

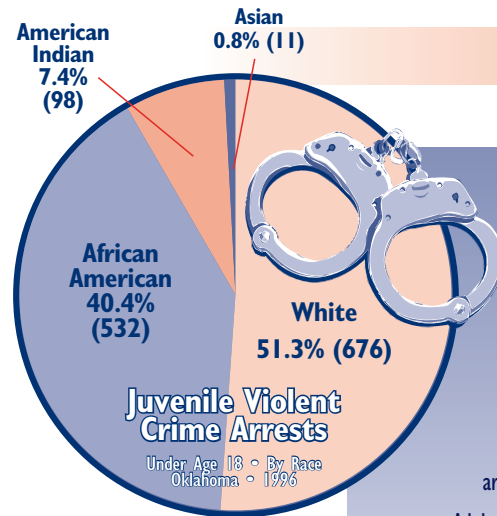
In 1996, nearly thirteen hundred (1,296) Oklahoma youths from the ages of 10 through 17 were arrested for violent crimes. Twenty-nine were arrested for murder, three for manslaughter, 70 for forcible rape, 376 for robbery and 818 for aggravated assault.

Most of those arrested were male (1,079 or 83.3%).

During this past year the proportion of Oklahoma youths from the ages of 10 through 17 arrested for violent crimes began to improve from last year's record high (from 393.2 to 341.5 per 100,000), with comparable rates also improving in a few more (35 of 77) of Oklahoma's counties than those that worsened (31 of 77) during the same period.

This year's juvenile violent crime arrest rates (341.5 per 100,000) still nearly double those of 1980 (172.4 per 100,000), with such rates also worsening in a majority (50 of 77) of Oklahoma's counties during the same period.

The highest proportion of youths from the ages of 10 through 17 (1,166.7 per 100,000) arrested for violent crimes is found in Greer County; the lowest (0.0 per 100,000) is in fourteen Oklahoma coun-



Hispanic youth may be of any race and comprise 6.0% of the 1996 juvenile crime arrests. May not total 100% due to rounding.

Talking Points:

Children at higher risk for involvement in violence and crime include teenage boys born to adolescent mothers, young people doing poorly in school, youth who expect to die young, youth who are neither in school nor working and those living in urban areas.

Victims of child abuse and neglect are more likely than others to be arrested for delinquent behavior, adult criminality, crimes of violence and prostitution. Girls who are abused and neglected in childhood are seventy-seven percent more likely to be arrested as juveniles.

Adolescents living in homes where there is easy access to guns are more likely to be involved in violent behaviors. The rise in handgun use has resulted in youth violence becoming more lethal.

Experts blame the rise in juvenile crime on the failure of families, schools, and communities to recognize early warning signs.

The American Psychological Association claims children are numbed to the real effects of violence by viewing over 10,000 murders, rapes and aggravated assaults each year on television. Research has demonstrated that children imitate violence seen on television.

ties (Atoka, Beaver, Cimarron, Coal, Delaware, Ellis, Grant, Harmon, Harper, Major, Marshall, Noble, Nowata and Woods).

While non-White children make up less than one-fourth (24.0%) of the child population, they make up nearly half (48.7 %) of the violent crime arrests of children under age 18.

Based on the latest figures available (1994), Oklahoma's rate (341.5 per 100,000) of arresting young people for violent crimes continues to remain well below the corresponding national rate of 517 arrests for every 100,000 youths from the ages of 10 through 17.

COUNTIES WITH THE TEN HIGHEST RATES OF JUVENILE VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS 1996

More than one-half (739 or 57.0%) of Oklahoma's juvenile arrests for violent offenses are in two counties: Oklahoma (395 or 30.5%) and Tulsa (344 or 26.5%).

1. Greer	1166.7 per 100,000
2. Kiowa	757.6 per 100,000
3. Tillman	645.2 per 100,000
4. Kay	617.1 per 100,000
5. Tulsa	610.0 per 100,000
6. Oklahoma	586.0 per 100,000
7. Comanche	571.2 per 100,000
8. Johnston	461.5 per 100,000
9. Garvin	443.0 per 100,000
10. Carter	435.6 per 100,000

