

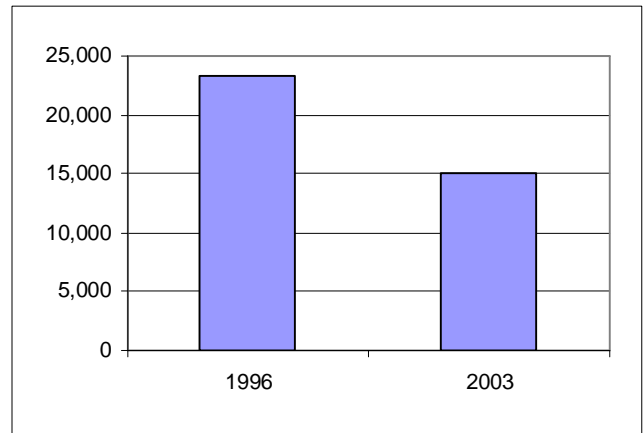
Recent Trends in Massachusetts' Juvenile Justice System

The number of juveniles arrested in Massachusetts has declined significantly in the past 8 years.

- In 1996, 23,230 youth under 18 were arrested in Massachusetts. In 2003, the number of arrests dropped 36% to 14,964 youths. *[F.B.I. Please note that this FBI data includes 17 year olds, although in Massachusetts 17 year olds are tried as adults.]*
- The decline in juvenile arrests in Massachusetts mirrors the decline experienced nationally. The national juvenile violent crime arrest rate has decreased for 8 consecutive years and in 2002 (the most recent data available) it was lower than it had been since 1980. *[OJJDP]*

Figure 1: Number of Youth (Under 18) Arrested in Massachusetts in 1996 and 2003

Data source FBI; graph created by CFJJ

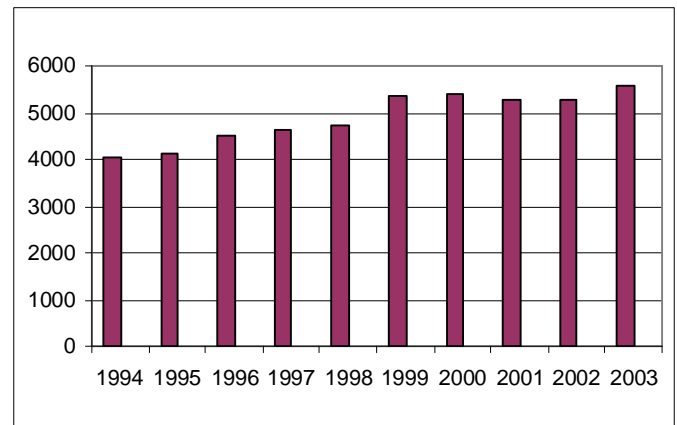


Despite this decline in youth crime, the number of youth held in DYS facilities has increased.

- In the last 10 years, the number of youth held in DYS detention (awaiting trial) has increased 40%. *[DYS]*
- The population of youth committed to DYS increased 69% from January 1, 1994 to January 1, 2003.
- Of the approximately 17,500 juveniles arraigned for criminal offenses in 2003, about 8% were ultimately committed to DYS. *[DYS]*
- Of all the youth arraigned in 2003, over 30% were held in secure detention while awaiting trial. *[DYS]*
- In 2004, the average length of stay in detention was 16 days. *[DYS]*

Figure 2: Number of Children and Youth Held in DYS Detention

Data source DYS; graph created by CFJJ



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Youth of color remain grossly overrepresented in the juvenile justice system.

- Youth of color are overrepresented at every stage of the Massachusetts juvenile justice system. [ACLU]
- These racial disparities increase as the involvement within the juvenile justice system increases. For example, in 2000 youth of color represented only 26% of the youth population in Massachusetts, but represented 56% of the youth committed to DYS and 77% of the youth placed in secure residential facilities. [2000 U.S. Census and DYS]

Girls are the fastest growing segment of the juvenile justice population.

- From 1991 to 2001, the number of girls arrested in Massachusetts tripled. [F.B.I.]
- The caseload of girls committed to DYS increased 285% from January 1, 1993 to January 1, 2004. The increase for boys was 63% for this same period. [DYS]

Massachusetts' resources are heavily committed to secure treatment facilities

- For fiscal year 2005, Massachusetts allocated more than five times more money to provide secure residential services to youth in the custody of DYS than for community-based/non-residential services (over \$86 million for secure residential services for committed youth and almost \$19 million for pre-trial detention, compared to approximately \$20 million for non-residential services). [FY05 Budget, Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2004]
- DYS has the capacity to hold 1,526 children and youth in secure confinement at any given time. For committed youth, there are 566 beds in hardware/locked secure facilities and 413 beds in staff secure facilities; there are 547 beds in detention facilities. [DYS]

Figure 3: Racial Distribution of Youth Population in Massachusetts and Youthful Offenders in 2000

Data source 2000 U.S. Census and DYS; graph created by CFJJ

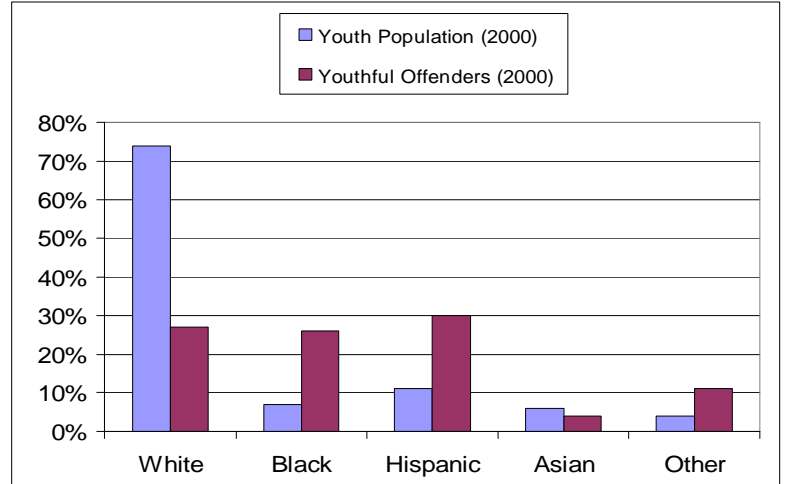


Figure 4: Female Caseloads at DYS on the First Day of Each Year

Data source DYS; graph created by CFJJ

