



2019 Year-In Review: Juvenile Justice



Overview

Arrests of juveniles fell in 2019 to the lowest level on record (data available since 2012) with under 500 unique juveniles arrested for the first time on record according to an analysis of data through December 12, 2019. The drop in arrests in 2019 is likely at least partially driven by the implementation of the PAY Ordinance by NOPD toward the end of 2018.

The below table shows unique arrests – defined as an arrest and intake of a juvenile at Juvenile Court – as well as unique juveniles arrested – defined as an individual juvenile arrested once or more each year. The number of juvenile arrests fell 25 percent and the number of unique juveniles arrested fell 39 percent in 2019 relative to the average of each from 2012 to 2018.

Table 1 - Juvenile Intakes and Arrests Per Year Through December 12

Year	Unique Arrests	Unique Juveniles
2012	1,296	878
2013	1,438	1,058
2014	1,059	764
2015	1,120	767
2016	890	630
2017	1,052	699
2018	1,184	701
2019	860	482

Overall, juveniles made up 5.3 percent of people arrested in 2019 which tracks with the average percent each year since 2015. Over two-thirds of all people arrested were adults arrested for only non-violent offenses while 26.5 percent were adults arrested for at least one violent offense. The share of arrests made up by adults with only non-violent offenses has fallen steadily from 87 percent in 2012 to 68 percent in 2019 while the share of adults with violent offenses has risen from 9 percent in 2012 to 27 percent in 2019.

Figure 1 - 2019 Arrest Breakdown Through December 12

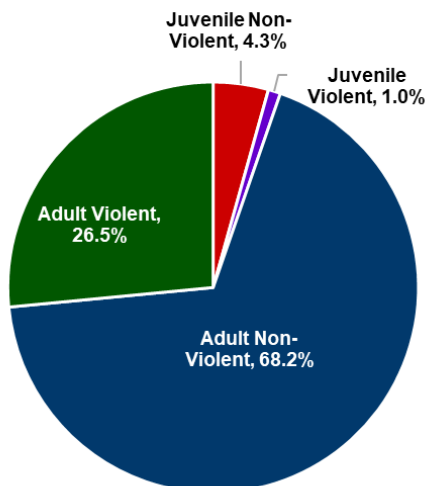
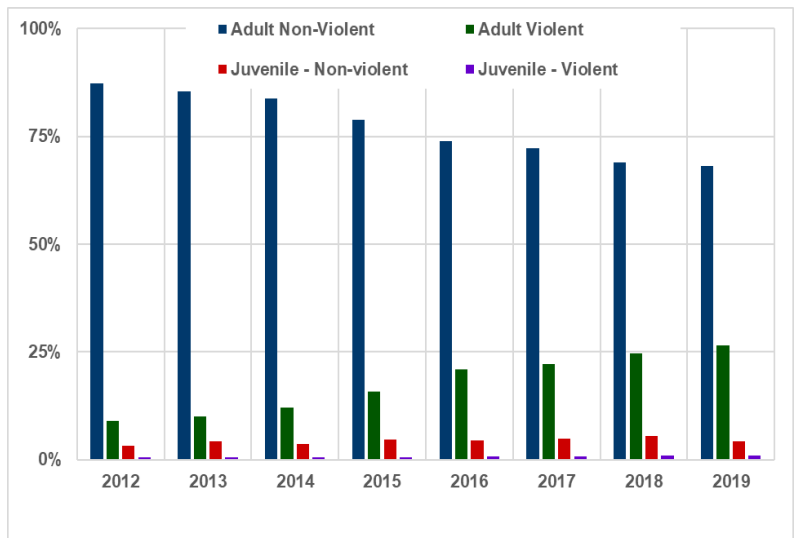


Figure 2 - Arrest Breakdown, 2012 - 2019



Vehicle Burglary

Arrests of juveniles were down in 2019, but juveniles arrested on a vehicle burglary incident took up a significantly larger share of intakes in 2019 relative to previous years. This is determined by analyzing the item number of each intake and determining whether it corresponds to a vehicle burglary incident in NOPD's Calls for Service data. Only 4 percent of juvenile intakes between 2012 and 2016 involved a juvenile burglary though that number has increased dramatically over the past three years.

Table 2 - Juveniles Arrested in Vehicle Burglaries, 2012 - 2019

Year	Vehicle Burglary	% Vehicle Burglary
2012	47	4%
2013	23	2%
2014	40	4%
2015	38	3%
2016	54	6%
2017	74	7%
2018	154	13%
2019	188	22%

Vehicle burglaries rose 60 percent in 2019 through December 12 relative to 2018 after rising 25 percent from 2017 to 2018. The percent of vehicle burglaries with at least one person arrested has remained largely consistent over the last few years, but the percentage of all arrests for vehicle burglary where a juvenile was arrested has more than doubled from 22.3 percent in 2017 to 47.8 percent in 2019 (note: a handful of incidents with an arrest involve the arrest of both a juvenile and an adult).

Table 3 - Vehicle Burglary Incidents and Arrests, 2012 - 2019

Year	Vehicle Burglaries	% of Incidents w/Arrest	% of Arrests w/Juvenile
2012	2,437	9.2%	19.6%
2013	2,231	8.7%	11.3%
2014	2,767	7.4%	26.1%
2015	2,318	8.2%	25.0%
2016	2,688	8.4%	21.2%
2017	3,014	9.6%	22.3%
2018	3,779	10.2%	46.6%
2019	6,045	9.5%	47.8%

Repeat Offenders – Deep Dive

Juveniles were more likely to be repeat vehicle burglary offenders than adults in 2019. One-third of juveniles arrested for a vehicle burglary in 2019 were arrested multiple times for vehicle burglaries compared to just 7 percent of adults. Nearly half (45%) of juveniles that were arrested for a vehicle burglary were arrested on more than one vehicle burglary item number compared to 23 percent of adults. Arrests for repeat juvenile offenders, however, make up a small fraction of citywide vehicle burglaries. Only 3.4 percent of all vehicle burglary incidents in 2019 featured the arrest of a juvenile who was arrested more than once in 2019 for a vehicle burglary.

Juveniles arrested for a vehicle burglary incident were incarcerated pretrial for an average of 29 days. These juveniles were rarely released right away with only 6.3 percent of all intakes for a vehicle burglary incident having a release at intake compared to a release at intake for 26.6 percent of all other intakes at juvenile court in 2019. None of the juveniles who were arrested for a vehicle burglary incident in 2019 and released the same day as intake was arrested again in 2019 for a vehicle burglary incident.

A firearm-related charge was associated with a juvenile intake for a vehicle burglary incident in 8.9 percent of 2019 vehicle burglary incidents with a juvenile arrest. This was largely in line with the average rate from 2016 to 2018. Criminal damage charges, however, were associated with 22 percent of 2019 vehicle burglary incidents with a juvenile arrest, up significantly from 4 percent on average from 2016 to 2018.

PAY Ordinance & Raise the Age

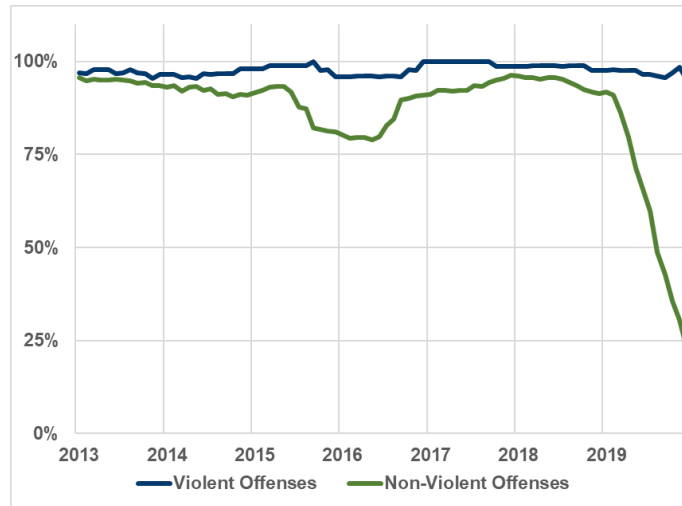
The City Council passed the PAY Ordinance in August 2017 to allow NOPD the option of issuing warnings to juveniles being stopped for certain types of non-violent offenses rather than arrest them. The ordinance went into effect in the fourth quarter of 2018 and immediately contributed to the decrease in juvenile arrests in 2019. The share of juvenile violations in NOPD's Field Interview Card database where a warning was issued has jumped from 5.8 percent in 2017 to 65.9 percent in 2019 through December 12.

Figure 1 - Percent of Juvenile Violations with a Warning Issued Over 365 Days, 2013 - 2019



Louisiana's Raise the Age law went into effect for 17-year-olds arrested for non-violent offenses in March 2019. The law showed an immediate impact in New Orleans as 17-year-olds were arrested as an adult 92.9 percent of the time from 2012 to February 2019 but just 28 percent of the time from March through December 2019.

Figure 2 - Percent of 17-year-olds Arrested as an Adult by Charge Type Over 12 Months



Implementing the first phase of Raise the Age has had only a minor impact on the Juvenile Justice Intervention Center Population. On average only seven 17-year-olds per month have been detained since March 2019 with an average duration of 10 days.