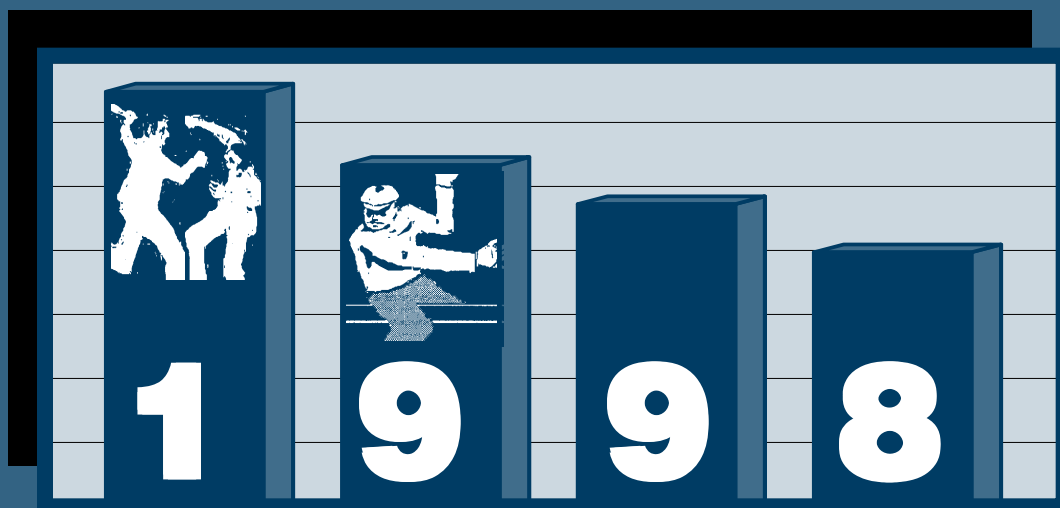


CRIME & DELINQUENCY IN CALIFORNIA



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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California Department of Justice
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**CRIME &
DELINQUENCY
IN CALIFORNIA
1998**

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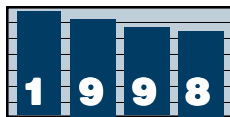
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The role of the Criminal Justice Statistics Center is:

- *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.*

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MESSAGE	vi
HIGHLIGHTS	viii
CRIMES	2
Crime Trends, 1952-1998	3
California Crime Index	4
Violent Crimes	5
Property Crimes	11
Larceny-theft	16
Value of Stolen and Recovered Property	18
Arson	20
Clearances	22
ARRESTS	26
Arrest Trends, 1960-1998	27
Total Arrests	28
Felony Arrests	31
Arrests for Violent Offenses	33
Arrests for Property Offenses	40
Arrests for Drug Offenses	47
Misdemeanor Arrests	53
Personal Characteristics of Felony and Misdemeanor Arrestees	60
ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS	66
Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions	68
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted	70
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Violent Offenses	71
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Property Offenses	72
Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Drug Offenses	73
Conviction Rates	74
ADULT CORRECTIONS	78
Adults Under State and Local Supervision	79
Adults Under State Supervision	80
Adults Under Local Supervision	81
Adults on Active Probation	82
Adults Placed on Probation	83
Adults Removed from Probation	84
Adults Committed to State Institutions	85
CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES AND PERSONNEL	88
Expenditures	89
Personnel	92
OTHER DATA BASES	95
Citizens' Complaints Against Peace Officers	96
Domestic Violence	97
DATA SECTION	100
APPENDIX	167
Data Characteristics and Known Limitations	168
Criminal Justice Glossary	170
Arrest Offense Codes	174
Computational Formulas	176
Notes	178



data section contents

Table	Page	Table	Page
CRIMES		ARRESTS	
1 CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEX, 1952-1998 Number and Rate per 100,000 Population	100	16 TOTAL ARRESTS, 1952-1998 Number and Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk	112
2 CRIMES, 1993-1998 FBI AND CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEXES Number, Rate per 100,000 Population, and Percent Change	101	17 TOTAL ARRESTS, 1993-1998 Number, Rate per 100,000 Population, and Percent Change	114
3 CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEX, 1993-1998 By Category and Crime	102	18 TOTAL ARRESTS, 1993-1998 By Level of Offense for Adult and Juvenile Arrests	115
4 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1993-1998 By Type of Weapon Used	102	19 FELONY ARRESTS, 1993-1998 By Category	115
5 FORCIBLE RAPE CRIMES, 1993-1998 Number and Rate per 100,000 Female Population	103	20 FELONY ARRESTS, 1993-1998 By Category and Offense	116
6 ROBBERY CRIMES, 1993-1998 By Location, Type of Robbery, and Type of Weapon Used	103	21 FELONY ARRESTS, 1993-1998 By Category and Offense for Adult and Juvenile Arrests	117
7 ASSAULT CRIMES, 1993-1998 By Type of Assault and Type of Weapon Used	104	22 FELONY ARRESTS, 1993-1998 Number, Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk, and Percent Change	119
8 BURGLARY CRIMES, 1993-1998 By Location, Time of Day, Type of Burglary, and Type of Entry	104	23 ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1993-1998 By Category, Offense, and Law Enforcement Disposition	122
9 MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT CRIMES, 1993-1998 By Type of Vehicle	105	24 JUVENILE FELONY ARRESTS, 1993-1998 By Category, Offense, and Law Enforcement Disposition	123
10 LARCENY-THEFT CRIMES, 1993-1998 Number, Rate per 100,000 Population, and Percent Change	105	25 MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1993-1998 By Offense	124
11 LARCENY-THEFT CRIMES, 1993-1998 By Type and Value Categories	106	26 MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1993-1998 By Offense for Adult and Juvenile Arrests	125
12 VALUE OF STOLEN AND RECOVERED PROPERTY, 1993-1998 By Type and Percent Change	107	27 MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1993-1998 Number, Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk, and Percent Change	126
13 VALUE OF STOLEN AND RECOVERED PROPERTY, 1993-1998 By Type of Property	108	28 ADULT MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1993-1998 By Offense and Law Enforcement Disposition	127
13A STOLEN AND RECOVERED PROPERTY, 1993-1998 By Type of Property and Percent Recovered	109	29 JUVENILE MISDEMEANOR AND STATUS OFFENSE ARRESTS, 1993-1998 By Level of Offense, Offense, and Law Enforcement Disposition	128
14 ARSON CRIMES, 1993-1998 By Type of Property and Value of Property Damage	110	30 FELONY AND MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1998 Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnic Group of Arrestee	129
15 CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEX CRIMES CLEARED, 1993-1998 Number of Crimes, Clearances and Clearance Rate	111	31 GENDER AND RACE/ETHNIC GROUP OF FELONY ARRESTEES, 1998 By Category and Offense	130

Table	Page	Table	Page
32 AGE OF FELONY ARRESTEES, 1998 Category and Offense	131	45 ADULTS ON ACTIVE PROBATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993-1998 By Type of Court	154
33 GENDER AND RACE/ETHNIC GROUP OF FELONY ARRESTEES, 1998 By Category, Offense and Age	132	46 ADULTS PLACED ON AND REMOVED FROM PROBATION, 1993-1998 By Type of Court, Type of Removal, and Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk	155
34 GENDER AND RACE/ETHNIC GROUP OF MISDEMEANOR ARRESTEES, 1998 By Offense	138	47 ADULTS COMMITTED TO STATE INSTITUTIONS, 1993-1998 By Type of Commitment, Type of Institution, and Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk	156
35 AGE OF MISDEMEANOR ARRESTEES, 1998 By Offense	139	CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES AND PERSONNEL	
36 GENDER AND RACE/ETHNIC GROUP OF MISDEMEANOR ARRESTEES, 1998 By Offense and Age	140	48 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY EXPENDITURES, FISCAL YEARS 1951/52-1997/98	157
ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS		49 CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES, FISCAL YEARS 1992/93-1997/98 By Current-Dollar and Constant-Dollar Expenditures	158
37 ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1975-1998 By Type of Disposition	145	50 CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES, FISCAL YEARS 1992/93-1997/98 By Type of Agency	158
38 ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1993-1998 By Type of Disposition and Sentence Percent Distribution of Complaints Filed	146	51 CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENDITURES, FISCAL YEARS 1992/93-1997/98 By Type of Agency	159
38A ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1993-1998 By Type of Disposition and Sentence Percent Distribution of Complaints Filed	147	52 CRIMINAL JUSTICE FULL-TIME PERSONNEL, 1952-1998 By Type of Agency	160
39 ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1993-1998 By Type of Disposition	148	53 CRIMINAL JUSTICE FULL-TIME PERSONNEL, 1993-1998 By Type of Agency and Personnel Classification	161
40 ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1998 Arrest Offense Category by Type of Disposition	148	54 LAW ENFORCEMENT FULL-TIME PERSONNEL, 1993-1998 By Type of Agency	162
41 ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1993-1998 By Convicted Offense Category and Type of Sentence	149	55 CRIMINAL JUSTICE FULL-TIME PERSONNEL, 1993-1998 By Type of Agency	163
42 ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1998 Convicted Offense Category by Type of Sentence	150	OTHER DATA BASES	
ADULT CORRECTIONS		56 CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS AGAINST PEACE OFFICERS, 1981-1998 Type of Complaint and Level of Criminal Complaint	163
43 ADULTS UNDER STATE AND LOCAL SUPERVISION, 1952-1998 Number and Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk	151	57 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE, 1986-1998 Type of Call and Weapon	164
44 ADULTS UNDER STATE AND LOCAL SUPERVISION, 1993-1998 By Type of Supervision and Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk	152	POPULATION	
44A ADULTS UNDER STATE AND LOCAL SUPERVISION, 1993-1998 By Type of Supervision and Percent Distribution	153	58 POPULATION ESTIMATES, 1952-1998	165



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.

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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