

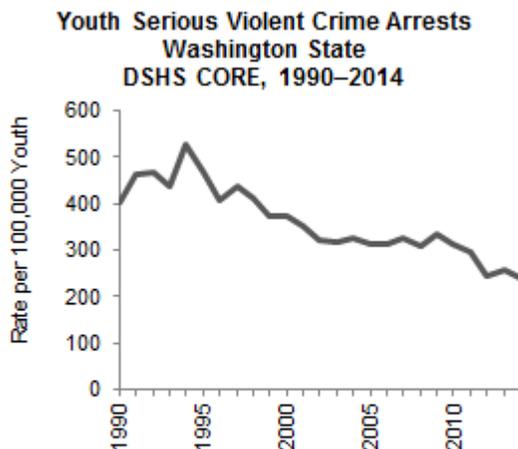
Youth Violence

Definition: Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against another person or against a group or community that results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, problems in development, or deprivation.¹ This chapter uses arrest for serious violent crime as the primary measure of youth violence. This measure reflects the most violent forms of behavior in a spectrum of youth violence. Serious violent crime includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault (assault with a weapon or with intent to cause severe injury). "Youth" includes anyone between the ages of 10 and 24.

This is a data update of the *Health of Washington State* chapter [Youth Violence](#) published in 2013.

Time Trends

Two aspects of arrest data make them different from most other health data. First, arrest data report the location of the crime rather than where the perpetrator lives. Second, if multiple offenses occur in the same crime, the data include only the most serious offense. If, for example, a perpetrator both robs and kills a victim, the arrest data count only the homicide. These arrest data do not include relatively minor violence or violence that is not reported to the police or does not result in an arrest. However, serious violent crime is likely to be reported and investigated, and so these data likely reflect seriously violent behavior.^{2,3}



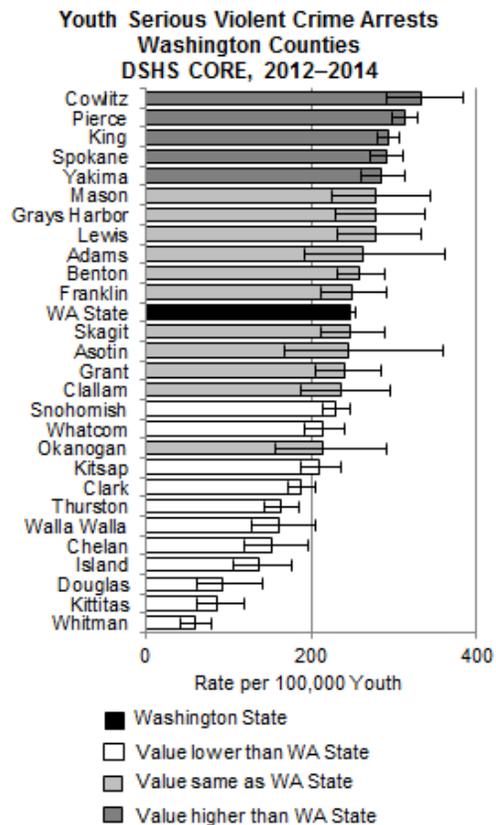
DSHS CORE: Department of Social and Health Services, Community Outcome and Risk Evaluation Information System

Between 1994 and 2003, arrest rates showed a 40% decline for youth ages 10–24, from 529 to 319 arrests per 100,000. Rates between 2004

and 2009 remained relatively stable. Since 2010, arrest rates have declined to a rate of 242 arrests per 100,000.

The 2014 Washington arrest rate for ages 10–24 is higher than the national rate (226 per 100,000).⁴ Nationally arrests for serious violent crime decreased for youth between 1990 and 2014 with arrest rates for youth younger than 18 dropping by 81% for murder, 54% for rape, 60% for robbery, and 62% for aggravated assault.⁵

Geographic Variation



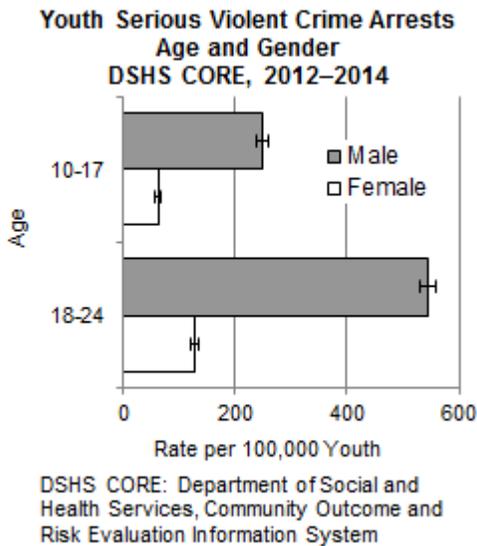
DSHS CORE: Department of Social and Health Services, Community Outcome and Risk Evaluation Information System

Counties vary widely in their rates of youth arrests for violent crime, from fewer than 100 arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10–24 in Douglas, Kittitas, and Whitman counties to more than 300 per 100,000 in Cowlitz and Pierce counties.

The county chart does not include 12 counties with [fewer than 20](#) arrests for violent crime among Washington youth ages 10–24 during 2012–2014. Arrest rates for these counties can fluctuate widely even when combining three years.

Age and Gender

During 2012–2014 combined, the arrest rate for violent crime among Washington youth ages 10–17 was 158 per 100,000. The arrest rate among young adults ages 18–24 was 342 per 100,000. These rates mirror national patterns in that violent crime rates are higher among young adults than among adolescents. In Washington, as in the rest of the United States, about four-fifths of arrests of youth for serious violent crime are of males.⁴



Economic Factors and Education

Washington data describing income and education of those arrested are not available. Generally, higher levels of youth violence are associated with low parental income and education.⁶ School achievement and success of the youth are associated with less violence.⁷

Race and Hispanic Origin

Washington data describing race and ethnicity of youth arrested are not available (see Technical Note). National data for youth ages 10–17 show higher violent crime arrest rates for black youth compared to white youth, followed by American Indian and the lowest rates for Asian youth.⁸

The 2014 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey showed a similar pattern to the national arrest data. Black 10th grade students generally reported relatively high rates of fighting, weapon carrying and weapon carrying at school while Asian students reported the lowest rates. Unlike arrest data where rates for American Indian and Alaska Native youth are much lower than for black youth, American Indian and Alaska Native students reported fighting and weapon carrying at school at rates similar to those of black students.⁹ Family factors associated with race such as low income and having a parent who had been arrested may contribute to these differences.^{10,11}

Data Sources (For additional detail, see [Appendix B](#).)

State Arrest Data: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). Data files including age-specific population estimates, excluding the population covered by agencies that do not report to WASPC, prepared by Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Research and Data Analysis.

For More Information

U.S. Centers for Disease Control Website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/youthviolence/index.html>
 and Best Practices for Youth Violence Prevention:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/bestpractices.html>
 Seifert K. *Youth Violence: Theory, Prevention, and Intervention*. NY: Springer, 2012.

Technical Notes

Law enforcement agencies voluntarily report arrest data to Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) using the Uniform Crime Report system. A small number of law enforcement agencies do not report their crime and arrest statistics to state authorities. To adjust for non-reporting, the population estimates provided by DSHS Research and Data Analysis exclude the population covered by agencies that do not report to WASPC. From 2012-2014, police jurisdictions covering about 85-100% of youth ages 10–24 reported to WASPC for most counties, except King County where 36% of the agencies did not report.

Comparable U.S. figures are not included because they are not available for all years because U.S. population estimates do not

exclude the population covered by non-reporting agencies, except in special reports.

Race is reported through the Uniform Crime Report system, however WASPC does not release arrest data broken down by age and race simultaneously.

Acknowledgments

Author:

Jennifer Sabel, PhD

Washington State Department of Health

Endnotes

¹ Krug EG, Dahlberg LL, Mercy JA, Zwi AB, Lozano R, eds. *World Report on Violence and Health*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2002.

² LaFree G, Baumer EP, O'Brien R. Still separate and unequal? A city-level analysis of the black-white gap in homicide arrests since 1960. *Am Sociol Rev*. 2010;75:75-100.

³ Truman JL, Planty M. *Criminal victimization, 2011*. National Report Series Bulletin NCJ 239437. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics; 2012.

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Justice Information Services Division. *Uniform Crime Reports, 2014 Crime in the United States*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice; 2015. <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014/cius-home>. Accessed May 23, 2016.

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Statistic Briefing Book, Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime, Juvenile Arrest Rate Trends*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; 2015. http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/JAR_Display.asp?ID=qa05201. Accessed May 23, 2016.

⁶ Derzon JH. The correspondence of family features with problem, aggressive, criminal and violent behavior: A meta-analysis. *J Exp Criminol*. 2010;6:263-292.

⁷ Losel F, Farrington DP. Direct protective and buffering protective factors in the development of youth violence. *Am J Prev Med*. 2012; 43:S8-S23.

⁸ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Statistic Briefing Book, Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime, Juvenile Arrest Rate*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; 2015. http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/JAR_Display.asp?ID=qa05261. Accessed June 1, 2016.

⁹ Washington State Department of Health, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Social and Health Services, Department of Commerce, and Liquor Control Board. *Healthy Youth Survey 2014, QxQ analysis tool*. Olympia, WA. <http://www.askhys.net/Analyzer>. Accessed June 1, 2016.

¹⁰ Crutchfield RD, Skinner ML, Haggerty KP, McGlynn A, Catalano RF. Racial disparities in early criminal justice involvement. *Race Soc Probl*. 2009;1:218-230.

¹¹Crutchfield RD, Skinner ML, Haggerty KP, McGlynn A, Catalano RF. Racial disparity in police contacts. *Race Justice*. 2012;2(3):1-21.