

Juvenile Court indicators

Juvenile court indicators are based on counts of official delinquency and unruly cases disposed of in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. Official cases are handled by the juvenile court system - a juvenile has at least one hearing with a judge or magistrate. Counts are based on the combination of juveniles and cases. A juvenile who appears in more than one case is counted more than once. Counts are based on cases disposed in a given year, regardless of the year in which the offense was committed for the case. (The majority of cases are disposed within the same year in which the offense was committed.)

Bypass cases are not included in the counts or rates in NEO CANDO for any year. They were previously counted; so, data previously downloaded will not match counts and rates currently in NEO CANDO. Bypass cases include those cases that are diverted from being officially processed by the court.

Counts are provided by categories of offenses and by demographic characteristics of juveniles in cases. The offense categories are based mainly on the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) coding of juvenile offenses. Statute codes are classified into the NCJJ offense categories to the extent possible. (Note: What the Center classifies as violent offenses, NCJJ classifies as person offenses, however, these classifications contain the same crime types).

The data from the Juvenile Court contain both delinquency and unruly cases. Delinquency cases involve juveniles charged with violations of the law that would be considered crimes if committed by adults. Unruly cases involve juveniles who committed behaviors that would not be crimes but for their status as juveniles. These include behaviors such as truancy, incorrigibility, and running away. Delinquency cases include all violent, property, drug, public order and conspiracy offenses. Conspiracy offenses could not be classified into a specific crime type. Therefore, conspiracy offenses are included in the **Total delinquency count** but a separate count for them is not provided in NEO CANDO. (Therefore, summing violent, property, drug and public order offenses will NOT equal the Total delinquency count.)

I. Definitions

The offense categories that appear in NEO CANDO include:

Violent offenses include homicide, sexual assault, robbery, assault (both aggravated and non-aggravated), domestic violence and other violent crimes. Other violent crimes include menacing, kidnapping, ethnic intimidation, endangering children, extortion, and bribery. Separate counts for the following offenses are provided: homicide, sexual assault, robbery, assault and domestic violence.

Property offenses include burglary, larceny-theft, auto theft, arson, vandalism, and other property crimes. Other property crimes include trespassing, receiving stolen property, forgery, fraud, safecracking, passing bad checks, and misuse of credit cards. Separate counts for the following offenses are provided: burglary, larceny-theft, auto theft, arson, and vandalism.

Illicit drug violations include illicit drug trafficking and possession, and other illicit drug law violations. Other drug violations include those that could not be classified as trafficking or possession. Separate counts are provided for illicit drug possession, illicit drug trafficking, and other illicit drug violations.

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Liquor law violations are violations of liquor laws such as underage drinking or driving under the influence of alcohol.

Public order offenses include disorderly conduct, weapon violations, and other public order offenses. Other public order offenses include rioting, probation and court violations, gambling, littering, obscenity, perjury, prostitution, public peace and fireworks violations. Separate counts for the following offenses are provided: disorderly conduct, weapons violations and the total of the other public order offenses.

Unruly Offenses include incorrigibility, truancy, deporting, and curfew. The total for all unruly offenses is provided.

The offense counts reflect the number of cases by crime type disposed of by the Juvenile Court in a given year. This is not a count of the number of juveniles. The same juvenile can have several cases disposed of within the same year. For cases in which there is more than one charge per case, the case is classified according to the most serious charge on the case. The most serious charge is based upon the FBI crime classification hierarchy.

Rates are reported. Rates are defined as the number of offenses divided by the teen population aged 10-17 multiplied by 1,000. For example, **Violent offenses per 1000 youth** is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Violent offense count} \times 1,000}{\text{Persons aged 10-17}^*}$$

***NOTE:** The population figures used in the calculation of the rates are estimates developed by the Center. These estimates are not released.

The offense counts by an **offender's age, race and gender** are also provided.

Definitions of most of the crime offenses listed above can be found in the Cleveland Police data documentation -- [access by clicking here](#).

Definitions not found under the Cleveland Police Data are:

Vandalism, which is defined as knowingly causing serious physical harm to an occupied structure or any of its contents.

Disorderly conduct, which is defined as recklessly causing inconvenience, annoyance or alarm to another by engaging in fighting; threatening to harm persons or property in violent or turbulent behavior; or insulting, taunting or challenging another in conduct that is likely to provoke a violent response.

According to Chapter 2151.022 of the Ohio Revised Code:

An **Unruly** child is defined as any child who does not submit to reasonable control of the Child's parents, teachers, guardian, or custodian, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient (Incorrigibility); OR

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Any child who is an habitual truant from school or home (Truancy/Runaways); OR

Any child who so behaves in a manner as to injure or endanger the child's health or morals or the health or morals of others (Deporting).

II. Precautions and Information regarding use of data

Rates per 1000 youth aged 10-17 are commonly used when reporting juvenile court related indicators at the national and state levels.

The indicators generated for NEO CANDO are different from those that are used by the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court in preparing their Annual Report. For example, many of the statistics in the annual reports of the juvenile court are based on data on case filings rather than on case dispositions. While the Juvenile Court does use the same data source to generate their annual reports, the extract the Center receives will differ from the extract the Court uses to generate the data for their reports. The Court's information system is a dynamic database that is constantly updated to reflect the most current information.

The data contain only cases that were disposed of by the court within the given year -- the year the crime was committed and when it was disposed may differ -- however in a majority of the cases they are the same.

The violent, property, drug and public order offenses include both felonies and misdemeanors.

The offense counts reflect the number of cases by offense type within a given year not the number of juveniles. A juvenile can have multiple cases disposed in one year.

Each incident in the Juvenile Court data is defined as an event or events occurring at the same time and place. For example, a youth committing a rape and an aggravated assault at the same location on the same day would be counted as one filing. In this case, the rape -- the most serious charge -- would be reflected in the delinquency counts in our database. Conversely, a youth committing a robbery at one location then crossing the city to commit a rape at another location would count as two filings.

The neighborhoods reflect the juvenile offender's residence. Data are not provided on the location of the criminal incident that led to the juvenile court case.

The age category 15+ in the juvenile data may contain juvenile assailants aged 18 and 19. Some of these individuals fall under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court, while other cases began when the offender was younger than 18, but the case was not closed until the offender was older.

III. Data source and suggested citation

Source of Juvenile Court Data: Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court

Update Schedule: Annually in June

Information regarding Juvenile Court indicators in NEO CANDO

Years Available: Earliest year available – 2000

Geographic Coverage: Cuyahoga County

Suggested Citation: NEO CANDO system, Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, MSASS, Case Western Reserve University (<http://neocando.case.edu>).

IV. Links to related web sites

- [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#)
- [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#)
- [Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court](#)