

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.

**38,267 youth were
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occasions for
delinquency during
FY 2015-16.**

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 each unique 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 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 38,267 youth were arrested during FY 2015-16, representing 69,749 delinquency arrests. The majority of youth arrested were male (72%). Most of the youth arrested (70%) were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen at the time of arrest.

Delinquency Intake (FY 2015-16 Individual Youth Served)

	AGE					Youth Served
	0 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18+	
Statewide	25	868	8,759	26,947	1,668	38,267
Percentage	0%	2%	23%	70%	4%	

	GENDER/RACE								Youth Served
	Male				Female				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
Statewide	9,970	13,174	4,328	135	4,382	4,641	1,573	64	38,267
Percentage	26%	34%	11%	0%	11%	12%	4%	0%	

Statewide Delinquency and Youth Arrest Rates

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2015-16, there were just over 1.86 million youth at risk¹ for delinquency in Florida. Youth between the ages of 10 and 17 are considered the population most at risk of becoming delinquent. During FY 2015-16, there were 69,749 arrests for delinquent offenses in Florida. This represents a rate of 37 arrests for every 1,000 youth among the at-risk (10-17 years old) population. Between FY 2011-12 and FY 2015-16, the population at risk increased just more than 1%; meanwhile, the number of arrests for delinquency decreased 28%. 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 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Intake Rates of Delinquency Arrests by Population					
Delinquency Arrests	97,237	85,408	78,287	75,087	69,749
Pop. 10-17	1,838,138	1,838,071	1,837,548	1,839,696	1,861,518
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	53	46	43	41	37

¹ Based on the Florida Demographic Estimating Conference, December 2015 and the University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research's June 30, 2016 Florida Population Studies, Bulletin 175, June 2016.

Youth Arrested: During FY 2015-16, 38,267 youth were arrested for a delinquent offense. This represents a youth arrest rate of 21 youth for every 1,000 among the at-risk population. Between FY 2011-12 and FY 2015-16, the population at risk increased just more than 1%, while the number of youth arrested decreased 34%. The youth arrest rate also dropped 32%, from 31 to 21 for every 1,000 youth in the at risk population across the five-year period.

Youth Arrests and Delinquency Rates (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Intake Rates of Youth Arrested by Population					
Youth Arrested	57,597	50,537	44,524	42,191	38,267
Pop. 10-17	1,838,138	1,838,071	1,837,548	1,839,696	1,861,518
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	31	27	24	23	21

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 2015-16, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense in 39% of delinquency arrests. Of the delinquency arrests during FY 2015-16, 38% 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 10% and 40%, respectively, though last year felony offense arrests increased 2%, a change from the trend in previous years. During the same period, the number of delinquency arrests for “other” offenses declined 28%.

Delinquency Arrests by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	29,300	26,419	25,756	25,594	26,304
Misdemeanors	45,238	39,281	34,772	31,893	27,186
Other Offenses	22,699	19,708	17,759	17,600	16,259
Total Arrests	97,237	85,408	78,287	75,087	69,749

Youth Arrested: Misdemeanor offenses have historically represented the most common offense category for which individual youth are arrested. During FY 2015-16, this pattern changed. While a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for 43% of individual youth arrested for delinquency, 49% were arrested for at least one felony offense during the year (it is likely that this shift was at least partly due to the growing implementation of civil citations being used as an alternative to arrest). An additional 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 46% and 18%, respectively. During the same period, the number of individual youth arrested for “other” offenses declined 30%.

Youth Arrested for Delinquency by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	22,632	20,452	19,285	18,786	18,618
Misdemeanors	30,629	26,233	22,184	20,166	16,628
Other Offenses	4,336	3,852	3,055	3,239	3,021
Total Youth Arrested	57,597	50,537	44,524	42,191	38,267

Against-Person Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: Overall, arrests for offenses against persons declined 25% between FY 2011-12 and FY 2015-16 (from 22,975 to 17,182). The majority of against-person offenses during FY 2015-16 involved misdemeanor (simple) assault or battery (54%) followed by aggravated felony assault or battery (27%). Arrests for murder/manslaughter increased from 65 during FY 2011-12 to 81 in FY 2015-16 (25%). Robbery arrests decreased from 1,901 during FY 2011-12 to 1,681 in FY 2015-16, a decline of 12%. Additionally, over the past five years, aggravated assault or battery declined a total of 19%, misdemeanor assault or battery fell 31%, and violent obstruction of justice dropped 37%.

Delinquency Arrests for Against-Person Offenses (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Against-Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	65	48	42	67	81
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	44	60	48	37	56
Sexual Battery (F)	770	767	695	711	608
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	461	433	412	464	448
Armed Robbery (F)	754	694	725	786	801
Other Robbery (F)	1,147	1,019	1,051	902	880
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	5,615	5,096	5,068	4,750	4,583
Violent Obstruction of Justice (F)	362	307	311	237	228
Kidnapping (F)	170	154	157	132	155
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	13,461	11,856	10,850	10,102	9,250
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	126	119	108	99	112
Total Arrests	22,975	20,553	19,467	18,287	17,202

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: Overall, the number of youth arrested for against-person offenses declined by 27% between FY 2011-12 and FY 2015-16 (from 18,260 to 13,394). Misdemeanor assault or battery was the most serious charge for 6,415 (48%) of the youth arrested for against-person offenses during FY 2015-16, declining 34% from a total of 9,765 in FY 2011-12. The number of youth arrested for murder/manslaughter was up 25% from 65 during FY 2011-12 to 81 in FY 2015-16. The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for felony (aggravated) assault or battery has also dropped over the last five years, from 5,006 to 3,950 (a 21% decline). The number of youth whose primary offense was robbery fell 12% from 1,642 during FY 2011-12 to 1,439 in FY 2015-16.

Youth Arrested for Against-Person Offenses (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Against-Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	65	48	41	66	81
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	44	59	47	35	55
Sexual Battery (F)	747	750	678	692	598
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	436	411	386	433	427
Armed Robbery (F)	698	642	666	701	722
Other Robbery (F)	944	842	836	714	717
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	5,006	4,546	4,428	4,098	3,950
Violent Obstruction of Justice (F)	302	267	245	185	187
Kidnapping (F)	162	146	152	129	151
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	9,765	8,438	7,653	7,116	6,415
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	91	90	81	79	91
Total Youth Arrested	18,260	16,239	15,213	14,248	13,394

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Property Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2015-16, there were 20,981 delinquency arrests for property offenses, a 3% decline from the previous year and 24% drop across the last five years. Burglary, with 8,906 arrests, was the most common felony property offense, representing 42% of all property offenses during 2015-16. Burglary arrests decreased 12% between FY 2011-12 (10,118 arrests) and FY 2015-16 (8,906 arrests). Auto theft has more than doubled in the last five years, from 1,188 arrests in FY 2011-12 to 2,472 arrests in FY 2015-16 (with an increase of 40% in the last year alone). Petit larceny (5,270 arrests) was the most common misdemeanor property offense during 2015-16, accounting for 25% of all property offenses, a decline from 40% of all property offenses during FY 2011-12. Since FY 2011-12, misdemeanor vandalism arrests have declined 40% from 1,585 to 948.

Delinquency Arrests for Property Offenses (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	196	166	136	146	132
Burglary (F)	10,118	8,870	8,204	8,194	8,906
Auto Theft (F)	1,188	1,218	1,410	1,760	2,472
Grand Larceny (F)	2,737	2,719	2,820	2,561	2,496
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	263	218	169	147	121
Vandalism (F)	454	380	414	472	454
Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F)	251	219	204	187	182
Petit Larceny (M)	10,980	9,554	8,058	6,991	5,270
Vandalism (M)	1,585	1,248	1,190	1,109	948
Total Arrests	27,772	24,592	22,605	21,567	20,981

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2015-16, a property offense was the most serious offense for 12,932 youth arrested. This figure is down 8% from the previous year and 35% from FY 2011-12. Misdemeanor theft (petit larceny) was the second most common property offense for 3,518 youth, accounting for 27% of all youth whose most serious arrest was a property offense during FY 2015-16. Burglary was the most common property offense with 5,516 youth arrested during FY 2015-16, though the total number of youth whose most serious charge was burglary decreased 22% since FY 2011-12. The number of youth charged with auto theft has increased 66% in the last five years, from 662 in FY 2011-12 to 1,101 in FY 2015-16. Over the last five years, the number of youth whose most serious arrest was misdemeanor vandalism declined 50% from 914 to 456 youth.

Youth Arrested for Property Offenses (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	174	150	121	126	117
Burglary (F)	7,076	6,162	5,453	5,363	5,516
Auto Theft (F)	662	654	751	824	1,101
Grand Larceny (F)	2,038	2,000	1,972	1,858	1,774
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	145	138	94	79	69
Vandalism (F)	348	262	279	289	247
Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F)	176	158	138	129	134
Petit Larceny (M)	8,356	7,076	5,671	4,805	3,518
Vandalism (M)	914	703	567	546	456
Total Youth Arrested	19,889	17,303	15,046	14,019	12,932

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Illegal Substance-Related Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2015-16, there were 6,529 delinquency arrests for illegal substance-related offenses, a 41% decline since FY 2011-12. Felony drug offenses accounted for 23% of the total number of illegal substance-related arrests. Misdemeanor drug arrests accounted for 4,432 or 68% of all illegal substance-related arrests. This number was down 1,114 cases (20%) from the previous year and 3,082 cases (41%) since FY 2011-12. Arrests for possession of alcohol have declined 56% since FY 2011-12 (from 1,291 to 567).

Delinquency Arrests for Illegal Substance-Related Offenses (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Illegal Substance-Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses (F)	2,221	1,953	1,771	1,738	1,530
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses (M)	7,514	6,740	6,053	5,546	4,432
Alcohol Offenses (M)	1,291	1,189	794	644	567
Total Arrests	11,026	9,882	8,618	7,928	6,529

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2015-16, there were 4,358 individual youth arrested whose most serious offense was illegal substance-related. The number of youth arrested for felony drug offenses has declined 32% since FY 2011-12, from 1,692 to 1,159. Misdemeanor drug offenses accounted for 2,719 or 62% of all youth arrested for illegal substance-related offenses during FY 2015-16. The number of youth arrested whose most serious offense in the year was a misdemeanor drug offense has dropped 47% since FY 2011-12, when it accounted for 65% of the total number of youth arrested. The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for an alcohol offense declined 55% over the last five years (from 1,067 to 480).

Youth Arrested for Illegal Substance-Related Offenses (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Illegal Substance-Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses (F)	1,692	1,536	1,399	1,332	1,159
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses (M)	5,162	4,574	3,975	3,636	2,719
Alcohol Offenses (M)	1,067	1,029	649	546	480
Total Youth Arrested	7,921	7,139	6,023	5,514	4,358

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Public Disorder Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2015-16 there were 7,716 delinquency arrests for public disorder offenses, a 33% decline since FY 2011-12. Disorderly conduct offenses made up 22% of the public disorder delinquency arrests in FY 2015-16. The most serious type of public disorder offense—weapons felony—was down 15% from 1,490 arrests during FY 2011-12 to 1,270 arrests during FY 2015-16. Misdemeanor weapons offenses were down 31% from 313 arrests during FY 2011-12 to 216 arrests during FY 2015-16. Since FY 2011-12, the number of trespassing arrests has declined 35% from 2,463 to 1,603.

Delinquency Arrests for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	1,490	1,234	1,252	1,377	1,270
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	313	261	235	245	216
Disorderly Conduct (M)	3,352	2,837	2,361	2,199	1,721
Trespassing (M)	2,463	2,038	1,840	1,823	1,603
Loitering and Prowling (M)	1,451	992	951	855	957
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	82	55	51	64	65
Resist Arrest (M)	2,410	2,207	2,156	2,049	1,884
Total Arrests	11,561	9,624	8,846	8,612	7,716

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2015-16, 3,929 individual youth were arrested whose most serious offense was related to public disorder, down 39% from FY 2011-12. Disorderly conduct offenses made up 26% of the total arrests for public disorder offenses. Trespassing accounted for 17% of the youth whose most serious offense was a public disorder offense in FY 2015-16. The number of youth arrested for the most serious type of public disorder offense, weapons felony, was down 17% between FY 2011-12 and FY 2015-16. During the same time period, misdemeanor weapons offenses were down 39% from 168 to 102 youth. Since FY 2011-12 the number of youth whose most serious offense during the year was misdemeanor resisting arrest fell 32%, from 1,026 to 693.

Youth Arrested for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2011-12 through FY 2015-16)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	1,284	1,080	1,055	1,161	1,071
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	168	135	122	129	102
Disorderly Conduct (M)	2,080	1,718	1,321	1,288	1,013
Trespassing (M)	1,194	971	809	794	671
Loitering and Prowling (M)	611	401	381	318	325
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	67	49	43	61	54
Resist Arrest (M)	1,026	949	845	763	693
Total Youth Arrested	6,430	5,303	4,576	4,514	3,929

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor