

CRIME & DELINQUENCY IN CALIFORNIA



2001



California Department of Justice
Bill Lockyer, Attorney General
Division of California Justice Information Services

Crimes **Arrests** **Dispositions**
Adult Corrections **Expenditures & Personnel**
Other Data Bases **Data Tables** **Appendix**

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CRIME AND DELINQUENCY IN CALIFORNIA, 2001

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The role of the Criminal Justice Statistics Center is to:

- *Collect, analyze, and report data which provide valid measures of crime and the criminal justice process;*
- *Examine these data on an ongoing basis to better describe crime and the criminal justice system;*
- *Promote the responsible presentation and use of crime statistics.*

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S MESSAGE	vi
HIGHLIGHTS	viii
CRIMES	2
Crime Trends, 1952-2001	3
California Crime Index	4
Violent Crimes	5
Property Crimes	11
Larceny-theft	16
Value of Stolen and Recovered Property	18
Arson	20
Clearances	22
ARRESTS	26
Arrest Trends, 1960-2001	27
Total Arrests	28
Felony Arrests	31
Arrests for Violent Offenses	33
Arrests for Property Offenses	40
Arrests for Drug Offenses	47
Misdemeanor Arrests	53
Personal Characteristics of Felony and Misdemeanor Arrestees	60
ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS	66
Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions	68
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted	70
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Violent Offenses	71
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Property Offenses	72
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Drug Offenses	73
Conviction Rates	74
ADULT CORRECTIONS	78
Adults Under State and Local Supervision	79
Adults Under State Supervision	80
Adults Under Local Supervision	81
Adults on Active Probation	82
Adults Placed on Probation	83
Adults Removed from Probation	84
Adults Committed to State Institutions	85
CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES AND PERSONNEL	88
Expenditures	89
Personnel	92
OTHER DATA BASES	95
Citizens’ Complaints Against Peace Officers	96
Domestic Violence	97
DATA SECTION	100
APPENDIX	167
Data Characteristics and Known Limitations	168
Criminal Justice Glossary	170
Arrest Offense Codes	174
Computational Formulas	176
Notes	178
Acknowledgements	179

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MESSAGE

California is at a crossroads. For the last decade, violence and crime dropped dramatically across the nation and in our state. After decreasing by 49.7 percent from 1991 to 1999, including the largest ever one-year drop of 14.9 percent in 1999, California's major crime rate increased by 3.7 percent in 2001. The rates of four of the six major crimes increased, while one did not change and the remaining one decreased. This indicates the absence of a consistent trend in the rates of change of major crimes in 2001.

The rate for Violent Crime offenses decreased by 0.8 percent from 2000 to 2001.

Homicide (1.0 percent of violent crimes) increased by 5.0 percent.

Forcible rape (4.7 percent of violent crimes) did not change.

Robbery (30.1 percent of violent crimes) increased by 4.2 percent.

Aggravated assault (64.2 percent of violent crimes) decreased by 3.1 percent.

The rate for Property Crime offenses increased by 6.0 percent from 2000 to 2001.

Burglary (53.3 percent of property crimes) increased by 2.6 percent.

Motor vehicle theft (46.7 percent of property crimes) increased by 10.2 percent.

The good news is that the crime rate remains at low levels last seen in the 1960's, and we continue to develop and implement revolutionary new law enforcement strategies, such as DNA technology, to improve our ability to identify and apprehend criminals. Together with effective crime prevention and early intervention programs, it is my hope that children who are exposed to violence today won't become criminals in the future.

Trends in crime, as in the economy and other social phenomena, do not continue unabated indefinitely. The slight increase in the overall crime rate in 2001, after years of steep decreases, suggests that the long



BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General

period of impressive annual decreases in crime has ended, at least temporarily. Determined efforts are being made to understand why the enormous decline in crime has leveled off and to put into practice policies and procedures which will further the decreases in crime. I will continue to lead a vigorous and frank dialogue, bringing together the most competent broad-based criminal justice researchers and practitioners with leaders in California's criminal justice community, to translate the best criminal justice research and practice into effective crime-related public policy. Our goal will be to ensure that we work not only harder than ever, but smarter than ever, to combat and control crime.

We continue to broaden our knowledge and expand our arsenal of crime fighting tools. By incorporating academic and research practitioners into our approaches to crime interdiction, we will improve our understanding and proposed solutions. Thus, we will strive to protect Californians from criminal activity.

CRIMES (See pages 2-23.)

- *The California Crime Index (CCI) rate increased from 898.1 in 1952 to its peak of 3,922.1 in 1980. The CCI has since dropped to 1,845.6 crimes reported per 100,000 population in 2001.* (Source: Table 1.)
- *The CCI rate increased for the second consecutive year. The rate increase was seen in four of the six major offenses with forcible rape unchanged and aggravated assault decreasing.* (Source: Table 1.)
- *The violent crime rate declined and reached its lowest level since 1974.* (Source: Table 1.)
- *In 2001, homicides increased in rate and number for the second consecutive year.* (Source: Table 1.)

ARRESTS (See pages 26-63.)

- *The 2001 total arrest rate of 5,311.9 per 100,000 population at risk reached the lowest level for which data are available.* (Source: Table 16.)
- *From 2000 to 2001, there was a slight increase in total felony arrests.* (Source: Table 16.)
- *Since 1996, the rate of juvenile felony arrests decreased 33.5 percent and the rate of juvenile misdemeanor arrests decreased 19.8 percent. The rate of status offense arrests (truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations) decreased 4.0 percent since 1996.* (Source: Table 17.)
- *From 1996 to 2001, the homicide arrest rate decreased 33.3 percent. The rate of juvenile arrests for homicide offenses decreased 55.8 percent since 1996.* (Source: Table 22.)
- *Since 1996, the narcotic arrest rate dropped 30.5 percent while the dangerous drug arrest rate increased 6.8 percent.* (Source: Table 22.)

DISPOSITIONS (See pages 66-75.)

- *In 2001, 66.8 percent of adult felony arrests resulted in a conviction.* (Source: Table 39.)
- *Probation with jail continues to be the most frequent sentence given for adult felony arrests.* (Source: Table 41.)
- *In 2001, 17.9 percent of the adults convicted of violent offenses and 21.6 percent of those convicted of drug offenses were sentenced to state institutions (prison, California Rehabilitation Center, and California Youth Authority).* (Source: Table 41.)

ADULT CORRECTIONS (See pages 78-85.)

- *Since 1996, the rate of adults under state supervision has increased 8.6 percent and the rate of adults under local supervision increased 7.6 percent.* (Source: Table 44.)
- *In 2001, there was a 3.0 percent decrease in the rate of adults under supervision from 2000.* (Source: Table 44.)
- *Local supervision accounted for nearly 60 percent of all adults under supervision throughout the 1996-2001 period.* (Source: Table 44A.)