

12. Crime

Crime rate statistics include information on crimes reported, staffing of the criminal justice system, and numbers incarcerated or on probation. Interpretation of crime statistics is difficult as they may be indicative of any number of local conditions and attitudes, both negative and positive. An above average rate of reported crime in an area can be a direct reflection of social problems in a community. It can also indicate a greater willingness within the community to report crime, perhaps due to a more cooperative relationship between local law enforcement and the general citizenry. The adequacy of local law enforcement resources is generally reflected, not in rates of reported crime, but rather in the conviction rate. Incarceration rates relative to serious crimes reported may be an indicator of the effectiveness of local prosecution, including whether sufficient resources are allocated to local police and prosecutors. While it is reported that more than 25 million Americans are victims of crime each year, the Bureau of Justice Statistics states, based on the National Crime Victimization Survey, that violent crime rates have declined from 51,200 in 1994 to 22,300 in 2003, the lowest rate ever recorded.

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Reported Crime & Crime Rates

Overview

Crime counts are a summation of crimes reported to local law enforcement agencies. They include misdemeanor and felony reports, but not infractions such as traffic violations. Reported crimes are counted whether or not the criminal is apprehended or identified.

The crime rate is the number of crimes committed per 100,000 people, and includes both violent and property crimes.

Crime rate data can be used to determine whether the amount of crime in a given area is increasing or decreasing, and also to show how crime rates from various areas compare to each other. Safety is an important factor for people deciding where to move; an area with a high crime rate is a much less attractive place to live than one with a low crime rate. While it is often difficult to predict when or where a crime will be committed, individuals and communities can help with prevention by taking note of patterns and trends collected by legitimate agencies.

Crime rates could rise and fall with increasing or decreasing incidence of crime, but rates could also change

if more or fewer crimes are reported to local law enforcement agencies. Therefore, careful analysis is needed when evaluating change in crime rates.

According to the Bureau of Justice, for the year 2003, overall violent crimes in the U.S. were more likely to occur during the day than at night; some crimes exhibited different patterns. Fifty-three percent of violent crimes occurred between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Almost 66 percent of rapes and sexual assaults occurred at night between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. In 2003, approximately 25 percent of violent crimes occurred at or near the victim's home. Common locales for violent crimes were on streets other than those near the victim's home (17 percent), at school (14 percent), or at a commercial establishment (7 percent). Urban residents had the highest violent victimization rates, followed by suburban resident rates. Rural residents had the lowest rates. The crime rate in Northern California is typically lower than in Southern California, due in part to lower population density in the northern counties.

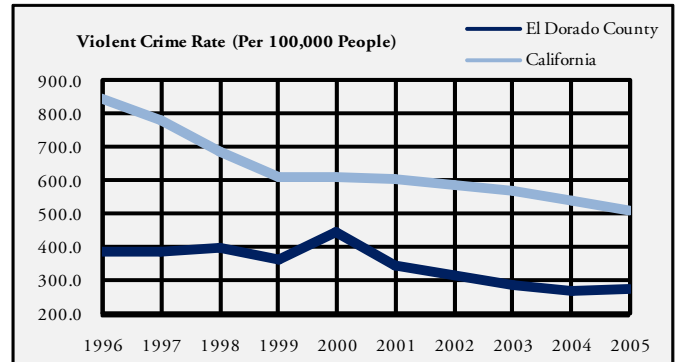
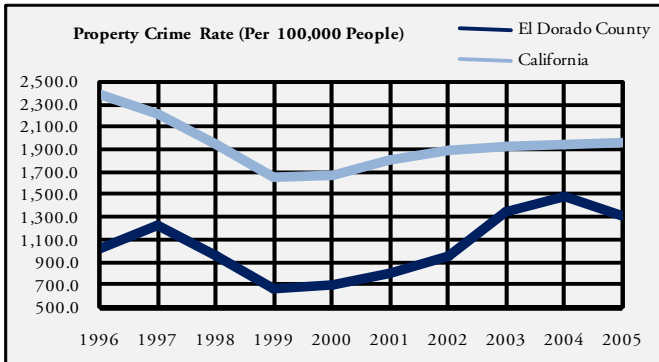
Property crime makes up about 75 percent of all crime in the United States. Overall, in about 83 percent of all burglaries, the offender gained entry into the victim's residence or other building on the property. Approximately 74 percent of all attempted motor vehicle thefts were completed. Property crime, regardless of the type, occurred more often to those living in rented property. In 2003, the western portion of the U.S. experienced the highest rates of property crime overall in the nation.

Reported Crimes

Year	Property Crimes				Violent Crimes				Total
	Burglary	Motor-vehicle theft	Larceny over \$400	Total	Homicide	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	
1996	1,163	307	720	2,190	2	35	56	464	557
1997	1,402	396	653	2,451	4	47	39	482	572
1998	1,150	284	626	2,060	7	45	50	496	598
1999	820	209	534	1,563	3	38	41	468	550
2000	807	293	612	1,712	3	37	29	633	702
2001	1,059	271	602	1,932	5	43	42	473	563
2002	1,212	371	643	2,226	4	41	50	429	524
2003	1,009	446	811	2,266	2	44	61	374	481
2004	1,149	516	873	2,538	2	45	59	361	467
2005	1,010	518	780	2,308	5	21	42	414	482

Source: California Department of Justice

NOTE: CCI stands for the California Crime Index.



El Dorado County

There were 2,308 property crimes and 482 violent crimes in El Dorado County in 2005. The crime rate in the county in 2005 was 1,589, which reflects a decrease of 230 property crimes per 100,000 people from the preceding year.

County Crime Rate (Per 100,000 People)

Year	Property crime		Total
	crime rate	rate	
1996	1,015.9	384.9	1,400.8
1997	1,219.8	388.1	1,607.9
1998	954.7	398.1	1,352.9
1999	675.2	360.9	1,036.1
2000	694.9	443.5	1,138.3
2001	811.5	343.5	1,155.0
2002	958.2	317.2	1,275.4
2003	1,347.2	286.0	1,633.2
2004	1,473.9	271.2	1,745.1
2005	1,314.4	274.5	1,588.9

Source: California Department of Justice, California Department of Finance population estimate; Rates calculated by CED

California Crime Rate (Per 100,000 People)

Year	Property crime		Total
	crime rate	rate	
1996	2,377.4	848.2	3,225.6
1997	2,216.0	781.0	2,997.0
1998	1,943.9	686.0	2,629.9
1999	1,649.8	610.7	2,260.5
2000	1,677.2	610.5	2,287.7
2001	1,801.1	605.6	2,406.7
2002	1,891.1	589.2	2,480.3
2003	1,928.9	569.4	2,498.3
2004	1,946.4	539.6	2,486.0
2005	1,952.0	512.3	2,464.3

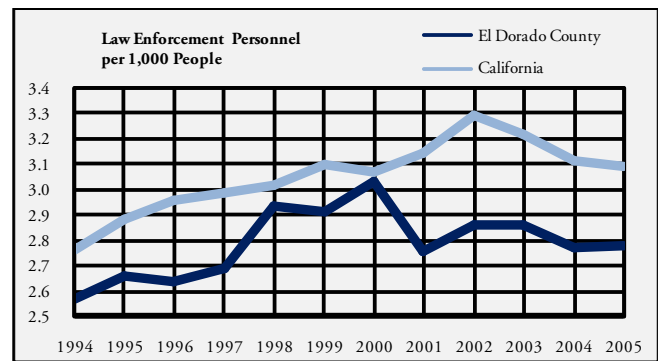
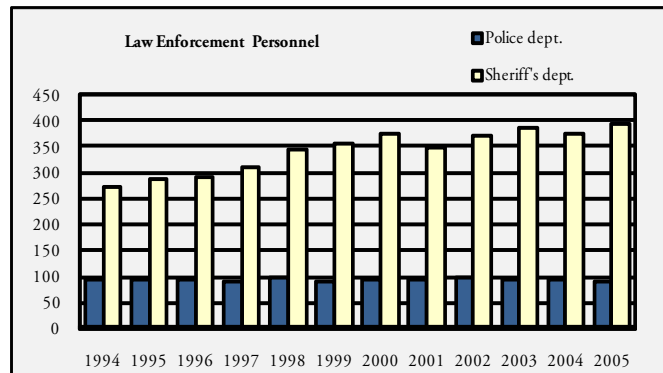
Source: California Department of Justice, California Department of Finance population estimate; Rates calculated by CED

Criminal Justice Personnel

Overview

Criminal justice personnel includes the law enforcement employees working in the different agencies as reported by the California Department of Justice. The following types of criminal justice personnel are shown:

- Law enforcement or sworn officers and civilian employees in local law enforcement agencies, including city police and county sheriff's departments
- Prosecution or personnel involved in the prosecution of the accused
- Public defense or personnel primarily responsible for representing those unable to hire a private lawyer
- Trial courts or primary and auxiliary judges employed during trials



Criminal Justice Personnel

	Law Enforcement			Prosecution				Public Defense		Trial Courts			
	Police dept.	Sheriff's dept.	Total	Attorneys	Investigators	Clerical	Other	Total	Attorneys	Total	Judges	Auxiliary	Total
1994	94	271	365	18	8	24	43	93	9	14	6	1	7
1995	93	289	382	19	8	25	42	94	9	15	6	2	8
1996	93	292	385	21	13	25	49	108	9	14	6	2	8
1997	90	309	399	20	13	24	51	108	9	14	6	2	8
1998	100	343	443	20	13	24	51	108	10	16	6	2	8
1999	92	354	446	20	13	24	55	112	10	16	6	2	8
2000	96	376	472	21	10	25	59	115	10	17	6	2	8
2001	95	347	442	22	13	25	57	117	10	17	6	2	8
2002	97	372	469	18	10	18	10	56	11	18	6	3	9
2003	94	384	478	17	9	17	9	52	11	17	6	3	9
2004	96	376	472	17	9	15	9	50	11	17	6	3	9
2005	89	393	482	18	9	15	9	51	12	18	6	3	9

Source: California Department of Justice

NOTE: The California Department of Justice relies on local agencies to report the number of criminal justice personnel in their area every year.

Criminal justice personnel information helps identify the types of criminal justice employment within a county. Counties with higher incidence of crime need greater numbers of criminal justice personnel to handle the caseload. If crime is rising and the number of criminal justice personnel is not keeping pace, then local personnel are likely handling greater workloads.

El Dorado County

The total number of law enforcement personnel in El Dorado County increased from 548 in 2004 to 560 in 2005. There was an increase of seventeen sheriff's department personnel in the same year. In the state of California, the total number of personnel increased from 127,640 in 2004 to 128,610 in 2005, according to the California Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

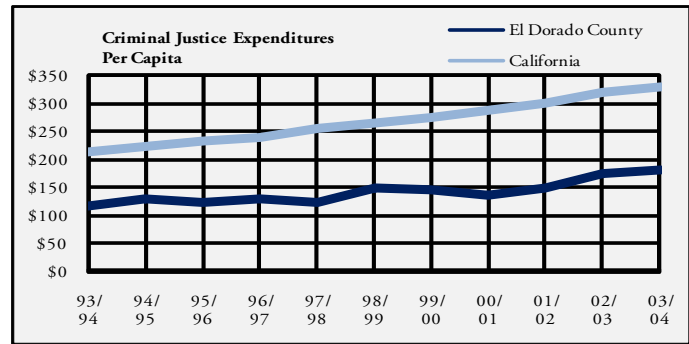
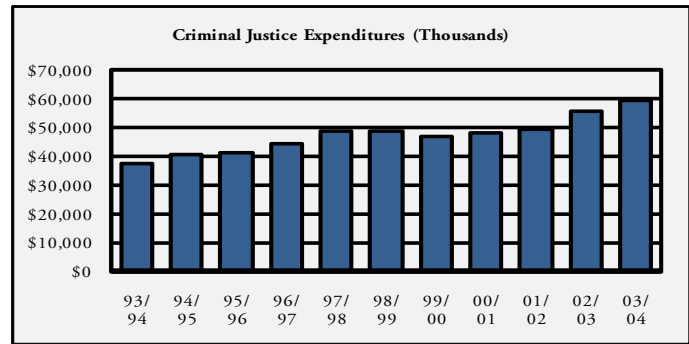
Crime Expenditures

Overview

Criminal justice expenditures include the amount of money spent by a county in a fiscal year, according to the California Department of Justice. These expenses include employee salaries and benefits, as well as services and supplies. Capital expenditures (expenditures made to acquire, add to, or improve property, plant, and equipment) and construction and maintenance of structures are not included in the data.

NOTE: The California Department of Justice relies on local agencies to report the number of criminal justice personnel in their area every year. Local government expenditure reports may show different spending patterns on criminal justice line items, which usually include capital expenditures. The data reported to the department should include some expenditures entered in administrative line items, as well.

Expenditures for criminal justice programs in a county measure the amount of money allocated to local law enforcement each year. However, that statistic is somewhat ambiguous because high expenditures may imply a local problem with crime or a budgetary priority for prevention or prosecution of crimes.



Criminal Justice Expenditures (Thousands)

Year	Law Enforcement Expenditures		Custody/ Supervision Expenditures		Prosecution	Public defense	Grand total
	Expenditures	Judicial Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures			
93/94	\$ 16,523	\$ 6,005	\$ 8,992	\$ 5,283	\$ 955	\$ 37,758	
94/95	\$ 18,728	\$ 6,023	\$ 9,302	\$ 5,545	\$ 1,014	\$ 40,612	
95/96	\$ 18,017	\$ 6,636	\$ 10,218	\$ 5,645	\$ 1,016	\$ 41,532	
96/97	\$ 19,238	\$ 6,844	\$ 10,674	\$ 6,346	\$ 1,052	\$ 44,154	
97/98	\$ 18,390	\$ 11,031	\$ 11,522	\$ 6,601	\$ 1,104	\$ 48,648	
98/99	\$ 22,827	\$ 5,970	\$ 11,844	\$ 6,843	\$ 1,148	\$ 48,632	
99/00	\$ 22,714	\$ 4,068	\$ 11,452	\$ 7,372	\$ 1,266	\$ 46,872	
00/01	\$ 21,646	\$ 4,112	\$ 12,893	\$ 7,905	\$ 1,312	\$ 47,868	
01/02	\$ 24,596	\$ 4,469	\$ 14,712	\$ 4,349	\$ 1,481	\$ 49,607	
02/03	\$ 29,422	\$ 4,726	\$ 15,252	\$ 4,477	\$ 1,677	\$ 55,551	
03/04	\$ 30,863	\$ 4,963	\$ 17,467	\$ 4,673	\$ 1,596	\$ 59,562	

Source: California Department of Justice

El Dorado County

In FY03, over \$59.5 million was spent in criminal justice expenditures in El Dorado County, and those expenditures have increased over \$21.8 million since FY93. Between FY93 and FY03, custody/supervision expenditures increased the most, with a 49 percent increase. This increase in expenditures was followed by law enforcement expenditures (46 percent) and public defense expenditures (40 percent). Judicial expenditures (-17 percent) and prosecution expenditures (-12 percent) experienced decreases over the same time period.

Probation Caseload

Overview

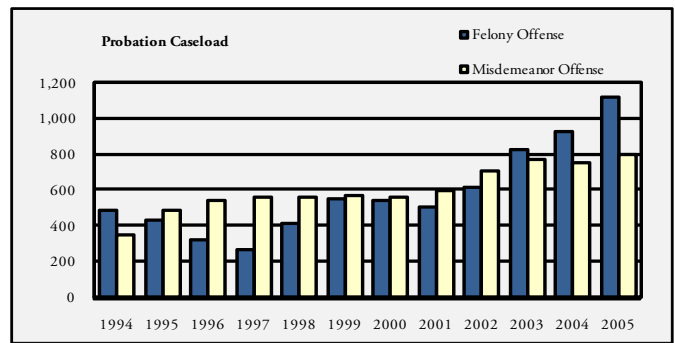
Probation allows people who have been convicted of a minor crime to serve time outside criminal justice facilities, performing various duties such as trash collection, park cleanup, and landscape maintenance of the surrounding community.

The data here includes adults on active probation as of December 31 of each year. As of 1998, caseload labels were changed from superior courts and lower courts to felony offense and misdemeanor offense due to court consolidations. Counties that have consolidated their courts report only felony offenses.

Significant probation caseloads in a county can be indicative of minor criminal activity within the community, a criminal justice system that relies on community-based rehabilitation programs, or any number of additional factors.

El Dorado County

There were a total of 1,912 probation cases in El Dorado County in 2005, with 1,116 cases related to felony offenses (an increase of forty-five from the previous year) and 796 related to misdemeanors (a decrease of ten from the previous year). Between 1995 and 2002, the number of probation cases for misdemeanor offenses was higher than the number of felony cases.



Probation Caseload

Year	Felony Offense	Misdemeanor Offense	Total
1994	486	349	835
1995	428	488	916
1996	318	537	855
1997	262	555	817
1998	409	561	970
1999	552	568	1,120
2000	541	562	1,103
2001	506	597	1,103
2002	613	706	1,319
2003	820	768	1,588
2004	929	748	1,677
2005	1,116	796	1,912

Source: California Department of Justice

Jailed Population

Overview

This is the total number of people housed temporarily in the county jail. It includes persons waiting for trial, those on trial, and those who are convicted and either serving short-term sentences or waiting relocation to a correctional facility.

Local detention facilities include Types II through IV. Type I data was not included in the figures because so few of these facilities exist in Northern California. However, a definition of a Type I facility is included below for your information.

A Type I facility is a local detention facility used to detain persons for less than ninety-six hours, excluding holidays, after booking. Such a facility may also detain persons on court order, persons sentenced to a city jail as an inmate worker, inmate workers sentenced to the county jail, provided such placement in the facility is made on a voluntary basis on the part of the inmate.

A Type II facility is a local detention facility used for detaining persons pending arraignment, after arraignment, during trial, and commitment upon sentencing.

A Type III facility is a local detention facility used only for detaining convicted and sentenced persons.

A Type IV facility is a local detention facility designated for housing inmates who are eligible, under Penal Code Section 1208, for work and education furlough or other programs involving inmate access to the community.

NOTE: Persons in jail are included in the total population of the county (section one), whether or not they were permanent residents of the county before being arrested. For example, in 2005, the total population in El Dorado County was 172,945, including incarcerated persons.

Data on the average number of adults populating local jails provides another way of determining the amount of crime in an area, the effectiveness of local prosecution, and how much of the area's resources are used to provide detainment.

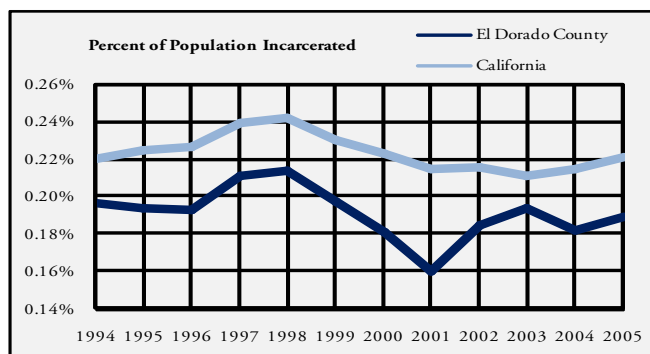
El Dorado County

As of 2005, 329 people were incarcerated in El Dorado County. Of those sentenced, 141 were males and thirty-three were females. Of those not sentenced, 136 were males and nineteen were females. Collectively, the incarcerated population in El Dorado County made up 0.19 percent of the county's total population in 2005.

Average Daily Jail Population (Type II, III & IV Facilities)

	Sentenced		Non-Sentenced		Total incarcerated population	Percent of population incarcerated
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
1994	116	15	128	20	279	0.20%
1995	158	19	89	12	278	0.19%
1996	188	17	69	7	281	0.19%
1997	184	23	94	12	313	0.21%
1998	164	21	123	15	323	0.21%
1999	146	21	120	15	302	0.20%
2000	135	26	109	12	282	0.18%
2001	104	21	117	14	256	0.16%
2002	132	24	131	15	302	0.18%
2003	141	20	144	18	323	0.19%
2004	139	22	128	20	309	0.18%
2005	141	33	136	19	329	0.19%

Source: California Department of Justice



Registrants as a percentage of those estimated to be eligible to vote is indicative of the level of civic participation and political involvement within the community. Communities with high levels of voter participation ordinarily have a strong sense of community and that may be a characteristic attractive to potential new residents and also to new businesses and potential employers.

El Dorado County

As of January 22, 2008, of the 126,891 El Dorado County residents eligible to register to vote, 79 percent were registered. In comparison, 68.5 percent of eligibles were registered in California.

In the county, 31 percent of eligible voters were registered Democrat and 46 percent were registered Republican. In California, 43 percent of eligible voters were registered Democrat and 33 percent were registered Republican. For a complete listing of registered voters by political affiliation, please see the chart on the previous page.