

Minor Role III: Youth Under Age 18 and New York City Violence

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Using data provided by the New York City Police Department, researchers examined trends in the number of people arrested for three violent offenses in New York City between 2006 and 2024.

- **Felony assault** involves charges of assault in the first and second degree as well as strangulation in the first degree (see NY Penal Law [Article 120](#) & [Article 121](#)).
- **Felony dangerous weapon** includes charges for firearms or other weapons (see NY Penal Law [Article 265](#)).
- **Felony robbery** includes charges for forcible theft of property that involves the use of physical force (see NY Penal Law [Article 160](#)).

Public officials sometimes express concerns about violent crime trends among youth under age 18 since New York State implemented the “[Raise the Age](#)” law that returned many youth to family court jurisdiction. As of 2019, the law eliminated default prosecution in adult criminal court for people under age 18.

Researchers looked for the effect of recent changes in law by examining violent crime arrests for three groups of people: those age 17 and younger, those aged 18 to 24, and adults age 25 and older. Arrest trends among people under age 18 generally mirror the scale and direction of trends among adults age 18 and older.

Arrests surged between 2020 and 2024 as the social and economic disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, and all age groups showed the increase. However, the patterns of change were not consistent with a youth-specific increase that would be due to changes in criminal law and prosecutorial practice.

Limited exceptions include small changes in weapon offenses and the age distribution of robbery arrests. Youth arrests for robbery declined at first, but then increased enough to account for a larger share of the total. Youth arrests in 2024 accounted for the same proportion as those involving 18-24 year-olds (22%). However, the two proportions had also been similar in prior years (e.g., 2011 to 2019).

If recent changes in crime were due to changes in the legal handling of youth under 18, marked age-specific patterns would be observable. Such effects are not found in arrest data from New York City. Thus, it does not appear to be accurate to attribute recent increases in violent crime to the State law known as “Raise the Age.”

Note: A [previous iteration](#) of this report estimated 2024 arrests with data from the first two quarters of the year and weighting them to represent the expected yearly total. This version uses complete 2024 data as provided by NYPD.

Violence in New York City is Predominantly an Issue Involving Adults Age 18 and Older

Arrests for Felony Dangerous Weapon Charges

Age Group	Number			Percent		
	2006	2018	2024	2006	2018	2024
17 & Younger	652	320	525	11%	5%	7%
18 to 24	2,509	1,676	1,962	41%	29%	28%
25 & Older	2,922	3,850	4,571	48%	66%	65%
Total	6,083	5,846	7,058	100%	100%	100%

Arrests for Felony Assault Charges

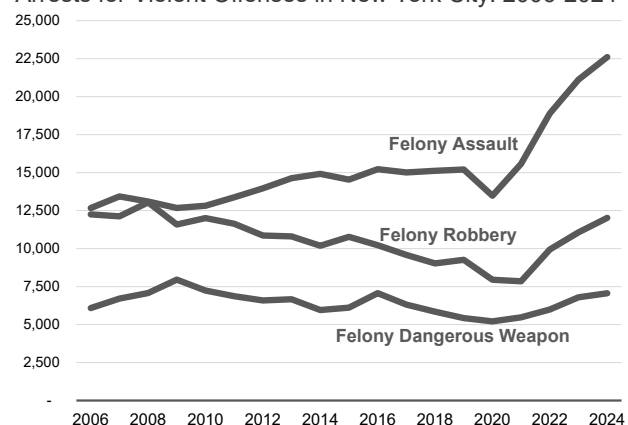
Age Group	Number			Percent		
	2006	2018	2024	2006	2018	2024
17 & Younger	1,921	966	1,118	15%	6%	5%
18 to 24	3,600	2,994	3,425	28%	20%	15%
25 & Older	7,144	11,157	18,063	56%	74%	80%
Total	12,665	15,117	22,606	100%	100%	100%

Arrests for Felony Robbery Charges

Age Group	Number			Percent		
	2006	2018	2024	2006	2018	2024
17 & Younger	5,316	2,092	2,652	43%	23%	22%
18 to 24	3,600	2,696	2,692	29%	30%	22%
25 & Older	3,329	4,236	6,676	27%	47%	56%
Total	12,245	9,024	12,020	100%	100%	100%

Data provided by the New York City Police Department on the [Open Data](#) portal, then inspected and analyzed by the Research and Evaluation Center. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

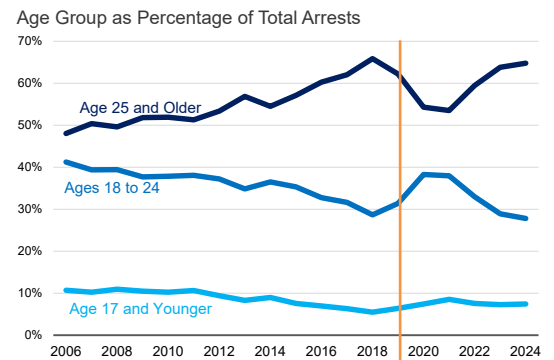
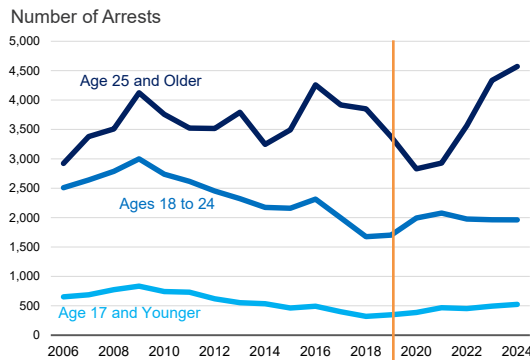
Arrests for Violent Offenses in New York City: 2006-2024



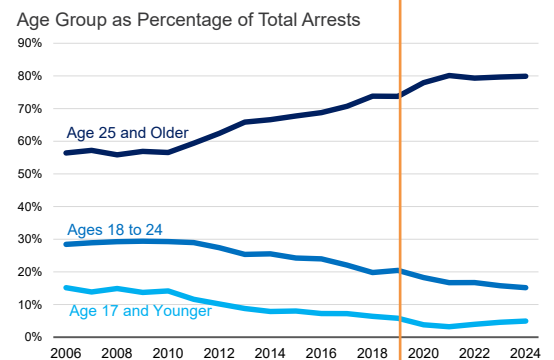
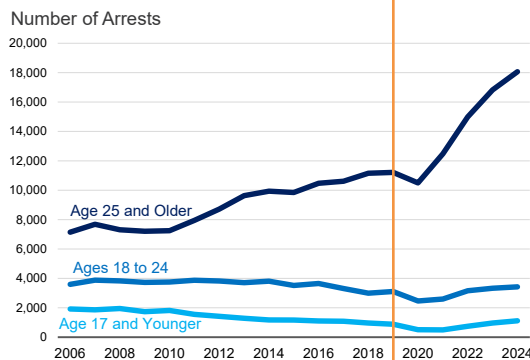
Violent Offense Arrests in New York City by Age Group

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DataBit 2025-1
January 31, 2025

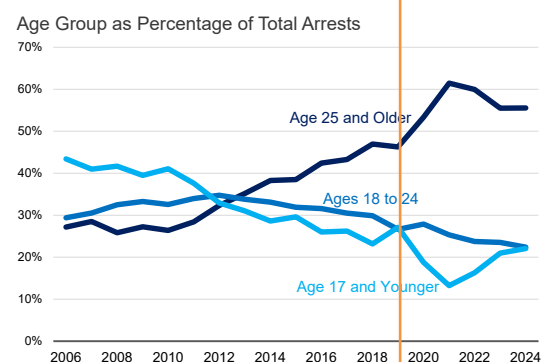
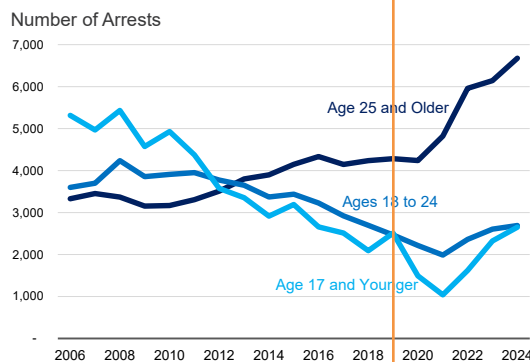
Felony Dangerous Weapons



Felony Assault



Felony Robbery



New York's "Raise the Age" Law
fully implemented as of 2019