

138740

**U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice**

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this ~~copyrighted~~ material has been granted by

Public Domain/OJP/OJJDP
U.S. Department of Justice

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the ~~copyright~~ owner.



Juvenile Justice Bulletin

OJJDP Update on Statistics

Gerald (Jerry) P. Regier, Acting Administrator

November 1992

Offenders in Juvenile Court, 1989

by Jeffrey A. Butts, Ph.D., and Melissa Sickmund, Ph.D.

NOV 18 1992

DEC 18 1992

ACQUISITION

Courts with juvenile jurisdiction handled 7 percent more delinquency cases in 1989 than they did in 1985. During the same 5-year period, the rate of delinquency cases per capita, that is, the number of cases disposed of by courts for every 1,000 juveniles in the population at risk of referral, increased 11 percent.¹ The per capita case rate for juveniles charged with offenses against persons (e.g., robbery, assault, and rape) increased 23 percent, while the rate for drug offenses (e.g., possession or sale) increased 6 percent. The number of juveniles waived to criminal court increased 78 percent from 1985 through 1989; the number of waived drug cases increased 469 percent.

These are among the statistics that appear in *Juvenile Court Statistics 1989*,

the latest in a series of reports estimating the number of cases handled each year by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction. The report presents national estimates of petitioned and nonpetitioned delinquency cases and petitioned status offense cases disposed of by courts with juvenile jurisdiction in 1989. Although courts with juvenile jurisdiction may handle a variety of cases, including abuse and neglect, adoption, and traffic cases, the report focuses on the disposition of juveniles charged with criminal law violations and status offenses.

In addition to national estimates, the report presents many subnational statistics, providing details not found in the national estimates, as well as an appendix that presents caseload statistics for nearly all States and their larger jurisdictions.

Other findings from *Juvenile Court Statistics 1989* include:

- In 58 percent of delinquency cases, the youth were charged with property offenses such as larceny or burglary.
- Drug offenses were involved in 7 percent, person offenses in 17 percent, and public order offenses in 18 percent of delinquency cases.

¹Juveniles at risk are defined as youth age 10 or older who would be under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court according to State law. The upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction is defined by statute. In most States, this age is 17, but upper ages of jurisdiction range from 15 to 18. The calculation of the population at risk of referral controls for State variations in the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction.

From the Administrator

The Nation's juvenile courts handled 1,189,200 delinquency cases in 1989. From 1985 through 1989, offenses against persons increased 18 percent. Aggravated assault cases increased by one-third, while criminal homicide cases increased by more than one-half (53 percent).

In light of these statistics, it is not surprising that the number of juvenile cases waived to adult criminal courts in the same 5-year span increased 78 percent. In fact, the number of drug cases

waved to adult courts increased more than four and one-half times (469 percent).

The statistics noted above are among the key findings that appear in *Juvenile Court Statistics 1989*, an analysis of data in the National Juvenile Court Data Archive maintained for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention by the National Center for Juvenile Justice. This *Update* summarizes the findings of this report, providing a profile of delinquency and status offense cases that came before our juvenile courts in 1989.

The increases in caseloads noted in this *Update* underscore the challenges facing juvenile justice professionals in law enforcement, courts, and corrections. It is my hope that this *Update*, and the report from which it is derived, will aid their efforts by increasing awareness of emerging patterns that affect the operation of our juvenile justice system.

Gerald (Jerry) P. Regier
Acting Administrator

- In 22 percent of delinquency cases, the youth stayed in secure juvenile detention facilities at some point between referral and disposition.
- Use of secure detention for juveniles increased 13 percent from 1985 to 1989.
- In 1989 courts handled half of their juvenile cases formally with the filing of a petition.
- The courts waived youth to criminal court in 2.7 percent of formally handled cases in 1989, compared with 1.7 percent in 1985.

A delinquency offense occurs when a juvenile commits an act for which an adult could be prosecuted in criminal court (e.g., burglary, robbery, motor vehicle theft, and assault). Status offenses are acts for which an adult would not be prosecuted (e.g., possession of alcohol, truancy, and running away from home).

National estimates of the number of delinquency cases and petitioned status offense cases disposed of in 1989 are based on data from more than 1,400 courts with jurisdiction over 57 percent of the U.S. juvenile population.²

Delinquency cases

In 1989 U.S. juvenile courts handled an estimated 1,189,200 delinquency cases. Person offenses such as homicide, rape, robbery, and assault were involved in 206,300 cases, or 17 percent of delinquency cases (table 1). Property offenses such as burglary, larceny-theft, arson, and vandalism were involved in 689,100 cases, or 58 percent. Drug offenses were involved in 77,300 cases, or 7 percent of the juvenile court caseload. Public order offenses such as disorderly conduct, obstruction of justice, and weapons offenses were involved in 216,500 cases, or 18 percent. The most frequent

²For information on the estimation procedure, see the methods section in this *Update* or in *Juvenile Court Statistics 1989*. The national estimates for 1985 through 1988 mentioned in this *Update* include revisions made subsequent to publication of other reports using these data.

Table 1

Delinquency Cases by Offense, 1989

Offense	Number of Cases	Percent Change	
		1988-1989	1985-1989
Total Delinquency	1,189,200	3%	7%
Person	206,300	9	18
Criminal Homicide	2,000	21	53
Forcible Rape	3,900	-3	-8
Robbery	23,600	10	-8
Aggravated Assault	47,900	15	33
Simple Assault	108,900	6	18
Other Violent Sex Offenses	6,400	8	11
Other Person Offenses	13,500	14	44
Property	689,100	2	4
Burglary	130,500	0	-6
Larceny-Theft	308,400	0	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	66,900	23	86
Arson	6,800	3	-2
Vandalism	82,600	1	-1
Trespassing	47,400	1	-3
Stolen Property Offenses	24,200	-19	-7
Other Property Offenses	22,300	10	35
Drug Law Violations	77,300	-4	1
Public Order	216,500	7	10
Obstruction of Justice	82,100	5	20
Disorderly Conduct	48,000	4	7
Weapons Offenses	25,300	15	27
Liquor Law Violations	12,600	-10	-32
Nonviolent Sex Offenses	12,500	13	-6
Other Public Order Offenses	36,100	15	12

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

Table 2

Percent Change in Delinquency Cases and Case Rates, 1985-1989

Offense	Number of Cases			Cases per 1,000 Youth at Risk		
	1985	1989	Percent Change	1985	1989	Percent Change
Delinquency	1,111,800	1,189,200	7%	42.2	47.0	11%
Person	175,300	206,300	18	6.7	8.2	23
Property	662,600	689,100	4	25.1	27.2	8
Drugs	76,200	77,300	1	2.9	3.1	6
Public Order	197,600	216,500	10	7.5	8.6	14

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

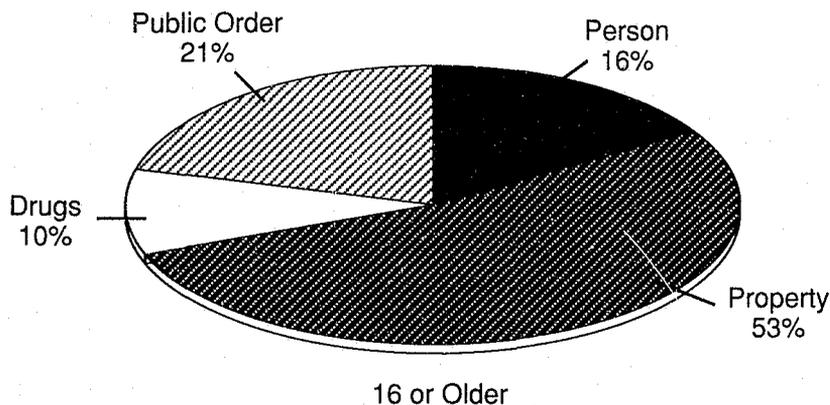
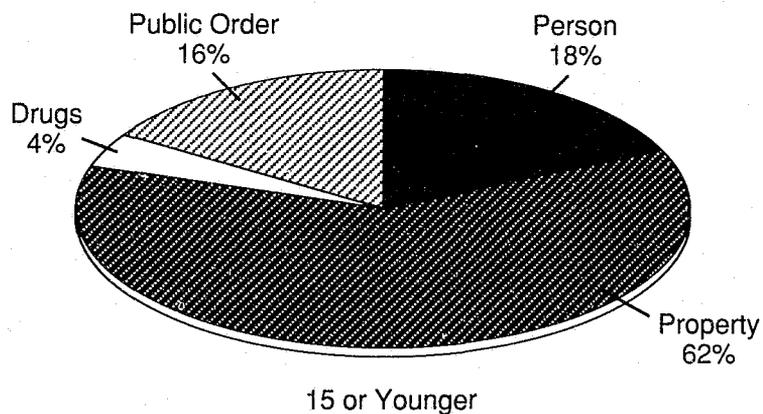
charge was larceny-theft, the most serious offense charged in 308,400 cases.

The number of delinquency cases increased 7 percent from 1985 to 1989. Changes in case volume varied by offense. While the number of person offense cases increased 18 percent, aggravated assault cases increased 33 percent, and criminal homicide cases increased 53 percent. The number of forcible rape and robbery cases, however, decreased 8 percent.

Cases involving property offenses increased 4 percent from 1985 to 1989, with motor vehicle theft increasing 86 percent. In one year, from 1988 to 1989, motor vehicle theft cases increased 23 percent. Juvenile liquor law violations decreased 32 percent from 1985 to 1989, and weapons offense cases increased 27 percent. However, drug law violations changed little, increasing just 1 percent.

Figure 1

Offense Characteristics of Delinquency Cases by Age at Referral, 1989



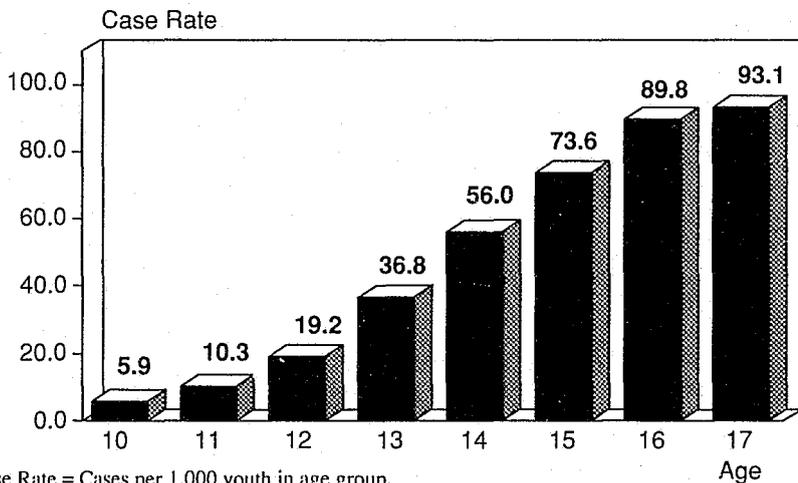
The 1,189,200 delinquency cases handled by the Nation's juvenile courts in 1989 corresponded to a rate of 47 cases for every 1,000 juveniles in the U.S. population at risk of referral (table 2). From 1985 through 1989, the delinquency case rate increased 11 percent. The rate of person offense cases increased 23 percent, from 6.7 to 8.2 cases per 1,000 youth at risk. The case rate for drug offenses increased 6 percent.

More than 40 percent of delinquency cases involved youth older than 16. While 10 percent of the cases among these older youth involved drug offenses, 53 percent involved property offenses (figure 1). Among cases involving youth younger than 16, only 4 percent involved drug offenses, and 62 percent involved property offenses.

Delinquency case rates increased markedly with age (figure 2). While the delinquency case rate for 14-year-olds was 56 cases per 1,000 youth at risk, the rate for 15-year-olds was more than 30 percent higher than that of 14-year-olds, and the rate for 16-year-olds was 22 percent higher than that of 15-year-olds. For every 1,000 16-year-olds at risk, juvenile courts handled 90 cases.

Figure 2

Delinquency Case Rates by Age at Referral, 1989



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

Table 3

Percent Change in Delinquency Cases by Sex and Race, 1985-1989

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1985	1989	
Male	900,800	968,500	8%
Person	140,600	165,500	18
Property	542,100	564,200	4
Drugs	62,900	66,600	6
Public Order	155,200	172,200	11
Female	210,900	220,800	5%
Person	34,700	40,800	18
Property	120,500	124,900	4
Drugs	13,300	10,700	-20
Public Order	42,400	44,300	5
White	804,900	801,700	0%
Person	101,500	114,900	13
Property	489,800	490,100	0
Drugs	61,000	44,700	-27
Public Order	152,600	152,000	0
Nonwhite	306,900	387,600	26%
Person	73,800	91,400	24
Property	172,800	199,000	15
Drugs	15,300	32,600	114
Public Order	45,000	64,500	43

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

Males were involved in 81 percent of delinquency cases. Their delinquency rate was 4 times greater than that of females, 75 cases per 1,000 compared with 18. Drug offense cases involved the highest percentage of males (86 percent), while person offense and public order cases involved the greatest proportion of females (20 percent each).

The number of cases involving males increased 8 percent from 1985 to 1989; the number of cases involving females increased 5 percent (table 3). Person offense cases increased 18 percent, and property cases increased 4 percent among both males and females. Drug cases involving males increased 6 percent, while drug cases involving females decreased 20 percent.

Most delinquency cases in 1989 involved white youth.³ Cases involving white youth outnumbered cases involving nonwhite youth by more than 2 to 1. From 1985 to 1989, however, the number of delinquency cases involving white youth remained relatively constant, while the number involving nonwhite youth increased 26 percent.

Among both white and nonwhite youth, more than half of the delinquency cases in 1989 involved a property offense. However, 24 percent of those cases involving nonwhites were for person offenses, compared with 14 percent of cases involving white youth. The nonwhite caseload contained a slightly larger proportion of drug law violations. While drug cases involving white youth decreased 27 percent from 1985 to 1989, drug cases involving nonwhite youth increased 114 percent.

Delinquency case rates for nonwhite youth were significantly higher than the corresponding rates for white youth. In 1989 the case rate for nonwhites was nearly double the case rate for whites (77.7 per 1,000 compared with 39.5). The case rate for person offenses differed considerably by race (18.3 for

³In 1989 whites made up 80 percent of the Nation's youth population at risk. In both court and population data, almost all youth of Hispanic ethnicity are included in the white racial category.

nonwhites, 5.7 for whites), as did the case rate for drug offenses (6.5 for nonwhites, 2.2 for whites).

Source of referral

Delinquency and status offense cases arrive in juvenile court after referrals by law enforcement, social service agencies, parents, schools, probation officers, and victims. In 1989 law enforcement accounted for more than 8 of every 10 delinquency referrals (figure 3). Law enforcement agencies referred almost all drug offenses (92 percent), property offenses (89 percent), person offense cases (81 percent), and the majority of public order offenses (59 percent) to the juvenile court.

Detention

Juveniles often stay in detention facilities at some point between referral to court and case disposition. In 22 percent of delinquency cases in 1989, authorities detained the juvenile prior to disposition. The use of detention in delinquency cases increased 13 percent from 1985 to 1989 (table 4).

The detention rate in cases involving property offenses increased 4 percent, while detention among youth involved in drug cases increased 71 percent. Because of the large volume of property cases, nearly half of the detentions in 1989 involved youth charged with property offenses (119,800).

Among cases involving male juveniles, the use of detention increased from 21 percent in 1985 to 23 percent in 1989 (table 5). Among drug cases involving males, the detention rate climbed from 22 percent to 38 percent. Females were detained in 18 percent of cases in both 1985 and 1989. Females charged with drug offenses, however, were more likely to be detained in 1989 (28 percent) than in 1985 (19 percent).

The use of detention in cases involving nonwhite juveniles exceeded the detention rate for white juveniles in 1989 (28 percent and 19 percent, respectively). Among drug law violators, there were significant racial

Table 4

Percent Change in Delinquency Cases Detained, 1985-1989

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1985	1989	
Delinquency	229,600	259,400	13%
Person	44,200	53,200	20
Property	115,500	119,800	4
Drugs	16,500	28,300	71
Public Order	53,400	58,200	9

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

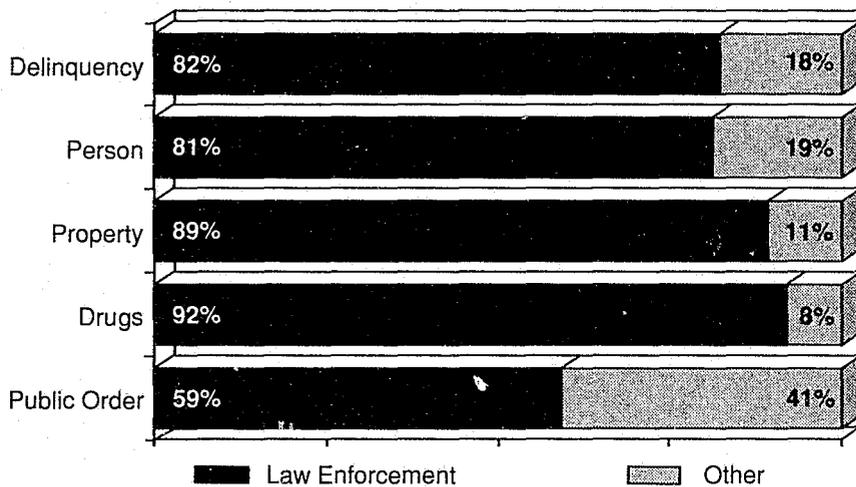
Table 5

Percent of Delinquency Cases Detained by Sex and Race, 1985 and 1989

Offense	1985	1989
Male	21%	23%
Person	27	27
Property	18	18
Drugs	22	38
Public Order	27	27
Female	18%	18%
Person	18	20
Property	13	13
Drugs	19	28
Public Order	29	26
White	19%	19%
Person	22	22
Property	16	15
Drugs	19	23
Public Order	26	26
Nonwhite	26%	28%
Person	30	31
Property	22	23
Drugs	33	55
Public Order	32	30

Figure 3

Source of Referral of Delinquency Cases by Offense, 1989



differences in the increased use of detention. From 1985 to 1989, while the use of detention for drug cases involving white youth increased slightly (19 percent to 23 percent), detention for drug cases involving nonwhite youth increased from 33 percent to 55 percent.

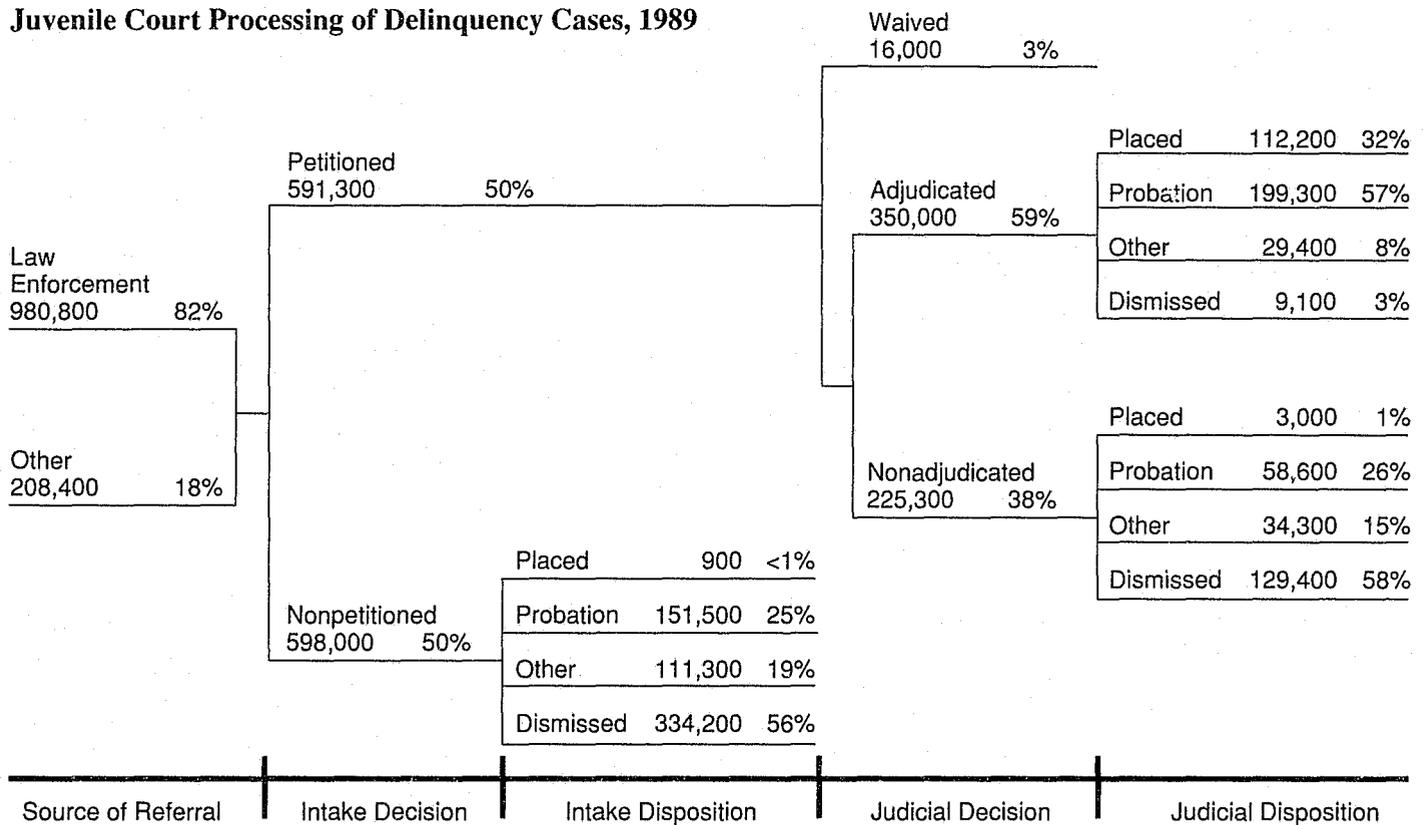
Care should be exercised when interpreting age, sex, or racial differences in the handling of juveniles, because not all reported statistics control for variations in the seriousness of the offense or the prior court history of the juvenile.

Case processing

When authorities refer juveniles to court, an intake officer or judge must first decide whether to handle the case informally or formally. Informal cases, which comprised half the cases in 1989, do not involve petitions or adjudicatory or waiver hearings. In 1989 juvenile

Figure 4

Juvenile Court Processing of Delinquency Cases, 1989



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

courts dismissed 56 percent of informal (nonpetitioned) cases either for lack of evidence or because the cases ended with the youth receiving a warning or counseling (figure 4). In 25 percent of informal cases, the juveniles agreed to probation; 19 percent of informal cases involved other informal dispositions.

Waiver. Before continuing with formal handling, the juvenile court may also decide to waive its jurisdiction and transfer the case to criminal (adult) court. The decision to waive jurisdiction is often based on the seriousness of the offense and on whether the youth is perceived as being amenable to rehabilitation in the juvenile court.

Waiving a case to adult court is rare. Only 1.7 percent of all formally processed delinquency cases moved to adult court in 1985; 2.7 percent were waived in 1989 (table 6). Cases involving person offenses were most likely to be waived in 1985 (3.1 percent), while in 1989 drug cases were most likely to be waived (5.2 percent).

The number of waived cases increased 78 percent from 1985 to 1989, with the number of waived drug offense cases increasing 469 percent (table 7). Nevertheless, property offense cases accounted for nearly half the cases waived in 1989.

Adjudication and disposition. In the majority of formally handled cases, an adjudicatory hearing is held, rather than a waiver hearing. At the hearing, the court determines whether the youth will be adjudicated, and if so, whether the youth will be adjudicated as a delinquent or as a status offender. The court then makes a disposition decision, which could include commitment to a residential facility, probation, referral to another agency or treatment program, fines, restitution, or community service. Dispositional orders often include multiple sanctions—for example, probation plus restitution and community service. Fifty-nine percent of all formally processed delinquency cases in 1989 resulted in adjudication (table 8); 32 percent of these juveniles were sent to residential facilities, while 57 percent were placed on formal probation (table 9).

Table 6

Percent of Petitioned Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 1985 and 1989

Offense	1985	1989
Delinquency	1.7%	2.7%
Person	3.1	4.1
Property	1.6	2.4
Drugs	1.3	5.2
Public Order	0.8	1.0

Table 7

Percent Change in Petitioned Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 1985-1989

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1985	1989	
Delinquency	9,000	16,000	78%
Person	3,000	4,600	54
Property	4,800	7,800	63
Drugs	400	2,500	469
Public Order	700	1,000	40

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

Table 8

Percent of Petitioned Delinquency Cases Adjudicated, 1985 and 1989

Offense	1985	1989
Delinquency	65%	59%
Person	58	54
Property	66	59
Drugs	69	63
Public Order	69	63

From 1985 to 1989 the use of out-of-home placement for adjudicated delinquency cases increased only slightly, from 29 percent to 32 percent. The largest change occurred among drug cases. In 1989, 37 percent of drug offense cases ended in out-of-home placement compared with 24 percent in 1985. A corresponding decrease occurred in the use of probation for youth involved in drug offense cases, from 63 percent to 55 percent.

Petitioned status offense cases

Juvenile courts formally handled 76,700 status offense cases in 1989 (table 10).⁴ Nearly one-third of these cases involved juvenile liquor law violations. Truancy cases accounted for another 27 percent; ungovernability cases, 14 percent; runaway cases, 15 percent; and other types of status offenses such as curfew violations accounted for the remaining 11 percent.

The nature of petitioned status offense cases changed considerably between 1985 and 1989. Liquor law violations increased 57 percent, while runaway and ungovernability cases declined 31 percent and 34 percent, respectively.

Youth under 16 years of age were involved in more than half (57 percent) of the formal status offense cases in 1989. These youth were more likely to be involved in truancy cases (40 percent) than liquor law violation cases (12 percent). The opposite held true for youth older than 16. They were involved in liquor violation cases (58 percent)

⁴In many communities, social service agencies, family crisis units, and county attorneys—rather than the juvenile courts—have assumed responsibility for screening and diverting alleged status offenders. National estimates of informally handled status offense cases are not calculated because of great differences in intake and screening procedures. The national estimates presented here and in *Juvenile Court Statistics 1989* focus on formally handled (petitioned) status offense cases. Readers interested in the nature of informally handled status offense cases can review the subnational statistics presented in chapter 4 of *Juvenile Court Statistics 1989*.

more often than in truancy cases (10 percent).

Forty-one percent of petitioned status offense cases involved females. Males and females were equally represented in truancy and ungovernability cases. Males accounted for three out of four liquor law violation cases (74 percent),

while the majority of runaway cases involved females (62 percent).

White youth were involved in 78 percent of the formal status offense cases, which is comparable to their representation in the U.S. youth population. White youth were involved in 71 percent of truancy cases, 68 percent of ungovernability

Table 9

Percent of Adjudicated Delinquency Cases Placed Out-of-Home and on Formal Probation, 1985 and 1989

	1985	1989
Placed Out-of-Home Delinquency	29%	32%
Person	31	35
Property	26	28
Drugs	24	37
Public Order	36	40
Placed on Formal Probation Delinquency	57%	57%
Person	56	56
Property	59	60
Drugs	63	55
Public Order	51	51

Table 10

Percent Change in Petitioned Status Offense Cases and Case Rates, 1985-1989

Offense	Number of Cases			Cases per 1,000 Youth at Risk		
	1985	1989	Percent Change	1985	1989	Percent Change
Status Offense	77,400	76,700	-1%	2.9	3.0	3%
Runaway	17,100	11,800	-31	0.6	0.5	-28
Truancy	22,700	20,900	-8	0.9	0.8	-4
Ungovernable	16,700	11,000	-34	0.6	0.4	-31
Liquor	15,600	24,400	57	0.6	1.0	64

cases, 76 percent of runaway cases, and 93 percent of liquor law violation cases.

Source of referral

Law enforcement agencies referred 41 percent of the formal status offense cases handled by juvenile courts in 1989. The source of referral varied by offense. Law enforcement referred 91 percent of liquor law violation cases, 34 percent of runaway cases, 16 percent of truancy cases, and 8 percent of ungovernability cases.

Detention

Juvenile detention was used in 6,500 petitioned status offense cases in 1989 (table 11). The use of detention declined from 1985 to 1989, from 17 percent (12,900 of 77,400 cases) to 8 percent (6,500 of 76,700 cases). Detention was least likely in cases of truancy (2 percent) and most likely in runaway cases (21 percent). Runaways also accounted for the largest group of detained status offenders. Of the estimated 6,500 petitioned status offense cases where youth

were detained in 1989, 38 percent involved a youth charged as a runaway.

Case processing

Sixty-three percent of petitioned status offense cases in 1989 ended in adjudication (figure 5). Adjudication was most common in cases involving truancy (67 percent) and ungovernability (68

percent) and least likely in runaway cases (50 percent). As in delinquency cases, probation was the most common disposition for adjudicated status offenders. Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of adjudicated status offenders received probation, 18 percent were placed outside the home, and 12 percent received some other sanction such as restitution or community service.

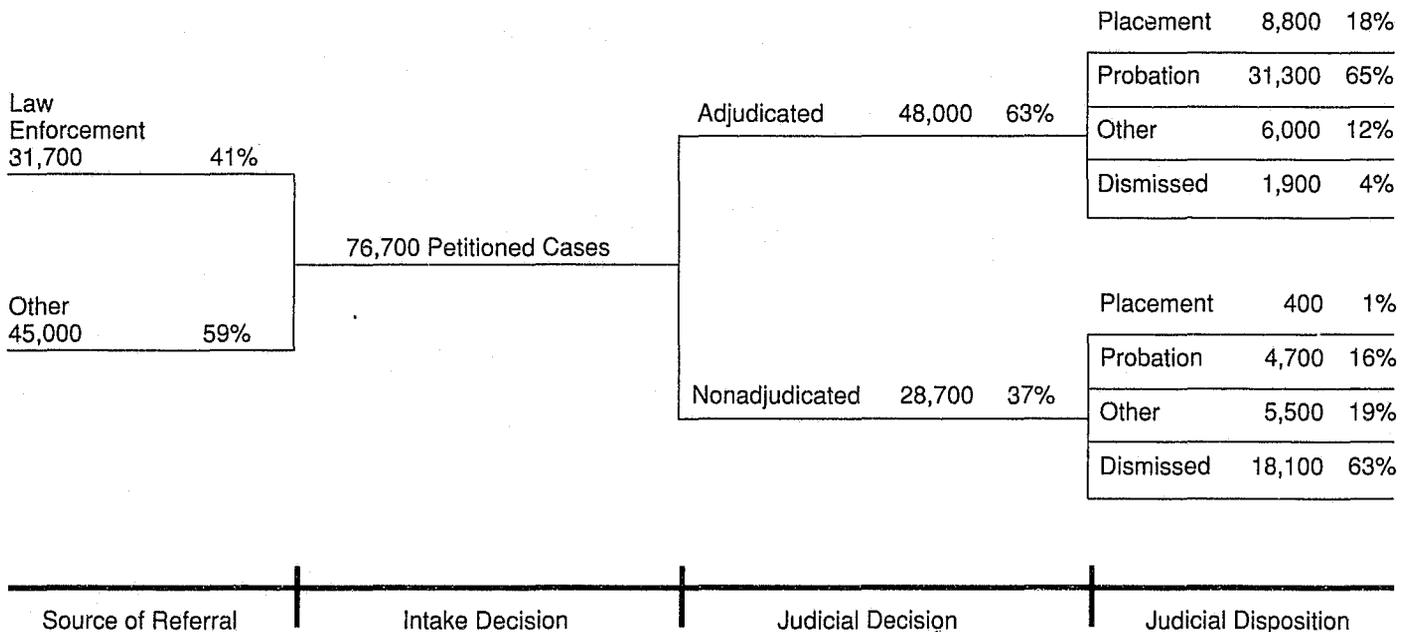
Table 11

Percent Change in Petitioned Status Offense Cases Detained, 1985-1989

Offense	Number of Cases		Percent Change
	1985	1989	
Status Offense	12,900	6,500	-50%
Runaway	5,700	2,500	-56
Truancy	1,700	500	-71
Ungovernable	3,400	1,200	-65
Liquor	1,300	1,200	-4

Figure 5

Juvenile Court Processing of Petitioned Status Offense Cases, 1989



Methods

Juvenile Court Statistics 1989 defines a juvenile court case as any instance in which a youth is referred to court for one or more offenses. A youth can be involved in more than one case during a calendar year. Cases involving multiple offenses are categorized according to the most serious offense. For example, a case involving a charge of vandalism and a charge of robbery is characterized as a robbery case. Similarly, cases involving multiple dispositions are categorized according to the most severe disposition. A disposition of probation and placement in a residential facility is considered a disposition of residential placement.

The *Juvenile Court Statistics* series uses data from the National Juvenile Court Data Archive, which are provided by State and county agencies responsible for the collection and/or dissemination of information on the processing of youth through the juvenile courts. These data are not the result of a census or a scientifically designed (probability) sampling procedure, nor are they the result of a uniform data collection effort.

National estimates were developed using compatible information from all courts that provided data to the

Archive. While juvenile courts with jurisdiction over 96 percent of the U.S. juvenile population contributed at least some 1989 data to the Archive, not all of this information could be used to generate the national estimates because of incompatibilities in the structure or content of the data files.

Data are provided to the Archive in two forms—automated case-level data and court-level aggregate data. Automated case-level data describing case characteristics such as age, gender, race, the date and source of referral, offense(s) charged, whether the case was petitioned and/or detained, and the date and type of disposition were provided by 1,055 jurisdictions in 20 States (Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin). These courts had jurisdiction over 44.4 percent of the Nation's juvenile population and handled 56,984 juvenile cases in 1989.

Aggregate court-level data were provided by 368 jurisdictions in 7 States (District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, and Washington). In 1989 these courts had jurisdiction over 12.3 percent of the U.S.

juvenile population and handled 136,416 juvenile court cases. In all, compatible data were provided by 1,423 jurisdictions, covering 56.7 percent of the Nation's juvenile population.

National estimates of court activity were developed using the case-level data base, the court-level data base, and county-level juvenile population estimates controlling for the upper age of original court jurisdiction in each State. The basic assumption underlying the estimation procedure is that dynamics producing the volume and characteristics of juvenile court cases in reporting jurisdictions are shared by nonreporting jurisdictions of similar size. To produce the national estimates, case records were weighted incorporating factors known to be related to variations in court caseloads—the court's jurisdictional responsibilities; the size and demographic composition of the jurisdiction; the age, gender, and race of the youth involved in each case; and the offense charged against the youth.

For interested readers, a complete description of the estimation procedure appears in the methods section of *Juvenile Court Statistics 1989*.

Acknowledgments

This *OJJDP Update* summarizes the latest report in the annual *Juvenile Court Statistics* series.⁵ The *Update* was written by Jeffrey A. Butts and Melissa Sickmund, senior research associates at the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ). Nancy Tierney was responsible for report production.

The analysis was supported by funds provided to the National Juvenile Court Data Archive by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) through grant numbers 85-JN-

CX-0012 and 92-JN-CX-0001. Since 1975, OJJDP has provided all funding for the establishment and maintenance of the Archive.

NCJJ gratefully acknowledges the efforts of State and local agencies that contribute data to the Archive. Their cooperation with requests for data and documentation made this publication possible.

Related readings

For more information about the Archive, contact the National Center for Juvenile

Justice, 701 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 or call 412-227-6950. To obtain a copy of *Juvenile Court Statistics 1989*, any of the following *OJJDP Updates* that focus on juvenile justice statistics, or a copy of the *Guide to the Data Sets in the National Juvenile Court Data Archive*, write the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850 or call 800-638-8736 (in

⁵ Snyder, Howard N., Melissa Sickmund, Ellen H. Nimick, Terrence A. Finnegan, Dennis P. Sullivan, Rowen S. Poole, and Nancy J. Tierney. *Juvenile Court Statistics 1989*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice (1991).

About the National Juvenile Court Data Archive

This *OJJDP Update* presents information from the latest *Juvenile Court Statistics* report. As part of a series started in 1929, *Juvenile Court Statistics* is the primary source of information on the activities of the Nation's juvenile courts. The data for this report are collected, analyzed, and stored as part of the National Juvenile Court Data Archive operated by the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

The Archive collects demographic, legal, and dispositional data on more than 600,000 delinquency and status offense cases annually, thus offering the most detailed information available on youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system. In addition to producing the *Juvenile Court Statistics* reports and other topical *Updates* (see related readings), the Archive provides special data analyses and administers the Visiting Scholars Program, which is designed to support special studies of the Archive's data for research and policy purposes.

Maryland and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, call 301-251-5500).

Study Sheds New Light on Court Careers of Juvenile Offenders, August 1988, NCJ 113460.

The Juvenile Court's Response to Violent Crime, January 1989, NCJ 115338.

Juvenile Courts Vary Greatly in How They Handle Drug and Alcohol Cases, August 1989, NCJ 119319.

Growth in Minority Detentions Attributed to Drug Law Violators, March 1990, NCJ 122011.

Runaways in Juvenile Courts, November 1990, NCJ 124881.

Juvenile Court Property Cases, November 1990, NCJ 125625.

Offenders in Juvenile Court, 1987, July 1991, NCJ 126160.

Juvenile Court Drug and Alcohol Cases: 1985-1988, December 1991, NCJ 132073.

Arrests of Youth 1990, January 1992, NCJ 133011.

Offenders in Juvenile Court, 1988, February 1992, NCJ 133013.

Restitution and Juvenile Recidivism, September 1992, NCJ 137774.

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 OJJDP or the U.S. Department of Justice.

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.

NCJ 138740