DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND KNOWN LIMITATIONS

ARREST DISPOSITIONS / 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.

Adult arrest dispositions are "Released", "Complaint Sought (either felony or misdemeanor)", or "Turned over to other agency" only. Juvenile arrest dispositions are "Referred to juvenile probation department", "Handled within department", or "Turned over to other agency" only.

AGENCY-SPECIFIC DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND LIMITATIONS:

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

The Holtville Police Department did not report for January through December 2010.

The Solano County Sheriff's Department did not report for May through December 2010.

The Calipatria Police Department did not report arrest data for 2010 due to staffing shortages.

The Trinidad Police Department began contracting services with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department in July 2010. The Trinidad Police Department's arrest data for July through December 2010 are included in the Humboldt County Sheriff Department„s reports.

The San Carlos Police Department began contracting services with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department in November 2010. The San Carlos Police Department's arrest data for November and December 2010 are included in the San Mateo County Sheriff Department„s reports.

The McFarland Police Department began reporting data in January 2010.

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

In 2004, the Legislature amended section 11093 of the Government Code to require any state agency or department that develops and maintains data and statistics on the municipal level to report a separate breakdown for the San Fernando Valley portion of the city of Los Angeles.

Data for the San Francisco County Sheriff's Department are reported by the San Francisco Police Department.

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.