

# **DCJS Adult Arrests (18 & Older) by County Data Overview**

## **General Description**

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Mission Statement:

DCJS enhances public safety by providing resources and services that inform decision making and improve the quality of the criminal justice system.

The Office of Justice Research and Performance (OJRP) of the NYS Division of Criminal Justice provides research, analysis and performance data to DCJS, its hosted agencies, and other governmental agencies and the public. OJRP supports various statewide criminal justice operational and statistical information systems housed at DCJS, including an analytic database derived from the Division's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) database. The analytic database is used by OJRP to produce statistics about adult arrests for fingerprintable offenses and about the processing of those arrests in the state's court system.

## **Data Collection Methodology**

The Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system maintained by the Division of Criminal Justice Services is the central repository for criminal history information in New York State. CCH contains the criminal history records of all persons arrested and prosecuted since 1970. A person's criminal history consists of a record of all fingerprintable arrests for the individual, the charges reported with the arrests, the prosecutorial and judicial actions involved in the disposing of the charges on which the person is arraigned, and information related to sentencing if convicted.

Fingerprintable offenses (as defined in Criminal Procedure Law §160.10) include any felony, misdemeanor as defined in the penal law or as defined outside the penal law which would constitute a felony if such person had a previous judgment of conviction of a crime, and the violation charge of loitering for the purpose of engaging in prostitution as defined in subdivision two of Penal Law §240.37.

CCH data is collected throughout the processing of a case from numerous agencies. The reporting begins with an adult arrest. Upon arrest, the state or local arresting agency submits fingerprints and arrest information to DCJS and the data is subsequently stored in the central repository. The arrest data displayed in this dataset include arrests of persons age 18 and older at the time the crime was committed.

Local arresting agencies include county sheriff departments, city, county, town, village, district police departments as well as prosecutor investigators, railroad police, New York City Fire Marshalls, New York City Water Supply Police and other similar agencies. State arresting agencies include the State Police, Environmental Conservation Police, Parks and Recreation Police, State University of New York Police and State Taxation Department investigators.

On-going case disposition information is submitted to DCJS and appended to the arrest records throughout the processing of the case by the courts.

## **Statistical and Analytic Issues**

CCH "Top Charge" data files are generated from the CCH database for research and analytical purposes. The unit of count is a single "arrest event" characterized by the most serious arrest charge in the event (i.e., one

arrest event that contains 3 felony charges and 1 misdemeanor charge would be counted as one felony arrest).

The 'Unknown-NonNYS' category consists of New York State agencies making an arrest outside of New York State, outside of the United States or when the arrest county is unknown. The 'Unknown NYC county' category consists of New York State agencies making an arrest in New York City but the exact borough is unknown; this category should be included with the five boroughs to get the NYC total.

The adult arrest file is updated on an annual basis as described on the OPEN DATA NY webpage. Contributing agencies are continuously updating and transmitting data and therefore numbers may change over time due to the collection of previously missing information.

### **Limitations of Data Use**

This data set is limited to fingerprintable adult arrests for major felony and misdemeanor offense groupings. Requests for additional information may be directed to DCJS or to State or local arresting agencies.

Public access to this arrest data is intended solely to allow the public convenient and immediate access to public information. While all attempts are made to provide accurate, current and reliable information, the Division of Criminal Justice Services recognizes the possibility of human and/or mechanical error and that information captured at a point in time may change over time.