



Office of Justice Programs  
**Report**



Juvenile Court  
Statistics 1993

Statistics Report

A Publication of the  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

# Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was established by the President and Congress through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, Public Law 93–415, as amended. Located within the Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP’s goal is to provide national leadership in addressing the issues of juvenile delinquency and improving juvenile justice.

OJJDP sponsors a broad array of research, program, and training initiatives to improve the juvenile justice system as a whole, as well as to benefit individual youth-serving agencies. These initiatives are carried out by seven components within OJJDP, described below.

**Research and Program Development Division** develops knowledge on national trends in juvenile delinquency; supports a program for data collection and information sharing that incorporates elements of statistical and systems development; identifies how delinquency develops and the best methods for its prevention, intervention, and treatment; and analyzes practices and trends in the juvenile justice system.

**Training and Technical Assistance Division** provides juvenile justice training and technical assistance to Federal, State, and local governments; law enforcement, judiciary, and corrections personnel; and private agencies, educational institutions, and community organizations.

**Special Emphasis Division** provides discretionary funds to public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals to replicate tested approaches to delinquency prevention, treatment, and control in such pertinent areas as chronic juvenile offenders, community-based sanctions, and the disproportionate representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system.

**State Relations and Assistance Division** supports collaborative efforts by States to carry out the mandates of the JJDP Act by providing formula grant funds to States; furnishing technical assistance to States, local governments, and private agencies; and monitoring State compliance with the JJDP Act.

**Information Dissemination Unit** informs individuals and organizations of OJJDP initiatives; disseminates information on juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and missing children; and coordinates program planning efforts within OJJDP. The unit’s activities include publishing research and statistical reports, bulletins, and other documents, as well as overseeing the operations of the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse.

**Concentration of Federal Efforts Program** promotes interagency cooperation and coordination among Federal agencies with responsibilities in the area of juvenile justice. The program primarily carries out this responsibility through the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, an independent body within the executive branch that was established by Congress through the JJDP Act.

**Missing and Exploited Children’s Program** seeks to promote effective policies and procedures for addressing the problem of missing and exploited children. Established by the Missing Children’s Assistance Act of 1984, the program provides funds for a variety of activities to support and coordinate a network of resources such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; training and technical assistance to a network of 47 State clearinghouses, nonprofit organizations, law enforcement personnel, and attorneys; and research and demonstration programs.

The mission of OJJDP is to provide national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent juvenile victimization and respond appropriately to juvenile delinquency. This is accomplished through developing and implementing prevention programs and a juvenile justice system that protects the public safety, holds juvenile offenders accountable, and provides treatment and rehabilitative services based on the needs of each individual juvenile.

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**Juvenile**

**Court**

**Statistics**

**1993**

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**June 1996**

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Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

# FOREWORD

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Our Nation's juvenile courts play a critical role in the lives of children. As the crux of society's response to delinquency, the juvenile court mandates appropriate sanctions and establishes treatment plans for juvenile offenders. Its purpose is not only to protect society but to reform offenders by affording them opportunities to develop a sense of social accountability and responsibility.

The philosophy of the juvenile court as an agent of reform is the foundation of the American juvenile justice system. The court not only imposes sanctions, but provides the resources to combat further delinquency. Clearly, the court is on the front line of our struggle to halt the epidemic of violence that permeates our society.

What issues does the juvenile court face? Which types of offenders appear before it? What resources are available to the court today? *Juvenile Court Statistics 1993* addresses these and other significant questions, profiling nearly 1.5 million delinquency cases and 111,000 status offense cases handled by juvenile courts during 1993.

Undoubtedly, the challenges facing the juvenile court are becoming increasingly difficult. From 1989 to 1993, the number of delinquency cases addressed by juvenile courts increased 14 percent. Juvenile offenses against persons rose 42 percent in the same period.

This report provides a reference to guide our efforts to reduce the effects of juvenile delinquency on communities, families, and individuals, including our young people. I am grateful to all those involved in preparing this document. I trust it will help policymakers, researchers, and the public to better understand the juvenile justice system and enhance our Nation's response to juvenile delinquency.

**Shay Bilchik**  
*Administrator*  
Office of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention

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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**—Alabama Department of Youth Services.

**Alaska**—Alaska Court System.

**Arizona**—Supreme Court of Arizona and the Maricopa County Juvenile Court Center.

**Arkansas**—Administrative Office of the Courts.

**California**—Judicial Council of California and the following county probation departments: Alameda, Kings, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego,

San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, and Ventura.

**Colorado**—Colorado Judicial Department.

**Connecticut**—Chief Court Administrator's Office.

**Delaware**—Family Court of the State of Delaware.

**District of Columbia**—District of Columbia Superior Court.

**Florida**—Department of Juvenile Justice, Bureau of Research and Data.

**Georgia**—Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Hawaii**—The Judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Idaho**—Administrative Office of the Courts.

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

**Indiana**—Division of State Court Administration.

**Iowa**—State Court Administrator.

**Kansas**—Office of Judicial Administration.

**Kentucky**—Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Louisiana**—Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

**Maine**—Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Maryland**—Department of Juvenile Justice.

**Massachusetts**—Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Michigan**—State Court Administrative Office.

**Minnesota**—Minnesota Supreme Court Information System.

**Mississippi**—Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services.

**Missouri**—Department of Social Services, Division of Children and Youth Services.

**Montana**—Board of Crime Control and the Office of Court Administration.

**Nebraska**—Nebraska Crime Commission.

**New Hampshire**—Administrative Office of the Courts.

**New Jersey**—Administrative Office of the Courts.

**New Mexico**—Administrative Office of the Courts and Children, Youth and Families Department.

**New York**—Office of Court Administration and the State of New York, Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives.

**North Carolina**—Administrative Office of the Courts.

**North Dakota**—Supreme Court, Office of State Court Administrator.

**Ohio**—Supreme Court of Ohio and the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Division.

**Oregon**—Judicial Department.

**Pennsylvania**—Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

**Rhode Island**—Administrative Office of State Courts and Rhode Island Family Court.

**South Carolina**—Department of Juvenile Justice.

**South Dakota**—State Court Administrator's Office.

**Tennessee**—Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County.

**Texas**—Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

**Utah**—Utah State Juvenile Court.

**Vermont**—Supreme Court of Vermont, Office of the Court Administrator.

**Virginia**—State Administrative Office and Department of Family and Youth Services.

**Washington**—Office of the Administrator for the Courts.

**West Virginia**—Juvenile Justice Committee, West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

**Wisconsin**—Supreme Court of Wisconsin.

**Wyoming**—Supreme Court of Wyoming, Court Coordinator's Office.

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# PREFACE

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This is the 67th report in the *Juvenile Court Statistics* series. It describes the delinquency and status offense cases handled by U.S. juvenile courts between 1989 and 1993. National estimates of juvenile court caseloads in 1993 were based on analyses of approximately 690,000 automated case records contributed to the National Juvenile Court Data Archive by nearly 1,400 courts with juvenile jurisdiction and analyses of court-level summary statistics supplied by more than 400 additional courts. Altogether, the courts contributing data for this report had jurisdiction over 67% of the juvenile population in 1993.

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 statistical cards filled out for each delinquency, status offense, and dependency case handled by the courts participating in the reporting series. The Children's Bureau (within the Department of Labor) tabulated the information on each card, including the age, sex, and race of the youth; the reason for referral; the manner of dealing with the case; and the final disposition of the case. During the 1940's, however, the collection of case-level data was abandoned due to its high cost. From the 1940's until the mid-1970's, *Juvenile Court Statistics* reports were based on the 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 Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), developed a probability sample of more than 500 courts and asked each court in the sample to submit annual counts of delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases. Soon, however, this design proved difficult to sustain because some of the 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 1960's, HEW ended the sample-based effort and returned to the policy of collecting annual case counts from any court able to provide them. However, the series continued to generate national estimates using data from these nonprobability samples.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) assumed responsibility for *Juvenile Court*

*Statistics* following the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. The National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) was awarded a grant in 1975 to continue the report series. Although agreeing to continue the procedures established by HEW in order 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 1970's. As NCJJ wrote to agencies across the country asking them to complete the annual juvenile court statistics form, some agencies offered to send the automated case-level data collected by their management information systems. Over a period of years, NCJJ learned to combine these automated records to produce a detailed national portrait of juvenile court activity—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 1930's, *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 would continue to be the emphasis of the reporting series throughout the next decade. Thus, the content of *Juvenile Court Statistics* was once again consistent with the goals established by those who began this work more than 60 years earlier.

## DATA ACCESS

The data used in this report are stored in the National Juvenile Court Data Archive at NCJJ in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Archive contains the most detailed information available on youth 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, selected files can be merged for cross-jurisdictional and longitudinal analyses. Upon request, project staff are also available to perform special analyses of the Archive's data files. Researchers are encouraged to contact the Archive directly in order to explore the possible uses of Archive data files for their work.

This report describes delinquency and status offense cases handled by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction between 1989 and 1993. Courts with juvenile jurisdiction may handle a variety of matters, including child abuse and neglect, 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; actual filings of offenses, cases, or petitions; the number of disposition hearings; or the number of youth 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 youth processed by a juvenile court on a new referral regardless of the number of law violations contained in the referral. A youth charged with four burglaries in a single referral would represent a single case. A youth 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 mean a case was necessarily closed or terminated in the sense that all contact between the court and the youth 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 in part on how each jurisdiction organizes its case screening function. In many communities all juvenile matters are first screened by an intake unit within the juvenile court. 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, where 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 reporting 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 complete coverage of formally handled delinquency and status offense cases and adequate coverage of informally handled delinquency cases in this reporting series, the coverage of informally handled status offense cases is not sufficient to support the generation of national estimates. For this reason, *JCS* reports do not present national estimates of informally handled status offense cases. (Subnational analyses of these cases are available from the Archive.)

## JUVENILE COURT PROCESSING

Any attempt to describe juvenile court caseloads at the national level must devise 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.** Referred cases are first screened by an intake department (either within or outside the court). 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 agency for services, informal probation, or the payment of fines or some form of voluntary restitution.

**Transfer.** 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 jurisdiction over the case. The juvenile court judge

decides whether the case merits criminal prosecution.<sup>1</sup> When a transfer request is denied, the matter is usually 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 is dismissed for various reasons before the adjudicatory hearing is actually held.

**Adjudication.** At the adjudicatory hearing, a youth 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 youth 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 or foster home or other residential facility; 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 order.

**Detention.** A youth 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 youth 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 youth in a detention facility while awaiting availability of a court-ordered placement).

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<sup>1</sup> Mechanisms of transfer to criminal court vary by State. In some States a prosecutor has the authority to file juvenile cases that meet specified criteria directly in criminal court. This report, however, includes only cases that were transferred as a result of judicial waiver.

## 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. As a consequence, incoming data files are not uniform across jurisdictions. However, these data files are likely to be more detailed and accurate than data files compiled by local jurisdictions merely to comply 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. Consequently, 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 suppliers 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 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 applications. 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 (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) is limited by necessity to a small number of relatively broad offense codes. The UCR offense coding 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, joy-riding 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 estimates presented in this report were generated with data from a large nonprobability sample of



juvenile courts. Consequently, 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.<sup>2</sup>

National estimates for 1993 are based on analyses of individual case records from nearly 1,400 courts with jurisdiction over half of the U.S. juvenile population. The weighting procedures that generate national estimates from this sample control for many factors: the size of a community; the demographic composition of its youth population; the volume of cases referred to the reporting courts; the age, sex, and race of the youth involved; offense characteristics of the cases; the court's response 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).

The accuracy of the Archive's national estimates can be assessed by comparing them with estimates developed by other national data systems. For example, each *JCS* report provides an estimate of the number of referrals that juvenile courts received from law enforcement. On the other hand, the FBI's *Crime in the United States* reports provide the number of cases that law enforcement agencies referred to juvenile courts each year. FBI data are from the UCR series and are collected from a nonprobability sample of police agencies. For the past decade, referral trends reported in UCR and *JCS* data have been parallel. From 1985 to 1992, the overall difference between the number of referrals estimated from UCR and *JCS* data was just 7%, a finding that supports the validity of both estimates.

## STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report describes the delinquency and status offense cases handled by juvenile courts between 1989 and 1993. First, the report presents national estimates of petitioned and nonpetitioned delinquency cases handled by courts with juvenile jurisdiction. Next, national estimates of petitioned (formally processed) status offense cases are presented. Together, these sections provide a detailed national portrait of juvenile court cases, including the offenses involved, sources of referral, detention practices, and dispositions ordered.

A brief description of the statistical procedure used to generate these estimates can be found in the *Methods* section. For readers wishing to know more about the estimation procedure, a companion volume to this report, *Detailed Supplement to Juvenile Court Statistics 1993*, is available upon request from the Archive.

Readers are encouraged to consult the *Glossary of Terms* 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 their applicability to multiple jurisdictions.

Finally, the appendix presents a complete list of the number of delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases handled by juvenile courts in 1993. Footnotes indicate the source of the data and the unit of count. Because courts report their statistical data using various units of count (e.g., cases disposed, offenses referred, petitions), the reader is cautioned against making cross-jurisdictional comparisons before studying the accompanying footnotes.

## OTHER SOURCES OF JUVENILE COURT DATA

*JCS* reports prior to 1992 contained a series of tables presenting national estimates for the 5 individual years of report coverage and detailed current year data, as well as tables containing subnational, nonestimated data analyses on specific offenses. These tables are no longer included in *Juvenile Court Statistics* but may be obtained in the *Detailed Supplement to Juvenile Court Statistics 1993*, which is available directly from NCJJ.

The national delinquency estimates presented in this report are also available in an easy-to-use software package, *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics 1989–1993*. With the support of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, NCJJ distributes this package to facilitate independent analysis of Archive data while eliminating the need for statistical analysis software. All necessary data files as well as the NCJJ software are available on a single 3½-inch diskette that can be easily installed on an IBM-compatible personal computer or network. To order a complimentary copy of *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics 1989–1993*, contact the National Center for Juvenile Justice at 412–227–6950.

<sup>2</sup> For more detailed analyses of the *JCS* national estimates and their accuracy, see: Jeffrey A. Butts and Howard N. Snyder. 1995. *A Study to Assess the Validity of the National Estimates Developed for the Juvenile Court Statistics Series*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice.

# NATIONAL ESTIMATES OF DELINQUENCY CASES

## COUNTS AND TRENDS

In 1993, courts with juvenile jurisdiction handled an estimated 1,489,700 delinquency cases, representing a 2% increase over the 1992 caseload and 23% more than in 1989 (table 1). Delinquency offenses are acts committed by juveniles that could result in criminal prosecution when committed by an adult. Between 1989 and 1993, the number of person offense cases increased by 52%, property offense cases increased by 15%, drug offense cases increased by 14%, and public order offense cases grew by 24%. Compared with 1989, juvenile courts in 1993 handled 45% more criminal homicide cases, 48% more rape cases, 56% more robbery cases, 59% more aggravated assault cases, 51% more simple assault cases, 41% more vandalism cases, 49% more disorderly conduct cases, and 87% more weapons offense cases. During the same time period, juvenile courts handled 10% fewer motor vehicle theft cases and 16% fewer liquor law violation cases.

Examining the caseloads of juvenile courts using the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) crime indexes indicates that juvenile courts handled substantially more Violent Crime Index offense cases in 1993 than in 1989 (57%), while cases involving Property Crime Index offenses increased by 9%.<sup>1</sup> The increases in juvenile court cases parallel the increases in arrests of persons under the age of 18 as reported by the FBI. Between 1989 and 1993, the number of arrests involving persons under the age of 18 charged with Violent Crime Index offenses increased by 36%, while arrests of youth for Property Crime Index offenses increased by 2%. (See *Crime in the United States 1993*.) According to the FBI, the number of juvenile arrests for homicide increased by 45% between 1989 and 1993 and 14% between 1992 and 1993, increases that closely correspond to the increases in juvenile court cases involving homicide charges.

<sup>1</sup> The annual series of reports from the FBI, *Crime in the United States*, provides information on arrests in offense categories that have become part of the common vocabulary of criminal justice statistics. The *Crime in the United States* series tracks changes in the general nature of arrests through the use of two indexes, the Violent Crime Index and the Property Crime Index. While not containing all violent or all property offenses, the indexes serve as a barometer of the changing nature of criminal activity in the United States.

**Table 1: Delinquency Cases by Most Serious Offense, 1993**

Offense	Number of Cases	Percent Change	
		1989-93	1992-93
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,489,700</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Person Offense</b>	<b>318,800</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>6</b>
Criminal Homicide	2,800	45	13
Forcible Rape	6,100	48	12
Robbery	35,600	56	5
Aggravated Assault	77,500	59	1
Simple Assault	166,400	51	10
Other Violent Sex Offense	10,900	64	10
Other Person Offense	19,400	35	-10
<b>Property Offense</b>	<b>808,900</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-3</b>
Burglary	149,700	14	-4
Larceny-Theft	353,700	11	-2
Motor Vehicle Theft	61,100	-10	-14
Arson	8,200	21	0
Vandalism	117,100	41	0
Trespassing	60,500	22	5
Stolen Property Offense	27,400	16	-7
Other Property Offense	31,300	29	-12
<b>Drug Law Violation</b>	<b>89,100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Public Order Offense</b>	<b>272,800</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>
Obstruction of Justice	96,000	17	12
Disorderly Conduct	71,200	49	4
Weapons Offense	47,200	87	16
Liquor Law Violation	13,200	-16	3
Nonviolent Sex Offense	10,900	-11	-13
Other Public Order	34,400	-6	8
<b>Violent Crime Index*</b>	<b>122,000</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Property Crime Index**</b>	<b>572,600</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-4</b>

\* Violent Crime Index includes criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

\*\* Property Crime Index includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

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

**Table 2: Offense Profile of Delinquency Cases, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Person	17%	21%
Property	58	54
Drugs	6	6
Public Order	18	18
Total	100%	100%

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

**Table 3: Percent Change in Delinquency Cases and Case Rates, 1989–1993**

Offense	1989	1993	Percent Change
<b>Number of Cases</b>			
Delinquency	1,211,900	1,489,700	23%
Person	209,100	318,800	52
Property	705,100	808,900	15
Drugs	78,000	89,100	14
Public Order	219,700	272,800	24
<b>Case Rates</b>			
Delinquency	47.8	54.6	14%
Person	8.2	11.7	42
Property	27.8	29.7	7
Drugs	3.1	3.3	6
Public Order	8.7	10.0	15

Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth at risk.

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

**Table 4: Percent of Delinquency Cases Referred by Law Enforcement, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Delinquency	83%	86%
Person	81	86
Property	90	91
Drugs	92	94
Public Order	60	70

The offense profile of juvenile court caseloads changed slightly between 1989 and 1993. The relative proportion of person offenses increased, while property offenses declined slightly. A person offense such as robbery or assault was the most serious charge in 21% of delinquency cases in 1993 compared with 17% in 1989 (table 2). A property offense such as shoplifting, burglary, or vandalism was the most serious charge in 54% of the delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts in 1993 versus 58% in 1989. A drug law violation such as possession or sale of controlled substances was the most serious charge in 6% of cases in 1993 as well as 1989. The proportion of public order offenses also remained unchanged (18%) from 1989 to 1993. Public order offenses include disorderly conduct, obstruction of justice, weapons possession, and other offenses.

In 1993, juvenile courts processed 54.6 delinquency cases for every 1,000 juveniles who resided in the United States and were at risk of referral—those age 10 or older who were under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court (table 3).<sup>2</sup> Analysis of this case rate permits comparisons of juvenile court activity over time while controlling for differences in the population at risk of referral to the juvenile court. The total delinquency case rate was 14% greater in 1993 than in 1989.<sup>3</sup> Case rates increased in all offense categories between 1989 and 1993. The case rate for person offenses increased by 42%, the property case rate climbed by 7%, the rate of drug cases grew by 6%, and the rate of public order offense cases increased by 15%.

#### SOURCE OF REFERRAL

Delinquency 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. Law enforcement agencies were the primary source of delinquency referrals in 1993. Overall, 86% of delinquency cases were referred to courts by law enforcement agencies, but variations existed across offense categories. A total of 94% of drug law violation cases were referred by law enforcement agencies, as were 91% of property cases and 86% of person offense cases (table 4). Only 70% of public order offense cases were referred by

<sup>2</sup> The upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction is defined by statute in each State. See the *Glossary of Terms* for a more detailed discussion on upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction. The case rates presented in this report control for State variations in youth population at risk of referral to juvenile court.

<sup>3</sup> Percentage changes in the number of cases disposed and changes in case rates are sometimes not equal due to the changing size of the population of youth at risk of referral to juvenile court.

law enforcement sources, partially because this offense category contains probation violations and contempt of court cases that are referred most often by court personnel.

## DETENTION

Juvenile courts sometimes hold youth in secure detention facilities during court processing. Depending on the State's detention laws, the court may decide detention is necessary to protect the community from a juvenile's behavior, to ensure a juvenile's appearance at subsequent court hearings, or to secure the juvenile's own safety. Juveniles were held in detention facilities at some point between referral to court intake and case disposition in 20% of all delinquency cases disposed in 1993 (table 5).

Cases involving property offenses were least likely to involve detention in 1993, while those involving drug offenses were most likely to involve detention. In 1993, 17% of property offense cases involved detention compared with 24% of person offense cases, 25% of public order offense cases, and 31% of drug cases. Between 1989 and 1993, the probability of detention was relatively unchanged across all offense categories.

The number of delinquency cases in which juveniles were detained increased by 19% between 1989 and 1993, rising from 256,300 to 303,800 (table 6). Increases in the number of cases involving detention occurred in three of the four general offense categories, with person offense cases showing the greatest increase. Between 1989 and 1993, the number of person offense cases in which the youth was detained increased by 42%. There was a 14% increase among property offense cases and a 17% increase in public order offense cases involving detention. The number of drug law violation cases that involved detention declined by 3% between 1989 and 1993.

Although detention was least likely in property offense cases in 1993, they accounted for 44% of all delinquency cases involving detention because they represented the largest share of juvenile court caseloads (table 7). Person offense cases accounted for 25% of cases involving detention, public order offense cases accounted for 22%, and drug law violation cases accounted for 9%. Between 1989 and 1993, the offense characteristics of delinquency cases involving detention changed only slightly, with person offenses accounting for a larger proportion of detentions, while property offenses and drug violations represented smaller shares of the detention caseload in 1993.

**Table 5: Percent of Delinquency Cases Detained by Offense, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Delinquency	21%	20%
Person	25	24
Property	17	17
Drugs	36	31
Public Order	26	25

**Table 6: Percent Change in Detained Delinquency Cases, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1989	1993	
Delinquency	256,300	303,800	19%
Person	52,700	75,100	42
Property	118,300	134,400	14
Drugs	28,200	27,300	-3
Public Order	57,100	67,000	17

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

**Table 7: Offense Profile of Detained Delinquency Cases, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Person	21%	25%
Property	46	44
Drugs	11	9
Public Order	22	22
Total	100%	100%
Number of Cases Involving Detention:	256,300	303,800

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

## INTAKE DECISION

Slightly more than half (53%) of the delinquency cases disposed by juvenile courts in 1993 were processed formally and fewer than half (47%) were handled informally (figure 1). Formal handling involves the filing of a petition requesting an adjudicatory or transfer hearing. Informal cases are handled without a petition. Among informally handled (nonpetitioned) delinquency cases, nearly half (49%) were dismissed by the court. The remainder resulted either in informal or voluntary probation (27%) or other dispositions (23%), while a small number (1%) resulted in voluntary out-of-home placement.

Although juvenile courts handled half of all property offense cases formally in 1993, more than half of person offense cases (57%), drug law violation cases (62%), and public order offense cases (55%) were handled formally (figure 2). As a result of this differential handling, formally processed cases in 1993 involved a higher proportion of person, drug, and public order offenses and a lower proportion of property offense cases when compared with the informally handled delinquency caseload (table 8).

Intake decisions varied among each of the four major offense categories. A detailed analysis of referral offenses showed that the likelihood of formal handling was greater for more serious offenses within the same general offense category. For example, 70% of burglary cases in 1993 were handled formally by juvenile courts compared with 40% of larceny-theft cases (table 9). Similarly, 62% of aggravated assault cases were handled with the filing of a petition, but only 46% of simple assault cases were handled formally.

In accordance with a trend seen in recent years, the likelihood of formal processing for delinquency referrals

**Table 8: Offense Profile of Delinquency Cases by Manner of Handling, 1993**

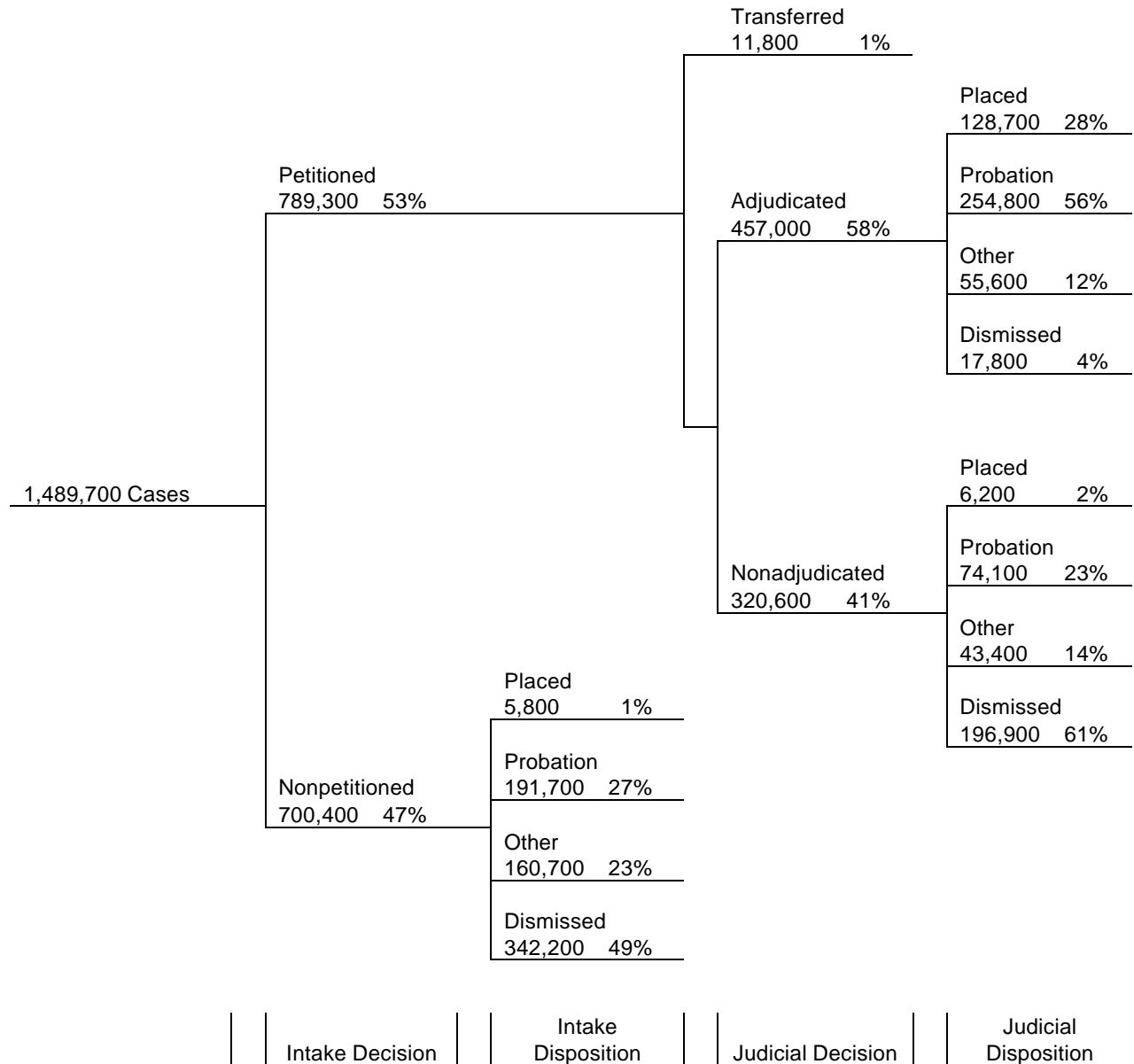
Offense	Informal	Formal
Person	20%	23%
Property	58	51
Drugs	5	7
Public Order	18	19
Total	100%	100%
Number of Cases:	700,400	789,300

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

increased slightly between 1989 and 1993, rising from 50% to 53%. Increases were seen in the proportion of person offense cases handled formally (from 55% in 1989 to 57% in 1993), as well as in property offense cases (from 48% to 50%), drug law violation cases (from 61% to 62%), and public order offense cases (from 50% to 55%).

As a result of the increase in the number of cases referred to juvenile court intake and the greater likelihood of petitioning, the number of formally processed delinquency cases increased by 29% between 1989 and 1993, rising from 610,600 to 789,300. The largest increase was in person offense cases, with juvenile courts formally processing 58% more person offense cases in 1993 than in 1989. During the same period, there was a 61% increase in the number of formally handled cases involving FBI Violent Crime Index offenses. The number of petitioned property offense cases also increased by 19% compared with a 15% increase in petitioned drug cases and a 37% increase in formally handled public order offense cases.

**Figure 1: Juvenile Court Processing of Delinquency Cases, 1993**



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

**Figure 2: Juvenile Court Processing of Delinquency Cases Within Offense Categories, 1993**

**Person Offenses**

318,800 Cases	Petitioned		Transferred		Placed			
	181,800	57%	5,000	3%	30,000	31%		
			Adjudicated		Probation			
			97,700	54%	53,900	55%		
					Other		Dismissed	
					9,500	10%	4,400	4%
			Nonadjudicated		Placed			
			79,100	43%	1,400	2%		
					Probation		Other	
					16,800	21%	8,900	11%
		Dismissed		Dismissed				
		52,000	66%					
		Nonpetitioned		Placed				
		137,000	43%	900	1%			
		Probation		Other				
		38,800	28%	25,000	18%			
		Other		Dismissed				
		72,300	53%					

**Property Offenses**

808,900 Cases	Petitioned		Transferred		Placed			
	402,300	50%	4,500	1%	57,900	25%		
			Adjudicated		Probation			
			234,700	58%	136,600	58%		
					Other		Dismissed	
					32,100	14%	8,000	3%
			Nonadjudicated		Placed			
			163,100	41%	3,300	2%		
					Probation		Other	
					44,700	27%	23,700	15%
		Dismissed		Dismissed				
		91,500	56%					
		Nonpetitioned		Placed				
		406,600	50%	3,000	1%			
		Probation		Other				
		113,500	28%	105,200	26%			
		Other		Dismissed				
		184,800	45%					

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

Figure 2 (continued)

**Drug Offenses**

89,100 Cases	Petitioned		Transferred		1,200	2%	Placed		9,600	30%		
	55,000		62%		Adjudicated		32,600	59%	Probation		17,500	54%
									Other		3,400	10%
									Dismissed		2,000	6%
					Nonadjudicated		21,200	39%	Placed		300	1%
									Probation		4,000	19%
									Other		2,000	10%
									Dismissed		14,900	70%
	Nonpetitioned		Placed		300		1%					
	34,200		38%		Probation		9,500		28%			
				Other		7,200		21%				
				Dismissed		17,100		50%				

**Public Order Offenses**

272,800 Cases	Petitioned		Transferred		1,000	1%	Placed		31,300	34%		
	150,200		55%		Adjudicated		92,000	61%	Probation		46,800	51%
									Other		10,600	12%
									Dismissed		3,400	4%
					Nonadjudicated		57,200	38%	Placed		1,300	2%
									Probation		8,600	15%
									Other		8,800	15%
									Dismissed		38,600	67%
	Nonpetitioned		Placed		1,600		1%					
	122,600		45%		Probation		29,800		24%			
				Other		23,300		19%				
				Dismissed		67,900		55%				

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



**Table 9: Petitioned Delinquency Cases, 1989–1993**

Offense	1989		1993		Percent Change in Petitioned Cases 1989–1993
	Number of Petitioned Cases	Percent of Total Cases Petitioned	Number of Petitioned Cases	Percent of Total Cases Petitioned	
<b>Total</b>	<b>610,600</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>789,300</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Person Offense</b>	<b>115,300</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>181,800</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>
Criminal Homicide	1,700	87	2,500	89	47
Forcible Rape	3,200	78	5,100	83	58
Robbery	18,800	82	30,600	86	63
Aggravated Assault	30,100	62	48,300	62	60
Simple Assault	48,400	44	75,900	46	57
Other Violent Sex Offense	4,500	68	7,500	69	66
Other Person Offense	8,700	60	11,900	62	38
<b>Property Offense</b>	<b>337,900</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>402,300</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>19</b>
Burglary	90,500	69	105,100	70	16
Larceny-Theft	119,800	38	142,400	40	19
Motor Vehicle Theft	45,000	66	41,100	67	-9
Arson	3,100	47	4,500	55	43
Vandalism	33,400	40	50,900	43	52
Trespassing	17,300	35	21,800	36	26
Stolen Property Offense	14,100	59	17,500	64	25
Other Property Offense	14,700	61	19,000	61	29
<b>Drug and Law Violation</b>	<b>47,900</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Public Order Offense</b>	<b>109,400</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>150,200</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>37</b>
Obstruction of Justice	58,400	71	70,500	73	21
Disorderly Conduct	15,400	32	26,000	37	69
Weapons Offense	13,000	51	27,700	59	114
Liquor Law Violations	4,600	29	5,300	40	15
Nonviolent Sex Offenses	6,700	55	5,400	50	-19
Other Public Order	11,400	31	15,200	44	34
<b>Violent Crime Index*</b>	<b>53,800</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>86,500</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Property Crime Index**</b>	<b>258,400</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>293,100</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>13</b>

\* Violent Crime Index includes criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

\*\* Property Crime Index includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

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

## JUDICIAL DECISION AND DISPOSITION

### Transfer

One of the first decisions made at intake is determining whether a case should be processed in the criminal (adult) justice system rather than in the juvenile court. The mechanisms used to transfer responsibility for a case to the criminal court vary by State. In some cases a prosecutor may have the authority to file juvenile cases directly in criminal court. In other cases, State law may require a judicial waiver, in which a juvenile court judge authorizes transfer requests. In most instances when a transfer request is denied, the case is then scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing in juvenile court. The data described in this report represent only cases that were transferred to criminal court by judicial waiver.

Criminal court transfers represented 1.5% of all petitioned delinquency cases in 1993 compared with 1.4% in 1989 (table 10). The cases most likely to be transferred in 1989 were those involving drug offenses (2.8%). In 1993, however, person offense cases were more likely to be transferred than drug cases (2.7% versus 2.2%). Just 1.1% of cases involving property offenses were transferred to criminal court in 1993.

Compared with 1989, transfers increased by 41% in 1993 (table 11). Between 1989 and 1993, the number of transferred person offense cases increased substantially more (115%) than transfers of any other type of case. Transfers of public order offense cases climbed by 75%, property offense transfers grew by 12%, and transfer of drug offense cases decreased by 11% between 1989 and 1993.

As a result, for the first time in recent years the largest group of transferred cases involved person offenses. Offenses against persons accounted for more than 4 in 10 cases transferred in 1993 (table 12). As a proportion of all transferred cases, person offense cases increased from 28% to 42%, while property offense cases declined from 49% to 38%. Drug cases also declined as a proportion of all transfers, falling from 16% in 1989 to 10% in 1993.

### Adjudication

A youth may be adjudicated delinquent after admitting to charges in a case or after the court finds sufficient evidence to judge the youth a delinquent. Juveniles were adjudicated delinquent by the court in 58% of all formally processed delinquency cases in 1993 (table 13). Person offense cases were the least likely cases to be adjudicated. Among formally handled delinquency cases in 1993, 54% of person offense cases were adjudicated, as were 58% of

**Table 10: Percent of Petitioned Delinquency Cases Transferred to Criminal Court, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Delinquency	1.4%	1.5%
Person	2.0	2.7
Property	1.2	1.1
Drugs	2.8	2.2
Public Order	0.5	0.7

**Table 11: Percent Change in Petitioned Delinquency Cases Transferred to Criminal Court, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1989	1993	
Delinquency	8,300	11,800	41%
Person	2,300	5,000	115
Property	4,100	4,500	12
Drugs	1,400	1,200	-11
Public Order	600	1,000	75

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

**Table 12: Offense Profile of Delinquency Cases Transferred to Criminal Court, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Person	28%	42%
Property	49	38
Drugs	16	10
Public Order	7	9
Total	100%	100%
Transferred Cases:	8,300	11,800

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

**Table 13: Percent of Petitioned Delinquency Cases Adjudicated, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Delinquency	63%	58%
Person	57	54
Property	64	58
Drugs	67	59
Public Order	65	61

property offense cases, 59% of drug law violation cases, and 61% of public order offense cases.

The number of adjudicated delinquency cases grew from 383,600 to 457,000 between 1989 and 1993. However, the likelihood of adjudication for petitioned delinquency cases decreased from 63% to 58% during the same period. The likelihood of adjudication decreased in all four general offense categories. The probability of adjudication decreased from 57% to 54% for person offense cases, from 64% to 58% for property offense cases, from 67% to 59% for drug cases, and from 65% to 61% for public order offense cases.

### Disposition

In dispositional hearings, juvenile court judges must determine the most appropriate sanction for delinquent youth, generally after reviewing reports from the probation department. The range of dispositional options may include commitment to an institution or another residential facility, probation, or a variety of other dispositions, such as referral to an outside agency or treatment program, fines, community service, or restitution.

In more than half (56%) of all adjudicated delinquency cases in 1993, the juvenile was placed on formal probation. More than one-quarter (28%) of adjudicated cases resulted in the youth being placed outside the home in a residential facility.<sup>4</sup> In 12% of adjudicated delinquency cases, the court ordered the juvenile to pay restitution or a fine, to participate in some form of community service, or to enter a treatment or counseling program—dispositions with

<sup>4</sup> Most youth in out-of-home placements are also technically on formal probation. For this report, however, case disposition is characterized by the most severe sanction. Consequently, cases resulting in an out-of-home placement are not included in the formal probation group.

**Table 14: Percent of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Delinquency	30%	28%
Person	33	31
Property	26	25
Drugs	36	30
Public Order	39	34

minimal continuing supervision by probation staff. In a relatively small number of cases (4%), the juvenile was adjudicated, but the case was then dismissed or the youth was otherwise released.

In 41% of all petitioned delinquency cases in 1993, the youth was not subsequently adjudicated. Most of these cases (61%) were dismissed by the court. However, in 23% of nonadjudicated cases the youth agreed to some form of probation, and in 14% of the cases the youth were given other dispositions. Nearly 2% of all nonadjudicated delinquency cases resulted in voluntary out-of-home placement.

**Out-of-Home Placement.** Adjudicated juveniles were ordered to out-of-home placements in 128,700 delinquency cases in 1993—28% of all adjudicated cases (table 14). Once adjudicated, juveniles charged with property offenses were least likely to be placed outside the home in 1993 (25%). More frequent use of placement was seen in person offense cases (31%), drug law violation cases (30%), and public order offense cases (34%). The relatively high rate of placement among public order offense cases may be related to the fact that these cases often include escapes from institutions as well as probation and parole violations.

The number of adjudicated delinquency cases resulting in out-of-home placement increased by 11% between 1989 and 1993, rising from 115,600 to 128,700 (table 15). In accordance with a trend seen in recent years, increases in out-of-home placements were greatest for adjudicated person offense cases. Placements in person offense cases increased by 37% between 1989 and 1993. Property offense cases in which youth were adjudicated delinquent and placed outside the home increased by 5%, while the number of out-of-home placements increased by 15% in public order offense cases. Placements declined by 15% in cases involving drug law violations.

In 1993, 45% of all adjudicated cases that resulted in out-of-home placement involved property offenses, 23% involved person offenses, 24% involved public order offenses, and 7% involved drug law violations (table 16). Between 1989 and 1993, the offense profile of the juveniles involved in out-of-home placement cases changed slightly. The proportion of out-of-home placement cases that involved person offenses increased from 19% to 23%, while the proportion that involved drug offenses declined from 10% to 7%.

**Formal Probation.** Probation was the most restrictive disposition used in 254,800 adjudicated delinquency cases in 1993—56% of all such cases handled by juvenile courts (table 17). Juvenile courts ordered formal probation in 58% of adjudicated cases involving property offenses, 55% of those involving person offenses, 54% involving drug law violations, and 51% involving public order offenses.

Between 1989 and 1993, the likelihood of formal probation was relatively unchanged for adjudicated delinquency cases. The use of formal probation decreased from 56% to 55% for person offense cases, from 59% to 58% for property offense cases, and from 55% to 54% for drug law violation cases.

The number of adjudicated cases that resulted in the most restrictive disposition of formal probation increased by 17% between 1989 and 1993 (table 18). The number of person offense cases resulting in formal probation increased by 45%. Property offense cases resulting in probation increased by 8% between 1989 and 1993, while those involving public order offense cases increased by 30%.

**Table 16: Offense Profile of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Person	19%	23%
Property	48	45
Drugs	10	7
Public Order	24	24
Total	100%	100%
Cases Resulting in Out-of-Home Placement:	115,600	128,700

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

**Table 17: Percent of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Delinquency	57%	56%
Person	56	55
Property	59	58
Drugs	55	54
Public Order	51	51

**Table 15: Percent Change in Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1989	1993	
Delinquency	115,600	128,700	11%
Person	21,900	30,000	37
Property	55,000	57,900	5
Drugs	11,300	9,600	-15
Public Order	27,300	31,300	15

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

**Table 18: Percent Change in Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1989	1993	
Delinquency	216,900	254,800	17%
Person	37,200	53,900	45
Property	126,300	136,600	8
Drugs	17,600	17,500	0
Public Order	35,900	46,800	30

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

**Table 19: Offense Profile of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Person	17%	21%
Property	58	54
Drugs	8	7
Public Order	17	18
Total	100%	100%
Cases Resulting in Formal Probation:	216,900	254,800

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

**Table 20: Percent of Delinquency Cases Involving Youth 15 or Younger by Offense, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Delinquency	60%	61%
Person	62	64
Property	63	64
Drugs	41	42
Public Order	52	54

**Table 21: Offense Profile of Delinquency Cases by Age at Referral, 1993**

Offense	Age 15 or Younger	Age 16 or Older
Person	22%	20%
Property	57	50
Drugs	4	9
Public Order	16	21
Total	100%	100%

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

More than half (54%) of the delinquency cases that resulted in formal probation in 1993 involved property offenses, 21% involved person offenses, 18% involved public order offenses, and 7% involved drug law violations (table 19). The offense characteristics of cases resulting in formal probation changed slightly between 1989 and 1993, with an increase in the proportion of cases involving person offenses (from 17% to 21%) and a decline in the proportion of cases involving property offenses (from 58% to 54%).

**AGE AT REFERRAL**

In 1993, 61% of juvenile delinquency cases involved youth who were age 15 or younger at the time of referral compared with 60% in 1989 (table 20). In 1993, juveniles age 15 or younger were responsible for 64% of person offense cases, 64% of property offense cases, 42% of drug law violation cases, and 54% of public order offense cases.

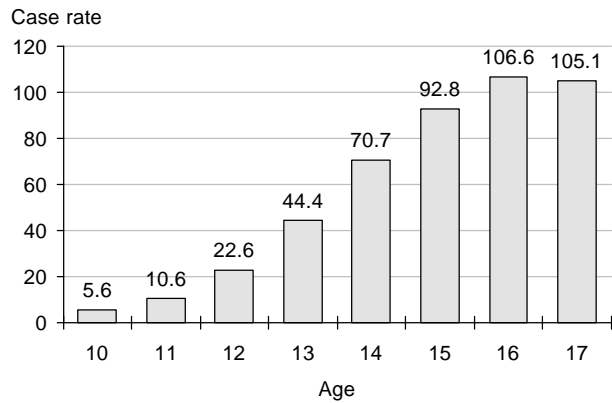
Compared with the delinquency caseload involving older juveniles, the caseload of youth age 15 or younger had larger proportions of person and property offense cases and a smaller proportion of drug and public order offense cases (table 21). Person offense cases accounted for 22% of the cases involving youth age 15 or younger compared with 20% of cases involving youth age 16 or older. On the other hand, drug law violations made up 4% of the cases of younger juveniles but 9% of cases involving youth age 16 or older.

The rate of delinquency cases was associated with the age of juveniles. For example, the Nation's juvenile courts disposed 22.6 delinquency cases involving 12-year-olds for every 1,000 12-year-olds at risk of referral in 1993 (figure 3). Among 16-year-olds, however, there were 106.6 cases disposed for every 1,000 youth at risk. The case rate for 16-year-olds was 51% greater than the rate for 14-year-olds, while the rate for 14-year-olds was more than 3 times the rate for 12-year-olds.

Between 1989 and 1993, delinquency case rates increased by 10% or more for every age group between 12 and 17 (table 22). Within individual offense categories, variations occurred in the pattern of age-specific case rates. Case rates increased continuously with age for drug law violations and public order offenses, while person and property offense case rates peaked with the 16-year-old age group and then declined slightly (figure 4).

Drug law violation case rates showed the sharpest increase after age 14. For example, the case rate for drug offenses for 17-year-old juveniles (10.9 per 1,000) was 260% greater than the corresponding case rate for 14-year-olds (3.0 per 1,000). For person offenses, the 17-year-old case rate was

**Figure 3: Delinquency Case Rates by Age at Referral, 1993**



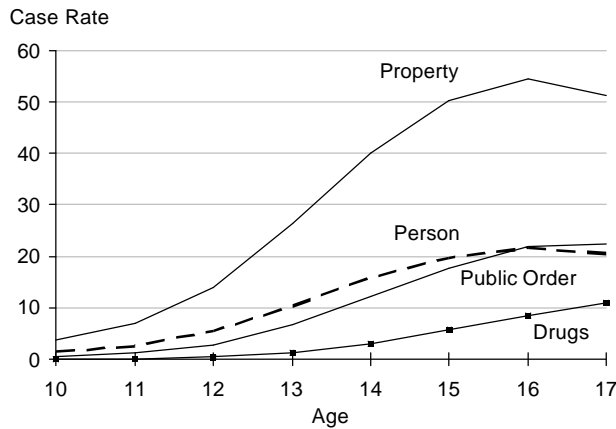
Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

30% greater than the 14-year-old case rate. For property offense cases, the difference was 29%, while for public order offenses the case rate for 17-year-olds was nearly double that for 14-year-olds (83%).

**Detention**

Youth under the age of 16 accounted for 58% of the cases that involved detention in 1993, while those under the age of 14 accounted for 16% (table 23). The age profile of delinquency cases that involved detention changed only slightly between 1989 and 1993. The proportion of detention cases that involved youth under the age of 16 rose from 56% in 1989 to 58% in 1993.

**Figure 4: Delinquency Case Rates by Age at Referral and Offense, 1993**



Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

Data Table

Age	Person	Property	Drugs	Public Order
10	1.4	3.8	0.0	0.5
11	2.6	6.9	0.1	1.1
12	5.5	14.0	0.4	2.8
13	10.3	26.3	1.2	6.6
14	15.8	39.6	3.0	12.3
15	19.7	49.7	5.7	17.7
16	21.6	54.6	8.4	22.0
17	20.5	51.2	10.9	22.5

**Table 22: Percent Change in Delinquency Case Rates by Age at Referral, 1989–1993**

Age at Referral	Cases Rate		Percent Change
	1989	1993	
10	6.3	5.6	-10%
11	10.8	10.6	-1
12	20.5	22.6	10
13	38.6	44.4	15
14	58.6	70.7	21
15	77.5	92.8	20
16	88.8	106.6	20
17	88.9	105.1	18

Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

Note: Percent change calculations are based on unrounded numbers.

**Table 23: Age Profile of Detained Delinquency Cases, 1989 and 1993**

Age at Referral	1989	1993
10 or Younger	1%	1%
11 Years	1	1
12 Years	4	4
13 Years	9	10
14 Years	17	17
15 Years	24	24
16 Years	26	25
17 or Older	18	17
Total	100%	100%

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

**Table 24: Percent of Delinquency Cases Detained by Age at Referral, 1993**

Offense	Age at Referral							
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Delinquency	6%	10%	14%	18%	21%	23%	23%	22%
Person	7	10	16	20	23	26	28	27
Property	5	9	11	15	18	18	19	18
Drugs	*	*	18	26	32	34	32	28
Public Order	11	15	22	25	26	27	26	22

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

**Table 25: Percent of Delinquency Cases Petitioned by Age at Referral, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
15 or Younger	48%	50%
Person	53	54
Property	45	47
Drugs	62	61
Public Order	50	53
16 or Older	54%	58%
Person	59	62
Property	53	55
Drugs	61	62
Public Order	50	57

**Table 26: Percent of Petitioned Delinquency Cases Transferred to Criminal Court by Age at Referral, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
15 or Younger	0.3%	0.3%
Person	0.5	0.6
Property	0.2	0.2
Drugs	0.5	0.5
Public Order	0.1	0.2
16 or Older	2.8%	3.1%
Person	4.2	6.0
Property	2.6	2.5
Drugs	4.5	3.4
Public Order	1.0	1.2

Detention was used more frequently for older juveniles in 1993. Detention was used in 14% of delinquency cases involving 12-year-olds, 21% of cases involving 14-year-olds, and 23% of those involving 16-year-olds (table 24). In general, the likelihood of detention increased for each successive age group through age 15. Across all offense categories, detention was less likely for cases involving 17-year-olds than for cases involving 16-year-olds.

### Intake Decision

Delinquency cases involving juveniles age 16 and older were more likely to be handled formally than cases involving younger youth (figure 5). Overall, 50% of delinquency cases involving youth age 15 and younger were processed with the filing of a petition compared with 58% of cases involving older youth. The likelihood of formal handling increased slightly between 1989 and 1993 for both younger and older youth in nearly all offense categories (table 25).

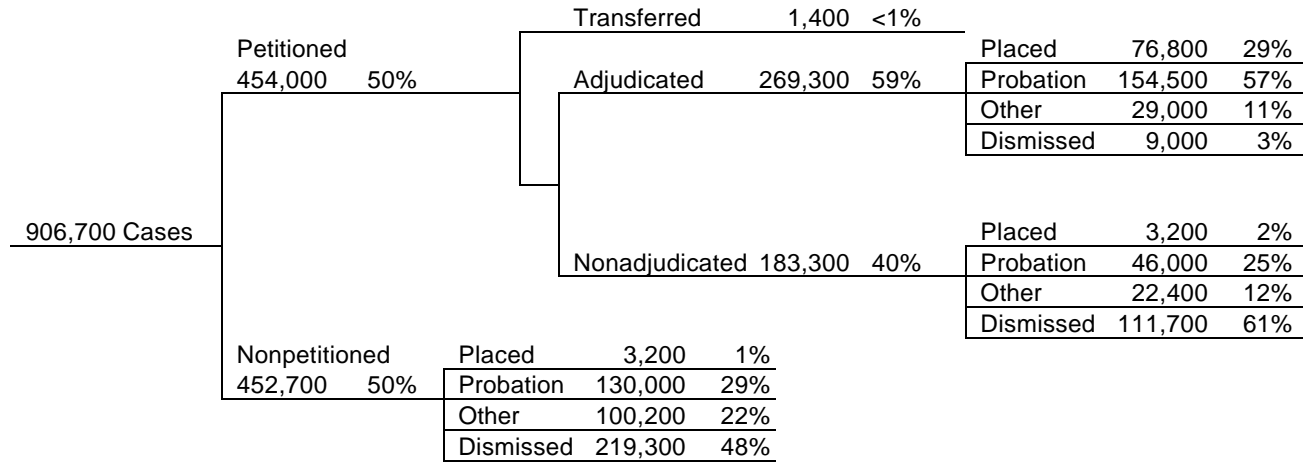
### Judicial Decision and Disposition

The probability of transfer to criminal court was substantially greater for cases involving older juveniles. In 1993, 3.1% of all formally processed delinquency cases involving juveniles age 16 or older were transferred to criminal court compared with 0.3% of cases involving younger juveniles (table 26). The probability of transfer increased slightly between 1989 and 1993 for older juveniles. Most of the increase was due to the more frequent use of transfer for cases involving older juveniles charged with person offenses, which rose from 4.2% in 1989 to 6% in 1993.

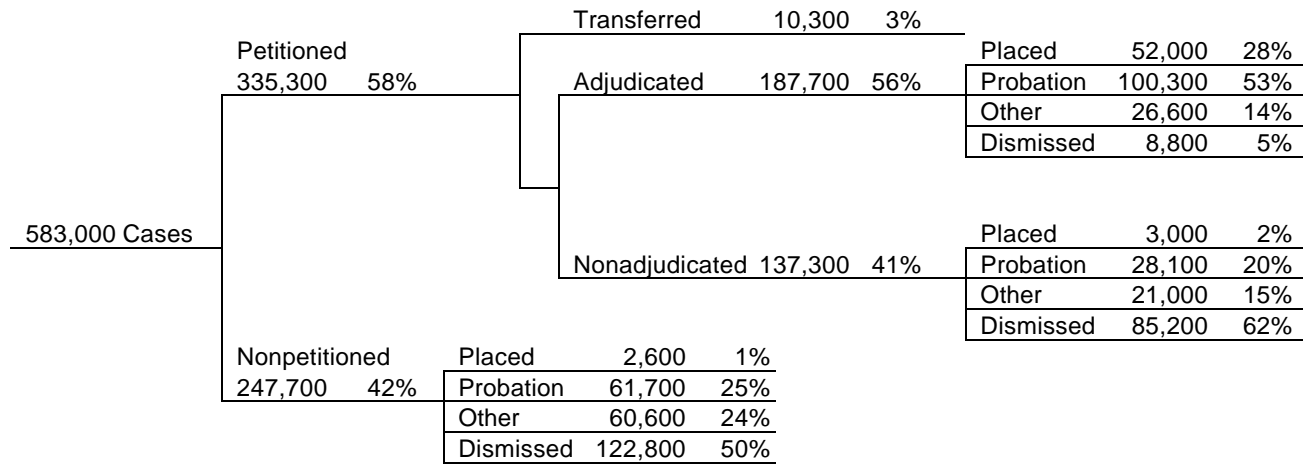
Once petitioned, juveniles age 15 and younger were slightly more likely to be adjudicated than were older youth (59% versus 56% in 1993). This trend was true across all four offense categories (table 27) partly because cases involving older juveniles are more commonly transferred to criminal court. If transfers and adjudications are considered together, the experiences of older and younger juveniles were more comparable. In 1993, 59% of the petitioned cases of older youth resulted in *either* an adjudication or transfer compared with 60% of youth under age 16.

**Figure 5: Juvenile Court Processing of Delinquency Cases by Age at Referral, 1993**

**Age 15 or Younger**



**Age 16 or Older**



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



**Table 27: Percent of Petitioned Delinquency Cases Adjudicated by Age at Referral, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
15 or Younger	64%	59%
Person	58	55
Property	64	60
Drugs	69	62
Public Order	67	64
16 or Older	62%	56%
Person	56	51
Property	63	56
Drugs	65	58
Public Order	62	59

The percentage of petitioned delinquency cases resulting in adjudication declined between 1989 and 1993 for both younger and older juveniles, falling from 64% to 59% among younger youth and from 62% to 56% among older youth. The likelihood of adjudication was at least slightly lower for both age groups within all offense categories.

The proportion of adjudicated cases placed outside the home was just under 30% for both age groups (table 28). Compared with 1989, the use of placement for adjudicated delinquency cases was down in 1993 among all offense categories. The largest decreases in the proportion of cases resulting in placement were for drug cases and public order offense cases. For drug cases, the likelihood of placement declined from 38% to 33% among younger youth and from 34% to 27% among older youth.

**Table 28: Percent of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement by Age at Referral, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
15 or Younger	31%	29%
Person	33	30
Property	26	25
Drugs	38	33
Public Order	41	35
16 or Older	29%	28%
Person	33	31
Property	25	24
Drugs	34	27
Public Order	36	33

Once adjudicated, the likelihood that a juvenile court would place a delinquent youth on formal probation was slightly greater for younger youth. In 1993, 57% of adjudicated cases involving younger youth resulted in probation compared with 53% of cases involving older youth (table 29). Only minor changes in the use of probation occurred between 1989 and 1993.

## SEX

Males were involved in 80% of the delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts in 1993 (table 30). Male juveniles were responsible for 78% of person offense cases, 80% of property offense cases, 88% of drug law violation cases, and 80% of public order offense cases. The offense characteristics of the male and female juvenile court caseloads were similar, although cases involving female juveniles were slightly less likely to involve drug law violations (4% compared with 7%) and more likely to involve person offenses (24% versus 21%) (table 31).

**Table 29: Percent of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation by Age at Referral, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
15 or Younger	58%	57%
Person	58	57
Property	60	59
Drugs	55	55
Public Order	51	53
16 or Older	55%	53%
Person	54	52
Property	57	56
Drugs	55	53
Public Order	50	49

Between 1989 and 1993, the volume of delinquency cases involving males increased by 21%, while the number of

**Table 30: Percent of Delinquency Cases Involving Males by Offense, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Delinquency	81%	80%
Person	80	78
Property	82	80
Drugs	86	88
Public Order	79	80

**Table 31: Offense Profile of Delinquency Cases by Sex, 1993**

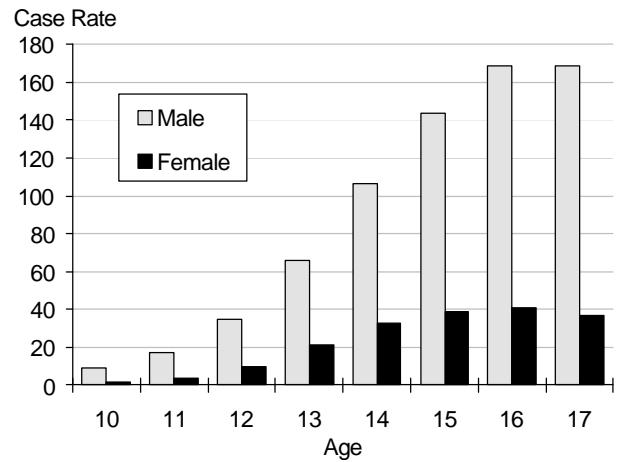
Offense	Male	Female
Person	21%	24%
Property	54	54
Drugs	7	4
Public Order	18	18
Total	100%	100%

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

cases involving females increased by 31% (table 32). Both males and females showed considerable growth in the number of person offense cases (49% and 68%, respectively) and property offense cases (12% and 25%, respectively). The number of cases involving drug offenses increased by 16% for males and only 1% for females between 1989 and 1993.

In 1993, the delinquency case rate for males was nearly 4 times greater than the rate for females—85.2 compared with 22.4 cases per 1,000 youth at risk. Between 1989 and 1993, the relative change in delinquency case rates was greater for females than males. For example, the per capita rate of person offense cases involving females increased by 56% compared with a 38% increase in the rate for males. The rate of property offense cases increased by 16% for females while growing by 5% for males. On the other hand, drug offense cases fell by 6% among females while increasing by 8% among males.

**Figure 6: Delinquency Case Rates by Sex and Age at Referral, 1993**



Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

Data Table

Age	Male	Female
10	9.4	1.7
11	17.2	3.8
12	34.7	10.0
13	66.3	21.5
14	106.9	32.7
15	143.8	39.2
16	168.8	40.7
17	169.1	36.8

**Table 32: Percent Change in Delinquency Cases and Case Rates by Sex, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases			Case Rates		
	1989	1993	Pct. Change	1989	1993	Pct. Change
<b>Male</b>	984,200	1,192,300	21%	75.7	85.2	13%
Person	167,200	248,300	49	12.9	17.8	38
Property	576,200	647,900	12	44.3	46.3	5
Drugs	67,100	78,100	16	5.2	5.6	8
Public Order	173,800	217,900	25	13.4	15.6	17
<b>Female</b>	227,600	297,400	31%	18.4	22.4	21%
Person	41,900	70,400	68	3.4	5.3	56
Property	128,900	161,000	25	10.4	12.1	16
Drugs	10,900	11,000	1	0.9	0.8	-6
Public Order	46,000	54,900	19	3.7	4.1	11

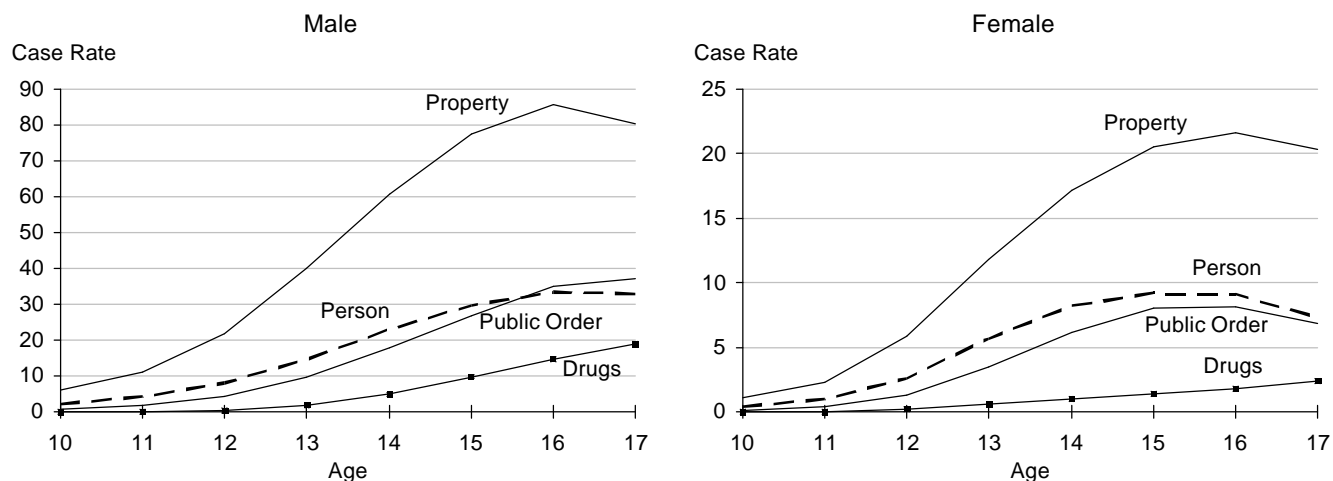
Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Percent change calculations are based on unrounded numbers.

The total male delinquency case rate increased continuously through age 17, while the total female case rate increased through age 16, before declining among 17-year-olds (figure 6). Male case rates increased continuously with age in two of the four delinquency offense categories—drug law violations and public order offense cases (figure 7). The drug offense case rate for females also increased continuously through age 17. The drug case rate for 17-year-old females was 33% higher than the rate for 16-year-olds (2.4 cases per 1,000 compared with 1.8 cases per 1,000). The drug offense case rate for 17-year-old males was 28% greater than the rate for 16-year-olds (18.8 cases per 1,000 versus 14.7 cases per 1,000).

### Detention

Male juveniles charged with delinquency offenses were more likely than females to be held in secure facilities while awaiting court disposition. Overall, 22% of male delinquency cases involved detention in 1993 compared with 16% of cases involving females (table 33). Detention was used more often for cases involving male juveniles, regardless of the major offense category that was the most serious charge in the case. Males and females were least likely to be detained in cases involving property offenses (18% and 12%, respectively). Males were most likely to be detained in drug offense cases (32%), while the highest use of detention in cases involving females occurred in drug offense and public order offense cases (23% each).

**Figure 7: Delinquency Case Rates by Sex, Age at Referral, and Offense, 1993**



Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

Data Table

Age	Male				Female			
	Person	Property	Drugs	Public Order	Person	Property	Drugs	Public Order
10	2.2	6.3	0.0	0.8	0.4	1.1	*	0.1
11	4.2	11.2	0.1	1.7	1.0	2.3	0.0	0.4
12	8.1	21.8	0.5	4.2	2.6	5.9	0.2	1.3
13	14.7	40.1	1.9	9.6	5.7	11.8	0.6	3.5
14	23.0	60.9	4.9	18.0	8.2	17.2	1.0	6.2
15	29.7	77.4	9.8	27.0	9.2	20.5	1.4	8.0
16	33.4	85.7	14.7	35.0	9.1	21.6	1.8	8.1
17	33.0	80.2	18.8	37.2	7.3	20.3	2.4	6.9

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable rate.

Between 1989 and 1993, the likelihood of detention remained relatively constant across all offense categories for both males and females. A possible exception was the declining use of detention for drug offense cases. The likelihood of detention for drug cases involving males decreased from 38% in 1989 to 32% in 1993. In drug cases involving females, detention fell from 27% to 23%.

**Intake Decision**

Cases involving females were less likely than those involving males to be formally processed with the filing of a delinquency petition (figure 8). Between 1989 and 1993, the likelihood of formal handling increased slightly for both males and females in nearly all offense categories (table 34). Females were most likely to be petitioned for cases involving public order offenses in 1993, while cases involving males were petitioned most often for drug law violations. When informally handled (without a petition), the disposition of female delinquency cases was virtually identical to the disposition of cases involving males (i.e., 27% placed on probation and 49% dismissed).

**Judicial Decision and Disposition**

Delinquency cases involving males were more likely to be transferred to criminal court than were cases involving females. In 1993, 1.7% of formally processed cases involving males were transferred to criminal court compared with 0.3% of cases involving females. Both male and female cases were slightly more likely to be transferred to criminal court in 1993 than in 1989. For males, cases involving person offenses were substantially more likely to be transferred in 1993 than in 1989 (3.2% compared with 2.3%). The likelihood of transfer for male drug law violation cases declined during the same period (table 35).

Cases involving male juveniles were more likely than cases involving females to be adjudicated once petitioned (59% compared with 53%). This trend was true regardless of the major offense involved in the case (table 36). For both males and females, the probability of adjudication was greatest in cases involving public order offenses (62% and 60%, respectively). The probability of adjudication decreased between 1989 and 1993 for formally handled cases involving males (from 64% to 59%) as well as females (from 58% to 53%). The use of adjudication decreased among all offense categories for both sexes.

**Table 33: Percent of Delinquency Cases Detained by Sex, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Male	22%	22%
Person	27	25
Property	18	18
Drugs	38	32
Public Order	26	25
Female	17%	16%
Person	19	17
Property	12	12
Drugs	27	23
Public Order	25	23

**Table 34: Percent of Delinquency Cases Petitioned by Sex, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Male	53%	56%
Person	58	60
Property	51	53
Drugs	64	63
Public Order	51	56
Female	41%	43%
Person	45	47
Property	36	38
Drugs	48	49
Public Order	47	51

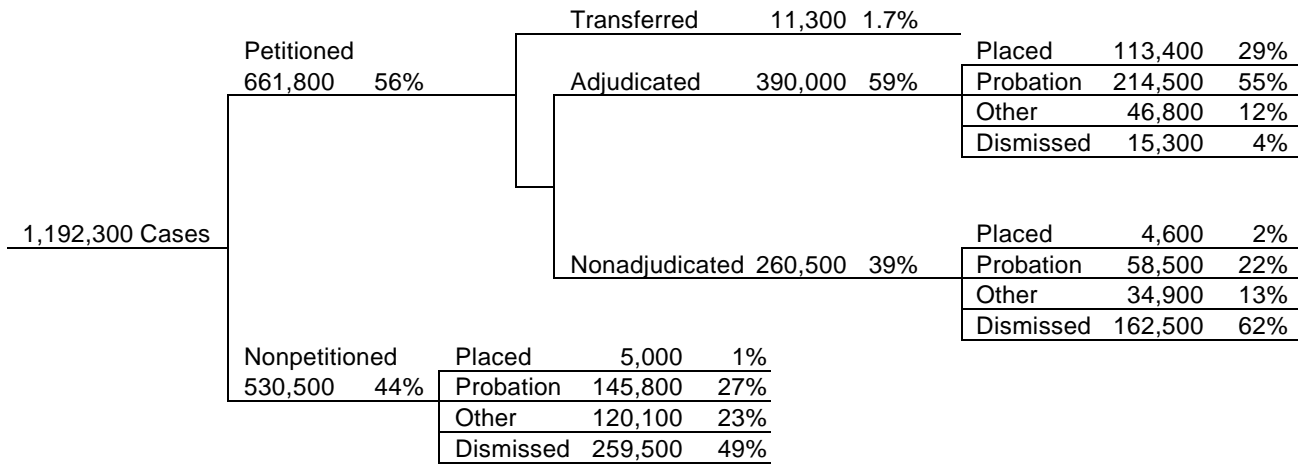
**Table 35: Percent of Petitioned Delinquency Cases Transferred to Criminal Court by Sex, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Male	1.5%	1.7%
Person	2.3	3.2
Property	1.3	1.3
Drugs	3.1	2.4
Public Order	0.6	0.8
Female	0.4%	0.3%
Person	0.4	0.5
Property	0.4	0.4
Drugs	1.1	*
Public Order	*	*

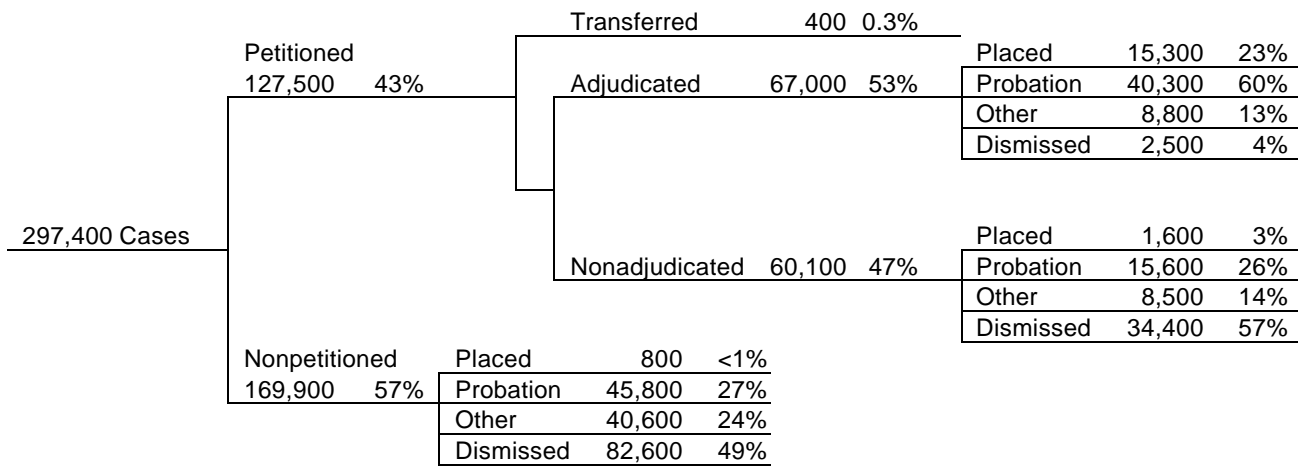
\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

**Figure 8: Juvenile Court Processing of Delinquency Cases by Sex, 1993**

**Male**



**Female**



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

**Table 36: Percent of Petitioned Delinquency Cases Adjudicated by Sex, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Male	64%	59%
Person	59	55
Property	64	60
Drugs	67	60
Public Order	65	62
Female	58%	53%
Person	52	49
Property	58	51
Drugs	61	53
Public Order	63	60

Once adjudicated, cases involving male delinquents were more likely than those involving females to result in out-of-home placement in 1993. Placement was the most restrictive disposition in 29% of adjudicated cases involving males and 23% of those involving females (table 37). The use of placement declined slightly between 1989 and 1993 for both males and females. The largest relative decreases occurred in cases involving drug law violations and public order offenses.

The use of formal probation for adjudicated males and females did not change substantially between 1989 and 1993 (table 38). The likelihood of probation decreased slightly for cases involving males (from 56% to 55%) and remained unchanged for females (60% in both years). Among cases involving females, the use of probation dropped slightly for person offense cases and increased slightly for public order offense cases.

**Table 37: Percent of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement by Sex, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Male	31%	29%
Person	35	32
Property	26	26
Drugs	36	30
Public Order	39	35
Female	26%	23%
Person	25	24
Property	20	18
Drugs	30	23
Public Order	37	31

## RACE

White youth accounted for 65% of the delinquency cases disposed by juvenile courts in 1993 (table 39).<sup>5</sup> White youth were responsible for 57% of person offense cases, 69% of property offense cases, 57% of drug law violation cases, and 64% of public order cases. Black youth were responsible for 32% of all delinquency cases, 40% of person offense cases, 27% of property cases, 41% of drug cases, and 33% of public order cases. Juveniles of other races accounted for 4% of all delinquency cases in 1993 and comparable proportions of each of the four major offense categories.

For all racial groups, a property offense was the most common charge involved in delinquency cases disposed in 1993 (table 40). Property offenses accounted for 58% of all cases involving white youth, 46% of those involving black youth, and 63% of cases involving youth of other races. In more than one-quarter (27%) of cases involving blacks, the youth was charged with a person offense compared with 19% of cases involving white youth and 18% of cases involving youth of other races. Cases involving black youth contained a larger proportion of drug law violations (8%) than cases involving either white youth (5%) or those of other races (4%).

**Table 38: Percent of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation by Sex, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Male	56%	55%
Person	55	54
Property	58	58
Drugs	55	53
Public Order	50	50
Female	60%	60%
Person	63	61
Property	62	62
Drugs	61	60
Public Order	53	55

<sup>5</sup> In 1993, whites made up 80% of the national population of youth at risk of referral to a juvenile court. Nearly all youth of Hispanic ethnicity are included in the white racial category.

**Table 39: Race Profile of Delinquency Cases by Offense, 1993**

Offense	White	Black	Other Races	Total
Delinquency	65%	32%	4%	100%
Person	57	40	3	100
Property	69	27	4	100
Drugs	57	41	2	100
Public Order	64	33	3	100

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

The number of cases involving white youth increased by 18% between 1989 and 1993, while cases involving black youth increased by 34%, and the number of cases involving youth of other races increased by 32% (table 41). Trends differed within the four offense categories. The number of person offense cases increased markedly for all racial groups between 1989 and 1993. The number of property offense cases also rose between 1989 and 1993, although less among white youth than among black youth and youth of other races. The number of public order offense cases increased most among black youth, while the largest relative increase in drug law violations was seen in cases involving youth of other races.

**Table 40: Offense Profile of Delinquency Cases by Race, 1993**

Offense	White	Black	Other Races
Person	19%	27%	18%
Property	58	46	63
Drugs	5	8	4
Public Order	18	19	16
Total	100%	100%	100%

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

Delinquency case rates differed substantially by race. The total case rate for black juveniles in 1993 (115.4 cases disposed for every 1,000 youth at risk) was more than twice the rate for white juveniles (44.1) or youth of other races (39.9). The person offense and drug law violation case rates among black youth were at least three times greater than the corresponding rates for white youth and youth of other races. In all offense categories, the case rate for juveniles of other races was lower than the equivalent rate for either black or white juveniles.

**Table 41: Percent Change in Delinquency Cases and Case Rates by Race, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases			Case Rates		
	1989	1993	Pct. Change	1989	1993	Pct. Change
White	816,300	962,100	18%	40.0	44.1	10%
Person	116,400	181,400	56	5.7	8.3	46
Property	501,600	555,900	11	24.6	25.5	4
Drugs	44,900	50,400	12	2.2	2.3	5
Public Order	153,400	174,400	14	7.5	8.0	6
Black	354,000	472,700	34%	92.8	115.4	24%
Person	86,100	127,700	48	22.6	31.2	38
Property	177,300	218,700	23	46.5	53.4	15
Drugs	31,500	36,600	16	8.3	8.9	8
Public Order	57,000	89,700	52	15.5	21.9	42
Other Races	41,600	54,800	32%	36.8	39.9	8%
Person	6,500	9,600	48	5.7	7.0	22
Property	26,200	34,300	31	23.1	25.0	8
Drugs	1,500	2,100	36	1.4	1.5	12
Public Order	7,400	8,800	18	6.6	6.4	-3

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

The delinquency case rates for all racial groups increased continuously with age from ages 10 to 17 (figure 9). In contrast to the relatively large increases among individual ages through age 16, the differences between the case rates of 16- and 17-year-olds in each racial group were relatively small.

Age-related increases in delinquency case rates occurred within each of the four offense categories (figure 10). For example, the person offense case rate for white juveniles increased from 7.1 cases per 1,000 13-year-olds at risk to 15.6 cases per 1,000 17-year-olds. For black juveniles, the person offense case rate grew from 28.4 at age 13 to 58.5 at age 16, before dropping slightly to 57.2 cases per 1,000 at age 17.

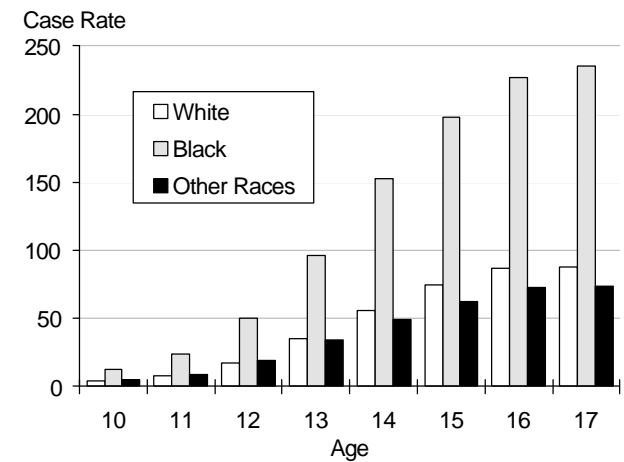
The drug offense case rate increased continuously with age among all racial groups. Among white youth, the rate of drug offense cases climbed from 0.9 cases per 1,000 at age 13 to 7.9 cases per 1,000 at age 17. Among black youth, the drug case rate grew from 3.0 to 34.0 between the ages of 13 and 17. Beyond the age of 12, the rate at which drug cases were processed by juvenile courts was strikingly higher for black youth than for either white youth or youth of other races.

**Detention**

In 1993, 17% of delinquency cases involving white juveniles included detention at some point between referral and disposition. Among cases involving black juveniles and those of other races, the figures were 28% and 22%, respectively (table 42). The largest difference in detention use was found among cases involving drug law violations. Detention was used in 20% of drug cases involving white juveniles, 46% of cases involving blacks, and 20% of cases involving youth of other races.

The likelihood of detention generally remained constant between 1989 and 1993 for cases involving white and black youth but declined slightly for youth of other races. Substantial changes occurred in the use of detention for cases involving drug law violations. Between 1989 and 1993, the use of detention decreased for drug cases involving white juveniles (from 22% to 20%), black juveniles (from 56% to 46%), and youth of other races (from 30% to 20%).

**Figure 9: Delinquency Case Rates by Race and Age at Referral, 1993**



Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

Data Table

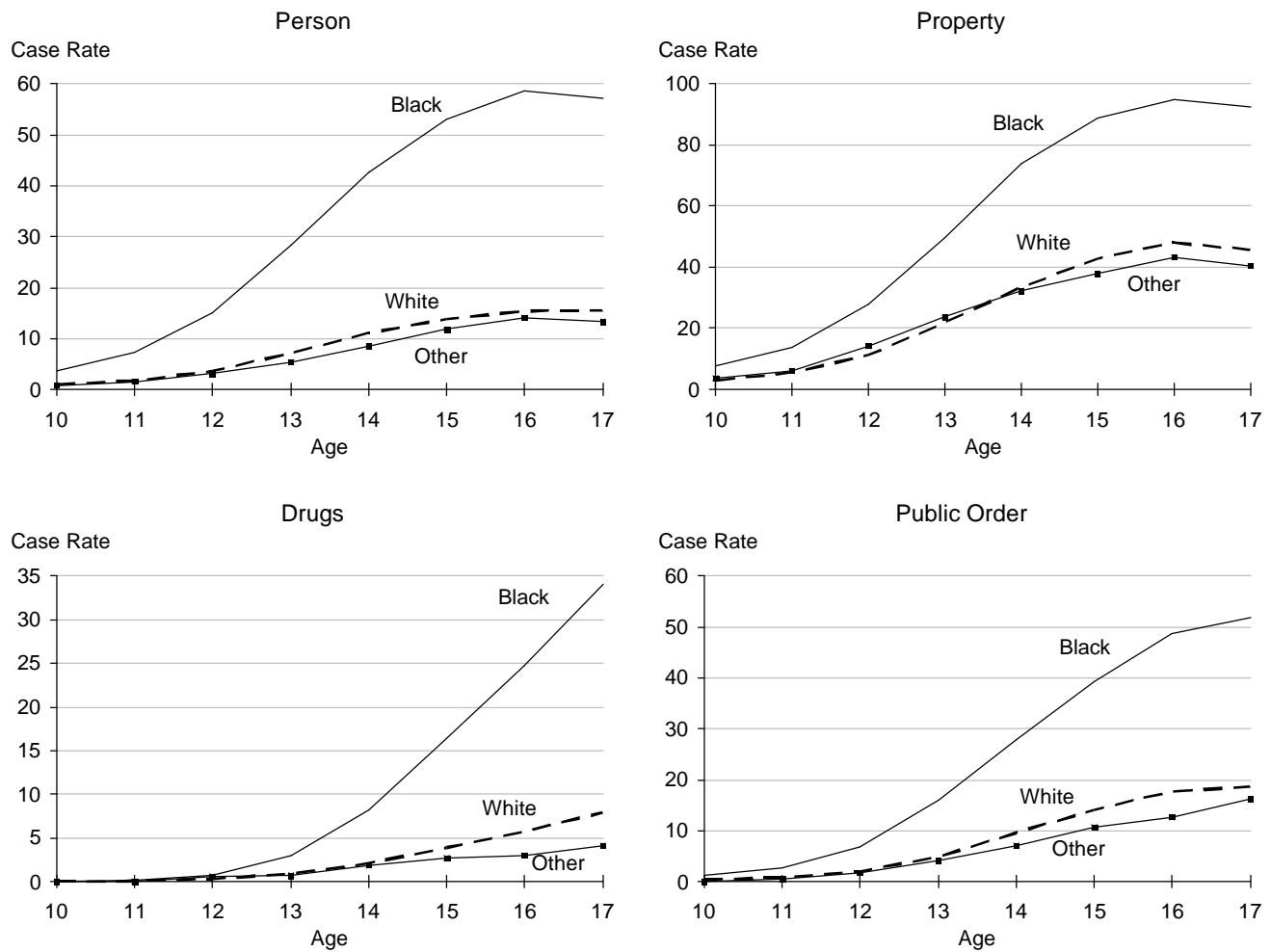
Age	White	Black	Other Races
10	4.4	12.6	4.8
11	8.2	23.9	8.7
12	17.3	50.6	19.7
13	34.8	96.8	34.0
14	56.2	152.4	49.6
15	74.6	197.5	62.9
16	87.0	226.7	73.1
17	88.0	235.5	74.1

**Table 42: Percent of Delinquency Cases Detained by Race, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
White	18%	17%
Person	22	20
Property	15	14
Drugs	22	20
Public Order	24	21
Black	28%	28%
Person	30	28
Property	22	23
Drugs	56	46
Public Order	30	31
Other Races	26%	22%
Person	31	29
Property	24	19
Drugs	30	20
Public Order	30	24



**Figure 10: Delinquency Case Rates by Race, Age at Referral, and Offense, 1993**



Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group

Data Table

Age	Person			Property			Drugs			Public Order		
	White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other
10	1.0	3.7	0.8	3.0	7.7	3.8	0.0	*	*	0.4	1.2	*
11	1.8	7.2	1.6	5.6	13.9	6.3	0.1	0.2	*	0.8	2.6	0.5
12	3.7	15.1	3.1	11.3	28.0	14.2	0.3	0.7	0.6	2.0	6.8	1.8
13	7.1	28.4	5.4	21.9	49.5	23.7	0.9	3.0	0.7	4.9	15.9	4.1
14	11.1	42.5	8.4	33.4	73.9	32.2	2.1	8.2	1.9	9.6	27.8	7.1
15	13.8	53.1	11.8	42.9	88.7	37.8	3.9	16.4	2.7	14.1	39.2	10.7
16	15.4	58.5	14.1	48.0	94.9	43.3	5.8	24.7	3.0	17.7	48.6	12.7
17	15.6	57.2	13.3	45.8	92.6	40.6	7.9	34.0	4.1	18.6	51.8	16.2

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable rate.

## Intake Decision

Delinquency cases involving black juveniles were more likely to be handled formally in 1993 than were cases involving white youth or youth of other races. Formal handling was used in 61% of delinquency cases involving black juveniles, 49% of cases involving white juveniles, and 48% of cases involving juveniles of other races (figure 11). Racial differences in the likelihood of formal handling were greatest in drug law violation cases. In 1993, 50% of drug cases involving white juveniles and 47% of those involving juveniles of other races were handled by formal petition compared with 79% of drug cases involving black youth. Between 1989 and 1993, the likelihood of formal petitioning increased slightly for cases involving white youth, grew only slightly for cases involving black youth, and declined slightly for youth of other races (table 43).

## Judicial Decision and Disposition

Delinquency cases involving white juveniles and those of other races were less likely to be transferred to criminal court than were cases involving black youth. In 1993, 2.1% of formally processed cases involving black juveniles were transferred to criminal court compared with 1.1% of cases involving whites and 1.4% of those involving youth of other races (table 44).

Among both whites and blacks, the use of criminal court transfer for cases involving person offenses increased substantially between 1989 and 1993. Among person offense cases involving white youth, the proportion of delinquency cases transferred to criminal court rose from 1.6% in 1989 to 2.0% in 1993. Among person offense cases involving black youth, transfers increased from 2.6% to 3.5%. The likelihood of transfer for drug offense cases decreased for both white and black juveniles.

**Table 43: Percent of Delinquency Cases Petitioned by Race, 1989 and 1993**

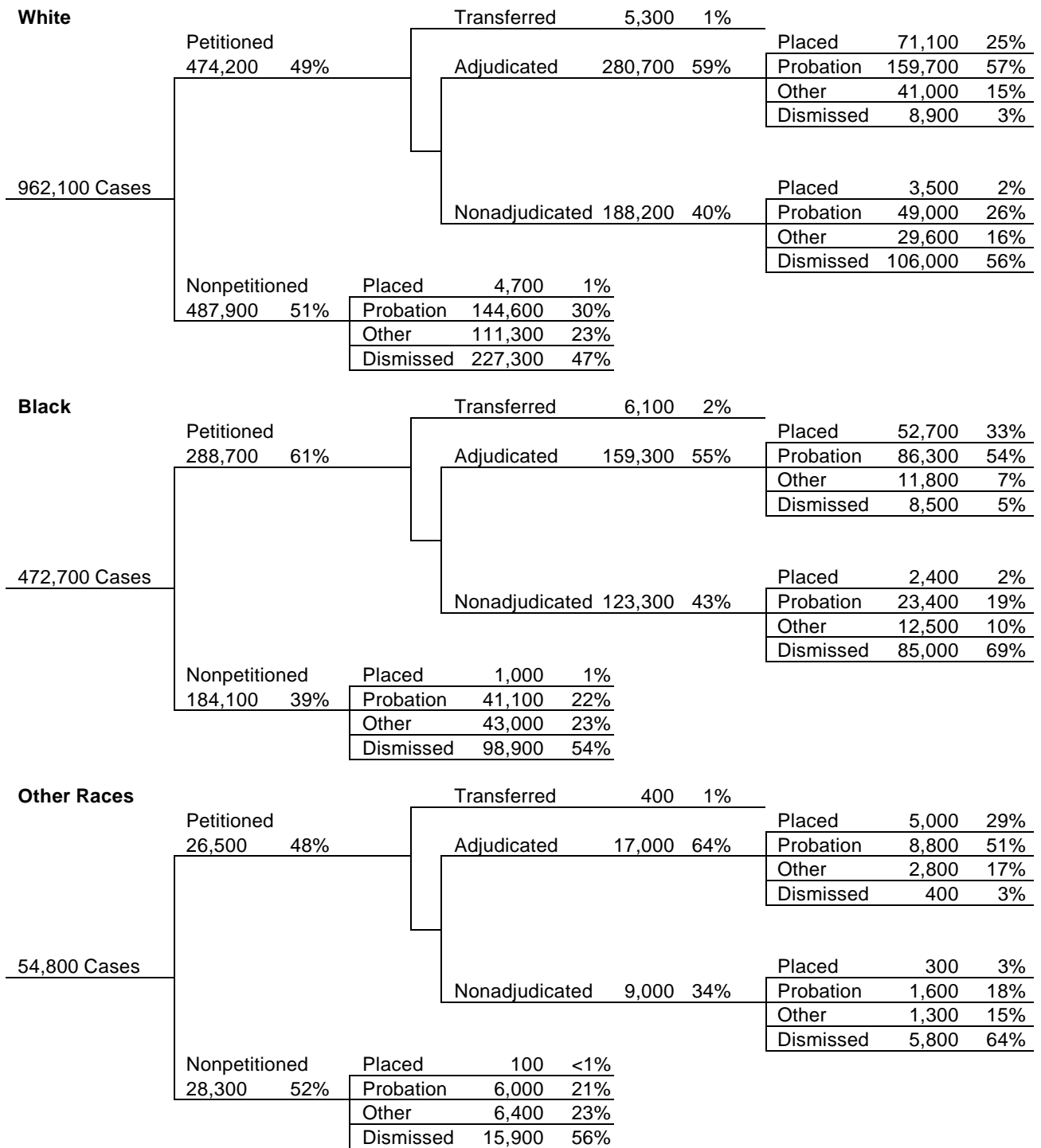
Offense	1989	1993
White	46%	49%
Person	51	52
Property	45	47
Drugs	49	50
Public Order	46	52
Black	60%	61%
Person	61	64
Property	56	56
Drugs	79	79
Public Order	60	61
Other Races	50%	48%
Person	60	58
Property	48	45
Drugs	42	47
Public Order	47	50

**Table 44: Percent of Petitioned Delinquency Cases Transferred to Criminal Court by Race, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
White	1.1%	1.1%
Person	1.6	2.0
Property	1.1	1.0
Drugs	1.3	1.0
Public Order	0.4	0.5
Black	1.9%	2.1%
Person	2.6	3.5
Property	1.4	1.4
Drugs	4.2	3.3
Public Order	0.9	1.0
Other Races	0.7%	1.4%
Person	*	3.5
Property	0.7	0.9
Drugs	*	*
Public Order	*	*

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

**Figure 11: Juvenile Court Processing of Delinquency Cases by Race, 1993**



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

**Table 45: Offense Profile of Delinquency Cases Transferred to Criminal Court by Race, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
White		
Person	23%	36%
Property	63	51
Drugs	7	5
Public Order	7	8
Black		
Person	33%	47%
Property	34	28
Drugs	26	16
Public Order	7	9
Other Races		
Person	*	*
Property	*	*
Drugs	*	*
Public Order	*	*

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

As would be expected, these changes in the use of criminal court transfer produced fluctuations in the offense characteristics of transferred cases. Compared with 1989, property offense cases and drug law violation cases made up a smaller proportion of all transferred cases involving either white or black juveniles in 1993 (table 45). On the other hand, person offense cases accounted for a larger proportion of transferred cases involving either white or black youth in 1993.

Once petitioned, cases involving white or black juveniles were slightly less likely to be adjudicated (59% and 55%, respectively) than were cases involving juveniles of other races (64%) in 1993 (table 46). Cases involving white or black juveniles were less likely than those involving youth of other races to be adjudicated in all four offense categories. The likelihood of adjudication for petitioned delinquency cases declined slightly between 1989 and 1993 for all racial groups. In drug cases, for example, the use of adjudication decreased for cases involving white youth (from 65% to 60%), black youth (from 68% to 58%), and youth of other races (from 70% to 64%).

The likelihood of out-of-home placement in 1993 was greater for adjudicated cases involving black youth (33%) than for cases involving white youth (25%) or youth of other races (29%) (table 47). However, the use of out-of-home placement decreased between 1989 and 1993 for adjudicated cases regardless of the race of the youth involved. Changes in the likelihood of out-of-home placement varied slightly across the four major offense categories. For example, the use of placement for cases involving black youth charged with property offenses increased from 29% in 1989 to 32% in 1993.

**Table 46: Percent of Petitioned Delinquency Cases Adjudicated by Race, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
White		
Person	59	55
Property	64	59
Drugs	65	60
Public Order	66	62
Black		
Person	55	51
Property	62	55
Drugs	68	58
Public Order	62	59
Other Races		
Person	66	64
Property	69	64
Drugs	70	64
Public Order	71	65

Adjudicated delinquency cases involving white juveniles were slightly more likely than those involving either black juveniles or youth of other races to result in a disposition of formal probation (table 48). In 1993, 57% of adjudicated cases involving white youth were placed on formal probation compared with 54% of those involving black youth and 51% of cases involving youth of other races. The use of formal probation did not change substantially between 1989 and 1993.

**Table 47: Percent of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement by Race, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
White	28%	25%
Person	31	28
Property	24	22
Drugs	30	25
Public Order	38	34
Black	34%	33%
Person	36	34
Property	29	32
Drugs	41	34
Public Order	39	34
Other Races	31%	29%
Person	34	34
Property	28	26
Drugs	*	14
Public Order	39	39

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

**Table 48: Percent of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation by Race, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
White	57%	57%
Person	57	57
Property	59	60
Drugs	59	56
Public Order	50	50
Black	56%	54%
Person	55	53
Property	59	56
Drugs	52	52
Public Order	52	53
Other Races	53%	51%
Person	54	49
Property	53	53
Drugs	*	71
Public Order	51	43

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

# NATIONAL ESTIMATES OF PETITIONED STATUS OFFENSE CASES

## COUNTS AND TRENDS

Status offenses are acts which are illegal only because the person committing them is a juvenile. In other words, an adult cannot be arrested for status offenses. The four major status offense categories used in this report are runaway, truancy, ungovernability (also known as incorrigibility), and underage liquor law violations (e.g., minor in possession of alcohol, underage drinking).<sup>1</sup>

In 1993, U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction petitioned and formally disposed an estimated 111,200 status offense cases (table 49).<sup>2</sup> This number was 37% more than the number of petitioned status offense cases handled in 1989. Petitioned runaway cases increased by 47% between 1989 and 1993. The number of truancy cases was 49% higher in 1993 than in 1989, ungovernable cases grew by 24%, and status liquor offenses climbed by 9%.

The Nation's juvenile courts processed 4.1 petitioned status offense cases for every 1,000 youth at risk of referral in 1993. The total case rate was 28% higher in 1993 than in 1989. The rate for runaway cases increased by 36%, truancy grew by 38%, and the rate of ungovernable cases increased by 16%. The status liquor case rate increased just 2% between 1989 and 1993.

The majority of formally handled status offense cases in 1993 involved either charges of truancy (30%) or status liquor law violations (24%) (table 50). Other cases involved runaway (18%), ungovernability (14%), or other miscellaneous status offenses (14%). Compared with 1989, the Nation's juvenile courts handled proportionately fewer ungovernability and liquor law violation cases in 1993 and slightly more runaway and truancy cases.

<sup>1</sup> A number of other behaviors may be considered status offenses (e.g., curfew violations). All such offenses are combined within a "miscellaneous" category in this report. Due to the heterogeneity of these offenses, these cases are not discussed independently. However, all totals include the "miscellaneous status offenses."

<sup>2</sup> This report presents analyses only of formally handled status offenses. See the *Introduction* to this report for further explanation.

**Table 49: Percent Change in Petitioned Status Offense Cases and Case Rates, 1989–1993**

Offense	1989	1993	Percent Change
<b>Number of Cases</b>			
Status Offense	81,000	111,200	37%
Runaway	13,700	20,100	47
Truancy	22,800	33,900	49
Ungovernable	12,600	15,700	24
Liquor	23,900	26,100	9
Miscellaneous	8,000	15,400	93
<b>Case Rates</b>			
Status Offense	3.2	4.1	28%
Runaway	0.5	0.7	36
Truancy	0.9	1.2	38
Ungovernable	0.5	0.6	16
Liquor	0.9	1.0	2
Miscellaneous	0.3	0.6	79

Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth at risk.

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

**Table 50: Offense Profile of Petitioned Status Offense Cases, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Runaway	17%	18%
Truancy	28	30
Ungovernable	16	14
Liquor	30	24
Miscellaneous	10	14
Total	100%	100%

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

**Table 51: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Referred by Law Enforcement, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
All Status	38%	40%
Runaway	33	40
Truancy	14	13
Ungovernable	9	10
Liquor	88	92
Miscellaneous	55	65

**Table 52: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Detained by Offense, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Status Offense	8%	8%
Runaway	19	16
Truancy	2	2
Ungovernable	10	7
Liquor	5	5
Miscellaneous	11	15

**Table 53: Offense Profile of Detained Petitioned Status Offense Cases, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Runaway	40%	37%
Truancy	8	7
Ungovernable	19	12
Liquor	18	16
Miscellaneous	14	27
Total	100%	100%
Total Cases Detained:	6,500	8,400

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

## SOURCE OF REFERRAL

Law enforcement agencies referred 40% of the petitioned status offense cases disposed by juvenile courts in 1993 (table 51). The source of referral varied substantially with the nature of the offense. Law enforcement agencies referred 92% of formally processed status liquor law violation cases to juvenile court but only 40% of runaway cases, 13% of truancy cases, and 10% of ungovernability cases.

## DETENTION

In 8% of the formally processed status offense cases disposed by juvenile courts in 1993, the juvenile was held in a detention facility at some point between referral to court and case disposition (table 52). Detention was used in 16% of runaway cases, 7% of ungovernability cases, 5% of status liquor law violations, and 2% of cases involving truancy charges. Of the estimated 8,400 petitioned status offense cases that involved detention in 1993, 37% were runaway cases, 16% were liquor law violation cases, and 12% were ungovernability cases (table 53).

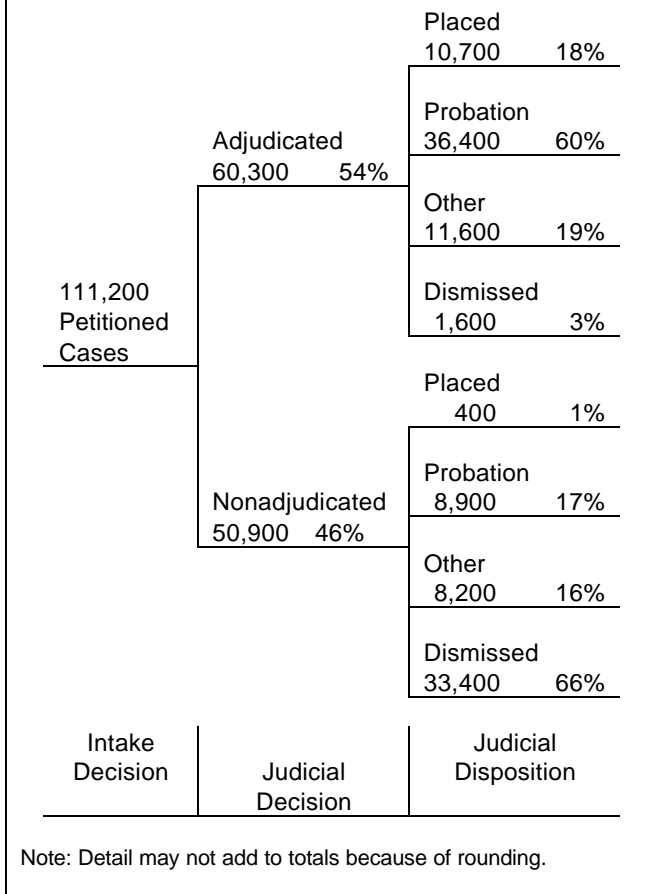
The number of formal status offense cases that involved detention in 1993 was 29% greater than the number in 1989 (table 54). A decline was seen in ungovernable cases involving detention, but the number of runaway, truancy, and liquor law violation cases that involved detention increased between 1989 and 1993.

**Table 54: Percent Change in Detained Petitioned Status Offense Cases, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1989	1993	
Status Offense	6,500	8,400	29%
Runaway	2,600	3,200	20
Truancy	500	600	13
Ungovernable	1,300	1,000	-18
Liquor	1,200	1,400	13
Miscellaneous	900	2,300	153

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

**Figure 12: Juvenile Court Processing of Petitioned Status Offense Cases, 1993**



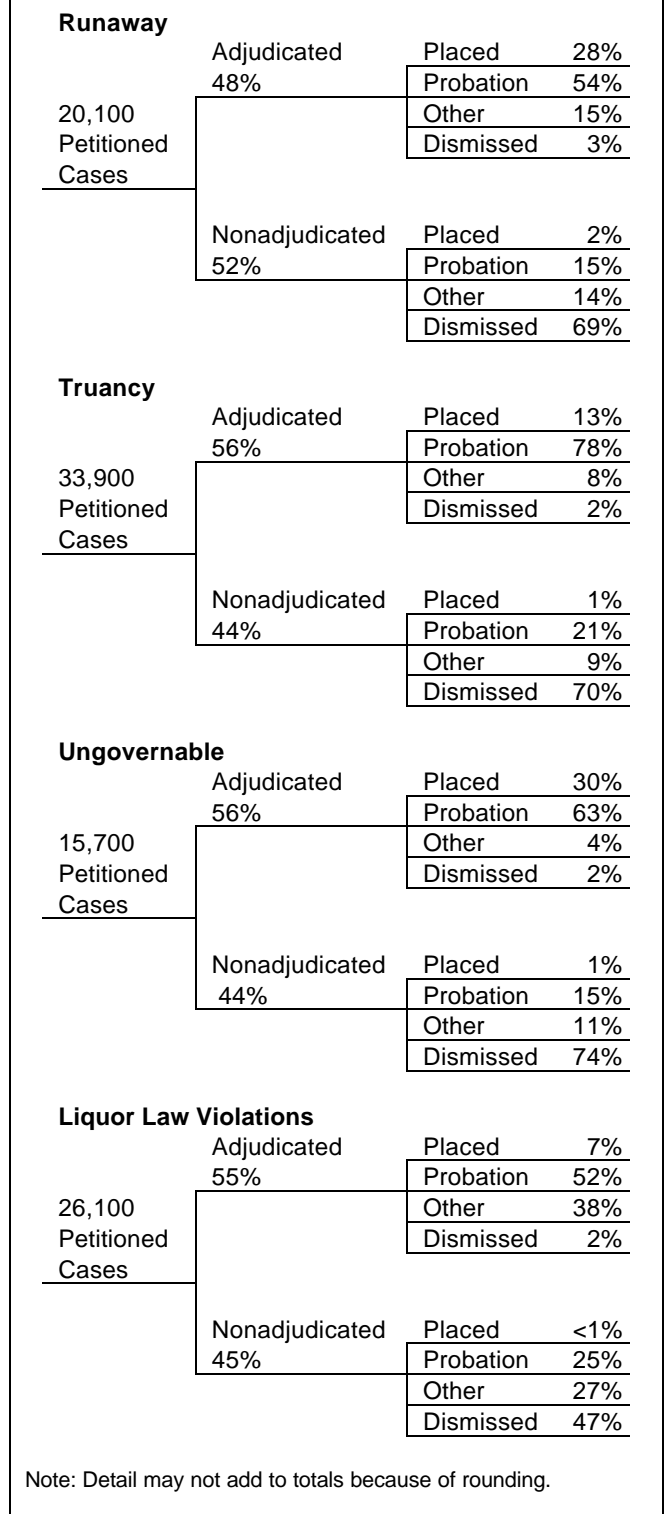
**JUDICIAL DECISION AND DISPOSITION**

**Adjudication**

In 1993, 54% of petitioned status offense cases handled by juvenile courts resulted in formal adjudication (figure 12).<sup>3</sup> Adjudication was most common in ungovernability and truancy cases (figure 13). Runaway cases were the least likely to be adjudicated. The proportion of petitioned status offense cases resulting in adjudication declined between 1989 and 1993 (table 55). The smallest relative decline in adjudication was found among status offense cases involving runaway youth; 48% of these cases were adjudicated in 1993 compared with 50% in 1989.

<sup>3</sup> The remaining flow diagrams in this chapter present only proportions and not estimates of case counts because of the relatively low volumes of cases in many of the branches.

**Figure 13: Juvenile Court Processing of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Within Offense Categories, 1993**





**Table 55: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Adjudicated, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Status Offense	62%	54%
Runaway	50	48
Truancy	64	56
Ungovernable	64	56
Liquor	64	55
Miscellaneous	70	56

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

### Disposition

The majority (60%) of adjudicated status offense cases in 1993 resulted in probation. Overall, 18% of adjudicated cases resulted in the youth being placed outside the home in a residential facility, and 19% resulted in other dispositions, including restitution or fines, participation in some form of community service, or enrollment in a treatment or counseling program. In a small number of adjudicated cases (3%), the case was dismissed, or the youth was otherwise released.

**Out-of-Home Placement.** The dispositions used in adjudicated status offense cases varied according to the most serious offense involved in the case. For example, adjudicated cases involving charges of ungovernability or runaway were the most likely to result in out-of-home placement in 1993 (table 56). Residential placement was far less common for adjudicated cases involving status liquor law violations. Although the likelihood of out-of-home placement was nearly the same in 1993 as in 1989 (18% versus 17%), the likelihood of placement for runaway and truancy cases increased between 1989 and 1993.

**Table 56: Percent of Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Status Offense	17%	18%
Runaway	25	28
Truancy	9	13
Ungovernable	30	30
Liquor	7	7
Miscellaneous	32	22

The number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in out-of-home placement grew by 28% between 1989 and 1993 (table 57). The number of runaway and truancy cases resulting in out-of-home placement increased substantially (60% and 79%, respectively), while the number of status liquor law violation cases ending in placement declined by 3%.

**Table 57: Percent Change in Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1989	1993	
Status Offense	8,300	10,700	28%
Runaway	1,700	2,700	60
Truancy	1,300	2,400	79
Ungovernable	2,500	2,700	8
Liquor	1,100	1,100	-3
Miscellaneous	1,800	1,900	8

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

**Table 58: Offense Profile of Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Runaway	20%	25%
Truancy	16	22
Ungovernable	29	25
Liquor	13	10
Miscellaneous	21	18
Total	100%	100%
Total Cases Placed Out of Home:	8,300	10,700

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

Of all formally handled status offense cases that involved out-of-home placement in 1993, 25% were referred to court for running away, 25% for ungovernability, 22% for truancy, and 10% for status liquor law violations (table 58).

**Formal Probation.** In 1993, an order of formal probation was most likely in adjudicated truancy cases (78%) and least likely (52%) in adjudicated liquor law violation cases (table 59). The proportion of cases that resulted in formal probation decreased in nearly all offense categories between 1989 and 1993.

The total number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in formal probation increased by 13% between 1989 and 1993 (table 60). The number of formal probation cases involving runaway charges increased by 25%, those involving truancy grew by 19%, and ungovernability cases increased by 9%. In contrast, probation cases involving status liquor offenses declined by 9% between 1989 and 1993.

In 1993, 40% of the adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in probation involved truancy as the most serious charge, 21% involved liquor law violations, 15% involved ungovernability, and 14% involved running away (table 61). Compared with the 1989 caseload, status offense cases resulting in formal probation in 1993 involved slightly more runaway and truancy charges and slightly fewer charges of ungovernability and liquor law violations.

**Table 59: Percent of Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Status Offense	64%	60%
Runaway	60	54
Truancy	84	78
Ungovernable	63	63
Liquor	54	52
Miscellaneous	41	40

**Table 60: Percent Change in Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1989	1993	
Status Offense	32,100	36,400	13%
Runaway	4,100	5,100	25
Truancy	12,300	14,700	19
Ungovernable	5,100	5,600	9
Liquor	8,200	7,500	-9
Miscellaneous	2,300	3,500	50

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

**Table 61: Offense Profile of Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Runaway	13%	14%
Truancy	38	40
Ungovernable	16	15
Liquor	26	21
Miscellaneous	7	10
Total	100%	100%
Total Cases Placed on Formal Probation:	32,100	36,400

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

**Table 62: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Involving Youth 15 or Younger by Offense, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Status Offense	58%	60%
Runaway	65	68
Truancy	83	78
Ungovernable	70	72
Liquor	22	25
Miscellaneous	64	58

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

**AGE AT REFERRAL**

Juveniles age 15 or younger at the time of court referral accounted for 60% of formally processed status offense cases disposed by courts in 1993 compared with 58% in 1989 (table 62). Juveniles under the age of 16 were involved in 78% of truancy cases, 72% of ungovernability cases, and 68% of runaway cases, but only 25% of status liquor law violation cases. The offense profile of status offense cases reflects age-related behavior differences. Truancy was charged in 40% of cases involving younger youth compared with 17% of cases involving older youth (table 63). Liquor law violations were charged in 44% of cases involving older youth but only 10% of cases involving younger juveniles.

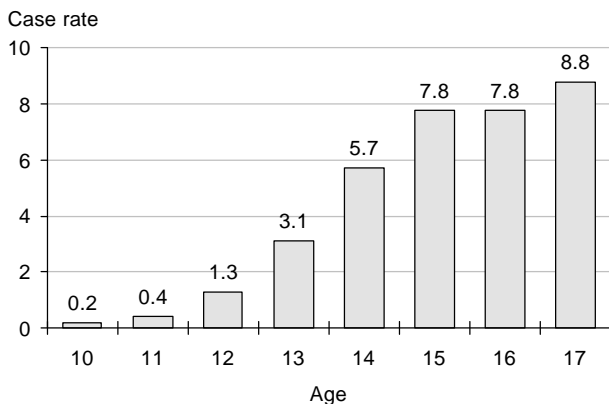
**Table 63: Offense Profile of Petitioned Status Offense Cases by Age at Referral, 1993**

Offense	Age 15 or Younger	Age 16 or Older
Runaway	20%	15%
Truancy	40	17
Ungovernable	17	10
Liquor	10	44
Miscellaneous	13	15
Total	100%	100%

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

Petitioned status offense case rates increased continuously with the age of juveniles (figure 14). In 1993, juvenile courts processed 3.1 petitioned status offense cases involving 13-year-old juveniles for every 1,000 13-year-olds in the population at risk of referral. The case rate for 15-year-olds (7.8 per 1,000) was more than double the rate of 13-year-olds, while the rate for 17-year-olds (8.8 per 1,000) was nearly triple that of 13-year-olds. Between 1989 and 1993, petitioned status offense case rates increased among all age categories older than the age of 10 (table 64). The rates for 14-year-olds and 15-year-olds rose by 33% and 35%, respectively.

**Figure 14: Petitioned Status Offense Case Rates by Age at Referral, 1993**



Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

**Table 64: Percent Change in Petitioned Status Offense Case Rates by Age at Referral, 1989–1993**

Age	Case Rate		Percent Change
	1989	1993	
10	0.2	0.2	-9%
11	0.4	0.4	14
12	0.9	1.3	34
13	2.4	3.1	27
14	4.3	5.7	33
15	5.8	7.8	35
16	6.1	7.8	29
17	6.5	8.8	34

Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

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

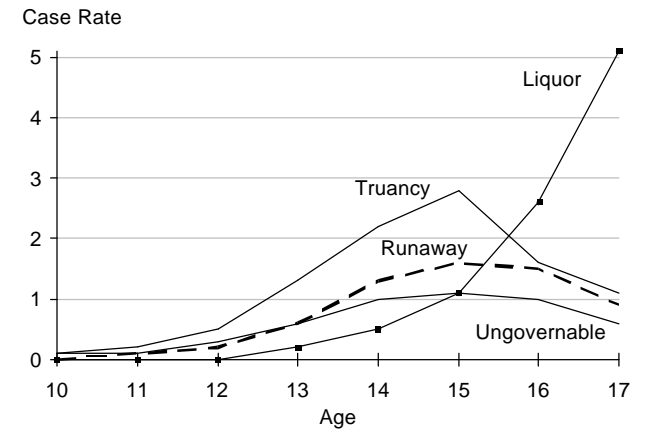
Age-specific case rate patterns were different among the individual offense categories (figure 15). Runaway, truancy, and ungovernability case rates all peaked by age 15 and decreased substantially by age 17. By contrast, status liquor law violation case rates increased continuously with age. The liquor case rate increased from 1.1 cases per 1,000 youth at risk at age 15, to 2.6 at age 16, and 5.1 at age 17.

**Detention**

Youth under the age of 16 accounted for more than half (56%) of the petitioned status offense cases that involved detention in 1993, while youth under the age of 14 accounted for 13% (table 65). Fifteen-year-olds and 16-year-olds each accounted for slightly more than one-quarter of the petitioned status offense cases involving detention.

The likelihood of detention in formally processed status offense cases varied little across age groups (table 66). Detention was used in 6% to 9% of petitioned status offense cases involving youth between the ages of 12 and 17. Among the four major status offenses, the use of detention was most likely for runaway cases involving 16-year-olds.

**Figure 15: Petitioned Status Offense Case Rates by Age at Referral and Offense, 1993**



Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

Data Table

Age	Runaway	Truancy	Ungovernable	Liquor
10	*	0.1	0.1	*
11	0.1	0.2	0.1	*
12	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.0
13	0.6	1.3	0.6	0.2
14	1.3	2.2	1.0	0.5
15	1.6	2.8	1.1	1.1
16	1.5	1.6	1.0	2.6
17	0.9	1.1	0.6	5.1

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable rate.

**Table 65: Age Profile of Detained Petitioned Status Offense Cases, 1989 and 1993**

Age	1989	1993
10 or Younger	1%	*
11 Years	1	*
12 Years	4	4
13 Years	11	8
14 Years	20	17
15 Years	24	26
16 Years	26	26
17 or Older	13	18
Total	100%	100%

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

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

**Table 66: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Detained by Age at Referral, 1993**

Offense	Age at Referral							
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Status Offense	*	*	8%	6%	7%	8%	9%	7%
Runaway	*	*	16	15	14	16	18	16
Truancy	*	*	*	2	2	2	2	*
Ungovernable	*	*	*	5	7	6	9	8
Liquor	*	*	*	*	4	4	5	6
Miscellaneous	*	*	24	10	14	18	16	11

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

**Figure 16: Juvenile Court Processing of Petitioned Status Offense Cases by Age at Referral, 1993**

Age 15 or Younger			
66,800 Petitioned Cases	Adjudicated 57%	Placed	20%
		Probation	64%
		Other	14%
		Dismissed	3%
	Nonadjudicated 43%	Placed	1%
		Probation	19%
		Other	11%
		Dismissed	69%
Age 16 or Older			
44,400 Petitioned Cases	Adjudicated 51%	Placed	14%
		Probation	55%
		Other	29%
		Dismissed	3%
	Nonadjudicated 49%	Placed	<1%
		Probation	15%
		Other	22%
		Dismissed	62%

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

### Judicial Decision and Disposition

The dispositional profiles of status offenders age 15 or younger versus those age 16 or older were slightly different, possibly reflecting the substantial involvement of older juveniles in status liquor law offenses (figure 16). Overall, the probability of adjudication was greater for the younger group (57% versus 51%). The likelihood of adjudication varied within the four major status offense categories (table 67). Among cases involving charges of truancy, younger youth were considerably more likely than older youth to be adjudicated (58% compared with 48%). When the most serious charge in the case was a liquor law violation, cases involving younger youth were still more likely to be adjudicated, although the difference was slightly less (59% versus 54%).

Between 1989 and 1993, the likelihood of adjudication declined for status offense cases involving younger youth (from 63% to 57%) as well as older youth (from 61% to 51%). Substantial reductions in the use of adjudication for truancy, liquor law violations, and miscellaneous status offense cases caused the overall likelihood of adjudication for cases involving older juveniles to decline between 1989 and 1993. However, the use of adjudication for cases involving older youth charged with running away changed very little during the same time period.

Adjudicated status offense cases involving juveniles under the age of 16 were more likely to result in out-of-home

**Table 67: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Adjudicated by Age at Referral, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
15 or Younger	63%	57%
Runaway	54	50
Truancy	64	58
Ungovernable	66	57
Liquor	65	59
Miscellaneous	73	60
16 or Older	61%	51%
Runaway	43	42
Truancy	67	48
Ungovernable	60	54
Liquor	64	54
Miscellaneous	66	51

**Table 68: Percent of Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement by Age at Referral, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
15 or Younger	20%	20%
Runaway	26	28
Truancy	10	13
Ungovernable	32	31
Liquor	9	9
Miscellaneous	33	25
16 or Older	12%	14%
Runaway	22	30
Truancy	5	11
Ungovernable	25	28
Liquor	6	7
Miscellaneous	29	18

placement (20% versus 14% for older youth) (table 68). For both younger and older juveniles, the use of out-of-home placement for adjudicated status offense cases was relatively unchanged between 1989 and 1993. For adjudicated cases involving juveniles age 15 or younger, the likelihood of placement was 20% in both 1989 and 1993. Among cases involving older youth, the use of placement grew only slightly, rising from 12% to 14%.

The proportion of adjudicated cases resulting in formal probation decreased slightly between 1989 and 1993 for both younger youth (from 68% to 64%) and older juveniles (from 57% to 55%) (table 69). Compared with cases involving older juveniles, a larger proportion of the cases of younger juveniles was placed on formal probation after adjudication (64% versus 55%). However, a substantially larger proportion of the older group was ordered to pay fines or to enter a treatment or counseling program after adjudication (29% versus 14%), reflecting the greater involvement of older juveniles in status liquor law violation cases. Among older youth, the likelihood of formal probation—after adjudication—decreased most in truancy cases (from 91% to 76%).

**SEX**

Males were involved in 57% of petitioned status offense cases in 1993 (table 70). Males did not dominate all of the individual offense categories, but they accounted for the majority (70%) of status liquor law violation cases. Males and females were more equally involved in truancy and ungovernability cases. Less than half (37%) of runaway cases involved males.

The offense profiles of male and female status offense cases reflect the relatively greater male involvement in liquor law violations and the greater female involvement in runaway cases (table 71). Runaway cases accounted for 26% of status offense cases involving females compared with 12% of cases involving males. By contrast, a liquor law violation was charged in 29% of status offense cases involving males compared with 16% of cases involving females.

The volume of petitioned status offense cases involving females increased by 43% between 1989 and 1993, while the volume of cases involving males increased by 33% (table 72). For both males and females, the largest relative increases were in the number of cases involving charges of runaway and truancy. Runaway cases grew by 40% among males and 51% among females between 1989 and 1993, while truancy cases increased by 49% among males and 48% among females.

**Table 69: Percent of Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation by Age at Referral, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
15 or Younger	68%	64%
Runaway	60	54
Truancy	83	78
Ungovernable	63	63
Liquor	60	54
Miscellaneous	45	43
16 or Older	57%	55%
Runaway	61	54
Truancy	91	76
Ungovernable	65	64
Liquor	52	52
Miscellaneous	33	36

**Table 70: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Involving Males by Offense, 1989 and 1993**

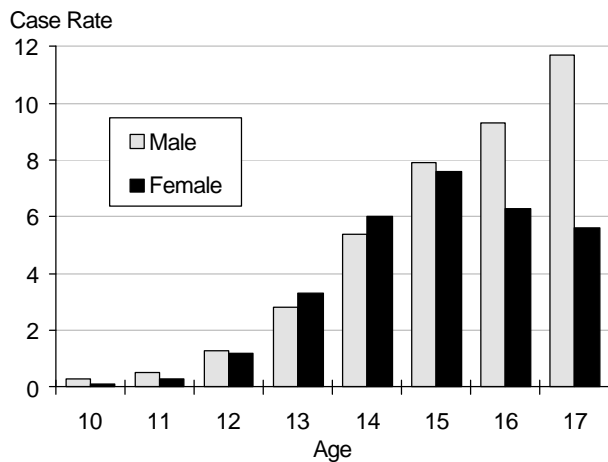
Offense	1989	1993
Status Offense	58%	57%
Runaway	39	37
Truancy	54	54
Ungovernable	52	54
Liquor	74	70
Miscellaneous	68	68

**Table 71: Offense Profile of Petitioned Status Offense Cases by Sex, 1993**

Offense	Male	Female
Runaway	12%	26%
Truancy	29	32
Ungovernable	13	15
Liquor	29	16
Miscellaneous	17	10
Total	100%	100%

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

**Figure 17: Petitioned Status Offense Case Rates by Sex and Age at Referral, 1993**



Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

Data Table

Age	Male	Female
10	0.3	0.1
11	0.5	0.3
12	1.3	1.2
13	2.8	3.3
14	5.4	6.0
15	7.9	7.6
16	9.3	6.3
17	11.7	5.6

In 1993, juvenile courts handled 4.5 status offense cases involving males for every 1,000 at-risk males in the population and 3.6 status offense cases involving females for every 1,000 females at risk of referral. The male and female petitioned status offense case rates were relatively equal compared with the large differences in delinquency case rates. This statement was especially true for males and females under the age of 16. However, the status offense case rates for males age 16 and older were considerably higher than those for females of the same age (figure 17). The status offense case rate for females peaked at age 15 and declined by age 17. On the other hand, the case rate for males increased continuously through the age of 17.

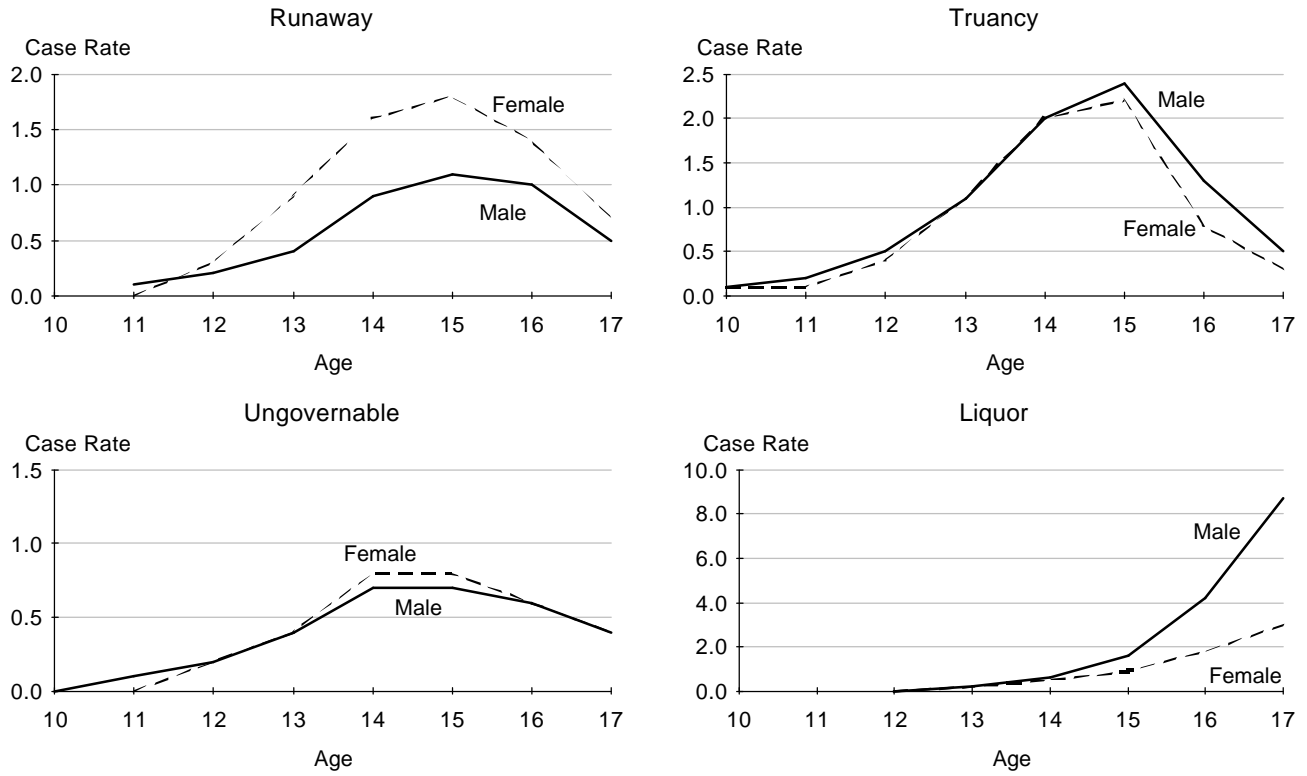
For both truancy and ungovernability cases, the male and female case rates were nearly equal at each age, peaking at age 15 and declining markedly thereafter (figure 18). By contrast, status liquor case rates were substantially greater for males than for females after the age of 14. Both male and female case rates within the status liquor category increased continuously with age, showing large increases in the older age groups. Among males, the 17-year-old status liquor case rate was more than five times the rate of 15-year-olds, while among females the 17-year-old case rate was nearly three times the rate of 15-year-olds. In runaway cases, unlike any of the other status offense categories, the female case rate was consistently greater than the male case rate.

**Table 72: Percent Change in Petitioned Status Offense Cases and Case Rates by Sex, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases			Case Rates		
	1989	1993	Pct. Change	1989	1993	Pct. Change
<b>Male</b>	47,200	62,900	33%	3.6	4.5	24%
Runaway	5,300	7,400	40	0.4	0.5	31
Truancy	12,300	18,300	49	0.9	1.3	38
Ungovernable	6,600	8,400	28	0.5	0.6	19
Liquor	17,600	18,400	5	1.4	1.3	-3
Miscellaneous	5,400	10,400	91	0.4	0.7	78
<b>Female</b>	33,800	48,200	43%	2.7	3.6	32%
Runaway	8,400	12,700	51	0.7	1.0	40
Truancy	10,500	15,600	48	0.9	1.2	38
Ungovernable	6,000	7,200	20	0.5	0.5	12
Liquor	6,300	7,700	22	0.5	0.6	13
Miscellaneous	2,500	5,000	95	0.2	0.4	81

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

**Figure 18: Petitioned Status Offense Case Rates by Sex, Age at Referral, and Offense, 1993**



Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

Data Table

Age	Runaway		Truancy		Ungovernable		Liquor	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
10	*	*	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*
11	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	*	*
12	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
13	0.4	0.9	1.3	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.2
14	0.8	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5
15	1.2	2.1	2.9	2.7	1.1	1.1	1.4	0.9
16	1.2	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.0	0.9	3.6	1.5
17	0.7	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.6	7.5	2.5

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable rate.



**Table 73: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Detained by Sex, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
<b>Male</b>	8%	8%
Runaway	21	20
Truancy	3	2
Ungovernable	11	7
Liquor	6	6
Miscellaneous	12	16
<b>Female</b>	8%	7%
Runaway	18	13
Truancy	2	2
Ungovernable	9	7
Liquor	3	3
Miscellaneous	10	13

### Detention

Status offense cases involving females were only slightly less likely to involve detention than cases involving males in 1993 (table 73). Detention was used in 8% of all status offense cases involving males and 7% of those involving females. For both males and females, runaway cases were the most likely to involve detention, which was used in 20% of runaway cases involving males and 13% of those involving females. The likelihood of detention was relatively unchanged for both sexes between 1989 and 1993. However, the use of detention declined slightly in cases involving males charged with ungovernability and females charged with runaway.

### Judicial Decision and Disposition

Juvenile court handling of petitioned status offense cases differed slightly according to the sex of the juvenile (figure 19). Formally handled status offense cases involving males were slightly more likely to be adjudicated than cases involving females (55% compared with 53%). The likelihood of adjudication for males and females differed only slightly within each of the four major status offense categories (table 74). The probability of adjudication for formal status offense cases declined between 1989 and 1993 for both males and females. Only in cases of females charged with runaway did the rate of adjudication remain relatively unchanged.

**Figure 19: Juvenile Court Processing of Petitioned Status Offense Cases by Sex, 1993**

#### Male

62,900 Petitioned Cases	Adjudicated	Placed	17%
	55%	Probation	58%
		Other	21%
		Dismissed	3%
	Nonadjudicated	Placed	1%
	45%	Probation	17%
		Other	18%
		Dismissed	65%

#### Female

48,200 Petitioned Cases	Adjudicated	Placed	18%
	53%	Probation	63%
		Other	16%
		Dismissed	2%
	Nonadjudicated	Placed	1%
	47%	Probation	18%
		Other	14%
		Dismissed	67%

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

**Table 74: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Adjudicated by Sex, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
<b>Male</b>	64%	55%
Runaway	53	48
Truancy	65	56
Ungovernable	65	57
Liquor	64	56
Miscellaneous	71	56
<b>Female</b>	60%	53%
Runaway	48	47
Truancy	63	55
Ungovernable	64	56
Liquor	63	53
Miscellaneous	69	56

The likelihood of out-of-home placement was similar in 1989 and 1993 for both males and females (table 75). Once adjudicated, the likelihood of out-of-home placement for petitioned status offense cases was comparable for both males and females (17% and 18%, respectively). For runaway cases involving males, the probability of out-of-home placement increased from 21% in 1989 to 31% in 1993. The likelihood of placement among truancy cases involving females also grew slightly, rising from 8% to 12% of all adjudicated cases.

Probation was less likely in 1993 than in 1989 for adjudicated status offenders of both sexes (table 76). For adjudicated cases involving males, the use of probation decreased from 61% in 1989 to 58% in 1993. For those involving females, the use of probation decreased from 67% to 63% of all cases. Changes in the use of probation varied among the four major status offenses. For status offense cases involving males charged with ungovernability, the likelihood of probation increased (from 62% to 64%). The use of probation declined for both males and females in status offense cases involving charges of runaway and truancy.

Overall, adjudicated cases involving females were somewhat more likely than those involving males to result in formal probation (63% versus 58%), while other dispositions (e.g., fines, referrals for counseling or treatment) were more common in cases involving males (21% compared with 16%). Most of these differences reflected the greater involvement of males in status liquor law violations, which were less likely than most other status offenses to result in formal orders of probation and more likely to result in other sanctions, such as fines, restitution, and counseling.

**Table 75: Percent of Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement by Sex, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Male	16%	17%
Runaway	21	31
Truancy	10	13
Ungovernable	31	29
Liquor	8	8
Miscellaneous	32	22
Female	17%	18%
Runaway	27	26
Truancy	8	12
Ungovernable	29	31
Liquor	5	5
Miscellaneous	31	22

**Table 76: Percent of Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation by Sex, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
Male	61%	58%
Runaway	64	49
Truancy	83	77
Ungovernable	62	64
Liquor	53	53
Miscellaneous	39	39
Female	67%	63%
Runaway	57	56
Truancy	85	79
Ungovernable	65	63
Liquor	56	51
Miscellaneous	47	44

**Table 77: Race Profile of Petitioned Status Offense Cases by Offense, 1993**

Offense	White	Black	Other Races	Total
Status Offense	75%	20%	5%	100%
Runaway	75	21	4	100
Truancy	71	25	4	100
Ungovernable	71	26	4	100
Liquor	87	6	7	100
Miscellaneous	68	28	4	100

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

**Table 78: Offense Profile of Petitioned Status Offense Cases by Race, 1993**

Offense	White	Black	Other Races
Runaway	18%	19%	15%
Truancy	29	38	26
Ungovernable	13	18	11
Liquor	27	6	38
Miscellaneous	13	19	11
Total	100%	100%	100%

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

**Table 79: Percent Change in Petitioned Status Offense Cases and Case Rates by Race, 1989–1993**

Offense	Number of Cases			Case Rates		
	1989	1993	Pct. Change	1989	1993	Pct. Change
White	62,200	83,600	34%	3.0	3.8	26%
Runaway	10,400	15,100	46	0.5	0.7	36
Truancy	15,900	24,100	52	0.8	1.1	42
Ungovernable	8,400	11,100	32	0.4	0.5	23
Liquor	22,000	22,800	4	1.1	1.0	-3
Miscellaneous	5,600	10,500	89	0.3	0.5	76
Black	15,400	22,500	46%	4.0	5.5	36%
Runaway	2,800	4,300	52	0.7	1.0	42
Truancy	5,800	8,400	46	1.5	2.1	36
Ungovernable	3,800	4,000	6	1.0	1.0	-1
Liquor	1,000	1,500	48	0.3	0.4	37
Miscellaneous	2,000	4,300	118	0.5	1.0	104
Other Races	3,400	5,100	48%	3.0	3.7	22%
Runaway	500	700	37	0.5	0.5	13
Truancy	1,100	1,300	19	1.0	1.0	-2
Ungovernable	*	600	*	*	0.4	*
Liquor	1,000	1,900	96	0.9	1.4	62
Miscellaneous	*	600	*	*	0.4	*

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage or rate.

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

**RACE**

In 1993, white juveniles were involved in 75% of all formally processed status offense cases, a proportion comparable to their representation in the general population (table 77).<sup>4</sup> White youth were involved in 75% of runaway cases, 71% of truancy cases, 71% of ungovernability cases, and 87% of status liquor law violation cases.

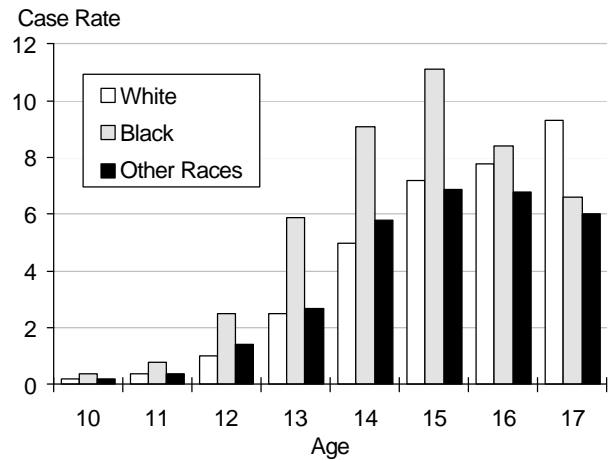
The disproportionate involvement of white juveniles in status liquor law violation cases is also observed when offense profiles are established for each racial group (table 78). Compared with the status offense caseload of black youth, the caseload of white youth showed a greater proportion of status liquor law violations (27% versus 6%). Liquor law violations were even more frequent in the status offense caseload involving juveniles of other races (38%). Status offense cases involving black youth were more likely to involve truancy charges (38% compared with 29% for whites and 26% for youth of other races).

Between 1989 and 1993, the number of petitioned status offense cases involving white juveniles increased by 34%, while the number of cases involving black youth grew by 46%, and those involving youth of other races rose by 48% (table 79). The number of cases involving charges of runaway or truancy increased considerably among all three racial groups. The number of cases involving charges of ungovernability increased less among black youth than other youth, while cases of liquor law violations changed little among white youth but increased substantially among black youth and youth of other races.

The petitioned status offense case rate for black juveniles was greater than the case rate for white youth or that for youth of other races. In 1993, juvenile courts handled 5.5 formal status offense cases involving black youth for every 1,000 at-risk black youth in the population. Among white youth and youth of other races, the overall 1993 case rates were 3.8 and 3.7, respectively. In three of the four major status offense categories, case rates for black youth were substantially greater than corresponding rates for whites or youth of other races. The case rate for liquor law violations was the only exception. The rate of liquor cases was lowest among black juveniles (0.4 per 1,000 youth at risk), while white juveniles had the next lowest rate of liquor law violation cases (1.0 cases per 1,000), and the highest rate was for youth of other races (1.4 cases per 1,000).

<sup>4</sup> Whites make up approximately 80% of the Nation's youth population at risk. Nearly all youth of Hispanic ethnicity are included in the white racial category.

**Figure 20: Petitioned Status Offense Case Rates by Race and Age at Referral, 1993**



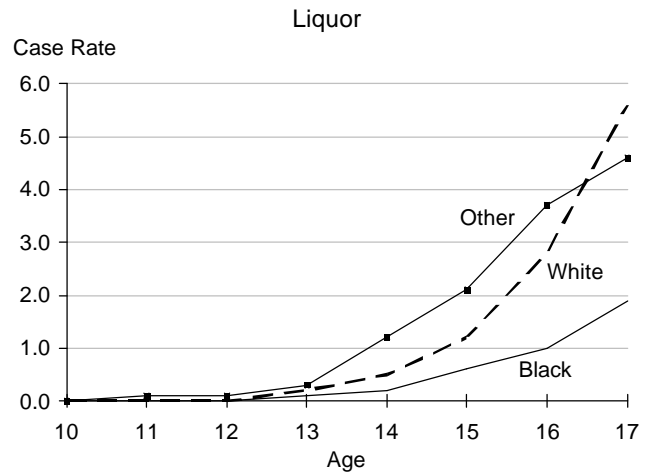
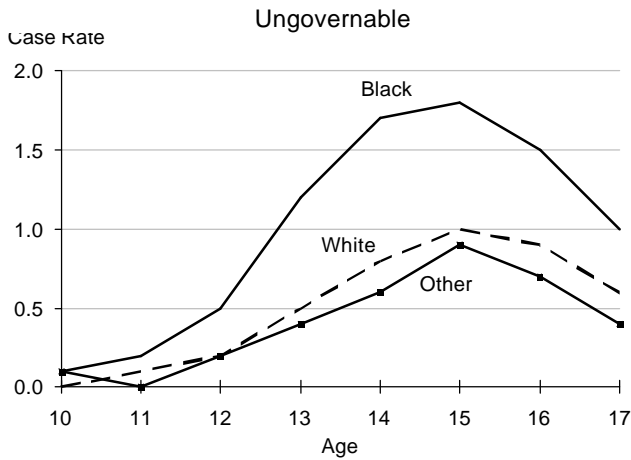
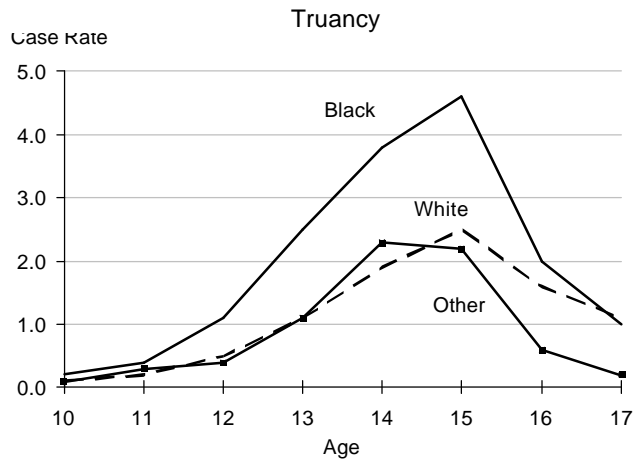
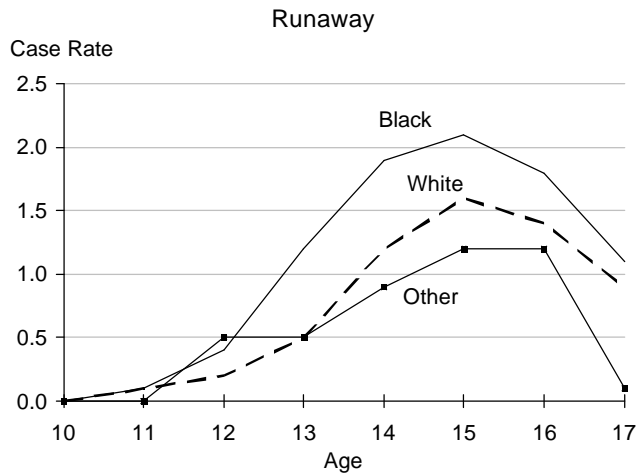
Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

Data Table			
Age	White	Black	Other Races
10	0.2	0.4	*
11	0.4	0.8	0.4
12	1.0	2.5	1.4
13	2.5	5.9	2.7
14	5.0	9.1	5.8
15	7.2	11.1	6.9
16	7.8	8.4	6.8
17	9.3	6.6	6.0

The overall status offense case rate for white juveniles increased continuously with age in 1993, rising from 2.5 for 13-year-olds to 9.3 for 17-year-olds (figure 20). Case rates for black youth increased through the age of 15 and then dropped substantially. The status offense case rate for youth of other races also increased through the age of 15, then declined through the age of 17.

Among the runaway, truancy, and ungovernability caseloads, the case rates of all racial groups dropped substantially before the age of 17 (figure 21). By contrast, the rates of status liquor law violation cases increased continuously with age for all racial groups. Unlike the case rate distributions for other offenses, the rate for liquor law violations was substantially lower for black youth in all age groups than for whites or youth of other races. The increased involvement of both older youth and nonblack youth in status liquor law violations may account for some of the racial differences in the overall status offense case rates.

**Figure 21: Petitioned Status Offense Case Rates by Race, Age at Referral, and Offense, 1993**



Case Rate = Cases per 1,000 youth in age group.

Data Table

Age	Runaway			Truancy			Ungovernable			Liquor		
	White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other
10	*	*	*	0.1	0.2	*	0.0	0.1	*	*	*	*
11	0.1	*	*	0.2	0.4	*	0.1	0.2	*	*	*	*
12	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.5	*	0.0	0.0	*
13	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.1	2.5	1.1	0.5	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3
14	1.2	1.9	0.9	1.9	3.8	2.3	0.8	1.7	0.6	0.5	0.2	1.2
15	1.6	2.1	1.2	2.5	4.6	2.2	1.0	1.8	0.9	1.2	0.6	2.1
16	1.4	1.8	1.2	1.6	2.0	0.6	0.9	1.5	0.7	2.8	1.0	3.7
17	0.9	1.1	0.1	1.1	1.0	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.4	5.6	1.9	4.6

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable rate.

## Detention

In 1993, detention was used at some point between referral and disposition in 7% of all petitioned status offense cases involving white youth and 10% of cases involving black youth (table 80). The likelihood of detention for cases involving charges of truancy or ungovernability was identical for white and black juveniles (2% and 6%, respectively). In runaway cases and liquor law violation cases, black juveniles were more likely to be detained than white youth. Between 1989 and 1993, the use of detention for petitioned status offense cases declined among both white and black youth in cases involving runaway and ungovernability charges. In all other cases, the use of detention either remained unchanged or increased slightly.

## Judicial Decision and Disposition

Petitioned status offense cases involving white youth and those involving black youth were less likely to be adjudicated than those involving youth of other races in 1993 (figure 22). Adjudication resulted in 54% of cases involving white youth, 53% of those involving black youth, and 62% of cases involving youth of other races.

When the most serious charge in a case was truancy, cases involving black youth were more likely to be adjudicated (59%) than those involving white youth (55%) or youth of other races (50%) (table 81). In cases of ungovernability or liquor law violations, the likelihood of adjudication for cases involving black youth was less than those involving white youth or youth of other races.

In 1993, 23% of adjudicated status offense cases involving black youth resulted in out-of-home placement compared with 17% of cases involving white youth, and 17% of those involving youth of other races (table 82). Among adjudicated cases involving charges of running away, those involving black youth were slightly more likely to result in out-of-home placement—32% compared with 26% among whites. Among the adjudicated ungovernability cases disposed by juvenile courts in 1993, those involving white juveniles were more likely to end in out-of-home placement (32%) than were cases involving black youth (26%). Between 1989 and 1993, the probability of out-of-home placement increased slightly for status offense cases involving white youth (from 15% to 17%) and black youth (from 20% to 23%) but decreased for cases involving youth of other races (from 22% to 17%).

**Table 80: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Detained by Race, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
White	8%	7%
Runaway	18	14
Truancy	2	2
Ungovernable	10	6
Liquor	5	5
Miscellaneous	10	13
Black	10%	10%
Runaway	22	19
Truancy	2	2
Ungovernable	10	6
Liquor	11	12
Miscellaneous	15	18
Other Races	*	*
Runaway	*	*
Truancy	*	*
Ungovernable	*	*
Liquor	*	*
Miscellaneous	*	*

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

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

**Figure 22: Juvenile Court Processing of Petitioned Status Offense Cases by Race, 1993**

<b>White</b>				
83,600 Petitioned Cases	Adjudicated 54%	Placed	17%	
		Probation	59%	
		Other	22%	
		Dismissed	2%	
	Nonadjudicated 46%	Placed	1%	
		Probation	16%	
		Other	18%	
		Dismissed	65%	
		<b>Black</b>		
		22,500 Petitioned Cases	Adjudicated 53%	Placed
Probation	66%			
Other	7%			
Dismissed	4%			
Nonadjudicated 47%	Placed		1%	
	Probation		22%	
	Other		11%	
	Dismissed		66%	
	<b>Other Races</b>			
	5,100 Petitioned Cases		Adjudicated 62%	Placed
Probation		57%		
Other		25%		
Dismissed		1%		
Nonadjudicated 38%		Placed	*	
		Probation	15%	
		Other	4%	
		Dismissed	81%	

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

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

Once adjudicated, status offense cases involving black youth were the most likely to result in out-of-home placement (23%) or formal probation (66%). Adjudicated cases involving black youth were substantially less likely than those involving other juveniles to result in other dispositions, such as fines, restitution, or placement in a counseling or treatment program. Such dispositional differences may reflect the offense profile of black youth, which varies from the offense profiles of white youth and youth of other races.

**Table 81: Percent of Petitioned Status Offense Cases Adjudicated by Race, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
<b>White</b>	62%	54%
Runaway	47	47
Truancy	64	55
Ungovernable	66	57
Liquor	64	54
Miscellaneous	72	59
<b>Black</b>	61%	53%
Runaway	58	48
Truancy	63	59
Ungovernable	59	53
Liquor	54	43
Miscellaneous	66	50
<b>Other Races</b>	72%	62%
Runaway	66	56
Truancy	70	50
Ungovernable	80	73
Liquor	76	72
Miscellaneous	68	51

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

In 1993, probation was the most restrictive disposition used in 59% of status offense cases involving white youth, 66% of cases involving black youth, and 57% of those involving youth of other races (table 83). In all racial groups, the status offense cases most likely to result in formal probation were those involving charges of truancy. The likelihood of formal probation decreased slightly between 1989 and 1993 for most status offense cases regardless of race. Probation increased only among cases involving black youth charged with liquor law violations.

**Table 82: Percent of Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Out-of-Home Placement by Race, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
White	15%	17%
Runaway	25	26
Truancy	9	12
Ungovernable	32	32
Liquor	7	7
Miscellaneous	27	20
Black	20%	23%
Runaway	20	32
Truancy	10	15
Ungovernable	25	26
Liquor	16	15
Miscellaneous	44	30
Other Races	22%	17%
Runaway	*	*
Truancy	10	12
Ungovernable	*	*
Liquor	10	11
Miscellaneous	*	*

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

**Table 83: Percent of Adjudicated Status Offense Cases That Resulted in Formal Probation by Race, 1989 and 1993**

Offense	1989	1993
White	62%	59%
Runaway	58	54
Truancy	84	77
Ungovernable	61	61
Liquor	54	53
Miscellaneous	39	38
Black	71%	66%
Runaway	66	54
Truancy	84	79
Ungovernable	69	69
Liquor	63	67
Miscellaneous	46	46
Other Races	63%	57%
Runaway	*	*
Truancy	86	82
Ungovernable	*	*
Liquor	52	41
Miscellaneous	*	*

\* Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.



*Juvenile Court Statistics (JCS)* utilizes data provided to the National Juvenile Court Data 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 using compatible information from all courts that are able to provide data to the Archive.

## SOURCES OF DATA

The Archive collects data in two forms: court-level aggregate statistics and case-level data. Court-level aggregate statistics are either abstracted from the annual reports of State and local courts or are contributed directly to the Archive. Court-level statistics provide counts of the delinquency and status offense cases handled by courts in a defined time period (calendar or fiscal year).

Case-level data are usually generated by the 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, sex, and race of the youth referred; the date and source of referral; offenses charged; detention; petitioning; 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 informational 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.

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

Each year, juvenile courts with jurisdiction over more than 95% of the U.S. juvenile population contribute either case-level data or court-level 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.

In 1993, case-level data describing 689,505 delinquency cases handled by 1,375 jurisdictions in 26 States met the Archive's criteria for inclusion in the development of national estimates. Compatible data were available from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. These courts had jurisdiction over 49.3% of the Nation's juvenile population in 1993. An additional 443 jurisdictions in 5 States (Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Vermont, and Washington) and the District of Columbia reported compatible court-level aggregate statistics on an additional 207,997 delinquency cases. In all, the Archive received compatible case-level data and court-level statistics on delinquency cases from 1,818 jurisdictions containing 66.8% of the Nation's juvenile population in 1993 (table A-1).

Case-level data describing 56,599 formally-handled status offense cases from 1,459 jurisdictions in 25 States met the estimation criteria for 1993. The contributing States were Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. These courts had jurisdiction over 48.9% of the juvenile population. An additional 430 jurisdictions in 4 States (Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, and Washington) and the District of Columbia reported compatible court-level aggregate statistics on 11,600 petitioned status offense cases. Altogether, compatible case-level and court-level data on petitioned status offense cases were available from 1,889 jurisdictions containing 66.4% of the U.S. juvenile population (table A-2).

## YOUTH POPULATION AT RISK

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 generate the juvenile court referrals in each jurisdiction—i.e., the “youth at risk” or “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 under the age of 10. Therefore, the lower age limit of the youth

**Table A-1: 1993 Stratum Profiles: Delinquency Data**

Stratum	County Population Age 10–17	Counties in Stratum	Counties Reporting Compatible Data				Percent of Youth Population at Risk
			Number of Counties			Total	
			Case- Level	Court- Level	Total		
1	Under 9,675	2,528	1,130	353	1,483	58%	
2	9,675–38,500	403	171	66	237	60	
3	38,501–105,000	117	49	16	65	57	
4	More than 105,000	37	25	8	33	92	
Total		3,085	1,375	443	1,818	67	

**Table A-2: 1993 Stratum Profiles: Status Offense Data**

Stratum	County Population Age 10–17	Counties in Stratum	Counties Reporting Compatible Data				Percent of Youth Population at Risk
			Number of Counties			Total	
			Case- Level	Court- Level	Total		
1	Under 9,675	2,528	1,217	340	1,557	60%	
2	9,675–38,500	403	175	66	241	61	
3	38,501–105,000	117	42	16	58	52	
4	More than 105,000	37	25	8	33	92	
Total		3,085	1,459	430	1,889	66	

population at risk 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 jurisdiction of the juvenile court if they commit an illegal act. (See “Upper Age of Jurisdiction” in the *Glossary of Terms*.) Most States define this age to be 17 years, although some States have set the age at 15 or 16 years. States often enact exceptions to this simple age criterion (e.g., youthful offender legislation, concurrent jurisdiction or extended jurisdiction provisions). In general,

however, juvenile courts have responsibility for all law violations committed by youth at or below the upper age of original jurisdiction.

For the purposes of this report, therefore, the youth population at risk 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 juvenile court jurisdiction is 15, the youth population at risk is the number of youth residing in a county who are between the ages of 10 and 15.

The youth-population-at-risk estimates used in this report were developed by using data from the 1990 Census of Population and Housing, county-level intercensal estimates for 1986–1989 and 1991, and State-level estimates for 1992

and 1993.<sup>1</sup> County-level estimates for 1993 were developed by using regression analysis to project each county's 1993 population based on its population during the period from 1986 to 1992, and then adjusting each county's estimate proportionally so that the sum of all counties in a State equaled the 1993 State-level estimates developed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The resulting estimates, separated into single-year age groups, contain the number of whites, blacks, and individuals of other races who reside in each county in the Nation and who are between the ages of 10 and the upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction.<sup>2</sup>

## ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

National estimates are developed by using the national case-level data base, the national court-level data base, and the Archive's youth-population-at-risk 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 include the county in which the case was handled, and (3) youth population estimates can be developed at the county level.<sup>3</sup>

The Archive's national estimates are generated by analyzing the data obtained from its nonprobability sample of juvenile courts and then weighting (multiplying) those cases to represent the number of cases handled by juvenile courts nationwide. The Archive employs an elaborate multivariate

weighting procedure that adjusts for a number of factors related to juvenile court caseloads—i.e., the court's jurisdictional responsibilities (upper age); the size and demographic composition of the community; the age, sex, and race profile of the youth involved in juvenile court cases; and the offenses charged against the youth.

The basic assumption underlying the estimation 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 estimation procedure develops independent estimates for the number of petitioned delinquency cases, the number of nonpetitioned delinquency cases, and the number of petitioned status offense cases handled by juvenile courts nationwide. Identical procedures are used to develop all case estimates.

The first step in the estimation procedure is to place all U.S. counties into one of four strata based on the population of youth between the ages of 10 and 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 between the ages of 10 and 17. In each of the four strata, the Archive determines the number of at-risk youth in three age groups: 10- through 15-year-olds, 16-year-olds, and 17-year-olds. The three age groups are further subdivided into three racial groups—white, black, and other. Thus, youth-at-risk population estimates are developed for nine age-by-race categories in each stratum of counties.

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

For example, in 1993 a total of **2,659,000** white youth between the ages of 10 and 15 resided in the Stratum 4 counties that reported 1993 case-level data to the Archive. The Archive's case-level data base showed that the juvenile courts in these counties handled **43,781** petitioned delinquency cases involving white youth between the ages of 10 and 15. Thus, in Stratum 4 the number of cases per 1,000 white youth ages 10 through 15 in the population was **16.5**, or:

$$\frac{43,781}{2,659,000} (1,000) = 16.5$$

Comparable analyses established that the 1993 Stratum 4 case rate for black youth between the ages of 10 and 15 was **50.4** cases per 1,000 youth at risk and that the case rate for 10- through 15-year-olds of other races was **7.3** cases per 1,000 at risk.

<sup>1</sup> Sources:

*1980–1989 Preliminary Estimates of the Population of Counties by Age, Sex, and Race.* U.S. Bureau of the Census.

*1990 Census of Population and Housing: Modified Age/Race, Sex and Hispanic Origin (MARS), State and County File.* Washington, DC: U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1992.

*Estimates of the Population of Counties by Age, Sex, and Race: 1991.* Unpublished data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

*Resident Population of States 1990–1993 by Single Year of Age and Sex.* Unpublished data, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

<sup>2</sup> "Other races" are Asians, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders. Most individuals of Hispanic ancestry are coded as white.

<sup>3</sup> The only information used in this report that cannot be aggregated by county is data contributed by the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS), which identifies only the HRS district in which each case is handled. To utilize the HRS data, the aggregation criterion is relaxed to include 11 HRS districts. In 1993, there were 3,141 counties in the United States. By replacing Florida's 67 counties with 11 HRS districts, the total number of aggregation units for this report becomes 3,085. Therefore, while the report uses the term "county" to describe its aggregation unit, the reader should be aware of the exception introduced by the use of Florida's HRS data.

## Methods

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

For example, assume that a jurisdiction in Stratum 4 with an upper age of 15 reported processing 600 cases in 1993 and that this jurisdiction had a population-at-risk of 12,000 white youth, 6,000 black youth, and 2,000 youth of other races. The Stratum 4 case rates for white, black, and other race youth between the ages of 10 and 15 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. The jurisdiction's total caseload of 600 would then be allocated based on these proportions. In this example, 40.7% of all cases reported in the jurisdiction's aggregate statistics involved white youth, 56.3% involved black youth, and the remaining 3.0% involved youth of other races. When these proportions are applied to a reported aggregate statistic of 600 cases, this jurisdiction is estimated to have handled 244 white youth, 338 black youth, and 18 youth of other races age 15 or younger. The same method is used to develop case counts for all nine age/race groups for each jurisdiction reporting only aggregate court-level statistics.

The disaggregated court-level counts are added to the counts developed from case-level data to produce an estimate of the number of cases involving each of the nine age/race groups handled by reporting courts in each of the four strata. The population-at-risk figures for the entire sample are also compiled. Together, the case counts and the population-at-risk figures are used to generate a revised set of case rates for each of the nine age/race groups within 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 nine age/race groups in a stratum by the corresponding youth population at risk in all counties belonging to that stratum (both reporting and nonreporting).

Having calculated the national estimate for the total number of cases in each age/race group in each stratum, the next step is to generate estimates of their case characteristics. This estimate is accomplished by weighting the individual case-level records stored in the Archive's national case-level data base. For example, assume that the Archive generates an estimate of 30,000 petitioned delinquency cases involving white 16-year-olds from Stratum 4 juvenile courts. Assume also that the national case-level data base for that year contained 18,000 petitioned delinquency cases involving white 16-year-olds from Stratum 4 counties. In the Archive's national estimation data base, each Stratum 4 petitioned delinquency case that involved a white 16-year-old would be weighted by 1.67, because:

$$\frac{30,000}{18,000} = 1.67$$

The final step in the estimation procedure is to impute missing data on individual case records. Table A-3 indicates the standardized data elements that were available from each jurisdiction's 1993 data set. The procedures to adjust for missing data assume that case records with missing data are similar in structure to those without missing data. For example, assume that among cases from a particular stratum detention information was missing on 100 cases involving 16-year-old white males who were petitioned to court, adjudicated for a property offense, and then placed on probation. If similar cases from the same stratum showed that 20% of these cases involved detention, then it would be assumed that 20% of the 100 cases missing detention information also involved detention. Thus, missing data are imputed within each stratum by reviewing the characteristics of cases with similar case attributes (i.e., age, sex, and race of the youth; offense charged; and the court's detention, petition, adjudication, and disposition decisions).

More detailed information about the Archive's national estimation methodology is available upon request from the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

**Table A-3: Content of Case-Level Data Sources, 1993**

Data Source	Age at Referral	Sex	Race	Referral Source	Referral Reason	Secure Detention	Manner of Handling	Adjudication	Disposition
Alabama	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL
Arizona	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ	AZ
Arkansas	AR	AR	AR	AR	AR	AR	AR	AR	AR
California <sup>1</sup>	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA
Connecticut	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT		CT	CT	CT
Florida	FL	FL	FL		FL	FL	FL	FL	FL
Hawaii	HI	HI	HI	HI	HI		HI	HI	HI
Maryland	MD	MD	MD	MD	MD		MD	MD	MD
Minnesota	MN	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	MT
Nebraska	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE
New Jersey <sup>2</sup>	NJ	NJ	NJ		NJ		NJ	NJ	NJ
New York	NY	NY		NY	NY	NY	NY	NY	NY
North Dakota	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Ohio <sup>3</sup>	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH
Pennsylvania	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA
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	TN
Texas <sup>4</sup>	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX
Utah	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT		UT	UT	UT
Virginia	VA	VA	VA		VA		VA		VA
West Virginia	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV
Wisconsin	WI	WI	WI		WI		WI	WI	WI
Percent of Estimation Sample	99%	100%	90%	66%	94%	62%	100%	93%	94%

<sup>1</sup> Data from approximately 13 counties.

<sup>2</sup> Data from approximately 8 counties.

<sup>3</sup> Data from Cuyahoga County only.

<sup>4</sup> Data from approximately 30 counties.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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**Adjudicated** Judicial determination (judgment) that a youth is a delinquent or status offender.

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

**Case Rate** Number of cases disposed per 1,000 youth at risk. 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 who are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts. (See Youth Population at Risk.)

**Delinquency** Acts or conduct in violation of criminal law. (See Reason for Referral.)

**Delinquent Act** An act committed by a juvenile which would require an adult to be prosecuted in a criminal court. Because the act is committed by a juvenile, it falls within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Delinquent acts include crimes against persons, crimes against property, drug offenses, and crimes against public order.

**Dependency Case** Those cases covering 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 the parents;.

**Detention** The placement of a youth in a restrictive facility between referral to court and case disposition.

**Disposition** Definite action taken or treatment plan decided on regarding a particular case. Case dispositions are coded into the following categories:

- Transfer to Criminal Court—Cases that were waived to a criminal court because of a waiver or transfer hearing in the 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—Cases dismissed (including those warned, counseled, and released) with no further disposition 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 criminal court.

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

**Formal Handling** See Manner of Handling.

**Informal Handling** See Manner of Handling.

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

**Judicial Decision** The decision made in response to a petition that asks the court to adjudicate or transfer the youth. This decision is generally made by a juvenile court judge or referee.

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

**Juvenile** Youth at or below the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction. (See Upper Age of Jurisdiction and Youth Population at Risk.)

**Juvenile Court** Any court that has jurisdiction over matters involving juveniles.

**Manner of Handling** A general classification of case processing within the court system. Petitioned (formally handled) cases are those 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 transfer a youth to adult court. In nonpetitioned (informally handled) cases, duly authorized court personnel screen the case prior to the filing of 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.

**Nonpetitioned Case** See Manner of Handling.

**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 transferred to criminal court for prosecution as an adult.

**Petitioned Case** See Manner of Handling.

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

- White—A person having origins in any of the indigenous peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East. (In both the population and court data, nearly all Hispanics were included in the white racial category.)
- Black—A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- Other—A person having origins in any of the indigenous peoples of North America, the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.

**Reason for Referral**The most serious offense for which the youth was referred to court intake. Attempts to commit an offense were included under that offense, except attempted murder, which was included in the aggravated assault category.

- Crimes Against Persons—Includes criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, and other person offenses 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 Index Crime category used in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) *Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)* in which murder/ nonnegligent manslaughter does not include negligent manslaughter or vehicular manslaughter.
  - Forcible Rape—Sexual intercourse or attempted sexual intercourse with a female against her will by force or threat of force. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*. Some States have enacted gender-neutral rape or sexual assault statutes that prohibit forced sexual penetration of either sex. Data reported by such States do not distinguish between forcible rape of females as defined above and other sexual assaults. (Other violent sex offenses are contained in Other Offenses Against Persons.)
  - Robbery—Unlawful taking or attempted taking of property that is in the immediate possession of another by force or threat of force. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index* and includes forcible purse snatching.
- Assault—Unlawful intentional infliction, or attempted or threatened infliction, of injury upon the person of another.
  - \* Aggravated Assault—Unlawful intentional infliction of serious bodily injury or unlawful threat or attempt to inflict bodily injury or death by means of a deadly or dangerous weapon with or without actual infliction of any injury. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*. It includes conduct encompassed under the statutory names aggravated assault and battery, aggravated battery, assault with intent to kill, assault with intent to commit murder or manslaughter, atrocious assault, attempted murder, felonious assault, and assault with a deadly weapon.
  - \* Simple Assault—Unlawful intentional infliction or attempted or threatened infliction of less than serious bodily injury without a deadly or dangerous weapon. The term is used in the same sense as in *UCR* reporting. Simple assault is not often distinctly named in statutes because it consists of all assaults not explicitly named and defined as serious. Unspecified assaults are contained in Other Offenses Against Persons.
- Other Offenses Against Persons—Includes kidnaping, violent sex acts other than forcible rape (e.g., incest, sodomy), custody interference, unlawful restraint, false imprisonment, reckless endangerment, harassment, and attempts to commit any such acts.
- Crimes Against Property—Includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, vandalism, stolen property offenses, trespassing, and other property offenses as defined below.
  - Burglary—Unlawful entry or attempted entry of any fixed structure, vehicle, or vessel used for regular residence, industry, or business, with or without force, with intent to commit a felony or larceny. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*.
  - Larceny—Unlawful taking or attempted taking of property (other than a motor vehicle) from the possession of another by stealth, without force and without deceit, with intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property. This term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*. It includes shoplifting and purse snatching without force.
  - Motor Vehicle Theft—Unlawful taking or attempted taking of a self-propelled road vehicle owned by another with the intent to deprive the owner of it permanently or temporarily. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR Crime Index*. It includes

joyriding or unauthorized use of a motor vehicle as well as grand theft auto.

- Arson—Intentional damage or destruction by means of fire or explosion of the property of another without the owner’s consent or of any property with intent to defraud or attempting the above acts. The term is used in the same sense as in the *UCR* Crime Index.
- Vandalism—Destroying, damaging, or attempting to destroy or damage public property or the property of another without the owner’s consent, except by burning.
- Stolen Property Offenses—Unlawfully and knowingly receiving, buying, 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; 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.”
  - Sex Offenses—All offenses having a sexual element not involving violence. The term combines the meaning of the *UCR* categories “prostitution and commercialized vice” and “sex offenses.” It includes offenses such as statutory rape, indecent exposure, prostitution, solicitation, pimping, lewdness, fornication, and adultery.
- Liquor Law Violations, Not Status—Being in a public place while intoxicated through consumption of alcohol or intake of a controlled substance or drug. 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, and violating probation or parole, other than technical violations that do not consist of committing a crime or are not prosecuted as such. It includes contempt, perjury, obstruction of justice, 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—e.g., escape from confinement; bribery; gambling, fish and game, hitchhiking, and health violations; false fire alarms; and immigration violations.
- 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 were classified as status offenses:
  - Runaway—Leaving the custody and home of parents, guardians, or custodians without permission and failing to return within a reasonable length of time in violation of a statute regulating the conduct of youth.



- Truancy—Violation of a compulsory school attendance law.
- Ungovernability—Being beyond the control of parents, guardians, or custodians or being disobedient of parental authority. It 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 a status offense 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, curfew 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.

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

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

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

- Law Enforcement Agency—Includes metropolitan police, State police, park police, sheriffs, constables,

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

- Other—Includes the youth’s own parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, stepparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, other legal guardians, counselors, teachers, principals, attendance officers, social agencies, district attorneys, probation officers, victims, other private citizens, and miscellaneous sources of referral that are 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 three States (Connecticut, New York, and North Carolina), and 16 in eight States (Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, South Carolina, and Texas). In the remaining States and the District of Columbia, the upper age of jurisdiction was 17. While the upper age of jurisdiction is commonly recognized in all States, there are numerous exceptions (e.g., concurrent jurisdiction, legislative exclusion, continuing jurisdiction).

**Youth Population at Risk** For delinquency and status offense matters, the youth population at risk is defined as the number of children between the ages 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. Thus, when the upper age of jurisdiction is 17, the delinquency and status offense youth population at risk is equal to the number of children between the ages of 10 and 17 living within the geographical area serviced by the court. (See Upper Age of Jurisdiction.)

# Publications From OJJDP

## Delinquency Prevention

*Delinquency Prevention Works* (Program Summary). 1995, NCJ 155006 (74 pp.).

*Family Life, Delinquency, and Crime: A Policymaker's Guide*. 1994, NCJ 140517 (65 pp.).

*Family Strengthening in Preventing Delinquency—A Literature Review*. 1994, NCJ 150222 (76 pp.), \$13.00.

*Matrix of Community-Based Initiatives* (Program Summary). 1995, NCJ 154816 (51 pp.).

*OJJDP and Boys and Girls Clubs of America: Public Housing and High-Risk Youth*. 1991, NCJ 128412 (5 pp.).

*Strengthening America's Families: Promising Parenting Strategies for Delinquency Prevention*. 1993, NCJ 140781 (105 pp.), \$9.15.

## Missing and Exploited Children

*The Compendium of the North American Symposium on International Child Abduction: How To Handle International Child Abduction Cases*. 1993, NCJ 148137 (928 pp.), \$17.50.

*Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children in America, First Report: Numbers and Characteristics, National Incidence Studies* (Full Report). 1990, NCJ 123668 (251 pp.), \$14.40.

*Obstacles to the Recovery and Return of Parentally Abducted Children*. 1994, NCJ 143458 (21 pp.).

*Obstacles to the Recovery and Return of Parentally Abducted Children* (Full Report). 1993, NCJ 144535 (877 pp.), \$22.80.

*Parental Abductors: Four Interviews* (Video). 1993, NCJ 147866 (43 min.), \$12.50.

## Law Enforcement

*Drug Recognition Techniques: A Training Program for Juvenile Justice Professionals*. 1990, NCJ 128795 (4 pp.).

*Innovative Law Enforcement Training Programs: Meeting State and Local Needs*. 1991, NCJ 131735 (4 pp.).

*Law Enforcement Custody of Juveniles* (Video). 1992, NCJ 137387 (31 min.), \$13.50.

*Law Enforcement Policies and Practices Regarding Missing Children and Homeless Youth*. 1993, NCJ 145644 (25 pp.).

*Law Enforcement Policies and Practices Regarding Missing Children and Homeless Youth* (Full Report). 1993, NCJ 143397 (217 pp.), \$13.00.

## Courts

*The Child Victim as a Witness, Research Report*. 1994, NCJ 149172 (143 pp.).

*Helping Victims and Witnesses in the Juvenile Justice System: A Program Handbook*. 1991, NCJ 139731 (282 pp.), \$15.00.

*How Juveniles Get to Criminal Court*. 1994, NCJ 150309 (5 pp.).

*Juvenile Court Statistics 1992*. 1994, NCJ 147487 (240 pp.).

*Offenders in Juvenile Court, 1992*. 1994, NCJ 150039 (11 pp.).

## Gangs

*Gang Suppression and Intervention: An Assessment* (Full Report). 1994, NCJ 146494 (197 pp.), \$15.00.

*Gang Suppression and Intervention: Community Models*. 1994, NCJ 148202 (26 pp.).

*Gang Suppression and Intervention: Problem and Response*. 1994, NCJ 149629 (21 pp.).

*Rising Above Gangs and Drugs: How To Start a Community Reclamation Project* (Training Manual). 1995, NCJ 133522 (264 pp.).

## Restitution

*Guide to Juvenile Restitution*. 1985, NCJ 098466 (162 pp.), \$12.50.

*Liability and Legal Issues in Juvenile Restitution*. 1990, NCJ 115405 (24 pp.).

*Victim-Offender Mediation in the Juvenile Justice System*. 1990, NCJ 120976 (16 pp.).

## Corrections

*American Probation and Parole Association's Drug Testing Guidelines and Practices for Juvenile Probation and Parole Agencies*. 1992, NCJ 136450 (163 pp.).

*Conditions of Confinement: Juvenile Detention and Corrections Facilities*. 1994, NCJ 141873 (16 pp.).

*Desktop Guide to Good Juvenile Probation Practice*. 1991, NCJ 128218 (141 pp.).

*A Resource Manual for Juvenile Detention and Corrections: Effective and Innovative Programs*. 1995, NCJ 155285 (164 pp.), \$15.00.

*Effective Practices in Juvenile Correctional Education: A Study of the Literature and Research 1980–1992*. 1994, NCJ 150066 (194 pp.), \$15.00.

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*Juvenile Intensive Supervision: An Assessment* (Full Report). 1994, NCJ 150064 (89 pp.), \$13.00.

*Juvenile Intensive Supervision: Planning Guide*. 1994, NCJ 150065 (80 pp.).

*Juveniles Taken Into Custody: Fiscal Year 1993 Report*. 1995, NCJ 154022 (195 pp.).

*National Survey of Reading Programs for Incarcerated Juvenile Offenders*. 1993, NCJ 144017 (51 pp.), \$6.75.

*OJJDP: Conditions of Confinement Teleconference* (Video). 1993, NCJ 147531 (90 min.), \$14.00.

*Public Juvenile Facilities: Children in Custody 1989*. 1991, NCJ 127189 (10 pp.).

## General Juvenile Justice

*Balanced and Restorative Justice*. 1994, NCJ 149727 (16 pp.).

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*Gould-Wysinger Awards (1993): A Tradition of Excellence*. 1994, NCJ 146840 (6 pp.).

*Guide for Implementing the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders* (Update on Programs). 1995, NCJ 153681 (255 pp.).

*Gun Acquisition and Possession in Selected Juvenile Samples*. 1993, NCJ 145326 (11 pp.).

*Innovative Community Partnerships: Working Together for Change*. 1994, NCJ 146483 (32 pp.).

*Juvenile Offenders and Victims: A National Report* (Full Report). 1995, NCJ 153569 (188 pp.).

*Law-Related Education for Juvenile Justice Settings*. 1993, NCJ 147063 (173 pp.), \$13.20.

*Minorities and the Juvenile Justice System*. 1993, NCJ 145849 (18 pp.).

*Minorities and the Juvenile Justice System* (Full Report). 1993, NCJ 139556 (176 pp.), \$11.50.

*Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Brochure*. 1993, NCJ 144527 (24 pp.).

*Study of Tribal and Alaska Native Juvenile Justice Systems*. 1992, NCJ 148217 (208 pp.), \$17.20.

*Urban Delinquency and Substance Abuse: Initial Findings*. 1994, NCJ 143454 (27 pp.).

*Urban Delinquency and Substance Abuse: Technical Report and Appendices*. 1993, NCJ 146416 (400 pp.), \$25.60.

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