

NEW COMMITMENT PROFILE FISCAL YEAR 2003



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Juveniles committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections' (ADJC) in 2003 were some of the most difficult teenagers in Arizona. Many were chronic property offenders and almost all of them had serious substance abuse problems. While efforts were made to identify and build on their personal strengths, many of them had significant intellectual, educational and emotional deficiencies.

The *New Commitment Profile* is a descriptive review of the characteristics of the juvenile offenders committed to ADJC throughout Fiscal Year (FY) 2003. This report is a compilation of information from Arizona juvenile court commitment orders, ADJC's juvenile database, YouthBase, as well as other files maintained by the ADJC Research and Development (R & D) Section.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- There were 752 juveniles committed to ADJC in FY 2003, a decrease of 8.6% from the 823 committed in FY 2002.
- Monthly commitments ranged from a high of 78 in August 2002 to a low of 42 in November 2002.
- Many (42%) were committed on property offenses.
- The vast majority, (62.5%) of commitments were composed of three offender subgroups: first time felons, second time felons, and misdemeanants.

ADJC NEW COMMITMENT JUVENILE PROFILE

As shown in Table 1, the profile of the typical ADJC new commitment has remained consistent since before 2000. The length of stay given to the ADJC commitments has evidenced an increasing trend going from 6.9 months in FY 1998 to 7.6 months in FY 2003.

Analysis of data and trends enabled ADJC to develop a meaningful profile of juveniles committed to its custody. A typical new commitment to ADJC:

He was a 17 year-old Hispanic male from Maricopa County. His most serious commitment offense was a class 6 felony, and it was most likely a theft. He was committed to ADJC with a court-ordered length of stay of 7.6 months and he was determined to be a moderate risk. His placement according to both ADJC matrix and court-ordered minimum was in a secure ADJC facility rather than a community based placement.

Table 1

	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Gender	Male	Male	Male	Male
Age	17	17	16	17
Ethnicity	Hispanic	Hispanic	Hispanic	Hispanic
County	Maricopa	Maricopa	Maricopa	Maricopa
Offense	Theft	Theft	Theft	Theft
Class Level	Misd.	Misd.	Class 6 Fel.	Class 6 Fel.
Court Order	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Length of Stay	7.4 mos.	7.0 mos.	7.6 mos.	7.6 mos.
Risk Level	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Placement	Secure Care	Secure Care	Secure Care	Secure Care

- The average length of stay (7.6 months) given to juveniles in FY 2003 remained unchanged from FY 2002.
- The most common age for a juvenile committed to ADJC was 17, however, the most common age of their first court referral was 13. Fully 42.9% of the juveniles had between 6 and 10 prior court referrals.
- Almost all of the juveniles had school (97.1%), substance abuse (96.9%), and peer relationship (93.6%) problems.

Table 2

	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
RACE				
Caucasian	369 (37.4%)	347 (38.9%)	284 (34.5%)	243 (32.3%)
African American	90 (9.1%)	82 (9.2%)	86 (10.4%)	70 (9.3%)
Native American	62 (6.3%)	40 (4.5%)	44 (5.3%)	34 (4.5%)
Hispanic	433 (43.9%)	380 (42.6%)	377 (45.8%)	352 (46.8%)
Asian	6 (0.6%)	2 (0.2%)	-	1 (0.1%)
Other	1 (0.1%)	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)	4 (0.5%)
Mexican National	26 (2.6%)	40 (4.5%)	30 (3.6%)	48 (6.4%)
GENDER				
Female	140 (14.2%)	103 (11.5%)	96 (11.7%)	93 (12.4%)
Male	847 (85.8%)	790 (88.5%)	727 (88.3%)	659 (87.6%)
AGE				
12 and younger	13 (1.3%)	3 (0.3%)	2 (0.2%)	4 (0.5%)
13 years old	52 (5.3%)	46 (5.2%)	16 (1.9%)	11 (1.5%)
14 years old	123 (12.5%)	104 (11.6%)	101 (12.3%)	71 (9.4%)
15 years old	240 (24.3%)	193 (21.6%)	197 (23.9%)	161 (21.4%)
16 years old	279 (28.3%)	257 (28.8%)	261 (31.7%)	246 (32.7%)
17 years old	280 (28.4%)	290 (32.5%)	246 (29.9%)	259 (34.4%)
RISK LEVEL				
Low	213 (21.6%)	144 (16.1%)	114 (13.9%)	126 (16.8%)
Moderate	489 (49.5%)	465 (52.1%)	416 (50.5%)	394 (52.4%)
High	285 (28.9%)	284 (31.8%)	293 (35.6%)	232 (30.9%)
COUNTY				
Maricopa	412 (41.7%)	395 (44.2%)	314 (38.2%)	317 (42.2%)
Pinal	74 (7.5%)	72 (8.0%)	53 (6.4%)	41 (5.5%)
Pima	271 (27.5%)	219 (24.5%)	241 (29.3%)	195 (25.9%)
Greenlee	0	0	1 (0.1%)	3 (0.4%)
Graham	6 (0.6%)	7 (0.8%)	10 (1.2%)	4 (0.5%)
Yuma	48 (4.9%)	48 (5.4%)	52 (6.3%)	36 (4.8%)
La Paz	3 (0.3%)	2 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)	2 (0.3%)
Mohave	41 (4.2%)	40 (4.5%)	29 (3.5%)	31 (4.1%)
Yavapai	24 (2.4%)	33 (3.7%)	36 (4.4%)	30 (4.0%)
Navajo	19 (1.9%)	14 (1.6%)	19 (2.3%)	21 (2.8%)
Apache	12 (1.2%)	3 (0.3%)	3 (0.4%)	2 (0.3%)
Gila	13 (1.3%)	11 (1.2%)	11 (1.3%)	17 (2.3%)
Coconino	10 (1.0%)	15 (1.7%)	17 (2.1%)	21 (2.8%)
Santa Cruz	15 (1.5%)	12 (1.3%)	10 (1.2%)	9 (1.2%)
Cochise I	39 (4.0%)	22 (2.5%)	26 (3.2%)	23 (3.1%)
TOTAL	987 (100%)	893 (100%)	823 (100%)	752 (100%)

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA – See Table 2

Hispanics accounted for 46.8% of the commitments in FY 2003. Caucasians, with 32.3% accounted for the second largest racial/ethnic category, followed by African Americans (9.3%), Mexican Nationals (6.4%), Native Americans (4.5%), and juveniles from other racial/ethnic categories (0.6%).

The vast majority of commitments (87.6%) were male, and 12.4% were female. FY 2003 was the second year in a row that the percentage of female commitments increased.

Three quarters (67.1%) of the new commitments were 16 or 17 years old at the time of their commitment, and a large percentage (21.4%) were 15 years old.

Over half (52.4%) of the commitments were determined to be moderate risk, while 30.9% were determined to be high risk, and 16.8% low risk.

The percentage of commitments from Maricopa County increased from 38.2% in FY 2002 to 42.2% in FY 2003. Meanwhile,

decreases were recorded in the percentage of juveniles committed from Pima County (29.3% to 25.9%) and the other 13 Arizona counties (32.5% to 31.9%).

Case Study

Beth (not her real name) was committed to ADJC on domestic violence, and placed in the Encanto Unit. At that time she was diagnosed with Conduct Disorder, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Depressive Disorder. She had an extreme abuse history including physical abuse and rape. Her family was found to have a consistently negative influence on her and her decisions. In fact, Beth had been placed in numerous foster homes and group home settings before her commitment to ADJC.

During her time at ADJC, Beth did very well and earned her release within the 12 month length-of-stay given by the court. Upon her release from secure care, Beth participated in individual and family counseling and anger management. Beth has been attending Pima College, and her long-term plans include a degree in Social Work. She has made progress with her substance abuse problem and she tested negative for drugs for six months. Beth was enrolled in vocational rehabilitation and she was actively working on her transition plan. She has held a part-time job while attending school and receiving her required counseling.

Beth has taken her parole responsibilities seriously and she has been completing both short and long term goals for herself. She became actively involved with her family in a positive way. Beth achieved the highest level of success at ADJC in May of 2003 when she was awarded an absolute discharge.

OFFENSE SUBGROUPS – See Table 3

Many (42.0%) of the new commitments were committed on property offenses. Theft, including theft of vehicle, represented the highest percentage of property offenses with 13.7%, increasing from 12.3% in FY 2002.

Crimes against persons (CAP) represented 20.5% of the new commitments. Aggravated assault represented the largest type of CAP, while juveniles committed on a sexual offenses represented 24.6% of the juvenile offenders committed on CAP offenses.

Juveniles committed to ADJC on a drug offense represented 17.2% of the total commitments. Almost half (44.2%) of the drug offenses were marijuana possession

Public order offenses represented 10.8% of the new commitments. Public order offenses include disorderly conduct, escape, resisting arrest, hindering prosecution, and false reporting to law enforcement.

The number of ADJC commitments with alcohol offenses has been steadily increasing between FY 2000 (31) and FY 2003 (42).

Table 3: Offense Subgroups	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Group Total	987	893	823	752
Crimes Against Persons:				
Homicide	-	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Kidnapping	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	2 (0.3%)	2 (0.3%)
Sexual Assault	46 (4.7%)	35 (3.9%)	41 (5.0%)	38 (5.1%)
Robbery	16 (1.6%)	10 (1.1%)	17 (2.1%)	12 (1.6%)
Aggravated Assault	59 (6.0%)	58 (6.5%)	84 (10.1%)	61 (8.1%)
Assault	68 (6.9%)	54 (6.0%)	26 (3.2%)	40 (5.3%)
Sub Total	190 (19.3%)	159 (17.8%)	171 (20.8%)	154 (20.5%)
Property Offenses:				
Burglary 1 st Degree	8 (0.8%)	2 (0.2%)	4 (0.5%)	2 (0.3%)
Burglary 2 nd Degree	49 (5.0%)	56 (6.3%)	34 (4.1%)	38 (5.1%)
Burglary 3 rd Degree	57 (5.8%)	56 (6.3%)	55 (6.7%)	49 (6.5%)
Shoplifting	41 (4.2%)	34 (3.8%)	24 (2.9%)	20 (2.7%)
Theft <\$250	28 (2.8%)	24 (2.7%)	12 (1.5%)	15 (2.0%)
Theft \$251-\$2,999	39 (4.0%)	46 (5.2%)	33 (4.0%)	33 (4.4%)
Theft \$3,000-\$24,999	59 (6.0%)	10 (1.1%)	6 (0.7%)	4 (0.5%)
Theft of Vehicle	36 (3.6%)	58 (6.5%)	50 (6.1%)	51 (6.8%)
UUMT/Joyriding	67 (6.8%)	67 (7.5%)	65 (7.8%)	45 (6.0%)
Criminal Damage	51 (5.2%)	47 (5.3%)	48 (5.8%)	33 (4.4%)
Forgery/Fraud	10 (1.0%)	11 (1.2%)	8 (1.0%)	5 (0.7%)
Trafficking Stolen Property	4 (0.4%)	3 (0.3%)	2 (0.3%)	0
Trespassing	22 (2.2%)	23 (2.6%)	18 (2.2%)	21 (2.8%)
Sub Total	471 (47.8%)	437 (48.9%)	359 (43.6%)	316 (42.0%)
Public Order:				
Disorderly Conduct	43 (4.4%)	31 (3.5%)	22 (2.6%)	31 (4.1%)
Escape	22 (2.2%)	16 (1.8%)	17 (2.1%)	22 (2.9%)
Resisting Arrest	13 (1.3%)	8 (0.9%)	10 (1.2%)	10 (1.3%)
Contempt of Court	-	-	-	0
False Reporting to Law Enforcement	18 (1.8%)	21 (2.4%)	17 (2.1%)	12 (1.6%)
Unlawful Felony Flight	4 (0.4%)	7 (0.8%)	7 (0.9%)	0
Interference Judicial Proceedings	3 (0.3%)	4 (0.4%)	3 (0.4%)	1 (0.1%)
Other Public Order Offenses	2 (0.2%)	-	5 (0.6%)	5 (0.7%)
Sub-Total	105 (10.6%)	87 (9.7%)	81 (9.8%)	81 (10.8%)
Drug Offenses:				
Dangerous Drug Possession/Sell/Use	7 (0.7%)	11 (1.2%)	10 (1.2%)	13 (1.7%)
Drug Paraphernalia Possession	38 (3.9%)	29 (3.2%)	31 (3.8%)	31 (4.1%)
Marijuana Possession	76 (7.7%)	73 (8.2%)	72 (8.7%)	57 (7.6%)
Inhale/Possession Toxic Vapor	7 (0.7%)	7 (0.8%)	7 (0.9%)	5 (0.7%)
Drugs On/Near School Grounds	10 (1.0%)	3 (0.3%)	5 (0.6%)	6 (0.8%)
Marijuana Sale/Trafficking	5 (0.5%)	9 (1.0%)	4 (0.5%)	1 (0.1%)
Narcotic Drugs Possession/Sell/Use	17 (1.7%)	16 (1.8%)	15 (1.8%)	16 (2.1%)
Miscellaneous Drug Offenses	-	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)	0
Sub-Total	160 (16.2%)	150 (16.8%)	146 (17.7%)	129 (17.2%)
Weapons Offenses	30 (3.0%)	22 (2.5%)	28 (3.4%)	30 (4.0%)
All Other Offenses				
Alcohol Offenses	18 (1.8%)	23 (2.6%)	28 (3.4%)	28 (3.7%)
Domestic Violence	1 (0.1%)	-	-	3 (0.4%)
Other Misc. Offenses	12 (1.2%)	15 (1.8%)	10 (1.2%)	11 (1.5%)
Sub Total	31 (3.1%)	38 (4.3%)	38 (4.6%)	42 (5.6%)

DELINQUENCY DATA – See Table 4

Thirteen (20.9%) was the most common age of first juvenile court referral, however, one-fourth of the commitments (25.9%) were 11 or younger at their first referral.

Many juveniles (43.4%) had 11 or more prior court referrals at the time of their commitment to ADJC. Only 13.7% had fewer than five referrals.

Most juveniles (62.5%) had two or more petitions for felony offenses before being committed to ADJC. Thirty juveniles had five or more prior felony petitions

Juveniles with four or more prior adjudications represented 73% of all juveniles committed to ADJC. Only 4% of the juveniles had one adjudication before their commitment to ADJC.

CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS – See Table 5

While having individual strengths, most juveniles committed to ADJC had serious substance abuse, school behavior, emotional, and other needs. These needs affect the juveniles' ability to be law abiding and respond appropriately to ADJC treatment programs.

Almost all of the juveniles had school (97.1%), substance abuse (96.9%), and peer (93.6%) problems.

Table 4: DELINQUENCY	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
AGE AT FIRST REFERRAL				
7 years and younger	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	7 (0.8%)	3 (0.4%)
8 to 10 years old	160 (16.2%)	161 (18.0%)	150 (18.2%)	110 (14.6%)
11 years old	127 (12.9%)	116 (13.0%)	115 (14.0%)	82 (10.9%)
12 years old	173 (17.5%)	159 (17.8%)	150 (18.2%)	134 (17.8%)
13 years old	215 (21.8%)	188 (21.1%)	174 (21.1%)	157 (20.9%)
14 years old	146 (14.8%)	138 (15.5%)	124 (15.1%)	138 (18.4%)
15 or older	165 (16.7%)	130 (14.5%)	103 (12.5%)	128 (17.0%)
NUMBER OF REFERRALS				
1 referral	18 (1.8%)	18 (2.0%)	5 (0.6%)	8 (1.1%)
2 referrals	17 (1.7%)	20 (2.2%)	8 (1.0%)	13 (1.7%)
3 to 5 referrals	124 (12.6%)	89 (10.0%)	78 (9.5%)	82 (10.9%)
6 to 10 referrals	412 (41.7%)	348 (39.0%)	342 (41.6%)	323 (42.9%)
11 to 15 referrals	267 (27.1%)	255 (28.6%)	212 (25.8%)	201 (26.7%)
16 & more	149 (15.1%)	163 (18.3%)	178 (21.6%)	125 (16.6%)
PETITIONS FOR FELONY OFFENSES				
0 petitions	106 (10.7%)	101 (11.3%)	84 (10.2%)	71 (9.4%)
1 petition	293 (29.7%)	252 (28.2%)	251 (30.5%)	211 (28.1%)
2 petitions	271 (27.5%)	251 (28.1%)	234 (28.4%)	214 (28.5%)
3 petitions	185 (18.7%)	189 (21.2%)	154 (18.7%)	163 (21.7%)
4 petitions	83 (8.4%)	60 (6.7%)	56 (6.8%)	63 (8.4%)
5 & more petitions	49 (5.0%)	40 (4.5%)	44 (5.4%)	30 (4.0%)
NUMBER OF ADJUDICATION				
1 adjudication	53 (5.4%)	47 (5.3%)	24 (2.9%)	30 (4.0%)
2-3 adjudications	266 (27.0%)	180 (20.2%)	165 (20.1%)	173 (23.0%)
4-5 adjudications	357 (36.2%)	316 (35.4%)	262 (31.8%)	263 (35.0%)
6-7 adjudications	191 (19.4%)	213 (23.9%)	255 (31.0%)	174 (23.1%)
8 & more	120 (12.2%)	137 (15.3%)	117 (14.2%)	112 (14.9%)

A few gender-based differences were present in the commitments. More females (47.8%) than males (14.9%) had sexual problems; more females (91.3%) than males (75.3%) had emotional problems; and more females (22.8%) than males (7.8%) experienced intra-family sexual abuse. More males (67.3%) than females (40.2%) had education/ employment problems; and more males (96.8%) than females (67.4%) had intellectual or educational problems.

Table 5: CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
TREATMENT SERVICE FACTORS			
Substance Abuse	96.7%	98.9%	96.9%
Sexual Behavior	14.9%	47.8%	19.0%
Emotional Stability	75.3%	91.3%	77.3%
Theft Behavior	86.0%	84.8%	85.8%
EDUCATIONAL/SOCIAL SKILLS FACTOR			
Life Skills	12.3%	8.7%	11.9%
Youth's Parenting Skills	6.4%	14.1%	7.3%
Education/Employment	67.3%	40.2%	64.0%
Living Situation-Finances	31.2%	32.6%	31.4%
Intellectual/Educational Deficits	96.8%	67.4%	93.2%
Peer Relationships	93.8%	92.4%	93.6%
School Behavior/Adjustment	97.6%	93.5%	97.1%
MEDICAL & MENTAL HEALTH FACTORS			
Health/Hygiene	37.9%	30.4%	37.0%
History of Abuse/Neglect as Victim	35.3%	63.0%	38.7%
Intra-Familial Sexual Abuse	7.8%	22.8%	9.6%
FAMILY ENVIRONMENT FACTORS			
Conflict in Home	63.2%	71.7%	64.2%
Parenting Skills	77.0%	79.3%	77.3%
Substance Abuse – Family	62.9%	67.4%	63.4%
Family Criminality	68.9%	66.3%	68.6%
Disabilities of Caregivers	7.3%	12.0%	7.9%

DISTRIBUTION BY FELONY CLASS AND LENGTH OF STAY

The average length of stay (7.6 months) given to juveniles in FY 2003 remained the same as it was in FY 2002. The average length of stay given to juveniles in FY 2003 was higher than the ADJC matrix guideline length of stay.

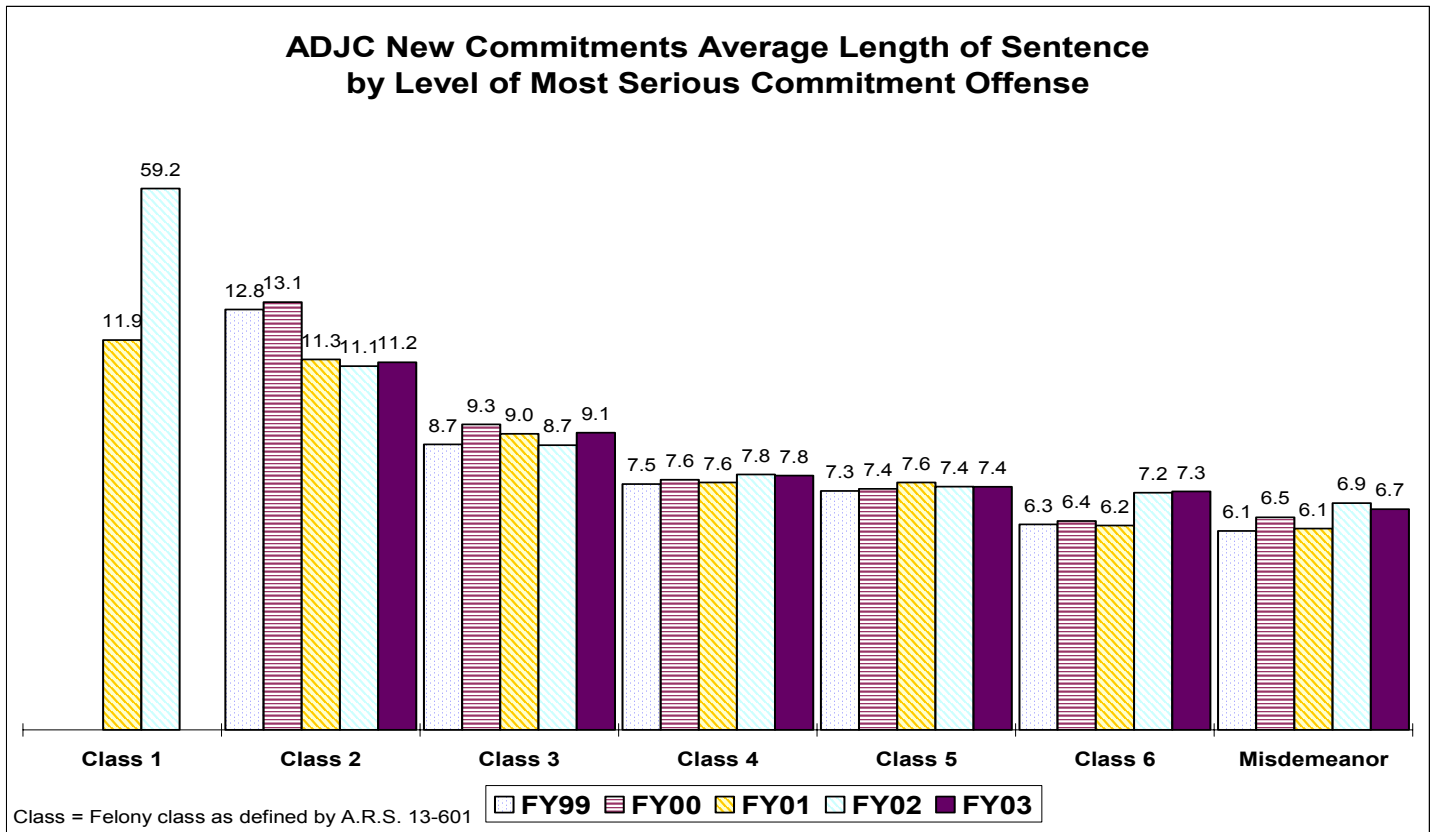
While having extensive delinquency histories, the majority (60.3%) of juveniles were committed to ADJC on the least serious offense categories. In fact, many juveniles were committed for offenses that are classified under Arizona law as either class 6 felonies or misdemeanors. Some of the more common Class 6 felony offenses included petty theft and unlawful use of means of transportation (UUMT). Common misdemeanor offenses

include shoplifting, disorderly conduct and marijuana possession.

All together, 86.6% of the FY 2003 commitments had a court-ordered minimum length of stay, as compared to 91.4% of the commitments in FY 2002.

Table 6

Class Level	Actual Length of Stay Given	ADJC Matrix Guidelines
Felony Class 2	11.2 months	12 months
Felony Class 3	9.1 months	9 months
Felony Class 4	7.8 months	7 months
Felony Class 5	7.4 months	7 months
Felony Class 6	7.3 months	6 months
Misdemeanors	6.7 months	6 months



**Table 7: ADJC NEW COMMITMENTS
FELONY CLASS LEVEL**

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Felony 1	0	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	0
Felony 2	51 (5.2%)	34 (3.8%)	35 (4.3%)	30 (4.0%)
Felony 3	142 (14.4%)	137 (15.3%)	108 (13.1%)	102 (13.6%)
Felony 4	141 (14.3%)	109 (12.2%)	114 (13.9%)	108 (14.4%)
Felony 5	94 (9.5%)	90 (10.1%)	75 (9.1%)	59 (7.9%)
Felony 6	253 (25.6%)	249 (27.9%)	255 (31.0%)	243 (32.3%)
Misdemeanor	306 (31.0%)	273 (30.6%)	235 (28.6%)	210 (27.9%)
Total	987 (100%)	893 (100%)	823 (100%)	752 (100%)

COMMITMENT PROFILES FOR SB1446 OFFENDER SUBGROUPS

Concerned about violent juvenile offenders, Arizona voters passed Proposition 102 in 1996. Senate Bill (SB) 1446 was passed by the Arizona Legislature, signed by the Governor and it became Arizona law in 1997. These two related initiatives required violent and chronic juvenile offenders over 15 years old to be direct-filed into an adult court, thereby making them ineligible for commitment to the ADJC. The analysis on this page is related to the categories contained in SB 1446.

The numbers are unduplicated counts and are organized hierarchically with juveniles placed in the highest group for which they qualify. Thus, a juvenile committed for a violent felony (category #2) would be placed in that category and would not appear in the first time felon category (#7) even if s/he also qualifies for it.

In FY 2003 the vast majority (62.5%) of commitments were composed of three offender subgroups: *first time felons*, *second time felons*, and *misdemeanants*.

First time felons decreased from 21.7% in FY 2002 to 16.9% in FY 2003. *Second time felons* increased slightly from 18.1% in FY 2002 to 18.5% in FY 2003. *Misdemeanants* remained consistent throughout Fiscal Years 2002 (27.6%) and 2003 (27.1%).

	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
1. Age 15+ Specified Violent Felonies (Mandatory Exclusion)	0	0	0	4 (0.5%)
2. Age 15+ Legislatively Defined Violent Felonies (Mandatory Exclusion)	15 (1.5%)	23 (2.6%)	28 (3.4%)	18 (2.4%)
3. Age 15+ Chronic Felons (Mandatory Exclusion)	168 (17.0%)	124 (13.9%)	124 (15.1%)	153 (20.3%)
4. Felons with Prior Transfers (Mandatory Exclusion)	2 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)	0	1 (0.1%)
5. Age 14+ Accused of Selected Offenses (Discretionary)	33 (3.3%)	93 (10.4%)	91 (11.1%)	84 (11.2%)
6. Age 14, Chronic (Discretionary)	27 (2.7%)	13 (1.5%)	9 (1.1%)	10 (1.3%)
7. First Time Felons	198 (20.1%)	166 (18.6%)	179 (21.7%)	127 (16.9%)
8. Second Time Felons (>14 years old)	199 (20.2%)	155 (17.4%)	149 (18.1%)	139 (18.5%)
9. Misdemeanants	304 (30.8%)	273 (30.6%)	227 (27.6%)	204 (27.1%)
10. Under Age 14 Chronic Felons	18 (1.8%)	5 (0.6%)	5 (0.6%)	3 (0.4%)
11. Under Age 14 Second Time Felons	16 (1.6%)	16 (1.8%)	3 (0.4%)	5 (0.7%)
12. Under age 15 Violent Felonies	3 (0.3%)	5 (0.6%)	5 (0.6%)	1 (0.1%)
13. Violation of Probation	4 (0.4%)	19 (2.1%)	3 (0.4%)	3 (0.4%)
TOTAL	987	893	823	752

Table 9: Pre and Post SB1446 Offender Subgroups With Probation Violators Identified FY 2003 Cohort

	Total	VOP	%
1. Age 15+ Specified Violent Felonies (Mandatory Exclusion)	4	2	50.0%
2. Age 15+ Legislatively Defines Felonies (Mandatory Exclusion)	18	9	50.0%
3. Age 15+ Chronic Felons (Mandatory Exclusion)	153	29	19.0%
4. Felons with Prior Transfers (Mandatory Exclusion)	1	0	0
5. Age 14+ Accused of Selected Offenses (Discretionary)	84	39	46.4%
6. Age 14, Chronic (Discretionary)	10	0	0
7. First Time Felons	127	72	56.7%
8. Second Time Felons (>14 years old)	139	49	35.3%
9. Misdemeanants	204	80	39.2%
10. Under Age 14 Chronic Felons	3	0	0
11. Under Age 14 Second Time Felons	5	3	60.0%
12. Under age 15 Violent Felonies	1	0	0
13. Violation of Probation	3	3	100%
TOTAL	752	286	38.0%

CASE STUDY

After completing ADJC reception activities in the Fall of 2001 Hector (not his real name) was assigned to Catalina Mountain School (CMS). Since Hector had an adjudication for felony drug possession he was placed in the ADJC Recovery program for substance abusers. Things did not fare well for Hector. He was referred to separation 10 times between February and July 2002 because he was involved in frequent fights with peers and staff. Hector was strongly motivated by gang influences. By the Fall of 2002, CMS staff believed that Hector would spend the rest of his juvenile years with ADJC.

Because Hector had become increasingly aggressive and violent with others he was referred to the ADJC Crossroads program at CMS in the hopes of decreasing his aggressive outbursts and getting to the root cause of his difficulties. Crossroads was not an easy adjustment for him as the program directly addressed his aggressive habits. When Hector became angry and threatening, Crossroads staff moved closer to him and asked him questions. Their intent was to address his image of himself as someone who was “dangerous and incorrigible”. The Crossroads staff did not get mad at him; they encouraged him to examine himself. When he complained that his treatment was unfair, Crossroads staff encouraged him to submit grievances and utilize all legitimate outlets.

Over time, Hector became aware that when he participated in the programming at Crossroads the days went faster, and life became more enjoyable. He laughed more and threatened others less. Hector began to talk more in groups, and he talked about his family, his hopes and his hurts. Hector progressed within the ADJC *level system* for the first time by displaying non-delinquent behaviors, and in turn, he received greater privileges. Eventually, Hector did so well that Crossroads staff selected him to represent them in team sports and in Student Council. He even participated in CMS meetings with staff in which he explained to them what he thought they did to help him change his delinquent habits.

It took over a year for Hector to make these changes. He learned to trust adults, to see his family in a new light, and to salvage and rebuild his character. Indeed, at one time Hector thought that he would always be “bad” or “wrong”. His release from ADJC secure care was a celebration, not just for Hector and his family, but also for the staff who had patiently worked with him. Today, if you walk into a few CMS offices you will find a photo of Hector proudly wearing a high school football uniform grinning widely through his facemask. The photo is a reminder to CMS staff of what they helped one troubled youth achieve.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Research & Development Section is to provide ADJC management, staff, and Department stakeholders with accurate, timely, and meaningful information that supports Agency goals.

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