ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS

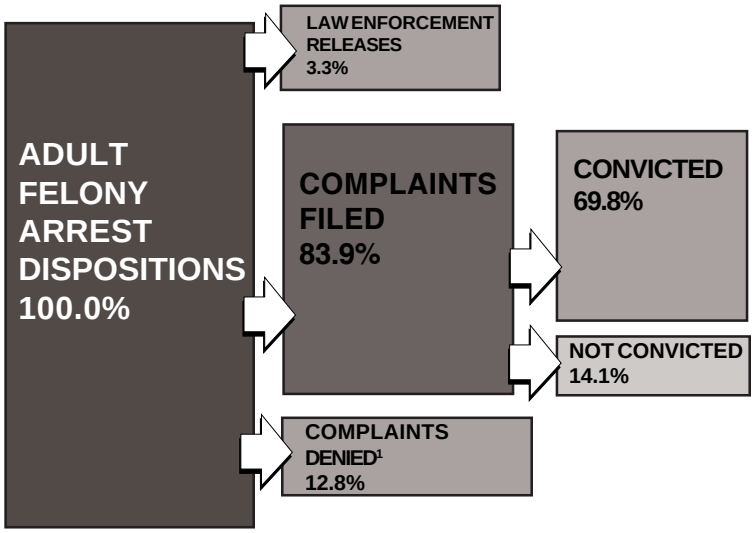
DISPOSITIONS

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 2004 and were added to the Automated Criminal History System (ACHS) by the Department of Justice by May 2005.

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, 2004[a]



Source: Table 38.
[a] Preliminary data.
[1] The complaints denied category includes single complaints denied, combined cases, and petitions to revoke probation.
[2] The state institutions category includes sentences to death, prison, the California Rehabilitation Center, and the California Youth Authority.

STATE INSTITUTIONS[2]	12.8%
PROBATION WITH JAIL	42.1%
JAIL	2.5%
PROBATION	10.2%
FINE AND OTHER	2.1%
COURT DISMISSALS	13.9%
ACQUITTALS	0.2%

HOW ARE OBTS DATA REPORTED?

Dispositions of adult felony arrests were reported by approximately 1,200 agencies in 2004. 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 1, Data Characteristics and Known Limitations.)

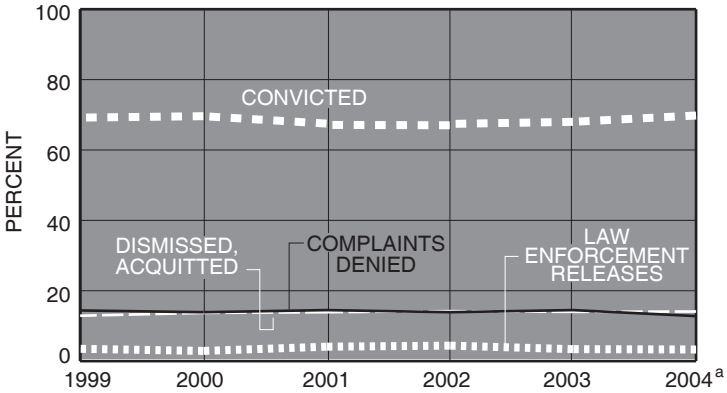
The OBTS data file for 2004 was closed in May 2005 and is considered preliminary. The "final" file will be closed in fall 2005. Fluctuations from year to year in counts may not necessarily be due to actual occurrences in the criminal justice system but only reflect the degree to which dispositions are reported and processed. Due to processing changes, 2002 OBTS convictions by offense data are not available. In 2003, a processing modification was made allowing these data to become available. See Appendix 1, *Data Characteristics and Known Limitations,* on page 168.

Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions

During the 1999-2004 time period, as a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions:

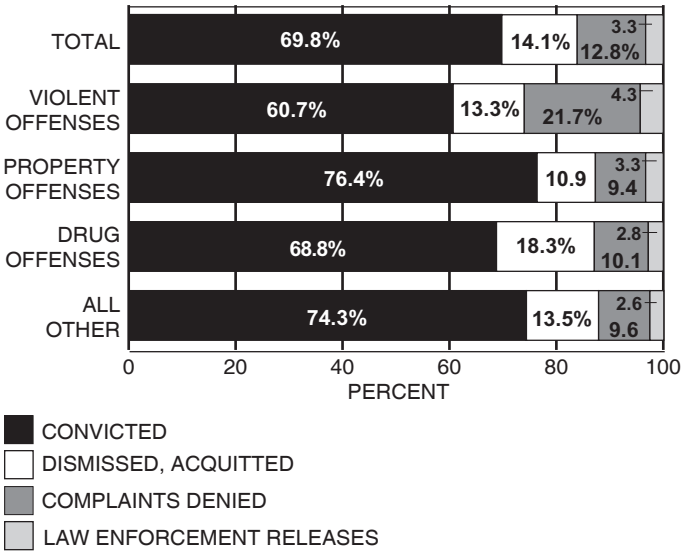
- Law enforcement releases ranged from 2.9 to 4.1 percent.
- Prosecutor complaints denied ranged from 12.8 to 14.5 percent.
- Dismissals and acquittals ranged from 12.9 to 14.5 percent.
- Convictions ranged from 67.5 to 69.8 percent.

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1999-2004
Type of Disposition by Year



Source: Table 39.
[a]Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 2004[a]
Arrest Offense Category by Type of Disposition



Source: Table 40.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
[a]Preliminary data.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted

In 2004, as a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions:

- Convictions accounted for 69.8 percent (225,217).
- Dismissals or acquittals accounted for 14.1 percent (45,521).
- Prosecutor complaints denied accounted for 12.8 percent (41,377).
- Law enforcement releases accounted for 3.3 percent (10,584).

In 2004, as a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions for each arrest category:

- The largest percentage of prosecutor complaints denied was for the violent offense category (21.7 percent).
- The largest percentage of dismissals and acquittals was for the drug offense category (18.3 percent).
- The largest percentage of convictions was for the property and "all other" offense categories (76.4 and 74.3 percent, respectively).

In 2004, more than two-thirds of adult felony arrest dispositions resulted in a conviction.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted

During the 1999-2004 time period, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted and sentenced to:

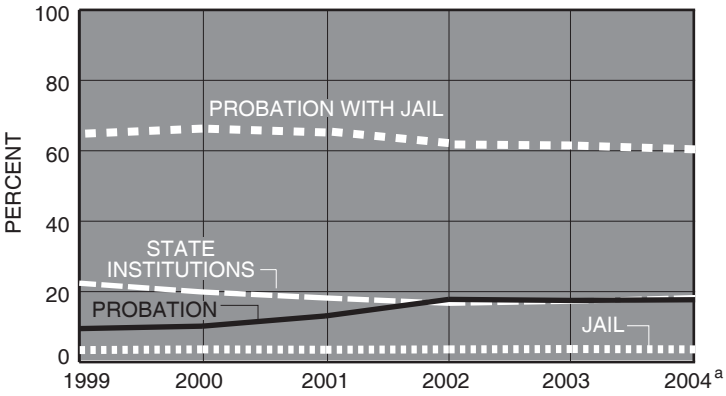
- State institutions ranged from 16.7 to 22.4 percent.
- Probation ranged from 9.5 to 18.0 percent.
- Probation with jail ranged from 60.4 to 66.3 percent.
- Jail ranged from 3.4 to 3.8 percent.

In 2004, adult felony arrestees convicted and sentenced to:

- State institutions accounted for 18.3 percent (41,167).
- Probation accounted for 17.7 percent (39,877).
- Probation with jail accounted for 60.4 percent (135,969).
- Jail accounted for 3.6 percent (8,204).

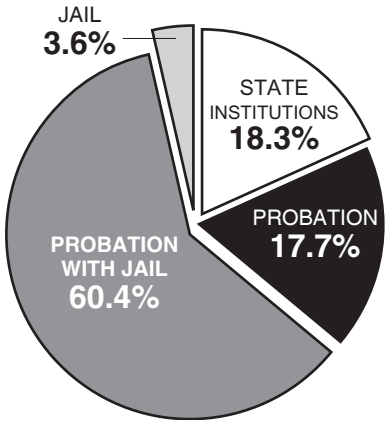
In 2004, 81.7 percent of convicted adult felony arrestees were sentenced to local supervision.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1999-2004
Type of Sentence by Year



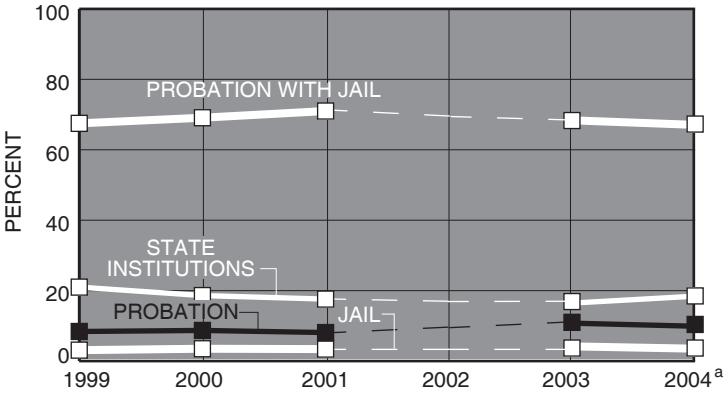
Source: Table 41.
[a]Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 2004[a]
By Type of Sentence



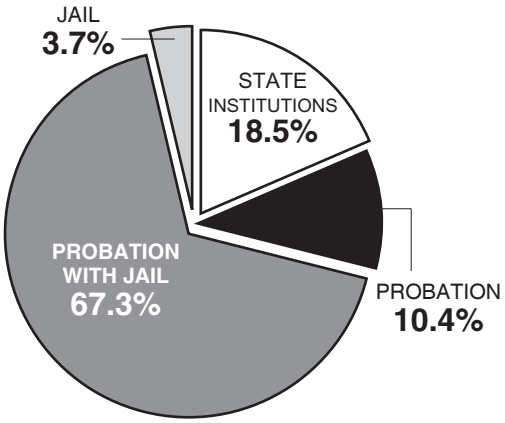
Source: Table 41.
[a]Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF VIOLENT OFFENSES, 1999-2004
Type of Sentence by Year



Source: Table 41.
Note: 2002 data are not available due to a procedural change that allowed a large percentage of convictions to be incorrectly recorded as "all other offenses." In 2003, a processing modification was made allowing these data to become available. See Appendix 1, *Data Characteristics and Known Limitations.*
[a]Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF VIOLENT OFFENSES, 2004[a]
By Type of Sentence



Source: Table 41.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
[a]Preliminary data.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Violent Offenses

During the 1999-2004 time period, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of violent offenses and sentenced to:

- State institutions ranged from 17.0 to 21.0 percent.
- Probation ranged from 8.1 to 11.3 percent.
- Probation with jail ranged from 67.3 to 71.0 percent.
- Jail ranged from 3.1 to 3.8 percent.

In 2004, of adult felony arrestees convicted of violent offenses:

- More than two-thirds received sentences of probation with jail (67.3 percent).

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Property Offenses

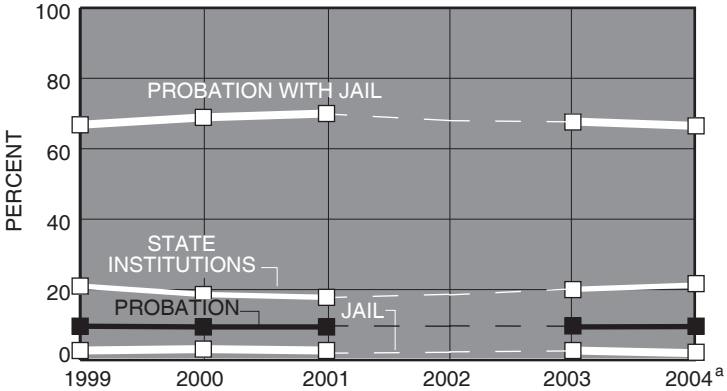
During the 1999-2004 time period, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of property offenses and sentenced to:

- State institutions ranged from 17.8 to 21.7 percent.
- Probation ranged from 9.4 to 9.8 percent.
- Probation with jail ranged from 66.5 to 70.0 percent.
- Jail ranged from 2.2 to 3.1 percent.

In 2004, of adult felony arrestees convicted of property offenses:

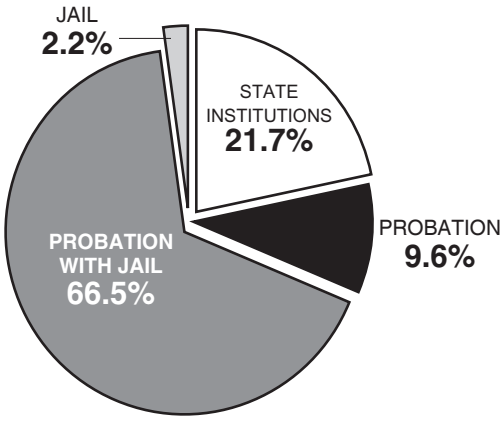
- Probation with jail sentences were most frequent (66.5 percent).
- "Straight" jail sentences were least frequent (2.2 percent).

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF PROPERTY OFFENSES, 1999-2004
Type of Sentence by Year



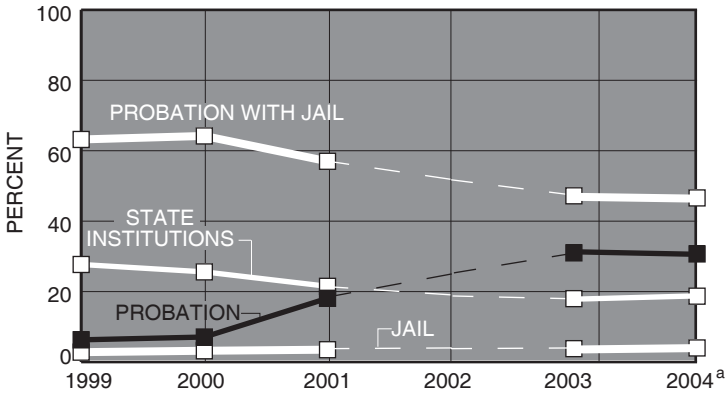
Source: Table 41.
Note: 2002 data are not available due to a procedural change that allowed a large percentage of convictions to be incorrectly recorded as "all other offenses." In 2003, a processing modification was made allowing these data to become available. See Appendix 1, *Data Characteristics and Known Limitations.*
[a]Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF PROPERTY OFFENSES, 2004[a]
By Type of Sentence



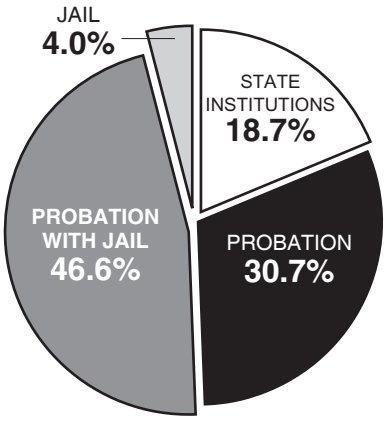
Source: Table 41.
[a]Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF DRUG OFFENSES, 1999-2004
Type of Sentence by Year



Source: Table 41.
Note: 2002 data are not available due to a procedural change that allowed a large percentage of convictions to be incorrectly recorded as "all other offenses." In 2003, a processing modification was made allowing these data to become available. See Appendix 1, *Data Characteristics and Known Limitations.*
[a]Preliminary data.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF DRUG OFFENSES, 2004[a]
By Type of Sentence



Source: Table 41.
[a]Preliminary data.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Drug Offenses

During the 1999-2004 time period, the percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of drug offenses and sentenced to:

- State institutions ranged from 17.8 to 27.7 percent.
- Probation ranged from 6.3 to 31.6 percent.
- Probation with jail ranged from 46.6 to 64.2 percent.
- Jail ranged from 2.8 to 4.0 percent.

In 2004, of adult felony arrestees convicted of drug offenses:

- Probation with jail sentences were the most frequent given (46.6 percent).
- "Straight" jail sentences were the least frequent given (4.0 percent).

In 2004, the percentage of adult felony arrestees receiving probation was over four times the percentage in 1999. During this time, the percentage sentenced to state institutions decreased 9.0 percentage points and the percentage sentenced to probation with jail decreased 16.6 percentage points. These changes are most likely the result of the implementation of Proposition 36 (Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act, 2000).

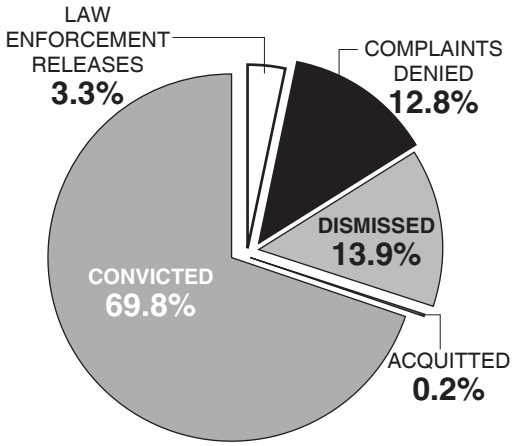
Proposition 36 went into effect July 2001 and required that offenders convicted of nonviolent drug possession be sentenced to probation and drug treatment instead of prison, jail, or probation without treatment.

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.

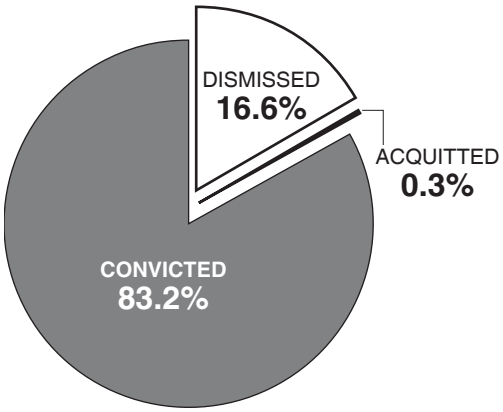
DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 2004[a]
By Type of Disposition



Source: Table 38.
[a]Preliminary data.

Conviction Rates (continued)

DISPOSITIONS OF COMPLAINTS FILED
RESULTING FROM ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 2004[a]
By Type of Disposition



Source: Table 38A.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
[a]Preliminary data.

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 Appendix 2.