

NCJRS

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ACQUISITIONS

CRIME AND THE APARTMENT DWELLER

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

1974-1976

59110

CRIME ANALYSIS DIVISION  
ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

## INTRODUCTION

"Crime and the Apartment Dweller" is an in depth study of crime occurring on apartment premises during the three-year period 1974-1976. Included within the premise definition are apartments, parking lots surrounding the structure, rental offices, model apartments, and all indoor/outdoor recreational facilities within the complex.

City Planning officials estimate the number of apartment units at 32,528 in 1976. This represents 28% of the total number of dwelling units (114,172) within St. Petersburg.

5478 incidents, or 10% of the total number of selected crimes reported 1974-1976, qualified for this analysis. 23% of these were personal crimes - homicide, rape, robbery, and assault; while 77% were property crimes - burglary, larceny and auto theft. Neither the overall total nor specific crime categories reflected any over-representation of victims among apartment residents.


This document is formatted by crime type - each sector including victim/suspect typology, precipitating circumstances of the crime, modus operandi, times and areas of heaviest activity, and yearly fluctuation.

The first table indicates the number of apartment premise incidents as compared to the total reported by category and the percent this total represents.

The next chart details the distribution of these crimes by year and the percent of increase or decrease experienced.

Also presented are tables displaying apartment crimes by month and police beat.

) The objective of this report is increased awareness among citizens residing in apartments, persons working on the premises, and complex owners and managers. Apartment dwellers are generally lumped with home owners as crime victims. With apartment units representing a sizeable percentage of total dwelling units, this special analysis seems warranted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. M. Vines", is written above a horizontal line.

M. M. VINES, Chief of Police

CRIME AND THE APARTMENT DWELLER  
PREMISE COMPARISONS

<u>CRIME</u>	<u>TOTAL # 1974-76</u>	<u>TOTAL ON APARTMENT PREMISES</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL</u>
HOMICIDE	67	7	10%
RAPE	277	51	18%
ROBBERY	2204	65	3%
AGG. ASSAULT	3534	373	11%
SIMPLE ASSAULT	6862	737	11%
RES. BURGLARY	14505	2669	18%
COM. B&E	4229	82	2%
PICKPOCKET	153	5	3%
PURSE SNATCH	647	12	2%
AUTO B&E	2308*	159	7%
AUTO LARC.	3981*	391	10%
BIKE THEFT	5029	120	2%
FROM BUILDING	2663	104	4%
COIN-OP MACH.	624	14	2%
LARC. OTHER	7326	604	8%
AUTO THEFT	1021*	85	8%
TOTAL	55430	5478	10%

\* 1974 totals not included.

## CRIME ON APARTMENT PREMISES

	1974	1975	% change 74-75	1976	% change 75-76
HOMICIDE	3	1	-67%	3	+200%
RAPE	13	15	+15%	23	+ 53%
ROBBERY	26	21	-19%	18	- 14%
AGG. ASSAULT	87	144	+65%	142	- 1%
SIMPLE ASSAULT	200	260	+30%	277	+ 7%
RES. BURGLARY	873	1001	+15%	795	- 21%
COM. B&E	47	30	-36%	5	- 83%
PICKPOCKET	2	1	-50%	2	+100%
PURSE SNATCH	4	6	+50%	2	- 67%
AUTO B & E	*	82	*	77	- 6%
AUTO LARC.	*	144	*	247	+ 71%
BIKE THEFT	37	49	+32%	34	- 31%
FROM BUILDING	74	17	-77%	13	- 23%
COIN-OP MACH	7	4	-43%	3	- 25%
LARC. OTHER	152	223	-47%	229	+ 3%
AUTO THEFT	*	31	*	54	+ 74%
TOTAL	1525	2029		1924	- 5%

\* The premise indicating apartment parking lot was not added until 1975, therefore actual counts are not available for auto-related incidents.

## PERSONAL CRIMES

### HOMICIDE

During the three-year period 1974-1976, seven homicides occurred on apartment premises. This figure represents 10% of all homicides reported within the City.

Victims included five black males, one black female, and one white male. Their ages ranged from 21-55; two were 30 years old.

Suspects were described as black females in two incidents, black males in two, one white male, and one white female. One of the assailants escaped unobserved. Five were arrested immediately following the incident. Victims and suspects were acquainted in three cases, and husband - wife in three others. Guns were chosen as murder weapons in two of the homicides; knives were utilized in four. The instrument causing death was not identified in the remaining incident.

Monthly totals yielded two occurring in April, two in September, and one each in July, November and December.

The police reporting area designated as Zone 5 recorded three of the seven homicides. Zone 11 showed two, while one each occurred in Zone 02 and 04.

### RAPE

Fifty-one incidents classified as Rape occurred on apartment premises during 1974-1976. This represents 18% of all rapes reported within the City. The number increased during each of the three years: 1974 recording

13, 1975 showed 15, and 1976 increased to 23 incidents. The victims were all female, 14 were black, 37 were white. They ranged in age from 10-76, with 50% of them in the 18-22 year-old bracket.

Those implicated in the rape included 30 black and 50 white males. The attacker was not described in the remaining case. Their ages varied from 15-52 years old.

Victims were acquainted with their assailants in half the cases.

Circumstances surrounding the rape varied significantly. Two young ladies were hitchhiking and subsequently raped. Two allowed the suspect to enter their apartments, three were abducted, and ten voluntarily accompanied her attacker to his or her apartment. Most of the suspects employed no weapons beyond hands and verbal threats. A gun was used in one case, knives in four. The victim suffered minor abrasions in 8 attacks, a fracture in one, and lacerations in two. Most of the remainder were not injured.

The police reporting area designated as Zone 04 recorded the greatest number of cases, with 11. Zone 01 and 03 were next with 6 and 7 incidents respectively. Monthly totals fluctuated with August registering the greatest number (9).

#### ROBBERY

65 Robberies were staged on apartment premises during the last three years, only 3% of the City's total robberies. In 36 of these, no weapon was used; in 29 cases the offender was armed. Weapons included guns (17) and knives, or cutting instruments (9). Victims generally sustained only minor injuries, however a few were beaten or cut.

Victim typology revealed: 26 females and 39 males; 53 whites and 12

blacks. Ages varied from 17-88.

Suspects yielded 57 males and 8 females, 19 whites and 46 blacks. Ages ranged from 12 to 51.

20 of the victims and suspects were acquainted. In three cases, the victim allowed the suspect to enter their apartment, and in one, their vehicle. The victim voluntarily accompanied the suspect in 4 others.

Cash was taken in 49 of the 65 cases, a handgun in one, jewelry in one and a stereo in two. No losses were recorded in four of the incidents. The areas of greatest activity proved to be downtown Zone 03 with 20 incidents, and Zone 04 with 14.

Robberies on apartment premises have declined during the three years under study - dropping from 26 in 1974, to 21 in 1975, to 18 in 1976. Monthly totals varied with August registering the greatest number (9).

#### PICKPOCKET

Five cases of pickpocket were reported on apartment premises during 1974-1976. As in the case of robbery, this represented only 3% of the City's total. All victims were male, 3 black and 2 white, most elderly. Suspects were young black males. The late night hours, 2200-2400 hours, were the vulnerable time period. Zones 04 and 05 each recorded two of the five cases.

#### PURSE SNATCH

Purse snatches occurred on apartment premises 12 times during the three-year period, only 2% of the City's total. Victims were all female, one black and eleven white; most were elderly. Suspects included 8 black



and 4 white males, half in the 20-24 year-old age bracket. In most cases, the snatch occurred just outside the victim's apartment. 50% occurred on Sunday or Monday; half were between 1500-1600.

The downtown police Zones 03 and 12 were most active, together accounting for 8 of the 12 incidents.

### ASSAULT

1110 cases of Assault occurred on apartment premises during 1974-1976. This accounted for 11% of total assaults reported within the City. In 34% of these (373), the weapon used or the severity of injury qualified the assault as "aggravated." The remaining 737 incidents were of a less serious nature and categorized as "simple".

The number of assaults increased significantly between 1974 and 1975 and remained fairly constant during 1976. Monthly totals remained fairly constant. The distribution among police zones was very disproportionate with Zone 04 accounting for 29% of the total. 23% of the remainder occurred in Zones 03 and 05.

62% of the victims were females, 38% males; the black-white ratio was 50:50. In the use of weapons, blacks outnumber whites (70%:30%). Ages ranged from 8 to 85, with 35% falling in the 18-24 bracket.

Suspect typology revealed 17% females, and 83% males; 45% were white, 55% were black. Most of the assaults were staged inside the apartments. 38% were the result of a domestic quarrel. Victims were acquainted with their assailants in all but 9% of the cases. 24% involved married couples and 7% family members. 22% were squabbles between boyfriend/girlfriend.

In the case of aggravated assault, handguns were the chosen weapon

26% of the time. Knives and other cutting instruments were used in 43% of the cases. Striking devices were employed in 12%.

## PROPERTY CRIMES

### APARTMENT BURGLARY

2669 apartments were burglarized during the three-year period under study. This represents 18% of all burglaries reported within the City. Most of the breaks were forcible entries, however, approximately one-third were via unlocked points. Keys were used in 12% of the incidents. Victims were temporarily away from their apartments in 77% of the cases, and on vacation in 3%.

Residents were inside the premises at the time of the burglary in 14% of the incidents.

Males and females were victimized almost equally, while whites outnumber blacks 2 to 1.

Suspects went undetected in 72% of the breaks. Male teens were noted most frequently, blacks outnumbering whites 2 to 1.

Activity was evenly distributed by day of week. 2100-2300 hours was a favored time span. Monthly totals were fairly consistent, with January the high month and March the low.

Cash was taken in 22% of the cases, televisions in 15%, stereos in 7%, and jewelry in 4%. No losses were reported in 24%.

Zone 04 reported the greatest number of burglaries by far with 618, or 23% of the total. Zone 03 also recorded heavy activity with 481 cases, 18% of the total.

In comparing the three years, an increase of 15% was noted between 1974 and 1975, but a decrease of 21% occurred between 1975 and 1976.

## COMMERCIAL B&E

The offices of apartment complexes or unrented apartments were victimized in 82 incidents during 1974-1976. This comprised only 2% of the total commercial B&E's citywide.

Entries were gained via pried doors 28% of the time, unlocked doors 28%, and smashed doors or windows 16%. Thursdays and Fridays in overnight time spans were most popular.

Suspects were seldom observed. They generally removed appliances, cash, or furniture from the premises. No losses were sustained in 28% of the burglaries.

Incidents decreased considerably during the three years under study. 47 cases were reported in 1974, 30 in 1975, and only 5 in 1976.

33% of the breaks occurred in Zone 01, the southern most area of the City; while 23% occurred in Zone 15, the northern most portion of the City.

## AUTO B&E AND LARCENY

As noted in the table displaying total number of crimes by year, the premise designating apartment parking lot was not included in analysis until 1975. The actual number of auto-related incidents occurring on this specific premise during 1974 is not available. 550 such cases occurred during 1975-1976. A tremendous increase (43%) was noted between the two years. 159 were auto burglaries, while 391 were thefts of auto parts and accessories. The former represented 7% of citywide totals; the latter 10%.

Victims were white in 89% of the incidents. Suspects were not described in approximately 88%. Of the remainder, most were white males 16 to 19 years of age.

The majority of the crimes were staged during late night/early morning

hours. Wednesdays were the most active days, accounting for 20% of the incidents.

In the case of auto burglary, purses, tools, and recreational equipment were most frequently removed. CB radios were one of the most popular theft objects.

Auto parts most often taken included gasoline, tires and hubcaps, and batteries.

The most active parts of town were Zone 15 (29%), Zone 01 (21%), and Zone 08 (9%). The summer months recorded the greatest number of cases.

#### AUTO THEFT

As with Auto B&E and Larceny, totals are unavailable for 1974. During 1975-1976, however, 85 vehicles were stolen from apartment parking lots. 62 were automobiles and 23 were motorcycles. Activity increased 74% during the two years. The number of incidents accounted for 8% of citywide totals.

The Northeast portion of the City appeared to be the most active, accounting for 33 of the 85.

Nighttime thefts greatly outnumbered daytime incidents (48% to 14%). In 38% of the cases, time of day was indeterminable. Saturdays and Mondays were favored days, accounting for 19% and 24% of the totals, respectively.

Victims facilitated the theft by leaving vehicle doors unlocked in almost half the incidents. Keys were left in the ignition or some place else within the vehicle in 16%. No key was used in 67% of the thefts.

The vast majority of victims were white males. Suspects were not described in 85% of the cases.

#### BICYCLE THEFT

120 bicycles were taken from apartment premises during the three years

under study. This represents only 2% of totals citywide.

2000-2300 hours was a particularly vulnerable time span, as 30% of the incidents reported, occurred during this period. Day of week varied considerably.

Victims were white in 90% of the cases. Boys outnumbered girls 2 to 1. Most were under the age of 16. Suspects escaped undetected in at least 92% of the thefts.

Incidents were most prevalent in Zone 01 (37%) and Zone 15 (23%). The time around Christmas and New Year's were most active.

#### MISCELLANEOUS LARCENY

Other incidents prevalent on apartment premises fall in the "Larceny from Building", or "Coin-operated Machine Thefts" or "Larceny Other" categories.

104 building larcenies occurred on apartment premises during the three-year period. These include thefts from the apartment complex office area, recreational area, pool facilities, etc. Cash and television sets were the most frequently taken articles.

14 thefts from coin-operated machines were reported on apartment premises. Generally, these are larcenies of cash, cigarettes or food from vending machines within the confines of the apartment complex. Newspaper racks and laundry room equipment are typical examples.

604 larceny-others were recorded on apartment premises 1974-1976. This category included any theft not meeting the specifications of other larceny classifications. An example of this would be money disappearing after the maid cleaned the apartment; or a piece of jewelry missing

following a party on the premises; or lawn chairs removed from patio.

The majority of these involved cash losses. Televisions, jewelry, and clothing were also popular theft objects.

CRIME AND THE APARTMENT DWELLER  
CRIME BY MONTH  
1974, 1975, 1976

CRIME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	7
RAPE	2	4	3	8	7	2	5	9	2	4	3	2	51
ARMED ROBBERY	1	1	1	1	3	1	4	6	1	5	3	2	29
UNARMED ROBBERY	1	5	4	6	3	0	2	3	4	2	1	5	36
AGG. ASSAULT	18	23	34	34	33	39	34	24	36	37	28	33	373
SIM. ASSAULT	54	44	62	73	57	67	64	61	65	63	64	63	737
RES. BURGLARY	276	231	168	226	210	226	238	203	195	249	246	201	2669
COMM. B&E	7	9	8	4	8	7	8	7	6	5	10	3	82
PICKPOCKET	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	5
PURSE SNATCH	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	12
AUTO B&E	13	10	6	11	16	7	26	15	17	14	11	13	159
AUTO LARCENY	36	10	20	35	37	54	40	38	32	37	23	29	391
BICYCLE THEFT	13	6	12	8	3	9	8	18	11	8	10	14	120
FROM BUILDING	10	11	24	9	9	3	5	9	2	6	11	5	104
COIN-OP MACH.	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	2	2	14
LARC. OTHER	47	31	38	55	56	45	47	65	57	41	50	72	604
AUTO THEFT	5	1	2	14	7	5	11	7	8	13	9	3	85
TOTAL	485	390	382	488	454	465	493	470	441	486	474	450	5478



CRIME AND THE APARTMENT DWELLER  
CRIME BY BEAT  
1974, 1975, 1976

CRIME	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	TOTAL
HOMICIDE	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	7
RAPE	6	4	7	11	5	3	2	2	0	0	3	1	1	4	2	51
ARMED ROB.	4	1	4	5	1	4	0	0	2	0	2	3	0	1	2	29
UNARMED ROB.	1	3	16	9	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	36
AGG. ASSAULT	20	9	45	153	54	8	3	11	5	3	22	11	3	4	22	373
SIM. ASSAULT	70	26	81	164	80	17	11	24	16	18	62	55	19	20	74	737
RES BURGLARY	203	105	481	618	207	80	53	63	57	69	208	234	26	66	199	2669
COMM. B&E	27	2	8	7	0	1	4	5	0	0	1	5	1	2	19	82
PICKPOCKET	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
PURSE SNATCH	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	1	12
AUTO B&E	30	6	7	7	1	2	2	12	8	8	2	8	7	3	56	159
AUTO LARCENY	35	16	10	28	7	1	14	35	24	3	8	18	25	15	102	391
BICYCLE THEFT	44	3	6	5	6	1	2	10	3	0	4	7	0	1	28	120
FROM BUILDING	18	2	11	12	2	1	5	6	3	1	7	14	4	5	13	104
COIN-OP MACH	3	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	14
LARC. OTHER	75	16	71	96	47	13	20	20	22	11	53	62	18	17	63	604
AUTO THEFT	16	1	3	4	3	0	2	5	3	3	0	2	4	6	33	85
TOTAL	603	197	753	1124	420	133	118	195	143	117	377	426	109	146	617	5478

**END**