



CHANGING  
**Maryland**  
*for the Better*

Governor's Office of  
Crime Control & Prevention

# **Juveniles Charged as Adults in Maryland**

**7/1/16 – 12/31/16**

**CP 10-219(b)(6)**

**HB 943 / Ch. 252, 2002**

**Larry Hogan**  
Governor

**Boyd K. Rutherford**  
Lt. Governor

**V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.**  
Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

Submitted by: Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention  
Contact: Gregory Coster  
410-697-9298  
[gregory.coster@maryland.gov](mailto:gregory.coster@maryland.gov)

MSAR # 1601

June 1, 2017

## BACKGROUND

During the 2002 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed *House Bill 943, Chapter 252*. The bill requires the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository (CJIS) to report information to the Maryland Justice Analysis Center 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 on this matter. In 2007, the Maryland Justice Analysis Center was re-located to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and was renamed the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center (Center), which is responsible for completing these semi-annual reports.

## METHODOLOGY

The most recent report includes data received from CJIS on juveniles charged as adults in Maryland from July 1 – December 31, 2016.

## RESULTS

### Demographics

From July 1 – December 31, 2016, a total of 433 juveniles were charged as adults in Maryland. Tables 1-6 depict the demographic characteristics of juveniles charged as adults. The vast majority of juveniles charged as adults were male (92.6%), African American (76.7%) and either 16 or 17 years of age (97.2%).

| <b>Table 1. Race/Ethnicity of Juveniles Charged as Adults</b> |                            |   |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>   | <b>Number of Juveniles</b> | <b>Percent of Total Juveniles Charged as Adults</b> |
| Asian   | 1                          | 0.2%  |
| American Indian/Alaska Native                                 | 4                          | 0.9%  |
| African American  | 332                        | 76.7%   |
| White   | 90                         | 20.8%   |
| Unknown   | 6                          | 1.4%  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>433</b>                 | <b>100.0%</b>                                       |

| <b>Table 2. Gender of Juveniles Charged as Adults</b> |                            |   |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Gender</b>   | <b>Number of Juveniles</b> | <b>Percent of Total Juveniles Charged as Adults</b> |
| Males   | 401                        | 92.6%   |
| Females   | 32                         | 7.4%  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>433</b>                 | <b>100.0%</b>                                       |



| <b>Table 6. Age of Juveniles Charged as Adults by Gender</b> |             |               |               |
|--|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Age</b>   | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
| 8  | 2           | 0             | 2             |
| % within Gender  | 0.5%        | 0.0%          | 0.5%          |
| 11   | 1           | 1             | 2             |
| % within Gender  | 0.2%        | 3.1%          | 0.5%          |
| 13   | 1           | 0             | 1             |
| % within Gender  | 0.2%        | 0.0%          | 0.2%          |
| 15   | 6           | 1             | 7             |
| % within Gender  | 1.5%        | 3.1%          | 1.6%          |
| 16   | 124         | 8             | 132           |
| % within Gender  | 30.9%       | 25%           | 30.5%         |
| 17   | 267         | 22            | 289           |
| % within Gender  | 66.7%       | 68.8%         | 66.7%         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>401</b>  | <b>32</b>     | <b>433</b>    |
| <b>Percent</b>   | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b>   | <b>100.0%</b> |

### **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

As seen in Table 7, overall, 76.7% of juveniles charged as adults during the second half of 2016 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.

| <b>Table 7. Juveniles Charged as Adults by Exclusionary Offense Type</b> |               |   |
|--|---------------|---|
| <b>14-15 Years Old</b>   | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percentage of Total in Age Group</b> |
| 1st Degree Murder  | 2             | 28.6%                                   |
| 1st Degree Rape  | 1             | 14.3%                                   |
| 1st Degree Sex Offense   | 1             | 14.3%                                   |
| <b>Total Number Age 14-15 with Exclusionary Offenses</b>                 | <b>4</b>      | <b>57.1%</b>                            |
| <b>Total Number of Juveniles Charged as Adults Age 14-15</b>             | <b>7</b>      | <b>100.0%</b>                           |
| <b>16-17 Years Old</b>   |               |   |
| Armed Robbery (attempted)  | 122           | 37.2%                                   |
| Assault (1st degree)   | 72            | 22.0%                                   |
| Carjacking   | 29            | 8.8%                                    |
| Handgun Possession   | 42            | 12.8%                                   |
| Handgun Use in a Violent Crime   | 3             | 0.9%                                    |
| Kidnapping   | 7             | 2.1%                                    |
| Manslaughter   | 1             | 0.3%                                    |
| Murder (1st, 2nd, and attempted)   | 23            | 7.0%                                    |
| Rape (1st, 2nd, and attempted)   | 11            | 3.4%                                    |
| Regulated Firearm Possession   | 12            | 3.7%                                    |
| Sex Offense (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and attempted)                               | 6             | 1.8%                                    |
| <b>Total Number Age 16-17 with Exclusionary Offenses</b>                 | <b>328</b>    | <b>77.9%</b>                            |
| <b>Total Number of Juveniles Charged as Adults Age 16-17</b>             | <b>421</b>    | <b>100.0%</b>                           |
| <b>All Juveniles</b>   |               |   |
| <b>Total Number All Ages with Exclusionary Offenses</b>                  | <b>332</b>    | <b>76.7%</b>                            |
| <b>Total Number of Juveniles Charged as Adults</b>                       | <b>428*</b>   | <b>100.0%</b>                           |

\*there were 5 juveniles, under age 14, charged as adults, which are not included in this total

As shown in Table 8, there was no difference between African American juveniles being arrested and charged with an exclusionary offense compared to white juveniles (77.4% compared to

77.1%). Table 9 depicts that, there was a difference between the percentages of male and female juveniles who were charged with exclusionary offenses (78.6% and 53.1% respectively).

| <b>Table 8. Juveniles Charged with Exclusionary Offenses by Race</b> |                   |                |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Race</b>  | <b>Frequency</b>  | <b>Percent</b> |
| Asian  | 1 of 1            | 100%           |
| American Indian/ Alaska Native                                       | 4 of 4            | 100%           |
| African American   | 257 of 332        | 77.4%          |
| White  | 64 of 90          | 77.1%          |
| Unknown  | 6 of 6            | 100%           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>332 of 433</b> | <b>76.7%</b>   |

| <b>Table 9. Juveniles Charged with Exclusionary Offenses by Gender</b> |                   |                |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Gender</b>  | <b>Frequency</b>  | <b>Percent</b> |
| Males  | 315 of 401        | 78.6%          |
| Females  | 17 of 32          | 53.1%          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>332 of 433</b> | <b>76.7%</b>   |

Pursuant to *House Bill 943, Chapter 25 of 2002*, the Center will continue to receive data from CJIS on juveniles charged as adults and submit semi-annual reports on its research, evaluation, and statistical analysis of these findings.