

Youth Justice Five-Year Trend Tables:

Definitions and Technical Notes

(Last Updated: January 19, 2021)

Introduction

Five-Year Trend Tables present information for the most recent five years for each of the following case processing stages:

- Detention
- Probation Intake and Adjustment
- Family Court: Initial Petitions Filed
- Probation Supervision
 - Cases Opened
 - Cases Under Supervision

New York State's Raise the Age law raised the age of criminal responsibility from 16 years old at the time of the crime to 18 years old. The law was implemented in phases and changed case processing for 16-year-olds beginning Oct. 1, 2018 and 17-year-olds beginning Oct. 1, 2019.

Youth charged with misdemeanors are processed as juvenile delinquents (JDs) and those charged with felonies are arraigned in the Youth Part of Superior Court. The majority of felony cases are subsequently removed to Family Court or Probation Intake and processed as JDs.

JD volumes for 2015, 2016 and 2017 – before Raise the Age took effect – only include youth who ranged in age from 7 through 15.

Data for 2018 includes a small number of cases involving 16-year-olds and data for 2019 includes cases involving 16-year-olds and a small number of cases involving 17-year-olds.

Because of the addition of these age groups, case processing counts, particularly for probation intakes and petition filings, increased in 2019.

Note: Probation supervision data for 2019 includes a small number of youth sentenced to probation supervision out of the Youth Part of the criminal court. Additional information about cases processed in Youth Parts is available on the [Statistics page](#) under Youth Justice Data.

Youth Detention Admissions

Visit [the New York State Office of Children and Family Services' website](#) for these data, definitions and technical notes.

JD Probation Intake

Probation departments are responsible for screening juvenile delinquency (JD) cases for Family Court following an arrest to determine if the filing of a juvenile delinquency petition is warranted (FCA §308.1). These cases are generally referred to the probation department by a peace or police officer, a detention facility administrator when a juvenile has been temporarily detained following arrest, or by the Youth Part of the Criminal Court.

- **Probation Intake – Cases Opened:** The number of cases opened that involved juveniles charged by the police with delinquent acts.
- **Probation Intake – Cases Closed:** There are three possible probation intake case-closure outcomes: successfully adjusted, referred to petition immediately, and adjustment terminated and referred for petition.
 - **Successfully Adjusted** – Cases resolved (1) without court intervention or (2) after the return of the case by the presentment agency pre-petition or Family Court post-petition to probation intake for resolution. This includes complaints that are resolved at the initial conference or after a period of adjustment services.
 - **Percentage of JD Probation Intake Cases Closed as Adjusted** – The percentage of all closed cases that are successfully adjusted.

Technical Notes

Data Source: New York State Probation Workload System (intake data for 2015-2018); Caseload Explorer (intake data for 2019, excluding Washington County). Data are reported by probation departments.

Unit of Count. Counts represent the number of probation intake cases opened or closed, not the number of juveniles admitted to or exiting probation intake: a juvenile can be referred to probation intake more than once during a given year.

Family Court: Initial JD Actions

The presentment agency – the New York City Corporation Counsel's Office or County Attorneys' Offices in the Rest of State – is the only agency allowed by law [Family Court Act (FCA) §310.1(2)] to file a Family Court delinquency petition. The initial petition is filed by the presentment agency following an arrest and charges a juvenile with the commission of one or more offenses. This petition may be filed when the presentment agency determines that there is legally sufficient evidence to commence a delinquency action in Family Court (FCA §311.2). Petition filings resulting from violations of dispositions or seeking extensions of dispositions are not considered initial petitions.

- **Initial Petitions Filed:** This represents all Family Court petition filings initiating juvenile delinquency proceedings, including juvenile offender (JO) and adolescent offender (AO) cases removed from adult court to Family Court under Criminal Procedure Law Article 725. JO and AO cases removed to Family Court are reclassified as JD cases.

Technical Notes

Data Source. DCJS-Office of Court Administration (OCA) Juvenile Delinquent Family Court Database and OCA's Universal Case Management System (UCMS).

Unit of Count. Counts represent the number of petitions filed, not the number of juveniles processed: a juvenile can have multiple petitions filed during a given year.

Youth Probation Supervision

A disposition imposed by the Family Court or the Youth Part allows an individual under the age of 18 to remain in the community under conditions specified by the court and supervised by the local probation department. These cases may be placed on supervision following a finding of delinquency in Family court, or a criminal conviction or adjudication out of Youth Part of the Criminal Court.

- **Probation Supervision – Cases Opened:** Volumes include the total number of youth that were received for supervision. This count includes cases disposed within a county as well as those transferred from another county or state.
- **Cases Under Probation Supervision:** Volumes include the total number of youth that were under probation supervision at the end of December of each year.

Technical Notes

Data Source. New York State Probation Workload System (supervision data for 2015-2018); Caseload Explorer (supervision data for 2019, excluding Washington County). Data are reported by probation departments.

Unit of Count. The unit of count is the number of probation supervision cases opened for youth under age 18 – not the number of youth admitted to probation supervision (i.e., an individual can receive more than one probation supervision disposition during a given year).