



## Are Juveniles really responsible for making Delhi the Rape Capital?

Rape cases alleged to be committed by Juveniles	2012	2013	2014	% Change 2012-2013	% Change 2013-2014
Juvenile Cases	57	137	120	+ 140.35	- 12.41
Total Rape Cases	706	1636	2096	+ 131.73	+28.12
Percentage of Rapes by Juveniles to Total Rape cases	8.07%	8.37%	5.73%	Increase by 0.3 percentage points	Decrease by 2.64 percentage points

Statistics have been the most important criteria for the Central Government in changing the juvenile justice law and introducing treatment of 16-18 year old juveniles committing such offences as adults. Greater public awareness, increased reporting and registration of sexual crimes should logically lead to a more reliable set of statistics for policy making. But what the NCRB reveals as far as share of juvenile crimes is concerned puts a question on the Centre and the Delhi Government's continued efforts to introduce regressive changes in the JJ Act. How justified is the Delhi Government's move to lower the age of juvenility to 15 years? What do Delhi's rape statistics tell us? Let us take a look ...

- While overall rapes in Delhi saw a huge increase of 131.73% between 2012-13, the increase in subsequent year (2013-14) was much low at 28.12%.
- As against a 140.35% increase in rapes alleged to have been committed by juveniles between 2012 and 2013, there is a 12.41% decrease in the following year (2013-14).
- Despite continued increase in overall rapes in the national capital, in 2013-14, the share of rape cases involving juveniles saw a significant decline.
- In 2013, contribution of juveniles to total rape cases registered in Delhi was 8.37%, which declined to 5.73% in 2014.