



2018 Comprehensive Accountability Report

DELINQUENCY INTAKE

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MISSION: *To increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.*

Intake is the entry point to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for all juveniles arrested or charged with delinquent acts and is a responsibility of the Office of Probation and Community Intervention. 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, while others are assessed through on-call screening and intake units.

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 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.

Data in this chapter are presented based on both individual "youth" and "arrests." For measures based on individual youth, the most serious delinquent offense for which a youth is arrested during the fiscal year (FY) 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 per referral date associated with each unique arrest is counted.

This chapter highlights important and notable trends in delinquency. Florida is experiencing sustained decreases in juvenile delinquency, 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/reports/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/delinquency-profile>

Profile of Youth

A total of 33,176 individual youth were arrested during FY 2017-18, representing 59,473 delinquency arrests. Of the youth arrested, 72% were male and 69% were between the ages of 15 and 17 at the time of arrest.

Table 1
Profile of Youth Served by Age (FY 2017-18)

| Delinquency Intake (N = 33,176) | Age | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 11 and under | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18+ |
| Statewide | 833 | 1,199 | 2,449 | 4,030 | 5,827 | 7,584 | 9,424 | 1,830 |
| Percentage | 3% | 4% | 7% | 12% | 18% | 23% | 28% | 6% |

Table 2
Profile of Youth Served by Gender + Race/Ethnicity (FY 2017-18)

| Delinquency Intake (N = 33,176) | Male | | | | Female | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|----------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|
| | White | Black | Hispanic | Other | White | Black | Hispanic | Other |
| Statewide | 8,609 | 11,259 | 4,002 | 109 | 3,691 | 4,179 | 1,274 | 53 |
| Percentage | 26% | 34% | 12% | 0% | 11% | 13% | 4% | 0% |

Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

N refers to the individual number of youth processed for delinquency.

Statewide Delinquency and Youth Arrest Rates

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2017-18, there were just over 1.88 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 2017-18, there were 59,473 arrests for delinquent offenses in Florida. This represents a rate of 31 arrests for every 1,000 youth among the at-risk (10-17 years old) population. Between FY 2013-14 and FY 2017-18, the population at risk increased 3%; 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.

Table 3

Delinquency Arrests and Delinquency Rates (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Delinquency Arrests | 78,344 | 75,075 | 69,874 | 64,946 | 59,473 |
| Pop. 10-17 | 1,838,090 | 1,837,479 | 1,840,170 | 1,864,722 | 1,889,541 |
| Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth | 43 | 41 | 38 | 35 | 31 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

Youth Arrested: During FY 2017-18, 33,176 individual youth were arrested for a delinquent offense. This represents a youth arrest rate of 18 youth for every 1,000 among the at-risk population. Between FY 2013-14 and FY 2017-18, the population at risk increased 3%, while the number of individual youth arrested decreased 25%. The youth arrest rate also dropped 25%, from 24 to 18 for every 1,000 youth in the at-risk population across the five-year period.

Table 4

Youth Arrests and Delinquency Rates (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Delinquency Arrests | 44,522 | 42,154 | 38,280 | 35,343 | 33,176 |
| Pop. 10-17 | 1,838,090 | 1,837,479 | 1,840,170 | 1,864,722 | 1,889,541 |
| Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth | 24 | 23 | 21 | 19 | 18 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

¹Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research

Delinquency and Youth Arrested by Offense Seriousness

Delinquency Arrests: Misdemeanors in previous fiscal years (FY 2013-14 to FY 2015-16) represented the most common offense category for arrested youth. However, during FY 2017-18, felony offenses accounted for 39% of all delinquency arrests. It is likely that this shift was at least partly due to the growing implementation of civil citations and other alternatives to arrest². Of the delinquency arrests during FY 2017-18, 36% were for misdemeanor offenses and 25% 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.

Table 5

Delinquency Arrests by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Felonies | 25,746 | 25,572 | 26,293 | 25,853 | 23,218 |
| Misdemeanors | 34,771 | 31,906 | 27,294 | 23,552 | 21,440 |
| Other Offenses | 17,827 | 17,597 | 16,287 | 15,541 | 14,815 |
| Total Arrests | 78,344 | 75,075 | 69,874 | 64,946 | 59,473 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

Youth Arrested: Felony offenses were the most common offense category for which individual youth were arrested during FY 2017-18. While a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for 40% of individual youth arrested for delinquency, 51% were arrested for at least one felony offense during the year. An additional 9% 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 individual youth arrested for misdemeanor and felony offenses declined 41% and 12%, respectively. During the same period, the number of individual youth arrested for “other” offenses increased slightly (less than 1%).

Table 6

Youth Arrests by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Felonies | 19,270 | 18,759 | 18,593 | 18,287 | 16,929 |
| Misdemeanors | 22,177 | 20,161 | 16,657 | 14,079 | 13,166 |
| Other Offenses | 3,075 | 3,234 | 3,030 | 2,977 | 3,081 |
| Total Youth Arrests | 44,522 | 42,154 | 38,280 | 35,343 | 33,176 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

² Civil Citation CAR Chapter: [http://www.djj.state.fl.us/docs/car-reports/\(2017-18-car\)-civil-citation-\(mg\).pdf?sfvrsn=2](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/docs/car-reports/(2017-18-car)-civil-citation-(mg).pdf?sfvrsn=2)

Against-Person Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: Overall, arrests for offenses against persons decreased 24% between FY 2013-14 and FY 2017-18 (from 19,460 to 14,758). The majority of against-person offenses during FY 2017-18 involved misdemeanor (simple) assault or battery (54%), followed by aggravated felony assault or battery (27%). Arrests for murder/manslaughter increased from 42 during FY 2013-14 to 85 during FY 2017-18 (102%). Robbery arrests decreased from 1,776 during FY 2013-14 to 1,421 during FY 2017-18, a decline of 20%. Additionally, over the past five years, aggravated assault or battery declined 21%, misdemeanor assault or battery fell 27%, and violent obstruction of justice dropped 45%.

Table 7

Delinquency Arrests for Against Person Offenses (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Murder/Manslaughter (F) | 42 | 67 | 81 | 69 | 85 |
| Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F) | 48 | 37 | 61 | 52 | 40 |
| Sexual Battery (F) | 694 | 712 | 607 | 532 | 509 |
| Other Felony Sex Offense (F) | 410 | 463 | 452 | 395 | 382 |
| Armed Robbery (F) | 725 | 783 | 803 | 787 | 683 |
| Other Robbery (F) | 1,051 | 907 | 878 | 816 | 738 |
| Aggravated Assault or Battery (F) | 5,067 | 4,751 | 4,568 | 4,248 | 4,020 |
| Violent Obstruction of Justice (F) | 311 | 236 | 223 | 210 | 170 |
| Kidnapping (F) | 157 | 132 | 155 | 140 | 116 |
| Simple Assault or Battery (M) | 10,847 | 10,098 | 9,269 | 8,493 | 7,926 |
| Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M) | 108 | 99 | 113 | 74 | 89 |
| Total Arrests | 19,460 | 18,285 | 17,210 | 15,816 | 14,758 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: Overall, the number of individual youth arrested for against-person offenses declined by 23% between FY 2013-14 and FY 2017-18 (from 15,204 to 11,645). Misdemeanor assault or battery was the most serious charge for 5,566 (48%) of the individual youth arrested for against-person offenses during FY 2017-18, declining 27% from a total of 7,649 during FY 2013-14. The number of individual youth arrested for murder/manslaughter was up 102% from 41 during FY 2013-14 to 83 during FY 2017-18. The number of individual youth whose most serious arrest was for felony (aggravated) assault or battery also dropped over the last five years, from 4,426 to 3,548 (a 20% decline). The number of individual youth whose primary offense was robbery fell 19% from 1,502 during FY 2013-14 to 1,219 during FY 2017-18.

Table 8
Youth Arrests for Against Person Offenses (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Murder/Manslaughter (F) | 41 | 66 | 81 | 69 | 83 |
| Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F) | 47 | 35 | 60 | 50 | 40 |
| Sexual Battery (F) | 677 | 693 | 596 | 524 | 498 |
| Other Felony Sex Offense (F) | 384 | 431 | 431 | 382 | 362 |
| Armed Robbery (F) | 666 | 699 | 723 | 707 | 610 |
| Other Robbery (F) | 836 | 717 | 716 | 676 | 609 |
| Aggravated Assault or Battery (F) | 4,426 | 4,097 | 3,953 | 3,664 | 3,548 |
| Violent Obstruction of Justice (F) | 245 | 184 | 181 | 160 | 140 |
| Kidnapping (F) | 152 | 129 | 151 | 135 | 114 |
| Simple Assault or Battery (M) | 7,649 | 7,110 | 6,415 | 5,801 | 5,566 |
| Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M) | 81 | 79 | 92 | 57 | 75 |
| Total Arrests | 15,204 | 14,240 | 13,399 | 12,225 | 11,645 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Property Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2017-18, there were 16,318 delinquency arrests for property offenses, a 15% decrease from the previous year and 19% reduction across the last five years. Burglary, with 7,049 arrests, was the most common felony property offense, representing 43% of all property offenses during FY 2017-18. Burglary arrests decreased between FY 2013-14 (8,206 arrests) and FY 2017-18 (7,049 arrests). Auto theft increased in the last five years, from 1,410 arrests during FY 2013-14 to 2,220 arrests during FY 2017-18; however, there was a 5% decrease in auto thefts since FY 2016-17, and a 21% decrease since FY 2015-16. Petit larceny (3,286 arrests) was the most common misdemeanor property offense during FY 2017-18, accounting for 20% of all property offenses, and exhibiting a decline of 59% since FY 2013-14 (8,058 arrests). Since FY 2013-14, misdemeanor vandalism arrests decreased 34% from 1,187 to 780.

Table 9

Delinquency Arrests for Property Offenses (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Arson (F) | 136 | 145 | 131 | 100 | 110 |
| Burglary (F) | 8,206 | 8,184 | 8,926 | 8,865 | 7,049 |
| Auto Theft (F) | 1,410 | 1,759 | 2,456 | 2,340 | 2,220 |
| Grand Larceny (F) | 2,817 | 2,558 | 2,473 | 2,423 | 2,154 |
| Receiving Stolen Property (F) | 169 | 146 | 116 | 124 | 72 |
| Vandalism (F) | 414 | 470 | 458 | 496 | 384 |
| Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F) | 204 | 187 | 180 | 205 | 263 |
| Petit Larceny (M) | 8,058 | 6,992 | 5,320 | 3,693 | 3,286 |
| Vandalism (M) | 1,187 | 1,110 | 945 | 879 | 780 |
| Total Arrests | 22,601 | 21,551 | 21,005 | 19,125 | 16,318 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2017-18, a property offense was the most serious offense for 10,102 individual youth arrested. This figure is down 13% from the previous year and 33% from FY 2013-14. Misdemeanor theft (petit larceny) was the second most common property offense for 2,088 individual youth, accounting for 21% of all individual youth whose most serious arrest was a property offense during FY 2017-18. Burglary was the most common property offense with 4,468 individual youth arrested during FY 2017-18, though the total number of individual youth whose most serious charge was burglary decreased 18% since FY 2013-14. The number of individual youth charged with auto theft increased 42% in the last five years, from 750 during FY 2013-14 to 1,068 during FY 2017-18. Over the last five years, the number of individual youth whose most serious arrest was misdemeanor vandalism decreased 39% from 566 to 347 youth.

Table 10
Youth Arrests for Property Offenses (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Arson (F) | 121 | 125 | 116 | 91 | 103 |
| Burglary (F) | 5,453 | 5,355 | 5,524 | 5,451 | 4,468 |
| Auto Theft (F) | 750 | 824 | 1,088 | 1,061 | 1,068 |
| Grand Larceny (F) | 1,970 | 1,850 | 1,755 | 1,757 | 1,572 |
| Receiving Stolen Property (F) | 94 | 78 | 68 | 64 | 40 |
| Vandalism (F) | 279 | 289 | 250 | 299 | 226 |
| Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F) | 138 | 129 | 134 | 151 | 190 |
| Petit Larceny (M) | 5,671 | 4,804 | 3,543 | 2,320 | 2,088 |
| Vandalism (M) | 566 | 544 | 453 | 408 | 347 |
| Total Youth Arrested | 15,042 | 13,998 | 12,931 | 11,602 | 10,102 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Illegal Substance-Related Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2017-18, there were 5,701 delinquency arrests for illegal substance-related offenses, a 34% decline since FY 2013-14. Felony drug offenses accounted for 32% of the total number of illegal substance-related arrests. Misdemeanor drug arrests accounted for 3,502 or 61% of all illegal substance-related arrests. This number was down 532 cases (13%) from the previous year but down 2,548 cases (42%) since FY 2013-14. Arrests for possession of alcohol declined 52% since FY 2013-14 (from 794 to 380).

Table 11

Delinquency Arrests for Illegal Substance-Related Offenses (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Felony Drug Offenses (F) | 1,767 | 1,732 | 1,527 | 1,584 | 1,819 |
| Misdemeanor Drug Offenses (M) | 6,050 | 5,542 | 4,445 | 4,034 | 3,502 |
| Alcohol Offenses (M) | 794 | 644 | 566 | 420 | 380 |
| Total Arrests | 8,611 | 7,918 | 6,538 | 6,038 | 5,701 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2017-18, there were 3,951 individual youth arrested whose most serious offense was illegal substance-related. The number of individual youth arrested for felony drug offenses increased 4% since FY 2013-14, from 1,395 to 1,453. Misdemeanor drug offenses accounted for 2,165 or 55% of all individual youth arrested for illegal substance-related offenses during FY 2017-18. The number of individual youth arrested whose most serious offense in the year was a misdemeanor drug offense dropped 45% since FY 2013-14, when it accounted for 66% of the total number of individual youth arrested. The number of individual youth whose most serious arrest was for an alcohol offense declined 49% over the last five years (from 649 to 333).

Table 12

Youth Arrests for Illegal Substance-Related Offenses (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Felony Drug Offenses (F) | 1,395 | 1,327 | 1,160 | 1,236 | 1,453 |
| Misdemeanor Drug Offenses (M) | 3,972 | 3,631 | 2,722 | 2,474 | 2,165 |
| Alcohol Offenses (M) | 649 | 547 | 478 | 352 | 333 |
| Total Youth Arrested | 6,016 | 5,505 | 4,360 | 4,062 | 3,951 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Public Disorder Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2017-18, there were 6,648 delinquency arrests for public disorder offenses, a 25% decline since FY 2013-14. Disorderly conduct offenses made up 23% of the public disorder delinquency arrests during FY 2017-18. The most serious type of public disorder offense (weapons felony) increased 7% from 1,252 arrests during FY 2013-14 to 1,338 arrests during FY 2017-18. Misdemeanor weapons offenses decreased 11% from 235 arrests during FY 2013-14 to 208 arrests during FY 2017-18. Since FY 2013-14, the number of trespassing arrests decreased 29% from 1,838 to 1,307.

Table 13

Delinquency Arrests for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Weapons Felony (F) | 1,252 | 1,375 | 1,273 | 1,430 | 1,338 |
| Weapons Misdemeanor (M) | 235 | 246 | 214 | 198 | 208 |
| Disorderly Conduct (M) | 2,359 | 2,197 | 1,725 | 1,500 | 1,507 |
| Trespassing (M) | 1,838 | 1,823 | 1,615 | 1,488 | 1,307 |
| Loitering and Prowling (M) | 951 | 855 | 952 | 972 | 749 |
| Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M) | 51 | 64 | 65 | 46 | 51 |
| Resist Arrest (M) | 2,154 | 2,048 | 1,881 | 1,591 | 1,488 |
| Total Arrests | 8,840 | 8,608 | 7,725 | 7,225 | 6,648 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2017-18, 3,652 individual youth were arrested whose most serious offense was related to public disorder, down 20% from FY 2013-14. Disorderly conduct offenses made up 25% of the total individual youth arrested for public disorder offenses. Trespassing accounted for 15% of the individual youth whose most serious offense was a public disorder offense during FY 2017-18. The number of individual youth arrested for the most serious type of public disorder offense (weapons felony) increased 9% between FY 2013-14 and FY 2017-18. During the same time period, misdemeanor weapons offenses increased 1% from 122 to 123 individual youth. Since FY 2013-14, the number of individual youth whose most serious offense during the year was misdemeanor resisting arrest fell 33%, from 844 to 568.

Table 14
Youth Arrests for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18)

| Fiscal Year | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Weapons Felony (F) | 1,055 | 1,159 | 1,069 | 1,220 | 1,153 |
| Weapons Misdemeanor (M) | 122 | 130 | 100 | 89 | 123 |
| Disorderly Conduct (M) | 1,320 | 1,286 | 1,014 | 875 | 922 |
| Trespassing (M) | 807 | 795 | 672 | 631 | 563 |
| Loitering and Prowling (M) | 381 | 317 | 323 | 366 | 278 |
| Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M) | 43 | 61 | 54 | 42 | 45 |
| Resist Arrest (M) | 844 | 761 | 691 | 587 | 568 |
| Total Youth Arrested | 4,572 | 4,509 | 3,923 | 3,810 | 3,652 |

Source : Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Research & Data Integrity

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor