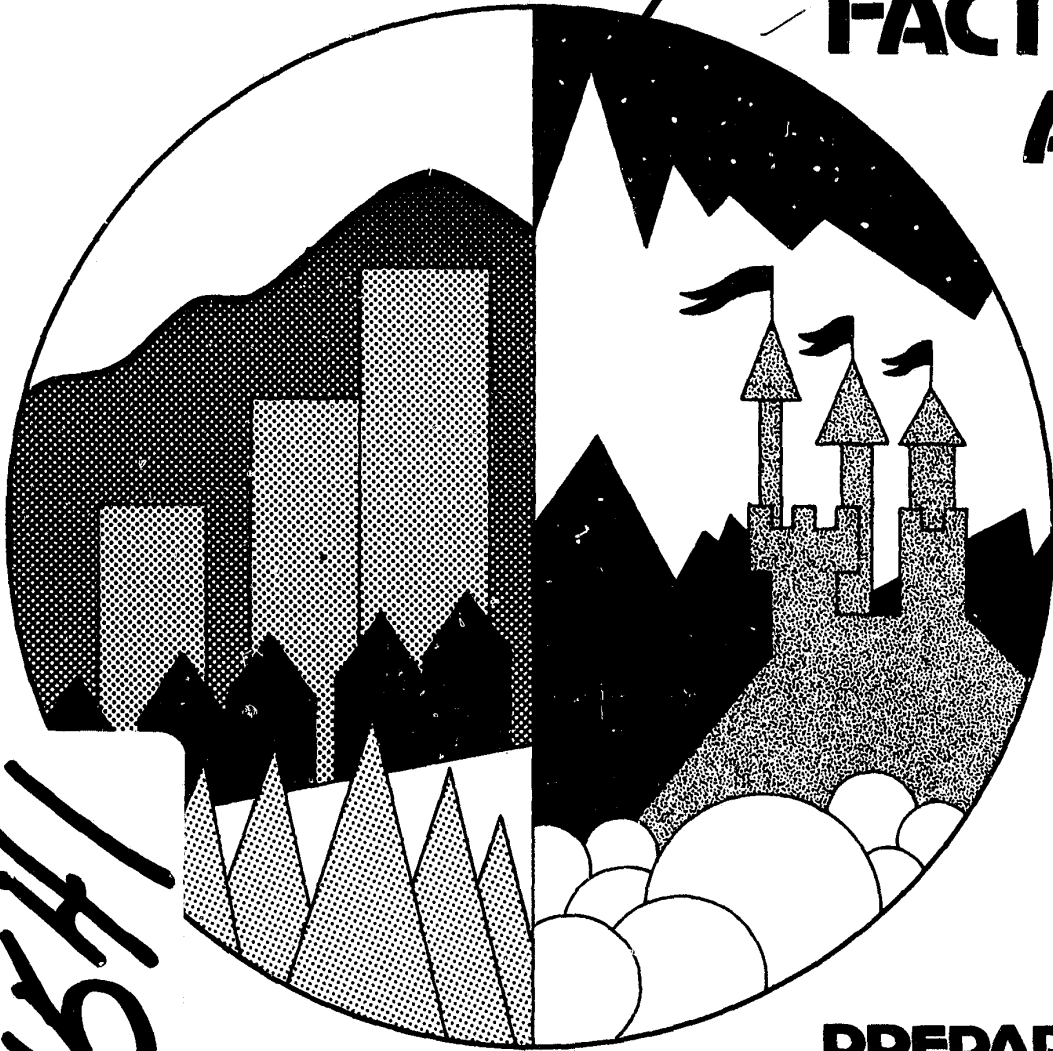


FACT AND FICTION ABOUT CRIME IN OREGON

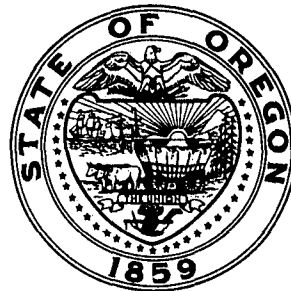


61541

**PREPARED BY THE OREGON
LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL**

Cover design by Steve Minnick, Graphics Illustrator
Crime Prevention Division, Portland Police Bureau

FACT AND FICTION
About Crime in Oregon
August, 1979



Victor R. Atiyeh
Governor

James Brown
Chairman

Keith A. Stubblefield
Administrator

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Information and Statistics Service, LEAA,
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INTRODUCTION

In 1978 the U.S. Department of Justice published an interesting and informative booklet entitled Myths and Realities About Crime. From it came the idea for Fact and Fiction About Crime in Oregon, and like its predecessor, Fact and Fiction is designed to dispel the stereotyped notions that many people hold about crime, its victims, and the criminal justice system.

Some who read this booklet may not recognize the fictional statements as fiction, and some of those statements may be obvious falsehoods to others. The objective, however, is to present selected findings on the nature of crime in Oregon in a simple, non-technical manner. The facts included in Fact and Fiction are taken from sources available to us at this point in time. We realize, however, that other studies on similar subjects may reflect different findings according to individual methods of research. Additionally, the facts may change at some point in the future. For those interested in more detail, sources for the data are listed on each fact/fiction page and correspond to the source numbers listed on page 43.

T RMS USED IN THIS BOOKLET

Part I offenses (or Index crimes) are considered the most serious. They are crimes against persons* or property.**

Part II offenses are also criminal in nature but are deemed less serious.

Part III activities, generally, do not involve criminal offenses, but consist of response to calls for public service.

Robbery: Definition - the taking or attempting to take anything of value from a person by force or threat of force or violence.

Burglary: Definition - the unlawful entry of a residence, business, or other building with intent to commit a crime (usually the taking of property).

Larceny: Definition - the unlawful taking of property from the possession of another.

*Person crime: An offense committed against a person. Examples are robbery, assault, and forcible rape.

**Property crime: An offense committed against property. Examples are theft, burglary, and vandalism.

Part I or Index Offense

Murder & Non-negligent Manslaughter
Forcible Rape
Robbery
Aggravated Assault
Burglary
Larceny - Theft
Motor Vehicle Theft

Part II Offenses

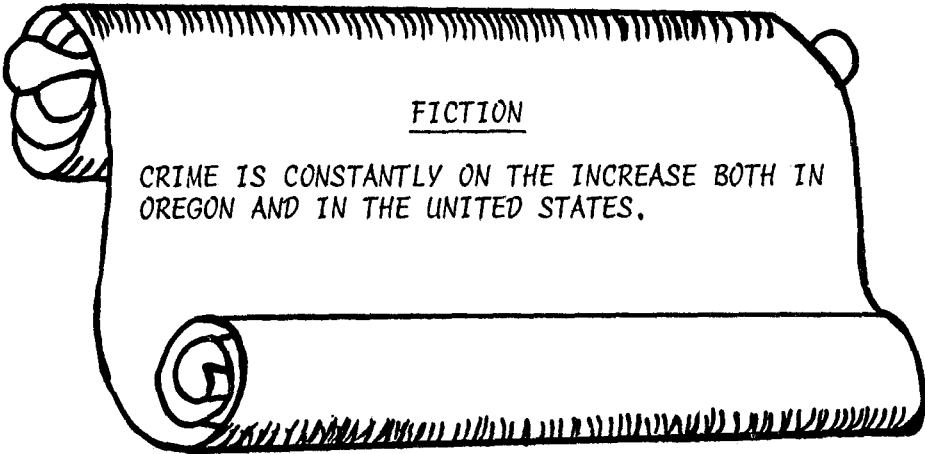
Other Assaults
Arson *
Forgery/Counterfeiting
Fraud
Embezzlement
Stolen Property
Vandalism
Weapons Offenses
Prostitution
Other Sex Offenses
Drug Abuse
Gambling
Offenses Against Family
Driving Under the Influence
of Intoxicants (DUII)
Liquor Laws
Disorderly Conduct
All Other Offenses
Curfew/Loitering
Juvenile Runaway

Part III Activities

Traffic Crime (Serious Traffic)
Traffic Accidents
Illegal Alien Problems
Custody of Persons
Receiving Warrants
Stolen Motor Vehicles Recovered
Stolen Property Recovered
Fugitive Search/Apprehension
Missing Person
Sudden Death/Bodies Found
Suicide
Other Accidents (Not Traffic)
Animal Problems
Property (Lost/Found)
Abandoned Auto Investigation
Locate Missing Auto
Impounding Autos
Rendering Assistance
Domestic Problems (Family)
Insure Premises/Security
Suspicious Persons/Circumstances
Public Safety Problems
Disturbances Involving Noise
Assistance to Sick or Injured
Marine Problems
Traffic Roads (Parking, etc.)
Civil Complaints
Disposition of Vehicles in Custody
Responding to Alarms
Assaults Against Police Officers
Other (Miscellaneous Calls)

*As of January 1, 1979, Arson is being recorded
as an Index offense.

Crime Rates



FICTION

CRIME IS CONSTANTLY ON THE INCREASE BOTH IN OREGON AND IN THE UNITED STATES.

FACT

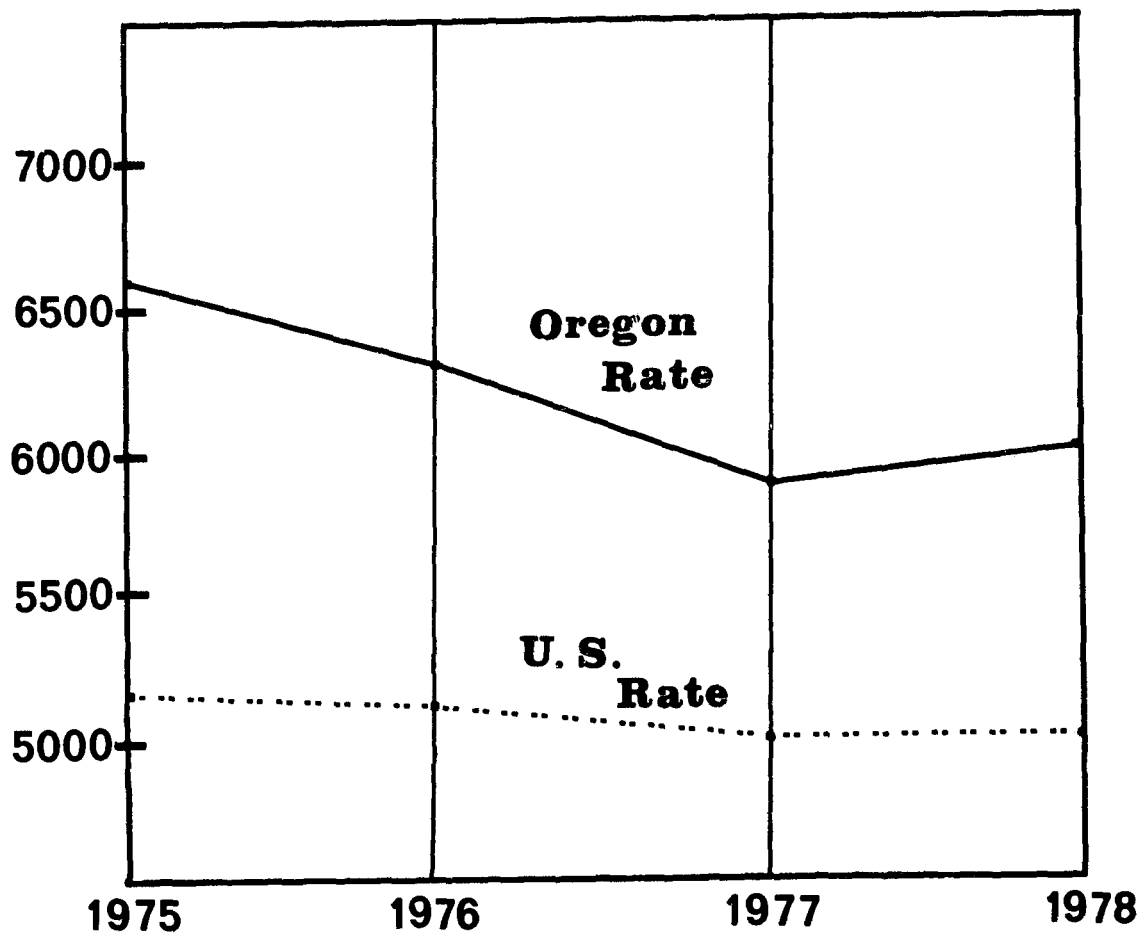
Although Oregon's Index Crime rate (offenses per 100,000 population) exceeds the national rate, it has reached a relative degree of stability within the last four years, as has the national rate.

Information Sources:

1. Analysis of Offenses and Arrests
2. Crime in the U.S.

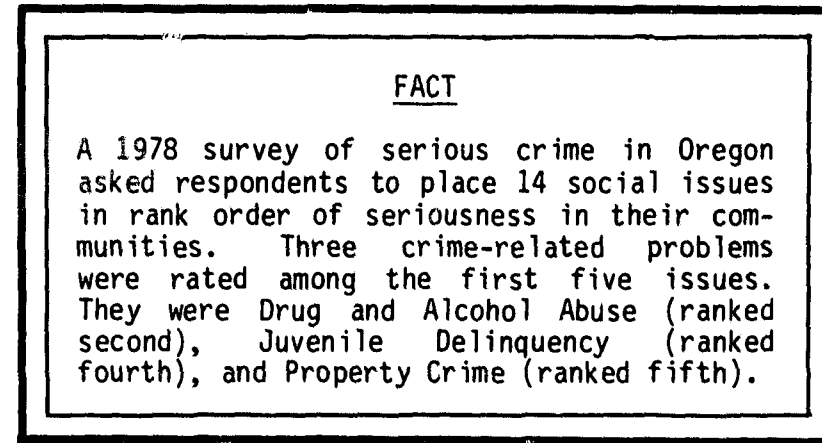
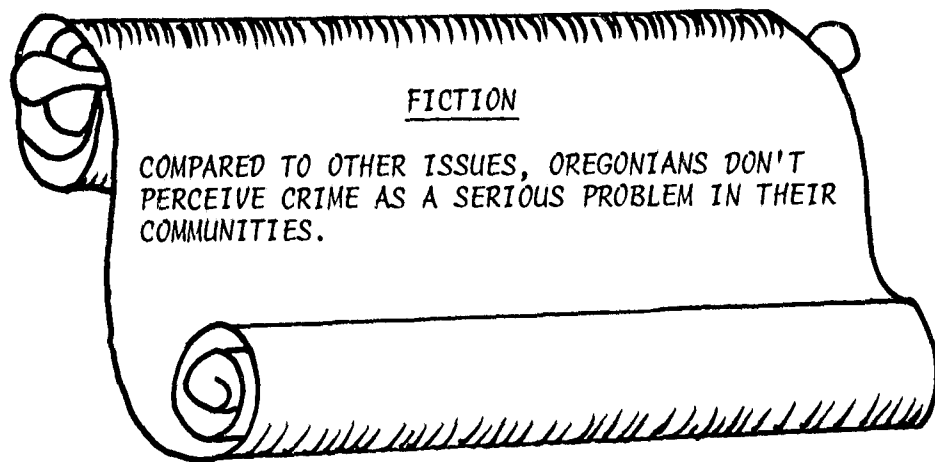
CRIME RATES*

1975-1978



*OFFENSES PER
100,000 POPULATION

Perception Of Crime



Information Source:
4. Survey of Serious Crime

RANK ORDER OF COMMUNITY ISSUES

1. PROPERTY TAX
2. ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE
3. COST OF LIVING
4. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
5. PROPERTY CRIME
6. LAND USE / ZONING
7. QUALITY OF EDUCATION
8. UNEMPLOYMENT
9. POLLUTION / ENVIRONMENT
10. VIOLENT CRIME
11. POVERTY
12. WHITE COLLAR CRIME
13. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
14. RACE RELATIONS

Violent Crime



FICTION

THE MAJORITY OF CRIME REPORTED IN OREGON AND
IN THE UNITED STATES IS VIOLENT IN NATURE.

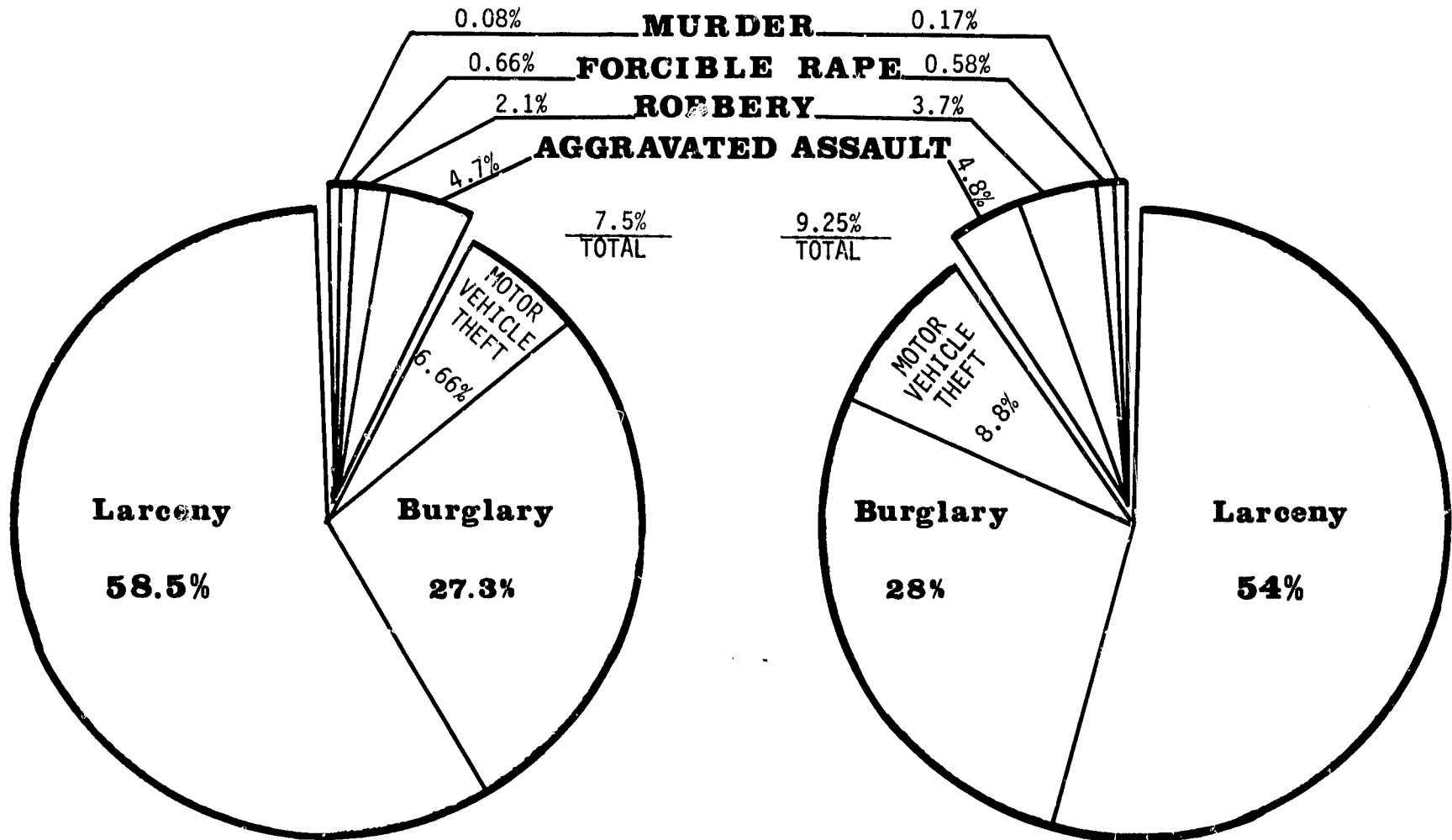
FACT

The vast majority of criminal offenses reported to Oregon enforcement agencies are Property crimes. Larceny, Burglary, and Motor Vehicle Theft represent 92% of Oregon Index crime reported in 1977. The Violent crimes (Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault) represent 7.5% of reported Oregon Index Crime while Violent crime comprises 9.2% of Index crime and .5% of total reported crime for the U.S.

Information Sources:

1. Analysis of Offenses and Arrests
2. Crime in the U.S.

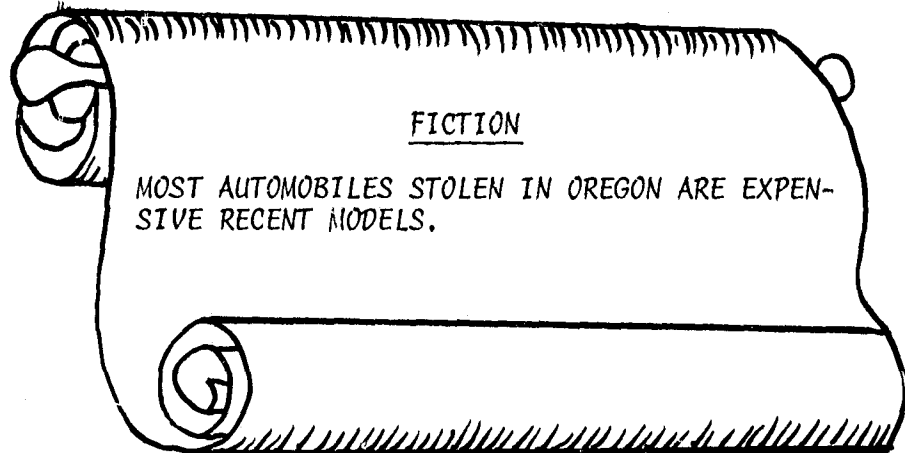
VIOLENT CRIME



OREGON

UNITED STATES

Motor Vehicle Theft



FACT

A sample taken in May, August, and October of 1977 revealed that 56.3% of stolen automobiles were 1969 models or older.

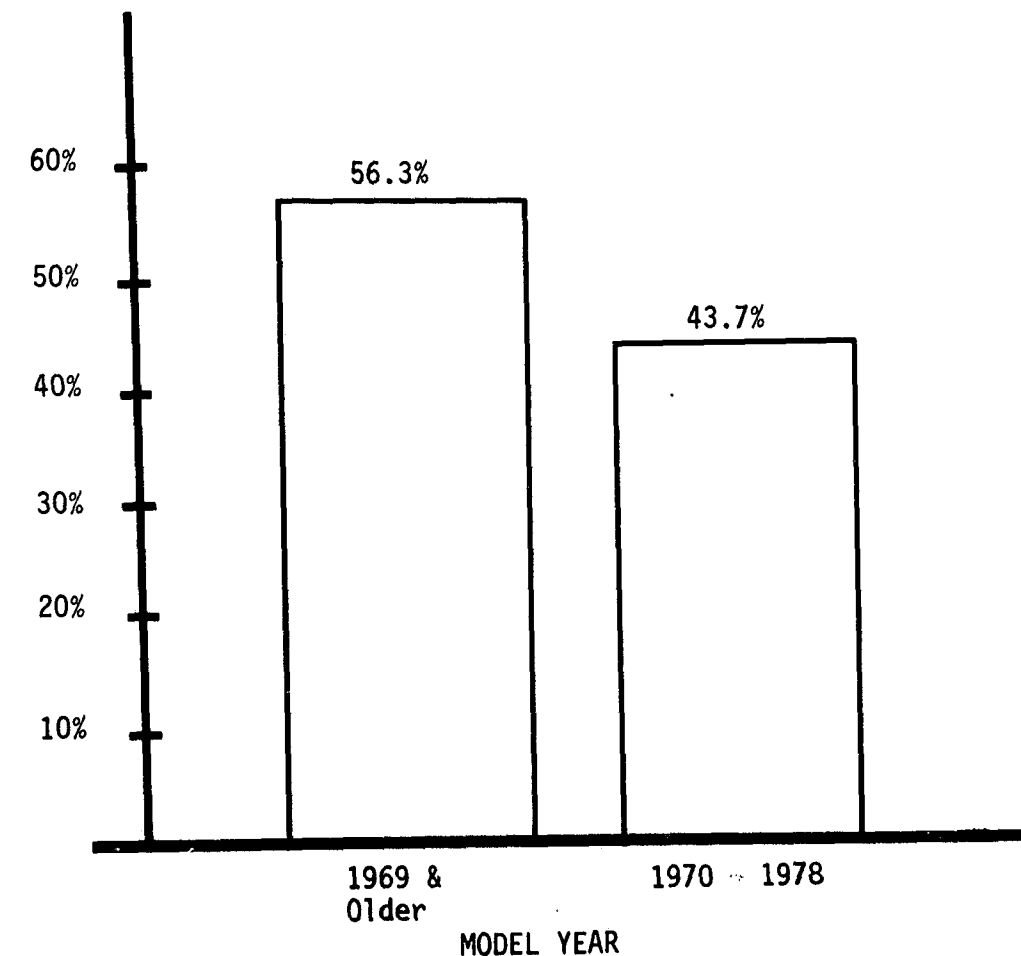
Of the Automobile Thefts in this sample, 41.4% were General Motors products; 21.9% Ford Motor Company; 16.9% Imports; 9.2% Chrysler Corporation; and 1% American Motors.

The highest percentages involved 1960 to 1964 Chevrolets, 1965 to 1969 Fords, and 1965 to 1969 Volkswagens.

Information Source:
1. Analysis of Offenses and Arrests

MODEL YEAR OF STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLES

(May, August, October 1977)



Armed Violence



FICTION

A WEAPON IS USED IN NEARLY ALL RAPES, ASSAULTS,
AND ROBBERIES.

FACT

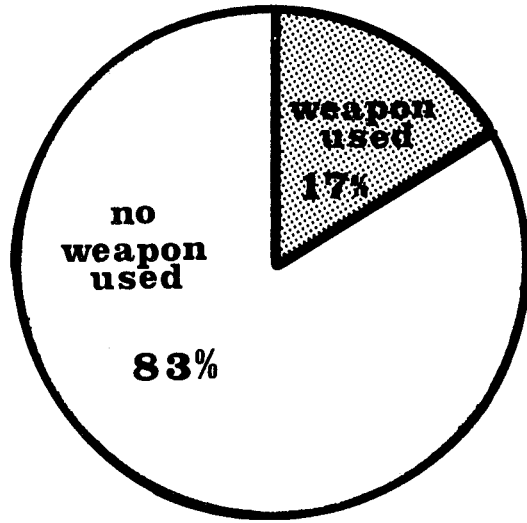
On the average, a weapon was used in about half of the Violent crimes reported in Oregon. Of these crimes, robbery and assault were most likely to be committed with a weapon. Rape was the least likely crime to be carried out using a weapon.

Information Source:

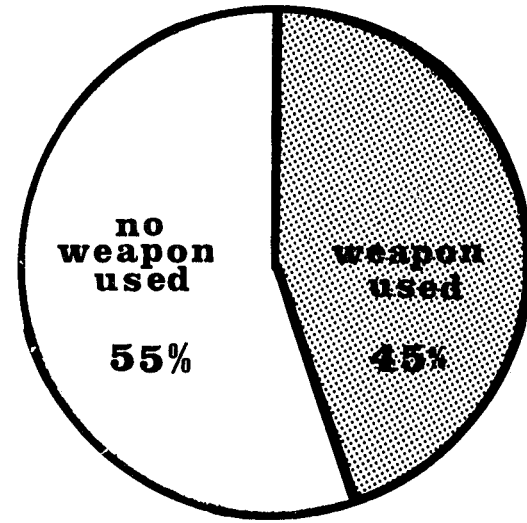
1. Analysis of Offenses and Arrests

ARMED VIOLENCE

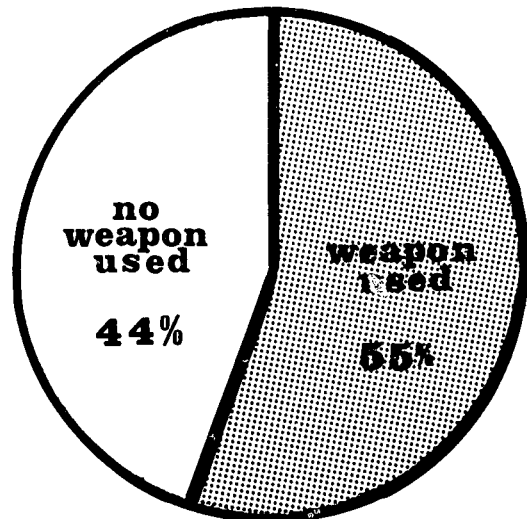
rape



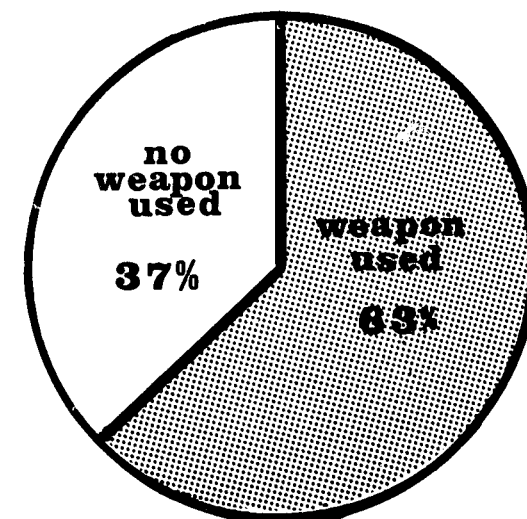
assault



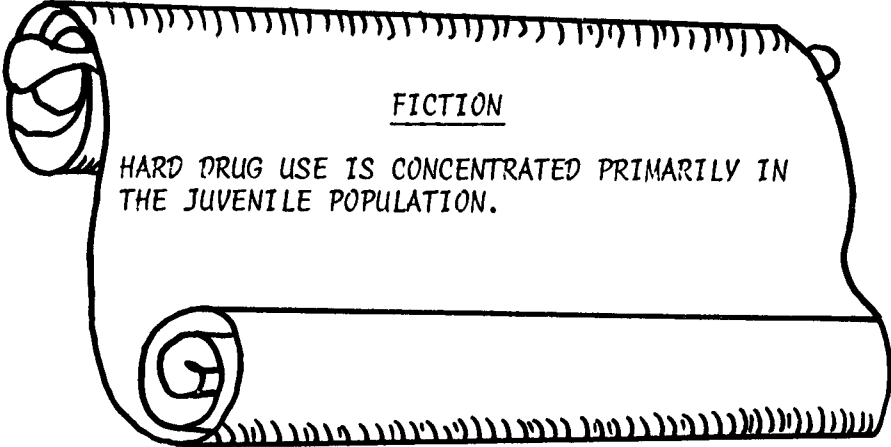
personal robbery



commercial robbery



Drugs And Juveniles



FICTION

HARD DRUG USE IS CONCENTRATED PRIMARILY IN
THE JUVENILE POPULATION.

FACT

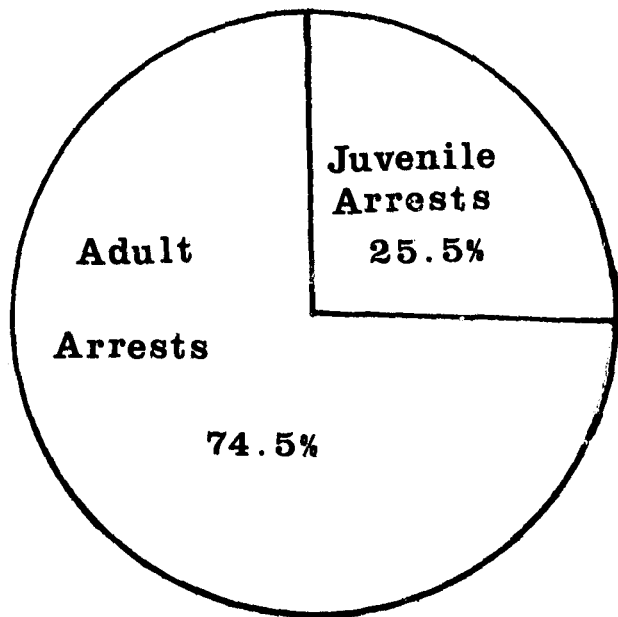
Arrest data suggests that drug abuse is more a problem with adults than juveniles and that hard drug use is particularly concentrated among adults. Of the 10,848 arrests for drug abuse in 1977, 25.5% were juvenile offenders and 74.5% were adults. The vast majority of the juveniles were arrested for possession of Marijuana or Hashish, and only 4% were arrested for possession of narcotics. In fact, there were 10 times as many adults arrested for Narcotics as juveniles.

Information Source:

1. Analysis of Offenses and Arrests

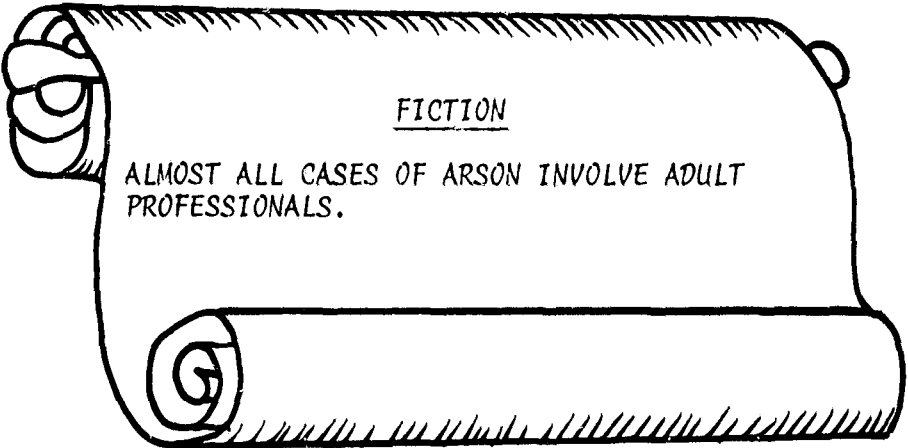
ARRESTS FOR DRUG ABUSE

1977



Type of Drug	Juvenile	Adult
Narcotics (OPIUM, COCAINE, HEROIN, MORPHINE, ETC.)	31	382
Marijuana (HASHISH)	2511	6598
Synthetics (DEMEROL, METHADONE, ETC.)	16	55
Other Dangerous Drugs (BARBITURATES, AMPHETAMINES HALLUCINOGENS, ETC.)	119	772
TOTAL	2677	7807

Arson



FICTION

ALMOST ALL CASES OF ARSON INVOLVE ADULT PROFESSIONALS.

FACT

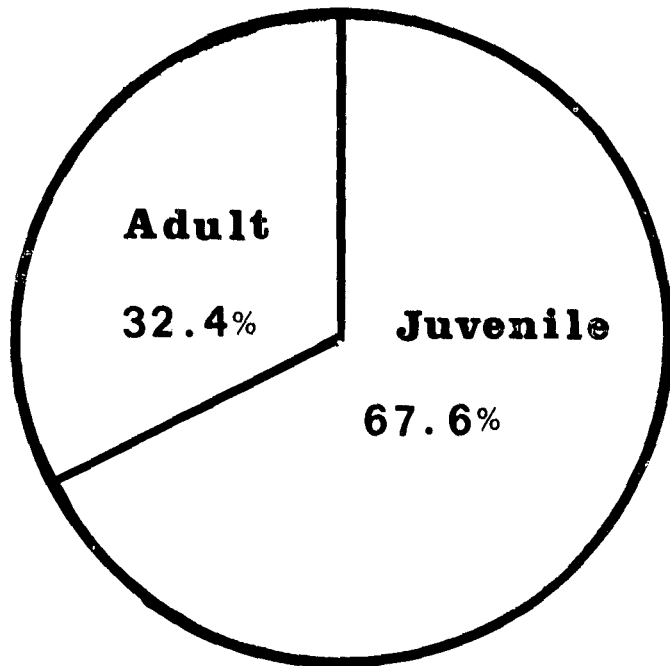
Although all arsonists are never caught, the data on arrests suggests that juveniles--and particularly young juveniles--are more heavily involved in this crime than adults. Of all Arson arrests in 1977, 67.6% were for juveniles. Of these juvenile arrests, 81.8% involved youngsters 15 years old and younger and 22% involved children 10 years old and under.

Information Source:

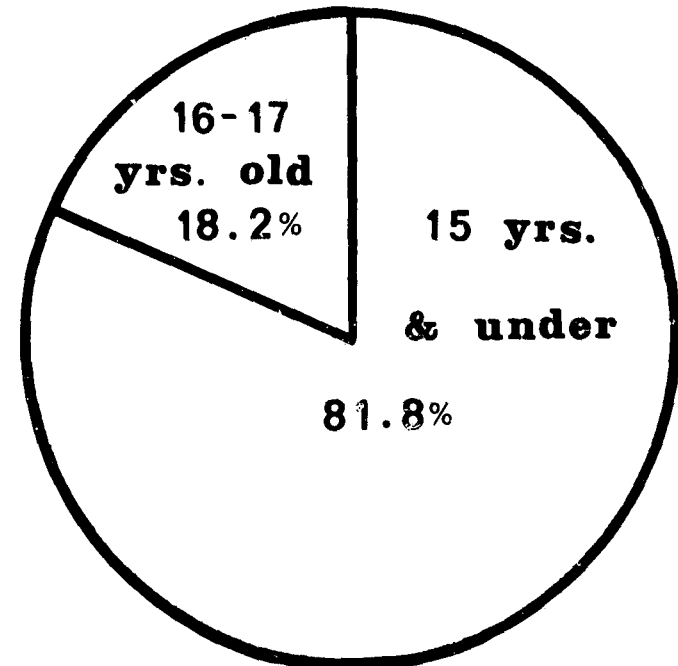
1. Analysis of Offenses and Arrests

ARRESTS FOR ARSON

Juvenile / Adult



Juvenile



Women & Crime



FICTION

BECAUSE OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT FEMALE INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME HAS GREATLY INCREASED IN RECENT YEARS.

FACT

The percentage of women arrested for criminal offenses has not changed substantially over the past six years. Women continue to constitute only one-fifth of all arrests, and their involvement is primarily in less serious, non-violent crimes such as shoplifting.

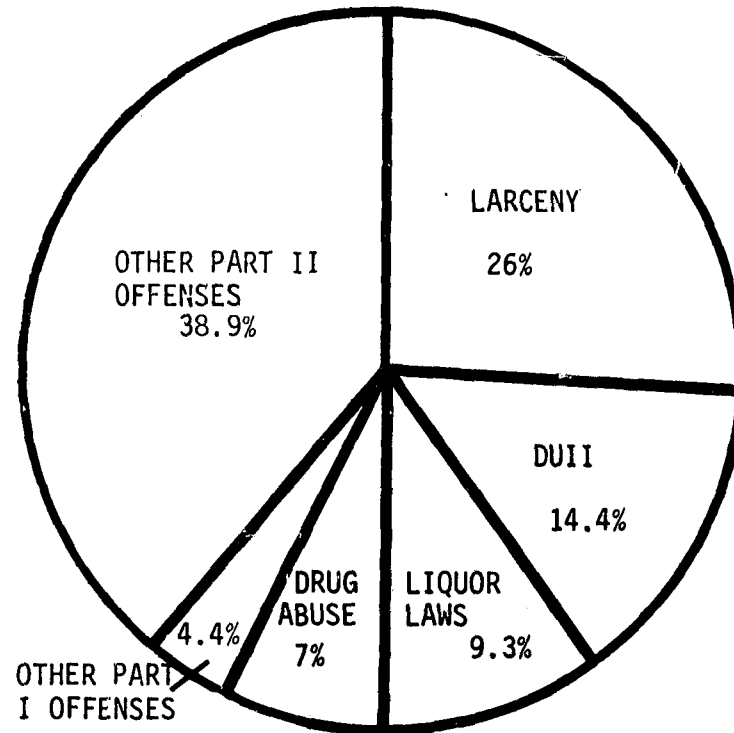
Information Source:

1. Analysis of Offenses and Arrests

**PROPORTION OF ARRESTEES
THAT ARE WOMEN**

1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
19.9%	17.9%	17.9%	17.6%	18.7%	18.9%	18.4%

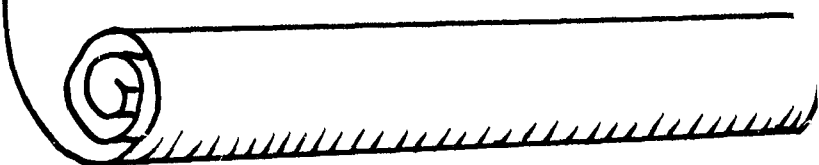
1978 FEMALE ARRESTS



Victim Compensation & Assistance

FICTION

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IS NOT CONCERNED
ABOUT VICTIMS OF CRIME.



FACT

In October 1977, the Oregon Legislature created a program to assist victims of crime. It is administered by the Crime Victims' Compensation Division (CVCD) of the Department of Justice in Salem.

CVCD began receiving claims in January, 1978 and as of April, 1979, received 334 claims. Of those filed, 105 were accepted, 84 were denied and 145 were pending. Approximately \$600,000 was budgeted for payment of claims in the first 18 months of operation.

Information about the program is distributed by enforcement agencies, major hospitals, and the Crime Victims' Compensation Division. In addition to the state program, local programs operate in some communities to provide services such as emergency assistance and counseling for rape victims, transportation to court, etc.

Information Source:

10. Crime Victim's Compensation Division

COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS

OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR VICTIMS & WITNESSES

NOTICE TO VICTIMS OF CRIME

If you are an injured victim of crime you might qualify for financial compensation.

To apply for compensation you must file an application with the Crime Victims' Compensation Division of the Department of Justice.

For assistance contact:

Crime Victims' Compensation
Division

Department of Justice
100 State Office Bldg., 2nd Fl.
Salem, Oregon 97310

Phone: (503) 378-5348

CHECKPOINTS

You may qualify for benefits if:

1. Your crime-related injury occurred after January 1, 1978.
2. Your out-of-pocket medical expenses and actual loss of earnings exceed \$250.
3. You cooperated fully with law enforcement officials in the apprehension and prosecution of the assailant.
4. You were not related to the assailant.
5. You were not sharing the same household with the assailant.
6. Your injury was not substantially attributable to your wrongful act or substantial provocation of the assailant.
7. You notified law enforcement officials of the crime within 72 hours of the injury.
8. You filed a claim for benefits within six months from the date of the injury.

NOW THERE'S HELP

Marilyn Culp
Multnomah Co. D.A.'s Office
600 Multnomah Co. Courthouse
1021 S.W. Fourth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
248-3222

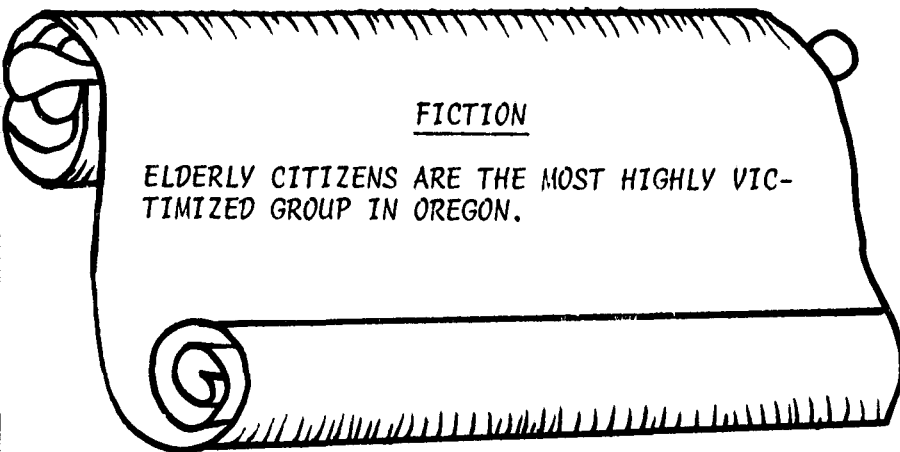
Rci Hokinson
Clackamas Co. D.A.'s Office
Clackamas Co. Courthouse
Oregon City, OR 97045
655-8616

Kathy Hall
Washington Co. D.A.'s Office
Administration Building
150 N. 1st Ave.
Hillsboro, OR 97128
648-8868

Geoff Alpert
Lane Co. D.A.'s Office
Lane Co. Courthouse
Eugene, OR 97401
687-4261

Bob Galvin
Josephine Co. D.A.'s Office
Josephine Co. Courthouse
Grants Pass, OR 97526
474-5200

Crime Against the Elderly



FICTION

ELDERLY CITIZENS ARE THE MOST HIGHLY VIC-
TIMIZED GROUP IN OREGON.

FACT

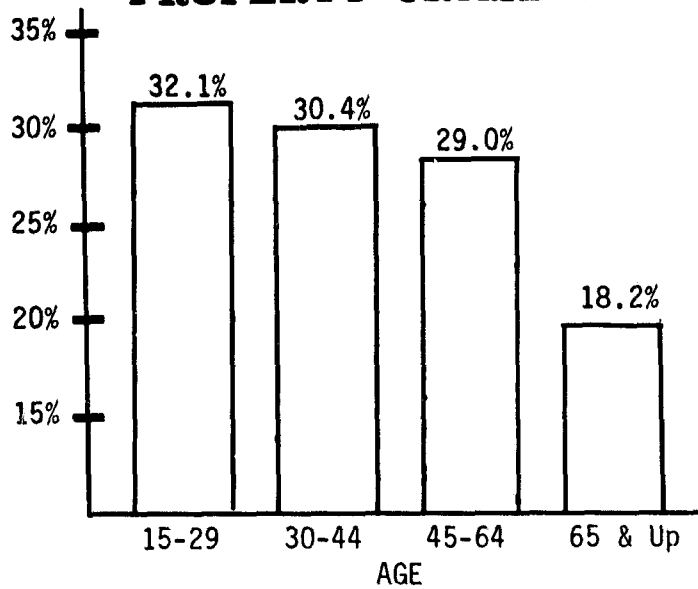
A 1978 survey of Oregon residents, as well as several other national studies, have all found that persons over age sixty-five are the least victimized age group in all major crime categories. However, these data ignore the greater trauma and economic burden that likely befalls an elderly victim. Additionally, data from the Oregon survey showed that older people were more likely to use crime prevention measures and remain inside, reducing potential for victimization. This may account for part of their low victimization rate.

Information Source:

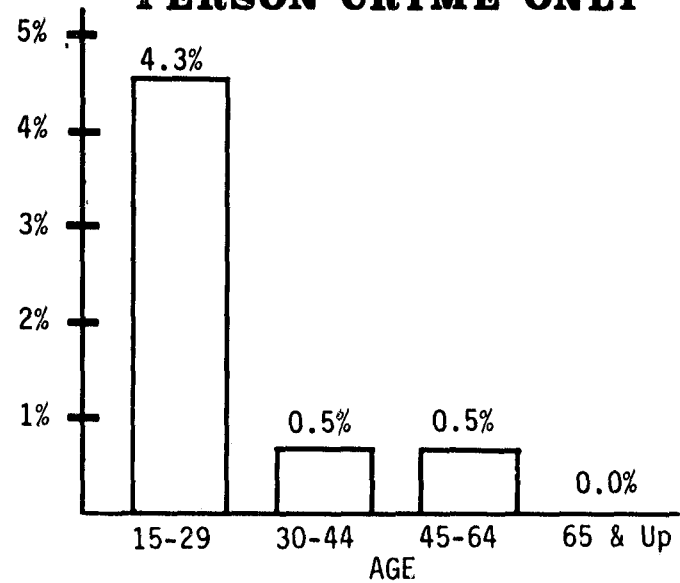
4. Survey of Serious Crime in Oregon, 1978. Findings based on 931 Oregonians sampled. This victimization data is yet unpublished.

Survey of Victimization by Age & Type of Crime

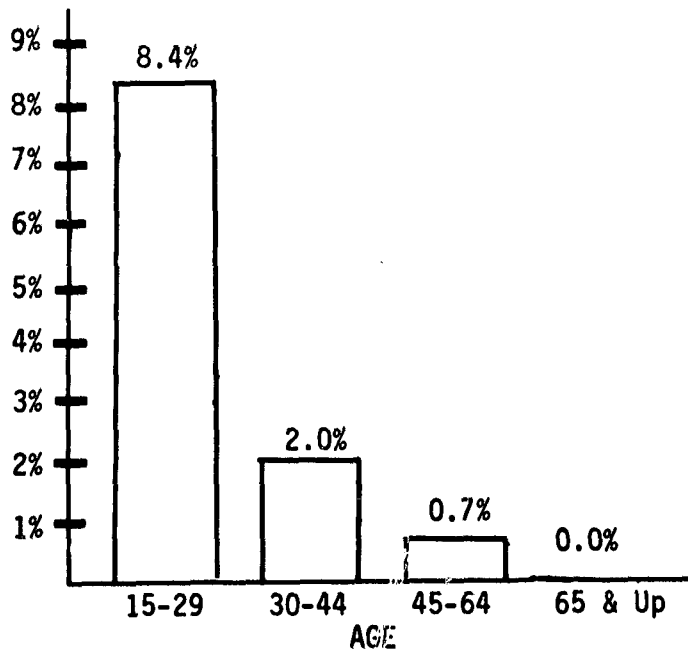
***PROPERTY CRIME ONLY**



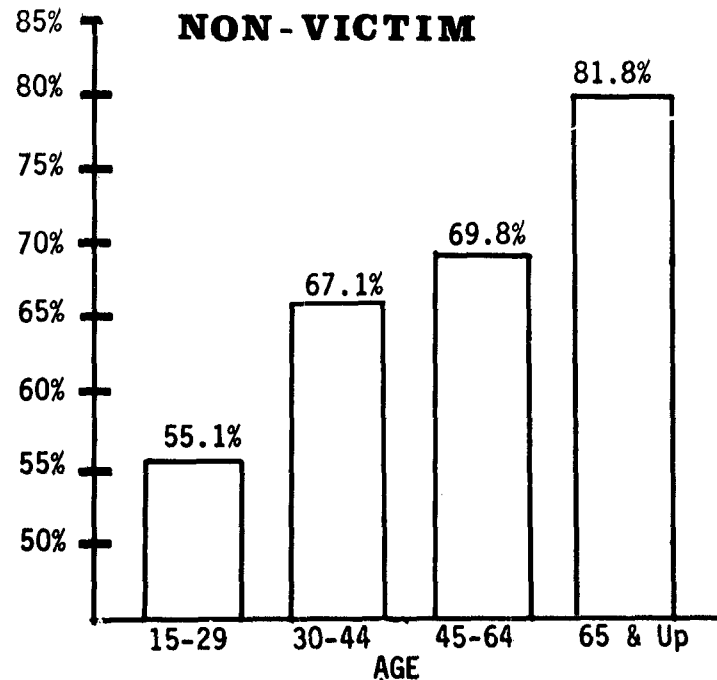
***PERSON CRIME ONLY**



PERSON & PROPERTY CRIME

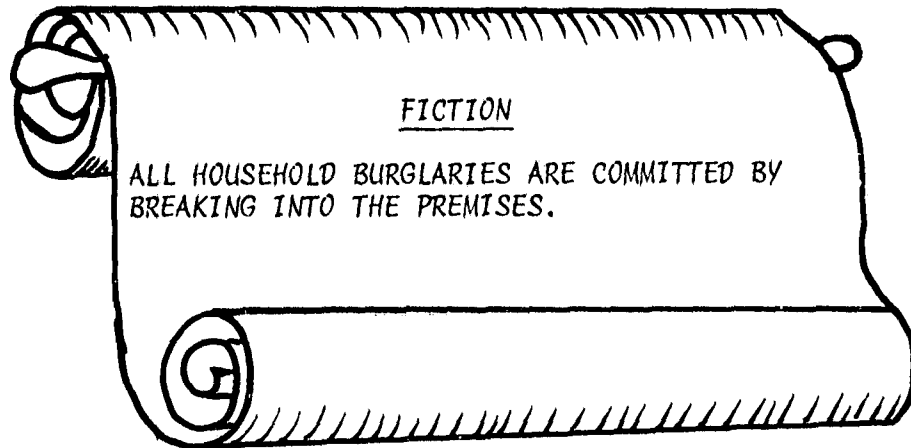


NON-VICTIM



*Definitions on Page 2.

Residential Burglar



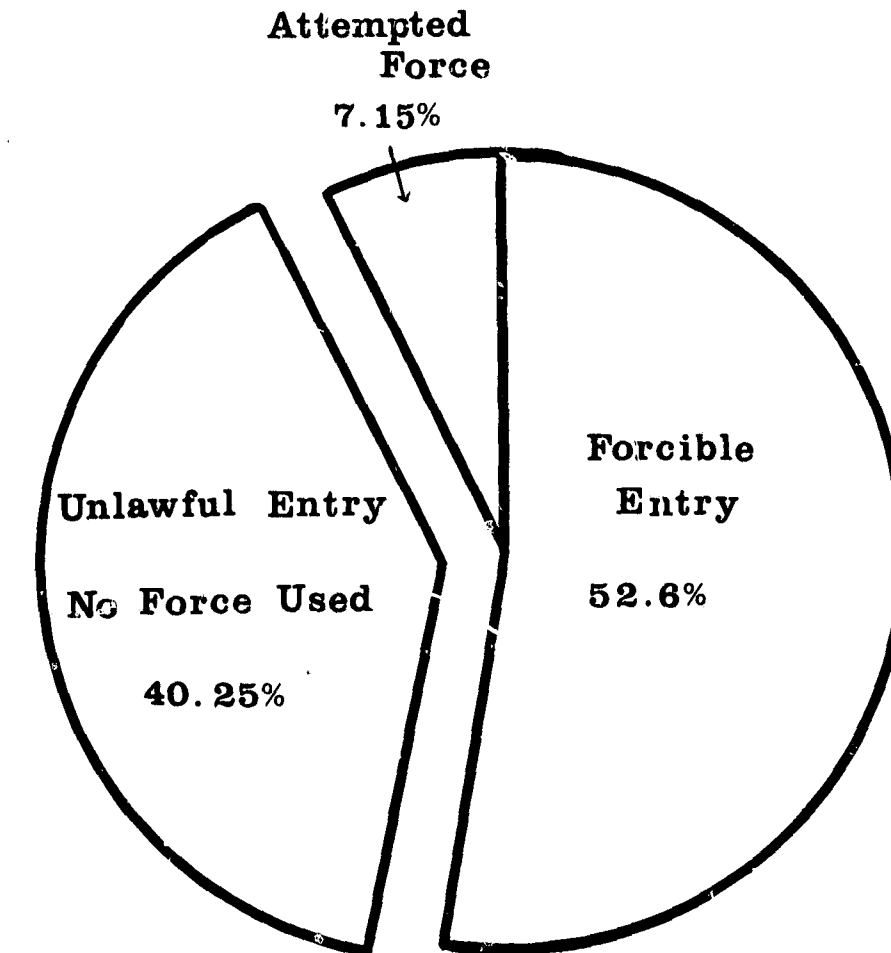
FACT
In 1978, 40% of residential burglaries were committed by entering through unlocked doors or windows or by using keys. Of the 26,469 burglaries and attempted burglaries that took place in Oregon, about 10,650 involved no forcible entry. Since burglary is often an act of opportunity, closer attention to household security is the best preventive measure.

Information Source:
1. Analysis of Offenses and Arrests

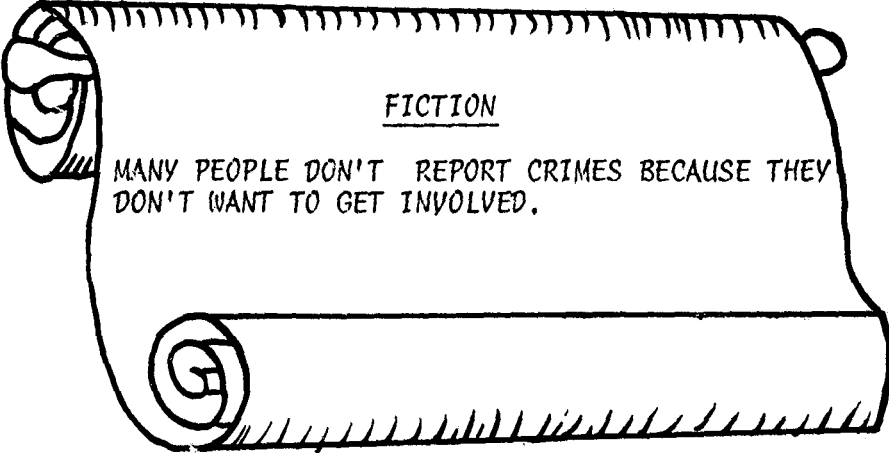
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

BY TYPE OF ENTRY

1978



Reporting Crime



FICTION

MANY PEOPLE DON'T REPORT CRIMES BECAUSE THEY
DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED.

FACT

The 1978 Survey of Serious Crime in Oregon asked Oregon residents what their main reasons were for not reporting crimes to the police. Almost half said they did not report because they felt nothing could or would be done. About 35% felt the crime was not important enough to report.

Information Source:
4. Survey of Serious Crime

REPORTING CRIME

Reasons For Not Reporting Crime

Percent Distribution

FELT IT WAS USELESS BECAUSE NOTHING
COULD/WOULD BE DONE

48.6%

AFRAID OF RETALIATION

6.0%

FELT THE CRIME WASN'T IMPORTANT
ENOUGH TO REPORT

34.4%

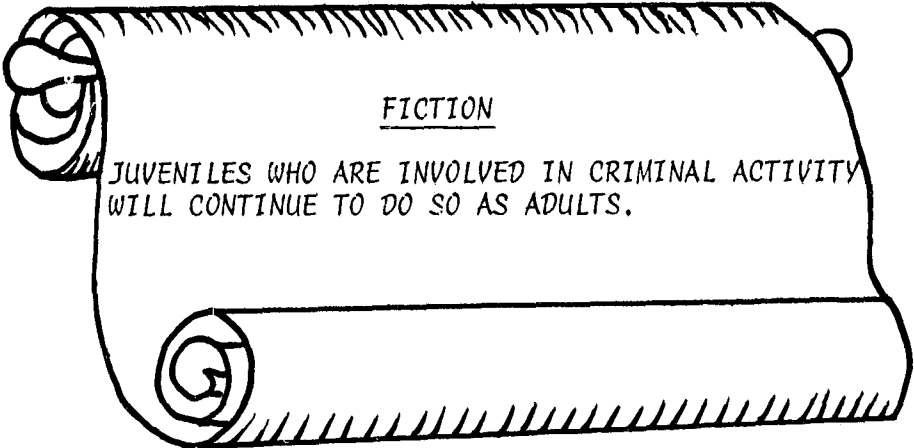
DID NOT GET AROUND TO IT - TOO BUSY
WITH OTHER MATTERS

2.7%

OTHER

8.3%

Age & Crime



FICTION

JUVENILES WHO ARE INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY
WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO AS ADULTS.

FACT

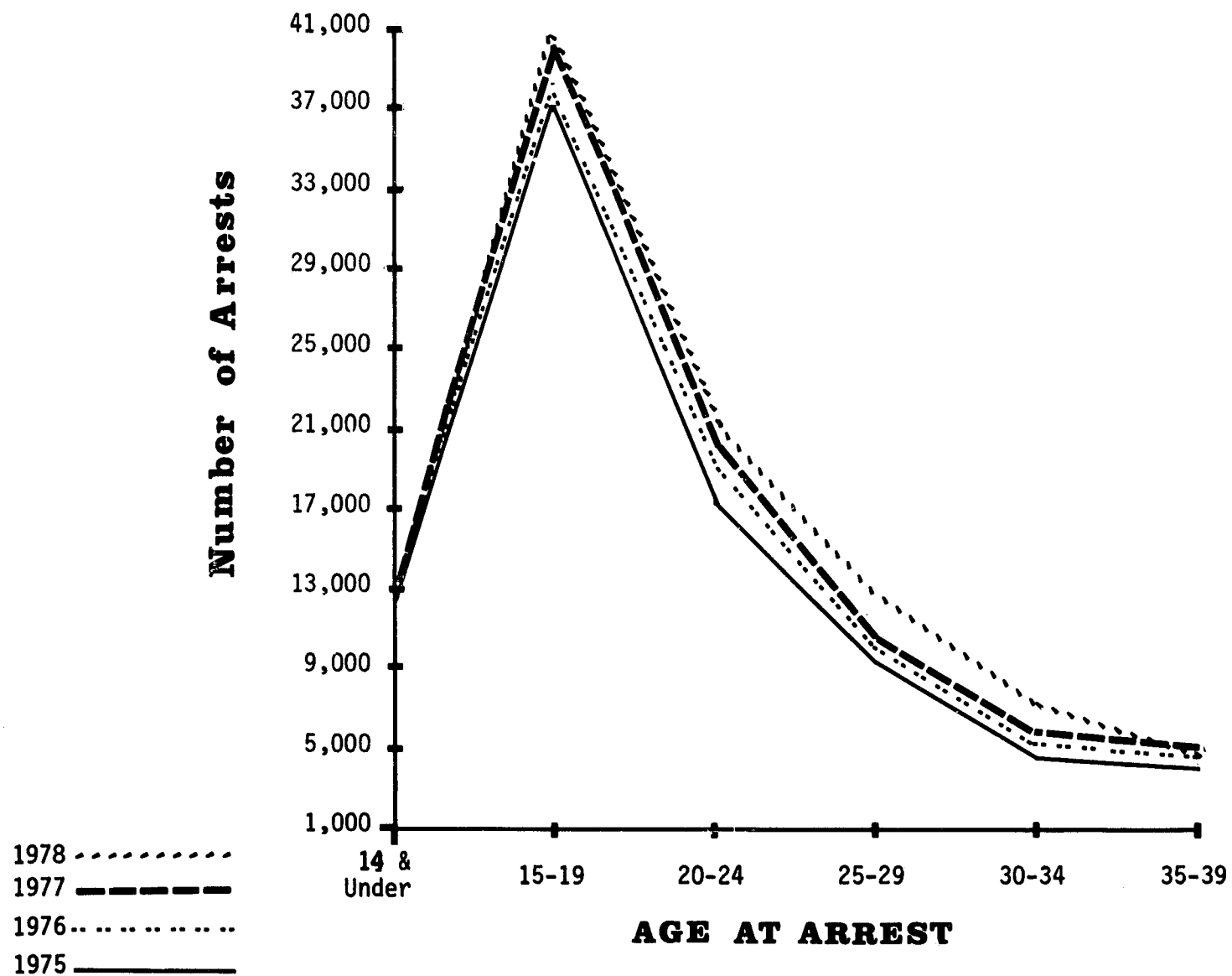
Although data on juveniles who were never apprehended for crimes they committed does not exist, data on those who were suggests that involvement in criminal activity decreases substantially once a juvenile becomes an adult. The volume of arrests by age peaks for the 15-19 age group and decreases from there on. This pattern has not changed over the past four years. Therefore, juveniles arrested in 1975, who are now adults, have not maintained their high level of involvement in criminal activity.

Information Source:

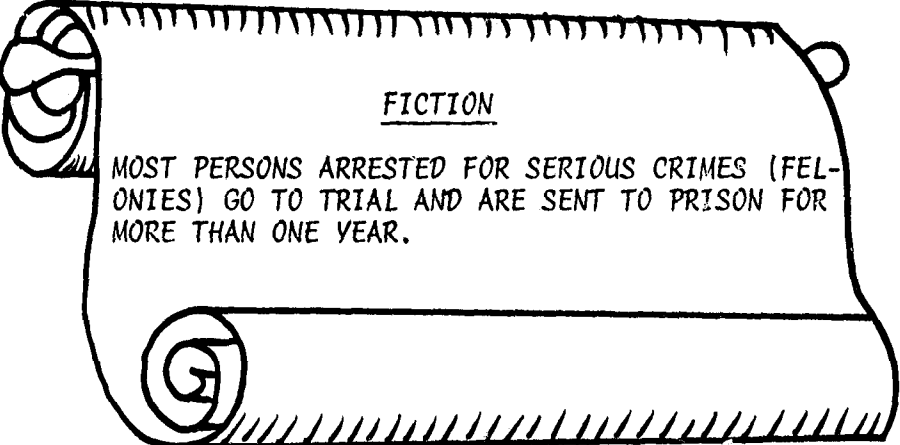
1. Analysis of Offenses and Arrests

ARRESTS BY AGE

1975 to 1978



Crime & Punishment



FICTION

MOST PERSONS ARRESTED FOR SERIOUS CRIMES (FELONIES) GO TO TRIAL AND ARE SENT TO PRISON FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR.

FACT

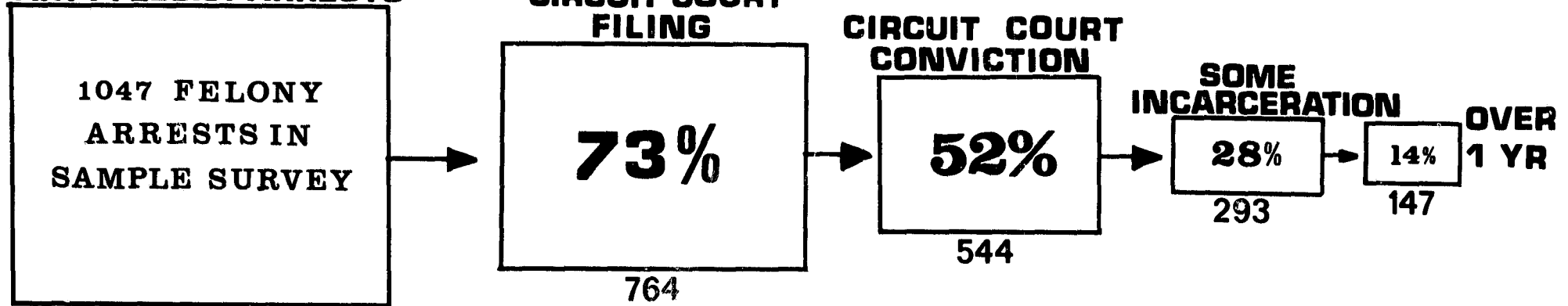
A survey conducted in 1976 took a sample of 1,047 Felony arrests from eleven Oregon counties (this was about 68% of Oregon Part I arrests for that year). Of this number, 52% were convicted, including only 14% sent to prison for more than a year. The remaining 48% included 2% acquitted, 2% pending verdict, 27% never filed in circuit court, and the rest dismissed.

Information Source:

3. What Happens After Arrest in Oregon?

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER ARREST?

PART I FELONY ARRESTS



CHARGE	Sample Survey Arrests	Circuit Court Filing	Circuit Court Conviction	Some Incarceration	Over One Year
Murder	88	89.8%	70.5%	53.4%	40.1%
Forcible Rape	109	83.5%	58.7%	45.0%	27.5%
Robbery	162	69.1%	48.8%	32.1%	25.3%
Aggravated Assault	258	60.1%	37.6%	22.6%	10.5%
Burglary	143	78.3%	60.8%	30.1%	14.7%
Larceny-Theft	162	75.9%	51.2%	20.3%	7.4%
Motor Vehicle Theft	125	62.4%	41.6%	20.8%	8.0%

Cases Appealed

FICTION

A LARGE PORTION OF CONVICTED OFFENDERS HAVE THEIR CONVICTIONS REVERSED OR THEIR SENTENCES REDUCED BY APPEALING TO THE OREGON SUPREME COURT.

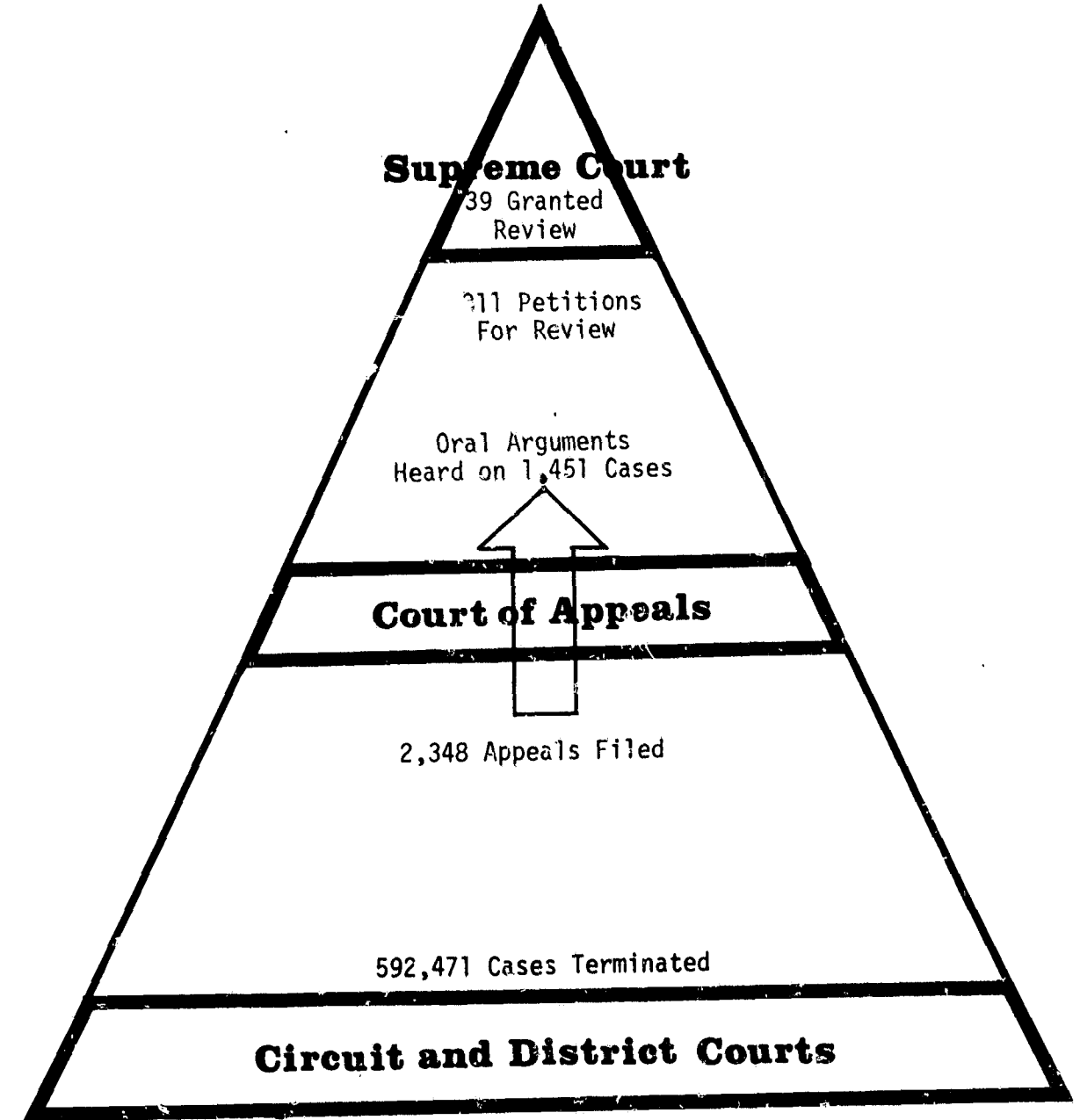
FACT

In January, 1978, an Oregon law took effect saying that all cases appealed following conviction in a district or circuit court must go to the Court of Appeals before going to the Oregon Supreme Court. This law has reduced the number of cases appealed in the Supreme Court. However, even prior to 1978, very few cases reached the Supreme Court. Of all verdicts in Oregon Circuit or District Courts, less than one half of one percent were appealed, and of the small number which were appealed, only 13% made it to the Supreme Court.

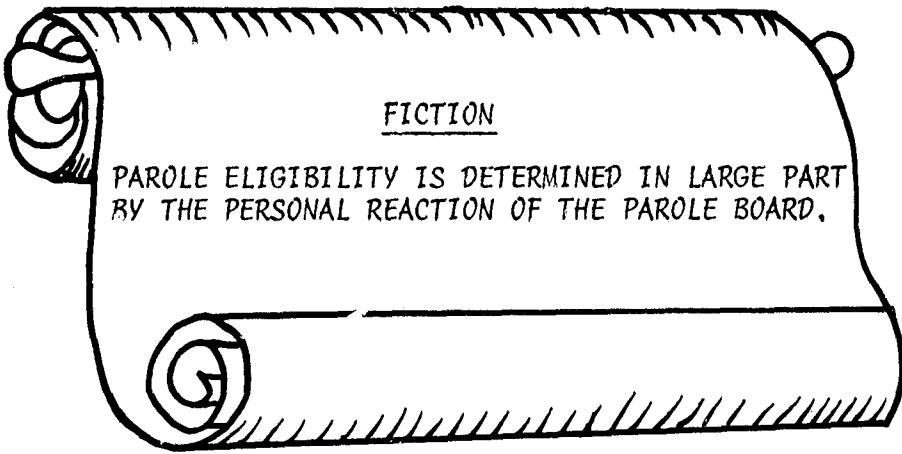
Information Sources:
 5. Judicial Administration
 9. Report on the Criminal Justice System

How Many Cases Get To The Oregon Supreme Court?

(1977)



Parole Decisions



FICTION

PAROLE ELIGIBILITY IS DETERMINED IN LARGE PART BY THE PERSONAL REACTION OF THE PAROLE BOARD.

FACT

For many years, parole decisions have been viewed as arbitrary and the parole board characterized as lacking in public accountability. In 1977, administrative rules were adopted as directed by the legislature. These rules now govern parole decisions. The major component of the rules is a decision-making "Matrix." From this matrix, each inmate is given a history/risk assessment score which considers various aspects of prior criminal behavior. The history/risk score and the severity of the crime considered with either aggravating circumstances (e.g., threat of violence towards the victim) or mitigating circumstances (e.g., cooperation with criminal justice agencies in resolution of other criminal activities) determines the length of stay.

Information Sources:

6. Administrative Rules
7. "Parole Matrix"

HOW PAROLE DECISIONS ARE MADE

OFFENSE SEVERITY RATING

Category 1

*Criminal Mischief, Welfare Fraud, & Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card

Category 2

*Poaching, Perjury & Theft by Receiving

Category 3

*Bribery, Burglary II & Manslaughter II

Category 4

*Criminal Activity in Drugs, Robbery II & Assault II

Category 5

*Burglary I & Escape I

Category 6

*Assault I, Robbery I, Rape I, Kidnapping I

Category 7

*Murder

Subcategory 2 - All other cases

Subcategory 1 - Stranger to stranger, extreme cruelty, prior conviction for murder or manslaughter, significant planning/preparation

*Treason

CRIMINAL HISTORY/RISK ASSESSMENT SCORE

11-9 Excellent	8-6 Good	5-3 Fair	2-0 Poor
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6 or less	6 or less	6-12 (4-8)**	12-22 (8-18)
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6 or less	6-10 (4-8)	10-18 (8-14)	18-28 (14-24)
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6-10 (4-8)	10-16 (8-12)	16-24 (12-20)	24-36 (20-32)
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10-16 (8-12)	16-22 (12-18)	22-30 (16-24)	30-48 (24-42)
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18-24 (12-20)	24-30 (20-26)	34-48 (26-40)	48-72 (40-62)
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36-48	48-60	60-86	86-144
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8-10 yrs	10-13 yrs	13-16 yrs	16-20
10-14 yrs	14-19 yrs	19-24 yrs	24-Life

*Examples of crimes in each category

**Months in parentheses represent ranges for youthful offenders (21 years or younger at time of conviction).

SOURCE: 6, 7

How much time before I'm eligible for parole?



Convicted of criminal mischief
A good risk
21 years old

ANSWER: 6 mths. or less

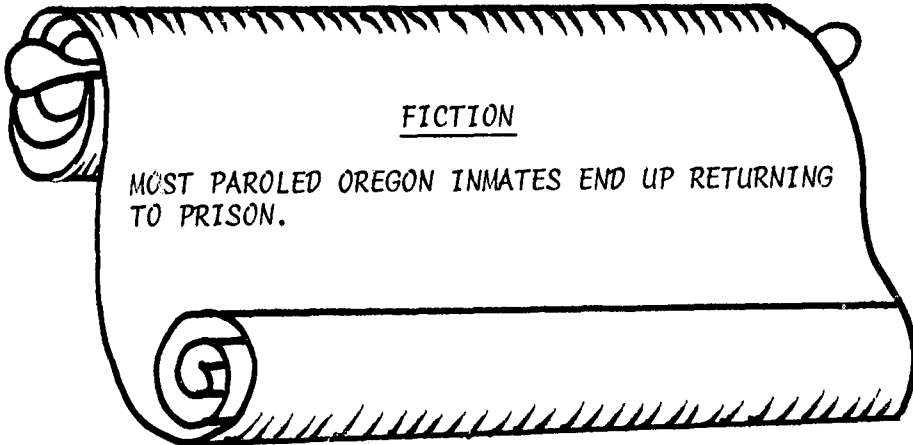
What about me?



Convicted of Burglary I
A poor risk
28 years old

ANSWER: 4 to 6 years

Parole Patterns



FICTION

MOST PAROLED OREGON INMATES END UP RETURNING TO PRISON.

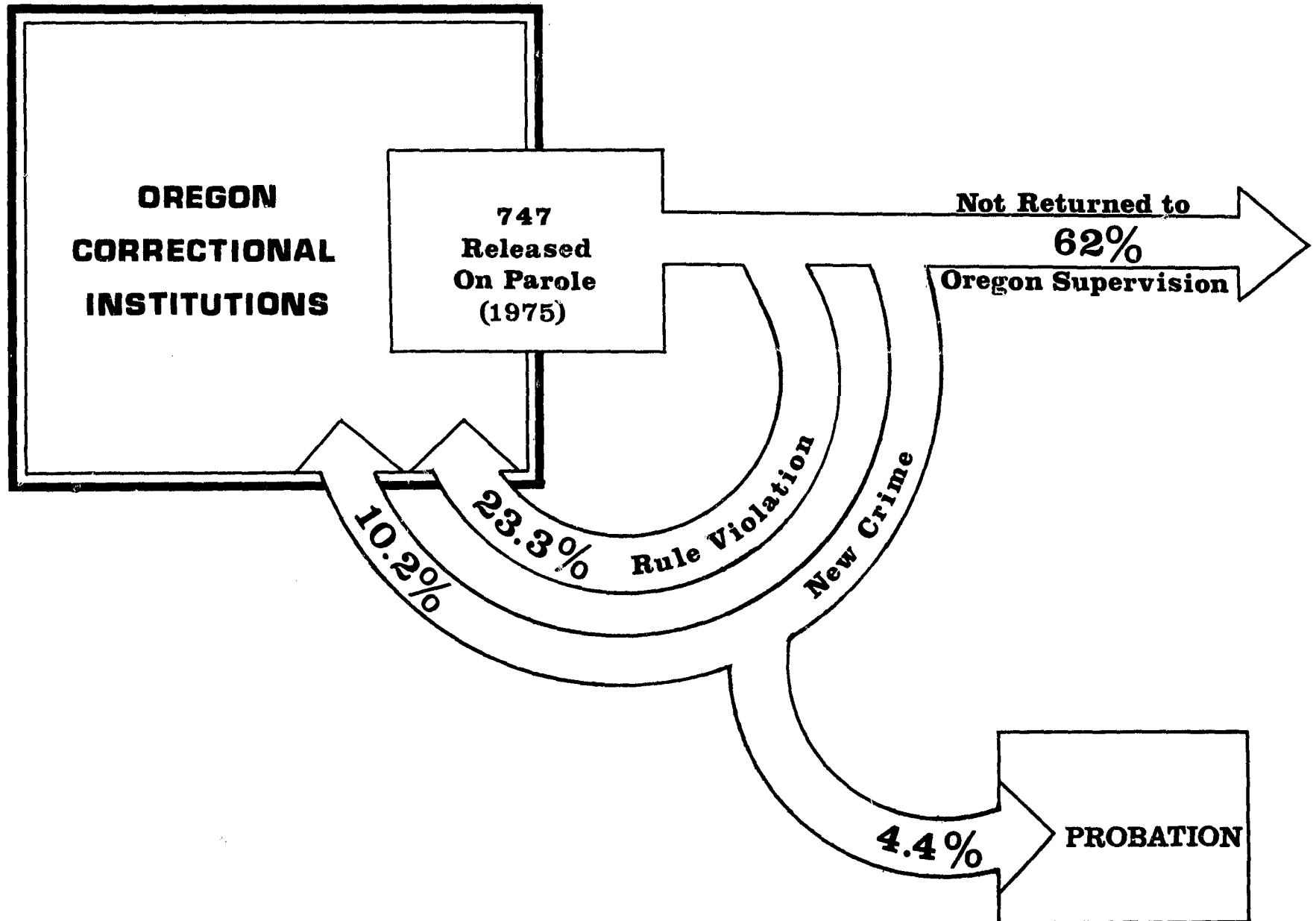
FACT

The federal government has set a standard of three years of exposure to the community as the basis for determining return rates of paroled prisoners (recidivism). The accompanying diagram represents the period 1975-1978.

Of the 747 inmates released on parole from Oregon correctional institutions in 1975, 62% were not returned to further supervision within the three-year period. Violation of parole rules or new crimes landed 33.5% back in prison and 4.4% back on probation by the end of 1978.

Information Source:
8. Corrections Division

WHAT HAPPENS WITHIN THREE YEARS AFTER PAROLE?



Community Corrections



FICTION

MOST PEOPLE DON'T WANT CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS
IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

FACT

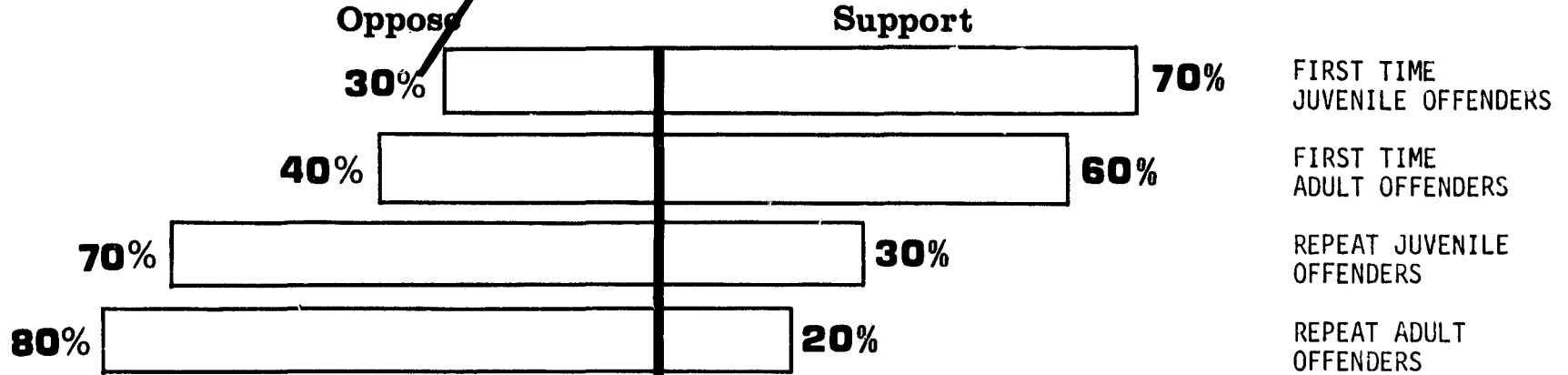
The Community Corrections Act, passed in 1977, authorizes funds to counties for developing local alternatives to state penal institutions. A survey of 931 Oregon residents was conducted in 1978 to determine the level of public support for programs like halfway houses, restitution and work-release centers, and community service projects. As illustrated, the majority supported community corrections for first-time juvenile and adult offenders convicted of Property crimes (Burglary, Theft, etc.) or Violent crimes (Robbery, Assault, etc.). Statistics show a limited tolerance for community programs for repeat offenders or those convicted of violent Sexual crimes.

Information Source:

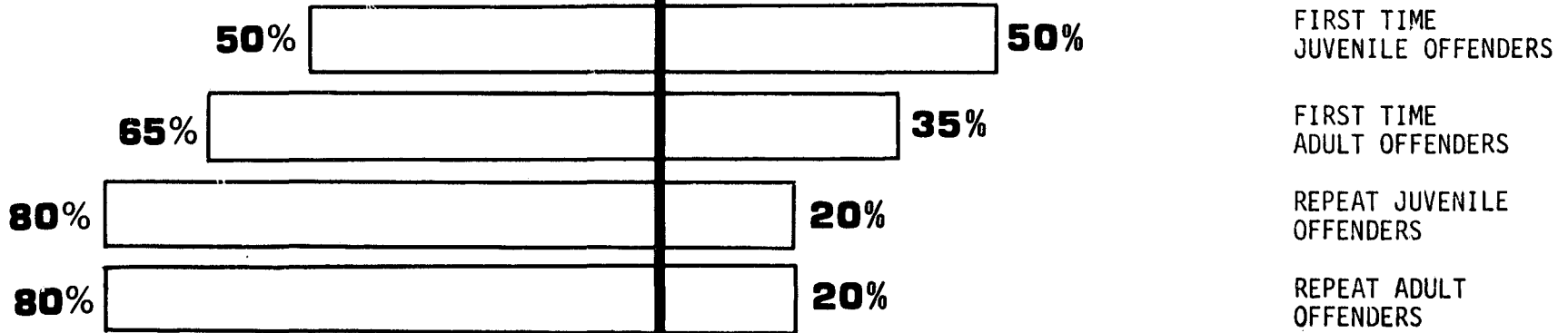
4. Survey of Serious Crime

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS

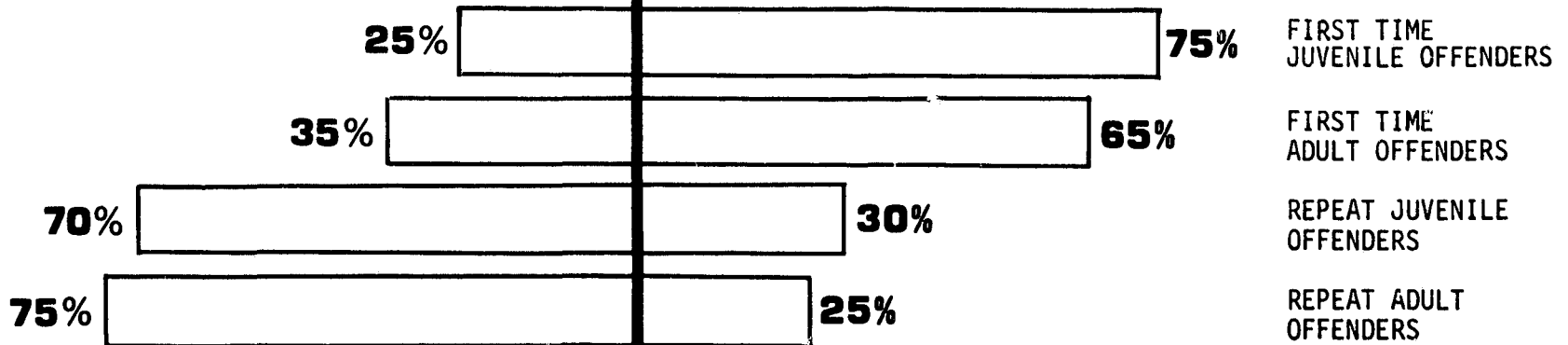
Violent Crime



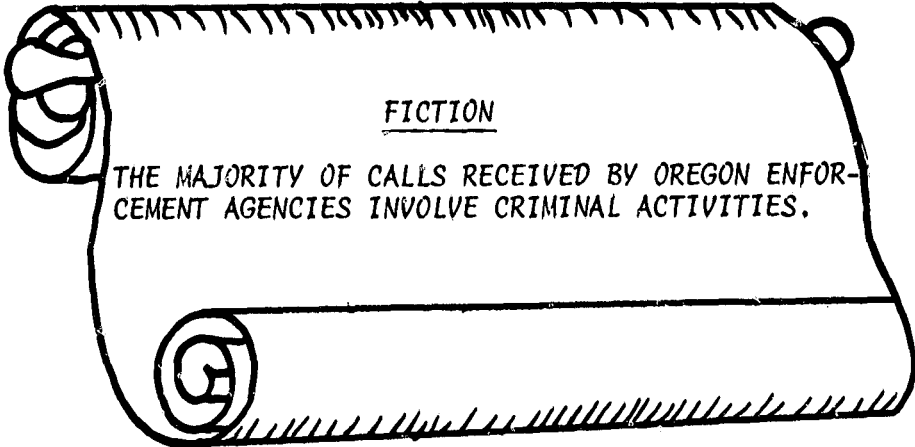
Violent Sex Crime



Property Crime



Calls For Police Service



FICTION

THE MAJORITY OF CALLS RECEIVED BY OREGON ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES INVOLVE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

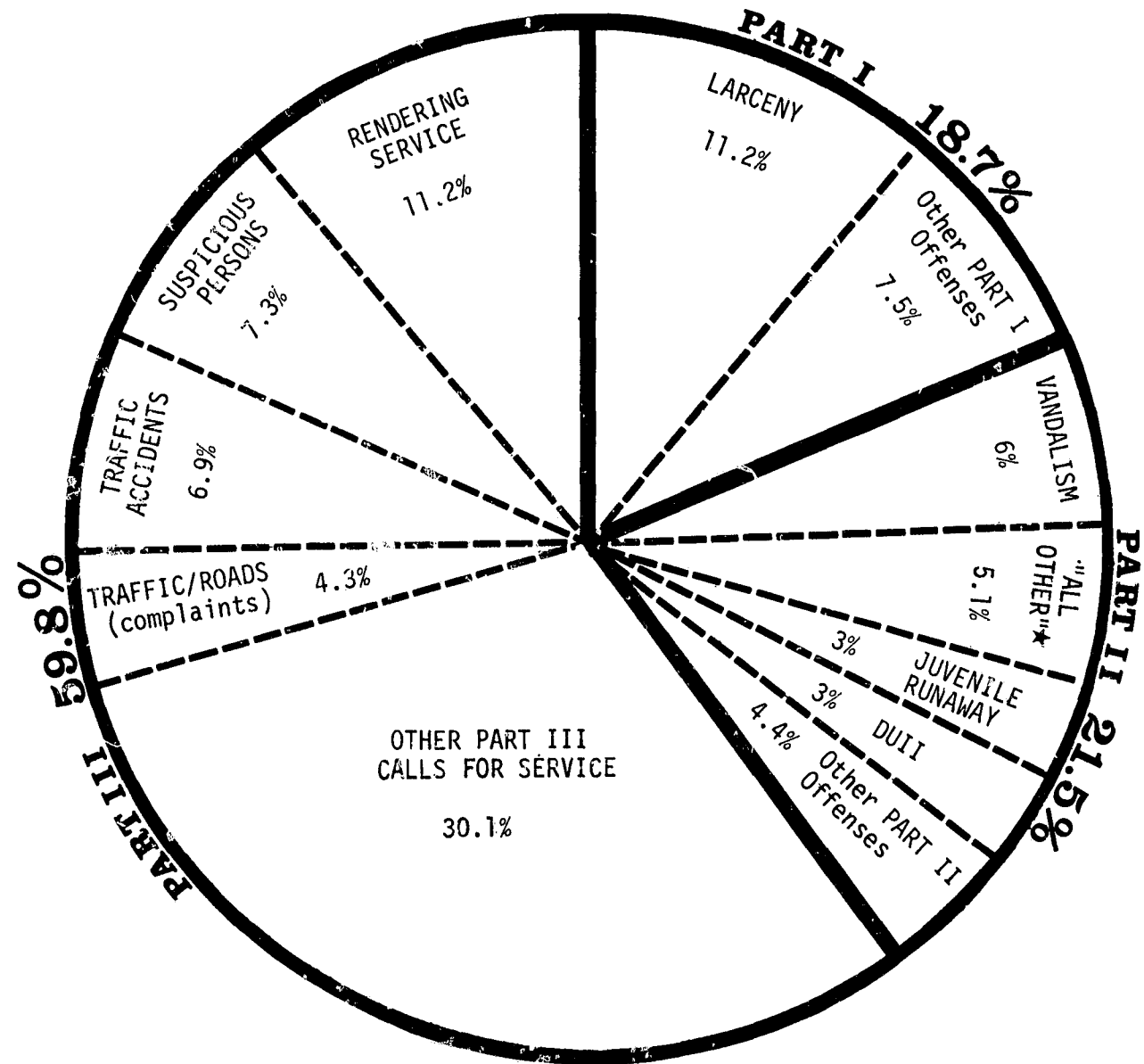
FACT

In 1977, about 60% of the calls received by enforcement agencies were requests for assistance from other enforcement and government agencies or reports of suspicious persons or circumstances, family disturbances, animal problems, traffic accidents, and traffic/road complaints.

Information Source:

1. Analysis of Offenses and Arrests

CALLS FOR POLICE SERVICE*



SOURCES

1. State of Oregon Analysis of Criminal Offenses and Arrests - Oregon Law Enforcement Council, Law Enforcement Data System.
2. Crime in the United States, 1977, U.S. Department of Justice.
3. What Happens After Arrest in Oregon? Oregon Law Enforcement Council, 1978.
4. Survey of Serious Crime in Oregon, 1978 (Parts 1, 2 and 3) Oregon Law Enforcement Council, 1978-79.
5. Judicial Administration in the Courts of Oregon, State Court Administrators Office, 1977.
6. Oregon Administrative Rules 254-30-031,2.
7. "In Search of Equity - The Oregon Parole Matrix," Elizabeth L. Taylor, Oregon Board of Parole, 1978.
8. Oregon State Corrections Division.
9. Report on Oregon's Criminal Justice System, Oregon Law Enforcement Council, 1979.
10. Crime Victim's Compensation Division, Department of Justice, Salem, Oregon.

* Selected agencies: 6 Sheriff's Depts. (45,000 to 125,000 pop.)
 7 Police Depts. (10,000 to 83,000 pop.)
 9 Police Depts. (4,000 to 10,500 pop.)

*The largest percentage of "ALL OTHER" offenses are harassment and trespassing.

COMMON BELIEFS ABOUT CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT REQUIRE FURTHER RESEARCH

In our effort to research and solicit fictitious statements we encountered several which we would have liked to address. Unfortunately, the data we sought was unavailable to prove or disprove statements such as the ones listed below. Still, our wish was to include them as a means of showing the need for continued efforts in research, data collection and statistical analysis.

RECIDIVISM

The longer a convicted felon stays in prison the less likely they are to return to a life of crime.

RAPE

Most women who are victims of rape have brought it upon themselves in some way or another.

CRIME PREVENTION

Crime prevention efforts by police and citizens are ineffective in reducing crime.

DEFENSE

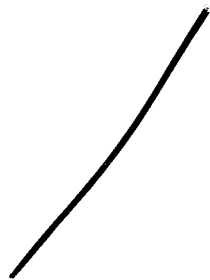
People only get the kind of justice that they can pay for.

REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation of convicted offenders is a realistic objective of incarceration.

SENTENCING DISPARITY

Persons with similar criminal backgrounds convicted of the same crime will not always receive the same sentence because some judges are more lenient than others and some offenders can afford better attorneys than others.



END