

DELINQUENCY INTAKE

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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 Juvenile Assessment Centers (JAC), which provide 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.

44,634 youth were arrested on 78,447 occasions for delinquency during FY 2013-14

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

Overall, juvenile arrests continue to decline

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.

This chapter highlights important and notable trends in delinquency. 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 44,634 youth were arrested during FY 2013-14, representing 78,447 delinquency arrests. The majority of youth arrested were male (71%). The majority of youth arrested (70%) were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen at the time of arrest.

Delinquency Intake (FY 2013-14 Individual Youth Served)

	AGE					Youth Served
	0 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18+	
Statewide	38	1,103	10,624	31,299	1,570	44,634
Percentage	0%	2%	24%	70%	4%	

	GENDER/RACE								Youth Served
	Male				Female				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
Statewide	12,242	14,328	5,049	158	5,345	5,724	1,685	103	44,634
Percentage	27%	32%	11%	0%	12%	13%	4%	0%	

Statewide Delinquency and Youth Arrest Rates

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2013-14 there were almost 1.84 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 2013-14, there were 78,447 arrests for delinquent offenses in Florida. This represents a rate of 43 arrests for every 1,000 among the at-risk (10-17 years old) population. Between FY 2009-10 and FY 2013-14, the population at risk remained almost unchanged; meanwhile, the number of arrests for delinquency decreased 36%. This represents a 35% decline in the delinquency arrest rate from 66 to 43 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 2009-10 through FY 2013-14)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Intake Rates of Delinquency Arrests by Population					
Delinquency Arrests	121,734	110,419	97,234	85,601	78,447
Pop. 10-17	1,846,895	1,841,152	1,838,110	1,837,616	1,838,916
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	66	60	53	47	43

Youth Arrested: During FY 2013-14, 44,634 youth were arrested for a delinquent offense. This represents a youth arrest rate of 24 youth for every 1,000 among the at-risk population. Between FY 2009-10 and FY 2013-14, the population at risk remained almost unchanged, while the number of youth arrested decreased 40%. The youth arrest rate also dropped 40%, from 40 to 24 for every 1,000 youth at risk in the population across the five-year period.

Youth Arrests and Delinquency Rates (FY 2009-10 through FY 2013-14)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Intake Rates of Youth Arrested by Population					
Youth Arrested	74,631	66,395	57,603	50,642	44,634
Pop. 10-17	1,846,895	1,841,152	1,838,110	1,837,616	1,838,916
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	40	36	31	28	24

Delinquency and Youth Arrested by Offense Seriousness

Delinquency Arrests: Misdemeanor offenses have historically represented the most common offense category for which youth are arrested. During FY 2013-14, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for 44% of delinquency arrests. Of the delinquency arrests during FY 2013-14, 33% were for felony offenses and 23% were for "other" offenses (the "other offenses" category includes violations of probation or conditional release, contempt of court, cases reopened, and interstate compact cases). Over the last five fiscal years, the number of delinquency arrests for misdemeanor and felony offenses declined 41% and 28%, respectively. During the same period, the number of delinquency arrests for "other" offenses declined 33%.

Delinquency Arrests by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2009-10 through FY 2013-14)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	35,791	31,874	29,322	26,467	25,773
Misdemeanors	59,370	53,553	45,255	39,322	34,832
Other Offenses	26,573	24,992	22,657	19,812	17,842
Total Arrests	121,734	110,419	97,234	85,601	78,447

Youth Arrested: Misdemeanor offenses have historically represented the most common offense category for which individual youth are arrested. During FY 2013-14, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for 50% of individual youth arrested for delinquency. Of the youth arrested, 43% were arrested for at least one felony offense that year while 7% were arrested for other offenses (the “other offenses” category includes violations of probation or conditional release, contempt of court, cases reopened, and interstate compact cases). Over the last five fiscal years, the number of youth arrested for misdemeanor and felony offenses declined 46% and 31%, respectively. During the same period, the number of individual youth arrested for “other” offenses declined 42%.

Youth Arrested for Delinquency by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2009-10 through FY 2013-14)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	28,041	24,703	22,656	20,501	19,328
Misdemeanors	41,321	37,011	30,645	26,283	22,253
Other Offenses	5,269	4,681	4,302	3,858	3,053
Total Youth Arrested	74,631	66,395	57,603	50,642	44,634

Person Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: Overall, arrests for offenses against persons declined 31% between FY 2009-10 and FY 2013-14 (from 28,146 to 19,467). The majority of person offenses during FY 2013-14 involved misdemeanor (simple) assault or battery (56%) followed by aggravated felony assault or battery (26%). Arrests for murder/manslaughter decreased from 119 during FY 2009-10 to 41 in FY 2013-14 (66%). Armed robbery decreased from 992 during FY 2009-10 to 724 in FY 2013-14, a 27% drop over five years. Additionally, over the past five years, aggravated assault or battery declined a total of 30%, misdemeanor assault or battery fell 33%, and resisting arrest with violence dropped by 29%.

Delinquency Arrests for Person Offenses (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	104	119	88	64	42
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	80	48	38	34	46
Sexual Battery (F)	856	828	812	769	765
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	572	513	453	445	423
Armed Robbery (F)	1,241	993	808	754	706
Other Robbery (F)	1,609	1,390	1,298	1,147	1,022
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	7,966	7,223	6,391	5,633	5,113
Violent Obstruction of Justice (F)	524	441	377	363	306
Kidnapping (F)	261	207	172	170	155
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	17,460	16,215	15,399	13,474	11,885
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	171	177	129	127	118
Total Arrests	30,844	28,154	25,965	22,980	20,581

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: Overall, the number of youth arrested for person offenses declined by 32% between FY 2009-10 and FY 2013-14 (from 22,525 to 15,222). Misdemeanor assault or battery was the most serious charge for 7,658 (50%) of the youth arrested for person offenses during FY 2013-14, though this number has declined 35% from a total of 11,809 in FY 2009-10. Youth arrested for murder/manslaughter decreased from 119 during FY 2009-10 to 40 in FY 2013-14 (66%). The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for felony (aggravated) assault or battery has also dropped dramatically over the last five years, from 6,460 to 4,435 (a 31% decline). The number of youth whose primary offense was armed robbery fell 27% from 914 during FY 2009-10 to 667 in FY 2013-14.

Youth Arrested for Person Offenses (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	103	119	88	64	42
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	78	47	36	34	45
Sexual Battery (F)	822	809	782	746	747
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	542	489	424	420	402
Armed Robbery (F)	1,125	914	745	698	654
Other Robbery (F)	1,352	1,161	1,070	944	843
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	7,138	6,461	5,714	5,025	4,565
Violent Obstruction of Justice (F)	432	380	299	303	266
Kidnapping (F)	255	202	168	162	147
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	12,671	11,815	11,310	9,782	8,483
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	125	135	97	92	90
Total Youth Arrested	24,643	22,532	20,733	18,270	16,284

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Property Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2013-14, there were 22,630 delinquency arrests for property offenses, an 8% decline from the previous year and 37% drop across the last five years. Burglary, with 8,186 arrests, was the most common property offense, representing 36% of all property offenses during 2013-14. This was a decrease of 8% from the previous year. Misdemeanor theft (8,079 arrests) was the next most common property offense during 2013-14, accounting for just under 36% of all property offenses, whereas during FY 2009-10 misdemeanor theft totaled 46% of property offenses. Since FY 2009-10, misdemeanor vandalism arrests have declined 43% from 2,103 to 1,193.

Delinquency Arrests for Property Offenses (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	253	239	239	199	166
Burglary (F)	13,353	11,695	10,910	10,125	8,874
Auto Theft (F)	1,861	1,476	1,262	1,190	1,229
Grand Larceny (F)	3,253	2,748	2,498	2,754	2,742
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	315	276	243	264	221
Vandalism (F)	717	613	485	457	377
Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F)	423	320	299	250	220
Petit Larceny (M)	20,056	16,461	13,853	10,997	9,584
Vandalism (M)	2,589	2,103	1,798	1,583	1,255
Total Arrests	42,820	35,931	31,587	27,819	24,668

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2013-14, a property offense was the most serious offense for 15,097 youth arrested. This figure is down 13% from the previous year and 43% from FY 2009-10. Misdemeanor theft was the most common property offense for 5,697 youth, accounting for 38% of all youth whose most serious arrest was a property offense during the FY 2013-14. Burglary was the next most common property offense with 5,458 youth arrested during FY 2013-14, though the total number of youth whose most serious charge was burglary decreased 34% since FY 2009-10. Over the last five years, the number of youth whose most serious arrest was misdemeanor vandalism declined 53% from 1,222 to 570 youth.

Youth Arrested for Property Offenses (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	229	219	218	177	149
Burglary (F)	9,521	8,295	7,547	7,084	6,117
Auto Theft (F)	1,071	831	752	664	661
Grand Larceny (F)	2,493	2,099	1,862	2,054	2,026
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	184	156	142	146	138
Vandalism (F)	545	451	336	351	262
Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F)	315	245	213	177	159
Petit Larceny (M)	16,091	13,174	11,016	8,372	7,118
Vandalism (M)	1,554	1,222	1,011	913	709
Total Youth Arrested	32,003	26,692	23,097	19,938	17,339

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Substance-Related Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2013-14, there were 8,656 delinquency arrests for drug and alcohol offenses, a 39% decline since FY 2009-10. Felony drug offenses accounted for 21% of the total number of drug and alcohol delinquency arrests. Misdemeanor drug arrests (primarily marijuana), accounted for 6,070 or 70% of all drug and alcohol arrests. This was down 676 cases (10%) since last year and 3,011 cases (33%) since FY 2009-10. Arrests for possession of alcohol declined 48% since 2009-10 (from 1,558 to 805).

Delinquency Arrests for Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Offenses (FY 2009-10 through FY 2013-14)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses	3,461	2,721	2,227	1,964	1,781
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses	9,081	8,484	7,514	6,746	6,070
Alcohol Offenses	1,558	1,416	1,291	1,190	805
Total Arrests	14,100	12,621	11,032	9,900	8,656

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2013-14, there were 6,058 individual youth arrested whose most serious offense was drug or alcohol-related. The number of youth arrested for felony drug offenses has declined 46% since FY 2009-10, from 2,621 to 1,409. Misdemeanor drug offenses accounted for 3,990 or 66% of all youth arrested for drug and alcohol offenses during FY 2013-14. The number of youth arrested whose most serious offense in the year was a misdemeanor drug offense has dropped 36% since FY 2009-10, when it accounted for 62% of the total. The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for an alcohol offense declined 48% over the last five years (from 1,268 to 659).

Youth Arrested for Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Offenses (FY 2009-10 through FY 2013-14)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses	2,621	2,088	1,698	1,547	1,409
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses	6,281	5,885	5,162	4,582	3,990
Alcohol Offenses	1,268	1,141	1,067	1,030	659
Total Youth Arrested	10,170	9,114	7,927	7,159	6,058

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Public Disorder Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2013-14 there were 8,844 delinquency arrests for public disorder offenses, a 42% decline since FY 2009-10. Disorderly conduct offenses made up 27% of the public disorder delinquency arrests in FY 2013-14. The most serious type of public disorder offense—weapons felony—decreased from 1,957 arrests during FY 2009-10 to 1,253 arrests during FY 2013-14, a 36% decline. Weapons misdemeanor offenses were down 47% from 447 arrests during FY 2009-10 to 238 arrests during FY 2013-14. Since FY 2009-10, the number of trespassing arrests has declined 48% from 3,545 to 1,835.

Delinquency Arrests for Public Disorder Offenses

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	1,957	1,645	1,493	1,235	1,253
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	447	417	313	261	238
Disorderly Conduct (M)	4,732	4,098	3,352	2,838	2,354
Trespassing (M)	3,545	3,063	2,463	2,037	1,835
Loitering and Prowling (M)	1,532	1,571	1,451	992	954
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	89	91	82	55	50
Resist Arrest (M)	3,035	2,956	2,410	2,208	2,160
Total Arrests	15,337	13,841	11,564	9,626	8,844

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2013-14 4,584 individual youth were arrested whose most serious offense was related to public disorder, down 49% from FY 2009-10. Disorderly conduct offenses made up 29% of the total and trespassing accounted for 18% of the youth whose most serious offense was a public disorder offense in FY 2013-14. The number of youth arrested for the most serious type of public disorder offense, weapons felony, decreased 38% from 1,712 to 1,057 over the last five fiscal years. During the same time period, misdemeanor weapons offenses decreased 53% from 266 to 124 youth. Since FY 2009-10 the number of youth whose most serious offense during the year was misdemeanor resisting arrest fell 37%, from 1,342 to 846.

Youth Arrested for Public Disorder Offenses

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	1,712	1,443	1,287	1,080	1,057
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	266	240	168	134	124
Disorderly Conduct (M)	2,935	2,561	2,080	1,719	1,326
Trespassing (M)	1,855	1,558	1,194	972	807
Loitering and Prowling (M)	732	667	611	401	382
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	73	78	67	49	42
Resist Arrest (M)	1,342	1,278	1,026	950	846
Total Youth Arrested	8,915	7,825	6,433	5,305	4,584

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor