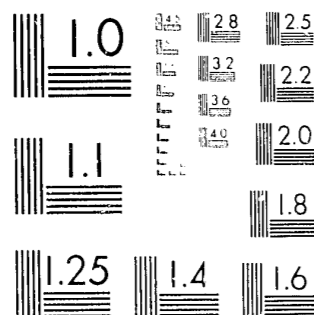


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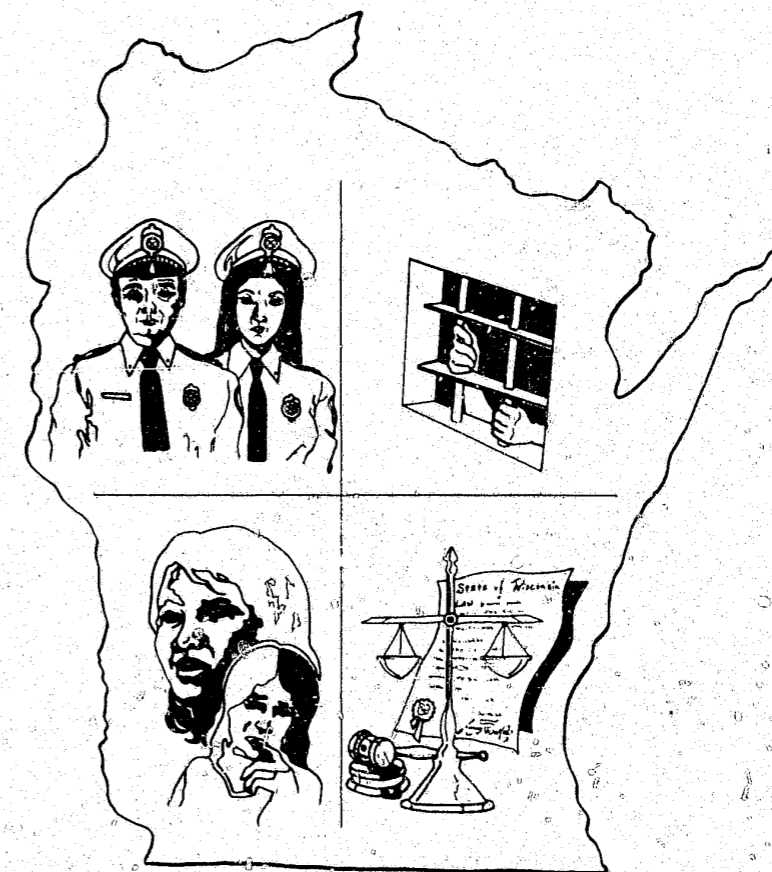
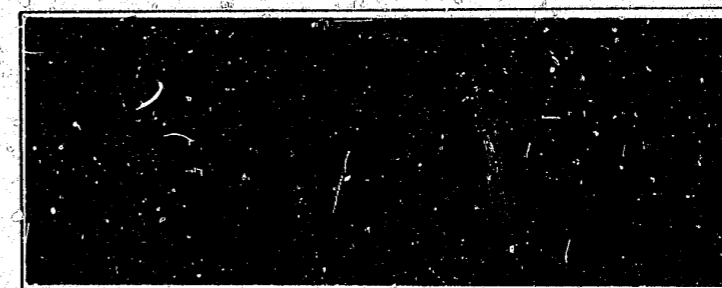
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State of Wisconsin OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE



PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

Executive Summary

The Mequon Crime Prevention Project is attempting to reduce the incidence of burglary and theft and to increase the clearance of both these crimes. This is consistent with a crime analysis showing theft to be one of the most frequent of Mequon's Part I property crimes. Crime prevention activities will be focused on local schools, businesses, and construction sites.

During the project's six months of operation, the following crime prevention activities have been accomplished: 1) meetings have taken place, 2) literature has been printed and distributed to citizens; 3) a bi-monthly radio broadcast is being produced; 4) security surveys are being conducted. More detailed comments/questions on these activities (and on those activities planned for future implementation) appear in the text of this report.

Mequon Crime Prevention Project
Progress Report

WCCJ Subgrant #78-1-MM-32-13-7

by

Cheryl Bowser Williamson

Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice
Program Evaluation Section
June 1979

NCJRS

JUL 12 1979

ACQUISITION

Mequon Crime Prevention Unit
A Progress Report

I. Introduction

The Mequon Police Department received \$36,000¹ from the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice (WCCJ) for the implementation of a specialized crime prevention unit. The goals of this unit are to reduce burglary and theft by 20% and to increase clearances by 10%. Community areas specially targeted for crime prevention activities are schools, businesses and construction sites. Funding began on October 31, 1978 and will continue through October 31, 1979. At the time of this writing, the project had been in operation for approximately six months.

The Mequon Crime Prevention Unit is one of eleven such projects funded by the WCCJ. The yearly cost of this project per person in Mequon² is approximately \$2.26 and is similar to the average yearly cost of \$2.34 for all eleven projects. Further comparisons appear in Appendix A.

In 1977, Part I Property Crime rates³ per 100,000 were lower in Mequon in both the state as a whole and in cities of a comparable size (see Table 1). Between 1974 and 1977, Mequon's property crime rate per 100,000 increased 10%. The rate for both the state and similarly sized cities increased 5% and 7% respectively. This comparison is particularly relevant because the use of rates per 100,000 allows population growth to be held constant for all jurisdictions being studied.

Statistically, theft in Mequon is the most frequent of the Part I property crimes. Theft was the only one of these crimes to increase at all between 1974 and 1977; burglary and auto theft decreased.⁴ Furthermore, the increase of 49% in theft is quite substantial. In 1977, theft alone comprised 75% of all these property crimes. Finally, Table II shows that, of these offenses, Mequon's theft arrest rate per 100,000 compares least favorably to that for the state as a whole.

1

This figure is the total estimated cost of the project and represents federal, state, and local contributions.

2

This calculation is based on 1977 population information.

3

Part I property crime includes theft, auto theft, and burglary.

4

These figures compared with a 13% statewide increase in burglary, 10% increase in theft and a 9% decrease in auto theft.

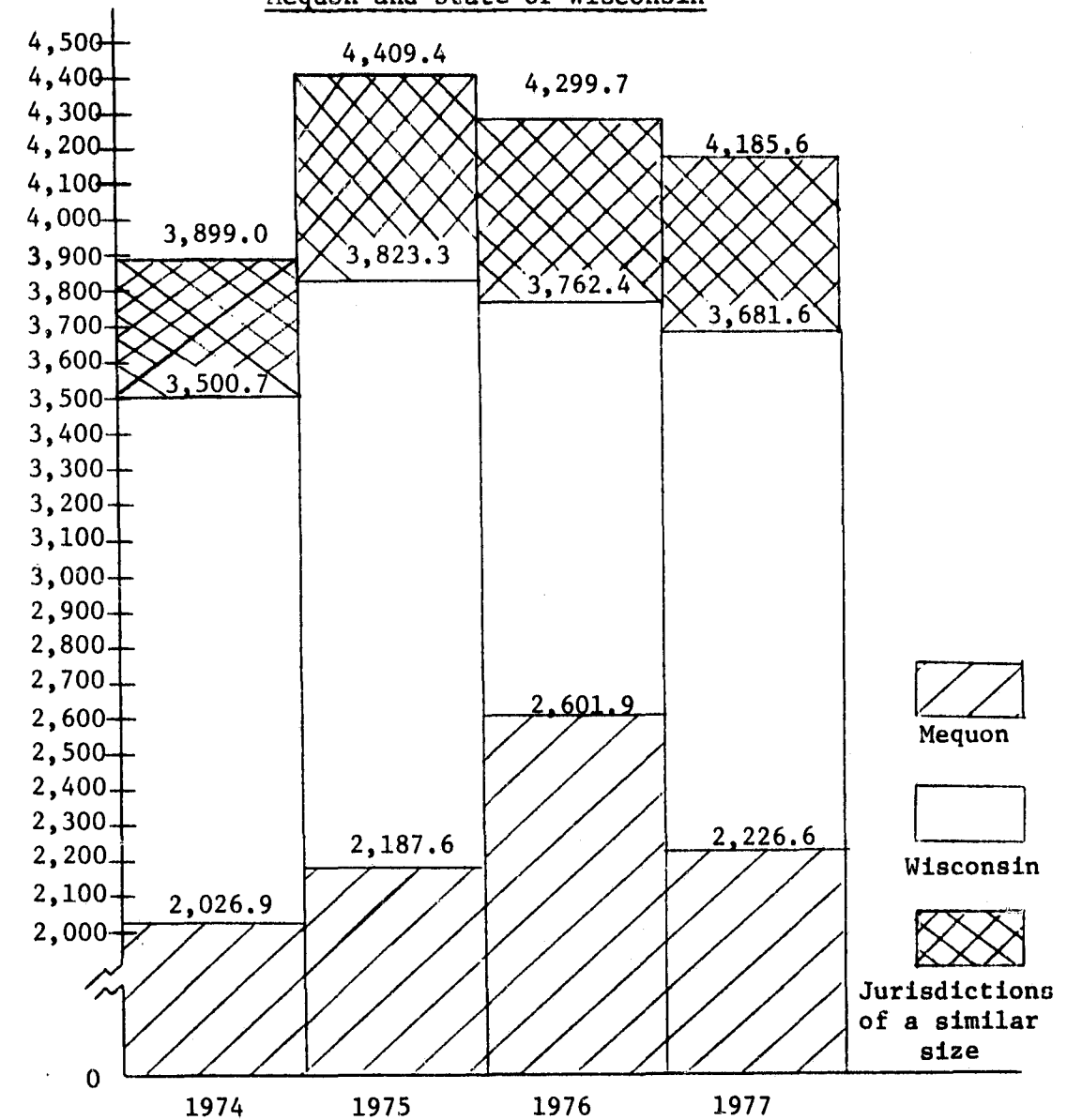
Table I
1977 Part I Property Crimes
Actual Number
(rates per 100,000)

Jurisdiction	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	Total Part I Property Crime
Mequon	83 (522.0)	266 (1,673.1)	5 (31.4)	354 (2,226.6)
Wisconsin	39,385 (846.8)	121,581 (2,614.1)	10,267 (220.7)	171,233 (3,681.6)
Cities 10,000-25,000	3,491 (651.5)	18,175 (3,391.7)	763 (142.4)	22,429 (4,185.6)

Table II
1977 Arrests for Part I Property Crime
Actual Number
(rates per 100,000)

Jurisdiction	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	Total Part I Property Crime
Mequon	23 (144.7)	37 (232.7)	9 (56.6)	69 (433.93)
Wisconsin	8,704 (187.1)	28,225 (606.9)	3,406 (73.2)	40,335 (867.23)

Graph I
 1974-1977
Total Part I Property Crime Rates per 100,000
Mequon and State of Wisconsin



II. Personnel and Equipment

Detective Tom Simon is the Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) in Mequon. Lieutenant Richard Burgard, although not funded by the WCCJ grant, works approximately half time on the project. In order to facilitate interaction with other crime prevention officers, both men intend to join the Inter-County Association of Crime Prevention Officers (IACP). Program Evaluation staff attended one meeting of this newly-formed association and noted what was perceived as a valuable exchange of both ideas and resources.

Burgard noted that most patrol officers have responded favorably to the crime prevention concept. These officers frequently make referrals, distribute booklets to the community and offer prevention-related suggestions to Burgard and Simon. Because patrol officers are often more familiar with the community than other police personnel, they have the potential to perform the cited activities effectively.

Consistent with the initial grant application, all officers received in-service training on crime prevention. This training was part of a Department meeting scheduled for May 3, 1979 and was used to formally apprise officers of the specifics of the crime prevention project. Subsequent to this meeting, the fifteen-minute briefing period prior to each shift will be used to disseminate crime prevention information.

Most of the project equipment has been received. The cassette recorders and transcribers are being used. The van has been leased and made available to crime prevention officers as of April 10, 1979. The mobile radio unit was available in May.

III. Project Activities

Analysis of crime statistics can facilitate the identification of specific community crime problems and direct project activities toward ameliorating those problems. To simplify this analysis, a modification of the current crime reporting system was proposed in the original grant application. While collecting baseline data, Program Evaluation Section staff reviewed the existing system. The incident report forms being used were satisfactory. However, updated clearance information was not recorded on the individual reports. As a result, additional clearance information had to be obtained from a separate list maintained by the Detective Bureau. Approximately 30 to 40 of the cases recorded as "open" on the incident report had actually been cleared. This dual system of maintaining clearance information is not only inefficient for data collection purposes,

but is also more vulnerable to statistical inaccuracy. Hence, attempts to modify the current reporting system should address the problem of updated clearance information.

Citizens will be apprised of crime prevention services through a variety of techniques. Door-to-door canvassing will be used. Two pamphlets ("Operation I.D." and "How to Bungle a Burglary") have been printed and are being disseminated by patrol officers. The CPO's attended approximately 25 to 30 meetings of the Parent Teacher Association to acquaint citizens with the crime prevention concept. The Mequon Police Department is sponsoring a bi-monthly radio program entitled "Cop Shop." This program addresses crime prevention and other related issues. Audience participation and interest is encouraged by eliciting call-in responses from listeners.

Security surveys are available to Mequon residents. These surveys point out security deficiencies in individual buildings and make remedial suggestions. Both commercial and residential surveys are offered. Six residential surveys have been done thus far. Citizen response to these surveys and other crime prevention services will be monitored by Program Evaluation Section staff through a mail questionnaire. This questionnaire will be randomly distributed to participating residents and appears in Appendix B.

The following crime prevention activities were also noted in the original grant proposal:

A. Crime Prevention Committee

This committee will be comprised of citizens who are representative of the community in terms of age, sex, race, and profession. The purpose of this committee will be to (according to the grant application) "inform, advise and act as liaison between the project and citizens." Thus far, such a committee has not been developed.

B. Speakers' Bureau

This bureau will be comprised of persons from the community who have some crime prevention-related expertise. These persons will be a resource pool from which to draw speakers for seminars. This bureau has not yet been developed.

C. Neighborhood Watch

The purpose of the "Neighborhood Watch Program" is to develop neighborhood cohesion and responsibility such that suspicious incidents are both recognized by neighbors and reported to the police. The subgrantee

states that elderly people are likely to be home frequently and to be familiar with the neighborhood. Thus, it is asserted this population group will be valuable to, and should be cultivated for, participation in the Neighborhood Watch Program.

D. Watch on Wheels

"Watch on Wheels" encourages Citizen Band owners to participate in the prevention and reporting of crime. The activity is a unique extension of the Neighborhood Watch Program and, as such, offers an interesting opportunity for evaluation. However, before even a cursory evaluation can be conducted, the Program Evaluation Section will need to be supplied with information that is specific to this program, (e.g., the number of participating C.B. owners, methods used to recruit participants, the number of criminal incidents reported by those participants, etc.)

E. Student Participation in Crime Prevention

The original grant proposes to involve local schools in crime prevention. The crime prevention officers view the development of rapport between students and themselves as essential to this goal. Therefore, both officers attended a High School Law Day and Career Day; presentations were given and information booths set up.

The development of a school-level court for student offenders was noted in the original grant application. This court would be for minor offenses only. Sanctions would be dispensed by a twelve-person student jury. Participation by student "offenders" would be voluntary. Questions surrounding the development of such a court are: 1) What would be defined as a "minor offense" and would those offenses so-defined be limited to offenses committed in school? 2) Why would a student voluntarily participate in and be sanctioned by such a court--is it an alternative to a more severe sanction? 3) What, if any, limitations would there be on the imposition of sanctions by student jurors. Without some outside guidance or limitations, could such a court become what is often referred to as a "kangaroo court?" 4) Is the decision of the court binding? 5) Subsequent to an "in-school decision", can the city/district attorney bring charges against the individual? None of these questions have yet been answered by project staff.

IV. Conclusion

The Mequon Crime Prevention Project has been in operation for approximately six months. Because the Department's Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity (AA/EEO) plan was found to be inadequate according to WCCJ policy, much time was spent by project staff in the revision of this document. Additionally, two crime prevention pamphlets have been designed, printed, and distributed. Twenty-five to thirty meetings on crime prevention have taken place. A bi-monthly law enforcement radio program is being broadcast. Six residential security surveys have been conducted; an appointment for one commercial survey has been made. Finally, there has been some preparation for future project activities.

Appendix A

Crime Prevention Projects Funded by the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice

Jurisdiction	1977 Population	First Year Project Cost	Targeted Part I Property Crimes ¹ - 1977 City Rates per 100,000 (State of Wisconsin - rates per 100,000)	Date of Project Start Up	Size of Police Department Prior to Project Implementation	Number of New Crime Prevention Officers Added by Project ²
La Crosse	48,814	\$17,778	Burglary: 915.7 (846.8) Auto Theft: 385.1 (220.7) Theft: 4,885.9 (2,614.1)	1/12/78	81 Sworn Officers	1 Part-time Officer (also 1 Part-time Student Intern)
Brown Deer	14,113	\$32,896	Burglary: 411.0 (846.8) Theft: 2,593.4 (2,614.1)	4/1/78	20 Sworn Officers	1 Officer
Franklin	16,000	\$58,316	Burglary: 764.2 (846.8) Theft: 2,435.0 (2,614.1) (especially construction site theft)	4/1/78	20 Sworn Officers	2 Officers
Greendale	17,884	\$58,500	Burglary: 95.1 (846.8) Theft: 5,412.7 (2,614.1) (especially shoplifting)	4/1/78	26 Sworn Officers	2 Officers (also 1 Part-time Social Worker & 1 Volunteer Intern)
Wisconsin Rapids	18,676	\$46,000	Burglary: 1,070.9 (846.8)	4/1/78	40 Sworn Officers	1 Officer (also 1 Part-time Secretary)
Menomonie, City of	10,814	\$23,200	Burglary: 332.9 (846.8) Theft: 3,911.6 (2,614.1)	7/15/78	23 Sworn Officers	1 Officer (also 1 Part-time Secretary)
Oak Creek	15,598	\$33,371	Burglary: 1,154.0 (846.8)	10/1/78	37 Sworn Officers	1 Officer
Green Bay	89,609	\$66,666	Burglary: 818.0 (846.8) Auto Theft: 164.0 (220.7)	1/1/79	155 Sworn Officers 1 Investigator 2 Full-time Cadets 7 Part-time Cadets	1 Officer (also 2 Cadets & 1 Part-time Secretary)
Mequon	15,899	\$36,000	Burglary: 522.0 (846.8) Theft: 1,673.0 (2,614.1) (especially construction site theft)	11/1/78	32 Sworn Officers	1 Officer
Menominee Restoration Committee	3,662	\$20,819	Burglary: 12,588.2 (846.8)	11/1/78	8 Patrolmen 1 Investigator 2 Full-time Deputies 4 Part-time Deputies	1 Officer
Cudahay ³ St. Francis South Milwaukee	54,926	\$26,527	Burglary: 815.6 (846.8) Theft: 4,083.7 (2,614.1)	3/1/79	83 Sworn Officers	5 Officers ⁴

1 Some jurisdictions are also addressing, on an informal basis, offenses which are not classified as Part I property crimes.

2 The new Crime Prevention Officers (CPO) added by the individual projects vary in rank.

3 All figures presented for this project are totals for all three jurisdictions.

4 Five officers will work part-time on the project. This will involve already existing positions rather than the creation of new positions.

Appendix B

INSTRUCTIONS

We have asked you to provide information on the crime prevention program in Mequon, Wisconsin. The questionnaires which we are using assures you of anonymity. No attempt will be made by either the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice or the Mequon Police Department to associate your name with your responses. Please check the appropriate blanks; your frank, honest answers will be most useful. Please return this questionnaire in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

- Did you participate in either a residential or commercial survey? Yes No If "Yes":
 - Did you receive suggestions on how to improve the security of your home or business? Yes No
 - If you received such suggestions, did you find them useful?

<input type="checkbox"/> Very useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Not very useful
<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all useful
 - Did you use the suggestions?

<input type="checkbox"/> None of the suggestions	<input type="checkbox"/> Most of the suggestions
<input type="checkbox"/> Some of the suggestions	<input type="checkbox"/> All of the suggestions
 - If suggestions made at the time of the security check were not used, why not? _____
- Did you attend any of the community education seminars/presentations on crime prevention? Yes No
If "Yes," how would you rate them?

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
- Did you request engraving services through Operation Identification? Yes No

Additional comments: _____

Thank you for participating in this survey.

END