



Crime in California

2002

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS

"This issue of Crime in California, which is the ninth in the series, is made possible by the willingness of the law enforcement and prosecuting agencies in the counties and cities of the State to consistently contribute individual and summarized statistical reports to the Bureau of Criminal Statistics... As Attorney General, with statewide responsibility, both statutory and moral, in the field of law enforcement, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the atmosphere of cooperation which extends its beneficial effects not only in the area of statistics but throughout the whole field of law enforcement, delinquency control, and criminal justice."

Stanley Mosk, Attorney General
"Crime in California, 1960"

More 

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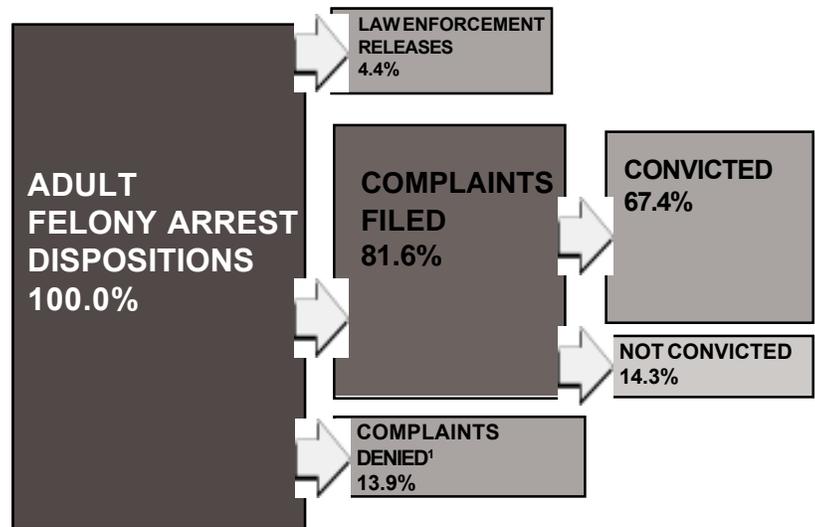
DISPOSITIONS

The Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) system in California describes the processing of adults arrested for felony offenses from arrest through final disposition. Data on the adjacent flow chart pertain specifically to adult felony arrests that received final dispositions in 2002 and were added to the Automated Criminal History System (ACHS) by the Department of Justice by May 2003.

WHAT IS A FINAL DISPOSITION?

In the OBTS system, the term "final disposition" refers to a specific legal action that takes place following an adult felony arrest. Final dispositions shown occur at the law enforcement, prosecutor, or court level. For example, if an arrestee is released by a law enforcement agency or the complaint is denied by a prosecutor who has determined that there is not enough evidence to justify the filing of a complaint, the release is recorded as a final disposition. If an arrestee is referred to court for adjudication, the outcome (e.g., dismissal, diversion dismissal, acquittal, or conviction) is also recorded as a final disposition. "Intermediate" dispositions (e.g., placements into diversionary programs) are not included in the OBTS file.

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 2002^a



Source: Table 38.

^aPreliminary data.

¹The complaints denied category includes single complaints denied, combined cases, and petitions to revoke probation.

²The state institutions category includes sentences to death, prison, the California Rehabilitation Center, and the California Youth Authority.

Note: Percentages may not add to subtotals because of rounding.

DISPOSITIONS

STATE INSTITUTIONS ²	11.7%
PROBATION WITH JAIL	41.5%
JAIL	2.3%
PROBATION	10.7%
FINE AND OTHER	1.1%
COURT DISMISSALS	14.0%
ACQUITTALS	0.3%

HOW ARE OBTS DATA REPORTED?

Dispositions of adult felony arrests were reported by approximately 1,200 agencies in 2002. These agencies include law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts of the California criminal justice system.

OBTS data are taken directly from the Department of Justice's Automated Criminal History System (ACHS). The arrest dispositions received generally describe statewide processing of adult felony arrestees through California's criminal justice system. (See Appendix for data characteristics and known limitations.)

OBTS data file for 2002 was closed in May 2003 and is considered preliminary. The "final" file will be closed in Fall 2003. Fluctuations from year to year in counts may not necessarily be due to actual occurrences in the criminal justice system but only reflect the degree to which dispositions are reported and processed. Due to processing changes, 2002 OBTS convictions by offense data are not available. See additional *Data Characteristics and Known Limitations* on page 162.

DISPOSITIONS

Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions

During the 1997-2002 time period, as a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions:

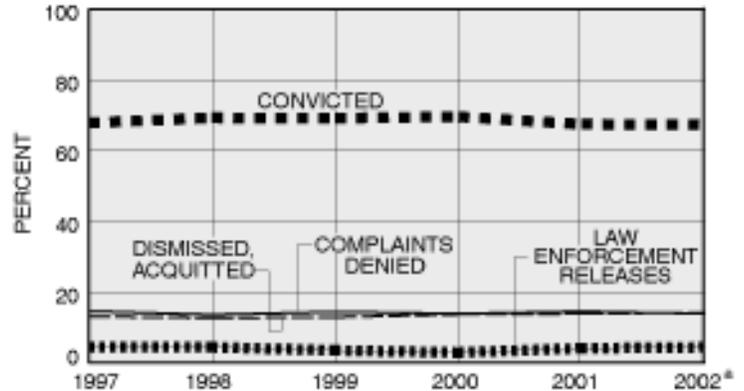
- Law enforcement releases ranged from 2.9 to 4.4 percent.
- Prosecutor complaints denied ranged from 13.6 to 14.6 percent.
- Dismissals and acquittals ranged from 12.7 to 14.2 percent.
- Convictions ranged from 67.4 to 69.6 percent.

In 2002, as a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions:

- Law enforcement releases accounted for 4.4 percent (11,291).
- Prosecutor complaints denied accounted for 13.9 percent (35,451).
- Dismissals or acquittals accounted for 14.2 percent (36,247).
- Convictions accounted for 67.4 percent (171,540).

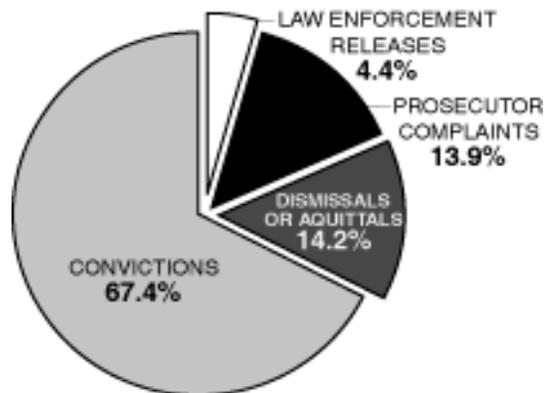
In 2002, more than two-thirds of adult felony arrest dispositions resulted in a conviction.

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1997-2002
Type of Disposition by Year



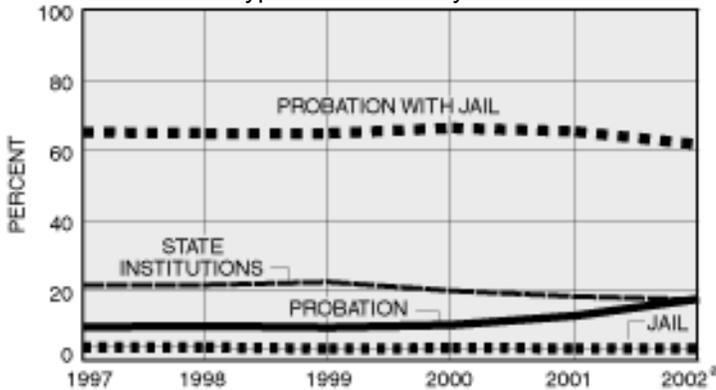
Source: Table 39.
^aPreliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 2002^a
By Type of Disposition



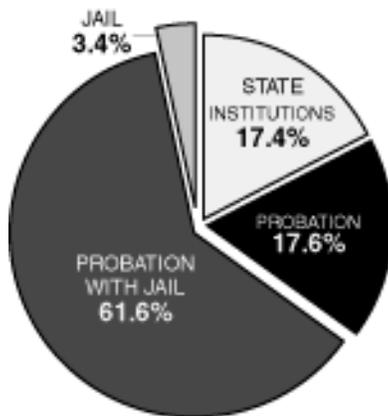
Source: Table 39.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
^aPreliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1997-2002
Type of Sentence by Year



Source: Table 40.
^aPreliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 2002^a
By Type of Sentence



Source: Table 40.
^aPreliminary data.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted

During the 1997-2002 time period, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted and sentenced to:

- State institutions ranged from 17.4 to 22.4 percent.
- Probation ranged from 9.5 to 17.6 percent.
- Probation with jail ranged from 61.6 to 66.3 percent.
- Jail ranged from 3.4 to 3.8 percent.

In 2002, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted and sentenced to:

- State institutions accounted for 17.4 percent (29,776).
- Probation accounted for 17.6 percent (30,169).
- Probation with jail accounted for 61.6 percent (105,740).
- Jail accounted for 3.4 percent (5,855).

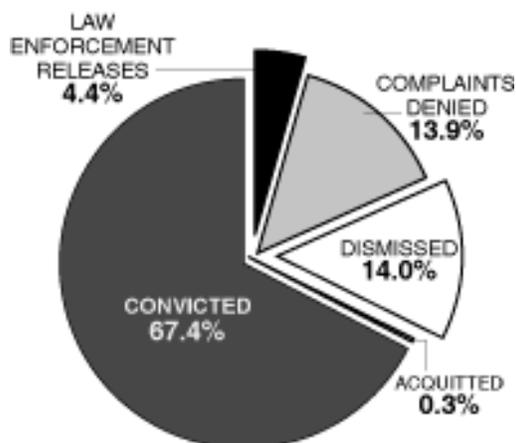
In 2002, 82.6 percent of convicted adult felony arrestees were sentenced to local supervision.

Conviction Rates

The conviction rates shown are calculated using two different bases. The first is based on *total adult felony arrest dispositions* and the second is based on *total complaints filed*. Each is valid and by presenting both, the reader is provided two perspectives from which to evaluate the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Conviction rates based on *total adult felony arrest dispositions* describe the overall processing of offenders by the criminal justice system. This method of calculation focuses on the proportion of convictions out of the total number of arrests.

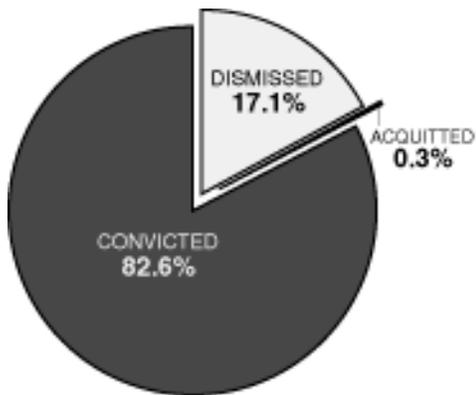
DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 2002^a
By Type of Disposition



Source: Table 38.

^aPreliminary data.

DISPOSITIONS OF COMPLAINTS FILED
RESULTING FROM ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 2002^a
By Type of Disposition



Source: Table 38A.
^aPreliminary data.

Conviction Rates (continued)

Conviction rates based on *total complaints filed* describe the processing of defendants in the courts. This method of calculation focuses on those arrests for which a complaint was filed by the district attorney.

Formulas used to calculate conviction rates based on total adult felony arrest dispositions and total complaints filed can be found in the Appendix.

More 
(To Adult Corrections)