



**JUVENILE JUSTICE
IN CALIFORNIA
2002**

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Arrests

A juvenile arrest may be for delinquent acts or status offenses. A delinquent act would be considered a crime if committed by an adult and is typically called a referral action. A status offense is an act that is only illegal because of the age of the offender. Status offenses include curfew violations, truancy, running away, and incorrigibility.

This section examines arrests by gender, age, offense, and disposition.

The age groupings used throughout this report represent the most active age groups for the area being discussed.

The data used were compiled from arrests reported, via the Monthly Arrest and Citation Register, to the DOJ by law enforcement agencies in the 47 JCPSS certified counties.

The offenses presented in this report were "selected" based on the seriousness of the arrest offense and comparability to the national Uniform Crime Reporting System. The use of these offenses is intended to provide a valid and comparable measure of crimes and the juvenile justice process. The felony offenses are homicide (includes non-vehicular manslaughter), forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and drug violations (includes narcotics, marijuana, dangerous drugs, and other drug violations). The misdemeanor offenses are assault and battery, petty theft, vandalism, disturbing the peace, alcohol-related offenses (includes drunk and liquor laws), and drug violations (includes marijuana and other drugs). The status offenses are curfew violations, truancy, running away, and incorrigibility.

Level of Offense

Of the 191,579 juvenile arrests reported in 2002:

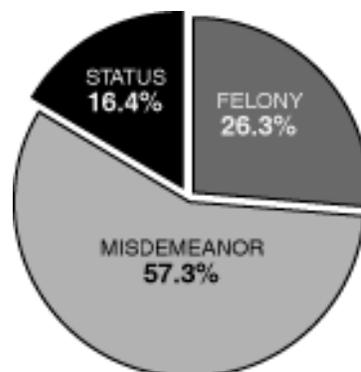
- 26.3 percent (50,365) were felonies; 57.3 percent (109,775) were misdemeanors; and 16.4 percent (31,439) were status offenses.

Arrests by Gender

Of the 191,579 juvenile arrests reported in 2002:

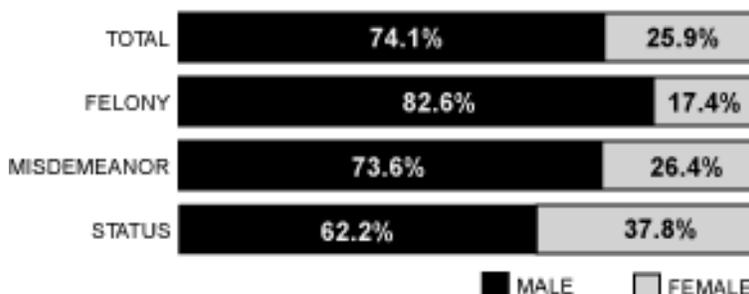
- Males represented nearly three-fourths of arrestees (74.1 percent, 141,919).
- Females (17.4 percent) were far less likely than males (82.6 percent) to be arrested for a felony offense (8,772 vs. 41,593, respectively).

Arrests, 2002 By Offense Level



Source: Table 1.

Level of Offense, 2002 By Gender of Arrestee

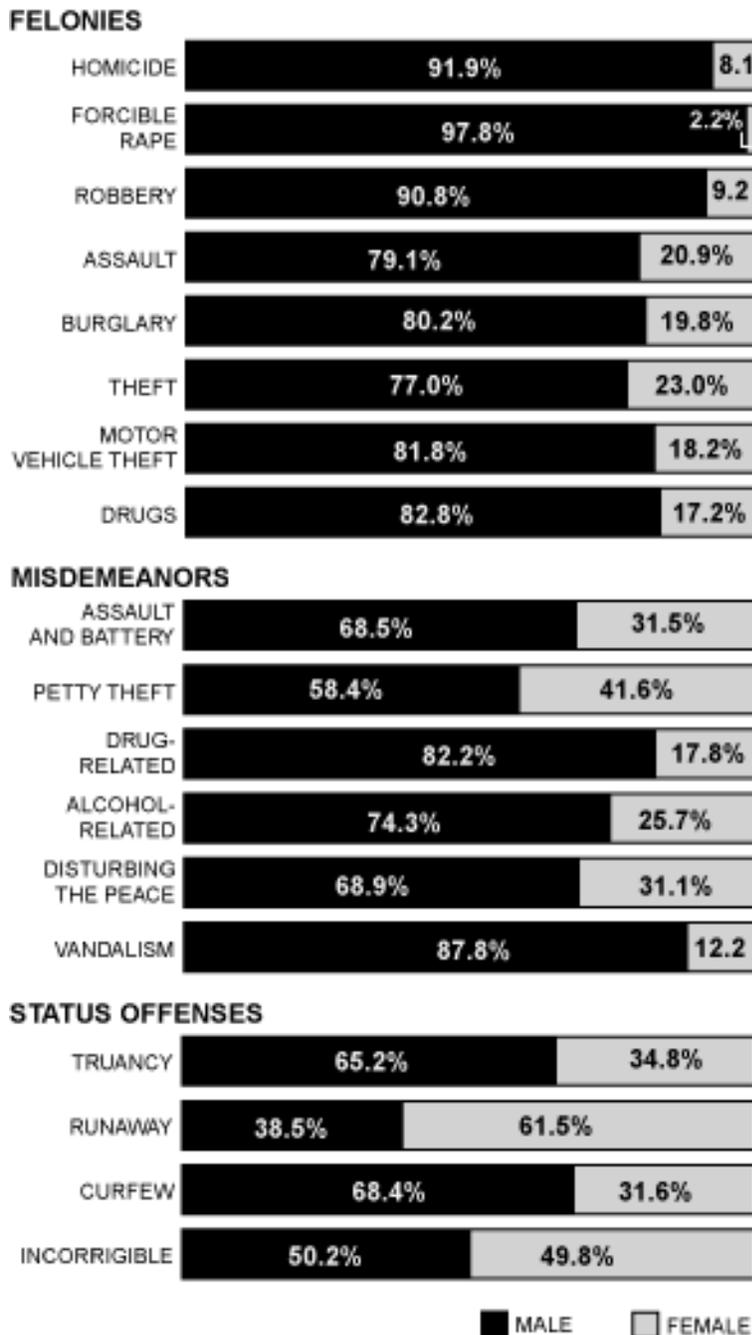


Source: Table 1.

In 2002, misdemeanor arrests exceeded felony arrests by more than 2 to 1 (57.3 vs. 26.3 percent) and status offense arrests by more than 3 to 1 (57.3 vs. 16.4 percent).

Selected Arrests by Gender

Selected Arrests, 2002 By Gender



Source: Table 1.

Of the 8 selected felonies:

- Males accounted for more than 9 out of 10 arrests for homicide, forcible rape, and robbery (91.9, 97.8, and 90.8 percent, respectively).
- Females accounted for more than 2 out of 10 arrests for theft (23.0 percent).

Of the 6 selected misdemeanors:

- Males accounted for more than 8 out of 10 arrests for vandalism (87.8 percent).
- Females accounted for more than 4 out of 10 arrests for petty theft (41.6 percent).

Of the 4 selected status offenses:

- Males accounted for more than two-thirds of the arrests for curfew violations (68.4 percent).
- Females accounted for more than 6 out of 10 arrests for running away (61.5 percent).
- Arrests for incorrigibility were virtually the same for both males and females (50.2 and 49.8 percent, respectively).

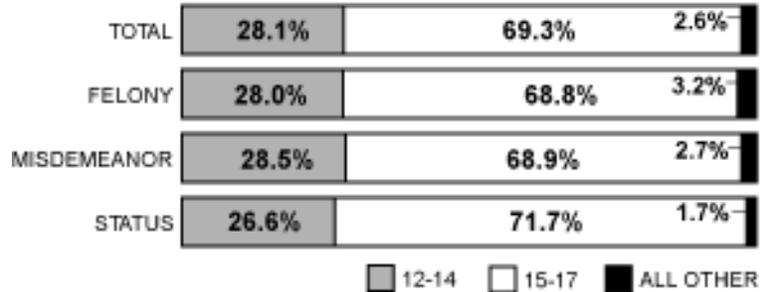
In 2002, running away was the only offense not dominated by males.

Arrests by Age Group

Of the 191,579 juvenile arrests reported in 2002:

- Juveniles in all age groups were arrested for similar proportions of felony, misdemeanor, and status offenses.
- More than two-thirds of all felony, misdemeanor, and status offense arrestees were aged 15-17 (68.8, 68.9, and 71.7 percent, respectively).

Level of Offense, 2002 By Age Group



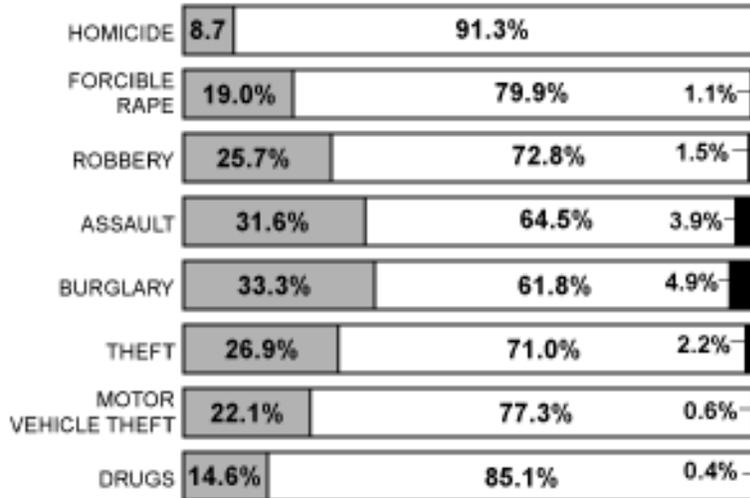
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
Source: Table 1.

In 2002, juveniles aged 15-17 represented more than two-thirds of the total juvenile arrests.

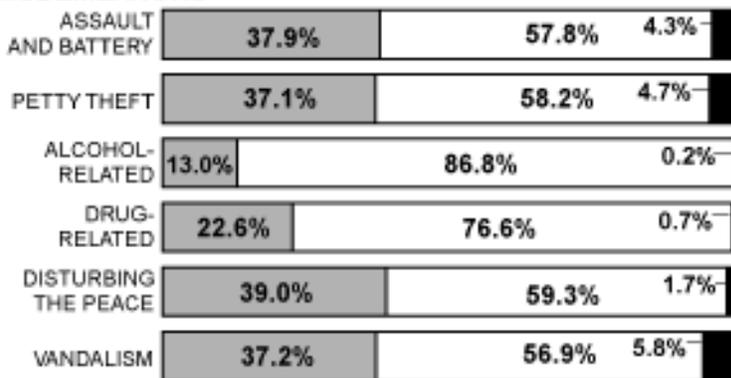
Selected Arrests by Age Group

Selected Arrests, 2002 By Age Group

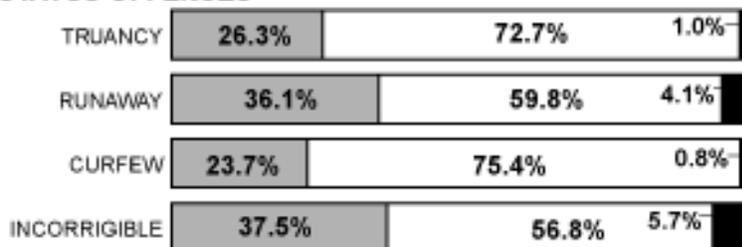
FELONIES



MISDEMEANORS



STATUS OFFENSES



■ 12-14 □ 15-17 ■ ALL OTHER

Of the 8 selected felonies:

- Juveniles aged 12-14 accounted for one-third of the burglary arrests (33.3 percent).
- More homicide arrests were for juveniles aged 15-17 than any other age group (91.3 percent).

Of the 6 selected misdemeanors:

- Juveniles aged 12-14 accounted for 39.0 percent of the disturbing the peace arrests.
- Juveniles aged 15-17 accounted for more than 8 out of 10 alcohol-related arrests (86.8 percent).

Of the 4 selected status offenses:

- Juveniles aged 12-14 accounted for 3 out of 8 arrests for incorrigibility (37.5 percent).
- Over three-fourths of the arrestees for curfew violations were juveniles aged 15-17 (75.4 percent).

Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
Source: Table 1.

Arrest Dispositions

When dealing with juvenile arrestees, law enforcement agencies may counsel and release the juvenile, refer them to the probation department, or turn them over to another law enforcement jurisdiction.

Of the 191,579 law enforcement dispositions reported in 2002:

- 76.7 percent resulted in a referral to probation (146,874).
- 20.8 percent resulted in counseling (39,934).

Arrest Dispositions by Level of Offense

Of the felony arrests in 2002:

- 88.1 percent resulted in a referral to probation (44,380).
- 9.6 percent resulted in counseling (4,815).

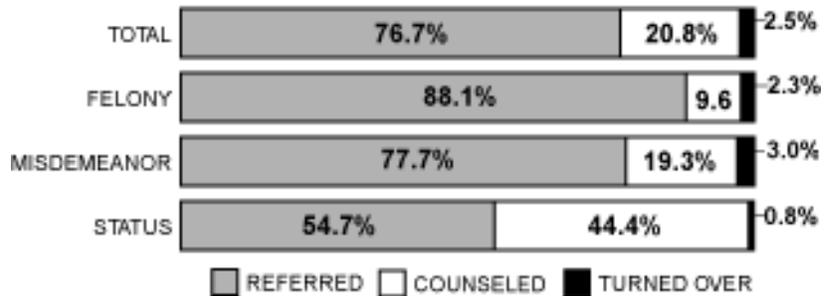
Of the misdemeanor arrests in 2002:

- 77.7 percent resulted in a referral to probation (85,282).
- 19.3 percent resulted in counseling (21,158).

Of the status offense arrests in 2002:

- 54.7 percent resulted in a referral to probation (17,212).
- 44.4 percent resulted in counseling (13,961).

Arrest Dispositions, 2002 By Level of Offense



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
Source: Table 1.

In 2002, over 20 percent of the juveniles arrested were “counseled and released” by law enforcement and 76.7 percent were referred to county probation departments for further action.

