

Persons Charged and Dispositions

The collection of data of persons arrested and formally charged, plus the subsequent dispositions, is an important tool in the records-keeping process for the modern police administrator. This collection offers an insight into the effectiveness of a department with regard to the quality of police investigation, case preparation, and court presentation toward the successful prosecution of the criminal element.

Persons Charged

There were 418,727 persons arrested and charged with criminal offenses this year. Physical arrests resulted in charges against 216,852 persons or 51.8 percent. Criminal citations were issued to 201,875 persons or 48.2 percent.

Of the 81,758 persons charged with Crime Index offenses, 59,876 or 73.2 percent were arrested and arraigned, while 21,882 or 26.8 percent received citations. A total of 25,970 Violent Crime offenders were charged this year. Physical arrests of Violent Crime offenders totaled 23,692 or 91.2 percent and citations were issued to 2,278 Violent Crime offenders or 8.8 percent. Property Crime offenders were charged in 55,788 offenses. Physical arrests of Property Crime offenders occurred in 36,184 cases or 64.9 percent, and citations were issued to 19,604 Property Crime offenders or 35.1 percent. This latter group was composed primarily of larceny-theft offenders, arrested for summary offenses such as shoplifting.

Part II offenders charged amounted to 336,897 persons. Physical arrests and arraignments took place in 156,915 cases or 46.6 percent, and citations were issued to 179,982 individuals or 53.4 percent. A review indicates that citations were issued to 85.4 percent of persons charged with liquor law violations and to the majority of persons charged with vandalism, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, vagrancy, and all other offenses.

Dispositions

The 234,143 dispositions represent 55.9 percent of the 418,727 persons charged this year. This difference is partly due to dispositions of charges from prior years and pending dispositions from persons charged this year.

Overall, 127,934 persons or 54.6 percent were found guilty of the offense charged; 13,947 or 6.0 percent, guilty of a lesser offense; 55,407 or 23.7 percent acquitted or dismissed; and 36,855 or 15.7 percent referred to Juvenile Court.

Dispositions of Crime Index offenders were distributed as follows: 18,580 or 31.9 percent were guilty as charged; 5,884 or 10.1 percent were guilty of a lesser offense; 19,141 or 32.8 percent were acquitted or dismissed; and 14,723 or 25.2 percent were referred to Juvenile Court. However, 42.6 percent of adults prosecuted for Crime Index offenses

were found guilty of the offense charged, and 13.5 percent were found guilty of a lesser offense.

The highest rates of conviction among the Crime Index offenses were for the following offenses:

- Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter (49.0 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (46.2 percent)

The highest rates of acquittal or dismissals among the Crime Index offenses were for the following offenses:

- Aggravated Assault (48.5 percent)
- Robbery (44.7 percent)

The highest rates among Crime Index offenses for juveniles referred to Juvenile Court were for the following offenses:

- Arson (52.0 percent)
- Motor Vehicle Theft (48.5 percent)
- Burglary (48.5 percent)

Of note, the acquittal-dismissal rate for Violent Crime was 46.6 percent as opposed to a 24.4 percent for Property Crime.

Dispositions of Part II Offenders were distributed as follows: 109,322 or 62.2 percent were guilty as charged; 8,048 or 4.6 percent were guilty of a lesser offense; 36,222 or 20.6 percent acquitted or dismissed; 22,127 or 12.6 percent referred to Juvenile Court.

The highest rates of conviction among the Part II offenses were for the following offenses:

- Drunkenness (89.4 percent)
- Driving Under the Influence (83.2 percent)

The highest dismissal rates were reported for the following offenses:

- Gambling (37.6 percent)
- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (36.5 percent)
- Offenses Against Family & Children (28.8 percent)
- Stolen Prop., Rec., Posses., Buying (24.0 percent)

Drunkenness acquittal rates are influenced by the practice in some areas of apprehending individuals for drunkenness for their own safety and releasing them when they have regained sobriety.

Juveniles

In addition to the 36,855 or 8.8 percent juveniles charged and subsequently referred to Juvenile Court, 41,720 or 10.0 percent were charged as adults, even though they were under 18 years old. This latter group represents youths apprehended generally for summary offenses, such as shoplifting, underage drinking, vandalism, or disorderly conduct. Included in the category of persons charged and involved in criminal judicial proceedings this year were 78,575 juveniles, 18.8 percent of the total.