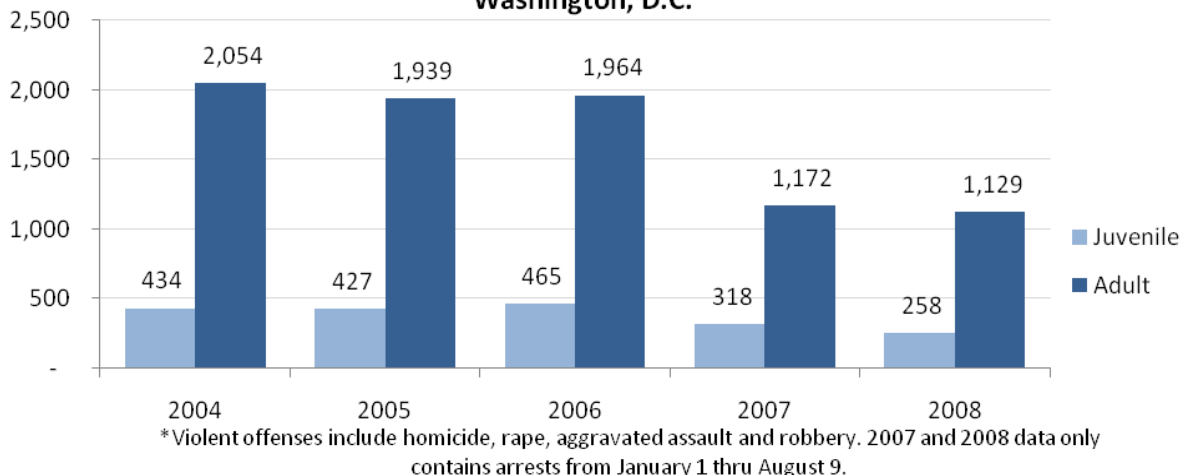


Locking up youth in adult jails is not an effective method for increasing public safety in District neighborhoods, as youth are responsible for only a small percentage of the crimes committed in D.C. So far in 2008, youth make up 7.2 percent of all D.C. arrests, and 22 percent of all arrests for violent crimes.<sup>1</sup> Youth arrests for violent offenses are down 18.9 percent since the same time last year (January – August). Locking up more youth in an effort to curb violent crime is an inappropriate response to the city’s crime challenges.

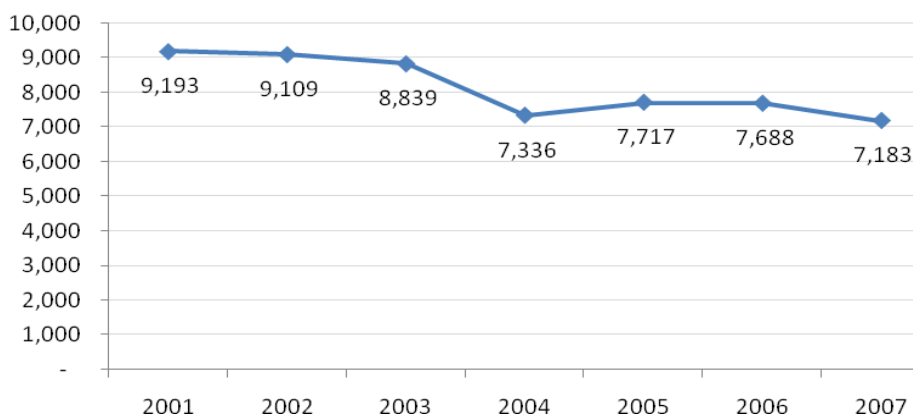
**Youth make up less than 20 percent of all arrests for violent offenses in Washington, D.C.\***



**CRIME**

- Reported violent offenses in the District continue to be at record lows.

**The number of violent crimes reported in Washington, D.C. have fallen almost consistently for the past 7 years.**



Note: Data for December 2007 is not available on the D.C. MPD website. The 2007 number is accurate up to November 29, 2007.

<sup>1</sup> All numbers are from the DC Metropolitan Police Department Website [www.mpdc.dc.gov](http://www.mpdc.dc.gov) unless otherwise noted.

- Statistics thru July of 2008 show that the number of violent offenses reported is down 4 percent since the same time last year.

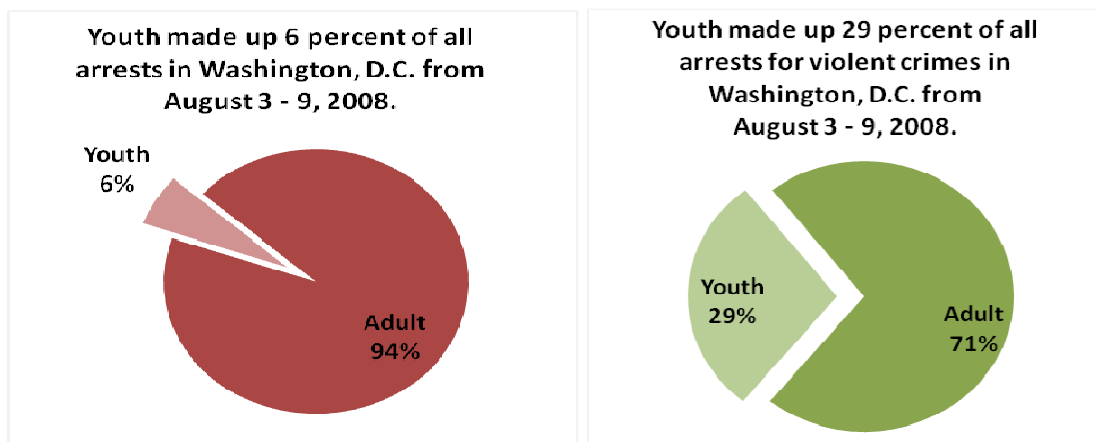
Offense	Number of Reported Offenses 2007	Number of Reported Offenses 2008	Percent change since July 2007
Homicide	105	109	+4%
Sexual Assault	176	199	+13%
Robbery	2,401	2,407	0%
Assault with a Deadly Weapon	1,905	1,673	-12%
All Violent Offenses	4,587	4,388	-4%
All Index Offenses*	19,867	19,794	0%

\*Index offenses include the listed violent offenses and burglary, theft, theft from auto, stolen auto and arson.

## ARRESTS

- For the week of August 3 – 9, 2008 there were 1,176 adults and 79 youth arrested for all offenses. Of the 35 people arrested for violent crimes that week, 10 were youth under the age of 18.

### Youth make up a small percentage of all arrests in Washington, D.C.



Source: Metropolitan Police Department, *Number of Adult and Juvenile Arrests (01/01/08 – 08/09/08)*.

## YOUTH IN D.C. JAILS

- Transferring youth to adult court does not make us safer.* In fact, youth tried as adults re-offend more than their counterparts in the juvenile justice system.<sup>2</sup>
- Keeping youth away from adults in jails is not adequate.* While separating children from adults in jails will reduce contact with adults that could result in physical or emotional harm to youth, youth are then often placed in isolation. Youth in the D.C. jail are frequently locked down 23 hours a day in small cells with no natural light. These conditions can cause anxiety, paranoia, exacerbate existing mental health problems and put youth at risk of suicide.
- Jails do not have the capacity to provide necessary education and other services to youth.* Keeping youth in their communities where they can receive education and treatment services is a more effective public safety strategy than locking kids up in jails.
- Youth leaving adult jails face numerous collateral consequences.* Youth who have been tried and sentenced as adults can face losing their voting rights and losing student financial aid to go to college.<sup>3</sup> Youth transferred to adult courts may have trouble finding employment or obtaining public housing, as is often the case with people who have criminal records.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Richard E. Redding, *Juvenile Transfer Laws: An Effective Deterrent to Delinquency?* (Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2008) <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/220595.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Higher Education Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-244)

<sup>4</sup> Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act (P.L. 104-120)