

2019 Juvenile Offender (Fire) Incident Report



## UNITED STATES BOMB DATA CENTER (USBDC) JUVENILE OFFENDER (FIRE) INCIDENT REPORT

# 2019

*The Annual Juvenile Offender (Fire) Incident Report reviews arson-related incidents from data reported to the United States Bomb Data Center (USBDC) through the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS).*

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## 2019 Juvenile Offender (Fire) Incident Report

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

The 2019 *Juvenile Offender (Fire) Incident Report* is an informational product prepared by the United States Bomb Data Center (USBDC), using incident data reported in the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) by its nearly 2,529 interagency partners and more than 12,515 registered users. This report examines the total number of juvenile fire-related incidents reported in BATS for calendar year 2019. It is important to note that BATS is a real-time dynamic incident management system that is strictly user dependent; therefore, it is possible that the data represented in this report may differ slightly from previously reported data due to updates or changes made by the owner of individual records. The reader should also be aware that when compared to the data reflected in the Uniform Crime Report and/or National Fire Incident Reporting System, the number of incidents reflected in BATS captures approximately 20 percent of the annual incendiary (arson) fires reported. Due to this limited dataset, the USBDC cautions the use of this report for analytical purposes.

## STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

From January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019, BATS captured a total of 248 “Juvenile Offender” fire-related incidents. The total amount of damages was estimated at more than \$3.2 million, with 8 injuries and 2 fatalities associated with the 248 reported fires. “Available Combustibles” was identified as the most widely utilized incendiary fire subtype, while “Residential” was identified as the most targeted property type.

## LOOKING AHEAD

In 2019, the United States Bomb Data Center’s two sections, Bomb Arson Tracking System Section (BATSS) and Arson and Explosives Information and Analysis Section (AEIAS), worked to collect, analyze and disseminate information regarding arson and suspected criminal misuse of explosives to increase situational awareness to detect, deter and prevent criminal acts. AEIAS produced 223 arson and explosives intelligence products during calendar year (CY) 2019.

James M. Watson  
Director, USBDC

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# JUVENILE OFFENDER CATEGORIES

During 2019, there were 248 fire incidents reported in BATS that identified a “Juvenile or Child” offender as the suspect/subject in the incendiary (arson) fire investigation. This is a 23-percent decrease from the total number of incidents reported in 2018. Information from these incidents concerning the “Offender” was broken down into two main groups: “Child Offender (ages 2-6)”

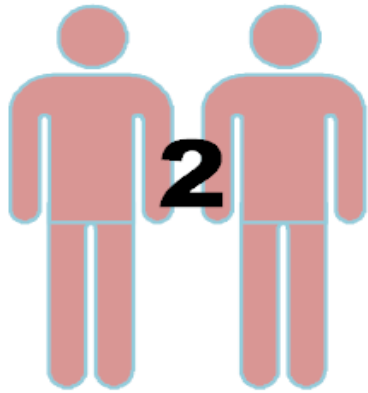
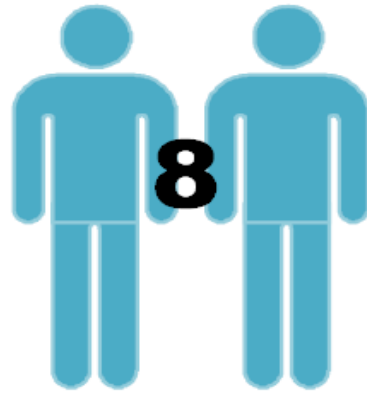


Category of Offender	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Child Offender (ages 2 to 6)	11	16	13	8	4
Juvenile Offender (ages 7 to 17)	516	482	168	314	244
Grand Total	527	498	181	322	248

Figure 1. Categories of Juvenile Fire Offenders in BATS (2015–19)



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**FIRE CASUALTIES****CASUALTIES (2019)****DEATHS****INJURIES**

Of the two (2) deaths reported, both were identified as a “Victim.” Of the eight (8) injuries, four (4) individuals were identified as a “Victim” and one (1) as “Fire Service.” Additionally, three (3) injured individuals were identified as a “Suspect.”

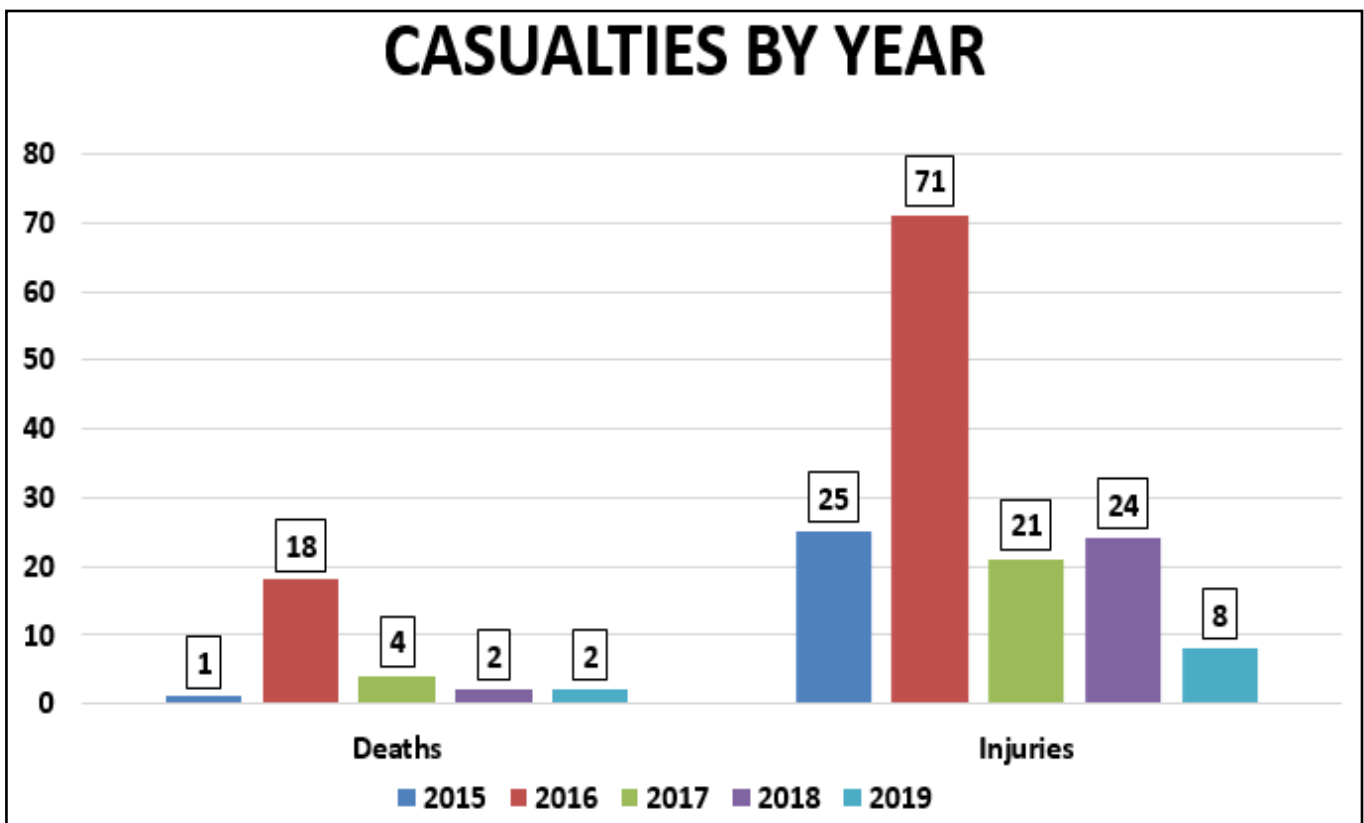


Figure 2. Casualties of Juvenile Offender Fires (2015–19)

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# FIRE DAMAGES

Damages associated with the 248 reported “Juvenile Offender” fire incidents totaled more than \$3,270,285 in 2019. Of the more than 20 property categories listed within BATS, damage to “Residential” property was listed highest at \$1,636,111, followed by “Religious” at \$1,400,000 and “Storage” at \$75,500.

## Juvenile Fires by Property Damage Amount (\$)

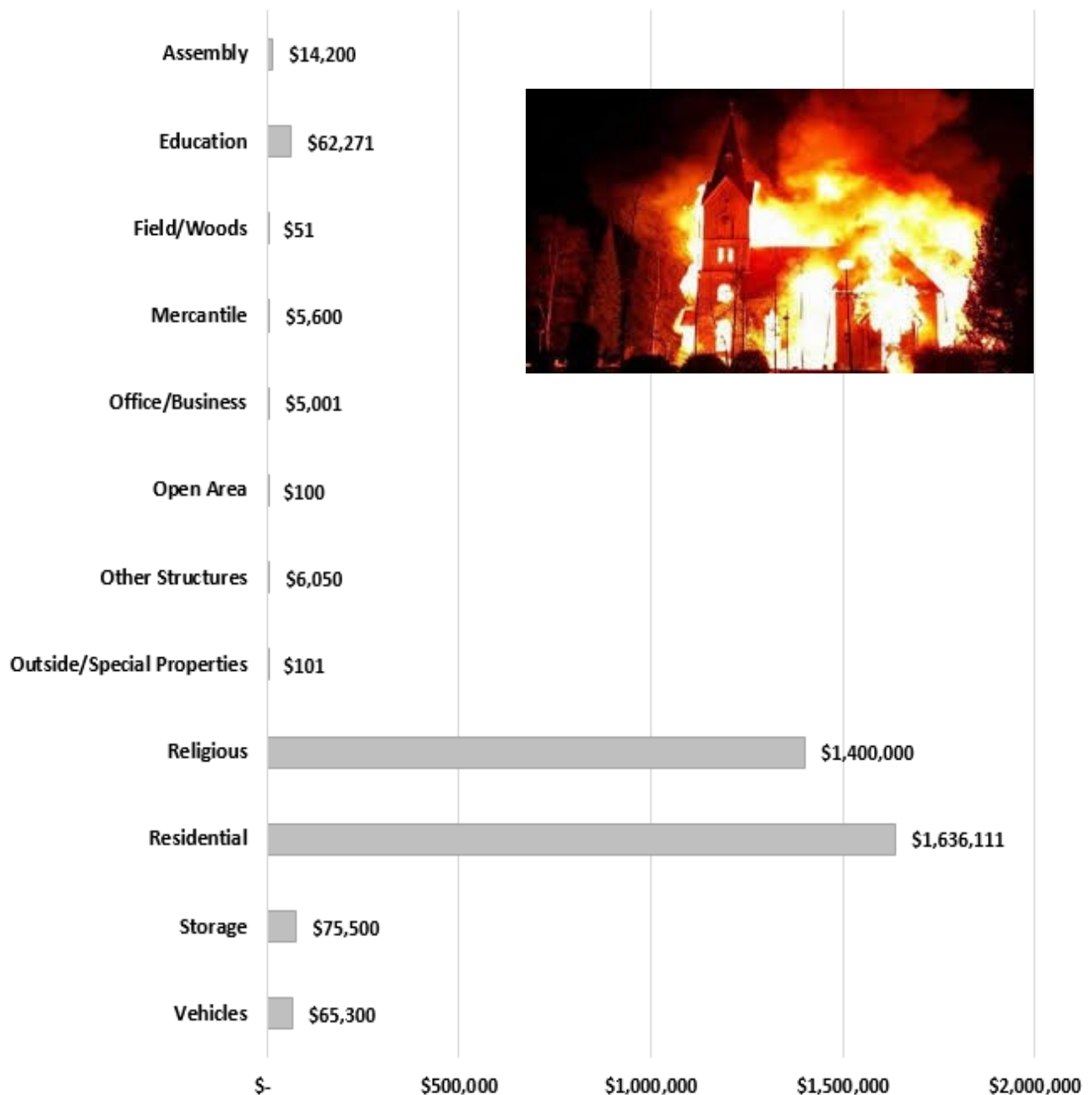


Figure 3. Damage Amount of Juvenile Offender Fires

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# INCENDIARY FIRES

Of the 248\* incendiary (arson) fire-related incidents reflected in BATS, there were 41 “Juvenile Offender” fires listed as involving an “Accelerant,” along with 179 involving “Available Combustibles,” 12 involving an “Incendiary Device,” and 16 listed as “Unknown.”

## Incendiary Fire Subtype

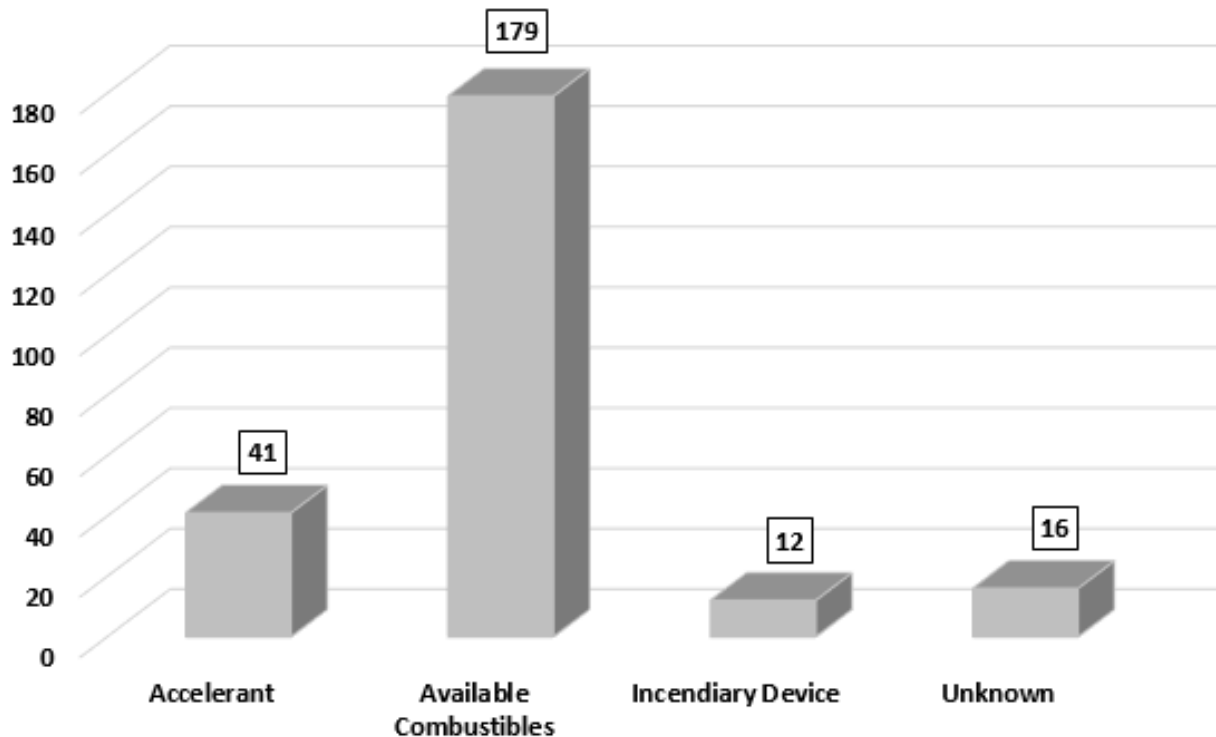


Figure 4. Incendiary Fire Subtypes

\* The number of incidents listed above only accounts for the number of fire/arson incidents reported in BATS, and not the total number of fire/arson-related incidents reported in the United States during calendar year 2019.





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# FIRE INCIDENT LOCATION (STATE)

A review of 248\* incidents listed in BATS as “Juvenile Offender” fires by location (State) revealed the highest number of incidents were reported in Texas (43), followed by Maryland (35) and Virginia (21). These three (3) States accounted for more than 40 percent of the total “Juvenile Offender” fires reported in BATS during 2019.

## Juvenile Offender Fires by State

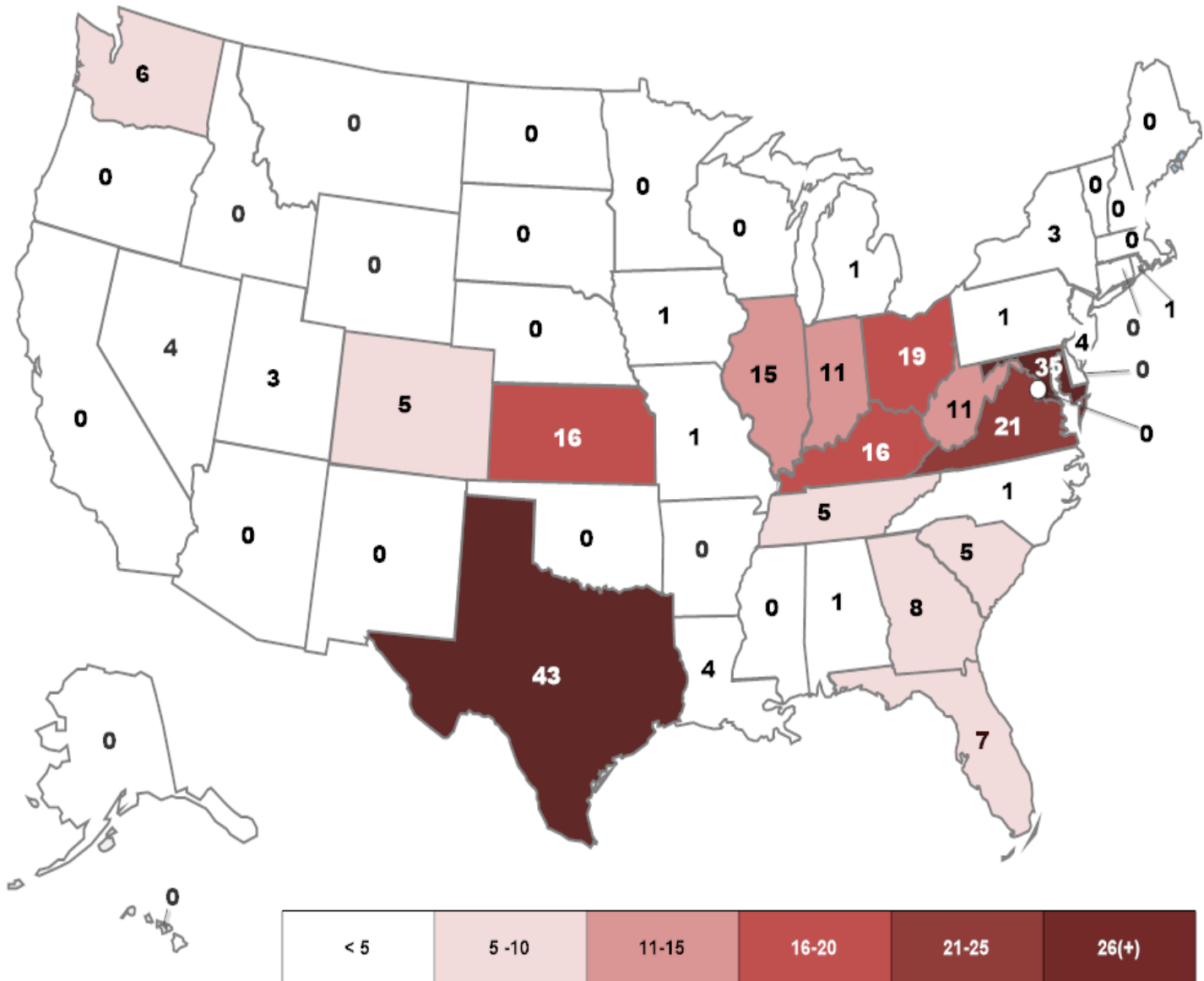


Figure 5. Juvenile Offender Fires by State

\* The number of incidents listed above only accounts for the number of fire/arson incidents reported in BATS, and not the total number of fire/arson-related incidents reported in the United States during calendar year 2019.



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# TARGET TYPES

There were 15 different “Target” types selected within BATS that involved “Juvenile Offender” fires for 2019. “Residential” fires accounted for 52 percent of all “Juvenile Offender” fires reported, followed by “Education” (17%) and “Assembly” (6%). In addition, there were four (4) “Juvenile Offender” fires involving “Religious” properties.

## Juvenile Offender Fires by Target Type

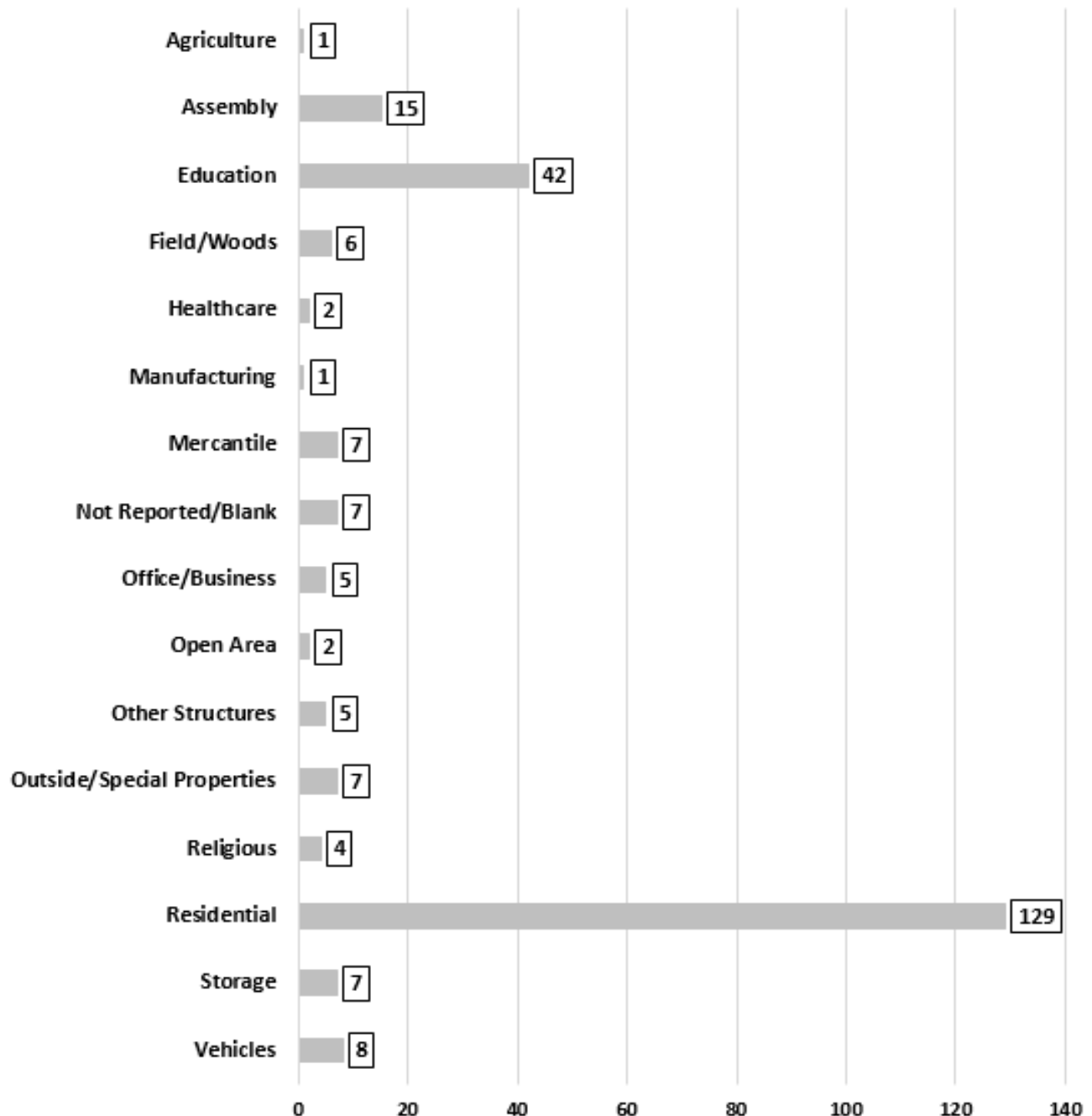


Figure 6. Juvenile Fires by Property Types

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# TIME/DAY/MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

A review of the time of day that “Juvenile Offender” fires occurred showed a noticeable difference between the hours of daylight and darkness. Incidents of “Juvenile Offender” fires occurring during the afternoon to early evening hours of daylight (12:01 until 21:00) were identified 65 percent of the time. The time period of 21:01 until 06:00 (predominant hours of darkness) had the lowest rate of incidents, at 18 percent of the “Juvenile Offender” fires reported in BATS during 2019.

## Fires by Time of Day

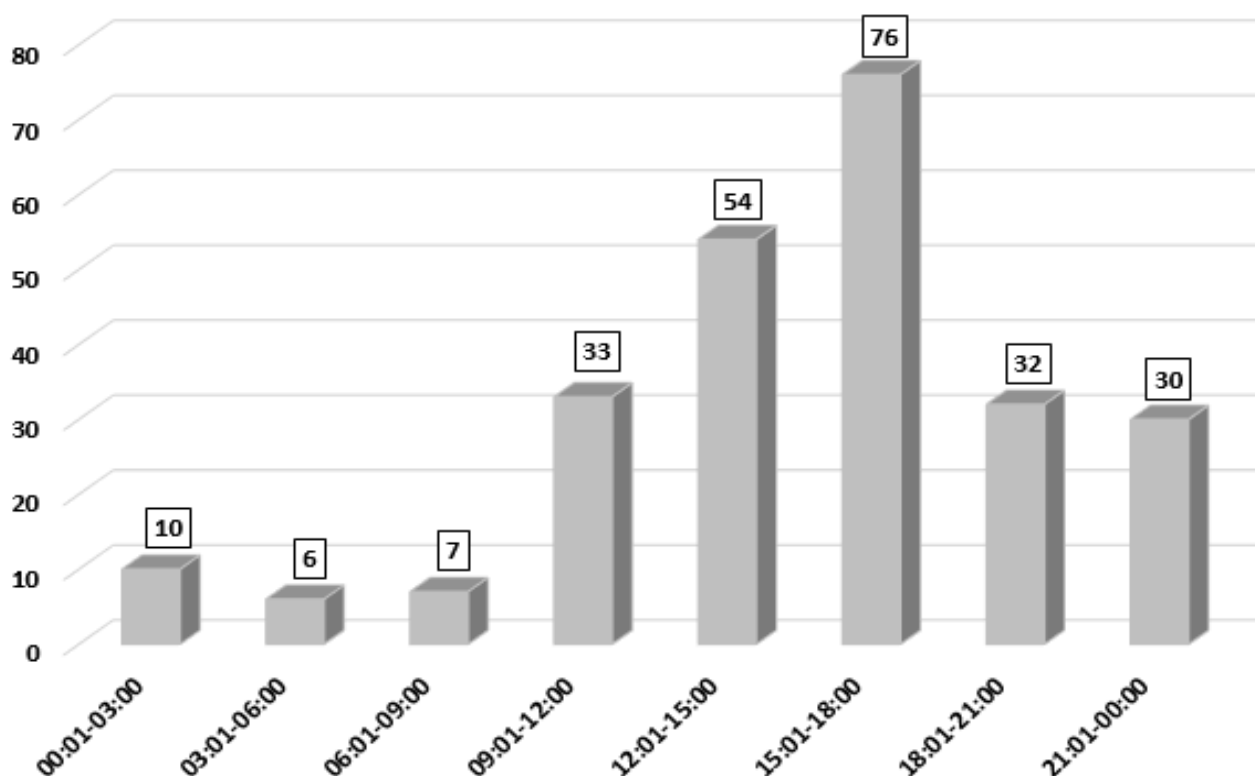


Figure 7. Juvenile Offender Fires by Time of Day

A review of the day of the week that “Juvenile Offender” fires occurred reflected a significant variation between the 7 days of the week. Of all incidents reported, Friday was identified as the highest rate of occurrence with 49 (or 20 percent) and Saturday was identified as having the lowest rate of occurrence with 20 (or 8 percent).

A review of the month that “Juvenile Offender” fires occurred revealed that the month of April had the highest rate of occurrence with 32 reported incidents, while June had the lowest rate with only 14.

January	21	July	29
February	18	August	25
March	15	September	26
April	32	October	17
May	15	November	21
June	14	December	15

Figure 8. Juvenile Offender Fires by Month

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# FIRE DESCRIPTORS



The top 3 “Fire Descriptors” identified for the 248 “Juvenile Offender” fires reported for 2019 were “Lighter,” “Carelessness, lack of or regard of fire safety principles” and “Open Flame.”

\* More than 36 percent of the reported incidents involving a “Juvenile Offender” were left “Blank” by the user for the “Fire Descriptor” field.

## 10 Most Common Fire Descriptors for Juvenile Offender Fires

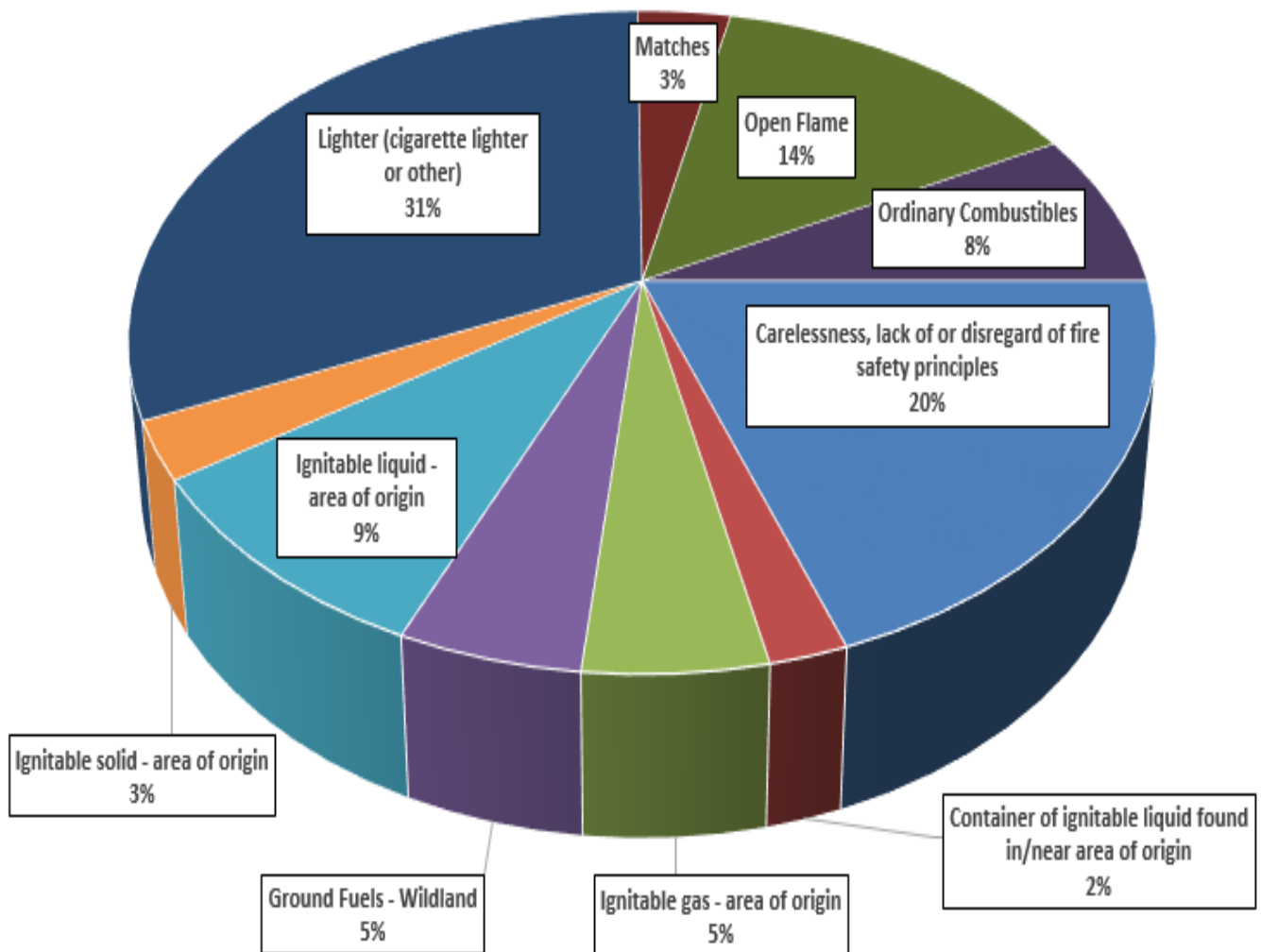


Figure 9. Common Fire Descriptors for Juvenile Offender Fires

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# MOTIVES FOR JUVENILE OFFENDER FIRES

There were seven (7) types of “Motives” selected within BATS for a “Juvenile Offender” fire in 2019. The top 3 types of “Motives” identified for these 248 fires were “Excitement,” “Unknown” and “Vandalism/Other.”

## Motives for Juvenile Offenders

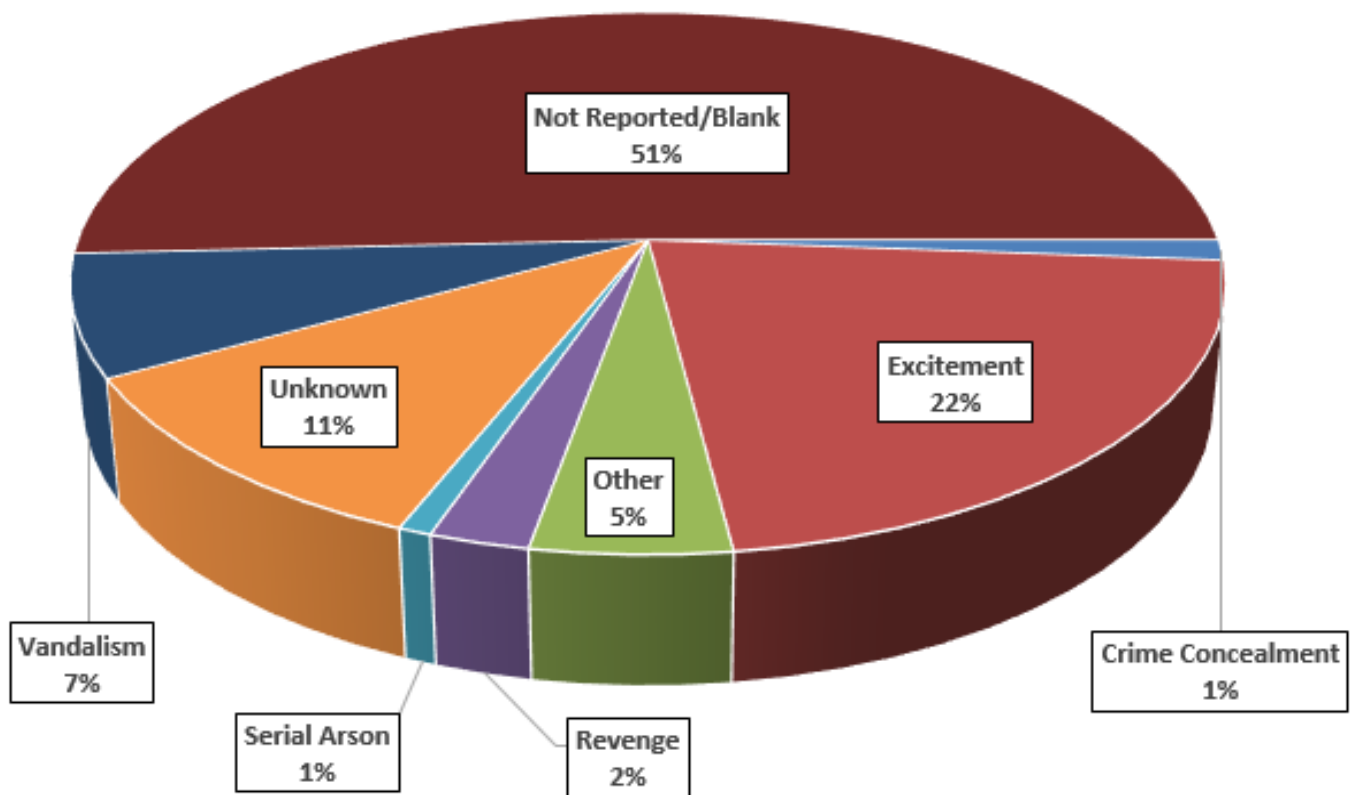


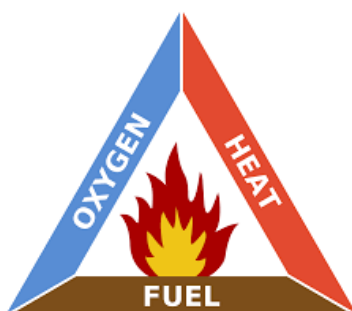
Figure 10. Motives for Juvenile Offender Fires



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# AREAS OF ORIGIN

The top 2 “Areas of Origin” identified for the 248 “Juvenile Offender” fires reported during 2019 were “Function Areas” and “Other.” \*



Areas of Origin	Total
Assembly, Sales Areas (Groups of People)	23
Function Areas	62
Means of Egress	5
Multiple Places of Origin / Placement	9
Other	32
Service Areas	2
Storage Areas	23
Structural Areas	15
Technical Processing Areas	1
Transportation, Vehicle Areas	9
Unknown *	67

The top 2 “Areas of Origin” identified for the 129 “Juvenile Offender” “Residential” fires reported during 2019 were “Function Areas” and “Assembly, Sales Area.” \*



Residential Fires – Area of Origin	Total
Assembly, Sales Areas (Groups of People)	16
Function Areas	26
Means of Egress	4
Multiple Places of Origin / Placement	8
Other	8
Service Areas	1
Storage Areas	15
Structural Areas	15
Transportation, Vehicle Areas	2
Unknown *	34

The top 2 “Areas of Origin” identified for the 42 reported “Juvenile Offender” fires related to “Education” during 2019 were “Function Areas” and “Other.” \*



Education Fires – Area of Origin	Total
Function Areas	25
Other	4
Storage Areas	2
Unknown *	11

\* The category of “Unknown” was not listed as a top area of origin for incendiary fires, as the category includes all incidents where “Unknown” was selected or left blank by the user.

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# EDUCATION FIRES

There were 42 “Juvenile Offender” fires associated with an “Education” target during calendar year 2019. The target subtype category of “High School/Junior High/Middle School” accounted for 81 percent of all fire types reported as being associated with “Education” targets, followed by “Elementary School” with 19 percent.

## Education Fires by Subtype

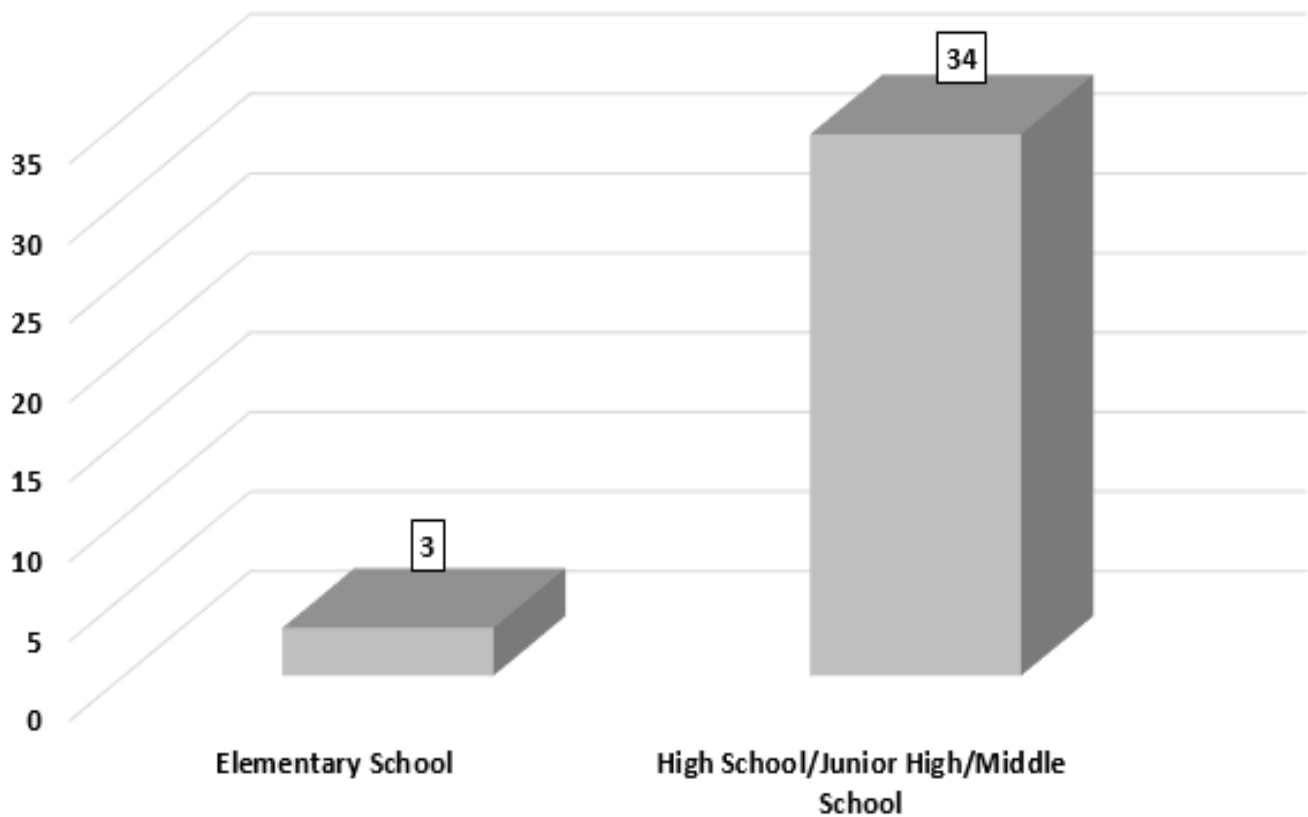


Figure 11. Education Fires





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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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