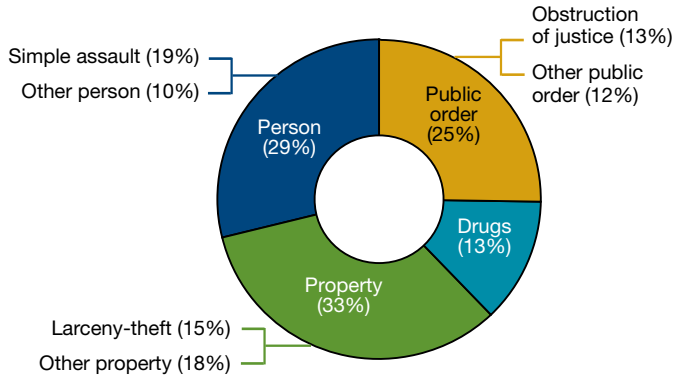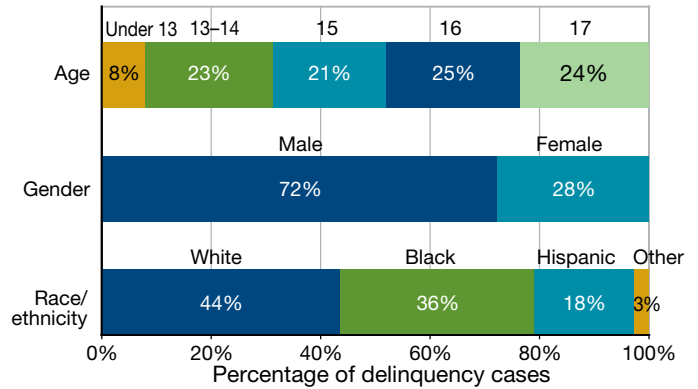# Characteristics of delinquency cases handled in juvenile court in 2016

OJJDP's National Juvenile Court Data Archive documents the workloads of the nation's juvenile courts

More than one-third of delinquency cases in 2016 involved simple assault or larceny-theft offenses
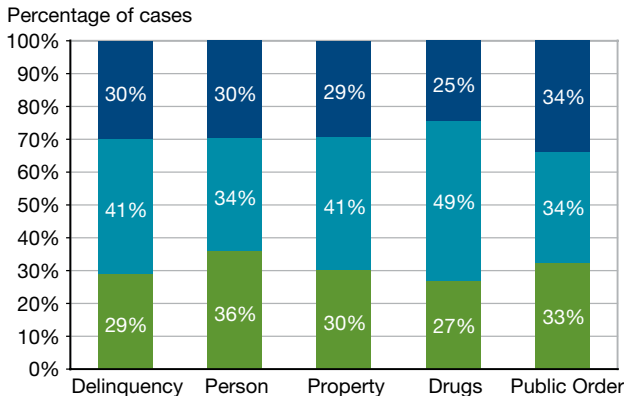

Simple assault (19%)
Other person (10%)
Person (29%)
Obstruction of justice (13%)
Other public order (12%)
Public order (25%)
Drugs (13%)
Property (33%)
Larceny-theft (15%)
Other property (18%)

Youth ages 15 and older accounted for more than 70% of the delinquency caseload in 2016

	Under 13	13–14	15	16	17
Age	8%	23%	21%	25%	24%

	Male		Female
Gender	72%		28%

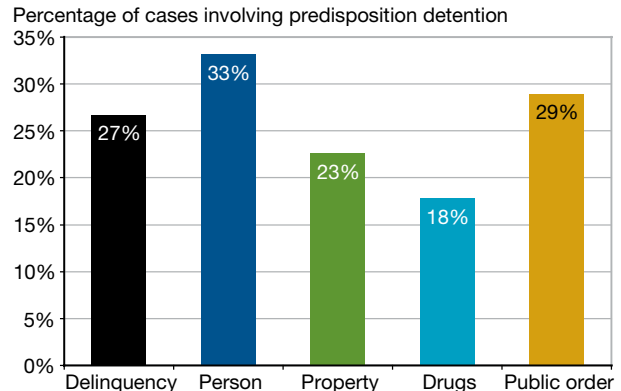|	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Race/ethnicity	44%	36%	18%	3%

Percentage of delinquency cases

Note: Other race includes American Indian/Alaskan Natives, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and youth of unknown race.

In 2016, 70% of all delinquency cases resulted in informal sanctions or were dismissed

Percentage of cases

	Delinquency	Person	Property	Drugs	Public Order
Formal sanctions	30%	30%	29%	25%	34%
Informal sanctions	41%	34%	41%	49%	34%
Dismissed	29%	36%	30%	27%	33%

■ **Formal sanctions:** Sanctions imposed on petitioned cases, including cases judicially waived to criminal court and dispositions of adjudicated cases (e.g., out-of-home placement or formal probation).

■ **Informal sanctions:** Dispositions imposed on nonpetitioned cases as well as dispositions of petitioned cases that do not result in adjudication. This category includes fines, restitution, community service, referrals outside the court for services with minimal or no further court involvement anticipated.

■ **Dismissed:** Cases dismissed or otherwise released (including those warned and counseled) with no further sanction or consequence anticipated.

Overall, 27% of all delinquency cases involved detention in 2016 but the likelihood of detention varied by offense

Percentage of cases involving predisposition detention

Delinquency	Person	Property	Drugs	Public order
27%	33%	23%	18%	29%

Statistical Briefing Book ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb

Access more information on juvenile court cases

■ Review delinquency and status offense case FAQs

■ Analyze data with Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics

■ Read the *Juvenile Court Statistics 2016* report