

# *CRIME* *i* *n* *CALIFORNIA* 2005



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Division of California Justice Information Services

Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS CENTER

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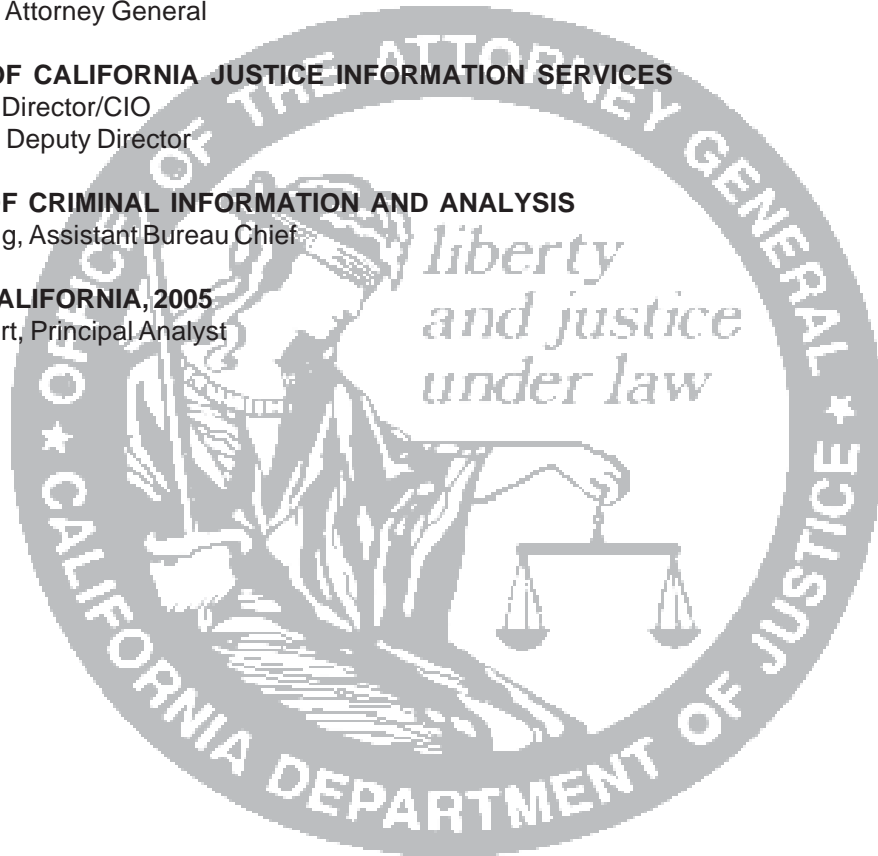
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**CRIME IN CALIFORNIA, 2005**

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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.*
- *Examine these data on an ongoing basis to better describe crime and the criminal justice system.*
- *Promote the responsible presentation and use of crime statistics.*

# MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

In 2005, the violent crime rate decreased for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in our state, despite a steadily increasing population and wavering economy. That's a tribute to all our police officers on the front lines, and to local law enforcement agencies working together with communities and schools to strengthen public safety. Those partnerships, along with the dedication of police officers, will keep violent crime on the decline.

The rates of four of the seven major crimes increased, while the rates of three decreased. This indicates the absence of a consistent trend in the rates of change of major crimes in 2005.

The violent crime rate decreased 5.1 percent from 2004 to 2005:

- Homicide (1.3 percent of violent crimes) increased 4.6 percent.
- Forcible rape (4.9 percent of violent crimes) decreased 3.4 percent.
- Robbery (33.5 percent of violent crimes) increased 1.8 percent.
- Aggravated assault (60.3 percent of violent crimes) decreased 8.7 percent.

The property crime rate increased 0.3 percent from 2004 to 2005:

- Burglary (34.5 percent of property crimes) increased 0.8 percent.
- Motor vehicle theft (35.6 percent of property crimes) increased 0.9 percent.
- Larceny-theft over \$400 (29.9 percent of property crimes) decreased 1.0 percent.

In a historical context, the violent crime rate last year was 53.6 percent below the peak reached in 1992, and remains at low levels last seen in the early 1970's. Additionally, the property crime rate was 41.4 percent below the peak rate in 1989.

Juvenile arrest rates continue to decline. From 2000 to 2005, juvenile arrests for felony offenses declined 14.7 percent in rate, and misdemeanor arrest rates declined 19.2 percent. These downward trends are an indication that early prevention and resource programs in schools and community policing are working for California's youth.

The rate of felony narcotics, marijuana and other drug arrests have all decreased since 2000; however, the rate of dangerous drug arrests has increased 46.2 percent in the same time period. Currently, our state is fighting an uphill battle against methamphetamine use and abuse. It is a dangerous and highly addictive drug that is also an active ingredient in the state's crime statistics.

I am convinced that criminal street gangs and the prevalence of methamphetamine are two of the primary factors in crime. In order to further improve public safety, it is important for my office and local law enforcement to maintain our focus, attention and resources on the root causes of crime. Through these efforts, we will continue to develop, promote and implement policies that have proven to be effective in combating crime and make a safer California for all of us.

BILL LOCKYER  
Attorney General

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### CRIMES *(See pages 2–23.)*

- The violent crime rate increased from 153.1 in 1952 to its peak of 1,103.9 in 1992. The rate has since dropped to 512.3 crimes reported per 100,000 population in 2005. (Source: Table 1.)
- In 2005, the violent crime rate declined 5.1 percent, reaching its lowest level since 1970. (Source: Tables 1 and 2.)
- In 2005, the property crime rate increased 0.3 percent due to a 0.8 percent increase in the burglary rate and a 0.9 percent increase in the motor vehicle theft rate. (Source: Table 2.)

### ARRESTS *(See pages 26–63.)*

- The 2005 total arrest rate of 5,235.1 per 100,000 population at risk is just slightly lower than the 2004 arrest rate of 5,286.4. (Source: Table 16.)
- Since 2000, the rate of juvenile felony arrests decreased 14.7 percent and the rate of juvenile misdemeanor arrests decreased 19.2 percent. The rate of status offense arrests (truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations) decreased 30.1 percent since 2000. (Source: Table 17.)
- From 2004 to 2005, all adult and juvenile violent felony arrest rates declined except for the juvenile robbery arrest rate, which increased 8.4 percent. (Source: Table 22.)
- Since 2000, the narcotics, marijuana, and "other" drug arrest rates decreased 10.3, 9.0, and 65.0 percent, respectively, while the arrest rate for dangerous drugs increased 46.2 percent. (Source: Table 22.)

## DISPOSITIONS (See pages 66–75.)

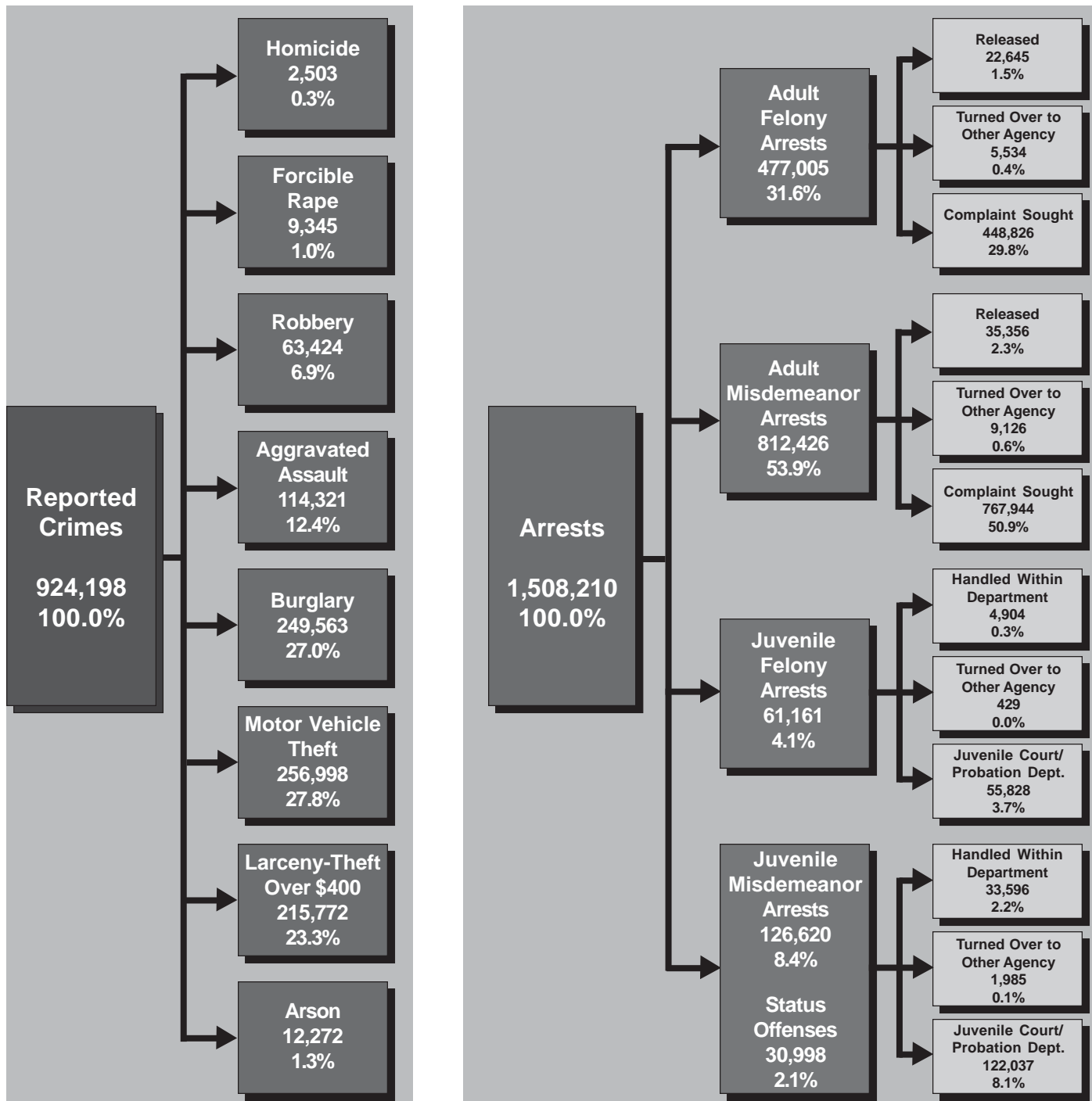
- In 2005, 71.0 percent of adult felony arrests resulted in a conviction. (Source: Table 37.)
- Probation with jail continues to be the most frequent sentence given for adult felony arrests. (Source: Table 41.)
- Since 2000, the percentage of individuals convicted of drug offenses and sentenced to state institutions (prison, California Rehabilitation Center, and California Youth Authority) has declined from 25.6 to 19.6 percent. (Source: Table 41.)

## ADULT CORRECTIONS (See pages 78–85.)

- Since 2000, the rate of adults under state supervision has decreased 8.5 percent and the rate of adults under local supervision decreased 4.8 percent. (Source: Table 44.)
- From 2004 to 2005, there was a 0.2 percent increase in the rate of adults under state supervision and a 0.1 percent decrease in the rate of adults under local supervision. (Source: Table 44.)

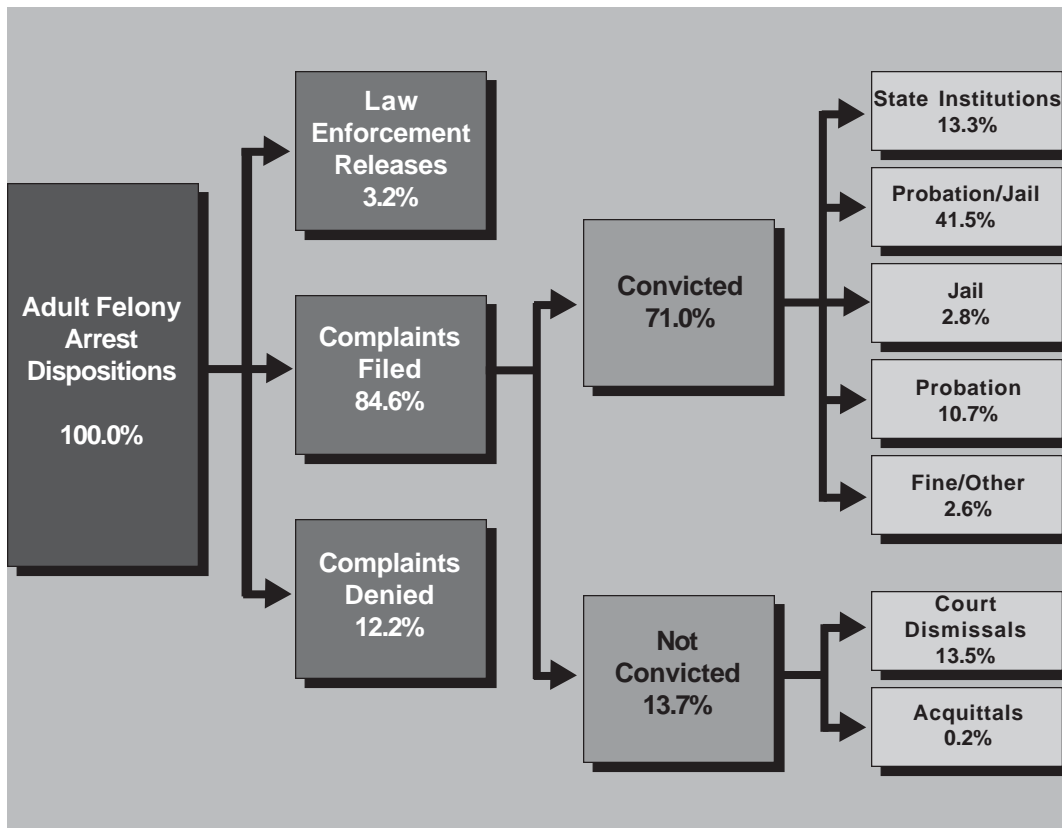
# CRIME IN CALIFORNIA, 2005

**Figure 1**  
**CRIME IN CALIFORNIA, 2005**  
**Overview**



Source: Tables 2, 16, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 38.

Note: Percentages may not add to subtotals or 100.0 because of rounding.



## CRIMES

The Department of Justice (DOJ) collects summary information on a select number of crimes reported to law enforcement and classified by federal Uniform Crime Reporting guidelines. The reported crimes are homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft over \$400, motor vehicle theft and arson. These crimes are selected because of the seriousness, frequency of occurrence and the likelihood of being reported.

If multiple crimes occur during the same event, only the most serious is counted. Arson is the exception.

## ARRESTS

The DOJ collects information on felony, misdemeanor, and status offense (juveniles only) arrests and citations. Arrests are reported by California statute definition of the offense, which in some cases may differ from the federal definitions used for crimes reported.

If a person is arrested for multiple offenses only the most serious offense is reported.

## ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS

The DOJ collects information on the number of felony arrest events with a final disposition received in California's adult criminal justice system. Final dispositions may occur at the law enforcement, prosecution, or court level.

If a person is arrested and released, acquitted, or convicted for multiple offenses, only the most serious arrest offense and the most severe final disposition are captured.

Adult felony arrest disposition data are grouped by the year of disposition regardless of the year in which the arrest occurred.

Comparisons between crime, arrest, and disposition data should not be made because of differences in reporting procedures. See Appendix 1, page 168, for a complete list of data characteristics and known limitations.