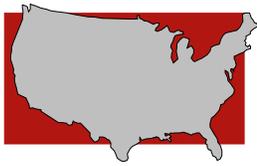


National Data





Introduction to National Data

Examining recent national trends in crime and justice system responses provides a context for understanding how national, state, and local criminal justice policies are developed and implemented. Judicial and legislative policy, as well as public perceptions, are often shaped as much by national statistics on crimes, sentencing, and corrections as they are by state and local trends. It is therefore important to understand crime and justice trends at the national, as well as state, level.

Judicial and legislative policy, as well as public perceptions, are often shaped ... by national statistics on crimes, sentencing, and corrections...

This next part of the *Crime and Justice Atlas 2000* presents recent statistical trends for the nation in three areas that correspond to the major components of the justice system: law enforcement (“The Nature and Extent of Crime”), the courts (“The Judicial System’s Response to Crime”) and corrections (“Supervision and Punishment of Offenders”). In each of these parts of the *Atlas*, a series of graphs and tables present selected statistical trends over the past 20 to 25 years, including the most recent year for which data are available. Each data display is accompanied by a series of bullets highlighting important points for consideration in interpreting the trends shown. When taken as a whole, the displays in this section provide an overview of the trends in various components of the justice system, and demonstrate how changes in one justice system component, such as law enforcement, can affect other areas of the system.

The first section of this national component of the *Atlas*, “The Nature and Extent of Crime,” presents data on crime and arrest trends for both adults and juveniles. The displays show trends and geographical variations in reported crimes by type of offense, changes in arrest rates for both adults and juveniles for both violent and property crimes, changes in the age distributions of arrestees for various crime types, trends in arrests for drug offenses, and changes in self-reported drug use of juveniles and adults in our nation. Taken together, these displays show how the nature of crime and law enforcement activities has changed over the last 25 years. This information is essential for understanding the development and implementation of law enforcement policies and procedures, and their impacts on other components of the justice system.

“The Judicial System’s Response to Crime” presents data on adult and juvenile dispositions, sentences, and time served. The displays provide information on trends in the proportion of felony arrests that result in felony convictions, changes in the numbers and types of offenses for which felony convictions are obtained, disposition methods (guilty plea versus bench and jury trial) of felony cases, case processing time for various offenses and disposition methods, demographic characteristics of felons convicted in state courts, and changes in prison sentences and estimated time to be served. Information specific to juveniles includes changes in the handling of juvenile delinquency cases, trends in the number of delinquency cases waived to criminal court, and trends in delinquency case types and dispositions of juveniles adjudicated delinquent. These displays show how the nature of punishment has changed for both adults and juveniles as a result of changing judicial and legislative policies and procedures.

The third section of this part of the *Atlas*, “Supervision and Punishment of Offenders,” presents data on adult and juvenile correctional populations. These data displays show trends in the number and mix of adults under some form of correctional supervision, changes in the number and crime types of newly admitted prison inmates, changes in the offense mix of the adult

prison population, and trends in the number of inmates released from prison. These displays show how changes in crime, along with changes in law enforcement and judicial practices, have provided new challenges to correctional administrators and staff.

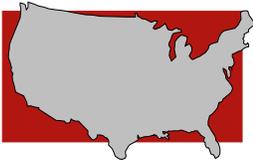
Some caution must be exercised in interpreting the national trends shown here. The displays show only a few of the many measures available, and examining other measures may lead to different conclusions. In addition, aggregating state-level data, especially over time, can be problematic, since states often vary in how they define various types of crime, how they prosecute, sentence, and punish adult and juvenile offenders, and how they report these data over time. Finally, some of the data presented are based on estimates, samples, and analytical assumptions, and are thus subject to error. The original data sources should be consulted for additional information.

These national displays demonstrate the interrelated nature of the various components of the justice system, and the importance of examining data from all of these components in planning and policy development. Policymakers and practitioners might consider the implications of the changes in the nature of crime and justice revealed by the data displayed here. Here are some examples of the kinds of trends and changes revealed by the data displays that follow:

- In the last 5 years, violent crime has decreased 25%, while property crime has decreased 17%. During this time period, drug arrests increased 41%.
- Violent crime rates over the last 17 years have by proportion increased most dramatically for the youngest juvenile offenders (10–12 years old).
- A greater proportion of felony arrests now result in convictions. The average estimated time to be served has increased for violent and drug offenders, and decreased for property and public order offenders.
- Fewer juvenile arrests are handled informally; more are referred to juvenile courts. More juvenile cases are waived to criminal court, especially for person and drug offenses.
- The number of adults in prison, jail, on probation, or on parole more than tripled from 1980 to 1998. The rate of increase for women in prison was far greater than the increase for men.
- In 1980, drug offenders comprised about 7% of the new admissions to prisons. By 1998, they comprised over one third of new commitments to prisons.

These findings have profound implications for the development of policy for the allocation of resources for law enforcement, the punishment of offenders, and the management of inmate populations. Data of the type presented here can assist policymakers and practitioners in developing more effective justice system policies for dealing with these issues.

These findings have profound implications for the development of policy for the allocation of resources for law enforcement, the punishment of offenders, and the management of inmate populations.



National Data Sources

Index Crime Rates, 1998

Source: *Uniform Crime Reports, 1998*, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Reported Offense and Arrest Rates, 1975–1998

Source: *Uniform Crime Reports, 1975–1998*, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Proportion of Juvenile and Adult Arrestees

Source: *Uniform Crime Reports, 1975–1998*, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Arrest Rates by Age, 1980 vs. 1997

Source: Snyder, H. N., & Sickmund, M. (1999). *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Proportion of Drug Arrests

Source: *Uniform Crime Reports, 1978–1998*, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Estimated Number of Persons Age 12 and Older Using Illicit Drugs in the Past Month, 1979–1998

Source: *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, August 1999*, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration.

Percentage of Population Using Any Illicit Drugs in the Past Month

Source: *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, August 1999*, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration.

Police Employees

Source: *Uniform Crime Reports, 1980–1998*, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Estimated Percentage of Felony Arrests Resulting in Felony Conviction, 1988–1996

Source: *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1996*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Felony Convictions in State Courts, 1990 vs. 1996

Source: *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1990, 1996*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Most Serious Offense at Conviction, 1990 vs. 1996

Source: *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1990, 1996*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Type of Convictions in State Courts, 1996

Source: *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1996*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Time Between Arrest and Sentencing for Felony Cases Disposed by State Courts, 1996

Source: *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1996*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Demographic Characteristics of Convicted Felons in State Courts, 1996

Source: *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1996*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Prison Sentence and Estimated Time to be Served, 1996

Source: *Felony Sentences in the United States, 1996*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Changes in Prison Sentences and Time Served Amounts, 1990 vs. 1996

Source: *Truth in Sentencing in State Prisons. January 1999*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Police Disposition for Juveniles Taken into Custody, 1972–1998

Source: *Uniform Crime Reports, 1972–1998*, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

State Juvenile Courts' Handling of Delinquency Cases, 1987 vs. 1996

Source: Snyder, H., Finnegan, T., Stahl, A., & Poole, R. *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics: 1987–1996*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice, 1998.

Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 1987–1996

Source: Snyder, H., Finnegan, T., Stahl, A., & Poole, R. *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics: 1987–1996*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice, 1998.

Delinquency Cases by Offense, 1987–1996

Source: Snyder, H., Finnegan, T., Stahl, A., & Poole, R. *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics: 1987–1996*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice, 1998.

Adjudicated Delinquency Cases by Disposition, 1987–1996

Source: Snyder, H., Finnegan, T., Stahl, A., & Poole, R. *Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics: 1987–1996*. Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice, 1998.

Adults on Probation, in Prison, on Parole, or in Jail

Source: *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1993 and 1995; Prisoners in 1998; Probation and Parole in the United States 1998*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

New Court Commitments to State Prisons

Source: *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1992, 1995, 1996*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Prisoners in Custody of State Correctional Authorities

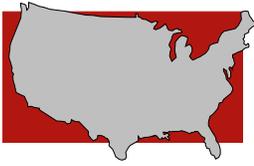
Source: *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1992, 1995. Prisoners in 1997, 1998*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Proportion of Admissions to State Prison

Source: *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1992, 1995; Prisoners in 1997, 1998*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Annual Growth Rates for Prison Releases, 1981–1996

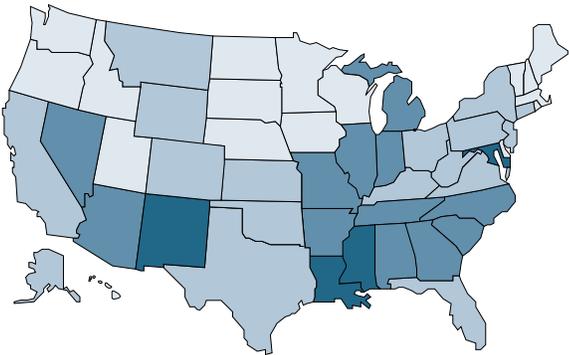
Source: *Historical Statistics on Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions, Year End 1925–1986: United States; Correctional Populations in the United States, 1987–1996*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.



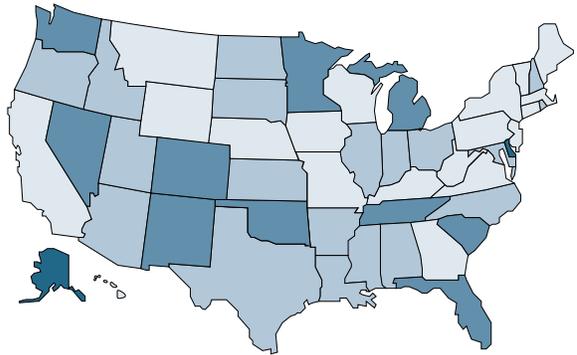
The Nature and Extent of Crime

As these maps illustrate, index crime rates in 1998 varied from state to state.

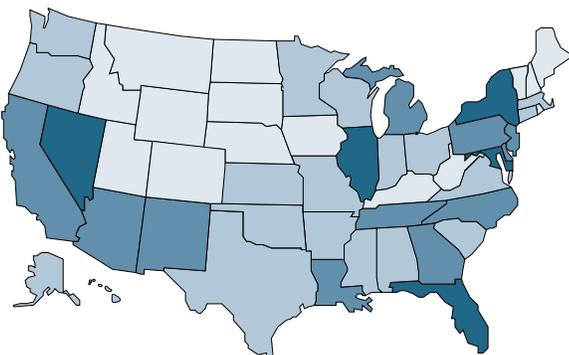
Murder



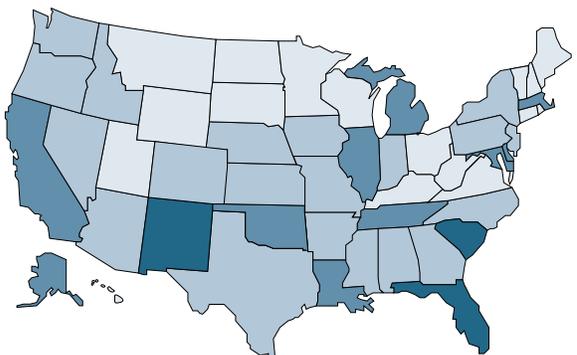
Rape



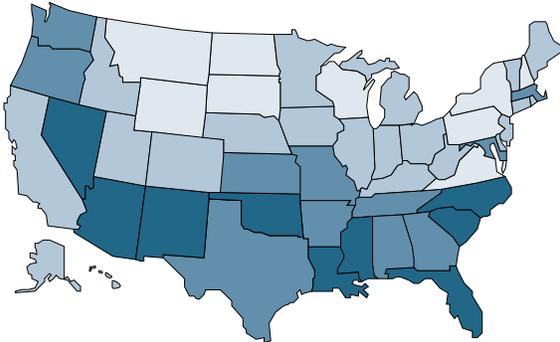
Robbery



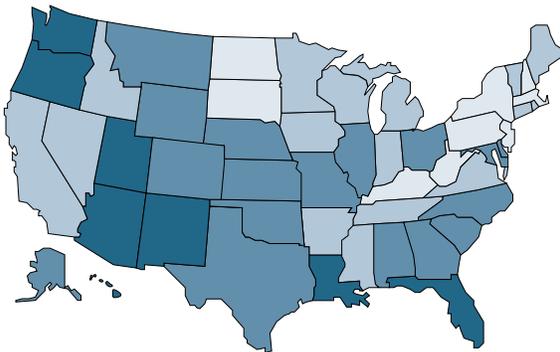
Aggravated Assault



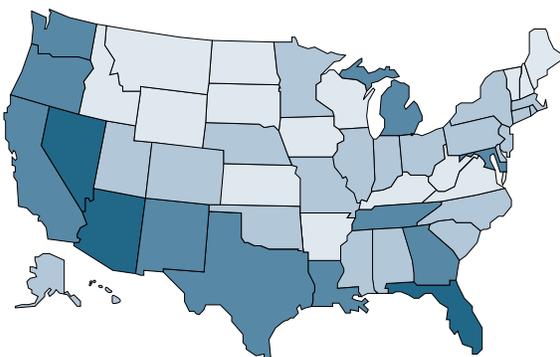
Burglary



Larceny



Motor Vehicle Theft



- ◆ States that are largely rural, such as Maine, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, tend to have relatively low crime rates, and person crimes are particularly low in these areas.
- ◆ States that are high in some types of crime are low in other types of crime. New York, for example, has high robbery rates, but low burglary and larceny rates.
- ◆ Overall, few regional trends are apparent, with the exception of murder rates, which seem to be higher in the Southeast than in the rest of the country.

Map Key

Note: The colors of the states represent ranges for crime rates, from low to high, as shown in the map key. Crime rate ranges were established by subtracting the lowest rate from the highest, and dividing the resulting range into four equal increments. The rate ranges, per 100,000 population, for each crime category are:

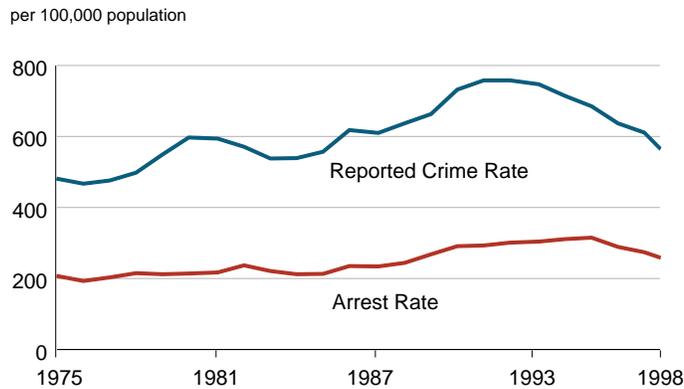
Murder	1.1–12.8
Rape	18–69
Robbery	10–299
Assault	45–732
Burglary	325–1,394
Larceny	1,498–4,012
Motor Vehicle Theft	103–865





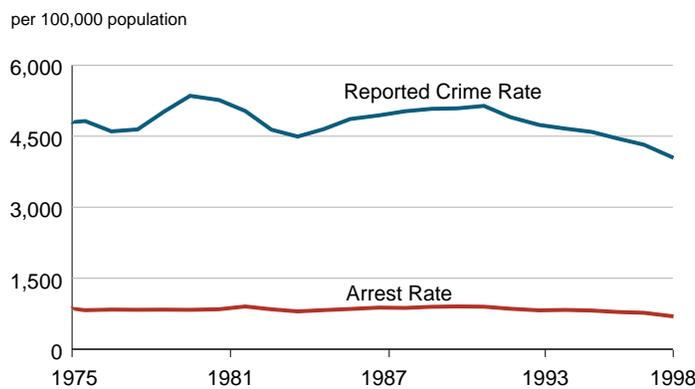
To develop effective criminal justice policies, we must understand the trends in violent and property crime and arrests.

Reported Offense and Arrest Rates for Violent Crime



- ◆ Since 1975, reported violent crime rates increased 11%, with violent crime arrest rates rising 29% since 1975.
- ◆ The most recent rapid increases for both violent crime and violent crime arrest rates occurred during the period 1987–1991. The most recent data show violent crime, as measured by both reported crime and persons arrested, has been declining steadily, falling 25% and 14%, respectively, since 1992.

Reported Offense and Arrest Rates for Property Crime

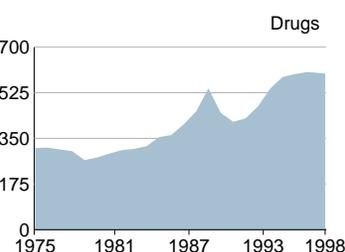
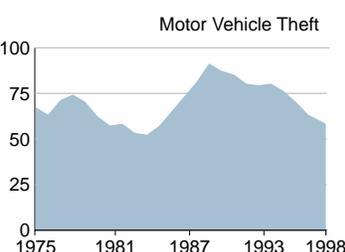
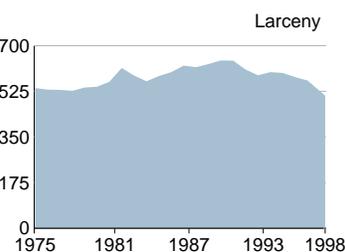
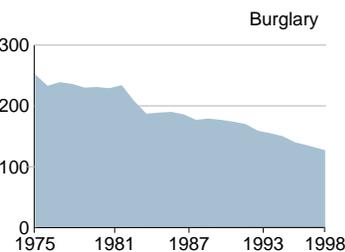
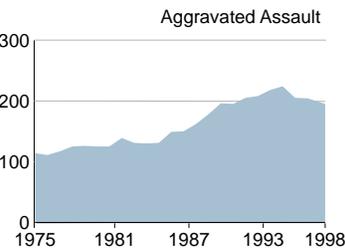
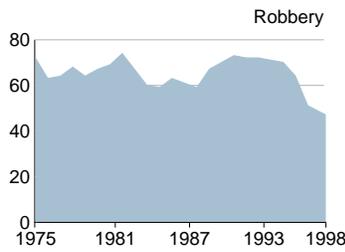
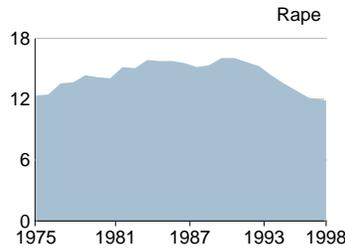
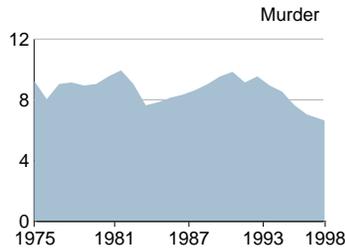


- ◆ The trend in reported property crime rates—including burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft—shows recurrent peaks and valleys, with an overall decrease of 14% since 1975. The property crime arrest rate decreased slightly more—by 17%.
- ◆ In 1998, the overall property crime rate was about five times higher than the property arrest rate.



What does a comparison of arrest rate trends for our nation's most serious crimes reveal?

Arrest Rates for Serious Crime (per 100,000 population)



The adjacent panels break down the arrest rates for our nation's most serious crimes.

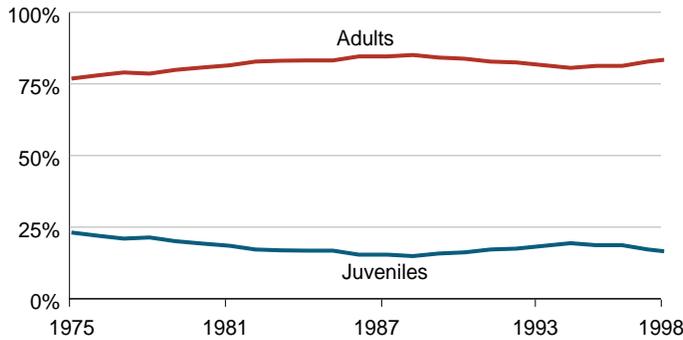
- ◆ Each crime type, other than assault and drug violations, has shown large decreases in arrest rates during the 1990s. Most notable are murder (-31%), rape (-26%), robbery (-33%), burglary (-29%), and motor vehicle theft (-34%).
- ◆ Arrest rates for aggravated assault, which increased steadily from the mid-1980s to 1995, decreased from 1996 to 1998. The rate in 1998 was the lowest it had been since 1991.
- ◆ Drug arrest rates increased steadily through the 1980s, peaking in 1989. Rates decreased somewhat during the early 1990s, but since 1995 have remained at a higher level than at any time during the previous 20 years.
- ◆ Differences in vertical scale measurement should be noted since there are far fewer arrests for murder than for larceny or aggravated assault.



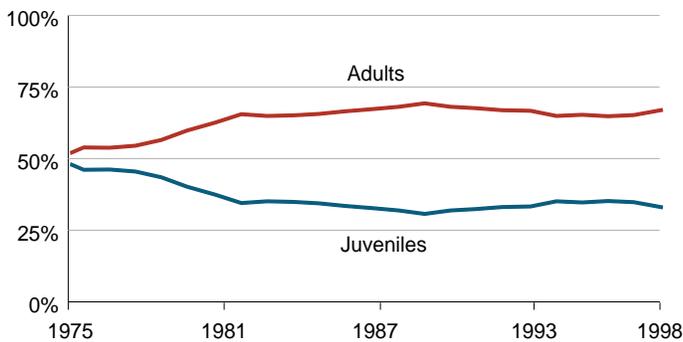
For a clearer picture of our nation's crime problem, we must examine both juvenile and adult arrests.

Proportion of Juvenile and Adult Arrestees

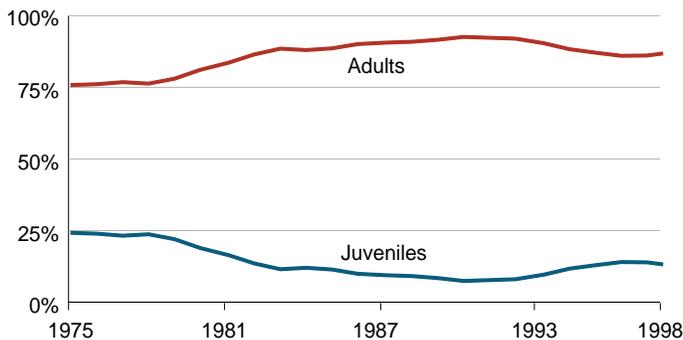
Violent Crime



Property Crime



Drug Crime



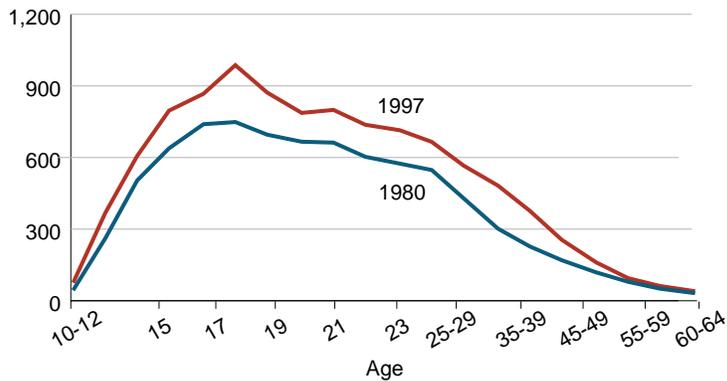
- ◆ The proportion of juvenile violent crime arrests has ranged from about 15% to 23% over the entire period shown. In 1998, the juvenile arrest proportion for violent crime declined to 16.6%, the lowest percentage since 1990.
- ◆ The most dramatic changes over time are seen in the property crime arrest graph. In 1975, adults and juveniles each comprised roughly half of the property arrests. In 1998, juveniles made up one third of the arrests.
- ◆ Arrest proportions for drug offenses have also shifted over time, with adults comprising just over 75% of the arrests in 1975 compared to a high of 92% in 1991. After increasing during the early and mid-1990s, the proportion of juveniles arrested for drug crimes started to decline during the last few years.



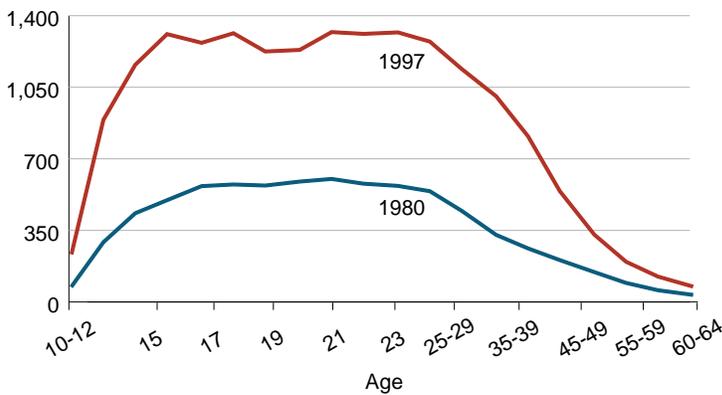
How do the arrest rates in 1980 and 1977 compare for different age groups for violent crime, simple assault, and weapons offenses?

Arrest Rates by Offender Age, 1980 vs. 1997 (per 100,000 population)

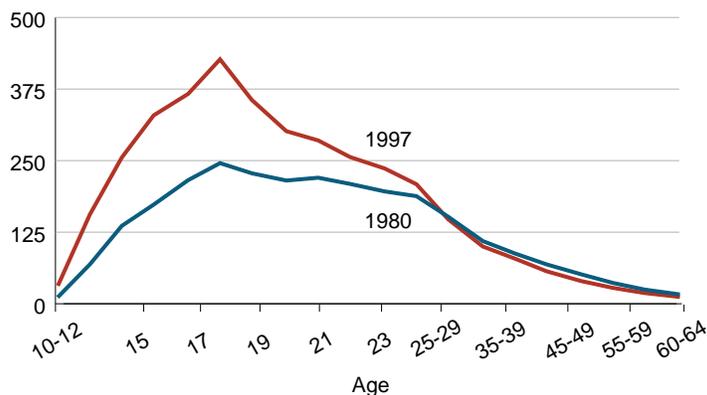
Violent Crime



Simple Assault



Weapons Offense



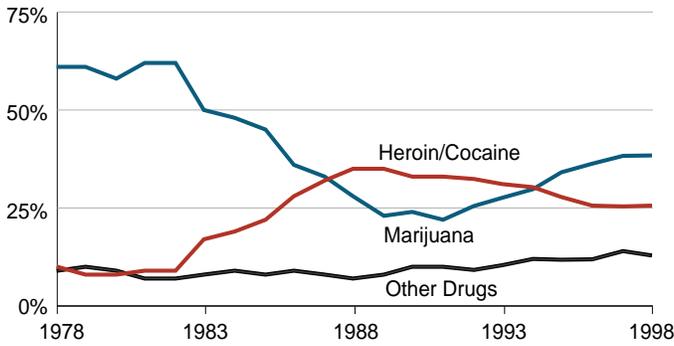
- ◆ For all three crime types shown, the largest proportional increase in arrest rates from 1980 to 1997 occurred in the youngest age group, the 10 to 12 year-olds. Arrest rates for this group of juveniles are still lower than those seen in all but the oldest age groups.
- ◆ Although the rates increased for all age groups, violent crime arrest rate patterns by age are similar in 1980 and 1997. In both years, the rates are highest for persons in their late teens and early twenties, then decline through the remaining age groups.
- ◆ Arrest rates increased substantially for simple assault offenses for all age groups. Unlike any other offense group, crimes involving simple assault have elevated arrest rate levels even for those in the above 30 age groups.
- ◆ Weapons offense arrest rates are the only ones of the types shown that did not experience uniform increases for all age groups from 1980 to 1997. Arrest rates increased for individuals under age 25, and decreased for those 25 and older.



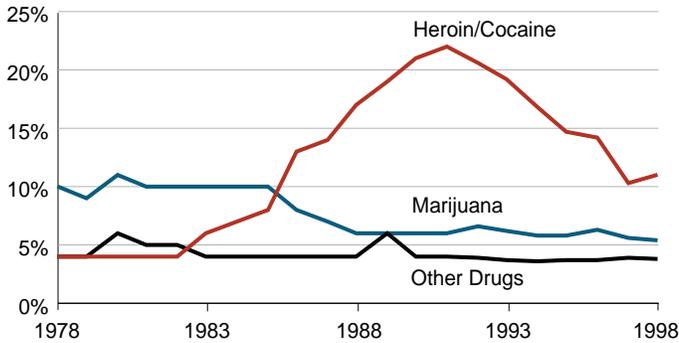
The nation's drug problem and the "war on drugs" have changed the nature of drug offenses and arrests.

Proportion of Drug Arrests

Possession



Selling/Manufacturing

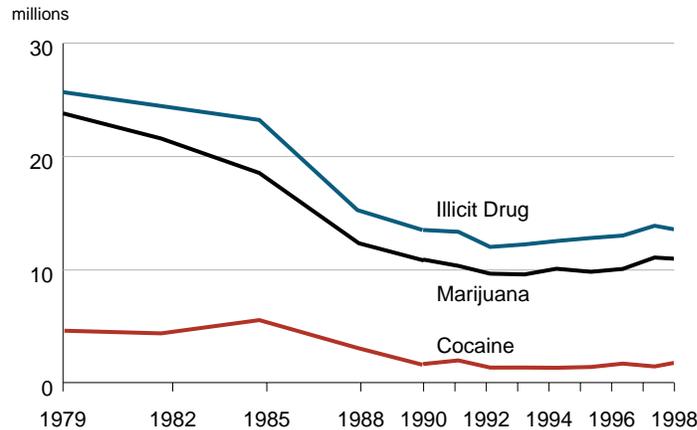


- ◆ The adjacent graphs, when combined, show the proportion of total drug arrests by type of offense and type of drug.
- ◆ The proportion of drug arrests for possessing cocaine/heroin grew steadily during the 1980s before leveling and gradually declining during the 1990s. The percentage of arrests for selling cocaine/heroin grew even more rapidly during the 1980s before dropping in the 1990s.
- ◆ The proportion of arrests for marijuana declined at a time when cocaine/heroin arrests increased. The latest data show the percentage of arrests for marijuana possession increased 16% from 1991 to 1998.
- ◆ The proportion of drug arrests for possessing cocaine/heroin was 33% in 1990 compared with 25.6% in 1998, while the proportion for selling cocaine/heroin was 21% in 1990 compared with 11% in 1998. The proportion of sale and possession arrests involving "other" drug types has remained relatively stable since the late 1970s.

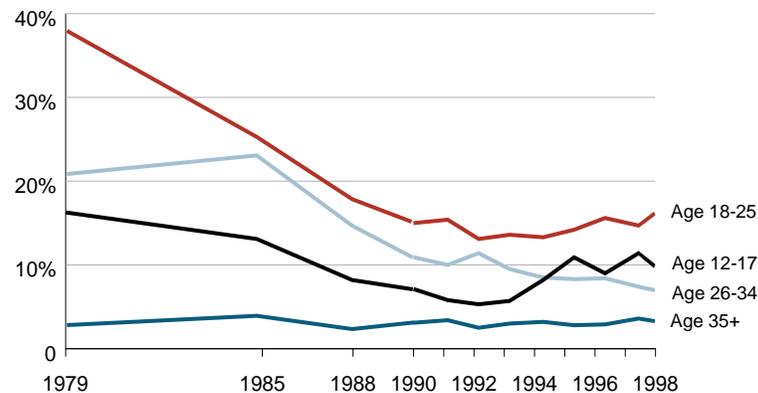


What are the patterns among the U.S. population in terms of drug use frequency and type of drug used?

Estimated Number of Persons Age 12 and Older Using Illicit Drugs in the Past Month



Percentage of Population Using Any Illicit Drugs in the Past Month



- ◆ According to preliminary figures from a national household survey conducted in 1999, an estimated 13.6 million people reported using an illicit drug within the past month, down from the roughly 25 million who reported usage in 1979.
- ◆ The trend lines to the left show that the declines in estimated monthly usage ended around 1993. Self-reported marijuana use was higher in 1997 and 1998 than at any other time in the 1990s.
- ◆ The increase in reported marijuana use since 1994 is largely the result of use by 12- to 17-year-olds, and, to a lesser extent, by 18- to 25-year-olds.
- ◆ Throughout the 1980s, drug use has declined most dramatically in the 18–25-year-old age group. Drug use by people age 35 and over has remained essentially flat since 1979; on average, 3% of this group reported using any illicit drugs within the past month.



In conjunction with the rise in crime rates, the number of police employees in the United States has increased since 1980.

Police Employees

	Total	Sworn Officers	Civilians	Civilian Percentage
1980	493,331	393,363	99,968	20%
1981	502,010	398,064	103,946	21
1982	514,335	403,407	110,928	22
1983	585,950	449,370	136,580	23
1984	611,488	467,117	144,371	24
1985	619,634	470,678	148,956	24
1986	629,745	475,853	153,892	24
1987	641,168	480,383	160,785	25
1988	652,443	485,566	166,877	26
1989	676,647	496,353	180,294	27
1990	714,260	523,262	190,998	27
1991	735,512	535,629	199,883	27
1992	748,830	544,309	204,521	27
1993	766,126	553,773	212,353	28
1994	782,110	561,543	220,567	28
1995	813,536	586,756	226,780	28
1996	829,838	595,170	234,668	28
1997	858,532	618,127	240,405	28
1998	894,535	641,208	253,327	28
Percent Change 1980-1998	81%	63%	153%	

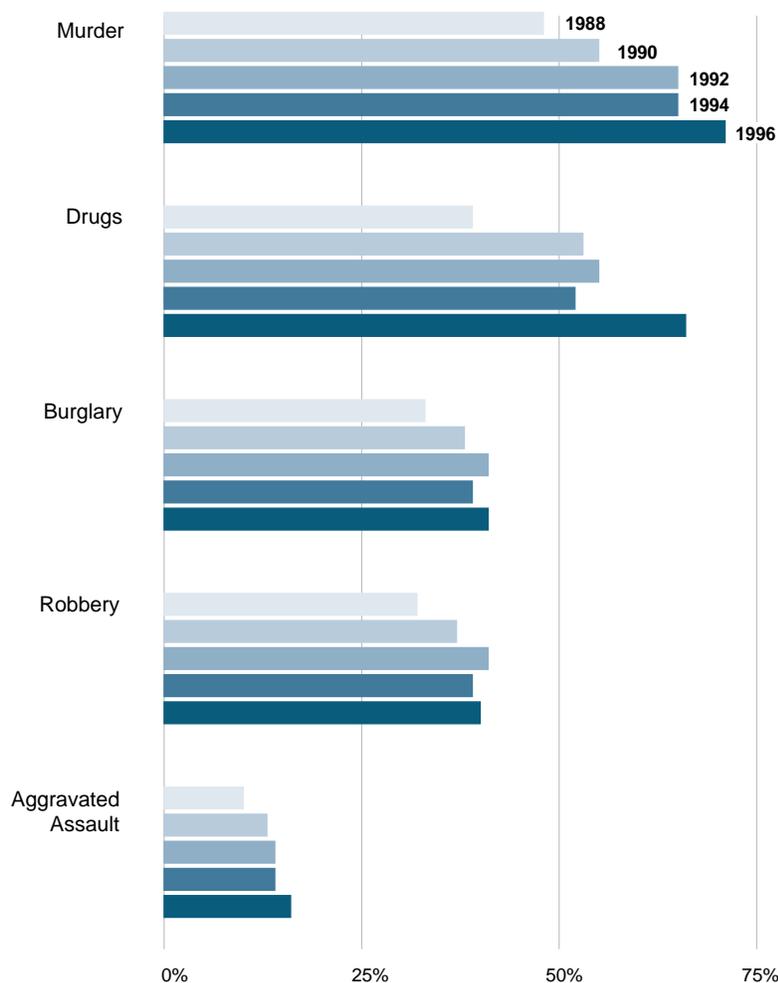
- ◆ Sworn police officers are those law enforcement officials that have the power of arrest; civilian employees operate in a support role for the agency. Many police agencies have changed the way they do business by permitting civilians to do more support work, allowing sworn officers more time in the community.
- ◆ In 1998, there were close to 900,000 total police employees in the 50 states. The number of sworn officers has grown by 63% since 1980, while the number of civilians increased 153% over the same period.
- ◆ The proportion of total employees who are classified as civilians has grown from 20% to 28% in the 19 years examined.



The Judicial System's Response to Crime

What is the likelihood that a felony arrest will result in a felony conviction?
Does the likelihood depend on the type of crime committed?

Estimated Percentage of Felony Arrests Resulting in Felony Conviction



- ◆ The percentage of felony arrests that result in felony conviction is estimated by dividing the number of adult felony convictions in a year by the number of adult felony arrests that year.
- ◆ Each offense type shows a similar pattern of increases and decreases in conviction rates, with the percentages rising from 1988 to 1992, leveling from 1992 to 1994, then increasing once again through 1996.
- ◆ Some of the most noticeable increases occurred for murder and drug offenses during the period 1994 to 1996. Murder conviction rates rose 6% to reach just over 70%, while drug conviction rates jumped 14 points to 66% in 1996.

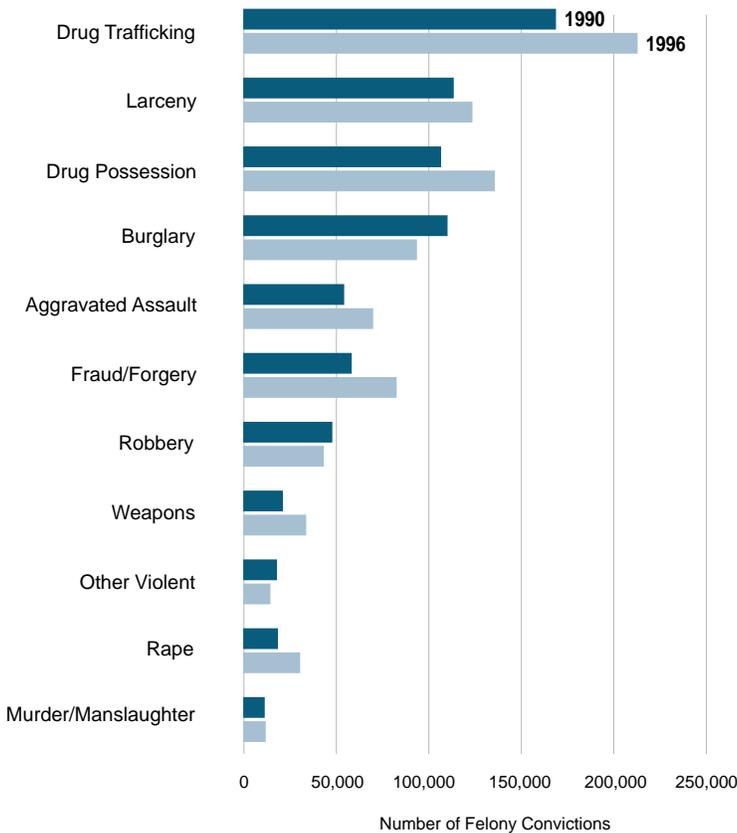


Changes in the types of felony convictions have important implications for judicial policies and practices.

Felony Convictions in State Courts

Offense Type	1990	1996	Growth 1990-1996
Property Offenses	280,748	298,631	6%
Drug Offenses	274,613	347,774	27
Violent Offenses	147,766	167,824	14
Weapons Offenses	20,733	33,337	61
Other Offenses	105,484	150,404	43
Total	829,344	997,970	20%

Most Serious Offense at Conviction



◆ From 1990 to 1996, felony convictions in state courts increased for each general offense category shown in the table.

◆ Drug and property offenses comprised most of the convictions in state courts. Convictions for drug offenses showed a large increase from 1990 to 1996, while convictions for property offenses increased only slightly during this period.

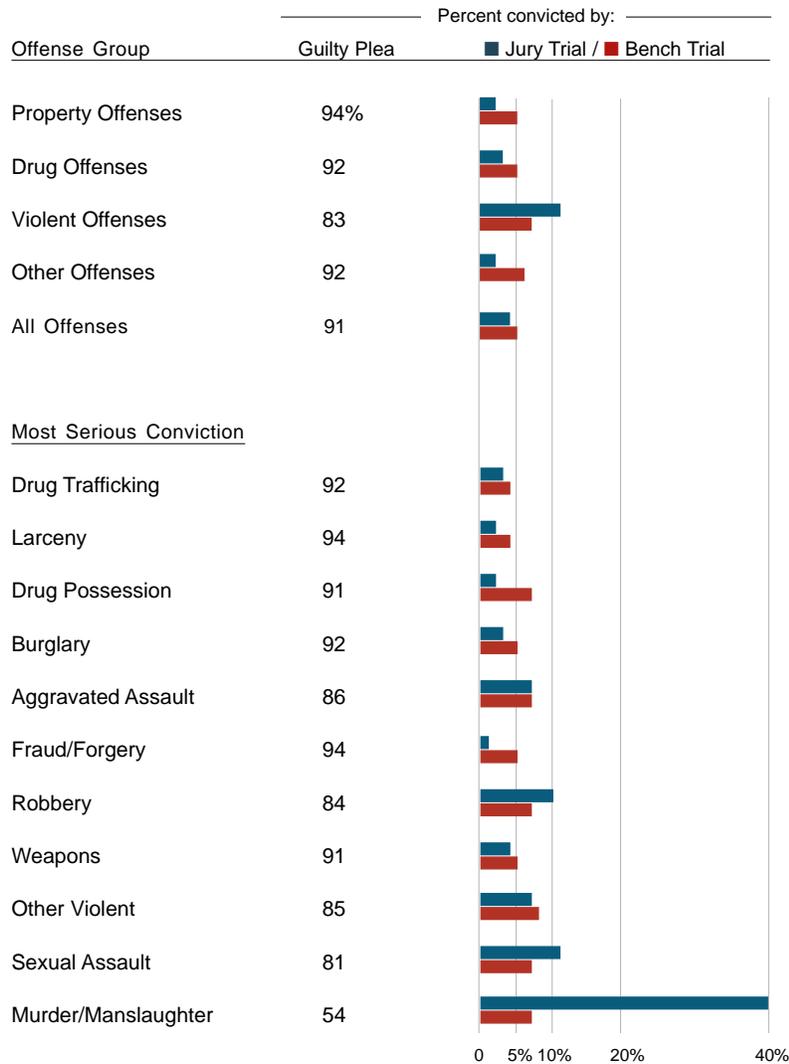
◆ The bar chart shows how the number of felony convictions for specific offense types changed from 1990 to 1996. Three of the 11 offense types showed decreases, with the “other violent” category decreasing 20%, followed by burglary (-15%) and robbery (-10%).

◆ Felony convictions for drug trafficking offenses were the most common type of conviction in both years. The largest proportional increases in felony convictions were for rape (+67%) and weapons offenses (+61%). The number of fraud convictions also increased significantly, jumping 42% from 1990 to 1996.



How felony convictions are disposed in the state courts has important implications for judicial workload.

Type of Convictions in State Courts, 1996

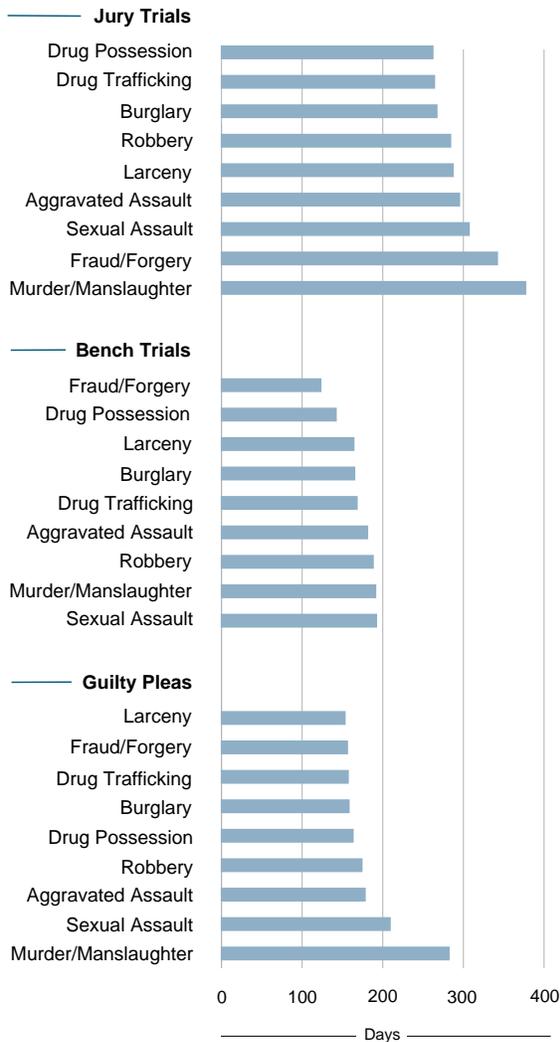


- ◆ As expected, trial rates are higher for more serious offenses. In less serious drug and property cases, defendants often reach a plea agreement in order to avoid the uncertain outcome of a jury or bench trial.
- ◆ Convicted felons most often had their cases disposed by guilty pleas, with 9 out of every 10 convictions occurring by this disposition method.
- ◆ The rate of guilty pleas varies by offense, with guilty pleas being most likely to occur in larceny and fraud cases, and least likely to occur in murder cases.
- ◆ In those convictions that were the result of trials, bench trials were more likely in property cases, while jury trials were more common in violent cases. Jury trials accounted for 40% of murder convictions.



Justice system officials and the public are interested in seeing felony cases handled in a timely manner. How long is it taking to process these cases?

Time Between Arrest and Sentencing for Felony Cases Disposed by State Courts, 1996 (median time in days)



- ◆ Many factors affect the time from arrest to sentencing, including: case backlogs, insufficient court resources, continuances, and preparation of court documents. How cases are disposed, by trial vs. guilty plea, also has a significant impact on case processing time.
- ◆ The bars show which felony offenses take longest to process from arrest to sentencing, comparing jury and bench trials to guilty pleas. Regardless of disposition method, murder cases are some of the longest types of cases to process, ranging from 191 days in bench trials to 377 days in jury trials.
- ◆ Rape cases require longer periods of time to process than most other types of offenses. Fraud/forgery cases are among the quickest types to process when bench trials and guilty pleas are involved, but among the slowest types to process when jury trials are involved.



What are some of the demographic characteristics of felons convicted in state courts?

Demographic Characteristics of Convicted Felons in State Courts, 1996

Offense Group	Sex		Race			Age	
	Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Mean	Median
Drug Offenses	83%	17%	45%	53%	2%	31 yrs.	30 yrs.
Other Offenses	89	11	69	29	2	32	31
Property Offenses	77	23	59	39	2	30	29
Violent Offenses	92	8	52	46	2	30	28
All Offenses	84	16	54	44	2	31	30
<u>Most Serious Conviction</u>							
Aggravated Assault	89	11	55	43	2	31	29
Burglary	93	7	62	36	2	28	26
Drug Possession	81	19	49	49	2	32	32
Drug Trafficking	84	16	43	56	1	31	29
Fraud/Forgery	59	41	60	38	1	32	31
Larceny	77	23	56	41	3	30	29
Murder/Manslaughter	91	9	44	54	2	29	25
Other Violent	90	10	69	29	2	32	31
Sexual Assault	99	1	70	27	3	35	33
Robbery	93	7	32	66	2	26	24
Weapons	96	4	41	58	1	30	27

- ◆ The profile of convicted felons differs significantly from that of the general population of the United States. In 1996, males comprised 84% of convicted felons compared with 48% of adults in general.
- ◆ Comparing across offenses, women were more likely to be involved in property convictions, especially fraud/forgery, than in other types of convictions.
- ◆ White offenders were most commonly convicted for sexual assault and “other” violent offenses, while the most common conviction offense of black offenders was robbery.
- ◆ The average and median ages were lowest for murder, robbery, and burglary convictions, and highest for sexual assault and “other” violent convictions.

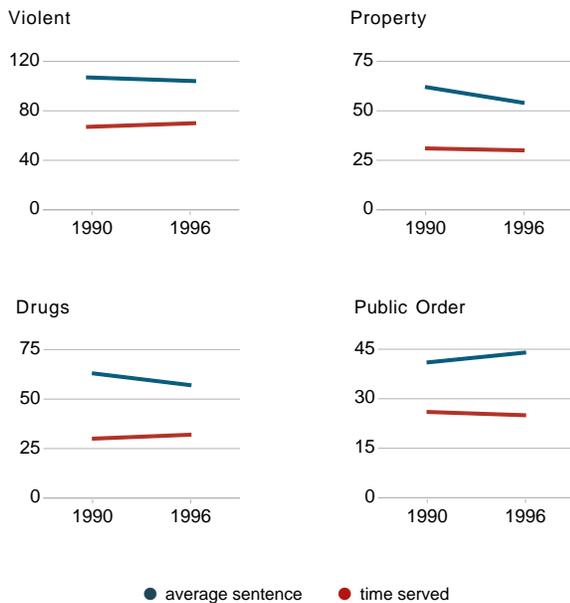


How have prison sentences and time served changed for various offenses?

Prison Sentence and Estimated Time to Be Served, 1996

	Average Prison Sentence	Estimated Time to Be Served	Percent of Sentence Served
Murder/Manslaughter	21.4 yrs.	10.7 yrs.	50%
Rape	10.0	5.1	51%
Robbery	8.4	4.0	47%
Aggravated Assault	5.8	3.1	54%
Burglary	5.0	2.1	42%
Larceny	3.3	1.4	44%
Fraud/Forgery	3.5	1.4	39%
Drug Possession	3.4	1.4	40%
Drug Trafficking	4.6	1.9	42%
Weapons	3.7	2.1	56%

Changes in Prison Sentences and Time Served Amounts, 1990 vs. 1996 (in months)



◆ By examining the length of time served for inmates released from prison, it is possible to estimate the percentage of their sentences that felons convicted of various offenses will serve. These proportions range from a high of 56% for offenders whose most serious offense at conviction was a weapons crime to a low of 39% for offenders convicted of fraud/forgery.

◆ The average estimated time to be served is highest for offenders convicted of murder or manslaughter (10.7 years), and lowest for offenders convicted of larceny, fraud/forgery, or drug possession (1.4 years, or about 17 months).

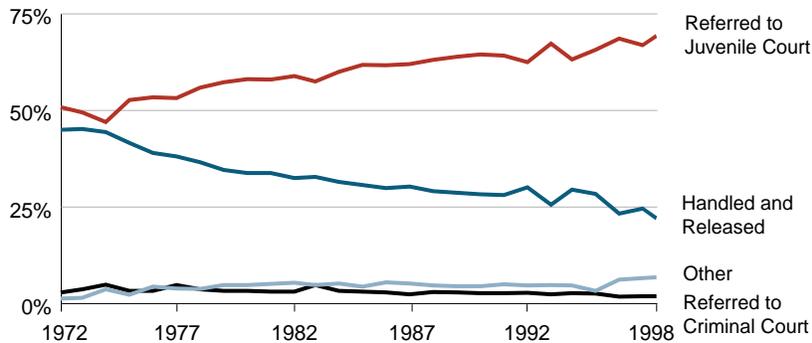
◆ As the line charts indicate, prison sentences for violent offenses decreased 3 months and time served increased 3 months. For property offenses, sentences decreased 8 months and time served increased 3 months. For drug offenses, sentences decreased 6 months and time served increased 2 months.

◆ Public order offenses show a different trend than violent, property, and drug offenses; public order prison sentences increased 3 months and time served decreased 1 month.



How are law enforcement agencies and state juvenile courts responding to juvenile delinquency cases?

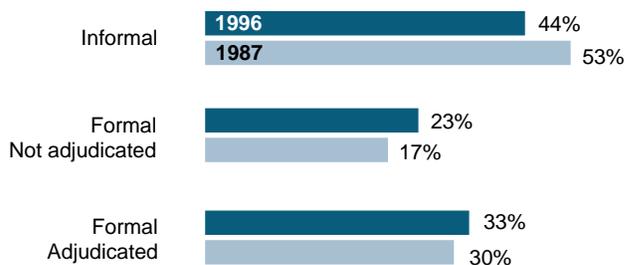
Methods of Police Disposition for Juveniles Taken into Custody, 1972–1998



- ◆ The FBI reports data that describe how police dispose of juvenile cases once an arrest has been made. Since 1972, the police have become less inclined to resolve juvenile arrests informally.

- ◆ In 1972, 51% of police cases were referred to juvenile court; by 1998, this figure had risen to 69%. Conversely, 45% of juveniles taken into custody in 1972 were handled and released by the police, compared to 22% in 1998.

State Juvenile Courts' Handling of Delinquency Cases, 1987–1996



- ◆ After a juvenile complaint has been filed, the court must decide whether the case will be petitioned. If petitioned, the case may be handled informally or made the subject of more formal processing by the juvenile court.

- ◆ Juvenile courts have moved more toward handling delinquency cases formally rather than informally. In 1987, 53% of delinquency cases were handled informally, compared with 44% in 1996.

- ◆ Formal processing does not necessarily mean that the case will end up being adjudicated. In fact, the proportion of cases formally adjudicated in 1996 (33%) has increased little since 1987 (30%).



In recent years states have enacted legislation making it easier for juveniles to be transferred to adult criminal courts.

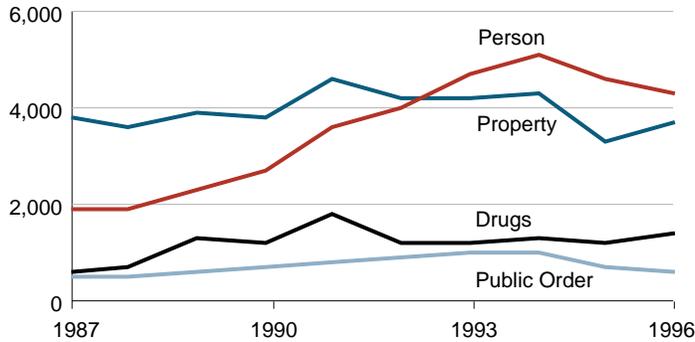
Delinquency Cases Waived to Criminal Court, 1987–1996

	Person	Property	Drugs	Public Order	Total
1987	1,900	3,800	600	500	6,800
1988	1,900	3,600	700	500	6,700
1989	2,300	3,900	1,300	600	8,100
1990	2,700	3,800	1,200	700	8,400
1991	3,600	4,600	1,800	800	10,800
1992	4,000	4,200	1,200	900	10,300
1993	4,700	4,200	1,200	1,000	11,100
1994	5,100	4,300	1,300	1,000	11,700
1995	4,600	3,300	1,200	700	9,800
1996	4,300	3,700	1,400	600	10,000

Percent Change

1987-96	126%	-3%	133%	20%	47%
1994-96	-16%	-14%	8%	-40%	-15%

Cases Waived

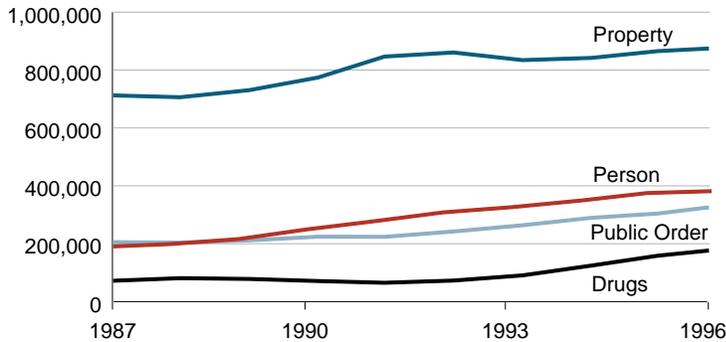


- ◆ An estimated 10,000 juveniles were transferred to adult courts in 1996, the latest year for which data are available.
- ◆ The number of juvenile cases transferred to criminal court from 1987 to 1996 increased most dramatically for person offenses (126%) and for drug offenses (133%).
- ◆ The number of juveniles transferred for property and drug offenses peaked in 1991, while the number waived for person and public order offenses peaked in 1994.
- ◆ Except for drug offenses, which rose 8%, the number of delinquency cases transferred during the 1994–1996 period decreased.
- ◆ In 1987, twice as many juveniles were transferred for property offenses as were transferred for person offenses. Just six years later, in 1993, the number transferred for person offenses exceeded the number transferred for property offenses.



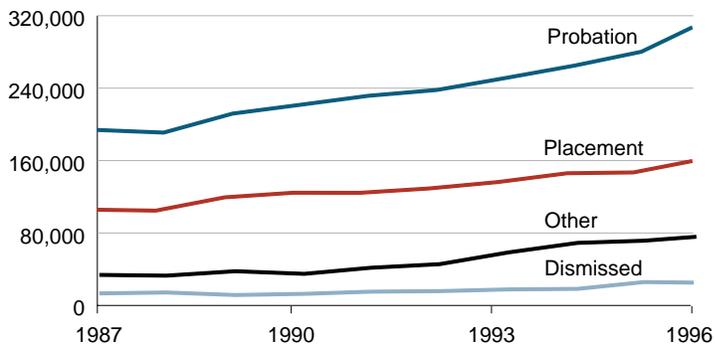
What has been the trend in delinquency case types and dispositions for juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent?

Delinquency Cases by Offense, 1987–1996

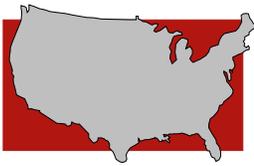


- ◆ There were 381,500 crimes against the person cases filed in 1996. The last decade has seen a doubling of these serious cases filed in state courts; they now make up 22% of the delinquency caseload compared to 16% in 1987.
- ◆ Drug cases increased from 72,100 cases in 1987 to 176,300 cases in 1996. Property cases still comprise the largest share of state court dockets, making up half of the delinquency caseload in 1996. Public order offenses grew 58% between 1987 and 1996.

Adjudicated Delinquency Cases by Disposition, 1987–1996



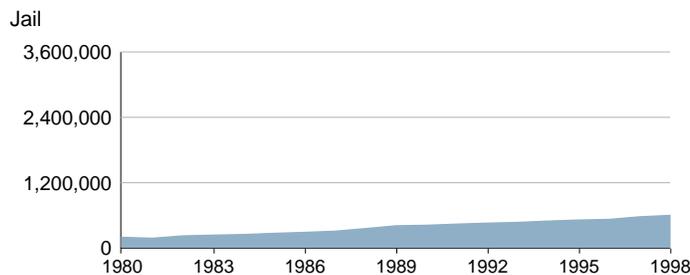
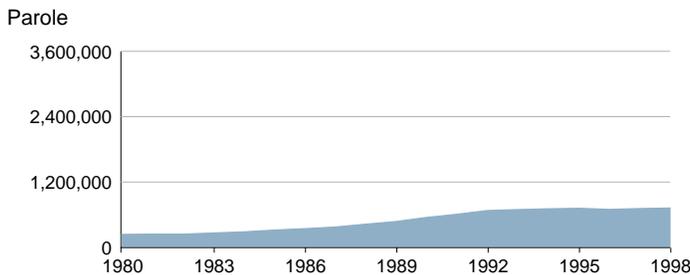
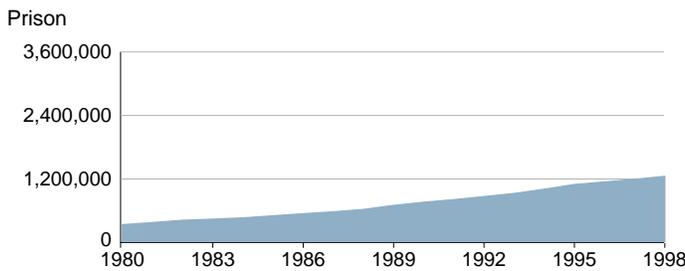
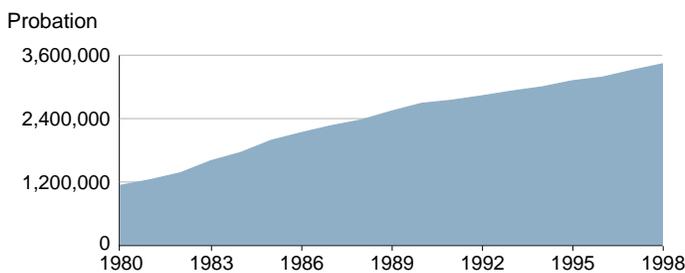
- ◆ The most frequent juvenile court disposition in delinquency cases is probation. In 1996, there were 306,900 probation dispositions, representing over half of all adjudications for delinquency cases.
- ◆ Dismissal of the charges is relatively rare (4% of the cases), and can be contingent on the juvenile successfully completing a court-ordered program. Of those adjudicated delinquent in 1996, 28% received a residential placement. “Other” dispositions, including fines, restitution, community service, and referrals to treatment or social service providers, have shown the greatest increase since 1990.



Supervision and Punishment of Offenders

How have the changes in arrests and convictions affected the size and composition of adult and community correctional populations?

Adults on Probation, in Prison, on Parole, or in Jail



◆ The majority of the offenders under the supervision of the criminal justice system are on probation. In 1980, about 61% of those under supervision were on probation; in 1998, this percentage was 58%.

◆ Since 1980, the percentage increase (290%) of offenders in prison has been greater than the increase for any other type of correctional supervision.

◆ Although men make up the vast majority of inmates in prisons, the growth rate for women inmates has increased faster than men's, rising 371% since 1982.

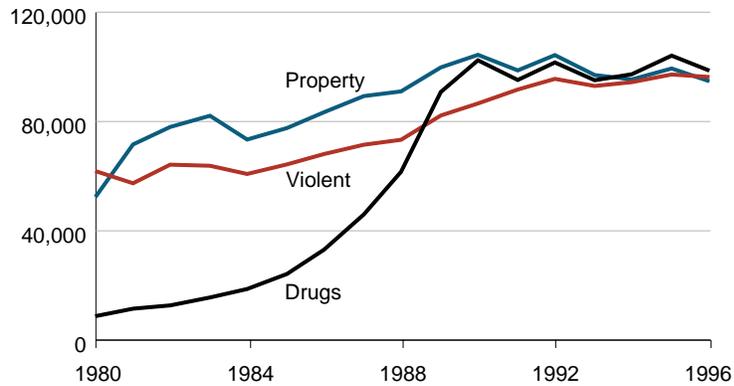
Number in Prison by Gender

	Men	Women
1982	396,439	17,923
1990	729,840	44,065
1998	1,217,592	84,427
Growth rate 1982-1998	207%	371%

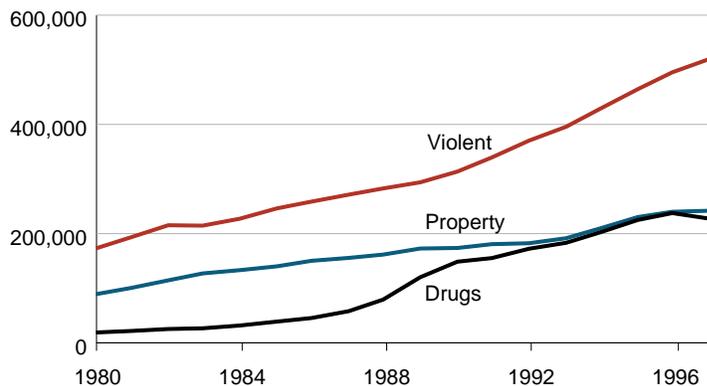


Since 1980, the proportions of violent, drug, and property offenders in state prisons have changed.

New Court Commitments to State Prison



Prisoners in Custody of State Correctional Authorities



◆ The impact of drug offenders on state prison systems can be seen most dramatically by examining new court commitments to prison. In 1980, drug offenders comprised about 7% of new commitments to prison, and violent offenders accounted for about one half of court commitments. In 1996, each of these types of offenders comprised roughly one third of court commitments.

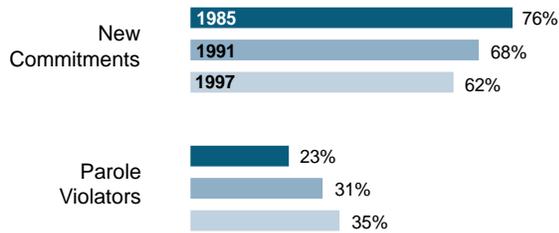
◆ From 1991 to 1996, the number of violent, property, and drug offenders committed to prison equalized; in 1996, each offender group accounted for roughly 100,000 persons each year.

◆ Since 1980, drug offenders have made up an increasing proportion of the incarcerated prison population. Most of this increase has occurred since 1987, when drug offenders comprised only 12% of the prison population, compared with 23% in 1997. The fact that drug offenders comprise a smaller proportion of the incarcerated population than they do of the new court commitments is due to their shorter sentences and lengths of stay.

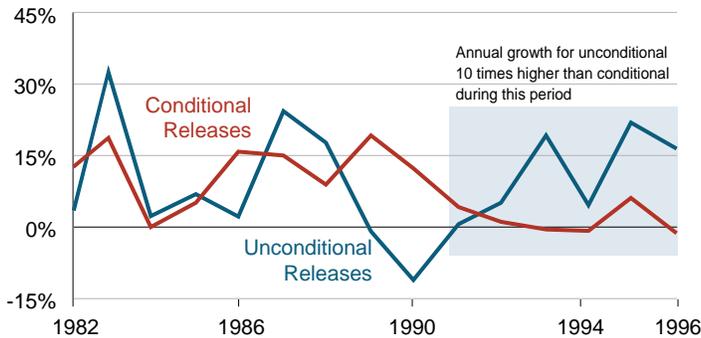


What are the trends in types of prison admissions and releases?

Proportion of Admissions to State Prison:
New Commitments vs. Parole Violators



Annual Growth Rates For Prison Releases, 1982–1996



- ◆ In 1985, new court commitments comprised 76% of admissions to prison. This percentage fell to 62% in 1997.
- ◆ In 1985, almost 1 in 4 prison admissions was for a parole violation. In 1997, that ratio had increased to 1 in 3.
- ◆ A comparison of the annual growth rates for inmates released from prison is shown on the trend chart. Conditional releasees could be imprisoned again as part of their previous sentence for violating conditions of their release. Inmates released unconditionally could not be reimprisoned under the same sentence for which they were originally incarcerated.
- ◆ From 1991 to 1996, the average annual growth in the number of persons released conditionally was 1.5%; for those released unconditionally, the average growth was 11%. The shaded area of the graphic highlights this period of contrasting change.