



# METHODOLOGY

## Data Source

Issue 13 (December 2024) of the Sentencing Snapshot provides a descriptive analysis of the juvenile delinquency score component of the offender score among individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced in adult circuit courts from fiscal years (FY) 2014 through 2023. Most analyses in this snapshot are limited to individuals ages 18 to 22 years old, as the juvenile delinquency score is calculated only for individuals under 23 years old as of the date of their most recent instant offense.

The data in these analyses were obtained from sentencing guidelines worksheets submitted to the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) via either the Maryland Automated Guidelines System (MAGS) or paper guidelines worksheets. Sentencing guidelines worksheets are completed for all criminal sentencing events involving an incarcerable offense that originate in and are sentenced in Maryland circuit courts. Additionally, guidelines worksheets are completed for sentencing events involving jury trial prayers (JTPs) and appeals from the District Court, if a pre-sentence investigation (PSI) is ordered. A sentencing event is defined as one individual, sentenced in front of the same judge, on the same day. A sentencing event may contain multiple offenses.

These analyses exclude sentencing guidelines worksheets submitted for sentence reconsideration/modification hearings and three-judge panel reviews. Sentencing guidelines worksheets are not completed for violations of probation or parole. Sentencing guidelines worksheets are not submitted to the MSCCSP for District Court cases.

As such, these analyses do not reflect statewide totals or trends for adults, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced in the District Court, nor do the analyses include data for non-guidelines eligible adults sentenced in the State's circuit courts (e.g., those sentenced for JTPs and District Court appeals without a PSI ordered; probation/parole violation sentences).

---

<sup>1</sup> From FY 2014 through FY 2023, less than 1% of sentencing events for which a guidelines worksheet was submitted were for sentence reconsideration/modification hearings or three-judge panel reviews.



## Juvenile Delinquency Score

The MSCCSP adopted revisions to the juvenile delinquency score, effective July 1, 2018. The revisions were informed by a [study](#) of the juvenile delinquency score, conducted in partnership with the Maryland Data Analysis Center (MDAC). The revised instructions were intended to provide greater clarity to practitioners in calculating the score and greater consistency across jurisdictions. The juvenile delinquency score is now calculated solely based on prior **adjudications** rather than a combination of adjudications and **commitments**.

Table 1 provides the prior and current instructions for the juvenile delinquency score and the number of individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, who scored in each category during the five years prior to and five years after the instructions were revised.

**Table 1. Guidelines Individuals, Ages 18 to 22 Years, Sentenced in Maryland Circuit Courts Under the Prior and Current Juvenile Delinquency Score Instructions, FY 2014 through FY 2023**

	Prior Instructions (through June 30, 2018)			Current Instructions (July 1, 2018-present)		
	Instructions	Sentencing Events (FY 2014-FY 2018)		Instructions	Sentencing Events (FY 2019-FY 2023)	
		#	%		#	%
0 points	23 years or older <b>or</b> crime-free for 5 years <b>or</b> no more than 1 finding of a delinquent act	10,920	81.1%	23 years or older <b>or</b> 0 findings of a delinquent act w/in 5 years of date of offense	8,262	80.9%
1 point	Under 23 years old <b>and</b> 2 or more findings of a delinquent act or 1 commitment	1,824	13.6%	Under 23 years <b>and</b> 1 or 2 findings of a delinquent act w/in 5 years of date of offense	1,463	14.3%
2 points	Under 23 years old <b>and</b> committed two or more times	713	5.3%	Under 23 years <b>and</b> 3 or more findings of a delinquent act w/in 5 years of date of offense	486	4.8%
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,457</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		<b>10,211</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Notes: Age is as of the data of the most recent instant offense.



## Analyses

This section provides statistics that correspond to the figures in Sentencing Snapshot #13.

Table 2 provides the total number of guidelines-eligible individuals sentenced in Maryland circuit courts from FY 2014 to FY 2023, by age and year.

<b>Table 2. Guidelines Individuals Sentenced in Maryland Circuit Courts, by Age and Year, FY 2014 through FY 2023</b>			
	Total Sentencing Events	18-22 Years Old as of Offense Date	
	#	#	%
FY 2014	10,560	2,975	28.2%
FY 2015	10,725	2,858	26.6%
FY 2016	10,396	2,739	26.3%
FY 2017	10,103	2,525	25.0%
FY 2018	10,902	2,670	24.5%
FY 2019	10,976	2,634	24.0%
FY 2020	7,684	1,732	22.5%
FY 2021	6,300	1,426	22.6%
FY 2022	10,468	2,238	21.4%
FY 2023	10,327	2,202	21.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,441</b>	<b>23,999</b>	<b>24.4%</b>

Note: Age is as of the data of the most recent instant offense.



Table 3 provides the number of guidelines-eligible individuals, 18 to 22 years old, sentenced in Maryland circuit courts from FY 2014 to FY 2023, by juvenile delinquency score and year.

<b>Table 3. Guidelines Individuals Sentenced in Maryland Circuit Courts, by Juvenile Delinquency Score and Year, FY 2014 through FY 2023</b>								
	18-22 Years as of Offense Date	Juvenile Delinquency Score						Any Delinquency
		0 Points		1 Point		2 Points		
		#	% in Year	#	% in Year	#	% in Year	
FY2014	2,878	2,317	80.5%	412	14.3%	149	5.2%	19.5%
FY2015	2,719	2,194	80.7%	383	14.1%	142	5.2%	19.3%
FY2016	2,705	2,176	80.4%	379	14.0%	150	5.5%	19.6%
FY2017	2,503	2,037	81.4%	325	13.0%	141	5.6%	18.6%
FY2018	2,652	2,196	82.8%	325	12.3%	131	4.9%	17.2%
FY2019	2,616	2,121	81.1%	361	13.8%	134	5.1%	18.9%
FY2020	1,729	1,359	78.6%	258	14.9%	112	6.5%	21.4%
FY2021	1,426	1,134	79.5%	214	15.0%	78	5.5%	20.5%
FY2022	2,238	1,829	81.7%	320	14.3%	89	4.0%	18.3%
FY2023	2,202	1,819	82.6%	310	14.1%	73	3.3%	17.4%
Total	23,668	19,182	81.0%	3,287	13.9%	1,199	5.1%	19.0%

Notes: Totals and percentages exclude missing data. The juvenile delinquency score was missing for 331 guidelines individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced from FY 2014 through FY 2023.

Tables 4 and 5 provide characteristics of guidelines-eligible individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced in Maryland circuit courts from FY 2019 to FY 2023, by juvenile delinquency score.

Table 4. Characteristics of Guidelines Individuals Sentenced in Maryland Circuit Courts, by Juvenile Delinquency Score, FY 2019 through FY 2023								
		Juvenile Delinquency Score						
	18-22 Years as of Offense	0 Points		1 Point		2 Points		Any Delinquency
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	8,162	6,473	79.3%	1,261	15.4%	428	5.2%	20.7%
Female	881	824	93.5%	47	5.3%	10	1.1%	6.5%
<b>Race</b>								
Black	6,752	5,297	78.5%	1,076	15.9%	379	5.6%	21.5%
White	1,603	1,371	85.5%	184	11.5%	48	3.0%	14.5%
Hispanic	792	697	88.0%	70	8.8%	25	3.2%	12.0%
Other	127	113	89.0%	9	7.1%	5	3.9%	11.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,274</b>	<b>7,478</b>	<b>80.6%</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>19.4%</b>

Notes: Totals and percentages exclude missing data. The juvenile delinquency score was missing for 21 guidelines individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced from FY 2019 through FY 2023. Sex was missing for 1,168 individuals sentenced during this period; and race was missing for 937 individuals sentenced during this period.

Definitions: Race and Ethnicity are separate fields on the sentencing guidelines worksheet. The following selections are available for Race: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White, Other, and Unknown. The guidelines worksheet preparer may select more than one race. For the purposes of these analyses, some categories of race and ethnicity are combined. The Other race category combines the following race options: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Other. The Other race category also includes guidelines-sentenced individuals for whom multiple race categories were selected. Unknown race is classified as missing. The Ethnicity field asks whether the guidelines-sentenced individual is of Hispanic or Latino origin, with possible responses Yes, No, or Unknown. Yes responses are classified as Hispanic, regardless of selections made in the Race field. Worksheets with missing race, ethnicity, or sex, sentenced from calendar years 2018 through 2020, were supplemented with race, ethnicity, and sex data from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), where available.



**Table 5. Juvenile Delinquency and Adult Prior Criminal Record Scores Among Guidelines Individuals Sentenced in Maryland Circuit Courts, by Age, FY 2019 through FY 2023**

	Total	Any Juvenile Delinquency		Any Prior Adult Criminal Record	
	#	#	%	#	%
18	2,058	615	30.0%	370	18.0%
19	2,168	564	26.1%	700	32.4%
20	2,118	404	19.1%	893	42.2%
21	2,025	243	12.0%	1,034	51.2%
22	1,863	123	6.6%	1,059	56.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,232</b>	<b>1,949</b>		<b>4,056</b>	

Notes: Totals and percentages exclude missing data. The juvenile delinquency and prior adult criminal record scores were missing for 21 guidelines individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced from FY 2019 through FY 2023.

Instructions for calculating the prior adult criminal record score (part C of the offender score) are located in the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Manual (MSGM), Version 16.1, Chapter 7.1.C.

Table 6 provides sentence information and sentencing guidelines compliance for guidelines-eligible individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced in Maryland circuit courts from FY 2019 to FY 2023, by juvenile delinquency score.

<b>Table 6. Mean Sentences and Sentencing Guidelines Compliance Among Guidelines Individuals, Ages 18 to 22 Years, Sentenced in Maryland Circuit Courts, by Juvenile Delinquency Score, FY 2019 through FY 2023</b>						
	<b>Juvenile Delinquency Score</b>					
	<b>0 Points</b>		<b>1 Point</b>		<b>2 Points</b>	
<b>Mean non-suspended sentence</b>	2.5Y (24.9M)		4.3Y (51.2M)		5.6Y (67.2M)	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Incarcerated</b>						
Yes	5,936	71.8%	1,255	85.8%	442	90.9%
No	2,326	28.2%	208	14.2%	44	9.1%
<b>Sentencing Guidelines Compliance</b>						
Within	7,293	88.3%	1,201	82.1%	372	76.5%
Below	664	8.0%	206	14.1%	96	19.8%
Above	305	3.7%	56	3.8%	18	3.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,262</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Notes: Totals and percentages exclude missing data. The juvenile delinquency score was missing for 21 guidelines individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced from FY 2019 through FY 2023.

Sentencing guidelines compliance definition (MSGM, Version 16.1, Chapter 13):

- **Within:** A sentence is defined as guidelines-compliant if it meets at least one of the following conditions:
  - The non-suspended sentence (defined as the sum of incarceration, credit for time served, and home detention) is within the guidelines range;
  - The non-suspended sentence exceeds the upper guidelines limit but includes only credit for time served;
  - The sentencing event was disposed of via an ABA plea agreement or, effective April 1, 2021, an MSCCSP binding plea agreement; or
  - The sentencing event involved the imposition of one or more corrections options and the total sentence falls within or above the recommended guidelines range (excluding sentencing events that contain a crime of violence, child sexual abuse, or escape).
- **Below:** A non-guidelines-compliant sentence where the non-suspended sentence length falls below the guidelines range.
- **Above:** A non-guidelines-compliant sentence where the non-suspended sentence length falls above the guidelines range.



Tables 7 and 8 provides offense type and sentence information for guidelines-eligible individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced in Maryland circuit courts from FY 2019 to FY 2023, by juvenile delinquency score and offense type.

**Table 7. Guidelines Individuals Sentenced in Maryland Circuit Courts, by Juvenile Delinquency Score and Offense Type, FY 2019 through FY 2023**

	18-22 Years as of Offense	Juvenile Delinquency Score						Any Delinquency
		0 Points		1 Point		2 Points		
		#	%	#	%	#	%	
Crimes of violence	1,893	1,406	74.3%	330	17.4%	157	8.3%	25.7%
Firearm/weapons	1,806	1,358	75.2%	350	19.4%	98	5.4%	24.8%
Other person	2,563	2,204	86.0%	276	10.8%	83	3.2%	14.0%
Drug	2,691	2,289	85.1%	326	12.1%	76	2.8%	14.9%
Property	1,258	1,005	79.9%	181	14.4%	72	5.7%	20.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,211</b>	<b>8,262</b>	<b>80.9%</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>

Notes: Totals and percentages exclude missing data. The juvenile delinquency score was missing for 21 guidelines individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced from FY 2019 through FY 2023.

**Table 8. Mean Sentences Among Guidelines Individuals, Ages 18 to 22 Years, Sentenced in Maryland Circuit Courts, by Juvenile Delinquency Score and Offense Type, FY 2019 through FY 2023**

	18-22 Years as of Offense	Juvenile Delinquency Score		
		0 Points	1 Point	2 Points
		Mean Non-Suspended Sentence		
Crimes of violence	1,893	9.4Y (112.9M)	13.2Y (158.2M)	12.1Y (144.7M)
Firearm/weapons	1,806	1.3Y (15.6M)	1.8Y (21.7M)	2.4Y (28.6M)
Other person	2,563	1.4Y (16.7M)	2.1Y (24.7M)	3.2Y (38.8M)
Drug	2,691	0.6Y (7.5M)	1.3Y (15.2M)	2.2Y (26.4M)
Property	1,258	0.7Y (8.6M)	1.5Y (18.4M)	2.2Y (26.7M)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,211</b>	<b>2.5Y (24.9M)</b>	<b>4.3Y (51.2M)</b>	<b>5.6Y (67.2M)</b>

Notes: Totals and percentages exclude missing data. The juvenile delinquency score was missing for 21 guidelines individuals, ages 18 to 22 years old, sentenced from FY 2019 through FY 2023.