

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 427,506 persons arrested and charged with criminal offenses this year. Physical arrests resulted in charges against 222,941 persons or 52.1 percent. Criminal citations were issued to 204,565 persons or 47.9 percent.

Of the 79,782 persons charged with Crime Index offenses, 56,798 or 71.2 percent were arrested and arraigned, while 22,984 or 28.8 percent received citations. A total of 25,013 Violent Crime offenders were charged this year. Physical arrests of Violent Crime offenders totaled 22,274 or 89.0 percent and citations were issued to 2,739 Violent Crime offenders or 11.0 percent. Property Crime offenders were charged in 54,769 offenses. Physical arrests of Property Crime offenders occurred in 34,524 cases or 63.0 percent, and citations were issued to 20,245 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 347,683 persons. Physical arrests and arraignments took place in 166,105 cases or 47.8 percent, and citations were issued to 181,578 individuals or 52.2 percent. A review indicates that citations were issued to 88.8 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 130,775 dispositions represent 30.6 percent of the 427,506 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, 99,218 persons or 75.9 percent were found guilty of the offense charged; 7,502 or 5.7 percent, guilty of a lesser offense; and 24,055 or 18.4 percent, acquitted or dismissed.

Dispositions of Crime Index offenders were distributed as follows: 13,873 or 70.0 percent were guilty as charged; 2,243 or 11.3 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 3,696 or 18.7 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Larceny-Theft (76.6 percent)
- Burglary (69.8 percent)

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

- Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter (31.3 percent)
- Aggravated Assault (25.4 percent)

Of note, the acquittal-dismissal rate for Violent Crime was 24.8 percent as opposed to a 17.0 percent for Property Crime.

Dispositions of Part II offenders were distributed as follows: 85,336 or 76.9 percent were guilty as charged; 5,258 or 4.7 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 20,359 or 18.3 percent acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Driving Under the Influence (90.9 percent)
- Drunkennes (89.1 percent)

The highest dismissal rates were reported for the following offenses:

- Embezzlement (37.6 percent)
- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (33.9 percent)

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

Juvenile Dispositions

Excluding status offenses, juvenile arrestees were disposed of as follows: 10.4 percent or 7,897 were handled by the police department and released; 46.7 percent or 35,581 were

sent to juvenile court or juvenile probation department; .1 percent or 47 were referred to welfare agencies; .3 percent or 258 were referred to other police agencies; and 42.5 percent or 32,371 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 (33.6 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (16.4 percent)

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

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (13.6 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (13.0 percent)

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

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (21.3 percent)
- Sex Offenses (Except 02 and 160) (34.0 percent)

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

- Disorderly Conduct (21.3 percent)
- Liquor Law (17.8 percent)

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

- Disorderly Conduct (35.6 percent)
- Liquor Law (18.0 percent)