arrest for 1995 through 2004. In 2004, the Orange County cities with the most juvenile arrests were Santa Ana (1,639), Anaheim (1,157), and Garden Grove (990). This is expected for Santa Ana and Anaheim because they have two of the largest city populations in the county. Over those ten years, the cities with the largest percent decreases in total juvenile arrests were Seal Beach (-63.3%), Fountain Valley (-62.4%) and Yorba Linda (58.2%). The three cities with the largest numerical decreases were Anaheim (-931), Huntington Beach (-586) and Westminster (-281).

The jurisdictional groupings in Table 2 coincide with the Orange County Probation Department’s supervision regions shown in Figure 3. While the number of arrests in North County decreased between 1995 and 2004, the share of county juvenile arrests remains about the same (36%). South County arrests also decreased from 4,389 arrests (29%) in 1995 to 3,509 (31%). West County arrests decreased from 3,459 in 1995 to 2,163 in 2004 and also showed the largest percentage point change from 23% to 19%. Central County contains only the City of Santa Ana, which reported 1,629 juvenile arrests (11%) in 1995 and 1,639 in 2004 (14%). One point of clarification: the designation “Other” in Table 2 and Figure 3 is due to different arresting agencies, such as the CHP, U.S. Marshalls and universities, reporting separately and not necessarily by location of arrest.

CONCLUSION

It is important to note that data on conviction rates from the arrests reported here and the outcome of convictions are not available at the present time. Each county in California handles their juvenile offender populations differently. Depending upon the political climate and the current capacity at the local correctional facilities, placement after a juvenile conviction is difficult to determine. A misdemeanor offense will usually result in formal or informal probation in Orange County, while a juvenile felony conviction may result in placement at a correctional facility or formal probation. In addition, many factors influence changes in arrest patterns, such as an increase in youth population through annexation of an area into a city, changing patrolling agencies (e.g. city police department to county sheriffs), changes in city council or police management, and directives within a city.

In summary, although we cannot report on the outcome of the juvenile arrests in Orange County, it is important to know that while Orange County’s population increased by 16.3% from 1995 to 2004, we have seen major reductions in total arrests (-24.5%), misdemeanors (-19.2%), non-violent felonies (-34.4%), and violent felony crimes (-38.3%) for juveniles. This pattern for juveniles also follows the less dramatic decrease of 13.3% in adult arrests over the same time period.

Figure 3

Total Number of Juvenile Arrests By Orange County Probation Department Supervision Regions, 1995 and 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>Other, 173</th>
<th>Other, 96</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>4,389</td>
<td>1,629</td>
<td>5,925</td>
<td>3,459</td>
<td>1,157</td>
<td>990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4,043</td>
<td>1,639</td>
<td>4,043</td>
<td>2,163</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CA Dept. of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center

PROFILES IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION THAT FOCUSES ON DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES IN ORANGE COUNTY.

INTRODUCTION

The patterns of total juvenile arrests, as well as felony and misdemeanor dispositions, are of particular interest when discussing Orange County crime because data on the juvenile population is not often widely discussed. The Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center prepares an annual analysis of juvenile crime to provide information for planning and implementing juvenile justice programs and policies throughout California. This issue of Orange County Profiles focuses on the juvenile arrest rates in Orange County and includes the most current information available on juvenile arrests and important trends regarding those arrests. The report draws from calendar years 1995 to 2004, the most recent time period for which crime and population statistics are available.

JUVENILE ARRESTS

In 2004, nearly 90% of arrests made in Orange County were for crimes committed by adults, while juveniles (ages 10 to 17) accounted for 11,450 (11.8%) of felony and misdemeanor arrests. Juveniles were responsible for 11.5% (3,293) of all felonies in Orange County, a law enforcement term referring to a crime that is punishable by death or imprisonment in a state facility. About 12% (8,157) of all misdemeanors, crimes punishable by imprisonment in county jail for up to one year, were committed by juveniles in the county. Orange County juveniles were responsible for 11.6% (643) of all violent crimes. Violent crimes are a subset of felonies and are defined as crimes committed against people such as homicide, forcible rape, assault, robbery, and kidnapping.

Of those juveniles arrested in 2004, 28.8% were arrested for felony crimes (both violent and non-violent), while 71.2% were arrested for misdemeanor crimes (Table 1).

The number of juvenile arrests in Orange County decreased between 1995 and 2004. The total number of arrests in 2004 represents a 25% decline in the absolute number of arrests from the ten years prior (15,175 in 1995 down to 11,450 in 2004). In the mid- to late 1990s, total juvenile arrests were between 15,000 and 16,200 annually. In the first half of the current decade, we have seen a decline of 14.2% from 13,347 arrests in 2000 to 11,450 in 2004. The juvenile crime percentage distributions paint a clear picture of this distinction. The percentage of juvenile arrests for felony crimes has shifted to a smaller share of all
juvenile arrests, while the percentage of juvenile arrests for misdemeanor crimes has become a larger share. Felony arrests have dropped from 33.5% in 1995 down to 28.8% in 2004. The percentage of felons in four of the last five years was less than 30%. As the share of felony arrests decline, the share of misdemeanors increases when looking at total arrests. Misdemeanor arrests rose from the 66.5% of all juvenile arrests in 1995 to 71.2% in 2004. While the trend in the changing distribution of the arrests is clear, arrests for violent crimes has averaged 5.8% of all arrests since 1995.

When converted into a rate per 100 juveniles living in Orange County (Figure 1), there is a steady decline in all arrest categories for the county with the exception of a slight rise in 1996 and 1998 for total arrests and for misdemeanors. Juvenile arrests for non-violent felonies have clearly fallen during the last part of the 1990s. After hovering at about 1.5 from 1995 to 1998, the rate of juvenile felony arrests per 100 juveniles began to drop noticeably. From 2001 to 2004 the felony rate was below 1.0 arrests per 100 juveniles. The violent felony crime rate had a steady decrease between 1995 and 2004, except in 2001. Misdemeanor rates fluctuated between 1995 and 2004 with a high in 1996 of 4.2 and a low in 2003 of 2.2.

ARRESTS BY SEX
A trend that is clear to define is the distribution of arrests by sex (Figure 2). In 1995, 85.9% of all felony juvenile arrests were for crimes committed by males. That figure has decreased to 80.3% in 2004. Juvenile females have had the opposite trend. Females accounted for 14.1% of the juvenile felony arrests in 1995. That share grew to 19.7% resulting in a growth of 5.6 percentage points, or 64 arrests, between 1995 and 2004.

ARRESTS BY CITY
Table 2 contains the total number of juvenile arrests by the location of the

![Figure 1](image1)

Orange County Juvenile Arrest Rates, 1995-2004

![Figure 2](image2)

Orange County Juvenile Arrests by Sex, 1995-2004

Figure 2

Orange County Juvenile Arrests by Sex, 1995-2004

Source: CA Dept. of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center
juvenile arrests, while the percentage of juvenile arrests for misdemeanor crimes has increased by 21% since 1995. Felony arrests have dropped from 45.9% in 1995 down to 35.4% in 2004. The percentage of felonies in the four of the last five years was less than 39%. As the share of felony arrests decline, the percentage of misdemeanors increases when looking at total arrests. Misdemeanor arrests rose from the 66.5% of all juvenile arrests in 1995 to 71.2% in 2004. While the trend in the changing distribution of the arrests is clear, arrests for violent crimes has increased 5.4% of all arrests since 1995.

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**Orange County Profiles 2006**

**Profiles 2006**

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**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE ARRESTS, 1995-2004**

**INTRODUCTION**

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---

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Felony: Non-Violent Number</th>
<th>Felony: Non-Violent Percent</th>
<th>Felony: Violent Crimes Number</th>
<th>Felony: Violent Crimes Percent</th>
<th>Misdemeanor Number</th>
<th>Misdemeanor Percent</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
<th>Total Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>4,038</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>1,042</td>
<td>6.9</td>
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<td>974</td>
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<td>11,169</td>
<td>68.9</td>
<td>16,221</td>
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<tr>
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<td>24.1</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>10,570</td>
<td>69.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
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<td>22.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>834</td>
<td>5.5</td>
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<td>73.5</td>
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<td>5.3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2,592</td>
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<td>2003</td>
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<td>69.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2,650</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>8,157</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>11,450</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CA Dept. of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center