



# ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS

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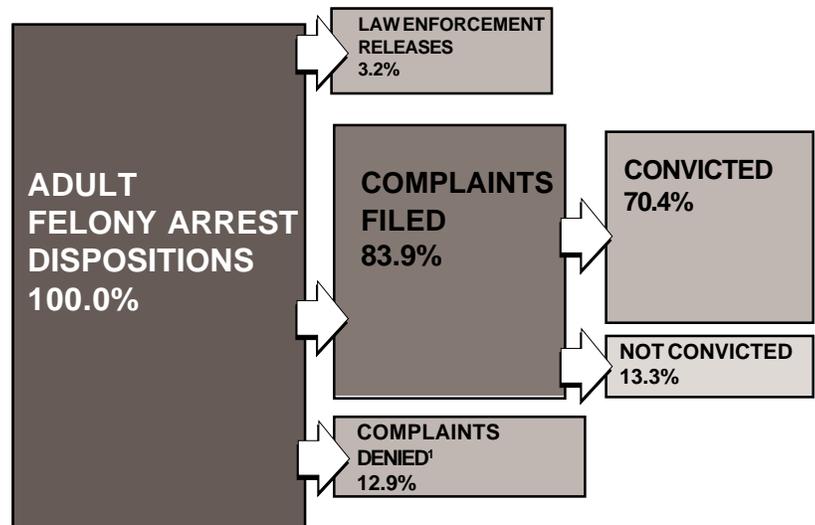
# DISPOSITIONS

The Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) system in California describes the processing of adults arrested for felony offenses from arrest through final disposition. Data on the adjacent flow chart pertain specifically to adult felony arrests that received final dispositions in 1999 and were added to the Automated Criminal History System (ACHS) by the Department of Justice by May 2000.

## WHAT IS A FINAL DISPOSITION?

In the OBTS system, the term "final disposition" refers to a specific legal action that takes place following an adult felony arrest. Final dispositions shown occur at the law enforcement, prosecutor, or court level. For example, if an arrestee is released by a law enforcement agency or denied by a prosecutor who has determined that there is not enough evidence to justify the filing of a complaint, this release is recorded as a final disposition. If an arrestee is referred to court for adjudication, the outcome (i.e., dismissal, diversion, dismissal, acquittal, or conviction) is also recorded as a final disposition. "Intermediate" dispositions (e.g., placements into diversionary programs) are not included in the OBTS file.

## ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1999<sup>a</sup>



Source: Table 38.

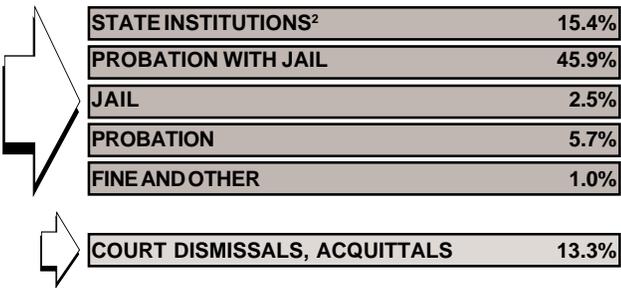
Note: Percents may not add to subtotals or 100.0 because of independent rounding.

<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

<sup>1</sup>The complaints denied category includes single complaints denied, combined cases, and petitions to revoke probation.

<sup>2</sup>The state institutions category includes sentences to death, prison, the California Rehabilitation Center, and the Youth Authority.

# DISPOSITIONS



### HOW ARE OBTS DATA REPORTED?

Dispositions of adult felony arrests were reported by approximately 1,200 agencies in 1999. These agencies include law enforcement, prosecutor, lower court, and superior court levels of the California criminal justice system.

OBTS data are taken directly from the Department of Justice's Automated Criminal History System (ACHS). The arrest dispositions received generally describe statewide processing of adult felony arrestees through California's criminal justice system. (See [Appendix](#) for data characteristics and known limitations.)

OBTS data file for 1999 was closed in May 2000 and is considered preliminary. The "final" file will be closed in Fall 2000. Fluctuations from year to year in counts may not necessarily be due to actual occurrences in the criminal justice system but only reflect the degree to which reports of dispositions are reported and processed. See additional [Data Characteristics and Known Limitations](#) on page 168.

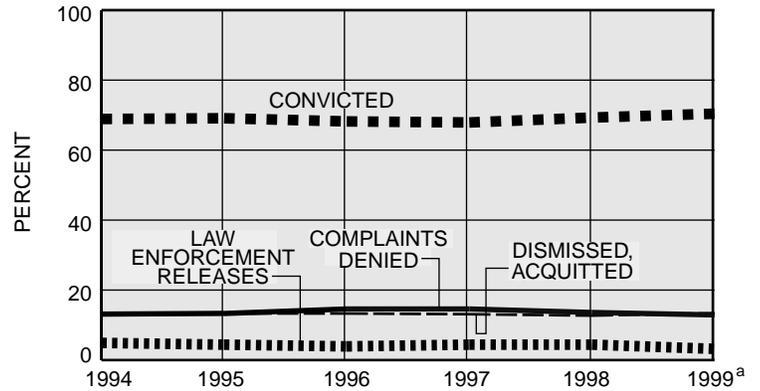
# DISPOSITIONS

## Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions

During the 1994-1999 time period, as a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions:

- Law enforcement releases ranged from 3.2 to 4.9 percent.
- Prosecutor complaints denied ranged from 12.9 to 14.6 percent.
- Dismissals and acquittals ranged from 12.7 to 13.4 percent.
- Convictions ranged from 67.9 to 70.4 percent.

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1994-1999  
Type of Disposition by Year

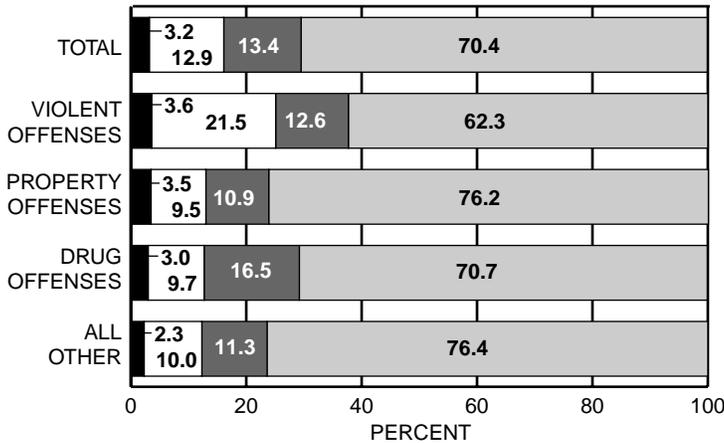


Source: Table 39.

<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

**Adult felony arrest dispositions remained fairly consistent for the years shown.**

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1999<sup>a</sup>  
Arrest Offense Category by Type of Disposition



- LAW ENFORCEMENT RELEASES
- COMPLAINTS DENIED
- DISMISSED, ACQUITTED
- CONVICTED

Source: Table 40.

<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

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

## Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions

In 1999, as a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions:

- Law enforcement releases accounted for 3.2 percent (7,894).
- Prosecutor complaints denied accounted for 12.9 percent (31,720).
- Dismissals or acquittals accounted for 13.4 percent (32,920).
- Convictions accounted for 70.4 percent (172,914).

In 1999, as a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions for each arrest category:

- The largest percentage of prosecutor complaints denied was for the violent offense category (21.5 percent).
- The largest percentage of dismissals and acquittals was for the drug offense category (16.5 percent).
- The largest percentage of convictions was for the property and "all other" offense categories (76.2 and 76.4 percent, respectively).

***In 1999, seven out of ten adult felony arrest dispositions resulted in a conviction.***

# DISPOSITIONS

## Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted

During the 1994-1999 time period, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted and sentenced to:

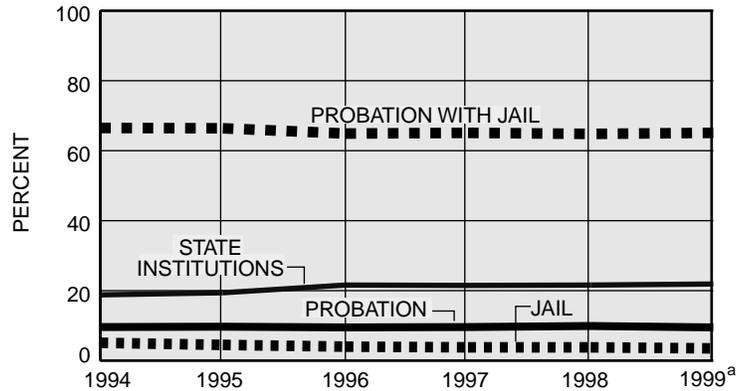
- State institutions ranged from 18.8 to 21.9 percent.
- Probation ranged from 9.5 to 9.9 percent.
- Probation with jail ranged from 64.8 to 66.5 percent.
- Jail ranged from 3.5 to 5.1 percent.

In 1999, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted and sentenced to:

- State institutions accounted for 21.9 percent (37,836).
- Probation accounted for 9.5 percent (16,422).
- Probation with jail accounted for 65.1 percent (112,619).
- Jail accounted for 3.5 percent (6,037).

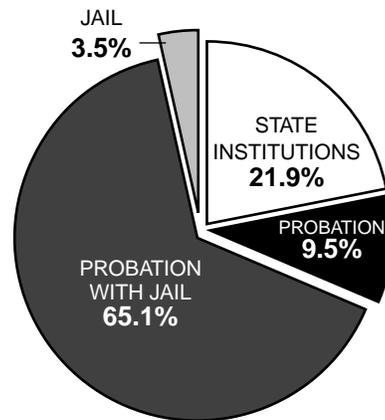
***For the years shown, the most frequent sentence given has consistently been probation with jail.***

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1994-1999  
Type of Sentence by Year



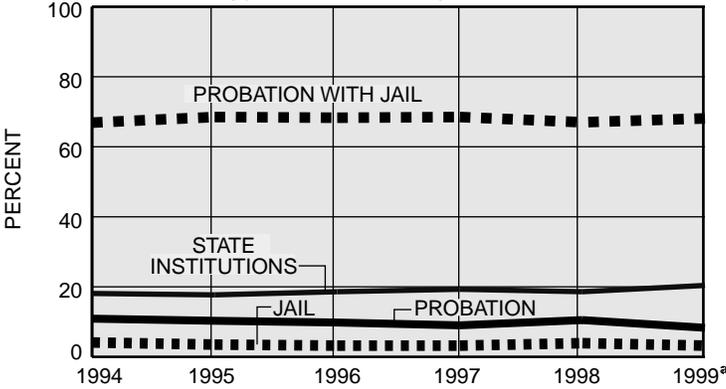
Source: Table 41.  
<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1999<sup>a</sup>  
By Type of Sentence



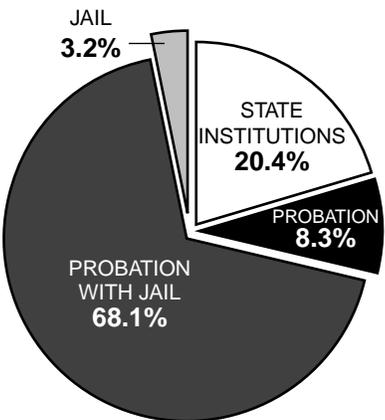
Source: Table 41.  
<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF VIOLENT OFFENSES, 1994-1999  
Type of Sentence by Year



Source: Table 41.  
<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF VIOLENT OFFENSES, 1999<sup>a</sup>  
By Type of Sentence



Source: Table 41.  
<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

## Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Violent Offenses

During the 1994-1999 time period, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of violent offenses and sentenced to:

- State institutions ranged from 17.7 to 20.4 percent.
- Probation ranged from 8.3 to 10.9 percent.
- Probation with jail ranged from 66.9 to 68.5 percent.
- Jail ranged from 3.2 to 4.1 percent.

In 1999, of adult felony arrestees convicted of violent offenses:

- More than two-thirds received sentences of probation with jail (68.1 percent).
- One-fifth (20.4 percent) received sentences to state institutions.

# DISPOSITIONS

## Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Property Offenses

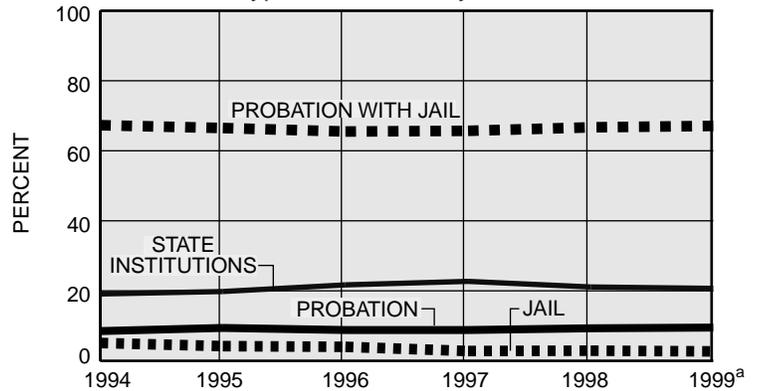
During the 1994-1999 time period, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of property offenses and sentenced to:

- State institutions ranged from 19.1 to 22.7 percent.
- Probation ranged from 8.5 to 9.5 percent.
- Probation with jail ranged from 65.5 to 67.3 percent.
- Jail ranged from 2.7 to 5.1 percent.

In 1999, of adult felony arrestees convicted of property offenses:

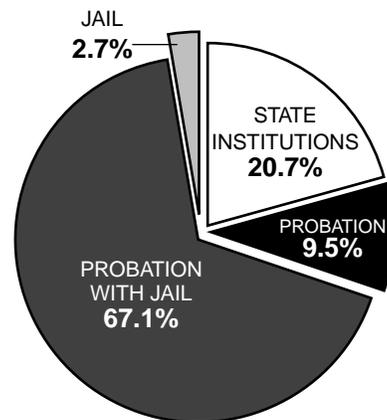
- Probation with jail sentences were most frequent (67.1 percent).
- "Straight" jail sentences were least frequent (2.7 percent).

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF PROPERTY OFFENSES, 1994-1999  
Type of Sentence by Year



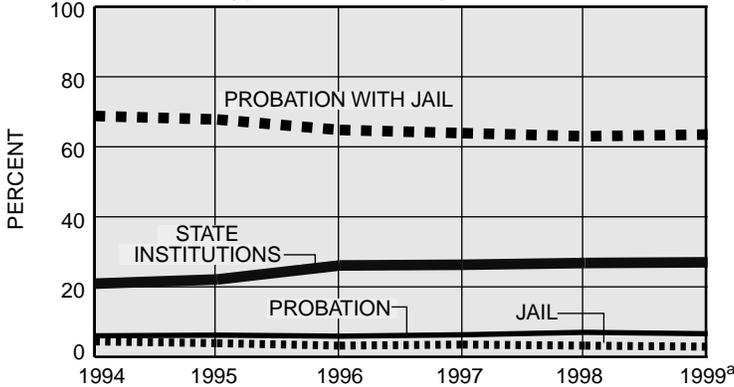
Source: Table 41.  
<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF PROPERTY OFFENSES, 1999<sup>a</sup>  
By Type of Sentence



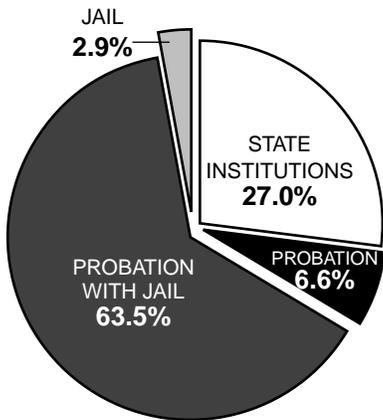
Source: Table 41.  
<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF DRUG OFFENSES, 1994-1999  
Type of Sentence by Year



Source: Table 41.  
<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF DRUG OFFENSES, 1999<sup>a</sup>  
By Type of Sentence



Source: Table 41.  
<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

## Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Drug Offenses

During the 1994-1999 time period, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of drug offenses and sentenced to:

- State institutions ranged from 20.9 to 27.0 percent.
- Probation ranged from 5.9 to 7.0 percent.
- Probation with jail ranged from 63.0 to 68.8 percent.
- Jail ranged from 2.9 to 4.4 percent.

In 1999, of adult felony arrestees convicted of drug offenses:

- Probation with jail sentences were given for the majority of these convictions (63.5 percent).
- "Straight" jail sentences were the least frequent given (2.9 percent).

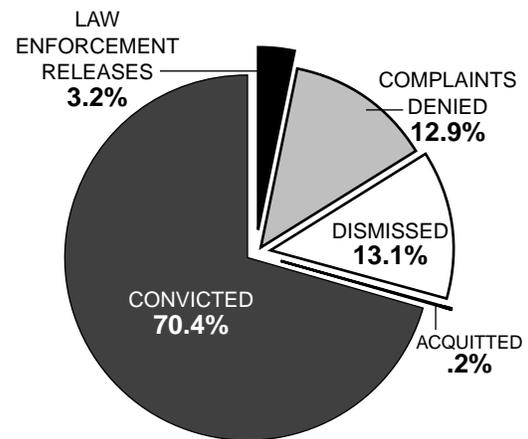
***In 1999, more than one-fourth of convictions for drug offenses resulted in sentences to state institutions.***

## Conviction Rates

The conviction rates shown are calculated using two different bases. The first is based on *total adult felony arrest dispositions* and the second is based on *total complaints filed*. Each is valid and by presenting both, the reader is provided two perspectives from which to evaluate the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Conviction rates based on *total adult felony arrest dispositions* describe the overall processing of offenders by the criminal justice system. This method of calculation focuses on the proportion of convictions out of the total number of arrests.

DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1999<sup>a</sup>  
By Type of Disposition

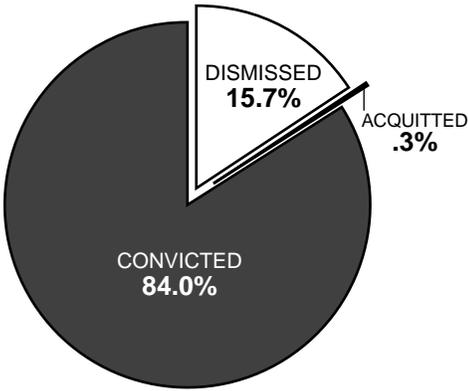


Source: Table 38.

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

<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

DISPOSITIONS OF COMPLAINTS FILED  
RESULTING FROM ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1999<sup>a</sup>  
By Type of Disposition



Source: Table 38A.  
<sup>a</sup>Preliminary data.

## Conviction Rates (continued)

Conviction rates based on *total complaints filed* describe the processing of defendants in the courts. This method of calculation focuses on those arrests for which a complaint was filed by the district attorney.

Formulas used to calculate conviction rates based on total adult felony arrest dispositions and total complaints filed can be found in the Appendix.

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