

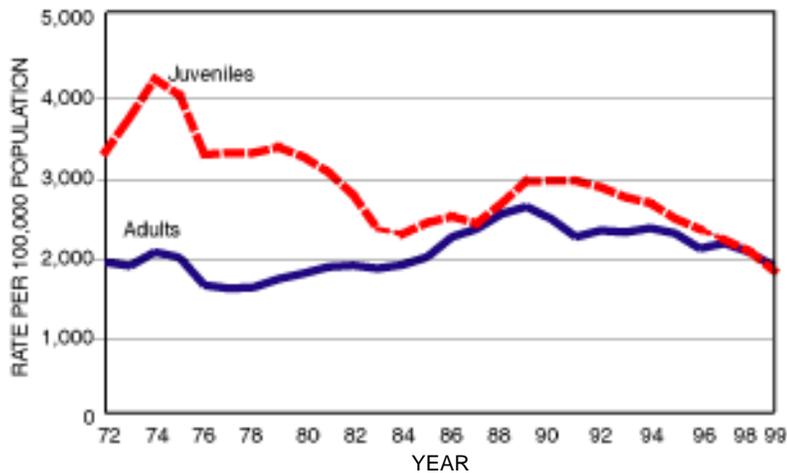
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Who Commits Crime?

National victimization surveys provide information about criminal offenders. These reports show that:

- *About 35 percent of violent victimizations involved an offender who was under the influence of alcohol.* Of these incidents, about 1 in 5 also involved perceived drug use on the part of the offender.
- *Victims identified intimates (spouses, boyfriend or girlfriend) as offenders in 11 percent of violent crimes, robberies and simple assaults.*
- *The proportion of violent crimes committed by juveniles as reported in victimization surveys has changed little since 1980.*
- *Males are much more likely to be the victims of a stranger in assault and robbery offenses. Females, however, are equally likely to be victimized by a husband or boyfriend as they are by an acquaintance or a stranger.*

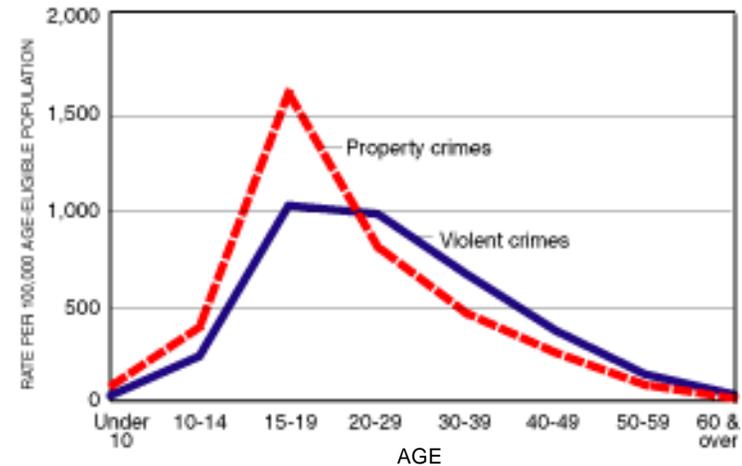
Juvenile Arrest Rates Nearing Adult Arrest Rates^a 1972 Through 1999



^aFelony arrest rate per 100,000 population within each group.

- In 1999, the total juvenile arrest rate fell below the total adult arrest rate for the first time.
- There is evidence that a major reason that arrest rates for juveniles are higher than for adults is that young men tend to be arrested in *large groups* on suspicion of committing a crime or for being at the scene of a crime, although charges may not ever be filed. (Legislative Analyst's Office)
- Juvenile arrest rates peaked in 1974. This was probably due to demographics; that is, the at-risk juvenile population was a larger proportion of the overall state population. Juvenile arrest rates for violent offenses have declined 23.4 percent since 1994.

Felony Arrests Highest Among The Young^a 1999



^aRate per 100,000 age-eligible population.

- The 15 to 19 year old age group continues to show the highest rate in both violent and property crimes.
- Over half of felony arrests occurred in the 20 to 39 age group. This age category, however, accounts for only 23 percent of the state's total population.

Firearms Used in Most Homicides 1999



- Firearms are the weapons used in 67 percent of reported homicides in 1999, or about five times more often than knives.
- Firearms account for more homicides than all other weapons combined.
- The age group that suffered the most homicides by firearms was the 18 to 24 year old category.

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