

1966 DRUG ARRESTS IN CALIFORNIA

A PRELIMINARY SURVEY

Data shown in this report are subject to modification by additional arrest information received prior to formal publication in the annual report *Drug Arrests and Dispositions in California*.

ADULT ARRESTS

The 1966 total of 28,319 adult drug arrests is the highest annual arrest figure recorded by the Bureau of Criminal Statistics to date; this figure exceeds the year-earlier total by 32.1 percent. Marijuana offenses accounted for approximately one-half of the 1966 arrests and showed a 71 percent increase over those reported during 1965. Arrests for "heroin and other narcotics" increased by about 11 percent while arrests for "narcotic addict or user" increased by 6 percent. Dangerous drug arrests showed a 4 percent gain.

Neither Los Angeles County nor the remainder of the state conformed too closely to the statewide averages. Arrests for "narcotic addict or user" increased by 18 percent in Los Angeles County but decreased by 23 percent in the rest of the state. The converse was true for dangerous drug offenses which decreased by 14 percent in Los Angeles County while exhibiting an increase of 33 percent in the other counties.

In 1966 about 59 percent of the adult arrests occurred in Los Angeles County, as compared with 62 percent recorded in 1965, and 68 percent in 1960.

There were 16,820 adult arrests reported by Los Angeles County in 1966; San Diego County reported 2,708; San Francisco County 2,187; and Alameda County 1,469. These four counties alone accounted for 82 percent of the total arrests.

The total of 28,319 adult arrests involved 24,244 individuals. Of the arrests, 16,051 (57 percent) represented persons who were new to the drug file. Relatively few of the new offenders were involved with heroin—about 10 percent. This was in sharp contrast to marijuana, which accounted for over 60 percent of the new subjects. Of the 14,293 adult marijuana arrests during the year, 9,819 involved persons new to the study.

About 38 percent of the subjects arrested were under some form of probation or parole supervision at the time of arrest. Six percent (1,716) were on parole from the Department of Corrections and 1,751, roughly the same proportion, from the California Youth Authority. Less than 3 percent were on parole from the California Rehabilitation Center. Approximately 20 percent were under adult probation supervision.

Because these percentages are based on arrests, some of them multiple, they should be regarded as indications rather than as exact determinations.

JUVENILE ARRESTS

Juvenile arrests rose from 2,691 in 1965 to 5,034, an increase of 87 percent. Los Angeles County reported 3,189, or 63.3 percent of the total. In the other leading counties, Alameda County registered 295 such arrests; San Diego County 253; Orange County 251; and San Francisco 167. San Mateo and Santa Clara counties reported 144 and 126, respectively.

The youth drug problem revolved around marijuana (3,869 arrests) and dangerous drugs (898 arrests). Together, these two offense groups account for 95 percent of juvenile arrests on drug charges. One hundred and nine arrests in 1966 compared with 60 in 1965 involved the possession, sale or use of heroin and other narcotics.

Age 17 appears to be the critical year for youths arrested for drug usage. Those born in 1949 (age 17) made up 40 percent of the total; combined with those born in 1950, the two groups accounted for 63.8 percent of all juvenile arrestees.