

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 (JACs), 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's Attorney and to 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, as well as on the youth's assessed risks and needs.

42,211 youth were arrested on 75,066 occasions for delinquency during FY 2014-15.

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 each unique arrest is counted.

Overall, juvenile arrests continue to decline.

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, which is 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 42,211 youth were arrested during FY 2014-15, representing 75,066 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 2014-15 Individual Youth Served)

	AGE					Youth Served
	0 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18+	
Statewide	30	1,039	10,030	29,481	1,631	42,211
Percentage	0%	2%	24%	70%	4%	

	GENDER/RACE								Youth Served
	Male				Female				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
Statewide	11,294	13,807	4,887	174	4,984	5,275	1,712	78	42,211
Percentage	27%	33%	12%	0%	12%	12%	4%	0%	

Statewide Delinquency and Youth Arrest Rates

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2014-15 there were just over 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 2014-15, there were 75,066 arrests for delinquent offenses in Florida. This represents a rate of 41 arrests for every 1,000 youth among the at-risk (10-17 years old) population. Between FY 2010-11 and FY 2014-15, the population at risk remained changed very little; meanwhile, the number of arrests for delinquency decreased 32%. 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 2010-11 through FY 2014-15)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Intake Rates of Delinquency Arrests by Population					
Delinquency Arrests	110,515	97,152	85,453	78,330	75,066
Pop. 10-17	1,846,912	1,841,157	1,838,116	1,838,168	1,840,998
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	60	53	46	43	41

Youth Arrested: During FY 2014-15, 42,211 youth were arrested for a delinquent offense. This represents a youth arrest rate of 23 youth for every 1,000 among the at-risk population. Between FY 2010-11 and FY 2014-15, the population at risk remained almost unchanged, while the number of youth arrested decreased 36%. The youth arrest rate also dropped 36%, from 36 to 23 for every 1,000 youth at risk in the population across the five-year period.

Youth Arrests and Delinquency Rates (FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Intake Rates of Youth Arrested by Population					
Youth Arrested	66,432	57,577	50,565	44,564	42,211
Pop. 10-17	1,846,912	1,841,157	1,838,116	1,838,168	1,840,998
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	36	31	28	24	23

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 2014-15, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense in 42% of delinquency arrests. Of the delinquency arrests during FY 2014-15, 34% 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 20%, respectively. During the same period, the number of delinquency arrests for “other” offenses declined 30%.

Delinquency Arrests by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	31,866	29,298	26,428	25,771	25,589
Misdemeanors	53,547	45,253	39,294	34,779	31,852
Other Offenses	25,102	22,601	19,731	17,780	17,625
Total Arrests	110,515	97,152	85,453	78,330	75,066

Youth Arrested: Misdemeanor offenses have historically represented the most common offense category for which individual youth are arrested. During FY 2014-15, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for 48% of individual youth arrested for delinquency. Of the youth arrested, 45% were arrested for at least one felony offense that year while 8% 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 45% and 24%, respectively. During the same period, the number of individual youth arrested for “other” offenses declined 32%.

Youth Arrested for Delinquency by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	24,696	22,632	20,461	19,307	18,804
Misdemeanors	37,004	30,643	26,248	22,197	20,179
Other Offenses	4,732	4,302	3,856	3,060	3,228
Total Youth Arrested	66,432	57,577	50,565	44,564	42,211

Person Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: Overall, arrests for offenses against persons declined 30% between FY 2010-11 and FY 2014-15 (from 25,951 to 18,235). The majority of person offenses during FY 2014-15 involved misdemeanor (simple) assault or battery (55%) followed by aggravated felony assault or battery (26%). Arrests for murder/manslaughter decreased from 88 during FY 2010-11 to 64 in FY 2014-15 (27%). Robbery arrests decreased from 2,098 during FY 2010-11 to 1,687 in FY 2014-15, a decline of 20%. Additionally, over the past five years, aggravated assault or battery declined a total of 26%, misdemeanor assault or battery fell 35%, and resisting arrest with violence dropped 37%.

Delinquency Arrests for Person Offenses (FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	88	65	49	41	64
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	48	44	60	47	36
Sexual Battery (F)	810	765	766	694	645
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	452	444	421	403	505
Armed Robbery (F)	801	754	695	724	792
Other Robbery (F)	1,297	1,147	1,020	1,050	895
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	6,382	5,618	5,101	5,068	4,750
Violent Obstruction of Justice (F)	377	362	307	312	238
Kidnapping (F)	172	170	154	157	131
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	15,395	13,464	11,861	10,850	10,081
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	129	126	119	108	98
Total Arrests	25,951	22,959	20,553	19,454	18,235

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: Overall, the number of youth arrested for person offenses declined by 31% between FY 2010-11 and FY 2014-15 (from 20,715 to 14,221). Misdemeanor assault or battery was the most serious charge for 7,113 (50%) of the youth arrested for person offenses during FY 2014-15. The number of youth arrested for misdemeanor battery has declined 37% from a total of 11,302 in FY 2010-11. Youth arrested for murder/manslaughter is down 27% from 88 during FY 2010-11 to 64 in FY 2014-15. 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 5,705 to 4,098 (a 28% decline). The number of youth whose primary offense was robbery fell 22% from 1,807 during FY 2010-11 to 1,413 in FY 2014-15.

Youth Arrested for Person Offenses (FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	88	65	49	40	64
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	46	44	59	46	34
Sexual Battery (F)	780	742	749	677	625
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	423	419	399	378	477
Armed Robbery (F)	738	698	641	666	708
Other Robbery (F)	1,069	944	843	836	705
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	5,705	5,009	4,549	4,428	4,098
Violent Obstruction of Justice (F)	299	302	267	246	190
Kidnapping (F)	168	162	146	152	129
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	11,302	9,769	8,448	7,657	7,113
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	97	91	90	81	78
Total Youth Arrested	20,715	18,245	16,240	15,207	14,221

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Property Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2014-15, there were 21,583 delinquency arrests for property offenses, a 5% decline from the previous year and 32% drop across the last five years. Burglary, with 8,178 arrests, was the most common felony property offense, representing 38% of all property offenses during 2014-15. Burglary arrests decreased 25% between FY 2010-11 and FY 2014-15. Auto theft has increased 41% in the last five years, from 1,260 in FY 2010-11 to 1,774 in FY 2014-15. Misdemeanor theft (6,994 arrests) was the most common misdemeanor property offense during 2014-15, accounting for 32% of all property offenses, whereas during FY 2010-11 misdemeanor theft totaled 44% of all property offenses. Since FY 2010-11, misdemeanor vandalism arrests have declined 38% from 1,798 to 1,110.

Delinquency Arrests for Property Offenses (FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	239	196	166	136	146
Burglary (F)	10,903	10,119	8,874	8,205	8,178
Auto Theft (F)	1,260	1,189	1,218	1,412	1,774
Grand Larceny (F)	2,496	2,739	2,721	2,825	2,570
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	243	263	219	169	148
Vandalism (F)	484	454	380	414	476
Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F)	297	249	218	204	187
Petit Larceny (M)	13,848	10,989	9,561	8,061	6,994
Vandalism (M)	1,798	1,586	1,249	1,191	1,110
Total Arrests	31,568	27,784	24,606	22,617	21,583

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2014-15, a property offense was the most serious offense for 14,053 youth arrested. This figure is down 7% from the previous year and 39% from FY 2010-11. Misdemeanor theft (petty larceny) was the most common property offense for 4,809 youth, accounting for 34% of all youth whose most serious arrest was a property offense during FY 2014-15. Burglary was the next most common property offense with 5,371 youth arrested during FY 2014-15, though the total number of youth whose most serious charge was burglary decreased 29% since FY 2010-11. The number of youth charged with auto theft has increased 11% in the last five years, from 751 in FY 2010-11 to 830 in FY 2014-15. Over the last five years, the number of youth whose most serious arrest was misdemeanor vandalism declined 46% from 1,010 to 547 youth.

Youth Arrested for Property Offenses (FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	218	174	149	121	126
Burglary (F)	7,539	7,077	6,169	5,458	5,371
Auto Theft (F)	751	663	654	753	830
Grand Larceny (F)	1,862	2,040	2,001	1,977	1,871
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	142	145	138	94	79
Vandalism (F)	335	348	262	279	292
Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F)	211	176	158	138	128
Petit Larceny (M)	11,013	8,364	7,080	5,676	4,809
Vandalism (M)	1,010	915	704	568	547
Total Youth Arrested	23,081	19,902	17,315	15,064	14,053

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Substance-Related Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2014-15, there were 7,919 delinquency arrests for drug and alcohol offenses, a 37% decline since FY 2010-11. Felony drug offenses accounted for 22% of the total number of drug and alcohol delinquency arrests. Misdemeanor drug arrests (primarily marijuana), accounted for 5,532 or 70% of all drug and alcohol arrests. This was down 525 cases (9%) since last year and 2,950 cases (35%) since FY 2010-11. Arrests for possession of alcohol have declined 54% since 2010-11 (from 1,416 to 645).

Delinquency Arrests for Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Offenses (FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses	2,721	2,222	1,954	1,778	1,742
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses	8,482	7,514	6,741	6,057	5,532
Alcohol Offenses	1,416	1,291	1,189	794	645
Total Arrests	12,619	11,027	9,884	8,629	7,919

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2014-15, there were 5,518 individual youth arrested whose most serious offense was drug or alcohol-related. The number of youth arrested for felony drug offenses has declined 36% since FY 2010-11, from 2,088 to 1,336. Misdemeanor drug offenses accounted for 3,635 or 66% of all youth arrested for drug and alcohol offenses during FY 2014-15. The number of youth arrested whose most serious offense in the year was a misdemeanor drug offense has dropped 38% since FY 2010-11, when it accounted for 65% of the total. The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for an alcohol offense declined 52% over the last five years (from 1,141 to 547).

Youth Arrested for Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Offenses (FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses	2,088	1,693	1,537	1,406	1,336
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses	5,882	5,162	4,575	3,976	3,635
Alcohol Offenses	1,141	1,067	1,029	649	547
Total Youth Arrested	9,111	7,922	7,141	6,031	5,518

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Public Disorder Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2014-15 there were 8,596 delinquency arrests for public disorder offenses, a 38% decline since FY 2010-11. Disorderly conduct offenses made up 25% of the public disorder delinquency arrests in FY 2014-15. The most serious type of public disorder offense—weapons felony—was down from 1,643 arrests during FY 2010-11 to 1,370 arrests during FY 2014-15 (17%). Misdemeanor weapons offenses were down 41% from 416 arrests during FY 2010-11 to 247 arrests during FY 2014-15. Since FY 2010-11, the number of trespassing arrests has declined 41% from 3,063 to 1,813.

Delinquency Arrests for Public Disorder Offenses

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	1,643	1,489	1,232	1,253	1,370
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	416	313	260	236	247
Disorderly Conduct (M)	4,098	3,351	2,837	2,361	2,189
Trespassing (M)	3,063	2,463	2,038	1,839	1,813
Loitering and Prowling (M)	1,571	1,451	992	951	855
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	93	82	55	51	65
Resist Arrest (M)	2,955	2,410	2,207	2,155	2,057
Total Arrests	13,839	11,559	9,621	8,846	8,596

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2014-15 4,520 individual youth were arrested whose most serious offense was related to public disorder, down 42% from FY 2010-11. Disorderly conduct offenses made up 28% of the total and trespassing accounted for 18% of the youth whose most serious offense was a public disorder offense in FY 2014-15. The number of youth arrested for the most serious type of public disorder offense, weapons felony, was down 20% between 2010-11 and 2014-15. During the same time period, misdemeanor weapons offenses were down 45% from 239 to 131 youth. Since FY 2010-11 the number of youth whose most serious offense during the year was misdemeanor resisting arrest fell 40%, from 1,277 to 770.

Youth Arrested for Public Disorder Offenses

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	1,441	1,283	1,079	1,057	1,157
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	239	168	134	122	131
Disorderly Conduct (M)	2,561	2,080	1,718	1,322	1,288
Trespassing (M)	1,558	1,194	971	810	792
Loitering and Prowling (M)	667	611	401	381	320
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	80	67	49	43	62
Resist Arrest (M)	1,277	1,026	949	845	770
Total Youth Arrested	7,823	6,429	5,301	4,580	4,520

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor