

**An Evaluation of  
Jacksonville's  
MULTIPLE OFFENDER  
PROJECT**

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Project staff and others in the State Attorney's Office gave generously of their time in defining legal terms, answering questions, explaining procedures, pulling and refiling case files, providing data and allowing time for interviews. Staff from the Bureau of Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance were instrumental in making contacts with the Florida Department of Corrections which provided data on date and type of release for individuals in the 1974 sample of multiple offenders who were incarcerated in the state prison system. Many of the persons interviewed about the project are extremely busy people who nevertheless consented to discuss the project with the evaluator. Dr. Robert Sternhell, Director of Evaluation, of the Mayor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in New Orleans shared a draft copy of the findings obtained in a recently completed study of the Career Criminal Bureau in New Orleans.

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## INTRODUCTION

A number of studies have revealed that a disproportionate amount of crime is attributed to habitual offenders. One landmark study of 10,000 juveniles, conducted by Marvin Wolfgang and associates a few years ago, tracked the sample's criminal involvement to the age of eighteen. Findings revealed that 6 percent of the youths studied had committed five or more offenses and were responsible for more than half of the reported delinquencies and approximately two-thirds of reported violent crimes attributed to the sample of 10,000 youths.<sup>1</sup> Findings from a more recent LEAA-sponsored study of over 45,000 persons arrested for nonfederal felonies or serious misdemeanors in Washington, D.C. during a 56 month period ending September, 1975, revealed that:

"Those prosecuted at least four times during the period constituted 6 percent of persons prosecuted but were defendants in 20 percent of the prosecutions. Regarding persons convicted three or more times during the period studied, they comprised 5 percent of those convicted but 15 percent of the convictions. The apparent conclusion is that a small number of individuals represent a significant portion of the prosecutor's and court's work load, not to mention the disproportionate impact those recidivists have on citizens who are victims of crime." <sup>2</sup>

Recognizing this several decades ago, the State of Florida enacted provisions for enhancing the sentences of identified habitual felons and misdemeanants. However, manpower necessary to implement these measures nullified its use. This shortcoming was remedied in August 1975 when LEAA funded the Multiple Offender Project in the State Attorney's Office in Jacksonville. The grant provided the necessary manpower to identify, investigate, and prosecute recidivistic felons and misdemeanants in accordance with Florida's Subsequent Offender Statute. Since the County and Circuit

<sup>1</sup>Curbing the Repeat Offender (Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, 1977), p. 8.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid, pp. 8-9.

Courts in Duval County have not had a problem with backlog of cases, it was not necessary to establish a mechanism to expedite the judicial process for career criminals.

The Multiple Offender Project has concentrated on defendants charged with repeat property and non-violent offenses which had generally been less subject to aggressive prosecution and harsher sentences than the capital or life felonies and other offenses for which enhanced sentences were already prescribed.

The procedure utilized to identify multiple offenders may be briefly described in this manner. Project attorneys screen all current felony rap sheets which are routinely provided by the Records and Identification Section of the Sheriff's Office. Any past convictions and/or arrests which suggest the offender may be prosecuted in accordance with the Subsequent Offender Statute are circled on the rap sheet to indicate to the project investigator that additional information regarding disposition, conviction, and sentence is required. The investigator then checks with the local Clerk's Office and other appropriate agencies elsewhere to obtain sufficient evidence to determine if the defendant is a multiple offender. The investigator obtains certified copies of judgments, sentences, fingerprints and other necessary information. He also conducts a pre-trial investigation and locates, informs, and subpoenas witnesses. Project attorneys review evidence thoroughly before filing a Notice to Seek an Enhanced Penalty on those defendants who have been identified as multiple offenders in accordance with Statute 775.084. This written notice must be served on the defendant and his attorney prior to the entry of a plea or prior to the imposition of sentence to allow the preparation of a submission on behalf of the defendant. All evidence is presented in open court with full rights of confrontation, cross-examination, and representation by counsel. According to Statute 775.084, enhanced sentences require a "preponderance of the evidence" and are appealable. The defendant must be fingerprinted for the

purpose of positive identification. The decision regarding the imposition of sentence under Statute 775.084 is left with the court which may impose an enhanced sentence.

The project has a staff of six: three attorneys, an investigator, and two secretaries.

## METHODOLOGY

A 1975 study conducted by staff of the Office of Criminal Justice Planning provided baseline data from which to compare the prosecution of habitual criminals before and after the Multiple Offender Project was initiated. The 1975 study utilized a sample of 400 randomly selected cases comprising 100 cases from each of the four felony divisions; the sample constituted 11 percent of the total number of final judicial dispositions these divisions processed during 1974. The sample yielded 453 convictions of which 81 were identified as multiple offender convictions, as defined by Florida's Subsequent Offender Statute, and 372 were non-multiple offender convictions.

Similarly, a random sample of 150 cases in which final disposition had been reached in 1977 yielded 131 multiple offender convictions prosecuted by project attorneys. Convictions prosecuted in accordance with the Subsequent Offender Statute by non-project staff were withdrawn from the sample. Data on offense, sentencing, length of prosecution, plea bargaining and socio-demographic variables were gathered on both samples; and data on subsequent felony reconvictions involving the 1974 sample was analyzed. Annual statistics compiled by the four felony divisions for 1977 provided data with which to compare the prosecution of non-multiple offenders.

The following intervening variables were identified which may have accounted for differences between the samples. One of the most significant changes, according to project staff, has been the revised felony screening procedure which the State Attorney's Office implemented in 1975: each attorney files his own cases and assumes responsibility through disposition; previously, the office had maintained a charging and intake division which initiated case filings before cases were channelled to trial divisions for prosecution. Another historical change which should be noted is the fact that more cases were filed by the



charging and intake division than are currently filed because the office has adopted a more stringent charging threshold. A determination must now be made concerning probable cause and reasonable chance of conviction. This change is reflected in the reduced number of felony filings reported by the Clerk of the Circuit Court in the past four years. There were 5,158 felony filings in 1974; 3,202 in 1975; 2,766 in 1976; and 3,734 in 1977. Lastly, it should be noted that prosecutors have not sanctioned sentence negotiation since the policy manual for the State Attorney's Office was revised in 1975. The implications of these changes should be noted in interpreting the findings. The minimum and maximum sentences for specific offenses have remained unchanged.

#### Implementation Strategy and Dissemination of Report

Evaluation findings and recommendations were reviewed with the project director to obtain input concerning the accuracy and appropriateness of the study's findings and recommendations. A follow-up study will be conducted within six to nine months after finalization of the study.

Full copies of the report were distributed to the State Attorney's Office, the project director, and the Bureau of Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance. Copies of the executive summary were disseminated to the Mayor's Office, the City's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and the local Criminal Justice Advisory Council. Full copies were distributed upon request.

## FINDINGS

A comparison of demographic data on the two multiple offender samples revealed that the 1974 sample was exclusively male whereas females comprised 11 percent of the 1977 sample. Blacks constituted 56.8 percent of the 1974 sample and 72 percent of the 1977 sample. Agewise, the most significant change has been the increase of the 25-34 year-old group from 35.8 percent in 1974 to 48 percent in 1977. There has been little fluctuation reflected in data describing the educational background of individuals in both samples. More than half of each sample had not completed high school. The percentages of high school graduates and post-high school trained multiple offenders were similar in both groups: 31 percent of 1974 sample had graduated from high school compared to 33 percent in the 1977 sample; there was a slight gain in the post-high school category in the 1977 sample, 13 percent compared to 9 percent.

The increase in unemployment in the 1977 sample to 37 percent was significantly higher than the reported 10 percent who were unemployed in the 1974 sample. No doubt this is related to the county's overall unemployment rate and to the fact that offenders generally have a higher rate of unemployment than the general public. Figures from the Florida State Employment Service for 1974 revealed an overall unemployment rate of 5 percent for Duval County: 3.9 percent for whites and 9.1 percent for blacks. In 1977 the overall unemployment rate was 6.8 percent for the county: 5.3 percent for whites and 12.1 percent for blacks.

### Legal Representation

The Public Defender's Office handled 81.5 percent of multiple offender cases in the 1974 sample compared to 73.3 percent of cases in the 1977 sample. Court-appointed attorneys represented a larger proportion of multiple offenders

in the 1977 sample, a total of 9.6 percent, (including instances in which the Public Defender withdrew) compared to 3.7 percent in the 1974 sample of multiple offenders. The percentages of multiple offenders who hired their own attorneys has remained relatively constant: 11.1 percent in the 1974 sample and 12.6 percent in the 1977 sample.

#### Place of Birth and Residency in Jacksonville

Both of the multiple offender samples included a majority of persons born in Jacksonville: 56.8 percent in the 1974 sample and 69.6 percent in the 1977 sample. Ninety-five percent of the 1974 sample had lived in Jacksonville at least one year which is comparable to the 1977 sample. Seventy-five percent of the 1974 sample and 83.7 percent of the 1977 sample had lived in Jacksonville over ten years. These statistics indicate that the multiple offender population is primarily resident, not transient, thereby affording the project more opportunity for impact. However, it should be noted that these figures may be inflated due to the fact that prosecution of out-of-town and out-of-state convictions is contingent upon the cooperation of authorities in other jurisdictions in sending the necessary documents and the quality of the documents received; the project requires proof of two out-of-state prison convictions.

#### Prosecution

Of the 131 multiple offender convictions in the 1977 sample, 77 or 58.8 percent had pled guilty as charged on all counts; an additional 44 defendants or 33.6 percent had pled guilty as charged to at least one count and had had other charges dropped or abandoned; 2 or 1.5 percent were noted to have pled guilty to lesser charges; and 8, or 6.1 percent, were found guilty by juries. Since the 1977 sample excluded persons acquitted in jury trials, this rate may appear lower than the project's reported jury trial rate of 12 percent for multiple

offenders in 1977. The four criminal divisions averaged a 4 percent rate of jury trials in 1977 which was comparable to the national average of 5 percent, according to knowledgeable persons in the State Attorney's Office.

Within the 1974 sample of 81 convictions of defendants who were identified as multiple offenders, there were 48, or 59.3 percent, who had pled guilty as charged on all counts; 15, or 18.5 percent, who pled guilty as charged on at least one count and had had other charges which were dropped or abandoned; 17, or 21 percent, who pled guilty to lesser charges; and 1, or 1.2 percent, who was found guilty by a jury.

Since its inception the project generally has not permitted pleas to lesser-included offenses. The 1977 sample of 131 multiple offenders included two defendants, or less than 2 percent, who had pled guilty to lesser-included offenses; the 1974 sample included 17 defendants or 21 percent who had pled guilty to lesser-included offenses; and annual statistics for the four felony divisions of the State Attorney's Office revealed that 10 percent of the defendants had pled to or were convicted of lesser charges. With regard to the three most prevalent offenses prosecuted by the Multiple Offender Project, there were no instances where grand larceny/grand theft or possession charges were reduced; there was one instance where a burglary charge was reduced to trespassing in a weak case. Table 1 provides comparative data for the multiple and non-multiple offenders charged with these three offenses prosecuted in 1974 and 1977. See page 13.

Multiple offenders and non-multiple offenders were processed more expeditiously in 1974 than in 1977 even though there were more felony filings in 1974. However, prosecutors frequently engaged in sentence negotiations in 1974 whereas the 1975 policy manual proscribes this practice. The average number of days from arrest to plea or conviction for 81 multiple offender dispositions in 1974 was 41.47 days compared to 43.38 for the 372 non-multiple offenders.

Both of these 1974 figures were considerably lower than the average number of days for the sample and the combined four felony divisions in 1977; 94.9 days and 66.8 days, respectively. It should be noted that the 1977 statistics for non-multiple offenders are inclusive of all cases resulting in plea or conviction for the four felony divisions, whereas the other three figures represent the average times of three samples. However, these were the only measures available to assess changes in duration before and after the project.

Identified multiple offenders charged with burglary were processed from arrest to plea or conviction in an average of 41 days in 1974 compared to 85.5 days in 1977. Non-multiple offenders charged with burglary were processed in an average of 49 days in 1974 compared to 63 days in 1977. Multiple offenders charged with grand larceny/grand theft in 1974 were processed from arrest to plea or conviction in 30.6 days on the average compared to 99.9 days in 1977. Non-multiple offenders charged with this offense were processed in 46.3 days in 1974 and 60.3 days in 1977, on the average. The time required to prosecute from arrest to plea or conviction for possession charges in 1977 exceeded those for the other two offenses in 1974 and 1977 for both multiple offenders and non-multiple offenders. Multiple offenders required an average of 65.4 days in 1974 and 113.7 days in 1977. Non-multiple offenders averaged 48.9 days in 1974 and 72.8 days in 1977 for prosecution of possession charges. Table 2 summarizes the data on prosecution time. See page 14.

The data on the three specific offenses seems to indicate that the project required one-third to one-half more time to process multiple offenders charged with burglary, grand larceny/grand theft, and possession of a controlled substance than did the other four felony divisions in 1977. But, the project's times for prosecuting multiple offenders charged with burglary and grand larceny were considerably lower than the median time of 103 days from arrest to disposition which was representative of twenty-two career criminal programs

throughout the nation, according to statistics released by Charles Hollis, III, of the Office of Criminal Justice Programs at LEAA in 1977. It is possible that some jurisdictions which have established prioritized case calendars for career criminal cases or have sanctioned plea bargaining with career criminals may process cases more expeditiously. However, as noted above, such is not the case in Florida's Fourth Judicial Circuit.

### Sentencing

Thirty-three defendants, or 41.77 percent, of the 1974 multiple offender sample were reported to have been sentenced in less than one month; 29, or 36.71 percent, were sentenced within one to two months; and 17, or 21.52 percent, required more than two months for sentencing. Sentencing has since been expedited considerably. Within the 1977 multiple offender sample 92, or 70.2 percent, were sentenced on the date convicted; an additional 13 percent were sentenced within one month; 19, or 14.5 percent, were sentenced within one to two months; and 3, or 2.3 percent required more than two months.

With regard to sentencing, it is apparent that few multiple offenders prosecuted by project staff were given probation. In the 1977 sample only 9 received probationary sentences: 6 for drug related offenses; 2 for petit larceny; and one for burglary which was noted to have been a weak case. The proportion of sampled multiple offenders sentenced to the State Prison System has risen from 56 percent in 1974 to 91 percent in 1977. In 1977 fewer multiple offenders were being sent to the local jail and more were being sent to the Florida State Prison and for longer sentences. In 1974, 44 percent were jailed locally compared to 9 percent of the 1977 sample. It is obvious that offenders prosecuted by project staff received harsher sentences than had their counterparts in 1974. Forty-seven percent of the 1974 multiple offender sample were sentenced to terms in excess of three years in the state prison system whereas

the four felony divisions in 1977 exceeded the average maximum sentences given to both non-multiple offenders and even multiple offenders in the 1974 sample. This would seem to imply that judges in this jurisdiction were dispensing harsher sentences across the board in 1977 than in 1974. The revised felony screening procedure, the more stringent charging threshold, and the elimination of sentence negotiations are factors which may have contributed to sentence disparity. It, of course, is obvious that sentences were more punitive for multiple offenders in both samples than for non-multiple offenders, as might be expected.

The project's average maximum sentence per burglary count in the 1977 sample was 4.7 years compared to 3 years for the 1974 multiple offender sample. The average maximum sentences per burglary count for non-multiple offenders were 1.7 years in 1974 and 3.06 years in 1977. Multiple offenders averaged maximum sentences of 4.28 years per count for grand larceny/grand theft in 1977 compared to 1.9 years for multiple offenders in 1974. Non-multiple offenders received average maximum sentences of 1.9 years and 2.56 years in 1974 and 1977, respectively, per grand larceny/grand theft count. The project averaged a maximum sentence of 4.15 years per count for defendants convicted of possession of controlled substances compared to 1.6 years per count for multiple offenders in the 1974 sample as well as 1.9 years and 2.04 years per count for non-multiple offenders in 1974 and 1977, respectively.

The project achieved jail sentences in 78 of 79 instances in 1977 for the combined burglary and grand larceny/grand theft offenses. In addition, 14 of 19 possession counts resulted in jail sentences. However, the sentence rates for offenders prosecuted by the four felony divisions have also increased. In 1977, 94 percent of sampled multiple offender convictions for these three offenses resulted in institutional sentences, compared to 47.6 percent for the other felony divisions.

The project routinely has filed a Motion to Seek an Enhanced Penalty for all defendants identified as multiple offenders. However, enhanced penalties are imposed at the discretion of judges. Within the 1977 sample only one enhanced penalty was imposed in a court trial; it was found that five of the eight jury trials resulted in enhanced penalties on seven counts. It is interesting to note that there was consensus among the three felony judges who consented to be interviewed that the normal maximum sentence was considered to be appropriate in most instances for multiple offenders. The judges indicated more willingness to consider enhanced penalties for more violent crimes which are generally not handled by the project. It is obvious that the project has recommended enhanced penalties for all multiple offenders; however, judges have demonstrated reluctance in acting on recommendations. Tables 3 to 5 on pages 15 to 17 summarize the data on probationary and institutional sentences.

#### Subsequent Felony Reconvictions - 1974 Sample

From date of conviction through April 1978 it was found that there had been 116 felony arrests and 103 arrests for misdemeanors attributed to 51 of the offenders in the 1974 multiple offender sample. A total of 36 felony arrests were generated involving 30 of the offenders in the sample. Four were sentenced to average maximum sentences of six months in the local jail; 16 received average maximum sentences of 5.5 years in the state prison; one offender received institutional sentences in the local jail and the state prison; seven offenders received probationary sentences; sentencing was pending in one case; and the remainder had been not proessed or dismissed. Project staff prosecuted half or eighteen of the above cases; eight cases predated the project; and the remaining ten had been identified by project staff but were prosecuted by non-project attorneys notably the Special Prosecution Division. No enhanced penalties had been imposed.



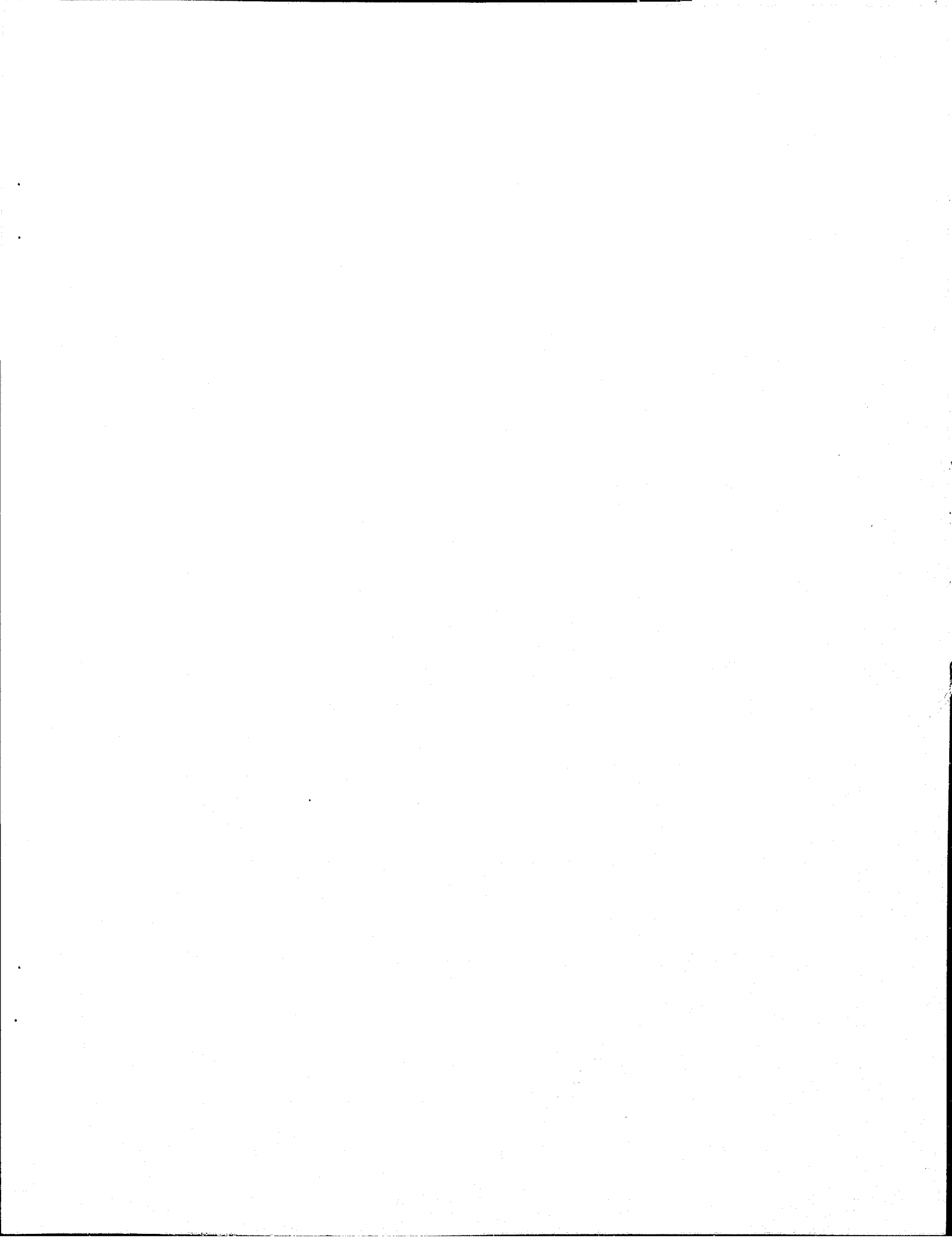


TABLE 1

NUMBER OF COUNTS PLED TO OR CONVICTED OF LESSER CHARGE  
FOR SPECIFIC OFFENSES BEFORE AND AFTER  
THE INCEPTION OF THE MULTIPLE OFFENDER PROJECT

	<u>BURGLARY</u>		<u>GRAND LARCENY &amp; GRAND THEFT</u>		<u>POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUB.</u>	
	<u>Total Number Of Counts</u>	<u>Number And Percent Of Counts Pled/Convicted of Lesser Offenses</u>	<u>Total Number Of Counts</u>	<u>Number And Percent Of Counts Pled/Convicted of Lesser Offenses</u>	<u>Total Number Of Counts</u>	<u>Number Of Percent Of Counts Pled/Convicted of Lesser Offenses</u>
Multiple Offender Sample - 1977	46	1 (2 %)	33	-	19	-
Four Felony Divisions - Non Multiple Offenders	323	37 (12%)	282	17 (6 %)	301	25 (8 %)
<sup>13</sup> Multiple Offender Sample - 1974	29	17 (59%)	9	1 (11%)	-	-
Non Multiple Offender Sample - 1974	48	5 (10%)	-	-	56	6 (11%)

The percentages reflect the ratio of counts which yielded a plea or conviction to a lesser charge to the total number of counts for these specific offenses, excluding counts which were not processed, dropped, or abandoned.

TABLE 2

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS FROM ARREST TO PLEA OR CONVICTION  
FOR SPECIFIC OFFENSES BEFORE AND AFTER  
THE INCEPTION OF THE MULTIPLE OFFENDER PROJECT

	<u>BURGLARY *</u>	<u>GRAND LARCENY/ GRAND THEFT</u>	<u>POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE **</u>
Multiple Offender Sample - 1977	85.5 Days (46 Counts)	99.9 Days (33 Counts)	113.7 Days (20 Counts)
Four Felony Divisions - Non Multiple Offenders	62.7 Days (323 Counts)	60.3 Days (282 Counts)	72.8 Days (301 Counts)
Multiple Offender Sample - 1974	41.1 Days (29 Counts)	30.6 Days (9 Counts)	65.4 Days (5 Counts)
Non Multiple Offender Sample - 1974	48.9 Days (48 Counts)	46.3 Days (28 Counts)	48.9 Days (56 Counts)

\*Includes building, dwelling and conveyance.

\*\*Includes various types of controlled substances.

TABLE 3

MULTIPLE OFFENDER SENTENCES AND INSTITUTION  
OF INCARCERATION FOR THE 1974 AND 1977 SAMPLES

Jacksonville Correctional Institution

<u>Length Of Sentence</u>	<u>Number and Percent 1974 Sample</u>		<u>Number and Percent 1977 Sample</u>	
0-6 Months	18	22.2%	5	3.4%
7-12 Months	17	21.0%	7	4.8%
More Than 12 Months	1	1.2%	1	.7%

Florida State Prison

<u>Length Of Sentence</u>	<u>Number and Percent 1974 Sample</u>		<u>Number and Percent 1977 Sample</u>	
1-3 Years	24	29.6%	45	31.0%
3 Yrs. & 1 Day-5 Yrs.	12	14.8%	66	45.5%
5 Yrs. & 1 Day-10 Yrs.	5	6.2%	13	9.0%
More Than 10 Years	4	4.9%	8	5.5%
TOTALS:	81	99.9%	145	99.9%

The 1977 Multiple Offender Sample yielded 154 sentences: 13 sentenced to the Jacksonville Correctional Institution, 132 sentenced to the Florida State Prison and 9 sentenced to probationary terms.

TABLE 4

AVERAGE MAXIMUM INSTITUTIONAL SENTENCES PER COUNT  
FOR THREE PREVALENT OFFENSES BEFORE AND AFTER  
THE INCEPTION OF THE MULTIPLE OFFENDER PROJECT

	<u>BURGLARY</u>			<u>GRAND LARCENY &amp; GRAND THEFT</u>			<u>POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUB.</u>		
	<u>Counts Resulting In Instit/ Probation Sentences</u>	<u>Counts Resulting In Instit. Sentences</u>	<u>Average Maximum Sentence Per Count</u>	<u>Counts Resulting In Instit/ Probation Sentences</u>	<u>Counts Resulting In Instit. Sentences</u>	<u>Average Maximum Sentence Per Count</u>	<u>Counts Resulting In Instit/ Probation Sentences</u>	<u>Counts Resulting In Instit. Sentences</u>	<u>Average Maximum Sentence Per Count</u>
Multiple Offender Sample - 1977	46	45 (98%)	4.7 Yrs.	33	33 (100%)	4.3 Yrs.	19	14 (74%)	4.2 Yrs.
16 Four Felony Divisions - Non Multiple Offenders	322	189 (59%)	3.1 Yrs.	282	136 (48%)	2.6 Yrs.	291	106 (36%)	2 Yrs.
Multiple Offender Sample - 1974	25	25 (100%)	3 Yrs.	8	8 (100%)	1.9 Yrs.	4	4 (100%)	1.6 Yrs.
Non-Multiple Offender Sample - 1974	48	21 (44%)	1.7 Yrs.	28	6 (21%)	1.9 Yrs.	56	9 (16%)	1.9 Yrs.

\*Sentences for the specific offenses represent the average maximum sentences per count and include institutional sentences to both the Jacksonville Correctional Institution and the State Prison System. These sentences do not include probationary, life, or death sentences.

TABLE 5

NUMBER OF COUNTS FOR SPECIFIC OFFENSES BEFORE AND AFTER  
THE INCEPTION OF THE MULTIPLE OFFENDER PROJECT  
WHICH RESULTED IN PROBATIONARY SENTENCES

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	BURGLARY		GRAND LARCENY & GRAND THEFT		POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUB.	
	Total Counts Re- sulting In Pro- bationary And Institutional Sentences	Total Counts Resulting In Probationary Sentences	Total Counts Re- sulting In Pro- bationary And Institutional Sentences	Total Counts Resulting In Probationary Sentences	Total Counts Re- sulting In Pro- bationary And Institutional Sentences	Total Counts Resulting In Probationary Sentences
Multiple Offender Sample - 1977	46	1 ( 2%)	33	-	19	5 (26%)
17 Four Felony Divisions - 1977 Non Multiple Offenders	322	133 (41%)	282	146 (52%)	291	185 (64%)
Multiple Offender Sample - 1974	25	-	8	-	4	-
Non Multiple Offender Sample - 1974	48	27 (56%)	28	22 (79%)	56	47 (84%)

## IMPACT OF PROJECT

It was found that the project did prosecute identified multiple offenders to the fullest extent of the law, generally without accepting pleas to lesser-included offenses. The project's average maximum institutional sentence per convicted multiple offender in the 1977 sample was 5.5 years which exceeded by more than two years the pre-project sample's average maximum institutional sentence of 3.32 years per identified multiple offender. Moreover, 56 percent of the 1974 multiple offender sample served institutional sentences in the state prison system compared with 91 percent of the 1977 sample.

The project has earned the respect of knowledgeable persons in the local criminal justice system. Project staff have disseminated information about the project and provided technical assistance to prosecutors in other jurisdictions. One measure of project success is the fact that the State Attorney's Office not only plans to institutionalize the project but also intends to utilize the concept of prioritized prosecution in its other divisions.

Another possible measure of success may be the reduction in burglary and larceny offenses and the reduction in adult arrests for these Part I offenses. Statistics from the Uniform Crime Reports for 1974-77 have indicated that the number of reported offenses for burglary and larceny, the two Part I crimes most frequently prosecuted by the Multiple Offender Project, have decreased to pre-project levels or below. Burglary offenses have declined from over 13,000 in 1974 to 9,961 in 1977. Larceny offenses, which had surged to over 24,000 in 1976, have declined to 20,176 in 1977 which is comparable to the pre-project number of reported larceny offenses of 20,113. Correspondingly, the number of arrests for these two offenses has been steadily increasing. There were 1,985 arrests for burglary in 1977, compared to 1,341 in 1973; and 4,529 arrests for larceny in 1977, compared to 3,730 in 1974. However, adult

arrests for these offenses have been decreasing and juvenile arrests have been increasing. Adult arrests for larceny declined from 2,877 in 1975 to 2,622 in 1977; and adult arrests for burglary dropped from 1,120 in 1975 to 955 in 1977. It seems logical to conjecture that the incarceration of several hundred adult multiple offenders charged with these offenses over the past three years has been responsible, to some degree, for this reduction in reported burglary and larceny offenses. Table 6 below summarizes these statistics.

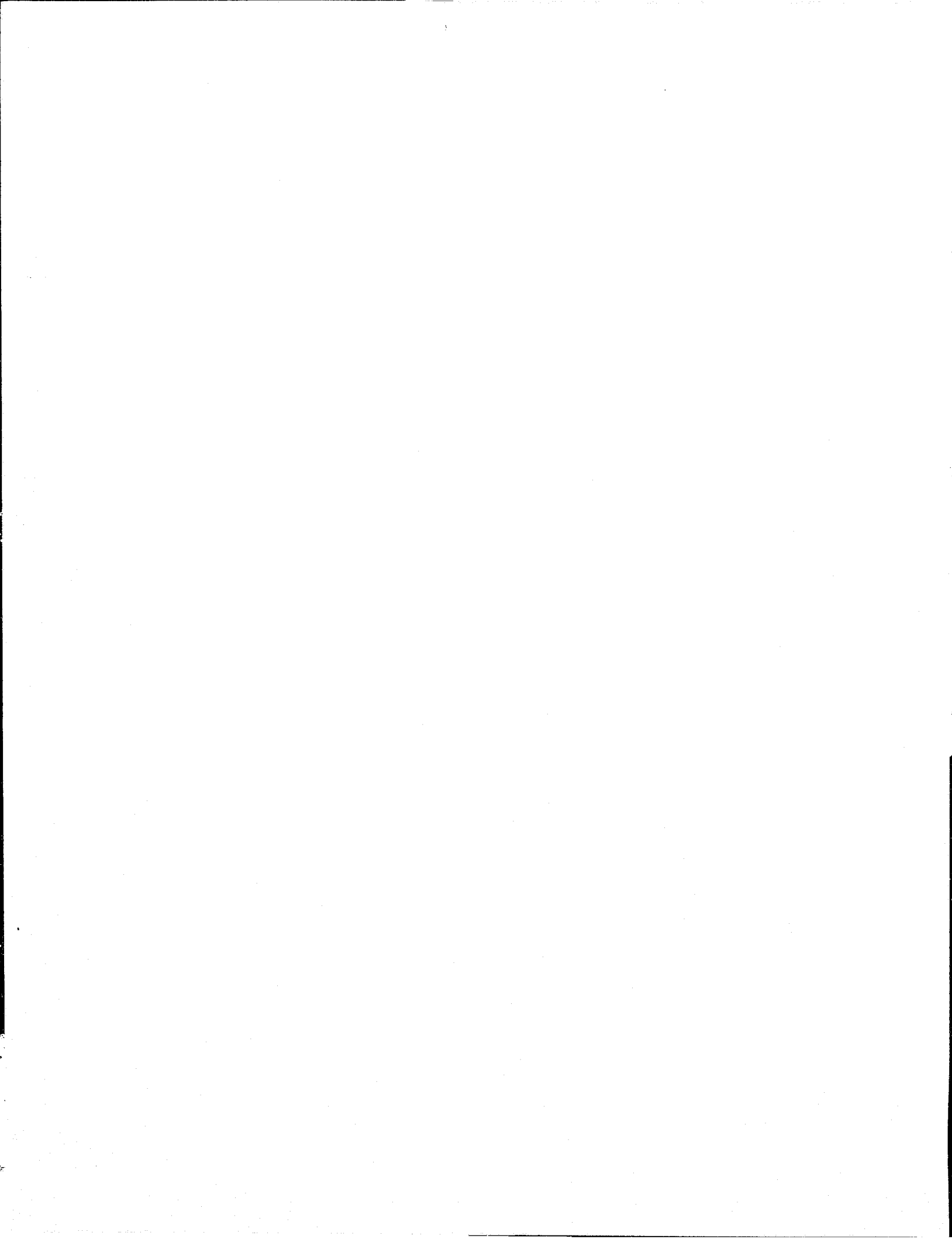
TABLE 6

FOUR YEAR COMPARISON OF JACKSONVILLE'S STATISTICS  
ON BURGLARY AND LARCENY STATISTICS

	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>JUVENILE &amp; ADULT ARRESTS REPORTED BY SHERIFF'S OFFICE *</u>		<u>JUVENILE &amp; ADULT REPORTED OFFENSES UNIFORM CRIME REPORT</u>
		<u>Juvenile</u>	<u>Adult</u>	
BREAKING & ENTERING - Burglary	1974	480	367	13,476
	1975	456	1120	13,805
	1976	484	1000	11,691
	1977	1031	955	9,961
LARCENY - (Except Motor Vehicle)	1974	856	1140	20,113
	1975	1048	2877	23,652
	1976	1612	2944	24,227
	1977	1913	2622	20,176

\* In a few instances it was not possible to determine if the offender was an adult or a juvenile.





**END**