

Juvenile Offenders & Crime in Erie County

An Analysis of the Most Recent Arrest Data



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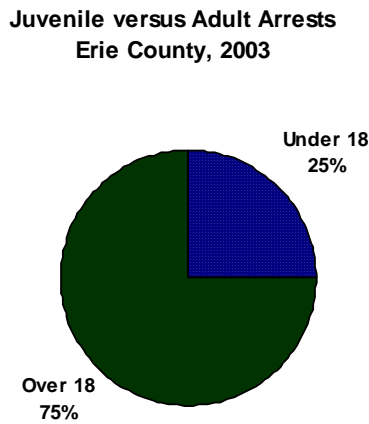
Juvenile Offenders & Crime in Erie County

An Analysis of 2003 Arrest Data

I. Summary of 2003 Juvenile Arrest Data

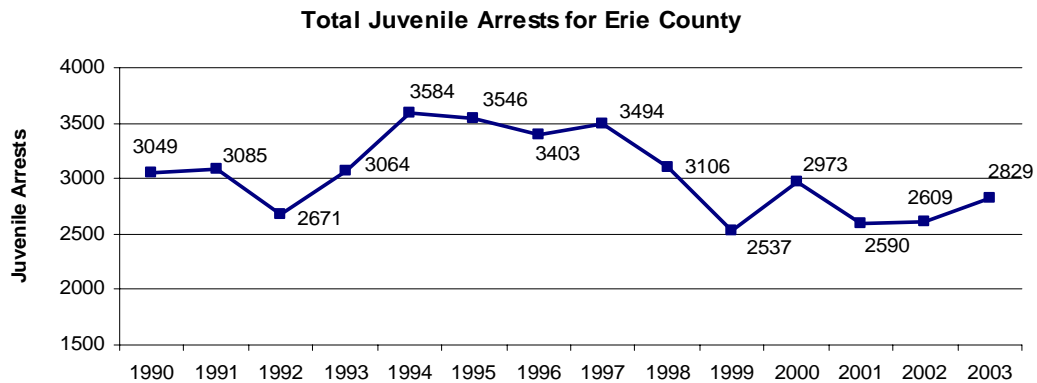
In 2003, there were 11,302 arrests in Erie County. Of those arrests 2,829 (25%) were of juveniles (see Figure 1). This is an 8% increase of from 2002; however, it is a 27% decrease from the peak year of 1994 (see Figure 2). Nationally, in 2002, juveniles accounted for 17% of all arrests (Snyder, 2004).

Figure 1.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

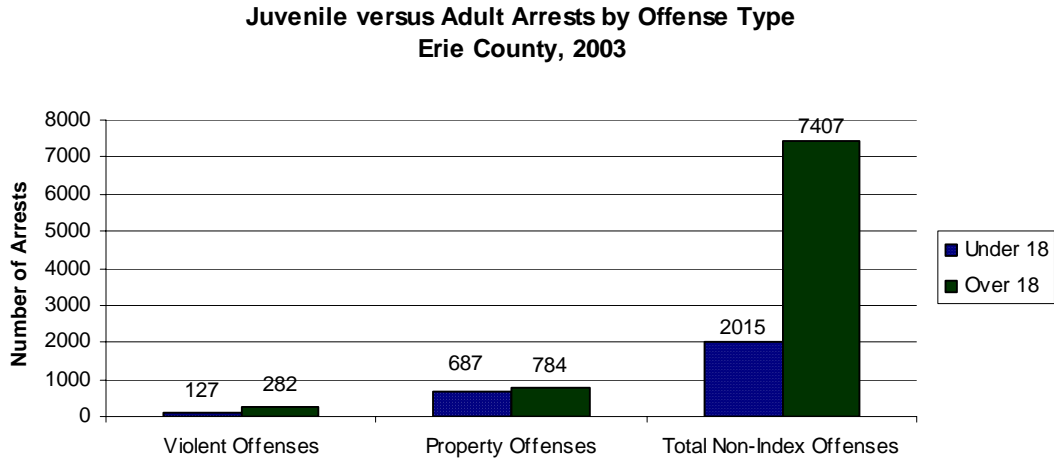
Figure 2.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Of all juvenile arrests in Erie County, more than 71% were for less serious, non-index offenses, consisting primarily of disorderly conduct, liquor law violations, and minor assaults. In 2003, juveniles accounted for 31% of arrests for violent offenses, 47% of property offenses, and 21% of all non-index offenses (see Figure 3).

Figure 3.

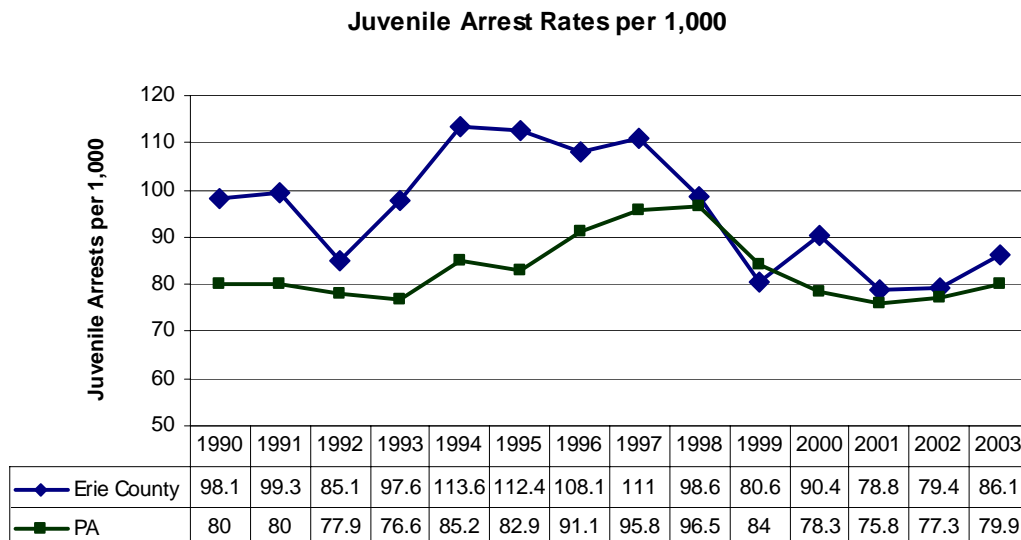


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

II. Erie County versus Peer Counties & Pennsylvania

Although the juvenile arrest rate in Erie County has following a similar trend of Pennsylvania over the past three years, the Erie County rate has remained slightly higher than the state average (see Figure 4).

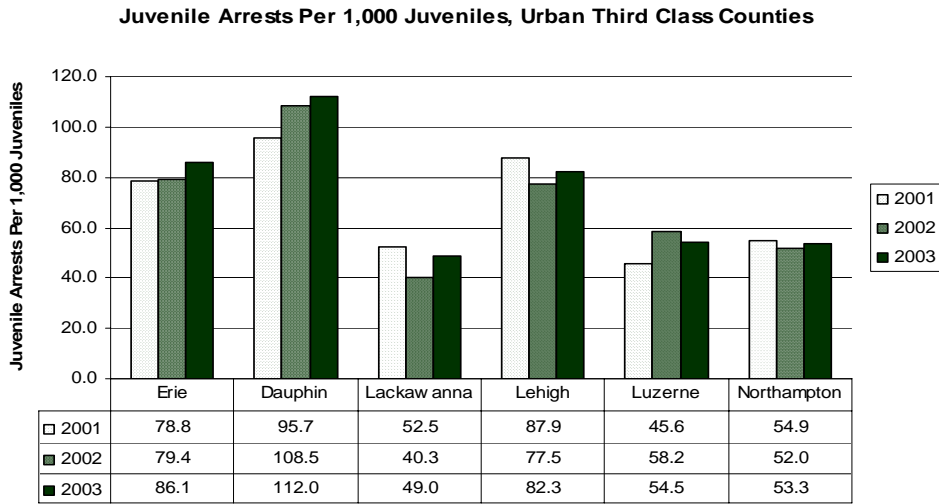
Figure 4.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

In comparison to other urban third class counties, Erie holds the second highest juvenile arrest rate (86.1), second to Dauphin County (112.0). All urban third class counties have experienced increases in juvenile arrest rates during 2002 to 2003, with the exception of Luzerne County (see Figure 5).

Figure 5.



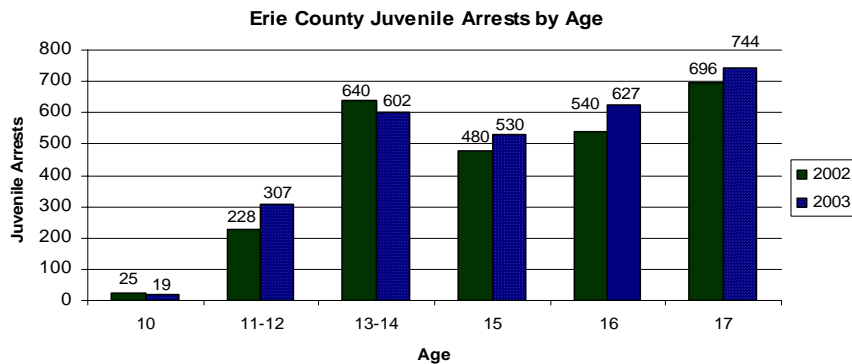
Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

III. Arrests by Offender

Age

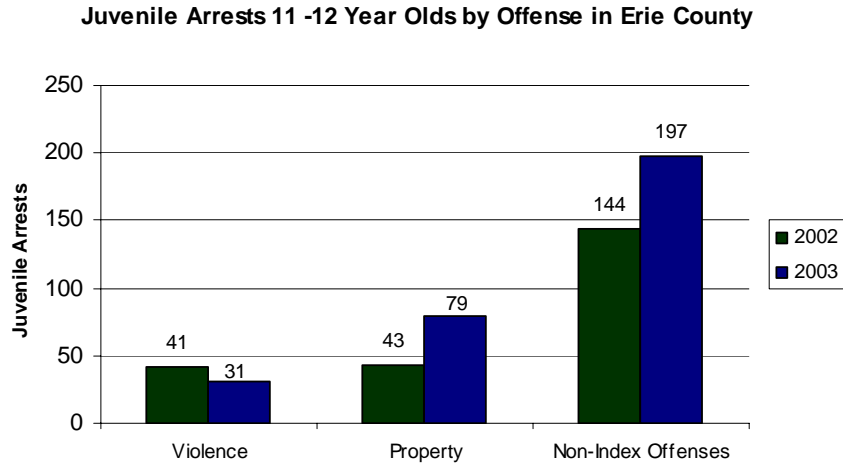
In Erie County arrests for juveniles ages 11-12 increased by 26% from 2002 to 2003 (see Figure 6). Arrests for property and non-index offenses increased for that age group; however, arrests for violent offenses declined (see Figure 7). There were increases in the number of arrests of 15 year olds (9%), 16 year olds (14%), and 17 year olds (6%). There were decreases in arrests for juveniles 10 and under (32%) and 13 to 14 year olds (6%).

Figure 6.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Figure 7.

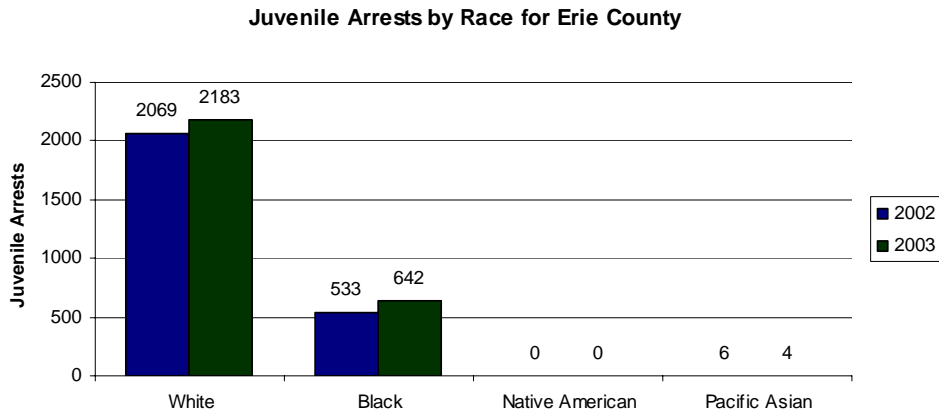


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

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 77% of juvenile arrests in 2003 (see Figure 8). That is a rate of 7.6 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 23% of juvenile arrests in 2003. That is a rate of 24 arrests for every 100 black youth between 10 and 17 years of age. Therefore, black youth continue to be over-represented in juvenile arrests.

Figure 8.

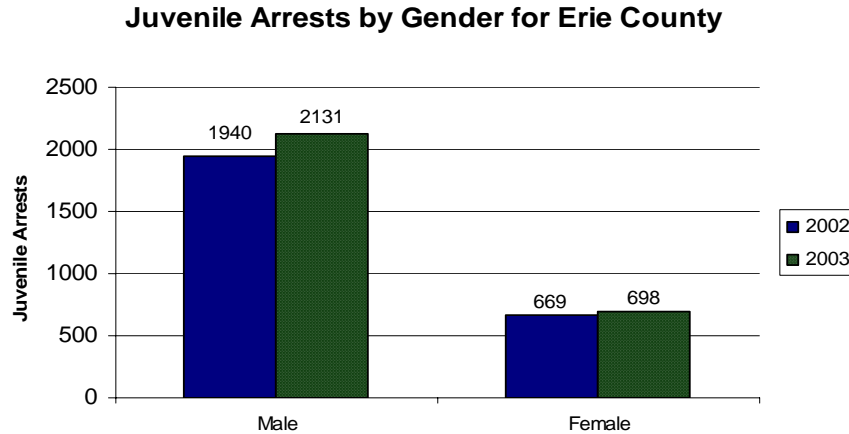


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Gender

Females accounted for 25% of all juvenile arrests in 2003, consistent with the proportion of female to male juvenile arrests in 2002 (see Figure 9). Arrests increased for both male and female juveniles from 2002 to 2003; however, there was a slightly higher increase for males (9%) than females (4%).

Figure 9.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Juvenile arrests for violence decreased slightly and increased for non-index offenses for both males and females. There was a slight decrease in juvenile arrests for females for property offenses; however there was an increase in juvenile arrests of males for property offenses (see Figures 10 & 11).

Figure 10.

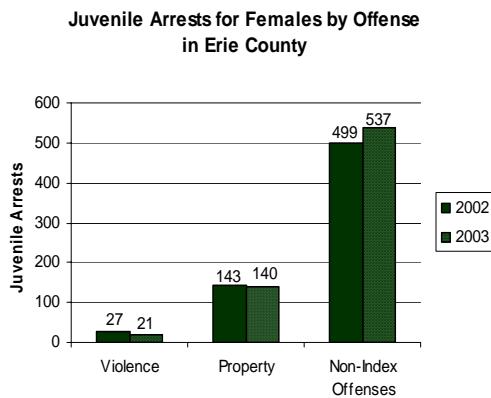
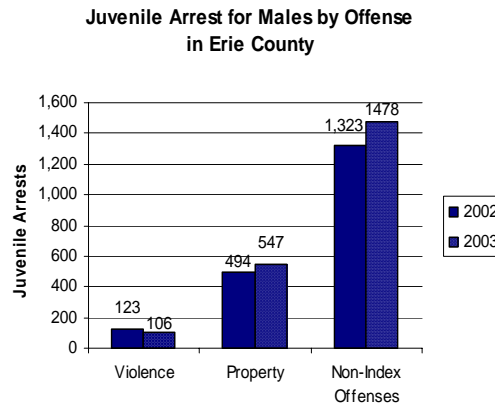


Figure 11.

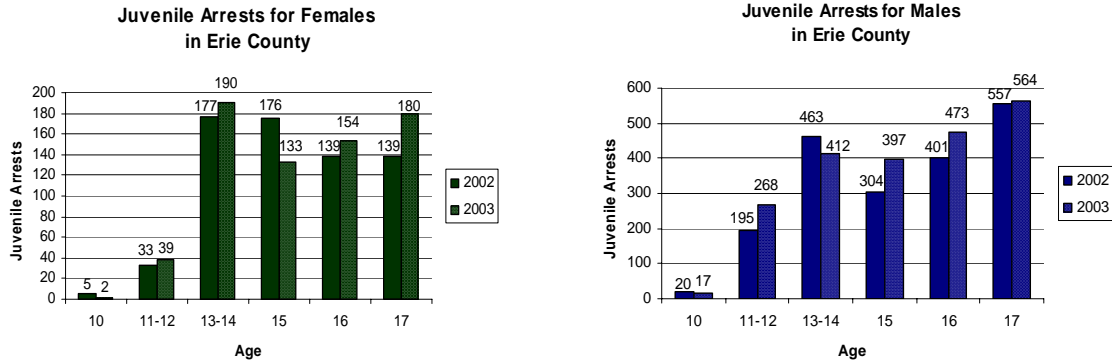


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

The mode age group of juvenile arrests for females occurred in the 13-14 year old age group, but for males was the 17 year old age group (see Figures 12 & 13). Arrests for 17 year old females represented the greatest age group increase for females, increasing by

23% from 2002 to 2003. The greatest increase for juvenile arrests of males was in the 11-12 year old age group.

Figures 12 & 13.



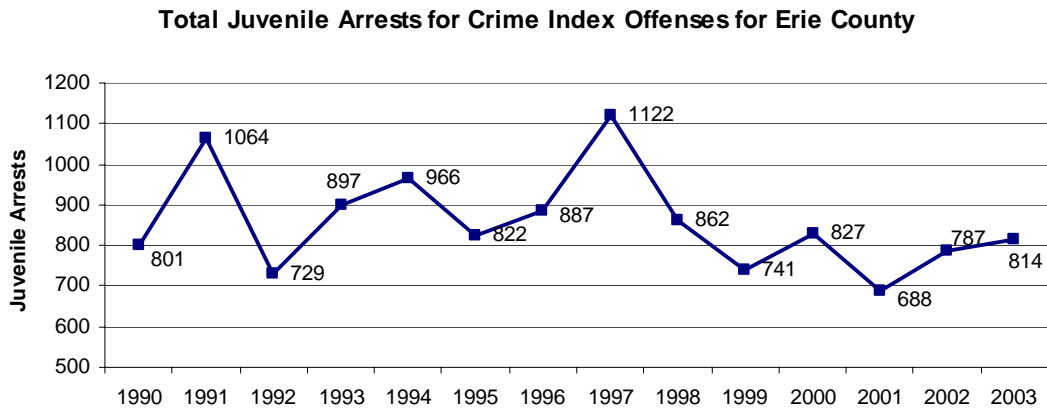
Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

IV. Arrests by Offense Type

Crime Index Offenses

Of the 2,829 juvenile arrests during 2003, 814 (29%) were for index offenses (see Figure 14). Index offenses include murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. This represents a 3% increase from 2002, but is a 38% decrease from the peak year of 1997.

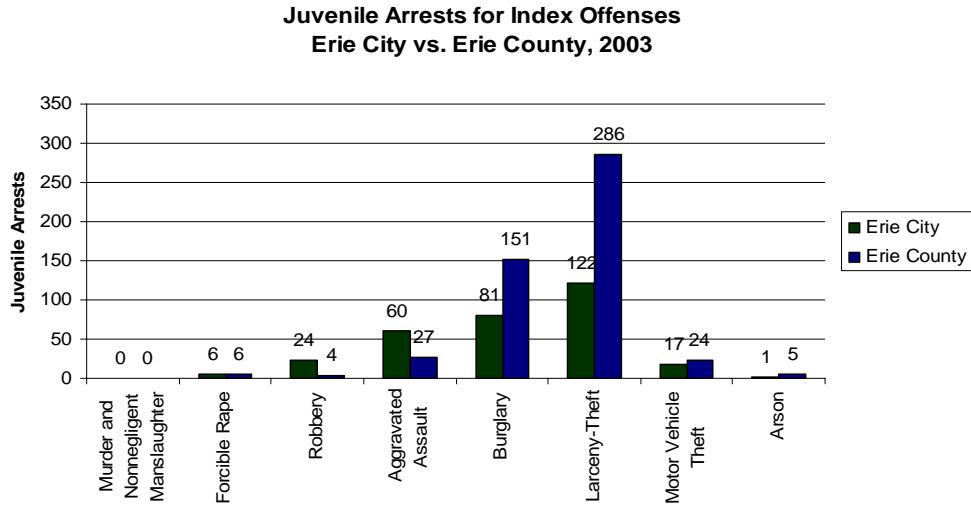
Figure 14.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

When separating Erie County from Erie City, juvenile arrests for violent crimes are more prominent in the city, whereas property crimes are more prominent in the county (see Figure 15).

Figure 15.

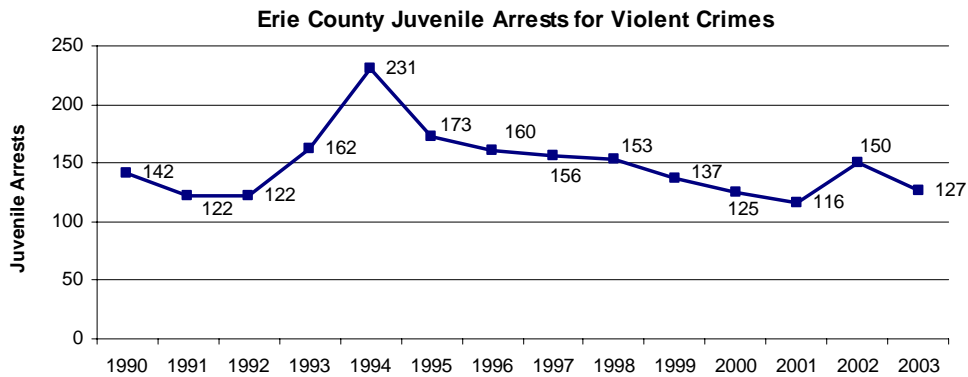


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Violent Offenses

Juvenile arrests for violent crimes, including murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, reached its lowest point in 12 years in 2001 with 116 arrests. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes increased from 2001 to 2002 by 23%, but decreased from 2002 to 2003 by 18%. Since 1994, the peak year, juvenile arrests for violent offenses has reduced by 82% (see Figure 16).

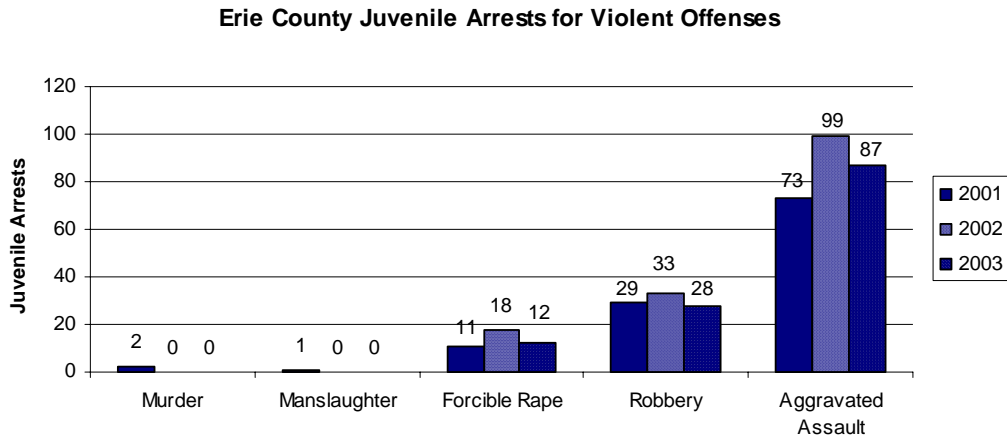
Figure 16.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Arrests for all violent offenses decreased in 2003, and there were no juvenile arrests for murder or manslaughter in 2002 or 2003 (see Figure 17).

Figure 17.

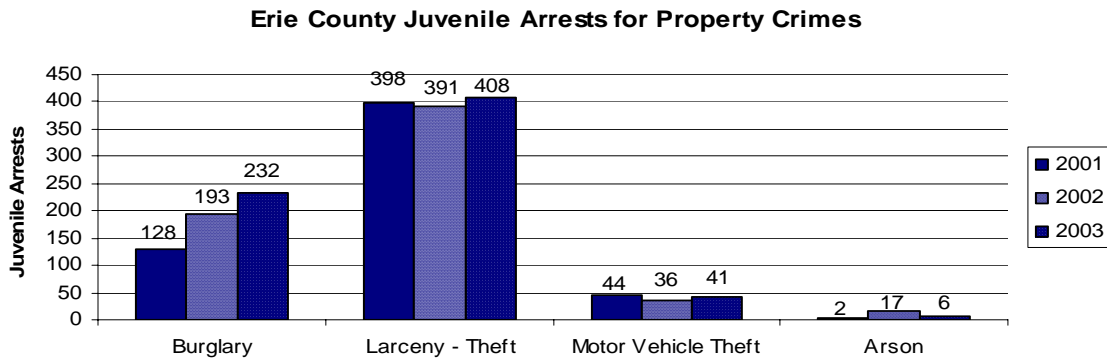


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Property Offenses

Nationally, the juvenile arrest rate for property offenses in 2002 reached its lowest point since the 1960s (Snyder, 2004); however, Erie County experienced a slight increase. Juvenile arrests for property offenses accounted for 687 (24%) of all juvenile arrests in Erie County and 47% of all arrests for both juveniles and adults in 2003. There were slight increases in larceny-theft (4%) and motor vehicle thefts (12%). Arson arrests increased by 88% from 2001 to 2002 but decreased by 65% in 2003. The most notable arrest trend is the steady rise in burglary arrests, increasing by 34% from 2001 to 2002, and then again from 2002 to 2003 by 17% (see Figure 18). Nationally, the FBI reported the arrest trend for burglary has declined consistently from 1980 to 2002 (Snyder, 2004).

Figure 18.



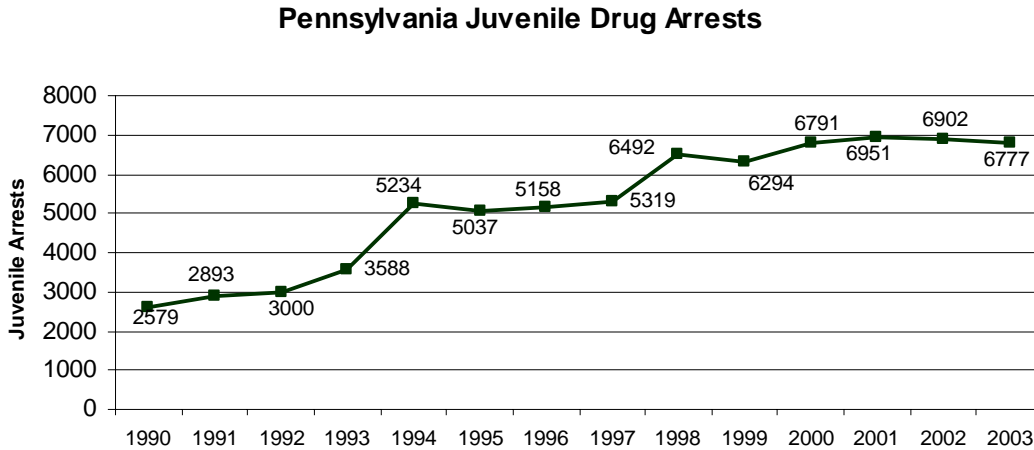
Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

V. Arrests for Non-Index Offenses

Drug Arrests

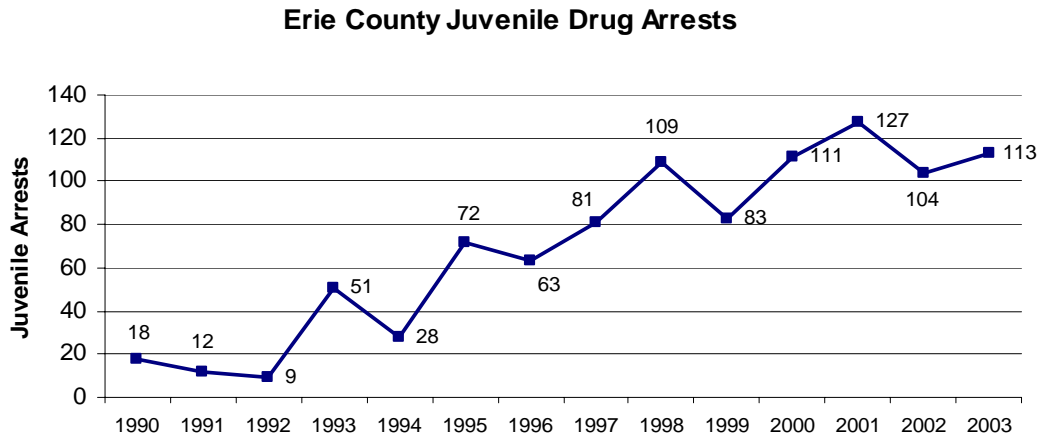
Arrests for drug offenses, including drug sales and possession, have been dramatically increasing in Pennsylvania and Erie County over the past 11 years. Statewide, juvenile drug arrests have increased by 62% (see Figure 19). In Erie County, that increase is 84% (see Figure 20). Drug offense arrests accounted for 643 (6%) of total arrests in Erie County. Of those drug arrests, 113 (18%) were juveniles. In Erie County, there was a 22% decrease in juvenile arrests for drug offenses, but then a slight increase of 9% from 2002 to 2003 (see Figure 18). Juvenile drug arrests in Pennsylvania decreased from 2002 to 2003, but there was a slight increase in Erie County. National data on drug arrests peaked in 1993 and have followed a slow decline (Snyder, 2004).

Figure 19.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Figure 20.

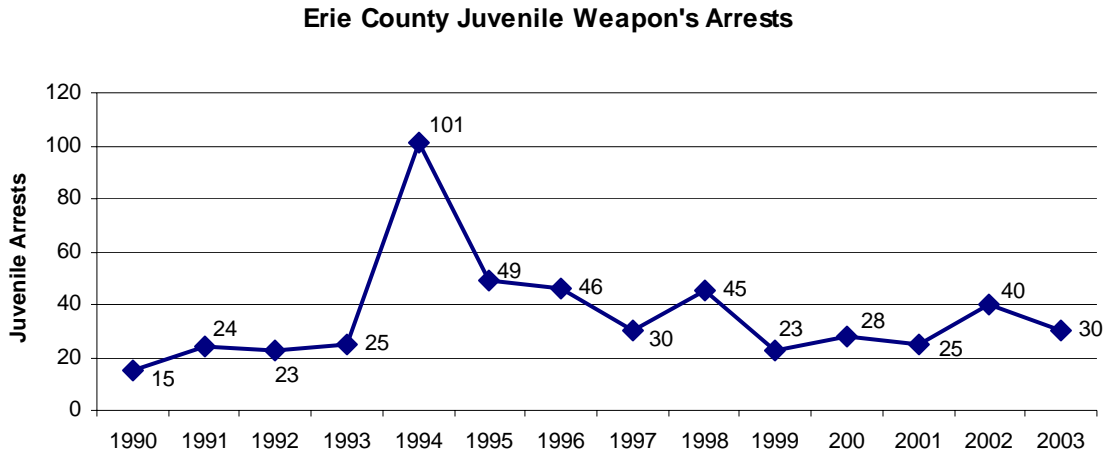


Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Weapons Arrests

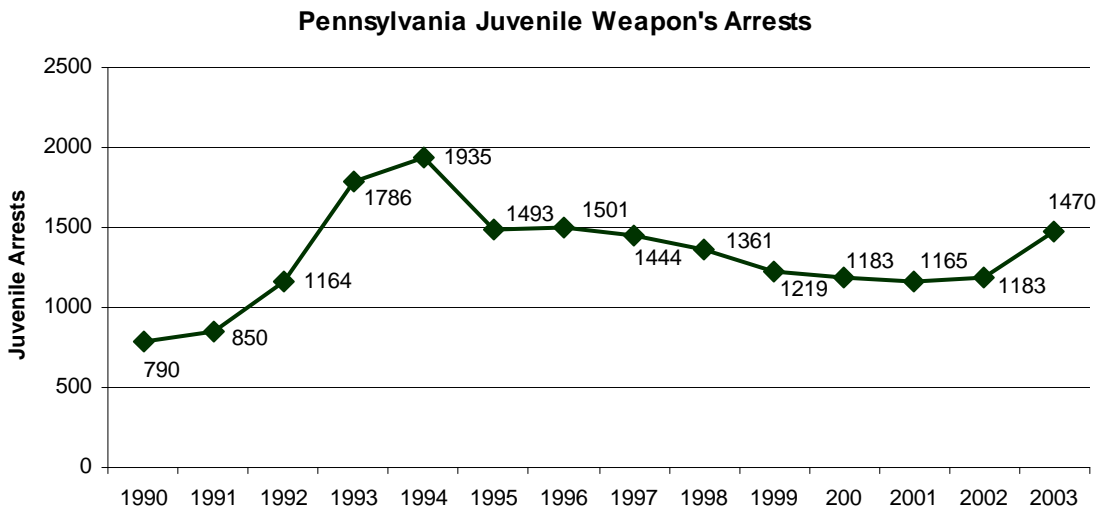
Weapons offenses include the illegal use, possession, trafficking, carrying, manufacturing, importing, and exporting of guns, ammunition, explosives and certain types of knives. Juvenile arrests for weapons have remained relatively stable since the peak year of 1994 (see Figure 21). The United States and Pennsylvania rates have followed a similar trend (see Figure 22).

Figure 21.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

Figure 22.



Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System

References

Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report Online Query System.
Accessed at <http://ucr.psp.state.pa.us/UCR/ComMenuUI.asp>

Snyder, Howard. (September 2004). *Juvenile Arrests 2002*. Juvenile Justice Bulletin.
Retrieved August 1, 2004 from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service:
<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/204608.pdf>