

Juvenile arrest rates for murder, all violent crime decline in 1995

Double drop is first since '83; Reno urges renewed effort

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The nationwide arrest rates of youths for murder and for violent crimes overall declined last year, Attorney General Janet Reno announced yesterday.

At her weekly news conference, Miss Reno released preliminary FBI figures showing that the murder arrest rate for those ages 10 to 17 declined last year for the second year in a row and was 22.8 percent below the 1993 figure. From 1985 to 1993, that rate increased every year except 1992.

The figures also showed that 511.9 juveniles per 100,000 were arrested for a violent crime last year, a 2.9 percent decline from the 1994 figure of 527.4. This was the first decline since 1987 in the combined rate for murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

The last year in which the juvenile arrest rates for murder and overall violent crime dropped simultaneously was 1983, when the violent-crime arrest rate dropped 5.7 percent and the murder arrest rate dropped 18.2 percent.

The declines were unexpected because as adult violent-crime rates declined slightly in recent years, experts and law enforcement officials focused on the steeply rising youth crime rates as among the nation's most troubling crime problems. They have noted that the population of teen-agers in their most crime-prone years began to grow in 1992 and is expected to expand by 17 percent in the next decade.

"I share this data to encourage communities to renew their ef-

"We've got to go after the targeted offenders who are part of the gangs, who rob and murder, but then we've got to focus on the first offender as well."

— Attorney General Janet Reno

forts," Miss Reno said. "We cannot relax. These rates are still far too high."

Noting the impending rise in the teen population, Miss Reno said, "I'm not claiming victory at all."

Asked to explain the drops, Miss Reno pointed to three strategies in federal-state-local partnerships around the country:

- A law enforcement focus on truly dangerous, violent youths and making sure the punishment fits the crime. She noted an increase in trying such youths as adults but said such efforts "have got to make sure that we focus on the truly violent offender."

- Community intervention to help solve the underlying problems of first-time offenders. Too often, she said, a 12-year-old who gets in trouble for the first time "is just told to . . . don't do it again. But he may have problems that we can address then that can make a difference and prevent the crime in the future."

- Prevention programs aimed at youths with free time and little supervision.

"I don't think there's one key. I think it's got to be a balanced approach," Miss Reno said. "We've got to go after the targeted offend-

ers who are part of the gangs, who rob and murder, but then we've got to focus on the first offender as well.

"But then, as importantly, we've got to look at the programs that are working across the nation to prevent crime — mentoring programs, dispute-resolution programs that teach children how to resolve conflicts without knives and guns and fists, truancy-prevention programs that get them back into the mainstream of school and keep them out of trouble. These are programs that are working now in some communities."

Miss Reno added: "If we can keep our children from a life of crime through appropriate mentoring programs, through afternoon and evening programs that give constructive activity for our children, let's do it. It's a lot cheaper than a detention facility. But more importantly, it's saving a kid who can become part of a work force, who can become part of the strength of this nation."

The murder arrest rate for 1995 was 11.2 youths per 100,000, down 15.2 percent from 1994's figure of 13.2. The 1993 rate was 14.5 youths per 100,000.

TWA explosion likely killed or knocked out all passengers

Search turns up pieces of wing, fuselage for inspection

EAST MORICHES, N.Y. (AP) — The explosion aboard TWA Flight 800 instantly killed most of the passengers and knocked others unconscious, making it unlikely anyone experienced the horror of the free fall into the ocean, the medical examiner said yesterday.

"It's like a car smashing into a brick wall at 400 mph," said Dr. Charles Wetli, the Suffolk County medical examiner. "It's an extremely violent whiplash, a separation of the skull from the spinal cord, an instant loss of consciousness."

Dr. Wetli has been in charge of the autopsies that have been conducted on the 196 crash victims found so far. All 230 persons aboard Paris-bound Flight 800 were killed when the plane exploded July 17.

"I believe they were all totally unconscious or dead by the time they hit the water," Dr. Wetli said. "The plane was going at 400 mph, it suddenly changes direction, the fuselage is open so all this air and pressure is going into the cabin,

and there's a sudden decompression."

In an interview at his Haupt-pauge office, Dr. Wetli said the bodies of the passengers displayed two types of injuries: those consistent with an explosion or those caused by extreme changes in speed, cabin pressure and altitude.

The medical examiner said investigators were analyzing injuries suffered by passengers to determine whether anything could be learned about the nature of the explosion.

Investigators say the jetliner broke apart at 13,700 feet and erupted into a fireball at 9,000 feet, then dropped into the Atlantic Ocean about 10 miles off Long Island.

Yesterday, a mammoth, badly scorched slab of wing was brought ashore along with a piece of the fuselage. The wing piece had originally been described by authorities as 75 feet long, but the piece loaded onto a flatbed truck was about 60 feet long. The debris had

a clean cut where it apparently was trimmed to make it easier to handle.

The wreckage is taken to a hangar to be reconstructed.

The prime theory being studied by investigators is that a bomb was placed in the front cargo hold where the passengers' luggage was stored. Still, experts studying the case have not ruled out a missile attack or a catastrophic mechanical malfunction.

Among the conceivable explanations for mechanical failure is an explosion in one of the jetliner's fuel tanks, possibly triggered by a fire in a fuel pump, a source close to the investigation told the Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

In August 1995, Boeing Corp., the manufacturer of the 747, recommended that its customers check fuel pumps for electrical problems. A federal source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said there is no record that Flight 800's jet had undergone the inspection.

Unprecedented sea of green has GOP, Dole in pink

Republicans set fund-raising records

By Ralph Z. Hallow
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SAN DIEGO — If fund raising is a better predictor of an election than polls, then Republican presidential hopeful Bob Dole has reason to be confident despite his double-digit deficit in virtually all the public-opinion surveys.

The GOP is shattering all records in fund raising, putting it on equal footing with the Democrats and their organized-labor allies for mounting a fall-campaign advertising blitz.

"The best poll is the money people donate, and I have never seen it come in like this in my life," Albert E. Mitchell, finance director for the Republican National Committee, said. "I have been doing this for 25 years, and this is unprecedented."

The RNC has raised twice as much as it raised in any single year in its history — \$90 million by July 31 — and expects to raise \$150 million by the November elections, Mr. Mitchell said.

Through July of this year, the Democratic National Committee has raised \$67 million, \$42 million in hard money and \$25 million in soft money, a party spokesman said.

The Democrats and President Clinton also are getting help from organized labor. The AFL-CIO has vowed to raise \$35 million in a special fund — unfairly and illegally, according to Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour.

Mr. Barbour feels the GOP can withstand the Democrats' onslaught, however. "We are experiencing an unprecedented groundswell of financial support, particularly from small-donor contributors at the grass roots," he said. "This is a clear indication that our message is resonating with mainstream America."

The RNC raked in \$23 million in July alone, a new one-month record that was especially notable because much of it was raised during the Olympics, when Americans historically turn their attention away from politics.

"These numbers for people in my field are not simply startling, they're beyond comprehension," said GOP fund-raiser Richard Norman. "July is not exactly a premier fund-raising month for politics in any case."

The amount raised in July easily topped the more than \$18 million in donations that the RNC received in June, which had been the previous all-time record, according to Mr. Mitchell.

Why is the donors' generosity shattering records at a time when Mr. Clinton's approval ratings are high and when reports abound that some Republicans feel Mr. Dole could lose so badly in November that he could cost the party its control of Congress?

"Something is going on out there and I'm not sure what," said

"The best poll is the money people donate, and I have never seen it come in like this in my life. . . . This is unprecedented."

— Albert E. Mitchell,
RNC finance director

Mr. Mitchell, offering this hypothesis: "People really despise Clinton and feel the thing they want most in the world is to see him defeated."

This year's generosity of Republicans — both the party faithful and not-so-faithful — stands in stark contrast to their tight fists in 1992, when they seemed more eager to punish President Bush over tax increases than to keep Bill Clinton out of the White House.

GOP fund-raisers, in fact, knew by this time in 1992 that it was all over for Mr. Bush. "By the end of July, you knew you could put a fork in him. . . . He was done," one Republican financier said.

Another good sign for Republicans is that 70 percent of the contributions so far this year have been in "hard money" — directly usable to elect Mr. Dole and other GOP candidates — and 30 percent in "soft money" that can be used for party building and get-out-the-vote efforts.

In 1992, the ratios were nearly reversed: 35 percent in hard money from small donations and 65 percent in soft money from large donations.

The hard money-soft money ratio is said to be a measure of the breadth of support for a party and its candidates. Federal campaign laws limit to \$1,000 the amount an individual can give directly to a candidate. Larger donations are "soft" money that can be used only for generic party advertising, not for a specific candidate.

Tom Wilson, executive director of the New Jersey GOP attributed this year's bonanza in part to business donors who saw what organized labor was giving to the Democrats this year and decided business had better get its viewpoint represented.

Mr. Wilson said he suspects donors who had supported Mr. Dole's challengers during the primary-campaign season began reuniting behind the GOP once Mr. Dole had the nomination locked up.

"We had a pretty active primary and that motivated a lot of GOP donors," Mr. Wilson said. "They all came together after Dole won it, and the network reached out to them and motivated them beyond their presidential candidate."

"In particular," he said, "we have a lot of fund-raisers who are loyal to the cause and not just to their primary candidate."

Few congressional Republicans will serve as delegates

By Frank J. Murray
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SAN DIEGO — There will be enough GOP senators and representatives on the crowded floor of the Republican National Convention to make a congressional quorum, but in this game only a rare few have a vote.

Although most of them could have delegate status if they asked for it, not one of host-state California's 26 Republican members of Congress did so this year.

There are no delegates from the Georgia or New Hampshire congressional delegations and only a few from such power centers as Pennsylvania and Texas.

A notable exception to the trend

is New York. Twelve of the state's 14 Republican House members are delegates, including keynote speaker Susan Molinari and her husband, Bill Paxon.

Of North Carolina's eight House Republicans, only freshman David Funderburk is a delegate. His wife, Betty, is an alternate. The absence of the state's other GOP House members surprised people in Mr. Funderburk's office, a spokesman said.

"Maybe it was political naivete, but I was stunned to learn we were alone. I just assumed all the freshmen would be down there getting in on all the hoopla," said Mr. Funderburk's press secretary, Dick Ellis.

Those who will be in the delega-

tion are not all rookies. Four of Pennsylvania's 10 Republican representatives are delegates, including three of its senior House members.

"The big deal is you have a guaranteed seat," said Rep. William F. Clinger, who said he hopes his third convention is less jarring than his first. He recalls being hit with an egg aimed at someone else and being bombarded with tear gas in 1972 at Miami Beach, Fla.

Mr. Clinger, chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, said Gov. Tom Ridge asked him to be a delegate. "If we were to have a real knockdown drag-out, it would be critical. Otherwise it's pro forma."

The other Pennsylvanians from

Capitol Hill include Rep. Joseph M. McDade, arriving fresh from acquittal at a federal bribery trial, and Rep. Bud Shuster.

The Maryland delegation has three of its four Republicans serving as delegates: Reps. Wayne T. Gilchrest, Roscoe G. Bartlett and Constance A. Morella. Virginia's contingent includes three out of five GOP House members — Reps. Thomas J. Bliley Jr., Robert W. Goodlatte and Thomas M. Davis III.

Mr. Bartlett said he is "not a party person" but is going anyway. "I was elected," he said. "I want Bob Dole to be the next president, and I'm going out representing the constituents who elected me at the convention."

Democrats automatically confer "super-delegate" status on many officeholders. At past conventions, super-delegates made up a responsive leadership core when the need arose.

As of yesterday, Democrats had no count available for their upcoming convention in Chicago. But at the 1992 Democratic convention in New York, 264 of the 325 Democrats in Congress were super-delegates.

Congressional Republicans who are not delegates will not have voting rights, but they will have special privileges including unlimited floor access and more invitations to parties than they could accept.

When fights brew over platform wording or other issues, national

lawmakers must sit on the sidelines while the disputes are settled by local party activists and citizens.

California's shutout was engineered by Gov. Pete Wilson's office and the Dole campaign to spread the prestige among VIPs and big donors. Mr. Dole risks nothing directly because he should get all of California's convention votes under the state's winner-take-all rule.

Marty Wilson, a coordinator of the California delegation, said a few members of Congress inquired about why they were excluded, but all of them seemed satisfied when they learned that favoritism was not involved.



Shay Bilchik, Administrator

December 1996

JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN

Juvenile Arrests 1995

Howard N. Snyder

Law enforcement agencies in the United States made an estimated 2.7 million arrests in 1995 of persons under age 18.* According to the FBI, juveniles accounted for 18% of all arrests. In 1995, for the first year in nearly a decade, juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index Offenses—murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—declined 3%. Even with this decline, the number of juvenile violent crime arrests in 1995 was 12% greater than the level in 1991 and 67% above the 1986 level. Similarly, all adult age groups also experienced increases in Violent Crime Index arrest rates between the mid-1980's and the mid-1990's.

These findings are derived from data reported annually by local law enforcement agencies across the country to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Based on these data, the FBI prepares its annual *Crime in the United States* report, which summarizes crimes known to the police and arrests made during the reporting calendar year. This information is used to characterize the extent and nature of juvenile crime that comes to the attention of the justice system. Other recent findings from the UCR Program are:

- Juveniles were involved in 32% of all robbery arrests, 23% of weapon arrests, and 15% of murder and aggravated assault arrests in 1995.
- Juveniles under age 15 were responsible for 30% of juvenile violent crime arrests

in 1995, but they accounted for over half (55%) of the decline in these arrests between 1994 and 1995.

- Less than one-half of one percent of all persons ages 10 through 17 in the United States were arrested for a Violent Crime Index offense in 1995.
- Juvenile murder arrests declined 14% between 1994 and 1995. The number of juvenile arrests for murder in 1995 was 9% below the level in 1991, but still 90% above the number of murder arrests in 1986.
- In contrast to violent crime, juvenile Property Crime Index arrests showed no change between 1991 and 1995. The declines in juvenile burglary arrests (11%) and motor vehicle theft arrests (17%) were offset by the 6% increase in juvenile arrests for larceny-theft—the highest volume offense category for juveniles.
- Juveniles were involved in 13% of all drug arrests in 1995. Between 1991 and 1995, juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations increased 138%.
- In 1995, 57% arrests for running away from home involved females and 45% involved juveniles under age 15.
- Arrests of juveniles accounted for 14% of all violent crimes cleared by arrest in 1995; more specifically, juveniles accounted for 9% of murders, 15% of forcible rapes, 20% of robberies, and 13% of aggravated assaults cleared by arrest.

* Throughout this Bulletin, persons under age 18 are referred to as juveniles. See Notes on page 12.

From the Administrator

In a period when the Nation is concerned about juvenile crime, it is important that we have an accurate, current, empirically based picture of this problem. In October 1996, the FBI released *Crime in the United States, 1995*, the most recent report in a series dating back to the 1980's. Policymakers, researchers, and the media rely on these annual reports to quantify criminal justice activities and trends.

This OJJDP Bulletin summarizes the statistics on the arrests of youth under age 18 found in *Crime in the United States, 1995* and other data flowing from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. As the readers will see, the new FBI arrest statistics give us hope for the future. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes declined in 1995 for the first time in nearly a decade. Most encouraging is that this decline was greatest among younger juveniles. This promising trend about should temper recent forecasts of an epidemic of violent juvenile crime.

It is hoped that this Bulletin will stimulate the search for solutions to the problems that cause and result from juvenile crime.

Shay Bilchik
Administrator

Arrests of juveniles for all violent crimes declined between 1994 and 1995, with murder arrests down 14%

Offense	1995 estimated number of juvenile arrests	Percent of total juvenile arrests		Percent change		
		Female	Age 15	1986-95	1991-95	1994-95
Total	2,745,000	26%	34%	30%	20%	1%
Crime Index total	885,100	24	40	15	2	-2
Violent Crime Index	147,700	15	30	67	12	-3
Murder & nonnegligent manslaughter	3,300	6	14	90	-9	-14
Forcible rape	5,500	2	37	-4	-12	-4
Robbery	55,500	9	28	63	18	-1
Aggravated assault	83,500	20	32	78	11	-3
Property Crime Index	737,400	26	42	8	0	-2
Burglary	135,800	10	39	-18	-11	-6
Larceny-theft	510,600	32	44	14	6	1
Motor vehicle theft	80,500	15	28	28	-17	-9
Arson	10,500	12	67	40	20	-8
Nonindex						
Other assaults	215,700	28	41	111	36	3
Forgery & counterfeiting	8,800	35	13	2	10	0
Fraud	25,100	26	26	5	69	1
Embezzlement	1,300	42	10	47	9	23
Stolen property; buying, receiving, possessing	42,800	12	28	20	-6	-2
Vandalism	139,600	11	47	25	5	-7
Weapons; carrying, possessing, etc.	56,300	8	30	75	13	-12
Prostitution & commercialized vice	1,300	48	17	-50	-6	11
Sex offense (except forcible rape & prostitution)	16,100	7	51	-4	-13	-8
Drug abuse violations	189,800	13	17	115	138	18
Gambling	1,600	5	17	98	50	-8
Offenses against the family & children	6,900	37	30	78	62	17
Driving under the influence	14,900	16	3	-49	-17	0
Liquor law violations	120,000	29	10	-18	-1	3
Drunkenness	20,600	16	15	-39	-1	12
Disorderly conduct	173,900	25	35	67	45	5
Vagrancy	3,500	11	21	15	29	-4
All other offenses (except traffic)	420,300	22	28	20	28	-1
Suspicion	2,000	21	27	-26	-57	-6
Curfew & loitering	149,800	30	29	76	84	14
Runaways	249,500	57	44	53	17	-2

- Even with the decline in juvenile violent crime arrests in 1995, the number of violent crime arrests was still 12% greater than the level in 1991 and 67% above the 1986 level.
- The number of juvenile arrests for murder in 1995 was 9% below the level in 1991 but still 90% above the number of murder arrests in 1986.
- Females were involved in 15% of Violent Crime Index arrests, 26% of Property Crime Index arrests, and 13% of drug abuse violation arrests in 1995.
- Between 1994 and 1995, the number of juvenile arrests fell in each of the following offense categories: murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, vandalism, and weapon law violations.

Data source: *Crime in the United States 1995*, Tables 29, 32, 34, 36, and 38.

Decline in violent crime arrests was greater for younger juveniles

The decline in arrests for violent and property crime between 1994 and 1995 was greater for younger than older juveniles.

	Percent change in arrests 1994-1995	
	Under Age 15	Ages 15 to 17
Total Crime Index	-2%	3%
Violent Crime Index	-5	-2
Murder	-1	-16
Forcible rape	-7	-2
Robbery	-2	0
Aggravated assault	-8	-2
Property Crime Index	-4	0
Burglary	-9	-3
Larceny-theft	-1	3
Motor vehicle theft	-14	-7
Arson	-10	-3
Vandalism	-11	-3
Weapons	-16	-11
Drug abuse violations	20	17
Runaways	-5	0

Data source: *Crime in the United States 1995*, Table 36.

Juveniles under age 15 were responsible for 30% of juvenile violent crime arrests in 1995, but they accounted for over half (55%) of the decline in these arrests between 1994 and 1995. Younger juveniles accounted for 70% of the decline in juvenile robbery arrests, 62% of the decline in aggravated assault arrests, and 67% of the decline in burglary arrests. All of the decline in juvenile property crime arrests between 1994 and 1995 can be attributed to younger juveniles.

Violent crime arrests peaked with 18-year-olds

In 1995, 1.2% of juvenile violent crime arrests involved persons under age 10. Violent crime arrests increased with each age group between 10 and 17. In 1995, the number of violent crime arrests peaked with 18-year-olds and declined thereafter.

In 1995, 2.2% of juvenile property crime arrests involved persons under age 10. In contrast to violent crime, property crime arrests peaked in the 16-year-old age group and then declined abruptly, with the number of property crime arrests of persons age 20 less than half the number for persons age 16.

One in four juvenile arrests in 1995 were arrests of females

Law enforcement agencies made 702,000 arrests of females below the age of 18 in 1995. The female proportion of juvenile arrests has grown in recent years. In fact, increases in arrests between 1991 and 1995 were greater for juvenile females than juvenile males in most offense categories.

	Percent change in juvenile arrests 1991-1995	
	Female	Male
Violent Crime Index	34%	9%
Murder	18	-10
Forcible rape	3	-12
Robbery	24	17
Aggravated assault	39	6
Property Crime Index	17	-5
Burglary	3	-13
Larceny-theft	19	1
Motor vehicle theft	8	-20
Arson	70	15
Simple assault	56	30
Vandalism	33	2
Weapons	42	11
Drug abuse violations	176	133
Runaways	17	15

Data source: *Crime in the United States 1995*, Table 35.

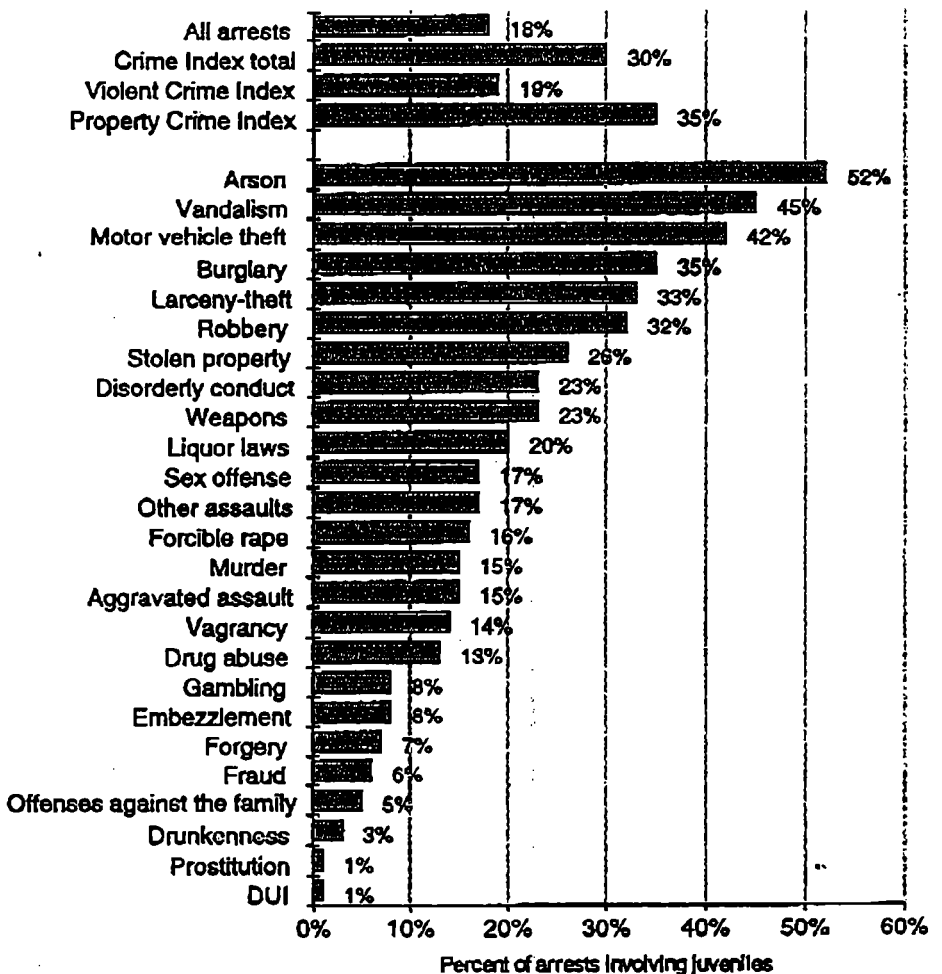
Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities

The racial composition of the juvenile population in 1995 was 80% white, 15% black, and 5% other races, with juveniles of Hispanic ethnicity being classified as white. In contrast to their proportion in the general population, roughly equal numbers of violent crime arrests involved white and black youth in 1995.

	White proportion of juvenile arrests in 1995
Murder	39%
Forcible rape	54
Robbery	38
Aggravated assault	56
Burglary	73
Larceny-theft	70
Motor vehicle theft	58
Weapons	63
Drug abuse violations	64
Runaways	77

Data source: *Crime in the United States 1995*, Tables 43.

Juveniles were involved in a much larger proportion of property crime arrests than violent crime arrests in 1995



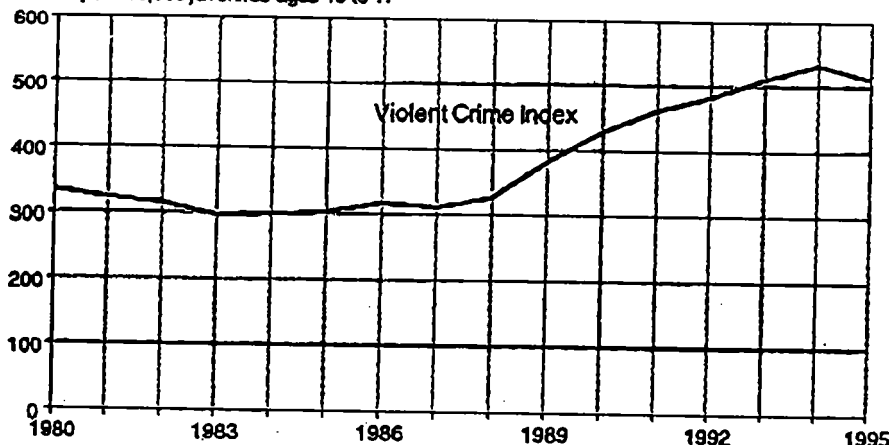
- Nearly one-third (32%) of all persons arrested for robbery in 1995 were under age 18, substantially above the juvenile proportion of arrests for other violent crimes: forcible rape (16%), murder (15%), and aggravated assault (15%).
- Most crime is committed by persons between ages 10 and 49. In fact, in 1995, 95% of all arrests involved persons in this age range. Juveniles ages 10 through 17 made up 19% of this segment of the U.S. population. Compared to their proportion in the 10- to 49-year-old population, juveniles were disproportionately involved in arrests for arson, vandalism, motor vehicle theft, burglary, larceny-theft, robbery, stolen property, disorderly conduct, weapons, and liquor law violation offenses.

Note: Running away from home and curfew violations are not presented in this figure because, by definition, only juveniles can be arrested for these offenses.

Data source: *Crime in the United States 1995*, Table 38.

The juvenile violent crime arrest rate held constant for more than a decade, rose steadily from 1988 through 1994, then finally fell in 1995

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

The Violent Crime Index monitors violence trends

The FBI assesses trends in the volume of violent crimes by monitoring four offenses that are consistently reported by law enforcement agencies nationwide and are pervasive in all geographical areas of the country. These four crimes are murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Other crimes may be considered violent by their nature or effect (e.g., kidnapping, extortion, drug selling), but the four crimes that together form the Violent Crime Index have traditionally been used as the Nation's barometer of violent crime.

Juvenile violent crime arrest rates declined for the first time since 1987

The juvenile violent crime arrest rate in 1988 was nearly identical to the rate in 1980; in fact, this rate had changed little since the early 1970's. However, between 1987 and 1994, the rate increased 71%. This steady increase after years of stability focused national attention on the juvenile violent crime problem.

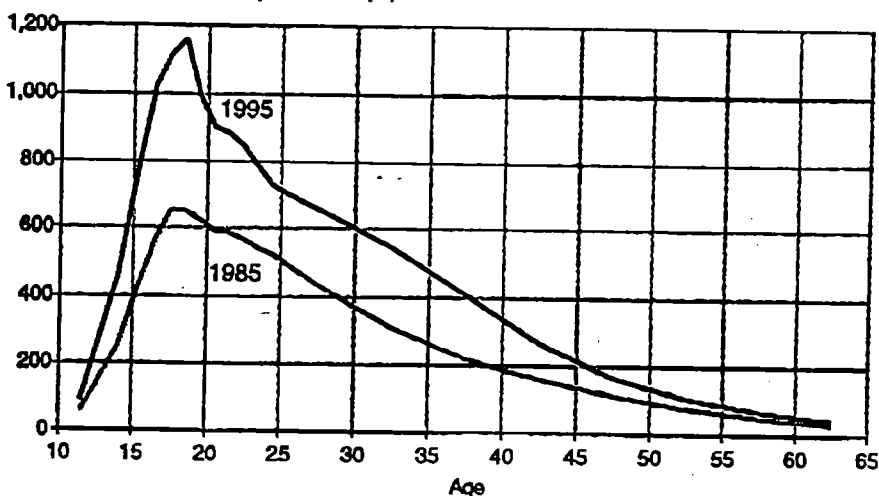
The most recent arrest and population data show that in 1995 the juvenile violent crime arrest rate declined 4% from the 1994 level and returned to the 1993 level. While the 1995 rate was still 64% above the 1987 level, this drop in the juvenile violent crime arrest rate represents the first variation in a pattern of consistent increases dating back to the late 1980's.

Few juveniles are arrested for a violent crime

The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate tells us that in 1995 there were about 500 arrests for these violent crimes for every 100,000 youth in the United States between 10 and 17 years of age. If each of these arrests involved a different juvenile (i.e., if each juvenile arrested in 1995 for a Violent Crime Index offense were arrested only once that year—which is very unlikely), then less than one-half of one percent of all persons ages 10 through 17 in the United States were arrested for a Violent Crime Index offense in 1995.

Between 1985 and 1995, violent crime arrest rates increased substantially for all ages

Violent Crime Index arrests per 100,000 population



- There were large increases between 1985 and 1995 in juvenile violent arrest rates, with the rates for juveniles ages 14, 15, or 16 up more than 80%. The violent crime arrest rate for 17-year-olds increased more than 70%.
- Large increases were also found in the adult age groups. The rate for 18-year-olds increased about 80% and for 19-year-olds about 60%. The rate increases for persons in their early 20's averaged about 50% and for persons in their 30's about 80%. Even the rate for persons age 65 or above increased 28%.
- Increases in the overall violent crime arrest rates were driven by substantially larger increases in arrests for aggravated assault.

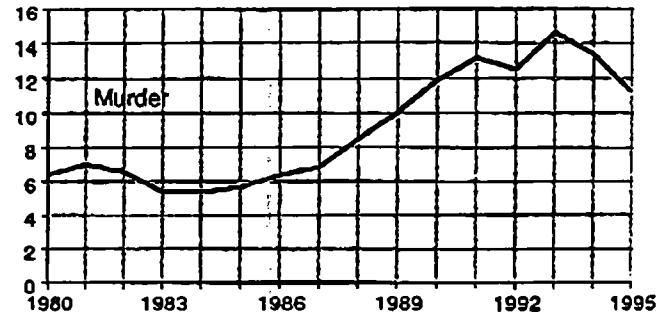
Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

The juvenile arrest rate declined for all offenses within the Violent Crime Index between 1994 and 1995

Murder

- The rate at which juveniles were arrested for murder increased by nearly 170% between the low year of 1984 and the peak year of 1993.
- The juvenile murder arrest rate declined in both 1994 and 1995, with the 1995 rate 23% below the peak 1993 rate and at its lowest level in the 1990's.
- Between 1994 and 1995, while cities experienced a 17% decline in juvenile murder arrests, murder arrests in suburban counties increased 6%.

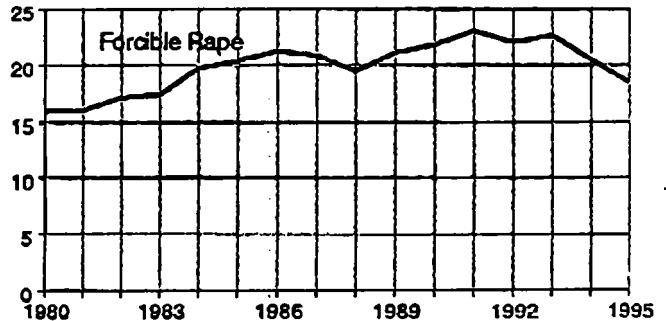
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Forcible Rape

- Since the mid-1980's, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape has fluctuated within a limited range.
- In 1995, the rate at which juveniles were arrested for forcible rape was at its lowest point since 1983.

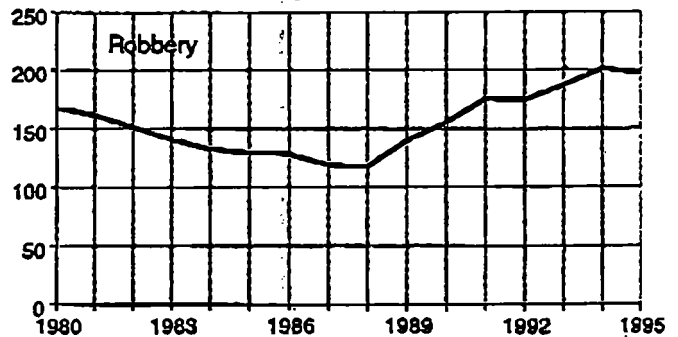
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Robbery

- The juvenile arrest rate for robbery declined through most of the 1980's, reaching a low point in 1988.
- Between 1988 and 1994, the rate at which juveniles were arrested for robbery increased about 70%, before declining slightly in 1995.
- The increase from 1988 through 1994 follows nearly a decade of declining rates, so that the 1995 robbery arrest rate was just 18% above the 1980 rate.

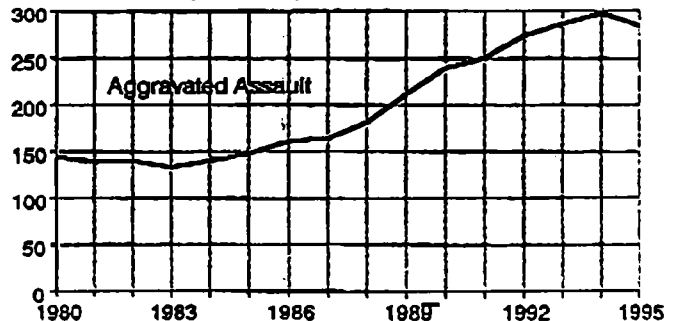
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Aggravated Assault

- The rate at which juveniles were arrested for aggravated assault increased steadily between 1983 and 1994, up more than 120%.
- The aggravated assault arrest rate fell for the first time in more than a decade in 1995, down 5%.

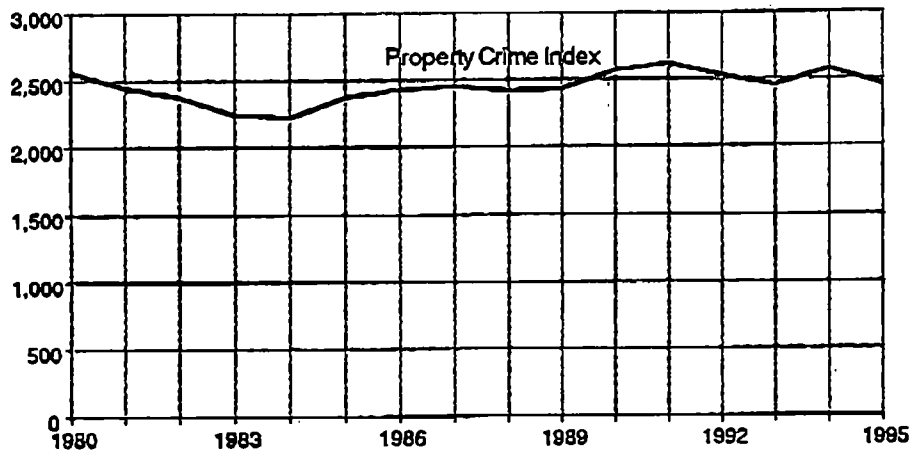
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

The stability of the juvenile arrest rate for property crime is in stark contrast to recent increases in violent crime arrest rates

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

Juvenile arrests for property crimes remain stable

As with violent crime, the FBI assesses trends in the volume of property crimes by monitoring four offenses that are consistently reported by law enforcement agencies nationwide and are pervasive in all geographical areas of the country. These four crimes, which form the Property Crime Index, are burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Since 1980, during a period when violent crime arrests were rising dramatically, juvenile property crime arrest rates (as measured by the Property Crime Index) remained constant. Therefore, juvenile arrests from 1980 through 1995 can be conceptualized as a large, stable base of property arrests supporting a relatively small, but growing layer of violent crime arrests.

Most arrested juveniles are referred to court

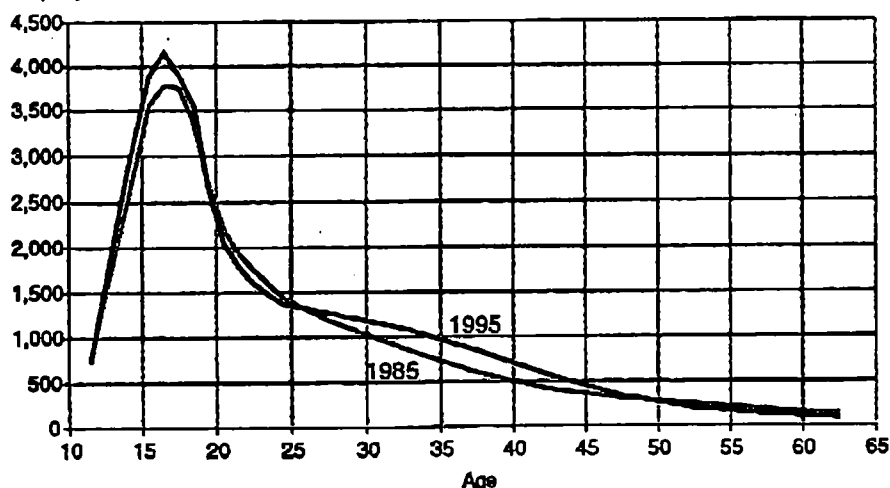
In most States, some persons below the age of 18 are, due to their age, or by statutory exclusion of certain offenses from juvenile court jurisdiction, under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system. For those persons under age 18 and under the original jurisdiction of the State's juvenile justice system, the UCR monitors what happens as a result of the arrest. This is the only instance in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program where the statistics on arrest coincide with State variations in the legal definition of a juvenile.

In 1995, 28% of arrests involving youth who were eligible in their State for processing in the juvenile justice system were handled within the law enforcement agency and then released. About 2 in 3 were referred to juvenile court, and 3% were referred directly to criminal court.

Since 1980, the proportion of arrests sent to juvenile court has gradually increased, from 58% in 1980 to 66% in 1995. Suburban areas and rural counties in 1995 were less likely than large cities to refer juvenile arrests to juvenile court.

Regardless of age, property crime arrest rates changed little between 1985 and 1995

Property Crime Index arrests per 100,000 population

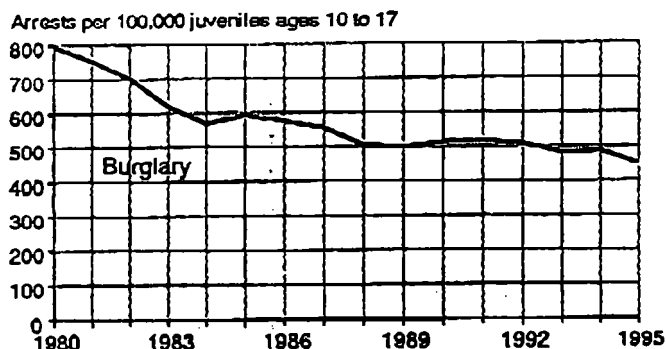


Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

In contrast to their combined trend, the components of the Property Crime Index display different juvenile arrest rate trends between 1980 and 1995

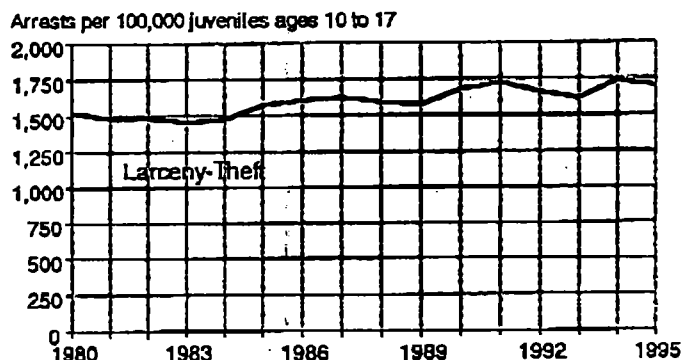
Burglary

- Juvenile arrest rates for burglary declined consistently between 1980 and 1995, down more than 40% over this period.
- The decline in burglary arrests between 1986 and 1995 was similar for juveniles and adults.



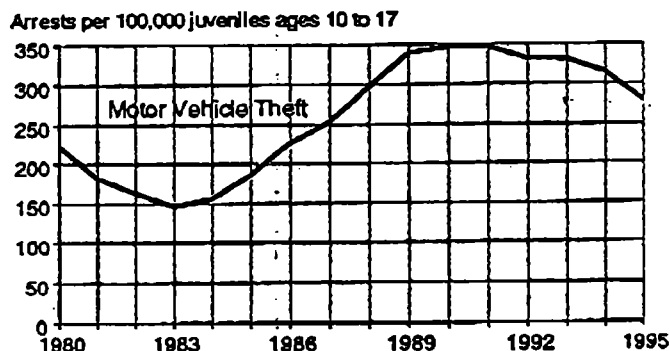
Larceny-Theft

- Due to their volume, larceny-theft arrests dominated the Property Crime Index.
- Relative to other changes, the juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft remained constant between 1980 and 1995. Over this time period, the rate changed, on average, less than 1% per year.



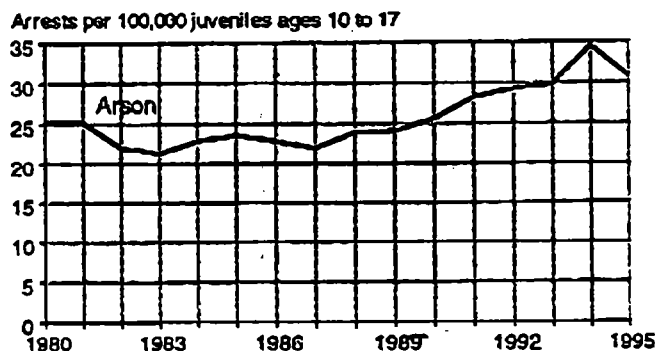
Motor Vehicle Theft

- Juvenile arrests for motor vehicle theft soared between 1983 and 1990, with the rate up more than 130% over this period.
- Between 1990 and 1995, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined, down nearly 20%.



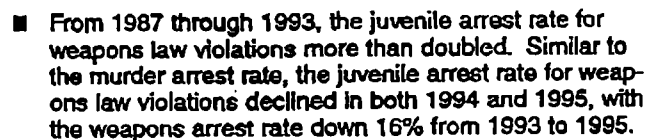
Arson

- During the 1980's, the rate of juvenile arrests for arson remained constant.
- Between 1990 and 1994, the rate of juvenile arson arrests increased 35%, then in 1995 declined 11% back to the 1993 level.



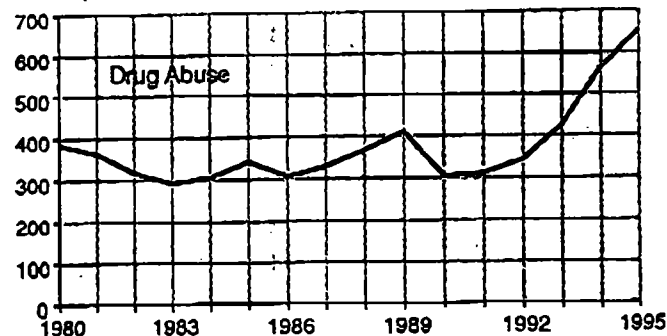
Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

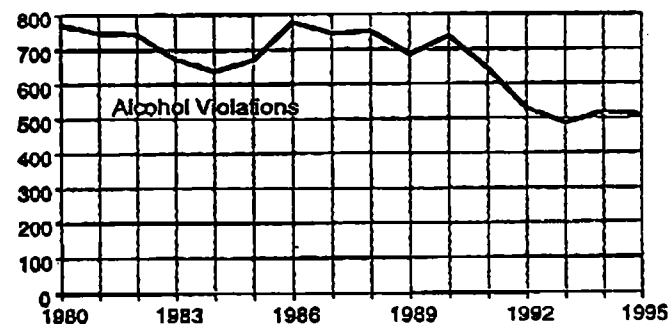
After more than a decade of stability, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations increased by more than 50% between 1993 and 1995



- The juvenile drug abuse arrest rate declined substantially from the mid-1970's to the early 1980's.
- Through the 1980's and the early 1990's the rate stayed within a limited range.

Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

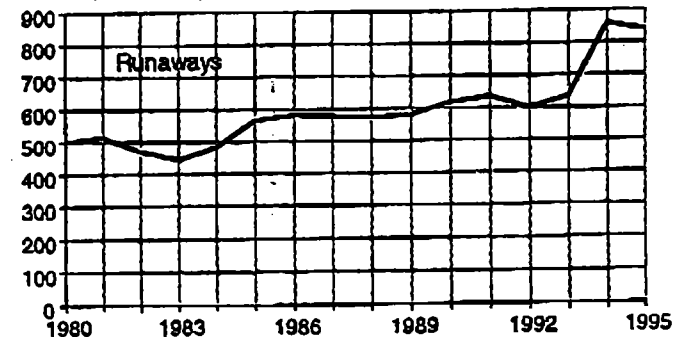
Alcohol violations, which include liquor law violations, drunkenness, and driving under the influence, declined between 1990 and 1995



- The juvenile arrest rate for each of the three liquor offenses declined between 1990 and 1995.
- Combined, the juvenile arrest rate for these alcohol offenses fell sharply (down more than 30%) between 1990 and 1993. This lower rate was maintained in 1994 and 1995.

Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

Between 1993 and 1994, the runaway arrest rate increased by nearly one-third (32%), with the 1995 rate dropping only slightly



- In 1995, 57% of arrests for running away from home involved a female and 44% involved a juvenile under age 15.

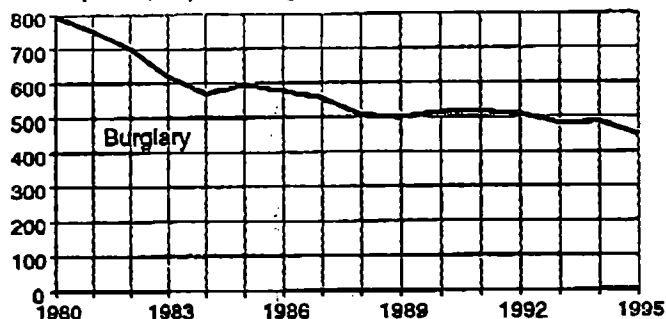
Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

In contrast to their combined trend, the components of the Property Crime Index display different juvenile arrest rate trends between 1980 and 1995

Burglary

- Juvenile arrest rates for burglary declined consistently between 1980 and 1995, down more than 40% over this period.
- The decline in burglary arrests between 1986 and 1995 was similar for juveniles and adults.

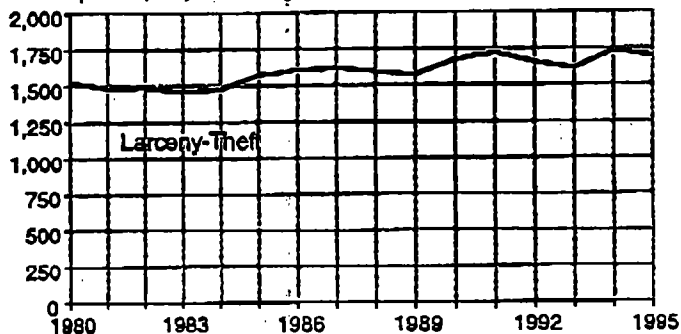
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Larceny-Theft

- Due to their volume, larceny-theft arrests dominated the Property Crime Index.
- Relative to other changes, the juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft remained constant between 1980 and 1995. Over this time period, the rate changed, on average, less than 1% per year.

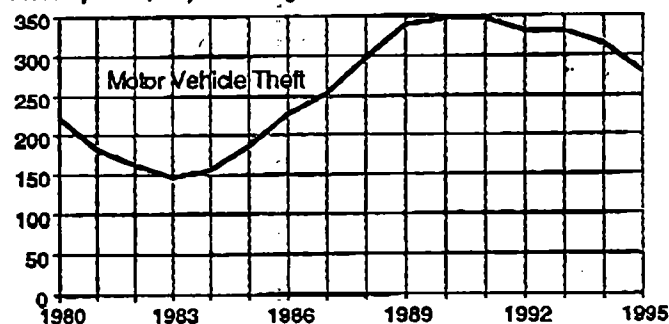
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Motor Vehicle Theft

- Juvenile arrests for motor vehicle theft soared between 1983 and 1990, with the rate up more than 130% over this period.
- Between 1990 and 1995, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined, down nearly 20%.

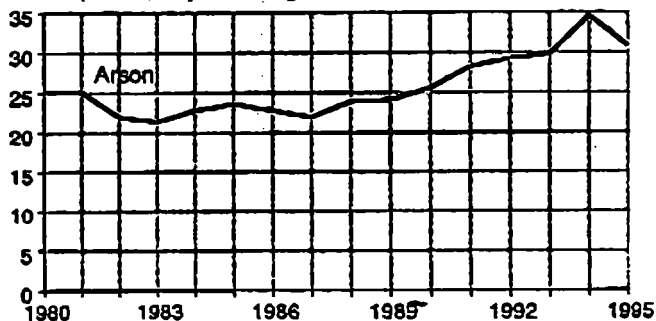
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Arson

- During the 1980's, the rate of juvenile arrests for arson remained constant.
- Between 1990 and 1994, the rate of juvenile arson arrests increased 35%, then in 1995 declined 11% back to the 1993 level.

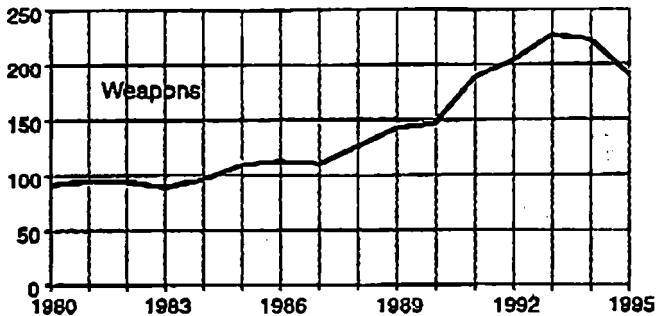
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

Juvenile arrests for weapons law violations followed a pattern similar to murder arrests

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17

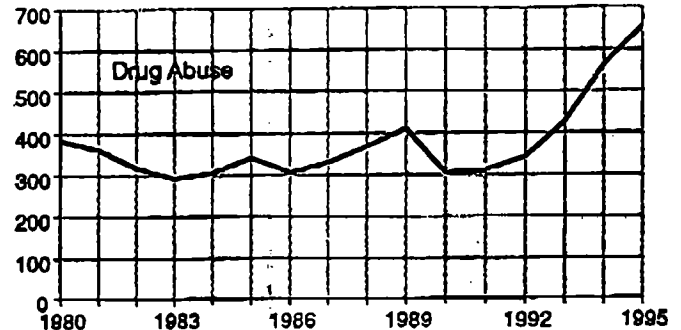


- From 1987 through 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations more than doubled. Similar to the murder arrest rate, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations declined in both 1994 and 1995, with the weapons arrest rate down 16% from 1993 to 1995.

Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

After more than a decade of stability, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations increased by more than 50% between 1993 and 1995

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17

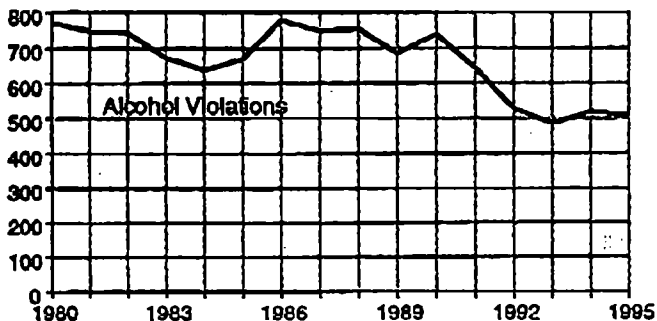


- The juvenile drug abuse arrest rate declined substantially from the mid-1970's to the early 1980's.
- Through the 1980's and the early 1990's the rate stayed within a limited range.

Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

Alcohol violations, which include liquor law violations, drunkenness, and driving under the influence, declined between 1990 and 1995

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17

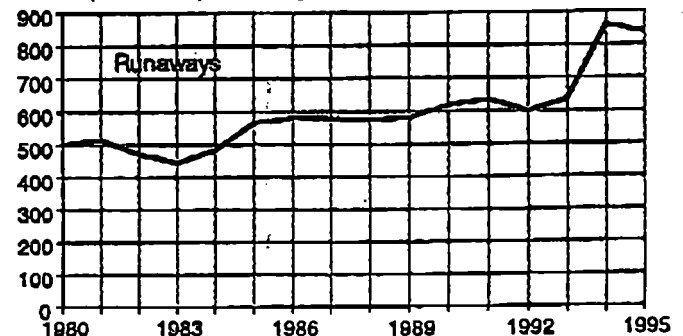


- The juvenile arrest rate for each of the three liquor offenses declined between 1990 and 1995.
- Combined, the juvenile arrest rate for these alcohol offenses fell sharply (down more than 30%) between 1990 and 1993. This lower rate was maintained in 1994 and 1995.

Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

Between 1993 and 1994, the runaway arrest rate increased by nearly one-third (32%), with the 1995 rate dropping only slightly

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



- In 1995, 57% of arrests for running away from home involved a female and 44% involved a juvenile under age 15.

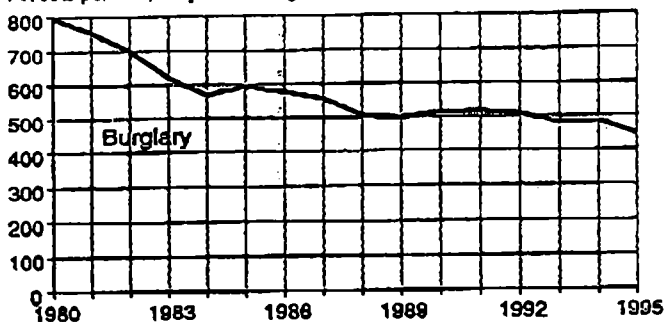
Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

In contrast to their combined trend, the components of the Property Crime Index display different juvenile arrest rate trends between 1980 and 1995

Burglary

- Juvenile arrest rates for burglary declined consistently between 1980 and 1995, down more than 40% over this period.
- The decline in burglary arrests between 1986 and 1995 was similar for juveniles and adults.

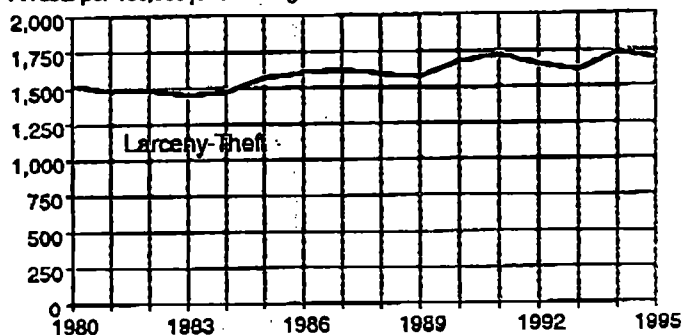
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Larceny-Theft

- Due to their volume, larceny-theft arrests dominated the Property Crime Index.
- Relative to other changes, the juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft remained constant between 1980 and 1995. Over this time period, the rate changed, on average, less than 1% per year.

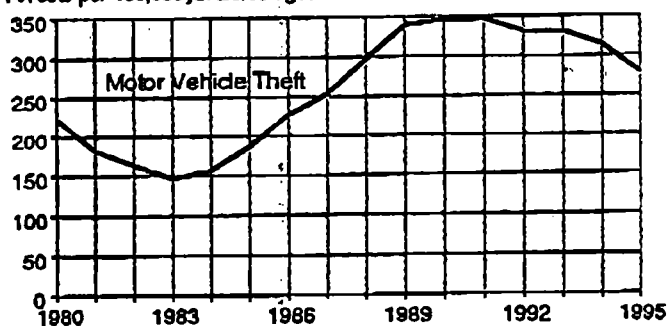
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Motor Vehicle Theft

- Juvenile arrests for motor vehicle theft soared between 1983 and 1990, with the rate up more than 130% over this period.
- Between 1990 and 1995, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined, down nearly 20%.

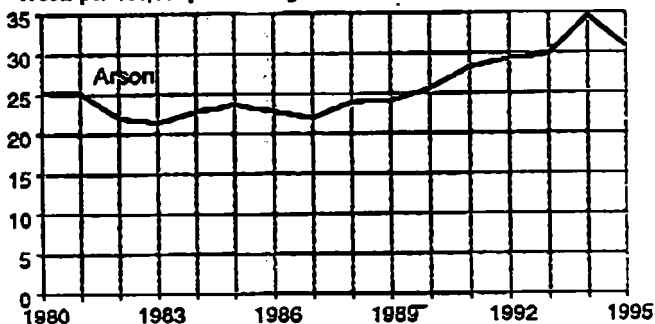
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Arson

- During the 1980's, the rate of juvenile arrests for arson remained constant.
- Between 1990 and 1994, the rate of juvenile arson arrests increased 35%, then in 1995 declined 11% back to the 1993 level.

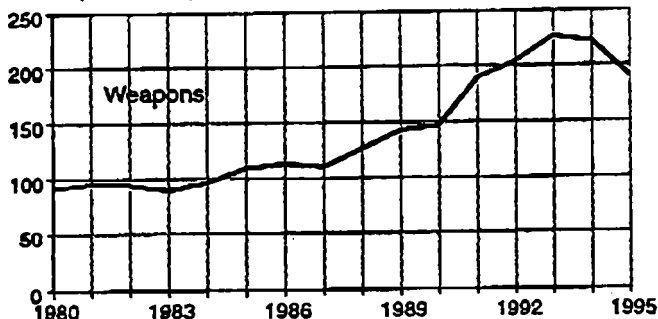
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

Juvenile arrests for weapons law violations followed a pattern similar to murder arrests

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17

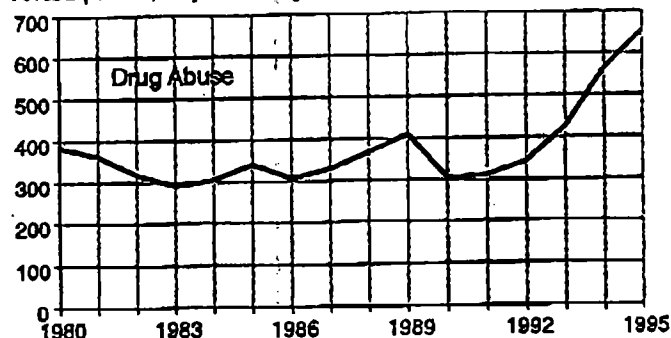


- From 1987 through 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations more than doubled. Similar to the murder arrest rate, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations declined in both 1994 and 1995, with the weapons arrest rate down 16% from 1993 to 1995.

Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

After more than a decade of stability, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations increased by more than 50% between 1993 and 1995

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17

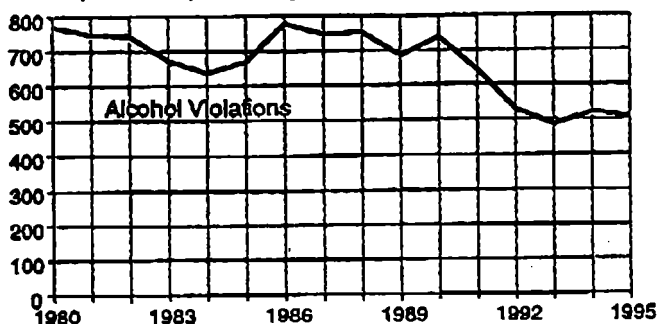


- The juvenile drug abuse arrest rate declined substantially from the mid-1970's to the early 1980's.
- Through the 1980's and the early 1990's the rate stayed within a limited range.

Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

Alcohol violations, which include liquor law violations, drunkenness, and driving under the influence, declined between 1990 and 1995

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17

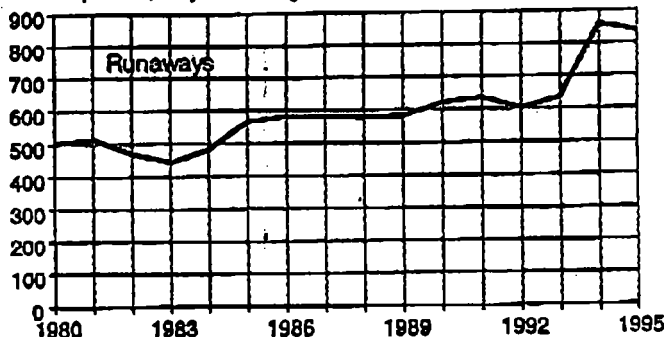


- The juvenile arrest rate for each of the three liquor offenses declined between 1990 and 1995.
- Combined, the juvenile arrest rate for these alcohol offenses fell sharply (down more than 30%) between 1990 and 1993. This lower rate was maintained in 1994 and 1995.

Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

Between 1993 and 1994, the runaway arrest rate increased by nearly one-third (32%), with the 1995 rate dropping only slightly

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10 to 17



- In 1995, 57% of arrests for running away from home involved a female and 44% involved a juvenile under age 15.

Data sources: Unpublished arrest data provided by the FBI and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-25*.

For most crimes reported to law enforcement in 1995, no one was arrested

When law enforcement agencies clear a crime, they identify the individual(s) they believe committed the act. Many crimes are never reported to law enforcement, and most crimes that are reported are never cleared. Violent crimes are cleared more often than property crimes. In 1995, law enforcement agencies cleared 45% of all reported violent crimes, compared with 18% of reported property crimes.

Murders were cleared more often than any of the other Violent Index crimes. In 1995, 65% of murders were cleared by arrest, compared with 56% of aggravated assaults, 51% of forcible rapes, and 25% of robberies. In comparison, all Property Index offenses had low clearance rates: larceny-theft (20%), arson (16%), motor vehicle theft (14%), and burglary (13%).

The juvenile share of the violent crime problem increased in recent years

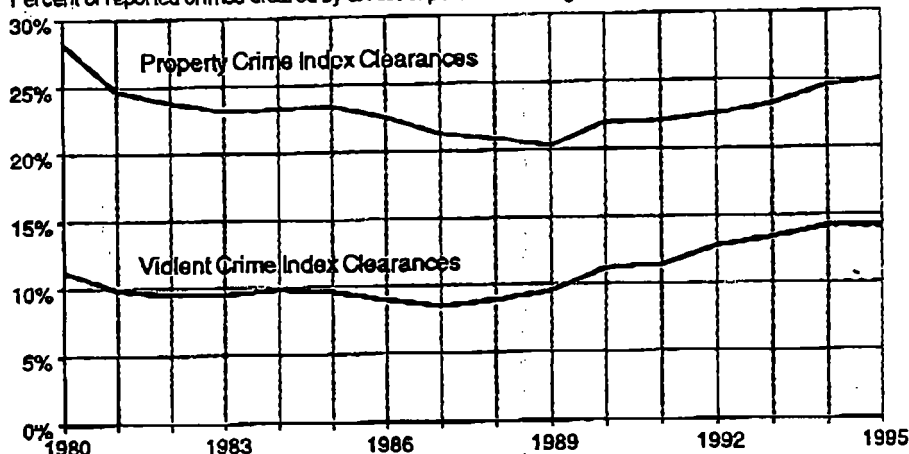
The relative responsibility of juveniles for the U.S. crime problem is hard to determine. Studying the proportion of crimes that are cleared by the arrest of juveniles gives one estimate of the juvenile responsibility for crime.

The clearance data in the *Crime in the United States* series infer that the proportion of violent crimes committed by juveniles is lower than many believe but has increased in recent years. While the juvenile proportion of the U.S. population remained relatively constant, the juvenile responsibility for violent crime grew from 10% in 1980 to 14% in 1995 and increased for each of the four components of the Violent Crime Index: murder (5% to 9%), forcible rape (10% to 15%), robbery (12% to 20%), and aggravated assault (9% to 13%).

Similarly, the juvenile responsibility for property crime increased from 23% in 1985 to 25% in 1995. Juvenile responsibility for three of the four offenses within the Property Crime Index increased: larceny-theft (24% to 26%), motor vehicle theft (19% to 24%), and arson (36% to 47%). The only Index crime for which juveniles appeared to be less responsible in 1995 than in 1985 was burglary (22% to 21%).

Based on clearance information, juveniles are responsible for a substantially smaller proportion of violent crimes than property crimes

Percent of reported crimes cleared by arrest of person under age 18



- If the crimes cleared by law enforcement are representative of all crimes committed in 1995, then juveniles were responsible for 14% of all violent crimes and 25% of all property crimes. If, however, juveniles were more easily apprehended than adults, then the juvenile responsibility was less.

Data source: *Crime in the United States* series for the years 1980 through 1995.

Based on the FBI's clearance statistics for 1995, the relative responsibility of juveniles for violent and property crime was generally greater in small cities than in large cities

Offense	All cities	City population			
		Over 250,000	100,000 to 250,000	50,000 to 99,999	10,000 to 49,999
Violent Crime Index	14%	13%	14%	15%	16%
Murder	9	9	8	11	8
Forcible rape	13	12	12	13	16
Robbery	20	18	20	23	23
Aggravated assault	13	11	12	14	15
Property Crime Index	25	22	23	28	27
Burglary	21	17	18	22	24
Larceny-theft	26	22	24	28	28
Motor vehicle theft	24	27	22	24	21
Arson	49	45	48	52	54
Sample Coverage	80%	73%	80%	87%	82%

- Contrary to other Index offenses, 1995 clearance figures indicate that juveniles in large cities were responsible for a greater proportion of the area's motor vehicle thefts (27%) than were juveniles in small cities (21%).
- The juvenile responsibility for violent crime in rural areas was less than in cities (11% versus 14%). Similarly, juveniles in rural areas were less responsible than juveniles in cities for their area's property crime (21% versus 25%).

Source: *Crime in the United States 1995*, Table 28.

States with high rates of Juvenile Property Crime Index arrests tend to have low Violent Crime Index arrest rates

State	Percent reporting	Arrest rate		Comparison with U.S. rate		State	Percent reporting	Arrest rate		Comparison with U.S. rate	
		Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index			Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index
Total U.S.	75%	517	2,510			Missouri	59%	515	2,675	0%	7%
Alabama	97	236	1,085	-54%	-57%	Montana	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Alaska	82	414	3,849	-20	45	Nebraska	90	184	3,172	-64	26
Arizona	92	505	3,853	-2	46	Nevada	92	421	3,183	-18	27
Arkansas	100	286	1,843	-45	-27	New Hampshire	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
California	98	787	2,287	52	-9	New Jersey	95	697	2,289	35	-9
Colorado	79	296	3,832	-43	53	New Mexico	27	NA	NA	NA	NA
Connecticut	84	577	3,217	12	28	New York	87	979	1,634	89	-35
Delaware	4	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Carolina	97	413	1,884	-20	-25
Dist. of Columbia	100	1,418	2,038	175	-19	North Dakota	75	159	3,560	-69	42
Florida	100	799	3,450	55	37	Ohio	47	NA	NA	NA	NA
Georgia	63	384	1,996	-26	-20	Oklahoma	99	380	2,842	-26	13
Hawaii	100	285	2,868	-45	14	Oregon	68	349	4,364	-32	74
Idaho	98	286	4,176	-45	66	Pennsylvania	13	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	Rhode Island	100	504	2,617	-2	4
Indiana	56	494	2,405	-4	-4	South Carolina	96	378	1,870	-27	-25
Iowa	88	273	1,829	-47	-27	South Dakota	63	305	4,337	-41	73
Kansas	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	Tennessee	32	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kentucky	33	NA	NA	NA	NA	Texas	96	377	2,393	-27	-5
Louisiana	88	535	2,818	3	12	Utah	87	307	4,436	-41	77
Maine	65	143	3,237	-72	29	Vermont	51	30	395	-94	-84
Maryland	99	689	2,873	33	14	Virginia	99	267	2,002	-48	-20
Massachusetts	80	590	1,058	14	-58	Washington	66	426	4,177	-18	66
Michigan	84	387	1,744	-25	-31	West Virginia	100	80	1,049	-84	-58
Minnesota	96	409	3,507	-21	40	Wisconsin	99	427	4,976	-17	98
Mississippi	25	NA	NA	NA	NA	Wyoming	90	106	2,809	-79	12

- Of the 40 States with adequate coverage, the 5 with the highest Violent Crime Index arrest rates in 1995 were New York, Florida, California, New Jersey, and Maryland.
- Of reporting States, Wisconsin, Utah, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington had the highest juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rates.

Arrest Rate = Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10-17.

Note: Rates were classified as "not available" when reporting agencies represented less than 50% of the State population.

Data source: *Crime in the United States 1995*, Tables 5 and 69.

Technical Note

Arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of youth arrests made in the year by the number of youth living in reporting jurisdictions. While juvenile arrest rates reflect juvenile behavior, many other factors can affect the size of these rates. For example, jurisdictions that arrest a relatively large number of nonresident juveniles would have a higher arrest rate than a jurisdiction whose resident youth behaved in an identical manner. Therefore, jurisdictions, especially small jurisdictions that are vacation destinations or that are centers for economic activity in a region, may have arrest rates that reflect more than the behavior of their residents.

Other factors that influence the magnitude of arrest rates in a given area include the attitudes of its citizens toward crime, the policies of the jurisdiction's law enforcement agencies, and the policies of other components of the justice system. Consequently, the comparison of juvenile arrest rates across States, while informative, should be done with caution.

In most States, not all law enforcement agencies report their arrest data to the FBI. Rates for these States are then necessarily based on partial information. If the reporting law enforcement agencies in these States are not representative of the entire State, then the rates will be biased. Therefore, reported arrest rates for States with less than complete reporting may not be accurate.

What do arrest statistics count?

To interpret the material in this Bulletin properly, the reader must have a clear understanding of what these statistics count. The arrest statistics report the number of arrests made by law enforcement agencies in a particular year, not the number of individuals arrested, nor the number of crimes committed. The number of arrests is not equivalent to the number of people arrested because an unknown number of individuals are arrested more than once in the year. Nor do arrest statistics represent a count of crimes committed by the arrested individuals because a series of crimes committed by one individual may culminate in a single arrest or a single crime may result in the arrest of more than one person. This latter situation, many arrests resulting from one crime, is relatively common in juvenile law violating behavior because juveniles are more likely than adults to commit crimes in groups. This is the primary reason why arrest statistics should not be used to indicate the relative proportion of crimes committed by juveniles and adults. Arrest statistics are most appropriately a measure of flow into the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Arrest statistics also have limitations in measuring the volume of arrests for a particular offense. Under the UCR Program, the FBI requires law enforcement agencies to classify an arrest by the most serious offense charged in that arrest. For example, the arrest of a youth charged with aggravated assault and possession of a controlled substance would be reported to the FBI as an arrest for aggravated assault. Therefore, when arrest statistics show that law enforcement agencies made an estimated 189,800 arrests of young people for drug abuse violations in 1995, it means that a drug abuse violation was the most serious charge in these 189,800 arrests. A somewhat number of additional arrests in 1995 included a drug charge as a lesser offense.

What do clearance statistics count?

Clearance statistics measure the proportion of reported crimes that were resolved by an arrest or other exceptional means (e.g., death of the offender, unwillingness of the victim to cooperate). In 1995, the FBI reported that 43% of all burglaries reported to law enforcement agencies were cleared by

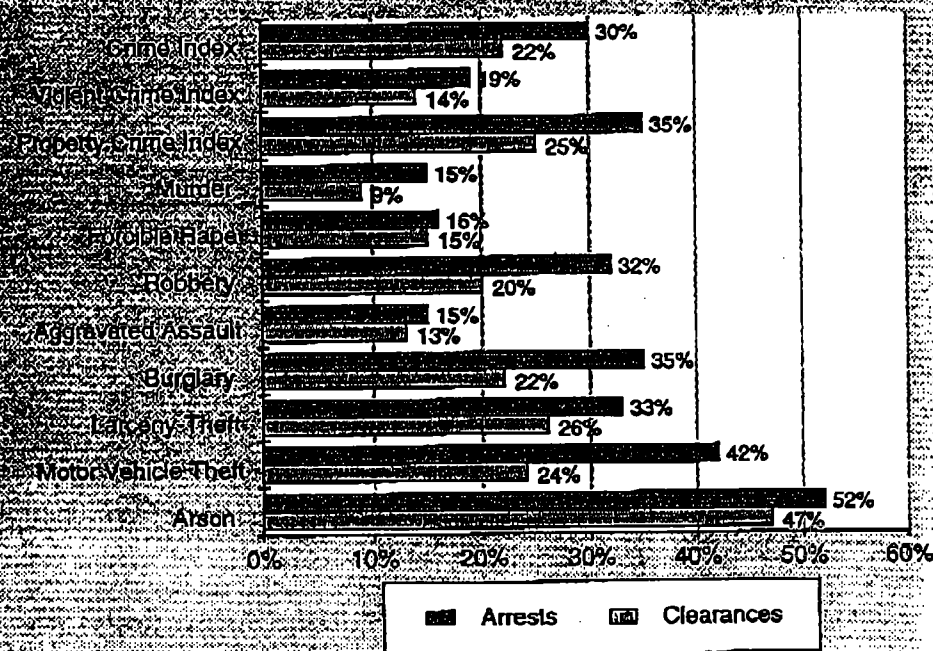
arrest or other exceptional means. This does not mean that a person was convicted in 13% of all burglary cases or even that a person was referred to court in 13% of all burglary cases. An unknown portion of the arrests that clear a reported crime were handled within the police department and released. Another aspect of clearance statistics is that a single arrest may result in many clearances. For example, one arrest could clear 40 burglaries if the person was charged with committing all 40 of these crimes. Or multiple arrests may result in a single clearance if the crime was committed by a group of offenders.

For those interested in juvenile justice issues, the FBI also reports information on the proportion of clearances that were cleared by the arrest of persons under age 18. This statistic is often used as an indicator of the proportion of crime committed by the age group, although there are some concerns about this interpretation.

For example, the FBI reports that persons under age 18 accounted for 22% of all burglaries that were cleared in 1995. If it can be assumed that cleared burglaries have similar offender characteristics to those that were not cleared, then it would be appropriate to conclude that persons under age 18 were responsible for 22% of all burglaries in 1995. However, the offender characteristics of cleared and noncleared burglaries may differ for a number of reasons. For example, juvenile burglars were more easily apprehended than adult burglars, the proportion of burglaries cleared by the arrest of persons under age 18 would overestimate their juvenile responsibility for all burglaries. To add to the difficulty in interpreting clearance statistics, the FBI's reporting guidelines require the clearance to be tied to the oldest offender in the group if more than one person is arrested for a crime.

Given these and other factors, reported clearance proportions may have some interpretation concerns, but they are the closest measure available of the proportion of crime committed by persons under age 18 and should provide a barometer of the changing contribution of persons under age 18 to the Nation's crime problems.

Across all crime types, juveniles account for a greater proportion of arrests than crimes cleared by arrest



Data source: *Crime in the United States 1995*, Tables 28 and 38.

Notes

Throughout this Bulletin, the term *juvenile* refers to persons below the age of 18. This definition of the term is at odds with the legal definition of juveniles in 1995 in 11 States, including 8 States where all 17-year-olds are subject only to criminal court jurisdiction (Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, South Carolina, and Texas) and 3 States where all 16- and 17-year-olds are subject only to criminal court jurisdiction (Connecticut, New York, and North Carolina). Therefore, this analysis of UCR data overreports the true level of arrests of persons subject to juvenile court jurisdiction because the FBI statistics do not take into consideration the legal definition of a juvenile.

Arrest rates developed for this report are based on unpublished data provided to the author by the FBI and on published population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census' *Current Population Reports*. The FBI data are counts of arrests within age of arrestee and offense categories from all law enforcement agencies that reported complete data for the calendar year. The proportion of the U.S. population covered by these 12-month reporting agencies ranged from 75% to 86% between 1980 and 1995.

Assuming that the reporting agencies had a population profile similar to the Nation's, estimates were made of the num-

ber of persons in each age group in the resident population of the reporting agencies. The resident population for a particular age group in the reporting agencies was developed by multiplying the reporting agencies' total populations by the U.S. Bureau of the Census' most current estimate of the proportion of the U.S. population in that age group for that particular calendar year. With these age-specific population estimates, age-specific arrest rates were calculated by dividing the number of arrests in the offense category by the estimated number of persons in that age group residing in the jurisdictions served by the agencies.

Related materials

Interested readers may obtain a copy of *Crime in the United States 1995* by contacting the U.S. Government Printing Office or their local Federal bookstore.

With funds from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) has prepared a user-friendly software package that presents annual juvenile and adult arrest statistics for every county and State in the United States for the last five years. To obtain a copy of *Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics: 1990-1994*, call NCJJ at 412-227-6950 or write to the National Center for Juvenile Justice, 710 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15219-3000.

Acknowledgments

This Bulletin was written by Howard N. Snyder, Project Director of the Juvenile Justice Statistics and Systems Development (SSD) Program. The SSD Program is supported by funds provided to the National Center for Juvenile Justice by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Barbara Allen-Hagen is the OJJDP Program Manager for this work.

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided by the FBI's Research and Analysis Division, specifically Yoshio Akiyama, Clifford Gee, Victoria Major, and Sharon Propheer.

This Bulletin was prepared under grant number 95-JN-FX-K008 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice.

Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

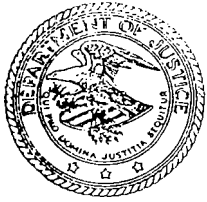
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Washington, D.C. 20531

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use \$300

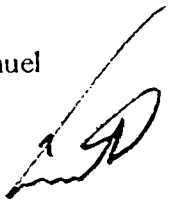
**BULK RATE
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
DOJ/OJJDP
Permit No. G-91**



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

June 21, 1996

Memorandum

To: Rahm Emmanuel
From: Kent Markus 
Subject: Youth Violence Crime Statistics

Attached are talking points, graphs (8½ x 11 and poster-size), and data tables on the FBI's latest youth violence statistics and information on the youth gang statistics we announced yesterday. There are two points you need to be aware of when using the FBI's youth violence data:

1. 1995 data on juvenile violent crime and murder arrest rates is generally not available until October when the FBI releases its annual crime report. At the Attorney General's request, we asked the FBI if they had aggregate national data available now and, if so, whether we could cite it publicly. The FBI provided the data and agreed that it would not be a problem if we released it.
2. Some may claim that this arrest data -- the only FBI data which can be broken down juvenile/adult -- can be manipulated at the local level and/or does not include offender information for every **reported** crime. (In other words, police may not arrest people for certain crimes, e.g., minor drug possession, thereby lowering the arrest rate. Similarly, police don't make an arrest in every case, so we don't always know if a juvenile or adult committed the offense if no arrest has been made.) These charges can be rebutted on three points. First, we are reporting **national** aggregate data, so it is very unlikely that any local manipulation of the data would change the overall arrest rate for the country. Second, it's completely implausible that police would not arrest someone for murder (or a serious violent crime) if they know who committed the crime. Third, arrest data is the measure researchers traditionally use to determine the level and extent of juvenile crime and is a data set which the FBI has used for decades.

Please let me know if you need any additional information. Thanks.

attachments

Crime Statistics Talking Points

Violent Crime -- General (reported crime date released in May)

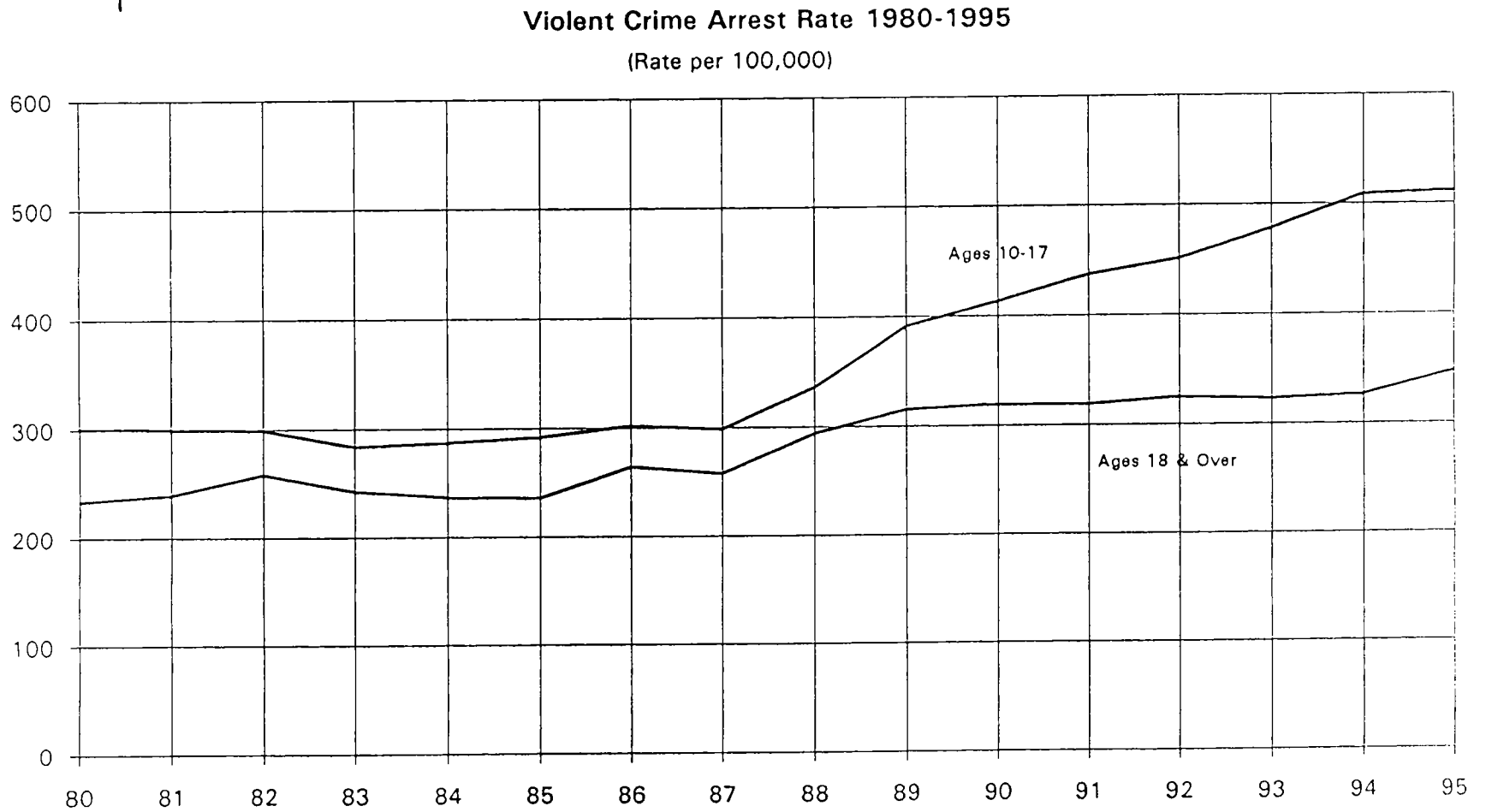
- For the fourth straight year, the FBI reports that serious crime is down by 2 percent in 1995. (The FBI defines "serious crimes" to include the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and the property crimes of burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson.)
- Violent crime dropped 4 percent -- the largest drop in 10 years, and the third straight year it has fallen after five consecutive years of growth.
- Murders dropped 8 percent -- the largest drop in 10 years.
- Violent crime dropped in all regions of the country, and fell by 6 percent in America's biggest cities (one million or more people).

Youth Violence (arrest data not yet announced)

- Statistics newly available from the FBI indicate that America has begun to turn the corner on the vexing problem of violent crime and murder committed by the country's juveniles.
- Rather than continuing to rise sharply and steadily as it has for the last seven years, the violent crime arrest rate for juveniles ages 10 to 17 rose just 0.7 percent in 1995, the smallest rate of increase since 1987. To see the significance of this, consider that between 1987 and 1994, the juvenile violent crime rate went up 170 percent.
- The trend with respect to the juvenile murder arrest rate is ever more substantial. Between 1984 and 1993, the juvenile murder rate increased 287 percent.
- Since 1993, however, the juvenile murder rate has gone down each year. In 1994, juvenile murders declined 3.8 percent, and, in 1995, there was an extraordinary 12 percent decrease in the juvenile murder arrest rate. The total percentage decrease during the last two years was 15.1 percent. The 1995 murder rate is the lowest rate for any year in the 1990s, and the 1994 to 1995 decline is the largest single year percentage decrease in the last 12 years.
- These new 1995 juvenile arrest statistics are part of the FBI's 1995 Uniform Crime Report arrest data which will be released in full in October of this year.

Youth Gang Statistics Talking Points

- On June 20, the Department of Justice announced the preliminary findings from the National Youth Gang Survey. Conducted by the National Youth Gang Center in December 1995, the survey was distributed to more than 4,200 police departments and sheriffs' offices across the country. Almost 3,500 responses were received, an unprecedented response rate of 81 percent.
- Gang activity was reported in all 50 states, and nearly 2,000 law enforcement agencies (1,974 agencies -- 56.4 percent of those surveyed) reported that youth gangs were active in their communities.
- Forty-eight percent of the police chiefs and sheriffs indicated that the youth gang problem was getting worse; 40 percent indicated that the problem was the same; only 10 percent felt it was getting better (Note: approximately 2% of agencies reporting made no characterization in this regard).
- Law enforcement agencies reported that 25,000 gangs with more than 652,000 gang members were active in their communities. This is the largest number of gangs and gang members ever reported and far exceeds previous estimates.
- This survey is significant because it represents the first step in developing a national gang statistics reporting system. Future plans call for working with localities to develop common definitions of terms and to design a uniform data collection system that can be adopted throughout the country. The final product, uniform statistical information, will be an important tool in fighting juvenile gang violence.

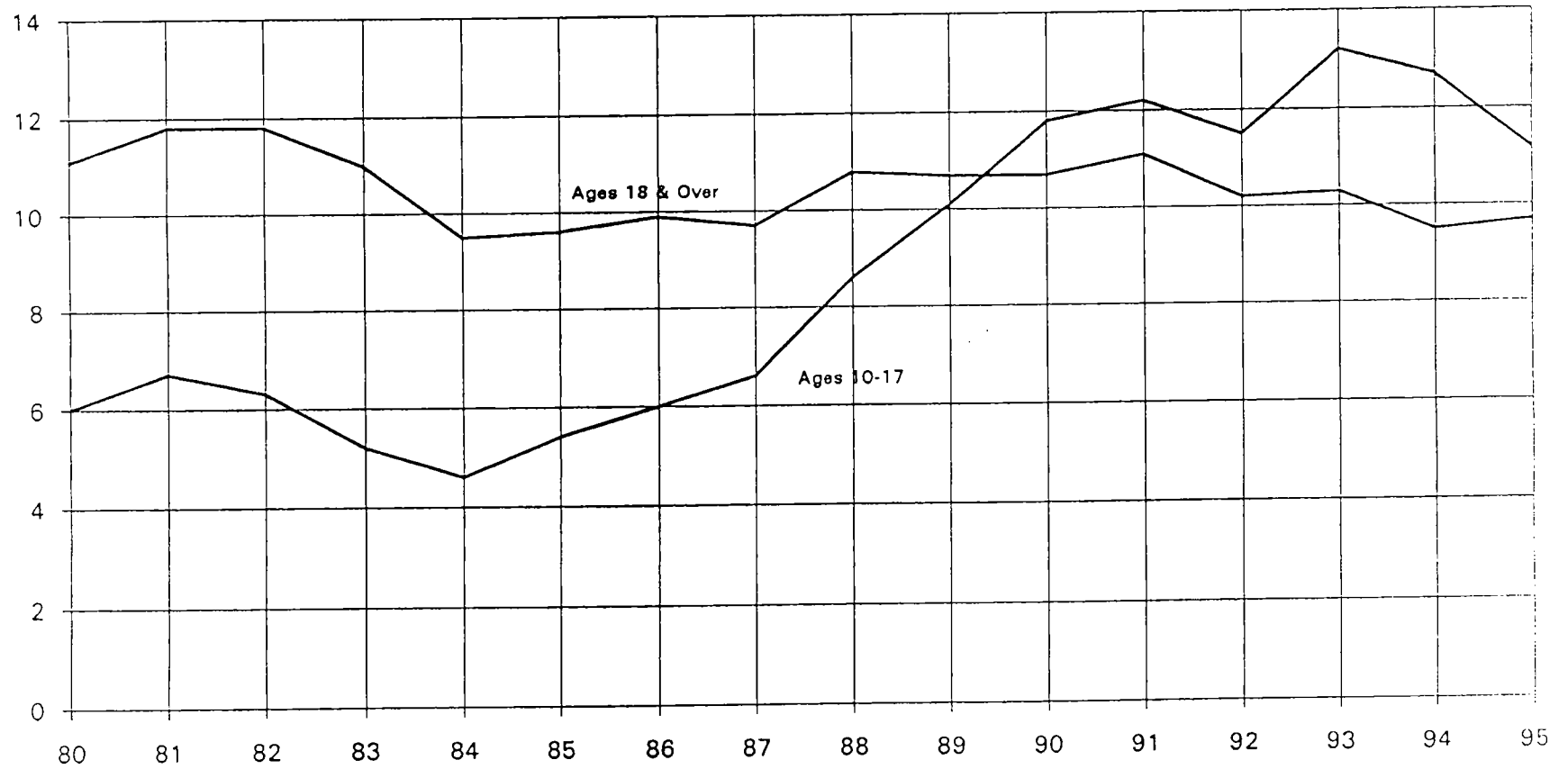


Violent crimes are offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Source: Crime in the United States 1980-1994 and FBI UCR staff (1995 data)

Murder Arrest Rate 1980-1995

(Rate per 100,000)

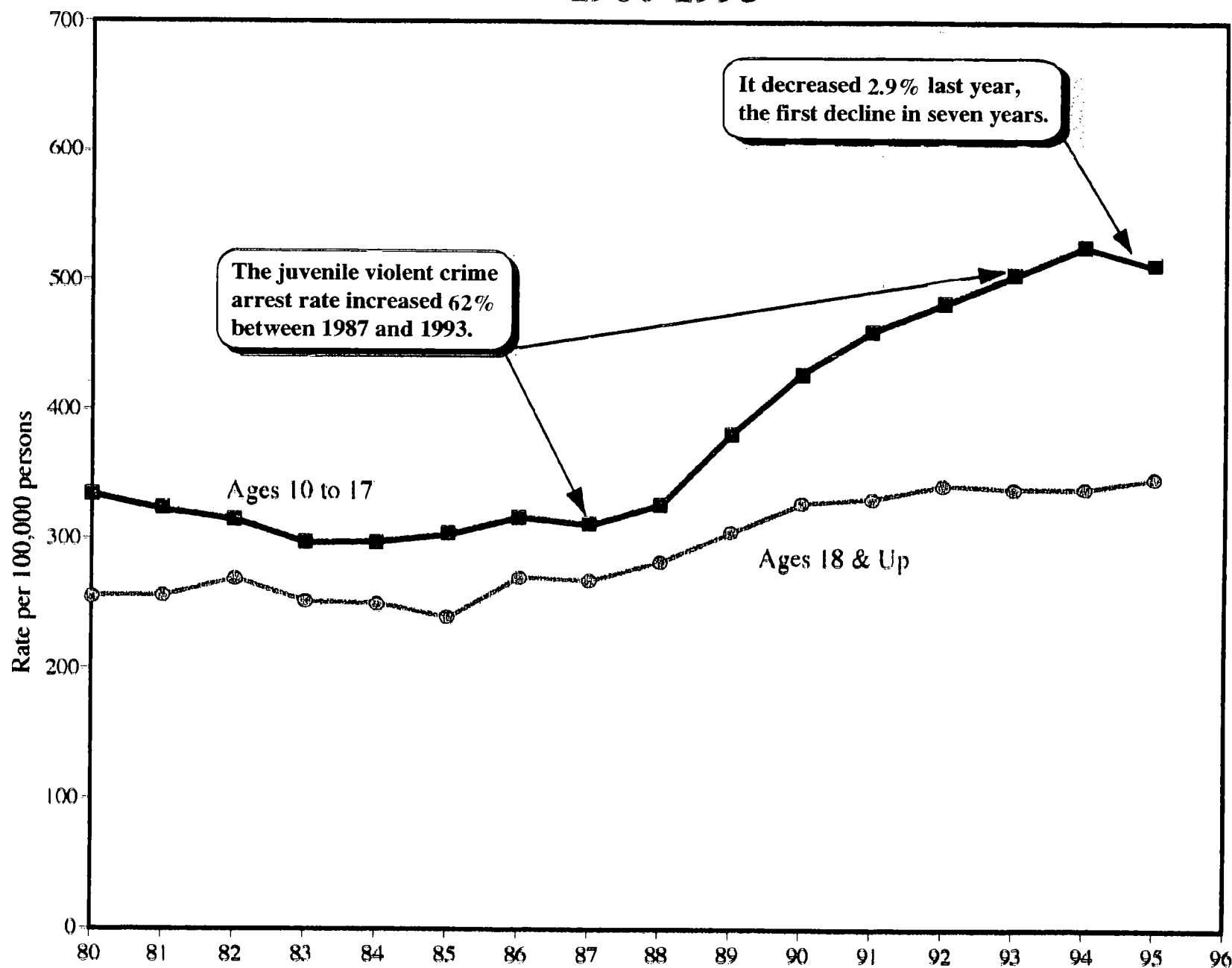


Source: Crime in the United States 1980-1994 and FBI UCR staff (1995 data)

CRM_RATE.XLS

Violent Crime				Murder			
Arrest	Rate	(per 100k)		Arrests	Rate	(per 100k)	
Year	10 to 17	18 plus	Δ 10-17	Year	10 to 17	18 plus	Δ 10-17
80	300.90	233.50		80	6.00	11.10	
81	299.90	239.70	-0.3%	81	6.70	11.80	11.7%
82	298.80	258.50	-0.4%	82	6.30	11.80	-6.0%
83	283.80	242.90	-5.0%	83	5.20	11.00	-17.5%
84	287.10	237.10	1.2%	84	4.60	9.50	-11.5%
85	292.00	236.20	1.7%	85	5.40	9.60	17.4%
86	301.70	264.40	3.3%	86	6.00	9.90	11.1%
87	298.10	258.10	-1.2%	87	6.60	9.70	10.0%
88	335.90	293.90	12.7%	88	8.60	10.80	30.3%
89	391.50	315.20	16.6%	89	10.10	10.70	17.4%
90	413.30	319.20	5.6%	90	11.80	10.70	16.8%
91	437.40	318.70	5.8%	91	12.20	11.10	3.4%
92	451.50	324.50	3.2%	92	11.50	10.20	-5.7%
93	478.10	322.60	5.9%	93	13.20	10.30	14.8%
94	508.50	326.30	6.4%	94	12.70	9.50	-3.8%
95	511.90	347.20	0.7%	95	11.20	9.70	-11.8%

Adult and Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rates 1980-1995



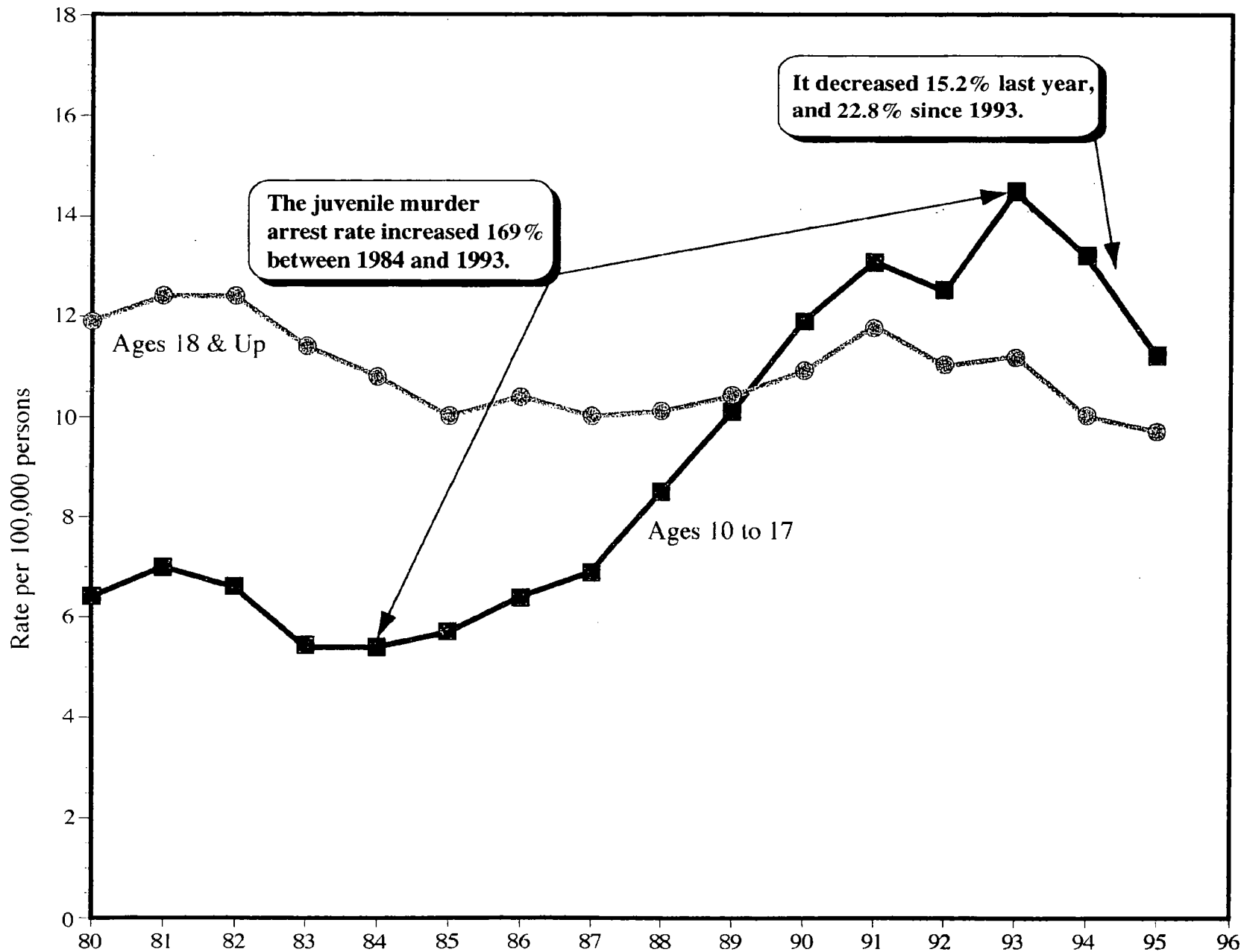
Ages 10 to 17

Year	% Change
94-95	-2.9%
93-94	4.4%
92-93	4.6%
91-92	4.6%
90-91	7.6%
89-90	12.1%
88-89	16.8%
87-88	5.2%

Violent crimes are offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports 1980-1994 and unpublished 1995 FBI data.

Adult and Juvenile Murder Arrest Rates 1980-1995



Ages 10 to 17	
Year	% Change
94-95	-15.2%
93-94	-9.0%
92-93	16%
91-92	-4.6%
90-91	10.1%
89-90	17.8%
88-89	18.8%
87-88	23.2%
86-87	7.8%
85-86	12.3%
84-85	5.6%

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports 1980-1994 and unpublished 1995 FBI data.



Embargoed until Thursday Sept. 26, 1996 4:00pm EDT

**Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Summary
U.S. 1995**

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) monitors six categories of priority health risk behaviors among high school students: behaviors that contribute to unintentional and intentional injury, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors, dietary behaviors, and physical activity. The YRBSS includes a national school-based survey conducted by the CDC and state and local school-based surveys conducted by state and local education agencies. A summary of the 1995 results, entitled Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance -- 1995, United States, is published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Surveillance Summary*, and will be released on September 26, 1996. Data are presented for the nation, 35 states, and 16 cities.

Summary

Many high school students throughout the United States practice behaviors that place them at risk for serious health, education, and social problems. In the United States, 72% of all deaths among school-age youth and young adults result from four causes: motor vehicle crashes, other unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide. Results from the 1995 YRBSS suggest that many high school students practice behaviors that may increase their likelihood of death from these four causes. Also, substantial health and social problems among school-age youth and young adults result from unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV/AIDS). In addition, since 65% of all deaths among adults result from heart disease, cancer, and stroke, the YRBS addresses risk behaviors, which are usually initiated during adolescence, associated with these causes of death.

A summary of the 1995 YRBSS data includes:

Behaviors that Contribute to Unintentional and Intentional Injuries:

- o 21.7% rarely or never use safety belts when riding in a car.
- o 92.8% rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet.
- o 38.8% rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol during the past month.
- o 20.0% carried a weapon during the past month.
- o 38.7% were in a physical fight during the past year.
- o 8.7% attempted suicide during the past year.

Sexual Behaviors:

- o 53.1% had sexual intercourse during their life.
- o 17.8% had sexual intercourse with 4 or more partners during their life.
- o 37.9% had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months.
- o 54.4% who were sexually active used a condom at last sexual intercourse.
- o 17.4% who were sexually active used birth control pills at last sexual intercourse.

- MORE -

Tobacco Use:

- o 34.8% smoked cigarettes during the past month.
- o 16.1% smoked cigarettes on 20 or more of days during the past month.
- o 11.4% used smokeless tobacco during the past month.

Alcohol and Other Drug Use:

- o 51.6% had at least one drink of alcohol during the past month.
- o 32.6% had 5 or more drinks of alcohol on at least one occasion during the past month (binge drinking).
- o 25.3% used marijuana during the past month.
- o 3.1% used cocaine during the past month.
- o 20.3% had used inhalants during their life.

Dietary Behaviors:

- o 27.7% ate 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables during the previous day.
- o 60.5% ate 2 or fewer servings of foods typically high in fat content during the previous day.
- o 27.6% thought they were overweight.
- o 4.8% had taken laxatives or vomited to lose weight during the past month.
- o 5.2% had taken diet pills to lose weight during the past month.

Physical Activity:

- o 63.7% did vigorous physical activity 3 or more days during the past week.
- o 21.1% did moderate physical activity 5 or more days during the past week.
- o 59.6% were enrolled in physical education class.
- o 25.4% attended physical education class daily.

Some risk behaviors are more likely to be found among particular subgroups of students. For example, male students were more likely than female students to rarely or never wear safety belts; carry a weapon; be in a physical fight; use smokeless tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, and injected drugs; report binge drinking; have multiple sex partners; and use alcohol and drugs at last sexual intercourse. Female students were more likely than male students to report suicide-related behaviors, perceive themselves as overweight, and use unhealthy weight loss methods.

Some risk behaviors are more common among students in 11th and 12th grades than among those in 9th and 10th grades: driving after drinking alcohol, cigarette use, alcohol use, marijuana use, and sexual experience. Other risk behaviors were more common among students in 9th and 10th grades than among those in 11th and 12th grades: weapon carrying, physical fighting, attempted suicide, inhalant use, and use of laxatives or vomiting to lose weight.

Considerable variation in the prevalence of risk behaviors occurs from state to state and city to city. A five-fold variation or greater was identified among states for not using safety belts, drinking and driving, frequent cigarette use, smokeless tobacco use, marijuana use, and use of other illegal drugs. Similar variation among cities was found for not using safety belts, smokeless tobacco use, cocaine use, injected drug use, and use of other illegal drugs.

YRBSS data are being used nationwide by health and education officials to improve national, state, and local policies and programs designed to reduce risks associated with the leading causes of mortality and morbidity. YRBSS data also are being used to measure progress toward achieving 21 national health objectives and one of eight National Education Goals.

###

Copies of the 84 page report including 39 tables are available on Internet: <http://www.cdc.gov> (pick MMWR, Surveillance Summaries, Vol. 45/No. SS-4, Sept. 27, 1996). Reporters can obtain printed copies from the CDC Press Office, 404-639-3286.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance -- United States, 1995
Q's and A's

Q. What is the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and how will the 1995 data be released?

A. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors six categories of priority health risk behaviors among high school students: behaviors that contribute to unintentional and intentional injury, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors, dietary behaviors, and physical activity. The YRBS includes a national school-based survey conducted by the CDC and state and local school-based surveys conducted in 31 states, 4 territories, and 16 cities. State and local agencies use these data to support and improve health-related policies and programs for youth.

A summary of the 1995 survey, entitled Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance -- 1995, United States, will be published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Surveillance (MMWR) Summary* that will be released on September 26, 1996. The report does not describe trends in risk behaviors over time.

Some of the 1995 national data has already been released, including: tobacco use (May 24, 1996 MMWR article - "Tobacco Use and Usual Source of Cigarettes Among High School Students -- United States, 1995"), physical activity (Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health released in July, 1996), and sexual behavior (presented at the 11th International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver, Canada in July, 1996). Many states and cities have already released their YRBS data through special reports and news conferences during the past year.

Q: What's the most important finding of the study?

A. The most important finding is that too many high school students in the U.S. engage in a variety of behaviors that place them at risk for serious health, education, and social problems today and in the future, such as carrying weapons, fighting, smoking cigarettes, and driving without a seat belt. It is critical that we address these risk behaviors now, since they are associated with the leading causes of mortality and morbidity in this country, including heart disease, cancer, and stroke.

Q: How have cigarette, alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine use changed over time for all high school students and by grade?

A: The YRBS data indicate that current cigarette and marijuana use have been increasing since 1991 for all grades (9th - 12th), except cigarette use among 11th graders which remained the same. Overall, current cocaine use increased, but the prevalence of use remained very low for all grade levels. Current alcohol use remained flat for all grades.

Background:

While the YRBS was first conducted in 1990, trends over time in cigarette, alcohol, and drug use can only be examined beginning in 1991 because of changes in question wording.

Q: How do the tobacco and drug data in this report compare to data from other surveys?

A: The major reports generally show the same trends – increases in current cigarette and marijuana use since 1991. For the Household Survey, the upward trend in drug use began in 1992. Moreover, the Monitoring the Future Survey, Household Survey, and the YRBS show similar differences in prevalence among the various population sub-categories, including gender, age, and race/ethnicity.

For 10th and 12th graders, the 1995 YRBS and the 1995 Monitoring the Future Survey show similar rates for current cigarette and marijuana use. It should be noted that the YRBS does not provide anywhere near the depth of information on drug use that we get from the Household Survey and the Monitoring the Future Survey. The importance of the YRBS is that it gives a comprehensive overview of a variety of health-related behaviors, including wearing a seat belt, engaging in fighting, nutrition, and physical activity.

Background:

While the trends since 1991 from the Household Survey are similar to those in the YRBS and the Household Survey, prevalence estimates from the Household Survey tend to be lower, perhaps because the population surveyed is much younger compared to either the YRBS or the Monitoring the Future Survey.

HHS released the 1995 data from the Monitoring the Future Survey on December 15, 1995 and the 1995 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse on August 20, 1996.

The YRBS and Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF) are both school-based surveys of high school students. The YRBS is conducted among 9th-12th grade students (approximately ages 14-17). MTF is conducted among 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students. The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse is a household-based survey conducted among 12-17 year olds.

Q: Is the YRBS the leading measure of drug use by youth?

A: No. The YRBS does not provide anywhere near the depth of information on drug use that we get from the Household Survey and the Monitoring the Future Survey. It provides only current use for a relatively small number of drugs and does not include measures of daily or past year use or adolescents' attitudes toward drug use. However, the trends in all three surveys are generally the same. The value of the YRBS is that it gives a comprehensive overview of a variety of behaviors that contribute to health and social problems now or in the future. The comprehensive approach taken by the YRBS is critical since most adolescents at risk for one category of health risk (e.g., drug use) also practice other risk behaviors (e.g., unprotected sexual intercourse or weapon carrying). YRBS data can be used to examine the interrelationship of health risk behaviors among youth and to plan comprehensive interventions that address more than a single problem.

Background:

The YRBS measures of drug use include: current and lifetime use of marijuana and cocaine and lifetime use of crack, steroids (not prescribed) , injected drugs, and other illegal drugs (e.g., LSD, PCP, ecstasy, mushrooms, speed, ice, or heroin).

Q: Some people are saying the Bill Clinton's drug strategy has led to the increases in youth drug use. You say no. So what is the cause of the increases?

A: We think the increases that have been occurring since 1991 are caused by broad and well-documented cultural factors.

In 1991, about 79 percent of 12th graders thought there was great harm in smoking marijuana regularly; in 1995, the number dropped to about 61 percent. There is a clear trend here: When teenagers' perception of harm caused by marijuana use goes down, marijuana use goes up.

Why has the perception of harm gone down?

1. The increased glorification of substance abuse in popular culture.
2. The considerable drop-off in coverage in the news media of the drug issue since the Gulf War in 1991.
3. The reluctance of some boomer parents to send clear no-use messages to their children about drugs because they feel awkward about their own casual use when they were younger.

These are the kind of broad cultural factors that cause major national trends. Our drug strategy is aimed at preventing them. But trying to claim that President Clinton somehow caused a youth drug trend that began two years before he took office is like blaming the doctor for the disease.

Q: What can be done to help reduce the prevalence of health risk behaviors among high school students?

A: There is no simple solution. Youth need to be provided with the skills and motivation to avoid risky behaviors. Families, schools, community organizations, religious organizations, businesses, and youth themselves must work together to help address these problems. We think interventions implemented by these groups should be based on the best behavioral research available.

Q: Why didn't you do a release? Are you covering up the data?

A: No, we are not covering up the data. As is our standard practice, the data is being released through the *MMWR Surveillance Summary*, which provides wide access to the data in a timely fashion, and is being sent at day in advance to every state health department and state education agency, as well as a number of national organizations. Moreover, we have cut the time it usually takes between data collection and publication by a third (from 24 months to 15 months).

Q: Why do health risk behaviors increase or decrease over time?

A: Health risk behaviors are determined by a complex interaction of personal, social, cultural, economic, and environmental variables. Consequently, changes in health risk behaviors reflect broad national trends that depend on peer norms, adult practices, media influences, availability of intervention programs, state and local laws and policies, and enforcement practices.

Q: This survey shows youth drug use levels double the Household Survey. Why?

A: Prevalence rates in the Household Survey are lower than in the YRBS or Monitoring the Future Survey because they use different methods and survey different populations. Each survey has its own strengths and weaknesses. The importance of the YRBS is that it monitors a wide range of priority health risk behaviors among youth, like weapon carrying, suicide, sexual behaviors, and physical activity.

Background:

The Monitoring the Future Survey and the YRBS are administered in schools. The Household Survey is generally administered in the home and provides access to a slightly younger population and to people who have dropped out of school. Younger individuals are far less likely to have used drugs than older individuals.

Q: While General McCaffrey has stated that about 80 percent of teens have never used drugs, the YRBS shows that only half (57.6 percent) did not. Was he wrong?

A: No. Data from the Household Survey which we released on August 20 shows that only 22 percent of adolescents have used drugs.

Background:

The Household Survey is the leading study of youth drug use. Data from the YRBS survey closely resembles the Monitoring the Future survey, which we released last December.

Q: Some have called increasing drug use numbers a "shameful harvest" of "three years of misguided policies of the Clinton Administration." What's your response?

A: That's wrong. First of all, there's a lot of good news in the struggle against drugs. Drug use and crime are far lower than a decade ago. Occasional cocaine use (fewer than 12 days in past year) is down 35 percent since 1991. Overall use is about 50 percent lower than 1979, the peak year. And for the population as a whole, use levels have remained the same since 1992.

There are some disturbing trends, which we've developed strong strategies to address. For example, we're very concerned about juvenile drug use -- notably marijuana -- which began increasing in 1991, two years before Bill Clinton took office. We're very concerned about the rise in methamphetamine use, particularly in the Southwest. And, we're very concerned about the continued glorification of substance abuse in popular culture -- most recently the phenomenon known as "heroin chic."

These are real problems. And the sad thing is that some of our critics in Congress have tried to play the blame game while slashing the anti-drug budget the President sent up for action. This year, the President has proposed nearly \$1.3 billion for SAMHSA's drug prevention and treatment activities -- to restore the huge cuts made by Congress last year. However, the House has cut \$184 million from the request. Senate action is pending.

The President has an extraordinary record of leadership in this battle. He has been forceful, visible, and vigorous. Let's stop playing politics with the issue and put our people first.

Background:

Major Administration accomplishments

A Superstar as Drug Czar: The President appointed General Barry McCaffrey as the Drug Policy Coordinator -- a can-do leader who knows how to get results.

A Bold Drug strategy: We have the most comprehensive drug strategy in American history: interdiction, tough source country programs, strong law enforcement, prevention, treatment, research, and increased drug testing. The full package -- and, for 1997, the largest anti-drug budget ever.

Stopping extremism. The President vetoed congressional bills passed last winter that would have cut the Safe and Drug Free Schools program by \$266 million.

Big gains against crime: At home, we're establishing new drug courts and implementing a program to put 100,000 new police officers on the street. Overseas, we've had great success at breaking up international drug networks and stopping drug smuggling on our borders.

Stopping Meth in its Tracks: We have a new strategy against methamphetamine use, which includes increasing criminal penalties, stopping the sale of component chemicals, increasing DEA agents assigned to stop methamphetamine trafficking, and pursuing new research about the drug and its effects.

Talking the Talk, Walking the Walk: The President has used the bully pulpit often and well, including major speeches at the United Nations, the State of the Union, and the first-ever White House Conference on Youth, Drug Use, and Violence this past March.

Violent Crime Drops Among Young Teens

By Roberto Suro
Washington Post Staff Writer

A sharp drop in violent crime among the youngest offenders—those under the age of 15—was the driving force behind an unexpected decline in juvenile crime last year, according to a Justice Department study released yesterday.

Reduced arrest rates among younger juveniles accounted for at least two-thirds of the overall decline in several juvenile crime categories, including robberies and burglaries, the study said.

The violent crime arrest rate for juveniles declined 4 percent in 1995 compared to 1994, reversing a pattern of steady increases going back nearly a decade. That broad finding was first announced in August. But yesterday marked the first detailed analysis of the trend with the finding that violent crime arrests of the very young dropped more than twice as fast as among older teenagers.

Attorney General Janet Reno immediately used the new statistics as ammunition in an increasingly contentious debate over the extent of juvenile violence and whether it portends a fundamental shift in crime trends. At stake is the future shape of law enforcement programs and the billions of dollars spent on them each year.

Although the estimated 2.7 million arrests in 1995 of persons under the age of 18—the official definition of a juvenile—came as a modest but hopeful sign, juvenile crime remains at historically high levels with the overall number of violent crime arrests 64 percent higher in 1995 than it was in 1987.

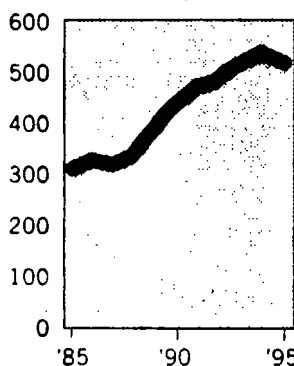
Several prominent social scientists predict that the nation is about to experience an explosion of juvenile crime carried out by relentlessly violent youths sometimes labeled “super predators.” Reno yesterday cited the new statistics to take the

JUVENILE CRIME UPDATE

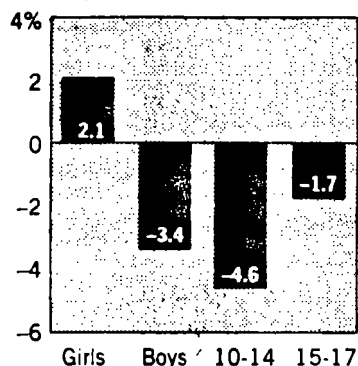
Juvenile violent crime dropped in 1995 after years of rising...

... especially for younger children. The rate rose among girls.

Juvenile violent crime arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17



Percentage change in violent crime arrests, 1994-95



SOURCE: Justice Department

THE WASHINGTON POST

contrary, more optimistic stance.

“Demographics and the rising number of young people do not have to be or reflect our destiny,” Reno said at her weekly news conference. “We do not have to face an explosion in youth crime as some have suggested.”

Reno argued that the statistics prove that the Clinton administration is right to emphasize crime prevention programs aimed at young people. But Republicans relentlessly attacked these programs during the recent election campaign, claiming that they were wasteful and that the money would be better spent on expanding prison capacity and other traditional law enforcement initiatives. This debate is certain to resume after the new Congress takes office in January.

The Justice Department analysis released yesterday found that the violent crime index for youths under age 15 dropped by 5 percent in 1995 compared to a 2 percent drop among those ages 15 to 17. For property crimes such as burglary and arson, the drop in the younger group was 4 percent while the older youths marked no change. Children under the age of 15 accounted for one-third of all juvenile crime arrests.

The optimistic assessment drawn from these numbers assumes that if the very young are now committing fewer crimes, then, as they grow older, there will be a long-term decline in youth crime.

Demographic analysis is also the primary tool of those who suggest juvenile violence will only grow worse. Because violent crime is sharply higher among teenagers than it was a decade back, and because the number of teenagers is set to increase dramatically as the children of baby boom parents get older, these criminologists predict a dramatic increase in juvenile crime starting within a few years. For example, James Alan Fox, a professor at Northeastern University, has warned against “a future wave of violence that may eventually make 1996 look like the ‘good old days.’”

Given the availability of guns, the prevalence of youth gangs and the growing use of drugs, some experts believe that juvenile crime will become much more brutal as well as more frequent. John J. Dilulio Jr., director of Princeton’s Center for Public Management, coined the ex-

pression "super predator" to describe young, disturbed and remorseless criminals who will come to dominate the debate over law enforcement policy.

Reno yesterday argued that these bleak forecasts are not inevitable "if we all pull together, if we work in a bipartisan fashion, if we recognize that youth violence is a problem that has to be addressed in the home, on the streets, in communities, in schools and at every level of government, including Washington."

As an example of how the federal government can address juvenile crime, Reno announced the availability of \$16.5 million in grants to states for programs such as mentoring, truancy prevention and gang intervention. She also cited programs that provide supervised activities for youths in the afternoons and evenings, as well as efforts that allow police and educators to work together on juvenile crime problems.

"Today's figures show that we can make a difference," Reno said. "But only if we sustain a nationwide effort to stop youth violence before it starts."



DATE: 12-13-96
PAGE: 4-A

Juvenile crime 'wave' may be just a ripple

Communities make difference

By Kevin Johnson
and Gary Fields
USA TODAY

Almost every discussion about crime in the past five years has included a familiar subtext describing a coming wave of juvenile violence fed by a growing population of wild-eyed adolescents.

That popular theory, once embraced by law enforcement officials and criminologists, is now far less solid than it once appeared.

FBI statistics are tracking a decline in youth violence. But beyond the numbers, anecdotal evidence also is beginning to emerge which may suggest a major change. At the least it may prompt a review of earlier forecasts.

During the past three years in Tampa, for example, officials have seen no increases in arrests of young people for violent crimes.

"This massive wave of violence people have been talking about may not be an accurate projection," said University of South Florida criminologist Richard Dembo, who has been monitoring youth arrests in the Tampa area.

"The numbers are not fluctuating dramatically. The majority of kids we see come in for property offenses."

In Boston, three years after the city set its juvenile homicide record with 16, there hasn't been a young person slain in the city all this year.

None of the experts can positively explain the decline, but all believe that the changes can be attributed to a myriad of strategies:

Police departments, many of which embraced community policing techniques, have begun to take responsibility for individual neighborhoods.

Some departments have relocated their precinct offices to local schools, in part hoping to establish positive relationships with young people. Mentoring

programs sponsored by local corporations are taking hold in some communities.

"We have clearly shown that the police, properly led, properly focused, can reduce crime significantly, can change behavior," former New York police commissioner William Bratton said recently.

Jack Levin, director of Northeastern's Program for the Study of Violence and Social Conflict, said there is ample evidence that a surge in youth crime can be averted.

"I really believe there is a cultural revolution going on," Levin said. "It isn't any particular program or policy that

works. It's the fact that we're all addressing this issue."

Still, the rapidly growing youth population causes people like Northeastern University professor James Fox to stop short of declaring victory.

Census numbers indicate that the juvenile population could rise to nearly 40 million by the year 2010, up from 27 million today.

Fox has been in the vanguard of criminologists in recent years who have expressed great distress about a potential explosion of juvenile violence.

Only recently, however, has he acknowledged that declines in the numbers of young people arrested for violent crimes does portend some long-term hope.

But few are planning victory celebrations just yet.

In San Diego, for example, police officials are watching with caution statistics showing a 25% increase in the number of juvenile victims of crime between January and September. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes also are up by more than 15% for the same period.

"We're not talking about juvenile crime out of control," said San Diego's Assistant Police Chief John Welter.

"But it's something we're going to keep our eye on in the next few years."

Illinois Ex-Prosecutors, Sheriff's Officials Indicted

Misconduct, Conspiracy Alleged in Case That Sent Two to Death Row

Associated Press

WHEATON, Ill., Dec. 12—Three former prosecutors and four sheriff's investigators were charged today with fabricating or concealing evidence that sent two men to death row in the killing of a young girl.

The men were later acquitted. The indictment is the result of a year-long grand jury investigation into the prosecution of Rolando Cruz and Alejandro Hernandez for the 1983 abduction, rape and killing of 10-year-old Jeanine Nicarico.

The extraordinary turnabout is the latest chapter in a passionately fought legal battle that has cast a shadow for more than a decade on police and prosecutors in DuPage County outside Chicago.

"In a free society, governed by the rule of law and a treasured Constitution, there must always be a line between vigorous prosecution and official misconduct," said special prosecutor William Kunkle. "This indictment charges that line was crossed by seven people."

The indictment charges that a "vision statement"—in which Cruz al-

legedly said he dreamed about the killing and gave police details that had not been made public—was a complete fabrication and never existed. It also alleges that prosecutors and the sheriff's department hid from defense attorneys and other law enforcement officials the records of a conversation in which a criminal defense lawyer said that his client claimed to have killed the girl by himself.

Cruz and Hernandez were convicted in 1985 and sentenced to die. Jurors failed to reach a verdict on the third defendant; charges against him were dropped. Appeals in the case went on for a decade. The Illinois Supreme Court upheld the convictions once and reversed them twice. Hernandez was retried and given a prison term. Cruz was retried in 1990 and sentenced to die.

Among those charged were three former DuPage County assistant state's attorneys: Robert Kilander, now a county judge; Thomas Knight; and Patrick King, now an assistant U.S. attorney. Also charged were four current members of the DuPage County Sheriff's Department:

Lt. James Montesano, Lt. Robert Winkler, Detective Dennis Kurzawa and Detective Thomas Vosburgh.

Kilander said he did nothing wrong, and Knight's attorney expressed outrage at the indictment. The four sheriff's investigators have been placed on administrative duty.

The former prosecutors were charged with conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice and conspiracy to commit official misconduct. All four investigators were charged with perjury and official misconduct and three were charged with obstruction of justice.

Defense attorneys eventually were able to present the informal statement by Brian Dugan, already convicted of two murders, that he alone killed the girl, but prosecutors pressed ahead.

The case began unraveling last year when one of the investigators, Montesano, changed his testimony about the "vision statement" during Cruz's third trial. Cruz was acquitted, and charges against Hernandez were dropped and the two were released, after more than a decade behind bars.

Arrest Data

Violent Crime

Arrest Rate (per 100k)

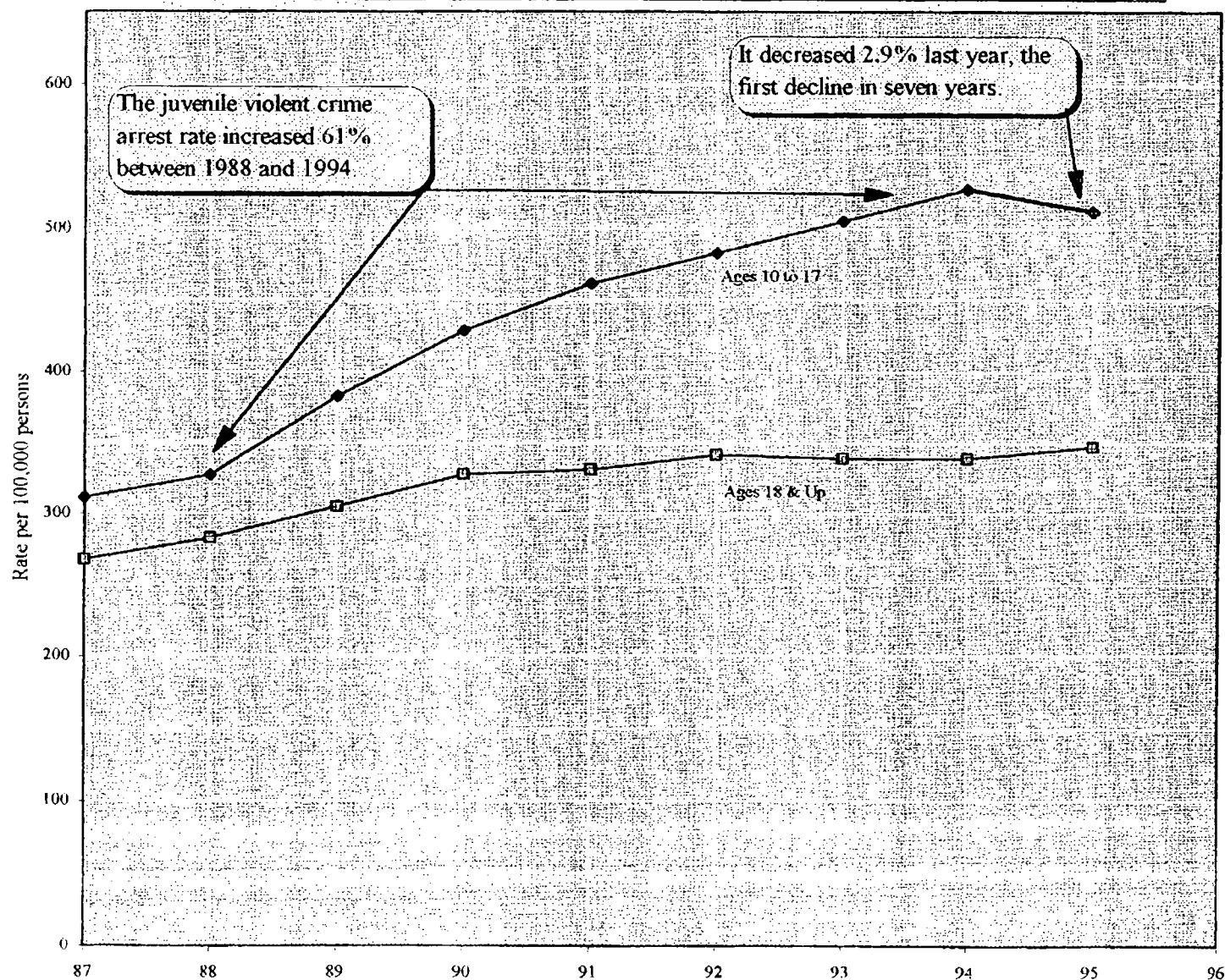
Year	10 to 17	18 plus	Δ 10-17
80	334.2	256	
81	322.9	256.1	-3.4%
82	314.9	269.3	-2.5%
83	297.0	251.3	-5.7%
84	298.0	250.1	0.3%
85	303.6	239.3	1.9%
86	317.4	270.4	4.5%
87	311.3	267.8	-1.9%
88	327.4	282.8	5.2%
89	382.5	305.2	16.8%
90	428.9	327.6	12.1%
91	461.6	331.2	7.6%
92	482.8	341.6	4.6%
93	505.1	338.8	4.6%
94	527.4	338.9	4.4%
95	511.9	347.2	-2.9%
96			

Murder

Arrest Rate (per 100k)

Year	10 to 17	18 plus	Δ 10-17
80	6.4	11.9	
81	7.0	12.4	9.4%
82	6.6	12.4	-5.7%
83	5.4	11.4	-18.2%
84	5.4	10.8	0.0%
85	5.7	10.0	5.6%
86	6.4	10.4	12.3%
87	6.9	10.0	7.8%
88	8.5	10.1	23.2%
89	10.1	10.4	18.8%
90	11.9	10.9	17.8%
91	13.1	11.8	10.1%
92	12.5	11.0	-4.6%
93	14.5	11.2	16.0%
94	13.2	10.0	-9.0%
95	11.2	9.7	-15.2%
96			

Adult and Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rates 1987-1995



Violent crimes are offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports 1980-1994 and unpublished 1995 FBI data.

Ages 10 to 17

Year	% Change
94-95	-2.9%
93-94	4.4%
92-93	4.6%
91-92	4.6%
90-91	7.6%
89-90	12.1%
88-89	16.8%