

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 11,731 persons arrested and charged with criminal offenses this year. Physical arrests resulted in charges against 7,249 persons or 61.8 percent. Criminal citations were issued to 4,482 persons or 38.2 percent.

Of the 1,968 persons charged with Crime Index offenses, 1,307 or 66.4 percent were arrested and arraigned, while 661 or 33.6 percent received citations. A total of 624 Violent Crime offenders were charged this year. Physical arrests of Violent Crime offenders totaled 566 or 90.7 percent and citations were issued to 58 Violent Crime offenders or 9.3 percent. Property Crime offenders were charged in 1,344 offenses. Physical arrests of Property Crime offenders occurred in 741 cases or 55.1 percent, and citations were issued to 603 Property Crime offenders or 44.9 percent. This latter group was composed primarily of larceny-theft offenders, arrested for summary offenses such as shoplifting.

Part II offenders charged amounted to 9,762 persons. Physical arrests and arraignments took place in 5,942 cases or 60.9 percent, and citations were issued to 3,820 individuals or 39.1 percent. A review indicates that citations were issued to 81.2 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 6,817 dispositions represent 58.1 percent of the 11,731 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, 4,841 persons or 71.0 percent were found guilty of the offense charged; 38 or .6 percent, guilty of a lesser offense; and 1,938 or 28.4 percent, acquitted or dismissed.

Dispositions of Crime Index offenders were distributed as follows: 577 or 60.6 percent were guilty as charged; 2 or .2 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 373 or 39.2 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

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

Arson (100.0 percent)
Larceny-Theft (71.2 percent)

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

Motor Vehicle Theft (90.9 percent)
Aggravated Assault (64.0 percent)

Of note, the acquittal-dismissal rate for Violent Crime was 57.7 percent as opposed to a 31.8 percent for Property Crime.

Dispositions of Part II offenders were distributed as follows: 4,263 or 67.8 percent were guilty as charged; 36 or .6 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 1,565 or 24.9 percent acquitted or dismissed.

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

Drunkenness (92.6 percent)
Disorderly Conduct (87.5 percent)

The highest dismissal rates were reported for the following offenses:

Embezzlement (100.0 percent)
Stolen Prop., Rec., Posses., Buying (60.4 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: 10.9 percent or 8,718 were handled by the police department and released; 47.2 percent or 37,667 were sent to juvenile court or juvenile probation department; .1 percent or 100 were referred to welfare agencies; .3 percent or 245 were referred to other police agencies; and 41.4

percent or 33,074 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 (30.0 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (18.0 percent)

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

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (14.2 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (13.0 percent)

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

- Larceny-Theft (25.0 percent)
- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (22.0 percent)

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

- Larceny-Theft (24.1 percent)
- Disorderly Conduct (20.0 percent)

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

- Disorderly Conduct (35.3 percent)
- Liquor Law (18.6 percent)