

Persons Charged and Dispositions

The collection of data of persons arrested and formally charged, plus subsequent disposition data, is an important tool in the records-keeping process for police administrators. This data offers insight into the effectiveness of police departments 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 420,797 persons arrested and formally charged with criminal offenses in 2011. Physical arrests resulted in charges against 224,405 persons (53.3 percent). Criminal citations were issued to 196,392 persons (46.7 percent).

Of the 85,594 persons arrested and formally charged with Crime Index offenses, 59,395 or 69.4 percent were arrested and arraigned, while 26,199 or 30.6 percent received citations. A total of 24,200 Violent Crime offenders were charged in 2011. Physical arrests of Violent Crime offenders totaled 21,391 (88.4 percent), and citations were issued to 2,809 Violent Crime offenders (11.6 percent). Property Crime offenders were charged in 61,394 offenses. Physical arrests of Property Crime offenders occurred in 38,004 cases (61.9 percent), and citations were issued to 23,390 Property Crime offenders (38.1 percent). This latter group was composed primarily of larceny-theft offenders arrested for summary offenses such as shoplifting.

Part II offenders arrested and formally charged amounted to 335,176 persons. Physical arrests and arraignments took place in 164,989 cases (49.2 percent), and citations were issued to 170,187 individuals (50.8 percent). A review indicates that citations were issued to 86.9 percent of persons charged with liquor law violations and to the majority of persons charged with vandalism, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, vagrancy, and all other Part II offenses.

Adult Dispositions

The 108,864 dispositions represent 25.9 percent of the 420,797 persons arrested and formally charged in 2011. This difference is partly due to dispositions of charges from prior years and pending dispositions from persons charged in 2011.

Overall, 79,958 persons (73.4 percent) were found guilty of the offense charged; 8,056 (7.4 percent) were found guilty of a lesser offense; and 20,850 (19.2 percent) were acquitted or dismissed.

Dispositions of Crime Index offenders were distributed as follows: 14,333 or 70.4 percent were guilty as charged; 2,680 or 13.2 percent were guilty of a lesser offense; and 3,359 or 16.5 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Arson (80.9 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (75.1 percent)

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

- Aggravated Assault (22.2 percent)
- Motor Vehicle Theft (21.1 percent)

Of note, the acquittal/dismissal rate for Violent Crime was 21.1 percent as opposed to 15.4 percent for Property Crime.

Dispositions of Part II offenders were distributed as follows: 65,619 or 74.2 percent were guilty as charged; 5,376 or 6.1 percent were guilty of a lesser offense; and 17,489 or 19.8 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Driving Under the Influence (89.2 percent)
- Drunkenness (88.0 percent)

The highest Part II offender dismissal rates were reported for the following offenses:

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (34.2 percent)
- Vandalism (26.0 percent)

It should be noted that 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 where some type of formal action was initiated/taken were disposed of as follows: 13.1 percent or 7,627 were handled by the

police department and released; 49.1 percent or 28,639 were referred to juvenile court or juvenile probation departments; .1 percent or 46 were referred to welfare agencies; 1.0 percent or 566 were referred to other police agencies; and 36.8 percent or 21,452 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) (15.9 percent)

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

- Larceny-Theft (15.2 percent)
- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (14.3 percent)

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

- Larceny-Theft (26.1 percent)
- Disorderly Conduct (21.7 percent)

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

- Disorderly Conduct (23.5 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (15.9 percent)

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

- Disorderly Conduct (34.9 percent)
- Liquor Law (16.6 percent)