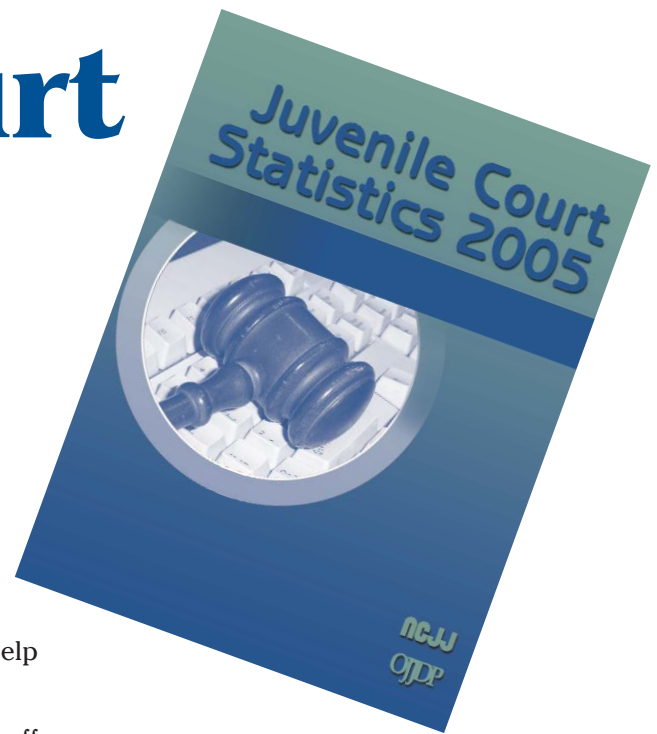


Juvenile Court Statistics 2005



The Nation's juvenile courts play a critical role in the response to juvenile crime and the problems of offenders, victims, and the community. To ensure informed decisionmaking and policy development, it is important that the court understand the changing nature of the offenders who come before it as well as the nature, availability, and effects of the resources that are required to help these youth.

Juvenile Court Statistics 2005 presents data on delinquency and status offense cases handled by courts with juvenile jurisdiction in 2005. National estimates are presented on nearly 1.7 million delinquency cases and more than 150,000 status offense cases handled in 2005. The report describes delinquency case trends since 1985 and status offense case trends since 1995. Data include the volume and rate of cases, demographic characteristics of the juveniles involved (age, gender, and race), and offenses charged. Case processing is traced as it flows through the courts and is examined at each decision point (i.e., detention, intake decision, judicial decision, and judicial disposition) for various demographic groups and offenses. The report also presents state and county counts of delinquency, status, and dependency cases handled by juvenile courts in 2005.

This report, the latest in a 79-year-old series, provides a detailed portrait of the juvenile court in 2005 and offers a reference guide to policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and others concerned with the court's critical contributions to securing the future of our youth.

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