

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 439,169 persons arrested and charged with criminal offenses this year. Physical arrests resulted in charges against 229,317 persons or 52.2 percent. Criminal citations were issued to 209,852 persons or 47.8 percent.

Of the 79,676 persons charged with Crime Index offenses, 57,689 or 72.4 percent were arrested and arraigned, while 21,987 or 27.6 percent received citations. A total of 25,851 Violent Crime offenders were charged this year. Physical arrests of Violent Crime offenders totaled 23,133 or 89.5 percent and citations were issued to 2,718 Violent Crime offenders or 10.5 percent. Property Crime offenders were charged in 53,825 offenses. Physical arrests of Property Crime offenders occurred in 34,556 cases or 64.2 percent, and citations were issued to 19,269 Property Crime offenders or 35.8 percent. This latter group was composed primarily of larceny-theft offenders, arrested for summary offenses such as shoplifting.

Part II offenders charged amounted to 359,458 persons. Physical arrests and arraignments took place in 171,596 cases or 47.7 percent, and citations were issued to 187,862 individuals or 52.3 percent. A review indicates that citations were issued to 89.5 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 124,191 dispositions represent 28.3 percent of the 439,169 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, 94,813 persons or 76.3 percent were found guilty of the offense charged; 7,366 or 5.9 percent, guilty of a lesser offense; and 22,012 or 17.7 percent, acquitted or dismissed.

Dispositions of Crime Index offenders were distributed as follows: 13,360 or 69.4 percent were guilty as charged; 2,404 or 12.5 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 3,486 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 (75.8 percent)
- Arson (73.4 percent)

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

- Aggravated Assault (26.7 percent)
- Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter (24.2 percent)

Of note, the acquittal-dismissal rate for Violent Crime was 25.5 percent as opposed to a 16.1 percent for Property Crime.

Dispositions of Part II offenders were distributed as follows: 81,445 or 77.6 percent were guilty as charged; 4,960 or 4.7 percent were guilty of a lesser offense and 18,523 or 17.7 percent acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Drunkenness (91.8 percent)
- Driving Under the Influence (91.3 percent)

The highest dismissal rates were reported for the following offenses:

- Gambling (43.6 percent)
- Embezzlement (39.8 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: 10.6 percent or 8,375 were handled by the police department and released; 46.1 percent or 36,514 were

sent to juvenile court or juvenile probation department; .1 percent or 52 were referred to welfare agencies; .7 percent or 555 were referred to other police agencies; and 42.6 percent or 33,753 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 (32.8 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (16.8 percent)

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

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (13.0 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (12.5 percent)

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

- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (28.8 percent)
- Disorderly Conduct (25.0 percent)

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

- Larceny-Theft (21.4 percent)
- Disorderly Conduct (19.8 percent)

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

- Disorderly Conduct (35.0 percent)
- Liquor Law (18.5 percent)