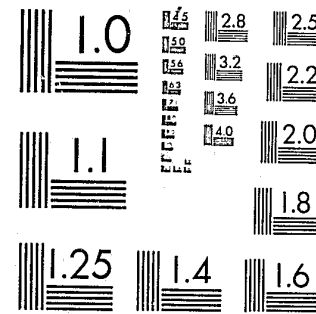


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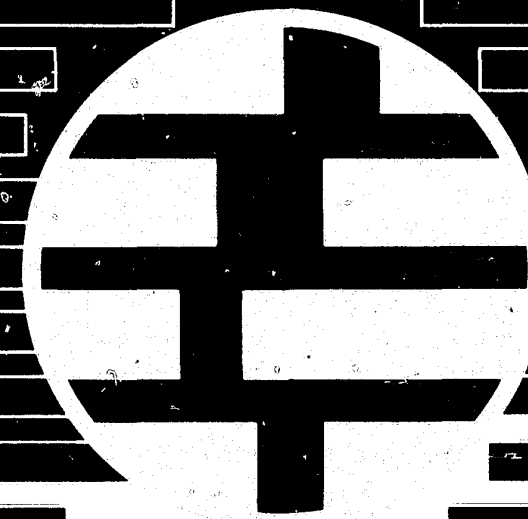
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79511



Violent Crime in Illinois

March, 1981

by Larry V. Dykstra
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ACQUISITIONS

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the many SAC and CJIS executive staff members who assisted in the preparation and review of preliminary drafts of this report. The revisions resulting from their comments undoubtedly helped improve the quality of the analysis below.

In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to J. David Coldren and Paul Fields for their valuable insights into this important topic. Their professional guidance and direction helped to mold this report into its present form.

Special gratitude is also due to both Olga McNamara and Tina Jackson for their valuable assistance in producing and distributing the final copy of this report.

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Overview

In recent weeks, the attention of the mass media, the public, and political leaders has become increasingly directed toward the problem of violent crime in America. While the press has focused on tragic cases of criminal violence, and the public fear of crime has reached unprecedented if not critical levels, the nation's leadership has called for a thorough examination of violent crime in the country.

Because public debate over issues such as crime should be based on factual information rather than subjective perceptions, this report provides a detailed examination of violent crime in Illinois. The incidence of violent crime is described, with particular attention given to crime trends in different geographic areas in the state. To the extent that the information is available, violent crime in Illinois is examined in terms of the characteristics of offender and victim, or the circumstances surrounding the offense. Questions regarding how much violent crime exists in Illinois as well as who is affected by these crimes are both addressed.

As the term is used in this report, "violent crime" consists of the broad crime categories of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. In contrast with crimes such as burglary and theft which involve only the loss of an individual's property, violent crimes are characterized by direct confrontation between the victim and the offender during the commission of the offense.

The major findings of this report may be summarized as follows:

- The number of violent crime offenses reported to the police in Illinois was lower in the late 1970's than during the earlier years of the decade. In contrast, violent crimes reported throughout the U.S. increased from 1972 to 1979.
- The decrease in total Illinois violent crime was a direct result of large decreases in the crime of robbery in Chicago. Murder, forcible rape, and aggravated assault each increased in Illinois between 1972 and 1979.
- In 1979, approximately one violent crime offense was reported in Illinois for every 210 state residents.
- If the definition of violent crime is expanded to include simple assault and simple battery offenses, Illinois crimes of violence show an increase throughout the seventies. In particular, simple battery offenses more than doubled in Illinois between 1972 and 1979.

- The rates for each of the four violent crime categories are higher in Chicago than the suburban Chicago or downstate areas, and are usually higher downstate than in the suburbs. The rate for each violent crime increased in Illinois between 1972 and 1979 except for large decreases in the Chicago robbery rate and slight decreases in the suburban rate of aggravated assault.
- Most individuals arrested for aggravated assault were whites, adults, and males. This differs from the arrest profile for murder, forcible rape, and robbery where blacks, adults, and males make up the largest proportion of those arrested.
- Juveniles comprised nearly one-fourth of the individuals arrested for violent crimes in 1979, and one-third of all persons arrested for robbery.
- National surveys show that the rates of violent crime victimization are higher among males, blacks, and young persons. Blacks are much more likely to be victimized, particularly for robbery. Persons aged 65 and older were much less likely to be violent crime victims than persons under age 25.
- Murder victims in Illinois were primarily males and blacks. More than one-half of the state's murder victims were under the age of thirty.
- In Illinois, blacks kill other blacks while whites kill other whites. In more than 90 percent of the murder cases where data was available, both the murder victim and offender were of the same race.
- About two-thirds of the murder victims are killed by individuals they know, many of these being members of their own family. However, the percentage of murder cases in which the offender and victim were considered strangers increased significantly to over one-fourth of all murder cases in 1979.
- Firearms of all types, and handguns in particular, were the instrument of death in well over half of all Illinois murder cases.
- While it is not possible using available data to determine the likelihood of an individual receiving punishment for committing a violent crime in Illinois, about one-half of the inmates in Illinois prisons are there for violent crime offenses.

• What is "violent crime"?

Violent crimes are often referred to as "crimes against persons" since they are characterized by direct contact between victim and offender during the commission of the offense. The term "violent crime", as it is most frequently used, refers to criminal offenses which fall into four of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) index crime categories:

- Murder
- Forcible Rape
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault

Each of these four general offense categories is composed of specific crimes. The category "murder" includes voluntary manslaughter in addition to murder; "forcible rape" consists of rapes and attempted rapes; "robbery" is composed of robberies and attempted robberies; and "aggravated assault" consists of aggravated assault, aggravated battery, and attempted murder.

Other offenses, although generally excluded in national violent crime statistics, are nevertheless crimes against persons. These offenses are involuntary manslaughter, simple assault, and simple battery. Crimes such as burglary and theft are not included in the measures of violent crime since they do not involve the direct use of force against the victim.

Because the general uniformity of these FBI index crime categories found in the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) helps facilitate comparisons between and/or within jurisdictions over time, they are used in the analysis below. One must be aware, however, that some crimes generally perceived by the public to be violent in nature (such as simple assaults and simple batteries) are not included in the official measurement of violent crime.

● How much violent crime is there in the United States?

According to FBI figures, violent crime offenses reported to the police increased in the United States by 41 percent between 1972 and 1979. As shown in Table 1, the number of violent crime offenses rose from nearly 835,000 in 1972 to almost 1.2 million in 1979.

Figure A displays the volume of violent crime for the eight year period beginning in 1972. The pattern of growth in violent crime offenses has been consistent, with a decrease in violent crime offenses occurring only between 1975 and 1976. The upward trend in violent crime in the U.S. resumed in 1977 and has continued to the present. Although final 1980 data are not yet available, some of the nation's largest urban areas have reported preliminary figures indicating that violent crime may have continued to increase at an even greater rate in 1980.

Since total violent crime offenses may be influenced by changes in national population, the U.S. violent crime rate per 100,000 population is graphically displayed in Figure B. As was the case with the volume of violent crime, the rate of violent crime in the U.S. exhibits consistent, fairly linear growth from 1972 to 1975. The violent crime rate declined slightly in 1976, but resumed the upward trend in 1979.

Table 1 also provides 1972 and 1979 offense totals for the four index crimes that make up this measure of violent crime -- murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Two of these crime categories (forcible rape and aggravated assault) show significant increases during this time period. Specifically, the number of forcible rapes reported in the U.S. increased by 62.2 percent from 1972 to 1979, while aggravated assaults climbed 64 percent. At the same time, murder and robbery increased 14.9 percent and 24.1 percent respectively.

● How much violent crime is there in Illinois?

In contrast to the entire United States, total violent crime in Illinois decreased by 7.3 percent between 1972 and 1979. The number of violent crime offenses occurring in Illinois was 57,736 in 1972, but fell to 53,531 in 1979 (See Table 2).

As shown in Figure C, total violent crime offenses were quite high in Illinois from 1972 through 1974, although a downturn in total offenses took place in 1975 and continued to 1977. A slight upturn in violent crime in Illinois occurred in 1978 and 1979, although the total offenses occurring in the latter year remain below the levels seen in the early years of the decade. The data presented in Figure D demonstrate that these changes were not a result of changes in state population, as the violent offense rate per 100,000 population for years 1972 through 1979 follows the same pattern as total offenses displayed in Figure C.

Although the total number of violent crime offenses decreased in Illinois by just over seven percent from 1972 to 1979, three of the four index crimes which are included in the total violent crime figure have increased during these eight years. As Table 2 shows, murder (+23.9 percent), forcible rape (+26.2 percent), and aggravated assault (+9.1 percent) each increased, but these increases were offset by the large decline in robbery offenses (-25.0 percent). In short, the decrease in total Illinois violent crime can be traced to the large decrease in robbery offenses between 1972 and 1979.

Since the Illinois crime rate pattern appears to differ significantly from that of the entire United States, the national violent crime rate per 100,000 population was compared with the Illinois crime rate. This comparison is found in Figure E. The U.S. rate increased consistently in all years of the series except 1976. The Illinois violent crime rate remained well above the national rate during the early years of the series, but fell sharply from 1974 to 1976, when it nearly coincided with the national rate. During the final three years of this time series, the Illinois rate remained below that of the entire nation. While both U.S. and Illinois rates have increased from 1977 to 1979, the Illinois increase has been more gradual than that for the entire country.

The 1972, 1976, and 1979 Illinois crime rate per 100,000 population for each of the four violent crime categories is graphed in Figure F. The rates for three of these crime categories (murder, forcible rape, and aggravated assault) in-

creased between 1972 and 1979 (although the forcible rape and aggravated assault crime rates were slightly lower in 1976 than in 1972). The rate of robbery in Illinois decreased consistently over this same time period. In 1979, the number of offenses per 100,000 population was 10.7 for murder, 29.2 for forcible rape, 196.6 for robbery, and 239.7 for aggravated assault.

● How does violent crime compare with other crimes in Illinois?

While total violent crimes decreased between 1972 and 1979, total property index crimes (burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft) increased 40 percent from 371,793 offenses in 1972 to over 520,000 in 1979. As Figure G indicates, violent crime made up a small fraction of total Illinois index crime in 1979. Specifically, violent crime accounted for 9.3 percent of all Illinois index crime (violent and property) offenses in 1979. The comparable figure for the entire United States was 9.7 percent.

As noted above, the violent crime categories which the FBI requires for uniformity between states do not include the crimes of simple assault or simple battery. While these offenses may not be as severe as those used in the FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR) categories, growth in even the most minor assaults and batteries would indicate increased violence in the state.

The sharp increase in simple assault and simple battery offenses in Illinois during the past eight years indicates such a trend in this state. Specifically, simple assaults and simple batteries (combined) increased 52 percent in Illinois from 48,999 offenses in 1972 to 74,496 in 1979. The number of simple assault and simple battery offenses occurring in Illinois in 1979 was greater than the total number of offenses for the four index crime categories combined (53,531).

Figure H indicates that although the rate of violent crime in Illinois appears to decrease if one uses the UCR categories, the increases in simple assaults and batteries suggest a different conclusion. The simple assault rate per 100,000 population has increased slightly between 1972 and 1979 from just below 300 to almost 330. The rate for simple battery more than doubled from about 140 to approximately 330, for a combined simple assault and simple battery rate of about 660. This combined simple assault and simple battery rate is higher than the four UCR violent crime categories also represented in Figure H, which have a combined rate of 476.2 offenses per 100,000 population.

• Within Illinois, does violent crime differ by geographic area?

It is commonly believed that violent crime is a phenomenon limited primarily to the nation's larger metropolitan areas. Illinoisans generally look to Chicago as the source of most of the state's crime. Since the Illinois Uniform Crime Reports began more than a decade ago, Chicago has been the location of nearly one-half of the state's total index crime. Because of the sheer volume of crime in Chicago, the city must be analyzed separately from the rest of Illinois.

Crime does not, however, stop at a city's borders, and one currently popular view is that crime has moved beyond the central city to the suburban areas which surround it. Because of their proximity to Chicago, the violent crime patterns in the counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, Will, and Cook (excluding Chicago) were analyzed separately from both Chicago and the rest of the state. This section examines the violent crime trends in the following geographic areas of Illinois:

- Chicago
- Suburban Chicago Counties - DuPage, Kane, Lake, Will, Cook (excluding Chicago)
- Downstate Counties - all other Illinois counties

Murder

The data presented in Table 3 indicates that murder increased in both volume and rate in each of the geographic divisions between 1972 and 1979 (although downstate murders dipped slightly from 1976 to 1979). The Chicago murder rate of nearly 29 per 100,000 population in 1979 far outdistanced the rates in either the suburban or downstate areas (with rates of 3.5 and 4.7 respectively). The murder rate in the downstate Illinois counties was higher than that found in the Chicago suburban counties in 1972, 1976, and 1979.

Forcible Rape

The volume and rate of forcible rape follows the same pattern as murder in these geographic areas. As Table 4 shows, forcible rape in Chicago declined between 1972 and 1976, but increased to almost 56 offenses per 100,000 citizens in 1979 from 45.9 in 1972. In the suburban counties, the rate of forcible rape remained at 13.1 in 1972 and 1976, but increased in 1979 to 18.3. Forcible rape in downstate Illinois peaked in 1976, although the 1979 rate (20.5) was still greater than that in 1972 (14.2). As with murder, the rate of forcible rape is higher in Chicago than in either the suburban or downstate areas, and the downstate rate is higher than in the counties surrounding Chicago.

Robbery

Of the four violent crime categories examined, robbery has followed the most interesting pattern. The figures presented in Table 5 indicate that robbery has decreased significantly in Chicago from a rate of over 700 offenses per 100,000 population in 1972 to under 500 in 1979. In contrast, the volume and rate of robbery in the downstate and suburban areas have increased, particularly in the latter geographic area. The suburban counties' robbery rate rose to 99.7 in 1979 from 78.8 in 1972, while the downstate figures were 73.5 in 1972 and 84.2 in 1979. Although the rate of robbery in Chicago remains well above that found in the other geographic divisions, this crime exhibits a downward trend in Chicago while increasing in both the suburbs and downstate.

Aggravated Assault

A somewhat different pattern over time is found in the aggravated assault figures presented in Table 6. The Chicago assault rate per 100,000 has increased from 334.5 in 1972 to 364.8 in 1979, although the absolute number of offenses has decreased slightly. The suburban assault rate was lower in both 1976 and 1979 than it was during 1972. The most remarkable change in aggravated assaults took place in the downstate Illinois counties, where the rate increased from 139.3 offenses per 100,000 population in 1972 to over 208 in 1979. Although the aggravated assault rate has been higher in Chicago than in either of the other two areas, the rate differences between the three areas are narrower for aggravated assault than for the crimes of murder, forcible rape, and robbery.

● Within Illinois, does violent crime differ from county to county?

The preceding section combined 97 counties into the "Down-state" category, and did not take into account variations in this large section of the state. To gain a better understanding of the violent crime patterns throughout Illinois, counties of similar population characteristics were combined for purposes of analysis. The four groupings of counties with common characteristics are defined as follows:

- Rural counties - counties with no city with a population of 25,000 or greater
- Semi-rural counties - primarily rural counties which contain at least one city of 25,000 or greater
- Urban counties - total county population greater than 50,000
- Cook County - total county population greater than 500,000

Murder

Murder increased slightly in each of the four groupings between 1972 and 1979, although the semi-rural and urban counties had higher rates in 1976. The figures in Table 7 suggest that the murder rate is related to county size. Urban counties (5.2) had higher murder rates per 100,000 population than semi-rural counties (4.0); semi-rural counties had higher rates than rural areas (2.6); and the Cook County rate (17.7) far outdistanced all other areas of the state.

Forcible Rape

This violent crime increased in each grouping in the state between 1972 and 1979 with the exception of the semi-rural counties (although these counties showed an increase in 1976). Table 8 indicates that, like murder, the rate of forcible rape appears to be related to the size of the county population grouping. The Cook County rate of forcible rape is higher than the other three population groupings with a rate of nearly 39 offenses per 100,000 population in 1979. The rural county grouping had a low rate of 8.0 during the same year. The urban and semi-rural county rates of forcible rape fall between these two extremes at 26.8 and 17.5 respectively.

Robbery

The strongest relationship between county population and crime rate is found in this violent crime category. The figures in Table 9 indicate that the robbery rate in Cook County was the

highest, and rural counties the lowest, of the four groupings. However, the number of robbery offenses per 100,000 population occurring in Cook County has decreased greatly from 466.2 in 1972 to 320.0 in 1979. In contrast, robbery rates in the other county groupings have risen in 1979 to 118.7 in urban counties, 76.4 in the semi-rural counties, and 23.4 in the rural county grouping. Despite these trends, the rate of robbery in Cook County remains well above that found in other parts of the state.

Aggravated Assault

Aggravated assault does not appear to be as strongly related to the size of the county population grouping as the crimes of murder, forcible rape, and robbery. Table 10 indicates that the rate of aggravated assault in urban and semi-rural counties is only slightly lower than the Cook County rate. The Cook County aggravated assault rate per 100,000 citizens was 271.5 in 1979, barely higher than the 258.6 figure for the urban county grouping in that year. Comparable rates for semi-rural and rural counties were also fairly high at 187.8 and 111.3 respectively. Perhaps equally significant is the fact that while the Cook County rate of aggravated assault has remained fairly constant since 1972, the rates in the other three county groupings increased between 1972 and 1979.

Violent crime rates by county

While the preceding analysis examined violent crime trends in four county groupings, the rates of each of the four violent crime categories may have varied between counties within the same grouping. The Illinois county maps below (Figures I, J, K, and L) indicate whether the murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault offense rates have increased, decreased, or remained the same for each of the 102 counties in Illinois between 1972 and 1979. (Figure M is the reference map for identification of each county.) The shadings in these maps indicate only the direction of change in the rate rather than the magnitude of the changes in violent crime rates in each county. In addition, this analysis is a comparison of years 1972 and 1979 and therefore misses county crime variations in the intervening years.

The county map in Figure I indicates that the murder rate increased between 1972 and 1979 in 39 counties, decreased in 23, and was unchanged in 40. As shown in Figure J, the rate of forcible rape increased in the majority of the counties in the state (57). The rate of forcible rape decreased in 25 of the counties in Illinois, and remained the same in the other 20. The robbery

rate increased in 63 of the counties between 1972 and 1979, while there was no change in 15 county jurisdictions, and a decrease in 24 (See Figure K). Finally, the Illinois county map in Figure L indicates that the rate of aggravated assault increased between 1972 and 1979 in 75 counties, decreased in 26 counties, while only one remained unchanged.

● How many arrests for violent crimes are made in Illinois?

Arrests for violent crimes declined by nearly 16 percent from 23,780 in 1972 to 20,003 in 1979. The comparison in Figure N between the number of violent crimes arrests and offenses from 1972 through 1979 indicates that arrests for violent crime have followed the same pattern as violent crime offenses.

Table 11 contains yearly arrest totals for each of the four crime categories from 1972 through 1979. These figures indicate that there was a decrease in forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault arrests between 1972 and 1979, while arrests for murder increased. Specifically, there were about 23 percent fewer aggravated assault arrests in 1979 than in 1972, almost 13 percent fewer robbery arrests, and about 9 percent less forcible rape arrests while murder arrests rose by about 8 percent.

Unlike the data for total arrests, the number of offenses cleared by arrest does not follow the total offense pattern. A comparison of total violent crime offenses with the number of offenses cleared or solved by an arrest is found in Figure O. Although the pattern for these two measures is similar during the first six years of this time series, the number of offenses cleared by arrest continued to decline in 1978 and 1979 while the total number of violent crime offenses increased.

The percentage of violent crime offenses cleared by arrest in Illinois for each of the four violent index crimes is presented in Table 12 for years 1972 through 1979. The lowest total violent crime arrest clearance rate for the entire series is found in 1979 (44 percent). In addition, the 1979 percentage of offenses cleared by arrest for each of the separate index crimes is the lowest or second lowest for the entire 1972-1979 period. Murder has the highest arrest clearance rate of the four violent crimes at 76.7 percent in 1979. Forcible rape (41.7 percent), robbery (36.5 percent), and aggravated assault (48.9 percent) are much less likely to be cleared by the arrest of an individual.

● Who is arrested for committing violent crimes in Illinois?

The sex, age, and racial composition of individuals arrested for committing the four violent crimes in 1979 is provided in Table 13. Of all individuals arrested for violent crimes in 1979, nearly 92 percent were males. This pattern is consistent across each of the index crimes. Adults account for about 78 percent of the total violent crime arrests, although they make up an even larger percentage of arrests for murder (88.3 percent), forcible rape (86.9 percent) and aggravated assault (86.9 percent). The highest proportion of juvenile arrestees is for the crime of robbery, where they make up 33 percent of the total. Blacks are involved in the largest percentage of violent crime arrests at 54.8 percent. This is not true, however, for aggravated assaults where nearly 60 percent of all individuals arrested in Illinois in 1979 were white.

● Who are the victims of violent crime?

The National Crime Surveys (NCS) conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics have examined the extent of citizen victimization of violent crime. Since not all offenses come to the attention of law enforcement agencies, official UCR figures may underestimate the number of violent crimes. Thus, the victimization studies serve as a complement to the UCR data analyzed above. However, comparisons of victim survey data with official police statistics are hindered by the fact that victimization rates exclude the population under 12 years of age. In addition, the violent crime categories used in the victimization studies are somewhat different from those used in the UCR program. Regarding violent crimes, these surveys are limited to the crime categories of rape, robbery, and assault.

The 1977 National Crime Survey estimated that more than 40 million victimizations took place in the nation during that year. Of that total, 2.2 million (5.6 percent) were for the three violent crime categories included in the survey. The victimization rate per 100,000 population (age 12 and older) was estimated at 88.5 for rape, 220 for robbery, and approximately 1000 for assault. While these rates are much higher than those derived from UCR data, this is partly due to the fact that these victimization rates exclude the population under 12 years of age.

Victimization from violent crimes was found to be higher among males, younger persons, and blacks or Hispanics. Specifically, individuals aged 12-24 sustained the highest rates of violent crime victimization (at about 2,394 per 100,000 population) while persons over 65 had the lowest (at about 327). Blacks experience crimes of violence at rates higher than other races (2,010 per 100,000 population for blacks, 1,240 for whites, and 650 for other races). Black men, in general, appear to be the most likely victims of violent crime, particularly in the case of robbery. The higher victimization rates for blacks versus whites exist within sex categories; that is, black females are more likely to be victims of violent crimes than white females.

Victims of Murder

Although victimization surveys are unable to capture demographic information about victims of homicide, the Uniform Crime Reports Program requires states to maintain detailed information regarding murder cases. From the data it is possible to produce the age, sex and race breakdowns of murder victims in Illinois from 1976 to 1979. This information is contained in Table 14.

As the data in Table 14 indicate, the greatest percentage of murder victims fall into the younger age categories. Individuals thirty years of age and less account for more than half of the homicide victims in each of the four years. Victims of mur-

der are composed primarily of males, and this percentage has increased across all four years from just over 73 percent in 1976 to 80 percent in 1979. Likewise, the proportion of black murder victims (55.3 percent in 1979) is greater than whites (42.7 percent), although the trend in the last four years has been toward lessening this difference.

The Illinois UCR homicide data also includes age, sex, and race information for homicide offenders when this is known. Table 15 provides a comparison of the age categories of victims and their murderers. The data in this table indicate that in general, murder victims are killed at the hands of individuals near their own age. Of 1,197 murders occurring in Illinois in 1979, 332 (27.7 percent) were cases in which both the offender and victim were 25 years old or less. If the "Age 1 to 25" and "Age 26 to 30" categories in this table are combined, we find that in 499 (or 41.7 percent) of the 1979 murders both offender and victim were aged less than thirty years. More importantly, the totals in Table 15 indicate that 690 (57.6 percent) of offenders in murder cases were under 26 years of age, and 814 (68 percent) were 30 years old or younger.

A similar victim-offender analysis by race is found in Table 16. Of the 867 murders occurring in 1979 where the race of both the offender and victim was known, 785 of these cases involved members of the same race. In other words, a remarkable 90.5 percent of the murders occurring in Illinois in 1979 were intraracial. Whites were responsible for killing other whites in 276 (31.8 percent) of the cases where the racial data were known, while blacks murdered blacks 496 times (57.2 percent) in Illinois during 1979. In only 80 of these murder offenses were the victim and offender of different racial backgrounds.

Analysis of Illinois homicide data is also possible in terms of the relationship between the murder victim and offender in cases where this is known. Table 17 lists the percentage of Illinois murder cases in which the murderer was within the victim's family, outside the family but known to the victim, a stranger to the victim, or cases in which there were multiple offenders. The data indicate that the percentage of cases where the victim and offender were apparently strangers has increased significantly from below 18 percent in 1976 to almost 27 percent in 1979. Perhaps equally important, the proportion of murder cases where the victim and offender were acquainted with one another is always extremely high, ranging from 69 percent to 80 percent in the four years examined.

Finally, the type of weapon used during the commission of a homicide in Illinois has changed slightly since 1976. As the data in Table 18 indicate, the use of handguns in murder has risen from 50.5 percent of all cases in 1976 to 55.2 percent in 1979. In total, guns of any type account for well over 60 percent of the murders occurring in Illinois, with knives a distant although significant second.

• What happens to violent crime offenders?

Court disposition data for individuals charged with violent crime offenses are not available in Illinois. The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts collects data on the number of felony cases and convictions for each county and judicial circuit in Illinois, but the broad felony classifications used in reporting this information do not include crimes by specific categories such as forcible rape, robbery, or aggravated assault. Due to these record-keeping practices, it is not possible to determine the likelihood that an individual who is arrested will be punished for committing a violent crime in Illinois.

Although one cannot state the number or percentage of violent crime offenders who are ultimately convicted or are sentenced to correctional facilities in Illinois, there is no doubt that Illinois prisons are filled with violent crime offenders. In 1979, a sample of 2,015 inmates in Illinois' major prisons was taken to produce a profile of the state's inmate population. The data are presented in Table 19, and provide a gross indication of the percentage of prison inmates committed for each of the violent crime categories. The most frequent commitment offense was found to be robbery (32.6 percent) followed by murder (18.8 percent). Forcible rape and aggravated assault was the crime in 9.2 and 4.0 percent of the inmate sample respectively, and 35.4 percent had been committed for crimes other than those included in the violent crime category.

Conclusion

This report was drafted in response to recent national attention focused on violent crime in America. The primary purpose of this report is to answer fundamental questions regarding violent crime in the state of Illinois. Toward this end, we have discussed in detail the extent and nature of violent crime in different geographic areas of the state.

Perhaps most revealing are the questions which could not be addressed given the lack of data about individuals after they are formally accused of a violent crime:

- How many individuals accused of violent offenses are prosecuted?
- How often are individuals released on bail for one violent crime re-arrested for a second violent offense?
- Of those individuals prosecuted for violent crimes, how many are convicted of violent crime offenses? How many are convicted of lesser crimes?
- Of those convicted, how many are given lenient or harsh sentences by the courts?
- How often are violent crime offenders diverted from the criminal justice system through probation?
- How often does commission of a violent crime lead to the revocation of parole?
- How often are individuals previously incarcerated for committing one violent crime arrested and/or convicted for a second violent crime?

While people commonly believe that a few habitual offenders commit multiple crimes of violence, there are no organized data available in Illinois which address the extent to which this may be true. Because information systems are not in place to track an individual from arrest to release, it is not now possible to assess the effectiveness of the criminal justice system's current response to the violent crime offender. In short, our view of the criminal justice system breaks down when we attempt to examine how the system deals with the violent crime offender.

Tables and Figures

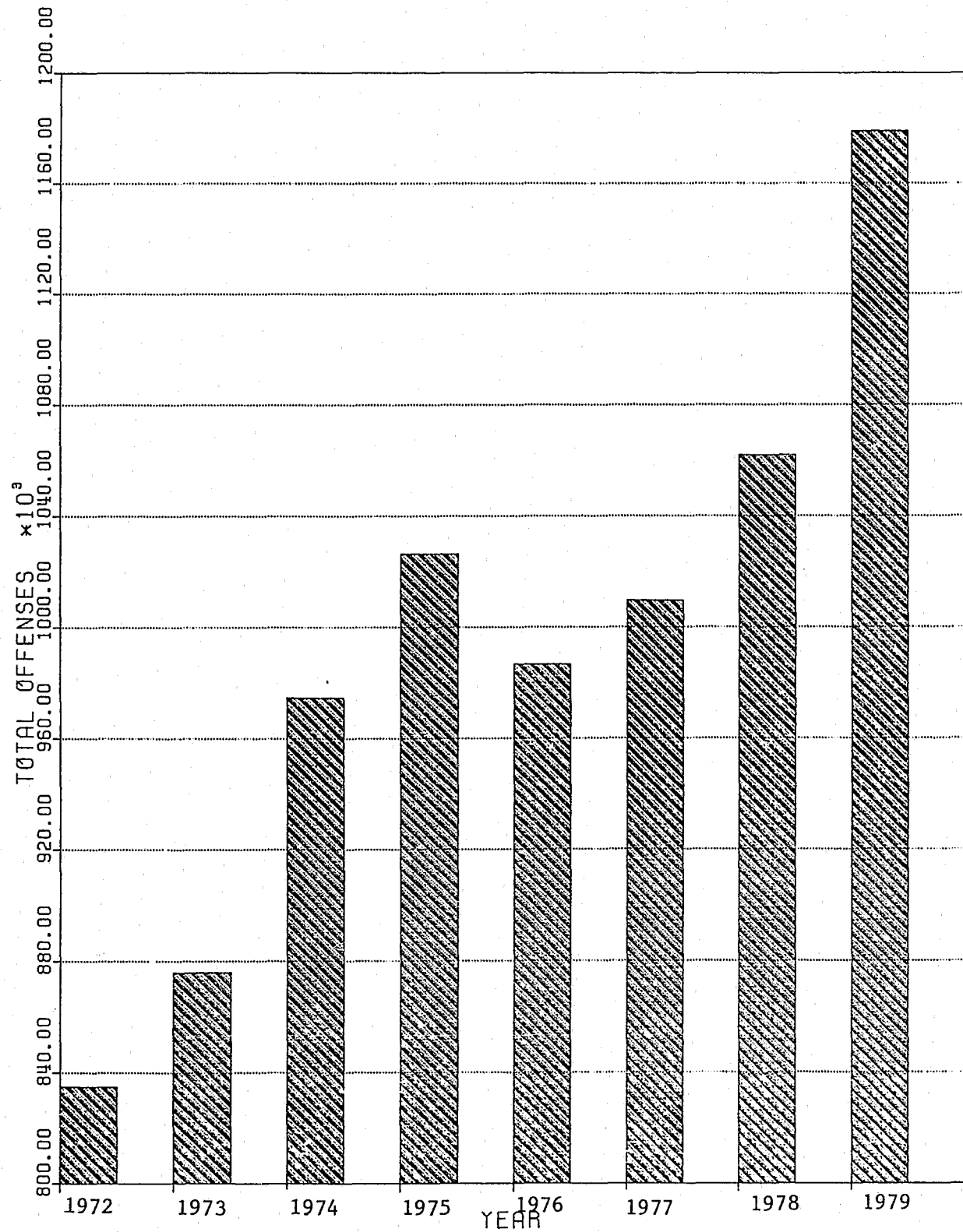
TABLE 1

Violent Crime in the U.S.: 1972-1979

	# Offenses 1972	# Offenses 1979	% Change	Comments
Murder	18,670	21,452	+14.9	Consistent climb from 1972 to 1975. 1976 fell back to the level of 1972. Consistent increase from 1976 to 1979.
Forcible Rape	46,850	75,992	+62.2	Consistent and linear climb from 1972 to 1979.
Robbery	376,290	467,083	+24.1	Consistent climb from 1972 to 1975. 1976 and 1977 witnessed a decline, with a sharp increase in 1978 and 1979.
Aggravated Assault	393,090	614,468	+64.0	Consistent linear climb from 1972 to 1979.
Totals	834,900	1,178,631	+41.2	Consistent climb from 1972 to 1975. Slight decrease in 1976: and resumed climb 1977 to present.

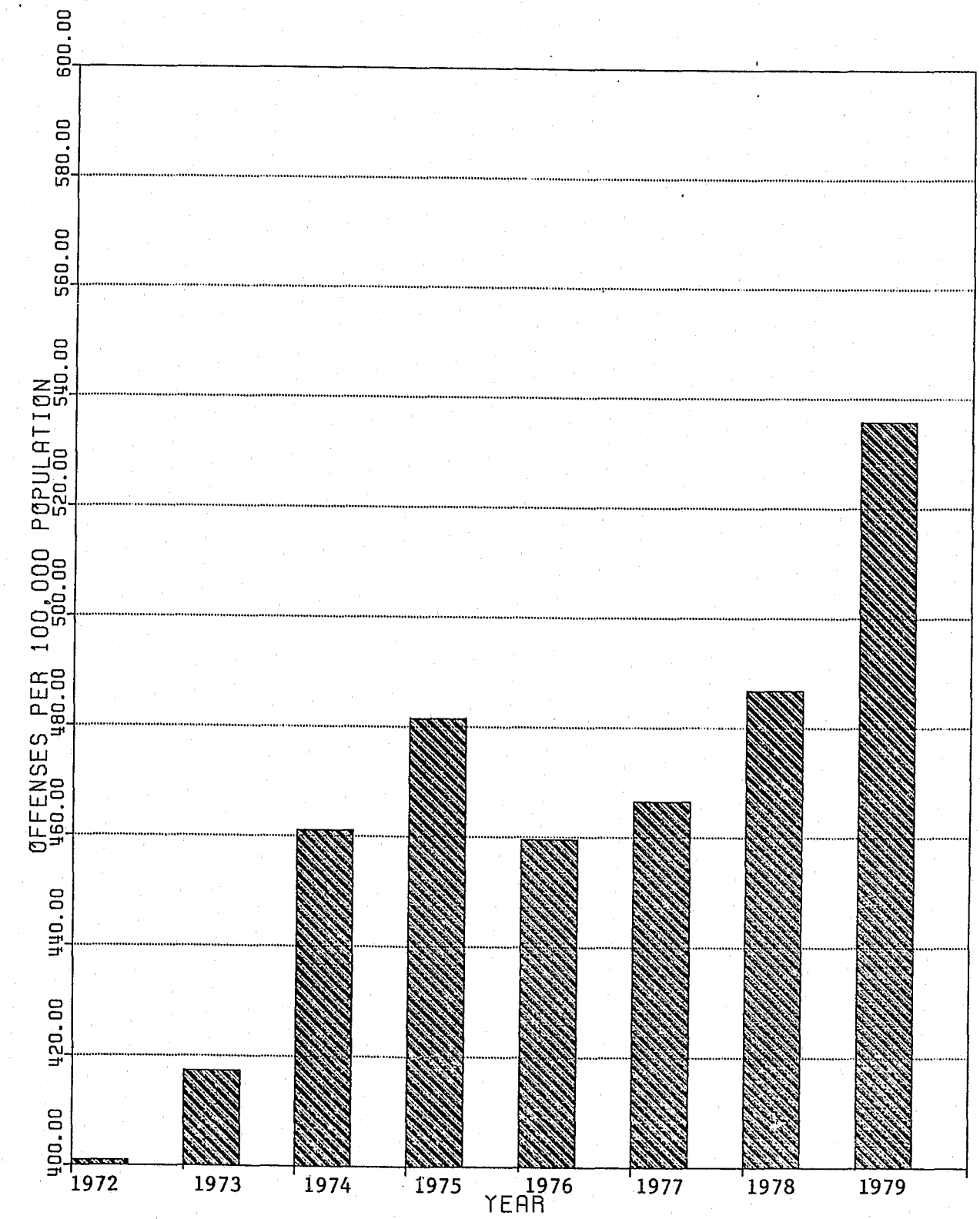
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the U.S.: 1979.

FIGURE A
 UNITED STATES VIOLENT CRIME OFFENSES: 1972-1979
 NOTE: VIOLENT CRIMES CONSIST OF
 MURDER, FORCIBLE RAPE, ROBBERY, AND
 AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.



ILEC/CJIS--STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER GRAPH

FIGURE B
 UNITED STATES VIOLENT CRIME RATE: 1972-1979
 NOTE: VIOLENT CRIMES CONSIST OF
 MURDER, FORCIBLE RAPE, ROBBERY, AND
 AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.



ILEC/CJIS--STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER GRAPH

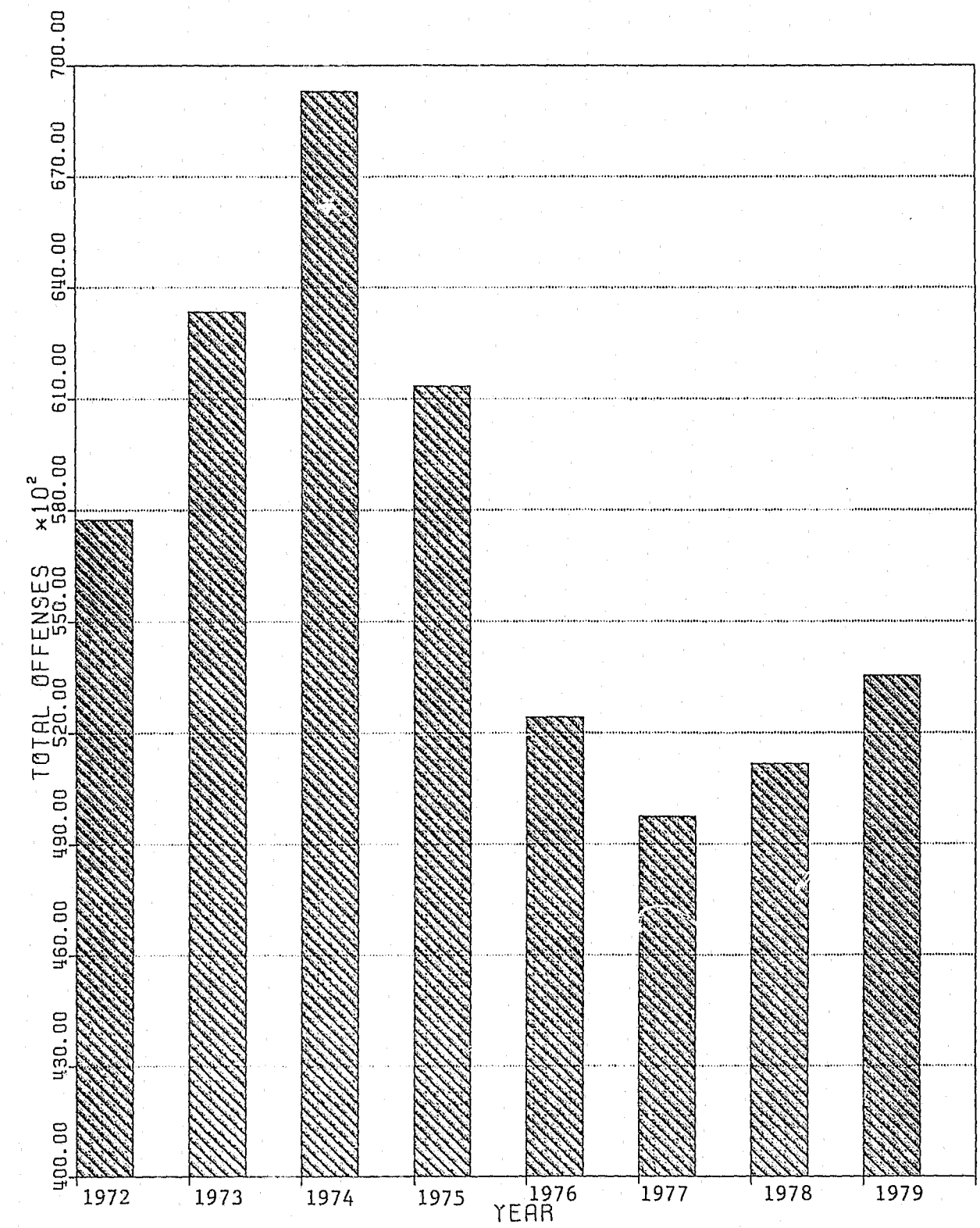
TABLE 2

Violent Crime in Illinois: 1972-1979

Violent Crime	# Offenses 1972	# Offenses 1979	% Change	Comments
Murder	968	1,199	+23.9	Increase to a high in 1974; decrease in 1975, with consistently even figures through 1979.
Forcible Rape	2,598	3,279	+26.2	Increase from 1972 to 1974; decline in 1975 and 1976; increase to record high in 1979.
Robbery	29,469	22,101	-25.0	Increase from 1972 to 1974; slight dip in 1975; large decline in 1976; fairly consistent but gradually decline in totals from 1976 to 1979.
Aggravated Assault	24,701	26,953	+ 9.1	Sharp increase 1972 to 1974; decrease in 1975, 1976, 1977; slight increase in 1978 and 1979.
Totals	57,736	53,531	- 7.3	Increase from 1972 to 1974; Decrease to 1977; slight increase in 1978 and 1979, but remains below 1972 level.

Source: Illinois Department of Law Enforcement, Crime in Illinois: 1979.

Figure C
 ILLINOIS VIOLENT CRIME OFFENSES: 1972-79
 NOTE: VIOLENT CRIMES INCLUDE OFFENSES
 OF MURDER, FORCIBLE RAPE, ROBBERY,
 AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.



ILEC/CJIS--STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER GRAPH

FIGURE D
ILLINOIS VIOLENT CRIME RATE: 1972-1979

NOTE: VIOLENT CRIMES CONSIST OF
MURDER, FORCIBLE RAPE, ROBBERY, AND
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.

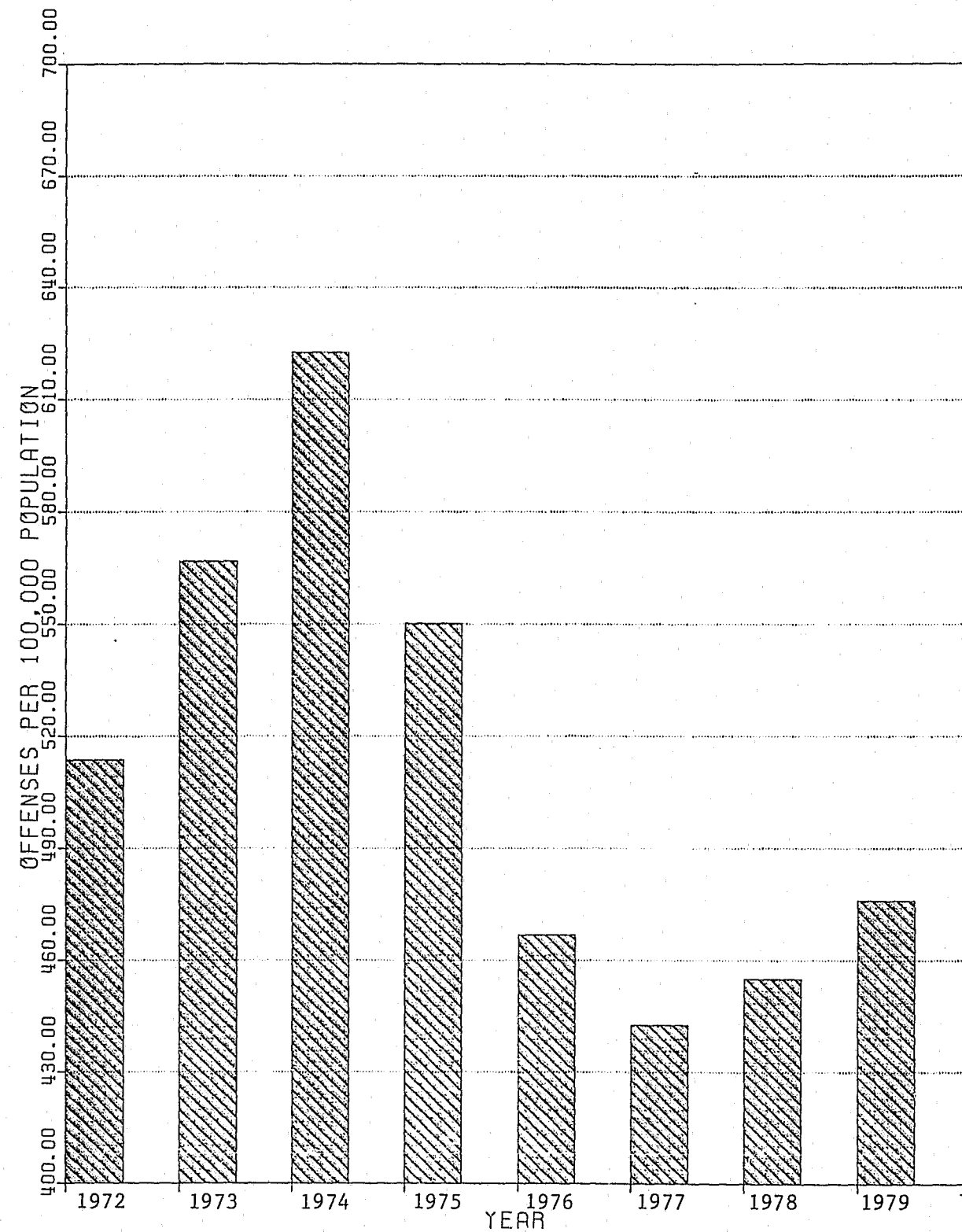


FIGURE E

U.S. AND ILLINOIS VIOLENT CRIME RATES: 1972-1979

UNITED STATES VIOLENT CRIME RATE = □
ILLINOIS VIOLENT CRIME RATE = ○

NOTE: CRIME RATE EQUALS TOTAL
OFFENSES PER 100,000 POPULATION.

NOTE: VIOLENT CRIME CONSISTS OF
MURDER, FORCIBLE RAPE, ROBBERY,
AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.

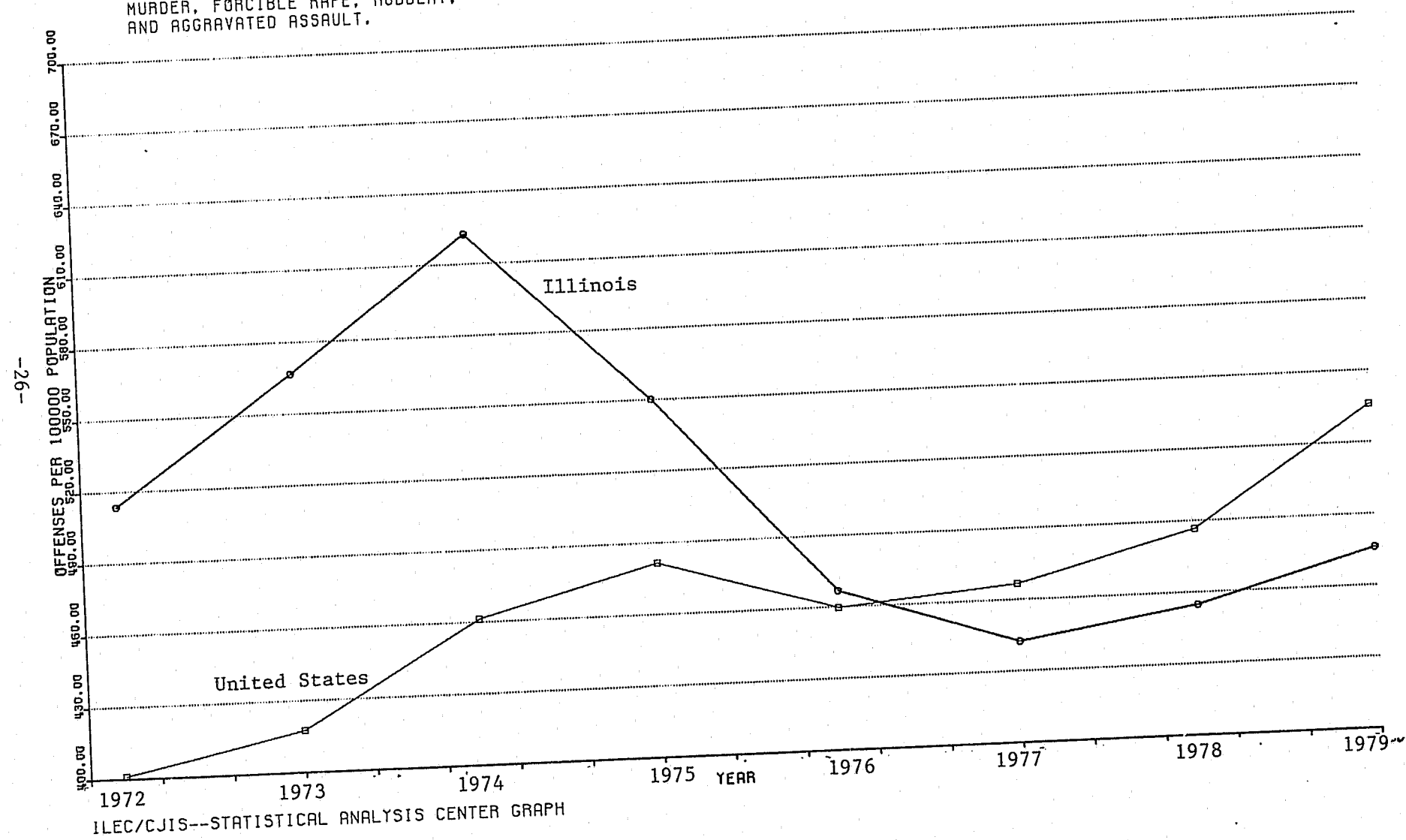
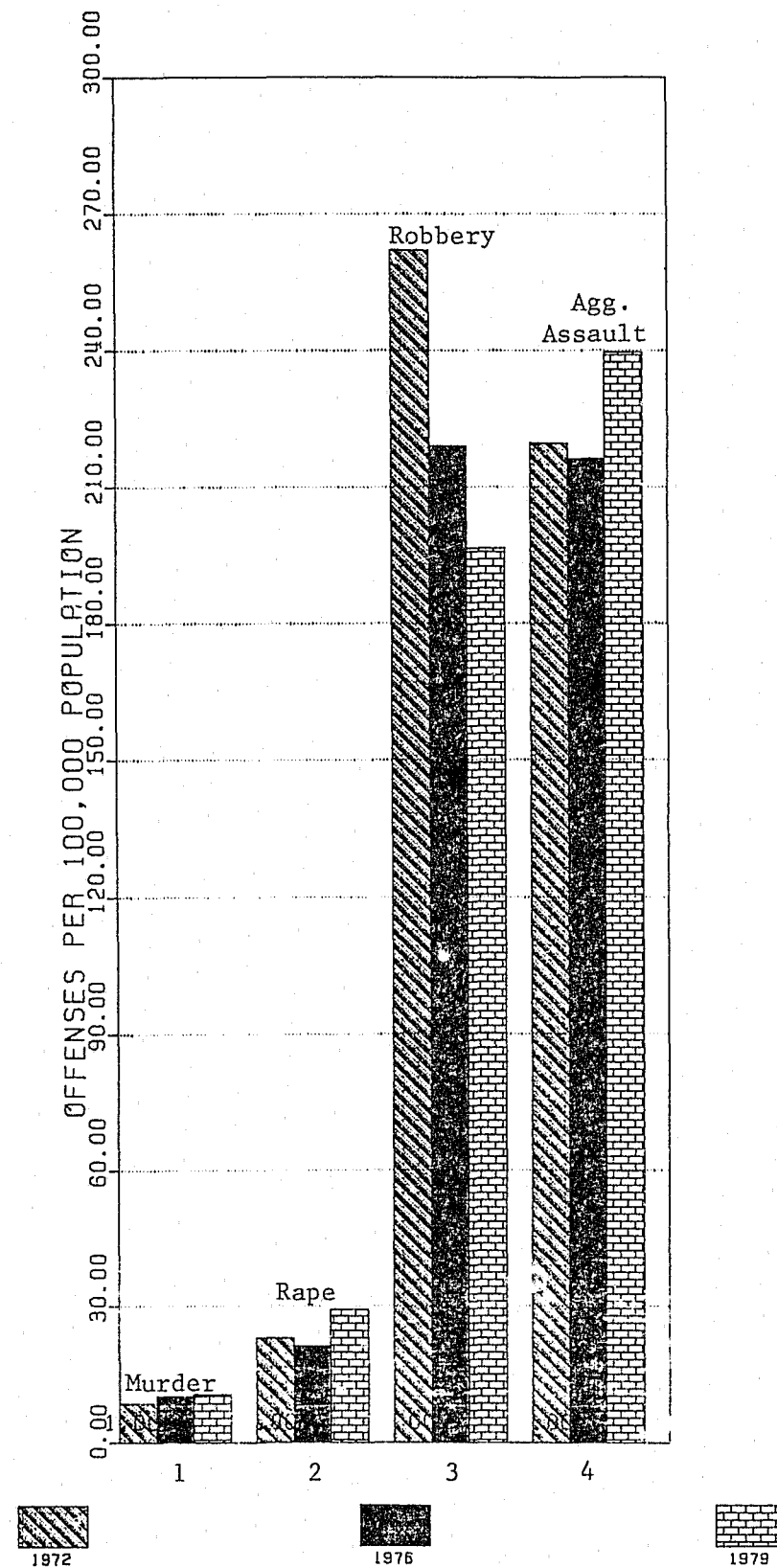


FIGURE E

FIGURE F
COMPARISON OF ILLINOIS VIOLENT CRIME RATES

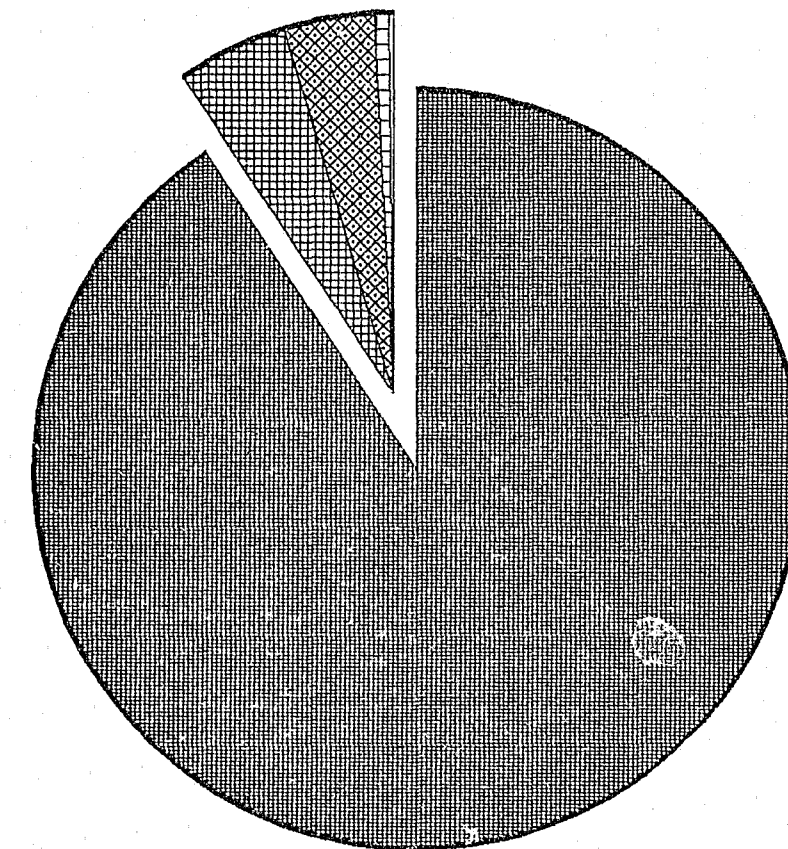
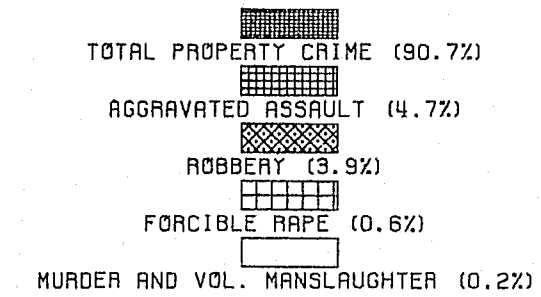
NOTE: CRIME RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION
ARE CALCULATED SEPARATELY FOR THE FOLLOW-
ING VIOLENT CRIMES:
1-MURDER
2-FORCIBLE RAPE
3-ROBBERY
4-AGGRAVATED ASSAULT



ILEC/CJIS--STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER GRAPH

FIGURE G
INDEX CRIME IN ILLINOIS: 1979

NOTE: PROPERTY CRIMES CONSIST OF
BURGLARY, THEFT, AND MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT.



ILEC/CJIS--STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER GRAPH

FIGURE H
ILLINOIS VIOLENT CRIME RATE: 1972 VS. 1979

NOTE: 1=MURDER AND VOL. MANSLAUGHTER
2=FORCIBLE RAPE
3=ROBBERY
4=AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
5=SIMPLE ASSAULT
6=SIMPLE BATTERY

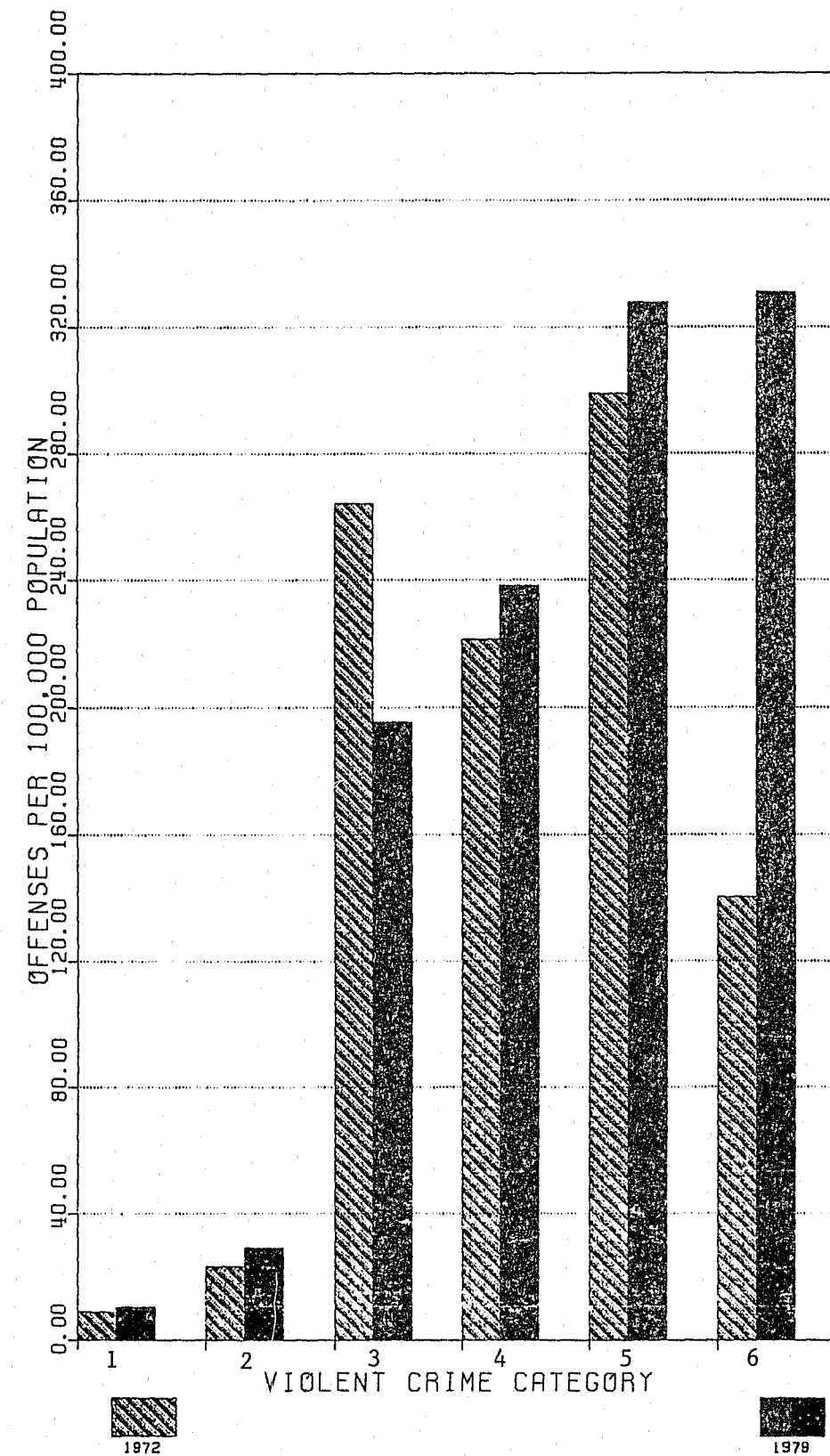


TABLE 3

Illinois Murder Offenses and
Rates by Geographic Area

CHICAGO

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	711	21.3
1976	814	26.5
1979	857	28.9

SUBURBAN COUNTIES-
Cook (minus Chicago), Kane,
Lake, DuPage, Will

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	94	2.7
1976	120	3.1
1979	137	3.5

OTHER ILLINOIS COUNTIES

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	163	3.8
1976	220	5.1
1979	205	4.7

*Rate is per 100,000 population.

TABLE 4

Illinois Forcible Rape Offenses and
Rates by Geographic Area

CHICAGO

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	1,529	45.9
1976	1,179	38.4
1979	1,655	55.7

SUBURBAN COUNTIES-
Cook (minus Chicago), Kane,
Lake, DuPage, Will

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	463	13.1
1976	502	13.1
1979	724	18.3

OTHER ILLINOIS COUNTIES

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	606	14.2
1976	1,202	27.8
1979	900	20.5

*Rate is per 100,000 population.

TABLE 5

Illinois Robbery Offenses and

Rates by Geographic Area

CHICAGO

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	23,531	705.7
1976	17,577	571.8
1979	14,464	487.1

SUBURBAN COUNTIES-
Cook (minus Chicago), Kane,
Lake, DuPage, Will

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	2,797	78.8
1976	3,460	90.6
1979	3,948	99.7

OTHER ILLINOIS COUNTIES

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	3,141	73.5
1976	3,564	82.4
1979	3,689	84.2

*Rate is per 100,000 population.

TABLE 6

Illinois Aggravated Assault Offenses and

Rates by Geographic Area

CHICAGO

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	11,154	334.5
1976	11,070	360.1
1979	10,832	364.8

• SUBURBAN COUNTIES-
Cook (minus Chicago), Kane,
Lake, DuPage, Will

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	7,594	214.0
1976	5,995	157.0
1979	7,004	176.8

OTHER ILLINOIS COUNTIES

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	5,953	139.3
1976	7,223	166.9
1979	9,116	208.1

*Rate is per 100,000 population.

TABLE 7

Illinois Murder Offenses and Rates
by County Grouping

Cook County

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	775	14.2
1976	879	16.4
1979	938	17.7

Urban Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	151	4.4
1976	257	7.2
1979	193	5.2

Semi-Rural Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	14	3.1
1976	22	4.9
1979	18	4.0

Rural Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	30	1.6
1976	45	2.5
1979	48	2.6

*Rate is per 100,000 population.

TABLE 8

Illinois Forcible Rape Offenses and Rates
by County Grouping

Cook County

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	1,791	32.8
1976	1,445	27.0
1979	2,052	38.8

Urban Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	652	19.0
1976	771	21.6
1979	994	26.8

Semi-Rural Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	80	17.7
1976	106	23.7
1979	78	17.5

Rural Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	75	4.1
1976	85	4.7
1979	151	8.0

*Rate is per 100,000 population.

TABLE 9

Illinois Robbery Offenses and Rates
by County Grouping

Cook County

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	25,452	466.2
1976	19,734	368.6
1979	16,919	320.0

Urban Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	3,484	101.8
1976	4,207	117.8
1979	4,396	118.7

Semi-Rural Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	282	62.4
1976	406	90.8
1979	341	76.4

Rural Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	259	14.2
1976	364	20.0
1979	439	23.4

*Rate is per 100,000 population.

TABLE 10

Illinois Aggravated Assault Offenses and Rates
by County Grouping

Cook County

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	15,168	277.8
1976	13,941	260.4
1979	14,355	271.5

Urban Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	7,818	228.4
1976	8,163	228.6
1979	9,575	258.6

Semi-Rural Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	606	134.2
1976	955	213.5
1979	838	187.8

Rural Counties

Year	Total Offenses	Rate*
1972	1,113	61.1
1976	1,427	78.3
1979	2,089	111.3

*Rate is per 100,000 population.

FIGURE I

ILLINOIS COUNTY MURDER RATE CHANGES: 1972-1979

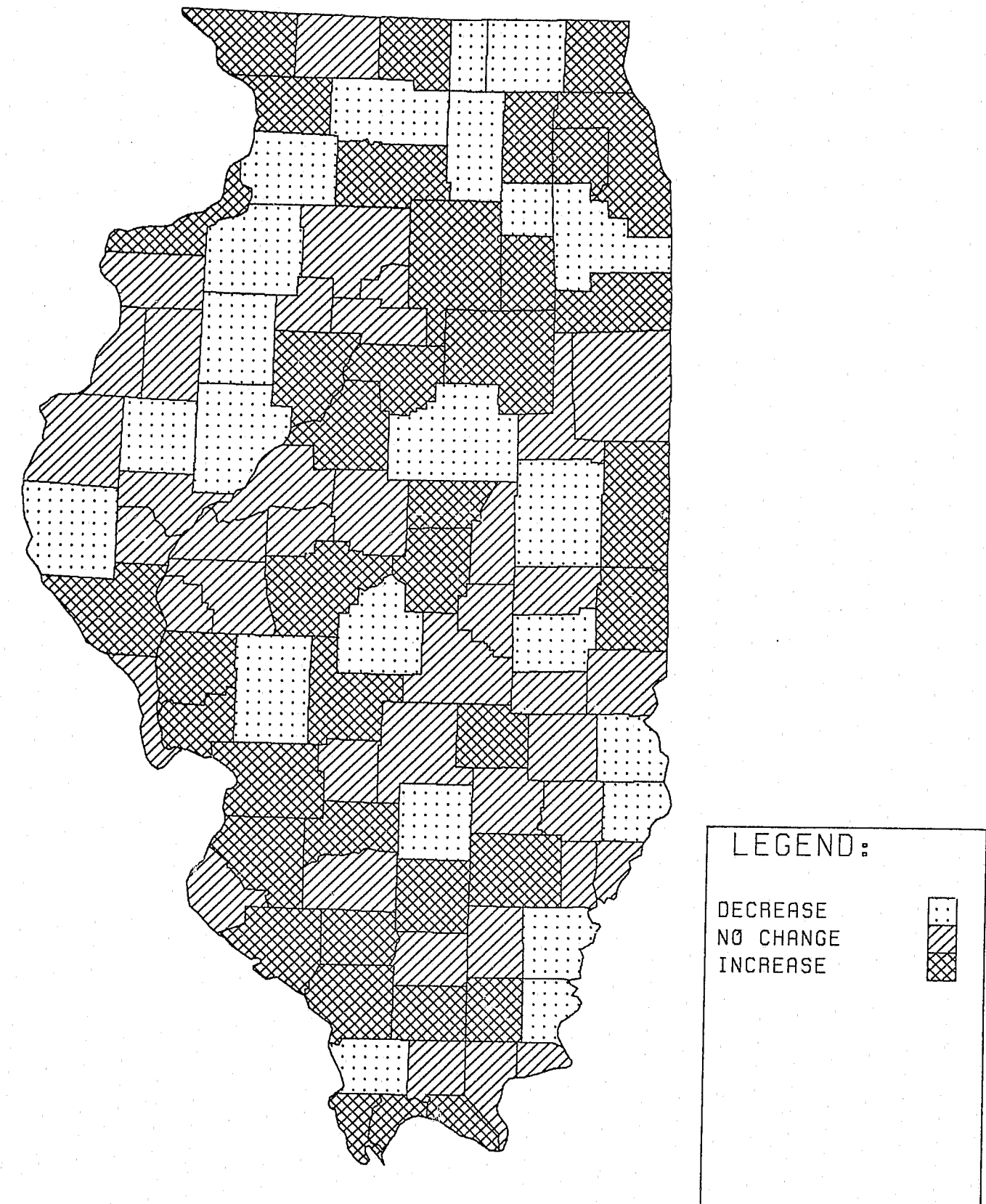
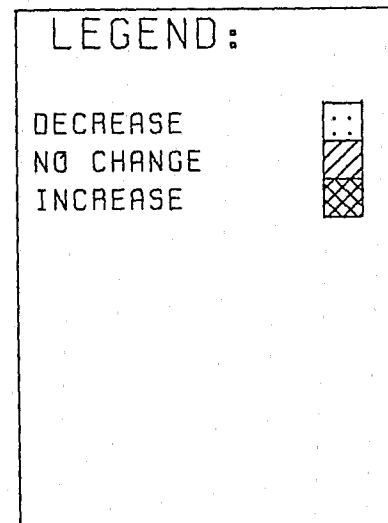
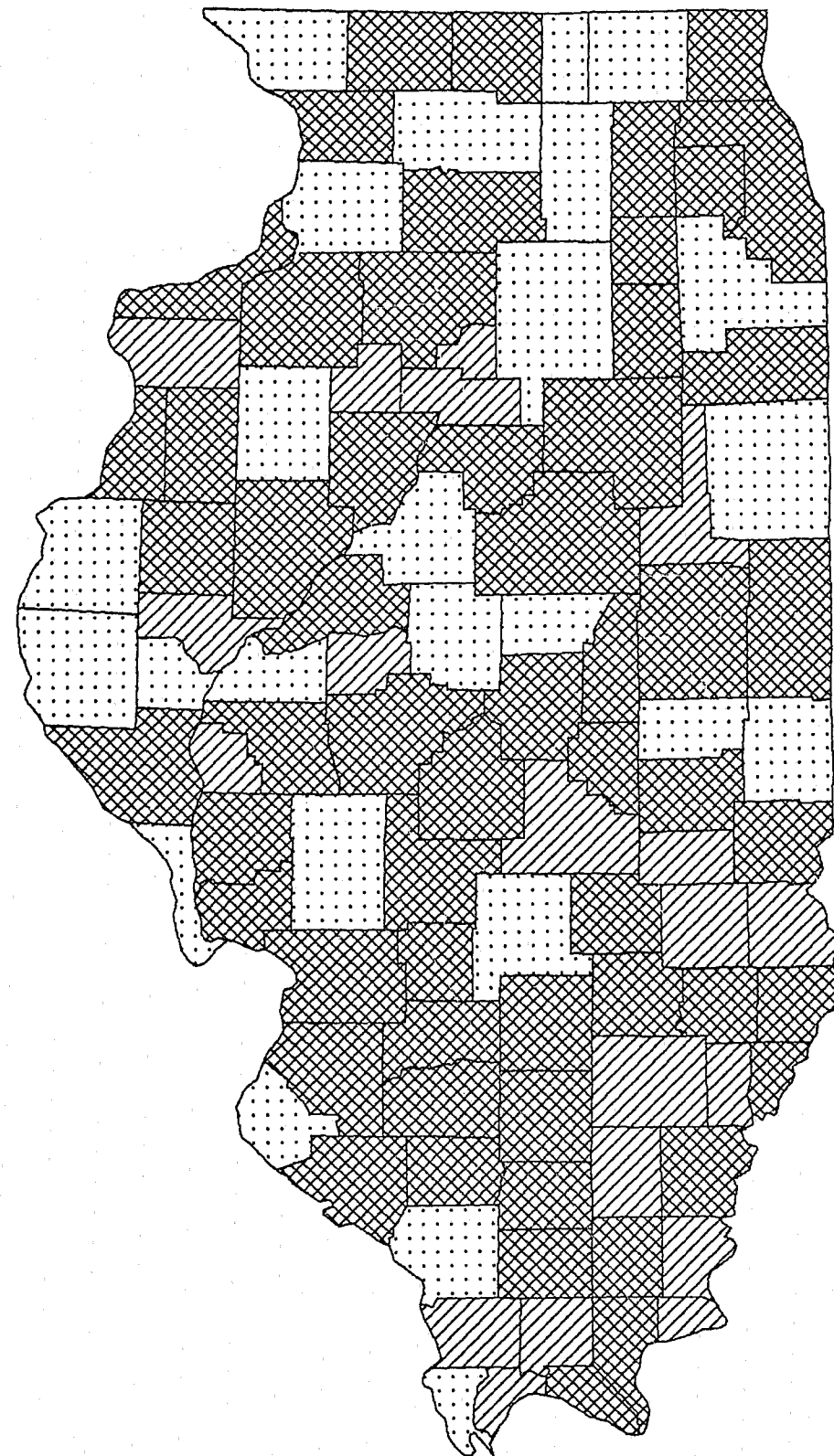
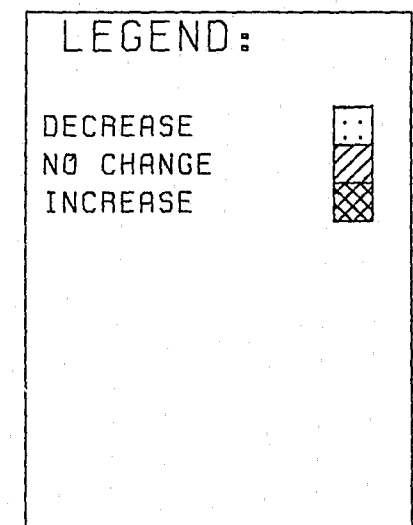
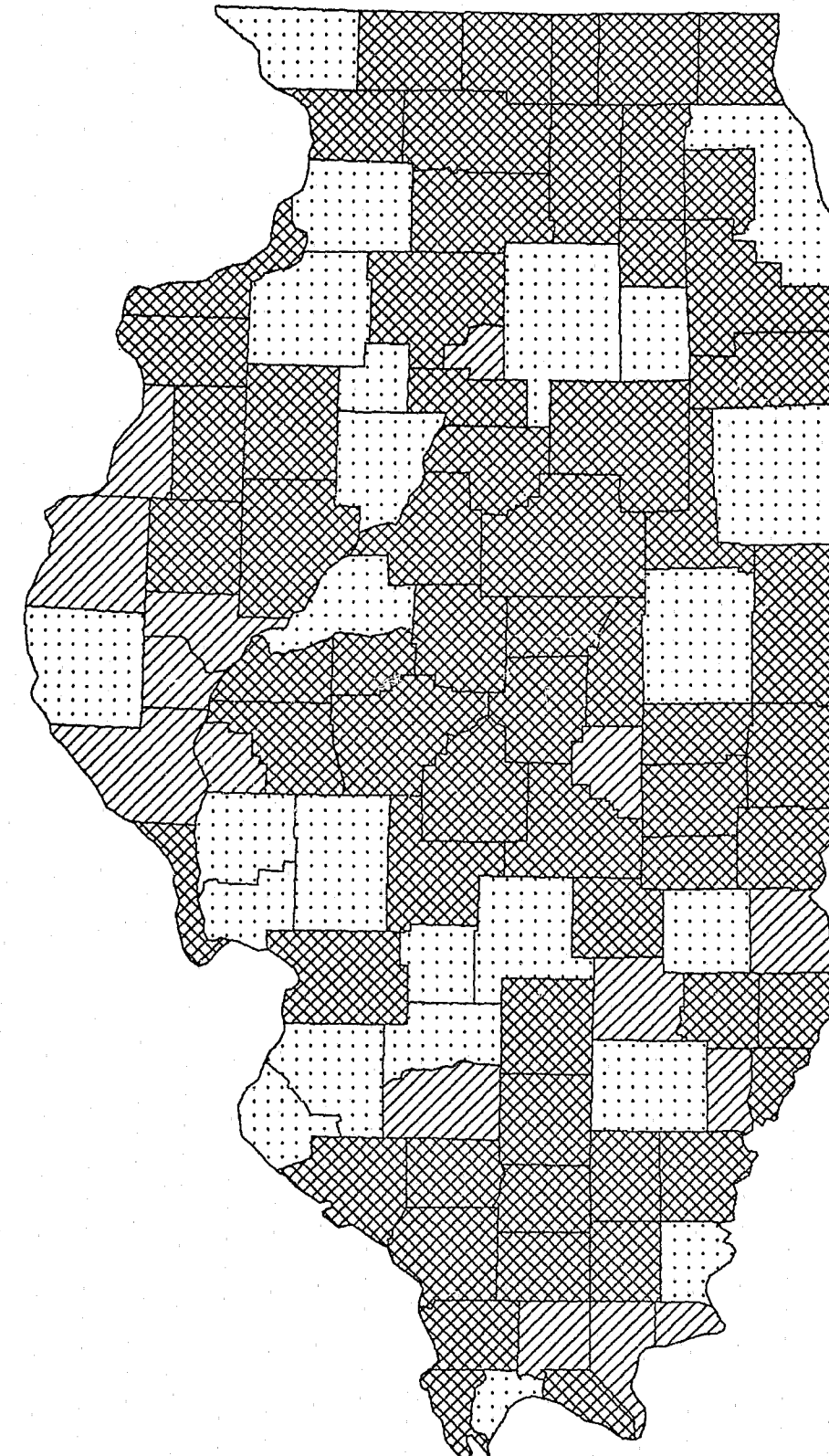


FIGURE J
ILLINOIS COUNTY RAPE RATE CHANGES: 1972-1979



ILEC/CJIS--STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER GRAPH

FIGURE K
ILLINOIS COUNTY ROBBERY RATE CHANGES: 1972-1979



ILEC/CJIS--STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER GRAPH

FIGURE L
ILLINOIS COUNTY ASSAULT RATE CHANGES: 1972-1979

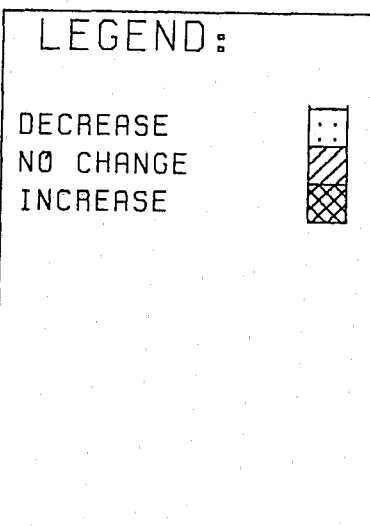
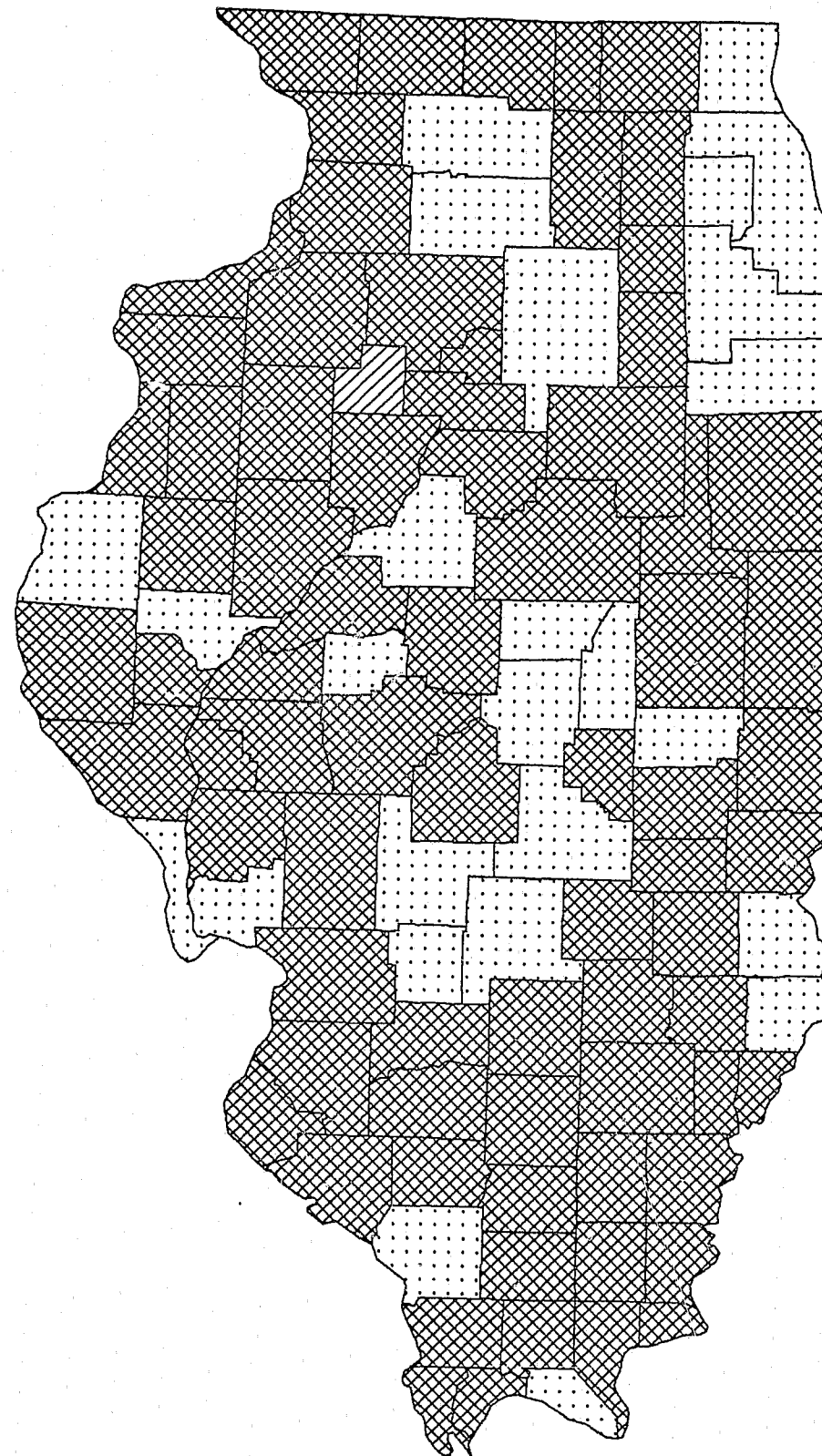
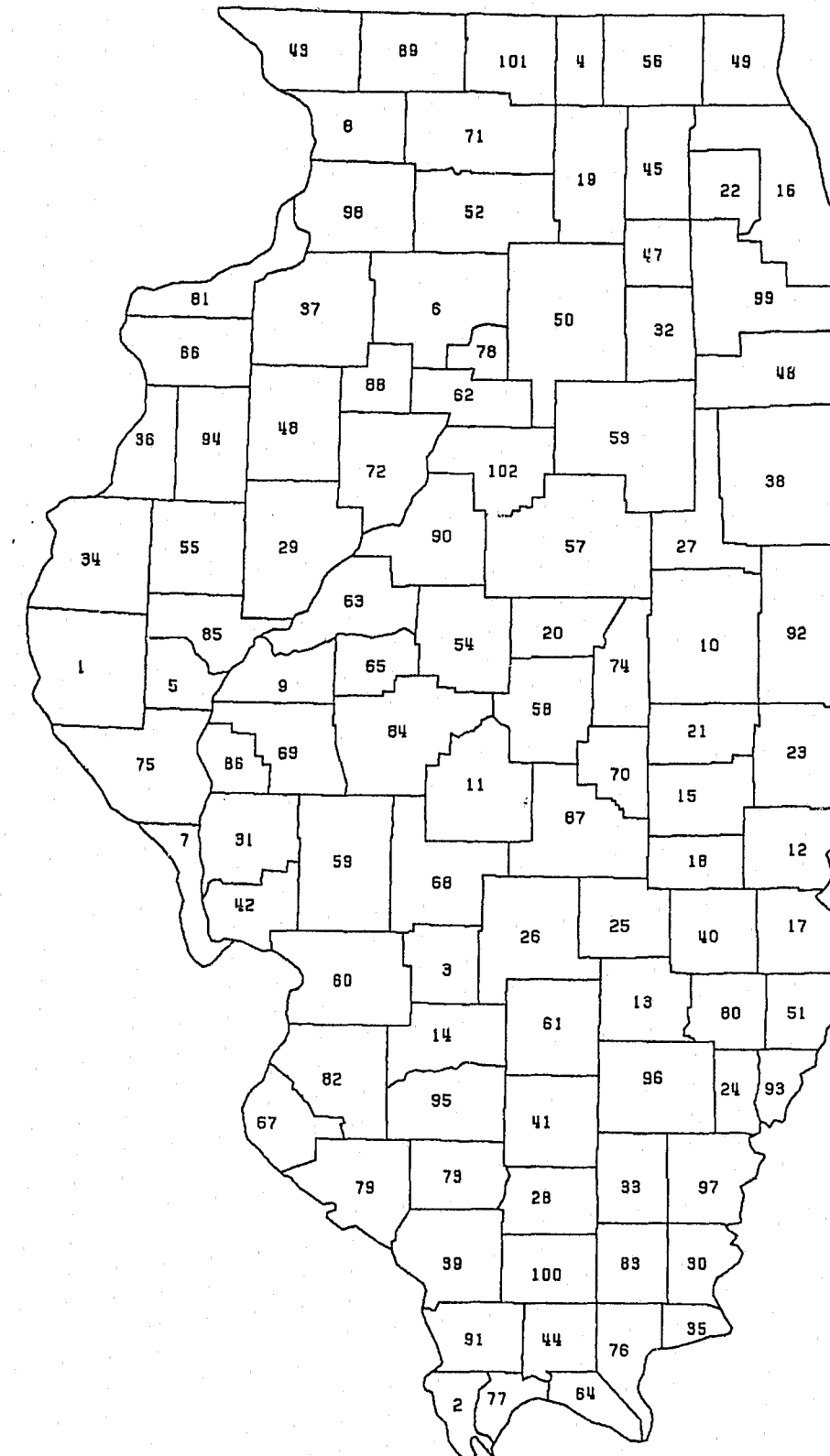


FIGURE M
ILLINOIS COUNTY REFERENCE MAP



- 1 - ADAMS
- 2 - ALEXANDER
- 3 - BOND
- 4 - BOONE
- 5 - BROWN
- 6 - BUREAU
- 7 - CALHOUN
- 8 - CARROLL
- 9 - CASS
- 10 - CHAMPAIGN
- 11 - CHRISTIAN
- 12 - CLARK
- 13 - CLAY
- 14 - CLINTON
- 15 - COLES
- 16 - COOK
- 17 - CRAWFORD
- 18 - CUMBERLAND
- 19 - DE KALB
- 20 - DEWITT
- 21 - DOUGLAS
- 22 - DUPAGE
- 23 - EDGAR
- 24 - EDWARDS
- 25 - EFFINGHAM
- 26 - FAYETTE
- 27 - FORD
- 28 - FRANKLIN
- 29 - FULTON
- 30 - GALLATIN
- 31 - GREENE
- 32 - GRANT
- 33 - HAMILTON
- 34 - HANCOCK
- 35 - HARDIN
- 36 - HENDERSON
- 37 - HENRY
- 38 - IROQUOIS
- 39 - JACKSON
- 40 - JASPER
- 41 - JEFFERSON
- 42 - JERSEY
- 43 - JO DAVIES
- 44 - JOHNSON
- 45 - KANE
- 46 - KANKAKEE
- 47 - KENDALL
- 48 - KNOX
- 49 - LAKE
- 50 - LA SALLE
- 51 - LAWRENCE
- 52 - LEE
- 53 - LIVINGSTON
- 54 - LOGAN
- 55 - MC DONOUGH
- 56 - MC HENRY
- 57 - MC LEAN
- 58 - MACON
- 59 - MACOUPIN
- 60 - MADISON
- 61 - MARION
- 62 - MARSHALL
- 63 - MASON
- 64 - MASSAC
- 65 - MENARD
- 66 - MERCER
- 67 - MONROE
- 68 - MONTGOMERY
- 69 - MORGAN
- 70 - MOUTRIE
- 71 - OGLE
- 72 - PEORIA
- 73 - PERRY
- 74 - PIATT
- 75 - PIKE
- 76 - POPE
- 77 - PULASKI
- 78 - PUTNAM
- 79 - RANDOLPH
- 80 - RICHLAND
- 81 - ROCK ISLAND
- 82 - SAINT CLAIR
- 83 - SALINE
- 84 - SANGAMON
- 85 - SCHUYLER
- 86 - SCOTT
- 87 - SHELBY
- 88 - STARK
- 89 - STEPHENSON
- 90 - TAZEWELL
- 91 - UNION
- 92 - VERMILION
- 93 - WARREN
- 94 - WARREN
- 95 - WASHINGTON
- 96 - WAYNE
- 97 - WHITE
- 98 - WHITESIDE
- 99 - WILL
- 100 - WILLIAMSON
- 101 - WINNEBAGO
- 102 - WOODFORD

FIGURE N

ILLINOIS VIOLENT CRIME OFFENSES VS. ARRESTS: 1972-79

NOTE: VIOLENT CRIMES INCLUDE OFFENSES
OF MURDER, FORCIBLE RAPE, ROBBERY,
AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.

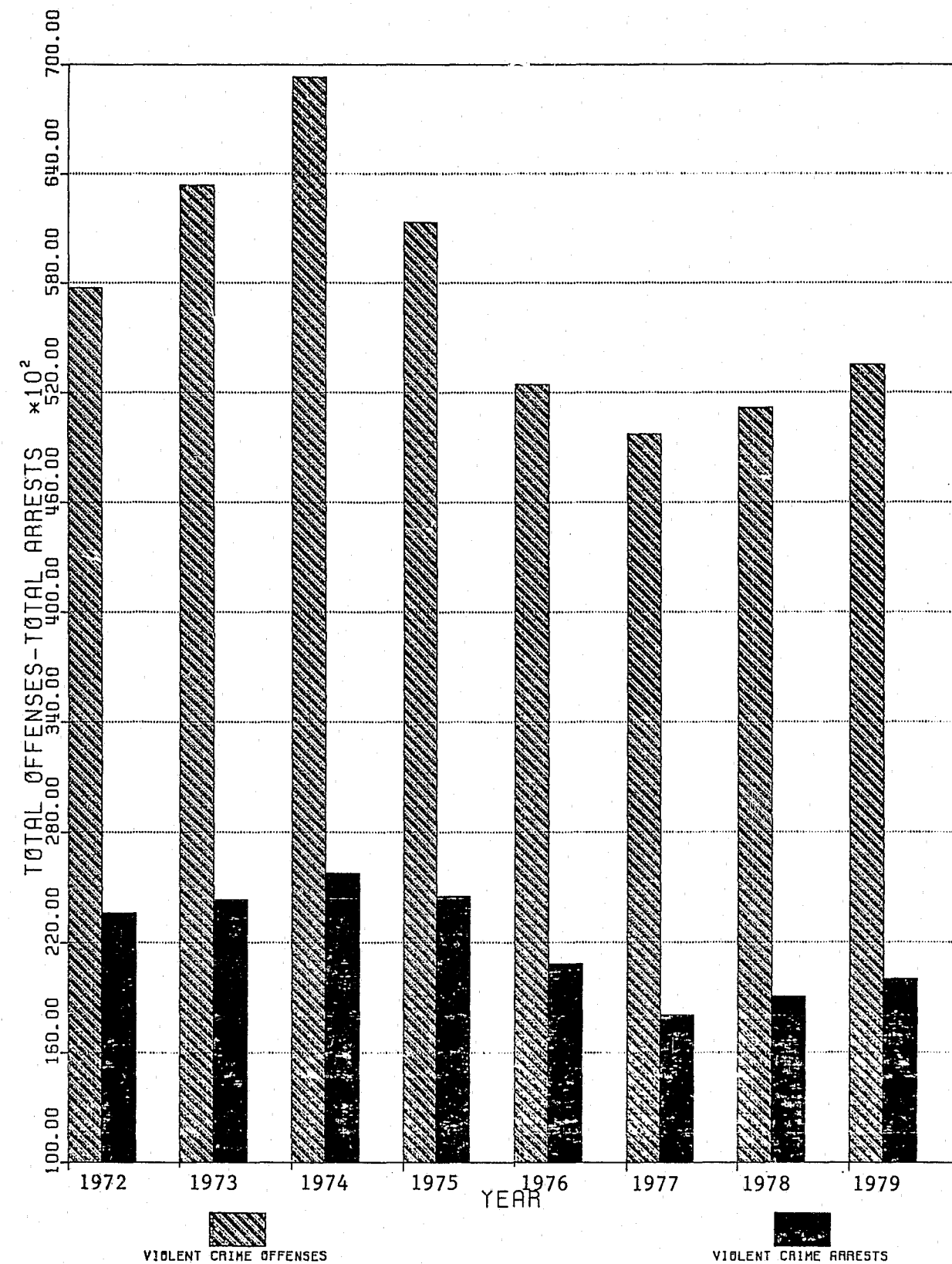


TABLE 11

Illinois Violent Crime Arrests: 1972-1979

	Total Violent Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Assault
1972	23,780	1,193	1,481	9,927	11,179
1973	23,839	1,240	1,126	9,663	11,810
1974	25,766	1,460	1,227	11,132	11,947
1975	24,304	1,505	1,244	11,119	10,436
1976	20,822	1,467	1,273	9,799	8,283
1977	18,042	1,253	1,124	8,953	6,712
1978	19,044	1,257	1,177	8,856	7,754
1979	20,003	1,285	1,395	8,667	8,656

Source: Derived from Illinois Department of Law Enforcement, Crime in Illinois: 1972-1979.

FIGURE Q

VIOLENT CRIME OFFENSES VS. OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST

NOTE: VIOLENT CRIMES INCLUDE OFFENSES OF MURDER, FORCIBLE RAPE, ROBBERY, AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT (TOTAL ILLINOIS)

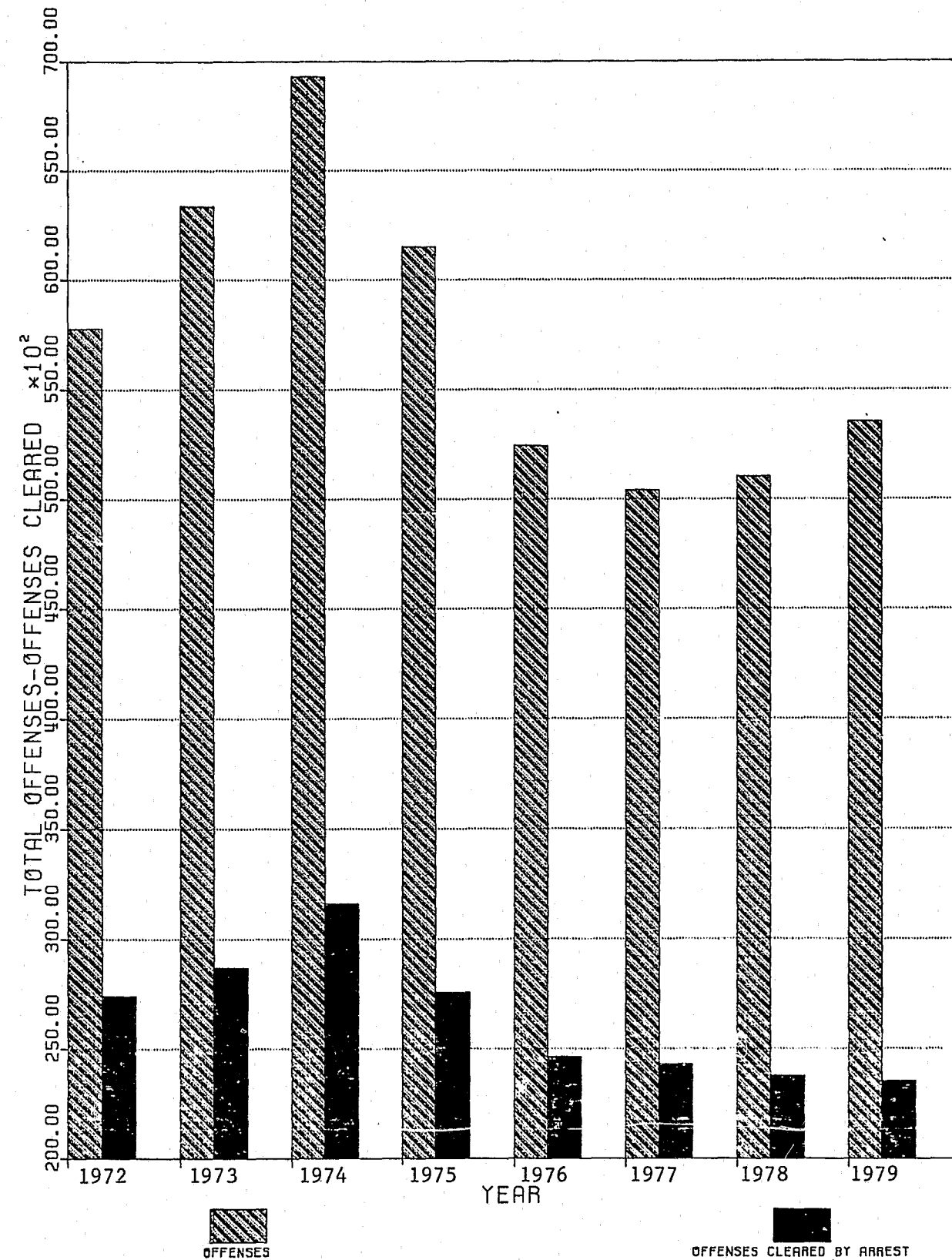


TABLE 12

Percentage of Illinois Violent Crime Offenses Cleared by Arrest: 1972-1979

	Total Violent Crime	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault
1972	47.5	84.6	48.8	38.4	56.6
1973	45.3	66.1	39.1	38.2	52.8
1974	45.6	75.7	44.0	37.8	53.4
1975	44.8	80.0	44.3	33.7	56.3
1976	47.0	78.9	47.5	37.2	55.3
1977	48.2	76.3	45.0	37.4	53.4
1978	46.6	78.8	48.5	37.2	53.7
1979	44.0	76.7	41.7	36.5	48.9

Source: Illinois Uniform Crime Reports

TABLE 13

Illinois Violent Crime Arrests
by Sex, Age and Race of Offender-1979

	Total Violent Crime	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault
Sex:					
% Males	91.9	88.5	99.5	93.9	89.2
% Females	8.1	11.5	0.5	6.1	10.8
Age:					
% Adult	78.4	88.3	86.9	67.0	86.9
% Juvenile	21.6	11.7	13.1	33.0	13.1
Race:					
% White	37.5	19.1	27.1	19.8	59.6
% Black	54.8	65.4	66.1	71.0	35.2
% Mexican	1.3	0.5	1.0	1.0	2.2
% Other	6.4	15.0	5.8	8.2	3.0
Total N:	20,003	1,285	1,395	8,667	8,656

Source: Derived from Illinois Department of Law Enforcement, Crime in Illinois 1979, pp 8,13-20.

TABLE 14

Characteristics of Illinois
Murder Victims: 1976-1979

Characteristics of Homicide Victims	1976	1977	1978	1979
Age				
% less than 18	10.7	12.2	13.6	8.9
% 18-20	8.4	10.6	10.0	11.6
% 21-25	19.3	17.8	18.1	20.0
% 26-30	15.2	17.1	15.1	16.2
% 31-40	17.1	17.9	16.8	18.1
% 41-50	10.5	10.2	11.7	9.9
% 51-60	9.0	7.8	8.2	7.2
% over 60	9.8	6.4	6.5	8.1
Sex				
% Male	73.3	77.0	79.5	80.0
% Female	26.7	23.0	20.5	20.0
Race				
% White	39.0	40.2	41.5	42.7
% Black	59.1	58.5	56.6	55.3
% Other	1.9	1.3	1.9	2.0
Total N:	1151	1119	1151	1197

Source: SAC Edition of IUCR Data, Victim Level Supplementary Homicide Data File.

TABLE 15

Comparison of Illinois Murder Victims and
Offenders by Age - 1979

Age of Victim	<u>Age of Offender</u>			Total
	Age 1 to 25	Age 26 to 30	Age 31 and above	
Age 1 to 25	322	40	123	485
Age 25 to 30	102	35	57	194
Age 31 and above	266	49	203	518
Total:	690	124	383	1,197

Source: SAC Edition of IUCR Data, Victim Level Supplementary Homicide Data

TABLE 16

Comparison of Illinois Murder Victims
and Offenders by Race - 1979

Race of Victim	<u>Race of Offender</u>				Total
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	
White	276	56	5	2	339
Black	13	496	0	0	509
Hispanic	0	0	13	0	13
Other	2	2	0	2	6
Total:	291	554	18	4	867

Source: SAC Edition of IUCR Data, Victim Level Supplementary Homicide Data

TABLE 17

Illinois Murders by Relationship of
Victim and Offender: 1976-1979

Relationship	1976	1977	1978	1979
% Within Family	19.9	22.8	21.5	16.4
% Outside Family/Known to Victim	61.0	57.1	46.3	55.5
% Stranger	17.7	19.4	21.2	26.8
% Multiple Offenders	1.4	.6	1.0	1.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total N:	844	797	879	877

Source: SAC Edition of IUCR Data, Victim Level Supplementary Homicide Data File.

TABLE 18

Illinois Murders by Type of Weapon:
1976-1979

Weapon Type	1976	1977	1978	1979
% Handgun	50.5	49.8	54.4	55.2
% Rifle	2.1	2.4	1.8	3.0
% Shot gun	5.6	5.8	5.0	4.2
% Gun - Type Unknown	4.0	4.9	1.0	2.0
% Knife	17.6	22.3	20.4	20.4
% Club	6.3	5.0	5.5	5.3
% Hands or Blunt Object	5.0	3.3	3.8	3.8
% Other Weapon	8.9	6.5	8.1	6.1
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total N:	1151	1119	1151	1197

Source: SAC Edition of IUCR Data, Victim Level Supplementary Homicide Data File.

TABLE 19

Commitment Offense for Illinois
Correctional Facility Inmates

	# of Inmates	% of Total
Violent Crimes:		
Murder	378	18.8
Forcible Rape	186	9.2
Robbery	656	32.6
Aggravated Assault	81	4.0
Other Crimes:	714	35.4
	2,015	100.0

Source: Sample of inmate master records used for Criminal Justice Information Systems, Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, "Inmate Profile Analysis", November 1979.

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- () DATA SOURCES ON THE INCIDENCE OF ARSON IN ILLINOIS, by Chip Coldren (November, 1977; revised March, 1981)
- () CRIME RATES WORKBOOK, by Ruth A. Perrin (December, 1977)
- () DATA ON EXTORTION IN ILLINOIS, by Ruth A. Perrin and James R. Coldren Jr. (April, 1978)
- () REPORT ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVEY, by L. Edward Day (September, 1978)
- () A METHODOLOGICAL REVIEW OF "THE IMPACT OF MANPOWER SERVICES ON ILLINOIS OFFENDERS," by George W. Knox, by Carolyn R. Block (October, 1978)
- () A GUIDE TO THE SOURCES OF DATA ON CRIMINAL CASES PROCESSED IN THE COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, by Karen P. Smith and James Zuehl (December, 1978; revised June, 1979)
- () ILLINOIS UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS USER'S GUIDE AND CODEBOOKS, by Linda Kok (February, 1979)
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