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Criminal Justice Indicator

CRIME AND JUSTICE TRENDS IN NEW YORK STATE: 1988 - 1992

This bulletin presents a five year summary of crime, arrest, indictment, conviction, and sentence data describing the operational activities of the criminal justice system in New York State. The Division of Criminal Justice Services produces a variety of information on crime and criminal justice processing in New York State. Additional information can be requested from the Bureau of Statistical Services at DCJS, Executive Park Tower, Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, New York, 12203.

OVERVIEW

REPORTED CRIMES

The number of serious crimes reported to the police decreased 6.0 percent between 1988 and 1992. The decline was driven by a 7.6 percent drop in property crimes. Violent crimes were at a level 2.0 percent higher in 1992 than in 1988, but were down 5.6 percent from the peak level reached in 1990. There were fewer reports of rape, assault, burglary, and larceny in 1992 than in 1988, while reports of murders, robberies and motor vehicle thefts increased.

ARRESTS

Adult arrests in 1992 were 4.4 percent below the level reported in 1988 and 7.4 percent below the record number of arrests in 1989. The rate of decline in arrests for misdemeanor offenses during the five year period exceeded the decrease in felony offenses, largely due to a drop of almost 40 percent in arrests for low level drug offenses.

FELONY PROSECUTIONS

The proportion of felony arrests that reached the upper court for prosecution as felonies rose steadily during the last five years to 37 percent in 1992. The number of felony indictments and Superior Court Informations (SCIs) peaked in 1990 and recorded a cumulative growth of 13.8 percent during the five-year period. Violent felony indictments/SCIs rose each of the past five years except for 1992, while drug indictments/SCIs declined 16.5 percent since peaking in 1989.

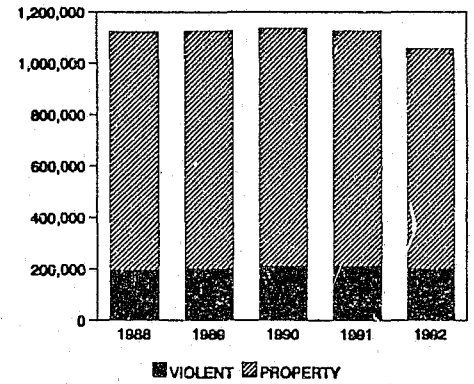
CONVICTIONS

Almost two-thirds of all dispositions were convictions during the last five years. A slightly higher proportion of convictions were at the felony level in 1992 compared to 1988, contributing to a 27.7 percent increase in the number of sentences to State prison. However, sentences to local jail facilities have dropped since peaking in 1989, resulting in an overall growth in alternative sentences.

REPORTED CRIME

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	% chg 1988-92
Index Total	1,125,674	1,126,143	1,137,689	1,126,503	1,058,586	-6.0
rate per 100,000	6,282.1	6,273.8	6,323.8	6,238.2	5,842.4	-7.0
Violent Total	196,216	202,944	211,955	210,064	200,165	2.0
rate per 100,000	1,095.0	1,130.6	1,178.2	1,163.3	1,104.7	0.9
Murder	2,240	2,253	2,606	2,557	2,382	6.3
Forcible Rape	5,485	5,223	5,348	5,083	5,126	-6.6
Robbery	97,447	104,001	112,276	112,338	105,633	8.4
Agg. Assault	91,044	91,467	91,725	90,086	87,024	-4.4
Property Total	929,458	923,199	925,734	916,439	858,421	-7.6
rate per 100,000	5,187.1	5,143.2	5,145.7	5,075.0	4,737.7	-8.7
Burglary	217,266	210,391	207,338	203,956	192,452	-11.4
Larceny	558,567	542,059	531,655	531,159	497,699	-10.9
M.V. Theft	153,625	170,749	186,741	181,324	168,270	9.5

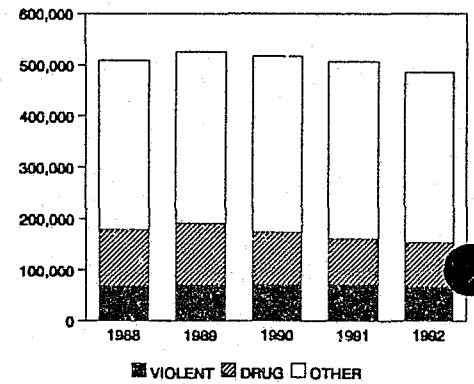
REPORTED CRIME



ADULT ARRESTS

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	% chg 1988-92
Total Arrests	508,590	525,847	518,334	507,267	486,415	-4.4
Felony	197,398	213,020	209,829	202,052	190,274	-3.6
Violent	68,239	71,150	70,921	70,758	67,169	-1.6
Drug	52,331	62,410	59,095	54,200	51,847	-0.9
Misdemeanor	311,192	312,827	308,505	305,215	296,141	-4.8
Drug	58,507	58,519	43,968	36,508	35,691	-39.0
DWI	52,918	52,978	55,205	51,432	48,879	-7.6

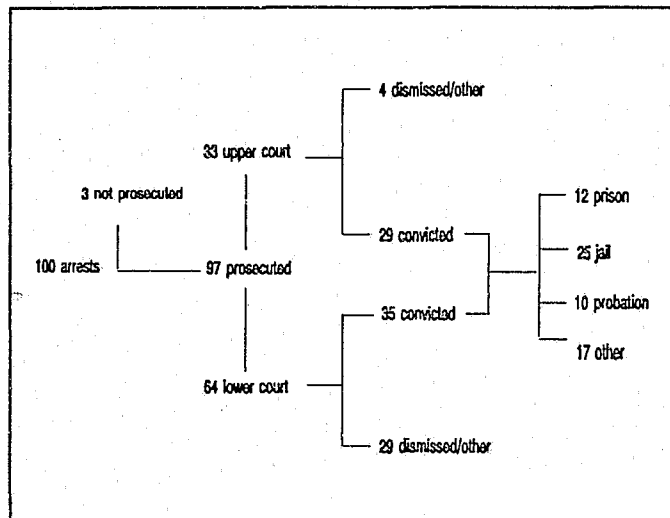
ADULT ARRESTS



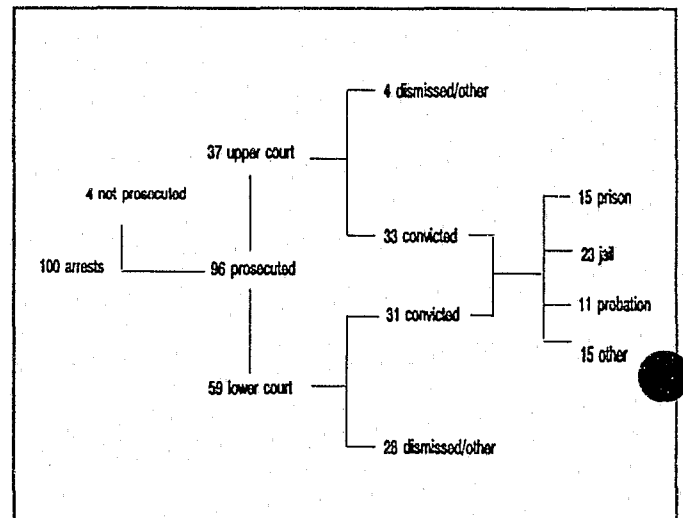
FELONY ARREST PROCESSING

For every 100 felony arrests disposed in . . .

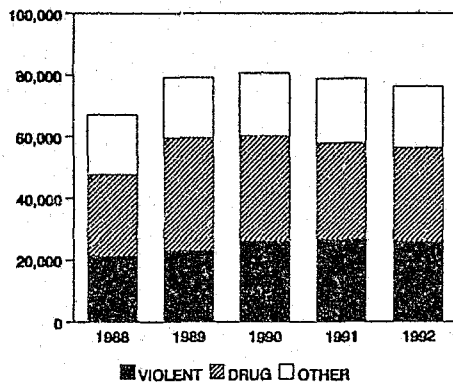
1988



1992



FELONY PROSECUTIONS



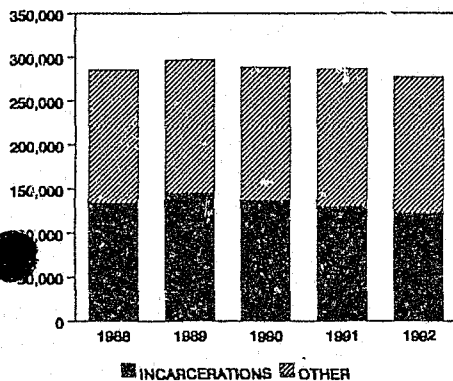
FELONY PROSECUTIONS

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	% chg 1988-92
% Prosec. Upper Courts	32.7	32.9	33.1	36.5	37.0	13.2
Indictments/SCIs	66,864	79,075	80,491	78,778	76,083	13.8
Violent	21,146	23,084	26,068	26,657	25,802	22.0
Drug	26,596	36,575	34,078	31,360	30,554	14.9

CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	% chg 1988-92
Total Convictions	286,114	297,185	288,829	286,792	277,060	-3.2
rate (% of disposed)	65.3	65.0	64.2	64.8	65.8	0.8
Lower Court	236,159	241,285	231,299	225,695	216,794	-8.2
rate (% of LC prosec.)	63.5	62.7	61.6	61.9	63.6	0.2
Upper Court	49,956	55,900	57,530	61,097	60,266	20.6
rate (% of UC prosec.)	90.0	90.1	90.3	89.8	89.2	-0.9
Felony	45,759	51,834	52,950	55,988	54,811	19.8
Misdemeanor	129,287	140,014	128,495	122,471	118,825	-8.1
Lesser Offenses	111,068	105,337	107,384	108,333	103,424	-6.9
Incarcerations	134,599	145,175	137,294	130,551	122,465	-9.0
rate (% of convs.)	47.0	48.9	47.5	45.5	44.2	-6.0
Prison	20,279	25,066	25,962	26,986	25,890	27.7
Jail	101,745	107,174	98,442	91,623	84,478	-17.0
Jail + Probation	12,575	12,935	12,890	11,942	12,097	-3.8
Probation	24,913	24,120	24,786	27,257	27,221	9.3
Fine	71,119	70,088	67,891	64,066	60,618	-14.8
Conditional Discharge	52,240	54,131	54,012	56,754	61,497	17.7
Other-Unknown	3,243	3,671	4,846	8,164	5,259	62.2

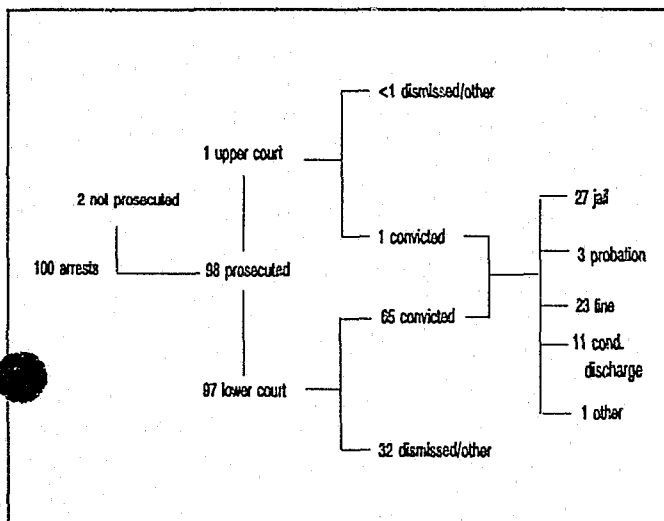
SENTENCES



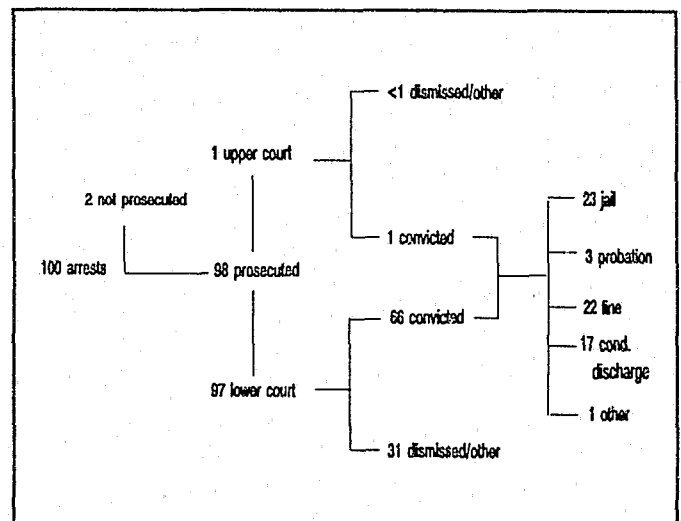
MISDEMEANOR ARREST PROCESSING

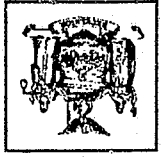
For every 100 misdemeanor arrests disposed in . . .

1988



1992





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Data for this bulletin were derived from the Uniform Crime Reporting system, the Computerized Criminal History/Offender-Based Transaction Statistics system, and the Indictment Statistical System maintained by the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Please note the following:

- * data may differ from previously published figures due to the ongoing submission of information to the data systems;
- * crime, arrest, and indictment data are based on the year of reported crime, arrest, or indictment; conviction/sentence data are based on the year of sentencing;
- * arrest and conviction data pertain to actions against adults (age 16 or older); indictment and superior court information (SCI) data include actions against both adults and juvenile offenders;
- * upper court prosecutions shown for misdemeanor arrests are most often due to post-arrest identification of repeat drunk driving and weapons offenders who are ultimately prosecuted as felons;
- * sentence data are based on an event unit of count; sentences to prison and jail are not comparable to actual admissions;
- * incarcerative sentences include prison, jail, and split sentences of jail plus probation.