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U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



OJJDP

**Guide to
the Data Sets
in the National
Juvenile Court
Data Archive**

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Guide to the Data Sets in the National Juvenile Court Data Archive

November 1991

National Center for Juvenile Justice
701 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program Offices and Bureaus: the Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

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Introduction

The National Juvenile Court Data Archive (the Archive) houses the automated records of cases handled by courts with juvenile jurisdiction. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, within the U.S. Department of Justice, established the Archive to promote the research and policymaking potential of the automated juvenile court data sets and to facilitate researcher access to these data files. This guide was developed to inform researchers of the available data sets and the procedures for accessing them.

History of the Archive

In 1926 the Federal Government began collecting information on the cases processed by juvenile courts. Initially about 100 courts completed a statistical form on each case they handled and sent these forms to the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor. These data were the basis of the early *Juvenile Court Statistics* reports. By the mid-1930's the case-level data collection effort could no longer be maintained. Instead, courts were asked to complete an annual reporting form which contained simple counts of the number of delinquency, status offense, dependency, traffic, and special proceeding cases the court had disposed that year. As a result, the *Juvenile Court Statistics* report no longer contained the detailed demographic, offense, and court processing information found in the earlier reports. This aggregate reporting continued relatively unchanged into the 1970's when the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

(OJJDP) assumed responsibility for the work.

In 1975 the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, was awarded a grant by OJJDP to continue the national data collection effort, to produce the annual *Juvenile Court Statistics* report, and to explore the possibilities for enhancing data collection procedures. By the mid-1970's some States were requiring their juvenile courts to complete a reporting form on each case processed. These data were collected at the State level, automated and analyzed to support management, policy, and research information needs. NCJJ began to collect these automated case-level data files along with the aggregate data. In many ways the available case-level data were similar to data collected in the early years of the work. A primary difference, however, was that the data were not uniform; each State had its own reporting requirements and coding instructions. NCJJ developed techniques and procedures to extract a set of commonly defined data elements from these disparate data bases. Consequently, the national reports of juvenile court activity once again contained the detailed case-level information that had been unavailable since the early 1930's. As a byproduct of the national reporting effort, NCJJ developed an extensive set of data files detailing the workloads of juvenile courts across the Nation.

The National Juvenile Court Data Archive currently contains over 10 million automated case records. Although some States' data contain

traffic and dependency cases, the majority are delinquency and status offense records. While the information on each case varies across the individual data sets, nearly all records contain demographic information on the youth (e.g., age at referral, sex, race, county of residence), the offense(s) charged, the date of referral, the processing characteristics of the case (e.g., detention and manner of handling), and the case disposition.

In summary, since the 1920's the primary function of the juvenile court reporting project has been to provide empirical information on the activities of the Nation's juvenile courts to support policy and program development. From 1975 to the present this has been accomplished through the collection, documentation, and analysis of millions of automated case records as well as aggregate case counts. These data are a major national resource. Experience has shown that they can support a wide range of basic, applied, and legal research. The National Juvenile Court Data Archive makes these data files available to researchers and policymakers. In addition, if requested, Archive staff provide customized analyses of the data files. In all, the goal of the Archive is to improve the juvenile justice system through the collection, documentation, and dissemination of the detailed information collected on youth who are processed by the Nation's juvenile courts.

Data Access Procedures

With a few exceptions the data housed in the National Juvenile Court

Data Archive are the property of the court or State agency that originally collected the information. This means that any use of the data, including use by Archive staff, must have prior approval from the original data supplier. Obtaining such permission is rarely a problem, but it is a critical part of the dissemination process. With this understood, the general process for obtaining access to the Archive's data is as follows:

1. **Selection of data sets**—Some individuals will know which data sets they would like to have before they contact the Archive. Others will approach the Archive with an understanding of the general characteristics of the data they will need to support their research design, but will not know which of the archived data sets meet these needs. These individuals should discuss their needs with Archive staff. The staff have analyzed each of the data sets themselves and can judge the data's ability to support specific research needs. User's guides have been developed by Archive staff for the data sets and should be reviewed before a final selection is made.
2. **Formal request for data**—Once the data sets have been selected, a letter should be written to the Archive identifying the data set(s) of interest and outlining the reasons for the request (i.e., the specific research proposal). Costs for data services will be negotiated at this time. If the data set requires approval before release, the Archive will request permission to release the

data from the data supplier. Often permission is granted with some preconditions. Normally these preconditions restrict the further distribution of the data files to other users, require the researcher to provide the data supplier with drafts of all reports using the data, and require that all reports recognize the data supplier's role in the work.

3. **Delivery of the data files**—Once permission to release the data has been received and a contractual agreement has been reached on the preconditions, the data files are copied onto 9-track magnetic tape or IBM-compatible diskettes and shipped. If so desired, the Archive will also provide automated SPSS control files, which can be used to analyze each of the data sets.
4. **Production of special analyses or customized data files**—The Archive will also conduct special analyses of the data files or create customized data files to the specifications of the researcher. As with the release of the data, this work also requires prior permission from the original data suppliers. Once permission is granted, Archive staff and the researcher will agree upon the exact nature of the product and produce written specifications. The Archive will then prepare the analyses or the customized data files specified and provide the researcher with the results of the work. While past experience will enable Archive staff to gauge the approximate cost

of the project, the exact fee cannot be determined until final specifications have been established.

Using the Guide

The material that follows presents brief descriptions of the data sets housed in the National Juvenile Court Data Archive. The data sets are grouped in two sections of listings. The first contains information on annual case-level files. The second set is composed of birth cohort data files containing every case record in a juvenile's court career.

Each listing has two parts. The first section contains information on the data supplier and how that agency collects and uses the data, the Archive restructuring of the data (if applicable), the year of the earliest data housed in the Archive, and the approximate number of case records in an annual file or the approximate number of juveniles in a birth cohort file. The second part is a list of key data elements with indications of the detail of the coding structures.

Interested researchers are encouraged to contact the Archive by mail or telephone to request free user's guides for the data sets of interest and to discuss research interests.

National Juvenile Court
Data Archive
National Center for Juvenile Justice
701 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-4789
412-227-6950

Case-Level Data Files

Juvenile probation officers and other court personnel originally collect these data on statistical reporting forms which are forwarded to the Alabama Department of Youth Services. The data are used for purposes of reporting to the legislature and providing caseload activity feedback to the local county juvenile courts. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Department of Youth Services to the Archive. Beginning with 1975 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 21,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Date of birth
- Sex
- Race (white, black, other)
- Time offense occurred
- Place where offense occurred (residence, business, public area, not applicable)
- Estimate of amount of damage to property (6 codes)
- Indication of use of a weapon (none, firearm, knife, other)
- Date of referral
- County in which the case was processed
- Source of referral (9 codes)
- Indication of any prior court referrals (no, yes)
- Most serious offense referred for handling (42 delinquency and status offense codes)
- Number of counts for each charge and number of unique offenses involved in a referral
- Place held pending case disposition, if applicable (not detained, detention facility, jail, jail and detention, shelter care)
- Indication of whether case was disposed informally or formally (without court appearance, with court appearance)
- Date of petition
- Date of adjudication
- Indication of type of adjudication (none, delinquent, CHINS)
- Date of disposition
- Disposition (25 codes)
- Indication of an order for restitution (no, yes)

Maricopa County (Phoenix), Arizona

Data are originally collected by Maricopa County Juvenile Court Center's online case tracking system. The data are used in the day-to-day operations of the court and support management statistical information needs. Automated hierarchical data files are submitted by the Juvenile Court Center to the Archive. The Archive converts these files to case-level records and creates a data file containing referrals disposed in a calendar year. Beginning with 1980 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 21,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Child identification number
- Date of birth and age at referral
- Age of first referral to court
- Sex
- Ethnicity (6 codes)
- Grade (15 codes) and indication of whether the youth is attending school at the time of referral (6 codes)
- Parents' marital status (7 codes)
- Parents' employment status (father, mother, both or neither employed)
- Date and time offense(s) occurred
- Most serious offense(s) referred (219 delinquency and status offense codes)
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (30 codes)
- Date and hour detained
- Date and hour released from detention
- County attorney's decision on how to process the case (14 codes)
- Date of petition
- Most serious offense(s) petitioned (219 codes)
- Most serious offense(s) adjudicated (219 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Disposition (43 informal and formal codes)
- Most severe court disposition (7 codes)
- Most serious offense resulting in the most severe disposition (219 codes)

County probation officers originally collect these data on statistical reporting forms which are forwarded to the Bureau of Criminal Statistics and Special Services, California Department of Justice. These data aid the Governor's office, the legislature, the Bureau, various criminal justice planning agencies, local agencies, researchers, and others in allocating resources, planning for the future and developing new ways to deal with the juvenile delinquency problem. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Bureau of Criminal Statistics and Special Services to the Archive. Beginning with 1981 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 159,000 case records. In 1990 the statewide reporting of juvenile cases was discontinued. However, several of the larger counties (representing 75% of the State's youth population at risk) continue to submit data to the Archive.

Data Elements

- Date of birth
- Sex
- Race, ethnic group (10 codes)
- County in which the case was processed
- Indicator of whether the juvenile is currently involved in the system (none/pending, informal probation, non-ward probation, ward probation, California Youth Authority)
- General referral source (8 codes) and specific law enforcement agency, if applicable (488)
- Most serious offense referred for handling (319 delinquency and status offenses codes)
- Type of facility youth held, if applicable (not detained, detained-nonsecure facility, detained-secure facility) Prosecutor's decision to file a petition (no affidavit filed, affidavit accepted, affidavit not accepted)
- Type of defense attorney representing juvenile (7 codes)
- Most serious offense disposed in the case (319 codes)
- Disposition (13 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Indication of whether the youth will remain involved in the system as a result of the disposition (closed, informal probation, non-ward probation, ward probation, California Youth Authority)

Connecticut

Court staff originally collect these data on statistical reporting forms which are transmitted to the Connecticut Judicial Department. These data support planning and statistical reporting activities. Automated hierarchical data files are submitted by the Judicial Department to the Archive which converts these files into case-level records and creates a data file containing referrals disposed in a calendar year. Beginning with 1975 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 14,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Date of birth and age at referral
- Sex
- Race (8 codes)
- State of residence
- Date of referral
- Court office to which the youth was referred
- Source of referral (14 codes)
- Number of prior referrals
- Indication of how the case was handled (dismissed at intake; judicial handling; nonjudicial handling; family with service needs, nonjudicial; family with service needs, judicial)
- Most serious charge referred (509 codes)
- Indication of whether the case was petitioned (yes, no)
- Date of adjudication
- Indication of whether the case was adjudicated (yes, no)
- Date of disposition
- Disposition (57 codes)

Data are originally collected by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) staff in batch and online modes. The data are used by HRS locally and at the state level for planning, budgeting, and monitoring caseloads and service delivery. Automated offense-level data are submitted by HRS to the Archive which converts these files to case-level records and creates a data file containing referrals disposed in a calendar year. Beginning with 1975 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 122,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Date of birth
- Sex
- Race (5 codes)
- Ethnicity (15 codes)
- County and ZIP code of the youth's residence
- School grade attained at time of referral (18 codes)
- Date of arrest
- HRS district and unit handling the referral
- Date of referral
- Offense (57 delinquency and status offense codes)
- Indication of intake's recommended handling to the State's attorney (6 codes) and date of recommendation
- Action taken by State's attorney (no petition filed, petition filed, information filed, waived to adult/criminal court, indicted by grand jury)
- Placement during case processing (crisis home, detention, placement with relative, shelter, not placed)
- Indication of how detention decision was made in delinquency cases (17 codes)
- Adjudication (yes, no)
- Date of disposition
- Primary and secondary judicial or nonjudicial disposition (99 codes)
- Most serious offense (57 codes)
- Most severe action taken by State's attorney (5 codes)
- Most serious offense having the most severe action taken by State's attorney (57 codes)
- Was most serious offense adjudicated (yes, no)
- Most serious offense having the most severe adjudication (57 codes)
- Most severe placement during case processing (5 codes)
- Most severe disposition (99 codes)
- Most serious offense having the most severe disposition (57 codes)

Hawaii

Family court staff collect these data on statistical reporting forms which are forwarded to the State Judiciary. The data are used for the purposes of monitoring caseload activity, budget and variance reports, and legislative and external data requests. Automated hierarchical data files are submitted by the Judiciary to the Archive which converts these files to case-level records and creates a data file containing referrals disposed in a calendar year. Beginning with 1979 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 7,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Child identification number within circuit
- Sex
- Age
- Race and ethnic group (12 codes)
- ZIP code of youth's residence
- County and circuit court handling case (Honolulu, Maui, Hawaii, Kauai)
- Year of youth's first referral to family court
- Number of prior delinquency referrals
- Source of referral (6 codes)
- Date of referral
- Indication of general type of case (9 codes)
- Offense at time of referral (379 codes)
- Method of case disposition (counseling services, contested hearing, uncontested hearing, other)
- Adjudication (6 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Offense at time of disposition (379 codes)
- Disposition (20 codes)
- Indication of whether the youth is on probation for the first time
- Indication of whether placement is to be served (mittimus stayed, short-term mittimus issued, minority mittimus issued)
- Number of motions and hearings in a case
- Most serious offense referred (379 codes)
- Most serious finding (6 codes)
- Most serious offense referred receiving the most serious finding (379 codes)
- Most severe disposition (20 codes)
- Most severe disposition being served (20 codes)
- Most serious final charge receiving the most severe disposition (379 codes)
- Most serious manner of handling the case (4 codes)
- Most serious final charge receiving the most severe handling (379 codes)

Juvenile court officers collect these data on statistical reporting forms which are forwarded to the Bureau of Management Information, Iowa Department of Human Services. The data are collected to provide general descriptions of juvenile court office functioning. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually from 1975 through 1988 were submitted by the Department of Human Services to the Archive. Each archived annual file contains approximately 17,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Age
- Sex
- Race (4 codes) County in which the case was processed
- Source of referral (7 codes)
- Reason for referral (34 delinquency, status offense, traffic, dependency and special proceedings codes)
- Number of prior delinquency referrals
- Place held pending disposition (15 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Disposition (14 codes)

Kansas

Data on cases handled by local courts were collected on Juvenile Court Statistical Cards which were forwarded to the Statistical Analysis Center of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. The data were used to provide general descriptions of juvenile court case processing. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually from 1975 through 1982 were submitted to the Archive by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Each archived data file contains approximately 20,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Age
- Sex
- Race (4 codes)
- County in which the case was processed
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (7 codes)
- Number of prior delinquency referrals
- Place held pending disposition (16 codes)
- Reason for referral (59 delinquency, status offense, dependency, traffic, and special proceedings codes)
- Indication of whether the case was disposed informally or formally (without a petition, with a petition)
- Date of disposition
- Disposition (38 codes)

Juvenile Service Agency field offices originally collect the data and transmit them to the State office in batch and online modes. The data are used at the local level as working documents and at the state level for juvenile justice planning. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Juvenile Services Agency to the Archive. Beginning with 1975 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 38,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Child identification number (beginning with 1989 file)
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Race (7 codes)
- Date of offense
- County and ZIP code in which the offense occurred
- Date of arrest
- Date of referral
- County and ZIP code of the youth's residence
- County in which the case was processed
- Source of referral (14 codes)
- General reason youth was referred (delinquent, status offender, dependent)
- Specific reason youth was referred (140 delinquency, status offense, and dependency codes)
- Date of intake decision to handle informally or recommend petitioning
- Indication of whether the case was handled informally, formally, or sent to adult court (informal adjustment, case closed at intake, disapproved, formal authority filing of petition, felony forwarded to State's attorney)
- Date of petition
- Date of disposition
- Disposition (64 codes)

Minnesota

Data on petitioned cases are originally collected by local court staff on statistical reporting forms which are transmitted to the State Court Administration Office, Supreme Court of Minnesota. These data aid the legislature, the Office, various criminal justice planning agencies, local courts, researchers and others in allocating resources, planning for the future, and developing new ways to deal with the problem of juvenile delinquency. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the State Court Administration Office to the Archive. Beginning with 1984 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 26,000 case records.

Data Elements

- County-level child identification number
- Date of birth and age
- Sex
- Race (5 codes)
- County of youth's residence
- Date of offense
- County in which the petition was disposed
- Date of filing
- Source of referral (7 codes)
- Offense(s) petitioned (4,250 delinquency, status offense, dependency, and termination of parental rights codes)
- Case type at filing (delinquency, status offense, dependency, neglect, and termination of parental rights)
- Place held pending court disposition (35 codes)
- Indication of whether the youth was adjudicated (yes, no)
- Type of attorney at adjudication and disposition (private/hired own, public defender, court appointed, none, other)
- Date of disposition
- Offense(s) disposed (4,250 codes)
- Case type at disposition (delinquency, status offense, dependency, neglect, and termination of parental rights)
- Disposition(s) (35 codes)
- Indication of whether the juvenile was certified as an adult (no, yes)
- Number of detention, trial, adjudication, disposition, waiver, and review hearings in a case
- Most serious offense at filing (4,250 codes)
- Most serious offense at disposition (4,250 codes)
- Most severe disposition
- Most serious offense at filing and disposition (Archive's recoding of Minnesota's offenses into 78 codes)

Data are originally collected by court staff on statistical reporting forms which are forwarded to the Mississippi Department of Youth Services. The data are used for juvenile justice planning and policy decisions by juvenile probation offices, public and private agencies, and researchers. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Department of Youth Services to the Archive. Beginning with 1975 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 13,000 case records.

Data Elements

- County-level child identification number
- Date of birth and age
- Sex
- Race (6 codes)
- Location of residence (rural, urban/predominantly residential, urban/predominantly business or industrial area, suburban)
- Indication of how long the youth has lived in the county
- Who the youth is living with at the time of referral (10 codes)
- Marital status of natural parents (11 codes)
- Annual family income (6 codes)
- Indication of whether the youth is in school (yes, no)
- Years of schooling completed (13 codes)
- Grade placement in relation to age (6 codes)
- Indication of any serious or persistent school misbehavior
- Indication of whether the youth is employed (full-time, part-time, not employed, inapplicable/preschool)
- County in which the case was processed
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (8 codes)
- Number of prior delinquency, traffic, or neglect referrals
- Indication of psychological, psychiatric, medical, or social services (indicated and provided, indicated but not provided, not indicated)
- Place held pending case disposition (6 codes)
- Most serious offense referred (39 delinquency, status offense, traffic, dependency, and special proceedings codes)
- Indication of whether probation or parole was broken during the commission of the referred offense (yes, no)
- Indication of whether the case was disposed informally or formally
- Date of disposition and disposition (23 codes)
- Indication of whether the youth was under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at the time of the offense (not under influence, alcohol, drugs, both)

Missouri

Court juvenile officers originally collect these data on statistical reporting forms which are forwarded to the Division of Youth Services, Missouri Department of Social Services. The data provide general descriptions of juvenile court functioning. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Division of Youth Services to the Archive. Beginning with 1984 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 53,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Circuit court-level child identification number
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Race (white, black, other)
- Date of referral
- County in which the case was processed
- Circuit court reporting information
- Source of referral (12 codes)
- Most serious offense (285 delinquency, status offense, dependency, and traffic codes)
- Number of law violations and status offenses associated with the referral
- Number of prior court referrals
- Indication of whether the youth was held in a jail facility during case processing and if so, the number of hours or days, whether there was sight/sound separation from adults, and if there was a violation of a prior valid court order
- Indication of whether the youth was held in a secure detention facility during case processing and if so, the number of hours or days, and if there was a violation of a prior valid court order
- Indication of whether the youth was held in a nonsecure shelter facility during case processing and if so, the number of hours or days, type of facility, and agency operating the facility
- Date of disposition
- Disposition (11 formal and informal codes)
- Agency providing out of home placement services (7 codes)
- Agency providing services to youth remaining at home (court, Division of Family Services, Department of Mental Health, other public agency, private agency)

Data are originally collected by court staff on statistical reporting forms which are submitted to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. The data are used by the Commission for juvenile justice planning, and by courts, juvenile probation offices, private and public agencies, and individuals interested in juvenile involvement in the State's juvenile courts. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice to the Archive. Beginning with 1975 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 5,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Date of birth and age
- Sex
- Ethnic group (white, black, Indian, Mexican American, other)
- Indication if any psychological, psychiatric, medical, or social services were involved (indicated and provided, indicated but not provided, not indicated)
- Highest school grade completed at time of referral (13 codes)
- Indication of whether the juvenile was employed and/or in school at the time of referral (7 codes)
- Length of time youth has lived in the county (not currently a resident, less than 1 year, 1 year or more)
- Indication of whom the juvenile is living with at the time of referral (11 codes)
- Marital status of natural parents (11 codes)
- Family annual income (6 codes)
- Occupation of parent with highest income (9 codes)
- Court (county) in which the case was processed
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (7 codes)
- Number of prior court referrals
- Place held pending case disposition (jail/police station, detention home, foster or group home, other)
- Offense (36 delinquency, status offense, traffic, and dependency codes)
- Indication of whether the case was disposed informally or formally (without a petition, with a petition)
- Type of counsel representing the juvenile at a hearing (court appointed, retained, public defender, not represented, other)
- Date of disposition
- Most severe disposition (14 informal and formal codes)

New Jersey

Data are originally collected on statistical reporting forms by court staff and forwarded to the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts. The data are used by the State in the development of guidelines for the disposition of juveniles adjudicated delinquent. Automated disposition-level data files are submitted by the Administrative Office of the Courts to the Archive, which converts these files to case-level records and creates a data file containing referrals disposed in a calendar year. Beginning with 1985 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 57,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Juvenile identification number
- Race (7 codes)
- Sex
- Date of birth and age
- County in which the case was processed
- Date of referral
- Indication of whether the youth was detained (yes, no)
- Type of attorney representing the juvenile (private; public defender; court appointed; pro se, counsel mandatory only)
- Indication of whether counsel for the youth was mandated (counsel not mandatory, counsel mandatory)
- Indication of the manner in which the case was handled (petitioned, not petitioned)
- Indication of whether the youth was adjudicated delinquent (yes, no)
- Most serious offense(s) referred (493 delinquency codes)
- Most serious offense petitioned (493 codes)
- Most serious final offense adjudicated (493 codes)
- Most serious final offense receiving the most severe disposition served (493 codes)
- Most severe disposition served (49 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Most serious final offense receiving the most severe disposition—not necessarily served (493 codes)
- Most severe disposition—not necessarily served (49 codes)

Data on petitioned cases are originally collected on statistical reporting forms by family court staff and forwarded to the Office of Court Administration. The data are used in the production of an annual report on New York's court system. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Office of Court Administration to the Archive. Beginning with 1977 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 24,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Age when act was committed
- Sex
- County in which the petition was disposed
- Source of referral (9 codes)
- Indication of whether the youth was detained prior to the filing of a petition and if so, for how many days
- Date petition was filed
- Type of petition filed (delinquency, status offenses, or status offense substituted for a delinquency petition)
- Offense(s) petitioned (46 delinquency and status offense codes)
- Type of counsel representing juvenile (appointed counsel, private/retained counsel, none)
- Indication of who presented the petition (county attorney, corporation attorney, district attorney, other)
- Indication of whether the youth was detained before or after the petition was filed and prior to the completion of the disposition hearing
- Date of adjudication hearing
- Indication of whether the offenses were established (delinquency offenses established, status offenses established, any offenses established)
- Indication of whether youth admitted to the offenses (yes, no entry)
- Adjudication decision (offenses not substantiated/case dismissed, offenses established)
- Statutory title and section of established offense
- Date of disposition hearing
- Disposition (20 codes)

North Dakota

Juvenile court staff originally collect the data on statistical reporting forms which are submitted to the Office of the State Court Administrator within the Supreme Court. The data are used by State and local courts for management, planning, and annual reporting purposes. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Office of the State Court Administrator to the Archive. Beginning with 1978 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 8,000 case records.

Data Elements

- County-level child identification number
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Race (5 codes)
- County of youth's residence
- Date of alleged offense
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (6 codes)
- Reason for referral (39 delinquency, status offense, traffic, dependency, and special proceedings codes)
- Date and time of admission to detention
- Date and time of release from detention
- Type of counsel representing the juvenile (does not apply, court appointed, retained)
- Date of adjudicatory hearing
- Disposition (13 codes)
- Date disposition expires
- Date court record is sealed
- Date court record is physically destroyed

Cuyahoga County (Cleveland), Ohio

Data are originally collected via Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Division's online case tracking system. The data are used in the day-to-day operations and management of the court. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas to the Archive. Beginning with 1981 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 12,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Date of birth
- Race (5 codes)
- Sex
- Case number
- Year of offense
- Age at offense
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (31 codes)
- Charge(s) referred (493 codes)
- Number of counts for each charge
- Type of weapon involved (5 codes)
- Age of victim
- Indication of whether the youth was detained (yes, no)
- Location of detention (county jail, detention home, home detention)
- Date admitted to detention
- Date released from detention
- Intake disposition (32 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Court disposition (124 codes)
- Date assigned to probation, placement or commitment
- Date termination of probation, placement or commitment
- Most serious charge(s) referred (493 codes)

Pennsylvania

Local intake or probation officers originally collect the data and submit them to the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. The data are used in research projects and are provided to Federal, State, and county agencies for use in decisionmaking concerning juvenile delinquency. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission to the Archive. Beginning with 1975 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 35,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Date of birth and age
- Sex
- Race (4 codes)
- Highest grade completed (7 codes)
- Indication of whether the juvenile is in school (in school, out of school)
- Marital status of natural parents (7 codes)
- Living arrangements of the juvenile (8 codes)
- Number of people living in the home
- Household income
- County in which the case was processed
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (8 codes)
- Offense(s) referred (253 delinquency codes)
- Number of counts for each offense
- Date of adjudication
- Indication of who held the adjudication hearing (judge, master, both)
- Type of attorney representing the juvenile (court appointed, private, public defender, waived)
- Offense(s) substantiated at adjudication (253 delinquency codes)
- Number of counts for each offense substantiated
- Date of disposition and disposition (13 informal and formal codes)
- Indication of intensive probation as part of disposition (no entry, yes)
- Indication of community service as part of disposition (no entry, yes)
- Indication of restitution as part of disposition (no entry, yes)
- Indication of fines and/or costs as part of disposition (no entry, yes)
- Indication of family therapy as part of disposition (no entry, yes)
- Indication of aftercare as part of disposition (no entry, yes)
- Indication of any other special condition as part of disposition
- Type of out of home placement (9 codes) and name of placement facility
- Total number of days in detention or nonsecure facility
- Most serious offense referred and substantiated (253 codes)

Data are originally collected by South Carolina Department of Youth Services's online client tracking system. The data are used in the day-to-day operations of Youth Services and support management statistical information needs. Automated hierarchical data files are submitted by Youth Services to the Archive. The Archive converts these files to case-level records and creates a data file containing referrals disposed in a calendar year. Beginning with 1985 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 16,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Child identification number
- Date of birth and age at referral
- Sex
- Race (white, black, other)
- County in which case was processed
- Indication of drug or alcohol use (9 codes)
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (489 codes)
- Most serious offense(s) referred (199 codes)
- Date(s) of offense(s)
- Most severe solicitor's decision (73 codes)
- County of detention
- Place of detention (211 codes)
- Length of detention
- Reasons for detention
- Date of petition
- Date of judicial decision
- Most severe disposition(s) (125 codes)
- Restitution dollars ordered
- Restitution/community service time ordered
- Length of probation ordered
- Length of institutionalization ordered

South Dakota

Court services officers originally collect the data on statistical reporting forms which are forwarded to the State Court Administrator's Office, South Dakota Unified Judicial System. The data are used to manage workloads, analyze out of home placements and conduct research, and by local offices to monitor pending cases. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the State Court Administrator's Office to the Archive. Beginning with 1979 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 4,000 case records.

Data Elements

- County-level child identification number
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Ethnic group (white, American Indian, other)
- Year of the juvenile's first referral to court
- Living arrangements of the youth (both parents, single parent, none)
- County in which the case was processed
- Circuit court handling the referral
- Offense(s) referred (962 delinquency, status offense, and traffic codes)
- Number of counts for each offense
- Place(s) the juvenile was held pending case disposition (release to parent/guardian, detention under 24 hours, detention 24–48 hours, detention over 48 hours, Federal runaway program)
- Number of days held in detention
- Indication of the general handling of the case (7 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Disposition(s) (19 codes)
- Number of months on probation
- Indication of the intensiveness of probation (low, medium, or high risk)
- Number of hours served in community service
- Date of case review
- Action taken at case review
- Most serious offense referred

Davidson (Nashville) and Shelby (Memphis) Counties, Tennessee

Youth services officers within the juvenile courts originally collect the data which are forwarded to the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. The data are used for monitoring and planning purposes. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to the Archive. Archived annual files for 1984 through 1986 each contain approximately 16,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Date of birth and age at referral
- Sex
- Race (4 codes)
- Date of referral
- Person disposing case (judge, special judge, referee, youth services officer)
- Manner of handling (formal, informal)
- Date of informal adjustment
- Informal adjustment charge(s) (77 delinquency, status offense, dependency, and special proceedings codes)
- Informal adjustment decision(s) (17 codes)
- Date of adjudication
- Adjudication decision (6 codes)
- Substantiated charge(s) (77 delinquency, status offense, dependency, and special proceedings codes)
- Date of disposition hearing
- Disposition(s) (37 codes)
- Most serious charge(s) disposed in a case (77 codes)
- Most severe disposition(s) in a case (61 formal and informal codes)

Utah

Data are originally collected via Utah's State Juvenile Court online case tracking system. The data are used in the day-to-day operations and management of the court. Automated hierarchical data files are submitted by the Utah State Juvenile Court to the Archive, which converts these files to case-level records and creates a data file containing referrals disposed in a calendar year. Beginning with 1975 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 26,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Child identification number
- Date of birth
- Age of first referral to court
- Sex
- Race (10 codes)
- County of youth's residence
- Number of prior delinquency and status offense referrals
- Number of prior dependency referrals
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (378 codes)
- Most serious offense(s) referred (788 delinquency, status offense, dependency, and traffic codes)
- Severity ranking for each offense (35 codes)
- Most severe decision at intake (direct filed, waiver requested, petitioned, nonpetitioned)
- Most serious offense receiving the most severe intake decision (788 codes) and its severity ranking (35 codes)
- Date of petition
- Most serious offense petitioned (788 codes) and its severity ranking (35 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Most severe disposition(s) (429 codes)
- Most serious offense receiving the most severe disposition (788 codes) and its severity ranking (35 codes)
- Total number of offenses in a case

Data are originally collected on statistical reporting forms by the district courts and submitted to the Division of Youth Services, Virginia Department of Corrections. The data are collected for purposes of management, monitoring, planning, and program evaluation. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted by the Department of Corrections to the Archive. Beginning with 1980 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 85,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Date of birth and age
- Sex
- Race (5 codes)
- State in which juvenile was born
- State, county, and ZIP code of youth's residence
- Date of incident
- Number of codefendants
- Date and time of referral
- Source of referral (17 codes)
- Persons interviewed by intake (9 codes)
- Number of prior contacts
- Offense(s) referred to intake (225 delinquency, status offense, and dependency codes)
- Intake disposition of each charge (10 codes)
- Date of intake decision
- Place held pending case disposition (10 codes)
- Date of detention, if applicable
- Offense(s) disposed (225 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Disposition (62 codes)
- Created date of disposition (date of intake decision for cases informally handled and date of disposition hearing for cases handled formally)
- Most serious of the intake offenses
- Most severe of the intake dispositions
- Most serious of the intake offenses having the most severe intake disposition
- Most serious of the disposition offenses
- Most severe of the dispositions
- Most serious of the disposition offenses having the most severe disposition

West Virginia

A statewide juvenile justice reporting system was established by the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Supreme Court in July of 1991. Designated juvenile probation officers in each county complete a statistical reporting form on each delinquency and status offense referral at the time of disposition. At the Supreme Court the reported data are entered into an automated information system. The data are used to provide information to State officials and the public about juvenile justice caseloads and activity, to guide policy and program development and to assist in the handling of juvenile justice cases. Automated case-level data files on referrals disposed annually are submitted to the Archive by the Supreme Court. Beginning in 1992, each annual archived data file contains approximately 6,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Youth identification number
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Race (white, black, other, unknown)
- County of youth's residence
- Youth's living situation (parents/relatives, placement, unknown)
- Educational placement (mainstream, special education, dropped out, alternative/GED, graduated, unknown)
- Youth's delinquency status (i.e., prior complaints, prior adjudications)
- Date of complaint/referral
- Source of complaint (law enforcement, parent, school, probation, victim, other)
- Offenses associated with complaint (up to 2 possible offenses, more than 75 codes for each offense)
- Total alleged offenses in complaint
- Date of response to complaint
- Predisposition detention (none, home-based, juvenile detention center, county jail, unknown)
- Formal disposition/action taken (17 codes)
- Date of disposition

Data on petitioned cases are originally collected on statistical reporting forms by court clerks and forwarded to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. The data are used for monitoring, planning, and reporting activities. Automated hierarchical data files are submitted by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to the Archive, which converts these files to case-level records and creates a data file containing referrals disposed in a calendar year. Beginning with 1984 data, each archived annual file contains approximately 13,000 case records.

Data Elements

- Date of birth
- Sex
- Race (5 codes)
- County handling the case
- Date petition filed
- General type of case (6 codes)
- Offense(s) referred (823 delinquency, status offense, dependency, traffic, and special proceedings codes)
- Number of counts related to each offense
- Date of disposition
- Offense(s) disposed (823 delinquency, status offense, dependency, traffic, and special proceedings codes)
- Primary disposition (11 codes) and additional dispositions (12 codes)
- Most serious of the offenses referred
- Most serious of the offenses disposed

Birth Cohort Data Files

Maricopa County (Phoenix), Arizona

Data are originally collected by Maricopa County Juvenile Court Center's online case tracking system. The data are used in the day-to-day operations of the court and support management statistical information needs. Automated hierarchical data files are submitted by the Juvenile Court Center to the Archive which converts these files to case-level records and creates a data file containing referrals disposed. These case-level records are ordered chronologically by date of referral for each youth in the birth cohort. Beginning with 1962 data, each archived birth cohort file contains approximately 10,000 juvenile careers.

Data Elements

- Child identification number
- Date of birth and age at referral
- Age of first referral to court
- Sex
- Ethnicity (6 codes)
- Grade (15 codes) and indication of whether the youth is attending school at the time of referral (6 codes)
- Parents' marital status (7 codes)
- Parents' employment status (father, mother, both or neither employed)
- Date and time offense(s) occurred
- Most serious offense(s) referred (219 delinquency and status offense codes)
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (30 codes)
- Date and hour detained
- Date and hour released from detention
- County attorney's decision on how to process the case (14 codes)
- Date of petition
- Most serious offense(s) petitioned (219 codes)
- Most serious offense(s) adjudicated (219 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Disposition (43 informal and formal codes)
- Most severe court disposition (7 codes)
- Most serious offense resulting in the most severe disposition (219 codes)

Utah

Data are originally collected via Utah's State Juvenile Court online case tracking system. The data are used in the day-to-day operations and management of the court. Automated hierarchical data files are submitted by the Utah State Juvenile Court to the Archive, which converts these files to case-level records and creates a data file containing referrals disposed. These case-level records are ordered chronologically by date of referral for each youth in the birth cohort. Beginning with 1962 data, each archived birth cohort file contains approximately 10,000 juvenile careers.

Data Elements

- Child identification number
- Date of birth
- Age of first referral to court
- Sex
- Race (10 codes)
- County of youth's residence
- Number of prior delinquency and status offense referrals
- Number of prior dependency referrals
- Date of referral
- Source of referral (378 codes)
- Most serious offense(s) referred (788 delinquency, status offense, dependency, and traffic codes)
- Severity ranking for each offense (35 codes)
- Most severe decision at intake (direct filed, waiver requested, petitioned, nonpetitioned)
- Most serious offense receiving the most severe intake decision (788 codes) and its severity ranking (35 codes)
- Date of petition
- Most serious offense petitioned (788 codes) and its severity ranking (35 codes)
- Date of disposition
- Most severe disposition(s) (429 codes)
- Most serious offense receiving the most severe disposition (788 codes) and its severity ranking (35 codes)
- Total number of offenses in a case

Reports describing the activities of juvenile courts should be a part of the library of every juvenile justice professional.

For information on how to order a complimentary copy of the latest edition of *Juvenile Court Statistics* and other Archive publications, contact the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850; or call 800-638-8736.

Juvenile Court Statistics

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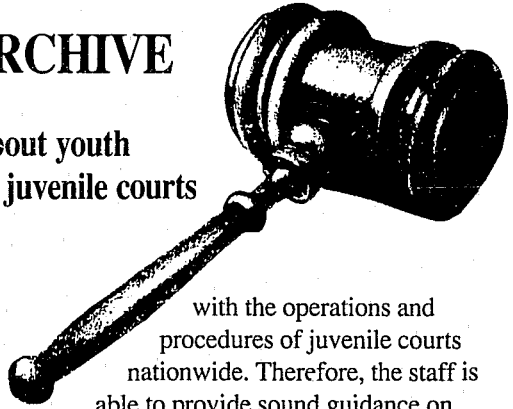
The Juvenile Court's Response to Violent Crime. NCJ-115338, January 1989.

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Study Sheds New Light on Court Careers of Juvenile Offenders. NCJ-113400, August 1988.

THE NATIONAL JUVENILE COURT DATA ARCHIVE

The source for information about youth who come before the Nation's juvenile courts



Supported by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Juvenile Court Data Archive collects and disseminates the data generated by the Nation's juvenile courts to researchers and policymakers.

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Data Dissemination. Archived data files are available for detailed study. Data files are shipped with documentation and analysis programs. Archive staff can also construct customized data files to meet specific research needs.

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