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PRELIMINARY REPORT

CRIME IN 2008

JANUARY THROUGH JUNE

This report compares preliminary crime counts for January through June 2008 with final counts for the same period in 2007 for California law enforcement jurisdictions serving populations of 100,000 or more. The 85 jurisdictions that met this criterion in 2007 and 2008 account for approximately 65 percent of the crimes reported in the state annually.

Law enforcement jurisdictions are grouped into three categories:

- Police departments** – provide law enforcement services to cities.
- Sheriff's departments** – provide law enforcement services to unincorporated areas¹ within counties.
- Contract cities** – cities that contract for law enforcement services, usually with a sheriff's department, rather than maintain their own police force.

The 2008 crime data used in this report are preliminary and are subject to change. Crime rates are not used in this report, but are included in the annual *Crime in California* publication. In addition, the California Department of Justice submits this preliminary data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program for inclusion into their preliminary semiannual and/or annual uniform crime reports.

**Violent
Crimes**
DOWN 5.0%

The **VIOLENT CRIME** category includes the offenses of *homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault*.

- When January through June 2007 data were compared to the same period in 2008, the number of reported violent crimes decreased 5.0 percent (from 65,850 to 62,588). The decrease in this category can be attributed to declines in robbery and aggravated assault (down 5.4 and 5.3 percent, respectively).

**Property
Crimes**
DOWN 3.7%

The **PROPERTY CRIME** category includes the offenses of *burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft over \$400*.

- When January through June 2007 data were compared to the same period in 2008, the number of reported property crimes decreased 3.7 percent (from 212,394 to 204,554). The decrease in this category can be attributed to declines in burglary and motor vehicle theft (down 2.9 and 10.7 percent, respectively). Larceny-theft over \$400 increased 2.8 percent during this period.

¹An unincorporated area of a county is any area not within a city limit.

UP
1.7%



UP
2.5%



DOWN
5.4%



DOWN
5.3%



DOWN
2.9%



DOWN
10.7%



UP
2.8%



HOMICIDE – The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. Homicide includes murder and nonnegligent manslaughter.

- *The number of homicides reported during the first six months of 2008 increased 1.7 percent when compared to the same period in 2007 (from 820 to 834). Thirty-six agencies reported increases in homicides (up 118). Counts for the remaining 48 agencies remained the same or decreased in number (down 104). This resulted in a net increase of 14 homicides.*

FORCIBLE RAPE – The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Assaults or attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force are included.

- *The number of reported forcible rapes increased 2.5 percent during the first six months of 2008 when compared to the same period in 2007 (from 2,748 to 2,818). Forty-one agencies reported increases in forcible rape (up 315). The remaining forty-three agencies stayed the same or reported a decrease in forcible rape crimes (down 245). This resulted in a net increase of 70 forcible rapes.*

ROBBERY – The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

- *During the first six months of 2008, the number of reported robberies decreased 5.4 percent when compared to the same period in 2007 (from 26,103 to 24,682). Counts for 58 of the agencies remained the same or decreased in number (down 2,062). The remaining 26 agencies reported increases (up 641). This resulted in a net decrease of 1,421 robberies.*

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT – The unlawful attack or attempted attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

- *The number of aggravated assaults reported during the first six months of 2008 decreased 5.3 percent when compared to the same period in 2007 (from 36,179 to 34,254). Fifty-six agencies remained the same or reported a decrease in the number of aggravated assaults (down 2,619). The remaining 28 agencies reported increases (up 694). This resulted in a net decrease of 1,925 aggravated assaults.*

BURGLARY – The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. Attempted burglary is included.

- *During the first six months of 2008, the number of reported burglaries decreased 2.9 percent when compared to the same period in 2007 (from 71,674 to 69,621). Counts for 51 of the 84 agencies remained the same or decreased in number (down 4,036). The remaining 33 agencies reported increases (up 1,983). This resulted in a net decrease of 2,053 burglaries.*

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT – The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

- *There was a 10.7 percent decrease in the number of motor vehicle thefts reported during the first six months of 2008 when compared to the same period in 2007 (from 71,772 to 64,063). Sixty-seven agencies remained the same or reported decreases in the number of motor vehicle thefts (down 8,649). The remaining 17 agencies reported increases (up 940). This resulted in a net decrease of 7,709 motor vehicle thefts.*

LARCENY-THEFT OVER \$400 – The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.

- *The number of larceny-thefts over \$400 increased 2.8 percent during the first six months of 2008 when compared to the same period in 2007 (from 68,948 to 70,870). Forty-eight agencies reported increases in larceny-theft over \$400 (up 4,292). The remaining 36 agencies reported no change or a decrease (down 2,370). This resulted in a net increase of 1,922 larceny-thefts over \$400.*