

C&D

Crime & Delinquency in California, 1996

Table of Contents

**(includes Attorney General's Message,
Highlights, and Introduction)**



CONTENTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MESSAGE (page 3 of this pdf)	
HIGHLIGHTS (pages 4 & 5 of this pdf)	
INTRODUCTION (page 6 of this pdf)	
CRIMES (Part 1)	2
Crime Trends, 1952-1996	4
California Crime Index	6
Violent Crimes	7
CRIMES (Part 2)	
Property Crimes	13
Larceny-theft	18
Value of Stolen and Recovered Property	20
Arson	22
Clearances	24
ARRESTS (Part 1)	28
Arrest Trends, 1960-1996	30
Total Arrests	32
Felony Arrests	35
Arrests for Violent Offenses	37
Arrests for Property Offenses	44
Arrests for Drug Offenses	51
ARRESTS (Part 2)	
Misdemeanor Arrests	57
Personal Characteristics of Felony and Misdemeanor Arrestees	64
ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS	70
Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions	72
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted	74
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Violent Offenses	76
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Property Offenses	78
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Drug Offenses	80
Conviction Rates	82
ADULT CORRECTIONS	86
Adults Under State and Local Supervision	87
Adults Under State Supervision	88
Adults Under Local Supervision	89
Adults on Active Probation	90
Adults Placed on Probation	91
Adults Removed from Probation	92
Adults Committed to State Institutions	93
CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES AND PERSONNEL	96
Expenditures	97
Personnel	100
OTHER DATA BASES	103
Citizens' Complaints Against Peace Officers	104
Domestic Violence	105
DATA SECTION	108
APPENDIX	177
Data Characteristics and Known Limitations	178
Criminal Justice Glossary	180
Arrest Offense Codes	184
Computational Formulas	186

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MESSAGE

California's crime rate made history in 1996 with the largest one-year drop ever in violent crime, property crime, homicide and the California Crime Index (CCI) since the state began collecting crime statistics in 1952. All six CCI offense categories declined for the third straight year and only for the fifth time in California's history.

- CCI down 12.6 percent.
- Violent crimes down 10.8 percent.
- Property crimes down 13.5 percent.
- Homicide down 18.2 percent.
- Forcible rape down 4.0 percent.
- Robbery down 10.9 percent.
- Aggravated assault down 11.1 percent.
- Burglary down 12.8 percent.
- Motor vehicle theft down 14.5 percent.

The effects of tough-on-crime measures such as "Three Strikes and You're Out," community-oriented policing, truth in sentencing and the restoration of the death penalty are working just as they were intended -- deterring many crimes before they create new victims and shutting the prison door on hyperactive career criminals. Since 1993, the year before the enactment of "Three Strikes," the CCI has dropped 24.0 percent, violent crime has dropped 19.9 percent and the homicide rate has dropped an astounding 30.2 percent.

Over the past five years, the rate of juvenile felony arrests has declined 20.8 percent, the juvenile violent crime arrest rate has fallen 9.6 percent and the juvenile homicide arrest rate has plummeted 51.9 percent. Meanwhile, the status offense rate (truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations) continues its apparent inverse relationship with other juvenile arrest rates by increasing 36.3 percent over the last five years.

However, two juvenile felony arrest categories experienced a significant increase over the past five years -- felony marijuana and dangerous drug arrests with a more than 50 percent increase. These arrests are not just for possessing drugs but for selling and transporting as well and should cause alarm among all Californians.

We should recognize that the historic drop in California's crime rate to 1968 levels is a sign that we are on the right track, but we should not be satisfied. More can be done. Our commitment to public safety should be to drive our crime rate down to levels last seen in the 1950's. So far, we are halfway there. With a continued commitment and effort by the Legislature, law enforcement, and the community, particularly victims' rights groups, we will make our goal.

HIGHLIGHTS

CRIMES *(See pages 2-25.)*

- *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 2,558.9 crimes reported per 100,000 population in 1996.*
(Source: [Table 1.](#))
- *The CCI decreased for the fifth consecutive year. From 1995 to 1996, the CCI rate decreased 12.6 percent.* (Source: [Table 2.](#))
- *From 1995 to 1996, violent crimes decreased 10.8 percent in rate. Property crimes decreased 13.5 percent in rate.* (Source: [Table 2.](#))
- *In 1996, the homicide rate reached its lowest point since 1973 at 9.0 per 100,000 population.* (Source: [Table 1.](#))

ARRESTS *(See pages 28-67.)*

- *The 1996 felony arrest rate of 2,089.6 per 100,000 population at risk is the lowest since 1985. The 1996 misdemeanor arrest rate of 4,114.6 per 100,000 population at risk reached an all-time low.* (Source: [Table 16.](#))
- *From 1995 to 1996, there was a 3.7 percent decrease in the total arrest rate. This was the seventh consecutive year of decline.*
(Sources: [Tables 16 and 17.](#))
- *Since 1991, the rate of juvenile felony arrests decreased 20.8 percent while juvenile misdemeanor arrests increased 2.4 percent and status offenses (truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations) increased 36.3 percent.* (Source: [Table 17.](#))

HIGHLIGHTS

- *From 1991 to 1996, the homicide arrest rate decreased 37.3 percent. The rate of juvenile arrests for homicide offenses has decreased 51.9 percent since 1991.* (Source: [Table 22.](#))
- *Since 1991, adult felony marijuana arrests have dropped 5.1 percent in rate while the juvenile felony marijuana arrest rate increased 56.2 percent.* (Source: [Table 22.](#))

DISPOSITIONS *(See pages 70-83.)*

- *In 1996, almost seven 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 1996, only 19.0 percent of the adults convicted of violent offenses were sentenced to state institutions (prison, CRC, and CYA). Nearly ten percent did not serve any time in jail or prison for their conviction.* (Source: [Table 41.](#))

ADULT CORRECTIONS *(See pages 86-93.)*

- *Since 1991, the rate of adults under state supervision has increased 23.7 percent.* (Source: [Table 44.](#))
- *Local supervision accounted for approximately 60 percent of all adults under supervision throughout the 1991-1996 period.*
(Source: [Table 44A.](#))

INTRODUCTION

Crime and Delinquency in California presents statistics showing the amounts and types of offenses known to public authorities and the administrative actions taken by the criminal justice system. For over 40 years, *Crime and Delinquency in California* has provided information on crimes and the criminal justice process. The collection and publication of these data are mandated by California Penal Code sections 13010-13012.

NOTES

- Crime and arrest rates are calculated using annual population estimates provided by the Demographic Research Unit, California Department of Finance. Intercensal population data are revised after each decennial census. Upon receipt of the intercensal revisions, crime and arrest rates are recalculated.
- In prior years, *Crime and Delinquency in California* included a Juvenile Justice System section. Budgetary constraints in 1990 eliminated funding for collection of information on juvenile dispositions and caseloads. With the passage of Assembly Bill 488 in 1995 and with grant funds provided by the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP), the system is being restored. Current plans call for juvenile disposition data from county probation departments to be available for the 1997 calendar year. Juvenile arrest information is still available and is included in the arrest section.
- Historical data are included in this *Crime and Delinquency* report to provide long-term trend data. The time periods for which data are available vary from data base to data base depending upon the date each program was instituted.

Crime data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Program have been published continuously for over 40 years and are available in a somewhat consistent format from 1952.

Arrest data from the Monthly Arrest and Citation Register reporting system are complete from 1957. Prior to 1957, only adult felony arrest data were available.

Disposition data from the Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) system are available from 1975. The OBTS system, which began with a 25 percent sample in four counties in 1973, became operational on a statewide basis in 1975. All 58 counties were reporting by 1978.

Adult corrections data are compiled from a number of sources and are complete from 1966. State supervision data are available from 1960, and state institution data are available from 1952.

Expenditure data, as published in previous *Crime and Delinquency* publications, are available from the 1967/68 fiscal year while personnel data are available from 1969.

Citizens' Complaints Against Peace Officers has been collected since 1981. Data are available in a statewide total count only. Reporting of Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance began in July 1986. The first full year of reporting was 1987.

Since 1952, there have been many changes in laws and data collection procedures. For instance, in 1986 legislation was enacted which required reporting domestic violence as criminal conduct. As a result, the aggravated assault category increased over 35 percent in rate in one year. These types of changes should be considered when comparing data.