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WOMEN IN CRIME: The Female Arrestee

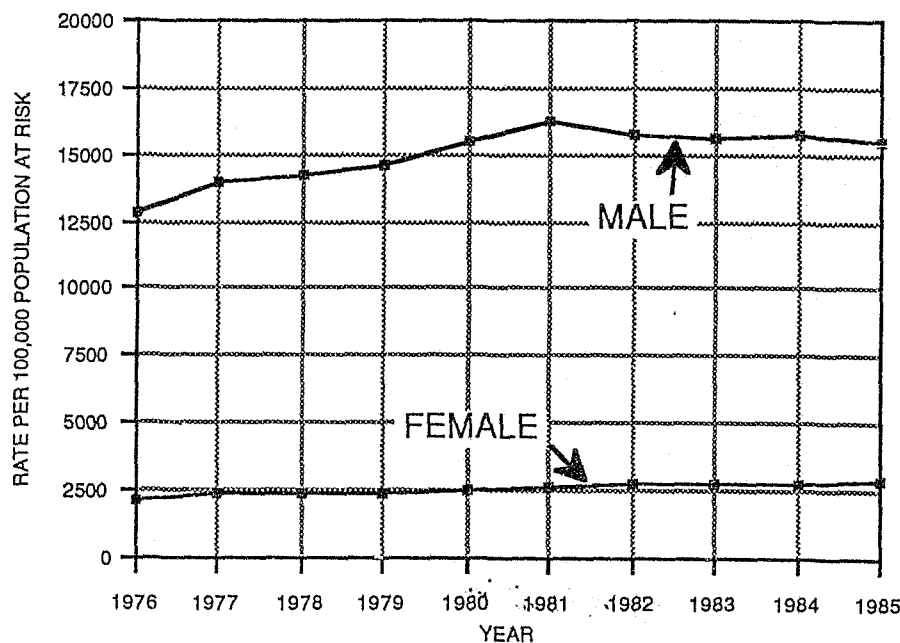
In 1976, there were 1,366,988 felony and misdemeanor arrests reported by California law enforcement agencies. Female arrests accounted for 13.9 percent of that number. By 1985, total arrests had grown to 1,690,267, and female arrests accounted for 15.4 percent of that total.

Because of their relatively small representation among offenders in the criminal justice system, the characteristics and trends of female arrestees have been overshadowed. Therefore, this *Outlook* presents arrest data with an emphasis on the female arrestee.

Proportions and rates are used to measure the growth of female arrests and the characteristics of female arrestees. Rates presented are based on arrests per 100,000 population at risk. The 10-59 year age group was selected as the "at risk" population. The proportional breakdowns of female arrests by offense grouping, race/ethnic group, and age group have remained relatively constant over the past five years. Therefore, 1985 data are used to describe the characteristics of female arrests in these areas.

TOTAL ARREST RATES, 1976-1985

Sex by Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



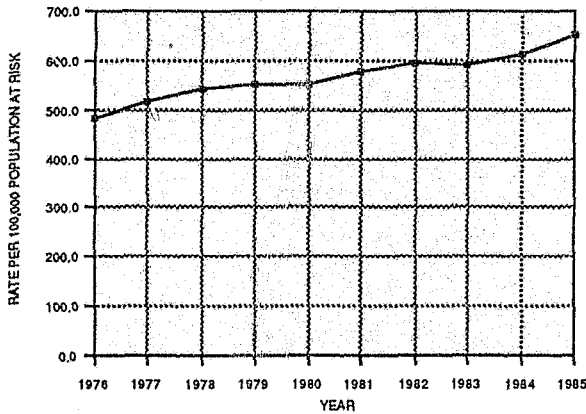
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From 1976 to 1985:

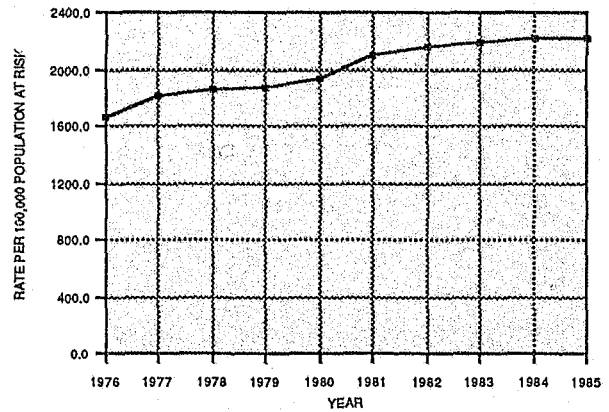
- ☐ Male arrest rates were five to six times greater than female arrest rates.
- ☐ The ten-year trend of male arrest rates increased 19.7 percent; however, from 1981 to 1985 there was a general decline of 4.8 percent.
- ☐ Female arrest rates steadily increased each year (up 33.9 percent over the ten-year period).

OUTLOOK

FEMALE FELONY ARREST RATES, 1976-1985
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



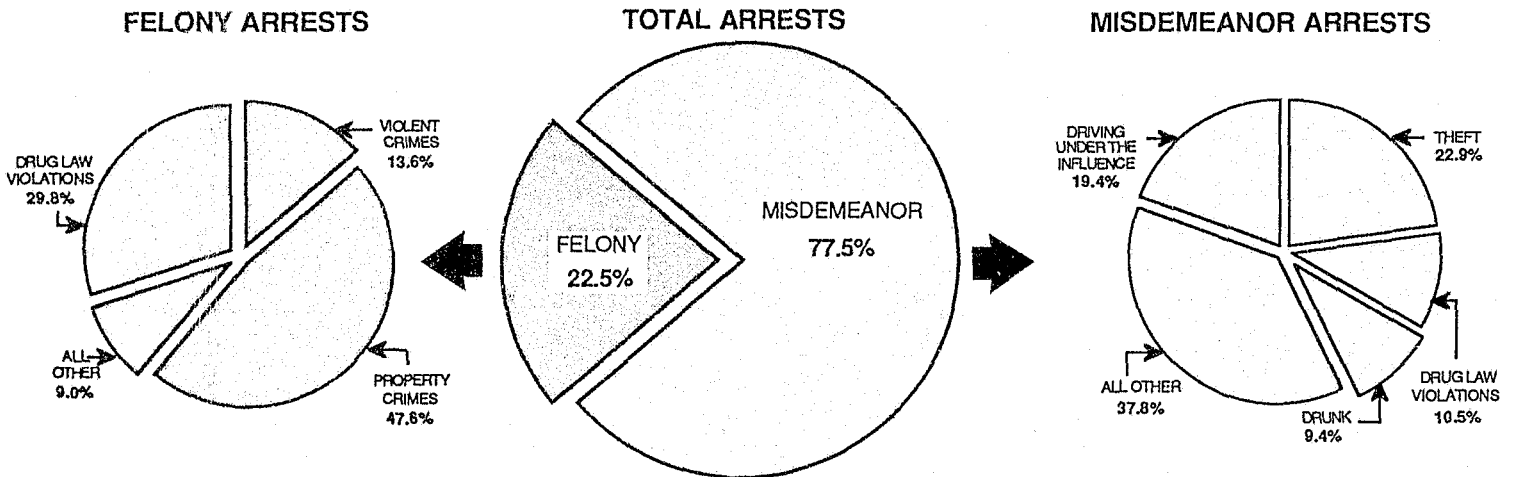
FEMALE MISDEMEANOR ARREST RATES, 1976-1985
Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



From 1976 to 1985:

- Both felony and misdemeanor arrest rates showed similar increases (up 34.8 and 33.6 percent, respectively).
- Misdemeanor arrest rates were three times as great as felony arrest rates.
- The largest increases in arrest rates occurred during the first five years compared to the last five years for both felonies (14.3 vs. 12.3 percent) and misdemeanors (16.4 vs. 5.3 percent).

FEMALE ARRESTS, 1985



Note: The violent crime arrest category includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, and kidnapping offenses. The property crime arrest category includes burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, forgery, and arson offenses.

Of the 260,673 total female arrests in 1985:

- Over three-fourths were misdemeanor arrests (77.5 percent).

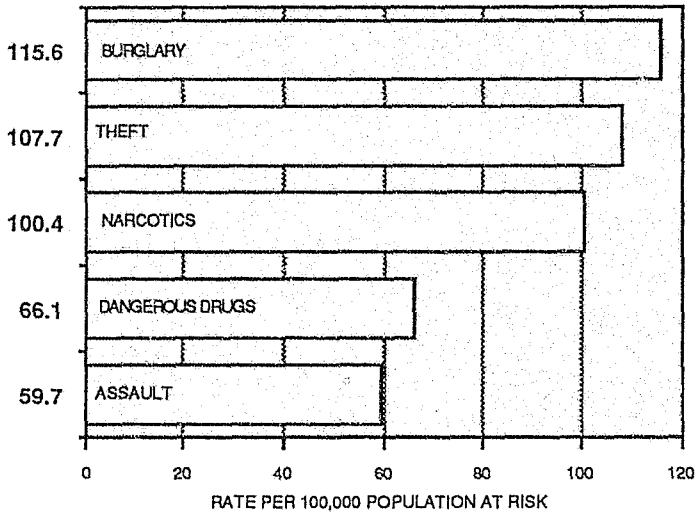
Of the 58,677 female felony arrests in 1985:

- The largest proportions were for property crimes and drug law violations (47.6 and 29.8 percent, respectively).

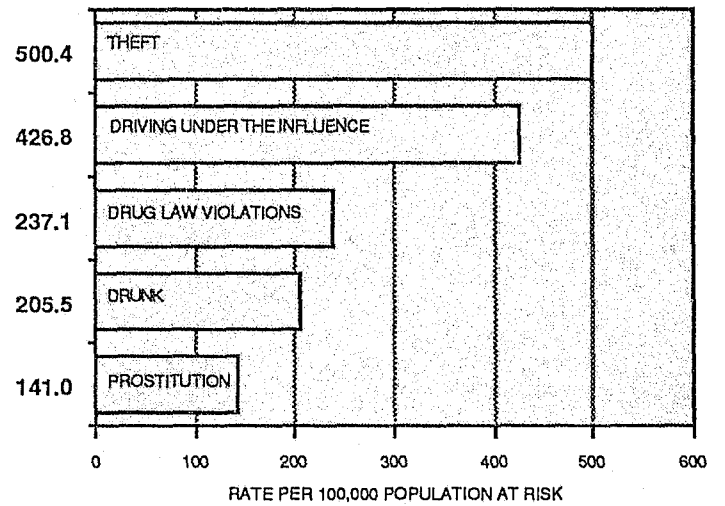
Of the 201,996 female misdemeanor arrests in 1985:

- The largest proportions were for theft and driving under the influence (22.9 and 19.4 percent, respectively).

FEMALE FELONY ARREST RATES, 1985
Offenses Ranked by Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



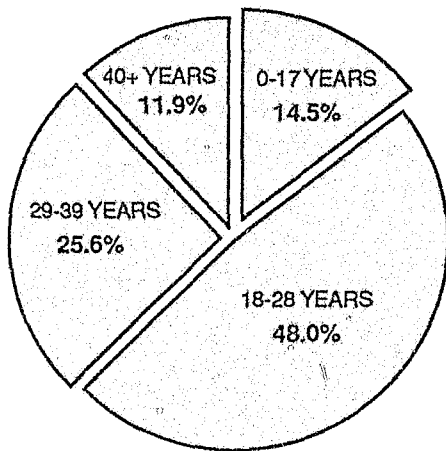
FEMALE MISDEMEANOR ARREST RATES, 1985
Offenses Ranked by Rate per 100,000 Population at Risk



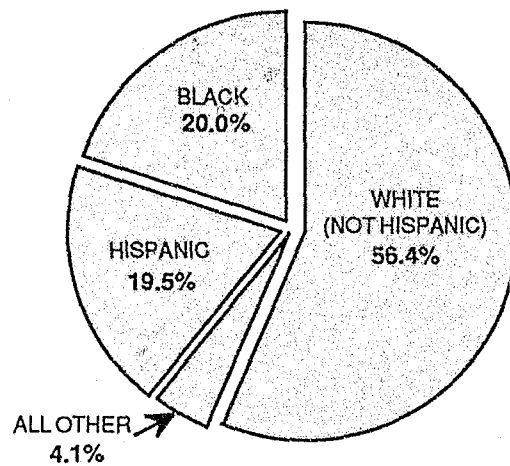
When female arrest offenses were ranked in order of rate per 100,000 population at risk for 1985, it was found that:

- Four of the top five felony offenses were drug or property related.
- Three of the top five misdemeanor offenses were alcohol or drug related.

FEMALE ARRESTEES, 1985
Percent by Age



FEMALE ARRESTEES, 1985
Percent by Race/Ethnic Group



In 1985:

- Almost half (48.0 percent) of the female arrestees were between the ages of 18 and 28.
- Over half (56.4 percent) of the female arrestees were white (not Hispanic).

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MALE/FEMALE FELONY AND MISDEMEANOR ARREST RATES, 1976-1985
 Rates per 100,000 Population at Risk by Sex

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
TOTAL ARREST RATE										
Total	7568.1	8192.5	8370.9	8600.9	9001.0	9465.8	9278.2	9236.8	9306.7	9179.8
Male	12874.9	13921.8	14212.4	14652.4	15462.5	16183.2	15726.3	15608.9	15699.7	15411.1
Female	2137.7	2333.2	2404.4	2423.0	2478.9	2679.0	2749.1	2781.2	2828.5	2862.4
FELONY ARREST RATE										
Total	1822.7	1954.7	2033.5	2136.9	2173.2	2221.2	2191.5	2093.1	2133.2	2270.7
Male	3132.6	3359.8	3495.0	3691.9	3779.9	3846.8	3769.3	3577.3	3635.4	3869.1
Female	482.3	517.7	540.8	549.4	551.5	578.9	593.8	589.6	610.9	650.3
MISDEMEANOR ARREST RATE										
Total	5745.4	6237.8	6337.3	6464.0	6827.8	7244.5	7086.7	7143.7	7173.6	6909.1
Male	9742.3	10562.0	10717.5	10960.4	11682.5	12336.4	11957.0	12031.6	12064.3	11542.0
Female	1655.4	1815.5	1863.5	1873.6	1927.4	2100.1	2155.3	2191.6	2217.6	2212.2