



# **Assessment of Repeat Juvenile Offenders**





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## Summary

A review of juvenile arrest and detention data <sup>1</sup>shows that the number of juveniles arrested in 2019 fell to the lowest level on record (data available since 2012) though the average juvenile who was arrested was arrested more often and faced more charges than in previous years. Charges were concentrated in 2019 with just 10 percent of juvenile arrestees receiving almost half of all charges faced. Juveniles who were detained were detained about as often in 2019 as in previous years with more frequent detentions being strongly associated with longer periods of incarceration. The Juvenile Justice Intervention Center (JJIC) was rarely at capacity in 2019 after being at or near capacity half the time in 2018 despite an increase in the average number of arrests per arrested juvenile.

## Arrests

The average number of arrests and charges for arrested juveniles increased in 2019 though this is likely at least partially due to fewer juveniles with minor offenses being arrested because of the PAY Ordinance. Nearly 70 percent of juveniles who were arrested in 2019 were arrested only once with a small portion of juveniles made up nearly half of the charges faced.

- Almost 80 percent of juveniles faced between 1 and 5 total charges in 2019 though some juveniles were charged more often – one was charged 74 times – over the course of the year. There were 50 juveniles with over 10 charges in 2019 and 41 of them had burglary charges. Those 50 juveniles made up 10 percent of all juveniles arrested but faced 45 percent of all charges.

Figure 1 - Juveniles Arrested in 2019 by Number of Arrests

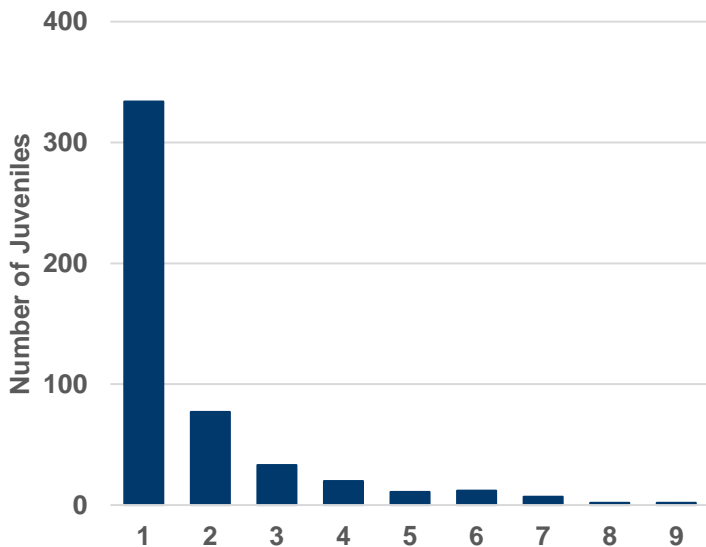
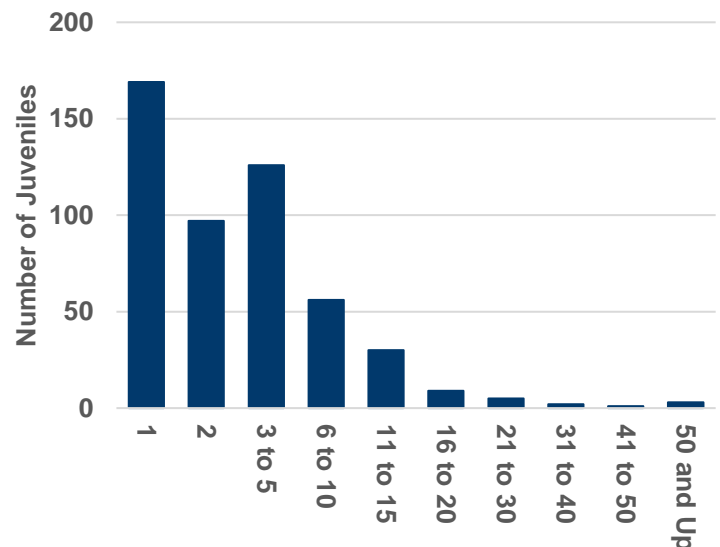


Figure 2 - Juveniles Arrested in 2019 by Total Number of Charges



<sup>1</sup> For this analysis an arrest is defined as a unique intake number assigned by the Juvenile Court. Children arrested in adult court were not considered in this analysis. Not all arrested juveniles are detained in JJIC.

- The average juvenile that was arrested in 2019 was arrested more often and faced more charges per arrest than in recent years. The average juvenile was arrested 1.8 times in 2019, up from 1.7 in 2018 and 1.5 in 2017, and on average they faced 2.6 charges in 2019 compared to 1.8 in 2018 and 1.6 in 2017.
- The increase in arrests and charges per arrested juvenile is likely partially due to the dramatic increase in vehicle burglary arrests which are more likely to have multiple charges per arrest. The implementation of the PAY Ordinance led to large drops in the number of juveniles charged with minor offenses such as simple battery and trespassing that are more likely to be single charge offenses which also likely impacted the average number of arrests and charges in 2019.

## Detentions

Reviewing juvenile detention data since 2017 shows Juvenile Court repeat offenders are not being released quickly after multiple detentions. Juveniles who were detained increasingly more often in 2019 were incarcerated for longer stretches relative to those with only one or two detentions over that span.

- A juvenile that was detained in 2019 after his or her first ever arrest since 2017 was incarcerated for 10 days on average, but the average length of incarceration increased incrementally as the number of detentions increased with a juvenile on his or her 10<sup>th</sup> detention being detained for 60 days on average. Conversely, 81 percent of juveniles who were on their first detention in 2019 were released within one week and that percentage decreased as the number of detentions increased.

*Table 1 - Length of Incarceration & % Released for Juveniles Arrested in 2019*

Detention Number (Since 2017)	Average Days	Arrest Number (Since 2012)	% Released Same Day
1	10.4	1	57%
2	25.4	2	28%
3-4	29.9	3-4	11%
5-9	44.0	5-9	1%
10+	60.2	10+	0%

- Overall, the average length of incarceration for juveniles arrested in 2019 was largely unchanged relative to 2017 and 2018. The average juvenile that was incarcerated was incarcerated for 24.8 days in 2019 compared to 24.5 days in 2018 and 25.6 days in 2017.

## JJIC Population

The Juvenile Justice Intervention Center (JJIC) was rarely at full capacity in 2019 despite repeat offenders making up a larger share of those arrested. JJIC was at or above capacity on 8 days in 2019, down from 60 such days in 2018 and 0 days in 2017.

- The average daily population at JJIC was 34.7 juveniles, down from 43 on average per day in 2018 and 35.1 on average per day in 2017. JJIC was at 72 percent of capacity on average in 2019 compared to 90 percent capacity on average in 2018 and 73 percent capacity on average in 2017. JJIC was near capacity – defined as 90 percent capacity or above – on 19 days in 2019, down from 184 days in 2018 and 8 days in 2017.

*Figure 1 - JJIC Percent of Capacity Per Day, 2017-2019*

