

A LOOK AT CALIFORNIA JURIES


Participation, Shortcomings and Recommendations

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The author thanks John A. Larson and Gloria M. Gomez for providing the data used in this report and for answering numerous questions. John Larson is Senior Court Services Analyst at the Administrative Office of the Courts for the State of California and Staff to the California Task Force on Jury System Improvements. Gloria Gomez is Director of Juror Services for the Los Angeles Superior Court and a member of the California Task Force on Jury System Improvements.

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ABOUT THE AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOCIATION

The mission of the American Tort Reform Association (ATRA) is to restore balance, predictability and fairness to the civil justice system through the enactment of legislation and through public education. ATRA is a membership association of three hundred large and small businesses, trade and professional associations, physician groups and nonprofits.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trial by jury is a foundation of the American legal system, generally considered a guardian of liberty and guarantor of fairness. It relies on the participation of large numbers of ordinary citizens.

In the words of the California statute book, “trial by jury is a cherished constitutional right,” and “jury service is an obligation of citizenship” (Cal. Code. Civ. Proc. § 191).

In many places, participation is widespread. In California, however, especially in large urban centers such as Los Angeles, avoidance of jury service is common. In recent years, courts have implemented a number of reforms, most notably the one-day, one-trial system.

Measuring the extent of jury participation and the impact of recently implemented reforms was the goal of this report. The available evidence suggests the following conclusions and recommendations:

Conclusions:

- Jury avoidance is a serious problem in California.
- Barely a quarter of those summoned for jury duty actually serve.
- More than a third of those summoned either fail to respond or claim that service would be too much of a hardship.
- Data collected by the courts is inadequate to assess whether recent reforms, including the one-day, one-trial system, have improved jury participation.

Recommendations:

- The courts should collect and publish jury statistics every year.
- The courts should make old jury data available.
- The DMV should publicize and enforce the requirement that drivers notify it of changes of address.
- The courts should purge the jury pool of persons not qualified for jury service.
- The legislature should enact a statute placing a hold on driver's license renewals of persons who fail to respond to a juror summons.
- The legislature should enact statutes raising juror pay and providing tax credits to employers who pay usual compensation to workers who are absent from work on account of jury service.

INTRODUCTION

Trial by jury is a foundation of the American legal system, generally considered a guardian of liberty and guarantor of fairness. It relies on the participation of large numbers of ordinary citizens. In many places, participation is widespread. In California, however, especially in large urban centers such as Los Angeles, avoidance of jury service is common. In recent years, courts have implemented a number of reforms, most notably the one-day, one-trial system. Measuring the extent of jury participation and the impact of recently implemented reforms was the goal of this report.

Unfortunately, it is nearly impossible to assess the success of recent reforms because of incomplete and inconsistent data. Data for fiscal year 1999-2000 were obtained for this report only after numerous requests to the Administrative Office of the Courts, and even these data are not complete or entirely reliable. Data for other years are simply unavailable. Modernization of juror management computer systems to gather reliable jury statistics and regular publication of those data should be an urgent priority. In addition, to the extent data from earlier years can be extracted from existing databases, they should be made available to researchers and the public. Without good data, it is impossible to evaluate the effectiveness of reforms already implemented, to assess the current state of jury participation, or to formulate intelligent strategies to remedy the remaining problems.

The data that were available suggest that low jury participation remains a serious problem in California. Barely a quarter of those summoned actually complete their service. Low jury participation rates are the result of a number of factors, including inaccurate address records, failure of summoned individuals to appear at court, and large numbers of hardship excuses. The most serious problem is that jurors who were properly summoned either did not appear or claimed that jury service would be too much of a hardship. Nearly a third of those summoned avoided jury duty in this way. As a result, the system imposes a disproportionate share of the jury service burden on those willing to serve, which means these good citizens must serve more often. In Los Angeles, this problem is so severe that judges predict that eligible citizens will need to be summoned every year.¹

While there is no simple way to increase jury participation, a number of reforms might help, including publicizing and enforcing the legal requirement that drivers notify the Department of Motor Vehicles of address changes, placing a hold on driver's license renewals of persons who fail to respond to a juror summons, increasing juror pay, and enacting tax credits to encourage businesses to pay employees during jury service. Some of these proposals, such as increasing juror pay and employer tax credits, have been recommended before, but have not been implemented, in large part because they would require substantial expenditure of tax money. Appropriation of such funds requires accountability, which in turn requires the collection and dissemination of data on jury participation to enable evaluation of the effectiveness of such measures.

¹ Judge James A Bascue, "Jury Duty Need Not Be a Trial," *Los Angeles Times*, June 29, 2002, B25 ("Our court system requires 10,000 jurors a day. Simple math shows that unless excuses from jury service are minimized, we would exhaust the 6.1-million-person Los Angeles County jury pool in less than a year."); Steve Berry and Anna Gorman, "Juror Relief May Turn to Grief," *Los Angeles Times*, February 24, 2002, B1 ("Several Judges said that when the one-trial system kicks in downtown, jury administrators will have to summon about three times more prospective jurors than they have called in under the old system. That means they will need to summon almost every eligible citizen once a year to provide the 7,000 to 10,000 people needed each day for trials countywide.").

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Resistance to service has plagued the jury system from its origins in medieval England.² Reform efforts have periodically attempted to remedy the problem, usually with only modest success. Most relevant to contemporary California, there was a resurgence of interest in juror participation in the 1990s. Several states recognized that they had a problem and attempted reforms.³ As part of this movement, in 1994, the Juror Services Division of the Los Angeles Superior Court examined various aspects of jury service and issued *The Jury Report: A Blueprint for Change in the Los Angeles County Jury System*. It recommended a number of administrative changes with the goal of improving juror qualification rates “from 9-15% to 25%.”⁴ As documented below, the Los Angeles courts have not met this target.

A year later, the Judicial Council of California created the Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury Service Improvement. This body produced a report in 1996 which concluded that “the jury system is on the brink of collapse.”⁵ It noted that “[o]ne of the most serious problems the jury system now faces relates to low juror yields.”⁶ To remedy the problem, the commission made twenty-nine recommendations, including:

- Use of the National Change of Address System to update jury source lists to reduce the problem of undeliverable summonses.⁷
- Placing a hold on driver’s license renewals of persons who fail to respond to a jury summons.⁸
- Enactment of child-care programs for jurors with responsibility for children.⁹
- Adoption of the one-day, one-trial system.¹⁰ Under this system, a prospective juror need appear in court only a single day, unless selected as a trial juror. If the juror is not chosen on the first day, the individual is then exempt from jury duty for a year.

² J. B. Post, “Jury Lists and Juries in the Late Fourteenth Century,” in *Twelve Good Men and True: The Criminal Trial Jury in England, 1200-1800* (J. S. Cockburn and Thomas A. Green eds., 1988), p. 67 (“The commonest observable fault of medieval juries is their persistent failure to appear.”).

³ Robert G. Boatright, American Judicature Society, *Improving Citizen Response to Jury Summons: A Report with Recommendations* (1998), pp. 20-27; Richard Selzer, “The Vanishing Juror: Why Are There Not Enough Available Jurors?” *The Justice System Journal*, vol. 20, no. 3 (1999), pp. 203-18.

⁴ Los Angeles Superior Court, *The Jury Report: A Blueprint for Change in Los Angeles County* (1994), p. iv.

⁵ *Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury System Improvement* (1996), p. 12.

⁶ *Id.*, p. 18.

⁷ *Id.*, p. 20.

⁸ *Id.*, p. 23.

⁹ *Id.*, p. 27.

¹⁰ *Id.*, p. 39.

- Implementation of a telephone stand-by system, so jurors would only have to appear in court when necessary.¹¹
- Increasing juror fees to \$40 for each day after the first day and \$50 after the thirteenth day.¹²
- Requiring employers to pay employees for at least three days of jury service and provision of tax credits to employers who voluntarily pay jurors absent for more than three days of jury service.¹³

The Judicial Council then created a Task Force on Jury System Improvements to oversee implementation of the recommendations. Many of the recommendations requiring changes in court administration have been implemented. Twenty-four counties comprising eighty percent of California's population now use the National Change of Address System.¹⁴ All now adhere to the one-day, one-trial policy. Los Angeles was the last to implement this reform, completing the transition only this year.¹⁵ Telephone standby is now widespread.

On the other hand, only some of the recommendations requiring legislative action have been implemented. Legislation was passed mandating the adoption of the one-day, one-trial system,¹⁶ but failure to respond to a jury summons still has no effect on driver's license renewal. Juror fees were increased, but only to \$15 per day.¹⁷ No state legislation mandating or funding child care for the children of jurors has been enacted, although some counties have begun to provide it.¹⁸ No legislation requiring employers to pay employees for jury service has been enacted, nor have tax credits to encourage employers to do so voluntarily.

It is very difficult to ascertain whether the reforms implemented in the last few years have made a difference. There is some anecdotal evidence of improvement,¹⁹ but it is hard to be confident, because there is almost no data from the early 1990's to which to compare recent response rates. The only data the author has been able to find are for Los Angeles in fiscal years ("FY") 1983-84 and 1994-95. Analysis of the data suggests that there has been no overall improvement in jury participation. There may have been some improvement between FY 1994-95 and FY 2000-2001, but this improvement merely offset declines between FY 1983-84 and FY 1994-95. Table 1 compares FY 1983-84, FY 1994-95 and FY 2000-2001 juror response rates. Definitions of terms used in the table can be found in the Glossary on pages 20-21.

¹¹ *Id.* p. 40.

¹² *Id.* p. 43.

¹³ *Id.* pp. 44-45.

¹⁴ This statement is based on data for FY 1999-2000 from the Task Force on Jury System Improvements. Nearly all the large counties have adopted this system. The fifteen counties with populations over half a million account for over eighty percent of California's population. Of these fifteen, only Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara did not use the National Change of Address System.

¹⁵ "LA County Expands One-Day, One Trial System," Associated Press Newswires, June 10, 2002.

¹⁶ Judicial Council of California, *Court News* (March-April 1999), p. 1.

¹⁷ Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 215.

¹⁸ Editorial, "Courthouse Day Care," *The Press Enterprise* (Riverside), May 8, 2002, A10.

¹⁹ Troy Anderson, "Show Up or Else; Courts Get Tough," *Los Angeles Daily News*, January 19, 2002, N1 ("[A]s Los Angeles County's 38 courts have slowly switched to the new system [one-day, one-trial], the number of people heeding their summons has jumped."); Jean Guccione, "Jury Duty Scofflaws Get Hit in the Pocketbook," *Los Angeles Times*, August 16, 2002, B2 ("Superior Court Judge Jacqueline A. Connor, who heads the court's trial jury committee, believes the effort is working. About 85% of the jurors in Santa Monica now tell court officials that this is their first jury experience, she said, compared with about 15% in past years. Juries once were largely made up of retirees and government employees who had unlimited paid time off for jury duty, Gutman said. Now they represent a broader cross-section of the population, including judges, lawyers and other public safety officials.").

**Table 1. Comparison of Los Angeles Response to Jury Summonses
FY 1983-84, FY 1994-95 and FY 2000-1**

	FY 1983-1984	FY 1994-1995	FY 2000-2001
Summons or affidavit undeliverable	14.6%	15%	16.4%
Returned pending update		12%	17.8%
Incomplete	0.5%		0.8%
Disqualified	9.7%	10%	7.7%
Excused for hardship	27.7%	16%	9.8%
No response	29.4%	36%	31.3%
Qualified	18.2%	10%	16.2%
Persons summoned or mailed affidavits	963,236	almost 4 million	4,466,299
Jurors served	9.5%	5%	9.3%

Notes. FY 1983-84 data from Hiroshi Fukurai and Edgar W. Butler, "Organization, Labor Force, and Jury Representation: Economic Excuses and Jury Participation," *Jurimetrics Journal*, vol. 32, Fall 1991, p. 53. FY 1994-95 data from *Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury System Improvement*, (1996) p. 22. FY 2000-2001 data are from Los Angeles Jury System Fact Sheets. See Appendix C for more on the Los Angeles data.

The overall percentage of "jurors served" has hardly changed between FY 1983-84 and FY 2000-2001. In both years, it was between 9 and 9.5 percent. FY 1994-95, however, was very bad, with only five percent of jurors serving.²⁰ There was thus a precipitous decline between FY 1983-84 and FY 1994-94, and then a return to the FY 1983-84 levels in FY 2000-2001. While it is possible that jury reforms instituted in the late 1990s were responsible for the recent increase in jury participation, without data from other years, this is hard to confirm. In addition, it should be noted that in FY 2000-2001, Los Angeles had not fully implemented reforms. For example, only about half of its courthouses used the one-day, one-trial system.²¹

²⁰ "Jurors served" is an ambiguous term. It seems to mean prospective jurors who were summoned, appeared at the court at the proper time, and were not disqualified or excused. It does not seem to mean persons who were actually sworn as jurors in a trial. This is apparent from the 2000-2001 "Fact Sheets." In 2000-2001, 415,747 "jurors served," but there were only 5290 "jury trials sworn." If each jury trial required twelve jurors, that would mean that 63,480 persons "actually served on juries." Even if one counted alternate jurors, the number of persons who were actually sworn as jurors in a trial must have been well below 100,000. The *Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury System Improvements*, from which the FY 1994-95 data were drawn, states that 5% "actually served on juries." This implies that they were actually sworn onto a jury. If so, the number of "jurors served" in the way that term was used for the FY 2000-2001 data must have been much higher. Most probably, however, the *Final Report* was imprecise when it stated that 5% actually served on juries, and merely meant that 5% were summoned, and were not disqualified or excused. If so, the term "jurors served" was used in the same way in all three time periods analyzed in Table 1.

²¹ By January 1, 2001, fourteen of thirty-eight courthouses in Los Angeles County used the one-day, one-trial system. Caitlin Liu, "2 Courthouses to Open, Expand Services in Area Justice," *Los Angeles Times* January 1, 2001, B1. By the end of 2001, thirty-three did. Troy Anderson, "Show Up or Else; Courts Get Tough," *Los Angeles Daily News*, January 19, 2002, N1. The last courthouses had adopted the system by June 2002. "LA County Expands one-day, one trial system," Associated Press Newswires, June 10, 2002.

CURRENT PARTICIPATION RATES

No data on responses to jury summons are published regularly. John Larson of the Task Force on Jury System Improvements, however, kindly shared some of the data that the task force has gathered. Many counties, however, did not provide complete data to the Task Force. Either they did not collect them, or their administrators could not get their jury management computer systems to produce even the simplest statistics. In addition, John Larson at the Task Force cautioned that the data which were reported contain inconsistencies which make it hard to compare responses from county to county. The data were not directly derived from a single data collection system, but instead are the result of survey questionnaires sent out to jury administrators in each county. Each county has different record keeping practices, and each administrator interpreted the questions somewhat differently.

Appendix A contains data on jury participation from all counties. To simplify presentation, Table 2 provides data from eight counties from various parts of the state. Definitions of terms used in the table can be found in the Glossary on pages 20-21.

	Persons Summoned	Summons Undeliverable	Postponement Granted	Disqualified	Excused for Hardship	Did Not Appear	Completed Service
Alameda	614,766	11.5%	6.7%	9.8%	9.7%	11.9%	50.4%
Humbolt	61,535	32.5%	12.4%	12.3%	1.6%	40.9%	12.9%
Los Angeles	1,554,484	38.7%	N.A.	21.6%	8.3%	N.A.	19.0%
Riverside	604,568	9.5%	8.9%	10.9%	30.3%	17.3%	24.4%
Sacramento	297,887	14.3%	N.A.	16.3%	27.3%	3.7%	25.0%
San Francisco	183,105	12.8%	19.9%	17.5%	11.3%	13.0%	N.A.
San Joaquin	174,491	13.0%	12.2%	23.0%	24.0%	18.5%	55.3%
Sierra	540	15.0%	25.9%	5.0%	3.5%	9.3%	51.9%
All California Excluding Los Angeles	6,755,721	15.2%	14.0%	14.8%	17.8%	17.1%	29.0%
All California	8,310,205	20.3%	14.0%	16.1%	15.9%	17.1%	26.8%

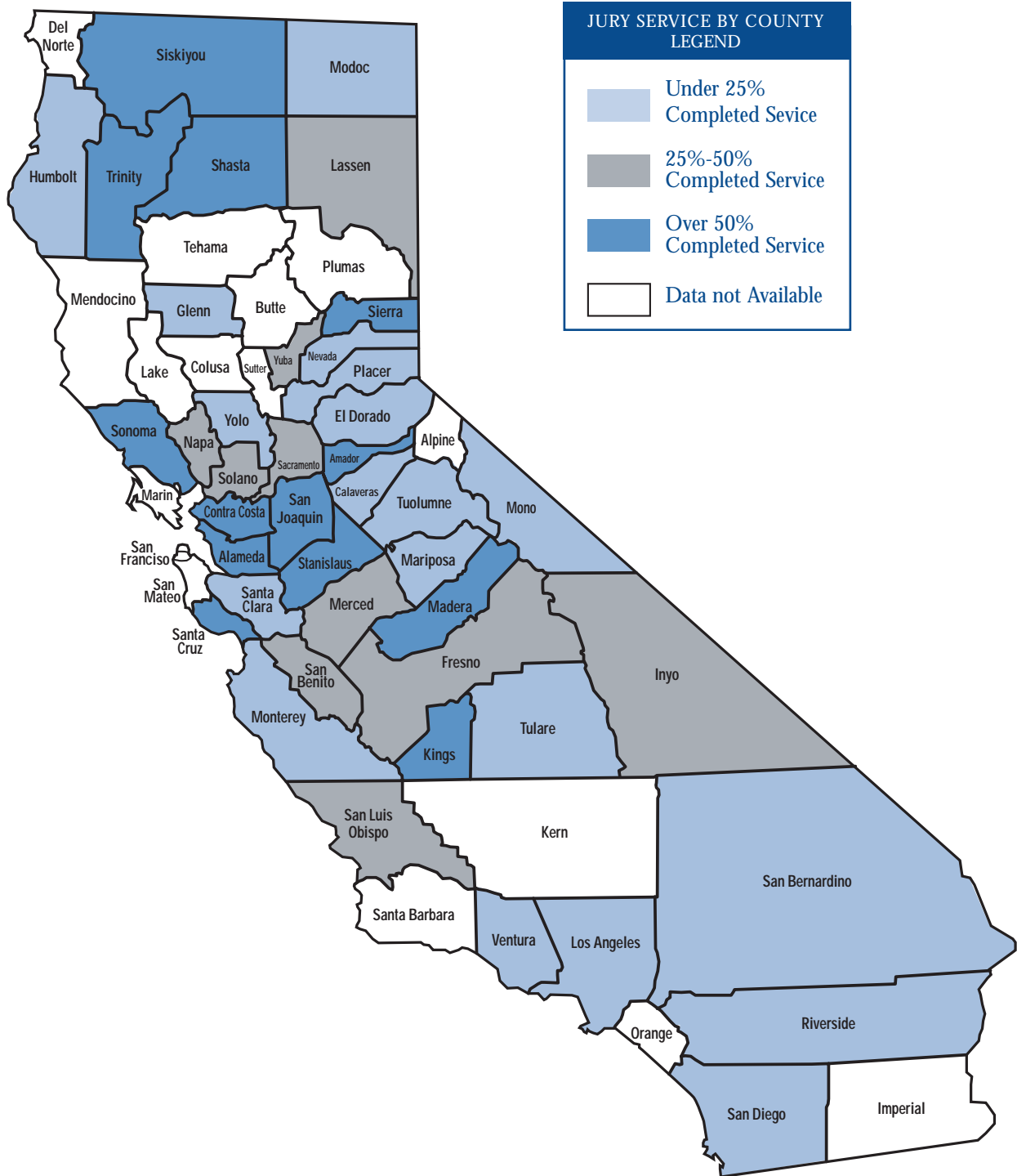
Notes. Data are from the Task Force on Jury System Improvements Improvements. See Appendices B and C for problems with the data. The last two rows, which report data for "All California," summarize data from the counties for which the data were available.

As can be seen, jury participation rates tend to be very low. On average, barely a quarter of persons summoned completed their service. The overall figure, however, is considerably affected by Los Angeles' dismal 19% rate. Even excluding Los Angeles, however, less than a third of those summoned fulfilled their duty. These averages, however, conceal considerable variation. In some counties, such as Los Angeles and Humbolt, less than twenty percent of those summoned served. In other counties, such as Alameda and Sierra, over half did.

Even the low participation figures in the tables probably overstate the extent to which citizens respond to jury summonses. The “completed service” column includes both those who actually appeared at court to fulfill their obligation as well as those who were on telephone standby. Those on telephone standby were counted as having “completed” their service even if they were never actually called to appear. In fact, because telephone standby systems currently in use do not record who has called in, those on telephone standby were counted as having completed their service even if they never telephoned to check their status. Since about half of those recorded as completing their service did so through telephone standby, the figures above almost certainly overstate the extent of jury service. A significant number of those counted as serving probably did not even telephone to see whether their service was required and still more might not have appeared even if they knew they had been called.

The map on the following page illustrates the extent of jury service in California.

Jury Service by County in California



Few obvious patterns emerge from the map or from inspection of the data. Poor participation can be found both in northern and southern California, and in both large and small counties. Correlation analysis, however, reveals some weak patterns. Smaller and less populous counties tend to have greater percentages of persons who served, as do counties which have more African Americans.²² On the other hand, richer counties and those with more Hispanics tend to have lower participation rates.²³ In only two southern California counties did more than twenty-five percent of prospective jurors complete their jury service while most counties with participation rates over fifty percent can be found in the central and northern part of the state.²⁴ These patterns are intriguing and require further investigation. The most fruitful analysis would require data on the demographic characteristics (age, sex, race, income, etc.) of those summoned and those who served. Unfortunately, most courts do not collect these data and none publish them.

The biggest problem is that jurors who were properly summoned did not appear. More than a sixth of those summoned simply ignored the call to jury duty.²⁵ This problem was particularly acute in Humboldt, where more than a third of those summoned failed to appear. As explained in Appendix C, the percentage who failed to appear in Los Angeles was also probably over a third. If Los Angeles were included in the "All California" figure, the overall percentage who failed to appear would rise to over a quarter. On the other hand, in some counties, such as Sierra and Sacramento, fewer than ten percent did not appear. Until recently, most counties lacked a policy of rigorously prosecuting those who fail to respond to a jury summons, so nearly all who failed to participate did so with impunity. Only this year have localities, most notably Los Angeles, begun to enforce jury summonses.²⁶

Another significant problem revealed by Table 2 is inaccurate address records. Large numbers of summonses were returned by the postal service as undeliverable. In many counties, including nearly all the big counties, over ten percent of all summonses did not reach the addressee.²⁷

²² The correlation coefficient between population and the percent completed service was -0.16. The correlation between the physical size of the county and percent completed service was -0.14. The correlation between the percentage of blacks in a county and the percentage completed service was 0.11.

²³ The correlation coefficient between per capita income and the percent completed served was -0.10. The correlation between percentage of Hispanics in a county and the percentage completed service was -0.06.

²⁴ The exception was San Luis Obispo, where 43.5% were qualified and available. Data for Kern, Santa Barbara, and San Diego counties were not complete enough to calculate the percentage qualified and available. Enough data, however, are available from San Diego to estimate the percentage qualified and available to be 20.7%. 64.6% postponed, were disqualified or excused, or did not appear. No figures on undeliverable summons are available, but if one assumes the statewide average of 14.7%, one can estimate that only 20.7% were qualified and appeared.

²⁵ These figures may somewhat overstate the problem of non-appearing jurors. See Richard Selzer, "The Vanishing Juror: Why Are There Not Enough Available Jurors?" *The Justice System Journal*, vol. 20, no. 3 (1999), pp. 211-12 (About a third of Washington D.C. prospective jurors who did not respond to their summons had moved, even though the post office had not returned their summons as undeliverable.).

²⁶ Jean Guccione, "Jury Duty Scofflaws Get Hit in the Pocketbook in a New Crackdown," *Los Angeles Times*, August 16, 2002, B2 (In Los Angeles, "Court officials are now mailing 10,000 sanction notices each month, up from 2,000 to 3,000 a month, said Gloria Gomez, who administers the court's jury services."); Paul Gullixson, "Note of Caution to Not-so-artful Jury Dodgers," *The Press Democrat* (Santa Rosa, CA), June 5, 2002, B6 ("[T]he county Superior Court has started a program to go after those who duck jury duty. On three Fridays of every month, Judge Mark Tansil is now hauling in people who fail to respond to two summonses and a warning letter. These individuals come in with lots of excuses. They walk out with fines of about \$350 on average. And for all the money, time and anxiety these people wasted in trying to avoid jury duty, they still ended up having to serve.").

²⁷ These numbers may understate the incorrect address problem. See above, note 25.

The courts mail jury summons based on Department of Motor Vehicle lists of licensed drivers and based on voter registration lists. These lists contain much out-of-date and inaccurate information, including dead people and even an occasional dog.²⁸ The most serious problem, however, is drivers who have moved. Although drivers are legally required to report a change of address to the Department of Motor Vehicles,²⁹ this requirement is not widely publicized, and penalties for failure to report promptly are very seldom imposed.

Some people responded to their summons, but were then disqualified or excused. Disqualifications are spelled out in statute and are relatively uncontroversial.³⁰ The most common reasons for disqualification, in rough order of frequency, were non-residence in California or in the county which summoned them, non-U.S. citizenship, limited understanding of English, recent jury service, and loss of civil rights due to criminal conviction.³¹ Mailing summonses to persons who are not qualified for jury service wastes millions of dollars. Some of this waste might be reduced if jury administrators used other sources, such as databases of convicted felons, to weed out those not eligible for jury service.

Excuses are more controversial. Table 3 documents excuses granted. Again, for ease of presentation, the table presents statistics for all of California and for eight counties from various parts of the state.

Table 3. Hardship Excuses Granted, FY 1999-2000

	Hardship Excuses Granted	Dependent Care	Medical Disability	Financial Hardship	Other
Alameda	59,556	20.8%	23.1%	32.5%	23.6%
Humboldt	995	17.3%	40.6%	2.4%	39.7%
Los Angeles	128,369	26.9%	37.4%	34.0%	1.7%
Riverside	183,060	24.6%	12.8%	30.1%	32.6%
Sacramento	81,387	15.8%	40.8%	38.7%	4.7%
San Francisco	20,631	13.0%	57.8%	29.2%	0.0%
San Joaquin	41,815	23.9%	32.7%	20.6%	22.8%
Sierra	19	15.8%	21.1%	52.6%	10.5%
All California Excluding Los Angeles	1,161,343	21.5%	27.5%	36.2%	14.7%
All California	1,289,712	22.0%	28.5%	36.0%	13.4%

Source: Task Force on Jury System Improvements, FY 1999-2000. Note the "All California" rows do not include eleven counties which reported no information on hardships to the Task Force on Jury System Improvements. Most of these counties were small.

²⁸ Michelle Rester, "Board Wants End to Summoning Dead," *Los Angeles Daily News*, April 3, 2002, N6; "Voter Fraud Charges for Registering Dog," *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 18, 2002, A18 (Man's attempt to register his dog to vote "unraveled when the dog got called for jury duty in March.")

²⁹ Cal. Vehicle Code § 14600(a) ("Whenever any person after applying for or receiving a driver's license moves to a new residence, or acquires a new mailing address different from the address shown in the application or in the license as issued, he or she shall within 10 days thereafter notify the department of both the old and new address.")

³⁰ Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 203.

³¹ The data provided by the Task Force on Jury Improvements state that, in Los Angeles, 117,670 persons were disqualified because they were conservatees, while data were unavailable on the number excluded because they were not residents of the relevant county. These categories were almost certainly reversed, and the table so assumes.

The most common excuse was financial hardship. Many employers do not pay employees who miss work because of jury duty.³² A large fraction of such employees are low-paid workers who simply lack the savings to live without a steady paycheck. Similarly, self-employed persons may not be able to leave their businesses without long-term financial harm. While it is not impossible that those granted excuses on the basis of financial hardship indeed would have faced monetary difficulty on account of jury service, it is also possible that those not desiring to serve exaggerated the potential for pecuniary harm. Since courts do not ordinarily investigate prospective jurors' financial claims, it would be easy to exaggerate or lie about one's financial situation with impunity.

The next most common excuse was medical disability. On average, over a quarter of those excused claimed a medical disability. One must question the high percentage of these claims. For example, in San Francisco, medical excuses constituted fifty-seven percent of all excuses, which means that more than thirteen percent of qualified persons who responded to the jury summons were excused for medical reasons.³³ Since jury service is not that physically taxing, it is likely that some of these disabilities were feigned or exaggerated.

Another common excuse was the need to take care of dependents. This excuse was offered most often by mothers with child care responsibilities. Other, less common excuses included difficulties in arranging transportation and excessive travel time.

Although there is no demographic data on Californians excused from jury service, a 1991 National Center for State Courts report gathered demographic data from eight major cities. It found that persons with less than a high school education and less than fifteen thousand dollars in income were significantly more likely to be excused from jury service.³⁴ Because of the age and nationwide focus of that study, one can not be sure that excuses in California follow the same pattern. The absence of California data on such an important issue again highlights the need for California to take serious and immediate steps to track juror responses and participation.

³² Caitlin Liu, "Many Pay for Doing Civic Duty Courts," *Los Angeles Times*, July 18, 2001, B1. ("Financial support by major private employers for jury duty has dropped over the years, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 1986, 93% of medium and large private sector firms offered employees paid time off for jury duty, but in 1997, the most recent year for which nationwide statistics are available, 87% did. In Los Angeles County, about 22% of employers reported offering unlimited paid jury leave last year, down from 27% in 1995, according to the juror services division of Los Angeles County Superior Court. Over the same period, the number of employers paying workers nothing increased from 2.3% to 13.5%."); Jose Arballo Jr., "Fewer Firms Paying Jurors," *Press-Enterprise* (Riverside), October 28, 2001, B1 ("According to a 1997 Employers Group survey of nearly 200 manufacturing companies in California, slightly more than 40 percent of firms do not pay their employees for jury service. Of those that do compensate their employees, most pay for 10 days of service. More than 80 percent of financial institutions do not pay their employees for jury service, the survey found."); Hiroshi Fukurai and Edgar W. Butler, "Organization, Labor Force, and Jury Representation: Economic Excuses and Jury Participation," *Jurimetrics Journal*, vol. 32, Fall 1991, p. 62 (383 or 50.2% of 763 survey respondents from the 1985 California County Master Key List worked for employers which paid employers during jury duty).

³³ In San Francisco county, 91,171 person were summoned at their proper address, did not receive a postponement, and were not disqualified. Of these, 11,929 or 13.1% were excused because of medical disability. Since the 91,171 includes some who did not respond at all to the jury summons, the actual percentage is even higher.

³⁴ The data upon which this assertion is based is from Janice T. Munsterman, National Center for State Courts, *The Relationship of Juror Fees and Terms of Service to Jury System Performance*, (1991), pp. 52-53. Although this source does not report the likelihood with which each group will be excused, that number can be calculated from its data. The total number is the number not requesting excuse plus those requesting and being granted an excuse plus those requesting and being denied an excuse. The data are summarized in the table below:

	Excused	Total %	Excused		Excused	Total %	Excused
Less than high school	144	652	22.1%	Less than \$5000	73	250	29.2%
High school only	346	2265	15.3%	\$5000-\$14,999	208	840	24.8%
1-3 years college	474	2778	17.1%	15,000-\$24,999	219	1672	13.1%
4 years college or more	665	3966	16.8%	\$25,000-\$34,999	262	1298	20.2%
				\$35,000-\$49,999	314	2289	13.7%
				\$50,000-\$64,999	185	1437	12.9%
				\$65,000 or more	322	1753	18.4%

RECOMMENDATIONS

Although there is no simple solution to the problem of low juror participation, the following proposals should result in significant improvements:

Collect and publish jury statistics every year.

In order to enact reforms necessary to improve participation in the jury system, lawmakers, researchers, court officials and the general public must have a benchmark for analysis. Without timely information, neither the depth of the problem nor the effectiveness of enacted reforms can truly be assessed.

Therefore, the Administrative Office of the Courts should publish statistics, by county and courthouse, every year, including the number of jury summonses mailed, the number returned as undeliverable, the number of postponements granted, the number of each kind of disqualification claimed and granted, the number of each kind of hardship excuse claimed and granted, the number of people who, without cause, did not appear, the number who completed their jury service in person or by telephone standby, and the number who were actually sworn in as jurors. The Administrative Office should assure consistent definitions of terms and consistent data collection practices so that data from different counties is comparable. The Administrative Office should also collect demographic information on prospective and actual jurors so that the representative nature of jurors can be assessed.³⁵ Demographic information should include, to the extent possible, age, sex, race, education, and income. To make collection of demographic data less costly but still effective, such information might be solicited of only a random subsample of prospective and actual jurors.

Make old jury data available.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of recent jury reforms, including one-day one-trial, telephone standby, and increased enforcement efforts, it is necessary to know jury participation rates before the reforms were implemented. The Administrative Office should either analyze and publish the data already in the counties' jury management computer systems, or it should make that data available to researchers.³⁶ Of course, to the extent that outside researchers have access to raw data, appropriate safeguards must be taken to guard the privacy of individual information.

³⁵ The collection of such information is authorized by Cal. Code Civ. Code. Proc. § 205(c) ("The court may require a prospective juror to complete such additional questionnaires as may be deemed relevant and necessary ... to ascertain whether a fair cross section of the population is represented as required by law, if such procedures are established by local court rule.").

³⁶ Courts are required to keep jury data for at least three years. Cal Code Civ. Proc. 207(c) ("All records and papers maintained or compiled by the jury commissioner in connection with the selection or service of a juror ... shall be preserved for at least three years after the list used in their selection is prepared, or for any longer period ordered by the court or the jury commissioner."). Courts should be required or strongly urged to preserve records until they can be analyzed and published.

Publicize and enforce the requirement that drivers notify the DMV of changes of address.

A fifth of all juror summonses are returned by the Post Office as undeliverable. Since the courts rely heavily on lists of licensed drivers provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles, the large number of undeliverable summonses means that the DMV lists are not accurate. Most probably, this inaccuracy reflects failure of drivers to notify the DMV of changes of address, even though they are legally required to do so. Most drivers, however, are unaware of this requirement. The DMV should publicize this requirement and, if problems persist, take steps to enforce it. Legislation may be required to stiffen penalties for those who fail to notify the DMV of changes of address.

Purge jury pool of persons not qualified for jury service.

Too many summonses go to persons obviously not eligible for service. This wastes taxpayer money and everyone's time. Some of this waste might be reduced if jury administrators used other sources, such as databases of convicted felons, to weed out those not eligible for jury service.

As recommended by the 1996 Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury Service Improvement, enact legislation placing a hold on driver's license renewals of persons who fail to respond to a juror summons.

Too many individuals simply fail to respond to a juror summons. In general, they do so with impunity, because the current procedure to enforce the jury summons, which requires a court hearing, is too cumbersome. The Legislature should pass a statute which puts a hold on driver's license renewals of persons who fail to respond to a jury summons. Such a hold should not be very difficult or expensive to implement, and should provide significant incentives for individuals to respond to a juror summons.

As recommended by the 1996 Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury Service Improvement, enact legislation raising juror pay and providing tax credits to employers who pay usual compensation to workers who are absent from work on account of jury service.

A significant number of people are currently excused from jury service on account of financial hardship. That financial hardship is the result of two factors—low compensation of jurors by the courts and the failure of many employers to pay employees who are serving on juries. Juror compensation is currently only \$15 per day. This is hardly sufficient to prevent financial hardship, and it also sends a powerful message of how little society values jury service. In addition, while many employers continue to pay employees absent on account of jury service, many do not. Tax credits could help encourage employers to continue to provide jurors' usual salaries. These measures should help reduce the financial hardship of jury service. They should especially help poorer jurors, whose employers often do not provide compensation during jury service, and for whom \$50 per day compensation would significantly alleviate the financial hardship caused by jury service.

APPENDIX A. JURY PARTICIPATION, DATA FROM ALL COUNTIES

To ease presentation, Table 2 presented statistics only for eight counties. The table below contains data for all California counties. As can be seen, much of the data is not available (“N.A.”).

Table 4. Response to Jury Summonses, FY 1999-2000, All Counties							
	Persons Summoned	Summons Undeliverable	Postponement Granted	Disqualified	Excused for Hardship	Did Not Appear	Completed Service
Alameda	614,766	11.5%	6.7%	9.8%	9.7%	11.9%	50.4%
Alpine	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Amador	8,944	4.4%	9.9%	4.1%	2.5%	9.5%	93.4%
Butte	14,828	1.8%	33.3%	41.4%	26.0%	6.9%	N.A.
Calaveras	11,720	8.8%	17.3%	25.4%	5.2%	8.8%	10.5%
Colusa	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Contra Costa	187,195	6.1%	25.7%	11.6%	8.7%	15.6%	63.4%
Del Norte	15,930	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
El Dorado	53,016	13.1%	22.5%	16.1%	6.0%	7.2%	23.7%
Fresno	246,526	12.9%	16.9%	20.5%	15.3%	5.6%	42.6%
Glenn	3,500	7.3%	5.1%	22.9%	4.1%	7.3%	9.7%
Humbolt	61,535	32.5%	12.4%	12.3%	1.6%	40.9%	12.9%
Imperial	18,865	3.5%	23.2%	8.1%	23.2%	19.3%	N.A.
Inyo	6,952	7.7%	17.7%	9.4%	17.7%	5.4%	47.2%
Kern	151,710	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Kings	18,825	3.2%	29.2%	14.5%	0.8%	21.2%	59.4%
Lake	24,580	6.0%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Lassen	7,035	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	31.9%
Los Angeles	1,554,484	38.7%	N.A.	21.6%	8.3%	N.A.	19.0%
Madera	28,000	6.1%	9.5%	7.6%	3.3%	16.0%	66.9%
Marin	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Mariposa	5,000	6.8%	0.2%	7.9%	11.4%	6.8%	1.5%
Mendocino	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Merced	38,540	20.0%	9.9%	24.7%	3.1%	25.8%	30.6%
Modoc	4,125	20.0%	10.9%	30.6%	10.9%	26.6%	7.6%
Mono	4,600	N.A.	13.7%	20.2%	6.1%	1.1%	19.6%
Monterey	64,564	17.5%	16.0%	28.3%	24.2%	10.9%	20.8%
Napa	54,551	11.0%	38.5%	14.6%	2.3%	19.7%	35.4%
Nevada	35,779	7.4%	15.9%	11.5%	6.0%	N.A.	8.8%
Orange	510,981	17.4%	49.3%	21.9%	22.5%	16.7%	N.A.
Placer	152,633	15.6%	15.6%	20.2%	27.3%	3.6%	17.7%
All California Excluding Los Angeles	6,755,721	15.2%	14.0%	14.8%	17.8%	17.1%	29.0%
All California	8,310,205	20.3%	14.0%	16.1%	15.9%	17.1%	26.8%

Table continued on next page.

Table 4. Response to Jury Summonses, FY 1999-2000, All Counties (cont.)

	Persons Summoned	Summons Undeliverable	Postponement Granted	Disqualified	Excused for Hardship	Did Not Appear	Completed Service
Plumas	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Riverside	604,568	9.5%	8.9%	10.9%	30.3%	17.3%	24.4%
Sacramento	297,887	14.3%	N.A.	16.3%	27.3%	3.7%	25.0%
San Benito	5,057	N.A.	16.3%	18.4%	9.2%	14.6%	47.7%
San Bernardino	845,635	30.1%	4.6%	10.9%	16.6%	26.1%	10.9%
San Diego	808,490	N.A.	8.3%	16.1%	28.2%	19.5%	13.3%
San Francisco	183,105	12.8%	19.9%	17.5%	11.3%	13.0%	N.A.
San Joaquin	174,491	13.0%	12.2%	23.0%	24.0%	18.5%	55.3%
San Luis Obispo	85,381	17.4%	8.3%	11.1%	17.9%	8.0%	41.8%
San Mateo	182,400	11.4%	13.8%	10.6%	9.5%	25.9%	N.A.
Santa Barbara	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Santa Clara	364,000	16.7%	6.5%	14.3%	10.3%	25.6%	23.9%
Santa Cruz	72,065	4.5%	N.A.	19.8%	10.1%	13.8%	52.5%
Shasta	33,342	13.5%	14.6%	9.6%	6.4%	17.7%	52.3%
Sierra	540	15.0%	25.9%	5.0%	3.5%	9.3%	51.9%
Siskiyou	9,400	3.2%	N.A.	46.4%	8.3%	4.8%	94.3%
Solano	131,980	8.6%	2.4%	13.8%	1.8%	9.9%	45.8%
Sonoma	74,900	6.5%	44.1%	12.6%	3.5%	10.5%	51.4%
Stanislaus	97,975	10.1%	12.1%	13.9%	2.2%	5.8%	96.9%
Sutter	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Tehama	7,125	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Trinity	1,704	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	81.0%
Tulare	79,122	N.A.	15.5%	3.7%	8.5%	3.6%	3.1%
Tuolumne	56,520	3.8%	N.A.	5.4%	1.8%	2.4%	5.2%
Ventura	271,969	15.3%	8.5%	19.2%	22.5%	29.6%	15.9%
Yolo	16,560	3.5%	N.A.	25.1%	N.A.	N.A.	22.3%
Yuba	6,805	4.4%	21.7%	9.5%	8.0%	19.4%	39.8%
All California excluding Los Angeles	6,755,721	15.2%	14.0%	14.8%	17.8%	17.1%	29.0%
All California	8,310,205	20.3%	14.0%	16.1%	15.9%	17.1%	26.8%

Notes. Data are from the Task Force on Jury System Improvements. "FY" means the fiscal year, which runs from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next year. "N.A." means that the data were not available. The last two rows, which report data for "All California," summarize data from the counties for which the data were available. Five counties – Humboldt, Solano, Stanislaus, Tehama, and Tulare – did not report the number of people summoned, but only the number of summonses issued. For these counties, the first column reports the number of summonses issued. Most counties reported the same or very similar numbers for the number of summonses issued and the number of persons summoned. Tuolumne reported only half a year's worth of data for most categories. Those numbers have been doubled to estimate the yearly total.

APPENDIX B. PROBLEMS WITH THE DATA

As mentioned, John Larson at the Task Force for Jury System Improvements, the source of most of the data discussed in this report, warned that the data were inconsistent. The data were generated by a survey sent to county court administrators. Because county computer systems do not record data in the same way, and because court administrators interpreted the survey in different ways, the data are not completely reliable. This appendix and the next one discuss some of the problems. It should be noted that data from Los Angeles require special consideration and are addressed separately in Appendix C.

First and foremost are the obvious gaps in the data provided by the counties. Many counties reported either no numbers or very incomplete numbers to the Task Force on Jury Service Improvements. Even a cursory glance at Table 4 reveals serious deficiencies.

Another problem is that the numbers don't generally add up. For example, in Humboldt county the percentage undeliverable, postponed, disqualified, excused, did not appear, and completed service add up to 112.6%. In San Joaquin, they add up to 146%! Some of the discrepancy can be accounted for by the fact that if a person postponed jury service and then later served, that individual would be counted twice. If the percentage postponed is subtracted from Humboldt's total, the sum becomes almost exactly 100%. The same procedure, however, still leaves San Joaquin with 133.8%. Clearly there is something wrong with San Joaquin's numbers. In most other counties, including Sierra, Sonoma, and Fresno, there is no way to get the numbers to add up to 100%. Some small deviation from 100% might be expected, because persons summoned in one year might serve the next year, but this probably cannot explain most of the differences.

The discrepancies discussed in the previous paragraph suggest that counties account for postponements differently. In Alameda, the percentages add up to exactly 100% when postponements are included. This suggests that Alameda reported the number of summonses issued rather than the number of persons summoned. That is, if the same person was summoned, granted a postponement, and then summoned again, Alameda would report that two persons had been summoned. Humboldt, on the other hand, seems to have reported the number of persons summoned. Other counties, including Los Angeles and Sacramento, don't seem to account for postponements at all.

Similar inconsistencies plague the data on disqualifications and hardship excuses. Many counties simply don't report how many jurors successfully claimed which hardships or disqualifications. In addition, the counties categorize the disqualifications and excuses differently. Some counties classify a large number of disqualifications and hardships as simply "other," while most try to fit all hardships and disqualifications into the categories recognized by statute. Some counties group together related disqualifications (such as non-residence in the state and non-residence in the relevant county), while others separate out each reason.

These inconsistencies highlight the need for the counties to upgrade and coordinate their jury management computer systems so that all counties produce reliable and consistent data. Nevertheless, in spite of these problems, the data presented in this report provide a rough measure of the extent of jury participation in California.

APPENDIX C. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE LOS ANGELES DATA

Data from Los Angeles requires its own annotation. To understand the Los Angeles data, one must distinguish between the one-step process (in which prospective jurors are sent a summons which contains a questionnaire relating to potential disqualifications and excuses) and the two-step process, in which prospective jurors are first sent a questionnaire relating to disqualifications and excuses (an “affidavit”), and then, summonses are sent later only to qualified jurors. Until recently, Los Angeles used a two-step process. In FY 1999-2000 and FY 2000-1, and perhaps other years, Los Angeles used both systems. Only in May of 2002 did Los Angeles switch completely to the one-step process.

A careful reader will have noticed that Table 2 records a much higher percentage of jurors completing their service in FY 1999-2000 (19.0%) than Table 1 does for FY 2000-2001 (9.3%). The FY 1999-2000 figure is similarly higher than any other year recorded in Table 1. The discrepancy almost certainly stems from different ways of accounting for jurors in the two-step process. The figure for FY 1999-2000 in Table 2 was calculated by dividing the number of persons who completed their service by the number of persons summoned. This way of calculating the percentage who had completed their service is very problematic, because, in the two-step system, only those who are reached at their proper address, respond to the affidavit and who are not disqualified or granted an excuse are sent a summons. Using the number summoned as the denominator thus greatly inflates the percentage who served. Nevertheless, that procedure was used in Table 2, because the number of persons summoned was the figure provided to the Task Force on Jury System Improvements, the source of the data for Table 2.

A much better way of calculating the percentage served for counties using the two-step system is to divide the number who served *by the number of persons mailed affidavits*. This is the method employed in Table 1. The calculation of the figures in Table 1 for FY 1983-84 and FY 1994-95 is relatively straightforward, because Los Angeles used only the two-step process in those years. In FY 2000-2001, however, Los Angeles used both the one-step and the two-step processes. Table 5 below shows how the figures in table 1 for FY 2000-2001 were calculated. Figures in regular type were provided by the Los Angeles Superior Court. Figures in italics were calculated by the author from the data provided by the Los Angeles Superior Court. The figure in bold is the one used as the denominator for all percentages in the last column and in Table 1.

Table 5. Data from Los Angeles FY 2000-2001 “Fact Sheet”

	One-Step	Two-Step	Total	Percentages
Summons or affidavit undeliverable	198,501	534,767	733,268	16.4%
Returned pending update	393,271	400,000	793,271	17.8%
Incomplete		35,984	35,984	0.8%
Disqualified	142,840	199,740	342,580	7.7%
Excused for hardship	66,521	371,868	438,389	9.8%
No response	1,364,460	33,226	1,397,686	31.3%
Qualified	498,607	226,514	725,121	16.2%
Persons summoned or mailed affidavits	2,664,200	1,802,099	4,466,299	
Jurors summoned (1-step and 2-step)			2,885,258	
Jurors served			415,747	9.3%
Jury trials sworn (civil and criminal)			5290	

See the Glossary for definitions of terms.

The key figure, the percentage of “jurors served” was calculated by dividing the number of jurors served (415,747) by the number of “persons summoned or mailed affidavits” (4,466,299). If the method used in Table 2 were used, the percentage of “jurors served” would have been calculated by dividing the number of jurors served (415,747) by the number of “jurors summoned” (2,885,258). This would have resulted in 14.4% served rather than 9.3%, thus inflating the figure by more than fifty percent. The 14.4% would have been much closer to the 19% recorded in Table 2 for FY 1999-2000. The fact that the FY1999-2000 figure is higher is probably explicable by the fact that a greater percentage of prospective jurors were contacted by the two-step process, which means that the FY 1999-2000 figures were more inflated by the distortion described in this and the previous paragraph. By 2000-2001, over half of prospective jurors were contacted by the one-step process, so the distortion added only 5.1% to the jurors served figure.

Note that if the properly calculated FY 2000-2001 figures were substituted for the improperly calculated FY 1999-2000 figures in Tables 2 and 4, the overall, “All California” percentage who had “completed service” would drop from 26.8% to 20.3%

Although Los Angeles did not report the number of jurors who did not appear, it is possible to estimate that number. All persons in the “no response” row (1,397,686) should be categorized as not appearing. In addition, all persons “qualified” (i.e. all those who responded, and were not disqualified or excused) under the one-step process should have served. There were 498,607 such persons. Similarly, all of those summoned under the two-step process should have served, because only those “qualified” are summoned under the two-step system. The number summoned under the two-step system is not reported, but can be calculated by subtracting the number summoned under the one-step system (2,664,200) from the total number of “jurors summoned” (2,885,258). This suggests that 221,058 jurors were summoned in the two-step process. Thus, the number who should have served is 719,665 (498,607 + 221,058). Of these, only 415,747 actually served, which means 303,918 failed to appear when summoned. Adding in those for whom there was “no response,” the total who failed to appear was thus 1,701,604 (303,918 + 1,397,686). This would be 38.1% of all those summoned or mailed an affidavit.

Note that if this estimate of Los Angeles' percentage who did not appear were included in Tables 2 and 4, the overall, "All California" percentage who "did not appear" would increase from 17.1% to 25.6%.

It is also worth noting that sixteen other counties used the two-step process in FY 1999-2000, and it is likely that their figures were distorted in the same way as Los Angeles'.

GLOSSARY

Affidavit. While most counties use a one-step process (in which prospective jurors are sent a questionnaire relating to potential disqualifications and excuses along with their jury summons), other counties, most notably Los Angeles until May of 2002, used a two-step process, in which prospective jurors were first sent a questionnaire relating to disqualifications and excuses, and then, summonses were later sent only to qualified, non-excused jurors. In the two-step system, the questionnaire is called an affidavit.

Completed service. The prospective juror either appeared at court at the proper time or was put on telephone standby but never called to appear.

Excused for hardship. The following people may be excused from jury service: those who would suffer an extreme financial burden, those who are unable to serve because of a medical disability, and those with responsibility to care for children or others with no alternative caregivers.

Did not appear. A properly summoned juror did not respond properly to the summons or affidavit. Such failure includes failure to answer questions on a summons or affidavit, when such answers are required before the prospective juror is supposed to appear in court. Failure to respond properly could also mean failure to appear at court when properly summoned and required to do so, unless disqualified or excused.

Disqualified. The following people are disqualified from jury service: persons who are not U.S. citizens, persons who are not residents of California or of the county which summoned them, persons who have only a limited understanding of English, persons who have served recently on a jury, and persons who have lost their civil rights because of a criminal conviction

FY. Fiscal year, which runs from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next year.

Incomplete. A summons or affidavit was returned, but some of the questions on it were left unanswered. Most questions relate to disqualifications or excuses.

Jurors served. The prospective juror either appeared at court at the proper time or was put on telephone standby but never called to appear.

N.A. The data were not available, because the county did not report the data to the Task Force on Jury System Improvements.

No response. The prospective juror who was required to answer questions on a summons or affidavit and return that document to the court did not do so.

One day, one trial. Under the one-day, one-trial system, a prospective juror must appear in court only a single day, unless he or she is selected or in the process of being selected as a juror in a particular case. If the prospective juror is selected to be a juror in a particular case, he or she must serve until the case is terminated. Jurors who appear in court or serve on a jury may not be called for jury duty again until a year has passed.

Postponement granted. A prospective juror was allowed to defer jury service. Those granted postponements must usually serve a few months later.

Qualified. The prospective juror returned the summons or affidavit in a legible fashion, was not disqualified, and was not excused for hardship.

Returned pending update. The prospective juror returned the summons or affidavit, but court administrators set it aside to deal with later, usually because the return was hard to read.

Summons (or affidavit) undeliverable. The summons (or affidavit) was returned by the post office because the address was incorrect.

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