

Juvenile Arrests in New Jersey 2009

Juvenile Justice Commission
Office of Local Programs and Services
Research & Evaluation Unit

Veleria N. Lawson, Executive Director
Gloria R. Hancock, Ed.D., Deputy Executive Director, Programs
Patricia Walker, Director, Office of Local Programs and Services

July 2011

Acknowledgement

The Administration of the Juvenile Justice Commission would like to thank Dr. Michael Aloisi and John VanLoan, of its Research and Evaluation Unit, for their excellent work in authoring this *Juvenile Arrests in New Jersey, 2009* report. We hope, and anticipate, that both our juvenile justice system colleagues and the report's broader audience will find this year's report to be informative.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
Juvenile Arrests in New Jersey	1
The Juvenile Share of the Crime Problem	2
Most Prevalent Arrest Categories	2
The Demographics of Arrest	2
Where Do Juvenile Arrests Occur?	5
Arrest Trends Over Time	5
Changing Arrest Patterns in the Counties	7
A Focus on Juvenile Crime in the Cities	8
Conclusion	10
Appended: Tables I through XIII	

Executive Summary

The present report provides data on juvenile arrests in 2009, along with data on recent juvenile arrest trends. The primary bases for analyses provided in the present report are the current and previous Uniform Crime Report (UCR) documents published yearly by the New Jersey State Police, as well as related arrest information made available by the Uniform Crime Reporting Unit.

Public fears and concerns about crime, whether perpetrated by juveniles or adults, are fed by popular perceptions that the incidence of crime, particularly violent crime, is rampant. This is especially the case with regard to public perceptions regarding crimes perpetrated by juveniles. As this report indicates, a large portion of arrests among juveniles (and arrests of adults as well, for that matter) involved offenses that might generally be considered to be of moderate or limited seriousness, with arrests for serious violent offenses comprising a very small fraction of all offenses. In addition, juvenile arrests in 2009, encouragingly, continued a longstanding steep decline experienced in New Jersey and nationally over almost two decades.

According to the 2009 UCR, there were 48,923 juvenile arrests statewide. Index offenses (generally the more serious offenses) accounted for 22.2% of all juvenile arrests. This included 16.4% of all juvenile arrests for the property Index offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft, along with 5.8% for the violent Index offenses of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Part II offenses, comprising the remaining arrest categories, range from relatively minor offenses, such as disorderly conduct or malicious mischief to weapons offenses, drug abuse violations and sex offenses other than rape.

It is useful to examine arrests within the context of overall juvenile population. The following figures reflect the number of juvenile arrests per 1,000 juveniles, ages 10 to 17 in New Jersey. The 2009 statewide juvenile arrest rate (per 1,000 juveniles, ages 10 to 17) was 53.1. For specific offense types, the arrest rates were: Part II offenses, 41.3; total Index offenses, 11.8; property Index offenses, 8.7; and violent Index offenses, 3.1.

Juvenile arrests have historically accounted for a large share of all arrests. In 2009, juveniles accounted for 12.4% of all arrests, and an even greater share (22.4%) of arrests for Index offenses. More specifically, juveniles accounted for 23.1% of arrests for property Index offenses and 20.5% for violent Index offenses. Juveniles' contribution to the crime problem, measured solely in terms of arrests, also varied greatly from offense to offense. Juveniles accounted for the greatest share of arson arrests (54.5%), followed by 39.7% of arrests for criminal/malicious mischief, 32.6% for robbery, 32.4% for liquor law violations, 27.4% for motor vehicle thefts, 25.5% for weapons, 23.1% for burglary, and 23.0% for larceny-theft.

The offense categories for which juveniles were arrested most commonly, in 2009, were: larceny-theft (13.1%), curfew and loitering law violations (11.6%), drug abuse violations (11.4%), runaways (7.8%), simple assault (7.8%), and disorderly conduct (7.6%).

The analysis included an examination of various demographic factors:

- *Age.* Older juveniles typically contribute a disproportionate share of juvenile arrests. In 2009, 17 year-olds accounted for 31.1% of all juvenile arrests. Fifteen to seventeen-year-olds combined accounted for three-quarters (75.1%) of juvenile arrests, and 78.3% of arrests for violent Index offenses.

- *Gender.* Males contribute a large majority share of all juvenile arrests, particularly for the more serious and violent crimes. In 2009, males accounted for nearly three-quarters (71.4%) of all juvenile arrests, along with 84.8% of juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses.
- *Race and Ethnicity.* The UCR reports arrest data separately by race and ethnicity (i.e., Hispanic origin). White youth (both Hispanic and non-Hispanic) accounted for 55.0% of all juvenile arrests, and 35.6% of arrests for violent Index offenses. African American/black youth (also both Hispanic and non-Hispanic) accounted for 43.8% of all juvenile arrests, along with 63.4% of arrests for violent Index offenses. With regard to ethnicity, Hispanic youth (of all races) accounted for 18.2% of all juvenile arrests, and 18.4% of arrests for violent Index offenses.

While juvenile arrests occur throughout New Jersey, a disproportionate share of juvenile arrests is concentrated in select counties and urban areas. Specifically:

- Five counties (in order of number of arrests), Camden, Essex, Monmouth, Mercer, and Bergen, accounted for 45.7% of all juvenile arrests in 2009, while comprising an estimated 37.3% of the youth population.
- Also, five counties (Essex, Hudson, Camden, Monmouth, and Union) accounted for 53.9% of all juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses, and comprised an estimated 34.3% of the youth population.

In addition, the number of juvenile arrests tends to vary greatly over time. Long-term national trends have been largely mirrored in New Jersey, with juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses experiencing a large upturn beginning in the late 1980s and continuing through 1994. This has been followed by a protracted and steep decline for these offenses, along with other major types of offenses. This downward trend continued, with few exceptions, until 2006 when a small rise was experienced across the major types of offenses. Juvenile arrests began to decline, once again, in 2007. Specifically:

- Overall, in 2009, there was a decrease of 7.1% in the number of juvenile arrests, compared with the prior year. Over the ten-year period of 2000 to 2009, the number of total arrests fluctuated somewhat, declining 27.6%. Over the most recent five-year period of 2005 to 2009, total arrests were down 19.4%.
- Arrests for property Index offenses decreased in 2009 by 2.7% compared with 2008. Arrests for these offenses declined substantially over the ten-year period, by 28.6%, with a small increase of 0.3% over the most recent five years.
- Arrests for violent Index offenses decreased in 2009 by 5.7% compared with 2008. The number of violent Index arrests fluctuated over the ten-year period, declining over that time by 13.2%, with a substantial 14.8% drop over the most recent five-year period.
- In 2009, juvenile drug arrests declined 6.0% from 2008. Over ten years, drug arrests dropped 31.2%, with a 15.3% decline over the most recent five years.

Finally, the analysis examined juvenile crime in the urban environment in some detail. The number of juvenile arrests in large urban areas is disproportionate to their share of the statewide population. This tends to be the case particularly for violent offenses. This point was highlighted in an analysis of groups of cities designated in the UCR as the six "Major Urban" municipalities, and the larger grouping of the "Urban 15."

For the six "Major Urban" municipalities their share of statewide juvenile arrests was substantially greater than their share of the population. For these six cities, their share of juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses was more than double their share of the statewide

under 18 population (28.4% vs. 12.0%); their share of juvenile arrests for drug offenses was well above their share of the population (21.1% vs. 12.0%).

The examination supported the view that the disproportionate concentration of serious juvenile crime in urban areas (as measured by juvenile arrests) is, in part, linked to indicators of community disadvantage. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 12.6% of the children living in New Jersey lived below the official federal poverty level. The average child poverty rate, across the six cities, was 34.3%. With regard to income, compared with a statewide median family income in New Jersey of \$83,957, the average median family income, across the six cities, was \$41,846, just under one-half of the statewide figure.

In addition, most of the six cities' recent levels of performance on New Jersey educational achievement exams fell well short of statewide performance levels. According to the Department of Education's High School Proficiency Assessment in 2010, 68.7% of 11th grade students, statewide, were assessed as proficient in Language Arts, while 50.1% were proficient in Math. Across the six cities, the average proficiency rate for Language Arts was 53.7%, while the figure for Math was 31.7%.

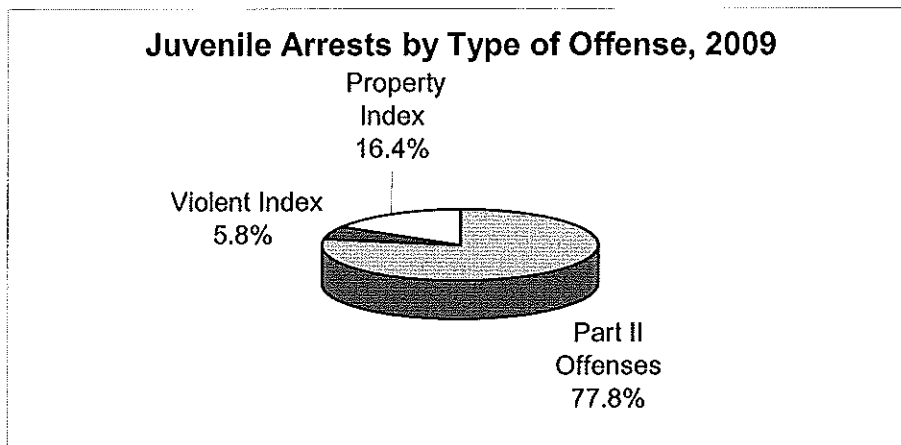
The convergence of these factors relative to the urban concentration demonstrated the likely value of an appropriately targeted approach to crime prevention and control, both in terms of incorporating an urban focus, and attempting to impact recognized risk and protective factors for children and families, including increasing job training, employment and educational opportunities, and expanding access to needed substance abuse treatment.

The report concludes by briefly addressing the fact that youth of color are arrested at a disproportionately high rate compared with white youth. The discussion of the urban concentration suggests a partial explanation, i.e., that youth of color are more likely to experience an array of risk factors characteristically found in New Jersey's urban centers. The report also suggests that widely acknowledged limitations of arrest data also bear on the disparate results. Specifically, disparate arrest results may be more an indication of differential practices and handling by police that disadvantage youth of color (e.g., police patrol practices) than of differential behavior by race/ethnicity. The report points to a recent collaboration between the Judiciary, the Attorney General's Office and the Juvenile Justice Commission to examine and address juvenile justice system disparities at various points in the system. The unequal use across jurisdictions of stationhouse adjustments diverting youth from referral to the family court was identified through the collaboration as a potential contributor to disparities in arrest results by race and ethnicity, and subsequent efforts to remedy its differential use across the State were initiated.

Juvenile Arrests in New Jersey 2009

Juvenile arrests presented in New Jersey's Uniform Crime Report (UCR), published yearly by the State Police, provide the best available estimation of the nature and extent of delinquency within the State.¹ The current and previous UCRs, and related data made available by the Uniform Crime Reporting Unit are the basis for analyses provided in the present report.²

According to the 2009 UCR, there were 48,923 juvenile arrests statewide. Index offenses (generally the more serious offenses) accounted for 22.2% of all juvenile arrests. This included 8,032 arrests (16.4% of all juvenile arrests) for the property Index offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft, along with 2,837 arrests (5.8%) for the violent Index offenses of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Part II offenses comprised the remainder of the offenses leading to arrest. These ranged from relatively minor offenses, such as disorderly conduct or malicious mischief to weapons offenses, drug abuse violations and sex offenses other than rape.³ Table I, appended, shows the breakdown of juvenile arrests for particular types and categories of offenses.



It is useful to examine juvenile arrests within the context of overall juvenile population. The figures below reflect the number of juvenile arrests per 1,000 juveniles, ages 10 to 17 in New Jersey. The estimated statewide number of juveniles in this age range in 2009, according to population estimates provided by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, was 922,044.

The 2009 statewide juvenile arrest rate was estimated at 53.1 arrests per one thousand youth ages 10 to 17. Note that a particular juvenile can be arrested more than once in a year and counted multiple times in the arrest rate statistics. For specific offense types, the arrest rates were as follows: Part II offenses, 41.3; total Index offenses, 11.8; property Index offenses, 8.7; and violent Index offenses, 3.1. Note that county arrest rates can be affected by temporary

¹ That said, it is worth noting that arrests are widely recognized as an imperfect measure of lawbreaking activity, and of trends over time.

² See: New Jersey State Police. 2010. *Crime in New Jersey: Uniform Crime Report, 2009*. Trenton, NJ: Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law & Public Safety.

³ They also include two federally delineated UCR categories, curfew & loitering law violations, and runaways that (as with other UCR categories) do not necessarily match with a specific state's statutes/municipal ordinances. Situations recorded in these two categories in NJ are specific to juveniles. The curfew & loitering figures concern violations of local curfew and loitering ordinances. For purposes of UCR reporting, the runaways category records juveniles taken into protective custody under provisions of local statutes regarding runaways.

and seasonal population shifts. For example, increased population in beach and entertainment areas during the summer months often tied to corresponding increases in juvenile arrest rates which are based on year round population.

The Juvenile Share of the Crime Problem

Juvenile arrests have historically accounted for a large share of all arrests in New Jersey and across the country. In 2009, juveniles accounted for 12.4% of all arrests, and an even greater share (22.4%) of arrests for Index offenses, (see Table II, appended). More specifically, juveniles accounted for 23.1% of arrests for property Index offenses and 20.5% for violent Index offenses.

Juveniles' contribution to the crime problem, measured solely in terms of arrests, varies greatly from offense to offense. For certain offenses, juveniles account for either a majority or a large minority of arrests. For example, in 2009, they accounted for 54.5% of all arson arrests, and 39.7% of arrests for criminal/malicious mischief. In addition, they accounted for 32.6% of arrests for robbery, 32.4% for liquor law violations, 27.4% for motor vehicle theft, 25.5% for weapons, 23.1% for burglary, and 23.0% for larceny-theft. In contrast, juveniles contributed a relatively small share of arrests for other offenses, for example, manslaughter (9.1%), drug abuse violations (10.5%), gambling (12.2%), simple assault (13.9%), aggravated assault (14.7%), and disorderly conduct (16.9%), along with fairly trivial shares of some others. In addition, juveniles account for all of what are categorized by the UCR as arrests for curfew and loitering law violations, and runaways, described briefly above (in footnote three).⁴

Note that arrest figures may exaggerate somewhat the role of juveniles (vs. adults) in the overall crime problem, due to reporting and data collection processes for arrest data. Juveniles are more likely than adults to commit crimes in groups (e.g., three juveniles involved in an aggravated assault equals one crime but three arrests). At the same time, it is worth noting that these reporting and data collection processes exist for both juvenile and adult activity, with the number of overall arrests duplicating to some extent the number of alleged offenses for both groups.

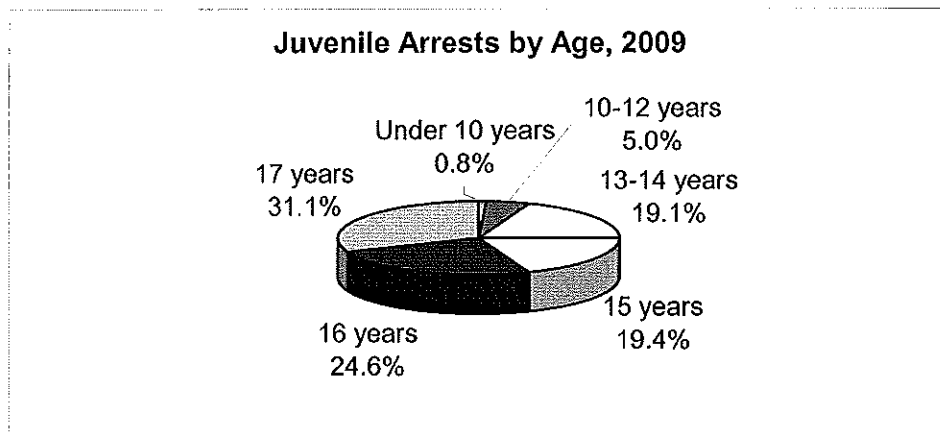
Most Prevalent Arrest Categories

As shown in Table I, appended, the categories of offense and related matters for which juveniles were arrested or taken into custody most commonly, in 2009, were: larceny-theft (13.1%), curfew and loitering law violations (11.6%), and drug abuse violations (11.4%). Together they accounted for more than one-third (36.0 %) of all juvenile arrests. An additional seven, runaways and simple assault (7.8% each), disorderly conduct (7.6%), criminal/malicious mischief (5.3%), liquor law violations (4.9%), robbery and burglary (2.9% each), combined with the above to comprise the "top ten" most prevalent categories for juveniles, accounting for 75.3% of all juvenile arrests.

The Demographics of Arrest

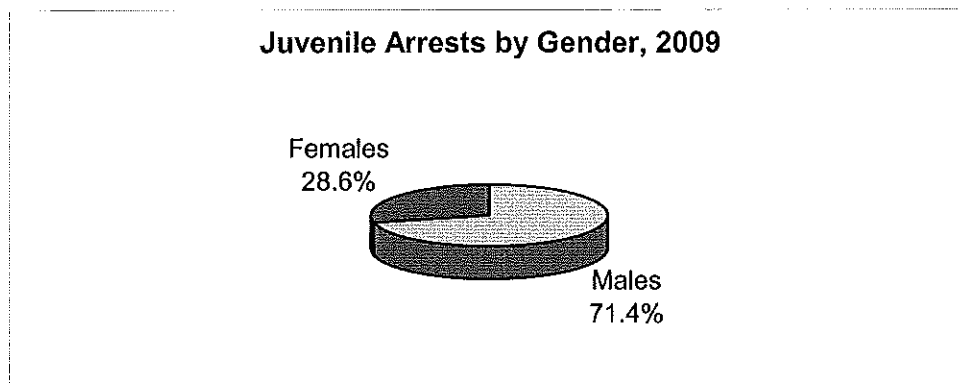
Age, gender, race/ethnicity, and location of arrest combine to provide some important background characteristics to consider when examining juvenile arrests.

⁴ In 2009, Camden County reported 3,598 juvenile arrests for curfew and loitering law violations, far in excess (as in recent years) of figures in this category for any other county. In addition, this category of arrests accounted for 49.5% of all juvenile arrests in Camden for the year.



Age. Older youth typically contribute a disproportionate share of juvenile arrests.

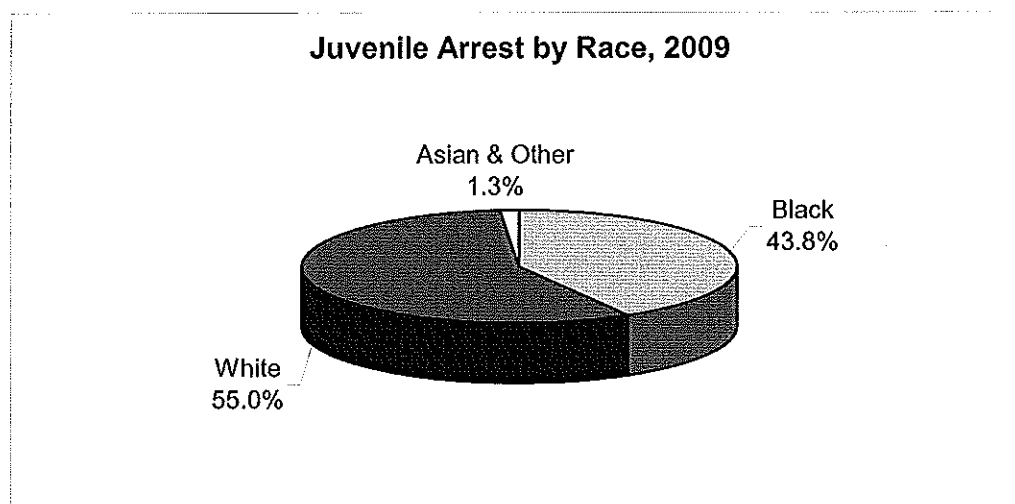
- In 2009, 17 year-olds accounted for 31.1% of all juvenile arrests. Fifteen to seventeen-year-olds combined accounted for three-quarters (75.1%) of juvenile arrests.
- Focusing solely on violent Index offenses, 17 year-olds contributed a 31.2% share of all juvenile arrests for these offenses; the 15 to 17 year-old age group combined for 78.3% of these arrests.
- Juveniles 12 and younger accounted for 5.9% of all juvenile arrests and 4.7% of arrests for violent index offenses.



Gender. Males contribute a large majority share of all juvenile arrests, particularly for the more serious and violent crimes.

- In 2009, males accounted for nearly three-quarters (71.4%) of all juvenile arrests, along with 84.8% of juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses. Consequently, females accounted for 28.6% of all juvenile arrests, and 15.2% of arrests for violent Index offenses. Males accounted for 85.6% of all juvenile drug abuse violations, while females accounted for the remaining 14.4%.

- The most common arrest categories for males were drug abuse violations (13.6%), curfew and loitering (11.0%), larceny-theft (10.4%), disorderly conduct (7.8%), and simple assault (7.1%). These comprised 49.9% of all male juvenile arrests.
- The most common arrest categories for females were larceny-theft (19.7%), runaways (15.5%), curfew and loitering (12.9%), simple assault (9.5%), and disorderly conduct (7.5%). These comprised 65.0% of all female juvenile arrests.



Race and Ethnicity. The race breakdown for the 10 to 17 population in 2009, according to population estimates provided by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, was as follows. White youth (both Hispanic and non-Hispanic, as is the case for the following race categories) comprised 73.1% of the total youth population, followed by African-American/black youth (16.8%), Asian youth (7.5%), and the remaining racial categories (2.7%). Also, Hispanic youth (of all races) comprised 18.2% of the total youth population.

Note that the UCR reports arrest data separately by race and ethnicity (i.e., Hispanic origin). The 2009 arrest breakdowns for the major race categories and ethnicity are as follows:

- White youth (both Hispanic and non-Hispanic) accounted for 55.0% of all juvenile arrests. This included 65.4% of drug arrests, 50.7% of arrests for Index offenses, and 35.6% of arrests for violent Index offenses.
- African-American/black youth (also both Hispanic and non-Hispanic) accounted for 43.8% of all juvenile arrests. This included 63.4% of arrests for violent Index offenses, 47.3% of arrests for overall Index offenses, and 33.1% of drug arrests.
- Hispanic youth (of all races) accounted for 18.2% of all juvenile arrests. This included 18.4% of arrests for violent Index offenses, 16.9% of overall Index offense arrests, and 13.9% of drug arrests.

The Most Common Arrest Categories by Race/Ethnicity

- White youth were most commonly arrested for drug abuse violations (13.6%), followed by larceny-theft (13.2%), curfew and loitering (8.8%), disorderly conduct (8.3%), and liquor law violations (8.1%). These five categories comprised 52.0% of all arrests for white juveniles.
- African-American/black youth were most commonly arrested for curfew and loitering (15.3%), followed by larceny-theft (12.4%), runaways (10.8%), and drug abuse and simple assault (8.6% each). These five categories comprised 55.7% of all arrests for African-American/black juveniles.
- Hispanic youth were most commonly arrested for curfew and loitering law violations (17.1%), followed by larceny-theft (12.0%), runaways (11.1%), drug abuse violations (8.7%), and simple assault (7.5%). These five categories comprised 56.3% of all arrests for Hispanic juveniles.

Where Do Juvenile Arrests Occur?

While juvenile arrests occur throughout New Jersey, a disproportionate share of juvenile arrests is concentrated in select counties and urban areas (as will be discussed further below). See Tables III through VII, appended, for county arrest/arrest rate data for 2009, including county rankings for various offense types.

- Five counties (in order of number of arrests), Camden, Essex, Monmouth, Mercer, and Bergen, accounted for 45.7% of all juvenile arrests in 2009, while comprising an estimated 37.3% of the youth population in 2009. In contrast, five other counties, Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex, Salem, and Cape May accounted for 5.5% of the total; these latter five counties comprised an estimated 6.6% of the youth population.
- The concentration of arrests is most evident for violent Index offenses. In 2009, the five counties of Essex, Hudson, Camden, Monmouth, and Union accounted for 53.9% of all juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses while comprising an estimated 34.3% of the youth population. Essex, Hudson, and Camden alone accounted for 39.0% of these juvenile arrests (and 20.3% of the youth population). In contrast, only 2.9% of these arrests were from the five counties of Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex, Salem, and Cape May, comprising 6.6% of the youth population.

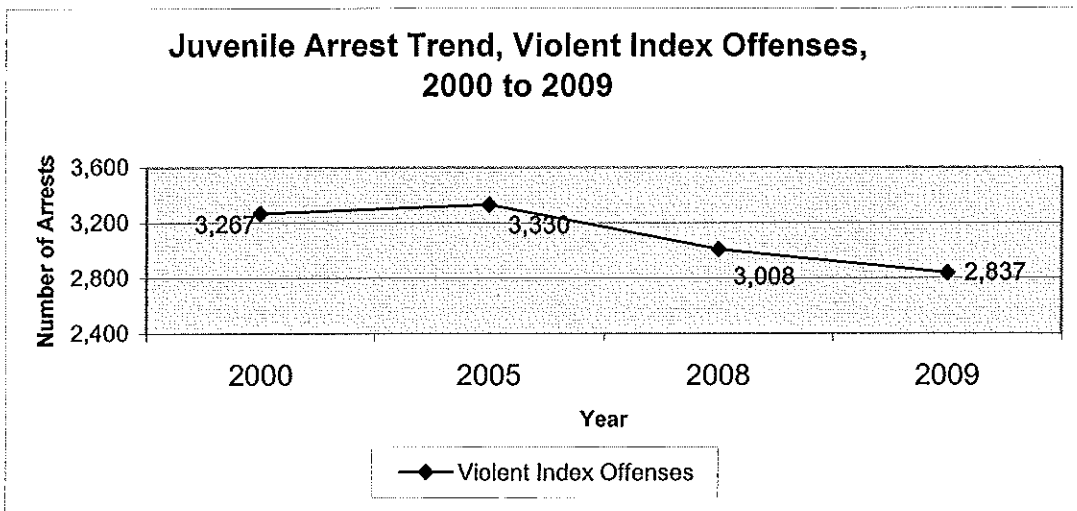
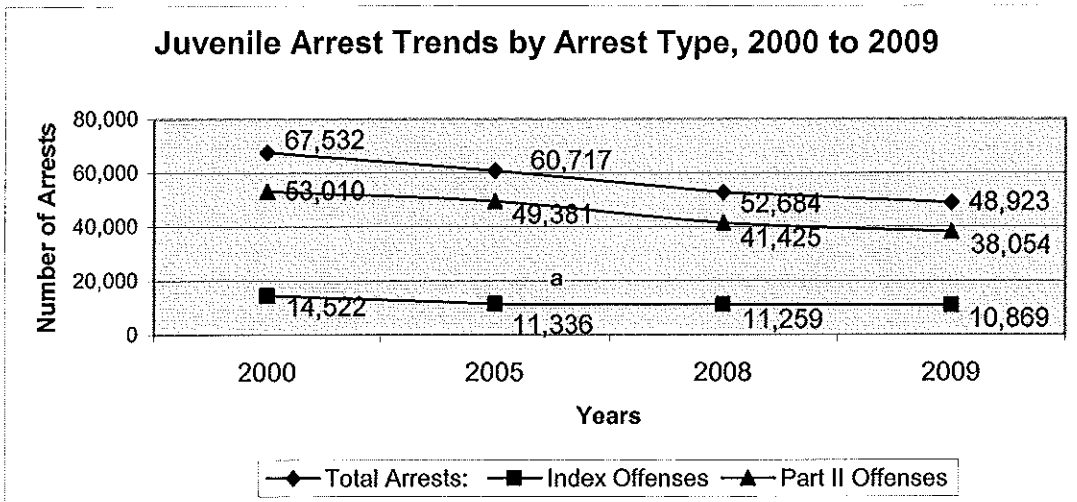
Arrest Trends Over Time

Juvenile arrests tend to vary greatly over time, and have done so in recent decades in New Jersey. A noteworthy example is the well-publicized dramatic upturn in violent crime (and arrests) among youth that was experienced nationally beginning in the mid-1980s and continuing for about a decade. That rise was followed by a striking decline in juvenile violent crime, accompanied by a broad downturn in various other types of juvenile offending. While the spike in youth violence has been widely attributed to the rise of the crack cocaine trade and related growth in gun prevalence, the more recent declines are less well understood.

These national trends have been largely mirrored in New Jersey, with juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses experiencing a large upturn beginning in the late 1980s and continuing through 1994. This has been followed by a protracted and steep decline for these offenses, along with other major types of offenses. This downward trend continued, with few exceptions, until 2006 when a small rise was experienced across the major types of offenses. Juvenile

arrests began to decline, once again, in 2007. See charts below, and Tables VIII through XIII, appended, for specific statewide and county-level trend data, over a ten-year period.

- Overall, in 2009, there was a decrease of 7.1% in the number of juvenile arrests, compared with the prior year (see Table VIII, appended). Over the ten-year period of 2000 to 2009, the number of total arrests fluctuated somewhat, declining 27.6%. Over the most recent five-year period of 2005 to 2009, total Index arrests were down 19.4%.
- Total Index arrests decreased in 2009 by 3.5% compared with the previous year. Over the ten-year period, arrests for total Index offenses dropped 25.2%, with a much smaller decline (-4.1%) over the most recent five years.
- Arrests for property Index offenses decreased in 2009 by 2.7% compared with 2008. This included a decrease for burglary of 10.7%. There were decreases for motor vehicle theft (-8.3%), and larceny-theft (-0.5%) compared to the prior year. Arrests for property Index offenses declined substantially over the ten-year period, by 28.6%, with a small increase of 0.3% over the most recent five years.
- Arrests for violent Index offenses decreased in 2009 by 5.7% compared with the prior year. This included a decline for aggravated assault (-10.7%), and a small drop for robbery (-1.7%). In contrast, arrests for rape rose 11.1%, and arrests for murder increased 7.7%. The number of violent Index arrests fluctuated over the ten-year period of 2000 to 2009, declining over that time by 13.2%, with a substantial 14.8% drop over the most recent five-year period. Finally, over ten years, there were major declines for aggravated assault (-33.9%), and rape (-15.7%). However over the ten-year period, arrests for murder rose by more than one-half (+55.6%), alongside a substantial increase for robbery (+19.8%).
- Juvenile drug arrests in 2009 reflected a 6.0% decrease from the previous year. Over the ten-year period, drug arrests declined 31.2%, with a 15.3% decline over the most recent five years.
- Finally, estimated statewide juvenile arrest *rates* were somewhat lower in 2009 than in 2008. The total arrest rate decreased from 56.4 to 53.1 arrests per 1,000 youth, ages 10 to 17. For specific offense types, the declines in arrest rates were as follows: Part II offenses (from 44.4 to 41.3); total Index offenses (from 12.1 to 11.8); property Index offenses (from 8.8 to 8.7); and violent Index offenses (from 3.2 to 3.1).
- Juvenile arrest rates in 2009 were considerably lower than in 2000. The comparisons were as follows: total arrest rate (53.1 vs. 73.5), Part II offense rate (41.3 vs. 57.7), Index arrest rate (11.8 vs. 15.8), property Index arrest rate (8.7 vs. 12.2), and violent Index arrest rate (3.1 vs. 3.6).



Changing Arrest Patterns in the Counties

Statewide data and trends typically mask substantial differences at the county level. The following provides a county-level analysis of select trends for offense types.

Total Juvenile Arrests

Juvenile arrests decreased in 16 of the 21 counties for 2009 compared with the previous year. Those with the greatest declines were Cape May (-27.2%), Hunterdon (-22.3%), Sussex and Warren (-22.0% each), Hudson (-19.7%) Cumberland and Passaic (-19.0% each), and Ocean (-18.7%). Five counties experienced increases, led by Salem (+36.3%), and Mercer (+8.3%).

Between 2000 and 2009, 20 of the 21 counties experienced a decrease in juvenile arrests. The counties with the greatest declines were Cape May (-51.7%), Union (-47.3%), Warren (-44.2%), Ocean (-40.9%), Hudson (-37.7%), Essex (-37.1%), and Hunterdon (-37.0%). Salem was the sole county experiencing an increase, with a rise of 11.4%.

Arrests for Violent Index Offenses

Ten of 21 counties experienced decreases in juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses in 2009 compared with the previous year. The counties with the greatest decreases were Cape May (-41.9%), Passaic (-33.3%), and Hudson (-22.3%). The counties with the greatest increases were Warren (+62.5%), Hunterdon (+40.0%), Morris (+28.6%), and Sussex (+27.3%). Note that the large increases for most of these counties is, in part, due to the small number of arrests, and (for all) the previous decline in 2008.

Between 2000 and 2009, 13 of the 21 counties showed a decline in arrests for violent Index offenses. The decreases were greatest in Warren (-51.9%), Ocean (-48.6%), Cape May (-47.9%), and Mercer (-47.5%). In contrast, substantial increases were experienced over the ten-year period in Union (+73.6%), and Monmouth (+24.1%).

Arrests for Drug Offenses

Fifteen of 21 counties experienced a drop in juvenile arrests for drug offenses in 2009 compared with the previous year. The counties experiencing the greatest declines were Warren (-34.7%), Sussex (-28.0%), Salem (-23.5%), Passaic (-22.1%), Burlington (-22.0%), and Hudson (-19.9%). The counties with the greatest increases in drug offenses were Mercer (+13.9%), and Monmouth (+8.4%).

Between 2000 and 2009, 17 of the 21 counties showed a drop in arrests for drug offenses. The counties with the greatest decreases were Hudson (-60.5%), Essex (-48.1%), Gloucester (-47.1%), and Union (-46.7%). Four counties experienced increases, led by Salem (+30.0%), followed by Bergen (+17.0%), Mercer (+11.5%), and Morris (+9.4%).

A Focus on Juvenile Crime in the Cities

The number of juvenile arrests in large urban areas is disproportionate to their share of the statewide population. This tends to be the case particularly for violent offenses. This point is highlighted in an analysis of groups of cities designated in the UCR as the "Major Urban" (the six most populated urban centers, with total populations of 80,000 or over), and a larger grouping of the "Urban 15." The six "Major Urban" cities are identified as: Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton.⁵

For the purposes of the present report, U.S. Census estimated population ages 0 to 17 (for the 2005 to 2009 period) was utilized, and compared with various categories of juvenile arrests in 2009. The total under 18 population in the six largest cities comprised an estimated 12.0% of the statewide total for this age group; the figure for the "Urban 15" was 19.5%.

As shown in the table below, for the "Major Urban" and the "Urban 15" municipalities, their share of statewide juvenile arrests was substantially greater than their share of the population. The urban concentration was particularly great for the violent Index offenses, (i.e., murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) and drug offenses. For the six "Major Urban" municipalities, their share of juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses was more than double their share of the statewide under 18 population (28.4% vs. 12.0%). Also, their share of juvenile arrests for drug offenses was well above their share of the population (21.1% vs. 12.0%).

For the "Urban 15" municipalities, relative to their share of the statewide under 18 population, their share of juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses was more than double

⁵ The nine remaining cities comprising the "Urban 15" in 2009 were: Bayonne, Clifton, East Orange, Irvington, Passaic, Toms River Township, Union City, Vineland, and Woodbridge.

(40.7% vs. 19.5%), and their share of juvenile arrests for drug offenses was well above their share of the population (28.2% vs. 19.5%).

"Major Urban" and "Urban 15" Municipalities as a Share of Statewide Population, Ages 0 to 17, and of Juvenile Arrests (by Category of Offense) in 2009		
	<i>Six Major Urban % Share</i>	<i>Urban 15 % Share</i>
Population, Ages 0 to 17	12.0%	19.5%
Total Juvenile Arrests	21.5%	31.3%
Index Offenses	11.1%	20.7%
Violent Index Offenses	28.4%	40.7%
Property Index Offenses	5.0%	13.7%
Drug Offenses	21.1%	28.2%

The disproportionate concentration of serious juvenile crime in urban areas (as measured by juvenile arrests) is, in part, linked to indicators of community disadvantage. Children and families from disadvantaged, typically urban, communities are frequently beset by a multitude of personal and environmental *risk factors* that are known to be conducive to lawbreaking. At the same time, disadvantaged communities are less likely to generate the *protective factors* that can diminish delinquency involvement by increasing individuals' resilience in the face of adversity and risk.

A brief examination of the six "Major Urban" areas identified above illustrates the relevance of community context. Economic disadvantage in these six cities is reflected in substantially higher rates of child poverty, and in significantly lower median family income. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), 12.6% of the children living in New Jersey lived below the official federal poverty level, based on a three year estimated average (2007 to 2009). In contrast, the six cities ranged from a child poverty rate of 50.5% in Camden to a rate of 24.4% in Jersey City. The average child poverty rate, across the six cities, was 34.3%.⁶

With regard to income, statewide median family income in New Jersey was \$83,957 according to the ACS (based on its five-year estimate, 2005 to 2009). In contrast, the six cities ranged from a low of \$27,956 in Camden to a high of \$55,202 in Jersey City. The average median family income, across the six cities, was \$41,846, just under one-half of the statewide figure.⁷

In addition, most of the six cities' recent levels of performance on New Jersey educational achievement exams fell well short of statewide performance levels. According to the Department of Education's High School Proficiency Assessment (Spring 2010), 68.7% of 11th grade students, statewide, were assessed as proficient in Language Arts, while 50.1% were

⁶ See: Legal Services of New Jersey, Poverty Research Institute. March 2011. *Poverty Benchmarks 2011: Assessing New Jersey's Progress in Combating Poverty*. Edison, NJ: Legal Services of New Jersey.

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder. 2005 to 2009. *American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates: FACT SHEET*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau. (See www.factfinder.census.gov)

proficient in Math. In contrast, the six cities ranged, for Language Arts, from a low of 40.8% proficiency rate in Camden to a high of 65.0% in Elizabeth. For Math, the range was from 16.1% in Camden to a high of 43.1% in Elizabeth. Across the six cities, the average proficiency rate for Language Arts was 53.7%, while the figure for Math was 31.7%.⁸

As might be expected, not only is the prevalence of juvenile arrests linked to community disadvantage, both appear to be related to juveniles' involvement with New Jersey's juvenile correctional system, i.e., the Juvenile Justice Commission. A focus on the six cities is once again useful. While these six cities comprised an estimated 12.0% of the 0 to 17 population in recent years (2005 to 2009 estimate), they accounted for an estimated 43.5% of youth admitted to the JJC in 2008.

Finally, the convergence of factors briefly examined above demonstrates the likely value of an appropriately targeted approach to crime prevention and control, both in terms of incorporating an urban focus, and attempting to impact recognized risk and protective factors for children and families, including increased job training, employment and educational opportunities, and expanded access to needed substance abuse treatment.

Conclusion

Public fears and concerns about crime, whether perpetrated by juveniles or adults, are fed by popular perceptions that the incidence of crime is rampant. As this report indicates, a large portion of arrests among juveniles (and arrests of adults as well, for that matter) was for offenses that might generally be considered to be of moderate or limited seriousness, a description certainly valid for many of the Part II offenses noted earlier. Further, arrests for the most serious violent offenses of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault (the violent Index offenses) accounted for only 5.8% of all juvenile arrests. These points are historically true, although the specific percent share varies somewhat over time. For example in 2000, arrests for violent Index offenses accounted for a somewhat lower 4.8% of all juvenile arrests (compared with the 5.8% noted just above). Interestingly, compared with 2009, the figure twenty years prior (in 1990) was an identical 5.8%.

In addition to the above, juvenile arrests in 2009, encouragingly, continued a longstanding decline experienced over almost two decades. In fact, compared with 1990, the total number of juvenile arrests, as well as arrests for the violent Index offenses have both declined by almost half. Even so, the downward trend has slowed over the most recent five-year period, gaining the attention of both researchers and officials looking toward the future.

Finally, the report identifies the fact that youth of color are arrested at a disproportionately high rate compared with white (non-Hispanic) youth. Various explanations have been offered to help explain that reality. A partial explanation, suggested above, is the fact that youth of color are more likely to experience an array of risk factors characteristically found in New Jersey's urban centers. At the same time, widely acknowledged limitations of arrest data briefly alluded to at the outset of this report bear on the results as well, and deserve mention here. Some argue that the disparate arrest results are more an indication of differential practices and handling by police that disadvantage youth of color (e.g., police patrol practices) than of differential behavior by race/ethnicity. Both research and observations of juvenile justice system officials support the view that system practices can play an important role in subsequent disparities in arrests.

⁸ New Jersey Department of Education. 2011. *New Jersey High School Proficiency Assessment, Spring 2010 (Grade 11)*. Trenton, NJ: New Jersey Department of Education.
(See: www.state.nj.us/education/schools/achievement/2011/hspa (EXCEL Spreadsheet))

As a result of a collaboration begun in 2003 between the Judiciary, the Attorney General's Office, and the Juvenile Justice Commission, New Jersey's County Youth Service Commissions (CYSC) were asked to undertake a study of juvenile justice system outcomes and their relationship to possible disparities by race and ethnicity.⁹ One common theme of the CYSC reports concerned police curbside warning and stationhouse adjustment practices and policies. The observation was that there were substantial differences between and within municipalities in their use of curbside warnings (in lieu of arrest), and stationhouse adjustments (in lieu of delinquency complaints to the family court). These differences were felt to negatively impact youth of color. For example, stationhouse adjustments were less frequent in poorer communities containing large proportions of youth of color. Growing out of the collaboration, the Attorney General's Office promulgated a directive encouraging the use of stationhouse adjustments, along with related guidelines in December of 2005 that were subsequently revised.¹⁰ The hope is that reducing the differences in the use of stationhouse adjustments (and curbside warnings) across communities and neighborhoods will make a contribution to reducing juvenile justice system disparities by race and ethnicity.

⁹ Juvenile Justice Commission. Spring 2006. *Minority Youth Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System*, in Juvenile Justice Matters, Volume 4, Issue 1. Trenton, NJ: Juvenile Justice Commission.

¹⁰ View the revised directive/guidelines at www.state.nj.us/lps/dcj/agguide/directives/dir-2008-2.pdf.

Table 1
Offenses as a Percent of Total Juvenile Arrests
2009

Offenses	2009	% of Total Arrests
Murder	28	0.1%
Rape	70	0.1%
Robbery	1,441	2.9%
Aggravated Assault	1,298	2.7%
Burglary	1,425	2.9%
Larceny-Theft	6,387	13.1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	220	0.4%
Subtotal Index Offenses	10,869	22.2%
Manslaughter	3	0.0%
Simple Assault	3,806	7.8%
Arson	175	0.4%
Forgery & Counterfeiting	48	0.1%
Fraud	126	0.3%
Embezzlement	6	0.0%
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing, etc.	944	1.9%
Criminal/Malicious Mischief	2,597	5.3%
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	1,217	2.5%
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	16	0.0%
Sex Offenses (Except Forcible Rape and Prostitution)	270	0.6%
Drug Abuse Violations	5,572	11.4%
Gambling	33	0.1%
Offenses Against Family and Children	78	0.2%
Driving Under the Influence	289	0.6%
Liquor Laws	2,387	4.9%
Disorderly Conduct	3,738	7.6%
Vagrancy	30	0.1%
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	7,238	14.8%
Curfew and Loitering Law Violations	5,665	11.6%
Runaways	3,816	7.8%
Grand Total	48,923	100.0%

Table II
Juvenile Arrests vs. Adult Arrests
2009

Offenses	Juveniles	Adults	Total	Juvenile Percent Share of Arrests
Murder	28	201	229	12.2%
Rape	70	295	365	19.2%
Robbery	1,441	2,982	4,423	32.6%
Aggravated Assault	1,298	7,516	8,814	14.7%
Burglary	1,425	4,752	6,177	23.1%
Larceny-Theft	6,387	21,398	27,785	23.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft	220	582	802	27.4%
Manslaughter	3	30	33	9.1%
Simple Assault	3,806	23,588	27,394	13.9%
Arson	175	146	321	54.5%
Forgery & Counterfeiting	48	1,732	1,780	2.7%
Fraud	126	4,982	5,108	2.5%
Embezzlement	6	141	147	4.1%
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing, etc.	944	2,811	3,755	25.1%
Criminal/Malicious Mischief	2,597	3,950	6,547	39.7%
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	1,217	3,553	4,770	25.5%
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	16	1,396	1,412	1.1%
Sex Offenses (Except Forcible Rape and Prostitution)	270	1,283	1,553	17.4%
Drug Abuse Violations	5,572	47,706	53,278	10.5%
Gambling	33	237	270	12.2%
Offenses Against Family and Children	78	14,434	14,512	0.5%
Driving Under the Influence	289	27,549	27,838	1.0%
Liquor Laws	2,387	4,977	7,364	32.4%
Disorderly Conduct	3,738	18,353	22,091	16.9%
Vagrancy	30	1,453	1,483	2.0%
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	7,238	149,975	157,213	4.6%
Curfew and Loitering Law Violations	5,665	0	5,665	100.0%
Runaways	3,816	0	3,816	100.0%
Total Offenses	48,923	346,022	394,945	12.4%
Index Offenses	10,869	37,726	48,595	22.4%
Violent Index Offenses	2,837	10,994	13,831	20.5%
Property Index Offenses	8,032	26,732	34,764	23.1%
Part II Offenses	38,054	308,296	346,350	11.0%

Table III
Juvenile Arrests, by County
2009

County	Total Arrests	Index Arrests	Violent Index Arrests	Property Index Arrests	Part II Arrests	Drug Arrests
Atlantic	2,156	647	117	530	1,509	203
Bergen	3,581	927	150	777	2,654	481
Burlington	2,143	485	101	384	1,658	255
Camden	7,271	779	259	520	6,492	465
Cape May	842	208	25	183	634	131
Cumberland	1,457	475	125	350	982	105
Essex	3,977	1,049	542	507	2,928	616
Gloucester	1,492	418	69	349	1,074	181
Hudson	2,413	599	306	293	1,814	285
Hunterdon	344	55	7	48	289	82
Mercer	3,601	628	124	504	2,973	474
Middlesex	2,781	913	162	751	1,868	290
Monmouth	3,921	1,048	211	837	2,873	516
Morris	1,754	327	54	273	1,427	304
Ocean	2,096	446	71	375	1,650	341
Passaic	3,153	548	182	366	2,605	271
Salem	578	91	23	68	487	39
Somerset	1,695	408	33	375	1,287	120
Sussex	566	97	14	83	469	85
Union	2,439	585	210	375	1,854	275
Warren	368	81	13	68	287	47
Other*	295	55	39	16	240	6
Statewide Total	48,923	10,869	2,837	8,032	38,054	5,572

* A small number of New Jersey juvenile arrests are not assigned to a particular county, and are listed here as "other".

Table IV
Juvenile Arrest Rates Per 1,000 Youth, by Type and County
2009

County	2009 Population Age 10-17**	Total Arrests	Total Arrest Rate	Index Arrests	Index Rate	Violent Index Arrests	Violent Index Rate	Drug Arrests	Drug Arrest Rate
Atlantic	28,250	2,156	76.3	647	22.9	117	4.1	203	7.2
Bergen	92,887	3,581	38.6	927	10.0	150	1.6	481	5.2
Burlington	47,744	2,143	44.9	485	10.2	101	2.1	255	5.3
Camden	56,467	7,271	128.8	779	13.8	259	4.6	465	8.2
Cape May	8,869	842	94.9	208	23.5	25	2.8	131	14.8
Cumberland	16,023	1,457	90.9	475	29.6	125	7.8	105	6.6
Essex	81,507	3,977	48.8	1,049	12.9	542	6.6	616	7.6
Gloucester	32,636	1,492	45.7	418	12.8	69	2.1	181	5.5
Hudson	49,377	2,413	48.9	599	12.1	306	6.2	285	5.8
Hunterdon	15,199	344	22.6	55	3.6	7	0.5	82	5.4
Mercer	39,467	3,601	91.2	628	15.9	124	3.1	474	12.0
Middlesex	81,578	2,781	34.1	913	11.2	162	2.0	290	3.6
Monmouth	73,434	3,921	53.4	1,048	14.3	211	2.9	516	7.0
Morris	54,100	1,754	32.4	327	6.0	54	1.0	304	5.6
Ocean	55,445	2,096	37.8	446	8.0	71	1.3	341	6.2
Passaic	51,862	3,153	60.8	548	10.6	182	3.5	271	5.2
Salem	7,308	578	79.1	91	12.5	23	3.1	39	5.3
Somerset	36,184	1,695	46.8	408	11.3	33	0.9	120	3.3
Sussex	17,674	566	32.0	97	5.5	14	0.8	85	4.8
Union	55,431	2,439	44.0	585	10.6	210	3.8	275	5.0
Warren	12,092	368	30.4	81	6.7	13	1.1	47	3.9
Other*	NA	295	NA	55	NA	39	NA	6	NA
Statewide Total	922,044	48,923	53.1	10,869	11.8	2,837	3.1	5,572	6.0

* A small number of New Jersey juvenile arrest are not assigned to a particular county, and are listed here as "other".

** County population: based on Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD) estimated population for counties, as of July 1, 2009 (by age group). A further calculation was required to estimate 10 to 17 population, adjusting the preset category of 15 to 19 (i.e., adding three-fifths of that category to the 10 to 14 figures).

Statewide population: based on DLWD estimated statewide population, as of July 1, 2009 (single year of age)

Table V
County Ranking of Juvenile Arrests, by Type
2009

Total Arrests

Camden	7,271	14.9%
Essex	3,977	8.1%
Monmouth	3,921	8.0%
Mercer	3,601	7.4%
Bergen	3,581	7.3%
Passaic	3,153	6.4%
Middlesex	2,781	5.7%
Union	2,439	5.0%
Hudson	2,413	4.9%
Atlantic	2,156	4.4%
Burlington	2,143	4.4%
Ocean	2,096	4.3%
Morris	1,754	3.6%
Somerset	1,695	3.5%
Gloucester	1,492	3.0%
Cumberland	1,457	3.0%
Cape May	842	1.7%
Salem	578	1.2%
Sussex	566	1.2%
Warren	368	0.8%
Hunterdon	344	0.7%
Other*	295	0.6%
State	48,923	100.0%

% of State (Top 7 Counties)	57.8%
--------------------------------	-------

Index Arrests

Essex	1,049	9.7%
Monmouth	1,048	9.6%
Bergen	927	8.5%
Middlesex	913	8.4%
Camden	779	7.2%
Atlantic	647	6.0%
Mercer	628	5.8%
Hudson	599	5.5%
Union	585	5.4%
Passaic	548	5.0%
Burlington	485	4.5%
Cumberland	475	4.4%
Ocean	446	4.1%
Gloucester	418	3.8%
Somerset	408	3.8%
Morris	327	3.0%
Cape May	208	1.9%
Sussex	97	0.9%
Salem	91	0.8%
Warren	81	0.7%
Other*	55	0.5%
Hunterdon	55	0.5%
State	10,869	100.0%

% of State (Top 7 Counties)	55.1%
--------------------------------	-------

Violent Index Arrests

Essex	542	19.1%
Hudson	306	10.8%
Camden	259	9.1%
Monmouth	211	7.4%
Union	210	7.4%
Passaic	182	6.4%
Middlesex	162	5.7%
Bergen	150	5.3%
Cumberland	125	4.4%
Mercer	124	4.4%
Atlantic	117	4.1%
Burlington	101	3.6%
Ocean	71	2.5%
Gloucester	69	2.4%
Morris	54	1.9%
Other*	39	1.4%
Somerset	33	1.2%
Cape May	25	0.9%
Salem	23	0.8%
Sussex	14	0.5%
Warren	13	0.5%
Hunterdon	7	0.2%
State	2,837	100.0%

% of State (Top 7 Counties)	66.0%
--------------------------------	-------

* A small number of New Jersey juvenile arrests are not assigned to a particular county, and are listed here as "other".

Table VI
County Ranking of Juvenile Arrest Rates per 1,000 Youth
10 to 17, by Type
2009*

<u>Total Arrest Rate</u>		<u>Index Arrest Rate</u>		<u>Violent Index Arrest Rate</u>	
Camden	128.8	Cumberland	29.6	Cumberland	7.8
Cape May	94.9	Cape May	23.5	Essex	6.6
Mercer	91.2	Atlantic	22.9	Hudson	6.2
Cumberland	90.9	Mercer	15.9	Camden	4.6
Salem	79.1	Monmouth	14.3	Atlantic	4.1
Atlantic	76.3	Camden	13.8	Union	3.8
Passaic	60.8	Essex	12.9	Passaic	3.5
Monmouth	53.4	Gloucester	12.8	State	3.1
State	53.1	Salem	12.5	Mercer	3.1
Hudson	48.9	Hudson	12.1	Salem	3.1
Essex	48.8	State	11.8	Monmouth	2.9
Somerset	46.8	Somerset	11.3	Cape May	2.8
Gloucester	45.7	Middlesex	11.2	Burlington	2.1
Burlington	44.9	Union	10.6	Gloucester	2.1
Union	44.0	Passaic	10.6	Middlesex	2.0
Bergen	38.6	Burlington	10.2	Bergen	1.6
Ocean	37.8	Bergen	10.0	Ocean	1.3
Middlesex	34.1	Ocean	8.0	Warren	1.1
Morris	32.4	Warren	6.7	Morris	1.0
Sussex	32.0	Morris	6.0	Somerset	0.9
Warren	30.4	Sussex	5.5	Sussex	0.8
Hunterdon	22.6	Hunterdon	3.6	Hunterdon	0.5

* Based on Department of Labor estimated population for counties. A further calculation was required to estimate 10 to 17 population, adjusting the preset category of 15 to 19 (i.e., adding three-fifths of that category to the 10 to 14 figures).

Table VII
County Ranking for Drug Arrests and Rates
2009

Number of Drug Arrests

Drug Arrest Rates

Essex	616	11.1%
Monmouth	516	9.3%
Bergen	481	8.6%
Mercer	474	8.5%
Camden	465	8.3%
Ocean	341	6.1%
Morris	304	5.5%
Middlesex	290	5.2%
Hudson	285	5.1%
Union	275	4.9%
Passaic	271	4.9%
Burlington	255	4.6%
Atlantic	203	3.6%
Gloucester	181	3.2%
Cape May	131	2.4%
Somerset	120	2.2%
Cumberland	105	1.9%
Sussex	85	1.5%
Hunterdon	82	1.5%
Warren	47	0.8%
Salem	39	0.7%
Other *	6	0.1%
State	5,572	100%

Cape May	14.8
Mercer	12.0
Camden	8.2
Essex	7.6
Atlantic	7.2
Monmouth	7.0
Cumberland	6.6
Ocean	6.2
State	6.0
Hudson	5.8
Morris	5.6
Gloucester	5.5
Hunterdon	5.4
Burlington	5.3
Salem	5.3
Bergen	5.2
Passaic	5.2
Union	5.0
Sussex	4.8
Warren	3.9
Middlesex	3.6
Somerset	3.3

*A small number of New Jersey juvenile arrests are not assigned to a particular county, and are listed here as "other".

**Table VIII
Statewide Juvenile Arrests, by Type and Percent Change
2000 – 2009**

Juvenile Arrests	2000	2005	2008	2009	% Change 00-09	% Change 05-09	% Change 08-09
Total Arrests (All Offenses)	67,532	60,717	52,684	48,923	-27.6%	-19.4%	-7.1%
Index Offenses	14,522	11,336	11,259	10,869	-25.2%	-4.1%	-3.5%
Violent Index Offenses	3,267	3,330	3,008	2,837	-13.2%	-14.8%	-5.7%
Murder	18	30	26	28	55.6%	-6.7%	7.7%
Rape	83	61	63	70	-15.7%	14.8%	11.1%
Robbery	1,203	1,439	1,466	1,441	19.8%	0.1%	-1.7%
Aggravated Assault	1,963	1,800	1,453	1,298	-33.9%	-27.9%	-10.7%
Property Index Offenses	11,255	8,006	8,251	8,032	-28.6%	0.3%	-2.7%
Burglary	1,952	1,655	1,595	1,425	-27.0%	-13.9%	-10.7%
Larceny-Theft	8,782	5,989	6,416	6,387	-27.3%	6.6%	-0.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	521	362	240	220	-57.8%	-39.2%	-8.3%
Part II Offenses	53,010	49,381	41,425	38,054	-28.2%	-22.9%	-8.1%
Drug Offenses	8,104	6,579	5,930	5,572	-31.2%	-15.3%	-6.0%

Table IX
Juvenile Arrests, by Offense and Percent Change
2008 – 2009

OFFENSES	2008	2009	% Change 2008 - 2009
Murder	26	28	7.7%
Rape	63	70	11.1%
Robbery	1,466	1,441	-1.7%
Aggravated Assault	1,453	1,298	-10.7%
Burglary	1,595	1,425	-10.7%
Larceny-Theft	6,416	6,387	-0.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	240	220	-8.3%
Subtotal Index Offenses	11,259	10,869	-3.5%
Manslaughter	3	3	0.0%
Simple Assault	4,310	3,806	-11.7%
Arson	245	175	-28.6%
Forgery & Counterfeiting	60	48	-20.0%
Fraud	142	126	-11.3%
Embezzlement	5	6	20.0%
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing, etc.	1,069	944	-11.7%
Criminal/Malicious Mischief	3,224	2,597	-19.4%
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	1,454	1,217	-16.3%
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	32	16	-50.0%
Sex Offenses (Except Forcible Rape and Prostitution)	323	270	-16.4%
Drug Abuse Violations	5,930	5,572	-6.0%
Gambling	52	33	-36.5%
Offenses Against Family and Children	153	78	-49.0%
Driving Under the Influence	369	289	-21.7%
Liquor Laws	2,640	2,387	-9.6%
Disorderly Conduct	4,431	3,738	-15.6%
Vagrancy	32	30	-6.3%
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	8,154	7,238	-11.2%
Curfew and Loitering Law Violations	4,747	5,665	19.3%
Runaways	4,050	3,816	-5.8%
Grand Total	52,684	48,923	-7.1%

Table X
Total Arrests by County, 2000 – 2009

County	Total Arrests 2000	Total Arrests 2005	Total Arrests 2008	Total Arrests 2009	% Change 2000 - 2009	% Change 2005 - 2009	% Change 2008 - 2009
Atlantic	3,303	2,714	2,111	2,156	-34.7%	-20.6%	2.1%
Bergen	4,341	4,729	3,644	3,581	-17.5%	-24.3%	-1.7%
Burlington	2,677	2,607	2,421	2,143	-19.9%	-17.8%	-11.5%
Camden	9,359	8,725	7,027	7,271	-22.3%	-16.7%	3.5%
Cape May	1,745	1,255	1,157	842	-51.7%	-32.9%	-27.2%
Cumberland	2,263	2,322	1,799	1,457	-35.6%	-37.3%	-19.0%
Essex	6,324	4,983	4,048	3,977	-37.1%	-20.2%	-1.8%
Gloucester	2,242	1,682	1,814	1,492	-33.5%	-11.3%	-17.8%
Hudson	3,873	3,173	3,005	2,413	-37.7%	-24.0%	-19.7%
Hunterdon	546	375	443	344	-37.0%	-8.3%	-22.3%
Mercer	4,672	3,888	3,324	3,601	-22.9%	-7.4%	8.3%
Middlesex	3,363	2,783	2,833	2,781	-17.3%	-0.1%	-1.8%
Monmouth	4,747	4,398	4,328	3,921	-17.4%	-10.8%	-9.4%
Morris	2,189	1,961	1,723	1,754	-19.9%	-10.6%	1.8%
Ocean	3,545	3,321	2,577	2,096	-40.9%	-36.9%	-18.7%
Passaic	3,692	5,251	3,894	3,153	-14.6%	-40.0%	-19.0%
Salem	519	579	424	578	11.4%	-0.2%	36.3%
Somerset	2,038	1,665	1,762	1,695	-16.8%	1.8%	-3.8%
Sussex	683	750	726	566	-17.1%	-24.5%	-22.0%
Union	4,632	3,145	2,926	2,439	-47.3%	-22.4%	-16.6%
Warren	659	374	472	368	-44.2%	-1.6%	-22.0%
Other*	120	37	226	295	145.8%	697.3%	30.5%
Statewide Total	67,532	60,717	52,684	48,923	-27.6%	-19.4%	-7.1%

* A small number of New Jersey juvenile arrests are not assigned to a particular county, and are listed here as "other".

Table XI
Index Arrests by County, 2000 – 2009

County	Index Arrests 2000	Index Arrests 2005	Index Arrests 2008	Index Arrests 2009	% Change 2000 - 2009	% Change 2005 - 2009	% Change 2008 - 2009
Atlantic	962	748	653	647	-32.7%	-13.5%	-0.9%
Bergen	1,020	796	824	927	-9.1%	16.5%	12.5%
Burlington	669	448	542	485	-27.5%	8.3%	-10.5%
Camden	1,250	987	949	779	-37.7%	-21.1%	-17.9%
Cape May	430	338	297	208	-51.6%	-38.5%	-30.0%
Cumberland	730	571	478	475	-34.9%	-16.8%	-0.6%
Essex	1,192	908	960	1,049	-12.0%	15.5%	9.3%
Gloucester	556	423	550	418	-24.8%	-1.2%	-24.0%
Hudson	885	790	741	599	-32.3%	-24.2%	-19.2%
Hunterdon	95	64	46	55	-42.1%	-14.1%	19.6%
Mercer	998	641	597	628	-37.1%	-2.0%	5.2%
Middlesex	904	749	797	913	1.0%	21.9%	14.6%
Monmouth	1,170	916	980	1,048	-10.4%	14.4%	6.9%
Morris	457	410	256	327	-28.4%	-20.2%	27.7%
Ocean	789	569	489	446	-43.5%	-21.6%	-8.8%
Passaic	825	884	737	548	-33.6%	-38.0%	-25.6%
Salem	136	122	94	91	-33.1%	-25.4%	-3.2%
Somerset	332	273	353	408	22.9%	49.5%	15.6%
Sussex	137	153	134	97	-29.2%	-36.6%	-27.6%
Union	802	450	676	585	-27.1%	30.0%	-13.5%
Warren	183	96	92	81	-55.7%	-15.6%	-12.0%
*Other	0	0	14	55	-----	-----	292.9%
Statewide Total	14,522	11,336	11,259	10,869	-25.2%	-4.1%	-3.5%

* A small number of New Jersey juvenile arrests are not assigned to a particular county, and are listed here as "other".

Table XII
Violent Index Arrests by County, 2000 – 2009

County	Violent Index Arrests 2000	Violent Index Arrests 2005	Violent Index Arrests 2008	Violent Index Arrests 2009	% Change 2000 - 2009	% Change 2005 - 2009	% Change 2008 - 2009
Atlantic	177	193	140	117	-33.9%	-39.4%	-16.4%
Bergen	148	179	138	150	1.4%	-16.2%	8.7%
Burlington	135	99	118	101	-25.2%	2.0%	-14.4%
Camden	312	296	277	259	-17.0%	-12.5%	-6.5%
Cape May	48	55	43	25	-47.9%	-54.5%	-41.9%
Cumberland	158	143	134	125	-20.9%	-12.6%	-6.7%
Essex	561	507	518	542	-3.4%	6.9%	4.6%
Gloucester	64	73	79	69	7.8%	-5.5%	-12.7%
Hudson	468	495	394	306	-34.6%	-38.2%	-22.3%
Hunterdon	11	12	5	7	-36.4%	-41.7%	40.0%
Mercer	236	210	140	124	-47.5%	-41.0%	-11.4%
Middlesex	149	159	158	162	8.7%	1.9%	2.5%
Monmouth	170	196	188	211	24.1%	7.7%	12.2%
Morris	51	65	42	54	5.9%	-16.9%	28.6%
Ocean	138	118	70	71	-48.6%	-39.8%	1.4%
Passaic	219	331	273	182	-16.9%	-45.0%	-33.3%
Salem	22	23	20	23	4.5%	0.0%	15.0%
Somerset	28	28	31	33	17.9%	17.9%	6.5%
Sussex	24	16	11	14	-41.7%	-12.5%	27.3%
Union	121	122	215	210	73.6%	72.1%	-2.3%
Warren	27	10	8	13	-51.9%	30.0%	62.5%
*Other	0	0	6	39			550.0%
Statewide Total	3,267	3,330	3,008	2,837	-13.2%	-14.8%	-5.7%

* A small number of New Jersey juvenile arrests are not assigned to a particular county, and are listed here as "other".

**Table XIII
Drug Arrests by County, 2000 – 2009**

County	Drug Arrests 2000	Drug Arrests 2005	Drug Arrests 2008	Drug Arrests 2009	% Change 2000 - 2009	% Change 2005 - 2009	% Change 2008 - 2009
Atlantic	278	320	246	203	-27.0%	-36.6%	-17.5%
Bergen	411	519	474	481	17.0%	-7.3%	1.5%
Burlington	357	330	327	255	-28.6%	-22.7%	-22.0%
Camden	769	609	489	465	-39.5%	-23.6%	-4.9%
Cape May	211	167	149	131	-37.9%	-21.6%	-12.1%
Cumberland	146	179	109	105	-28.1%	-41.3%	-3.7%
Essex	1,186	790	595	616	-48.1%	-22.0%	3.5%
Gloucester	342	166	180	181	-47.1%	9.0%	0.6%
Hudson	721	411	356	285	-60.5%	-30.7%	-19.9%
Hunterdon	89	52	87	82	-7.9%	57.7%	-5.7%
Mercer	425	452	416	474	11.5%	4.9%	13.9%
Middlesex	433	301	283	290	-33.0%	-3.7%	2.5%
Monmouth	607	490	476	516	-15.0%	5.3%	8.4%
Morris	278	288	313	304	9.4%	5.6%	-2.9%
Ocean	510	395	401	341	-33.1%	-13.7%	-15.0%
Passaic	434	417	348	271	-37.6%	-35.0%	-22.1%
Salem	30	49	51	39	30.0%	-20.4%	-23.5%
Somerset	179	139	122	120	-33.0%	-13.7%	-1.6%
Sussex	93	88	118	85	-8.6%	-3.4%	-28.0%
Union	516	352	313	275	-46.7%	-21.9%	-12.1%
Warren	74	55	72	47	-36.5%	-14.5%	-34.7%
Other*	15	10	5	6	-60.0%	-40.0%	20.0%
Statewide Total	8,104	6,579	5,930	5,572	-31.2%	-15.3%	-6.0%

* A small number of New Jersey juvenile arrests are not assigned to a particular county, and are listed here as "other".