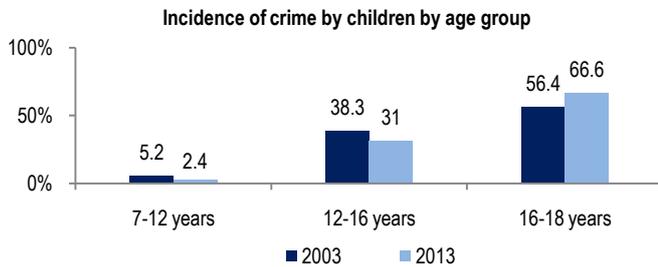


# Vital Stats

## Children in Conflict with Law

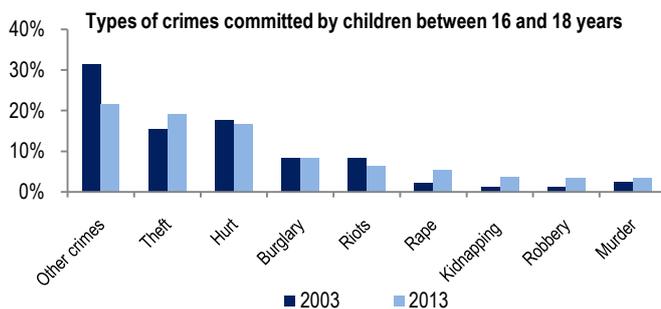
A juvenile or a child is any person below the age of 18 years. Over the last 10 years, crimes committed by children, as a percentage of all crimes committed in the country, have risen from 1.0% to 1.2%.

### Incidence of crime amongst children is highest in the 16-18 year age group



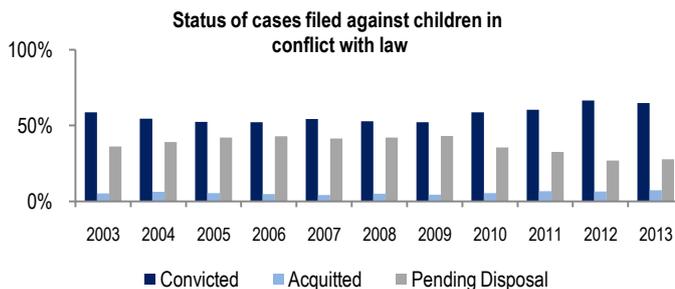
- According to the Indian Penal Code (IPC), no one below the age of seven years can be accused of a crime.
- The total number of children accused of crimes rose from 24,709 in 2003 to 38,765 in 2013.
- Children in the 16-18 year age group account for a majority of children arrested for crimes. Their share in total arrests increased from 56.4% in 2003 to 66.6% in 2013.

### Offences such as theft, hurt, burglary and riots constitute more than 50% of the arrests



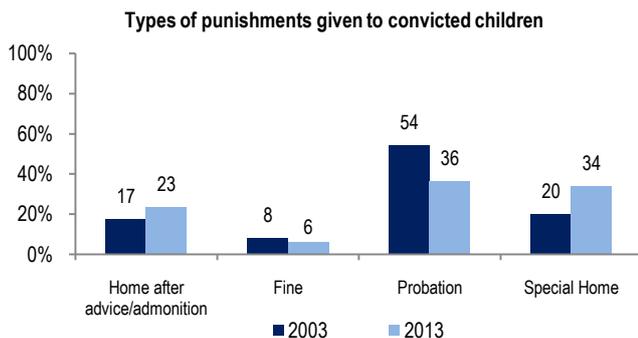
- More than half of the children apprehended in the 16 to 18 years age group are for offences such as theft, causing hurt, burglary, riots, and other crimes under the IPC. These offences constituted 72% of the total arrests in 2013, and 81% in 2003.
- From 2003 onwards, an increasing number of children are being arrested for offences such as theft (19.1% of all crimes in 2013), kidnapping (3.6%), rape (5.4%), robbery (3.4%) and murder (3.3%).

### Number of convictions of children have been increasing; pendency of cases is declining



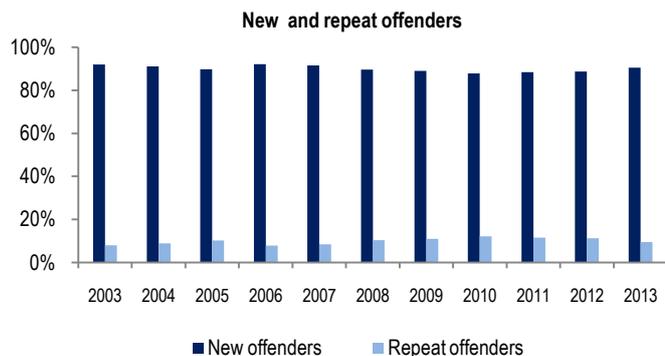
- Over the years, the criminal justice system has improved with regard to disposal of cases of juvenile crimes. Pendency of such cases has decreased over the years from 36% in 2003 to 28% in 2013.
- Once apprehended, the process of charge-sheeting and trial is undertaken to determine conviction or acquittal of the child. The total number of convictions increased from 59% in 2003 to 65% in 2013, whereas acquittals remained below 7%.

### More children are being released after admonition and also being sent to special homes



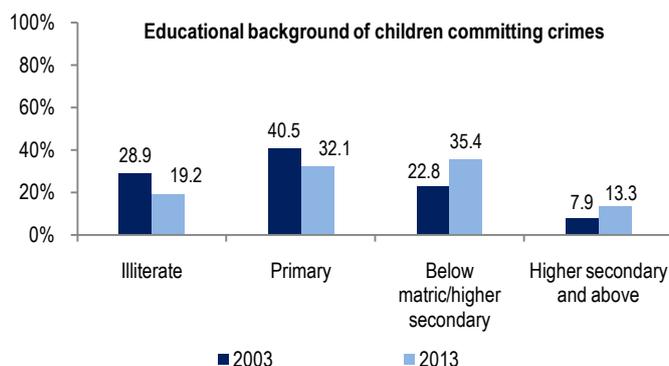
- Under the existing Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, a child convicted of an offence may be: (i) sent home after admonition, (ii) need to pay a fine, (iii) placed on probation under the guidance of a parent/guardian/fit institution, or (iv) sent to a special home.
- Approximately 70% of children convicted are either placed under probation or sent to special homes. The percentage of children on probation has been declining (36% in 2013) and those sent to special homes rising (34% in 2013).

## Children repeating an offence constitute under 10% of total child offenders



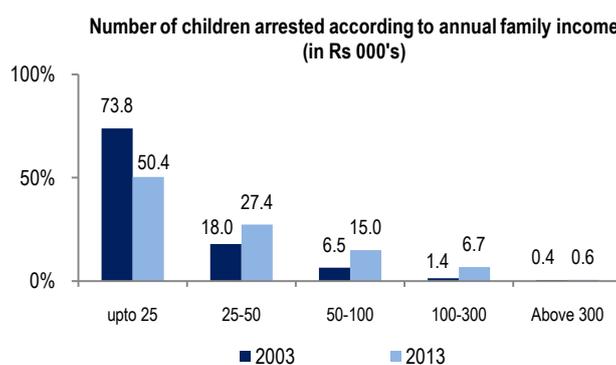
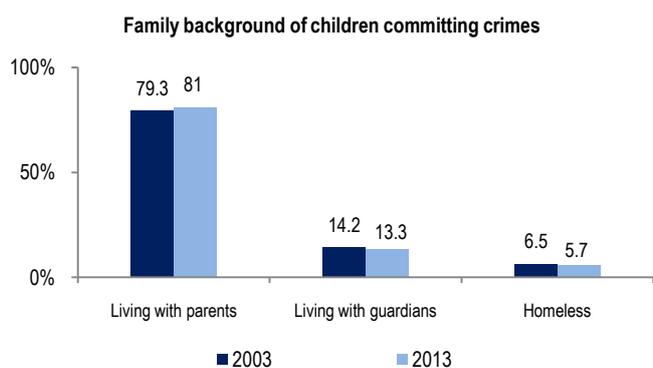
- There can be two kinds of child offenders: (i) new offenders (committing an offence for the first time); and (ii) repeat offenders. The graph suggests that repeat offenders as a percentage of total child offenders are low.
- Over 10 years, the percentage of repeat child offenders has marginally increased from 8% to 9.5%.

## There has been a shift in number of arrests of children, according to level of education



- Crimes committed by those who are at the matriculation level have increased from 22.8% in 2003 to 35.4% in 2013. A similar trend is seen for children with a higher secondary degree or more.
- Illiterate children committing crimes decreased by about 10% in the last 10 years. This coincides with the decline in the illiteracy rate of 7 to 18 year old children over the 2001 to 2011 period, from 21.7% to 11.5%.
- The trends in education may be because of an overall improvement in access to education and enrolment rates over the years.

## Children living with parents constitute majority of child arrests



- Over the years, a majority of children who are arrested for crimes, live with parents. This percentage has remained fairly constant over the years, increasing from 79% in 2003 to 81% in 2013.
- Data of overall number of children in India who live with parents, guardians, or are homeless is not available. Therefore, we do not know whether the above finding regarding child offenders is reflective of, or contrary to, overall child population trends. Consequently, a generalisation about the link between the incidence of crime amongst children and their family background cannot be made.
- There has been a decrease in crimes committed by children with a family income below Rs 25,000 per year. Crimes committed by children having family income over Rs 25,000 have been on the rise. As with the trend in education seen above, the increase in the number of children arrested across income groups may be attributed to a general rise in per capita incomes over the past 10 years.

### Sources:

1. Crime in India, 2003-2013, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

2. Crime, Statistical Year Book, India 2015, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, [http://mospi.nic.in/Mospi\\_New/upload/SYB2015/index1.html](http://mospi.nic.in/Mospi_New/upload/SYB2015/index1.html).

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