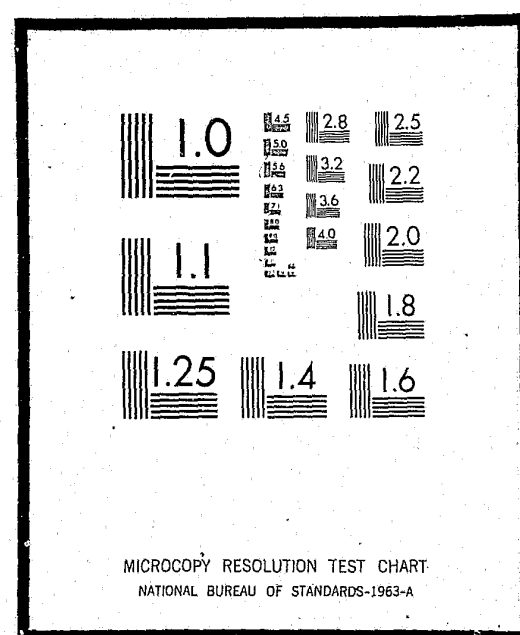


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CRIME IN RURAL OHIO

by

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Final Report

Prepared for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
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Contract with the Administration of Justice  
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Development.

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CRIME IN RURAL OHIO

Summary and Conclusions

The major findings of this research are noted after each objective of the study. Data sources for the study include 900 field interviews, 6 months of offense and offender records kept by sheriffs in 9 Ohio counties, questionnaires from members of 842 Farm Bureau Councils and the Uniform Crime Reports.

Objective 1: To determine how many and what types of crimes are being committed on farms and in rural areas of Ohio.

- Vandalism is the leading crime in rural Ohio (38 percent of all crimes).
- Mailboxes are the property most often involved in vandalism.
- Larceny-theft is the second leading crime in rural areas.
- 20% of rural thefts involve gasoline.
- Only 53% of thefts to rural people occur at home.
- 12% of thefts occurring to rural people happen at school.
- 2/3 of the victims of larceny-thefts are rural non-farm residents, 15% are full-time farmers and 19% are part-time farmers.

Objective 2: To determine who are committing the crimes in rural areas.

Of all persons apprehended in Ohio rural areas by sheriff departments:

- 60 percent were urban residents.
- 87 percent were males.
- 93 percent were white.
- 74 percent were under 30 years of age.
- 16 year olds were the most often arrested age group.
- 27 percent were students.
- 15 percent were unemployed.
- 54 percent were apprehended in a group.
- 30 percent were intoxicated at the time of arrest.
- 31 percent had known records.

Objective 3: To determine what accounts for the increase in crime rates in rural Ohio.

- The crime rate increased almost threefold from 1963 through 1973.
- The most prominent reasons for the increase were attributed to: laxity of courts; lack of law enforcement; a breakdown in family life; and population growth.

Objective 4: To determine if there is a difference between crimes reported and crimes committed.

- Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of crime occurring to rural people are reported to law enforcement officials.
- Crimes not reported tend to be less serious than crimes reported.
- People do not report crimes because they feel: it is no use, red tape, difficult to enforce, and lack of legal evidence.

Objective 5: To determine if crimes against property are increasing in rural areas.

- Property is the focal point of most rural crime.
- Property crimes in rural Ohio have increased 277 percent from 1963 through 1973.

Objective 6: To determine what people's attitudes are toward law enforcement agencies.

- 80 percent of rural people believe their law enforcement agencies are adequate to excellent.
- 59 percent said they would support a tax levy for improved police protection.

Objective 7: To determine if there are major variations in crime rates and behavior between different rural areas or regions of Ohio.

Objective 8: To determine if there is a pattern that has developed in the committing of crimes in rural areas (time, location, seasonal variations, and types of community).

- Rural crime is most likely to occur: a) in a nonfarm residential area, b) in sight of other residents, and c) on a well-travelled road.

- There is some variation of burglaries by time of day but 50 percent are committed 50 night with 50 percent committed during the day.
- Less burglaries were committed in September (13 percent of the total) than during any other month during the six month reporting period.
- There is no detectable consistent relationship between day of the week and crimes committed.
- Type of rural crime varies by type of region in Ohio: the Appalachian Region is highest in burglary and attempted burglary while the Cornbelt Region is high in larceny-theft and vandalism. The Industrial Northeast section of the state has the lowest rates of the three regions for larceny-theft and for burglary and attempted burglary.

#### General Conclusions

Although rural crime rates are higher than expected, they tend to be minor crimes. Rural people generally feel safe and secure at home and in their community. Since necessity in the past has not forced rural people to take precautionary and preventive crime measures, few are taken. Perhaps now is the time to turn the corner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is to acknowledge the competent and friendly assistance rendered by personnel of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation: Jack Hill, Bob Bash, Pat Ridenour, and Kurt Dunham; consultants Drs. Sy Dinitz and Jim Finley; graduate students Mike Barber, Kaye Bartlett, George Kreps, and Shu-O Yang; and secretaries Barbara Grindstaff, Judy Houser, Rita Martin, and Kristy Ansel.

## PREFACE

An extensive search of the literature reveals this is the first comprehensive rural crime study conducted in the United States. The initial results of the study are now being translated into operational programs by Farm Bureau personnel. This research activity provided Farm Bureau a "fix" upon the problem. They now know where to spend their efforts to aid rural people with their crime problems. The responsiveness of Farm Bureau personnel to the needs of rural people is noteworthy in itself. But their systematic approach of pinpointing the nature and scope of the problem and developing responsive programs is meritorious. We are also grateful to the personnel of the Administration of Justice Division for recognizing the potential of this program and providing the major financial support to make it possible.

G. Howard Phillips

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## CRIME IN RURAL OHIO

### Background

This report is the second and final report of a yearlong rural crime study. Report 1 provided the results of surveying Ohio's 1400 Farm Bureau Councils. This report summarizes the results of 889 randomly selected field interviews and 6 months of reports kept daily by 9 Ohio sheriffs.

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation initiated this study as a response to an increased concern among their members over the rising crime rate. Not only were they concerned over the increased rate but they were also interested in finding out who are committing the crimes.

### Introduction

Crime is generally defined as a violation of criminal law; not all laws are criminal laws. Rural crime rates have been consistently lower in the past than urban rates (Rogers, p. 385; Reckless, p. 130; Bertrand, p. 258; Korn and McCorkle, p. 20; and Neumeyer, p. 44). The Uniform Crime Reports: 1973 issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation show rural crimes committed by rural persons to be considerably less than by urban persons for the United States. Table 18 notes the difference as expressed by an index of crime.

Several explanations are offered by students of rural crime why rates are lower. These include: (1) less opportunity for certain kinds of crime (Bertrand, p. 258); (2) less accurate records kept of crimes committed by rural law enforcement agencies (Rogers, p. 385; Korn and McCorkle, p. 20); and (3) fewer persons apprehended for

crimes committed (Rogers, p. 385). Most of these explanations are historical and do not reflect the changes in transportation and communication of modern rural communities nor do they reflect the improvements in methods of rural law enforcement agencies. These explanations generally have been more theoretical than proven fact.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In view of what little is known about rural crime and the possibility of significant changes taking place in rural Ohio, the following objectives were researched to provide new information and insights to deal with the expanding problem.

1. To determine how many and what types of crimes are being committed on farms and in rural areas of Ohio.
2. To determine who are committing the crimes in rural areas.
3. To determine what accounts for the increase in crime rates in rural Ohio.
4. To determine if there is a difference between crimes reported and crimes committed.
5. To determine if crimes against property are increasing in rural areas.
6. To determine what people's attitudes are toward law enforcement agencies.
7. To determine if there are major variations in crime rates and behavior between different rural areas or regions of Ohio.
8. To determine if there is a pattern that has developed in the committing of crimes in rural areas (time, location, seasonal variations, and types of community).

## DATA SOURCES

### Introduction to Data Sources

Data utilized in this report were from four sources: 1) Information collected from members of 842 Farm Bureau Councils located in 84 of Ohio's 88 counties; 2) Data collected during August and September, 1974, from 889 field interviews (victimization study); 3) Six months of daily reports of offenses and offenders provided by the Sheriffs of Ashland, Athens, Clark, Fayette, Hocking, Madison, Medina, Perry and Wayne counties; 4) And data from published Uniform Crime Reports.

### Farm Bureau Council Study

The first phase of this study consisted of a survey of members of Ohio Farm Bureau's 1,400 councils. Members were asked to complete a group questionnaire concerning their perceptions and attitudes toward rural crime and problems associated with the rising crime rate. The questionnaire was provided the members as their regular monthly discussion guide and they were instructed to complete one questionnaire for each group and return to the Ohio Farm Bureau Office in the usual manner. The findings are based upon the responses of members of 842 councils.

### Victimization Study

Nine counties were selected on a stratified nonrandom basis. Three counties were selected in each three sub-state areas designated as Appalachia, Cornbelt and Northeast Industrial. It was desired that the counties selected in each area were adjacent to each other so that



patterns extending across county lines might be explained. Figure 1 shows the counties selected and the sub-state areas of which they are representative in this study. The counties selected were: Appalachia - Athens, Hocking and Perry; Cornbelt - Clark, Fayette and Madison; Industrial - Ashland, Medina and Wayne. A comparison of population profiles for the rural population of the nine sample counties with the U.S. Bureau of the Census data for the state revealed little difference. It was thus concluded that the nine selected counties are representative of the rural population of Ohio (see Table 35 in the Appendix).

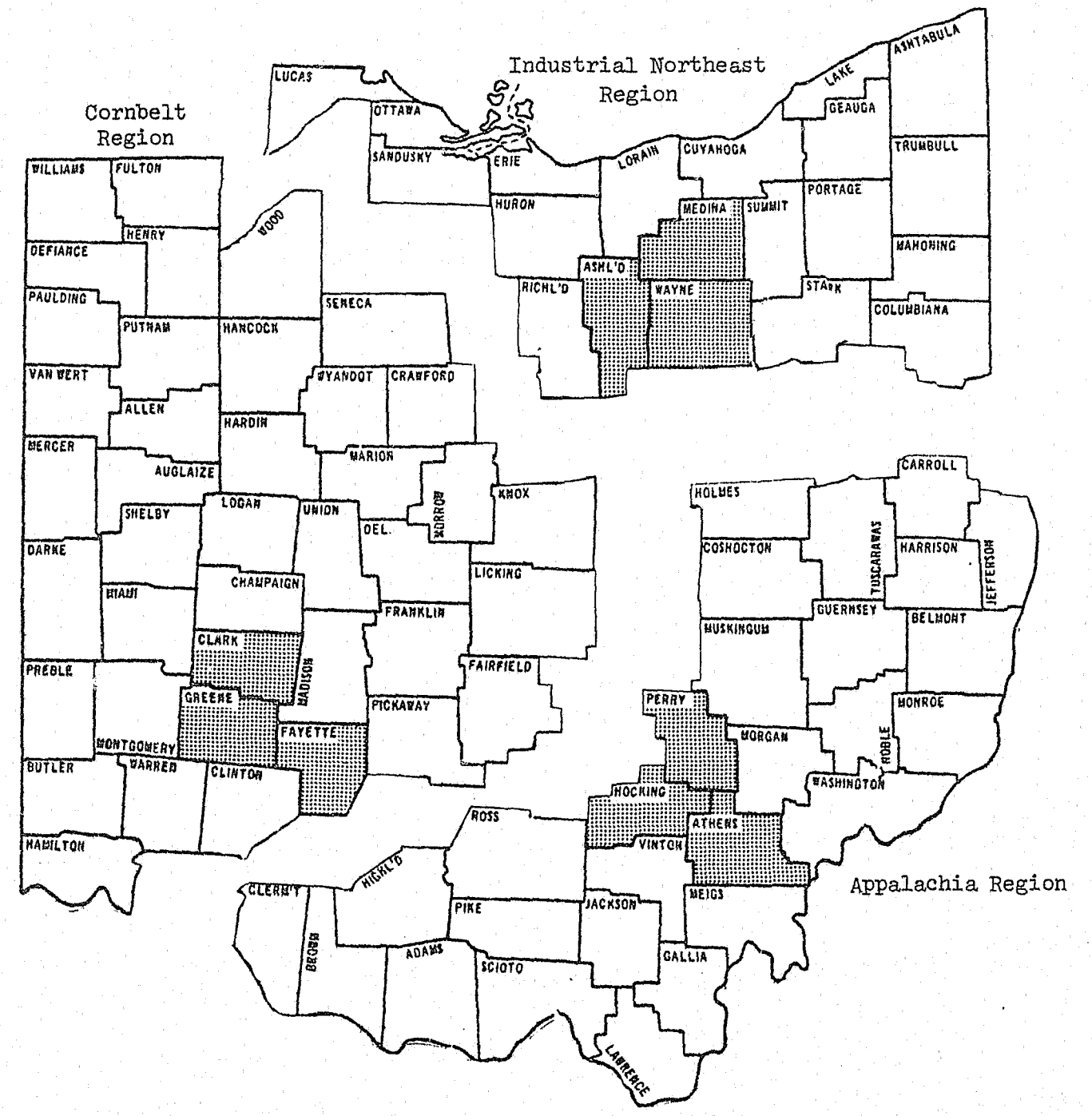
The sample population for the victimization schedule was chosen in the following manner. First, ten townships were randomly drawn from all the townships in each of the nine counties previously selected. An intersection of two roads was arbitrarily picked from a map and this became the starting point for a continuous type sample. The interviewers were assigned the direction to proceed and the households to be selected for the interview. Ten families were selected by this method in each sample township. In addition, three additional townships were selected in Clark, two in Wayne and one in Medina to pick up additional interviews. A total of 889 questionnaires were completed by a personal interview or a drop off questionnaire.

#### Sheriffs' Reports

Sheriffs in the 9 counties previously designated kept daily records of all offenders apprehended in the rural portion of their counties as well as offenses reported for the period June 1, 1974 through

Figure 1

Three Geographical Regions of Ohio and Study Counties



■ Study Counties

November 30, 1974. The report form was developed for this study and all sheriffs utilized the same instruments.

#### Uniform Crime Reports

Data utilized in this study is appropriately identified from the relevant Uniform Crime Reports published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

### MAJOR CRIMES IN RURAL OHIO

#### Abstract of Findings

- Vandalism is the leading crime in rural Ohio.
- Vandalism constitutes 38% of all crimes committed in rural areas.
- Mailboxes are the property most often affected by vandalism (a Federal offense).
- Larceny-theft is the second leading crime in rural areas.
- 20% of rural thefts involve gasoline.
- Only 53% of thefts to rural people occur at home.
- 12% of thefts occurring to rural people happen at school.
- 2/3 of the victims of larceny-thefts are rural non-farm residents, 15% are full-time farmers and 19% are part-time farmers.

#### Vandalism

By any definition, vandalism is the leading crime in rural Ohio. Table 1 reveals that 38 percent of all crimes reported in the victimization study were committed by vandals. These acts of vandalism most often involved mailboxes, but a host of other infractions marred, destroyed or defaced cars, windows, lawns, shrubs, and a multitude

Table 1

Number and Percent of Crimes Occurring in Rural Areas of Ohio as Reported by Rural Residents Living Outside of Incorporated Places and the Percentage of These Crimes Reported to Law Enforcement Agencies for the Period of August, 1973 through July, 1974.

Crime	Number	Percent	Percent Reported to a Law Enforcement Agency
1. Vandalism	194,431	38	49
2. Larceny	69,500	13	48
3. Auto Offenses	53,244	10	62
4. Threat	38,616	8	47
5. Family Offenses	30,036	6	33
6. Burglary	24,282	5	63
7. Fraud	20,154	4	15
8. Consumer Fraud	14,307	3	38
9. Aggravated Assault	10,602	2	40
10. Other Sex Offenses	10,366	2	27
11. Other Assaults	7,389	1	27
12. All Other Offenses*	29,535	8	25
TOTAL	511,998	100	

\*All other offenses include auto theft, counterfeiting, homicide, forgery, rape, soliciting a bribe, robbery, kidnapping and other miscellaneous offenses.

Source: Victimization study.

of other kinds of property. These vandalizing acts do not include public property in rural areas such as churches, schools, business places and cemeteries. The addition of these frequently vandalized public places would markedly increase the percent of all crimes that are destructive in nature.

Table 2 shows that vandalism is second to larceny-thefts. This table is based upon offenses reported to the sheriff. The victimization study revealed that many acts of vandalism are not reported to the sheriff. Vandalism reported in Table 2 also includes acts of vandalism to public property whereas Table 1 does not.

Viewing vandalism from a regional perspective, counties in the Cornbelt Region reported substantially more acts of vandalism to the sheriffs than either of the other two regions. The Appalachia Region reported the lowest incidence (see Table 4 in the Appendix).

#### Larceny-Theft

It is obvious that the rising rate of different forms of thievery suggests a lower regard for the right of other people to own property. It also suggests less social stigma attached to an act of theft.

As may be viewed in Table 1, larceny constitutes the second largest category of crime in rural Ohio. If the different types of theft were added together, that is larceny, burglary, fraud, consumer fraud, robbery, and auto theft, it would approach vandalism in scope. Larceny-thefts are by far the largest number of crimes reported to the sheriffs as may be noted in Table 2.

Gasoline is the item most often stolen in rural areas. Twenty percent of all thefts involve this product (see Table 5 in the Appendix).

TABLE 2  
Offenses Occurring in Rural Areas as Reported by Nine  
Ohio Sheriffs From June Through November 1974

Offenses	6 Months Number	12 Months* Number	Percent
Larceny-Theft	2,142	4,284	29
Vandalism	1,417	2,834	19
Burglary and Attempts	1,025	2,050	14
Family Offenses	390	780	5
Disorderly Conduct	302	604	4
Driving Under the Influence	200	400	3
All Other Assaults	140	280	2
All Other Offenses	1,820	3,640	24
TOTAL	7,436	14,872	100

Source: Offense forms.

\* Estimated by doubling 6 months data

Farmers in particular and many rural residents in general maintain gasoline storage facilities which are most frequently not locked.

Slightly more than half (53%) of larceny-theft incidents occur to rural residents at home. The other 47 percent happen away from home with 12 percent at school (see Table 6 in the Appendix). Two-thirds of the victims of larceny-thefts are rural non-farm residents (see Table 7 in the Appendix).

A substantially higher incidence of larceny-theft is reported to sheriffs in the Cornbelt Region than the other parts of the state. Residents of the Appalachia Region proclaim the next higher number while the Industrial Northeast Region reports the lowest number of incidents (see Table 4 and 8 in the Appendix).

Items taken or destroyed are shown in Table 3. Automotive related items leads the list at 21 percent.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL OFFENDERS

##### Abstract of Findings

Of all persons apprehended in Ohio rural areas by Sheriff Departments:

-- 60 percent were urban residents

-- 87 percent were males

-- 93 percent were white

-- 74 percent were under 30 years of age

-- 16 year olds represent the age group with the most arrests

-- 27 percent were students

-- 15 percent were unemployed

-- 54 percent were apprehended in a group

TABLE 3

Types of Items Taken or Destroyed in Crimes Committed  
in Ohio's Rural Areas From June Through November 1974

Item	6 Months Number	12 Months* Number	Percent
Automotive Cars, trucks, parts, trailer, etc.	904	1,808	21
Property, Tool and Equipment Construction, lawn and garden business, signs, office, etc.	679	1,358	16
Residence and Parts	443	886	10
Recreational Vehicles, Equip- ment, Building, etc.	345	690	8
Money, Bad Checks, etc.	341	682	8
T.V., Radio, Stereo, etc.	284	568	7
Mailboxes	276	552	7
Resident Related Appliances, furniture, porch and yard items, miscellaneous	258	516	6
Clothes, Jewelry, Guns	248	496	6
Animals Beef, dairy, sheep, dogs, etc.	144	288	3
Food and Drink Items	136	272	3
Schools, Churches, Cemeteries, Public Buildings	54	108	1
All Other	154	308	4
TOTAL	4,266	8,532	100

Source: Offense forms.

\* Estimated by doubling 6 months data



-- 30 percent were intoxicated at the time of arrest

-- 31 percent had known records

#### Discussion of Findings

One of the major objectives of this study was to determine who are committing crimes in Ohio's rural areas. The source of data for this report was the offender reports kept daily by nine Ohio sheriffs. Data utilized were for a six-month period--June 1 through November 30, 1974.

It should be noted that there is always the possibility that persons apprehended by personnel of the sheriff's office are not necessarily representative of all persons committing crimes. Therefore, this report reveals the characteristics of those persons who are apprehended for crimes in rural areas, whether or not, they are representative of most criminals.

Inasmuch as this report focuses upon Ohio's rural areas, perhaps it would be useful to examine the residential location of persons apprehended in rural areas for crimes. Sixty percent of all persons apprehended in rural areas by the nine sheriffs were urban residents (see Table 9 in the Appendix). This large percent would suggest that the mobility of the urban resident is related to rural crime. This benchmark study will permit future researchers to determine the accuracy of this observation. Whatever solutions are proposed for rural areas, this residential location factor should be taken into account.

A second characteristic of the rural offender is that most are male. Eighty-seven percent of those apprehended offenders were males (see Table 10 in the Appendix). This finding closely compares to

the FBI Uniform Crime Reports of 1973 which stated that 89 percent of persons apprehended in the rural areas of the United States were male. Most of those arrested were whites (93 percent).

The age of those arrested reveals 74 percent are under 30 (see Table 11 in the Appendix). This indicates youth are committing most of the crimes in rural areas. This compares to 65 percent for the rural areas of the United States (see Figure 2). Offenders in Ohio's rural areas are slightly younger than in the U.S. as a whole. Figure 3 portrays the percentage of rural population by age groups as compared to rural offenders. The disproportionate percent of teenagers is obvious in this offender group. Figure 4 reveals the 16 year olds as the age group most often to be apprehended. This is in contrast to the 18 year olds who have been apprehended most often in the U.S. rural areas. Perhaps the proximity of rural Ohio youth to urban areas would influence this factor in that 60 percent of those arrested are urban residents. It is also noteworthy that 70 percent of those apprehended were residents of the reporting county (see Table 12 in the Appendix).

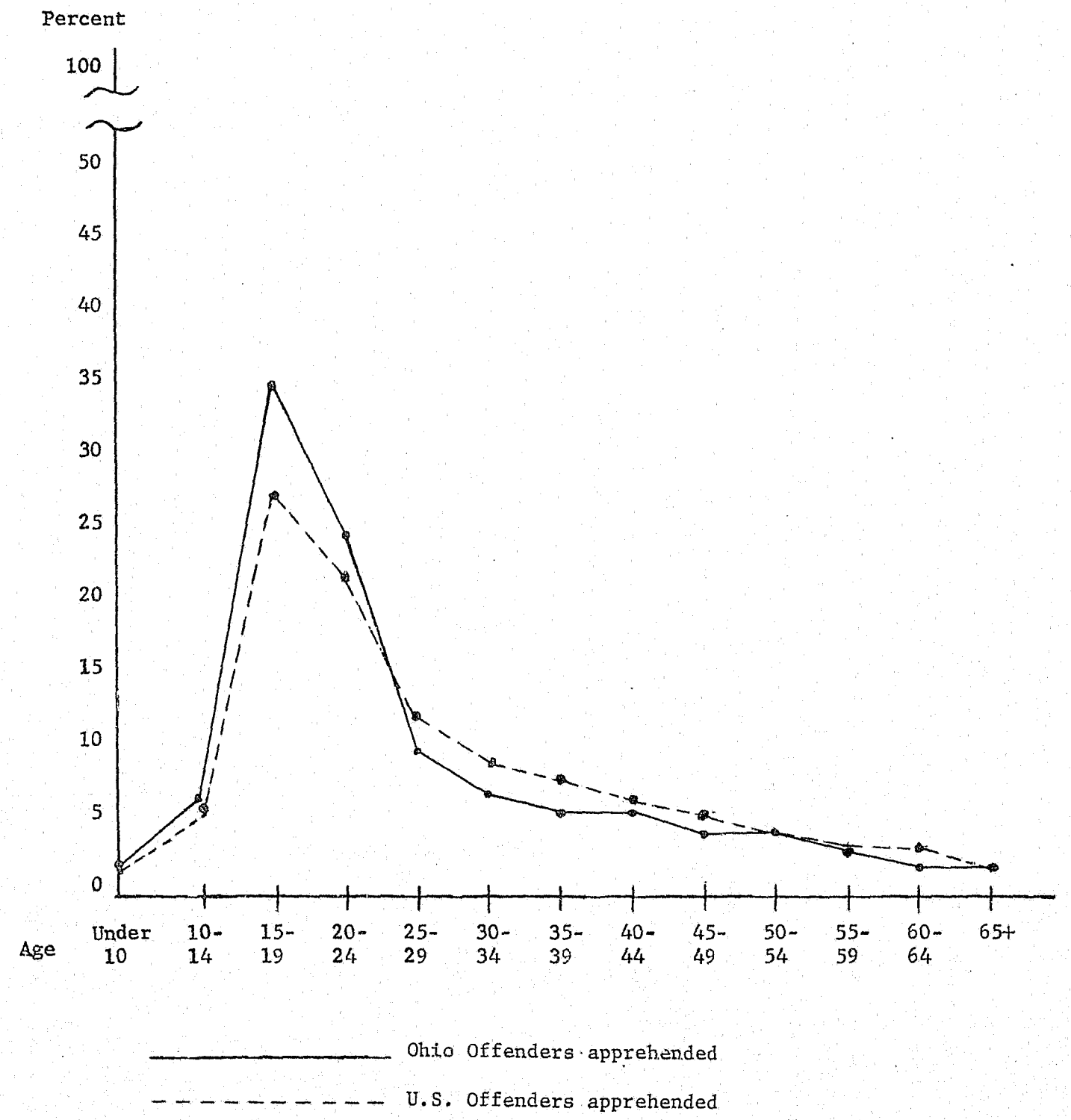
The marital status of those apprehended reveals almost two-thirds are single and one-third married (see Table 13 in the Appendix). Four percent noted they were divorced.

The employment status of persons arrested in rural areas revealed more than a fourth (27 percent) were classified as students. About one in six was unemployed. Less than two percent were classified as farmers or farmhands (see Table 14 in the Appendix).

More than half (54 percent) of the offenders were apprehended in a group of two or more persons (see Table 15 in the Appendix).

Figure 2

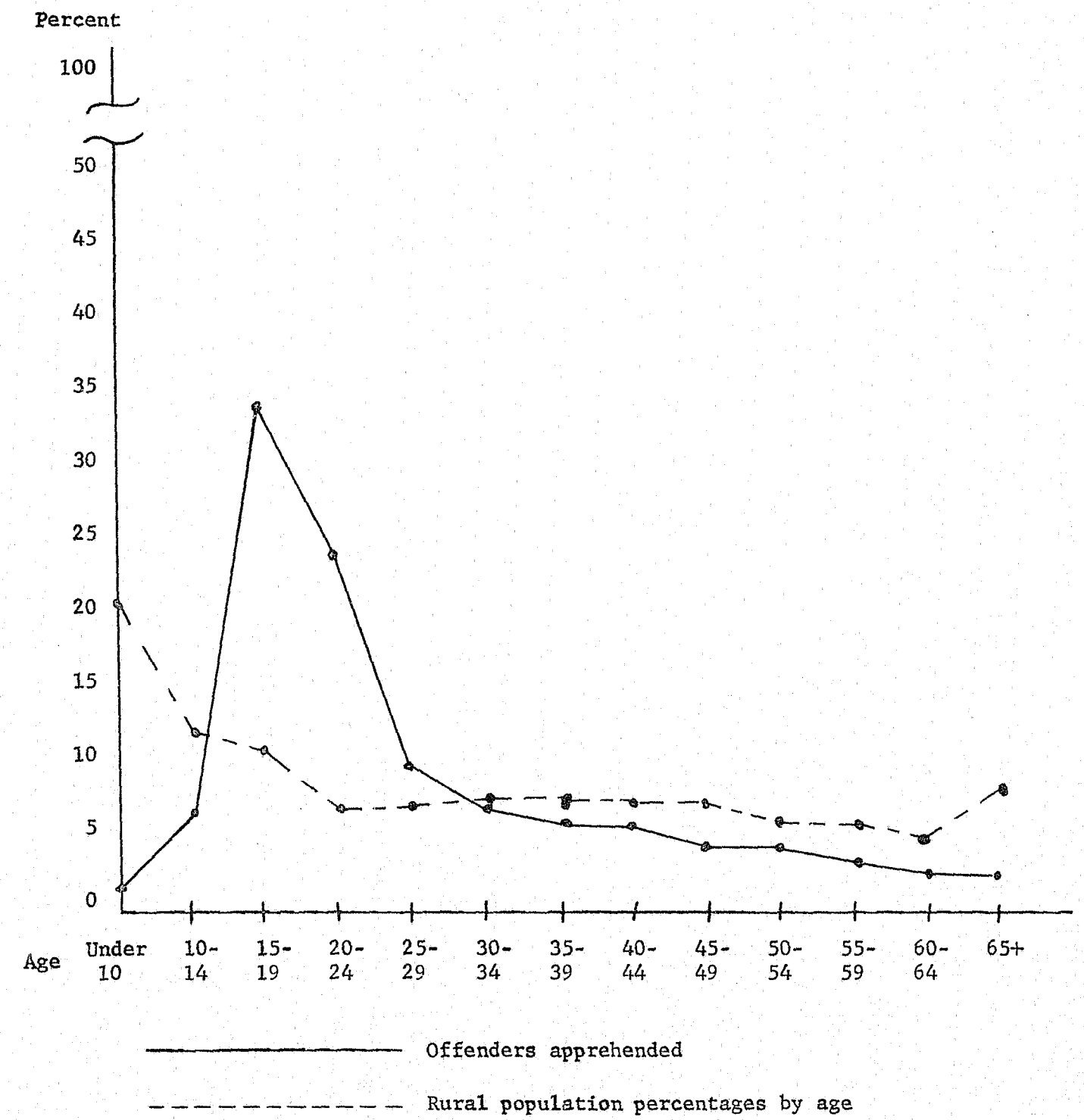
Percent of Offenders by Age Apprehended by Ohio Sheriffs in Rural Areas from June through November, 1974 and Rural Offenders in the United States, 1973.



Sources: Offender Reports and Crime in the United States-1973, Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Table 47, pp. 154-155.

Figure 3

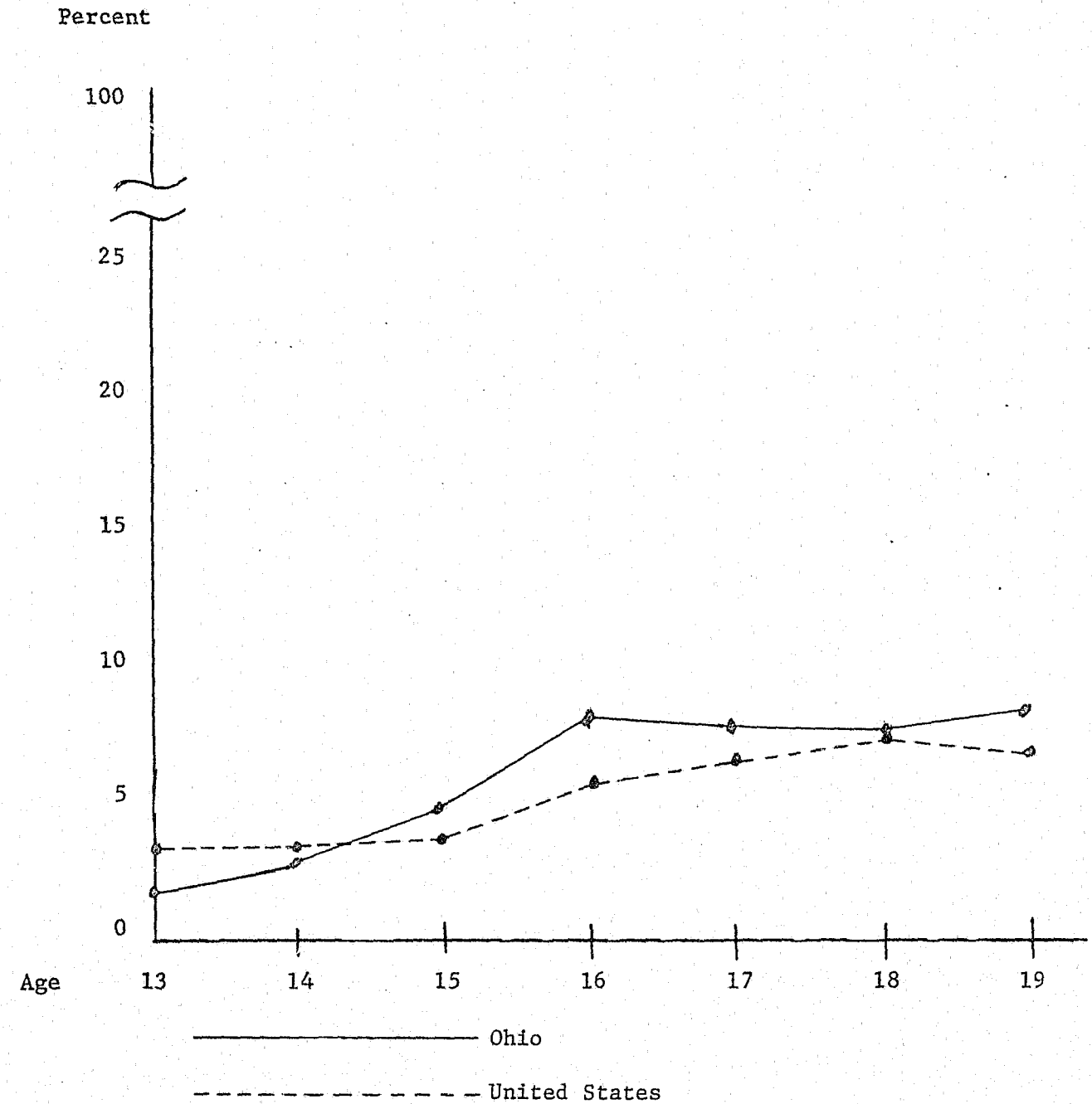
Percent of Offenders by Age Apprehended by Ohio Sheriffs in Rural Areas from June through November, 1974, and the 1970 Ohio Rural Population by Age.



Source: Offender Reports and U.S. Census of Population--1970-PC (1)-C37 Ohio.

Figure 4

Percent Distribution of Teenage Offenders Apprehended by Ohio Sheriffs in Rural Areas from June through November, 1974 and Percent Distribution of Teenagers Arrested in Rural Areas of the United States, 1973.



Source: Offender Reports and U.S. Census of Population--1970-PC (1)-C37 Ohio.

These findings indicate that youth are more likely to commit crimes in rural areas as a group than as individuals.

Thirty percent of those apprehended were intoxicated at the time of their arrest (see Table 16 in the Appendix). Thirty-one percent of the offenders had known records to members of the sheriff's force (see Table 17 in the Appendix). This high percentage suggests many of the offenders are repeaters.

#### UNREPORTED RURAL CRIMES

##### Abstract of Findings

- Less than one-half of crimes occurring to rural people are reported to law enforcement officials.
- Crimes not reported tend to be less serious than crimes reported.
- People do not report crimes because they feel it is: no use, red tape, difficult to enforce, and lack of legal evidence.

##### Discussion of Findings

Logic would suggest rural people would report most crimes but practice suggests otherwise. Table 1 indicates that only auto offenses and burglary have more than one-half of the offenses reported. All other offenses are reported less than fifty percent of the time. Only 15 percent of fraud cases are reported. Information was also sought from the Farm Bureau council members relative to this issue. Members of 391 councils (46 percent) said they were aware of unreported crimes. Both the victimization and the Farm Bureau Council studies indicate similar reasons why crimes are not reported. Forty-three percent of the reporting councils said "it was no use." Other descrip-

tive phrases included in this category were: "difficult to enforce," "lack of enforcement," "slow follow-up," "too much leniency in the courts," "red tape," "lack of legal evidence," and "would not do any good." Twenty-three percent suggested "unwillingness to get involved" as the next most important reason. This response implied a number of things: didn't want to get someone they knew in trouble; the value of the items did not justify the time required to follow up; and neglected to follow through. Thirteen percent noted a "fear of reprisal" as the main reason. Generally, this was a fear of reprisal against their property more than physical harm.

Perhaps this is the most significant finding in the study. First, unreported rural crimes causes the crime problem to be two to three times larger than is currently known to law enforcement officials. However, it should be noted that the crimes not reported tend to be less serious crimes than those reported. Secondly, people do not see the need to report crimes if they do not see how it can be solved or if the effort required exceeds the value of the infraction.

#### INCREASING CRIME RATE

##### Abstract of Findings

- The rural crime rate increased almost threefold from 1963 through 1973.
- The most prominent reasons for the increase were attributed to: laxity of courts; lack of law enforcement; a breakdown in family life; and population growth.

### Discussion of Findings

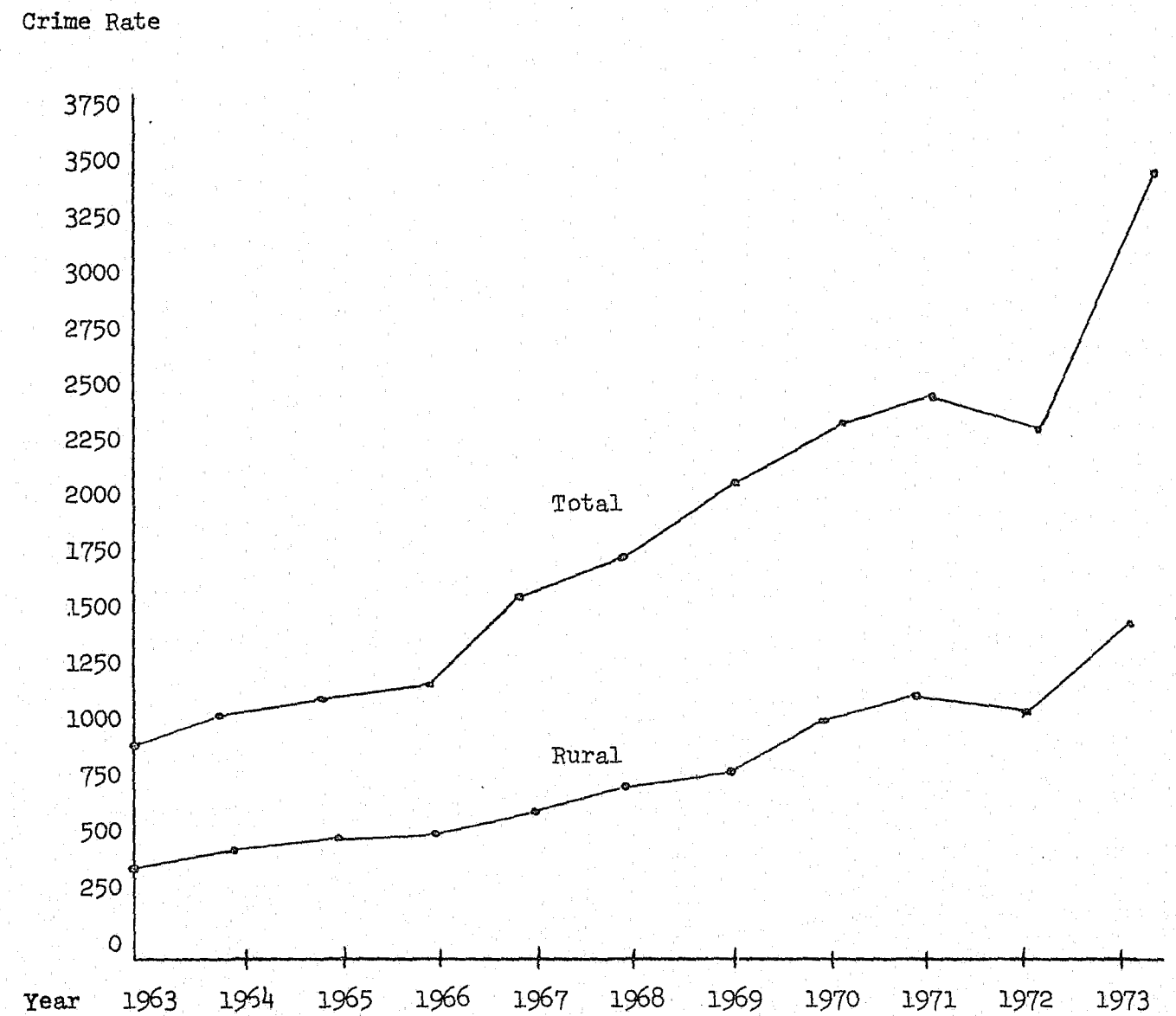
An objective of this research was to determine what accounts for the increase in crime rates in Ohio's rural areas. The rising crime rates, as noted by the Uniform Crime Reports, for an eleven year period may be seen in Figure 5 (see Table 18 in the Appendix). The rural crime rate increased almost 3 times during this 11 year period. A survey of council members of the Ohio Farm Bureau revealed that laxity of courts and lack of law enforcement was the reason most often cited as causing the rising crime rate (see Table 19 in the Appendix). They see a breakdown of family life and population growth as the second and third most important causes. Appalachian residents generally felt stronger about the first two reasons with the Cornbelt respondents close behind. Northeast council members were more likely than the members from other Ohio regions to suggest population increase as a reason. Members of 138 councils wrote in additional comments on their questionnaire concerning why they think crime rates are going up (see Table 20 in the Appendix). Of the councils recording comments, 25 percent believe the legal system is too lenient. Ten percent feel youth do not have sufficient jobs to keep them occupied and 7 percent feel there is inadequate policing. Other major areas of comments included: urban people moving to rural areas; working mothers; and easy to fence stolen items.

The increasing crime rate appears to be multi-causal. It will likely require a multi-faceted response to start a noticeable reduction in the incidence of rural crime.



Figure 5

Total Crime Rate and Rural Crime Rate  
for Ohio from 1963 through 1973.



Source: "Index of Crime by State," Uniform Crime Reports, 1963-1973.

## CRIME AGAINST PROPERTY

### Abstract of Findings

- Property is the focal point of most crime.
- Property crimes have increased 277 percent from 1963 through 1973.

### Discussion of Findings

The top three crimes reported in both Tables 1 and 2 are property oriented. These three crimes alone represent more than 60 percent of rural crime. This research study represents only one point in time and therefore cannot show a trend in property crimes. However, it does point out that property is by far the focal point of most crimes.

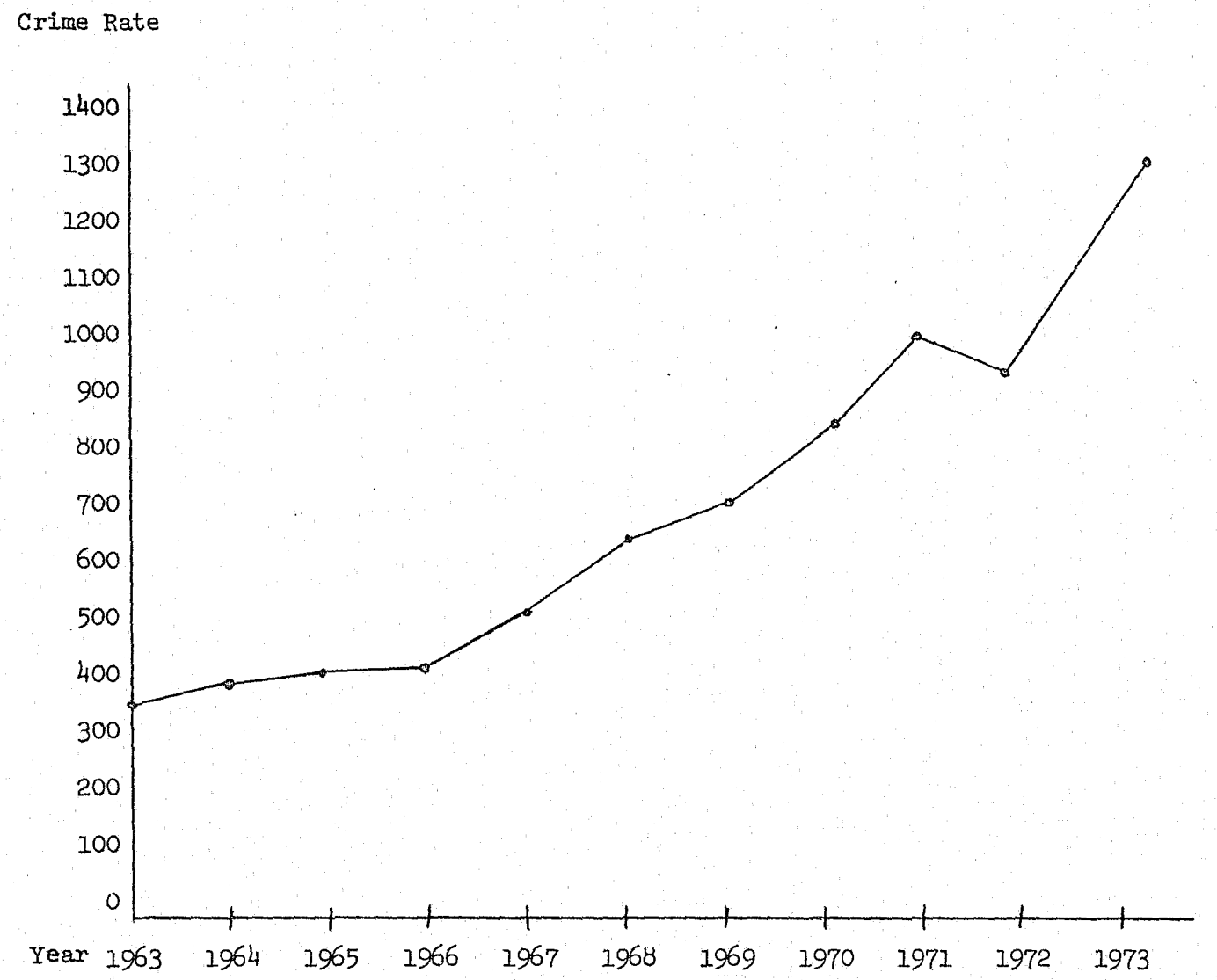
Figure 6 notes the trend in rural property crimes in Ohio as reported by the FBI. Crimes against property have increased more than 277 percent between 1963 and 1973 (see Table 18 in the Appendix). This large increase would suggest a growing disregard for the rights of persons to own and maintain property unmolested by others.

## ATTITUDES TOWARD LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

### Abstract of Findings

- 80 percent of rural people believe their law enforcement agencies are adequate to excellent.
- 59 percent said they would support a tax levy for improved police protection.

Figure 6  
Rural Property Crime Rate for Ohio 1963-1973.



Source: "Index of Crime by State," Uniform Crime Reports, 1963-1973.

Discussion of Findings

A detailed discussion of law enforcement agencies was made in Report 1 to The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (Report 1 - Rural Crime in Ohio as Perceived by Members of Farm Bureau Councils, September, 1974). In essence, these rural citizens have a positive attitude toward their police agencies and generally feel they are effective. However, there are exceptions and these cannot be ignored in those communities where problems exist. Members of Farm Bureau Councils were overwhelming (89 percent) in their belief that law enforcement could be improved in their respective local communities.

Rural people in the victimization study were asked to rate the police protection in their community. Six percent were rated "excellent," 36 percent "good," 38 percent "adequate," and 20 percent "poor." Only one citizen out of 5 felt their police protection was poor or inadequate (see Table 21 in the Appendix).

Another approach to the question of attitudes toward law enforcement agencies was raised in terms of whether or not the respondents would support a tax levy for improved police protection. Forty-nine percent did not answer the question. Of those answering the question, 59 percent said they would support a tax levy and 41 percent said they would not (see Table 22 in the Appendix). These results further support a positive attitude by rural residents toward law enforcement agencies.

ATTITUDES TOWARD PERSONAL SAFETY AND BEHAVIORAL  
INDICATORS OF CRIME PREVENTION

Abstract of findings

- Rural residents generally feel secure and safe in their home or neighborhood environments.
- Rural residents are taking minimal precautionary and preventive measures to reduce burglary or theft.

Personal Safety Attitudes

In order to determine the extent to which people in rural Ohio feel secure or threatened with respect to crime, several questions about personal safety were asked of respondents in the victimization study.

The following results were found:

- 65 percent of the respondents felt it would be very safe or somewhat safe for a woman to walk alone after dark in their own neighborhood (see Table 23 in the Appendix).
- 80 percent of the respondents felt it would be either somewhat unlikely or very unlikely a person might be attacked at night locally (see Table 24 in the Appendix).
- 96 percent of the rural respondents would feel less safe in a major city such as Cincinnati, Columbus or Cleveland than in their own county (see Table 25 in the Appendix).
- Only 20 percent of the rural respondents are very concerned about their house being broken into (see Table 26 in the Appendix).
- 60 percent of the rural respondents feel their own residence is much less likely or somewhat less likely to be broken into

compared with other parts of the same county (see Table 27 in the Appendix).

- 76 percent felt a gun, pistol, rifle or shotgun should be kept for protection (see Table 28 in the Appendix).

In general and not suprisingly, respondents expressed a greater feeling of safety and security when about their own home or neighborhood than when in less familiar surroundings. As a matter of fact, in the face of the rising crime rate, rural people still feel very secure in their communities.

#### Behavioral Indicators of Crime Prevention

Behavior with respect to prevention of crime was assessed by asking residents of rural Ohio to indicate the types of safeguards they personally utilize. The following results were found:

- 81 percent always lock their residence doors at night while 60 percent lock doors at other times (see Table 29 in the Appendix).

Appendix Table 30 reveals:

- Most automobiles--61 percent--are not locked.
- 92 percent of farm equipment is not locked.
- 93 percent of barns are not locked.
- 81 percent of garden tools are not locked up.
- 67 percent of gas tanks are not locked.

The data indicate that there is not a great concern for protection of personal property in rural Ohio, and that simple precautionary measures to prevent or stifle burglary and theft are not being taken by the majority of rural residents.

PATTERNS OF CRIME

Abstract of Findings

- Rural crime is most likely to occur: a) in a nonfarm residential area, b) in sight of other residents, and c) on a well-travelled road.
- There is some variation of burglaries by time of day but 50 percent are committed at night with 50 percent committed during the day.
- Less burglaries were committed in September (13 percent of the total) than during any other month during the six month reporting period.
- There is no detectable consistent relationship between day of the week and crimes committed.
- Type of rural crime varies by type of region in Ohio: the Appalachian Region is highest in burglary and attempted burglary while the Cornbelt Region is high in larceny-theft and vandalism. The Industrial Northeast section of the state has the lowest rates of the three regions for larceny-theft and for burglary and attempted burglary.

Discussion of Findings

There are questions as to whether there is a discernible difference (variation) in rates of rural crime by time of day, by month or season of the year, day of week, and by geographical location or size of

community. While data from the cooperating sheriffs in nine counties covers only six months--June through November of 1974--some preliminary conclusions may be drawn and are discussed below.

Time of Day

During the six month recording period there were 776 burglaries (for which there is time of day information) in the nine counties. Figure 7 shows the distribution of the burglaries by time of day.

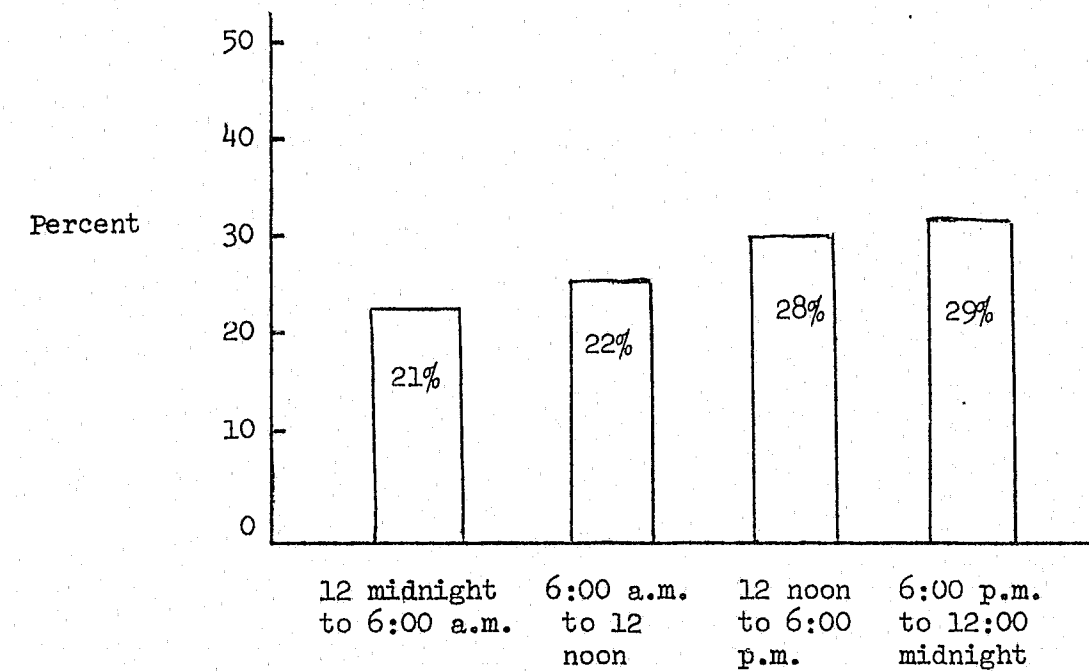


Figure 7. Percent of burglaries by time of day, 6 month reporting period June-November, 1974. N=778 burglaries reported.

Figure 7 reveals there is some variation between time of day and burglaries committed, but that this variation is not great. In fact, 50 percent of these crimes are between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. while the remaining 50 percent of burglaries are during the night from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. (see Table 31 in the Appendix). Only 39 percent



of burglaries in the United States as a whole are committed during the day (see Uniform Crime Reports 1973). Therefore a far greater percentage of burglary crimes in rural Ohio are committed during the daytime than for the United States as a whole.

As a possible explanation, the relatively low density of property (of all types) in rural areas may lead burglars to take the risk of daytime crime in the hope they will not be detected. Also, it is possible that higher daytime rates are a result of persons coming into rural areas from other areas (60 percent of the rural offenses were by urban offenders) and committing crimes in the daytime rather than the night simply because rural areas--especially away from residential buildings--are typically poorly lit at night and any artificial light used to commit burglary might be seen for a considerable distance.

#### Month of the Year

There were 916 burglaries (for which there is month of year information) committed during the six month reporting period for the nine counties which cooperated in the study. There were 17 percent committed in June, 19 percent in July, 19 percent in August, 13 percent in September, 17 percent in October, and 15 percent in November of 1974 (see Table 32 in the Appendix).

While no systematic pattern of burglaries by month can be detected, it is interesting to note that the 13 percent reported in September was the lowest for the six month period.

There was little in the range of variation by month for the 2177 theft reports (for which there is month of year information) than there is for the burglaries. November was the lowest month with 12 percent

of the thefts for the six month period while June and July had the highest number of thefts with 19 percent reported for both months. Vandalism reached its highest rate in June and the lowest in September (see Table 32 in the Appendix).

Since the data on crimes during various months of the year are for only six months of one data collection year there can be no definite conclusion. However, it is fair to say that the rates do appear to vary by month, and the anticipated additional data collection to bring the reports up to a complete year will be valuable in further assessment to determine whether there is a monthly or seasonal pattern.

#### Day of Week

The data for the six month reporting period indicate only minor fluctuations in crimes committed by day of week. By way of illustration, the day highest in vandalism is Saturday with 19 percent of all reported cases. Four days, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, account for 13 percent each. Tuesday and Thursday fall in-between. There was a three percent spread between high and low days for burglary: Tuesday is high with 17 percent while Thursday, Saturday and Sunday are low with 13 percent each.

Monday was the day for most thefts with 16 percent, while Thursday and Friday were the days the least number of thefts were committed with 13 percent each. Complete tables of crimes committed by day of week are located in the Appendix (see Table 33 in the Appendix).

It is evident that there is slight fluctuation of crime rates by the day of week but the relationship is weak, and is not consistent by type of crime.

Geographical Location and Type of Community

The locational characteristics of crime in rural Ohio may be summed up as follows: Rural crime is most likely to occur: a) in a nonfarm residential area, b) in sight of other residences, c) on a well-traveled road.

The chances of a crime being committed in a rural nonfarm residential area are 2.4 times as great as the chances of a crime on a farm. Also, there are four times as many crimes in sight of other residences as there are in isolated areas. Appendix Table 34 provides detailed statistics on the number of crimes committed at various locations in the nine county Ohio Rural Crime Study area during 1974.

Offense data for the three regions of Ohio--the Industrial Northeast, the Cornbelt, and the Appalachian Area--were examined to determine if there is variation in crime rates by type of region. Appendix Table 4 reveals that the Appalachia area has the highest rate of burglary and attempted burglary but has the lowest rate of vandalism. The Cornbelt Region has the highest rate of larceny-theft and vandalism, while the Industrial Northeast has the lowest rates for larceny-theft and for burglary and attempted burglary.

ACTION PROGRAMS WHICH RELATE TO THE  
RESULTS OF THE STUDY

The Ohio Rural Crime Study has revealed many areas where steps may be taken and programs developed. As a final phase of the investigation, criteria for program design were established and five programs were so designed. The criteria were:

1. A program should meet a need identified by the Ohio Rural Crime Study.
2. The results of a program should be subject to evaluation and assessment.
3. A program should be conducive to sponsorship and operation by the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation or other organization concerned with rising crime rates in rural Ohio.

Five Suggested Programs<sup>\*</sup>

Program 1. The objective of this program is to help rural people to improve their techniques, skills and knowledge in reducing rural thefts. The means by which this objective would be met would be through a theft prevention checklist which would be administered by members of local youth groups to persons living in rural areas. The checklist which would be administered by members of local youth groups to persons living in rural areas. The checklist would include locking of gasoline storage tanks, placing theft prevention devices in the nozzles of gas tanks, locking of buildings, and so forth.

<sup>\*</sup>A more detailed description of the programs is located in the Appendix, pp. A34-A43.

Evaluation of the programs could be accomplished by sampling from households which participated and from those which did not participate to determine whether behavioral changes had actually taken place, i.e., items on the checklist were corrected.

Program 2. The objective of this program is to help rural people to improve their techniques, skills and knowledge in reducing thefts.

The means by which this objective would be accomplished would be through identification of personal property by engraving or other means.

Focused upon rural women, the program would involve the establishment of a system whereby local law enforcement agencies could identify stolen property when (and if) recovered. Evaluation would be accomplished by interviewing, after an appropriate period, groups of participants and nonparticipants to determine if losses from the two groups differed.

Program 3. The objective of the third program would be to cause rural people to become more aware of the characteristics and patterns of the rural thief. Focused upon rural youth, the program would encompass movies and/or slide presentations geared to the focal level, and other media. Evaluation would consist of attitudinal and behavioral changes brought about as a result of viewing the material.

Program 4. The objective of Program 4 would be to help reduce crime in rural areas by assisting rural youth to better understand how the criminal justice system functions in their community. Focused upon youth, this objective would be achieved by design and implementation of a series of learning modules on the court system, the prosecutor,

the law enforcement agencies, and other areas. Attitudes of youth exposed to the program would be measured before and after to determine if there were changes in feelings about vandalism, theft, the criminal justice system, etc.

Program 5. The fifth program will be directed toward helping rural parents understand some causes and cures of delinquent behavior in youth. The means by which this would be accomplished would be by developing and presenting a series of seminars on the parent/child relationship and delinquent behavior. Evaluation would be accomplished by determining if parental feelings and attitudes had changed at an appropriate time after the seminars were held.

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APPENDIX



**CONTINUED**

**1 OF 2**

TABLE 4

The Top Three Major Offenses Occurring in Rural Areas of Ohio as Reported by Nine Sheriffs from June through November 1974 and the Rate of Each Crime Per 100,000 Inhabitants by Region.

Crime	Region*		
	Industrial Northeast	Cornbelt	Appalachia
Larceny-Theft	730	969	491
Rate Per 100,000 of Rural Residents	638	1,046	812
Vandalism	572	554	289
Rate Per 100,000 of Rural Residents	500	572	478
Burglary and Attempts	393	359	272
Rate Per 100,000 of Rural Residents	344	388	450

Source: Offense Reports.

\* See Figure 1 for an enumeration of counties in each region.

Table 5  
Percent of Larceny-Theft Incidents  
Involving Selected Items, 1974.

Items	Percent
Gasoline	20
Automobiles	12
Money	8
Livestock	5
Tools	5
Money from Newspaper Boxes	5
All Other	45
TOTAL	100

Source: Victimization Study

Table 6  
Percent of Larceny-Theft Incidents Occurring to  
Ohio Rural Nonfarm Residents by Location, 1974.

Location	Percent
At Home	53
Away from Home	32
At School	12
Unknown	3
TOTAL	100

Source: Victimization Study

Table 7

Number and Percent of Larceny-Theft Incidents by Occupational-Residential Category of Respondents, 1974.

Occupational-Residential Category	Number	Percent
Farm	11	15
Part-time Farm	14	19
Rural Nonfarm	48	66
TOTAL	73	100

Source: Victimization Study

TABLE 8

Percent Larceny-Theft Offenses Occurring in Rural Areas of Ohio as Reported by Nine Sheriffs from June through November 1974 by Region.

Thefts	Number of Thefts Reported		
	Regions*		
	North East Industrial	Cornbelt	Appalachia
Grand Larceny	33	13	32
Petty Larceny	51	73	42
Livestock	2	1	5
Tractors, Trucks and Other Motorized Farm Equipment	1	1	2
Non-Motorized Farm Equipment	1	--	2
Gasoline	8	3	5
Small Tools	1	5	6
Auto Thefts	3	4	6
TOTAL	100	100	100

Source: Offense Reports.

\* See Figure 1 for an enumeration of counties in each region.

Table 9

Residential Location of Offenders Apprehended by Nine Ohio Sheriffs in Ohio's Rural Areas from June through November, 1974.

Residential Location	6 Months Number	12 Months** Number	Percent
Rural	943	1886	40
Urban	1439	2878	60
TOTAL	2382*	4764	100

Source: Offender Reports.

\* Residence of 183 offenders not known

\*\* Estimated by doubling 6 months data

Table 10

Sex of Offenders Apprehended by Nine Ohio Sheriffs in Ohio's Rural Areas from June through November, 1974.

Sex	6 Months Number	12 Months** Number	Percent
Male	2218	4436	87
Female	341	682	13
TOTAL	2559*	5118	100

Source: Offender Reports.

\* Sex not identified on 6 forms

\*\* Estimated by doubling 6 months data



Table 11

Number and Percent of Offenders by Age Group Apprehended by Nine Ohio Sheriffs in Rural Areas from June through November, 1974, and Rural Arrests by Age in the United States, 1973.

Age	Offenders Apprehended			
	6 Months Number	12 Months* Number	Ohio Percent	U.S.** Percent
Under 10	14	28	1	1
10-14	170	340	7	5
15-19	817	1634	33	27
20-24	547	1094	22	21
25-29	260	520	10	11
30-34	175	350	7	8
35-39	137	274	5	7
40-44	130	260	5	6
45-49	85	170	3	5
50-54	80	160	3	4
55-59	47	94	2	2
60-64	28	56	1	2
65 and over	21	42	1	1
TOTAL	2511	5022	100	100

Sources: Offender Reports and Uniform Crime Reports.

\* Age information missing for 54 offenders

\*\* Crime in The United States-1973, Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Table 47, pp. 154-155

TABLE 12

Residential Location of Offenders Apprehended by Nine Ohio Sheriffs  
in Ohio's Rural Areas from June through November 1974  
by County of Residence.

County of Residence	Offenders Apprehended Percent
Reporting County	70
Adjacent County	18
Other location	12
TOTAL	100

Table 13

Marital Status of Offenders Apprehended by Nine Ohio Sheriffs in Ohio's Rural Areas from June through November, 1974.

Marital Status	6 Months Number	12 Months** Number	Percent
Single	1511	3022	64
Married	764	1528	32
Divorced	101	202	4
Separated	2	4	--
TOTAL	2378	4756	100

Source: Offender Reports.

\* Information not provided for 187 offenders

\*\* Estimated by doubling 6 months data

Table 14

Selected Occupations of Offenders Apprehended by Nine Ohio Sheriffs in Rural Areas from June through November, 1975.

Occupation	Offenders		
	6 Months Number	12 Months* Number	Percent
Unemployed	415	830	16
Student	676	1352	26
Farmer	20	40	1
Farmhand	30	60	1
Other	947	1894	37
No Information	477	954	19
TOTAL	2565	5130	100

Source: Offender Reports.

\* Estimated by doubling 6 months data

Table 15

Was Offender Alone or With Others When Apprehended by Nine Ohio Sheriffs in Ohio's Rural Areas from June through November, 1974.

Response	Percent
Alone	39
With Others	45
Don't Know	16
TOTAL	100

Source: Offender Reports.

Table 16

Was Offender Intoxicated When Apprehended by Nine Ohio Sheriffs  
in Ohio's Rural Areas from June through November, 1974.

Intoxicated?	Percent
Yes	23
No	54
Don't Know	23
TOTAL	100

Source: Offender Reports.

Table 17

Offenders With Known Records Apprehended by Nine Ohio Sheriffs  
in Ohio's Rural Areas June through November, 1974.

Did Offender Have Known Record?	Percent
Yes	31
No	39
Don't Know	30
TOTAL	100

Source: Offender Reports.

Table 18

Total Crime Rate, Total Rural Crime Rate, Total Violent Crime Rate, Rural Violent Crime Rate, Total Property Crime Rate, and Rural Property Crime Rate for Ohio from 1963 Through 1973

Year	Total Crime Rate*		Violent Crime Rate**		Property Crime Rate***	
	State Total	Rural	Rural	State Total	State Total	Rural
1973**	3,495.9	1,411.8	99.1	291.7	3,204.1	1,312.7
1972	2,361.1	999.3	83.2	299.4	2,061.7	916.1
1971	2,479.8	1,071.3	76.3	298.4	2,181.5	995.0
1970	2,376.6	944.3	75.0	284.3	2,092.4	869.3
1969	2,078.4	747.8	57.9	248.1	1,830.3	689.9
1968	1,719.5	679.6	52.0	200.4	1,519.1	627.6
1967	1,505.9	538.8	37.2	185.0	1,320.9	501.6
1966	1,170.8	416.1	32.5	151.6	1,019.6	383.6
1965	1,038.7	414.2	29.6	124.8	913.9	384.6
1964	1,008.3	395.6	21.0	112.1	896.2	374.6
1963	839.9	366.0	18.1	87.5	752.4	348.0

Source: "Index of Crime by State," Uniform Crime Reports, 1963-1973.

\* Total Crime Rate is the total of violent and property index crimes

\*\* Violent crime is offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

\*\*\* Property crime is offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, and auto theft



TABLE 19

The First Ranked Reasons Members of Ohio Farm Bureau Councils  
Think Rural Crime Rates are Increasing by Region, 1974.

Reasons	Total Councils		Regions*		
	Number	Percent	Northeast N=230 Percent	Cornbelt N=470 Percent	Appalachia N=142 Percent
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Laxity of Courts, Lack of Law Enforcement	158	19	13	21	24
Laxity and Break-down of Family Life	138	16	13	16	25
Population Increase	82	10	12	10	6
Moral Decay	68	8	7	9	6
Lack of Funds	67	8	3	9	11
Too Much Leisure	55	7	8	6	8
Use of Drugs	54	6	12	5	4
Increased Mobility	35	4	7	5	3
Other	156	19	22	15	11
No information	29	3	3	4	2
TOTAL	842	100	100	100	100

\* See Figure 3 for enumeration of counties in each region.

TABLE 20

Number and Percent of Farm Bureau Councils Commenting  
on Reasons Why They Think Crime Rates are Going Up, 1974

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Total Councils</u>	
	Number	Percent
Legal System Too Lenient	35	25
Not Enough Jobs For Youth	14	10
Inadequate Policing	10	7
Urban People Moving to Rural Areas	8	6
Working Mother	4	3
Easy to Fence Stolen Items	4	3
Other	63	46
TOTAL	138	100

Table 21

Rating of Police Protection by Rural Ohioans  
Living in the Open Country, 1974.

Rating of Police Protection	Percent Response
Excellent	6
Good	36
Adequate	38
Poor	20
TOTAL	100

Source: Victimization Study

Table 22

Percent Response of Rural Ohioans Living in the Open Country on Whether or Not They Would Support a Tax for Improved Police Protection, 1974.

Response	Percent
Yes	30
No	21
No Answer	49
TOTAL	100

Source: Victimization Study

TABLE 23

Attitudes of Respondents Residing in Ohio's Rural Areas Outside of Incorporated Places Concerning the Safety of Women Walking in Their Neighborhood, 1974

Personal Safety	Woman Walking in Neighborhood		
	Alone During Daylight Hours (Percent)	Alone After Dark (Percent)	With Another Adult After Dark (Percent)
Very Safe	59	21	42
Somewhat Safe	33	44	48
Somewhat Unsafe	7	27	9
Very Unsafe	1	8	1
TOTAL	100	100	100

Source: Victimization study.

TABLE 24

Attitudes of Rural Ohioans Living Outside of Incorporated Places to the Question: How likely is it that a person walking around here at night might be held up or attacked?

Response	Likely Held Up or Attacked (Percent)
Very Likely	5
Somewhat Likely	15
Somewhat Unlikely	36
Very Unlikely	44
TOTAL	100

Source: Victimization Study.

TABLE 25

Response of Rural Ohioans Living Outside of Incorporated Places to the Question: In general, would you feel as safe in Cincinnati, Columbus, or Cleveland as you do in your county? 1974.

Feel Safe?	Percent
Yes	4
No	96
TOTAL	100

Source: Victimization Study.

TABLE 26

Attitudes of Rural Ohioans Living Outside of Incorporated  
Places Concerning Their Worry About Having Their House Broken Into, 1974

Response	Percent
Very Concerned	20
Somewhat Concerned	56
Don't Worry At All	24
TOTAL	100

Source: Victimization Study.



TABLE 27

Attitudes of Rural Ohioans Living Outside of Incorporated  
Places Relative to the Likelihood That Their Residence  
Might Be Broken Into Compared to Other Parts of the County, 1974

Response	Percent
Much Less Likely	23
Somewhat Less Likely	37
Somewhat More Likely	6
Much More Likely	3
No Real Difference	21
Don't Know	10
TOTAL	100

Source: Victimization Study.

TABLE 28

Response of Rural Ohioans Living Outside of Incorporated Places to the Question: Should there be a gun, pistol, rifle, or shotgun in a house that is for the protection of the household? 1974

Response	Percent
Yes	76
No	24
TOTAL	100

Source: Victimization Study.

Table 29

Attitudes of Rural Ohioans Living Outside of Incorporated  
Places Concerning Locking Their House, 1974.

Response	Doors Are Locked:	
	When Leaving Percent	At Night Percent
Always	60	81
Sometimes	23	8
Hardly Ever	10	5
Never	7	6
TOTAL	100	100

Source: Victimization Study.

Table 30

Selected Buildings and Equipment Locked Up by Rural Ohioans  
Living Outside of Incorporated Places, 1974.

Building or Equipment	Percent That Lock-up	Percent That Do Not Lock-up	Total
Auto	39	61	100
Farm Equipment	8	92	100
Garden Tools	19	81	100
Gas Tank	33	67	100
Barn	7	93	100
Other Buildings	12	88	100
Other	7	93	100

Source: Victimization Study.

Table 31  
Time of Day for Various Rural Crimes  
During June through November, 1974.

Time Period	Burglary		Thefts		Vandalism	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	170	22	424	23	298	24
12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.	215	28	540	29	257	21
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight	227	29	540	29	453	37
12:00 midnight to 6:00 p.m.	166	21	351	19	230	18
TOTAL	778	100	1855	100	1238	100

Source: Offense Reports

Table 32  
Month of Year for Various Rural Crimes  
During June through November, 1974.

Month of Year	Burglary		Thefts		Vandalism	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
June	152	17	400	19	317	23
July	175	19	420	19	237	17
August	173	19	373	17	216	15
September	125	13	324	15	185	13
October	154	17	396	18	264	19
November	137	15	264	12	192	14
TOTAL	916	100	2177	100	1411	100

Source: Offense Reports.

Table 33  
Day of Week for Various Rural Crimes  
During June through November, 1974.

Day of Week	Burglary		Thefts		Vandalism	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Monday	129	15	330	16	178	13
Tuesday	148	17	304	15	201	15
Wednesday	125	14	290	14	184	13
Thursday	115	13	280	13	173	13
Friday	135	15	275	13	191	14
Saturday	115	13	310	15	259	19
Sunday	115	13	288	14	177	13
TOTAL	882	100	2077	100	1363	100

Source: Offense Reports

TABLE 34

Location of Crime Committed in Rural Areas  
as Reported by Nine Ohio Sheriffs from  
June through November 1974.

Location of Crime	6 Months Number	12 Months* Number
On a Farm	3,735	7,470
In a Rural Nonfarm Residential Area	8,796	17,592
In Sight of Other Residences	9,372	18,744
On a Well Travelled Road	10,236	20,472
In an Isolated Area	2,307	4,614
In a Town Under 2,500	2,982	5,964
Business Establishments	1,335	2,670
Service Stations	351	702
Recreational Facilities	681	1,362
Construction Sites	189	378
Schools	267	534
Churches and Cemeteries	99	198
Restaurant and Bars	357	714
All Other Public Buildings	285	570
Other	909	1,818
Don't Know Location	180	360

Source: Offense forms.

\*Estimated by doubling 6 months data



Table 35

Comparison of the 1970 Rural Population by Age for Ohio and the Counties of Ashland, Athens, Clark, Fayette, Hocking, Madison, Medina, Perry and Wayne.

Ohio Rural Population					
Age	Total		Nine Sample Counties		Percentage Differences
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 10	516,263	19.6	50,191	19.5	.1
10-14	310,412	11.8	29,758	11.6	.2
15-19	257,599	9.8	24,532	9.5	.3
20-24	160,387	6.1	16,517	6.4	.3
25-29	161,216	6.1	17,120	6.7	.6
30-34	157,875	6.0	16,268	6.3	.3
35-39	151,901	5.8	14,576	5.7	.1
40-44	160,994	6.1	15,066	5.9	.2
45-49	157,031	6.0	14,797	5.8	.2
50-54	141,112	5.4	13,707	5.3	.1
55-59	122,676	4.7	11,948	4.6	.1
60-64	100,621	3.8	9,958	3.9	.1
65+	230,586	8.8	22,587	8.8	.0
TOTAL	2,628,673	100.0	257,025	100.0	-----

Source: U.S. Census of Population-1970-PC(1)-C37 OHIO.

A PROPOSAL FOR A FARM BUREAU  
THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM

Objective: To help rural people improve their techniques, skills and knowledge in reducing thefts.

Duration of Project: one year

Focus: Rural youth

Program Content and Activities:

This project would involve:

1. Developing a theft prevention checklist

Examples of items:

1. Do you lock your gas pump, storage tank or other places where gasoline is stored?
2. Do you have gas tank theft prevention devices in the nozzle of the gas tank of any of your cars, trucks, tractors or other motorized vehicles?
3. Do you have gas tanks locked on any of your cars, trucks, etc.?

Check Which	
Yes	No

2. The development of an educational leaflet to discuss each item in the checklist.

What Would Have to be Done

1. A county committee should be formed to direct and support the theft prevention program. Suggested members would include one or more representatives from the sheriff's office; other police agencies if appropriate; court officials; Farm Bureau youth; 4-H clubs; Future Farmers of America; Future Homemakers of America; other appropriate local groups; three members from the County Farm Bureau Board.
2. Appropriate strategies for conducting a county-wide theft prevention campaign would need to be developed by the county committee and appropriate state Farm Bureau staff members.
3. Incentives would need to be built into the program to interest various youth groups in participating. Both individual incentives as well as group incentives should be built into the program.

How It Might Work:

A youth participating in the program would complete a "Theft Prevention Checklist" on his home residency area. After the inspection, the checklist would be given to the head of the house, his or her spouse, or another responsible household adult. A tear-slip at the bottom of the checklist should be signed by the recipient to acknowledge that the inspection was made. These signed slips will be the basis for appropriate awards and recognition offered to participants as incentives for conducting this proposed inspection and educational activity. In addition to providing the household member with a checklist, an educational leaflet covering each item would be left with the person. This and other inspection slips should be turned into the appropriate person to receive credit toward the awards program.

Evaluation of Project:

A list of program participants should be kept for sampling at or near the end of the year. A sample of one hundred families should be randomly drawn from the list of participants. One hundred nonparticipants should be interviewed and selected on the basis of being the nearest nonparticipation neighbor of each of the sample families. The purpose of the study would be to evaluate the effectiveness of being a participant in the Theft Prevention Program. Recommendations for expanding, modifying or discontinuing the program would be made in the form of a written report.

Variation of Proposal

Farm checklist  
Rural nonfarm checklist

A PROPOSAL FOR A FARM BUREAU  
THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM

Objective: To help rural people improve their techniques, skills and knowledge in reducing thefts.

Duration of Pilot Project: one year

Focus: Rural women

Program Content and Activities:

This project would involve:

1. Recording in duplicate identifying information about household items most likely to be stolen.
2. Engraving of personal identification numbers on appropriate item such as t.v., radio, silver service, etc.
3. Filing one copy of the information with the sheriff or appropriate police agency.
4. Develop sticker for front door of house noting identification of household items on file with the sheriff's office.

What Would Have to be Done:

1. Identification systems should be developed in cooperation with county sheriff and other appropriate police agencies. Sheriffs would need to be willing to keep a set of identifying records.
2. Engraving tools and punches should be purchased and be readily available to users.
3. Incentives should be built into programs to interest various women's groups in undertaking the project.

How It Might Work:

The County Farm Bureau women's committee would assume responsibility for the project. They would meet with representatives of the Sheriff's Department to establish an agreeable identification system. The committee would then work with the state committee to develop appropriate educational information and appropriate forms for recording the identification data. Strategies for involving large number of women in the county would need to be developed. Two types of incentives should be developed: one for group participation and one for individual achievement. Appropriate awards and other means of recognition would need to be devised.

Evaluation of Project:

A list of program participants should be kept for sampling at or near the end of the year. A sample of one hundred families should be randomly drawn from the list of participants. One hundred nonparticipants should be interviewed and selected on the basis of being the nearest nonparticipation neighbor of each of the sample families. The purpose of the study would be to evaluate the effectiveness of being a participant in the Theft Prevention Program. Recommendations for expanding, modifying or discontinuing the program would be made in the form of a written report.

Variations of Proposal

1. Livestock Identification Program
2. Farm Machinery Identification Program

A PROPOSAL FOR A FARM BUREAU  
THEFT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Objective: To cause rural people (especially youth) to become more aware of the characteristics and patterns of the rural thief.

Duration of Pilot Project: one year

Focus: Rural people, especially rural youth

Program Content and Activities:

This project would involve:

1. Making a 15-20 minute movie on thievery in rural Ohio.

A tentative movie outline:

- a. Rising crime rate in rural Ohio  
Sources: Rural Crime Study  
Survey of F.B. Council  
FBI Reports
  - b. The problem of thievery  
Second only to vandalism
  - c. Who is the rural Ohio thief  
--your school mate (age factor)  
--your brother (white male)
  - d. Why does he do it?  
--what Farm Bureau members say  
--What youth say  
--What law enforcement officials say  
--What criminologists and sociologists say
  - e. What can be done about it?  
--The community  
--Parents  
--Stress the rights of others in private ownership  
--Know where children are at all times and what they are doing  
--Peers  
--Let it be known you cannot condone thievery for any reason
  - f. Appropriate ending
2. County Farm Bureau Boards would be responsible for getting 200,000 rural Ohioans to see the movie.

What Would Have to be Done:

1. A professional movie script writer would need to be employed to write the script in cooperation with the Rural Crime Advisory Council.
2. A professional film crew would need to be employed to do the filming.
3. Other personnel to edit, do artwork, narrate the film, etc. would need to be employed.
4. A dozen copies of the film would be needed to be readily available throughout the state.
5. Farm Bureau's state organization would need to gear up to get county boards to take responsibility for attaining wide circulation.

How It Might Work:

After a suitable film was developed, Farm Bureau staff members would show the film at county leaders meetings and discuss the merit of all rural people seeing it. Farm Bureau would arrange the scheduling of the films.

Evaluation of Project:

An instrument would be developed to test the attitude of rural people toward thievery. A group exposed to the film would be compared to another individual matched for similar characteristics. Behavioral changes would also be sought for the exposed group.

Variations of Proposal:

The same except for vandalism.

A PROPOSAL FOR A FARM BUREAU  
RURAL CRIME REDUCTION PROGRAM

Objective: To help rural youth reduce rural crime in their communities by developing an understanding of how the criminal justice system works and the nature of crime in their community.

Duration of Project: two years

Focus: Rural youth

Program Content and Activities:

This project would involve:

1. Developing a series of learning modules on the criminal justice system.
2. Interest a number of high schools in making these learning modules into a course or to incorporate one or more of the modules into an existing course.
  - a. A learning module is a topical area of varying length. The length depends upon the depth one goes into the subject matter. Examples include the following:
    - (1) Know your county court system. This might be a five day learning module including two days of basic classroom instruction on the court system and its role in the community. One day should be allocated to a visit to a court. One day might be employed to visit a judge in his chambers or have the judge visit the classroom. The fifth day would involve answering questions, discussions and testing.
    - (2) Know your prosecutor.
    - (3) Know your sheriff.
    - (4) Know your rights under the law.
    - (5) Treatment of juveniles.
    - (6) Who is the offender in this community.
    - (7) Etc.



What Would Have to be Done

1. A state committee composed of a judge, a sheriff, a prosecutor, three Farm Bureau members, a member of the Ohio Board of Education, and two high school teachers would work with staff and appropriate consultants to develop the objectives, course guidelines and appropriate topical areas for the modules.
2. Appropriate staff and consultants would be employed to develop the basic course material including visual aids.
3. Teacher training programs would be developed for a minimum of 10 high school teachers who would teach the classes. College credit should be arranged for this teacher training activity.
4. The program would be tested and evaluated in a minimum of 10 rural schools.

How It Might Work:

The course would be developed. The materials would be presented to selected County Farm Bureau Boards. They would determine if the county superintendent of schools was interested. Personnel of particular schools would be approached. If they were interested, one or more teachers would be assigned to attend the training program. The program would be carried out at the next appropriate time in the school schedule.

Evaluation of Project:

Appropriate attitudinal instruments would be developed to find out how students feel about such subjects as vandalism, thefts, the criminal justice system, etc. These attitudinal measures would be given the first day of class, the last day of class and approximately three months later. Basic knowledge instruments would be developed to measure the student's knowledge of the criminal justice system on the above. Recommendations for expanding, modifying or discontinuing the program would be made in the form of a written report.

A PROPOSAL FOR A FARM BUREAU  
RURAL CRIME REDUCTION PROGRAM

Objective: To help rural parents understand some causes and cures of delinquent behavior in youth.

Duration of Project: one year

Focus: Rural parents

Program Content and Activities:

1. Develop a series of seminar programs for small groups of parents to develop an understanding of causes and cures to delinquent behavior.
2. Each seminar session would have some formal instruction as well as discussion.
3. Appropriate topics might include:
  - a. Characteristics of delinquent children.
  - b. Does your child know his boundaries. Are they too wide or too narrow?
  - c. Inconsistent parents.
  - d. Who are your child's friends.
  - e. Etc.

What Would Have to be Done

1. A series of seminar topics would need to be developed.
2. Appropriate staff and consultants would need to be employed to develop the basic information and materials.
3. A team of experts would need to select and train local paid professionals to offer the seminars in selected counties.

How It Might Work:

Selected County Farm Bureau Boards would be invited to participate. These boards would contact local professionals who might be teachers, ministers, or other qualified individuals to participate as paid seminar teachers. These teachers would be trained to conduct the seminar series. Farm Bureau Councils or any organized group of

parents might request an opportunity to participate in a seminar series. The Farm Bureau women or youth groups might wish to take this activity on as a special project. After a group has requested a seminar series, an instructor will meet with the group and arrange to conduct the series.

Evaluation of Project:

Appropriate attitudinal and knowledge measuring instruments will be developed to be administered on a pre-test and post-test bases. In addition, a random sample of 125 will be drawn from a list of participants and the instruments administered three months later to determine the impact of the seminars over time on attitudes, appropriate knowledge and behavioral changes. Recommendations for expanding, modifying or discontinuing the program would be made in the form of a written report.

**END**