



## Data Sources

The data in this section of the report were provided by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Demographic and Economic Analysis.

## Findings & Analysis

Utah's population is younger than any other state in the nation. In fact, Utah's median age is 25.7 years, which is four years younger than the state with the next youngest median age.<sup>1</sup>

This, in part, is important in explaining why juvenile crime appears more prevalent in Utah. With more youth in the population, our state experiences larger amounts of juvenile types of crime such as burglary, larceny/theft, and arson.

In this section, Utah's juvenile population is assessed. From 1996 to 2002, the juvenile population between the ages of 10 and 17 is projected to stabilize. Since 1980, this population of juveniles has been increasing steadily, leading, in part, to perceived increases in juvenile offending.

This increase in juvenile population was projected to peak in 1995 (with 312,170 juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17), with a stabilizing or decreasing trend until the year 2002. After 2002, the population of juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 is projected to begin a steady increase.

In 1995, it appeared that Utah's juvenile population is evenly divided between males and females, 51.3% (160,177) and 48.7% (151,993) respectively. This also has implications for juvenile offending because males are arrested at a much higher rate than females. Because the population of juvenile males and females is projected to increase at nearly identical rates, juvenile arrests should not be impacted by a gender disparity.

The analysis also examines changes in the juvenile population in the Division of Youth Corrections' three administrative regions and the Juvenile Court's eight districts. This is critical in examining future impacts on needs and resources.

There is projected to be an increase in population in all three of Youth Corrections' regions. However, Region III, which includes most of eastern and southern Utah, shows the largest projected percentage growth in juveniles between 10 and 17 years of age in the coming years. It is clear that Region II, which includes Tooele, Salt Lake, and Summit counties, has the largest juvenile population of the three regions.

The largest projected juvenile population increase in the Juvenile Court districts is in the 5th District, which includes the southwest counties of Utah. Again, it is clear that the 3rd District, which includes Tooele, Salt Lake, and Summit counties, serves the largest juvenile population in Utah.

<sup>1</sup> *States in Profile: The State Policy Reference Book - 1991*. Brizius and Foster. State Policy Research, Inc. 1992.

## **POPULATION**

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### **Utah population ages 10 to 17, total and by gender, 1980 to 2020**

- ❖ Utah's total juvenile population is projected to increase by 32.2% (100,670 additional juveniles) between 1995 and 2020.
- ❖ Utah's male juvenile population is projected to increase by 32.4% (51,902 additional male juveniles) between 1995 and 2020.
- ❖ Utah's female juvenile population is projected to increase by 32.1% (48,768 additional female juveniles) between 1995 and 2020.
- ❖ In 1995, 51.3% (160,177 juveniles) of Utah's juvenile population was male and 48.7% (151,993 juveniles) of Utah's juvenile population was female.

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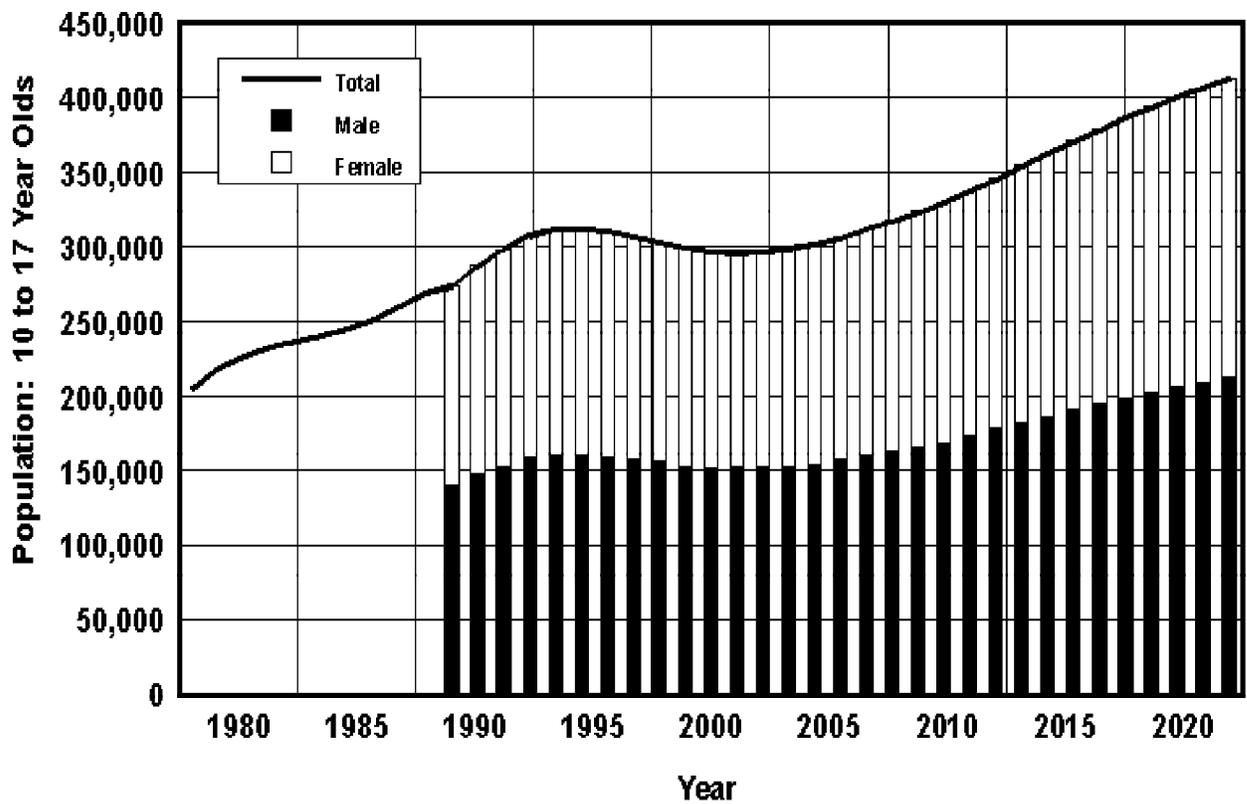
### **POINT OF INTEREST**

The total state population of juveniles ages 10 to 17 peaked in 1995 when a slight declining trend was projected to begin. The projected decline ends in 2002, and the juvenile population is projected to continue upwards through 2020. Although there is a slightly larger percentage of males than females between the ages of 10 and 17 in Utah's population, both gender's populations follow a trend similar to the total population. It is important to note that projections and analyses are based upon present trends and conditions. Changes in these conditions and trends could lead to modifications in the projections.

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# Chart 1.0

## Utah Juvenile Population, 1980 to 2020 Ages 10 to 17



Source: Table 1.0

# POPULATION

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## Utah population ages 10 to 17 in 1994

- ❖ In 1994, there were more 13 and 14 year olds in the age range of 10 to 17 than any other age category (40,237 and 40,340 respectively).
- ❖ There was very little difference in the number of juveniles in specific age groups during 1994. In fact, there is only a 6.9% difference between the largest group (14 years of age with a population of 40,340) and the smallest group (10 years of age with a population of 37,725).

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## POINT OF INTEREST

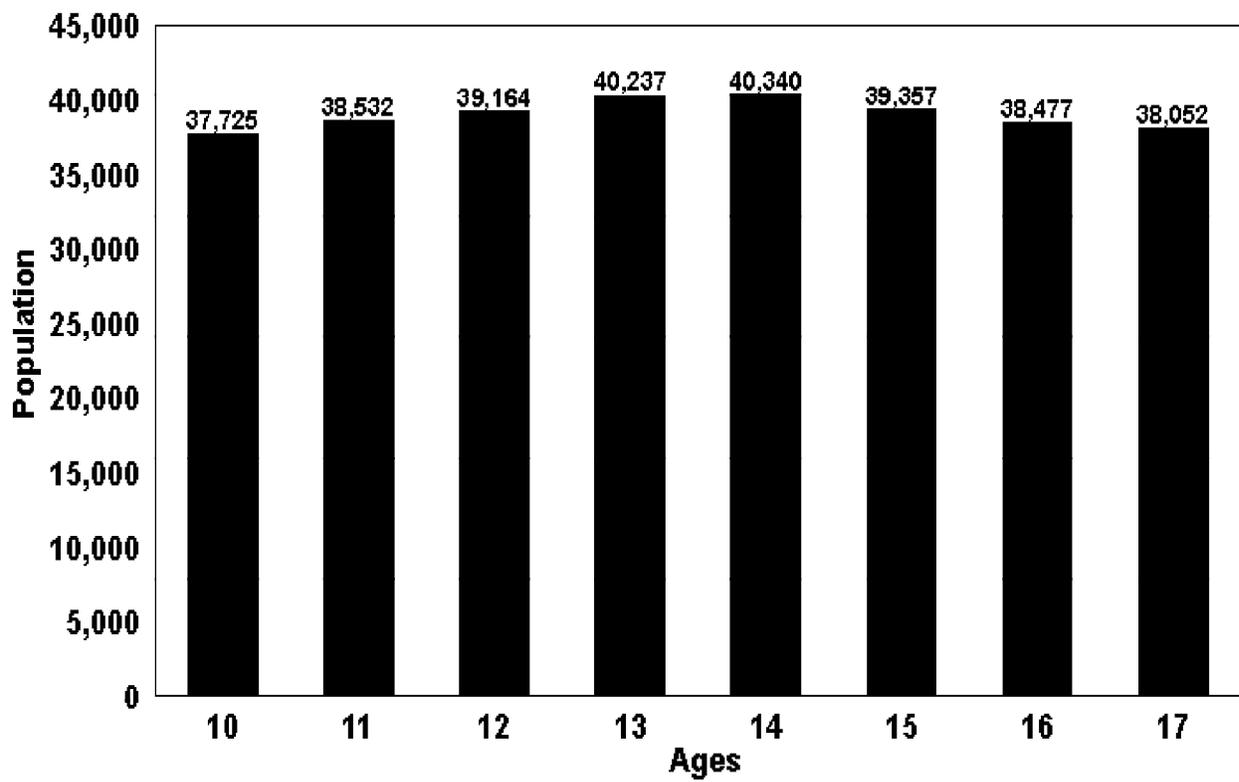
Most literature shows that crime is very age related, with 15 to 17 year olds committing a disproportionate amount of both violent and property offenses. There is a large drop in property offending between the ages of 19 and 22. Violent offending decreases at a slower rate, but generally peaks at age 18.<sup>1</sup> Although the population of juveniles aged 10 to 17 was expected to level off or decrease in 1995 and begin escalating again around the year 2002, the number of 15, 16, and 17 year olds will continue to increase until 1997. This could mean that juvenile crime in Utah will continue to grow until 1997.

<sup>1</sup> *Report to the Nation on Crime and Justice.*  
U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice  
Statistics. March 1988, p. 42.

# Chart 1.1

## 1994 Utah Juvenile Population Ages 10 to 17

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Source: Table 1.0

# POPULATION

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## Division of Youth Corrections' regional population analysis

- ❖ The Division of Youth Corrections is divided into three administrative regions. Region I encompasses the counties of northern Utah (Davis County and north), Region II includes Tooele, Salt Lake, and Summit counties; and Region III includes the remaining counties south and east of Region II.
- ❖ The juvenile population in Region I is projected to increase 27.8% between 1995 and 2020 (or 23,855 more juveniles); the juvenile population in Region II is projected to increase 33.2% between 1995 and 2020 (or 43,359 more juveniles); and the juvenile population in Region III is projected to increase 42.8% between 1995 and 2020 (or 40,024 more juveniles).
- ❖ The juvenile population in Regions I and II peaked in 1995 while the juvenile population in Region III peaked in 1994. Region I's juvenile population is projected to begin rising again in 2004; Region II's juvenile population is projected to begin rising again in 2003; and Region III's juvenile population is projected to begin rising again in 2000.

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## POINT OF INTEREST

It is clear that all three of the Division of Youth Corrections' regions follow a similar population trend for 10 to 17 year olds. However, Region III, the southern/eastern and most rural part of Utah, shows the most dramatic percentage rate of population increase for this group. This increase indicates a widening of the gap between Region I and Region III's population of 10 to 17 year olds, and a narrowing of the gap between Region II and Region III's population of 10 to 17 year olds. This could indicate larger pressures on Region III's resources in the coming years as compared to resource pressures in Regions I and II.

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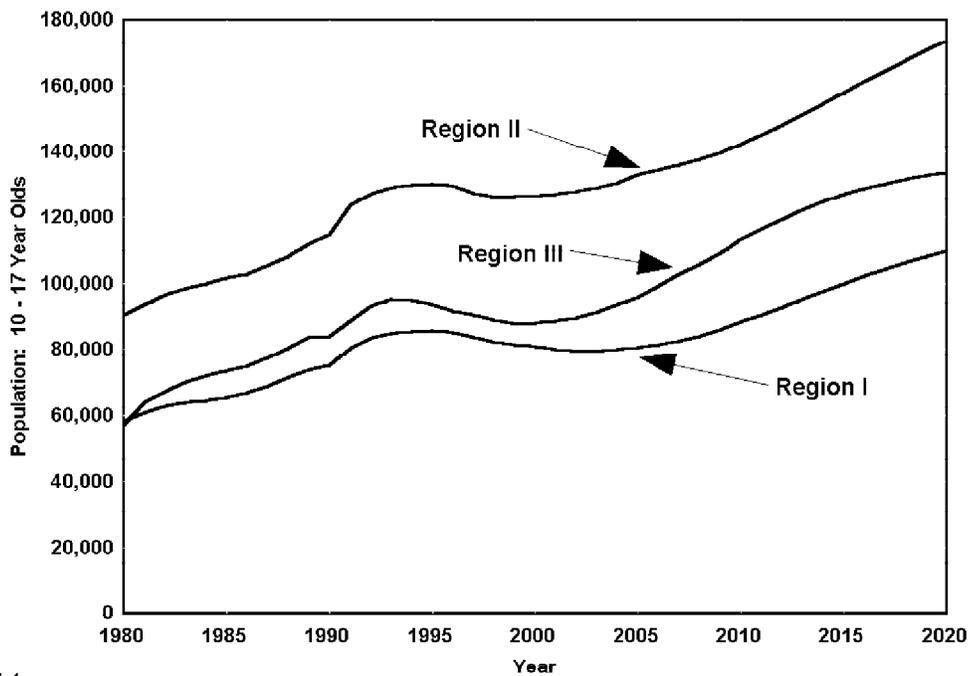
# Chart 1.2

## Division of Youth Corrections Regions and Regional Juvenile Population, Ages 10 to 17

### Division of Youth Corrections Regions



### Regional Population



Source: Table 1.1

# POPULATION

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## Utah population ages 10 to 17 by Juvenile Court District, 1980 to 2020

- ❖ The population in the Juvenile Court districts is projected to increase between 1995 and 2020 as follows:

District	%Growth 1995 to 2020	Total Youth Growth
1st	30.4%	5,982
2nd	27.1	17,873
3rd	33.2	43,359
4th	42.0	22,077
5th	91.2	14,109
6th	24.2	2,155
7th	9.4	857
8th	11.0	826
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>107,238</b>

- ❖ In total, Utah's Juvenile Courts and the Division of Youth Corrections will be faced with a juvenile population in 2020 that has 107,238 more juveniles between 10 and 17 years of age than it had in 1995. This represents a 34.6% increase in this age group between 1995 and 2020.

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## POINT OF INTEREST

The largest proportional increase in juvenile population occurs in the 5th District (91.2%) which includes Washington, Iron, and Beaver Counties. The urban court districts (2nd, 3rd, and 4th) are projected to increase in juvenile population between 27% and 42%. Generally, Southeastern and South Central Utah are not projected to experience growth as significant as other parts of the state. The 3rd District (Salt Lake, Tooele, and Summit Counties) serves the largest population of juveniles. The 2nd and 4th Districts serve the second and third largest populations of juveniles.

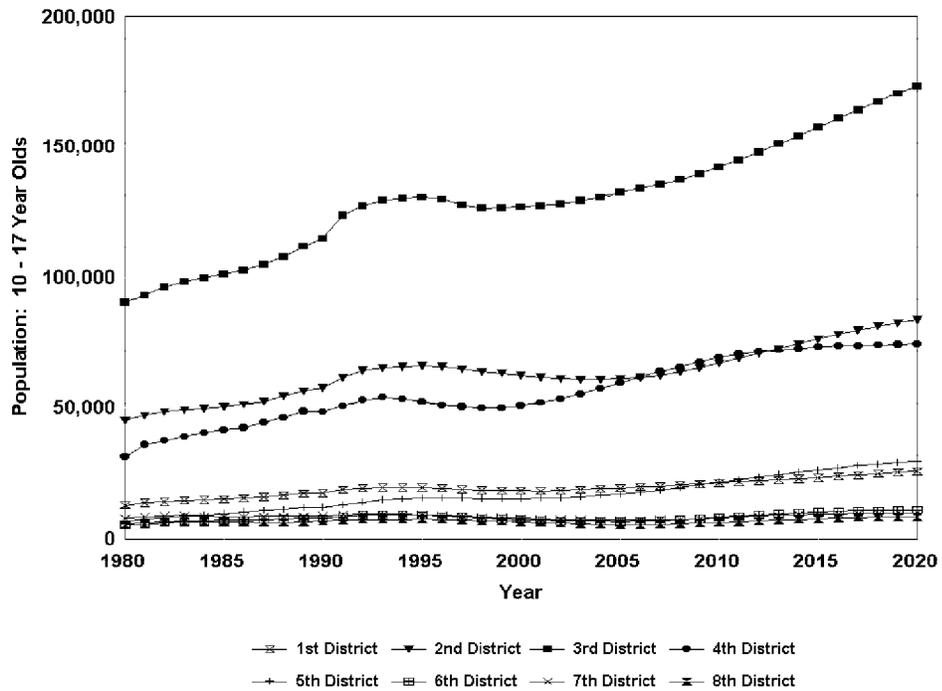
# Chart 1.3

## Juvenile Court Districts and Districts' Juvenile Population, Ages 10 to 17

### Juvenile Court Districts in Utah



### Juvenile Court Districts' Population



Source: Table 1.2

