SECTION 7. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Having reliable, quality data on crime and criminal justice is essential to inform government decisions that promote justice and prevent crime. There are striking disparities in arrest and victimization rates in the region. In this section we explore recent data on race differences in involvement in the criminal justice system in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, the Pittsburgh MSA, and the United States. Specifically, we examine data on:

- Arrests
- Murder Victims
Arrests

Data on arrest rates can help to show if the criminal justice system is biased towards any particular racial or ethnic group. Here we present data on arrest rates for violent crime, murder, property crime, and drug violations for four geographic regions.

Figure 7.1a. Percent of Arrests for Juveniles Age 17 and Under by Race, 2004

Figure 7.1b. Percent of Arrests for Adults Age 18 and Over by Race, 2004

Notes: White and African American data may include Hispanic. U.S. data are from 2002. U.S. data for Hispanics are not available.

Source: Appendices 7.1-7.8

- White juveniles and adults have a higher share of total arrests than African American juveniles and adults in each of the geographic areas except the city.

- White juveniles in the U.S. have a higher share of arrests than White juveniles in the region.

- African American juveniles and adults have a higher share of arrests in the city than in any of the other three geographic areas. In addition, African Americans comprise a higher share of juvenile arrests than they do adult arrests in the Pittsburgh area. In the nation African American shares of juvenile and adult arrests are similar.

- Asian and Hispanic juveniles and adults represent very small shares of arrests in the Pittsburgh area and the nation.
African American juveniles and adults in the region and nation have higher arrest rates than White, Asian, and Hispanic juveniles and adults.

White juveniles have lower arrest rates than White adults in the region and the U.S.

African American juveniles have lower arrest rates than African American adults in the region and the U.S.

Asian and Hispanic juveniles and adults have low arrest rates in the region, and Asian juveniles and adults have low arrest rates in the nation.

The region has higher arrest rates for African American juveniles and adults than the nation.
Arrests continued

Crime Index offenses are serious transgressions that include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

![Figure 7.3a. Percent of Crime Index Arrests for Juveniles Age 17 and Under by Race, 2004](image)

![Figure 7.3b. Percent of Crime Index Arrests for Adults Age 18 and Over by Race, 2004](image)

Notes: White and African American data may include Hispanics. U.S. data are from 2002. U.S. data are not available for Hispanics.
Source: Appendices 7.1-7.8

- African American juveniles and adults have substantially higher percentages of Crime Index arrests than White juveniles and adults in the city. However, White juveniles and adults have a higher share of Crime Index arrests than African Americans in the nation.

- White juveniles in the nation have a higher share of Crime Index arrests than White juveniles in the region. Conversely, White adults in the Pittsburgh MSA have a higher share of Crime Index arrests than White adults in the nation.

- African American juveniles in the Pittsburgh area have much higher shares of total juvenile arrests for Crime Index offenses than African American juveniles in the nation.

- Asians and Hispanics have low percentages of Crime Index arrests in the area and in the nation.
Arrests continued

**Figure 7.4a. Crime Index Arrests per 100,000 Population for Juveniles Age 17 and Under by Race, 2004**

**Figure 7.4b. Crime Index Arrests per 100,000 Population for Adults Age 18 and Over by Race, 2004**

**Notes:** White and African American data may include Hispanics. U.S. data are from 2002. U.S. data are not available for Hispanics.

**Source:** Appendices 7.1-7.8

- African American juveniles and adults have higher Crime Index arrest rates than juveniles and adults of any other race/ethnicity.

- White juveniles in the U.S. have higher Crime Index arrest rates than White juveniles in the Pittsburgh area. However, White adults in the Pittsburgh area are arrested at similar rates as White adults in the nation.

- African American adults and juveniles in the Pittsburgh area have a higher Crime Index arrest rate than African American adults and juveniles in the U.S.

- Asian Crime Index arrest rates in the area are similar to Asian Crime Index arrest rates in the nation.
Violent crime refers to murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

- African American juveniles represent the majority of violent crime arrests in the Pittsburgh area, while Whites are the majority of these arrests in the nation.

- African American adults represent the majority of violent crime arrests in the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, while Whites are the majority of these arrests in the Pittsburgh MSA and the nation.

- White juveniles have smaller shares of arrests for violent crimes than White adults do.

- African American juveniles have higher shares of arrests for violent crimes than African American adults do.

**Notes:** White and African American data may include Hispanics. U.S. data are from 2002. U.S. data are not available for Hispanics.

**Source:** Appendices 7.1-7.8
Arrests continued

**Figure 7.6a. Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 Population for Juveniles Age 17 and Under by Race, 2004**

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<thead>
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<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>African American</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>61</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>90</td>
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</table>

**Figure 7.6b. Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 Population for Adults Age 18 and Over by Race, 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>White</td>
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<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: White and African American data may include Hispanics. U.S. data are from 2002. U.S. data are not available for Hispanics.
Source: Appendices 7.1-7.8

- African American juveniles and adults are arrested for violent crimes at higher rates than White, Asian and Hispanic juveniles and adults.

- White adults in the U.S. have a higher rate of violent crime arrests than White adults in the city, county and the Pittsburgh MSA. Meanwhile, the violent crime arrest rate for White juveniles and adults is similar in the city, county, and the Pittsburgh MSA.

- The violent crime arrest rate for African American juveniles is higher than the rate for African American adults in the city, county, and the Pittsburgh MSA. In addition, African American juveniles are arrested at a higher rate in the city than in the county, the Pittsburgh MSA or the U.S.
**Arrests continued**

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter refer to the unlawful killing of a person by another. Murder and non-negligent manslaughter are identified based on police investigation as opposed to any decision of a court, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Data are reported for murder and non-negligent manslaughter together.

![Figure 7.7. Number of Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter Arrests Among Juveniles Age 17 and Under by Race, 2004](image)

*Note: White and African American may include Hispanic.*

*Source: Appendices 7.1-7.8*

- All of the juveniles arrested for murder and non-negligent manslaughter in the Pittsburgh area were African Americans from the city of Pittsburgh.

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Arrests continued

Figure 7.8. Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter Arrest Rates Per 100,000 Population for Juveniles Age 17 and Under by Race, 2004

Note: White and African American may include Hispanic.
Source: Appendices 7.1-7.8

- Only African American juveniles within the city of Pittsburgh were arrested for murder and non-negligent manslaughter. No juveniles in any of the other racial/ethnic groups or outside of the city of Pittsburgh but in the Pittsburgh region were arrested for murder or non-negligent manslaughter in 2004.

- African American juveniles in the city are more likely to be arrested for murder and non-negligent manslaughter than African American juveniles in the U.S.
The number of African American adults arrested for murder and non-negligent manslaughter in the Pittsburgh area was 3-12 times the number of Whites arrested.

Four White adults in the city and 12 White adults in the Pittsburgh MSA but outside Allegheny County were arrested for murder and non-negligent manslaughter.

The majority of African American adult murder and non-negligent manslaughter arrests in the region in 2004 were in the city of Pittsburgh.
Arrests continued

Figure 7.10. Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter Arrest Rates Per 100,000 Population for Adults Age 18 and Over by Race, 2004

Note: White and African American may include Hispanic.
Source: Appendices 7.1-7.8

- African American adults are arrested for murder and non-negligent manslaughter at a much higher rate than White, Asian, and Hispanic adults.

- African American adults have much higher murder arrest rates in the region than in the nation.
Arrests continued

Property crime includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. In these theft-type offenses, money or property is taken, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims.

- African Americans have a higher share of juvenile arrests for property crime than the other racial/ethnic groups in the city and county, while Whites have the largest share in the Pittsburgh MSA and nation.

- Whites are a larger share of juveniles arrested for property crime in the nation than in the region. However, Whites are a larger share of adults arrested in the region than in the nation. In addition, a smaller proportion of White juveniles are arrested than White adults in the city, county, and MSA, but not in the U.S.

- African Americans have a higher share of juvenile arrests for property crime in the Pittsburgh area than African Americans have of adult arrests in the Pittsburgh area.

Notes: White and African American data may include Hispanics. U.S. data are from 2002. U.S. data are not available for Hispanics. Source: Appendices 7.1-7.8
African American juveniles and adults have much higher property crime arrest rates than White, Asian, and Hispanic juveniles and adults.

African American juveniles in the Pittsburgh area and the nation have similar property crime arrest rates, while White juveniles in the Pittsburgh area have lower property crime arrest rates than White juveniles in the nation.

Asian adults in the region are arrested for property crimes at a similar rate as Asian adults in the nation.

Asian and Hispanic juveniles and adults have low rates of property crime arrests in the Pittsburgh area.
Arrests continued

Drug abuse relates to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs. Drug abuse is an important issue because it is often related to more serious crimes.

**Figure 7.13a. Percent of Drug Abuse Arrests of Juveniles Age 17 and Under by Race, 2004**

- City: 19% White, 79% African American, 49% County, 49% MSA, 61% US
- County: 1.2% White, 5.0% African American, 1.0% Hispanic
- MSA: 1.0% White, 0.1% African American, 0.1% Hispanic
- US: 1.0% White, 1.0% African American, 1.0% Hispanic

**Figure 7.13b. Percent of Drug Abuse Arrests of Adults Age 18 and Over by Race, 2004**

- City: 40% White, 59% African American, 53% County, 47% MSA, 60% US
- County: 0.3% White, 0.0% African American, 0.2% Hispanic
- MSA: 0.1% White, 0.3% African American, 0.1% Hispanic
- US: 0.7% White, 0.3% African American, 0.3% Hispanic

Notes: White and African American data may include Hispanics. U.S. data are from 2002. U.S. data are not available for Hispanics.

Source: Appendices 7.1-7.8

- The majority of adults and juveniles arrested for drug abuse in the city is African American. The majority of adults and juveniles arrested for drug abuse in the county, Pittsburgh MSA, and nation is White.

- African Americans have a much higher share of juvenile drug abuse arrests than adult drug abuse arrests in the city. African American adults and juveniles have similar shares of drug abuse arrests in the county and the Pittsburgh MSA.
African American youth and adults are arrested at higher rates for drug violations than youth and adults of other races.

White juveniles have lower rates of drug violations than White adults in all of the geographic areas.

African American youth are arrested for drug violations at lower rates than African American adults in all of the geographic areas.

Asians and Hispanics have low arrest rates for drug violations.
Murder Victims

Murder involves the unlawful killing of a human being by another.

![Figure 7.15. Number of Murder Victims Among Juveniles Age 17 and Under by Race, 2004](image)

**Legend:**
- White
- African American
- Asian
- Hispanic

**Note:** White and African American may include Hispanic.

**Source:** Appendix 7.9

- Nine African American, three White, and no Asian or Hispanic juveniles were murdered in the Pittsburgh MSA in 2004.

- Six of the nine African American juvenile murders in the region occurred in the city. All three of the White juvenile murders in the region occurred in counties outside of Allegheny County.
African American youth are murdered at much higher rates than White youth in each geographic area.

African American youth in the region are murdered at higher rates than African American youth in the nation.
The number of African American adults murdered is two to three times that of Whites in the city, county, and the Pittsburgh MSA.

The majority of African American adult murders in the region occur in the city of Pittsburgh. The majority of White adult murders in the region occur in the county.
### Figure 7.18. Murder Victimization Rates Per 100,000 Population for Adults Age 18 and Over by Race, 2004

<table>
<thead>
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<th>City</th>
<th>County</th>
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<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>African American</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** White and African American may include Hispanic.

**Source:** Appendix 7.10

- African American adults are murdered at much higher rates than the other racial/ethnic groups.
- African American adults in the Pittsburgh area are murdered at higher rates than African American adults in the nation.