



ARRESTS

(part 1)



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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 Appendix 4.

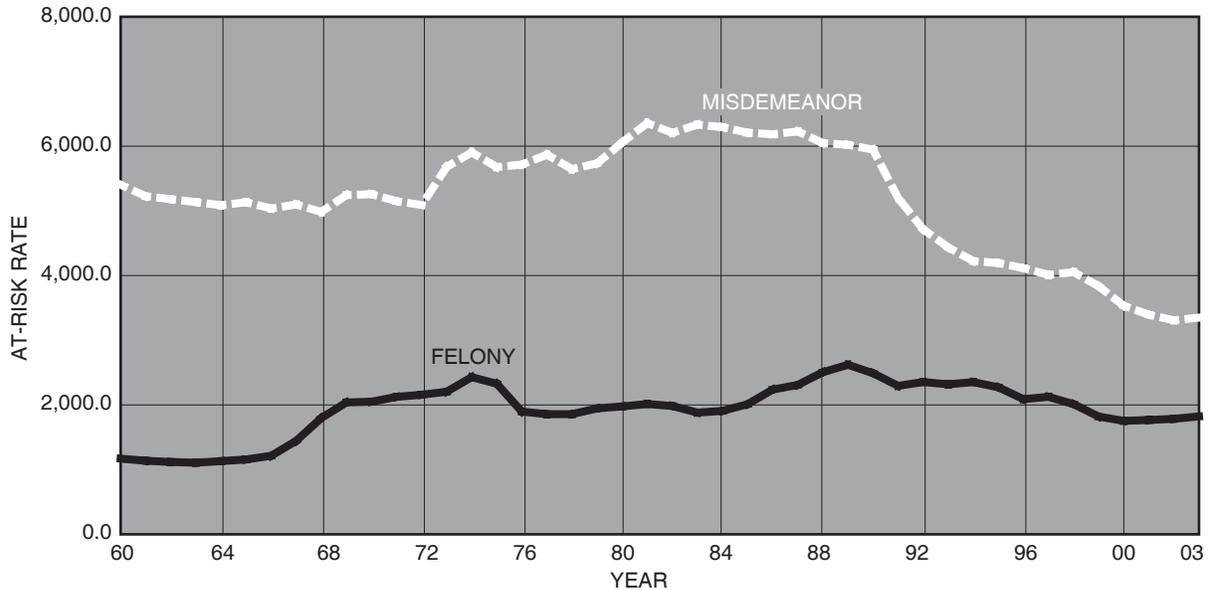
All California law enforcement agencies report arrest and citation information to the Department of Justice on the "Monthly Arrest and Citation Register," which lists each arrestee; includes information on age, gender, and race/ethnic group; and specifies the "most serious" arrest offense and law enforcement 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 Appendix 2.

ARREST TRENDS, 1960-2003

FELONY AND MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 1960-2003
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 16.

Note: The 1995 data include estimates. See Appendix 1, "Data Characteristics and Known Limitations."

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 2003:

- There was a 55.8 percent increase in the rate of felony arrests (from 1,170.0 to 1,823.0).
- There was a 38.0 percent decrease in the rate of misdemeanor arrests (from 5,404.0 to 3,349.9).

Felony arrests as a proportion of total arrests increased from 15.4 percent in 1960 to 34.5 percent in 2003.

The 2003 misdemeanor arrest rate of 3,349.9 per 100,000 population at risk was slightly higher than the 2002 rate of 3,308.3. Misdemeanor arrests as a proportion of total arrests decreased from 71.4 percent in 1960 to 63.3 percent in 2003.

Status offense arrests as a proportion of total arrests decreased from 13.2 percent in 1960 to 2.2 percent in 2003.

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Total Arrests

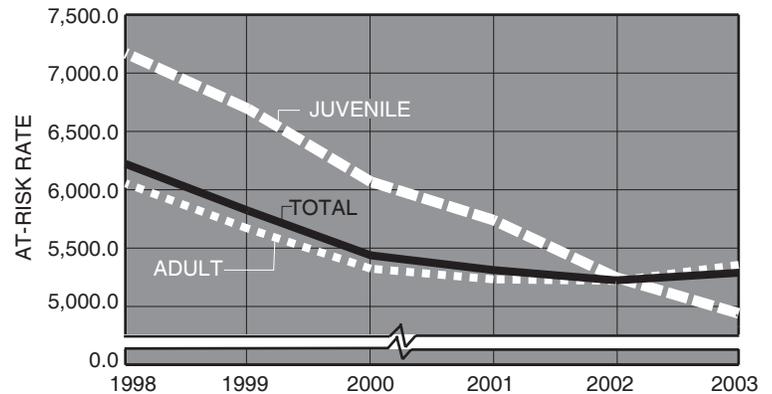
Comparing 1998 to 2003:

- There was a 15.0 percent decrease in the rate of total arrests.
- There was an 11.5 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 31.1 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2002 to 2003:

- There was a 1.2 percent rate increase in total arrests.
- There was a 2.6 percent rate increase in adult arrests and a 5.9 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

TOTAL ARRESTS, 1998-2003
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



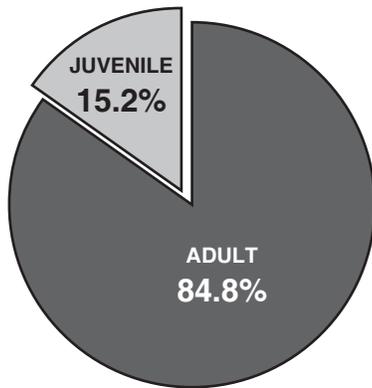
Source: Table 17.

From 2002 to 2003, the total arrest rate increased 1.2 percent. This was the first increase after 13 consecutive years of decreases (see Tables 16 and 17).

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Total Arrests (continued)

TOTAL ARRESTS, 2003
By Adult and Juvenile



Source: Table 18.

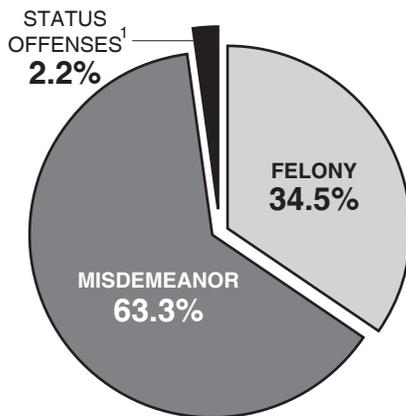
In 2003, of 1,471,083 arrests reported:

- Adult arrests accounted for 84.8 percent (1,247,763).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 15.2 percent (223,320).

And,

- Felony arrests accounted for 34.5 percent (507,081).
- Misdemeanor arrests accounted for 63.3 percent (931,782).
- Status offense arrests accounted for 2.2 percent (32,220).

TOTAL ARRESTS, 2003
By Level of Offense



Source: Table 18.

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

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Total Arrests (continued)

Comparing 1998 to 2003:

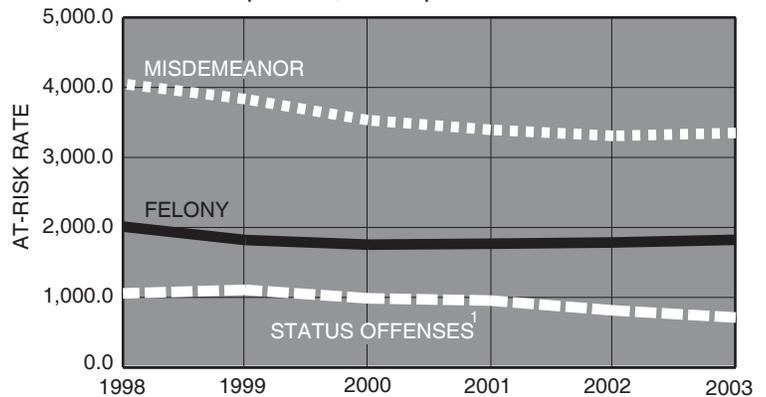
- There was a 9.4 percent decrease in the rate of felony arrests.
- There was a 17.3 percent decrease in the rate of misdemeanor arrests.
- There was a 32.6 percent decrease in the rate of status offense arrests.

From 2002 to 2003:

- There was a 2.1 percent rate increase in felony arrests.
- There was a 1.3 percent rate increase in misdemeanor arrests.
- There was a 12.4 percent rate decrease in arrests for status offenses.

From 2002 to 2003, felony arrest rates increased 2.1 percent, marking the third consecutive year of increases.

TOTAL ARRESTS, 1998-2003
By Level of Offense
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk

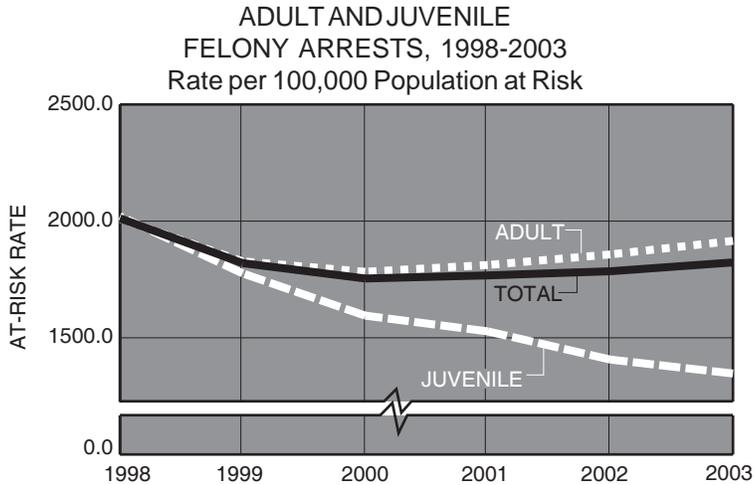


Source: Table 17.

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

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Felony Arrests



Source: Table 17.

Comparing 1998 to 2003:

- There was a 4.7 percent decrease in the rate of adult felony arrests and a 33.4 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile felony arrests.

From 2002 to 2003:

- There was a 3.1 percent rate increase in adult felony arrests and a 4.2 percent rate decrease in juvenile felony arrests.

In 2003, the juvenile arrest rate for felony offenses dropped 4.2 percent and remained below that of the adult rate for the fifth consecutive year.

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Felony Arrests (continued)

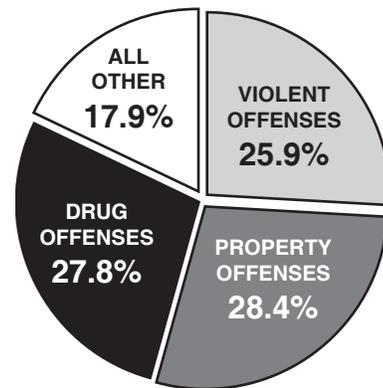
In 2003, of 507,081 felony arrests reported:

- Violent offenses accounted for 25.9 percent (131,218).
- Property offenses accounted for 28.4 percent (144,200).
- Drug offenses accounted for 27.8 percent (140,744).
- All other offenses accounted for 17.9 percent (90,919).

And,

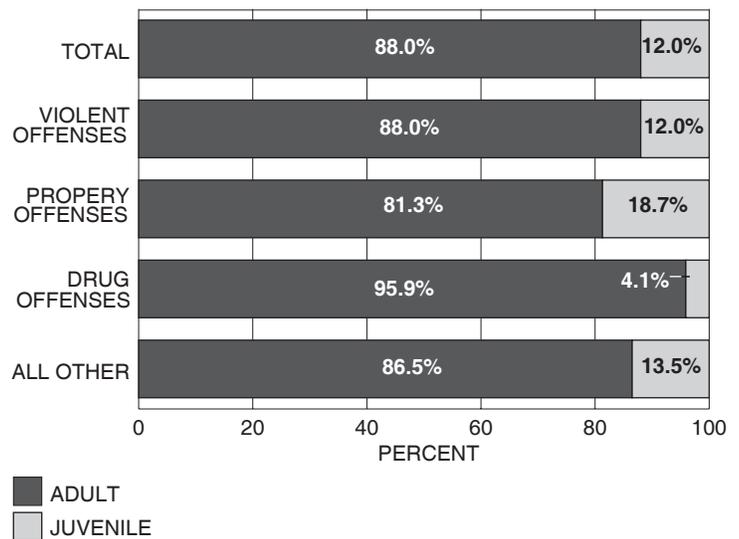
- Adult arrests accounted for 88.0 percent (446,203).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 12.0 percent (60,878).

FELONY ARRESTS, 2003
By Category



Source: Table 19.

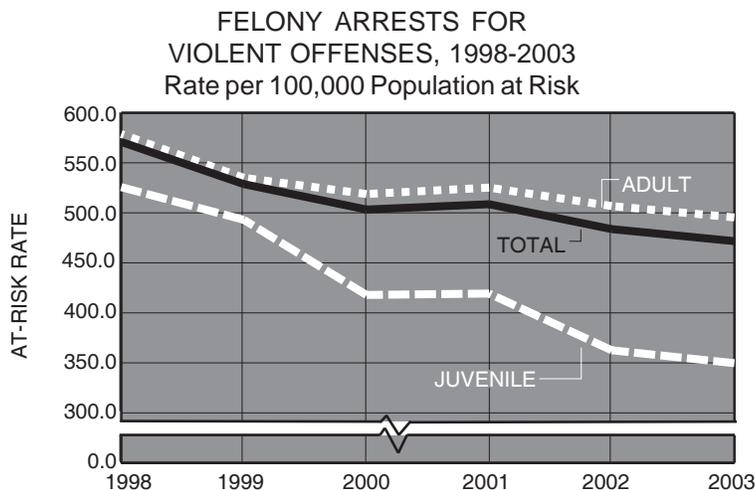
FELONY ARRESTS, 2003
Category by Adult and Juvenile Arrests



Source: Table 21.

Arrests for Violent Offenses

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



Source: Table 22.

Comparing 1998 to 2003:

- There was a 17.4 percent decrease in the rate of total arrests for violent offenses.
- There was a 14.4 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 33.5 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2002 to 2003:

- There was a 2.5 percent rate decrease in total arrests for violent offenses.
- There was a 2.2 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 3.6 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

With the exception of a slight increase in 2001, adult and juvenile arrest rates for violent offenses have declined annually for the years shown.

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Arrests for Violent Offenses (continued)

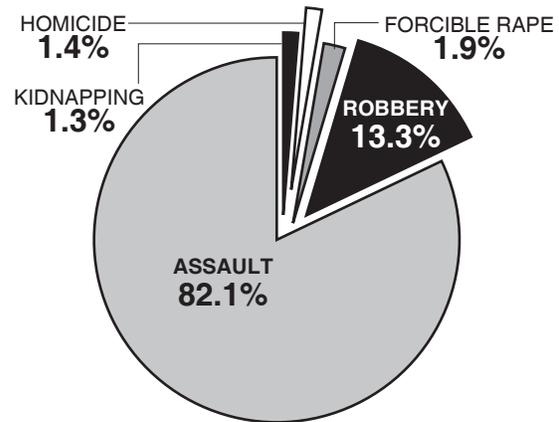
In 2003, of 131,218 felony arrests for violent offenses:

- Homicide accounted for 1.4 percent (1,839).
- Forcible rape accounted for 1.9 percent (2,456).
- Robbery accounted for 13.3 percent (17,501).
- Assault accounted for 82.1 percent (107,726).
- Kidnapping accounted for 1.3 percent (1,696).

And,

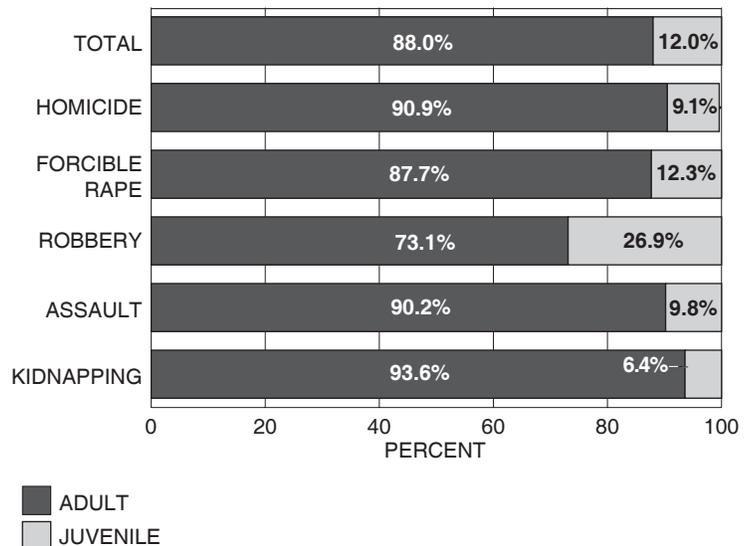
- Adult arrests accounted for 88.0 percent (115,410).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 12.0 percent (15,808).

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
VIOLENT OFFENSES, 2003
By Offense



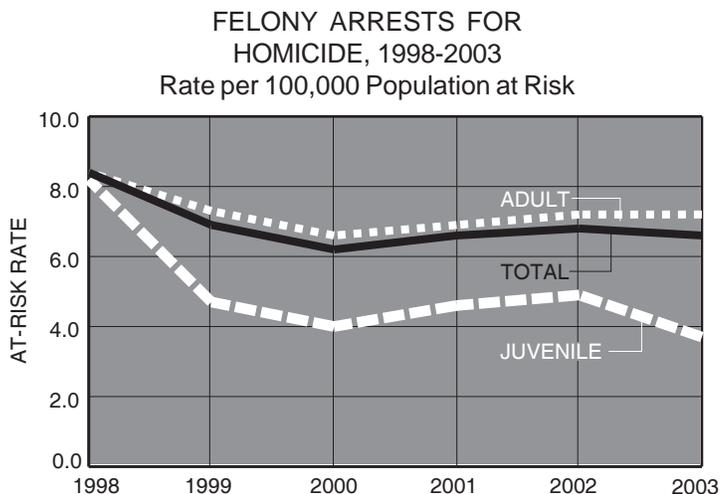
Source: Table 20.

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
VIOLENT OFFENSES, 2003
Offense by Adult and Juvenile Arrests



Source: Table 21.

Homicide Arrests



Source: Table 22.

Comparing 1998 to 2003:

- There was a 21.4 percent decrease in the rate of total homicide arrests.
- There was a 14.3 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 54.9 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2002 to 2003:

- There was a 2.9 percent decrease in the rate of total homicide arrests.
- The rate of adult arrests remained the same and there was a 24.5 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

In 2003, of 1,839 arrests for homicide:

- Adult arrests accounted for 90.9 percent (1,672).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 9.1 percent (167).

In 2003, the homicide arrest rate for juveniles dropped 24.5 percent after increasing the previous two years.

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Forcible Rape Arrests

Comparing 1998 to 2003:

- There was a 26.7 percent decrease in the rate of total forcible rape arrests.
- There was a 23.8 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 38.5 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2002 to 2003:

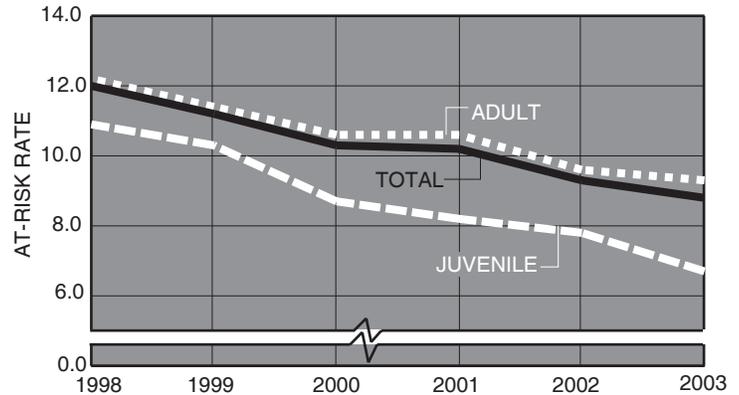
- There was a 5.4 percent rate decrease in total forcible rape arrests.
- There was a 3.1 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 14.1 percent rate decrease in juvenile arrests.

In 2003, of 2,456 arrests for forcible rape:

- Adult arrests accounted for 87.7 percent (2,155).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 12.3 percent (301).

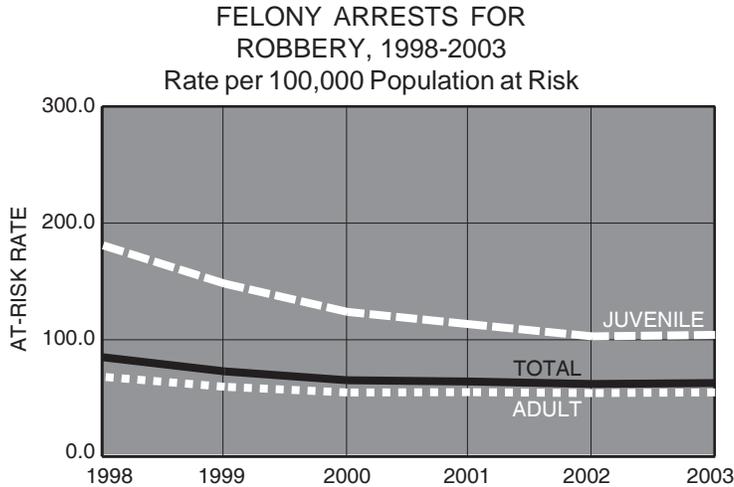
In 2003, forcible rape arrest rates for both juveniles and adults were the lowest for the years shown.

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
FORCIBLE RAPE, 1998-2003
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

Robbery Arrests



Source: Table 22.

Comparing 1998 to 2003:

- There was a 26.1 percent decrease in the rate of total robbery arrests.
- There was a 19.6 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 42.5 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2002 to 2003:

- There was a 1.3 percent rate increase in total robbery arrests.
- There was a 1.1 percent rate increase in adult arrests and a 1.3 percent rate increase in juvenile arrests.

In 2003, of 17,501 arrests for robbery:

- Adult arrests accounted for 73.1 percent (12,793).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 26.9 percent (4,708).

Though increasing slightly (1.3 percent) in 2003, the juvenile arrest rate for robbery offenses has decreased 42.5 percent since 1998.

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Assault Arrests

Comparing 1998 to 2003:

- There was a 15.5 percent decrease in the rate of total assault arrests.
- There was a 13.5 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 27.6 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2002 to 2003:

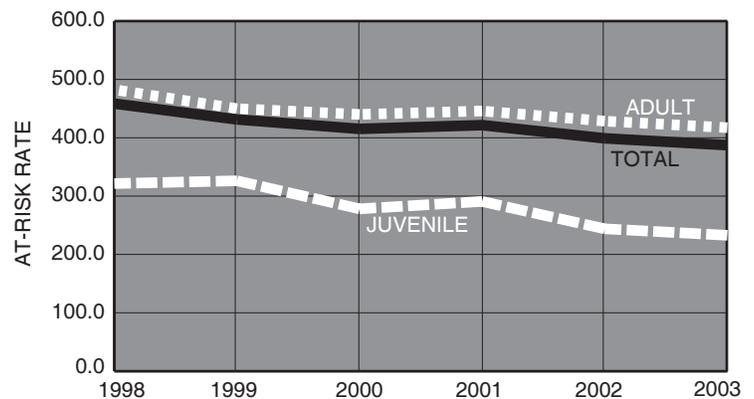
- There was a 2.9 percent rate decrease in total assault arrests.
- There was a 2.6 percent rate decrease in adult arrests and a 4.6 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

In 2003, of 107,726 arrests for assault:

- Adult arrests accounted for 90.2 percent (97,202).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 9.8 percent (10,524).

In 2003, arrest rates for assault offenses for juveniles and adults decreased for the second year in a row.

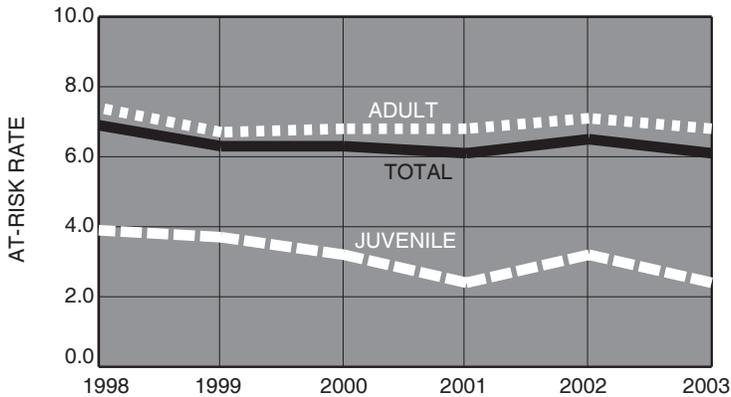
FELONY ARRESTS FOR ASSAULT, 1998-2003
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

Kidnapping Arrests

FELONY ARRESTS FOR
KIDNAPPING, 1998-2003
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



Source: Table 22.

Comparing 1998 to 2003:

- There was an 11.6 percent decrease in the rate of total kidnapping arrests.
- There was an 8.1 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 38.5 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

From 2002 to 2003:

- There was a 6.2 percent decrease in the rate of total kidnapping arrests.
- There was a 4.2 percent decrease in the rate of adult arrests and a 25.0 percent decrease in the rate of juvenile arrests.

In 2003, of 1,696 arrests for kidnapping:

- Adult arrests accounted for 93.6 percent (1,588).
- Juvenile arrests accounted for 6.4 percent (108).

In 2003, kidnapping arrest rates decreased for juveniles and adults.

more Arrests →