



Crime in California

2002

ARRESTS

"It is only through such a full exposition of these facts that we can fully gauge the scope and activities of the criminal fringe of our society. Armed with these statistics we should be better able to attack this problem. Such information should be invaluable to all California law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorney and the judiciary. The impact of these statistics on the public should enable our householders and others to better protect themselves."

Edmund G. Brown, Attorney General
"Crime in California, 1955"

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Links to:

[Preface](#) [Crimes](#) [Arrests](#)
[Dispositions](#) [Adult Corrections](#)
[Expenditures & Personnel](#)
[Other Databases](#) [Data Tables](#)
[Appendix](#)

ARRESTS

WHAT IS AN ARREST?

Arrests occur when persons are taken into custody because they are believed to have violated the law. Not all arrests result in persons being placed in jail. Arrestees may be released by the arresting agency, may post bail, or may be released on their own recognizance to appear in court at a later date. Some are issued citations, much like traffic tickets, which direct them to appear in court.

Arrests are divided into two major groups: felony arrests and misdemeanor arrests. An arrest for a felony-level offense can result in a sentence to state prison if the offender is convicted as an adult. An arrest for a misdemeanor-level offense can result in a sentence of up to one year in a county jail, a fine, probation, restitution, or any combination of the four.

Juveniles may also be arrested for truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations. These are commonly referred to as status offenses because agency intervention is based solely on the juvenile's status as a minor. Status offenses are acts that would not be "crimes" if committed by adults.

HOW ARE ARRESTS REPORTED?

Unlike crimes, which are classified by nationwide Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards, arrests are reported by

California statute definition of the offense. This may cause some differences in the definitions of certain crimes and the reporting of the arrests for those crimes. For instance, theft from a locked automobile is a burglary by California Penal Code definition. The crime would be classified and reported as a theft under the UCR definition. The arrest offenses in this section are defined by California statute for which specific code sections are listed in the Appendix.

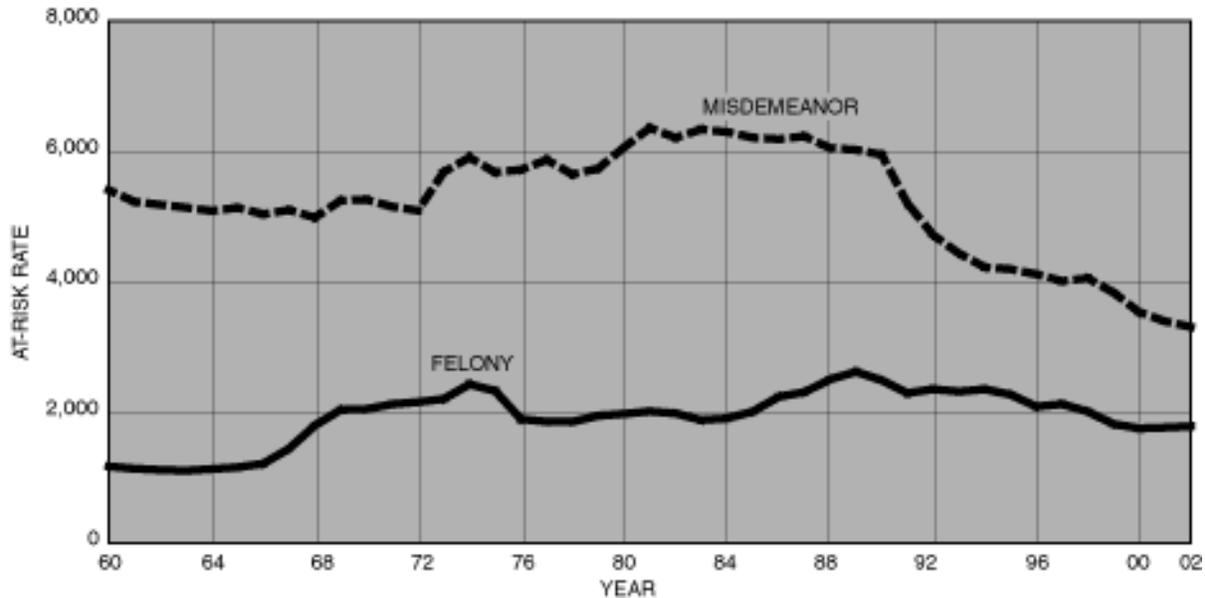
All California law enforcement agencies report arrest and citation information to the Department of Justice on the "Monthly Arrest and Citation Register," which lists each arrestee; includes information on age, gender, and race/ethnic group; and specifies the "most serious" arrest offense and law enforcement disposition.

WHAT IS AN ARREST RATE?

An arrest rate describes the number of arrests made by law enforcement agencies per 100,000 total population or per 100,000 population considered to be at risk for arrest. The following section includes three at-risk comparison populations: total (10-69 years of age), adult (18-69 years of age), and juvenile (10-17 years of age). The formula used to calculate at-risk rates can be found in the Appendix.

ARREST TRENDS, 1960-2002

FELONY AND MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1960-2002
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 16.

Note: The 1995 data include estimates. See "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations" in the Appendix.

The above chart displays arrest rates beginning with 1960, the first year complete data were available. Felony and misdemeanor arrest rates are based on population at risk, 10-69 years of age.

Comparing 1960 to 2002:

- There was a 52.6 percent increase in the rate of felony arrests (from 1,170.0 to 1,785.1).
- There was a 38.8 percent decrease in the rate of misdemeanor arrests (from 5,404.0 to 3,308.3).

Felony arrests as a proportion of total arrests increased from 15.4 percent in 1960 to 34.2 percent in 2002.

The 2002 misdemeanor arrest rate of 3,308.3 per 100,000 population at risk was the lowest for the years shown. Misdemeanor arrests as a proportion of total arrests decreased from 71.4 percent in 1960 to 63.3 percent in 2002.

ARRESTS

Total Arrests

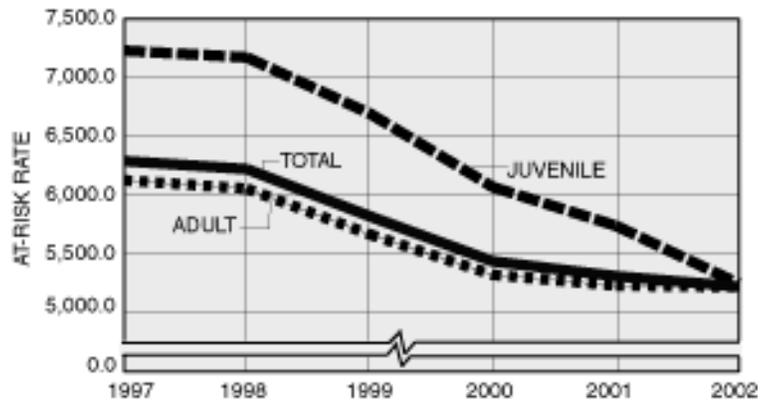
Comparing 1997 to 2002:

- There was a 17.0 percent decrease in the rate of total arrests.
- There was a 14.8 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 27.4 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2001 to 2002:

- There was a 1.7 percent rate decrease in total arrests.
- There was a 0.3 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and an 8.6 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

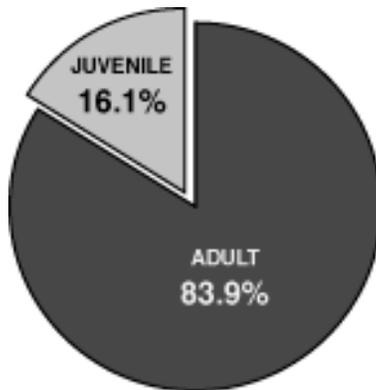
TOTAL ARRESTS, 1997-2002
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 17.

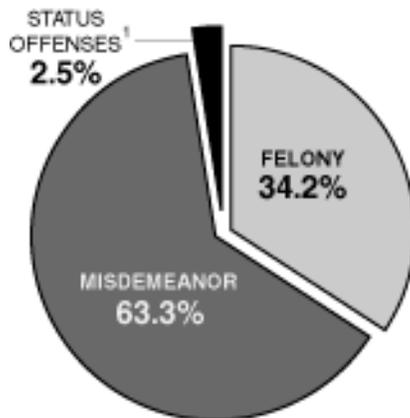
From 2001 to 2002, the total arrest rate decreased 1.7 percent. This was the thirteenth consecutive year of decline (see Tables 16 and 17).

TOTAL ARRESTS, 2002
By Adult and Juvenile



Source: Table 18.

TOTAL ARRESTS, 2002
By Level of Offense



Source: Table 18.

¹ Status offenses include truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations.

Total Arrests (continued)

In 2002, of 1,426,233 arrests reported:

- Adult arrests accounted for 83.9 percent (1,196,599).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 16.1 percent (229,634).

And,

- Felony arrests accounted for 34.2 percent (487,364).
- Misdemeanor arrests accounted for 63.3 percent (903,249).
- Status offense arrests accounted for 2.5 percent (35,620).

ARRESTS

Total Arrests (continued)

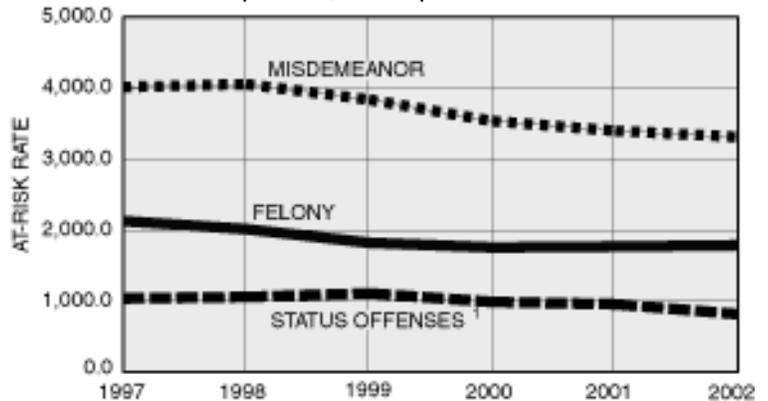
Comparing 1997 to 2002:

- There was a 16.0 percent decrease in the rate of felony arrests.
- There was a 17.5 percent decrease in the rate of misdemeanor arrests.
- There was a 21.4 percent decrease in the rate of status offense arrests.

From 2001 to 2002:

- There was a 1.0 percent rate increase in felony arrests, which corresponds to the 2.4 percent increase in the crime rate.
- There was a 2.6 percent rate decrease in misdemeanor arrests.
- There was a 14.8 percent rate decrease in arrests for status offenses.

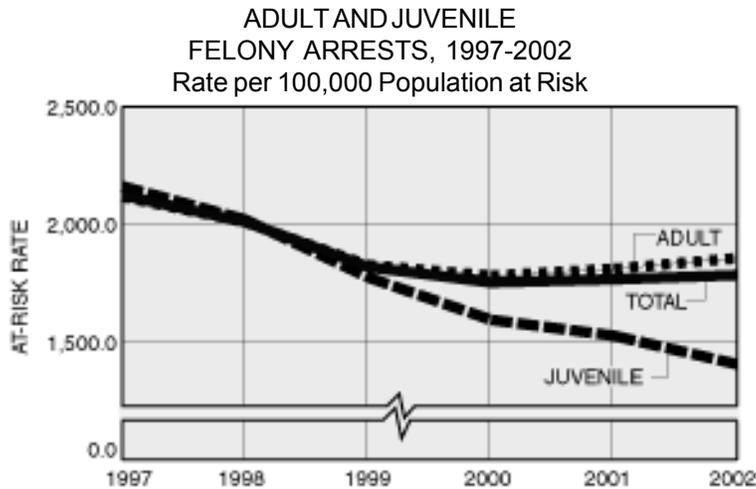
TOTAL ARRESTS, 1997-2002
By Level of Offense
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 17.

¹ Status offenses include truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations.

From 2001 to 2002, felony arrest rates increased 1.0 percent. For the five-year period 1997-2002, a 16.0 percent decrease occurred.



Source: Table 17.

Felony Arrests

Comparing 1997 to 2002:

- There was a 12.4 percent decrease in the rate of adult felony arrests and a 35.0 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile felony arrests.

From 2001 to 2002:

- There was a 2.5 percent rate increase in adult felony arrests and a 7.9 percent rate decrease in juvenile felony arrests.

In 2002, the juvenile arrest rate for felony offenses remained below that of the adult rate for the fourth consecutive year.

ARRESTS

Felony Arrests (continued)

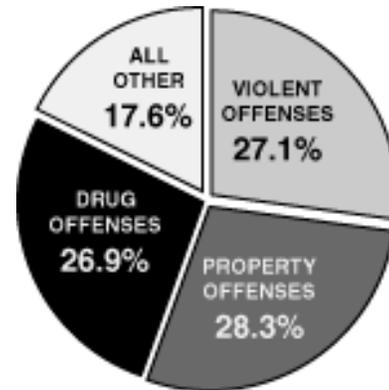
In 2002, of 487,364 felony arrests reported:

- Violent offenses accounted for 27.1 percent (132,059).
- Property offenses accounted for 28.3 percent (138,142).
- Drug offenses accounted for 26.9 percent (131,306).
- All other offenses accounted for 17.6 percent (85,857).

And,

- Adult arrests accounted for 87.4 percent (425,825).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 12.6 percent (61,539).

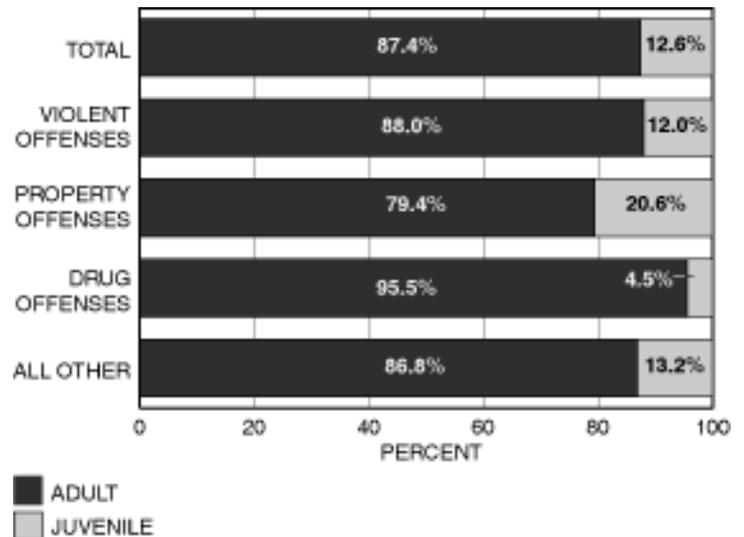
FELONY ARRESTS, 2002
By Category



Source: Table 19.

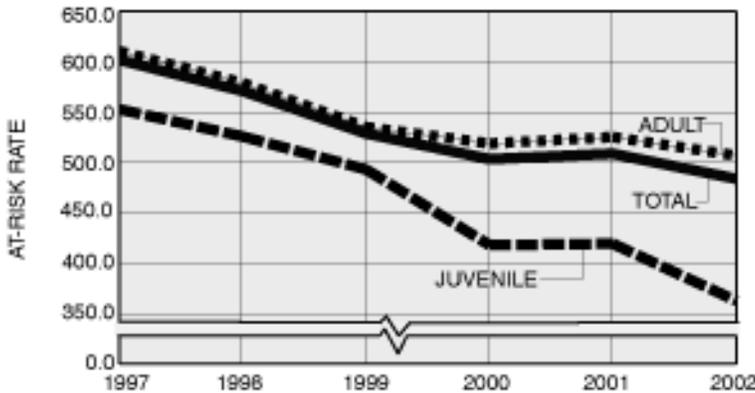
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

FELONY ARRESTS, 2002
Category by Adult and Juvenile Arrests



Source: Table 21.

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
VIOLENT OFFENSES, 1997-2002
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

Arrests for Violent Offenses

Violent Offense Arrests - felony arrests for homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, and kidnapping.

Comparing 1997 to 2002:

- There was a 19.6 percent decrease in the rate of total arrests for violent offenses.
- There was a 17.0 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 34.4 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2001 to 2002:

- There was a 4.9 percent rate decrease in total arrests for violent offenses.
- There was a 3.5 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 13.5 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

The juvenile arrest rate for violent offenses decreased 13.5 percent from 2001 to 2002.

ARRESTS

Arrests for Violent Offenses (continued)

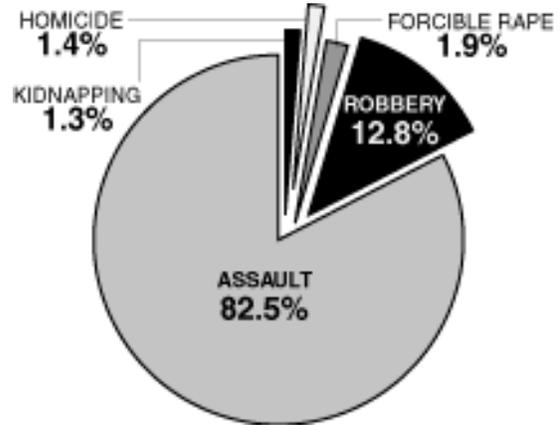
In 2002, of 132,059 felony arrests for violent offenses:

- Homicide accounted for 1.4 percent (1,864).
- Forcible rape accounted for 1.9 percent (2,549).
- Robbery accounted for 12.8 percent (16,957).
- Assault accounted for 82.5 percent (108,925).
- Kidnapping accounted for 1.3 percent (1,764).

And,

- Adult arrests accounted for 88.0 percent (116,194).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 12.0 percent (15,865).

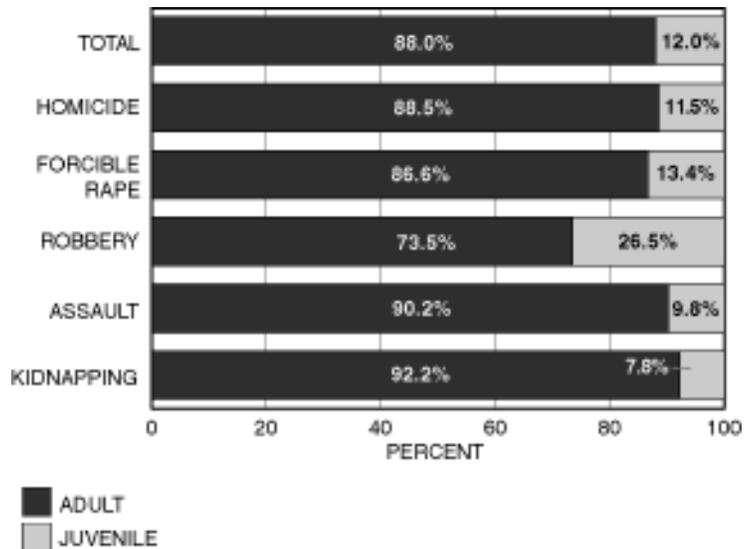
FELONY ARRESTS FOR
VIOLENT OFFENSES, 2002
By Offense



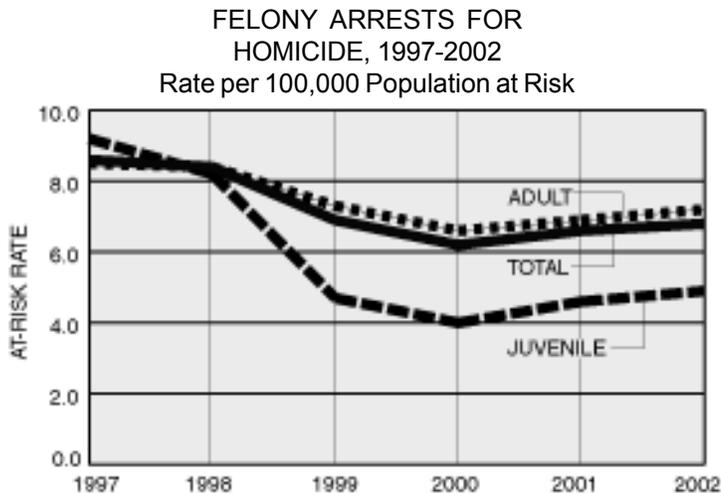
Source: Table 20.

Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
VIOLENT OFFENSES, 2002
Offense by Adult and Juvenile Arrests



Source: Table 21.



Source: Table 22.

Homicide Arrests

Comparing 1997 to 2002:

- There was a 20.9 percent decrease in the rate of total homicide arrests.
- There was a 15.3 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 46.7 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2001 to 2002:

- There was a 3.0 percent increase in the rate of total homicide arrests.
- There was a 4.3 percent rate increase in adult arrests and a 6.5 percent rate increase in juvenile arrests.

In 2002, of 1,864 arrests for homicide:

- Adult arrests accounted for 88.5 percent (1,649).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 11.5 percent (215).

In 2002, homicide arrest rates for juveniles and adults increased for the second consecutive year.

ARRESTS

Forcible Rape Arrests

Comparing 1997 to 2002:

- There was a 23.1 percent decrease in the rate of total forcible rape arrests.
- There was a 20.7 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 32.8 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

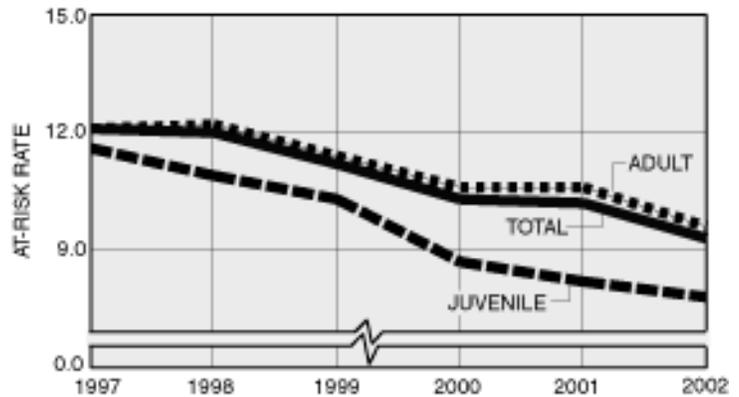
From 2001 to 2002:

- There was an 8.8 percent rate decrease in total forcible rape arrests.
- There was a 9.4 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 4.9 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

In 2002, of 2,549 arrests for forcible rape:

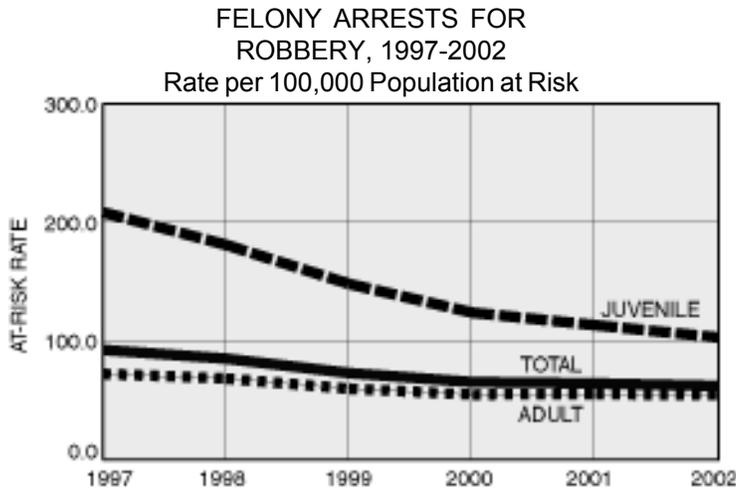
- Adult arrests accounted for 86.6 percent (2,207).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 13.4 percent (342).

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
FORCIBLE RAPE, 1997-2002
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

In 2002, forcible rape arrest rates for both juveniles and adults were the lowest for the years shown.



Source: Table 22.

Robbery Arrests

Comparing 1997 to 2002:

- There was a 32.9 percent decrease in the rate of total robbery arrests.
- There was a 24.8 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 50.7 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2001 to 2002:

- There was a 3.3 percent rate decrease in total robbery arrests.
- There was a 1.5 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 9.2 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

In 2002, of 16,957 arrests for robbery:

- Adult arrests accounted for 73.5 percent (12,457).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 26.5 percent (4,500).

The adult arrest rate for robbery offenses decreased slightly from 2001 to 2002.

ARRESTS

Assault Arrests

Comparing 1997 to 2002:

- There was a 17.2 percent decrease in the rate of total assault arrests.
- There was a 16.0 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 23.6 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

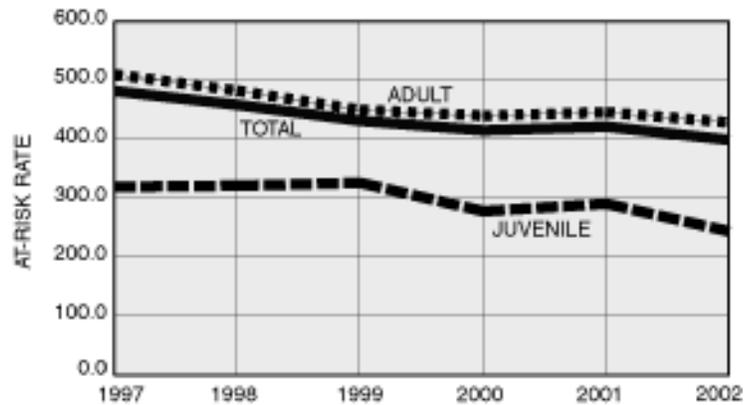
From 2001 to 2002:

- There was a 5.4 percent rate decrease in total assault arrests.
- There was a 3.9 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 16.1 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

In 2002, of 108,925 arrests for assault:

- Adult arrests accounted for 90.2 percent (98,255).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 9.8 percent (10,670).

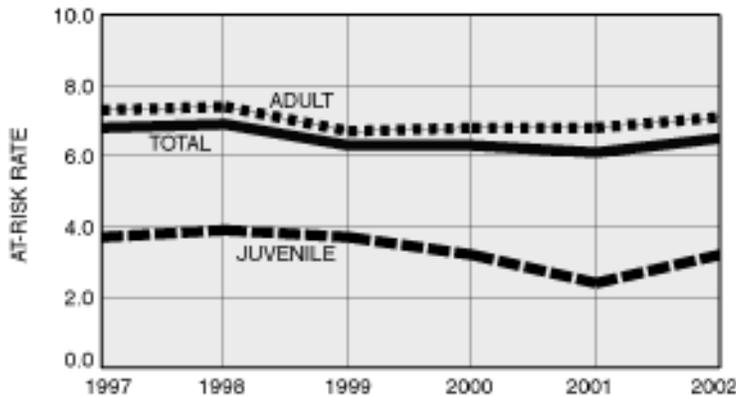
FELONY ARRESTS FOR
ASSAULT, 1997-2002
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

From 2001 to 2002, arrest rates for assault offenses decreased for juveniles and adults.

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
KIDNAPPING, 1997-2002
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

Kidnapping Arrests

Comparing 1997 to 2002:

- There was a 4.4 percent decrease in the rate of total kidnapping arrests.
- There was a 2.7 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 13.5 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2001 to 2002:

- There was a 6.6 percent increase in the rate of total kidnapping arrests.
- There was a 4.4 percent increase in the rate of adult arrests and a 33.3 percent increase in the rate of juvenile arrests.

In 2002, of 1,764 arrests for kidnapping:

- Adult arrests accounted for 92.2 percent (1,626).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 7.8 percent (138).

In 2002, kidnapping arrest rates increased for juveniles and adults.

ARRESTS

Arrests for Property Offenses

Property Offense Arrests - felony arrests for burglary; theft; motor vehicle theft; forgery, checks, and access card offenses; and arson.

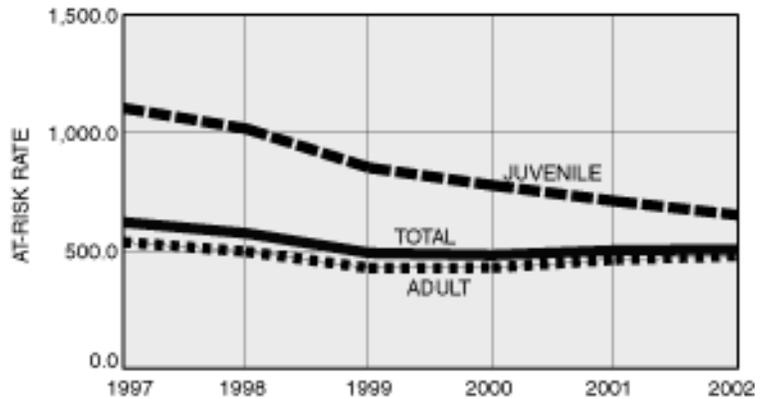
Comparing 1997 to 2002:

- There was an 18.5 percent decrease in the rate of total arrests for property offenses.
- There was a 10.9 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 41.1 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2001 to 2002:

- There was a 0.9 percent rate increase in total arrests for property offenses.
- There was a 3.3 percent rate increase in adult arrests and an 8.3 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
PROPERTY OFFENSES, 1997-2002
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk

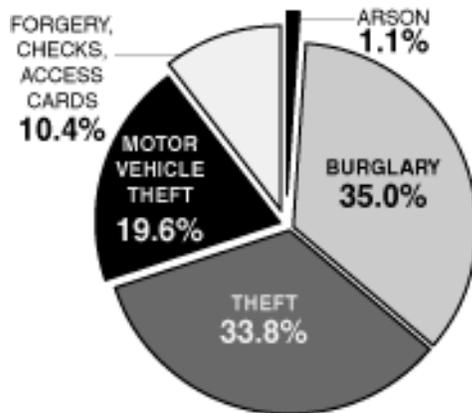


Source: Table 22.

In 2002, total property offense arrest rates increased for the second consecutive year.

Arrests for Property Offenses (continued)

FELONY ARRESTS FOR PROPERTY OFFENSES, 2002
By Offense



Source: Table 20.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

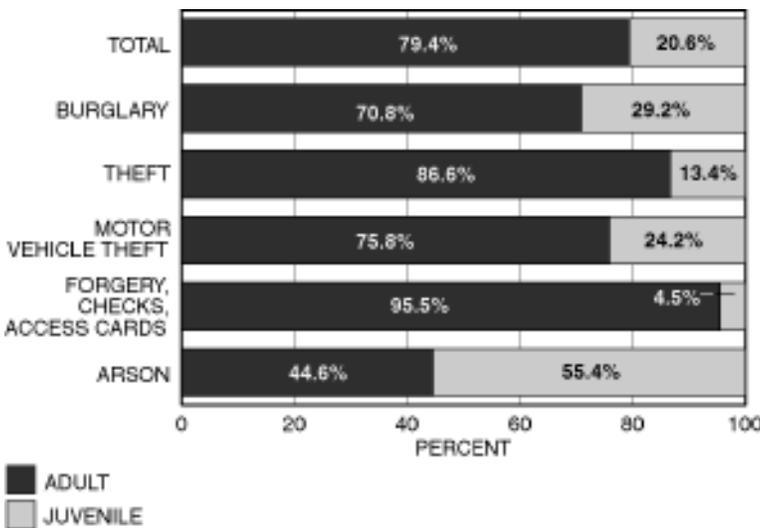
In 2002, of 138,142 felony arrests for property offenses:

- Burglary accounted for 35.0 percent (48,312).
- Theft accounted for 33.8 percent (46,750).
- Motor vehicle theft accounted for 19.6 percent (27,084).
- Forgery, checks, and access cards accounted for 10.4 percent (14,418).
- Arson accounted for 1.1 percent (1,578).

And,

- Adult arrests accounted for 79.4 percent (109,670).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 20.6 percent (28,472).

FELONY ARRESTS FOR PROPERTY OFFENSES, 2002
Offense by Adult and Juvenile Arrests



Source: Table 21.

More 