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New Insights into California Arrests

Trends, Disparities, and County Differences

Technical Appendices

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Appendix A. Statewide Arrest Types in Depth

Arrest trends

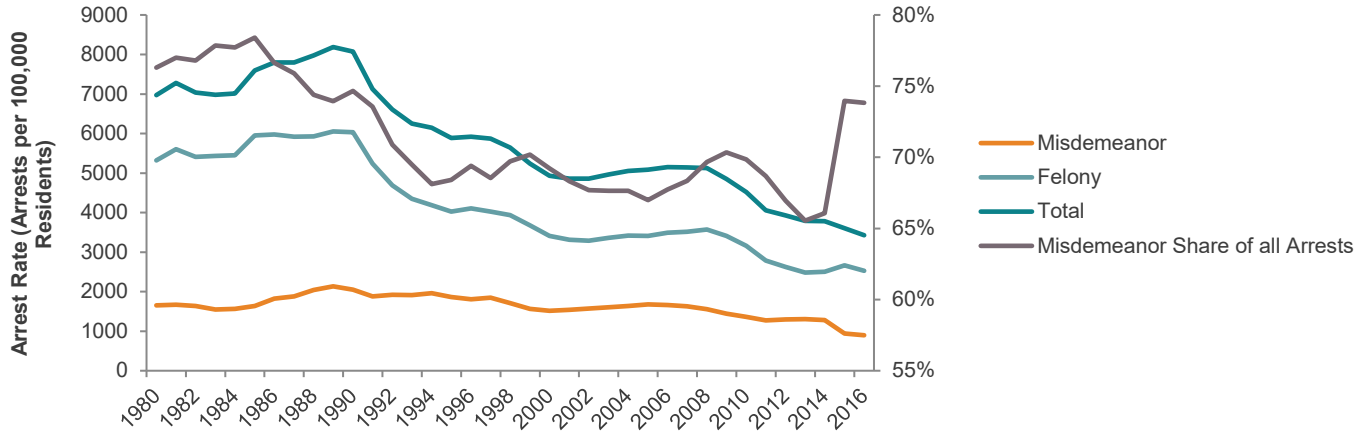
Arrest rates have dropped dramatically in California since reaching peaks in 1989 and 1990. As Figure A1 shows, the overall arrest rate reached a high of 8,188 arrests per 100,000 residents in 1989 and, with the exception of the period 2002-2008, has since been on a steady decline. In 2016 it reached a historic low, of 3,428. While both felony and misdemeanor arrest rates have declined significantly since the early 1990s and have reached all-time low rates, misdemeanor arrests are the main contributor to the overall drop. The felony arrest rate declined from 2,135 in 1989 to 897 in 2016, while the misdemeanor arrest rate dropped from 6,053 to 2,530 over the same period. Though similar in terms of percentage decrease (57.9 percent and 58.8 percent respectively), the misdemeanor arrest rate decrease of 3,523 represents about three-quarters of the decline in the total arrest rate.

Changes in arrest offenses

Figure A1 also shows that while most arrests in California are for misdemeanor offenses, their share of all arrests fluctuates. The share of misdemeanors arrests ranged between 66 percent and 78 percent between 1980 and 2016. Interestingly, after having stayed mostly below 70 percent since the early 1990s, the share of misdemeanor arrests jumped from 66 percent in 2014 to 74 percent in 2015. The reclassification of a number of drug and property offenses from felony (or wobblers) to misdemeanors, as a result of Prop 47, is likely the main factor behind this sudden and noticeable recent change.

FIGURE A1

Arrest rates have been on a downward trend since the early 1990s, and are now at historic lows

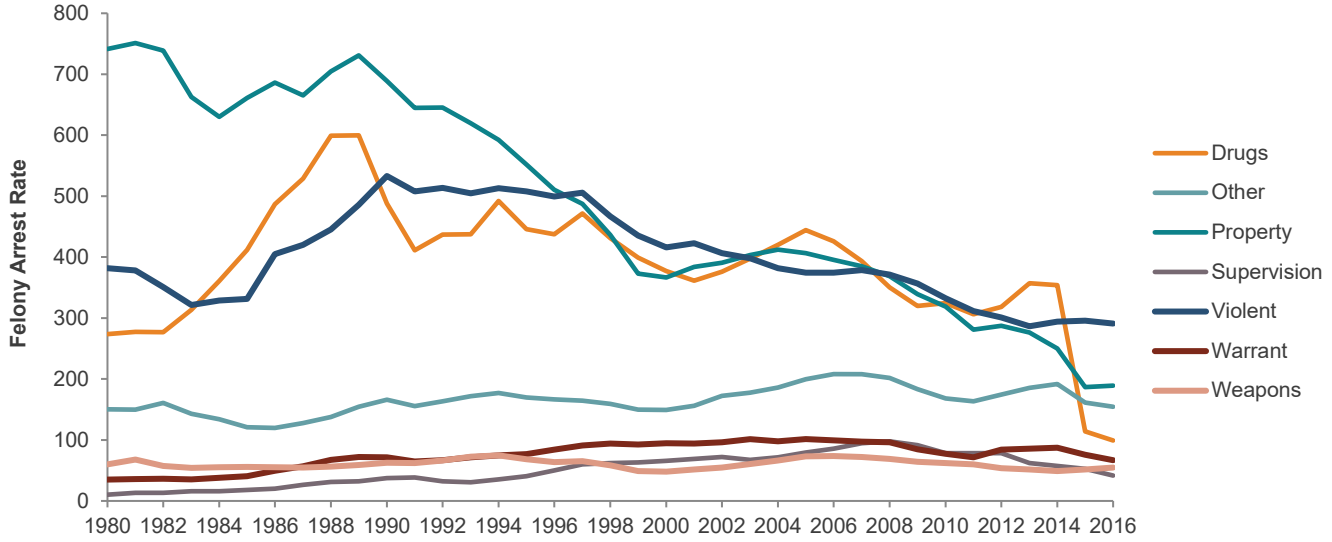


SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

Among arrests for felony offenses, the dramatic and relatively consistent drop in the property arrest rate stands out. Figure A2 shows it reaching a 1980-2016 period peak in 1981 at a rate of 751 felony property arrests per 100,000 residents. The felony property arrest rate declined in the early 1980s before increasing until 1989, when it reached almost 750 again. Since then the felony property arrest rate has been on a quite consistent sharp downward trend, and now stands at 189 felony property arrests per 100,000 residents. Figure A2 also reveals significant declines since the late 1980s and early 1990s in the felony arrest rates for drugs and violent offenses. The Felony-Drug arrest rate dropped from 600 in 1988 to 99 in 2016. The Felony-Violent arrest rate dropped from 533 in 1990 to 291 in 2016.

FIGURE A2

The Felony-Property arrest rate has been on a quite consistent long term downward trend since 1989



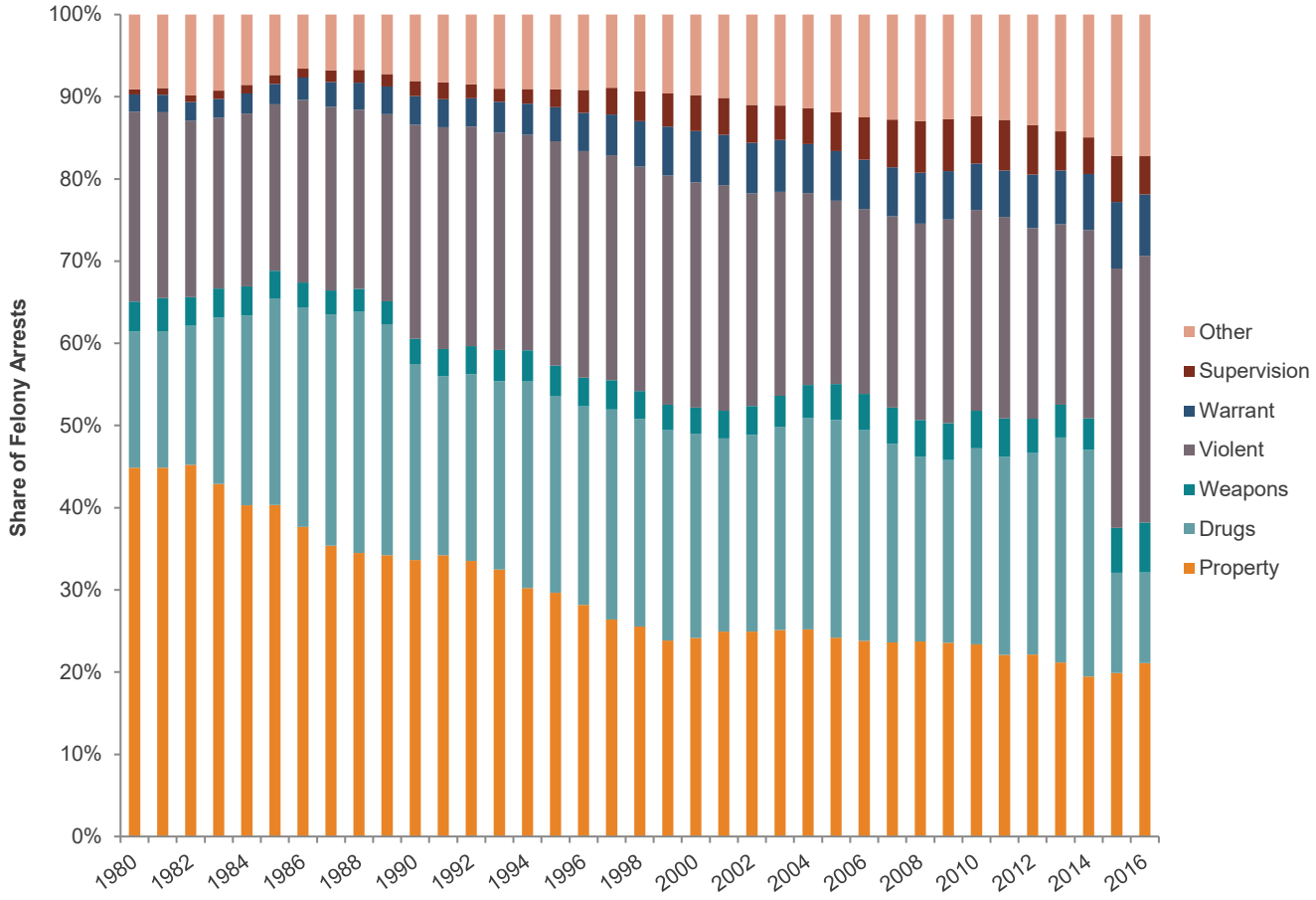
SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of felony arrests per 100,000 residents.

The composition of felony arrests have also changed markedly. Figure A3 shows that in 1980, 44.9 percent of felony arrests were for a property offense. By 1990, this share dropped to 33.7 percent and by 2016, 21.1 percent of all felony arrests were for property offenses. Felony arrests for drug offenses grew from 16.6 percent of felony arrests in 1980 to 23.8 percent in 2010, and by 2014 had climbed to 27.6 percent. With the passing and implementation of Prop 47 in November of 2014, the Felony-Drug arrest figure dropped sharply, and now stands at 11.1 percent of felony arrests. While arrests for violent offenses made up less than one-quarter of felony arrests in 1980, it now represents almost one-third of arrests for felonies. The noticeable increase is recent, starting right after passage of Prop 47 passed. From 2014 to 2015, the felony arrest share jumped from 22.9 percent to 31.5 percent. It is worthwhile noting that the increase in the share of arrests for Felony-Violent offenses is due to the much larger drop in overall felony arrests (by about 131,000), compared to the decline in arrests for felonious violent offenses (by nearly 1,600) between 2014 and 2015.

FIGURE A3

The Most Common Felony Arrest Type Has Shifted from Property to Violent Offenses



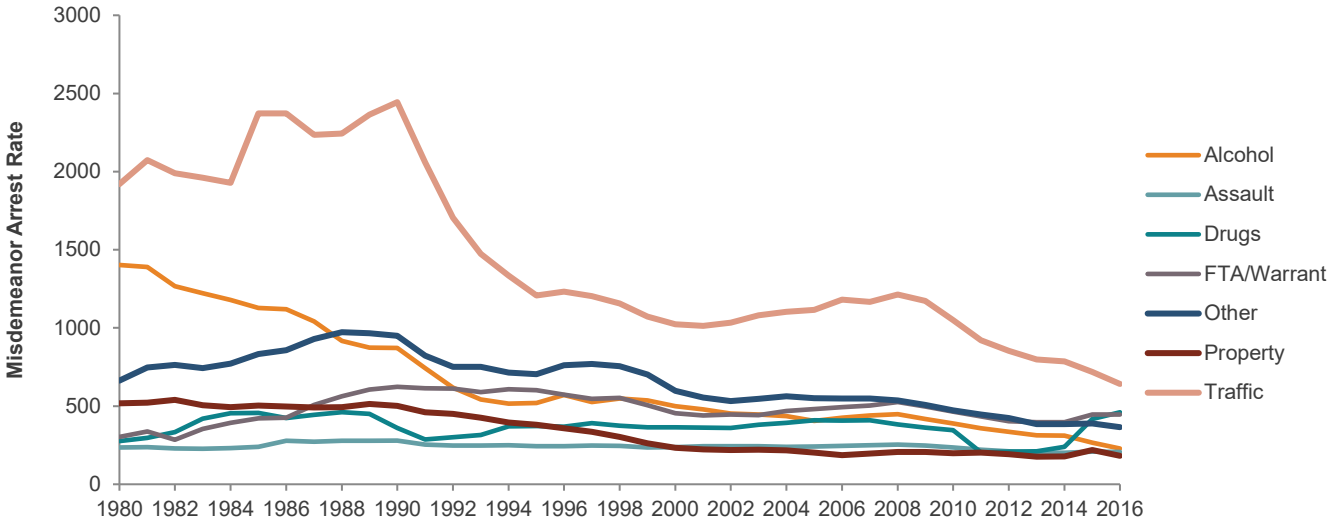
SOURCE: California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register, 1980-2016.

NOTE: Percentages are shares of felony arrests.

Recent years have also seen major shifts in the number and composition of misdemeanor arrests. The most notable changes in Figure A4 are the drop in misdemeanor arrest rates for traffic and alcohol related offenses, and the recent increase in the drug arrest rate. The traffic arrest rate decreased from its peak in 1990 of 2,444 to 642 in 2016. Law enforcement officers are also arresting fewer individuals for misdemeanor alcohol related offenses. The Misdemeanor-Alcohol arrest rate is on a long-term downward trend, declining from 1,403 in 1980 to 229 in 2016. It is not surprising to see an increase in the Misdemeanor-Drug arrest rate after 2014, given that Prop 47 reclassified a number of drug and property offenses from felonies (or wobblers) to misdemeanors: it almost doubled, increasing from 239 in 2014 to 460 in 2016. There is, however, almost no change in the post-Prop 47 Misdemeanor-Property arrest rate; it went from 179 in 2014 to 182 in 2016.

FIGURE A4

California saw significant drops in misdemeanor arrest rates for traffic and alcohol related offenses but the Misdemeanor-Drug arrest rate recently went up



SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

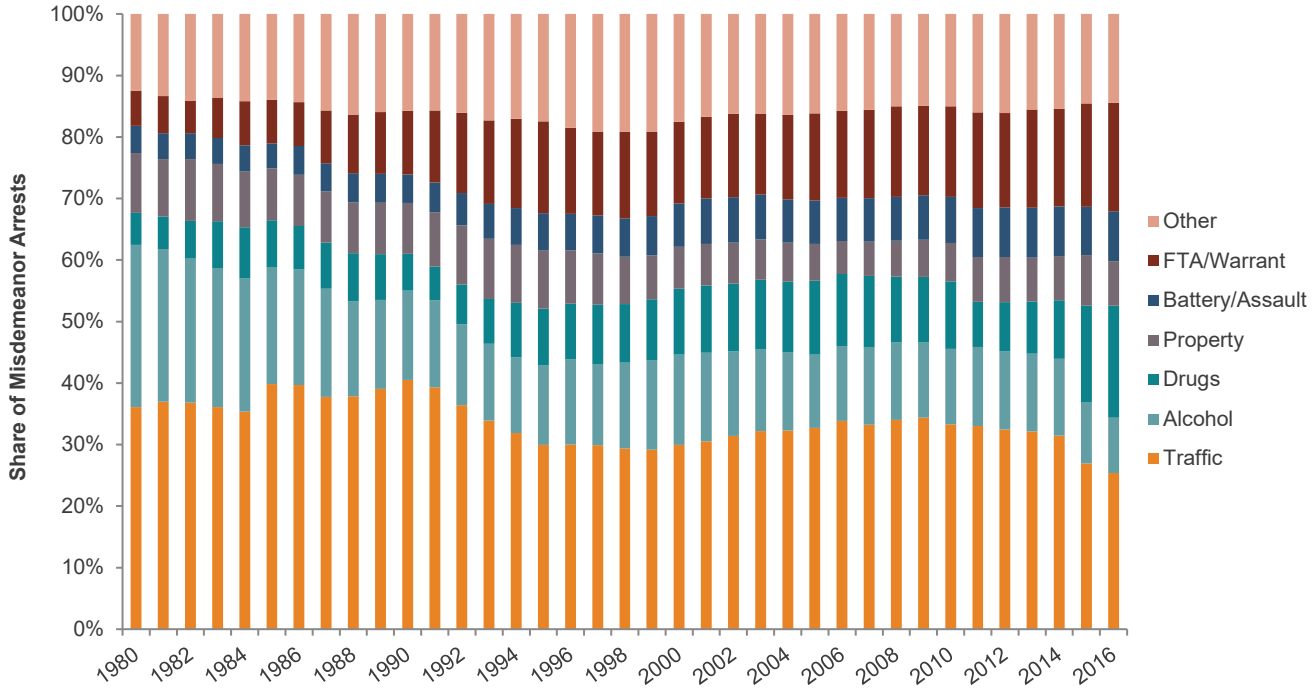
NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of misdemeanor arrests per 100,000 residents.

While traffic arrests are the most common misdemeanor arrest category, their share of the total has dropped from 36.1 percent in 1980 to 25.4 percent in 2016 (Figure A5). Alcohol-related misdemeanor arrests fell even faster over the period. In 1980, alcohol-related misdemeanors accounted for more than one-quarter of total misdemeanor arrests; they had fallen to one in eleven misdemeanor arrests in 2016. Conversely, the relative share of misdemeanor arrests for Failure to Appear in court (FTA), or warrants, jumped from 5.7 percent in 1980 to 17.6 percent in 2016. While the increase in the FTA share of misdemeanor arrests between 1980 and 1990 was primarily due to a notable increase in the arrest rate (from 304 to 623), the increase in the share since then is primarily due to a larger decrease in the overall misdemeanor arrest rate, compared to the relative stabilization in the rate of law enforcement FTA arrests.

Last, although a relatively small share of misdemeanor arrests, the share for battery/assault arrests almost doubled between 1980 and 2016, from 4.4 percent to 8.1 percent. As Figure A4 shows, this was not caused by an increase in the misdemeanor battery/assault arrest rate, which remained fairly stable during that period, but rather by the significant decrease in the overall misdemeanor arrest rate.

FIGURE A5

Traffic and alcohol related arrests as shares of misdemeanor arrests have dropped substantially



SOURCE: California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register, 1980-2016.

NOTE: Percentages are shares of misdemeanor arrests.

The most common arrest offenses

A closer look at the data reveals that, despite decreasing markedly in absolute number over several years, misdemeanor arrests for traffic offenses, especially driving under the influence, represented the most common arrests in California (Table A1) during most of the years examined. Most recently, however, misdemeanor arrests for drug violations (nearly 164,000) moved to the top of the list of most common arrest offenses. The other most common misdemeanor arrests are for public intoxication and battery and assaults.

Burglary (with about 84,000 arrests) represented the most common felony arrest in 1980. By 2016, assaults (more than 87,000) had moved to the top of the list, with the number of arrests for burglary dropping to slightly above 23,000. Arrests for drug offenses (such as possession, sales, giving to a minor and transportation of narcotics and dangerous drugs) were among the most common felony arrests for most years over the period studied, though no drug offenses were among the five most common felony arrest offense post-Prop 47 period.

TABLE A1

Misdemeanor arrests for traffic offense declined but continue to be among the most common arrests in California

1980		1990		2000		2010		2016	
Arrest Offense	**Number of Arrests**	**Arrest Offense**	**Number of Arrests**	**Arrest Offense**	**Number of Arrests**	**Arrest Offense**	**Number of Arrests**	**Arrest Offense**	**Number of Arrests**
Misdemeanors									
DUI	302,868	DUI	353,886	DUI	178,431	DUI	193,280	Other Drug Law Violations	163,959
Drunk	242,331	Miscellaneous Traffic	294,310	Miscellaneous Traffic	138,748	Miscellaneous Traffic	174,266	DUI	125,963
Selected Traffic	146,163	Drunk	190,715	Drunk	114,023	Drunk	107,714	Miscellaneous Traffic	110,463
Petty Theft	113,739	Petty Theft	141,905	Assault and Battery	80,994	Failure to Appear/Non Traffic	102,030	Failure to Appear/Non Traffic	106,894
Outside Warrant	57,569	CI/CO Ordinances	111,515	Failure to Appear/Non Traffic	80,076	Assault and Battery	88,037	Assault and Battery	80,968
Felonies									
Arrest Offense	**Number of Arrests**	**Arrest Offense**	**Number of Arrests**	**Arrest Offense**	**Number of Arrests**	**Arrest Offense**	**Number of Arrests**	**Arrest Offense**	**Number of Arrests**
Burglary	84,160	Assault	106,781	Assault	108,808	Assault	92,030	Assault	87,415
Theft	51,047	Narcotics	91,136	Dangerous Drugs	57,866	Dangerous Drugs	63,983	Other Felonies	37,841
Assault	48,955	Burglary	79,911	Narcotics	53,014	Burglary	52,716	Theft	27,643
Motor Vehicle Theft	29,514	Theft	67,085	Burglary	46,978	Theft	45,459	Outside Warrant	26,290
Robbery	26,715	Motor Vehicle Theft	47,221	Theft	43,672	Narcotics	39,562	Burglary	23,209

SOURCES: California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register (1980-2016).

Appendix B. Statewide Arrest Demographics in Depth

Race/Ethnicity

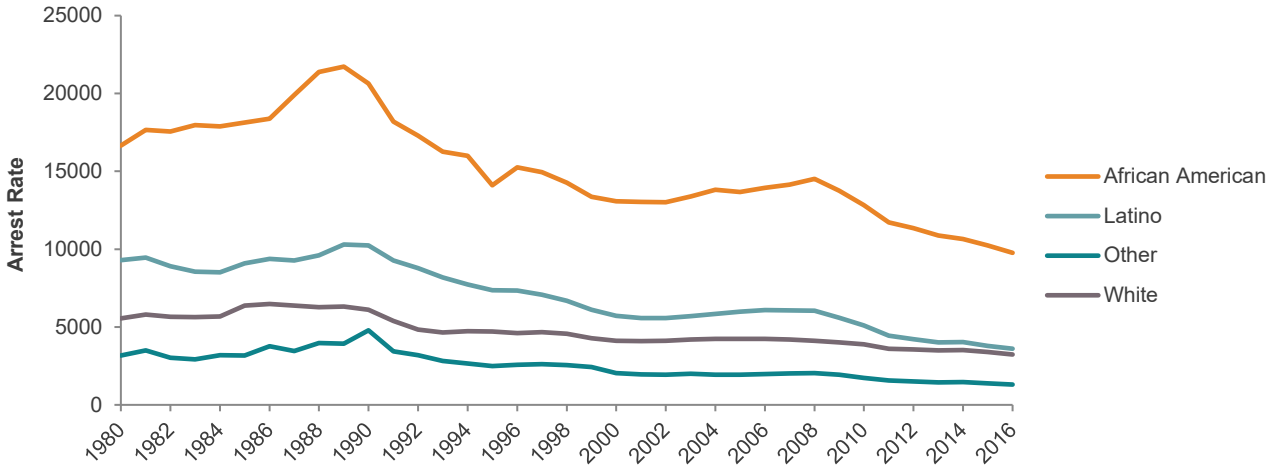
There is pronounced racial disparity in arrests in California, but the gaps are growing smaller. In 1980, the arrest rate of African-Americans was 16,653 per 100,000 residents, considerably higher than the rate for Latinos (9,294) and whites (5,553). In other words, there were 11,000 more arrests per 100,000 African-Americans than there were arrests per 100,000 whites that year—an arrest rate of African-Americans that is three times higher than that of whites. There are also significant differences between Latinos and whites. The Latino arrest rate was 1.7 times greater than the white arrest rate in 1980. Arrest rates grew for all three groups in the 1980s, but more so for African Americans, increasing the disparity. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the African American arrest rate was more than three times greater than the white arrest rate.

Since the 1990s, arrest rates have declined substantially, and more so among African Americans, reducing some of the differences across race/ethnicity from that peak. In 2016, the African American arrest rate was 9,765—lower than the peak—though still three times greater than the white arrest rate of 3,235. The 2016 Latino arrest rate (3,606) is now 1.11 times higher than the white rate. Lastly, the race/ethnic group labeled *Other* (which includes those of Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaska Native origin) continues to have the lowest arrest rates in California.[1]

After growing from about 11,000 in 1980 to about 15,400 in 1989, the difference between the African-American and white arrest rates has dropped remarkably, and now stands at about 6,500—the lowest observed between 1980 and 2016. The arrest rate difference between Latinos and whites dropped dramatically, and is now about one-tenth of what it was at its peak in 1990, having fallen from 4,100 more arrests per 100,000 residents to 370.

FIGURE B1

There is pronounced racial disparity in arrests in California, but the gaps are growing smaller



SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

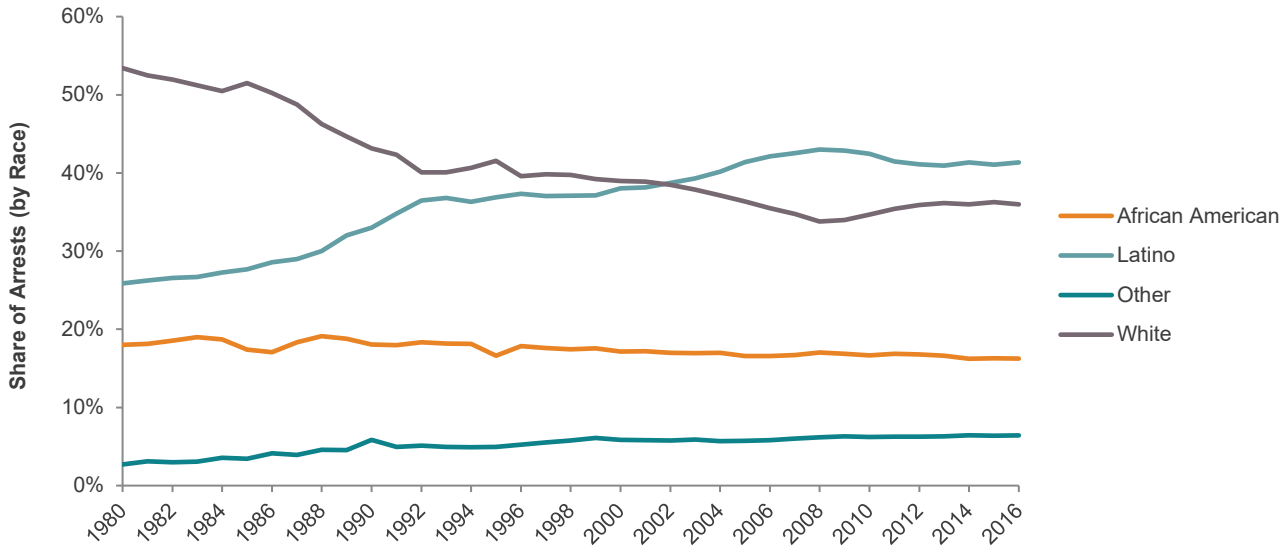
NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 residents of the relevant demographic group.

[1]We observe small number of arrests of individuals in these race/ethnic groups for some offenses. Hence, to ensure no personally identifiable information is released, we combined these groups into an Other category.

California's changing demographics drive at least part of these shifts. The state's Latino population more than doubled its share of the total between 1980 and 2016, going from 19.3 to 38.9 percent. During this period, the Latino share of total arrests also grew. The Latino share grew from 25.9 percent of all arrests in 1980 to 41.4 percent in 2016 (Figure B9). Beginning in 2002, Latinos accounted for the largest share of arrests in California. Adult whites represented 36.0 percent of all arrests in the state in 2016 while the African-American share of all arrests was 16.3 percent in 2016 (down from a peak of 19.1 in 1988).

FIGURE B2

Like its share of California's population, the arrest share of Latinos is growing



SOURCE: California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register, 1980-2016.

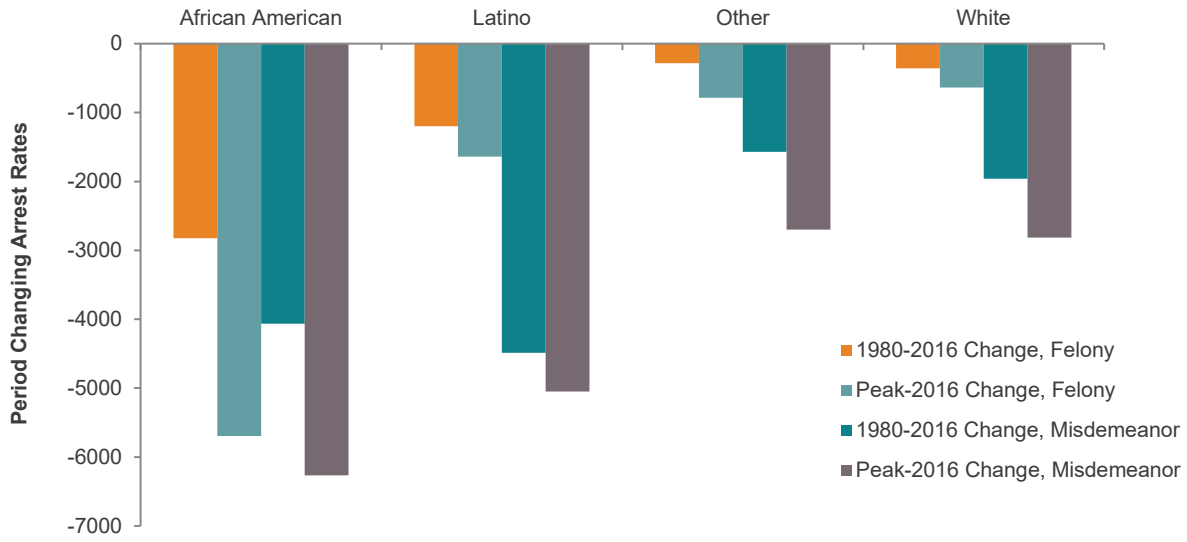
NOTE: Figure shows the race/ethnic group shares of all annual arrests.

While most of the declines in all arrests are due to the fall in misdemeanor arrests, the decrease in felony arrests among African Americans stands out, and accounts for 48 percent of the overall peak-to-2016 decline in the African American arrest rate. Figure B1 shows the change in felony and misdemeanor arrest rates, by race/ethnic group, between the peak and 2016, as well as from 1980 and 2016. The African American felony arrest rate dropped a remarkable 5,693 from its peak (in 1989) and 2016 (from 8,922 to 3,229). In other words, there were 5,693 fewer felony arrests of African Americans per 100,000 African American residents in 2016 compared to 1989. By comparison, the second largest peak-to-2016 decline in arrests for felony offenses, 1,642, was among Latinos. The felony arrest rate for whites and the Other race/ethnicity group also declined over the same period (638 and 786 respectively).

Misdemeanor rates also declined across race/ethic groups. The African American misdemeanor rate was nearly halved (from 12,801 to 6,535, a decline of 48.9 percent). The Latino rate dropped 5,051 accounting for about 75 percent of the group's decline in arrests. And again, the white (down 2,814) and Other (down 2,697) misdemeanor arrest rates also fell, accounting for almost 80 percent of those groups' decrease in the overall arrest rate.

FIGURE B3

Most of the declines in arrest rates are due to the drops in misdemeanor arrests



SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 residents of the relevant demographic group.

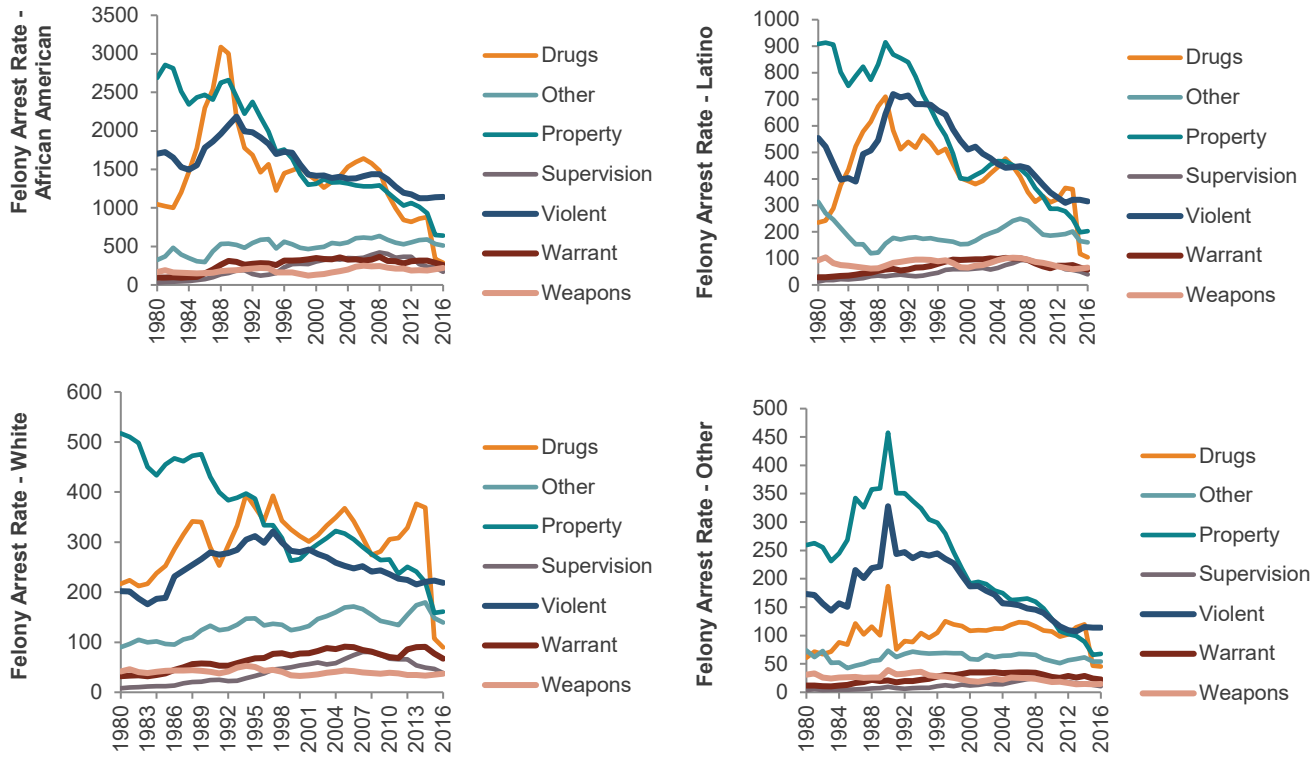
Noticeable drops in arrests for Felony-Drugs and property offenses are the main contributors to the decrease in felony arrests. Since the declines are greater among African Americans and Latinos, these are also key contributors to the decrease in ethnic/racial disparity in overall arrests.

Among felony arrests, the highest arrest rates for all four race/ethnic groups in 1980 were for property offenses (Figure B4). The Felony-Property arrest rates have since plummeted; from 2,687 to 640 in 2016 for African Americans, from 908 to 203 for Latinos, from 517 to 161 for whites, and from 259 to 68 for all others. The significantly slower rate of decrease in the Felony-Violent arrest rates has led to felony violent arrest rates now being greater than the felony property arrest rates for all four groups. In 2016, arrests for felony property offenses accounted for about one-fifth of all felony arrests for all four groups while arrests for violent offenses make up roughly one-third.

Arrests for Felony-Drugs also have fallen significantly, particularly for African Americans. The African American Felony-Drugs arrest rate declined by more than 90 percent from its peak in the late 1980s to 2016 (3,088 to 287). The Latino felony drug arrest rate also fell over the period from a high of 710 to 104 (a decrease of about 85 percent). Among whites and the Other race group, the Felony-Drug arrest rates also dropped significantly from their peaks, as measured in percentage terms—77.3 percent and 75.7 percent respectively. As measured as changes in the arrest rates, the respective peak-to-2016 decreases, however, are much smaller than the decreases among African Americans and Latinos.

FIGURE B4

Declines in arrests for drug and property offenses are the main contributor to the decrease in felony arrests



SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

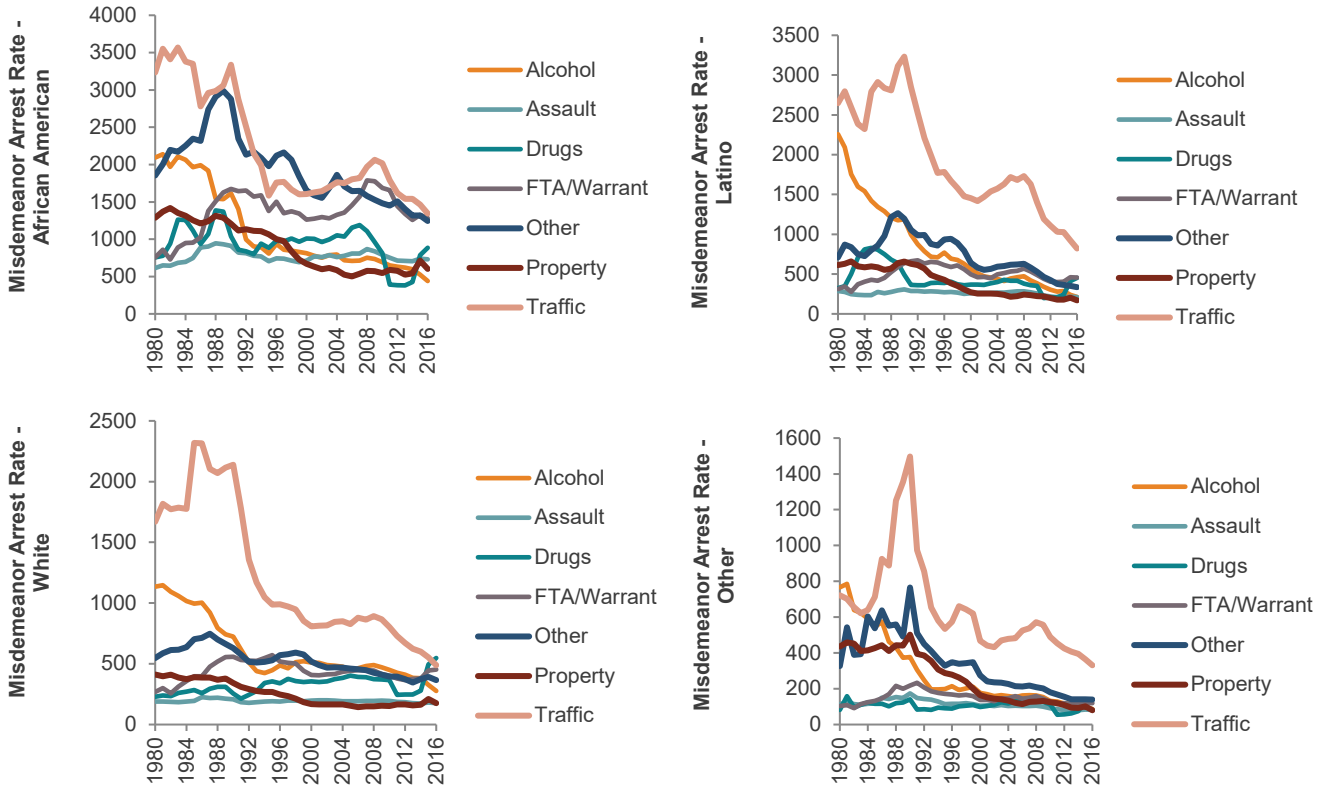
NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 residents of the relevant demographic group. The noticeable bump in 1990 in the felony arrest rate of the racial/ethnic Other group is driven by an increase in individuals classified in that group in Los Angeles. At this point, it is unclear what factor explains the temporary jump.

Most of the drop in misdemeanor arrests between 1980 and 2016 stems from fewer misdemeanor arrests for alcohol and traffic offenses. All groups have seen sharp decreases in misdemeanor traffic arrests since the early 1990s. The largest peak-to-2016 decline is among Latinos, where the Misdemeanor-Traffic arrest rate fell by 2,410 (from 3,232 in 1990 to 822 in 2016). The drop was nearly as large among African Americans, for whom the Misdemeanor-Traffic arrest rate went from 3,568 in 1983 to 1,345 in 2016. The white and Other Misdemeanor-Traffic arrest rates dropped from 2,318 in 1985 to 488 in 2016 (whites) and 1,497 in 1990 to 331 in 2016 (Other race/ethnicity group).

The peak-to-2016 decreases in Misdemeanor-Alcohol arrests were almost as large; dropping by 2,045 arrests per 100,000 residents for Latinos, 1,698 for African-Americans, 870 among whites, and by 699 among the group consisting of all other races/ethnicities. Lastly, the data also reveal that the Misdemeanor-Drug arrest rates for all groups, roughly doubled between 2014 and 2016. Among African Americans, the rate went from 426 to 886, while among whites it jumped from 279 to 548. For Latinos the misdemeanor drug arrest rate went from 240 to 452, while it increased from 75 to 138 for the Other race/ethnic group.

FIGURE B5

Sharp decreases in misdemeanor arrests for alcohol and traffic offenses account for most of the drop in misdemeanor arrests



SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of misdemeanor arrests per 100,000 residents of the relevant demographic group.

Examining the relative share of arrests by race/ethnicity and type of arrest offense reveal several noteworthy trends and differences across groups (Table B1). It is important to keep in mind that the trends in arrests shares are at least partly due to demographic changes, as discussed above. Nonetheless, the shares gives us relevant information about who is arrested in California, and for what types of offenses.

One of the most notable changes is the drop in the African-American share of felony drug arrests. As Table B1 shows, this share fell nearly in half between 1990 and 2016, from 31.3 percent of all Felony-Drug arrests to 16.5 percent. In fact, it dropped by even more than half when compared to its 1988 peak of 36.7 percent. The white share of Felony-Drug arrests also declined, from 53 percent in 1980 to 34 percent in 2016. Meanwhile, the Latino share of Felony-Drug arrests has been growing, from 16.7 percent in 1980 to 31.1 percent in 1990, and now stands at 41.3 percent of all Felony-Drug arrests.

The decline in the African-American share of felony violent arrests is also noteworthy. In 1980, whites and African-Americans represented roughly 1/3 each of all arrests for felony violent offenses (35 and 34 percent respectively). Both shares have dropped, but by more among African Americans. Today, about 29 percent of Felony-Violent arrests are of whites, while 22 percent are of African Americans.

The changes in the share of Felony-Warrant arrests also stand out; for whites, it declined from 61.5 percent in 1980 to 38.2 percent in 2016 while increasing among the other three groups, including a doubling of the share for

Latinos. Similarly, the white share of Felony-Weapon arrests decreased over the same period, from 46.2 percent to 25.7, while it increasing among the other three groups.

Finally, the distribution of Misdemeanor-Traffic and Property arrests by race/ethnicity has changed over time. While whites accounted for 58.3 percent of misdemeanor traffic arrests in 1980, they now account for only 29.0 percent. The share of Latinos almost doubled over the same period, going from 26.8 percent to 50.3 percent. The decrease in the African American share of Misdemeanor-Drug arrests is also notable, dropping from 20.6 percent in 1980 to 11 percent in 2016. For property crimes, while whites had the largest share of arrests for both felony and misdemeanors in 1980 (46.8 percent and 53.3 percent respectively), their property offenses shares mostly decreased over the period 1980-2016. One exception is the recent increase in the white share of misdemeanor arrests for property offenses, which increased from 31.2 percent in 2010 to 37.0 percent in 2016 (an upward trend that started in 2009).

TABLE B1

Shares of arrests by offense level and race/ethnicity

	Felony Offenses				Misdemeanor Offenses			
	White	African American	Latino	Other	White	African American	Latino	Other
Year	Property				Property			
1980	46.8%	27.3%	23.8%	2.1%	53.3%	18.7%	22.9%	5.0%
1990	35.6%	25.0%	32.8%	6.5%	38.9%	17.0%	34.2%	9.9%
2000	33.9%	23.2%	35.6%	7.4%	33.6%	18.6%	37.9%	9.9%
2010	33.5%	20.5%	39.4%	6.6%	31.2%	16.2%	42.4%	10.2%
2016	32.4%	19.3%	42.2%	6.1%	37.0%	18.9%	36.7%	7.4%
	Drugs				Drugs			
1980	53.1%	28.9%	16.7%	1.3%	55.1%	20.6%	22.6%	1.8%
1990	33.8%	31.3%	31.1%	3.8%	40.2%	20.3%	35.6%	3.8%
2000	38.7%	23.3%	34.0%	4.1%	45.3%	17.8%	33.1%	3.8%
2010	37.9%	18.0%	38.8%	5.3%	42.6%	13.7%	38.5%	5.3%
2016	34.5%	16.5%	41.3%	7.7%	45.3%	11.0%	38.6%	5.1%
	Violent				Assault/Battery			
1980	35.5%	33.7%	28.2%	2.7%	53.7%	19.7%	23.7%	2.8%
1990	29.9%	28.9%	35.1%	6.1%	42.2%	23.0%	28.6%	6.1%
2000	31.4%	22.0%	40.2%	6.4%	38.7%	19.3%	35.7%	6.3%
2010	28.6%	22.4%	42.8%	6.2%	33.5%	19.7%	40.7%	6.2%
2016	28.6%	22.4%	42.5%	6.6%	32.7%	20.2%	40.4%	6.7%
	Weapons				Alcohol			
1980	46.2%	20.7%	30.1%	3.1%	54.2%	11.3%	31.2%	3.3%
1990	37.6%	21.5%	34.8%	6.2%	47.3%	13.1%	35.4%	4.3%
2000	31.7%	18.1%	44.3%	5.9%	47.8%	10.5%	36.7%	5.0%
2010	25.1%	20.0%	50.2%	4.7%	46.7%	10.4%	37.3%	5.5%
2016	25.7%	22.9%	47.0%	4.5%	46.1%	11.0%	36.5%	6.4%
	Warrant				FTA/Warrant			
1980	61.5%	20.5%	16.0%	2.0%	59.2%	18.8%	20.0%	2.0%
1990	45.7%	29.5%	22.0%	2.9%	51.0%	19.0%	26.6%	3.4%
2000	38.0%	23.9%	32.9%	5.2%	41.8%	18.0%	35.9%	4.3%
2010	36.8%	23.5%	34.0%	5.7%	34.9%	21.2%	39.5%	4.4%
2016	38.2%	21.9%	34.2%	5.6%	38.8%	16.4%	40.3%	4.5%
	Supervision				Traffic			
1980	52.2%	21.4%	24.3%	2.2%	58.3%	12.7%	26.8%	2.2%
1990	37.0%	35.1%	25.4%	2.5%	49.9%	9.6%	34.4%	6.0%
2000	38.0%	29.7%	29.7%	2.6%	36.9%	10.1%	46.5%	6.5%
2010	34.4%	26.4%	35.4%	3.9%	30.9%	11.2%	50.3%	7.6%
2016	34.9%	23.4%	37.5%	4.2%	29.0%	12.0%	50.3%	8.7%
	Other				Other			
1980	40.3%	16.3%	40.5%	2.9%	55.3%	21.1%	20.7%	2.9%
1990	45.7%	22.2%	27.8%	4.3%	37.9%	21.4%	32.7%	7.9%
2000	39.7%	20.8%	34.0%	5.6%	40.5%	17.8%	35.2%	6.5%

	Felony Offenses				Misdemeanor Offenses			
	White	African American	Latino	Other	White	African American	Latino	Other
2010	33.2%	19.2%	42.4%	5.3%	33.6%	18.3%	41.9%	6.2%
2016	34.4%	18.9%	40.7%	5.9%	38.0%	19.4%	36.1%	6.4%

SOURCE: California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register, 1980-2016.

Age groups

Like the offenses individuals are arrest for—and the population of California—the demographic composition of individuals arrested has changed since 1980. Regarding the age of arrestees, the data show a precipitous drop in arrests of younger suspects—both juveniles (17 and younger) and those between the ages of 18 and 24 (Table B2). Among juveniles, the number of annual arrests plummeted between 1980 and 2016, falling from about 258,000 to about 60,000 (a decrease of 76.7 percent). Among those between 18 and 24, arrests dropped by more than one-half (52.2 percent) from roughly 611,000 to almost 292,000. Arrests of individuals 25 to 29 also decreased, from about 274,000 to 239,000 (a decline of 12.8 percent).

The number of arrests increased for all older age groups. It is especially striking for those between 50 and 59 years of age, where the number nearly doubled, from about 75,000 to more than 144,000 (an increase of 93.3 percent).

While the direction of these trends mirrors those of the state's population—California is aging, and the younger age groups now represent smaller shares of the population than they did in 1980—the magnitudes of the changes in arrests are significantly greater than the shifts in the state's population. For example, the population share of the youngest age group (0-17) declined but only by 3.5 percentage points between 1980 and 2016 (declining from 27 percent to 23.5). The share of California's population between 50 and 59 increased but only by about 3 percentage points (from 10.1 percent to 13.1 percent) over the same period.

TABLE B2

Arrests of the state's youngest residents have dropped drastically

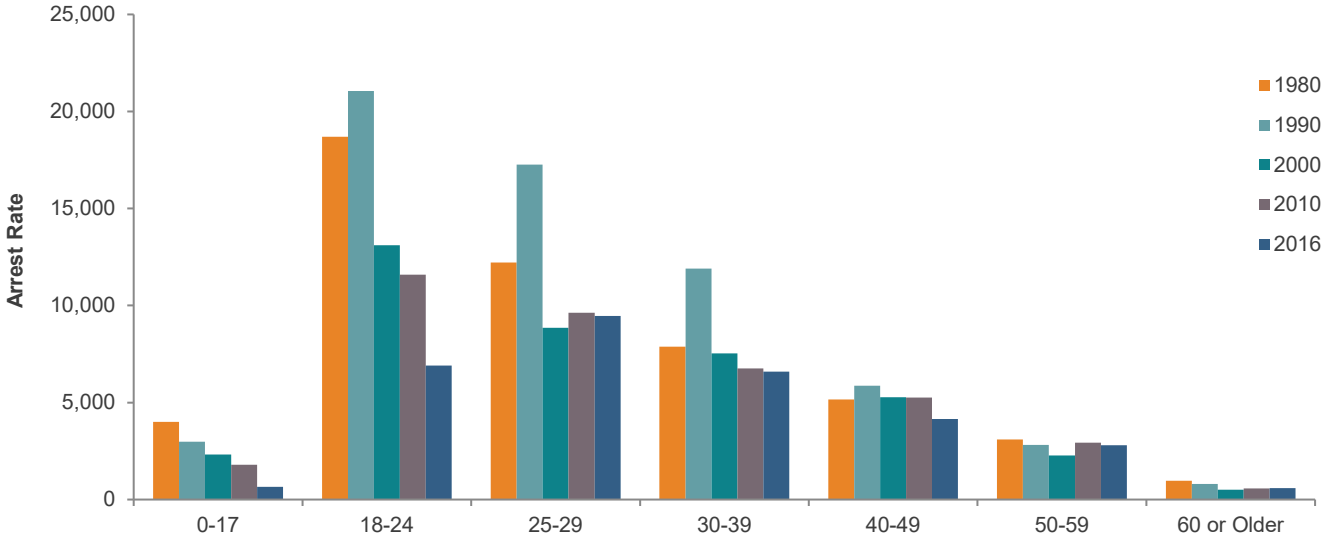
	Age Group						
Year	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 or Older
1980	257,893	611,071	274,240	281,772	125,626	74,596	33,094
1990	236,832	731,002	489,631	631,092	220,057	67,334	33,175
2000	214,903	445,894	228,672	417,719	265,068	79,495	23,857
2010	165,843	455,156	263,996	348,214	278,230	140,062	35,509
2016	59,988	291,982	239,001	352,984	213,973	144,165	45,345
Change, 1980-2016 (Number)	-197,905	-319,089	-35,239	71,212	88,347	69,569	12,251
Change, 1980-2016 (Percent)	-76.7%	-52.2%	-12.8%	25.3%	70.3%	93.3%	37.0%

SOURCE: California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register, 1980-2016.

Figure B6 shows that arrest rates in California are highest among young adults but that the differences across adult age groups have decreased. While the arrest rate decreased between 1980 and 2016 for all age groups, the largest declines as measured by percent change, were among juveniles and 18-24 year olds. For juveniles, the arrest rate dropped from 4,011 arrest per 100,000 juveniles in 1980 to 648 in 2016, a decrease of 83.8 percent. Among 18-24 year olds, the arrest rate declined from 18,692 to 6,914, a drop of 63 percent. Regarding differences across groups, the data show that while the arrest rate of juveniles in 1980 was higher than that of 50-59 year olds (4,011 and 3,101, respectively) in 2016 the juvenile arrest rate was less than one-quarter of the rate for 50-59 year olds (648 and 2,807, respectively).

FIGURE B6

Arrest rates have dropped the most for the state's younger population



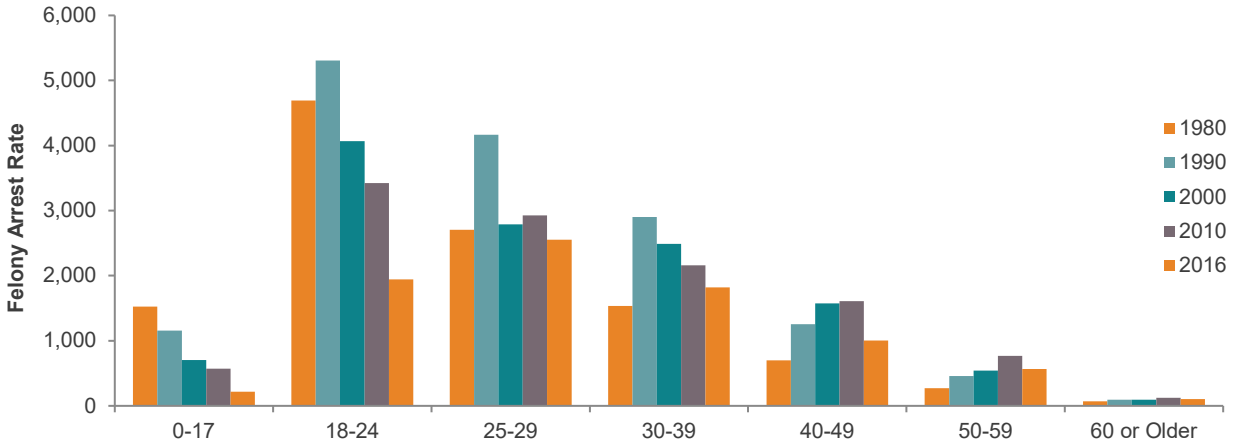
SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 residents of the relevant demographic group.

The decline in arrest rates across all age groups does not apply to felonies, however. While the rates continue to be lower than those among younger adults, felony arrest rates increased for the age groups of individuals 30 and older. The 50-59 age group exhibited the greatest percentage increase; its felony arrest rate rose from 271 in 1980 to 568 in 2016 (109.6 percent). The decreases in the felony arrest rates of juveniles and the youngest adult group, 18-24, are striking. In 1980, the juvenile felony arrest rate stood at 1,526. It now stands at 218, a decrease of 85.7 percent. The corresponding change among 18-24 year olds is a decline from 4,692 to 1,945 (58.5 percent). Also noteworthy is that, while the felony arrest rate of 18-24 year olds was significantly higher that of 25-29 year olds in the 1980s and 1990s, the pattern shifted in the 2000s, and the rate is now lower than that of 25-29 year olds. Furthermore, while the felony arrest rate of the youngest adults in California was more than three times higher than the felony arrest rate of 30-39 year olds, it is now just slightly higher (1,945 and 1,820, respectively).

FIGURE B7

While still lower than younger adults, the felony arrest rates went up between 1980 and 2016 for age groups 30 and older



SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

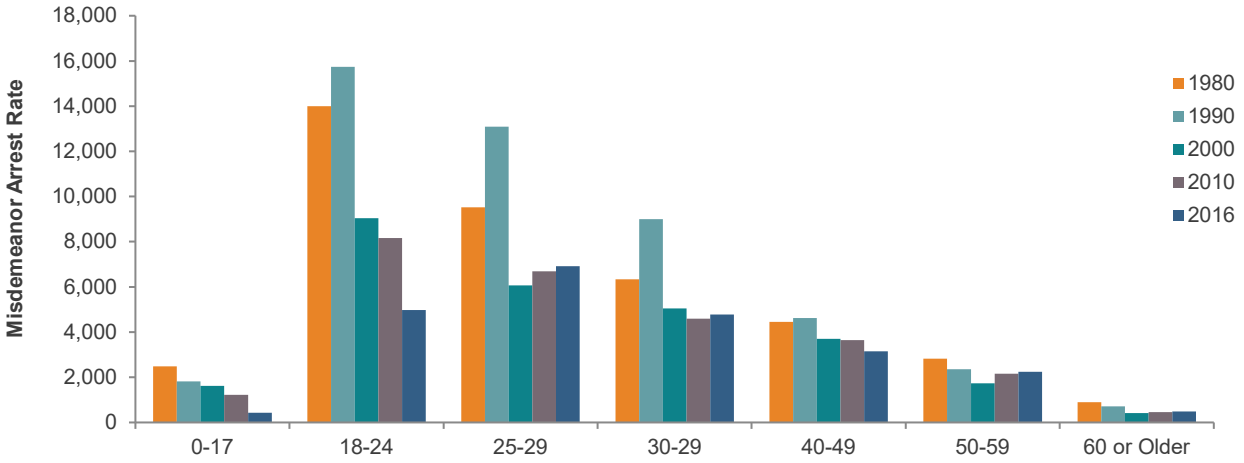
NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of felony arrests per 100,000 residents of the relevant demographic group.

The age group trends for misdemeanor arrests are quite similar to the broader arrest trends (Figure B8). The biggest decreases are among juveniles and young adults. For juveniles, the misdemeanor arrest rate continuously declined between 1980 and 2016, dropping from 2,484 in 1980 to 430 in 2016 (a decrease of 82.7 percent). Among 18-24 year olds, the misdemeanor arrest rate fell by more than 9,000 arrests per 100,000 residents; from 13,999 to 4,969 (a decline of 64.5 percent).

The data also reveal some recent increases in misdemeanor arrests. While the misdemeanor arrest rate of 50-59 year olds decreased between 1980 and 2016, from 2,830 to 2,239, since 2000 it has been slowly increasing. In 2000, it stood at 1,731, in 2010 it was 2,155 and in 2016 it stood at 2,239. Misdemeanor arrests increased somewhat between 2010 and 2016 for other age groups as well: from 6,693 to 6,911 for 25-29 year olds, from 4,600-4,775 among 30-39 year olds, and 456 to 490 among those 60 and older.

FIGURE B8

While misdemeanor arrest rates declined for most age groups, it increased for those 50 and older



SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

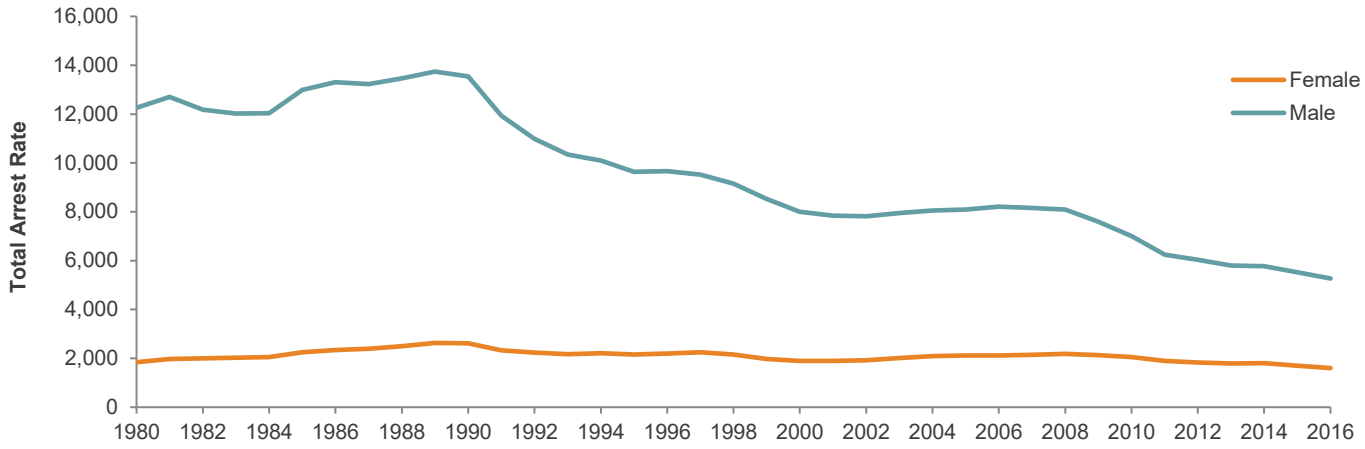
NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 residents of the relevant demographic group.

Gender

Historically, male adult arrest rates have been dramatically higher than the corresponding female arrest rates, but the gaps are decreasing (Figure B9). The male arrest rate was more than six times higher than the female arrest rate in 1980 (12,253 and 1,840, respectively). After reaching a peak in 1989 of 13,741, the adult male arrest rate quite steadily declined to 5,270 by 2016 (a decrease of 61.6 percent). The female adult arrest rate also peaked in 1989 and has since declined, but less so. In 1989 it stood at 2,631 but fell more slowly to 1,603, a drop of 39.1 percent. While still significantly higher, the adult male arrest rate is now only 3.3 times higher than the female adult rate, a ratio that has held quite steady since 2010. As of 2016, male and female adult arrest rates are the lowest observed between 1980 and 2016.

FIGURE B9

Male arrest rates are substantially higher than female arrest rates, but the gap is decreasing



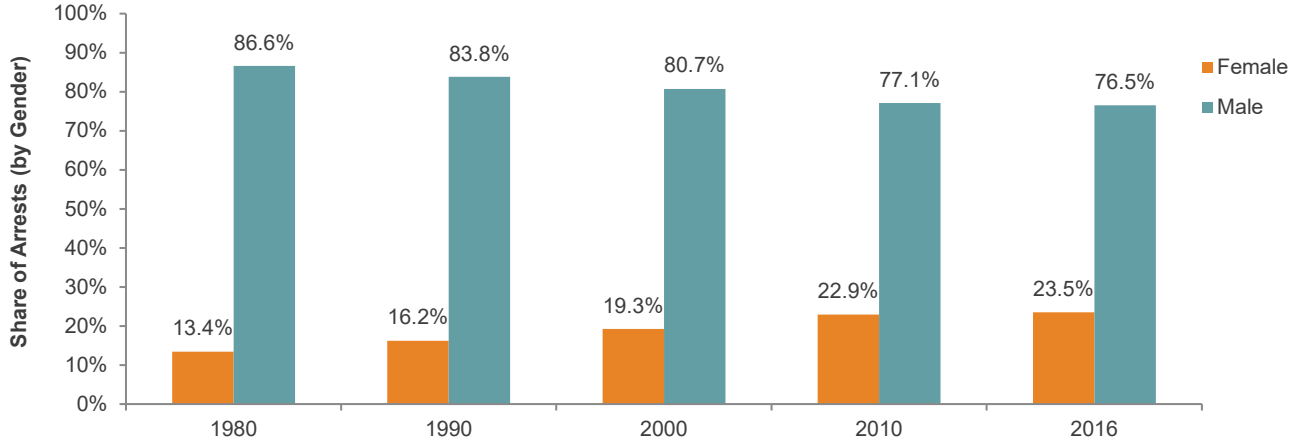
SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 residents of the relevant demographic group.

In terms of the relative share of total arrests, while the vast majority continue to be of males, an increasing share of arrests are of females (Figure B10). Roughly one in eight arrests of adults were of females in 1980. This share has since steadily grown and now almost one in four adult arrests are of females.

FIGURE B10

While the vast majority of arrests in California continue to be of males, an increasing share of arrests are of females



SOURCE: California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register, 1980-2016.

NOTE: Figure shows the shares of all (felony and misdemeanor) annual arrests by gender, for females and males separately.

The offenses for which males and females are arrested for are significantly different and exhibit some different trends. The highest felony arrest rates in 1980 among both men and women were for property offenses (Table B3). Furthermore, the felony property arrest rate is much higher for men, and while both have dropped significantly over the last decade, the decrease among men is greater. The male Felony-Property arrest rate was 1,310 in 1980, nearly seven times greater than the female Felony-Property arrest rate of 188. By 2016, the Felony-Property arrest rates had dropped to 287 and 92 respectively for men and women (corresponding to decreases of 78.1 percent and 50.1 percent). With the stronger downward trend among men, the male arrest rate for felony property crimes is now slightly more than three times greater than that of women.

Violent offenses now account for the plurality of felony arrests for both males and females. While in 1980 the male arrest rate for Felony-Property offenses (1,310) was almost twice the male Felony-Violent arrest rate (699), since the mid-1990s it has been lower, and is now 38 percent lower than the male Felony-Property arrest rate (287 and 464, respectively). Felony arrests for violent offenses by females increased sharply from a low below 100 arrests per 100,000 females in the mid-1980s to a 1997 peak of 146. As of 2016, it stood at 120.

Arrests for Felony-Drug arrests have dropped sharply after reaching peaks in the late 1980s. Male Felony-Drug arrest rate dropped from 803 per 100,000 males in 1990 to 165 in 2016 (Table B3). Among women, the Felony-Drug arrest rate dropped from 173 to 34 over the same period.

Other notable gender felony arrests trends include a decrease in Felony-Weapons arrests among men over the last decades while among women it increased. The male Felony-Weapon arrest rate however continues to be significantly higher than the female rate, 102 and 8 respectively. Felony-Supervision arrest rates for both men and women are now considerably higher than they were in 1980; increasing from 19 to 76 for men and from 2 to 8 among women. However, they are now significantly lower than their peaks in 2008, when they reached 174 and 22 respectively.

TABLE B3

While felony arrests for some offenses have gone up, arrest rates for the most common offenses are down

	Felony Offense Category Males						
Year	Drugs	Property	Violent	Weapons	Supervision	Warrant	Other
1980	460.2	1310.5	698.9	116.2	18.8	61.5	272.9
1990	803.1	1149.9	964.7	118.5	66.6	118.2	280.4
2000	600.7	559.0	702.8	90.4	116.7	152.3	242.7
2010	516.7	460.6	543.7	116.1	143.3	122.3	273.5
2016	165.2	287.1	464.4	101.9	76.1	106.9	247.2
Change, 1980-2016 (Rate)	-295	-1,023	-235	-14	57	45	-26
Change, 1980-2016 (Percent)	-64.1%	-78.1%	-33.6%	-12.3%	304.8%	73.8%	-9.4%
	Females						
Year	Drugs	Property	Violent	Weapons	Supervision	Warrant	Other
1980	92.5	188.1	73.9	5.8	2.0	9.3	30.7
1990	173.3	228.8	102.1	6.6	8.1	24.7	51.5
2000	155.1	175.7	131.6	6.1	15.0	37.5	57.0
2010	135.2	178.3	123.6	8.9	14.5	32.6	64.4
2016	33.8	92.2	119.6	7.9	8.0	27,2	62.6
Change, 1980-2016 (Rate)	-59	-96	46	2	6	18	32
Change, 1980-2016 (Percent)	-63.5%	-51.0%	61.8%	36.2%	300.0%	192.5%	103.9%

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of felony arrests per 100,000 residents, by offense category, of the relevant demographic group.

Misdemeanor arrest rates for traffic and alcohol offenses are down sharply for both men and women compared to the 1980s and early 1990s. Table B4 shows that the male arrest rate for misdemeanor traffic offenses dropped from 3,505 in 1980 to 981 in 2016 (a decline of 72 percent). For women the rate decreased from 379 to 306 (a drop of 19.3 percent). For both men and women, the misdemeanor arrest rate for alcohol offenses declined even more: from 2,569 to 364 for men and from 268 to 94 for women (decreases of 85.8 percent and 64.9 percent respectively). Misdemeanor arrests for property offenses are also down noticeably, by more than 60 percent for both men and women. Among men, the Misdemeanor-Property arrest rate decreased from 669 in 1980 to 222 in 2016, and among women it dropped from 372 to 142.

Trends for drug misdemeanors are noticeably different from traffic, alcohol, and property arrest trends. Among men, the Misdemeanor-Drug arrest rate grew in the 1980s, from 485 in 1980 to a peak of 730 in 1988. In subsequent years, the rate both dipped and rose, sometimes sharply, until it settled at 717 in 2016.

The Misdemeanor-Drug arrest trend among women is similar to that of the men, but with somewhat less fluctuation in the 1980s and 1990s. Interestingly, the female Misdemeanor-Drug arrest rate increased sharply between 2013 and 2016, almost doubling, going from 106 to 206. Also noteworthy, while the female Misdemeanor-Assault/battery arrest rate is not dramatically different from what it was in the 1990s, and lower than it was in the 2000s, it is now higher than it was in 1980. Among men, the Misdemeanor-Assault/battery arrest rate has continuously decreased since the late 1980s and is now, at 306, close to the lowest observed since 1980 (302 in 2013).

TABLE B4

Misdemeanor arrest rates for traffic and alcohol offenses are down sharply

	Misdemeanor Offense Category Males						
Year	Traffic	Alcohol	Drugs	Property	FTA/ Warrant	Assault/ Battery	Other
1980	3,505	2,569	485	669	550	410	1,125
1990	4,197	1,534	559	636.5	1,064	463	1,592
2000	1,719	854	577	286	738	368	988
2010	1,621	635	547	199	717	357	756
2016	981	364	717	222	667	306	564
Change, 1980-2016 (Rate)	-2,524	-2,205	232	-447	117	-104	-561
Change, 1980-2016 (Percent)	-72.0%	-85.8%	47.8%	-66.8%	21.3%	-25.4%	-49.9%

	Females						
Year	Traffic	Alcohol	Drugs	Property	FTA/ Warrant	Assault/ Battery	Other
1980	379	268	76	372	64	64	216
1990	695	212	162	365	184	96	308
2000	333	149	155	181	173	110	212
2010	486	145	148	197	215	116	195
2016	306	94	206	142	227	107	168
Change, 1980-2016 (Rate)	-73	-174	130	-230	163	43	-48
Change, 1980-2016 (Percent)	-19.3%	-64.9%	171.1%	-61.8%	254.7%	67.2%	-22.2%

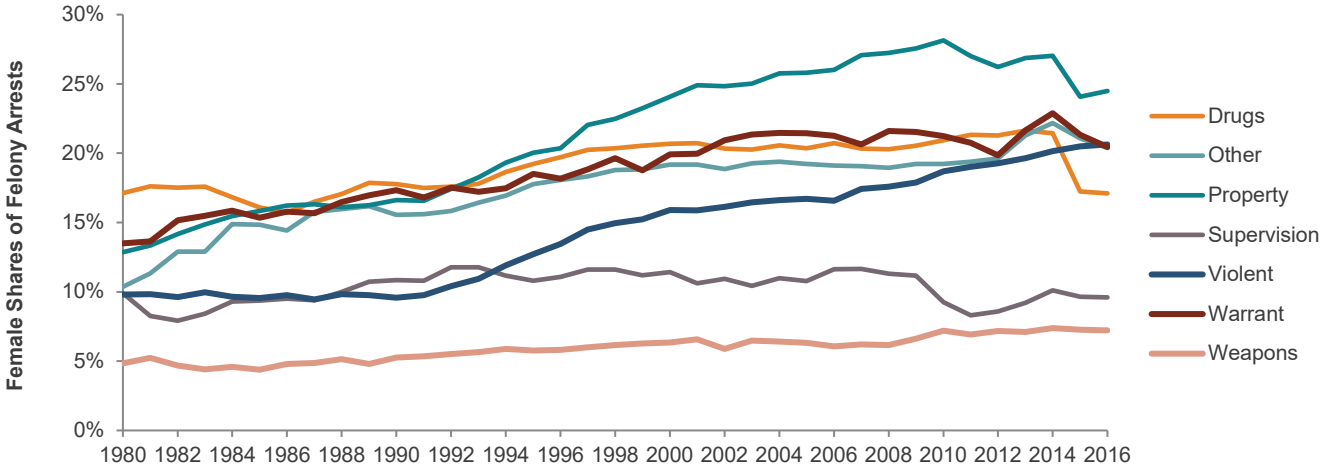
SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of misdemeanor arrests per 100,000 residents, by offense category, of the relevant demographic group.

The above discussion identifies a number of instances where female arrest rates have increased more, or decreased less, than male arrest rates. An important consequence of these trends is that women increasingly make up a greater share of arrests in California. Figure B11 shows the trends in the female shares of felony arrests by felony offense groups. The two most notable increases in the female share of felony arrests are for property and violent offenses. The share of Felony-Property arrests more than doubled between 1980 and 2010 (from 12.9 to 28.1 percent). Since then, the female share has come down somewhat, to 24.5 percent. The female share of felony violent offenses stayed quite constant around 10 percent in the 1980s and then started a steady climb, to 20.6 percent of all Felony-Violent arrests in California. The recent drop in the female share of Felony-Drug arrests is also noticeable in Figure B6. After staying relatively steady at slightly above 20 percent since the late 1990s, it decreased from 21.5 percent in 2014 to 17.1 percent in 2016.

FIGURE B11

The female share of felony arrests has increased for most felony offense groups



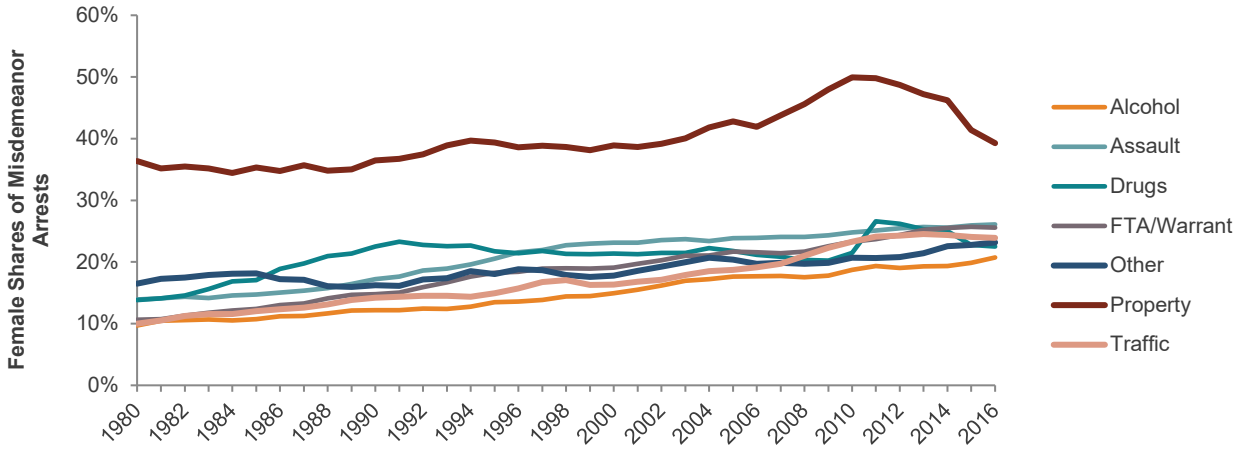
SOURCE: California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register, 1980-2016.

NOTE: Figure shows the female shares of felony arrests by felony offense groups.

The female share of arrests for misdemeanor offenses is also increasing, doubling for several misdemeanor offense groups (Figure B12). The female share of arrests for Misdemeanor-Alcohol offenses has been steadily increasing, from 9.7 percent in 1980 to 20.7 percent in 2016. The female share of arrests for Misdemeanor-Traffic offenses increased from 10 to 23.9 percent over the same period, while the female share of misdemeanor arrests for FTA or an outstanding warrant went from 10.6 percent 25.6 percent. The data also reveal significant increases in the female shares of arrests for Misdemeanor-Assault/battery as well as drug offenses. These shares increased from 13.9 to 26.1 percent between 1980 and 2016 for assault/battery offenses, and from 13.8 percent to 22.5 percent for Misdemeanor-Drug offense. Lastly, the offense with the highest female share of arrests—Misdemeanor-Property offenses—grew considerably in the 1990s and the 2000s, reaching almost 50 percent in 2010. Since then it has declined to 39.3 percent.

FIGURE B12

The female share of arrests for misdemeanor offenses are increasing, doubling for several misdemeanor offense groups



SOURCE: California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register, 1980-2016.

NOTE: Figure shows the female shares of misdemeanor arrests by misdemeanor offense groups.

Appendix C. County Differences in Arrests

The analyses of arrests trends in California in the prior appendices reveal noticeable changes over time, including reduced differences across age, gender and race/ethnicity categories. They also show that in spite of the decreased variation across groups, substantial disparities remain. In this appendix we examine how arrests differ across counties in California with a focus on the most recent data currently available (2016).

Before proceeding, it is important to note two qualifications for the analysis which follows. First, in counties with small populations, arrest statistics can be heavily skewed by unusual events or the actions of few individuals. For that reason, we limit our county analysis of race/ethnicity differences to the 49 counties with overall populations of at least 25,000. Second, many factors are likely to contribute to these differences, including crime rates, the composition of crimes, the number of law enforcement officers, policing practices, demographics, fiscal considerations, and jail capacity. As we noted elsewhere, understanding the role of determinants of arrest rate differences across counties and communities is fundamental to a better understanding of law enforcement discretion and racial disparities. The purpose of this report, however, is to provide a starting point for such a discussion by providing basic information on arrests: what individuals are arrested for, and who is being arrested, and how these differ across the state. Subsequent research will begin to delve further into the drivers behind these differences.

The number of arrests per 100,000 residents varies substantially across counties (Figure C1). The counties with the five highest total arrest rates (the height of the bar, which is felony and misdemeanor arrests combined) are found in the counties of Lake (7,906 annual arrests per 100,000 county residents), Siskiyou (6,862), Shasta (6,672), Trinity (6,559), and Butte (6,394). The lowest total arrest rates are found mostly in large counties. The five lowest rates are in Los Angeles (2,800), Sacramento (2,797), San Francisco (2,603), Santa Clara (2,576), and Riverside (2,479) counties.

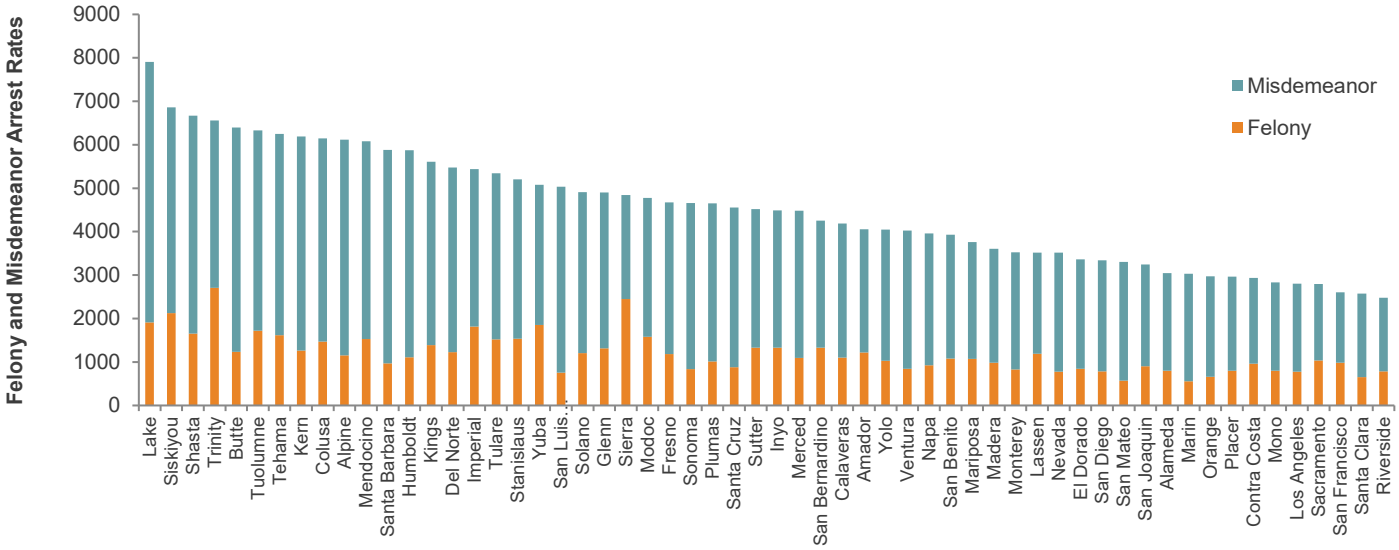
As the figure indicates, misdemeanor arrests make up the majority of all arrests in most counties. In fact, at least two-thirds of all arrests are misdemeanors in all but six counties: Lassen (66.2 percent), Yuba (63.5 percent),

Sacramento (63.1 percent), San Francisco (62.3 percent), Trinity (58.8 percent) and Sierra (49.3 percent). The highest shares of misdemeanor arrests are found in San Luis Obispo (85.1 percent), Santa Barbara (83.5 percent), San Mateo (82.7 percent) and Sonoma (82.1 percent).

The counties with the highest felony rates are all rural counties: Trinity (with 2,705 felony arrests per 100,000 residents), Sierra (2,451), Siskiyou (2,127), Lake (1,913), and Yuba (1,853). The five counties with the lowest felony arrest rates are mostly large urban counties, with three in the San Francisco Bay Area: San Luis Obispo (752), Orange County (659), Santa Clara (655), San Mateo, (573) and Marin (556). Given that most arrests are for misdemeanor offenses, it is not surprising that some of the counties with the highest (and lowest) total arrest rates also have the highest (and lowest) misdemeanor arrest rates. Among the counties with the highest misdemeanor arrest rates we see Lake (with 5,993 misdemeanor arrests per 100,000 residents), Butte (5,159), Shasta (5,016), Alpine (4,965) and Kern (4,928). The lowest rates are in Contra Costa (1,972), Santa Clara (1,921), Sacramento (1,765), Riverside (1,690) and San Francisco (1,622).

FIGURE C1

Most of California's lowest arrest rates are in the larger counties



SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 county residents.

A closer look at arrest offenses reveals that county differences in felony drug and violent arrest rates contribute prominently to differences in felony arrest rates. For example, the difference in felony drug arrests between the county with the highest rate (Lake, with 496 felony drug arrests per 100,000 residents) and the lowest rate (Marin, with a felony drug arrest rate of 48) of 448 is between one-quarter and one-third of the difference in the overall felony arrest rate between the counties with the highest and lowest felony arrest rate (Table C1). Of roughly the same magnitude is the 510 felony violent arrests per 100,000 residents difference between the counties with the highest rate (Yuba, 690) and the lowest rate (San Mateo, 180). The table also shows great disparity in the felony supervision arrest rate.

While differences in misdemeanor drugs arrests also contribute significantly to county differences in misdemeanor arrest rates, differences in arrests for traffic offenses and FTA/warrant play bigger roles. Ranging between 1,210 and 1,471 arrests per 100,000 residents, the highest Misdemeanor-Traffic arrest rates are mostly in small rural counties (Solano, Amador, Tehama, Humboldt, and Lake). The lowest traffic arrest rates—between

376 and 486—are found in a mix of rural and urban counties (San Benito, Santa Cruz, Contra Costa, Sacramento, and Ventura). The highest misdemeanor arrest rates for FTA/warrants, between 1,164 and 1,586, are also found in California's small and rural counties: Kings, Butte, Siskiyou, Lake, and Tuolumne. While the absolute lowest rates occur in small rural counties with populations too low to include in our analysis, we see a mix of rural and urban eligible counties among those with the lowest Misdemeanor-FTA/warrant arrest rates: San Benito (181), Sacramento (197), El Dorado (245), Riverside (266), and Marin (271). The distinction between counties with high and low Misdemeanor-Drug arrest rates does not occur so discernibly along the lines of small/rural versus large/urban; the highest rates are found in Kings, Plumas, Lake, Ventura and Tulare while the lowest are in San Francisco, Sierra, Amador, San Joaquin, Trinity and Los Angeles.

TABLE C1

County differences in Felony-Drug and Violent arrest rates contribute prominently to differences in county felony arrest rates

	Felony Arrest Rates						
	Property	Drugs	Violent	Weapons	Supervision	Warrant	Other
High	339	496	690	140	417	239	800
P90	268	278	473	100	119	184	387
P75	221	188	394	81	98	131	249
Median	178	108	326	59	48	79	198
P25	151	76	252	40	26	47	155
P10	128	66	211	34	14	37	114
Low	112	48	180	23	3	11	84
High-Low	227	448	510	117	414	228	716
P90-P10	139	211	263	67	105	147	273
P75-P25	70	112	143	41	72	84	94
High/Low	3.03	10.43	3.84	6.12	133.84	21.00	9.55
P90/P10	2.08	4.18	2.25	2.99	8.40	4.91	3.40
P75/P25	1.47	2.48	1.57	2.03	3.80	2.79	1.61

	Misdemeanor Arrest Rates						
	Property	Drugs	Assault/Battery	Traffic	Alcohol	FTA/Warrant	Other
High	321	1,285	508	1,471	1,146	1,586	1,311
P90	256	944	406	1,204	741	949	604
P75	219	775	350	1,122	402	669	464
Median	182	535	253	866	264	520	368
P25	162	421	210	616	213	391	307
P10	88	336	151	487	136	292	231
Low	65	35	124	376	46	181	179
High-Low	257	1,249	385	1,096	1,101	1,405	1,131
P90-P10	168	608	256	718	605	658	374
P75-P25	56	354	140	506	189	278	157
High/Low	4.98	36.28	4.11	3.92	25.05	8.77	7.30
P90/P10	2.91	2.81	2.69	2.48	5.45	3.25	2.62
P75/P25	1.35	1.84	1.66	1.82	1.89	1.71	1.51

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 county residents in 2016.

It is not surprising that the demographic composition of suspects arrested also varies substantially across counties given the overall demographic differences across counties. However, population differences alone are unlikely to be the sole contributor to arrest differences. While a contributing factor to county differences in race/ethnic shares of arrests, demographic compositional differences are likely to have a modest impact on county arrest rate

differences across gender and age categories as there are relatively small differences in age and gender distributions across counties in California.

The counties with the highest female arrest rates tend to also to be the same small rural counties with the state's highest overall arrest rates. These include Tuolumne (with 4,210 female arrests per 100,000 female residents), Lake (4,130), Siskiyou (3,824), Shasta (3,772) and Butte (3,644). The female arrest rates in the counties with the lowest female arrest rates are roughly ¼ of those in the counties with the highest rates; Los Angeles (1,199), Riverside (1,162), Santa Clara (1,142), Mono (1,046) and San Francisco (982).

While across-county differences in arrest rates vary by age group (Table C2), a commonality is that for each age group the arrest rates of the counties in the top decile (the 5-6 counties with the highest arrest rates) are about 2-3 times higher than the arrest rates of the counties in the bottom decile (the 5-6 counties with the lowest arrest rates). For example, the county felony arrest rate for 25-29 year olds in the top decile is 5,341 (roughly corresponding to the Mendocino and Tuolumne rates) is 2.60 times greater than the bottom decile felony arrest rates of 2,053 for this age group (corresponding to the number of felony arrests of 25-29 year olds in San Francisco and San Diego). The disparity across counties is more striking if we look at the difference in these felony arrest rates. There are 3,288 more arrests of 25-29 year olds per 100,000 county residents of that age in the small counties of Mendocino and Tuolumne than in San Francisco or San Diego.

We can also discern from Table C2 that the magnitude of the broader differences in arrest rates across counties is to a large extent driven by two age groups, those between 25 and 29 and those between 30 and 39. These are the age groups with the highest arrest rates (for both felony and misdemeanor arrests), and are the age groups with the greatest differences across counties. For example, the top decile misdemeanor arrest rates (roughly the rates of Shasta, Tuolumne or Siskiyou) for these age groups are 13,016 (25-29 year olds) and 11,286 (30-39 year olds). These arrest rates are more than 8,000 misdemeanor arrests per 100,000 residents greater than those in the counties with the bottom decile arrest rates of 5,680 and 3,860 respectively (approximately the rates of Los Angeles and Alameda).

TABLE C2

The largest differences in arrest rates across counties are among arrestees between the ages of 25 and 39

	Overall Arrest Rates						
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 or Older
Highest	1,516	13,570	25,421	21,602	13,331	7,599	2,017
Top Decile (P90)	1,218	11,312	18,222	15,712	10,246	5,767	1,124
Top Quartile (P75)	1,080	9,342	14,472	11,585	7,742	4,866	947
Median	836	7,793	12,242	9,699	6,288	3,905	713
Bottom Quartile (P25)	629	6,532	9,367	6,578	4,181	2,842	535
Bottom Decile (P10)	530	5,732	8,024	5,504	3,451	2,321	468
Lowest	396	3,860	5,762	3,268	2,934	1,931	367
High-Low	1,120	9,710	19,660	18,334	10,398	5,668	1,650
P90-P10	688	5,580	10,198	10,207	6,795	3,445	656
P75-P25	452	2,809	5,104	5,007	3,562	2,023	412
High/Low	3.83	3.52	4.41	6.61	4.54	3.94	5.50
P90/P10	2.30	1.97	2.27	2.85	2.97	2.48	2.40
P75/P25	1.72	1.43	1.54	1.76	1.85	1.71	1.77

	Felony Arrest Rates						
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 or Older
Highest	382	4,411	6,998	7,496	3,790	1,512	261
Top Decile (P90)	348	3,100	5,341	4,630	2,466	1,172	211
Top Quartile (P75)	310	2,648	3,950	3,398	1,911	969	148
Median	239	1,995	3,037	2,597	1,291	700	117
Bottom Quartile (P25)	171	1,698	2,393	1,879	1,048	520	93
Bottom Decile (P10)	149	1,491	2,053	1,372	849	456	72
Lowest	70	1,016	1,508	1,133	556	326	57
High-Low	312	3,395	5,490	6,363	3,234	1,186	203
P90-P10	198	1,610	3,288	3,258	1,617	715	139
P75-P25	140	950	1,556	1,519	863	449	55
High/Low	5.44	4.34	4.64	6.61	6.82	4.64	4.55
P90/P10	2.33	2.08	2.60	3.37	2.90	2.57	2.93
P75/P25	1.82	1.56	1.65	1.81	1.82	1.86	1.60
	Misdemeanor Arrest Rates						
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 or Older
Highest	1,224	10,456	18,423	15,031	10,226	6,217	1,920
Top Decile (P90)	914	8,501	13,016	11,286	7,946	4,727	931
Top Quartile (P75)	811	7,153	11,150	8,512	6,340	3,940	772
Median	568	5,598	8,685	7,276	4,632	2,981	542
Bottom Quartile (P25)	457	4,629	7,097	4,875	3,125	2,232	434
Bottom Decile (P10)	362	3,999	5,680	3,860	2,409	1,697	362
Lowest	259	2,845	3,710	2,018	1,919	1,437	302
High-Low	966	7,612	14,714	13,013	8,307	4,780	1,618
P90-P10	552	4,502	7,336	7,426	5,537	3,030	569
P75-P25	354	2,524	4,052	3,637	3,215	1,707	338
High/Low	4.74	3.68	4.97	7.45	5.33	4.33	6.36
P90/P10	2.53	2.13	2.29	2.92	3.30	2.79	2.57
P75/P25	1.77	1.55	1.57	1.75	2.03	1.76	1.78

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 county residents in 2016.

As discussed above, arrest rates in California differ dramatically across race/ethnic groups, they also vary significantly across the state's counties, across these groups (Table C3). The white overall arrest rate in the counties with the highest arrest rates (top decile) is 2.81 times higher than those in the lowest decile, and the difference in overall arrest rates is greater than 4,000 arrest per 100,000 residents. This difference, however, is substantially smaller than the across-county difference in the African American arrest rate. In the top-decile counties in the African American arrest rate is more than 26,000 arrests per 100,000 African American residents, 3.32 times higher than the African American arrest rate in the counties with the lowest rates. For comparison, the

Latino arrest rate difference between top and bottom-decile counties is about 2,900. It should be pointed out that the highest African American arrest rates are found in small counties, with especially small African American populations. High arrest rates in these cases can be caused by a small number of arrests. However, as Table C4 shows, the greater county difference is evident if we compare the counties in the top quartile of African-American arrest rates to those in the bottom quartile. Furthermore, we observe a number of relatively large counties where the difference between the overall African American arrest rates is at least 10,000 more than the overall white arrest rate: San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Barbara and Santa Clara.

While Latino arrest rates are higher than white arrest rates in California, the data suggest that there are a number of counties where the Latino arrest rate is lower than the white arrest rate. In fact, there are 32 counties where this holds true, including some relatively large counties such as San Bernardino, Sacramento, and San Bernardino. However, there are also a number of large counties where the Latino arrest rate is at least 1,000 more than the white arrest rate: Santa Clara, Fresno, Alameda and Orange County. There are three counties where the Latino arrest rate is twice that of whites (San Mateo, Marin and Santa Clara), and none where it is at least three times that of whites.

Table C3 also highlights that the higher African American arrest rates holds for virtually all counties in California. Only two of the smallest counties examined, Lassen and Del Norte, had arrest rates for African Americans that were lower than those of whites. The African American arrest rate was at least double the white arrest rate in 45 of the 49 counties examined, three times greater in 33 counties, four times greater in 21 counties, and five times greater in 13 counties. While some of the greatest disparity is in small rural counties (such as Glenn and Nevada), it also includes urban counties like San Mateo and San Francisco.

TABLE C3

Differences in Felony-Drug and Violent arrest rates contribute prominently to differences in felony arrest rates

	Overall Arrest Rates				Group-White Difference		
	White	Latino	African American	Other	Latino	African American	Other
Highest	7,704	6,329	38,710	10,697	-1,375	31,006	2,993
Top Decile (P90)	6,657	5,412	26,057	6,336	-1,245	19,399	-321
Top Quartile (P75)	5,924	4,978	21,603	3,769	-945	15,680	-2,155
Median	4,033	4,106	15,152	1,949	73	11,119	-2,084
Bottom Quartile (P25)	3,009	3,455	9,972	1,545	446	6,963	-1,464
Bottom Decile (P10)	2,368	2,499	7,852	1,019	131	5,484	-1,349
Lowest	2,046	354	1,818	789	-1,692	-228	-1,257
High-Low	5,658	5,975	36,891	9,907			
P90-P10	4,289	2,914	18,205	5,318			
P75-P25	2,915	1,523	11,631	2,224			
High/Low	3.8	17.9	21.3	13.5			
P90/P10	2.81	2.17	3.32	6.22			
P75/P25	1.97	1.44	2.17	2.44			

	Felony Arrest Rates				Group-White Difference		
	White	Latino	African American	Other	Latino	African American	Other
Highest	2,315	2,171	13,620	3,404	-143	11,305	1,089
Top Decile (P90)	1,710	1,483	8,163	1,736	-227	6,453	26
Top Quartile (P75)	1,439	1,201	6,150	1,009	-239	4,711	-430
Median	934	926	4,163	501	-9	3,229	-433
Bottom Quartile (P25)	745	816	3,310	366	72	2,566	-379
Bottom Decile (P10)	537	744	2,748	284	207	2,211	-253
Lowest	335	42	265	211	-292	-70	-123
High-Low	1,980	2,129	13,356	3,193			
P90-P10	1,173	739	5,416	1,453			
P75-P25	695	384	2,840	643			
High/Low	6.9	51.2	51.5	16.1			
P90/P10	3.19	1.99	2.97	6.13			
P75/P25	1.93	1.47	1.86	2.76			

	Misdemeanor Arrest Rates				Group-White Difference		
	White	Latino	African American	Other	Latino	African American	Other
Highest	6,030	4,749	25,532	7,293	-1,281	19,502	1,263
Top Decile (P90)	5,067	4,205	19,486	4,770	-862	14,419	-297
Top Quartile (P75)	4,373	3,744	15,527	2,722	-628	11,154	-1,650
Median	3,056	3,041	10,282	1,434	-15	7,226	-1,622
Bottom Quartile (P25)	2,283	2,544	6,606	1,141	260	4,323	-1,143
Bottom Decile (P10)	1,799	1,793	4,640	745	-6	2,841	-1,054
Lowest	1,540	312	979	578	-1,229	-561	-962
High-Low	4,490	4,437	24,553	6,715			
P90-P10	3,268	2,412	14,846	4,025			
P75-P25	2,089	1,201	8,921	1,582			
High/Low	3.9	15.2	26.1	12.6			
P90/P10	2.82	2.35	4.20	6.40			
P75/P25	1.91	1.47	2.35	2.39			

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 county residents in 2016.

Examining the 2016 arrest data at the county level makes clear that arrest rates in California vary dramatically across the state. It shows that counties differ widely in the offenses for which suspects are arrested for, as well as the demographics of those arrested.

Appendix D. Other Demographic Analyses

TABLE D1

Arrest Rates by Year and Demographic Group

Group	1980	1990	2000	2010	2016
White 0-17 Female	1,532	1,114	1,190	922	306
White 0-17 Male	6,206	3,557	3,407	2,097	700
White 18-24 Female	4,362	6,469	5,292	6,247	3,788
White 18-24 Male	26,913	28,181	19,163	15,019	8,335
White 25-29 Female	2,811	5,817	3,726	4,858	5,774
White 25-29 Male	15,736	22,025	11,835	12,020	13,517
White 30-39 Female	1,809	3,863	3,708	3,692	3,999
White 30-39 Male	10,181	14,585	10,361	8,910	9,403
White 40-49 Female	1,269	1,693	2,138	3,026	2,845
White 40-49 Male	6,694	7,294	7,098	7,937	6,689
White 50-59 Female	643	735	638	1,210	1,483
White 50-59 Male	4,324	3,693	3,161	4,261	4,633
White 60+ Female	167	196	108	175	213
White 60+ Male	1,591	1,200	749	885	940
Latino 0-17 Female	1,074	941	874	876	341
Latino 0-17 Male	5,964	4,961	3,366	2,824	989
Latino 18-24 Female	3,748	4,457	3,444	4,471	2,902
Latino 18-24 Male	39,554	37,532	22,423	19,044	11,638
Latino 25-29 Female	2,674	4,464	2,668	4,066	3,834
Latino 25-29 Male	28,101	32,017	16,294	16,517	14,299
Latino 30-39 Female	1,986	3,365	2,439	2,935	2,806
Latino 30-39 Male	19,588	24,034	12,703	11,489	10,222
Latino 40-49 Female	1,221	1,763	1,642	1,928	1,505
Latino 40-49 Male	14,088	14,044	9,390	7,809	5,994
Latino 50-59 Female	704	703	614	862	733
Latino 50-59 Male	10,254	7,700	5,275	4,798	3,832
Latino 60+ Female	231	243	133	162	142
Latino 60+ Male	4,211	3,095	1,830	1,387	1,171
African American 0-17 Female	2,465	2,626	2,912	2,963	1,340
African American 0-17 Male	12,498	11,339	7,653	7,385	3,275
African American 18-24 Female	12,319	16,466	14,034	16,699	10,762
African American 18-24 Male	59,795	68,069	47,531	40,978	24,217
African American 25-29 Female	9,718	18,559	10,399	13,094	12,638

Group	1980	1990	2000	2010	2016
African American 25-29 Male	54,954	60,436	34,595	38,303	33,733
African American 30-39 Female	5,125	14,219	10,142	9,119	8,683
African American 30-39 Male	40,198	54,440	29,742	28,460	26,515
African American 40-49 Female	2,312	5,349	7,141	6,758	4,773
African American 40-49 Male	24,061	32,203	27,616	22,361	17,287
African American 50-59 Female	1,164	1,446	1,944	3,391	2,901
African American 50-59 Male	16,288	14,066	13,891	16,801	14,538
African American 60+ Female	289	357	248	434	493
African American 60+ Male	6,463	4,960	3,295	3,967	4,213
Other 0-17 Female	682	767	616	422	149
Other 0-17 Male	2,529	3,901	2,005	986	338
Other 18-24 Female	2,358	3,409	1,952	2,430	1,383
Other 18-24 Male	11,685	20,710	8,848	6,811	3,882
Other 25-29 Female	1,765	2,965	1,254	1,877	1,809
Other 25-29 Male	8,768	15,963	5,430	6,155	5,446
Other 30-39 Female	1,288	2,070	1,007	1,149	1,188
Other 30-39 Male	6,396	10,261	4,240	3,939	4,048
Other 40-49 Female	904	1,180	712	800	705
Other 40-49 Male	4,877	5,534	3,077	2,744	2,465
Other 50-59 Female	449	660	329	432	376
Other 50-59 Male	3,463	2,990	1,495	1,587	1,484
Other 60+ Female	175	282	85	109	101
Other 60+ Male	1,339	1,324	529	464	432

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 residents of the relevant demographic group:

TABLE D2

Overall Arrest Rates, 2016

County	Age							Gender		Race			
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Female	Male	White	Latino	African American	Other
Alameda	525	6,416	7,462	5,307	3,654	2,558	584	1,480	4,660	2,373	3,629	9,637	977
Alpine	476	16,667	23,913	18,391	11,905	3,465	1,090	2,170	9,913	NA	NA	NA	NA
Amador	422	5,840	14,045	12,517	6,656	4,140	535	2,505	5,387	3,731	4,397	8,816	6,331
Butte	1,139	7,846	15,885	16,016	10,519	6,710	1,057	3,644	9,177	6,861	4,343	25,038	3,466
Calaveras	1,299	6,011	14,671	15,044	7,441	4,004	638	2,373	6,007	4,033	4,516	16,599	4,550
Colusa	294	12,581	16,830	15,610	7,869	5,184	1,149	2,970	9,176	NA	NA	NA	NA
Contra Costa	531	7,163	9,094	6,116	3,537	2,072	416	1,405	4,535	2,553	2,698	9,751	1,013
Del Norte	683	9,342	15,235	11,585	8,902	5,690	1,012	3,290	7,355	6,500	1,491	2,249	6,360
El Dorado	938	5,679	10,293	9,103	4,904	3,047	595	1,813	4,904	3,455	3,011	15,152	1,875
Fresno	941	7,792	12,212	9,765	6,593	3,959	784	2,226	7,129	3,698	5,064	13,352	1,935
Glenn	570	8,864	15,929	11,153	6,711	3,987	998	2,895	6,864	5,624	3,521	37,589	5,551
Humboldt	712	7,793	16,861	12,930	10,178	5,361	974	2,916	8,813	6,086	3,632	26,834	4,825
Imperial	629	9,720	13,744	12,975	7,748	4,470	961	2,493	8,300	7,206	5,093	9,972	5,376
Inyo	285	10,242	20,546	10,075	6,656	3,889	947	2,165	6,763	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kern	680	11,289	16,466	12,557	8,401	5,240	1,182	3,080	9,147	6,633	4,957	16,279	5,389
Kings	1,351	8,954	12,242	10,937	8,342	4,866	1,158	3,153	7,651	4,416	5,998	11,869	3,396
Lake	1,211	13,570	25,421	20,808	13,331	7,599	1,358	4,130	11,685	7,704	6,329	25,810	10,697
Lassen	917	5,781	8,500	6,603	4,459	2,842	713	2,585	4,080	3,701	2,256	1,818	6,450
Los Angeles	469	5,995	7,926	5,012	3,084	2,201	511	1,199	4,441	2,046	3,006	7,955	922
Madera	958	6,777	8,333	7,671	5,006	2,884	529	1,372	5,982	3,017	3,852	7,440	2,349
Marin	1,099	8,375	9,464	6,578	3,749	2,889	713	1,497	4,611	2,321	4,980	14,786	1,545
Mariposa	69	5,837	12,606	11,489	8,676	3,790	524	1,935	5,550	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mendocino	1,129	12,788	18,298	13,881	9,522	5,729	801	3,082	9,060	6,297	4,430	32,514	7,443
Merced	995	7,604	11,403	9,834	5,723	3,434	800	2,025	6,891	4,416	4,536	12,246	1,612

County	Age							Gender		Race			
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Female	Male	White	Latino	African American	Other
Modoc	604	9,524	23,138	14,035	7,136	4,063	386	2,978	6,586	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mono	210	9,381	8,686	4,380	2,856	1,741	1,036	1,046	4,425	NA	NA	NA	NA
Monterey	841	7,323	9,769	6,427	4,181	2,878	607	1,758	5,204	3,182	3,650	10,941	1,731
Napa	836	9,075	9,843	8,744	5,002	3,168	596	1,979	5,944	3,672	4,063	22,175	1,766
Nevada	1,245	6,707	13,532	9,583	5,181	2,814	511	1,783	5,283	3,650	2,508	24,286	1,647
Orange	557	7,184	9,367	5,658	3,181	2,047	367	1,334	4,638	2,833	3,862	11,151	1,240
Placer	570	6,923	10,003	6,207	3,820	2,532	372	1,583	4,404	2,943	2,929	17,121	1,368
Plumas	1,220	8,103	14,004	12,686	11,205	4,248	773	2,922	6,391	NA	NA	NA	NA
Riverside	396	5,112	6,972	5,387	2,934	1,931	374	1,162	3,809	2,346	2,460	5,578	1,025
Sacramento	463	5,054	8,049	5,533	3,590	2,351	496	1,291	4,358	2,628	2,295	8,305	1,020
San Benito	1,159	6,997	10,570	9,615	4,239	2,895	485	1,793	6,074	2,569	4,785	16,452	1,762
San Bernardino	700	7,995	12,049	8,674	5,094	3,281	658	1,963	6,571	4,175	3,946	8,961	1,814
San Diego	648	6,532	8,429	5,968	4,360	3,209	653	1,670	4,996	3,009	3,455	11,799	1,556
San Francisco	728	6,790	5,762	3,268	3,049	2,409	461	982	4,182	2,475	354	19,170	1,392
San Joaquin	950	5,674	8,630	6,946	4,095	2,397	514	1,547	4,949	3,870	2,725	8,323	1,277
San Luis Obispo	777	8,367	14,002	11,419	7,742	4,721	776	2,406	7,549	5,021	4,994	11,726	3,033
San Mateo	623	9,922	9,711	6,008	3,519	2,654	571	1,430	5,236	2,296	5,029	21,290	1,730
Santa Barbara	1,516	10,213	12,283	9,207	7,524	6,849	2,017	2,690	9,023	5,918	5,853	19,176	3,006
Santa Clara	592	5,745	7,176	4,607	2,980	2,109	470	1,142	3,986	2,189	4,627	12,504	789
Santa Cruz	820	6,520	12,861	10,709	6,288	4,262	932	2,047	7,056	4,452	4,772	22,177	2,169
Shasta	775	11,406	20,838	17,083	11,235	5,521	818	3,772	9,680	7,056	3,744	33,135	3,769
Sierra	NA	8,494	17,117	14,523	11,327	6,262	651	2,758	6,890	NA	NA	NA	NA
Siskiyou	929	12,902	20,958	21,602	12,318	5,918	1,118	3,824	9,926	6,437	5,846	25,862	9,455
Solano	1,287	9,673	13,848	10,894	6,023	3,529	593	2,600	7,233	4,620	4,106	12,106	1,536
Sonoma	1,137	9,169	13,733	9,235	6,785	4,161	780	2,401	6,989	4,263	5,101	21,942	3,134
Stanislaus	820	7,742	14,472	11,400	7,334	5,114	882	2,534	7,916	6,047	4,289	16,895	2,262

County	Age							Gender		Race			
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Female	Male	White	Latino	African American	Other
Sutter	838	8,072	12,617	9,699	6,391	3,905	649	2,424	6,635	5,514	3,889	17,119	1,949
Tehama	1,080	10,930	18,203	15,636	8,894	6,257	1,149	3,298	9,246	6,755	4,919	38,710	3,401
Trinity	507	11,538	28,223	22,988	12,287	3,682	1,156	3,292	9,681	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tulare	1,125	10,322	13,404	11,424	7,163	4,185	947	2,535	8,144	5,078	5,322	21,603	3,301
Tuolumne	537	11,773	19,489	17,849	10,547	5,050	1,104	4,210	8,288	6,528	5,775	6,667	4,374
Ventura	1,042	8,511	11,140	8,235	5,152	2,871	573	1,960	6,108	3,463	4,978	12,345	1,016
Yolo	820	3,860	8,474	10,303	6,404	4,451	884	1,949	6,253	4,026	4,029	20,699	1,636
Yuba	908	8,576	13,305	10,548	7,503	4,644	928	2,456	7,665	5,924	3,381	16,044	2,479

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 county residents of the relevant demographic group.

In California's largest counties, the age profile of arrest rates generally mirrored that of the state as a whole in 2016, with the highest rates occurring among 25-29 year-olds, and fewer among younger or older age groups. Additionally, rates for the 18-24 and 30-39 year-old ranges were often quite similar. In smaller counties, this pattern frequently varied, often with 30-39 year-olds showing much higher arrest rates than the 18-24 year-olds, and sometimes even posting the highest rates.

The gender distribution of arrests in 2016 was somewhat more stable across counties—with few exceptions, large and small counties alike saw a male-to-female arrest ratio of approximately 3:1. As noted above, the counties with unusually small ratios of female arrestees included urban as well as rural places: Los Angeles, Madera, San Francisco, Alpine, and Mono.

By contrast, arrest rates by race/ethnicity vary considerably by county. While African Americans have the highest arrest rates in all but a few small counties, the comparison between Latino and white arrest rates is more complicated. While in the state as a whole, arrest rates among Latinos are 11% higher than those among whites, there are 32 counties where white arrest rates are higher than those for Latinos, and their relative magnitudes exhibit wide variation. The racial groups subsumed under "Other" had the lowest arrest rates for 2016 in most counties, the exceptions generally being rural counties with small populations of those groups—Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives among them.

TABLE D3

Felony Arrest Rates, 2016

County	Age							Gender		Race			
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Female	Male	White	Latino	African American	Other
Alameda	246	1,832	1,913	1,385	876	562	112	326	1,287	486	813	3,297	225
Alpine	NA	3,333	4,348	4,598	2,381	NA	272	181	2,087	NA	NA	NA	NA
Amador	70	1,758	4,551	4,008	2,226	969	116	721	1,647	1,115	910	3,275	2,989
Butte	239	1,313	3,520	3,398	1,998	1,171	127	566	1,912	1,298	847	6,026	677
Calaveras	284	1,381	4,044	4,176	2,029	1,023	170	508	1,698	954	1,475	5,668	2,180
Colusa	33	3,420	5,811	3,223	1,807	939	113	631	2,272	NA	NA	NA	NA
Contra Costa	166	2,687	3,037	2,045	1,114	562	85	393	1,559	752	871	3,700	314
Del Norte	154	2,648	3,386	3,029	1,673	961	121	722	1,663	1,440	294	265	1,603
El Dorado	109	1,500	2,784	2,597	1,291	609	121	395	1,282	846	770	4,722	507
Fresno	242	2,194	3,203	2,651	1,482	741	135	422	1,944	843	1,272	4,005	501
Glenn	106	2,144	4,752	3,320	1,753	969	209	640	1,978	1,477	978	12,057	1,388
Humboldt	243	1,502	3,772	2,729	1,634	634	104	464	1,753	1,090	816	5,451	1,133
Imperial	156	2,989	4,534	4,706	2,846	1,315	261	670	2,923	2,315	1,714	3,366	1,584
Inyo	26	2,855	6,888	3,409	2,166	800	210	541	2,102	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kern	192	2,618	3,469	2,754	1,496	689	123	482	2,005	1,263	1,114	3,755	411
Kings	382	2,481	3,228	2,671	1,911	882	225	641	2,008	931	1,480	3,804	996
Lake	310	3,114	6,998	5,777	3,106	1,382	216	856	2,971	1,674	1,869	6,968	3,404
Lassen	356	2,337	2,411	2,315	1,567	835	189	772	1,442	1,303	654	839	1,626
Los Angeles	210	1,858	2,213	1,405	753	472	94	283	1,285	479	827	2,591	241
Madera	177	1,966	2,393	2,237	1,280	771	116	319	1,691	909	968	2,787	583
Marin	255	1,879	1,849	1,323	624	379	70	248	873	366	877	4,483	288
Mariposa	35	2,502	4,000	3,150	2,140	745	154	447	1,678	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mendocino	361	3,652	5,304	3,466	2,152	1,154	129	641	2,418	1,539	1,130	8,129	2,216
Merced	322	1,979	3,073	2,387	1,215	660	123	376	1,807	1,088	1,065	3,557	471

County	Age							Gender		Race			
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Female	Male	White	Latino	African American	Other
Modoc	165	3,139	7,447	5,482	2,218	903	161	881	2,280	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mono	35	2,887	2,227	1,597	784	261	214	338	1,206	NA	NA	NA	NA
Monterey	220	1,846	2,426	1,620	914	509	70	316	1,319	599	919	3,000	423
Napa	257	2,300	2,054	2,227	1,149	520	113	400	1,448	894	832	6,649	350
Nevada	346	1,533	2,868	2,297	1,123	520	77	326	1,233	789	630	6,000	439
Orange	171	1,670	2,087	1,295	662	348	57	266	1,058	550	924	3,170	266
Placer	173	1,870	2,906	1,879	1,048	461	59	385	1,236	770	739	6,663	366
Plumas	344	2,161	2,959	2,740	2,264	809	152	562	1,467	NA	NA	NA	NA
Riverside	133	1,698	2,311	1,842	873	494	72	313	1,268	674	805	2,081	303
Sacramento	204	2,046	3,101	2,099	1,233	700	127	389	1,699	834	817	3,718	387
San Benito	233	2,021	3,004	2,993	1,040	662	112	447	1,713	737	1,284	4,194	671
San Bernardino	311	2,655	3,797	2,812	1,486	769	140	533	2,141	1,234	1,201	3,320	519
San Diego	170	1,545	2,053	1,535	986	634	112	323	1,243	651	811	3,310	381
San Francisco	362	2,769	2,052	1,250	1,131	793	145	294	1,650	934	42	8,303	412
San Joaquin	292	1,759	2,485	1,988	1,024	534	110	374	1,440	962	745	2,892	372
San Luis Obispo	160	1,132	2,209	2,032	1,160	476	93	304	1,180	723	790	2,022	495
San Mateo	166	1,995	1,508	1,133	556	326	68	216	941	335	816	4,925	332
Santa Barbara	292	1,668	2,587	1,930	1,183	768	97	397	1,535	822	1,104	4,163	341
Santa Clara	207	1,549	1,848	1,222	703	418	87	263	1,040	477	1,228	3,541	211
Santa Cruz	252	1,454	2,677	2,197	1,068	504	117	316	1,442	772	1,072	4,793	335
Shasta	159	3,007	5,870	4,752	2,397	984	148	691	2,657	1,708	926	11,221	1,047
Sierra	NA	5,019	12,613	5,809	4,854	3,416	244	1475	3,413	NA	NA	NA	NA
Siskiyou	195	4,411	6,986	7,496	3,790	1,415	170	938	3,327	1,889	2,171	9,962	3,118
Solano	335	2,520	3,584	2,807	1,391	690	89	513	1,902	1,017	878	3,520	384
Sonoma	226	1,940	2,583	1,828	1,122	501	79	339	1,345	745	864	5,053	675
Stanislaus	330	2,344	4,390	3,692	2,010	1,174	154	612	2,478	1,674	1,308	5,995	696

County	Age							Gender		Race			
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Female	Male	White	Latino	African American	Other
Sutter	294	2,356	3,950	3,222	1,651	908	118	633	2,034	1,524	1,183	6,836	586
Tehama	188	3,032	5,579	4,611	2,047	1,102	241	730	2,519	1,753	1,174	13,620	997
Trinity	231	3,590	12,544	10,290	6,218	813	426	1426	3,928	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tulare	313	3,097	3,945	3,448	1,867	1,014	181	600	2,434	1,439	1,495	6,802	1,009
Tuolumne	126	3,127	5,487	5,489	2,745	1,167	209	1057	2,327	1,717	1,803	2,828	1,129
Ventura	240	1,943	2,455	1,827	974	440	81	346	1,340	615	1,108	3,615	245
Yolo	333	1,016	2,233	2,858	1,467	866	112	407	1,688	970	1,061	6,150	374
Yuba	354	3,193	4,754	4,020	2,798	1,512	251	746	2,944	2,087	1,319	7,146	756

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.
NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 county residents of the relevant demographic group.

County-by-county comparisons of felony arrest rates mirror those of overall arrest rates—larger counties typically show 25-29 year-olds with the highest rates, with 18-24 and 30-39 year-olds somewhat lower, and similar to each other. Smaller counties more frequently have 30-39 year-olds with comparatively higher arrest rates, sometimes occupying the top spot among age groups. The male-to-female ratio of felony arrests in 2016 was lower than for all arrests—approximately 4:1—but again was fairly consistent across counties. Latino felony arrest rates, overall higher than those for whites, are nonetheless lower than for whites in 28 of the 58 counties. The "Other" racial grouping posts rather high arrest rates in some, mostly smaller, counties—sometimes even eclipsing those for African Americans, who show the highest overall felony arrest rates. However, this figure is subject to much variation there because of small general populations of the constituent racial groups.

TABLE D4

Misdemeanor Arrest Rates, 2016

County	Age							Gender		Race			
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Female	Male	White	Latino	African American	Other
Alameda	279	4,583	5,549	3,923	2,778	1,996	472	1,154	3,373	1,888	2,816	6,341	751
Alpine	476	13,333	19,565	13,793	9,524	3,465	817	1,989	7,826	NA	NA	NA	NA
Amador	352	4,082	9,494	8,509	4,429	3,171	419	1,784	3,740	2,615	3,487	5,542	3,341
Butte	899	6,533	12,365	12,618	8,522	5,539	930	3,078	7,265	5,563	3,496	19,012	2,789
Calaveras	1,014	4,629	10,627	10,868	5,412	2,981	468	1,864	4,309	3,079	3,041	10,931	2,370
Colusa	261	9,161	11,019	12,387	6,062	4,245	1,037	2,340	6,903	NA	NA	NA	NA
Contra Costa	365	4,476	6,058	4,071	2,423	1,509	331	1,013	2,976	1,800	1,827	6,050	698
Del Norte	529	6,694	11,850	8,556	7,229	4,729	891	2,568	5,692	5,060	1,197	1,984	4,757
El Dorado	829	4,179	7,508	6,506	3,613	2,438	474	1,418	3,622	2,608	2,241	10,430	1,369
Fresno	700	5,598	9,008	7,114	5,111	3,217	650	1,804	5,184	2,855	3,791	9,347	1,434
Glenn	464	6,720	11,177	7,833	4,958	3,018	789	2,255	4,887	4,147	2,544	25,532	4,163
Humboldt	469	6,291	13,088	10,201	8,543	4,727	870	2,452	7,061	4,996	2,815	21,384	3,691
Imperial	472	6,731	9,210	8,270	4,902	3,154	700	1,824	5,377	4,892	3,380	6,606	3,792
Inyo	259	7,387	13,658	6,667	4,490	3,090	737	1,624	4,661	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kern	488	8,671	12,998	9,803	6,906	4,552	1,059	2,599	7,141	5,370	3,843	12,524	4,977
Kings	969	6,473	9,014	8,266	6,430	3,984	933	2,512	5,642	3,485	4,518	8,064	2,400
Lake	901	10,456	18,423	15,031	10,226	6,217	1,142	3,275	8,713	6,030	4,459	18,842	7,293
Lassen	561	3,444	6,089	4,288	2,892	2,008	524	1,813	2,638	2,399	1,602	979	4,824
Los Angeles	259	4,137	5,713	3,607	2,331	1,729	417	916	3,155	1,568	2,178	5,364	681
Madera	781	4,811	5,939	5,435	3,725	2,114	413	1,053	4,291	2,108	2,884	4,653	1,765
Marin	844	6,496	7,615	5,254	3,125	2,510	644	1,249	3,739	1,955	4,103	10,302	1,257
Mariposa	35	3,335	8,606	8,338	6,536	3,046	370	1,488	3,872	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mendocino	768	9,136	12,993	10,415	7,370	4,574	671	2,441	6,641	4,759	3,300	24,386	5,228
Merced	673	5,625	8,330	7,447	4,508	2,775	678	1,648	5,084	3,328	3,472	8,689	1,141

County	Age							Gender		Race			
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Female	Male	White	Latino	African American	Other
Modoc	439	6,385	15,691	8,553	4,918	3,160	225	2,097	4,307	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mono	175	6,495	6,459	2,783	2,072	1,480	822	707	3,220	NA	NA	NA	NA
Monterey	621	5,478	7,344	4,806	3,267	2,369	537	1,442	3,884	2,583	2,730	7,941	1,308
Napa	578	6,775	7,789	6,517	3,853	2,647	483	1,578	4,496	2,778	3,231	15,527	1,416
Nevada	899	5,174	10,663	7,287	4,057	2,293	434	1,456	4,049	2,861	1,879	18,286	1,207
Orange	386	5,514	7,280	4,362	2,519	1,699	310	1,068	3,580	2,283	2,937	7,981	974
Placer	398	5,052	7,097	4,329	2,772	2,071	313	1,199	3,168	2,173	2,190	10,458	1,001
Plumas	876	5,942	11,045	9,946	8,942	3,439	621	2,360	4,924	NA	NA	NA	NA
Riverside	264	3,414	4,661	3,545	2,060	1,437	302	848	2,541	1,672	1,655	3,497	722
Sacramento	259	3,007	4,948	3,435	2,357	1,651	369	902	2,659	1,793	1,479	4,587	632
San Benito	926	4,977	7,566	6,622	3,200	2,232	373	1,346	4,361	1,832	3,500	12,258	1,091
San Bernardino	389	5,340	8,253	5,862	3,608	2,512	518	1,430	4,429	2,942	2,745	5,641	1,295
San Diego	478	4,987	6,376	4,433	3,374	2,575	542	1,347	3,753	2,358	2,644	8,489	1,176
San Francisco	366	4,020	3,710	2,018	1,919	1,617	316	688	2,532	1,540	312	10,867	980
San Joaquin	658	3,914	6,145	4,957	3,071	1,863	404	1,173	3,509	2,908	1,980	5,431	905
San Luis Obispo	617	7,235	11,793	9,386	6,582	4,245	683	2,102	6,369	4,298	4,204	9,705	2,538
San Mateo	457	7,927	8,203	4,875	2,963	2,329	503	1,215	4,295	1,961	4,213	16,365	1,398
Santa Barbara	1,224	8,545	9,696	7,276	6,340	6,081	1,920	2,293	7,488	5,096	4,749	15,013	2,665
Santa Clara	385	4,197	5,328	3,385	2,276	1,691	382	879	2,946	1,712	3,399	8,963	578
Santa Cruz	568	5,066	10,184	8,512	5,220	3,758	815	1,731	5,614	3,680	3,700	17,384	1,834
Shasta	616	8,399	14,967	12,330	8,838	4,537	669	3,081	7,023	5,348	2,818	21,914	2,722
Sierra	NA	3,475	4,505	8,714	6,472	2,846	407	1,283	3,477	NA	NA	NA	NA
Siskiyou	734	8,491	13,972	14,106	8,528	4,503	947	2,886	6,599	4,548	3,675	15,900	6,337
Solano	952	7,153	10,264	8,088	4,632	2,839	504	2,086	5,331	3,603	3,228	8,586	1,152
Sonoma	912	7,229	11,150	7,407	5,663	3,660	701	2,061	5,644	3,519	4,237	16,889	2,459
Stanislaus	490	5,398	10,081	7,708	5,324	3,940	728	1,922	5,438	4,373	2,981	10,900	1,566

County	Age							Gender		Race			
	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Female	Male	White	Latino	African American	Other
Sutter	544	5,716	8,668	6,477	4,739	2,997	532	1,791	4,600	3,990	2,706	10,282	1,363
Tehama	893	7,898	12,624	11,024	6,847	5,155	908	2,568	6,727	5,002	3,744	25,090	2,404
Trinity	277	7,949	15,679	12,697	6,070	2,869	730	1,866	5,754	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tulare	811	7,225	9,459	7,976	5,296	3,171	766	1,935	5,710	3,639	3,826	14,801	2,292
Tuolumne	412	8,646	14,002	12,360	7,802	3,882	895	3,153	5,960	4,811	3,972	3,838	3,245
Ventura	802	6,568	8,685	6,408	4,178	2,431	492	1,614	4,768	2,847	3,870	8,730	771
Yolo	487	2,845	6,241	7,445	4,938	3,584	772	1,542	4,565	3,056	2,968	14,548	1,262
Yuba	554	5,383	8,550	6,527	4,705	3,132	677	1,710	4,722	3,836	2,062	8,898	1,723

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register and California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.
NOTE: Arrest rates are the number of arrests per 100,000 county residents of the relevant demographic group.

Overall, 25-29 year-olds have the highest misdemeanor arrest rates, with 6,991 per 100,000 in the population. Second and third are 18-24 year-olds and 30-39 year-olds, respectively. County by county, the pattern is similar to that of felony arrests: larger counties tend to follow that same ranking, while smaller counties often show higher misdemeanor arrest rates among 30-39 year-olds, occasionally even higher than the 25-29 year-olds. Gender ratios for misdemeanor arrests also follow a familiar pattern: larger counties consistently report a male-to-female ratio of about 3:1, with smaller counties clustering around that same figure, albeit with a bit more variation on either side. Similarly, the race/ethnic breakdown generally adheres to the statewide pattern, with the highest misdemeanor arrest rates seen among African-Americans (especially high in more rural counties with fewer African-Americans in the general population), Latinos and whites variously posting the second- or third-highest rates, and "Other" races usually showing the lowest rates (except in small counties with low populations of those constituent minority groups).

TABLE D5

Shares of Arrest Types by Demographic Groups, 2016

County	Total	Offense Level		Felony Arrest Shares				Misdemeanor Arrest Shares			
	Overall	Felony	Misdemeanor	White	Latino	African American	Other	White	Latino	African American	Other
Alameda	25%	21%	26%	20%	24%	47%	9%	28%	29%	32%	11%
Alpine	17%	8%	20%	54%	8%	NA	38%	77%	9%	4%	11%
Amador	29%	27%	29%	72%	11%	6%	11%	73%	17%	4%	5%
Butte	29%	23%	30%	76%	11%	7%	5%	78%	11%	5%	5%
Calaveras	28%	23%	30%	71%	16%	3%	9%	82%	12%	2%	4%
Colusa	24%	21%	24%	43%	46%	3%	8%	43%	48%	4%	5%
Contra Costa	24%	21%	26%	35%	23%	35%	7%	41%	24%	28%	7%
Del Norte	28%	27%	28%	76%	4%	1%	19%	78%	5%	1%	16%
El Dorado	27%	23%	28%	78%	13%	4%	5%	80%	12%	3%	4%
Fresno	24%	18%	26%	21%	57%	16%	5%	24%	58%	13%	5%
Glenn	29%	24%	31%	60%	31%	4%	5%	62%	29%	3%	5%
Humboldt	25%	21%	26%	74%	8%	5%	12%	79%	7%	5%	9%
Imperial	23%	18%	25%	14%	80%	4%	2%	15%	79%	4%	2%
Inyo	24%	20%	25%	53%	14%	0%	33%	51%	15%	1%	33%
Kern	24%	19%	26%	35%	46%	16%	2%	39%	41%	14%	7%
Kings	26%	21%	27%	22%	60%	14%	5%	27%	60%	10%	4%
Lake	26%	22%	27%	62%	20%	6%	12%	72%	15%	5%	8%
Lassen	28%	24%	29%	78%	9%	5%	9%	73%	11%	3%	13%
Los Angeles	22%	18%	23%	17%	52%	27%	5%	21%	52%	21%	6%
Madera	20%	17%	21%	32%	58%	8%	3%	28%	64%	5%	3%
Marin	25%	23%	26%	47%	27%	22%	5%	56%	28%	11%	5%
Mariposa	25%	21%	27%	73%	14%	2%	11%	79%	14%	2%	5%
Mendocino	25%	21%	27%	66%	19%	3%	12%	69%	18%	3%	10%
Merced	22%	17%	24%	28%	57%	11%	4%	28%	60%	9%	3%

County	Total	Offense Level		Felony Arrest Shares				Misdemeanor Arrest Shares			
	Overall	Felony	Misdemeanor	White	Latino	African American	Other	White	Latino	African American	Other
Modoc	31%	28%	33%	68%	13%	1%	18%	69%	9%	2%	21%
Mono	17%	20%	16%	54%	29%	4%	14%	65%	22%	2%	10%
Monterey	24%	18%	26%	22%	64%	9%	4%	30%	59%	8%	4%
Napa	25%	22%	26%	51%	32%	13%	4%	48%	38%	9%	5%
Nevada	26%	21%	27%	86%	8%	3%	3%	89%	7%	2%	2%
Orange	23%	20%	23%	35%	49%	7%	9%	41%	44%	5%	9%
Placer	27%	24%	28%	72%	13%	11%	5%	75%	14%	6%	5%
Plumas	31%	28%	32%	83%	3%	4%	10%	90%	2%	2%	6%
Riverside	24%	20%	25%	32%	48%	16%	3%	37%	46%	13%	4%
Sacramento	23%	19%	26%	37%	18%	37%	8%	46%	20%	27%	7%
San Benito	23%	21%	24%	24%	71%	2%	3%	23%	73%	2%	2%
San Bernardino	23%	20%	25%	27%	48%	22%	4%	29%	50%	17%	4%
San Diego	25%	20%	26%	38%	35%	19%	7%	43%	35%	15%	7%
San Francisco	19%	15%	21%	40%	1%	43%	16%	40%	3%	34%	23%
San Joaquin	24%	21%	25%	35%	34%	24%	8%	40%	35%	17%	7%
San Luis Obispo	23%	20%	24%	66%	24%	5%	4%	69%	23%	5%	3%
San Mateo	22%	19%	23%	24%	37%	21%	18%	29%	40%	15%	16%
Santa Barbara	23%	20%	23%	38%	53%	7%	3%	46%	45%	5%	4%
Santa Clara	22%	20%	23%	24%	51%	13%	12%	30%	48%	11%	11%
Santa Cruz	22%	18%	24%	50%	42%	5%	3%	57%	35%	4%	4%
Shasta	29%	21%	31%	83%	5%	6%	6%	86%	5%	4%	5%
Sierra	28%	30%	27%	84%	10%	NA	5%	81%	5%	1%	12%
Siskiyou	28%	22%	31%	69%	12%	6%	13%	75%	9%	4%	12%
Solano	27%	21%	28%	32%	19%	42%	7%	37%	23%	33%	7%
Sonoma	26%	21%	27%	57%	28%	9%	6%	59%	30%	6%	5%
Stanislaus	25%	20%	26%	46%	39%	11%	4%	51%	37%	8%	4%

County	Total	Offense Level		Felony Arrest Shares				Misdemeanor Arrest Shares			
	Overall	Felony	Misdemeanor	White	Latino	African American	Other	White	Latino	African American	Other
Sutter	27%	24%	28%	54%	28%	9%	8%	59%	27%	6%	8%
Tehama	27%	23%	28%	75%	18%	4%	3%	74%	20%	2%	3%
Trinity	25%	26%	24%	79%	8%	2%	11%	89%	4%	1%	6%
Tulare	24%	20%	25%	27%	64%	5%	3%	27%	65%	5%	3%
Tuolumne	32%	30%	33%	81%	13%	3%	3%	84%	10%	2%	4%
Ventura	24%	21%	25%	33%	57%	7%	3%	41%	52%	4%	2%
Yolo	25%	20%	26%	44%	35%	15%	6%	48%	33%	12%	7%
Yuba	24%	20%	26%	64%	20%	11%	5%	68%	18%	8%	7%

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Justice's Monthly Arrest and Citation Register, 2016.

Table D5 encapsulates some of the trends summarized above, except that the results are not normalized by the underlying population distribution. For example, we observe higher arrest shares of African Americans in counties with higher-than-average underlying populations of African Americans, e.g., Alameda, Solano, and Sacramento. However, these shares are still disproportionate to the underlying population. Furthermore, we also witness high shares in counties with lower-than-average underlying populations of African Americans, for instance, San Francisco, Yolo, and Marin.

The Latino shares of arrests also track with counties' Latino populations, with the highest shares being found in counties such as Imperial, San Benito, and the counties of the San Joaquin Valley. Again, though, these percentages are disproportionate to the underlying population shares. These disparities hold for felony as well as misdemeanor arrest shares.

Since gender distributions vary less by county than do race/ethnicity distributions, we see less variation in the gender shares of arrests. What variation does appear might suggest more about each county's conditions (crime rates, law enforcement staffing, policing practices, political priorities) than about its underlying population. Generally, the female share of arrests hovers around 25%, and generally, it's slightly higher for misdemeanors than for felonies. But some exceptions emerge, for instance, women make up about 1/3 of all arrests in the three counties with the highest female shares of arrests: Tuolumne (32 percent), Plumas (31 percent), and Modoc (31 percent). However, we also see some small counties among those with the lowest arrest shares for women; Alpine (17 percent), Mono (17 percent), San Francisco (19 percent), and Madera (20 percent). It should be noted that the pattern that the highest female shares of arrests tend to be small rural counties holds for both felony arrests and misdemeanors.

Appendix E. Data and Methods

Data

Arrest Data

The California Department of Justice (CA DOJ) Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC) collects information on arrests and citations. This arrest and citation data is reported monthly by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) throughout the state and put together into the Monthly Arrest and Citation Register (MACR) dataset. The CA DOJ has statutory authority to collect arrest data pursuant to Penal Code Sections 13010-13012 and 13020-13021.

Arrest data provide information on felony and misdemeanor level arrests, along with status offenses (e.g., truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations) for juveniles. Arrest data include individual-level information on the nature of the arrest such as the date it occurred and which county it occurred within, along with the most serious offense the suspect was arrested for, and the final outcome of the arrest. The data also contain person-level information on the arrestee including his or her name, age, gender, and race/ethnic group.

The data used for this report are confidential and PPIC is unable to share this data outside of its research team. However, the CA DOJ has created the OpenJustice website (https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/) to make available a wide range of criminal justice data. The website contains publicly available data, data manuals, and annual reports conducted by the CA DOJ.

Population Data

The California Department of Finance (CA DOF), Demographics and Research Unit, is tasked with publishing the state's official annual population estimates at the state, county and city levels. These estimates are benchmarked on the decennial census' population statistics, and then utilize a variety of state administrative sources to estimate changes during the intercensal years. For the years 1980-2010, we make use of the E-7 Annual Intercensal Population Estimates by Race/Ethnicity with Age and Gender Detail estimate tables, available for download on the DOF website (http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/). For the years 2011-2016, we utilize DOF's demographic projections from the P-3 State and County Projections Dataset (http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/). In their standard formats, these datasets contain the year of observation, the long form of the county of observation's geographically identifying FIPS code, and the number of people within a county by gender, race/ethnicity, and age. The available race/ethnicity categories available for all years of the data are White, African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic.

TABLE E1

1980-2016 State Population Overall, by Gender, by Age, and Race/Ethnicity

	Total	Gender		Age							Race			
Year	Total	Female	Male	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	White	Latino	African American	Other
1980	23,780,068	12,057,299	11,722,769	6,430,341	3,269,218	2,244,431	3,579,339	2,437,202	2,405,603	3,413,934	15,949,865	4,615,231	1,793,663	1,421,309
1981	24,277,674	12,284,160	11,993,514	6,592,378	3,321,549	2,303,765	3,745,958	2,470,933	2,379,154	3,463,937	15,988,809	4,905,823	1,815,312	1,567,730
1982	24,805,011	12,529,398	12,275,613	6,725,511	3,367,303	2,383,900	3,904,765	2,533,456	2,341,796	3,548,280	16,039,332	5,206,814	1,843,132	1,715,733
1983	25,336,301	12,776,467	12,559,834	6,856,643	3,405,287	2,442,840	4,054,736	2,635,208	2,315,387	3,626,200	16,092,416	5,508,671	1,870,686	1,864,528
1984	25,816,294	12,997,526	12,818,768	6,969,874	3,430,320	2,493,891	4,207,905	2,736,466	2,282,492	3,695,346	16,118,779	5,795,931	1,893,386	2,008,198
1985	26,402,633	13,271,959	13,130,674	7,117,459	3,439,613	2,556,257	4,395,464	2,846,102	2,270,019	3,777,719	16,216,876	6,103,662	1,923,209	2,158,886
1986	27,052,291	13,578,094	13,474,197	7,283,296	3,425,434	2,636,108	4,613,723	2,959,572	2,270,857	3,863,301	16,351,870	6,428,436	1,958,844	2,313,141
1987	27,716,860	13,891,742	13,825,118	7,426,616	3,461,716	2,690,961	4,762,914	3,153,096	2,282,563	3,938,994	16,504,967	6,754,398	1,992,361	2,465,134
1988	28,393,094	14,211,394	14,181,700	7,549,923	3,482,135	2,763,505	4,930,017	3,345,685	2,306,864	4,014,965	16,674,150	7,077,579	2,024,779	2,616,586
1989	29,142,106	14,568,118	14,573,988	7,677,877	3,512,200	2,838,290	5,124,519	3,538,297	2,354,155	4,096,768	16,886,542	7,419,574	2,061,823	2,774,167
1990	29,828,238	14,927,384	14,900,854	7,962,679	3,472,993	2,837,441	5,300,083	3,746,241	2,394,736	4,114,065	17,023,540	7,760,408	2,106,034	2,938,256
1991	30,458,186	15,246,102	15,212,084	8,296,128	3,418,466	2,784,777	5,415,152	3,915,926	2,440,791	4,186,946	17,058,054	8,144,055	2,142,583	3,113,494
1992	30,987,427	15,515,174	15,472,253	8,592,252	3,373,866	2,737,839	5,493,693	4,061,431	2,497,553	4,230,793	17,017,989	8,510,544	2,173,357	3,285,537
1993	31,313,074	15,683,178	15,629,896	8,778,558	3,334,926	2,669,016	5,525,546	4,178,176	2,572,229	4,254,623	16,872,297	8,812,620	2,188,642	3,439,515
1994	31,523,075	15,794,686	15,728,389	8,907,166	3,286,864	2,612,055	5,526,757	4,288,988	2,639,481	4,261,764	16,662,922	9,084,479	2,197,114	3,578,560
1995	31,711,003	15,895,710	15,815,293	8,993,180	3,223,197	2,590,150	5,503,157	4,417,608	2,703,789	4,279,922	16,451,132	9,345,976	2,201,855	3,712,040
1996	31,962,164	16,028,140	15,934,024	9,067,742	3,191,883	2,596,454	5,470,351	4,549,788	2,780,788	4,305,158	16,273,751	9,619,410	2,212,935	3,856,068
1997	32,451,807	16,280,567	16,171,240	9,175,041	3,227,975	2,613,088	5,470,450	4,650,213	2,950,133	4,364,907	16,218,350	9,963,894	2,241,770	4,027,793
1998	32,862,213	16,494,716	16,367,497	9,203,676	3,287,125	2,620,681	5,459,962	4,751,804	3,111,476	4,427,489	16,115,115	10,287,317	2,266,640	4,193,141
1999	33,418,384	16,774,907	16,643,477	9,243,483	3,355,265	2,606,037	5,488,555	4,872,116	3,279,088	4,573,840	16,083,291	10,660,337	2,302,375	4,372,381
2000	34,000,835	17,079,605	16,921,230	9,226,715	3,403,068	2,582,530	5,544,515	5,019,549	3,499,221	4,725,236	15,869,494	11,131,841	2,195,808	4,803,691
2001	34,512,742	17,339,700	17,173,042	9,351,040	3,480,653	2,536,097	5,547,256	5,140,349	3,651,614	4,805,733	15,873,181	11,481,484	2,210,103	4,947,973
2002	34,938,290	17,554,666	17,383,624	9,439,641	3,547,272	2,509,602	5,504,832	5,244,640	3,794,609	4,897,695	15,866,488	11,787,393	2,218,543	5,065,866
2003	35,388,928	17,782,868	17,606,060	9,522,125	3,630,339	2,506,589	5,453,867	5,334,166	3,932,849	5,008,993	15,854,432	12,116,017	2,225,966	5,192,513
2004	35,752,765	17,968,347	17,784,418	9,559,942	3,704,139	2,517,332	5,381,900	5,401,896	4,071,512	5,116,044	15,814,212	12,413,958	2,227,246	5,297,349
2005	35,985,582	18,087,299	17,898,283	9,551,284	3,750,160	2,530,079	5,301,469	5,430,150	4,209,375	5,213,066	15,716,066	12,667,790	2,220,269	5,381,456
2006	36,246,822	18,219,378	18,027,444	9,550,173	3,777,042	2,568,339	5,253,382	5,433,066	4,344,213	5,320,607	15,625,359	12,923,558	2,216,691	5,481,214
2007	36,552,529	18,372,905	18,179,624	9,549,093	3,812,497	2,618,394	5,231,468	5,420,042	4,463,785	5,457,250	15,556,795	13,185,607	2,216,181	5,593,946
2008	36,856,222	18,525,551	18,330,671	9,525,912	3,843,861	2,672,698	5,223,989	5,399,525	4,554,904	5,635,333	15,487,390	13,443,156	2,217,102	5,708,574

	Total	Gender		Age							Race			
Year	Total	Female	Male	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	White	Latino	African American	Other
2009	37,077,204	18,632,980	18,444,224	9,307,822	3,878,334	2,725,038	5,163,197	5,328,628	4,710,736	5,963,449	15,251,448	13,792,550	2,205,579	5,827,627
2010	37,335,085	18,775,428	18,559,657	9,283,438	3,928,347	2,744,738	5,150,208	5,299,045	4,791,771	6,137,538	15,046,338	14,059,187	2,187,491	6,042,069
2011	37,675,500	18,941,910	18,733,590	9,281,575	3,984,075	2,711,916	5,159,273	5,290,881	4,892,470	6,355,310	15,031,386	14,311,416	2,197,337	6,135,361
2012	38,042,760	19,126,608	18,916,152	9,283,191	4,040,538	2,663,566	5,205,998	5,273,176	4,982,072	6,594,219	15,036,764	14,562,186	2,207,132	6,236,678
2013	38,373,749	19,289,906	19,083,843	9,282,818	4,096,477	2,605,330	5,261,870	5,236,169	5,053,693	6,837,392	15,021,846	14,795,885	2,218,247	6,337,771
2014	38,739,792	19,467,456	19,272,336	9,272,748	4,166,987	2,555,931	5,318,812	5,202,887	5,116,219	7,106,208	15,030,890	15,032,537	2,232,359	6,444,006
2015	39,059,415	19,626,015	19,433,400	9,263,507	4,204,875	2,521,019	5,346,222	5,179,027	5,148,581	7,396,184	15,017,676	15,254,730	2,239,134	6,547,875
2016	39,312,207	19,749,757	19,562,450	9,257,380	4,223,279	2,525,971	5,352,282	5,158,070	5,136,348	7,658,877	14,977,798	15,455,506	2,242,413	6,636,490

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016

TABLE E2

2016 County Population Overall, by Gender, by Age, and Race/Ethnicity

County	Overall	Gender		Age							Race			
	Population	Female	Male	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	White	Latino	African American	Other
Alameda	1,637,176	832,826	804,350	349,269	166,950	114,916	243,078	228,534	218,411	316,018	542,669	379,834	186,639	528,034
Alpine	1,128	553	575	210	90	46	87	126	202	367	840	52	-	236
Amador	37,181	17,207	19,974	5,689	3,185	1,780	3,643	4,312	5,677	12,895	29,405	5,276	794	1,706
Butte	224,761	113,058	111,703	46,365	35,037	14,945	25,044	23,376	24,844	55,150	163,216	36,818	3,319	21,408
Calaveras	44,747	22,422	22,325	7,393	4,126	1,929	3,616	4,287	6,943	16,453	36,898	5,492	247	2,110
Colusa	22,428	10,941	11,487	6,130	2,456	1,325	2,761	2,656	2,662	4,438	8,151	13,560	110	607
Contra Costa	1,129,332	577,313	552,019	252,258	95,089	65,371	149,787	153,597	165,625	247,605	508,511	291,222	102,671	226,928
Del Norte	26,956	12,463	14,493	5,857	2,644	1,595	3,401	2,988	3,849	6,622	17,570	4,762	756	3,868
El Dorado	184,085	91,654	92,431	36,677	18,067	9,230	17,829	20,839	30,392	51,051	143,416	25,440	1,419	13,810
Fresno	988,072	494,284	493,788	280,673	124,156	65,494	130,957	112,623	110,999	163,170	295,620	524,336	47,867	120,249
Glenn	29,084	14,370	14,714	7,543	3,125	1,852	3,434	3,308	3,612	6,210	15,577	12,069	141	1,297
Humboldt	135,884	67,704	68,180	27,946	16,707	8,244	18,066	14,807	17,347	32,767	102,644	15,310	1,431	16,499
Imperial	186,520	91,855	94,665	54,402	21,214	13,322	23,121	21,399	21,209	31,853	20,954	157,448	3,951	4,167
Inyo	18,658	9,239	9,419	3,865	1,611	842	1,995	1,893	2,751	5,701	11,778	4,428	76	2,376
Kern	887,922	432,709	455,213	255,253	107,906	62,588	120,056	103,553	102,248	136,318	314,084	467,231	48,020	58,587
Kings	149,172	67,753	81,419	45,526	17,411	12,114	22,127	15,800	14,859	21,335	48,002	83,663	7,465	10,042
Lake	64,712	32,371	32,341	13,538	5,652	3,501	6,786	6,826	9,409	19,000	46,054	13,320	1,019	4,319
Lassen	30,599	11,530	19,069	5,343	3,252	2,447	4,104	4,149	4,433	6,871	21,804	4,743	2,145	1,907
Los Angeles	10,215,103	5,169,749	5,045,354	2,319,464	1,120,426	668,016	1,439,155	1,412,388	1,344,187	1,911,467	2,740,584	4,975,042	815,775	1,683,702
Madera	155,518	80,241	75,277	42,402	17,190	11,197	20,075	18,199	17,127	29,328	53,330	91,054	4,449	6,685
Marin	262,706	133,112	129,594	52,858	17,719	10,979	25,617	39,101	40,598	75,834	186,696	44,240	7,115	24,655
Mariposa	18,057	8,940	9,117	2,886	1,559	825	1,619	1,729	2,955	6,484	15,162	1,839	111	945
Mendocino	88,779	44,285	44,494	19,134	7,476	4,864	10,792	10,271	11,521	24,721	58,230	22,483	529	7,537
Merced	272,286	134,985	137,301	80,372	34,915	17,863	35,896	31,611	30,020	41,609	76,829	160,015	9,138	26,304
Modoc	9,506	4,769	4,737	1,821	924	376	912	1,037	1,329	3,107	7,474	1,441	69	522
Mono	13,801	6,502	7,299	2,859	970	898	2,192	1,786	2,298	2,798	9,276	4,000	11	514
Monterey	439,945	213,995	225,950	115,112	48,488	28,406	61,896	54,921	50,908	80,214	135,711	255,388	11,233	37,613
Napa	141,569	70,912	70,657	29,907	13,565	8,910	17,693	17,313	19,793	34,388	74,833	49,867	2,602	14,267

County	Overall	Gender		Age							Race			
	Population	Female	Male	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	White	Latino	African American	Other
Nevada	98,300	49,649	48,651	16,468	8,871	4,567	9,579	10,327	14,608	33,880	83,388	10,007	350	4,555
Orange	3,179,122	1,602,227	1,576,895	730,547	338,460	185,693	409,743	447,102	440,830	626,747	1,333,112	1,106,884	48,704	690,422
Placer	375,805	191,381	184,424	78,193	30,581	20,134	48,813	48,271	52,969	96,844	280,911	51,698	4,953	38,243
Plumas	19,535	9,787	9,748	3,197	1,666	1,014	1,679	1,767	2,966	7,246	16,438	1,870	151	1,076
Riverside	2,359,588	1,185,845	1,173,743	601,433	260,072	157,488	291,744	295,593	296,636	456,622	885,034	1,118,643	143,943	211,968
Sacramento	1,503,536	765,227	738,309	361,947	169,221	91,514	208,115	193,081	195,635	284,023	686,814	351,365	153,640	311,717
San Benito	58,010	29,051	28,959	14,580	6,631	3,595	6,916	7,407	8,153	10,728	20,747	34,569	310	2,384
San Bernardino	2,143,578	1,078,446	1,065,132	580,699	250,211	146,549	284,444	268,499	268,280	344,896	626,143	1,131,542	186,915	198,978
San Diego	3,295,816	1,639,394	1,656,422	790,021	359,098	221,520	455,372	415,383	418,833	635,589	1,527,127	1,124,549	149,376	494,764
San Francisco	872,463	430,647	441,816	126,208	65,142	65,399	185,138	132,186	109,866	188,524	366,988	131,924	44,767	328,784
San Joaquin	738,343	369,778	368,565	200,036	82,467	49,338	92,836	91,774	94,321	127,571	240,356	305,730	54,945	137,312
San Luis Obispo	278,080	135,915	142,165	51,859	36,571	17,697	30,704	28,713	36,982	75,554	192,142	63,898	5,688	16,352
San Mateo	768,507	389,691	378,816	161,878	55,783	45,884	107,026	115,468	110,530	171,938	315,080	199,476	19,169	234,782
Santa Barbara	447,309	221,860	225,449	103,069	63,862	29,570	57,654	50,454	54,036	88,664	198,666	208,072	7,134	33,437
Santa Clara	1,932,827	958,238	974,589	446,411	173,761	114,318	288,409	282,807	262,372	364,749	641,453	528,556	44,985	717,833
Santa Cruz	275,754	137,835	137,919	60,233	38,653	15,426	31,721	32,127	36,885	60,709	158,115	94,895	2,462	20,282
Shasta	177,631	90,433	87,198	37,816	16,597	10,817	20,559	18,986	24,905	47,951	143,472	17,069	1,515	15,575
Sierra	3,141	1,559	1,582	465	259	111	241	309	527	1,229	2,813	237	3	88
Siskiyou	44,373	22,280	22,093	8,719	3,922	2,233	4,282	4,327	6,218	14,672	34,518	5,388	522	3,945
Solano	433,412	217,615	215,797	100,543	44,608	27,485	54,689	53,109	60,867	92,111	166,792	113,892	61,854	90,874
Sonoma	503,152	255,502	247,650	99,716	46,603	27,875	66,074	60,251	72,081	130,552	323,689	134,058	7,342	38,063
Stanislaus	543,592	274,078	269,514	145,153	66,304	33,825	70,262	65,364	66,683	96,001	231,716	249,808	14,679	47,389
Sutter	98,208	49,298	48,910	25,173	10,270	6,507	12,568	11,689	12,445	19,556	46,388	31,116	1,770	18,934
Tehama	64,158	32,318	31,840	15,456	6,432	3,818	7,048	6,937	8,710	15,757	44,204	16,264	279	3,411
Trinity	13,492	6,592	6,900	2,169	1,170	574	1,205	1,351	2,091	4,932	11,246	1,190	47	1,009
Tulare	467,960	233,615	234,345	144,319	49,661	32,066	63,378	54,529	50,614	73,393	134,776	303,803	5,601	23,780
Tuolumne	54,291	26,105	28,186	8,748	4,765	3,171	5,793	5,537	7,624	18,653	43,920	6,546	990	2,835

County	Overall	Gender		Age							Race			
	Population	Female	Male	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	White	Latino	African American	Other
Ventura	853,673	428,739	424,934	200,204	88,126	53,574	105,963	108,740	120,731	176,335	390,465	368,074	13,666	81,468
Yolo	216,726	111,126	105,600	49,888	43,521	15,223	24,216	23,796	23,547	36,535	102,515	73,013	5,382	35,816
Yuba	76,138	37,784	38,354	21,480	8,081	5,111	10,372	8,757	9,195	13,142	43,452	20,997	2,169	9,520

SOURCE: Author calculation based on California Department of Finance Population Data, 1980–2016.

Methods

Data Standardization

Because the variable coding schemes change periodically, we first standardized the codes across years. We began by collapsing the race variable into fewer and larger demographic groups to streamline the analysis. The new race/ethnic groups are White, Latino, African American, and Other. Next, we sorted the age variable into age ranges with the cut points set according to an age group's frequency in the data. Our age groups are 0-17 (juveniles), 18-24, 25-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 or over.

Additionally, for convenience, we disaggregated offenses coded as "Other Felonies" and "Other Misdemeanors" and create labeled string variables for the gender, offense level, summary offense, type of status, and county variables.

Finally, to avoid small sample sizes in the analysis, we created our own aggregated version of the summary offense variable. Our variable comprises violent felonies (Felony-Violent), property felonies (Felony-Property), drug felonies (Felony-Drugs), weapons felonies (Felony-Weapons), warrant felonies (Felony-Warrant), supervision felonies (Felony-Supervision), other felonies (Felony-Other), misdemeanor assault (Misdemeanor-Assault/Battery), drug misdemeanors (Misdemeanor-Drugs), alcohol misdemeanors (Misdemeanor-Alcohol), traffic misdemeanors (Misdemeanor-Traffic), property misdemeanors (Misdemeanor-Property), failure to appear or warrant misdemeanors (Misdemeanor-FTA/Warrant), other misdemeanors (Misdemeanor-Other), and status offenses.

Arrest Offense Categories

Our arrest groups are each composed of several offenses, labeled according to the California Codes. Here we define and elaborate on what some of the more common offense codes entail.

The most common offense types for the Felony – Drug category were Narcotics, Dangerous Drugs, and Marijuana. Narcotics are classified as controlled substances having the highest potential for abuse, while Dangerous Drugs are classified as one tier lower. Any offense involving narcotics is a felony, while sale or manufacture of dangerous drugs is a felony, but possession is a misdemeanor. A marijuana offense is a felony in California in the most extreme cases, such as sale to a minor or illegal cultivation for sale. The Felony – Property and Felony – Violent categories are largely intuitive except we will note that Theft rises from a misdemeanor to a felony when the total value of stolen goods exceeds $950, and that Lewd or Lascivious typically refers to the sexual abuse of a minor. Among the Felony – Other category, Driving Under the Influence is typically a misdemeanor but may rise to a felony when one has been repeatedly arrested for this offense, or if someone is seriously injured or killed in the course of a DUI. Additionally, Malicious Mischief entails the destruction or vandalism of another's property, while Other Felonies refers to a broad range of offenses from violations of the Business and Professions Code to treason.

Turning to the misdemeanor offenses, the Misdemeanor – Alcohol category is likely self-evident with the exception of Disturbing the Peace which constitutes a broad range of conduct from inciting a riot to interrupting a session of the Legislature. Misdemeanor – FTA/Warrant offenses refer to those in which an arraigned arrestee did not appear in court as ordered (Failed to Appear), and for those misdemeanors that required a warrant to facilitate the arrest. For Misdemeanor – Drugs, Other Drug Law Violations typically refer to drug related offenses such as illicit possession of syringes, or falsifying a prescription. Misdemeanor Marijuana offenses include acts like smaller scale cultivation without a license or not paying sales taxes on a marijuana transaction. The Misdemeanor

– Other category is similar to its Felony counterpart, except CI/CO ordinances refer to violations of laws passed by local governments (cities and counties) such as noise ordinances. Lastly, within Misdemeanor – Traffic, Select Traffic refers specifically to Reckless Driving or refusing to comply with a ticket, while Miscellaneous Traffic refers to a long list of other violations of the Vehicle Code.

Arrest Rate Calculation

We calculated arrest rates for our demographic groups, using our aggregated arrest types at the state and county levels. To do so we first created separate tables at the state and county levels, tallying raw arrest counts by race, age group, gender, and a full disaggregation making use of all three demographic variables. We then merged these arrest counts with California Department of Finance's demographic and population estimates for the state and its counties. These population data were coded to merge cleanly onto our demographic characteristics. Finally, to calculate arrest rates, we divided the number of persons arrested of a specific demography by the total number of persons of that demography in the state or county, and multiply the quotient by 100,000.

We also created separate tables calculating arrest rates by offense level, and identified the five most commonly arrested felonies and misdemeanors for each year of our data. One key difference between our reporting of the data and the annual CJSC Crime in California reports, is the CJSC calculations omit Federal Offenses, Miscellaneous Traffic Offenses, Felony and Misdemeanor Supervision Violations, and Outside of Warrant Misdemeanors and Felonies. We included all offense types in our arrest totals to present a comprehensive view of Californians' interactions with law enforcement each year.

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