



ARRESTS

PART ONE

- PREFACE
- CONTENTS
- CRIMES
- ARRESTS (PART TWO) 
- DISPOSITIONS
- ADULT CORRECTIONS
- EXPENDITURES & PERSONNEL
- OTHER DATA BASES
- APPENDIX

ARRESTS

WHAT IS AN ARREST?

Arrests occur when persons are taken into custody because they are believed to have violated the law. Not all arrests result in persons being placed in jail. Arrestees may be released by the arresting agency, may post bail or may be released on their own recognizance to appear in court at a later date. Some are issued citations, much like traffic tickets, which direct them to appear in court.

Arrests are divided into two major groups: felony arrests and misdemeanor arrests. An arrest for a felony-level offense can result in a sentence to state prison if the offender is convicted as an adult. An arrest for a misdemeanor-level offense can result in a sentence of up to one year in a county jail, a fine, probation or any combination of the three.

Juveniles may also be arrested for truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations. These are commonly referred to as status offenses because agency intervention is based solely on the juvenile's status as a minor. Status offenses are acts that would not be "crimes" if committed by adults.

HOW ARE ARRESTS REPORTED?

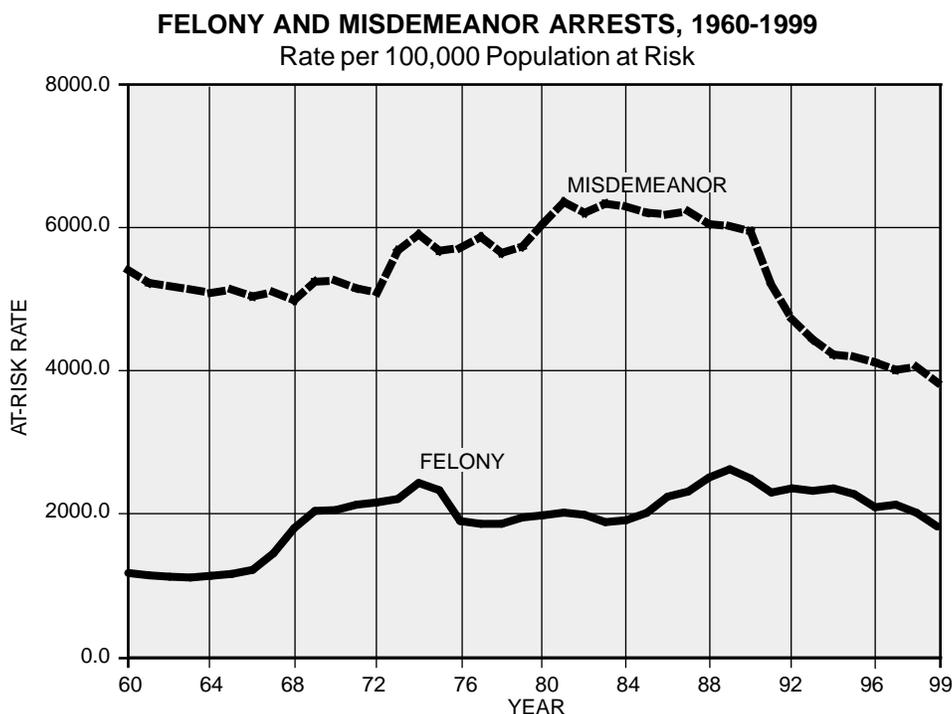
Unlike crimes, which are classified by nationwide Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards, arrests are reported by California statute definition of the offense. This may cause some differences in the definitions of certain crimes and the reporting of the arrests for those crimes. For instance, theft from a locked automobile is a burglary by California Penal Code definition. The crime would be classified and reported as a theft under the UCR definition. The arrest offenses in this section are defined by California statute for which specific code sections are listed in the [Appendix](#).

All California law enforcement agencies report arrest and citation information to the Department of Justice on the "Monthly Arrest and Citation Register," which lists each arrestee; includes information on age, gender, and race/ethnic group; and specifies the "most serious" arrest offense and law enforcement disposition.

WHAT IS AN ARREST RATE?

An arrest rate describes the number of arrests made by law enforcement agencies per 100,000 total population or per 100,000 population considered to be at risk for arrest. The following section includes three at-risk comparison populations: total (10-69 years of age), adult (18-69 years of age), and juvenile (10-17 years of age). The formula used to calculate at-risk rates can be found in the [Appendix](#).

ARREST TRENDS, 1960-1999



Source: Table 16.

Note: These 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.

The above chart displays arrest rates beginning with 1960, the first year complete data were available. Felony and misdemeanor arrest rates are based on populations at risk.

Comparing 1960 to 1999:

- There was a 55.5 percent increase in the rate of felony arrests (from 1,170.0 to 1,819.9).
- There was a 29.1 percent decrease in the rate of misdemeanor arrests (from 5,404.0 to 3,834.0).

Felony arrests as a proportion of total arrests increased from 15.4 percent in 1960 to 31.3 percent in 1999.

The 1999 misdemeanor arrest rate of 3,834.0 per 100,000 population at risk was the lowest for the years shown. Misdemeanor arrests as a proportion of total arrests decreased from 71.4 percent in 1960 to 65.9 percent in 1999.

ARRESTS

Total Arrests

Comparing 1994 to 1999:

- There was a 13.0 percent decrease in the rate of total arrests.
- There was a 13.9 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and an 8.9 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

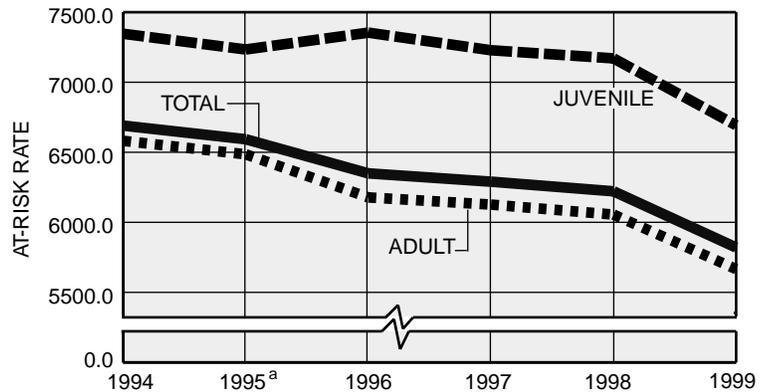
From 1998 to 1999:

- There was a 6.5 percent rate decrease in total arrests.
- There was a 6.4 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 6.7 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

In 1999, of 1,496,459 arrests reported:

From 1998 to 1999, the arrest rate decreased 6.5 percent. This was the tenth consecutive year of decline (see Table 16).

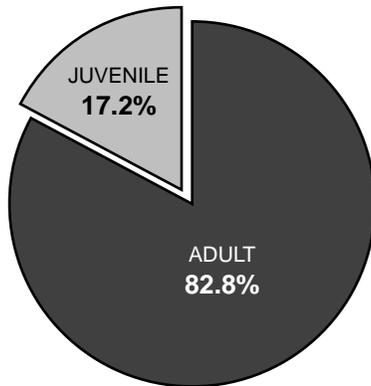
TOTAL ARRESTS, 1994-1999
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 17.

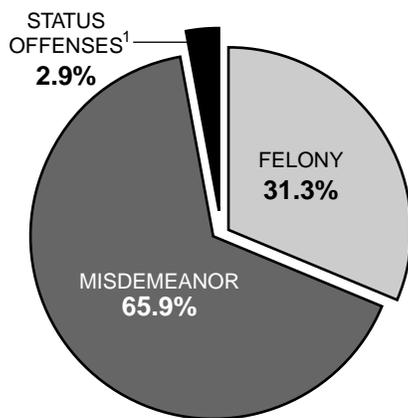
^a These 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.

TOTAL ARRESTS, 1999
By Adult and Juvenile



Source: Table 18.

TOTAL ARRESTS, 1999
By Level of Offense



Source: Table 18.

Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

¹ Status offenses include truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations.

Total Arrests (continued)

- Adult arrests accounted for 82.8 percent (1,238,334).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 17.2 percent (258,125).

And,

- Felony arrests accounted for 31.3 percent (467,936).
- Misdemeanor arrests accounted for 65.9 percent (985,784).
- Status offense arrests accounted for 2.9 percent (42,739).

ARRESTS

Total Arrests (continued)

Comparing 1994 to 1999:

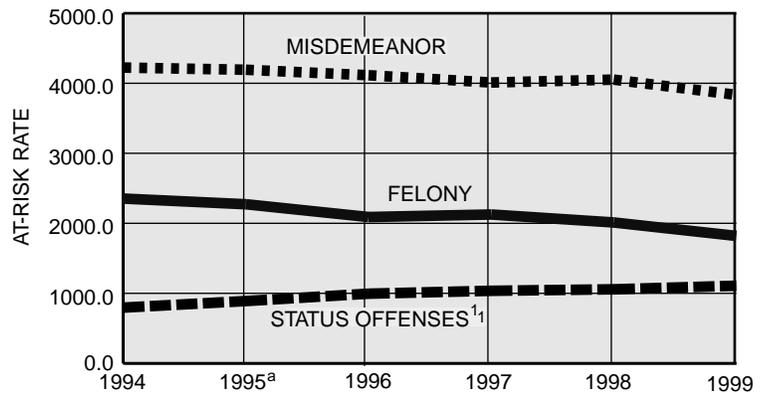
- There was a 22.7 percent decrease in the rate of felony arrests.
- There was a 9.2 percent decrease in the rate of misdemeanor arrests.
- There was a 39.2 percent increase in the rate of status offense arrests.

From 1998 to 1999:

- There was a 9.5 percent rate decrease in felony arrests.
- There was a 5.4 percent rate decrease in misdemeanor arrests.
- There was a 4.8 percent rate increase in arrests for status offenses.

The 1999 felony and misdemeanor arrest rates are the lowest for the years shown.

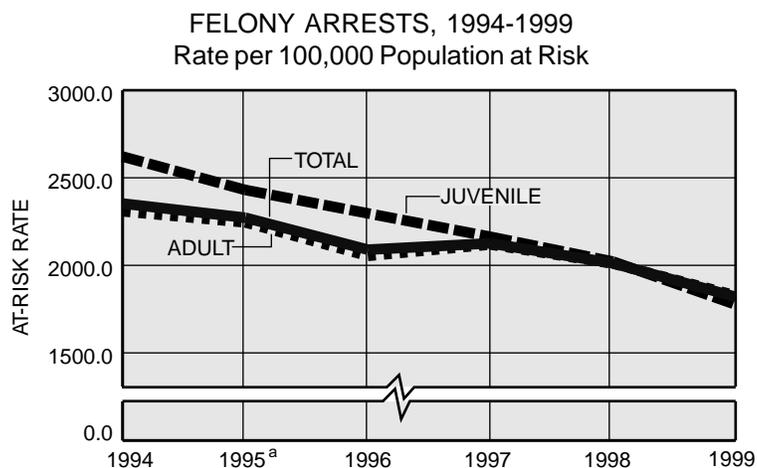
TOTAL ARRESTS, 1994-1999
By Level of Offense
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 17.

¹ Status offenses include truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations.

^a These 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.



Source: Table 17.

^a These 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.

Felony Arrests

Comparing 1994 to 1999:

- There was a 22.7 percent decrease in the rate of total felony arrests.
- There was a 20.8 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 32.2 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 1998 to 1999:

- There was a 9.5 percent rate decrease in total felony arrests.
- There was a 9.1 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 12.1 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

In 1999, the juvenile arrest rate for felony offenses fell below that of the adult rate for the first time (see Table 16).

ARRESTS

Felony Arrests (continued)

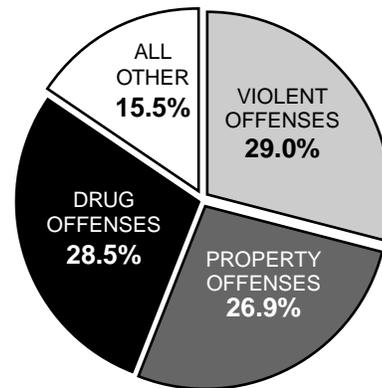
In 1999, of 467,936 felony arrests reported:

- Violent offenses accounted for 29.0 percent (135,930).
- Property offenses accounted for 26.9 percent (126,108).
- Drug offenses accounted for 28.5 percent (133,437).
- All other offenses accounted for 15.5 percent (72,461).

And,

- Adult arrests accounted for 85.4 percent (399,433).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 14.6 percent (68,503).

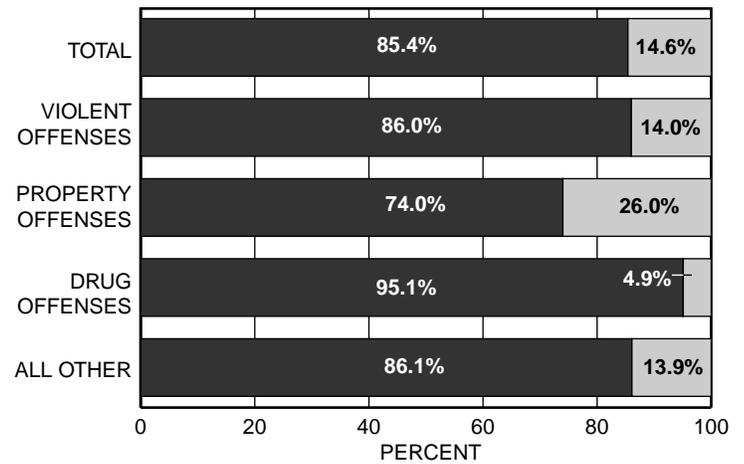
FELONY ARRESTS, 1999
By Category



Source: Table 19.

Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

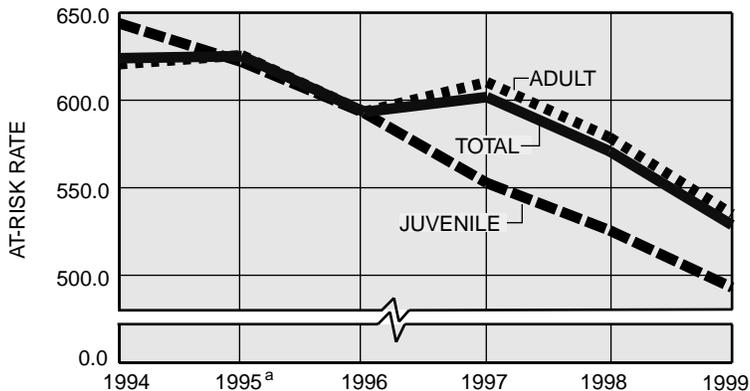
FELONY ARRESTS, 1999
Category by Adult and Juvenile Arrests



■ ADULT
■ JUVENILE

Source: Table 21.

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
VIOLENT OFFENSES, 1994-1999
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

^a These 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.

Arrests for Violent Offenses

Violent Offense Arrests - felony arrests for homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, and kidnapping.

Comparing 1994 to 1999:

- There was a 15.3 percent decrease in the rate of total arrests for violent offenses.
- There was a 13.8 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 23.4 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 1998 to 1999:

- There was a 7.4 percent rate decrease in total arrests for violent offenses.
- There was a 7.6 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 6.2 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

The juvenile arrest rate for violent offenses decreased steadily since 1994.

ARRESTS

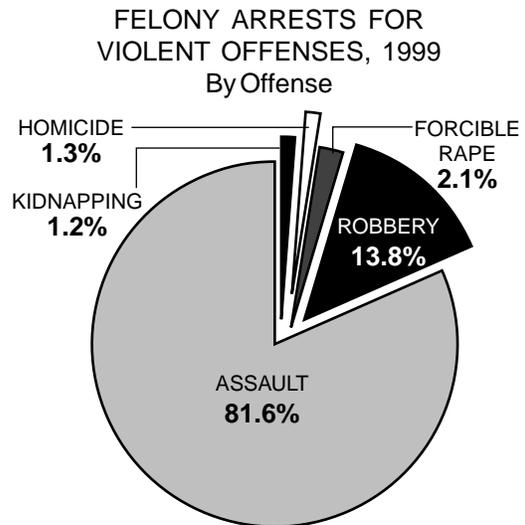
Arrests for Violent Offenses (continued)

In 1999, of 135,930 felony arrests for violent offenses:

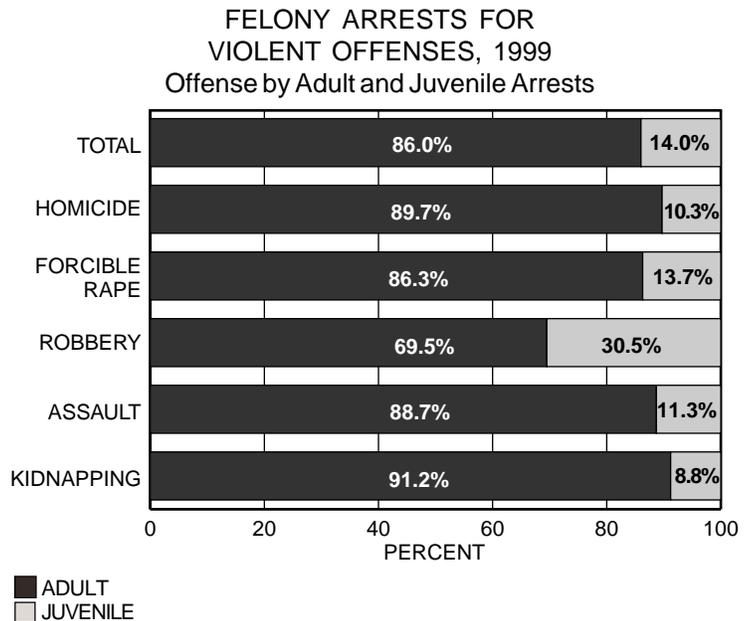
- Homicide accounted for 1.3 percent (1,770).
- Forcible rape accounted for 2.1 percent (2,887).
- Robbery accounted for 13.8 percent (18,753).
- Assault accounted for 81.6 percent (110,909).
- Kidnapping accounted for 1.2 percent (1,611).

And,

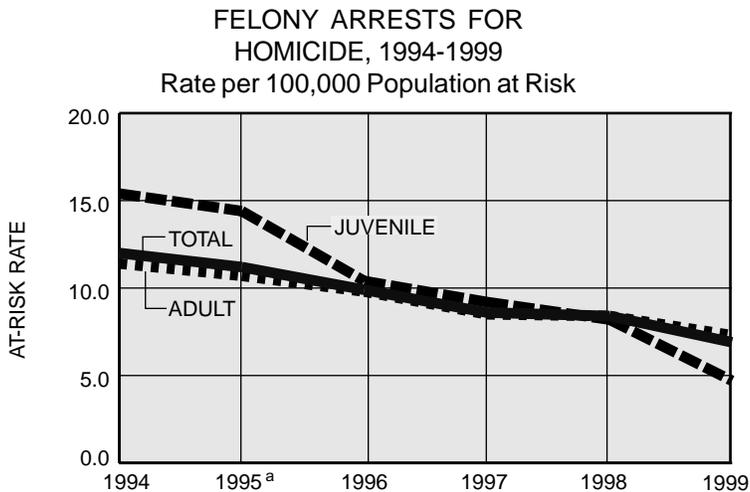
- Adult arrests accounted for 86.0 percent (116,917).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 14.0 percent (19,013).



Source: Table 20.



Source: Table 21.



Source: Table 22.

^aThese 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.

Homicide Arrests

Comparing 1994 to 1999:

- There was a 42.5 percent decrease in the rate of total homicide arrests.
- There was a 36.0 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 69.5 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 1998 to 1999:

- There was a 17.9 percent decrease in the rate of total homicide arrests.
- There was a 13.1 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 42.7 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

In 1999, of 1,770 arrests for homicide:

- Adult arrests accounted for 89.7 percent (1,588).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 10.3 percent (182).

In 1999, homicide arrest rates for both juveniles and adults were the lowest for the years shown.

ARRESTS

Forcible Rape Arrests

Comparing 1994 to 1999:

- There was a 16.4 percent decrease in the rate of total forcible rape arrests.
- There was a 14.9 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 21.4 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 1998 to 1999:

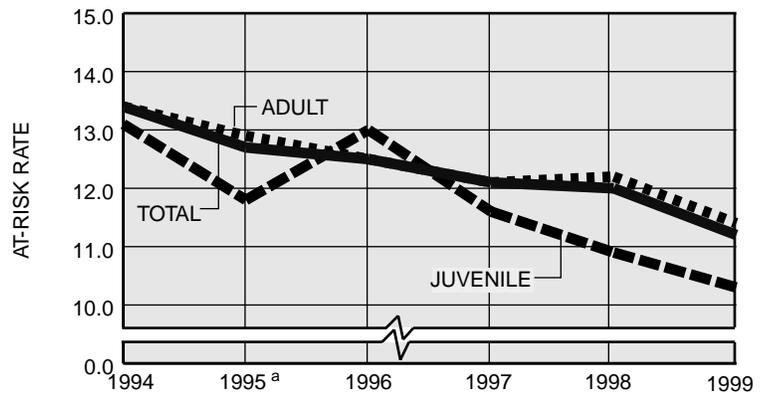
- There was a 6.7 percent rate decrease in total forcible rape arrests.
- There was a 6.6 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 5.5 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

In 1999, of 2,887 arrests for forcible rape:

- Adult arrests accounted for 86.3 percent (2,491).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 13.7 percent (396).

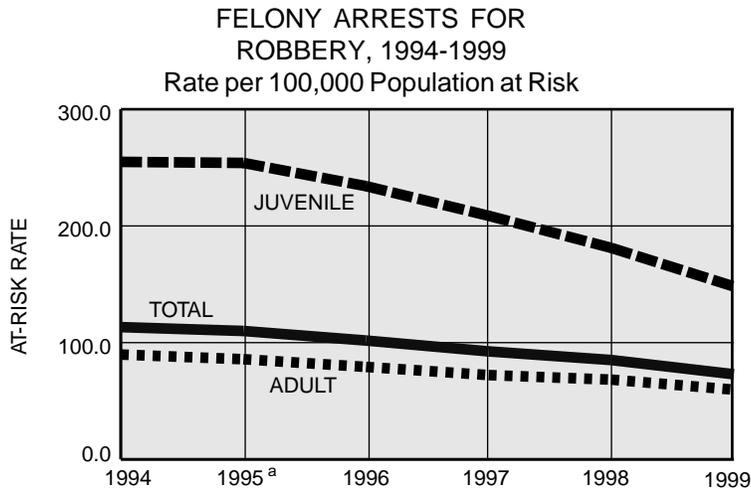
In 1999, forcible rape arrest rates for both juveniles and adults were the lowest for the years shown.

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
FORCIBLE RAPE, 1994-1999
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

^a These 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.



Source: Table 22.

^a These 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.

Robbery Arrests

Comparing 1994 to 1999:

- There was a 35.7 percent decrease in the rate of total robbery arrests.
- There was a 33.5 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 41.9 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 1998 to 1999:

- There was a 14.3 percent rate decrease in total robbery arrests.
- There was a 12.6 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and an 18.3 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

In 1999, of 18,753 arrests for robbery:

- Adult arrests accounted for 69.5 percent (13,041).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 30.5 percent (5,712).

Arrest rates for robbery offenses decreased steadily from 1994 to 1999.

ARRESTS

Assault Arrests

Comparing 1994 to 1999:

- There was a 9.4 percent decrease in the rate of total assault arrests.
- There was a 9.3 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and an 8.3 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 1998 to 1999:

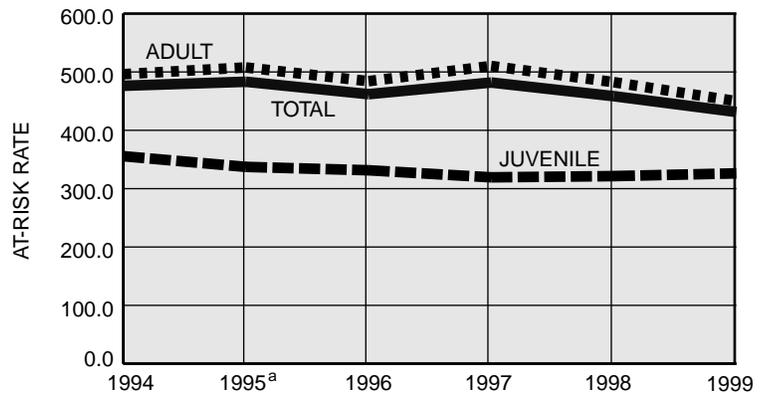
- There was a 5.9 percent rate decrease in total assault arrests.
- There was a 6.8 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 1.5 percent increase in the rate of juvenile arrests.

In 1999, of 110,909 arrests for assault:

- Adult arrests accounted for 88.7 percent (98,327).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 11.3 percent (12,582).

From 1998 to 1999, the juvenile arrest rate for assault was the only category of violent offenses to show an increase (1.5 percent).

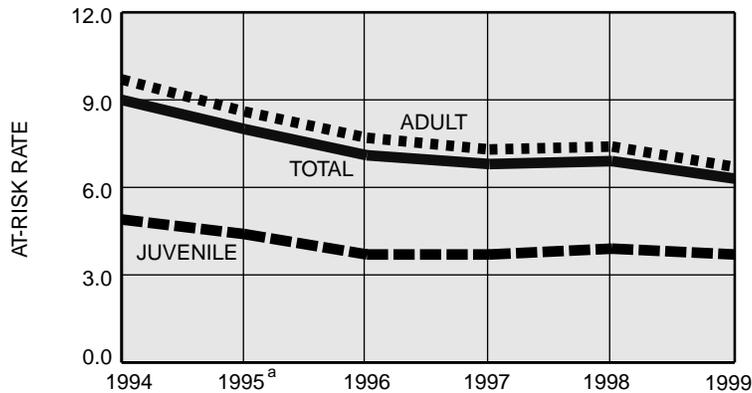
FELONY ARRESTS FOR
ASSAULT, 1994-1999
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

^a These 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
KIDNAPPING, 1994-1999
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

^a These 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.

Kidnapping Arrests

Comparing 1994 to 1999:

- There was a 30.0 percent decrease in the rate of total kidnapping arrests.
- There was a 30.9 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 24.5 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 1998 to 1999:

- There was an 8.7 percent decrease in the rate of total kidnapping arrests.
- There was a 9.5 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 5.1 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

In 1999, of 1,611 arrests for kidnapping:

- Adult arrests accounted for 91.2 percent (1,470).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 8.8 percent (141).

ARRESTS

Arrests for Property Offenses

Property Offense Arrests - felony arrests for burglary; theft; motor vehicle theft; forgery, checks, and access card offenses; and arson.

Comparing 1994 to 1999:

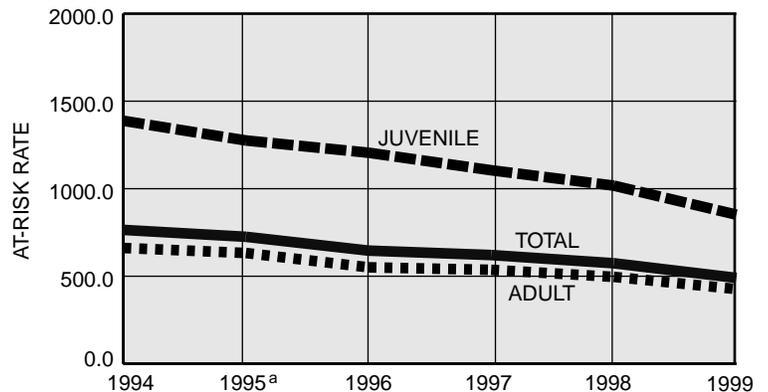
- There was a 35.9 percent decrease in the rate of total arrests for property offenses.
- There was a 35.5 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 38.6 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 1998 to 1999:

- There was a 14.6 percent rate decrease in total arrests for property offenses.
- There was a 14.0 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 16.3 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

Property offense arrest rates for both juveniles and adults have been decreasing since 1994.

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
PROPERTY OFFENSES, 1994-1999
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

^a These 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.

