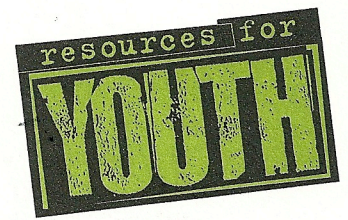


Facts



454 Las Gallinas Avenue, Suite 178
San Rafael, California 94903-3618
T: 415 331-5991
F: 415 331-2969

To engage in a productive and honest discussion of the issues, we need to start with facts.

Here are some of the facts about juvenile crime and violence in California.

- Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 are crime victims five times more often than people over the age of 35.¹
- Every 17 hours another child in California is a murder victim. Homicide is the leading cause of death for youth in California.²
- In 1995, there were 85,052 juvenile felony arrests in California.³ Twenty-six (26%) of all juvenile felony arrests are for violent offenses.⁴
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of all juvenile offenders are handled by county probation departments, including placements in county-run juvenile facilities.⁵ In 1989, over 66,000 youth were on probation and being supervised by counties.⁶ California counties house over 6,000 minors in juvenile halls and 4,000 minors in ranch and camp facilities each day.⁷
- Three percent (3%) of juvenile offenders are committed to the California Youth Authority (CYA).⁸ CYA currently incarcerates 9,808 young men and women. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of these youth have been convicted of violent offenses.⁹

Here are some of the costs to California taxpayers for state and local responses to juvenile crime and violence.

- State and local law enforcement agencies spend an estimated **\$1.1 billion** a year to respond to juvenile crime and violence.¹⁰
- Total prosecution and public defense costs for juvenile offenders are estimated at **\$176 million** annually.¹¹
- The California court system spends an estimated **\$532 million** each year to process juvenile cases.¹²
- The California Youth Authority budget for 1996-1997 is **\$361.4 million**.¹³
- Annual County probation costs for youth offenders are estimated at **\$145 million**.¹⁴

¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 'Juvenile Victimization: 1987 - 1992,' Fact Sheet #17, June 1994, by analyst Joseph Moone.

² California Department of Justice, Bureau of Criminal Statistics, *Crime and Delinquency in California*, Table 3c, 'Juvenile Felony Arrests,' p.11. 542 juveniles (17 or younger) were murdered in California in 1994, or one every 17 hours.

³ Legislative Analyst's Office. 1995 juvenile felony arrests in California.

⁴ Hill, Elizabeth G. *Juvenile Crime: Outlook for California*. Sacramento: Legislative Analyst's Office, May 1995, p. 12. Violent offenses are defined as homicide, rape, robbery, assault, and kidnapping.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 46.

⁶ Legislative Analyst's Office. This figure has not been available since 1989, when the program requiring the California Department of Justice to segregate data on juvenile crime was defunded due to budget cuts. In 1995, AB 488, a bill carried by Assemblyman Joe Baca, was signed into law and reinstated juvenile data collection by expressly requiring the Department to keep statistics on juvenile crime.

⁷ Hill, Elizabeth G. *Juvenile Crime: Outlook for California*. Sacramento: Legislative Analyst's Office, May 1995, p. 51. These numbers reflect the number of county facility beds. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, county facilities are overcrowded.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 46.

⁹ Legislative Analyst's Office. As of September 18, 1996.

¹⁰ Legislative Analyst's Office, \$6.7 billion total on law enforcement. In 1989, the California Department of Justice estimated that 16% of all arrests are juveniles.

¹¹ Legislative Analyst's Office, \$1.1 billion total on prosecution and public defense. Use of estimated juvenile arrests at 16% of total.

¹² Legislative Analyst's Office, \$1.4 billion total on all court and court related costs. In 1989, it was estimated that juveniles accounted for 38% of court costs.

¹³ California State Budget, 1996-1997.

¹⁴ Legislative Analyst's Office, \$810 million (1993-1994) total on all probation expenditures. In 1989, 18% of the probation caseload was for juvenile offenders.