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Arrests of Juveniles In Wisconsin, 1980-1989

With Correctional Institution Admissions

INTRODUCTION

This publication summarizes data on juvenile arrests in Wisconsin over the past ten years, and also includes data on admissions to correctional institutions.

During the past ten years there has been an average of 87,659 juvenile arrests each year in Wisconsin. In 1989, juvenile arrests accounted for over 26 percent of all arrests made in the state.

The information presented in this publication has been obtained from Crime and Arrests in Wisconsin, published annually by the Wisconsin Office of Justice

Assistance, and from Admissions to Juvenile Institutions, published by the Wisconsin Division of Corrections (now the Department of Corrections).

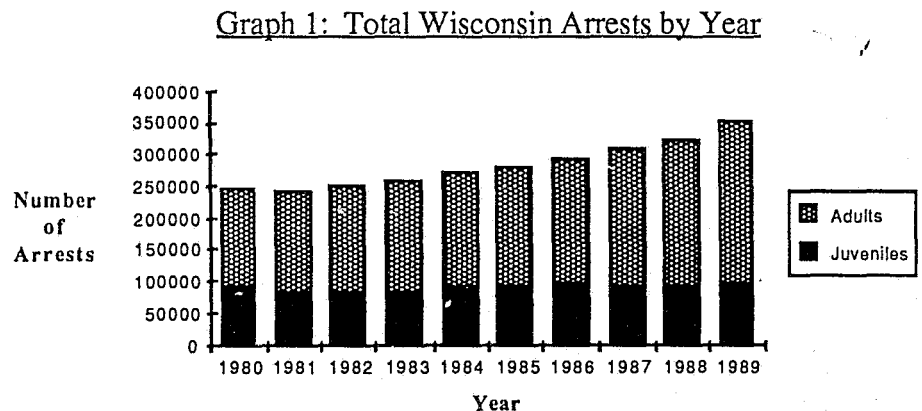
This flyer consists of six major sections. In addition, two tables are also presented for reference purposes. One contains juvenile arrest data for Milwaukee County and the other for the entire state.

It should be noted that the arrest figures presented are estimates based on approximately 98 percent of the actual number of reported arrests.

GENERAL ARREST TRENDS

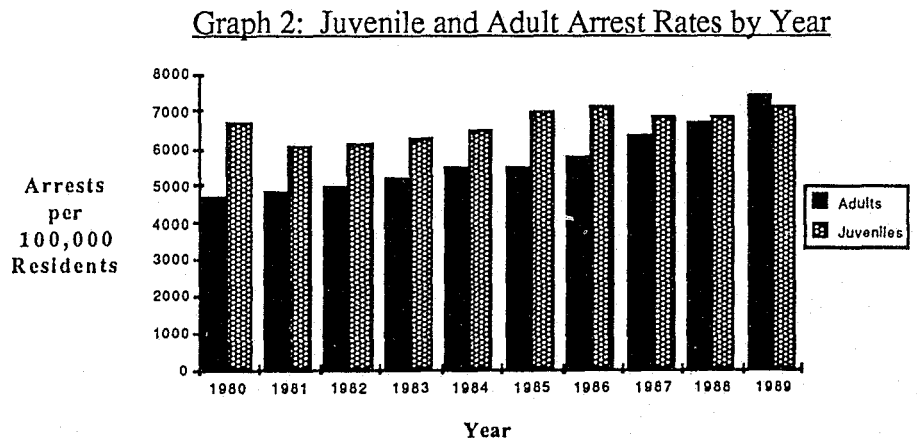
Total Arrests

Graph 1 shows the total number of juveniles arrested in Wisconsin over the past ten years. Adult arrests are included for purposes of comparison. While the number of adult arrests has steadily risen during the last ten years, the number of juvenile arrests has remained relatively stable. The total number of juvenile arrests increased less than six percent from 88,175 in 1980 to 93,516 in 1989. In contrast, adult arrests rose 66 percent from 157,726 in 1980 to 261,655 in 1989.



Arrest Rates

Graph 2 shows the arrest rates for both juveniles and adults in Wisconsin during the ten year period. The arrest rate is the number of arrests per 100,000 residents. Arrest rates are used to control the effect of varying populations from year to year, permitting the examination of arrests on equal population bases. The juvenile arrest rate increased steadily from 1981 through 1986, decreased in 1987, and increased through 1989. The adult arrest rate, however, continually increased through 1989, surpassing the juvenile arrest rate in 1989.



Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance
Jerome D. Lacke, Executive Director

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

INDEX CRIME ARREST TRENDS

Index Offense Arrests

Graph 3 shows the number of arrests for Index Offenses. Again, adults are shown for comparison. Index Offenses are considered to be an "index" of crime, that is, representative of the overall crime picture. Index Offenses are divided into two categories, violent Index Offenses and property Index Offenses. Violent Index Offenses are murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Property Index Offenses are theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft and arson.

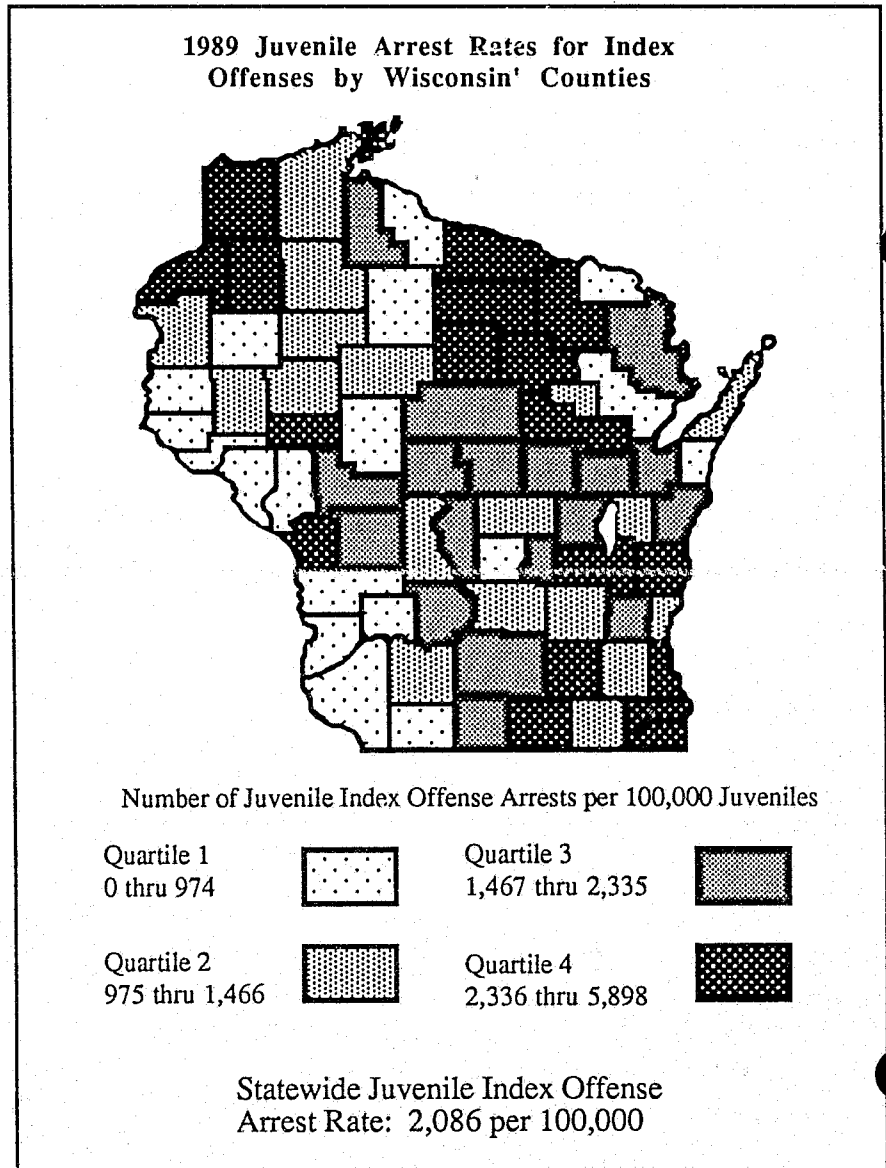
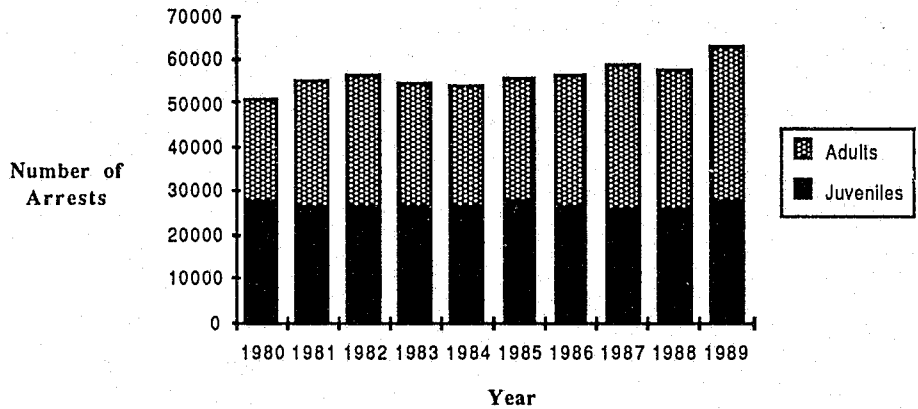
While juvenile arrests for Index Offenses remained relatively stable, adult arrests increased during the ten year period. Specifically, juvenile Index Offense arrests increased by about one percent from 27,052 in 1980 to 27,432 in 1989, while adult Index Offense arrests increased by 46 percent from 24,232 in 1980 to 35,334 in 1989.

Tables one and two in this flyer consist of two reference tables containing data on the number of juvenile arrests and arrest rates in Wisconsin and Milwaukee County respectively. Milwaukee County data are presented separately due to the high population density in the county and also because arrest rates in Milwaukee County differ considerably from the rest of the state. Note, however, that Milwaukee County data are also included in the table of statewide data.

Geographic Distribution of Index Offense Arrest Rates

The map of Wisconsin at right categorizes counties according to their 1989 juvenile arrest rates for Index Offenses. In general, the highest arrest rates were found in urban counties, although some rural counties had fairly high rates. This characteristic of arrest rates, that is, rates rising with increasing populations, is similar to that of many other reported offenses, for example, aggravated assault and robbery.

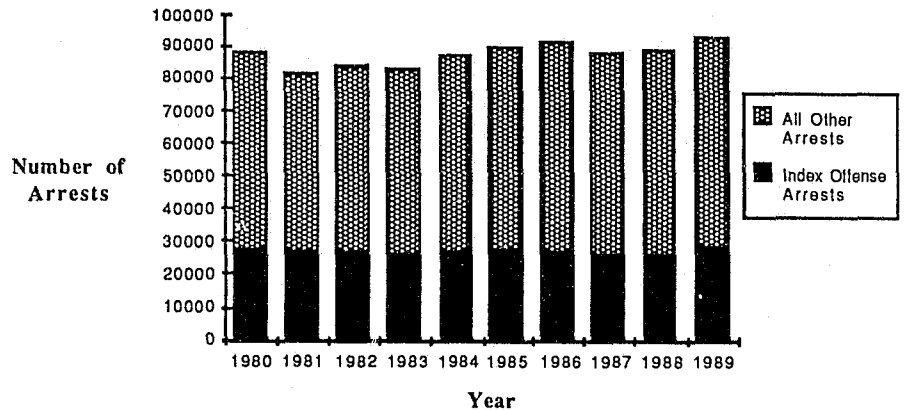
Graph 3: Wisconsin Arrests for Index Offenses



Index Crime Arrests Versus All Other Arrests

Graph 4 shows the total number of juvenile arrests in Wisconsin for Index Offenses and for all other offenses during the past ten years. In 1989, Index Offense arrests accounted for approximately 29 percent of all juvenile arrests. Remaining relatively stable, the total number of juvenile arrests for Index Offenses increased about one percent, as previously indicated. However, juvenile arrests for all other offenses increased over eight percent during the same period.

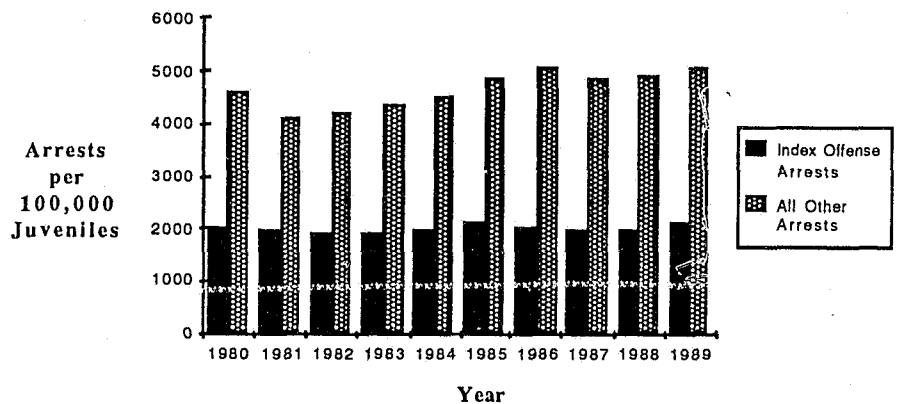
Graph 4: Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests by Offense Type



Index Crime Arrest Rates Versus All Other Arrest Rates

Graph 5 shows the juvenile arrest rates in Wisconsin for Index Offenses and for all other offenses during the past ten years. Graphs 6 and 7 were created to illustrate how Milwaukee County differs from the rest of the state.

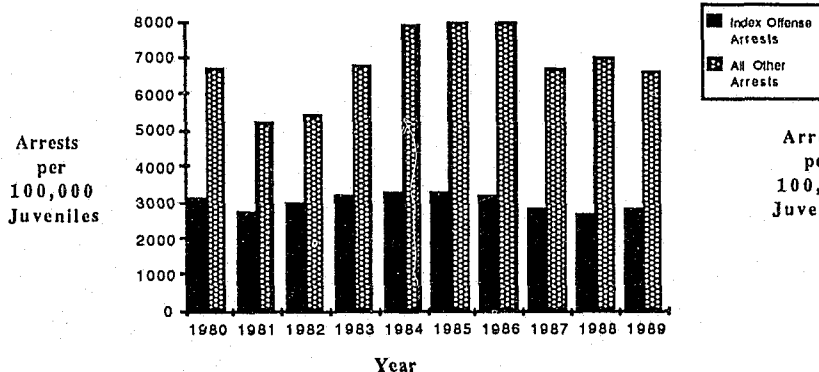
Graph 5: Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense Type Wisconsin



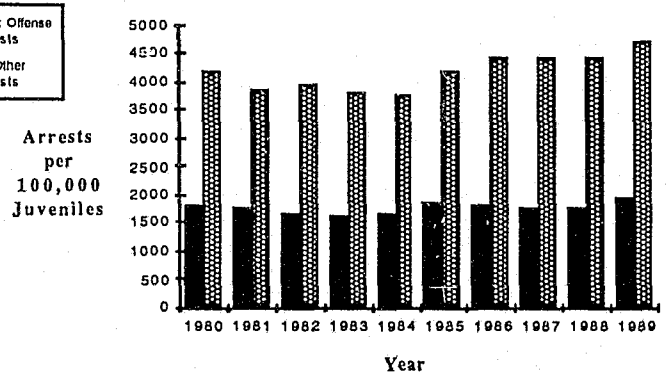
For the entire state, juvenile arrest rates for Index Offenses have increased about two percent from 2,042 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1980 to 2,087 in 1989. The arrest rate for all other offenses increased about nine percent during the same period, from 4,615 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1980 to 5,031 in 1989.

The arrest rates in Milwaukee County, while considerably higher than the arrest rates for the state as a whole, (note different scale values on graphs) showed a different pattern during the ten year period. Index Offense arrest rates in Milwaukee County decreased almost nine percent from 3,112 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1980 to 2,847 in 1989. In addition, arrest rates for all other offenses decreased about one percent from 6,660 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1980 to 6,604 in 1989. For the balance of the state, arrests for Index Offenses and all other offenses increased during the ten year period.

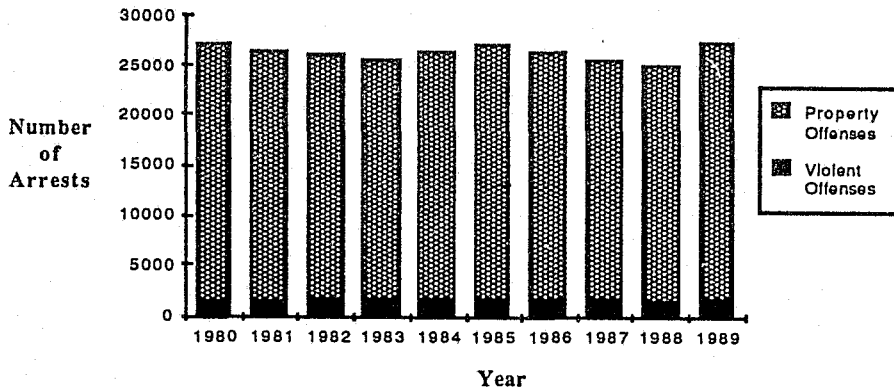
Graph 6: Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense Type Milwaukee County



Graph 7: Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense Type Balance of the State



Graph 8: Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests by Offense Type



Violent and Property Arrests

Graph 8 shows the number of juvenile arrests in the state for violent Index Offenses (murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and for property Index Offenses (burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson). While the number of juvenile arrests for violent offenses increased 20 percent from 1,177 in 1980 to 1,432 in 1989, the number of arrests for property offenses increased only one percent from 25,855 in 1980 to 25,991 in 1989.

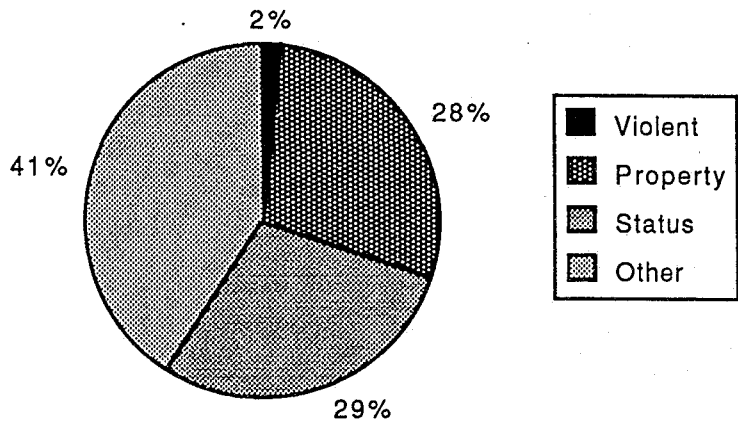
DISTRIBUTION OF ARRESTS

Distribution of 1989 Arrests

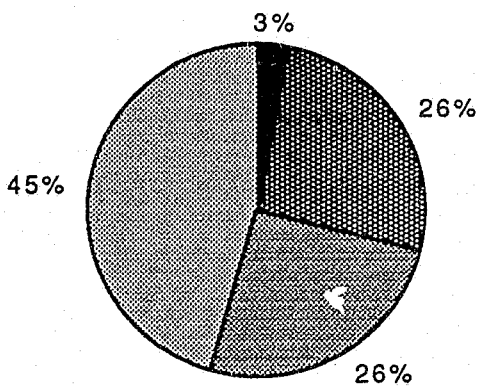
Graph 9 shows the distribution of arrests for Wisconsin juveniles in 1989 for four types of offenses: Violent Index Offenses; Property Index Offenses; status; that is, liquor law violations, curfew violations, and runaways; and all other offenses. Two percent of arrests were for violent offenses. To better understand the distribution of arrests, two additional pie charts have been created, one showing the distribution of arrests for Milwaukee County and one showing the distribution for the balance of the state.

While a greater proportion of juvenile arrests in Milwaukee County were for violent offenses, Milwaukee County had proportionately fewer arrests for status violations and property offenses with more arrests for "all other" offenses.

Graph 9: Distribution of 1989 Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests



Graph 10: Distribution of Juvenile Arrests Milwaukee - 1989



Graph 11: Distribution of Juvenile Arrests Balance of the State - 1989

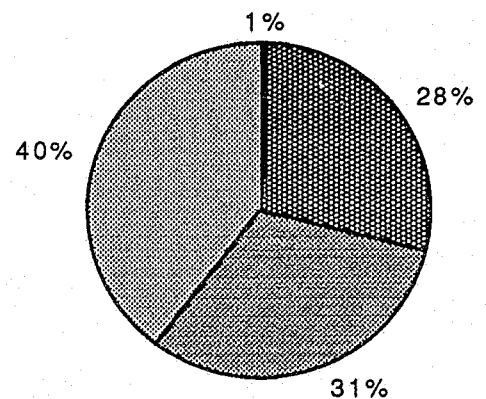


Table 1: State of Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests and Arrest Rates 1980 - 1989

JUVENILE ARRESTS	1980		1981		1982		1983		1984		1985		1986		1987		1988		1989	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Murder	8	0.6	18	1.3	12	0.9	14	1.1	21	1.5	20	1.5	21	1.6	30	2.3	14	1.1	44	3.3
Rape	62	4.7	59	4.3	87	6.3	62	4.7	93	6.8	135	10.4	106	8.1	127	9.8	121	9.3	137	10.4
Robbery	614	46.4	540	39.8	712	51.9	774	58.1	715	52.6	667	51.6	538	41.5	401	31.0	407	31.3	434	33.0
Agg. Assault	513	38.7	560	41.2	656	47.8	622	46.7	603	44.4	671	51.9	754	58.3	747	57.7	609	46.8	816	62.1
TOTAL-VIOLENT OFFENSES	1197	90.4	1177	86.7	1467	106.9	1472	110.5	1432	105.4	1493	115.6	1419	109.7	1305	100.8	1151	88.5	1431	108.9
Burglary	5586	421.7	5368	395.3	5004	364.6	4381	328.7	3976	292.7	4251	329.1	3775	291.8	3683	284.5	3435	264.2	3362	255.9
Theft	17684	1335.0	17711	1304.4	17843	1300.0	17949	1346.8	19109	1406.6	19413	1503.3	19104	1477.1	18235	1408.7	17996	1384.3	19249	1465.2
MV Theft	2315	174.8	1858	136.8	1590	115.8	1455	109.2	1659	122.1	1650	127.7	1827	141.2	1947	150.4	2182	167.8	3078	234.3
Arson	270	20.4	288	21.2	225	16.4	242	18.2	271	19.9	279	21.6	282	21.8	242	18.7	301	23.2	295	22.5
TOTAL-PROPERTY OFFENSES	25855	1951.9	25225	1857.8	24662	1796.8	24027	1802.9	25015	1841.3	25931	1981.7	24988	1932.1	24107	1862.3	23914	1839.5	25984	1977.8
Status Arrests	25291	1909.3	24774	1824.5	25658	1869.4	25319	1899.8	26315	1937.0	27605	2137.7	29337	2268.3	28083	2169.4	27501	2115.4	27529	2095.5
Other Arrests*	35832	2705.1	30559	2234.4	31939	2327.0	32585	2444.9	34588	2546.0	34987	2709.3	36188	2798.0	34608	2673.5	36392	2799.4	38572	2936.0
TOTAL JUVENILE ARRESTS	88175	6656.7	81735	6019.6	83726	6100.1	83403	6258.1	87350	6429.8	89687	6945.4	91940	7108.9	88103	6803.4	88959	6543.0	93516	7118.2
Adult Arrests for Violent Offenses	3216	95.1	3351	100.1	3712	109.7	3652	106.0	3958	115.8	3953	113.3	4767	136.3	5487	156.8	5163	147.0	6137	172.9
TOTAL ADULT ARRESTS	157726	4665.4	162291	4847.5	166430	4918.5	177409	5149.5	186860	5470.4	190864	5472.4	201603	5766.9	221788	6337.2	235995	6717.5	261655	7371.8
JUVENILE POP.	1,324,598		1,357,818		1,372,525		1,332,723		1,358,519		1,291,322		1,293,307		1,294,987		1,302,385		1,313,748	
ADULT POP.	3,380,737		3,347,958		3,383,754		3,445,178		3,415,864		3,487,699		3,495,815		3,499,805		3,513,117		3,549,406	

*Included in this category are negligent manslaughter (a Part I offense) and all Part II offenses excluding status offenses.

Table 2: Milwaukee County Juvenile Arrests and Arrest Rates 1980 - 1989

JUVENILE ARRESTS	1980		1981		1982		1983		1984		1985		1986		1987		1988		1989	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Murder	6	2.5	8	3.1	9	3.5	6	2.4	9	3.5	11	4.7	18	7.6	26	11.1	9	3.8	36	15.3
Rape	22	9.1	19	7.5	32	12.6	19	7.6	23	9.3	62	26.2	40	17.0	93	39.6	73	31.2	63	26.8
Robbery	391	162.4	372	146.0	486	191.6	579	231.1	508	206.0	518	219.1	413	175.4	293	124.9	250	106.8	263	112.0
Agg. Assault	241	100.1	219	86.0	284	111.9	250	99.8	244	99.0	257	108.7	284	120.6	312	133.0	263	112.4	301	128.2
TOTAL-VIOLENT OFFENSES	660	274.2	618	242.6	811	319.8	854	340.8	784	318.0	848	358.7	755	320.7	724	308.6	595	254.2	663	282.4
Burglary	1752	727.8	1440	565.2	1344	529.9	1354	540.5	1165	472.5	1159	490.2	978	415.4	840	358.1	705	301.3	701	298.6
Theft	4427	1839.1	4362	1712.2	4851	1912.8	5232	2088.4	5357	2172.5	5082	2149.6	5019	2131.6	4196	1788.7	4058	1734.2	3863	1645.6
MV Theft	576	239.3	487	191.2	424	167.2	518	206.8	685	277.8	528	223.3	650	276.1	709	302.2	964	412.0	1397	595.1
Arson	77	32.0	54	21.2	79	31.1	44	17.6	84	34.1	63	26.6	66	28.0	54	23.0	61	26.1	57	24.3
TOTAL-PROPERTY OFFENSES	6832	2838.2	6343	2489.8	6698	2641.0	7148	2853.2	7291	2956.9	6832	2889.8	6713	2851.1	5799	2472.0	5788	2473.6	6018	2563.6
Status Arrests	4866	2021.5	4833	1897.1	5386	2123.7	6794	2711.9	7410	3005.1	7019	2968.9	6911	2935.2	5640	2404.2	5838	2489.6	5154	2195.5
Other Arrests*	11166	4638.7	8431	3309.4	8331	3284.9	10182	4064.2	11957	4849.2	11726	4959.8	11891	5050.2	10123	4315.2	10606	4522.8	10352	4409.8
TOTAL JUVENILE ARRESTS	23524	9772.6	20225	7938.9	21226	8369.4	24978	9970.2	27443	11129.6	26426	11177.6	26270	11157.1	22286	9500.0	22827	9734.3	22187	9451.3
Adult Arrests for Violent Offenses	1779	245.6	1677	236.1	1858	262.8	1802	257.9	1741	253.2	1704	242.3	2291	327.1	2581	369.9	3179	456.4	2659	380.8
TOTAL ADULT ARRESTS	48675	6719.5	49722	7000.8	54723	7739.7	57603	8245.3	64624	9399.2	61337	8721.7	62226	8884.2	77791	11147.4	81952	11764.6	87126	12476.6
JUVENILE POP.	240,713		254,757		253,614		250,527		246,577		236,419		235,455		234,590		234,489		234,750	
ADULT POP.	724,389		710,231		707,045		698,620		687,545		703,270		700,415		697,842		696,619		698,317	

*Included in this category are negligent manslaughter (a Part I offense) and Part II offenses excluding status offenses.

Arrest Information For Select Counties

Table 3 presents juvenile arrest data for other selected counties in Wisconsin from 1985 through 1989. Shown are the number of arrests for Index Offenses, other criminal offenses, and status offenses. Brown County experienced a rather substantial decrease in total juvenile arrests during the

five year period, in which all categories decreased in arrests. However, arrests in the other counties in Table 3 decreased only slightly, with the exception of Racine County which increased by 14 percent. In addition, all counties shown in the table except Racine County experienced a decrease in the number of juvenile Index Offense arrests.

Table 3: Juvenile Arrests In Select Counties 1985 - 1989

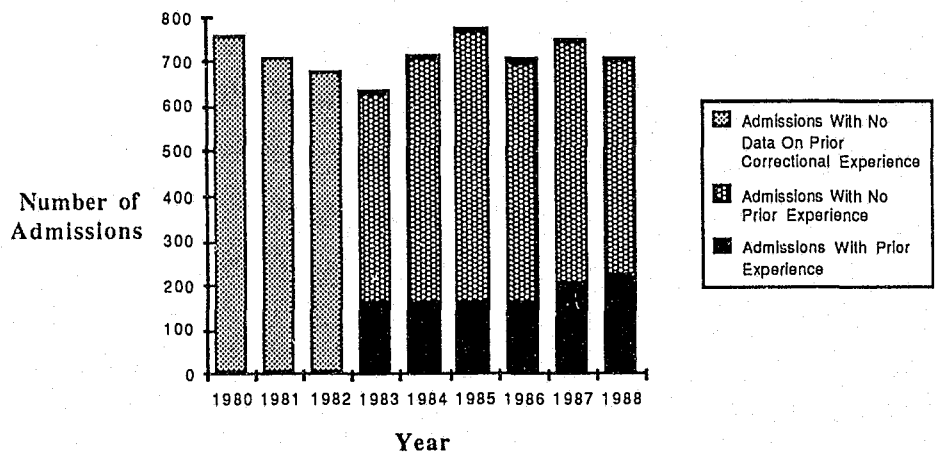
	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change 1985-1989</u>
Brown County						
Index	1,375	1,428	1,394	1,262	1,229	- 10.6%
Other Criminal	1,097	1,263	1,350	1,026	886	- 19.2%
Status	1,657	2,032	2,004	1,917	1,149	- 30.7%
Total Arrests	4,129	4,723	4,748	4,205	3,264	- 20.9%
Dane County						
Index	1,907	1,735	1,782	1,658	1,804	- 5.4%
Other Criminal	1,324	1,221	1,276	1,240	1,338	+ 1.0%
Status	1,204	1,187	1,108	1,027	966	- 19.8%
Total Arrests	4,435	4,143	4,166	3,925	4,108	- 7.4%
Racine County						
Index	1,294	1,205	1,327	1,201	1,427	+ 10.3%
Other Criminal	1,721	1,537	1,710	1,905	2,158	+ 25.4%
Status	698	771	672	601	636	- 8.9%
Total Arrests	3,713	3,513	3,709	3,707	4,221	+ 13.7%
Waukesha County						
Index	1,429	1,397	1,181	1,373	1,239	- 13.3%
Other Criminal	2,705	2,595	2,028	2,174	2,284	- 15.6%
Status	2,469	2,335	2,205	2,556	2,846	+ 15.6%
Total Arrests	6,603	6,327	5,414	6,103	6,369	- 3.5%

JUVENILE ADMISSIONS TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Total Admissions

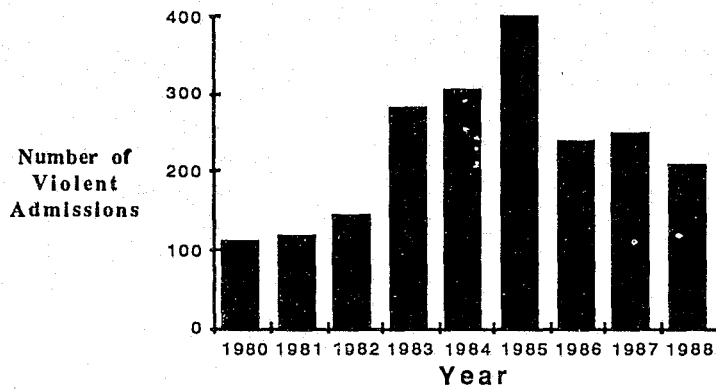
Graph 12 shows the total number of admissions to Wisconsin Juvenile Correctional Institutions from 1980 through 1988. Total admissions decreased 7 percent during the nine year period. While there are no data available prior to 1983 on admissions regarding prior juvenile correctional institution experience, from 1983 through 1986 the number of juvenile admissions with prior correctional experience remained relatively stable. However, in 1988 the number increased 37 percent over 1986, from 159 to 218.

Graph 12: Juvenile Admissions into Correctional Facilities



*Data for 1989 were not available at the time of publication

Graph 13: Violent Juvenile Admissions into Correctional Facilities



Violent Admissions

Graph 13 shows the number of admissions into Wisconsin Juvenile Correctional Institutions for violent offenses from 1980 through 1988. For purposes of this graph, violent admissions are defined as all degrees of murder and sexual assault, aggravated assaults, all robberies, and armed burglaries. The number of violent admissions increased over 350 percent from 1980 to 1985, then decreased sharply, decreasing 48 percent from 1985 to 1988.

SUMMARY

The total number of juvenile arrests in Wisconsin have remained relatively stable over the past ten years. However, the juvenile arrest *rate* increased steadily from 1982 through 1986, before decreasing in 1987. During the ten year period, the number of juvenile arrests for Index Offenses increased a little more than one percent. Index Offense arrest rates for Wisconsin juveniles increased over two percent from 1980 to 1989. Milwaukee County experienced decreases in arrests and arrest rates, but the arrest rates were higher in Milwaukee County than the rest of the state. Ninety-five percent of the juvenile arrests for Index Offenses made in Wisconsin were for property crimes. Arrests for property offenses increased slightly during the ten year period while the number of arrests made for violent offenses increased substantially. Milwaukee County had a slightly higher proportion of juvenile arrests for violent offenses than did the rest of Wisconsin.

The total number of juveniles admitted into Wisconsin correctional institutions decreased by approximately 7 percent from 1980 to 1988. However, the proportion of those admitted with previous experience in correctional institutions increased 37 percent since 1986. Admissions of juveniles for violent crimes increased steadily from 1980 through 1985, but decreased in 1986, decreasing 48 percent from 1985 to 1988.

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