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## Fact Sheet

# *Juvenile Representation in Official Crime Statistics: Comparing Louisiana to the National Average*

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Fact Sheet # 7  
April 2007

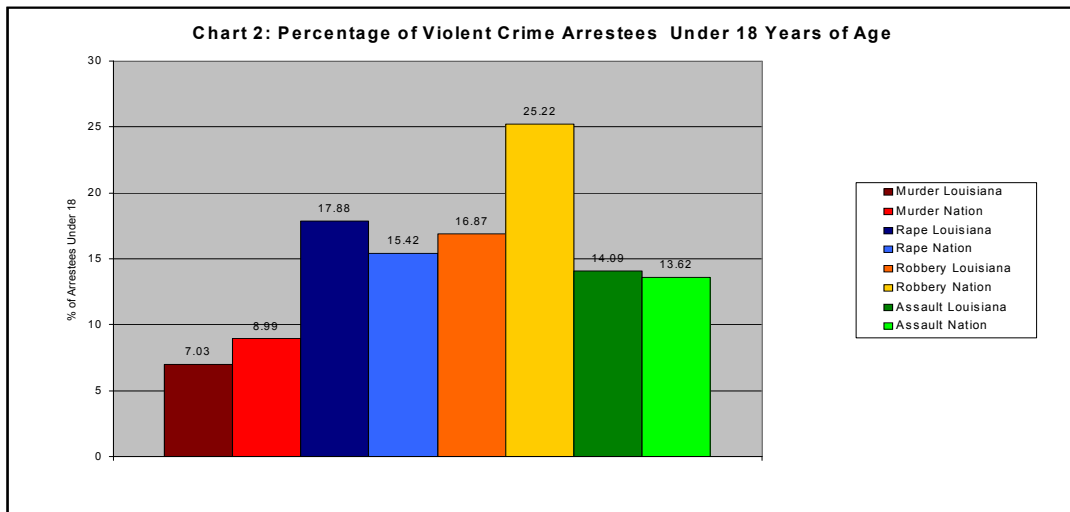
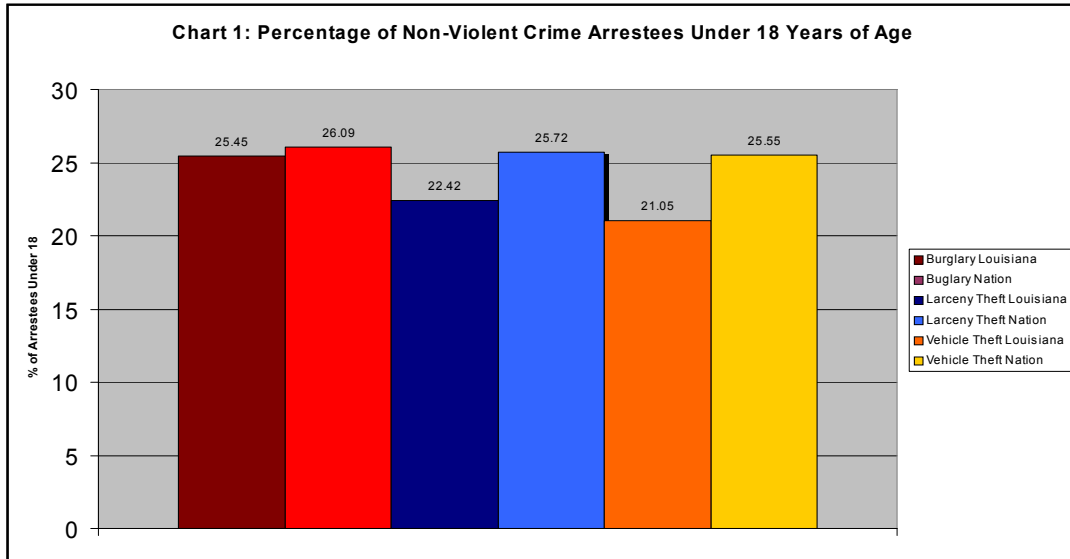
This fact sheet compares the percentage of arrestees that are under 18 years old in Louisiana to the national average for both violent and property crimes. These data are from the Uniform Crime Reports for 2005, the latest year available at the time of this writing. Since this was the year that hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck Louisiana, caution should be used in drawing firm conclusions from these data until post hurricane crime data become available for analysis.

Chart one compares Louisiana to the nation in terms of the percentage of people arrested for various non-violence crimes that were under 18 years of age. These data indicate that during 2005, for all non-violent crimes the percent of arrestees for non-violent crimes that were juveniles is lower in Louisiana than the rest of the nation. This is a promising result in light of the various

social problems thought to precede crime which are evident in Louisiana.

Chart two extends this analysis is comparing Louisiana to the nation on three different violent crimes. Here it is apparent that Louisiana has a lower percentage of arrests that are juveniles for murder and robbery than the national average. However, for rape and assault, Louisiana has a slightly higher percentage of arrests that are juveniles than the national average.

No amount of crime is desirable, but the fact that Louisiana compares favorably to the nation in the percentage of arrestees that are juveniles for a variety of non-violent and violent crimes is encouraging. Future research on this topic needs to closely monitor the performance of Louisiana against relevant benchmarks to determine if this favorable comparison holds over time.



## Authors

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