

Data Analysis

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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, disposition, and direct filings in adult court.

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 50 JCPSS reporting counties.

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.

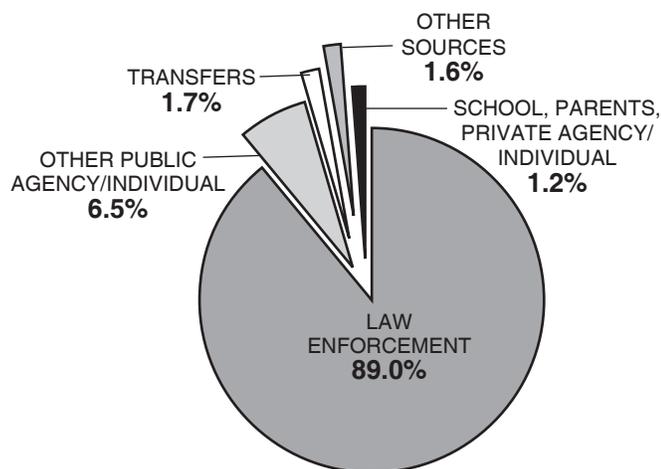
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Referrals to Probation

Of the 154,954 referrals to probation reported in 2003:

- 89.0 percent (137,939) were from law enforcement.
- 6.5 percent (10,041) were from public agencies or individuals.
- 1.7 percent (2,603) were transfers from another county or state.
- 1.6 percent (2,499) were from other sources.
- 1.2 percent (1,872) were from schools, parents, and private agencies and individuals.

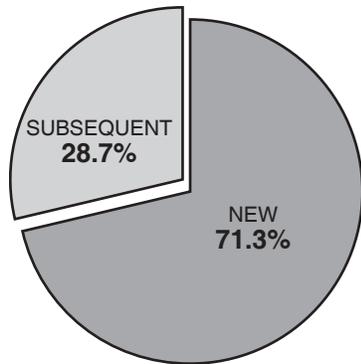
Referrals, 2003 By Source



Source: Table 2.

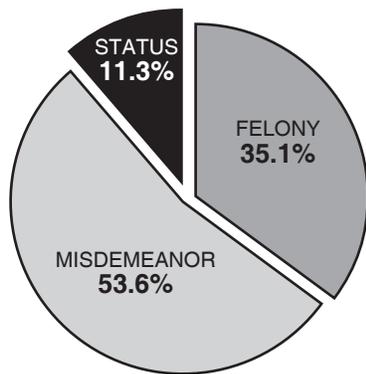
Note: The arrest data are reported by law enforcement agencies, whereas law enforcement referral data are reported by probation departments. Comparisons between arrest data and referral data should not be made because of differences in the units of count between the two sources. See Appendix 3, page 102, for more detail.

**Referrals, 2003
By Type**



Source: Table 2.

**Referrals, 2003
By Level of Offense**



Source: Tables 3 and 7.

Type of Referral

Of the 154,954 referrals reported in 2003:

- 71.3 percent (110,547) were new referrals.
- 28.7 percent (44,407) were subsequent referrals.

Level of Offense

Of the 177,710 referral offenses reported in 2003:

- 35.1 percent (62,373) were for felonies.
- 53.6 percent (95,184) were for misdemeanors.
- 11.3 percent (20,153) were for status offenses.

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Referrals by Gender

Of the 154,954 referrals reported in 2003:

- 78.0 percent (120,842) were male.
- 22.0 percent (34,112) were female.

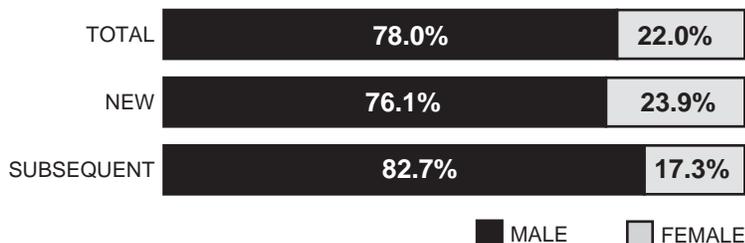
Of the 110,547 new referrals reported in 2003:

- 76.1 percent (84,128) were male.
- 23.9 percent (26,419) were female.

Of the 44,407 subsequent referrals reported in 2003:

- 82.7 percent (36,714) were male.
- 17.3 percent (7,693) were female.

Type of Referrals, 2003 By Gender



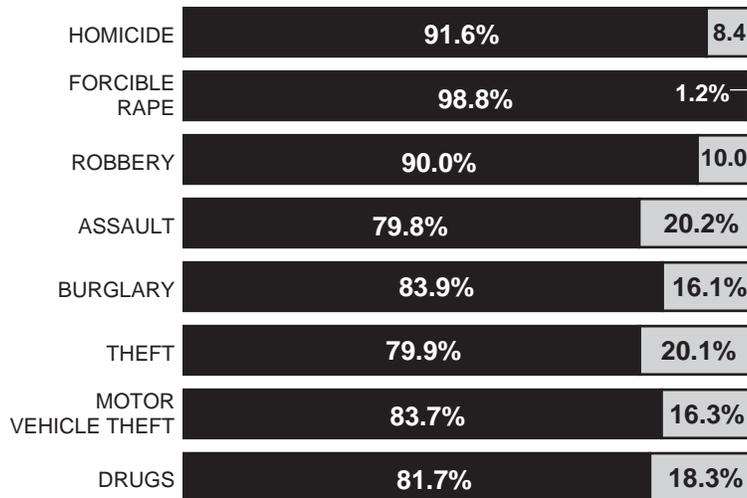
Source: Tables 2, 6, and 10.

In 2003, less than one-fourth of the total referrals were for female offenders (22.0 percent).

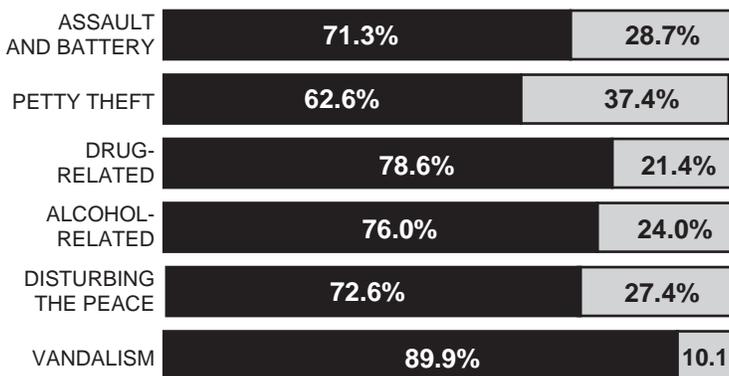
Selected Referrals by Gender

Selected Referrals, 2003 By Gender

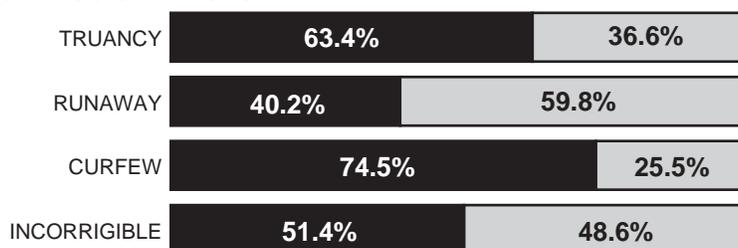
FELONIES



MISDEMEANORS



STATUS OFFENSES



■ MALE □ FEMALE

Of the 8 selected felonies:

- Males accounted for 91.6 percent of the homicide referrals.
- Females accounted for 20.2 percent of the assault referrals.

Of the 6 selected misdemeanors:

- Males accounted for 89.9 percent of the vandalism referrals.
- Females accounted for 37.4 percent of the petty theft referrals.

Of the 4 selected status offenses:

- Males accounted for 74.5 percent of the curfew referrals.
- Females accounted for 59.8 percent of the runaway referrals.

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Source: Table 11.

Referrals by Age Group

Of the 154,954 referrals reported in 2003:

- 22.3 percent (34,518) were juveniles aged 12-14.
- 66.5 percent (103,070) were juveniles aged 15-17.
- 11.2 percent (17,366) were all other age groups.

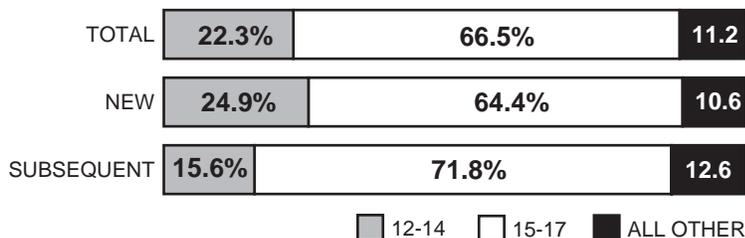
Of the 110,547 new referrals reported in 2003:

- 24.9 percent (27,569) were juveniles aged 12-14.
- 64.4 percent (71,207) were juveniles aged 15-17.
- 10.6 percent (11,771) were all other age groups.

Of the 44,407 subsequent referrals reported in 2003:

- 15.6 percent (6,949) were juveniles aged 12-14.
- 71.8 percent (31,863) were juveniles aged 15-17.
- 12.6 percent (5,595) were all other age groups.

Referrals, 2003 By Age Group

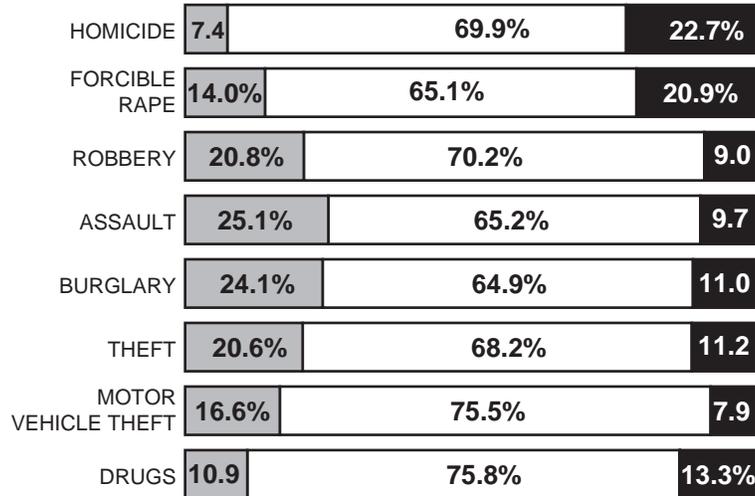


Source: Table 2.
Note: Percentages may not add 100.0 because of rounding.

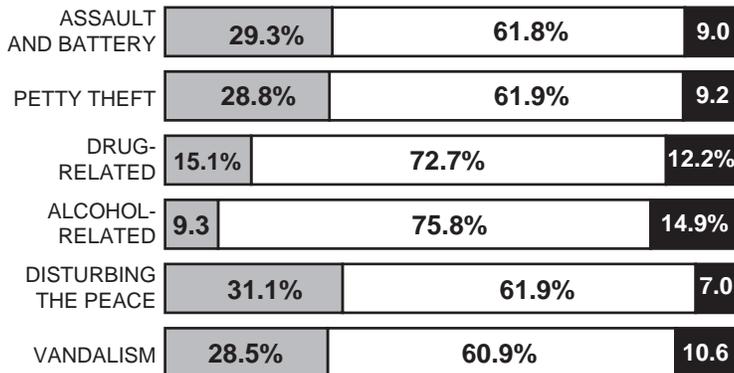
Selected Referrals by Age Group

Selected Referrals, 2003 By Age Group

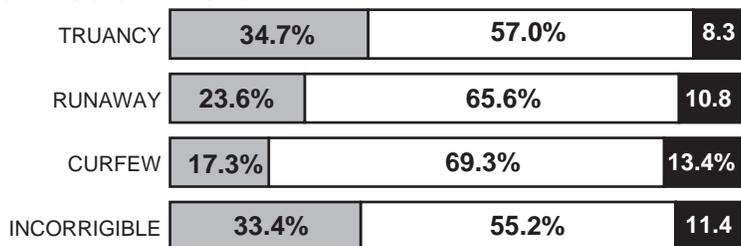
FELONIES



MISDEMEANORS



STATUS OFFENSES



■ 12-14 □ 15-17 ■ ALL OTHER

Of the 8 selected felonies:

- Juveniles aged 12-14 accounted for slightly more than one-fourth of the assault referrals (25.1 percent).
- Juveniles aged 15-17 accounted for slightly more than three-fourths of the drug referrals (75.8 percent).

Of the 6 selected misdemeanors:

- Juveniles aged 12-14 accounted for less than one-third of the disturbing the peace referrals (31.1 percent).
- Juveniles aged 15-17 accounted for slightly more than three-fourths of the alcohol-related referrals (75.8 percent).

Of the 4 selected status offenses:

- Juveniles aged 12-14 accounted for more than one-third of the truancy referrals (34.7 percent).
- Juveniles aged 15-17 accounted for more than two-thirds of the curfew referrals (69.3 percent).

More than one-third of the truancy and incorrigible referrals to probation were for offenders aged 12-14 (34.7 and 33.4 percent, respectively).

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Source: Table 3.

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

Referral Dispositions

From 2002 to 2003, the number of juveniles whose cases were:

- Closed at intake decreased 6.3 percentage points (40.0 to 33.7 percent).
- Informal probation decreased 1.0 percentage point (4.5 to 3.5 percent).
- Diversion increased 0.5 percentage points (3.6 to 4.1 percent).
- Transferred increased 0.3 percentage points (1.4 to 1.7 percent).
- Petitions filed in juvenile court increased 6.2 percentage points (50.5 to 56.7 percent).

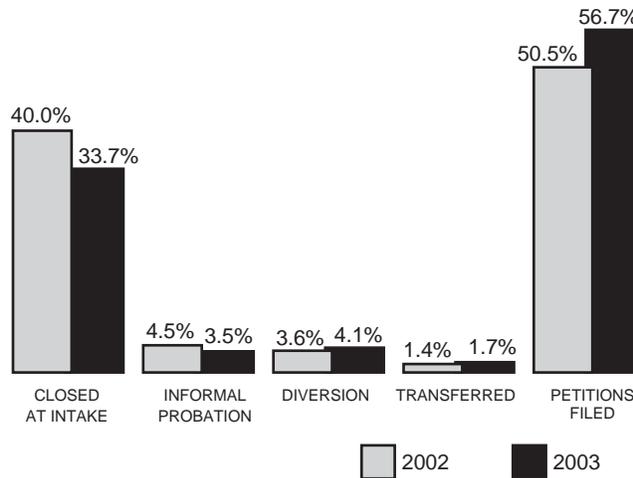
Note: Because of the differences in the number of reporting probation departments from 2002 to 2003 and the differences in the number of allowable reportable offenses, caution should be used when comparing data reported for 2002 to data reported for 2003.

Of the 154,954 referrals handled by probation departments in 2003:

- 56.7 percent (87,927) had a petition filed in juvenile court.
- 33.7 percent (52,236) were closed at intake.
- 3.5 percent (5,490) received informal probation.
- 4.1 percent (6,293) were placed in a diversion program.
- 1.7 percent (2,598) were transferred to other jurisdictions.
- 0.3 percent (410) were direct filed in adult court.

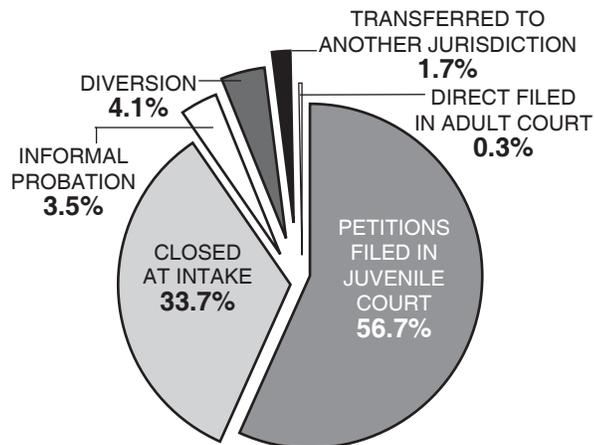
In 2003, more than half (56.7 percent) of the referrals to probation resulted in a juvenile court action.

Referrals, 2002 and 2003 By Disposition



Source: Table 16.

Referral Dispositions, 2003 By Type



Source: Table 16.

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