

DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND KNOWN LIMITATIONS

CRIMES

A crime is an act specifically prohibited by law, or failure to perform an act specifically required by law, for which punishment is prescribed (California Penal Code section 15).

The eight crime offenses presented in this report were chosen because of their seriousness, frequency of occurrence, and likelihood of being reported to law enforcement. These offenses include homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and arson.

In 2011, California law raised the lower limit of felony theft from \$400 to \$950. As a result, the property crime category now includes all reported or "total" larceny-theft rather than only those valued at over \$400. The 2002 - 2010 property crime totals and crime rates have been adjusted to reflect this change. Therefore, the data tables included on this website may appear inconsistent with previously reported data. Larceny-theft dollar amounts are estimated values of property stolen.

In 2013, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program revised the definition of "forcible rape" (the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will) to "rape" and defined as "penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim." The California Department of Justice implemented this definition change in January 2014, leading to an increase in reported rapes. (Note: During 2014, agencies were encouraged to report using the new definition, but were allowed to report under the historical definition while transitioning their reporting systems. All rape data submitted in 2014 – whether collected under the revised definition or the historical definition – are presented on this website.)

If multiple crimes occur during the same event, only the most serious (based on hierarchy) is counted. Arson is the exception to this rule because arson frequently occurs in conjunction with other crimes. Therefore, it is felt that valuable information could be lost using the hierarchy rule. Arson is counted along with the other most serious offense.

The number of reported homicide, rape/forcible rape, and aggravated assault crimes represents known victims, while for robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson, the number represents known incidents.

A clearance rate is the percentage of clearances based on the total crimes reported.

AGENCY-SPECIFIC DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND LIMITATIONS

Calipatria Police Department (located in Imperial County) did not respond January 2011 through December 2014.

Orange Cove Police Department (located in Fresno County) began reporting in January 2013.

Twin Cities Police Department and San Anselmo Police Department (Marin County) merged in January 2013 and now report as Central Marin Police Authority.

Atascadero Police Department (located in San Luis Obispo County) advises that the 2012 statistics for Aggravated Assaults are artificially inflated due to technical issues with the Records management System. The agency estimates that actual number of Aggravated Assaults to be half of what was reported. The issue was corrected prior to the close of the 2013 report year.

In March 2012, the Millbrae Police Department was disbanded and the City of Millbrae began contracting law enforcement responsibilities with the San Mateo county Sheriff's Department. Since that time, criminal statistics for Millbrae have been included in those of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department.

In June 2011, the Half Moon Bay Police Department was disbanded and the City of Half Moon Bay began contracting law enforcement responsibilities with the San Mateo county Sheriff's Department. Since that time, criminal statistics for Half Moon Bay have been included in those of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department.

The Eastvale Police Department (located in Riverside County) began reporting in January 2011.

The Jurupa Valley Police Department (located in Riverside County) began reporting in July 2011.

In November 2010, the San Carlos Police Department was disbanded and the City of San Carlos began contracting law enforcement responsibilities with the San Mateo county Sheriff's Department. Since that time, criminal statistics for San Carlos have been included in those of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department.

The Holtville Police Department (located in Imperial County) did not report for January through December 2010.

The McFarland Police Department (located in Kern County) began reporting data in January 2010.

Reedley Community College and Fresno Community College merged in January 2010 and now report under State Center Community College.

The Shasta County Marshal's Office began reporting data in January 2010.

The Solano County Sheriff's Department did not report for May through December 2010, with the exception of homicides. All homicide crime reports were received and processed by reporting month.

In July 2010, the Trinidad Police Department was disbanded and the City of Trinidad began contracting law enforcement responsibilities with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department. Since that time, criminal statistics for Trinidad have been included in those of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department.