

# CRIME & DELINQUENCY IN CALIFORNIA

# 1999



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

- CONTENTS
- ADULT CORRECTIONS
- OTHER DATA BASES
- CRIMES
- ARRESTS
- EXPENDITURES/PERSONNEL
- APPENDIX
- DISPOSITIONS

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**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES**

Nick Dedier, Director

**BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS**

Doug Smith, Chief

Mike Acosta, Assistant Chief

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS CENTER**

Steve Galeria, Program Manager

**CRIME AND DELINQUENCY IN CALIFORNIA, 1999**

Bonnie Collins, Analyst

Marie Herbert, Analyst

Vicki Louie, Analyst

Linda Nance, Analyst

Laura Towse, Analyst

Rebecca Bowe, Graphics/Internet

LaTanya Henley, Crime Studies Technician

*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.*

# **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MESSAGE**

For the eighth consecutive year, reported crime has decreased in California for all six major crime categories. Also, California's crime rate made history in 1999 with the largest one-year drop ever, 14.9 percent.

The rate for Violent Crime offenses decreased 11.0 percent from 1998 to 1999.

- Homicide decreased 9.2 percent
- Forcible rape decreased 5.1 percent
- Robbery decreased 14.1 percent
- Aggravated assault decreased 10.0 percent

The rate for Property Crime offenses decreased 16.8 percent from 1998 to 1999.

- Burglary decreased 18.1 percent
- Motor Vehicle theft decreased 15.2 percent

California's falling crime rates are good news for our families and a credit to the hard work of law enforcement and prosecutors throughout the state. While these numbers show that fewer Californians have become victims of crime, we must continue with our current efforts and look for



**BILL LOCKYER**  
Attorney General

new strategies to ensure that crime rates don't climb back to the record highs of the 1980s. I look forward to working with other local, state, and national leaders in our ongoing efforts to prevent crime through the investment in juvenile crime prevention programs, community policing, and improved apprehension strategies.

As I have said before, we, the criminal justice community and California's citizens, must continue the work that has generated such positive results. Our continued support for research, innovative crime prevention and detection, a well trained and equipped law enforcement community, strict enforcement, and vigorous prosecution of California's laws can continue to make a safer California.

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## **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 1,763.3 crimes reported per 100,000 population in 1999. (Source: Table 1.)*
- *The CCI rate decreased for an eighth consecutive year. For most of the CCI offenses, rates declined to levels comparable to those of the mid-1960's. (Source: Table 1.)*
- *From 1998 to 1999, violent crimes decreased 11.0 percent in rate. Property crimes decreased 16.8 percent in rate. (Source: Table 2.)*
- *In 1999, the homicide rate reached its lowest point since 1967, while the burglary rate fell to a point not seen since 1955. (Source: Table 1.)*

## **ARRESTS** *(See pages 26-63.)*

- *The 1999 total arrest rate of 5,820.1 per 100,000 population at risk reached an all-time low. (Source: Table 16.)*
- *Since 1994, the rate of juvenile felony arrests decreased 32.2 percent, the rate of juvenile misdemeanor arrests decreased 3.1 percent, while the rate of status offense arrests (truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations) increased 39.2 percent. (Source: Table 17.)*
- *From 1994 to 1999, the homicide arrest rate decreased 42.5 percent. The rate of juvenile arrests for homicide offenses decreased 69.5 percent since 1994. (Source: Table 22.)*
- *Since 1994, the narcotic arrest rate dropped 21.3 percent and the dangerous drug arrest rate decreased 19.3 percent. (Source: Table 22.)*

## **DISPOSITIONS** *(See pages 66-75.)*

- *In 1999, 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 1999, 20.4 percent of the adults convicted of violent offenses and 27.0 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 1994, the rate of adults under state supervision has increased 23.7 percent and the rate of adults under local supervision increased 13.6 percent. (Source: Table 44.)*
- *Local supervision accounted for approximately 60 percent of all adults under supervision throughout the 1994-1999 period. (Source: Table 44A.)*

- **CONTENTS**    ■ **CRIMES**    ■ **ARRESTS**    ■ **DISPOSITIONS**
- **ADULT CORRECTIONS**    ■ **EXPENDITURES/PERSONNEL**
- **OTHER DATA BASES**    ■ **APPENDIX**