

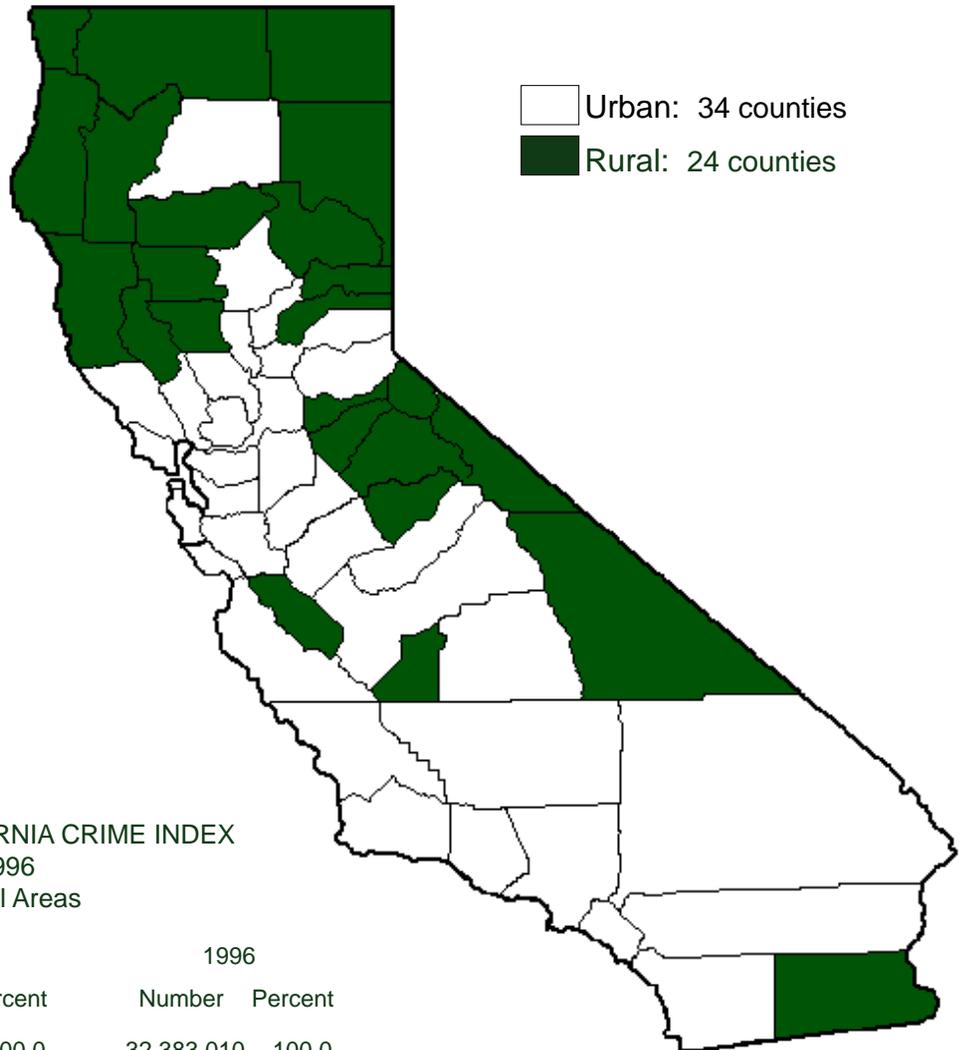
## OUTLOOK•

# CRIME IN URBAN AND RURAL CALIFORNIA

A frequent question asked is how urban crime rates compare to rural crime rates in California. Using Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) definitions provided by the California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, this *Outlook* examines annual crime rates for urban and rural areas in California for the years 1987 through 1996. (Definitions and urban/rural county designations appear on the back page.)

In general, from 1987 to 1996:

- Urban areas comprised about 97 percent of the population and reported about 98 percent of the crime.
- Rural areas comprised about 3 percent of the population and reported about 2 percent of the crime.

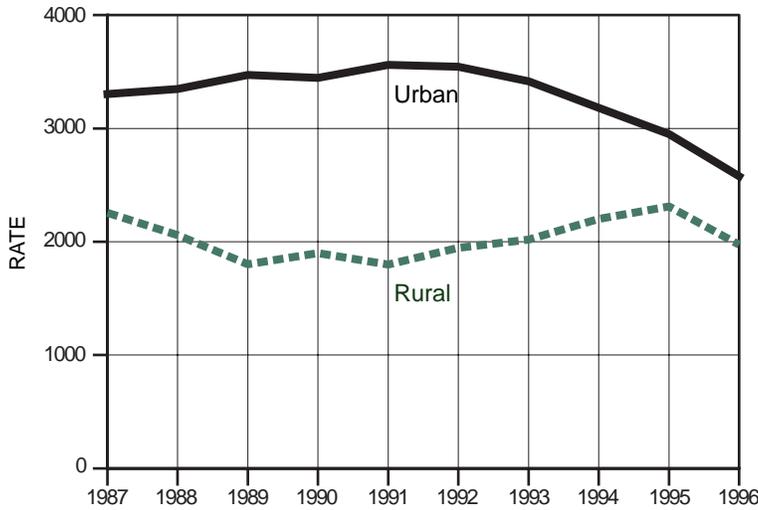


POPULATION AND CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEX  
 1987 and 1996  
 Urban and Rural Areas

	1987		1996	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total population .....	27,662,900	100.0	32,383,010	100.0
Urban .....	26,758,500	96.7	31,312,400	96.7
Rural .....	904,400	3.3	1,070,610	3.3
CCI <sup>a</sup> offenses reported ....	904,014	100.0	828,649	100.0
Urban .....	883,611	97.7	807,511	97.5
Rural .....	20,403	2.3	21,138	2.6

<sup>a</sup> The California Crime Index (CCI) is comprised of the violent crimes of willful homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault and the property crimes of burglary and motor vehicle theft.

**CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEX, 1987-1996**  
**Urban and Rural Crime Rates per 100,000 Population**



**Crime Rates...**

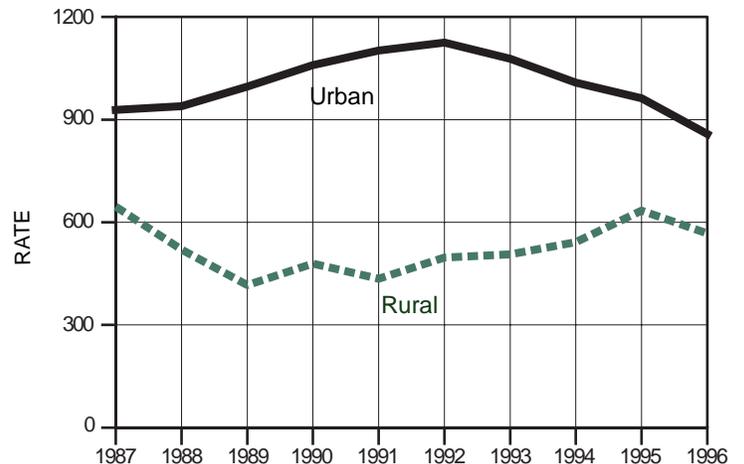
Comparing 1987 to 1996, both urban and rural crime rates decreased (down 21.9 and 12.5 percent, respectively).

However, since 1991, the crime rate for urban areas decreased each of the five years while the rural crime rate increased for four of the five years.

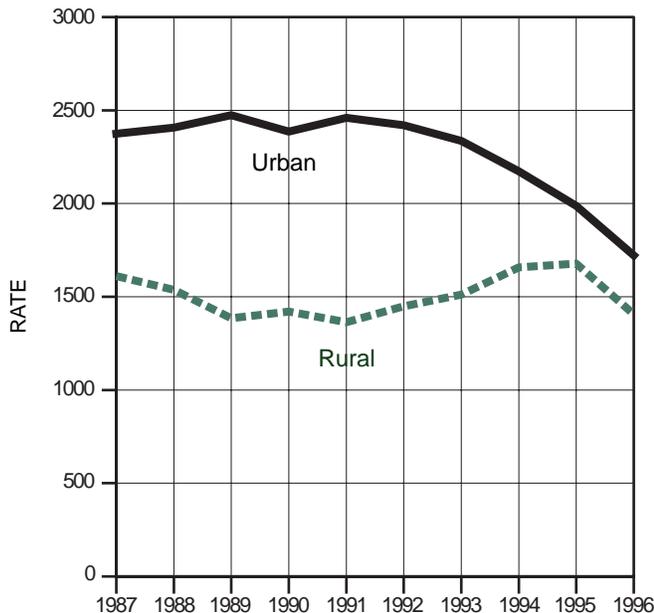
**Violent crimes...**

Throughout the ten-year period, the violent crime rate for urban counties was one and one-half to two and one-half times greater than the rates for rural counties.

**VIOLENT CRIMES, 1987-1996**  
**Urban and Rural Crime Rates per 100,000 Population**



**PROPERTY CRIMES, 1987-1996**  
**Urban and Rural Crime Rates per 100,000 Population**



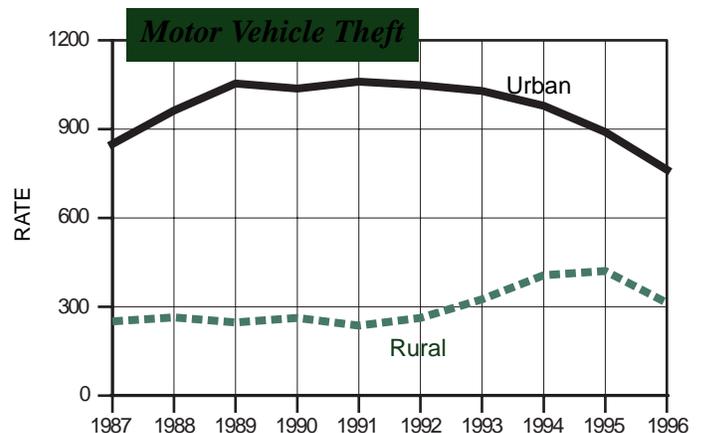
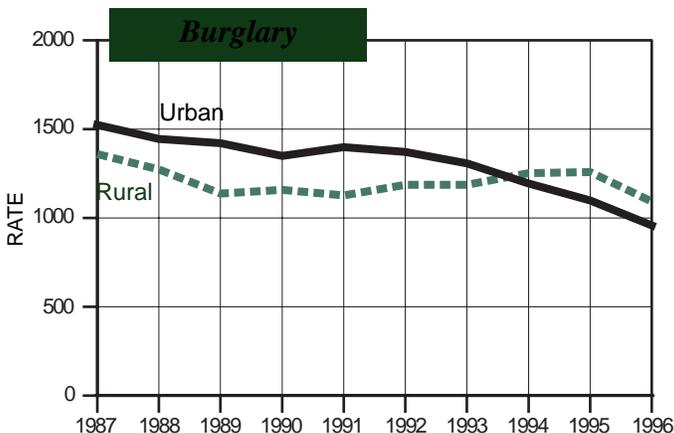
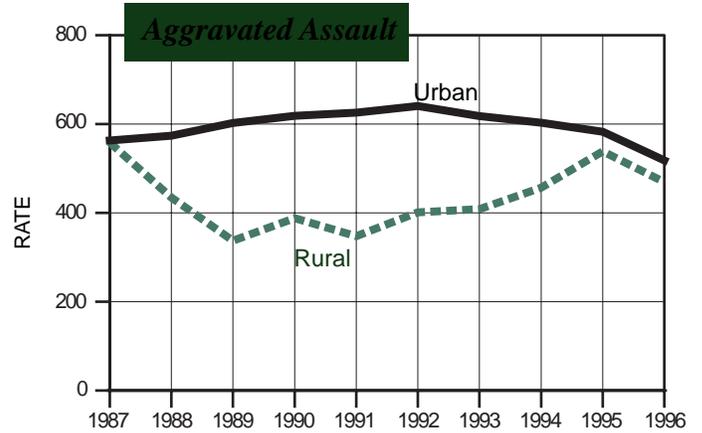
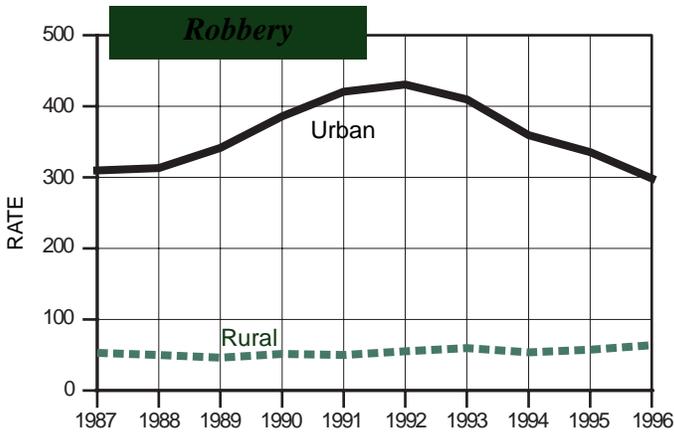
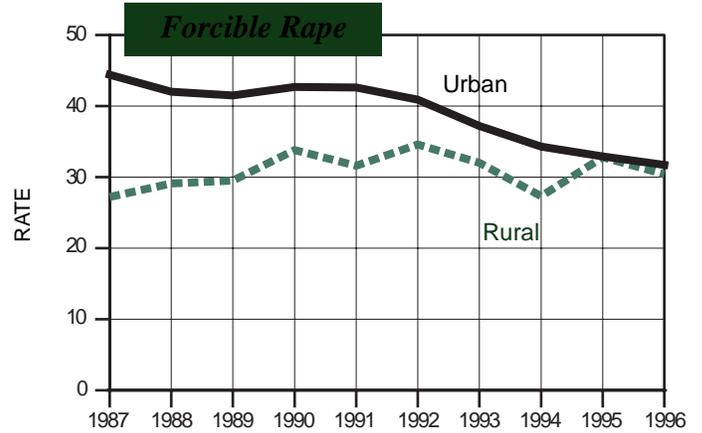
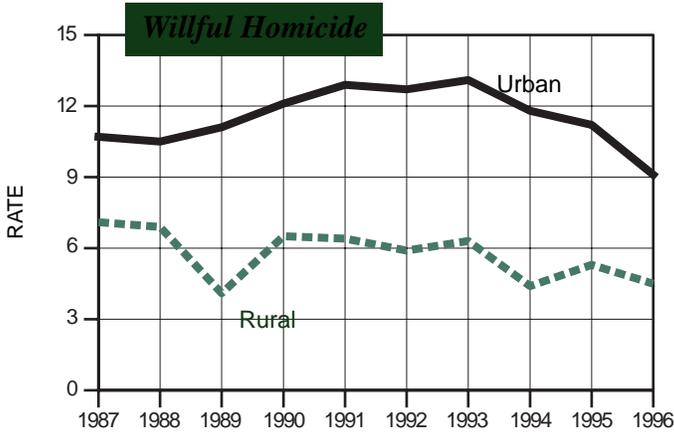
**Property crimes...**

The urban property crime rate was 47.4 percent higher than the rural rate in 1987 and only 22.4 percent higher in 1996.

Regardless of offense, urban crime rates were generally higher than rural crime rates. The only exception occurred in the burglary category where, since 1994, the rural crime rate has surpassed the urban crime rate.

The largest variance is in the robbery category where urban rates were between five and eight times greater than the rates for rural areas.

### CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEX OFFENSES, 1987-1996 Urban and Rural Crime Rates per 100,000 Population



Note: Use care when comparing charts as scales vary.

For purposes of this report, the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) of California, consisting of 34 counties, were designated as urban. A MSA is defined as a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. Each MSA must include:

- a. One city with 50,000 or more inhabitants, or
- b. A Census Bureau-defined urbanized area and a total MSA population of at least 100,000.

All other counties (24) were designated rural. It is recognized that some "urban" counties may have sparsely-populated rural areas; however, for statistical comparison, entire counties have been classified as either urban or rural.

Urban counties are: Alameda, Butte, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba.

Rural counties in California are: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Plumas, San Benito, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, and Tuolumne.

## CALIFORNIA CRIME INDEX, 1987-1996

### Urban and Rural Crime Rates per 100,000 Population

		Total	Violent crimes	Willful homicide	For-cible rape	Rob-bery	Aggra-vated assault	Property crimes	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft
1987	Urban ....	3,302.2	927.9	10.7	44.4	309.8	563.1	2,374.2	1,524.3	849.9
	Rural .....	2,256.0	645.5	7.1	27.2	53.1	558.2	1,610.5	1,359.4	251.1
1988	Urban ....	3,346.5	939.1	10.5	42.0	313.1	573.5	2,407.4	1,445.0	962.4
	Rural .....	2,058.1	520.6	6.9	29.1	50.1	434.6	1,537.5	1,273.2	264.4
1989	Urban ....	3,470.8	996.5	11.1	41.5	341.6	602.3	2,474.2	1,420.7	1,053.6
	Rural .....	1,801.3	416.9	4.1	29.5	46.2	337.1	1,384.4	1,137.4	247.0
1990	Urban ....	3,445.0	1,059.4	12.1	42.7	386.0	618.6	2,385.6	1,349.0	1,036.6
	Rural .....	1,899.9	479.5	6.5	33.8	51.4	387.9	1,420.4	1,157.9	262.5
1991	Urban ....	3,561.1	1,101.7	12.9	42.6	420.4	625.8	2,459.5	1,399.2	1,060.2
	Rural .....	1,798.4	435.2	6.4	31.6	49.9	347.3	1,363.2	1,126.9	236.3
1992	Urban ....	3,544.2	1,124.6	12.7	40.9	430.5	640.4	2,419.6	1,371.3	1,048.3
	Rural .....	1,945.6	496.7	5.9	34.6	55.2	400.9	1,449.0	1,186.6	262.3
1993	Urban ....	3,414.3	1,077.9	13.1	37.2	409.7	617.8	2,336.4	1,307.2	1,029.2
	Rural .....	2,017.8	506.7	6.3	32.0	59.7	408.5	1,511.1	1,186.4	324.7
1994	Urban ....	3,180.6	1,008.0	11.8	34.3	359.2	602.7	2,172.6	1,194.1	978.5
	Rural .....	2,200.7	542.2	4.4	27.3	53.7	456.8	1,658.4	1,252.0	406.4
1995	Urban ....	2,950.1	962.1	11.2	32.9	335.4	582.6	1,988.0	1,098.2	889.8
	Rural .....	2,312.2	633.9	5.3	32.8	57.3	538.6	1,678.3	1,257.6	420.7
1996	Urban ....	2,578.9	857.8	9.1	31.7	298.5	518.5	1,721.1	958.3	762.8
	Rural .....	1,974.4	567.8	4.5	30.4	63.7	469.2	1,406.6	1,093.0	313.6
Percent change (1987 to 1996)										
	Urban ....	-21.9	-7.6	-15.0	-28.6	-3.6	-7.9	-27.5	-37.1	-10.2
	Rural .....	-12.5	-12.0	-36.6	11.8	20.0	-15.9	-12.7	-19.6	24.9

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The California Department of Justice  
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