

Juvenile Justice Trends 2000-2008
Jefferson County, Colorado

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December 2009

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Purpose and Methods

This report presents recent juvenile justice system trends in Jefferson County, Colorado. It includes juvenile population, juvenile arrests, court case filings relevant to juveniles, and juvenile probation for the years 2000 to 2008. Trends from the Division of Youth Corrections for the 1st Judicial District (Jefferson and Gilpin counties) are also presented for the years 2005 to 2008. The general trends in each part of the system are summarized and where possible, broken down, contextualized, compared and/or analyzed. The information is designed to guide local juvenile justice system stakeholders, county officials, and planners in deciding policy, projecting future needs, and allocating resources.

The data were culled from several sources. Population totals were obtained from the Colorado Demographer's Office website (<http://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/demog/index.html>). Population counts for 1990 and 2000 are derived from the Historical Census, while estimates for non-Census years and forecasts for future years were prepared by the Colorado Demographer's Office. Juvenile court case filings and juvenile probation caseloads were obtained from the Colorado State Judicial Branch (<http://www.courts.state.co.us/>) and are reported by fiscal years (e.g., FY 2005 is July 2004 to June 2005); probation measures are for the 1st Judicial District, which includes Gilpin County. Juvenile arrest counts for municipal police departments and the Sheriff's Office (unincorporated portion of Jefferson County) were obtained from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (<http://cbi.state.co.us/>). Crime and arrest classifications and reporting are according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.¹ The county totals reported here were obtained by summing the counts for all municipalities and the unincorporated area (Sheriff's Office) in Jefferson County. For multi-county municipalities (e.g., Westminster), arrest counts were prorated using the proportion of the municipal population in Jefferson County before summing into the county total. The FBI's *Crime in the United States* publication (<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm#cius>) is the source of national trends or figures cited in this report. In previous trend reports by Criminal Justice Planning, arson was included as a Part I property offense. However, to be consistent with national trends in crime reporting, arson is now counted separately from the other Part I property offenses (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft). Corrections trends for youth in the 1st Judicial District were obtained from the Division of Youth Corrections (<http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/Research.htm>) and are also reported by fiscal years.

All measures are reported as counts, and where relevant, also reported as rates (i.e., occurrence *per 1,000 juveniles*). Typically, both the overall percentage change and the average annual percentage change (%/year) for the time period 2000 to 2008 are reported and discussed for each trend. However, it should be noted that percentage change measures are based only on the difference between 2000 and 2008, and therefore can mask fluctuations during the intervening years. Therefore, when appropriate, the trend pattern over the eight year span is also discussed.

¹ See also the *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook*, available at <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>.

Juvenile Population (Aged 10 to 17)

Recent Patterns

The juvenile population aged 10 to 17 in Jefferson County grew rapidly in the 1990's, peaked in 2000, and has declined steadily since then (Figure 1 and Figure 3). Overall, between 1990 and 2008, this population segment grew 14.3%, from 49,215 to 55,942. The average annual growth in juvenile population over the 18 years was 0.7%, less than the annual growth (1.2%) of the total county population for this time period. The steepest increase in the population segment aged 10-17 was between 1990 and 2000, when it grew by 29%, or an average annual increase of 2.6%. In comparison, *overall* population growth averaged only 1.8% per year for the decade 1990 to 2000.

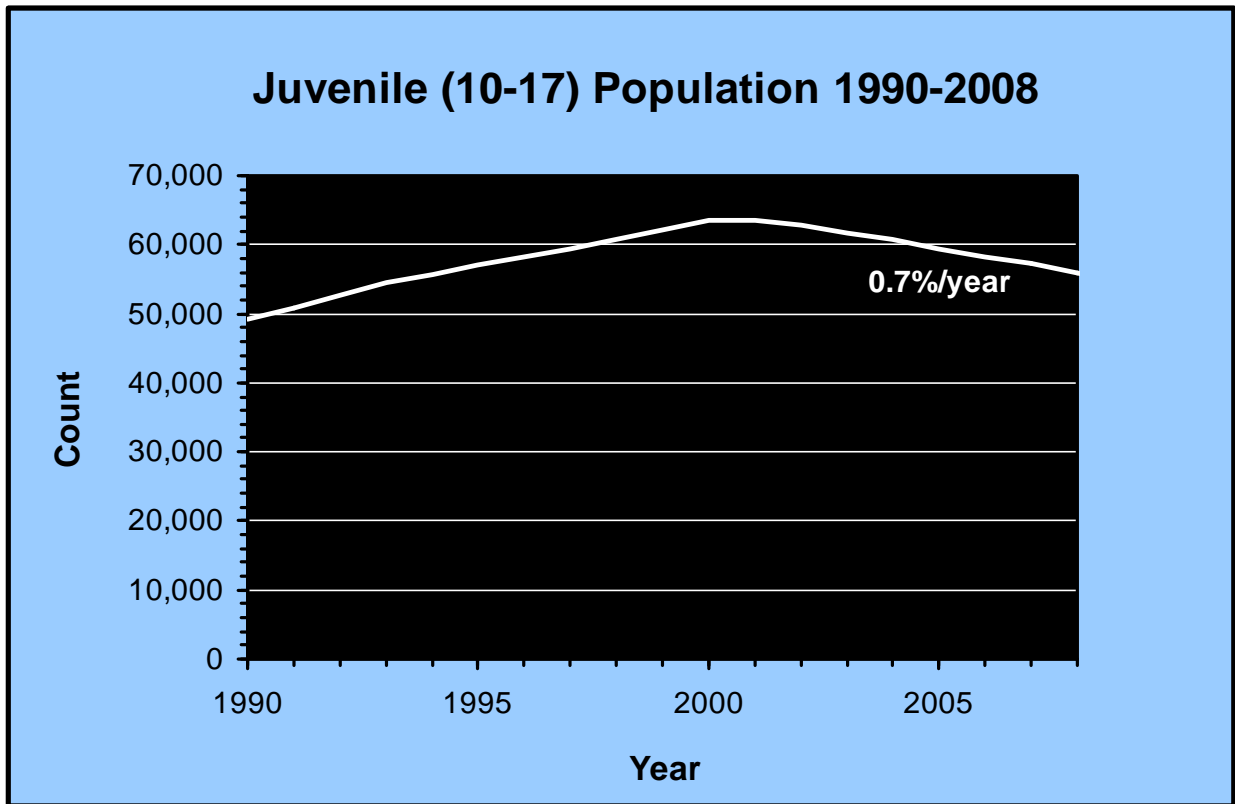


Figure 1. Juvenile population (aged 10 to 17) in Jefferson County from 1990 to 2008. Non-Census years are population estimates (Colorado Demographers Office).

During the most recent eight year period, 2000-2008, the juvenile population aged 10-17 decreased by 11.9%, from 63,488 to 55,942 (Figure 2 and Figure 3). Consequently, the proportion of the total population in Jefferson County between the ages of 10 and 17 decreased from 12.1% to 10.3% between 2000 and 2008.

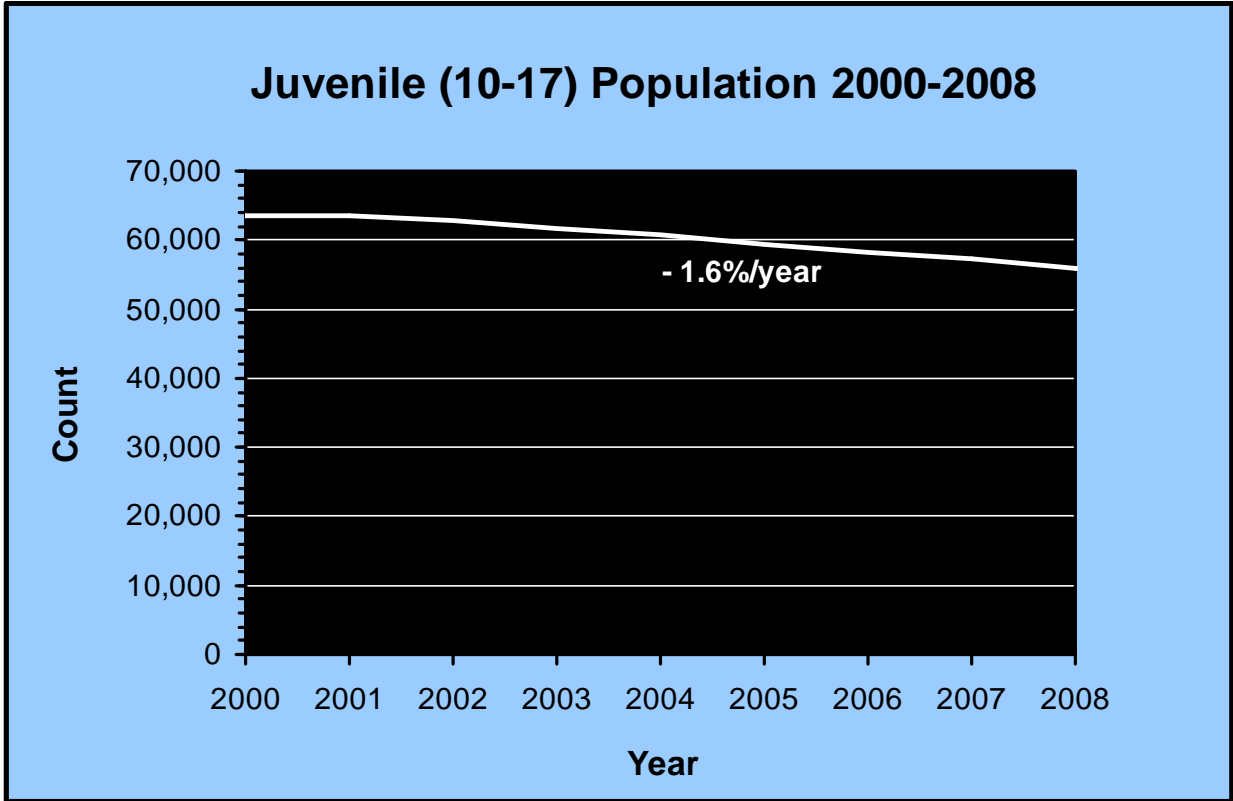


Figure 2. Juvenile population (aged 10 to 17) in Jefferson County from 2000 to 2008. Non-Census years are population estimates (Colorado Demographers Office).

Future Projections

The juvenile population aged 10 to 17 is projected to continue to decline for approximately seven more years, and then begin another period of gradual increase, not returning to 2008 levels until 2021 (Figure 3). Between 2008 and 2030, the 10 to 17 population will undergo an average annual increase of 0.55%, growing overall by 13%, from 55,942 to 63,116. However, because the total population is projected to grow by 0.92% per year, or overall 22%, juveniles will make up an increasingly smaller segment of Jefferson County residents during the next 22 years.

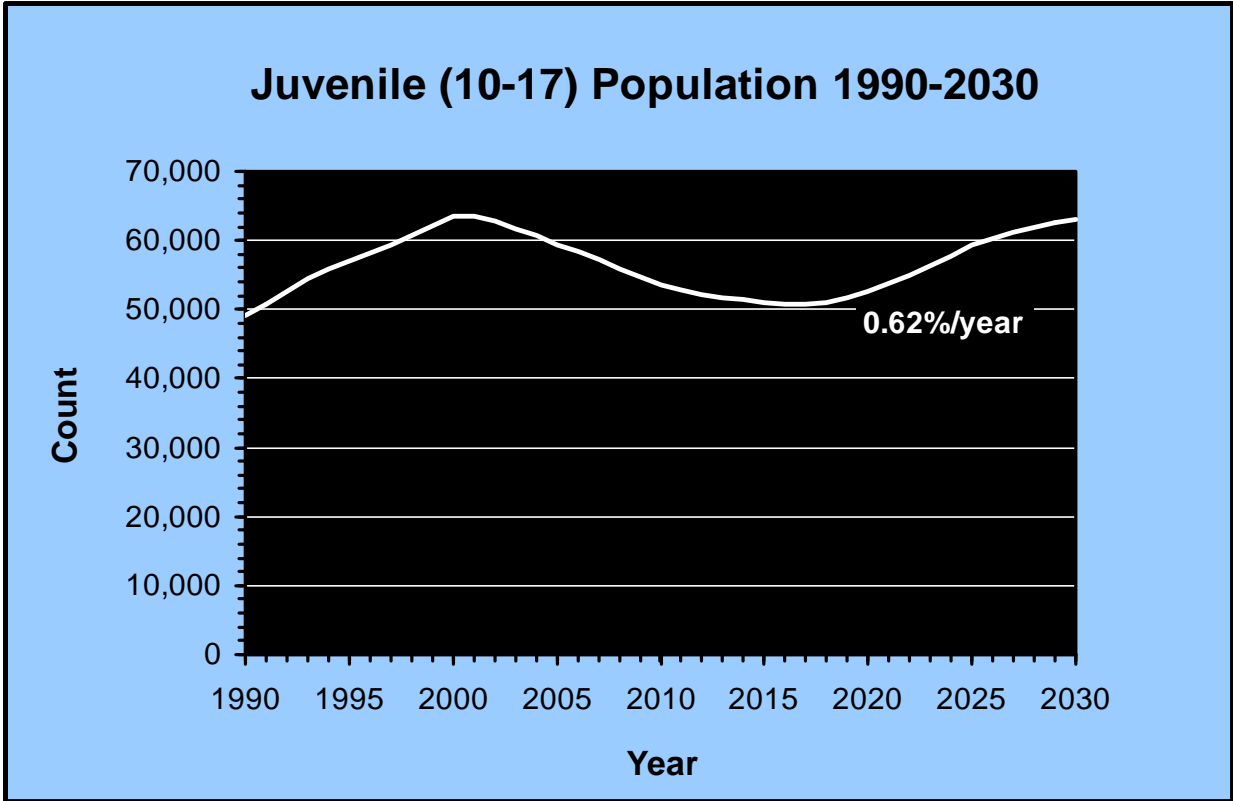


Figure 3. Recent and projected juvenile population (aged 10 to 17) in Jefferson County, 1990-2030. Non-Census years are population estimates (Colorado Demographers Office).

Juvenile Arrests

Cumulative Juvenile Arrest Counts and Rates

Overall, juvenile arrests increased by 16%, from 5,590 in 2000 to 6,495 in 2008 (Figure 4). An initial decline between 2000 and 2001 was succeeded by steady increases through 2007, when juvenile arrests peaked at 6,603 for the time period. Juvenile arrests increased at an average annual rate of 1.9% per year, compared to a 4.6% average annual increase in adult arrests between 2000 and 2008. Consequently, the representation of juveniles in arrest data decreased. In 2000, juveniles represented approximately 27% of total arrests; by 2008, juveniles comprised 23% of all arrests.

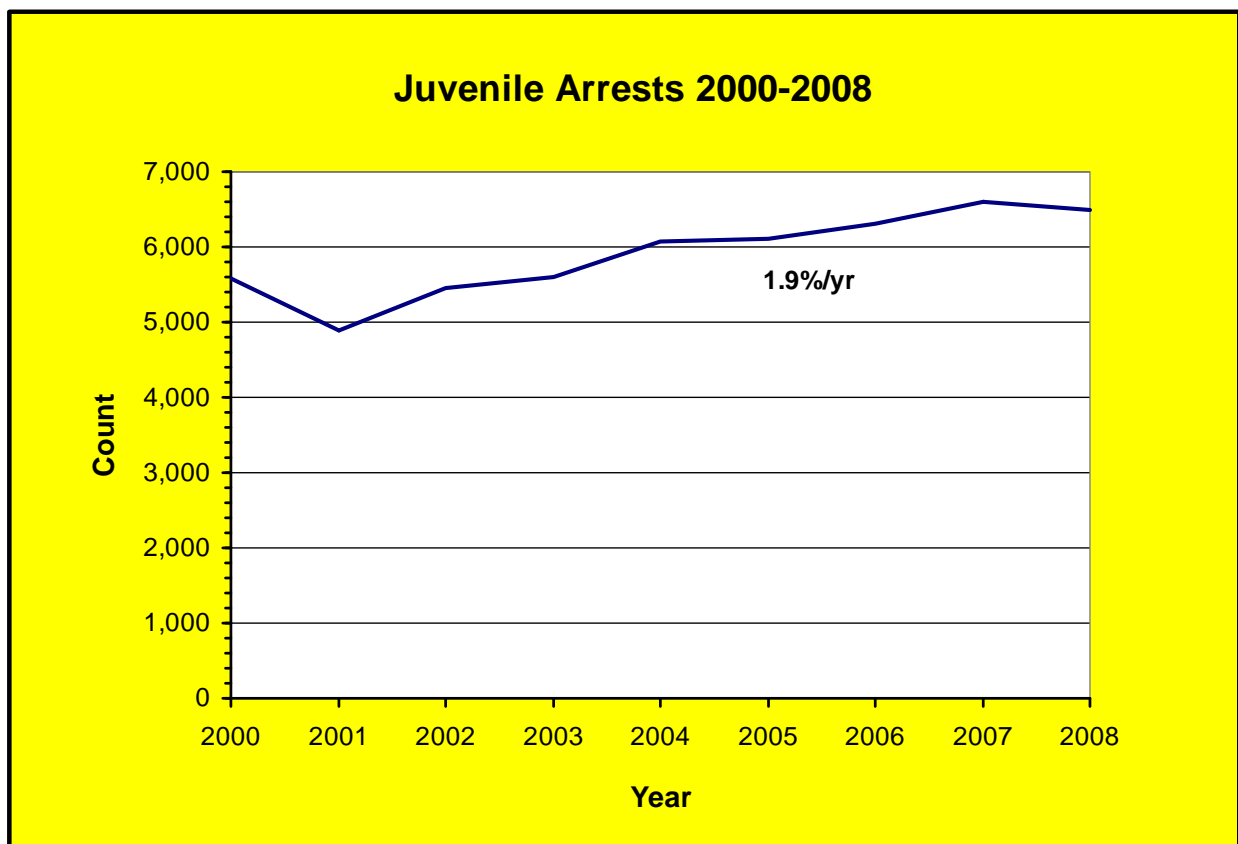


Figure 4. Juvenile arrests in Jefferson County from 2000 to 2008.

The population of juveniles aged 10 to 17 in Jefferson County decreased, so the combined effect of increasing juvenile arrests and decreasing juvenile population was an increase in the juvenile arrest rate (*arrests per 1000 juveniles aged 10-17*) from 88 in 2000 to 116 in 2008.

Juvenile Arrests: Part I and Part II Offenses

Arrests for Part II offenses² comprise the majority of juvenile arrests (Figure 5). Juvenile arrests for Part II offenses increased between 2000 and 2008 by 30%, from 3,893 to 5,064,

² Simple assault, vandalism, and fraud are examples of Part II offenses. See Appendix for complete list.

averaging an increase of 3.3% per year (Figure 5). However, multiple peaks and valleys are seen in the trend, i.e., Part II arrests of juveniles alternately decreased and increased from 2000 through 2005; thereafter, Part II juvenile arrests increased in 2006 and 2007, then declined again in 2008.

Part I offenses, which include violent and property offenses, make up the remainder (approximately 22% in 2008) of juvenile arrests (Figure 5). In contrast to Part II arrest trends, arrests of juveniles for Part I offenses decreased by 16% from 2000 to 2008, averaging a yearly decrease of 2.2%. Arrests of juveniles for Part I offenses peaked in 2000 (1,674) and 2005 (1,546), were at a minimum (1,246) for the featured time period in 2007, but increased again to 1,406 in 2008 (Figures 5 and 6).

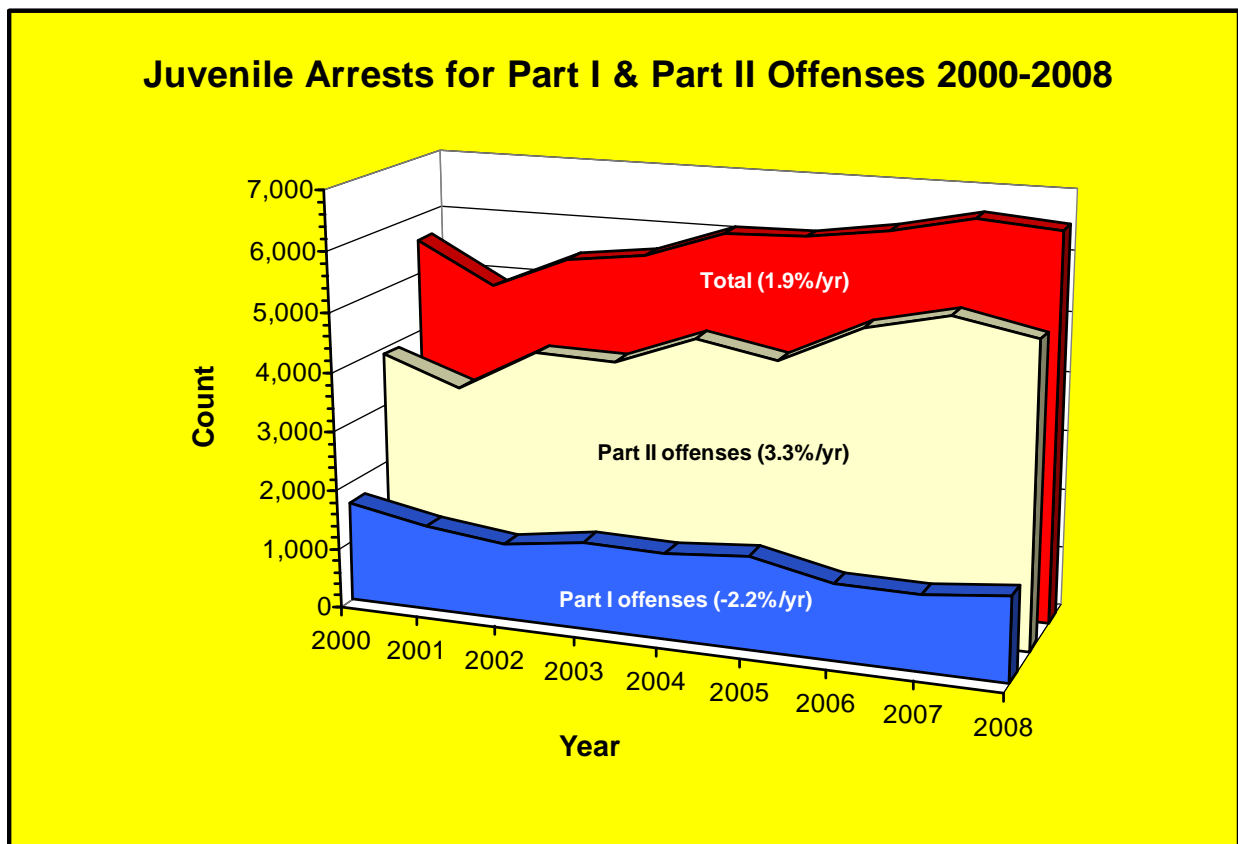


Figure 5. Juvenile arrests for Part I and Part II offenses in Jefferson County from 2000 to 2008.

Both the juvenile population and Part I offense arrests of juveniles decreased between 2000 and 2008, and the juvenile arrest *rate* for Part I offenses fell from 26.4 to 25.1 *arrests per 1000 juveniles*. In contrast, the growth in juvenile arrests for Part II offenses is magnified by the population decrease: the Part II arrest rate increased by 47% between 2000 and 2008, increasing from 61.3 to 90.5 *arrests per 1,000 juveniles*. Furthermore, between 2000 and 2008, Part II offenses comprised an increasing portion of all juvenile arrests. In 2008, Part II arrests made up 78% of all juvenile arrests, up from 70% in 2000. Nationally, the trend is less pronounced; in 2008, Part II arrests made up 74% of all juvenile arrests, up from 73% in 2000.

More detailed discussions and breakdowns of individual arrest categories follow.

Juvenile Arrests for Part I Offenses (Violent and Property Offenses)

Part I offenses are categorized into violent (or person) offenses and property offenses. The violent offenses are criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The property offenses are burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.³ Overall, juvenile arrests for Part I offenses decreased at an average annual rate of 2.2% (Figure 5 and Figure 6). In Jefferson County, approximately 91% of Part I offenses were property offenses in 2008, and similarly, 93% of Part I juvenile arrests are property offense arrests; thus, the property offense arrest trend drove the overall Part I juvenile arrest trend (Figure 6). Both measures decreased substantially (23-25%) between 2000 and 2002, returned to near-2000 levels by 2005, decreased and leveled off in 2006 and 2007, then increased in 2008. In 2007, Part I juvenile arrests were at the lowest level (1,246) for the time period, while property offense arrests reached a low (1,162) in 2006. *Reported* property offenses were also at a recent high (21,489) in 2005, but plummeted to 15,368 by 2008. Juveniles arrested for violent offenses reached a peak (129) in 2005, but overall, declined from 119 in 2000 to 105 in 2008. The average annual decreases in juvenile arrests were 2.2% for property crime and 1.5% for violent crime.

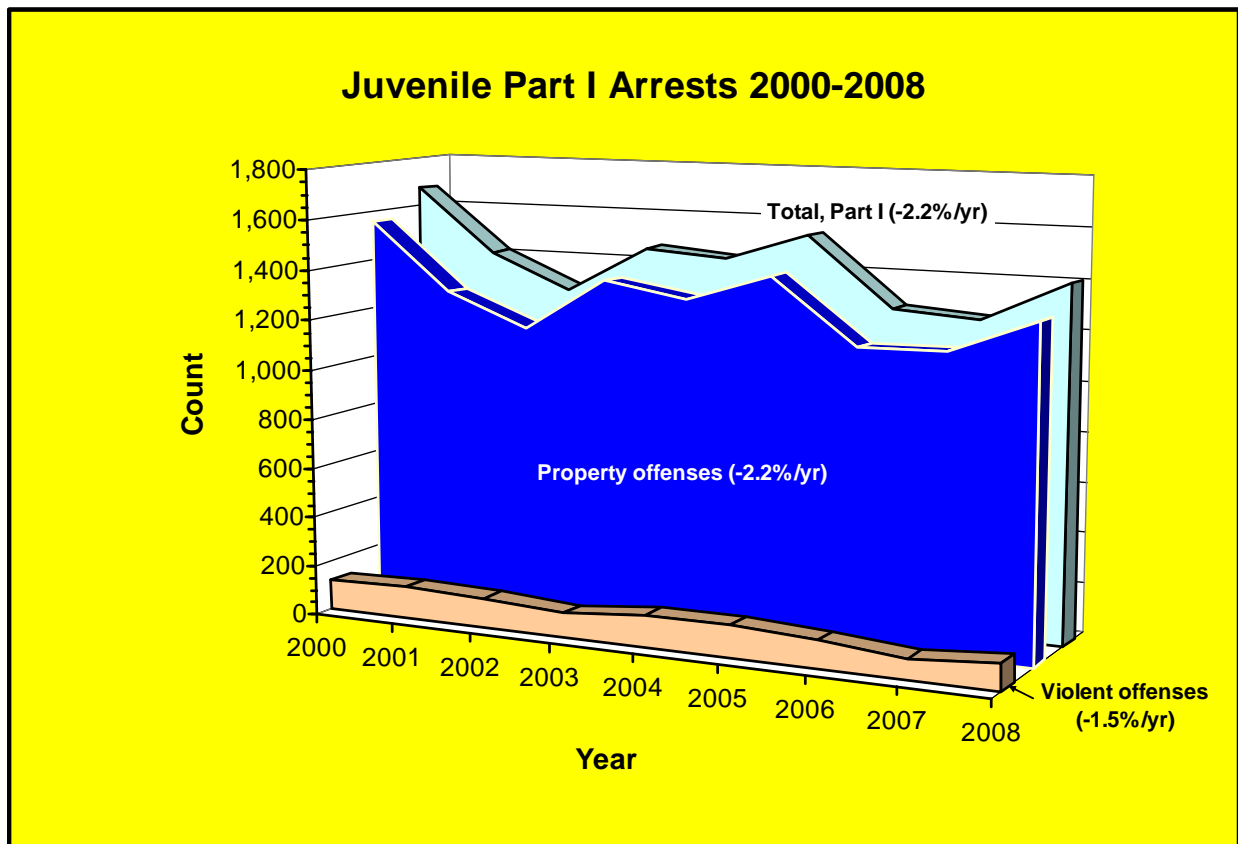


Figure 6. Juvenile arrests for Part I offenses, broken down into violent offense arrests and property offense arrests, from 2000 to 2008.

The population aged 10-17 decreased at an average annual rate of 1.6% between 2000 and 2008, and thus the juvenile arrest rate remained unchanged at 1.9 *arrests per 1,000 juveniles*

³ To conform to national reporting, arson is no longer included as a property offense. See also page 3 of this report.

for violent crime, and decreased from 24.5 to 23.3 *arrests per 1,000 juveniles* for property crime. Both rates are substantially higher than corresponding adult arrest rates, which were 1.2 and 6.4 *arrests per 1,000 adults*, respectively, in 2008.

Violent Offenses

In general, juvenile arrest trends for violent offenses mirror the trends in reported violent offenses and adult arrests for violent offenses, which were both on the rise between 2000 and 2005, tended to decrease in 2006 and 2007, but increased again in 2008. Overall, the juvenile arrest rate for violent crime was 1.9 *arrests per 1,000 juveniles* in 2008, the same as it was in 2000. Juvenile arrests for aggravated assault were most common (72% of all juvenile violent arrests in 2008), followed by robbery, forcible rape, and homicide (Figure 7). The relative frequency of juvenile violent arrests reflects the frequency of the offenses themselves, i.e., aggravated assault is the most common and homicide is the least common violent offense. Juvenile aggravated assault arrests peaked at 99 in 2004 and decreased thereafter, until 2008, when they returned to 2000 levels (75). Although the counts for the less common violent crimes are small, both robbery and forcible rape arrests decreased between 2000 and 2008. Robbery arrests decreased by 32%, from 37 to 25. In 2007 and 2008, there were 4 juvenile arrests for forcible rape - the smallest counts for the time period, whereas in 2002, there were 22 - the largest count for the time period. Between 2000 and 2008, there were eight juvenile arrests for homicide: one each in 2000 and 2008, and two each in 2005, 2006, and 2007.

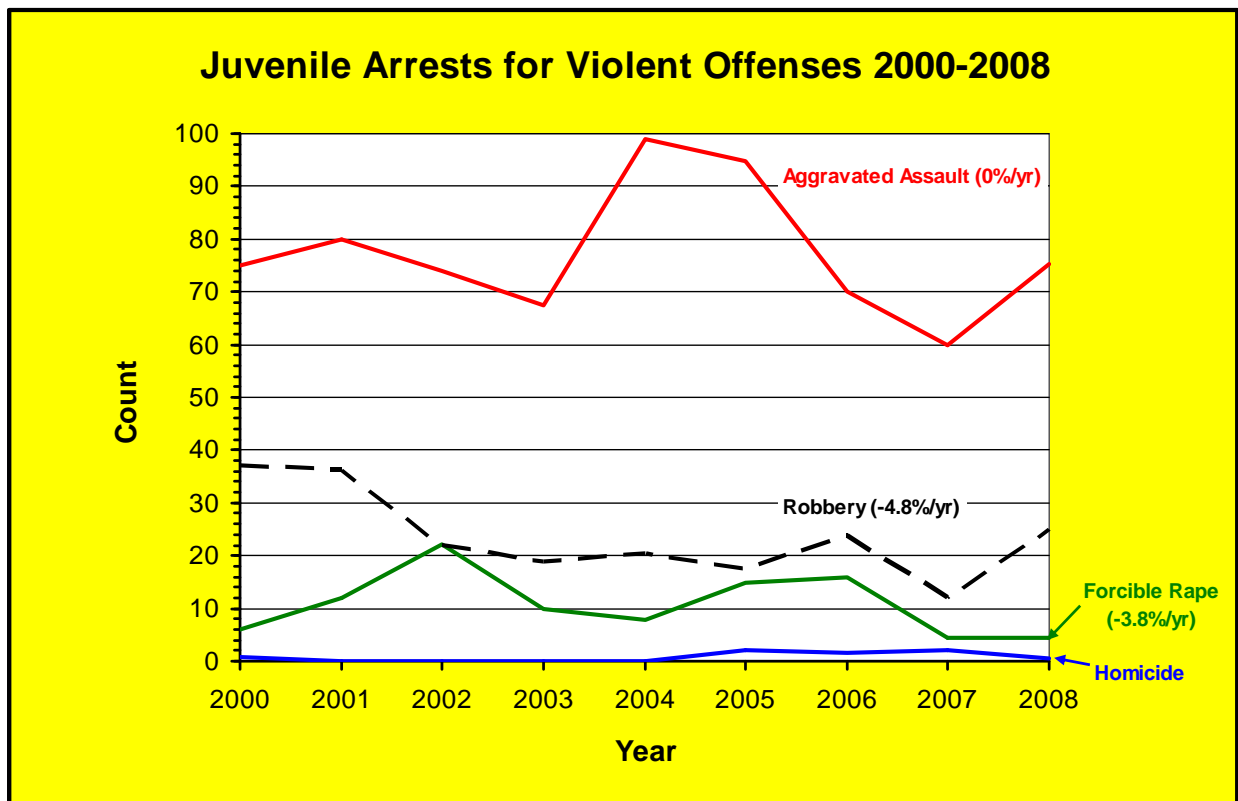


Figure 7. Juvenile arrests for violent offenses from 2000 to 2008.

Property Offenses

Typically, juvenile arrests for property offenses outnumber juvenile arrests for property offenses by more than tenfold. For example, in 2008 there were 1,301 juvenile arrests for

property offenses, and 105 arrests of juveniles for violent offenses. Property offense arrests of juveniles decreased at an average annual rate of 2.2% between 2000 and 2008, or a total decrease of 16%, from 1,555 to 1,301 (Figure 6 and Figure 8). However, the decrease was not steady; rather, as can be seen in Figure 8, arrests declined substantially between 2000 and 2002, then exhibited an alternating pattern of increases and decreases thereafter. Combined with a decreasing juvenile population, the resulting juvenile arrest *rate* for property offenses decreased from 24.5 to 23.3 *arrests per 1,000 juveniles* between 2000 and 2008.

Larceny-theft⁴ accounts for the overwhelming majority of property offenses, and similarly, most juvenile arrests for property crime are in this category (Figure 8); for example, in 2008, 91% of all juvenile property arrests were for larceny. Arrests of juveniles for larceny drove the overall trend in property arrests (Figure 8), and larceny arrests also followed a pattern of alternating increases and decreases, exhibiting an overall change of 8.2% between 2000 and 2008. The corresponding average annual decrease was 1.1%. Juvenile arrests for burglary and motor vehicle theft trended similarly to each other; both declined dramatically over the eight year period featured in this report (Figure 8 and Figure 9). In 2000, there were 136 juvenile arrests for burglary and 125 juvenile arrests for motor vehicle theft, and by 2008, there were 73 and 40, respectively. The average annual decreases in juvenile motor vehicle theft and burglary arrests were 13% and 7.5%, respectively. The pattern in juvenile arrests for motor vehicle theft contrasts with the trends for reported motor vehicle theft offenses and adult arrests for motor vehicle theft. While juvenile motor vehicle theft arrests peaked in 2002 then steadily trended down thereafter, reported motor vehicle thefts nearly doubled between 2000 (1,711) and 2005 (3,276), then decreased thereafter, reaching a low of 1,525 in 2008. Adult arrests mirrored offenses, doubling between 2000 (121) and 2004 (255), and decreasing thereafter to a low of 113 in 2008.

The juvenile arrest *rates* for all categories of property crime decreased between 2000 and 2008. The rate of juvenile arrest for larceny decreased from 20.4 to 21.2, for burglary from 2.1 to 1.3, and for motor vehicle theft from 2.0 to 0.7 *arrests per 1,000 juveniles*.

⁴ Larceny-theft is defined in the 2004 Uniform Crime Report Handbook as *the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another*. It does not include motor vehicle theft.

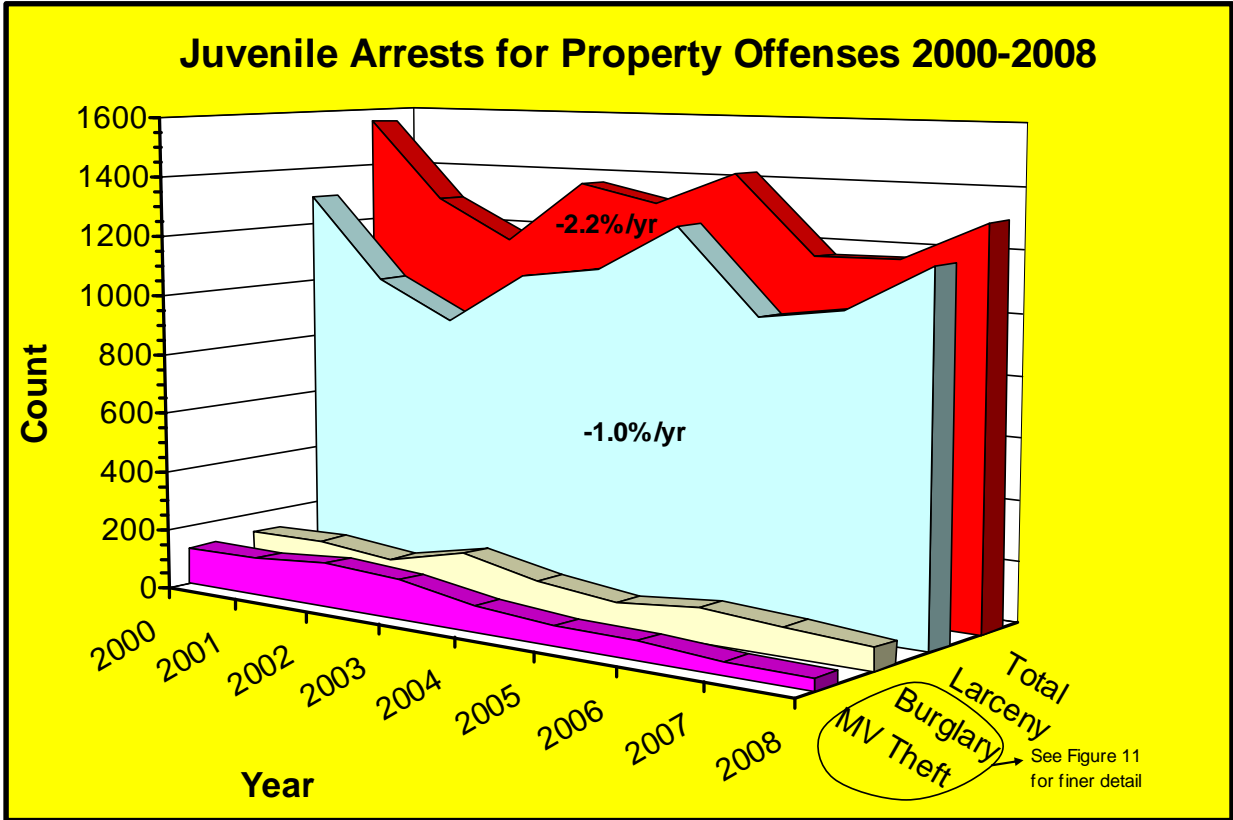


Figure 8. Juvenile arrests for property offenses from 2000 to 2008. See also Figure 9.

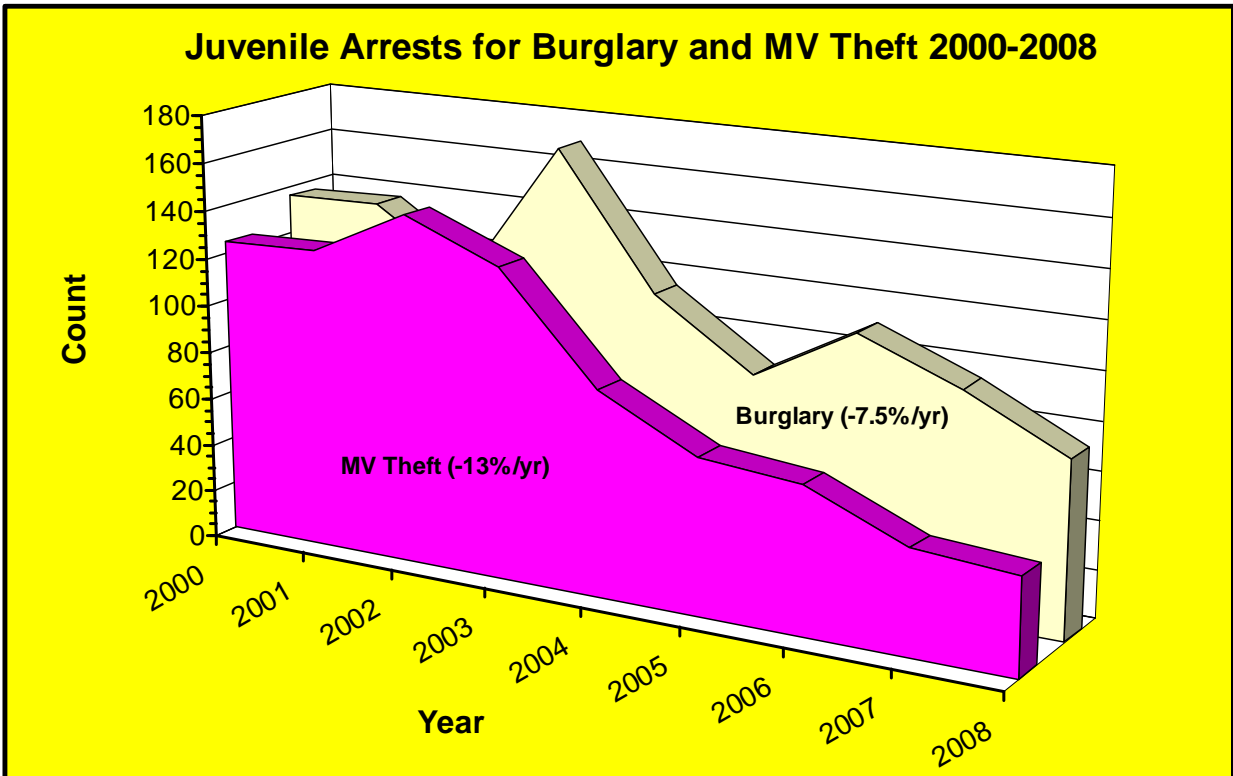


Figure 9. Juvenile arrests for burglary and motor vehicle theft from 2000 to 2008 (count axis expanded from Figure 8).

Arson

Arson is a property offense, but is not included in the cumulative count of property offenses.⁵ Juvenile arson arrests are the least common juvenile arrests for property offenses, and recent trends show a saw tooth trend pattern (Figure 10). There were 27 juvenile arrests for arson in 2008, up slightly from 24 arrests in 2000.

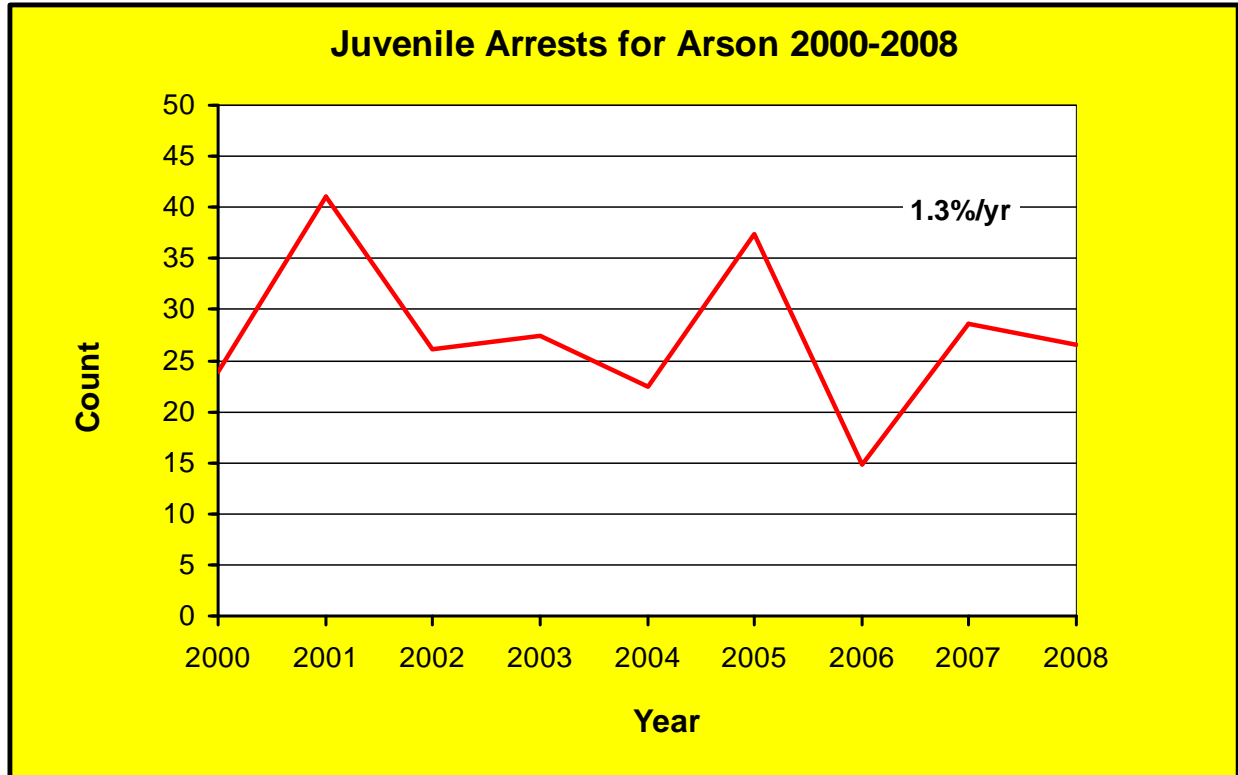


Figure 10. Juvenile arrests for arson from 2000 to 2008.

Juvenile Arrests for Part II Offenses

Status Offenses

Juvenile arrests are reported for 18 categories of Part II offenses.⁶ Part II offenses include crimes such as fraud, vandalism, drug abuse violations, and prostitution. In addition, Part II juvenile arrests also include status offenses, a special category of offenses that apply only to juveniles (i.e., behaviors that are only illegal when committed by someone under 18 years old). Status offenses include curfew violations, liquor law violations, and runaways. Collectively, status offenses are the most common juvenile arrests, comprising 23% of juvenile Part II arrests, and 18% of all juvenile arrests in 2008. Between 2000 and 2008, status offense arrests decreased overall by 18.3%, but there was substantial fluctuation in the pattern (Figure 11). The minimum (934) for the time period occurred in 2001 and was followed by a maximum (1642) in 2002, attributable primarily to a peak in runaway arrests (918) that year. The average annual decrease in status offense arrests was 2.5% for the 8 year period.

In every year except 2002, the most common juvenile status offense arrest was for a liquor law violation (Figure 11). Juvenile arrests for liquor law violations steadily increased

⁵ This is consistent with the FBI convention for crime reporting.

⁶ See Appendix for complete list.

(average 11.5% per year) between 2000 (467) and 2004 (723), then increased more slowly thereafter. By 2007, there were 788 juvenile liquor law violation arrests, 69% more than in 2000. However, by 2008, arrests for this status offense decreased to 597, a 24% drop from the year before. In general, juvenile runaway arrests decreased steadily and dramatically at an average annual rate of 29.2%, from 446 in 2000 to 28 in 2008, peaking in 2002 at 918.⁷ Curfew violation arrests increased by 6.8% from 2000 to 2008, but the most dramatic change occurred after 2002, when there was a low of 216 curfew violation arrests; by 2007, there were 722, a 234% increase in a five year span. In 2008, there were 515 curfew violation arrests.

Status offense arrests decreased between 2000 and 2008 at an average annual rate of 2.5% per year and the juvenile population also decreased by 1.5% per year. Thus, the rate of juvenile status offense arrests decreased from 22.0 *arrests per 1,000 juveniles* in 2000 to 20.4 *arrests per 1,000 juveniles* in 2008.

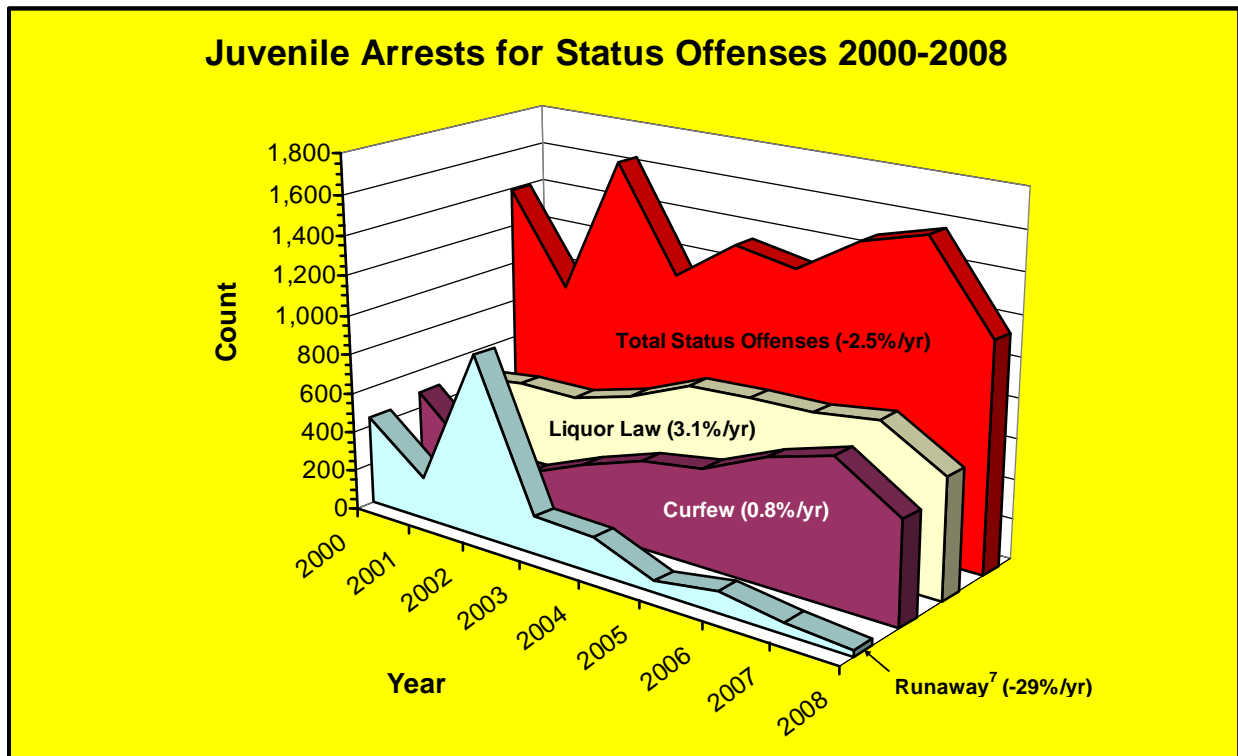


Figure 11. Juvenile arrests for status offenses from 2000 to 2008. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Other Common Juvenile Arrests for Part II Offenses

Disorderly conduct, vandalism, and drug violations are also relatively common juvenile arrests (Figure 12). Arrests of juveniles for vandalism grew at an average rate of 4.1% per year between 2000 to 2008. In 2000, there were 257 arrests and in 2008, there were 354. Juvenile arrests for disorderly conduct also increased, from 327 to 636 (94%), representing an average annual increase of 8.7%. Arrests of juveniles for drug violations increased by 121% over five years, from 372 to 820, and averaged an increase of 10.4% per year.

⁷ The 2002 spike in runaway arrests may be attributable to a change in reporting by the Lakewood Police Department. Lakewood typically does not report juvenile runaway arrests, but did report them in 2002.

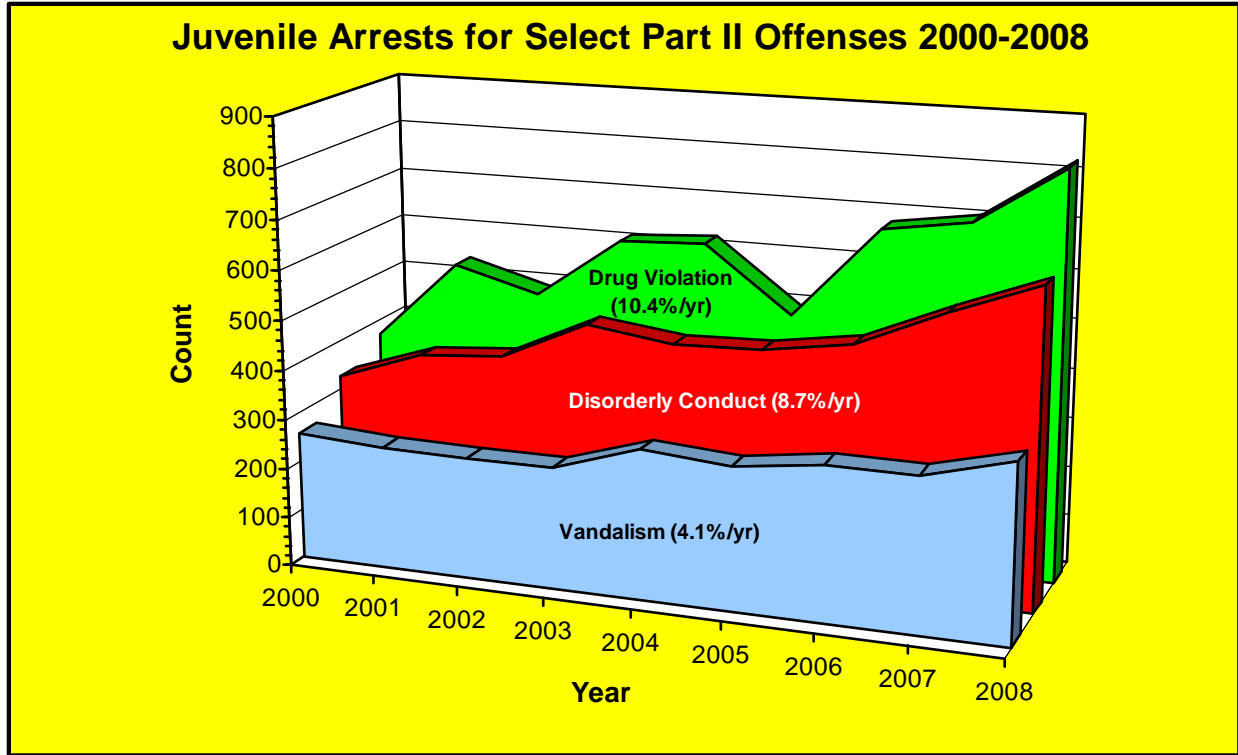


Figure 12. Juvenile arrests for select Part II offenses from 2000 to 2008. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Another common juvenile arrest category is “all other” offenses, which accounted for 32% of all juvenile Part II arrests in 2008, up from 25% in 2000 (Figure 13). It is a broad category identical to the adult “all other” arrest category, and includes bribery, kidnapping, possession of drug paraphernalia, riot and rout, trespassing, and contempt of court.⁸ Between 2000 and 2008, “all other” arrests of juveniles grew at an average annual rate of 6.2% (Figure 13), slower than the same category for adults, which grew annually at 8.8%. And, while “all other” arrests made up an increasingly larger proportion of Part II juvenile arrests (from 25% in 2000 to 32% in 2008), status offense arrests decreased (Figure 13), from 36% to 23% of Part II juvenile arrests.

⁸ See Appendix for full listing.

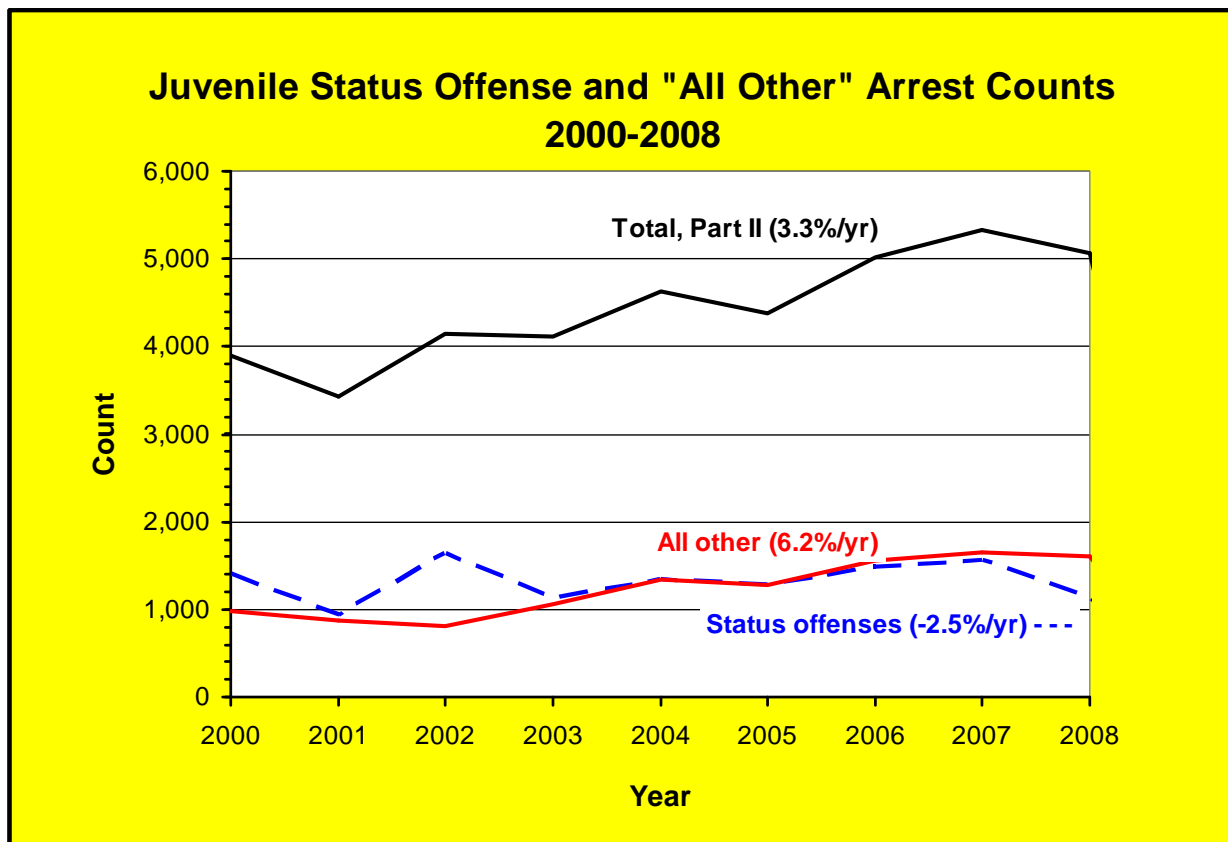


Figure 13. Juvenile arrests for status and “all other” offenses. For comparison, the total count for juvenile Part II arrests is also shown. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

A decreasing juvenile population between 2000 and 2008 resulted in substantial increases in the *rates* of disorderly conduct, vandalism, and drug violation arrests. These arrest rates increased from 5.2 to 11.4, 4.1 to 6.3, and 5.9 to 14.7 *arrests per 1,000 juveniles*, respectively.

Summary, Juvenile Arrest Rates

The changes in rates for the most common juvenile arrests between 2000 and 2008 are summarized in Table 1. The most substantial increases (>5% per year) were arrests for drug violations (12.2% per year), disorderly conduct (10.4% per year), vandalism (5.7% per year) and “all other” offenses (7.9% per year). The cumulative Part II juvenile arrest rate averaged a yearly increase of 5.0% and the juvenile liquor law violation arrest rate increased at 4.8% per year. The Part I juvenile arrest rate decreased by an average of 0.6% per year, primarily the result of a decrease in the property offense arrest rate (0.6% per year). The runaway arrest rate decreased by an average of 28.1% annually.

Category of Juvenile Arrest	Rate* in 2000	Rate* in 2008	Overall Change	Average Annual Change
Part I Offense	26.4	25.1	-4.7%	-0.6%
Violent	1.9	1.9	0	0
Property	24.5	23.3	-5.1%	-0.6%
Part II Offense	61.3	90.5	47.6%	5.0%
Drug Violation	5.9	14.7	150.6%	12.2%
Disorderly Conduct	5.2	11.4	120.6%	10.4%
Vandalism	4.1	6.3	56.2%	5.7%
Status Offense	22.0	20.4	-7.2%	-0.9%
<i>Liquor Law</i>	7.4	10.7	45.1%	4.8%
<i>Curfew Violation</i>	7.6	9.2	21.2%	2.4%
<i>Runaway</i>	7.0	0.5	-92.8%	-28.1%
All Other	15.5	28.6	83.9%	7.9%
*Rate is arrests per 1,000 juveniles.				

Table 1. Summary of juvenile arrest rates, comparing rates in 2000 to rates in 2008.

Juvenile Court Case Filings

Juvenile Case Filings in District Court

The trends in juvenile filings in district court contrast with the general trends in court filings over the eight year period featured here. Whereas total district court filings and most individual categories increased, total juvenile case filings in district court⁹ decreased (Table 2 and Figure 14). The *total* number of district court case filings increased, on average, by 1.6% per year. Although there were two spikes in juvenile case filings, in 2001 and 2004, they decreased by 8.7% overall between 2000 and 2008 (averaging a decrease of 1.1% per year). In 2000, 3,780 juvenile cases were filed in district court, compared to 3,451 in 2008.

The categories of juvenile case filings relevant to the criminal justice system are: truancy, relinquishment, dependency & neglect, and delinquency. These four categories are also some of the most common types of juvenile case filings (Table 2). Truancy filings are the only category that increased, rising by 52.7% (5.4% per year) between 2000 and 2008, whereas relinquishment, dependency and neglect, and delinquency filings decreased by 56.9%, 26.7% and 24.9%, respectively.

District Court Case Filings 2000-2008				
Category	FY 2000	FY 2007	Overall Change	Average Annual Change
Total Case Filings	15,865	18,061	13.8%	1.6%
Juvenile Case Filings	3,780	3,451	-8.7%	-1.1%
<i>Truancy</i>	283	432	52.7%	5.4%
<i>Relinquishment</i>	137	59	-56.9%	-10.0%
<i>Dependency & Neglect</i>	236	173	-26.7%	-3.8%
<i>Delinquency</i>	1,861	1,397	-24.9%	-3.5%

Table 2. Changes in district court case filings between FY 2000 and FY 2008.

Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings

Delinquency cases involve juveniles charged with criminal law violations, and are the largest category of juvenile filings in district court, typically comprising 40-50% of juvenile cases. A downward trend in delinquency filings contributed to the overall decrease in juvenile filings from 2000 to 2008 (Figure 14). In 2000 there were 1,861 juvenile delinquency case filings, and after peaking at 2,148 in 2001, filings decreased steadily through 2008. Overall, juvenile delinquency case filings decreased 24.9% between 2000 and 2008, for an average annual decline of 3.5%.

⁹ Juvenile case filings include 18 categories: Administrative Paternity Order, Administrative Support Order, Consent for Marriage, Juvenile Expungement, Dependency & Neglect, Expedited Placement, Grandparent Visitation, Guardianship, Lack of Proper Care, Juvenile Other, Petition for Review of Need for Placement, Paternity, Support, Truancy, Adoption, Confidential Intermediary, Juvenile Relinquishment, and Juvenile Delinquency.

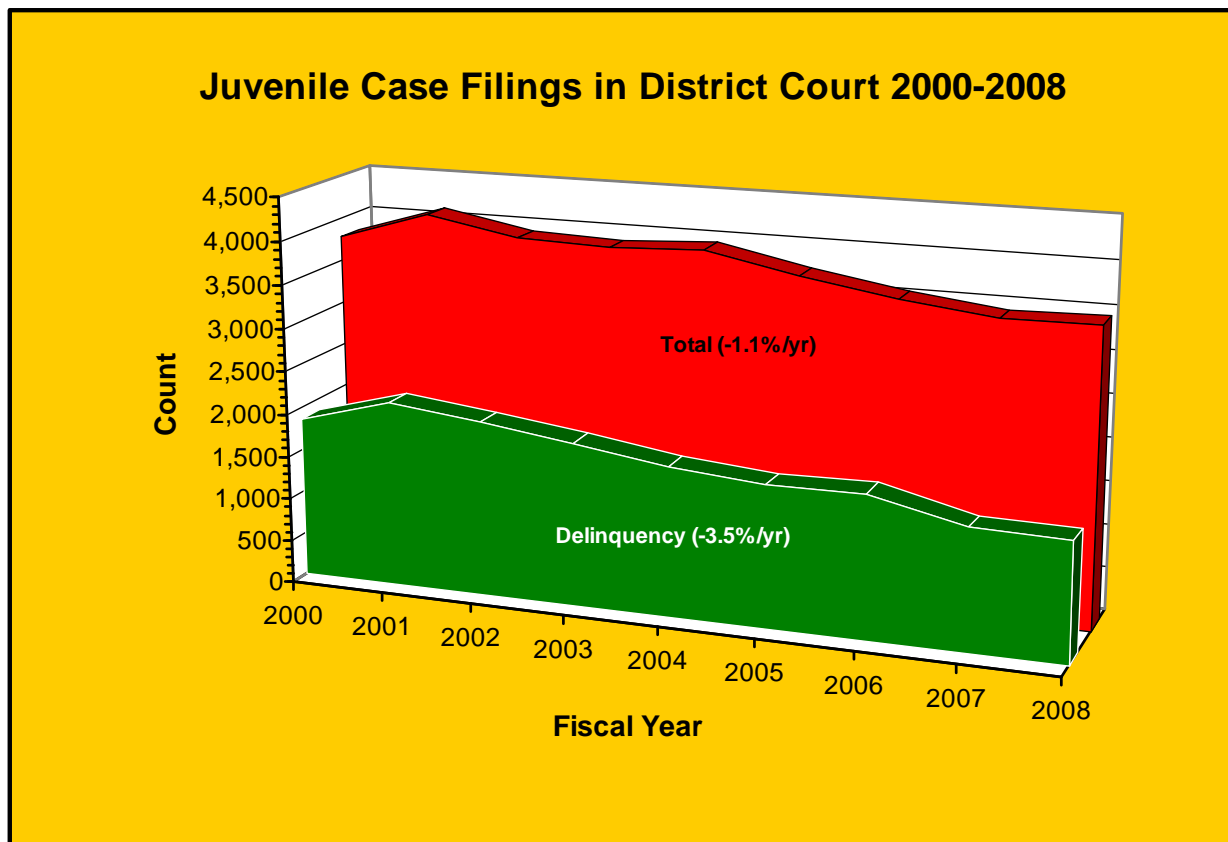
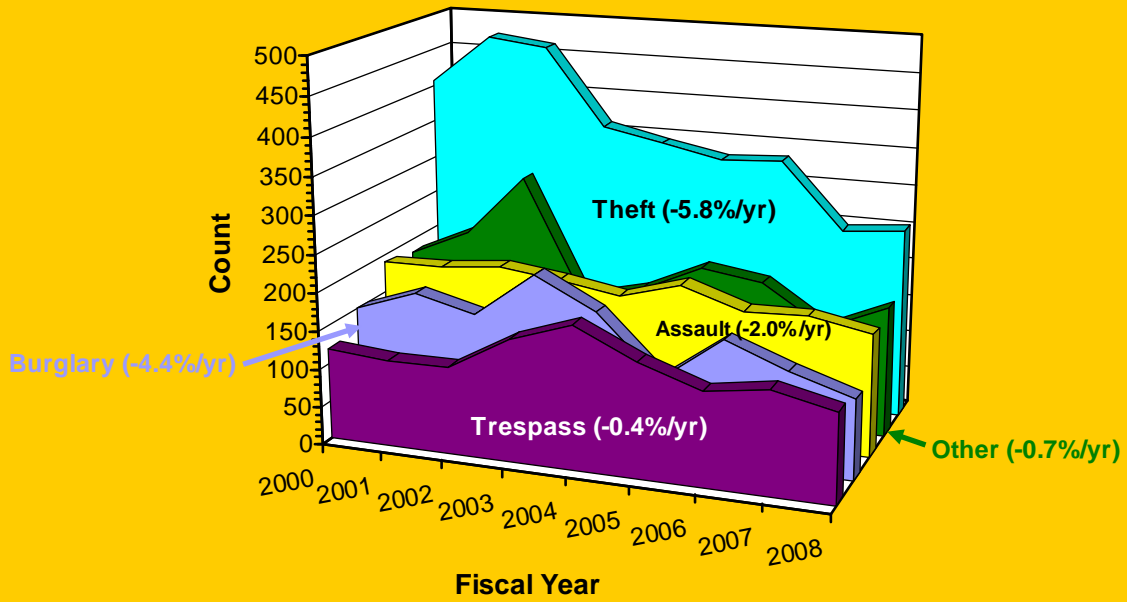


Figure 14. Juvenile Case Filings in Jefferson County District Court. Delinquency case filings are the largest subset of juvenile filings. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

The most common juvenile delinquency case filings are theft, assault, “other,” trespass, burglary, criminal mischief, drugs, and harassment. In every year between 2000 and 2008, theft was the most common category of juvenile delinquency filings (Figure 15a). For example, in 2008, there were 252 juvenile theft filings, comprising 18% of the total delinquency filings. Between 2000 and 2008, case filings for juvenile theft decreased by 38% overall, averaging a yearly decrease of 5.8%. Assault, trespass, burglary, and “other” were also common categories of juvenile delinquency case filings, comprising 12%, 8%, 8%, and 12%, respectively, of all juvenile delinquency case filings in 2008. All of the five most common categories of filings declined between 2000 and 2008. While trespass filings decreased annually at a rate of 0.4%, theft, assault, burglary, and “other” decreased by 5.8%, 2.0%, 4.4%, and 0.7% per year, respectively. Trends in other common categories are illustrated in Figure 15b. Juvenile drug case filings decreased by 32% (4.8%/year) between 2000 and 2008. Harassment and sex offense case filings decreased by 21% (2.8%/yr) and 23% (3.3%/yr), respectively, over the featured time period. Criminal mischief case filings increased by 0.9% (0.1%/yr) between 2000 and 2008.

Most Common Categories of Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings in District Court 2000-2008



Most Common Categories of Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings in District Court 2000-2008

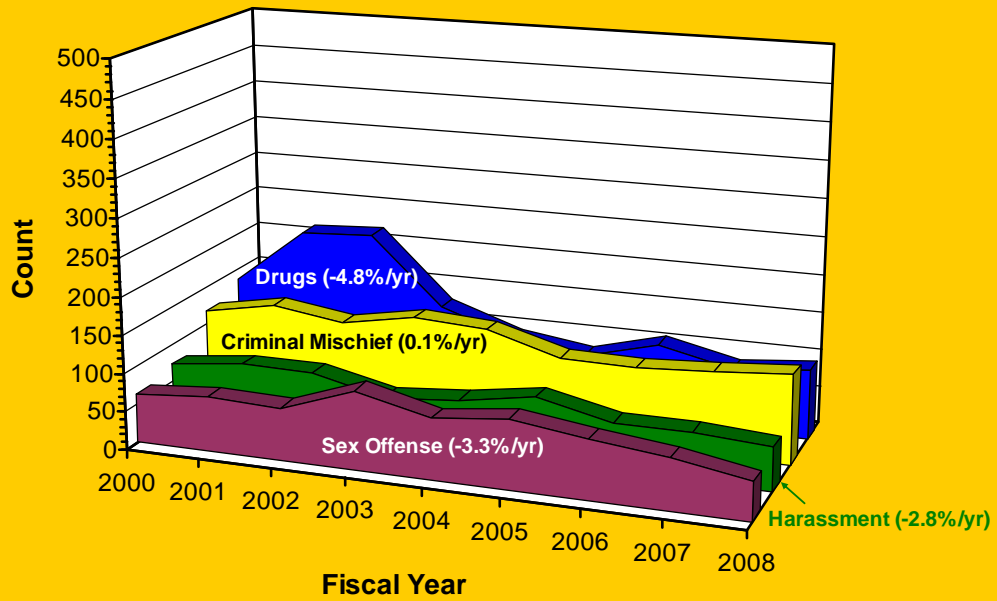


Figure 15a (upper) and 15b (lower). Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings in Jefferson County District Court. Delinquency is the largest subset of juvenile filings. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Other Juvenile Case Filings

The remaining categories of juvenile case filings are shown in Figure 16. Juvenile relinquishment case filings decreased at an average annual rate of 10% during the featured time period, from 137 filings in 2000 to 59 filings in 2008. Truancy case filings increased at an average rate of 5.4% per year, or overall 53%, from 283 (2000) to 432 (2008), peaking for the featured time period at 495 in 2007. Dependency & neglect case filings decreased by 27% between 2000 and 2008 (3.8% per year), from 236 in 2000 to 173 in 2008.

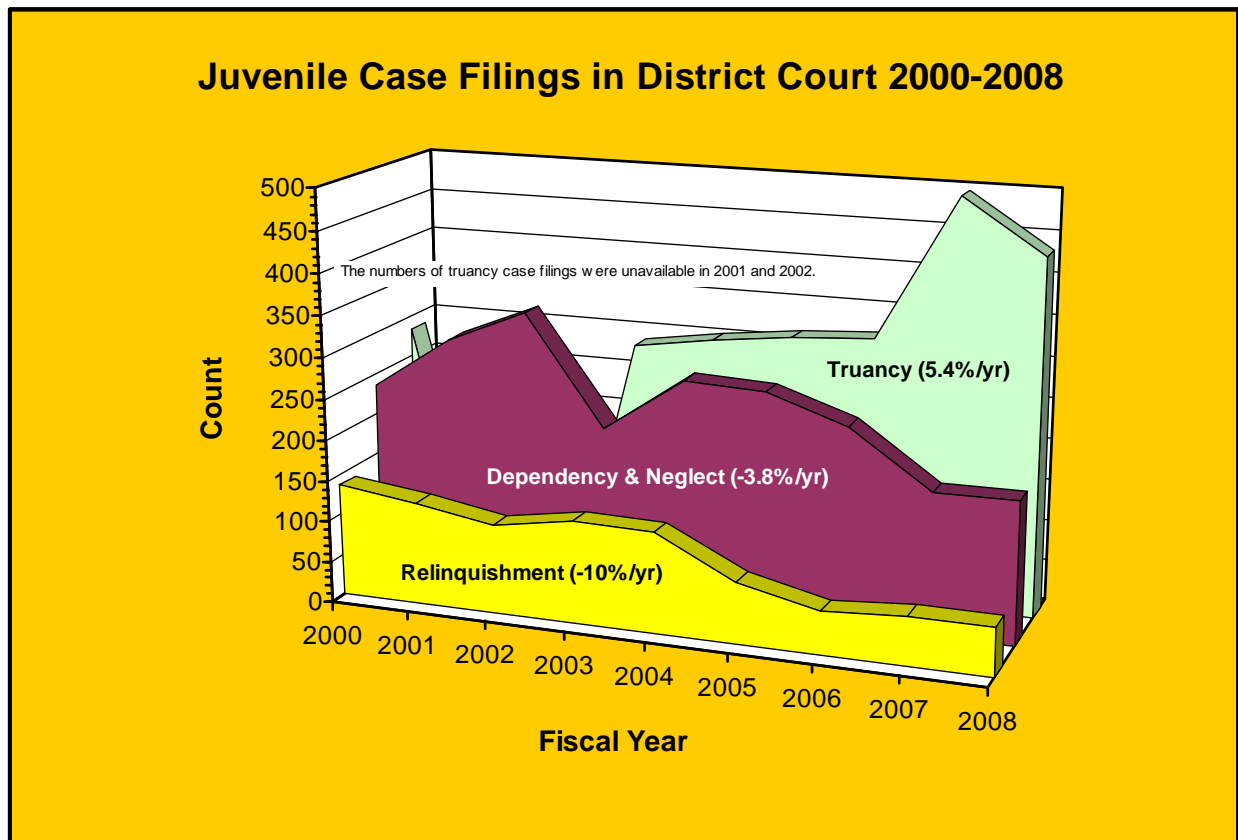


Figure 16. Juvenile Case Filings relevant to the criminal justice system in Jefferson County District Court. The figure does not include delinquency case filings, the largest subset of juvenile filings. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Juvenile Case Filings in County Court

Juveniles are also charged in county court, typically for misdemeanors. However, the juvenile statistics are not distinguished from the adult figures by the Colorado State Judicial Branch, so trends are not available for juvenile filings in county court. Case filings for misdemeanor under age alcohol offenses are shown here because they are relevant to juveniles, although the numbers also include defendants aged 18 through 20. Although misdemeanor under age alcohol offense case filings exhibited a steady increase between 2001 and 2006, they began decreasing in 2007, and the count in 2008 was identical to the count in 2000 (Figure 17).

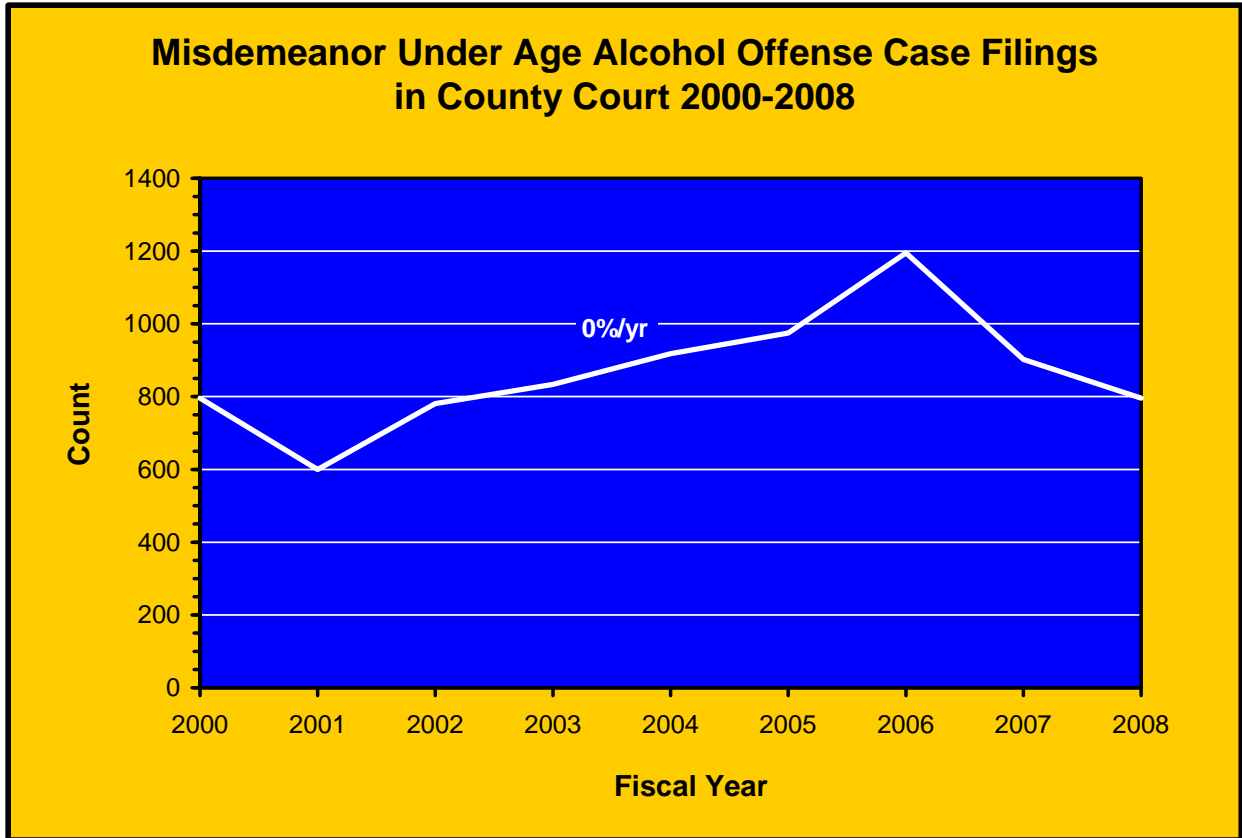


Figure 17. Misdemeanor Under Age Alcohol Offense Case Filings in Jefferson County Court. Average annual change is indicated on plot.

Juvenile Probation¹⁰

Investigations, New Cases, Active Clients and Terminations

All of the major measures of juvenile probation caseloads in the 1st Judicial District decreased between 2000 and 2008 (Figure 18). Investigations declined by 69%, from 880 in 2000 to 272 in 2008, an average annual decrease of 14% per year. New cases declined by 4.7% per year, or overall 32%, and terminations decreased by 47%, or 7.6% per year. The active clients in juvenile probation, measured on June 30 of each fiscal year, declined by 22% overall, or 3.0% per year, from 2000 to 2008.

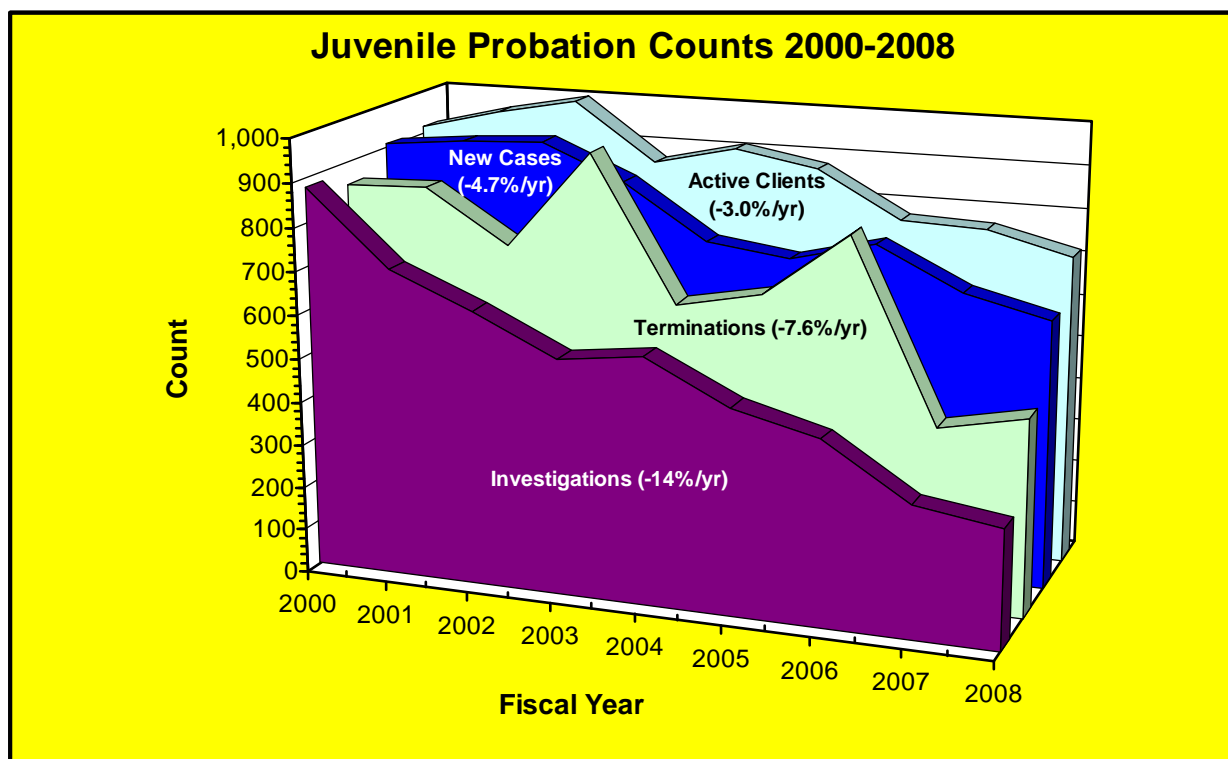


Figure 18. Juvenile Probation Counts in the 1st Judicial District. Active clients are counted on June 30, the last day of the fiscal year. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

New Cases

New cases in juvenile probation decreased steadily, at an average rate of 4.7% per year, and the decrease was evenly distributed for the two genders (Figures 20 and 21). New probation cases for females decreased by 33%, from 200 in 2000 to 135 in 2008, while new male cases decreased by 32%, from 705 to 480 (Figure 19).

¹⁰ Juvenile probation figures are reported for the 1st Judicial District, which includes Jefferson and Gilpin counties. Figures exclusive to Jefferson County are not available through the Colorado Judicial Branch.

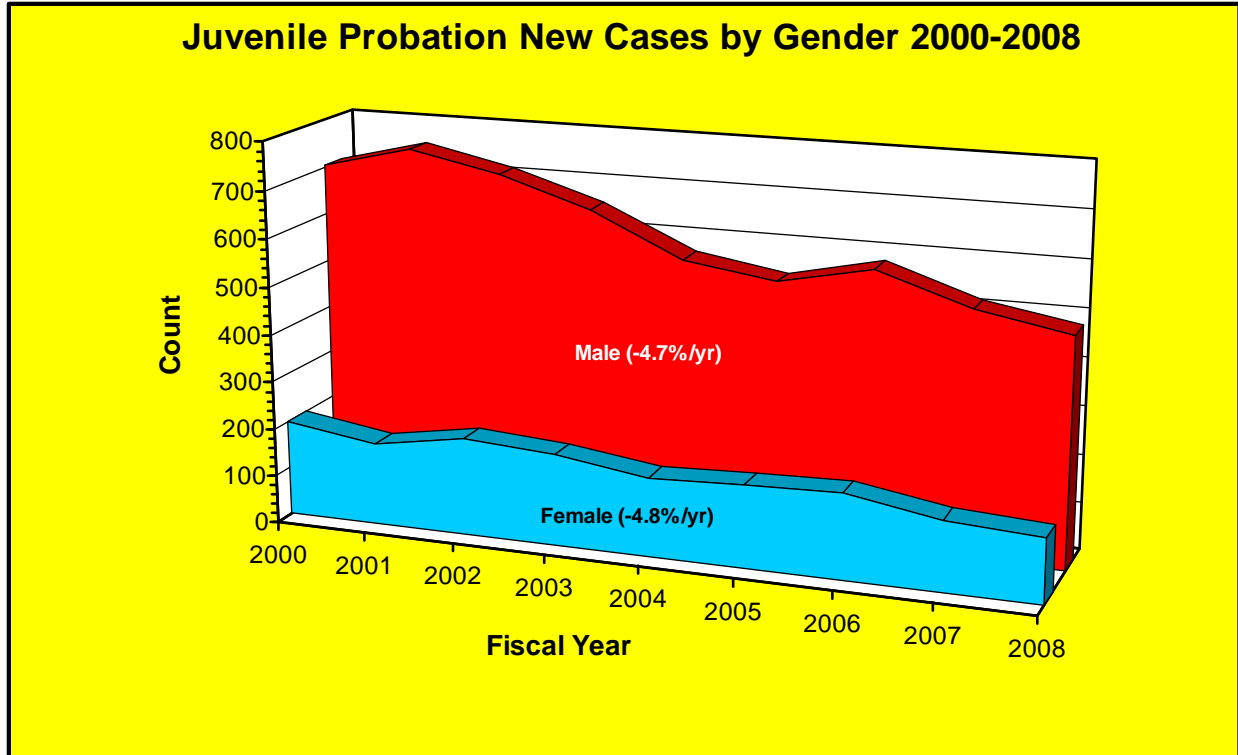


Figure 19. New juvenile probation cases, by gender, in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

The ethnic makeup of new juvenile probation cases changed substantially from 2000 to 2007 (Figures 20a, 20b, and 21). The overall decline in new cases was driven primarily by a decline in Anglo juvenile clients, juvenile probation’s largest segment, which dropped from 804 in 2000 to 408 in 2008, averaging an 8.1% decline each year. In marked contrast, the representation of Hispanic juveniles in new cases grew to 192 in 2006 –more than six times, or 519%, their representation in 2000 (31 new cases), then declined to 157 in 2008. From 2000 to 2008, new Hispanic juvenile probation cases increased at an average rate of 22% per year. During this time, Hispanic juveniles increased their representation in new cases from 3.4% to 21% of all new cases; most of the increase occurred between 2002 and 2006 (Figure 20a). New African American juvenile cases fluctuated in the intervening years, but showed no net increase between 2000 and 2008, their representation in new cases increased from 3.9% to 8.0% between 2000 and 2008 (Figure 20b and Figure 21). New Asian juvenile cases declined steadily over this period from 21 to 6, a 71% decrease. In 2000 there were no Native American juveniles on probation, whereas by 2008 there were 5, following a peak of 15 in 2006. The increase between 2001 and 2008 averaged 14% per year (Figure 20b).

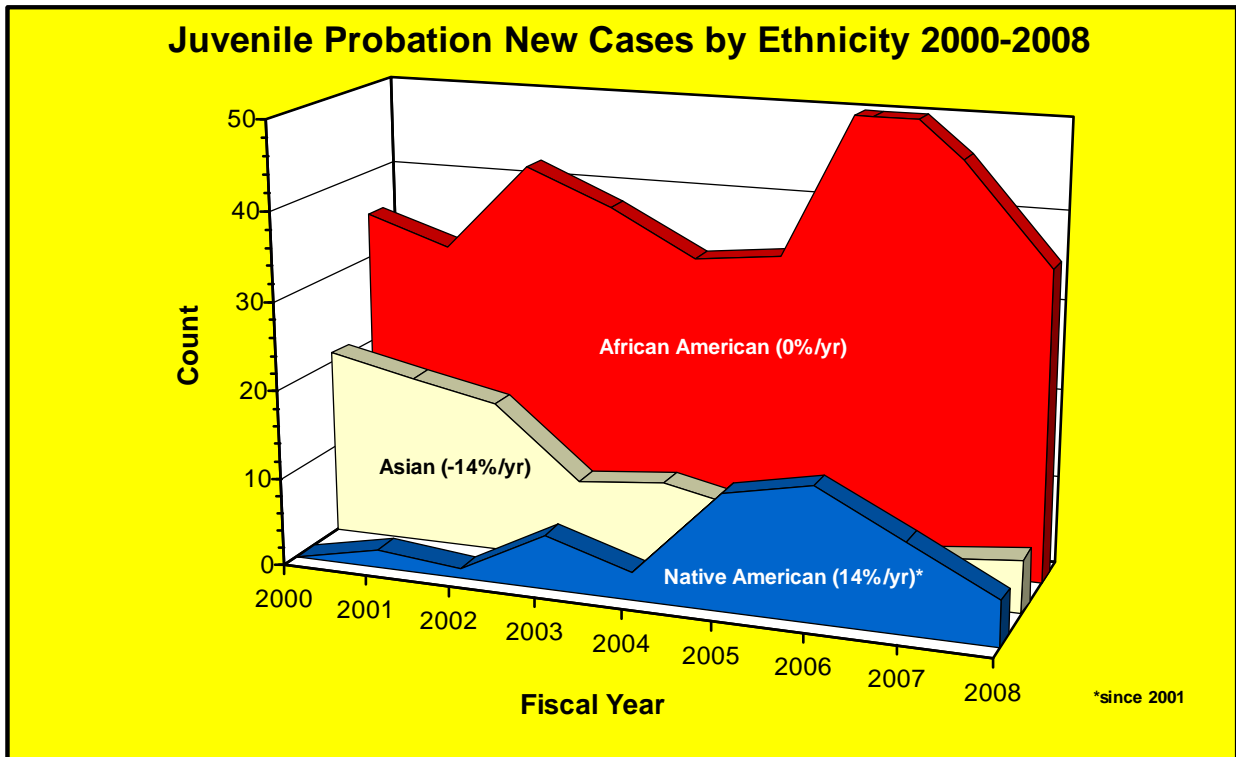
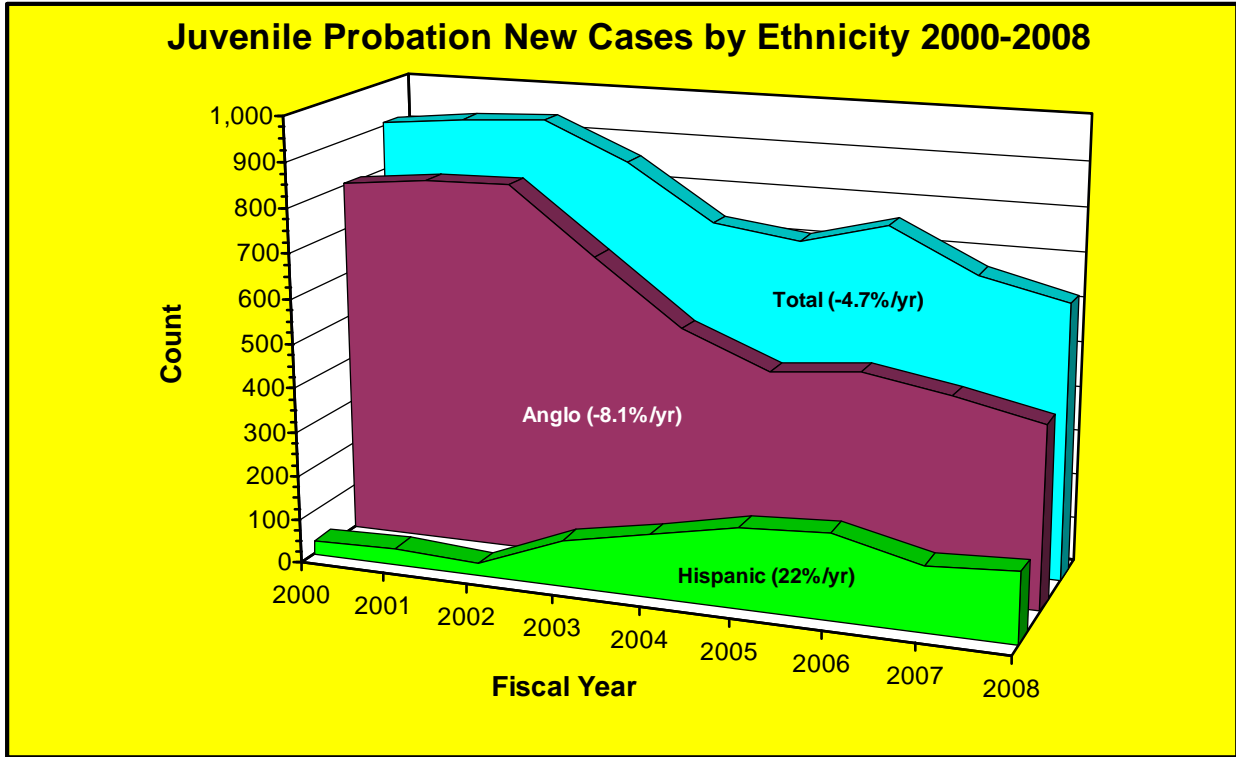


Figure 20a and 20b. New juvenile probation cases, by ethnicity, in the 1st Judicial District. Note difference in count axis. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

The changing ethnic profile of new juvenile probation cases between 2000 and 2008 is illustrated in Figure 21. In 2000, the distribution of new juvenile probation cases was 89%

Anglo, 3.9% African American, 2.3% Asian, 3.4% Hispanic and 0% Native American. By 2008, the ethnic profile had shifted to 66% Anglo, 5.7% African American, 1.0% Asian, 25.4% Hispanic, and 0.8% Native American.¹¹ It should be noted that between 2000 and 2008, Hispanic population growth (44%) in Jefferson County markedly outpaced total county population growth (3.0%). According to the 2000 census, the Hispanic population was 53,878, or 10% of the total population in Jefferson County. In 2008, the Hispanic population was estimated at 77,630, comprising 14% of Jefferson County residents.

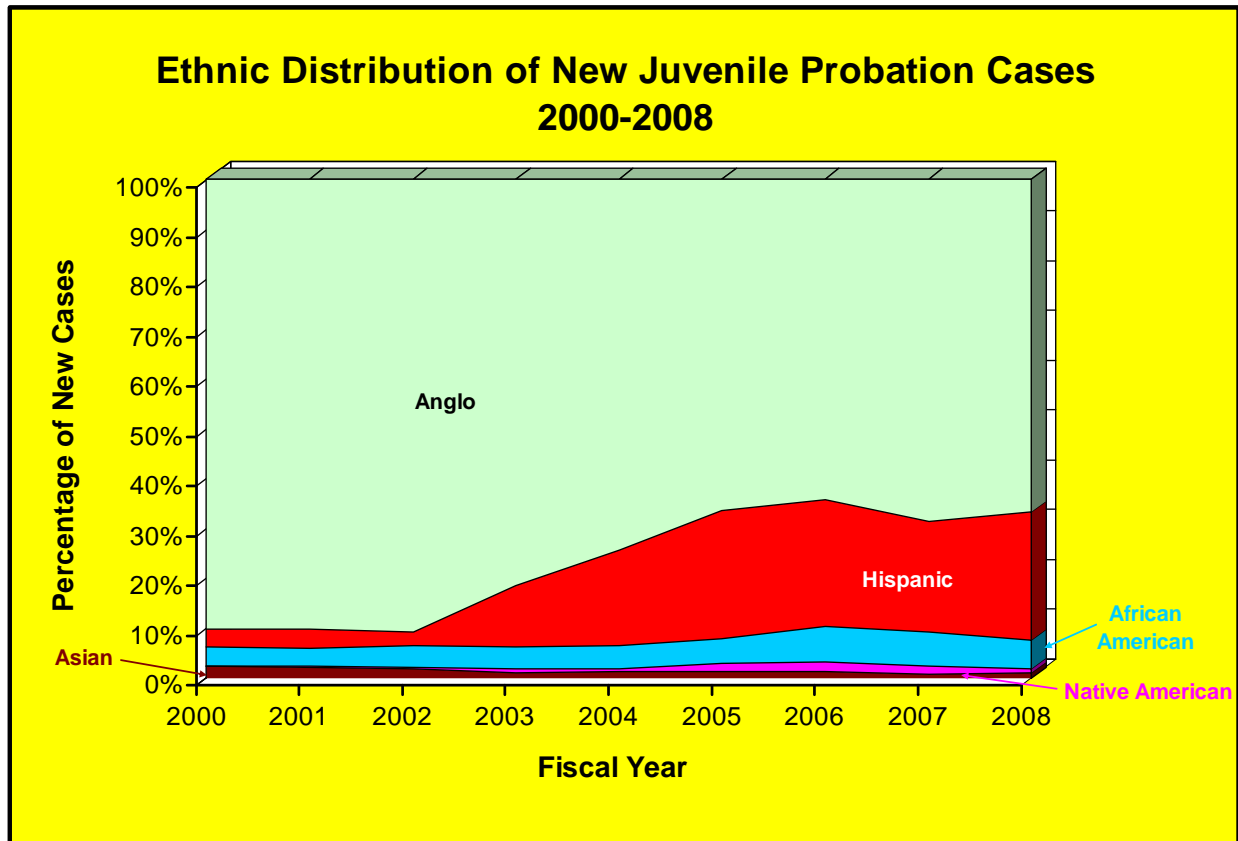


Figure 21. Ethnic profile of new juvenile probation cases in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

The overall decrease in new cases was distributed over different age ranges (Figure 22). New cases in all age groups decreased between 2000 and 2008. Although other categories showed reasonably steady declines over the entire time period, new cases of both 16 and 17 year olds increased initially, peaked in 2002, then declined. The youngest group (ages 0-14) declined the most, by 43%, or 6.8% per year, between 2000 and 2008 (Figure 22).

¹¹ According to Kevin Klinkerfues, a 1st Judicial District juvenile probation supervisor, when he joined juvenile probation in 2000, Hispanics were typically coded by law enforcement as white, which carried through to ICON when court clerks entered the case. Many of the entries have since been recoded by probation officers, per his instruction. Therefore, the actual increase in Hispanic juveniles is most likely attributable to this change in counting practices.

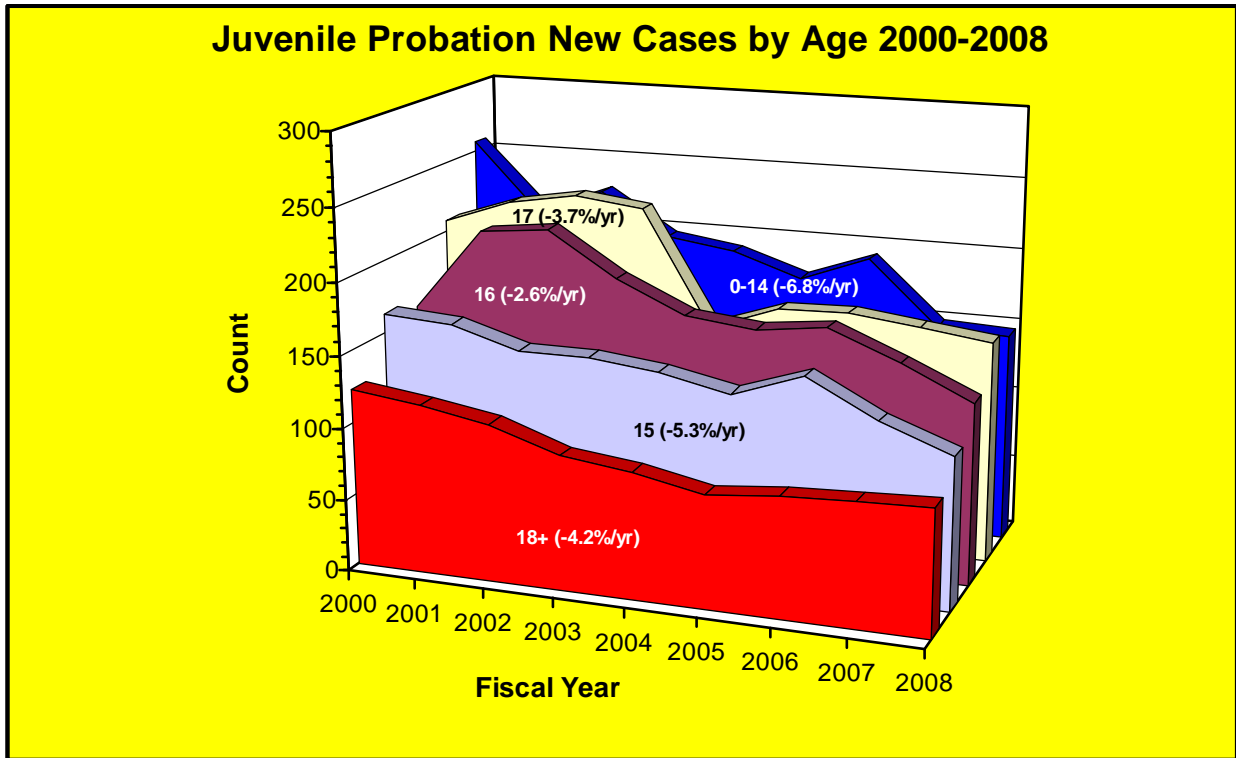


Figure 22. New juvenile probation cases, by client age, in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Active Clients

Between 2000 and 2008, the total number of active clients decreased from 914 to 716, an average annual decline of 3.0% per year (Figure 18), but the distribution of risk levels shifted to higher risk. During this time, the number of active clients classified as minimum risk decreased substantially (12%/yr), while those classified as maximum risk increased at 12% per year (Figure 23). Medium risk clients, the most common classification in recent years, increased to a maximum (417) in 2003, but declined steadily since; by 2008, there 258 medium risk clients (36% of all active clients).

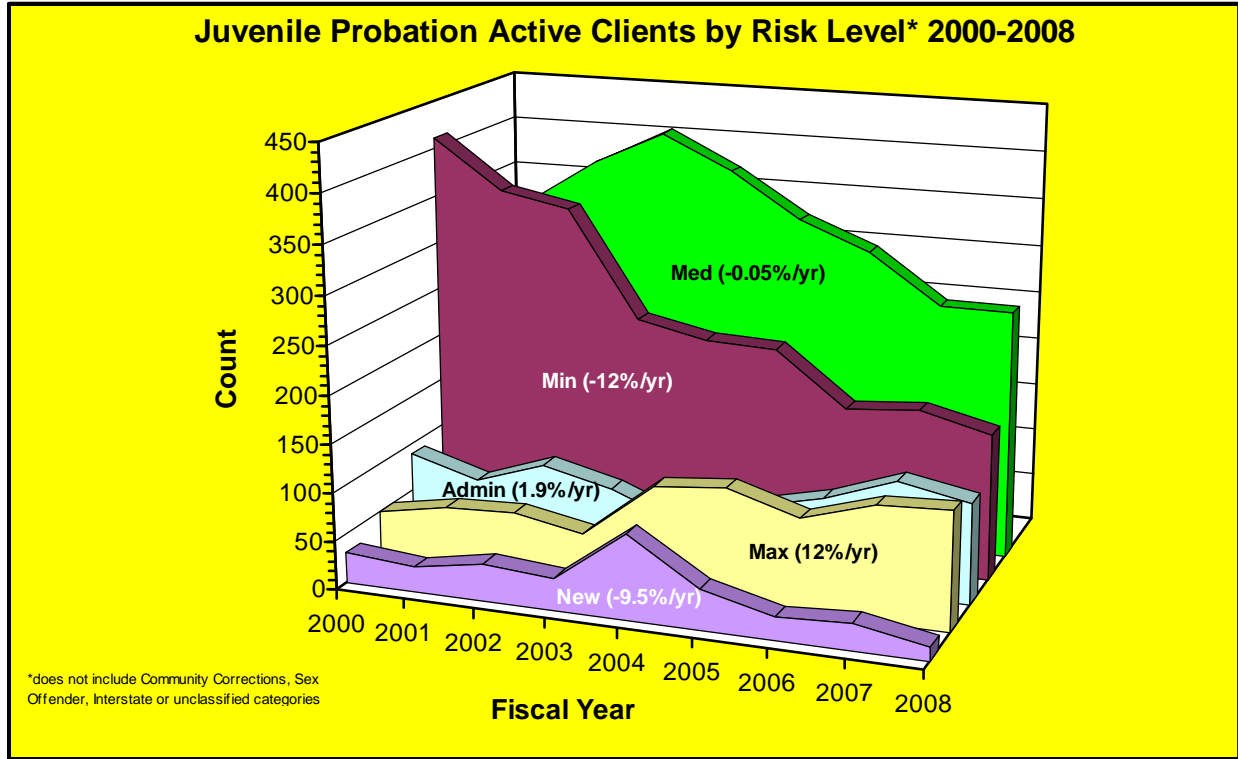
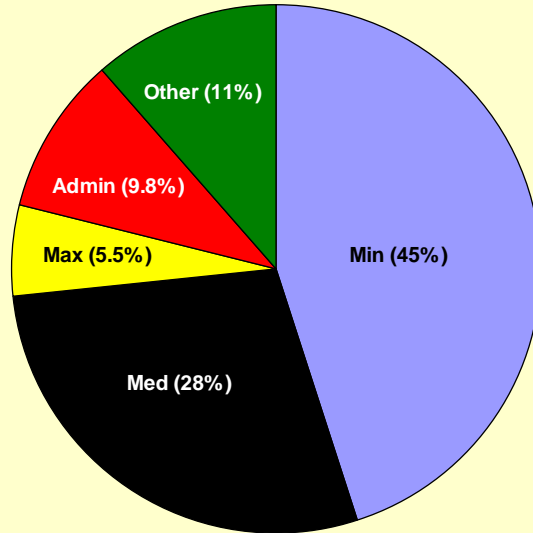


Figure 22. Active clients on juvenile probation, by risk level, in the 1st Judicial District. Active clients are measured on June 30 of the fiscal year. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

The changing risk level profile of active clients on juvenile probation is illustrated by comparing Figure 24 and Figure 25. Between 2000 and 2008, juveniles classified as minimum risk level on probation decreased from 45% (411) to 21% (152) of the total active clients, and juveniles classified as maximum risk level increased from 5% (50) to 17% (122) of the total active clients.¹²

¹² Before FY 2005, non-SOISP sex offenders were incorporated into the minimum, medium and maximum risk classifications. Beginning in FY 2005, non-SOISP sex offenders became a separate category, with its own breakdown of risk classifications.

**Juvenile Probation
Active Clients Risk Level 2000**



**Juvenile Probation
Active Clients Risk Level 2008**

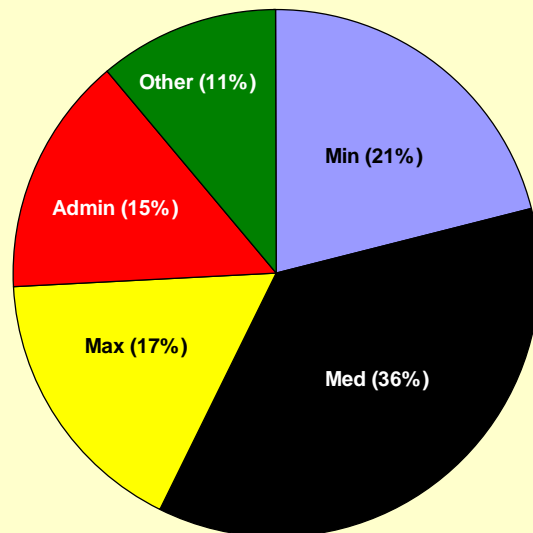


Figure 24 and Figure 25. Comparison of risk level breakdown of active juvenile probation clients in 2000 and 2008. Percentage of total indicated in parentheses.

Terminations

Overall, juvenile probation terminations decreased between 2000 and 2008 by 47%, averaging an annual decrease of 7.6% (Figure 18). Both successful and unsuccessful terminations declined (Figure 26). In 2000, there were 564 and in 2008 there were 351 successful terminations, an overall decline of 38%, or an average annual decrease of 5.8% per year. Unsuccessful terminations, which include revocations and absconsions, decreased at an average annual rate of 2.2%. In 2000, there were 121 and in 2008, 101 unsuccessful terminations. Administrative terminations made up a small portion of terminations. In 2000, there were 40 administrative terminations, a high for the time period, and in 2008 there were 3, equivalent to an average annual decrease of 28% (Figure 26). Change of venue terminations fluctuated markedly, rising from 122 in 2000 to a peak of 337 in 2003, but were down to 131 by 2008, for an overall change of 7.4%.

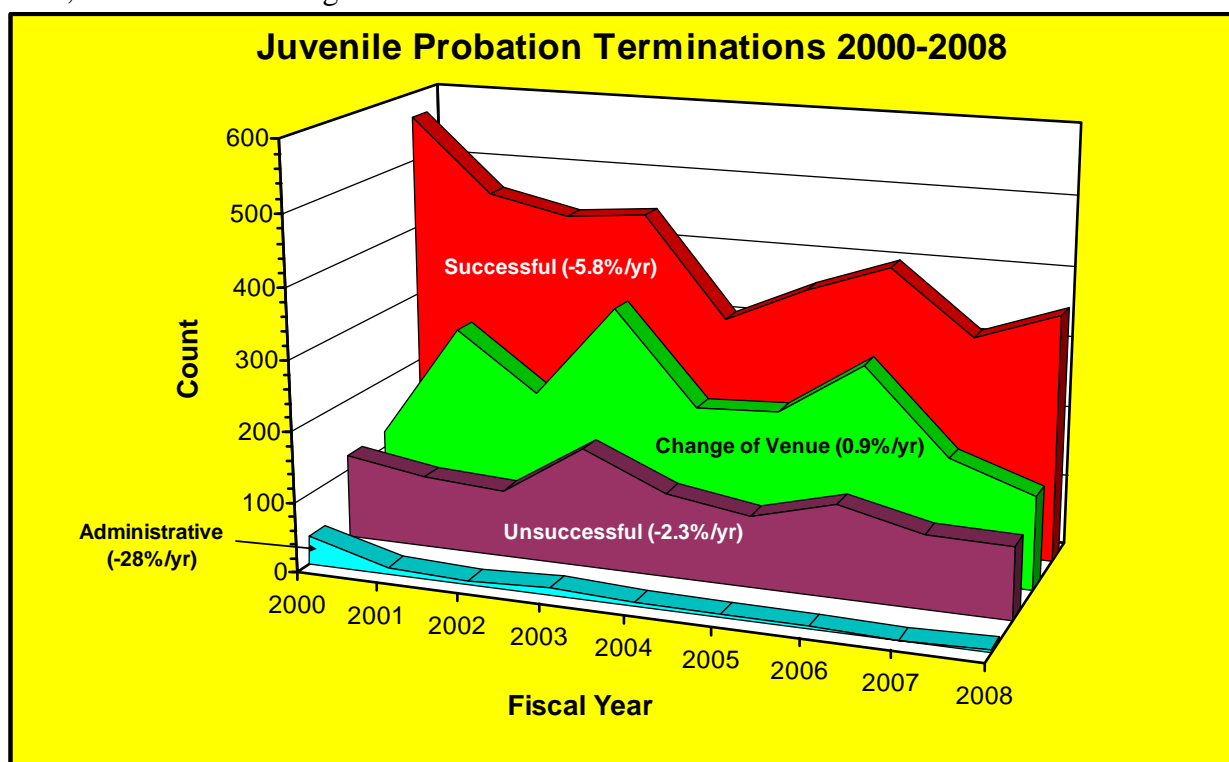


Figure 26. Juvenile probation terminations in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

The pie graphs in Figures 27 and 28 illustrate the changing profile of terminations. For example, the proportion of terminations that was successful relative to unsuccessful decreased between 2000 and 2008. In 2000, 67% of juvenile probation terminations were successful and 14% were unsuccessful discharges (Figure 27). By 2008, successful terminations had decreased to 60% and unsuccessful discharges had increased to 17% (Figure 28). During the same time period, change of venue terminations increased from 14% to 22%, and administrative terminations decreased from 5% to 1% of all discharges.

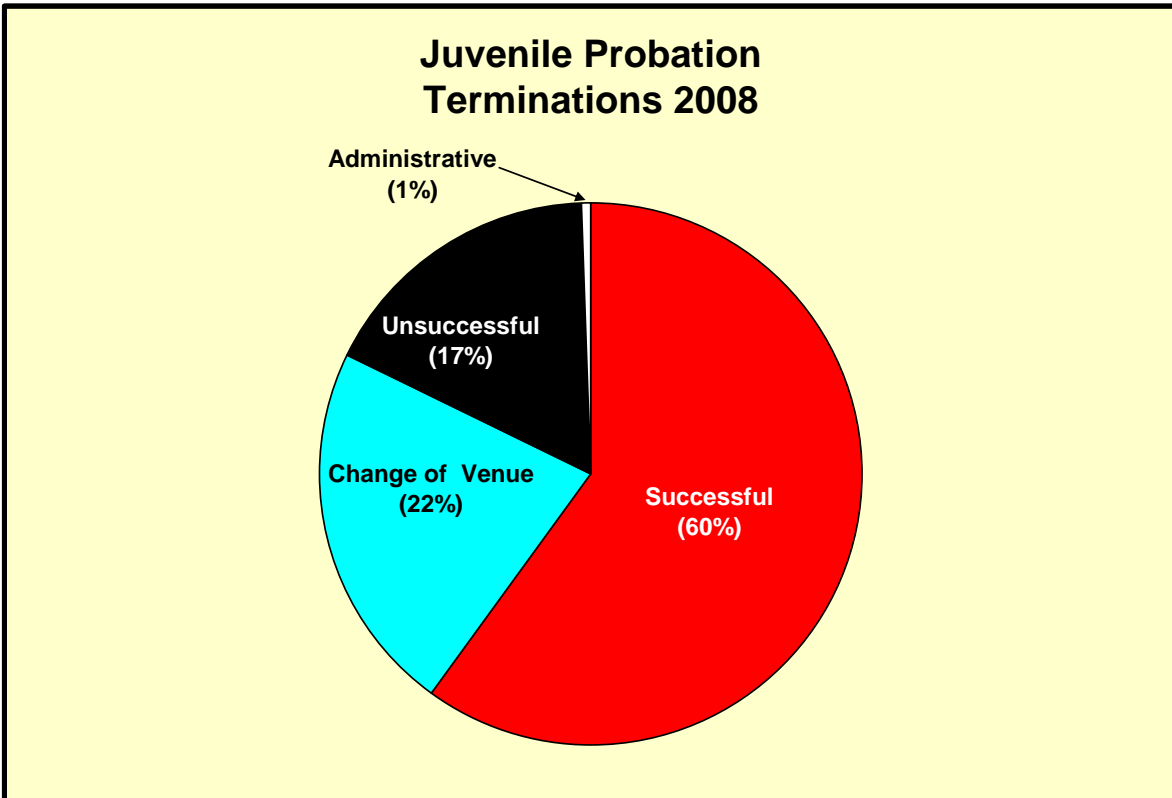
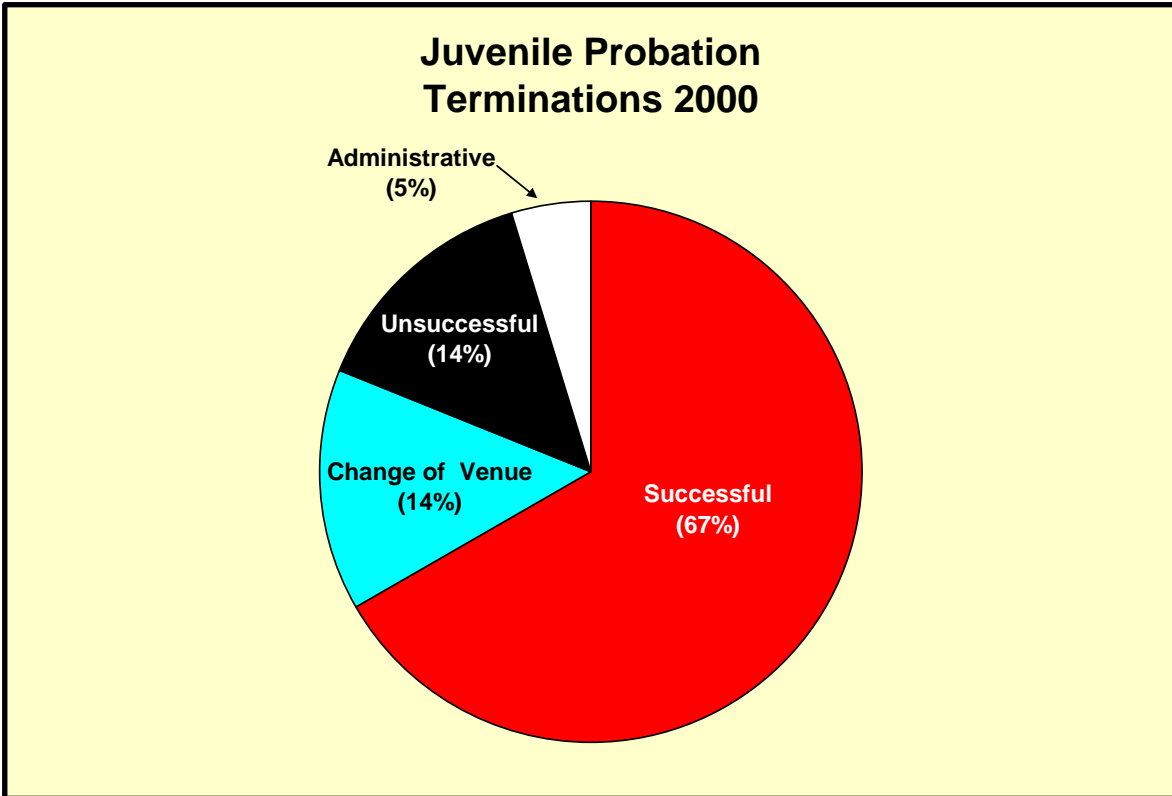


Figure 27 and Figure 28. Comparison of juvenile probation terminations in 2000 and 2008. Percentage of total indicated in parentheses.

Figure 29 indicates the breakdown of unsuccessful terminations. Revocations (due to commission of a new crime or a technical violation) and absconsions peaked in 2003 then declined through 2005. Absconsions peaked again in 2006, and revocations also rose, but less dramatically. Both types of terminations exhibited a net decrease between 2000 and 2008. A further breakdown of revocations is shown in Figure 30. The overall trend in revocations was driven by technical violations, which typically comprise 60-80% of all revocations. Technical violations decreased annually at an average rate of 4.4% between 2000 and 2008, but with substantial fluctuation in intervening years (Figure 30). Revocations due to the commission of a new crime are less common than technical violations. Revocations due to the commission of a felony decreased by 14% overall, or 1.9% per year, while revocations due to the commission of a misdemeanor increased by 183%, or 14% per year (Figure 30). In 2000, revocations for a new crime represented 21%, but by 2008 they were 35% of all revocations.

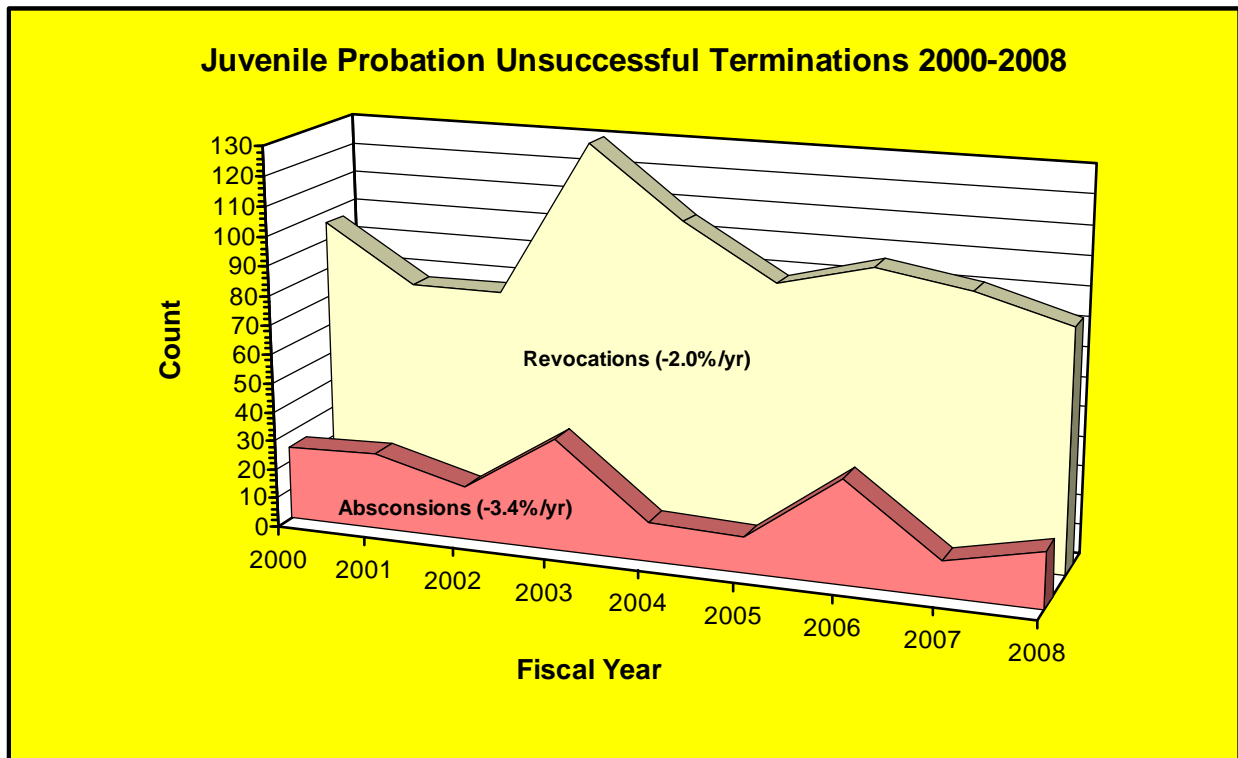


Figure 29. Unsuccessful terminations of juvenile probation in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

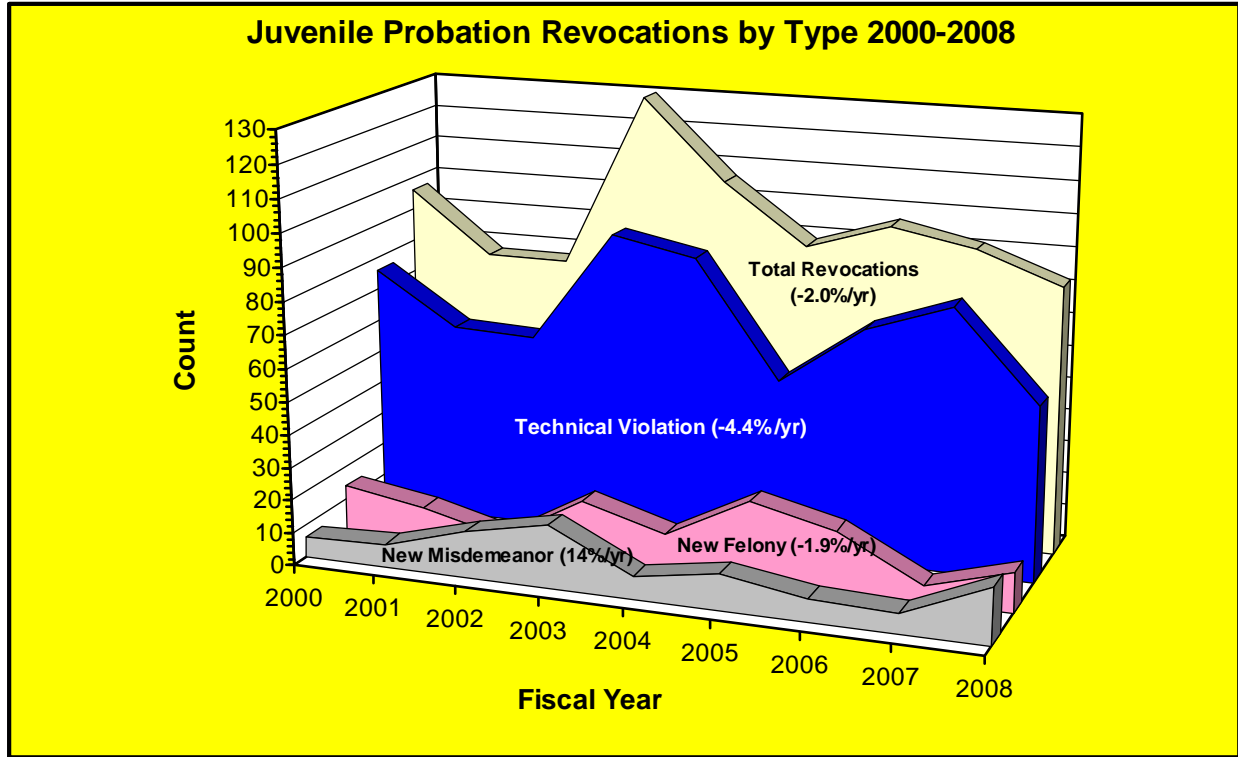


Figure 30. Revocations by type in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

The most common length of stay at termination is between 0 to 12 months (Figure 31). However, over the featured time period, longer lengths of stay made up an increasingly greater portion of terminations. Terminations after lengths of stay from 0 to 12 months declined by an average of 10% per year, whereas terminations after lengths of stay of 24 months and longer increased at an average rate of 0.2% per year. By 2008, terminations at 0 to 12 months comprised 50% of terminations, compared to 63% in 2000. Terminations in the intermediate length of stay category, 13 to 24 months, decreased at an average annual rate of 5.8%, or 38% overall.

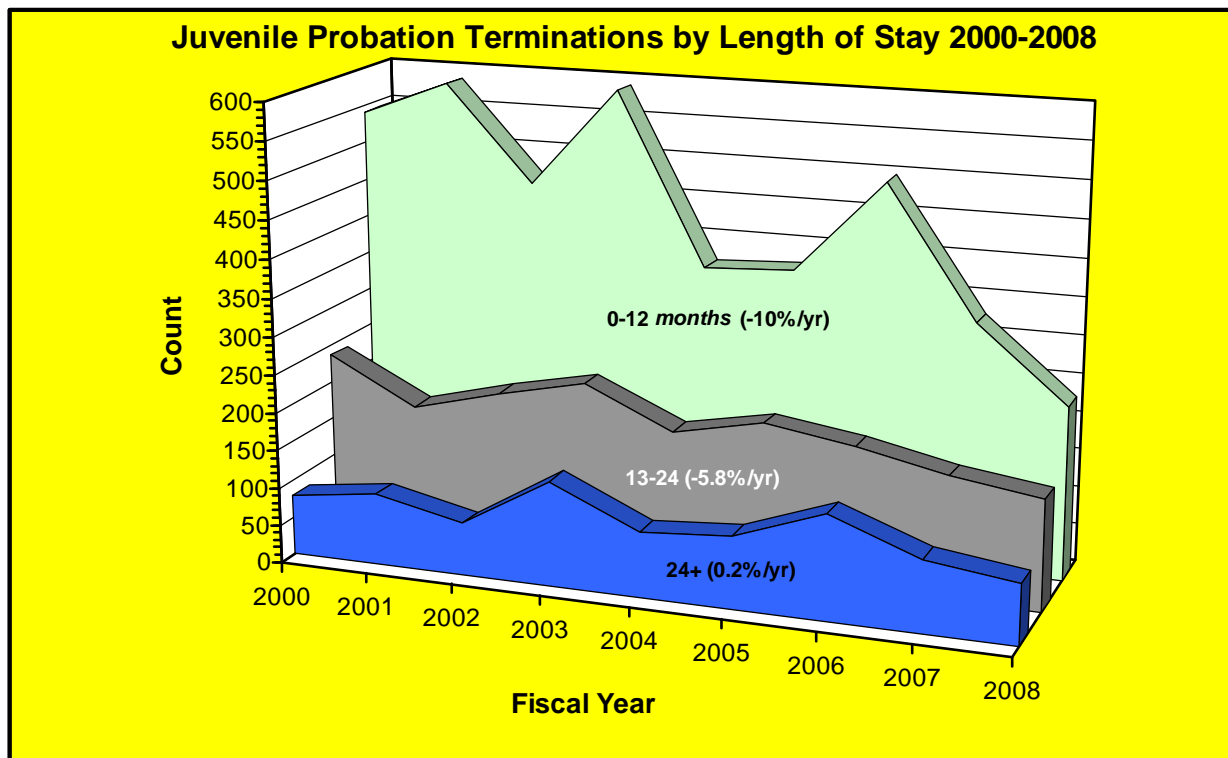


Figure 31. Juvenile probation terminations by length of stay in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation (JISP)

In 2000, there were 59 new cases placed on intensive supervision probation (JISP). In 2008, there were 49 new cases (Figure 32), indicating an average annual decrease of 2.3%. The intervening trend was marked by a minimum (31) in 2001 and a spike (72) in 2006, but was fairly steady most other years. Juvenile discharges from JISP also decreased overall (Figure 32), by 10%, with maxima in 2003 (83) and 2004 (84). In 2000 there were 59, and in 2008 there were 53 discharges.

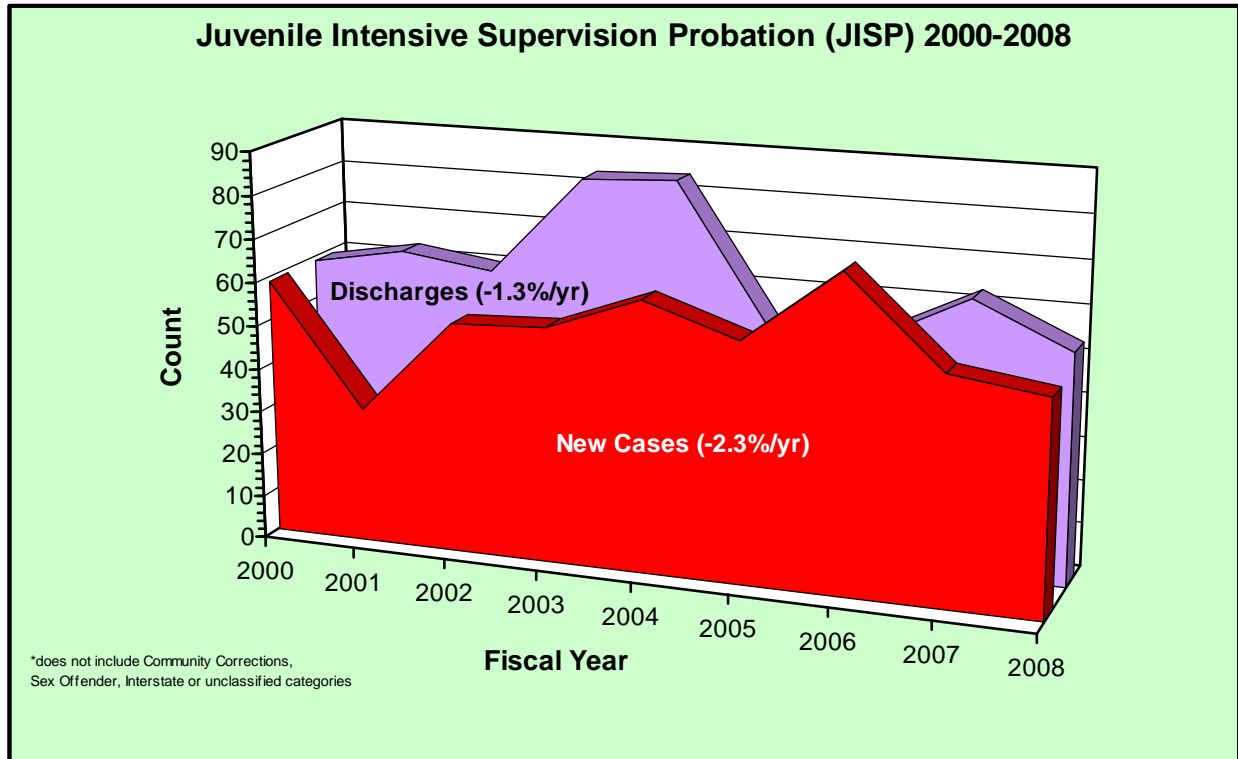


Figure 32. Revocations by length of stay in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Overall, between 2000 and 2008, discharges from JISP became more successful. Successful discharges increased on average by 1.8% per year, while unsuccessful discharges decreased on average by 2.8% per year. In 2000, there were 39 unsuccessful discharges and 19 successful discharges; in 2008, there were 31 unsuccessful and 22 successful discharges (Figure 33).

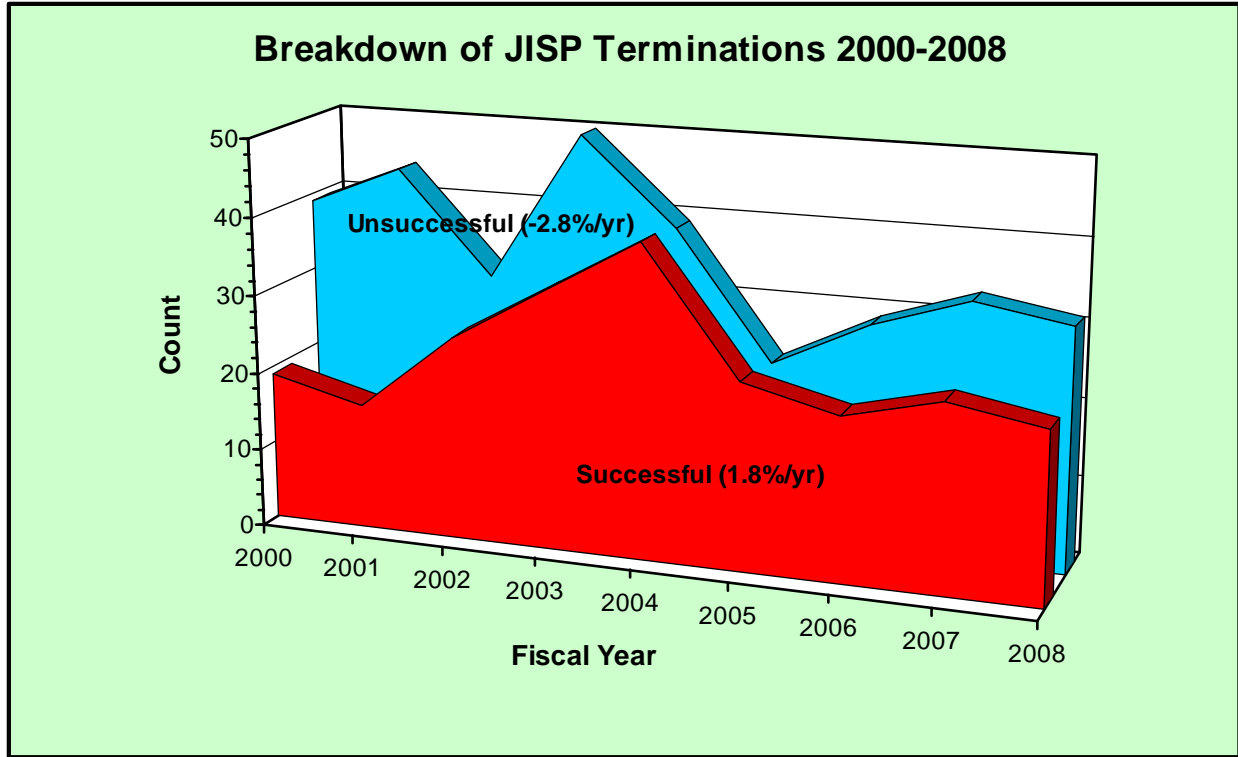


Figure 33. Breakdown of juvenile intensive supervision probation (JISP) discharges in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

A breakdown of the categories of successful discharges is shown in Figure 34. Successful discharges either completed JISP and were no longer on probation, or were transferred to regular probation. Those transferred to regular probation steadily increased between 2001 and 2005, then leveled off somewhat through 2008, averaging an 11% annual increase. Juveniles who completed JISP increased to a maximum (23) in 2004, then dipped and remained steady between 6 and 8 from 2005 to 2008. On average, the category declined by 5.9% per year between 2000 and 2008 (Figure 34).

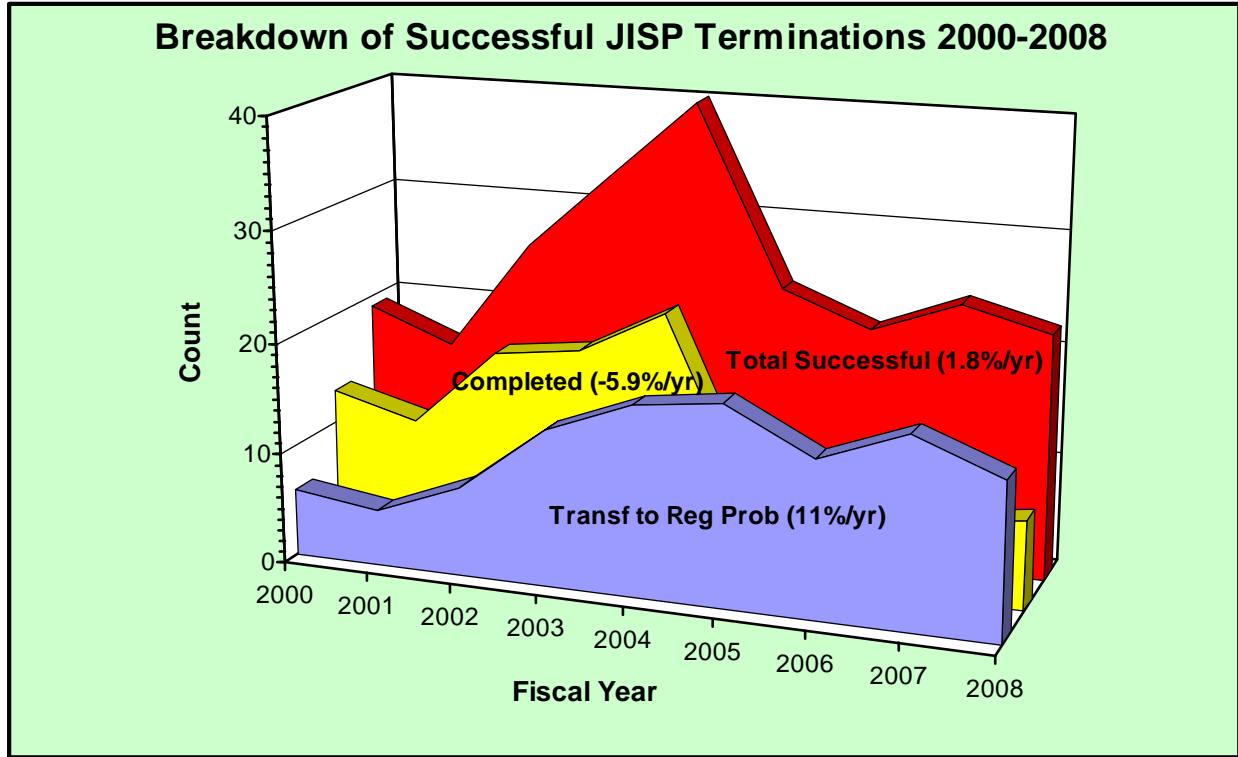


Figure 34. Breakdown of successful discharges from juvenile intensive supervision probation (JISP) in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

The most common reason for unsuccessful JISP discharges were technical violations, which increased overall by 12% between 2000 and 2008, but exhibited substantial variation in the intervening years (Figure 35). The category peaked at 21 in 2006 and 2007, but was as low as 7 in 2002. Similarly, none of the categories of unsuccessful discharges showed a regular pattern between 2000 and 2008. Commission of new crimes and absconsions were relatively rare, and did not show any consistent patterns of change (Figure 35). However, revocations for new misdemeanors increased markedly from 0 to 7 between 2006 and 2008.

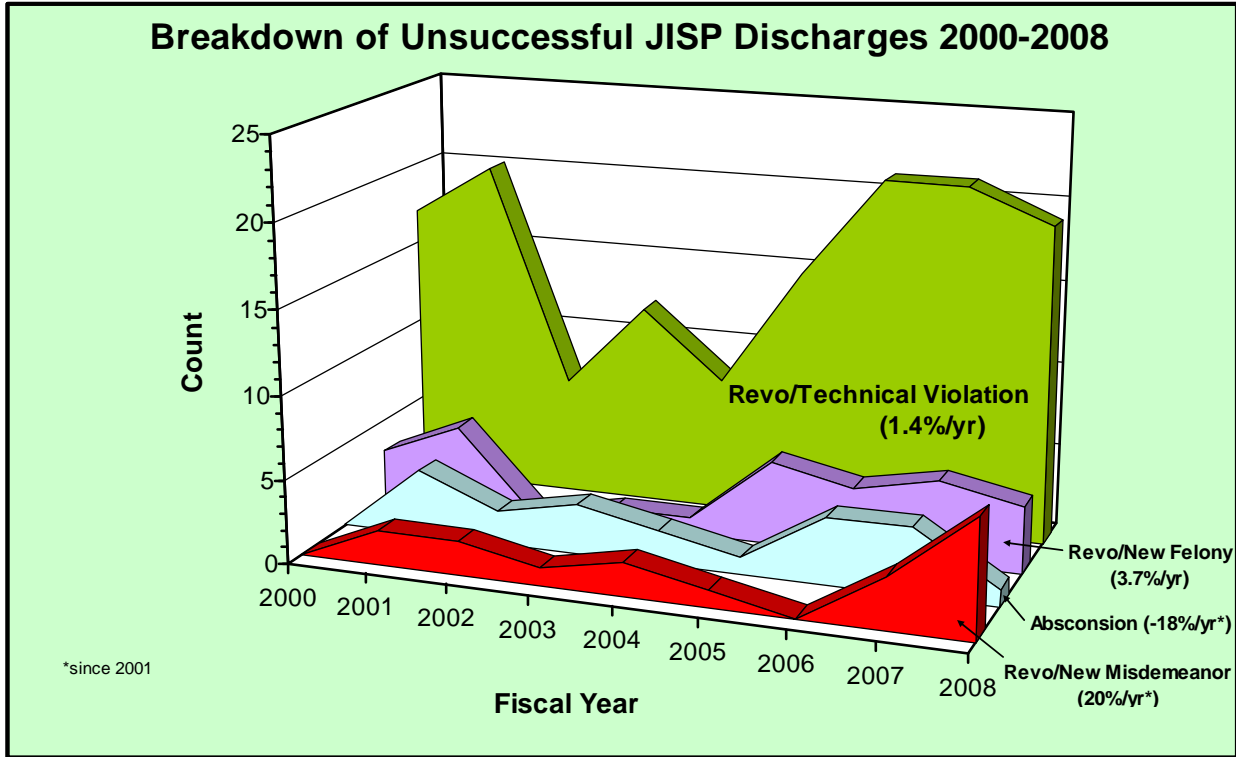


Figure 35. Unsuccessful discharges from juvenile intensive supervision probation (JISP) in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Division of Youth Corrections¹³

Juvenile Delinquency Petitions, Senate Bill 94 Screens, and Detention Admissions

Recent trends in juvenile delinquency petitions, Senate Bill 94 screens, and detention admissions are shown in Figure 36. Juvenile delinquency petitions are case filings typically initiated by the District Attorney and naming a minor as the subject of the petition, and his/her parent or guardian as the respondent in the petition. Between 2005 and 2008, juvenile delinquency petitions in the 1st Judicial District decreased overall by 15%, from 1650 to 1402, peaking in 2006 at 1674. Senate Bill 94 screens, which determine the appropriate level of detention for a juvenile, have also declined by 7% in the featured time period, from 1471 to 1373, and peaked in 2006, at 1518. Likewise, Department of Youth Corrections (DYC) Detention Admissions decreased from 1072 to 1058 between 2005 and 2008. Detention admissions are admissions into temporary custody at a DYC facility on detention orders issued by juvenile court, and include youths who are pretrial, sentenced, or in violation of probation. Like jail bookings, these are counted per admission, not per case or individual, so one individual may have multiple admissions (e.g., one for pretrial, another to serve a sentence, etc.).

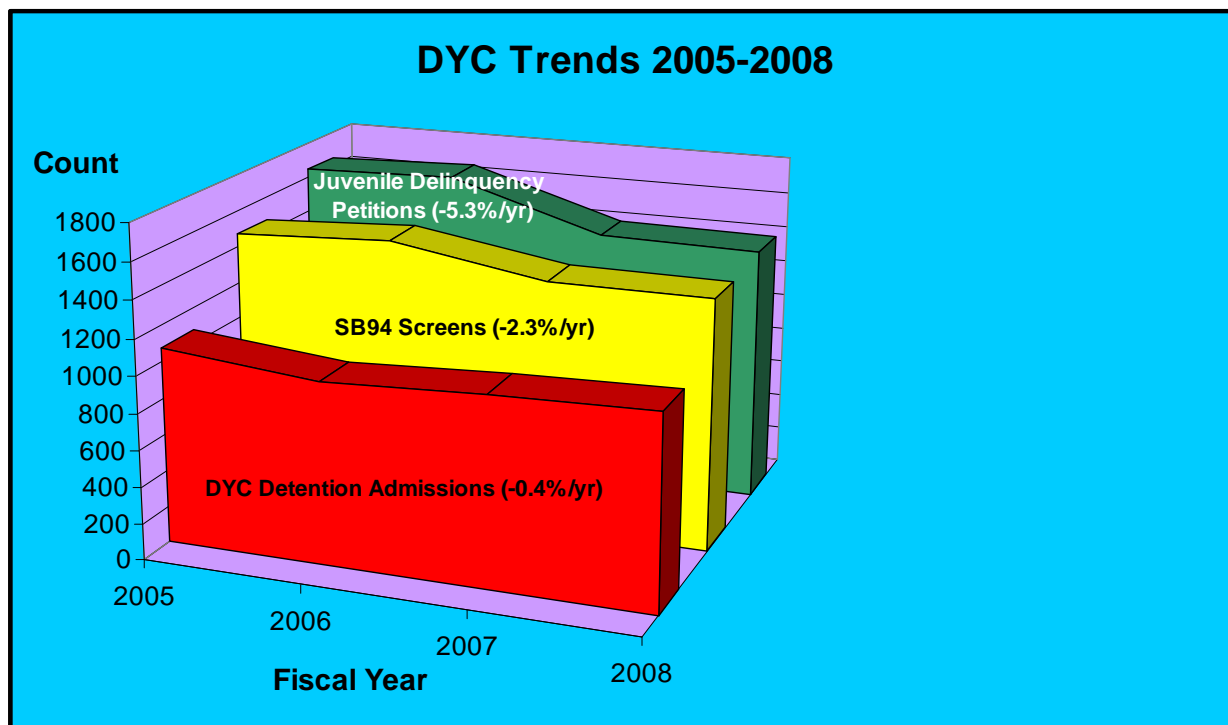


Figure 36. Trends in juvenile delinquency petitions, Senate Bill 94 screens, and detention admissions for the Department of Youth Corrections in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Commitments

DYC new commitments are dispositions of juvenile cases resulting in the transfer of legal custody to the Department of Human Services by the court as a result of an adjudicatory hearing. Commitments are typically for a longer period of time than detention, and usually for treatment

¹³ Division of Youth Corrections figures are reported for the 1st Judicial District, which includes Jefferson and Gilpin counties. Data are reported for fiscal years and available only since fiscal year 2005 (July 2004-June 2005).

placement either in a DYC residential facility or in the community. Between 2005 and 2006, DYC new commitments increased by 66%, from 62 to 103, but then declined over the next two years, so that by 2008, new commitments were down to 75, a 21% increase from 2005 (Figure 35). The average daily population (ADP) of new commitments increased only slightly between 2005 and 2008, from 124.5 to 128, and exhibiting a maximum of 142.3 in 2007.

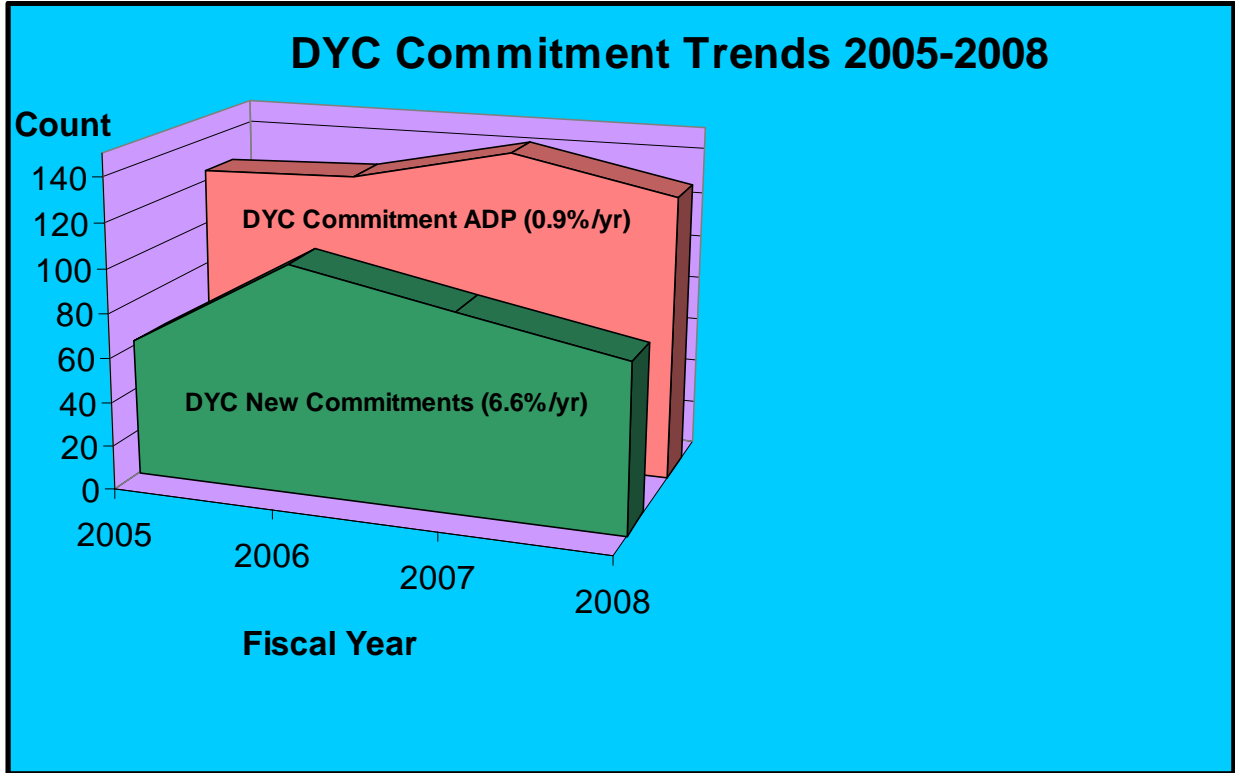


Figure 35. Trends in commitments for the Department of Youth Corrections in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Parole

All DYC commitments are conditionally released from residential settings to parole for at least six months. The trends in DYC parole population are shown in Figure 38. The average daily population was relatively steady between 2005 (49.2) and 2008 (49.7), with a minimum in 2006 (43.2). Parole discharges followed a similar pattern, being at a minimum (72) in 2006, and increasing only slightly from 2005 (95) to 2008 (97).

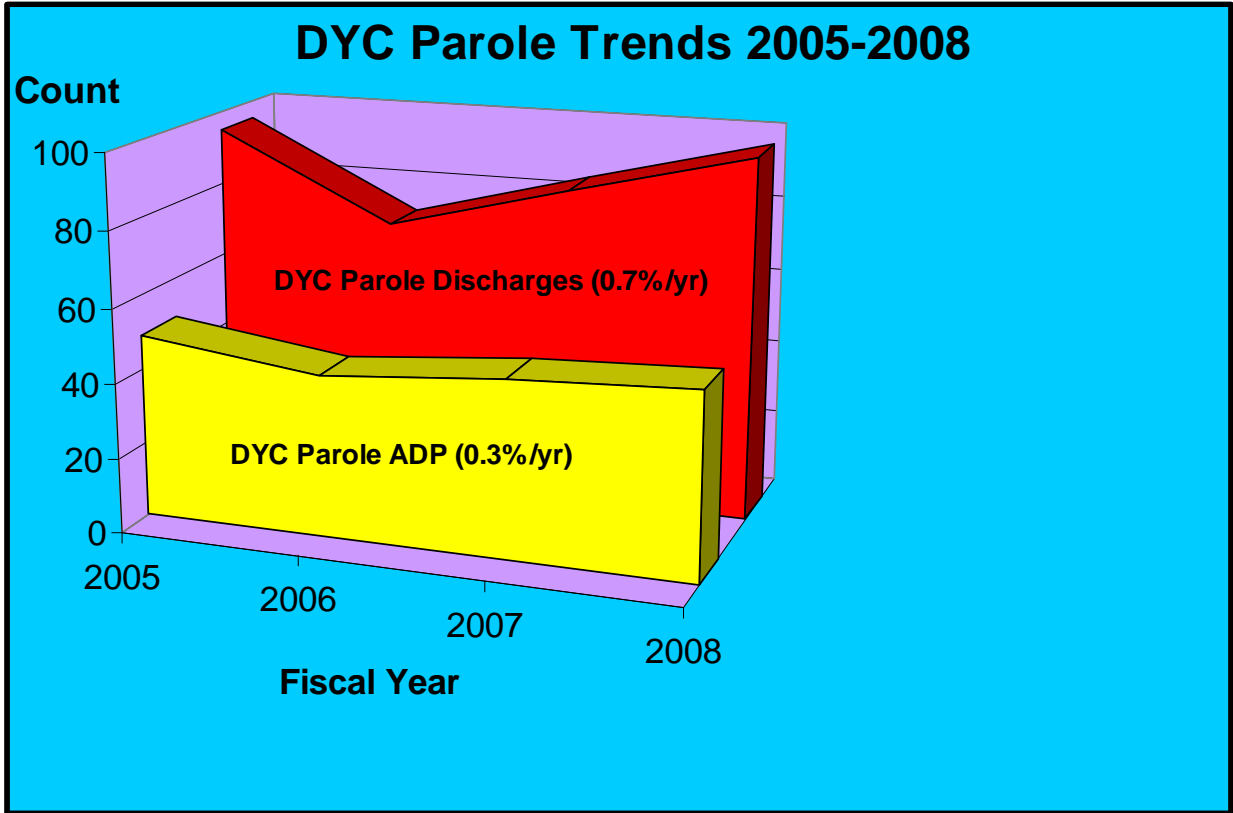


Figure 38. Trends in parole for the Department of Youth Corrections in the 1st Judicial District. Average annual changes are shown in parentheses.

Appendix

Offense Classification (from UCR Crime Reporting Handbook, 2004)

Part I Offenses

Violent (person)

Criminal homicide
Forcible rape
Robbery
Aggravated assault

Property

Burglary
Larceny-theft (except motor vehicle theft)
Motor vehicle theft
Arson

Part II Offenses

Other assaults (simple)
Forgery and counterfeiting
Fraud
Embezzlement
Stolen property; buying, receiving, possessing
Vandalism
Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.
Prostitution and commercialized vice
Sex offenses
Drug abuse violations
Gambling
Offenses against the family and children
Driving under the influence
Liquor laws
Drunkenness
Disorderly conduct
Vagrancy

All other offenses (all violations of state or local laws not specifically identified as Part I or Part II offenses, except traffic violations): *admitting minors to improper places; abduction and compelling to marry; bigamy and polygamy; blackmail and extortion; bribery; combination in restraint of trade, trusts, monopolies; contempt of court; criminal anarchism; criminal syndicalism; discrimination; unfair competition; kidnapping; marriage within prohibited degrees; offenses contributing to juvenile delinquency such as employment of children in immoral*

vocations or practices; perjury and subornation of perjury; possession, repair, manufacture, etc., of burglar's tools; possession of drug paraphernalia; possession or sale of obscene literature, pictures, etc.; public nuisances; riot and rout; trespass; unlawfully bringing weapons into prisons, hospitals, airports, businesses, schools, etc.; unlawfully bringing drugs or liquor into state prisons, hospitals, etc., furnishing to convicts; unlawful disinterment of the dead and violation of sepulture; unlawful use, possession, etc. of explosives; violations of state regulatory laws and municipal ordinances that are not already included on this list; violation of quarantine; all offenses not otherwise classified; attempts to commit any of the above

Suspicion

Curfew and loitering laws (persons under age 18)

Runaways (persons under age 18)