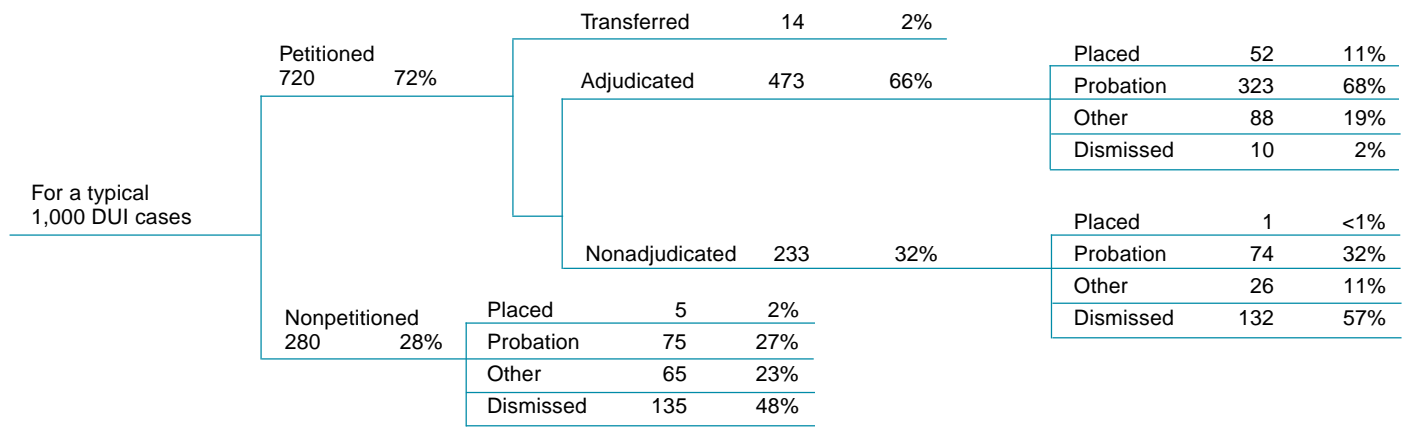
DUI arrests per 100,000 persons ages 10-17



Source: Author's analysis of data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States* (annual).

arrests for other liquor offenses dropped 18%. The large declines in alcohol-related arrests are in stark contrast to the substantial increases in juvenile arrests for drug law violations. Between 1986 and 1995, juvenile arrests for drug law violations increased

The juvenile court formally processed nearly three-quarters of DUI cases in 1994



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

Source: Author's analysis of the National Center for Juvenile Justice, *National Juvenile Court Data Archive: 1994 juvenile court case records* [machine-readable data file].

115%. In 1995, there were 13 juveniles arrested for a drug law violation for every 10 juveniles arrested for an alcohol-related offense. Of all juveniles arrested for an alcohol-related offense in 1995, 10% were nonwhite, compared with 36% of those arrested for a drug law violation.

In nearly half of all DUI cases referred to juvenile courts, the youth is adjudicated delinquent

After arrest, juvenile DUI cases are handled in different types of courts, depending on the legal structure of the specific jurisdiction. Some juvenile DUI cases are processed in specialized traffic courts or municipal courts. In some jurisdictions, these cases are handled in juvenile courts, that is, courts that routinely adjudicate delinquency matters. In 1994, an estimated 4,000 juvenile DUI cases were processed in courts with juvenile delinquency jurisdiction.

When DUI cases are referred to a court with juvenile jurisdiction, an intake officer, prosecutor, or judge determines whether the case should be handled formally or informally. This decision is often based on the severity of the offense, the youth's law-violating history, and the ability of the parties involved to come to a mutually agreeable response. Informal case handling occurs

without the filing of a petition, without the need for an adjudicatory or waiver hearing, and without a formal court order requiring the youth to comply with specified sanctions.

In 1994, 28% of DUI cases referred to juvenile courts were handled informally. Nearly half of these cases were dismissed. In the other half of informally processed cases, the youth voluntarily agreed to comply with probation conditions, pay fines or restitution, or enter some form of drug or residential treatment.

Most (72%) juvenile DUI cases referred to juvenile courts in 1994 were formally processed. A small percentage (2%) of these cases were transferred to the criminal courts, where the youth was prosecuted as an adult. In 66% of formally processed juvenile DUI cases, the youth was adjudicated delinquent and the court ordered sanctions. Most adjudicated youth were ordered to a term of probation (68%), 11% were placed in a residential facility, and most of the others were ordered to pay a fine or restitution.

Howard N. Snyder is Director of Systems Research at the National Center for Juvenile Justice, which is supported by an OJJDP grant.

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