

Violent Crime Rates Continue to Fall Among Juveniles and Young Adults

by Jeffrey A. Butts

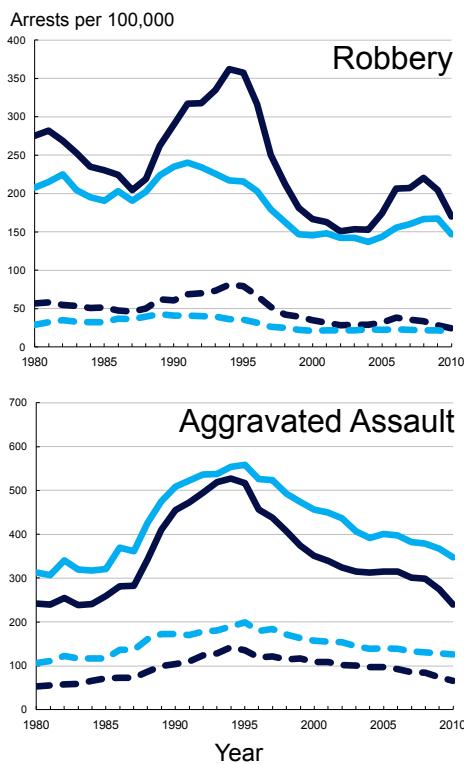
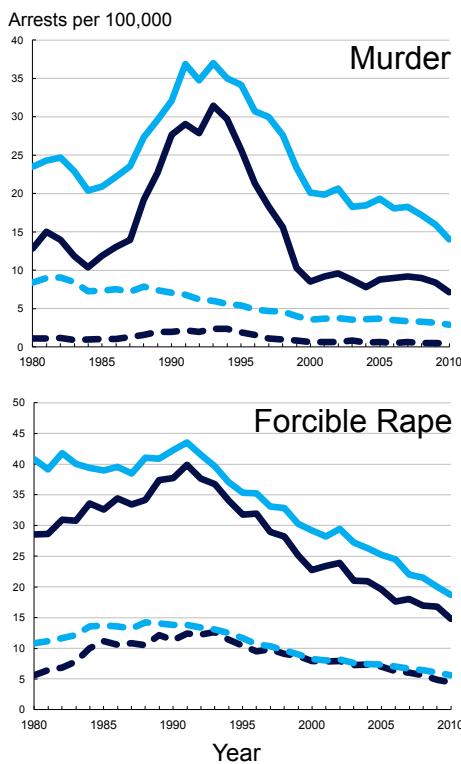
In 2010, the number of arrests made by U.S. law enforcement agencies and involving juveniles (under age 18) was estimated to be more than 1.6 million.

Of these, nearly 76,000 involved the four offenses in the FBI's Violent Crime Index: murder (1,000), forcible rape (2,800), robbery (27,000), and aggravated assault (44,900).

When viewed as per capita rates (arrests per 100,000 10-17 year-olds in the U.S. population), the decline in juvenile violence after 2004 is clearly apparent. The total juvenile arrest rate for Violent Index offenses grew from approximately 300 to 500 per 100,000 between 1980 and 1994, dropped to 270 in 2004, and fell to fewer than 250 per 100,000 by 2010.

Arrest rates generally fell for every age group and for all four violent offenses between 1994 and 2004. Violent crime rates fell among young juveniles (under age 15) and older adults (over age 24), but the scale of these changes was overwhelmed by the size of the violent crime drop among older juveniles (ages 15-17) and young adults (ages 18-24).

Except for Robbery, Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests Mirror Young Adults



Data Source:

Number of under-age-18 arrests reported to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports per 100,000 youth ages 10-17. Rates for 1980-2009 are calculated from Snyder, Howard and J. Mulakao-Wangota (2011). *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* at www.bjs.gov. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice. Rates for 2010 are calculated directly from "Crime in the United States." Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.