Spotlight on Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

The latest data highlight trends and characteristics of girls at various stages in the juvenile justice system.

Delinquency cases involving girls in 2014 were more likely to be diverted or receive probation than cases involving boys.

Delinquency cases involving girls in 2014 were more likely to be diverted or receive probation than cases involving boys.

Simple assault and larceny-theft offenses accounted for nearly half of all female delinquency cases in 2014.

Females accounted for more than half of all petitioned runaway cases in 2014 and less than one-third of all curfew cases.

In 2015, status offenses and technical violations were more common for females in placement than for males.

Following the larger relative decline in arrests of boys, the percent of arrests involving girls has grown.

Access more information on girls in the juvenile justice system:
- Review FAQs about girls’ involvement in juvenile arrests, juvenile court cases, and residential placement
- Analyze data with Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics and Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement

Notes: This publication was prepared by Charles Puzzanchera and Samantha Ehrmann, National Center for Juvenile Justice, with funds provided by OJJDP through grants #2015-JF-FX-0061 and #2016-JF-FX-K001. January 2018.