



*Juvenile Offenders and Victims:*

# National Report Series

*Bulletin*

December 2014

*This bulletin is part of the Juvenile Offenders and Victims National Report Series. The National Report offers a comprehensive statistical overview of the problems of juvenile crime, violence, and victimization and the response of the juvenile justice system. During each interim year, the bulletins in the National Report Series provide access to the latest information on juvenile arrests, court cases, juveniles in custody, and other topics of interest. Each bulletin in the series highlights selected topics at the forefront of juvenile justice policymaking, giving readers focused access to statistics on some of the most critical issues. Together, the National Report and this series provide a baseline of facts for juvenile justice professionals, policymakers, the media, and concerned citizens.*

## Juvenile Arrests 2012

Charles Puzzanchera

### A Message From OJJDP

This bulletin provides an overview of the nation's juvenile crime problem by analyzing arrest data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Because this bulletin is produced annually, it is a useful tool for juvenile justice practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and others who seek to prevent, intervene in, and respond to juvenile delinquency. Specifically, the cumulative data can reveal shifts in juvenile offending patterns; signal any disparities in how youth of different races, genders, and circumstances are treated; and highlight areas where treatment and services can be improved.

Over the past decade, we have seen a significant drop in juvenile arrest rates nationwide. In fact, trends since 1980 reveal that arrest rates in 2012 for all crime index offense categories were at historic low levels. The number of juvenile arrests dropped 10 percent between 2011 and 2012 and has dropped 37 percent since 2003, which is very encouraging.

Even so, accumulating evidence points to the detrimental effects on healthy adolescent development that system involvement and confinement impose. As a result, many state and local juvenile justice agencies are striving to implement more developmentally based and trauma-informed legislation, policies, and practices to keep juveniles out of the juvenile justice system in the first place.

It is OJJDP's hope that the information provided in this bulletin will guide the reform efforts to significantly reduce the rate of juvenile arrests over time, ensure more fair and appropriate services for system-involved juveniles, and secure better long-term prospects for these youth, their families, and their communities.

Robert L. Listenbee  
Administrator



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# Most information about law enforcement's response to juvenile crime comes from the FBI's UCR Program

## What do arrest statistics count?

Findings in this bulletin are drawn from data that local law enforcement agencies across the country report to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. To properly interpret the material presented, the reader needs a clear understanding of what arrest statistics count. Arrest statistics report the number of arrests that law enforcement agencies made in a given year—not the number of individuals arrested nor the number of crimes committed. The number of arrests is not the same as the number of people arrested because an unknown number of individuals are arrested more than once during the year. Nor do arrest statistics represent the number of crimes that arrested individuals commit because a series of crimes that one person commits may culminate in a single arrest, and a single crime may result in the arrest of more than one person. This latter situation, where many arrests result from one crime, is relatively common in juvenile law-violating behavior because juveniles\* are more likely than adults to commit crimes in groups. For this reason, one should not use arrest statistics to indicate the relative proportions of crime that juveniles and adults commit. Arrest statistics are most appropriately a measure of entry into the justice system.

Arrest statistics also have limitations in measuring the volume of arrests for a particular offense. Under the UCR Program, the FBI requires law enforcement

\* In this bulletin, "juvenile" refers to persons younger than age 18. In 2012, this definition was at odds with the legal definition of juveniles in 12 states—10 states where all 17-year-olds are defined as adults, and 2 states where all 16- and 17-year-olds are defined as adults.

agencies to classify an arrest by the most serious offense charged in that arrest. For example, the arrest of a youth charged with aggravated assault and possession of a weapon would be reported to the FBI as an arrest for aggravated assault. Therefore, when arrest statistics show that law enforcement agencies made an estimated 24,700 arrests of young people for weapons law violations in 2012, it means that a weapons law violation was the most serious charge in these 24,700 arrests. An unknown number of additional arrests in 2012 included a weapons charge as a lesser offense.

## How do arrest statistics differ from clearance statistics?

Clearance statistics measure the proportion of reported crimes that were cleared (or "closed") by either arrest or other, exceptional means (such as the death of the offender or unwillingness of the victim to cooperate). A single arrest may result in many clearances. For example, 1 arrest could clear 10 burglaries if the person was charged with committing all 10 crimes, or multiple arrests may result in a single clearance if a group of offenders committed the crime. The FBI's reporting guidelines require that clearances involving both juvenile and adult offenders be classified as clearances for crimes that adults commit. Because the juvenile clearance proportions include only those clearances in which no adults were involved, they underestimate juvenile involvement in crime. Although these data do not present a definitive picture of juvenile involvement in crime, they are the closest measure generally available of the proportion of crime known to law enforcement that is attributed to persons younger than age 18.

## *Crime in the United States* reports data on murder victims

Each *Crime in the United States* report presents estimates of the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. Although many crimes are never reported to law enforcement, murder is one crime that is nearly always reported.

An estimated 14,830 murders were reported to law enforcement agencies in 2012, or 4.7 murders for every 100,000 U.S. residents. The murder rate was essentially constant between 1999 and 2006 and then fell 17% through 2012, reaching its lowest level since at least 1980.

Of all murder victims in 2012, 91% (or 13,540 victims) were 18 years old or older. The other 1,290 murder victims were younger than age 18 (i.e., juveniles). The number of juvenile murder victims declined annually since 2008, falling 26% during that 5-year period. By 2012, the number of juvenile murder victims was 55% less than the peak year of 1993, when an estimated 2,880 juveniles were murdered. During the same 2008–2012 period, the estimated number of adult murder victims fell 7%.

Of all juveniles murdered in 2012, 37% were younger than age 5, 67% were male, and 51% were white. Of all juveniles murdered in 2012, 32% of male victims, 47% of female victims, 43% of white victims, and 29% of black victims were younger than age 5.

In 2012, 69% of all murder victims were killed with a firearm. Adults were more likely to be killed with a firearm (71%) than were juveniles (51%). However, the involvement of a firearm depended greatly on the age of the juvenile victim. In 2012, 22% of murdered juveniles younger than age 13 were killed with a firearm, compared with 82% of murdered juveniles age 13 or older. The most common method of murdering children younger than age 5 was by physical assault.

# In 2012, law enforcement agencies in the U.S. made over 1.3 million arrests of persons under age 18

The number of arrests of juveniles in 2012 was 37% fewer than the number of arrests in 2003

Most serious offense	2012 estimated number of juvenile arrests	Percent of total juvenile arrests			Percent change		
		Female	Younger than 15	White	2003– 2012	2008– 2012	2011– 2012
<b>Total</b>	1,319,700	29%	28%	65%	-37%	-34%	-10%
<b>Violent Crime Index</b>	61,070	19	28	46	-33	-36	-10
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	720	9	11	46	-43	-42	-14
Forcible rape	2,500	2	37	64	-39	-24	-10
Robbery	21,500	10	20	29	-15	-39	-10
Aggravated assault	36,300	26	33	55	-40	-35	-11
<b>Property Crime Index</b>	295,400	35	29	61	-36	-32	-12
Burglary	53,800	12	28	59	-36	-36	-13
Larceny-theft	224,200	42	29	61	-30	-30	-12
Motor vehicle theft	13,100	16	21	57	-71	-47	-7
Arson	4,400	15	59	72	-46	-33	-11
<b>Nonindex</b>							
Other (simple) assaults	173,100	37	39	59	-28	-25	-9
Forgery and counterfeiting	1,400	30	14	67	-69	-44	-9
Fraud	4,700	32	18	56	-36	-35	-10
Embezzlement	400	39	7	63	-61	-65	6
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	12,900	16	23	52	-47	-38	-3
Vandalism	59,900	16	39	75	-43	-44	-12
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	24,700	10	34	60	-37	-38	-13
Prostitution and commercialized vice	800	76	7	40	-44	-46	-19
Sex offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	12,400	10	50	71	-32	-14	-1
Drug abuse violations	140,000	17	17	74	-29	-22	-6
Gambling	1,000	6	10	10	-44	-41	-2
Offenses against the family and children	3,300	38	32	68	-51	-42	-6
Driving under the influence	9,400	26	2	92	-55	-41	-7
Liquor laws	77,800	40	10	88	-42	-40	-12
Drunkenness	9,900	28	12	87	-43	-36	-14
Disorderly conduct	120,100	35	38	55	-38	-36	-14
Vagrancy	1,400	22	26	62	-30	-64	-22
All other offenses (except traffic)	239,600	27	24	68	-37	-33	-10
Suspicion (not included in totals)	300	27	34	73	-79	25	141
Curfew and loitering	70,200	29	28	57	-49	-47	-9

■ All four offenses that make up the Violent Crime Index decreased considerably between 2008 and 2012: murder (-42%), rape (-24%), robbery (-39%), and aggravated assault (-35%).

■ In 2012, there were an estimated 224,200 juvenile arrests for larceny-theft. More than 4 of every 10 (42%) of these arrests involved females, 29% involved youth younger than age 15, and 61% involved white youth.

■ Youth younger than age 15 accounted for more than half (59%) of all juvenile arrests for arson in 2012 and nearly 40% of juvenile arrests for simple assault, vandalism, and disorderly conduct.

■ Females accounted for 9% of juvenile arrests for murder but one-fourth (26%) of juvenile arrests for aggravated assault and 37% of juvenile arrests for simple assault.

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

**Data source:** Analysis of Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [online, retrieved 10/14/14].

# Juvenile arrests for violent crime declined for the 6th consecutive year

## Juvenile arrests for violent crimes fell 36% in the past 5 years

The FBI assesses trends in violent crimes by monitoring four offenses that law enforcement agencies nationwide consistently report. These four crimes—murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—form the Violent Crime Index.

Following 10 years of declines between 1994 and 2004, juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses increased from 2004 to 2006 and then declined each year through 2012. As a result, the number of juvenile violent crime arrests in 2012 was less than any of the previous 33 years and 24% less than the previous low point in 1984.

In fact, juvenile arrests for all violent crimes reached historically low levels in 2012. Following a 39% decline since 2008, the number of juvenile robbery arrests in 2012 was at its lowest level since 1980. Similarly, the number of juvenile arrests for forcible rape fell 40% in the past 10 years to reach its lowest level of the 1980–2012 period. After falling to a relatively low level in 2004, juvenile arrests for murder increased through 2007 and then declined 46% by 2012 to reach the lowest level in three decades. The number of juvenile arrests for aggravated assault was cut in half between 1994 and 2012, also reaching its lowest level since at least 1980.

Between 2003 and 2012, the number of arrests in all offense categories declined for juveniles and the relative decline for juveniles exceeded that of adults.

Most serious offense	Percent change in arrests 2003–2012	
	Juvenile	Adult
Violent Crime Index	-33%	-9%
Murder	-43	-13
Forcible rape	-39	-30
Robbery	-15	0
Aggravated assault	-40	-9
Property Crime Index	-36	18
Burglary	-36	11
Larceny-theft	-30	29
Motor vehicle theft	-71	-49
Simple assault	-28	2
Weapons law violations	-37	-3
Drug abuse violations	-29	-5

**Data source:** Analysis of Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [online, retrieved 10/14/14].

## Juvenile property crime arrests declined for the fourth straight year

As with violent crime, the FBI assesses trends in the volume of property crimes by monitoring four offenses that law enforcement agencies nationwide consistently report. These four crimes, which

form the Property Crime Index, are burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

For the period 1980–1994, during which juvenile violent crime arrests increased substantially, juvenile property crime arrests remained relatively constant. After this long period of relative stability, juvenile property crime arrests began to fall. Between 1994 and 2006, the number of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests was cut in half, reaching its lowest level since at least 1980. This decline was interrupted briefly as the number of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests increased in 2007 and 2008. By 2012, the number of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests fell 32%, reaching its lowest level since at least 1980. Between 2008 and 2012, juvenile arrests declined for individual property offenses: burglary (36%), larceny-theft (30%), motor vehicle theft (47%), and arson (33%). As a result, juvenile arrests for all Property Crime Index offenses in 2012 were at their lowest levels since at least 1980.

## Most arrested juveniles were referred to court

In most states, some persons younger than age 18 are, because of their age or by statutory exclusion, under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system. For arrested persons younger than age 18 and under the original jurisdiction of their state's juvenile justice system, the FBI's UCR Program monitors what happens as a result of the arrest. This is the only instance in the UCR Program in which the statistics on arrests

coincide with state variations in the legal definition of a juvenile.

In 2012, 22% of arrests involving youth who were eligible in their state for processing in the juvenile justice system were handled within law enforcement agencies and the youth were released, 68% were referred to juvenile court, and 8% were referred directly to criminal court. The others were referred to a welfare agency or to another police agency.

**Data source:** *Crime in the United States 2012* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2013), table 68.

# In 2012, 1 in 5 juvenile violent crime arrests involved females and more than half involved minority youth

## Females accounted for 29% of juvenile arrests in 2012

Law enforcement agencies made 383,600 arrests of females younger than age 18 in 2012. From 2003 through 2012, arrests of juvenile females decreased less than male arrests in several offense categories (e.g., aggravated and simple assault, larceny-theft, vandalism, liquor law violations, and disorderly conduct).

Most serious offense	Percent change in juvenile arrests 2003–2012	
	Female	Male
Violent Crime Index	-31%	-34%
Robbery	-2	-16
Aggravated assault	-35	-42
Simple assault	-19	-32
Property Crime Index	-29	-39
Burglary	-36	-36
Larceny-theft	-26	-33
Motor vehicle theft	-73	-70
Vandalism	-35	-45
Weapons	-45	-36
Drug abuse violations	-26	-30
Liquor law violations	-34	-46
Driving under influence	-43	-58
Disorderly conduct	-29	-42

**Data source:** Analysis of Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [online, retrieved 10/14/14].

Gender differences also occurred in the assault arrest trends for adults. Between 2003 and 2012, adult male arrests for aggravated assault fell 12% while female arrests increased 1%. Similarly, adult male arrests for simple assault fell 3% between 2003 and 2012 while adult female arrests rose 20%. Therefore, the female proportion of arrests grew for both types of assault. It is likely that the disproportionate growth in female assault arrests over this period was related to factors that affected both juveniles and adults.

Gender differences in arrest trends also increased the proportion of arrests

involving females in other offense categories for both juveniles and adults. Between 2003 and 2012, the number of larceny-theft arrests of juvenile females fell 26% while juvenile male arrests declined 33%, and adult female arrests grew more than adult male arrests (55% and 14%, respectively). For Property Crime Index offenses, juvenile arrests declined more for males than for females between 2003 and 2012, and adult arrests increased less for males (5%) than for females (48%).

## Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities

The racial composition of the U.S. juvenile population ages 10–17 in 2012 was 76% white, 17% black, 5% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 2% American Indian. Most juveniles of Hispanic ethnicity were included in the white racial category. More than half (52%) of all juvenile arrests for violent

crimes in 2012 involved black youth, 46% involved white youth, 1% involved Asian youth, and 1% involved American Indian youth. For property crime arrests, the proportions were 61% white youth, 36% black youth, 2% Asian youth, and 1% American Indian youth. Black youth were overrepresented in juvenile arrests.

Most serious offense	Black proportion of juvenile arrests in 2012
Murder	52%
Forcible rape	33
Robbery	69
Aggravated assault	43
Simple assault	39
Burglary	39
Larceny-theft	35
Motor vehicle theft	40
Weapons	37
Drug abuse violations	23
Vandalism	23
Liquor laws	7

**Data source:** Analysis of Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [online, retrieved 10/14/14].

## In 2012, juveniles were involved in about 1 in 14 arrests for murder and about 1 in 5 arrests for robbery, burglary, and motor vehicle theft

Most serious offense	Juvenile arrests as a percentage of total arrests				
	All	Male	Female	White	Black
<b>Total</b>	10%	10%	11%	10%	12%
<b>Violent Crime Index</b>	12	12	11	9	16
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	7	7	5	6	7
Forcible rape	14	14	22	14	14
Robbery	21	21	16	14	26
Aggravated assault	9	9	11	8	12
<b>Property Crime Index</b>	18	19	17	16	22
Burglary	19	20	14	17	24
Larceny-theft	17	18	17	16	21
Motor vehicle theft	19	20	16	17	25
Arson	38	39	32	38	41
<b>Nonindex</b>					
Other (simple) assaults	14	13	19	13	18
Vandalism	26	28	21	27	24
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	17	16	19	17	15
Drug abuse violations	9	9	8	10	7

**Data source:** Analysis of Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [online, retrieved 10/14/14].

# The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate declined for the 4th consecutive year

## Violent crime arrest rates reached a new historic low in 2012

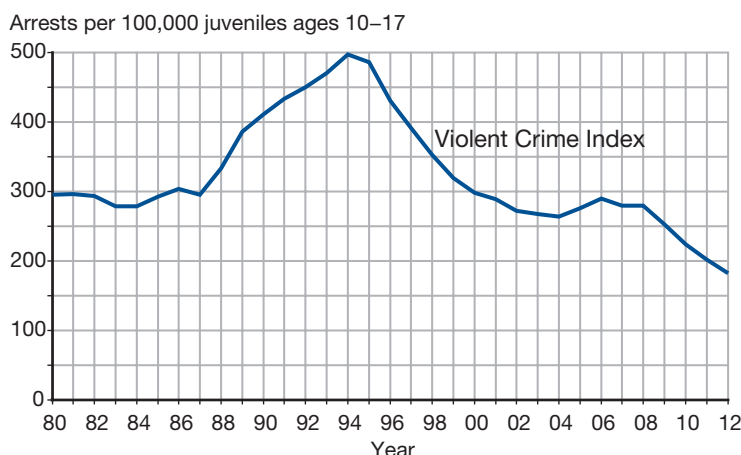
The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate (i.e., the number of arrests per 100,000 juveniles in the population) was essentially constant through the late 1980s and then increased sharply through 1994. This rapid growth led to speculation about changes in the nature of juvenile offenders—concerns that spurred state legislators to pass laws that facilitated an increase in the flow of youth into the adult justice system. Since the 1994 peak, however, the juvenile violent crime arrest rate generally declined each year since the mid-1990s. Following the past 4 consecutive years of decline, the rate in 2012 was 63% below the 1994 peak, resting at its lowest level since at least 1980.

## Declines in violent crime arrest rates were evident across gender and racial groups

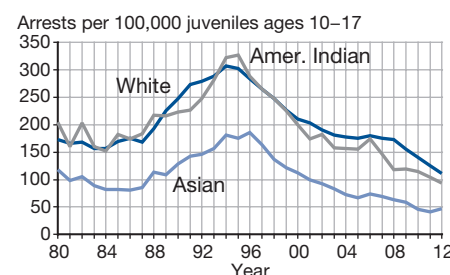
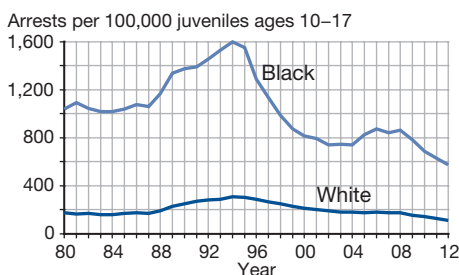
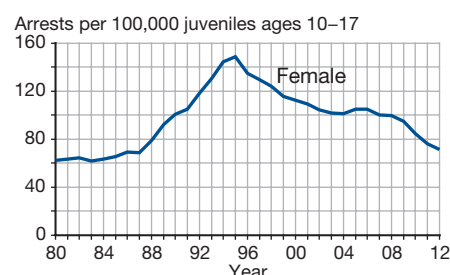
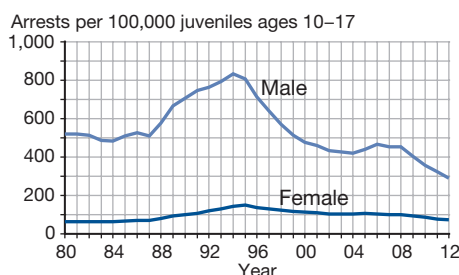
Male juvenile violent crime arrest rates exceed the rates for females. For example, during the 1980s, the male violent crime arrest rate was nearly 8 times greater than the female rate. However, by 2012, the male rate was only 4 times greater. This convergence of male and female arrest rates is due to the large relative increase in the female rate. Between 1980 and 1994, the male rate increased 60% while the female rate more than doubled. By 2012, the male rate was 65% below its 1994 peak and at its lowest level in at least three decades. Although the female rate also declined since the mid-1990s (down 52%), the rate in 2012 was 16% above its 1983 low point.

With few exceptions, violent crime arrest rates have declined for all racial groups for

## The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate fell 35% between 2008 and 2012



## Violent Crime Index arrest rate trends by gender and race



■ The Violent Crime Index arrest rate declined considerably for all racial subgroups in the last 10 years. The relative decline between 2003 and 2012 was greatest for Asian youth (44%), followed by American Indian (41%), white (39%), and black (23%) youth.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. (See arrest rate data source note on page 11 for details.)

nearly two decades. In fact, violent crime arrest rates for each racial group declined 64% or more since the mid-1990s. As a result of these declines, the rates in 2012

for white, black, and American Indian youth were at their lowest level since at least 1980, and rates for Asian youth were near their lowest level.

# Juvenile property crime arrest rates have fallen almost steadily since the mid-1990s

## Property crime arrest rates fell in each of the past 4 years

After years of relative stability between 1980 and the mid-1990s, the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate began a decline that continued annually until reaching a then-historic low in 2006, down 54% from its 1988 peak. This nearly two-decade decline was interrupted by a slight increase over the next 2 years, followed by a 31% decline between 2008 and 2012. As a result, juveniles were less likely to be arrested for property crimes in 2012 than at any point in the past 33 years.

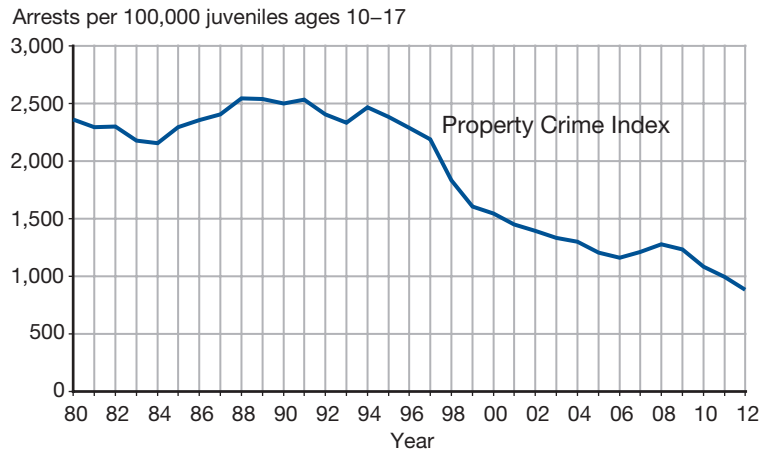
## Male property crime arrest rates declined more than female rates

The male property crime arrest rate has generally declined each year since the late 1980s. In the 10 years since 2003, the male rate fell 37%, reaching its lowest level in at least three decades. In comparison, the decline in the female rate began nearly 10 years after that for males, and the relative decline was less for females (down 27% since 2003). Unlike the pattern for males, the female rate varied considerably in the past 10 years. However, after 3 consecutive years of decline, in 2012 the female rate reached its lowest point since at least 1980.

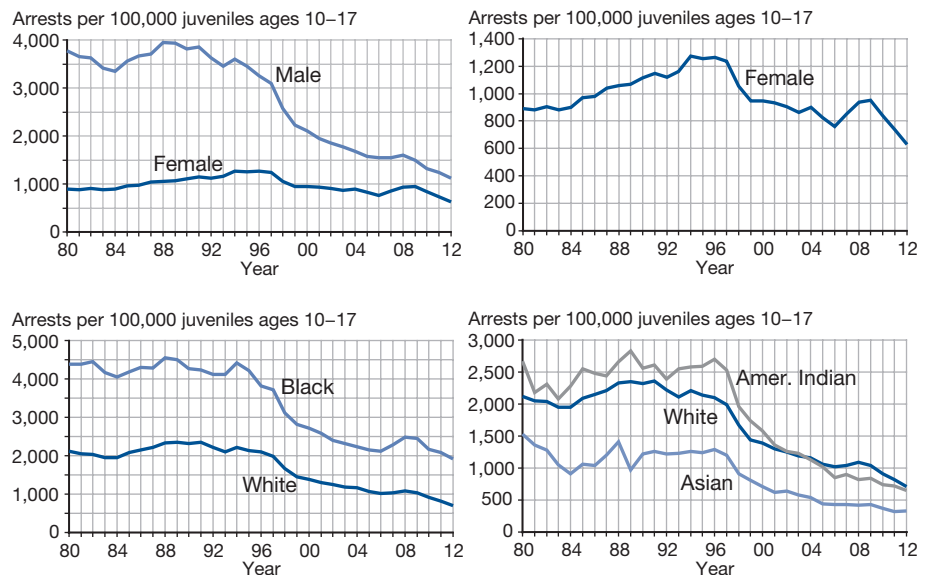
## Property crime arrest rates declined for all racial groups

Similar to the pattern for violent crime, property crime arrest rates have declined for all racial groups for nearly two decades. As a result, in 2012 the rates for youth in each racial group except for Asian were at their lowest level since at

## Since 2008, juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rates fell 20% or more for all demographic groups



## Property Crime Index arrest rate trends by gender and race



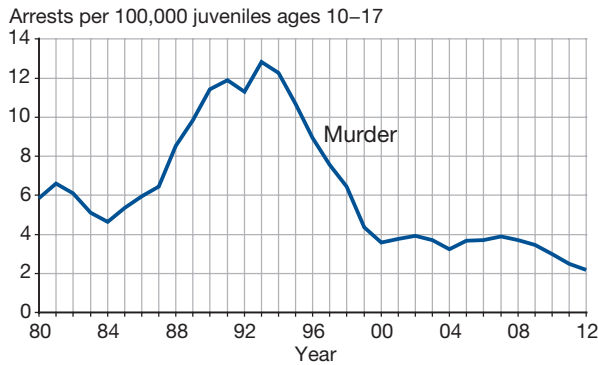
■ Larceny-theft accounted for 76% of all juvenile Property Crime Index arrests in 2012. As such, the trends in Property Crime Index arrest rates largely reflect the trends in larceny-theft.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. (See arrest rate data source note on page 11 for details.)

least 1980, and rates for Asian youth were near their lowest level. The decline over the past 10 years was greatest for

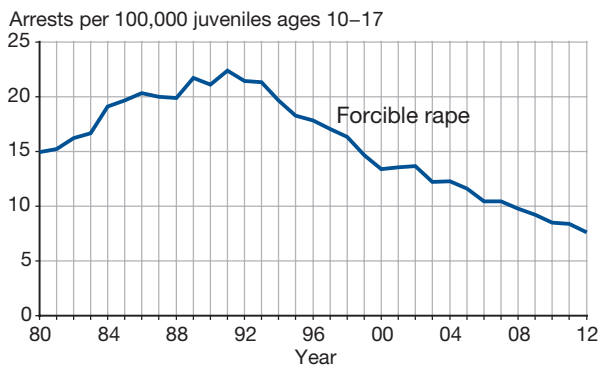
American Indian youth (47%), followed by Asian (43%), white (40%), and black (17%) youth.

# In 2012, juvenile arrest rates for all components of the Violent Crime Index were at their lowest levels



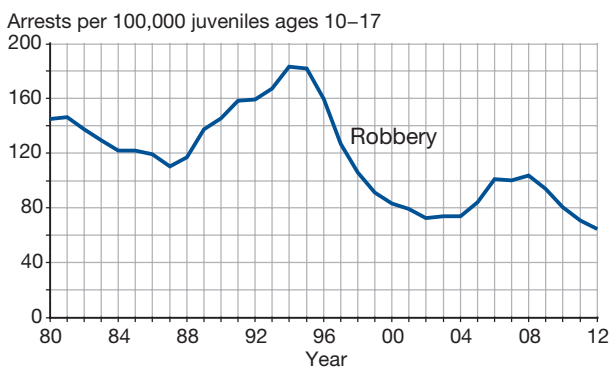
## Murder

- After reaching a peak in 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for murder declined substantially through 2000 (down 72%), falling below 4.0 (per 100,000 juveniles) for the first time in at least two decades. The juvenile murder arrest rate was less than 3.0 in the past 2 years.
- Compared with the previous 20 years, the juvenile murder arrest rate between 2000 and 2012 was historically low and relatively stable. In fact, the number of juvenile arrests for murder in 1993 (the peak year for juvenile murder arrests) exceeded the combined total number of such arrests in the past 4 years.



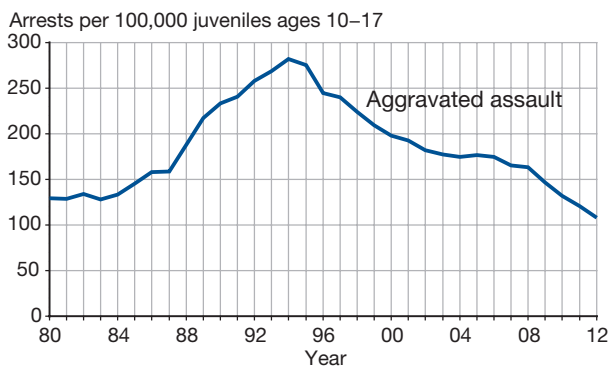
## Forcible rape

- With few exceptions, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape dropped annually from its 1991 peak, falling 66% through 2012. The 2,500 estimated juvenile arrests for forcible rape in 2012 were the fewest such arrests in at least three decades.
- Juveniles accounted for 14% of all forcible rape arrests reported in 2012. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of these juvenile arrests involved youth ages 15–17. Similarly, white youth accounted for 64% of juvenile arrests for forcible rape in 2012. Males accounted for the overwhelming majority (98%) of juvenile arrests for forcible rape.



## Robbery

- Similar to other violent crimes, the juvenile robbery arrest rate declined steadily from the mid-1990s into the early 2000s. However, unlike the other violent crimes, the robbery rate increased between 2004 and 2008. The rate has declined each of the past 4 years (down 38%), resting in 2012 at its lowest point of the 33-year period.
- Juvenile robbery arrest rates declined for all gender and racial subgroups since 2008: 38% for males, 32% for females, 41% for whites, 35% for blacks, 24% for Asians, and 8% for American Indians. Rates in 2012 were at historic lows for males and white youth.



## Aggravated assault

- After doubling between 1980 and 1994, the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault fell substantially and consistently through 2012, down 62% from its 1994 peak. As a result of this decline, the rate in 2012 reached its lowest point since at least 1980 and was 15% below the previous low point in 1983.
- Aggravated assault rates declined for males and females and all racial groups since the mid-1990s. In fact, in 2012 the rates were at their lowest level of the 1980–2012 period for males and for white, black, and American Indian youth.

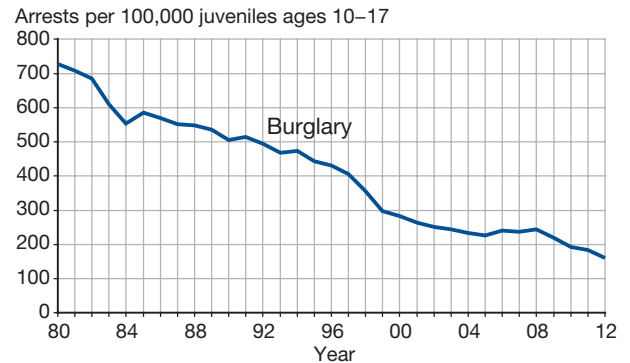
**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. (See arrest rate data source note on page 11 for details.)



# In 2012, juvenile arrest rates for all offenses in the Property Crime Index reached historic lows

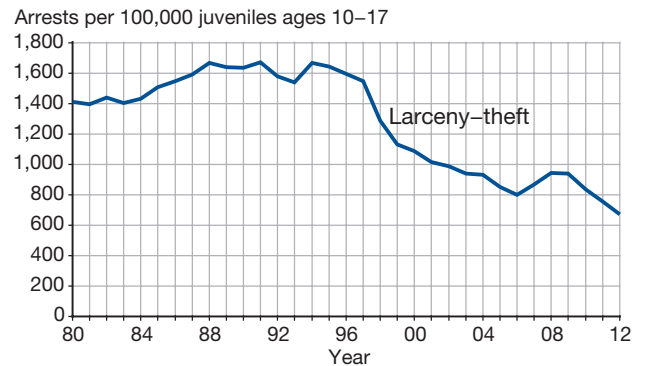
## Burglary

- Unlike the pattern for other property crimes, a steady decline marked the trend in the juvenile arrest rate for burglary during the 1980–2012 period. The rate in 2012 reached its lowest level of the 33-year period, which was 78% below the level in 1980.
- This large decline in juvenile burglary arrests was not reflected in the adult statistics. For example, between 2000 and 2012, the number of juvenile burglary arrests fell 44%, while adult burglary arrests increased 12%. As a result of this decline, only one-fifth (19%) of all burglary arrests in 2012 were juvenile arrests, compared with one-third in 2000.



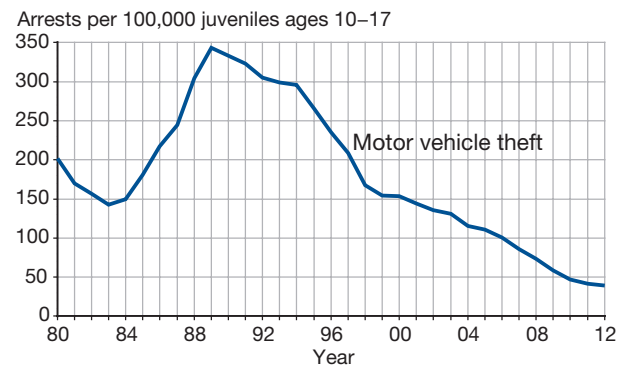
## Larceny-theft

- With few exceptions, the juvenile larceny-theft arrest rate declined annually over the past two decades, falling 60% since the mid-1990s. Following 4 years of decline (down 29% since 2008), in 2012 the juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft was at its lowest level in more than three decades and 16% below the previous low point in 2006.
- In 2012, three-fourths (76%) of all juvenile arrests for Property Crime Index offenses were for larceny-theft. As such, juvenile Property Crime Index arrest trends largely reflect the pattern of larceny-theft arrests (which is dominated by shoplifting—the most common larceny-theft offense).



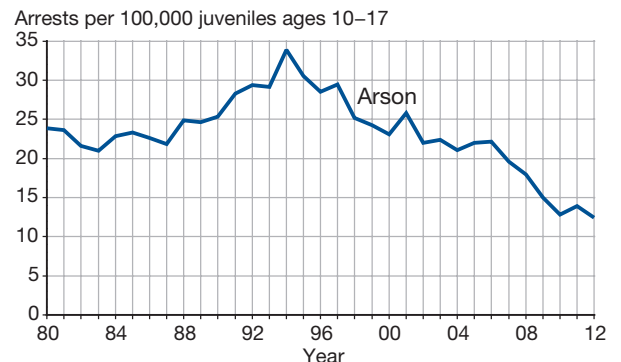
## Motor vehicle theft

- After reaching a peak in 1989, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined annually for more than 20 years. By 2012, the rate was 89% below the 1989 peak.
- This large decline in motor vehicle arrests was greater for juveniles than adults. For both groups, motor vehicle arrests reached a peak in 1989; since that time, the number of juvenile arrests for motor vehicle theft declined 86%, while adult arrests decreased 59%.
- In 2012, most (79%) juvenile arrests for motor vehicle theft involved youth ages 15–17.



## Arson

- The pattern of stability, growth, and decline in the juvenile arrest rate for arson was similar in magnitude and character to the trend in juvenile violent crime arrest rates. After years of stability, the juvenile arrest rate for arson increased more than 50% between 1987 and 1994 before falling 63% between 1994 and 2012.
- Arson is the criminal act with the largest proportion of juvenile arrestees—38% in 2012—and most juvenile arrests (59%) involved youth younger than 15. In comparison, the juvenile proportion for larceny-theft was 17%, and 29% of those involved youth younger than 15.



**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. (See arrest rate data source note on page 11 for details.)

# In 11 states, juvenile arrest rates for both violent and property crime were above the U.S. average

Among states with at least minimally adequate reporting (above 74%), those with high juvenile violent crime arrest rates in 2012 were Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee

State	Arrests of juveniles under age 18 per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17, 2012					State	Arrests of juveniles under age 18 per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17, 2012				
	2012 Reporting population coverage	Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug abuse	Weapon		2012 Reporting population coverage	Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug abuse	Weapon
U.S. total	84%	187	914	417	72	Missouri	93%	187	1,259	468	61
Alabama	2	57	698	286	11	Montana	94	113	1,535	406	15
Alaska	64	246	1,485	622	50	Nebraska	91	115	1,711	719	57
Arizona	91	152	1,109	653	34	Nevada	100	243	941	405	40
Arkansas	85	143	1,001	328	44	New Hampshire	88	54	650	543	0
California	98	225	669	253	123	New Jersey	97	199	523	526	80
Colorado	91	111	1,108	611	65	New Mexico	85	202	1,278	644	78
Connecticut	94	162	599	211	45	New York	55	218	1,024	485	56
Delaware	100	389	1,245	546	73	North Carolina	90	162	969	319	138
District of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Dakota	98	89	1,343	501	37
Florida	100	263	1,264	480	56	Ohio	62	100	703	252	43
Georgia	89	169	927	302	61	Oklahoma	94	130	958	354	49
Hawaii	11	248	826	880	67	Oregon	93	133	1,215	699	45
Idaho	99	87	1,198	549	70	Pennsylvania	96	303	770	387	90
Illinois	22	751	1,395	1,337	291	Rhode Island	99	128	735	407	130
Indiana	64	160	981	387	45	South Carolina	87	146	911	516	87
Iowa	88	183	1,347	403	49	South Dakota	90	87	1,495	1,043	60
Kansas	72	112	809	369	23	Tennessee	91	281	949	431	85
Kentucky	96	91	562	166	20	Texas	97	121	785	471	29
Louisiana	50	445	1,385	477	90	Utah	98	76	1,328	492	85
Maine	100	54	1,133	412	26	Vermont	89	70	391	239	17
Maryland	91	295	1,100	617	102	Virginia	100	74	620	337	41
Massachusetts	92	177	305	84	28	Washington	75	163	1,039	399	60
Michigan	93	135	658	274	53	West Virginia	73	57	323	138	10
Minnesota	87	114	1,267	525	47	Wisconsin	94	234	1,793	648	143
Mississippi	51	63	1,004	377	64	Wyoming	90	51	1,264	1,122	66

NA = Arrest counts were not available for the District of Columbia or Hawaii in the FBI's *Crime in the United States 2012*.

**Notes:** Arrest rates for jurisdictions with less than complete reporting may not be representative of the entire state. Although juvenile arrest rates may largely reflect juvenile behavior, many other factors can affect the magnitude of these rates. Arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of youth arrests made in the year by the number of youth living in the jurisdiction. Therefore, jurisdictions that arrest a relatively large number of nonresident juveniles would have a higher arrest rate than jurisdictions where resident youth behave similarly. Jurisdictions (especially small ones) that are vacation destinations or that are centers for economic activity in a region may have arrest rates that reflect the behavior of nonresident youth more than that of resident youth. Other factors that influence arrest rates in a given area include the attitudes of citizens toward crime, the policies of local law enforcement agencies, and the policies of other components of the justice system. In many areas, not all law enforcement agencies report their arrest data to the FBI. Rates for such areas are necessarily based on partial information and may not be accurate. Comparisons of juvenile arrest rates across jurisdictions can be informative. Because of factors noted, however, comparisons should be made with caution.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from *Crime in the United States 2012* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2013) tables 5 and 69, and population data from the National Center for Health Statistics' *Vintage 2013 Postcensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States (April 1, 2010, July 1, 2010–July 1, 2013), by Year, County, Single-Year of Age (0, 1, 2, . . . , 85 Years and Over), Bridged Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex* [machine-readable data files available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm), as of 6/26/14].

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## Notes

### Arrest rate data source

Analysis of arrest data from Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [available online at [www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm](http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm), retrieved 10/14/14]; population data for 1980–1989 from the U.S. Census Bureau, *U.S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1980 to 1999* [machine-readable data files available online, released 4/11/00]; population data for 1990–1999 from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau with support from the National Cancer Institute), *Bridged-Race Intercensal Estimates of the July 1, 1990–July 1, 1999, United States Resident Population by County, Single-Year of Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable data files available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm), released 7/26/04]; population data for 2000–2009 from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau), *Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States for July 1, 2000–July 1, 2009, by Year, County, Single-Year of Age (0, 1, 2, . . . , 85 Years and Over), Bridged Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex* [machine-readable data files available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm), as of 10/26/12, following release by

the U.S. Census Bureau of the revised unbridged intercensal estimates by 5-year age group on 10/9/12]; and population data for 2010–2012 from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau), *Vintage 2013 Postcensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States (April 1, 2010, July 1, 2010–July 1, 2013), by Year, County, Single-Year of Age (0, 1, 2, . . . , 85 Years and Over), Bridged Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex* [machine-readable data files available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm), as of 6/26/14, following release by the U.S. Census Bureau of the unbridged vintage 2013 postcensal estimates by 5-year age group on 6/26/14].

### Data coverage

FBI arrest data in this bulletin are counts of arrests detailed by age of arrestee and offense categories from all law enforcement agencies that reported complete data for the calendar year. (See *Crime in the United States 2012* for offense definitions.) The proportion of the U.S. population covered by these reporting agencies ranged from 72% to 86% between 1980 and 2012, with 2012 coverage of 81%.

Estimates of the number of persons in each age group in the reporting agencies' resident populations assume that the resident population age profiles are like

### Visit OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book for more information on juvenile arrests

OJJDP's online Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) offers access to a wealth of information about juvenile crime and victimization and about youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Visit the "Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime" section of the SBB at [ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/faqs.asp](http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/faqs.asp) for more information about juvenile arrest rate trends detailed by offense, gender, and race, including a spreadsheet of all juvenile arrest rates used in this bulletin.

the nation's. Reporting agencies' total populations were multiplied by the U.S. Census Bureau's most current estimate of the proportion of the U.S. population for each age group.

The reporting coverage for the total United States (84%) in the table on page 10 includes all states reporting arrests of persons younger than age 18. This is greater than the coverage in the rest of the bulletin (81%) for various reasons. For example, a state may provide arrest counts of persons younger than age 18 but not provide the age detail required to support other subpopulation estimates.

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