



Office of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention

*Serving Children, Families, and Communities*

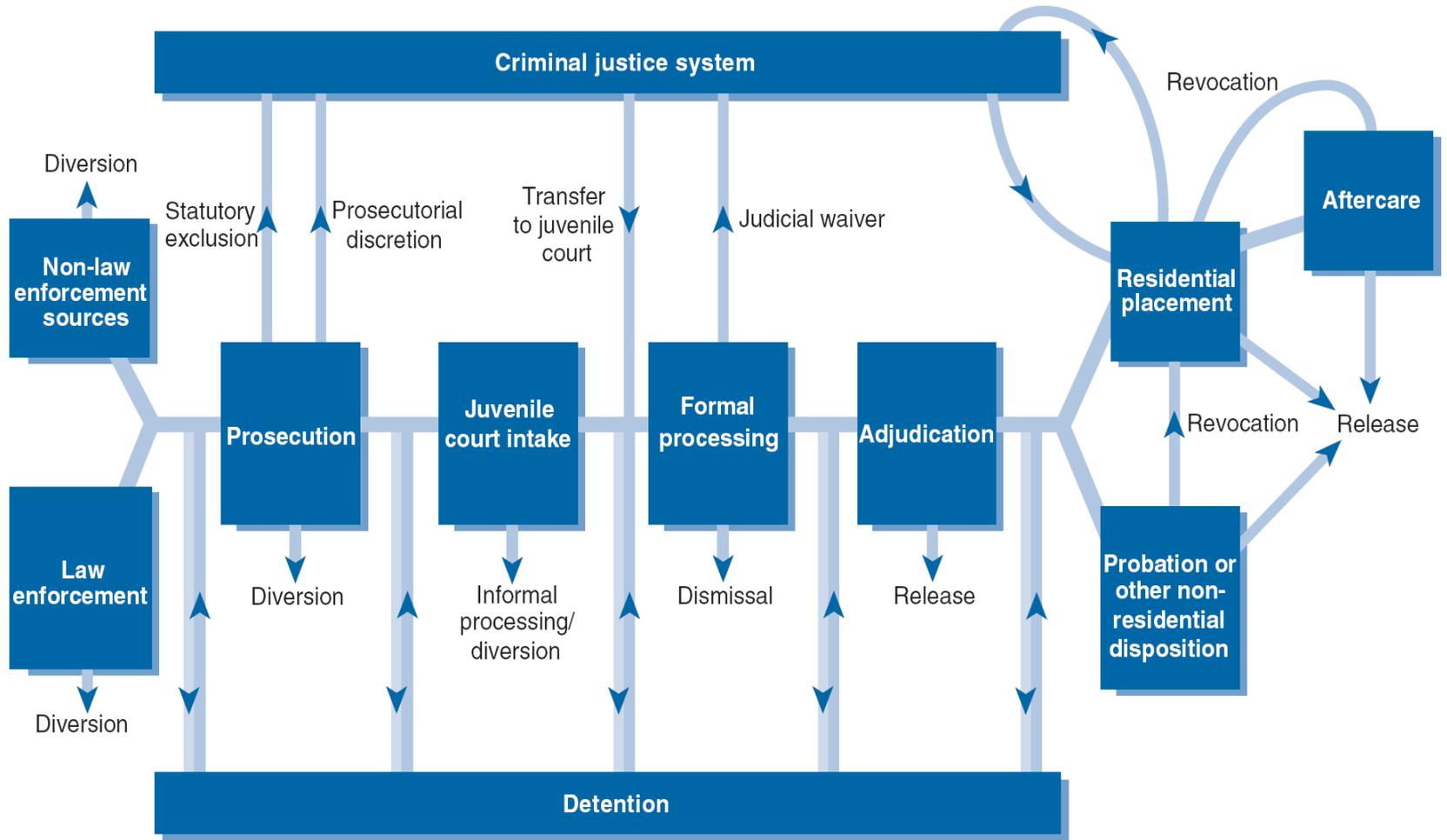


# A Profile of Young People in the Juvenile Justice System

**Data from OJJDP's Collections**

**Janet Chiancone, OJJDP**

# What are the stages of processing a delinquency case in the juvenile justice system?



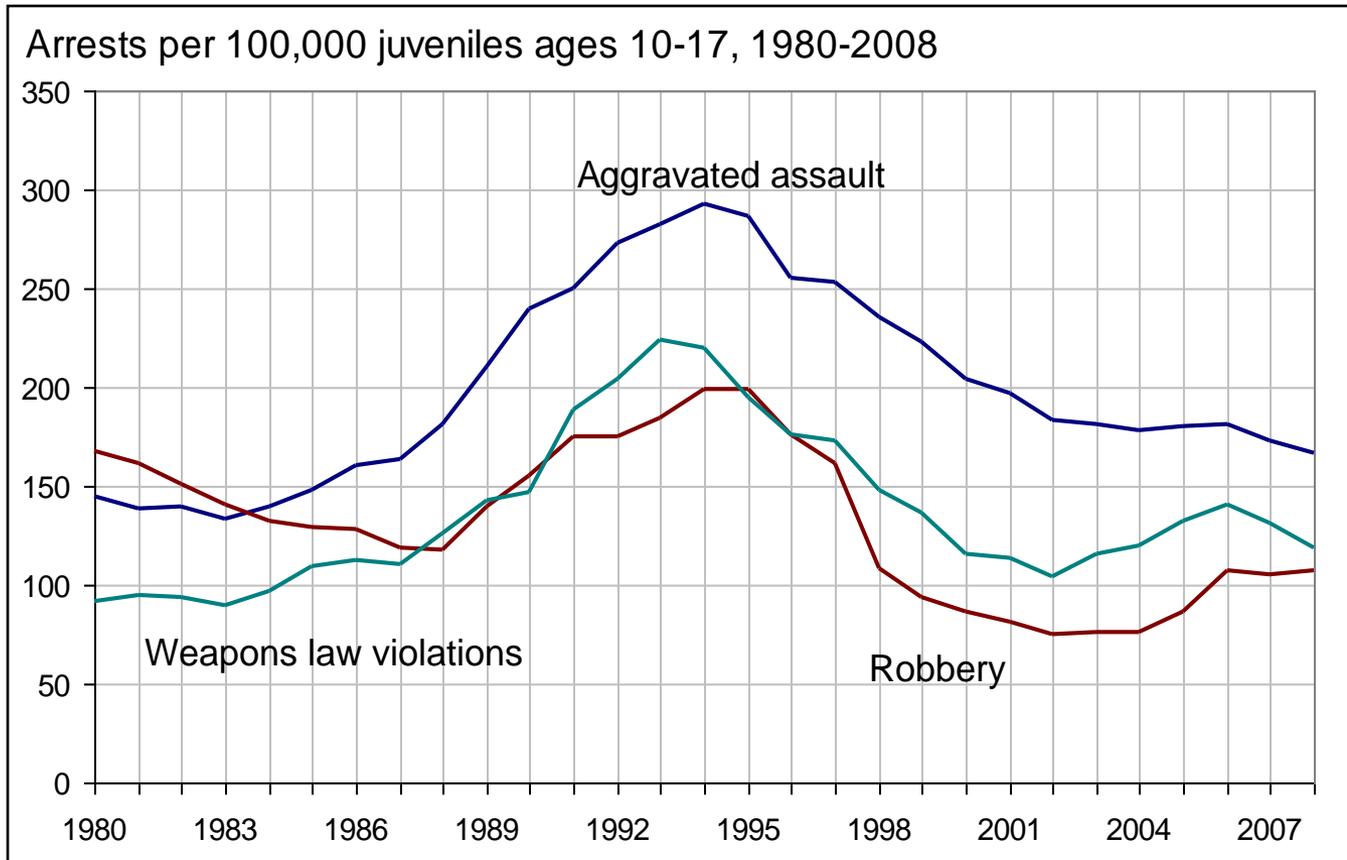
Note: This chart gives a simplified view of caseflow through the juvenile justice system. Procedures vary among jurisdictions.

# OJJDP's Juvenile Justice Data Sources

- National Juvenile Court Data Archive (NJCDA)
- Census of Juveniles on Probation/Census of Juvenile Probation Supervision Offices (CJP/CJPSO)
- Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement/Juvenile Residential Facility Census (CJRP/JRFC)
- Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP)

Information about OJJDP's collections available at [www.ojjdp.gov](http://www.ojjdp.gov) (click on "Statistics")

**In 2008, the juvenile arrest rates for robbery, aggravated assault, and weapons law violations were each well below their peak levels of the 1990s.**



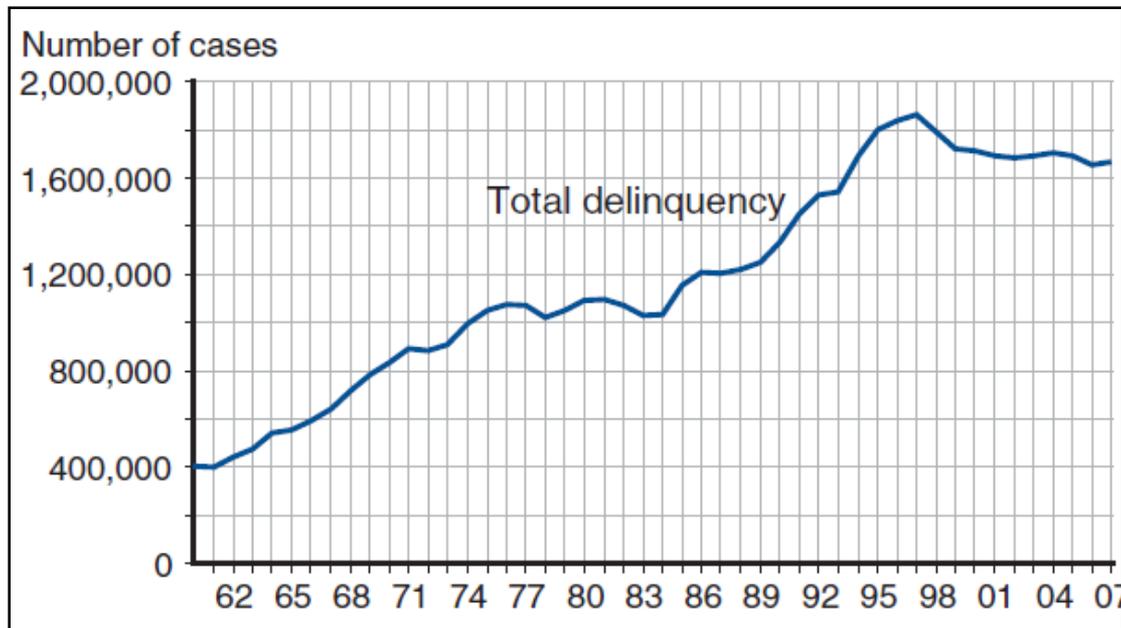
# Less than one-half of 1 percent of juveniles in the U.S. were arrested for a violent offense in 2008

All juveniles ages 10–17 in the United States



Source: FBI's Uniform Crime Report Data (NCJJ analysis for OJJDP's Juvenile Arrests)

# The 2007 juvenile court delinquency caseload was 4 times the caseload in 1960



- Represents 1.7 million cases in juvenile court
- One quarter of cases (27%) are females
- 54% are youth under age 16
- One-third (36%) are minority youth

Source: National Juvenile Court Data Archive

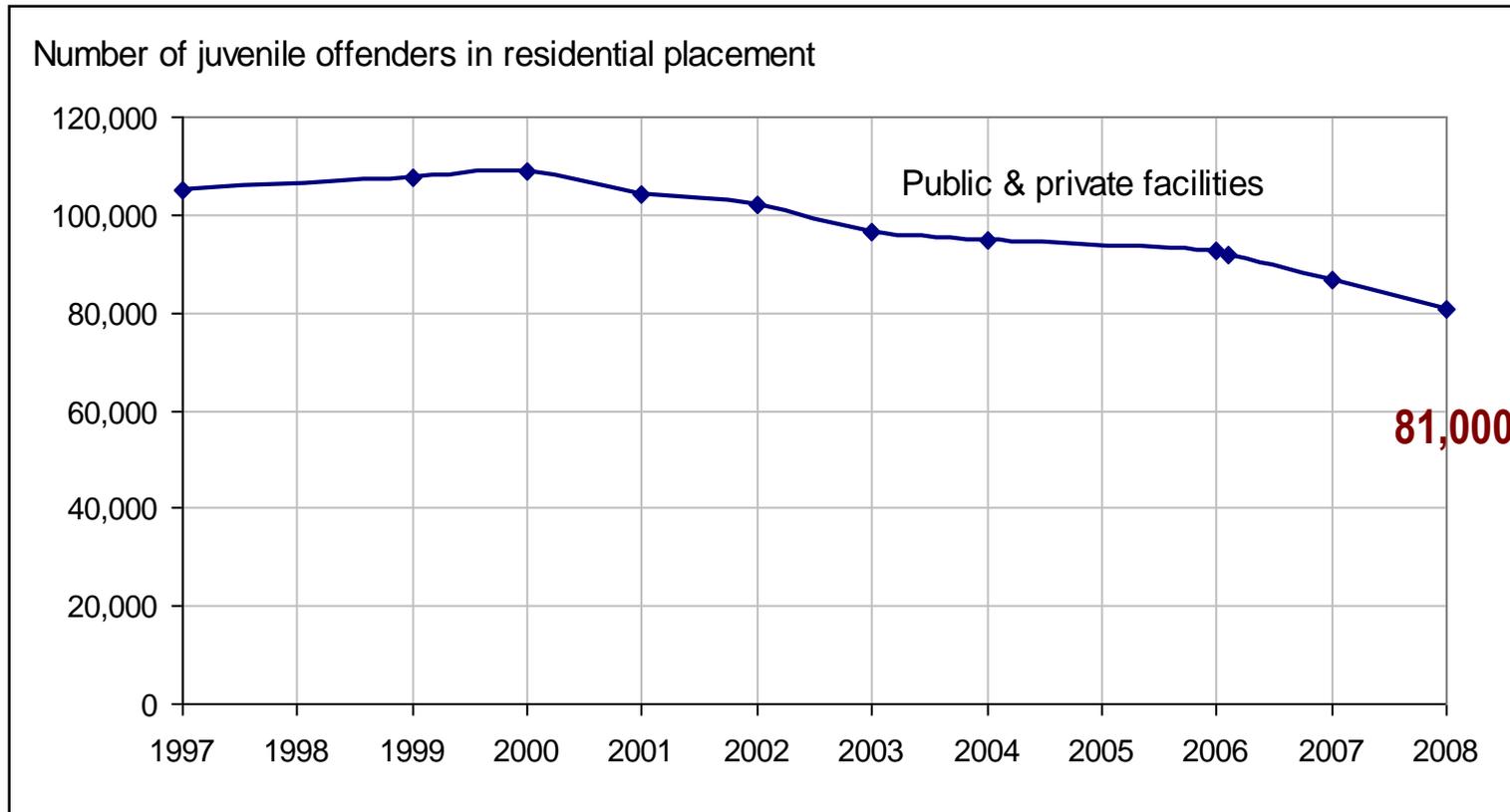
# The majority of youth in the JJ System are those on probation

Type of Probation	Daily population count
Formal	392,651
Informal	96,264
Total	488,915

- 22% are female
- Over one third (34%) are under age 16
- 60% are minority youth
- Most are for property offenses (37%)

Sources: Census of Juvenile Probation Supervision Offices (CJPSO), 2005 and Census of Juveniles on Probation (CJP), 2010 – Preliminary data

## Since 2000, the number of juvenile offenders in residential placement has declined 26%



**Over past decade, the decline in placement rates (26%)  
not as sharp as the decline in arrest rates (33%)**

# Youth in Juvenile Justice Custody

About 81,000 youth in custody on any given day in the U.S.

- 14% girls, 86% boys
- 66% are minority youth
- 31% are under age 16
- 36% are in placement for person offenses (most serious)
- 42% have been in placement over 90 days (50% over 60 days)
- 31% reside in facilities with 150 or more residents
- 75% are in locked facilities

**Source: Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement and Juvenile Residential Facility Census (2007-2008)**

# Backgrounds, Needs and Experiences of Youth in Custody

- Less than one-half (46%) had two parents take care of them when they were growing up – half of youth cared for other family members.
- 22% of boys and 13% of girls are already parents or expecting to be shortly.
- 25% of youth were living with no parent when they were taken into custody.
- 37% had had either recent suicidal thoughts/feelings or a past suicide attempt

**Source: Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP)**

# Conditions and Climate in Juvenile Custody

- 75% say there are fights in their facility—32% say they have been personally involved in fights
- 16% say someone offered them contraband (drugs, alcohol, guns, knives)
- 17% report one or more violent victimizations while in custody (property taken by force/threat, beaten up and injured or forced to engage in sexual activity)
- 59% experienced some form of coercive control while in custody (handcuffs, strip searched, held down, restraint chair, pepper spray, etc.).

**Source: Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP)**

# Educational needs of youth in custody

- 12% had dropped out of school (4%)
- 64% had been suspended or expelled (10%)
- 48% were performing below grade level (28%)
- 30% had been determined to have a learning disability (5%)

**Source: Survey of Youth in Residential Placement (SYRP)**

# In sum, young people in the juvenile justice system . . .

- Manageable number of youth (not all youth in the U.S.)
- Have challenging histories and exhibit multiple needs
- For some, the experience in JJ has exacerbated this
- Juvenile justice is an opportunity for intervention which can change long-term outcomes

# Youth's Future Aspirations

- 71% expect to graduate from high school
- 47% expect to go to college
- 88% of youth in custody expect to have a steady job in future

**How can we help them achieve this?**

**More information. . .**

Statistics, Publications, New Research

**[www.OJJDP.gov](http://www.OJJDP.gov)**