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U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics



Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

Criminal Cases in Five States, 1983-86

Data from the Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) program for California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia show that these 5 States disposed of the cases of 1.9 million persons arrested for felonies from 1983 to 1986. Over 1.6 million of these persons (84%) were prosecuted, and approximately 1.1 million (62%) were convicted of a felony or misdemeanor. During the 4 years more than 750,000 (39%) of these persons received a sentence to a State prison or local jail.

Other findings from an analysis of these 1.9 million records of felony arrests include the following:

- The number of persons arrested per year for a felony increased 18% from 1983 to 1986; the number of persons prosecuted rose 17%, as did the number convicted; and the number of persons sentenced to incarceration was up 28%.

- Drug offenses as a group showed the largest increases: arrests were up 52%; prosecutions, 61%; convictions, 71%; and sentences to incarceration, 104%. Property offenses showed the smallest increases.

- Of every 100 felony arrests during the period, 41 were for property crimes, 26 were for violent crimes, 17 for drug crimes, and 15 for public-order crimes.

- Three-fourths of those persons prosecuted in the five States from 1983 to 1986 were convicted. Of those convicted,

September 1989

The Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) program provides detailed data on the criminal justice processing of those arrested for felonies in participating States. For 1988 as many as 16 States may contribute OBTS data to BJS.

This report tracks nearly 2 million felony cases disposed of in 5 States that provided comparable data from 1983 to 1986.

BJS is grateful to all the States who make the OBTS program possible.

Joseph M. Bessette
Acting Director

18% received a sentence to probation; 14%, a sentence to a fine or other penalty without incarceration; 50%, a sentence to a local jail (usually for less than a year); and 18%, to a State prison.

- Fifteen percent of all felony arrests for violent offenses resulted in a sentence to a State prison. The percentage of arrests concluding with a prison sentence was 10% for property offenses, 9% for drug offenses, and 4% for public-order offenses.

- Most persons arrested for a felony were male (86%), white (62%), and under age 30 (66%).

Summary of criminal cases in five States, 1983-86

	1983	1986	Percent change
All offenses			
Arrests	443,504	521,786	18%
Prosecutions	369,945	433,335	17
Convictions	274,842	322,808	17
Sentences			
Jail	120,035	157,948	32
Prison	45,845	54,632	19
Violent offenses			
Arrests	120,148	138,026	15%
Prosecutions	98,585	111,326	13
Convictions	66,849	72,667	9
Sentences			
Jail	24,247	29,337	21
Prison	18,526	19,351	4
Property offenses			
Arrests	196,269	200,609	2%
Prosecutions	168,634	172,216	2
Convictions	132,143	134,948	2
Sentences			
Jail	64,628	72,285	12
Prison	19,591	21,300	9
Drug offenses			
Arrests	68,447	103,826	52%
Prosecutions	50,921	81,992	61
Convictions	34,364	58,630	71
Sentences			
Jail	17,794	35,883	102
Prison	5,055	10,832	114
Public-order offenses			
Arrests	58,640	79,325	35%
Prosecutions	51,805	57,801	31
Convictions	41,486	56,543	36
Sentences			
Jail	13,366	20,443	53
Prison	2,673	3,149	18

Note: The five States are California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Offender-Based Transaction Statistics

The OBTS program receives information about dispositions of adult felony arrests from criminal justice repositories of participating States.

California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, which contributed the data analyzed in this report, account for about 28% of the Nation's population.

Although they are not necessarily representative of the United States as a whole, the five States do belong to diverse regions and contain a broad spectrum of economic and demographic characteristics.

Outcomes of every 100 arrests in the five States, 1983-86

For every 100 felony arrests in the five States from 1983 to 1986, 84 prosecutions, 62 convictions, and 39 sentences to incarceration resulted (table 1). About 41 of every 100 arrests in the five States were for property offenses. Next most frequent were violent offenses (26 arrests), drug offenses (17), and public-order offenses (15).

Out of every 100 arrests, 29 resulted in jail sentences: violent offenses (6 sentences), property offenses (14), drug offenses (5), and public-order offenses (4). Of the 10 arrest dispositions that were sentences to prison, violent offenses accounted for 4; property offenses, 4; drug offenses, 2; and public-order offenses, 1.

Results of felony arrests

Of the 1.9 million persons with dispositions of felony arrests in the 5 States from 1983 to 1986, 795,500 were charged with a property crime (table 2). Over 506,300 were arrested for violent offenses; 336,700, for drug offenses; and 286,200, for public-order offenses. (See the box on OBTS arrests and offenses.)

The number of arrests reaching final disposition increased each year from 1983 through 1986 within every offense category, except property offenses from 1983 to 1984 and from 1985 to 1986. For all offenses the number of arrest dispositions grew 18%, from 443,500 in 1983 to 521,800 in 1986. Arrests for property offenses had the smallest percentage gain, 2%, and arrests for drugs in the five States had the largest, 52%. In 1983 authorities disposed of 68,400 drug arrests; 3 years later, 103,800 drug arrests.

Table 1. Offender-based transaction statistics in five States, 1983-86

Disposition	For 100 arrests				
	All offenses	Violent offenses	Property offenses	Drug offenses	Public-order offenses
Number of persons:					
Arrested	100	26	41	17	15
Prosecuted	84	21	36	14	13
Convicted	62	14	28	9	11
Sentenced to:					
Jail	29	6	14	5	4
Prison	10	4	4	2	1

Note: The five States are California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 2. Disposition of felony arrests in five States, 1983-86

Arrest offense	Number of persons arrested	Percent of persons arrested who were:			
		Prosecuted	Convicted	Sentenced to incarceration	
				Total	Prison
All offenses	1,924,778	84%	62%	39%	10%
1983	443,504	83	62	37	10
1984	465,538	84	63	39	10
1985	493,950	84	63	40	10
1986	521,786	83	62	41	11
Violent offenses	506,336	82%	55%	36%	15%
1983	120,148	82	56	36	15
1984	121,202	82	56	36	15
1985	126,960	82	54	35	14
1986	138,026	81	53	35	14
Property offenses	795,526	86%	67%	45%	10%
1983	196,269	86	67	43	10
1984	195,956	86	68	44	10
1985	202,692	86	67	45	10
1986	200,609	86	67	47	11
Drug offenses	336,696	78%	54%	40%	9%
1983	68,447	74	50	33	7
1984	75,117	78	53	37	8
1985	89,306	78	55	41	9
1986	103,826	79	57	45	10
Public-order offenses	286,220	88%	73%	29%	4%
1983	58,640	88	71	27	5
1984	73,263	90	75	30	4
1985	74,992	89	75	30	4
1986	79,325	86	71	30	4

Note: The five States are California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Most of the increase in arrests for public-order offenses between 1983 and 1984 is accounted for by a law in Pennsylv-

vania that changed driving under the influence of alcohol from a misdemeanor to a felony, making it reportable under OBTS definitions.

The number of arrest dispositions for public-order offenses increased 25% from 1983 to 1984 principally because Pennsylvania changed driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) from a misdemeanor to a felony. That change in the number of persons arrested for public-order offenses carried through to prosecutions and convictions.

More than four-fifths of arrests in the five States were prosecuted. The OBTS program does not collect information on why some cases were not prosecuted. Among persons categorized by offense, those charged with public-order offenses were most likely to be prosecuted (88% of all arrests for public-order crimes) and to be convicted (73%). Property offenses had the next highest prosecution rate (86% of all arrests for property crimes) and conviction rate (67%). Regardless of offense category, the rate of prosecution changed little from 1983 to 1986.

Twenty-nine percent of felony arrests for public-order offenses led to sentences of incarceration, compared to 36% of arrests for violent offenses, 40% of arrests for drugs, and 45% of arrests for property offenses.

Outcomes of prosecutions of persons arrested for felonies in the five States

Of the 1.6 million persons prosecuted in the 5 States from 1983 to 1986, courts convicted 75% and dismissed the cases of 24% (table 3). Acquittals or other forms of nonconviction accounted for about 2% of all prosecutions. The persons prosecuted for public-order or property offense arrests were more likely to be convicted (83% and 78%, respectively) than were persons prosecuted for drug (70%) or violent (67%) offense arrests.

The annual number of prosecutions of persons arrested for property offenses increased 2% from 1983 to 1986, and the annual number of prosecutions for public-order offenses increased by about the same percentage from 1984 — the year after Pennsylvania changed its DUI law — to 1986.

The number of persons prosecuted after their arrest for a violent offense went up 13%, and the number of drug prosecutions increased 61% (from 50,900 in 1983 to 82,000 in 1986). The surge in the number of prosecutions of drug arrests comprised about half the total increase in prosecutions of felony arrests. The increase resulted more from the larger number of arrests than from the greater likelihood of prosecution.

Offender-Based Transaction Statistics arrests and offenses

OBTS collects felony adult arrest records that participating States have completed processing. (Note, however, that OBTS does not obtain data on all felony arrest dispositions in a year.) Processing begins with fingerprinting and ends when the case is dismissed or the arrested person is acquitted or convicted and sentenced. In this report all designated years refer to the year of final disposition of a case, not including appeals. *Adult* is defined by State statute, and OBTS defines *felony* as any crime for which an offender can be imprisoned for more than 1 year. OBTS data include cases where a felony charge is reduced in a conviction to a misdemeanor.

This report uses BJS' standard crime definitions and categories. The basic categories and major crimes in each are as follows:

Violent crimes — murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, negligent manslaughter, kidnaping, rape, other sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault
Property crimes — burglary, larceny or theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property
Drug crimes — possession, manufacturing, trafficking of illegal drugs
Public-order crimes — weapons, driving while intoxicated, disturbing the peace, obstructing police, vice, bribery, sex offenses not involving assault, parole violations.

Table 3. Disposition of cases prosecuted in five States, 1983-86

Arrest/offense	Number of persons prosecuted	Percent of persons prosecuted whose cases resulted in:			
		Total	Conviction	Dismissal	Other nonconviction
All offenses	1,610,093	100%	75%	24%	2%
1983	369,898	100	74	24	2
1984	392,183	100	75	23	2
1985	414,677	100	75	23	2
1986	433,335	100	74	24	2
Violent offenses	412,923	100%	67%	30%	3%
1983	98,571	100	68	28	4
1984	99,522	100	68	28	4
1985	103,504	100	66	30	3
1986	111,326	100	65	32	3
Property offenses	683,362	100%	78%	20%	1%
1983	168,616	100	78	20	1
1984	168,392	100	79	20	1
1985	174,138	100	78	20	1
1986	172,216	100	78	21	1
Drug offenses	261,114	100%	70%	30%	1%
1983	50,918	100	67	32	1
1984	58,225	100	68	31	1
1985	69,979	100	70	29	1
1986	81,992	100	72	28	1
Public-order offenses	252,694	100%	83%	16%	2%
1983	51,793	100	80	18	2
1984	66,044	100	83	15	1
1985	67,056	100	83	15	2
1986	67,801	100	83	15	1

Note: The five States are California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Information on the court disposition of 100 cases prosecuted was not

available. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

The percentage of convictions for drug arrests increased from 67% of the prosecutions in 1983 to 72% in 1986, while the percentage of convictions for violent offense arrests decreased from 68% of prosecutions to 65%. Convictions as a percentage of prosecutions changed slightly for property and public-order offense arrests.

Sentences received by persons arrested for felonies

Of the 1.9 million persons arrested for felonies in the 5 States, 1.1 million were convicted from 1983 to 1986 (table 4). Two-thirds of the sentences imposed on offenders in the five States were to prison or jail, and a third of the sentences were to some form of nonincarceration like probation, fines, restitution, community service, and participation in a treatment program.

Nearly half (46%) of the persons convicted in the five States were arrested for a property offense. Nearly a fourth of the persons convicted (24%) were arrested for a violent offense, and the remaining number of persons had been arrested for drug (16%) or public-order (13%) offenses.

Convictions following an arrest for a drug offense brought the highest percentage of sentences to incarceration from among the offense categories. Fifty-eight percent of

Table 4. Sentences received by persons arrested for felonies, by arrest offense in five States, 1983-86

Arrest offense	Number of persons convicted	Percent of sentences resulting in:					
		Nonincarceration			Incarceration		
		Total	Probation	Other	Total	Jail	Prison
All offenses	1,124,007	33%	18%	15%	67%	50%	17%
1983	258,375	36	20	16	64	46	18
1984	272,641	34	19	15	66	49	17
1985	290,280	33	18	15	67	50	17
1986	302,711	30	16	14	70	52	18
Violent offenses	267,212	33%	17%	15%	67%	40%	28%
1983	64,592	34	18	15	66	38	29
1984	65,475	33	18	15	67	39	28
1985	66,766	33	17	16	67	40	27
1986	70,379	31	16	15	69	42	27
Property offenses	520,025	32%	19%	13%	68%	53%	15%
1983	127,109	34	20	14	66	51	15
1984	127,511	33	19	13	67	52	15
1985	133,610	32	19	13	68	53	15
1986	131,795	29	17	12	71	55	16
Drug offenses	180,136	26%	16%	10%	74%	58%	16%
1983	33,846	32	20	13	68	53	15
1984	38,984	29	18	11	71	58	16
1985	48,926	25	15	10	75	59	16
1986	58,400	20	12	8	80	61	19
Public-order offenses	156,634	46%	21%	25%	54%	46%	8%
1983	32,828	51	25	26	49	41	8
1984	40,691	46	21	25	54	47	7
1985	40,978	46	20	26	54	46	8
1986	42,137	44	19	25	56	49	7

Note: The five States are California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Information on the sentence received was not available for 6.5% of

those convicted. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

OBTS offense designations at arrest and at conviction

An OBTS arrest record may include two offense designations: one recorded at arrest and one recorded by a court.

- Altogether, the 5 States did not prosecute about 314,700 arrests in the 4 years; only arrest dispositions were therefore assigned. If a person were arrested for more than one offense, the offense recorded was the most serious.

- About 12,400 more arrest offenses than conviction offenses were identified in the data from California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. These missing cases only slightly

affected the percentages of sentence types for all offenses.

- At the court stage the arrest offense designation may be changed by substituting another offense (usually one that was less serious), by not convicting the arrestee on the most serious of multiple charges, or by changing an offense from a felony to a misdemeanor. OBTS cannot account for multiple charges for different or identical offenses.

In this study the number of persons convicted of violent, property, and drug offenses was 13% smaller than the

number within these offense categories for these same individuals at the time of arrest (tables 4 and 5). The largest reduction occurred among violent offenses. The total number of violent offense convictions, based on the conviction offense, was 195,564 — 71,648 less than the total based on the arrest offense. Only the public-order category had a greater number when categorized by conviction offense than when categorized by arrest offense. In a comparison of conviction data for the same individuals, the 156,634 public-order offenses at arrest increased by more than 71% to 268,605 at conviction.

the drug offenders received sentences to jail, and 16% received sentences to prison. About 67% of the sentences for violent or property offenses, as designated at arrest, were terms of incarceration — with the percentage of prison sentences for violent offenses being almost double that for property offenses.

Of all convicted persons, those convicted after an arrest for a public-order offense were the most likely to receive a penalty other than a term in jail or prison and the most likely to receive an alternative to probation. Forty-six percent of the persons found guilty of a public-order offense received a nonincarceration sentence; of these offenders, slightly more than half received sentences other than probation.

Based on conviction offense rather than arrest offense, the overall pattern of types of sentences does not change (table 5). Drug offenders, compared to persons convicted of other types of offenses, had the highest percentage of sentences to prison or jail (78%). Persons convicted of public-order offenses had the lowest percentage of incarceration sentences (50%). Over the 4-year period and for every offense category, the percentage of persons sentenced to incarceration increased. For example, a larger percentage of drug offenders received sentences to either jail or prison in 1986 (83%) than in 1983 (71%). Conversely, sentences to nonincarceration declined from 29% of all sentences for drugs in 1983 to 17% in 1986.

The sentences received by convicted persons who were arrested for crimes of high concern (homicide, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary) were predominantly sentences to incarceration (table 6). The more serious the offense category, the higher was the percentage of sentences to prison.

Among those convicted, 70% of the persons arrested for homicide, a category including murder and manslaughter, received a prison sentence. Sentences to prison comprised the following percentages of convictions: 42% of persons arrested for robbery, 40% of those arrested for sexual assault, 22% of those arrested for burglary, and 9% of those arrested for aggravated assault.

Table 5. Sentences received by persons arrested for felonies, by conviction offense in five States, 1983-86

Conviction offense	Number of persons convicted	Percent of sentences resulting in:					
		Nonincarceration			Incarceration		
		Total	Probation	Other	Total	Jail	Prison
All offenses	1,111,572	32%	18%	14%	68%	50%	18%
1983	255,894	35	20	15	65	47	18
1984	269,184	33	19	14	67	49	17
1985	287,124	32	18	14	68	51	17
1986	289,420	29	16	13	71	53	18
Violent offenses	195,564	27%	17%	10%	73%	38%	35%
1983	46,324	28	19	9	72	36	36
1984	47,922	28	18	10	72	37	35
1985	48,586	28	17	10	72	39	34
1986	52,732	25	16	9	75	41	34
Property offenses	483,584	26%	19%	9%	72%	55%	17%
1983	118,554	30	21	9	70	53	17
1984	118,584	29	20	9	71	54	17
1985	123,787	28	20	9	72	55	17
1986	122,659	25	17	8	75	57	18
Drug offenses	163,819	22%	15%	7%	78%	60%	18%
1983	29,968	29	19	10	71	54	16
1984	35,070	26	17	9	74	58	16
1985	44,839	22	15	7	78	62	17
1986	53,942	17	12	5	83	63	20
Public-order offenses	268,605	50%	19%	31%	50%	44%	6%
1983	61,048	54	22	33	46	40	6
1984	67,558	49	19	30	51	45	6
1985	69,912	49	19	30	51	45	6
1986	70,087	48	17	30	52	46	6

Note: The five States are California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Information on the conviction offense code and/or the sentence received was not available for 7.6% of those convicted.

Table 6. Sentences received by persons arrested for felonies, by selected arrest offenses in five States, 1983-86

Arrest offense	Number of persons convicted	Percent of sentences resulting in:					
		Nonincarceration			Incarceration		
		Total	Probation	Other	Total	Jail	Prison
Homicide	17,401	12%	8%	3%	88%	19%	70%
Sexual assault	24,213	22	17	5	78	38	40
Robbery	90,578	22	14	8	78	36	42
Aggravated assault	114,838	45	21	24	55	46	9
Burglary	202,523	23	15	8	77	55	22

Note: The five States are California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Sex, race, and age of persons arrested for felonies in the five States

The majority of persons arrested for felonies in the five States were male, white, and under 30 years of age (table 7). The characteristics of the arrestees did not change appreciably during the 4 years reported.

Men predominated among persons arrested for any felony, but especially for violent offenses (90% male) and public-order offenses (88%). The larger percentages of women were among arrests for drug offenses (15% female) and property offenses (17%).

Sixty-two percent of persons arrested for a felony were white, 37% were black, and 1% were Native Americans, Asians, or Pacific Islanders. The racial group

percentages differed according to the offense category. For violent offenses, 52% of the persons arrested were white and 48% were black. For both property and drug offenses, 64% of the persons arrested were white and 36% were black. Of those arrested for public-order offenses, 76% were white and 24%, black.

More than 49% of felony arrests in the five States were arrests of persons 20 to 29 years old, except for public-order offenses. Those age 40 or older accounted for 21% of the public-order arrests during the period; they were 8% to 11% of the persons arrested for other categories of offenses. Regardless of offense category, persons in their thirties comprised 22% to 25% of all arrestees. Those arrested for property offenses and those arrested for violent offenses closely resembled one another in age categories.

Probation, jail, and prison dispositions

The distribution of offenses varied within the three main types of sentences imposed (table 8). Those sentenced to prison were more likely to have committed a violent offense and less likely to have committed a public-order offense than those sentenced to jail or probation. Persons given probation were much more likely to have committed a public-order offense than persons sentenced to jail or prison. Unlike types of sentences discussed previously, probation includes awards of probation before judgment, with about a fourth of the 278,000 receiving probation during the period.

While violent offenders composed 18% of everyone receiving one of the three types of dispositions in the five States, almost 35% of those receiving a prison sentence had been convicted of a violent offense. Robbery accounted for more than half the percentage of prison sentences for violent offenses. Persons convicted of assault received more than half the sentences that were to probation or jail for violent offenses.

Burglary accounted for nearly half (21%) the total percentage of persons given prison sentences for property offenses (43%). Burglary also accounted for 11% of the sentences to jail and 6% of the sentences to probation. Among property offenses larceny had the largest percentages for sentences to probation (14%) and to jail (18%). Larceny comprised 9% of the prison sentences.

Drug offenses composed 18% of the sentences to jail, 15% of the sentences to prison, and 9% of the probation terms in the 1983-86 period. Public-order offenses, which accounted for 23% of all the sentences handed down, comprised 37% of all probation terms, 21% of jail sentences, and 8% of prison sentences in the five States.

Methodology

Local criminal justice agencies record arrest data and other information on fingerprint cards and disposition documents. The agencies forward the data to a State's criminal information repository that updates appropriate master records. OBTS receives data from the repositories. OBTS coverage may remain incomplete within the reporting States for several reasons. Not all law enforcement agencies fingerprint all persons arrested, and some

Table 7. Sex, race, and age of persons arrested for felonies in five States, 1983-86

Arrest offense	Percent of those arrested										
	Total	Sex		Race			Age				
		Male	Female	White	Black	Other	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-39	40 and over
All offenses	100%	86%	14%	62%	37%	1%	15%	29%	22%	23%	11%
1983	100	87	13	61	39	1	15	30	21	22	12
1984	100	86	14	62	37	1	14	30	22	23	12
1985	100	86	14	63	36	1	17	29	22	22	11
1986	100	86	14	63	37	1	15	28	22	24	11
Violent offenses	100%	90%	10%	52%	48%	1%	17%	29%	21%	22%	11%
1983	100	90	10	50	49	1	18	30	20	21	11
1984	100	91	9	51	48	1	17	29	21	22	11
1985	100	90	10	52	47	1	18	28	21	22	11
1986	100	90	10	52	47	1	16	28	22	23	11
Property offenses	100%	83%	17%	64%	36%	1%	19%	30%	21%	22%	9%
1983	100	84	16	63	37	1	19	31	20	21	9
1984	100	83	17	63	36	1	17	31	21	22	9
1985	100	82	18	65	34	1	20	29	21	21	8
1986	100	83	17	64	35	1	19	29	21	23	8
Drug offenses	100%	85%	15%	64%	36%	--	11%	31%	26%	24%	8%
1983	100	84	16	64	35	--	9	31	26	24	9
1984	100	84	16	64	36	--	9	31	26	25	9
1985	100	85	15	65	35	--	12	31	25	24	8
1986	100	85	15	63	37	--	12	30	26	25	8
Public-order offenses	100%	88%	12%	76%	24%	--	8%	24%	21%	25%	21%
1983	100	89	11	71	28	--	8	25	19	25	23
1984	100	88	12	76	23	--	7	25	21	25	22
1985	100	88	12	77	23	--	9	25	21	25	20
1986	100	88	12	77	23	--	8	24	22	27	19

Note: The sex, race, and age of persons arrested for felonies were reported in 99.2%, 97.2%, and 97.4% of the cases, respectively. The five States are California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.
 --Less than .5%.
 Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 8. Offenses of persons with a court disposition of probation, jail, or prison in five States, 1983-86

Court-disposed offense	Total	Type of court action or sentence		
		Probation*	Jail	Prison
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Violent offenses	17.8%	14.6%	13.4%	34.7%
Homicide	1.2	.2	.3	5.1
Kidnaping	.2	.1	.1	.7
Sexual assault				
Rape	.4	.1	.1	1.8
Other sexual assault	.7	.7	.7	.9
Type unspecified	.8	.2	.4	1.7
Robbery	5.7	2.6	2.7	18.6
Assault	7.7	8.8	7.9	5.4
Other violent	1.2	1.8	1.2	.4
Property offenses	44.2%	38.8%	47.5%	42.7%
Burglary	11.3	5.5	10.7	21.2
Larceny	14.9	13.6	17.7	8.6
Motor vehicle theft	2.9	2.0	3.5	2.2
Arson	.4	.3	.4	.7
Fraud	6.6	7.7	6.2	5.8
Stolen property	6.0	7.1	6.2	3.6
Other property	2.3	2.5	2.7	.5
Drug offenses	14.9%	9.4%	17.7%	14.7%
Public-order offenses	23.1%	37.3%	21.4%	8.0%
Weapons	4.6	6.6	4.0	3.2
Other public-order	18.6	30.7	17.4	4.7
Number	1,029,778	277,990	556,358	195,430

Note: The five States are California, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

*Includes grants of probation awarded by a court before judgment.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Reports are prepared principally by BJS staff. The staff of the State Statistical Programs Branch wrote this report. Thomas Hester edited it. Marianne Zawitz provided technical assistance. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administered production, assisted by Jayne Pugh, Yvonne Boston, and Tina Dorsey.

September 1989, NCJ-118798

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime.

do not submit all their fingerprint cards. Offenders sometimes surrender directly to a court and are not fingerprinted. Even when a fingerprint card is filed, the prosecutor or court may not report the final disposition.

BJS annually solicits State repositories to extract and submit data from the master records, following OBTS guidelines. Some States are in the process of automating their criminal-history files and cannot participate. Other States have not joined because of insufficient reporting by local agencies, criminal-history files not designed for statistical extraction, or lack of resources.

To allow comparability among States, the OBTS standards use the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) offense codes. To ensure privacy an OBTS record uses as personal identifiers only an encrypted identification number (to permit study of repeat offenders), sex, race, and age.

OBTS data are based on the year of final disposition, not on the year of arrest. Thus, an OBTS year includes arrests that occurred in an earlier year. A final

disposition refers to either a decision not to prosecute or a trial court finding, not to an appeal.

In addition to the five States included in this report, Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, Georgia, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Utah, and the Virgin Islands have provided OBTS data. The 1987 data submission also included New Jersey and Vermont for the first time. Additional States are expected to participate over the next few years.

Access to data

OBTS data are available for the disposition years 1980 through 1986. Data for 1987 are being processed and should be available in October 1989. Data for 1988 should be available by the spring of 1990. Researchers interested in analyzing the OBTS data may access them through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the University of Michigan. Information can be obtained from NACJD/ICPSR, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106; telephone (800) 999-0960.

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