

**AGE AND MENTAL STATUS OF EXONERATED
DEFENDANTS WHO CONFESSED**

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EXONERATIONS

4/10/2022; N = 3,060

Age and Mental Status of the Exonerated Defendant	Proportion Who Falsely Confessed
Under 18 Years Old at Time of Crime (91/268)	34%
<i>16 and 17 year olds (58/211)</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>14 and 15 years old (26/48)</i>	<i>54%</i>
<i>Under 14 years old (7/9)</i>	<i>78%</i>
18 Years or Older at time of Crime (274/2,792)	10%
Mentally Ill or Intellectually Disabled (120/174)	69%
<i>Under 18 and Intellectually Disabled (27/34)</i>	<i>79%</i>
<i>18 or Older and Intellectually Disabled (93/140)</i>	<i>66%</i>
No Known Mental or Intellectual Disability (245/2,886)	8%
<i>Under 18 Without Known Mental Disabilities (64/234)</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>18 or Older Without Known Mental Disabilities (181/2,652)</i>	<i>7%</i>
ALL CASES (365/3,060)	12%

**AGE AND MENTAL STATUS OF EXONERATED
DEFENDANTS WHO CONFESSED**

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EXONERATIONS

2/26/2019; N = 2,400

AGE AND MENTAL STATUS OF THE EXONERATED DEFENDANTS	PROPORTION WHO FALSELY CONFESSED
Under 18 Years Old at Time of Crime (76/210)	36%
<i>16 and 17 year olds (46/161)</i>	<i>29%</i>
<i>14 and 15 years old (24/42)</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>Under 14 years old (6/7)</i>	<i>86%</i>
18 Years or Older at time of Crime (215/2,190)	10%
Mental Illness or Intellectual Disability Reported (102/147)	69%
No Known Mental or Intellectual Disability (189/2,253)	8%
Adults Without Reported Mental Disabilities (138/2,068)	7%
ALL CASES (291/2,400)	12%

**AGE AND MENTAL STATUS OF EXONERATED
DEFENDANTS WHO CONFESSED**

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EXONERATIONS
12/31/2017; N = 2,145

AGE AND MENTAL STATUS OF THE EXONERATED DEFENDANTS	PROPORTION WHO FALSELY CONFESSED
Under 18 Years Old at Time of Crime (71/188)	38%
<i>16 and 17 year olds (42/141)</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>14 and 15 years old (23/40)</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Under 14 years old (6/7)</i>	<i>86%</i>
Mental Illness or Intellectual Disability Reported (87/124)	70%
Adults Without Reported Mental Disabilities (123/1,854)	7%
ALL CASES (260/2,145)	12%

**AGE AND MENTAL STATUS OF EXONERATED
DEFENDANTS WHO FALSLEY CONFESSED**

JUNE 9, 2016

AGE AND MENTAL STATUS OF THE EXONERATED DEFENDANT	PROPORTION WHO FALSELY CONFESSED
Under 18 Years Old at Time of Crime (63/159)	40%
<i>16 and 17 years old (38/116)</i>	<i>34%</i>
<i>14 and 15 years old (19/36)</i>	<i>53%</i>
<i>Under 14 years old (6/7)</i>	<i>86%</i>
18 Years Old or Older at Time of Crime (164/1,651)	10%
Mental Illness or Intellectual Disability Reported (74/103)	72%
No Reported Mental Illness or Intellectual Disability (153/1,707)	9%
Adults Without Reported Mental Disabilities (108/1,571)	7%
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ALL CASES (227/1,810)	13%

Table 4

False Confessions by Age and Mental Disability

Age and Mental Status of the Exonerated Defendants	Proportion Who Falsely Confessed
Juveniles - under 18 at time of crime (33)	42%
12-15 year olds (13)	69%
16-17 year olds (20)	25%
Mentally Ill or Mentally Retarded (26)	69%
Adults Without Known Mental Disabilities (272)	8%

From:

Samuel Gross, Kristen Jacoby, Daniel Matheson, Nicholas Montgomery & Sujata Patil
“Exonerations in the United States, 1989 Through 2003,” 95 *Journal of Crim. L. & Criminology*
523 (2005), p. 547.