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# SYNOPSIS OF 1987 INDEX CRIME

NCJRS

JUL 14 1988

ACQUISITIONS

UNIFORM CRIME REPORT PROGRAM  
CRIMES ANALYSIS UNIT  
CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 1, 1988



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

This preliminary publication is being provided to you as a response to the many requests for statistical information which have been received by the Uniform Crime Report Program.

The report summarizes 1987 crime data which has been submitted by every full-time police department in the state.

The Annual Report, "Crime in Connecticut - 1987", which gives a detailed look at crime will be published in the summer of 1988.

I'd like to express my personal gratitude to all the police departments in the state for their participation in the UCR Program. It is through their fine efforts that the program has become the source of criminal offense information in the state.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. J. Forst".

Colonel Lester J. Forst  
Commissioner of Public Safety

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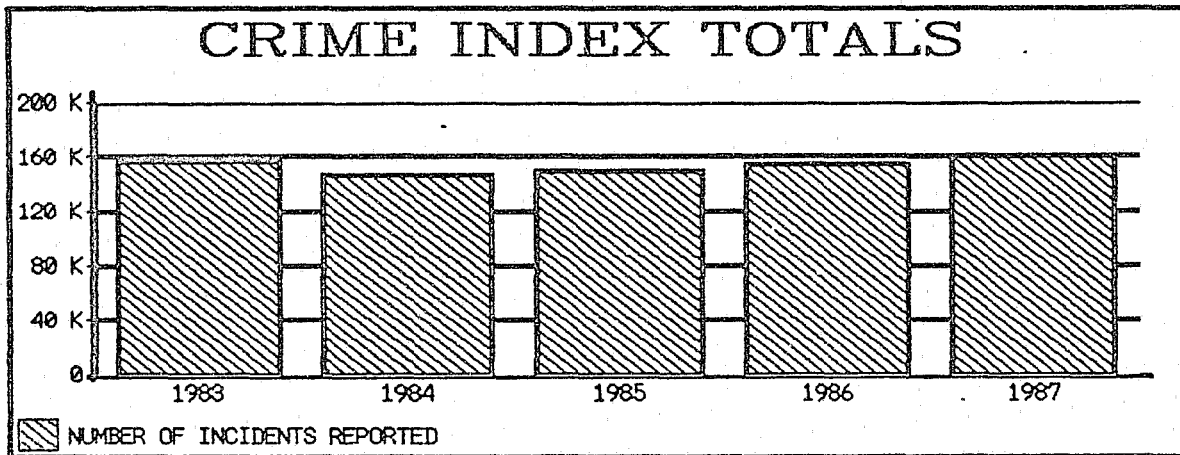
## CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

1987

For the third consecutive year, overall serious crimes reported to police recorded an increase. The Crime Index totals for 1987 were 3.9 percent above the 1986 figures and represented the highest level in the past five years. All offenses included in the Index showed increases from 1986 levels with the exception of total robberies which decreased by 6.8 percent to the lowest number in the five year reporting period.

Our total of 159,922 offenses was supplied by 100 local police departments and the State Police. The final figures forthcoming in the Annual Report should represent 100 percent of the index offenses which have been reported in the state.

Index offenses are defined as: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Arson is also an index crime but is not included in the historical crime totals.



### CRIME INDEX OFFENSES

#### VIOLENT CRIME

#### PROPERTY CRIME

	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGG. ASSLT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	M.V. THEFT	TOTALS
1983	129	627	6,296	4,717	39,985	89,417	15,028	156,199
1984	125	760	6,010	5,534	35,595	84,635	13,343	146,002
1985	119	760	6,031	5,840	36,030	86,504	13,999	149,283
1986	148	760	6,128	6,545	38,189	87,962	14,258	153,990
1987	156	798	5,709	6,768	39,028	90,531	16,932	159,922

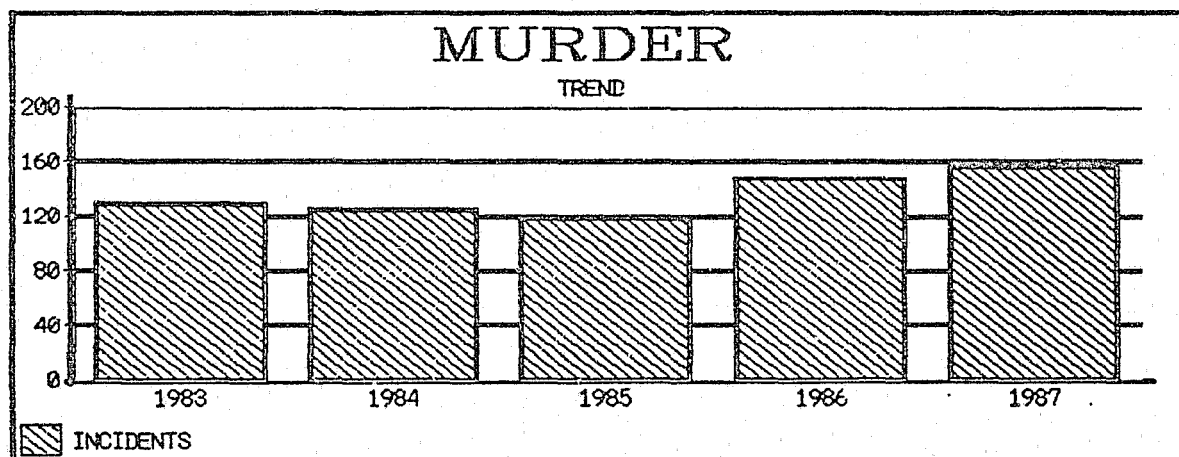
## VIOLENT CRIME

Collectively, the number of violent crimes was down 1.1 percent from the total reported in 1986. This was due to a decrease of 6.8 percent in the number of robberies committed. Other violent crimes showed increases; aggravated assault increased 3.4 percent, forcible rape rose by 5 percent, and murders increased by 5.4 percent. The rate of violent crime, which was 418.3 crimes per 100,000 persons in 1987, was 1.8 percent lower than the 1986 rate of 425.9 crimes per 100,000 persons.

## MURDER

The number of murders rose from 148 in 1986 to 156 in 1987 which represents an increase of 5.4 percent. The rate per 100,000 persons was 4.9 in 1987 compared to 4.6 per 100,000 persons in 1986. Of the murder victims, 48.1 percent were age 20-34 years, 65.4 percent were males. The most commonly used weapon was a handgun with some type of firearm being used in 55.1 percent of the murders. Sixty-one percent of the murder victims were related to or acquainted with their assailants. Arguments resulted in 39.1 percent of all murders while 12.2 percent occurred in conjunction with narcotic offenses and 8.1 percent were proven or suspected to have occurred in conjunction with felonious activities, such as robbery, arson, etc., 24.3 percent resulted from miscellaneous nonfelony activities, and 16.0 percent from unknown circumstances.

Statewide in 1987, the highest clearance rate among index crimes was for murder (88.5 percent). Thirty-nine percent of all murder arrestees were under 25 years of age, and 75.6 percent were males.



### FORCIBLE RAPE

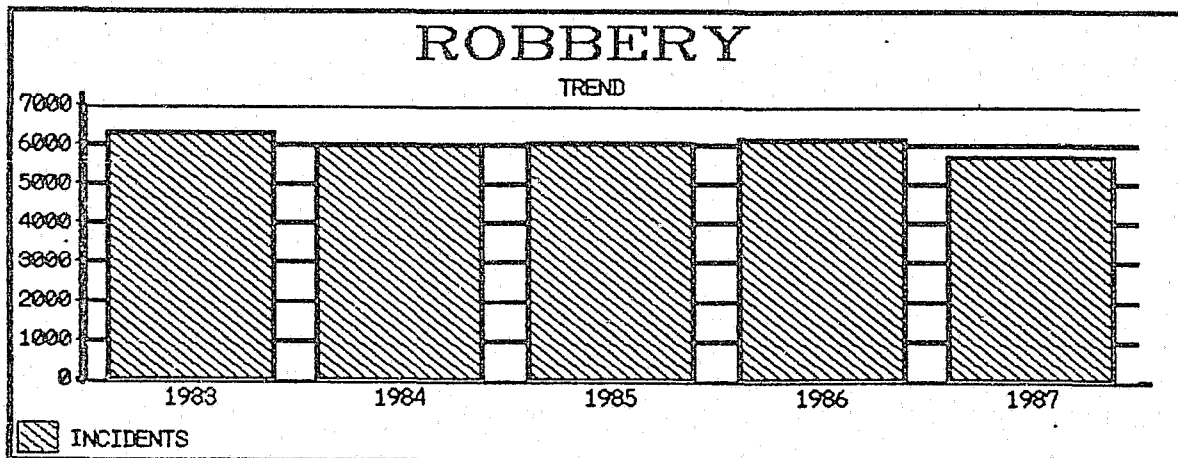
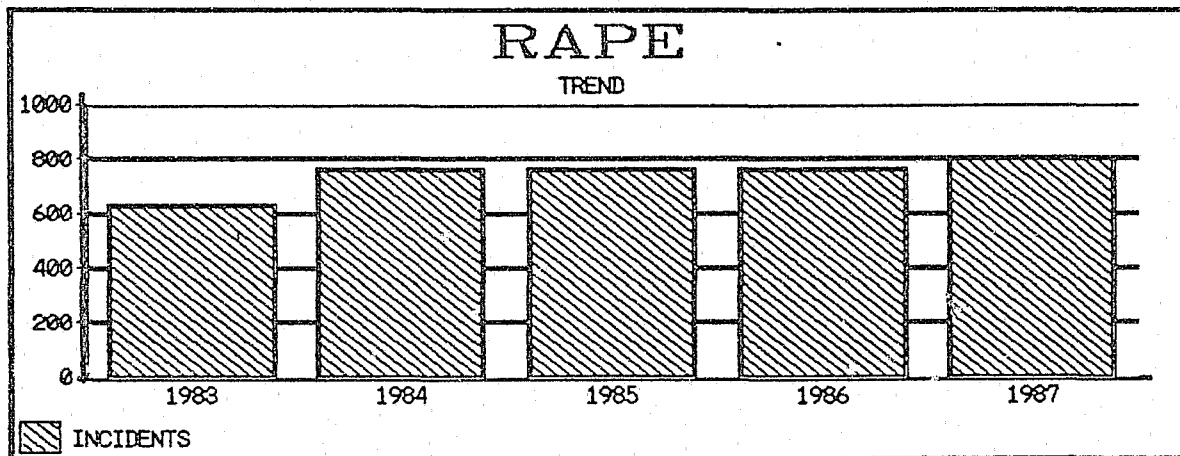
Forcible rape reported to law enforcement numbered 798 in 1987. Seventy-eight percent were rapes by force; the remainder were attempts to commit forcible rape. By Uniform Crime Reporting definition, the victims of forcible rape are always females, and in 1987, an estimated 48 of every 100,000 females in the state were reported rape victims.

Fifty-two percent of the forcible rapes reported were cleared in 1987, which is 2 percent higher than 1986 clearances.

### ROBBERY

The 1987 robbery total was 5,709 compared to the 6,128 robberies reported in 1986. This is a decrease of 6.8 percent and the lowest number of robberies in the five year reporting period. The rate of 177.8 robberies per 100,000 persons is 7.5 percent lower than 1986. These offenses accounted for a loss of \$2,534,569 which is an average of \$444 per incident.

Twenty-six percent of the robberies were committed with firearms, 14 percent with knives or other cutting instruments, 8 percent with other dangerous weapons, and 52 percent involved strong-arm tactics. Two out of three robberies occurred on streets and highways. Twenty-three percent of robberies were cleared.

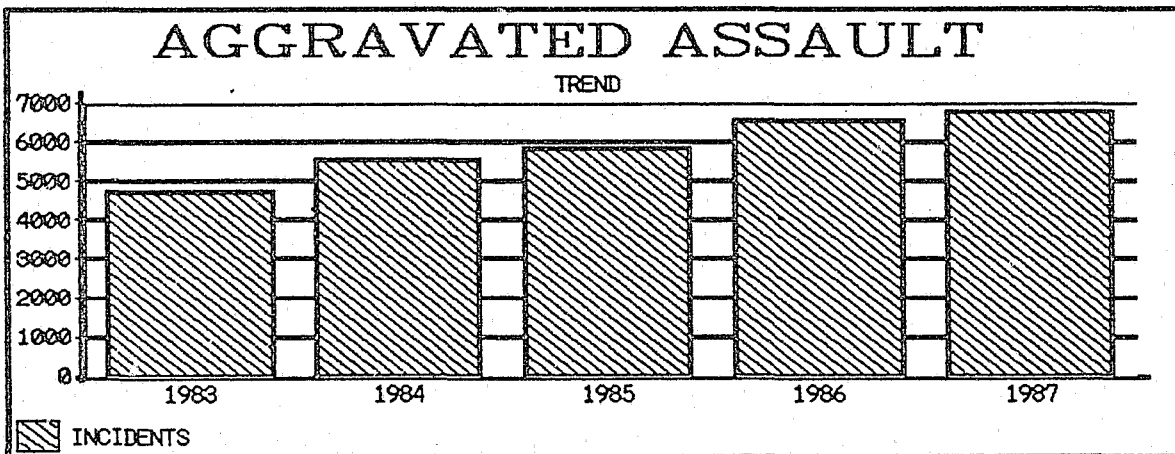


### AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Up 3.4 percent from 1986, the number of aggravated assaults totaled 6,768 last year. The rate for aggravated assault in the state of Connecticut in 1987 was 211 victims per 100,000 persons which is a 2.7 percent increase over 1986 when the rate was 205 victims per 100,000 persons.

Firearms were used in the commission of 9.8 percent of all aggravated assaults while knives or other cutting instruments were used in 19.7 percent of incidents. Personal weapons such as hands, fists and feet were used in 38.7 percent of the assaults and 31.8 percent were committed with some other weapon.

Two out of three aggravated assaults were cleared which was a 2.4 percent higher clearance rate than 1986.



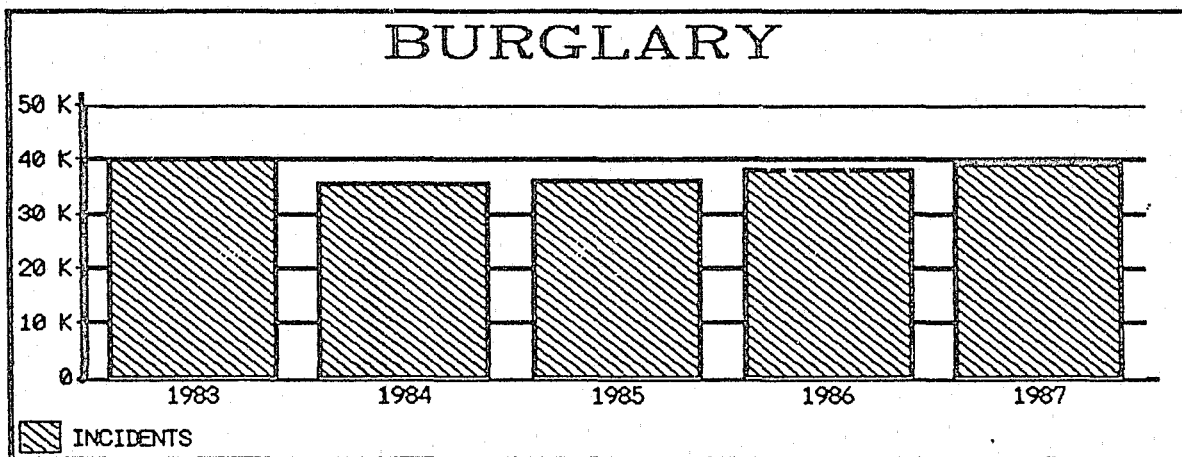
### PROPERTY CRIME

Property crimes occurring in 1987 increased in number by 4.3 percent in the state of Connecticut since 1986. Burglary increased 2.2 percent and larceny-theft by 2.9 percent. The most dramatic increase was in motor vehicle theft which increased by 18.8 percent.

## BURGLARY

The number of burglaries which occurred in 1987 was 39,028, a 2.2 percent increase over 1986. The rise translates into a rate of 1,215 burglaries per 100,000 persons in the state. Of this number, 12 percent were cleared by arrest or exceptional means.

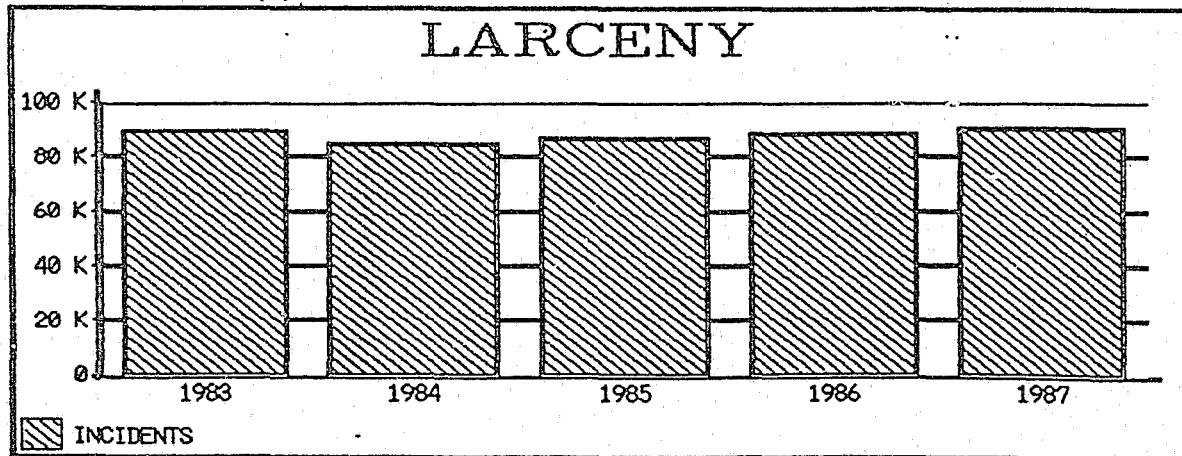
Forcible entry was used in 71.7 percent of the total burglaries, 16.9 percent involved unlawful entries and 11.4 percent were forcible entry attempts. The total amount of property loss due to burglaries was \$27,285,116. Of the total, 71.8 percent was stolen from residences. Forty-eight percent of residential burglaries occurred during the day, 33 percent at night and 19 percent were unknown.



## LARCENY-THEFT

The total number of larceny-theft incidents reported to law enforcement in 1987 was 90,531 which was 2.9 percent higher than the total for 1986. There were 2,819 larceny-theft incidents per 100,000 persons. Forty percent of the larceny-thefts resulted in losses of less than \$50. Twenty-five percent accounted for losses between \$50 and \$200. The remaining larcenies averaged \$897 per incident with a total state loss due to larceny-theft of \$31,663,035. An analysis of the larceny-theft category showed that 37.3 percent of these offenses were thefts of motor-vehicle parts, accessories and contents. Thefts from buildings and shoplifting each accounted for 17 percent of the total.

Twenty-three percent of reported larcenies were cleared in 1987.



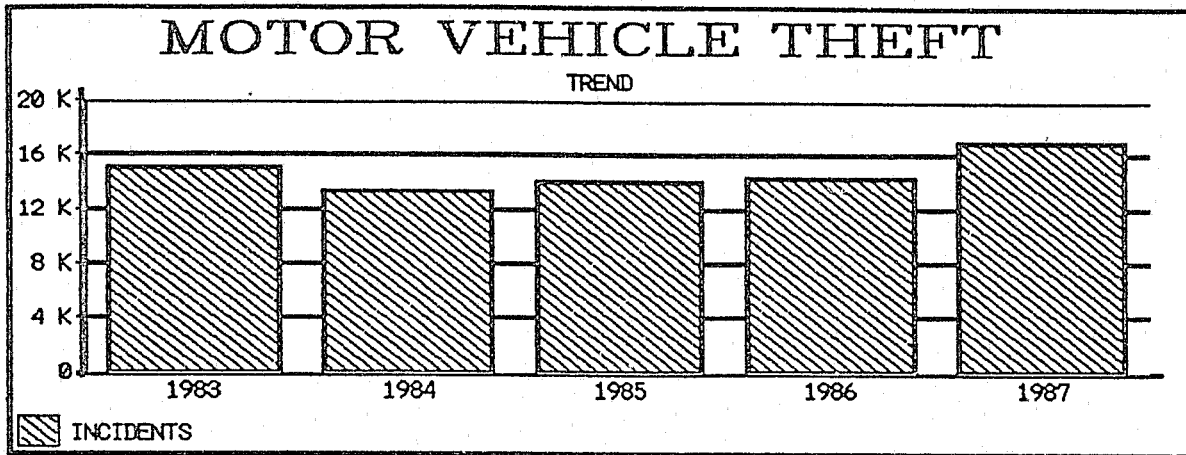


### MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

Motor vehicle theft increased by 18.8 percent from 1986 to 1987. This is the highest number of thefts in this five year reporting period.

Of the motor vehicles stolen, 87 percent were automobiles, 5 percent were trucks or buses, and 8 percent were other type vehicles.

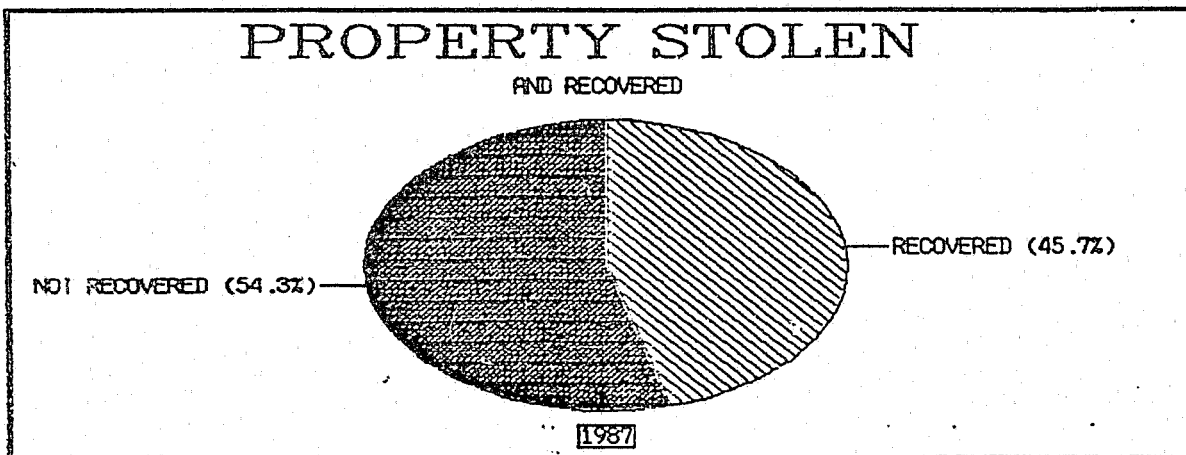
The actual number of thefts was 16,932 with a total value of approximately \$76 million. A total of 14,328 motor vehicles were recovered. The value of vehicles recovered was \$56.5 million. The clearance rate for motor vehicle theft was 12 percent.



### PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED

The total value of stolen property reported to law enforcement in the commission of an index crime in 1987 was \$137,590,828. Of this total, \$62,905,957 or 45.7 percent was recovered. Locally stolen motor vehicles accounted for the single largest category of stolen property (56.4 percent), followed by jewelry and precious metals at 9.1 percent, televisions, radios, cameras, etc. at 8.6 percent and currency at 6.6 percent.

Seventy-three percent of locally stolen motor vehicles were recovered, 4.4 percent of jewelry, 8.8 percent of televisions, radios, etc. and 5.1 percent of currency were also recovered.

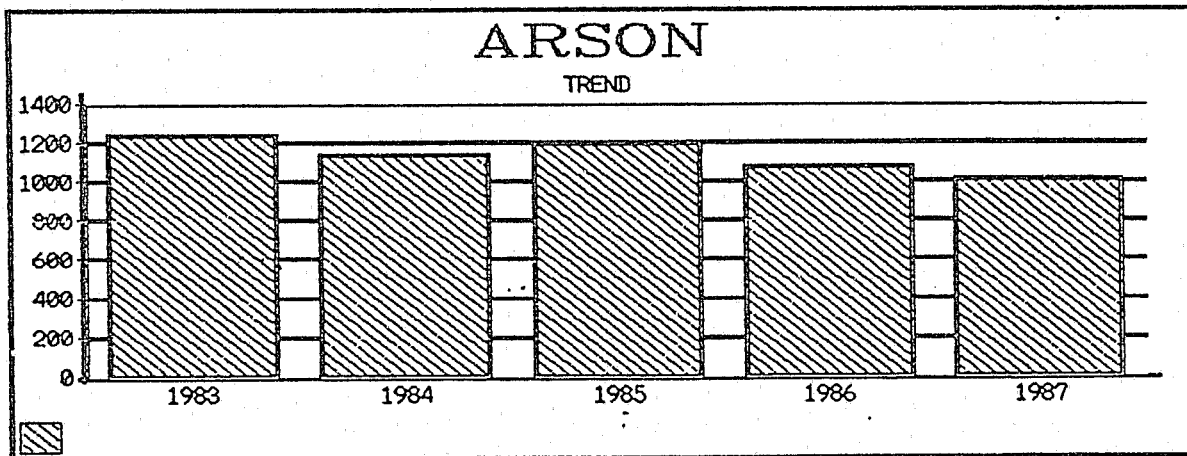


## ARSON

The number of fires determined to have been willfully or maliciously set and classified as arson in 1987 was 5.8 percent lower than 1986. This is the lowest number of arsons reported during the five year period beginning in 1983. The rates per 100,000 persons is 31.5 compared to the rate of 33.6 in 1986.

Data based on the reports submitted by law enforcement showed that in 1987, of the property targeted by arsonists, structures accounted for 56.2 percent, mobile property for 41 percent and other types of property 2.8 percent. Fifty-nine percent of the structural arsons involved residential property, and 95 percent of the mobile property involved motor vehicles. Averaging \$15,367 per incident, the reported monetary value of property damaged due to arson was \$15,490,346. Abandoned buildings accounted for 15.7 percent of all structures involved in arson.

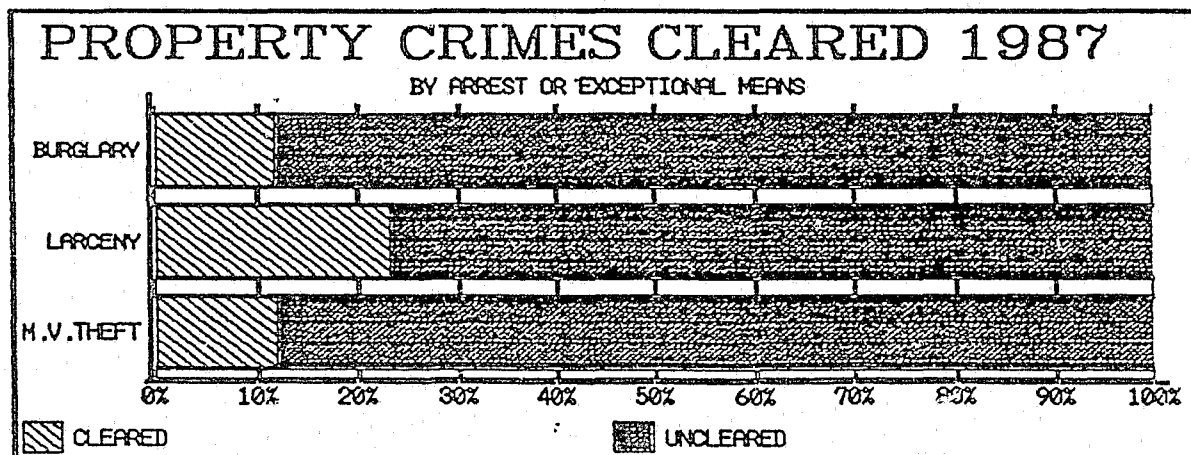
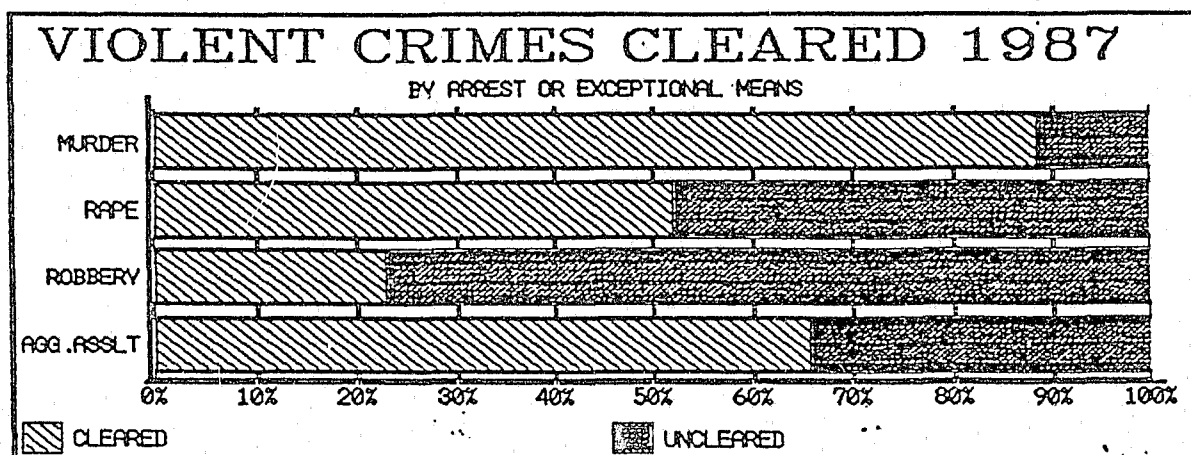
Twenty-five percent of structural arsons were cleared, 41.5 percent of those arsons cleared involved only persons under age 18. F.B.I. reports indicate that in the crime of arson there is a higher percentage of juvenile involvement than for any other index crime. The total clearances for all arsons in Connecticut in 1987 was 17.2 percent with 38.2 percent of the total cleared involving only persons under age 18.



### CLEARANCES AND ARRESTS

Of the total Crime Index offenses recorded by law enforcement agencies in Connecticut during 1987, 21.4 percent were cleared. For a criminal offense to be "cleared", either a person is arrested, charged, and turned over to the court for prosecution; or some element beyond police control precludes the physical arrest of the offender, resulting in the offense being cleared by "exceptional means".

The violent crime clearance rate was 47 percent, while for property crime it was 19 percent. Among the index crimes, the highest clearance rate (88.5 percent) was for murder and the lowest (12 percent) for both burglary and motor vehicle theft. Sixteen percent of the overall index offenses cleared by law enforcement involved only young people under the age of eighteen. Persons in this age group accounted for 9.3 percent of violent crime clearances and 17.9 percent of property crime.

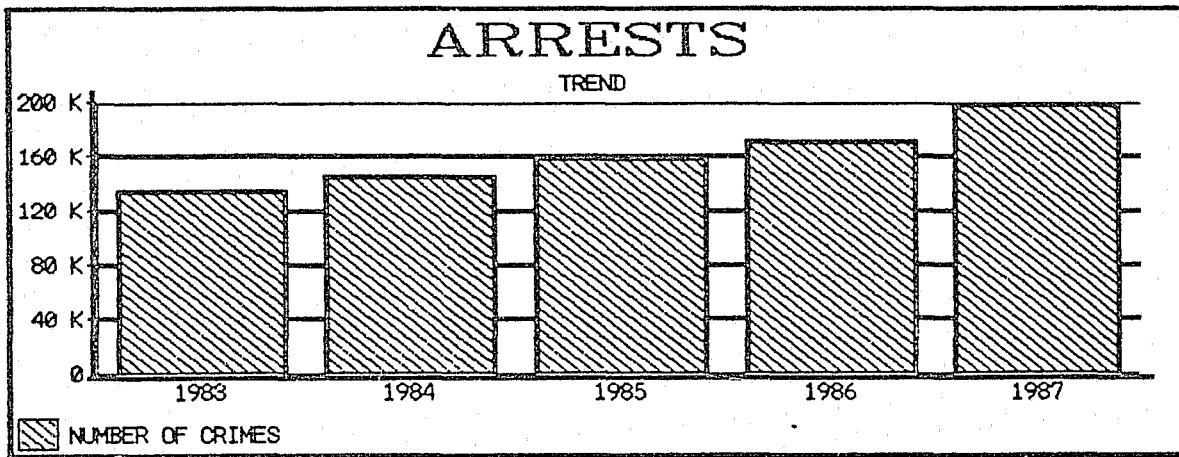


**ARRESTS**

During 1987, arrests for all offenses except traffic violations totaled 197,625. When the arrest volume was related to the total Connecticut population, the arrest rate was 6,155 arrests per 100,000 inhabitants.

Driving Under the Influence arrests increased by 2.8 percent since 1986 while arrests for Drug Abuse Violations increased by 33.4 percent.

Compared to the 1986 volume, the number of arrests for all offenses increased 15.8 percent in 1987. During 1987, adult arrests rose 18.1 percent while those of persons under 18 years of age were up 4.7 percent.



**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED OR ASSAULTED**

One sworn officer was killed in the line of duty by a felonious act in 1987. There were 1,225 other assaults on law enforcement officers, 579 of these assaults resulted in injury to the officers. Thirty-two percent of assaults on officers occurred in responding to "disturbance" calls while "attempting other arrests" resulted in 24.4 percent of assaults and 11.8 percent occurred during traffic stops.

Guns and knives were used in 1.3 percent of assaults and other dangerous weapons in 4.8 percent, while hands, fists, feet, etc., were the weapons listed for 93.9 percent of assaults.

The highest volume of assaults occurred between the hours of 6:00 PM and 2:00 AM (64.1 percent) with the greatest number occurring between 8:00 PM and 12:00 midnight (35.5 percent).

