

# DELINQUENCY INTAKE

*Mark A. Greenwald, M.J.P.M*  
*Director of Research and Planning*  
*(850) 921-0706*  
[Mark.Greenwald@djj.state.fl.us](mailto:Mark.Greenwald@djj.state.fl.us)

Intake is the entry point to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for all juveniles arrested for delinquent acts and is a responsibility of the Probation and Community Intervention Services Office. 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 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, family members, and other sources such as teachers.

**58,173 youth were arrested on 96,515 occasions for delinquency during FY 2011-12**

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

**Juvenile delinquency is dropping across all offense types**

The chapter highlights important and notable trends in delinquency arrests. Florida is experiencing dramatic and sustained decreases in juvenile crime, with regards to the number of youth arrested as well as the rate of arrests among the youth population. The data presented in this chapter are taken from the Florida Delinquency Profile, an online DJJ publication that can be accessed via 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.

<http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/delinquency-data/delinquency-profile>

**Profile of Youth**

A total of 58,173 youth were arrested during FY 2011-12, representing 96,515 delinquency arrests. The majority of youth arrested were male (70%). The majority of youth arrested (70%) were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen at the time of arrest.

**Delinquency Intake (FY 2011-12 Individual Youth Served)**

	AGE					Youth Served
	0 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18+	
Statewide	51	1,525	13,819	40,708	2,070	58,173
Percentage	0%	3%	24%	70%	4%	

	GENDER/RACE								Youth Served
	Male				Female				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
Statewide	16,575	16,210	6,480	1,541	7,584	6,985	2,311	487	58,173
Percentage	28%	28%	11%	3%	13%	12%	4%	1%	

## Statewide Delinquency and Youth Arrest Rates

**Delinquency Arrests:** During FY 2011-12 there were more than 1.83 million youth at risk for delinquency in Florida. Youth between the ages of 10 and 17 are considered the population most at risk of becoming delinquent. During FY 2011-12, there were 96,515 arrests for a delinquent offense. This represents a rate of 53 arrests for every 1,000 among the at-risk (10-17 years old) population. Between FY 2007-08 and FY 2011-12, the population at risk declined 3%; meanwhile, the number of arrests for delinquency decreased 34%. This represents a 31% decline in the delinquency arrest rate from 77 to 53 arrests for every 1,000 youth at risk for delinquency in the population. The number of arrests for delinquency is greater than the number of youth arrested for delinquency because some youth were arrested more than once during the fiscal year.

### Delinquency Arrests and Delinquency Rates (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Intake Rates of Delinquency Arrests by Population</b>					
Delinquency Arrests	145,530	138,192	121,605	109,848	96,515
Pop. 10-17	1,896,338	1,867,109	1,852,749	1,842,498	1,835,171
<b>Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>53</b>

**Youth Arrested:** During FY 2011-12, 58,173 youth were arrested for a delinquent offense. This represents a youth arrest rate of 32 youth referred for every 1,000 among the at-risk population. Between FY 2007-08 and FY 2011-12, the population at risk dropped 3%, while the number of youth arrested decreased 35%. This represents a 32% drop in the youth arrest rate, from 47 to 32 for every 1,000 youth at risk in the population across the five-year period.

### Youth Arrests and Delinquency Rates (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Intake Rates of Youth Arrested by Population</b>					
Youth Arrested	89,930	85,102	75,128	66,802	58,173
Pop. 10-17	1,896,338	1,867,109	1,852,749	1,842,498	1,835,171
<b>Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>

## Delinquency and Youth Arrested by Offense Seriousness

**Delinquency Arrests:** During FY 2011-12, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for almost half of the delinquency arrests (47%). Of the delinquency arrests during the fiscal year, 30% were for felony offenses while 23% were for “other” offenses (the “other offenses” 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 arrested. Over the last five fiscal years, the number of delinquency arrests for misdemeanor and felony offenses declined 36% and 35%, respectively. During the same period, the number of delinquency arrests for “other” offenses declined 25%.

### Delinquency Arrests by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)</b>					
Felonies	45,242	41,113	35,814	31,919	29,384
Misdemeanors	71,061	67,825	59,362	53,569	45,283
Other Offenses	29,227	29,254	26,429	24,360	21,848
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>145,530</b>	<b>138,192</b>	<b>121,605</b>	<b>109,848</b>	<b>96,515</b>

**Youth Arrested:** During FY 2011-12, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for the majority of individual youth (53%) arrested for delinquency. Of the youth arrested, 39% were arrested for felony offenses while 8% were arrested for other offenses (the “other offenses” 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 arrested. Over the last five fiscal years, the number of youth arrested for misdemeanor and felony offenses declined 37% and 35%, respectively. During the same period, the number of individual youth arrested for “other” offenses declined 24%.

### Youth Arrested for Delinquency by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)</b>					
Felonies	35,128	32,044	28,061	24,749	22,735
Misdemeanors	48,609	46,841	41,331	37,044	30,715
Other Offenses	6,193	6,217	5,736	5,009	4,723
<b>Total Youth Arrested</b>	<b>89,930</b>	<b>85,102</b>	<b>75,128</b>	<b>66,802</b>	<b>58,173</b>

## Person Offenses

**Delinquency Arrests:** Overall, arrests for offenses against persons declined 31% between FY 2007-08 and FY 2011-12 (from 33,330 to 22,989). The majority of person offenses during FY 2011-12 involved misdemeanor assault/battery (59%) followed by aggravated felony assault/battery (24%). In just the last fiscal year, several offense categories declined substantially. Arrests for murder/manslaughter decreased from 85 during FY 2010-11 to 64 in FY 2011-12 (25%). Armed robbery continued a decrease from 1,457 during FY 2007-08 to 754 in FY 2011-12, a 48% drop over five years. Additionally, over the past five years, aggravated assault or battery declined a total of 35%, misdemeanor assault or battery fell 28%, and resisting arrest with violence was down 40%.

### Delinquency Arrests for Person Offenses (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Person Offenses</b>					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	126	104	119	85	64
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	67	80	48	40	39
Sexual Battery (F)	620	620	579	528	506
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	809	828	795	757	740
Armed Robbery (F)	1,457	1,241	994	807	754
Other Robbery (F)	1,723	1,609	1,389	1,298	1,153
Aggravated Assault/Battery (F)	8,654	7,963	7,210	6,386	5,619
Resisting Arrest with Violence (F)	592	524	436	370	358
Kidnapping (F)	307	266	211	182	168
Assault/Battery (M)	18,751	17,464	16,224	15,409	13,461
Other Misdemeanor Sex Offense (M)	224	171	177	129	127
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>33,330</b>	<b>30,870</b>	<b>28,182</b>	<b>25,991</b>	<b>22,989</b>

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

**Youth Arrested:** Overall, the number of youth arrested for person offenses declined by 31% between FY 2007-08 and FY 2011-12 (from 26,464 to 18,289). The most serious charge for more than half (53%) the youth arrested for person offenses during FY 2011-12 involved misdemeanor assault or battery (9,772), though this has dropped from a total of 13,519 in FY 2007-08. Felony assault or battery was also down dramatically over the last five years, from 7,699 to 5,017 (a 35% drop). Youth whose primary offense was armed robbery also declined from 1,300 during FY 2007-08 to 697 in FY 2011-12 (a 46% decline).

### Youth Arrested for Person Offenses (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Person Offenses</b>					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	125	103	119	85	64
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	66	78	47	38	39
Sexual Battery (F)	607	596	566	509	493
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	781	786	764	717	706
Armed Robbery (F)	1,300	1,125	914	744	697
Other Robbery (F)	1,419	1,352	1,161	1,069	948
Aggravated Assault/Battery (F)	7,699	7,134	6,449	5,710	5,017
Resisting Arrest with Violence (F)	496	432	377	294	301
Kidnapping (F)	289	261	207	178	160
Assault/Battery (M)	13,519	12,675	11,823	11,321	9,772
Other Misdemeanor Sex Offense (M)	163	125	135	97	92
<b>Total Youth Arrested</b>	<b>26,464</b>	<b>24,667</b>	<b>22,562</b>	<b>20,762</b>	<b>18,289</b>

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

### Property Offenses

**Delinquency Arrests:** During FY 2011-12, there were 27,868 delinquency arrests for property offenses, a 12% decline from the previous year. Misdemeanor theft (11,013 arrests) was the most common offense, accounting for 40% of all property offenses, though it was down from 16,460 in 2009-10, a 33% drop in only two years. Burglary, with 10,124 arrests during FY 2011-12, was the next most common property offense. It decreased 13% from 11,703 in the two years since 2009-10. Since 2007-08, auto theft (a felony) declined from 2,422 to 1,207 arrests in FY 2011-12 (a 50% decline).

### Delinquency Arrests for Property Offenses (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Property Offenses</b>					
Arson (F)	292	253	239	239	201
Burglary (F)	13,274	13,354	11,703	10,920	10,124
Auto Theft (F)	2,422	1,861	1,478	1,261	1,207
Grand Larceny (F)	3,772	3,254	2,749	2,504	2,763
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	306	315	275	244	273
Vandalism (F)	980	717	613	487	458
Fraud (F)	505	423	320	299	250
Misdemeanor Theft (M)	19,552	20,059	16,460	13,858	11,013
Vandalism (M)	3,002	2,587	2,103	1,797	1,579
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>44,105</b>	<b>42,823</b>	<b>35,940</b>	<b>31,609</b>	<b>27,868</b>

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

**Youth Arrested:** During FY 2011-12, a property offense was the most serious offense for 19,997 youth arrested, down 14% from the previous year and 39% from 2007-08. Misdemeanor theft (8,401 youth) was the most common offense, accounting for 42% of all youth arrested for a property offense. Burglary was the next most common offense with 7,088 youth arrested during FY 2011-12, though the total number of youth whose most serious charge was burglary declined 26% since 2007-08. Over the last five years, the number of youth whose most serious arrest was for auto theft (a felony) declined from 1,371 to 672 youth arrested between FY 2007-08 and FY 2011-12 (a 51% decline).

### Youth Arrested for Property Offenses (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Property Offenses</b>					
Arson (F)	257	229	219	218	179
Burglary (F)	9,528	9,518	8,300	7,554	7,088
Auto Theft (F)	1,371	1,071	833	751	672
Grand Larceny (F)	2,927	2,492	2,099	1,867	2,066
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	197	184	155	143	152
Vandalism (F)	725	545	451	338	352
Forgery (F)	357	315	245	213	179
Misdemeanor Theft (M)	15,375	16,095	13,178	11,026	8,401
Vandalism (M)	1,807	1,554	1,222	1,011	908
<b>Total Youth Arrested</b>	<b>32,544</b>	<b>32,003</b>	<b>26,702</b>	<b>23,121</b>	<b>19,997</b>

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

### Substance-Related Offenses

**Delinquency Arrests:** During FY 2011-12, there were 11,070 delinquency arrests for drug and alcohol offenses, a 34% decline since 2007-08. Misdemeanor marijuana offenses accounted for well over half (58%) of the total number of drug and alcohol delinquency arrests. The most serious type of drug offense, Other Felony Drugs (all felony non-marijuana drug offenses) accounted for 1,298 or 12% of all drug and alcohol arrests. However, this was down 352 cases (21%) since last year and 2,170 cases (63%) since 2007-08. Arrests for possession of alcohol declined substantially (34%) over the past five years (from 1,901 to 1,259).

## Delinquency Arrests for Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Offenses (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Arrests</b>					
Felony Marijuana (F)	1,505	1,312	1,140	1,077	934
Other Felony Drugs (F)	3,468	2,742	2,324	1,650	1,298
Misdemeanor Marijuana (M)	8,496	8,090	7,873	7,359	6,439
Other Misdemeanor Drugs (M)	122	103	99	97	62
Possess Paraphernalia	1,095	1,063	1,106	1,038	1,038
Possess Alcohol	1,901	1,695	1,499	1,363	1,259
Other Alcohol Offenses	61	65	59	51	40
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>16,648</b>	<b>15,070</b>	<b>14,100</b>	<b>12,635</b>	<b>11,070</b>

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

**Youth Arrested:** During FY 2011-12, there were 11,070 individual youth arrested whose most serious offense was drug or alcohol-related. The number of youth arrested for marijuana misdemeanor offenses has declined 24% since 2007-08, and accounted for over half (58%) the total number of youth whose most serious charge was a drug or alcohol offense in 2011-12. The most serious type of drug offenses, Other Felony Drugs (all felony non-marijuana drug offenses), accounted for 1,298 or 12% of all youth arrested for drug and alcohol offenses during FY 2011-12. The number of youth arrested for other felony drugs has dropped 63% since 2007-08, when it accounted for 21% of the total. The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for a marijuana felony declined substantially (38%) over the last five years (from 1,505 to 934).

## Youth Arrested for Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Offenses (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Arrests</b>					
Felony Marijuana (F)	1,505	1,312	1,140	1,077	934
Other Felony Drugs (F)	3,468	2,742	2,324	1,650	1,298
Misdemeanor Marijuana (M)	8,496	8,090	7,893	7,359	6,439
Other Misdemeanor Drugs (M)	122	103	99	97	62
Possess Paraphernalia	1,095	1,063	1,106	1,032	1,038
Possess Alcohol	1,901	1,695	1,499	1,363	1,259
Other Alcohol Offenses	61	65	59	51	40
<b>Total Youth Arrested</b>	<b>16,648</b>	<b>15,070</b>	<b>14,120</b>	<b>12,629</b>	<b>11,070</b>

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor



## Public Disorder Offenses

**Delinquency Arrests:** During FY 2011-12, there were 18,806 delinquency arrests for public disorder offenses, a 36% decline since FY 2007-08. Disorderly conduct offenses accounted for 18% of the total number of public disorder delinquency arrests. The most serious type of public disorder offense—weapons felony—decreased from 2,806 arrests during FY 2007-08 to 1,511 arrests during FY 2011-12 (a 46% decline over five years). Weapons Misdemeanor offenses decreased from 10,163 arrests during FY 2007-08 to 7,539 arrests during FY 2011-12 (a 26% decline in the last five years). Since 2007-08, the number of trespassing arrests has declined from 4,930 to 2,445, a 50% decrease.

### Delinquency Arrests for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Public Disorder Arrests</b>					
Weapons Felony (F)	2,806	2,325	2,003	1,691	1,511
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	10,163	9,256	9,078	8,494	7,539
Disorderly Conduct (M)	6,058	5,885	4,732	4,101	3,353
Trespassing (M)	4,930	4,322	3,544	3,062	2,445
Loitering and Prowling (M)	1,612	1,800	1,532	1,574	1,455
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	120	89	89	92	83
Resist Arrest (M)	3,613	3,427	3,040	2,955	2,420
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>29,302</b>	<b>27,104</b>	<b>24,018</b>	<b>21,969</b>	<b>18,806</b>

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

**Youth Arrested:** During FY 2011-12 there were 6,454 individual youth arrested whose most serious offense was related to public disorder. Disorderly conduct offenses accounted for 32% of the total number of individual youth whose most serious offense was a public disorder charge, and trespassing accounted for 1,190 (18%) of public disorder offenses in FY 2011-12. The number of youth arrested for the most serious type of public disorder offense, weapons felony, decreased from 2,461 youth arrested during FY 2007-08 to 1,304 youth arrested during FY 2011-12 (a 47% decline). Over the past five years, misdemeanor weapons offenses have decreased from 398 youth arrested during FY 2007-08 to 168 youth referred during FY 2011-12 (a 58% decline). Since 2007-08 the number of youth whose most serious offense during the year was resisting arrest without violence has dropped 36%, from 1,610 to 1,030.

**Youth Arrested for Public Disorder Offenses  
(FY 2007-08 through FY 2011-12)**

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Public Disorder Arrests</b>					
Weapons Felony (F)	2,461	2,036	1,756	1,486	1,304
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	398	352	266	240	168
Disorderly Conduct (M)	3,812	3,684	2,934	2,563	2,083
Trespassing (M)	2,525	2,161	1,857	1,559	1,190
Loitering and Prowling (M)	771	827	732	668	612
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	98	79	73	79	67
Resist Arrest (M)	1,610	1,540	1,346	1,279	1,030
<b>Total Youth Arrested</b>	<b>11,675</b>	<b>10,679</b>	<b>8,964</b>	<b>7,874</b>	<b>6,454</b>

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor