

Juvenile Assessment Center
of Lee County
2107 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 258-3450
www.swfjac.org

August 2015

The JAC Perspective



The Juvenile Assessment Center of Lee County ... assisting youth and their families to seek the treatment and programs they need to lead productive, crime free lives.

Free drug testing kits are available at the JAC 24 hours a day for parents to use with their youth.

Law enforcement should call ahead to

**258-3461
or 258-3471**

when bringing an arrested youth to the JAC or to confirm that a youth is eligible for a civil citation.



The JAC of Lee County is operated by the Lee County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the Lee County Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

After School Prime Time for Youth Risks

Backpack. Check. Number two pencils. Check. It's that time of year when families begin organizing their lives around kids going back to school. When it comes to making a list of what kids need, having an after school plan ought to be on the list. Here's why. The after school time period is a prime time for youth crime. (See *article page 2.*) It is also the prime time that youth engage in other risky behaviors. The after school hours are also the prime time when youth are the most vulnerable for being victims of crime. While it may seem obvious that elementary school aged children need supervision after school, older youth and even teens need something to do with their time after school. Teens that are monitored or involved in structured activities during after school hours are less likely to engage in risky behaviors than those youth who are unsupervised. Communities can help reduce youth problem behaviors and help protect youth by supporting access



for all youth to attend afterschool programs, supervised extra-curricular activities, and other safe places for youth to hang out after school lets out. Parents can help reduce youth problem behaviors by encouraging youth to take part in supervised activities available to them after school. If a youth is unable or unwilling to take part in supervised after school activities, it is important for parents to plan other strategies to monitor their youth's behavior. Parents should be clear with their youth on the rules about where the youth is allowed to be and who he or she is allowed to be with during unsupervised after school hours. If working parents are able, they should consider occasional unannounced visits home during after school hours or otherwise check that their youth is where he said he was going to be. If this is not possible, parents may want to enlist help from other family members, friends, or neighbors to occasionally check up on unsupervised youth.

Parents Guide to Gangs Available

The National Gang Center (NGC) has published an updated version of the "Parents Guide to Gangs." The guide provides answers to some of the most common questions parents have about gangs, as well as, tips for helping them recognize and prevent their child's involvement in a gang. The guide is available at www.nationalgangcenter.gov. On the same website is a video about why youth join gangs.

In a 2014 survey of Lee County high school and middle school students 3% reported that they had ever belonged to a gang. (2014 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey)

About 5% of youth arrested in Lee County are associated with a gang but they account for about 10% of local youth arrests.

Juvenile Crime Patterns Not the Same as Adults

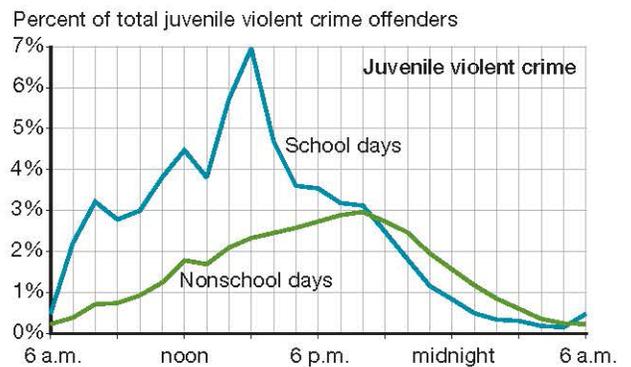
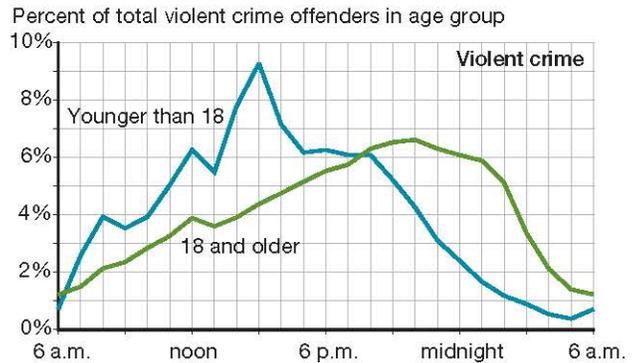
Some may recall a public service announcements that said, “It’s 10:00 p.m. Do you know where your child is?” This message was based on evidence that crime tends to peak around 10:00 p.m. That is true for the general population, but not for juvenile offenders. An analysis of the national incidents of crime looked at juvenile and adult offenders separately and found that, for many offenses, juveniles commit crimes at different times of the day than adults do.* For adult violent crimes, the number of violent crimes increased hourly, starting in the morning hours and peaking around 10:00 p.m. In comparison, violent crimes by juveniles peaked between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and then generally declined hour by hour until the low point at 5:00 a.m. Juvenile patterns of crime also vary between school days and non-school days confirming the importance of the hours at the end of the school day. When looked at separately, a 3:00 p.m. peak in violent crime occurred for juveniles only on school days. Unlike other violent crimes, robberies by juvenile was the exception. The timing of robberies by juvenile offenders is similar to the adult patterns, peaking in the evening hours on both school days and nonschool days. Similar to adults, juveniles are most likely to commit a crime with a firearm between 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Schools appear to play a major role in bringing drug and weapons issues to the attention of law enforcement. Juvenile drug law violations peak between 11:00 a.m. and noon on school days. Juvenile weapons law violations peak at 8:00 a.m. on school days.

When the number of adult violent crimes peaked at 10:00 p.m., the violent crimes involving youth offenders was about half of what it was at 3:00 p.m.

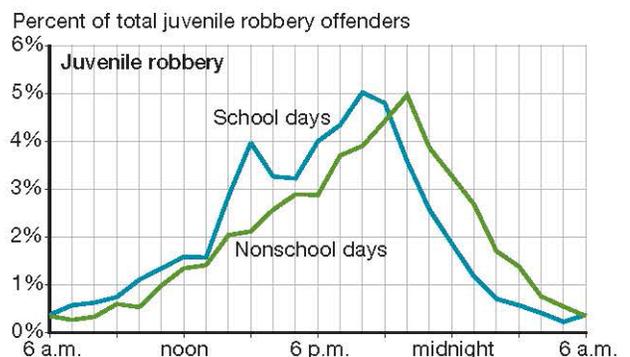
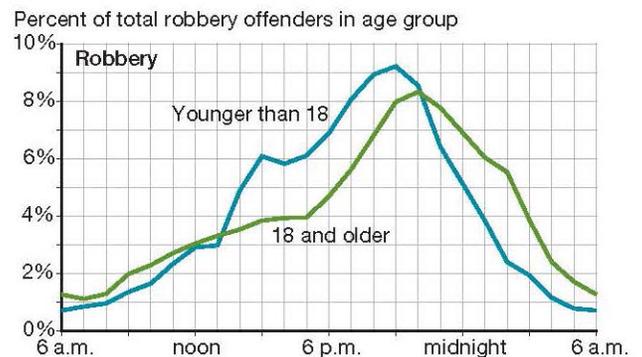
Violent crime by juveniles peaks in the after school hours on school days.

The daily timing of robberies by juvenile offenders is similar to the adult patterns.

Robberies by juvenile offenders peak in the evening hours on both school and nonschool days.



Violent crimes include murder, violent sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault.



*Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2014 National Report*