

JUVENILE JUSTICE

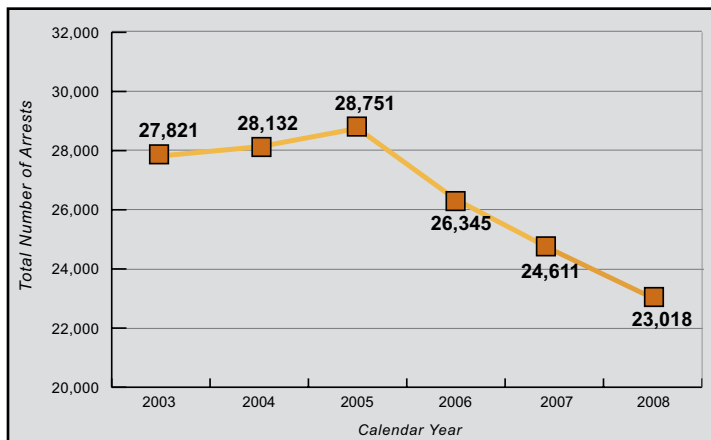
JUVENILE ARREST TRENDS •• 2003 - 2008

This article provides an overview of juvenile arrest trends in Chicago from 2003 to 2008 and a description of juvenile arrests and arrestees for 2008.¹ For the purpose of this report juveniles are defined as persons 5 to 16 years of age at the time of arrest. The data characterized in this article are based on arrest data collected by the Chicago Police Department from 2003 to 2008. Readers should note that the data used for this article reflects arrests and not individual arrestees. This distinction is important because one juvenile could have multiple arrests during the time period analyzed.

Trends in Juvenile Arrests, 2003 to 2008

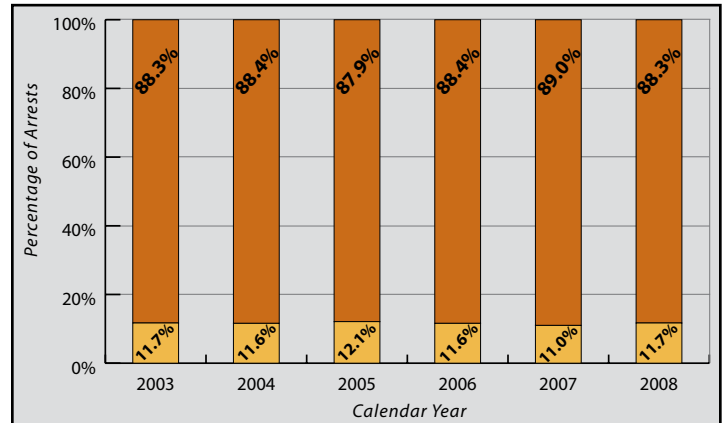
From 2003 to 2008, the total number of juvenile arrests declined 17.3 percent. As Figure 1 indicates, the largest decrease occurred between 2005 and 2006 when the total number of juvenile arrests decreased 8.4 percent. Since 2006, there has been a consistent decline in juvenile arrests, with 6.6 percent decrease between 2006 and 2007 and a 6.5 percent decrease between 2007 and 2008 (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1:
TOTAL JUVENILE ARRESTS AGED 5 TO 16
YEARS AT THE TIME OF ARREST, 2003 TO 2008



Overall, juvenile arrests accounted for a relatively small portion of all arrests in 2008 (Figure 2), and in fact the percentage of all arrests involving juveniles has not changed significantly from 2003 to 2008.²

FIGURE 2:
PERCENTAGE OF JUVENILE AND
ADULT ARRESTS, 2003 TO 2008



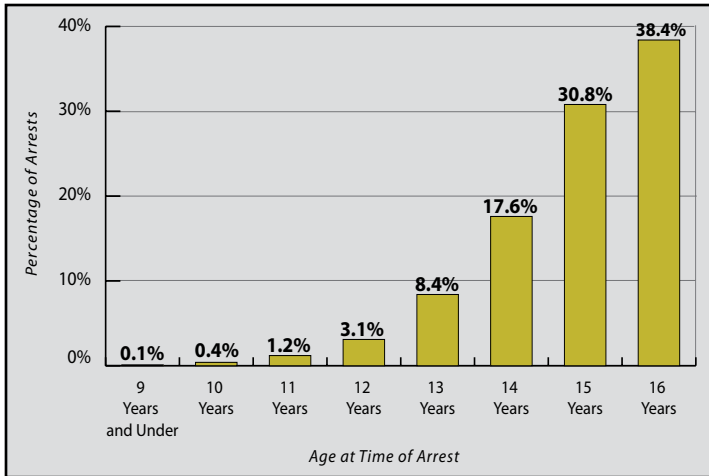
Juvenile Arrests by Sex, Age, and Race/Ethnicity of Arrestee

In 2008, the majority of juvenile arrests, or 69.2 percent of arrests, involved juveniles aged 15 and 16 years at the time of arrest (Figure 3). Juveniles aged 14 years at the time of arrest accounted for the next highest percentage (17.6%) of all arrests.

An examination of percentage of juvenile arrests by age from 2003 to 2008 showed that there were decreases in the percentage of arrests accounted for by juveniles 13 years and under, but a significant increase in the percentage of arrests accounted for by juveniles 15 and 16 years of age. There was no significant change in the percentage of arrests accounted for by juveniles 14 years of age.

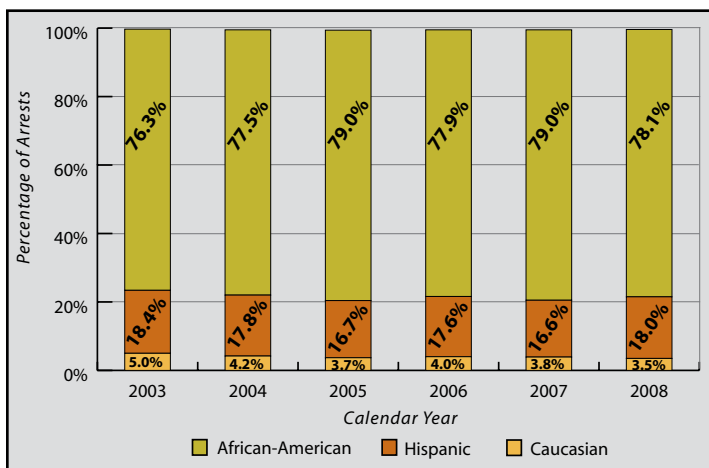
In 2008, males accounted for the majority of juvenile arrests (83.5%), while females accounted for 16.5 percent. When comparing the percentage of arrests accounted for by females in 2003 and 2008, it was found that the percentage for females had a small but significant decrease (18.2% in 2003 compared to 16.5% in 2008) while the percentage accounted for by males had a significant increase (81.8% in 2003 compared to 83.5% in 2008).

FIGURE 3:
PERCENTAGE OF ARRESTS BY
ARRESTEE AGE AT THE TIME OF ARREST, 2008



In 2008, Caucasians accounted for 3.5 percent of all juvenile arrests, while Hispanics accounted for 18.0 percent, and African Americans accounted for 78.1 percent (Figure 4). Less than 1 percent of all juvenile arrests involved people of Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, and Alaskan decent (not shown in Figure 4). An analysis of the percentage of arrests accounted for by African Americans, Hispanics, and Caucasians indicated that African Americans had a significant increase in arrests from 2003 to 2008, while Caucasians had a significant decrease and Hispanics had no significant change in arrests from 2003 to 2008.

FIGURE 4:
PERCENTAGE OF ARRESTS
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2003 TO 2008

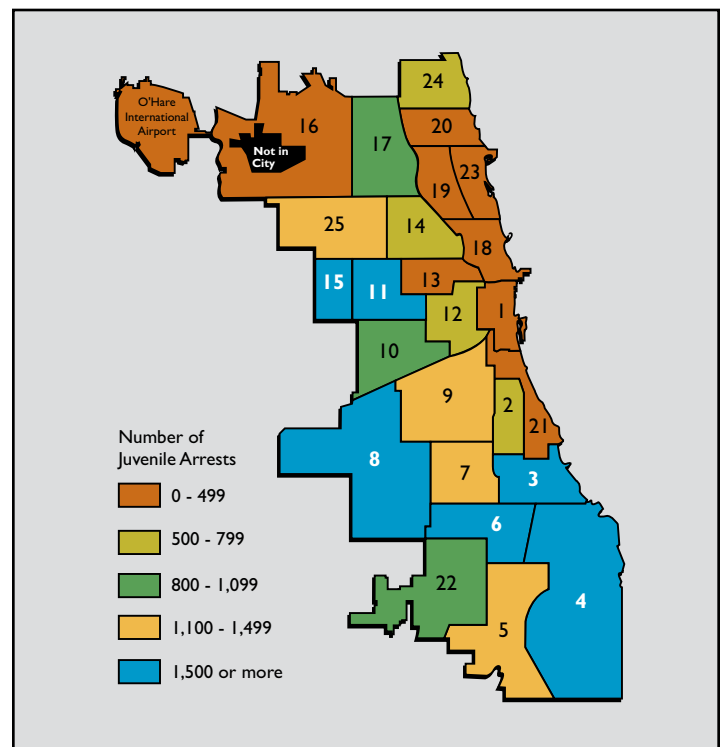


Juvenile Arrests by Location and District

In 2008, the four most common locations of juvenile arrests were public way, educational properties, residential properties, and retail sales/services. These locations combined made up 89.0 percent of all juvenile arrests. Public way had the highest percentage of juvenile arrests (44.8%), which was followed by educational (22.8%), residential (13.0%), and retail sales/services (8.4%). Educational properties include Public school, building and grounds, Private school, building and grounds, college/university grounds and residence hall. From 2003 to 2008, there was no significant changes in percentage of juvenile arrests occurring on the public way or retail property, but there was a significant increase in the percentage of juvenile arrests occurring on residential properties and a significant decrease in the percentage of juvenile arrests occurring on educational properties.

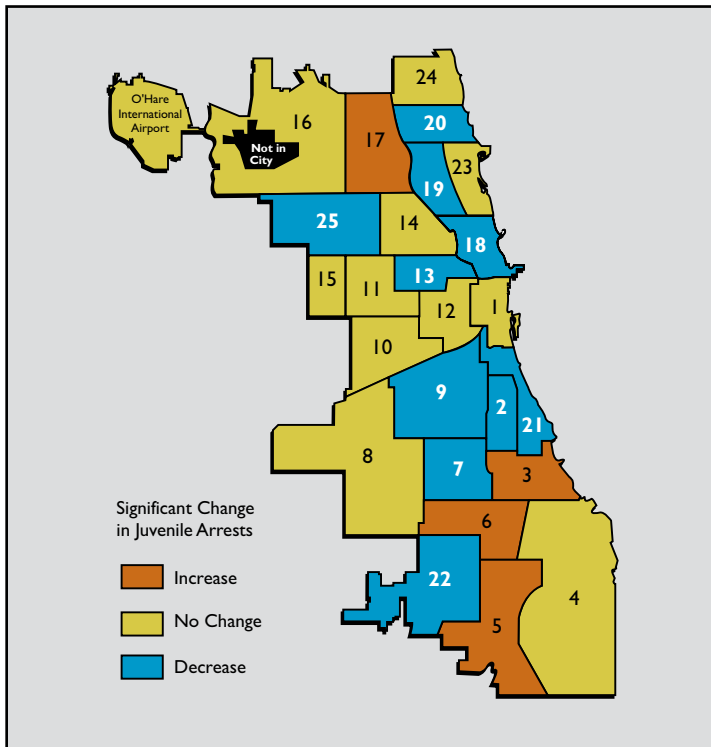
In 2008, 64.0 percent of the juvenile arrests happened in ten out of the 25 districts. These districts include in order of most to least: 08, 11, 03, 06, 15, 04, 05, 07, 25, and 09 (Map 1).

MAP 1:
NUMBER OF JUVENILE
ARRESTS BY DISTRICT, 2008



An examination was conducted of the significant change in the number of juvenile arrests by district from 2003 to 2008. The results revealed four districts had an increase in juvenile arrests, ten districts had a decrease, and 11 had no change (Map 2).

MAP 2:
SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN NUMBER OF
JUVENILE ARRESTS BY DISTRICT, 2003 TO 2008

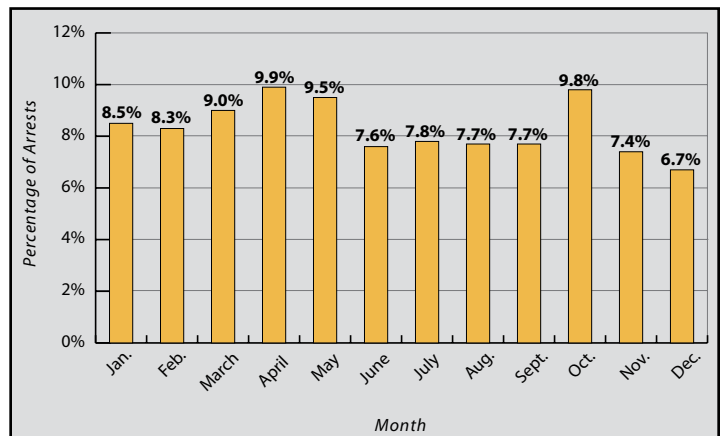


Juvenile Arrests by Month, Day of the Week, and Hour

In 2008, the three months that had the highest amount of juvenile arrests were: April, May, and October. The percentage of arrest in April was 9.9 percent, May was 9.5 percent, and October was 9.8 percent (Figure 5). The data were further broken down into seasons: spring (March thru May), summer (June thru August), fall (September thru November), and winter (December thru February). This data showed that summer accounted for the lowest percentage of juvenile arrests in 2008, with 23.1 percent. Spring accounted for the highest percentage of arrests with 28.4 percent, followed by fall (24.9%), and winter (23.6%).

Trend analysis revealed that three months (January, April, and July) had significant increases in the percentages of juvenile arrests accounted for by those months and three months (June, September, and November) that had significant decreases in the percentages of juvenile arrest accounted for by those months.

FIGURE 5:
PERCENTAGE OF JUVENILE
ARRESTS BY MONTH, 2003 TO 2008



The data were also analyzed by day of week in which the arrest occurred. As Figure 6 illustrates, most of the juvenile arrests happened Monday thru Friday in 2008. An examination of the trend of over time indicated that this did not change significantly from 2003 to 2008.

FIGURE 6:
PERCENTAGE OF JUVENILE
ARRESTS BY DAY OF WEEK, 2008

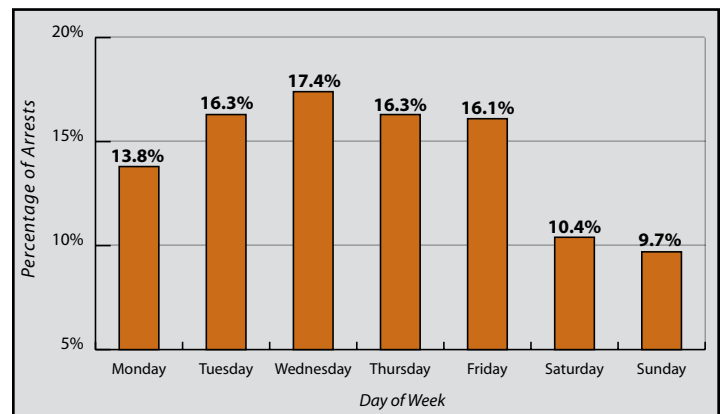
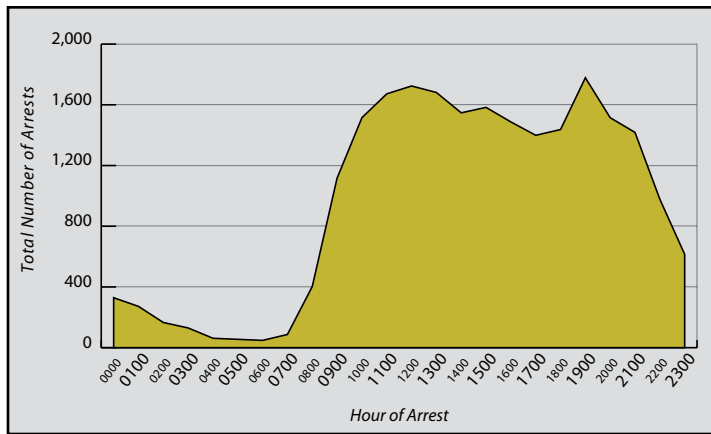


Figure 7 shows the number of juvenile arrests made by hour in 2008. There were two distinct peaks identified. One was between the 1000 hours and 1200 hours, and one was between 1800 hours and 2100 hours.

Trend analysis indicated that the percentage of juvenile arrests occurring from 0000 to 0659 hours decreased, while the percentage of juvenile arrests occurring from 1600 to 1159 hours increased. There was no significant change in the percentage of juvenile arrests occurring from 0700 to 1559 hours.

**FIGURE 7:
TOTAL NUMBER OF JUVENILE
ARRESTEES BY HOUR, 2008**



offenses in which the percentage of juvenile arrests significantly decreased: drug abuse violations, simple battery, and motor vehicle theft.

**TABLE 1:
JUVENILE ARRESTS
BY OFFENSE TYPE, 2003 AND 2008**

Offense Type ¹	2003	2008	% Change
Drug Abuse Violation	5,035	3,471	-31.1%
Simple Battery	4,814	3,108	-35.4%
Miscellaneous non-index offenses	2,432	2,314	-1.2%
Larceny – Theft *	2,379	2,116	-11.1%
Disorderly Conduct	1,962	1,776	-9.5%
Vandalism	1,270	1,360	7.1%
Robbery*	941	1,193	26.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft*	2,009	1,173	-41.6%
Warrant Arrests	711	1,170	64.6
Burglary*	1,018	867	-14.8

* Index crimes.

¹ Rank was based on the 2008 arrest numbers.

Juvenile Arrests by Offense Type

Table 1 represents the top ten offenses for juveniles who were arrested in 2003 and 2008. Of the arrests made by the Chicago Police Department, the top two offenses were Drug Abuse Violation and Simple Batteries.

Significance tests revealed that there were three offenses that had no significant change in the percentage of arrests accounted for by these offenses between 2003 and 2008: theft, disorderly conduct, burglary. However, there were four offenses in which the percentage of juvenile arrests accounted for by the offenses significantly increased: robbery, miscellaneous non-index offenses, vandalism, and warrant arrests, additionally, there were three

NOTES

¹ 2003-2007 data is accurate as of 04 August 2008 and 2008 data are accurate as of 05 January 2009.

² Significance tests were conducted to identify significant trends over time. The significance tests were based on the calculation of standard errors, which were used to create boundaries around rates and percentages. The boundaries indicate the range of total that the rate or percentage could have been due to the natural fluctuation of numbers. Instances in which significant tests were conducted are indicated by using the terms "significant" or "statistically significant."