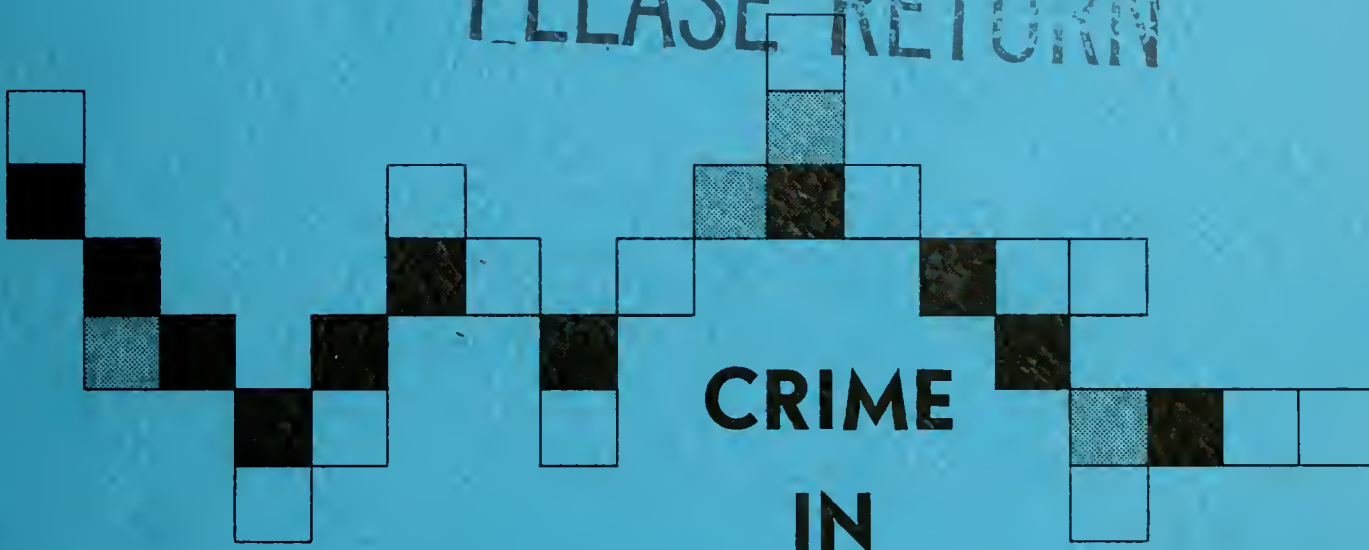


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CRIME IN MONTANA

1976 ANNUAL REPORT

Compiled by the
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA CENTER
OF THE MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

Dr. Gordon Browder, Chairman

OCTOBER, 1977

 criminal
justice
data
center



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FOREWORD

Crime in Montana is an annual report prepared by the Criminal Justice Data Center of the Montana Board of Crime Control. This report presents an overview of the nature and extent of crime in our state. It also includes a summary of district court data and prison information.

The crime trend analysis presented in this report shows a decrease in crime for the first time. Trends are easy to measure but difficult to analyze. It is hoped that this decrease is due to the persistent efforts of the entire criminal justice community as well as a new public awareness of the devastating effects of crime.

In presenting this report, I acknowledge the diligent effort of the entire criminal justice community in producing timely crime reports. This of course, is what makes this publication possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Erwin
Advisor
Criminal Justice Data Center



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INTRODUCTION

This fifth annual report by the Criminal Justice Data Center contains the most complete and accurate information currently available concerning crime in Montana. It is a statistical analysis of the number and types of crime which occurred in the state in 1976, a projection of how much crime may be expected in the future and a summary of arrests, criminal court proceedings and prison admissions.

Information for this report was furnished to the Data Center by local law enforcement agencies, clerks of court and the state prison. Although reporting is voluntary almost all Montana agencies participate.

The centralized, statewide data collection allows offense and arrest statistics to be tabulated separately for each individual agency or grouped for geographic or demographic comparisons. The development of a statewide, uniform crime reporting system for the collection and analysis of data has encouraged law enforcement participation in record keeping, data collection, data analysis and use. This in turn assures that valid information is available for criminal justice planning at the state and local levels.

This report is primarily intended for use by those persons involved in the planning and management of the criminal justice system and individual law enforcement agencies. However, it should be of interest to all concerned residents of the state.

MONTANA UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING SYSTEM

The Criminal Justice Data Center was established as a staff function of the Board of Crime Control in 1972. Its purpose is to collect, analyze and disseminate information about crime and criminal activity in Montana. Crime statistics are used by the Board of Crime Control to establish priorities and plan new methods of reducing crime. Local law enforcement agencies utilize the same crime statistics in developing crime prevention projects, and in manpower and resource allocation.

The Criminal Justice Data Center collects information from local, county, and state law enforcement agencies through the arrest and offenses known information system. The arrest information system tabulates felony and misdemeanor arrests by age, race and sex of the offender and the time of the day, day and week and month on which the arrest occurred. The offense information system summarizes the type of crime actually being committed and reported to law enforcement agencies.

The Montana Offense Information System is the state counterpart of the National Uniform Crime reporting program operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

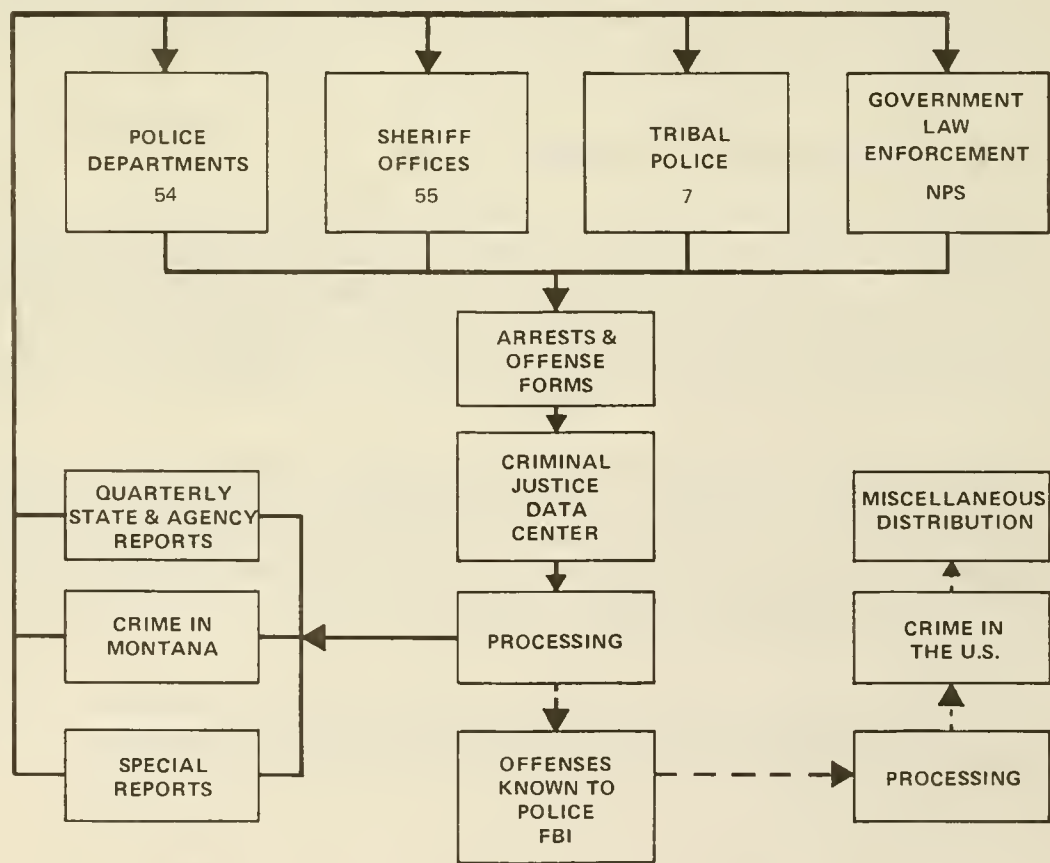
During 1976, 117 law enforcement agencies reported arrest and offense data to the Criminal Justice Data Center. This number includes 55 of the 56 sheriff's offices, seven tribal police departments, the National Park Service and 54 local law enforcement agencies.

Many police departments in the smaller cities and towns do not report directly to the data center. However, many report through the sheriff's offices in their respective counties.

Crime data is mailed to the Center monthly. The data is keypunched, verified and processed, as shown in the illustration below, into summary reporting formats as seen on pages 15-17 and pages 31-38.

The center issues statewide and local summaries at mid year and publishes this annual report. The Center also provides reports for national crime statistics and special reports on target crimes and areas of special concern.

Illustration 1.
MONTANA CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA CENTER
ARRESTS AND OFFENSES STATISTICS SYSTEM



CRIME IN MONTANA 1976

STATISTICAL METHOD OF REPORTING

The amount and type of crime reported in this section is based on offenses reported to the police. However, as recent studies indicate more than half of all crimes are not reported to the authorities, the actual incidence of crime may be two or three times the number reported.

Merely reporting the number and types of crime known does not accurately portray the criminal activity within the state. Other factors such as the seriousness of the crime and the amount of crime in comparison to the size of the population are important considerations.

In this section, several statistical measurements are used to make the crime data more meaningful.

CRIME INDEX

The crime index has been used nationwide for many years as a standard for comparing the amount and extent of serious crime in different areas.

Seven crimes are included in the index. Two subclassifications also are used to contrast the crimes. The Crime Index includes:

1. Violent CrimesHomicide
Rape
Robbery
Assault
2. Property CrimesBurglary
Larceny/Theft
Motor Vehicle Theft

These seven crimes were selected as index crimes because they are the most common serious crimes and the most likely to be reported to the police. The numerous other felony and misdemeanor offenses are not included in the crime index but are reported on page 5.

The crime index is only an indication of the amount and type of crime occurring in a jurisdiction. It is not an absolute measure. If multiple crimes were committed during one incident, only the most serious is reported. Also, as previously noted, many crimes are never reported to the police.

During 1976, Montana law enforcement agencies recorded 32,137 major index crimes. The number and amount of these crimes is shown in the illustration on page 4.

CRIME RATE

One of the most commonly used statistical measurements is the crime rate. This measurement calculates the number of incidents which occur for every 100,000 residents. The crime rate is useful in comparing the amount of crime in two areas with a great difference in population.

The crime rate is calculated by dividing the total number of serious crimes (usually it is the seven major index crimes) by the population or estimated population and multiplying the answer by 100,000 as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Crimes}}{\text{Population of Law Enforcement Jurisdiction}} \times 100,000 = \text{Rate per 100,000}$$

The 1976 population estimate for Montana is 753,000. This figure was provided by the FBI through assistance of the Bureau of Census. The 1976 Montana Index Offense Crime Rates are shown in the following illustration.

Illustration 2. 1976 MONTANA INDEX OFFENSE CRIME RATES					
..... Violent Crimes Property Crimes		
Index Offenses	Number Of Offenses	Rate Per 100,000 Population	Index Offenses	Number Of Offenses	Rate Per 100,000 Population
Homicide	41	5.4	Burglary	6,665	885.1
Rape	124	16.5	Larceny/Theft	21,560	2863.2
Robbery	283	37.6	Motor Vehciel Theft	2,327	309.0
Assault	1,137	151.0			
Total	1,585	210.5	Total	30,552	4057.4
GRAND TOTAL				32,137	4267.9

Comparison of the amount of crime and estimated population for the state shows a crime rate of 4,268. This means that 4,268 out of every 100,000 Montanans were victims of a major crime -- or more simply:

4267.9 crimes per 100,000 persons
 426.8 crimes per 10,000 persons
 42.7 crimes per 1,000 persons
 4.3 crimes per 100 persons

Out of every 100 Montanans, 4.3 were victims of an index crime. In 1975, the level of victimization was 4.4 per 100 persons -- a 2.3 percent decrease in 1976.

CRIME INCIDENCE COMPARISON

Comparison of the number of crimes reported in 1976 to that reported in previous years provides a measure of the fluctuations in criminal activity.

For the first time in many years, the index crimes reported decreased in 1976 by 3.1 percent. The total of 32,137 index crimes reported in 1976 is 1,037 less than the 33,174 reported the previous year. A breakdown by offense for both years is shown below with the percentage of change in the right column.

Illustration 3.
CRIME INCIDENCE COMPARISON
1975 - 1976

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Homicide	46	41	- 10.9
Rape	132	124	- 6.1
Robbery	347	283	- 18.4
Aggravated Assault	1462	1137	- 22.2
Total Offenses Against Persons	1987	1585	- 20.2
Burglary	7240	6665	- 7.9
Larceny/Theft	21417	21560	+ .7
Motor Vehicle Theft	2530	2327	- 8.0
Total Offenses Against Property	31187	30552	- 2.0
Total 7 Major Offenses	33174	32137	- 3.1
Negligent Manslaughter	28	17	- 39.3
Other Assaults	1309	1375	+ 5.0
Arson	77	156	+102.6
Forgery and Counterfeiting	453	626	+ 38.2
Fraud	1036	1331	+ 28.5
Embezzlement	23	18	- 21.7
Stolen Property	241	200	- 17.0
Vandalism	7672	9233	+ 20.4
Weapons	326	539	+ 65.3
Prostitution	23	38	+ 65.2
Sex Offenses	333	350	+ 5.1
Drugs	1759	1702	- 3.2
Gambling	47	66	+ 40.4
Offenses Against Family	905	762	- 15.8
Total Other Offenses	14232	16413	+ 15.3
GRAND TOTAL	47406	48550	+ 2.4

The major decrease was in the violent crime area. Assault, robbery and homicide all decreased by more than 10 percent. Rape showed a lesser decrease of 6.1 percent from the previous year. Overall, a 20.2 percent decrease in violent crime occurred in 1976.

Although the index property crimes also showed a 2 percent decrease, reported larceny/theft increased by seven tenths of one percent. Burglary and motor vehicle theft incidents decreased by 8 percent and account for the total reported decrease.

The non-index property crimes, particularly arson and vandalism showed a dramatic increase during 1976. The 156 reported cases of arson were 102.6 percent more than the 77 cases reported in 1975. Vandalism increased 20.3 percent from 7,672 incidents in 1975 to 9,233 incidents in 1976.

The vice crimes, gambling, prostitution and sex offenses also increased in 1976 as did forgery, counterfeiting and fraud.

Drug offenses decreased by 3.2 percent after an explosive rise in the preceding years.

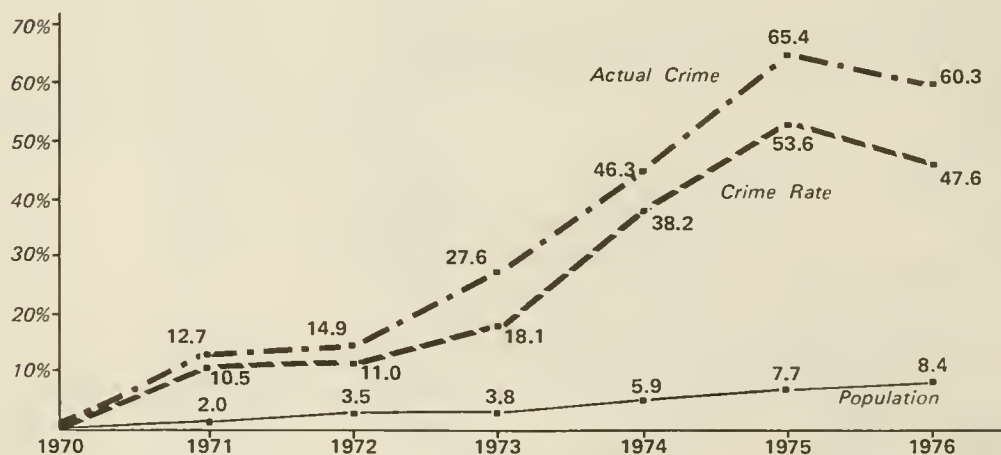
CRIME AND POPULATION

Fluctuations in the amount and type of crime activity reported should be measured against similar fluctuations in the population. The rapid increase in crime in Montana in the earlier years of this decade corresponded to a very small increase in the total state population. By 1975, the crime rate had increased 53.6 percent over 1970. The state population grew only 7.7 percent in that same period.

In 1976, the crime rate decreased 5.8 percent while the state population increased seven tenths of one percent over the previous year. However, as the crime rate is based only on the index crimes, the decrease may represent a shift in the type of criminal activity rather than an actual decline.

The following graph illustrates the fluctuation in the amount of crime, the crime rate and the total population during the past six years.

Illustration 4.
CRIME RATE AND POPULATION CHANGES
1970 - 1976



CRIME OFFENSE PROFILE

The circle graph below shows the proportion of each index crime to the total number reported in 1976.

Three property crimes, burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft account for 95.1 percent of all major crimes reported in 1976. Violent crime accounted for only 4.9 percent of known crimes.

The graph on the following page shows the proportion of index crimes, violent and property, to all known crimes. The large number of vandalism and other minor crimes suggest a shift in the type of criminal activity rather than an actual decrease.

Illustration 5.
INDEX CRIMES

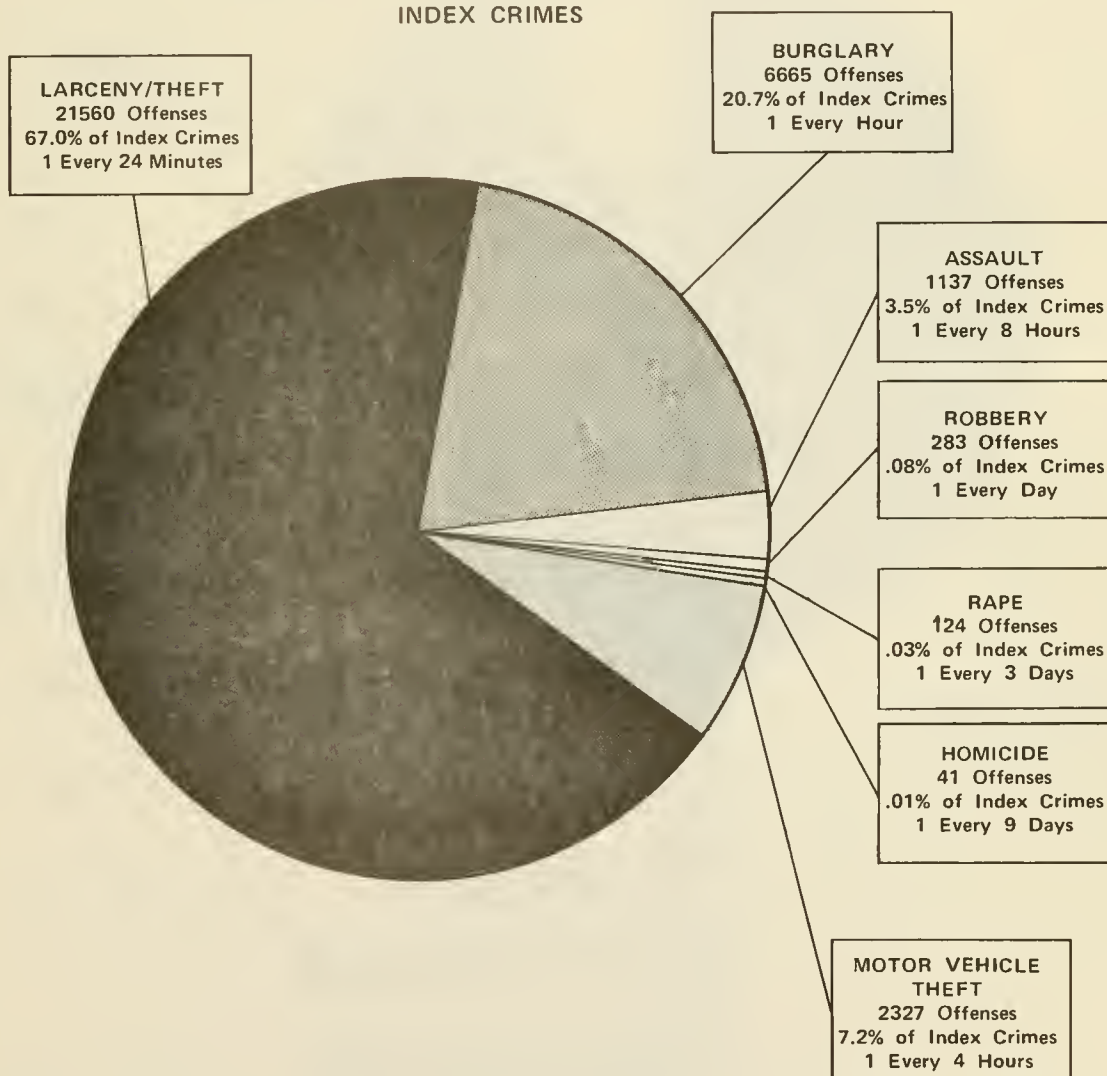
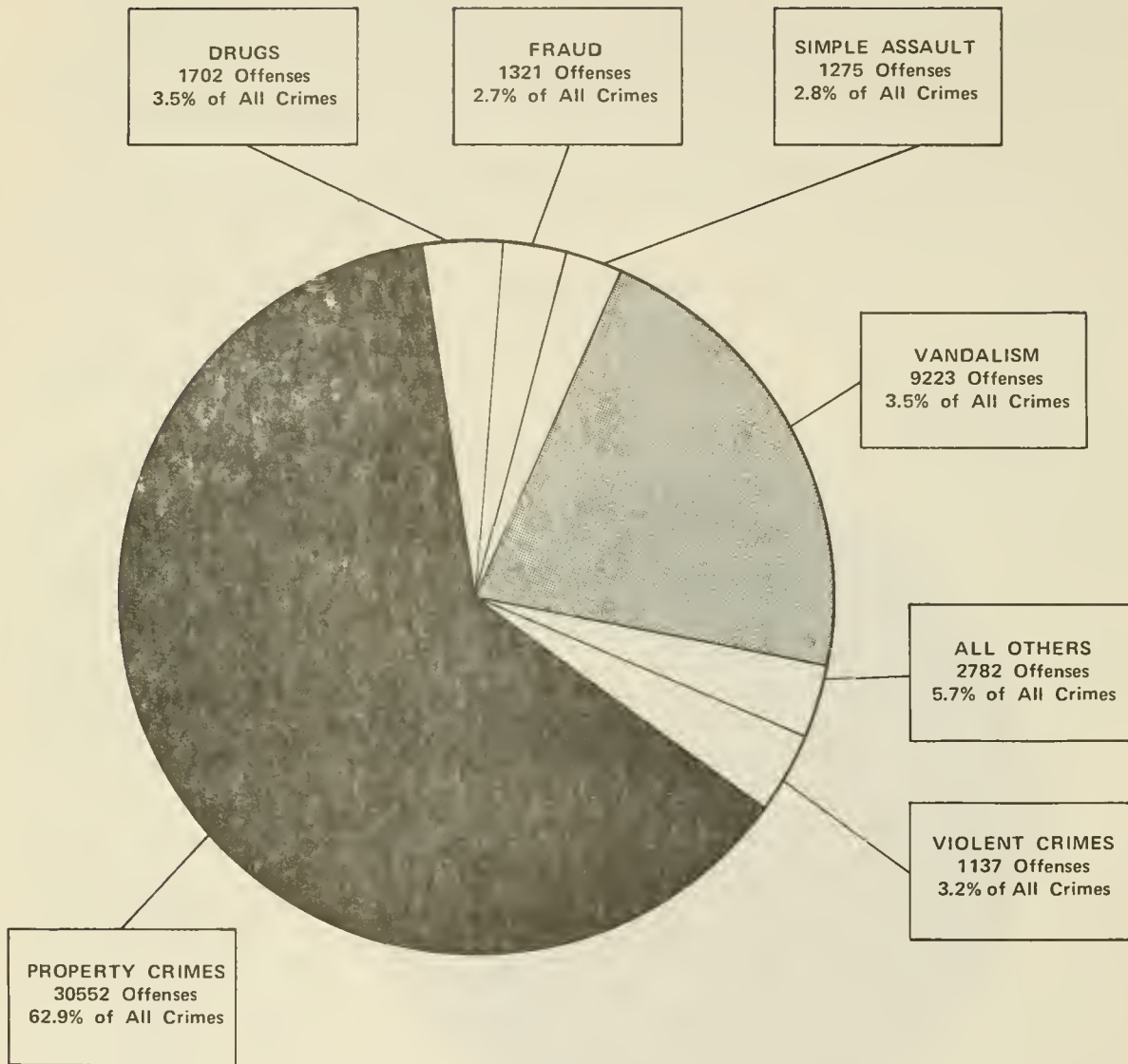


Illustration 6.
ALL FELONY CRIMES

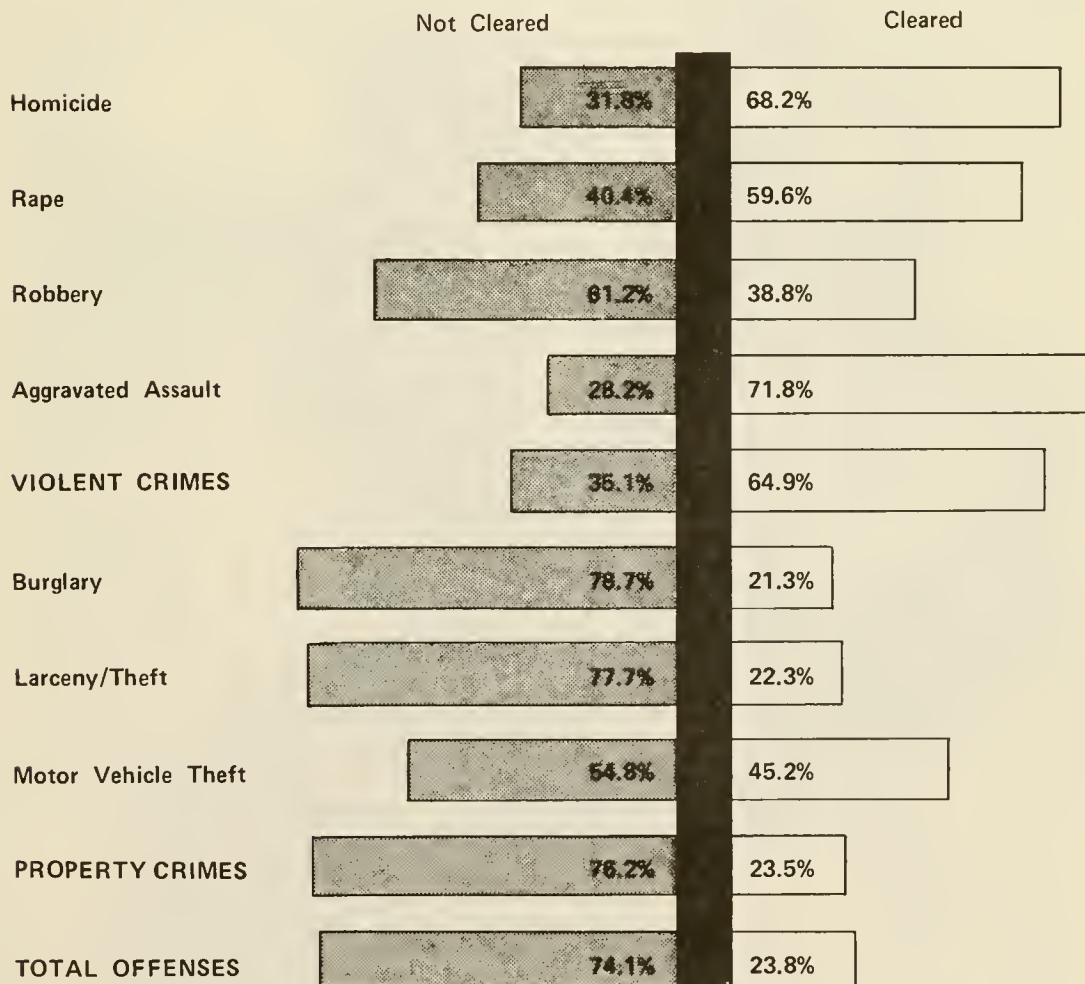


CLEARANCES

An offense is considered cleared when a law enforcement agency has identified the offender and gathered sufficient evidence and filed a charge. The arrest of one person can clear several crimes or conversely, several persons by be arrested in the process of clearing one crime.

The following illustration shows the percent of offenses cleared by arrest. Note that property crimes -- burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft -- have the lowest percent of clearance, while violent crimes or crimes against persons have a higher percentage of clearance.

Illustration 7.
PERCENT OF OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST
1976



CRIME BY COUNTY

The crime rate for each county in Montana is listed below. Nine counties are above the statewide average of 4,268 crimes reported per 100,000 population. These nine counties containing 48.2 percent of the total state population were the scene of 68.6 percent of known index crimes.

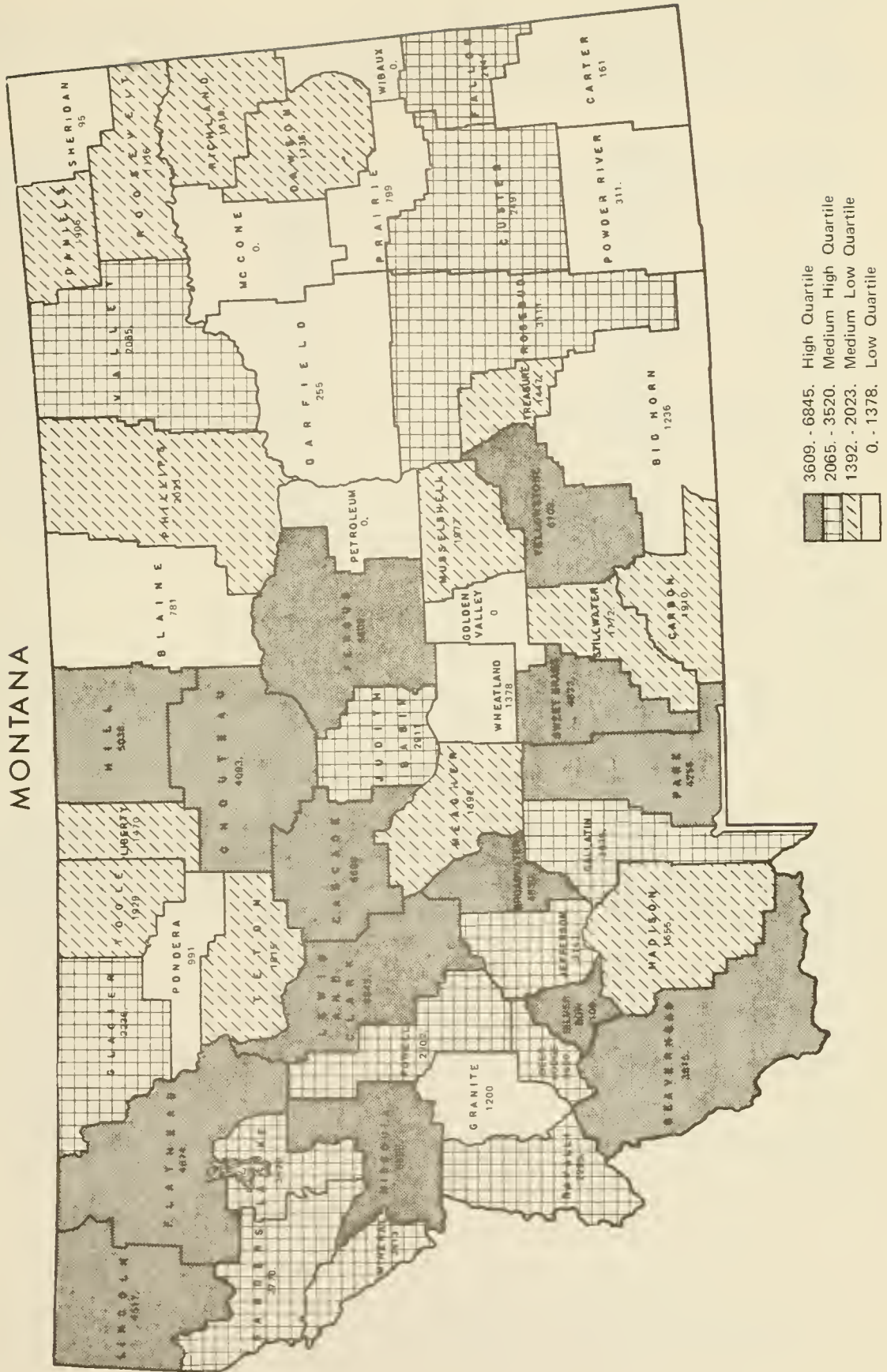
As shown on the map on the following page, the nine counties are not one geographical, high-crime area; rather, they correspond to the high population areas of the state. Only two of the nine counties, Sweetgrass and Broadwater, have small populations. In such unpopulated jurisdictions, any fluctuation in the number of crimes creates a major impact on the crime rate.

Illustration 8.
CRIME RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION, 1976
OFFENSES KNOWN TO POLICE

		Rating	
1. Lewis and Clark	6845.2	29. Valley	2064.9
2. Yellowstone	6709.4	30. Musselshell	1976.7
3. Cascade	6698.3	31. Toole	1928.5
4. Missoula	5597.6	32. Carbon	1909.6
5. Hill	5036.2	33. Daniels	1906.1
6. Sweet Grass	4833.2	34. Teton	1815.4
7. Flathead	4673.9	35. Stillwater	1772.3
8. Broadwater	4630.0	36. Dawson	1735.7
9. Lincoln	4516.7	37. Roosevelt	1735.6
STATE AVERAGE	4267.9	38. Madison	1654.6
10. Park	4256.0	39. Richland	1610.4
11. Silver Bow	4109.0	40. Liberty	1470.0
12. Chouteau	4093.0	41. Treasure	1446.8
13. Beaverhead	3814.8	42. Meagher	1392.1
14. Fergus	3609.6	43. Wheatland	1378.5
15. Deer Lodge	3519.6	44. Big Horn	1236.4
16. Lake	3429.2	45. Granite	1200.0
17. Phillips	3420.1	46. Pondera	991.4
18. Mineral	3413.1	47. Prairie	799.1
19. Jefferson	3146.9	48. Blaine	780.8
20. Rosebud	3111.3	49. Powder River	310.7
21. Gallatin	3035.6	50. Garfield	255.3
22. Judith Basin	2911.2	51. Carter	161.2
23. Sanders	2770.0	52. Sheridan	94.5
24. Custer	2491.2	53. Golden Valley	0
25. Ravalli	2295.0	54. McCone	0
26. Glacier	2235.5	55. Petroleum	0
27. Powell	2202.4	56. Wibaux	0
28. Fallon	2144.0		

Illustration 9.
MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL
CRIME RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION, 1976
OFFENSES KNOWN TO POLICE

MONTANA



CRIME SERIOUSNESS

The previous discussion of crime dealt primarily with the number and type of offenses known. No consideration was given to the differing impact of the crime on the victim and the community.

As noted previously, high population areas tend to be portrayed as high crime areas because of the greater number of potential victims and offenders present in the community.

In this section, a qualitative ranking of crime in each Montana county is presented and contrasted to the county ranking presented on page 13.

Using Sellin and Wolfgang's¹ measure of crime seriousness, the following table was developed.

The measure is a weighted scale in which the seriousness of a crime is ranked by a range of scores from 2 to 26 as follows:

<u>Crime</u>	<u>Serious Weighing Score</u>
Homicide	26
Rape	11
Robbery	5
Aggravated Assault	4
Burglary	3
Theft	2

This measure is used to relate crime seriousness to the volume of index crimes through the following formula:

$$\text{Crime Level} = (\text{Crime Rate}) \times (\text{Crime Seriousness})$$

Illustration 10 is a comparison of crime rate in the left column and crime level in the right column. Note how several counties -- particularly Cascade, Rosebud, and Beaverhead -- change position from the crime rate scale shown in Illustration 8. The crime level follows population concentration just as the crime rate did indicating a concentration of crime in urban areas.

¹Thorsten Sellin & M.E. Wolfgang. *The Measurement of Delinquency*, (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1964).

Illustration 10.
COMPARISON BETWEEN CRIME RATE AND CRIME LEVEL

<u>County</u>	<u>Crime Rate</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Crime Level</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Beaverhead	3814.8	13	8098.7	19
Big Horn	1236.4	44	3615.5	41
Blaine	780.8	48	1861.9	48
Broadwater	4630.0	8	10463.1	9
Carbon	1909.6	32	4654.7	32
Carter	161.2	51	429.9	52
Cascade	6698.3	3	15405.9	2
Chouteau	4093.0	12	9519.3	13
Custer	2491.2	24	6404.8	25
Daniels	1906.1	33	4288.7	34
Dawson	1735.7	36	3757.1	39
Deer Lodge	3519.6	15	8792.2	16
Fallon	2144.0	28	5768.4	26
Fergus	3609.6	14	8525.3	17
Flathead	4673.9	7	10841.3	8
Gallatin	3035.6	21	7300.1	22
Garfield	255.3	50	510.6	51
Glacier	2235.5	26	6891.3	24
Golden Valley	0	53	0	53
Granite	1200.0	45	3033.3	44
Hill	5036.3	5	11503.9	6
Jefferson	3146.9	19	7496.6	20
Judith Basin	2911.2	22	7410.3	21
Lake	3429.2	16	9614.9	11
Lewis and Clark	6845.2	1	15400.3	3
Liberty	1470.0	40	3307.5	43
Lincoln	4516.7	9	11075.3	5
Madison	1654.6	38	3890.1	37
McCone	0	54	0	54
Meagher	1392.1	42	3480.3	42
Mineral	3413.1	18	8868.2	15
Missoula	5597.6	4	12953.5	4
Musselshell	1976.7	30	4418.5	33
Park	4256.0	10	9544.0	12
Petroleum	0	55	0	55
Phillips	3420.1	17	8283.5	18
Pondera	991.4	46	2604.3	46
Powder River	310.7	49	887.7	49
Powell	2202.4	27	5526.3	27
Prairie	799.1	47	2054.8	47
Ravalli	2295.0	25	5280.0	29
Richland	1610.4	39	3694.4	40
Roosevelt	1735.6	37	5298.7	28
Rosebud	3111.3	20	8905.8	14
Sanders	2770.0	23	7180.0	23
Sheridan	94.5	52	774.9	50
Silver Bow	4109.0	11	10199.8	10
Stillwater	1772.3	35	4676.6	31
Sweet Grass	4833.2	6	10925.8	7
Teton	1815.4	34	4000.0	35
Toole	1928.5	31	2798.2	45
Treasure	1446.8	41	3999.9	36
Valley	2064.9	29	5004.9	30
Wheatland	1378.5	43	3781.0	38
Wibaux	0	56	0	56
Yellowstone	6709.4	2	15673.4	1
STATE AVERAGE	4267.9		10114.6	

Illustration 11a.
CRIME INDEX REPORT

Reporting Summary State Totals Report for January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976

Population or Estimate — 753,000 Sq. Mi. — 146,864 Population Density — 5.1

OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION	Number Of Actual Offenses	Crime Index Per 100,000 Population	Offense Occurs Every	Number Cleared By Arrest	Number By Arrest
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	41	5.4	9 Da.	28	68.2
Forcible Rape	124	16.5	3 Da.	74	59.6
Robbery	283	37.6	1 Da.	110	38.8
Aggravated Assault	1,137	151.0	8 Hr.	817	71.8
TOTAL OFFENSES AGAINST PERSONS	1,585 *	210.5 *	6 Hr. *	1,029 *	64.9 *
Burglary	6,665	885.1	1 Hr.	1,420	21.3
Larceny Theft	21,560	2,863.2	24 Min.	4,827	22.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,327	309.0	4 Hr.	1,052	45.2
TOTAL OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY	30,552 *	4,057.4 *	17 Min. *	7,299 *	23.8 *
TOTAL SEVEN MAJOR OFFENSES	32,137 **	4,267.9 **	16 Min. **	8,328 **	25.9 **
Manslaughter by Negligence	17	2.3	21 Da.	15	88.2
Other Assaults - Simple - Not Aggravated	1,375	182.6	6 Hr.	808	58.7
Arson	156	20.7	2 Da.	88	56.4
Forgery and Counterfeiting	626	83.1	14 Da.	323	51.5
Fraud	1,331	176.8	7 Hr.	495	37.1
Embezzlement	18	2.4	20 Da.	9	50.0
Stolen Property: Buying, Receiving, Possessing	200	26.6	2 Da.	148	74.0
Vandalism	9,233	1,226.2	57 Min.	1,157	12.5
Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, Etc.	539	71.6	16 Hr.	289	53.6
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	38	5.0	10 Da.	30	78.9
Sex Offenses	350	46.5	1 Da.	177	50.5
Narcotic Drug Laws	1,702	226.0	5 Hr.	1,456	85.5
Gambling	66	8.8	6 Da.	35	53.0
Offenses Against Family and Children	762	101.2	11 Hr.	504	66.1
TOTAL OTHER OFFENSES	16,413 **	2,179.7 **	32 Min. **	5,534 **	33.7 **
GRAND TOTAL	48,550 ***	6,447.5 ***	11 Min. ***	13,862 ***	28.5 ***

* Indicates totals.

Illustration 11b.
OFFENSES KNOWN TO THE POLICE

Reporting Summary **State Totals for January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976**

CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES	Offenses Reported Or Known To Police	Unfounded Offenses	Actual Offenses	Number Of Offenses Cleared By Arrest	Number Of Offenses Cleared By Arrest Under 18
CRIMINAL HOMICIDE	67 *	9 *	58 *	43 *	3 *
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	44	3	41	28	0
† Manslaughter By Negligence	23	6	17	15	3
FORCIBLE RAPE	139 *	15 *	124 *	74 *	9 *
Rape By Force	101	12	89	57	7
Attempts To Commit Forcible Rape	38	3	35	17	2
ROBBERY	303 *	20 *	283 *	110 *	29 *
Firearm	156	6	150	72	15
Knife Or Cutting Instrument	23	3	20	4	2
Other Dangerous Weapon	19	3	16	3	1
Strong Arm - Hands, Fists, Feet, Etc.	105	8	97	31	11
ASSAULT	2,704 *	192	2,152 *	1,625 *	238 *
Firearm	244	25	219	177	19
Knife Or Cutting Instrument	151	14	137	82	11
Other Dangerous Weapon	143	6	137	88	10
Hands, Fists, Feet, Etc. -- Aggravated Injury	685	41	644	470	58
† Other Assaults - Simple - Not Aggravated	1,481	106	1,375	808	140
Total Offenses Against Persons	3,213 **	236 **	2,977 **	1,852 **	279 **
BURGLARY	6,984 *	319 *	6,665 *	1,420 *	680 *
Forcible Entry	4,572	127	4,445	1,139	536
Unlawful Entry - No Force	1,829	125	1,704	236	124
Attempted Forcible Entry	583	67	516	45	20
LARCENY THEFT	22,177 *	617 *	21,560 *	4,827 *	2,111 *
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	2,645 *	318 *	2,327 *	1,052 *	270 *
Autos	1,861	243	1,618	779	202
Trucks and Buses	457	55	402	183	36
Other Vehicles	327	20	307	90	32
Total Offenses Against Property	31,806 **	1,254 **	30,552 **	7,299 **	3,061 **
TOTAL OFFENSES AGAINST PERSONS & PROPERTY	35,019 ***	1,490 ***	33,529 ***	9,151 ***	3,340 ***

† Not included in the UCR 7 major offenses. * Indicates totals.

Illustration 11c.
OFFENSES KNOWN TO THE POLICE

Reporting Summary		State Totals Report for January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976				
CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES		Offenses Reported Or Known To Police	Unfounded Offenses	Actual Offenses	Number Of Offenses	
					Cleared By Arrest	Cleared By Arrest Under 18
ARSON		165 *	9 *	156 *	88 *	30 *
FORGERY AND COUNTERFEITING		642 *	16 *	626 *	323 *	81 *
FRAUD		1,365 *	34 *	1,331 *	495 *	17 *
EMBEZZLEMENT		18 *	0 *	18 *	9 *	0 *
STOLEN PROPERTY: Buying, Receiving, Possessing		203 *	3 *	200 *	148 *	46 *
VANDALISM		9,438 *	205 *	9,233 *	1,157 *	574 *
WEAPONS: Carrying, Possessing, Etc.		614 *	75 *	539 *	289 *	45 *
PROSTITUTION AND COMMERCIALIZED VICE		44 *	6 *	38 *	30 *	0 *
SEX OFFENSES		366 *	16 *	350 *	177 *	24 *
NARCOTIC DRUG LAWS		1,780 *	78 *	1,702 *	1,456 *	437 *
Opiates		31	2	29	24	4
Marijuana		1,384	56	1,328	1,130	399
Dangerous Drugs		309	12	297	264	32
Other		56	8	48	38	2
GAMBLING		72 *	6 *	66 *	35 *	1 *
OFFENSES AGAINST FAMILY AND CHILDREN		830 *	68 *	762 *	504 *	137 *
TOTAL OTHER OFFENSES		15,537 ***	516 ***	15,021 ***	4,711 ***	1,392 ***
GRAND TOTAL		50,556 *****	2,006 *****	48,550 *****	13,862 *****	4,732 *****

* Indicates totals.

OFFENSE SUMMARY

- Although the amount of crimes, as measured by index offenses, decreased in 1976; the decrease indicates a shift in the type of offense committed and not a reduction of criminal activity. Crimes against persons decreased 10.2 percent in 1976; the first year any decrease in violent crime has occurred in this decade.
- Index property crimes reported also decreased by 2 percent. However, the decrease was accompanied by serious increases in other offense categories, particularly vandalism and arson.
- Drug related offenses also decreased slightly in 1976 dropping 3.2 percent from the previous year.
- Crime against property accounted for 95.1 percent of all known crimes.
- An increase or decrease in criminal activity must be observed for several years before a trend can be accurately predicted. However, from 1970 through 1976 the crime rate increased 60.3 percent while the state population increased only 8.4 percent.
- One in every 16 Montanans was the victim of a serious crime last year and 1 in 25 was the victim of a major index crime.
- Of the 32,137 major offenses known, only 1 of every four was cleared by the arrest of the offender or by exceptional means.



CRIME PROJECTION

STATISTICAL METHOD

Montana's population is projected to reach 816,000 in 1980, a 17.5 percent increase over 1970. However, there appears to be little correlation between population growth and crime. The crime rate is expected to increase much faster than population, as illustrated on the graph on page 6. The crime rate is expected to exceed 5,106 per 100,000 population at that time.

Two methods are used in developing the crime projection. The first, a straightline method, uses the yearly average percent increase on 8.2 percent for the seven year period from 1969 to 1976. This increment, accumulated each year, indicates actual crimes will reach 44,210 in 1980. This figure divided by the 1980 population estimate indicates a crime rate of 5,417.9 per 100,000.

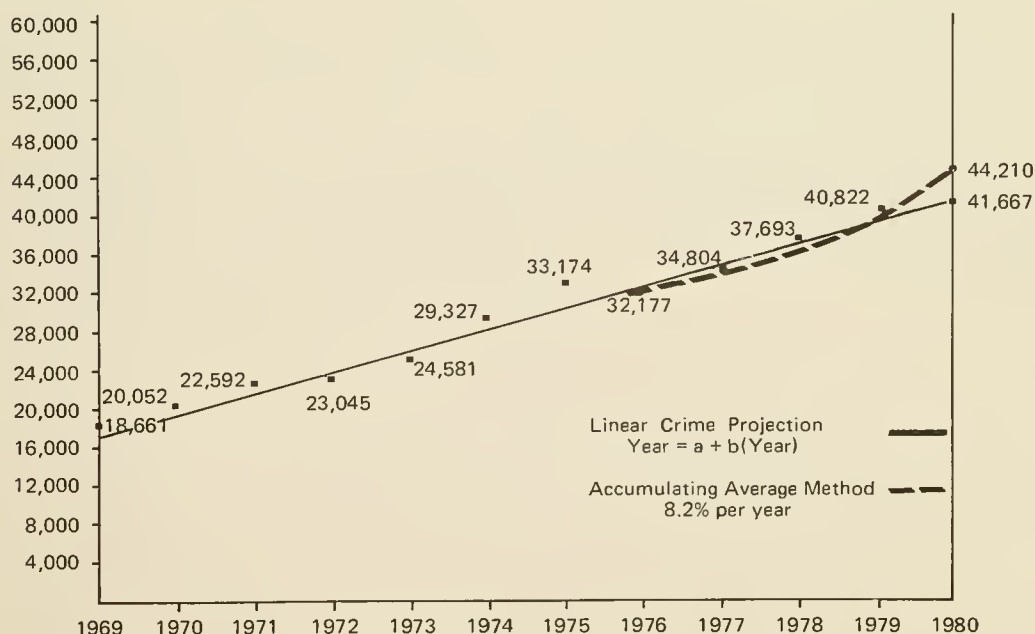
The second projection method, linear least squares regression plots on a graph the number of actual crimes for the seven year base period. Using the regression formula $y = a + bx$, the line is then projected to 1980. By this method, the number of actual crimes is projected to be 41,667 in 1980 and the crime rate, 5,106.3 per 100,000.

A summary of the two projection methods is shown as follows:

	Actual Crimes In 1980	Crime Rate Per 100,000 In 1980
1. Accumulating Average	44,210	5417.9
2. Linear Least Squares Regression	41,667	5106.3

It is important to remember that the projections are trend and not point estimates. Thus it is predicted that Montana can anticipate a 1980 crime rate between 5106 and 5418 if present trends continue.

Illustration 12.
MONTANA PROJECTED ACTUAL CRIMES
1969 - 1980



ARRESTS

STATISTICAL METHOD

The arrests reported to the Data Center by law enforcement agencies are analyzed in this chapter.

No attempt has been made to correlate this data to the crime data previously presented. Arrests made during 1976 may have been for crimes reported in that year or for serious crimes reported in previous years but cleared through investigation and arrest in 1976.

Arrest practices, policies and enforcement vary among communities and seasonally within a community. The volume of police arrests for certain minor crimes such as drunkenness and disorderly conduct is particularly influenced by such variables. Arrest for serious crime follows a more stable pattern.

Arrests are reported here as a measure of police response to crime. Arrests also provide an indirect measurement of the season and time in which crime occurs and a profile of offenders.

The procedures used in collecting arrest data require an offender be recorded each time he is taken into custody. Therefore, the data may be influenced by the recurring arrest of habitual offenders.

In the following sections, which show offenses and characteristics of offenders, the stability in the offender profile from 1971 through 1976 should be noted.

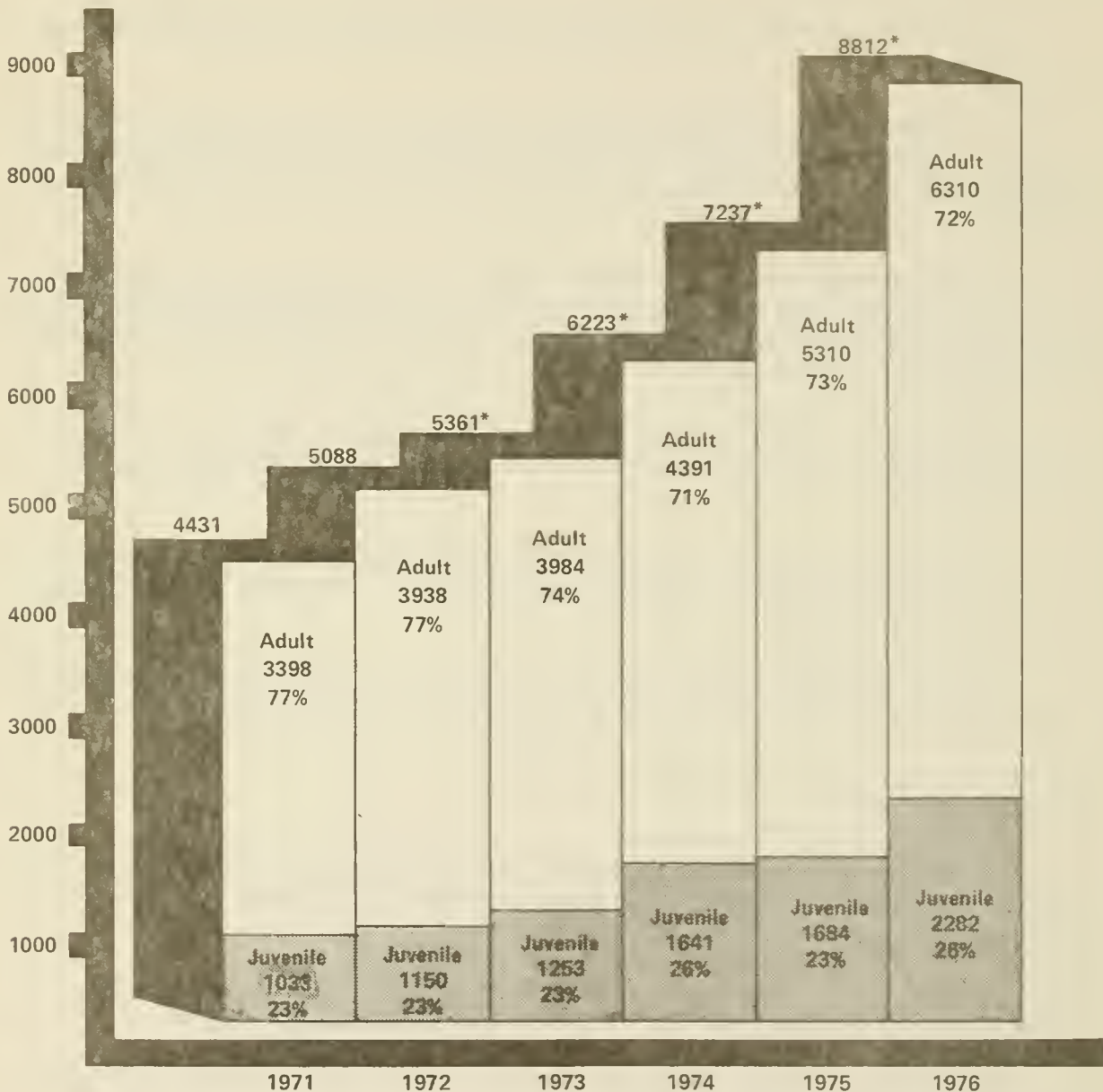
FELONY ARRESTS

Felony crimes are those punishable by more than a one-year prison sentence. The number of arrests for felony, or serious crime, increased in 1976 despite a decrease in the number of serious crimes reported.

The bar graph on the following page shows the total number of arrests in each year from 1971 to 1976. It also shows the proportion of adults and juveniles arrested.

Although the number of arrests has steadily increased, the proportion of adult and juvenile offenders has remained fairly constant.

Illustration 13.
FELONY ARRESTS

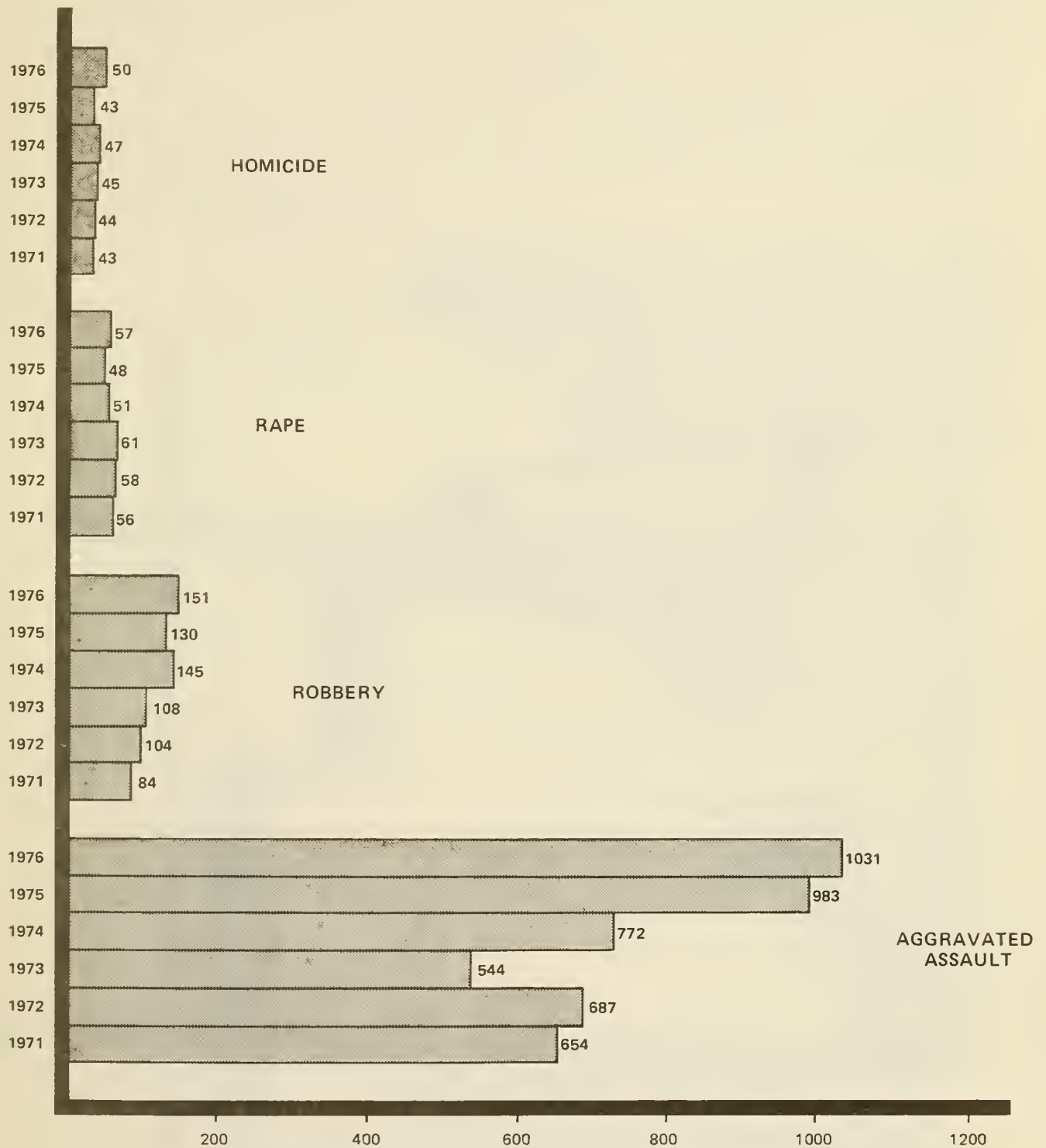


*Unknown Age = 3% - 1973, 3% - 1974, 4% - 1975, 2% - 1976.

SIX-YEAR FELONY ARREST PROFILE

Arrests for all categories of violent index crimes increased in 1976. However, the increases were slight in each category. As shown on the chart on the following page, arrests for violent crimes other than assault had decreased from 1974 into 1975.

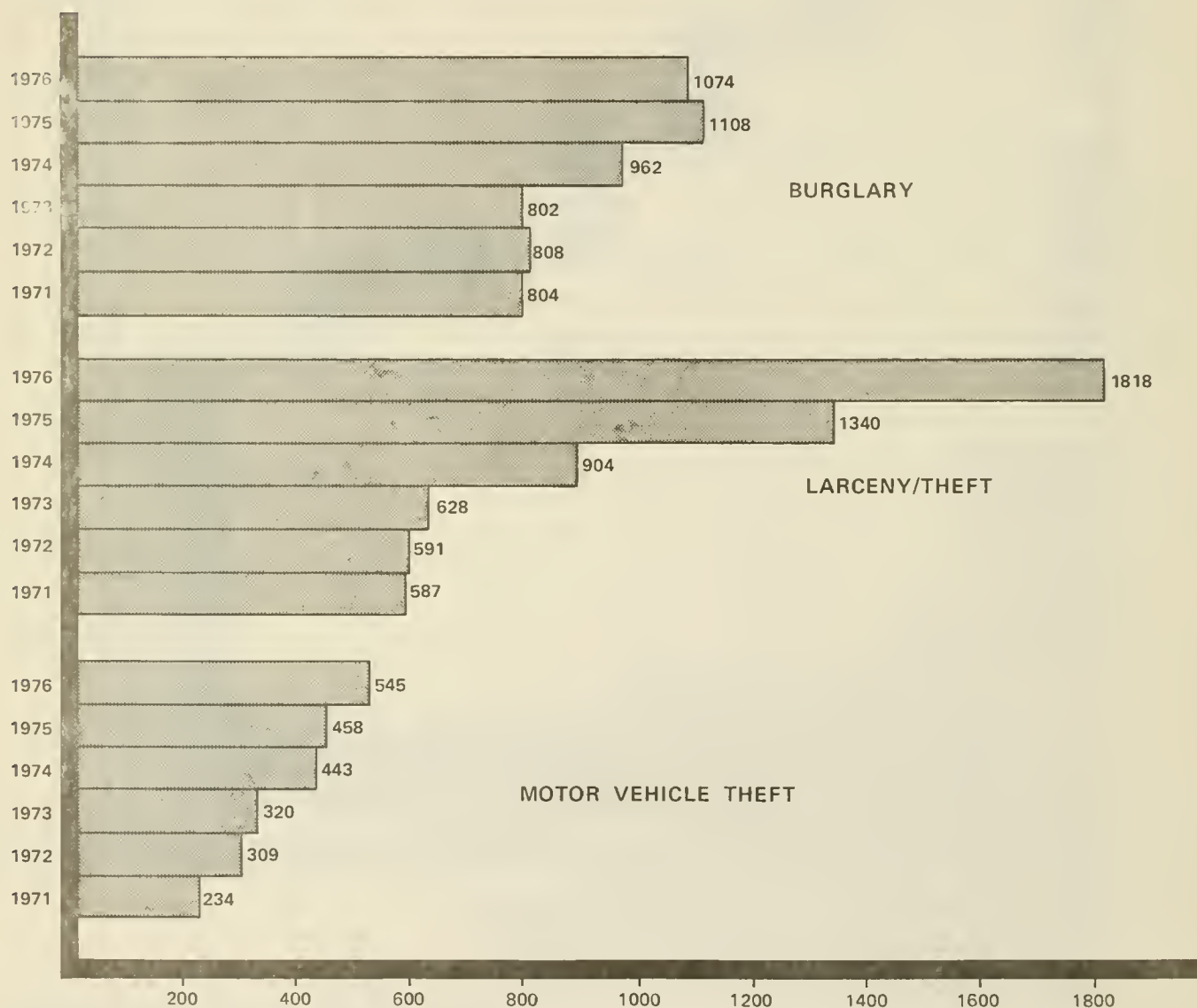
Illustration 14.
SIX-YEAR VIOLENT CRIME ARREST PROFILE



SIX-YEAR PROPERTY ARRESTS

Six-year property arrests have increased in the past 5 years with the exception of burglary which may be due to the increased law enforcement emphasis in this area.

Illustration 15.
SIX-YEAR PROPERTY CRIME ARREST PROFILE

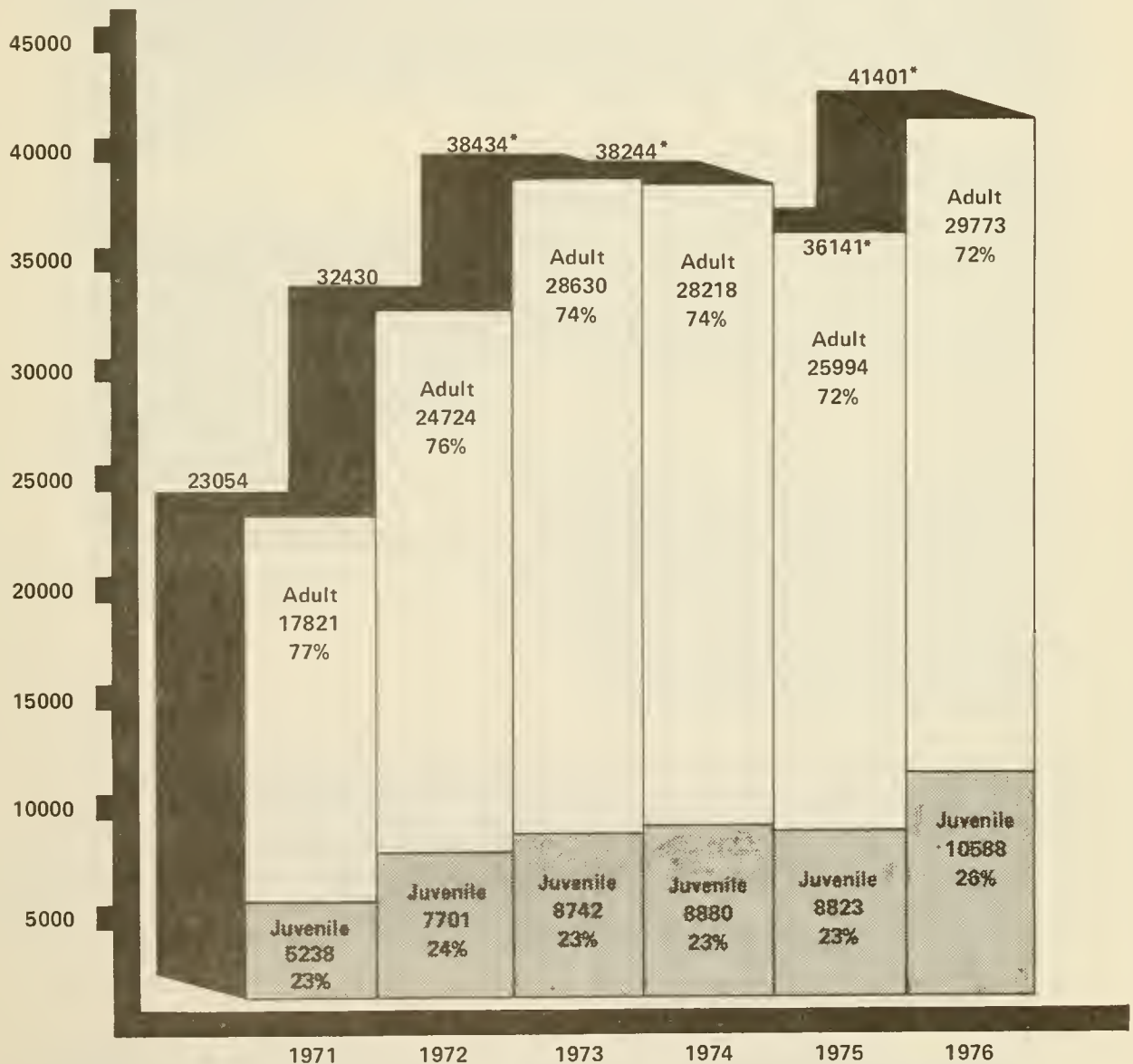


MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS

A misdemeanor is a crime punishable by a fine or less than a one-year prison term. The six-year totals for misdemeanor arrests are shown in the bar graph below. The 41,404 arrests reported in 1976 was the highest single year total for the decade. The increase was due to a 3 percent increase in the number of juveniles arrested last year. The proportion of adults remained constant with 1975 at 72 percent of all persons arrested.

The increase in misdemeanor arrests in 1976 followed a slight three-year decline in the total misdemeanor arrests. As shown in the graph, the number of arrests increased each year from 1971 through 1973, then declined in the next two years. The 1976 increase is 14.6 percent greater than the 1975 totals. The 1973 increase, however, was 18.5 percent greater than the preceding year.

Illustration 16.
MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS



*Unknown Age = 3% - 1973, 3% - 1974, 5% - 1975, 3% - 1976.

MISDEMEANOR ARREST PROFILE

Misdemeanor arrests for alcohol and alcohol related offenses increased in 1976 after a two-year decline. This classification peaked in 1973.

Minor theft, traffic violations and unspecified misdemeanors also increased in 1976 after a decline in 1975. However, the amount of change was less than 2 percent. The other misdemeanors showed declining arrests as indicated on the following two charts.

Illustration 17a.
MISDEMEANOR ARREST PROFILE

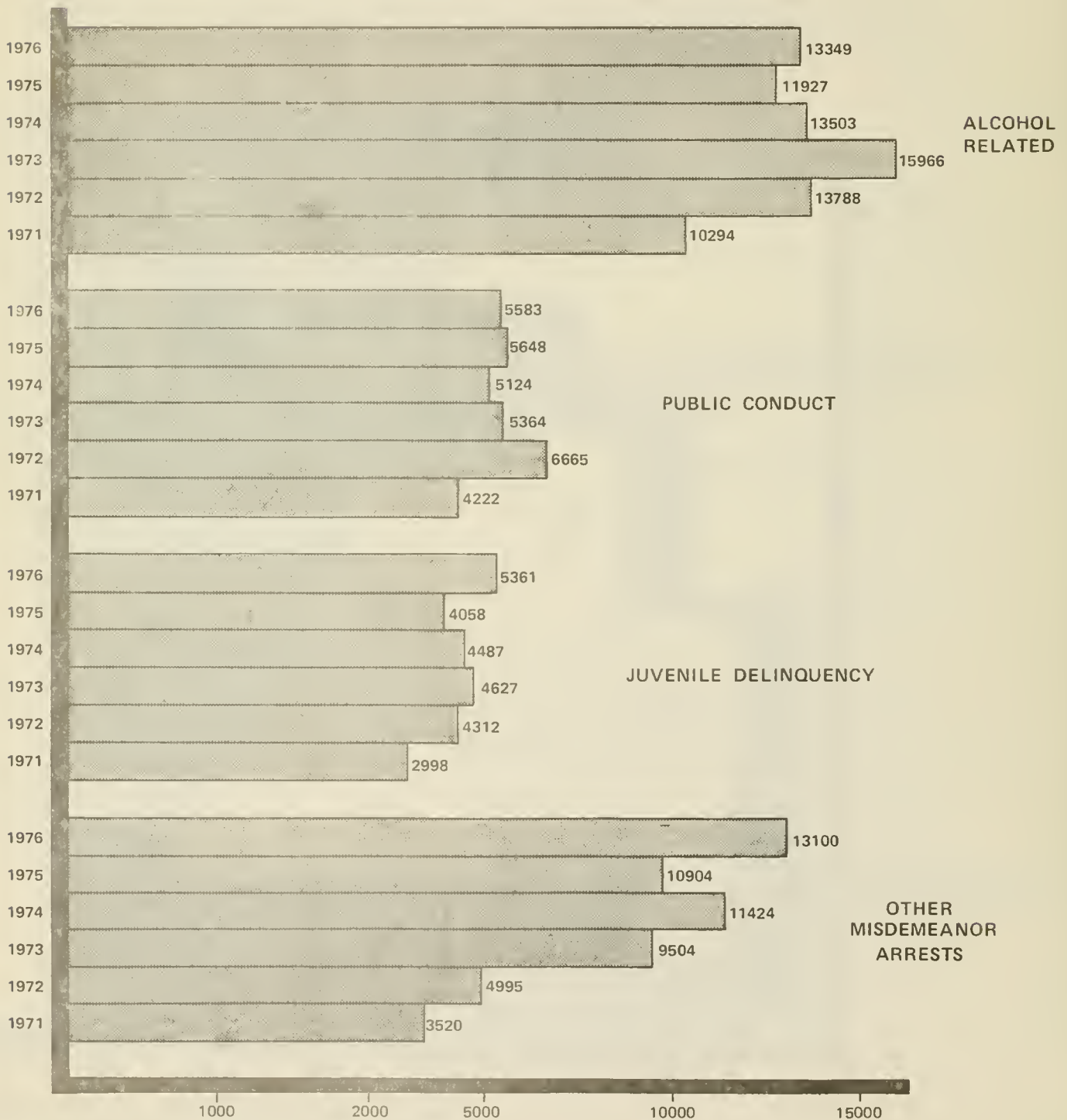
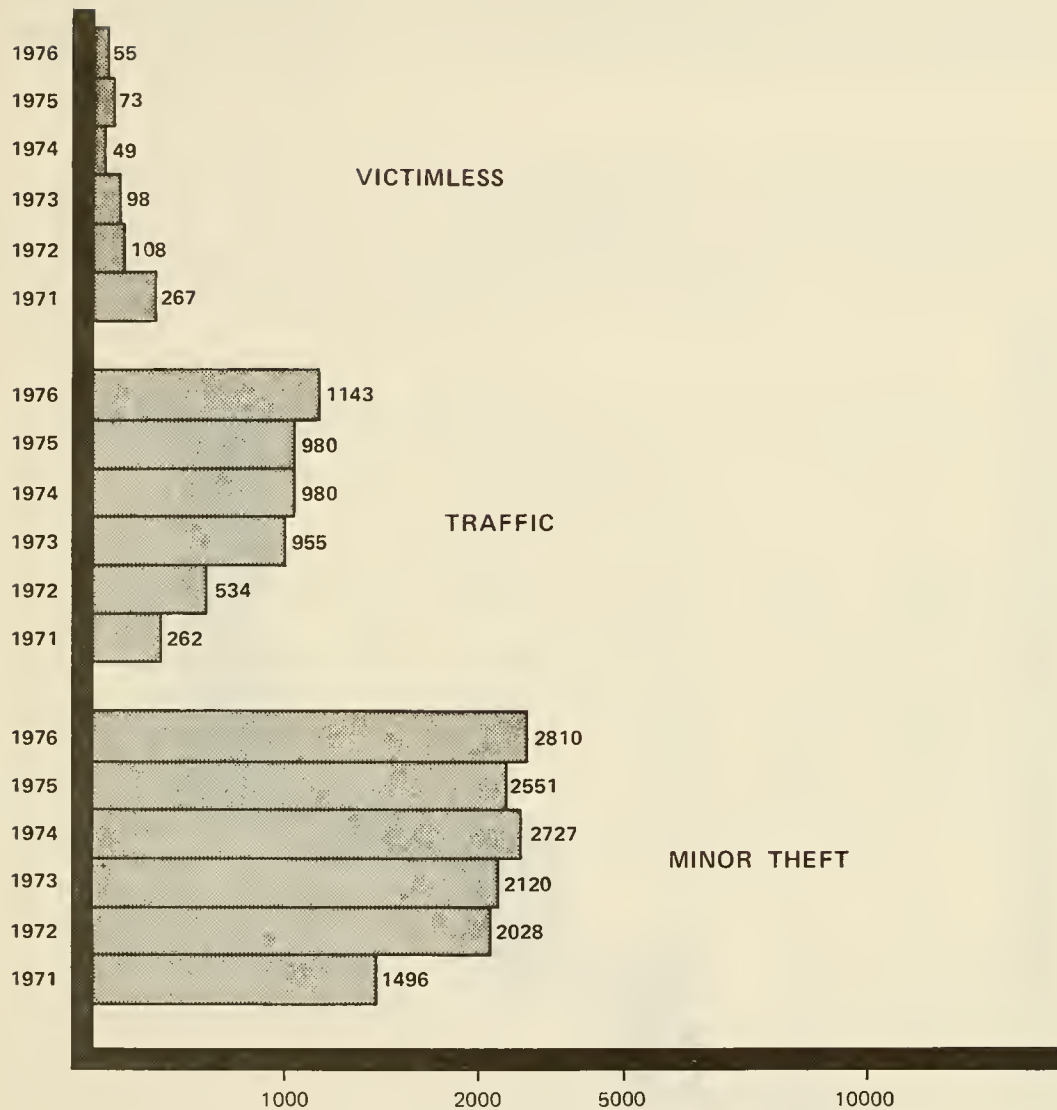


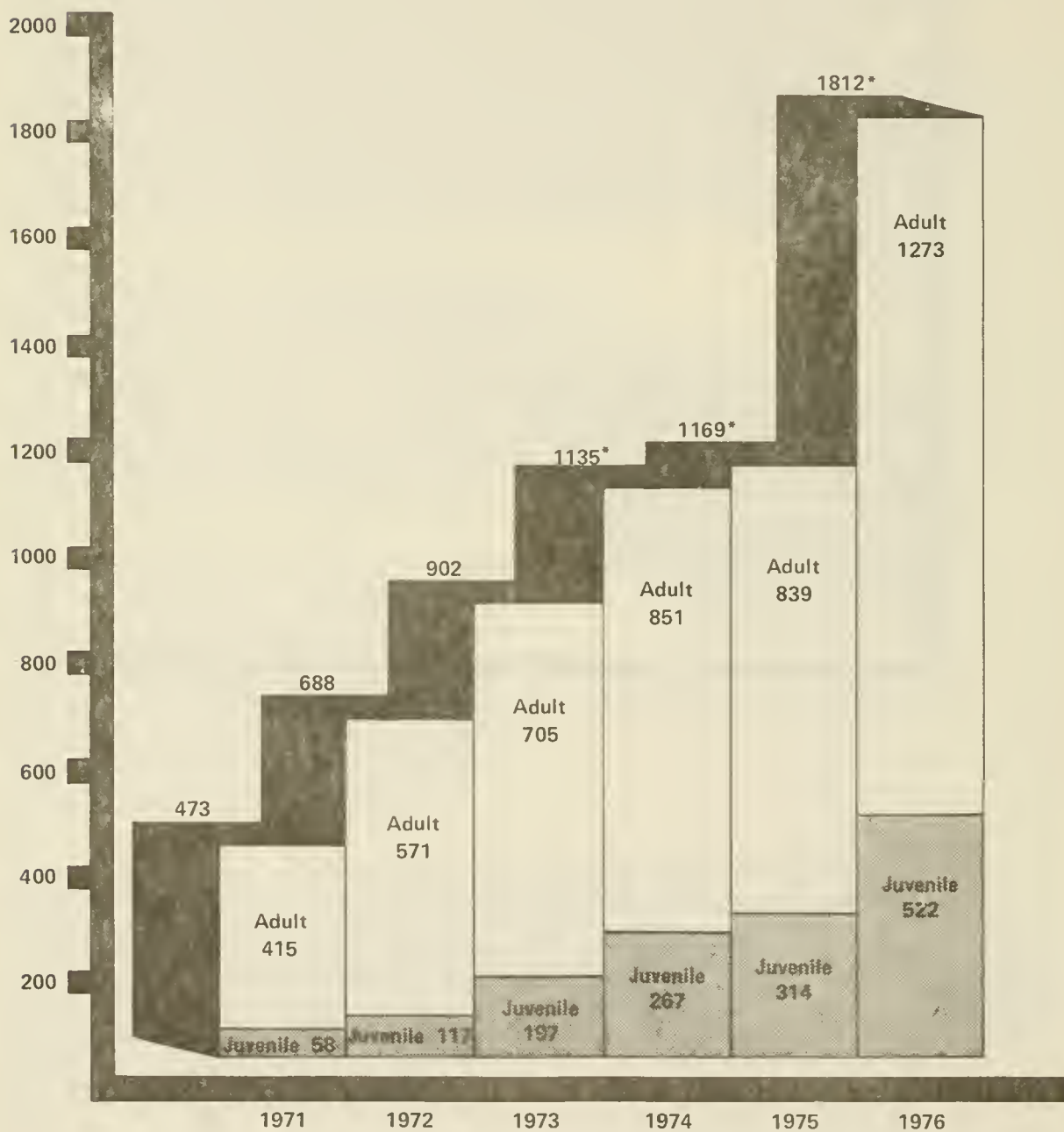
Illustration 17b.
MISDEMEANOR ARREST PROFILE



DRUG RELATED ARRESTS

The number of drug offense arrests increased significantly in 1976 despite a small decrease in the number of drug related offenses reported to the police. The proportion of juvenile offenders arrested has remained fairly constant (near 24 percent) despite the overall increase.

Illustration 18.
DRUG ARRESTS



*Unknown Age = 2% (17) - 1974, 1% (16) - 1975, 1% (17) - 1976

ARRESTS BY RACE OF OFFENDER

As in previous years, the racial profile of arrested offenders remained fairly stable. In 1976, 80 percent of those arrested for felony offenses were white and 18 percent were Native American. In 1975, these percentages were 78 percent white and 19 percent Native American. In previous years, the percentages have ranged from 77 to 81 percent white and from 15 to 19 percent Native American.

The misdemeanor offense arrest pattern is similar. Although the percentage break-out different. In 1976, 59 percent of those arrested were white and 39 percent were Native American. Previous years reflect this same pattern with percentages ranging from 51 to 63 percent for whites and 35 to 47 percent for Native Americans. In 1972, percentages were very close, 51 percent white and 47 percent Native American.

Illustration 19.
ARRESTS BY RACE

<u>Type of Arrest</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Native American</u>	<u>Other</u>
Felony Arrests					
Against Persons	1289	779	8	478	24
Against Property	3437	2905	30	448	54
Other Felonies	<u>4086</u>	<u>3339</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>637</u>	<u>89</u>
Total Felony Arrests	<u>8812</u>	<u>7023</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>1563</u>	<u>167</u>
Percent of Total		80	.6	18	2
Misdemeanor Arrests					
Misdemeanors	36040	21000	195	14498	347
Delinquent Tendencies	<u>5361</u>	<u>3626</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>1584</u>	<u>109</u>
Total Misdemeanor Arrests	<u>41401</u>	<u>24626</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>16082</u>	<u>456</u>
Percent of Total		59	1	39	1

ARRESTS BY SEX OF OFFENDER

The percentage of male and female offenders arrested has varied less than 2 percent in each of the six base years of data collection. Women were arrested for 10 to 13 percent of all felonies and 15 to 19 percent of all misdemeanors. This means women have accounted for only one in six felony arrests and one in five misdemeanor arrests in each base year. In 1976, only a slight (2 percent) increase in the number of female offenders arrested was noted.

Illustration 20.
ARRESTS BY SEX

Type of Arrest	Total	Male	Female
Felony Arrests			
Against Persons	1289	1150	139
Against Property	3437	3029	408
Other Felonies	4086	3457	629
Total Felony Arrests	8812	7636	1176
Percent of Total		87	13
Misdemeanor Arrests			
Misdemeanors	36040	29691	6349
Delinquent Tendencies	5361	3329	2032
Total Misdemeanor Arrests	41401	33020	8381
Percent of Total		80	20

ARREST SUMMARY

Although the total number of arrests recorded in 1976 increased, the sex and age proportion of the offenders remained fairly constant with previous years.

The arrest trend for the period 1971 to 1976 has remained fairly constant with the following characteristics:

- Arrests for each of the seven index crimes has increased steadily with the exception of assault which decreased in 1973 and burglary which decreased in 1976.
- Adults accounted for three out of every four felony and misdemeanor arrests.
- Women were arrested for one out of every six serious crimes cleared and one out of five misdemeanor crimes.

Illustration 21a.
STATEWIDE ADULT & JUVENILE FELONY ARRESTS BY OFFENSE & AGE
January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976

OFFENSE	JUVENILES				ADULTS								GRAND TOTAL	
	Total	1-11	12-15	16-17	Total	18-19	20-25	26-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-up		Unknown
Homicide	4	0	0	4	46	12	12	3	5	6	1	7	0	50
Forcible Rape	7	0	2	5	49	7	12	11	13	4	2	0	1	57
Robbery	36	0	12	24	115	40	43	15	6	11	0	0	0	151
Aggravated Assault	142	6	65	71	857	103	308	134	176	76	47	13	32	1031
Total Against Person	189	6	79	104	1067	162	375	163	200	97	50	20	33	1289
Burglary	563	44	260	259	491	213	189	35	41	9	1	3	20	1074
Grand Theft	431	24	183	224	1347	358	461	148	197	83	69	31	40	1818
Auto Theft	256	0	142	114	284	101	104	22	28	16	11	2	5	545
Total Against Property	1250	68	585	597	2122	672	754	205	266	108	81	36	65	3437
Checks Cards Forgery	56	1	22	33	587	75	161	87	153	68	35	8	67	710
Sex	6	2	0	4	76	8	20	14	16	15	3	0	4	86
Drugs	522	7	131	384	1273	427	650	126	58	10	0	2	17	1812
Weapons	20	0	8	12	150	22	41	22	28	25	8	4	1	171
Arson	21	9	7	5	25	3	8	4	4	2	3	1	1	47
Federal	7	0	1	6	137	49	59	13	9	4	1	2	9	153
All Others	212	14	95	103	873	175	318	97	171	70	31	11	22	1107
Total Other Felonies	844	33	264	547	3121	759	1257	363	439	194	81	28	121	4086
GRAND TOTAL	2283	107	928	1248	6310	1593	2386	731	905	399	212	84	219	8812
Percent of Grand Total	.26	.05	.41	.55	.72	.25	.38	.12	.14	.06	.03	.01	.02	

Illustration 21b.
STATEWIDE ADULT & JUVENILE FELONY ARRESTS BY OFFENSE, RACE & SEX
January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976

OFFENSE	TOTAL	RACE				TOTAL	SEX	
		White	Negro	Mexican	Indian		Male	Female
Homicide	50	40	0	0	10	50	46	4
Forcible Rape	57	47	0	1	9	57	57	0
Robbery	151	106	5	1	39	151	136	15
Aggravated Assault	1031	586	3	22	420	1031	911	120
Total Against Person	1289	779	8	24	478	1289	1150	139
Burglary	1074	946	5	11	109	1074	1009	65
Grand Theft	1818	1505	17	25	269	1818	1545	273
Auto Theft	545	454	8	13	70	545	475	70
Total Against Property	3437	2905	30	49	448	3437	3029	408
Checks Cards Forgery	710	611	1	2	95	710	504	206
Sex	86	60	1	1	24	86	80	6
Drugs	1812	1585	8	20	196	1812	1550	262
Weapons	171	108	5	5	53	171	164	7
Arson	47	44	0	1	2	47	39	8
Federal	153	93	0	44	16	153	150	3
All Others	1107	838	6	11	251	1107	970	137
Total Other Felonies	4086	3339	21	84	637	4086	3457	629
GRAND TOTAL	8812	7023	59	157	1563	8812	7636	1176
Percent of Grand Total		.80	.01	.02	.18		.87	.13

Illustration 21c.

STATEWIDE ADULT AND JUVENILE FELONY ARRESTS BY OFFENSE & MONTH
January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976

OFFENSE	TOTAL	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Homicide	50	1	0	1	6	5	4	15	2	2	4	5	5
Forcible Rape	57	2	5	5	6	2	3	4	15	4	8	1	2
Robbery	151	9	9	23	5	9	10	10	24	10	13	11	18
Aggravated Assault	1031	81	63	96	69	81	106	150	132	27	82	70	74
Total Against Person	1289	93	77	125	86	97	123	179	173	43	107	87	99
Burglary	1074	76	98	81	89	101	102	157	127	19	91	61	72
Grand Theft	1818	137	157	117	99	126	145	329	301	40	144	108	115
Auto Theft	545	28	33	23	41	41	54	114	71	26	46	32	36
Total Against Property	3437	241	288	221	229	268	301	600	499	85	281	201	223
Checks Cards Forgery	710	47	47	56	69	47	30	114	79	21	65	64	71
Sex	86	4	7	4	12	4	11	9	13	5	10	2	5
Drugs	1812	104	105	105	132	196	151	267	312	119	148	75	98
Weapons	171	13	6	18	13	9	22	22	20	7	14	8	19
Arson	47	5	2	5	2	9	1	6	2	3	4	7	1
Federal	153	12	6	11	4	12	23	29	22	2	18	10	4
All Others	1107	93	92	101	79	83	57	182	155	33	91	60	81
Total Other Felonies	4086	278	265	300	311	360	295	629	603	190	350	226	279
GRAND TOTAL	8812	612	630	646	626	725	719	1408	1275	318	738	514	601
Percent of Grand Total		.07	.07	.07	.07	.08	.08	.16	.14	.04	.08	.06	.07

Illustration 21d.
STATEWIDE ADULT & JUVENILE FELONY ARRESTS BY OFFENSE, DAY & TIME OF CRIME
January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976

OFFENSE	TOTAL	DAY							HOUR						
		Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Unknown	0-4AM	4-8AM	8-12AM	12-4PM	4-8PM	8-12PM
Homicide	50	9	2	2	1	3	5	2	26	2	0	1	6	2	3
Forcible Rape	57	7	5	1	6	7	7	11	13	9	1	2	3	6	7
Robbery	151	9	6	16	22	20	14	16	48	20	4	6	8	8	14
Aggravated Assault	1031	87	85	58	77	72	90	127	435	103	28	40	63	83	89
Total Against Person	1289	112	98	77	106	102	116	156	522	134	33	49	80	99	113
Burglary	1074	110	76	82	102	90	109	68	437	119	49	22	45	45	92
Grand Theft	1818	129	172	164	154	159	191	165	684	102	27	68	131	104	125
Auto Theft	545	44	54	47	28	49	45	55	223	50	12	26	18	40	54
Total Against Property	3437	283	302	293	284	298	345	288	1344	271	88	116	194	189	271
Checks Cards Forgery	710	25	52	62	42	41	68	45	375	5	1	24	50	21	19
Sex	86	6	3	6	5	3	6	11	46	8	1	3	8	3	5
Drugs	1812	163	175	160	122	123	158	194	717	225	32	77	103	136	279
Weapons	171	26	19	20	21	15	19	12	39	33	8	5	9	22	36
Arson	47	3	3	8	3	1	6	2	21	1	1	0	4	7	6
Federal	153	8	3	22	7	4	10	6	93	3	2	5	21	11	2
All Others	1107	62	75	52	74	77	97	78	592	97	21	42	58	72	73
Total Other Felonies	4086	293	330	330	274	264	364	348	1883	372	66	156	253	272	420
GRAND TOTAL	8812	688	730	700	664	664	825	792	3749	777	187	321	527	560	804
Percent of Grand Total		.08	.08	.08	.08	.08	.09	.09	.43	.09	.02	.04	.06	.06	.09

Illustration 21 e.
STATEWIDE ADULT & JUVENILE MISDEMEANOR ARREST BY OFFENSE & AGE
 January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 197

OFFENSE	JUVENILES				ADULTS									GRAND TOTAL
	Total	1-11	12-15	16-17	Total	18-19	20-25	26-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-up	Unknown	
Assault	77	4	40	33	485	80	164	82	92	45	17	5	30	592
Riotous Conduct	221	2	50	169	2630	406	705	335	513	350	218	103	84	2935
Disturbing the Peace	197	9	61	127	1580	213	503	188	333	209	77	57	59	1836
Weapons	23	1	14	8	49	6	15	12	11	2	2	1	0	72
Theft	1498	223	754	521	1282	384	410	120	154	99	62	53	30	2810
Drunk	417	13	154	250	6349	368	1150	616	1524	1451	916	324	200	6966
Drunk Driving	94	1	15	78	3780	330	903	462	844	611	425	205	51	3925
Possession of Alcohol	1181	4	374	803	1224	329	418	108	179	123	51	16	53	2458
Trespassing	138	6	71	61	391	84	144	44	63	33	16	7	14	543
Vagrancy	0	0	0	0	6	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	7
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	28	3	11	5	5	1	1	2	0	28
Indecent Exposure	14	0	5	9	126	9	31	19	25	20	14	8	8	148
Gambling	20	0	0	0	20	1	5	2	8	1	3	0	0	20
Traffic - Hit & Run	33	0	6	27	237	46	85	34	29	24	11	8	8	278
Traffic - Reckless	143	0	39	104	702	253	260	86	57	26	17	3	20	865
Warrant Arrest	36	2	20	14	1048	225	425	142	136	79	33	8	14	1089
Other Misdemeanors	1532	54	382	1096	9488	2012	3074	1130	1518	835	511	408	439	11459
Sub-Total Misdemeanors	5604	319	1985	3300	29425	4752	8304	3386	5491	3910	2374	1208	1011	36040
Immoral Conduct	9	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Truant	66	9	52	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	69
Curfew	1557	32	594	931	89	23	19	4	20	13	8	2	10	1656
Incorrigible	188	5	99	84	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	189
Runaway Local	694	13	443	238	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	13	709
Runaway Out-of-State	481	7	246	228	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	489
Other Delinquency	1979	125	934	920	250	94	77	26	30	13	5	5	11	2240
Total Delinquent Tendencies	4974	191	2371	2412	348	123	98	30	50	26	14	7	39	5361
GRAND TOTAL	10578	510	4356	5712	29773	4875	8402	3416	5541	3936	2388	1215	1050	41401
Percent of Grand Total	.26	.05	.41	.54	.72	.16	.28	.11	.19	.13	.08	.04	.03	

Illustration 21f.

STATEWIDE ADULT & JUVENILE MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS BY OFFENSE, RACE & SEX
January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976

OFFENSE	TOTAL	RACE				TOTAL	SEX	
		White	Negro	Mexican	Indian		Male	Female
Assault	592	301	10	17	264	592	507	85
Riotous Conduct	2935	1325	17	17	1573	2935	2553	382
Disturbing the Peace	1836	1050	29	55	699	1836	1581	255
Weapons	72	56	3	1	12	72	70	2
Theft	2810	2366	14	63	355	2810	1925	885
Drunk	6966	317	1	7	6640	6966	5759	1207
Drunk Driving	3925	2690	20	35	1177	3925	3464	461
Possession of Alcohol	2458	1330	11	19	1098	2458	1899	559
Trespassing	543	384	5	7	147	543	483	60
Vagrancy	7	2	0	0	5	7	5	2
Prostitution	28	22	4	0	2	28	6	22
Indecent Exposure	148	76	2	0	70	148	145	3
Gambling	20	20	0	0	0	20	16	4
Traffic - Hit & Run	278	204	4	16	52	278	234	44
Traffic - Reckless	865	612	1	11	241	865	798	67
Warrant Arrest	1098	810	24	7	256	1098	956	142
Other Misdemeanors	11459	9435	50	64	1907	11459	9290	2169
Sub-Total Misdemeanors	36040	21000	195	319	14498	36040	29691	6349
Immoral Conduct	9	4	0	0	5	9	1	8
Truant	69	45	0	3	21	69	60	9
Curfew	1656	973	20	38	624	1656	1095	561
Incorrigible	189	170	0	5	14	189	141	48
Runaway Local	709	614	4	11	79	709	247	462
Runaway Out-of-State	489	425	2	1	61	489	226	263
Other Delinquency	2240	1395	16	48	780	2240	1559	681
Total Delinquent Tendencies	5361	3626	42	106	1584	5361	3329	2032
GRAND TOTAL	41401	24626	237	425	16082	41401	33020	8381
Percent of Grand Total		.59	.01	.01	.39		.80	.20

Illustration 21g.
STATEWIDE ADULT & JUVENILE MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS BY OFFENSE AND MONTH
January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976

OFFENSE	TOTAL	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Assault	592	49	38	29	34	49	58	70	110	30	40	45	40
Riotous Conduct	2935	227	244	225	209	258	227	554	407	42	193	155	194
Disturbing the Peace	1836	116	96	102	146	154	156	284	264	140	141	125	112
Weapons	72	4	7	2	8	7	3	10	12	3	4	3	9
Theft	2810	158	210	260	216	184	236	406	367	120	206	206	241
Drunk	6966	671	657	790	687	641	697	649	689	329	392	332	432
Drunk Driving	3925	281	322	341	374	424	308	480	479	114	282	248	272
Possession of Alcohol	2458	225	246	236	231	172	215	328	321	74	173	122	115
Trespassing	543	47	38	36	40	66	44	94	57	17	45	25	34
Vagrancy	7	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Prostitution	28	2	0	1	8	2	3	2	6	2	1	1	0
Indecent Exposure	148	10	8	7	7	11	13	25	30	9	12	3	13
Gambling	20	3	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	9
Traffic - Hit & Run	278	23	24	22	12	8	28	27	32	27	23	22	30
Traffic - Reckless	865	42	70	73	72	100	80	133	97	33	75	51	39
Warrant Arrest	1098	105	98	84	118	109	95	174	129	25	43	56	62
Other Misdemeanors	11459	760	702	754	710	1125	1033	1805	1634	335	970	832	799
Sub-Total Misdemeanors	36040	2724	2760	2970	2872	3311	3196	5043	4635	1302	2600	2226	2401
Immoral Conduct	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	1	1	0
Truant	69	3	2	2	17	18	0	0	0	0	11	6	10
Curfew	1656	151	141	90	99	161	197	247	263	108	88	44	67
Incorrigible	189	7	14	15	9	22	17	24	44	12	6	6	13
Runaway Local	709	52	51	56	61	52	44	97	104	32	54	61	45
Runaway Out-of-State	489	37	42	29	23	40	27	49	64	33	72	48	25
Other Delinquency	2240	172	185	196	226	183	152	290	339	56	145	160	136
Total Delinquent Tendencies	5361	422	435	388	435	476	438	713	814	241	377	326	296
GRAND TOTAL	41401	3146	3195	3358	3307	3787	3634	5756	5449	1543	2977	2552	2697
Percent of Grand Total		.08	.08	.08	.08	.09	.09	.14	.13	.04	.07	.06	.07

Illustration 21h.

STATEWIDE ADULT & JUVENILE MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS BY OFFENSE, DAY & TIME OF CRIME
January 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976

OFFENSE	Total	DAY							HOUR						
		Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Unknown	0-4AM	4-8AM	8-12AM	12-4PM	4-8PM	8-12PM
Assault	592	51	37	38	31	47	70	53	265	67	6	32	23	57	76
Riotous Conduct	2935	344	200	202	163	215	355	506	950	587	130	84	153	255	384
Disturbing the Peace	1836	232	155	184	190	238	255	360	222	488	75	85	151	312	456
Weapons	72	14	15	8	3	5	5	7	15	4	2	2	8	16	15
Theft	2810	272	325	377	292	331	385	391	437	236	60	203	740	587	323
Drunk	6966	536	464	468	515	578	684	843	2878	444	78	163	372	462	494
Drunk Driving	3925	498	288	252	257	310	429	598	1293	937	101	115	174	345	575
Possession of Alcohol	2458	283	116	94	107	152	385	495	826	439	41	60	109	182	576
Trespassing	543	72	42	38	51	55	55	80	150	104	29	24	25	30	70
Vagrancy	7	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	1	0
Prostitution	28	3	2	0	7	2	6	3	5	1	0	0	2	1	17
Indecent Exposure	148	21	19	18	16	13	20	26	15	23	4	13	19	28	30
Gambling	20	0	0	0	2	14	0	2	2	11	5	0	0	0	0
Traffic - Hit & Run	278	47	21	23	33	21	33	59	41	85	17	11	20	31	44
Traffic - Reckless	865	113	67	55	82	74	127	141	206	216	28	37	63	90	160
Warrant Arrest	1098	105	100	100	131	107	138	121	296	37	20	46	47	60	41
Other Misdemeanors	11459	1427	1177	1138	1127	1231	1491	1657	2211	1408	576	1020	1495	1747	1976
Sub-Total Misdemeanors	36040	4019	3028	2998	3007	3395	4438	5342	9813	5088	1172	1895	3405	4204	5237
Immoral Conduct	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truant	69	2	7	6	8	12	9	0	25	0	2	22	15	2	0
Curfew	1656	268	48	68	67	144	108	372	581	850	98	7	13	8	23
Incorrigible	189	18	20	16	11	20	47	27	30	47	12	13	22	19	31
Runaway Local	709	44	59	75	49	62	58	35	327	48	16	48	43	87	65
Runaway Out-of-State	489	22	42	21	45	20	30	20	289	21	9	15	22	21	27
Other Delinquency	2240	191	211	241	265	195	258	242	637	96	27	44	64	107	149
Total Delinquent Tendencies	5361	545	387	427	445	454	510	696	1897	1062	164	149	179	244	295
GRAND TOTAL	41401	4564	3415	3425	3452	3849	4948	6038	11710	6150	1336	2044	3584	4448	5532
Percent of Grand Total		.11	.08	.08	.08	.09	.12	.15	.28	.15	.03	.05	.09	.11	.13

MONTANA DISTRICT COURT DATA

STATISTICAL METHOD

This is the second year in which information concerning District Court Criminal Cases is included in this report. Information for this chapter was reported to the Criminal Justice Data Center by the clerks of court in each judicial district between January 10, 1976 and January 1, 1977.

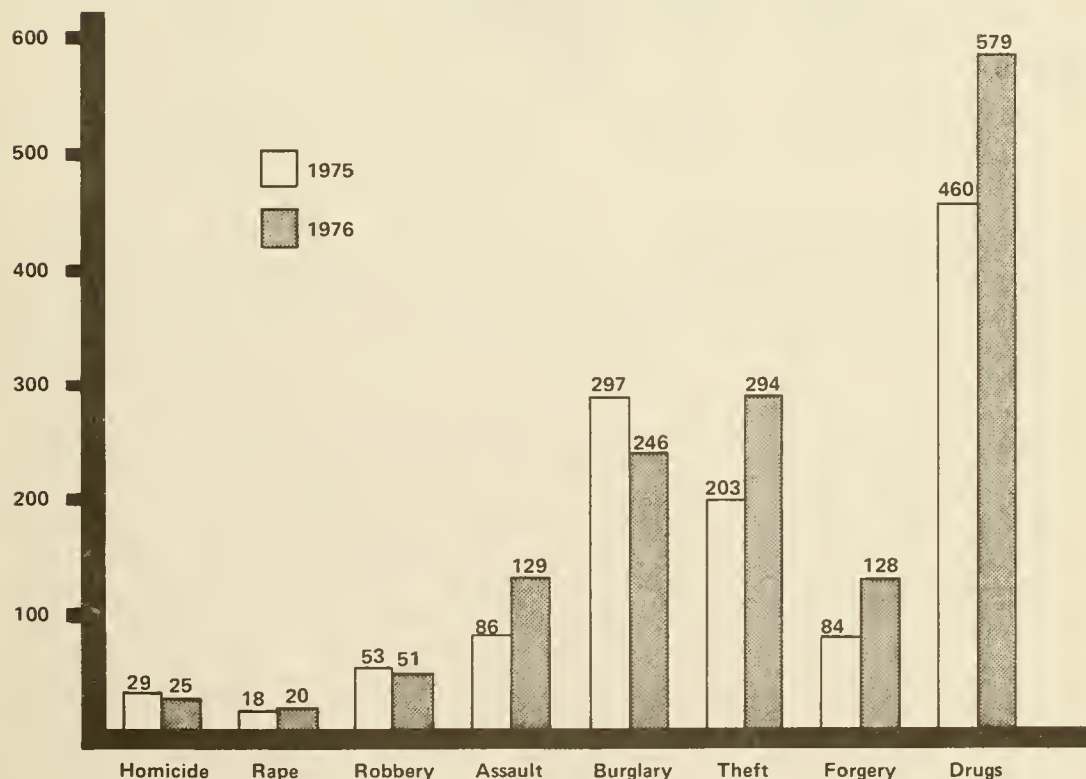
Data concerning District Court criminal cases is not comparable to the information provided for offenses known or arrests. Criminal cases may be settled informally prior to court action or sufficient evidence may not be available to pursue court action.

The major crimes, or index crimes, are much more likely to be followed by court action than are the less serious felony offenses or misdemeanor crimes.

CRIMINAL ACTIONS FOR MAJOR CRIMES

The bar graph below shows the total criminal actions for each major crime in 1975 and 1976. An overall increase of 355 cases or 24.6 percent was recorded. For serious crimes (illustrated below) an increase of 242 or 19.7 percent over the previous year was recorded. Drug cases continued to make up much of the court's criminal caseload, 39 percent of all activity.

Illustration 22.
COURT ACTIONS FOR SERIOUS CRIMES



CASES DISPOSED BY OFFENSE

The illustrations below and on the following page show the disposition of cases coming before the District Court. The first table below is a comparison of the numbers convicted and dismissed in 1975 and 1976.

Illustration 24 shows the same data computed as percentages of the total case-load. The percentage of convictions decreased slightly (2 percent) in 1976, as did the number of cases convicted on a guilty plea.

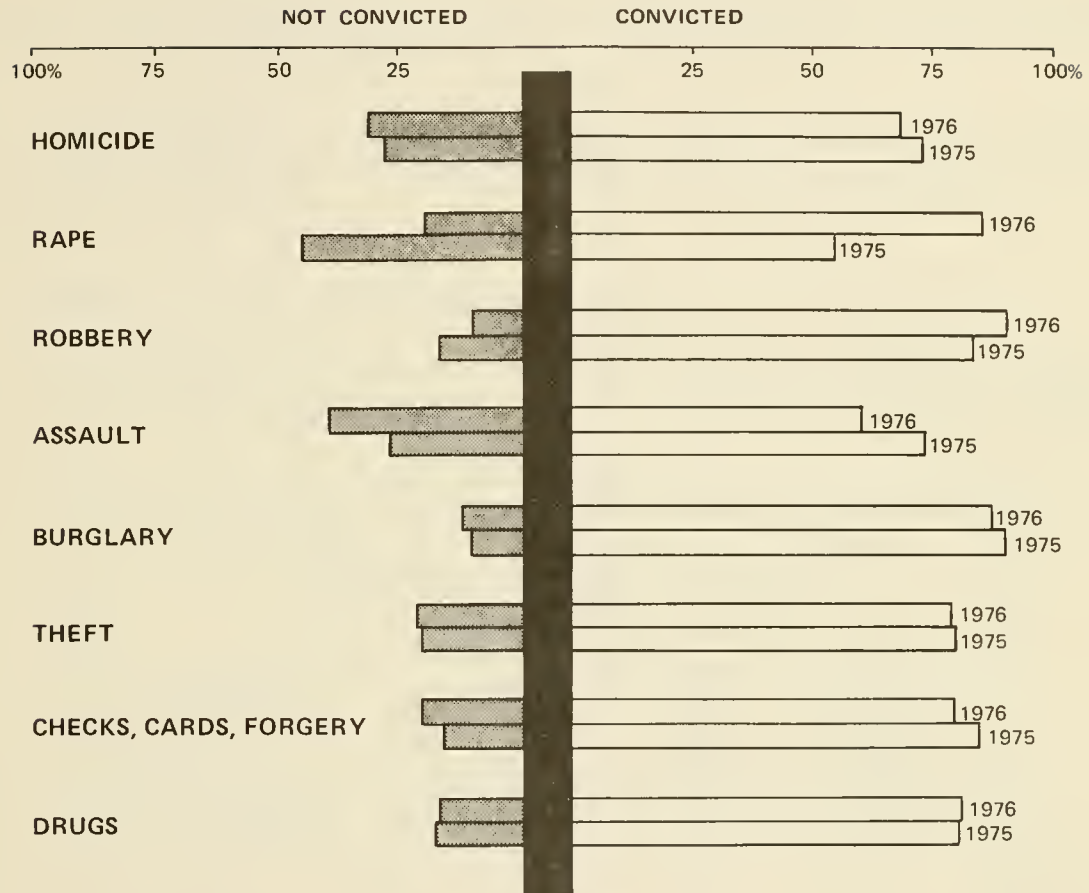
The slight increase of .6 percent in the number of cases tried and the corresponding decrease of .4 percent in the number acquitted should be noted in future years. However, no trend analysis of court activity can be made until several years of base data is established.

Illustration 23.
CASES DISPOSED IN MONTANA DISTRICT COURT BY OFFENSE

Offense NOT CONVICTED CONVICTED			
	Total		Dismiss		Acquit		Pled	Guilty	Found	Guilty
	75	76	75	76	75	76	75	76	75	76
Homicide	29	25	3	3	5	5	19	11	2	6
Rape	18	20	4	3	4	1	10	15	0	1
Robbery	53	51	9	5	0	0	41	44	3	2
Assault	86	129	20	40	3	11	53	68	10	10
Burglary	297	246	28	31	2	0	264	211	3	4
Theft	203	294	36	57	6	5	153	220	8	12
Checks, Cards, Forgery	84	128	12	24	1	1	71	100	0	3
Drugs	469	579	82	103	1	0	366	461	11	15
Not Otherwise Classified*	213	326								
TOTAL	1230	1472	194	266	22	23	977	1130	37	53

* Breakdown not computed or included in total.

Illustration 24.
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CASES
DISPOSED IN MONTANA DISTRICT COURT



ADMISSIONS TO MONTANA STATE PRISON

STATISTICAL METHOD

This is the second year information concerning admissions to Montana State Prison have been included in this summary. The information was supplied to the Data Center by the prison admission office.

The admission information is indicative of criminal activity resulting in incarceration; of the characteristics of offenders sentenced to prison, and of the lengths of sentences imposed on such offenders.

COMPARISON OF ADMISSIONS 1975 AND 1976

The illustration below shows a comparison of the number and type of admissions to prison in 1975 and 1976. Prison admissions increased by 77 or 21 percent in 1976.

Illustration 25. ADMISSIONS TO MONTANA STATE PRISON			
<u>How Admitted</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Start Sentence	300	361	+ 20.3
Transfer	4	8	+100.0
Parole Violator	53	68	+ 28.3
Returned Escapee	7	4	- 42.8
TOTAL	364	441	+ 21.2
<u>Prior Admission</u>			
Never Before	283	318	+ 12.4
Once Before	50	83	+ 66.0
More Than Once	31	40	+ 29.0
Total with Priors	81	123	+ 51.9

PRISON ADMISSIONS BY RACE AND SEX

The illustrations below show the number of prison admissions by race and sex. Although the number of Native Americans admitted remained constant with last year, an increase in the number of white admissions reduced the percentage of Native Americans incarcerated by 3 percent.

Illustration 26. PRISON ADMISSIONS BY RACE AND SEX			
	1975	1976	Percent Change
White	279	340	+ 21.8
Native American	64	64	0
Negro	10	1	- 90.0
Spanish American	4	7	+ 75.0
Unknown	7	37	+428.6
TOTAL	364	449	+ 23.4
Male	355	439	+ 23.7
Female	9	10	+ 11.1
TOTAL	364	449	+ 23.4

Montana does not maintain an institution for women. Until July 1, 1977, women who had to be incarcerated were sent to York, Nebraska as part of an interstate compact. Those few who are confined in the state are usually placed in mental health facilities. The majority of convicted female felons received deferred sentences.

PRISON ADMISSIONS BY AGE

The illustration on the following page shows the age of offenders admitted to Montana State Prison. The number of offenders under age 25 increased significantly. The only decrease was in the 46-50 age bracket, which declined 20 percent.

Illustration 27.
PRISON ADMISSIONS BY AGE

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Under 21	101	130	+ 28.7
21 - 25	105	124	+ 18.1
26 - 30	73	76	+ 4.1
30 - 35	32	49	+ 53.1
36 - 40	25	25	0
41 - 45	10	17	+ 70.0
46 - 50	10	8	- 20.0
51 - 55	4	8	+100.0
56 - 60	3	9	+200.0
61 and Over	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>+200.0</u>
TOTAL	364	449	+ 23.4

PRISON ADMISSION BY CRIME

In 1976, 449 persons were admitted to the Montana State Prison. This compares to 364 admissions in 1975. Excluding those readmitted for parole violation, and returned escapees, the largest group was made up of those convicted for burglary, with theft the second largest group. This follows the same pattern as 1975.





Illustration 28.
PRISON ADMISSIONS BY CRIME

<u>Crime</u>	<u>Number Admitted</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Homicide*	13	2.8
Rape	9	2.0
Robbery	29	6.5
Assault	24	5.4
Burglary	95	21.2
Theft	80	17.8
Forgery	43	9.6
Drugs	37	8.2
Not Otherwise Classified**	<u>119</u>	<u>26.5</u>
TOTAL	449	100.0

* Includes two negligent homicide.

** Includes parole violations, returned escapees, as well as, Not Otherwise Classified.



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