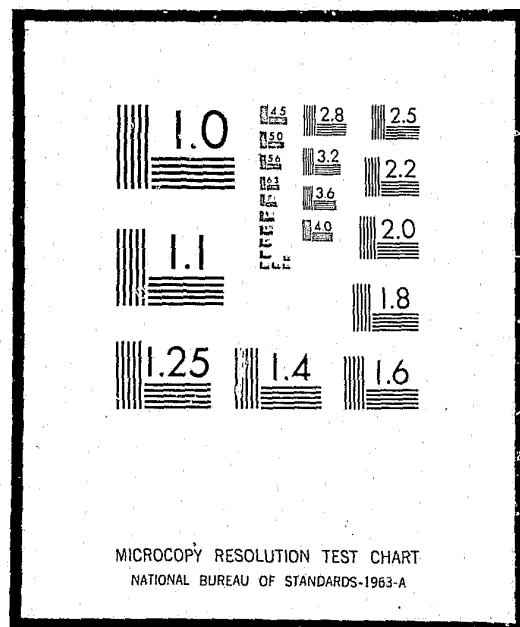


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STATE OF NEVADA

MIKE O'CALLAGHAN  
Governor

## CRIME IN NEVADA

1974

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS SUMMARY

COMMISSION ON CRIME, DELINQUENCY, AND CORRECTIONS

BERNARD DEHL  
Chairman

DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

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SEPTEMBER, 1975

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The staff of the Identification and Communications Division extends its appreciation to the thirty-two law enforcement agencies who contribute to the Uniform Crime Reporting program. Their consistent, accurate reports are the basis of this document and much of the criminal justice planning in Nevada.

The staff also owes a debt of gratitude to Stephen Nevin and Joseph Curtis, who convinced the contributors to join the state-wide UCR program in 1974, trained contributors' staff throughout Nevada, and operated the program until March, 1975.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the U. S. Department of Justice, through its Comprehensive Data Systems program, funds Nevada's UCR program.

STATE OF NEVADA

MIKE O'CALLAGHAN  
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In accordance with Chapter 216.235 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, the Department of Law Enforcement Assistance respectfully submits the first annual report on Crime In Nevada; a summary of Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics.

This report is an endeavor to present the facts concerning the status of crime in Nevada. It is hoped that the report will be of direct benefit to the criminal justice agencies within the State of Nevada. Furthermore, we trust that it will make the general public more aware of the ever increasing magnitude of the task facing the law enforcement officers and other conscientious criminal justice officials.

After one year of operating the Nevada Uniform Crime Reporting program, we are now able to compare crime statistics from 1968 through 1974. These statistics include trends using the UCR crime index offenses. The State Statistical Analysis Center used the figures compiled by the FBI for the years 1968 through 1973 to make these comparisons.

It must be noted that the purpose of UCR reports is not to see which agency makes the most arrests or investigations, or to compare agencies. They are an instrument to determine factors indicative of crime problems in given geographical areas. In order to reduce crime, we must first know its extent, type and location.

It would have been impossible to compile this report without the cooperation of the many law enforcement agencies in Nevada who contributed to this effort in 1974. It is with deep appreciation to these dedicated public servants and their wholehearted cooperation, that this annual Uniform Crime Report is respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,

*Carrol T. Nevin*  
CARROL T. NEVIN  
Director

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## INTRODUCTION

Crime to most people is a serious problem. It is not necessary to be the victim of a crime to be aware of a broad spectrum of crimes against persons or property. Newspapers, television, and other media provide a daily fare of murder, rape, assault, robbery, and theft.

Elected officials and criminal justice administrators need more systematic information to make decisions regarding the prevention and control of crime. They need measurements of the nature and trends of crimes, criminals, and the administration of justice for effective criminal justice system plans and operations.

This annual summary is the first report based on data from the state-wide Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. It presents an overview of some of the state and regional characteristics of crime and criminals, directed to elected officials, administrators, and others concerned with criminal justice policy.

The following areas will be covered. First, a brief outline of Nevada's Uniform Crime Reporting program and the UCR data used in the report is presented. Those who are less concerned with this background information may wish to begin reading with the second section, a summary of the magnitude, trends, and characteristics of crime in Nevada. The third section describes crime and criminal characteristics for selected specific offense categories.

This report is not a compendium of all UCR statistics. It omits, for example, clearance information and police staffing data from the UCR program, not because it is irrelevant to understanding crime, but because it can receive more adequate treatment in subsequent reports.

## UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM

### Organization

The Identification and Communications Division of the Department of Law Enforcement Assistance, under the direction of the Nevada Commission on Crime, Delinquency, and Corrections, is specifically authorized to require criminal justice agencies within the state to report statistical data to the Commission.\* The Statistical Analysis Center of the Identification and Communications Division has the responsibility for statistical reporting programs, including UCR.

In 1973, the Identification and Communications Division began implementation of a state-wide UCR program, with funding assistance from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. As of January, 1974, individual law enforcement agencies began mailing their UCR forms to the Identification and Communications Division in Carson City. This provided a coordinated system of reporting and recording crime statistics in order to facilitate state utilization of crime data and participation in the national UCR program, operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

While a number of purposes and objectives of the Nevada UCR program could be enumerated, three general goals are fundamental to the program:

- (1) The collection, analysis, and dissemination of criminal justice statistics which reflect the nature of crime in Nevada, its magnitude, and its trends.
- (2) The development of a data base and statistics for the use of all components of the criminal justice system (especially law enforcement agencies) to aid in their enforcement and prevention programs.

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\*Nevada Revised Statutes, Section 216.235

(3) The development of an efficient and accurate system for providing the F.B.I. with UCR data to be included in the national UCR program.

Thirty-two law enforcement agencies, including all sheriff's offices, most police departments, and the Highway Patrol, contribute to the UCR program. Each month their staffs prepare a series of reports and submit them to the Identification and Communications Division.

The Statistical Analysis Center provides quality controls on the reports submitted, verifying completeness and editing for accuracy of compilation. Other quality control procedures, involving review of source documents, are being developed.

In the event of late, incomplete, or incorrect reports, the Statistical Analysis Center provides assistance. It also provides training to contributing agencies which request it because of staff turnover and other reasons.

#### Data Description

The UCR program includes two kinds of data on crimes which are used in this report, reported crimes and arrests.

The data on reported crimes come from two sources: reports confirmed by the police investigation of complaints of crime victims and reports of crimes discovered by the police themselves.

Seven crimes, commonly referred to as "Index Crimes" or "Index Offenses," are included in the crime reports section of UCR. They are homicide (murder and manslaughter), forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The first four are generally considered violent crimes

and the latter three property crimes. Simple assaults are also reported, but not included in the Crime Index.

The seven crimes were selected as an index of criminal activity, because they were felt to be serious enough to be reported regularly to the police. However, the Crime Index by definition excludes the majority of crimes reported, those referred to as Part II or non-Index Offenses. Victimization surveys also indicate that even the crimes included in the Index are underreported. Larceny reports, for example, may be only one-third of all larceny crimes committed.\*

Even granting the probable inaccuracies of the Crime Index, it is still the best index of crime currently available for trend analysis, because of the availability of current and historical data for the entire state.

Arrest data is included in this report, because it is the only information available on non-Index Offenses and on the age, sex, and ethnic characteristics of offenders.

Some care must be used in interpreting these data. By definition, reported crimes are generally counts of offenses, while arrests are related to counts of offenders. For example, one individual might commit 20 larcenies, but only one arrest made. On the other hand, five individuals might be arrested for a robbery which was reported as only one offense. Another problem is that arrests underrepresent actual crimes committed more than crime reports, as the rate at which Index Offenses are cleared by arrests is only 14 percent.

\*U.S. Department of Justice. Advance report: Crime in Eight American Cities, July 1974

The problem of relating report and arrest data is clear when the number of reported Index Crimes (44,814) is compared with the number of arrests for the same offenses (8,806).

#### Calculation of Statistics

Throughout the report two statistics, computed from crime report data, are used.

The crime rate per 100,000 population is the number of reported crimes divided by the state's or region's resident population.\*

For some offense categories, including murder and rape, crimes are counted by the number of victims, and the rate roughly expresses the probability of being victimized. For other categories, such as burglary or motor vehicle theft, it would be more useful to divide by the number of potential targets, which might be the number of dwellings and businesses or the number of automobiles.

The crime rate per 100,000 population can also be misleading for regions with high tourism, where the actual number of people in the region may be two or three times the resident population. If the non-resident potential victims were included with the resident population, the per capita crime rate would be considerably lower.

The percentage change from one year to another is another statistic used in this report. It is the difference between reported crimes for the earlier

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\*Source: 1974 F.B.I. population reports for Nevada

and later years divided by the crimes reported in the earlier year. The earlier year is always used as the base (or 100%), so that if reported crimes decline between the two specified years the percentage change will be a negative number. Conversely, if the reported crimes increase between the two specified years, the percentage change will be a positive number.

## OVERALL TRENDS AND GENERAL PATTERNS

The first topic of this section is the general magnitude and trends of reported Index Crime. The seriousness of the increasing crime problem in Nevada is shown by its magnitude, rate of growth, and the type of offenses being committed. Additional analysis will be provided in terms of crimes against persons and crimes against property, where significant.

The second topic in this section addresses the question of where crime occurs in the state. Regions within Nevada differ in population, economics, degree of urbanization, and other characteristics which can affect crime. To facilitate a regional analysis, the state has been divided into the four regions of Clark County, Washoe County, Carson and Douglas Counties combined, and the remaining thirteen least-populated counties, which are predominantly rural. The distribution of reported crimes and crime increases are examined for the four regions.

The third topic in this section is the seasonal variation of reported Index Crime. Since there are a number of characteristics which vary with the particular season such as tourism, employment, and climate, a monthly distribution of Index Crime is examined.

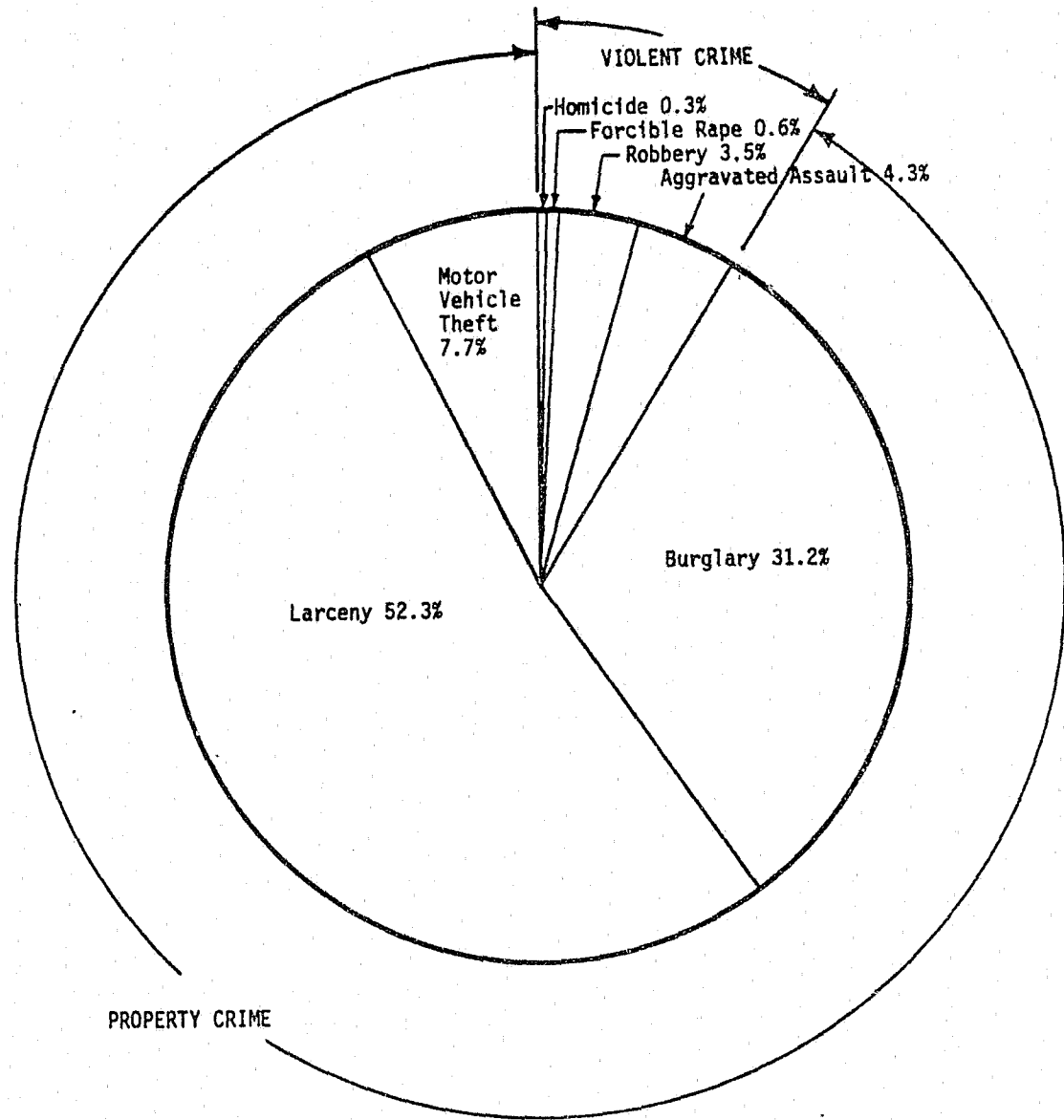
The remaining topics in this section are the age, race, and sex distributions of persons arrested for 1974.

### MAGNITUDE AND GENERAL TRENDS

There were 44,814 Index Offenses reported in 1974. The relative contribution of each specific crime which makes up the total offense data is shown in the graph on the following page.



Distribution of Index Crimes for 1974

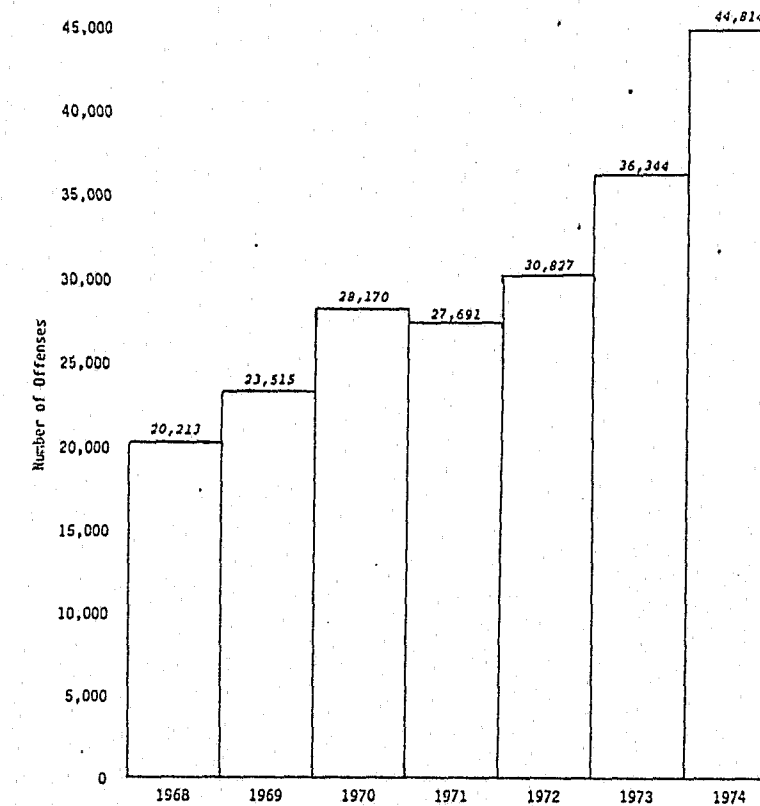


It is notable that the property crimes of larceny (23,448 reports), burglary (13,998 reports), and motor vehicle theft (3,454 reports) account for over 91 percent of the total. In fact, larceny alone accounts for over 52 percent of the crimes reported in 1974. The violent crimes of murder (86 reports), rape (261

reports), robbery (1,588 reports), and assault (1,947 reports) constitute less than 9 percent of the total. Since Nevada has a relatively small population, the actual number of the Index Offenses is low compared to figures in other states. However, the Index Crime rate, which takes into account population differences, shows Nevada to have one of the highest crime rates in the United States. While national statistics are not yet available for comparison with the 1974 data, Nevada has been well above (32% to 60%) the national average, as well as the western-mountain region crime rate, for 1971-1973.\*

Additional evidence of the seriousness of the crime problem in Nevada is provided when the growth in the annual number of reported offenses is examined.

Total Number of Index Crimes for 1968 Through 1974



\*F.B.I. Annual Crime Reports for years 1971-1973.

The preceding chart shows the seven-year trend for Index Offenses in Nevada. The yearly totals of Index Offenses show a fairly consistent increase over this time period. The increase is not due simply to population increase. In 1974, the population in Nevada was 120,600 more than in 1968, an increase of 27 percent. If the increase in crime was due simply to population growth, one would expect to find a corresponding percentage change in the number of reported crimes. Unfortunately, this was not the case. For the same period the reported Index Offenses rose by 24,601, an increase of 122 percent.

Although Nevada has experienced a considerable growth in crime overall, it should be noted that all offenses do not show the same growth trend. In the following table, annual percentage changes and the average percent change have been calculated to illustrate changes over time and to permit crime comparisons.

Percentage Change from Previous Year by Index Offense and Year

Offense	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	Average Percent Change
Violent Crime	30	19	-3	20	38	25	22
Murder	64	5	35	22	-6	28	25
Forcible Rape	16	3	41	33	41	4	23
Robbery	21	18	-6	15	43	11	17
Aggravated Assault	42	22	-7	23	36	41	26
Property Crime	15	20	-2	11	16	23	14
Burglary	8	30	-6	21	27	19	17
Larceny	18	14	1	8	11	30	14
Motor Vehicle Theft	26	26	-5	-4	13	3	10

Overall, aggravated assault shows the highest average rate of growth, followed by murder, rape, and robbery, in that order. In fact, these four offenses, which

comprise what is commonly referred to as "violent crime," all show large average annual increases. This is especially true for the last three years, during which violent crime evidenced an average increase of 28 percent a year. In 1974 alone, 3,914 violent crimes were reported, an increase of 25 percent over 1973. This results in a rate for violent crime of 682 per 100,000 population.

It should be remembered that these assault figures represent only Index Offenses. If the number of reported "other assaults" which are not counted in the Crime Index are added, the number of violent crimes increase over 63 percent to 6,399 reported assaults.

The second highest annual growth rate of the violent crimes is for murder. The trend for murder shows an inconsistent pattern with marked variations over the years. However, much of this variation may be random fluctuation, since the number of offenses is small.

The number of rapes rose dramatically, especially during 1971 through 1973. Although little hard evidence is presently available, one obvious reason that has been suggested by workers in this area may be simply that more rapes are being reported. That is, women may be more inclined to report sexual assaults because of changing social values and the development of supportive organizations. More precise answers about this pattern, and especially the smaller increase for 1974, require additional study, which is presently underway.

Property crime, which usually involves stealth and opportunity rather than direct confrontation with the victim, evidenced less growth than violent crime over the last seven years. Of the Index property crimes, burglary shows the highest rate, followed by larceny and motor vehicle theft. In 1974, however,

larceny shows a large increase over 1973. Larceny is also notable in that it is by far the largest volume property crime (as well as Index Crime), constituting 57 percent of the 40,900 property crimes reported in 1974.

The incidence of property crime is probably related in some way to the general economic condition of society, and the increase in such crime may reflect the recent economic recession. One exception is motor vehicle theft, which shows a lower growth rate than either burglary or larceny, especially for the last four years. With the exception of organized auto theft, most cars are not taken for monetary gain but for such things as free transportation and "joy-riding." In either case, motor vehicle theft is probably less sensitive to economic factors. The decreasing growth pattern is likely due to public education and mechanical innovations such as ignition and steering locks.

It should be noted that while violent and property crimes are both on the increase, the growth trends are somewhat different. Similar to national trends, violent crime in Nevada is growing at a faster rate than property crime. From 1968 through 1974, violent crime has increased an average of 22 percent a year, compared to an average increase of 14 percent for property crime.

In the foregoing comparisons, it should be remembered that the volume of property crimes far exceeds that of violent crime. The 3,914 violent crimes reported in 1974 represent nine percent of the Index Crime total, while the 40,900 property crimes reported accounted for 91 percent of the total. Thus, in terms of volume, property crimes constitute the major source of crime "costs," both in terms of economic loss and law enforcement activity. On the other hand, violent crime, which is low in volume, is a major concern because of its impact on the lives of those concerned.

## REGIONAL TRENDS

The regional divisions used to examine the 1974 crime data were selected for a variety of reasons. Although the four regions used for analysis seemed to be a logical and practical way of dividing up the state for this report, several sources were used to confirm the choice, including the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Nevada Reno, the Nevada Employment Security Department, and the F.B.I. Population Report for Nevada.

As the two most populous and urbanized counties, Clark and Washoe merit separate analyses. Moreover, they differ from one another in a number of significant ways, including climate, geographic location, population, economic diversification, employment, and racial composition. The two counties of Carson and Douglas are geographically contiguous and appear to stand somewhere between the larger urbanized counties and the thirteen lesser-populated counties. Both Carson and Douglas host a significant number of tourists in their recreational and gaming facilities.

Almost two-thirds (64.5%) of all Index Crimes reported in 1974 were in Clark County. Washoe County had 24.1 percent, followed by the Carson/Douglas region at 5.6 percent\*, and the rural counties at 5.8 percent.

It is not surprising to find that the majority of reported offenses are from Clark County, as this is the most populous county in Nevada. However, the proportion of Index Crimes reported by Clark is much greater than its proportion of the state population, as shown in the table on the following page.

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\*Carson/Douglas data was corrected for the non-submission of one agency's report for one month.

Resident Population and Index Crime by Region

Region	Population		Index Crimes	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Nevada Total	573,600	100.0	44,814	100.0
Clark	311,153	54.2	28,901	64.5
Washoe	148,965	26.0	10,789	24.1
Carson/Douglas	34,607	6.0	2,520	5.6
Rural Counties	78,875	13.8	2,604	5.8

The seriousness of crime in Clark County compared to other areas is underlined further when violent and property crimes are examined for each region. The crime rate per 100,000 population, which adjusts for population differences, is also provided in order to make direct regional comparisons. As shown in the table below, Clark County has the greatest incidence of violent and property crimes, in terms of absolute volume and the rate per 100,000.

Reported Violent and Property Crime by Region

Region	Violent Crime		Property Crime	
	Number	Rate/100,000	Number	Rate/100,000
Nevada Total	3,914	682	40,900	7,130
Clark	2,764	888	26,137	8,400
Washoe	662	444	10,127	6,798
Carson/Douglas	234	676	2,286	6,606
Rural Counties	254	322	2,350	2,979

In fact, Clark County exceeds all other regions in the number of reported Index Offenses for every crime category.

In terms of reported violent crime, Clark County accounts for almost 71 percent of the state total. Washoe County accounts for 17 percent, followed by the

Carson/Douglas region and the rural counties with six percent each. The crime rate, however, changes the regional violent crime picture. That is, upon adjusting for population, Washoe County drops from second to third among the regions, while the Carson/Douglas region rises from fourth to second in the rate of reported violent crime. As will be noted in the crime specific section, this regional difference is due largely to the relatively low rate of aggravated assault in Washoe County. It should be noted, however, that aggravated assault is the most prevalent violent crime in all regions, followed by robbery, rape, and homicide. The only exception is in the rural region comprising the thirteen least-populated counties, in which there were more homicides than rapes.

In the terms of property crime, the relative distribution is less heavily weighted towards Clark County, which had 64 percent of the state total. Washoe County had 25 percent of the reported property crimes, followed by Carson/Douglas and the rural counties at six percent each. The regional shift in proportions is largely accounted for by the relatively high volume and rate of property crime in Washoe County. Specifically, Washoe's relatively high larceny rate appears to be most responsible for its high rate of property crimes. Larceny is clearly the most prevalent property crime problem for all regions, but the relative contribution of larceny to property crimes in Washoe County is the highest of four regions (67%). In fact, the per capita rate of larcenies in Washoe exceeds the Clark County larceny rate per 100,000 population.

The 1974 crime statistics for each region, like the state crime figures, are not simply the result of a "bad year," but are part of a long-term increasing trend. However, the regions do differ in how fast crime is increasing.

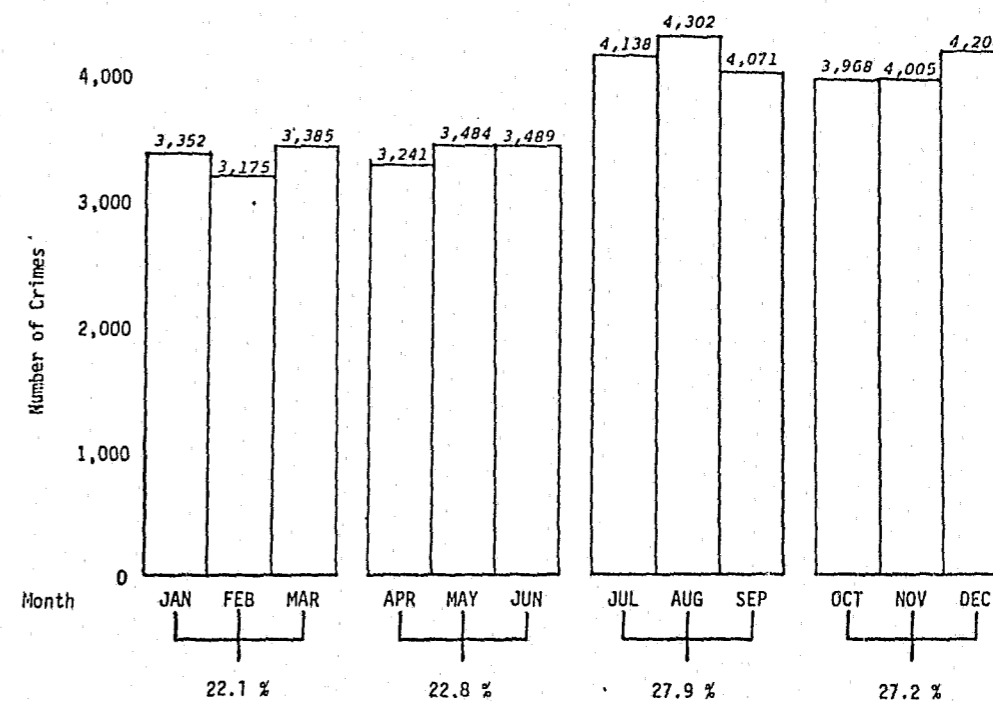
When crime growth is examined over the period 1968-1974, we find that reported Index Crime is growing faster in Carson/Douglas and the rural counties than in Clark and Washoe. This is not to say there is more crime in these regions, but simply that the proportionate increase is larger than in the more populous counties of Clark and Washoe. Furthermore, the highest growth trends are in regions that also show the highest rate of population growth. It is likely that some of the increases in reported crimes are due to improved reporting programs in the smaller counties. However, there is the additional interesting possibility that the growth in crime may not be simply a function of population, but is related to the speed of population growth. That is, when there is high population growth, the result is greater crime growth, as outlined in the foregoing discussion. This might be explained, as has been suggested by criminal justice practitioners, by the difficulty of meeting the rapidly increasing demand for services with existing law enforcement resources and the disruption of traditional community values.

To summarize, we have noted that Clark County has the greatest crime problem, as indicated by both the actual number of crimes and the crime rate per 100,000. However, there have also been substantial increases in crime for the rural counties and the Carson/Douglas region, which may pose law enforcement problems for these areas in light of their limited resources. Whatever the regional variations, the pervasive increase in crime will undoubtedly place increasing demands on law enforcement agencies. In this regard, more extensive and comprehensive analyses are needed to provide information on such things as other types of crime, the economic and social costs associated with crime, and the allocation of law enforcement resources. Such analyses and reports should provide needed crime information and would be of considerable assistance to individual law enforcement agencies.

### SEASONAL VARIATIONS

The pattern for Index Crimes in 1974 also shows a marked variation during the year. The figure below presents the number of Index Offenses reported for the state during each month.

Distribution of Index Crime by Month



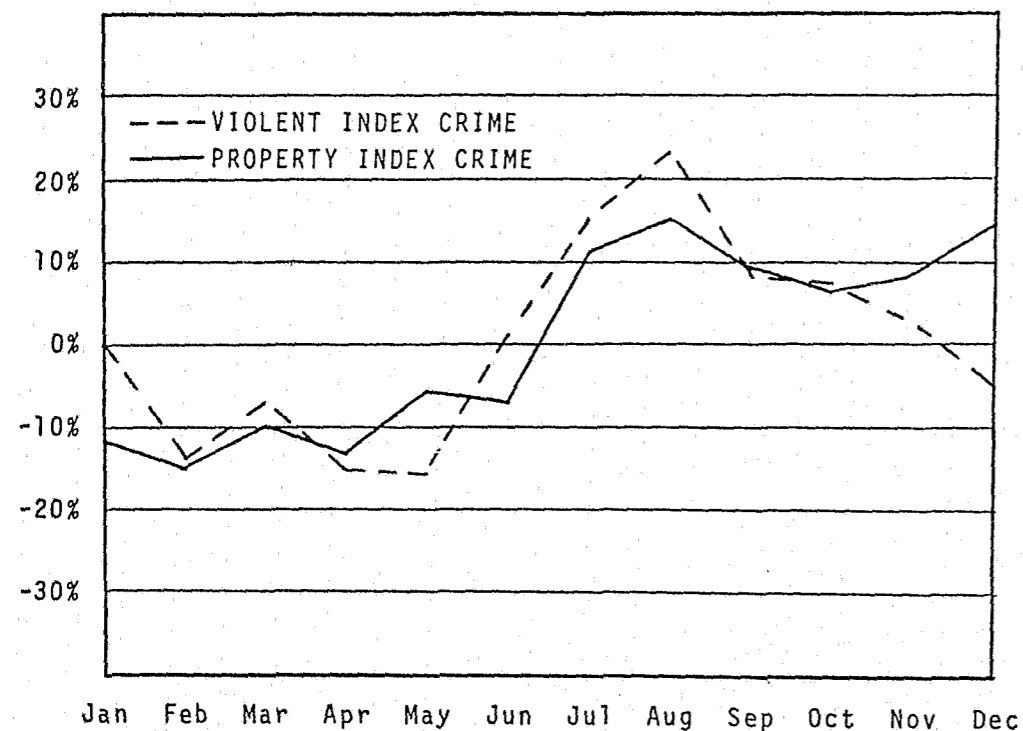
It is clear that the majority of reports come in the last six months of the year. Part of the reason may be the general trend of crime increases over time. However, the greatest volume of reported offenses occurs during the months of July, August, September, and December, and these months are typically ones in which several areas of the state experience the greatest inflow of tourists and transients. This pattern is fairly consistent in those regions where recreational facilities are most heavily developed, the Clark, Washoe, and Carson/Douglas areas. The

monthly trend for the rural counties is quite different and shows a more uniform distribution of reported offenses.

The suggested relationship between tourism and criminal activity is obviously complex. One explanation of the relation may be that increased tourism draws criminals to Nevada, since tourists have money and possessions which can be taken. Unfortunately, the data available from the Uniform Crime Reports does not identify which victims and offenders are non-residents.

Analysis of the monthly levels in reported violent and property crime reveals a number of interesting findings, as illustrated in the graph below.

Monthly Variation of Violent and Property Index Crimes\*



\*Volume is depicted in terms of percent deviation from the average of the months.

The most striking finding is the marked seasonal shifts evidenced by violent crimes. These crimes showed a slight decline from January through May. Beginning in June, however, violent crimes increased sharply and reached peak reporting by September. Throughout September and the remainder of the year, violent crime declined, though not back to pre-summer levels.

One possible explanation for the peak in violent crime during the summer months, especially for aggravated assault which is the predominant type of violent crime, is the increased social contact associated with this period of the year. The summer months are typically ones in which people engage in greater social interaction outside the home and work situation. The greater percentage of free-time activities may increase the possibility for conflict and assaultive behavior.

Property crimes showed a more stable trend of increased reporting over the year. Property crime also showed a peak during the summer months, but unlike violent crime, did not decline in the last quarter of the year.

The differences in seasonal variation between violent and property crime are even more pronounced when robbery is taken out of the violent crime category. This is discussed in the crime specific section on robbery.

It should be remembered that several years data are needed to be confident of the stability of seasonal trends, and that this seasonal analysis is based on figures for only one year.

#### AGE DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of arrests by particular age groups, provided in the table on the following page, reveals several interesting facts.

Percent Distribution of Arrests and State Population by Age

Age Group	All Arrests	Index Offense Arrests	Population
Under 18	26	38	33
18 to 29	44	42	20
Over 29	30	20	47

Judging from the arrest data, crime certainly appears to be a youthful phenomenon. Seventy percent of those arrested were under 30 years old, and for Index Crimes the figure rises to 80 percent. Only 53 percent of the state's population is in this age range.

The largest proportion of arrests was for the 18 to 29 year old group. This is to be expected, since persons between 18 and 29 years of age are probably more suited physically for, and socially less restricted from, carrying out almost all types of crime. Hence, little difference is found between the proportion of all arrests and the proportion of Index Crime arrests for this age group.

The proportion of all arrests in the juvenile category (26%) is actually lower than the state's juvenile population percentage (33%), which is not surprising when one considers that most juvenile offenders are from the teenage portion of the population. Considering this, however, it is all the more remarkable that the juvenile proportion of Index Crime arrests is greater than the juvenile population proportion: juveniles accounted for 3,311 (38%) of the 8,806 arrests for Index Crimes.

The vast majority of these juvenile arrests (93%) were for larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. Other juvenile offenses will be covered in the crime specific section.

Persons over 30 years old show a greater proportion of arrests for non-Index Crimes than Index Crimes. This difference is due, in large measure, to the high incidence of arrests for "driving under the influence," which constitutes approximately one-third of the non-Index Offense arrests for this age group. In addition, criminal justice researchers suggest that a smaller proportion of older offenders would be arrested for Index Crimes since some are out of circulation in prison and many drift into alcoholism and the less strenuous types of crime as they become older.

ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of arrest data by race provides several notable findings. The most striking is the divergence between the distribution of arrests and the population distribution, as shown in the table below.

Percent Distribution of Arrests and State Population by Race

Race	All Arrests	Index Offense Arrests	Population
Caucasian	81	76	92
Negro	15	22	6
American Indian	4	2	2

Caucasians constitute a smaller proportion of persons arrested, and Negroes and Indians constitute a greater proportion of persons arrested, than would be expected on the basis of their representation in the total state population.

Nearly one-half (48%) of the Indian arrests are directly related to the use of alcohol and disorderly behavior, which was considerably greater than for



other races. Negro arrests are more evenly distributed throughout the offense categories, although a relatively greater proportion are for Index Crimes.

Great care should be exercised in interpreting racial differences as they relate to crime, especially since the relationships among ethnicity, criminal activity, reported offenses, and arrests are complex and not well understood. Much of the data needed for analysis of this subject, such as reported offenses by race and socioeconomic information, is simply not collected as part of the UCR program.

#### SEX DISTRIBUTION

The sex distribution for arrests shows that for every 100 arrests, 22 are of women. In almost all crime categories the number of arrests of males far exceeds females' arrests. Not surprisingly, the only exception was arrests for prostitution, for which the reverse occurred. There are several crimes, however, in which female arrests exceeded the average sex ratio for total arrests. These are prostitution, larceny, disorderly conduct, and fraud. It seems significant that these are offenses for which physical strength is less important and traditional sex roles do not restrict women from participating.

#### CRIME SPECIFIC TRENDS AND PATTERNS

In this section, twenty crime categories are examined in terms of their magnitude, trends, regional and seasonal variation, and characteristics of the offenders who are arrested for committing them.

The particular offense categories were selected because of the interest shown in them and their contribution to Nevada's crime total. The twenty categories include the seven Index Crimes, the related crimes of simple assault and non-Index forms of theft, drug and alcohol law violations, three minor offenses (prostitution, disorderly conduct, and vagrancy) which together are one-sixth of all arrests, and juvenile status offenses.

The twenty offenses are organized into major topics as follows:

- Criminal homicide: murder and voluntary manslaughter, and involuntary manslaughter
- Forcible rape
- Robbery
- Assault: aggravated and simple
- Burglary
- Larceny and other theft: including vehicle theft, fraud, forgery, and embezzlement
- Drug and alcohol violations: narcotics and drugs sales or possession, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and liquor law violations
- Prostitution
- Disorderly conduct and vagrancy
- Juvenile status offenses: loitering or curfew violations, and runaway



Only arrest data are available on the number of offenses of fraud, forgery, embezzlement, narcotics and alcohol violations, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, prostitution, and juvenile status offenses. The sections concerning these offenses are less comprehensive, since they do not cover trends or seasonal and regional variations.

#### Arrests as a Crime Index

Arrests underrepresent the absolute magnitude of crime more than do the crime reports. This is shown by a comparison of arrests and reports for those offenses, the Index Crimes, for which both data are available.

In 1974, there were 44,814 Index Crimes reported and 8,806 arrests for Index Offenses, or five crimes for every arrest. Comparing reported crimes and arrests for each of the seven Index Crimes shows that underrepresentation is greater for the less serious crimes, since for all violent crimes, there are two-and-one-half reported crimes for every arrest, but for property crimes there are six reports for each arrest.

The Index Crime data can be used to illustrate the potential magnitude of the underrepresentation of non-Index Crimes. In 1974, the number of arrests for non-Index Offenses was 35,045 (four times the number of Index Offense arrests). If there were five times that number of crime reports, as suggested by the Index Crime data, the number of reported non-Index Crimes was 175,000.

In the discussions which follow on fraud, forgery, drug law violations, disorderly conduct, and other offenses for which only arrest data is available, these discrepancies between reports of and arrest for crime should be kept in mind.

## CRIMINAL HOMICIDE

### Murder and Voluntary Manslaughter

There were 86 murders reported to Nevada law enforcement agencies in 1974. Although it seems a small number, this figure represents a 28 percent increase in murder over 1973. However, it still represents less than two-tenths of one percent of all Index Crime, and only 2.2 percent of all violent crime.

Murder is defined as the willful killing of one human being by another and generally includes any death due to a fight, quarrel, argument, assault, or commission of a crime. It is counted by law enforcement agencies on the basis of their own investigation, without regard to the findings of a court, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. It is distinguished from involuntary (negligent) manslaughter, which is discussed in the next section.

As is the case for crime in general, the frequency of murder was greatest during the summer quarter (30 offenses) and lowest during the spring quarter (14 offenses). The final quarter deviates from the general pattern, however, in that only 15 murders (17%) were committed during this period. This may be explained by the fact that murder, like aggravated assault, appears to be more sensitive to seasonal variation than are the other serious crimes. Yet both of these crimes were less frequent during the last quarter of 1974 than during the first quarter, which suggests the possible beginning of a downtrend in these offenses. Preliminary data for the first quarter of 1975 tend to support this conclusion.

Regionally, the distribution of murder differs from what one would expect on the basis of the population distribution. Clark County has 54 percent of the

state population but accounts for 64 percent of the murders. Washoe County on the other hand, has 26 percent of the population but only 16 percent of the reported murders. The relative contribution of the remaining two regions is proportionate to their populations. The volume and rate for each region is given in the table below. The most notable figure in the table is Washoe County's relatively low rate of murder, which is exactly one-half of Clark County's victimization rate.

Murders by Region

Region	Number of Offenses	Rate/100,000 Population
Nevada Total	86	15
Clark	55	18
Washoe	14	9
Carson/Douglas	5	14
Rural Counties	12	15

Since the UCR program does provide supplementary information on the victim as well as the circumstances and perpetrators of murder, this type of crime can be more closely examined. However, it should be remembered that because of the nature of the UCR program, the victim and offender data are not necessarily related to the same group of crimes. Like the arrest data that will be presented throughout the report, victim data is provided to give a more complete picture of the nature of this crime.

Although the supplementary information on murder situations is not always consistently classified by the reporting agencies, a simple analysis shows that almost one-half (49%) of the murders involved interpersonal conflicts and other

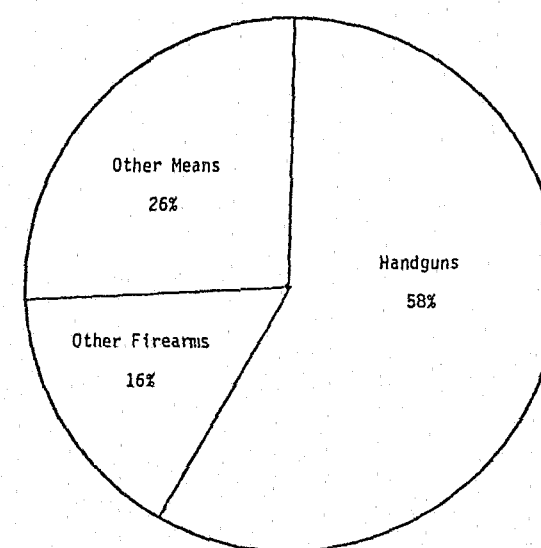
arguments in everyday social situations. Twenty murders resulted specifically from family quarrels, while other conflict situations accounted for at least 22 deaths.

The least frequent situations were homicides resulting from other crime-related activities. Fourteen homicides were associated with the commission of another crime, such as a robbery, narcotics transaction, or rape. Three of these crime-related deaths were justifiable homicides by law enforcement officers.

The analysis of murder situations, however, must be tempered by the fact that in one-third of the cases the circumstances are either unknown or not specified in the supplemental reports. Undoubtedly, many of these murders occurred as a result of other crime activities or arguments. Their addition to the distribution could change it considerably.

The predominant means of accomplishing this extreme form of aggression was the handgun, as shown in the following graph.

Murder by Weapon



Handguns account for 50 deaths and 58 percent of the total. This puts Nevada five percent above the national average for this type of murder weapon, as reported by the F.B.I.\* The victims in murder situations tend to be fairly evenly distributed by age, ranging from a two-month-old victim of child abuse

\*F.B.I. Annual Crime Report, 1973

to a 90-year-old man bludgeoned to death.

Although no particular age group appears especially vulnerable to murder, the sex and race of victims are differentially associated with murder. Seventy-three percent of the victims were Caucasian. Twenty-four percent of the victims were Negroes, however, which represents four times their six percent proportion of the population. Thus a disproportionate number of Negroes became victims of murder in 1974. Furthermore, this was especially true for Negro males, who outnumbered Negro females more than three to one. In fact, females in general are underrepresented, accounting for 30 percent of all victims compared to their 49 percent of the population.

Seventy-nine persons were arrested for murder in 1974. This represents nine percent of the arrests for violent crime and two percent of all arrests for Index Crimes. It might be noted that there were almost as many arrests for murder as there were reported murders. This is probably due to the fact that murder is more a crime of passion or impulse rather than deviousness--as are the property offenses--and the perpetrators are more easily detected and apprehended.

Age, race, and sex breakdowns reveal a number of differences between murder arrests and the overall arrests profile. Persons arrested for murder tend to be older than those arrested for other Index Offense categories. It is the only Index category for which the over-29-years-of-age group exceeds the 18-29 age group. The age distribution of persons arrested for murder is similar to the victims' in that no particular age group is overrepresented. Caucasians account for 82 percent of those arrested, while Negroes make up the remaining 18 percent. A comparison of the percentages of Negro arrests with the total Index Offense arrests distribution indicates that they are not as overrepresented for murder as they are for other Index Crime categories.

Women account for 20 percent of those arrested, which is about the same as female arrests for Index Crimes in general.

Like the victim group, however, women are underrepresented in murder arrests, relative to their percentage of the state population.

#### Negligent Manslaughter

This crime involves the killing of one person by another through gross negligence. Although not a frequent Index Offense, it did account for 32 deaths in 1974. All of these were the result of motor vehicle accidents, no accidental shootings having been reported in 1974. The addition of these negligent traffic deaths raises the total criminal homicides for 1974 to 118.

## FORCIBLE RAPE

According to police reports, 261 women were either forcibly raped or victims of attempts in 1974. Actual forcible rape accounted for 166 (or 64%) of the reported offenses. Attempts to commit forcible rape accounted for the other 95 cases.

Forcible rape is defined as the carnal knowledge of a female against her will, accomplished by force or threat of force and, as such, is often an expression of aggression and violence rather than of lust. Thus, it is essentially a form of assault. Offenses are counted for each person raped and for each person upon whom an attempt to rape has been made, regardless of the age of the victim. Statutory rape (no force used and victim is under legal age of consent) and attacks on males are excluded from this category. In cases where several men attack one female, only one offense is counted.

The 261 reported cases account for less than one percent of all Index Crime and seven percent of all violent crime. This figure represents an increase of four percent over 1973, much less than the increases in previous years noted earlier.

The rape problem is generally regarded by criminal justice practitioners as much more serious than the reporting figures indicate, as rape tends to be underreported due to fear, embarrassment, and a reluctance of victims to subject their lives to the public scrutiny and stigma involved in the legal process. Therefore, the rate of 46 rapes per 100,000 population does not accurately reflect the actual magnitude of this crime. This figure is also misleading when used as a victimization index since rape applies only to female victims. Using

the state's female population as a base, the victimization rate is 93 rapes per 100,000.

The regional distribution shows reported rape to be concentrated in the Clark County region, as illustrated in the table below.

Forcible Rape by Region

<u>Region</u>	<u>Number of Offenses</u>	<u>Rate/100,000 Female Population</u>
Nevada Total	261	93
Clark	191	125
Washoe	47	62
Carson/Douglas	13	77
Rural Counties	10	26

In fact, Clark County has 73 percent of the rapes, but only 54 percent of the state population.

Although Washoe County had more forcible rapes than the Carson/Douglas region, its per capita rate was less. The rural counties accounted for less than four percent of the state total of forcible rapes.

The arrest data shows that 130 persons were arrested for this crime in 1974. Not surprisingly, the majority were young: 75 percent were under 30 and 15 percent were juveniles. Negroes were highly overrepresented, accounting for 31 percent of those arrested for forcible rape, as compared to 22 percent of arrests for Index Crimes and six percent of the population. Caucasians accounted for the remaining 69 percent of arrests.

ROBBERY

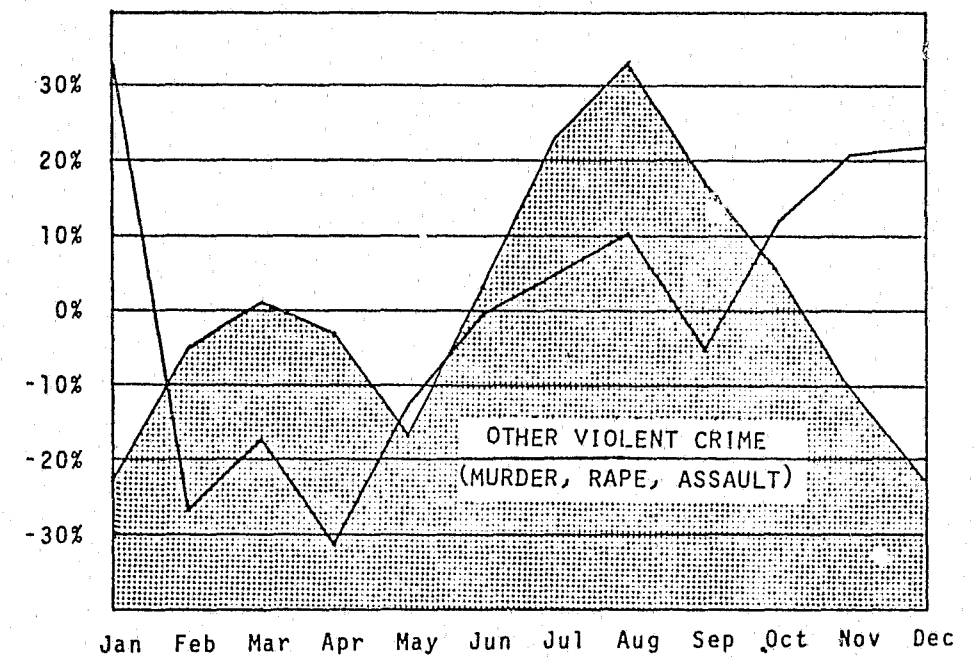
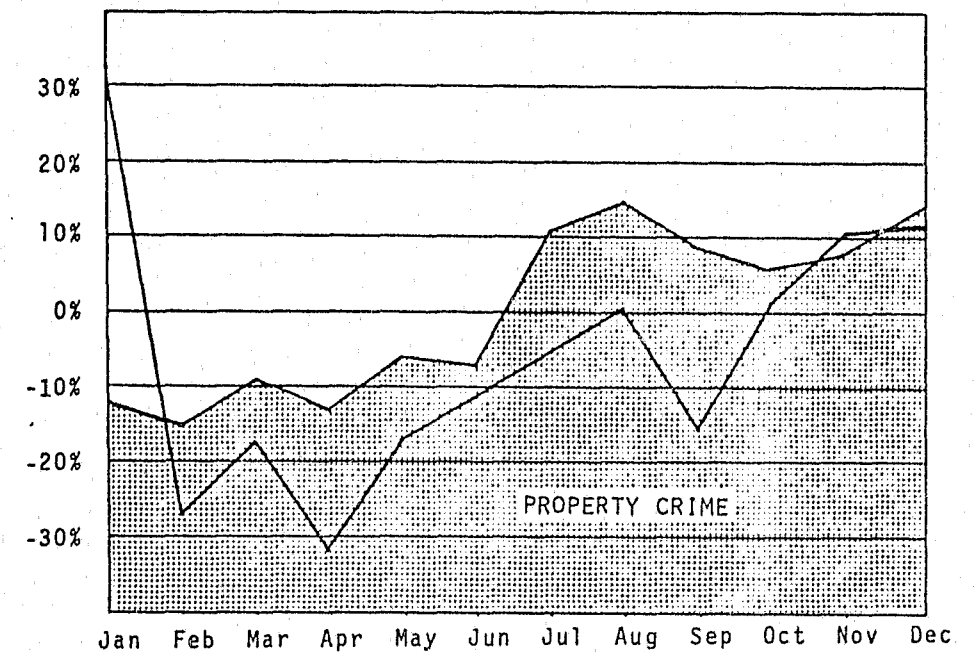
There were 1,588 robberies reported in 1974, which represented an increase of 11 percent over 1973. Robbery accounted for four percent of all Index Crime and 41 percent of all violent crime.

Robbery is defined as the unlawful taking, or attempted taking, of personal property from a person by force, violence, fear of injury, or threat of violence. This category includes "holdups," "muggings," and "hijackings," but excludes such things as "robbery of an apartment" and "safe robbery" in which the victim is not directly confronted with actual force or the fear of force or violence. Where the commission of such offenses does involve force, they are counted as robbery. One offense is counted for each district operation regardless of the number of victims or perpetrators.

Robbery has elements of both property crime and violent crime. The major motive is usually the acquisition of property, but by means of actual or threatened violence. It is classified for the UCR as a violent crime because of the potential physical danger to the victim.

Although classified as a violent crime, the seasonal trend for robbery appears to be more like that of property crime, as shown in the figures on the opposite page. Except for the month of January, the monthly trend for robbery generally parallels the monthly trend of property crime and shows a pattern of increase during the last quarter of 1974. This is contrary to the trend of other violent crimes, which shows a sharp decline in reported offenses during the last quarter.

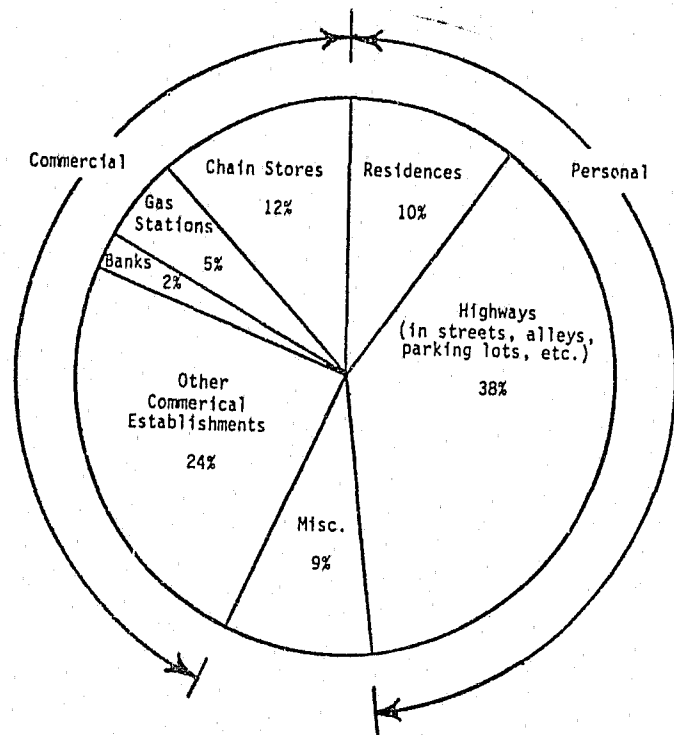
Comparison of Seasonal Trends for Robbery and Other Index Crimes



Robbery is shown by line, property Index Crime and other violent Index Crime by shaded area. Volume is depicted in terms of percent deviation from the average of the months.

Analysis of robbery situations shows that they were almost equally divided between personal confrontation with private citizens and victimization of commercial business establishments. The most frequent location (602 reports) was out-

Type of Robbery



doors in streets, alleys, and parking lots. The remaining ten percent were residential robberies.

Robbery of banks, which makes the greatest impression on the public, accounted for less than two percent of all robberies. The major commercial robbery category was robbery of business establishments other than banks, gas stations, and chain stores, with 24 percent of all robberies. Of these, bars and liquor stores are probably most frequently victimized.

The state offense rate, in this case not an accurate victimization rate due to the fact that robberies are counted by events rather than the number of persons robbed, was 277 per 100,000 resident population.

The regional breakdown of reported robberies shows that they are not distributed proportionally to the population, as shown by the table on the following page.

Robbery by Region

Region	Number of Offenses	Rate/100,000 Population
Nevada Total	1,588	277
Clark	1,216	391
Washoe	288	190
Carson/Douglas	48	139
Rural Counties	41	52

Clark County's per capita rate for robbery is over twice as large as any other region's. In fact, Clark County has 77 percent of all reported robberies in the state.

It should be noted, however, that the robbery rate in Washoe County is higher than in the Carson/Douglas region. This is the only one of the four violent crimes for which this is true. Only 41 robberies were reported in the thirteen rural counties, giving them a relatively low rate of 52 robberies per 100,000 population.

Seven-hundred-two persons were arrested for robbery in 1974, which accounts for eight percent of the persons arrested for Index Offenses. Sixty-nine percent of the persons charged with this offense were between 18 and 29 years of age, a surprisingly large proportion considering the fact that this age group represents roughly 20 percent of the population. Those over 30, on the other hand, accounted for only 14 percent of those arrests, while they represent about 47 percent of the population. It may be that older persons are minimally involved in this offense because robbery tends to be a type of crime involving a considerable degree of risk and physical activity. Hence, the majority committing this offense probably

either get caught or switch to a less strenuous crime before they reach 30 years of age.

Fifty-nine percent of those arrested were Caucasian, while 39 percent were Negro, as opposed to a population distribution of about 92 percent Caucasian and six percent Negro. Robbery is the Index Crime for which Negroes are most over-represented.

Females constituted only nine percent of those arrested for robbery, compared to 21 percent for Index Offenses in general. Only burglary and, of course, rape had lower female proportions.

## ASSAULT

Nevada had 4,432 assaults reported in 1974. This crime category includes both aggravated and "simple" assaults. Reports of both types of assaults are collected in the UCR program but as noted earlier, simple assaults are not counted as an Index Offense. Therefore, aggravated and simple assaults are discussed separately.

### Aggravated Assault

This offense is defined as an unlawful attack on a person with the intent to kill, maim, or inflict bodily injury. Attempts are included when a weapon is used which probably would have caused serious bodily injury had the crime been successfully completed. The type of weapon used and the seriousness of the actual injury are the primary criteria in distinguishing this from simple assault.

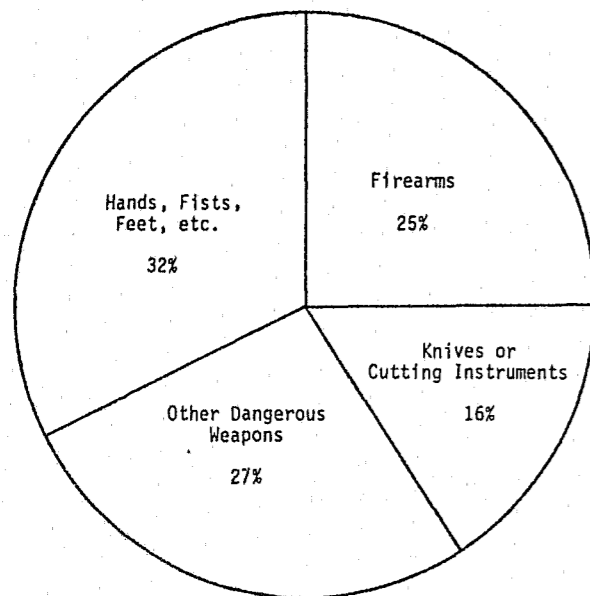
There were 1,947 aggravated assaults reported in 1974, representing four percent of all Index Crime and 50 percent of the violent crime. The incidence of aggravated assault is up 41 percent from 1973, which is the largest increase of any of the Index Offenses.

Although this offense posted the biggest increase in 1974, the quarterly breakdown shows this crime to have decreased since August. December actually had fewer aggravated assaults than January, and the last quarter was lower than the first quarter. Although this offense tends to be highly sensitive to seasonal variation, the volume of decrease is greater than would be expected on the basis of this factor alone (preliminary results for the first quarter of 1975 tend to

support this conclusion). Thus, it appears that the soaring trend in aggravated assault may have peaked and begun a real downtrend. Murder, the Index Crime most nearly related to aggravated assault in terms of intent, also shows a similar pattern.

Although aggravated assault shows some similarities to murder, the distribution of the type of weapons used to inflict injury is different, as shown in the chart below.

Type of Weapon



One difference is that firearms were used in only 25 percent of the assaults, as opposed to 74 percent for murders.

The majority of weapons used in aggravated assaults are those readily available in the immediate conflict situation, including fists and feet, chains, canoe paddles, rocks, and the like.

The regional distribution of aggravated assault differs from what would be expected on the basis of population alone. Clark County is overrepresented, with 66 percent of the aggravated assaults but 54 percent of the population, while Washoe is underrepresented, with 16 percent of the offenses and 26 percent of the population. The proportionate distributions of aggravated assault in the

Carson/Douglas and rural regions are greater than the other violent crimes already discussed. The state and regional breakdown for these assaults is provided in the table below.

Aggravated Assault by Region

Region	Number of Offenses	Rate/100,000 Population
Nevada Total	1,947	399
Clark	1,291	415
Washoe	312	209
Carson/Douglas	164	474
Rural Counties	180	228

As usual, Clark County has the greatest number of aggravated assaults. However, the per capita rate for this offense for the Carson/Douglas region is higher than any other region, including Clark County. The aggravated assault rate for the rural counties is also higher than for other violent crimes, exceeding Washoe County's rate, which is the lowest regional rate in the state.

One reason for the high rate in the Carson/Douglas region may be the large influx of summer tourists, especially at the stateline casino area. This results in a very high number of persons in a small geographic area, and increases the potential for interpersonal conflict. As noted before, assaults soar during the summer months, which lends support for this explanation.

The 732 persons arrested for aggravated assault account for 8.3 percent of the persons arrested for Index Crimes and 1.7 percent of all persons arrested.

Persons arrested for this offense tend to be older, as was the case for



murder. Juveniles account for only 90 arrests (12%), persons between 18 and 29 represent 44 percent, and those over 29 account for 43 percent. For purposes of comparison, the population distribution is roughly 31 percent juvenile, 22 percent between 18 and 29 years old, and 47 percent over 29. The only major offense category for which the older group represented a larger percentage is murder.

Caucasians represent 64 percent of the arrests for aggravated assault, whereas they represent 76 percent of all Index Crime arrests. As is the case for robbery and rape, Negroes are more overrepresented for aggravated assault than they are for Index Crime in general. They account for nearly one-third of those arrested for this offense, compared to their six percent of the population.

Aggravated assault is dominated by male offenders, and women account for only 13 percent of the total arrests.

#### Simple Assault

This category includes any assault which does not, or would not, result in a serious injury to the victim. Although not counted as an Index Offense, reported incidents are available and included to give a more complete picture of assaultive violence. Simple assaults are counted for threats made with the capacity to carry them out, battery, injury by culpable negligence, resisting or obstructing an officer, intimidation, coercion, hazing, and all attempts to commit these acts.

There were 2,485 such assaults reported in 1974, which account for 56 percent of all reported assaults. The addition of simple assault increases the number of total assaults to 4,432 reported offenses and the victimization rate

to 773 per 100,000 resident population.

The inclusion of simple assault makes the regional distribution of assault more proportionate to the population distribution and suggests the possibility of regional reporting differences. In Clark County the relative proportions are 48 percent for aggravated and 52 percent for simple, while in Washoe County the proportions are 30 percent and 70 percent respectively. Thus the number of assaults reported in Washoe County is more affected by the addition of simple assault, which makes Washoe's proportion of assault comparable to its proportion of the state's population.

The inclusion of simple assaults also alters the age, race, and sex distributions. The proportions of persons under 30 years old (65%) and females (16%) are larger for simple assaults than aggravated assaults. The converse is found for Negroes, with 16 percent of arrests for simple assault and 33 percent for aggravated. Two explanations are suggested: either persons under 30, females, and non-Negroes commit relatively more simple assaults or correlates of age, sex, and race affect the classification of assaultive crimes. Unfortunately, no data is available which would favor either explanation.

## BURGLARY

There were 13,998 burglaries reported in 1974, an increase of 19 percent over 1973. In terms of volume alone, burglary is Nevada's second most serious crime after larceny, and accounts for 31 percent of all Index Crime.

Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent of committing a theft or felony. In the case of temporary residences such as hotels and motels where the entry of one or more rooms is likely to be reported by the manager, only one offense is counted. For permanent residences such as apartments, private homes, and commercial buildings, each burglary is individually counted.\*

The seasonal trend for burglary is one of more reported offenses during the last two quarters of the year. The summer quarter is high, as might be expected, since during this time large numbers of tourists in motels and hotels present a lucrative target for this type of offender and households are often left unattended while people are on vacation. However, the last quarter is even higher, especially the month of December, which accounts for 10 percent of the year's total number of reported burglaries. One explanation is probably the large number of tourists who come to Nevada during the Christmas holidays. Perhaps even more important is the increased volume of valuable and marketable merchandise that most families have at this time of the year.

A simple dichotomy of types of burglaries shows that residence burglaries represent 72 percent of the reported offenses, while non-residence burglaries account for the remaining 28 percent.

\*It may be noted that this definition differs considerably from the Nevada Revised Statutes definition of burglary. Since we are part of the national program, it was decided to reflect the national UCR offense definitions for the present report.

Residence burglaries appear to be about equally divided between the daytime (between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.) and the nighttime (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) at 37 percent and 36 percent, respectively. In 29 percent of the residence burglaries, the time of occurrence was unknown, probably because they occurred while the residents were away on vacation or for the weekend.

Non-residence establishments, on the other hand, are more frequently burglarized at night since they are usually unoccupied at this time. Forty-eight percent are known to have occurred at night, while only 17 percent are known to have occurred during the day. A large percentage (35%) occurred at an unknown time, which probably reflects weekend burglaries that were not discovered until the first working day of the following week.

The regional distribution of burglary shows proportions that are different from what would be expected on the basis of resident population. Clark County has 54 percent of the population, but 71 percent of the burglaries. The Carson/Douglas region is slightly underrepresented, with five percent of the burglaries and six percent of the population. Both the Washoe and rural regions are underrepresented, as shown in the table below.

<u>Burglary by Region</u>		
<u>Region</u>	<u>Number of Offenses</u>	<u>Rate/100,000 Population</u>
Nevada Total	13,998	2,440
Clark	9,903	3,183
Washoe	2,640	1,772
Carson/Douglas	725	2,095
Rural Counties	730	926

Analysis of the arrest data shows that 2,034 persons were arrested for burglary in 1974. This is nearly one-quarter (23%) of all arrests for Index Offenses.

The age and sex breakdowns suggest that burglary is predominantly a young man's crime. The most striking finding is that juveniles account for over one-half (52%) of all persons arrested for this offense. That is, 1,048 juveniles were arrested for burglary in 1974.

Probably many of the burglaries committed by juveniles are opportunistic. In such cases, juveniles take advantage of an open window, door, or garage to enter a building and steal readily accessible items. Juveniles, being relatively unpracticed and incautious, may also be caught for their burglaries more frequently. Therefore, it seems likely that the arrest data somewhat overrepresent the extent and seriousness of juvenile burglary involvement.

The 18 to 29 age group accounts for another 39 percent of burglary arrests. As a consequence, the over 29 age group, which represents 47 percent of the population, accounts for only 9 percent of those arrested.

Burglary arrests of women, six percent of the total, represent a smaller proportion than for any other offense category, except rape and other sex offenses.

Negroes are not as overrepresented in burglary arrests as they are for Index Crime arrests in general. They account for 20 percent of the burglary arrests, compared with 22 percent of all Index arrests and six percent of the population. Caucasians account for 78 percent of the persons arrested for this offense.

## LARCENY AND OTHER THEFT OFFENSES

Several theft offenses are examined in this section because they all involve the unlawful procurement of another persons property. Larceny and motor vehicle theft are Index Offenses and are counted separately in the UCR program. Additional theft offenses are discussed separately because they contribute to the magnitude of the problem but are measured only in terms of arrest data.

### Larceny

This offense category generally includes any theft which is not part of a robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, embezzlement, or fraud. Each distinct theft operation is counted as one offense regardless of the number of items or the value of the property taken.

Larceny was the most frequent of the seven Index Crimes, with 23,448 offenses reported in 1974. It accounted for 52 percent of all Index Crime and 57 percent of all Index property crime.

The incidence of larceny in 1974 increased 30 percent over 1973. Only assault showed a larger increase. Since larcenies represent over one-half of all Index Crimes, it made the greatest contribution to the overall crime increase in 1974. Specifically, the single crime of larceny accounted for 63 percent of the increase in Index Crime from 1973 to 1974.

Larceny shows more seasonal variation than do other property offenses. The summer quarter is the highest with 29 percent of the year's total. Undoubtedly, the greater number of larcenies during the summer reflects, in part, the increased

accessibility of the items which, as indicated in the table below, are most frequently stolen.

Larceny by Items Stolen and Situation

<u>Items Stolen/Situation</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Larceny Total	23,448	100
Wallet, Etc./Pocket Picked	323	1
Purse/Snatched	604	3
Merchandise/Shoplifting	3,090	13
All but Parts and Accessories/Taken from Motor Vehicles	4,463	19
Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories	2,989	13
Bicycles	3,218	14
All Goods/Taken from Building, except by Shoplifting or Theft from Coin-Operated Machine	5,414	23
All Goods/Theft from Coin-Operated Machines	207	1
All Other	3,140	13

That is, during periods of good weather more buildings may be open with items left where they can be removed, more bicycles in use and parked in public places, more tourist vehicles loaded with vacation gear parked in the area, and so forth. On the other hand, periods of inclement weather usually mark a reduction in the availability of such items.

The majority of larcenies involved items of relatively low dollar value. Thirty-nine percent involved property valued at \$50.00 or less. Thirty-six percent of the larcenies were in the \$50.00 to \$199.00 category, and only 25 percent involved property valued at \$200.00 and over.

The regional distribution of larceny, unlike most other offenses, is fairly close to the distribution of resident population. The distribution is shown in the table on the next page.

Larceny by Region

<u>Region</u>	<u>Number of Offenses</u>	<u>Rate/100,000 Population</u>
Nevada Total	23,448	4,088
Clark	13,763	4,423
Washoe	6,829	4,584
Carson/Douglas	1,421	4,106
Rural Counties	1,435	1,819

The two most notable findings are the high rate of larceny for Washoe County and the low rate for the rural region. In fact, the per capita larceny rate in Washoe exceeds that of Clark County, although only by a small amount. Nevertheless, the generally high larceny rates in the first three regions suggests that larceny, even more than other crimes, is an urban phenomenon. Indeed, 94 percent of the reported larcenies occur in the Clark, Washoe, and Carson/Douglas regions. The remaining thirteen rural counties contribute only six percent to the total number of reported larcenies.

There were 4,325 persons arrested for larceny in 1974, which accounted for 49 percent of arrests for Index Crime and ten percent of all arrests.

Larceny, like other Index property crimes, tends to be a young person's crime. There were 3,360 persons under 30 years of age arrested for larceny, 39 percent juveniles and 39 percent 18 through 29 years old. Although the proportion of juveniles arrested was not as high as for burglary, larceny accounted for more juvenile arrests than any other arrest category except a juvenile status offense.

The comments on juvenile involvement in burglary made in the preceding

section are as plausible for larceny. Many juvenile thefts are opportunistic, and the most frequent thefts, shoplifting, taking things from vehicles, bicycle theft, and thefts from public areas of buildings, suggest situations where opportunities often occur to steal something without much planning or preparation. These crimes probably have relatively low dollar loss values. They also may be solved and cleared by arrests more often than crimes committed by adults, which would imply that juvenile arrest data overrepresents their involvement in larceny, at least somewhat.

The distribution of arrests by race for larceny was almost the same as for burglary. Negroes accounted for 19 percent and Caucasians accounted for 78 percent of persons arrested for larceny.

The distribution of larceny arrests for males and females departs from what has been found previously. Women accounted for 34 percent of the larceny arrests, which was the highest percentage of females arrested for an adult crime, except for the categories of prostitution and disorderly conduct. Overall, larcenies do not require as much physical prowess as the other Index Crimes, but depend rather on cleverness.

#### Motor Vehicle Theft

This offense consists of the theft or attempted theft of any motor vehicle, including automobiles, buses, trucks, motorcycles, and snowmobiles.

There were 3,454 motor vehicles reported stolen in 1974, an increase of only three percent over 1973, which is probably attributable to public education and steering and ignition locks. Motor vehicle thefts contributed eight percent

to the overall magnitude of Index Crime.

The quarterly breakdown shows motor vehicle theft to be relatively insensitive to seasonal changes. Instead, it shows a trend of increased reporting over the year.

The total number of reported motor vehicle thefts resulted in a crime rate of 602 vehicles stolen for every 100,000 population. The regional breakdown of this figure is provided in the table below.

#### Motor Vehicle Theft by Region

<u>Region</u>	<u>Number of Offenses</u>	<u>Rate/100,000 Population</u>
Nevada Total	3,454	602
Clark	2,471	794
Washoe	658	442
Carson/Douglas	140	405
Rural Counties	185	235

There were 783 persons arrested for motor vehicle theft in 1974, which is about two arrests for every nine vehicles stolen.

Analysis of age and sex of these offenders shows that, as for other crimes, young persons are overrepresented and females are underrepresented, which is not surprising given that a fair proportion of the thefts are probably for joy-riding. Juveniles account for 44 percent of the arrests, while 37 percent of the arrests are in the 18-29 age group. The remaining 19 percent are persons over 29 years old.

#### Other Theft Offenses

The UCR program does not collect data on reported theft offenses, except for

the two categories discussed immediately above. However, it does collect arrest data for other theft offenses. For purposes of comparison with larceny and motor vehicle theft arrest data, data for the other theft categories are provided in the table below.

Arrests by Theft Offense Category

Type of Theft	Number of Arrests	Percent of all Theft Arrests	Percent of Total Arrests
Theft Offenses Total	6,651	100	15.2
Fraud	1,104	17	2.5
Forgery and Counterfeiting	284	4	0.6
Embezzlement	155	2	0.4
Larceny	4,325	65	9.9
Motor Vehicle Theft	783	12	1.8

In contrast to those arrested for larceny and motor vehicle theft, persons arrested for fraud, forgery and counterfeiting, and embezzlement in 1974 tended to be somewhat older. Juveniles accounted for only 101 arrests, or less than seven percent of those arrested for these offenses. Young adults represented 49 percent, while the over 29 age group represented 44 percent of these arrests.

Twenty-eight percent of the arrests were of women, a relatively high level of involvement when compared with most other offenses.

The differences noted between the age and sex of offenders arrested for larceny and motor vehicle theft and these offenders may reflect the experience and social skills required for fraud, forgery, and counterfeiting. Juveniles are not likely to be sophisticated enough to commit such offenses, while, on the other hand, women can be as knowledgeable and skilled in these areas as men.

Negroes were 19 percent of those arrested for these offenses, the same as for larceny. Caucasians accounted for 79 percent, which is only one percent more than for larceny.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS

Narcotics and Drugs Sales or Possession

In 1974, 3,804 arrests were made for possession of or trafficking in prohibited drugs. This was the third largest category of offenses for which persons were arrested, with 8.7 percent of all arrests and only 521 fewer arrests than were made for the second largest category, larceny. Most of these arrests are probably for possession or use, rather than sale.

Polls of various age and occupational groups in several parts of the United States seem to indicate that prohibited drugs such as marijuana, amphetamines, and barbiturates are used by a significant proportion of the population. Assuming that this is true for Nevada, it seems possible that the actual number of drug violations committed in 1974 was many times the number of arrests.

Data on the type of drug for which persons were arrested is available from UCR. The categories are (1) marijuana, (2) opium, cocaine and their derivatives, including heroin and morphine, (3) synthetic narcotics, such as demerol and methadone, and (4) other dangerous non-narcotic drugs, including amphetamines, barbiturates, and hallucinogens. The distribution of drug arrests by category is shown in the table below.

Drug Arrests by Type of Drug

Drug	Number	Percent
Drug Arrest Total	3,804	100
Marijuana	2,867	75
Opium, Cocaine, and Derivatives	401	11
Synthetic Narcotics	66	2
Other Dangerous Drugs	470	12

Marijuana is the most significant offense in numbers, with three-quarters of the drug arrests. The traditional "hard" drugs, opium, cocaine, and their derivatives and the dangerous drugs split the remainder about evenly. Synthetic narcotics contribute only two percent of the drug arrests.

Nine out of ten persons arrested for drug law violations in 1974 were under 30 years of age, but most of these (two-thirds of all drug arrests) were young adults. Juveniles were only 25 percent of those arrested, the same fraction which juveniles constitute of all arrests. It should be kept in mind that juveniles may be less cautious in their drug use and more likely to be arrested than adults and therefore may be overrepresented in the arrest data.

Percent of Arrests by Age and Type of Drug

Drug	Under 18	18-29	Over 29
Drug Arrest Total	25	65	10
Marijuana	29	63	8
Opium, Cocaine, and Derivatives*	4	74	21
Synthetic Narcotics	17	71	12
Other Dangerous Drugs	20	65	15

The age pattern varies by type of drug. Young adults 18 through 29 years old are about two-thirds of those arrested for those drugs preferred by casual users, marijuana and dangerous drugs. Twenty-nine percent of those arrested for marijuana were juveniles, but they constituted only 20 percent of those arrested for dangerous drugs, a smaller proportion than for drug offenses as a whole. Persons involved with opium, cocaine, and their derivatives were older: three-quarters were young adults and 21 percent were 30 or older. This drug category had the largest proportion of persons 30 or older.

\*Percentages do not total 100 due to rounding error.

The ethnic distribution of combined drug arrests is not too different from that for arrests in general. However, Negroes, who make up only six percent of the state's population, were 15 percent of those arrested for drug offenses in 1974, while Caucasians, 92 percent of the population, were just 84 percent of those arrested for drugs.

Percent of Arrests by Race and Type of Drug

Drug	Caucasian	Negro	American Indian	Other
Drug Arrest Total	84	15	1	0
Marijuana	87	12	1	0
Opium, Cocaine, and Derivatives*	64	36	1	0
Synthetic Narcotics	94	2	3	1
Other Dangerous Drugs*	85	14	0	0

Opium, cocaine, and their derivatives were the drugs with the greatest proportion of Negroes (36%). In the categories of marijuana and dangerous drugs, Caucasians were 85-87 percent of those arrested and Negroes were 12-14 percent.

Females were one-fifth of those arrested for drug law violations, about the same percentage as for all arrests. They were a larger proportion of arrests for opium, cocaine, and derivatives (30%) and dangerous drugs (26%), than for marijuana (17%).

Liquor Law Violations

The liquor law violations category covers all offenses involving alcohol except drunkenness and driving while intoxicated. The most common of these offenses are probably furnishing liquor to a minor, drinking on a public conveyance,

\*Percentages do not total 100 due to rounding error.

and possession of liquor by a minor.

The other major alcohol-related offense, driving while intoxicated, will be discussed below. Public drunkenness will not be covered in this report at all. No arrests for this offense were reported, since drunks are now taken into civil protective custody.

There were 1,483 arrests for liquor law violations in 1974, or 3.4 percent of all arrests. Because of the kinds of crimes included in the category, it is not surprising that 44 percent of the persons arrested were juveniles. Another 38 percent were between 18 and 29 years old.

Liquor law violations were one of two categories in which American Indians, with 11 percent of the arrests, were a much larger proportion than usual. Negroes, on the other hand, actually had fewer arrests for liquor law violations (four percent of the total) than would be expected for their proportion of the state's population.

Driving Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol

By far the largest offense category for which persons were arrested was driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The 5,771 arrests for this crime in 1974 accounted for 13.2 percent of all arrests, while larceny was 9.9 percent of the total and narcotics and drugs offenses were 8.7 percent.

The number of arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs probably greatly underrepresents the actual number of such offenses committed. Most people are aware from their own knowledge and experience that this crime rarely comes to the attention of the police.



Two-thirds of the persons arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs were over 29 years old, the largest proportion of any offense category, including murder and aggravated assault. Only one percent were juveniles. This age distribution is quite different from that for drug offenses involving marijuana, which was 29 percent juveniles, 63 percent young adults, and only eight percent persons over 29. Considering that most of the driving while intoxicated arrests probably involved alcohol, the difference suggests that alcohol users were older than marijuana users. Unfortunately, data on the ages of persons taken into civil protective custody for drunkenness are not available to verify this.

Driving while intoxicated, like liquor law violations, had a relatively low proportion of Negroes involved (6%), compared with the proportion for all arrests (15%), and about the same as the percentage of Negroes in the state population. Caucasians were 89 percent of those arrested for this offense.

#### PROSTITUTION

The category of prostitution includes pimping and pandering. These crimes resulted in 1,310 arrests (3 percent of the total) in 1974, a figure which undoubtedly underrepresents the number of offenses actually committed.

As would be expected, the majority of persons arrested were women between the ages of 18 and 29: 83 percent were females and 88 percent young adults. Only one percent of the persons arrested for prostitution were juveniles, which suggests that prostitutes younger than 18 years old are handled as juvenile status offenders.

Prostitution was the category with the second largest proportion of Negroes arrested (34%). The majority of those arrested, 64 percent, were Caucasians.

## VAGRANCY AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Vagrancy and disorderly conduct were the fourth and fifth most common offenses for which persons were arrested in 1974. Only driving under the influence, larceny, and drug violations resulted in arrests more frequently. Almost one arrest in seven was for one of these two offenses, which accounted for such a large proportion of the arrests because they include the laws by which the police maintain public order.

### Vagrancy

The majority (54%) of the 3,217 persons arrested for vagrancy were over the age of 29. Negroes constituted 11 percent of the persons arrested, somewhat less than their proportion of all arrests (15%). Caucasians were 83 percent of those arrested.

It should be noted that Nevada's vagrancy law is very general, including as it does loitering and prowling, and it is possible that some vagrancy arrests are made because an officer suspects that a burglary or crime of prostitution has occurred or is about to happen.

### Disorderly Conduct

There were 2,816 persons arrested for disorderly conduct, or 6.4 percent of all persons arrested. The majority of these arrests were probably for disturbing the peace, by loud noises, quarreling, fighting, or other offensive behavior. Since by definition disturbing the peace overlaps simple assault and battery, police may sometimes make a disorderly conduct arrest to prevent a serious assaultive situation from developing.

Persons arrested for disorderly conduct, 59 percent of whom were between 18 and 29 years of age, were younger on the average than those arrested for vagrancy. This reflects the greater physical activity involved in disorderly conduct. Juveniles, however, were only eight percent of those arrested for the offense, which suggests that if they are caught being disorderly or disturbing the peace, they are arrested as juvenile status offenders.

American Indians were twice as large a proportion (8%) of arrests for disorderly conduct as for the total of all arrests (4%). This and liquor law violations were the two categories in which American Indians contributed a significant fraction. Negroes were about the same proportion of the category (17%) as for all offenses, and three-quarters of those arrested for disorderly conduct were Caucasians.

Females represented a higher proportion (36%) of those arrested for disorderly conduct than for any other adult offense except prostitution. In comparison, simple and aggravated assaults have a lower female percentage. These findings are consistent with traditional sex roles, which allow women to quarrel and be noisy, but restrict their physical aggression.

## JUVENILE STATUS OFFENSES

Nevada, like most states, prohibits certain behavior to juveniles which is allowed to adults, including being out after curfew, truancy, failing to obey parents, and running away from home. Arrests for some of these actions are reported in the UCR program as curfew and loitering violations or runaway.

There were 2,899 juveniles arrested for the UCR's juvenile status offenses in 1974, 1,136 for loitering or curfew violations and 1,763 for runaway. Juvenile arrests for loitering or curfew violations were 2.6 percent, and arrests for runaway were 4.0 percent, of the arrests for all offenses. Examining only arrests for juveniles, ten percent of the total were for loitering or curfew violations and 16 percent for runaway.

Juveniles arrested for curfew violations and loitering were not too different in their characteristics from other juvenile offenders. Seventy-five percent of those arrested for either loitering or curfew violations were males, and the ethnic distribution of these arrests was 88 percent Caucasian, six percent Negro, and four percent American Indian.

On the other hand, runaways are much more likely to be female and Caucasian than other juvenile offenders, as the table on the following page shows.

Percent Distribution of Runaways and  
Other Juvenile Offenders by Sex and Race

Sex	Runaway Arrests	All Juvenile Arrests
Male	45	74
Female	55	26
<hr/>		
Race		
Caucasian	93	86
Negro	4	10
American Indian	2	3
Other	1	1

It is very striking that the majority of juveniles arrested for runaway were females, as compared with only one quarter of all juveniles arrested. This phenomenon has been noted throughout the United States by authorities, who attribute it to two causes. First, girls are more likely to act out adolescent conflicts with their family by running away, while boys act out through criminal behavior. Second, girls caught committing criminal acts are more likely to be handled as status offenders than are boys.

Possession of alcohol by a minor is also a status offense. It was covered in a previous section with other liquor law violations. Presumably, most of the 655 juvenile arrests, 44 percent of the total arrests for that offense, were for illegal possession of alcohol.

### Other Juvenile Offenses

Juveniles commit many delinquent acts which are also crimes for adults. Of the

11,170 juvenile arrests in 1974, approximately 7,600 were for criminal offenses.

Some of these arrests were for relatively minor offenses generally associated with adolescent misconduct. Thirty-nine percent of those arrested for arson and 63 percent for vandalism were juveniles. These offenses did not affect overall crime significantly, since neither accounted for more than one percent of all arrests.

Much more significant, however, is the role of juveniles in Index Crimes. The three crimes of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft accounted for 91 percent of Index Crime reports. The table below shows that between 39 and 52 percent of the persons arrested for these offenses were juveniles.

Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft Arrests  
for Juveniles and All Offenders

Offense	All Arrests	Juveniles Arrests	Juvenile Percentage of All Arrests
Burglary	2,034	1,048	52
Larceny	4,325	1,679	39
Motor Vehicle Theft	783	344	44

The importance of these offenses in juvenile crime is underlined by the fact that the 3,071 juvenile arrests for the offenses constituted one-quarter of all juvenile arrests during 1974. The role of juveniles in these offenses has already been discussed more completely in the specific crime categories.

Some care should be used in estimating juveniles' involvement in these crimes from the arrest data, since juveniles may be overrepresented in arrests. However, their participation quite probably exceeds their proportion of the population.

OTHER ARRESTS

People are arrested for many other types of crimes than those discussed above. These will not be covered individually because they are relatively infrequent, but for completeness this section provides a table showing the percentage distribution of all arrests during 1974 by type of offense.

Offenses for Which Persons Were Arrested in 1974

Offenses	Number	Percent
Total	43,851	100.0
Index Arrests Total	8,806	20.0
Murder	79	0.2
Manslaughter	21	0.1
Forcible Rape	130	0.3
Robbery	702	1.6
Aggravated Assault	732	1.7
Burglary	2,034	4.6
Larceny	4,325	9.9
Motor Vehicle Theft	783	1.8
Non-Index Arrests Total	35,045	79.8
Other Assaults	1,671	3.8
Arson	71	0.2
Forgery and Counterfeiting	284	0.6
Fraud	1,104	2.5
Embezzlement	155	0.4
Stolen Property: Buying, Receiving, Possession	713	1.6
Vandalism	455	1.0
Weapons: Carrying, Possession, Etc.	740	1.7
Prostitution	1,310	3.0
Sex Offenses	232	0.5
Narcotic Drug Laws	3,804	8.7
Offenses Against Family and Children	183	0.4
Driving Under the Influence	5,771	13.2
Liquor Laws	1,483	3.4
Disorderly Conduct	2,816	6.4
Vagrancy	3,217	7.2
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	8,137	18.6
Curfew and Loitering Violations	1,136	2.6
Runaways	1,763	4.0

The category of "all other offenses" deserves comment. Nearly one-fifth of all arrests were in this category, a larger proportion than for any specific offense category. Some of these other offenses which occur most frequently are creating a public nuisance, trespass, and violation of a municipal ordinance or state regulatory law.

## SUMMARY

The preceding sections of this report have presented a number of facts about general crime trends, specific offenses, and offenders in Nevada during 1974. There are, however, a few of these facts which are more important than the rest for understanding the state's crime problem.

### Crime Increase

Reported Index Crimes increased from 36,344 in 1973 to 44,816 in 1974. The violent crimes of homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault rose 25 percent and property crimes, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft, rose 23 percent, in the same period. Nevada's crime rate for 1974 was 7,813 per 100,000, higher than the estimated average for both the nation and the western-mountain region.

### Crimes which Most Affect the General Public

Burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts were 91 percent of the reported crimes.

Larcenies increased 30 percent, and were one out of two crimes reported during 1974. The larceny rate for Nevada's four most urban counties was over 4,450 per 100,000.

Burglaries rose 19 percent over 1973.

### Violent Crimes

Aggravated assaults were half of all violent Index Crimes reported, while only two percent of the violent crimes were homicides. Assaults rose 41 percent during the year.

Firearms were used in three-quarters of the murders and one-fourth of the assaults.

### Driving Under the Influence

More arrests, 13 percent of the total, were made for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs than for any other single offense, even though this offense usually does not come to the attention of the police. Two-thirds of the persons arrested were 30 or older.

### Narcotics and Drugs

The third most common offense of the arrests during the year was possession or sale of an illegal drug. Three quarters were for marijuana, and most were probably for possession.

### Regions Affected

Clark County had the highest regional per capita rate for most Index Crimes. Seventy-one percent of the violent crimes and 64 percent of the property crimes were in that county. The highest larceny rate was Washoe County's. Crime has grown fastest in the Carson/Douglas and rural regions during the last six years.

### Juveniles

One-quarter of the juvenile arrests in 1974 were for one of the Index property crimes. Thirty-nine percent of the persons arrested for larceny and 52 percent arrested for burglary were juveniles.

### Young Adults

Young adults, between the ages of 18 and 29, were the largest proportion of persons arrested for most crimes. They were 39 percent of those arrested for both burglary and larceny. Their arrest rate for all offenses was about twice that of the general population.

**END**