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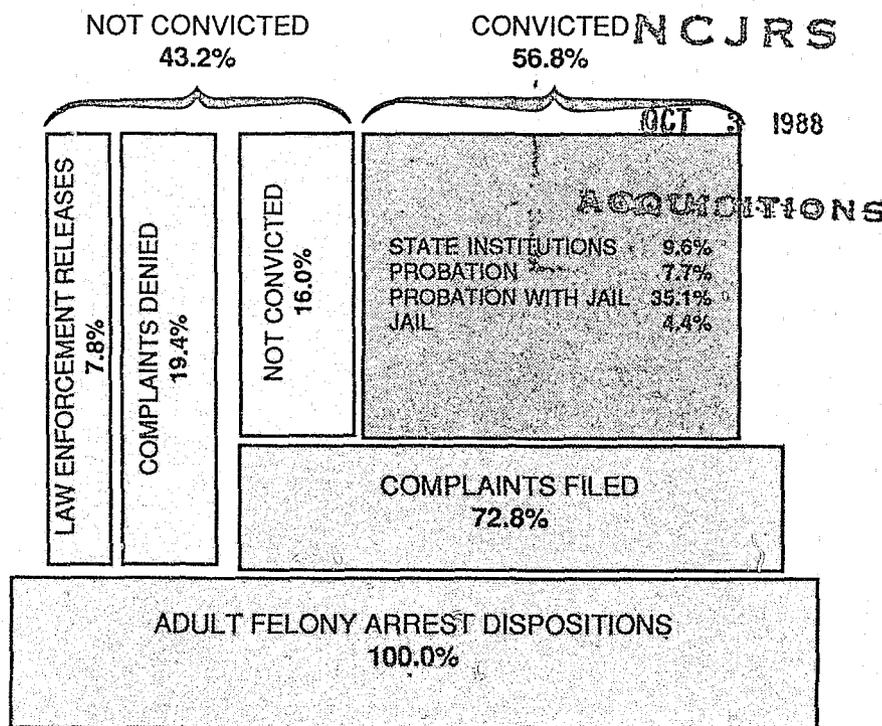
OUTLOOK

ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS IN CALIFORNIA, 1987

This *OUTLOOK* presents a brief description of statewide adult felony arrest dispositions which took place in calendar year 1987. A more complete presentation of disposition data will be published later this year in the regular edition of *Crime and Delinquency in California, 1987* and the publication *Adult Felony Arrest Dispositions in California, 1987*. Additional data can be requested from the Bureau of Criminal Statistics, P.O. Box 903427, Sacramento, California 94203-4270.

Last year a special feature highlighted the convictions for the largest offense category, drug law violations. This year the special feature will highlight the next largest category - theft. Conviction rates based on complaints filed for the three offense groups (violent crimes, property crimes, and drug law violations) are also discussed on page 4.

DISPOSITIONS OF ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1987



TOTAL DISPOSITIONS

Out of 270,496 final 1987 dispositions of adult felony arrests, 27.2 percent of the offenders received some form of final disposition before reaching the court level. An additional 16.0 percent were either dismissed or acquitted by the courts. The remaining 56.8 percent were convicted and sentenced.

POINT OF DISPOSITION

Data from the Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) system indicate that about 1,100 criminal justice agencies reported dispositions of adult felony arrests in 1987. Of the total arrestee/defendant group:

7.8 percent were released at the law enforcement level.

19.4 percent had a complaint denied at the prosecutor level.

44.2 percent received lower court dispositions.

28.6 percent received superior court dispositions.

Notes: Probation includes straight probation, fine, and other (no sentence given and sentence suspended). State institutions are comprised of prison, Youth Authority, and California Rehabilitation Center. Prison includes 25 death penalty sentences.

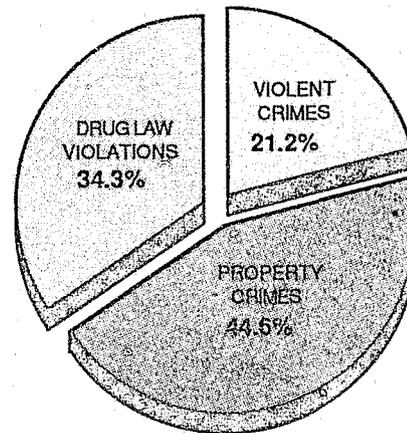
# OUTLOOK

## CONVICTED OFFENSES

Of persons convicted (120,615) in lower and superior courts of violent crimes, property crimes, and drug law violations in 1987:

- 21.2 percent were convicted of violent crimes (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and assault).
- 44.6 percent were convicted of property crimes (burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft).
- 34.3 percent were convicted of drug law violations (narcotics, marijuana, dangerous drugs, and all other).

**COURT CONVICTIONS FOR VIOLENT CRIMES, PROPERTY CRIMES, AND DRUG LAW VIOLATIONS, 1987**  
By Type of Offense



## PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The OBTS system also compiles personal data on adult felony arrestees with known demographic characteristics. Of those who were convicted in 1987:

### Age at Conviction

- 9.6 percent were under 20 years of age.
- 52.8 percent were between 20-29.
- 27.5 percent were between 30-39.
- 10.1 percent were 40 or over.

### Race/Ethnic Group

- 39.8 percent were White (not Hispanic).
- 29.0 percent were Black.
- 29.0 percent were Hispanic.
- 2.2 percent were of other race/ethnic groups.

### Sex

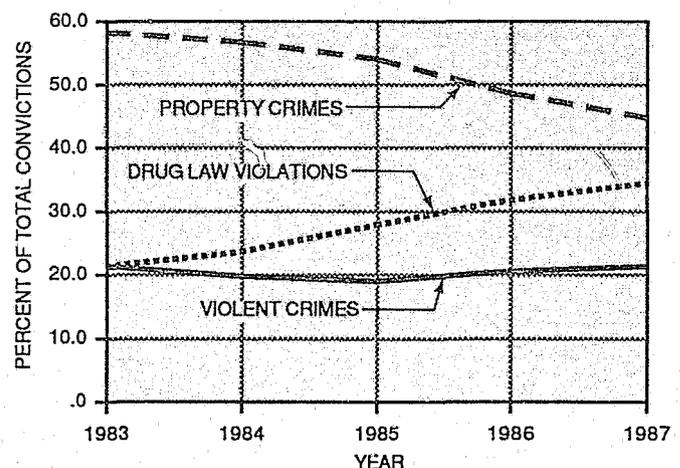
- 84.8 percent were males.
- 15.2 percent were females.

## CONVICTED OFFENSES, 1983-1987

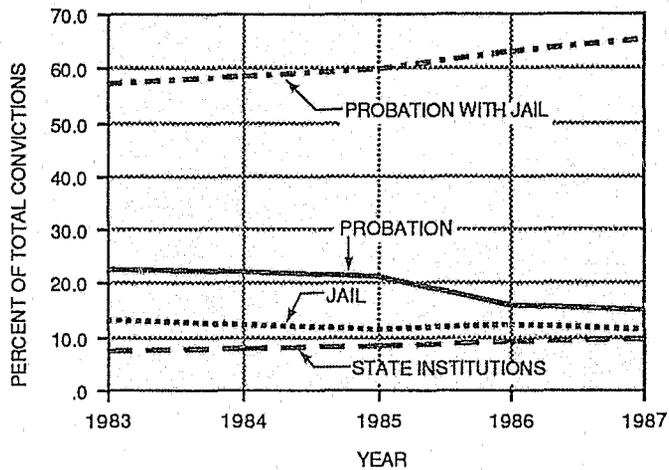
Major changes have occurred in the last five years in two of the three convicted offense categories. Between 1983 and 1987, of all convictions in these categories, the proportion of:

- Convictions for violent crimes changed little — from 21.1 percent to 21.2 percent; but
- Convictions for property crimes decreased from 57.9 percent to 44.6 percent; and
- Convictions for drug law violations showed the biggest change, increasing from 21.1 percent to 34.3 percent.

**ADULT FELONY ARRESTEES CONVICTED, 1983-1987**  
By Offense Category



**THEFT CONVICTIONS, 1983-1987**  
By Sentence

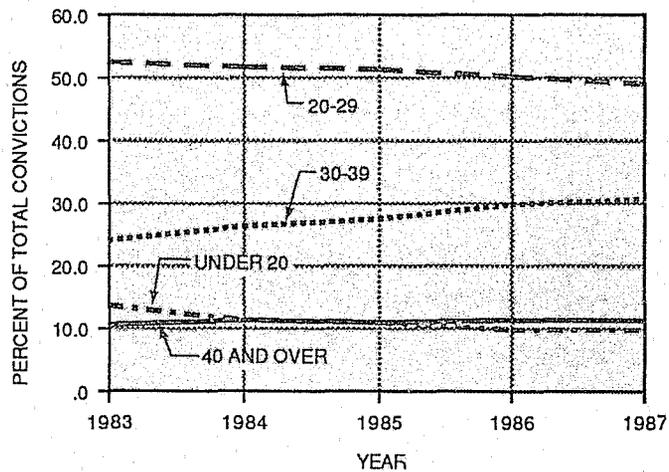


**THEFT CONVICTIONS**

This segment examines the proportions of convictions for theft by sentence, age, and race/ethnic group. Theft convictions comprise nearly 60 percent of the total convictions for property crimes and are second only to drug law violation convictions. Between 1983 and 1987:

- ❑ The proportion of probation sentences decreased from 22.5 percent to 14.8 percent.
- ❑ The proportion of probation with jail sentences increased from 57.0 percent to 65.0 percent.
- ❑ The proportion of state institutions sentences increased slightly from 7.3 percent to 9.2 percent while jail sentences decreased from 13.2 percent to 11.0 percent.

**THEFT CONVICTIONS, 1983-1987**  
By Age

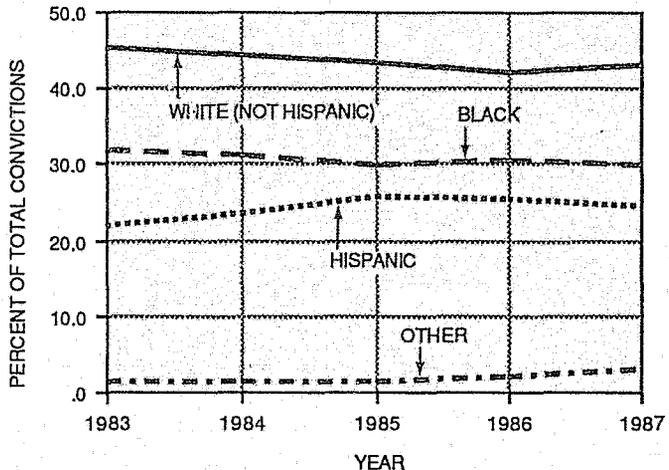


**AGE CATEGORIES**

The ages of those convicted of theft offenses have shifted from younger to older defendants. Between 1983 and 1987 the proportion of convictions for:

- ❑ The under 20 age group decreased from 13.3 percent to 9.7 percent.
- ❑ The 20-29 age group decreased from 52.5 percent to 48.7 percent.
- ❑ The 30-39 age group increased from 23.8 percent to 30.5 percent.
- ❑ The 40 and over age group increased from 10.3 percent to 11.2 percent.

**THEFT CONVICTIONS, 1983-1987**  
By Race/Ethnic Group



**RACE/ETHNIC CATEGORIES**

A review of the race/ethnic breakdown for theft convictions as a proportion of total convictions indicates that between 1983 and 1987:

- ❑ Whites (not Hispanic) decreased from 45.3 percent to 42.9 percent.
- ❑ Blacks decreased from 31.8 percent to 29.8 percent.
- ❑ Hispanics increased from 21.8 percent to 24.3 percent.
- ❑ Other increased from 1.2 percent to 2.9 percent.

NCJRS  
Acquisition Dept. No. 2  
Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20850

Att: Teresa Turner

## CONVICTIONS BASED ON COMPLAINTS FILED

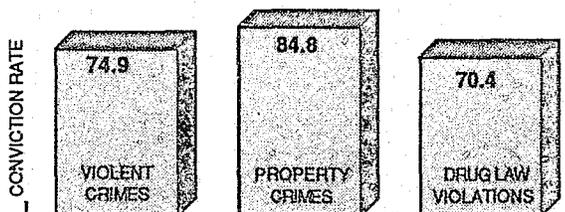
Historically, the Bureau has based percentage comparisons on the total number of reported dispositions in each calendar year period. This method, which includes law enforcement releases and complaints denied, results in a 1987 statewide conviction rate of 56.8 percent (see page 1). By excluding law enforcement releases and complaints denied, over which the court system has no control, proportionate comparisons can be made which more accurately describe the court disposition process. Using this procedure, the 1987 statewide court conviction rate is 78.0 percent. →

Note: When 1988 OBTS data are distributed in 1989, information will also be displayed on petitions to revoke probation, parole revocations, pre-filing deferrals, and diversions dismissed in court.

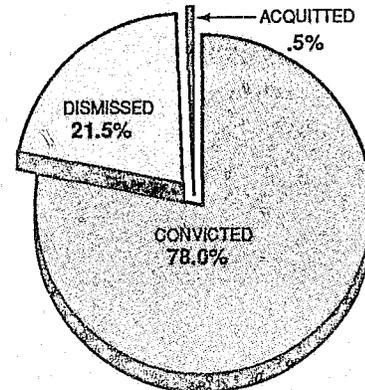
## OFFENSE CATEGORY

The 1987 conviction rates based on complaints filed for the three major offense categories are: violent crimes - 74.9 percent, property crimes - 84.8 percent, and drug law violations - 70.4 percent. ↓

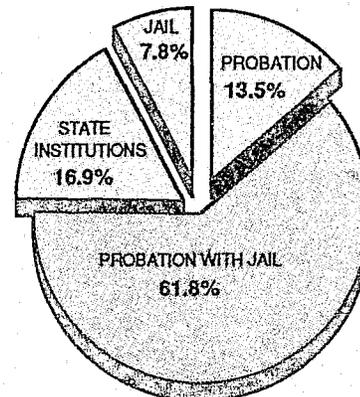
CONVICTION RATES BASED ON COMPLAINTS FILED, 1987



## DISPOSITIONS OF COMPLAINTS FILED RESULTING FROM ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1987 By Type of Disposition



## LOWER AND SUPERIOR COURT SENTENCES RESULTING FROM ADULT FELONY ARRESTS, 1987 By Type of Sentence



The California Department of Justice  
Division of Law Enforcement  
Criminal Identification and Information Branch  
Bureau of Criminal Statistics and Special Services

JOHN K. VAN DE KAMP, Attorney General

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AUTHOR: Ted Olsen,  
Crime Studies Technician