

Juveniles Charged as Adults in Maryland 1/1/13 – 6/30/13

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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, 2013.

RESULTS

Demographics

From January 1 – June 30, 2013, a total of 455 juveniles were charged as adults in Maryland. The vast majority of juveniles charged as adults were male (91.2%), African American (84.0%), and either 16 or 17 years of age (94.5%).

Table 1. Race/Ethnicity of Juveniles Charged as Adults		
Race	Frequency	Percent
Asian	1	0.2%
African American	382	84.0%
White	71	15.6%
Unknown	1	0.2%
Total	455	100.0%

Table 2. Gender of Juveniles Charged as Adults		
Gender	Frequency	Percent
Males	415	91.2%
Females	40	8.8%
Total	455	100.0%

Table 3. Age of Juveniles Charged as Adults		
Age	Frequency	Percent
13	1	0.2%
14	6	1.3%
15	18	4.0%
16	154	33.8%
17	276	60.7%
Total	455	100.0%

Table 4. Ethnicity/Race of Juveniles Charged as Adults by Gender			
Race	Male	Female	Total
Asian	1	0	1
Percent	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
African American	353	29	382
Percent	85.1%	72.5%	84.0%
White	60	11	71
Percent	14.5%	27.5%	15.6%
Unknown	1	0	1
Percent	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Total	415	40	455
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5. Age of Juveniles Charged as Adults by Ethnicity/Race					
Age	Asian	African American	White	Unknown	Total
13	0	1	0	0	1
Percent	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
14	0	3	3	0	6
Percent	0.0%	0.8%	4.2%	0.0%	1.3%
15	0	12	6	0	18
Percent	0.0%	3.1%	8.5%	0.0%	4.0%
16	0	139	15	0	154
Percent	0.0%	36.4%	21.1%	0.0%	33.8%
17	1	227	47	1	276
Percent	100.0%	59.4%	66.2%	100.0%	60.7%
Total	1	382	71	1	455
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 6. Age of Juveniles Charged as Adults by Gender			
Age	Male	Female	Total
13	1	0	1
Percent	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
14	4	2	6
Percent	1.0%	5.0%	1.3%
15	16	2	18
Percent	3.9%	5.0%	4.0%
16	139	15	154
Percent	33.5%	37.5%	33.8%
17	255	21	276
Percent	61.4%	52.5%	60.7%
Total	415	40	455
Percent	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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, nearly 70% of juveniles charged as adults during the first half of 2013 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 Offense Type		
Under 14	Frequency	Percent
Total Juveniles Charged as Adults	1	N/A
14-15		
1st Degree Murder	8	33.3%
1st Degree Rape	2	8.3%
1st Degree Sex Offense	0	0.0%
<i>Exclusionary Offenses</i>	10	41.7%
Total Juveniles Charged as Adults	24	100.0%
16-17		
Armed Robbery (attempted)	124	28.8%
Assault (1st degree)	86	20.0%
Carjacking	14	3.3%
Handgun Possession	27	6.3%
Handgun Use in a Violent Crime	2	0.5%
Murder (1st, 2nd, and attempted)	36	8.4%
Rape (1st, 2nd, and attempted)	8	1.9%
Regulated Firearm Possession	8	1.9%
Sex Offense (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and attempted)	2	0.5%
<i>Exclusionary Offenses</i>	307	71.4%
Total Juveniles Charged as Adults	430	100.0%
All Juveniles		
<i>Exclusionary Offenses</i>	317	69.7%
Total Juveniles Charged as Adults	455	100.0%

There was no difference between the percentages of male and female juveniles who were charged with exclusionary offenses (69.4% and 72.5% respectively), while African American juveniles were significantly more likely to be arrested and charged with an exclusionary offense than white juveniles (74.1% compared to 46.5%).

Table 8. Juveniles Charged with Exclusionary Offenses by Race		
Race	Frequency	Percent
Asian	1 of 1	100.0%
African American	283 of 382	74.1%
White	33 of 71	46.5%
Unknown	0 of 1	0.0%
Total	317 of 455	69.7%

Table 9. Juveniles Charged with Exclusionary Offenses by Gender		
Gender	Frequency	Percent
Males	288 of 415	69.4%
Females	29 of 40	72.5%
Total	317 of 455	69.7%

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