2022 JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

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Online Resources

National Center for Juvenile Justice

ncjj.org

The National Center for Juvenile Justice's website describes its research activities, services, and publications, featuring links to project-supported sites and data resources, including OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book, the National Juvenile Court Data Archive, Fundamental Measures for Juvenile Justice, and the Desktop Guide to Good Juvenile Probation.

National Juvenile Court Data Archive

ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/njcda

The annual *Juvenile Court Statistics* report series is one of many products supported by the National Juvenile Court Data Archive. To learn more, visit the Archive web site.

- The Archive web site was developed to inform researchers about data sets housed in the National Juvenile Court Data Archive and the procedures for access and use of these data. Visitors can view variable lists and download user guides to the data sets. The site also includes links to publications based on analyses of Archive data.
- *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics* is an interactive web-based application that allows users to analyze the actual databases that are used to produce the *Juvenile Court Statistics* report. Users have access to national estimates on more than 49 million delinquency cases processed by the nation's juvenile courts between 1985 and 2022. Preformatted tables describe the demographic characteristics of youth involved in the youth justice system and how juvenile courts process these cases. Users can also create their own analyses beginning with 2005 data to explore relationships among a youth's demographics and referral offenses, and the court's detention, adjudication, and disposition decisions. This application is available from the "Products & Publications" section on the Archive web site.
- *Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts* gives users quick access to multiple years of state and county juvenile court case counts for delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases. This application is available from the "Products & Publications" section on the Archive web site.

OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book

ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book

The Briefing Book is a comprehensive online resource describing various topics related to delinquency and the youth justice system, including the latest information on youth living in poverty, teen birth rates, youth victims of violent crime, trends in youth arrest rates, and youth in residential placement facilities. The Briefing Book is also a repository for more detailed presentations of juvenile court data than are found in the annual *Juvenile Court Statistics* report.

- Under the "Youth in Court" section of the Statistical Briefing Book, users will find the latest statistical information on trends in the volume of cases handled by the nation's juvenile courts and the court's response (e.g., detention, adjudication, and disposition decisions) to these cases. Juvenile court data are displayed in an easy-to-read, ready-to-use format, using tables and graphs.
- The Briefing Book's "Youth in Court" section includes an interactive tool that describes how specific types of delinquency cases typically flow through the youth justice system. Annual summaries are available from 2005 to present for more than 25 offense categories, and include separate presentations by gender, age, and race.

Juvenile Court Statistics 2022

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National Center for Juvenile Justice

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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—State of Alabama, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Alaska—Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice.

Arizona—Supreme Court, State of Arizona, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Arkansas—Administrative Office of the Courts, State of Arkansas.

Colorado—Colorado Judicial Branch.

Connecticut—Judicial Branch Administration, Court Support Services and Court Operations Divisions.

District of Columbia—Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Florida—State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

Georgia—Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia.

Hawaii—Department of the Attorney General.

Iowa—Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning.

Kentucky—Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts.

Maryland—Department of Juvenile Services.

Minnesota—Minnesota Supreme Court.

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

Missouri—Office of State Court Administrator.

Montana—Office of State Court Administrator, Youth Court Services.

Nebraska—Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

New Jersey—Administrative Office of the Courts.

New Mexico—Children, Youth, and Families Department.

New York—Office of Court Administration; and Division of Criminal Justice Services.

North Carolina—North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Ohio—Supreme Court of Ohio; Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court; Franklin County Court of Common Pleas; Hamilton County Juvenile Court; and Lucas County Juvenile Court.

Oregon—Oregon Youth Authority.

Pennsylvania—Juvenile Court Judges' Commission; and Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

Rhode Island—Rhode Island Family Court.

South Dakota—Unified Judicial System.

Texas—Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Utah—Utah Administrative Office of the Courts.

Vermont—Vermont Court Administrator's Office.

Virginia—Department of Juvenile Justice and the Virginia Supreme Court.

Washington— Office of the Administrator Office of the Courts.

West Virginia—West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Administrative Office, Court Services Division.

Wisconsin—Supreme Court of Wisconsin.

Table of Contents

Preface

Juvenile Court Statistics 2022 describes delinquency cases and petitioned status offense cases handled between 2005 and 2022 by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction. National estimates of juvenile court delinquency caseloads in 2022 were based on analyses of 347,884 automated case records and court-level statistics summarizing an additional 40,348 cases. Estimates of status offense cases formally processed by juvenile courts in 2022 were based on analyses of 39,192 automated case-level records and court-level summary statistics on an additional 2,502 cases. The data used in the analyses were contributed to the National Juvenile Court Data Archive (Archive) by more than 2,300 courts with jurisdiction over 81% of the juvenile population in 2022.

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

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) became responsible for *Juvenile Court Statistics*

following the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) of 1974. In 1975, OJJDP awarded the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) a grant to continue the report series. Although NCJJ agreed to use procedures established by HEW 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 1970s. As NCJJ asked agencies across the country to complete the annual juvenile court statistics form, some agencies began offering to send the detailed, automated case-level data collected by their management information systems. NCJJ learned to combine these automated records to produce a detailed national portrait of juvenile court activity—returning to 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 1930s, *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 continues to be the emphasis of the reporting series.

In 2018, to ensure efficiency and coordination of all Office of Justice Programs (OJP) research activities, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) assumed management of the youth justice research, evaluation, and statistical data collection projects funded by OJJDP, including the National Juvenile Court Data Archive.

Chapter 1

Introduction

This report describes delinquency and status offense cases handled between 2005 and 2022 by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction. Courts with juvenile jurisdiction may handle a variety of matters, including child maltreatment, 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; the 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 necessarily mean that a case was 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 partly on how each jurisdiction organizes its case-screening function. In many communities, an intake unit within the juvenile court first screens all juvenile matters. 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, and 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 *JCS* 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 extensive data coverage in the *JCS* series of formally handled delinquency cases and adequate data coverage of informally handled delinquency cases and formally handled status offense cases, the data coverage of informally handled status offense cases is limited and is not sufficient to support the generation of national estimates. For this reason, *JCS* reports do not present any information on informally handled status offense cases. (Subnational analyses of these cases are available from the National Juvenile Court Data Archive [Archive].)

Juvenile Court Processing

Any attempt to describe juvenile court caseloads at the national level must be based on 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. An intake department (either within or outside the court) first screens referred cases. 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 service agency, informal probation, or the payment of fines or some form of voluntary restitution. Formally handled cases are petitioned and scheduled in court for an adjudicatory or waiver hearing.

Judicial Waiver. 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 juvenile court jurisdiction over the case. The juvenile court judge decides whether the case merits criminal prosecution.[1] When a waiver request is denied, the matter is usually then 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 are dismissed for various reasons before an adjudicatory hearing is actually held.

Adjudication. At the adjudicatory hearing, a youth may be adjudicated (determined to have committed) for a delinquency or status offense, 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.

[1] Mechanisms of transfer to criminal court vary by state. In some states, a prosecutor has the authority to file juvenile cases directly in criminal court if they meet specified criteria. However, this report includes only cases that were initially under juvenile court jurisdiction and were transferred as a result of judicial waiver.

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 home or other residential facility or perhaps in a foster home; 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. Disposition orders often involve multiple sanctions and/or conditions. Review hearings are held to monitor the youth's progress. Dispositions may be modified as a result. This report includes only the most severe initial disposition in each case.

Detention. A youth may be placed in a detention facility at different points as a case progresses through the youth 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 court-ordered placement elsewhere).

Data Quality

Juvenile Court Statistics relies on the secondary analysis of data originally compiled by juvenile courts or youth justice agencies to meet their own information and reporting needs. Although these incoming data files are not uniform across jurisdictions, they are likely to be more detailed and accurate than data files compiled by local

jurisdictions merely complying 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. Therefore, 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 providers 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 the 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 ways. 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's (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is limited by necessity to a small number of relatively broad offense codes. The UCR offense code for larceny-theft combines shoplifting with a number of other larcenies. Thus, the data cannot be used to study 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, joyriding 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 delinquency and status offense estimates presented in this report were generated with data from a large nonprobability sample of juvenile courts. Therefore, 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.

National estimates of delinquency cases for 2022 are based on analyses of individual case records from nearly 2,100 courts and aggregate court-level data on cases from nearly 300 courts. Together, these courts had jurisdiction over 81% of the U.S. juvenile population in 2022. National estimates of petitioned status offense cases for 2022 are based on case records from nearly 2,000 courts and court-level data from more than 100 courts, covering 71% of the juvenile population. The imputation and weighting procedures that generate national estimates from these samples control for many factors: the size of a community, the age and race composition of its juvenile population, the volume of cases referred to the reporting courts, the age and race of the youth involved, the offense characteristics of the cases, the courts' responses 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).

With each annual release of data, estimates for prior years are revised and replaced. There are two primary reasons for this. First, data submissions from contributing jurisdictions, particularly case-level data submissions, can change as newer data files submitted to the Archive replace previously submitted files. Second, the estimation procedure used by the Archive utilizes county level population estimates, which are revised by the Census Bureau each year. Therefore, readers should not compare estimates from *Juvenile Court Statistics* reports produced in different years, but should compare estimates across trending years within a *Juvenile Court Statistics* report.

Since publication of the 2017 *Juvenile Court Statistics* report, the Archive changed the programming language used for imputation and estimation procedures. This change has also allowed for technical improvements to the code itself. Anyone using data from this report for trend purposes should replace any back year data with data produced using the current procedures.

The Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in the United States in March 2020, had an impact on the policies, procedures, and data collection activities regarding referrals to and the processing of youth by juvenile courts. Stay-at-home orders and school closures likely impacted the volume and type of law-violating behavior by youth referred to juvenile court.

While COVID-19 likely impacted the juvenile court caseload, it is not possible to ascertain the true impact from the data submitted to the Archive. The number of cases handled by juvenile courts has been steadily decreasing since the late 1990s, but the declines have been within a limited range. For example, between 2010 and 2019, the annual year-to-year decline in the number of delinquency and petitioned status offense cases handled by juvenile courts each ranged from 1% to 10%. Comparatively, the number of delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts declined 29% between 2019 and 2020 and the number of petitioned status offense cases fell 33% - the largest

1-year change of the 1985-2020 period for each. It is likely that at least some of the decrease in the number of cases handled by juvenile courts in 2020 was in relation to COVID-19 and the impact it had on the youth justice system. COVID-19 likely still impacted juvenile court activities in 2021 and may have contributed to the 14% decrease in the number of delinquency cases and 11% decrease in the number of petitioned status offense cases handled by juvenile courts between 2020 and 2021.

For the first time since the late 1990s, the number of delinquency and petitioned status offense cases handled by juvenile courts increased in 2022; up 27% for delinquency cases and 21% for petitioned status offense cases. While it is impossible to know for certain, these increases may be a result of the easing of pandemic restrictions throughout the nation. Despite the increases, delinquency and petitioned status offense caseloads in 2022 were below pre-pandemic levels.

Structure of the Report

Chapters 2 and 3 of this report present national estimates of delinquency cases handled by the juvenile courts in 2022 and analyze caseload trends since 2005. Chapter 2 describes the volume and rate of delinquency cases, demographic characteristics of the youth involved (age, gender, and race), and offenses charged. Chapter 3 traces the flow of delinquency cases from referral to court through court processing, examining each decision point (i.e., detention, intake decision, adjudication decision, and judicial disposition) and presenting data by demographic characteristics and offense. Together, these two chapters provide a detailed national portrait of delinquency cases.

Chapter 4 presents national estimates of status offense cases formally handled by the juvenile courts in 2022 and caseload trends since 2005. It includes data on demographic characteristics, offenses charged, and case processing.

Appendix A describes the statistical procedure used to generate these estimates. Readers are encouraged to consult Appendix B for definitions of key terms used throughout the report. Few terms in the field of youth 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 applicability to multiple jurisdictions.

This report uses a format that combines tables, figures, and text highlights for presentation of the data. A detailed index of tables and figures appears at the end of the report.

Data Access

The data used in this report are stored in the National Juvenile Court Data Archive at the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) in Pittsburgh, PA. The Archive contains the most detailed information available on youth involved in the youth justice system and on the activities of U.S. juvenile courts. Designed to facilitate research on the youth 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, researchers can merge selected files for cross-jurisdictional and longitudinal analyses. Upon request, project staff is also available to perform special analyses of the Archive's data files.

Researchers are encouraged to explore the National Juvenile Court Data Archive website at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/njcda/ for a summary of Archive holdings and procedures for data access. Researchers may also contact Archive staff at 412–227-6950 or at njcda@ncjfcj.org.

Other Sources of Juvenile Court Data

With support from NIJ and OJJDP, NCJJ has developed two web-based data analysis and dissemination applications that provide access to the data used for this report. The first of these applications, *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics 1985–2022*, was developed to facilitate independent analysis of the national delinquency estimates presented in this report while eliminating the need for statistical analysis software. It also enables users to view preformatted tables, beyond those included in this report, describing the demographic characteristics of youth involved in the youth justice system and how juvenile courts process these cases. The second application, *Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts*, presents annual counts of the delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases processed in juvenile courts by state and county. These applications are available from OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book at ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book.

Chapter 2

National Estimates of Delinquency Cases

Delinquency offenses are acts committed by juveniles that, if committed by an adult, could result in criminal prosecution. This chapter documents the volume of delinquency cases referred to juvenile court and examines the characteristics of these cases, including types of offenses charged and demographic characteristics of the youth involved (age, gender, and race).

Analysis of case rates permits comparisons of juvenile court activity over time while controlling for differences in the size and demographic characteristics of the youth population. Rates are calculated as the number of cases for every 1,000 youth in the population—those age 10 or older who were under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.[1]

The chapter focuses on cases disposed in 2022 and examines trends since 2005.

It should be noted that the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020, had an impact on the policies, procedures, and data collection activities regarding referrals to and the processing of youth by juvenile courts. Mitigation efforts, such as stay-at-home orders and school closures, likely contributed to the above average decline in juvenile court caseloads between 2019 and 2021; conversely, the increase between 2021-2022 may be the result of the easing of these mitigation efforts. For more information about the impact of COVID-19 on juvenile court workloads, please refer to *The Impact of COVID-19 on the Nation's Juvenile Court Caseload.*

[1] The upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction is defined by statute in each state. See Appendix B: Glossary of Terms for a more detailed discussion on the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction. Case rates presented in this report control for state variations in juvenile population.

Counts and Trends

- In 2022, courts with juvenile jurisdiction handled an estimated 549,500 delinquency cases.
- In 1960, approximately 1,100 delinquency cases were processed daily. In 2022, juvenile courts handled about 1,500 delinquency cases per day.
- The 2022 juvenile court delinquency caseload was 36% more than the 1960 caseload.
- The number of cases decreased for all offense categories between 2005 and 2021, then increased in 2022. Between 2005 and 2021, the number of cases decreased 78% each for property and public order offenses, 75% for drug offenses, and 62% for person offenses. Cases increased between 15% and 34% across all offense categories in 2022. Despite these increases, the number of cases in 2022 were below pre-pandemic levels and substantially below the 2005 levels; down 75% for property offenses, 72% for public order offenses, 68% for drug offenses, and 49% for person offenses.

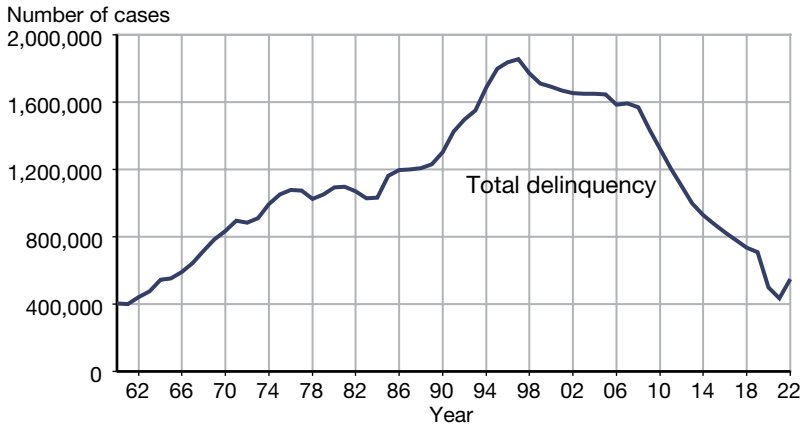
Offense profile of delinquency cases:

Most serious offense	2005	2022
Person	26%	40%
Property	37	27
Drugs	11	11
Public order	26	22
Total	100%	100%

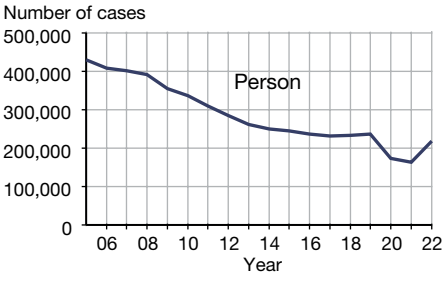
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

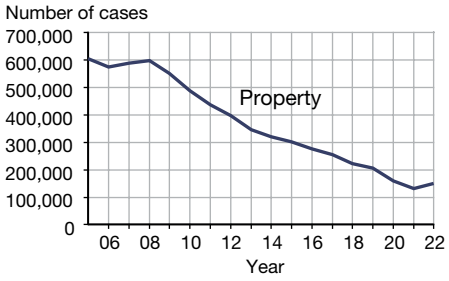
- Compared with 2005, the offense profile of the courts' 2022 caseload included a larger proportion of person offenses and a smaller proportion of property and public order offenses.

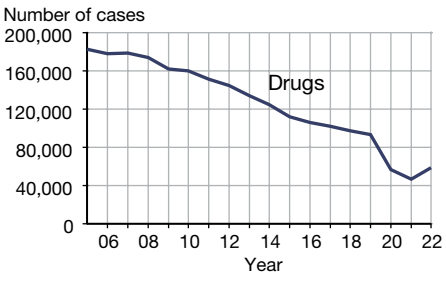
The number of delinquency cases increased between 2021 and 2022, however, the number in 2022 was below pre-pandemic levels and 70% below the 1997 peak

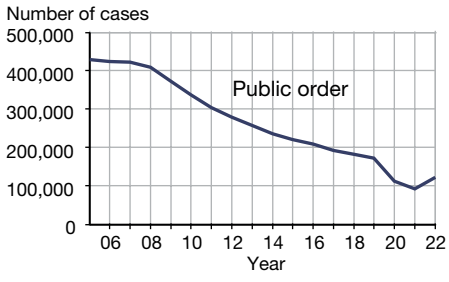


Though caseloads increased in 2022, the number of cases was below pre-pandemic levels for all offenses









Counts and Trends

The number of cases handled by juvenile courts decreased for nearly all offenses between 2013 and 2022

Most serious offense	Number of cases 2022	Percent change 10 year 2013–2022	Percent change 5 year 2018–2022	Percent change 1 year 2021–2022
Total delinquency	**549,500**	**-45%**	**-25%**	**27%**
Total person	**217,900**	**-17**	**-6**	**34**
Criminal homicide	1,900	159	63	30
Rape	7,300	-7	-5	4
Robbery	14,600	-27	-25	9
Aggravated assault	26,000	6	0	28
Simple assault	133,600	-23	-8	41
Other violent sex offenses	7,000	-27	-9	13
Other person offenses	27,600	7	10	45
Total property	**151,000**	**-56**	**-32**	**15**
Burglary	25,900	-57	-36	4
Larceny-theft	50,300	-71	-47	19
Motor vehicle theft	15,200	35	2	11
Arson	1,700	-50	-14	30
Vandalism	31,000	-39	-11	15
Trespassing	13,900	-53	-32	22
Stolen property offenses	7,300	-31	-2	15
Other property offenses	5,800	-22	-9	29
Drug law violations	**58,700**	**-56**	**-40**	**27**
Total public order	**121,900**	**-53**	**-33**	**31**
Obstruction of justice	43,900	-65	-50	9
Disorderly conduct	34,800	-52	-27	56
Weapons offenses	19,000	-17	13	49
Liquor law violations	2,300	-68	-42	11
Nonviolent sex offenses	10,100	3	-11	29
Other public order offenses	11,800	-43	-23	46

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

- Between 2013 and 2022, offenses with the largest decrease in caseloads included larceny-theft (71%) and liquor law violations (68%).
- Unlike most other offenses, the number of motor vehicle theft cases increased during the 10-year period between 2013 and 2022 (35%).
- Trends in juvenile court cases were similar to trends in arrests[2] of persons younger than 18. The number of juvenile court cases involving robbery decreased during the 10-year period between 2013 and 2022 (27%). During the same time period, the number of arrests involving persons younger than age 18 charged with robbery also decreased (43%).
- Between 2013 and 2022, the volume of juvenile court cases involving burglary or larceny-theft decreased (57% and 71%, respectively). Arrests of persons under age 18 also decreased (72% for burglary and 74% for larceny-theft) during the same time period.
- Unlike most other offenses, the number of juvenile court cases involving criminal homicide increased substantially in the 5-year period between 2018 and 2022 (63%). Similarly, during the same time period, the number of juvenile arrests involving criminal homicide increased 28%.

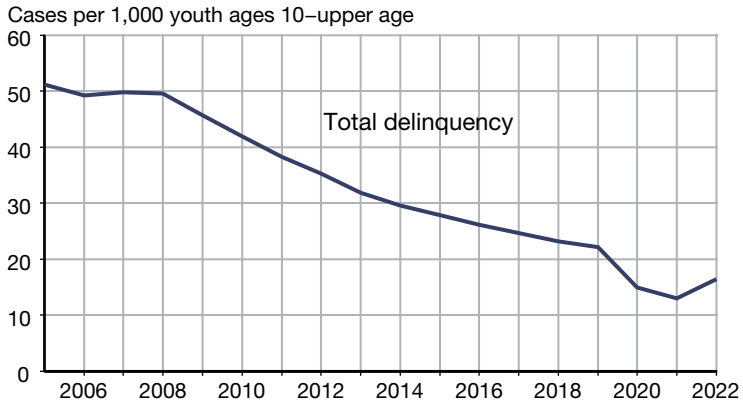
[2] Arrest estimates (1980-2020) were retrieved from OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book: ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/crime/faqs/ucr. Arrest estimates for 2022 were retrieved from the FBI Crime Data Explorer: cde.ucr.cjis.gov/.

Case Rates

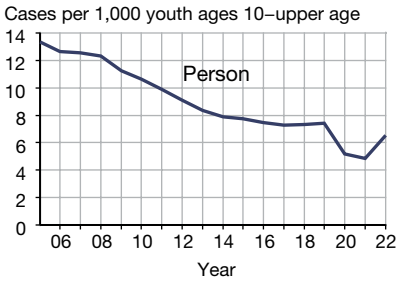
- More than 33 million youth were under juvenile court jurisdiction in 2022. Each age between age 10 and age 16 accounts for about 13% of these youth, thus, 89% were between the ages of 10 and 16. Youth age 17 make up a somewhat smaller share of the population (11%) because in a few states the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction is below age 17. In those states, youth age 17 were under the original jurisdiction of the criminal court. (See "Upper age of jurisdiction" in Appendix B: Glossary of Terms.)
- In 2022, juvenile courts processed 16.5 delinquency cases for every 1,000 youth in the population who were age 10 or older and were under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.
- The total delinquency case rate remained stable between 2005 and 2008, declined 74% to a low in 2021, then increased 27% in 2022. Despite this increase, the delinquency case rate in 2022 was below pre-pandemic levels.[3]
- Between 2005 and 2022, case rates decreased 76% for property offenses, 73% for public order offenses, 69% for drug law violations, and 51% for person offenses.

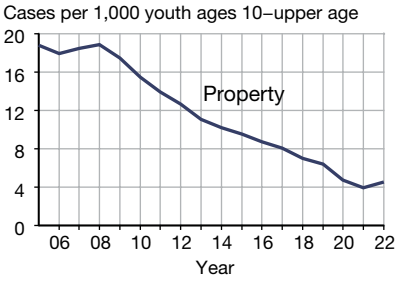
[3] The percent change in the number of cases disposed may not be equal to the percent change in case rates because of the changing size of the juvenile population.

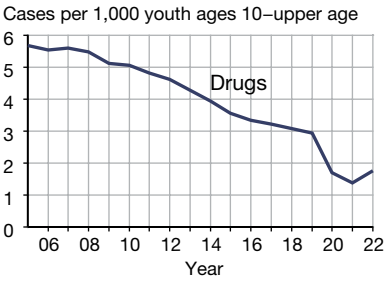
The delinquency case rate declined from 51.2 per 1,000 youth in 2005 to 16.5 in 2022

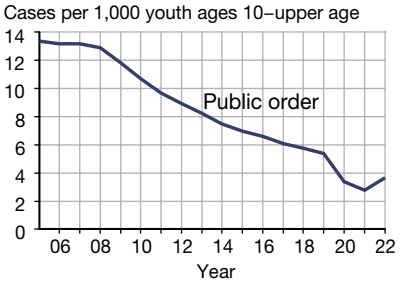


Between 2005 and 2022, case rates decreased the most for property and public order offenses









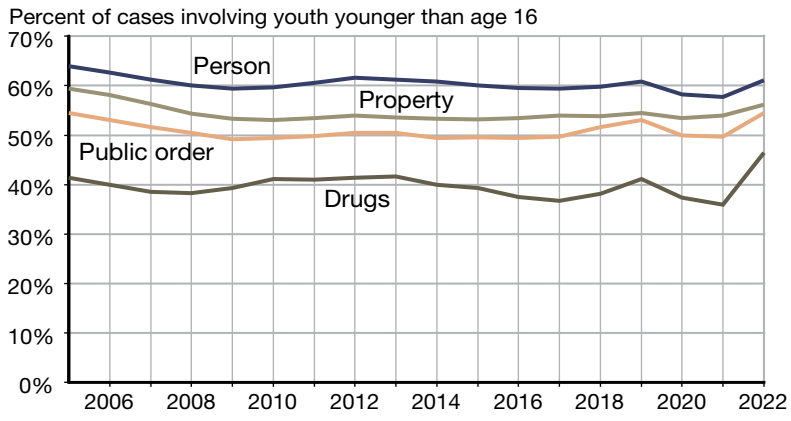
Age at Referral

Of the 549,500 delinquency cases processed in 2022, 57% involved youth younger than age 16, 28% involved females, and 43% involved White youth

Most serious offense	Number of cases	Percentage of total juvenile court cases, 2022: Younger than 16	Female	White
Total delinquency	**549,500**	**57%**	**28%**	**43%**
Total person	**217,900**	**61**	**33**	**42**
Criminal homicide	1,900	32	10	21
Rape	7,300	53	4	59
Robbery	14,600	48	11	15
Aggravated assault	26,000	54	25	34
Simple assault	133,600	64	40	42
Other violent sex offenses	7,000	66	7	62
Other person offenses	27,600	63	31	57
Total property	**151,000**	**56**	**23**	**43**
Burglary	25,900	57	13	39
Larceny-theft	50,300	53	32	45
Motor vehicle theft	15,200	54	20	26
Arson	1,700	76	20	54
Vandalism	31,000	64	20	57
Trespassing	13,900	58	24	43
Stolen property offenses	7,300	48	14	17
Other property offenses	5,800	51	24	39
Drug law violations	**58,700**	**46**	**30**	**52**
Total public order	**121,900**	**55**	**27**	**39**
Obstruction of justice	43,900	45	26	33
Disorderly conduct	34,800	65	39	40
Weapons offenses	19,000	49	12	28
Liquor law violations	2,300	36	37	60
Nonviolent sex offenses	10,100	65	19	58
Other public order offenses	11,800	63	23	53

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

Since 2005, more than half of person and property offense cases involved youth younger than age 16



- The proportion of cases involving youth age 15 or younger varied by offense. For example, youth younger than 16 accounted for approximately three-fourths (76%) of all arson cases handled in 2022 compared with 65% of disorderly conduct cases and nearly half (48%) of stolen property cases.
- Each year between 2005 and 2022, youth age 15 or younger accounted for a smaller proportion of drug and public order cases than of person and property offense cases.

Offense profile of delinquency cases by age group:

Most serious offense	Age 15 or younger	Age 16 or older
2022		
Person	43%	36%
Property	27	28
Drugs	9	13
Public order	21	23
Total	100%	100%
2005		
Person	29%	22%
Property	38	35
Drugs	8	15
Public order	25	28
Total	100%	100%

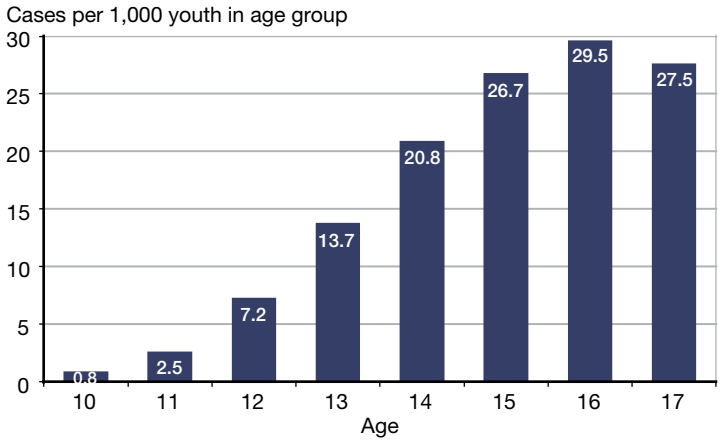
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- Compared with the delinquency caseload involving older youth, the caseload of youth age 15 or younger in 2022 included a larger proportion of person offenses and smaller proportions of property, drug, and public order offenses.

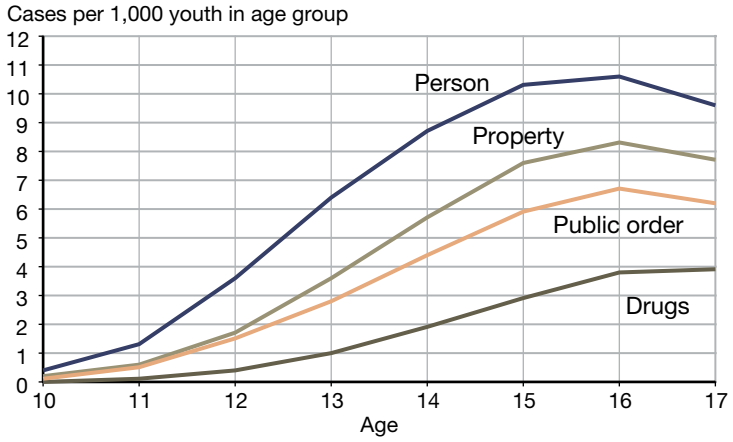
Age at Referral

- Although, in general, more 17-year-olds than 16-year-olds are arrested, the number of juvenile court cases involving 17-year-olds (96,300) was lower than the number involving 16-year-olds (127,400) in 2022. The explanation lies primarily in the fact that in 4 states 17-year-olds are excluded from the original jurisdiction of the juvenile court. In these states, all 17-year-olds are legally adults and are referred to criminal court rather than to juvenile court. Thus, far fewer 17-year-olds than 16-year-olds are subject to original juvenile court jurisdiction.
- In 2022, the delinquency case rate for 17-year-olds (27.5) was 1.3 times the rate for 14-year-olds (20.8) and twice the rate for 13-year-olds (13.7).
- The largest increase in case rates between age 13 and age 17 was for drug offenses. The case rate for drug offenses for 17-year-olds (3.9) was about 4 times the rate for 13-year-olds (1.0).
- For public order offenses in 2022, the case rate for 17-year-olds (6.2) was more than 2 times the rate for 13-year-olds (2.8) and the property offense case rate for 17-year-olds (7.7) was also more than 2 times the rate for 13-year-olds (3.6).
- For cases involving person offenses, the case rate for 17-year-olds (9.6) was 1.5 times the rate for 13-year-olds (6.4).

In 2022, delinquency case rates increased through age 16 and decreased thereafter



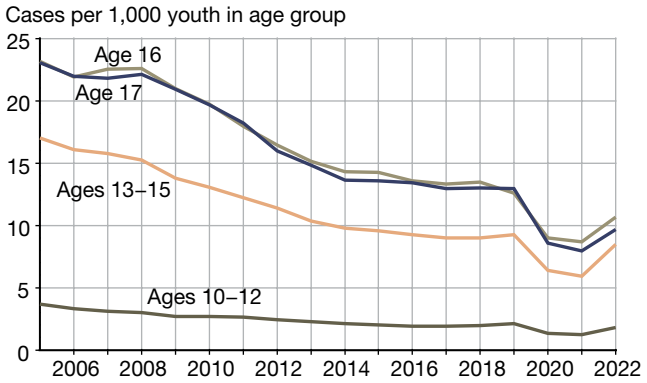
Except for drug offense cases, case rates increased through age 16 and decreased slightly thereafter



Age at Referral

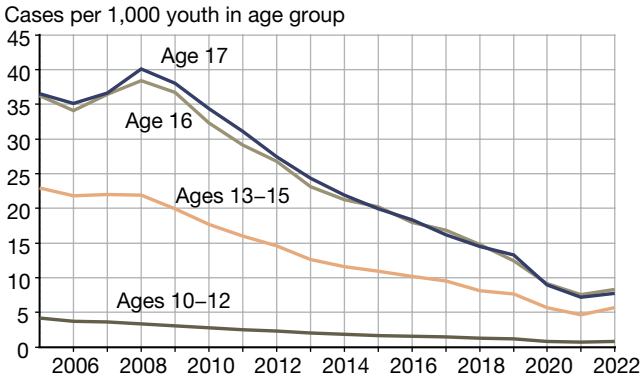
Trends in case rates were similar across age groups between 2005 and 2022 for each general offense category

Person offense case rates



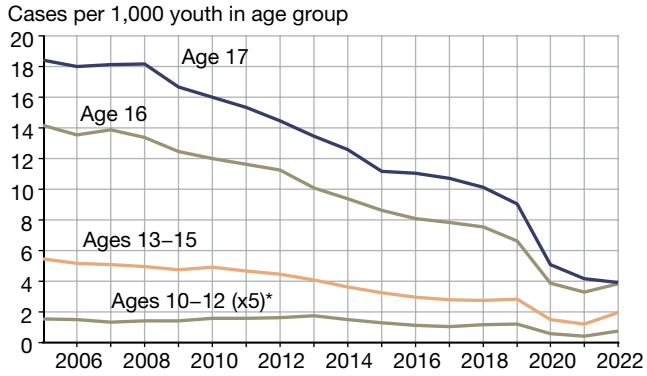
- Between 2005 and 2022, person offense case rates were at their highest in 2005 for all age groups.
- Since 2005, person offense case rates for all age groups declined through 2021, then increased in 2022. Despite the slight increase in 2022, case rates were below pre-pandemic levels and well below 2005 levels; down 51% for youth ages 10-12, 50% for youth ages 13-15, 54% for youth age 16, and 58% for youth age 17.

Property offense case rates



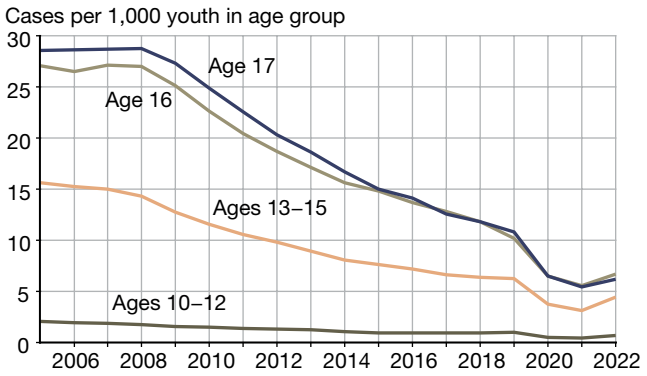
- Property offense case rates were at their highest in 2005 for youth ages 10-12 and 13-15 and peaked in 2008 for youth ages 16 and 17, before declining through 2021. Case rates increased slightly for all age groups in 2022 but were below pre-pandemic levels.
- Property offense case rates in 2022 were at least 75% below the 2005 case rate for all age groups; down 80% for youth ages 10-12, 75% for youth ages 13-15, 77% for youth age 16, and 79% for youth age 17.

Drug offense case rates



- With the exception of youth age 17, whose case rate was at its lowest in 2022, drug offense case rates reached their lowest level in 2021 and then increased slightly in 2022 for all other age groups. Compared with 2005, rates in 2022 were 51% lower for youth ages 10-12, 64% lower for youth ages 13-15, 73% lower for youth age 16, and 79% lower for youth age 17.

Public order offense case rates



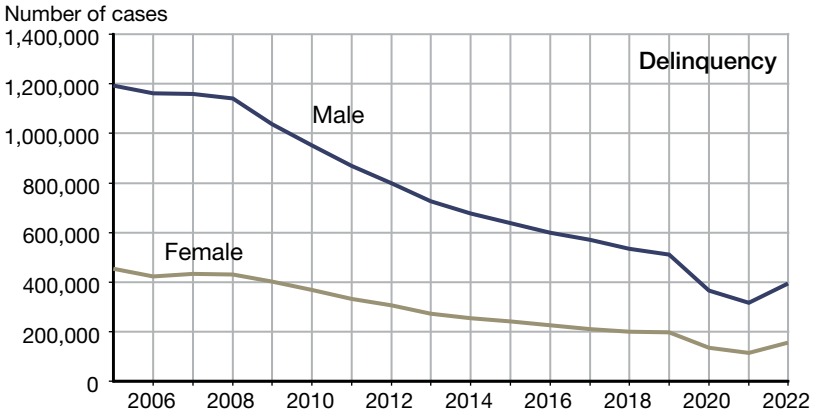
- Public order case rates for all age groups were at their lowest levels in 2021, but increased slightly in 2022. Despite the increase, case rates were below pre-pandemic levels and well below 2005 levels; down 66% for youth ages 10-12, 72% for youth ages 13-15, 75% for youth age 16, and 78% for youth age 17.

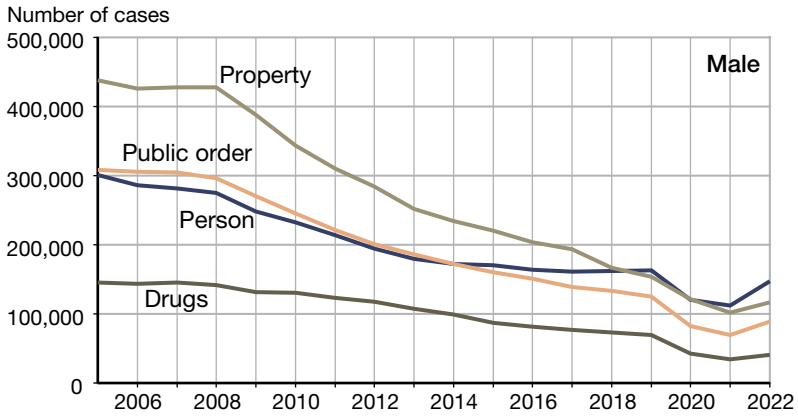
* Because of the relatively low volume of cases involving youth ages 10–12 for drug offenses, their case rates are inflated by a factor of 5 to display the trend over time.

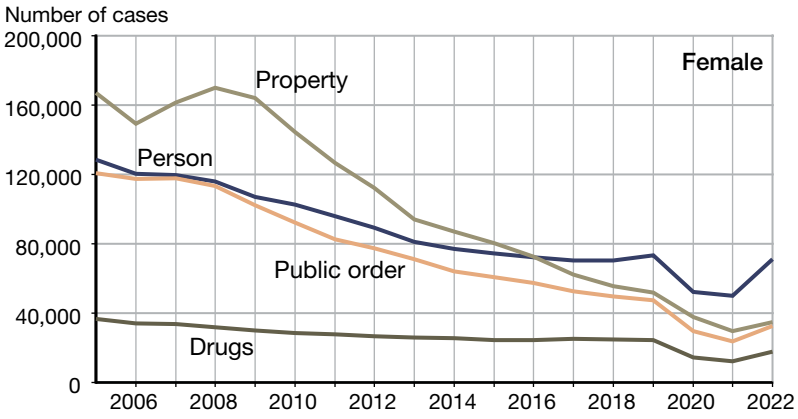
Gender

- Males were involved in 72% (393,400) of the delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts in 2022.
- The average annual decrease in delinquency caseloads was the same for males and females between 2005 and 2021 (8% each). Between 2021 and 2022, delinquency caseloads increased 24% for males and 35% for females, and increases were greater for females than for males across all offense types. Despite the increase, delinquency caseloads in 2022 were 67% below the 2005 level for males and 66% below for females.
- Person offense cases decreased 46% for males and 44% for females between 2005 and 2016, remained relatively stable through 2019, then decreased through 2021. Despite an increase for both genders, the number of person offense cases in 2022 was well below 2005 levels for males (51%) and females (45%).
- The number of property offense cases involving males was at its highest level in 2005, while the caseload involving females peaked in 2008. Caseloads declined for both genders from their peak through 2021, then increased slightly in 2022. Despite this increase, the property offense caseloads in 2022 were below their 2005 levels (73% for males, 79% for females).
- Drug offense cases decreased through 2021 for both males and females, then increased through 2022. Despite the increase, the number of drug offense cases in 2022 was 72% below the 2005 level for males and 51% below for females.
- The public order caseload followed a similar pattern for males and females; cases declined through 2021, then increased in 2022. Between 2005 and 2022, the number of public order offense cases decreased 71% for males and 73% for females.

The overall decline in delinquency caseloads between 2005 and 2022 was similar for males (67%) and females (66%)

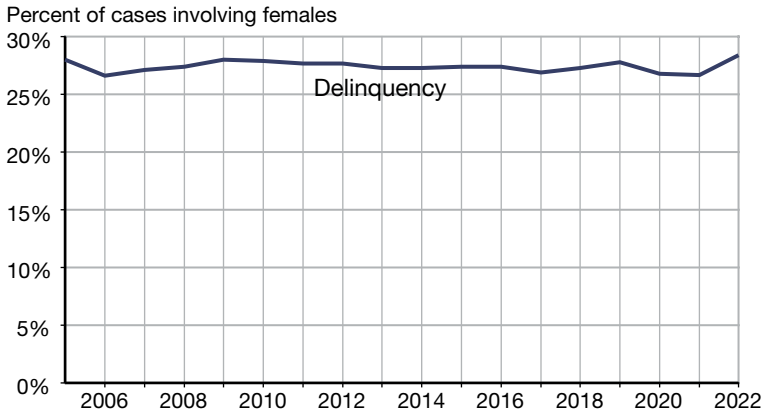


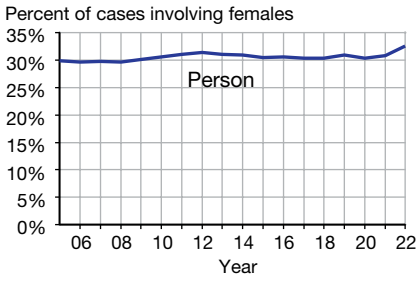


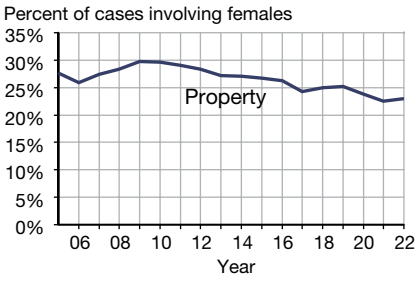


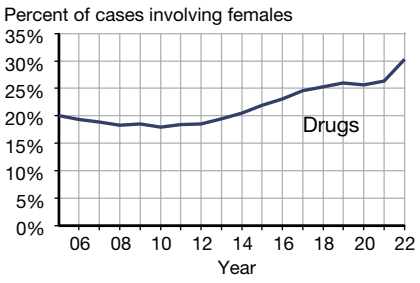
Gender

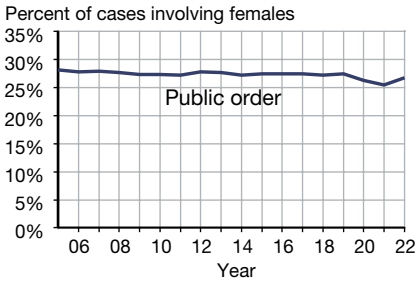
The female share of the delinquency caseload was relatively stable between 2005 and 2022











- Similar to the overall pattern for delinquency cases, the female proportion of the person offense caseload stayed within a limited range between 2005 and 2022.
- The female proportion of the drug offense caseload decreased from 20% in 2005 to 18% in 2010 and then increased to 30% by 2022.

Offense profile of delinquency cases for males and females:

Most serious offense	Male	Female
2022		
Person	37%	45%
Property	30	22
Drugs	10	11
Public order	23	21
Total	100%	100%
2005		
Person	25%	28%
Property	37	37
Drugs	12	8
Public order	26	27
Total	100%	100%

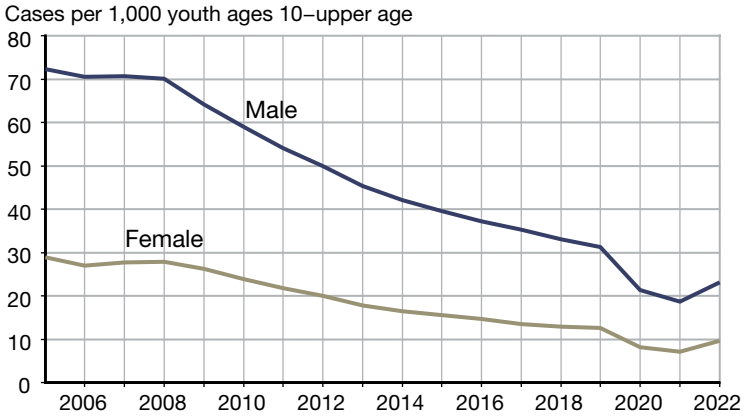
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

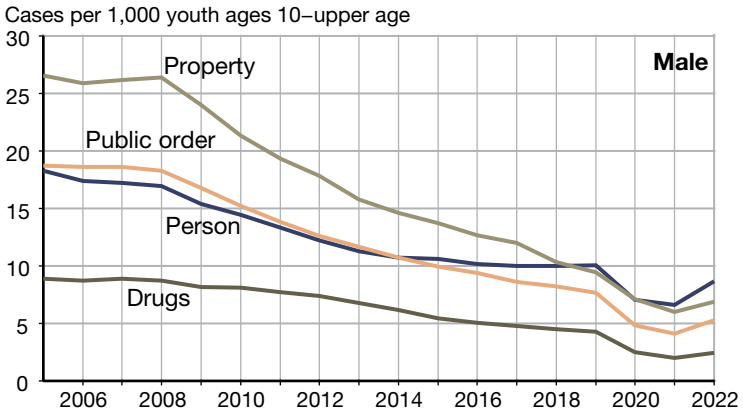
- For both males and females, property and public order offense cases accounted for a smaller proportion of the delinquency caseload in 2022 than in 2005.
- The male caseload contained a smaller proportion of person offenses than the female caseload.

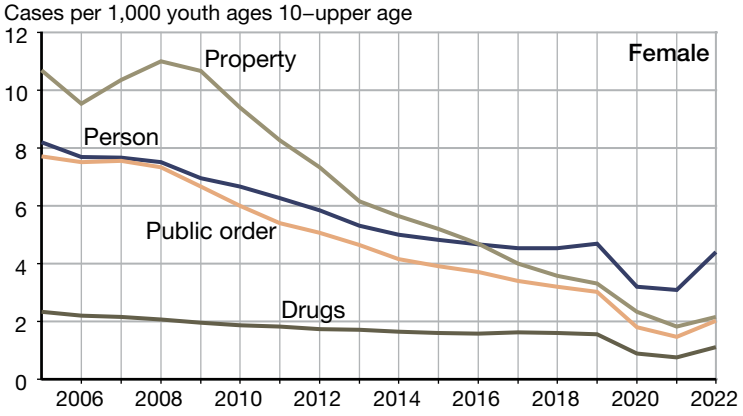
Gender

- The decrease in the delinquency case rate was similar for males and females between 2005 and 2022 (68% for males and 67% for females). Most of the decline occurred between 2008 and 2021 (down 73% and 74%, respectively).
- In 2022, the delinquency case rate for males was 2.4 times the rate for females, 23.2 compared with 9.7.
- Regardless of offense type, delinquency case rates were at their lowest levels for both males and females in 2021, then increased slightly in 2022.
- Between 2005 and 2021, male case rates decreased 78% for public order offenses, 77% each for property and drug offenses, and 64% for person offenses. Female case rates also decreased, down 83% for property offenses, 81% for public order offenses, 68% for drug offenses, and 62% for person offenses. While case rates increased for all offenses between 2021 and 2022 for both males and females, the rates in 2022 were substantially lower than in 2005. For males, the 2022 case rates were 74% lower than in 2005 for property offenses, 73% lower for drug offenses, 72% lower for public order offenses, and 53% lower for person offenses. For females, case rates in 2022 were 80% lower than in 2005 for property offenses, 74% lower for public order offenses, 53% lower for drug offenses, and 46% lower for person offenses.
- Despite a decrease in the disparity between male and female delinquency case rates between 2005 and 2022, male case rates in 2022 were at least twice the female rate for public order (2.6), drugs (2.2), and person offense cases (2.0), and more than three times the rate for property offenses (3.2).

Despite decreases in case rates for both males and females, the male case rate remained at least twice the rate of females for all years between 2005 and 2022

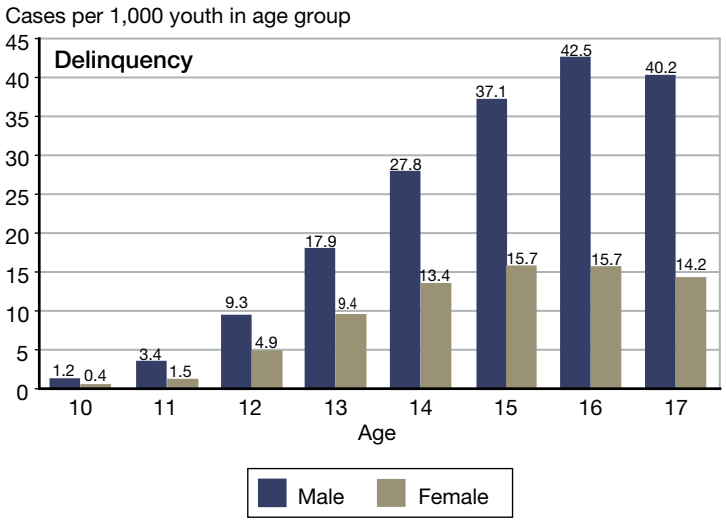


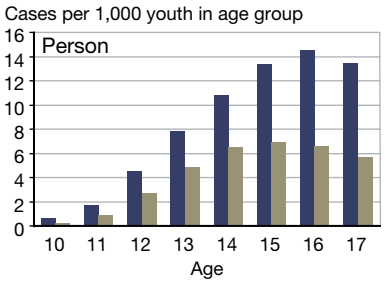


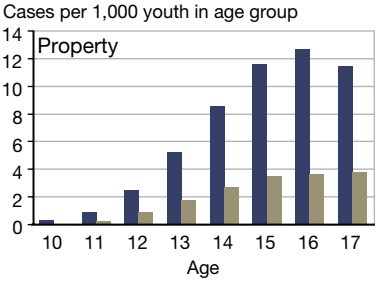


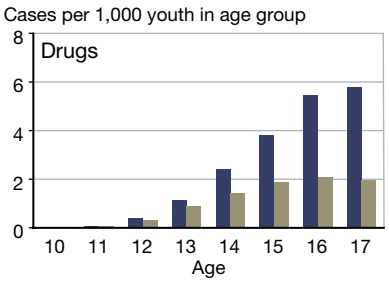
Gender

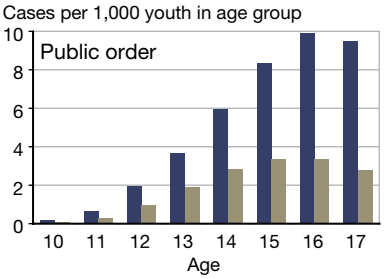
In 2022, the delinquency case rate for both males and females peaked at age 16









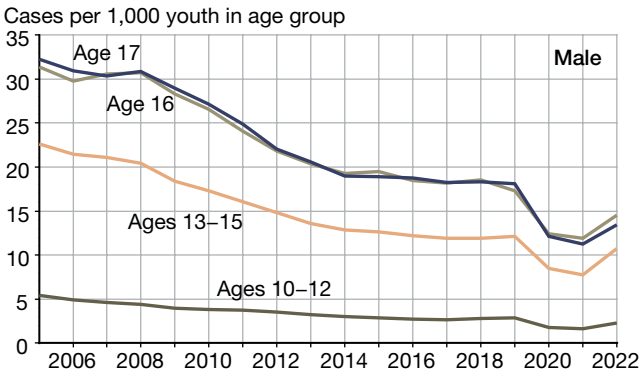


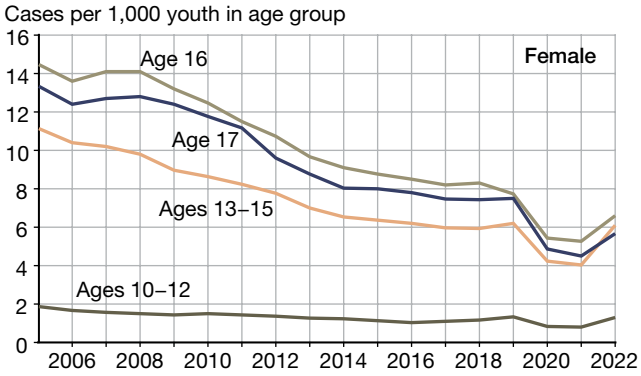
- In 2022, the difference between age-specific male and female delinquency case rates was greatest for younger youth. The male delinquency rate for 10-year-olds was 3.1 times the female rate; for 11-year-olds, the male case rate was 2.3 times the female rate.
- In 2022, case rates for males increased through age 17 for drug offenses. Male case rates peaked at age 16 for all other offenses.
- For females, case rates for property offenses increased through age 17, while case rates for all other offenses peaked at age 16.
- In 2022, the drug offense case rate for 17-year-old males was 15 times the rate for 12-year-old males; among females, the drug offense case rate for 17-year-olds was 6 times the rate for 12-year-olds.

Gender

Across all age groups and offense categories, case rates for males exceed rates for females; however, rates for both males and females have declined substantially in the past 18 years

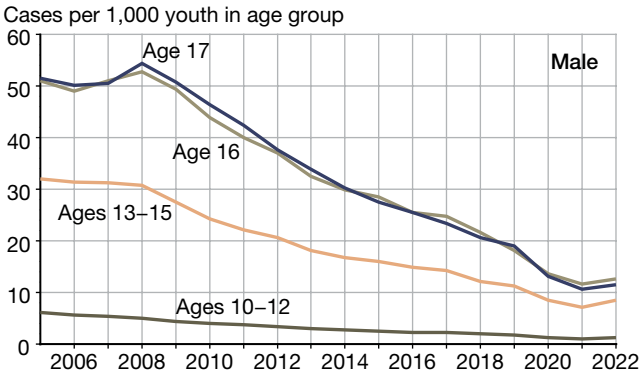
Person offense case rates

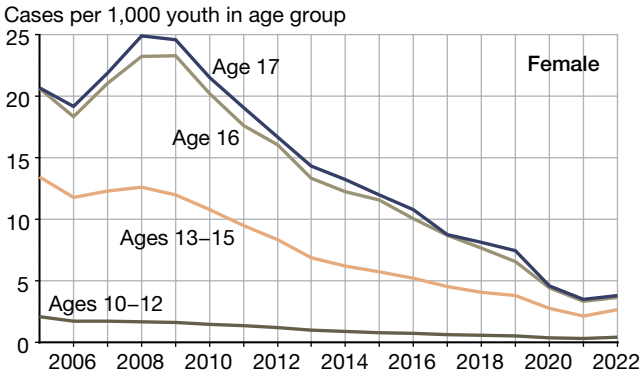




- During the 18-year period between 2005 and 2022 for all age groups, male person offense case rates were at their lowest level in 2021 before moderate increases in 2022. As a result, male person offense case rates in 2022 were 58% below the 2005 level for youth ages 10-12 and youth age 17, 54% lower for youth age 16, and 53% lower for youth ages 13-15.
- For females, between 2005 and 2022, person offense case rates decreased 32% for youth ages 10-12, 45% for youth ages 13-15, 54% for youth age 16, and 58% for youth age 17.

Property offense case rates

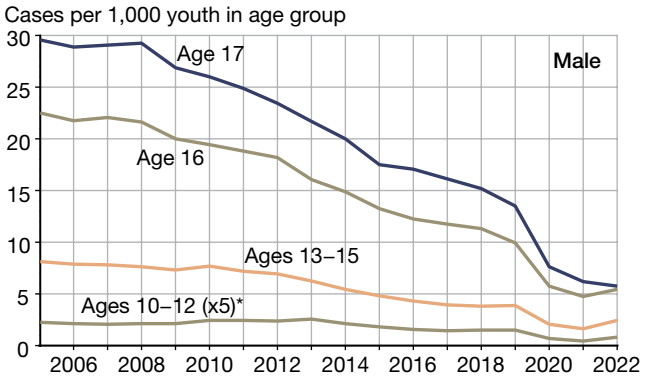


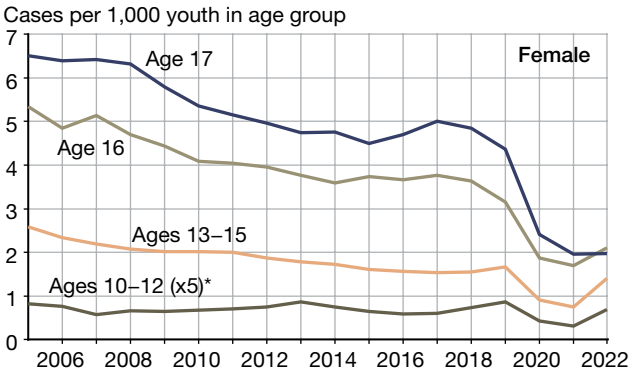


- For males and females, property offense case rates decreased to their lowest levels in 2021 for all age groups and then increased in 2022.
- Between 2005 and 2022, male property offense case rates decreased 80% for youth ages 10–12, 73% for youth ages 13-15, 75% for youth age 16, and 78% for youth age 17.
- Between 2005 and 2022, female property offense case rates decreased 80% each for youth ages 10-12 and 13-15, and 82% each for youth ages 16 and 17.

Gender

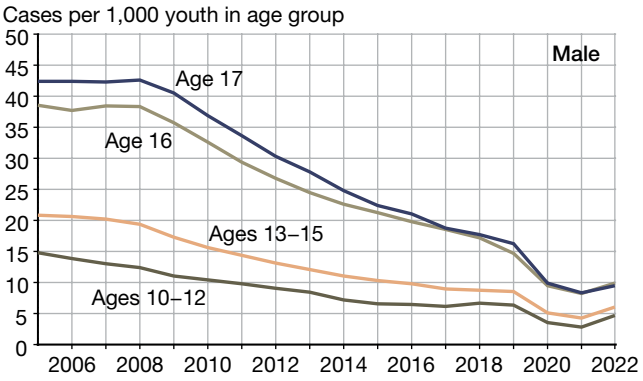
Drug offense case rates

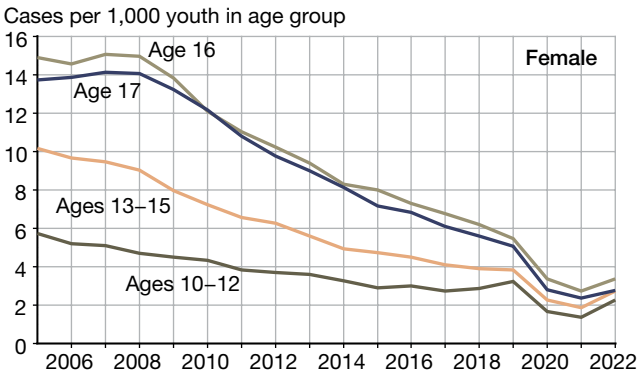




- The male drug offense case rate decreased 79% each for youth ages 10-12, 16, and 17, and 80% for youth ages 13-15 between 2005 and 2021. The case rate for 17-year-olds decreased another 7% in 2022, while the case rate for all other age groups increased. Despite the increase in 2022 for some age groups, drug offense case rates in 2022 were below pre-pandemic levels.
- Female drug offense case rates were at their highest in 2005 for youth ages 13-15, 16, and 17, and fell to their lowest level in 2021 (down 71% for youth ages 13-15, 68% for youth age 16, and 70% for youth age 17). The case rate peaked in 2019 for females ages 10-12 and decreased 65% through 2021. In 2022, case rates were 16% below the 2005 level for youth ages 10-12, 46% below for youth ages 13-15, 61% below for youth age 16, and 70% below for youth age 17.

Public order offense case rates





- Public order offense case rates reached their lowest level in 2021, for both males and females, for all age groups, then increased through 2022.
- Despite the increase, person offense case rates in 2022 were well below their 2005 levels for all age groups and genders: for males, public order case rates fell 68% for youth ages 10-12, 71% for youth ages 13-15, 74% for youth age 16, and 78% for youth age 17; for females, case rates decreased 61% for youth ages 10-12, 73% for youth ages 13-15, 77% for youth age 16, and 80% for youth age 17.

* Because of the relatively low volume of cases involving male and female youth ages 10–12 for drug offenses, their case rates are inflated by a factor of 5 to display the trends over time.

Race

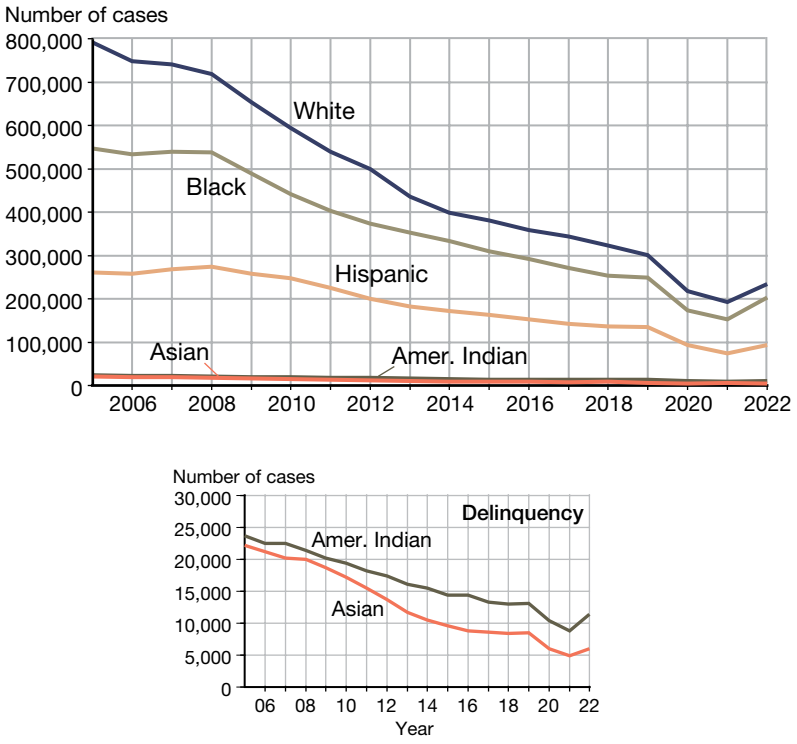
- Regardless of racial group, delinquency cases declined between 2005 and 2021, then increased in 2022. Despite the recent increase, the delinquency caseload for all racial groups was well below their 2005 levels: 73% for Asian[4] youth, 70% for White youth, 64% for Hispanic[5] youth, 63% for Black youth, and 52% for American Indian[6] youth.
- The number of property offense cases involving Black and Hispanic youth peaked in 2008 before decreasing by at least 73% through 2021. Despite a moderate increase in property offense cases, the net result was that the number of property offense cases involving Black youth in 2022 was 66% below the 2005 level and the number involving Hispanic youth was 77% below.
- Person offense cases accounted for the largest proportion of the delinquency caseload for all racial groups in 2022, while drug offense cases accounted for the smallest.

[4] The racial classification Asian includes Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander.

[5] Persons of Hispanic ethnicity are treated as a distinct race group and are excluded from the other four race groups, with one important exception. Data provided to the Archive from many jurisdictions did not include any means to determine the ethnicity of American Indian youth. Rather than assume ethnicity for these youth, they are classified solely on their racial classification; as such, the American Indian group includes an unknown proportion of Hispanic youth.

[6] The racial classification American Indian (usually abbreviated as Amer. Indian) includes American Indian and Alaska Native.

The number of delinquency cases decreased substantially for all race groups between 2005 and 2022



The offense profile for all races had a larger proportion of person offenses in 2022 than in 2005

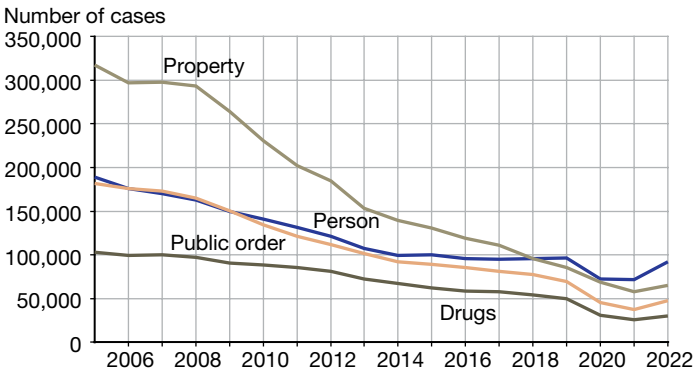
Most serious offense	Offense profile of delinquency cases				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Amer. Indian	Asian
2022					
Person	39	41	39	38	38
Property	28	29	23	30	28
Drugs	13	6	15	13	11
Public order	20	24	23	19	23
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2005					
Person	24%	32%	22%	23%	21%
Property	40	32	35	41	45
Drugs	13	8	12	12	9
Public order	23	28	31	24	25
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

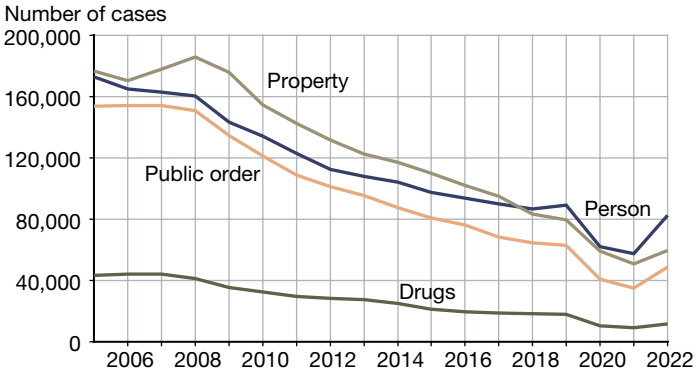
Race

With the exception of person offense cases involving American Indian youth, caseloads for all race groups and offenses in 2022 were below pre-pandemic levels.

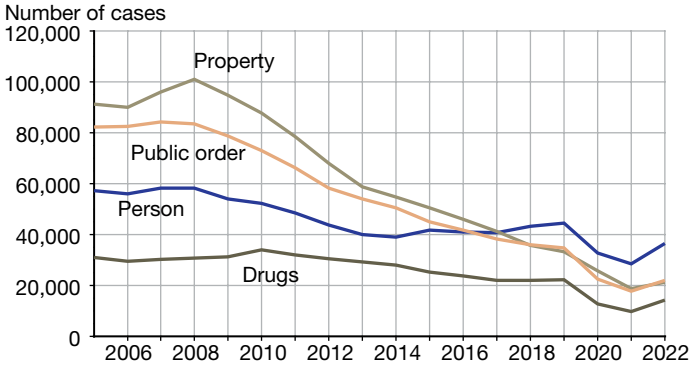
White



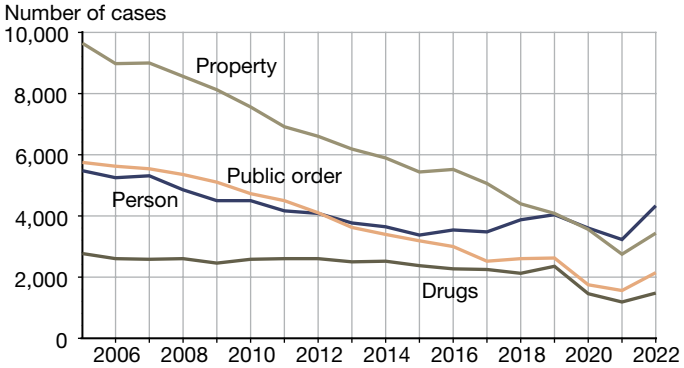
Black



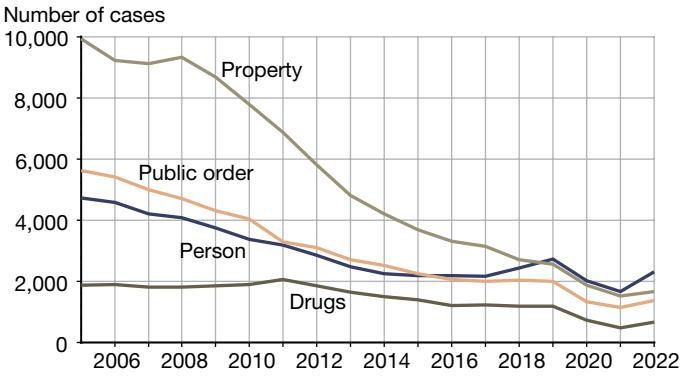
Hispanic



American Indian



Asian



Percent change in number of cases, 2005–2022:

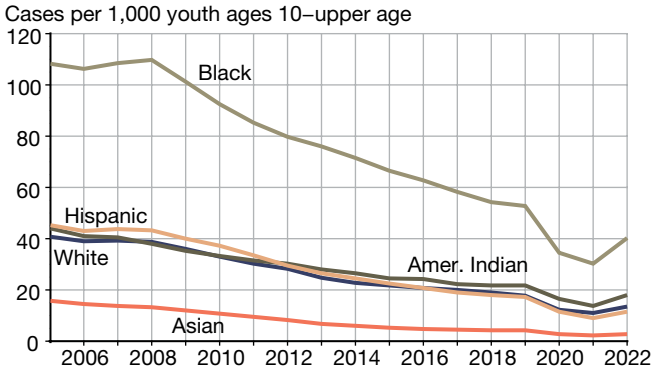
Most serious offense	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
Delinquency	-70%	-63%	-64%	-52%	-73%
Person	-51	-52	-36	-21	-51
Property	-80	-66	-77	-64	-83
Drugs	-70	-73	-54	-46	-65
Public order	-74	-68	-73	-63	-76

Race

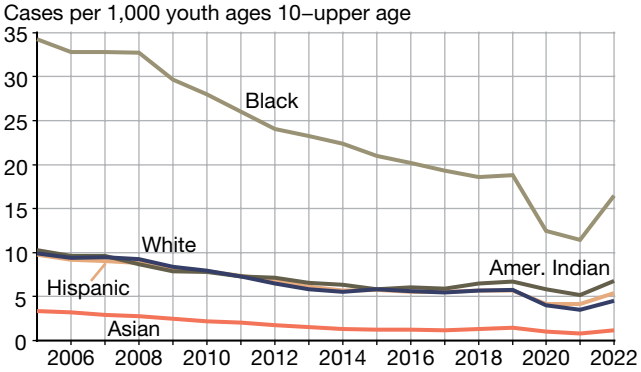
Delinquency case rates were at their lowest levels in 2021 and increased in 2022 for all racial groups; regardless, case rates in 2022 were below pre-pandemic levels

- Delinquency case rates decreased by at least 68% for all racial groups between 2005 and 2021, then increased in 2022. Delinquency case rates in 2022 were below pre-pandemic levels and substantially below 2005 rates, down 67% for White youth, 63% for Black youth, 75% for Hispanic youth, 59% for American Indian youth, and 82% for Asian youth.
- In 2022, the total delinquency case rate was greater for American Indian youth (18.0) than for White or Hispanic youth (13.7 and 11.5, respectively). The case rate for Black youth (40.5) was nearly 14 times the rate for Asian youth (2.9) and at least double the rate for all other race groups.
- In 2022, the person offense case rate for Black youth (16.5) was more than 3 times the rate for Hispanic youth (4.5) and White youth (5.4), twice the rate for American Indian youth (6.8) and nearly 15 times that of Asian youth (1.1).

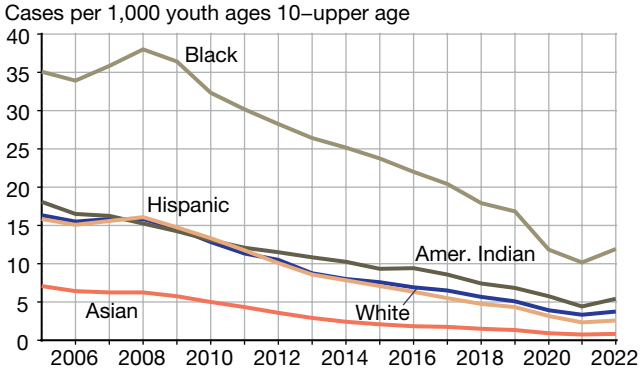
Delinquency



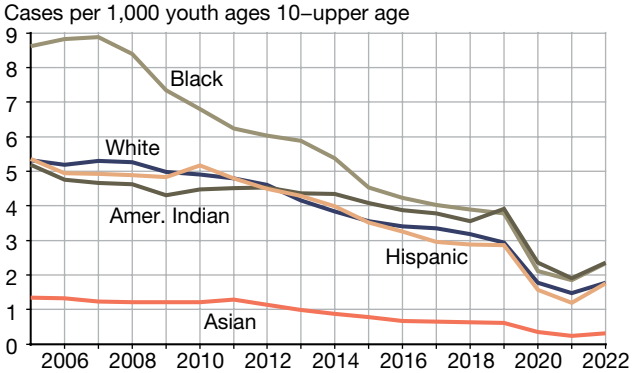
Person



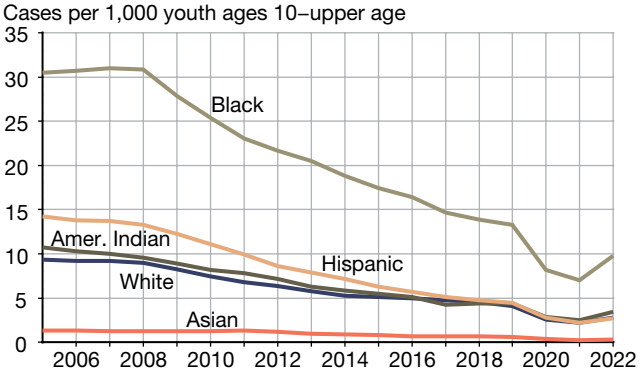
Property



Drugs

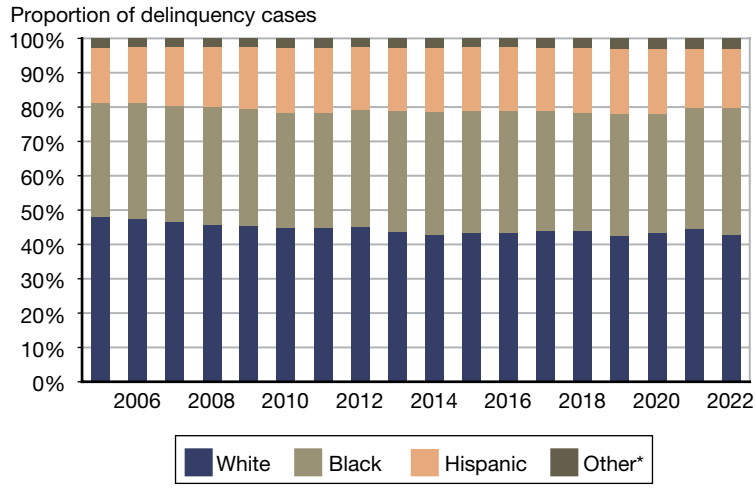


Public order



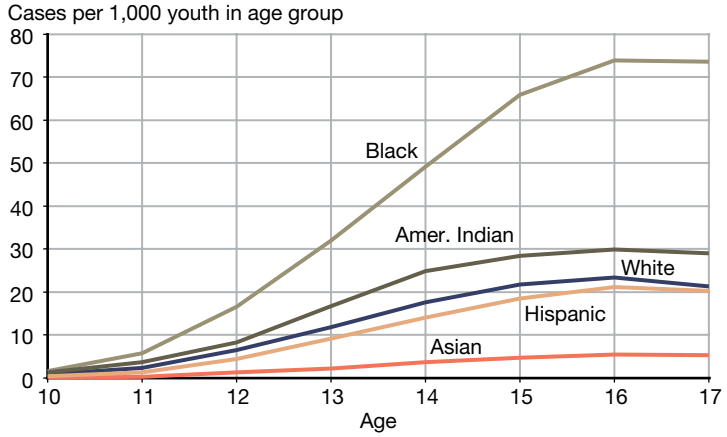
Race

Although White youth represented the largest share of the delinquency caseload, their relative contribution declined between 2005 and 2022, from 48% to 43%



* Because American Indian and Asian proportions are too small to display individually, they are combined in the category "Other."

Delinquency case rates increased through age 16 for all races



- In 2022, White youth made up 52% of the U.S. population under juvenile court jurisdiction, Black youth 15%, Hispanic youth 25%, American Indian youth 2%, and Asian youth 6%.

Racial profile of delinquency cases:

Race	2005	2022
White	48%	43%
Black	33	37
Hispanic	16	17
American Indian	1	2
Asian	1	1
Total	100%	100%

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

- Compared with 2005, the 2022 delinquency caseload involved a smaller proportion of White youth and a larger proportion of Black youth.

Racial profile of delinquency cases by offense:

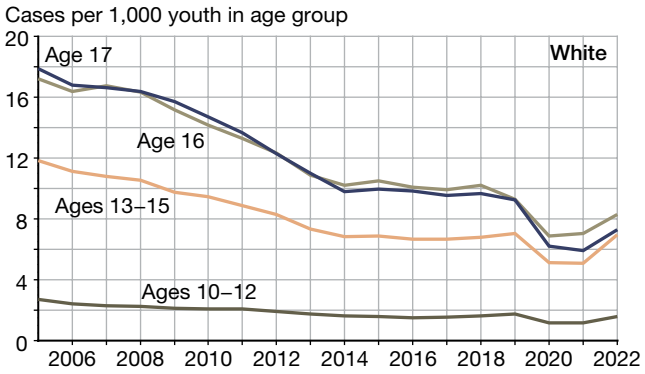
Race	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order
2022				
White	43%	52%	39%	43%
Black	40	20	40	37
Hispanic	14	24	18	17
Amer. Indian	2	3	2	2
Asian	1	1	1	1
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
2005				
White	44%	52%	57%	42%
Black	40	29	24	36
Hispanic	13	15	17	19
Amer. Indian	1	2	2	1
Asian	1	2	1	1
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

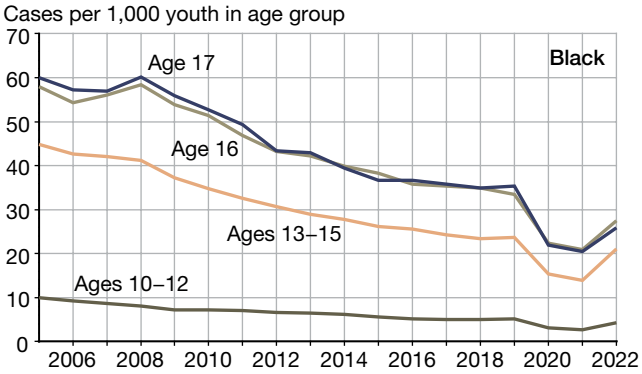
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

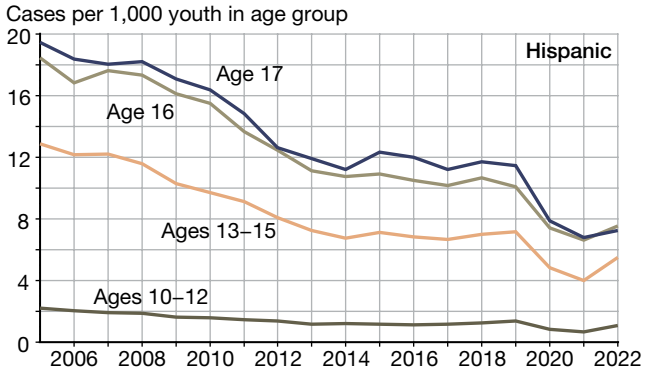
Race

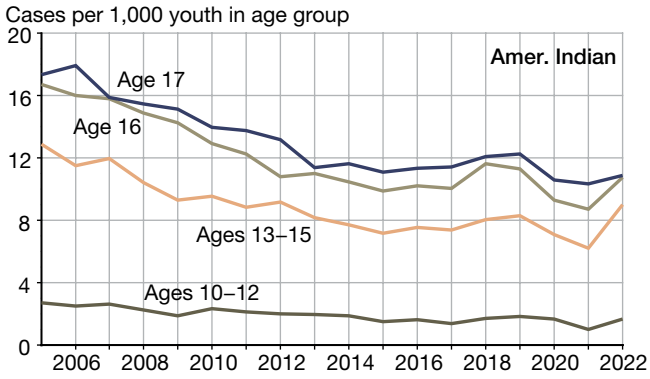
Case rates for person offenses in 2022 were lower than those in 2005 for all age groups and races

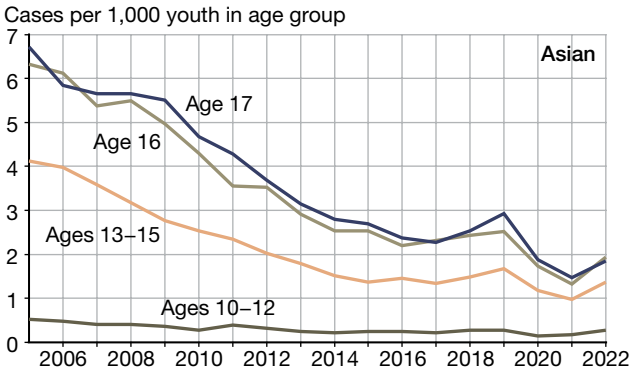
Person offense case rates









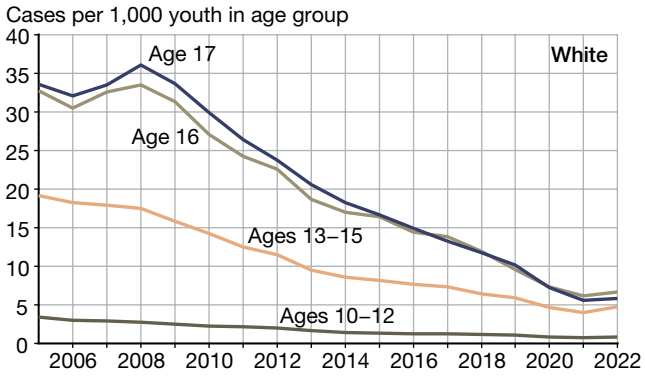


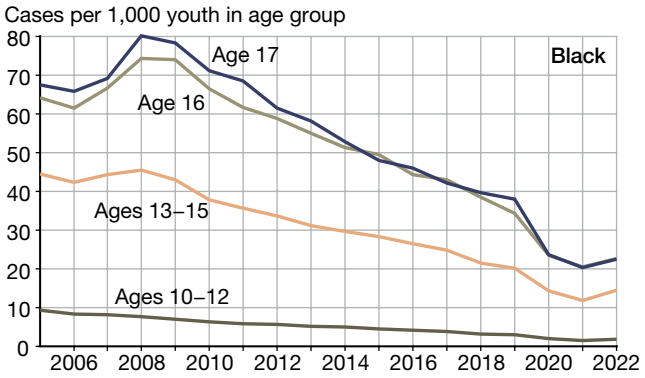
- The pattern of decrease in person offense case rates was similar for White, Asian, and Hispanic youth between 2005 and 2022; case rates decreased more for older youth (ages 16 and 17) than for younger youth (ages 10-12 and 13-15).
- Person offense case rates for youth ages 10–12 decreased the most for Black youth (down 57%) between 2005 and 2022.
- Except for White youth ages 10-12 and 16 and Asian youth ages 10-12, whose case rates were at their lowest levels in 2020, person offense case rates were at their lowest levels in 2021 for all ages across all racial groups.

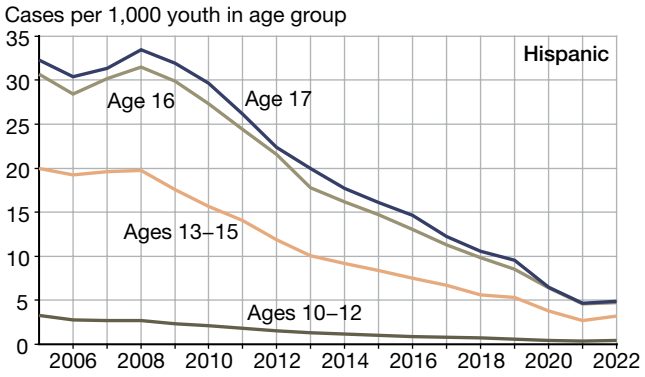
Race

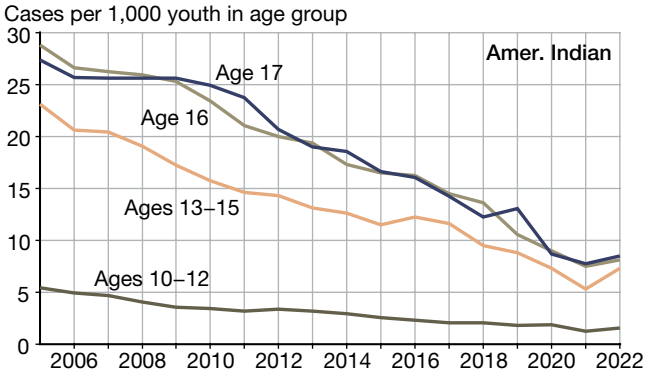
Property offense case rates were at their lowest level in 2021 for most age groups within each racial category

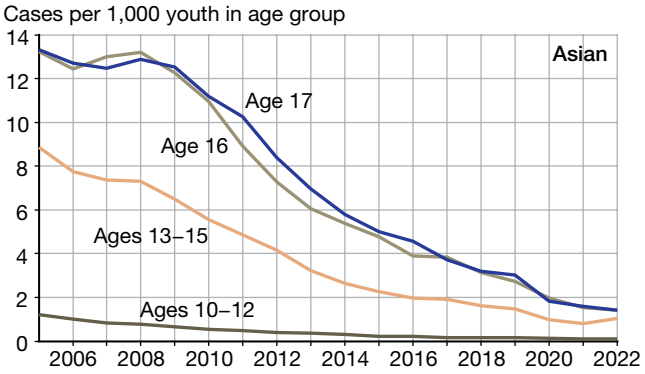
Property offense case rates









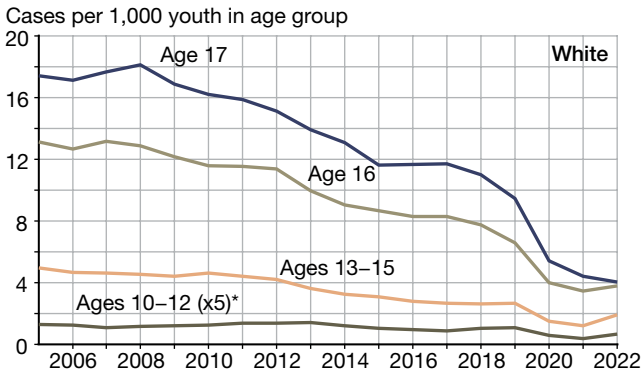


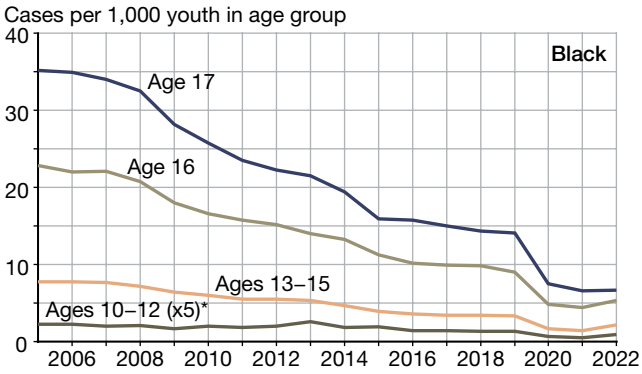
- Although changes in age-specific case rates for property offenses varied by racial group between 2005 and 2022, case rates decreased for all age groups for all races.
- Property offense case rates decreased the least for Black youth age 16 (65%) and decreased the most for Asian youth ages 10–12 (91%) between 2005 and 2022.

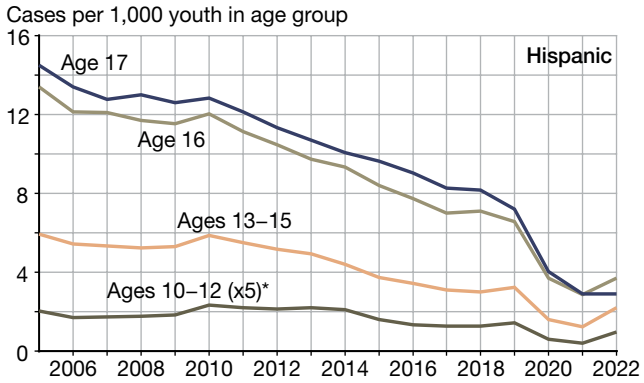
Race

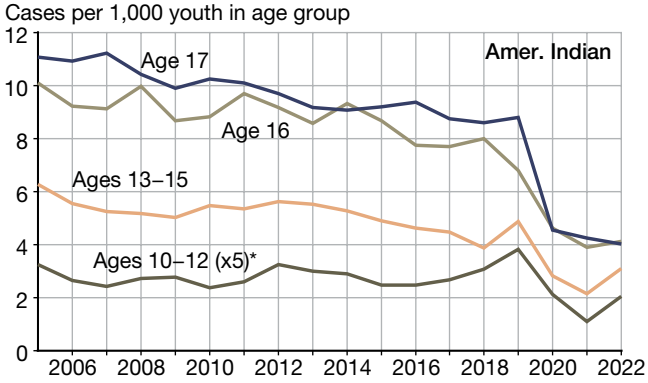
Drug offense case rates for all age groups for each racial category declined in the 18-year period from 2005–2022

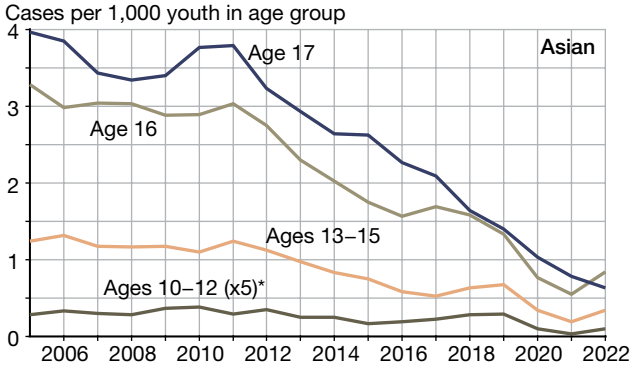
Drug offense case rates











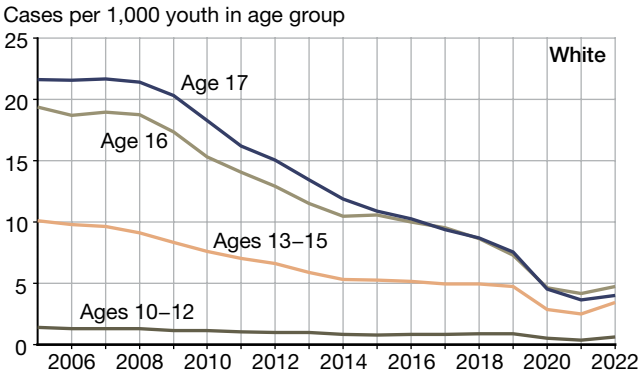
- Although changes in age-specific case rates for drug offenses varied by racial group between 2005 and 2022, case rates decreased for all age groups for all races.
- Regardless of race, drug offense case rates for 17-year-olds decreased at least 64% between 2005 and 2022, 84% for Asian youth, 81% for Black youth, 80% for Hispanic youth, 77% for White youth, and 64% for American Indian youth.

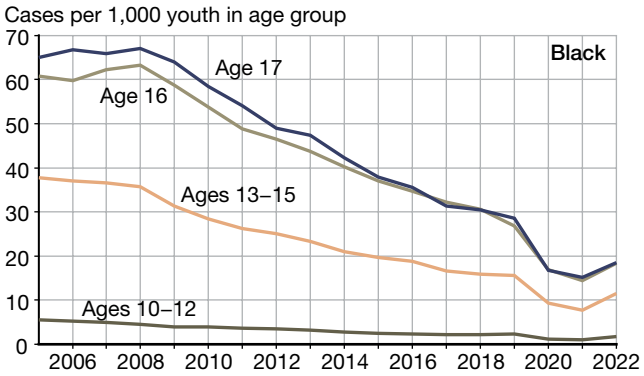
* Because of the relatively low volume of cases involving youth of all races ages 10–12 for drug offenses, their case rates are inflated by a factor of 5 to display the trends over time.

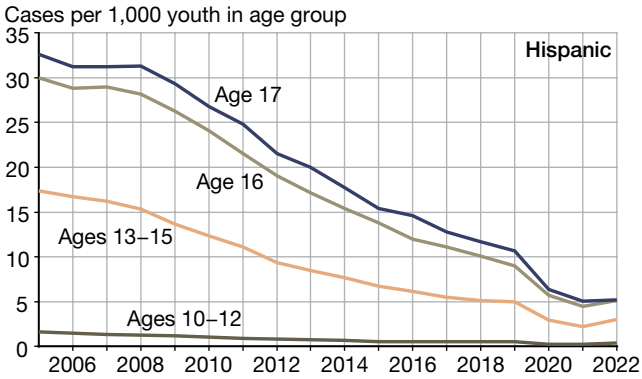
Race

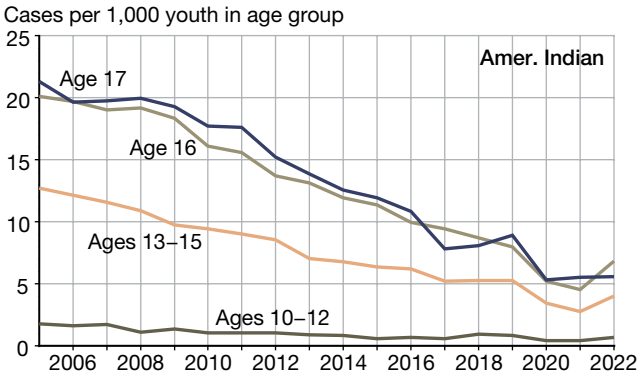
With the exception of American Indian youth age 17 and Asian youth ages 10-12, public order offense case rates were at the lowest level in 2021 for all age and race groups, then increased in 2022

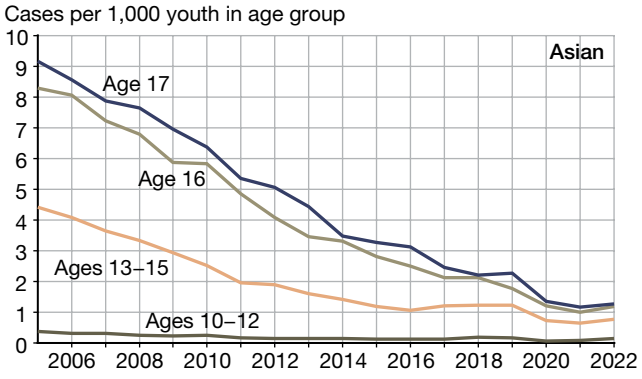
Public order offense case rates









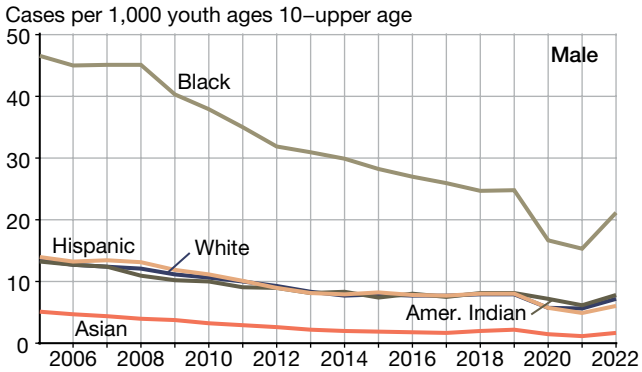


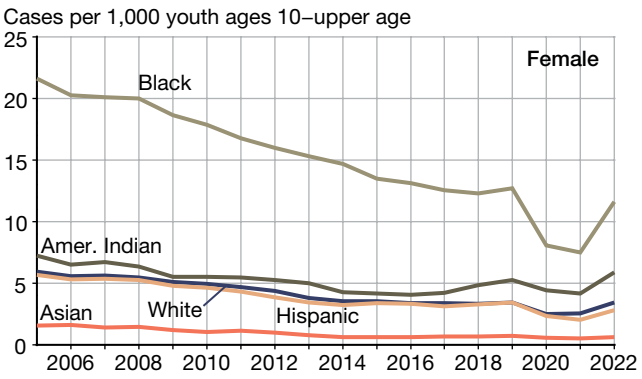
- Between 2005 and 2022, age-specific public order case rates decreased least for White youth ages 10–12 (54%) and most for Asian youth age 16 and 17 (86% each).
- The trends in public order case rates for Black youth ages 16 and 17 were similar. Case rates peaked in 2008 for both age groups, decreased to their lowest levels in 2021 (down 77% for 16-year-olds and 78% for 17-year-olds), then increased in 2022.
- Public order case rates for Hispanic youth decreased at a similar pace for all age groups: 76% for youth ages 10–12, 83% each for youth ages 13–15 and 16, and 84% for youth age 17.
- Public order case rates for American Indian youth declined between 61%-68% for all age groups between 2005 and 2022. For Asian youth, case rates for all age groups older than 12 declined between 83% and 86% in the same period.

Race

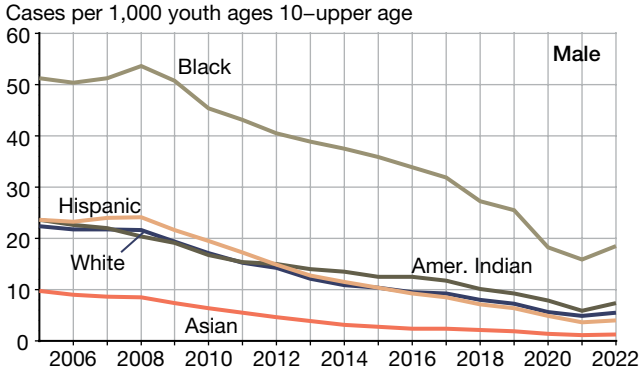
With the exception of drug offense cases involving females, case rates for Black youth were higher than rates for all other racial groups for all offense categories

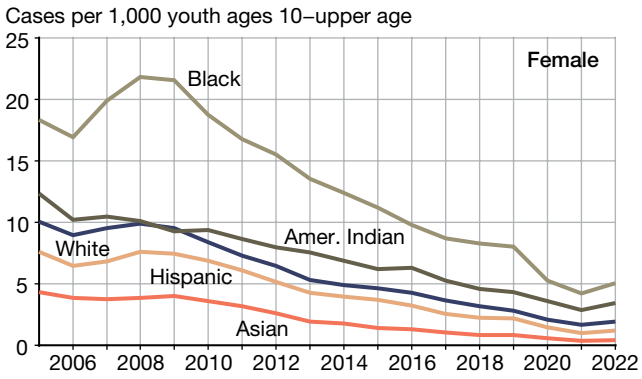
Person offense case rates





Property offense case rates

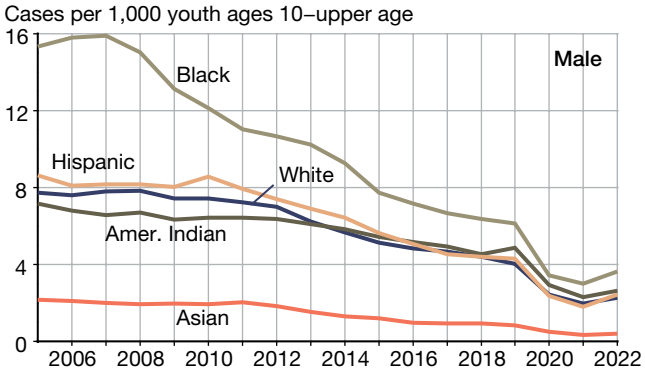


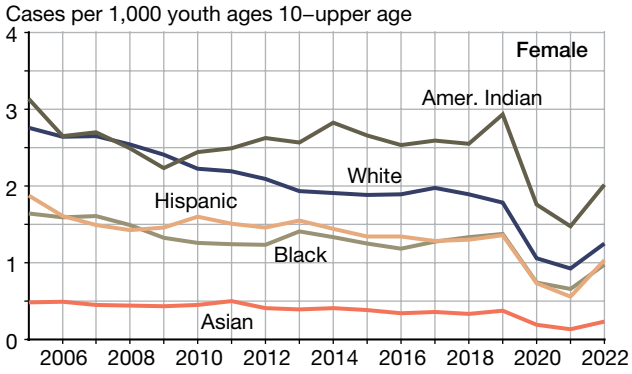


- For all years between 2005 and 2022, person offense case rates for Black males were 2 to 4 times higher than the corresponding rates for White, Hispanic, and American Indian males, and 9 to 16 times higher than those for Asian males.
- In 2022, the person offense case rate for Black females (11.6) was 19 times the rate for Asian females (0.6), 4.1 times the rate for Hispanic females (2.8), 3.4 times the rate for White females (3.4), and 2 times the rate for American Indian females (5.9).
- Among males and females, property offense case rates were lower in 2022 than in 2005 for all racial groups.
- Between 2005 and 2022, cases involving Asian males showed the largest relative decrease in property offense case rates. During this period, the property case rate for Asian males decreased 88% and the rate for Asian females decreased 91%.

Race

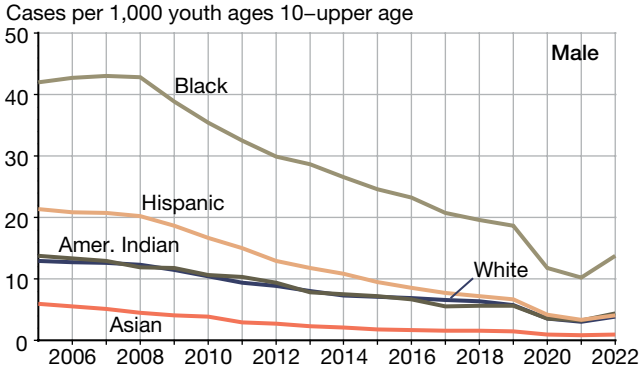
Drug offense case rates

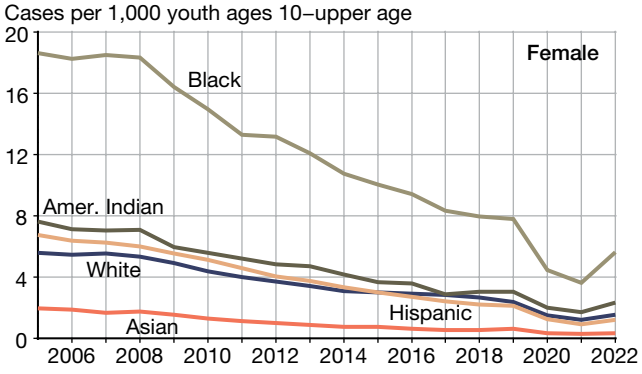




- For all years between 2005 and 2022, drug offense case rates were higher for Black males than for males of all other races. In 2022, the rate for Black males was 8.9 times the rate for Asian males, and at least 1.4 times the rate for White, Hispanic, and American Indian males.
- In 2022, the drug offense case rate for American Indian females was higher than the corresponding rate for all other race groups: 1.6 times the rate for White females, double the rate for Black and Hispanic females, and 9 times the rate for Asian females.

Public order offense case rates





- Between 2005 and 2022, cases involving Asian and Hispanic youth showed the largest relative decrease in public order offense case rates for males and females. During this period, the public order case rate decreased 83% for Asian males and 81% for Hispanic males. The public order case rate decreased 84% for Asian females and 82% for Hispanic females.
- In 2022, the public order offense case rate for Black males was 3 times the rate for Hispanic and American Indian males, 4 times the rate for White males, and 14 times the rate for Asian males.

Chapter 3

National Estimates of Delinquency Case Processing

This chapter quantifies the flow of delinquency cases referred to juvenile court through the stages of the juvenile court system as follows.

Referral: An agency or individual files a complaint with court intake that initiates court processing. 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.

Detention: Juvenile courts sometimes hold youth in secure detention facilities during court processing to protect the community, to ensure a youth's appearance at subsequent court hearings, to secure the youth's own safety, or for the purpose of evaluating the youth. This report describes the use of detention between court referral and case disposition only, although youth can be detained by police prior to referral and also by the courts after disposition while awaiting placement elsewhere.

Intake: Formal processing of a case involves the filing of a petition that requests an adjudicatory or waiver hearing. Informally processed cases, on the other hand, are handled without a petition and without an adjudicatory or waiver hearing.

Waiver: One of the first decisions made at intake is whether a case should be processed in the criminal (adult) justice system rather than in the juvenile court. Most states have more than one mechanism for transferring cases to criminal court: prosecutors may have the authority to file certain juvenile cases directly in criminal court; state statute may order that cases meeting certain age and offense criteria be excluded from juvenile court jurisdiction and filed directly in criminal court; and a juvenile court judge may waive juvenile court jurisdiction in certain juvenile cases, thus authorizing a transfer to criminal court. This report describes those cases that were transferred to criminal court by judicial waiver only.

Adjudication: At an adjudicatory hearing, a youth may be adjudicated (judged) delinquent if the juvenile court determines that the youth did commit the offense(s) charged in the petition. If the youth is adjudicated, the case proceeds to a disposition hearing. Alternatively, a case can be dismissed or continued in contemplation of dismissal. In these cases where the youth is not adjudicated delinquent, the court can recommend that the youth take some actions prior to the final adjudication decision, such as paying restitution or voluntarily attending drug counseling.

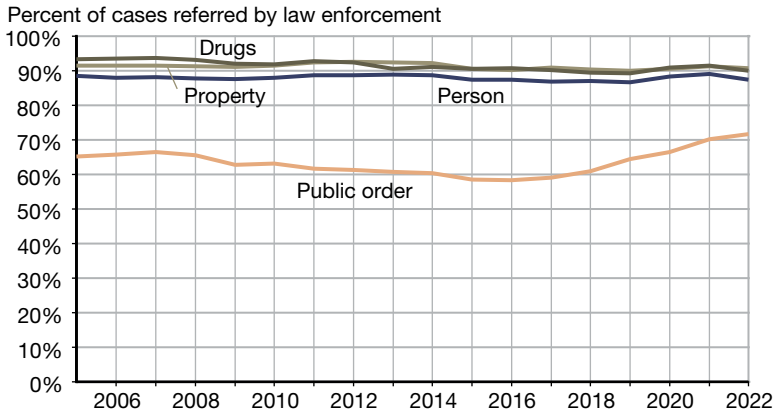
Disposition: Disposition options include commitment to an institution or other residential facility, probation supervision, or a variety of other sanctions, such as community service, restitution or fines, or referral to an outside agency or treatment program. This report characterizes case disposition by the most severe or restrictive sanction. For example, although most youth in out-of-home placements are also technically on probation, in this report cases resulting in placement are not included in the probation group.

This chapter describes case processing by offense and by demographics (age, gender, and race) of the youth involved, focusing on cases disposed in 2022 and examining trends from 2005 through 2022.

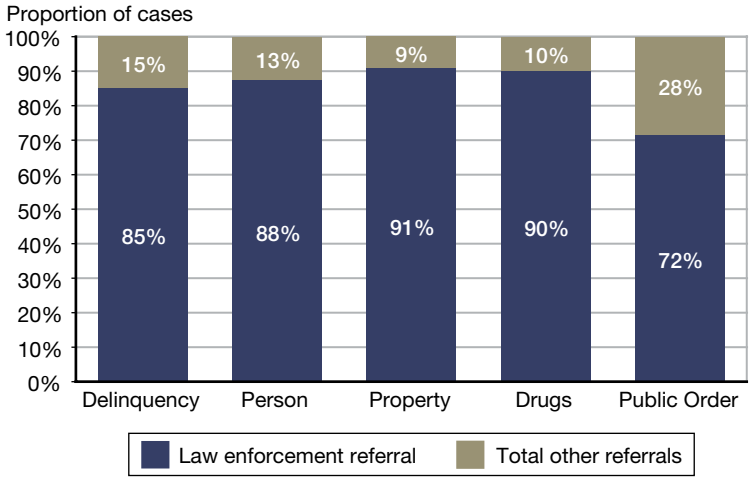
It should be noted that the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020, had an impact on the policies, procedures, and data collection activities regarding referrals to and the processing of youth by juvenile courts. Mitigation efforts, such as stay-at-home orders and school closures, likely contributed to the above average decline in juvenile court caseloads between 2019 and 2021; conversely, the increase between 2021-2022 may be the result of the easing of these mitigation efforts. For more information about the impact of COVID-19 on juvenile court workloads, please refer to *The Impact of COVID-19 on the Nation's Juvenile Court Caseload*.

Referral

Law enforcement agencies are the primary source of delinquency referrals to juvenile court



Property and drug offense cases were most likely to be referred by law enforcement, compared with other offense types



Source of referral profile, 2022:

Referral source	Delinquency	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order
Law enforcement	85%	88%	91%	90%	72%
School	4	4	1	5	6
Relative	1	1	1	0	0
Other	11	8	7	4	22
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

- Between 2005 and 2022, law enforcement agencies were the primary source of delinquency referrals for each year.
- In 2022, 85% of all delinquency cases were referred by law enforcement; however, there were variations across offense categories.
- Law enforcement agencies referred 91% of property offense cases, 90% of drug law violation cases, 88% of person offense cases, and 72% of public order offense cases in 2022.
- For each year between 2005 and 2022, public order offense cases had the smallest proportion of cases referred to court by law enforcement. This may be attributed in part to the fact that this offense category contains probation violations and contempt-of-court cases, which are most often referred by court personnel.
- Between 2005 and 2022, the proportion of delinquency cases referred by law enforcement ranged between 81% and 86%. The proportion of delinquency cases referred by law enforcement in 2022 (85%) was about the same as in 2005 (84%).

Detention

- The total number of delinquency cases involving detention decreased 72% between 2005 and 2021. After this period of decline, the detention caseload increased 19% between 2021 and 2022. Despite this increase, the number of delinquency cases involving detention in 2022 rested 66% below the level in 2005.
- Patterns for individual offense categories involving detention were similar to the overall pattern of delinquency cases involving detention. The net result was that the number of drug offense cases involving detention fell 80% between 2005 and 2022, property offense cases involving detention fell 72%, public order offense cases involving detention fell 70%, and person offense cases involving detention fell 55%.
- Despite the decrease in the volume of delinquency cases involving detention, the proportion of cases detained in 2022 (25%) was about the same as in 2005 (24%).
- Between 2005 and 2022, the use of detention decreased for person offense cases (from 31% to 28%) and for drug offense cases (from 23% to 14%), increased for property offense cases (from 19% to 21%), and was about the same for public order offense cases (from 26% to 27%).

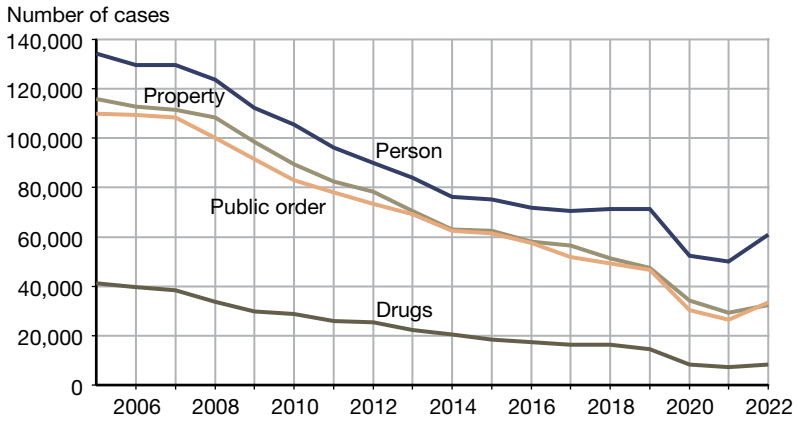
Offense profile of detained delinquency cases:

Most serious offense	2005	2022
Person	33%	45%
Property	29	24
Drugs	10	6
Public order	27	25
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	401,400	134,900

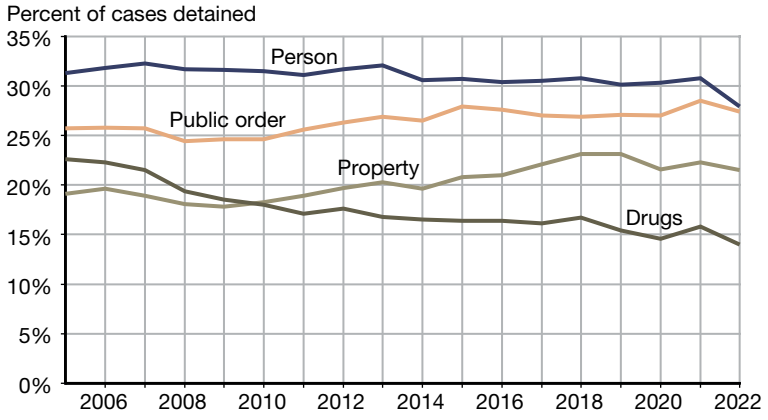
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- Compared with 2005, the offense profile of the 2022 detention caseload had a larger proportion of person offenses and smaller proportions of all other offense types.

The number of cases involving detention decreased between 2005 and 2022 for all offense categories

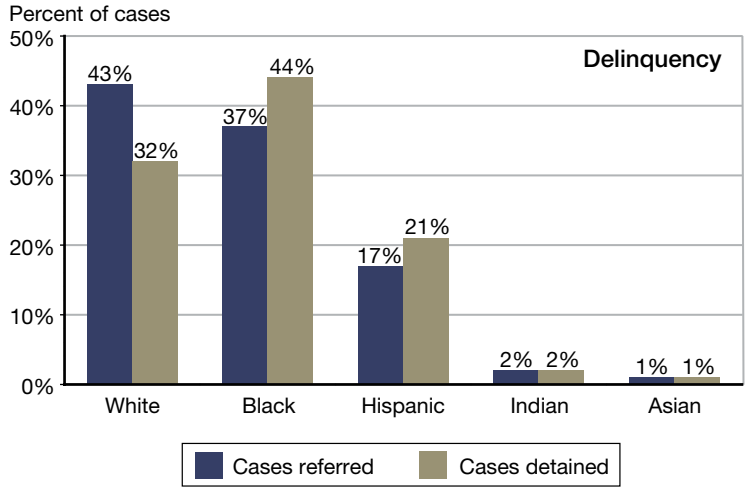


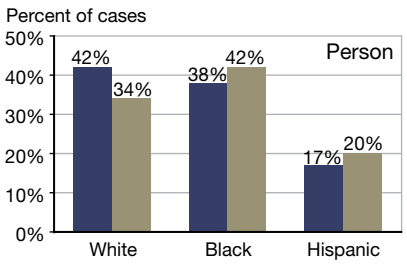
Compared with 2005, a smaller proportion of person and drug offense cases involved detention in 2022

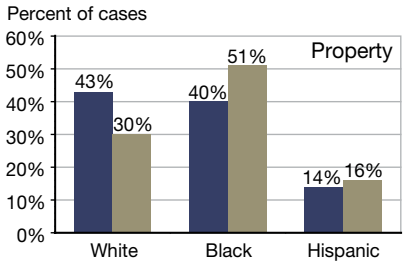


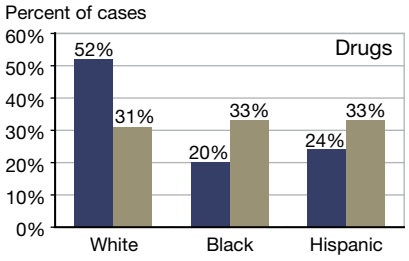
Detention

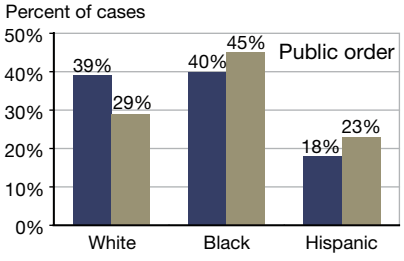
Black and Hispanic youth represented a larger share of the overall detention caseload than of the overall delinquency caseload in 2022











Note: Proportions for American Indian and Asian youth are not shown in the offense graphs above because their percentages are too small for display.

- In 2022, Black youth accounted for 37% of the overall delinquency caseload, compared with 44% of the overall detention caseload. Hispanic youth accounted for 17% of the overall delinquency caseload and 21% of the overall detention caseload.
- White youth accounted for a smaller proportion of the detention caseload (32%) compared with the delinquency caseload (43%).
- Black and Hispanic youth accounted for larger proportions of cases detained than of cases referred for all offense categories in 2022.
- White youth accounted for a smaller proportion of cases detained than of the cases referred for all offense categories in 2022.

Detention

Age

- Each year since 2005, delinquency cases involving youth age 16 and older were more likely to be detained prior to court disposition than were cases involving youth age 15 and younger.
- In 2022, public order offense cases were more likely to involve detention than were other offenses for youth age 16 and older.
- For all years between 2005 and 2022, person offense cases were more likely to involve detention than were other offenses for youth age 15 and younger.

Gender

- In 2022, delinquency cases involving males were more likely than cases involving females to be detained.

Offense profile of detained delinquency cases by gender, 2022:

Most serious offense	Male	Female
Person	42%	55%
Property	26	18
Drugs	6	5
Public order	25	22
Total	100%	100%

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

Race

- Cases involving White youth were less likely to be detained than cases involving all other racial groups for most years between 2005 and 2022 across offense categories.
- In 2022, public order offense cases involving Hispanic youth were more likely to involve detention (35%) than those involving all other races.

Detention was more likely for cases involving older youth than younger youth and for cases involving males than females

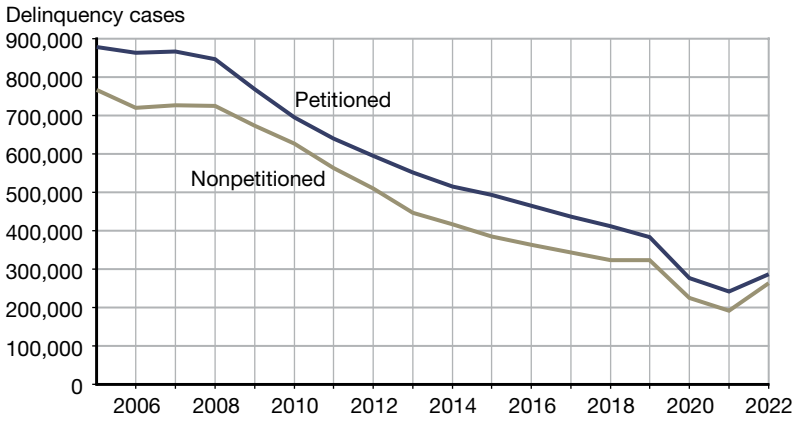
Most serious offense	Percentage of cases detained			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2022				
Delinquency	23%	27%	27%	19%
Person	26	31	30	23
Property	20	23	23	15
Drugs	12	16	16	9
Public order	24	32	30	20
2005				
Delinquency	23%	26%	26%	20%
Person	30	34	33	28
Property	18	20	22	13
Drugs	22	23	23	19
Public order	24	28	27	23

Detention was more likely for delinquency cases involving Hispanic youth than cases involving youth of other racial groups

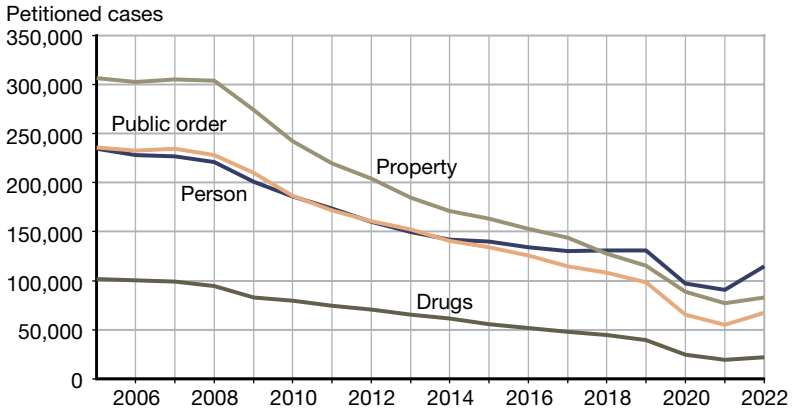
Most serious offense	Percentage of cases detained				
	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2022					
Delinquency	18%	29%	30%	23%	26%
Person	23	31	34	26	31
Property	15	27	25	19	23
Drugs	8	23	19	13	15
Public order	20	31	35	30	29
2005					
Delinquency	21%	27%	29%	25%	23%
Person	29	32	37	30	33
Property	17	22	23	19	18
Drugs	17	32	27	20	19
Public order	23	25	31	31	25

Intake Decision

Petitioned delinquency cases outnumbered nonpetitioned cases each year since 2005



Regardless of offense type, the number of petitioned cases decreased between 2005 and 2021, then increased in 2022



- Cases referred to juvenile court are first screened by an intake department (either inside or outside the court). The intake department may decide to resolve the matter informally (without filing a petition for adjudication or for a waiver hearing, i.e., nonpetitioned) or formally (petitioned). Between 2005 and 2021, the number of nonpetitioned cases decreased 75%, then increased 38% in 2022. Similarly, the number of petitioned cases decreased 72% between 2005 and 2021, then increased 18% in 2022. Despite the recent increase, the nonpetitioned and petitioned caseloads in 2022 were one-third their level in 2005.

- The largest relative decrease in the number of petitioned cases between 2005 and 2022 was seen in drug offense cases (79%), followed by property offense cases (73%), public order offense cases (71%), and person offense cases (51%).

Offense profile of delinquency cases, 2022:

Most serious offense	Nonpetitioned	Petitioned
Person	39%	40%
Property	26	29
Drugs	14	8
Public order	21	24
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	263,100	286,400

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

- In 2022, the offense profiles of nonpetitioned and petitioned delinquency cases were similar but the nonpetitioned caseload had a greater proportion of drug offense cases and slightly smaller proportions of all other offense types.

Intake Decision

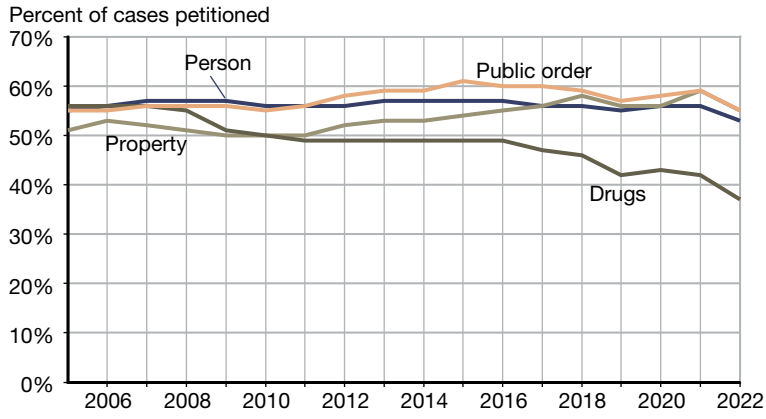
- The overall likelihood of formal handling was greater for more serious offenses within the same general offense category. In 2022, for example, 72% of aggravated assault cases were handled formally, compared with 45% of simple assault cases. Similarly, 66% of burglary cases and 71% of motor vehicle theft cases were handled formally by juvenile courts, compared with 49% of larceny-theft and 39% of trespassing cases.
- Youth younger than age 16 accounted for 54% of the delinquency cases handled formally by juvenile courts in 2022, females accounted for 24%, and White youth accounted for 40% of petitioned cases.
- In 2022, 37% of drug offense cases were petitioned — a lower percentage than in 2005, when 56% were petitioned. Conversely, a larger percentage of property offense cases were petitioned in 2022 (55%), compared with 2005 (51%).
- Between 2005 and 2010, property offense cases were less likely than cases in each of the other general offense categories to be petitioned for adjudication; since 2011, drug offense cases were the least likely.
- Public order offense cases were most likely to be petitioned between 2012 and 2020; in 2021 and 2022, property offense cases were equally as likely as public order offense cases to be petitioned.

In 2022, juvenile courts petitioned 52% of all delinquency cases

Most serious offense	Petitioned cases	Percentage of total delinquency cases	Percentage of all petitioned cases, 2022		
			Younger than 16	Female	White
Total delinquency	**286,400**	**52%**	**54%**	**24%**	**40%**
Total person	**114,700**	**53**	**58**	**28**	**40**
Criminal homicide	1,800	92	32	10	21
Rape	5,200	71	56	3	59
Robbery	12,500	86	48	11	15
Aggravated assault	18,600	72	52	24	33
Simple assault	59,700	45	62	37	43
Other violent sex offenses	4,800	69	67	5	61
Other person offenses	12,200	44	59	26	49
Total property	**82,600**	**55**	**56**	**19**	**39**
Burglary	17,200	66	56	11	40
Larceny-theft	24,700	49	52	25	40
Motor vehicle theft	10,800	71	54	19	25
Arson	1,200	69	75	19	54
Vandalism	14,700	47	62	19	55
Trespassing	5,400	39	59	23	38
Stolen property offenses	6,100	84	48	12	16
Other property offenses	2,600	44	52	23	43
Drug law violations	**21,700**	**37**	**40**	**24**	**49**
Total public order	**67,400**	**55**	**51**	**23**	**36**
Obstruction of justice	31,100	71	43	25	33
Disorderly conduct	13,500	39	66	35	41
Weapons offenses	12,700	67	44	9	23
Liquor law violations	600	25	38	31	60
Nonviolent sex offenses	4,700	47	63	15	61
Other public order offenses	4,800	41	64	21	50

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

Between 2005 and 2022, the use of formal handling increased for property offense cases and decreased for drug offense cases



Intake Decision

Formal handling was more likely for cases involving older youth than younger youth, and more likely for cases involving males than females

Most serious offense	Percentage of cases petitioned			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2022				
Delinquency	50%	55%	55%	44%
Person	50	57	56	45
Property	54	55	57	45
Drugs	32	41	40	29
Public order	51	60	58	48
2005				
Delinquency	50%	57%	57%	45%
Person	52	59	58	47
Property	48	54	55	38
Drugs	52	58	58	47
Public order	51	60	57	50

Between 2005 and 2022, the likelihood of formal handling increased slightly for Black and American Indian youth

Most serious offense	Percentage of cases petitioned				
	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2022					
Delinquency	48%	59%	47%	59%	47%
Person	50	57	49	61	49
Property	50	62	48	59	47
Drugs	35	49	30	50	32
Public order	51	60	52	63	49
2005					
Delinquency	50%	58%	52%	57%	56%
Person	50	60	54	57	60
Property	48	56	50	53	50
Drugs	50	70	55	51	59
Public order	55	56	53	67	60

Age

- In each year between 2005 and 2022, delinquency cases involving youth age 16 and older were more likely to be petitioned than were cases involving younger youth.
- In 2022, 50% of delinquency cases involving youth age 15 and younger were petitioned, compared with 55% of cases involving older youth.

Gender

- Compared with 2005, the proportion of cases handled formally in 2022 was about the same for males (57% vs. 55%) and females (45% vs. 44%).
- Between 2005 and 2022 for both males and females, the likelihood of formal handling decreased for drug offense cases (down 18 percentage points each) and increased for property offense cases (by 2 and 7 percentage points, respectively).

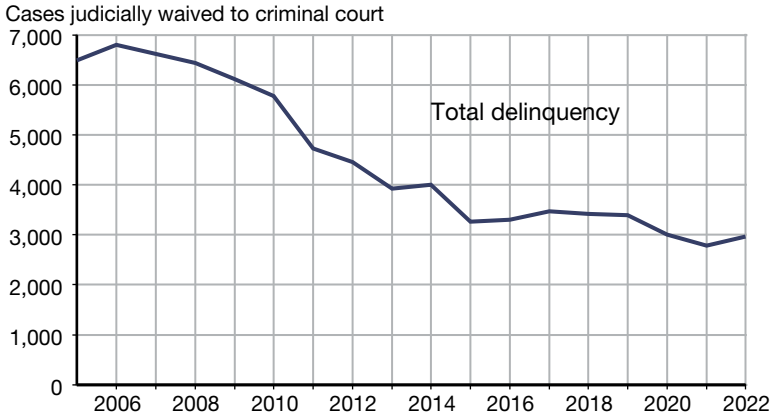
Race

- The proportion of petitioned delinquency cases decreased between 2005 and 2022 for Asian youth (down 9 percentage points) and Hispanic youth (down 5 percentage points), while the likelihood of formal handling was about the same in 2022 as in 2005 for cases involving White, Black, and American Indian youth.
- For each year between 2005 and 2019, property and drug offense cases involving Black youth were more likely to be petitioned than were such cases involving any other racial group. In 2022, person, drug and public order offense cases involving American Indian youth were more likely than those involving Black youth to be petitioned.

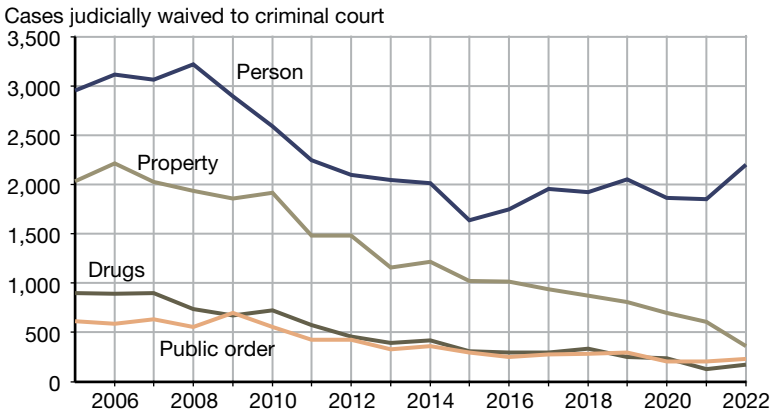
Waiver

- Between 2005 and 2022, the number of delinquency cases waived to criminal court was at its highest in 2006 (6,800). The number of cases waived in 2022 (3,000) was 56% below the 2006 level.
- The number of judicially waived person offense cases increased 9% between 2005 and 2008, fell 49% to its lowest level in 2015, and then increased 35% by 2022. Despite the recent increase, the number of person offense cases judicially waived in 2022 was 32% below the 2008 peak.
- The number of drug offense cases judicially waived remained stable between 2005 and 2007, fell 86% through 2021, then increased 37% in 2022. Despite this, the number of drug offense cases waived in 2022 was below the pre-pandemic level.
- For public order offenses, the number of waived cases decreased 67% between 2005 and 2020, then increased 13% through 2022. Despite the increase in 2022, the number of public order offense cases waived was below pre-pandemic levels and 67% below the 2009 peak.
- The number of property offense cases judicially waived peaked in 2006, then decreased 84% to a low in 2022.
- Historically, the number of cases judicially waived declined after 1994 and may be attributable in part to the large increase in the number of states that passed legislation excluding certain offenses from juvenile court jurisdiction and legislation permitting the prosecutor to file certain cases directly in criminal court.

Despite an increase in 2022, the number of delinquency cases judicially waived to criminal court in 2022 was 56% lower than the number waived in 2006, the peak year

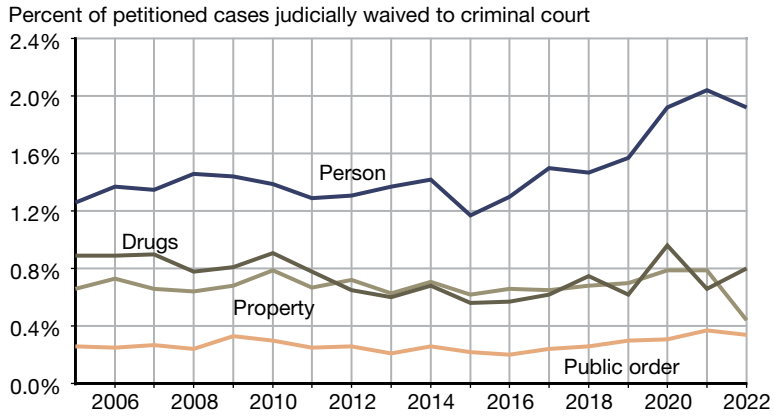


Since 2005, the number of cases judicially waived to criminal court decreased the most for property offenses (82%), followed by drug (81%), public order (62%), and person offenses (25%)

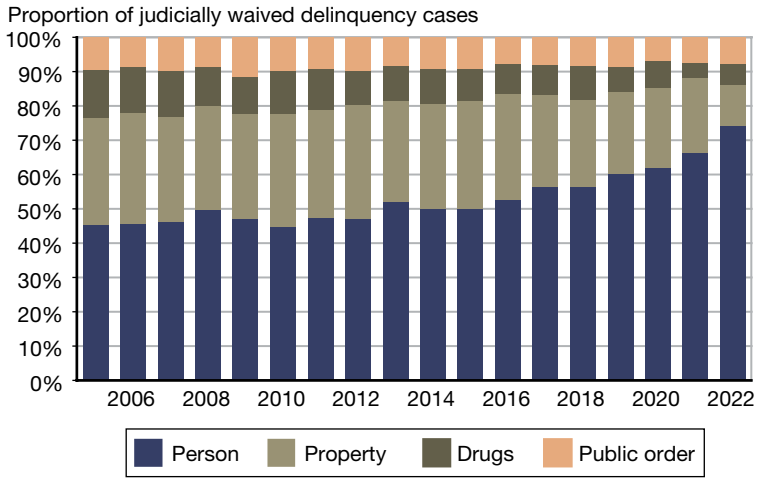


Waiver

For all years from 2005 to 2022, cases involving person offenses were most likely to be judicially waived



Between 2005 and 2022, the offense profile of the judicially waived caseload changed—the share of person offense cases increased while the share of all other offense cases decreased



- Over the 2005–2022 reporting period, the likelihood of waiver for person, property, and public order offense cases was at its highest level in 2021.
- The proportion of the waived caseload involving person offenses grew between 2005 and 2022. In 2005, person offense cases accounted for 45% of the waived caseload; by 2022, person offense cases were 74% of the waived caseload.
- The proportion of all waived delinquency cases that involved a property offense as the most serious charge was 31% in 2005 and 22% in 2021. Unlike other offense categories, the proportion of waived cases involving property offenses decreased again in 2022, down to 12%.
- Drug offense cases represented 14% of the judicially waived caseload in 2005 and 6% in 2022.
- Between 2005 and 2022, public order offense cases accounted for 7% to 11% of the waived caseload.

Waiver

Age

- In 2022, 2.0% of all petitioned delinquency cases involving youth age 16 and older were waived to criminal court, compared with 0.2% of cases involving younger youth.
- Compared with 2005, the probability of waiver in 2022 was slightly greater for youth age 16 and older (1.4% and 2.0%, respectively) and was the same for younger youth (0.2%).

Gender

- The proportion of person offense cases judicially waived increased from 1.6% in 2005 to 2.5% in 2022 for males.
- The likelihood of judicial waiver for cases involving drug offenses was about the same in 2022 as in 2005 for cases involving males and females.

Race

- The likelihood of judicial waiver was the same in 2022 as in 2005 for cases involving White and Asian youth and decreased for American Indian youth. The likelihood for cases involving Black or Hispanic youth increased.
- In 2022, cases involving person offenses were more likely than other offenses to be waived for youth of all races: 1.1% among White youth, 2.9% among Black youth, 1.7% among Hispanic youth, 0.9% among American Indian youth, and 0.6% among Asian youth.

Cases involving youth age 16 and older were much more likely to be judicially waived to criminal court than those involving younger youth

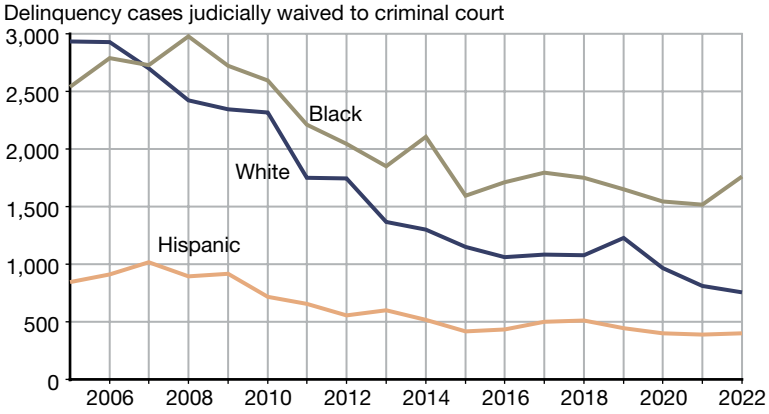
Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases judicially waived			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2022				
Delinquency	0.2%	2.0%	1.3%	0.3%
Person	0.4	4.0	2.5	0.4
Property	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.2
Drugs	0.1	1.2	0.9	0.5
Public order	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.1
2005				
Delinquency	0.2%	1.4%	0.9%	0.3%
Person	0.4	2.7	1.6	0.4
Property	0.1	1.4	0.8	0.3
Drugs	0.1	1.4	1.0	0.4
Public order	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.1

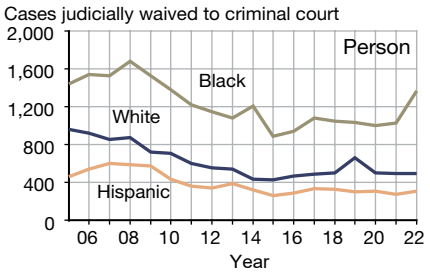
Person offense cases involving Black youth were more likely than cases involving all other youth to be judicially waived

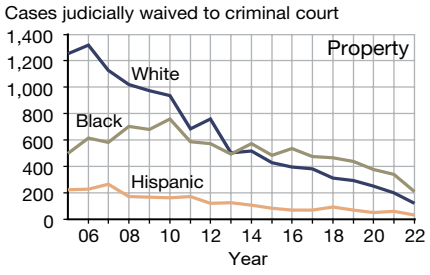
Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases judicially waived				
	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2022					
Delinquency	0.7%	1.5%	0.9%	0.4%	0.5%
Person	1.1	2.9	1.7	0.9	0.6
Property	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.3
Drugs	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.6	NA
Public order	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3
2005					
Delinquency	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%
Person	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.1
Property	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.4
Drugs	0.8	1.3	0.5	0.6	0.2
Public order	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3

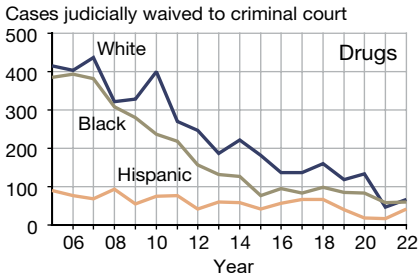
Waiver

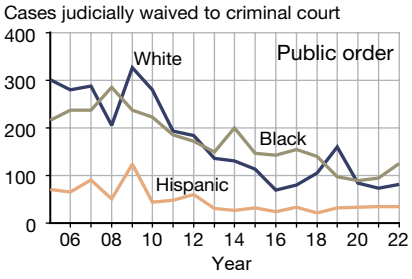
The number of delinquency cases waived to criminal court was at its lowest level in 2021 for Black and Hispanic youth and at its lowest level in 2022 for White youth











Note: Counts of judicially waived cases involving American Indian and Asian youth are not shown in the offense graphs above because their numbers are too small for display.

- The number of judicially waived cases involving White youth declined 74% between 2005 and 2022.
- The number of judicially waived cases involving Black youth decreased 40% between 2005 and 2021, then increased 16% in 2022. Despite this, the number of cases waived in 2022 rested 31% below the 2005 level.
- The number of judicially waived cases involving Hispanic youth decreased 54% between 2005 and 2021, then increased 2% in 2022. Despite this, the number of cases waived in 2022 rested 53% below the 2005 level.
- Between 2005 and 2022, the number of judicially waived cases decreased the most for property offenses involving White youth (91%).

Offense profile of waived cases:

Most serious offense	White	Black	Hispanic
2022			
Person	65%	78%	77%
Property	15	12	8
Drugs	9	3	10
Public order	11	7	5
Total	100%	100%	100%
2005			
Person	33%	57%	55%
Property	43	20	26
Drugs	14	15	11
Public order	10	8	8
Total	100%	100%	100%

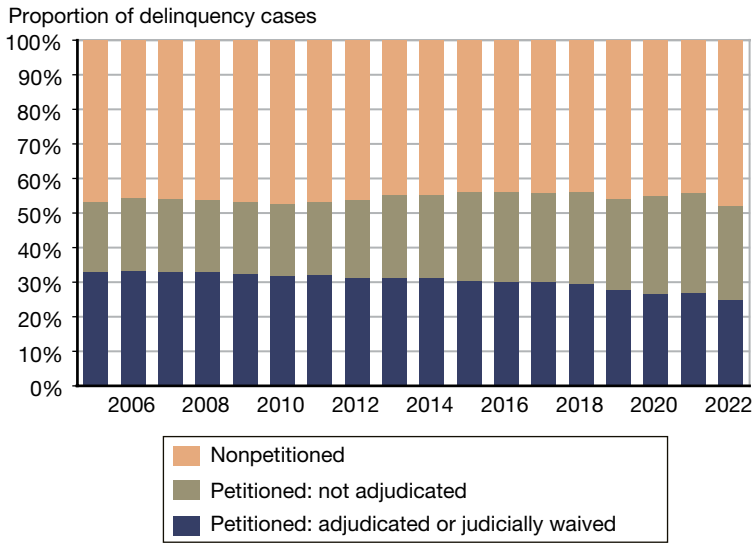
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding. Offense profiles are not presented for American Indian and Asian youth because counts were too small to calculate meaningful percentages.

- In 2022, person offense cases accounted for the largest proportion of judicially waived cases for all racial groups.
- The proportion of person cases waived was largest for Black youth compared with the other racial groups in 2022.

Adjudication

- In 2005, 33% of all delinquency cases resulted in either an adjudication of delinquency or waiver to criminal court. This proportion decreased to 25% in 2022.
- In general, the likelihood of a delinquency adjudication was greater for more serious offenses within the same general offense category. For example, in 2022, 51% of petitioned aggravated assault cases were adjudicated delinquent, compared with 39% of simple assault cases. Similarly, 51% of petitioned burglary cases were adjudicated delinquent compared with 44% of larceny-theft cases.
- The same pattern exists among public order offenses in 2022; 54% of obstruction of justice cases were adjudicated delinquent compared with 42% of disorderly conduct cases.
- Youth younger than 16 accounted for 54% of all adjudicated delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts in 2022, females accounted for 21%, and White youth accounted for 40%.

The proportion of formally processed delinquency cases that resulted in a delinquency adjudication or waiver has decreased since 2005



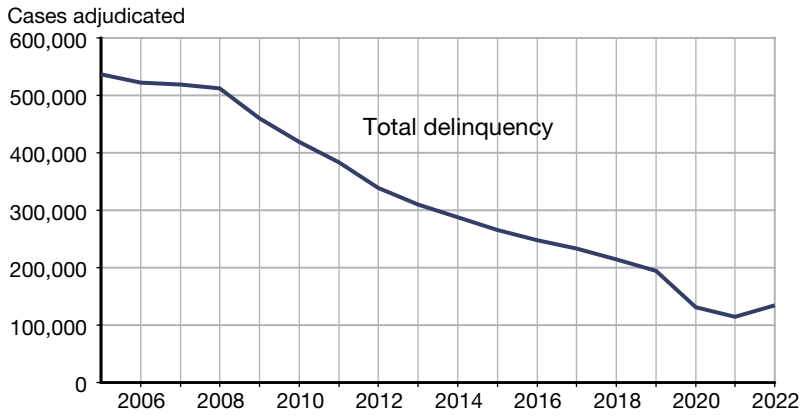
In 2022, youth were adjudicated delinquent in less than half (47%) of petitioned delinquency cases

Most serious offense	Cases adjudicated	Percentage of total petitioned cases	Percentage of all adjudicated cases, 2022		
			Younger than 16	Female	White
Total delinquency	**134,400**	**47%**	**54%**	**21%**	**40%**
Total person	**52,100**	**45**	**58**	**23**	**40**
Criminal homicide	800	43	41	12	27
Rape	2,700	52	57	3	62
Robbery	7,400	59	49	10	16
Aggravated assault	9,500	51	52	22	34
Simple assault	23,000	39	62	33	44
Other violent sex offenses	2,400	49	68	5	65
Other person offenses	6,300	52	59	23	50
Total property	**38,900**	**47**	**57**	**16**	**39**
Burglary	8,700	51	58	9	41
Larceny-theft	10,900	44	54	20	41
Motor vehicle theft	5,400	50	56	18	26
Arson	600	51	75	17	52
Vandalism	6,300	43	62	18	56
Trespassing	2,200	40	62	22	40
Stolen property offenses	3,600	58	49	11	16
Other property offenses	1,200	48	57	19	45
Drug law violations	**9,900**	**45**	**41**	**22**	**49**
Total public order	**33,600**	**50**	**50**	**21**	**37**
Obstruction of justice	16,900	54	44	24	34
Disorderly conduct	5,600	42	67	33	46
Weapons offenses	6,400	50	43	6	22
Liquor law violations	200	43	45	26	63
Nonviolent sex offenses	2,100	45	64	12	61
Other public order offenses	2,300	48	63	20	55

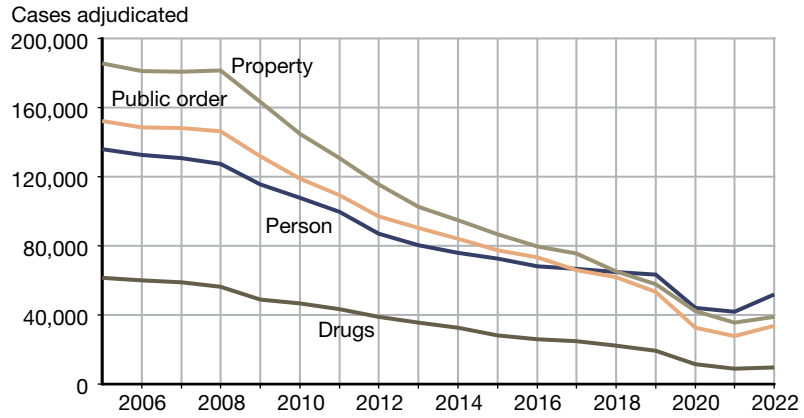
Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Adjudication

Between 2005 and 2021, the number of cases resulting in a delinquency adjudication decreased 79%, then increased 18% in 2022



Since 2005, the number of cases adjudicated delinquent decreased for all general offense categories



- Overall, the number of cases resulting in a delinquency adjudication decreased from 2005 to its lowest level in 2021, then increased in 2022. The number of cases resulting in adjudication in 2022 was 75% below the 2005 level.
- The number of adjudicated property offense cases decreased 81% from 2005 to the lowest level in 2021, then increased 10% in 2022.
- The number of adjudicated person offense cases decreased 69% from 2005 to the lowest level in 2021, then increased 24% in 2022.
- The number of adjudicated drug offense cases decreased 85% between 2005 and 2021, then increased 10% in 2022. The number of adjudicated public order offense cases decreased 82% between 2005 and 2021, then increased 21% in 2022.

Offense profile of adjudicated delinquency cases:

Most serious offense	2005	2022
Person	25%	39%
Property	35	29
Drugs	12	7
Public order	28	25
Total	100%	100%
Cases adjudicated	535,900	134,400

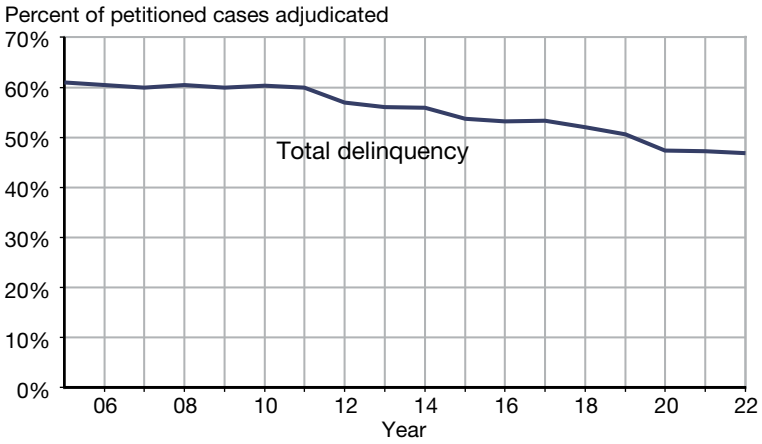
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

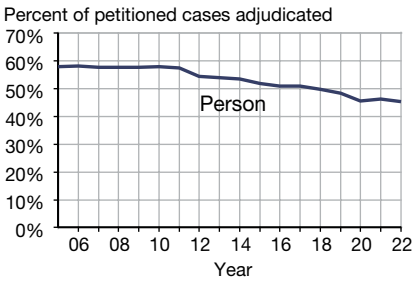
- Compared with 2005, the 2022 adjudicated delinquency caseload included a greater proportion of person offenses and smaller proportions of all other offense types.

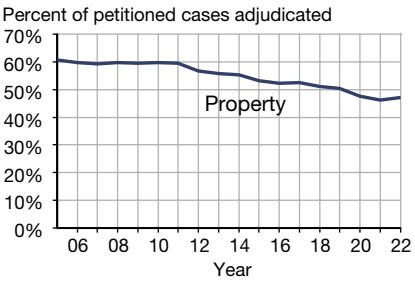
Adjudication

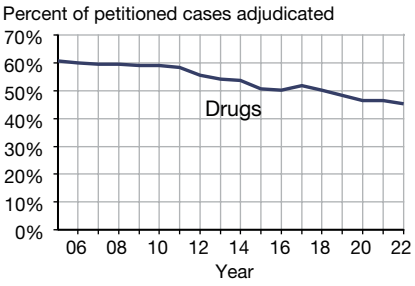
- The likelihood of a delinquency adjudication was less in 2022 than in 2005 for all offense types (by 13 to 15 percentage points).
- The likelihood of adjudication among cases involving a property offense decreased from 61% to 47% between 2005 and 2022.
- The likelihood of adjudication among drug offense cases followed a similar pattern, decreasing from 61% to 45% between 2005 and 2022.
- Among public order cases, the likelihood of adjudication decreased from 65% to 50% between 2005 and 2022.
- Cases involving public order offenses were slightly more likely than any other offense to result in a delinquency adjudication each year between 2005 and 2022.

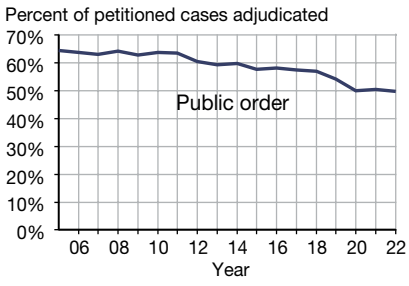
The likelihood of a delinquency adjudication decreased from 61% of petitioned cases in 2005 to 47% in 2022











Adjudication

The likelihood of adjudication for delinquency cases involving younger youth was the same as the likelihood for cases involving older youth

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated: Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2022				
Delinquency	47%	47%	49%	40%
Person	45	46	48	38
Property	48	46	49	40
Drugs	46	45	47	41
Public order	49	50	51	45
2005				
Delinquency	61%	60%	62%	58%
Person	59	57	59	54
Property	61	60	62	56
Drugs	63	60	61	61
Public order	64	65	65	63

Delinquency cases involving Black or Asian youth were less likely to result in a delinquency adjudication than were cases involving youth of all other races

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated: White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2022					
Delinquency	47%	45%	51%	47%	45%
Person	46	44	50	46	47
Property	47	47	49	46	44
Drugs	45	43	48	52	NA
Public order	51	47	55	49	45
2005					
Delinquency	62%	57%	66%	65%	61%
Person	59	55	64	62	64
Property	62	57	64	63	59
Drugs	62	57	65	65	59
Public order	66	61	69	69	62

Age

- For youth age 15 and younger, person offense cases were less likely than other offense categories to be adjudicated delinquent for each year between 2005 and 2022.
- For drug offense cases involving youth age 16 and older, the likelihood of adjudication decreased from 60% to 45% between 2005 and 2022.

Gender

- Between 2005 and 2022, male cases generally were more likely to be adjudicated delinquent than were female cases.
- Between 2005 and 2022, for females, the likelihood of a delinquency adjudication decreased for all offense types (between 15 and 20 percentage points).

Race

- Between 2005 and 2022, the likelihood of a delinquency adjudication decreased 15 percentage points each for White and Hispanic youth and 12 percentage points for Black youth.
- For each year between 2005 and 2022, cases involving White youth were more likely to be adjudicated than cases involving Black youth.

Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

- The number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement decreased 78% between 2005 and 2021, then increased 15% in 2022. Despite this increase, the number of cases in 2022 was 75% below the 2005 level.
- Between 2005 and 2022, the number of cases involving the use of out-of-home placement decreased 87% for drug offense cases, 78% each for property and public order offense cases, and 63% for person offense cases.
- Public order offense cases include escapes from institutions, weapons offenses, and probation and parole violations. This may help to explain the relatively high number of public order offense cases involving out-of-home placement.

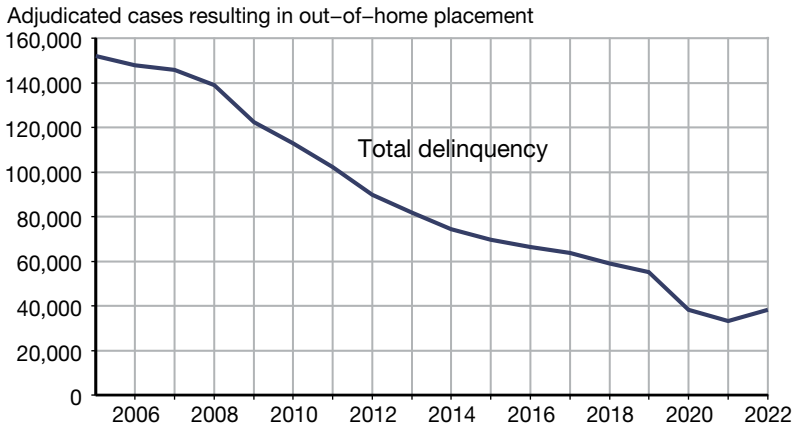
Offense profile of adjudicated delinquency cases resulting in out-of-home placement:

Most serious offense	2005	2022
Person	27%	40%
Property	33	29
Drugs	9	5
Public order	31	27
Total	100%	100%
Cases resulting in out-of-home placement	152,000	38,200

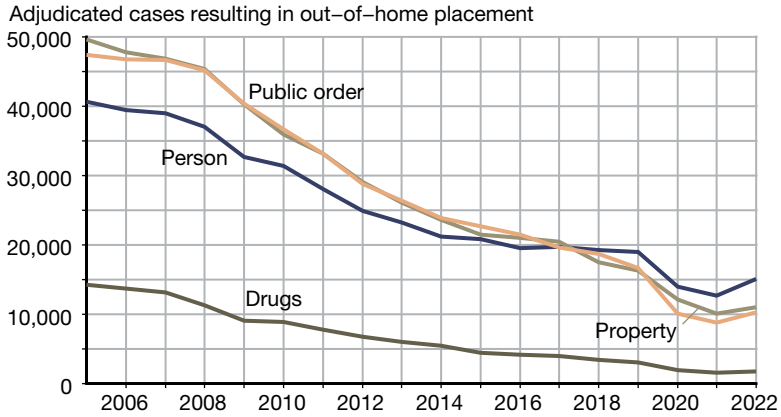
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In 2005, property offense cases accounted for the largest share of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement; in 2022, person offense cases accounted for the largest share.

The number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement decreased from 152,000 in 2005 to 38,200 in 2022

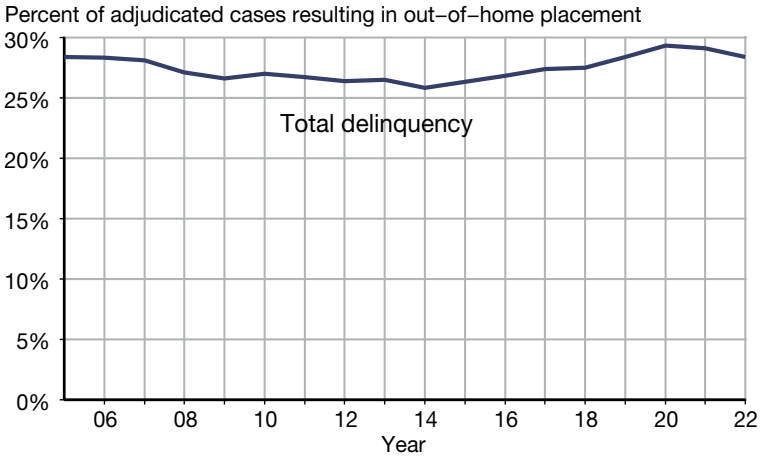


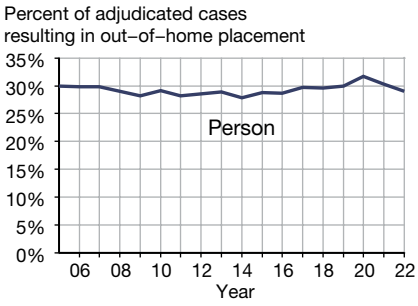
Despite an increase in 2022, the number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement was below pre-pandemic levels for all offense groups

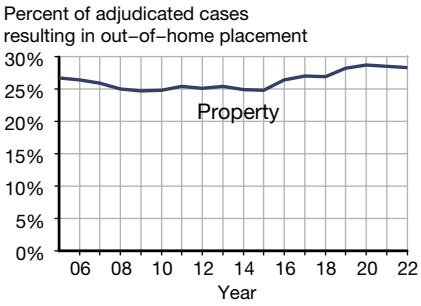


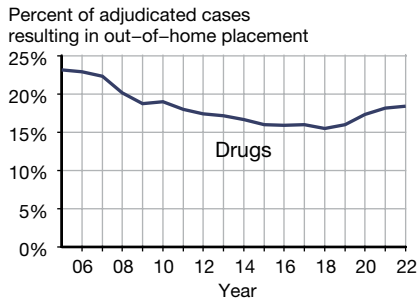
Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

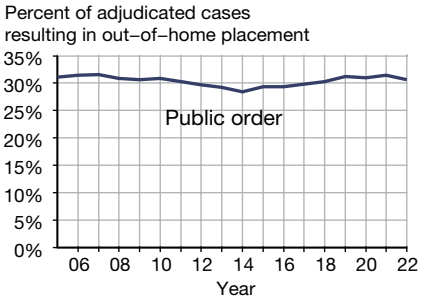
The court ordered out-of-home placement in 28% of all cases adjudicated delinquent in 2022











- The proportion of adjudicated delinquency cases that resulted in out-of-home placement was relatively stable over the period 2005 to 2022, ranging from 26% to 29%.
- The likelihood that an adjudicated case would result in out-of-home placement was also relatively stable between 2005 and 2022 for person, property, and public order offense cases.
- The proportion of drug offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement declined from 23% in 2005 to 18% in 2022.

Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

Age

- With the exception of drug offense cases, cases involving youth age 16 and older, adjudicated delinquent in 2022, were more likely to result in out-of-home placement than were cases involving youth age 15 and younger.
- With the exception of drug offenses, the use of out-of-home placement was similar across all offenses between 2005 and 2022.

Gender

- For males in 2022, public order offense cases adjudicated delinquent were most likely to result in out-of-home placement (32%), followed by person offense cases (31%), property offense cases (30%), and drug offense cases (19%).
- Similarly, for females in 2022, adjudicated public order offense cases were most likely to result in out-of-home placement (27%), followed by person offense cases (23%), property offense cases (22%), and drug offense cases (15%).

Race

- After adjudication, the likelihood of out-of-home placement in 2022 was greater for Black (32%), American Indian (31%), and Hispanic youth (30%), than for Asian (24%) or White youth (23%).
- Compared with 2005, the proportion of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in out-of-home placement in 2022 was greater for American Indian youth but the same or similar for youth of all other racial categories.

Between 2005 and 2022, the likelihood of out-of-home placement remained relatively stable but varied by offense

	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated, resulting in out-of-home placement			
Most serious offense	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2022				
Delinquency	27%	30%	30%	23%
Person	27	32	31	23
Property	27	30	30	22
Drugs	18	18	19	15
Public order	28	33	32	27
2005				
Delinquency	27%	30%	30%	23%
Person	28	33	32	24
Property	25	29	28	19
Drugs	22	24	24	18
Public order	29	33	33	26

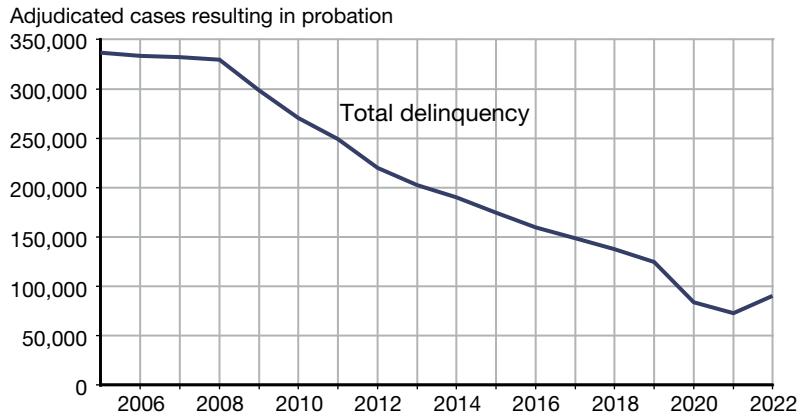
In 2022, adjudicated person offense cases involving American Indian youth were most likely to receive a disposition of out-of-home placement, across all offense and racial categories

	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated, resulting in out-of-home placement				
Most serious offense	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2022					
Delinquency	23%	32%	30%	31%	24%
Person	24	32	32	36	23
Property	23	33	29	30	NA
Drugs	15	24	17	NA	NA
Public order	26	34	34	23	NA
2005					
Delinquency	24%	32%	32%	24%	25%
Person	27	32	32	27	28
Property	24	31	30	23	23
Drugs	17	33	26	18	22
Public order	27	34	36	25	27

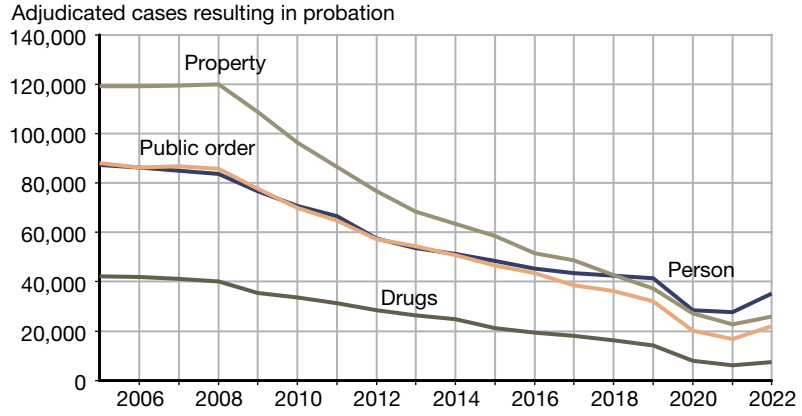
NA: Data are not presented because the small number of cases produces unstable estimates.

Dispositions: Probation

The number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in probation declined 73% between 2005 and 2022



The number of adjudicated property offense cases resulting in an order of probation fell 78% since 2005



- Between 2005 and 2021, the number of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in an order of probation decreased at the same pace as the number of cases that resulted in out-of-home placement (78%), however, the relative increase between 2021 and 2022 was larger for probation cases than out-of-home placement cases (24% versus 15%).
- Between 2005 and 2021, the number of cases resulting in probation decreased for all offense groups: 86% for drug offenses, 81% each for property and public order offenses, and 68% for person offenses.
- Between 2021 and 2022, the number of cases resulting in probation increased for all offense groups: 32% for public order offense cases, 27% for person offense cases, 25% for drug offense cases, and 14% for property offense cases.
- The net result was that between 2005 and 2022 the number of cases resulting in probation decreased 82% for drug offenses, 78% for property offenses, 75% for public order offenses, and 60% for person offenses.

Dispositions: Probation

- Despite a decrease in the volume of cases between 2005 and 2022 (336,800 and 90,600, respectively), the proportion of adjudicated cases with probation as the most restrictive disposition increased from 63% to 67%.
- Between 2005 and 2022, the likelihood of probation for cases adjudicated delinquent was relatively stable for all offense categories.

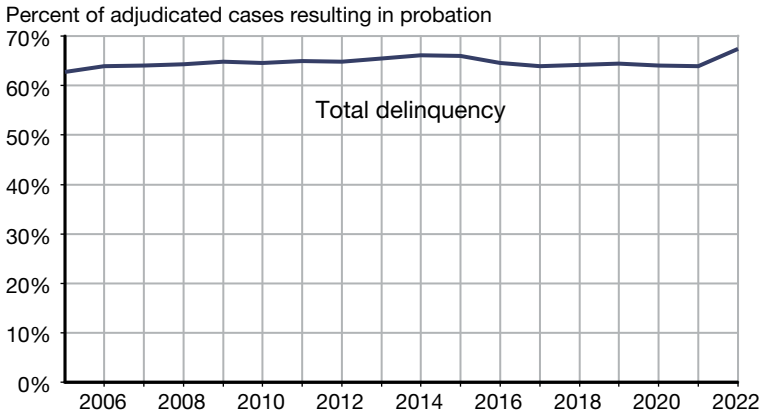
Offense profile of adjudicated delinquency cases resulting in probation:

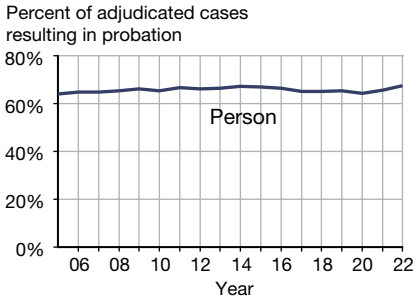
Most serious offense	2005	2022
Person	26%	39%
Property	35	29
Drugs	13	8
Public order	26	24
Total	100%	100%
Cases resulting in formal probation	336,800	90,600

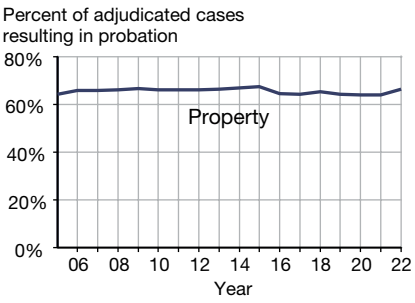
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

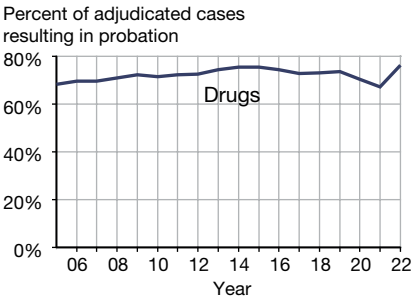
- In 2022, 39% of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in probation involved person offenses, 29% involved property offenses, and 24% involved public order offenses.
- The offense characteristics of cases adjudicated delinquent that resulted in probation changed between 2005 and 2022 with an increase in the proportion of cases involving person offenses and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of cases involving property, drug, and public order offenses.

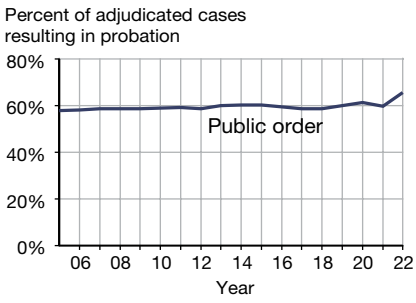
Probation remains the most likely sanction imposed by juvenile courts











Dispositions: Probation

Cases involving youth age 15 and younger were more likely than cases involving older youth to be placed on formal probation following a delinquency adjudication

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated resulting in probation			
	Age 15 and younger	Age 16 and older	Male	Female
2022				
Delinquency	69%	65%	66%	71%
Person	70	65	66	72
Property	68	65	66	71
Drugs	78	75	76	78
Public order	68	63	65	69
2005				
Delinquency	65%	60%	62%	66%
Person	66	61	63	69
Property	66	62	63	67
Drugs	71	66	67	73
Public order	60	56	57	60

Adjudicated cases involving White or Asian youth were more likely than cases involving all other youth to be placed on probation

Most serious offense	Percentage of petitioned cases adjudicated resulting in probation				
	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian
2022					
Delinquency	72%	63%	68%	63%	72%
Person	72	64	66	61	75
Property	72	62	69	60	NA
Drugs	79	71	80	NA	NA
Public order	69	63	64	73	NA
2005					
Delinquency	64%	60%	64%	65%	67%
Person	66	62	65	67	65
Property	65	62	66	67	69
Drugs	71	61	70	74	66
Public order	58	56	61	59	65

NA: Data are not presented because the small number of cases produces unstable estimates.

Age

- Among youth age 15 and younger, the overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation was greater in 2022 (69%) than in 2005 (65%).
- Among youth age 16 and older, the overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation increased between 2005 and 2022, from 60% to 65%.
- For both age groups in 2022, adjudicated cases involving drug offenses were more likely to result in probation than cases in other offense categories.

Gender

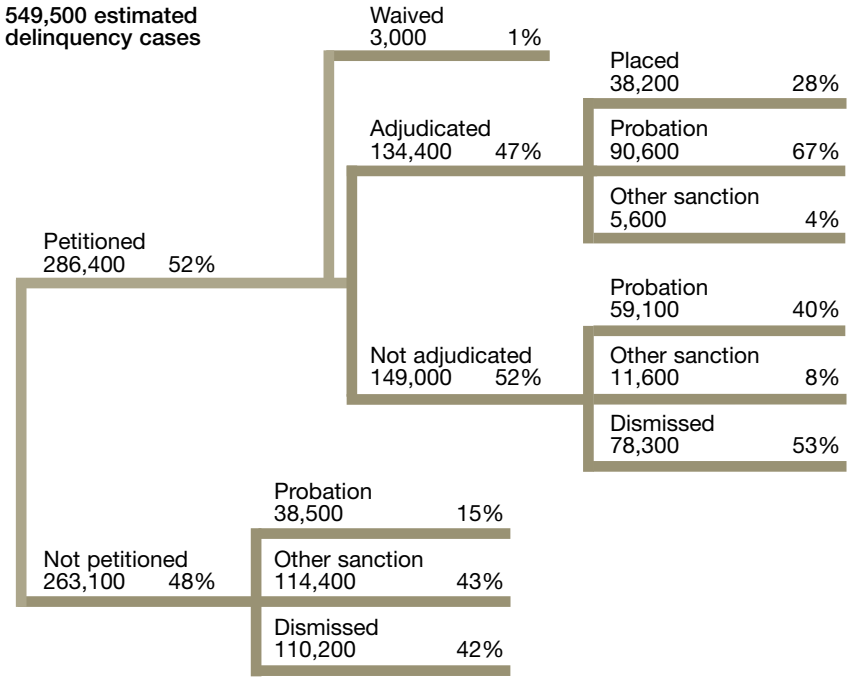
- The overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation increased between 2005 and 2022 for females (from 66% to 71%) as well as males (from 62% to 66%).
- For females in 2022, drug offense cases adjudicated delinquent were most likely to be placed on probation (78%), followed by person offense cases (72%), property offense cases (71%), and public order offense cases (69%).

Race

- Between 2005 and 2022, the overall likelihood of being placed on formal probation decreased for American Indian youth and increased for all other race groups.
- In 2022, among White youth, drug offense cases that were adjudicated delinquent were most likely to be placed on formal probation (79%), followed by adjudicated person and property offense cases (72% each), and public order offense cases (69%).

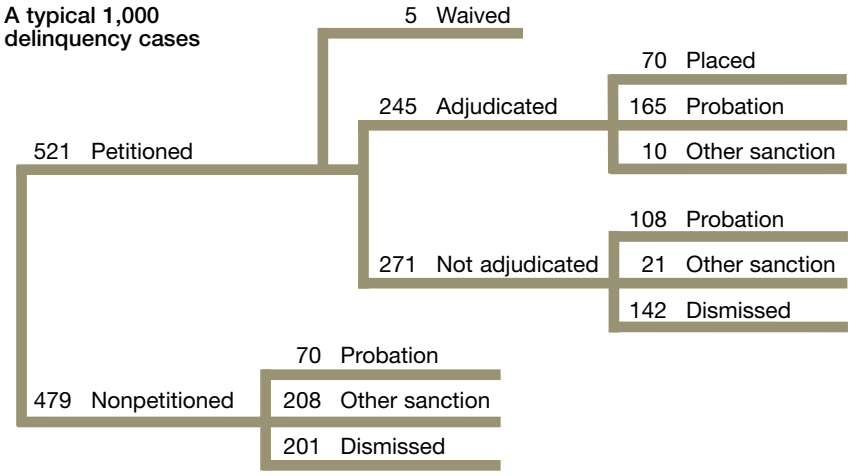
Case Processing Overview, 2022

- In 2022, 52% (286,400) of the estimated 549,500 delinquency cases were handled formally (with the filing of a petition).
- In 2022, 1% (3,000) of all formally handled delinquency cases were judicially waived to criminal court.
- In 2022, 47% (134,400) of the cases that were handled formally (with the filing of a petition) resulted in a delinquency adjudication.
- In 67% (90,600) of cases adjudicated delinquent in 2022, formal probation was the most severe sanction ordered by the court.
- In 2022, 28% (38,200) of cases adjudicated delinquent resulted in placement outside the home in a residential facility.
- In 4% (5,600) of cases adjudicated delinquent in 2022, the youth was ordered to pay restitution or a fine, to participate in some form of community service, or to enter a treatment or counseling program—dispositions with minimal continuing supervision.
- In 52% (149,000) of all petitioned delinquency cases in 2022, the youth was not subsequently adjudicated delinquent. The court dismissed 53% of these cases, while 40% resulted in some form of informal probation and 8% in other voluntary dispositions.
- In 2022, the court dismissed 42% of the informally handled (i.e., nonpetitioned) delinquency cases, while 15% of the cases resulted in voluntary probation and 43% in other dispositions.



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 2005 through 2022 are available online at ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/court.

Case Processing Overview, 2022



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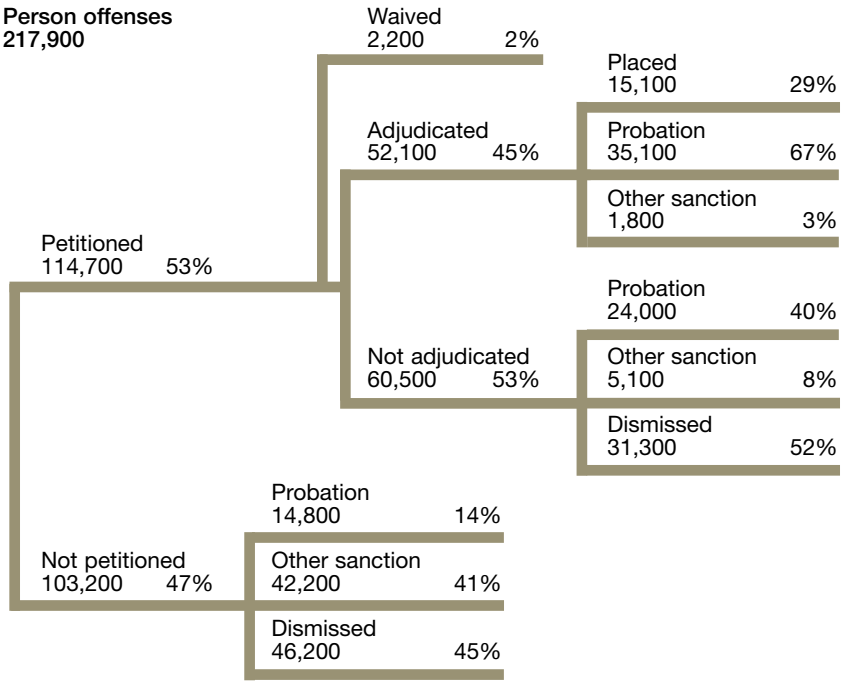
- For every 1,000 delinquency cases processed in 2022, 521 were petitioned for formal processing and 479 were handled informally.
- Of the cases that were adjudicated delinquent, 67% (165 of 245) received a disposition of probation and 28% (70 of 245) were placed out of the home.
- In many petitioned delinquency cases that did not result in a delinquency adjudication, the youth agreed to informal services or sanctions (129 of 271), including informal probation and other dispositions such as restitution.
- Although juvenile courts in 2022 handled more than 4 in 10 delinquency cases without the filing of a formal petition, 58% (278 of 479) of these cases received some form of court sanction, including probation or other dispositions such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency.

Case Processing by Offense Category, 2022

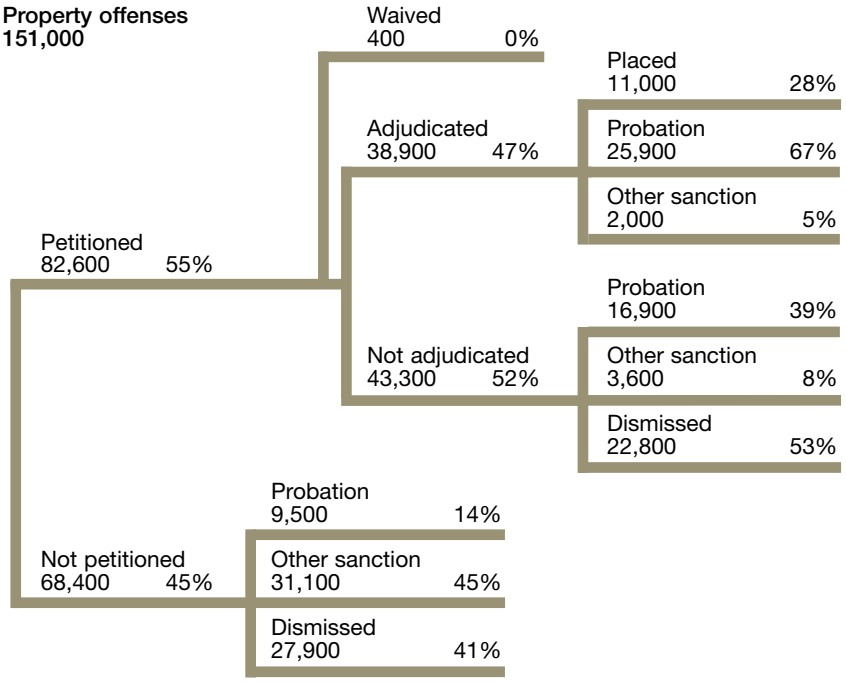
Person Offense Cases

- In 2022, 45% (52,100) of all formally processed person offense cases resulted in a delinquency adjudication.
- Formal probation was the most severe sanction ordered by the court in 67% (35,100) of the adjudicated person offense cases in 2022.
- In 2022, 14% (14,800) of person offense cases that were handled informally resulted in probation; 45% (46,200) were dismissed.
- Juvenile courts waived jurisdiction in 2% (2,200) of all petitioned person offense cases in 2022.



Property Offense Cases

- Juvenile courts formally handled more than half (55%) of all property offense cases in 2022. Of these formally handled cases, 47% (38,900) were adjudicated delinquent.
- In 2022, 67% (25,900) of the adjudicated property offense cases resulted in probation as the most severe sanction; another 28% (11,000) resulted in out-of-home placement. Other sanctions, such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency, were ordered in 5% (2,000) of the petitioned property offense cases following adjudication.
- Property offense cases were more likely than person offense cases to be petitioned for formal handling. Once petitioned, property offense cases were more likely to result in a delinquency adjudication than were cases involving person offenses.



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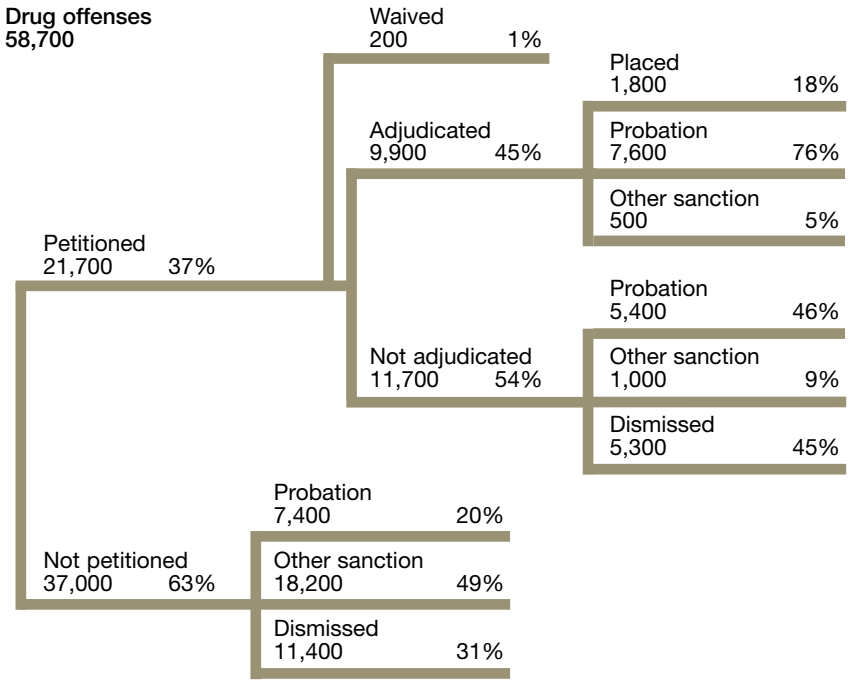
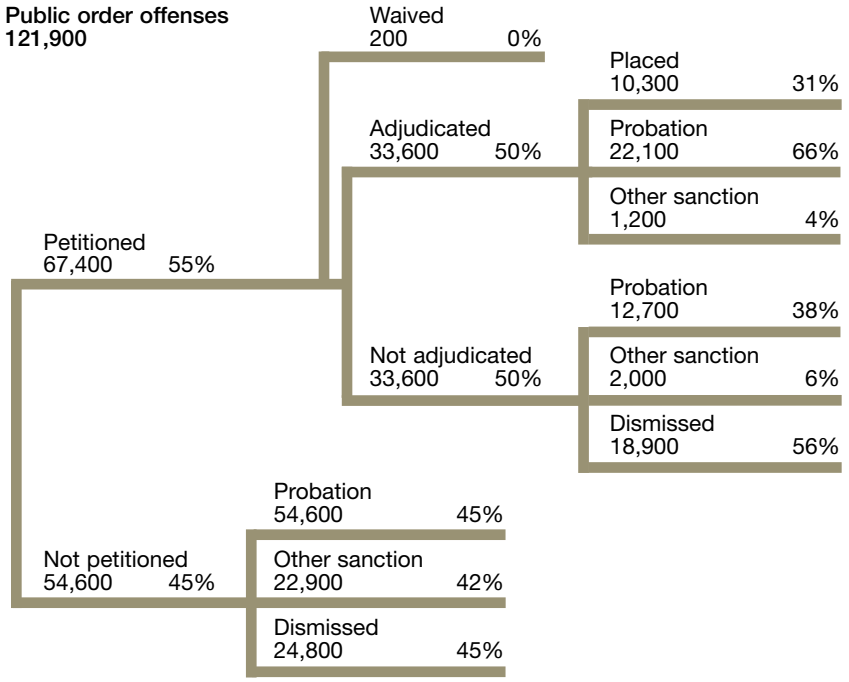
Case Processing by Offense Category, 2022





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Drug Offense Cases

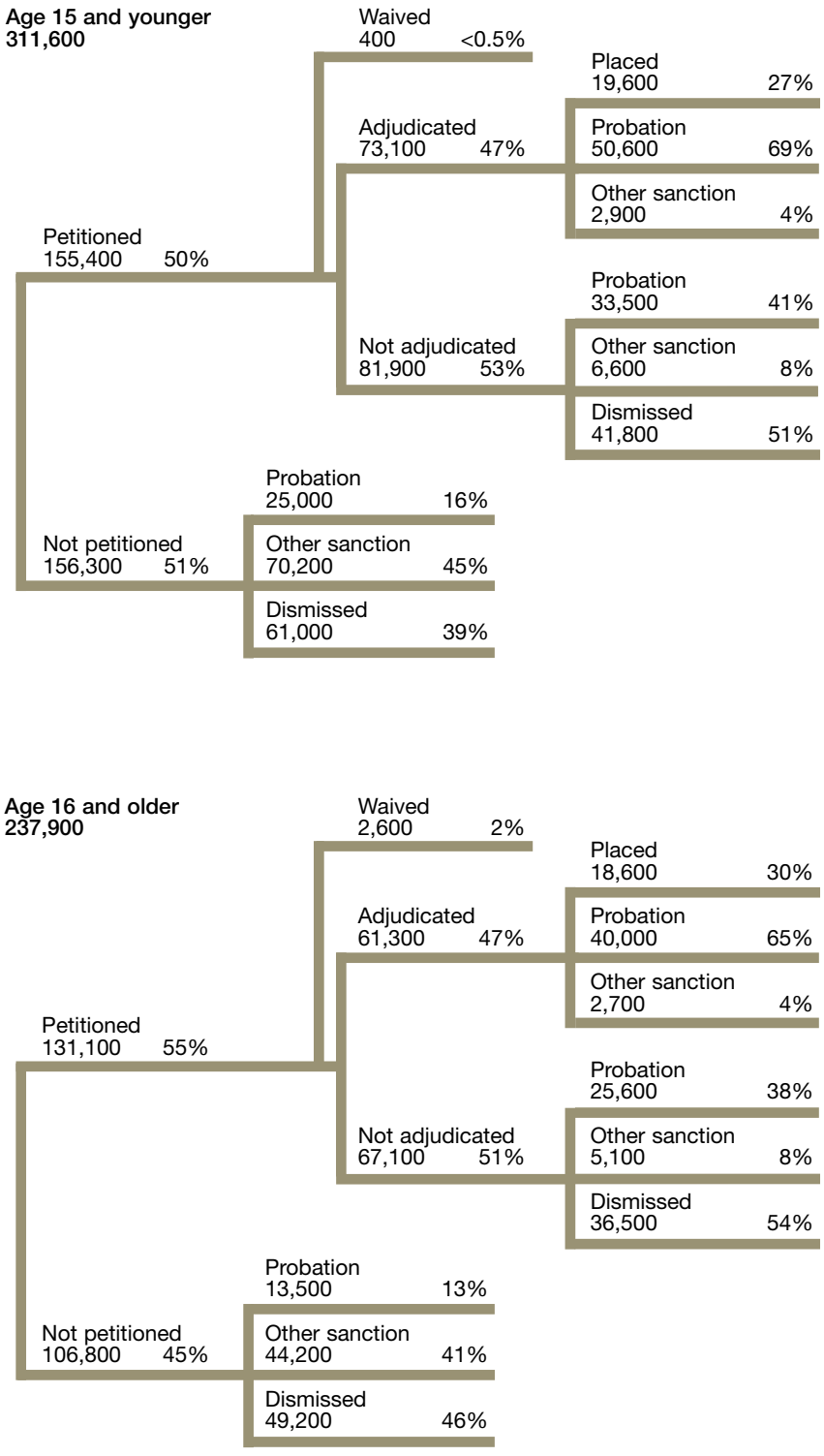
- In 2022, 45% (9,900) of all petitioned drug offense cases resulted in a delinquency adjudication; 76% (7,600) of these cases received probation as the most severe sanction, and another 18% (1,800) resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Other sanctions, such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency, were ordered in 5% (500) of petitioned drug offense cases following adjudication in 2022.
- Juvenile courts waived jurisdiction in 1% (200) of all petitioned drug offense cases in 2022.
- More than half (63%) of drug offense cases were informally handled in 2022; 69% (25,600) of the informally handled drug offense cases resulted in probation or some other sanction.

Public Order Offense Cases

- In 2022, more than half (55%) of all public order offense cases were handled formally, with the filing of a petition for adjudication.
- Once adjudicated, public order offense cases were more likely to result in out-of-home placement (31%) than person offense cases (29%), property offenses cases (28%), or drug offense cases (18%).
- In 2022, 66% of adjudicated public order offense cases resulted in probation as the most severe sanction and 4% resulted in other sanctions.
- In 2022, 45% of all public order offense cases were handled informally. Of the informal cases, 45% were dismissed, while the remaining cases resulted in some form of court sanction.

Case Processing by Age, 2022

- In 2022, 50% (155,400) of all delinquency cases involving youth age 15 and younger and 55% (131,100) of cases involving youth age 16 and older were handled formally with the filing of a petition.
- Petitioned cases involving youth age 15 and younger were equally as likely than those involving youth age 16 and older to be adjudicated delinquent in 2022 (47% each).
- The proportion of petitioned cases waived to criminal court in 2022 was less than 1% for youth age 15 and younger, compared with 2% for youth age 16 and older.
- In 2022, 27% of cases adjudicated delinquent involving youth age 15 and younger and 30% of such cases involving youth age 16 and older resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Probation was ordered as the most severe sanction in 2022 in 69% of the adjudicated cases involving youth age 15 and younger, compared with 65% of adjudicated cases involving youth 16 and older.
- Among cases adjudicated in 2022, equal proportions of cases involving youth age 15 and younger and youth age 16 and older resulted in other sanctions (4% each).
- For youth age 15 and younger, 51% of all delinquency cases were handled informally in 2022; of these cases, 16% resulted in a disposition of probation and 39% were dismissed. Among older youth, 45% of all delinquency cases were handled without the filing of a petition for adjudication in 2022; 13% of these cases resulted in a disposition of probation and 46% were dismissed.



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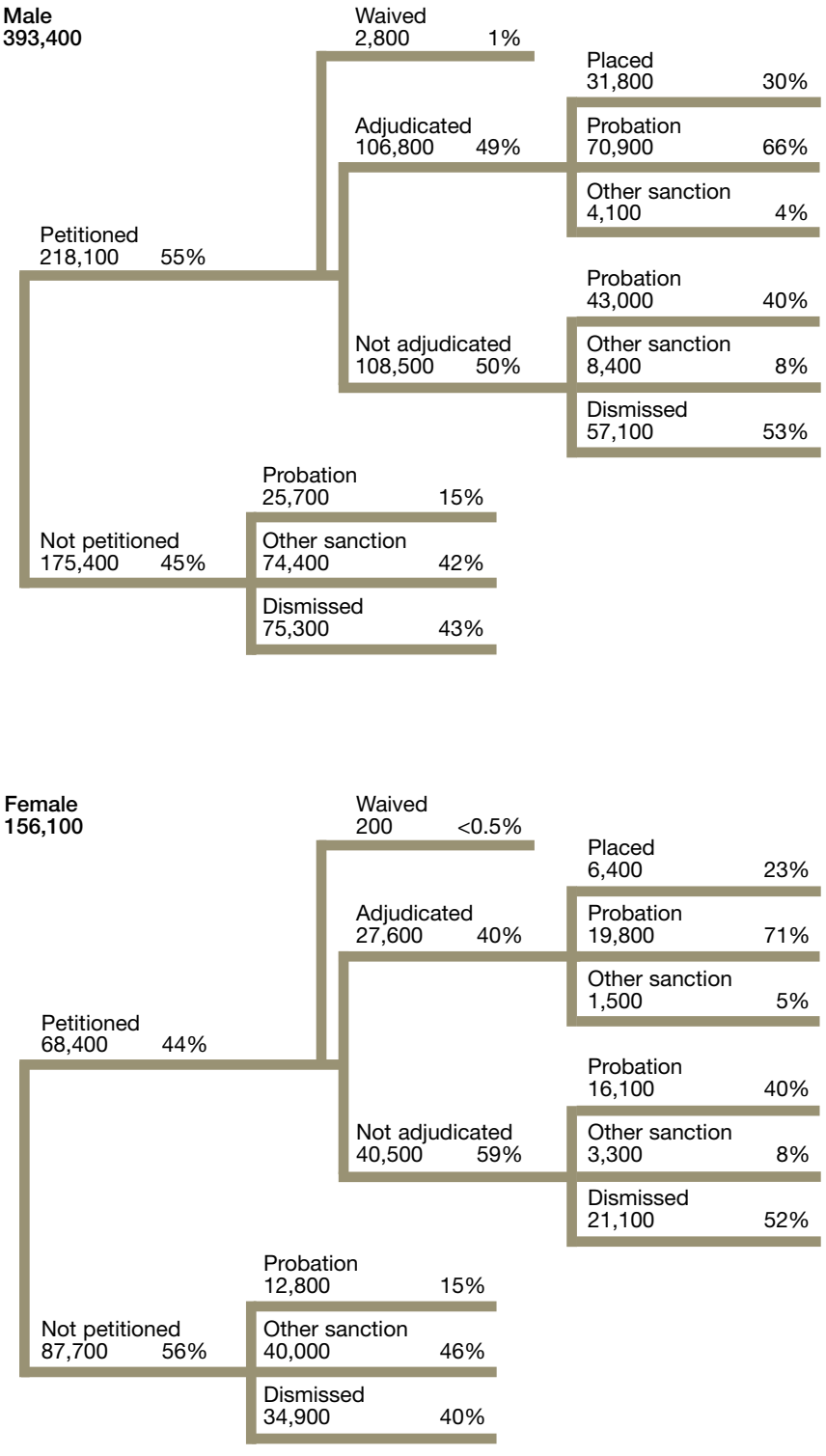
Case Processing by Gender, 2022

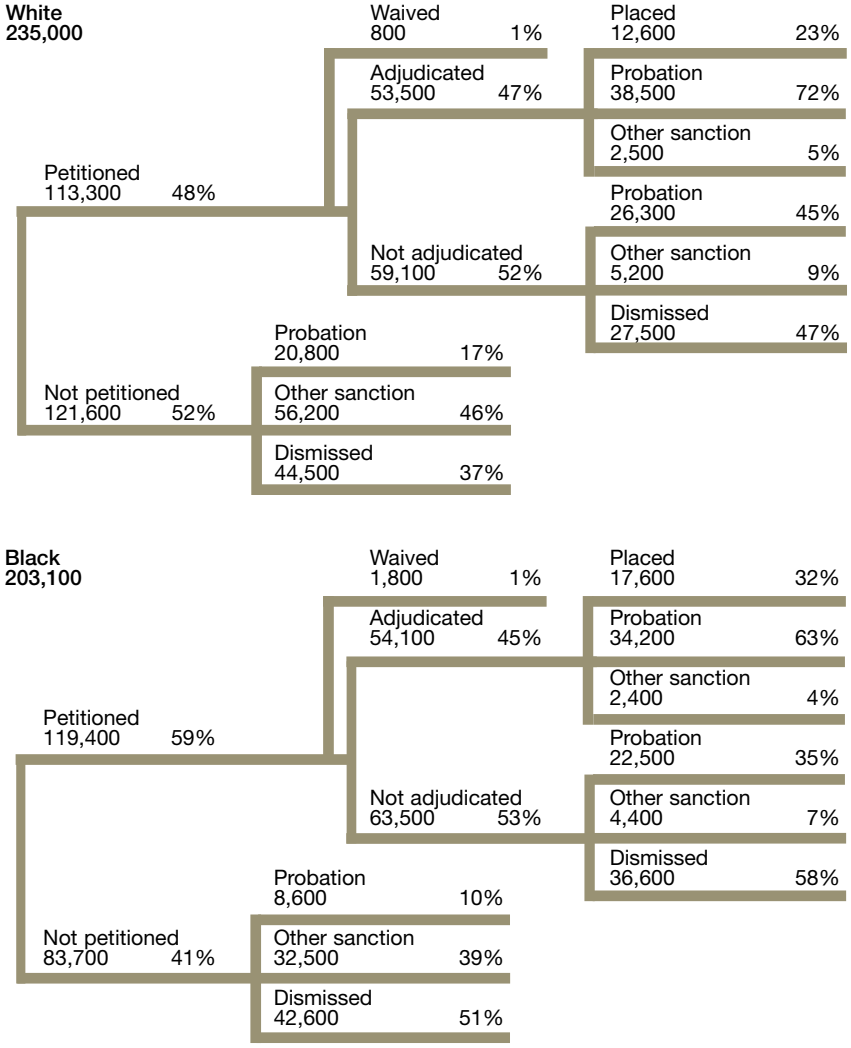


Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 2005 through 2022 are available online at ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/court.

- In 2022, 55% of delinquency cases involving males were handled with the filing of a petition for adjudication or a waiver hearing, compared with 44% of those involving females.
- Once petitioned, cases involving males in 2022 were more likely to result in a delinquency adjudication than were cases involving females (49% vs. 40%).
- Delinquency cases involving females in 2022 were less likely to be waived to criminal court than those involving males.
- Once adjudicated delinquent, 30% of cases involving males in 2022 resulted in out-of-home placement, compared with 23% of those involving females.
- Of the adjudicated cases involving males, 66% received probation as the most severe sanction, and 4% resulted in other sanctions such as restitution or community service.
- Among adjudicated cases involving females in 2022, 71% received probation as the most severe sanction and 5% resulted in other sanctions.
- Informally handled delinquency cases involving males were equally as likely as those involving females to receive probation in 2022 (15% each); male cases were more likely than female cases to be dismissed (43% vs. 40%).
- In 2022, informally handled delinquency cases involving females were more likely to result in other sanctions than those involving males (46% vs. 42%).

Case Processing by Race, 2022

- In 2022, delinquency cases involving Asian or Hispanic youth (47% each) and White youth (48%) were less likely to be handled formally than cases involving Black and American Indian youth (59% each).
- Once petitioned, cases in 2022 involving Black or Asian youth (45% each) were less likely to be adjudicated delinquent than were cases involving other race groups, 47% each for White or American Indian youth, and 51% for Hispanic youth.
- For all racial groups in 2022, 1% or fewer petitioned delinquency cases resulted in waiver to criminal court.
- In 2022, adjudicated delinquency cases involving Black (32%), American Indian (31%), or Hispanic youth (30%) were more likely to result in out-of-home placement than cases involving Asian or White youth (24% and 23%, respectively).
- For adjudicated cases involving Black youth in 2022, probation was the most severe sanction ordered in 63% of the cases and 4% resulted in other sanctions.



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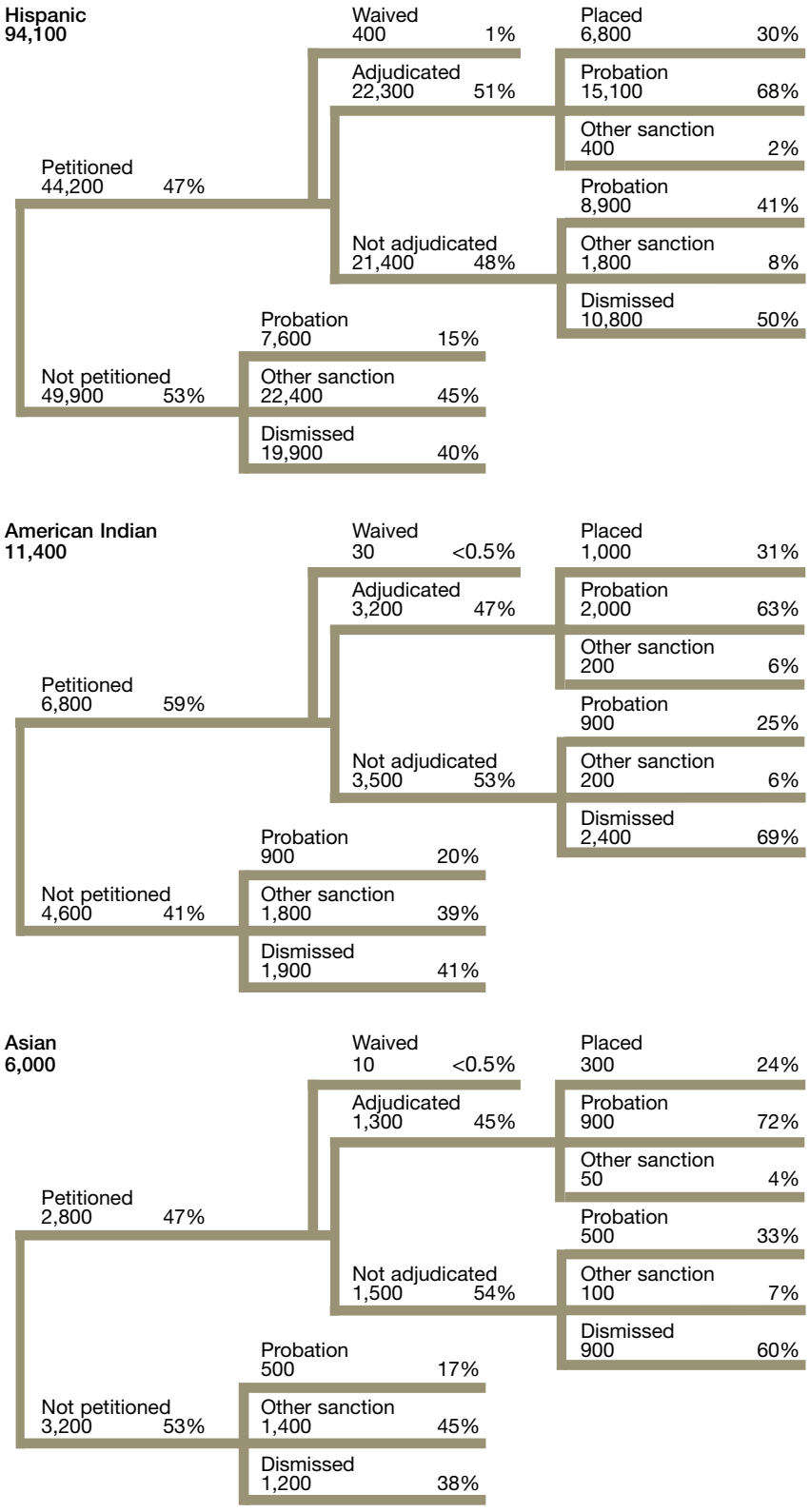
Case Processing by Race, 2022



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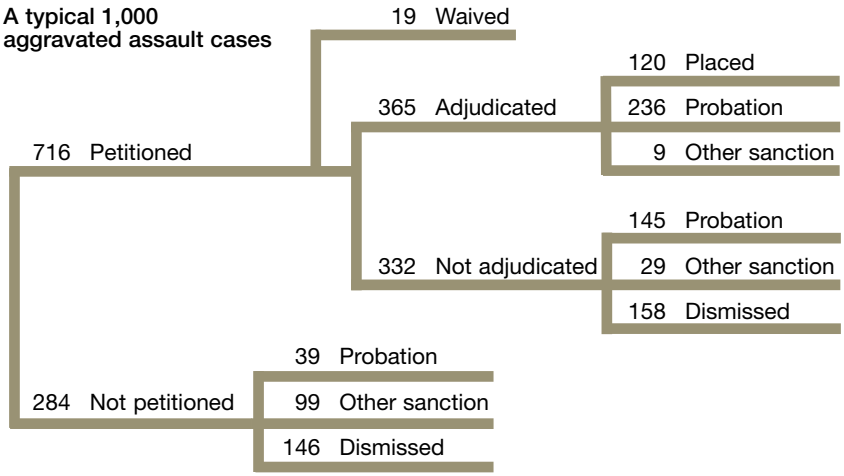
- For adjudicated cases involving American Indian youth in 2022, probation was the most severe sanction ordered in 63% of the cases and 6% resulted in other sanctions.
- In 72% of the adjudicated cases involving Asian youth in 2022, probation was the most severe sanction; 4% resulted in other sanctions such as restitution or community service.
- In 2022, 53% each of cases involving Hispanic or Asian youth were handled informally, compared with 52% of cases involving White youth, and 41% each of cases involving Black or American Indian youth
- Informally handled delinquency cases involving Black youth in 2022 were more likely to be dismissed (51%) than those involving American Indian youth (41%), Hispanic youth (40%), Asian youth (38%), or White youth (37%).
- In 2022, informally handled cases involving White youth were most likely to result in other sanctions such as restitution, community service, or referral to another agency (46%), compared with cases involving Hispanic or Asian youth (45% each) and American Indian youth or Black youth (39% each).

Case Processing by Selected Individual Offense, 2022

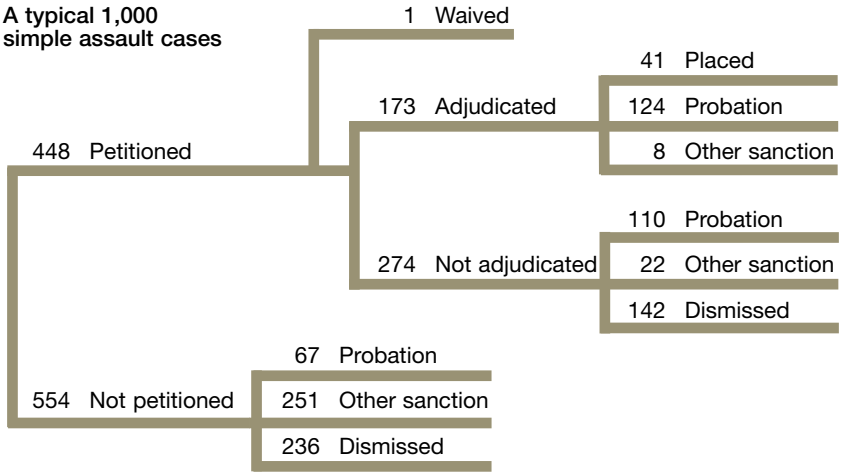
Aggravated Assault Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 19 of every 1,000 aggravated assault cases to criminal court in 2022, compared with 1 of every 1,000 simple assault cases.
- In 2022, 38% of aggravated assault cases received some formal sanction or were waived to criminal court (384 of 1,000).
- In 2022, 12% of aggravated assault cases received a formal sanction of out-of-home placement (120 of 1,000) and 24% were placed on formal probation (236 of 1,000).
- Of all aggravated assault cases handled in 2022, 30% were eventually released or dismissed (304 of 1,000)—22% of the petitioned cases and 51% of those that were informally handled.



Simple Assault Cases

- Of every 1,000 simple assault cases handled in 2022, 174 received some formal sanction or were waived to criminal court.
- In 2022, 4% of simple assault cases resulted in the youth receiving a formal sanction of out-of-home placement (41 of 1,000) and 12% were placed on formal probation (124 of 1,000).
- Youth received informal sanctions in 45% of simple assault cases processed in 2022 (450 of 1,000).
- Of all simple assault cases referred to juvenile courts in 2022, 38% were eventually dismissed (378 of 1,000)—32% of the petitioned cases and 43% of those that were informally handled.



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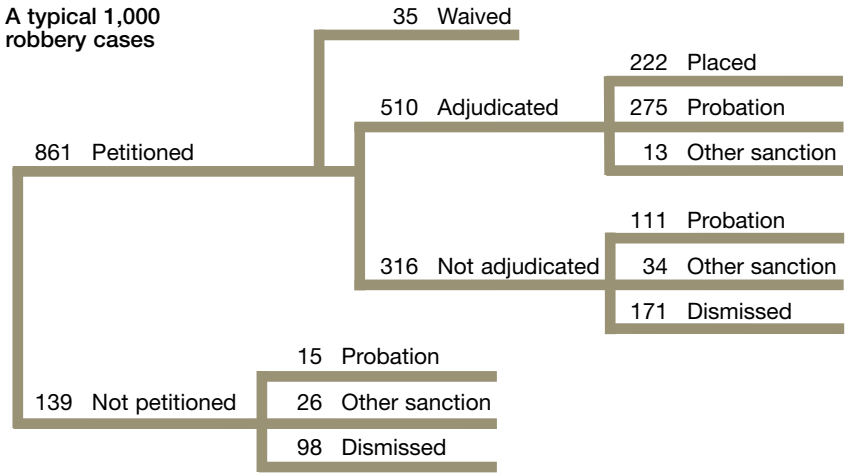
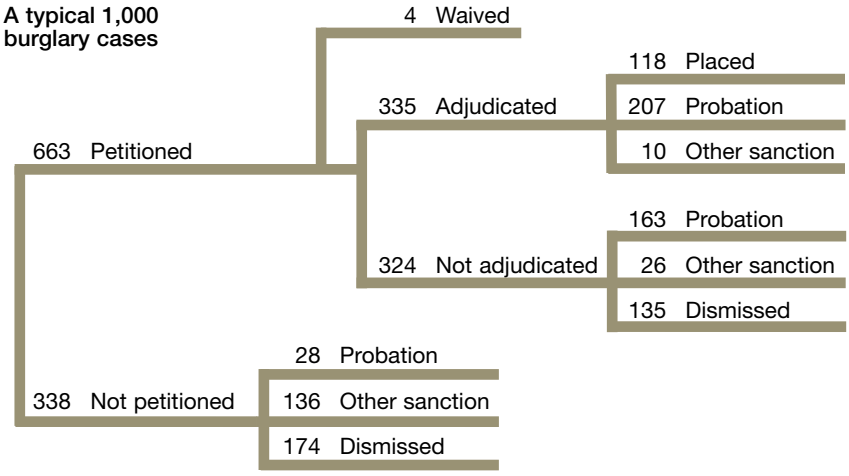
Case Processing by Selected Individual Offense, 2022





Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 2005 through 2022 are available online at ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/court.

Robbery Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 35 of every 1,000 robbery cases to criminal court in 2022.
- In 2022, juvenile courts ordered formal sanctions or waived jurisdiction in 55% of all robbery cases (545 of 1,000).
- In 2022, 22% of robbery cases received a formal sanction of out-of-home placement (222 of 1,000) and 28% resulted in formal probation (275 of 1,000).
- Of all robbery cases referred to juvenile court in 2022, 14% were not petitioned; the majority (71%) of these cases were dismissed.

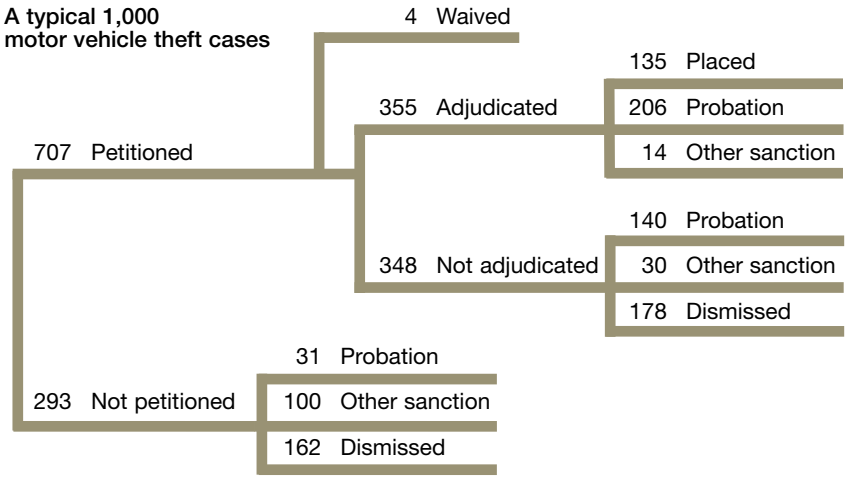
Burglary Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 4 of every 1,000 burglary cases to criminal court in 2022.
- Juvenile courts ordered formal sanctions or waived jurisdiction in 51% of all formally handled burglary cases in 2022 (339 of 663).
- In 2022, 118 of 1,000 burglary cases received a formal sanction of out-of-home placement and 207 of 1,000 resulted in formal probation.
- Approximately one-third (34%) of all burglary cases referred to juvenile courts in 2022 were handled informally and 52% of these cases (174 of 338) were dismissed.

Case Processing by Selected Individual Offense, 2022

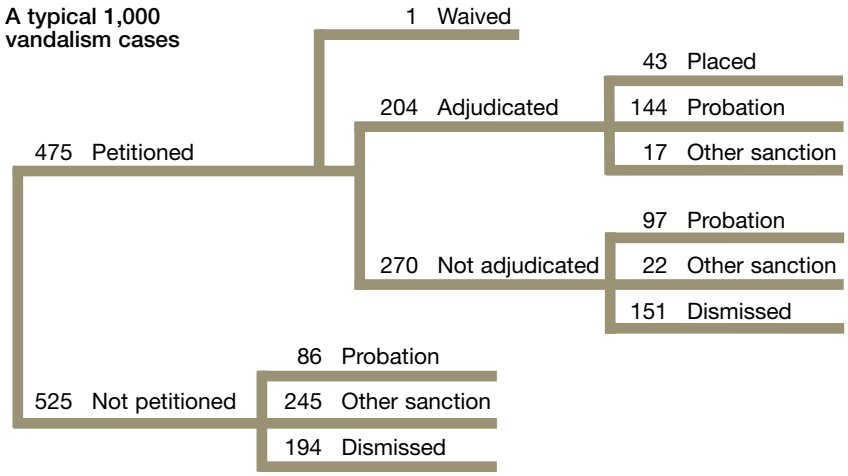
Motor Vehicle Theft Cases

- Juvenile courts waived less than 1% of motor vehicle theft cases to criminal court in 2022 (4 of every 1,000).
- In 2022, 36% of motor vehicle theft cases referred to juvenile courts resulted in formal court sanctions or waiver to criminal court.
- About 38% of motor vehicle cases adjudicated delinquent in 2022 resulted in out-of-home placement (135 of 355).
- Less than one-third of motor vehicle theft cases referred to juvenile courts in 2022 were handled without the filing of a petition (293 of 1,000).



Vandalism Cases

- Juvenile courts waived 1 of every 1,000 vandalism cases to criminal court in 2022.
- Approximately half of vandalism cases referred to juvenile courts in 2022 were handled formally (475 of 1,000). Of these cases, 43% were adjudicated delinquent (204 of 475).
- In 2022, 71% of petitioned vandalism cases adjudicated delinquent resulted in a court sanction of probation (144 of 204), and 21% resulted in out-of-home placement (43 of 204).
- Juvenile courts handled 525 of every 1,000 vandalism cases informally (without a petition) in 2022. Youth received informal sanctions in 63% of these nonpetitioned cases.



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Annual case processing flow diagrams for 2005 through 2022 are available online at ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/court.

Chapter 4

National Estimates of Petitioned Status Offense Cases

Status offenses are acts that are illegal only because the persons committing them are of juvenile status. The five major status offense categories used in this report are running away, truancy, curfew law violations, ungovernability (also known as incorrigibility or being beyond the control of one's parents), and underage liquor law violations (e.g., a minor in possession of alcohol, underage drinking). A number of other behaviors, such as those involving tobacco offenses, may be considered status offenses. However, because of the heterogeneity of these miscellaneous offenses, they are not discussed independently in this report but are included in discussions and displays of petitioned status offense totals.

Agencies other than juvenile courts are responsible for processing status offense cases in many jurisdictions. In some communities, for example, family crisis units, county attorneys, and social service agencies have assumed this responsibility. When a youth charged with a status offense is referred to juvenile court, the court may divert the youth away from the formal justice system to other agencies for service or may decide to process the youth formally with the filing of a petition. The analyses in this report are limited to petitioned cases.

Juvenile courts may adjudicate petitioned status offense cases and may order sanctions such as probation or out-of-home placement. While their cases are being processed, youth charged with status offenses are sometimes held in secure detention. (Note that the JJDPA prohibits the use of secure detention for youth charged with only status offenses except in limited circumstances (e.g., Valid Court Order exception). States who receive federal juvenile justice block grant awards risk losing a significant portion of their awards if they violate this prohibition.)

This chapter describes case processing by offense and by demographics (age, gender, and race) of the youth involved, focusing on petitioned status offense cases disposed in 2022 and examines trends since 2005.

It should be noted that the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020, had an impact on the policies, procedures, and data collection activities regarding referrals to and the processing of youth by juvenile courts. Mitigation efforts, such as stay-at-home orders and school closures, likely contributed to the above average decline in juvenile court caseloads between 2019 and 2021; conversely, the increase between 2021-2022 may be the result of the easing of these mitigation efforts. For more information about the impact of COVID-19 on juvenile court workloads, please refer to *The Impact of COVID-19 on the Nation's Juvenile Court Caseload*.

Counts and Trends

- In 2022, U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction petitioned and formally disposed an estimated 62,200 status offense cases.
- The number of petitioned status offense cases processed by juvenile courts decreased 74% between 2005 and 2021, then increased 21% in 2022.
- The number of petitioned runaway cases processed by juvenile courts decreased 75% between 2005 and 2022 (from 23,000 to 5,800).
- The number of petitioned truancy cases processed by juvenile courts increased 15% between 2005 and 2007, declined 64% through 2021, then increased 34% in 2022 (39,500).
- Between 2005 and 2006, the number of petitioned curfew cases increased 16%, then declined 91% through 2022 (1,800).
- The number of petitioned ungovernability cases in 2022 (5,400) was 79% below the 2005 level (25,900).
- The number of petitioned liquor law violation cases increased 11% between 2005 and 2007 then decreased 88% through 2022 (4,900).

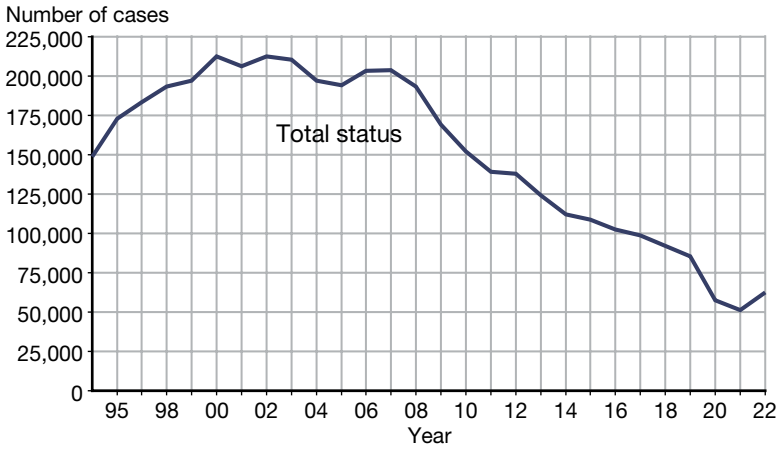
Offense profile of petitioned status offense cases:

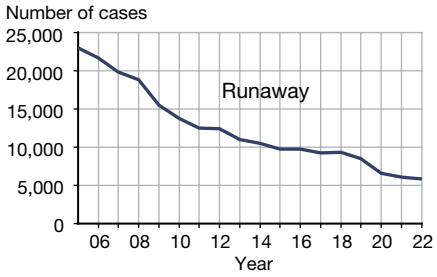
Most serious offense	2005	2022
Runaway	12%	9%
Truancy	36	64
Curfew	9	3
Ungovernability	13	9
Liquor	19	8
Miscellaneous	10	8
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	193,800	62,200

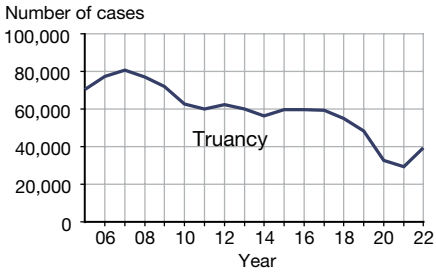
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

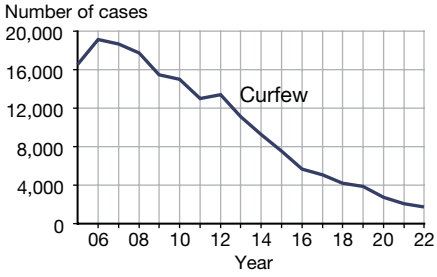
- Compared with 2005, the court's petitioned status offense caseload in 2022 involved a larger proportion of truancy and smaller proportions of all other status offenses.

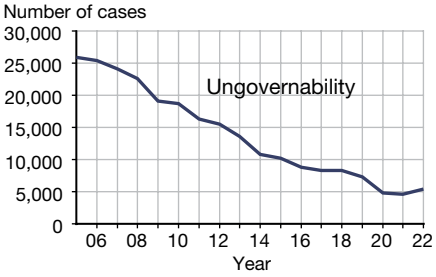
Despite an increase in the number of petitioned status offense cases, the number of cases processed in 2022 was below pre-pandemic levels and 71% below the 2002 peak

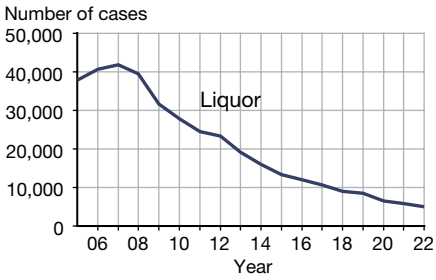






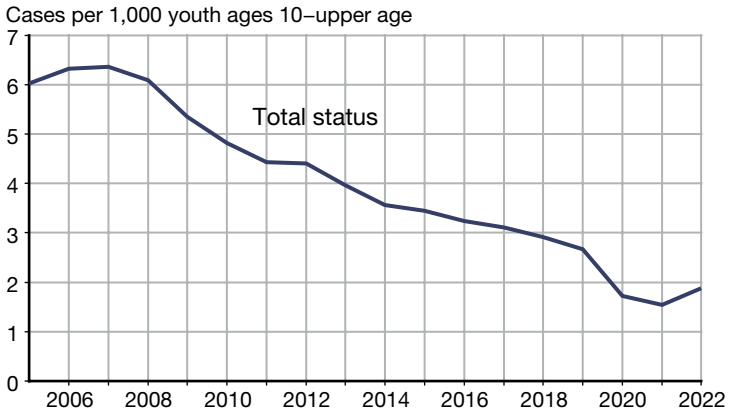


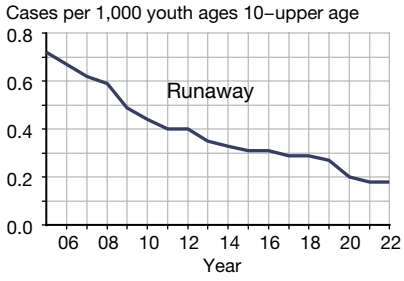


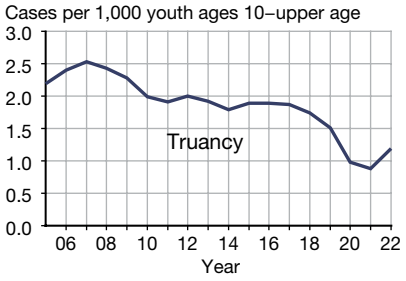


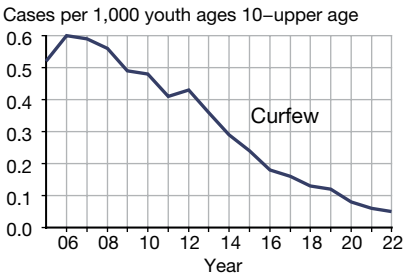
Case Rates

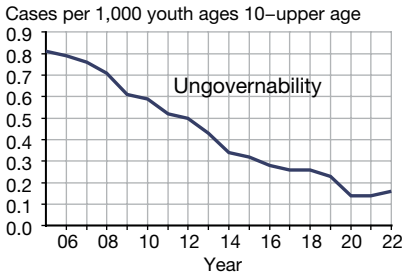
Petitioned status offense case rates decreased from 6.0 to 1.9 per 1,000 youth between 2005 and 2022

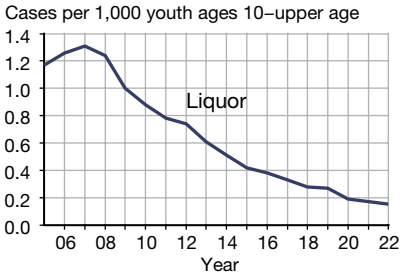












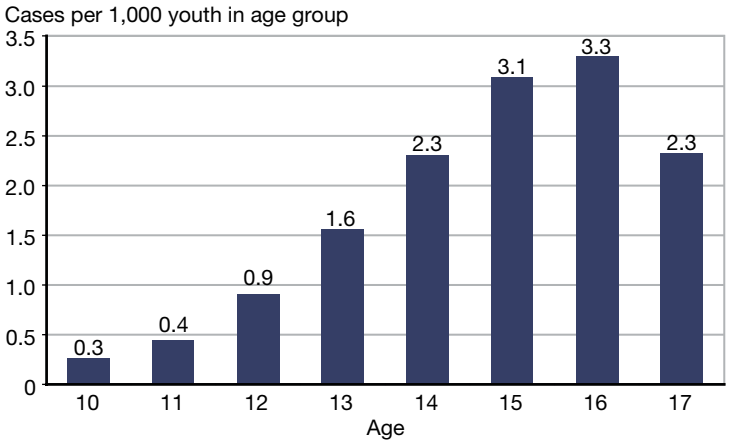
- In 2022, juvenile courts formally processed 1.9 status offense cases for every 1,000 youth in the population—those age 10 or older who were under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.
- The total petitioned status offense case rate decreased 69% between 2005 and 2022.[1]
- Between 2005 and 2022, the petitioned runaway case rate decreased 75%.
- The petitioned truancy case rate increased 15% between 2005 and 2007, declined 65% through 2021, then increased 35% in 2022.
- Between 2005 and 2006, the petitioned curfew violation case rate increased 16%, then decreased 91% by 2022.
- The petitioned ungovernability case rate declined 83% between 2005 and 2021, then increased 18% in 2022.
- The petitioned liquor law violation case rate increased 11% between 2005 and 2007, then decreased 89% by 2022.

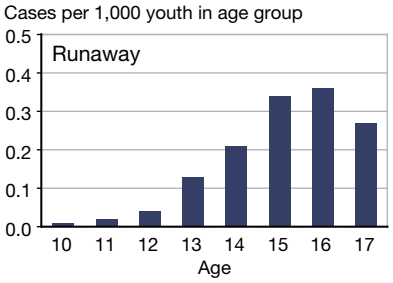
[1] The percent change in the number of cases disposed may not be equal to the percent change in case rates because of the changing size of the juvenile population.

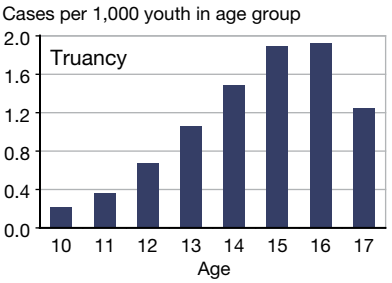
Age at Referral

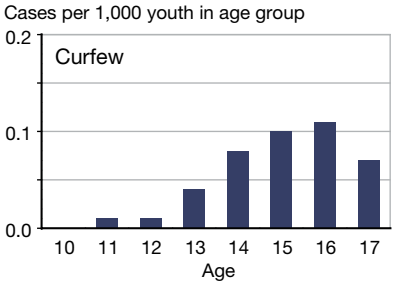
- In 2022, the petitioned status offense case rate for 16-year-olds was 1.4 times the rate for 14-year-olds, and the rate for 14-year-olds was 2.5 times the rate for 12-year-olds.
- The largest increase in case rates between age 13 and age 17 was for liquor law violations. The case rate for 17-year-olds (0.4) was 11 times the rate for 13-year-olds (less than 0.1).
- Liquor law violation rates increased continuously with the age of the youth. In contrast, rates for petitioned cases for all other status offense categories were higher for 16-year-olds than for 17-year-olds.

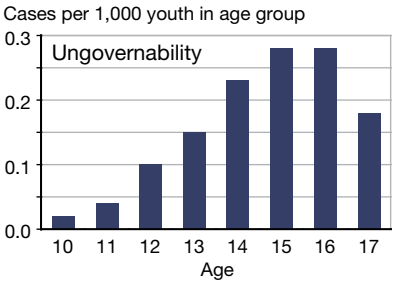
In 2022, the overall status offense case rate increased with the age of the youth through age 16, then decreased for 17-year-olds

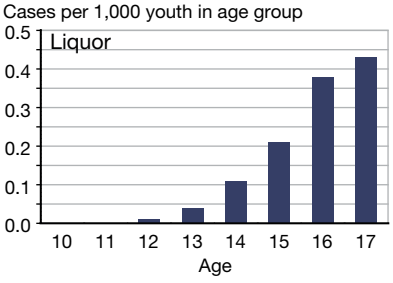








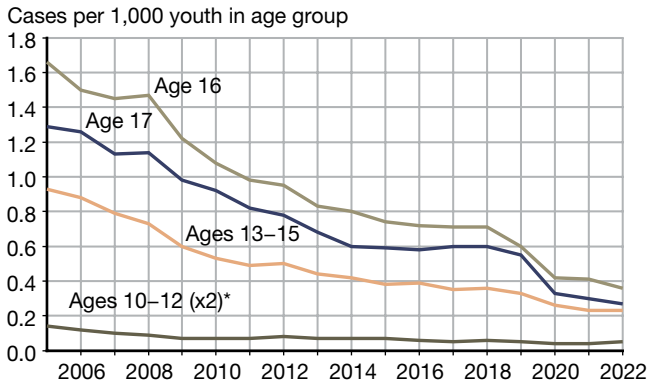




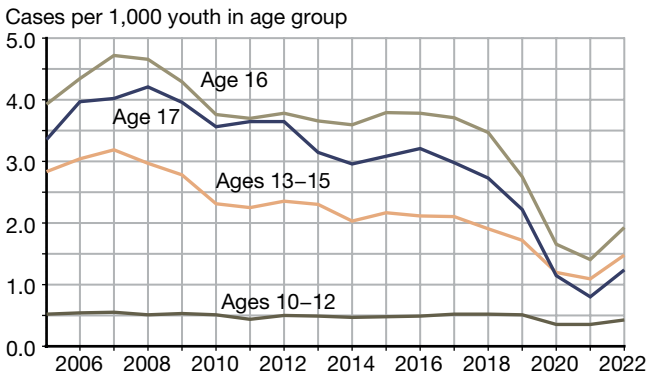
Age at Referral

Trends in case rates differed across age groups for each general status offense category

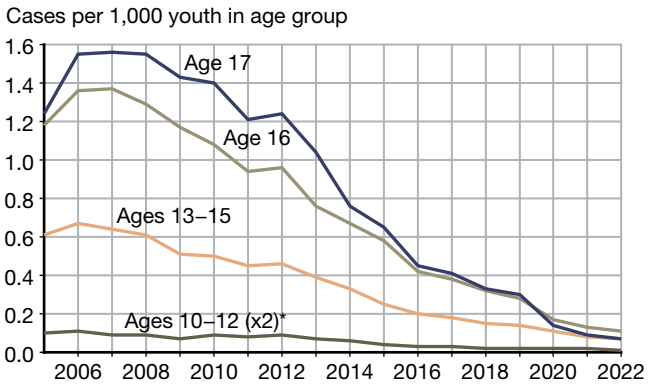
Runaway case rates



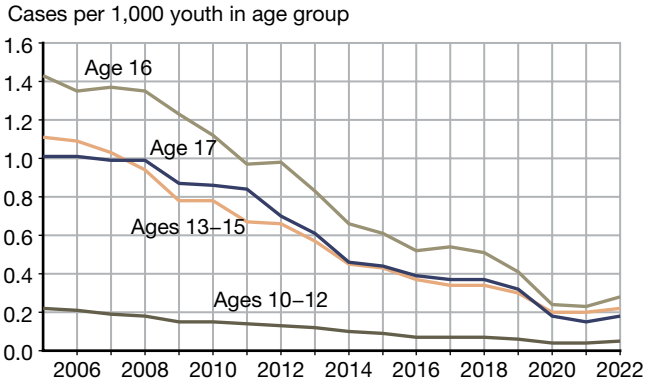
Truancy case rates



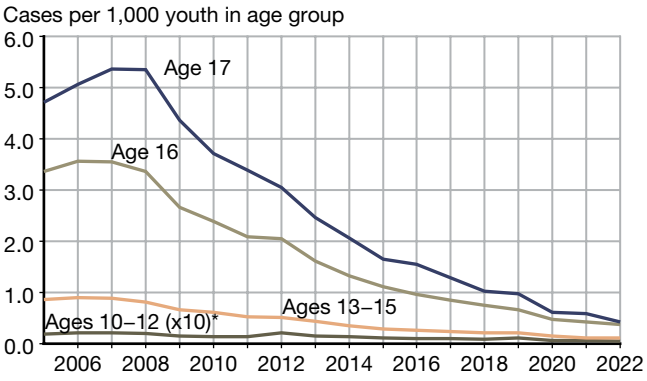
Curfew case rates



Ungovernability case rates



Liquor law violation case rates



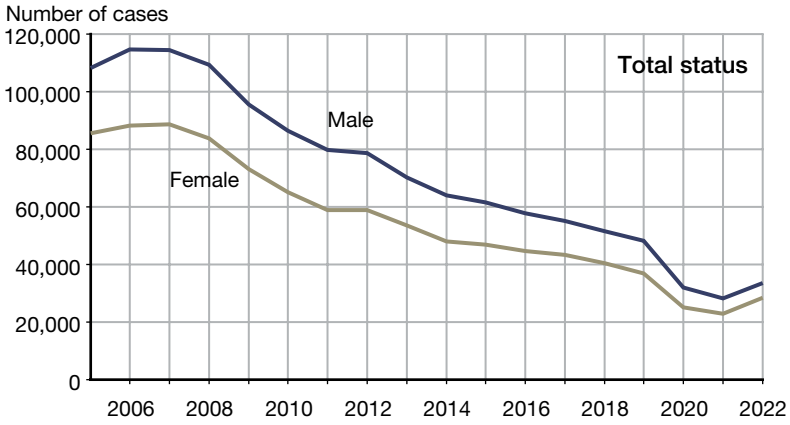
- Case rates for petitioned runaway cases decreased 67% for youth ages 10-12 between 2005 and 2022 and at a similar pace for all other age groups during the same period; 75% for youth ages 13-15, 78% for youth age 16, and 79% for youth age 17.
- Truancy case rates decreased the least for youth ages 10–12 between 2005 and 2022 (down 20%), and decreased by at least 48% for all other age groups.
- Ungovernability rates decreased 76% for youth ages 10-12, 80% for youth ages 13-15, 81% for youth age 16, and 82% for youth age 17 between 2005 and 2022.
- Depending on age, case rates for petitioned curfew offenses and petitioned liquor law violations grew between 2005 and either 2006 or 2008, before decreasing though 2022.

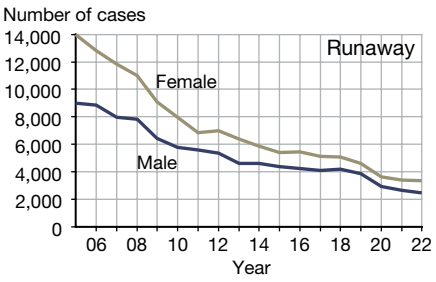
* Because of the relatively low volume of cases involving youth ages 10–12 for runaway, curfew, and liquor law violations, their case rates are inflated by a factor specified in the graph to display the trend over time.

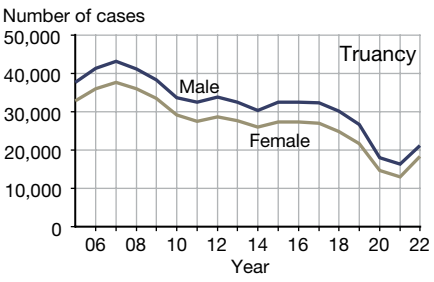
Gender

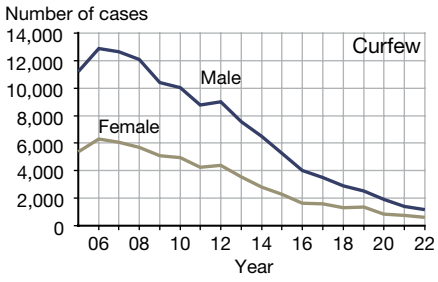
- Overall, the pattern in the number of status offense cases handled by juvenile court between 2005 and 2022 was similar for males and females; status offense cases decreased through 2021 (74% for males and 73% for females), then increased in 2022 (18% for males and 25% for females). Despite the increase, caseloads in 2022 for both males and females were below pre-pandemic levels, a pattern which held for all offense types.
- The pattern in the number of status offense cases formally handled between 2005 and 2022 was similar for males and females across all offense categories. The runaway, curfew, and liquor law violation offense caseloads decreased through 2022 for both males and females, while the number of cases involving truancy and ungovernability offenses decreased through 2021, then increased in 2022 for both genders.
- Between 2005 and 2022, the petitioned runaway caseload decreased 73% for males and 76% for females. During the same period, the petitioned curfew caseload decreased 90% for males and 88% for females. Cases involving liquor law violations decreased 88% for males and 86% for females between 2005 and 2022.
- After an increase between 2005 and 2007, the number of petitioned truancy cases decreased 62% for males and 65% for females through 2021, then increased 29% for males and 41% for females in 2022.
- Between 2005 and 2021, the relative decrease in the number of petitioned ungovernability cases was the same for males and females (82% each). In 2022, the caseloads increased 17% for males and 18% for females.

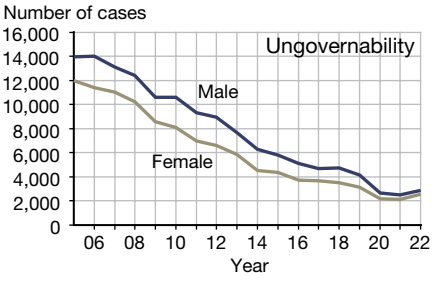
Trends in petitioned status offense caseloads revealed similar patterns for males and females

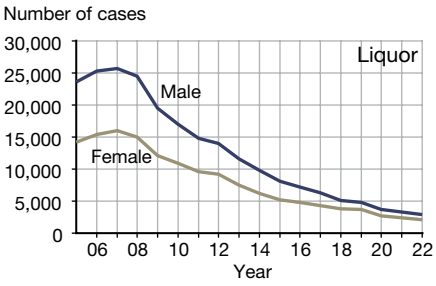






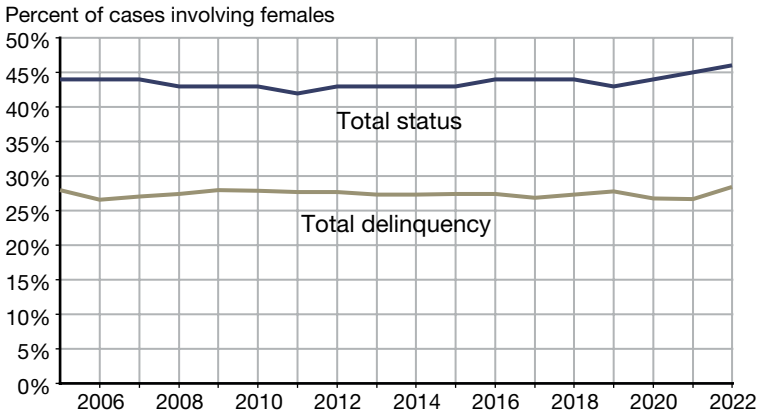


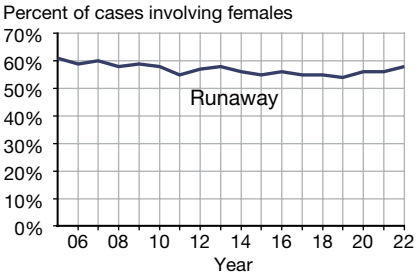


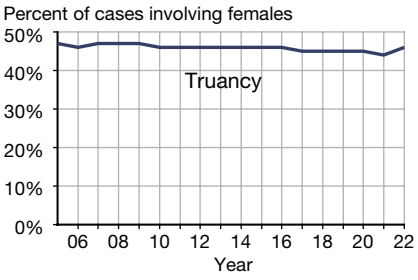


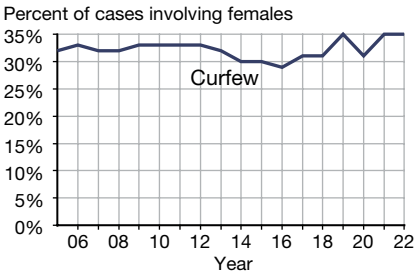
Gender

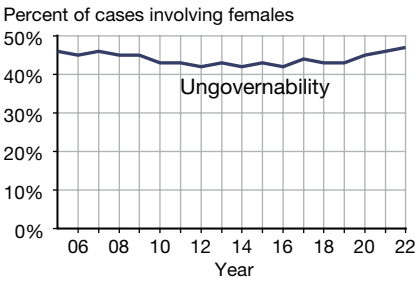
Compared with the delinquency caseload, females accounted for a substantially larger proportion of petitioned status offense cases

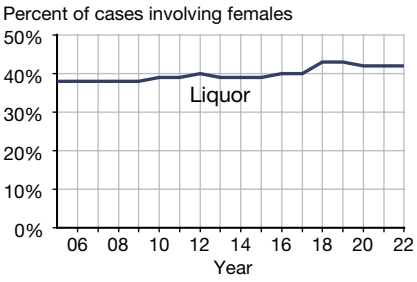












- Males accounted for 54% of the total petitioned status offense caseload in 2022.
- In 2022, males accounted for the majority of curfew (65%), liquor law violation (58%), truancy (54%), and ungovernability (53%) cases.
- Females accounted for 58% of petitioned runaway cases in 2022, the only status offense category in which females represented a larger proportion of the caseload than males.

Offense profile of petitioned status offense cases by gender:

Most serious offense	Male	Female
2022		
Runaway	7%	12%
Truancy	63	64
Curfew	3	2
Ungovernability	9	9
Liquor	8	7
Miscellaneous	9	6
Total	100%	100%
2005		
Runaway	8%	16%
Truancy	35	38
Curfew	10	6
Ungovernability	13	14
Liquor	22	17
Miscellaneous	12	9
Total	100%	100%

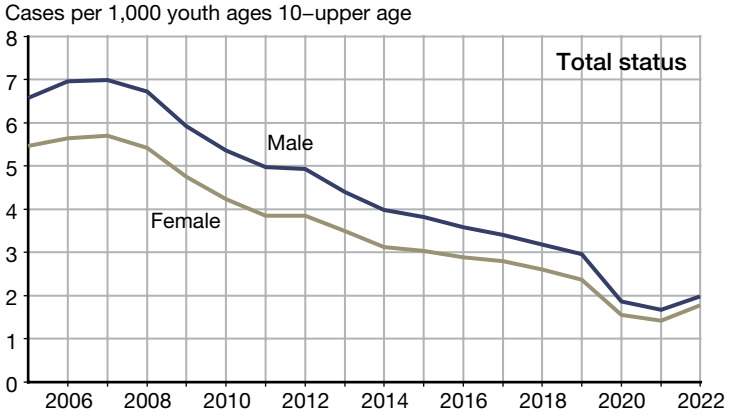
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

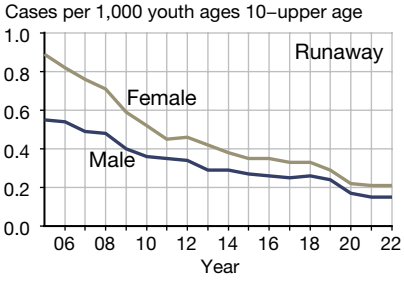
- Truancy cases accounted for at least 63% of the petitioned status offense caseload for both males and females in 2022.

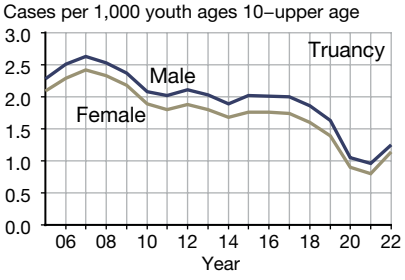
Gender

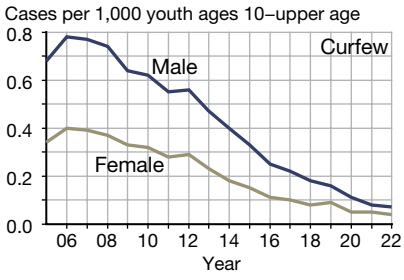
- The petitioned status offense case rate decreased for both males and females between 2005 and 2022 (70% and 68%, respectively).
- Runaway case rates declined between 2005 and 2022 for both males (73%) and females (77%).
- Between 2005 and 2022, the truancy case rate for both males and females was greater than the rate of any other status offense category.
- For both males and females, the case rates for truancy offenses peaked in 2007, decreased through 2021, then increased in 2022. Although the truancy case rate increased 30% for males and 41% for females between 2021 and 2022, the case rates in 2022 were well below the 2007 peaks (down 53% each).
- Ungovernability case rates declined equally for males and females between 2005 and 2021 (down 83% each), then increased through 2022 (17% for males, 18% for females). Despite this increase, case rates in 2022 were well below their 2005 level (79% for each).
- For both males and females, case rates for runaway, curfew, and liquor law violations decreased since 2005, falling at least 73% through 2022.

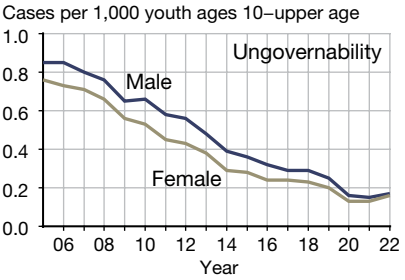
The petitioned status offense case rate followed similar patterns for males and females between 2005 and 2022

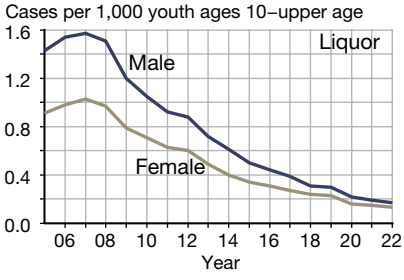






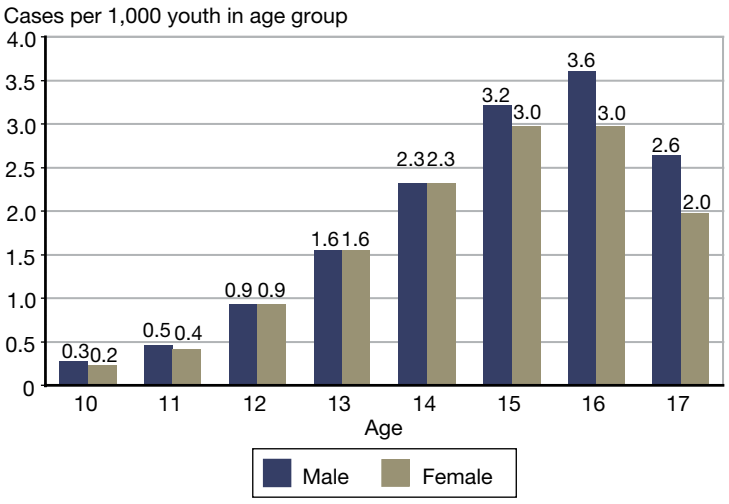


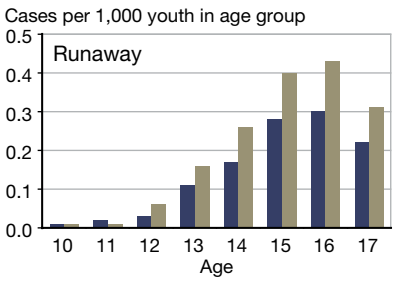


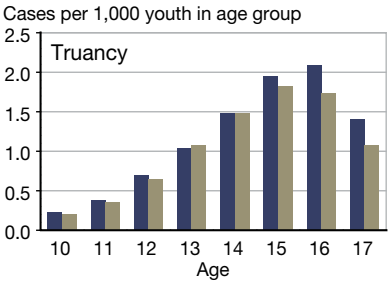


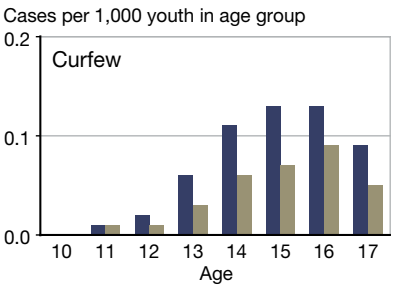
Gender

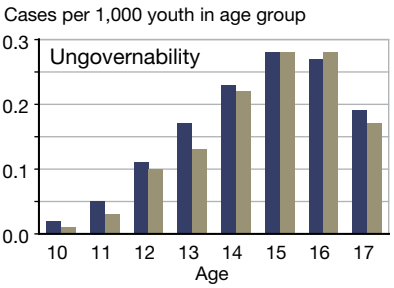
In 2022, the status offense case rate for males increased through age 16 and decreased for 17-year-olds

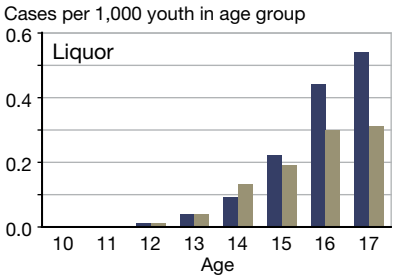












- After age 11, case rates for running away were higher for females than for males in 2022.
- For petitioned runaway cases for both males and females, case rates peaked at age 16. Case rates for petitioned truancy cases peaked at age 16 for males and age 15 for females.
- For both males and females, petitioned status offense case rates increased continuously with age for liquor law violations in 2022.
- Curfew case rates peaked at age 16 for both males and females in 2022.
- In 2022, curfew case rates for males ranged between 1.1 and 2.2 times the curfew case rates for females for all ages.
- The largest disparity in the ungovernability case rate between males and females was among youth age 11. The case rate for 11-year-old males was nearly double the case rate for females of the same age.

Race

- The petitioned status offense caseload decreased the most for White youth (72%) between 2005 and 2022, followed by Black and Asian youth (64% each).
- The number of cases decreased across all racial groups and offenses between 2005 and 2022.
- Between 2005 and 2022, the proportion of petitioned status offense cases involving White youth decreased and the proportion involving Black and Hispanic youth increased. The proportion of petitioned status offense cases involving American Indian and Asian youth in 2022 was the same or similar to the 2005 proportion.

Racial profile of petitioned status offense cases:

Race	2005	2022
White	66%	58%
Black	22	25
Hispanic[2]	7	11
American Indian[3]	3	4
Asian[4]	2	2
Total	100%	100%

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

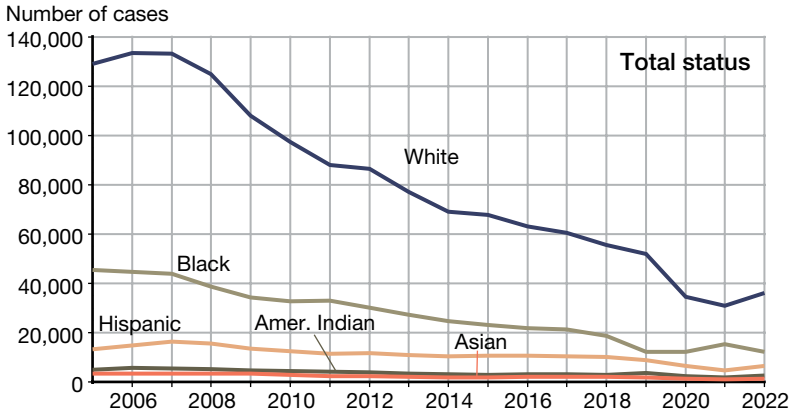
- In 2022, truancy cases made up the greatest proportion of the caseloads for youth of all race groups.

[2] Persons of Hispanic ethnicity are treated as a distinct race group and are excluded from the other four race groups, with one important exception. Data provided to the Archive from many jurisdictions did not include any means to determine the ethnicity of American Indian youth. Rather than assume ethnicity for these youth, they are classified solely on their racial classification; as such, the American Indian group includes an unknown proportion of Hispanic youth.

[3] The racial classification American Indian (usually abbreviated as Amer. Indian) includes American Indian and Alaska Native.

[4] The racial classification Asian includes Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander.

Despite an increase since 2021, caseloads in 2022 were below pre-pandemic levels for all race groups.



The number of petitioned status offense cases decreased more for White youth (72%) than youth of any other race between 2005 and 2022

	Percent change in number of cases, 2005–2022				
Most serious offense	White	Black	Hispanic	Amer. Indian	Asian
Status	-72%	-64%	-51%	-48%	-64%
Runaway	-79	-70	-65	-70	-86
Truancy	-50	-40	-17	0	-35
Curfew	-91	-86	-90	-94	-89
Ungovernability	-81	-77	-73	-73	-72
Liquor law	-89	-82	-85	-69	-85

The proportion of truancy cases increased across all racial groups between 2005 and 2022

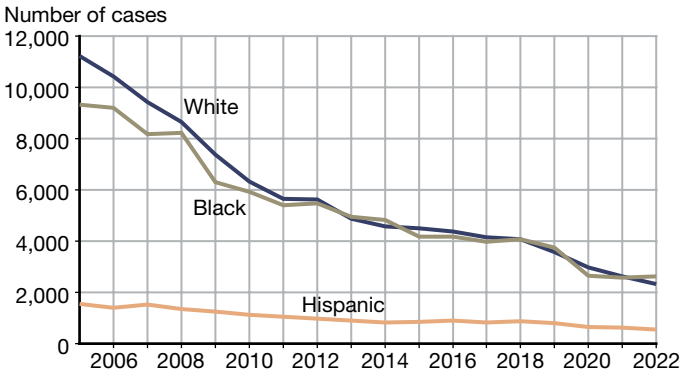
	Offense profile of status offense cases				
Most serious offense	White	Black	Hispanic	Amer. Indian	Asian
2022					
Runaway	6%	18%	8%	3%	6%
Truancy	64	56	74	63	79
Curfew	2	4	2	1	2
Ungovernability	8	15	3	2	2
Liquor law	9	2	6	23	6
Miscellaneous	9	5	6	7	4
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2005					
Runaway	9%	22%	12%	6%	16%
Truancy	36	34	44	33	44
Curfew	7	11	11	11	7
Ungovernability	12	23	6	3	3
Liquor law	24	4	20	38	14
Miscellaneous	12	6	7	9	15
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

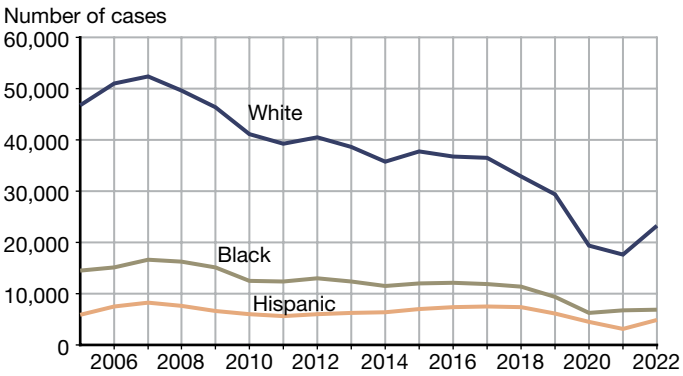
Race

Between 2005 and 2022, the petitioned status offense caseload declined the most for curfew violation cases involving White youth (91%) and Hispanic youth (90%)

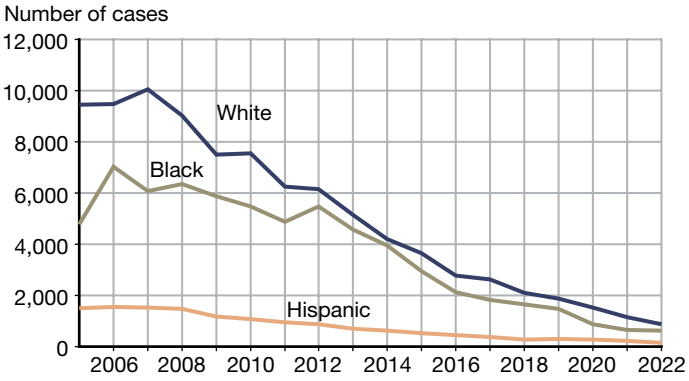
Runaway



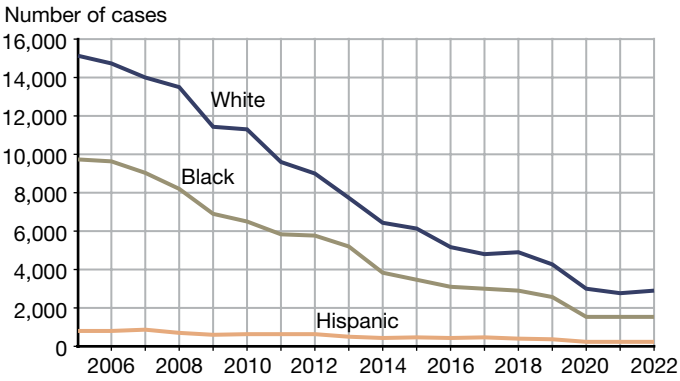
Truancy



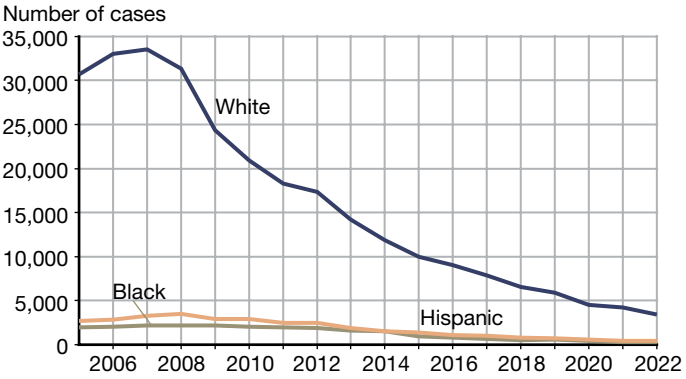
Curfew



Ungovernability



Liquor law violation



- The number of petitioned runaway cases decreased by at least 70% for White and Black youth, and by 65% for Hispanic youth between 2005 and 2022.
- The number of truancy cases decreased 50% for White youth, 40% for Black youth, and 17% for Hispanic youth between 2005 and 2022.
- The decrease in the curfew caseload between 2005 and 2022 was similar for White youth (91%), Black youth (86%), and Hispanic youth (90%).
- Between 2005 and 2022, the number of petitioned ungovernability cases decreased by at least 73% for all three race groups.

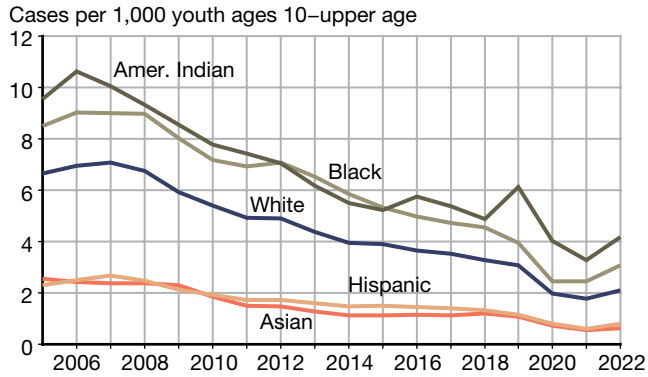
Note: Case counts for American Indian and Asian youth are not shown in the offense graphs above because their numbers are too small for display.

Race

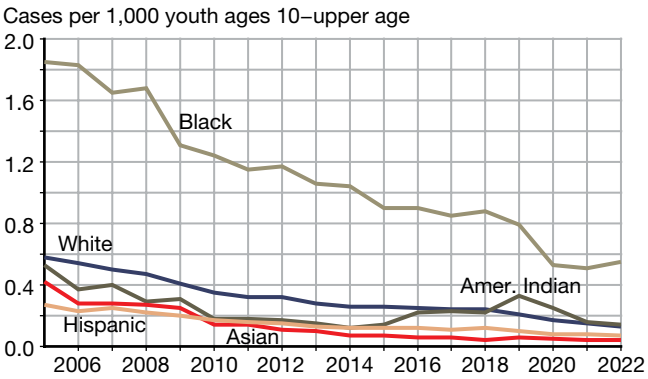
- Between 2005 and 2021, petitioned status offense case rates decreased for all racial groups, then increased in 2022. The net result was that status offense case rates decreased 75% for Asian youth, 68% for White youth, 66% for Hispanic youth, 64% for Black youth, and 56% for American Indian youth between 2005 and 2022.
- The total petitioned status case rates for American Indian and Black youth were similar for all years between 2005 and 2022 and were consistently higher than case rates for all other racial categories.
- Between 2005 and 2022, the runaway case rate decreased 77% for White youth, 70% for Black youth, and 75% for Hispanic youth. Despite declines for all racial groups, the runaway case rate for Black youth in 2022 was 4 times the rate for White and American Indian youth, 8 times the rate for Hispanic youth, and nearly 14 times the rate for Asian youth.
- Compared with all other status offense types, truancy case rates decreased the least for all race groups between 2005 and 2022: down 16% for American Indian youth, 40% for Black youth, 42% for Hispanic youth, 44% for White youth, and 56% for Asian youth.

Despite the increase between 2021 and 2022, petitioned status offense case rates were below pre-pandemic levels for all race groups

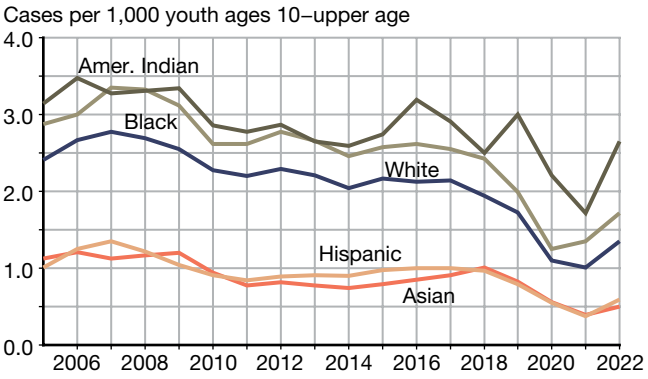
Total status offense case rates



Runaway case rates



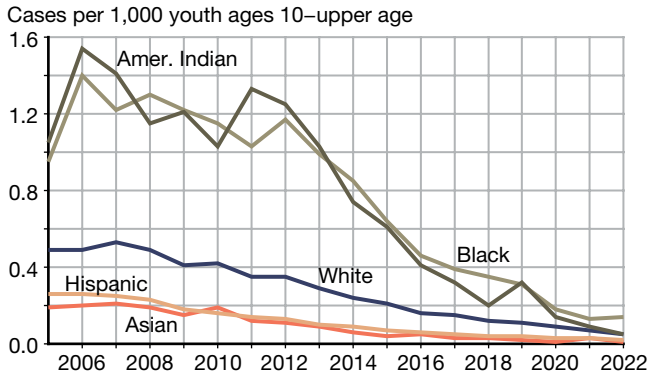
Truancy case rates



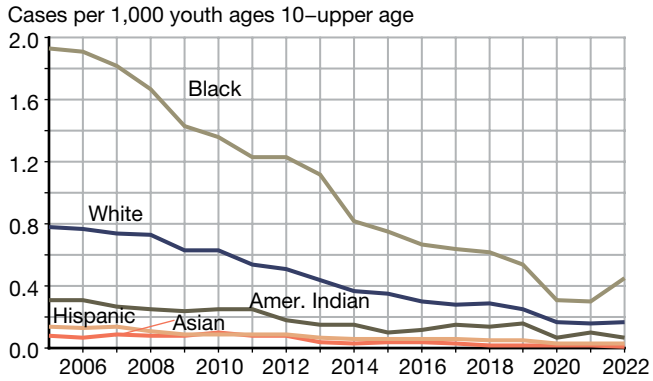
Race

Case rates varied by racial group and offense between 2005 and 2022

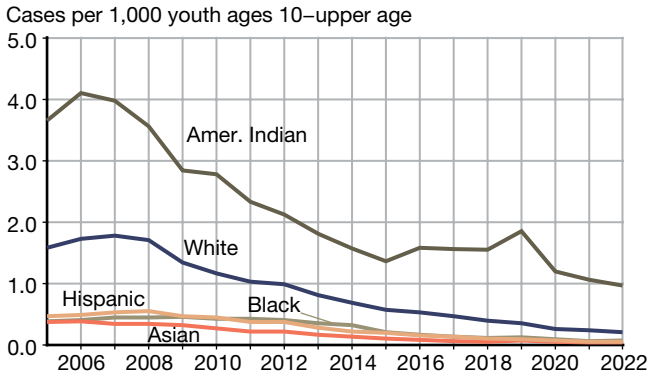
Curfew case rates



Ungovernability case rates



Liquor law violation case rates



- Between 2005 and 2022, curfew rates decreased most for American Indian youth (95%), followed by Hispanic and Asian youth (93% each), White youth (89%), and Black youth (85%).
- In 2022, the ungovernability case rate for Black youth was nearly three times the White rate.
- American Indian youth had the highest case rate for liquor law violations in each year between 2005 and 2022. In 2022, the liquor law violation case rate for American Indian youth was nearly 5 times the rate for White youth, and more than 13 times the rates for Black, Hispanic, and Asian youth.

Source of Referral

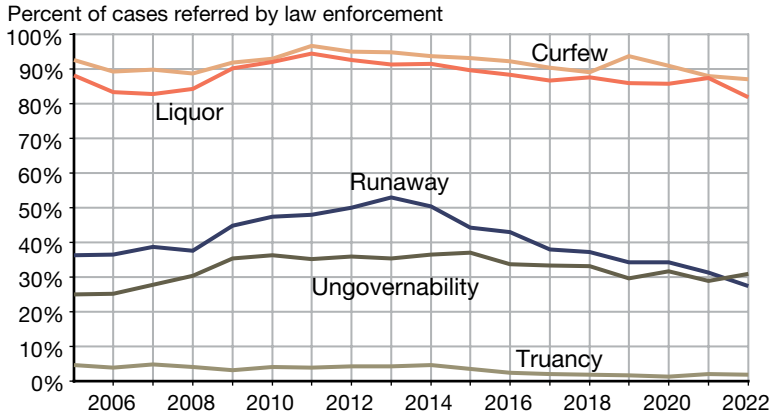
- Status offense cases can be referred to court intake by a number of sources, including law enforcement agencies, schools, relatives, social service agencies, and probation officers.

Percentage of petitioned status offense cases referred by law enforcement:

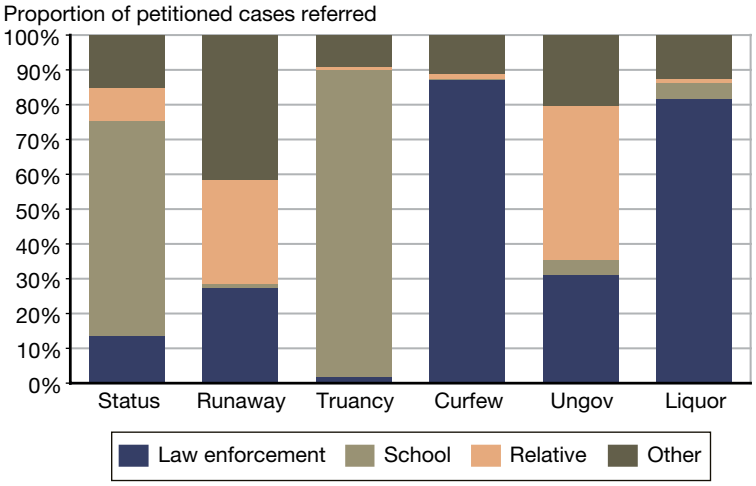
Most serious offense	2005	2022
Total status	33%	14%
Runaway	36	27
Truancy	5	2
Curfew	93	87
Ungovernability	25	31
Liquor law	88	82

- In 2022, law enforcement agencies referred 14% of the petitioned status offense cases disposed by juvenile courts. In contrast, a larger proportion (62%) of status offense cases were referred by schools.
- Compared with 2005, law enforcement referred a larger proportion of ungovernability offense cases in 2022.
- Schools referred 88% of the petitioned truancy cases in 2022.
- Relatives referred 44% of the petitioned ungovernability cases in 2022.

Law enforcement agencies are the primary source of referrals to juvenile court for curfew and liquor law violation cases

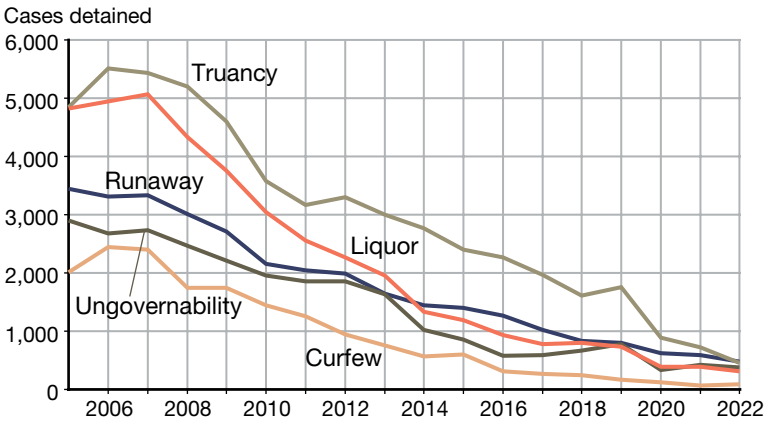


The source of referral in 2022 for petitioned status offense cases varied with the nature of the offense

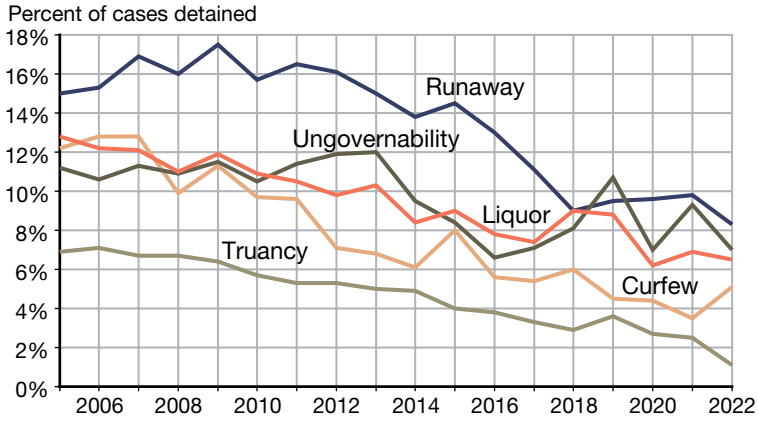


Detention

The number of status offense cases involving detention decreased substantially between 2005 and 2022 for all case types



Between 2005 and 2022, truancy cases were least likely to involve detention, and runaway cases were generally the most likely



- The number of petitioned status offense cases involving detention decreased 90% between 2005 and 2022 (from 20,300 to 2,000).
- The decline in the volume of petitioned status offense cases involving detention resulted in a smaller proportion of cases detained in 2022 (3%) than in 2005 (10%).
- Between 2005 and 2022, the number of petitioned cases involving detention decreased the most for curfew cases (down 95%), followed by liquor law violation cases (93%), truancy cases (91%), ungovernability cases (87%), and runaway cases (86%).
- Regardless of offense, detention was less likely in 2022 than in 2005.

Offense profile of detained status offense cases:

Most serious offense	2005	2022
Runaway	17%	24%
Truancy	24	23
Curfew	10	5
Ungovernability	14	19
Liquor law	24	16
Miscellaneous	11	14
Total	100%	100%
Number of cases	20,300	2,000

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

- Compared with 2005, the offense characteristics of the 2022 status offense detention caseload involved a greater proportion of runaway and ungovernability cases, and a smaller proportion of curfew and liquor law violation cases. Truancy cases accounted for a similar proportion of the detention caseload in 2022 as in 2005.

Adjudication

- Between 2005 and 2022, the number of status offense cases in which the youth was adjudicated for a status offense decreased from 103,600 to 17,600.
- Between 2005 and 2022, the number of cases in which the youth was adjudicated for a status offense decreased for all offense types: curfew (91%), liquor law violations (90%), runaway (88%), ungovernability (87%), and truancy (72%).

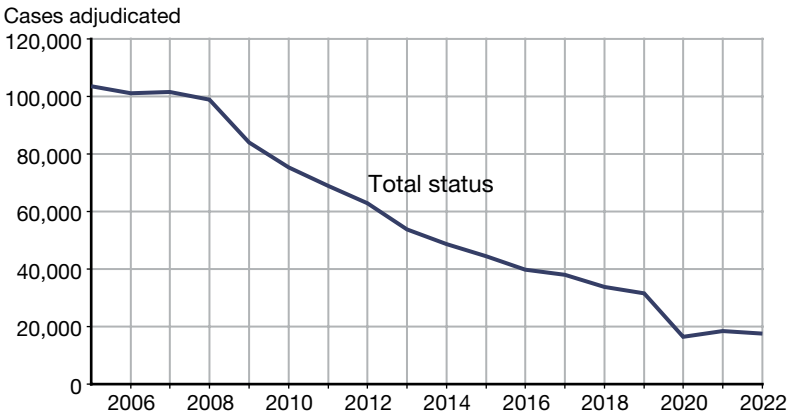
Offense profile of adjudicated status offense cases:

Most serious offense	2005	2022
Runaway	10%	7%
Truancy	28	47
Curfew	10	5
Ungovernability	14	11
Liquor law	24	14
Miscellaneous	14	16
Total	100%	100%
Cases adjudicated	103,600	17,600

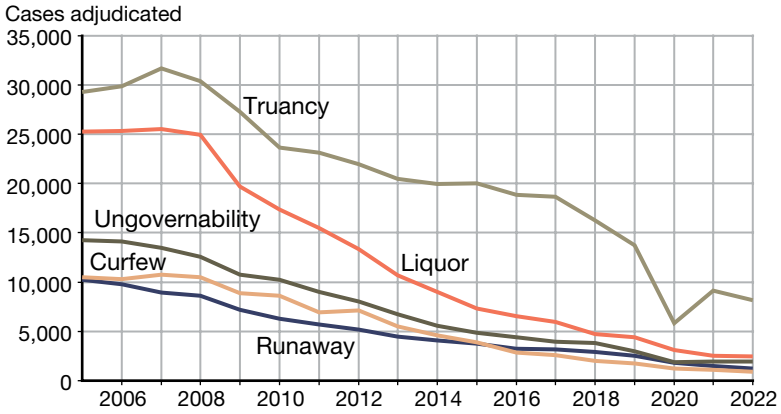
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In both 2005 and 2022, cases involving truancy made up the largest proportions of the adjudicated caseload.
- The 2022 adjudicated status offense caseload had a greater proportion of truancy offenses and smaller proportion of all other offenses than the 2005 caseload.

Between 2005 and 2022, the number of cases in which the youth was adjudicated for a status offense declined 83%

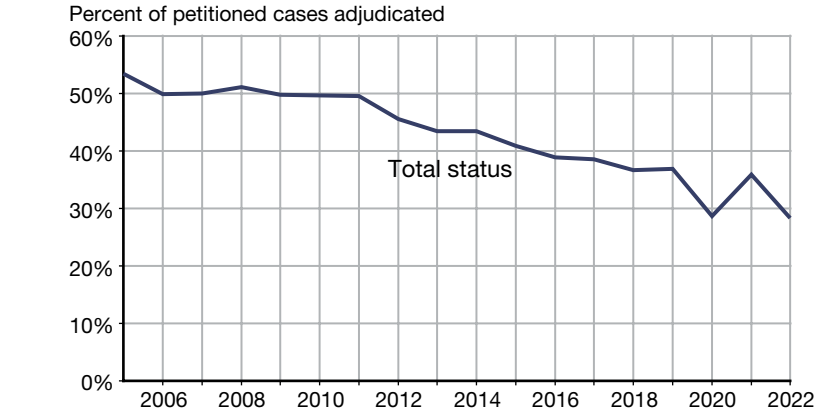


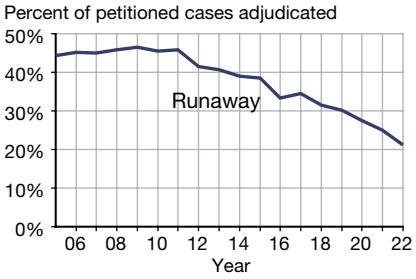
Between 2005 and 2022, the number of cases in which the youth was adjudicated decreased for all status offense categories

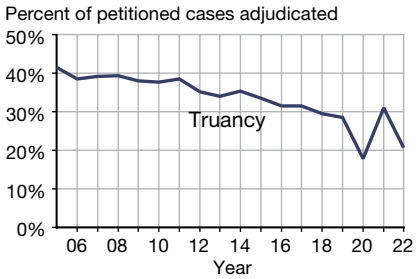


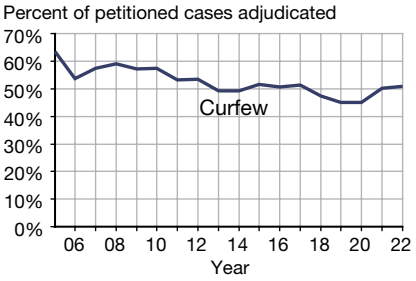
Adjudication

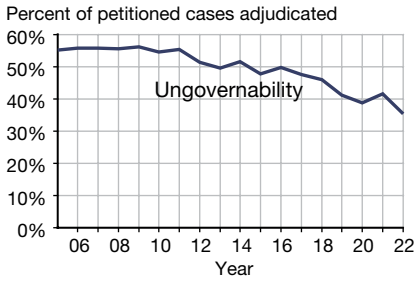
The likelihood of adjudication for petitioned status offense cases decreased from 53% in 2005 to 28% in 2022

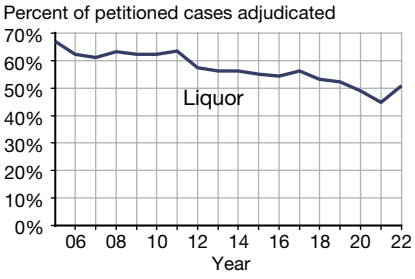












- The likelihood of adjudication for petitioned status offense cases dropped considerably between 2019 and 2020, increased in 2021, then declined in 2022.
- The pattern for truancy mirrored the overall pattern but with much greater variation. For example, the proportion of truancy cases that were adjudicated fell 10 percentage points between 2019 and 2020, increased 13 percentage points the following year, then fell 10 percentage points through 2022. [For more information, see "A note on adjudication for truancy cases" on page 93 in the Methods section.]
- Similar to the overall pattern, the likelihood of adjudication was lower in 2022 than in 2005 for runaway cases (21% vs. 44%), curfew cases (51% vs. 63%), ungovernability cases (35% vs. 55%), and liquor law violation cases (51% vs. 67%).

Percentage of petitioned status offense cases adjudicated, 2022:

Most serious offense	15 or younger	16 or older	Male	Female
Total status	28%	29%	30%	27%
Runaway	23	19	23	20
Truancy	21	20	21	20
Curfew	54	46	53	47
Ungovern.	38	30	34	36
Liquor law	52	50	50	51

Most serious offense	White	Black	Hisp.	Other
Total status	30%	27%	18%	34%
Runaway	25	17	25	NA
Truancy	20	25	11	27
Curfew	60	40	NA	NA
Ungovern.	39	31	NA	NA
Liquor law	51	NA	NA	50

NA: Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

- The number of adjudicated status offense cases in which youth were ordered to out-of-home placement declined from 11,100 in 2005 to 1,500 in 2021 (down 87%), then increased 25% to 1,800 in 2022.

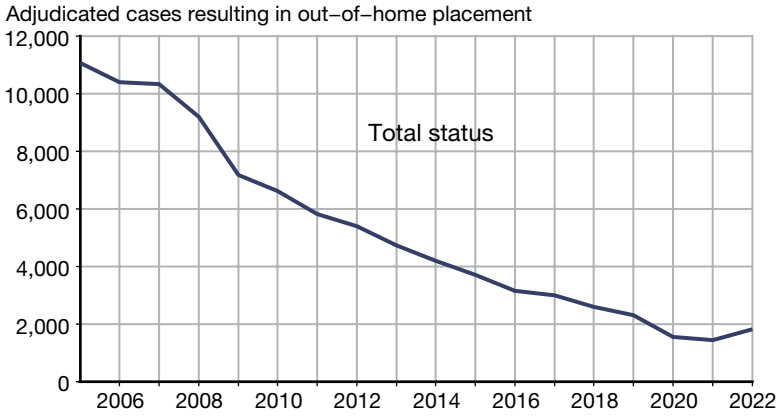
Offense profile of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement:

Most serious offense	2005	2022
Runaway	19%	12%
Truancy	19	27
Curfew	3	2
Ungovernability	24	28
Liquor law	16	5
Miscellaneous	19	26
Total	100%	100%
Cases resulting in out-of-home placement	11,100	1,800

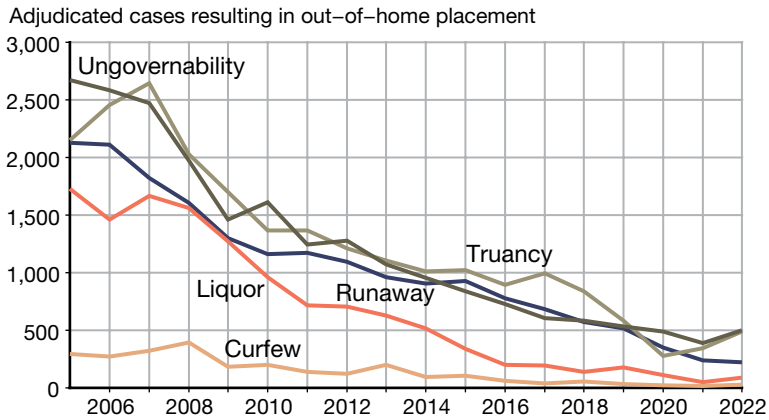
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In both 2005 and 2022, ungovernability cases accounted for the largest share of adjudicated status offenses that resulted in out-of-home placement.

The number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in out-of-home placement in 2022 was below pre-pandemic levels and 84% below the number in 2005

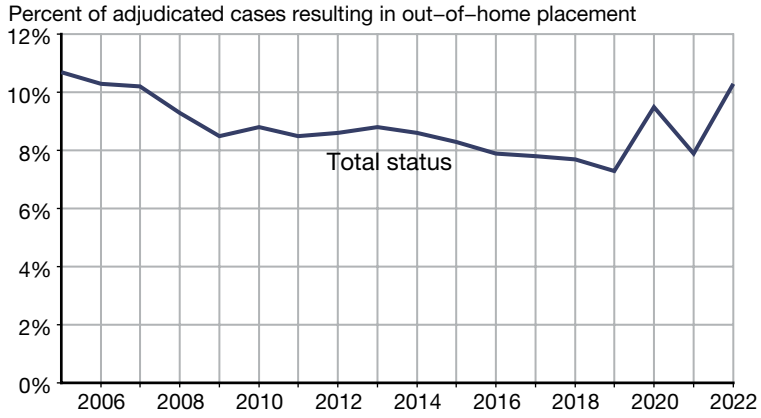


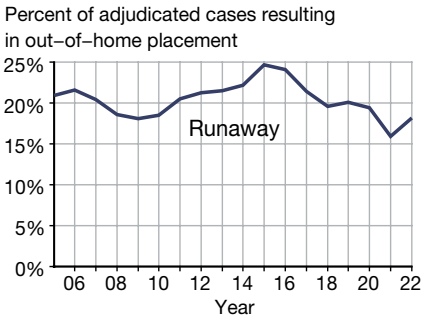
The number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in out-of-home placement declined between 2005 and 2022 for all offense types

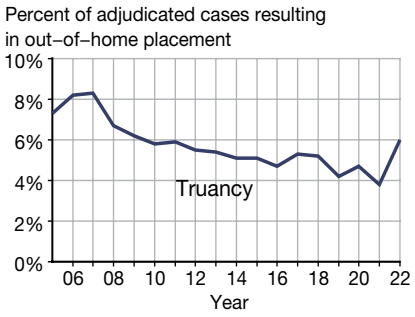


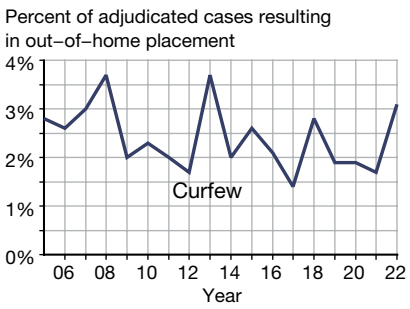
Dispositions: Out-of-Home Placement

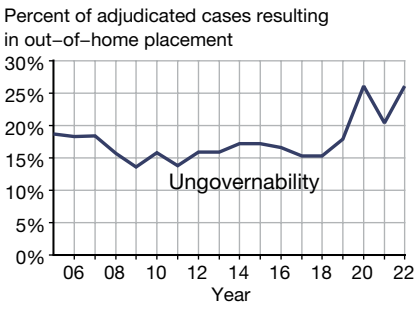
The court ordered out-of-home placement in 10% of all adjudicated status offense cases in 2022

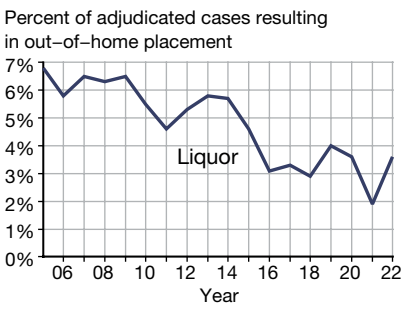












- The likelihood of a placement disposition following adjudication for a status offense generally declined through 2019 (from 11% in 2005 to 7%), then increased slightly in 2020 (9%). The increase in 2020 and the subsequent shifting nature in the likelihood of a placement disposition through 2022 may reflect the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic during that time.
- Between 2005 and 2022, the largest decline in the proportion of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement was seen in liquor law violation cases (down 3 percentage points).
- The pattern for ungovernability cases mirrored the overall pattern, but with a larger increase between 2019 and 2020 (from 18% to 26%) and a larger decline through 2021 (down to 20%). In 2022, 26% of ungovernability cases resulted in out-of-home placement.

Percentage of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in out-of-home placement, 2022:

Most serious offense	15 and younger	16 and older	Male	Female
Total status	11%	8%	10%	11%
Runaway	16	21	19	17
Truancy	6	6	7	5
Curfew	3	3	3	3
Ungovern.	28	22	24	28
Liquor law	4	3	3	4

Most serious offense	White	Black	Hisp.	Other
Total status	12%	9%	8%	5%
Runaway	23	NA	NA	NA
Truancy	7	5	5	5
Curfew	1	NA	NA	NA
Ungovern.	32	19	NA	NA
Liquor law	3	NA	NA	NA

NA: Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

Dispositions: Probation

- Between 2005 and 2022, the number of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in an order of probation decreased 80%, compared with an 84% decrease in the number of cases resulting in out-of-home placement.
- Between 2005 and 2022, the number of adjudicated cases resulting in probation decreased for curfew (down 95%), liquor (90%), ungovernability (87%), and runaway (85%) offenses.
- The number of truancy cases resulting in probation decreased 81% between 2005 and 2020, then increased 63% through 2022.

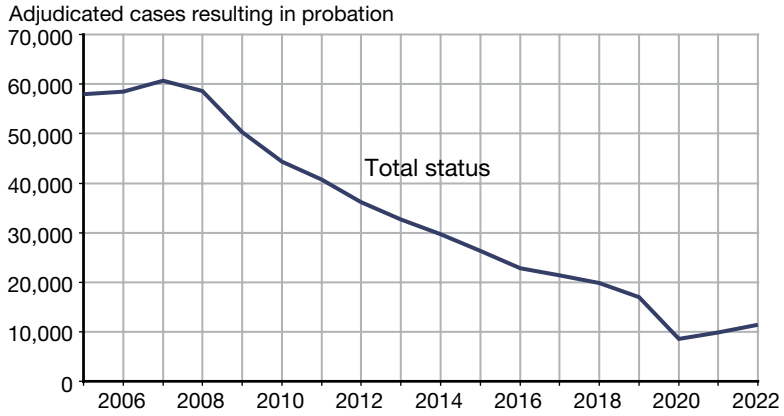
Offense profile of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in probation:

Most serious offense	2005	2022
Runaway	11%	8%
Truancy	32	51
Curfew	6	1
Ungovernability	17	11
Liquor law	26	13
Miscellaneous	9	15
Total	100%	100%
Cases resulting in formal probation	58,000	11,400

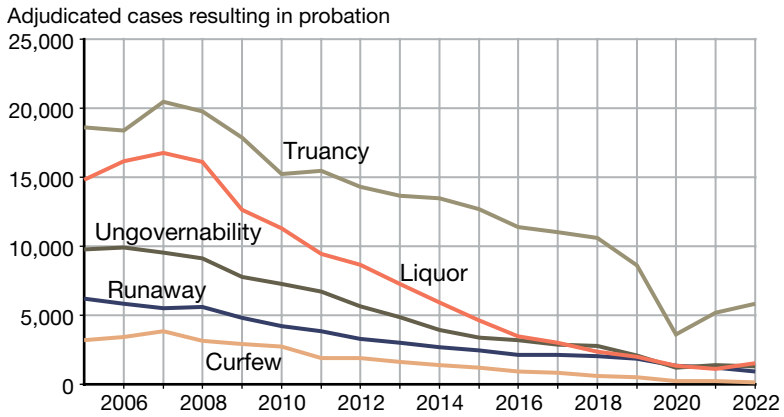
Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

- In 2022, most adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in probation involved truancy offenses (51%).

The number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in out-of-home placement in 2022 was below pre-pandemic levels and 80% below the number in 2005

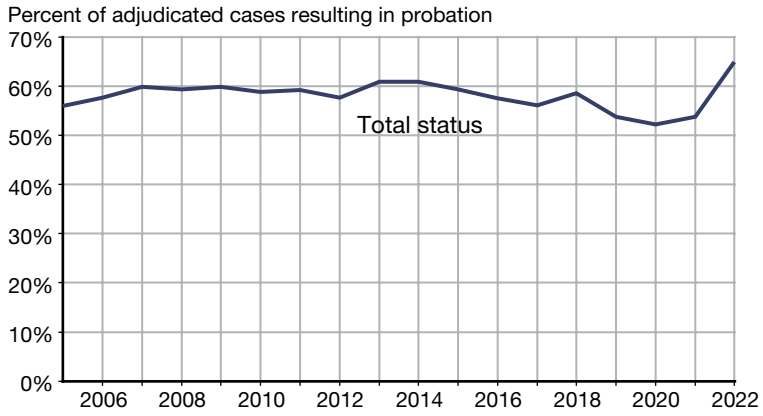


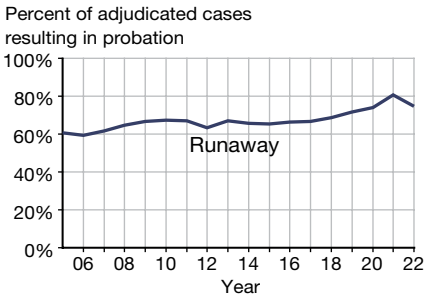
Between 2005 and 2022, the number of adjudicated status offense cases that resulted in probation decreased for all major status offense categories, then increased for truancy and liquor law violations in 2022

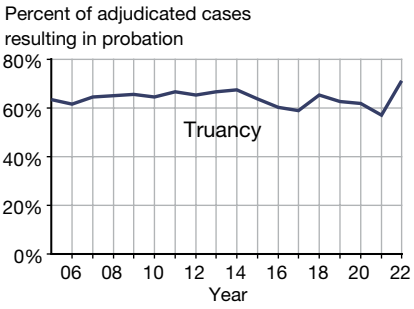


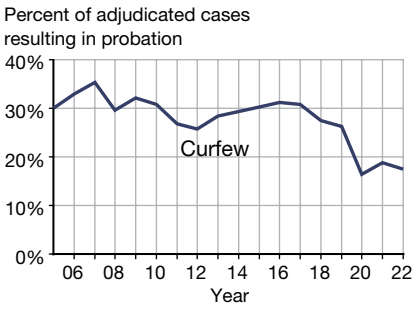
Dispositions: Probation

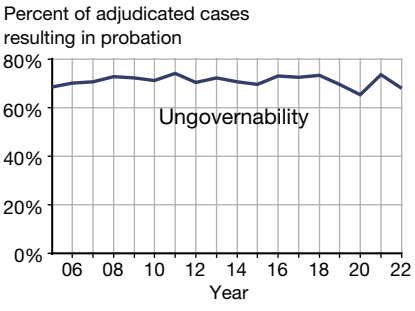
The use of probation as the most restrictive disposition in adjudicated status offense cases increased for most offense categories between 2005 and 2022

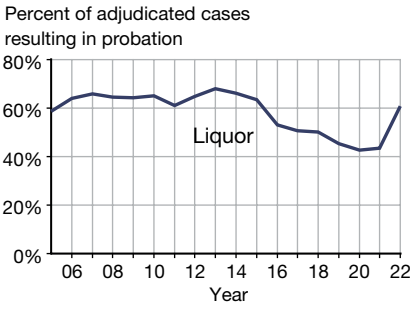












- The proportion of adjudicated status cases that resulted in probation in 2022 (65%) was higher than in 2005 (56%).
- In 2022, probation was ordered in 75% of adjudicated runaway cases, 71% of truancy cases, 17% of curfew violation cases, 68% of ungovernability cases, and 61% of liquor law violation cases.

Percentage of adjudicated status offense cases resulting in probation, 2022:

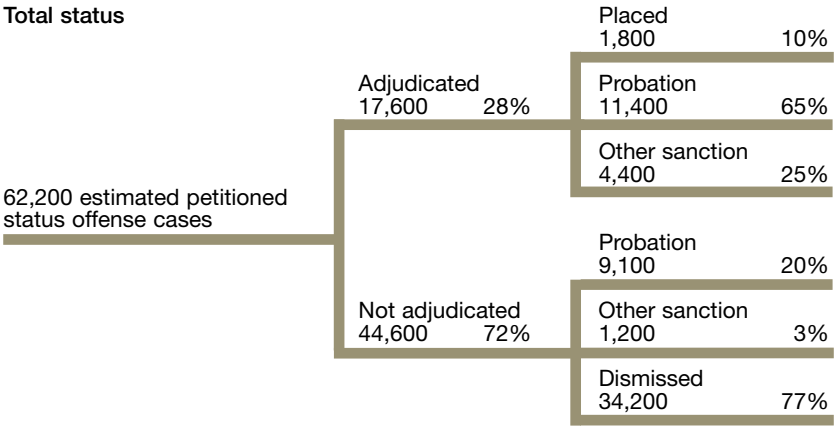
Most serious offense	15 and younger	16 and older	Male	Female
Total status	66%	63%	66%	64%
Runaway	76	72	75	74
Truancy	72	69	72	71
Curfew	19	14	18	17
Ungovern.	65	75	70	66
Liquor law	63	60	63	57

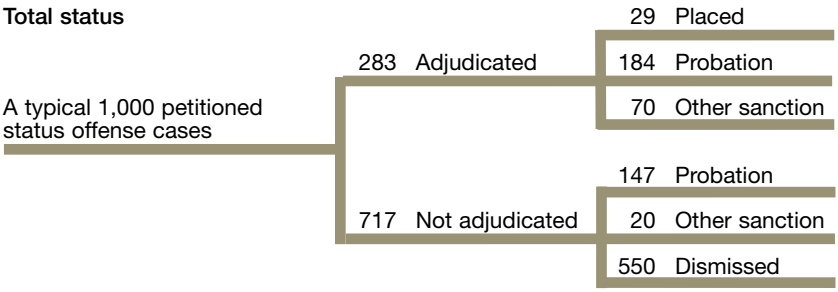
Most serious offense	White	Black	Hisp.	Other
Total status	64%	67%	69%	62%
Runaway	72	NA	NA	NA
Truancy	73	70	76	61
Curfew	17	NA	NA	NA
Ungovern.	61	77	NA	NA
Liquor law	64	NA	NA	NA

NA: Too few cases to obtain a reliable percentage.

Case Processing Overview, 2022

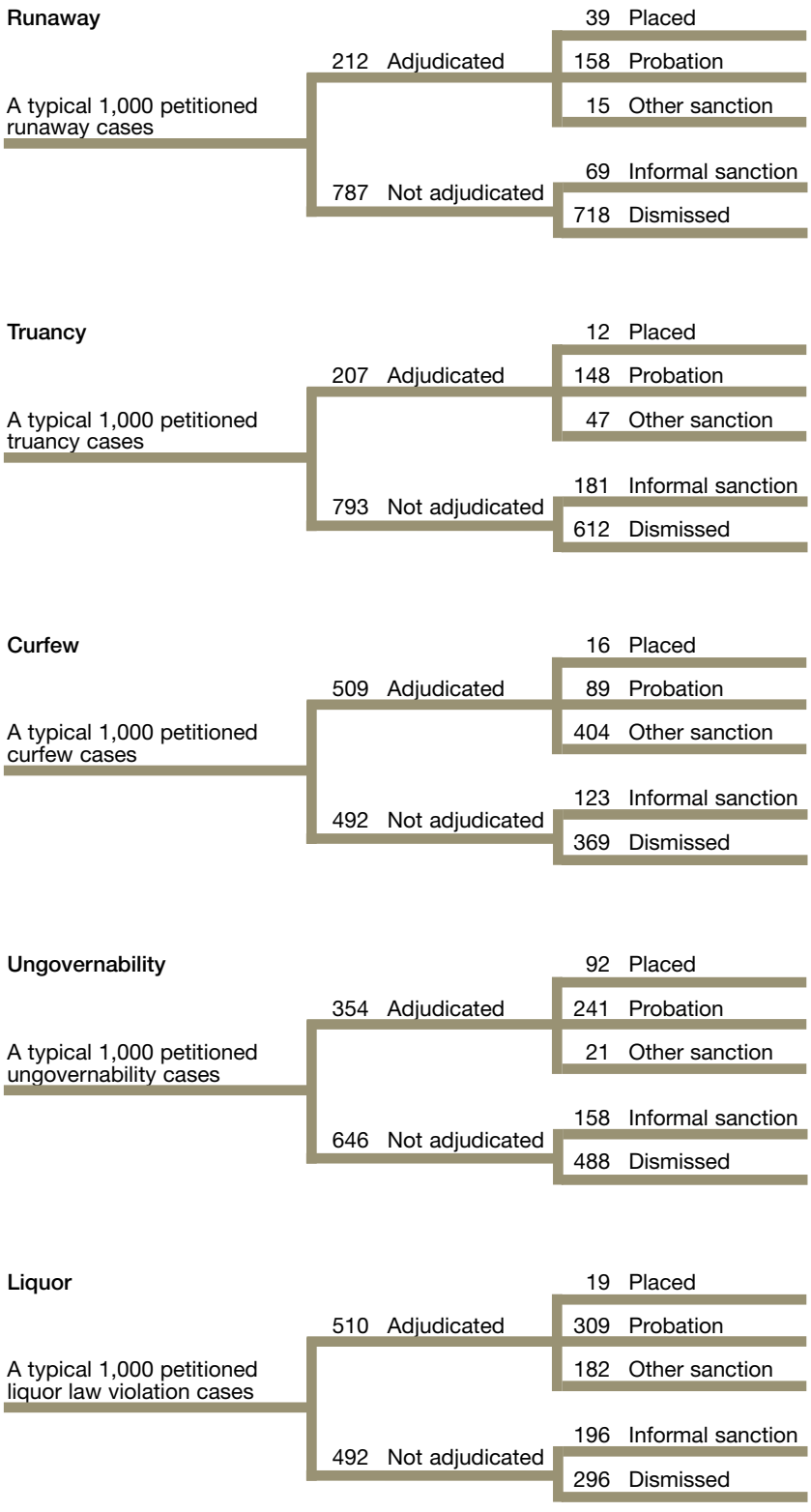
- In 2022, 28% of petitioned status offense cases resulted in adjudication.
- In 65% of adjudicated status offense cases, formal probation was the most restrictive sanction ordered by the court.
- In 2022, 10% of adjudicated status offense cases resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Other sanctions were ordered in 25% of adjudicated status offense cases in 2022. These dispositions involve minimal continuing supervision—the youth was ordered to enter a treatment or counseling program, to pay restitution or a fine, or to participate in some form of community service.
- In 72% of petitioned status offense cases in 2022, the youth was not adjudicated a status offender. The court dismissed 77% of these cases, while 20% resulted in some form of informal probation and 3% in other voluntary dispositions.
- For every 1,000 status offense cases formally processed by juvenile courts in 2022, 184 resulted in formal probation and 29 were placed out of the home.





Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Case Processing by Offense Category, 2022



Notes: Cases are categorized by their most severe or restrictive sanction. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Informal sanctions for nonadjudicated status offense cases include probation and other sanctions voluntarily agreed to by the youth.

Runaway Cases

- For every 1,000 petitioned runaway cases in 2022, 158 resulted in formal probation following adjudication and 39 were placed out of the home.
- Most petitioned runaway cases were not adjudicated in 2022 (787 of 1,000 cases). Of these 787 cases, 91% (718) were dismissed.

Truancy Cases

- In 2022, of a typical 1,000 petitioned truancy cases, 148 resulted in formal probation and 12 were placed out of the home.

Curfew Violation Cases

- In 2022, for every 1,000 petitioned curfew violation cases, 89 resulted in formal probation and 16 were placed out of the home.
- Nealy half of petitioned curfew violation cases were not adjudicated in 2022 (492 of 1,000 cases, 49%). Of these 492 cases, 75% (369) were dismissed.

Ungovernability Cases

- Among the five major status offense categories, juvenile courts were most likely to order youth to out-of-home placement following adjudication in ungovernability cases (92 of 354 cases, 26%), but formal probation was a more likely outcome (241 of 354, 68%).

Liquor Law Violation Cases

- In 2022, for every 1,000 petitioned liquor law violation cases, 182 resulted in other sanctions, 309 resulted in formal probation, and 19 resulted in out-of-home placement.
- Most petitioned liquor law violation cases were not adjudicated in 2022 (492 of 1,000 cases). Of these 492 cases, more than half (60%) were dismissed.

Appendix A

Methods

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

Sources of Data

The Archive uses data in two forms: detailed case-level data and court-level aggregate statistics. Case-level data are usually generated by automated client-tracking systems or case-reporting systems managed by juvenile courts or other youth justice agencies. These systems provide detailed data on the characteristics of each delinquency and status offense case handled by courts, generally including the age, gender, and race of the youth referred; the date and source of referral; the offenses charged; detention and petitioning decisions; 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 information 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.

Court-level aggregate statistics either are abstracted from the annual reports of state and local courts or are contributed directly to the Archive. Court-level statistics typically provide counts of the delinquency and status offense cases handled by courts in a defined time period (calendar or fiscal year).

Each year, many juvenile courts contribute either detailed data or 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.

The aggregation of the *JCS*-compatible standardized case-level data files constitutes the Archive's national case-level

Table A–1: 2022 Stratum Profiles for Delinquency Data

Stratum	County population ages 10–17	Counties in stratum	Counties reporting compatible data				
			Number of counties				
			Case-level	Court-level	Total*	Percentage of counties	Percentage of juvenile population
1	Fewer than 14,000	2,677	1,747	240	1,947	73%	74%
2	14,000–50,200	320	224	34	247	77	78
3	50,201–122,000	109	83	9	88	81	83
4	More than 122,000	36	30	5	33	92	90
Total		3,142	2,084	288	2,315	74	81

* Some counties reported both case-level and court-level data; therefore, the total number of counties reporting delinquency data is not equal to the number of counties reporting case-level data plus the number of counties reporting court-level data.

Table A–2: 2022 Stratum Profiles for Status Offense Data

Stratum	County population ages 10–17	Counties in stratum	Counties reporting compatible data				
			Number of counties				
			Case-level	Court-level	Total	Percentage of counties	Percentage of juvenile population
1	Fewer than 14,000	2,677	1,649	104	1,753	65%	66%
2	14,000–50,200	320	201	9	210	66	67
3	50,201–122,000	109	73	2	75	69	72
4	More than 122,000	36	29	0	29	81	80
Total		3,142	1,952	115	2,067	66	71

database. The compiled data from jurisdictions that contribute only court-level *JCS*-compatible statistics constitute the national court-level database. Together, these two multijurisdictional databases (case-level and court-level) are used to generate the Archive's national estimates of delinquency and status offense cases.

In 2022, case-level data describing 347,884 delinquency cases handled by 2,084 jurisdictions in 36 states met the Archive's criteria for inclusion in the development of national delinquency estimates. Compatible data were available from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. These courts had jurisdiction over 74 of the nation's juvenile population in 2022. Compatible court-level aggregate statistics on an additional 40,348 delinquency cases from 288 jurisdictions were used from 6 states: (Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, New York, and Wyoming). In all, the Archive collected compatible case-level data and court-level statistics on delinquency cases from 2,315 jurisdictions containing 81 of the nation's juvenile population in 2022 (Table A–1).

Case-level data describing 39,192 formally handled status offense cases from 1,952 jurisdictions in 34 states met the criteria for inclusion in the sample for 2022. The states included Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. These courts had jurisdiction over 69 of the juvenile population. An additional 115 jurisdictions in Indiana and Wyoming had compatible court-level aggregate statistics on 2,502 petitioned status offense cases. Altogether, compatible case-level and court-level data on petitioned status offense cases were available from 2,067 jurisdictions containing 71 of the U.S. juvenile population in 2022 (Table A–2).

A list of states contributing case-level data (either delinquency or petitioned status offense data), the variables each reports, and the percentage of cases containing each variable are presented in Table A–3. More information about the reporting sample for the current data year and previous years since 1985 is available online at ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezajcs/asp/methods.asp.

Table A–3: Content of Case-Level Data Sources, 2022

Data source	Age at referral	Gender	Race	Referral source	Referral reason	Secure detention	Manner of handling	Adjudication	Disposition
Alabama	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL
Alaska	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK	AK
Arizona	AZ	AZ	AZ	–	AZ	–	AZ	AZ	AZ
Arkansas	AR	AR	AR	–	AR	–	AR	AR	–
California	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA
Colorado	–	–	CO	–	CO	–	CO	–	–
Connecticut	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT	CT
District of Columbia	DC	DC	DC	–	DC	DC	DC	DC	DC
Florida	FL	FL	FL	FL	FL	FL	FL	FL	FL
Georgia	GA	GA	GA	GA	GA	GA	GA	GA	GA
Hawaii	HI	HI	HI	HI	HI	–	HI	HI	HI
Iowa	IA	IA	IA	–	IA	–	IA	IA	IA
Kentucky	KY	KY	KY	–	KY	KY	KY	KY	KY
Maryland	MD	MD	MD	MD	MD	–	MD	MD	MD
Minnesota	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	–
Nebraska	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	–	NE	NE	NE
Nevada	NV	NV	NV	–	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV
New Jersey	NJ	NJ	NJ	–	NJ	–	NJ	NJ	NJ
New Mexico	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM	–	NM	NM	NM
New York	NY	NY	NY	–	NY	–	NY	NY	NY
North Carolina	NC	NC	NC	–	NC	–	NC	NC	NC
Ohio[1]	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH
Oregon	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Pennsylvania	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA
Rhode Island	RI	RI	–	RI	RI	RI	RI	RI	RI
South Dakota	SD	SD	SD	–	SD	SD	SD	SD	SD
Texas	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX	TX
Utah	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT	UT
Vermont	VT	VT	VT	–	VT	VT	VT	VT	VT
Virginia	VA	VA	VA	VA	VA	VA	VA	VA	–
Washington	WA	WA	WA	WA	WA	WA	WA	WA	WA
West Virginia	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV	WV
Wisconsin	WI	WI	WI	–	WI	–	WI	WI	–
Percentage of estimation sample	98%	97%	93%	69%	97%	65%	100%	94%	84%

Note: The symbol "–" indicates that compatible data for this variable are not reported by this state.

[1] Data from Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, and Lucas counties only.

Juvenile Population

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 generates the juvenile court referrals in each jurisdiction—i.e., the "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 younger than 10. Therefore, the lower age limit of the juvenile population 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 original jurisdiction of the juvenile court if they commit an illegal act. (See "Upper age of jurisdiction" in the "Glossary of Terms" section.) State upper age boundaries can change over time. Historically, most states set this age to be 17 years, while fewer states have set the age at 15 or 16. States often enact exceptions to this simple age criterion (e.g., offense-specific youthful offender legislation and concurrent jurisdiction or extended jurisdiction provisions). In general, however, juvenile courts have responsibility for all law violations committed by youth whose age does not exceed the upper age of original jurisdiction.

For the purposes of this report, therefore, the juvenile population 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 a state that has an upper age of 16 in 2022, the juvenile population is the number of youth residing in a county who have had their 10th birthday but are not older than 16 (e.g., they have not yet reached their 17th birthday).

The juvenile population estimates used in this report were developed with data originally collected by the Census Bureau.[1] The estimates, separated into single-year age groups, reflect the number of White, Black, Hispanic,[2] American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian (including Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander) youth ages 10 through the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction who reside in each county in the nation.

Estimation Procedure

National estimates are developed using the national case-level database, the national court-level database, and the Archive's juvenile population 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 identify the county in which the case was handled, and (3) youth population estimates can be developed at the county level.

The Archive's national estimates are generated using data obtained from its nonprobability sample of juvenile courts. There are two major components of the estimation procedure. First, missing values on individual records of the national case-level database are imputed using hot deck procedures. Then the records of the national case-level database are weighted to represent the total number of cases handled by juvenile courts nationwide. Each stage of the estimation procedure will be described separately.

Record-level imputation. The first step in the estimation procedure is to place all U.S. counties into one of four strata based on their youth population ages 10 through 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 ages 10 through 17.

This information is added onto each record in the national case-level database. As a result, each record in the national case-level database contains 11 variables of interest to the *JCS* report: county strata, year of disposition, intake decision, youth's age, youth's gender, youth's race, referral offense, source of referral, case detention, case adjudication, and case disposition.

By definition, the first three of these variables (i.e., county strata, year of disposition, and intake decision) are known for every case in the database. Each of the other variables may be missing for some records and given a missing value code. The estimation procedure for the *JCS* report employs a multistage process to impute information for each missing value on each case record in the national case-level database.

Within a county's set of records in the database there can be two types of missing information: record-level

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[1] County-level intercensal estimates were obtained for the years 2005–2022. The following data files were used:

National Center for Health Statistics. 2012. 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. Prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau. Available: cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm [Released 10/26/12].

National Center for Health Statistics. 2021. Vintage 2020 Postcensal Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States (April 1, 2010, July 1, 2010–July 1, 2020), by Year, County, Single-year of Age (0, 1, 2, ..., 85 Years and Over), Bridged Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex. Prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau. Available: cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_ race.htm [released on 9/22/21].

National Cancer Institute (2024). Single Year of Age County Population Estimates, 1969-2022. Available: seer.cancer.gov/popdata/download.html#single. [Retrieved 4/4/2024].

[2] In this report, Hispanic ethnicity is handled as a race category. All other racial categories exclude youth of Hispanic ethnicity.

missing and format-level missing. For many counties, a small proportion of their case-level records are missing valid codes in data elements that are valid for most of the other records from that county. For example, the gender of a youth may not have been reported on a few records while it is known for all the other youth in the county's database. This type of missing value is "record-level missing." There are also counties in which every record in the database has a missing value code for a specific variable. For example, some court data collection systems do not capture information on a youth's pre-disposition detention. Therefore, the variable "case detention" in the national case-level data has a missing value code on each record from that county. This type of missing value is "format-level missing." (Table A–3 indicates the standardized data elements that were not available, i.e., format-missing, from each jurisdiction's 2021 data set.) The imputation process handles the two types of missing values separately.

The imputation of record-level missing values uses a hot deck procedure with a donor pool of records from the same county. First, all the records for a specific county are sorted by disposition date. Then the file is read again, one record at a time. When the imputation software identifies a record with a record-level missing value (i.e., the target record), it imputes a valid code for this target data field. This is accomplished by locating the next record in the county file that matches the target record on all of its nonmissing values and has a nonmissing code in the target data field; this record is called the donor record. The imputation software copies the valid code from the donor record and replaces the missing value code on the target record with this nonmissing value.

Once a donor record is used in the process for a given variable, it is not used again for that variable unless no other matches can be found for another target record. There are a small number of instances in which no donor record can be found in the county file. When this occurs, the imputation software relaxes its record matching criteria. That is, instead of trying to find a donor record with identical codes on variables other than the target field, the software ignores one nonmissing variable and attempts to find a match on all of the others. In the small number of cases where this does not lead to the identification of a donor record, a second variable is ignored and the file is reread looking for a donor. Although theoretically (and programmatically) this process can be repeated until all variables but county, year of disposition, and intake decision are ignored to find a donor, this never occurred. The order in which variables are removed from the matching criteria are source of referral, detention, offense, adjudication, race, gender, and age.

Since publication of the 2017 *Juvenile Court Statistics* report, the Archive changed the programming language used for imputation and estimation procedures. This change has also allowed for technical improvements to the code itself. Anyone using data from this report for trend purposes should use the *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics* data analysis tool (www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezajcs/) to replace any back year data with data produced using the current procedures.

Format-level imputation. After all the record-level missing values have been imputed, the process turns to format-missing information, or information that is missing from a case record because that court's information system does not report this information on their cases. The process for imputing format-missing information is similar to that used in the record-missing imputation process with the needed difference that the donor pool is expanded. Since all records in a county are missing the target data, the donor pool for format-missing records is defined as the records from all counties in the target record's stratum with the same year of disposition and intake decision.

Using this expanded donor pool, the imputation process follows the steps described above where a target record (i.e., one with missing data) is identified and the donor pool is scanned for a match. Once a match is found, the missing information on the target record is overwritten and the donor record is flagged as having been used for that variable so it will not be reused for that variable unless all other donors are used. If a donor record cannot be found in the first pass through the donor pool, matching criteria are relaxed until a donor is found.

There is one major exception to this process of imputing format-level missing information. This exception involves the process of imputing missing race for those counties that do not report this data element to the Archive. The racial composition of a court's caseload is strongly related to the racial composition of the resident juvenile population. Creating a donor pool that ignores this relationship would reduce the validity of the imputation process. So for those few data files that did not include race, donor pools were developed that restricted the pool to counties with racial compositions similar to that of the target record's county.

This was accomplished by dividing the counties in the U.S. into four groups defined by the percentage of white juveniles in their age 10–17 populations. This classification was then added to each case record and used as a matching criterion for finding a donor record within the set of potential donor records defined by stratum, year of disposition, and intake decision.

Weighting to produce national estimates. The Archive employs an elaborate multivariate procedure that assigns a weight to each record in the national case-level database that, when used in analysis, yields national estimates of juvenile court activity. The weights incorporate a number of factors related to the size and characteristics of juvenile court caseloads: the size of a

community, the age and race composition of its juvenile population, the age and race profile of the youth involved in juvenile court cases, the courts' responses to the cases (intake decision, detention, adjudication, and disposition), and the nature of each court's jurisdictional responsibilities (i.e., upper age of original jurisdiction).

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

As noted earlier, all U.S. counties are placed into one of four strata based on the size of their youth population ages 10 through 17. In the first step to develop the weights, the Archive divides the youth 10–17 population for each stratum into three age groups: 10- through 15-year-olds, 16-year-olds, and 17-year-olds. The three age groups are further subdivided into five racial groups: White, Black, Hispanic, American Indian (including Alaska Native), and Asian (including Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander). Thus, juvenile resident population estimates are developed for 15 age/race categories in each stratum of counties.

The next step is to identify within each stratum the jurisdictions that contributed to the Archive case-level data consistent with *JCS* reporting requirements. The populations of these case-level reporting jurisdictions within each stratum are then developed for each of the 15 age/race categories. The national case-level database is summarized to determine within each stratum the number of court cases that involved youth in each of the 15 age/race population groups. Case rates (number of cases per 1,000 juveniles in the population) are then developed for the 15 age/race groups within each of the four strata.

For example, assume that a total of 2,467,000 White youth ages 10–15 resided in those stratum 2 counties that reported *JCS*-compatible, case-level data to the Archive. If the Archive's case-level database shows that the juvenile courts in these counties handled 10,672 petitioned delinquency cases involving White youth ages 10 through 15, the number of cases per 1,000 White youth ages 10–15 for stratum 2 would be 4.3, or:

(10,672 / 2,467,000) x 1,000 = 4.3

Comparable analyses are then used to establish the stratum 2 case rates for the 15 age/race groups, producing the array of case rates shown in Table A-4.

Table A-4: Case rates (per 1,000 population) of stratum 2 counties that reported case-level petitioned delinquency data

Race	Age 10–15	Age 16	Age 17
White	4.3	10.7	11.1
Black	17.9	47.7	54.3
Hispanic	4.6	12.5	14.7
Amer. Indian	6.5	17.3	23.4
Asian	1.5	4.3	4.1

Note: Detail may not total 100 because of rounding.

Next, information in the national court-level database is introduced, and stratum-level case rates are adjusted accordingly. First, each court-level statistic is disaggregated into the 15 age/race groups. This separation is accomplished by assuming that, for each jurisdiction, the relationships among the stratum's 15 age/race case rates (developed from the case-level data) are paralleled in the court-level data.

For example, assume that County A in stratum 2 reported it processed 2,000 petitioned delinquency cases during the year. Also assume that the age/race profile of County A's juvenile population is as follows:

Table A-5: County A population

Race	Age 10–15	Age 16	Age 17
White	4,700	3,700	3,600
Black	1,500	525	475
Hispanic	1,250	800	750
Amer. Indian	75	65	60
Asian	275	175	150

The stratum 2 case rates for each age/race group (shown in Table A-4) are multiplied by the corresponding age/race populations for County A (Table A-5) to develop estimates of the proportion of County A's caseload that came from each age/race group. The result of this step produces the following distribution for County A.

Table A-6: County A age/race profile

Race	Age 10–15	Age 16	Age 17
White	9.7%	18.9%	19.1%
Black	12.8	12.0	12.3
Hispanic	2.8	4.8	5.3
Amer. Indian	0.2	0.5	0.7
Asian	0.2	0.4	0.3

Note: Detail may not total 100 because of rounding.

County A's caseload of 2,000 petitioned delinquency cases would then be allocated based on these proportions. In this example, it would be estimated that 9.7% of all petitioned delinquency cases reported by County A involved White youth ages 10–15, 18.9% involved 16-year-old White youth, and 19.1% involved 17-year-old White youth, and so forth across all 15 age/race groups. Applying these proportions to a reported court-level caseload statistic of 2,000 petitioned delinquency cases, results in the following distribution of counts:

Table A-7: County A distribution of petitioned delinquency case counts

Race	Age 10–15	Age 16	Age 17
White	193	379	382
Black	257	240	247
Hispanic	5	11	13
Amer. Indian	4	7	6
Asian	55	96	105

The same method is used to disaggregate the case counts reported by those jurisdictions that could only report aggregate court-level statistics across each population stratum. The disaggregated court-level counts are then added to the counts developed from case-level data to produce an estimate of the number of cases involving each of the 15 age/race groups handled by reporting courts (i.e., both case-level and court-level reporters) in each of the four strata.

The juvenile population figures for the entire reporting sample are also compiled. Together, these new stratum-specific case counts and juvenile populations for the reporting counties are used to generate a revised set of case rates for each of the 15 age/race groups within each of 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 15 age/race groups in a stratum by the corresponding juvenile population in all counties belonging to that stratum (both reporting and nonreporting).

After the stratum estimates for the total number of cases in each age/race group in each stratum has been calculated, the next step is to weight the records in the national case-level database. This weight is equal to the estimated number of cases in one of the stratum's 15 age/race groups divided by the actual number of such records in the national case-level database. For example, assume that the Archive generates a national estimate of 8,065 petitioned delinquency cases involving 16-year-old White youth from stratum 2 counties. Assume also that the nationalcase-level database for that year contained 4,576 petitioned delinquency cases involving 16-year-old White youth from stratum 2 counties. In the Archive's national estimation database, each stratum 2 petitioned delinquency case thatinvolved a 16-year-old White youth would be weighted by 1.76 because:

8,065 / 4,576 = 1.76

Finally, by incorporating the weights into all analyses of the national case-level database, national estimates of case volumes and case characteristics can be produced. More detailed information about the Archive's national estimation methodology is available on request from the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

A note on adjudication for truancy cases

The number of truancy cases decreased 32% between 2019 and 2020, declined another 10% between 2020 and 2021, then increased 34% through 2022. Comparatively, the number of adjudicated truancy cases decreased 58% between 2019 and 2020, increased 57% through 2021, then fell 10% through 2022. As a result of these changes, the likelihood of adjudication for truancy cases varied considerably in recent years: 28% in 2019, 18% in 2020, 31% in 2021, and 21% in 2022.

Considering that truancy cases account for the largest share of the status caseload (64% in 2022), case processing variations for truancy cases often influence the overall status pattern; the variation in the likelihood of adjudication for status offenses since 2019 can be attributed to truancy. The extent to which these patterns reflect the influence of COVID-19 cannot be answered with data submitted to the Archive, but it is possible that recent trends reflect adaptations that juvenile courts made in response to justice-involved youth during the pandemic.

Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

Adjudication: Judicial determination (judgment) that a juvenile is or is not responsible for the delinquency or status offense charged in a petition. In this report, the term "adjudicated" refers to the judicial determination that the youth was responsible for the offense, and the term "not adjudicated" refers to the judicial determination that the youth was not responsible for the offense.

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

Case rate: Number of cases disposed per 1,000 juveniles in the population. 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 under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts. (See "juvenile population.")

Delinquency: Acts or conduct in violation of criminal law. (See "reason for referral.")

Delinquent act: An act committed by a juvenile which, if committed by an adult, would be a criminal act. The juvenile court has jurisdiction over delinquent acts. Delinquent acts include crimes against persons, crimes against property, drug offenses, and crimes against public order.

Dependency case: Those cases involving 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 parents/guardians.

Detention: The placement of a youth in a secure facility under court authority at some point between the time of referral to court intake and case disposition. This report does not include detention decisions made by law enforcement officials prior to court referral or those occurring after the disposition of a case.

Disposition: Sanction ordered or treatment plan decided on or initiated in a particular case. Case dispositions are coded into the following categories:

- **Waived to criminal court**—Cases that were transferred to criminal court as the result of a judicial waiver hearing in juvenile court.
- **Placement**—Cases in which youth were placed in a residential facility after being charged with or adjudicated for a delinquency or status offense, 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/released**—Cases dismissed or otherwise released (including those warned and counseled) with no further sanction or consequence 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 another court or agency.
- **Other**—Miscellaneous dispositions not included above. These dispositions include fines, restitution, community service, referrals outside the court for services or treatment programs with minimal or no further supervision anticipated, and dispositions coded as "other" in a jurisdiction's original data.

Formal handling: See "intake decision."

Informal handling: See "intake decision."

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

- **Nonpetitioned (informally handled)**—Cases in which duly authorized court personnel, having screened the case, decide not to file 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.
- **Petitioned (formally handled)**—Cases 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 waive jurisdiction and transfer a youth to criminal court for processing as a criminal offender.

Judicial decision: The decision made in response to a petition that asks the court to adjudicate or judicially waive the youth to criminal court for prosecution as an adult. 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 original juvenile court jurisdiction. (See "juvenile population" and "upper age of jurisdiction.")

Juvenile court: Any court that has jurisdiction over matters involving juveniles.

Juvenile population: For delinquency and status offense matters, the juvenile population is defined as the number of children between the age of 10 and the upper age of jurisdiction. In all states, the upper age of jurisdiction is defined by statute. Thus, when the upper age of jurisdiction is 17, the delinquency and status offense juvenile population is equal to the number of children ages 10 through 17 living within the geographical area serviced by the court. (See "upper age of jurisdiction.")

Nonpetitioned case: See "intake decision."

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 judicially waived to criminal court for prosecution as an adult.

Petitioned case: See "intake decision."

Race: The race of the youth referred, as determined by the youth or by court personnel. In this report, Hispanic ethnicity is considered a separate race. Each of the other racial categories excludes persons of Hispanic ethnicity. An important exception must be noted. Data provided to the Archive did not always allow for identification of Hispanic ethnicity for cases involving American Indian youth. Specifically, data from many jurisdictions did not include any means to determine the ethnicity of American Indian youth. Rather than assume ethnicity for these youth, they are classified solely on their racial classification; as such, the American Indian group includes an unknown proportion of Hispanic youth.

- **White**—A person having origins in any of the indigenous peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
- **Black**—A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- **Hispanic**—A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.
- **American Indian**—A person having origins in any of the indigenous peoples of North America, including Alaska Natives.
- **Asian**—A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, Hawaii, or any of the other Pacific Islands.

Reason for referral: The most serious offense for which the youth is referred to court intake. Attempts to commit an offense are included under that offense, except attempted murder, which is included in the aggravated assault category.

- **Crimes against persons**—Includes criminal homicide, rape, robbery,

aggravated assault, simple assault, other violent sex acts, and other offenses against persons 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 category used in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR), in which murder/nonnegligent manslaughter does not include negligent manslaughter or vehicular manslaughter.
- **Rape**—Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. This includes certain statutory rape offenses where the victim is presumed incapable of giving consent. This definition includes the offenses of rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object. Unlike the prior definition for "forcible rape," the current definition of rape is gender neutral and does not require force. The term is used in the same sense as the FBI's revised rape definition (implemented in 2013) in the UCR.
- **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 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. 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 encompasses all assaults not explicitly named and defined as serious. Unspecified assaults are classified as "other offenses against persons."
- **Other violent sex offenses**—Includes unlawful sexual acts or contact, other than rape, between members of the same sex or different sexes against the will of the victim which can involve the use or threatened use of force or attempting such act(s). Includes incest where the victim is presumed to be incapable of giving consent.
- **Other offenses against persons**—Includes kidnapping, 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.
  - **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. 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. 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.

- **Vandalism**—Destroying, damaging, or attempting to destroy or damage public property or the property of another without the owner's consent, except by fire or explosion.
- **Stolen property offenses**—Unlawfully and knowingly receiving, buying, distributing, selling, transporting, concealing, 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 offenses; 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."
  - **Nonviolent 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. (Many states have decriminalized prostitution for minors and view this as commercial sexual exploitation of children under Safe Harbor laws.)
  - **Liquor law violations, not status offenses**—Being in a public place while intoxicated through consumption of alcohol. 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, escaping from confinement, and violating probation or parole. This term includes contempt, perjury, 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, such as bribery; violations of laws pertaining to fish and game, gambling, health, hitchhiking, and immigration; and false fire alarms.
- **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 are 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.

- **Curfew violations**—Being found in a public place after a specified hour of the evening, usually established in a local ordinance applying only to persons under a specified age.
- **Ungovernability**—Being beyond the control of parents, guardians, or custodians or being disobedient of parental authority. This classification 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 status offenses 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 and violation of a court order in a status offense proceeding) and those offenses coded as "other" in a jurisdiction's original data.

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.
- **School**—Includes counselors, teachers, principals, attendance officers, and school resource officers.
- **Relatives**—Includes the youth's own parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, stepparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other legal guardians.
- **Other**—Includes social agencies, district attorneys, probation officers, victims, other private citizens, and miscellaneous sources of referral 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. At the start of 2022, the upper age of jurisdiction was 16 in four states (Georgia, Michigan, Texas, and Wisconsin), and 18 in Vermont. In the remaining 45 states, and the District of Columbia, the upper age of jurisdiction was 17. It must be noted that within most states, there are exceptions in which youth at or below the state's upper age of jurisdiction can be placed under the original jurisdiction of the adult criminal court. For example, in most states, if a youth of a certain age is charged with an offense from a defined list of "excluded offenses," the case must originate in the adult criminal court. In addition, in a number of states, the district attorney is given the discretion of filing certain cases in either the juvenile court or the criminal court. Therefore, while the upper age of jurisdiction is commonly recognized in all states, there are numerous exceptions to this age criterion. [See OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book (ojjdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/structure_process) for detail on state variations in jurisdictional boundaries.]

Waiver: Cases transferred to criminal court as the result of a judicial waiver hearing in juvenile court.

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