

# Trends in juvenile delinquency, from 1980 to 1999

## Summary

Bi-yearly the WODC reports on a study which concerns developments in the nature and number of offences committed by juveniles. The study is based on two sources: police records and self-report data, collected from a national random sample of juveniles.

In recent years, police records show slightly increasing crime rates at least when disregarding the relatively extreme scores of the year 1996. After adjusting for the number of juveniles by looking at the data per 100,000 juveniles, recorded juvenile crime seems to be stabilizing on a level that is somewhat higher than a few years ago.

Traditionally the bulk of recorded offences is property crime. This still holds. However, recently the (small) category of violent offences shows a dramatic increase. It is not clear if this can be explained by a rise in juvenile violence in reality, or by a rise in police attention for violent offences due to several serious headline making incidents. Probably both explanations touch upon the truth.

During the past decade, the self-report data show a quite stable pattern of results. In the reference periode of one year, about 35% of the juveniles committed one or more of the offences which figure on a list of self-report delinquency items. This percentage has been almost the same for at least a decade. Besides, the offending frequencies of the various items have hardly changed throughout the years. As always, using public transport without paying is the most frequent occurring fact. Other frequently reported offences are graffiti and vandalism.

---

### **Ontwikkeling van de jeugdcriminaliteit: periode 1980-1999**

*M. Kruissink, A.A.M. Essers*

The Hague, WODC, 2001

Onderzoeksnotities, no. 2001/3