

THE PROSECUTION OF CHILDREN IN ADULT COURT (2005 - 2019)

District Courts of Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County



Three District Courts of Maryland heard at least 6,185 cases that involved the prosecution of a person who was a child at the time of the incident.

The majority of those cases (i.e. 4,256) were moved up to Circuit Court, while 1,849 stayed in District Court, and 80 had another case disposition.

Of those 1,849 cases, 1,842 are now closed and have 9,421 total charges.

- Of those 9,421 charges, 99% did not end in conviction or sentence.
- Of those 1,842 cases, 96.3% did not end in conviction or sentence.



NOTE: If cases were expunged and removed from MJCS prior to the data scrape by Case Harvester, they would not be included in this analysis. Consequently, this analysis is an unavoidable underrepresentation of dismissals and acquittals. Those, convicted, however, are all contained in the data because their charges are not expungable.

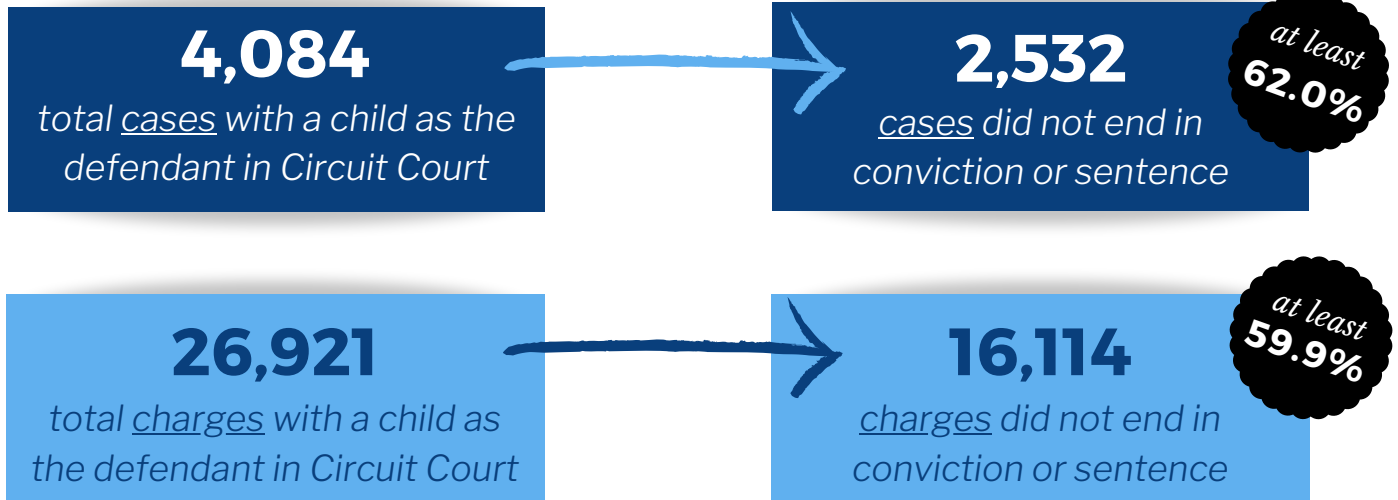
The charges are dropped, but the unnecessary trauma to the child lasts forever.

SOURCE: Data were collected on August 3, 2021 using Open Justice Baltimore's Case Harvester; methodology can be found [here](#)



*Circuit Court of
Baltimore City*

**THE PROSECUTION
OF CHILDREN
IN ADULT COURT
(2005 - 2019)**



Three District Courts of Maryland heard at least 6,185 cases that involved the prosecution of a person who was a child at the time of the incident. The majority of those cases (4,256) were moved up to Circuit Court.

4,084 of those cases were heard in Baltimore City Circuit Court and are now closed. (NOTE: Sometimes one case in District Court is split into multiple cases in Circuit Court; so, total case counts may be greater than total case count in District Court.)

Those 4,084 cases had 26,921 total charges.

- Of those 4,084 cases, 62.0% did not end in conviction or sentence.
- Of those 26,921 charges, 59.9% did not end in conviction or sentence.

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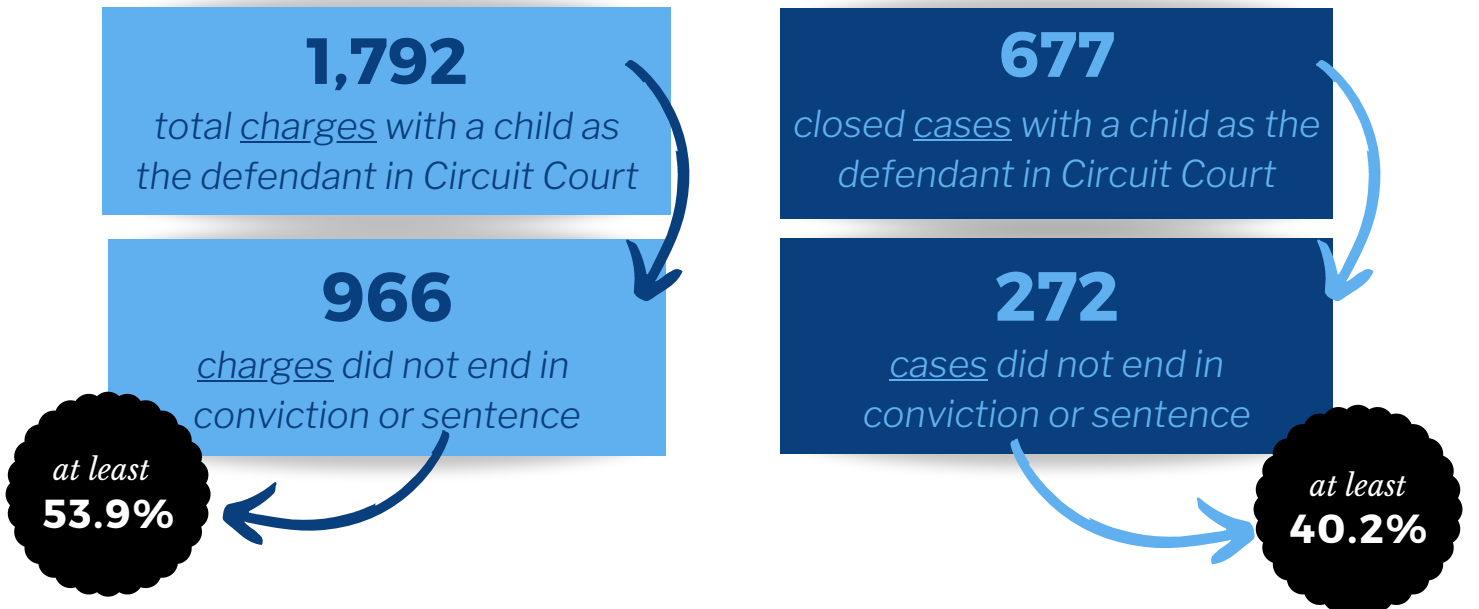
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THE PROSECUTION OF CHILDREN IN ADULT COURT (2005 - 2019)

Circuit Court of Montgomery County



Three District Courts of Maryland heard at least 6,185 cases that involved the prosecution of a person who was a child at the time of the incident. The majority of those cases (4,256) were moved up to Circuit Court.

677 of those cases were heard in Montgomery County Circuit Court heard and are now closed. (NOTE: Sometimes one case in District Court is split into multiple cases in Circuit Court; so, total case counts may be greater than total case count in District Court.)

Those 677 cases had 1,792 total charges.

- Of those 677 cases, 40.2% did not end in conviction or sentence.
- Of those 1,792 charges, 53.9% did not end in conviction or sentence.

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The charges are dropped, but the unnecessary trauma to the child lasts forever.

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THE PROSECUTION OF CHILDREN IN ADULT COURT (2005 - 2019)

Circuit Court of Prince George's County

177
closed cases with a child as the
defendant in Circuit Court

1,624
total charges with a child as the
defendant in Circuit Court*

21 = at least 11.9%
cases did not end in
conviction or sentence

1,291 = at least 79.5%
charges did not end in conviction
or sentence

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Why are these numbers so drastically different?

- 12 cases had 20+ charges, 3 of which has 30+ charges
- Within the 156 cases that ended in a conviction/sentence, 88 had only one guilty verdict with all other charges in the case dropped.
 - For example, 2 cases had 28 total charges each. Each case had only 1 guilty verdict and the remaining 27 charges were NP.

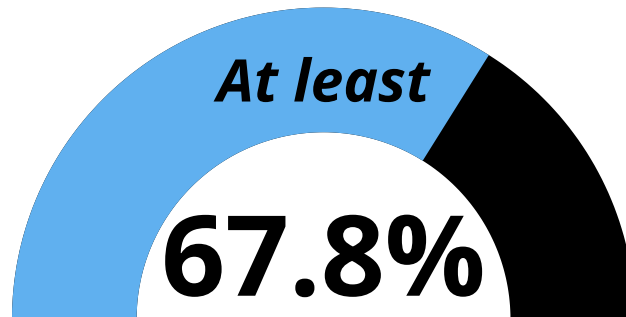
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THE PROSECUTION OF CHILDREN IN ADULT COURT (2005 - 2019)

District and Circuit Court Summary
Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County



***of the cases where a child was charged as an adult
did not end in a conviction or sentence***

	Ended in conviction/sentence (# of cases)	Did not end in conviction/sentence (# of cases)	Grand Total (# of cases)	% that did not end in conviction or sentence
Total District Court	69	1,773	1,842	96.3%
Baltimore City Circuit Court	1,552	2,532	4,084	62.0%
Montgomery County Circuit Court	405	272	677	40.2%
Prince George's County Circuit Court	156	21	177	11.9%
GRAND TOTAL	2,182	4,598	6,780	67.8%

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The charges are dropped, but the unnecessary trauma to the child lasts forever.

SOURCE: Data were collected on August 3, 2021 using Open Justice Baltimore's Case Harvester;

METHODOLOGY: summed up the numbers from the previous individual analyses whose methodologies can be found [here](#).

