

Here are some user friendly definitions that could be helpful for discussing juvenile recidivism issues.

Adjudication - Adjudication is the court process that determines (judges) if the juvenile committed the act for which he or she is charged. The term “adjudicated” is analogous to “convicted” and indicates that the court concluded the juvenile committed the act.

Aggravated assault - Unlawful intentional inflicting of serious bodily injury with or without a deadly weapon, or unlawful intentional attempting or threatening of serious bodily injury or death with a deadly or dangerous weapon. The term is used in the same sense as in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Crime Index. It encompasses conduct included under the statutory names aggravated assault and battery, aggravated battery, assault with intent to kill, assault with intent to commit murder or manslaughter, atrocious assault, attempted murder, felonious assault, and assault with a deadly weapon.

Arson - Intentional damaging or destruction by means of fire or explosion of the property of another without the owner’s consent, or of any property with intent to defraud, or attempting the above acts.

Burglary - Unlawful entry or attempted entry of any fixed structure, vehicle, or vessel used for regular residence, industry, or business, with or without force, with intent to commit a felony or larceny. The term is used in the same sense as in the UCR Crime Index.

Cohort - A group of subjects on whom data is being collected as they "march forward in time" (In ancient Rome, a cohort was a group of foot soldiers).

Disorderly conduct - Unlawful interruption of the peace, quiet, or order of a community, including offenses called disturbing the peace, vagrancy, loitering, unlawful assembly, and riot.

Operating under the influence - Driving or operating any vehicle or common carrier while drunk or under the influence of liquor or narcotics.

Drug abuse violations - State and/or local offenses relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, and manufacturing of narcotic drugs. The following drug categories are specified: opium or cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine); marijuana; synthetic narcotics - manufactured narcotics that can cause true addiction (Demerol, methadone); and dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturates, Benzedrine).

Forcible rape, Maine legal term for this offense is **Gross Sexual Assault** - Sexual intercourse or attempted sexual intercourse with a female against her will by force or threat of force. (Statutory offenses are excluded.) The term is used in the same sense as in the UCR Crime Index. Some states have enacted gender-neutral rape or sexual assault statutes that prohibit forced sexual penetration of either sex. Data reported by these states do not distinguish between forcible rape of females as defined above and other sexual assaults.

Forgery and counterfeiting - Making, altering, uttering, or possessing, with intent to defraud, anything false in the semblance of that which is true. Attempts are included.

Fraud - Fraudulent conversion and obtaining money or property by false pretenses. Included are confidence games and bad checks, except forgeries and counterfeiting.

Intake decision - The decision made by Juvenile Community Corrections Officers that results in a case either being handled informally at the intake level or being petitioned and scheduled for an adjudicatory or waiver hearing.

Judicial decision - The decision made in response to a petition that asks the court to adjudicate the youth.

Judicial disposition - Definite action taken as a result of adjudication regarding a particular case after the judicial decision is made, include the following categories:

- Placement - Cases in which youth were placed in a correctional facility for delinquents
- Probation - Cases in which youth were placed on court-ordered probation.
- Dismissed - Cases dismissed (including those warned, counseled, and released) with no further action anticipated.
- Miscellaneous - A variety of actions not included above. This category includes fines, restitution and community services, referrals outside the court for services with minimal or no further court involvement anticipated, and dispositions coded as “Other” by the reporting courts.

Juvenile – Any person who has not attained the age of 18 years.

Larceny-theft (except motor vehicle theft) - The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Examples are thefts of bicycles or automobile accessories, shoplifting, pocket-picking, or the stealing of any property or article that is not taken by force and violence, or by fraud. Attempted larcenies are included. Embezzlement, “con” games, forgery, worthless checks, etc., are excluded.

Manner of handling - A general classification of case processing within the court system.

- Petitioned (formally handled) - Cases that appear on the official court calendar in response to the filing of a petition or other legal instrument requesting the court to adjudicate the youth delinquent or to bind over the youth to criminal court for processing as an adult.
- Non-petitioned (informally handled) - Cases that Juvenile Community Corrections Officers screen for adjustment without the filing of a formal petition.

Motor vehicle theft - Unlawful taking, or attempted taking, of a self-propelled road vehicle owned by another, with the intent to deprive the owner of it permanently or temporarily.

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter - Intentionally causing the death of another without legal justification or excuse, or causing the death of another while committing or attempting to commit another crime. Deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, and justifiable homicides are excluded.

Obstruction of justice - All unlawful acts committed with intent to prevent or hinder the administration of justice, including law enforcement, judicial, and correctional functions. Examples include contempt, perjury, bribing witnesses, failure to report a crime, and nonviolent resisting of arrest.

Petition - A document filed in court alleging that a juvenile is a delinquent and asking that the court assume jurisdiction over the juvenile or asking that an alleged delinquent be bound over to criminal court for prosecution as an adult.

Placement facility type - Identifies whether a juvenile placement facility is publicly or privately owned/operated.

- Public facilities - Facilities operated by state or local government agencies in which the employees working daily in the facilities and directly with the residents are state or local government employees.
- Private facilities - Facilities operated by private nonprofit or for-profit corporations or organizations in which the employees working daily in the facilities and directly with the residents are employees of the private corporation or organization.

Placement status – Identifies categories of juveniles held in residential placement facilities.

- Committed - Includes juveniles in placement in the facility as part of a court-ordered disposition. Committed juveniles include those whose cases have been adjudicated and disposed in juvenile court.
- Detained - Includes juveniles held prior to adjudication while awaiting an adjudicatory or probation revocation hearing in juvenile court, as well as juveniles held after adjudication while awaiting disposition or awaiting placement elsewhere. Also includes juveniles awaiting bindover hearings to adult criminal court.

Population/target population - The total group of people who are represented by the random selection of members, usually connoting the whole population but possibly connoting the population of any subset, e.g., women.

Property Crime Index - Includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Robbery - Unlawful taking or attempted taking of property that is in the immediate possession of another by force or the threat of force.

Sample - A subset of subjects from the population of all who have a particular characteristic, such as a disease

Sex offenses (except forcible rape, prostitution, and commercialized vice) - Statutory rape and offenses against chastity, common decency, morals, and the like. Attempts are included.

Simple assault - Unlawful threatening, attempted inflicting, or inflicting of less than serious bodily injury, in the absence of a deadly weapon. The term is used in the same sense as in UCR reporting. Simple assault is often not distinctly named in statutes since it consists of all assaults not explicitly named and defined as serious.

Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing) - Buying, receiving, or possessing stolen property, including attempts.

Statistic - A number computed from data on one or more variables.

Statistical Analysis - Analyzing collected data for the purposes of summarizing information to make it more usable and/or making generalizations about a population based on a sample drawn from that population.

Trespassing - Unlawful entry or attempted entry of the property of another with the intent to commit a misdemeanor, other than larceny, or without intent to commit a crime.

Vandalism - Destroying or damaging, or attempting to destroy or damage, the property of another without the owner's consent, or public property, except by burning.

Weapons offenses - Unlawful sale, distribution, manufactures, alteration, transportation, possession, or use of a deadly or dangerous weapon, or accessory, or attempt to commit any of these acts.