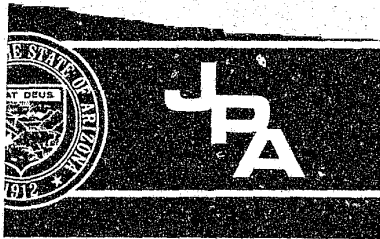


Update on Juvenile Crime and Justice in Arizona

A REPORT FROM THE
ARIZONA STATE
JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

6/27/13



~~X~~ **Update on**
Juvenile Crime and Justice
in Arizona
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NCJRS

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ACQUISITIONS

Arizona State Justice Planning Agency
Richard C. Wertz
Executive Director

A Report from the
Statistical Analysis Center
June 1979

Statistical Analysis Center
Professional Plaza, 4th Floor
4820 N. Black Canyon Freeway
Phoenix, Arizona 85017
602-255-5466

William M. Braybrook
Terrie L. Krieg
Ann E. Sarli
Judy Houtman

Director
Research & Statistical Analyst
Research & Statistical Analyst
Secretary

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Discretionary Grant 78-MU-AX-0017.*

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INTRODUCTION

Arizona has a young population - nearly one-third of its citizens are juveniles seventeen years of age or under. Youths thirteen through seventeen account for over one-fourth of the state's total arrests. An analysis of data on juvenile crime and the administration of justice indicates that youthful involvement within the Juvenile Court setting centers around the following two areas:

- Property offenses - burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft;
- Status offenses - curfew, runaway, and liquor law violations.*

Update on Juvenile Crime and Justice in Arizona is designed for use by Arizona criminal justice planners and administrators. For Arizona citizens, it is distributed as a resource from which they may learn about the nature of juvenile crime and the Arizona juvenile justice system.

Information presented within this report was compiled and analyzed from many sources:

- The Arizona Uniform Crime Reports;
- The Arizona Supreme Court Planning Division;
- Data summaries and annual reports from many Arizona agencies;
- Telephone and mail surveys conducted by the Statistical Analysis Center;
- State plans and documents.

This report is divided into three sections. The first discusses the juvenile justice system in Arizona and lists definitions of terms. Juvenile crime statistics are presented in the second section, while components of the juvenile justice system are discussed in the last.

*Juvenile liquor law violations involve to a great degree, arrests for possession of an alcoholic beverage. This is considered a status offense since adults cannot be arrested for possession of liquor. References in this book to juvenile liquor law violations pertain to possession of an alcoholic beverage, however, the Arizona Uniform Crime Reports (AUCR) do not delineate the various offenses within the liquor law violations category.

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

PHILOSOPHY OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The criminal justice system within Arizona performs many diverse functions including police protection, judicial services, prosecution, public defense, and corrections. Juveniles in Arizona violating the law are processed through the criminal justice system; however, procedures dealing with youthful offenders are different from those dealing with adults.

Juvenile divisions, more than court divisions with criminal jurisdiction, have a rehabilitative orientation. In addition to protecting the community, the Juvenile Court has the mission of nurturing positive change in the child.

The Juvenile Court was originally conceived as a separate system to handle youth cases in a non-adversary mode. The principles of a separate juvenile system include:

- Children, because of their young age and dependent status, should not be held as accountable as adult transgressors;
- The objective of juvenile justice is to help the child, to heal and rehabilitate rather than to punish;
- The system should avoid the formalized trappings and labeling of the adult criminal process.

In the Juvenile Court, the judge acts in the place of the parent (*parens patriae*) to wisely see that the child is provided with the kind of care, protection, and treatment that he is not receiving at home. The legal doctrine of "*parens patriae*" gives the power of the state to the Court to act in behalf of the child as a wise parent would do. However, this doctrine does not authorize the Court to take over the duties of the natural parents without just cause.

Differences in procedures - as well as the desire to set the juvenile system apart from the adult system - have resulted in the development of specialized terminology for the juvenile justice system. For example, the document upon which proceedings are brought against a youthful offender does not *charge* delinquency, incorrigibility, or dependency; it *alleges* it. This document is not an *indictment* or *information*, but a *petition*. The court in determining whether a

juvenile, who is the subject of a petition, is in fact delinquent, incorrigible, or dependent does not *convict*; it *adjudicates*. This process of deciding what to do with an adjudicated juvenile is not *sentencing*; it is *disposition*. These terms and others pertaining to the juvenile justice system are defined in the following subsection.

JUVENILE JUSTICE TERMINOLOGY

- Adjudicated - Having been the subject of completed juvenile proceedings and found to be a delinquent, a status offender, or a dependent. For example, an adjudication that a juvenile has committed a delinquent act is similar to a conviction in a criminal court.
- Advisory Hearing - A hearing that allows the juvenile to be informed of the allegations against him and to provide an opportunity for entry of a plea.
- Commitment - The action of a judicial officer ordering that an adjudicated delinquent or status offender be admitted into a correctional facility.
- Community Facility or Treatment Center - A correctional facility from which residents are regularly permitted to depart, unaccompanied by any official, for the purpose of daily use of community resources such as schools. Examples are Boys Ranch in Queen Creek, Florence Crittendon in Phoenix, and Brandeis Ranch in Flagstaff.
- Correctional Institution - A secure facility having custodial authority over delinquents and status offenders committed to confinement after a juvenile disposition hearing.
- Deinstitutionalization - The policy of removing youthful offenders from secure detention or correctional facilities to placement within nonsecure facilities such as foster homes or runaway centers.
- Delinquent - A juvenile who has been adjudicated by a judicial officer as having committed a delinquent act, which is an act for which an adult could be prosecuted in a criminal court.
- Dependent - A juvenile over whom a Juvenile Court has assumed jurisdiction because it has found his care by parent, guardian, or custodian to fall short of a legal standard of proper care, by being neglected, abandoned, or abused.
- Detention - The legally authorized holding in confinement of a person subject to Juvenile Court proceedings, until the point of

release or commitment to a correctional facility.

- **Disposition** - The decision of a Juvenile Court that a juvenile be committed to a correctional facility, placed in a care or treatment program, placed on probation, or released.
- **Disposition Hearing** - A hearing conducted after an adjudication hearing to determine the most appropriate placement of the juvenile.
- **Group Home** - A non-confining residential facility for adjudicated juveniles, intended to reproduce as closely as possible the circumstances of family life, and at a minimum, providing access to community activities and resources. Examples include the Bunkhouse in Glendale, Vision Quest in Tucson, and Children's Village in Yuma.
- **Incorrigible** - A juvenile who is found by the Juvenile Court to be beyond the control of and/or refuses to obey his parent or legal guardian.
- **Juvenile** - A person subject to juvenile court proceedings because an event occurred while his age was below the specified limit of original jurisdiction. Although the age limit varies in different states, it is most often the eighteenth birthday, as it is in Arizona.
- **Parole** - The status of a committed offender conditionally released from a state or federal confinement facility prior to the expiration of his commitment, and placed under the supervision of a parole agency.
- **Petition** - A document filed in Juvenile Court alleging that a juvenile is a delinquent, a status offender, or a dependent, and asking that the court assume jurisdiction over the juvenile, or asking that the juvenile be transferred to a criminal court for prosecution as an adult.
- **Probation** - The conditional freedom granted by a judicial officer to an alleged offender, or adjudicated juvenile, as long as the youth meets certain conditions of behavior.
- **Referral** - A request by the police, parents, or other agency or person, that a court take appropriate action concerning a juvenile alleged to have committed a delinquent act, a status offense, or to be dependent.
- **Status Offense** - An act or conduct which is declared by statute to be an offense, but only when committed or engaged in by a juvenile. Typical status offenses are violation of curfew, running away from home, truancy, possession of an alcoholic beverage, and incorrigibility.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP) was passed by Congress after three years of hearings regarding the juvenile justice system and the handling of non-criminal juvenile offenders. This act was a result of nationwide concern about the areas of juvenile delinquency, runaway youth, and the apparent problems encountered by the juvenile justice system and the community in dealing with these areas.

The Act provides financial assistance to states for the implementation of local delinquency prevention and diversion programs and nonsecure alternatives to incarceration. However, any state receiving funds must deinstitutionalize status offenders by 1980 and must prohibit the joint confinement of juveniles and adults to the extent that no physical sound or sight contact is possible. States must also maintain a monitoring system to assure compliance with the status offender and separation requirements, develop an annual juvenile justice plan, and create a statewide Juvenile Justice Advisory Council.

The deinstitutionalization requirement of the Act has proved to be the most controversial. If return to the home is not possible, the JJDP Act requires that a status offender be placed in a nonsecure facility such as a foster home, emergency shelter care facility, or runaway center. Deinstitutionalization does not withdraw the status offender from the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court or prohibit the apprehension and arrest of runaways, truants, or incorrigibles by law enforcement agencies. The Court is, however, limited in the use of detention as a disposition for status offender behavior.

The JJDP Act assumes that a preventive response to status offender behavior is more appropriate than incarceration which might increase a child's alienation and resentment. The Act promotes the return of the child to the family unit with utilization of community services to relieve and prevent further family strife.

Arizona officially committed itself to participate in the Act in December 1976. In efforts to achieve compliance with the status offender requirement by 1980, the state has encountered numerous obstacles such as lack of placement resources and high numbers of out-of-state runaways. An analysis of juvenile delinquent versus

status offender arrests and detentions reveals progress in many counties toward the deinstitutionalization goals of the JJDP Act. For the state as a whole, however, the number of arrests for status offenses has increased slightly from 1975 (8,339) to 1978 (8,756) while the proportion of total arrests accounted for by status offenses has remained relatively constant. (Trend analyses of juvenile arrests by county for 1975 through 1978 and projections to the year 1980 are included in the Appendix.) The Arizona State Juvenile Justice Advisory Council has recently published a book entitled *The Implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in Arizona*, which gives a much more comprehensive report on the progress of the JJDP Act in the state.

OVERVIEW OF THE JUVENILE SYSTEM

Juvenile justice procedures vary from county to county within Arizona; however, major decision points and basic legal functions may be summarized for the state as a whole. The following flow chart represents the series of events a juvenile might encounter within the justice system.

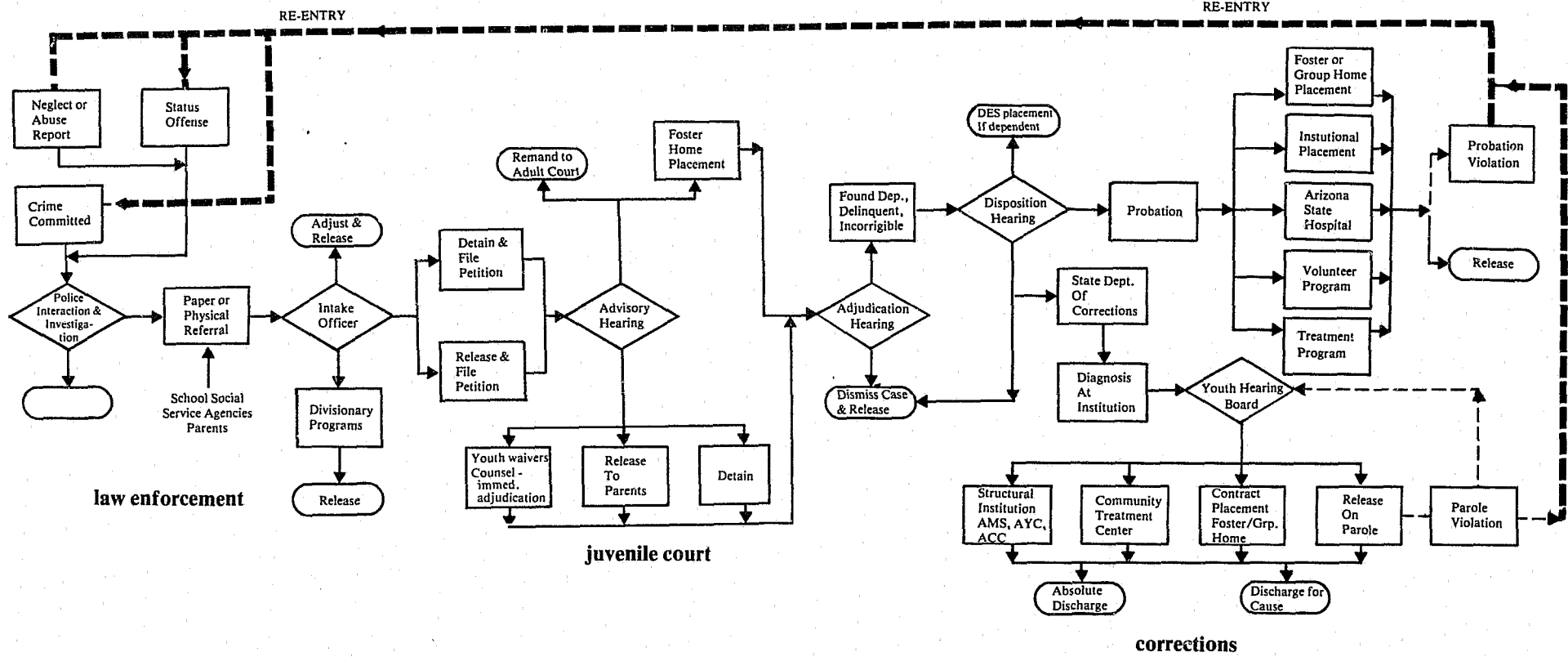
A young person typically enters the system through a neglect or abuse report or by committing a status or criminal offense. Investigating police officers usually refer the young person to Juvenile Court where an intake officer or judicial official studies the case and recommends release, diversionary programs, detention with a petition, release with a petition, or transfer of the case to Adult Court or another jurisdiction.

For those juveniles on whom a petition is filed, an advisory hearing is held usually within one to three weeks, where the allegations are explained to the youth. For those youths on whom the petition is not dismissed at the advisory hearing, an adjudication hearing is convened within 30 days, at which the Juvenile Court determines whether or not there is sufficient evidence to sustain the allegations in the petition. If the allegations are sustained, the juvenile must have a disposition hearing within 90 days, which is comparable to the sentencing of an adult in a criminal court. For those petitions not sustained, release is affected.

As the flow chart displays, there are several alternatives available to the Court for adjudicated juveniles. The County probation

Department, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Economic Security are all options based on the youth's criminal activity and history and sociological factors. These alternatives are discussed in a later section of this report.

Figure 1
ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



Statistical Analysis Center, Arizona State Planning Agency, July, 1978.

SYSTEM STATISTICS

JUVENILE ARREST DATA

Arrest data collected by the Arizona Department of Public Safety through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, provide a method of measuring youth involvement in crime. Under the UCR Program, data on the characteristics of persons arrested are routinely and uniformly collected from law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona. Arrest data are grouped into the Part I and Part II crimes. The Part I crimes are the seven index crimes, murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft; plus negligent manslaughter. The Part II crimes are all other non-traffic crimes, such as driving under the influence, narcotic drug law violations, disorderly conduct, and fraud.

Juvenile arrests represented approximately one-third of the total arrests made by Arizona law enforcement agencies in 1975, 1976, 1977, and 1978. During the year, there were more than 35,000 juveniles arrested in Arizona. Of these arrests, fully 40% were for burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft; 25% were for status offenses, 6% were for narcotics offenses; and the remainder were in such areas as simple assault, vandalism, disorderly conduct, and other non-traffic offenses.

UCR data may not accurately reflect the amount of juvenile crime in the state. These limitations affect its accuracy:

- Many crimes against persons and their property are not reported to police. A victimization study in Gila and Pinal Counties showed that 35% of the victims had not reported a crime. A Tucson area crime survey found that 72% of crimes within the Tucson area were unreported;
- Some police departments lack the manpower to render a complete and accurate accounting of offenses committed and persons arrested;
- Disparities in collection methods and interpretation of crime data exist among agencies;
- How UCR classifies a particular act may vary from classification of that act under state criminal statutes.

Table 1 compares the frequency of juvenile arrests by offense over a four year period. Slight decreases occurred between 1975 and 1976; but 1976 to 1977 showed a positive upturn, especially in Part II crimes. A decline is again evident between 1977 and 1978 in both Part I and Part II crimes. Over the four years, arrests for burglary declined steadily; but there were increases in larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft through 1977.

Table II is a comparison of arrest rates per 1,000 of population 17 years of age and under. 1978 displays a drop in rates as well as total numbers of arrests. An analysis of status offense rates shows a decline from 1977 to 1978, but an overall *increase* from the 1975 figure.

TABLE I
COMPARISON OF STATEWIDE JUVENILE
ARREST DATA BY OFFENSE
STATE OF ARIZONA
1975 - 1976 - 1977 - 1978

| Offenses | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1977-1978 | | 1975-1978 | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| | | | | 1978 | % Change | % Change | % Change |
| Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter | 23 | 20 | 16 | 17 | +6.3 | -26.1 | |
| Manslaughter by Negligence | 8 | 2 | 11 | 8 | -27.3 | 0.0 | |
| Forcible Rape | 67 | 51 | 44 | 49 | +11.4 | -26.9 | |
| Robbery | 369 | 311 | 338 | 357 | +5.6 | -3.3 | |
| Aggravated Assault | 569 | 522 | 577 | 604 | +4.7 | +6.2 | |
| Burglary | 4,390 | 4,166 | 3,852 | 3,638 | -5.6 | -17.1 | |
| Larceny/Theft | 9,116 | 9,229 | 9,493 | 9,295 | -2.1 | +2.0 | |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 938 | 984 | 1,012 | 1,020 | +0.8 | +8.7 | |
| Total Part I Crime | 15,480 | 15,285 | 15,343 | 14,988 | -2.3 | -3.2 | |
| Simple Assault | 1,105 | 1,055 | 1,169 | 1,358 | +16.2 | +22.9 | |
| Arson | 245 | 163 | 186 | 188 | +1.1 | -23.3 | |
| Forgery/Counterfeiting | 56 | 73 | 68 | 70 | +2.9 | +25.0 | |
| Fraud | 133 | 127 | 164 | 105 | -36.0 | -21.1 | |
| Embezzlement | 35 | 25 | 16 | 25 | +56.3 | -28.6 | |
| Stolen Property | 566 | 493 | 484 | 421 | -13.0 | -25.6 | |
| Vandalism | 1,812 | 1,716 | 1,551 | 1,731 | +11.6 | -4.5 | |
| Weapons | 334 | 358 | 344 | 320 | -7.0 | -4.2 | |
| Prostitution | 39 | 29 | 32 | 31 | -3.1 | -20.5 | |
| Sex Offenses | 201 | 155 | 137 | 164 | +19.7 | -18.4 | |
| Narcotic Drugs - Possession | 2,472 | 2,835 | 2,792 | 1,861 | -33.3 | -24.7 | |
| Narcotic Drugs - Sale/Mfg. | 110* | 146 | 95 | 110 | +15.8 | 0.0 | |
| Gambling | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2 | +100.0 | +100.0 | |
| Offenses Against Family | 256 | 169 | 23 | 18 | -21.7 | -93.0 | |
| Driving Under Influence | 520 | 534 | 563 | 575 | +2.1 | +10.6 | |
| Liquor Laws | 1,919 | 1,930 | 2,407 | 2,419 | +0.5 | +26.1 | |
| Drunkenness | 169 | 67 | 110 | — | — | — | |
| Disorderly Conduct | 1,040 | 1,116 | 1,270 | 1,182 | -6.9 | +13.7 | |
| Vagrancy | 121 | 91 | 32 | 41 | +28.1 | -66.1 | |
| All Other Non-Traffic | 3,320 | 3,052 | 3,249 | 3,191 | -1.8 | -3.9 | |
| Curfew/Loitering | 1,527 | 1,673 | 1,567 | 1,584 | +1.1 | +3.7 | |
| Runaway | 4,893 | 4,951 | 4,934 | 4,753 | -3.7 | -2.9 | |
| Total Part II Crime | 20,874 | 20,764 | 21,194 | 20,149 | -4.9 | -3.5 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 36,354 | 36,049 | 36,537 | 35,137 | -3.8 | -3.3 | |

SOURCE: UCR Section of the Arizona Department of Public Safety

NOTE: Drunkenness was eliminated from the UCR data due to the implementation of the new criminal code.

*Figure unavailable for 1975; therefore, 110 represents an estimate based on the percentages of 1976 and 1977 manufacturing/sale totals.

TABLE 2
COMPARISON OF STATEWIDE JUVENILE
ARREST RATES BY OFFENSE
PER 1,000 POPULATION
STATE OF ARIZONA
1975-1976-1977-1978

| Offenses | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1977-1978 | | 1975-1978 | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| | | | | 1978 | % Change | % Change | % Change |
| Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter | .03 | .03 | .02 | .02 | 0 | -33.3 | |
| Manslaughter by Negligence | .01 | .00 | .01 | .01 | 0 | 0 | |
| Forcible Rape | .09 | .07 | .06 | .06 | 0 | -33.3 | |
| Robbery | .50 | .42 | .46 | .47 | +2.2 | -6.0 | |
| Aggravated Assault | .77 | .71 | .78 | .80 | +2.6 | +3.9 | |
| Burglary | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 4.8 | -7.7 | -18.6 | |
| Larceny/Theft | 12.3 | 12.6 | 12.8 | 12.2 | -4.7 | -8.1 | |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 | -7.1 | 0 | |
| Rates - Part I Crimes | 20.9 | 20.8 | 20.7 | 19.8 | -4.3 | -5.3 | |
| Simple Assault | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.8 | +12.5 | +20.0 | |
| Arson | .33 | .22 | .25 | .25 | 0 | -24.2 | |
| Forgery/Counterfeiting | .08 | .10 | .09 | .09 | .0 | +12.5 | |
| Fraud | .18 | .17 | .22 | .14 | -36.4 | -22.2 | |
| Embezzlement | .05 | .03 | .02 | .03 | +50.0 | -40.0 | |
| Stolen Property | .76 | .67 | .65 | .55 | -15.4 | -27.6 | |
| Vandalism | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.3 | +9.5 | -4.2 | |
| Weapons | .45 | .49 | .46 | .42 | -8.7 | -6.7 | |
| Prostitution | .05 | .04 | .04 | .04 | 0 | -20.0 | |
| Sex Offenses | .27 | .21 | .18 | .22 | +22.2 | -18.5 | |
| Narcotic Drugs - Possession | 3.3 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 2.5 | -34.2 | -24.2 | |
| Narcotic Drugs - Sale/Mfg. | .15 | .20 | .13 | .14 | +7.7 | -6.7 | |
| Gambling | .00 | .01 | .00 | .00 | 0 | 0 | |
| Offenses Against Family | .35 | .23 | .03 | .02 | -33.3 | -94.3 | |
| Driving Under Influence | .70 | .73 | .76 | .76 | 0 | +8.6 | |
| Liquor Laws* | 2.6 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 0 | +23.1 | |
| Drunkenness | .23 | .09 | .15 | — | — | — | |
| Disorderly Conduct | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.6 | -5.9 | +14.3 | |
| Vagrancy | .16 | .12 | .04 | .05 | +25.0 | -68.8 | |
| All Other Non-Traffic | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.2 | -4.5 | -6.7 | |
| Curfew/Loitering* | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Runaway* | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.3 | -4.5 | -4.5 | |
| Rates - Part II Crimes | 28.1 | 28.3 | 28.5 | 26.6 | -6.7 | -5.3 | |
| *Rates Status Offenses | 11.2 | 11.7 | 12.0 | 11.5 | -4.2 | +2.7 | |
| GRAND TOTAL RATE PER 1,000 | 49.0 | 49.1 | 49.2 | 46.3 | -5.9 | -5.5 | |

SOURCE: UCR Section of Arizona Department of Public Safety; Population figures from Arizona Department of Economic Security.

NOTE: Drunkenness was eliminated from the UCR data in 1978, due to the implementation of the new criminal code.

The following chart compares adult and juvenile arrests in 1978 for the seven index crimes. Adults dominated the arrests for violent crimes — murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, while juveniles accounted for a high proportion of property crimes.

Figure 2
**COMPARISON OF JUVENILE AND ADULT
 ARRESTS FOR THE SEVEN INDEX CRIMES
 STATE OF ARIZONA 1978**

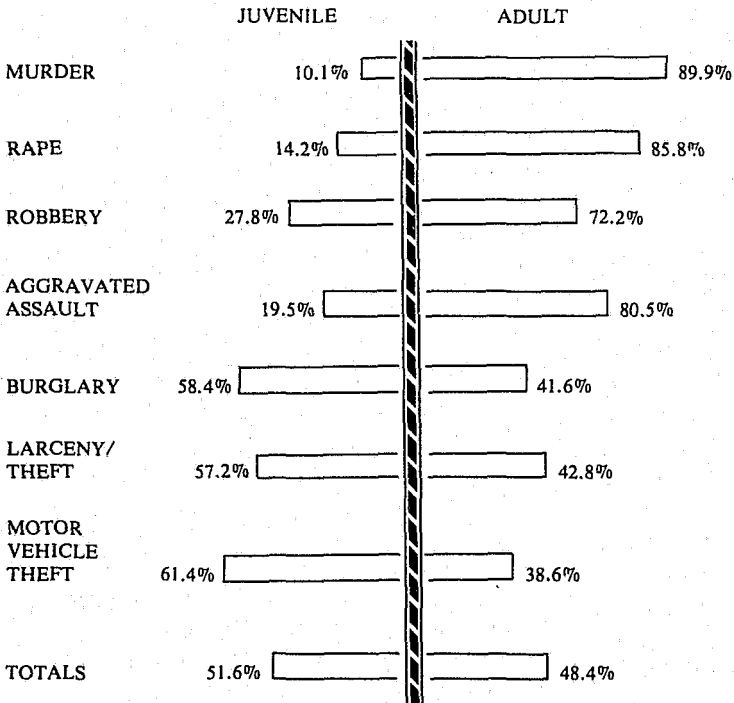


Table 3 displays the age and sex of all juveniles arrested in Arizona in 1978; 76% of the youths arrested were males, with the most common age being 16-17 years. Females, representing 24% of all juvenile arrests, tended to become criminally involved at an earlier age (13-14 years) than their male counterparts. The greatest proportion of females were arrested for status offenses while males were most commonly arrested for property crimes.

TABLE 3
JUVENILE ARRESTS BY AGE AND SEX
STATE OF ARIZONA
1978

| Age (Years) | Males | | Females | | Totals |
|----------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | |
| 10 and Under | 1,360 | 5.1 | 205 | 2.4 | 1,565 |
| 11 - 12 | 2,217 | 8.3 | 576 | 6.8 | 2,793 |
| 13 - 14 | 5,899 | 22.9 | 2,511 | 29.8 | 8,410 |
| 15 | 4,797 | 18.6 | 1,885 | 22.3 | 6,682 |
| 16 | 5,988 | 22.4 | 1,753 | 20.8 | 7,741 |
| 17 | 6,436 | 24.1 | 1,510 | 17.9 | 7,946 |
| Totals | 26,697 | 100.0 | 8,440 | 100.0 | 35,137 |
| Percent | | 76% | | 24% | |

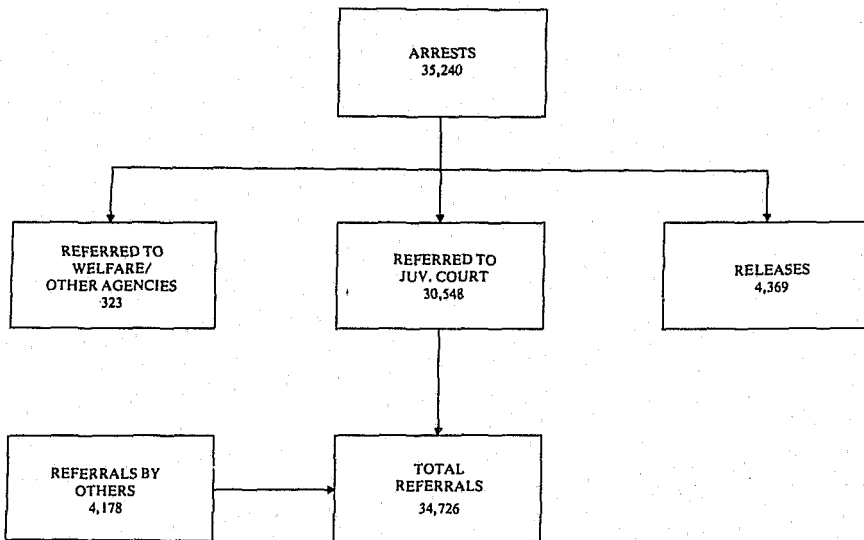
Although the Arizona population is projected to increase by 20% by 1985, projections for the crime-prone age of 13-17 show a decline of about 7% within the same time frame. Consequently, arrests are also projected to decrease slightly for the 13-17 year age group. If trends of the past three years continue, status offender arrests will increase *in relation to the total number of juvenile arrests*, while arrests for delinquent activities will decline proportionately.

SYNOPSIS OF SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

The estimated flow of youth through the juvenile system is depicted in Figure 3. The diagram traces juvenile arrests in 1978 through the referral process. 87% of the juveniles arrested were referred to the juvenile court system. Further dispositional data was unavailable for 1978.

FIGURE 3
ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The estimated flow of youths through the Arizona Juvenile Justice System; Police intake of all non-traffic arrests and referrals
1978



SOURCE: UCR Section of the Arizona Department of Public Safety; telephone survey conducted by ASJPA-SAC, in May of 1979.

NOTE: Referral data was unavailable from Navajo County, and only available for May through December from Mohave County.

COMPONENTS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Arizona's Police & Sheriff's Departments are the major sources of juvenile referrals to the Superior Court. Law enforcement officials have a wide range of dispositional choices available to them, including official reprimands, traffic citations, referrals to the probation department or the Juvenile Court, physical detention, release to parents, or no action at all. In addition to their formal enforcement role, law enforcement agencies are active in juvenile delinquency prevention and diversion projects through community liaison and school resource officer programs and volunteer and recreational programs, such as the Phoenix Police Athletic League and the Tucson Police Department School Resource Officers, and Tucson Police Department Athletic League.

COURTS

In each of the state's fourteen counties, the Superior Court has exclusive jurisdiction in all juvenile cases. In Maricopa and Pima Counties, the Juvenile Court is a division of the Superior Court that hears nothing but juvenile cases; judges of these courts do not divide their efforts between juvenile and other cases. In other counties, courts hearing juvenile cases also have other judicial duties; thus judges on these courts must focus less of their attention and efforts on juvenile matters.

Juvenile Courts handled approximately 35,000 referrals in 1978. Most of these referrals were adjusted and dismissed, or dismissed due to lack of evidence, or were pending at year end. Further statewide court data was unavailable for 1978.

PROBATION

Under the supervision of the Superior Court, each county within the state maintains a probation department; half of which are combined departments supervising both adult and juvenile probationers. Staff size of these departments range from the one-man operation in Greenlee County to more than 280 persons employed at Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department. In

the 1977-1978 fiscal year, the aggregated cost of juvenile probation departments in Arizona reached nearly \$10 million. These funds supported investigation and intake services, detention facilities and staff, as well as the supervision of 3,407 juvenile probationers.

Juvenile probation differs from its adult counterpart. Many of these differences center around the responsibilities of the juvenile probation officer. When a child is brought to detention, a probation officer (called an intake officer at this point) determines whether the child will be placed in the facility. In the adult system, this is a police decision. If a child is detained, he is supervised by a probation officer, not a law enforcement guard.

In the adult system the decision to process a case through the court is made by the County Attorney. For the juvenile, it is the probation officer who makes this determination. If the probation officer decides that the case does not warrant formal court process, he may *adjust* the case. An *adjust* is an official disposition which closes the case, and in such an instance, the probation officer is acting as a judicial officer. There is no procedure in the adult system comparable to the juvenile adjust disposition.

Table 4 displays the number of juveniles on probation and the average caseload per probation officer for each Arizona county. Figures for those counties maintaining combined departments represent only juvenile probationers per officer.

DETENTION

Juvenile detention facilities within Arizona vary as widely as probation departments, with holding capacities ranging from 3 to 101 children. The majority of the county detention facilities were built to accommodate between 20 to 25 youths. In some counties, probation personnel are responsible for supervision of the facility, while in other counties this function is assumed by the County Sheriff's Office. The total number of juveniles incarcerated in detention facilities, the occupancy level of each County's facility, and the average number of days spent in detention, are display in Table 5.

TABLE 4
**JUVENILE PROBATIONERS AND
CASELOAD AVERAGES BY COUNTY
1978**

| County | Number of Probationers | Number of Field P.O.'s* | Mean Number of Juveniles Per Caseload |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Apache (combined) | 48 | 1 | 48 |
| Cochise | 160 | 5 | 32 |
| Coconino | 97 | 4 | 24 |
| Gila (combined) | 42 | 3 | 14 |
| Graham (combined) | 34 | 1 | 34 |
| Greenlee (combined) | 10 | 1 | 9 |
| Maricopa | 1,514 | 46 | 33 |
| Mohave (combined) | 106 | 4 | 27 |
| Navajo (combined) | 167 | 5 | 33 |
| Pima | 393 | 16.5 | 24 |
| Pinal | 101 | 3 | 34 |
| Santa Cruz (combined) | 503 | 3 | 168 |
| Yavapai | 85 | 4 | 21 |
| Yuma | 147 | 3 | 49 |
| Arizona Totals | 3,407 | 99.5 | — |

Mean Number of Juveniles per Caseload — Arizona 34.24

NOTE: Combined denotes those departments supervising both Adult and Juvenile probationers.

*Number of Probation Officers is limited to those officers handling active field caseloads only.

SOURCE: Statistical Analysis Center, ASJPA.

TABLE 5
ARIZONA
JUVENILE PROBATION AND
DETENTION DATA
1978

| Counties | Juveniles on Probation | Males | Females | Probationers Average Age | Number Caucasian | Number Black | Number Mexican/Amer. | Number American Indian | Number Mexican National | Number Other Race | Total Number Incarcerated Detention | Average Number Days In Detention | Occupancy Level Of Facility | Number of Field P.O.'s | Average Length of Probation | Average P.O. Caseload |
|---------------|------------------------|-------|---------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Apache | 48 | 44 | 4 | 15.0 | 37 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 4.0 | 12 | 1 | 12 mos. | 48 |
| Cochise | 160 | 138 | 22 | 15.5 | 88 | 1 | 71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 265 | 5.6 | 20 | 5 | 18 mos. | 32 |
| Coconino | 97 | N/A | N/A | 15.3 | 61 | 3 | 7 | 23 | 0 | 3 | 1,187 | 2.9 | 24 | 4 | N/A | 24 |
| Gila | 42 | 32 | 10 | 15.0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 16 | 3 | 18 mos. | 14 |
| Graham | 34 | 28 | 6 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 8 | 1 | 4.5 mos. | 34 |
| Greenlee | 10 | 9 | 1 | 16.0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2.0 | 3 | 1 | 2 mos. | 9 |
| Maricopa | 1,514 | 1,335 | 179 | 15.0 | 987 | 115 | 386 | 21 | 0 | 5 | 3,583 | 9.8 | 101 | 46 | N/A | 33 |
| Mohave | 106 | 91 | 15 | 16.0 | 104 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 390 | 7.5 | 15 | 4 | 19 mos. | 27 |
| Navajo | 167 | 144 | 23 | 16.0 | 33 | 17 | 50 | 67 | 0 | 0 | 593 | 6.1 | 18 | 5 | 18 mos. | 33 |
| Pima | 393 | 362 | 31 | 15.7 | 200 | 34 | 134 | 22 | 0 | 3 | 1,012 | 9.0 | 60 | 16.5 | 14.6 mos. | 24 |
| Pinal | 101 | 91 | 10 | 15.4 | 49 | 5 | 45 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 515 | 3.0 | 17 | 3 | 13.8 mos. | 34 |
| Santa Cruz | 503 | 457 | 46 | 15.0 | 104 | 6 | 262 | 0 | 131 | 0 | 98 | 5.0 | 8 | 3 | 42 mos. | 168 |
| Yavapai | 85 | 74 | 11 | 16.0 | 70 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 293 | 2.0 | 16 | 4 | 9 mos. | 21 |
| Yuma | 147 | 130 | 17 | 16.0 | 82 | 6 | 53 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1,062 | 4.0 | 29 | 3 | 8 mos. | 49 |
| TOTALS | 3,407 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 99.5 | | 34.24 |

NOTE: Apache, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Mohave, Navajo and Santa Cruz maintain combined probation departments.

SOURCE: "Overview of Probation in Arizona" questionnaire distributed and analyzed by ASJPA - SAC.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The State Department of Corrections provides institutional treatment for youths committed by the Juvenile Courts. Three secure institutions are operated by the Department; the Arizona Youth Center, outside of Tucson; the Alpine Conservation Center, in Alpine; and the Adobe Mountain School, north of Phoenix. Two community treatment centers in Phoenix provide nonsecure residential services as preparation for parole. The Department also maintains contracts with private organizations for placement of youths in foster homes, group homes, or hospitals; as well as a parole division for supervision of juveniles on parole status.

Property offenders and status offenders represented large proportions of 1978 Department of Corrections commitments. 34% of juvenile males were committed for property offenses, while 19% of females were committed for offenses against persons. A census of the Correctional Department's total juvenile population on December 31, 1978 revealed 289 youths committed for status offenses, however, data received from the Department of Corrections, included a large "Missing Information" category, which could have changed the given percentages if classified into commitment offense categories.

During 1978, 463 young people were admitted to the Department of Corrections. Of the total, 427 (92%) were males and 36 (8%) were females. The following table indicates the offense which led to the commitment of the juvenile to the Department of Corrections.

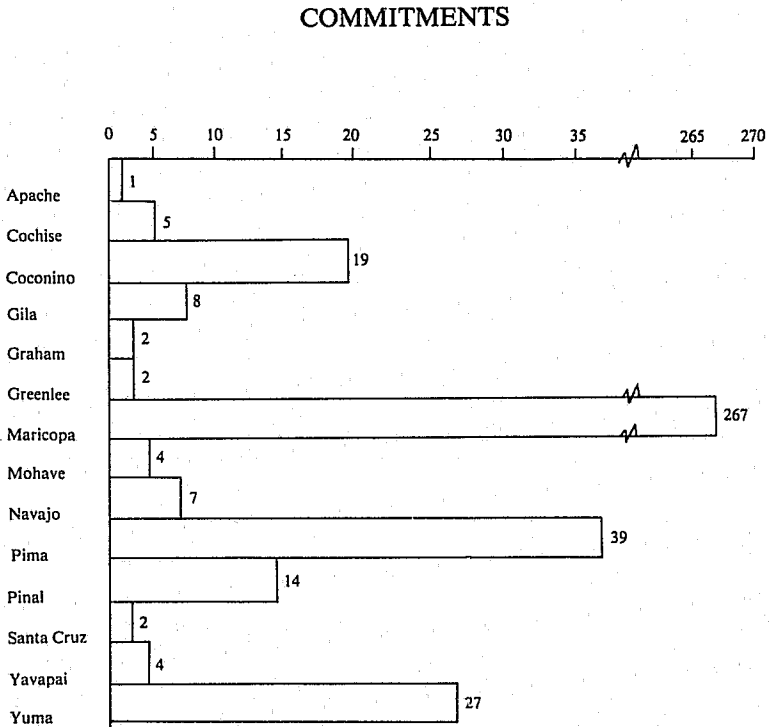
TABLE 6
DOC JUVENILE COMMITMENT OFFENSE - 1978

| | Boys | | Girls | | Total | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Offenses Against Persons | 55 | 13% | 7 | 19% | 62 | 13% |
| Offenses Against Property | 145 | 34% | 3 | 8% | 148 | 32% |
| Drug/Alcohol Offenses | 10 | 2% | 1 | 3% | 11 | 2% |
| Status Offenses | 29 | 7% | 5 | 14% | 34 | 7% |
| Other Offenses | 27 | 6% | 5 | 14% | 32 | 7% |
| Missing Info. on Offense | 161 | 38% | 15 | 42% | 176 | 38% |
| TOTALS | 427 | 100% | 36 | 100% | 463 | 100% |

SOURCE: Arizona State Department of Corrections

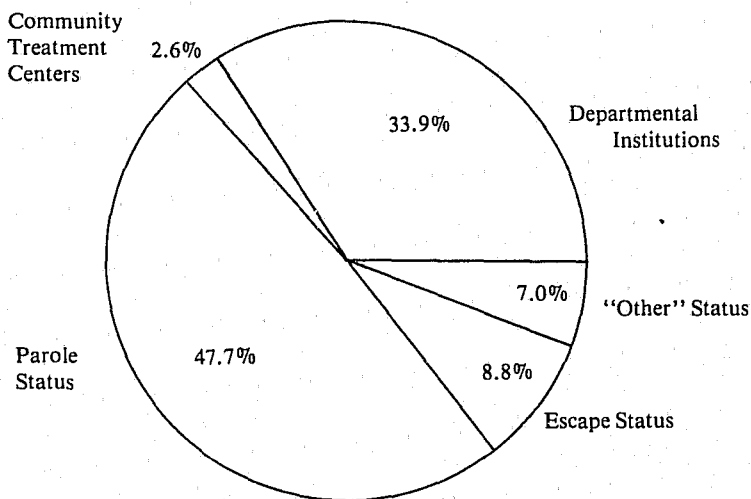
Status offenses and property offenses appear to be related to gender. Again, 145 (34%) of juvenile males were committed for property offenses versus only 8% of the females. 14% of the females were committed for status offenses versus 7% for the same category in their male counterparts. The following bar chart depicts juvenile commitments to the Department of Corrections by county.

FIGURE 4
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
COMMITMENTS BY COUNTY
1978



As of December 31, 1978, the Department of Corrections was responsible for 1,236 young persons, with 590 (48%) on parole status. The following pie chart illustrates the location and number of the Department's total juvenile population. *Other* status refers to those juveniles in contract facilities and juvenile detention facilities.

FIGURE 5
**JUVENILES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
DECEMBER 31, 1978**



APPENDIX

Juvenile Delinquency and Status Offender* Arrest Projections by County - 1979, 1980

| | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Apache County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | N/A | 55 | 105 | 180 | 238 | 301 |
| % of Total Arrests | | 20% | 29% | 27% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | N/A | 47 | 83 | 140 | 183 | 230 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | | (85%) | (79%) | (78%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | N/A | 8 | 22 | 40 | 55 | 71 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | | (15%) | (21%) | (22%) | | |
| Cochise County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 1,243 | 1,339 | 1,448 | 1,410 | 1,513 | 1,574 |
| % of Total Arrests | 31% | 33% | 32% | 36% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 953 | 956 | 1,126 | 1,033 | 1,120 | 1,161 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (77%) | (71%) | (78%) | (73%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 290 | 383 | 322 | 377 | 393 | 413 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (23%) | (29%) | (22%) | (27%) | | |
| Coconino County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 1,182 | 1,371 | 1,257 | 1,371 | 1,409 | 1,454 |
| % of Total Arrests | 18% | 15% | 15% | 18% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 747 | 796 | 760 | 813 | 820 | 836 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (63%) | (58%) | (60%) | (59%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 435 | 575 | 497 | 558 | 589 | 618 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (37%) | (42%) | (40%) | (41%) | | |
| Gila County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 472 | 442 | 376 | 417 | 369 | 346 |
| % of Total Arrests | 25% | 20% | 20% | 27% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 344 | 328 | 283 | 317 | 287 | 274 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (73%) | (74%) | (75%) | (76%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 128 | 114 | 93 | 100 | 83 | 72 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (27%) | (26%) | (25%) | (24%) | | |
| Graham County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 142 | 134 | 200 | 233 | 262 | 296 |
| % of Total Arrests | 24% | 25% | 33% | 34% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 96 | 95 | 146 | 163 | 188 | 213 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (68%) | (71%) | (73%) | (70%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 46 | 39 | 54 | 70 | 74 | 83 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (32%) | (39%) | (27%) | (30%) | | |
| Greenlee County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 122 | 105 | 141 | 88 | 98 | 91 |
| % of Total Arrests | 26% | 22% | 39% | 34% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 56 | 55 | 84 | 49 | 63 | 64 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (46%) | (52%) | (60%) | (56%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 66 | 50 | 57 | 39 | 35 | 37 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (54%) | (48%) | (40%) | (44%) | | |

| | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Maricopa County (includes DPS) | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 17,698 | 17,993 | 17,515 | 17,434 | 17,343 | 17,216 |
| % of Total Arrests | 30% | 30% | 28% | 31% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 14,252 | 14,183 | 13,599 | 13,736 | 13,410 | 13,196 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (81%) | (79%) | (78%) | (79%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 3,446 | 3,810 | 3,916 | 3,698 | 3,933 | 4,019 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (19%) | (21%) | (22%) | (21%) | | |
| Mohave County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 323 | 306 | 349 | 321 | 334 | 338 |
| % of Total Arrests | 28% | 28% | 26% | 22% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 194 | 198 | 233 | 196 | 216 | 220 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (60%) | (65%) | (67%) | (61%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 129 | 108 | 116 | 125 | 119 | 118 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (40%) | (35%) | (33%) | (39%) | | |
| Navajo County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 690 | 492 | 650 | 633 | 613 | 612 |
| % of Total Arrests | 22% | 17% | 21% | 19% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 413 | 281 | 382 | 361 | 346 | 340 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (60%) | (57%) | (59%) | (57%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 277 | 211 | 268 | 272 | 268 | 272 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (40%) | (43%) | (41%) | (43%) | | |
| Pima County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 11,909 | 10,854 | 11,018 | 9,337 | 8,892 | 8,136 |
| % of Total Arrests | 50% | 48% | 46% | 43% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 9,097 | 8,221 | 8,233 | 6,765 | 6,333 | 5,635 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (76%) | (76%) | (75%) | (72%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 2,812 | 2,633 | 2,785 | 2,572 | 2,559 | 2,502 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (24%) | (24%) | (25%) | (28%) | | |
| Pinal County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 878 | 915 | 1,066 | 1,232 | 1,326 | 1,447 |
| % of Total Arrests | 24% | 25% | 27% | 31% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 640 | 698 | 853 | 971 | 1,078 | 1,192 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (73%) | (76%) | (80%) | (79%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 238 | 217 | 213 | 261 | 249 | 255 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (27%) | (24%) | (20%) | (21%) | | |
| Santa Cruz County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 173 | 176 | 137 | 142 | 124 | 111 |
| % of Total Arrests | 23% | 24% | 19% | 18% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 158 | 162 | 122 | 137 | 119 | 109 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (91%) | (92%) | (89%) | (96%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 15 | 14 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (9%) | (8%) | (11%) | (4%) | | |
| Yavapai County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 726 | 638 | 625 | 692 | 642 | 630 |
| % of Total Arrests | 40% | 40% | 31% | 30% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 535 | 513 | 474 | 527 | 497 | 490 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (74%) | (80%) | (76%) | (76%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 191 | 125 | 151 | 165 | 145 | 140 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (26%) | (20%) | (24%) | (24%) | | |

| | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Yuma County | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 789 | 1,229 | 1,650 | 1,667 | 2,078 | 2,377 |
| % of Total Arrests | 22% | 30% | 35% | 34% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 526 | 962 | 1,251 | 1,173 | 1,536 | 1,759 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (67%) | (78%) | (76%) | (71%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 263 | 267 | 399 | 474 | 542 | 619 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (33%) | (22%) | (24%) | (29%) | | |
| State Totals | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Arrests | 36,354 | 36,049 | 36,537 | 35,137 | 35,229 | 34,912 |
| % of Total Arrests | 33% | 32% | 31% | 30% | | |
| Delinquency Arrests | 28,015 | 27,495 | 27,629 | 26,381 | 26,188 | 25,711 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (77%) | (76%) | (76%) | (75%) | | |
| Status Offender Arrests | 8,339 | 8,554 | 8,908 | 8,756 | 9,041 | 9,201 |
| % of Total Juvenile Arrests | (23%) | (24%) | (24%) | (25%) | | |

*Includes Incurrigible, Run-Away, Liquor Violations and all other non-delinquency juvenile offenses.

Source: UCR Section of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

END