

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 409,265 persons arrested and charged with criminal offenses this year. Physical arrests resulted in charges against 209,484 persons or 51.2 percent. Criminal citations were issued to 199,781 persons or 48.8 percent.

Of the 76,220 persons charged with Crime Index offenses, 55,455 or 72.8 percent were arrested and arraigned, while 20,765 or 27.2 percent received citations. A total of 24,015 Violent Crime offenders were charged this year. Physical arrests of Violent Crime offenders totaled 21,849 or 91.0 percent and citations were issued to 2,166 Violent Crime offenders or 9.0 percent. Property Crime offenders were charged in 52,205 offenses. Physical arrests of Property Crime offenders occurred in 33,606 cases or 64.4 percent, and citations were issued to 18,599 Property Crime offenders or 35.6 percent. This latter group was composed primarily of larceny-theft offenders, arrested for summary offenses such as shoplifting.

Part II offenders charged amounted to 333,016 persons. Physical arrests and arraignments took place in 154,002 cases or 46.2 percent, and citations were issued to 179,014 individuals or 53.8 percent. A review indicates that citations were issued to 87.9 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 196,794 dispositions represent 48.1 percent of the 409,265 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, 127,461 persons or 64.8 percent were found guilty of the offense charged; 14,057 or 7.1 percent, guilty of a lesser offense; and 55,276 or 28.1 percent, acquitted or dismissed.

Dispositions of Crime Index offenders were distributed as follows: 19,594 or 43.4 percent were guilty as charged; 6,357 or 14.1 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 19,168 or 42.5 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Arson (76.9 percent)
- Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter (61.9 percent)

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

- Aggravated Assault (59.4 percent)
- Robbery (58.8 percent)

Of note, the acquittal-dismissal rate for Violent Crime was 57.5 percent as opposed to a 32.2 percent for Property Crime.

Dispositions of Part II offenders were distributed as follows: 107,829 or 63.9 percent were guilty as charged; 7,685 or 4.6 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 36,068 or 21.4 percent acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Drunkenness (90.2 percent)
- Driving Under the Influence (86.7 percent)

The highest dismissal rates were reported for the following offenses:

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (44.2 percent)
- Weapons, Carrying, Posses, Etc. (38.6 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: 11.5 percent or 9,043 were handled by the police department and released; 47.8 percent or 37,678 were

sent to juvenile court or juvenile probation department; .1 percent or 93 were referred to welfare agencies; .3 percent or 217 were referred to other police agencies; and 40.3 percent or 31,716 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 (28.0 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (16.6 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 (14.2 percent)

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

- Larceny-Theft (18.3 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (16.1 percent)

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

- Larceny-Theft (48.8 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (14.7 percent)

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

- Disorderly Conduct (33.9 percent)
- Liquor Law (20.2 percent)