

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 401,288 persons arrested and formally charged with criminal offenses in 2014. Physical arrests resulted in charges against 226,444 persons (56.4 percent). Criminal citations/summons were issued to 174,844 persons (43.6 percent).

Of the 82,520 persons arrested and formally charged with Crime Index offenses, 56,875 or 68.9 percent were arrested and arraigned, while 25,645 or 31.1 percent received citations/summons. A total of 21,335 Violent Crime offenders were charged in 2014. Physical arrests of Violent Crime offenders totaled 18,878 (88.5 percent), and citations/summons were issued to 2,457 Violent Crime offenders (11.5 percent). Property Crime offenders were charged in 61,185 offenses. Physical arrests of Property Crime offenders occurred in 37,997 cases (62.1 percent), and citations/summons were issued to 23,188 Property Crime offenders (37.9 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 318,731 persons. Physical arrests and arraignments took place in 169,534 cases (53.2 percent), and citations were issued to 149,197 individuals (46.8 percent). A review indicates that citations were issued to 84.7 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 91,548 dispositions represent 22.8 percent of the 401,288 persons arrested and formally charged in 2014. This difference is partly due to dispositions of charges from prior years and pending dispositions from persons charged in 2014.

Overall, 68,317 persons (74.6 percent) were found guilty of the offense charged; 7,612 (8.3 percent) were found guilty of a lesser offense; and 15,619 (17.1 percent) were acquitted or dismissed.

Dispositions of Crime Index offenders were distributed as follows: 13,049 or 72.1 percent were guilty as charged; 2,477 or 13.7 percent were guilty of a lesser offense; and 2,580 or 14.2 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Arson (78.0 percent)
- Larceny-Theft (77.2 percent)

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

- Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter (27.0 percent)
- Robbery (20.9 percent)

Of note, the acquittal/dismissal rate for Violent Crime was 20.4 percent as opposed to 13.0 percent for Property Crime.

Dispositions of Part II offenders were distributed as follows: 55,261 or 75.3 percent were guilty as charged; 5,130 or 7.0 percent were guilty of a lesser offense; and 13,037 or 17.8 percent were acquitted or dismissed.

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

- Gambling (95.1 percent)
- Driving Under the Influence (92 percent)

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

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (32.5 percent)
- Vandalism (25.2 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: 15.4 percent or 6,743 were handled by the police department and released; 53.8 percent or 23,586 were referred to juvenile court or juvenile probation departments; .3 percent or 114 were referred to welfare agencies; 1.3 percent or 571 were referred to other police agencies; and 29.2 percent or 12,813 were referred to adult court, usually the district magistrate for specified petty crimes, such as underage drinking, shoplifting, etc.

The majority of juveniles handled with the police department and released were arrested for the following offenses:

- Disorderly Conduct (31.9 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (14.4 percent)

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

- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (14.7 percent)
- All Other Offenses (Except Traffic) (14.3 percent)

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

- Disorderly Conduct (24.6 percent)
- Other Assaults - Not Aggravated (26.3 percent)

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

- Larceny-Theft (21.7 percent)
- Disorderly Conduct (21.5 percent)

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

- Disorderly Conduct (34.0 percent)
- Liquor Law (16.1 percent)