

Juvenile Offenders & Crime in Erie County

An Analysis of the Most Recent Arrest Data

January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006



July 2007

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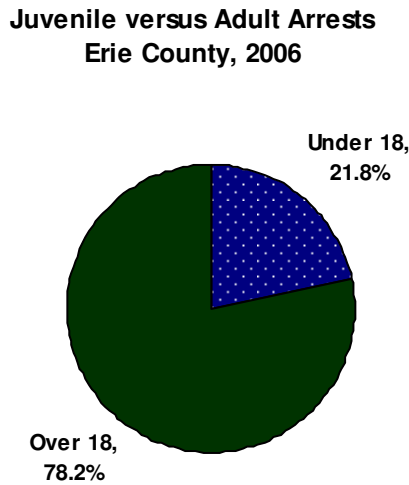
Juvenile Offenders & Crime in Erie County

An Analysis of 2006 Arrest Data

I. Summary of 2006 Juvenile Arrest Data

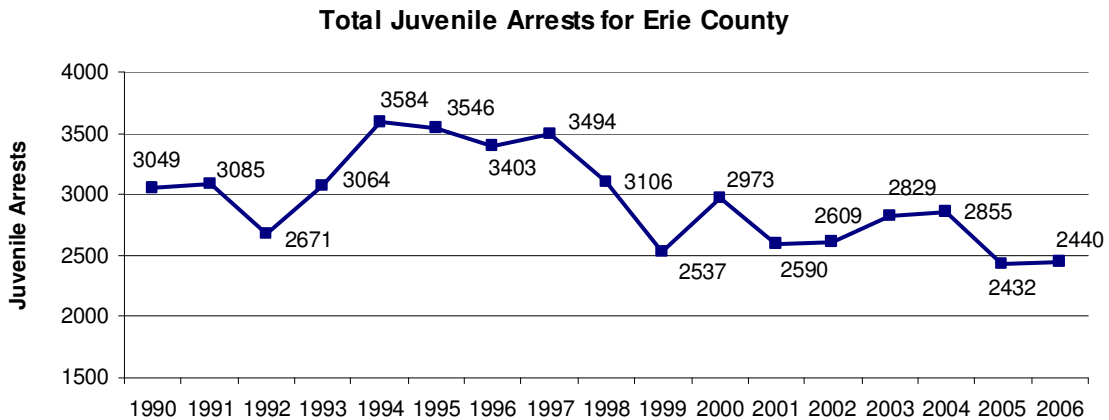
In 2006, there were 11,200 arrests in Erie County. Of those arrests 2,440 (21.8%) were juveniles (see Figure 1). The number of arrests in 2006 was similar to the number in 2005; both remained lower than arrests for at least the past 15 years (see Figure 2). Forty-three percent of all juvenile arrests were in Erie City.

Figure 1.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Figure 2.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Although the overall number of juvenile arrests has remained stable, arrests for index offenses (murder, manslaughter, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson) decreased by 8% in 2006 (see figure 3). Of all juvenile arrests in Erie County, more than 77% were for less serious, non-index offenses, consisting primarily of disorderly conduct, liquor law violations, and minor assaults. In 2006, juveniles accounted for 34% of arrests for violent offenses (up from 26% in 2005), 32% of property offenses (down from 37% in 2005), and 20% of all non-index offenses (up from 18% in 2005) (see Figure 4).

Figure 3.

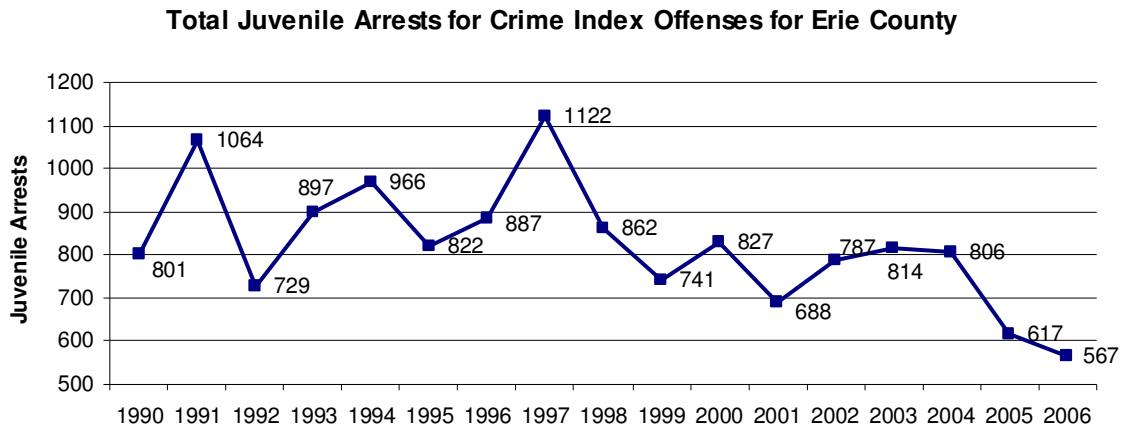
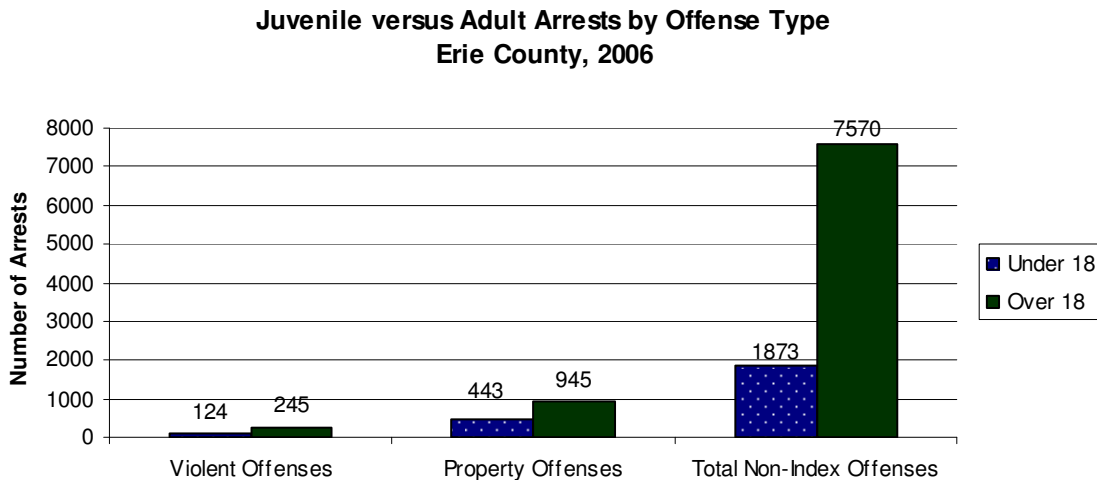


Figure 4.

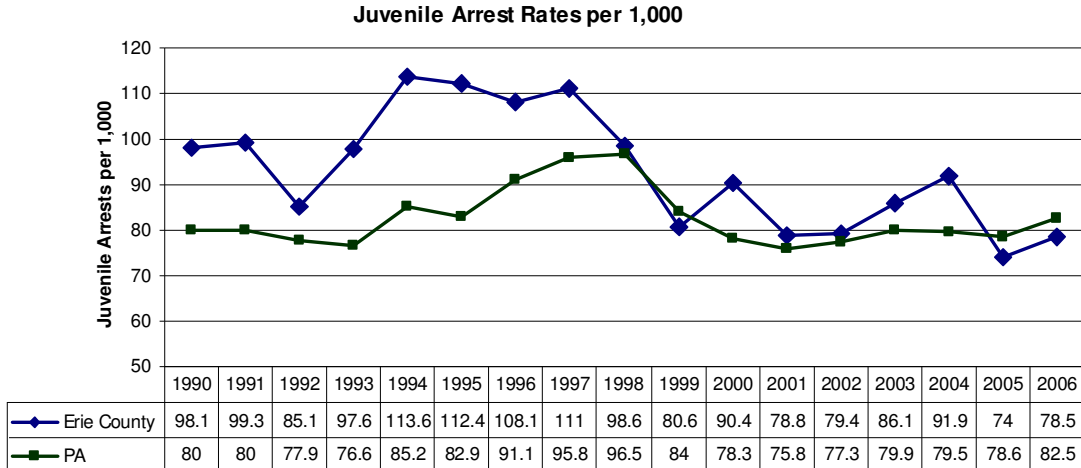


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

II. Erie County versus Peer Counties & Pennsylvania

Overall, Erie County's juvenile arrest rates have trended similarly to the state rates during 2005 and 2006, with Erie County's rates being slightly below the state rates (see Figure 5).

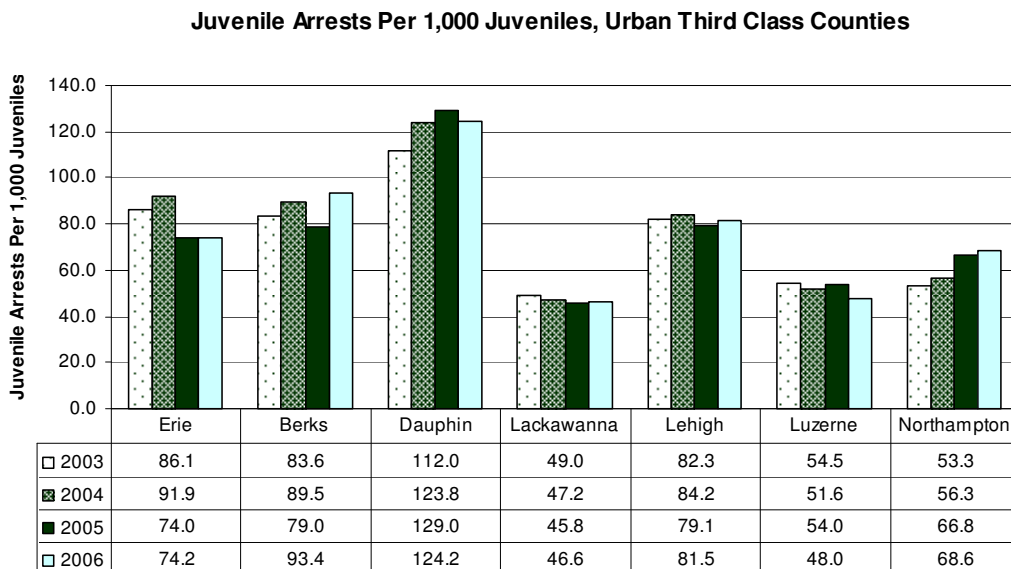
Figure 5.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

In comparison to other urban third class counties, Erie County is the fourth highest county for juvenile arrest rates. Among the urban third class counties, Erie County experienced the largest rate decrease in total juvenile arrests from 2004 to 2005 and has remained stable for 2006. Dauphin County maintains the highest juvenile arrest rate for urban third class counties (see Figure 6).

Figure 6.

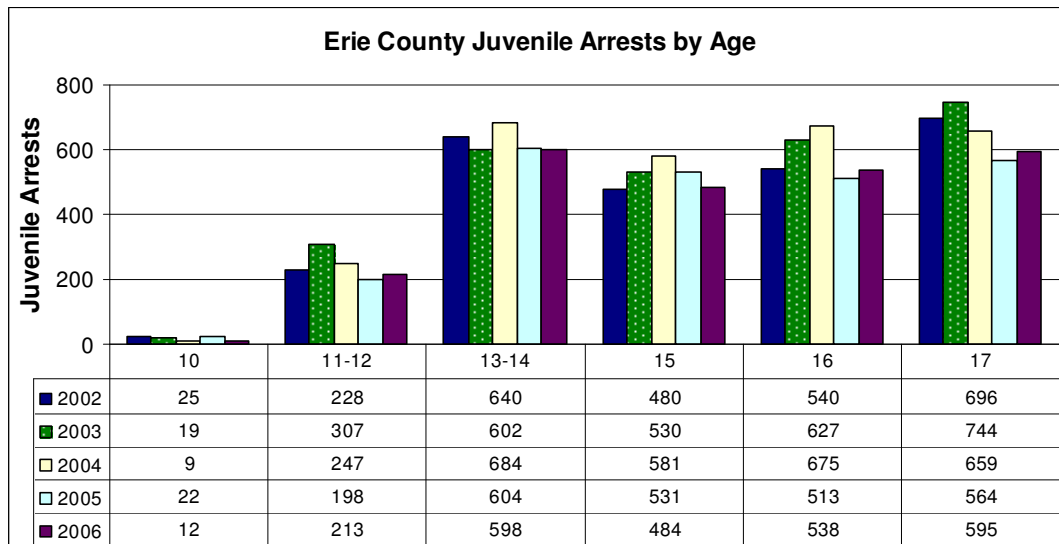


III. Arrests by Offender

Age

For Erie County, the most frequent age of arrest continues to be the 13-14 year old age group followed by the 17 year old group, a trend that emerged in 2004 (Figure 7).

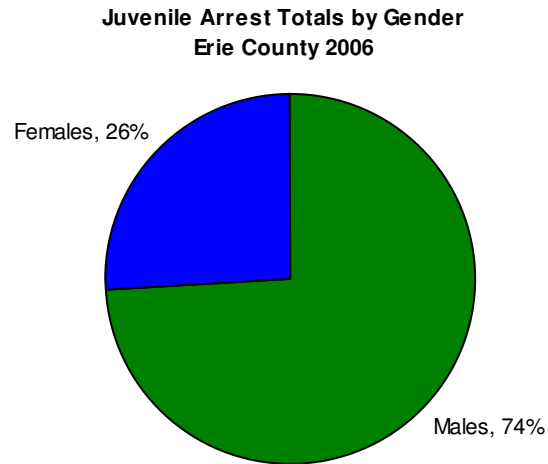
Figure 7.



Gender

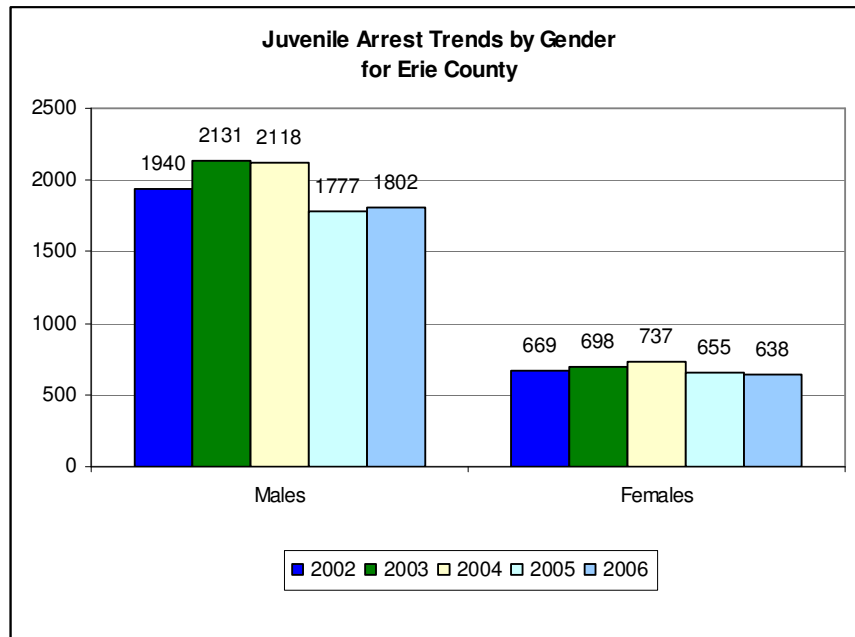
Females accounted for 26% of all juvenile arrests in 2006 in Erie County (see Figure 8). Female juvenile arrests decreased slightly while male juvenile arrests increased slightly in 2006 (see Figure 9). Total arrests decreased for both males and females, males by 16% and females by 11% (see Figure 8).

Figure 8.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

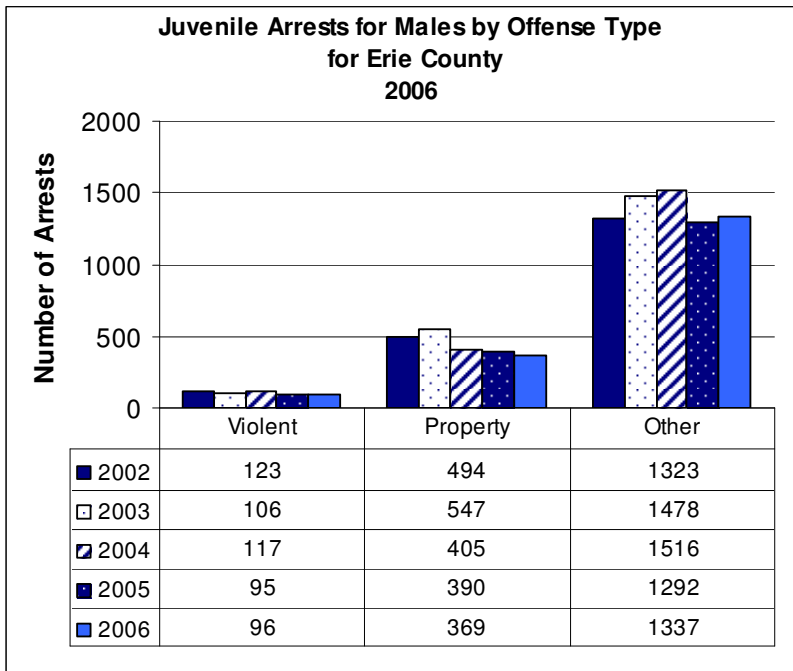
Figure 9.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Juvenile arrests for males increased 12% for non-index offenses, decreased 5% for property crimes, and only increased by one arrest for violent crimes (see Figure 10).

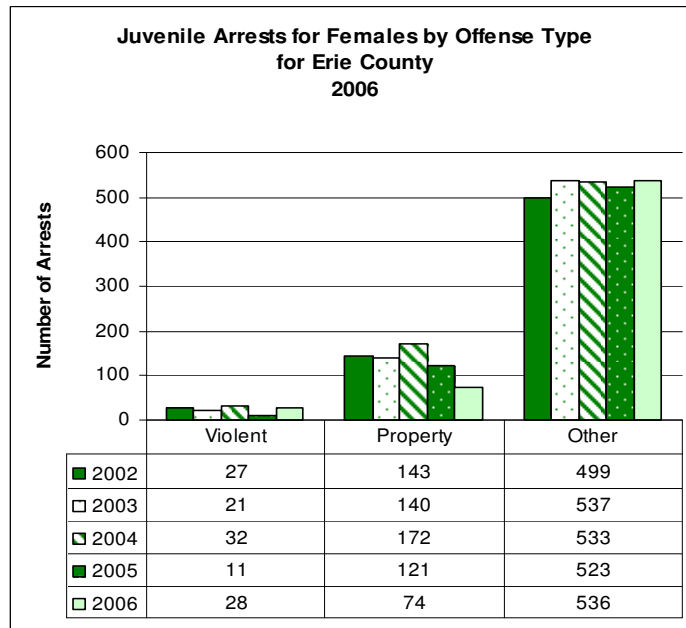
Figure 10.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Juvenile arrests for females increased nearly 3% for non-index offenses and decreased 39% for property crimes. Arrests for violent offenses increased 155% (see Figure 11). Juvenile female arrests for violent offenses included 2 robbery arrests and 26 arrests for aggravated assaults.

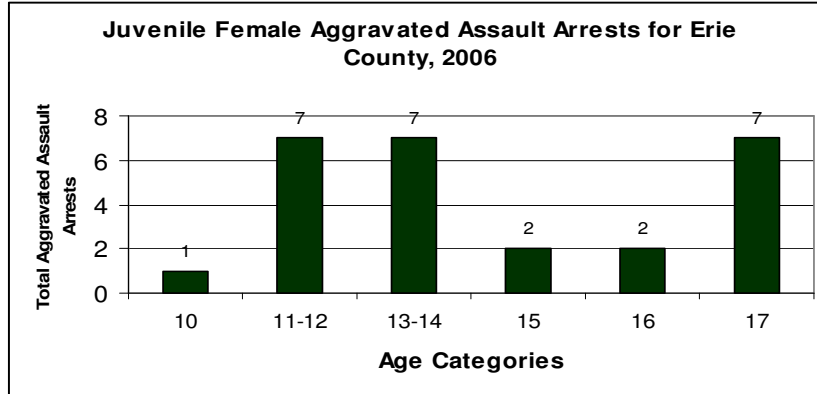
Figure 11.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Further analysis of the significant increase in aggravated assaults among juvenile females identified that the increase was not accounted for by one particular age group, with arrests for this charge occurring in all age categories (see Figure 12).

Figure 12.

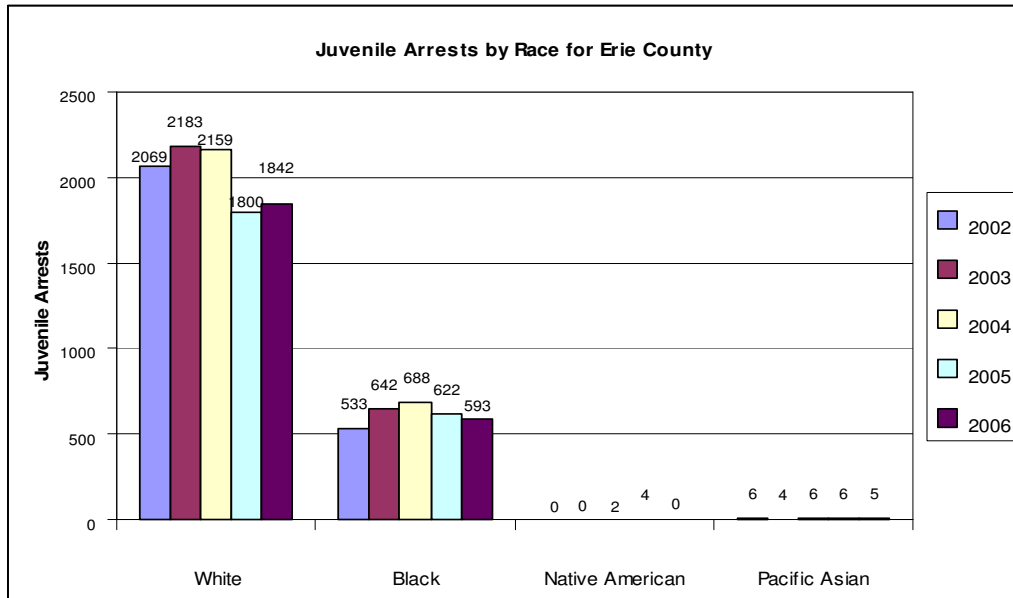


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Race

In Erie County, white juveniles between 10 and 17 years of age comprise 88% of the population of youth between 10 and 17 years of age and accounted for 75% of juvenile arrests in 2006 (see Figure 13). That is a rate of 6.4 arrests for every 100 white youth between 10 and 17 years of age. Black juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 comprise 8% of that population in Erie County and account for 24% of juvenile arrests in 2006, down two percent from 2005. That is a rate of 22.4 arrests for every 100 black youth between 10 and 17 years of age. Although down slightly from 2005, black youth still continue to be over-represented in juvenile arrests in Erie County.

Figure 13.



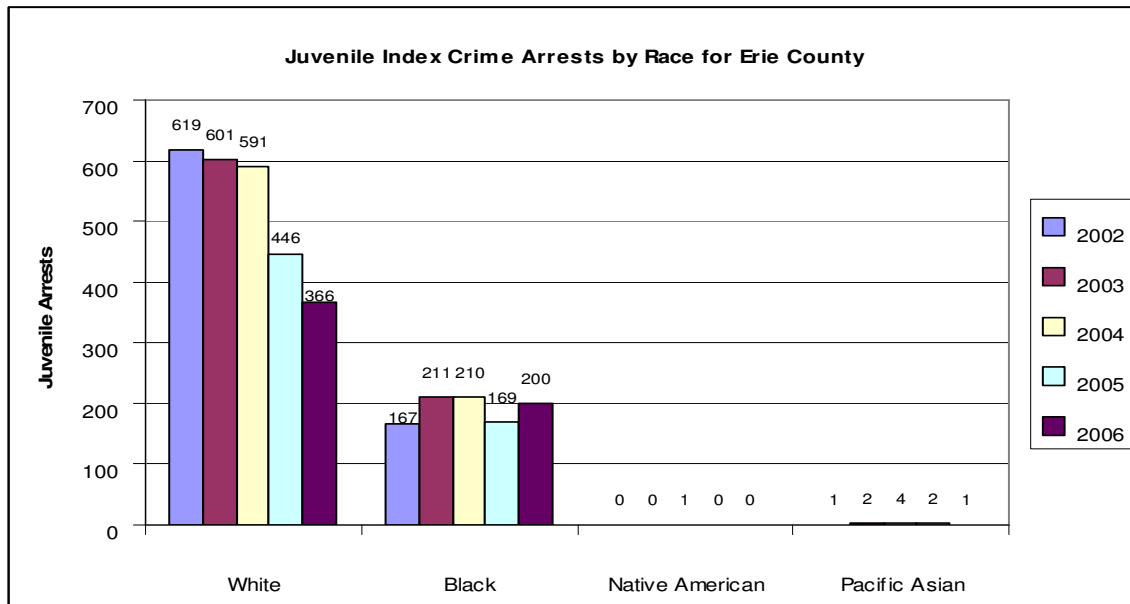
Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

IV. Arrests by Offense Type

Crime Index Offenses

Figure 14 graphically depicts juvenile index crime arrests by race for Erie County. Included in the index crimes are forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny – theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Index crime arrests involving white juveniles have dropped 41% from 2002 to 2006. It is also noteworthy that white youth comprise 88% of the youth population between the ages of 10 and 17, but only account for approximately 65% of index crime arrests. On the other hand black youth account for only 8% of the population aged 10 to 17 in Erie County but account for approximately 35% of the juvenile index crime arrests (see Figure 14).

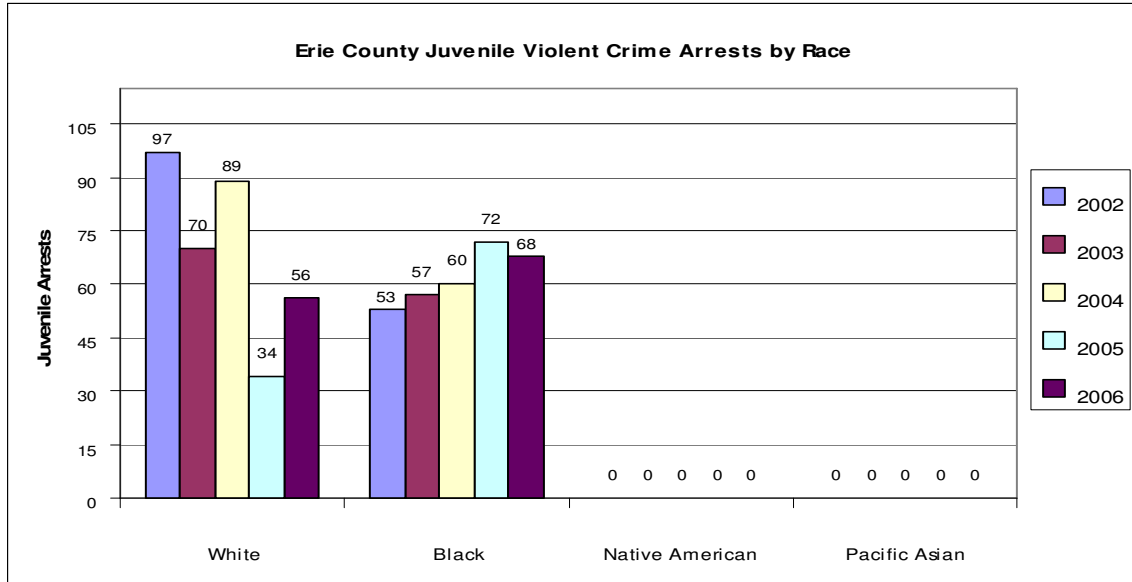
Figure 14.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Figure 15 illustrates the number of juvenile arrests for violent offenses committed in Erie County in 2006. Violent crime arrests include arrests for murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Overall, the number of arrests of white juveniles for violent crimes has decreased by 42% from 2002 to 2006. However, for the most recent years with data available (2005-2006) there was an increase of 65% in the number of violent crime arrests of white juveniles. On the other hand, the overall number of arrests of black juveniles has increased by 28% from 2002 to 2006.

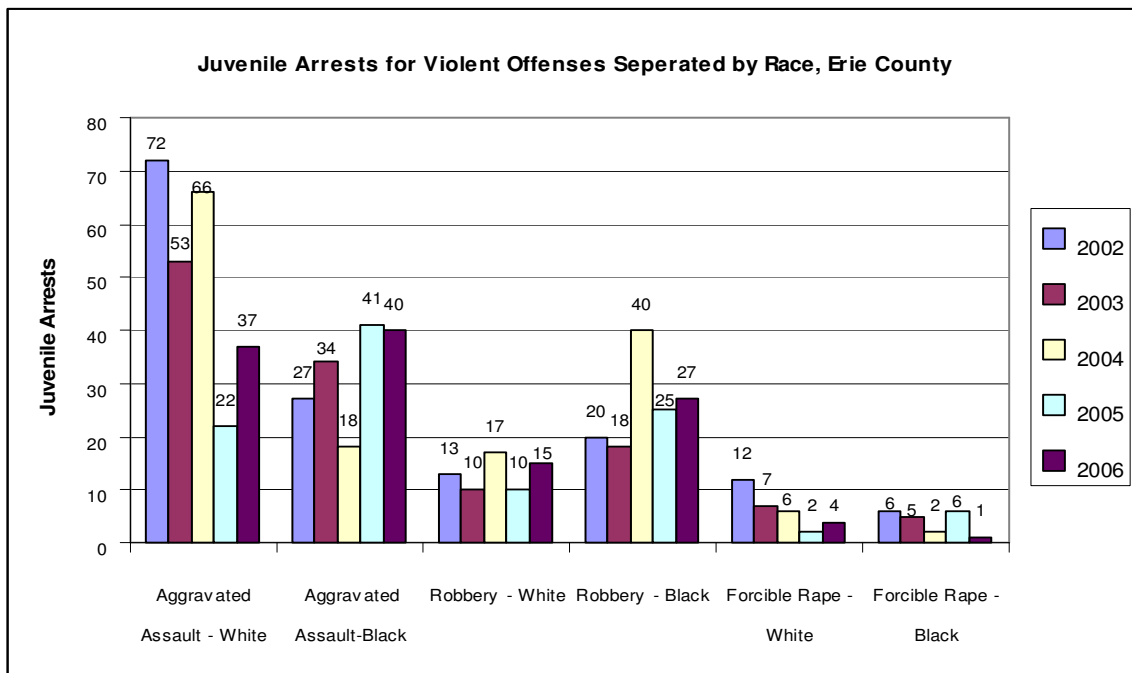
Figure 15.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

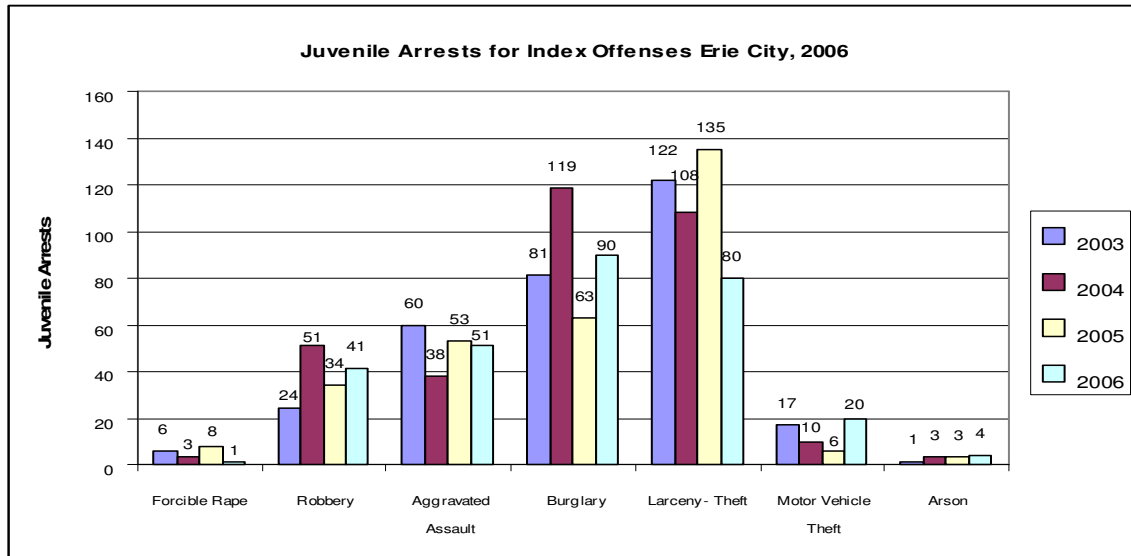
Figure 16 graphically displays juvenile arrests for violent offenses by race. Overall, aggravated assault arrests for white juveniles decreased by 49% from 2002 to 2006. On the other hand, aggravated assault arrests for black juveniles in Erie County increased by 48%. With consideration for the crime of robbery, arrests of white juveniles remained consistent, near 15 arrests per year. Arrests of black juveniles for robbery increased overall by 35% with a 122% increase between 2003 and 2004. Forcible rape arrests for both white and black juveniles steadily declined between 2002 and 2005.

Figure 16.



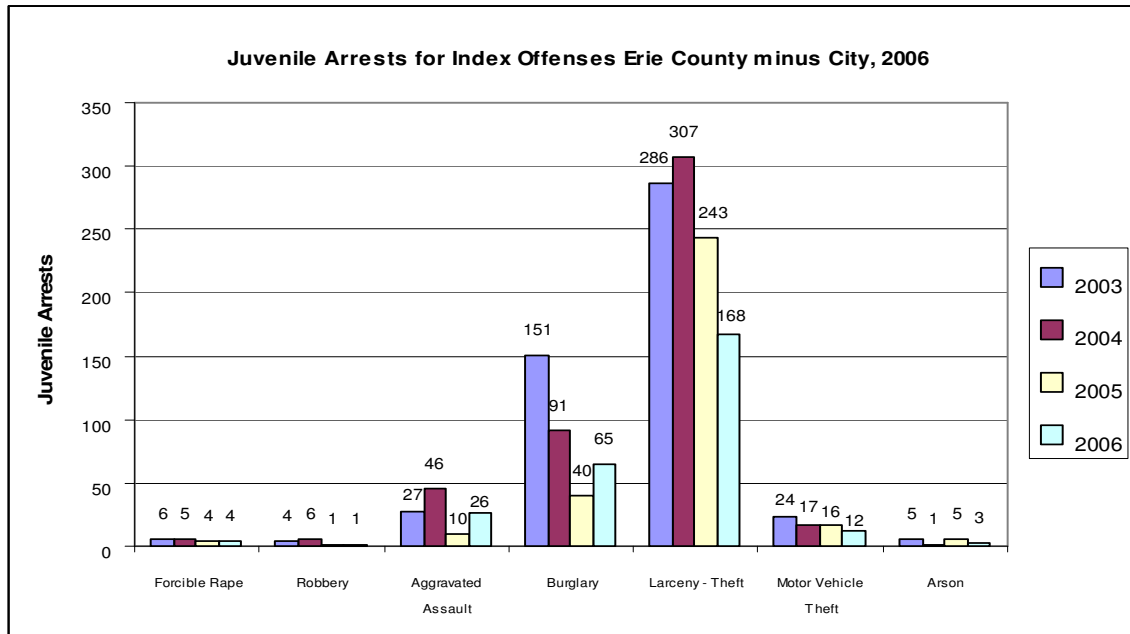
As Figure 17 illustrates, the number of juvenile arrests for larceny-thefts fell by 41% from 2005 to 2006. However, the number of juvenile arrests for robbery, burglary, and motor vehicle thefts all increased. Most notably among these is the number of arrests for burglaries, which are up 43%, and the number of arrests for motor vehicles thefts committed by juveniles, which is up 233%. It is important to note, however, that over the past four years the number of motor vehicle theft arrests of juvenile has greatly fluctuated.

Figure 17.



Juvenile arrests for index offenses illustrated uneven trends for 2006. The number of juvenile related larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and robbery arrests were all down or stable when compared to 2005. Most notably among these is a decrease in the number of larceny-theft arrests by 45%. However, the number of juvenile related aggravated assault and burglary arrests increased when compared to 2005. More specifically for these arrest categories, there was an increase of 160% for aggravated assault arrests and a 63% increase in the number of burglary arrests (see Figure 18).

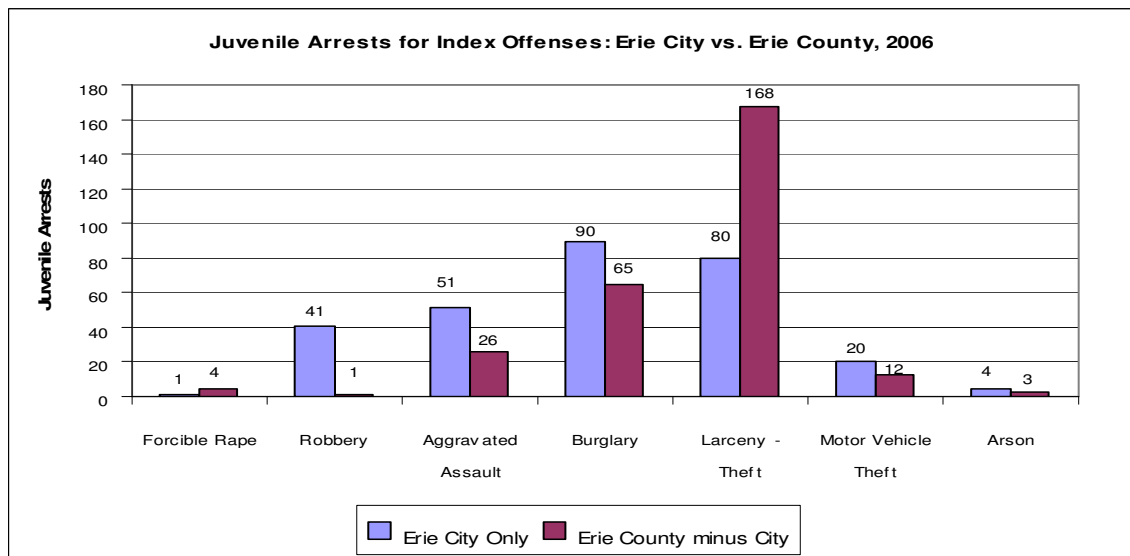
Figure 18.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

When comparing Erie City to Erie County, 98% of robberies, 66% of aggravated assaults, 58% of burglaries, and 63% of the motor vehicle thefts were in Erie City. Conversely there were only 5 total forcible rapes in Erie County, 4 were committed outside of the city. Also, 67% of all larceny – thefts were committed in the county minus the city (see Figure 19).

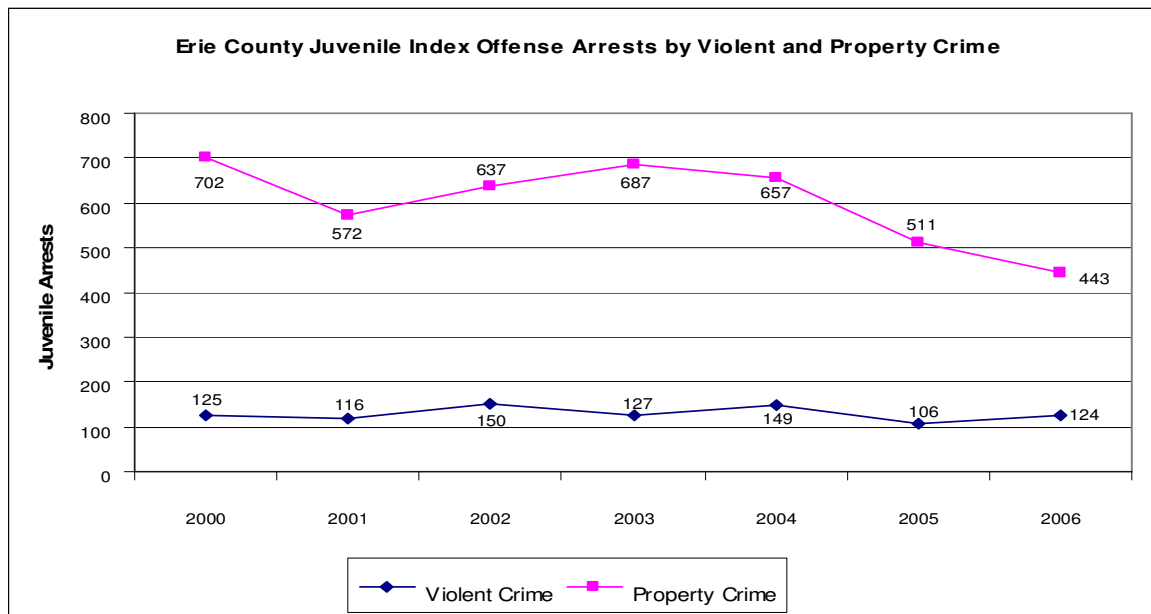
Figure 19.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Figure 20 illustrates the difference between violent index offenses (murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and property index offenses (burglary, larceny – theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson). As Figure 20 illustrates, the total number of violent crime arrests have remained fairly stable, where as the number of property crime arrests have decreased by 37%. It is important to note that index property crime arrests still drive the overall index crime arrest tendencies

Figure 20.

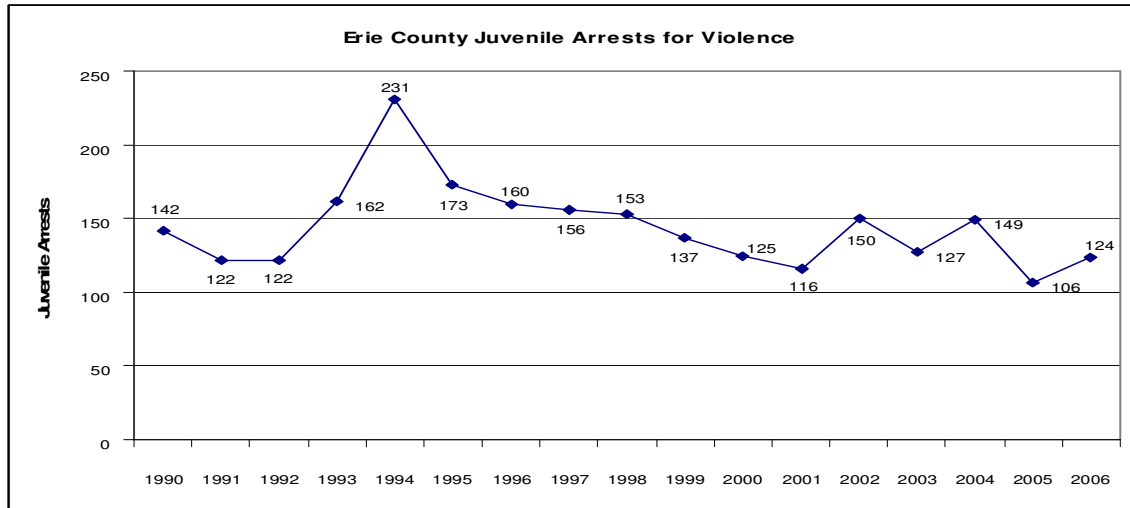


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Violent Offenses

Juvenile arrests for violent crimes, including murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, increased to 124 total arrests, which equates to a 17% increase in 2006 when compared to 2005. Overall, juvenile arrests for violent crimes have decreased consistently from a peak in 1994 to a low of 106 arrests in 2005. Although there was a slight increase in 2006, the total number of juvenile arrests has decreased by 46% when compared to the peak number of arrests in 1994 (see figure 21).

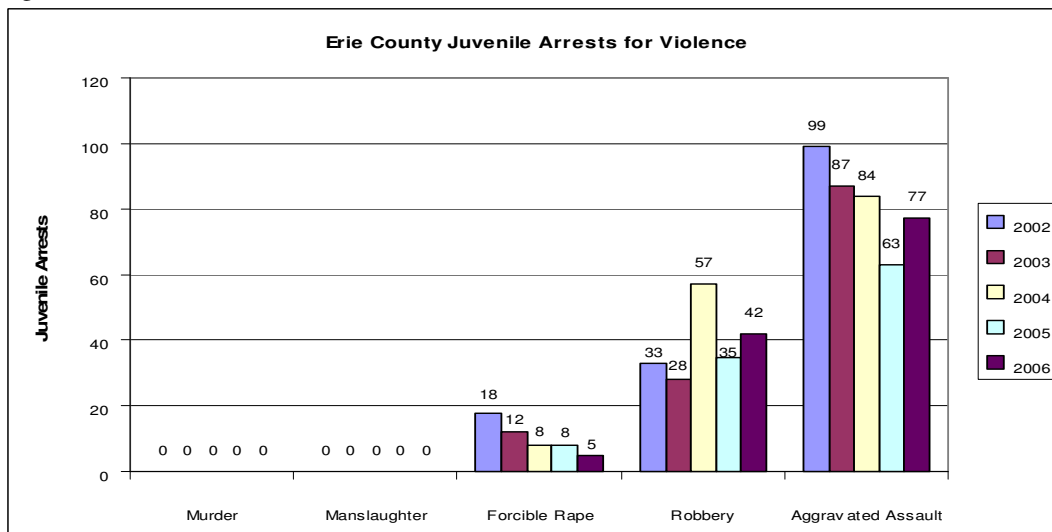
Figure 21.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Juvenile arrests in Erie County for murder and manslaughter remain non-existent, and the number of arrests for forcible rape remains on the decline for 2006. However, the number of arrests for robbery and aggravated assault increased in 2006. The number of arrests for robbery increased by 20% in 2006, the number of aggravated assaults arrests increased by 22% in 2006 (see Figure 22).

Figure 22.

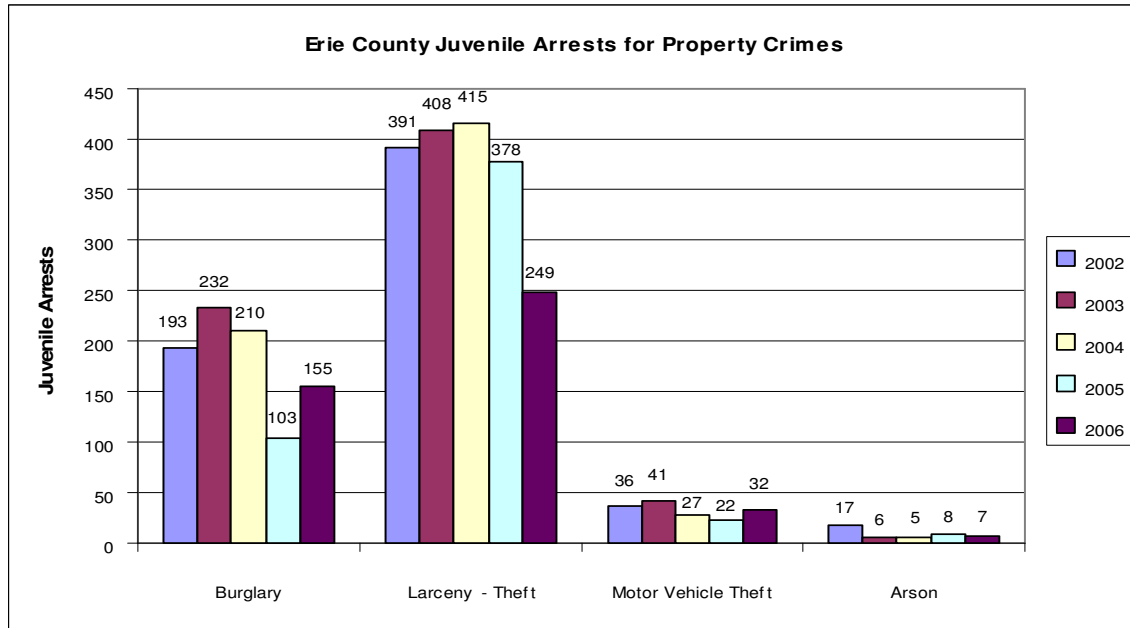


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Property Offenses

Juvenile arrests for property offenses accounted for 443 (18%) of all juvenile arrest in Erie County in 2006. There was a significant decrease (34%) in the number of juvenile arrests for larceny – thefts; however, there was a significant increase (66%) in the number of juvenile arrests for burglary. Although there was a substantial increase in the percent of burglary arrests, the number of burglary arrests was still lower than it was in 2004. Juvenile arrests for motor vehicle thefts increased slightly, whereas the number of juvenile arrests for arson decreased slightly (see Figure 23).

Figure 23.

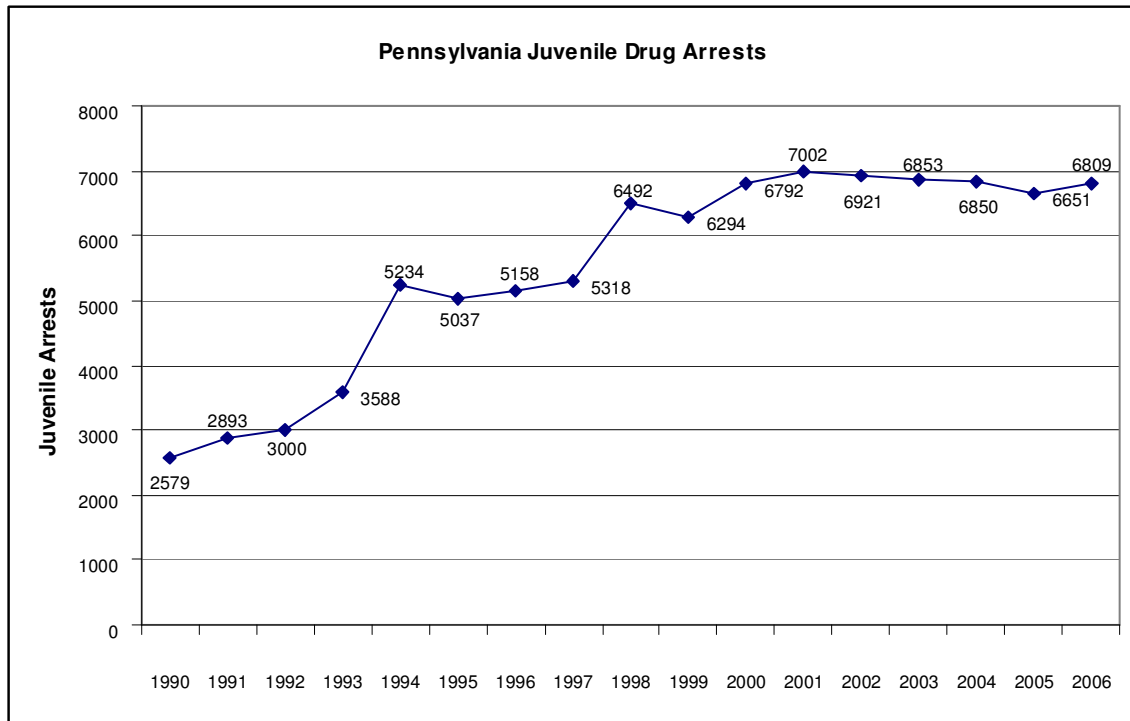


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Drug Arrests

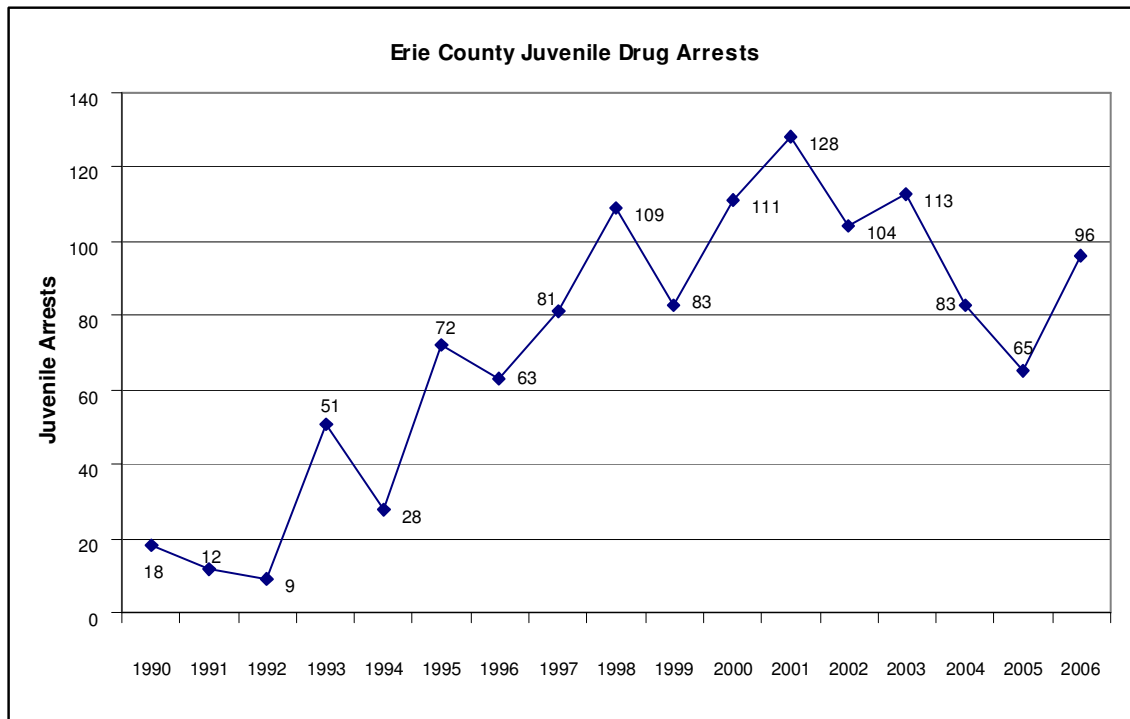
Arrests for drug offenses, including drug sales, possession, and manufacturing, have been dramatically increasing both statewide and locally since 1990. As is illustrated in Figure 24, statewide juvenile arrests for drug offenses has increased much more consistently when compared to the Erie County data illustrated in Figure 25. Although juvenile drug arrests have increased rather significantly statewide, a leveling-off trend began in 2000. More recently there has been a minor increase in the number of juvenile drug arrests, roughly 3%. Locally, juvenile drug arrests trends are much more dramatic. With consideration to the entire observation period (1990-2006), juvenile drug arrests are up significantly; however, since 2000 drug arrests in Erie Count are down by approximately 25% (see figure 25).

Figure 24.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Figure 25.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

References

Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System.

Retrieved June 25, 2008 from: <http://ucr.psp.state.pa.us/UCR/ComMenuUI.asp>