



CRIME & DELINQUENCY IN CALIFORNIA 1997



California Department of Justice
Division of Criminal Justice Information Services
Daniel E. Lungren, Attorney General

CRIME & DELINQUENCY IN CALIFORNIA

1997



The role of the Criminal Justice Statistics Center is:

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

- [CJSC Home Page](#)
- [Attorney General's Home Page](#)

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S MESSAGE (appears in this pdf)	vi
HIGHLIGHTS (appears in this pdf)	viii
CRIMES	2
Crime Trends, 1952-1997	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, 1960-1997	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 (next page of this pdf)	100
APPENDIX	167
Data Characteristics and Known Limitations	168
Criminal Justice Glossary	170
Arrest Offense Codes	174
Computational Formulas	176
Notes	178



data section contents

Table	Page	Table	Page
CRIMES		ARRESTS	
1 CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEX, 1952-1997 Number and Rate per 100,000 Population	100	16 TOTAL ARRESTS, 1952-1997 Number and Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk	112
2 CRIMES, 1992-1997 FBI AND CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEXES Number, Rate per 100,000 Population, and Percent Change	101	17 TOTAL ARRESTS, 1992-1997 Number, Rate per 100,000 Population, and Percent Change	114
3 CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEX, 1992-1997 By Category and Crime	102	18 TOTAL ARRESTS, 1992-1997 By Level of Offense for Adult and Juvenile Arrests	115
4 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1992-1997 By Type of Weapon Used	102	19 FELONY ARRESTS, 1992-1997 By Category	115
5 FORCIBLE RAPE CRIMES, 1992-1997 Number and Rate per 100,000 Female Population	103	20 FELONY ARRESTS, 1992-1997 By Category and Offense	116
6 ROBBERY CRIMES, 1992-1997 By Location, Type of Robbery, and Type of Weapon Used	103	21 FELONY ARRESTS, 1992-1997 By Category and Offense for Adult and Juvenile Arrests	117
7 ASSAULT CRIMES, 1992-1997 By Type of Assault and Type of Weapon Used	104	22 FELONY ARRESTS, 1992-1997 Number, Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk, and Percent Change	119
8 BURGLARY CRIMES, 1992-1997 By Location, Time of Day, Type of Burglary, and Type of Entry	104	23 ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1992-1997 By Category, Offense, and Law Enforcement Disposition	122
9 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT CRIMES, 1992-1997 By Type of Vehicle	105	24 JUVENILE FELONY ARRESTS, 1992-1997 By Category, Offense, and Law Enforcement Disposition	123
10 LARCENY-THEFT CRIMES, 1992-1997 Number, Rate per 100,000 Population, and Percent Change	105	25 MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1992-1997 By Offense	124
11 LARCENY-THEFT CRIMES, 1992-1997 By Type and Value Categories	106	26 MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1992-1997 By Offense for Adult and Juvenile Arrests	125
12 VALUE OF STOLEN AND RECOVERED PROPERTY, 1992-1997 By Type and Percent Change	107	27 MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1992-1997 Number, Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk, and Percent Change	126
13 VALUE OF STOLEN AND RECOVERED PROPERTY, 1992-1997 By Type of Property	108	28 ADULT MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1992-1997 By Offense and Law Enforcement Disposition	127
13A STOLEN AND RECOVERED PROPERTY, 1992-1997 By Type of Property and Percent Recovered	109	29 JUVENILE MISDEMEANOR AND STATUS OFFENSE ARRESTS, 1992-1997 By Level of Offense, Offense, and Law Enforcement Disposition	128
14 ARSON CRIMES, 1992-1997 By Type of Property and Value of Property Damage	110	30 FELONY AND MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1997 Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnic Group of Arrestee	129
15 CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEX CRIMES CLEARED, 1992-1997 Number of Crimes, Clearances and Clearance Rate	111	31 GENDER AND RACE/ETHNIC GROUP OF FELONY ARRESTEES, 1997 By Category and Offense	130



Table	Page
32 AGE OF FELONY ARRESTEES, 1997 Category and Offense	131
33 GENDER AND RACE/ETHNIC GROUP OF FELONY ARRESTEES, 1997 By Category, Offense and Age	132
34 GENDER AND RACE/ETHNIC GROUP OF MISDEMEANOR ARRESTEES, 1997 By Offense	138
35 AGE OF MISDEMEANOR ARRESTEES, 1997 By Offense	139
36 GENDER AND RACE/ETHNIC GROUP OF MISDEMEANOR ARRESTEES, 1997 By Offense and Age	140
ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS	
37 ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1975-1997 By Type of Disposition	145
38 ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1992-1997 By Type of Disposition and Sentence	146
38A ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1992-1997 By Type of Disposition and Sentence Percent Distribution of Complaints Filed	147
39 ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1992-1997 By Type of Disposition	148
40 ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1997 Arrest Offense Category by Type of Disposition	148
41 ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1992-1997 By Convicted Offense Category and Type of Sentence	149
42 ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1997 Convicted Offense Category by Type of Sentence	150
ADULT CORRECTIONS	
43 ADULTS UNDER STATE AND LOCAL SUPERVISION, 1952-1997 Number and Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk	151
44 ADULTS UNDER STATE AND LOCAL SUPERVISION, 1992-1997 By Type of Supervision and Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk	152
44A ADULTS UNDER STATE AND LOCAL SUPERVISION, 1992-1997 By Type of Supervision and Percent Distribution	153

Table	Page
45 ADULTS ON ACTIVE PROBATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1992-1997 By Type of Court	154
46 ADULTS PLACED ON AND REMOVED FROM PROBATION, 1992-1997 By Type of Court, Type of Removal, and Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk	155
47 ADULTS COMMITTED TO STATE INSTITUTIONS, 1992-1997 By Type of Commitment, Type of Institution, and Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk	156
CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES AND PERSONNEL	
48 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY EXPENDITURES, FISCAL YEARS 1951/52-1996/97	157
49 CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES, FISCAL YEARS 1991/92-1996/97 By Current-Dollar and Constant-Dollar Expenditures	158
50 CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES, FISCAL YEARS 1991/92-1996/97 By Type of Agency	158
51 CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES, FISCAL YEARS 1991/92-1996/97 By Type of Agency	159
52 CRIMINAL JUSTICE FULL-TIME PERSONNEL, 1952-1997 By Type of Agency	160
53 CRIMINAL JUSTICE FULL-TIME PERSONNEL, 1992-1997 By Type of Agency and Personnel Classification	161
54 LAW ENFORCEMENT FULL-TIME PERSONNEL, 1992-1997 By Type of Agency	162
55 CRIMINAL JUSTICE FULL-TIME PERSONNEL, 1992-1997 By Type of Agency	163
OTHER DATA BASES	
56 CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS AGAINST PEACE OFFICERS, 1981-1997 Type of Complaint and Level of Criminal Complaint	163
57 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE, 1986-1997 Type of Call and Weapon	164
POPULATION	
58 POPULATION ESTIMATES, 1952-1997	165



attorney general's message

California's crime rate is the lowest rate in 30 years. All six major crime categories have dropped for the fourth consecutive year.

- California Crime Index rate is down 6.9 percent as compared to last year.
 - Violent crimes are down 7.9 percent.
 - Homicide is down 13.3 percent.
 - Forcible rape is down 2.2 percent.
 - Robbery is down 15.0 percent.
 - Aggravated assault is down 4.2 percent.
 - Property crimes are down 6.5 percent.
 - Burglary is down 5.8 percent.
 - Motor vehicle theft is down 7.3 percent.

During the Three Strikes era, the violent crime rate in California dropped 26.2 percent with a 29.3 percent drop in the six major crime categories and homicide is down nearly 40 percent. Every one of us has a neighbor, work colleague, friend, loved one or family member who was not a victim of crime due to the fact that nearly 800,000 crimes have been prevented in our state during the Three Strikes era. These are crimes which would have occurred had the previous crime pattern continued unabated. They include more than 215,000 violent crimes, 4,000 murder victims, and more than 6,000 victims of rape.



While some pundits and policy-makers stubbornly refuse to consider it, most Californians understand that changes such as community-oriented policing, Three Strikes and the restoration of the death penalty are working just as they were intended to work – deterring many crimes before they create new victims and shutting the prison door on hyperactive career criminals.

The drop in crime also continues in felony juvenile arrests. From 1992 to 1997, the juvenile felony arrest rate dropped 23.3 percent, with the juvenile homicide arrest rate dropping 52.8 percent. While serious juvenile offenses have been dropping, status offenses – truancy, incorrigibility, running away and curfew violations – have increased more than 48.7 percent. In comparison, during the last five years of the 1980s, California experienced the exact opposite with status offenses down 17.5 percent, juvenile felony arrest rates up 11.9 percent, and the juvenile homicide arrest rate up 150.6 percent. This illustrates law enforcement's commitment to lowering juvenile crime and stopping kids before they start down the wrong path.

We have seen a tremendous change in our crime rate. California is dramatically counteracting the crime waves of the 1960s and 1970s, and the relative tranquility of the 1950s is by no means an unrealistic goal. We should not start to waver now and become complacent. We need to look at what has worked – "Three Strikes and You're Out," the restoration of the death penalty and community-oriented policing – and continue our commitment to driving down California's crime rate.



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 then dropped to 2,381.4 crimes reported per 100,000 population in 1997. (Source: Table 1.)*
- *The CCI rate decreased for the sixth consecutive year. From 1996 to 1997, the CCI rate decreased 6.9 percent. (Source: Table 1.)*
- *From 1996 to 1997, violent crimes decreased 7.9 percent in rate. Property crimes decreased 6.5 percent in rate. (Source: Table 2.)*
- *In 1997, the homicide rate reached its lowest point since 1970 at 7.8 per 100,000 population. (Source: Table 1.)*

ARRESTS *(See pages 26-63.)*

- *The 1997 total felony arrest rate of 6,290.2 per 100,000 population at risk reached an all-time low. (Source: Table 16.)*
- *In 1997, the misdemeanor arrest rate per 100,000 population at risk decreased for the tenth consecutive year. Meanwhile, the felony arrest rate increased 1.7 percent after two years of decline. (Sources: Tables 16 and 17.)*
- *Since 1992, the rate of juvenile felony arrests decreased 23.3 percent while juvenile misdemeanor arrests increased 2.2 percent and status offenses (truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations) increased 48.7 percent. (Source: Table 17.)*

- *From 1992 to 1997, the homicide arrest rate decreased 39.0 percent. The rate of juvenile arrests for homicide offenses has decreased 52.8 percent since 1992.*
(Source: Table 22.)
- *Since 1992, the narcotic arrest rate dropped 29.1 percent while the dangerous drug arrest rate increased 83.2 percent.* (Source: Table 22.)

DISPOSITIONS *(See pages 66-75.)*

- *In 1997, more than six out of ten adult felony arrest dispositions resulted in a conviction.* (Source: Table 39.)
- *Probation with jail continues to be the most frequent sentence given.* (Source: Table 41.)
- *In 1997, 18.5 percent of the adults convicted of violent offenses and 25.8 percent of those convicted of drug offenses were sentenced to state institutions (prison, CRC, and CYA).* (Source: Table 41.)

ADULT CORRECTIONS *(See pages 78-85.)*

- *Since 1992, the rate of adults under state supervision has increased 24.1 percent and the rate of adults under local supervision decreased 4.0 percent.* (Source: Table 44.)
- *Local supervision accounted for approximately 60 percent of all adults under supervision throughout the 1992-1997 period.* (Source: Table 44A.)

- [Continue on to the Crimes Section](#)
- [C&D Appendix Section](#)
- [CJSC Home Page](#)
- [Attorney General's Home Page](#)