

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 the youth's assessed risks and needs, information from the arresting law enforcement officer, and interviews with the victim(s), the youth, family members, and other sources such as teachers.

**31,225 youth were
arrested on 54,768
occasions for
delinquency during
FY 2018-19.**

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. Regardless of the number of times a youth is arrested in a fiscal year, he or she is only counted as one "youth." It is also

**Overall, juvenile arrests
continue to decline.**

important to count the total number of arrests that the Department receives because some youth are arrested multiple times during the fiscal year. 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 regard 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 31,225 youth were arrested during FY 2018-19, representing 54,768 delinquency arrests. The majority of youth arrested were male (72%). Most of the youth arrested (68%) were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen at the time of arrest.

Delinquency Intake (FY 2018-19 Individual Youth Served)*

	AGE					Youth Served
	0 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18+	
Statewide	16	806	7,344	21,323	1,736	31,225
Percentage	0%	3%	24%	68%	6%	

	GENDER/RACE								Youth Served
	Male				Female				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
Statewide	8,151	10,282	4,030	125	3,438	3,823	1,326	50	31,225
Percentage	26%	33%	13%	0%	11%	12%	4%	0%	

**Percentages do not total 100% due to rounding.*

Statewide Delinquency and Youth Arrest Rates

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2018-19, there were just over 1.91 million¹ 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 2018-19, there were 54,768 arrests for delinquent offenses in Florida. This represents a rate of 29 arrests for every 1,000 youth among the at-risk (10-17 years old) population. Between FY 2014-15 and FY 2018-19, the at-risk population increased just over 4%, while the number of arrests for delinquency decreased 27%. 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 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)**

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Intake Rates of Delinquency Arrests by Population					
Delinquency Arrests	75,069	69,869	64,932	59,598	54,768
Pop. 10-17	1,837,487	1,840,141	1,864,830	1,889,238	1,917,508
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	41	38	35	32	29

¹ Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research

Youth Arrested: During FY 2018-19, 31,225 youth were arrested for a delinquent offense. This represents a youth arrest rate of 16 youth for every 1,000 among the at-risk population. Between FY 2014-15 and FY 2018-19, the at-risk population increased just over 4%, while the number of youth arrested decreased by 26%. The youth arrest rate decreased from 23 to 16 for every 1,000 youth in the population. The drop in the youth arrest rate demonstrates that fewer youth as a percentage of the population are delinquent.

Youth Arrests and Delinquency Rates (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Intake Rates of Youth Arrested by Population					
Youth Arrested	42,148	38,269	35,317	33,210	31,225
Pop. 10-17	1,837,487	1,840,141	1,864,830	1,889,238	1,917,508
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	23	21	19	18	16

Arrests and Youth Arrested by Offense Seriousness

Delinquency Arrests: Misdemeanor offenses historically have represented the most common offense category for arrested youth. However, since FY 2015-16, felony arrests have become more common than misdemeanor arrests, likely due in part to increased use of civil citation for minor offenses. During FY 2018-19, a felony was the most serious offense in 40% of delinquency arrests. Of the delinquency arrests during FY 2018-19, 34% 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 41% and 14%, respectively.

Delinquency Arrests by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	25,567	26,282	25,826	23,261	22,094
Misdemeanors	31,907	27,298	23,565	21,495	18,810
Other Offenses	17,595	16,289	15,541	14,842	13,864
Total Arrests	75,069	69,869	64,932	59,598	54,768

Youth Arrested: In recent years, felony offenses have been the most common offense type for which youth are arrested. During FY 2018-19, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for 37% of individual youth arrested for delinquency, and 53% were arrested for at least one felony offense during the year. As noted previously, increased use of civil citation for minor offenses has likely contributed to the reduction in misdemeanor arrests. Ten percent of youth arrested were charged with “other” offenses as the most serious offense during the fiscal year (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 42% and 12%, respectively. During the same period, the number of individual youth arrested for “other” offenses declined 6%.

Youth Arrested for Delinquency by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	18,753	18,580	18,255	16,931	16,548
Misdemeanors	20,160	16,659	14,084	13,196	11,624
Other Offenses	3,235	3,030	2,978	3,083	3,053
Total Youth Arrested	42,148	38,269	35,317	33,210	31,225

Against-Person Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: Overall, arrests for offenses against persons declined 22% between FY 2014-15 and FY 2018-19 (from 18,282 to 14,242). The majority of against-person offenses during FY 2018-19 involved misdemeanor (simple) assault or battery (52%), followed by aggravated felony assault or battery (29%). Arrests for murder/manslaughter increased from 68 during FY 2014-15 to 74 in FY 2018-19 (9%). Robbery arrests decreased from 1,690 during FY 2014-15 to 1,209 in FY 2018-19, a decline of 28%. Over the past five years, aggravated assault or battery declined 14%, misdemeanor assault or battery fell 26%, and violent obstruction of justice dropped 27%.

Delinquency Arrests for Against-Person Offenses (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Against-Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	68	81	69	87	74
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	37	61	52	41	41
Sexual Battery (F)	711	606	533	513	559
Kidnapping (F)	132	155	141	115	135
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	463	453	396	382	441
Armed Robbery (F)	782	804	788	680	604
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	4,752	4,567	4,242	4,034	4,097
Other Robbery (F)	908	877	815	740	605
Violent Obstruction of Justice (F)	236	223	209	172	173
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	10,094	9,268	8,496	7,934	7,436
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	99	113	74	90	77
Total Arrests	18,282	17,208	15,815	14,788	14,242

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: Overall, the number of youth arrested for against-person offenses declined by 21% between FY 2014-15 and FY 2018-19 (from 14,237 to 11,247). Misdemeanor assault or battery was the most serious charge for 5,139 (46%) of the youth arrested for against-person offenses during FY 2018-19, declining 28% from a total of 7,107 in FY 2014-15. The number of youth arrested for murder/manslaughter rose 10% from 67 during FY 2014-15 to 74 in FY 2018-19. The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for felony (aggravated) assault or battery has dropped over the last five years, from 4,098 to 3,651 (a 11% decline). The number of youth whose most serious offense during the fiscal year was robbery fell 26% from 1,415 during FY 2014-15 to 1,048 in FY 2018-19.

Youth Arrested for Against-Person Offenses (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Against-Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	67	81	69	85	74
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	35	60	50	41	41
Sexual Battery (F)	692	595	525	502	542
Kidnapping (F)	129	151	136	113	130
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	431	431	383	360	421
Armed Robbery (F)	697	724	708	607	538
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	4,098	3,951	3,656	3,555	3,651
Other Robbery (F)	718	715	675	611	510
Violent Obstruction of Justice (F)	184	181	160	141	143
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	7,107	6,413	5,803	5,572	5,139
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	79	92	57	76	58
Total Youth Arrested	14,237	13,394	12,222	11,663	11,247

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Property Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2018-19, there were 13,631 delinquency arrests for property offenses, a 17% decline from the previous year and a 37% reduction across the last five years. Burglary, with 5,859 arrests, was the most common felony property offense, representing 43% of all property offenses during FY 2018-19. Between FY 2015-16 and FY 2018-19, burglary arrests steadily declined from 8,923 arrests to 5,859 arrests. Petit larceny (2,585 arrests) was the most common misdemeanor property offense during FY 2018-19, accounting for 19% of all property offenses, and declining 63% since FY 2014-15, when there were 7,000 arrests for this offense. Since FY 2014-15, misdemeanor vandalism arrests have declined 40% from 1,111 to 662.

Delinquency Arrests for Property Offenses (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	145	132	99	109	83
Burglary (F)	8,180	8,923	8,862	7,064	5,859
Auto Theft (F)	1,759	2,457	2,335	2,211	1,954
Grand Larceny (F)	2,558	2,469	2,414	2,163	1,745
Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F)	187	180	205	262	302
Vandalism (F)	470	458	495	385	369
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	146	115	125	70	72
Petit Larceny (M)	7,000	5,324	3,694	3,310	2,585
Vandalism (M)	1,111	946	881	783	662
Total Arrests	21,556	21,004	19,110	16,357	13,631

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2018-19, a property offense was the most serious offense for 8,476 youth arrested. The percentage of youth arrested for a property offense decreased by 16% from the previous year and 39% from FY 2014-15. Misdemeanor theft (petit larceny) was the second most common property offense for 1,662 youth, accounting for 20% of all youth whose most serious arrest was a property offense during FY 2018-19. Burglary was the most common property offense with 3,719 youth arrested during FY 2018-19, though the total number of youth whose most serious charge was burglary decreased 31% since FY 2014-15. The number of youth charged with auto theft has increased 15% in the last five years, from 824 in FY 2014-15 to 946 in FY 2018-19. Over the last five years, the number of youth whose most serious arrest was misdemeanor vandalism decreased 42% from 545 to 317 youth.

Youth Arrested for Property Offenses (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	125	116	90	103	80
Burglary (F)	5,352	5,522	5,445	4,466	3,719
Auto Theft (F)	824	1,089	1,059	1,061	946
Grand Larceny (F)	1,849	1,750	1,746	1,573	1,257
Fraud, Forgery & Counterfeiting (F)	129	134	151	189	225
Vandalism (F)	289	250	298	227	224
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	78	67	65	39	46
Petit Larceny (M)	4,809	3,547	2,318	2,099	1,662
Vandalism (M)	545	454	408	348	317
Total Youth Arrested	14,000	12,929	11,580	10,105	8,476

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Illegal Substance-Related Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2018-19, there were 6,049 delinquency arrests for illegal substance-related offenses, a 24% decline since FY 2014-15. Felony drug offenses accounted for 46% of the total number of illegal substance-related arrests. Misdemeanor drug arrests accounted for 2,900 or 48% of all illegal substance-related arrests. This number was down 619 cases (18%) from the previous year and down 2,643 cases (48%) since FY 2014-15. Arrests for possession of alcohol have declined 41% since FY 2014-15 (from 644 to 381).

Delinquency Arrests for Illegal Substance-Related Offenses (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Illegal Substance-Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses (F)	1,731	1,525	1,583	1,818	2,768
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses (M)	5,543	4,449	4,037	3,519	2,900
Alcohol Offenses (M)	644	567	420	380	381
Total Arrests	7,918	6,541	6,040	5,717	6,049

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2018-19, there were 4,468 individual youth arrested whose most serious offense was illegal substance-related. The number of youth arrested for felony drug offenses as their most serious offense has increased 76% since FY 2014-15, from 1,326 to 2,336. 1,805 youth (40% of youth arrested for substance-related offenses) were arrested for a misdemeanor drug offense as their most serious offense during FY 2018-19. Since FY 2014-15, the total number of youth arrested for a misdemeanor drug offense has decreased by 50%. The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for an alcohol offense declined 40% over the last five years (from 547 to 327).

Youth Arrested for Illegal Substance-Related Offenses (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Illegal Substance-Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses (F)	1,326	1,158	1,234	1,451	2,336
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses (M)	3,631	2,724	2,479	2,181	1,805
Alcohol Offenses (M)	547	479	352	333	327
Total Youth Arrested	5,504	4,361	4,065	3,965	4,468

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Public Disorder Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: Delinquency arrests for public disorder offenses decreased by 32% from FY 2014-15 (8,620 arrests) to FY 2018-19 (5,855 arrests). Disorderly conduct offenses comprised 24% of the public disorder delinquency arrests in FY 2018-19. The most serious type of public disorder offense—weapons felonies—decreased 13% from 1,375 arrests during FY 2014-15 to 1,195 arrests during FY 2018-19. Misdemeanor weapons offenses decreased 25% from 246 arrests during FY 2014-15 to 184 arrests during FY 2018-19. Since FY 2014-15, the number of trespassing arrests has declined 38% from 1,826 to 1,131.

Delinquency Arrests for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	1,375	1,272	1,430	1,347	1,195
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	246	215	199	205	184
Trespassing (M)	1,826	1,616	1,493	1,321	1,131
Disorderly Conduct (M)	2,197	1,726	1,505	1,511	1,430
Loitering and Prowling (M)	855	952	972	748	592
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	62	65	46	52	30
Resist Arrest (M)	2,059	1,887	1,591	1,505	1,293
Total Arrests	8,620	7,733	7,236	6,689	5,855

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2018-19, 3,291 individual youth were arrested whose most serious offense was related to public disorder, constituting a 27% decrease since FY 2014-15. Disorderly conduct offenses comprised 28% of the total youth arrested for public disorder offenses. Trespassing accounted for 14% of the youth whose most serious offense was a public disorder offense in FY 2018-19. The number of youth arrested for the most serious type of public disorder offense, weapons felony, decreased 11% between FY 2014-15 and FY 2018-19. During the same time period, misdemeanor weapons offenses decreased 25% from 130 to 97 youth. Since FY 2014-15 the number of youth whose most serious offense during the year was misdemeanor resisting arrest fell 35%, from 768 to 502.

Youth Arrested for Public Disorder Offenses (FY 2014-15 through FY 2018-19)

	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	1,159	1,068	1,219	1,160	1,031
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	130	100	90	122	97
Trespassing (M)	796	672	633	569	475
Disorderly Conduct (M)	1,287	1,016	877	925	925
Loitering and Prowling (M)	317	323	366	277	231
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	59	54	42	46	30
Resist Arrest (M)	768	692	586	575	502
Total Youth Arrested	4,516	3,925	3,813	3,674	3,291

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor