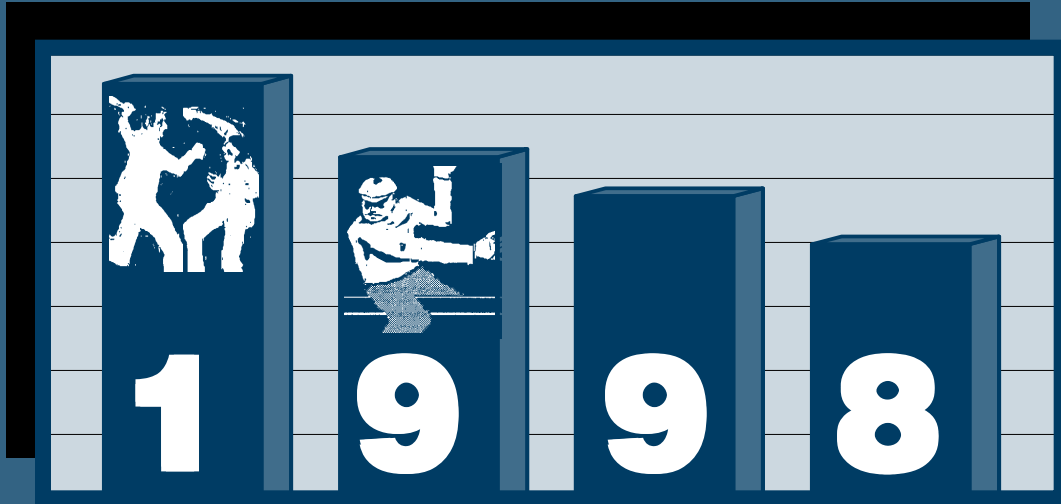


CRIME & DELINQUENCY IN CALIFORNIA



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

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Crime and Delinquency in California, 1998

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**CRIME &
DELINQUENCY
IN CALIFORNIA
1998**

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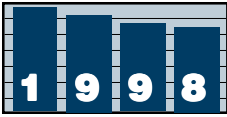
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The role of the Criminal Justice Statistics Center is:

- *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.*

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attorney general's message

Not since 1966 has the California Crime Index rate been so low. For the seventh consecutive year, reported crime counts decreased. This steady decline in the crime rate indicates that California is on the right track in the seemingly never ending war against crime.

The rate for Violent Crime offenses decreased 12.2 percent from 1997 to 1998.

- Homicide down 16.7 percent
- Forcible rape down 5.5 percent
- Robbery down 16.9 percent
- Aggravated assault down 10.1 percent

The rate for Property Crime offenses decreased 13.4 percent.

- Burglary down 11.5 percent
- Motor Vehicle theft down 15.9 percent

Since 1993, California has experienced a substantial decrease in the rate of juvenile felony arrests, 25.0 percent. The 1998 rate of 2,021.4 per 100,000 juveniles is the lowest in 32 years. Unfortunately, the juvenile misdemeanor arrest rate, encompassing truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations, experienced an increase of 49.8 percent.



BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General

During 1998, six out of ten adult felony arrests resulted in a conviction, and the sentence most often given was probation with jail. Adults convicted of violent offenses or drug offenses most often received sentences to prison, 18.1 percent and 26.0 percent, respectively.

Our continued support of a well trained and equipped law enforcement community, innovative crime prevention and detection programs, strict enforcement, and vigorous prosecution of California's criminal laws continue to make a safer California.

As we approach the new millennium, we, the criminal justice community and California's citizens, must continue the work that has generated such positive results.



highlights

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 2,072.1 crimes reported per 100,000 population in 1998. (Source: Table 1.)*
- *The CCI rate decreased for the seventh consecutive year. From 1997 to 1998, the CCI rate decreased 13.0 percent. (Source: Tables 1 and 2.)*
- *From 1997 to 1998, violent crimes decreased 12.2 percent in rate. Property crimes decreased 13.4 percent in rate. (Source: Table 2.)*
- *In 1998, the homicide rate reached its lowest point since 1968 at 6.5 per 100,000 population. (Source: Table 1.)*

ARRESTS (See pages 26-63.)

- *The 1998 total arrest rate of 6,221.4 per 100,000 population at risk reached an all-time low. (Source: Table 16.)*
- *Since 1993, the rate of juvenile felony arrests decreased 25.0 percent while juvenile misdemeanor arrests increased .4 percent and status offenses (truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations) increased 49.8 percent. (Source: Table 17.)*
- *From 1993 to 1998, the homicide arrest rate decreased 37.8 percent. The rate of juvenile arrests for homicide offenses has decreased 54.7 percent since 1993. (Source: Table 22.)*
- *Since 1993, the narcotic arrest rate dropped 13.1 percent while the dangerous drug arrest rate increased 14.6 percent. (Source: Table 22.)*

DISPOSITIONS (See pages 66-75.)

- *In 1998, 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 1998, 18.1 percent of the adults convicted of violent offenses and 26.6 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 1993, the rate of adults under state supervision has increased 26.9 percent and the rate of adults under local supervision increased 13.0 percent. (Source: Table 44.)*
- *Local supervision accounted for approximately 60 percent of all adults under supervision throughout the 1993-1998 period. (Source: Table 44A.)*

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