

## **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 427,699 persons arrested and charged with criminal offenses this year. Physical arrests resulted in charges against 221,178 persons or 51.7 percent. Criminal citations were issued to 206,521 persons or 48.3 percent.

Of the 78,850 persons charged with Crime Index offenses, 56,206 or 71.3 percent were arrested and arraigned, while 22,644 or 28.7 percent received citations. A total of 24,304 Violent Crime offenders were charged this year. Physical arrests of Violent Crime offenders totaled 21,860 or 89.9 percent and citations were issued to 2,444 Violent Crime offenders or 10.1 percent. Property Crime offenders were charged in 54,546 offenses. Physical arrests of Property Crime offenders occurred in 34,346 cases or 63.0 percent, and citations were issued to 20,200 Property Crime offenders or 37.0 percent. This latter group was composed primarily of larceny-theft offenders, arrested for summary offenses such as shoplifting.

Part II offenders charged amounted to 348,809 persons. Physical arrests and arraignments took place in 164,935 cases or 47.3 percent, and citations were issued to 183,874 individuals or 52.7 percent. A review indicates that citations were issued to 88.4 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.

### **Adult Dispositions**

The 134,828 dispositions represent 31.5 percent of the 427,699 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, 103,103 persons or 76.5 percent were found guilty of the offense charged; 7,650 or 5.7 percent, guilty of a lesser offense; and 24,075 or 17.9 percent, acquitted or dismissed.

Dispositions of Crime Index offenders were distributed as follows: 14,242 or 70.0 percent were guilty as charged; 2,407 or 11.8 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 3,690 or 18.1 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Larceny-Theft (77.9 percent)
- Arson (72.1 percent)

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

- Forcible Rape (27.5 percent)
- Aggravated Assault (26.5 percent)

Of note, the acquittal-dismissal rate for Violent Crime was 25.6 percent as opposed to a 16.1 percent for Property Crime.

Dispositions of Part II offenders were distributed as follows: 88,856 or 77.6 percent were guilty as charged; 5,238 or 4.6 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 20,383 or 17.8 percent acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Drunkenness (91.6 percent)
- Driving Under the Influence (91.2 percent)

The highest dismissal rates were reported for the following offenses:

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (34.5 percent)
- Offenses Against Family & Children (32.4 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: 10.7 percent or 8,594 were handled by the police department and released; 47.1 percent or 37,724 were

sent to juvenile court or juvenile probation department; .1 percent or 70 were referred to welfare agencies; .3 percent or 216 were referred to other police agencies; and 41.8 percent or 33,481 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 (30.7 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (17.9 percent)

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

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (13.8 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (12.9 percent)

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

- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (28.6 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (20.0 percent)

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

- Larceny-Theft (26.4 percent)
- Disorderly Conduct (23.6 percent)

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

- Disorderly Conduct (36.9 percent)
- Liquor Law (17.5 percent)