

---

# CRIMES

---

## WHAT IS A CRIME?

A crime is an act specifically prohibited by law, or failure to perform an act specifically required by law, for which punishment is prescribed (California Penal Code section 15).

## HOW ARE CRIMES COUNTED?

The **Uniform Crime Reporting** (UCR) Program, established in 1930 and administered nationally by the FBI, provides criminal statistics for law enforcement administration, operation, and management. In California, the program is administered by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Under the program, law enforcement agencies throughout the state report summary information to the DOJ on selected crimes including: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. These eight offenses, known as Part I crimes, are standardized by UCR to eliminate differences between various states' penal code definitions of crime and were selected because of seriousness, frequency of occurrence, and the likelihood of being reported to the police. Except for larceny-theft, UCR does not count misdemeanors and infractions. The DOJ categorizes Part I crimes as either violent (homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault, and robbery) or property (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft over \$400).

Some Part I crimes go undetected and therefore unreported. This, along with the hierarchy rule, accounts for a certain amount of underreporting in the data collection process. Under UCR guidelines, if multiple crimes occur during a single incident, only the most serious offense is reported. For example, if a person were to enter a bar, rob eight patrons, and kill the bartender, only the homicide would be reported. Because arson frequently occurs in conjunction with other crimes, it is an exception to this practice and is counted along with the other most serious offense.

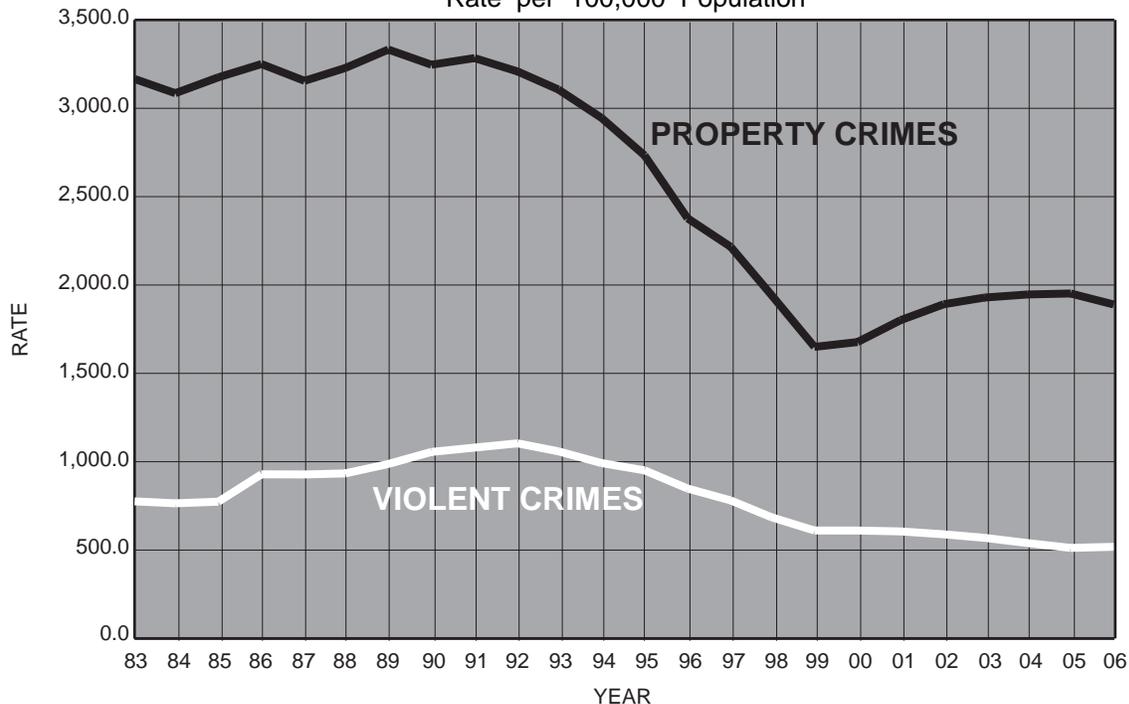
## WHAT IS A RATE?

A rate describes the number of events that occur within a given population. Crime rates and clearance rates are used in this section. Formulas for calculating both can be found in Appendix 2. Note that use of the California Crime Index has been suspended until a new national crime index is established by the FBI.

## WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE UCR PROGRAM?

UCR has become a nationwide program since its inception in 1930. In California, all law enforcement agencies participate. The number of participants and the quantity and quality of data collected, under stringent rules of the system, make UCR a valuable program. In California, the close cooperation between local law enforcement and the DOJ has made UCR data an extremely good indicator of the extent of, and fluctuation in, crimes reported to law enforcement.

Figure 2  
**CRIME IN CALIFORNIA, 1983–2006**  
 By Category  
 Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 1.

Data depicting crime in California have been published continuously for 54 years. The first *Crime in California* publication was issued in 1953 and reported data for the 1952 calendar year.

### Comparing 1983 to 2006:

- The violent crime rate decreased 33.2 percent (from 775.6 to 518.4).
- The property crime rate decreased 40.3 percent (from 3,166.1 to 1,889.8).

The violent crime rate was on a general increase from 1983 to 1992, when it peaked at 1,103.9. Since then, the rate has seen annual decreases, dropping a total of 53.0 percent. The 2006 rate of 518.4, while increasing 1.2 percent from 2005, is similar to the 1971 rate of 513.6.

Since 1983, the property crime rate has fluctuated, with a peak of 3,332.4 seen in 1989. The rate then declined

each year, with the exception of a slight increase in 1991, before reaching a low of 1,649.8 in 1999. The rate has increased annually since that time until the 3.2 percent decrease in 2006.

Note that larceny-theft over \$400 was added to the property crime category in 2003 to give a more representative depiction of crime in California and to correlate more closely to national data presentation. These data are only available since 1983 when California law raised the lower limit of felony theft from \$200 to over \$400.

Since 1983, there have been many changes in laws and data collection procedures. For instance, in 1986 legislation was enacted that required reporting domestic violence as criminal conduct. As a result, the aggravated assault rate increased over 35 percent in one year. These types of changes should be considered when comparing data.

## Violent and Property Crimes

### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- Violent crimes decreased 7.8 percent in number.
- Property crimes increased 13.0 percent in number.

### From 2005 to 2006:

- Violent crimes increased 2.4 percent in number.
- Property crimes decreased 2.0 percent in number.

### In 2006:

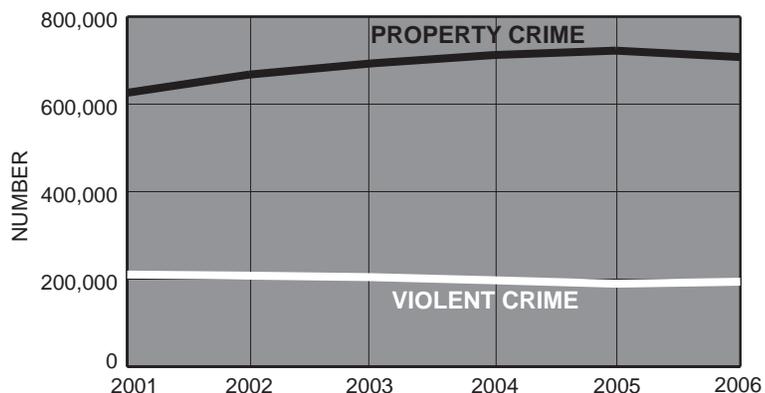
- There were 194,128 violent crimes reported.
- There were 707,607 property crimes reported.

---

➤ *For the years shown, the number of violent crimes had been decreasing until a 2.4 percent increase in 2006; conversely, the number of property crimes had been steadily increasing until a 2.0 percent decrease in 2006.*

---

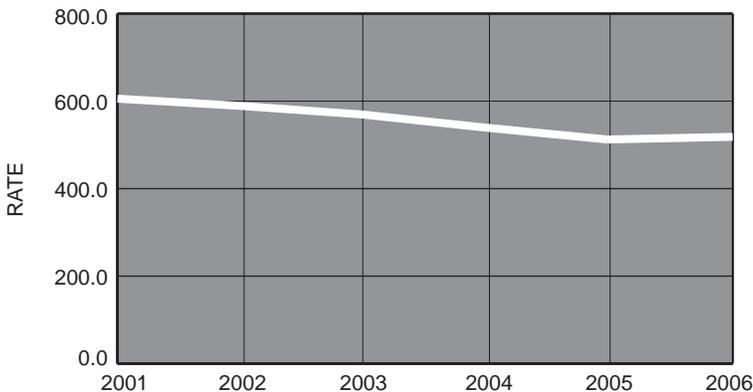
Figure 3  
CRIME IN CALIFORNIA, 2001–2006  
Violent and Property Crimes By Number



Source: Table 2.

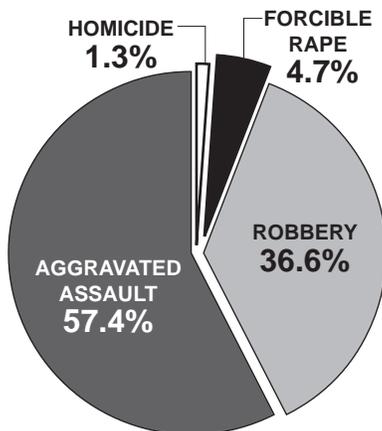
**Violent Crimes**

Figure 4  
VIOLENT CRIMES, 2001–2006  
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 2.

Figure 5  
VIOLENT CRIMES, 2006  
By Crime



Source: Table 3.

**Violent Crimes** – homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

**Comparing 2001 to 2006:**

- The rate of reported violent crimes decreased 14.4 percent.

**From 2005 to 2006:**

- The violent crime rate increased 1.2 percent.

**In 2006,** of 194,128 violent crimes reported:

- Homicide accounted for 1.3 percent (2,483).
- Forcible rape accounted for 4.7 percent (9,213).
- Robbery accounted for 36.6 percent (70,961).
- Aggravated assault accounted for 57.4 percent (111,471).

---

➤ *After 13 consecutive years of decreases, the violent crime rate increased 1.2 percent from 2005 to 2006 (see Table 1).*

---

## Homicide

**Homicide** – *The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter comprise this category.*

### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- The rate of reported homicides increased 4.8 percent.

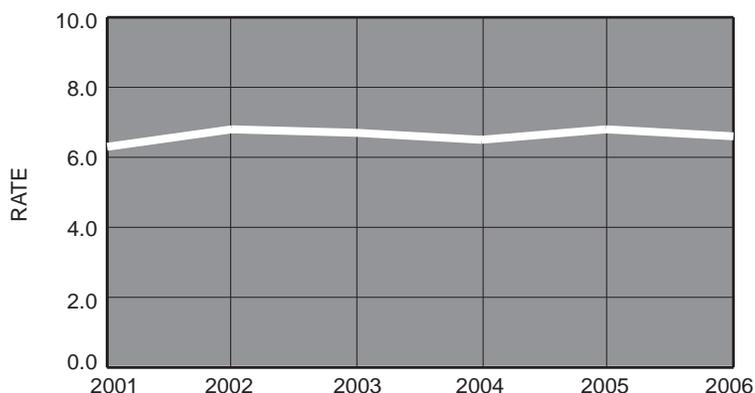
### From 2005 to 2006:

- The rate of reported homicides decreased 2.9 percent.

In 2006, of 2,483 homicides reported, the type of weapon was known in 2,458 cases (99.0 percent). Of these:

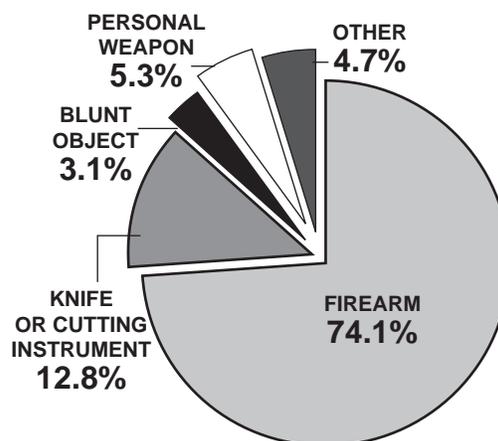
- Firearms accounted for 74.1 percent (1,821).
- Knives or cutting instruments accounted for 12.8 percent (314).
- Blunt objects (clubs, etc.) accounted for 3.1 percent (77).
- Personal weapons (hands, feet, etc.) accounted for 5.3 percent (130).
- Other weapons accounted for 4.7 percent (116).

Figure 6  
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001–2006  
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 2.

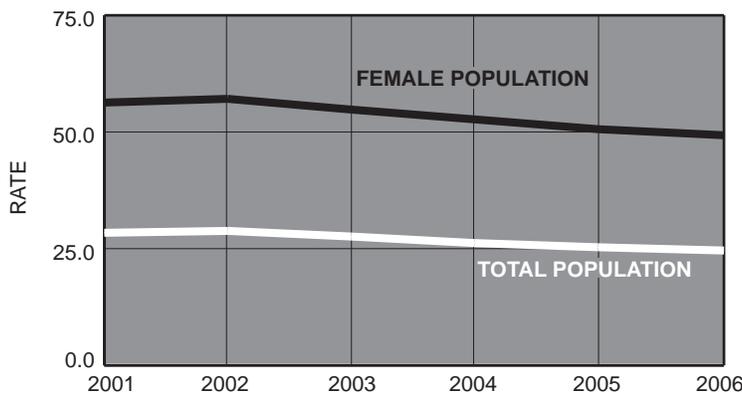
Figure 7  
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2006  
By Type of Weapon Used



Source: Table 4.

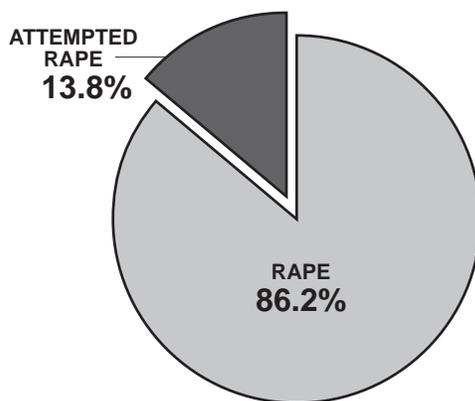
## Forcible Rape

Figure 8  
FORCIBLE RAPE CRIMES, 2001–2006  
Rate per 100,000 Total and Female Populations



Sources: Tables 2 and 5.

Figure 9  
FORCIBLE RAPE CRIMES, 2006  
By Type of Rape



Source: Table 5.

**Forcible Rape** – *The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Assaults or attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force are included.*

The UCR definition of forcible rape states that only females can be victims; therefore, a forcible rape crime rate based exclusively on the female population is included. **The following discussion is based on the rate of occurrence for both female population and total population** (see Tables 2 and 5).

### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- The rate of reported forcible rapes (female population) decreased 12.4 percent.
- The rate of reported forcible rapes (total population) decreased 13.4 percent.

### From 2005 to 2006:

- The forcible rape rate (female population) decreased 2.6 percent.
- The forcible rape rate (total population) decreased 2.8 percent.

### In 2006, of 9,213 forcible rapes reported:

- Rape accounted for 86.2 percent (7,937).
- Attempted rape accounted for 13.8 percent (1,276).

---

➤ *The forcible rape rate for the total population declined for the 4th consecutive year, to a rate similar to that reported in 1967-68 (see Table 1).*

---

## Robbery

**Robbery** – The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- The rate of reported robberies increased 4.1 percent.

### From 2005 to 2006:

- The rate of reported robberies increased 10.6 percent.

In 2006, of 70,961 robberies reported:

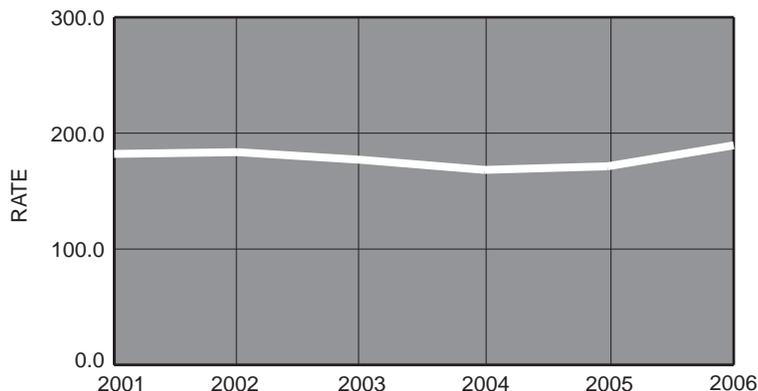
- Highway robbery (streets, parks, parking lots, etc.) accounted for 48.9 percent (34,685).
- Commercial robbery accounted for 22.3 percent (15,858).
- Residential robbery accounted for 7.8 percent (5,512).
- Bank robbery accounted for 1.9 percent (1,331).
- Robberies that occurred in other locations (churches, schools, trains, etc.) accounted for 19.1 percent (13,575).

---

➤ ***The robbery rate was the only violent crime rate to increase from 2005 to 2006 (10.6 percent).***

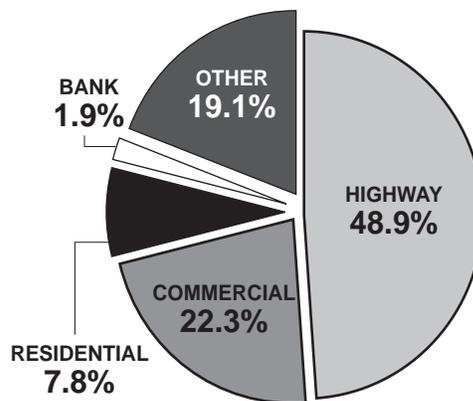
---

Figure 10  
ROBBERY CRIMES, 2001–2006  
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 2.

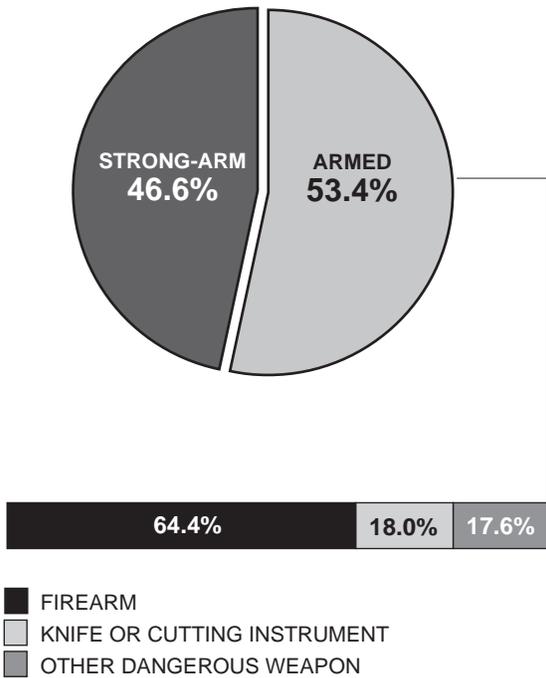
Figure 11  
ROBBERY CRIMES, 2006  
By Location



Source: Table 6.

**Robbery (cont.)**

Figure 12  
ROBBERY CRIMES, 2006  
By Type of Robbery and Type of Weapon, if Armed



Source: Table 6.

In 2006, of all robberies reported:

- Armed robbery accounted for 53.4 percent (37,925).
- Strong-arm robbery accounted for 46.6 percent (33,036).

Of the 37,925 armed robberies reported:

- Firearms were involved in 64.4 percent (24,409).
- Knives or cutting instruments were involved in 18.0 percent (6,833).
- Other dangerous weapons were involved in 17.6 percent (6,683).

---

➤ *Firearms were the weapon of choice in over 60 percent of armed robberies.*

---

## Aggravated Assault

**Aggravated Assault** – *The unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.*

### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- The rate of reported aggravated assaults decreased 23.4 percent.

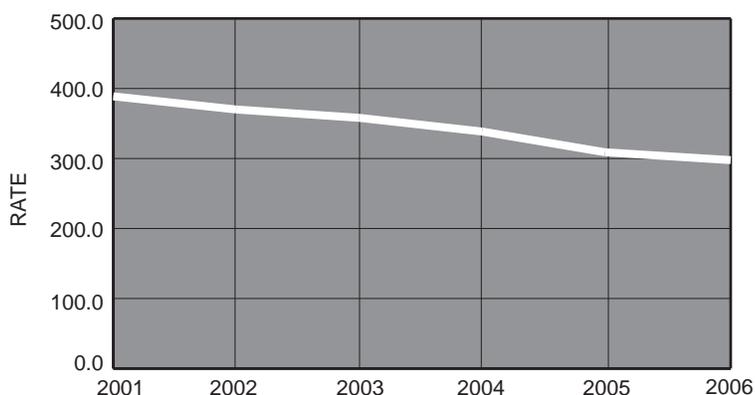
### From 2005 to 2006:

- The rate of reported aggravated assaults decreased 3.6 percent.

In 2006, of 111,471 aggravated assaults reported:

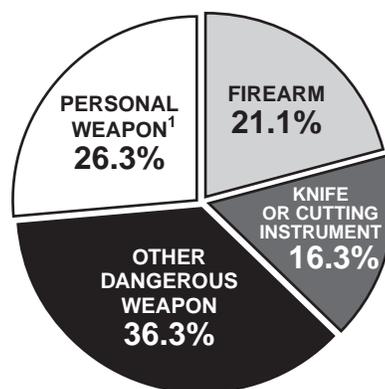
- Firearms were involved in 21.1 percent (23,504).
- Knives or cutting instruments were involved in 16.3 percent (18,209).
- Other dangerous weapons were involved in 36.3 percent (40,465).
- Personal weapons were involved in 26.3 percent (29,293).

Figure 13  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT CRIMES, 2001–2006  
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 2.

Figure 14  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT CRIMES, 2006  
By Type of Weapon Used

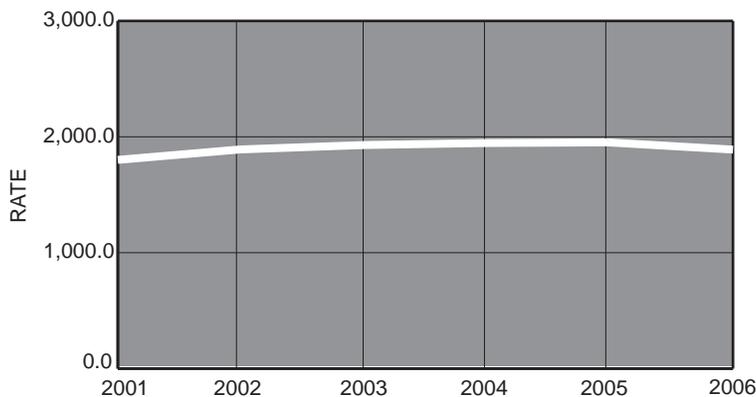


Source: Table 7.

<sup>1</sup>Personal weapons include hands, feet, etc.

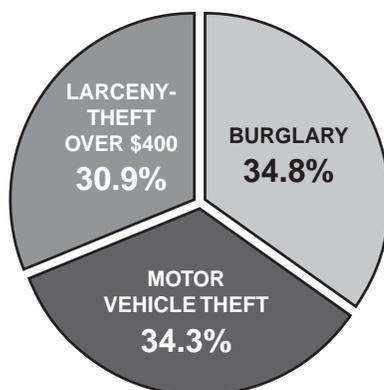
## Property Crimes

Figure 15  
PROPERTY CRIMES, 2001–2006  
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 2.

Figure 16  
PROPERTY CRIMES, 2006  
By Crime



Source: Table 3.

**Property Crimes** – burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft over \$400.

### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- The rate of reported property crimes increased 4.9 percent.

### From 2005 to 2006:

- The rate of reported property crimes decreased 3.2 percent.

**In 2006**, of 707,607 property crimes reported:

- Burglary accounted for 34.8 percent (246,449).
- Motor vehicle theft accounted for 34.3 percent (242,692).
- Larceny-theft over \$400 accounted for 30.9 percent (218,466).

---

➤ *After increasing for six consecutive years, the property crime rate decreased 3.2 percent (see Table 1).*

---

## Burglary

**Burglary** – The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft. Attempted burglary is included.

### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- The rate of reported burglaries decreased 0.5 percent.

### From 2005 to 2006:

- The rate of reported burglaries decreased 2.4 percent.

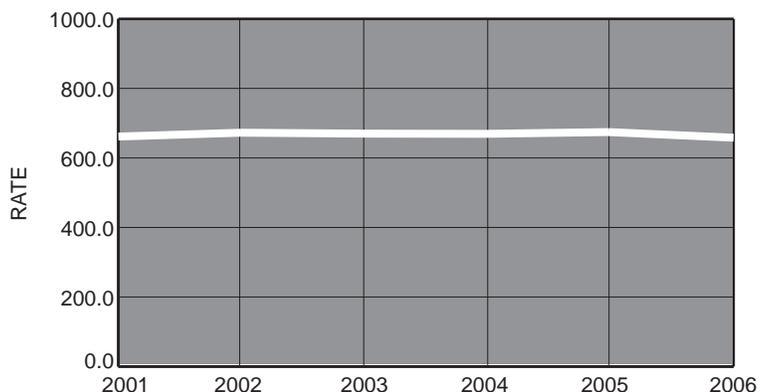
In 2006, of 246,449 burglaries and attempted burglaries reported:

- Burglary accounted for 94.2 percent (232,139).
- Attempted burglary accounted for 5.8 percent (14,310).

Of the 232,139 burglaries that occurred:

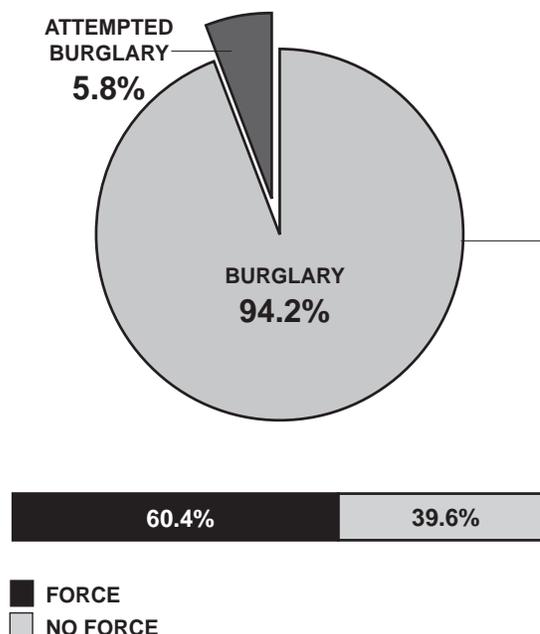
- Structures entered by force accounted for 60.4 percent (140,296).
- Structures entered without force accounted for 39.6 percent (91,843).

Figure 17  
BURGLARY CRIMES, 2001–2006  
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 2.

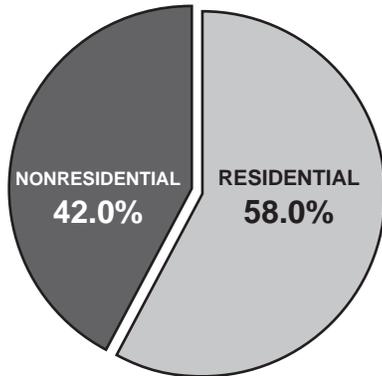
Figure 18  
BURGLARY CRIMES, 2006  
By Type of Burglary and Type of Entry



Source: Table 8.

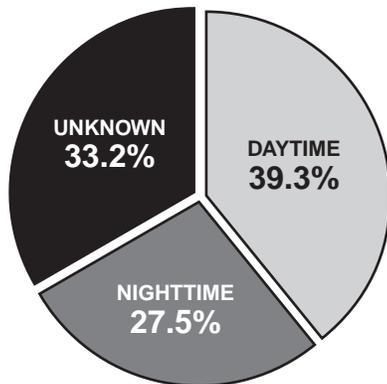
**Burglary (cont.)**

Figure 19  
BURGLARY CRIMES, 2006  
By Location



Source: Table 8.

Figure 20  
BURGLARY CRIMES, 2006  
By Time of Day



Source: Table 8.

In 2006, of all burglaries reported:

- Residential burglary accounted for 58.0 percent (143,021).
- Nonresidential burglary accounted for 42.0 percent (103,428). Included in this category are commercial establishments, public buildings, etc.
- Daytime burglary accounted for 39.3 percent (96,852).
- Nighttime burglary accounted for 27.5 percent (67,660).
- Burglaries that occurred during an unknown hour accounted for 33.2 percent (81,937).

## Motor Vehicle Theft

**Motor Vehicle Theft** – *The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.*

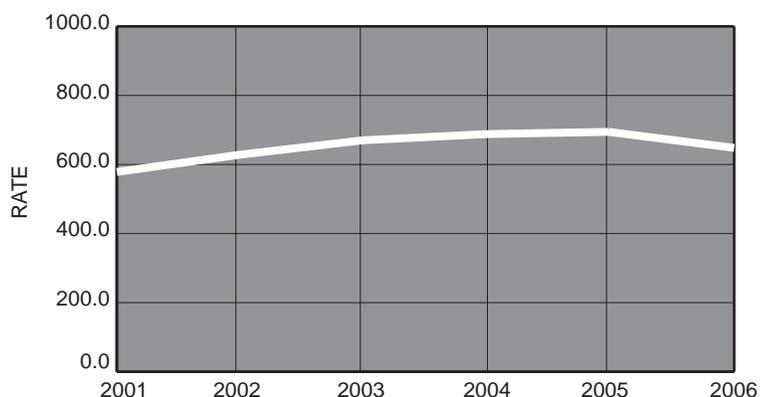
### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- The rate of reported motor vehicle thefts increased 12.0 percent.

### From 2005 to 2006:

- The rate of reported motor vehicle thefts decreased 6.7 percent.

Figure 21  
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT CRIMES, 2001–2006  
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 2.

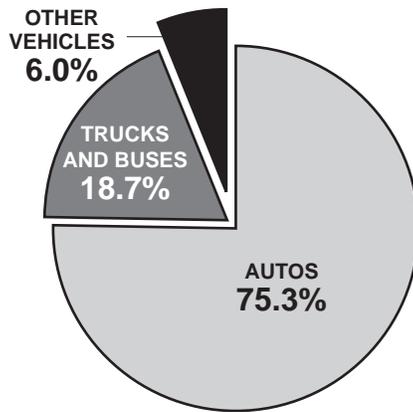
---

➤ *After increasing for six consecutive years, the motor vehicle theft rate decreased 6.7 percent (see Table 1).*

---

**Motor Vehicle Theft (cont.)**

Figure 22  
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT CRIMES, 2006  
By Type of Vehicle



Source: Table 9.

In 2006, of 242,692 motor vehicle thefts reported:

- Autos accounted for 75.3 percent (182,658).
- Trucks and buses accounted for 18.7 percent (45,419). Included in this category are pickup trucks, vans, and motor homes.
- Other vehicles accounted for 6.0 percent (14,615). Included in this category are motorcycles, snowmobiles, motor scooters, and trail bikes.

## Larceny-Theft

**Larceny-Theft** – *The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another (except embezzlement, fraud, forgery, and worthless checks).*

### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- The rate of total reported larceny-thefts decreased 10.2 percent.

### From 2005 to 2006:

- The rate of total reported larceny-thefts decreased 4.3 percent.

In 2006, of 666,869 larceny-thefts reported:

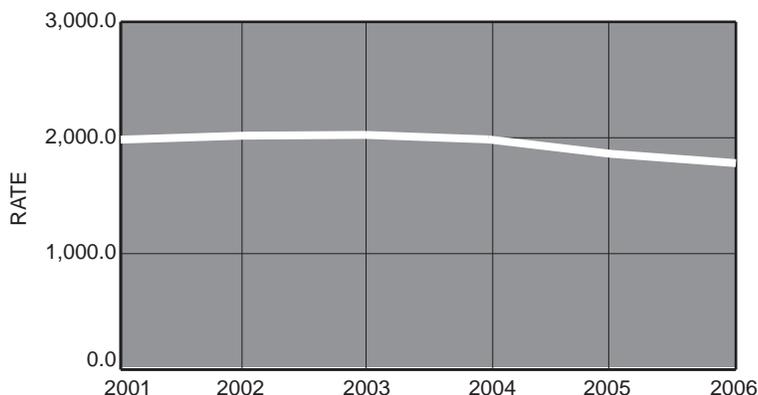
- Thefts under \$50 in value accounted for 32.9 percent (219,194).
- Thefts \$50 to \$199 in value accounted for 18.6 percent (123,996).
- Thefts \$200 to \$400 in value accounted for 15.8 percent (105,213).
- Thefts over \$400 in value accounted for 32.8 percent (218,466).

---

**➤ In 2006, total larceny-thefts decreased in rate for the 3rd consecutive year.**

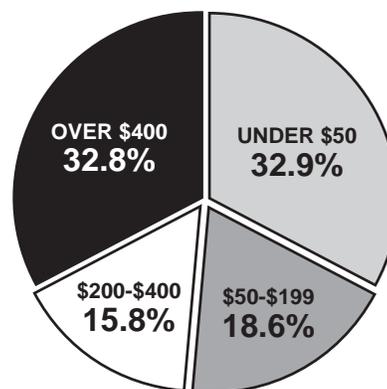
---

Figure 23  
LARCENY-THEFT CRIMES, 2001–2006  
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 2.

Figure 24  
LARCENY-THEFT CRIMES, 2006  
By Value Category of Loss

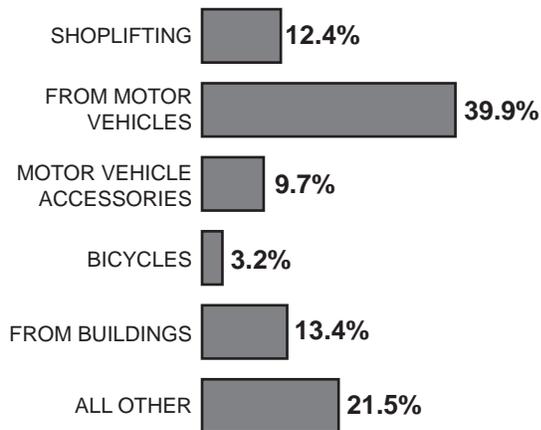


Source: Table 11.

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

**Larceny-Theft (cont.)**

Figure 25  
LARCENY-THEFT CRIMES, 2006  
By Type of Larceny-Theft



Source: Table 11.  
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2006, of 666,869 larceny-thefts reported:

- Shoplifting accounted for 12.4 percent (82,775).
- Thefts from motor vehicles accounted for 39.9 percent (266,186).
- Thefts of motor vehicle accessories accounted for 9.7 percent (64,615).
- Thefts of bicycles accounted for 3.2 percent (21,041).
- Thefts from buildings accounted for 13.4 percent (89,171).
- All other types of larceny-thefts accounted for 21.5 percent (143,081).

---

**➤ In 2006, almost half (49.6 percent) of all larceny-theft crimes involved theft from motor vehicles and theft of motor vehicle accessories.**

---

## Value of Stolen and Recovered Property

As part of the UCR Program, law enforcement agencies submit monthly reports showing the estimated dollar value of property stolen and property recovered. In these reports, the type of property is categorized in a uniform manner. However, agencies do not report these data consistently and frequently vary in their methods of estimating the dollar value of stolen property. Furthermore, property stolen and property recovered in any given time period are not necessarily the same property. For these reasons, dollar values of such property must be viewed as rough estimates.

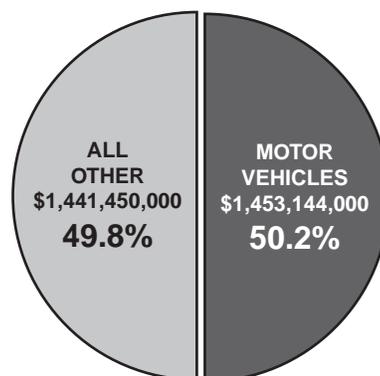
### From 2005 to 2006:

- There was a 5.0 percent increase in the dollar value of all stolen property.
- There was a 2.0 percent increase in the dollar value of motor vehicles stolen.
- There was an 8.1 percent increase in the dollar value of all other stolen property.

**In 2006**, of the total dollar value (\$2,894,595,000) of all property reported stolen:

- Motor vehicles accounted for \$1,453,144,000 (50.2 percent).
- All other property accounted for \$1,441,450,000 (49.8 percent).

Figure 26  
VALUE OF STOLEN PROPERTY, 2006  
By Type

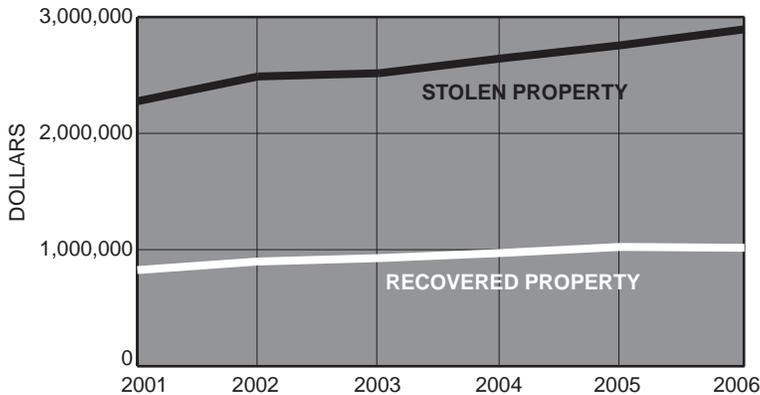


Source: Table 12.

Note: Dollar values are rounded to the nearest thousand.

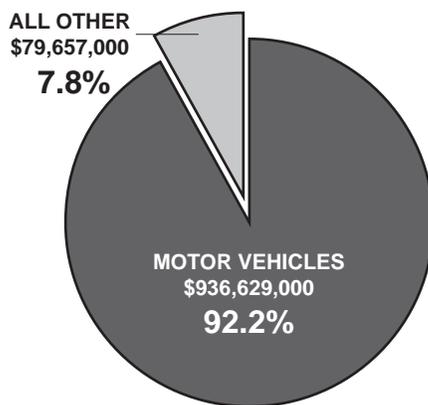
### Value of Stolen and Recovered Property (cont.)

Figure 27  
VALUE OF STOLEN AND RECOVERED PROPERTY, 2001–2006  
In Thousands of Dollars



Source: Table 12.

Figure 28  
VALUE OF RECOVERED PROPERTY, 2006  
By Type



Source: Table 12.  
Note: Dollar values are rounded to the nearest thousand.

**From 2005 to 2006:**

- There was a 0.7 percent decrease in the dollar value of all recovered property.
- There was a 2.9 percent decrease in the dollar value of motor vehicles recovered.
- There was a 34.0 percent increase in the dollar value of all other recovered property.

**In 2006,** of the total dollar value (\$1,016,286,000) of property reported recovered:

- Motor vehicles accounted for \$936,629,000 (92.2 percent).
- All other property accounted for \$79,657,000 (7.8 percent).

---

➤ *In 2006, motor vehicle value constituted over half of the total value of all stolen property (50.2 percent) and almost all of the value of recovered property (92.2 percent).*

---

## Arson

**Arson** – Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, or the personal property of another, etc.

### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- The rate of reported arsons decreased 21.7 percent.

### From 2005 to 2006:

- The rate of reported arsons increased 2.1 percent.

In 2006, of 12,687 arsons reported:

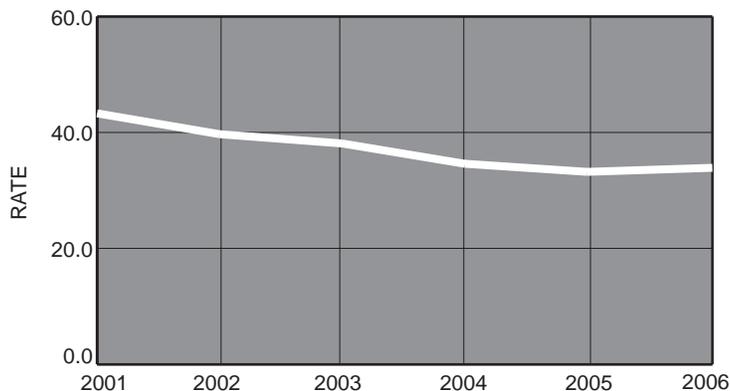
- Structural properties were targeted in 29.6 percent (3,758) of the offenses.
- Mobile properties were targeted in 35.0 percent (4,442) of the offenses.
- Other properties were targeted in 35.4 percent (4,487) of the offenses. Included in this category are crops, timber, fences, signs, etc.

---

**➤ In 2006, arsons increased in rate for the first time in five years.**

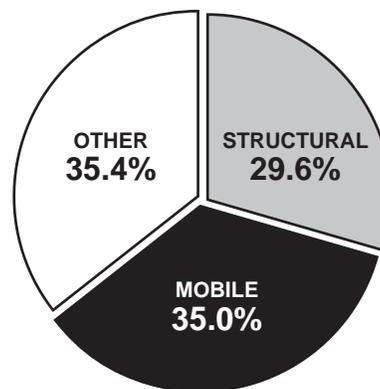
---

Figure 29  
ARSON CRIMES, 2001–2006  
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 2.

Figure 30  
ARSON CRIMES, 2006  
By Type of Property Targeted

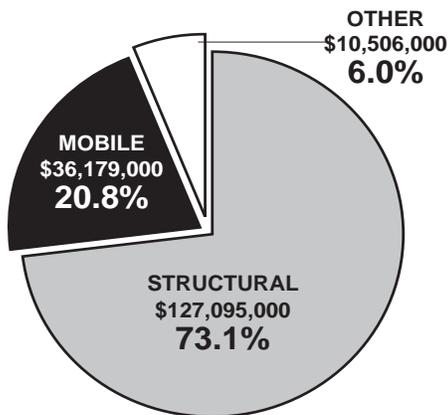


Source: Table 14.

Note: Property type is determined by the point of origin of a fire.

Arson (cont.)

Figure 31  
ARSON CRIMES, 2006  
By Value of Property Damage



Source: Table 14.

Notes: Property type is determined by the point of origin of a fire.  
Dollar values are rounded to the nearest thousand.  
Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2006, the total estimated value of all property damaged was \$173,781,000. The value of damage resulting from arsons directed at:

- Structural properties accounted for \$127,095,000 (73.1 percent).
- Mobile properties accounted for \$36,179,000 (20.8 percent).
- Other properties accounted for \$10,506,000 (6.0 percent).

---

➤ *In 2006, just over one-fourth (29.6 percent) of arson crimes involved structural property; structural property constituted almost three-quarters (73.1 percent) of the total value of all property damaged by arson.*

---

## Clearances

Crimes can be cleared by arrests or "exceptional means." An offense is cleared or "solved" for crime reporting purposes when at least one person is arrested, charged with the commission of the crime, and turned over to the court for prosecution or referred to juvenile authorities. In certain situations a clearance may be counted by "exceptional means" when the police definitely know the identity of the offender, have enough information to support an arrest, and know the location of the offender but for some reason cannot take the offender into custody.

A clearance rate is the percentage obtained when the number of clearances reported are divided by the number of crimes reported.

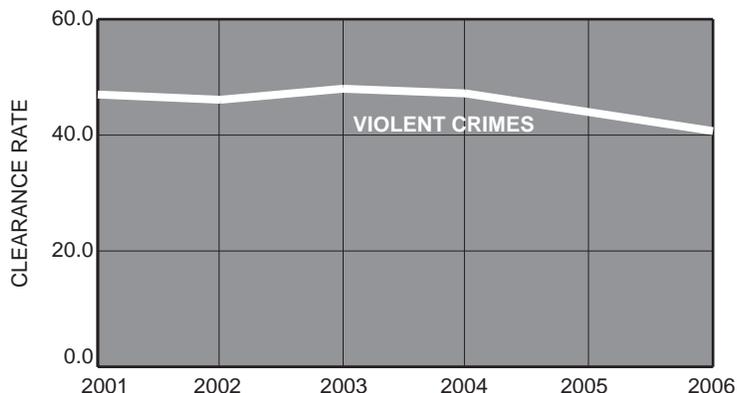
### Comparing 2001 to 2006:

- The violent crime clearance rate decreased from 47.0 to 40.7 percent.

### From 2005 to 2006:

- The violent crime clearance rate decreased from 44.0 to 40.7 percent.

Figure 32  
CRIME IN CALIFORNIA, 2001–2006  
Clearance Rate by Crime Category

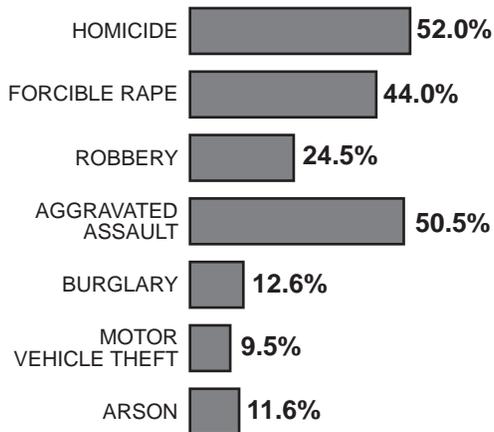


Source: Table 15.

Note: In 2003, larceny-theft over \$400 was added to the property crime category to give a more representative depiction of crime in California. However, since clearance data are not collected for this offense, total property crime clearances and clearance rates are unavailable.

**Clearances (cont.)**

Figure 33  
CRIME IN CALIFORNIA, 2006  
Clearance Rate by Crime



Source: Table 15.

In 2006,

- Homicide had the highest clearance rate (52.0 percent).
- Motor vehicle theft had the lowest clearance rate (9.5 percent).

---

➤ *The homicide clearance rate increased 4.2 percent from 2005 to 2006.*

---

---

# ARRESTS

---