

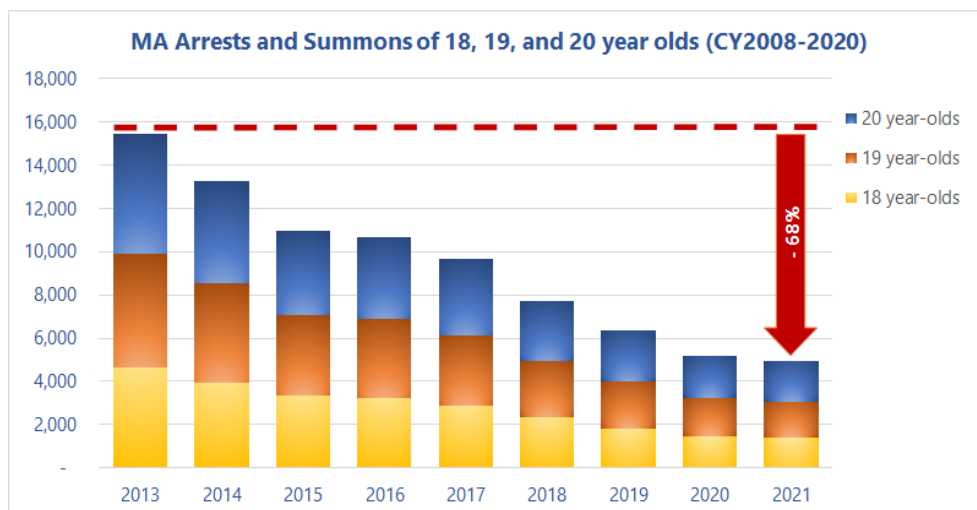
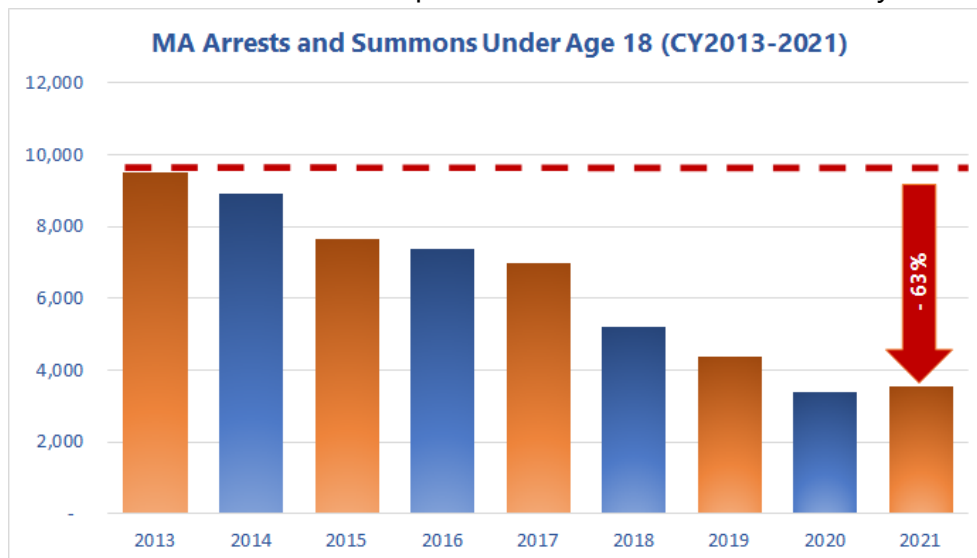
Can the Juvenile Justice System Handle Gradually Raising the Age to Include 18- to 20-Year-Olds?

Summary of Key System Trends of Justice Involved Youth in Massachusetts – March 2022

These data trends illustrate the declines in rates of crime among youth in Massachusetts over the past decade, coupled with the successful implementation of the 2013 Raise the Age law to include 17-year-olds and the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act which heavily invested in the prevention of young people’s legal system involvement.

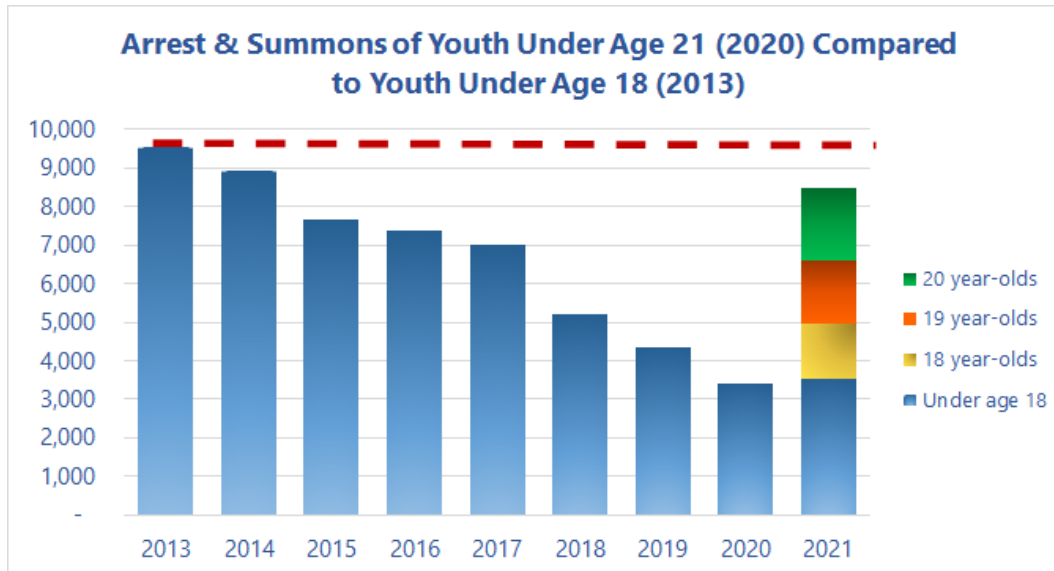
Arrests

Since raising the age in September of 2013, Massachusetts has seen a 63% reduction in juvenile arrests, and a 68% drop in the arrest rates of 18- to 20-year-olds:



Data Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Crime Statistics

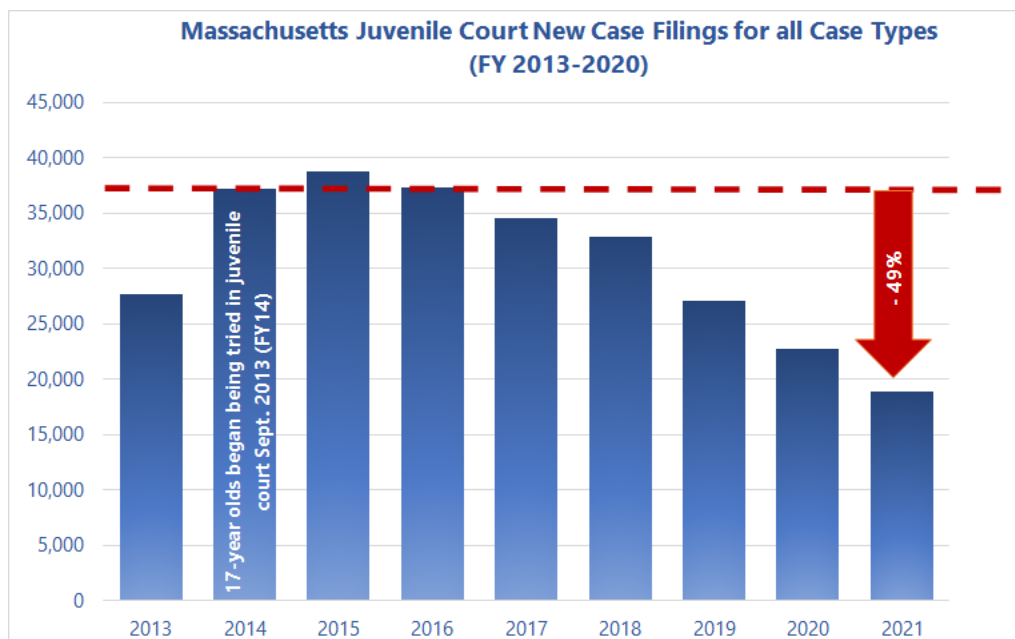
In fact, there were fewer young people under age 21 arrested in 2020 than all youth under age 18 who were arrested in 2013.



Data Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Crime Statistics

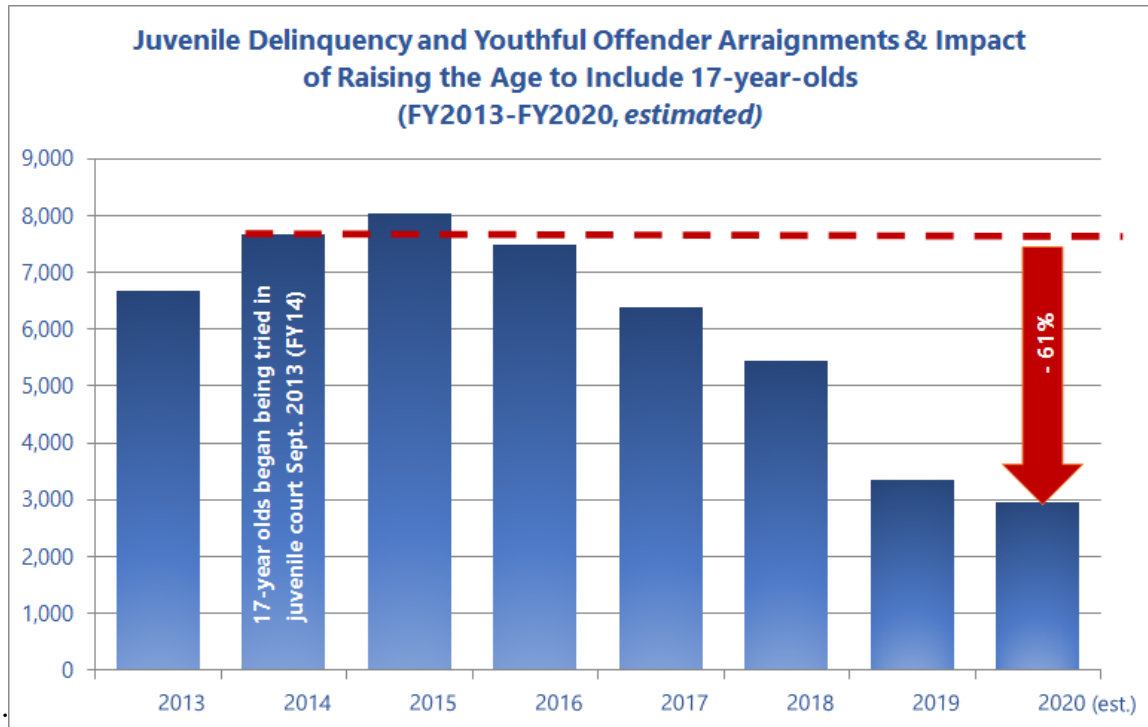
Juvenile Court Caseloads

The Juvenile Court’s filings, for all case types (child welfare, Child Requiring Assistance, adoption, delinquency, etc.), have declined by 49%, since 17-year-olds began to be tried in Juvenile Court.



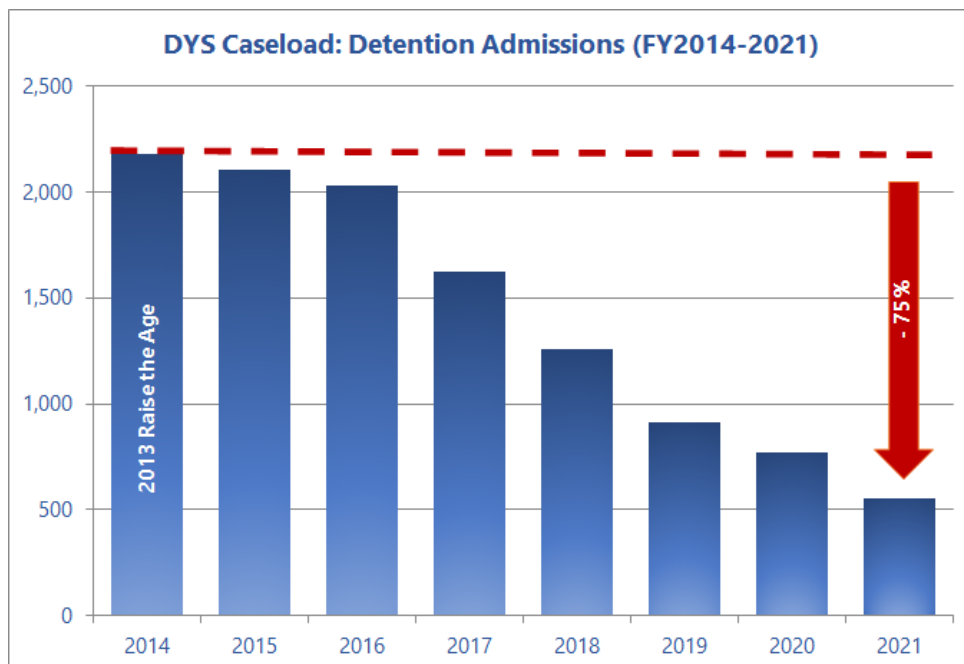
Data Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of the Trial Court

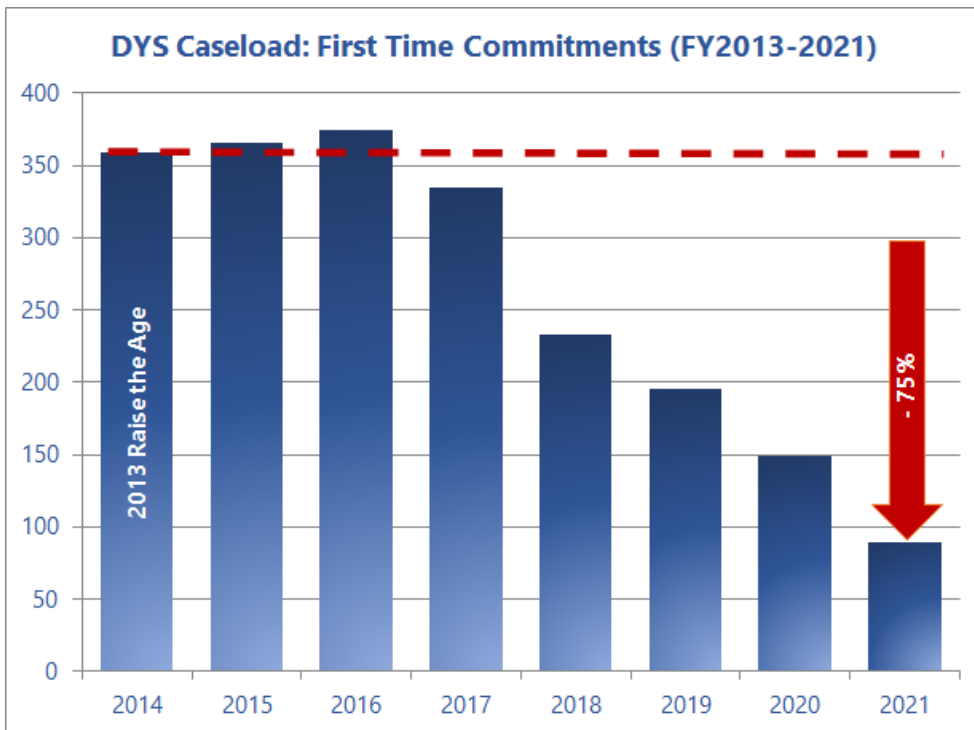
The Juvenile Court has fewer Delinquency and Youthful Offender cases arraigned today than prior to the inclusion of 17-year-olds, having declined by 61%.



Data Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of the Trial Court communications, Nov 2019 and Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board data dashboard

Department of Youth Services Caseloads





Data Source: *Massachusetts Department of Youth Services annual reports and Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board data dashboard*