

## How to learn more about the information in this report

This Report consolidates the most requested information on juvenile offenders and victims. Statistical information is presented in a user-friendly format. For that reason, explanations of methods are limited and bibliographic references are brief.

Data of national scope were used whenever they were available. If national data were not available, multijurisdictional data were used. Single-site data were used only when no multijurisdictional data were available.

Specific questions about the report as well as requests for information on the specific data sources, methods used, and the data points for the graphics should be directed to the authors at:

National Center for Juvenile Justice  
710 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3000  
412-227-6950

### Additional copies of this Report are available from:

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
800-638-8736 or 301-519-5500  
e-mail: [puborder@ncjrs.org](mailto:puborder@ncjrs.org)

Much of the information in this Report is available through the Internet on the **OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book**. The Briefing Book can be accessed from the OJJDP home page at [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org) through the JJ Facts & Figures prompt. Users of this Report are encouraged to review the contents of the **Statistical Briefing Book** periodically. As updated or new information becomes available, the **Statistical Briefing Book** will be revised so that users can be assured access to the most current information on juvenile crime, juvenile offending, and the juvenile justice system.

## How to find more information on juvenile offenders and victims

More information on the topics covered in this Report is available from a number of government sources.

### Juvenile justice information is available through:

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
810 Seventh Street NW  
Washington, DC 20531  
202-307-5929  
[www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org)

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Justice Statistics Clearinghouse  
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ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse  
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### Reported crime and arrest data are available from:

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Criminal Justice Information Services Division  
Clarksburg, WV  
304-625-4995  
[www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

### Juvenile court data and State juvenile code statutes analyses are available from:

National Center for Juvenile Justice  
710 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3000  
412-227-6950  
[www.ncjj.org](http://www.ncjj.org)

### Child maltreatment information is available through:

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information  
330 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20447  
800-394-3366 or 703-385-7565  
[www.calib.com/nccanch](http://www.calib.com/nccanch)

## Information on runaway and homeless youth can be obtained through:

National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth  
P.O. Box 13505  
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505  
301-608-8098  
[www.ncfy.com](http://www.ncfy.com)

### Education data can be obtained through:

National Center for Education Statistics  
555 New Jersey Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20208  
800-424-1616 or 202-219-1828  
[www.nces.ed.gov](http://www.nces.ed.gov)

### Population and related information is available from:

Bureau of the Census  
Customer Services  
Washington, DC 20233-8300  
301-457-4100  
[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

### Labor data are available from:

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Postal Square Building, Room 2850  
2 Massachusetts Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20212-0001  
202-606-5886  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

### Mortality and teen pregnancy data are available from:

National Center for Health Statistics  
Division of Vital Statistics  
6525 Belcrest Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
301-436-8500  
[www.cdc.gov/nchswww](http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww)

### Traffic safety information is distributed by:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street SW  
Washington, DC 20590  
800-934-8517  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

### Public use data files of many justice data sets are available through:

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data—ICPSR  
P.O. Box 1248  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106  
800-999-0960 or 313-763-5010  
[www.icpsr.umich.edu/nacjd](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/nacjd)

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# **Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report**

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**Howard N. Snyder**

**Melissa Sickmund**

**National Center for Juvenile Justice**

**September 1999**

**Shay Bilchik, Administrator  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

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# Foreword

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As America moves into the 21st century, we need to forge enlightened policies for our juvenile justice system—policies based on facts, not fears. While the pictures on our television screens and the photos on our front pages raise genuine concerns that we must address, this Report, drawing on reliable data and relevant research, provides a comprehensive and insightful view of the nature of juvenile crime and violence across the Nation.

*Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report* offers the Congress, State legislators and other State and local policymakers, professors and teachers, juvenile justice professionals, and concerned citizens solid answers to the most frequently asked questions about the nature of

juvenile crime and victimization and about the justice system's response.

Citing FBI and other data sources, the Report demonstrates that the rate of juvenile violent crime arrests—after peaking in 1994—has consistently decreased over the past several years. However, it has yet to return to the 1988 level, the year in which dramatic increases in juvenile crime arrests were first seen. The Report also summarizes data on school violence and describes the recent downturn in the violent victimization of youth.

New findings from the 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, providing the most current data on self-reported delinquent and antisocial behavior, are included in the Report,

which also presents data from OJJDP's new national Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, summarizing key findings about the characteristics of juvenile offenders in custody.

In sum, *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*, like its predecessors—*Juvenile Offenders and Victims: A National Report* (1995), *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: Update on Violence* (1996 and 1997), and *Juvenile Arrests 1997* (1998)—offers an indispensable resource for informed policy decisions that will shape the juvenile justice system in the 21st century by providing a clear view of juvenile crime and the justice system's response at the end of the 20th century.

**Shay Bilchik**  
*Administrator*

Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention

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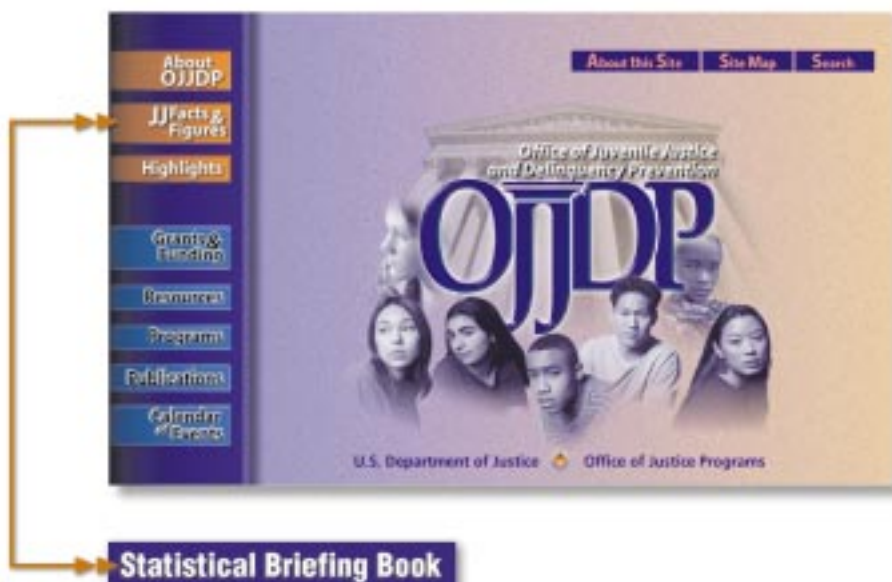
Keeps you up-to-date on the topics of juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and missing and exploited children. It also presents a wide range of publications, funding opportunities, topic-specific resources, conferences, and highlights about OJJDP.

The Statistical Briefing Book, a component of OJJDP Online under JJ Facts and Figures, also offers direct access to more statistics and trends in juvenile justice and victimization to complement information featured in the *National Report*.

Keep informed and share your comments and feedback.

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- ◆ Population characteristics
- ◆ Juvenile arrests
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