

WV Juvenile Arrest Report: 2000-2002

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The total number of juvenile arrests in West Virginia have declined sharply over the past three years. From 2000 to 2002 juvenile arrests declined by 27.1%. In 2000, 4,304 juvenile arrests were reported to law enforcement. Juvenile arrests then fell to 3,538 in 2001 and to 3,137 in 2002.

The juvenile proportion of arrests in WV continues to be substantially less than the national average. In 2002, juveniles were involved in only 7.5% (or about 1 in 13) of all reported arrests. Likewise, only 5.8% of all Violent Crime Index offenses in WV involved juveniles. In contrast, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported that in 2001 juveniles accounted for 17.0% of all arrests and 15.0% of all violent crime arrests in the United States.

Between 2000 and 2002, a vast majority of juvenile arrests in WV were for property and nonindex offenses. Over two-thirds (65.0%) of juvenile arrests were for nonindex crime offenses, such as other assaults (simple assault and intimidation), liquor law violations, drug abuse violations, and vandalism. Over the same time period, Property Crime Index offenses averaged 31.8% of juvenile arrests, while only 3.1% of juvenile arrests were for Violent Crime Index offenses.

In 2002, male juveniles were responsible for most of the offenses

known to law enforcement. While males made up slightly above half of the juvenile population (51.6%) in 2002, they accounted for nearly three-quarters (73.8%) of all juvenile arrests.

Although both white and nonwhite males were overrepresented in juvenile arrests over the three-year period, nonwhite males were overrepresented at nearly three times their proportion of the juvenile population in WV. While nonwhite males represent only 3.0% of the juvenile population in WV, they accounted for 8.2% of all juvenile arrests in 2002. In comparison, white males made up 48.6% of the juvenile population in WV, but 65.6% of all juvenile arrests in 2002.

Female youths, on the other hand, were underrepresented in arrests for the period between 2000 and 2002. In particular, white females were represented in juvenile arrests at a rate nearly half their proportion in the general population. While white females made up 45.6% of the youth population in 2002, they accounted for less than one-quarter (23.3%) of juvenile arrestees. Nonwhite females comprised 2.8% of the youth population in WV and 2.9% of all juvenile arrestees. In 2002, over forty percent (43.4%) of juvenile arrests for larceny-theft offenses involved female youths.

State of West Virginia
Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice Services

Report Highlights

- Total arrests of juveniles in WV declined by 27.1% between 2000 and 2002.
- In 2002, juveniles accounted for only 7.5% of all arrests reported by law enforcement agencies in WV.
- Juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses in WV were substantially less than national estimates for 2001.
- Between 2000 and 2002, 65.5% of all juvenile arrests were for nonindex offenses, 31.8% were for Property Crime Index offenses, and only 3.1% were for Violent Crime Index offenses in WV.
- Both white and nonwhite males are overrepresented in juvenile arrests compared to WV's juvenile population.
- While nonwhite males represented only 3.0% of the juvenile population in WV, they accounted for 8.2% of all juvenile arrests in 2002.
- In 2002, nonwhite juveniles were overrepresented in arrests for nearly all offenses, particularly violent crimes, stolen property and weapons violations.
- For all three years, the disparity in arrest rates between nonwhite and white males was greatest for Violent Crime Index offenses.
- White females were underrepresented in arrests for all offenses compared to WV's juvenile population in 2002.
- Nonwhite females had higher arrest rates compared to white males for Violent Crime Index offenses in 2000 and 2001 and Property Crime Index offenses for all three years.

Statistics contained in this report were calculated using incident and arrest level data reported by local law enforcement agencies to the West Virginia State Police Incident-Based Reporting System (WVIBRS). Census 2000 and State Population Projections 2001-2005 provided the population estimates for the calculation of arrest rates. The most recent juvenile arrest report published by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was used as a basis for national comparisons.

Juvenile Proportion of Arrests

Graph 1 shows the proportion of all arrests in 2002 involving juveniles by crime index category and specific offense. As shown in Graph 1, juveniles

were involved in nearly 4 times as many Property Crime Index arrests as Violent Crime Index arrests in WV.

The most recent national figures indicate that juveniles were involved in 17.0% of all arrests in 2001. This is little more than double the percentage reported in West Virginia for 2002. In 2002, juveniles were involved in only 7.5% (or about 1 in 13) of all reported arrests in WV (Graph 1).

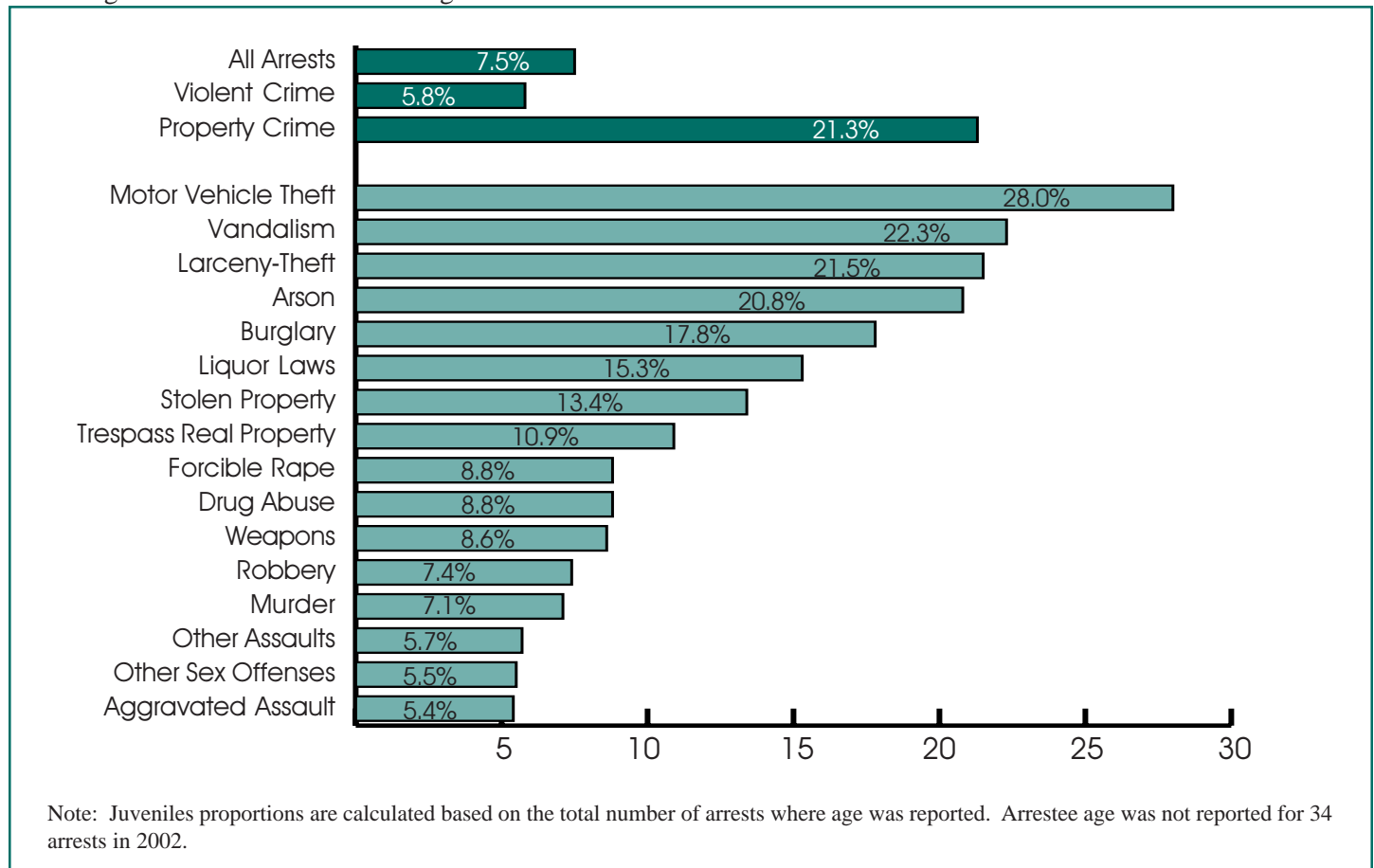
WV juveniles also comprise a smaller proportion of the total number of arrests for Violent and Property Index offenses compared to national estimates. In 2002, only 5.8% of all Violent Crime Index offenses involved juveniles in WV. Nationally, juveniles were involved in about 3 times as many arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses compared to WV.

According to OJJDP, juveniles accounted for 15.0% of all arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses in 2001. Likewise, juveniles accounted for approximately 30.0% of all Property Crime Index offenses in the U.S. In WV, slightly greater than twenty percent (21.3%) of all Property Crime Index arrests involved juveniles in 2002.

Aside from runaway and curfew violations where juveniles account for nearly 100.0% of the arrests, motor vehicle theft (28.0%) involved the highest proportion of juveniles in WV (Graph 1). Juveniles account for just over twenty percent of all arrests for vandalism (22.3%), larceny-theft (21.5%), and arson (20.8%).

As shown in Graph 1, juveniles accounted for less than 10.0% of arrests for violent offenses in 2002, including

Graph 1
Percentage of all 2002 Arrests Involving Juveniles



weapons violations. Of the 8 offenses in which juveniles constitute less than 10.0% of all arrests, 6 can be easily characterized as violent. These include forcible rape (8.8%), robbery (7.4%), murder (7.1%), other assaults (5.7%), other sex offenses (5.5%), and aggravated assault (5.4%). Only 8.6% of all weapons violations involved juveniles in 2002.

Although not reported in Graph 1, less than 5.0% of all arrests for embezzlement, disorderly conduct, fraud, kidnapping, forgery, DUI, drunkenness, and bad checks also involved juveniles in 2002.

Trends by Type of Offense

Consistent with national trends, the total number of juvenile arrests in WV have declined sharply over the past three years (Graph 2). From 2000 to 2002 juvenile arrests declined by 27.1%. In 2000, 4,304 juvenile arrests were reported to law enforcement. Juvenile arrests then fell to 3,538 in 2001 to 3,137 in 2002.

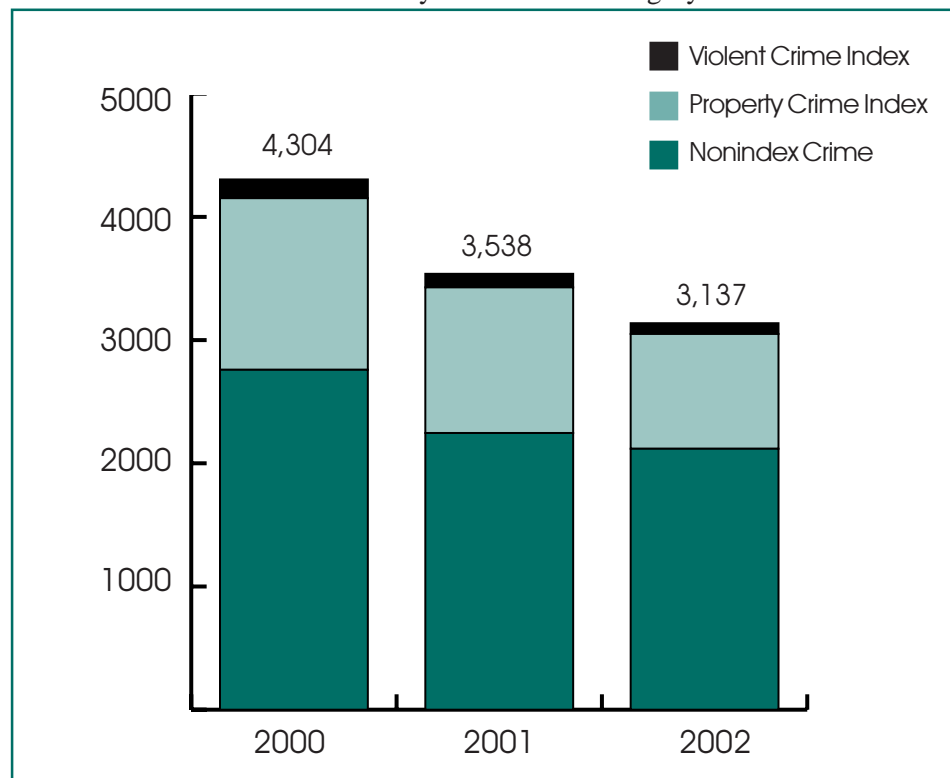
Over the period from 2000 to 2002, the majority of juvenile arrests were for nonindex type crimes (65.0%). Property Crime Index offenses averaged 31.8% of juvenile arrests, while only 3.1% of juvenile arrests were for Violent Crime Index offenses.

In 2002, only 87 or less than three percent (2.8%) of all juvenile arrests were for Violent Crime Index offenses. Nonindex offenses constituted nearly seventy percent (67.5%) of all juvenile arrests in 2002.

As shown in Table 1, the most frequently reported nonindex arrest offenses included other assaults (380), liquor law violations (281), drug abuse

Graph 2

Total Number of Juvenile Arrests by Crime Index Category: 2000-2002



violations (243), and vandalism (210). These four offenses comprised over fifty percent (52.6%) of all arrests for nonindex offenses reported by law enforcement in 2002. The nonindex crime category “all other offenses” was reported second most frequently overall, with 615 arrests. This category includes all crimes that are not Group A offenses and are not included in one of the specifically named Group B crime categories. The “all other offenses” category represented roughly thirty percent (29.0%) of all juvenile arrests for nonindex offenses in 2002.

While nonindex offenses made up over two-thirds of the juvenile crime in WV, nearly one-third (29.7%) of juvenile arrests were for Property Crime Index offenses. Of the 932 Property Crime

Index arrest offenses reported by law enforcement in 2002, over seventy percent (72.6%) were for larceny-theft. As shown in Table 1, a total of 677 juvenile arrests were for larceny-theft in 2002. Larceny-theft includes shoplifting, theft from buildings, motor vehicles and coin-operated machines, theft of motor vehicle parts, pocket-picking, purse-snatching, and all other larceny.

Burglary (147) was reported second most frequently and accounted for over fifteen percent (15.8%) of all Property Crime Index offense arrests. Arson (15) was the least frequently reported Property Crime Index arrest offense for juveniles in 2002.

In 2002, only 87 juvenile arrests were reported by law enforcement for Violent Crime Index offenses. Aggravated

Table 1
2002 Juvenile Arrests and Annual Percent Change

Arrest Offense	# of Juvenile Arrests in 2002	% Change 2001-2002	% Change 2000-2001
Total	3,137	-11.3%	-17.8%
Crime Index Total	1,019	-21.1%	-16.4%
Violent Crime Index	87	-20.9%	-27.6%
Murder/Nonnegligent Manslaughter	4	---	---
Forcible Rape	5	---	---
Robbery	10	-50.0%	-16.7%
Aggravated Assault	68	-20.0%	-27.4%
Property Crime Index	932	-21.2%	-15.2%
Burglary	147	-1.3%	-48.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	93	-7.9%	-11.4%
Larceny-Theft	677	-26.5%	-4.4%
Arson	15	36.4%	-57.7%
Nonindex	2,118	-5.7%	-18.6%
Other Assaults	380	-14.8%	-4.3%
Other Sex Offenses	8	-55.6%	-30.8%
Kidnapping/Abduction	1	---	---
Extortion/Blackmail	2	---	---
Forgery/Counterfeiting	11	-57.7%	-25.7%
Fraud	11	-50.0%	22.2%
Embezzlement	3	---	---
Stolen Property	32	10.3%	-25.6%
Vandalism	210	-18.3%	6.6%
Drug Abuse Violations	243	-14.4%	-21.8%
Pornography/Obscene Materials	1	---	---
Weapons	33	3.13%	-34.7%
Driving Under the Influence	42	-27.6%	-28.4%
Liquor Law Violations	281	0.7%	-20.5%
Drunkenness	21	-25.0%	-36.4%
Disorderly Conduct	33	-38.9%	-22.9%
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	92	-7.1%	-3.9%
Trespass Real Property	41	-10.8%	-40.3%
Bad Checks	1	---	---
All Other Offenses	615	34.0%	-20.7%
Runaways	57	-41.2%	-52.0%

Note: Caution should be used when interpreting of the percent change from year-to-year for low frequency offense categories.
--- indicates that too few arrests were reported for this offense to make a meaningful calculation of percent change.

assault (68) was reported most frequently among the Violent Crime Index offenses. Nearly eighty percent (78.2%) of all Violent Crime Index arrests among juveniles in 2002 were for aggravated assault. Other Violent Crime Index offense arrests included robbery (10), forcible rape (5), and murder/nonnegligent manslaughter (4).

The pattern of juvenile crimes known to law enforcement in WV is rather consistent with national arrest figures. In 2002, the most frequently reported arrests in WV included larceny-theft (677), "all other offenses" (615), other assaults (380), liquor law violations (281), and drug law violations (243). In like manner, "all other

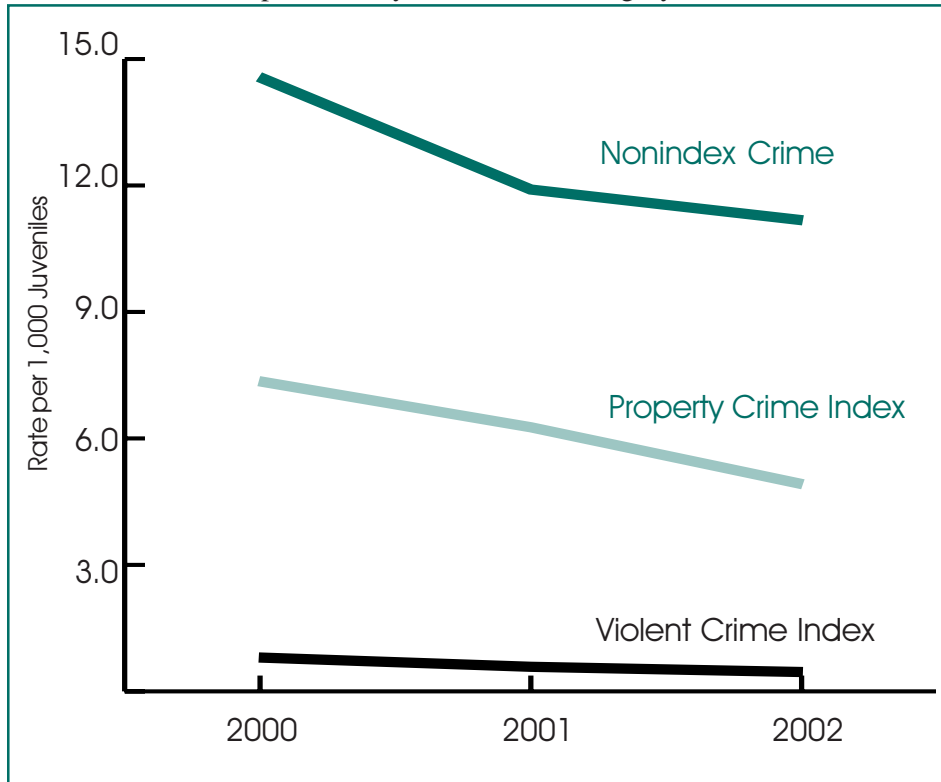
offenses", larceny-theft, other assaults, and drug abuse violations were the most frequently reported juvenile arrest offenses for the U.S. in 2001. Liquor law violations ranked seventh nationally in 2001.

In addition, Table 1 shows the annual percentage change in the number of juvenile arrests for each offense from 2000 to 2002 and 2000 to 2001. Percentage change is not shown for offenses with a low number of arrests. As noted in Table 1, substantial declines in the total number of juvenile arrests occurred each year. The total number of juvenile arrests decreased by 17.8% from 2000 to 2001 and 11.3% between 2001 and 2002. These percentage reductions in the total number of juvenile arrests in WV are somewhat greater than the national average. According to the most recent juvenile arrest figures published by OJJDP, the number of juvenile arrests declined by only 4.0% between 2000 and 2001, compared to 17.8% in WV.

In terms of percentage reductions for specific offenses over the three-year period, some of the most meaningful declines occurred for the following offenses: aggravated assault, larceny-theft, other assaults, vandalism, drug abuse violations, liquor law violations, and "all other offenses".

Increases in arrests were only seen in fraud and vandalism offenses between 2000 and 2001. Arson, "all other offenses", stolen property, weapons, and liquor law violations increased from 2001 to 2002. Caution should, however, be taken when comparing the yearly percentage changes for individual offenses due to the low base rates for many of these crimes.

Graph 3
Juvenile Arrest Rates per 1,000 by Crime Index Category: 2000-2002



Graph 3 shows the change in juvenile arrest rates per 1,000 juveniles from 2000 to 2002 for each crime category. Again, the declines in all three categories are shown. Arrest rates for Property Crime Index offenses were on average 10 times greater than those for Violent Crime Index offenses over the three-year period. During this time period, nonindex crime arrest rates were about 2 times greater than the property crime arrest rates.

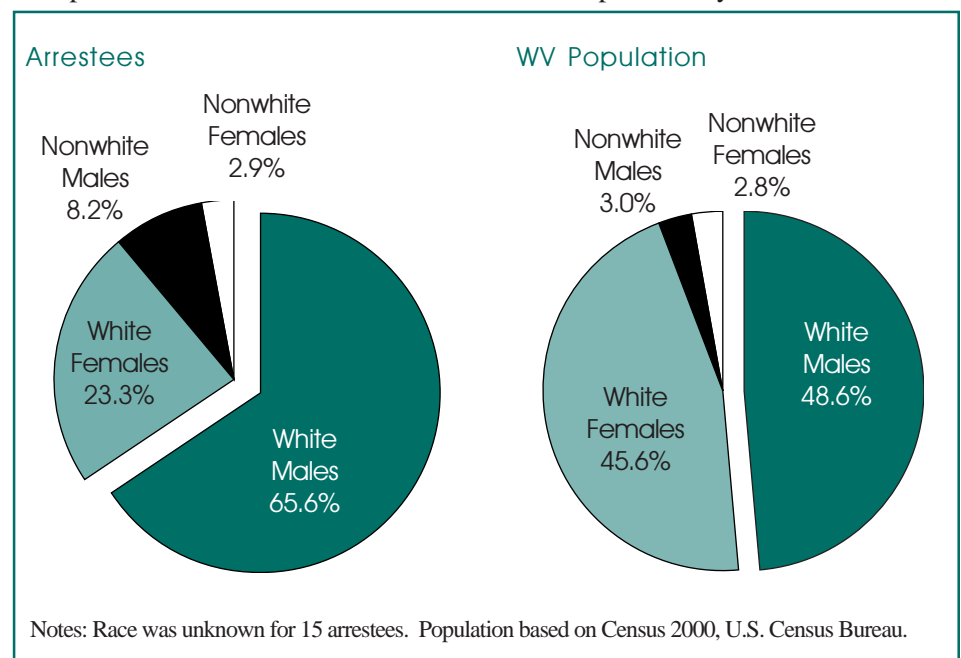
The rate of violent crime among juveniles in WV was low in 2000 and declined further in 2001 and 2002. Less than 1 juvenile in 1,000 was arrested for a Violent Crime Index offense in 2000. Violent crime arrest rates remained low throughout this three-year period but dropped by almost half to 0.46 per 1,000 juveniles in 2002.

Declines in arrest rates were also pronounced for property and nonindex offenses during this time period. The juvenile arrest rate for nonindex offenses dropped most sharply from 14.6 in 2000 to 11.9 in 2001. This rate then declined slightly more in 2002 to 11.2. The Property Crime Index arrest rate fell from 7.4 in 2000 to 6.3 per 1,000 juveniles in 2001. An even sharper decline was seen in 2002 when property crime arrest rates fell to 4.9.

Juvenile Arrestees

The majority of the juveniles arrested in 2002 were male (73.8%), white (88.5%), and 17 years old (29.4%). Females accounted for just over one-quarter of the arrestees. Nearly 11.0% of the juveniles arrested were black, while 0.2% were other minorities. Race was missing for 15 of the juveniles. The average age of the 3,137 juveniles arrested was 15.3 years old.

Graph 4
Comparison of 2002 Juvenile Arrestees to WV Population by Gender and Race



Graph 4 shows the gender and race of the juvenile arrestees compared to the proportion of WV's juvenile population they represent. In 2002, both white and nonwhite males were overrepresented in juvenile arrests. However, nonwhite males were overrepresented at nearly three times their proportion of the juvenile population in WV. White males made up 65.6% of the arrestees and only 48.6% of the population. Nonwhite males represented 8.2% of the arrestees, but only 3.0% of the population.

In contrast, white females were underrepresented in juvenile arrests, while the proportion of nonwhite female arrestees was about the same compared to the population they represent (Graph 4). White females made up 45.6% of WV's juvenile population; however, this group represented less than one quarter (23.3%) of juvenile arrestees in 2002. Nonwhite females constituted 2.8% of the youth population in WV and 2.9% of all juvenile arrestees.

Most juveniles arrested for Group A offenses were referred to other authorities (65.6%), including juvenile probation, DHHR, or the courts. Juveniles arrested for Group B offenses were more likely to be handled within the law enforcement agency (69.0%). This includes situations where the juvenile is released to their parents or released with a warning.

Tables 2 and 3 illustrate the proportion of 2002 juvenile arrests attributed to nonwhite juveniles and female juveniles, respectively. Based on Census 2000, 5.8% of WV's juvenile population was nonwhite. Females comprised 48.4% of the juvenile population.

Table 2
2002 Nonwhite Proportion of Juvenile Arrests

	<u>Nonwhite Proportion of Juvenile Arrests</u>
Total	11.1%
Violent Crime Index	24.1%
Murder/Nonnegligent Manslaughter	25.0%
Forcible Rape	0.0%
Robbery	30.0%
Aggravated Assault	25.0%
Property Crime Index	11.3%
Burglary	4.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	18.3%
Larceny-Theft	11.6%
Arson	20.0%
Nonindex	10.4%
Other Assaults	14.7%
Stolen Property	41.9%
Vandalism	12.9%
Drug Abuse Violations	15.2%
Weapons	21.2%
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	18.5%

Table 3
2002 Female Proportion of Juvenile Arrests

	<u>Female Proportion of Juvenile Arrests</u>
Total	26.2%
Violent Crime Index	14.9%
Murder/Nonnegligent Manslaughter	25.0%
Forcible Rape	0.0%
Robbery	0.0%
Aggravated Assault	17.6%
Property Crime Index	34.9%
Burglary	13.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	10.8%
Larceny-Theft	43.4%
Arson	6.7%
Nonindex	15.5%
Other Assaults	29.7%
Stolen Property	15.6%
Vandalism	6.7%
Drug Abuse Violations	14.4%
Weapons	3.0%
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	31.5%

Compared to their representation in the population, nonwhite juveniles were overrepresented in arrests for every offense, except burglary and forcible rape (Table 2). Of all juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses, 24.1% involve nonwhite juveniles in 2002. Nonwhite juveniles were overrepresented to a lesser extent for Property Crime Index offenses (11.3%) and nonindex offenses (10.4%).

For many offenses, the percentage of nonwhite juvenile arrestees was nearly 4 to 5 times greater than their proportion in the general youth population. For instance, nonwhite youths were heavily overrepresented in the percentage of robberies (30.0%), murders/nonnegligent manslaughters (25.0%), aggravated assaults (25.0%), and weapon violations (21.2%). Nonwhite juveniles were most overrepresented in arrests for stolen property offenses (41.9%). Again, caution should be used when interpreting these percentages due to the low frequency of occurrence for some of these offenses (see Table 1).

While female juveniles are underrepresented in contrast to their representation in the population, it is important to note that over one-quarter (26.2%) of juvenile arrests in 2002 involved females (Table 3). The proportion of juvenile arrests involving females in WV is similar to the national figures reported for 2001. Nationally, females accounted for 28.0% of juvenile arrests in 2001.

As shown in Table 3, roughly one-third (34.9%) of all Property Crime Index offenses reported by law enforcement in 2002 involved females. A vast majority of these arrests were

for larceny-theft offenses. In 2002, over forty percent (43.4%) of juvenile arrests for larceny-theft offenses involved females. Most (92.5%) of these larceny-theft offenses were for shoplifting.

Of all juvenile arrests for nonindex offenses, 15.5% involved female youths. Interestingly, female youths made up approximately one-third of curfew/loitering/vagrancy (31.5%) and other assault offenses (29.7%). Only 3.0% of juvenile arrests in for weapons violations involved females in 2002. Females were involved in only 14.9% of all juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses.

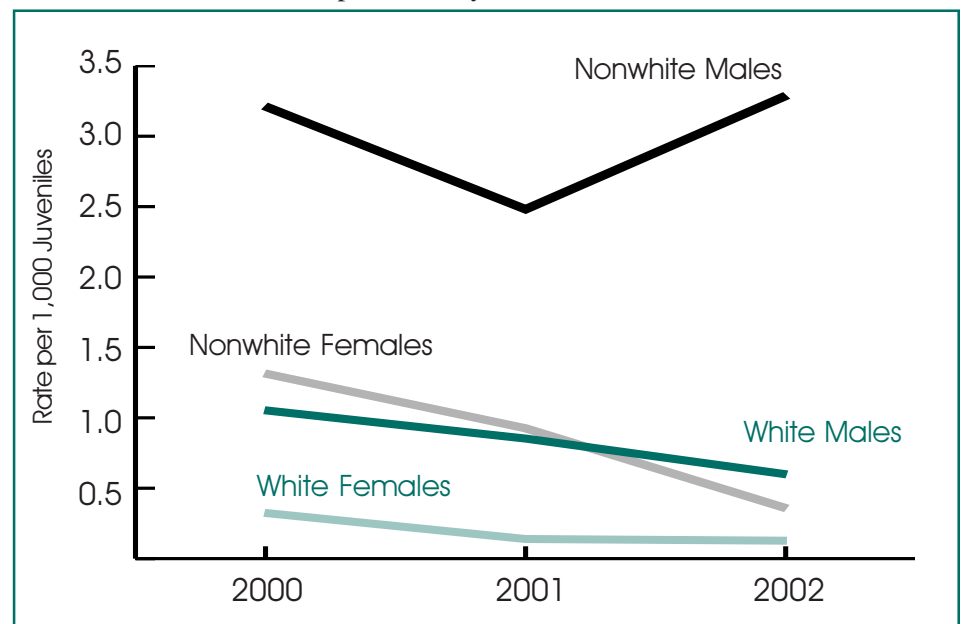
Rate Trends by Gender & Race

Graphs 5-7 show the change from 2000 to 2002 in violent, property, and nonindex crime arrest rates by the gender and race of the juvenile. Over the three-year period, arrest rates were higher for nonwhite males than any other group in all three crime categories. In contrast, white females had the lowest arrest rates for all three crime categories.

Property Crime Index arrest rates for nonwhite females were higher than those for white males during this three-year period. Arrests of nonwhite females for Violent Crime Index offenses also exceeded white males in 2000 and 2001. During this three-year time period, white males had higher arrest rates for nonindex crimes than nonwhite females.

Violent crime arrest rates were by far the lowest for white females, reaching a low of 0.1 by 2002 (Graph

Graph 5
Violent Crime Arrest Rates per 1,000 by Race & Gender: 2000-2002

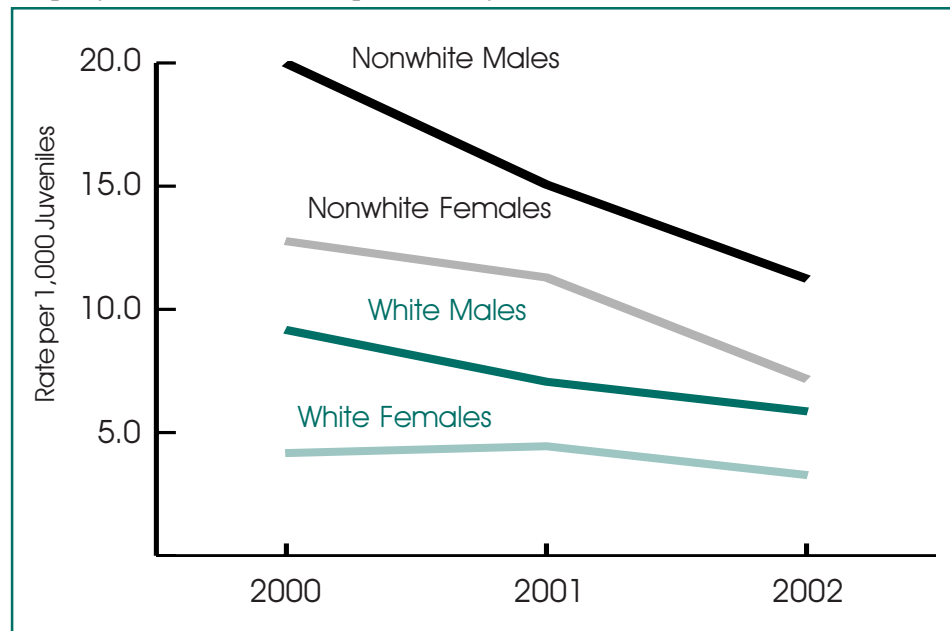


5). Nonwhite females started the period in 2000 with a violent crime arrest rate higher than white males before falling to a rate of 0.4 in 2002. The rate for white males declined slower to 0.6 in 2002.

The disparity in arrest rates between nonwhite and white males is greatest for Violent Crime Index offenses. Moreover, the degree of disparity between white and nonwhite males for violent crime arrests increased substantially between 2000 and 2002.

In 2000 and 2002, the violent crime arrest rate for nonwhite males was 3.2 and 3.3 per 1,000 juveniles, respectively. This is compared to an arrest rate of 1.2 and 0.6 for white males during the same years. As a result, the violent crime arrest rate for nonwhite males was three times that of their white counterparts in 2000. By 2002, this disparity increased to 5.5 times the rate of white males. While the arrest rate for nonwhite males appears to have

Graph 6
Property Crime Arrest Rates per 1,000 by Race & Gender: 2000-2002



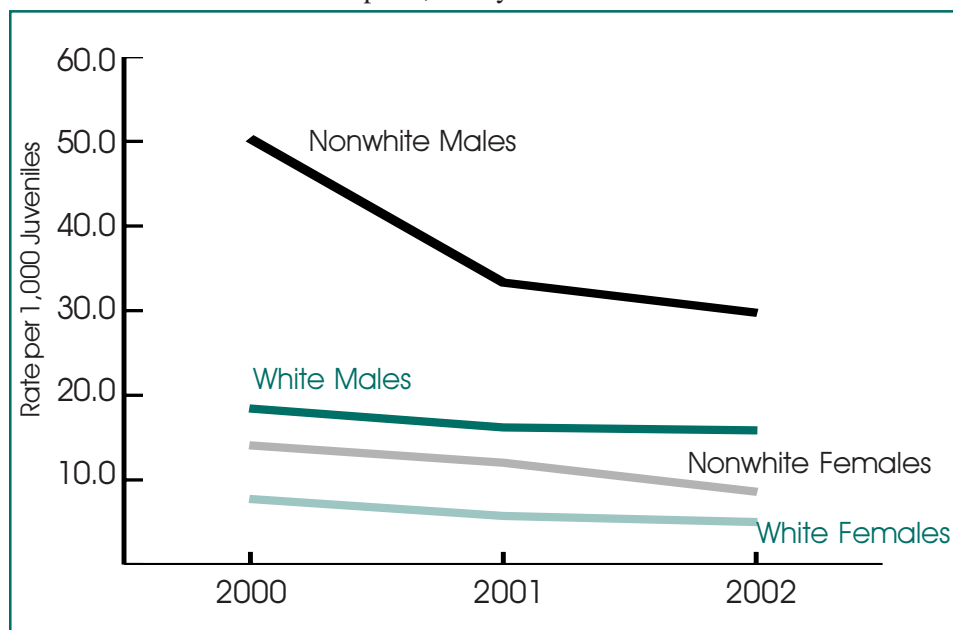
dropped dramatically in 2001, it should be noted that the actual number of arrestees only decreased by 4 from 2000 to 2001.

For females, nonwhite and white disparity for violent offenses was greatest in 2001 with a rate difference of 6.6 per 1,000 juveniles. By 2002, arrest rate for nonwhite females was just below 3 times that of white females. In 2002, the Violent Crime Index arrest rates for nonwhite and white females were 0.4 and 0.1, respectively.

Graph 6 shows the decline in arrest rates for all race and gender groups in Property Crime Index offenses. Between 2000 and 2002, nonwhite males and females experienced sharper declines than white males and females. Nonwhite females did, however, have arrest rates higher than white males for all three years.

Nonwhite females started the period in 2000 with an arrest rate of 12.8 and ended at 7.2 per 1,000 juveniles in 2002.

Graph 7
Nonindex Crime Arrest Rates per 1,000 by Race & Gender: 2000-2002



White male arrest rates for Property Crime Index offenses dropped from 9.2 in 2000 to 5.9 in 2002. Property crime arrest rates for nonwhite males fell from 20.0 in 2000 to 11.2 in 2002. Rates for white females increased slightly in 2001 before dropping back to 3.3 in 2002.

For Property Crime Index offenses, the disparity between gender and race groups was fairly constant during this period. On average, arrest rates for nonwhite males were approximately 2 times the rates for white males. Nonwhite female rates were about 1.5 times higher than those of white males. The nonwhite to white disparity for females declined from 3.1 in 2000 to 2.2 in 2002.

Arrest rates for nonindex crime were relatively stable from 2000 to 2002, with the exception of those for nonwhite males (Graph 7). White male arrest rates for nonindex crime were higher than those for nonwhite females during this period. Rates for nonwhite females also declined faster making the difference greater by 2002. White male rates dropped to 15.9, while rates for nonwhite females declined to 8.6 in 2002.

Between 2000 and 2002, nonwhite males experienced the sharpest decline in nonindex crime arrest rates, falling from 50.3 in 2000 to 29.8 in 2002. White females again had the lowest arrest rates at only 5.0 in 2002.

The disparity between gender and race groups for nonindex crime also remained stable during this period. The nonwhite to white male disparity in arrest rates declined most, from 2.7 in 2000 to 1.8 in 2002. For females, the nonwhite to white disparity was up slightly in 2001 to 2.1 before dropping back to 1.7 in 2002.

Juvenile Arrests by County

Table 4 illustrates the number of juvenile arrests in 2002 for each crime type by county of the reporting agency. Arrest rates based on the total number of juvenile arrests in 2002 and the county juvenile population are also shown.

Nearly 65.0% of the arrests were made in 9 counties including Berkeley, Cabell, Wood, Kanawha, Monongalia, Mercer, Upshur, Harrison, and Randolph. Five counties each reported over 200 arrests. The greatest number of arrests were reported in Berkeley County (391).

Thirteen counties reported less than 10 juvenile arrests in 2002. The fewest arrests were reported in the more rural counties of Doddridge (1), Wirt (2), Clay (3), Gilmer (3), and Monroe (3).

Nearly 40.0% of the arrests for violent crime were made by law enforcement in Berkeley (17) and Kanawha (17) counties. No juvenile arrests for violent crime were reported by 33 counties. Property crime arrests were highest in the more urban counties, Berkeley, Cabell, Wood, Monongalia, and Kanawha. Fourteen counties reported no arrests for property crime in 2002. In addition, these 5 counties together with Mercer and Upshur counties reported over half of the nonindex crime. Only Doddridge County reported no arrests for nonindex crime.

Statewide, there were about 17 juvenile arrests per 1,000 juveniles in the population. Sixteen counties had arrest rates higher than the statewide average. Juvenile arrest rates were highest in Tucker and Upshur counties at about 61 juvenile arrests per 1,000 juveniles. Four of the counties reporting over 200 juvenile arrests, had arrest rates that were nearly double the statewide average. These counties include Berkeley (43.5), Cabell (35.7), Monongalia (31.1), and Wood (28.8). Even though only 51 juvenile arrests were reported in Tyler County, the arrest rate was one of the highest at 45.5.

The majority (39) of the counties had arrest rates lower than the statewide average in 2002. Many of the counties reporting the lowest numbers of arrests also experienced the lowest arrest rates. Doddridge (1.1), Monroe (2.1), Taylor (2.2), Clay (2.3), and Hancock (2.5) counties each had only about 2 arrests per 1,000 juveniles in the population. While Kanawha County reported one of the highest numbers of arrests, their arrest rate (13.7) was actually lower than the average rate for the State.

Table 4
2002 Juvenile Arrests and Arrest Rates by County

	Violent	Property	Nonindex	Total	Rate per 1,000		Violent	Property	Nonindex	Total	Rate per 1,000
Barbour	0	1	10	11	6.3	Mineral	0	9	24	33	10.9
Berkeley	17	145	229	391	43.5	Mingo	4	0	22	26	7.8
Boone	0	1	17	18	6.7	Monongalia	6	95	108	209	31.1
Braxton	0	0	12	12	7.3	Monroe	0	1	2	3	2.1
Brooke	0	1	10	11	4.5	Morgan	0	0	5	5	3.4
Cabell	3	131	178	312	35.7	Nicholas	2	6	29	37	12.0
Calhoun	0	3	9	12	13.3	Ohio	0	0	21	21	4.3
Clay	0	0	3	3	2.3	Pendleton	0	3	24	27	31.9
Doddridge	0	1	0	1	1.1	Pleasants	0	3	5	8	9.6
Fayette	0	3	12	15	3.1	Pocahontas	0	1	22	23	24.8
Gilmer	0	0	3	3	4.0	Preston	0	2	27	29	8.3
Grant	0	0	9	9	7.9	Putnam	2	7	26	35	5.9
Greenbrier	0	26	25	51	14.6	Raleigh	0	13	37	50	6.2
Hampshire	0	1	18	19	7.8	Randolph	0	26	86	112	37.0
Hancock	0	0	8	8	2.5	Ritchie	0	1	17	18	15.7
Hardy	1	0	4	5	3.8	Roane	4	16	12	32	17.7
Harrison	2	52	62	116	15.5	Summers	0	0	9	9	6.9
Jackson	1	8	19	28	8.7	Taylor	0	0	4	4	2.2
Jefferson	3	10	22	35	7.5	Tucker	0	6	41	47	62.1
Kanawha	17	91	159	267	13.7	Tyler	5	6	40	51	45.5
Lewis	0	0	42	42	24.2	Upshur	1	48	105	154	60.7
Lincoln	0	3	9	12	4.9	Wayne	2	7	22	31	6.5
Logan	3	36	48	87	22.3	Webster	0	0	27	27	24.6
Marion	3	27	41	71	12.8	Wetzel	1	4	13	18	8.8
Marshall	1	8	62	71	18.3	Wirt	0	0	2	2	2.7
Mason	1	2	30	33	12.1	Wood	4	100	171	275	28.8
McDowell	0	4	11	15	4.6	Wyoming	0	2	7	9	3.2
Mercer	4	22	158	184	30.7	Total	87	932	2,118	3,137	16.6

Note: Reported arrests for Ohio and Raleigh counties appear to be lower than expected. Due to technical problems, no IBRS data was submitted by the Wheeling Police Department in 2002. Arrests submitted by the Beckley Police Department in 2002 were down about 93.0% from the previous year.

Methodology

All data used in this report were obtained from the Incident-Based Reporting System (WVIBRS) collected and maintained by the West Virginia State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting Section. All incidents and arrests reported as of December 2003 were provided for calendar years 2000-2002.

The arrest of a juvenile includes any handling by law enforcement of a person under the age of 18 (§49-1-2) who has committed a crime and is taken into custody under such circumstances that, if the juvenile were an adult, an arrest would be reported. Law enforcement contacts with juveniles where no offense was committed and instances where juveniles are taken into custody for their own protection are not counted as arrests.

Arrest statistics are a count of the number of arrests made by law enforcement agencies in a given year, not individuals arrested or crimes committed. An unknown number of individuals are arrested more than once in the year. Also, an individual may have committed multiple crimes resulting in a single arrest or a single crime may have resulted in the arrest of more than one individual.

Census data for 2000 and population projections for 2001 and 2002 were used to determine arrest rates per 1,000 juveniles. Arrest rates were calculated by dividing the number of juvenile arrests by the number of 10-17 year olds in the population.

An indicator for multiple arrestee segments is provided in WVIBRS for arrests associated with Group A incidents. The indicator is to be used when an arrestee is involved in more than one crime incident, and his/her

arrest data are duplicated in each Group A incident report. However, there are known problems with the reporting of this variable in West Virginia. All arrests were therefore included in this report regardless of the indicator.

Definitions

Incident: For WVIBRS reporting purposes, one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place. An incident may or may not result in an arrest.

Arrest: The apprehension by law enforcement of an offender for the commission of a Group A or Group B offense.

Group A Offense: The 22 offense categories for which both incident and arrest reports are to be submitted to WVIBRS. The categories include arson, assault offenses, bribery, burglary/breaking and entering, counterfeiting/forgery, destruction/damage/vandalism of property, drug/narcotic offenses, embezzlement, extortion/blackmail, fraud offenses, gambling offenses, homicide offenses, kidnapping/abduction, larceny-theft offenses, motor vehicle theft, pornography/obscene material, prostitution offenses, robbery, forcible sex offenses, nonforcible sex offenses, stolen property offenses, and weapon law violations.

Group B Offense: The 11 offense categories for which only arrest reports are to be submitted to WVIBRS. In some cases an arrest for a Group B offense may clear a previously submitted Group A incident. In these cases, an arrest report is submitted for the Group A incident; however, the arrest offense indicated is the Group B offense. The categories include bad

checks, curfew/loitering/vagrancy violations, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, drunkenness, nonviolent family offenses, liquor law violations, peeping tom, runaway, trespass of real property, and all other offenses.

This report presents data on eight Index offenses and twenty-one other nonindex crimes established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The Index offenses are divided into two subgroups:

Violent Crime Index: Includes the Group A offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Property Crime Index: Includes the Group A offenses of burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and arson.

Nonindex crimes include all other Group A offenses not contained in the Violent and Property Crime Indices and all Group B offenses.

Data Sources

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Acknowledgments

J. Norbert Federspiel, *DCJS Director*
Michael Cutlip, *Deputy Director - Programs*
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The Division of Criminal Justice Services is the designated state criminal justice planning agency. The Division is responsible for fostering public safety in West Virginia by providing planning, system coordination, grant administration, training & technical assistance, monitoring, research, statistical services and law enforcement training.

The Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center's mission is to generate statistical and analytical products concerning crime and the criminal justice system for the public and justice system professionals and policymakers, establishing a basis for sound policy and practical decisions for the criminal justice system in West Virginia.

This report was prepared under Grant 03-JF-FX-0054 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this report are those of the authors and may not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Justice or the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Recommended Citation:

Turley, Erica & Haas, Stephen M. (2004, July). *WV Juvenile Arrest Report: 2000-2002*. Charleston, WV: Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety. Available online at www.wvdcjs.com/statsanalysis.

WV Juvenile Arrest Report: 2000-2002

7755-24
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