

Juveniles Charged as Adults in Maryland 1/1/15 – 6/30/15

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BACKGROUND

During the 2002 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed *House Bill 943, Chapter 252*. The bill requires the Central Repository (CJIS) to report information to the Maryland Justice Analysis Center (MJAC) on data pertaining to juveniles charged as adults in Maryland. More specifically, CJIS must report the gender, race, and age of each juvenile charged as an adult. By June 30 and December 31 of each year, the Maryland Justice Analysis Center shall report to the Governor, and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on the results of its research, evaluation, and statistical analysis. In 2007, MJAC was re-located to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) in Towson and was renamed the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center (MSAC), which is responsible for completing these bi-annual reports.

METHODOLOGY

The most recent report includes data received from CJIS on juveniles charged as adults in Maryland from January 1 – June 30, 2015.

RESULTS

Demographics

From January 1 – June 30, 2015, a total of 247 juveniles were charged as adults in Maryland. The vast majority of juveniles charged as adults were male (90.3%), African American (80.2%), and either 16 or 17 years of age (95.1%).

Table 1. Race/Ethnicity of Juveniles Charged as Adults		
Race	Frequency	Percent
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	0.4%
African American	198	80.2%
White	44	17.8%
Unknown	4	1.6%
Total	247	100.0%

Table 2. Gender of Juveniles Charged as Adults		
Gender	Frequency	Percent
Males	223	90.3%
Females	24	9.7%
Total	247	100.0%

Table 3. Age of Juveniles Charged as Adults		
Age	Frequency	Percent
14	3	1.2%
15	9	3.6%
16	47	19.0%
17	188	76.1%
Total	247	100.0%

Table 4. Ethnicity/Race of Juveniles Charged as Adults by Gender			
Race	Male	Female	Total
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	0	1
% within Ethnicity/Race	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%
African American	181	17	198
% within Ethnicity/Race	81.2%	70.8%	80.2%
White	38	6	44
% within Ethnicity/Race	17.0%	25.0%	17.8%
Unknown	3	1	4
% within Ethnicity/Race	1.4%	4.2%	1.6%
Total	223	24	247
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100%

Table 5. Age of Juveniles Charged as Adults by Ethnicity/Race					
Age	American Indian/ Alaska Native	African American	White	Unknown	Total
14	0	3	0	0	3
% within Ethnicity/Race	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
15	0	6	2	1	9
% within Ethnicity/Race	0.0%	3.0%	4.5%	25.0%	3.6%
16	0	39	6	2	47
% within Ethnicity/Race	0.0%	19.7%	13.6%	50.0%	19%
17	1	150	36	1	188
% within Ethnicity/Race	100.0%	75.8%	81.8%	25%	76.1%
Total	1	198	44	4	247
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100%

Table 6. Age of Juveniles Charged as Adults by Gender			
Age	Male	Female	Total
14	3	0	3
% within Gender	1.3%	0.0%	1.2%
15	8	1	9
% within Gender	3.6%	4.2%	3.6%
16	42	5	47
% within Gender	18.8%	20.8%	19.0%
17	170	18	188
% within Gender	76.2%	75.0%	76.1%
Total	223	24	247
Percent	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Offense Type

Maryland law provides that juveniles who commit certain offenses must be charged as adults. These exclusionary offenses are listed below:

Juveniles 14 years and older

- First Degree Murder
 - First Degree Rape
 - First Degree Sex Offense
- Any attempts or conspiracies to commit the above offenses

Juveniles 16 years and older

Serious Violent Offenses

- Abducting, Kidnapping
- Second Degree Murder (and Attempted)
- Manslaughter (except Involuntary)
- Second Degree Rape (and Attempted)
- Second Degree Sex Offense (and Attempted)
- Third Degree Sex Offense (and Attempted)
- Armed Robbery (and Attempted)
- Carjacking or Armed Carjacking
- First Degree Assault

Firearms Offenses

- Wear, Carry, or Transport Handgun
- Use of a Handgun or Antique Firearm in the Commission of a Crime, Use of a Machine Gun in a Crime of Violence
- Use of a Machine Gun for Aggressive Purposes
- Possession of Unregistered Short-barreled Shotgun or Short-barreled Rifle
- Restrictions on Possession of a Regulated Firearm
- Restrictions on Sale, Rental, or Transfer of a Regulated Firearm
- Sale, Transfer, or Disposal of Stolen Regulated Firearm

Overall, 81.4% of juveniles charged as adults during the first half of 2015 were charged with exclusionary offenses that prohibited them from being charged in a juvenile court. Armed Robbery and First Degree Assault were the two most common exclusionary offenses.

Table 7. Juveniles Charged as Adults by Exclusionary Offense Type		
14-15 Years Old	Number	Percentage of Total in Age Group
1st Degree Murder	6	50.0%
1st Degree Rape	2	16.7%
1st Degree Sex Offense	0	0.0%
Total Number Age 14-15 with Exclusionary Offenses	8	66.7%
Total Number of Juveniles Charged as Adults Age 14-15	12	100.0%
16-17 Years Old		
Armed Robbery (attempted)	79	40.9%
Assault (1st degree)	43	22.3%
Carjacking	7	3.6%
Handgun Possession	25	13.0%
Handgun Use in a Violent Crime	0	0.0%
Kidnapping	0	0.0%
Manslaughter	0	0.0%
Murder (1st, 2nd, and attempted)	20	10.4%
Rape (1st, 2nd, and attempted)	1	0.5%
Regulated Firearm Possession	16	8.3%
Sex Offense (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and attempted)	2	1.0%
Total Number Age 16-17 with Exclusionary Offenses	193	82.2%
Total Number of Juveniles Charged as Adults Age 16-17	235	100.0%
All Juveniles		
Total Number All Ages with Exclusionary Offenses	201	81.4%
Total Number of Juveniles Charged as Adults	247	100.0%

There was no significant difference between the percentages of male and female juveniles who were charged with exclusionary offenses (81.6% and 79.2% respectively), while African American juveniles were significantly more likely to be arrested and charged with an exclusionary offense than white juveniles (85.4% compared to 61.4%).

Table 8. Juveniles Charged with Exclusionary Offenses by Race		
Race	Frequency	Percent
American Indian/ Alaska Native	1 of 1	100.0%
African American	169 of 198	85.4%
White	27 of 44	61.4%
Unknown	4 of 4	100.0%
Total	201 of 247	81.4%

Table 9. Juveniles Charged with Exclusionary Offenses by Gender		
Gender	Frequency	Percent
Males	182 of 223	81.6%
Females	19 of 24	79.2%
Total	201 of 247	81.4%

Pursuant to *House Bill 943, Chapter 25*, MSAC will continue to receive data from Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) data on juveniles charged as adults and submit bi-annual reports on its research, evaluation, and statistical analysis of these findings.