

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.

***35,309 youth were
arrested on 64,824
occasions for
delinquency during
FY 2016-17.***

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 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 35,309 youth were arrested during FY 2016-17, representing 64,824 delinquency arrests. The majority of youth arrested were male (73%). Most of the youth arrested (70%) were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen at the time of arrest.

Delinquency Intake (FY 2016-17 Individual Youth Served)

	AGE					Youth Served
	0 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18+	
Statewide	22	871	8,104	24,551	1,761	35,309
Percentage	0%	2%	23%	70%	5%	

	GENDER/RACE								Youth Served
	Male				Female				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
Statewide	9,160	12,145	4,174	122	3,914	4,323	1,424	47	35,309
Percentage	26%	34%	12%	0%	11%	12%	4%	0%	

Statewide Delinquency and Youth Arrest Rates

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2016-17, 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 2016-17, there were 64,824 arrests for delinquent offenses in Florida. This represents a rate of 35 arrests for every 1,000 youth among the at-risk (10-17 years old) population. Between FY 2012-13 and FY 2016-17, the population at risk increased just more than 1%; meanwhile, the number of arrests for delinquency decreased 24%. 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 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)**

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Intake Rates of Delinquency Arrests by Population					
Delinquency Arrests	85,495	78,275	75,072	69,869	64,824
Pop. 10-17	1,838,133	1,838,092	1,837,469	1,840,208	1,864,458
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	47	43	41	38	35

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 2016-17, 35,309 youth were arrested for a delinquent offense. This represents a youth arrest rate of 19 youth for every 1,000 among the at-risk population. Between FY 2012-13 and FY 2016-17, the population at risk increased just more than 1%, while the number of youth arrested decreased 30%. The youth arrest rate has also dropped 32%, from 28 to 19 for every 1,000 youth in the at risk population across the five-year period.

Youth Arrests and Delinquency Rates (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Intake Rates of Youth Arrested by Population					
Youth Arrested	50,557	44,510	42,157	38,290	35,309
Pop. 10-17	1,838,133	1,838,092	1,837,469	1,840,208	1,864,458
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	28	24	23	21	19

Delinquency and Youth Arrested by Offense Seriousness

Delinquency Arrests: Misdemeanor offenses have historically represented the most common offense category for arrested youth. During FY 2016-17, however, a felony was the most serious offense in 40% of delinquency arrests. Of the delinquency arrests during FY 2016-17, 36% were for misdemeanor offenses and 24% 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 40% and 2%, respectively.

Delinquency Arrests by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	26,414	25,751	25,576	26,295	25,820
Misdemeanors	39,277	34,765	31,886	27,274	23,451
Other Offenses	19,804	17,759	17,610	16,300	15,553
Total Arrests	85,495	78,275	75,072	69,869	64,824

Youth Arrested: Felony offenses previously represented the most common offense category for which individual youth were arrested in FY 2015-16. During FY 2016-17, this pattern remained. While a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for 40% of individual youth arrested for delinquency, 52% 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 11%, respectively. During the same period, the number of individual youth arrested for “other” offenses declined 23%.

Youth Arrested for Delinquency by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	20,444	19,277	18,763	18,599	18,286
Misdemeanors	26,230	22,178	20,156	16,656	14,049
Other Offenses	3,883	3,055	3,238	3,035	2,974
Total Youth Arrested	50,557	44,510	42,157	38,290	35,309

Against-Person Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: Overall, arrests for offenses against persons declined 23% between FY 2012-13 and FY 2016-17 (from 20,549 to 15,786). The majority of against-person offenses during FY 2016-17 involved misdemeanor (simple) assault or battery (54%) followed by aggravated felony assault or battery (27%). Arrests for murder/manslaughter increased from 48 during FY 2012-13 to 69 in FY 2016-17 (44%). Robbery arrests decreased from 1,714 during FY 2012-13 to 1,598 in FY 2016-17, a decline of 7%. Additionally, over the past five years, aggravated assault or battery declined 17%, misdemeanor assault or battery fell 28%, and violent obstruction of justice dropped 30%.

Delinquency Arrests for Against-Person Offenses (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Against-Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	48	42	67	81	69
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	60	48	37	60	52
Sexual Battery (F)	767	694	711	606	533
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	431	411	463	453	392
Armed Robbery (F)	695	725	784	806	785
Other Robbery (F)	1,019	1,051	905	878	813
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	5,096	5,069	4,752	4,570	4,228
Violent Obstruction of Justice (F)	307	311	236	223	216
Kidnapping (F)	154	157	132	155	140
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	11,853	10,847	10,097	9,266	8,483
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	119	108	99	113	75
Total Arrests	20,549	19,463	18,283	17,211	15,786

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: Overall, the number of youth arrested for against-person offenses declined by 25% between FY 2012-13 and FY 2016-17 (from 16,235 to 12,211). Misdemeanor assault or battery was the most serious charge for 5,802 (48%) of the youth arrested for against-person offenses during FY 2016-17, declining 31% from a total of 8,436 in FY 2012-13. The number of youth arrested for murder/manslaughter was up 44% from 48 during FY 2012-13 to 69 in FY 2016-17. The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for felony (aggravated) assault or battery has also dropped over the last five years, from 4,546 to 3,648 (a 20% decline). The number of youth whose primary offense was robbery fell 7% from 1,484 during FY 2012-13 to 1,381 in FY 2016-17.

Youth Arrested for Against-Person Offenses (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Against-Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	48	41	66	81	69
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	59	47	35	59	50
Sexual Battery (F)	750	677	692	595	525
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	409	385	431	432	380
Armed Robbery (F)	642	666	700	726	707
Other Robbery (F)	842	836	716	715	674
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	4,546	4,429	4,098	3,955	3,648
Violent Obstruction of Justice (F)	267	245	184	181	164
Kidnapping (F)	146	152	129	151	135
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	8,436	7,650	7,110	6,417	5,802
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	90	81	79	92	57
Total Youth Arrested	16,235	15,209	14,240	13,404	12,211

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Property Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2016-17, there were 19,084 delinquency arrests for property offenses, a 9% decline from the previous year and 22% reduction across the last five years. Burglary, with 8,840 arrests, was the most common felony property offense, representing 46% of all property offenses during FY 2016-17. Burglary arrests remained stable between FY 2012-13 (8,871 arrests) and FY 2016-17 (8,840 arrests). Auto theft nearly doubled in the last five years, from 1,218 arrests in FY 2012-13 to 2,355 arrests in FY 2016-17; however, there has been a 4% decrease in auto thefts since FY 2015-16. Petit larceny (3,662 arrests) was the most common misdemeanor property offense during FY 2016-17, accounting for 19% of all property offenses, and exhibiting a decline of 62% since FY 2012-13 (9,553 arrests). Since FY 2012-13, misdemeanor vandalism arrests have declined 30% from 1,248 to 879.

Delinquency Arrests for Property Offenses (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	166	136	146	131	98
Burglary (F)	8,871	8,206	8,186	8,925	8,840
Auto Theft (F)	1,218	1,410	1,759	2,455	2,355
Grand Larceny (F)	2,716	2,818	2,559	2,476	2,423
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	218	169	146	116	128
Vandalism (F)	379	414	470	458	492
Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F)	219	204	187	179	207
Petit Larceny (M)	9,553	8,058	6,990	5,312	3,662
Vandalism (M)	1,248	1,188	1,110	947	879
Total Arrests	24,588	22,603	21,553	20,999	19,084

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2016-17, a property offense was the most serious offense for 11,598 youth arrested. This figure is down 10% from the previous year and 33% from FY 2012-13. Misdemeanor theft (petit larceny) was the second most common property offense for 2,306 youth, accounting for 20% of all youth whose most serious arrest was a property offense during FY 2016-17. Burglary was the most common property offense with 5,454 youth arrested during FY 2016-17, though the total number of youth whose most serious charge was burglary decreased 11% since FY 2012-13. The number of youth charged with auto theft has increased 63% in the last five years, from 654 in FY 2012-13 to 1,065 in FY 2016-17. Over the last five years, the number of youth whose most serious arrest was misdemeanor vandalism decreased 41% from 703 to 412 youth.

Youth Arrested for Property Offenses (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	150	121	126	116	89
Burglary (F)	6,162	5,453	5,356	5,525	5,454
Auto Theft (F)	654	751	824	1,087	1,065
Grand Larceny (F)	1,997	1,970	1,852	1,758	1,762
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	138	94	78	68	65
Vandalism (F)	261	279	289	250	294
Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F)	158	138	129	134	151
Petit Larceny (M)	7,075	5,671	4,804	3,540	2,306
Vandalism (M)	703	566	545	456	412
Total Youth Arrested	17,298	15,043	14,003	12,934	11,598

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Illegal Substance-Related Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2016-17, there were 6,023 delinquency arrests for illegal substance-related offenses, a 39% decline since FY 2012-13. Felony drug offenses accounted for 26% of the total number of illegal substance-related arrests. Misdemeanor drug arrests accounted for 4,015 or 67% of all illegal substance-related arrests. This number was down only 435 cases (10%) from the previous year but down 2,725 cases (40%) since FY 2012-13. Arrests for possession of alcohol have declined 65% since FY 2012-13 (from 1,189 to 419).

Delinquency Arrests for Illegal Substance-Related Offenses (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Illegal Substance-Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses (F)	1,952	1,767	1,733	1,527	1,589
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses (M)	6,740	6,053	5,544	4,450	4,015
Alcohol Offenses (M)	1,189	794	644	566	419
Total Arrests	9,881	8,614	7,921	6,543	6,023

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2016-17, there were 4,054 individual youth arrested whose most serious offense was illegal substance-related. The number of youth arrested for felony drug offenses has declined 19% since FY 2012-13, from 1,535 to 1,239. Misdemeanor drug offenses accounted for 2,464 or 61% of all youth arrested for illegal substance-related offenses during FY 2016-17. The number of youth arrested whose most serious offense in the year was a misdemeanor drug offense has dropped 46% since FY 2012-13, when it accounted for 64% of the total number of youth arrested. The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for an alcohol offense declined 66% over the last five years (from 1,029 to 351).

Youth Arrested for Illegal Substance-Related Offenses (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Illegal Substance-Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses (F)	1,535	1,395	1,327	1,159	1,239
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses (M)	4,574	3,975	3,634	2,727	2,464
Alcohol Offenses (M)	1,029	649	546	479	351
Total Youth Arrested	7,138	6,019	5,507	4,365	4,054

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Public Disorder Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2016-17 there were 7,196 delinquency arrests for public disorder offenses, a 25% decline since FY 2012-13. Disorderly conduct offenses made up 21% of the public disorder delinquency arrests in FY 2016-17. The most serious type of public disorder offense—weapons felony—increased 15% from 1,234 arrests during FY 2012-13 to 1,417 arrests during FY 2016-17. Misdemeanor weapons offenses decreased 25% from 261 arrests during FY 2012-13 to 196 arrests during FY 2016-17. Since FY 2012-13, the number of trespassing arrests has declined 27% from 2,038 to 1,478.

Delinquency Arrests for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	1,234	1,252	1,376	1,274	1,417
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	261	235	245	214	196
Disorderly Conduct (M)	2,837	2,360	2,197	1,725	1,492
Trespassing (M)	2,038	1,839	1,825	1,615	1,478
Loitering and Prowling (M)	992	951	855	953	976
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	55	51	64	66	45
Resist Arrest (M)	2,207	2,156	2,049	1,885	1,592
Total Arrests	9,624	8,844	8,611	7,732	7,196

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2016-17, 3,799 individual youth were arrested whose most serious offense was related to public disorder, down 28% from FY 2012-13. Disorderly conduct offenses made up 23% of the total youth arrested for public disorder offenses. Trespassing accounted for 17% of the youth whose most serious offense was a public disorder offense in FY 2016-17. The number of youth arrested for the most serious type of public disorder offense, weapons felony, increased 12% between FY 2012-13 and FY 2016-17. During the same time period, misdemeanor weapons offenses decreased 36% from 135 to 87 youth. Since FY 2012-13 the number of youth whose most serious offense during the year was misdemeanor resisting arrest fell 38%, from 949 to 588.

Youth Arrested for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2012-13 through FY 2016-17)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	1,079	1,055	1,160	1,070	1,212
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	135	122	129	100	87
Disorderly Conduct (M)	1,718	1,320	1,287	1,013	871
Trespassing (M)	971	808	796	672	630
Loitering and Prowling (M)	401	381	317	324	369
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	49	43	61	54	42
Resist Arrest (M)	949	845	763	692	588
Total Youth Arrested	5,302	4,574	4,513	3,925	3,799

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor