

Juvenile Court Offense Referrals

Juvenile court offense referrals are a way to track trends in juvenile crime. Juvenile court referrals are standardized throughout the state and can be retrieved from the JUVIS system, which is maintained by the Office of the Administrator for the Courts.

A court referral is a listing of a juvenile's name and offense in the juvenile court's legal record keeping system. It is a record that the juvenile was arrested or cited for an offense by a law enforcement agency, and then referred to the prosecutor. A referral is not a conviction.

The number of juvenile court offense referrals is always greater than the number of arrests, because a referral may include other court procedures, such as warrants.

In 2005, the Administrative Office of the Courts converted counties from the previous JUVIS reporting system to a new Juvenile and Corrections System (JCS). The JCS is a major component of the effort to better serve the needs of courts and judges.

The JCS was developed to support the unique needs of juvenile departments, standardizing data and enabling statewide data sharing with JIS, local court systems and other justice agencies. The new system is Web-based – much more user-friendly than the old code-driven system – and eliminates the need for multiple entries of the same data.

The county prosecutor is responsible for prosecuting juvenile cases. The prosecutor decides whether to divert a case, whether charges should be filed and which offenses should be charged. A juvenile may be involved in more than one case within a year depending on the number of times the juvenile offends. A case may involve more than one charge/offense depending on the circumstances of the event and the decision of the prosecutor.

Juveniles who commit minor/first offenses may be offered diversion instead of being taken to court. Juveniles who do not complete a diversion agreement, refuse diversion or are refused diversion are charged in juvenile court.

The data in this report represents a calendar year. Therefore, some cases may have been referred the previous year (2007) but may not have been filed on or diverted until 2008. Additionally, some cases that were referred in 2008 may not have complete outcomes on adjudication until 2009.

In 2008, 46,962 cases were referred to the prosecutor for criminal offenses. Cases referred to diversion comprised 38 percent of the cases; charges were filed on 37 percent of the cases; and on nine percent of the cases there was no action taken. The courts remanded juveniles to adult court in less than one percent of the cases charged.

In 2008, just under seven percent of the juvenile cases where a youth was found to be guilty were sentenced to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA). Ninety-three percent of the cases were sentenced to detention, probation, community service, community supervision, counseling, fines, restitution, or the Consolidated Juvenile Services program.

During 2008, 129 juvenile cases (less than one half of one percent of those juvenile cases referred to the prosecutor) were transferred to adult court. Counties where ten or more juvenile cases were remanded to adult court were Chelan (12), Clark (21), Skagit (21), Spokane (24), and Yakima (11).

Sentencing within the standard range was the most common disposition. Over eighty-four percent of the juvenile cases adjudicated guilty were sentenced within the standard range. Two percent were sentenced outside the standard range (judge declared a manifest injustice [M.I.]). Of the cases sentenced outside the standard range, Eighty-eight percent of the cases were above the standard range (MI up) and twelve percent of the cases were below the standard range (MI down).

Gender

Males have legal cases filed at a higher rate than females. Seventy percent of the juvenile cases referred to the prosecutor in 2008 involved males. Eighty-four percent of the juvenile cases remanded to adult court involved males.

Cases referred to the prosecutor that involved females were much less likely to be charged (29.5 percent for females, compared to 40 percent for males in 2008).

Race and Ethnic Distribution

Of the cases where race or ethnicity was recorded in 2008, 64 percent of the cases referred to the prosecutor were White, twelve percent were Black, four percent were Native American, sixteen percent were Hispanic, three percent were Asian American, and one percent were unknown/other.

Of the juvenile cases referred to diversion where race or ethnicity was recorded, 60 percent of the juveniles were White, twelve percent were Black, four percent were Native American, eighteen percent were Hispanic, three percent were Asian American, and one percent were unknown/other.

Of the juvenile cases remanded to adult court where race was recorded 35 percent of the juveniles were White, four percent were Black, four percent were Native American, 56 percent were Hispanic, and one percent were Asian American.

In 2008, 9,141 juvenile cases were sentenced within the local standard range. Of those cases where race or ethnicity was recorded, 60 percent were White, 13 percent were Black, four percent were Native American, 17 percent were Hispanic, and three were Asian American.

Table 58

2008 JUVENILE OFFENSE REFERRALS BY ETHNICITY

	2008 Statewide Totals		State Pop Age 10-17
	Number	Percent	% Dist
White	29,221	62.22	71.69
Black	5,552	11.82	5.46
Asian	1,816	3.87	7.16
Hispanic	7,267	15.47	13.78
Native American	1,556	3.31	1.94
Other/Unknown	1,550	3.30	**
TOTAL REFERRALS	46,962	100	

Source: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A., and Kang, W. (2008), "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2008," Online. JCS referrals were obtained from report 3012, produced by the Administrator of the Courts.

Table 58A

For Juveniles with Referral Dates January 1 through December 31, 2008

JUVENILES	White		Black		Native American		Hispanic		Asian		Total* 2008
	2008	% Total	2008	% Total	2008	% Total	2008	% Total	2008	% Total	
REFERRED TO											
JUVENILE DEPT.	29,221	64%	5,552	12%	1,816	4%	7,267	16%	1,556	3%	45,412
Legal Cases Filed	9,638	57%	2,881	17%	726	4%	3,034	18%	616	4%	16,895
No Action **	2,633	68%	322	8%	192	5%	649	17%	79	2%	3,875
Transfer to Adult Court	77	35%	9	4%	8	4%	124	56%	2	1%	220
Diversions Filed	7,734	60%	1,515	12%	574	4%	2,317	18%	661	5%	12,801
CHARGES FILED											
Charge Dismissed	3,677	57%	1,126	18%	315	5%	1,115	17%	185	3%	6,418
Not Guilty	67	64%	11	11%	2	2%	17	16%	7	7%	104
Guilty	6,288	58%	1,605	15%	483	4%	2,213	20%	306	3%	10,895
DISPOSITION											
Standard Range	5,099	60%	1,172	14%	363	4%	1,645	19%	249	3%	8,528
Manifest Injustice (MI)	91	67%	21	15%	5	4%	14	10%	5	4%	136
JRA Standard Range	342	55%	115	19%	23	4%	120	19%	18	3%	618
JRA MI	68	69%	10	10%	4	4%	13	13%	4	4%	99

* Totals include Other/Unknkown categories.

These data were obtained from Office of the Administrator for the Courts, Sept 2008.

Table 59

2008 Juvenile Offense Referrals by County/Ethnicity

County	White	Black	Native		Asian	Other/ Unknown	Total
			American	Hispanic			
Adams	72			159		52	283
Asotin/Garfield	208	5	4	8	2	8	235
Benton/Franklin	1,703	119	22	1,424	35	32	3,335
Chelan	492	10	10	284	1	34	831
Clallam	567	22	68	30	4	14	705
Clark	2,752	246	27	193	89	158	3,465
Cowlitz	1,136	41	32	173	22	39	1,443
Douglas	254	4	2	134	1	35	430
Ferry	8	2	12			6	28
Grant	534	34	16	482	2	56	1,124
Grays Harbor	484	25	44	42	6	44	645
Island	240	13	5	17	17	49	341
Jefferson	142	1	7	1	8	8	167
King	3,218	2,260	152	803	567	84	7,084
Kitsap	1,348	174	69	107	110	201	2,009
Kittitas	282	19	6	15	1	23	346
Klickitat	128	2	11	11	2	13	167
Lewis	444	16	11	48	1	66	586
Lincoln	53		3			6	62
Mason	346	4	30	29	10	37	456
Okanogan	219	8	167	87	2	23	506
Pacific/Wahkiakum	122	4	6	8	2	44	186
Pend Oreille	89		8		1	1	99
Pierce	3,595	1,480	153	398	350	24	6,000
San Juan	52			1		2	55
Skagit	755	25	38	420	21	27	1,286
Skamania	102	3	5	10	3	0	123
Snohomish	3,441	343	181	383	167	56	4,571
Spokane	2,740	342	260	130	20	23	3,515
Stevens	338	11	17	5	4	67	442
Thurston	1,192	164	57	116	70	38	1,637
Walla Walla	358	14	9	179		100	660
Whatcom	787	69	156	168	29	10	1,219
Whitman	158	5	2	3	4	13	185
Yakima	862	87	226	1,399	5	157	2,736
TOTAL	29,221	5,552	1,816	7,267	1,556	1,550	46,962

Data obtained from Administrator Office of the Courts.

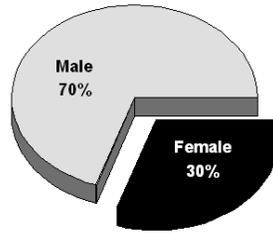
Table 60

2008 Juvenile Offense Referrals by County/Gender

County	Male		Female	
	Total	%	Total	%
Adams	205	72.4	78	27.6
Asotin/Garfield	156	66.4	79	33.6
Benton/Franklin	2,410	72.3	925	27.7
Chelan	601	72.3	230	27.7
Clallam	462	65.5	243	34.5
Clark	2,488	71.8	975	28.2
Cowlitz	997	69.1	446	30.9
Douglas	266	61.9	164	38.1
Ferry	19	67.9	9	32.1
Grant	788	70.1	336	29.9
Grays Harbor	490	76.0	155	24.0
Island	235	69.1	105	30.9
Jefferson	111	66.5	56	33.5
King	4,890	69.1	2,188	30.9
Kitsap	1,347	67.5	650	32.5
Kittitas	256	74.0	90	26.0
Klickitat	118	71.1	48	28.9
Lewis	425	72.5	161	27.5
Lincoln	40	64.5	22	35.5
Mason	319	70.4	134	29.6
Okanogan	352	69.6	154	30.4
Pacific/Wahkiakum	113	60.8	73	39.2
Pend Oreille	65	65.7	34	34.3
Pierce	4,218	70.3	1,781	29.7
San Juan	34	61.8	21	38.2
Skagit	936	72.8	349	27.2
Skamania	83	67.5	40	32.5
Snohomish	3,187	69.8	1,382	30.2
Spokane	2,448	69.6	1,067	30.4
Stevens	320	73.6	115	26.4
Thurston	1,044	64.0	587	36.0
Walla Walla	468	71.1	190	28.9
Whatcom	819	67.2	400	32.8
Whitman	145	78.4	40	21.6
Yakima	2,008	73.4	727	26.6
TOTAL	32,863	70.0	14,054	30.0

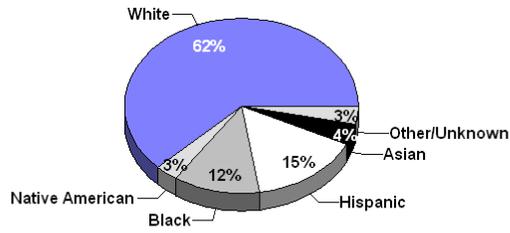
Data obtained from Administrator Office of the Courts.

Graph 34
**2008 Juvenile Offense Referrals
 by Gender ***



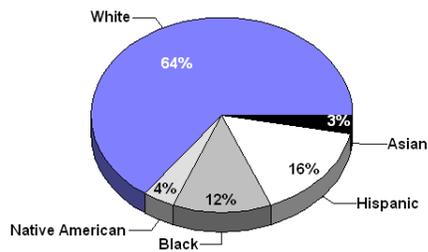
* Data include King County.
 Source: Administrative Office of the Courts, JCS system.

Graph 35
**2008 Juvenile Offense Referrals
 by Race/Ethnicity ***



* Data include King County; percentages have been rounded.
 Source: Administrative Office of the Courts, JCS system, Report 3012.

Graph 36
**2008 Referrals to Juvenile Department
 By Race/Ethnicity**



Data source: Administrative Office of the Courts, July 2009, JCS system; percentages have been rounded.
 These data do not include "other" and "unknown" categories.