

# APPENDICES



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## 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 respective population; the result is multiplied by 100,000. For example, in 1999 there were 1,770 homicide arrests. The total population was 34,036,000 and the total population at risk (10-69 years of age) was 25,711,892.

$$\frac{1,770}{34,036,000} = 0.0000520 \times 100,000 = 5.2 \text{ per } 100,000 \text{ population}$$

$$\frac{1,770}{25,711,892} = 0.0000688 \times 100,000 = 6.9 \text{ per } 100,000 \text{ population at risk}$$

**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 1999 there were 1,200 homicides cleared and 2,006 homicides reported. This equals a homicide clearance rate of 59.8 percent.

$$\frac{1,200}{2,006} = 0.5982053 \times 100 = 59.8 \text{ percent}$$

**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 1999 there were 2,006 homicides in California and the population was 34,036,000. This equals a homicide crime rate of 5.9 per 100,000 general population.

$$\frac{2,006}{34,036,000} = 0.0000589 \times 100,000 = 5.9$$

**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 1999 the homicide crime rate was 5.9. In 1990 the homicide crime rate was 12.1. The percent change in rate from 1990 to 1999 is a 51.2 percent decrease.

$$\frac{5.9 - 12.1}{12.1} = -0.5123966 \times 100 = -51.2 \text{ percent}$$

**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).

# appendix II

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## 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).

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**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."

## CJSC\* PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT AND ON THE INTERNET\*\*

### Annuals

Crime and Delinquency in California\*\*  
Crime and Delinquency in California,  
Advance Release\*\*  
Crime as Reported by Selected California  
Agencies, January through September\*\*  
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, 2000)  
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)  
The Juvenile Justice System in California: An  
Overview (April 1989)  
Parolees Returned to Prison and the  
California Prison Population (January  
1988)  
Target Hardening: A Literature Review  
(October 1989)

### CJSC Report Series

Report on Arrests for Burglary in California,  
1998\*\*  
Report on Arrests for Domestic Violence in  
California, 1998\*\*  
Report on Arrests for Driving Under the  
Influence in California, 1997\*\*  
Report on Violent Crimes Committed Against  
Senior Citizens in California, 1998\*\*

### 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' Response 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 Measure-  
ment and Analysis

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

\*\*Available on the Internet.

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

California Department of Justice  
Criminal Justice Statistics Center  
Special Requests Unit  
P.O. Box 903427  
Sacramento, CA 94203-4270  
Phone: (916) 227-3509  
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