

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 401,854 persons arrested and charged with criminal offenses this year. Physical arrests resulted in charges against 211,231 persons or 52.6 percent. Criminal citations were issued to 190,623 persons or 47.4 percent.

Of the 77,648 persons charged with Crime Index offenses, 58,206 or 75.0 percent were arrested and arraigned, while 19,442 or 25.0 percent received citations. A total of 24,264 Violent Crime offenders were charged this year. Physical arrests of Violent Crime offenders totaled 22,240 or 91.7 percent and citations were issued to 2,024 Violent Crime offenders or 8.3 percent. Property Crime offenders were charged in 53,384 offenses. Physical arrests of Property Crime offenders occurred in 35,966 cases or 67.4 percent, and citations were issued to 17,418 Property Crime offenders or 32.6 percent. This latter group was composed primarily of larceny-theft offenders, arrested for summary offenses such as shoplifting.

Part II offenders charged amounted to 324,158 persons. Physical arrests and arraignments took place in 152,983 cases or 47.2 percent, and citations were issued to 171,175 individuals or 52.8 percent. A review indicates that citations were issued to 87.1 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.

Adult Dispositions

The 188,360 dispositions represent 46.9 percent of the 401,854 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, 121,052 persons or 64.3 percent were found guilty of the offense charged; 13,746 or 7.3 percent, guilty of a lesser offense; and 53,562 or 28.4 percent, acquitted or dismissed.

Dispositions of Crime Index offenders were distributed as follows: 18,875 or 42.7 percent were guilty as charged; 6,396 or 14.5 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 18,931 or 42.8 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Arson (70.4 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (60.1 percent)

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

- Aggravated Assault (58.5 percent)
- Robbery (55.7 percent)

Of note, the acquittal-dismissal rate for Violent Crime was 56.6 percent as opposed to a 33.2 percent for Property Crime.

Dispositions of Part II offenders were distributed as follows: 102,142 or 63.8 percent were guilty as charged; 7,329 or 4.6 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 34,588 or 21.6 percent acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Drunkenness (90.8 percent)
- Driving Under the Influence (85.6 percent)

The highest dismissal rates were reported for the following offenses:

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (43.6 percent)
- Weapons, Carrying, Posses, Etc. (36.1 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.

Juvenile Dispositions

Excluding status offenses, juvenile arrestees were disposed of as follows: 11.6 percent or 8,893 were handled by the police department and released; 47.7 percent or 36,677 were

sent to juvenile court or juvenile probation department; .1 percent or 59 were referred to welfare agencies; .2 percent or 151 were referred to other police agencies; and 40.5 percent or 31,176 were referred to adult court, usually the district magistrate for specified petty crimes such as underage drinking, shoplifting etc.

The majority of juveniles handled within the police department and released were arrested for the following offenses:

- Disorderly Conduct (25.9 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (15.5 percent)

The majority of juveniles referred to juvenile court or juvenile probation departments were arrested for the following offenses:

- Larceny-Theft (14.3 percent)
- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (13.4 percent)

The majority of juveniles referred to welfare agencies were arrested for the following offenses:

- Larceny-Theft (28.8 percent)
- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (20.3 percent)

The majority of juveniles referred to other police agencies were arrested for the following offenses:

- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (25.2 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (14.6 percent)

The majority of juveniles referred to criminal or adult court were arrested for the following offenses:

- Disorderly Conduct (31.7 percent)
- Liquor Law (20.4 percent)