

# Chapter 7

## Youth Crime and Deviant Behaviours



## 7.1 Young Offenders—Statistics and Classification .....

**Table 7.1: Analysis of Offenders by Major Types of Offence (2003)<sup>(1)</sup>**

	Offences Against the Person		Offences Against Property		Disruption of Social Life		Danger to Local Community		Unclassified		Total No. In Age Group
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Aged 13-15	50	12	73	8	1	1	0	0	1	2	148
Aged 16-18	88	13	114	11	9	15	4	18	7	6	285
Aged 19-20	43	6	52	5	4	25	6	20	10	13	184
Sub Total	181	31	239	24	14	41	10	38	18	21	617
Aged 21 <sup>(2)</sup>	3996		2920		514		710		982		9122
Total	4208		3183		569		758		1021		9739

Source: Security Forces Coordination Office, 2004.

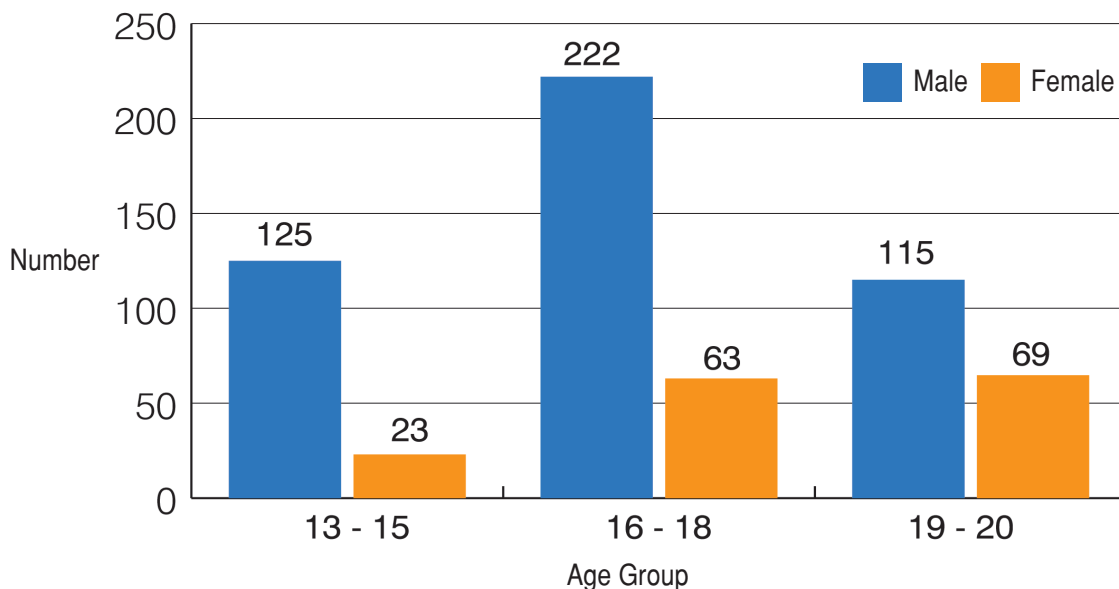
Note: (1) Figures include offenders of all nationalities.

(2) Figures for offenders aged 21 or above are aggregate for both sexes, and include persons of unidentified status.

In the period from January to December 2003, the number of offenders aged 13 or above stood at 9,739. Amongst these, 148 were aged 13-15 (1.5% of total number of Offenders across all the above age groups), 285 were aged between 16-18 (3% of total), and 184 were aged 19-20 (1.9% of total).

Amongst all the offenders aged 13-20, the majority (263 persons) committed offences against property, and the second biggest group of offenders committed offences against the person (212). For both types of crime, male offenders outnumbered female offenders.

**Figure 17: Analysis of Offenders By Major Types of Offence (2003)**



## 7.2 Reasons for Committing Crime and Classification .....

**Table 7.2a: Employment Status of Guardians of Young Offenders in Macao (1992-1998)<sup>(1)</sup>**

Occupation \ Year	Number						
	1992	1993	1994 <sup>(2)</sup>	1995	1996	1997	1998 <sup>(3)</sup>
Worker	43	31	25	15	16	13	4
Driver	6	4	1	8	12	6	/
Security Guard/ Police Officer	5	5	4	12	15	8	3
Gaming Service	3	8	3	6	8	7	/
Sales/ Waiter /Waitress	2	14	13	3	4	8	/
Cultural & Education Service	4	7	3	4	10	5	1
Merchant	8	11	11	3	8	6	1
Housemaid/ Cleaner	/	/	/	6	5	7	1
Housework	5	15	12	14	14	8	3
Fisherman	2	2	/	/	/	/	/
Unemployed	4	4	4	12	28	20	5

Source: Penny Y.Y. Chan, 1999, p.91.

*Note: (1) Guardians refer to both father and mother, or single father or mother, step father or step mother, or relatives.*

*(2) Includes three cases in 1995.*

*(3) For the period January-July 1998.*

For the period from 1992 to 1998, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of young offenders were mostly workers; followed by drivers, security guards and police officers. During the period 1995-1997, the unemployment situation for parent(s) or guardian(s) of young offenders aggravated substantially. (Penny Y.Y. Chan, 1999, p.78)



**Table 7.2e: Behaviour of Macao's Young Offenders at Home (1992-1998)**

Behaviour \ Year	Number						
	1992	1993	1994 <sup>(1)</sup>	1995	1996	1997	1998 <sup>(2)</sup>
Unruly	19	30	25	20	23	18	4
Parents/Guardians Too Busy to Teach and Discipline their Children	28	7	6	12	7	15	2
Well-behaved	14	6	3	10	13	9	3
Frequently Quarrel with Family Members	3	20	19	11	17	17	5
Stay Overnight in Places Outside Home	21	12	14	18	28	16	3
Often Run Away from Home	15	5	4	8	10	13	1

Source: Penny Y.Y. Chan, 1999, p.92.

Note: (1) Includes three cases in 1995.

(2) For the period January-July 1998.

A greater number of parents and guardians reported that the young offenders had been behaving unruly at home, and many of them considered they themselves too busy to teach and discipline their children. Although some parents did say that their delinquent children had been well behaved at home, these are only rare exceptions. The more common deviant behaviours of young offenders at home include: quarrelling with family members frequently, often staying overnight in places other than home, and running away from home from time to time. (Penny Y.Y. Chan, 1999 report, p.78)

**Table 7.2f: Young Offenders in Macao by Education/Employment Status (1989-1998)**

Year	Number															
	1989-92		1992		1993		1994 <sup>(1)</sup>		1995		1996		1997		1998 <sup>(2)</sup>	
Status	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Student	133	42.1	52	34.2	47	50.5	35	70.0	39	53.4	68	73.1	45	67.2	13	86.7
Employed	56	17.7	22	14.5	8	8.6	/	/	6	8.2	2	2.2	/	/	/	/
School Drop-out/ Unemployed	127	40.2	78	51.3	38	40.9	15	30.0	28	38.4	23	24.7	22	32.8	2	13.3
Total	316	100.0	152	100.0	93	100.0	50	100.0	73	100.0	93	100.0	67	100.0	15	100.0

Source: Penny Y.Y. Chan, 1999, p.93.

Note: (1) Includes three cases in 1995.

(2) For the period January-July 1998.

During the period from 1989 to 1993, Macao's young offenders were mostly school drop-outs who could not find any job. These accounted for as much as 40-50% of the total number of young offenders, but the figure has declined to 20-40% for the subsequent period of 1994-1998. (Penny Y.Y. Chan, 1999, p.78)



**Table 7.2i: Young Offenders in Macao – Leisure Activities (1992-1998)**

Number of Persons

Activities \ Year	1992	1993	1994 <sup>(1)</sup>	1995	1996	1997	1998 <sup>(2)</sup>
Electronic Games	47	35	26	48	67	39	9
Watching TV	37	38	32	23	34	19	8
Listening to Music	17	27	23	28	36	33	8
Singing Karaoke	8	15	16	34	58	38	5
Reading	9	8	10	22	19	18	3
Doing Exercise	18	10	16	37	49	27	5

Source: Penny Y.Y. Chan, 1999, p.94.

Note: (1) Includes three cases in 1995.

(2) For the period January-July 1998.

The young offenders seldom participate in healthy recreational group activities. Most of them would frequent electronic games centres, and for the rest of the time when they stay home, they just watch TV or listen to music. A fair number of them also like singing in karaoke bars. (Penny Y.Y. Chan, 1999, p.78)



## 7.3 Drug Addiction and Substance Abuse .....

**Table 7.3a: Statistics on Young People Illegal Drug Trafficking (2003)<sup>(1)</sup>**

	Heroin		Marijuana		Controlled Drugs		Methyl		Cocaine amphetamine		Ketamine		Others		Total Number in Age Group (%)
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Aged 13-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0)
Aged 15-19	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5 (20.8)
Aged 20-24	3	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10 (41.7)
Aged 25-29	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9 (37.5)
Total	9		9		4		0		0		2		0		24 (100)

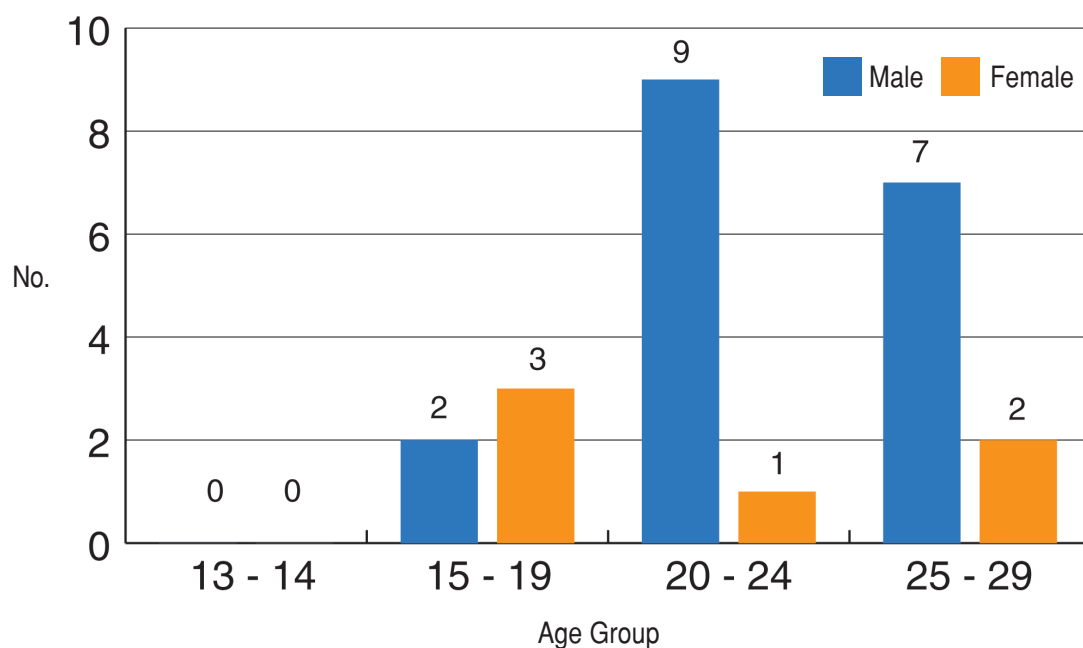
Source: Security Forces Coordination Office, 2004.

Note: (1) Figures for the period January-December 2003 and include Macao residents only.

For the period from January to December 2003, 24 of the illicit drug traffickers arrested were aged 13-29, of whom 18 were male (75% of total number across all age groups) and 6 were female (25% of total). The majority of these trafficked in heroin or marijuana, with 9 offenders in each category and together made up 75% of the total. Only 2 offenders were involved with ketamine, accounting for 8.3% of the total.

Most young illicit drug traffickers fell in the older age groups. Of all such offenders in 2003, 10 were aged 20-24 (41.7% of the total), 9 were aged 25-29 (37.5% of the total). These two age groups together made up 79.2% of the total number of young drug traffickers.

**Figure 18: Statistics on Young People in Illegal Drug Trafficking (2003)**





**Table 7.3b: Statistics on Young Drug Abusers (2003)**

	Heroin		Marijuana		Controlled Drugs		Methyl		Cocaine amphetamine		Ketamine		Others		Total Number in Age Group (%)
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Aged 13-14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (3.2)
Aged 15-19	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2 (6.5)
Aged 20-24	1	0	7	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	14 (45.2)
Aged 25-29	2	1	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14 (45.2)
Total	4		14		8		0		0		5		0		31 (100)

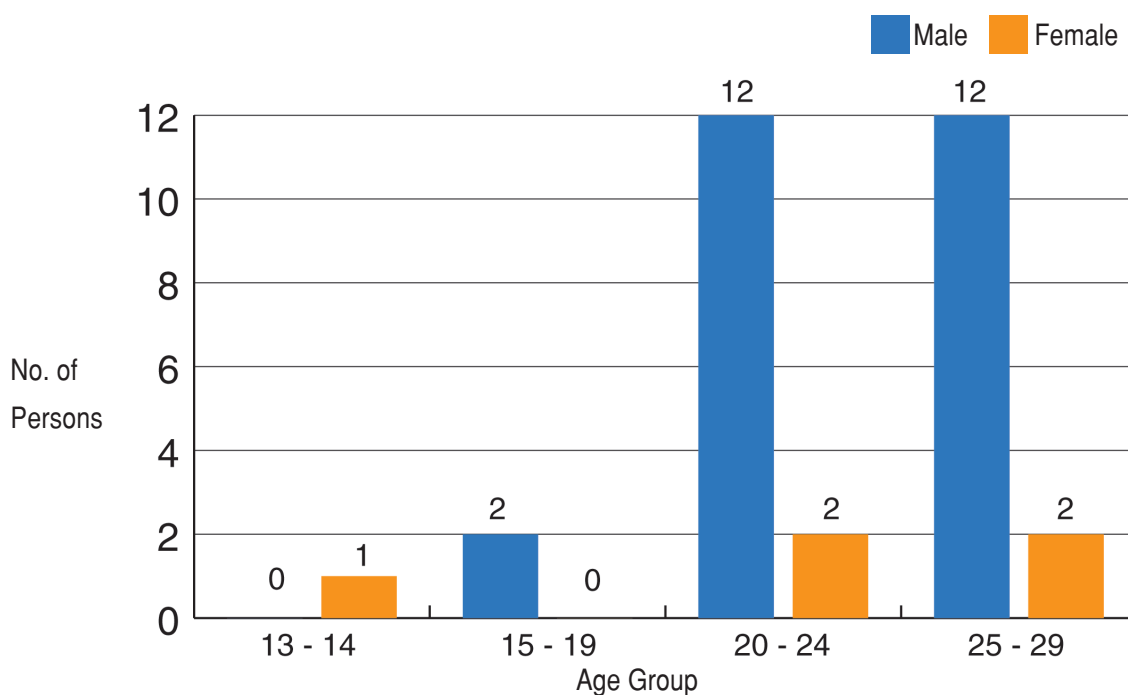
Source: Security Forces Coordination Office, 2004.

Note: (1) Figures for the period January-December 2003 and include Macao residents only.

For the period from January to December 2003, 31 drug abusers were aged 13-29, of whom 14 were aged 20-24, another 14 were aged 25-29 (each accounting for 45.2% of the total); 2 were aged 15-19, accounting for 6.5% of the total; and 1 was aged 13-14, accounting for 3.2% of the total.

Of the 31 drug abusers, the majority smoked marijuana, with the figure standing at 14 (45.2% of the total number of abusers). 8 used controlled substances (25.8% of total), 5 used ketamine (16.1% of total), and 4 used heroin (12.9% of total). There were more abusers in the 20-24 and 25-29 age groups who used controlled substances, with the figure for each group standing at 14, and together made up 90.4% of the total.

**Figure 19: Statistics on Young Drug Abusers (2003)**



**Table 7.3c: Statistics on Young People Aged 13-29 Seeking Help from Drug Treatment Complex Centre under Social Welfare Bureau (2003)**

						Number
Sex	Marital Status	Place of Birth	Main Substances Abused	Ingestion Method	Educational Attainment	Employment Status
Male (63)	Single (65)	Macao (35)	Heroin (59)	Intravenous Injection (34)	Primary (39)	Student (5)
			Amphetamines (4)			
Female (13)	Married (6)	Hong Kong (3)	Diazepam (3)	Intramuscular Injection (7)	Lower Secondary (26)	Employed (19)
			Triazolam (1)			
	Co-habiting (3)	China (37)	Cocaine (4)	Inhaling (6)	Upper Secondary (8)	Unemployed (50)
	Divorced (2)	The Philippines (1)	Acohol (1)	Sniffing (13)		
			Tobacco (1)	Oral (13)	Tertiary Institute/ University (3)	Others (2)
			Other Pain Killers (1)	Nasal (1)		
			Midazolam (Dormicum) (1)	Ni(1)		
			Unknown (1)	Others (1)		

Figures in parentheses represent figures for the item beside it.

Source: Social Welfare Bureau, 2004.

In 2003, 76 persons aged 13-29 sought help from the Drug Treatment Complex Centre under the Social Welfare Bureau. The majority of these were male (63), with only 13 females. They were mostly single (65). An analysis of their place of birth showed that a greater number of them were born in mainland China (37), the second largest group being Macao natives (35). The greater number of those asking for help used heroin (59), and mainly by intravenous injection (34). Those seeking help had mostly just completed primary education, the number being 39. With regard to their occupation, a greater proportion of drug abusers were unemployed (50), and only a handful were students (5).

## 7.4 Changes in Statistics on Offenders in Young Offenders Institute and Prisons .....

**Table 7.4a: Changes in Number of Residents in Macao Young Offenders Institute (2003)**

	Male			Female		
	Admission	Release	Stay	Admission	Release	Stay
Aged 13	4(21.1)	0(0.0)	7(9.3)	0(0.0)	0(0)	1(5.9)
Aged 14	4(21.1)	1(6.7)	11(14.7)	2(33.3)	1(20.0)	3(17.6)
Aged 15	7(36.8)	1(6.7)	25(33.3)	1(16.7)	1(20.0)	6(35.3)
Aged 16	1(5.2)	3(19.975)	14(18.7)	3(50.0)	3(60.0)	6(35.3)
Aged 17	3(15.8)	3(19.975)	11(14.7)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	1(5.9)
Aged 18	0(0.0)	3(19.975)	4(5.3)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
Aged 19	0(0.0)	1(6.7)	1(1.3)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
Aged 20	0(0.0)	3(19.975)	2(2.7)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
Total	19(100)	15(100)	75(100)	6(100)	5(100)	17(100)

Figures in parentheses represent percentages of the total in the respective category.

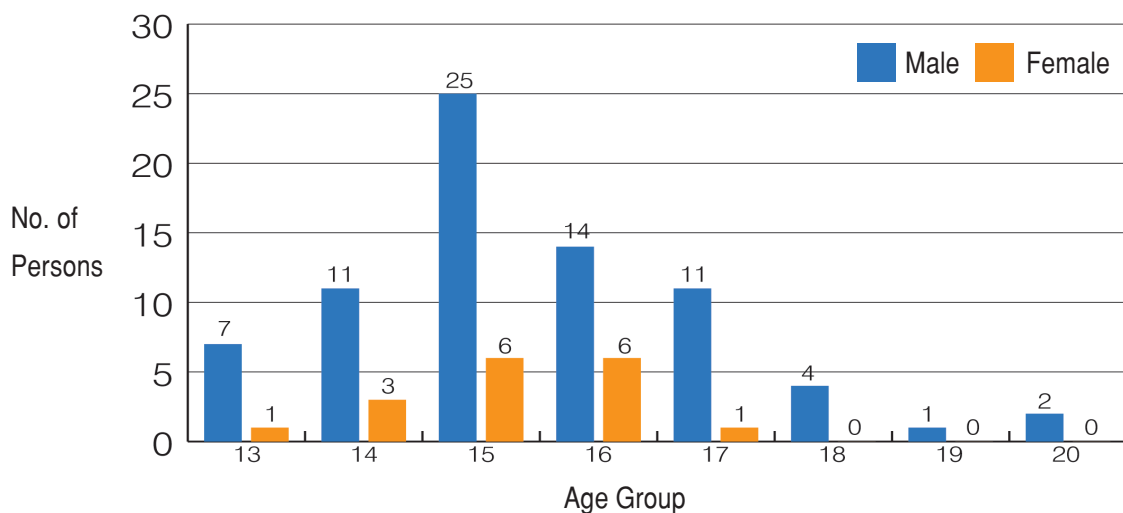
Source: Young Offenders Institute, 2004.

During the period from January to December 2003, there were 92 delinquents detained in Young Offenders Institute in Macao, of whom 75 were male and 17 were female. Among the male offenders, the majority were aged 15, accounting for 33.3% of the total number of male probationers. Among the female delinquents, the majority were aged 15 or 16, with each of the group accounting for 35.3% of the total number of female probationers.

During that period, there were 25 new admissions into Young Offenders Institute across Macao, of whom 76% were male and 24% were female. The percentage of female delinquents in the total number of new admissions was 52% lower than that of male. Majority of the newly admitted male probationers were aged 15, accounting for 36.8% of total number of male new admissions, whilst the 16 age group accounted for the lowest percentage (5.2%). As for the female new admissions, a greater proportion was aged 16, accounting for 50% of all female newly admitted probationers, whilst the 15 age group accounted for the lowest percentage (16.7%).

Regarding probationers released from Young Offenders Institute during this period, the total number was 20, of whom 75% were male and 25% were female. The percentage of female released (as a proportion of the total released) was 50% lower than that of male. Among the male delinquents released, those aged 16, 17, 18 and 20 accounted for the majority, with each group's percentage standing at 19.975% of the total, whilst those aged 14, 15 and 19 represented the lowest figures (each standing at 6.7%). Among female probationers released, the majority was aged 16, accounting for 60% of all female released, whilst the lowest figures were recorded by the 14 and 15 age groups (each accounting for 20% of the total).

**Figure 20: Number of Residents in Macao Young Offenders Institute (2003)**



**Table 7.4b: Changes in Statistics on Young Offenders in Macao Prisons (2003)**

	Male			Female		
	Admission	Release	Stay	Admission	Release	Stay
Aged 16	4(6.8)	3(5.5)	26(5.3)	0(0.0)	1(5.0)	1(1.7)
Aged 17	6(10.2)	2(3.6)	30(6.1)	0(0.0)	1(5.0)	2(3.4)
Aged 18	1(1.7)	8(14.5)	33(6.7)	1(12.5)	1(5.0)	4(6.8)
Aged 19	3(5.1)	4(7.3)	31(6.3)	0(0.0)	2(10.0)	3(5.1)
Aged 20	3(5.1)	0(0.0)	39(8.0)	1(12.5)	1(5.0)	5(8.5)
Aged 21	4(6.8)	5(9.1)	32(6.5)	1(12.5)	2(10.0)	7(11.9)
Aged 22	3(5.1)	4(7.3)	39(8.0)	1(12.5)	2(10.0)	6(10.2)
Aged 23	4(6.8)	1(1.8)	31(6.3)	0(0.0)	1(5.0)	2(3.4)
Aged 24	2(3.4)	5(9.1)	28(5.7)	0(0.0)	3(15.0)	6(10.2)
Aged 25	4(6.8)	4(7.3)	38(7.8)	1(12.5)	2(10.0)	7(11.9)
Aged 26	9(15.3)	6(10.9)	46(9.4)	0(0.0)	1(5.0)	4(6.8)
Aged 27	6(10.2)	8(14.5)	39(8.0)	2(25.0)	0(0.0)	3(5.1)
Aged 28	4(6.8)	2(3.6)	45(9.2)	1(12.5)	2(10.0)	7(11.9)
Aged 29	6(10.2)	3(5.5)	33(6.7)	0(0.0)	1(5.0)	2(3.4)
Total	59(100.0)	55(100.0)	490(100.0)	8(100.0)	20(100.0)	59(100.0)

Figures in parentheses represent percentages in respect of the total in the specific category.

Source: Macao Prison, 2004.

During the period from January to December 2003, there were 549 offenders aged 16-29 detained in prisons across Macao, of whom 490 were male and 59 were female. Among the male prisoners, the majority were aged 26, accounting for 9.4% of the total number of male prisoners detained. Among the female prisoners, those aged 21, 25 and 28 accounted for the majority, with each age group's percentage standing at 11.9% of the total number of female prisoners.

Regarding new admissions to prisons during this period, the total number for the year was 67, of whom 88% were male and 12% were female. The percentage of new female prisoners was 76% lower than that of male. Among the new male prisoners, a greater number of them were aged 26, accounting for 15.3% of all new male prisoners, whilst those at age 18 accounted for the lowest figure (1.7%). Among the new female prisoners, the majority were aged 27, accounting for 25% of all new female prisoners, whilst the figures for the age groups of 18, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 28 were the lowest (the five groups together made up 75% of total).

As for offenders released from prisons, the total number for the period stood at 75, of whom 73% were male and 27% were female. The percentage of female prisoners released as a proportion of the total number released was 46% lower than that of male. Among the male prisoners released, the majority were in the 18 and 27 age groups, the two groups together made up 29% of all the males released, whilst the figure for the 23 age group was the lowest (1.8%). Among the female prisoners released, the majority were aged 24, accounting for 15% of all female released, whilst the lowest figure was recorded by the age groups of 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 26 and 29 (these groups together made up 35% of the total).

**Figure 21: Statistics on Young Offenders in Macao Prisons (2003)**

