

# DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND KNOWN LIMITATIONS

## ARRESTS

### Monthly Arrest and Citation Register (MACR)

An arrest occurs when a person is taken into custody because an officer has reason to believe the person violated the law. Not all arrests result in persons being jailed. Arrestees may be released by the arresting agency, post bail, or 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 at a later date.

Arrests are divided into two major groups: felony and misdemeanor. A felony arrest can result in a sentence to state prison if the offender is convicted as an adult. A misdemeanor arrest can result in a sentence of up to one year in county jail, a fine, probation, restitution, or any combination of these sentences.

Juveniles may also be arrested for truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and violating curfew. These are 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.

If a person is arrested for multiple offenses, the MACR selects only the most serious offense based on the severity of possible punishment.

The subjectivity of the classification and labeling process must be considered in the analysis of race/ethnic group data.

“To Other Agency” refers to an arrest made on another law enforcement agency’s warrant, with no local charges, and the subject is being held for the other agency.

“Released” is an arrest offense released under Penal Code section 849(b). The arresting agency plans no further action on the arrest offense.

“Complaints Sought” refers to an adult arrestee being turned over to the district attorney for action.

“Within Dept.” refers to a juvenile taken into custody for committing a violation and the law enforcement agency does not make a referral to juvenile court and does not file formal charges. The juvenile, in most cases, is warned and released to the parents or guardian.

“Juvenile Probation” refers to juveniles arrested and referred to the probation department or juvenile court.

In June 2005, infraction offenses were no longer recorded in the Monthly Arrest and Citation Register (MACR) system. Previously, these offenses were optional to report and classified as miscellaneous misdemeanor traffic violations.

In 2011, the lower limit of felony theft was raised from \$400 to \$950, contributing to the decline of felony theft arrests and the increase of misdemeanor theft arrests.

In 2011, some misdemeanor marijuana statutes were re-classified as infractions, leading to a significant decline in misdemeanor marijuana arrests.

In 2013, the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program revised the definition of “forcible rape” (the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will) to “rape” and defined as “penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.” The California Department of Justice implemented this definition change in January 2014, contributing to an increase in rape arrests. (Note: During 2014, agencies were encouraged to report using the new definition, but were allowed to report under the historical definition while transitioning their reporting systems. All rape data submitted in 2014 – whether collected under the revised definition or the historical definition – are presented on this website.)

## **AGENCY-SPECIFIC DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND LIMITATIONS**

Orange Cove Police Department (located in Fresno County) began reporting in January 2013.

Twin Cities Police Department and San Anselmo Police Department (Marin County) merged in January 2013 and now report as Central Marin Police Authority.

Calipatria Police Department (located in Imperial County) did not report January 2009 through December 2014.

Reedley Community College and Fresno Community College merged in January 2010 and now report under State Center Community College.

The Holtville Police Department (located in Imperial County) did not report for January 2010 through December 2013.

The Eastvale Police Department (located in Riverside County) began reporting in January 2011.

The Jurupa Valley Police Department (located in Riverside County) began reporting in July 2011.

The Solano County Sheriff's Department did not report for May through December 2010, with the exception of homicides.

In July 2010, the Trinidad Police Department was disbanded and the City of Trinidad began contracting law enforcement responsibilities with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department. Since that time, criminal statistics for Trinidad have been included in those of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department.

In March 2012, the Millbrae Police Department was disbanded and the City of Millbrae began contracting law enforcement responsibilities with the San Mateo county Sheriff's Department. Since that time, criminal statistics for Millbrae have been included in those of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department.

In June 2011, the Half Moon Bay Police Department was disbanded and the City of Half Moon Bay began contracting law enforcement responsibilities with the San Mateo county Sheriff's Department. Since that time, criminal statistics for Half Moon Bay have been included in those of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department.

In November 2010, the San Carlos Police Department was disbanded and the City of San Carlos began contracting law enforcement responsibilities with the San Mateo county Sheriff's Department. Since that time, criminal statistics for San Carlos have been included in those of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department.

The McFarland Police Department (located in Kern County) began reporting data in January 2010.

The Shasta County Marshal's Office began reporting data in January 2010.

The San Francisco Police Department identified that arrests were underreported in its jurisdiction for 2010 due to Records Management System issues. Therefore, caution should be exercised when using arrest data for this jurisdiction and time frame.