

DELINQUENCY INTAKE

Mark A. Greenwald, M.J.P.M
Director of Research and Planning
 (850) 717-2627
Mark.Greenwald@djj.state.fl.us

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 a Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC), which provides 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 attorney and 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.

50,803 youth were arrested on 83,494 occasions for delinquency during FY 2012-13

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

Juvenile delinquency is dropping across all offense types

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 a single arrest is counted.

The chapter highlights important and notable trends in delinquency arrests.

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, 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 50,803 youth were arrested during FY 2012-13, representing 83,494 delinquency arrests. The majority of youth arrested were male (70%). The majority of youth arrested (70%) were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen at the time of arrest.

Delinquency Intake (FY 2012-13 Individual Youth Served)

	AGE					Youth Served
	0 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18+	
Statewide	49	1,288	12,158	35,428	1,880	50,803
Percentage	0%	3%	24%	70%	4%	

	GENDER/RACE								Youth Served
	Male				Female				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
Statewide	14,414	14,563	5,548	1,267	6,325	6,288	1,954	444	50,803
Percentage	28%	29%	11%	2%	12%	12%	4%	1%	

Statewide Delinquency and Youth Arrest Rates

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2012-13 there were more than 1.83 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 2012-13, there were 83,494 arrests for delinquent offenses. This represents a rate of 46 arrests for every 1,000 among the at-risk (10-17 years old) population. Between FY 2008-09 and FY 2012-13, the population at risk declined almost 2%; meanwhile, the number of arrests for delinquency decreased 39%. This represents a 37% decline in the delinquency arrest rate from 73 to 46 arrests for every 1,000 youth at risk for delinquency in the population. 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 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Intake Rates of Delinquency Arrests by Population					
Delinquency Arrests	136,311	119,948	108,407	95,175	83,494
Pop. 10-17	1,864,051	1,849,638	1,841,278	1,835,110	1,832,105
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	73	65	59	52	46

Youth Arrested: During FY 2012-13, 50,803 youth were arrested for a delinquent offense. This represents a youth arrest rate of 28 youth referred for every 1,000 among the at-risk population. Between FY 2008-09 and FY 2012-13, the population at risk dropped almost 2%, while the number of youth arrested decreased 40%. This represents a 38% drop in the youth arrest rate, from 45 to 28 for every 1,000 youth at risk in the population across the five-year period.

Youth Arrests and Delinquency Rates (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Intake Rates of Youth Arrested by Population					
Youth Arrested	84,619	74,735	66,419	57,763	50,803
Pop. 10-17	1,864,051	1,849,638	1,841,278	1,835,110	1,832,105
Rate per 1,000 At-Risk Youth	45	40	36	31	28

Delinquency and Youth Arrested by Offense Seriousness

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2012-13, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for almost half of the delinquency arrests (47%). Of the delinquency arrests during the fiscal year, 32% were for felony offenses while 21% were for “other” offenses (the “other offenses” category includes violations of probation or conditional release, contempt of court, cases reopened, cases transferred to other counties for disposition, and interstate compact cases). Misdemeanor offenses have historically represented the most common offense category for which youth are arrested. Over the last five fiscal years, the number of delinquency arrests for misdemeanor and felony offenses declined 42% and 36%, respectively. During the same period, the number of delinquency arrests for “other” offenses declined 36%.

Delinquency Arrests by Most Serious Offense Types (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	41,108	35,801	31,891	29,350	26,484
Misdemeanors	67,817	59,349	53,547	45,260	39,372
Other Offenses	27,386	24,798	22,969	20,565	17,638
Total Arrests	136,311	119,948	108,407	95,175	83,494

Youth Arrested: During FY 2012-13, a misdemeanor was the most serious offense for the majority of individual youth (52%) arrested for delinquency. Of the youth arrested, 40% 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, cases transferred to other counties, and interstate compact cases). Misdemeanor offenses have historically represented the most common offense category for which individual youth are arrested. Over the last five fiscal years, the number of youth arrested for misdemeanor and felony offenses declined 44% and 36%, 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 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Seriousness of Offenses (by Classification)					
Felonies	32,040	28,050	24,720	22,687	20,530
Misdemeanors	46,832	41,313	37,013	30,661	26,372
Other Offenses	5,747	5,372	4,686	4,415	3,901
Total Youth Arrested	84,619	74,735	66,419	57,763	50,803

Person Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: Overall, arrests for offenses against persons declined 33% between FY 2008-09 and FY 2012-13 (from 30,844 to 20,581). The majority of person offenses during FY 2012-13 involved misdemeanor (simple) assault or battery (58%) followed by aggravated felony assault or battery (25%). Arrests for murder/manslaughter decreased from 64 during FY 2011-12 to 42 in FY 2012-13 (34%). Armed robbery continued a decrease from 1,241 during FY 2008-09 to 706 in FY 2012-13, a 43% drop over five years. Additionally, over the past five years, aggravated assault or battery declined a total of 36%, misdemeanor assault or battery fell 32%, and resisting arrest with violence was down 42%.

Delinquency Arrests for Person Offenses (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	104	119	88	64	42
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	80	48	38	34	46
Sexual Battery (F)	856	828	812	769	765
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	572	513	453	445	423
Armed Robbery (F)	1,241	993	808	754	706
Other Robbery (F)	1,609	1,390	1,298	1,147	1,022
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	7,966	7,223	6,391	5,633	5,113
Resisting Arrest with Violence (F)	524	441	377	363	306
Kidnapping (F)	261	207	172	170	155
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	17,460	16,215	15,399	13,474	11,885
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	171	177	129	127	118
Total Arrests	30,844	28,154	25,965	22,980	20,581

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: Overall, the number of youth arrested for person offenses declined by 34% between FY 2008-09 and FY 2012-13 (from 24,643 to 16,284). The most serious charge for more than half (52%) the youth arrested for person offenses during FY 2012-13 involved misdemeanor assault or battery (8,483) (though this has dropped from a total of 12,671 in FY 2008-09). The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for felony assault or battery was also down dramatically over the last five years, from 7,138 to 4,565 (a 36% drop). The number of youth whose primary offense was armed robbery also declined from 1,125 during FY 2008-09 to 654 in FY 2012-13 (a 42% decline).

Youth Arrested for Person Offenses (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Person Offenses					
Murder/Manslaughter (F)	103	119	88	64	42
Attempted Murder/Manslaughter (F)	78	47	36	34	45
Sexual Battery (F)	822	809	782	746	747
Other Felony Sex Offense (F)	542	489	424	420	402
Armed Robbery (F)	1,125	914	745	698	654
Other Robbery (F)	1,352	1,161	1,070	944	843
Aggravated Assault or Battery (F)	7,138	6,461	5,714	5,025	4,565
Resisting Arrest with Violence (F)	432	380	299	303	266
Kidnapping (F)	255	202	168	162	147
Simple Assault or Battery (M)	12,671	11,815	11,310	9,782	8,483
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses (M)	125	135	97	92	90
Total Youth Arrested	24,643	22,532	20,733	18,270	16,284

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Property Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2012-13, there were 24,668 delinquency arrests for property offenses, an 11% decline from the previous year. Misdemeanor theft (9,584 arrests) was the most common property offense, accounting for 39% of all property offenses during FY 2012-13, whereas during FY 2008-09 misdemeanor theft totaled 47% of property offenses. Burglary, with 8,874 arrests in FY 2012-13, was the next most common property offense, representing 36%. It decreased 12% from the previous year. Since FY 2008-09, misdemeanor vandalism declined 52% from 2,589 to 1,255 arrests in FY 2012-13.

Delinquency Arrests for Property Offenses (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	253	239	239	199	166
Burglary (F)	13,353	11,695	10,910	10,125	8,874
Auto Theft (F)	1,861	1,476	1,262	1,190	1,229
Grand Larceny (F)	3,253	2,748	2,498	2,754	2,742
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	315	276	243	264	221
Vandalism (F)	717	613	485	457	377
Fraud (F)	423	320	299	250	220
Misdemeanor Theft (M)	20,056	16,461	13,853	10,997	9,584
Vandalism (M)	2,589	2,103	1,798	1,583	1,255
Total Arrests	42,820	35,931	31,587	27,819	24,668

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2012-13, a property offense was the most serious offense for 17,339 youth arrested, down 13% from the previous year and 46% from FY 2008-09. Misdemeanor theft (7,118 youth) was the most common property offense, accounting for 41% of all youth arrested for a property offense (down 56% from FY 2008-09). Burglary was the next most common offense with 6,117 youth arrested during FY 2012-13, though the total number of youth whose most serious charge was burglary decreased 36% since FY 2008-09. Over the last five years, the number of youth whose most serious arrest was for misdemeanor vandalism declined 54% from 1,554 to 709 youth arrested between FY 2008-09 and FY 2012-13 .

Youth Arrested for Property Offenses (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Property Offenses					
Arson (F)	229	219	218	177	149
Burglary (F)	9,521	8,295	7,547	7,084	6,117
Auto Theft (F)	1,071	831	752	664	661
Grand Larceny (F)	2,493	2,099	1,862	2,054	2,026
Receiving Stolen Property (F)	184	156	142	146	138
Vandalism (F)	545	451	336	351	262
Fraud (F)	315	245	213	177	159
Misdemeanor Theft (M)	16,091	13,174	11,016	8,372	7,118
Vandalism (M)	1,554	1,222	1,011	913	709
Total Youth Arrested	32,003	26,692	23,097	19,938	17,339

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Substance-Related Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2012-13, there were 9,929 delinquency arrests for drug and alcohol offenses, a 34% decline since FY 2008-09. Felony drug offenses accounted for 20% of the total number of drug and alcohol delinquency arrests. Misdemeanor drug arrests (primarily marijuana), accounted for 6,768 or 68% of all drug and alcohol arrests. However, this was down 753 cases (10%) since last year and 2,488 cases (27%) since FY 2008-09. Arrests for possession of alcohol declined 32% over the past five years (from 1,760 to 1,193).

Delinquency Arrests for Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Offenses (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses	4,054	3,463	2,721	2,231	1,968
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses	9,256	9,079	8,489	7,521	6,768
Alcohol Offenses	1,760	1,558	1,416	1,291	1,193
Total Arrests	15,070	14,100	12,626	11,043	9,929

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2012-13, there were 7,192 individual youth arrested whose most serious offense was drug or alcohol-related. The number of youth arrested for felony drug offenses has declined 47% since FY 2008-09, from 2,948 to 1,552. Misdemeanor drug offenses accounted for 4,607 or 64% of all youth arrested for drug and alcohol offenses during FY 2012-13. The number of youth arrested whose most serious offense in the year was a misdemeanor drug offense has dropped 25% since FY 2008-09, when it accounted for 59% of the total. The number of youth whose most serious arrest was for an alcohol offense declined 25% over the last five years (from 1,384 to 1,033).

Youth Arrested for Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Offenses (FY 2008-09 through FY 2012-13)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Illegal Substance (Drug) Related Arrests					
Felony Drug Offenses	2,948	2,623	2,088	1,703	1,552
Misdemeanor Drug Offenses	6,129	6,279	5,889	5,170	4,607
Alcohol Offenses	1,384	1,268	1,141	1,067	1,033
Total Youth Arrested	10,461	10,170	9,118	7,940	7,192

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Public Disorder Offenses

Delinquency Arrests: During FY 2012-13, there were 9,632 delinquency arrests for public disorder offenses, a 48% decline since FY 2008-09. Disorderly conduct offenses accounted for 29% of the total number of public disorder delinquency arrests. The most serious type of public disorder offense—weapons felony—decreased from 2,286 arrests during FY 2008-09 to 1,238 arrests during FY 2012-13 (a 46% decline over five years). Weapons Misdemeanor offenses decreased from 595 arrests during FY 2008-09 to 259 arrests during FY 2012-13 (a 56% decline in the last five years). Since FY 2008-09, the number of trespassing arrests has declined 53% from 4,322 to 2,038.

Delinquency Arrests for Public Disorder Offenses

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	2,286	1,957	1,644	1,491	1,238
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	595	447	417	314	259
Disorderly Conduct (M)	5,885	4,732	4,098	3,353	2,834
Trespassing (M)	4,322	3,545	3,063	2,461	2,038
Loitering and Prowling (M)	1,800	1,532	1,572	1,451	992
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	89	89	91	82	55
Resist Arrest (M)	3,424	3,035	2,955	2,410	2,216
Total Arrests	18,401	15,337	13,840	11,562	9,632

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor

Youth Arrested: During FY 2012-13 there were 5,318 individual youth arrested whose most serious offense was related to public disorder, down 50% from FY 2008-09. Disorderly conduct offenses (1,717) accounted for 32% of the total number of individual youth whose most serious offense was a public disorder charge, and trespassing accounted for 975 (18%) of public disorder offenses in FY 2012-13. The number of youth arrested for the most serious type of public disorder offense, weapons felony, decreased 46% from 2,001 youth arrested during FY 2008-09 to 1,084 youth arrested during FY 2012-13. Over the past five years, misdemeanor weapons offenses have decreased 63% from 352 youth arrested during FY 2008-09 to 132 youth arrested during FY 2012-13. Since FY 2008-09 the number of youth whose most serious offense during the year was resisting arrest without violence has dropped 38%, from 1,539 to 960.

Youth Arrested for Public Disorder Offenses

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Public Disorder Arrests					
Weapons Felony (F)	2,001	1,712	1,443	1,285	1,084
Weapons Misdemeanor (M)	352	266	240	169	132
Disorderly Conduct (M)	3,686	2,935	2,561	2,081	1,717
Trespassing (M)	2,161	1,855	1,558	1,192	975
Loitering and Prowling (M)	827	732	667	611	401
Violation of Game-Fish-Boat Laws (M)	79	73	78	67	49
Resist Arrest (M)	1,539	1,342	1,278	1,026	960
Total Youth Arrested	10,645	8,915	7,825	6,431	5,318

(F) = Felony (M) = Misdemeanor