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Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

A SURVEY OF CRIME IN NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA ANNUAL SOCIAL INDICATORS SURVEY, 1978

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ACQUISITIONS

The data were collected as part of the Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey conducted by the Bureau of Sociological Research, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Bureau of Sociological Research assumes no responsibility for the views or interpretations contained herein. A detailed description of the way in which the data were collected is contained in the booklet, "Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey" which may be obtained by writing Study Director, Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588.

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SYNOPSIS

In order to obtain victimization data as a measure of actual crime volume in the State, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Commission) purchased interview time in the second Nebraska Annual Social Indication Survey (NASIS) conducted by the Bureau of Sociological Research, University of Nebraska. The Commission asked 15 questions pertaining to people's experiences as victims of crime and attitudes regarding the criminal justice system in the State.

HIGHLIGHTS

_____ 24% of the adults in the State were victims of a crime in the 12 months preceding the survey (Spring 1978), a 2% decrease in the victimization rate from the previous year.

_____ Almost 60% of all victimizations involved vandalism (38%) or fraud (21%) - non-index crimes which are not included in the Uniform Crime Report's crime rate estimates.

_____ Less than half (43%) of all victimizations were reported to police. Motor Vehicle Theft and Burglary were most frequently reported (70% +), fraud and rape least reported (-10%).

_____ The young, the non-white, and urban residents are the most likely groups to be victims of a crime.

_____ People under 30, though most likely to be victims are least likely to report an offense to law enforcement authorities.

_____ While roughly 3 out of 4 adults consider law enforcement agencies to be effective in dealing with crime, only half consider the courts and the correctional system to be effective in dealing with crime.

_____ 60% of all Nebraska adults believe State government should "do more" in the area of crime prevention while only 1% believe the State should do less in this area.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of victimization surveys is to create a clearer picture of the frequency of crime and its attendant circumstances. While a far from perfect measuring device, such surveys do remove the confounding variable of victim reporting to police and increase the amount of pertinent demographic information available to criminal justice planners and public officials in their efforts to develop crime prevention programs and policies. Victimization surveys of several types have arisen in the last decade as a supplemental data source to the traditional source of crime statistics, known as the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR).

The UCR, in use since the 1930's, is comprised of crime data based on offenses reported to local police. This local data is then aggregated at the state and national level where it stands as the official measure of crime rates and trends. Many crimes, however, are not reported to police and thus are excluded from official records. Thus, the UCR method cannot alone detect whether changes in crime rates indicate a change in the frequency of crime or a change in the percent of crimes reported to police. UCR data also excludes much information describing the characteristics and trends of the people and property victimized by crime.

The 1978 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS) was the data source for this report. 1,940 adults (18 and over) in households across the state were surveyed in this second annual omnibus quality of life study performed by the Bureau of Sociological Research, University

of Nebraska - Lincoln between February and April of 1978. The Commission's involvement in NASIS consisted of the selection of victimization and 15 crime related questions which were included in the survey at a cost of \$6,600.

The NASIS also contained questions concerning housing, education, occupation, health, recreation, political attitudes and other variables reflecting the quality of life experienced in the State. The data is used by a number of state and local governments for policy and program planning efforts and by faculty and students at the University of Nebraska and other colleges for research purposes. Information from the entire survey is made available to the Commission and other participating agencies.

CONSIDERATIONS IN USING VICTIMIZATION DATA

While surveys provide the opportunity for a more detailed analysis of victimization characteristics of certain crimes, several considerations exist regarding their interpretation and comparison to UCR statistics. As mentioned previously, the UCR reports only those crimes known to police. While victimization surveys reveal more crime than is reported to police, they exclude certain categories of people and property. Only persons aged 18 or older were interviewed, so that crime rates for crimes of a personal nature (rape, robbery, assault) do not include victims under 18 years of age. Only households were contacted and questions concerning property crimes were limited to those against households, thus excluding businesses which are often the target of property offenses such as burglary

and vandalism. People living in institutions, colleges and universities, tourists and other transients were not included in the survey.

The NASIS victimization question, as with most other victimization surveys, asks the respondents to report crimes committed within the 12 months preceding the interview. Doubts have long existed concerning the reliability of respondents limiting their reporting to this time frame. A recent study by LEAA of the time frame reliability of respondents to a Portland victimization survey indicate this is not a significant problem.

NASIS is an annual omnibus quality of life survey, of which the Commission's victimization questions are but a part. Due to overall size and time limits which must naturally be imposed on such a questionnaire, not all of the questions regarding victimization that might have been asked could be included. Although the sample size of the NASIS was 1,940, this is a fairly small number for analysis especially regarding typically low-frequency crimes such as rape, robbery, and assault.

These factors are counter-balanced to an extent by the breadth of the survey (both in sample distribution and range of questions asked) and by the low cost of involvement to the Commission (compared to alternative methods of collecting such data). Continuation of the survey over several years would provide an opportunity to collect data that could serve as an alternative source of crime incidence data, without the confounding factor of the victims' willingness to report an offense to law enforcement authorities.

SUMMARY OF VICTIMIZATION TRENDS

Of the 1,940 adults surveyed, 24% (463) reported being the victim of at least one crime during the preceeding 12 months. This is a 2% decrease from the previous year. A total of 563 offenses were reported, of which 95% were actual and 4% were attempts. This represents a 15.5% decrease in the victimization rate from the previous year. 82% of the victims reported single victimization while the remaining 18% reported multiple victimization. Those 4.3% victimized more than once accounted for one-third of all victimization.

TABLE 1: RESPONDENT VICTIMIZATION REPORTING
ON NASIS CRIME QUESTIONS

# Times Victimized	Index Offenses			All Offenses (Index, Fraud, Vandalism)		
	Respondents Frequency	Offenses Frequency	% of All Respondents	Frequency Respondents	Frequency Offenses	% of All Respondents
0	1726	0	89%	1477	0	76.1%
1	201	201	10.3%	380	380	19.6%
2	10	20	.5%	69	138	3.6%
3	3	9	.15%	11	33	.5%
4	0	0	0	3	12	.2%
TOTALS (1-4)	214	230	11%	463	563	23.9%

The survey included questions about six INDEX crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, robbery, forcible rape, felony assault), as well as vandalism and fraud. The following table describes these offenses in descending order of frequency.

TABLE 2: RESPONDENT REPORTING BY TYPE OF CRIME

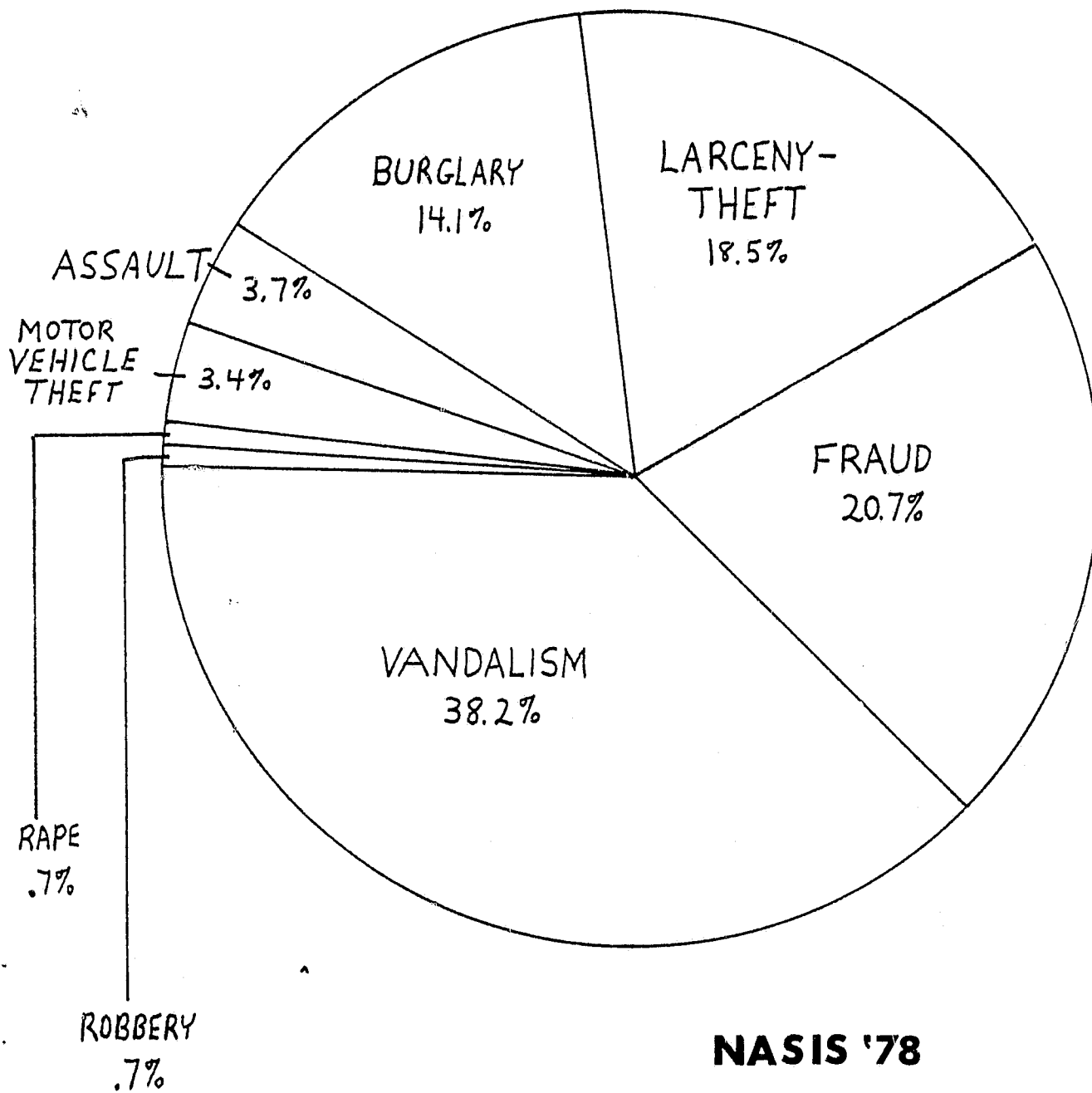
Type of Crime	Frequency	% of all Offenses	Victimization Rate
Vandalism *	214	38.2%	110.3/1,000 Households
Fraud *	116	20.7%	59.8/1,000 Adults (18 & over)
Larceny-Theft	104	18.5%	53.6/1,000 Households
Burglary	79	14.1%	40.7/1,000 Households
Felony Assault	21	3.7%	10.8/1,000 Adults (18 & over)
Motor Vehicle Theft	19	3.4%	9.8/1,000 Households
Robbery	4	.7%	2.1/1,000 Adults (18 & over)
Forcible Rape	4	.7%	3.8/1,000 Adult Women (18 & over)
TOTALS	561	100%	
INDEX TOTALS	231	41%	

* NON-INDEX OFFENSES

Murder-Manslaughter was the only Index category absent from the survey. Also excluded were victimless crimes such as drug abuse and prostitution, "white-collar" crime, and property crimes against commercial or business establishments.

Crimes against property (burglary, motor vehicle thefts, larceny-thefts, vandalism) accounted for 74.2% of all offenses. Collectively they occurred at a rate of 214 per 1,000 households compared to the 229/1,000 household rate in last year's survey. Index crimes against property (burglary, MVT, larceny-theft) occurred at the rate 104/1,000 households (compared to 117/1,000 households last year).

DISTRIBUTION of CRIME



NASIS '78

Crimes against people (felony assault, robbery, forcible rape, fraud) accounted for 25.8% of all offenses. Collectively they occurred at a rate of 75/1,000 adults compared to 86/1,000 adults last year. Index crimes against people (felony assault, robbery, rape) occurred at a rate of 15/1,000 adults, compared to 30/1,000 adults last year. Several factors had notable relationships to the probability of victimization. They are briefly summarized below.

TYPE OF COMMUNITY

Residents of Omaha, while representing just under one-fourth of all NASIS respondents, reported almost one-third of all offenses reported in the survey, probably due to their reporting 42.2% of all multiple victimization.

TABLE 3: VICTIMIZATION DATA BY TYPE OF COMMUNITY

	% of NASIS SAMPLE	% of Respondents Victimized	% of all Victims	% of all Offenses	% of all Multiple Victimization
Farm or Ranch	13.5%	13.4%	7.6%	7.1%	6%
Under 2,500	22.9%	20.5%	19.7%	18.8%	16.9%
2,500-50,000	27.2%	26.7%	30.5%	29.1%	25.3%
Lincoln	12.2%	26.6%	13.6%	13.7%	9.6%
Omaha	24.2%	27.9%	28.3%	31.3%	42.2%
TOTALS	100%	N/A	100%	100%	100%

Residents of first-class towns (population 2,500-50,000) and Lincoln also reported higher than average victimization rates.

AGE

The younger the respondent the more likely it was they were victimized by crime. The 18-30 age group, though only 31.9% of the sample, constituted 41.8% of all victims and 44.6% of all offenses reported in the survey.

TABLE 4: VICTIMIZATION DATA BY AGE OF RESPONDENTS

Age Group	% of NASIS Sample	% of all Victims	% of all Offenses	% of Age Group Victimized
18-30	31.9%	41.8%	44.6%	32.1%
31-45	24.8%	28.2%	28.2%	28.0%
46-60	23.0%	18.5%	17.6%	19.8%
61-75	15.3%	10.1%	9.2%	16.3%
Over 75	5.0%	1.3%	1.2%	6.4%
TOTALS	100%	100%	100%	N/A

RACE

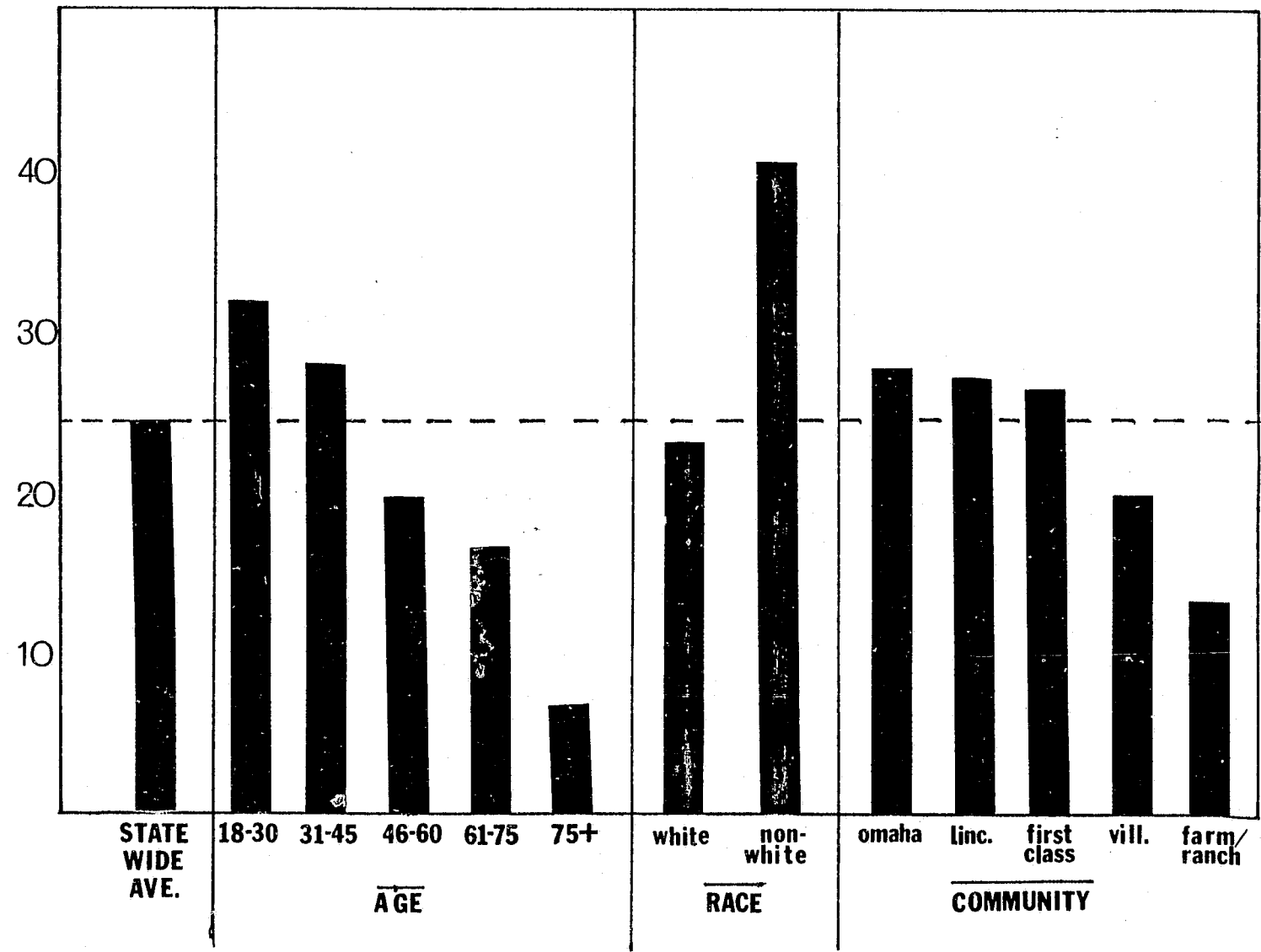
Despite the relatively small number of non-white respondents contacted in the survey, they reported a significantly higher rate of victimization than white respondents.

TABLE 5: VICTIMIZATION DATA BY RACE OF RESPONDENT

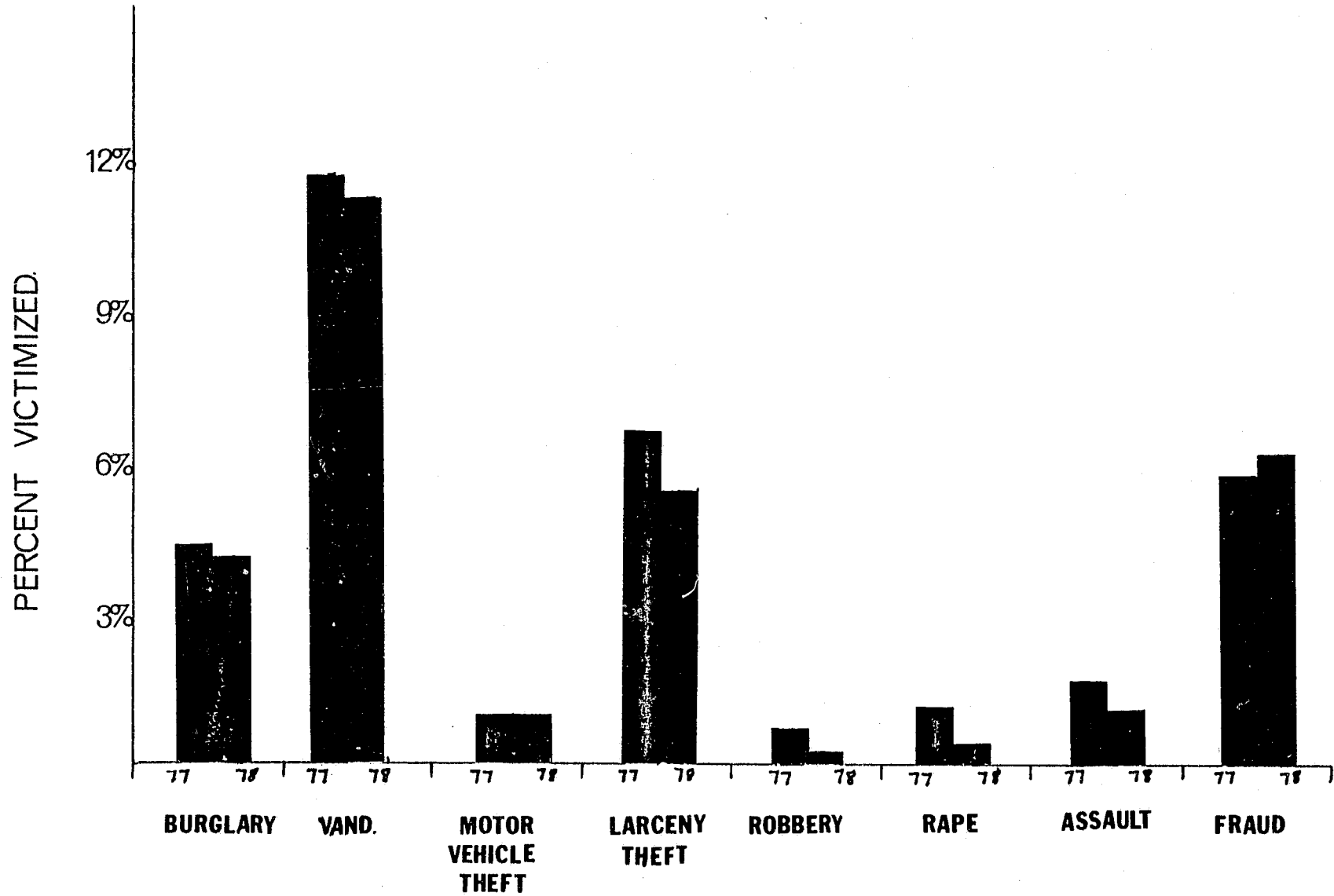
Race	% NASIS Sample	% All Crimes	% of Group Victimized
White	96.4%	97.8%	22.3%
Non-White	3.6%	6.2%	41.4%
TOTALS	100%	100%	

DISTRIBUTION OF VICTIMS

PERCENT
VICTIMS
OF
ANY
CRIME



COMPARISON - VICTIMIZATION 1977-8



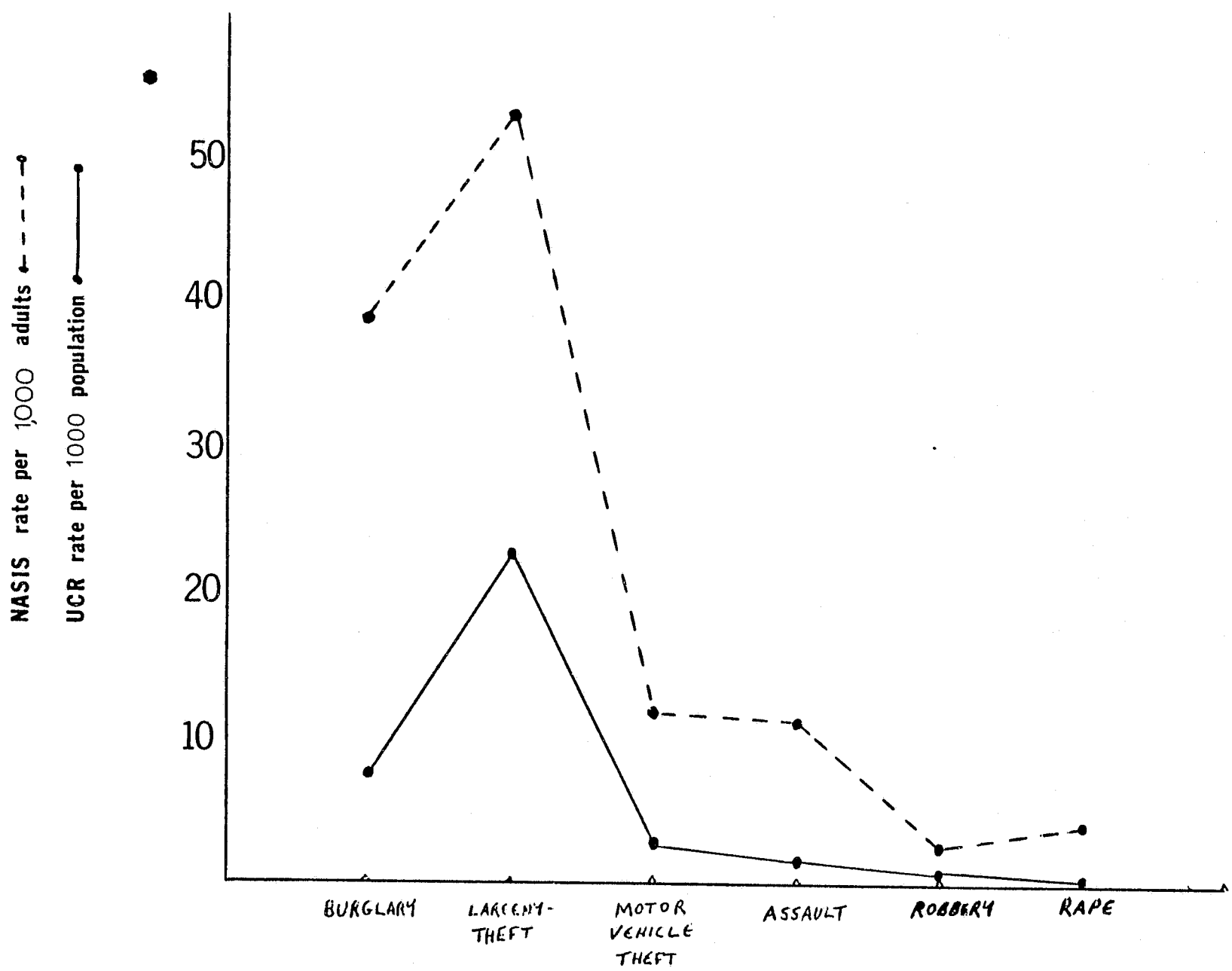
Comparisons between NASIS victimization ratio and UCR crime rates are awkward due to several factors. Many of the crimes reported in the survey were not reported to police (more about this later). Due to weighing factors used in compiling the survey responses, household crimes in NASIS are reported "per 1,000 households" rather than "per 1,000 population" used in the UCR. Also, crimes against persons are reported in NASIS as "per 1,000 adults" as opposed to "per 1,000 population", since only adults were questioned in the survey. Another confounding factor concerns the surveyor and respondent correctly categorizing an offense. We cannot be certain to what extent events reported in the NASIS are consistent with how a police recorder would rate an offense. For example, an offense considered a felony assault by a NASIS respondent may, if it was reported to the police, have been considered only a misdemeanor assault in the official report. To what extent this factor may operate in the NASIS cannot be measured without extensive follow-up studies. We can, however, look at the relative frequency of index crimes within the UCR and NASIS reports.

TABLE 6: RANK AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF INDEX CRIMES
UCR AND NASIS FIGURES - 1977

% Total Index Crimes	UCR	Rank	NASIS	% Total Index Crimes
65.7%	Larceny-Theft	1	Larceny-Theft	45.0%
21.6%	Burglary	2	Burglary	34.2%
7.1%	Motor Vehicle Theft	3*	Felony Assault	9.1%
3.2%	Felony Assault	4*	Motor Vehicle Theft	8.2%
1.9%	Robbery	5	Robbery	1.7%
<u>.5%</u>	Forcible Rape	6	Forcible Rape	<u>1.7%</u>
100%				100%

* Different Rankings for Felony Assault, Motor Vehicle Theft

UCR COMPARISON TO NASIS



Though both reporting systems show Larceny-Theft and Burglary as the most prevalent index offenses, they disagree considerably on the percentage of all index crimes each of these offenses represent. This may be due to the fact that the two crimes often occur simultaneously and some victims give the burglary episode precedence over the larceny-theft episode, or consider the burglary to include the theft. It is also partially explainable by the fact that the UCR category include all reported offenses as opposed to the NASIS restriction to households.

VICTIM REPORTING OF CRIMES TO AUTHORITIES

One of the most notable features of victimization surveys in general is the volume of crime they reveal which is never reported to a law enforcement agency.

Of the 561 crimes reported to the NASIS only 43% (243) had been reported to a law enforcement agency. This represents a 6% decline from the percent of crimes reported to police last year. Among those not reporting, the most common specific reason was that it was "useless to report" (25.5%). 15.8% thought the incident was "not important enough" and 11.1% said they did not report an offense because the offender was a friend. Fraud was the least reported crime (9%) while Motor Vehicle Thefts was most often reported (74%) followed by Burglary (70%).

We find the rate of reporting to increase, if only index crimes are considered, to 53%. Index crime victims in Omaha reported crimes to police most frequently (63%) followed by small towns (55%) and farm or ranch victims (50%). Least likely to report index offenses to police were victims in Lincoln and first class towns (pop. 2,500 - 50,000) where only 45% of all index crimes were reported.

PERCENT OF CRIMES REPORTED TO POLICE

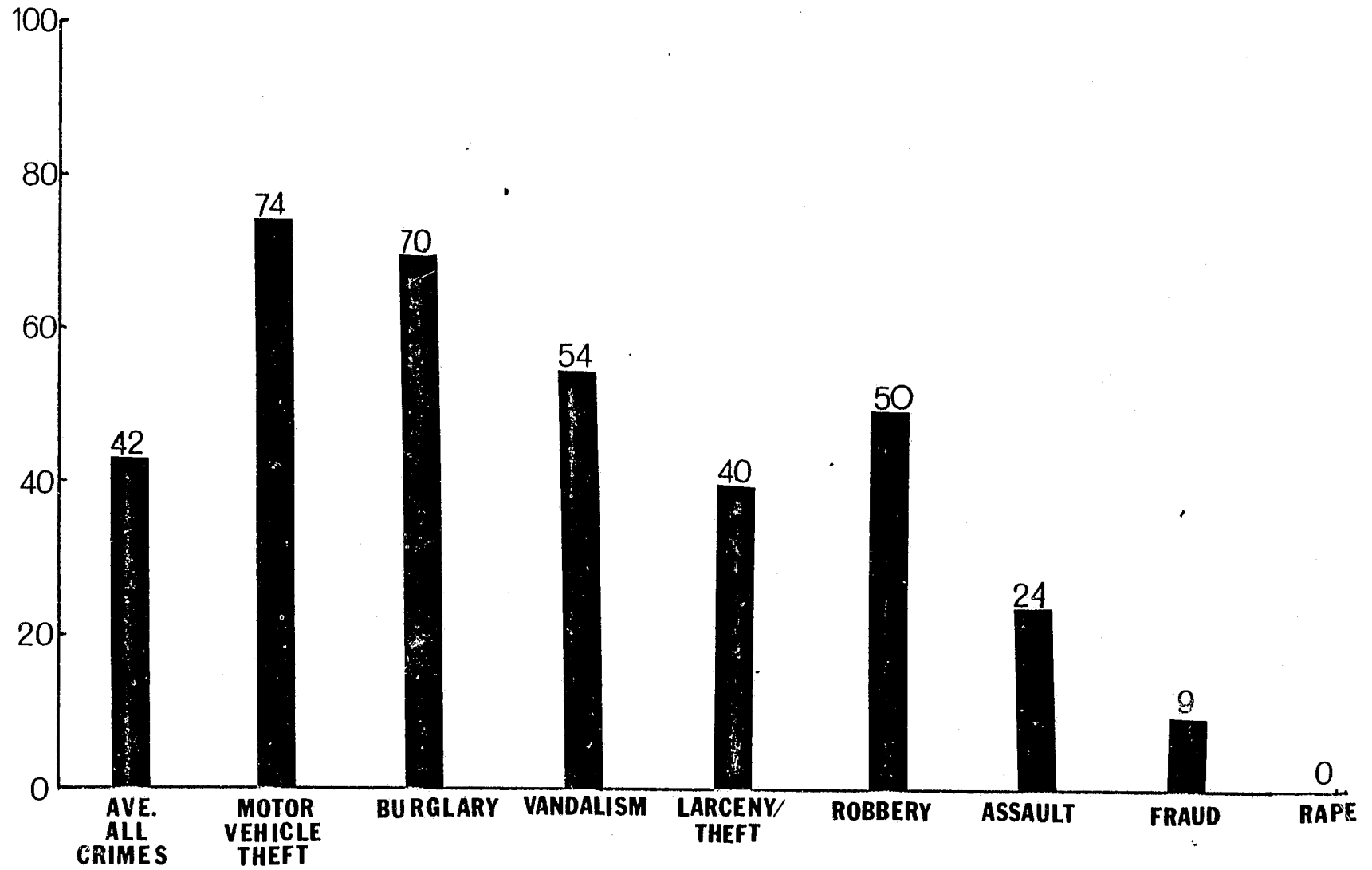


TABLE 7: REPORTING OF INDEX OFFENSES
BY TYPE OF COMMUNITY

Type of Community	% of Sample	% of all Index Crimes	% of Index Crimes Reported to Police
Farm or Ranch	13.5%	7%	50%
Under 2,500	22.9%	17.7%	55%
2,500 - 50,000	27.2%	31.4%	45%
Lincoln	12.2%	13.7%	45%
Omaha	24.2%	30.1%	63%
TOTALS	100%	100%	Ave - 52.7%

A significant relationship exists between the age of a victim and the reporting of offense to police. Victims between the ages of 18-30 - the group most likely to be victims of an index offense - are the least likely to report an offense to police (43%). Most likely to report are those in the 46-60 age group (65%).

TABLE 8: VICTIMIZATION AND REPORTING
CHARACTERISTICS BY AGE GROUP

Age Group	% of Sample	% of all Index Crimes	% of Index Crimes Reported to Police
18-30	31.9%	44.5%	43%
31-45	24.8%	25.3%	57%
46-60	23.0%	21.4%	65%
61-75	15.3%	7.8%	56%
Over 75	5.0%	.9%	50%
	100% (1,940)	100% (226)	Ave 52.7% (119)

WITNESSES

Only 2.5% of the respondents reported witnessing a crime. Slightly over one-half of those witnessing a crime reported it to authorities.

INSURANCE/LOSS OF PROPERTY

Only 13% of those victims who suffered a loss of property as a result of a crime were fully insured for their losses. Another 15% were partially covered by insurance and almost two-thirds of the property-loss victims had no insurance coverage for their losses. 4 out of 5 victims who had property stolen recovered none of their losses.

ATTITUDE QUESTION IN SURVEY

As mentioned earlier, 43% of those victimized by a crime reported it to a law enforcement agency. Of these, approximately two-thirds said they were satisfied with how police handled the incident.

All respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of the 3 components of the criminal justice system.

TABLE 9: "HOW EFFECTIVE DO YOU THINK THE FOLLOWING THREE PARTS OF THE NEBRASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ARE IN DEALING WITH CRIME IN THE STATE?"

1.	<u>Law Enforcement</u>		
	Very Effective	6%	
	Effective	66%	72%
	Ineffective	23%	
	Very Ineffective	5%	28%
2.	<u>Courts</u>		
	Very Effective	2%	
	Effective	48%	50%
	Ineffective	38%	
	Very Ineffective	12%	50%

3.	<u>Corrections System</u>		
	Very Effective	2%	
	Effective	49%	51%
	Ineffective	39%	
	Very Ineffective	10%	49%

The survey also asked the respondents whether Nebraska government should do more - less - about the same concerning problems in the following areas:

"STATE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO . . . "

AREA	MORE	ABOUT THE SAME	LESS
1. Drug Abuse	75%	23%	2%
2. <u>Crime Prevention</u>	60%	39%	1%
3. Energy Resources	58%	41%	1%
4. Condition of Elderly	56%	43%	1%
5. Condition of Farmers	56%	41%	3%
6. Water Resources	44%	52%	3%
7. Public Elem/Sec Education	43%	53%	4%
8. Health	26%	72%	2%

Only 5% of the respondents believe that juveniles should be held in detention for committing offenses, such as running away or truancy, that would not be considered a crime if committed by an adult. The vast majority believe such youth should be returned to their parents (45%) or placed on probation (24%).

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

BURGLARY - "During the last 12 months, did anyone break into your home or apartment and steal something?"

Of 1,914 respondents to this question, 72 reported a successful attempt and 7 an unsuccessful attempt. Combined, this means 4.2% of all households were burglarized - more than 3 times the rate indicated by using UCR figures for residential burglaries and Department of Economic Development figures for total households in the State. Burglary accounted for 35% of the index crimes and 14% of all offenses reported in the NASIS.

Omaha reported the highest burglary rate (72/1,000 households) while communities under 2,500 population had the lowest rate (18/1,000 households). Lincoln and the first-class cities (pop. 2,500 - 50,000) averaged about 39/1,000 households.

Multiple living units (apartments, duplexes, etc.) averaged 56 burglaries per 1,000 households while single family homes experienced a burglary at the rate of 32/1,000 households.

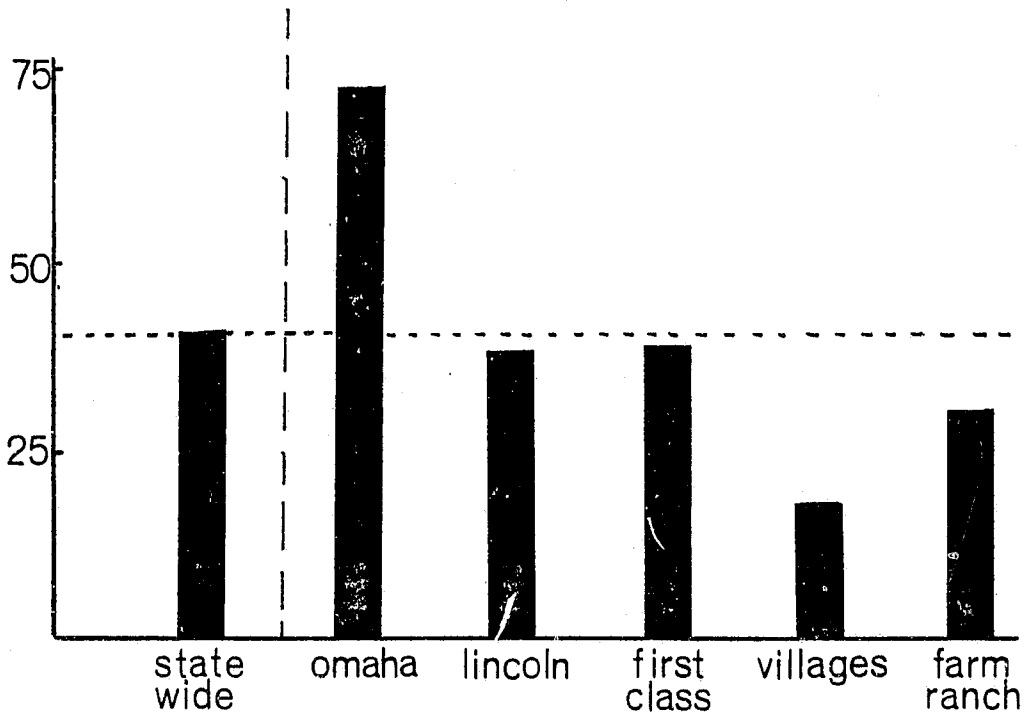
Households in which total income was under \$10,000 had the highest burglary rate (53/1,000 households), while households earning over \$20,000 annually had the lowest rate (32/1,000 households).

Non-white households experienced a considerably higher victimization rate for burglary (97/1,000 households), white households (39/1,000 households).

Respondents who were not married reported 60 burglaries per 1,000 households compared to 33/1,000 households for those who were married.

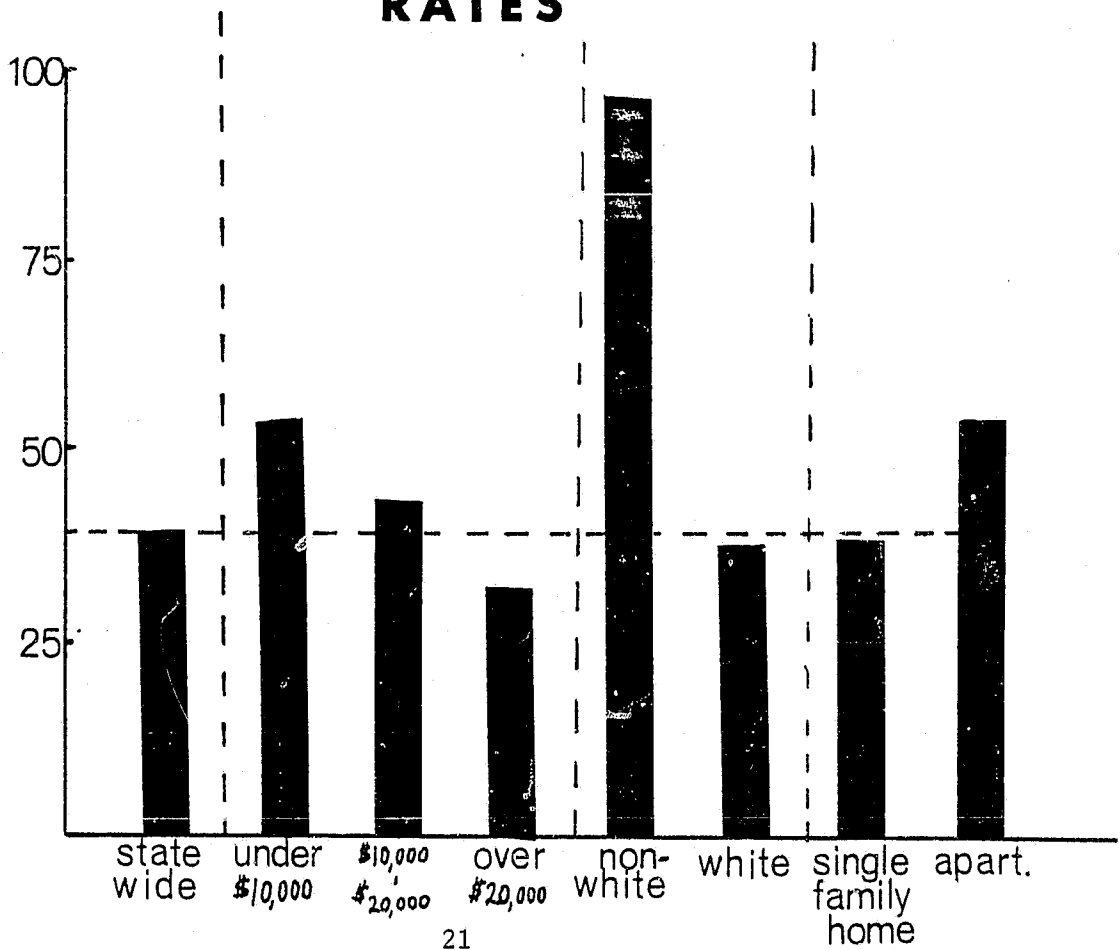
71% of the burglaries were reported to a law enforcement agency - 92% of these within the day of occurrence. 64% of those reporting to police were satisfied with police handling of the case. Of those who did not report the burglary to police, 28% gave the reason that the offender was a friend, 20% felt it was useless to report, and 10% expressed fear of retaliation by the offender.

RATE
PER
1000
HOUSE-
HOLDS



BURGLARY RATES

RATE
PER
1000
HOUSE
HOLDS



LARCENY-THEFT - "During the last 12 months, did anyone steal something from you without threatening you or using force and without breaking into your home? (Not including auto theft or theft from auto.)"

Of 1,914 respondents to this question, 104 reported being a larceny-theft victim (103 successful, 1 attempted). This puts the NASIS victimization rate for larceny-theft at 54/1,000 households compared to 32/1,000 households rate derived from UCR and Dept. of Economic Development figures. Larceny-theft accounted for 46% of the index crimes and 18.5% of all offenses reported in the NASIS.

First-class towns (pop. 2,500 - 50,000) reported the highest victimization rate (67/1,000 households) while Omaha and farm/ranch residents reported the lowest rate (40/1,000 households). Lincoln and communities under 2,500 population averaged 59 larceny-thefts per 1,000 households.

The likelihood of larceny-theft victimization was somewhat higher for the low-income group (under \$10,000 - 65/1,000 households) than for the higher income group (over \$20,000 - 54/1,000 households).

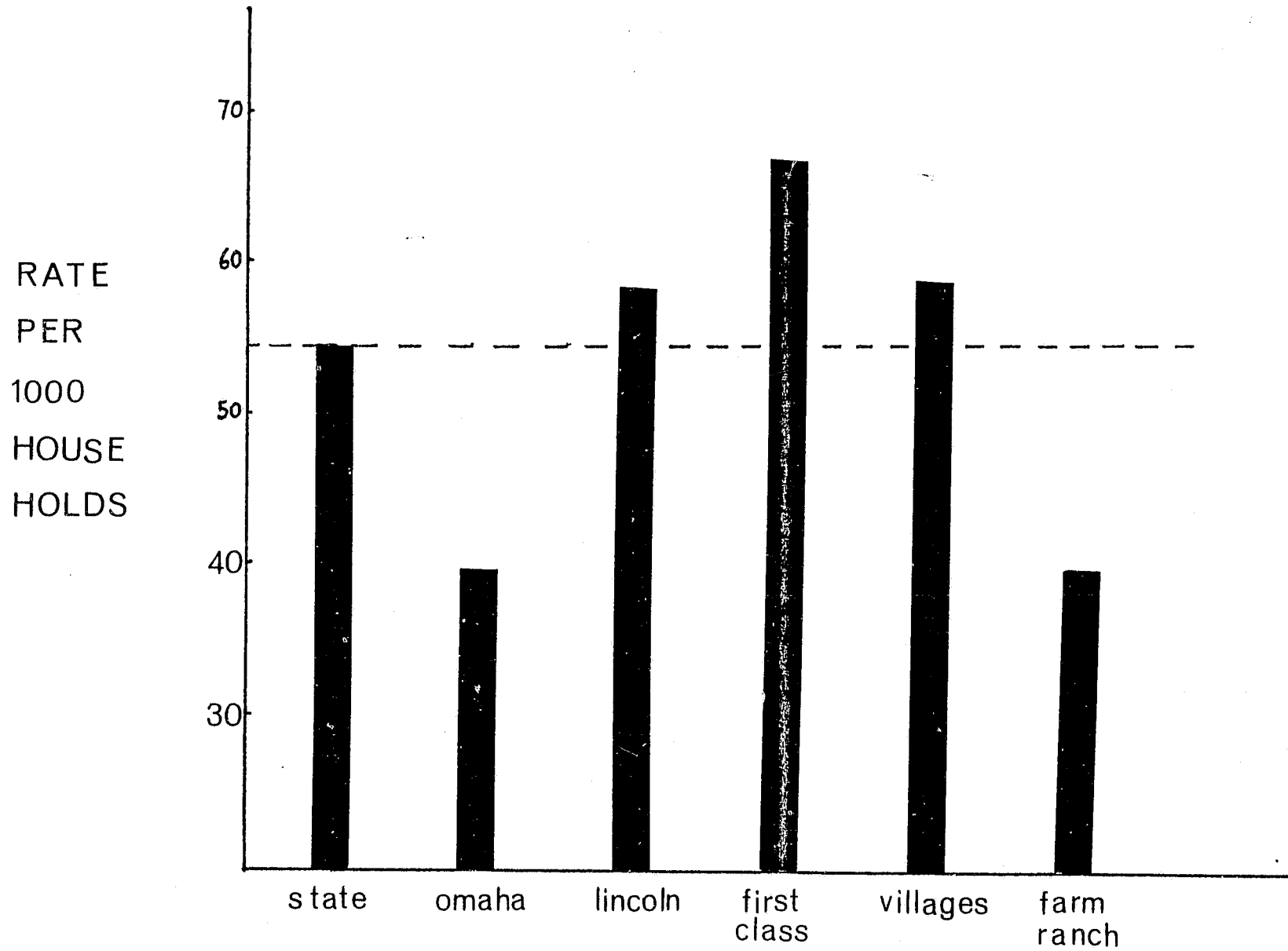
The 31 year old to 45 year old age group was the most frequent victim of a larceny-theft (77/1,000) followed by the 18-30 age group (60/1,000). Least likely to be a larceny-theft victim were those over 60 years of age (24/1,000).

Only 40.5% of the larceny-thefts incidents were reported to a law enforcement agency. Of these 70% were satisfied with police handling of the case.

Of those not reporting the crime to police, over one-half of the victims did not report because the incident was "not important enough" (27%) or they considered it "useless to report" (24%). 14% did not report to the police because the offender was a friend.

50% of the larceny-theft involved losses of \$50 or less. This may serve to indicate why the overall rate of reporting to police was low and why so many felt it useless or not important enough to report.

LARCENY - THEFT



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT - "During the last 12 months, did anyone steel your auto, truck, motorcycle, or any other type of motor vehicle?"

19 out of 1,914 respondents to this question reported having been a victim of motor vehicle theft. This translates into a rate of 10/1,000 households (compared to the 7/1,000 households rate based on UCR and Dept. of Economic Development figures). Motor vehicle theft accounted for 8.4% of the index offenses and 3.4% of all offenses reported in the NASIS. Of the 19 MVT's, 8 involved automobiles, 5 involved trucks, 3 were motorcycles and 3 were other types of vehicles.

Omaha, Lincoln and first-class towns (pop. 2,500 to 50,000) reported approximately 13 motor vehicle thefts per 1,000 households. Towns under 2,500 population reported only 4.5/1,000 households. None of the respondents who lived on a farm or ranch reported a motor vehicle theft.

Those households whose income exceeded \$20,000 annually experienced 15 motor vehicle thefts per 1,000 households - more than twice the rate for households whose income was under \$20,000 (7/1,000).

Those living in single family homes were more likely to be victimized (11/1,000 households) than those in other types of housing (5/1,000 households).

80% of the motor vehicle theft victims reported the offense to law enforcement authorities. Of these 67% were satisfied with police handling of the case.

VANDALISM - "During the last 12 months, has anyone unlawfully damaged or vandalized your property?"

Of the 1,914 respondents to this question, 214 reported being the victim of vandalism. This represents a rate of 112/1,000 households. Vandalism was the most frequently reported offense in the NASIS, accounting for 38% of all victimizations.

62% of the victims reported damage to their motor vehicle, 22% reported damage to their residence or grounds, and 21% reported damage to property in the area of their residence.

The larger the community, the more frequent was the incidence of vandalism. Omaha experienced the highest rate (150/1,000 households) followed by Lincoln (144/1,000), first-class towns (pop. 2,500 - 50,000 - rate 118/1,000 households), towns under 2,500 population (76/1,000) and farm/ranch (65/1,000 households).

Single family home dwellers experienced a lower rate of vandalism (104/1,000 households) than residents of other types of housing units (119/1,000 households).

Non-white households experienced a rate of 153/1,000 households while white households had a lower rate (111/1,000 households).

Households whose income exceeded \$20,000 annually experienced vandalism at a rate of 147/1,000 households, considerably higher than the 104/1,000 households experienced by households with incomes under \$20,000 annually.

Just over half (53%) of the vandalism incidents were reported to a law enforcement agency. Of those not reporting to police, 25% considered the incident "not important enough", 30% considered it "useless to report" and 5% did not report because the offender was a friend. 3 out of 5 victims who reported to the police were satisfied with police handling of the incident.

CRIMES AGAINST PEOPLE

ASSAULT - "During the last 12 months, did anyone beat you or attack you with a knife, gun, club or other weapon?"

Of the 1,911 respondents to this question, a total of 21 persons reported being victims of a personal attack (19 struck, 2 not struck). This constitutes an assault victimization rate of 11/1,000 adults - 18 and over. The UCR felony assault rate for 1977 is considerably lower - 1.1/1,000 population. The question as asked in the NASIS did not identify the seriousness of the attack and therefore it is assumed that the figures include both less common felony assaults and the more common misdemeanor assaults.

Omaha reported 9 assault victimizations out of 456 respondents, or a rate of 20/1,000 adults. Lincoln and first-class towns (pop. 2,500 - 50,000) experienced assault at a rate of 13/1,000 adults. Only 1 assault was reported from small town (under 2,500) respondents and none were reported by farm/ranch respondents in the NASIS.

All but one of the actual assaults involved the 18-30 age group which reported an assault rate of 30/1,000 adults. The 31-60 age group reported only 2 assaults per 1,000 adults. Respondents over 60 years of age reported no assaults.

Men, aged 18-30, accounted for two-thirds of all assault victimization and the overall rate for males was 14.5/1,000 adult men. Women reported being assault victims at the rate of 7/1,000 adult women.

Respondents who were married reported a much lower victimization rate (4.4/1,000 adults) than unmarried respondents (25.7/1,000 adults).

Respondents earning \$10,000 - \$20,000 annually had the highest victimization rate (19/1,000 adults) followed by the under \$10,000 income group (14/1,000). Those earning over \$20,000 reported only 2 assaults per 1,000 adult population.

Only 1 out of 4 assaults were to a law enforcement agency, all within one hour of their occurrence. Of the 15 victims who did not report to police, 4 said they did not report because the assailant was a friend, 4 didn't consider the incident important enough, one feared retaliation and one was too busy.

RAPE - "During the last 12 months, did anyone try to sexually assault, molest, or rape you?"

Of the 1,032 women responding to this question, 1 reported an actual rape and 3 reported an attempted rape for an overall victimization rate of 3.8/1,000 adult women. The total number of actual and attempted rapes reported in this survey was too small for statistical analysis, though it does reflect a decrease from the 10 rape incidents reported in last year's NASIS. It should be noted that none of the 4 victims reported the incident to police, and 3 of the 4 victims identified the assailant as a friend.

ROBBERY - "During the last 12 months, did anyone take something directly from you such as your wallet, purse, money, or other valuables by using force or threatening you?"

Of the 1,911 respondents to this question, 3 reported being the victim of a successful robbery and 1 reported an attempted robbery for an overall rate of 2.1/1,000 adults. Robbery accounted for 1.7% of all index crimes reported in the NASIS. Two of the robberies were reported (within an hour of their occurrence) and two were not reported because the victim considered it "useless to report".

The three victims of a successful robbery were all from Omaha. All four victims were white and married, one was a women. As was the case with rape, the number of robbery victims was too small for statistical analysis. It should be noted, however, that the four victimizations are a decrease from the 14 reported in last year's NASIS using a comparable sample size.

FRAUD - "During the last 12 months, did anyone cheat you out of your money or property by lying to you or not keeping a promise, guarantee, or warranty on an item or service which you bought?"

Of the 1,909 respondents to this question, 108 reported being the victim of a successful fraud and 8 of an attempted fraud for an overall rate of 60/1,000 adults.

The highest victimization rates for fraud occurred in Omaha (75/1,000 adults) and small communities under 2,500 population (73/1,000 adults). First-class towns (pop. 2,500 - 50,000) had a rate of 57/1,000; Lincoln - 47/1,000; and farm/ranch 35/1,000.

Non-white respondents experienced a fraud victimization rate of 183/1,000 adults - considerably high than the 56/1,000 rate for white adults.

Men were victimized at more than twice the rate women experienced (M = 83/1,000; F = 41/1,000).

A strong relationship existed between age and the rate of victimization. The youngest group (18-30 years) experienced fraud at the rate of 93/1,000, followed by the 31-45 age group at 73/1,000. Those over 45 had a victimization of only 29/1,000 - less than one-half the average rate.

Less than 1 out of 10 fraud incidents were reported.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of victimization surveys is to report the volume and circumstances of crime from the victims' point of view as opposed to the records of law enforcement agencies. The need for such an approach is indicated by the fact that almost 3 out of 5 victimizations are not reported to police. If police are not notified of a crime, they cannot respond to it, record it, assist the victim or apprehend the offender - meaning the crime is a successful one.

This study and others in recent years show that many victims choose not to report a crime so as to avoid the often complex and cumbersome procedures of the criminal justice system. While law enforcement, the "front line" of the criminal justice system, ranks highest in the public's view (72% consider police effective in dealing with crime), the courts and correctional system, which from the public's viewpoint lie deeper within the system, are rated effective by only 50% of the public. And those who did bother to report a crime rated police more effective (75%) while they rated the courts and correctional system considerably less effective (44%) than those who had not experienced a victimization. Insurance requirements probably accounted for the most often reported crimes of motor vehicle theft and burglary.

The majority of victims surveyed were targets of vandalism and fraud - offenses not included in the calculation of index crime rates in the Uniform Crime Report. These were also two of the crimes least frequently reported to police. If only the six index crimes are considered, the rate of victim reporting to police increases from 43% to 53%.

Comparisons between the crime rates of the Uniform Crime Report and NASIS victimization rates over a period of years could be a useful indicator of the level of utilization of law enforcement resources by victims of crime in Nebraska. Local law enforcement planning efforts would be strengthened if more extensive local victimization surveys were conducted in various communities across the State. The benefits of local and state level victimization studies include improved public information regarding crime prevention, where to concentrate resources, and how to increase cooperation between the public and the criminal justice system.

Future victimization surveys should provide information about crimes which is useful in preventing them. This would involve asking burglary victims about the burglar's point of entry into the home; asking victims of personal crimes the location of an attack and the characteristics of the attacker (LEAA studies have indicated that criminals described by victims are more often elderly, white and female than arrest data reflect); asking for more precise information to determine the seriousness of an offense. These and other detail-oriented questions would provide more useful information about crimes, victims, and realistic performance measures of the criminal justice system, as well as information relevant to police patrol tactics and community-based programs involving citizens in the detection and reporting of criminal events.

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PROFILE OF NASIS RESPONDENTSTOTAL = 1,940 ADULT RESIDENTS OF NEBRASKA

<u>AGE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>MARITAL STATUS</u>	<u>%</u>
18-30	31.9	Married	71.3
31-45	24.8	Widowed	8.6
46-60	23.0	Divorced	4.1
61-75	15.3	Separated	.6
75+	5.0	Never Married	15.4
<u>SEX</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	46.9	No High School	10.4
Female	53.1	Some High School	10.8
<u>RACE</u>	<u>%</u>	High School Grad.	43.1
White	96.3	Some College	29.9
Black	2.5	College Grad.	5.7
Other	1.2	<u>TYPE of COMMUNITY</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</u>	<u>%</u>	Farm or Ranch	13.5
Protestant	69.3	Town under 2,500	22.9
Catholic	24.2	Town 2,500 - 50,000	27.2
Jewish	.4	Lincoln	12.2
None	4.1	Omaha	24.2
Other	2.1	<u>HOUSEHOLD INCOME</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>TYPE OF HOUSING</u>	<u>%</u>	Under \$10,000	17.1
Single Family House	81.6	\$10,000 - \$20,000	27.1
Duplex	2.0	Over \$20,000	24.3
3-4 Family House	.9	Don't know/refused	30.6
Apartment	9.0	<u>WORK STATUS</u>	<u>%</u>
Townhouse	1.3	Full-Time	47.9
Trailer	4.5	Part-Time	13.0
Other	.9	Keep House	21.5
Own/Buying	77.4	Retired	10.7
Rent	22.5	Other	7.0

END