



OJJDP FACT SHEET

May 2002 #08

Burglary Cases in Juvenile Court, 1989–1998

by Carl McCurley

The number of burglary cases handled by juvenile courts declined 7% between 1989 and 1998

Between 1989 and 1992, the burglary caseload increased 19% to a peak of 159,900 cases.¹ The burglary caseload then declined 21% to 125,800 cases in 1998. As a result, juvenile courts processed 7% fewer burglary cases in 1998 than in 1989.

Trends in the number of burglary cases differ for males and females. Among males, the number of burglary cases handled by juvenile courts peaked in 1992, then declined. By 1998, the number of burglary cases involving males was 9% less than the 1989 level. Among females, the number of burglary cases increased 17% between 1989 and 1998. As a result, the proportion of burglary cases involving females increased from 8% in 1989 to 10% in 1998.

Characteristics of burglary cases disposed by juvenile courts, by gender

	Males		Females	
	1989	1998	1989	1998
Cases disposed	123,500	112,700	11,100	13,000
Manner of handling				
Formal	72%	78%	56%	68%
Informal	28	22	44	32
Outcome of formal handling				
Waived	2%	2%	1%	1%
Adjudicated	67	72	60	66
Not adjudicated	32	27	39	34
Disposition of adjudicated cases				
Out-of-home placement	34%	29%	27%	20%
Formal probation	57	58	63	65

Note: Detail may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Characteristics of burglary cases disposed by juvenile courts, 1989–1998

	1989	1994	1998
Cases disposed	134,600	146,300	125,800
Manner of handling			
Formal	70%	72%	77%
Informal	30	28	23
Outcome of formal handling			
Waived	2%	2%	1%
Adjudicated	66	65	71
Not adjudicated	32	34	27
Disposition of adjudicated cases			
Out-of-home placement	34%	31%	29%
Formal probation	57	56	59

Note: Detail may not add to 100% because of rounding.

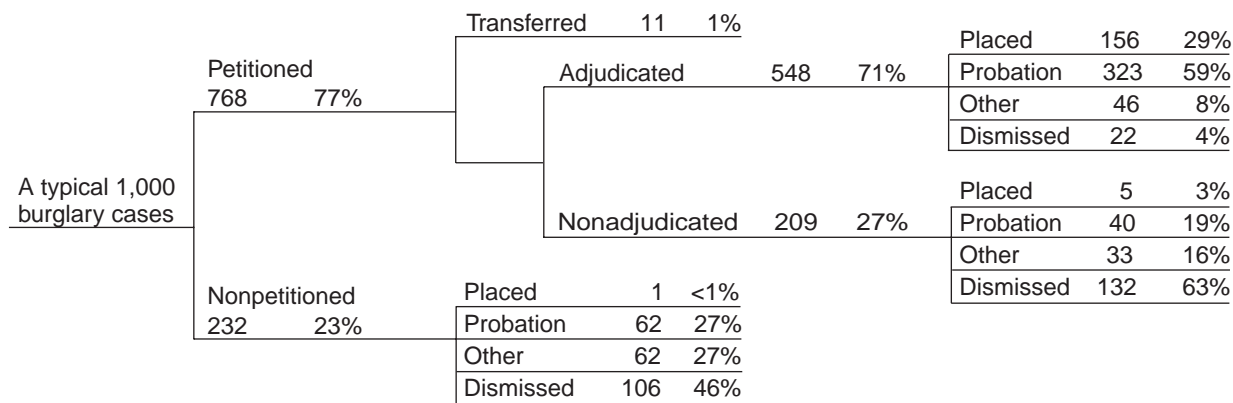
Most adjudicated burglary cases resulted in probation in 1998

When a case is referred to juvenile court, a decision is made to handle the case either formally or informally. When a case is handled informally, without the filing of a petition for an adjudicatory or waiver hearing, the youth may voluntarily agree to comply with certain specified sanctions without a formal court order. In 1998, 23% of the burglary cases referred to juvenile courts were handled informally. Almost half (46%) of these cases were dismissed. In 27% of the informally handled cases, youth agreed to comply with probation conditions; in another 27%, youth agreed to other sanctions, such as restitution, community service, or fines, without a term of probation.

In 1998, 77% of the juvenile burglary cases referred to juvenile court were handled formally (with the filing of a petition). About 1% of all formally processed burglary cases were judicially waived to criminal court in 1998. Another 71% of formally processed burglary cases resulted in the youth being adjudicated

¹ A case represents one youth processed on a new referral, regardless of the number of offenses contained in that referral. An individual youth can be involved in more than one case during the year.

Juvenile court processing of a typical 1,000 burglary cases, 1998



Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Data source: Analysis of the National Center for Juvenile Justice's *National Juvenile Court Data Archive: 1998 juvenile court case records* [machine-readable data file].

delinquent. Probation was the most serious disposition ordered in 59% of adjudicated cases. In 29% of adjudicated cases, youth were placed in a residential facility; in another 8%, youth were ordered to comply with specified sanctions such as restitution, community service, or fines.

Court processing of juvenile burglary cases varied for males and females

In 1998, 78% of juvenile burglary cases involving males were formally processed, compared with 68% of cases involving females. Once petitioned, males were more likely to be adjudicated delinquent than females (72% versus 66%). Once adjudicated, males were more likely to be placed out of the home in a residential facility (29% versus 20%), whereas females were more likely to receive probation as the most restrictive disposition (65% versus 58%).

For further information

This Fact Sheet is based on the forthcoming Report *Juvenile Court Statistics 1998*, which will be available on the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Web site (ojjdp.ncjrs.org). To learn more about juvenile court cases, visit OJJDP's *Statistical Briefing Book* (ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/index.html) and click on "Juveniles in court." OJJDP also supports Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics, a Web-based application that analyzes the data files used for the *Juvenile Court Statistics* Report. This application is available from the *Statistical Briefing Book*.

Carl McCurley, Ph.D., is a Research Associate with the National Juvenile Court Data Archive, which is supported by an OJJDP grant.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

FS-200208

FS-200208



PERMITS NO. G-91
DOJ/OJJDP
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
PRESORTED STANDARD

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Washington, DC 20531
Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300