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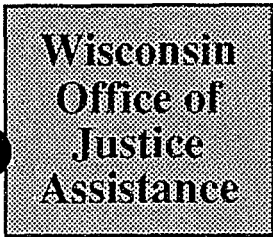
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Arrests of Juveniles in Wisconsin 1985 - 1994

INTRODUCTION

This publication summarizes data on juvenile arrests* in Wisconsin over the past ten years. The information presented in this publication has been summarized from Crime and Arrests in Wisconsin, published annually by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.

During the past ten years there has been an average of 102,668 reported juvenile arrests each year in Wisconsin. In 1994, juvenile arrests accounted for 32.1 percent of all arrests made in the state.

GENERAL ARREST TRENDS

Total Arrests

Graph 1 shows the total number of juvenile arrests in Wisconsin over the past ten years. Adult arrests, included for comparison, have risen in each of the last ten years except 1992 and the number of juvenile arrests has increased in each of the past ten years except 1987. The total number of juvenile arrests increased by 51.4 percent, from 89,687 in 1985 to 135,767 during 1994. In contrast, adult arrests rose 50.8 percent from 190,864 in 1985 to 287,807 in 1994.

Arrest Rates

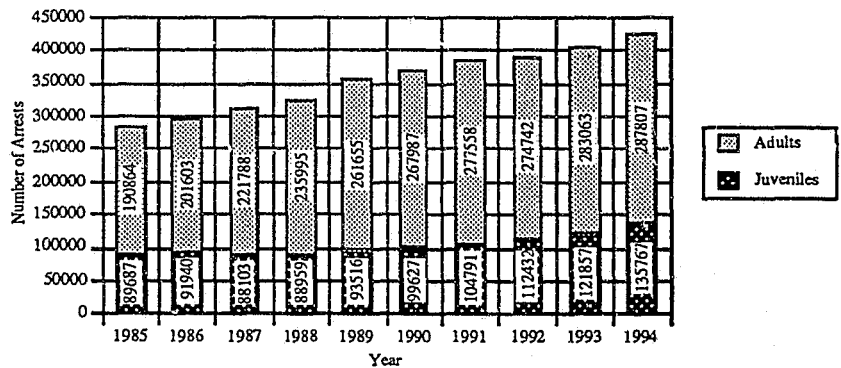
Graph 2 shows the arrest rates for juveniles and adults in Wisconsin during the decade. Arrest rates, the number of arrests per 100,000 residents, are used to control the effect of varying populations from year to year, allowing the comparison of arrests on a standardized population basis. The juvenile arrest rate increased from 1985 through 1986, declined in 1987, and increased through 1994. The adult arrest rate, however, after continually increasing through 1991, declined in 1992, but rose again in 1993 and 1994. Only in 1989 did it surpass the juvenile arrest rate.

ACQUISITIONS

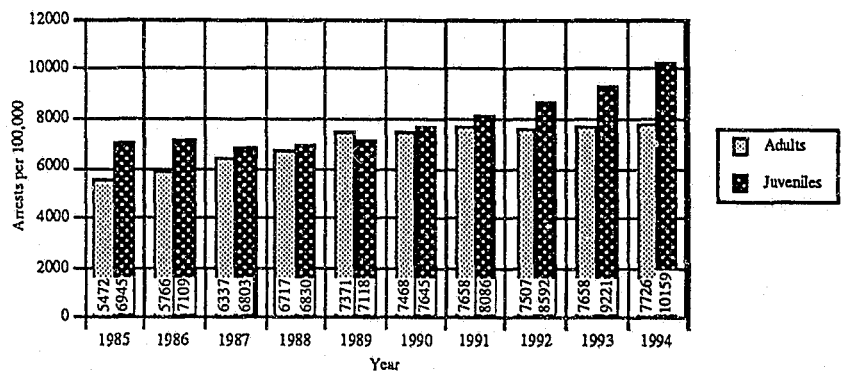
This flyer also contains two trend tables for reference. The first shows ten year trends in juvenile arrest data for the entire State and the second, ten year arrest trends for Milwaukee County.

It should be noted that the arrest figures presented are estimates based on approximately 99 percent of the estimated actual number of arrests. Also, depending on police practices, some less serious crimes, particularly status offenses, are not always reported as arrests by some agencies.

Graph 1: Total Wisconsin Arrests by Year



Graph 2: Juvenile and Adult Arrest Rates by Year



* Under Wisconsin Law s.48.19 (3), juveniles "taken into custody" to investigate an alleged violation are not considered "arrested." However, the UCR Program uses the term "arrest" for both adults and juveniles to describe apprehension. This report, based upon UCR data, also uses the term "arrest" in this latter sense.

Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance
Steven D. Sell, Executive Director

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

INDEX CRIME ARREST TRENDS

Index Offense Arrests

Graph 3 shows the number of arrests for Index Offenses. Again, adult figures are shown for comparison. Index Offenses are considered to be an "index" of crime, that is, representative of the overall crime picture. Index Offenses are divided into two categories, Violent Index Offenses and Property Index Offenses. Violent Index Offenses are murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property Index Offenses are burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

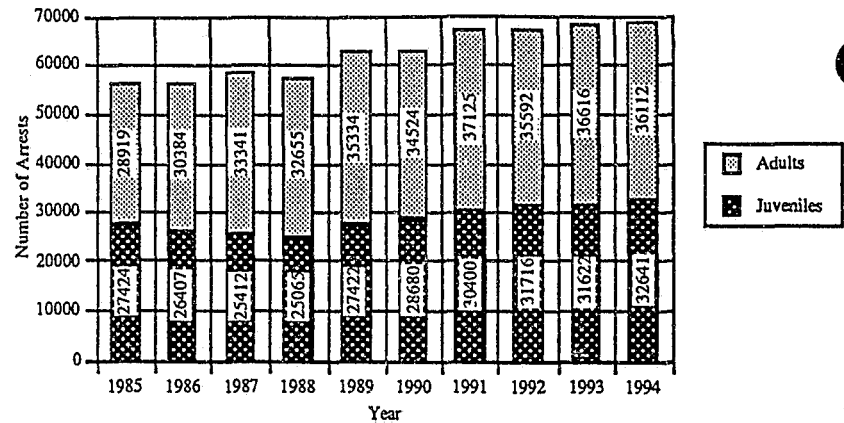
Both juvenile and adult arrests for Index Offenses increased during the ten year period. While juvenile Index Offense arrests increased by 19.0 percent from, 27,424 in 1985 to 32,641 during 1994, adult Index Offense arrests increased by 24.9 percent, from 28,919 in 1985 to 36,112 during 1994.

Tables 1 and 2 in this flyer are two reference tables showing data on the number of juvenile arrests and arrest rates in Wisconsin and Milwaukee County respectively. Milwaukee County data are presented separately due to the high population density in the county and also because arrest rates in Milwaukee County differ considerably from the rest of the state. Note that the arrest figures from Milwaukee County are also included in Table 1 which shows statewide data.

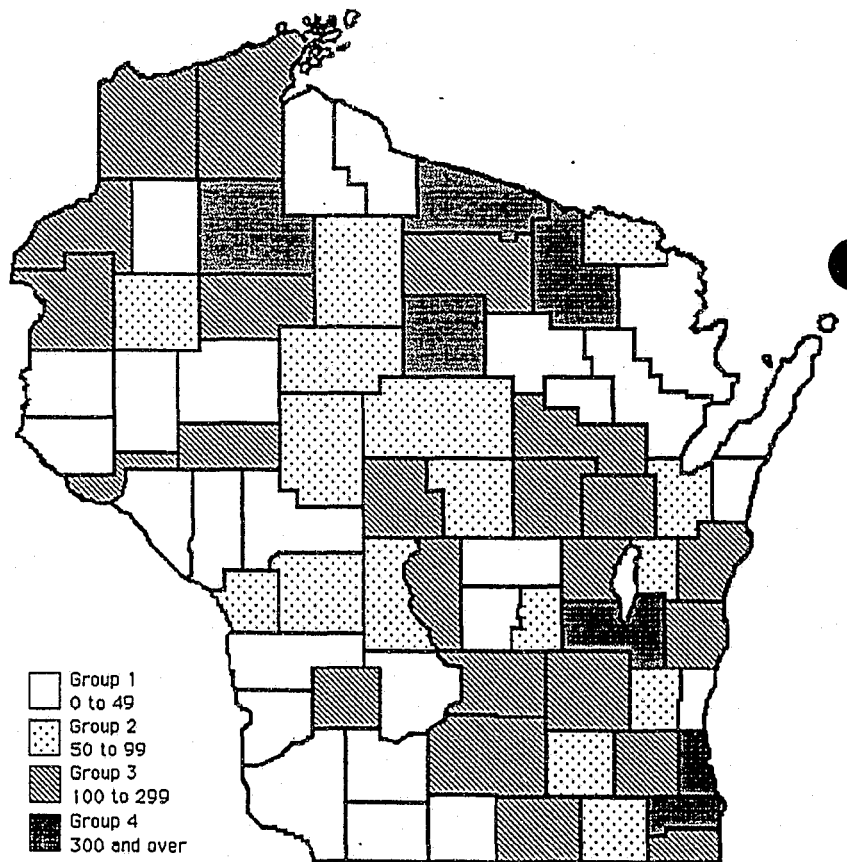
Geographic Distribution of Index Offense Arrest Rates

The map of Wisconsin at right categorizes counties according to their 1994 juvenile arrest rates for Violent Index Offenses. The higher arrest rates were not only found in expected counties such as Milwaukee and Racine, but also in unexpected counties such as Vilas, Forest, and Lincoln. These unexpected rates may be the result of a few arrests occurring within a relatively small juvenile population or as a result of the base population being small relative to the of transient

Graph 3: Wisconsin Arrests for Index Offenses



1994 Juvenile Arrest Rates for Index Offenses in Wisconsin Counties



population (i.e. tourists). The arrest rates for Milwaukee and Racine are expected, since they show the usual relationship between high arrest rates and large populations. This is similar to patterns found for various specific offense types such as aggravated assault and robbery.

Table 1: State of Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests and Arrest Rates 1985-1994

JUVENILE ARRESTS	1985		1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		1993		1994	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Murder	20	1.5	21	1.6	30	2.3	14	1.1	44	3.3	68	5.2	66	5.1	94	7.2	118	8.9	93	7.0
Forcible Rape	165	10.4	106	8.1	127	9.8	121	9.3	137	10.4	133	10.2	167	12.9	126	9.6	132	10.0	133	10.0
Robbery	667	51.6	538	41.5	401	31.0	407	31.3	434	33.0	622	47.7	883	68.1	889	67.9	876	67.3	927	69.4
Agg. Assault	671	51.9	754	58.3	747	57.7	609	46.8	816	62.1	866	66.4	887	68.4	1119	85.5	1181	89.4	1521	113.8
TOTAL-VIOLENT OFFENSES	1493	115.6	1419	109.7	1305	100.8	1151	88.5	1431	108.9	1689	129.6	2003	154.6	2228	170.3	2307	174.6	2674	200.1
Burglary	4251	329	3775	292	3683	284	3435	264	3362	255	3304	254	3584	276	3769	288	3661	277	3662	274
Theft	19413	1503	19104	1477	18235	1408	17996	1382	19256	1465	20303	1558	21162	1633	22014	1682	22024	1667	22687	1698
MV Theft	1650	128	1827	141	1947	150	2182	167	3078	234	3076	236	3338	258	3354	256	3262	247	3206	240
Arson	279	22	282	22	242	18	301	23	295	22	308	24	313	24	351	27	368	28	412	31
TOTAL-PROPERTY OFFENSES	25931	1981	24988	1932	24107	1862	23914	1836	25991	1977	26991	2071	28397	2191	29488	2254	29315	2218	29967	2242
Status Arrests	27605	2137	29337	2268	28083	2169	27501	2111	27547	2095	29258	2245	28469	2197	27677	2115	29922	2264	32917	2463
Other Arrests*	34987	2709	36188	2798	34608	2673	36392	2794	38547	2936	41689	3199	45922	3543	53039	4053	60313	4564	70209	5254
Drug Arrests	1840	142	1288	100	1201	93	1277	98	1397	106	911	70	953	74	1160	89	1830	138	3102	232
TOTAL JUVENILE ARRESTS	89687	6945	91940	7109	88103	6803	88959	6830	93516	7118	99627	7645	104791	8086	112432	8592	121857	9221	135767	10159
Adult Arrests for Violent Offenses	3953	113.3	4767	136.3	5487	156.8	5163	147.0	6137	172.9	5903	164.5	5837	161.0	5892	161.0	5669	153.4	6305	169.3
TOTAL ADULT ARRESTS	190864	5472	201603	5766	221788	6337	235995	6717	261655	7371	267987	7468	277558	7658	274742	7507	283063	7658	287807	7726
JUVENILE POP.	1,291,322		1,293,307		1,294,987		1,302,385		1,313,748		1,303,149		1,295,962		1,308,492		1,321,516		1,336,450	
ADULT POP.	3,487,699		3,495,815		3,499,805		3,513,117		3,549,406		3,588,620		3,624,545		3,659,732		3,696,287		3,725,001	

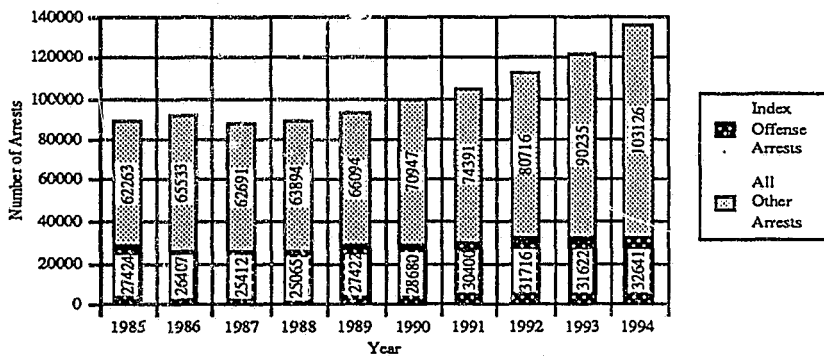
*Included in this category are negligent manslaughter (a Part I offense) and all Part II offenses excluding status offenses.

Table 2: Milwaukee County Juvenile Arrests and Arrest Rates 1985-1994

JUVENILE ARRESTS	1985		1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		1993		1994	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Murder	11	4.7	18	7.6	26	11.1	9	3.8	36	15.3	60	24.4	60	24.3	82	33.1	106	42.6	72	27.7
Forcible Rape	62	26.2	40	17.0	93	39.6	73	31.2	63	26.8	57	23.1	84	34.0	52	21.0	63	25.3	60	23.1
Robbery	518	219.1	413	175.4	293	124.9	250	106.8	263	112.0	474	192.4	684	276.9	639	257.8	610	245.4	597	229.8
Agg. Assault	257	108.7	284	120.6	312	133.0	263	112.4	301	128.2	261	105.9	234	94.7	275	111.0	333	134.0	488	187.9
TOTAL-VIOLENT OFFENSES	848	358.7	755	320.7	724	308.6	595	254.2	663	282.4	852	345.8	1062	430.0	1048	422.8	1112	447.4	1217	468.5
Burglary	1159	490	978	415	840	358	705	301	701	298	560	227	564	228	524	211	477	192	496	191
Theft	5082	2150	5019	2132	4196	1788	4058	1734	3863	1646	4166	1691	4137	1675	3902	1574	3523	1417	4232	1629
MV Theft	528	223	650	276	709	302	964	412	1397	595	1519	617	1201	486	1501	606	1244	500	1132	436
Arson	63	27	66	28	54	23	61	26	57	24	63	26	70	28	73	29	71	29	81	31
TOTAL-PROPERTY OFFENSES	6832	2890	6713	2851	5799	2472	5788	2474	6018	2564	6308	2560	5972	2418	6000	2421	5315	2138	5941	2287
Status Arrests	7019	2969	6911	2935	5640	2404	5838	2490	5154	2195	5532	2245	5720	2316	3764	1519	3745	1507	5182	1995
Other Arrests*	11726	4960	11891	5050	10123	4315	10606	4523	10352	4409	10383	4215	10453	4232	12385	4997	13439	5407	15625	6015
TOTAL JUVENILE ARRESTS	26426	11178	26270	11157	22286	9500	22827	9734	22187	9451	23075	9366	23207	9396	23197	9359	23611	9499	27965	10765
Adult Arrests for Violent Offenses	1704	242.3	2291	327.1	2581	369.9	3179	456.4	2659	380.8	2351	329.7	2331	326.0	2434	339.3	2435	338.5	2922	411.8
TOTAL ADULT ARRESTS	61337	8722	62226	8884	77791	11147	81952	11765	87126	12476	79483	11147	78457	10974	80937	11283	88732	12335	84222	11869
JUVENILE POP.	236,419		235,455		234,590		234,489		234,750		246,360		247,021		247,849		248,556		259,780	
ADULT POP.	703,270		700,415		697,842		696,619		698,317		713,023		714,930		717,330		719,371		709,586	

*Included in this category are negligent manslaughter (a Part I offense) and Part II offenses excluding status offenses.

Graph 4: Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests by Offense Type



Index Crime Arrests Versus All Other Arrests

Graph 4 shows the total number of juvenile arrests in Wisconsin for Index Offenses and for all other offenses during the past ten years. In 1994, Index Offense arrests accounted for 24.0 percent of all juvenile arrests. As previously indicated, the total number of juvenile arrests for Index Offenses has increased 19.0 percent since 1984. However, juvenile arrests for all other offenses increased by 65.6 percent during the same period.

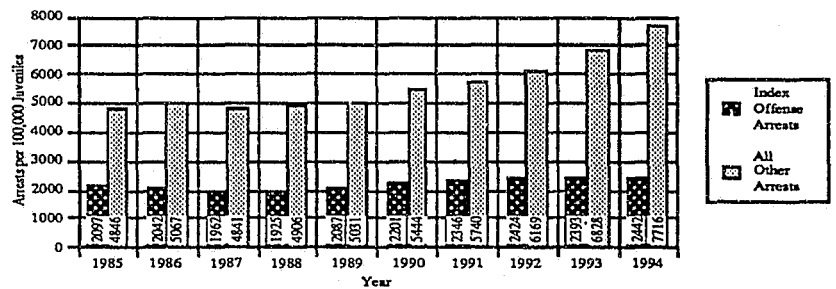
Index Crime Arrest Rates Versus All Other Arrest Rates

Graph 5 shows the juvenile arrest rates in Wisconsin for Index Offenses and for all other offenses during the past ten years. Graphs 6 and 7 illustrate how Milwaukee County differs from the rest of the state.

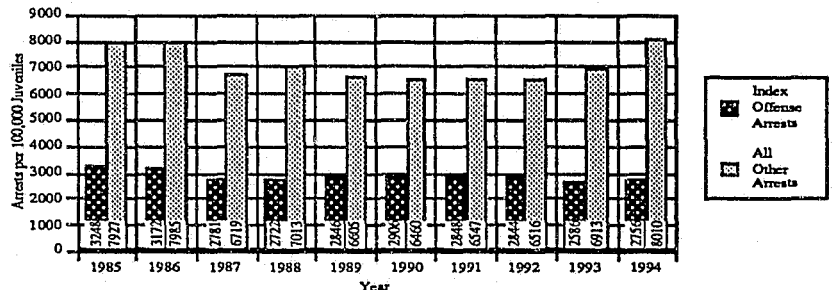
For the entire state, juvenile arrest rates for Index Offenses have increased by 16.4 percent from 2,097 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1985 to 2,442 in 1994. The arrest rate for all other offenses increased 59.2 percent during the same period, from 4,846 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1985 to 7,716 in 1994.

The arrest rates in Milwaukee County, while much higher than the arrest rates for the entire State, (note the different scale on the graphs) had a different pattern in the decade. Index Offense arrest rates in Milwaukee County decreased 15.1 percent, from 3,248 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1985 to 2,756 in 1994. In those years, the Property Index Crime arrest rate for Milwaukee County declined by 20.9 percent, while the Violent Index Crime arrest rate increased by 30.6 percent (see Table 2). Arrest rates for all other offenses increased 1.0 percent, from 7,929 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1985 to 8,010 in 1994. In the rest of the State, arrest rates for Index Offenses increased by 26.4 percent and arrest rates for all other offenses increased 82.3 percent.

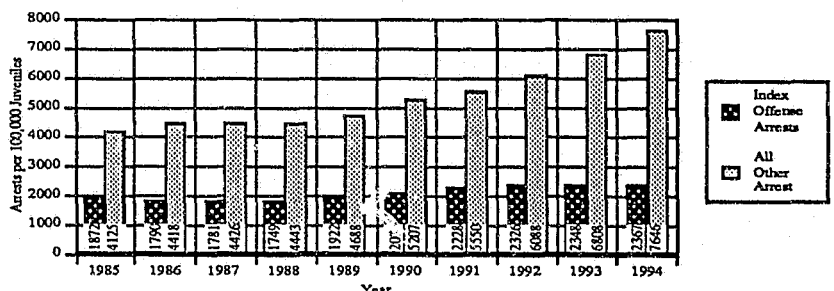
Graph 5: Wisconsin Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense Type



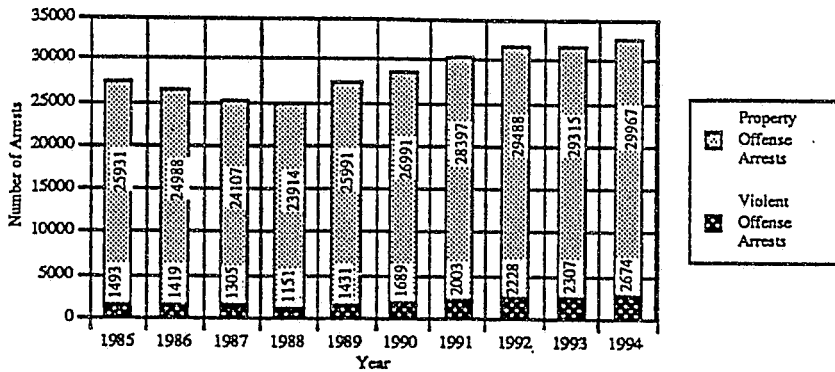
Graph 6: Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense Type - Milwaukee County



Graph 7: Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense Type Wisconsin - Outside Milwaukee County



Graph 8: Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests by Index Offense Type



Violent and Property Arrests

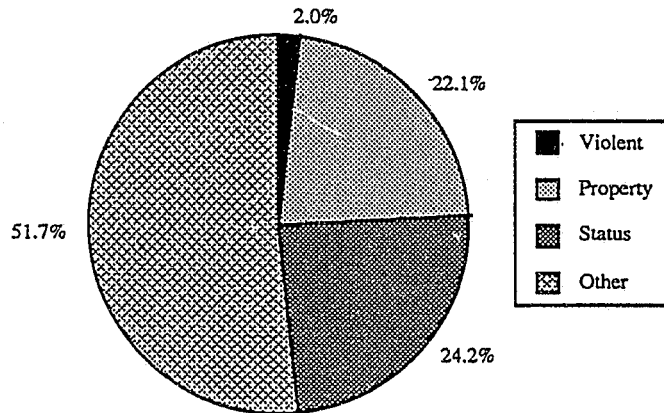
Graph 8 shows the number of juvenile arrests in the state for Violent Index Offenses and for Property Index Offenses. Ninety-two percent of the juvenile arrests for Index offenses in 1994 were for property crimes. The number of juvenile arrests for violent offenses increased 79.1 percent from 1,493 in 1985 to 2,674 during 1994, while the number of arrests for property offenses increased 15.6 percent from 25,931 during 1985 to 29,967 in 1994.

OFFENSE DISTRIBUTION OF ARRESTS

Offense Distribution of 1994 Arrests

Graph 9 shows the distribution of arrests for Wisconsin juveniles in 1994 for four types of offenses: Violent Index Offenses; Property Index Offenses; status offenses, that is, liquor law violations, curfew violations, and runaways; and all other offenses (negligent manslaughter and all Part II crimes except status offenses). Two percent of arrests were for violent offenses. To better understand the distribution of offense types, two additional pie charts, Graphs 10 and 11, show the distribution of arrests for Milwaukee County and for the rest of the State, respectively.

Graph 9: Distribution of 1994 Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests

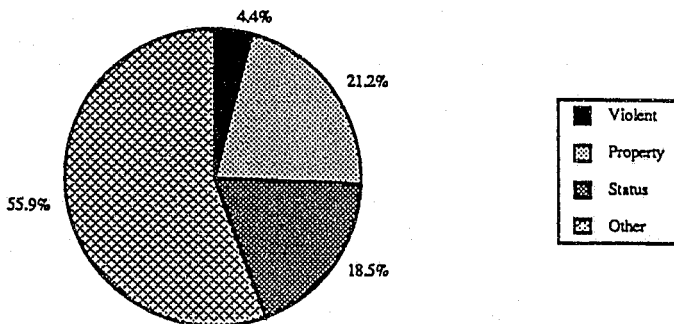


While a greater proportion of juvenile arrests in Milwaukee County were for violent offenses, Milwaukee County had proportionately fewer arrests for status violations, and more arrests for "other" offenses.

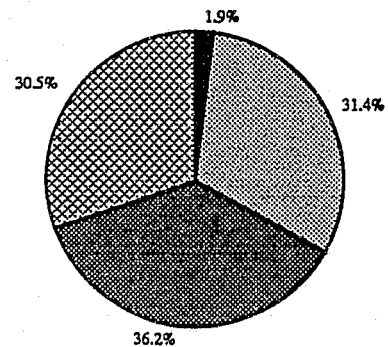
Drugs

From 1985 to 1994, total juvenile arrests for drug law violations increased by 74.7 percent. Juvenile arrests for sale violations increased by 171.8 percent and arrests for possession violations by 57.0 percent. Juveniles accounted for 18.4 percent of all drug law violation arrests in 1994 - noticeably greater than the 14.4 percent in 1993.

Graph 10: Distribution of Juvenile Arrests- Milwaukee County



Graph 11: Distribution of Juvenile Arrests- Wisconsin - Outside Milwaukee County

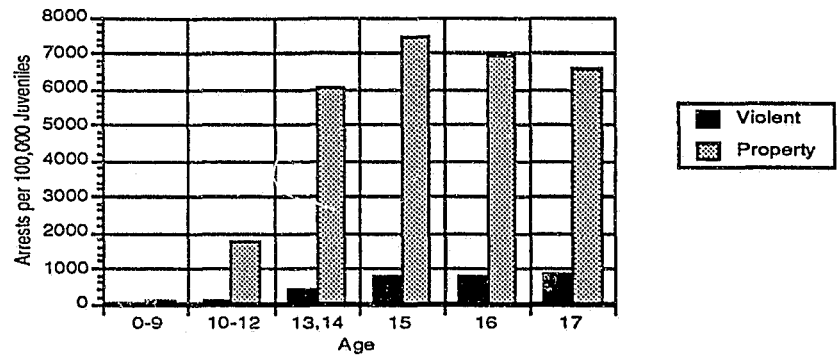


JUVENILE OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

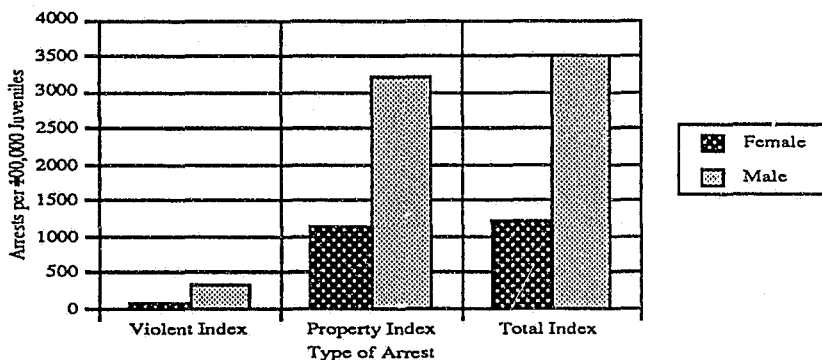
Age

Graph 12 shows the Index Offense arrest rates for juveniles by age for 1994. Arrest rates for Violent Index Offenses peaked at age 17 and Property Index Offenses at the age 15. Robbery, motor vehicle theft, theft, and arson peaked in the age group of 13 to 14.

Graph 12: Juvenile Index Offense Arrest Rates by Age



Graph 13: Rates of Index Arrests for Male Versus Female



Sex

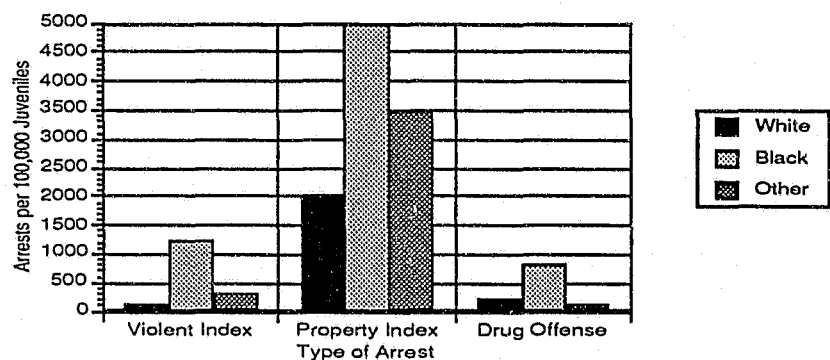
Graph 13 shows the Index rates of Index crimes for males versus females. The rate of male arrests for all Index crimes is 2.9 times that of females. The rate of Property Index Offense arrests for males is 2.8 times that of females; for Violent Index Offense arrests it is 5.3 times higher.

Seventy-four percent of total juvenile arrests were male and 26 percent were female. Arrest categories with the highest female offender percentages included runaways, forgery, offenses against family and children, fraud, liquor law violations, and curfew law violations. Arrest categories that had the highest male offender percentages included weapon law violations, arson, robbery, burglary, stolen property, vandalism, drug law

Race

Graph 14 shows juvenile arrest rates by race for selected categories of offenses for 1994. The arrest rate for blacks for all the selected offenses is about 240 percent more that for whites. The arrest rate for other racial groups is approximately 37 percent more that for whites. In terms of the number of all juveniles arrested, however, 79.6 percent were white, 16.8 percent were black, 2.4 percent were American Indian, and 1.2 percent were Asian. Offense categories with the highest percentage of white arrests included liquor laws, vandalism, driving under the influence, runaway violations, marijuana violations, and burglary. Offense categories with the highest black arrest percentage included robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, motor vehicle theft, and opium/cocaine violations.

Graph 14: Juvenile Arrest Rates by Race



Note: Rates of crime by age and sex were calculated using the publication "Wisconsin Population by Sex and Single Year of Age: 1990 - 2010," published by the Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center. Rates of crime by race were calculated using estimates by the Census Bureau.

SUMMARY

- * After being relatively stable from 1985 through 1988, the total number of juvenile arrests has increased in each of the last six years.
- * The juvenile arrest rate has increased steadily except for a decrease in 1987.
- * During the ten year period, the number of juvenile arrests for Index Offenses increased by 19.0 percent.
- * The Index Offense arrest rate for Wisconsin juveniles increased by 16.4 percent from 1985 to 1994.
- * While Milwaukee County experienced decreases in both total Index Offense arrests and arrest rates during the decade, the arrest rates remained higher in Milwaukee County than in the rest of the state.
- * Ninety-two percent of the juvenile arrests for Index Offenses made in Wisconsin during 1994 were for property crimes.
- * While juvenile arrests for property crimes increased by 15.6 percent during the decade, juvenile arrests for violent crimes increased by 79.1 percent.
- * Milwaukee County had a higher proportion of juvenile arrests for violent offenses than did the rest of Wisconsin.
- * Total juvenile arrests for drug law violations increased by 74.7 percent from 1985 to 1994.
- * In 1994, juvenile arrest rates for Violent Index Offenses peaked at age 17 and Property Index Offenses peaked at age 15.

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