

Initial Juvenile Delinquent Petitions Filed and Disposed

Data Notes

Family Courts handle cases involving youth who are 12 through 17¹ and have a juvenile delinquency (JD) petition filed after a referral from a presentment agency: either the New York City Corporation Counsel's Office or a County Attorney's Office in the counties outside of New York City. These cases include those involving 16- and 17-year-olds charged with felonies (adolescent offenders) and 13-, 14-, and 15-year olds charged with certain serious felonies (juvenile offenders) that were removed from Youth Part of Criminal Court to Family Court.

A presentment agency is the only entity allowed by law to file Family Court delinquency petitions. An initial petition is filed following an arrest, when the presentment agency determines there is legally sufficient evidence to commence a delinquency action in Family Court². The petition charges a juvenile with committing one or more offenses. Most cases are referred to the presentment agency following an intake process at the New York City or county probation department that did not result in successful adjustment (diversion).

Counts represent the number of petitions filed and disposed, not unique individuals. Petitions are presented in the county and region where the petition occurred³.

Initial Petitions Filed

Petitions filed show the number of Family Court petition filings initiating juvenile delinquency proceedings, including individuals arrested as juvenile offenders (JO) or adolescent offenders (AO) whose cases were removed from the Youth Part of Criminal Court to Family Court. The petition charge represents the category – felony or misdemeanor – of the most serious filing charge. Petitions are shown for the year in which the petition was filed.

Petitions are shown by three age categories (7 through 11, 12 through 15, 16 and 17), which reflect age at the time of the delinquent act or crime, and by sex and race/ethnicity. For race/ethnicity, four categories are displayed: White, Black, Hispanic, and Other. All petitions involving youth of Hispanic ethnicity are reported in the Hispanic category, regardless of race. The Other categories include petitions involving youth who are Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Other, and those who do not have a race/ethnicity category reported.

Initial Petitions Disposed

Initial petitions disposed show the number of initial JD petitions that reached a final outcome in Family Court. Petitions disposed are shown for the year in which the disposition occurred. Cases are shown by race/ethnicity and disposition type:

- 1) **Juvenile Delinquency (JD) Finding:** This finding is entered when petition charges are established during a fact-finding hearing and the court determines a juvenile is in need of supervision, treatment or confinement. Outcomes after a JD finding:

¹ Due to the state's Raise the Lower Age (RTL A) law and effective Dec. 29, 2022, 7- to 11-year-olds are no longer considered juvenile delinquents, unless those youth are charged with homicide offenses detailed in Family Court Act §301.2. There are a small number of cases in 2023 that involve 7- to 11-year-olds with offenses committed prior to Dec. 29, 2022.

² Petition filings resulting from violations of dispositions or seeking extensions of dispositions are not included in these tables.

³ Family Court initial petition data are sourced from the DCJS-Office of Court Administration (OCA) Juvenile Delinquent Family Court Database and OCA's Universal Case Management System (UCMS).

- **Placement:** A juvenile is in custody of the state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) for placement in an OCFS facility or private (voluntary) agency licensed by OCFS for the nonsecure placement of youth. A juvenile also may be in the custody of the local district of social services and placed with a voluntary agency.
 - **Probation Supervision:** A juvenile remains in the community under conditions specified by the court and supervised by the local probation department.
 - **Conditional Discharge:** A juvenile must comply with one or more conditions specified in an order for up to one year. Compliance may be monitored by the local probation department.
- 2) **Favorable Terminations:** Outcomes that do not result in a JD finding by the court. These outcomes include:
- **Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal (ACD) Ordered:** A juvenile must comply with one or more conditions that can be specified in an order, which occasionally require some degree of compliance monitoring by the local probation department. The case is dismissed if a youth successfully complies with the order.
 - **Other Favorable:** This category primarily includes cases where the petition was dismissed or withdrawn, as well as a small number of cases reported only as “petition granted” or “petition settled” or referred back to probation intake.