

Referrals

Juvenile referrals to a probation department may come from several sources, with the largest percentage coming from law enforcement. However, referrals may also be made by schools, parents, public or private agencies and individuals, or by transfers from another county or state.

This section examines referrals by gender, age, offense, and disposition.

The age groupings used throughout this report represent the most active age groups for the area being discussed.

The data used were compiled from referrals reported, via the JCPSS, to the DOJ by county probation departments in the 47 JCPSS certified counties.

The offenses presented in this report were "selected" based on the seriousness of the arrest offense and comparability to the national Uniform Crime Reporting System. The use of these offenses is intended to provide a valid and comparable measure of crimes and the juvenile justice process. The felony offenses are homicide (includes non-vehicular manslaughter), forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and drug violations (includes narcotics, marijuana, dangerous drugs, and other drug violations). The misdemeanor offenses are assault and battery, petty theft, vandalism, disturbing the peace, alcohol-related offenses (includes drunk and liquor laws), and drug violations (includes marijuana and other drugs). The status offenses are curfew violations, truancy, running away, and incorrigibility.

Juvenile referrals to a probation department consist of two types: new and subsequent. The term "new referral" refers to a juvenile who is not currently being supervised by the probation department. A new referral is typically a first-time offender. The term "subsequent referral" refers to a juvenile who is currently being supervised by the probation department. A subsequent referral is generally the result of a new arrest or a violation of probation.

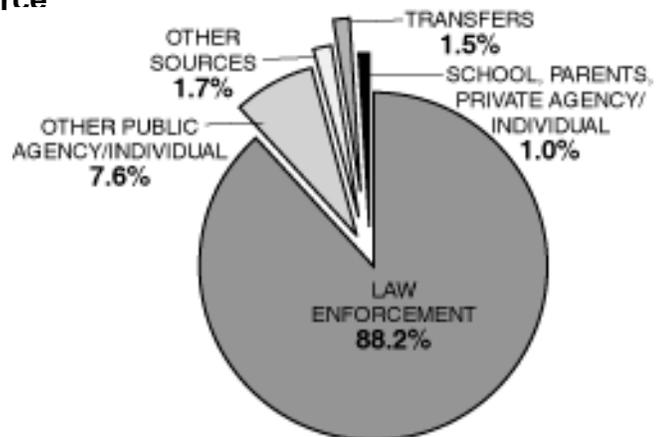
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Referrals to Probation

Of the 129,069 referrals to probation reported in 2002:

- 88.2 percent (113,852) were from law enforcement.
- 7.6 percent (9,843) were from public agencies or individuals.
- 1.7 percent (2,195) were from other sources.
- 1.5 percent (1,935) were transfers from another county or state.
- 1.0 percent (1,244) were from schools, parents, and private agencies and individuals.

**Referrals, 2002
By Source**

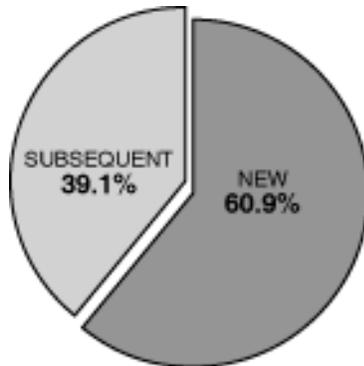


Source: Table 2.

Note: The arrest data are reported by law enforcement agencies, whereas law enforcement referral data are reported by probation departments. Comparisons between arrest data and referral data should not be made because of differences in the units of count between the two sources. See Appendix III, page 71, for more detail.

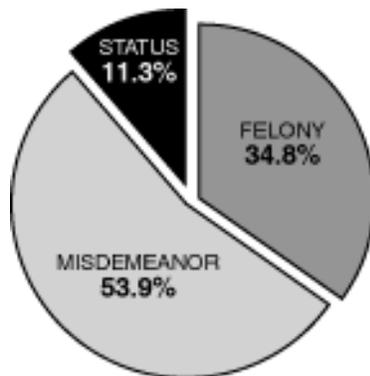
Type of Referral

Referrals, 2002 By Type



Source: Table 2.

Referrals, 2002 By Level of Offense



Source: Tables 3 and 7.

Of the 129,069 referrals reported in 2002:

- 60.9 percent (93,649) were new referrals.
- 39.1 percent (35,420) were subsequent referrals.

Referrals by Level of Offense

Of the 129,069 referrals reported in 2002:

- 34.8 percent (44,928) were for felonies.
- 53.9 percent (69,524) were for misdemeanors.
- 11.3 percent (14,617) were for status offenses.

Referrals by Gender

Of the 129,069 referrals reported in 2002:

- 76.8 percent (98,989) were male.
- 23.2 percent (30,080) were female.

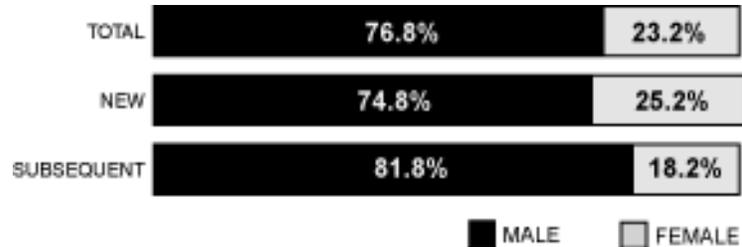
Of the 93,649 new referrals reported in 2002:

- 74.8 percent (70,033) were male.
- 25.2 percent (23,616) were female.

Of the 35,420 subsequent referrals reported in 2002:

- 81.8 percent (28,956) were male.
- 18.2 percent (6,464) were female.

Type of Referrals, 2002 By Gender

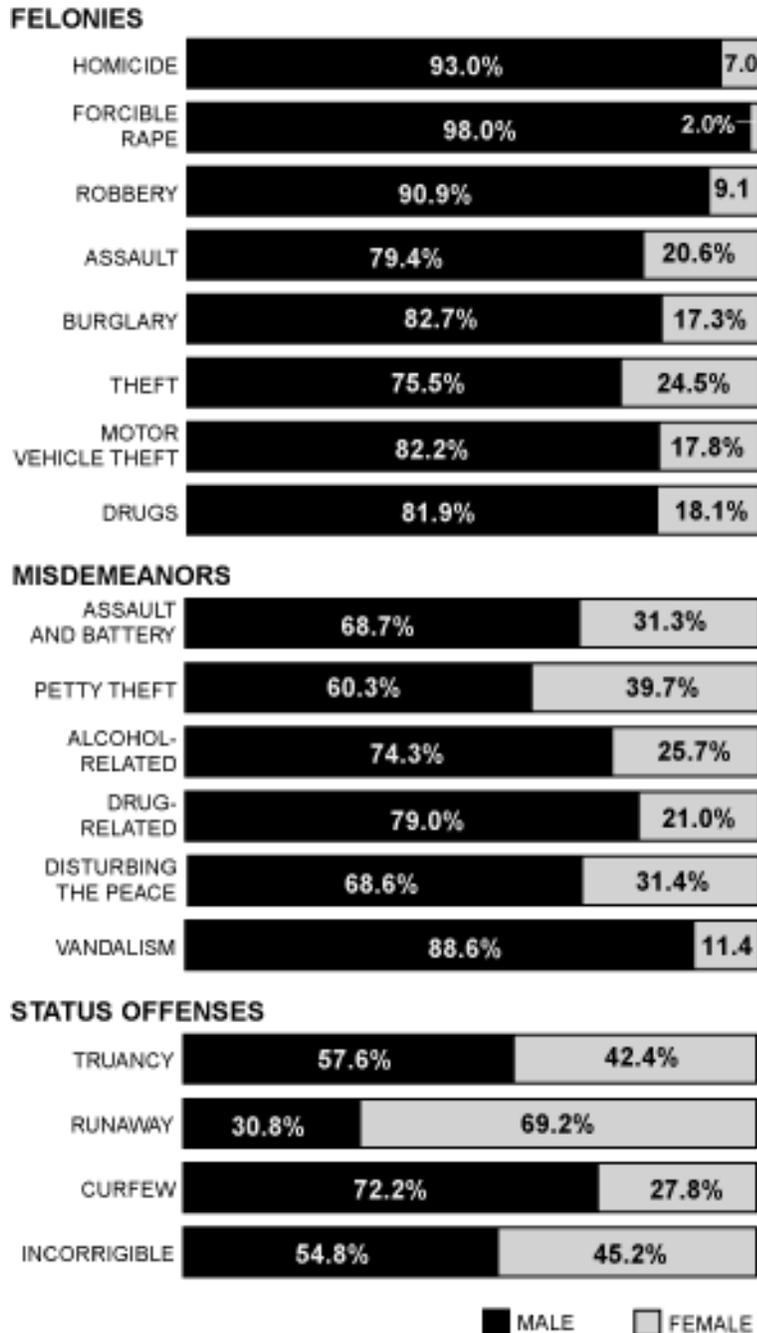


Source: Tables 2, 6, and 10a.

In 2002, one-fourth of the new referrals were female offenders (25.2 percent).

Selected Referrals by Gender

Selected Referrals, 2002 By Gender



Of the 8 selected felonies:

- Males accounted for 90.9 percent of the robbery referrals.
- Females accounted for 24.5 percent of the theft referrals.

Of the 6 selected misdemeanors:

- Males accounted for 88.6 percent of the vandalism referrals.
- Females accounted for 39.7 percent of the petty theft referrals.

Of the 4 selected status offenses:

- Males accounted for 57.6 percent of the truancy referrals.
- Females accounted for 69.2 percent of the runaway referrals.

Source: Table 10.

Referrals by Age Group

Of the 129,069 referrals reported in 2002:

- 22.6 percent (29,203) were juveniles aged 12-14.
- 66.6 percent (85,993) were juveniles aged 15-17.
- 10.7 percent (13,873) were all other age groups.

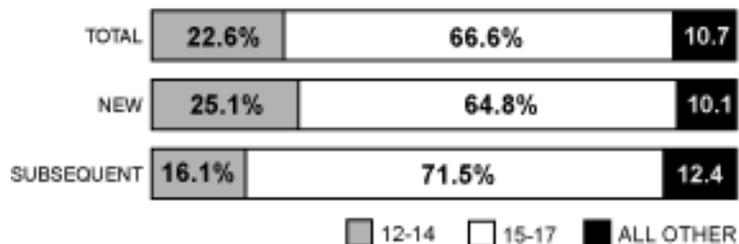
Of the 93,649 new referrals reported in 2002:

- 25.1 percent (23,502) were juveniles aged 12-14.
- 64.8 percent (60,672) were juveniles aged 15-17.
- 10.1 percent (9,475) were all other age groups.

Of the 35,420 subsequent referrals reported in 2002:

- 16.1 percent (5,701) were juveniles aged 12-14.
- 71.5 percent (25,321) were juveniles aged 15-17.
- 12.4 percent (4,398) were all other age groups.

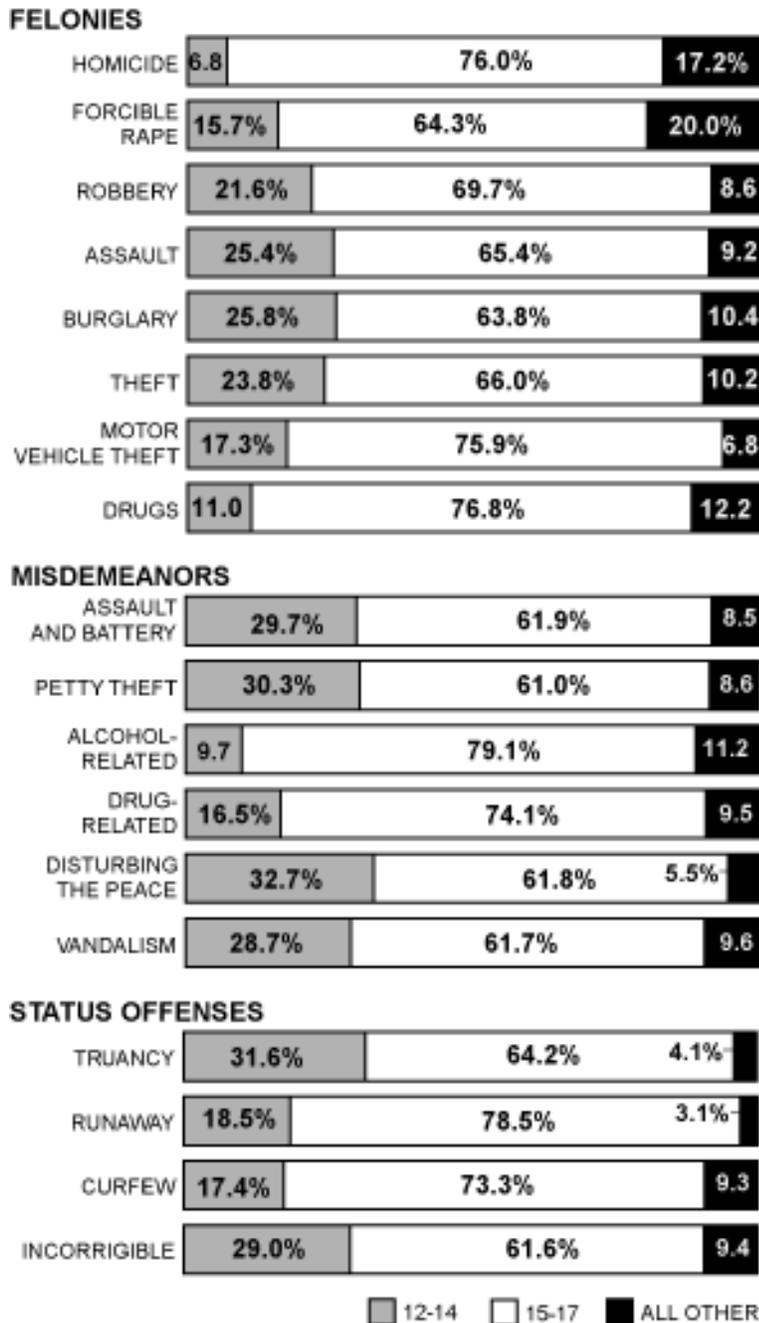
Referrals, 2002 By Age Group



Note: Percentages may not add 100.0 because of rounding.
Source: Table 2.

Selected Referrals by Age Group

Selected Referrals, 2002 By Age Group



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
Source: Table 3.

Of the 8 selected felonies:

- Juveniles aged 12-14 accounted for slightly more than one-fourth of the assault and burglary referrals (25.4 and 25.8 percent, respectively).
- Juveniles aged 15-17 accounted for 76.8 percent of the drug referrals.

Of the 6 selected misdemeanors:

- Juveniles aged 12-14 accounted for 32.7 percent of the disturbing the peace referrals.
- Juveniles aged 15-17 accounted for 79.1 percent of the alcohol-related referrals.

Of the 4 selected status offenses:

- Juveniles aged 12-14 accounted for 31.6 percent of the truancy referrals.
- Juveniles aged 15-17 accounted for 78.5 percent of the runaway referrals.

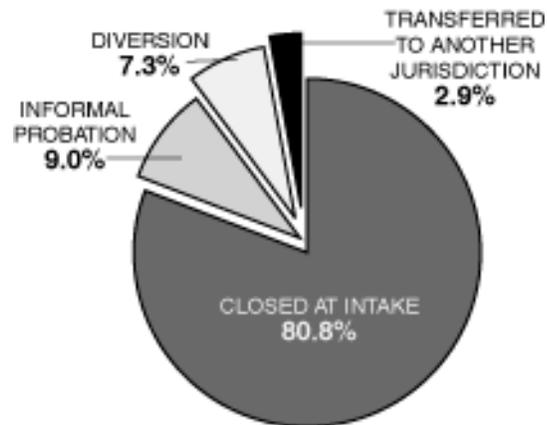
More than one-fourth of the assault and burglary referrals to probation were for offenders aged 12-14 (25.4 and 25.8 percent, respectively).

Referral Dispositions

Of the 63,918 referrals handled by probation departments in 2002:

- 80.8 percent (51,666) were closed at intake.
- 9.0 percent (5,768) received informal probation.
- 7.3 percent (4,651) were placed in a diversion program.
- 2.9 percent (1,833) were transferred to other jurisdictions.

**Referral Dispositions, 2002
By Type**



Source: Table 2.

Over 80 percent of referrals handled by probation departments were “closed at intake.”

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