

Table 4.26.2007

Percent distribution of juveniles taken into police custody

By method of disposition, United States, 1972-2007^a

	Referred to juvenile court jurisdiction	Handled within depart- ment and released	Referred to criminal or adult court	Referred to other police agency	Referred to welfare agency
1972	50.8%	45.0%	1.3%	1.6%	1.3%
1973	49.5	45.2	1.5	2.3	1.4
1974	47.0	44.4	3.7	2.4	2.5
1975	52.7	41.6	2.3	1.9	1.4
1976	53.4	39.0	4.4	1.7	1.6
1977	53.2	38.1	3.9	1.8	3.0
1978	55.9	36.6	3.8	1.8	1.9
1979	57.3	34.6	4.8	1.7	1.6
1980	58.1	33.8	4.8	1.7	1.6
1981	58.0	33.8	5.1	1.6	1.5
1982	58.9	32.5	5.4	1.5	1.6
1983	57.5	32.8	4.8	1.7	3.1
1984	60.0	31.5	5.2	1.3	2.0
1985	61.8	30.7	4.4	1.2	1.9
1986	61.7	29.9	5.5	1.1	1.8
1987	62.0	30.3	5.2	1.0	1.4
1988	63.1	29.1	4.7	1.1	1.9
1989	63.9	28.7	4.5	1.2	1.7
1990	64.5	28.3	4.5	1.1	1.6
1991	64.2	28.1	5.0	1.0	1.7
1992	62.5	30.1	4.7	1.1	1.7
1993	67.3	25.6	4.8	0.9	1.5
1994	63.2	29.5	4.7	1.0	1.7
1995	65.7	28.4	3.3	0.9	1.7
1996	68.6	23.3	6.2	0.9	0.9
1997	66.9	24.6	6.6	0.8	1.1
1998	69.2	22.2	6.8	0.9	1.0
1999	69.2	22.5	6.4	1.0	0.8
2000	70.8	20.3	7.0	1.1	0.8
2001	72.4	19.0	6.5	1.4	0.7
2002	72.8	18.1	7.0	1.4	0.7
2003	71.0	20.1	7.1	1.2	0.6
2004	69.5	20.8	7.9	1.3	0.5
2005	70.7	20.2	7.4	1.3	0.4
2006	69.3	20.8	8.2	1.2	0.5
2007	69.6	19.5	9.4	1.2	0.4

Note: These data were compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. On a monthly basis, law enforcement agencies report the number of offenses that become known to them in the following crime categories: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Arrest statistics are compiled as part of this monthly data collection effort. Participating law enforcement agencies are instructed to count one arrest each time a person is taken into custody, notified, or cited for criminal infractions other than traffic violations. Annual arrest figures do not measure the number of individuals taken into custody because one person may be arrested several times during the year for the same type of offense or for different offenses. A juvenile is counted as a person arrested when he/she commits an act that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult.

An offense is "cleared by arrest" or solved for crime reporting purposes when at least one person is: (1) arrested; (2) charged with the commission of the offense; and (3) turned over to the court for prosecution. An offense is also counted as cleared by arrest if certain "exceptional" conditions pertain, including suicide of the offender; double murder; deathbed confession; offender killed by police or citizen; confession by offender already in custody; extradition denied; victim refuses to cooperate in prosecution; warrant is outstanding for felon but prior to arrest the offender dies of natural causes or as a result of an accident, or is killed in the commission of another offense; or, handling of a juvenile offender either orally or by written notice to parents in instances involving minor offenses where no referral to juvenile court is customarily made.

The number of agencies reporting and the populations represented vary from year to year. Due to National Incident-Based Reporting System conversion efforts beginning in 1991 as well as other reporting problems, complete arrest data were not available for a small number of jurisdictions for certain years. See Appendix 3 for a list of jurisdictions omitted. These data include all offenses except traffic and neglect cases.

^aBecause of rounding, percents may not add to 100.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States*, 1972, p. 116; 1973, p. 119; 1974, p. 177; 1975, p. 177; 1976, p. 220; 1977, p. 219; 1978, p. 228; 1979, p. 230; 1980, p. 258; 1981, p. 233; 1982, p. 242; 1983, p. 245; 1984, p. 238; 1985, p. 240; 1986, p. 240; 1987, p. 225; 1988, p. 229; 1989, p. 233; 1990, p. 235; 1991, p. 278; 1992, p. 282; 1993, p. 282; 1994, p. 282; 1995, p. 265; 1996, p. 271; 1997, p. 279; 1998, p. 267; 1999, p. 269; 2000, p. 273; 2001, p. 291; 2002, p. 291; 2003, p. 327; 2004, p. 337 (Washington, DC: USGPO); 2005, Table 68 [Online]. Available: http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_68.html [Oct. 12, 2006]; 2006, Table 68 [Online]. Available: http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/2006cius/data/table_68.html [Oct. 31, 2007]; 2007, Table 68 [Online]. Available: http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/2007cius/data/table_68.html [Jan. 15, 2009]. Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.