

**TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES  
2008 ANNUAL JUVENILE COURT STATISTICAL REPORT**

**GLOSSARY**

<b>Abuse</b>	When a child is suffering from, has sustained, or may be in immediate danger of suffering from or sustaining a wound; injury; disability; or physical or mental condition caused by brutality, neglect, or other actions or inaction of a parent, relative, guardian, or caretaker.
<b>Adjudication</b>	Judicial fact finding determination (judgment) of a case (e.g., guilty or not guilty).
<b>Aftercare</b>	The supervision given to a child for a limited period of time after they are released from commitment to a state agency.
<b>Burglary</b>	The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft.
<b>CASA</b>	Court Appointed Special Advocate (usually volunteers) who serve to ensure that the needs and interests of a child in child protection judicial proceedings are fully protected.
<b>Case</b>	All Referral Reasons/Charges reported to the court (via complaint, petition, motion, etc.) on a given day for a given child
<b>Commitment</b>	A decision by the judge that a child should be sent to a state agency for monitoring or care of the child.
<b>Contempt of Court</b>	A willful disobedience of a court order or willful interference with the administration of justice.
<b>Crime Index</b>	Includes homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, rape, larceny and burglary.
<b>DCS</b>	The Tennessee Department of Children's Services.
<b>Delinquency</b>	Acts or conduct in violation of criminal law.
<b>Delinquent Act</b>	An act committed by a juvenile that, if committed by an adult, would require prosecution in a criminal court. Because the act is committed by a juvenile it falls within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

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<b>Dependency Case</b>	Those cases covering neglect or inadequate care on the part of parents or guardians, such as abandonment or desertion; abuse or cruel treatment; improper or inadequate conditions in the home; and insufficient care or support resulting from death, absence, or physical or mental incapacity of parents.
<b>Detention</b>	The placement of youth in a restrictive facility between referral to court and the first court hearing (Detention Hearing). Also, a youth may be placed in a detention facility at different points as a case progresses through the juvenile justice system.
<b>Disposition</b>	Definitive action taken or treatment plan decided on regarding a particular case. (e.g., a course of treatment and rehabilitation).
<b>Disposition Date</b>	The date that the disposition (outcome) or the informal adjustment of each referral took place. This is the date on which all reports produced by TCJFCJ are based.
<b>Informal Adjustment</b>	A non-judicial procedure whereby the juvenile court staff, subject to court approval, makes the decision to attempt to remedy the situation alleged in the referral by giving counsel and advice to the parent(s) and child. This is a voluntary agreement in which no official finding of fact is made. Informal adjustments may be initiated with or without a petition.
<b>Institution</b>	Juvenile correctional or rehabilitation center.
<b>Intake</b>	Intake department first screens referred cases. The intake department may decide to dismiss the case for lack of legal sufficiency or to resolve the matter formally or informally.
<b>Judge</b>	An elected or appointed person/individual presiding over the juvenile court proceedings.
<b>Juvenile</b>	Any individual under the chronological age of eighteen (18) who has not been previously transferred to adult court.
<b>Larceny/Theft</b>	The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession of another.

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<b>Motion</b>	Oral or written request before, during, or after court hearings on which a court issues a ruling or order.
<b>Paternity</b>	Determination of who is the father of a child.
<b>Petition</b>	A document filed in a juvenile court alleging that a juvenile is a delinquent or status offender, or on the child's behalf and asking that the court assume jurisdiction over the juvenile, or juvenile's case.
<b>Pretrial Diversion</b>	A procedure similar in nature to informal adjustment, with no official finding as to guilt, except that a judge or referee must approve any agreement.
<b>Probation</b>	Supervision of the child to monitor behavior after finding of guilt.
<b>Referee</b>	An individual, licensed to practice law in Tennessee, who is appointed by the judge to hear cases. A referee has the same authority and powers as the judge to issue process and conduct proceedings.
<b>Referral Date</b>	The date the child was referred to the court on the current referral reason/charges.
<b>Referral Source</b>	The agency or individual filing a complaint with intake that initiates court proceedings.
<b>Retired or Nolle Prosequi</b>	When a case is retired after having remained open due to some condition, or the prosecuting attorney makes a formal entry on record that he/she will not prosecute the case further (nolle prosequi means unwilling to pursue).
<b>Review Hearing</b>	Held by the juvenile court to review dispositions and to determine the need to maintain placement in out-of-home care and/or jurisdiction of a child.
<b>Robbery</b>	The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.
<b>Status/Unruly Offenses</b>	Includes acts or types of conduct that are offenses only when committed or engaged in by a juvenile; these can only be adjudicated by a juvenile court.

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<b>Termination of Parental Rights</b>	A legal proceeding forever severing all legal rights and obligations of the parent so that others may adopt the child.
<b>Truant</b>	A child who willfully and unjustifiably fails to attend school when attendance is required by law.
<b>Violent Crime Index</b>	Includes referrals for homicide, robbery, forcible rape and aggravated assault.
<b>YSO</b>	Youth Services Officer. An official of the court whose duties include, but are not limited to, juvenile court intake, pre-hearing investigations, referral, supervision, detention screenings, counseling, and/or record keeping.