

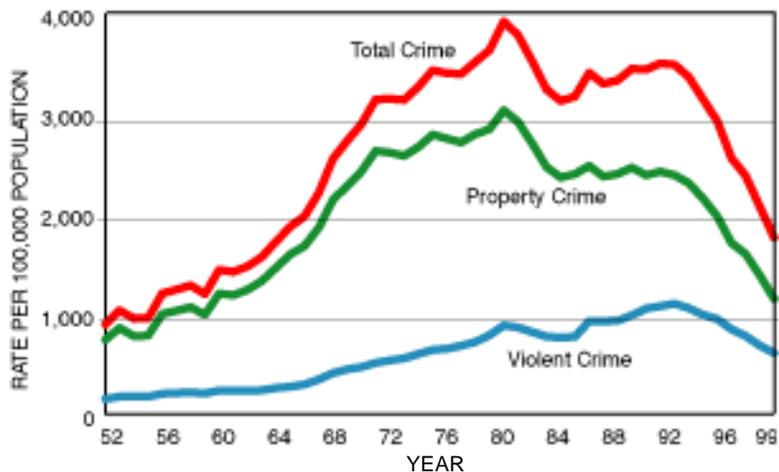
What Are the Trends in Crime in California?

When considering the trends in crime, it is important to consider both the long-term and the short-term directions of crime in the state. Changes that occur over the years in demographics, economic conditions and values, lifestyles, and residential patterns have a significant impact on crime trends. In several of the charts that follow, we present California crime data starting with 1952 - the first year in which the DOJ began publishing the statistics.

In addition to the reported crime data, it is also important to consider trends in victimization rates to obtain a truer picture of overall trends in crime. As mentioned earlier, the national victimization survey, which began in 1973, provides valuable data in this area. These data are national in scope, however, and are not broken down specifically for California.

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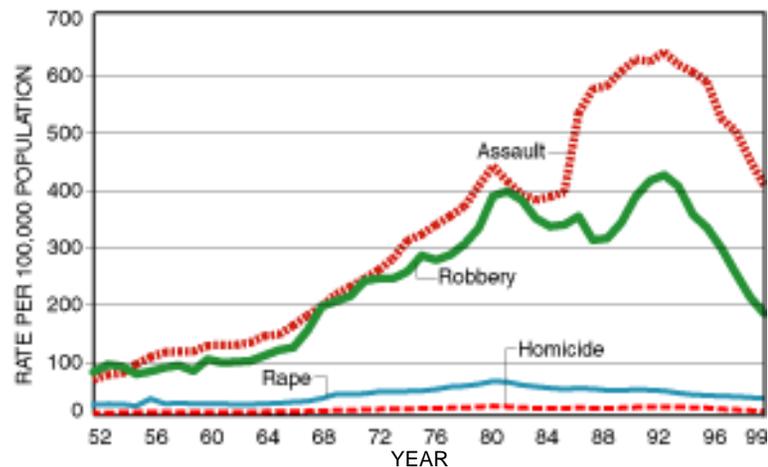
Crime Rate Peaked in California in 1980^a 1952 Through 1999



^aRate per 100,000 population.

- California's crime rate, as measured by the California Crime Index (CCI), has increased about 96 percent since 1952. The state's population increased about 192 percent over the same period.
- The crime rate reached its peak in 1980, declined for four years, and began to increase in 1985, with much of the decline due to a significant drop in property crime. Since 1992, the crime rate has been in a general decline, reaching a 34-year low in 1999.
- Property crime - which accounts for the bulk of crime in California - grew at a slower rate (55 percent) than violent crime (299 percent) since 1952. Since 1982, the property crime rate has decreased by 57 percent, while violent crime decreased by 26 percent.

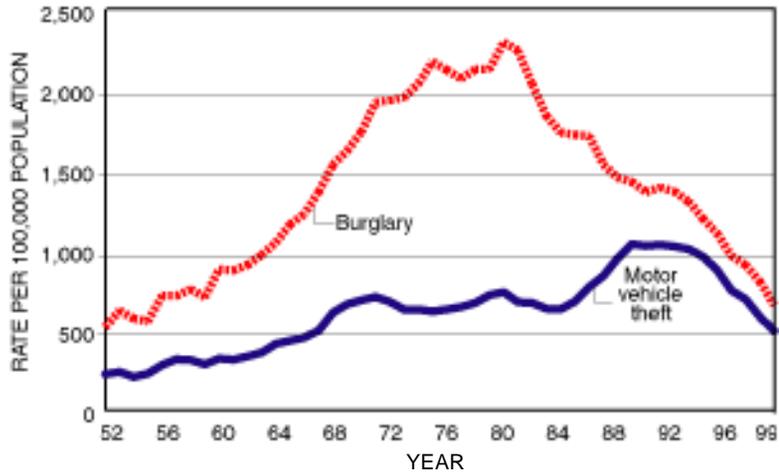
Assault and Robbery Are Most Prevalent Violent Crimes^a 1952 Through 1999



^aRate per 100,000 population.

- Assault and robbery account for nearly 95 percent of all violent crimes reported. Both offenses decreased in 1999 (10 percent for assault and 14 percent for robbery).
- The substantial increase in reported assaults that occurred in 1986 was due in large measure to enactment of legislation that reclassified domestic violence from a misdemeanor to a felony. Thus, the spike in the assault rate, and the corresponding increase in the overall violent crime rate, was not due primarily to an increase in the number of crimes committed, but rather a change in the way the crimes were reported.
- The homicide rate, since reaching a high of 12.9 in 1992, has been on the decline. Its 1999 rate of 5.9 is the lowest level since 1968, and accounts for less than one percent of overall violent crime.

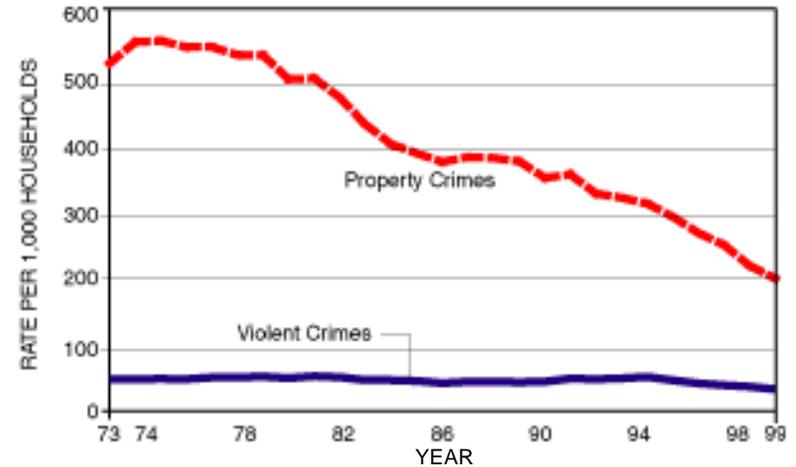
Property Crime Down^a 1952 Through 1999



^aRate per 100,000 population.

- Property crimes have sustained a pattern of decline since reaching a high in 1980.
- The property crime rate declined for the eighth consecutive year and the motor vehicle theft rate is the lowest it has been since 1967.
- The burglary rate has fallen 71 percent since 1980, including an 18 percent decrease from 1998 to 1999.

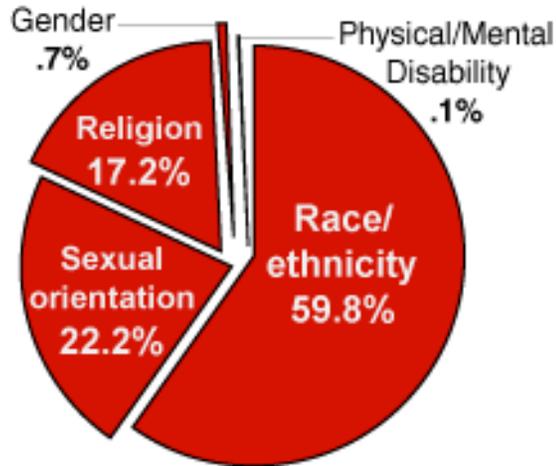
National Victimization Studies Show Decline in Overall U.S. Crime^a 1973 Through 1999



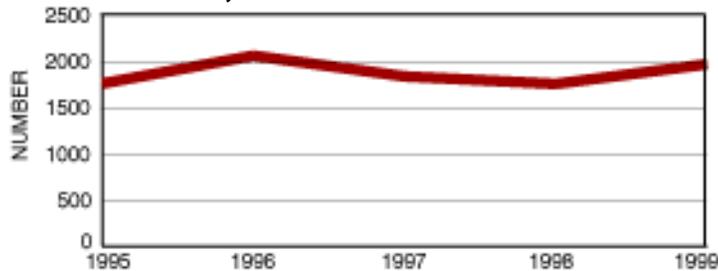
^aVictimization per 1,000 households.

- The national surveys mirror the decline in rates that California has enjoyed for the last few years. Criminal victimization estimates from 1999 were the lowest since the survey's inception in 1973.
- Between 1993 and 1999, violent crime rates fell 34 percent, while property crime rates (includes burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny) fell 38 percent.
- The national victimization surveys are an important measure of the actual amount of crime because the official crime rate data do not include crimes that go unreported to the police.

Hate Crimes During 1999 By Bias-Motivation



Hate Crimes, 1995-1999



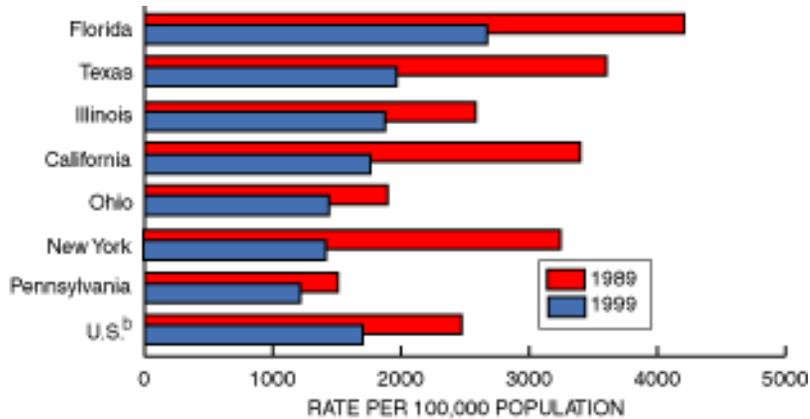
- The number of reported hate crime events rose 12 percent from 1998 to 1999.
- In nearly 60 percent of the cases, the victim's race/ethnicity was the bias motivator. Gender was added as a type of bias motivation in 1999.

How Does Crime Vary Among States and Within California?

Although there is value in comparing crime data among different jurisdictions, one should be cautious with such comparisons. Numerous factors can influence crime rates, such as the composition of the populations of different jurisdictions (particularly the age of the residents), the density and size of the jurisdictions, the mobility of the residents, economic and family conditions, strength and effectiveness of the law enforcement agencies, crime reporting practices, and – most importantly – the laws and criminal justice policies of the jurisdictions. It is especially important not to oversimplify or draw quick conclusions from comparisons without first understanding the differences among the jurisdictions being compared.

The most complete information comparing state crime rates is from the FBI. The most complete information for comparing crime among jurisdictions within California is from the California DOJ and is available on a county-by-county basis. In general, we believe that only large industrial states with diverse populations and economies should be compared. Comparison of counties should be limited to comparing similar counties – for example, large counties (with populations of 1 million or more), medium-sized counties, and small and rural counties.

California's Crime Rate Close to National Average^a

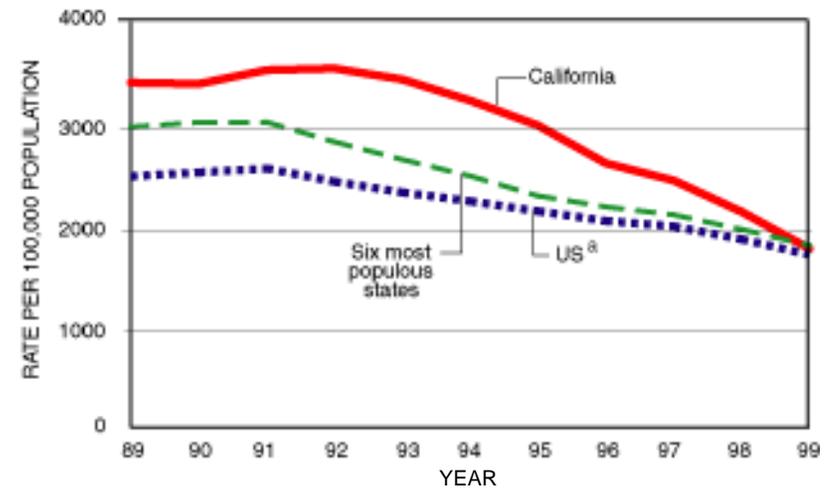


^aRate per 100,000 population in states with populations of 10 million or more.

^bExcludes California.

- Though decreasing through 1999, California's crime rate remained higher than the national average and stood as the fourth highest among the large states.
- Florida's 1999 rate ranked highest among the large states and was about 51 percent higher than California's rate. The highest crime rate in the nation belonged to the District of Columbia, with a rate that more than doubled California's rate.
- California ranked third in both the violent crime and property crime rates.
- California's motor vehicle theft rate ranked second among the large states, though it experienced a 52 percent decrease between 1989 and 1999.

California Experienced Large Decrease in Crime Rate

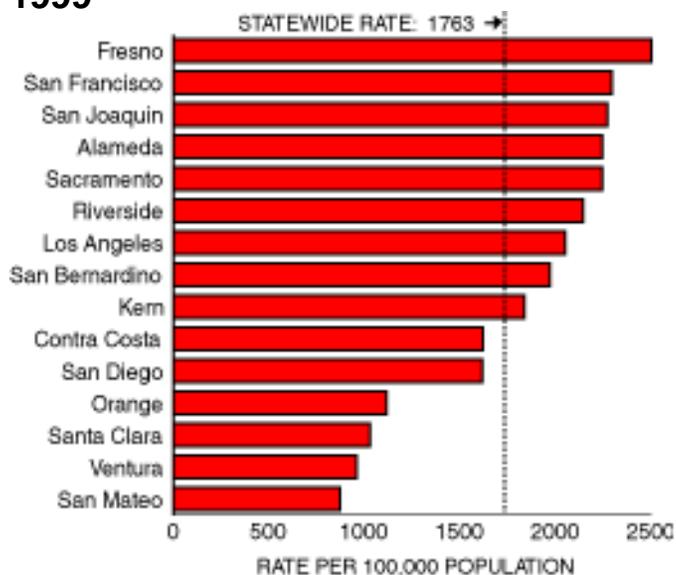


Note: The six most populous states include Florida, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

^aExcludes California.

- From 1989 to 1999, the national and California's data show a decrease in the crime rate. During this time period, the crime rate in California fell 48 percent.
- The national crime rate fell 31 percent during this time, while the rate for the six most populous states decreased 39 percent.

Crime Rates Vary Among Counties^a 1999



^aCrime rates in counties with populations of 500,000 or more.

- Among those counties with populations of 500,000 or more, Fresno had the highest crime rate in 1999 - about 42 percent higher than the statewide rate. San Mateo County was the lowest and was less than half the statewide rate.
- From 1998 to 1999, all counties experienced a decrease in their crime rate. Sacramento county's rate fell 24 percent and its crime rate ranking among the most populous counties fell from the highest to fifth highest.
- From 1998 to 1999, the crime rate in Fresno county fell 13 percent, though its rate has remained as one of the highest in California for the past several years.

Who Are the Victims of Crime?

National victimization surveys (1999) provide a good deal of reliable data about the victims of crime. These surveys reveal that:

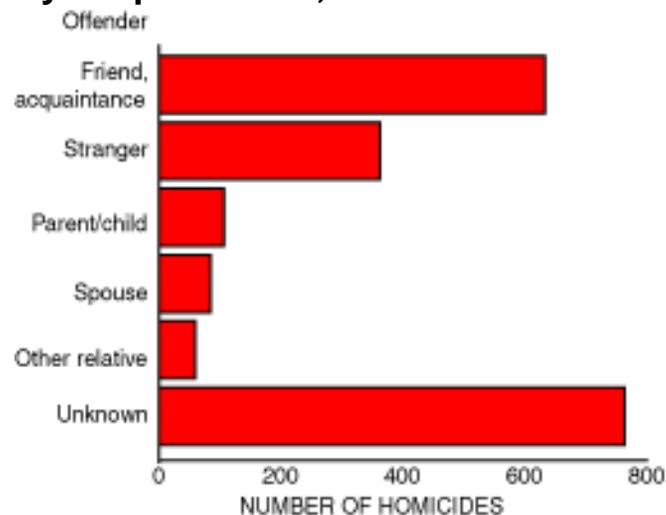
- **Groups at the highest risk of becoming victims – young men** – are not the ones who generally express the greatest fear of crime – women and the elderly. Males experienced violent crime at rates 28 percent higher than that of females.
- **Persons age 12 to 24** sustained violent victimizations at rates higher than individuals of all other ages.
- **Teenagers are most often the victims** of both violence and personal theft. Persons age 16 to 19 were twice as likely to be robbed than persons age 25 to 34, and 12 times as likely as persons age 65 or older.
- **Blacks are most often the victims of violence** – the violent victimization rate for blacks is about 30 percent higher than for whites. There is little difference in victimization rates between Hispanics and non-Hispanics in violent offenses, but Hispanics are more likely to be victims of a property crime.
- **Victims and offenders are of the same race** in 75 percent of all violent crimes.
- **Urban dwellers are much more likely to be victims** of all types of crime than are persons who live in suburban and rural areas.
- **The elderly made up 15 percent of the population** age 12 or older, but were victims in only 7 percent of measured crimes.

How Do Crime Rates in the U.S. Compare With the Rates of Other Life Events? 1998

Events	Rate per 1,000 adults per year
Accidental injury, all circumstances	386
Accidental injury at home	82
Injury in a motor vehicle accident	50
Personal theft	39
Violent victimization	37
Assault (aggravated and simple)	31
Death, all causes	9
Serious (aggravated) assault	8
Heart disease death	3
Robbery	2
Cancer death	2
Pneumonia/influenza death	0.4
Rape (women only)	0.3
Accidental death, all circumstances	0.3
Motor vehicle accident death	0.2
Homicide	0.1
Suicide	0.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Homicide Most Often Committed By Acquaintance, 1999



- Of those homicides for which the offender has been identified, California's data indicate that the victim and offender are likely to know each other.
- Of the 2,006 homicides reported in 1999, 632 were committed by a friend or acquaintance, which includes an ex-husband or ex-wife, employer, employee, gang member, etc. This represents about 50 percent of all known victim-offender relationships.
- Homicides committed by a stranger accounted for nearly 30 percent of all known relationships.

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