

SELECTED STATISTICS
ON THE
CALIFORNIA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
1979 THROUGH 1985

MARCH 1987

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF THE YOUTH AUTHORITY

Prepared by:
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PREFACE

The purpose of this report is to present under one cover a set of descriptive data on persons processed by various components of the criminal justice system. Emphasis is placed on juveniles, but some adult information is also presented. Figures are provided on population, crime, arrests, probation and court dispositions, detention at the local level, and state corrections. The data cover the years 1979 through 1985--a period long enough to be used to identify trends, and, in some cases, to make useful projections. Complete information for 1985 only became available from some of the original sources late in 1986. Data for 1986 are not yet available. Sources of data for this report were as follows:

1. Department of Finance, Population Research Unit, Tel.
(916) 323-4008.
2. Department of Justice, Bureau of Criminal Statistics, Tel.
(916) 739-5166.
3. Department of the Youth Authority
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CALIFORNIA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA

SUMMARY

In 1985, indicators of crimes and arrests showed an annual increase for the first time in several years. During the few years preceding 1985 crimes and arrests had been decreasing on an annual basis. However, a one-year increase is insufficient evidence to predict whether crime indicators will continue to increase or will return to the previous pattern of annual decreases.

In general, data for 1985 indicated the following:

	Percent Change	
	<u>1979-1985</u>	<u>1984-1985</u>
Total Reported FBI Index Crimes	+1.9	+3.8
Reported Violent Crimes	+10.0	+3.3
Juvenile Felony Arrests	-27.3	+6.6
- Violent Offenses	-28.3	+3.3
- Property Offenses	-34.6	+5.6
New Referrals to Juvenile Probation	-17.4	+6.1
New Petitions Filed	-10.0	+3.7
New Petitions Sustained	+2.9	+4.8
Juvenile Probation Caseload	+38.1	+10.4
Juveniles Confined in Jails Over 24 Hrs.	-83.6	-31.8
Juvenile Hall Average Daily Population	+32.0	+6.4
Juvenile Camps Average Daily Population	+25.8	+1.8
Adult Court Convictions Persons Under 25	+55.0	+19.1
State Prison Commitments Persons Under 25	+140.0	+16.7
Youth Authority First Admissions	+3.2	+16.8
Youth Authority Avg. Daily Population	+34.8	+9.2

SECTION I: STATE POPULATION

Table 1 presents population data for the state and for several selected age groups. The juvenile group is limited to the ages of 12 to 17 because youths younger than 12 infrequently appear in the criminal justice population. For instance, youths under 12 accounted for only 4.1% of all juvenile felony arrests in 1985 and only one youth under age 12 was committed to the Youth Authority. Figures are not shown for the population older than 65 because these persons are involved in relatively little crime.

Highlights

- o The population of California was estimated to be 25,997,721 on July 1, 1985. This represents an increase of 11.6% since 1979.
- o A decrease has occurred annually in the juvenile population ages 12 to 17. The decrease was 4.8% from 1980 to 1985.
- o Persons 12 to 17 represented 8.5% of the state population in 1985.
- o The number of young adults ages 18 to 24 decreased slightly in both 1984 and 1985.
- o Population between the ages of 25 and 64 increased 12.7% since 1980.

Discussion

From the data, it would appear that the state population continues to grow older. The population of both juveniles and young adults decreased again in 1985, while the number of adults over 25 increased. This would be expected to have some effect on the number of juveniles entering the justice system and, at the same time, would potentially increase the population of adult offenders. These trends in the age of the statewide population should be kept in mind when examining the tables that follow. For more information on statewide and individual county population, contact the Population Research Unit of the Department of Finance, or refer to the following report:

"Population of California Counties 1981 to 1989: By Selected Age Groups." CYA, Program Research and Review Division, 1984.

TABLE 1
 Estimated Population in California
 by Selected Age Groups

Year	Total State Population	Juveniles Ages 12 to 17	Ages 18 to 20	Young Adults 18 to 24	Adults 25 to 64
1979	23,295,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1980	23,771,000	2,308,486	1,400,230	3,298,896	11,630,984
1981	24,212,000	2,270,834	1,424,607	3,310,515	11,938,419
1982	24,724,000	2,257,412	1,441,167	3,330,556	12,287,185
1983	25,152,476	2,243,297	1,448,703	3,333,860	12,252,777
1984	25,575,769	2,218,687	1,400,043	3,315,275	12,839,863
1985	25,997,721	2,197,514	1,339,862	3,280,043	13,103,500
% Change:					
1979-85	+11.6	-	-	-	-
1984-85	+1.6	-1.0	-4.3	-1.1	+2.1

Source: Department of Finance, Report WKSP Form 1, Population Estimates by Age.

Note. Population estimates--by age--for 1979 are omitted because they were based on the 1970 census and are now considered as underestimates.

SECTION II: CRIMES AND ARRESTS

Reported Crimes

Table 2 shows the number of major crimes reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting System. Arson, added to the UCR Index in 1980, is not included in the table in order to maintain trend data since 1979. Not all crimes are reported. Some crimes go undetected, and when several crimes are committed in one episode, only the most serious is reported. Nevertheless, the UCR is considered an extremely good indicator of criminal activity and fluctuation in crimes reported to the police.

Highlights

- o Total reported crimes, as shown in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, have increased 1.9% since 1979.
- o After having decreased annually from 1981 to 1984, reported crimes increased 3.8% from 1984 to 1985.
- o Reported violent crimes, which had shown annual decreases from 1981 to 1983, increased by a fraction in 1984. In 1985, violent crimes showed a one-year increase of 3.3%. The number in 1985 represents a 10.0% increase over 1979.
- o Property crimes reached a high of 718,394 in 1980, but decreased over the next four years. Although property crimes increased in 1985, there were still fewer reports of these crimes than in the base year 1979.

Discussion

The major crimes that comprise the UCR Index decreased annually from 1981 to 1984. Violent crimes and property crimes followed the same trend, except for a fractional increase in violent crimes during 1984. In 1985, however, there were increases in all categories of reported crimes. The decrease shown for larceny-theft in 1983 is partly due to the fact that the lower limit of felony theft was raised from \$200 to \$400 in 1983. For more information on reported crimes, contact the State Bureau of Criminal Statistics.

TABLE 2
Reported Crimes

Year	Total Crimes ^a	Violent Crimes ^b	Property Crimes ^c	Larceny-Theft
1979	1,689,152	183,704	661,980	843,468
1980	1,838,417	209,903	718,394	910,120
1981	1,830,288	208,165	702,076	920,047
1982	1,801,262	201,433	663,998	935,831
1983	1,680,781	194,489	619,300	866,992
1984	1,658,332	195,650	604,965	857,717
1985	1,721,107	202,046	626,395	892,646
% Change:				
1979-85	+1.9	+10.0	-5.4	+5.8
1984-85	+3.8	+3.3	+3.5	+4.1

Source: BCS, Crime and Delinquency in California, 1985.

^aUniform Crime Reports (FBI), excluding arson, which was not reported over the entire period.

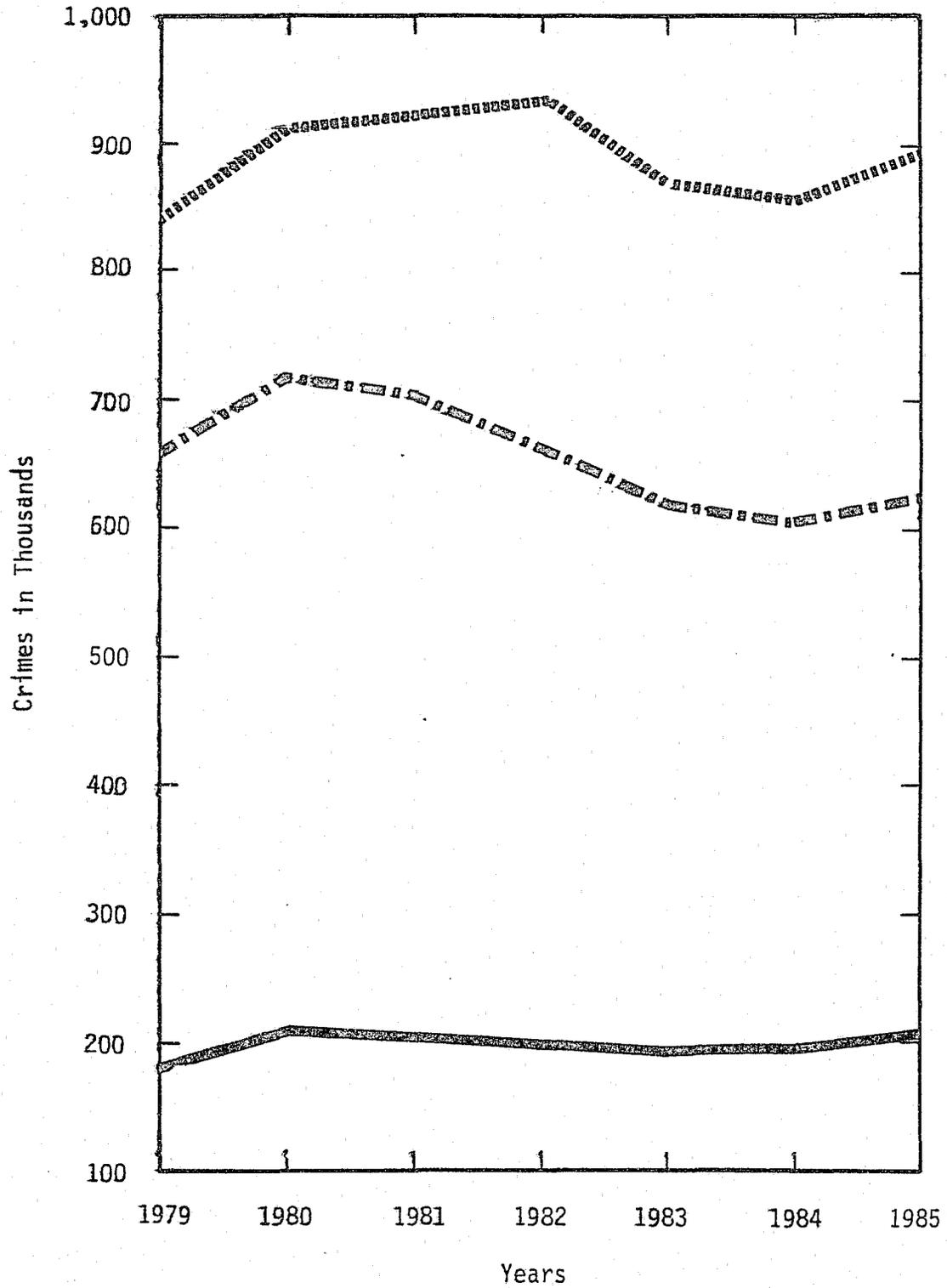
^bViolent Crimes: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

^cProperty Crimes: burglary and vehicle theft.

Chart for Table 2

Reported Crimes

Type of Crime: Violent Crimes 
Property Crimes 
Larceny-Theft 



Juvenile Arrests

Juvenile arrest data are shown in Table 3. The Bureau of Criminal Statistics states that about 95% of all arrests are reported by law enforcement agencies. It is likely that all serious offenses are reported and that it is only for minor offenses that some under-reporting occurs.

Highlights

- o There were 230,961 juvenile arrests for all offenses in 1985. Juvenile arrests increased in both 1984 and 1985 after having shown annual decreases since 1979. However, compared to 1979, there were 22.4% fewer juveniles arrested in 1985.
- o The 3.4% increase in total arrests in 1985 reflects increases in all categories of crime except status offenses.
- o Arrests for felonies showed the largest categorical increase: 6.6%. However, there were 27.3% fewer felony arrests in 1985 than in 1979.

Discussion

From 1979 to 1983, there was a clear trend for decreasing juvenile arrests. Felony arrests continued to decrease through 1984. It is too soon to tell whether the increase shown for 1985 portends future increases. For more information on juvenile arrests, contact the Bureau of Criminal Statistics.

TABLE 3
 Juvenile Arrests for Felonies, Misdemeanors
 and Delinquent Tendencies

Year	Total Arrests	Total Felonies	Felony Subgroup: Violent Crimes ^a	Felony Subgroup: Property Crimes ^b	Misdemeanors	Status Offenses
1979	297,507	101,165	17,073	68,599	165,540	30,802
1980	286,007	97,376	17,202	65,202	158,235	30,396
1981	269,925	93,027	16,537	61,932	149,445	27,453
1982	247,402	84,436	14,301	56,473	138,925	24,041
1983	219,312	71,188	12,321	45,793	125,607	22,517
1984	223,339	68,989	11,853	42,497	127,626	26,724
1985	230,961	73,521	12,421	45,899	131,667	25,773
% Change:						
1979-85	-22.4	-27.3	-28.3	-34.6	-20.5	-16.3
1984-85	+3.4	+6.6	+3.3	+5.6	+3.2	-3.6

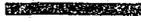
Source: BCS, Crime and Delinquency in California, 1985 and previous years. As per BCS, counts may not agree with previously published data due to a revision to an offense group.

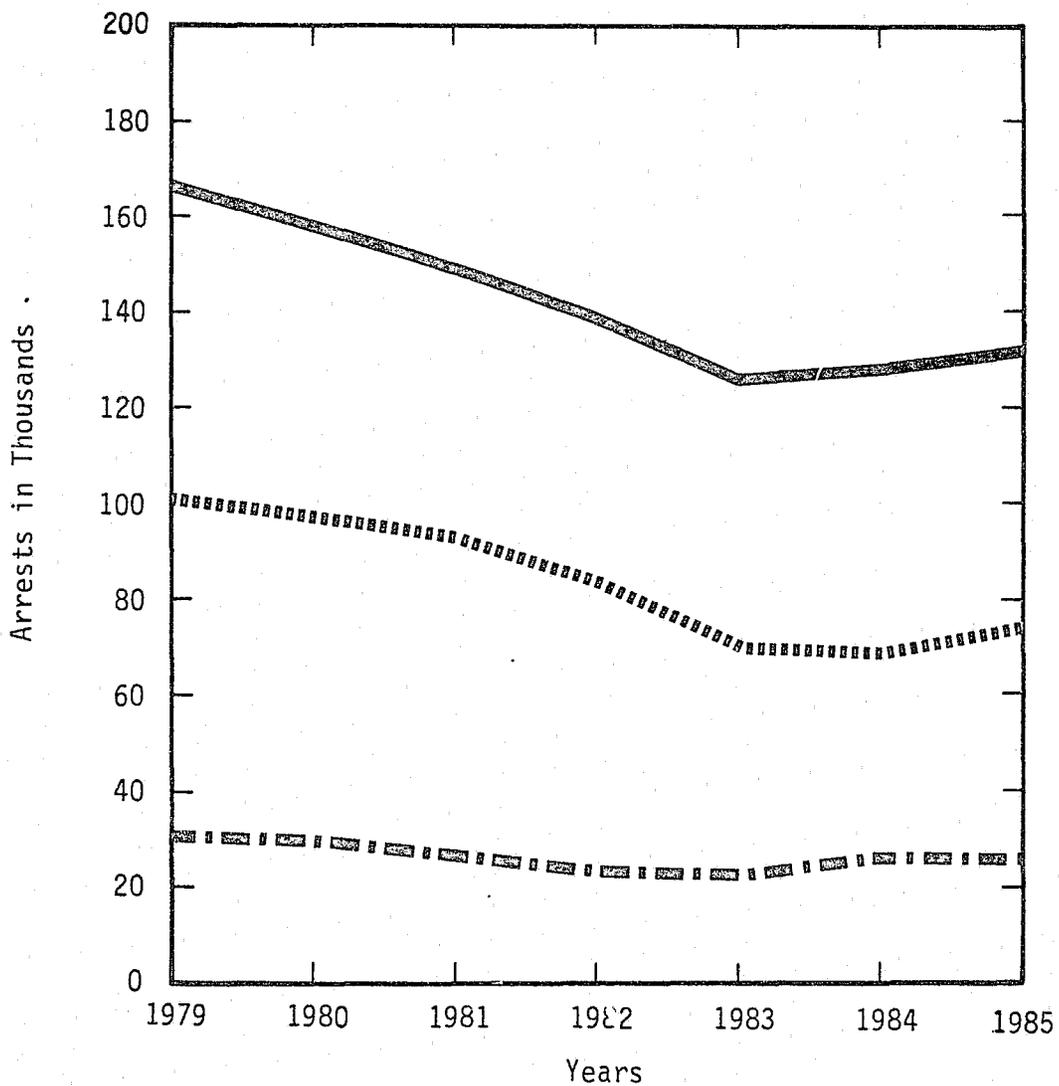
^aHomicide, robbery, rape, aggravated assault, kidnapping.

^bBurglary, grand theft, vehicle theft, forgery.

Chart for Table 3

Juvenile Arrests

Type of Arrest: Misdemeanors 
 Total Felonies 
 Status Offenses 



Juvenile Arrest Rates

While Table 3 dealt with the number of juveniles arrested, Table 4 presents the arrest rates per 100,000 juveniles ages 12 to 17 in the state population. Data on rates allow us to determine the degree to which changes in the number of arrests are due to the change in juvenile population noted in Table 1. Rates were not calculated for the year 1979 because population age estimates for that year were based on the 1970 census and are not compatible with age data for 1980 and subsequent years.

Highlights

- o The rate of total arrests decreased from 12,389 per 100,000 population in 1980 to 10,510 in 1985--a 15.2% decrease. Actual arrests declined at a slightly greater rate of 19.2% over the same time period.
- o For each category of arrest, the change in rates from 1980 to 1985, as compared to change in actual numbers, is shown below:

	<u>Change in Arrests</u>	<u>Change in Rate</u>
Violent Crime	down 28.8%	down 25.2%
Property Crime	down 31.2%	down 27.7%
Misdemeanor	down 16.8%	down 12.6%
Status Offenses	down 15.2%	down 10.9%

- o In 1985, arrest rates increased slightly, ending a trend for annual decreases which began in 1981.

Discussion

The rate of juvenile arrests has decreased 15.2% since 1980. A decrease in rate is a valid indication of a "real" reduction having occurred. That the decrease in the number of arrests (19.2%) was slightly greater than the decrease in the rate of arrests (15.2%) means that the decrease in the number of arrests is only slightly related to a decrease in juvenile population. Overall, arrest rates have decreased more for violent crimes and felony property offenses than for misdemeanors or status offenses. However, in 1985 the rates for all types of arrests (except status offenses) increased somewhat. Total arrests for felonies showed the largest increase of 7.6%.

TABLE 4

Juvenile Arrest Rates Per 100,000 Juvenile Population
for Felony, Misdemeanor, and Delinquent Tendencies

Year	Arrests Per 100,000 Juvenile Population Ages 12 to 17					
	Total Arrests	Total Felonies	Felony Subgroup: Violent Crimes ^a	Felony Subgroup: Property Crimes ^b	Misdemeanors	Status Offenses
1979 ^c	-	-	-	-	-	-
1980	12,389	4,218	745	2,824	6,854	1,317
1981	11,887	4,097	728	2,727	6,581	1,209
1982	10,960	3,740	634	2,502	6,154	1,065
1983	9,776	3,173	549	2,041	5,599	1,004
1984	10,066	3,109	534	1,915	5,752	1,204
1985	10,510	3,346	557	2,042	5,992	1,173
% Change:						
1980-85	-15.2	-20.7	-25.2	-27.7	-12.6	-10.9
1984-85	+4.4	+7.6	+4.3	+6.6	+4.2	-2.6

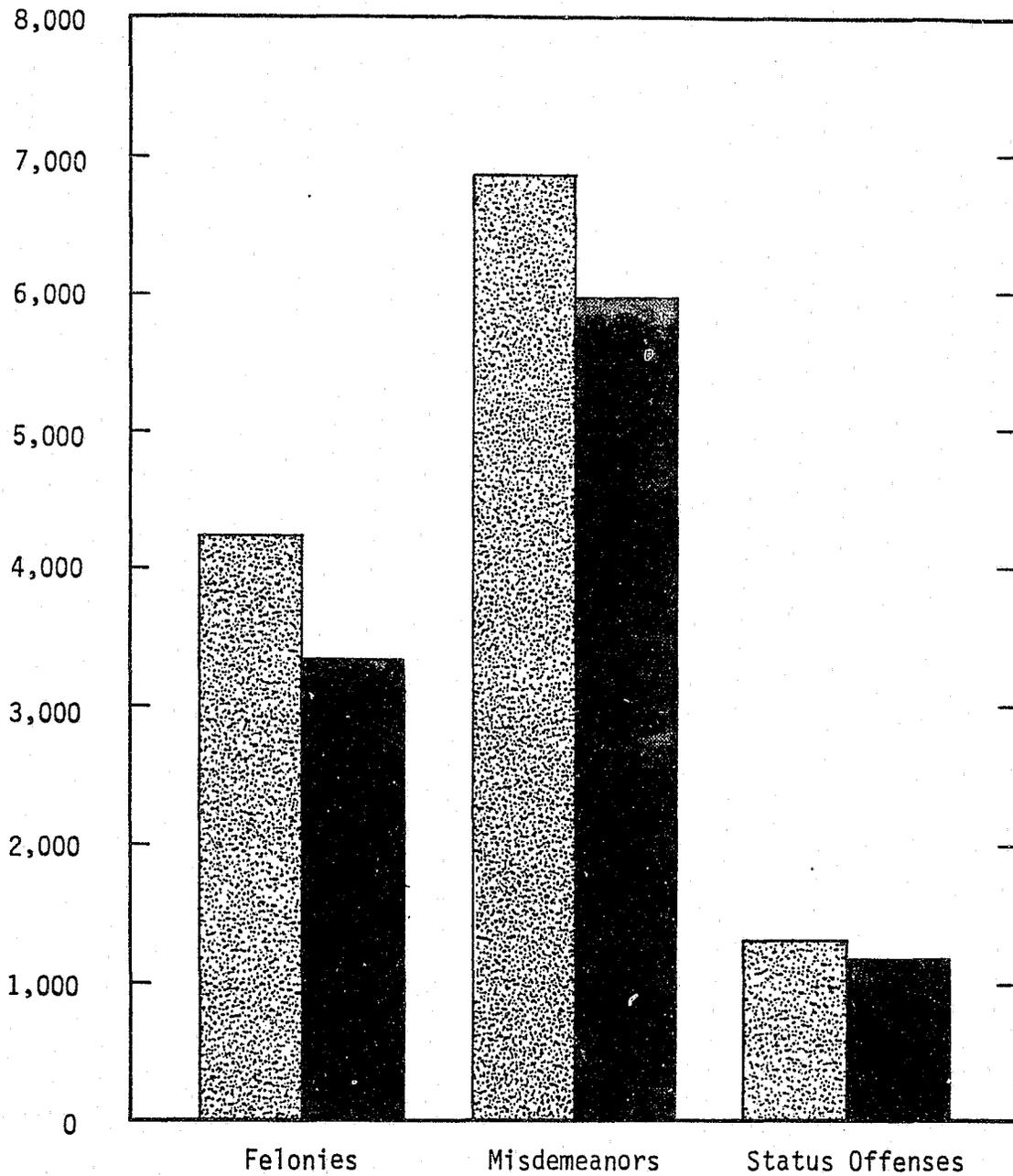
^aHomicide, robbery, rape, aggravated assault.

^bBurglary, grand theft, vehicle theft, forgery.

^cRates not shown for 1979 because population-by-age data for that year were based on the 1970 census and are not compatible with age data based on the 1980 census.

Chart for Table 4

Juvenile Arrest Rates Per 100,000 Juvenile Population



1980
1985

Juvenile vs. Adult Arrests

In Table 5, arrests for felonies, violent crimes, and property crimes are shown by the percentage comprised by adults and juveniles.

Highlights

- o In 1979, juveniles accounted for 28.3% of all felony arrests. By 1985, the figure dropped to 17.8%.
- o Of the total arrests for violent crimes, juveniles accounted for 20.9% in 1979 and 15.6% in 1985.
- o The proportion of property crime arrests attributable to juveniles was 39.2% in 1979 and 25.7% in 1985.

Discussion

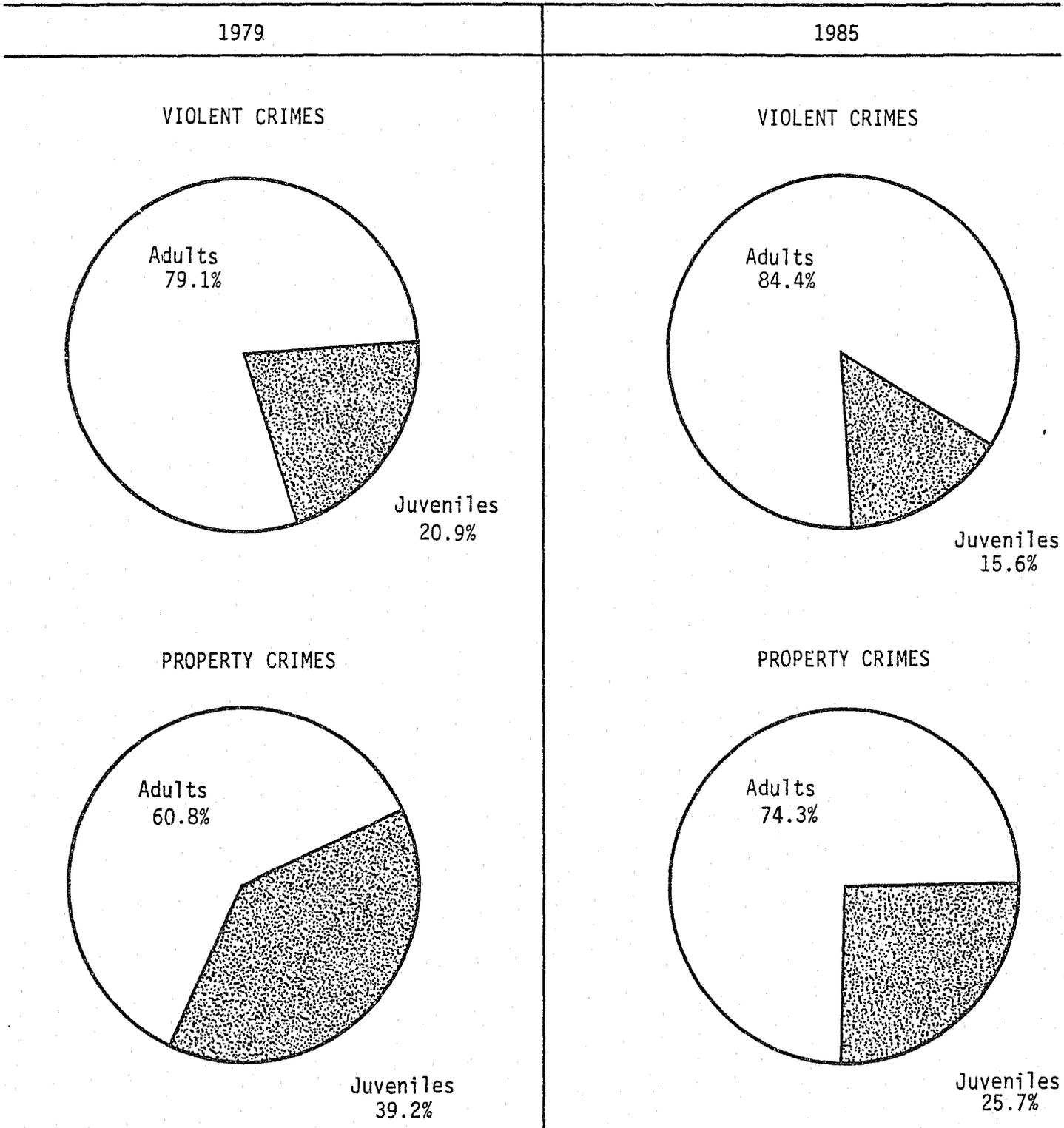
It is sometimes heard that violent crime is highly prevalent among the juvenile population. Data in Tables 3, 4, and 5 provide some evidence on this subject. Although in 1985 there was a slight increase in violent crimes committed by juveniles, both arrests and arrest rates for these crimes are considerably lower than they were in the early 1980s. In addition, the proportion of all violent crimes attributable to juveniles has decreased. In 1979, 20.9% of all arrests for violent crimes involved juveniles. That figure dropped to 15.6% in 1985. Juveniles are only slightly over-represented among violent crime arrests: In 1985, juveniles comprised 13.4% of the total population ages 12 to 64, and 15.6% of the total arrests for violent crimes.

TABLE 5

Percentage of Juveniles and Adults Among Felony Arrests

Year	Felony Arrests			Violent Crimes			Property Crimes		
	Total	Adults %	Juveniles %	Total	Adults %	Juveniles %	Total	Adults %	Juveniles %
1979	357,632	71.7	28.3	81,862	79.1	20.9	174,783	60.8	39.2
1980	372,190	73.8	26.2	85,894	80.0	20.0	178,412	63.4	36.6
1981	386,195	75.9	24.1	86,254	80.8	19.2	184,507	66.4	33.6
1982	386,995	78.2	21.8	81,594	82.5	17.5	185,143	69.5	30.5
1983	373,609	81.0	19.0	74,898	83.6	16.4	169,813	73.0	27.0
1984	384,861	82.1	17.9	76,437	84.5	15.5	164,751	74.2	25.8
1985	413,673	82.2	17.8	78,739	84.4	15.6	174,577	74.3	25.7

Chart for Table 5
Percentage of Juveniles and Adults
Among Arrests for Violent and Property Crimes



SECTION III: PROBATION DISPOSITIONS

New Referrals to Juvenile Probation

Table 6 presents data on new referrals. A referral is considered "new" when a juvenile is not on probation at the time the referral was made. This does not mean, however, that the juvenile did not have any previous contacts with the justice system. Data are not uniformly available on subsequent referrals (those made while a juvenile is currently on probation). The data on subsequent referrals available from BCS are not complete or uniform in that four counties (including Los Angeles County) did not report in previous years.

Highlights

- o The number of new referrals to probation increased 6.1% from 1984 to 1985. This is the first increase in new referrals at least since 1979. Referrals had been decreasing annually through 1984.
- o In 1979, 55.0% of the cases were transferred or closed at intake. In 1985, this figure was 50.7%.
- o There was a 12.0% increase in the use of informal probation from 1984 to 1985. However, fewer referrals resulted in informal probation in 1985 than in 1979 (8.2% fewer).
- o The number of petitions filed decreased 10.0% since 1979. Petitions were filed on 34.7% of the referrals in 1985, compared to 31.8% in 1979.

Discussion

There were 120,468 new referrals to probation in 1985, about 25,000 fewer than in 1979. The reduction in referrals to juvenile court may be partially explained by three factors: (1) a decrease in the juvenile population, (2) a decrease in the number of status offender referrals due to changes in juvenile court law which encourage the diversion of status offenders and mediate against charging a status offender with a law violation when the juvenile failed to obey an order of the court, and (3) new statutes which stipulate that 16 and 17 year old juveniles charged with specific serious felonies must be tried in adult court.

From 1979 to 1985, there has been a general reduction in the number of new referrals to juvenile probation. Number of referrals decreased 17.4%; petition filings decreased 10.0%. A slightly larger percentage of referrals resulted in petition filings in 1985: 34.7% vs. 31.8% in 1979. In 1985, new referrals increased by 7,000 cases, the first such increase at least since 1979. The use of informal probation increased 12.0% in 1985. In 1985, informal probation was used for 14.7% of the referrals, compared to 13.2% in 1979.

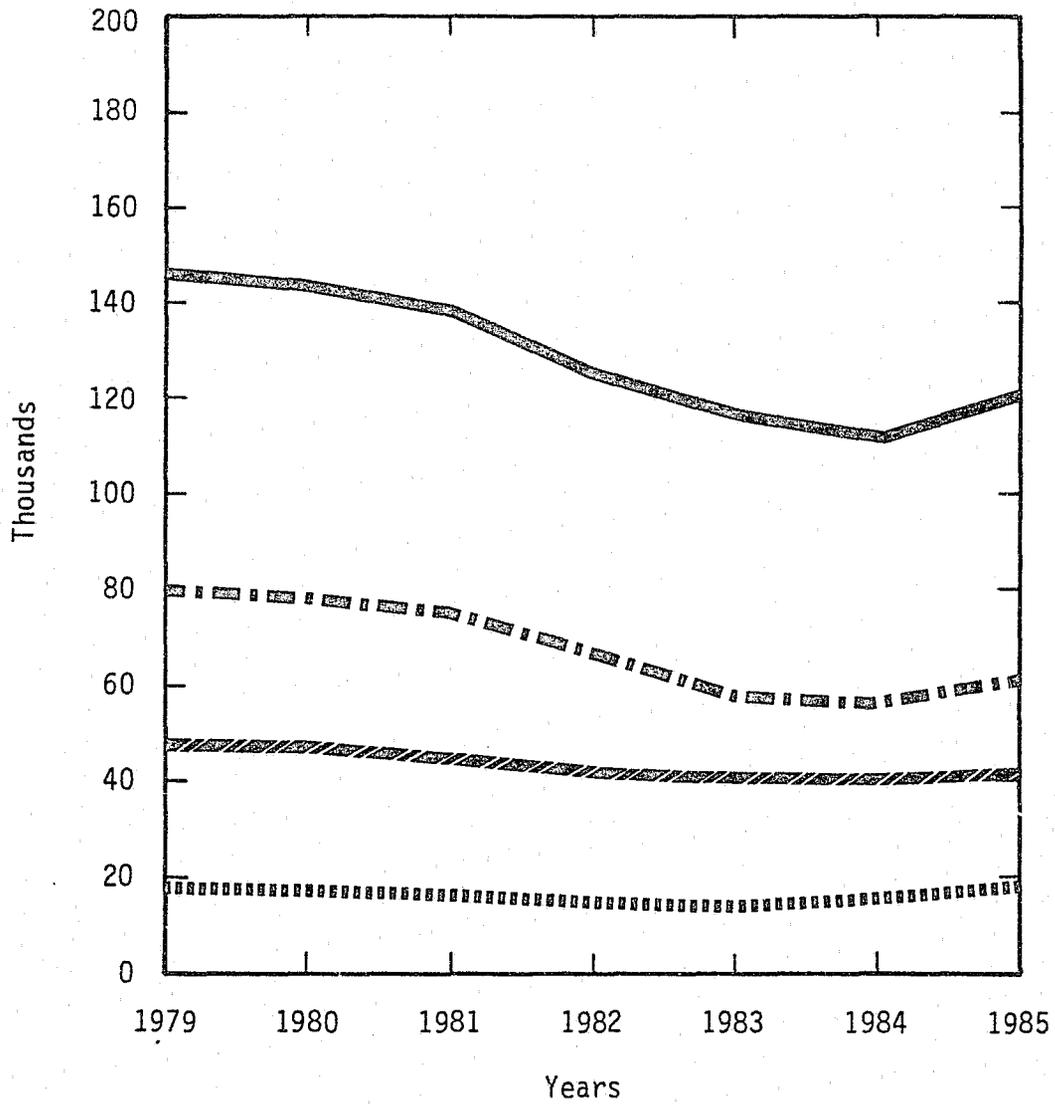
TABLE 6
New Referrals to Juvenile Probation
and Resulting Dispositions

Year	Total New Referrals	Probation Disposition			
		Closed Transferred	Informal Probation	Petition Filed	
				N	%
1979	145,863	80,180	19,239	46,444	31.8
1980	144,268	79,404	18,453	46,411	32.2
1981	139,205	76,140	17,441	45,624	32.8
1982	126,181	67,607	15,411	43,163	34.2
1983	116,893	59,728	15,313	41,852	35.8
1984	113,522	57,444	15,769	40,309	35.5
1985	120,468	61,022	17,654	41,792	34.7
% Change:					
1979-85	-17.4	-23.9	-8.2	-10.0	
1984-85	+6.1	+6.2	+12.0	+3.7	

Source: BCS, Crime and Delinquency in California, 1985.

Chart for Table 6
 New Referrals to Juvenile Probation
 and Resulting Dispositions

Groups: Total Referrals
 Closed Transferred
 Petitions Filed
 Informal Probation



Juvenile Court Dispositions

The data in Table 7 pertain to new petitions filed in juvenile court. A new petition is defined similarly to a new referral, i.e., a new petition is one filed on a juvenile not currently on active probation (although he may have had previous contacts with the justice system, including probation). Complete data are not available from BCS on subsequent petitions.

Highlights

- o There were 41,792 new petitions filed in juvenile courts during 1985, a decrease of around 6,300 cases (13.2%) since 1979.
- o The percentage of new petitions sustained in juvenile court has increased from 62.2% in 1979 to 73.7% in 1985.
- o The number of remands to adult court (163) in 1985, although showing a fractional increase over 1984, remains lower than in previous years.
- o CYA commitments (413) comprised 1.3% of the new petition dispositions.

Discussion

The 3.7% increase in new petitions ends a 5-year trend for decreases. This finding is in line with other data showing an increase in the number of juveniles entering the juvenile justice system in 1985: arrests, up 3.4%, referrals to probation, up 6.1%. The percentage of petitions sustained by the courts continues to increase, reaching 73.7% in 1985. For further information on juvenile court dispositions, contact the Bureau of Criminal Statistics.

TABLE 7
Dispositions of New Petitions
in Juvenile Court

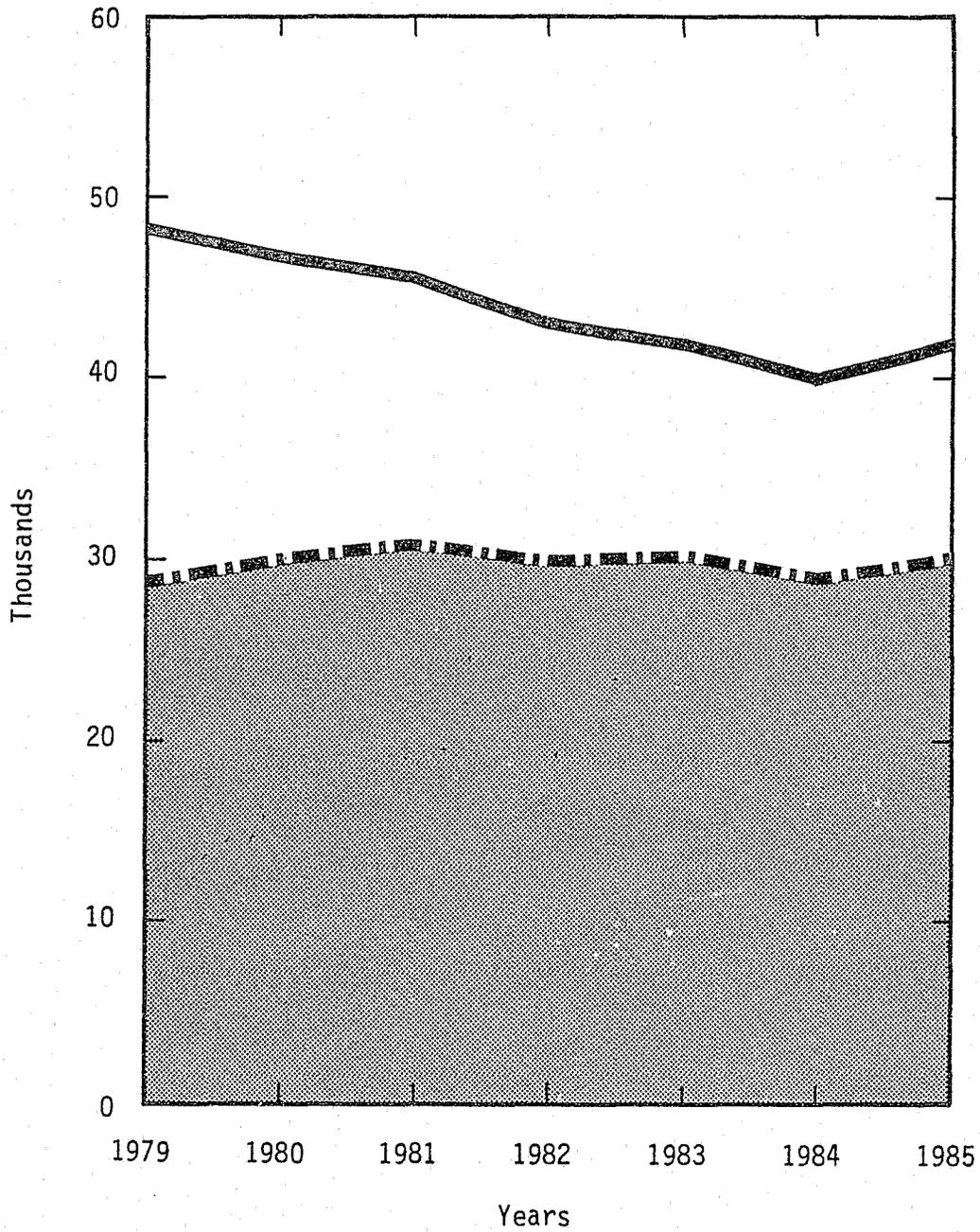
Year	Total New Petitions	Total Sustained Petitions		Court Disposition		
		N	%	Formal Probation	Adult Court Remand	CYA Commitment
1979	48,133	29,951	62.2	29,120	361	470
1980	46,750	30,916	66.1	30,022	359	535
1981	45,624	31,801	69.7	30,805	375	621
1982	43,163	30,763	71.3	29,890	313	560
1983	41,852	30,809	73.6	30,097	212	500
1984	40,309	29,401	72.9	28,785	150	466
1985	41,792	30,807	73.7	30,231	163	413
% Change:						
1979-85	-13.2	+2.9	-	+3.8	-54.8	-12.1
1984-85	+3.7	+4.8	-	+5.0	+8.7	-11.4

Source: BCS, Crime and Delinquency in California, 1985.

Chart for Table 7

New Petitions in Juvenile Court and
Resulting Dispositions

Groups: Total Petitions 
Formal Probation 



Juvenile and Adult Probation Caseloads

The information in Table 8 on the number of persons on probation caseloads is based on a one-day count made by BCS on the last day of each year. It is unknown whether December 31 is a properly representative day for caseload measurement.

Highlights

- o The total juvenile probation caseload consisted of 78,812 youths on December 31, 1985, a 38.1% increase over 1979.
- o The caseload of juveniles increased about 7,500 cases (10.4%) from 1984 to 1985, the largest one-year increase since at least 1979.
- o The adult probation caseload increased to 210,449, 39.8% larger than in 1979.

Discussion

The size of probation caseloads continued to grow in 1985. Since 1979, the juvenile probation caseload increased 38.1%; adult caseload increased 39.8%. In juvenile probation, there were increases in both informal and court probation in 1985, but the numbers remain relatively small. The bulk of the cases, 69,027 or 88%, are on formal probation caseloads. For more information on probation caseloads, contact the Bureau of Criminal Statistics.

TABLE 8

Juvenile and Adult Probation Caseload

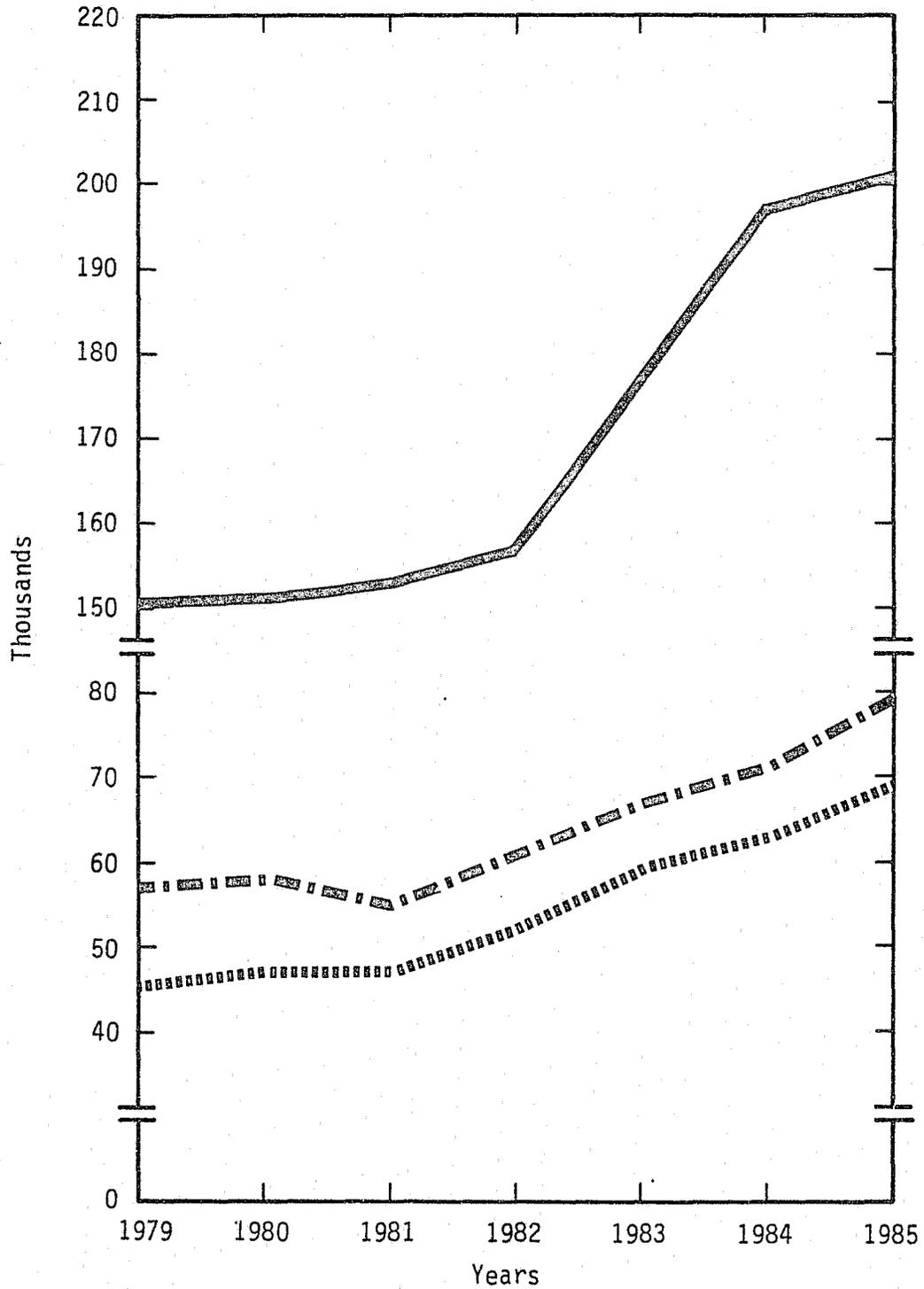
As of December 31 Each Year

Year	Juvenile Probation				Adult Probation		
	Total Caseload	Informal	Non-Ward (Court)	Formal	Total Caseload	Superior Court	Lower Court
1979	57,058	9,689	2,124	45,245	150,566	59,207	91,359
1980	57,910	9,608	1,431	46,871	151,085	61,648	89,437
1981	54,609	6,742	1,142	46,725	152,563	64,632	87,931
1982	60,612	7,430	1,105	52,077	157,009	67,300	89,709
1983	67,236	6,999	1,132	59,105	176,555	72,152	104,403
1984	71,386	7,291	1,132	62,963	197,413	75,562	121,851
1985	78,812	8,543	1,242	69,027	210,449	81,921	128,528
% Change:							
1979-85	+38.1	-11.8	-41.5	+52.6	+39.8	+38.4	+40.7
1984-85	+10.4	+17.2	+9.7	+9.6	+6.7	+8.4	+5.5

Source: BCS, based on a one-day count (December 31 of each year).

Chart for Table 8
 Juvenile and Adult Probation Caseload

Groups: Adult Caseload ██████████
 -Total Juvenile Caseload ██████████
 Formal Juvenile Probation ██████████



(Count taken on December 31 each year)

SECTION IV: LOCAL JUVENILE DETENTION

Juveniles Detained in Local Jails and Lockups

Table 9 shows the number of juveniles confined in adult jails, lockups, and holding facilities in excess of 24 hours. These data were obtained through a data collection system in which local law enforcement agencies submit monthly reports on juvenile confinements to the CYA. The data collection system was revised in 1984 for the purpose of improving the accuracy of the data.

Highlights

- o In 1985, 315 minors were reported detained over 24 hours in local jails. This figure includes 113 wards who were remanded to adult court.
- o The 315 confinements in 1985 is an 84.4% decrease from the 2,023 juveniles held over 24 hours in 1979.
- o The number of jails that detained minors over 24 hours decreased from 46 to 26.

Discussion

Over 2,000 minors were securely confined in adult jails in 1979. Since then, the number of confinements has decreased each year. In 1985, the number of confinements was 315, an 84.4% decrease since 1979. Only 3 W&I 601 status offenders were held over 24 hours. Of the 315 confinements, 113 were cases that had been remanded to adult court. For more information on minors in jails, refer to the following report:

"The 1985 Jail Report: Minors Detained in California Jails and Lockups in 1985." CYA, Program Research and Review Division.

TABLE 9
 Juveniles Securely Confined in Local Jails
 in Excess of 24 Hours

Year	Number of Jails	Juveniles Detained in Excess of 24 Hours		
		Total	W&I 602	W&I 601
1979	46	2,023	1,964	59
1980	41	1,434	1,401	33
1981	26	1,352	1,321	31
1982	28	750	740	10
1983	23	511	493	18
1984	28	486	475 ^a	8 ^a
1985	26	315	311 ^a	3 ^a
% Change:				
1979-85	-43.5	-84.4	-84.2	-94.9
1984-85	-7.1	-35.2	-34.5	-62.5

Source: CYA Division of Program Research and Review.

^aW&I Code offender classification missing for some cases.

Juvenile Halls and Camps, Ranches, and Homes

Data on the daily population of local juvenile facilities shown in Table 10 are collected by the CYA for monitoring purposes. The population of each facility is recorded at 12:01 a.m. each day, thereby reflecting the beds actually occupied rather than the total number of youths under the jurisdiction of the facility. Youths absent on furlough or escape are not intended to be included in the count.

Juvenile Halls - Highlights

- o The total number of available hall beds was 5,322 in 1985, a 7.4% increase over 1979 (4,955 beds).
- o Statewide average daily population (ADP) increased 32.0%, from 3,649 in 1979 to 4,817 in 1985.
- o The average percentage of beds occupied was 73.6% in 1979, and 90.5% in 1985.

Camps, Ranches and Homes - Highlights

- o The total number of available beds was 4,018 in 1985, a 20.6% increase over 1979 (3,331 beds).
- o Average daily population increased 25.8%, from 2,800 in 1979 to 3,523 in 1985.
- o The average percentage of beds occupied was 84.1% in 1979 and 87.7% in 1985.

Discussion

During 1985, there were 47 juvenile halls, with a statewide capacity of 5,322 beds. Juvenile hall capacity has increased by 367 beds, or 7.4%, since 1979. This increase is partially accounted for by the opening of four new halls, although beds have been added to existing halls by expansion or remodeling. The average occupancy figure increased from 73.6% in 1979 to 90.5% in 1985. However, this greater rate of bed occupancy has been accompanied by an increase in days on which a juvenile hall exceeded maximum capacity, from 1,244 incidents in 1979 to 2,900 in 1985.

There were 53 camps, ranches, and homes in 1985. The 4,018 available beds represent a 20.6% increase over 1979. The ADP increased 25.8% from 1979 to 1985. Bed occupancy increased marginally from 84.1% in 1979 to 87.6% in 1985.

TABLE 10

Capacity and Average Daily Population of Juvenile
Halls and Camps, Ranches, and Homes

Year	Juvenile Halls		Camps, Ranches, and Homes	
	Capacity ^a	Average Daily Population	Capacity ^b	Average Daily Population
1979	4,955	3,649	3,331	2,800
1980	4,920	3,750	3,486	2,896
1981	4,936	4,006	3,583	3,079
1982	5,129	4,177	3,819	3,354
1983	5,206	4,348	3,896	3,424
1984	5,328	4,526	3,968	3,460
1985	5,322	4,817	4,018	3,523
% Change:				
1979-85	+7.4	+32.0	+20.6	+25.8
1984-85	-0.1	+6.4	+1.3	+1.8

Source: CYA Division of Program Research and Review.

^aMaximum legal rated capacity. Figures are average capacity for each year.

^bMaximum legal rated capacity. For 1979, capacity is that reported by the Prevention & Community Corrections Branch at one point in time during the year. From 1980 to 1985, the capacity is the average for the full year.

For more information, see the following reports:

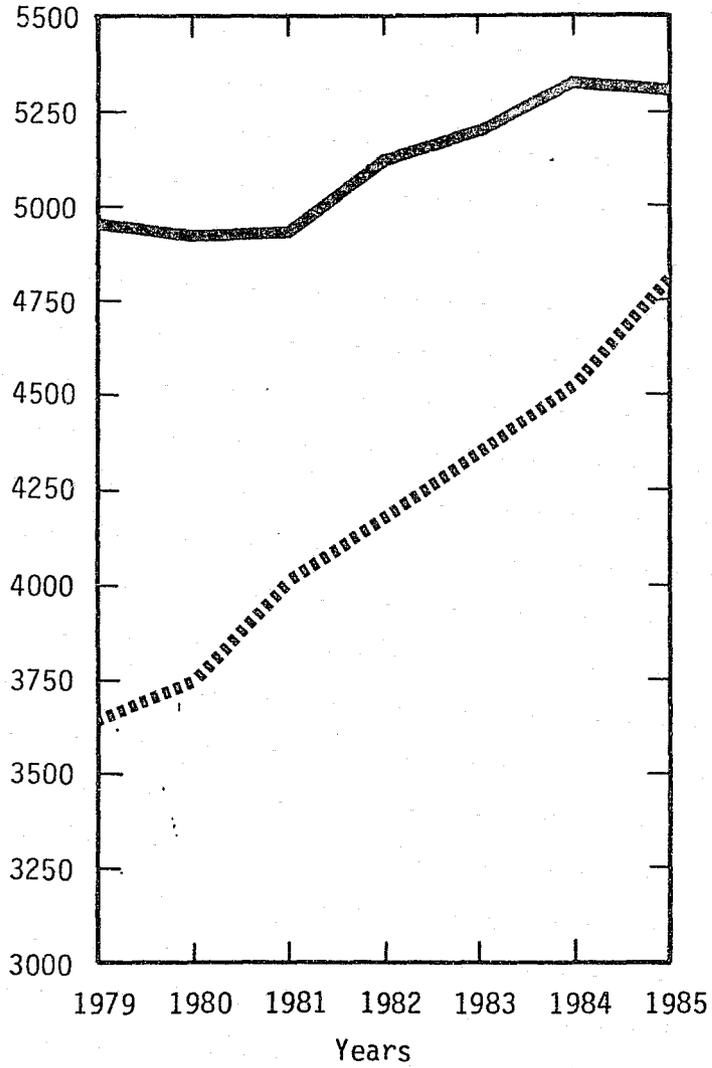
"California Juvenile Hall Population, Summary Report No. 18, Calendar Year 1985." CYA, Program Research and Review Division.

"California Juvenile Homes, Ranches, and Camps Population Summary Report No. 9, Calendar Year 1985." CYA, Program Research and Review Division.

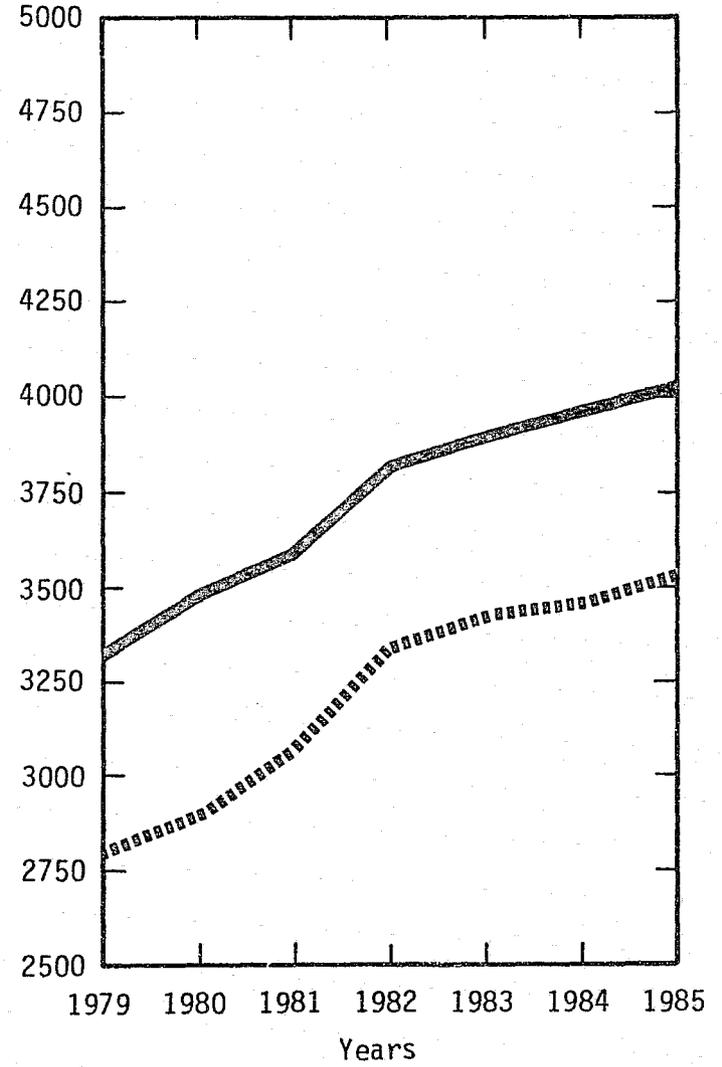
Chart for Table 10

Maximum Legal Capacities and Average Daily Population
in Probation Detention Facilities

Juvenile Halls



Homes, Camps, and Ranches



SECTION V: ADULT FELONY COMPLAINT DISPOSITIONS

Data in Table 11 pertain to adult court dispositions of felony complaints filed on adults ages 24 and younger. BCS estimates that in 1985 about 75% of all superior court data were reported. The percentage was lower in earlier years. Therefore, any increase over time may to some degree be the result of an increase in reporting.

Highlights

- o 26,421 felony complaints filed on adults 24-and-younger were processed in superior courts in 1985, an increase of almost 9,000 cases (48.8%) since 1979 (17.2% since 1984).
- o The conviction rate increased from 90.7% in 1979 to 94.5% in 1985.
- o Sentences to state prison more than doubled, going from 3,164 to 7,594.
- o Percentage of convictions resulting in prison commitment went from 19.6% to 30.4%.
- o Dispositions involving a jail sentence increased 61.0%; dispositions of probation-only decreased 4.6%.
- o CYA commitments, which had increased through 1981, have decreased each year since then. Overall, CYA commitments decreased 84.8%.

Discussion

Among arrested adult felons ages 24-or-younger, the number of complaints increased 48.8% since 1979 and 17.2% since 1984. The accompanying increase in the conviction rate--from 90.7% to 94.5%--has resulted in a 55.0% increase in the number of convictions for this age group. There were 7,594 commitments to state prison, up 140.0% from 1979 and 16.7% from 1984. Sentences involving some time in jail also increased. On the other hand, since 1982, superior court commitments to CYA have decreased annually. This has primarily been the result of legislation which prevents the commitment of more serious offenders to CYA. (Note. Under W&I Code 1731.5(c), persons under 21 years committed to Department of Corrections may be ordered housed in a CYA facility.) For more information on superior court dispositions, contact the Bureau of Criminal Statistics.

TABLE 11
 Felony Complaints Processed in Superior Courts
 For Adults Ages 24 and Younger:
 Convictions and Resulting Dispositions

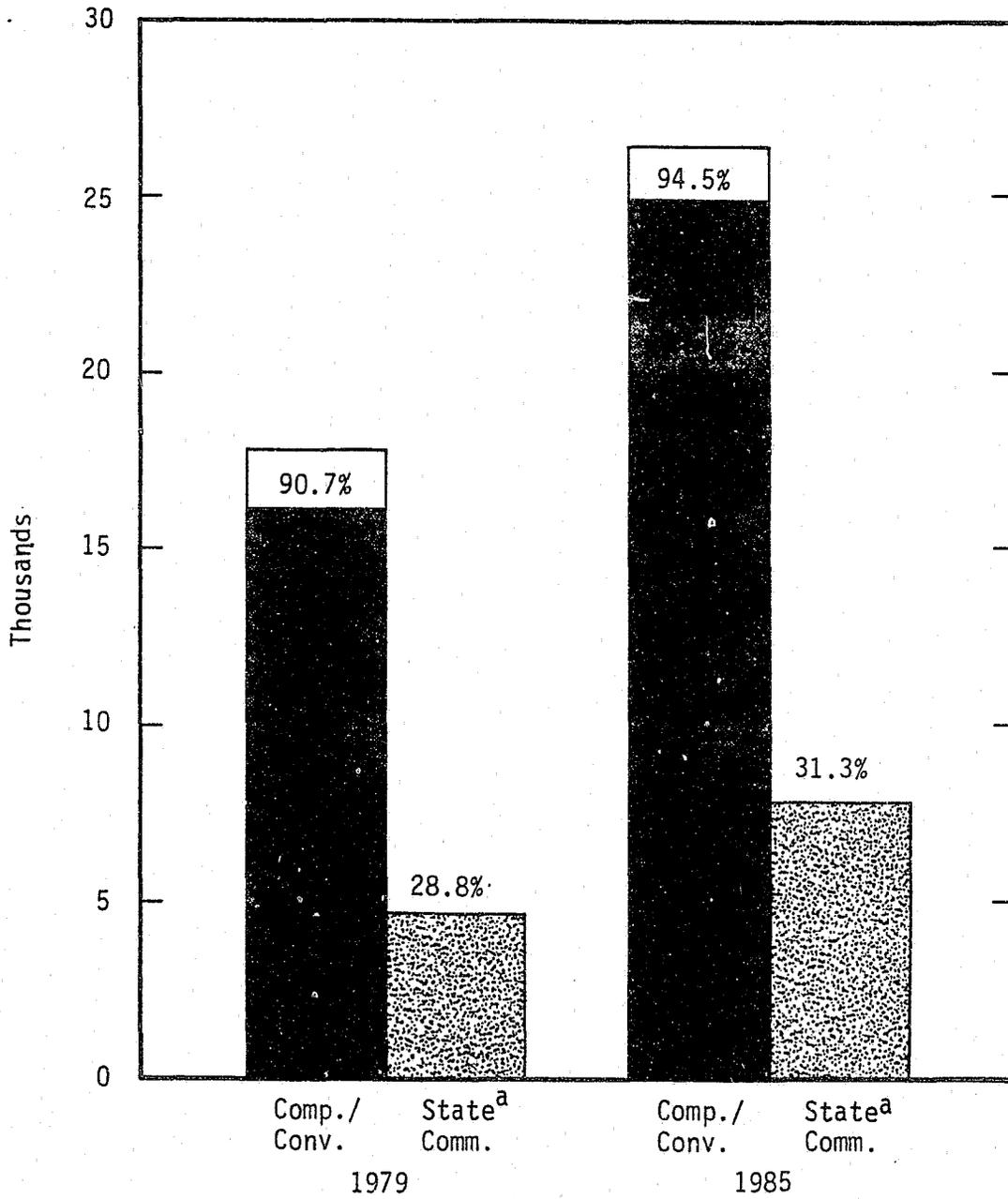
Year	Total Complaints Processed	Convictions		Disposition of Convictions								
				State Prison (CDC)		Youth Authority		Jail/Prob.		Probation		Other ^a
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%
1979	17,759	16,106	90.7	3,164	19.6	1,478	9.2	9,512	59.1	1,669	10.4	283
1980	19,617	17,835	90.9	3,634	20.3	1,649	9.2	10,698	60.0	1,655	9.3	199
1981	22,499	20,311	90.3	5,133	25.3	1,906	9.4	11,417	56.2	1,646	8.1	209
1982	23,055	20,961	90.9	6,075	29.0	1,234	5.9	11,769	56.1	1,726	8.2	157
1983	22,115	20,421	92.3	6,463	31.6	449	2.2	11,649	57.0	1,715	8.4	145
1984	22,538	20,960	93.0	6,508	31.0	319	1.5	12,265	58.5	1,678	8.0	190
1985	26,421	24,969	94.5	7,594	30.4	225	0.9	15,312	61.3	1,592	6.4	246
% Change:												
1979-85	+48.8	+55.0	-	+140.0	-	-84.8	-	+61.0	-	-4.6	-	-13.1
1984-85	+17.2	+19.1	-	+16.7	-	-28.5	-	+24.8	-	-5.1	-	+29.5

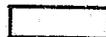
Source: BCS, Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions in California.

^aIncludes commitments to California Rehabilitation Center, fines, and death sentences.

Chart for Table 11

Superior Court Dispositions: Complaints Processed,
Convictions, and State Commitments



-  Complaints not resulting in convictions
-  Complaints resulting in convictions
-  Convictions resulting in state commitments

^a Percentage shown is percentage of convictions resulting in state commitments. Includes CYA and CDC.

SECTION VI: DEPARTMENT OF THE YOUTH AUTHORITY

The data in Table 12 were provided by the CYA's Information Systems Section. The numbers are complete and accurate and will not always correspond to the number of CYA commitments shown in probation data published by BCS, due to some under-reporting of data to that agency.

Highlights

- o From 1984 to 1985, there was a 16.8% increase in first admissions.
- o Juvenile court commitments only increased 4.0%
- o Criminal (superior) court commitments increased 41.9%. This increase is due entirely to the number of cases identified under W&I Code 1731.5(c). This provision allows that persons under 21-years-old committed to the Department of Corrections may be ordered housed in CYA institutions.
- o Of the 3,756 first admissions in 1985, 1,235 or 32.9% were "M" cases (commitments under W&I 1731.5(c)).
- o Regular criminal court commitments to CYA fell to 308 in 1985.
- o The ADP of CYA institutions continued to increase in 1985: up 9.2% from 1984 and up 34.8% from 1979.

Discussion

First admissions showed an annual increase of 16.8% over 1984 (540 cases). Juvenile court commitments increased by 85 cases; CYA criminal court commitments went down 118 cases. The increase in first admissions is almost entirely due to an increase from 662 to 1,235 in the number of "M" cases ordered housed in CYA institutions.

The earlier (1982 and 1983) decreases in admissions may be attributed to legislation that prevented commitment of serious offenders to CYA. The effect of this legislation has been more than offset by W&I 1731.5(c).

Average daily population has continued to increase. A factor highly related to increasing ADP is an increase in the length of stay. Length of stay has increased from 12.0 months in 1979 to 17.1 months in 1985. These figures do not include 1731.5(c) cases, for whom length of stay is several months longer than for "regular" CYA admissions.

TABLE 12

Department of the Youth Authority

First Admissions and Average Daily Institutional Population

Year	Total First Admissions	Juvenile Court	Criminal Court			Average Daily Population
			Total	CYA	CDC ^a	
1979	3,640	2,058	1,582	-	-	4,924
1980	3,968	2,189	1,779	-	-	5,179
1981	4,083	2,170	1,913	-	-	5,699
1982	3,316	2,231	1,085	-	-	5,810
1983	2,891	2,231	660	-	-	5,869
1984	3,216	2,128	1,088	426	662	6,081
1985	3,756	2,213	1,543	308	1,235	6,638
% Change:						
1979-85	+3.2	+7.5	-2.5	-	-	+34.8
1984-85	+16.8	+4.0	+41.9	-	-	+9.2

Source: CYA Information Systems Section.

Note. ADP includes wards placed in CDC and Federal institutions.

^aCommitted under W&I Code Section 1731.5(c).

For more information, contact the CYA, Information Systems Section, or refer to the following report:

"Biennial Report, 1984 and 1985." CYA, Information Systems Section.

SECTION VII: JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM SUMMARY

The following summary chart shows the number of youths processed by the juvenile justice system in 1985, from arrest to court disposition. All data were extracted from BCS reports. Data on re-referrals and subsequent petitions are included, meaning that the numbers in the summary chart will not in each case agree with numbers found in other tables in this report. The chart generally reflects the number of youths that remain within the system at each decision point, i.e., those referred to the next decision point.

Arrests

There were 230,961 juveniles arrested in 1985. Of this number, law enforcement referred 150,747 to probation (65.3%). The rest of the cases were handled locally at the department level.

Disposition of Referrals

There was a total of 156,566 referrals to probation. This includes the law enforcement referrals plus those from all other sources. This group included 56,098 re-referrals, that is, referrals of youths already under probation supervision. Of the total referrals, petitions were filed on 70,955 cases (45.3%). The petition rate was 34.7% for new referrals and 52.0% for re-referrals.

Petition Dispositions

Of the total petitions filed, the courts took no action on (dismissed or transferred) 12,004 cases (16.9%). In fewer numbers, youths were remanded to adult court (n=292) or placed on non-ward probation by the court (n=2,404). The bulk of the petitions, 53,846 or 75.9%, resulted in formal probation. The figure was higher for subsequent petitions (81.0%) than for new petitions (72.3%).

CYA Commitments

There were 2,409 commitments to CYA from juvenile court (BCS data). Of these, 1,996 (82.9%) followed from subsequent petitions. CYA commitments represented 1.0% of the 230,961 juveniles arrested; 1.5% of the total referrals to probation; 3.4% of the total petitions filed in juvenile court; and 4.1% of all sustained petitions.

SUMMARY CHART

Disposition of Juvenile Offenders
Within the Justice System
1985

