

DELINQUENCY INTAKE

Intake is the entry point for all juveniles referred to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for delinquent acts and is a responsibility of the Probation and Community Intervention Services Office. A referral is similar to an arrest in the adult criminal justice system. Youth under age 18 who are charged with a delinquent act are referred to DJJ. The purpose of the intake process is to assess a youth's risks and needs to determine the most appropriate treatment and intervention plan. Some youth are assessed through a Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC), which provides centralized delinquency intake and screening services in some areas of the state.

Each youth referred to DJJ is assigned a juvenile probation officer (JPO), who must conduct a face-to-face intake conference with the youth and his or her parents or guardians to gather information and assess the juvenile's service needs. The Department provides a recommendation to the state attorney and the juvenile court regarding appropriate sanctions and services. The recommendation is based on information from the arresting law enforcement officer and interviews with the victim(s), the youth and his or her family, and other sources such as teachers.

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Data in this chapter are presented based on both "youth" and "referrals." For measures based on youth, the most serious delinquent offense for which a youth is referred during the fiscal year is presented. No matter how many referrals a youth receives in a fiscal year, he or she is only counted as one "youth referred." Because some youth are referred multiple times during a fiscal year, it is also important to count the total number of referrals that the Department receives. For referrals, the most serious charge associated with a single referral is counted, and some youth have multiple referrals in a fiscal year.

The chapter highlights important and notable trends in delinquency referrals. The data presented in this chapter are taken from the Florida Delinquency Profile, an online publication that can be downloaded at the link below. In addition to intake data, detailed information on diversion, probation, commitment, transfers to adult court, and other topics at the state, judicial circuit, and county levels are available from the Profile. The online Profile serves as the Department's primary annual reference for descriptive statistics on delinquency referrals and youth referred. The Delinquency Profile can be downloaded at:

http://www.djj.state.fl.us/Research/Delinquency_Profile/index.html

Profile of Youth

A total of 66,934 youth were referred to DJJ during FY 2010-11, representing 109,813 delinquency referrals. The majority of youth referred were male (69%).

Delinquency Intake (FY 2010-11 Individual Youth Served)

| | AGE | | | | | Youth Served |
|------------|-------|--------|---------|---------|-------|--------------|
| | 0 - 7 | 8 - 11 | 12 - 14 | 15 - 17 | 18+ | |
| Statewide | 62 | 1,744 | 16,118 | 46,923 | 2,087 | 66,934 |
| Percentage | 0% | 3% | 24% | 70% | 3% | |

| | GENDER/RACE | | | | | | | | Youth Served |
|------------|-------------|--------|----------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|--------------|
| | Male | | | | Female | | | | |
| | White | Black | Hispanic | Other | White | Black | Hispanic | Other | |
| Statewide | 18,766 | 17,959 | 7,903 | 1,713 | 9,119 | 7,902 | 2,944 | 628 | 66,934 |
| Percentage | 28% | 27% | 12% | 3% | 14% | 12% | 4% | 1% | |

Statewide Delinquency and Youth Referral Rates

Delinquency Referrals: During FY 2010-11, there were 109,813 referrals to DJJ for a delinquent offense. This represents a delinquency referral rate of 59 youth referred for every 1,000 among the at-risk (10-17 years old) population. Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, the population at risk declined 2.5%; meanwhile, the number of delinquency referrals to DJJ decreased 25%. This represents a 23% decline in the delinquency referral rate from 77 to 59 referrals for every 1,000 youth at risk for delinquency in the population.

Delinquency Referrals and Delinquency Rates (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Intake Rates of Delinquency Referrals by Population | | | | | |
| Delinquency Referrals | 146,950 | 145,539 | 138,218 | 121,642 | 109,813 |
| Pop. 10-17 | 1,903,061 | 1,916,923 | 1,898,663 | 1,869,321 | 1,854,616 |
| Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth | 77 | 76 | 73 | 65 | 59 |

Youth Referred: Youth between the ages of 10 and 17 are considered the population most at risk of becoming delinquent. During FY 2010-11 there were more than 1.85 million youth at risk for delinquency in Florida. In this same year 66,934 youth were referred to DJJ for a delinquent offense. This represents a youth referral rate of 36 youth referred for every 1,000 among the at-risk population. Between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11, the population at risk dropped 2.5%; however, the number of youth referred to DJJ decreased 27%. This also represents a 25% drop in the youth referral rate from 48 to 36 for every 1,000 youth at risk in the population.

Youth Referrals and Delinquency Rates (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Intake Rates of Youth Referred by Population | | | | | |
| Youth Referred | 91,294 | 89,942 | 85,130 | 75,181 | 66,934 |
| Pop. 10-17 | 1,903,061 | 1,916,923 | 1,898,663 | 1,869,321 | 1,854,616 |
| Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth | 48 | 47 | 45 | 40 | 36 |

Delinquency and Youth Referred by Offense Seriousness

Delinquency Referrals: During FY 2010-11, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for about half of the delinquency referrals (49%) to DJJ. Of the delinquency referrals received by the Department, 29% were for felony offenses while 22% were for other offenses. The “other offense” category includes violations of probation or conditional release, contempt of court, cases reopened, cases transferred to other counties for disposition, and interstate compact cases. Misdemeanor offenses have historically represented the most common offense category for which youth are referred to DJJ. Over the last five fiscal years, the number of delinquency referrals for misdemeanor and felony offenses declined 24% and 34%, respectively. During the same period, the number of delinquency referrals for “other” offenses declined 13%.

Delinquency Referrals by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification) | | | | | |
| Felonies | 48,346 | 45,109 | 41,012 | 35,736 | 31,872 |
| Misdemeanors | 70,354 | 71,065 | 67,783 | 59,201 | 53,473 |
| Other Offenses | 28,250 | 29,365 | 29,423 | 26,705 | 24,468 |
| Total Referrals | 146,950 | 145,539 | 138,218 | 121,642 | 109,813 |

Youth Referred: During FY 2010-11, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for the majority of individual youth (55%) referred to the Department. Of the youth referred, 37% were referred for felony offenses while 8% were referred for other offenses. The “other offense” category includes violations of probation or conditional release, contempt of court, cases reopened, cases transferred to other counties, and interstate compact cases. Misdemeanor offenses have historically represented the most common offense category for which individual youth are referred to DJJ. Over the last five fiscal years, the number of youth referred for misdemeanor and felony offenses declined 22% and 34%, respectively. During the same period, the number of individual youth referred for “other” offenses declined 18%. The largest portion of this overall decline was associated with violation of probation, which declined 11%.

Youth Referred for Delinquency by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification) | | | | | |
| Felonies | 37,361 | 35,055 | 32,000 | 28,029 | 24,769 |
| Misdemeanors | 47,745 | 48,649 | 46,856 | 41,323 | 37,096 |
| Other Offenses | 6,188 | 6,238 | 6,274 | 5,829 | 5,069 |
| Total Youth | 91,294 | 89,942 | 85,130 | 75,181 | 66,934 |

Person Offenses

Delinquency Referrals: Overall, person offenses declined 28% between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11 (from 36,240 to 26,197). The majority of person offenses during FY 2010-11 involved misdemeanor assault/battery (15,422) followed by aggravated felony assault/battery (6,311). Several offense categories declined substantially in just the last fiscal year. Referrals for murder/manslaughter decreased from 119 during FY 2009-10 to 85 in FY 2010-11 (a 29% decline). Armed robbery continued a decrease from 1,384 during FY 2006-07 to 839 in FY 2010-11, a 39% drop over four years. Over the last five years, aggravated assault or battery declined a total of 36%, misdemeanor assault or battery fell 23%, resisting arrest with violence was down 32%, and shooting or throwing a deadly missile was down 52%.

Delinquency Referrals for Person Offenses (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Person Offenses | | | | | |
| Murder/Manslaughter (F) | 126 | 126 | 104 | 119 | 85 |
| Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F) | 83 | 68 | 80 | 48 | 41 |
| Sexual Battery (F) | 680 | 622 | 619 | 579 | 529 |
| Other Felony Sex Offense (F) | 903 | 840 | 861 | 815 | 778 |
| Armed Robbery (F) | 1,384 | 1,536 | 1,306 | 1,038 | 839 |
| Other Robbery (F) | 1,724 | 1,873 | 1,768 | 1,483 | 1,420 |
| Aggravated Assault/Battery (F) | 9,863 | 8,576 | 7,865 | 7,174 | 6,311 |
| Resisting Arrest with Violence (F) | 378 | 373 | 344 | 298 | 257 |
| Shoot/Throw Deadly Missile (F) | 884 | 730 | 616 | 527 | 425 |
| Assault/Battery (M) | 20,076 | 18,752 | 17,469 | 16,233 | 15,422 |
| Other Misdemeanor Sex Offense (M) | 139 | 159 | 118 | 119 | 90 |
| Total Referrals | 36,240 | 33,655 | 31,150 | 28,433 | 26,197 |

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Referred: Overall, the number of youth referred to DJJ for person offenses declined by 27% between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11 (from 28,540 to 20,962). The most serious referral for more than half the youth referred for person offenses during FY 2010-11 involved misdemeanor assault or battery (11,333) followed by aggravated felony assault or battery (5,558). Several offense categories declined substantially in the past fiscal year. Individual youth referred for murder/manslaughter decreased from 119 during FY 2009-10 to 85 in FY 2010-11, a decrease of 29%. The number of youth referred for attempted murder/manslaughter fell 52% from 81 to 39. Youth whose primary offense was armed robbery also declined from 1,243 during FY 2006-07 to 777 in FY 2010-11 (a 37% decline).

Youth Referred for Person Offenses (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Person Offenses | | | | | |
| Murder/Manslaughter (F) | 126 | 125 | 103 | 119 | 85 |
| Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F) | 81 | 67 | 78 | 47 | 39 |
| Sexual Battery (F) | 664 | 609 | 595 | 566 | 510 |
| Other Felony Sex Offense (F) | 877 | 813 | 818 | 784 | 739 |
| Armed Robbery (F) | 1,243 | 1,377 | 1,191 | 961 | 777 |
| Other Robbery (F) | 1,566 | 1,693 | 1,620 | 1,343 | 1,275 |
| Aggravated Assault/Battery (F) | 8,453 | 7,505 | 6,933 | 6,335 | 5,558 |
| Resisting Arrest with Violence (F) | 318 | 319 | 292 | 260 | 212 |
| Shoot/Throw Deadly Missile (F) | 784 | 635 | 534 | 459 | 364 |
| Assault/Battery (M) | 14,327 | 13,526 | 12,685 | 11,836 | 11,333 |
| Other Misdemeanor Sex Offense (M) | 101 | 115 | 84 | 92 | 70 |
| Total Youth | 28,540 | 26,784 | 24,933 | 22,802 | 20,962 |

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Property Offenses

Delinquency Referrals: During FY 2010-11, there were 31,295 delinquency referrals to DJJ for property offenses, a 12% decline from the previous year. Misdemeanor theft (13,876 referrals) was the most common offense, accounting for 44% of all property offenses, though it was down from 20,061 in 2008-09, a 31% drop in only two years. Burglary, with 11,007 referrals during FY 2010-11, was the next most common property offense. It decreased 18% from 13,465 in the two years since 2008-09. Since 2006-07, auto theft (a felony) declined from 3,082 to 1,297 referrals in FY 2010-11 (a 58% decline).

Delinquency Referrals for Property Offenses (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Property Offenses | | | | | |
| Arson (F) | 353 | 290 | 255 | 264 | 247 |
| Burglary (F) | 13,396 | 13,382 | 13,465 | 11,807 | 11,007 |
| Auto Theft (F) | 3,082 | 2,455 | 1,886 | 1,502 | 1,297 |
| Grand Larceny (F) | 3,879 | 3,830 | 3,316 | 2,803 | 2,538 |
| Receiving Stolen Property (F) | 324 | 329 | 341 | 300 | 281 |
| Forgery (F) | 421 | 413 | 351 | 271 | 247 |
| Misdemeanor Theft (M) | 16,959 | 19,551 | 20,061 | 16,473 | 13,876 |
| Receiving Stolen Property (M) | 8 | 43 | 38 | 27 | 34 |
| Vandalism (M) | 3,362 | 2,962 | 2,533 | 2,082 | 1,768 |
| Total Referrals | 41,784 | 43,255 | 42,246 | 35,529 | 31,295 |

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Referred: During FY 2010-11, a property offense was the most serious offense for 23,136 youth referred to DJJ, down 13% from the previous year and 28% from 2007-08. Misdemeanor theft (11,062 youth) was the most common offense, accounting for 48% of all youth referred for a property offense. Burglary was the next most common offense with 7,765 youth referred during FY 2010-11, though the total number of youth whose most serious referral was burglary declined 20% since 2007-08. Over the last five years, the number of youth whose most serious referral was auto theft (a felony) declined from 1,808 to 777 youth referred between FY 2006-07 and FY 2010-11 (a 57% decline).

Youth Referred for Property Offenses (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Property Offenses | | | | | |
| Arson (F) | 310 | 254 | 231 | 233 | 221 |
| Burglary (F) | 9,743 | 9,761 | 9,758 | 8,510 | 7,765 |
| Auto Theft (F) | 1,808 | 1,414 | 1,105 | 860 | 777 |
| Grand Larceny (F) | 3,052 | 3,002 | 2,550 | 2,153 | 1,914 |
| Receiving Stolen Property (F) | 212 | 221 | 218 | 177 | 174 |
| Forgery (F) | 330 | 318 | 275 | 215 | 199 |
| Misdemeanor Theft (M) | 13,362 | 15,381 | 16,100 | 13,198 | 11,062 |
| Receiving Stolen Property (M) | 3 | 28 | 28 | 14 | 19 |
| Vandalism (M) | 2,008 | 1,814 | 1,557 | 1,231 | 1,005 |
| Total Youth | 30,828 | 32,193 | 31,822 | 26,591 | 23,136 |

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Substance-Related Offenses

Delinquency Referrals: During FY 2010-11, there were 12,421 delinquency referrals for drug and alcohol offenses, a 28% decline since 2006-07. Misdemeanor marijuana offenses accounted for well over half (59%) of the total number of drug and alcohol delinquency referrals. The most serious type of drug offense, non-marijuana felonies, accounted for 1,730 or 14% of all drug and alcohol referrals. However, this was down 686 (28%) since last year and 2,781 (62%) since 2006-07. Referrals for possession of alcohol declined substantially (28%) over the past five years (from 1,893 to 1,364).

Delinquency Referrals for Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Offenses (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Referrals | | | | | |
| Felony Non-Marijuana Drug Offenses (F) | 4,511 | 3,604 | 2,863 | 2,416 | 1,730 |
| Felony Marijuana (F) | 1,412 | 1,405 | 1,240 | 1,076 | 1,032 |
| Misdemeanor Marijuana (M) | 8,380 | 8,888 | 8,050 | 7,889 | 7,369 |
| Drug Paraphernalia (M) | 873 | 825 | 810 | 843 | 801 |
| Other Misdemeanor Drug Offense (M) | 78 | 111 | 93 | 85 | 76 |
| Possess Alcohol (M) | 1,893 | 1,887 | 1,688 | 1,505 | 1,364 |
| Other Alcohol (M) | 80 | 53 | 61 | 50 | 49 |
| Total Referrals | 17,227 | 16,773 | 14,805 | 13,864 | 12,421 |

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Referred: During FY 2010-11, there were 8,803 individual youth referred to DJJ whose most serious offense was drug or alcohol-related. The number of youth referred for marijuana misdemeanor offenses has declined just under 9% since 2006-07, and accounted for over half (57%) the total number of youth whose most serious charge was a drug or alcohol offense in 2010-11. The most serious type of drug offenses, non-marijuana felonies, accounted for 1,318 or 15% of all youth referred for drug and alcohol offenses. The number of youth referred for non-marijuana felonies has dropped 57% since 2006-07, when it accounted for 26% of the total. The number of youth whose most serious referral to DJJ was for a marijuana felony declined substantially (24%) over the last five years (from 1,061 to 807).

Youth Referred for Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Offenses (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Referrals | | | | | |
| Felony Non-Marijuana Drug Offenses (F) | 3,071 | 2,519 | 2,058 | 1,821 | 1,318 |
| Felony Marijuana (F) | 1,061 | 1,047 | 925 | 830 | 807 |
| Misdemeanor Marijuana (M) | 5,461 | 5,677 | 5,146 | 5,296 | 4,981 |
| Drug Paraphernalia (M) | 530 | 509 | 503 | 532 | 520 |
| Other Misdemeanor Drug Offense (M) | 52 | 68 | 44 | 59 | 39 |
| Possess Alcohol (M) | 1,450 | 1,496 | 1,324 | 1,223 | 1,101 |
| Other Alcohol (M) | 63 | 47 | 47 | 43 | 37 |
| Total Youth | 11,688 | 11,363 | 10,047 | 9,804 | 8,803 |

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Public Disorder Offenses

Delinquency Referrals: During FY 2010-11, there were 11,988 delinquency referrals for public disorder offenses, a 31% decline since FY 2006-07. Disorderly conduct offenses accounted for 36% of the total number of public disorder delinquency referrals. The most serious type of public disorder offense—felony carrying of a concealed firearm—decreased from 539 referrals during FY 2007-08 to 268 referrals during FY 2010-11 (a 50% decline over four years). Misdemeanor carrying of a concealed weapon decreased from 602 referrals during FY 2006-07 to 280 referrals during FY 2010-11 (a 53% decline in the last five years). Since 2006-07, the number of trespassing referrals has declined from 5,003 to 3,088, a 38% decrease.

Delinquency Referrals for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Public Disorder Referrals | | | | | |
| Carrying a Concealed Firearm (F) | 483 | 539 | 459 | 339 | 268 |
| Carrying a Concealed Weapon (M) | 602 | 468 | 377 | 324 | 280 |
| Disorderly Conduct (M) | 6,810 | 6,343 | 6,166 | 4,977 | 4,316 |
| Trespassing (M) | 5,003 | 4,960 | 4,342 | 3,536 | 3,088 |
| Loitering and Prowling (M) | 1,634 | 1,750 | 1,930 | 1,615 | 1,672 |
| Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M) | 117 | 112 | 92 | 92 | 93 |
| Resist Arrest Without Violence (M) | 2,801 | 2,826 | 2,719 | 2,373 | 2,271 |
| Total Referrals | 17,450 | 16,998 | 16,085 | 13,256 | 11,988 |

Youth Referred: During FY 2010-11 there were 6,639 individual youth referred to DJJ whose most serious offense was related to public disorder. Disorderly conduct offenses accounted for 42% of the total number of individual youth whose most serious offense was a public disorder referral, and trespassing accounted for 1,620 (24%) of public disorder offenses. The number of youth referred for the most serious type of public disorder offense, felony carrying of a concealed firearm, decreased from 339 youth referred during FY 2006-07 to 184 youth referred during FY 2010-11 (a 46% decline). Over the past five years, misdemeanor carrying of a concealed weapon decreased from 370 youth referred during FY 2006-07 to 165 youth referred during FY 2010-11 (a 55% decline). Since 2006-07 the number of youth whose most serious offense during the year was resisting arrest without violence has dropped 19%, from 1,216 to 989.

Youth Referred for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2006-07 through FY 2010-11)

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Public Disorder Referrals | | | | | |
| Carrying a Concealed Firearm (F) | 339 | 380 | 339 | 239 | 184 |
| Carrying a Concealed Weapon (M) | 370 | 283 | 223 | 203 | 165 |
| Disorderly Conduct (M) | 4,446 | 4,164 | 4,008 | 3,243 | 2,815 |
| Trespassing (M) | 2,577 | 2,590 | 2,216 | 1,876 | 1,630 |
| Loitering and Prowling (M) | 850 | 901 | 957 | 820 | 779 |
| Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M) | 91 | 88 | 76 | 75 | 77 |
| Resist Arrest Without Violence (M) | 1,216 | 1,266 | 1,239 | 1,072 | 989 |
| Total Youth | 9,889 | 9,672 | 9,058 | 7,528 | 6,639 |

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor