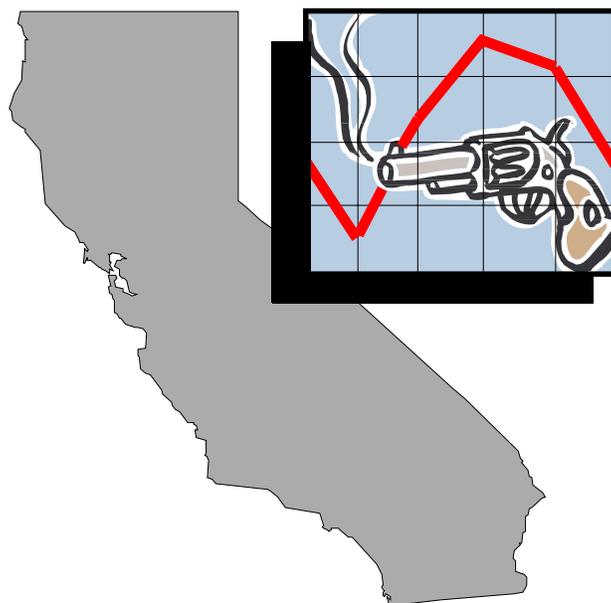
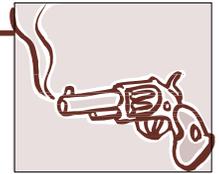


**CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS CENTER
HOMICIDE IN CALIFORNIA, 1997**

APPENDIXES



- [Front Pages](#)
- [CJSC Home Page](#)
- [AG Home Page](#)



COMPUTATIONAL FORMULAS

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. Regardless of the population used, both rates are calculated in the same manner. An arrest rate is calculated by dividing the number of reported arrests by the desired population; the result is multiplied by 100,000. For example, in 1997 there were 2,212 homicide arrests. The total population was 32,957,000 and the total population at risk (10-69 years of age) was 25,760,375.

$$\frac{2,212}{32,957,000} = .0000671 \times 100,000 = 6.7 \text{ per } 100,000 \text{ population}$$

$$\frac{2,212}{25,760,375} = .0000858 \times 100,000 = 8.6 \text{ per } 100,000 \text{ population at risk}$$

CLEARANCE RATE - A clearance rate is the percentage of crimes reported that have been cleared. It is calculated by dividing the number of crimes cleared by the number of crimes reported. The result is multiplied by 100. For example, in 1997 there were 1,489 homicides cleared and 2,579 homicides reported. This equals a homicide clearance rate of 57.7 percent.

$$\frac{1,489}{2,579} = .577356 \times 100 = 57.7 \text{ percent}$$

CRIME RATE - A crime rate describes the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies per 100,000 total population. A crime rate is calculated by dividing the number of reported crimes by the total population; the result is multiplied by 100,000. For example, in 1997 there were 2,579 homicides in California and the population was 32,957,000. This equals a homicide crime rate of 7.8 per 100,000 general population.

$$\frac{2,579}{32,957,000} = .0000782 \times 100,000 = 7.8$$

PERCENT CHANGE - A percent change describes a change in number or rate from one year to another. A percent change is calculated by subtracting base year data from current year data. The result is divided by base year data and multiplied by 100. For example, in 1997 the homicide crime rate was 7.8. In 1988 the homicide crime rate was 10.5. The percent change in rate from 1988 to 1997 is a 25.7 percent decrease.

$$\frac{7.8 - 10.5}{10.5} = -.2571428 \times 100 = -25.7 \text{ percent}$$

POPULATION AT RISK - Arrest section data tables include three comparison populations: total (10-69 years of age), adult (18-69 years of age), and juvenile (10-17 years of age).

When a series of rates are calculated using different populations, the rate calculated for the total will not be equal to the sum of the rates calculated for each subtotal. For example, the total arrest rate (calculated using the *total* at-risk population) will not equal the sum of the adult arrest rate (calculated using the *adult* at-risk population) and the juvenile arrest rate (calculated using the *juvenile* at-risk population).

CRIMINAL JUSTICE GLOSSARY

ACQUITTAL: a judgment of a court, based either on the verdict of a jury or a judicial officer, that the defendant is not guilty of the offense(s) for which he/she was tried.

ADULT: a person 18 years of age or older.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT: an unlawful attack or attempted 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 (UCR definition).

APPEAL: a petition initiated by a defendant for a rehearing in an appellate court regarding a previous sentence or motion.

ARREST: ". . . taking a person into custody, in a case and in the manner authorized by law. An arrest may be made by a peace officer or by a private person" (834 PC).

ARREST RATE: the number of arrests per 100,000 population. See "Computational Formulas" preceding this glossary for further explanation.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF THE YOUTH AUTHORITY (CYA): the state agency which has jurisdiction over and maintains institutions as correctional schools for the reception of wards of the juvenile court and other persons committed from lower and superior courts.

CLEARANCE: an offense is "cleared by arrest" or solved, for crime reporting purposes, when at least one person is arrested, charged with the commission of an offense, and turned over to a court for prosecution. Although no physical arrest is made, a clearance by arrest can be claimed when an offender is a person under 18 years of age and is cited to appear in juvenile court or before other juvenile authorities. An offense can also be "cleared exceptionally" for crime reporting purposes when an investigation has definitely established the identity of an offender; there is enough information to support an arrest; and the exact location of an offender is known but, for some reason, law enforcement cannot take the offender into custody.

CLEARANCE RATE: the percentage of crimes reported that have been cleared.

COMBINED CASES: cases rejected by the prosecutor in favor of other counts/cases.

COMPLAINT: a verified written accusation, filed by a prosecuting attorney with a local criminal court, which charges one or more persons with the commission of one or more offenses.

CONVICTION: a judgment, based either on the verdict of a jury or a judicial officer or on the guilty plea of the defendant, that the defendant is guilty.

CRIME: ". . . an act committed or omitted in violation of a law forbidding or commanding it. . ." (15 PC).

CRIME RATE: the number of reported crimes per 100,000 general population. See "Computational Formulas" preceding this glossary for further explanation.

CYA: see "California Department of the Youth Authority."

DISMISSAL: a decision by a judicial officer to terminate a case without a determination of guilt or innocence.

DISPOSITION - COURT: an action taken as the result of an appearance in court by a defendant. Examples are: adults - dismissed, acquitted, or convicted; juveniles - dismissed, transferred, or remanded to adult court.

DISPOSITION - LAW ENFORCEMENT: an action taken as the result of an arrest. Examples of police dispositions are: adults - released by law enforcement, referred to another jurisdiction, or a misdemeanor or felony complaint sought; juveniles - handled within the department, referred to another agency, or referred to the probation department or juvenile court.

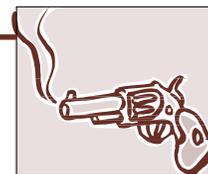
DISPOSITION - PROSECUTOR: an action taken as the result of a complaint requested by an arresting agency. Dispositions include granting a misdemeanor or a felony complaint or denying a complaint for reasons such as lack of sufficient evidence or complainant refuses to testify.

DIVERSION: a disposition of a criminal defendant either before adjudication or following adjudication, but prior to sentencing, in which the court directs the defendant to participate in a work, educational, or rehabilitative program.

DIVERSION DISMISSED: the successful completion of a diversion program.

FELON: one who has committed a felony.

FELONY: a crime which is punishable by death or by imprisonment in a state prison (17 & 18 PC).



FILING: a document filed with the municipal court clerk or county clerk by a prosecuting attorney alleging that a person committed or attempted to commit a crime.

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 (UCR definition).

HOMICIDE: the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter are included (UCR definition).

JAIL: a county or city facility for incarceration of sentenced and unsentenced persons.

JUVENILE: a person under the age of 18.

LOWER COURT: the court of original or trial jurisdiction for the prosecution of persons accused of misdemeanor or certain felony offenses. Also, lower courts may sentence certain felony offenders as well as conduct preliminary hearings to determine probable cause in cases where felony offenders are subject to the jurisdiction of superior courts.

MISDEMEANOR: a crime punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for up to one year.

MONTHLY ARREST AND CITATION REGISTER

(MACR): a reporting system used to collect information on adult and juvenile arrests and citations by police and sheriffs' departments. This register contains data on arrest offenses, arrestee characteristics (age, gender, and race/ethnic group), and law enforcement dispositions.

OFFENDER-BASED TRANSACTION STATISTICS

(OBTS): a system designed to collect statistical information on the various processes within the criminal justice system that occur between the point of the felony arrest of an adult and the point of final disposition.

OFFENSE: the charged offense is the crime for which the defendant was arrested or filed on by the district attorney. The convicted offense is the offense the defendant was convicted of or pled guilty to in court.

PC (PENAL CODE): the California Penal Code contains statutes that define criminal offenses and specify corresponding punishments. Criminal justice system mandates and procedures are also included.

POPULATION AT RISK: that portion of the total population, who because of like characteristics to the specific study group, are considered "at risk." For example, if one were studying juvenile arrestees, all persons between 10 and 17 years of age would constitute the at-risk population.

PRISON: a state correctional facility where persons are confined following conviction for a felony offense.

PROBATION: a judicial requirement that a person fulfill certain conditions of behavior in lieu of a sentence to confinement. See "Straight Probation."

PROBATION WITH JAIL: a type of disposition given upon conviction which imposes a jail term as a condition of probation.

RATE: a comparison of a number of events to a population.

REMAND: to send back (a case) to another court for further action.

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 creating fear in the victim (UCR definition).

SENTENCE: the penalty imposed by a court upon a convicted person.

STRAIGHT PROBATION: probation granted to adults without condition or stipulation that the defendant serve time in jail as a condition of probation.

SUPERIOR COURT: the court of original or trial jurisdiction for felony cases and all juvenile hearings. Also, the first court of appeal for lower court cases.

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING (UCR): a federal reporting system which compiles crime data based on information submitted by law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. In California, the Department of Justice administers and forwards these law enforcement data to the federal program.

VIOLENT CRIMES: crimes committed against people. This category includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

YOUTH AUTHORITY: see "California Department of the Youth Authority."

PUBLICATION EVALUATION SURVEY RESULTS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS CENTER (CJSC)

Publication Evaluation Form

Homicide in California, 1996

We would like to know how *Homicide in California, 1996* has been useful to you or your organization. Please take a few moments to complete and return this Publication Evaluation Form. Responses are very important and will be used to improve future editions. Thank you.

1. Is the information included in *Homicide in California* useful to you or your organization?
 Yes No
Comments _____

2. How will this information be used? (Check all that apply)
 For research/educational purposes
 To write grant proposals
 To prepare handouts
 To influence policy makers
 Other (Please describe) _____
Comments _____

3. If *Homicide in California* is not useful to you, why isn't it useful? (Check all that apply)
 Does not include the information I need
 Not comprehensive enough
 Information is not clearly presented
 Other (Please describe) _____
Comments _____

4. Is the layout (order and design of material) easy to follow? Yes No
Comments _____

5. Which topics, sections, or types of information should be included in future editions?
Comments _____

6. Should any topics or sections be deleted from future editions? Yes No
Comments _____

7. Any other comments or suggestions regarding *Homicide in California*?

8. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = not satisfied and 5 = very satisfied), please rate your overall satisfaction with *Homicide in California, 1996*. (Circle one)
1 2 3 4 5
9. Please describe your occupation or your organization.



Please fold and return this form to the addressee printed on the reverse side. Questions may also be directed to the CJSC via:

FAX: (916) 227-0427
E-Mail: cjsc@hdcdojnet.state.ca.us



Table A-1
 PUBLICATION EVALUATION SURVEY RESULTS
Homicide in California, 1996

Surveys mailed and satisfaction rating	Number	Percent
Total surveys mailed	1,949	100.0
Not returned	1,884	96.7
Returned	65	3.3
Satisfaction rating	65	100.0
1 - Not satisfied.....	0	.0
2 -	2	3.1
3 -	2	3.1
4 -	22	33.8
5 - Very satisfied.....	32	49.2
Rating not indicated.....	7	10.8

Summary:

Of the surveys mailed, 3.3 percent were returned. Of these, 83.1 percent received satisfaction ratings of "4" and above.

In response to survey suggestions, this year's edition of *Homicide in California* includes several changes. The table of contents now lists every data element displayed and incorporates the data table index which had been located in the back of the publication. Table N-1 (Page 2) was expanded to include 1952 (the first year data were collected) through 1997 homicide data. Rates per 100,000 population were also calculated and included for these years. Homicide clearance rates are now included (see Table 29, Page 83), and CJSC publications available in either printed or electronic format (via the Internet) are now listed on the inside of the back cover. The information necessary to obtain these publications, customized statistical reports, or additional statistical information is also listed.

Because data must be grouped for publication purposes, not all data captured by the Homicide File can be displayed. For example, interest was expressed in homicide victims identified as Asian/Pacific Islanders, and requests were made for additional information about juvenile, gang, domestic violence,

and hate crime related homicide. These data, and more, are available and may be obtained by contacting the CJSC.

Some survey respondents expressed interest in information *not* collected by the CJSC but which is available elsewhere. For example, in-depth information about law enforcement officer-involved incidents can be found in the FBI publications *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* and *Killed in the Line of Duty*. And, detailed information about subjects such as "initial charges by the county," "actual sentences and lengths of time served," "degrees of murder," "juveniles killed while on probation or in county/community programs," and "referral information for families of homicide victims" can be obtained by contacting appropriate city, county, and state agencies and community organizations.

**The human being says that the beast in him has been aroused,
when what he actually means is that the human being in him has been aroused.**
JAMES THURBER, "The Trouble With Man is Man,"
Lanterns and Lances (1961)

CJSC* PUBLICATIONS ON THE INTERNET

<http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/pubsol.htm>



CJSC Outlook: Crime in Urban and Rural California (1987 and 1996)
Crime and Delinquency in California (1996 to current)
Crime and Delinquency in California, Advance Release (1996 to current)
Crime as Reported by Selected California Agencies, January through September (1995 to current)
Hate Crime in California (1995 to current)
Homicide in California (1995 to current)
Preliminary Report, Crime 1996 (January through December)
Preliminary Report, Crime (1997 to current) (January through June)
Preliminary Report, Crime 1997 (January through December)

CJSC* PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT

Annuals

Crime and Delinquency in California
Crime and Delinquency in California, Advance Release
Criminal Justice Profile - A Supplement to C&D (statewide and individual counties)
Hate Crime in California
Homicide in California
Preliminary Report, Crime (January through June and January through December)

BCS Foci and Forums

The California Experience in American Juvenile Justice: Some Historical Perspectives (December 1988)
Controlling Plea Bargaining in California (September 1985)
Coordinating Justice in California: "There ought to be a law about it" (December 1988)
Crime Control and the Criminal Career (December 1992)
The Development of California Drunk Driving Legislation (December 1988)
Employment and Crime (February 1989)
The Impact of California's "Prior Felony Conviction" Law (September 1987)
The Origins and Development of Penalties for Drunk Drivers in California (August 1988)
A Policy Role for Focus Groups: Community Corrections (September 1991)
The Prevalence and Incidence of Arrests Among Adult Males in California (August 1988)

The Social Structure of Street Drug Dealing (December 1988)

BCS Outlooks

Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions in California (1982-1984, 1986-1989)
Crime in Urban and Rural California (November 1984 and December 1997)
Felony Drug Arrests in California, 1985 (December 1986)
Juvenile Justice in California, 1983 (June 1984)
Motor Vehicle Theft in California (December 1987)
Motor Vehicle Theft Recovery Data, 1983-1989 (October 1990)
Women in Crime: The Sentencing of Female Defendants (April 1988)

BCS Reports

Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions in California (April 1992)
Crime in California and the United States, (1983, 1990)
Effectiveness of Statutory Requirements for the Registration of Sex Offenders - A Report to the California State Legislature
Executive Summary of the Final Report - Blue Ribbon Commission on Inmate Population Management (January 1990)
Parolees Returned to Prison and the California Prison Population (January 1988)
Target Hardening: A Literature Review (October 1989)

Monograph Series

Conspicuous Depredation: Automobile Theft in Los Angeles, 1904 to 1987 (March 1990)
Controlling Felony Plea Bargaining in California: The Impact of the Victim's Bill of Rights (1986)
Development of a White Collar Crime Index (December 1992)
Incapacitation Strategies and the Career Criminal (December 1992)
Measuring White Collar Crime in Depository Institutions (December 1993)
Prosecutors' Reponse to Parental Child Stealing: A Statewide Study (April 1995)
Race & Delinquency in Los Angeles Juvenile Court, 1950 (December 1990)
Survey Report: "The Expansion of the Criminal Justice and Penal System in California - Is greater coordination required?" (December 1988)

Miscellaneous

Gang Organization and Migration/Drugs, Gangs & Law Enforcement
Proceedings of the Attorney General's Crime Conference 85 (September 1985)
Proceedings of Symposium 87: White Collar/Institutional Crime - Its Measurement and Analysis

*Prior to 1991, the Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC) was known as the Bureau of Criminal Statistics (BCS).

If you need a publication, assistance in obtaining statistical information, or a customized statistical report, please contact the CJSC's Special Requests Unit at:

California Department of Justice
Criminal Justice Statistics Center
Special Requests Unit
P.O. Box 903427
Sacramento, CA 94203-4270
Telephone: (916) 227-3509
FAX: (916) 227-0427
E-mail: cjsc@hdcdojnet.state.ca.us

98033 12/98 2.5M

• [Go back to JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES](#) • [Front Pages](#) • [CJSC Home Page](#) • [AG Home Page](#)