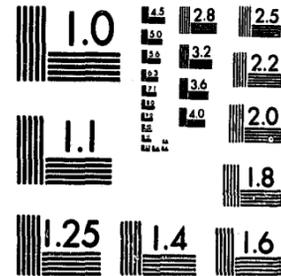


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## ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Prepared by

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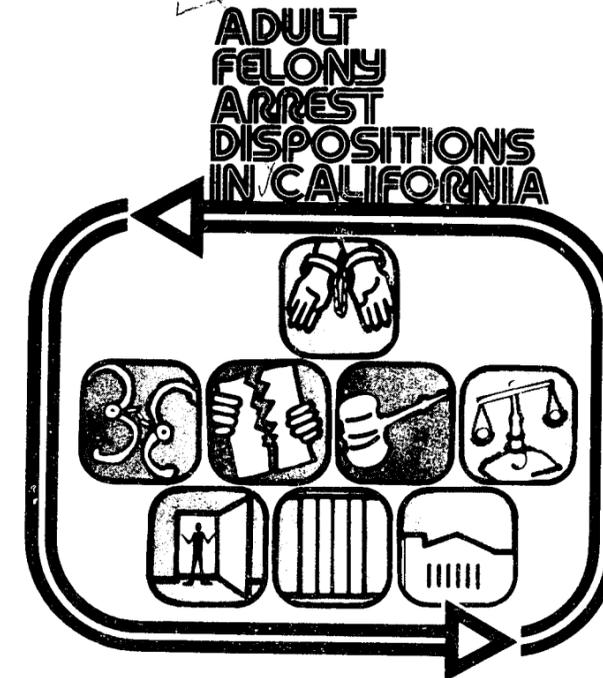
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■ ■ ■ ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS IN CALIFORNIA ■ ■ ■

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# INTRODUCTION

Over the past several years, the Bureau of Criminal Statistics (BCS) has been developing the Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) system which describes the aggregate experiences of adults arrested for felony offenses from their encounter with the police through final disposition. In 1978, all 58 California counties reported OBTS data to the Bureau for the first time. This report describes the decisions made at the various levels of the criminal justice system as they relate to different crimes, offenders, and county population groups. The 1978 OBTS data can be useful to the criminal justice community in several ways:

- To provide an overview of California's complex and interrelated criminal justice system.
- To provide criminal justice practitioners and planners with knowledge and facts gained from the 1978 OBTS data.
- To encourage criminal justice practitioners and planners to use OBTS data for analysis of a variety of criminal justice problems.
- To establish baseline data for further studies of California's criminal justice system.

This publication represents a change in the method of displaying OBTS information by presenting charts showing comparative data. Specifically, these charts describe a single variable such as the crime committed by the offender; the age, race, sex, and prior criminal record of the offender; and the county grouped by size of population in which the offender was processed. The processing of offenders by the criminal justice system is influenced by many variables; the interrelationships of these variables have not been examined in this report.

This report is based on information reported to the Bureau by local and state criminal justice agencies on the "Disposition of Arrest and Court Action" form (JUS 8715). It is estimated that the 1978 data were underreported by approximately 35 percent. In spite of this underreporting, it is felt that the arrest dispositions which were received generally describe the statewide processing of adult felony arrestees through California's criminal justice system. An explanation of data limitations and the detailed statewide and county reference material on adult felony arrest dispositions are contained in the Data Section commencing on page 35.

A centerfold chart, entitled "Dispositions of Adult Felony Arrests in California, 1978," is inserted in this report. The chart can be removed for special uses without affecting the report's sequence and continuity.



# HIGHLIGHTS



■ During 1978, 150,004 dispositions of adult felony arrests were reported to the Bureau of Criminal Statistics. Of that number, 56.6 percent were convicted in either lower or superior court and 6.1 percent were sentenced to state institutions. State institutions include prison, Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals.

■ The remaining 43.4 percent of the adult felony arrestees were not convicted: 9.7 percent were released at the law enforcement level, 14.0 percent were released at the prosecutor level, and 19.7 percent were dismissed or acquitted by the courts.

■ Adults arrested for drug law violations were more likely to receive a probation sentence (21.2 percent) than were those arrested for crimes against persons (14.4 percent) or crimes against property (15.4 percent).

■ Adults arrested for crimes against property were more likely to receive a jail sentence (40.1 percent) than were those arrested for crimes against persons (26.7 percent) or drug law violations (23.9 percent).

■ The proportion of adults arrested for crimes against persons and sentenced to state institutions (10.3 percent) was almost twice as high as that of those arrested for crimes against property (5.3 percent) and over three times as high as that of adults arrested for drug law violations (3.3 percent).

# HIGHLIGHTS



■ Of those offenders who were not convicted, a smaller proportion of females were released at the law enforcement level (8.6 percent) than males (10.0 percent). Conversely, a greater proportion of females (19.7 percent) were dismissed or acquitted at the lower court level than were males (16.0 percent). Sentencing patterns differed between the sexes in that females were more likely to receive probation sentences (25.6 percent) than were males (17.1 percent), but males were more likely to be committed to state institutions (6.7 percent) than were females (2.6 percent).

■ Young offenders under 20 years of age were most likely to be released at the law enforcement level (13.0 percent) and least likely to be committed to state institutions (4.8 percent) than offenders from any other age group.

■ A defendant convicted in superior court with a record of one or more prior prison commitments had more than four times greater likelihood of being sentenced to a state institution than a defendant with no prior criminal record, 57.2 percent and 13.4 percent respectively.

■ Counties with a population of under 200,000 had the highest conviction rate (67.2 percent).<sup>1</sup>

■ Courts in counties of under 200,000 population sentenced 46.9 percent of the adult felony arrestees to jails and state institutions compared to 36.0 percent for counties of over one million population.

■ A greater proportion of defendants (6.3 percent) in counties with a population of under 200,000 were convicted by jury trials than were defendants in counties having over one million population (3.1 percent).

<sup>1</sup>This rate is computed by dividing the number of adult felony arrest dispositions reported by the number of convictions rendered by both lower and superior courts.

**GUIDE FOR INTERPRETING THE "SYSTEM FALLOUT" CHARTS**

The OBTS system traces adults arrested for felony offenses from the point of arrest through final disposition. A final disposition may occur at the law enforcement, prosecutor, lower court, or superior court level within the California criminal justice system. At each level, a decision is made which results in the termination of the process for some persons and the continuation for others. Any number of variables can affect this process. These variables include such factors as conditions

of the arrest; availability of witnesses; type of complaint filed; type of plea entered; evidence presented; prior criminal record of the defendant; sentencing options available; and other factors.

The decision points at the various levels of the criminal justice system are depicted in the six "system fallout" charts used in this report (Charts A, B, E, F, G, and J). The following information will be useful in interpreting these charts.

 This symbol represents the total adult felony arrest dispositions reported by criminal justice agencies in 1978.

 The percentage associated with this symbol represents the proportion of adult felony arrestees released by police agencies in accordance with Section 849(b) of the California Penal Code. Arrestees are most often released at the police level because of insufficient evidence or the complainant refuses to prosecute.

 The percentage associated with this symbol represents the proportion of criminal complaints sought by law enforcement agencies that were denied by the prosecutor for a variety of reasons, such as lack of probable cause, lack of evidence, victim refused to prosecute, and illegal search and seizure.

 The percentage associated with this symbol represents the proportion of arrestees exonerated by a decision from a judge or a jury in lower court.

 The percentage associated with this symbol represents the proportion of arrestees exonerated by a decision from a judge or a jury in superior court. This proportion and all those listed above are included in the term "nonconviction rate."

 The percentage associated with this symbol represents the proportion of arrestees who were convicted in either lower or superior court and received nonincarceration sentences, such as straight probation or a fine.

 The percentage associated with this symbol represents the proportion of arrestees who were convicted in either lower or superior court and received a jail sentence or a probation sentence which included a term in jail.

 The percentage associated with this symbol represents the proportion of arrestees who were convicted in either lower or superior court and committed to prison, Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, or confined in a state hospital.

Each system chart has the same eight components described above. The descending nature of the curve (line) in the chart describes the fallout characteristics of a particular group of felony arrestees. For example, the centerfold chart indicates that 9.7 percent of the arrestees were released by the police. These arrestees fell out of the system; therefore, the curve is lowered by 9.7 percent. The remaining 90.3 percent represents the proportion of arrestees in the system still awaiting disposition. The curve is lowered by another 14.0 percent, showing the percentage of arrestees released because

criminal complaints against them were denied by the prosecutor. At this point, only 76.3 percent of the arrestees remained in the system. The fallout percentage is cumulative.

Through the use of comparative curves, the system fallout charts describe characteristics of a single variable, such as sex, age, crime, etc. The space between curves depicts differences in the treatment accorded by the criminal justice system to arrestees in terms of those characteristics. The wider the space, the greater the differences represented by the curves.



# ARRESTS

## SYSTEM'S RESPONSE BY ARRESTS

A question often asked by the public is, "What happens to the people who are arrested by the police?" It is the intent of this report to provide some facts and insights in this area. The narrative which follows is based entirely upon the 1978 dispositions of adult felony arrests, not the number of arrests reported in 1978.

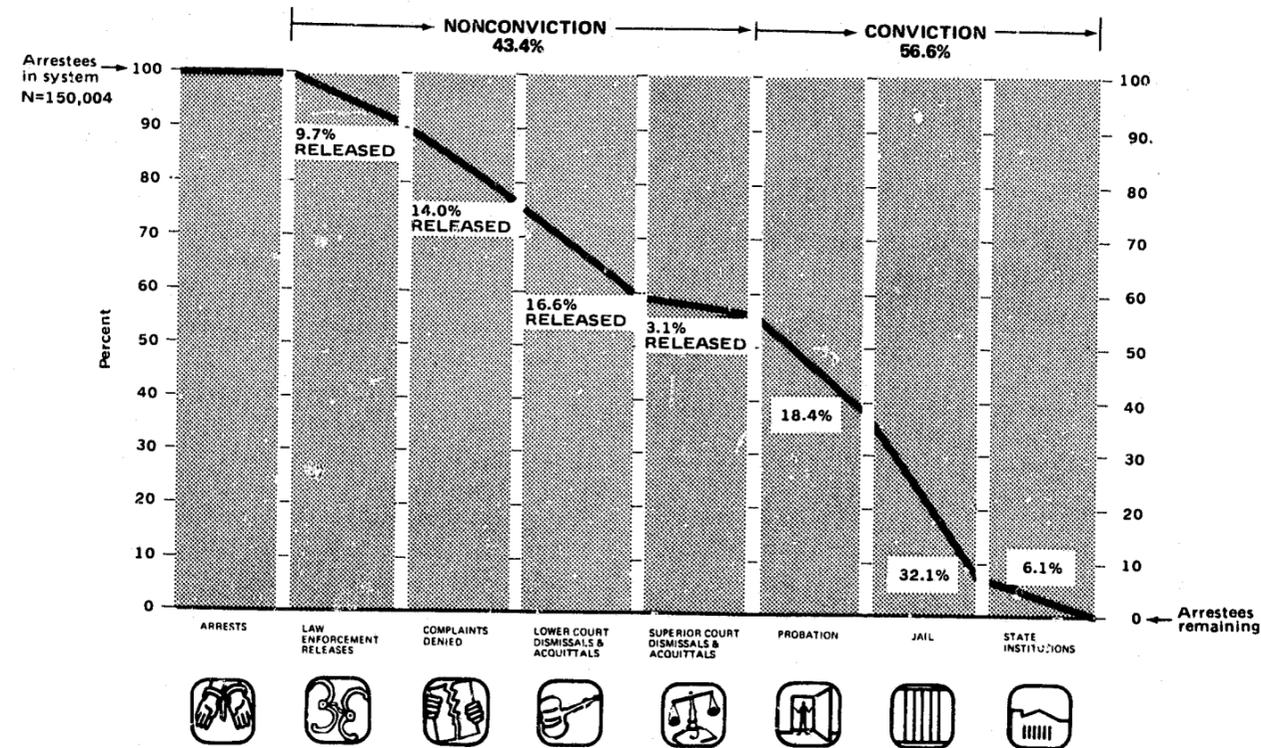
During 1978, the criminal justice system in California reported 150,004 final dispositions of adult felony arrests to the Bureau of Criminal Statistics through the Offender-Based Transaction Statistics system. Chart A provides a very broad graphic description of the ways in which the criminal justice system disposed of those arrestees:

56.6 percent were convicted in either lower or superior court.

■ Of those arrested and convicted, 18.4 percent received probation (14.9 percent received straight probation, 3.4 percent fines, and .1 percent miscellaneous sentences); 32.1 percent received jail sentences (6.6 percent straight jail sentences and 25.5 percent probation sentences which required the defendant to serve a jail term as part of the total sentence).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>For purposes of analysis, all nonincarceration type sentences were included in "probation sentences," and all sentences requiring local incarceration were included in "jail sentences."

Chart **A**  
DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
"SYSTEM FALLOUT"



Disposition	Number	Actual	Percent Cumulative fallout	Remaining
Adult felony arrests reported	150,004	100.0		
Law enforcement releases	14,596	9.7	9.7	90.3
Complaints denied	20,989	14.0	23.7	76.3
Lower court dismissals and acquittals	24,834	16.6	40.3	59.7
Superior court dismissals and acquittals	4,667	3.1	43.4	56.6
Convictions				
Probation	27,568	18.4		
Jail	48,146	32.1		38.2
State institutions (prison, Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals)	9,204	6.1		6.1
State institutions				0

■ The remaining 6.1 percent were sentenced to state institutions (4.6 percent to state prisons and 1.5 percent to either the Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, or state hospitals).

The nonconvicted felony arrestees (43.4 percent) were released from the criminal justice system by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, or the courts.

■ Arrestees were released by law enforcement agencies for the following reasons:

	Percent
Total	9.7
Insufficient evidence	5.0
Victim refused to prosecute	2.0
Unspecified	2.7

■ Arrestees were released at the prosecutor level for the following reasons:

	Percent
Total	14.0
Lack of probable cause	5.5
Lack of evidence	2.8
Victim refused to prosecute	1.7
Illegal search	.6
Other and unknown	3.4

■ Arrestees were dismissed or acquitted by the courts for the following reasons:

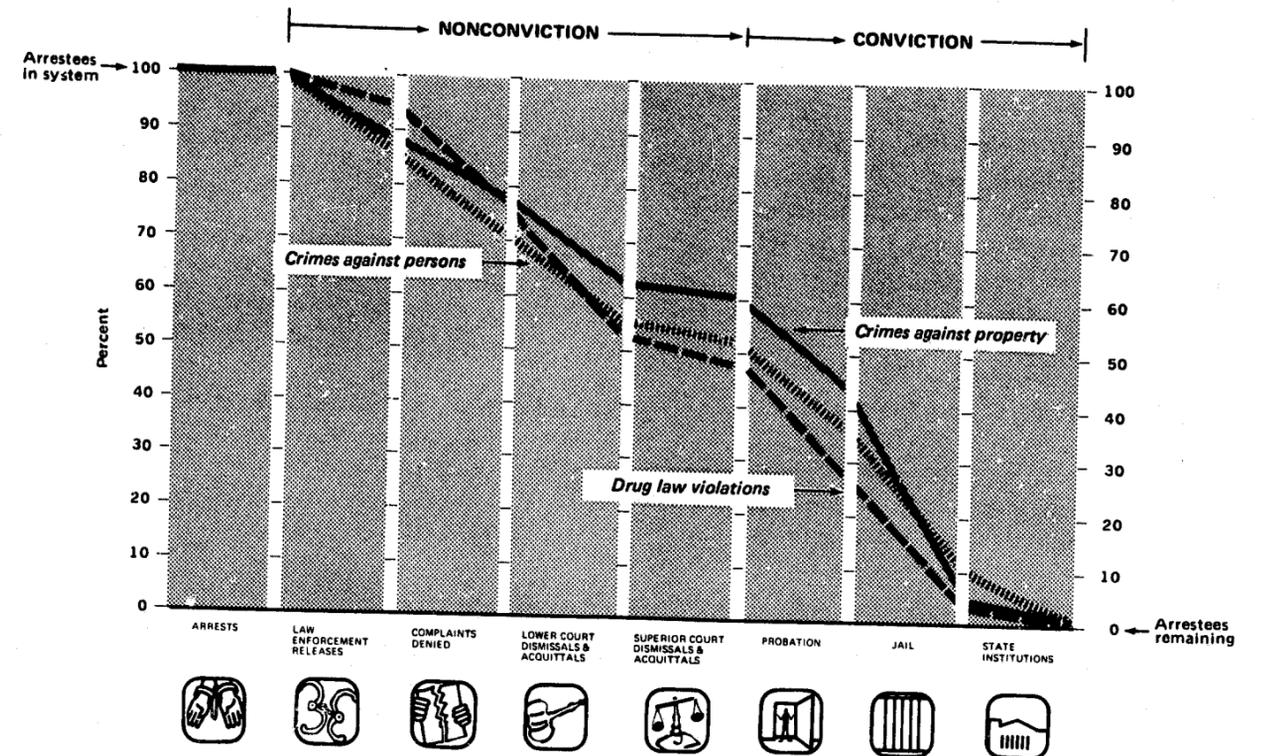
	Percent
Total	19.7
General dismissal <sup>3</sup>	16.0
Successful completion of drug diversion program under 1000.2 P.C.	1.7
Acquitted	1.0
Other	1.0

<sup>3</sup>For example: furtherance of justice, insufficient evidence, etc., (Penal Code Section 13151.1).

Chart B shows the manner of disposition for crimes against persons, crimes against property, or drug law violations.

The nonconviction rate (proportion of those released by the police, prosecutor, or courts) for felony drug law violations (51.6 percent) was higher than that for either crimes against persons (48.6 percent) or crimes against property (39.3 percent). The higher nonconviction rate for drug law violations was mainly attributed to the high rate of lower court dismissals and acquittals (23.9 and 3.9 percent, respectively). The high rate of court dismissals and acquittals for drug law violations was influenced by the impact of the drug diversion program under Penal Code Section 1000.2. This statute allows defendants arrested for certain drug offenses to participate in a drug diversion program. Defendants who successfully complete the program return to court and the original charges against them are dismissed.

Chart **B**  
DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
Disposition by Type of Arrest Offense



Disposition	Crimes against persons <sup>a</sup> (N=37,803)			Crimes against property <sup>b</sup> (N=56,585)			Drug law violations (N=31,754)		
	Actual	Percent	Cumulative fallout	Actual	Percent	Cumulative fallout	Actual	Percent	Cumulative fallout
Adult felony arrests reported	100.0			100.0			100.0		
Law enforcement releases	13.3	13.3	86.7	11.6	11.6	88.4	5.5	5.5	94.5
Complaints denied	15.6	28.9	71.1	11.1	22.7	77.3	18.3	23.8	76.2
Lower court dismissals and acquittals	15.9	44.8	55.2	14.2	36.9	63.1	23.9	47.7	52.3
Superior court dismissals and acquittals	3.8	48.6	51.4	2.4	39.3	60.7	3.9	51.6	48.4
Convictions									
Probation	14.4			15.4			21.2		
Jail	26.7		37.0	40.1		45.4	23.9		27.2
State institutions (prison, Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals)	10.3		10.3	5.3		5.3	3.3		3.3

<sup>a</sup>Crimes against persons are comprised of homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and assault.  
<sup>b</sup>Crimes against property are comprised of burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft.  
Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Adults arrested for drug law violations were more likely to receive a probation sentence (21.2 percent) than those arrested for crimes against persons (14.4 percent) or crimes against property (15.4 percent).

Adults arrested for crimes against property were more likely to receive jail sentences (40.1 percent) than those arrested for crimes against persons (26.7 percent) or for drug law violations (23.9 percent).

Adults arrested for crimes against persons were sentenced to state institutions at almost twice the rate (10.3 percent) of those arrested for crimes against property (5.3 percent) and over three times the rate of those arrested for drug law violations (3.3 percent).



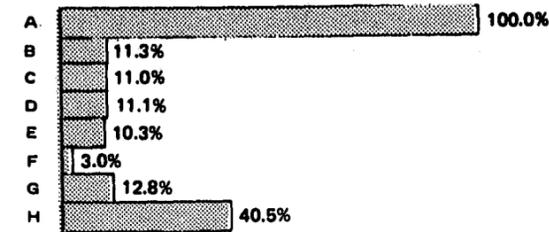
Chart C shows a comparison of disposition patterns by specific arrest offense.

- Among the Seven Major Offenses, persons arrested for motor vehicle theft had the highest law enforcement release rate (20.4 percent), followed by robbery (17.6 percent), and forcible rape (13.1 percent).
- Persons arrested for forcible rape had the highest rate of complaints denied by prosecutors (21.5 percent) and the lowest conviction rate (45.3 percent).
- Persons arrested for burglary had the highest conviction rate (66.0 percent). When convicted, the most likely punishment for these defendants was a jail sentence (43.9 percent).
- Adults arrested for homicide had the highest rate of state institution sentences (40.5 percent) compared to those arrested for robbery (21.1 percent), for forcible rape (16.9 percent), or for burglary (7.9 percent).

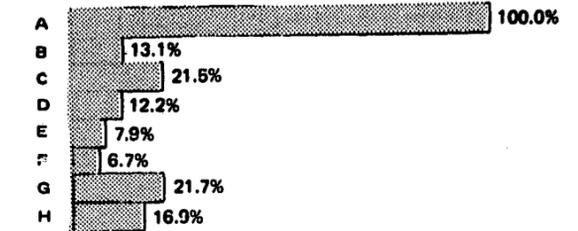
Having examined the 1978 dispositions by the offense for which a person was arrested, the following is an analysis of the dispositions by the offense for which a person was convicted. A person can be arrested for one offense and convicted of a different offense.

**Chart C**  
DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
Disposition by Selected Arrest Offenses

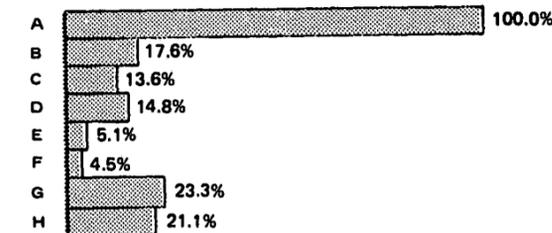
*Homicide*  
N=1,466



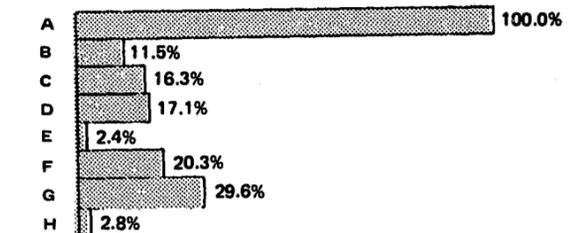
*Forcible rape*  
N=2,105



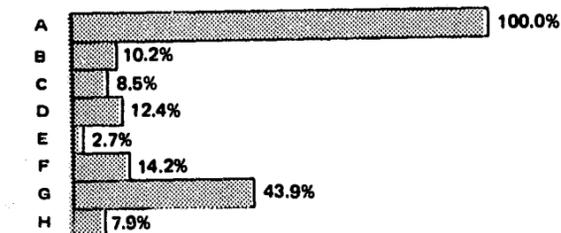
*Robbery*  
N=10,832



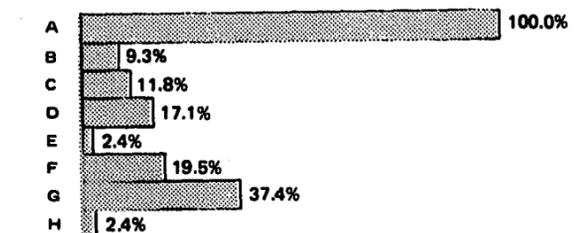
*Assault*  
N=23,410



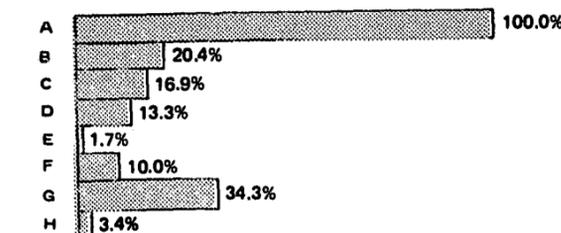
*Burglary*  
N=27,745



*Theft*  
N=19,433



*Motor vehicle theft*  
N=9,407



- A Adult felony arrests reported
- B Law enforcement releases
- C Complaints denied
- D Lower court dismissals and acquittals
- E Superior court dismissals and acquittals
- F Probation
- G Jail
- H State Institutions

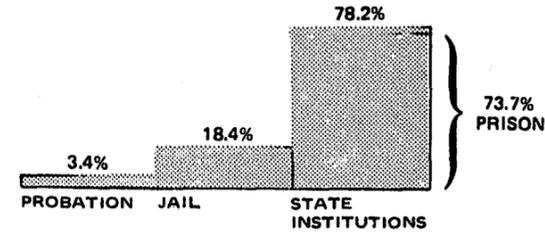
Notes: The state institutions segment (H) is comprised of prison, Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals. Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Chart D shows the type of sentence most likely given by the court for a specific convicted offense.

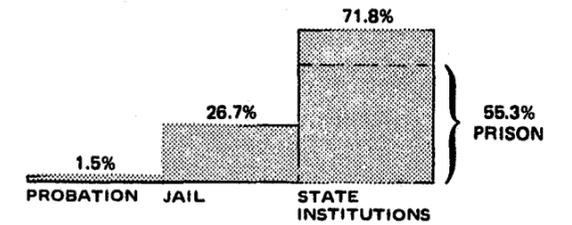
- A defendant convicted of homicide had the greatest likelihood of receiving a prison sentence (73.7 percent), followed by forcible rape (55.3 percent), and robbery (54.7 percent).
- The most frequent sentence for a defendant convicted of property crimes (burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft) was jail (67.3 percent, 66.1 percent, and 74.9 percent, respectively).

**Chart D**  
**ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED IN 1978**  
 Sentence by Selected Convicted Offenses

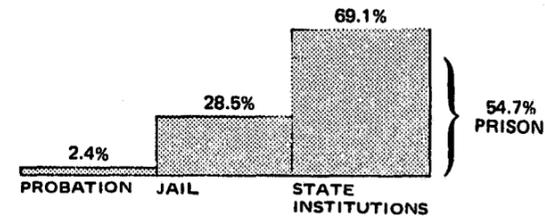
*Homicide*  
 N=696



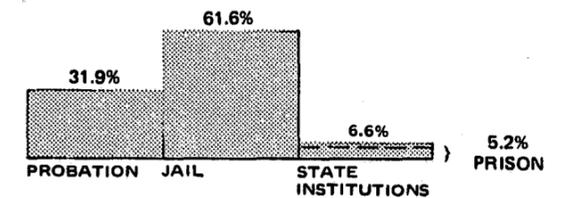
*Forcible rape*  
 N=454



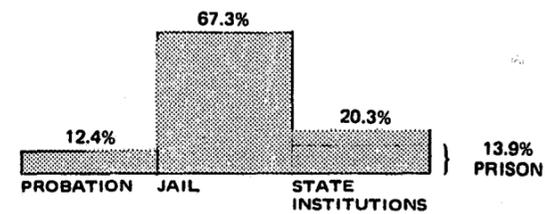
*Robbery*  
 N=3,042



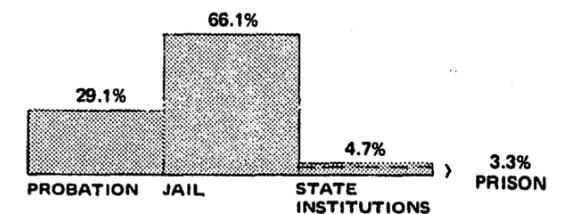
*Assault*  
 N=10,335



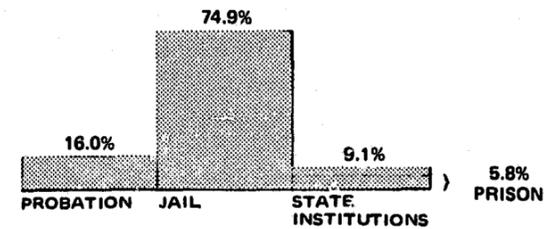
*Burglary*  
 N=9,992



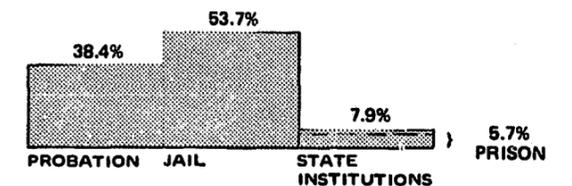
*Theft*  
 N=17,257



*Motor vehicle theft*  
 N=3,637



*Drug law violations*  
 N=12,983



Note: The state institutions segment above the line is comprised of Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals.

**TABLE 1**  
**ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED IN LOWER AND SUPERIOR COURTS, 1978**  
 Percent Distribution of Method of Conviction by Arrest Offense

Arrest offense	Total (N=84,918)	Method of conviction			
		Guilty plea (N=80,163)	Jury trial (N=3,153)	Court trial (N=1,324)	Transcript (N=278)
Total	100.0	94.4	3.7	1.6	.3
Homicide	100.0	68.9	26.6	3.7	.9
Forcible rape	100.0	81.9	14.7	3.1	.3
Robbery	100.0	86.7	9.8	2.8	.7
Assault	100.0	93.2	5.1	1.6	.2
Burglary	100.0	95.7	2.9	1.2	.2
Theft	100.0	96.5	2.2	1.2	.1
Motor vehicle theft	100.0	96.3	2.3	1.2	.2
Drug law violations	100.0	95.1	2.4	1.8	.7
All other	100.0	95.8	2.5	1.5	.2

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

In 1978, a total of 84,918 adult felony arrestees were convicted in both lower and superior courts; the vast majority of them (80,163 or 94.4 percent) were convicted by guilty pleas. Tables 1 and 2 show the relationships of the variables of arrest offense and prior criminal record to method of conviction.

■ Of those defendants convicted in lower and superior courts, a greater proportion of those arrested for violent crimes were convicted by trial than those arrested for nonviolent crimes. Conversely, a greater proportion of those arrested for nonviolent crimes were convicted by guilty plea than those arrested for violent crimes. Violent crimes (crimes against persons) are homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and assault.

**TABLE 2**  
**ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED IN SUPERIOR COURTS, 1978**  
 Percent Distribution of Method of Conviction by Prior Criminal Record

Prior criminal record	Total (N=29,899)	Method of conviction			
		Guilty plea (N=26,386)	Jury trial (N=2,391)	Court trial (N=844)	Transcript (N=278)
Total	100.0	88.3	8.0	2.8	.9
No prior criminal record	100.0	90.3	5.8	2.9	1.0
Miscellaneous prior record <sup>a</sup>	100.0	88.3	7.9	2.9	.9
Prior prison record	100.0	85.1	11.7	2.4	.7
Unknown <sup>b</sup>	100.0	89.3	5.6	3.2	1.8

<sup>a</sup>Any number of arrests or convictions with a sentence(s) of less than prison.  
<sup>b</sup>The prior criminal record of 496 arrestees was unknown at the time of sentencing.  
 Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

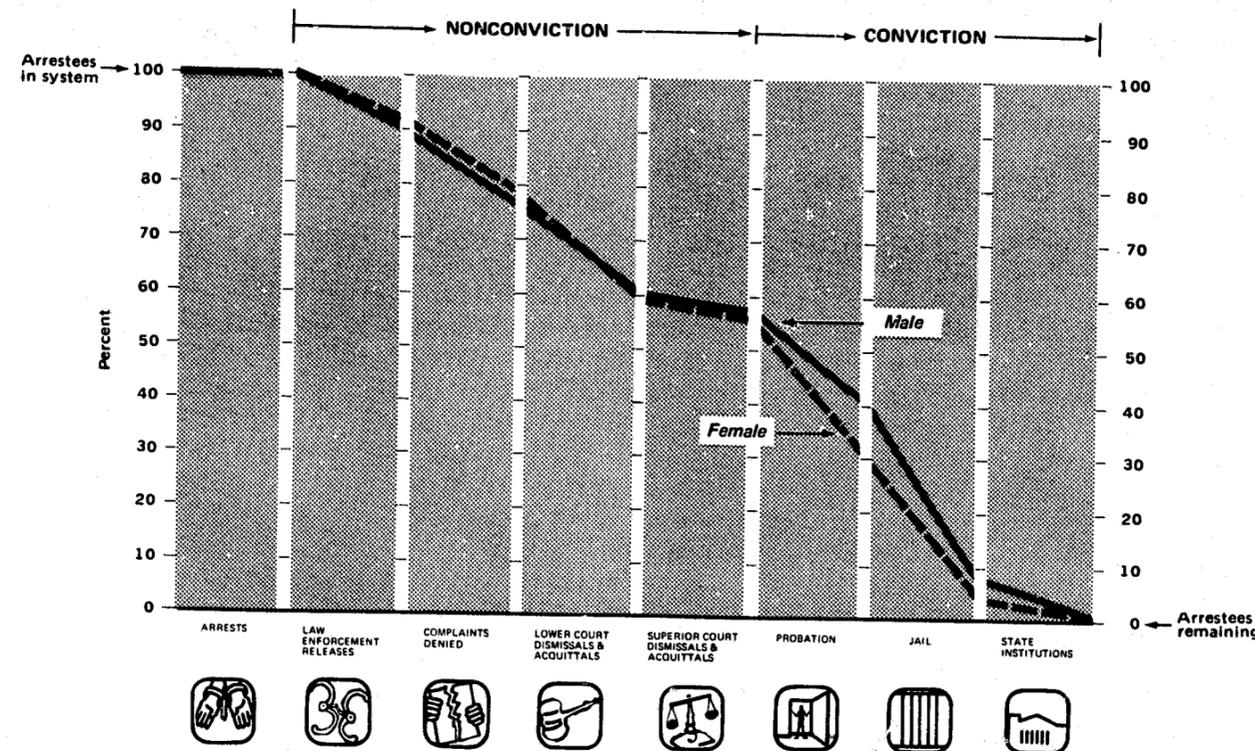
■ Adult felony arrestees convicted in superior court who had no prior criminal record were more likely to plead guilty (90.3 percent) than those with prior prison records (85.1 percent).

**SYSTEM'S RESPONSE BY OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS**

This section of the report examines adult felony arrest dispositions in terms of sex, race, and age characteristics and the defendant's prior criminal record and criminal status at time of arrest.

Chart E shows that the most noticeable difference in the system's treatment of male and female offenders occurred at the point of sentencing. A larger proportion of male defendants (6.7 percent) were sentenced to state institutions, primarily prison, than female defendants (2.6 percent). Conversely, more female defendants (25.6 percent) were granted probation sentences than were males (17.1 percent). Males also received a larger proportion of jail sentences than did females, 33.0 percent and 27.3 percent respectively.

**Chart E**  
DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
Disposition by Sex

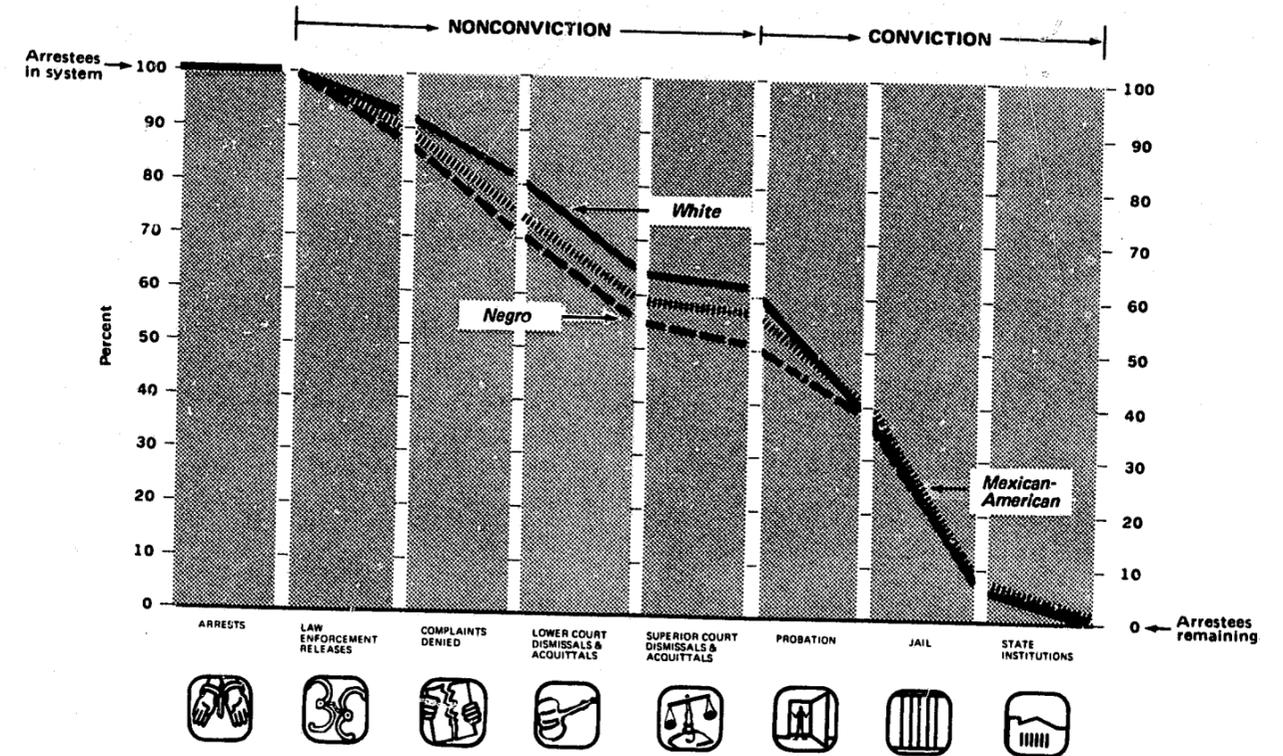


Disposition	Male (N=127,325)			Female (N=21,910)		
	Actual	Cumulative fallout	Remaining	Actual	Cumulative fallout	Remaining
Adult felony arrests reported	100.0			100.0		
Law enforcement releases	10.0	10.0	90.0	8.6	8.6	91.4
Complaints denied	14.1	24.1	75.9	13.3	21.9	78.1
Lower court dismissals and acquittals	16.0	40.1	59.9	19.7	41.6	58.4
Superior court dismissals and acquittals	3.1	43.2	56.8	2.9	44.5	55.5
<b>Convictions</b>						
Probation	17.1			25.6		
Jail	33.0		39.7	27.3		29.9
State institutions (prison, Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals)	6.7		0	2.6		0

Note: Excludes 769 arrestees whose sex was unknown.

Chart F shows that a greater proportion of Negroes (29.6 percent) and Mexican-Americans (26.2 percent) were released by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors than were whites (19.2 percent). Also, a larger proportion of whites were given probation sentences (22.3 percent) than were either Mexican-Americans (16.0 percent) or Negroes (13.4 percent). A greater proportion of Mexican-Americans (6.8 percent) and Negroes (6.5 percent) were sentenced to state institutions, primarily prison, than whites (5.6 percent).

**Chart F**  
**DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978**  
 Disposition by Race



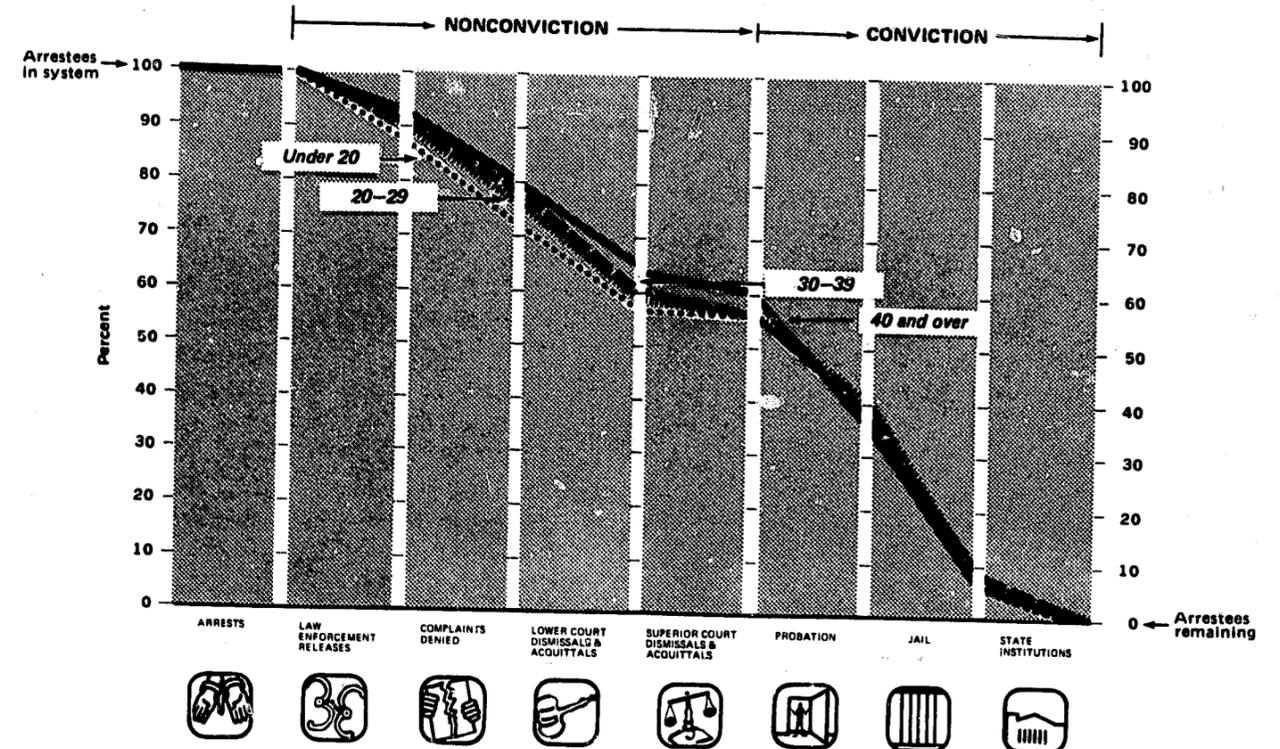
Disposition	White (N=70,681) Percent			Mexican-American (N=29,743) Percent			Negro (N=44,990) Percent		
	Actual	Cumulative fallout	Remaining	Actual	Cumulative fallout	Remaining	Actual	Cumulative fallout	Remaining
Adult felony arrests reported	100.0			100.0			100.0		
Law enforcement releases	7.7	7.7	92.3	11.1	11.1	88.9	12.4	12.4	87.6
Complaints denied	11.5	19.2	80.8	15.1	26.2	73.8	17.2	29.6	70.4
Lower court dismissals and acquittals	17.4	36.6	63.4	15.2	41.4	58.6	15.9	45.5	54.5
Superior court dismissals and acquittals	2.6	39.2	60.8	2.9	44.3	55.7	3.8	49.3	50.7
Convictions									
Probation	22.3			16.0			13.4		
Jail	32.9	38.5		32.9	39.7		30.7		
State institutions (prison, Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals)	5.6	5.6	0	6.8	6.8	0	6.5	6.5	0

Notes: Excludes 2,498 arrestees of "other" races, and 2,092 arrestees whose race was unknown. Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In general, younger offenders were treated more leniently by the criminal justice system than older offenders. Data in Chart G indicate that the younger the offender, the higher the probability of release by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. In addition, younger offenders, under 20 years of age, were less likely to be committed to state institutions (4.8 percent) than older offenders. Defendants over 40 years of age were more likely to be granted a probation sentence (24.1 percent) than defendants in other age groups.

The types of felony offenses for which persons of a different sex, race, or age were arrested and convicted and their history of prior criminal behavior have a strong influence on the final disposition as suggested by data in Tables 3 through 8.

**Chart G**  
**DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978**  
 Disposition by Age



Disposition	Under 20 years (N=18,970)			20-29 years (N=87,055)			30-39 years (N=27,952)			40 years and over (N=15,224)		
	Actual	Percent Cumulative fallout	Remaining	Actual	Percent Cumulative fallout	Remaining	Actual	Percent Cumulative fallout	Remaining	Actual	Percent Cumulative fallout	Remaining
Adult felony arrests reported	100.0			100.0			100.0			100.0		
Law enforcement releases	13.0	13.0	87.0	9.7	9.7	90.3	9.1	9.1	90.9	7.5	7.5	92.5
Complaints denied	15.3	28.3	71.7	14.1	23.8	76.2	13.4	22.5	77.5	12.6	20.1	79.9
Lower court dismissals and acquittals	13.8	42.1	57.9	16.9	40.7	59.3	17.6	40.1	59.9	16.6	36.7	63.3
Superior court dismissals and acquittals	1.6	43.7	56.3	3.0	43.7	56.3	3.9	44.0	56.0	3.7	40.4	59.6
Convictions												
Probation	19.2		37.1	17.3		39.0	18.1		37.9	24.1		35.5
Jail	32.3		4.3	33.0		6.0	30.5		7.4	29.8		5.7
State institutions (prison, Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals)	4.8		0	6.0		0	7.4		0	5.7		0

Note: Excludes 803 arrestees whose age was unknown.

■ A greater proportion of males for whom final dispositions were reported were arrested for violent crimes such as homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and assault than were females, 26.4 percent and 18.2 percent respectively.

■ A greater proportion of females for whom final dispositions were reported were arrested for drug law violations (generally judged to be less serious than violent crimes) than males, 27.9 percent and 20.0 percent respectively.

**TABLE 3**  
DISPOSITIONS OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR FELONY OFFENSES, 1978  
Percent Distribution of Type of Arrest Offense by Sex

Type of arrest offense	Sex	
	Male (N=127,325)	Female (N=21,910)
Total . . . . .	100.0	100.0
Crimes against persons . . . . .	26.4	18.2
Crimes against property . . . . .	38.2	35.0
Drug law violations . . . . .	20.0	27.9
All other . . . . .	15.4	18.9

Note: Excludes 769 arrestees whose sex was unknown.

**TABLE 4**  
DISPOSITIONS IN SUPERIOR COURT OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR FELONY OFFENSES, 1978  
Percent Distribution of Prior Criminal Record by Sex

Prior criminal record	Sex	
	Male (N=30,378)	Female (N=3,895)
Total . . . . .	100.0	100.0
No prior criminal record . . . . .	18.5	33.8
Miscellaneous prior record <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	63.7	58.7
Prior prison record . . . . .	16.1	5.1
Unknown . . . . .	1.7	2.4

<sup>a</sup>Any number of arrests or convictions with a sentence(s) of less than prison.  
Note: Excludes 293 arrestees whose sex was unknown.

■ 16.1 percent of the male defendants in superior courts had a prior prison commitment record compared to 5.1 percent of females.

■ 33.8 percent of the female defendants in superior courts had no prior criminal record compared to 18.5 percent of males.

**TABLE 5**  
DISPOSITIONS OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR FELONY OFFENSES, 1978  
Percent Distribution of Type of Arrest Offense by Race

Type of arrest offense	Race		
	White (N=70,681)	Mexican-American (N=29,743)	Negro (N=44,990)
Total . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0
Crimes against persons . . . . .	21.3	29.4	28.1
Crimes against property . . . . .	36.6	38.3	39.4
Drug law violations . . . . .	24.4	18.1	18.7
All other . . . . .	17.7	14.2	13.8

Note: Excludes 2,498 arrestees of "other" races, and 2,092 arrestees whose race was unknown.

■ A greater proportion of Mexican-Americans (29.4 percent) and Negroes (28.1 percent) for whom final dispositions were reported were arrested for crimes against persons than were whites (21.3 percent).

■ A greater proportion of whites for whom final dispositions were reported were arrested for drug law violations (24.4 percent) than were either Negroes (18.7 percent) or Mexican-Americans (18.1 percent).

**TABLE 6**  
**DISPOSITIONS IN SUPERIOR COURT OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR FELONY OFFENSES, 1978**  
 Percent Distribution of Prior Criminal Record by Race

	Race		
	White (N=16,227)	Mexican-American (N=6,577)	Negro (N=10,554)
Prior criminal record			
Total . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0
No prior criminal record . . . . .	25.6	17.2	13.7
Miscellaneous prior record <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	59.8	65.6	67.3
Prior prison record . . . . .	13.1	15.0	17.4
Unknown . . . . .	1.5	2.2	1.6

<sup>a</sup> Any number of arrests or convictions with a sentence(s) of less than prison.  
 Note: Excludes 566 arrestees of "other" races, and 642 arrestees whose race was unknown.

■ Proportionately more Mexican-American and Negro defendants had prior criminal records (miscellaneous and prison) than white defendants.

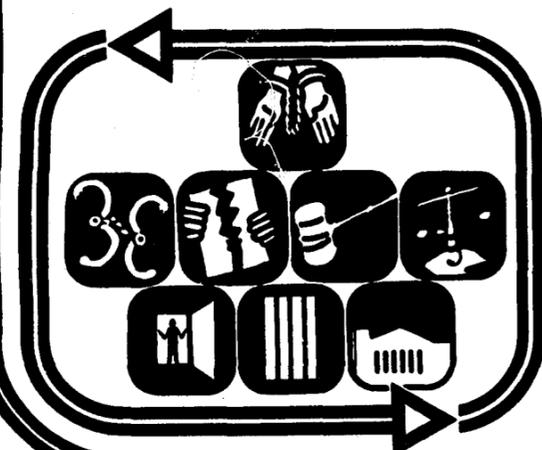
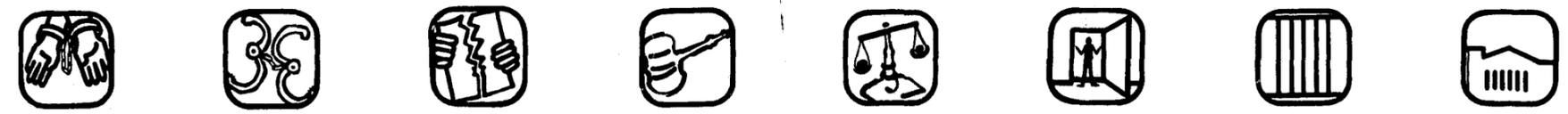
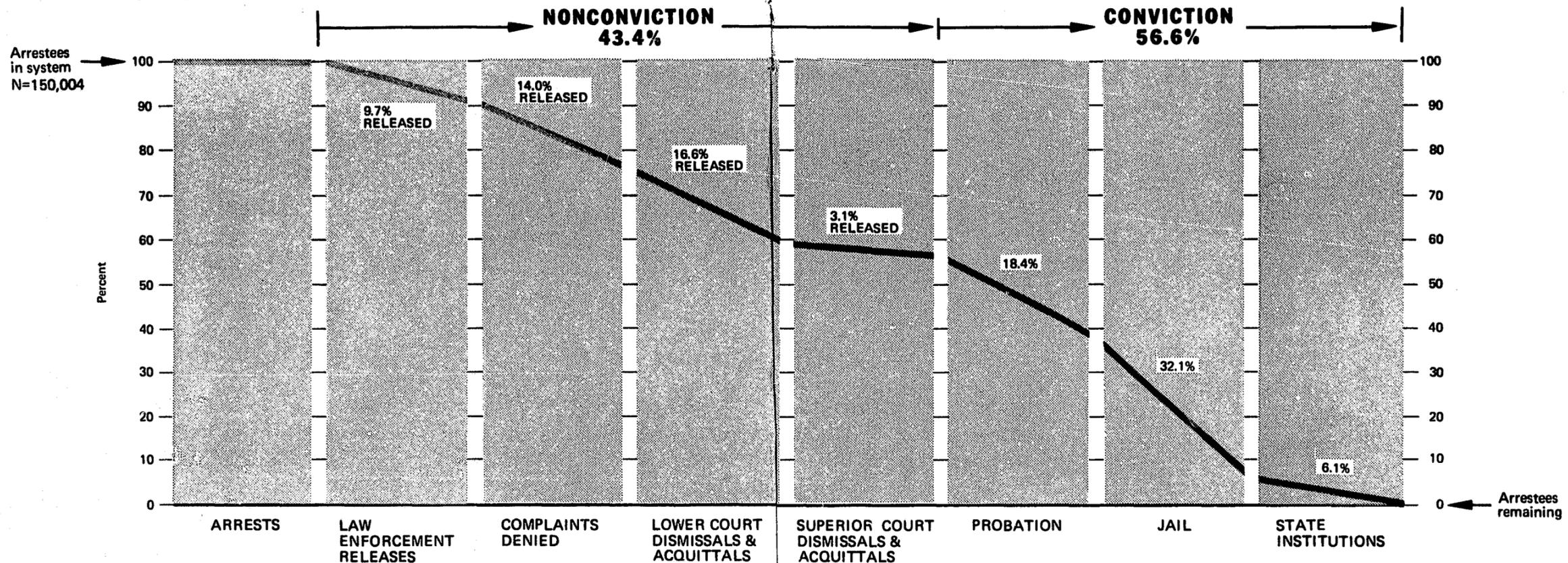
**TABLE 7**  
**DISPOSITIONS OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR FELONY OFFENSES, 1978**  
 Percent Distribution of Type of Arrest Offense by Age

	Age			
	Under 20 (N=18,970)	20-29 (N=87,055)	30-39 (N=27,952)	40 & over (N=15,224)
Type of arrest offense				
Total . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Crimes against persons . . . . .	22.0	24.6	27.3	28.5
Crimes against property . . . . .	51.4	37.8	32.2	30.5
Drug law violations . . . . .	15.1	23.0	22.2	16.5
All other . . . . .	11.5	14.5	18.3	24.5

Notes: Excludes 803 arrestees whose age was unknown.  
 Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

■ Of those adult felony arrestees whose final dispositions were reported, the proportion arrested for crimes against persons increased with age. In contrast, the proportion of those arrested for crimes against property decreased with age.

# DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978 "SYSTEM FALLOUT"



Disposition	Number	Actual	Percent	
			Cumulative fallout	Remaining
Adult felony arrests reported	150,004	100.0		
Law enforcement releases	14,596	9.7	9.7	90.3
Complaints denied	20,989	14.0	23.7	76.3
Lower court dismissals and acquittals	24,834	16.6	40.3	59.7
Superior court dismissals and acquittals	4,667	3.1	43.4	56.6
<b>Convictions</b>				
Probation	27,568	18.4		38.2
Jail	48,146	32.1		6.1
State institutions (prison, Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals)	9,204	6.1		0

State of California  
Department of Justice  
Division of Law Enforcement  
Criminal Identification and Information Branch  
Bureau of Criminal Statistics and Special Services  
10/79

**TABLE 8**  
**DISPOSITIONS IN SUPERIOR COURT OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR FELONY OFFENSES, 1978**  
 Percent Distribution of Prior Criminal Record by Age

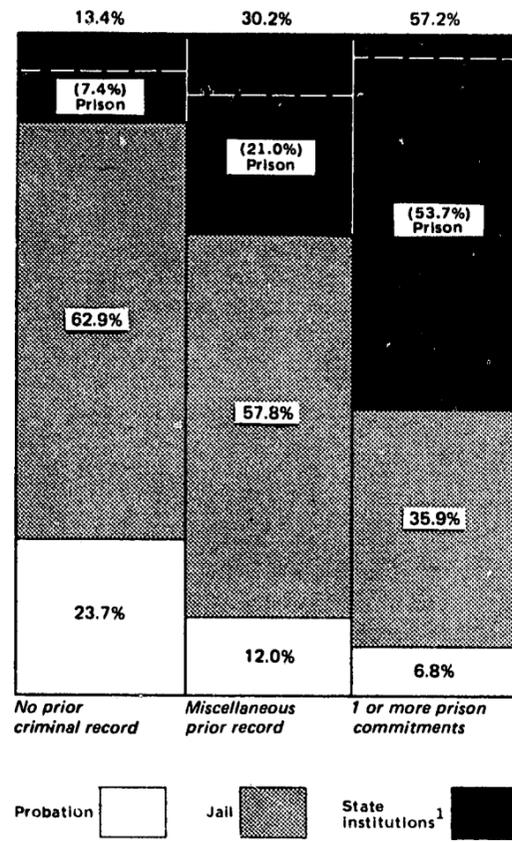
	Age			
	Under 20 (N=3,140)	20-29 (N=20,125)	30-39 (N=7,227)	40 & over (N=3,650)
Total . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No prior criminal record . . . . .	41.1	18.6	15.6	20.5
Miscellaneous prior record <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	56.4	72.3	52.4	40.0
Prior prison record . . . . .	.3	7.8	30.0	36.7
Unknown . . . . .	2.3	1.3	1.9	2.8

<sup>a</sup>Any number of arrests or convictions with a sentence(s) of less than prison.  
 Notes: Excludes 424 arrestees whose age was unknown.  
 Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

■ The proportion of superior court defendants with prior prison commitments increased with age.



Chart H  
ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN 1978  
Sentence by Prior Criminal Record



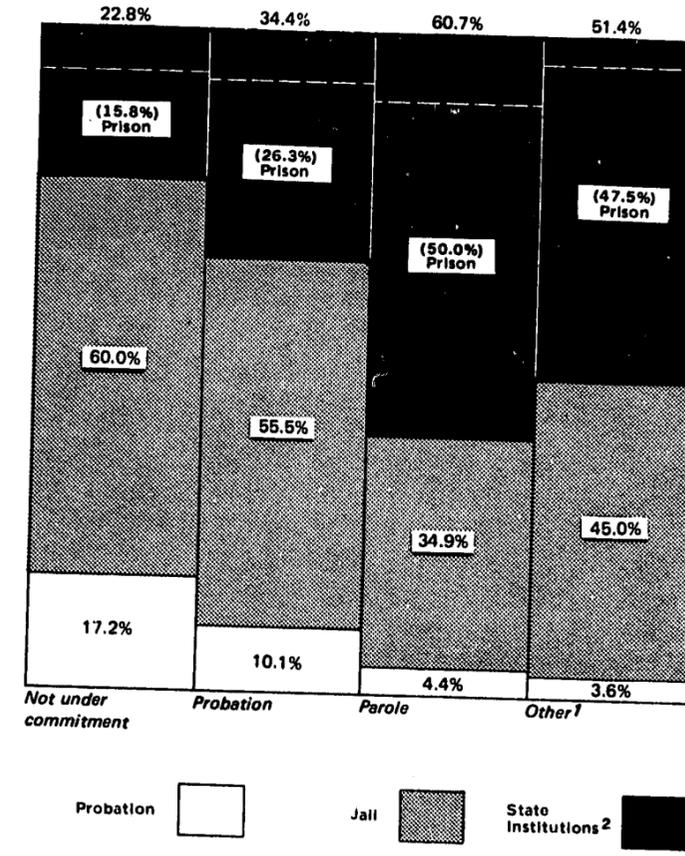
<sup>1</sup>The state Institutions segment above the dotted line is comprised of Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals.

The court system treated a defendant with a prior criminal record substantially different than a defendant with no prior criminal record. The differences in treatment, measured by the severity of the sentence, are clearly shown in Chart H. A defendant with no prior record, convicted in superior court, was three times as likely to receive a probation sentence as a defendant with a record of one or more prior prison commitments, 23.7 percent and 6.8 percent

respectively. Conversely, a defendant, convicted in superior court, having a record of one or more prior prison commitments had over four times greater likelihood of receiving a state institution sentence than a defendant with no prior record, 57.2 percent and 13.4 percent respectively. The data substantiate the fact that severity of sentence is strongly influenced by the defendant's history of criminal behavior.



Chart I  
ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN 1978  
Sentence by Criminal Status at Time of Arrest



<sup>1</sup>Confined in California, federal, or other state penal institutions.  
<sup>2</sup>The state institutions segment above the dotted line is comprised of Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals.

Chart I shows that the superior court system also treated a defendant more harshly if the defendant was on probation or parole at the time of arrest. A defendant arrested for a new felony offense while under probation supervision was more likely to be sentenced to a state institution than a defendant who was not under any type of probation, parole, or institutional commitment, 34.4 percent and 22.8 percent respectively. A defendant

arrested for a new felony offense while under parole supervision was more than two and one-half times as likely to receive a commitment to a state institution as a defendant who was not under probation, parole, or institutional commitment, 60.7 percent and 22.8 percent respectively. The data clearly indicate that repeat offenders did receive more severe sentences.

# POPULATION

## SYSTEM'S RESPONSE BY SIZE OF COUNTY POPULATION

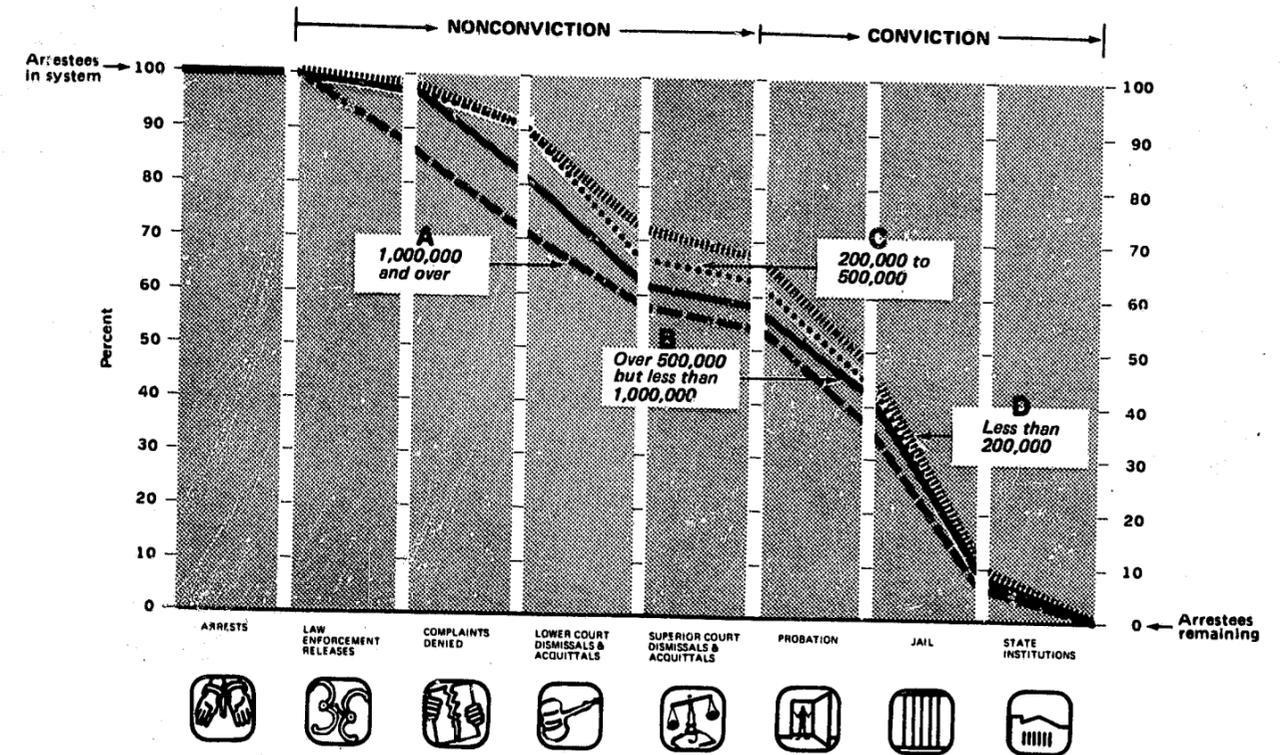
The dispositions of adult felony arrests by county population were analyzed to show the system's response on the basis of conviction rate, pretrial release<sup>4</sup>, method of conviction, and arrest offense.

Chart J shows that counties having a population of under 200,000 had the highest conviction rate (67.2 percent), followed by counties with a population of between 200,000 and 500,000 (62.8 percent). These two county groups shared similar pretrial release rates of 9.1 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively; whereas counties with a population of over 500,000 but less than 1,000,000 and counties with a population of over 1,000,000 had pretrial release rates of 17.8 percent and 28.7 percent, respectively.

In general, the smaller the county the more severely the courts treated the defendants. This is evidenced by a higher percentage of jail and state institutional sentences given by courts in smaller counties. In 1978, courts in the smallest counties (under 200,000 population) sentenced 46.9 percent of the adult felony arrestees to jails and state institutions compared to 36.0 percent in the largest counties (over one million population).

<sup>4</sup>Includes law enforcement releases and complaints denied.

Chart J  
DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
Disposition by Size of County Population



Disposition	A Percent			B Percent			C Percent			D Percent		
	Actual	Cumulative fallout	Remaining									
Adult felony arrests reported	100.0			100.0			100.0			100.0		
Law enforcement releases	13.3	13.3	86.7	3.9	3.9	96.1	2.4	2.4	97.6	3.1	3.1	96.9
Complaints denied	15.4	28.7	71.3	13.9	17.8	82.2	7.2	9.6	90.4	6.0	9.1	90.9
Lower court dismissals and acquittals	13.7	42.4	57.6	21.0	38.8	61.2	24.9	34.5	65.5	18.9	28.0	72.0
Superior court dismissals and acquittals	2.9	45.3	54.7	3.7	42.5	57.5	2.7	37.2	62.8	4.8	32.8	67.2
Convictions												
Probation	18.7			15.6			20.5			20.3		
Jail	30.7	36.0	64.0	34.3	41.9	58.1	35.2	42.3	57.7	37.2	46.9	53.1
State institutions (prison, Youth Authority, California Rehabilitation Center, and state hospitals)	5.3	5.3	94.7	7.6	7.6	92.4	7.1	7.1	92.9	9.7	9.7	90.3

A — Counties of over one million population (Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Santa Clara).  
 B — Counties of over 500,000 but less than one million population (Contra Costa, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco, and San Mateo).  
 C — Counties of 200,000 to 500,000 population (Ventura, Fresno, Kern, Marin, Monterey, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Tulare).  
 D — 36 other counties of under 200,000 population.

**TABLE 9**  
**ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES SENTENCED IN 1978**  
 Percent Distribution of Method of Conviction by Size of County Population

Method of conviction	State total (N=84,918)	County population groups			
		A (N=52,898)	B (N=14,685)	C (N=11,617)	D (N=5,718)
Total . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Guilty plea . . . . .	94.4	94.6	94.7	94.6	91.5
Jury trial . . . . .	3.7	3.1	4.4	4.3	6.3
Court trial . . . . .	1.6	1.9	.8	.9	1.9
Transcript . . . . .	.3	.5	.0	.2	.2

A — Counties of over one million population.  
 B — Counties of over 500,000 but less than one million population.  
 C — Counties of 200,000 to 500,000 population.  
 D — Counties of under 200,000 population.  
 Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

■ Table 9 points out differences in the method of conviction among counties varying in size of population. Of the 84,918 defendants reported convicted in California courts during 1978, almost 95 percent were convicted by guilty pleas rather than by trials. This pattern was quite consistent throughout the four county population groups. However, a greater proportion of defendants in counties of under 200,000 population were convicted by jury trials than were defendants in counties of over one million population, 6.3 percent and 3.1 percent respectively.

■ In summary, counties with a population of under 200,000 had a lower pretrial release rate, a higher conviction rate, a proportionately higher percentage of defendants convicted by jury trials, and a greater proportion of jail and prison sentences than the more populated counties.



# DATA SECTION



### Data Source

The final dispositions of adults arrested for felony offenses were reported to the Bureau of Criminal Statistics by law enforcement, prosecutor, and court agencies in 58 California counties. These dispositions were reported on the "Disposition of Arrest and Court Action" form (JUS 8715) by most

agencies. Agencies from San Francisco County submitted dispositions on computer-generated reports, and the Los Angeles Police Department reported dispositions on a document similar to the JUS 8715 form entitled "Consolidated Booking Form" (Form 05.09.0).



### Data Limitations

The following general information and limitations should be taken into consideration when analyzing, interpreting, and using the 1978 OBTS data:

These data do not represent the total number of adult felony arrests or the number of dispositions which may have been made at any particular level of the criminal justice system during the disposition year. In 1978, it is estimated that BCS received reports on approximately two-thirds of the total number of adult felony arrests which received final dispositions during the calendar year. In spite of this underreporting, it is felt that the arrest dispositions which were received generally describe the statewide processing of adult felony arrestees through California's criminal justice system. However, comparisons of county and local data should be used with caution since the levels of underreporting may vary between jurisdictions and from year to year.

These data reflect dispositions that were made in 1978 as a result of adult felony arrests made in that year or in previous years. There is an important difference between arrest data reported by BCS and OBTS data on the disposition of adults arrested for felony offenses as

presented here. Arrest data are based upon the year in which the arrest took place. OBTS data are based upon the year of disposition regardless of when the felony arrest occurred and may be reported a year or more after the actual arrest was made.

In cases where an arrestee is charged with multiple offenses, the OBTS system records only the most serious offense based on the severity of possible punishment at the time of arrest and at the point of conviction.

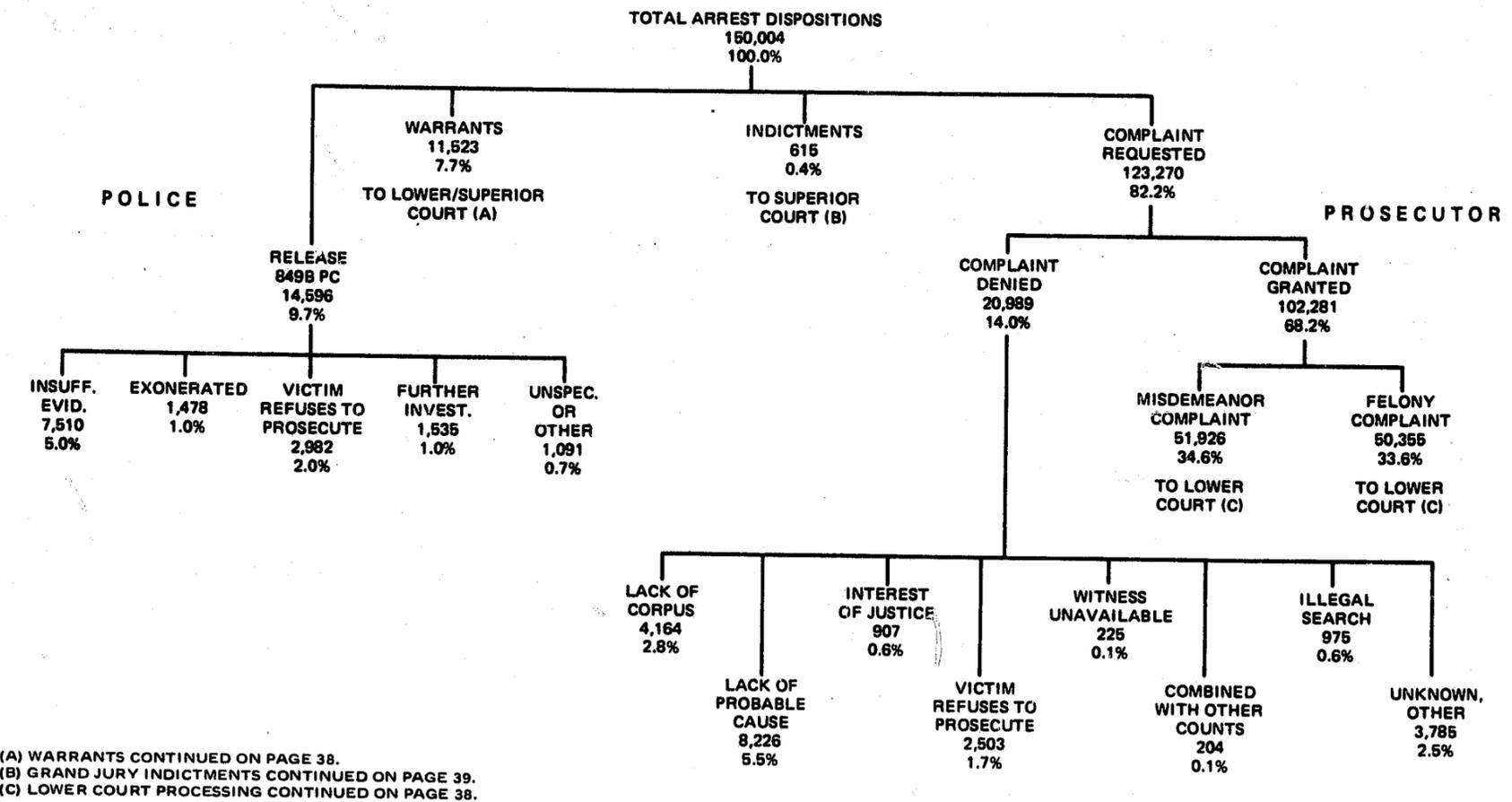
It is not advisable to make statistical comparisons of OBTS data for the years 1975—1978 and superior court disposition and felony filing data published by BCS prior to 1975 since these disposition data were collected through different reporting systems.

OBTS data on state institutional commitments from lower and superior courts may vary from data compiled and reported by other state agencies because of differences in the data collection systems. For example, the Department of Corrections (CDC) counts the number of defendants actually received by CDC institutions, even though a defendant may have been convicted in two or more counties. BCS, on the other hand, counts the number of commitments.



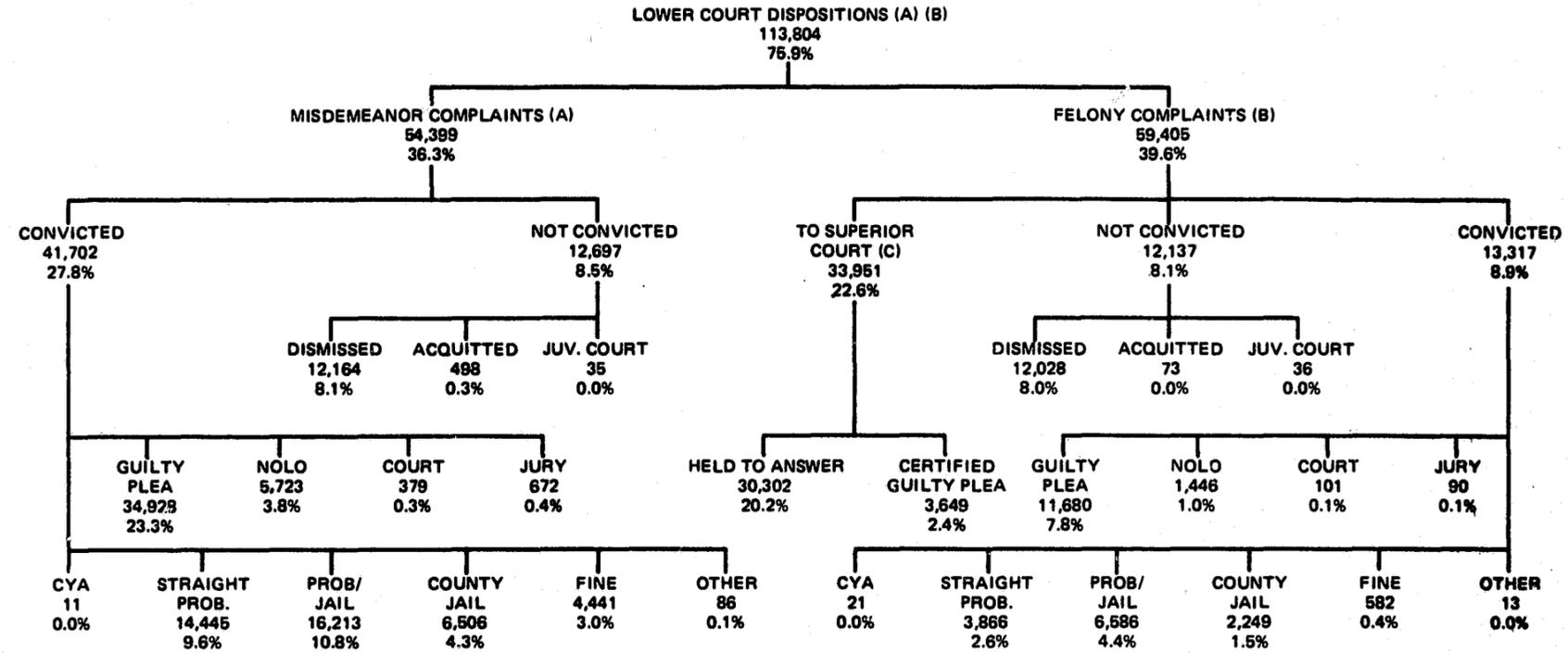
**CHART K**  
**1978 DISPOSITIONS OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR FELONY OFFENSES**

Felony Arrest Disposition Summary  
 Police and Prosecutor Processing



### CHART L 1978 DISPOSITIONS OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR FELONY OFFENSES

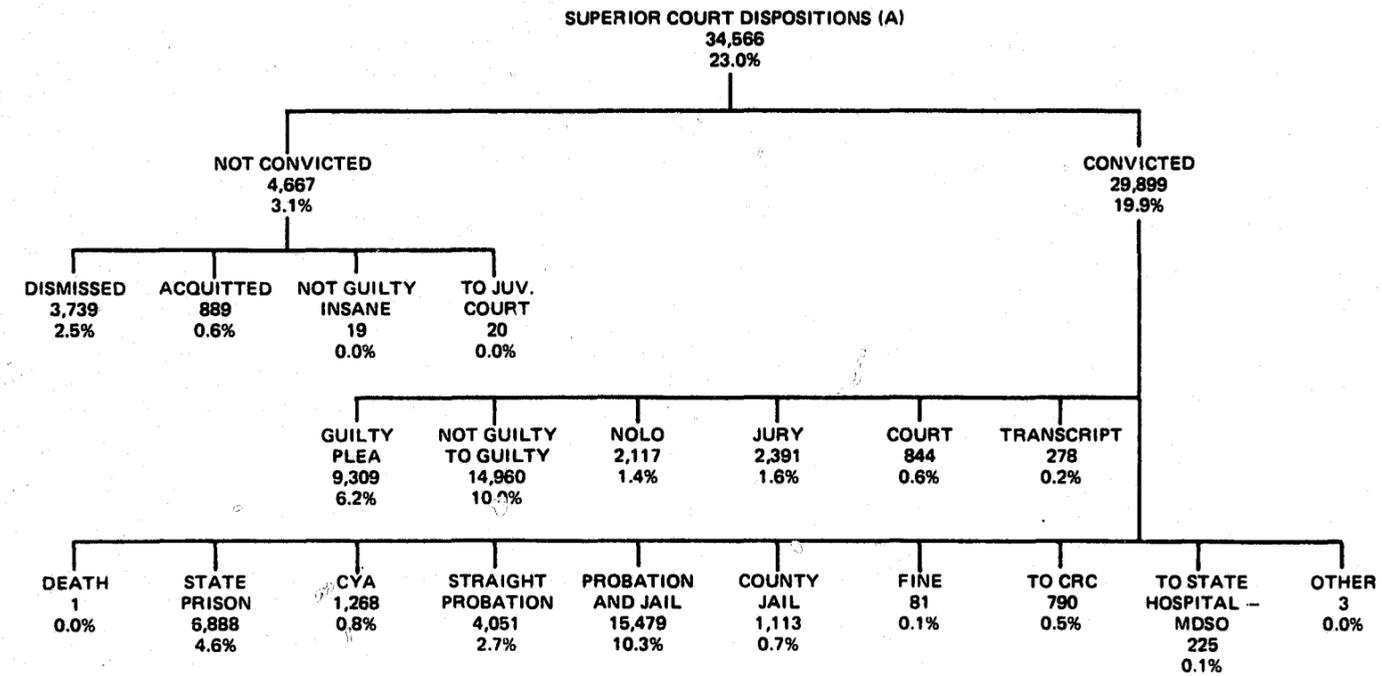
Felony Arrest Disposition Summary  
Lower Court Processing



(A) INCLUDES 51,926 MISDEMEANOR COMPLAINTS GRANTED AND 2,473 MISDEMEANOR WARRANTS FROM PAGE 37.  
 (B) INCLUDES 50,355 FELONY COMPLAINTS GRANTED AND 9,050 FELONY WARRANTS FROM PAGE 37.  
 (C) SUPERIOR COURT PROCESSING CONTINUED ON PAGE 39.

**CHART M**  
**1978 DISPOSITIONS OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR FELONY OFFENSES**

Felony Arrest Disposition Summary  
 Superior Court Processing



(A) INCLUDES 33,951 DEFENDANTS RECEIVED FROM LOWER COURT (PAGE 38) AND 615 GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS FROM PAGE 37.

TABLE 10  
DISPOSITION OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
TYPE OF DISPOSITION BY ARREST OFFENSE

Type of disposition	Total	Arrest offense								
		Homicide	Forcible rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor vehicle theft	Drug law violations	All other
Disposition of felony arrests	150,004	1,456	2,105	10,832	23,410	27,745	19,433	9,407	31,754	23,862
Law enforcement releases	14,596	165	276	1,906	2,687	2,840	1,813	1,923	1,752	1,234
Complaints denied	20,989	160	452	1,475	3,819	2,370	2,297	1,591	5,822	3,003
Complaints filed	114,419	1,131	1,377	7,451	16,904	22,535	15,323	5,893	24,180	19,625
Misdemeanor	54,399	11	179	1,213	10,750	9,598	7,491	2,957	12,446	9,754
Felony	60,020	1,120	1,198	6,238	6,154	12,937	7,832	2,936	11,734	9,871
Lower court dispositions	79,853	181	480	2,805	13,764	14,387	11,983	4,403	17,752	14,098
Dismissed	24,263	161	251	1,590	3,786	3,375	3,242	1,221	7,526	3,111
Acquitted	571	0	5	17	218	74	90	27	56	84
Convicted	55,019	20	224	1,198	9,760	10,938	8,651	3,155	10,170	10,903
Guilty plea	53,777	20	217	1,173	9,362	10,729	8,454	3,100	10,044	10,678
Jury trial	762	0	5	16	287	138	122	34	63	97
Court trial	480	0	2	9	111	71	75	21	63	128
Sentence	55,019	20	224	1,198	9,760	10,938	8,651	3,155	10,170	10,903
Youth Authority	32	0	0	0	4	17	6	3	0	2
Probation	18,311	5	71	244	3,622	2,863	2,684	701	3,496	4,625
Probation with jail	22,799	9	112	635	4,042	5,571	4,113	1,682	2,923	3,712
Jail	8,755	4	33	266	1,395	2,105	1,420	660	1,500	1,372
Fine	5,023	2	6	51	685	377	419	104	2,204	1,175
Superior court dispositions	34,566	950	897	4,646	3,140	8,148	3,340	1,490	6,428	5,527
Dismissed	3,759	97	103	413	393	616	378	129	1,136	494
Acquitted	908	53	64	143	161	141	84	29	116	117
Convicted	29,899	800	730	4,090	2,586	7,391	2,878	1,332	5,176	4,916
Original plea of guilty	11,426	194	207	1,266	913	2,984	1,276	584	1,709	2,293
Change plea to guilty	14,960	351	357	2,146	1,231	3,819	1,398	638	2,840	2,180
Jury trial	2,391	218	135	501	337	402	129	68	302	299
Court trial	844	30	28	141	84	142	61	32	213	113
Trial by transcript	278	7	3	36	21	44	14	10	112	31
Sentence	29,899	800	730	4,090	2,586	7,391	2,878	1,332	5,176	4,916
Death	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prison	6,888	548	267	1,772	525	1,492	351	204	754	975
Youth Authority	1,268	37	33	432	105	394	58	92	34	83
Probation	4,051	36	61	184	435	700	680	133	943	879
Jail	1,113	10	22	80	151	304	127	88	108	223
Fine	81	0	1	5	8	3	4	1	30	29
California Rehabilitation Center	790	1	1	77	10	285	54	17	261	84
State hospital - MDSO <sup>a</sup>	225	3	55	1	12	5	0	0	1	148
Other	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0

<sup>a</sup>Confined to state hospital as a mentally disordered sex offender.  
Note: It is estimated that statewide data are 35 percent underreported. Individual counties may vary.

**TABLE 11  
ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED AND SENTENCED, 1978  
COURT OF CONVICTION AND SENTENCE BY CONVICTED OFFENSE**

Court of conviction	Total	Convicted offense								
		Homicide	Forcible rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor vehicle theft	Drug law violations	All other
Total convictions	84,918	696	454	3,042	10,335	9,992	17,257	3,637	12,983	26,522
Lower court	55,019	0	0	0	7,505	3,661	12,534	2,371	7,878	21,070
Guilty plea	53,777	0	0	0	7,147	3,572	12,264	2,335	7,772	20,687
Jury trial	762	0	0	0	268	60	170	24	46	194
Court trial	480	0	0	0	90	29	100	12	60	189
Sentence	55,019	0	0	0	7,505	3,661	12,534	2,371	7,878	21,070
Youth Authority	32	0	0	0	3	13	9	3	0	4
Probation	18,311	0	0	0	2,455	661	3,689	447	2,272	8,787
Probation with jail	22,799	0	0	0	3,533	2,221	6,221	1,382	2,471	6,971
Jail	8,755	0	0	0	1,160	733	2,204	501	1,391	2,766
Fine	5,023	0	0	0	347	30	407	38	1,709	2,492
Other	99	0	0	0	7	3	4	0	35	50
Superior court	29,899	696	454	3,042	2,830	6,331	4,723	1,266	5,105	5,452
Original plea of guilty	11,426	150	110	893	991	2,552	2,043	558	1,654	2,475
Change plea to guilty	14,960	302	196	1,551	1,373	3,248	2,384	615	2,816	2,475
Jury trial	2,391	205	126	465	356	363	188	57	305	326
Court trial	844	33	21	109	84	129	85	29	211	143
Trial by transcript	278	6	1	24	26	39	23	7	119	33
Sentence	29,899	696	454	3,042	2,830	6,331	4,723	1,266	5,105	5,452
Death	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prison	6,888	513	251	1,664	536	1,394	569	210	738	1,013
Youth Authority	1,268	28	25	371	121	380	128	103	28	84
Probation	4,051	24	7	72	472	546	922	97	931	980
Probation with jail	15,479	128	118	866	1,485	3,580	2,745	754	3,002	2,801
Jail	1,113	0	3	2	187	192	238	87	113	291
Fine	81	0	0	0	11	0	7	1	34	28
California Rehabilitation Center	790	0	0	67	4	238	114	14	257	96
State hospital - MDSO <sup>a</sup>	225	2	50	0	14	0	0	0	0	159
Other	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0

<sup>a</sup> Confined to state hospital as a mentally disordered sex offender.  
Notes: It is estimated that statewide data are 35 percent underreported. Individual counties may vary.  
These convicted offense data include both misdemeanors and felonies.

TABLE 12  
DISPOSITION OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
TYPE OF DISPOSITION BY RACE

Type of disposition	Total	Race				
		White	Mexican-American	Negro	Other	Unknown
Disposition of felony arrests . . . . .	150,004	70,681	29,743	44,990	2,498	2,092
Law enforcement releases . . . . .	14,596	5,436	3,290	5,577	214	79
Complaints denied . . . . .	20,989	8,121	4,497	7,750	283	338
Complaints filed . . . . .	114,419	57,124	21,956	31,663	2,001	1,675
Misdemeanor . . . . .	54,399	27,620	10,747	14,464	939	629
Felony . . . . .	60,020	29,504	11,209	17,199	1,062	1,046
Lower court dispositions . . . . .	79,853	40,897	15,379	21,109	1,435	1,033
Dismissed . . . . .	24,263	12,051	4,408	6,990	470	344
Acquitted . . . . .	571	264	116	170	15	6
Convicted . . . . .	55,019	28,582	10,855	13,949	950	683
Guilty plea . . . . .	53,777	27,984	10,624	13,577	923	669
Jury trial . . . . .	762	364	141	232	18	7
Court trial . . . . .	480	234	90	140	9	7
Sentence . . . . .	55,019	28,582	10,855	13,949	950	683
Youth Authority . . . . .	32	15	6	11	0	0
Probation . . . . .	18,311	10,347	3,348	3,958	353	305
Probation with jail . . . . .	22,799	10,958	4,604	6,633	374	230
Jail . . . . .	8,755	4,030	2,106	2,405	130	84
Fine . . . . .	5,023	3,173	775	920	92	63
Other . . . . .	99	59	16	22	1	1
Superior court dispositions . . . . .	34,566	16,227	6,577	10,554	566	642
Dismissed . . . . .	3,759	1,555	695	1,344	65	100
Acquitted . . . . .	908	314	173	378	19	24
Convicted . . . . .	29,899	14,358	5,709	8,832	482	518
Original plea of guilty . . . . .	11,426	6,425	2,001	2,596	182	222
Change plea to guilty . . . . .	14,960	6,664	2,963	4,882	220	230
Jury trial . . . . .	2,391	891	522	869	62	47
Court trial . . . . .	844	295	149	369	17	14
Trial by transcript . . . . .	278	83	74	115	1	5
Sentence . . . . .	29,899	14,358	5,709	8,832	482	518
Death . . . . .	1	1	0	0	0	0
Prison . . . . .	6,888	2,893	1,482	2,212	124	177
Youth Authority . . . . .	1,268	515	245	480	19	9
Probation . . . . .	4,051	2,171	593	1,127	81	79
Probation with jail . . . . .	15,479	7,771	2,827	4,446	226	209
Jail . . . . .	1,113	462	268	344	19	20
Fine . . . . .	81	41	13	23	3	1
California Rehabilitation Center . . . . .	790	349	249	171	4	17
State hospital - MDSO <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	225	153	31	29	6	6
Other . . . . .	3	2	1	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup>Confined to state hospital as a mentally disordered sex offender.  
Note: It is estimated that statewide data are 35 percent underreported. Individual counties may vary.

**TABLE 13  
DISPOSITION OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
TYPE OF DISPOSITION BY SEX**

Type of disposition	Total	Sex		Unknown
		Male	Female	
Disposition of felony arrests . . . . .	150,004	127,325	21,310	769
Law enforcement releases . . . . .	14,596	12,667	1,878	51
Complaints denied . . . . .	20,989	17,996	2,911	82
Complaints filed . . . . .	114,419	96,662	17,121	636
Misdemeanor . . . . .	54,399	45,327	8,827	245
Felony . . . . .	60,020	51,335	8,294	391
Lower court dispositions . . . . .	79,853	66,284	13,226	343
Dismissed . . . . .	24,263	19,911	4,245	107
Acquitted . . . . .	571	486	81	4
Convicted . . . . .	55,019	45,887	8,900	232
Guilty plea . . . . .	53,777	44,849	8,703	225
Jury trial . . . . .	762	629	128	5
Court trial . . . . .	480	409	69	2
Sentence . . . . .	55,019	45,887	8,900	232
Youth Authority . . . . .	32	30	2	0
Probation . . . . .	18,311	14,268	3,966	77
Probation with jail . . . . .	22,799	19,550	3,170	79
Jail . . . . .	8,755	7,736	973	46
Fine . . . . .	5,023	4,214	779	30
Other . . . . .	99	89	10	0
Superior court dispositions . . . . .	34,566	30,378	3,895	293
Dismissed . . . . .	3,759	3,161	563	35
Acquitted . . . . .	908	827	72	9
Convicted . . . . .	29,899	26,390	3,260	249
Original plea of guilty . . . . .	11,426	9,880	1,463	83
Change plea to guilty . . . . .	14,960	13,295	1,531	134
Jury trial . . . . .	2,391	2,226	144	21
Court trial . . . . .	844	745	90	9
Trial by transcript . . . . .	278	242	32	2
Sentence . . . . .	29,899	26,390	3,260	249
Death . . . . .	1	1	0	0
Prison . . . . .	6,888	6,403	414	71
Youth Authority . . . . .	1,268	1,235	27	6
Probation . . . . .	4,051	3,166	846	39
Probation with jail . . . . .	15,479	13,611	1,758	110
Jail . . . . .	1,113	1,026	77	10
Fine . . . . .	81	67	12	2
California Rehabilitation Center . . . . .	790	659	124	7
State hospital - MDSO <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	225	220	1	4
Other . . . . .	3	2	1	0

<sup>a</sup>Confined to state hospital as a mentally disordered sex offender.  
Note: It is estimated that statewide data are 35 percent underreported. Individual counties may vary.

TABLE 14  
DISPOSITION OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
TYPE OF DISPOSITION BY AGE

Type of disposition	Total	Age					Unknown
		Under 20 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40 and over		
Disposition of felony arrests	150,004	18,970	87,055	27,952	15,224	803	
Law enforcement releases	14,596	2,463	8,406	2,545	1,145	38	
Complaints denied	20,989	2,909	12,305	3,751	1,922	102	
Complaints filed	114,419	13,598	66,345	21,656	12,157	663	
Misdemeanor	54,399	7,428	31,566	9,470	5,791	144	
Felony	60,020	6,170	34,779	12,186	6,366	519	
Lower court dispositions	79,853	10,458	46,220	14,429	8,507	239	
Dismissed	24,263	2,555	14,349	4,823	2,449	87	
Acquitted	571	60	325	102	81	3	
Convicted	55,019	7,843	31,546	9,504	5,977	149	
Guilty plea	53,777	7,721	30,884	9,214	5,811	147	
Jury trial	762	65	421	185	89	2	
Court trial	480	57	241	105	77	0	
Sentence	55,019	7,843	31,546	9,504	5,977	149	
Youth Authority	32	20	12	0	0	0	
Probation	18,311	2,626	9,972	3,284	2,389	40	
Probation with jail	22,799	3,484	13,367	3,810	2,073	65	
Jail	8,755	978	5,273	1,574	895	35	
Fine	5,023	726	2,859	815	614	9	
Other	99	9	63	21	6	0	
Superior court dispositions	34,566	3,140	20,125	7,227	3,650	424	
Dismissed	3,759	260	2,108	857	437	97	
Acquitted	908	47	486	226	121	28	
Convicted	29,899	2,833	17,531	6,144	3,092	299	
Original plea of guilty	11,426	1,298	6,885	2,069	1,039	135	
Change plea to guilty	14,960	1,307	8,654	3,230	1,631	138	
Jury trial	2,391	155	1,357	574	287	18	
Court trial	844	53	477	211	97	6	
Trial by transcript	278	20	158	60	38	2	
Sentence	29,899	2,833	17,531	6,144	3,092	299	
Death	1	0	0	1	0	0	
Prison	6,888	221	4,021	1,797	758	91	
Youth Authority	1,268	657	601	0	0	10	
Probation	4,051	281	2,170	912	646	42	
Probation with jail	15,479	1,576	9,377	2,933	1,464	129	
Jail	1,113	75	698	226	102	12	
Fine	81	3	42	17	13	6	
California Rehabilitation Center	790	7	534	187	54	8	
State hospital - MDSO <sup>a</sup>	225	13	86	70	55	1	
Other	3	0	2	1	0	0	

<sup>a</sup>Confined to state hospital as a mentally disordered sex offender.  
Note: It is estimated that statewide data are 35 percent underreported. Individual counties may vary.

TABLE 15  
DISPOSITION OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS IN SUPERIOR COURT, 1978  
TYPE OF DISPOSITION BY PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

Type of disposition	Total	Prior criminal record					Unknown
		No prior record	Miscellaneous prior record	One prior prison	Two prior prison	3-plus prior prison	
Superior court dispositions . . . . .	34,566	6,957	21,831	3,031	1,216	907	624
Dismissed . . . . .	3,759	756	2,308	357	130	99	109
Acquitted . . . . .	908	185	589	66	31	18	19
Convicted . . . . .	29,899	6,016	18,934	2,608	1,055	790	496
Original plea of guilty . . . . .	11,426	2,863	7,082	762	320	236	163
Change plea to guilty . . . . .	14,960	2,572	9,636	1,446	578	448	280
Jury trial . . . . .	2,391	349	1,491	319	127	77	28
Court trial . . . . .	844	172	549	62	25	20	16
Trial by transcript . . . . .	278	60	176	19	5	9	9
Sentence . . . . .	29,899	6,016	18,934	2,608	1,055	790	496
Death . . . . .	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Prison . . . . .	6,888	447	3,972	1,364	576	450	79
Youth Authority . . . . .	1,268	263	996	0	0	0	9
Probation . . . . .	4,051	1,401	2,231	183	75	42	119
Probation with jail . . . . .	15,479	3,657	10,187	829	318	244	244
Jail . . . . .	1,113	126	752	131	42	36	26
Fine . . . . .	81	27	45	3	1	1	4
California Rehabilitation Center . . . . .	790	25	629	80	32	12	12
State hospital - MDSO <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	225	70	119	17	11	5	3
Other . . . . .	3	0	3	0	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup>Confined to state hospital as a mentally disordered sex offender.  
Note: It is estimated that statewide data are 35 percent underreported. Individual counties may vary.

TABLE 16  
DISPOSITION OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS IN SUPERIOR COURT, 1978  
TYPE OF DISPOSITION BY EXISTING CRIMINAL STATUS

Type of disposition	Total	Existing criminal status							
		Not under commitment	On probation	On California Rehabilitation Center parole	On Youth Authority parole	On prison parole	Serving Nonprison term	Serving prison term	Unknown
Superior court dispositions . . . . .	34,566	21,029	8,219	673	1,328	2,210	338	145	624
Dismissed . . . . .	3,759	2,396	813	60	110	237	25	9	109
Acquitted . . . . .	908	605	182	20	30	47	2	3	19
Convicted . . . . .	29,899	18,028	7,224	593	1,188	1,926	311	133	496
Original plea of guilty . . . . .	11,426	7,315	2,584	193	405	543	156	67	163
Change plea to guilty . . . . .	14,960	8,705	3,796	318	619	1,060	134	48	280
Jury trial . . . . .	2,391	1,319	567	55	128	265	14	15	28
Court trial . . . . .	844	519	209	15	31	47	5	2	16
Trial by transcript . . . . .	278	170	68	12	5	11	2	1	9
Sentence . . . . .	29,899	18,028	7,224	593	1,188	1,926	311	133	496
Death . . . . .	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prison . . . . .	6,888	2,845	1,899	275	382	1,197	98	113	79
Youth Authority . . . . .	1,268	745	258	0	240	0	16	0	9
Probation . . . . .	4,051	3,036	716	26	45	93	14	2	119
Probation with jail . . . . .	15,479	10,342	3,664	181	443	493	99	13	244
Jail . . . . .	1,113	478	347	26	53	95	83	5	26
Fine . . . . .	81	62	15	0	0	0	0	0	4
California Rehabilitation Center . . . . .	790	345	291	84	22	35	1	0	12
State hospital - MDSO <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	225	173	32	1	3	13	0	0	3
Other . . . . .	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup>Confined to state hospital as a mentally disordered sex offender.

Note: It is estimated that statewide data are 35 percent underreported. Individual counties may vary.

TABLE 17  
DISPOSITION OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
TYPE OF DISPOSITION BY COUNTY

Type of disposition	Total	County							
		Alameda	Alpine	Amador	Butte	Calaveras	Colusa	Contra Costa	Del Norte
Disposition of felony arrests	150,004 <sup>a</sup>	7,812	4	45	379	75	68	2,932	199
Law enforcement releases	14,596	123	0	0	26	0	0	471	22
Complaints denied	20,989	1,425	0	0	27	3	3	297	12
Complaints filed	114,419	6,264	4	45	326	72	65	2,164	165
Misdemeanor	54,399	2,928	4	1	86	31	18	1,159	64
Felony	60,020	3,336	0	44	240	41	47	1,005	101
Lower court dispositions	79,853	5,232	4	26	170	60	34	1,472	116
Dismissed	24,263	1,646	1	7	38	9	10	394	25
Acquitted	571	36	0	0	1	0	0	8	1
Convicted	55,019	3,550	3	19	131	51	24	1,070	90
Guilty plea	53,777	3,468	3	18	126	49	22	1,046	85
Jury trial	762	41	0	1	0	2	0	19	1
Court trial	480	41	0	0	5	0	2	5	4
Sentence	55,019	3,550	3	19	131	51	24	1,070	90
Youth Authority	32	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Probation	18,311	1,535	2	11	26	13	6	210	24
Probation with jail	22,799	1,205	0	5	44	10	12	348	20
Jail	8,755	624	1	2	54	8	5	314	31
Fine	5,023	176	0	1	6	20	1	194	15
Other	99	7	0	0	1	0	0	3	0
Superior court dispositions	34,566	1,032	0	19	156	12	31	692	49
Dismissed	3,759	150	0	1	12	0	1	36	5
Acquitted	908	10	0	1	2	0	3	9	6
Convicted	29,899	872	0	17	142	12	27	647	38
Original plea of guilty	11,426	313	0	11	107	3	18	131	19
Change plea to guilty	14,960	528	0	5	21	9	3	462	11
Jury trial	2,391	25	0	0	11	0	6	54	7
Court trial	844	6	0	1	3	0	0	0	1
Trial by transcript	278	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sentence	29,899	872	0	17	142	12	27	647	38
Death	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prison	6,888	176	0	1	40	1	8	151	9
Youth Authority	1,268	36	0	8	8	0	0	30	0
Probation	4,051	157	0	2	22	5	1	53	3
Probation with jail	15,479	443	0	6	68	1	16	376	13
Jail	1,113	37	0	0	3	5	2	9	11
Fine	81	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
California Rehabilitation Center	790	15	0	0	1	0	0	22	0
State hospital - MDSO <sup>b</sup>	225	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	1
Other	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



TABLE 17 - Continued  
DISPOSITION OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
TYPE OF DISPOSITION BY COUNTY

Type of disposition	County								
	Lassen	Los Angeles	Madera	Marin	Mariposa	Mendocino	Merced	Modoc	Mono
Disposition of felony arrests . . . . .	69	60,737	327	911	123	314	669	25	34
Law enforcement releases . . . . .	1	9,909	8	1	0	20	8	0	1
Complaints denied . . . . .	10	10,687	2	223	1	9	18	0	4
Complaints filed . . . . .	58	40,141	317	687	122	285	643	25	29
Misdemeanor . . . . .	17	24,303	49	298	93	79	177	4	12
Felony . . . . .	41	15,838	268	389	29	206	466	21	17
Lower court dispositions . . . . .	29	26,834	158	468	115	157	404	5	23
Dismissed . . . . .	5	6,559	50	141	4	50	176	0	3
Acquitted . . . . .	1	252	1	1	0	5	2	0	0
Convicted . . . . .	23	20,023	107	326	111	102	226	5	20
Guilty plea . . . . .	23	19,519	104	318	110	83	224	5	20
Jury trial . . . . .	0	309	3	4	1	4	1	0	0
Court trial . . . . .	0	195	0	4	0	15	1	0	0
Sentence . . . . .	23	20,023	107	326	111	102	226	5	20
Youth Authority . . . . .	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probation . . . . .	2	7,336	11	127	8	31	38	1	10
Probation with jail . . . . .	7	7,747	41	163	6	38	90	2	7
Jail . . . . .	8	3,100	53	24	14	25	51	2	1
Fine . . . . .	6	1,810	2	12	83	8	47	0	2
Other . . . . .	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Superior court dispositions . . . . .	29	13,307	159	219	7	128	239	20	6
Dismissed . . . . .	8	1,559	50	12	0	11	9	1	2
Acquitted . . . . .	1	498	8	6	0	14	7	0	0
Convicted . . . . .	20	11,250	101	201	7	103	223	19	4
Original plea of guilty . . . . .	8	2,863	27	77	3	56	107	9	0
Change plea to guilty . . . . .	8	6,771	39	98	1	16	75	5	3
Jury trial . . . . .	4	805	30	17	3	27	27	4	0
Court trial . . . . .	0	580	5	8	0	4	9	1	0
Trial by transcript . . . . .	0	231	0	1	0	0	5	0	1
Sentence . . . . .	20	11,250	101	201	7	103	223	19	4
Death . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prison . . . . .	14	2,270	43	34	0	42	46	9	0
Youth Authority . . . . .	0	589	8	6	1	7	5	0	0
Probation . . . . .	0	1,970	8	17	6	7	5	2	2
Probation with jail . . . . .	5	5,576	31	136	0	28	158	8	2
Jail . . . . .	0	498	6	7	0	12	6	0	0
Fine . . . . .	0	33	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
California Rehabilitation Center . . . . .	0	241	3	1	0	4	2	0	0
State hospital - MDSO <sup>b</sup> . . . . .	1	63	2	0	0	2	1	0	0
Other . . . . .	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



TABLE 17 - Continued  
DISPOSITION OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
TYPE OF DISPOSITION BY COUNTY

Type of disposition	County								
	San Bernardino	San Diego	San Francisco	San Joaquin	San Luis Obispo	San Mateo	Santa Barbara	Santa Clara	Santa Cruz
Disposition of felony arrests	4,328	12,957	7,909	1,985	505	2,087	1,598	4,942	887
Law enforcement releases	349	1,420	0	8	9	30	15	926	1
Complaints denied	614	1,629	1,846	92	73	86	179	124	63
Complaints filed	3,365	9,908	6,063	1,885	423	1,971	1,404	3,892	823
Misdemeanor	1,153	3,059	2,280	614	228	743	855	1,378	288
Felony	2,212	6,849	3,783	1,271	195	1,228	549	2,514	535
Lower court dispositions	2,209	6,298	4,250	1,487	280	1,291	1,074	2,434	543
Dismissed	715	2,030	1,938	495	74	387	287	503	194
Acquitted	16	83	17	0	0	7	4	5	4
Convicted	1,478	4,185	2,295	992	206	897	783	1,926	345
Guilty plea	1,451	4,083	2,188	987	204	886	773	1,888	338
Jury trial	14	40	97	3	0	9	7	26	2
Court trial	13	62	10	2	2	2	3	12	5
Sentence	1,478	4,185	2,295	992	206	897	783	1,926	345
Youth Authority	3	4	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
Probation	463	1,216	165	250	73	273	209	564	89
Probation with jail	670	2,226	1,848	677	90	355	248	460	154
Jail	267	547	170	49	34	182	200	503	56
Fine	74	190	111	14	9	82	125	381	46
Other	1	2	1	0	0	3	1	17	0
Superior court dispositions	1,156	3,610	1,813	398	143	680	330	1,458	280
Dismissed	84	229	314	36	9	76	31	161	33
Acquitted	39	63	20	5	2	10	6	14	8
Convicted	1,033	3,318	1,479	357	132	594	293	1,283	239
Original plea of guilty	489	1,303	642	76	66	330	97	645	110
Change plea to guilty	413	1,789	679	234	54	218	152	578	91
Jury trial	112	165	121	43	9	45	33	51	31
Court trial	18	58	36	3	3	1	11	9	4
Trial by transcript	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Sentence	1,033	3,318	1,479	357	132	594	293	1,283	239
Death	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prison	333	599	418	149	52	132	78	149	60
Youth Authority	66	75	53	4	1	14	12	56	5
Probation	95	370	76	79	20	62	38	177	40
Probation with jail	448	1,992	858	114	52	309	134	795	123
Jail	36	109	12	10	4	34	24	37	7
Fine	1	12	2	0	0	3	0	4	0
California Rehabilitation Center	52	110	56	0	2	35	6	63	2
State hospital - MDSO <sup>b</sup>	2	51	4	1	1	5	1	0	2
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0



TABLE 17 - Continued  
DISPOSITION OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1978  
TYPE OF DISPOSITION BY COUNTY

Type of disposition	County				
	Tulare	Tuolumne	Ventura	Yolo	Yuba
Disposition of felony arrests	722	123	1,752	506	287
Law enforcement releases	40	1	56	7	0
Complaints denied	12	7	100	13	18
Complaints filed	670	115	1,596	486	269
Misdemeanor	227	33	599	172	94
Felony	443	82	997	314	175
Lower court dispositions	476	79	982	352	157
Dismissed	136	27	280	158	43
Acquitted	9	0	2	0	2
Convicted	331	52	700	194	112
Guilty plea	319	51	688	192	102
Jury trial	11	1	6	2	5
Court trial	1	0	6	0	5
Sentence	331	52	700	194	112
Youth Authority	0	0	1	2	0
Probation	41	27	271	63	50
Probation with jail	169	6	358	58	35
Jail	108	11	40	49	20
Fine	13	8	30	22	7
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Superior court dispositions	194	36	614	134	112
Dismissed	23	5	59	14	5
Acquitted	16	4	7	4	2
Convicted	155	27	548	116	105
Original plea of guilty	23	11	327	49	36
Change plea to guilty	84	10	192	50	63
Jury trial	47	3	23	16	3
Court trial	0	2	2	0	3
Trial by transcript	1	1	4	1	0
Sentence	155	27	548	116	105
Death	0	0	0	0	0
Prison	57	7	108	24	23
Youth Authority	8	0	43	6	7
Probation	6	4	80	11	22
Probation with jail	74	14	283	58	42
Jail	9	1	17	8	7
Fine	1	0	2	0	0
California Rehabilitation Center	0	0	8	7	3
State hospital - MDSO <sup>b</sup>	0	1	7	2	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup>Includes 695 of adult felony arrests made by state agencies (i.e., noncounty agencies).  
<sup>b</sup>Confined to state hospital as a mentally disordered sex offender.  
 Note: It is estimated that the statewide data are 35 percent underreported. Individual counties may vary.

**END**