

C&D

Crime & Delinquency
in California, 1996

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS



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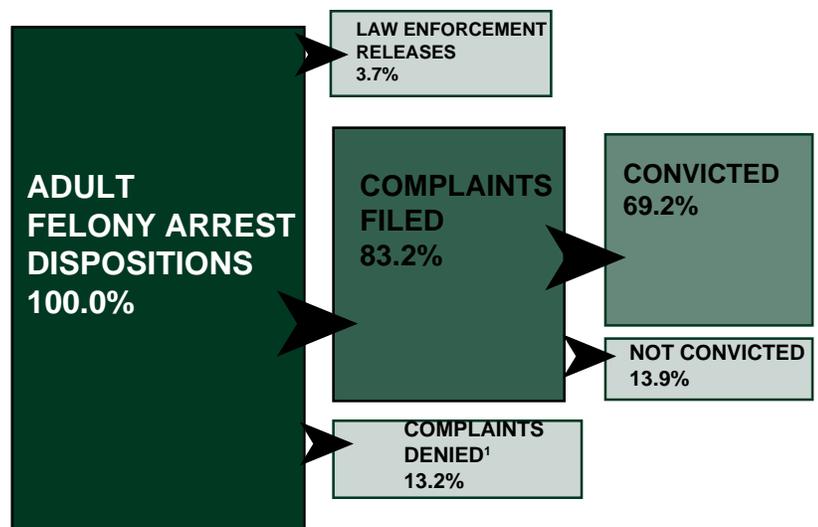
ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS

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 are preliminary and pertain specifically to adult felony arrests that received final dispositions in 1996 and were added to the Automated Criminal History System (ACHS) by the Department of Justice through May 1997.

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 can occur at the law enforcement, prosecutor, lower court, or superior court levels. For example, if an arrestee is released by a law enforcement agency or by a prosecutor who has determined that there is not enough evidence to justify the filing of a complaint, this release is recorded as a final disposition. If an arrestee is referred to court for adjudication, the outcome (i.e., dismissal, diversion dismissal, acquittal, or conviction) is also recorded as a final disposition. "Intermediate" dispositions (e.g., placements into diversionary programs) are not available.

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1996



Source: Table 38.

Note: Percents may not add to subtotals or 100.0 because of independent rounding.

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 Youth Authority.

STATE INSTITUTIONS ²	15.3%
PROBATION WITH JAIL	44.8%
JAIL	2.8%
PROBATION	5.8%
FINE AND OTHER	.5%
LOWER COURT DISMISSALS, ACQUITTALS	11.8%
SUPERIOR COURT DISMISSALS, ACQUITTALS	2.1%

HOW ARE OBTS DATA REPORTED?

Dispositions of adult felony arrests were reported by approximately 1,200 agencies in 1996. These agencies include law enforcement, prosecutor, lower court, and superior court levels of the California criminal justice system.

OBTS data are taken directly from the department's Automated Criminal History System (ACHS). All arrest information is entered into ACHS from fingerprint cards, while most disposition data are entered from "Disposition of Arrest and Court Action" (JUS 8715) forms received by the Department of Justice.

The arrest dispositions received generally describe statewide processing of adult felony arrestees through California's criminal justice system. (See Appendix for known data limitations.)

Fingerprint and disposition processing priorities instituted by the Department of Justice because of budget constraints caused the 1993 OBTS file to be smaller in number than prior years. The 1993 file also has fewer law enforcement releases and complaints denied than normal. The 1993-1996 files remain open; therefore, counts published represent preliminary data. See *Data Characteristics and Known Limitations* on page 177.

Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions

Comparing 1991 to 1996:

As a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions:

- Law enforcement releases decreased from 6.7 to 3.7 percent.
- Prosecutor complaints denied decreased from 15.1 to 13.2 percent.
- Dismissals and acquittals increased from 13.8 to 13.9 percent.
- Convictions increased from 64.4 to 69.2 percent.

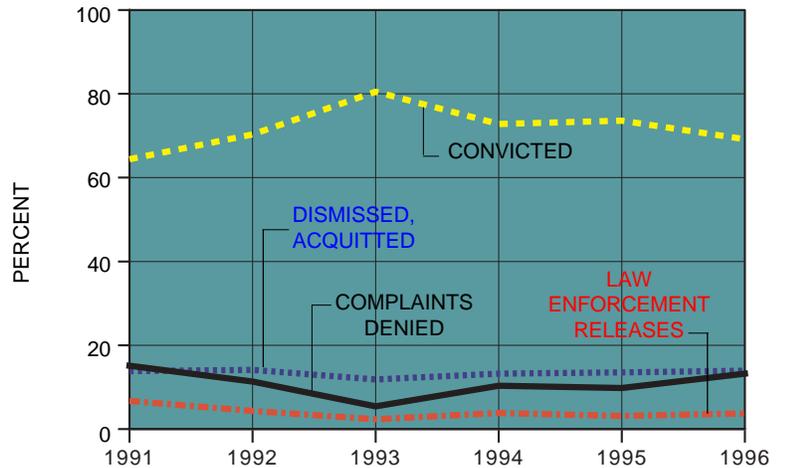
From 1995 to 1996:

As a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions:

- Law enforcement releases increased from 3.1 to 3.7 percent.
- Prosecutor complaints denied increased from 9.8 to 13.2 percent.
- Dismissals and acquittals increased from 13.5 to 13.9 percent.
- Convictions decreased from 73.6 to 69.2 percent.

In 1996, approximately seven out of ten adult felony arrest dispositions resulted in a conviction.

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1991-1996
Type of Disposition by Year

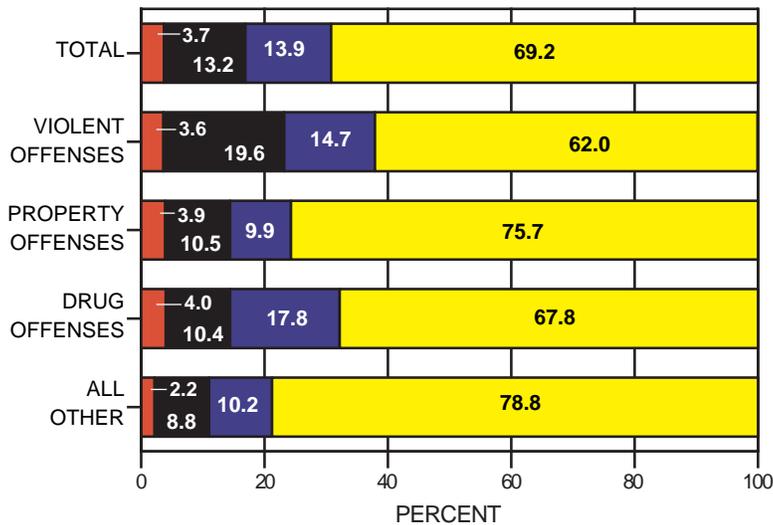


Source: Table 39.

Note: Fingerprint and disposition processing priorities instituted by the Department of Justice resulted in 1993 data that are not comparable to other years.

Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions (continued)

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS, 1996
Arrest Offense Category by Type of Disposition



■ LAW ENFORCEMENT RELEASES

■ COMPLAINTS DENIED

■ DISMISSED, ACQUITTED

■ CONVICTED

Source: [Table 40](#).

Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

In 1996,

As a percentage of recorded adult felony arrest dispositions:

- 3.7 percent were law enforcement releases.
- 13.2 percent were prosecutor complaints denied.
- 13.9 percent were dismissed or acquitted.
- 69.2 percent were convicted.

In 1996,

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 (19.6 percent).
- The largest percentage of dismissals and acquittals was for the drug offense category (17.8 percent).
- The largest percentage of convictions was for the property and "all other" offense categories (75.7 and 78.8 percent, respectively).

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted

Comparing 1991 to 1996:

The percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted and sentenced to:

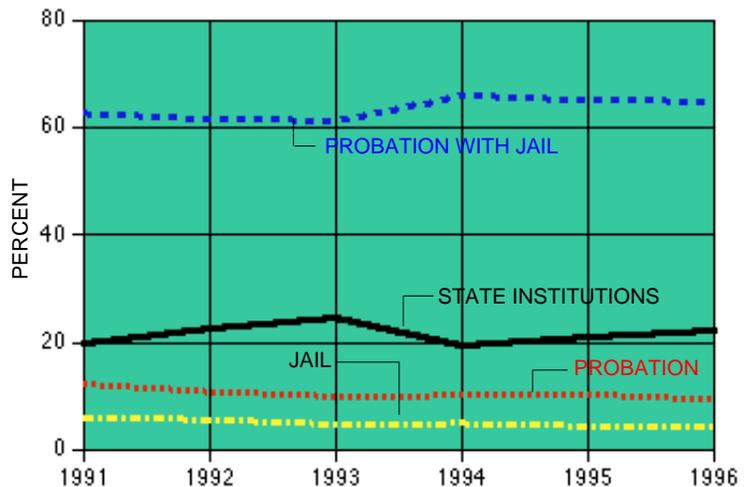
- State institutions increased from 19.8 to 22.1 percent.
- Probation decreased from 12.0 to 9.1 percent.
- Probation with jail increased from 62.4 to 64.7 percent.
- Jail decreased from 5.8 to 4.0 percent.

From 1995 to 1996:

The percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted and sentenced to:

- State institutions increased from 20.8 to 22.1 percent.
- Probation decreased from 10.1 to 9.1 percent.
- Probation with jail decreased from 64.9 to 64.7 percent.
- Jail decreased from 4.2 to 4.0 percent.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1991-1996
Type of Sentence by Year

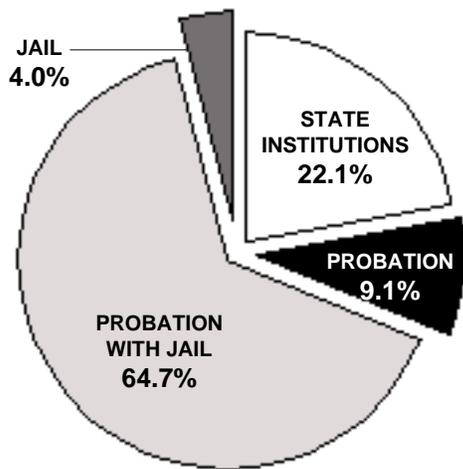


Source: [Table 41](#).

The most frequent sentence given is probation with jail.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted (continued)

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1996
By Type of Sentence



Source: [Table 41](#).

Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

In 1996,

The percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted and sentenced to:

- State institutions accounted for 22.1 percent.
- Probation accounted for 9.1 percent.
- Probation with jail accounted for 64.7 percent.
- Jail accounted for 4.0 percent.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Violent Offenses

Comparing 1991 to 1996:

The percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of violent offenses and sentenced to:

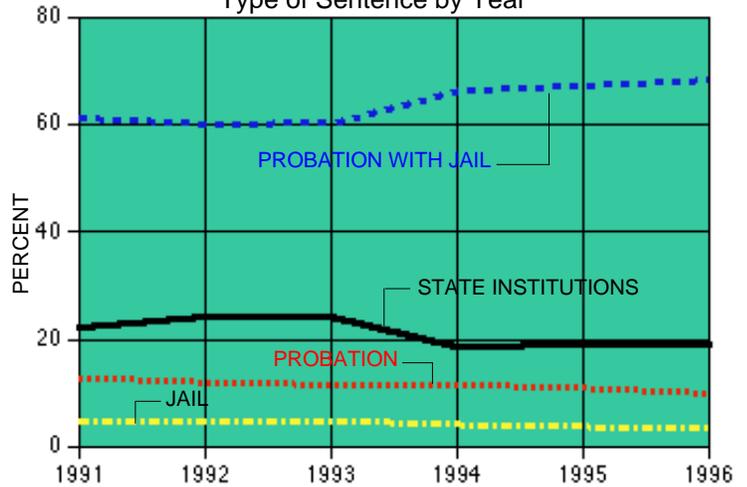
- State institutions decreased from 22.1 to 19.0 percent.
- Probation decreased from 12.6 to 9.7 percent.
- Probation with jail increased from 61.0 to 68.1 percent.
- Jail decreased from 4.3 to 3.2 percent.

From 1995 to 1996:

The percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of violent offenses and sentenced to:

- State institutions increased from 18.9 to 19.0 percent.
- Probation decreased from 10.7 to 9.7 percent.
- Probation with jail increased from 67.0 to 68.1 percent.
- Jail decreased from 3.5 to 3.2 percent.

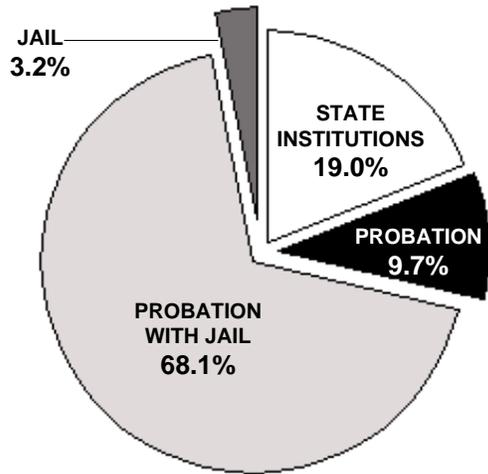
ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED
OF VIOLENT OFFENSES, 1991-1996
Type of Sentence by Year



Source: Table 41.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Violent Offenses (continued)

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED
OF VIOLENT OFFENSES, 1996
By Type of Sentence



Source: Table 41.

In 1996,

Of adult felony arrestees convicted of violent offenses:

- More than two-thirds received sentences of probation with jail (68.1 percent).
- Almost one-fifth (19.0 percent) received sentences to state institutions.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Property Offenses

Comparing 1991 to 1996:

The percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of property offenses and sentenced to:

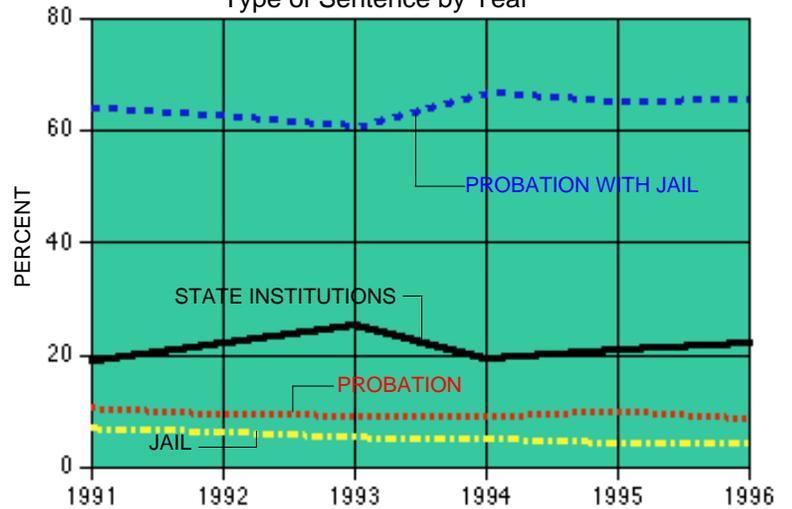
- State institutions increased from 19.1 to 22.1 percent.
- Probation decreased from 10.3 to 8.4 percent.
- Probation with jail increased from 63.9 to 65.5 percent.
- Jail decreased from 6.7 to 4.0 percent.

From 1995 to 1996:

The percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of property offenses and sentenced to:

- State institutions increased from 21.1 to 22.1 percent.
- Probation decreased from 9.8 to 8.4 percent.
- Probation with jail increased from 64.9 to 65.5 percent.
- Jail decreased from 4.1 to 4.0 percent.

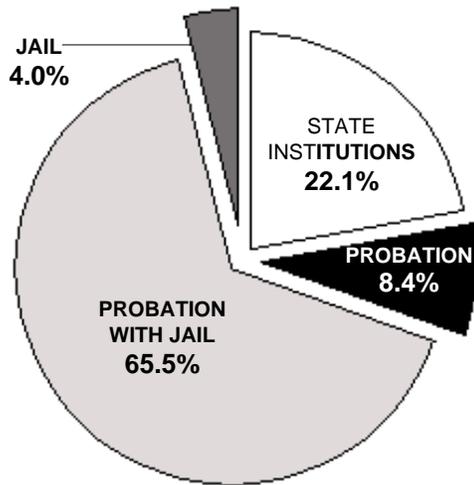
ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF PROPERTY OFFENSES, 1991-1996
Type of Sentence by Year



Source: Table 41.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Property Offenses (continued)

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF PROPERTY OFFENSES, 1996
By Type of Sentence



In 1996,

Of adult felony arrestees convicted of property offenses:

- Probation with jail sentences were most frequent (65.5 percent).
- Jail sentences were least frequent (4.0 percent).

Source: Table 41.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Drug Offenses

Comparing 1991 to 1996:

The percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of drug offenses and sentenced to:

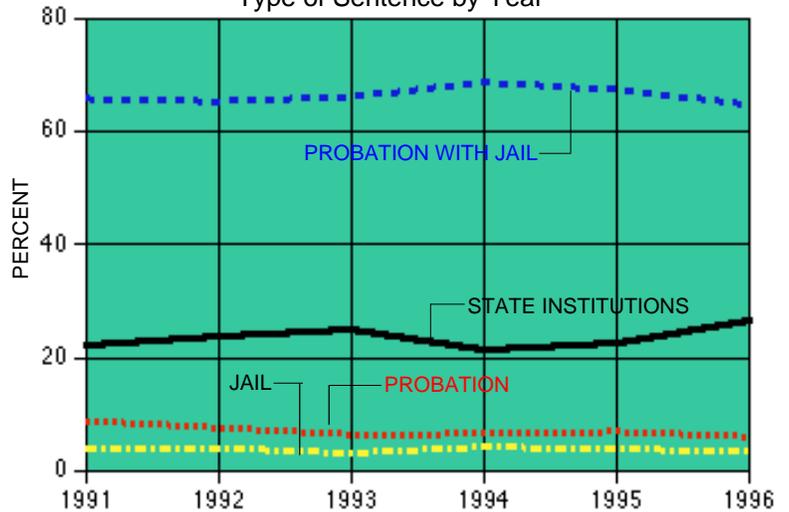
- State institutions increased from 22.0 to 26.5 percent.
- Probation decreased from 8.6 to 5.8 percent.
- Probation with jail decreased from 65.6 to 64.5 percent.
- Jail decreased from 3.8 to 3.2 percent.

From 1995 to 1996:

The percentage of adult felony arrestees convicted of drug offenses and sentenced to:

- State institutions increased from 22.5 to 26.5 percent.
- Probation decreased from 6.7 to 5.8 percent.
- Probation with jail decreased from 67.2 to 64.5 percent.
- Jail decreased from 3.6 to 3.2 percent.

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED
OF DRUG OFFENSES, 1991-1996
Type of Sentence by Year

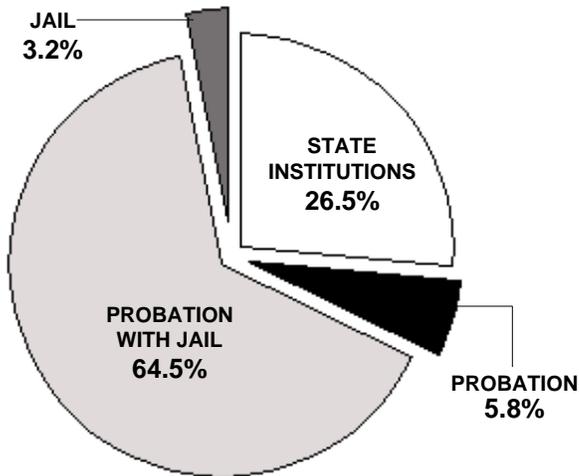


Source: Table 41.

Over one-fifth of convictions for drug offenses resulted in sentences to state institutions.

Adult Felony Arrestees Convicted of Drug Offenses (continued)

ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED OF DRUG OFFENSES, 1996
By Type of Sentence



Source: Table 41.

In 1996,

Of adult felony arrestees convicted of drug offenses:

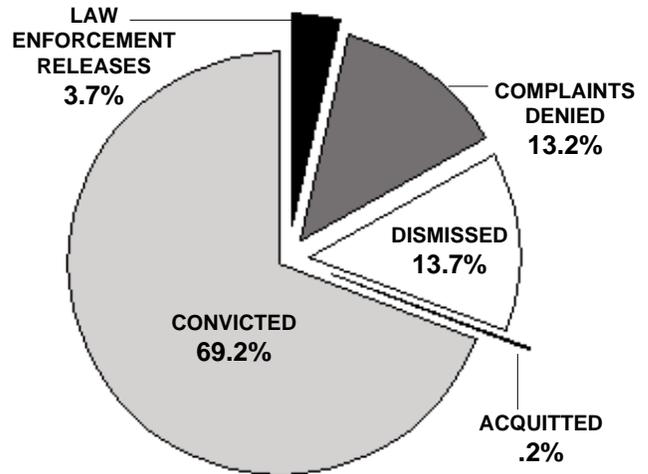
- Probation with jail sentences were given for the majority of these convictions (64.5 percent).
- Jail sentences were the least frequent given (3.2 percent).

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 treatment of offenders by the criminal justice system. This method of calculation focuses on the proportion of convictions out of the total number of arrests.

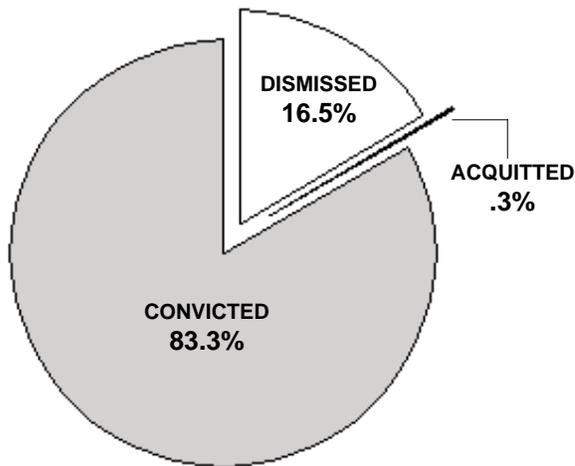
DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1996
By Type of Disposition



Source: Table 38.

CONVICTION RATES (continued)

DISPOSITIONS OF COMPLAINTS FILED
RESULTING FROM ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1996
By Type of Disposition



Source: Table 38A.

Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

Conviction rates based on *total complaints filed* describe the courts' treatment of defendants. 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.