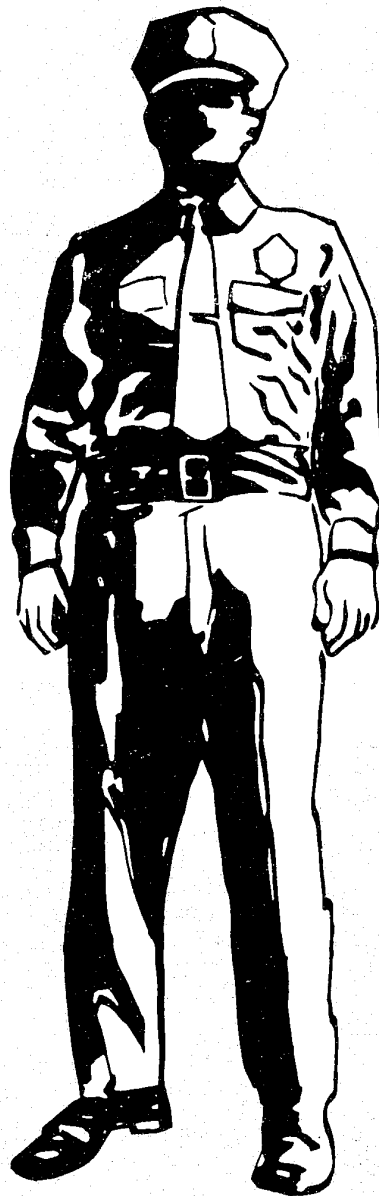
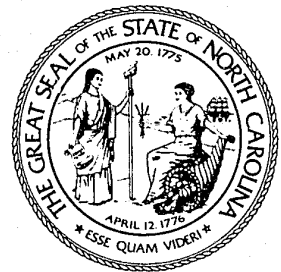


NORTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSAULTED AND KILLED



16-3-91 MFI
129883

1989

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**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE — STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INFORMATION**

**LACY H. THORNBURG
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**ROBERT MORGAN
DIRECTOR**

NORTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSAULTED 1989

JANUARY—DECEMBER 1989

COMPILED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INFORMATION

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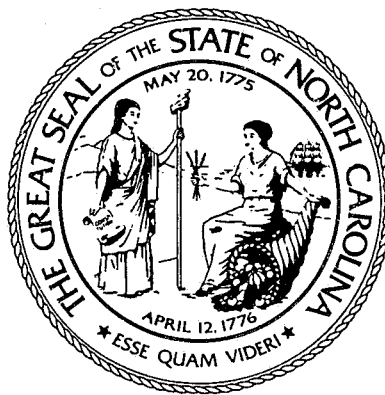
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SECTION ONE

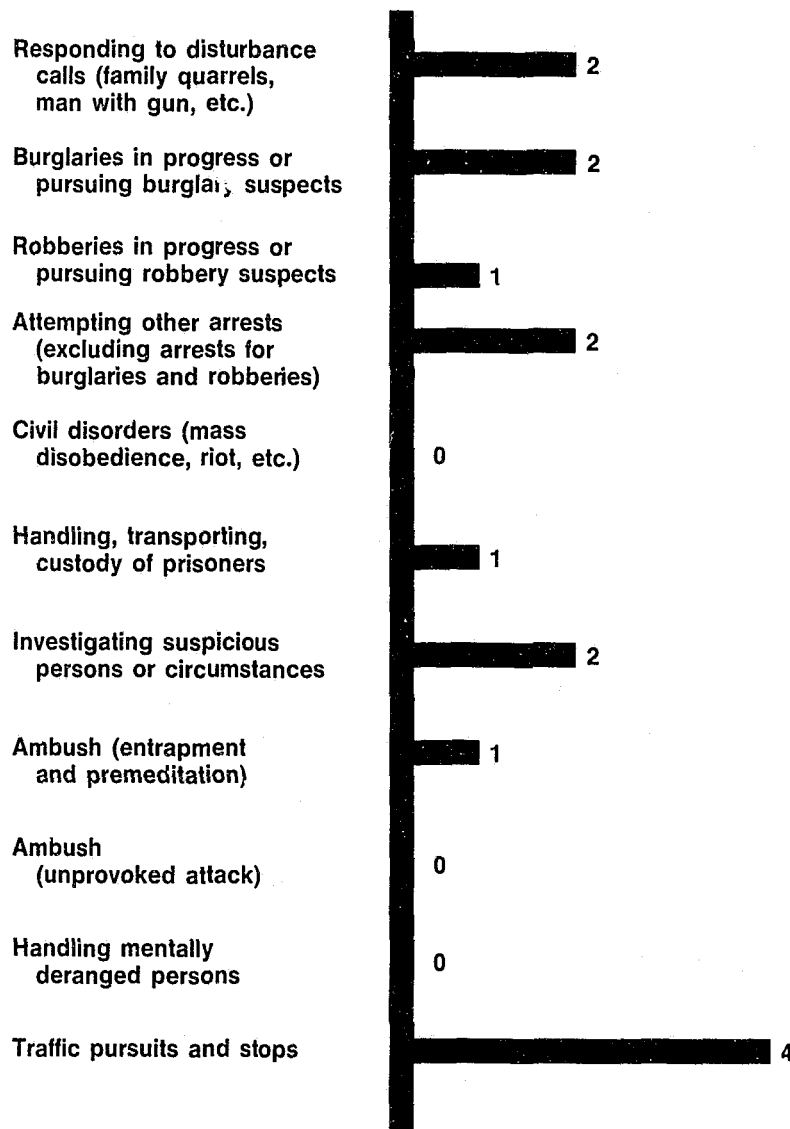
OFFICER ASSAULTS 1989 vs 1988



OFFICER ASSAULTS HIGHLIGHTS FOR 1989

- The number of officer assaults increased by two percent from 1988 to 1989.
- One of every five officers were assaulted in 1989.
- During 1989 the most frequent month for officer assaults was October.
- The situation in which most officer assaults occurred during 1989 was responding to a disturbance call. (32.6%)
- The assignment under which most officer assaults occurred during 1989 was one man vehicle assisted. (41.2%)
- The most frequent weapon used in officer assaults was personal weapons (hands, fist, feet, etc.). (83.5%)
- Injuries to officers as a result of an assault increased by 29.5 percent in 1989.
- No officers were killed feloniously in 1989.

SITUATIONS IN WHICH N.C. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WERE KILLED FELONIOUSLY 1980 - 1989



Number killed last ten years — 15

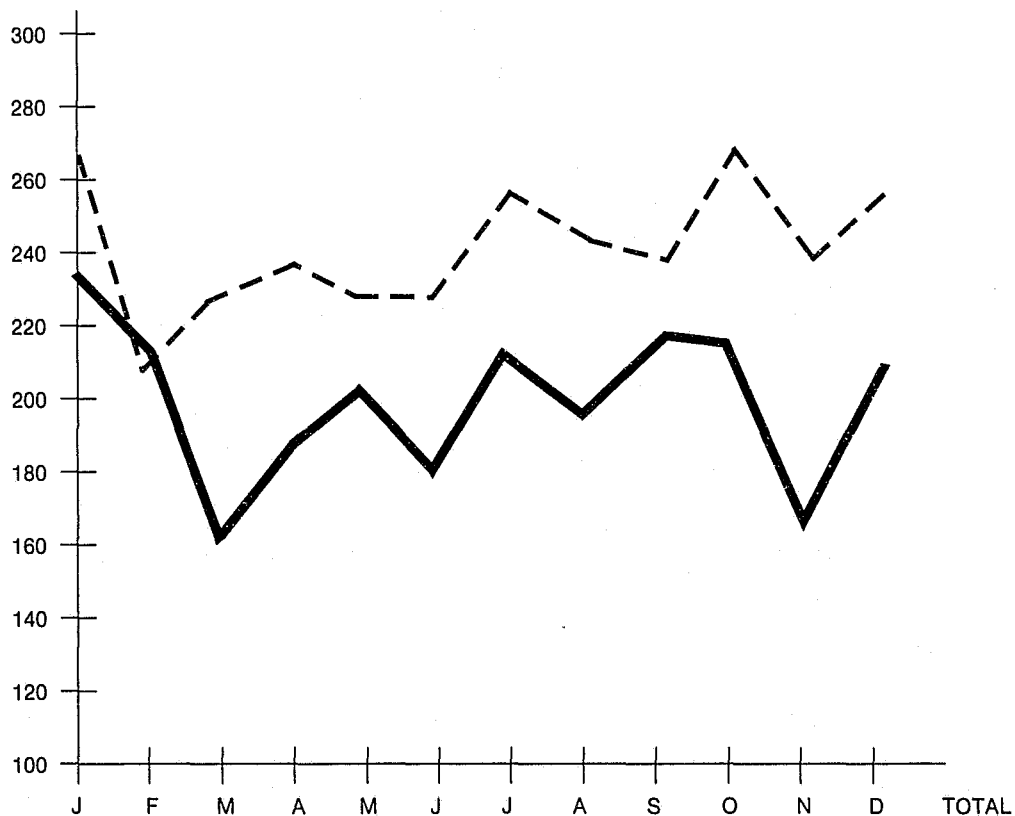
Number killed 1988 — 0

Number killed 1989 — 0

CRIMINAL HISTORY OF PERSONS IDENTIFIED IN THE KILLING OF NORTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, 1980 - 1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	Total
Persons with prior arrest for criminal charge	1	1	2	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	11
Persons convicted on prior criminal charge	1	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	7
Persons with prior arrest for violent crime	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Persons with prior arrest for weapons violation	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Persons with prior arrest for narcotic charge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Persons with prior arrest for police assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons with no criminal history	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total identified	3	1	2	0	2	5	0	1	0	0	14

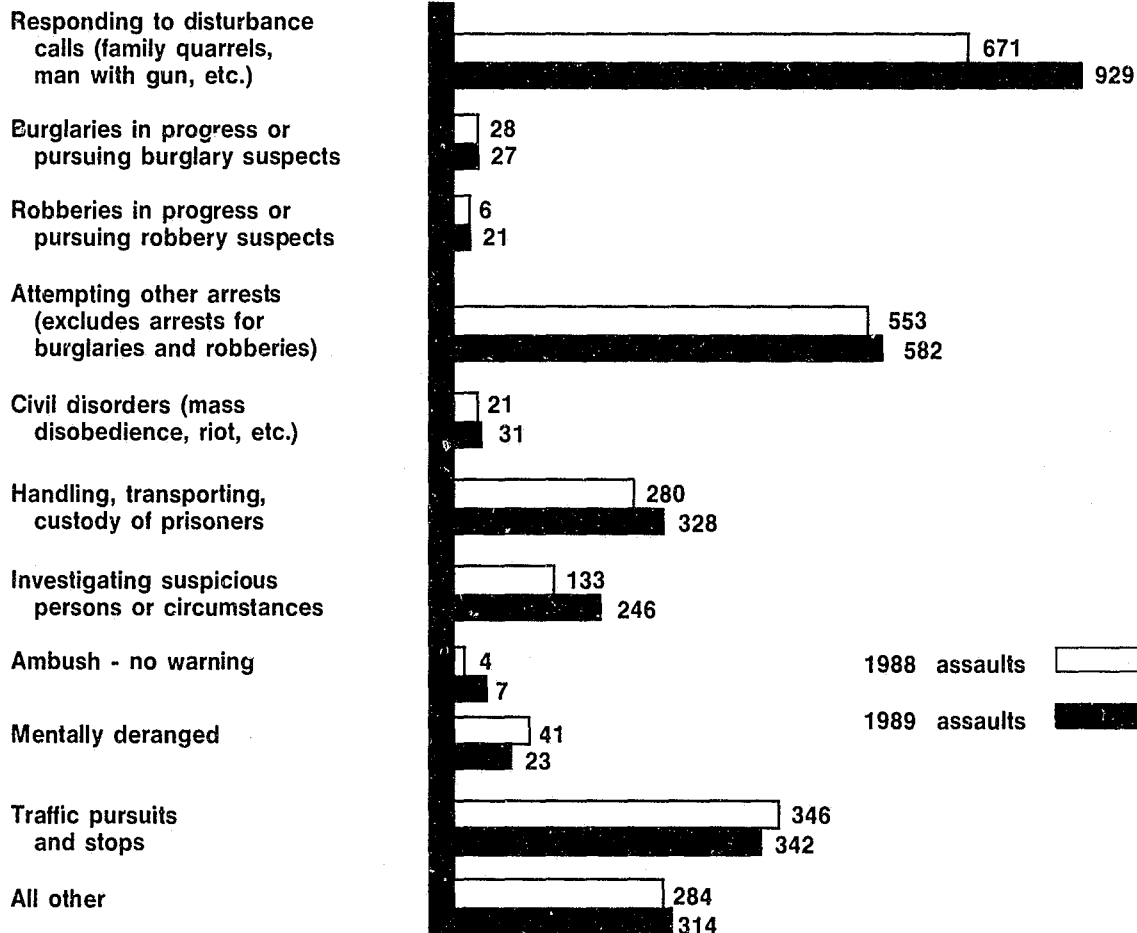
NORTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSAULTED BY MONTH 1988 vs. 1989



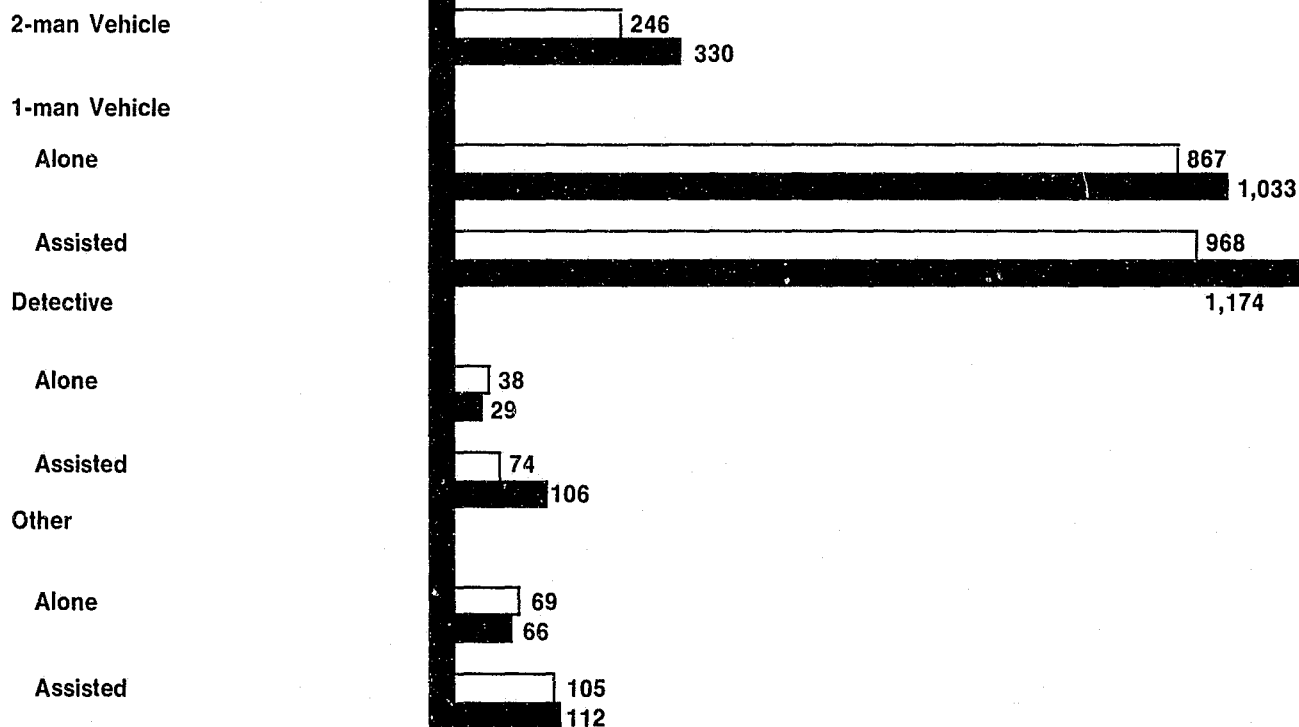
1988	232	210	160	186	199	178	210	193	214	212	168	205	2,367
1989	262	206	222	236	223	223	251	241	236	266	232	252	2,850
CHANGE	+30	- 4	+62	+50	+24	+45	+41	+48	+22	+54	+64	+47	+483
% CHANGE	+13	- 2	+39	+27	+12	+25	+20	+25	+10	+25	+38	+23	+ 20

SITUATION AND ASSIGNMENT AT THE TIME OF ASSAULT 1988 & 1989

Situation

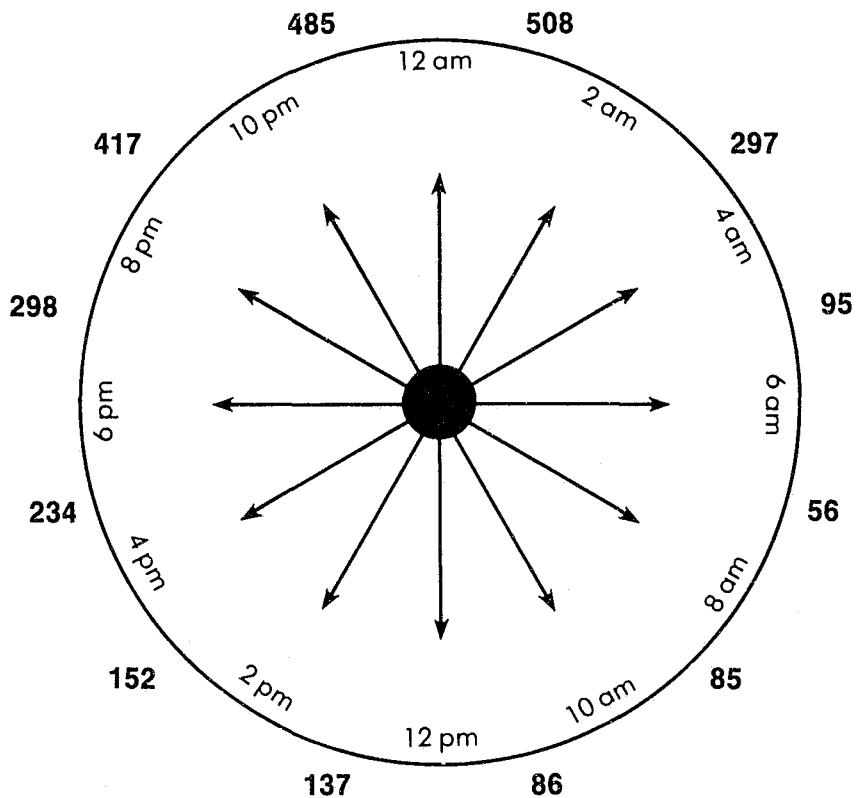


Assignment



OFFICER ASSAULTS BY TIME OF DAY

1989



WEAPONS USED

Weapon	1988	1989	% Change
Firearm	108	150	+38.9
Knife, Cutting Instrument	73	71	- 2.7
Other Dangerous Weapon	226	250	+10.6
Hands, Fist, Feet, Etc.	1,960	2,379	+21.4

INJURIES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

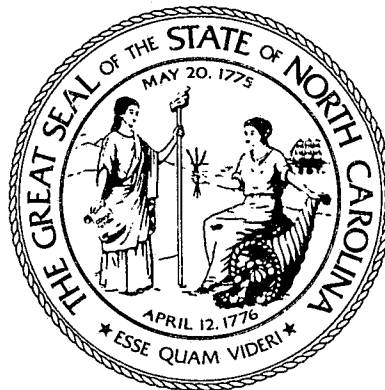
Injury	1988	1989	% Change
Injuries	298	386	+29.5
No Injuries	2,069	2,464	+19.1

CLEARANCE IN ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

	Number Assaulted	Number Cleared	Percent Cleared
1988	2,367	2,279	96.3
1989	2,850	2,738	96.1

SECTION TWO

TEN YEAR LOOK AT OFFICER ASSAULTS



NORTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ASSAULTS

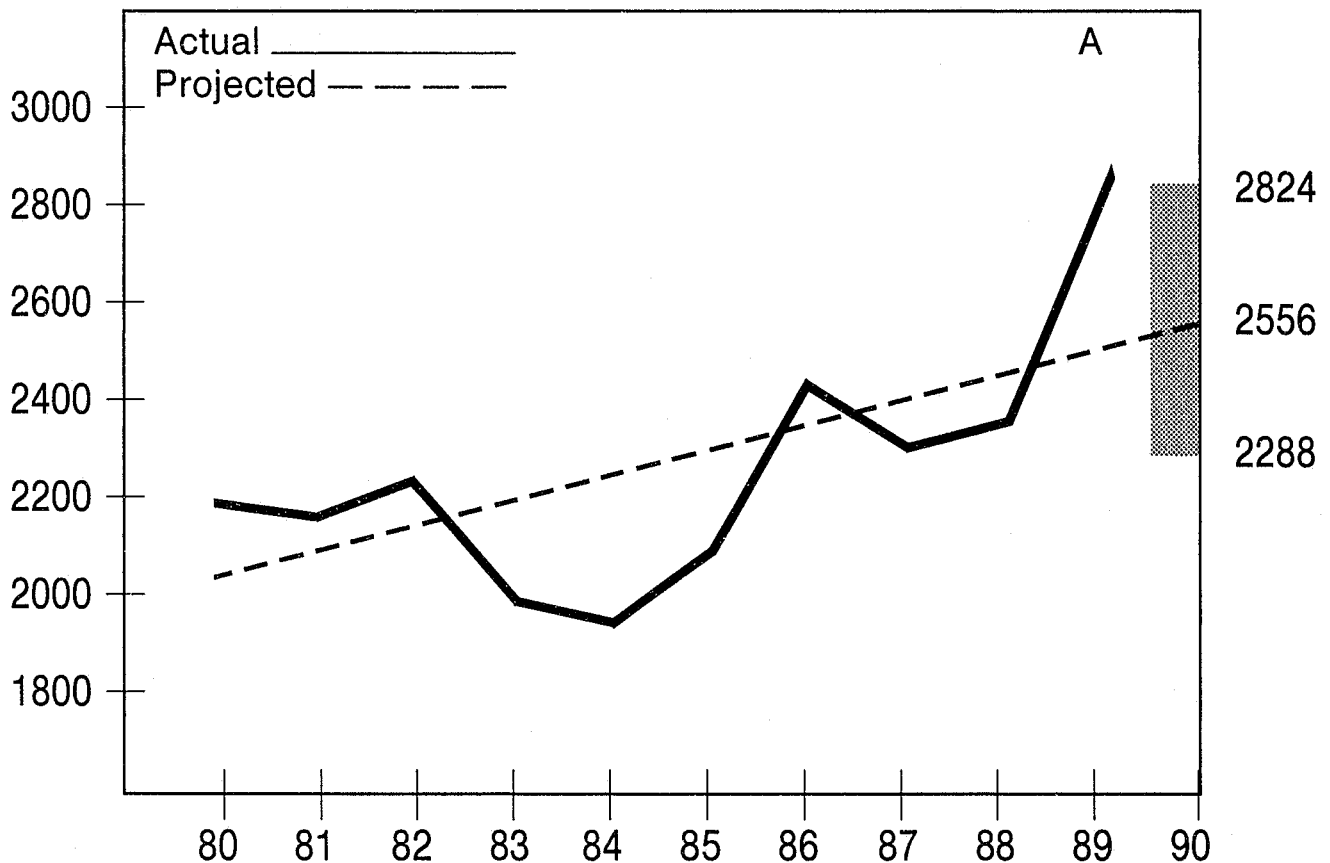
TEN YEAR TREND ANALYSIS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1990

The assault projections shown in this section are estimates computed by a Least-Squares Linear Regression Method. The algebraic formula for linear regression ($Y = a + bX$), quite simply put, permits one to determine "Y" (the incidence of assault) from the relative slope of a line "b".

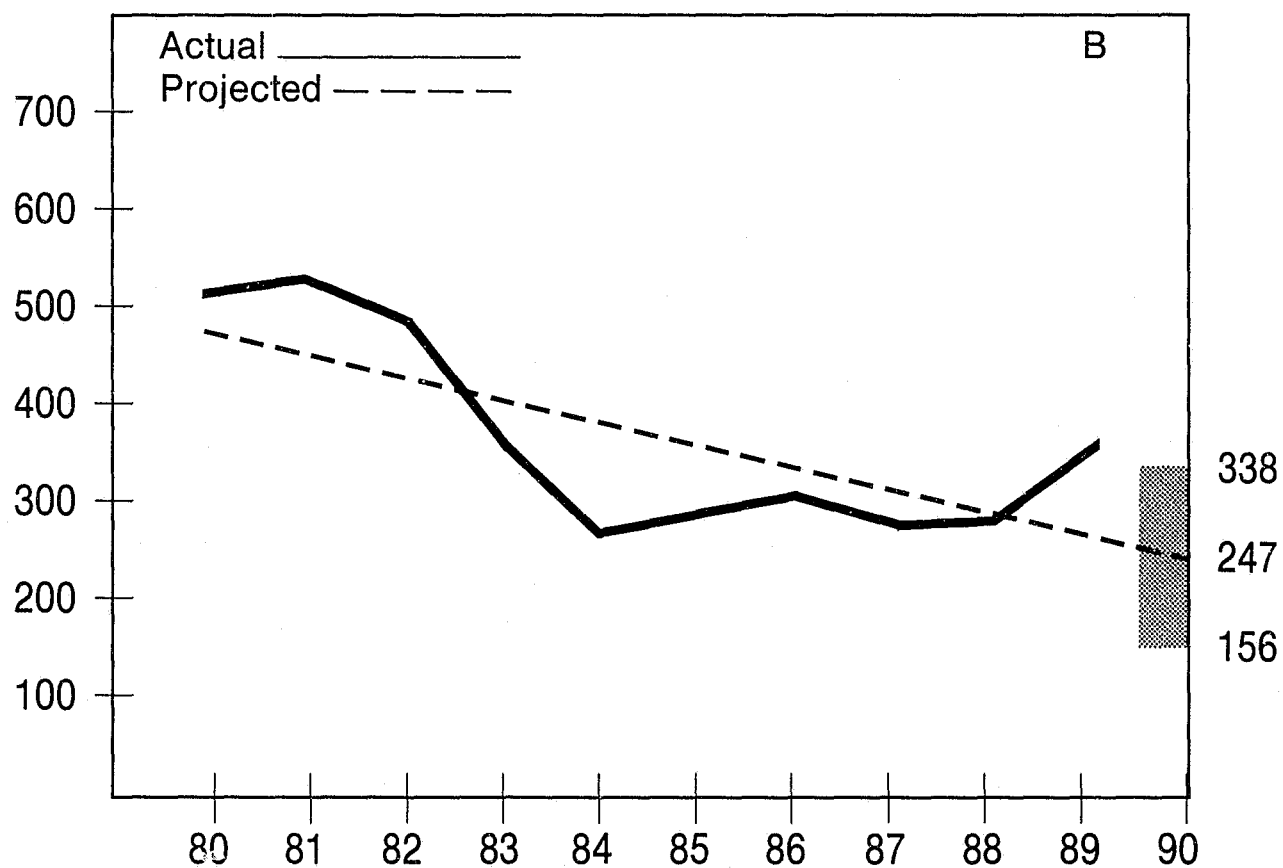
The actual number of reported assaults for each year since 1980 have been used for points on these graphs rather than estimates for 100% population coverage (the difference is negligible). A projected range at the 90 percent confidence level has been calculated for each category and is shown as an upper and lower level change for the year 1989 over 1990 in the gray area on the righthand side of each graph. At the 90 percent confidence level, a specific change outside the projected range could be expected to occur only ten times out of one hundred. Volumes occurring outside the range represent a significant change, and further research is recommended to pinpoint possible influencing crime factors responsible for the directional change.

TOTAL OFFICER ASSAULTS

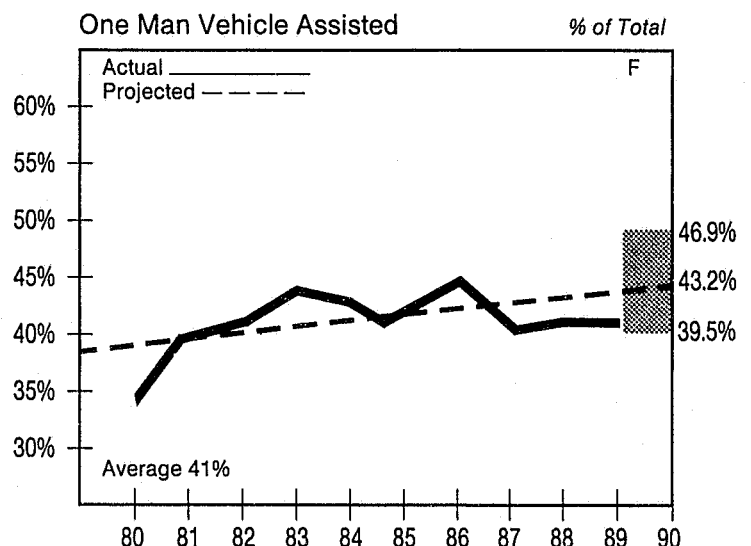
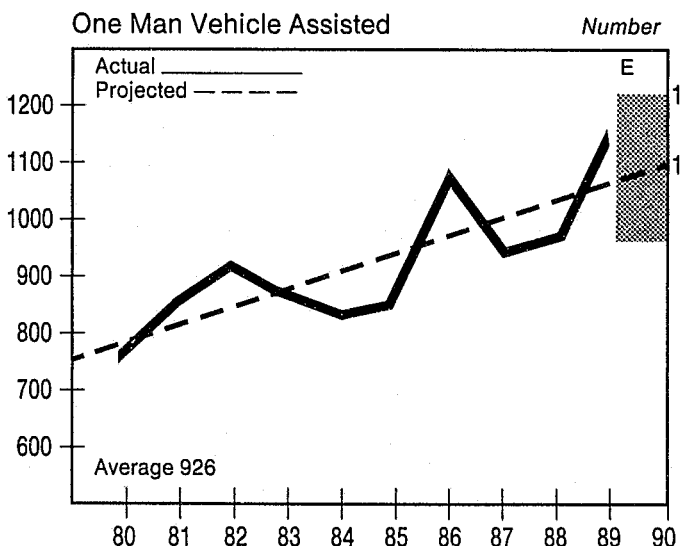
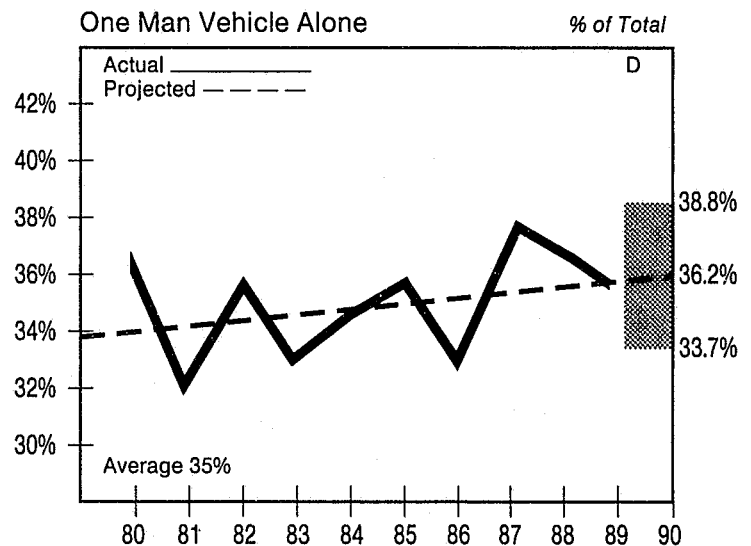
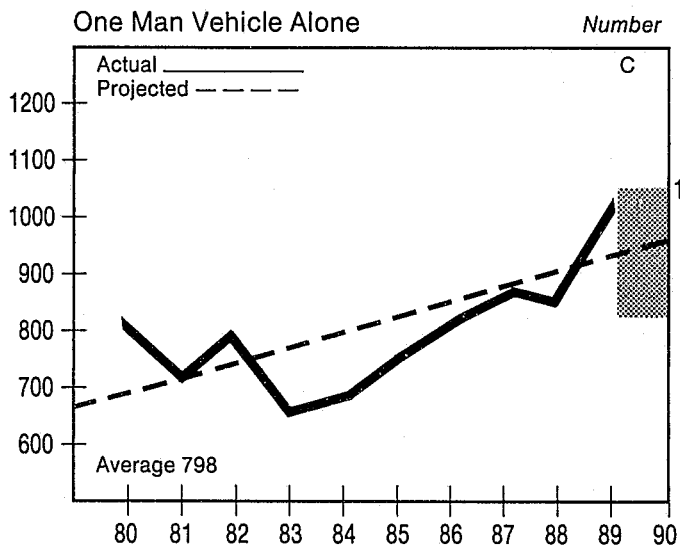
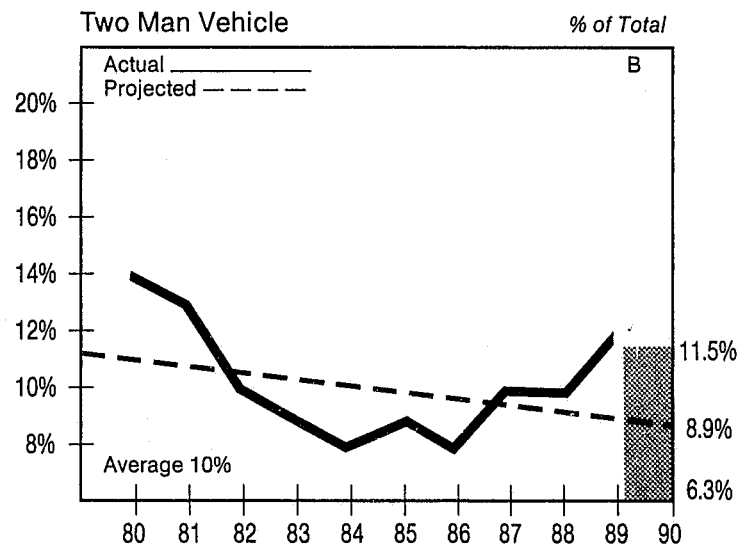
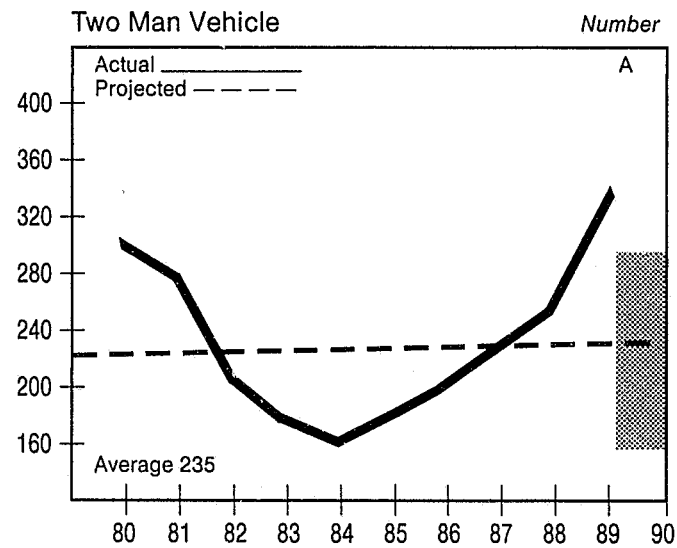
TEN YEAR TREND AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1990

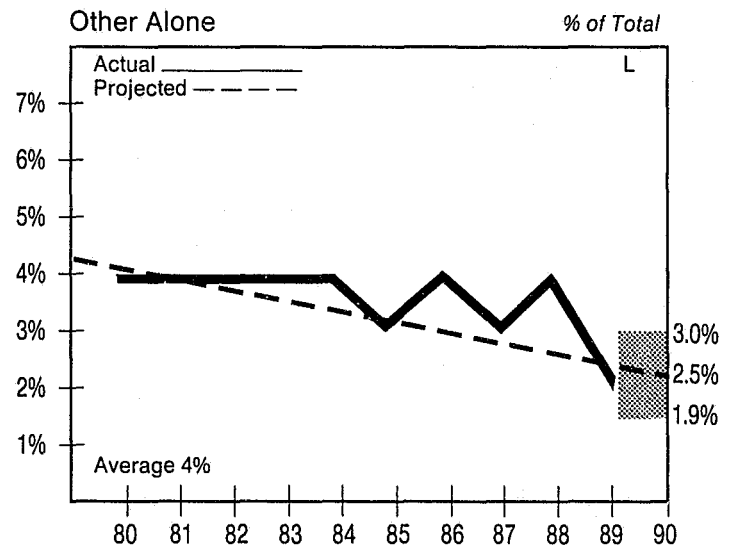
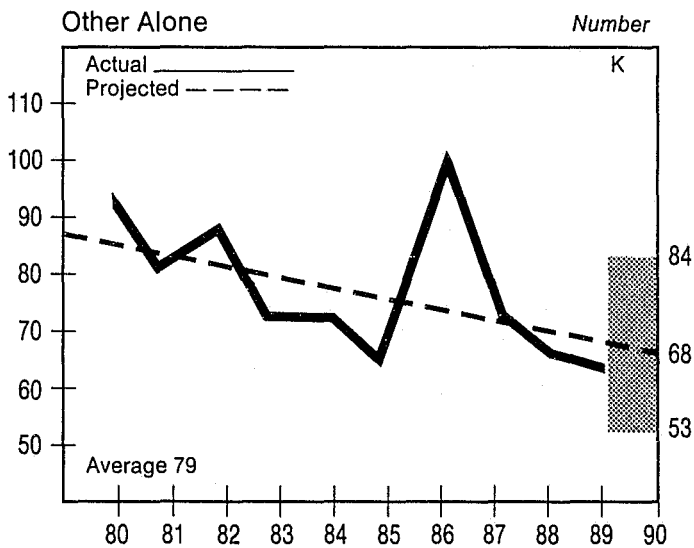
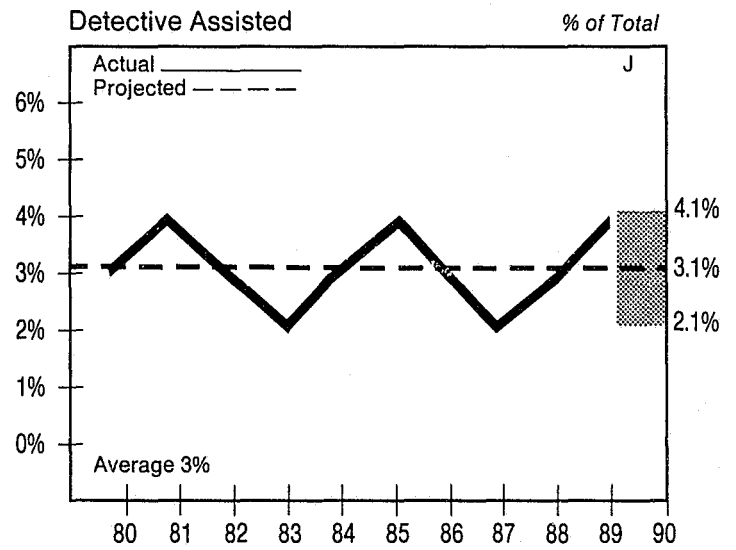
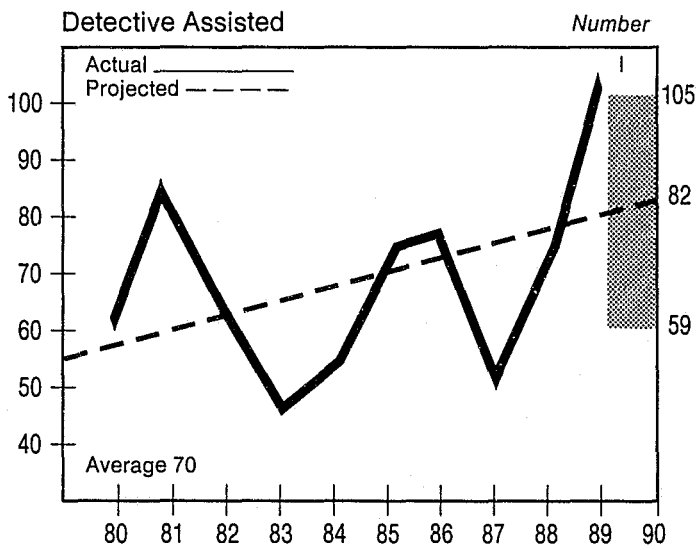
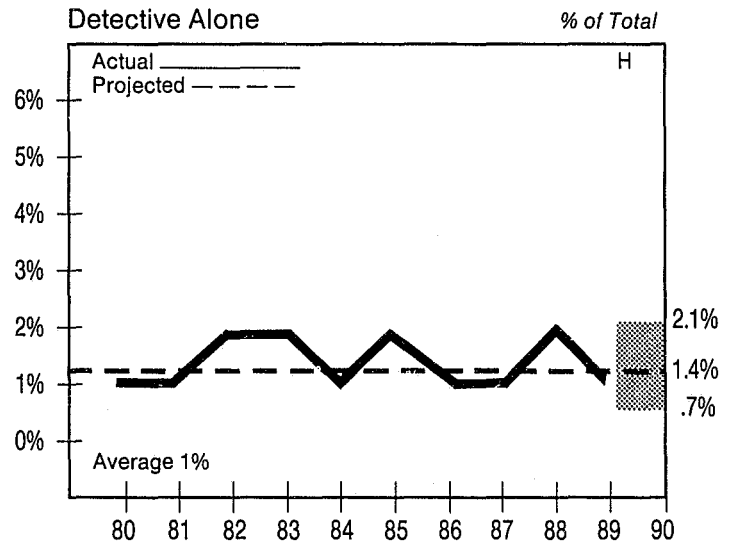
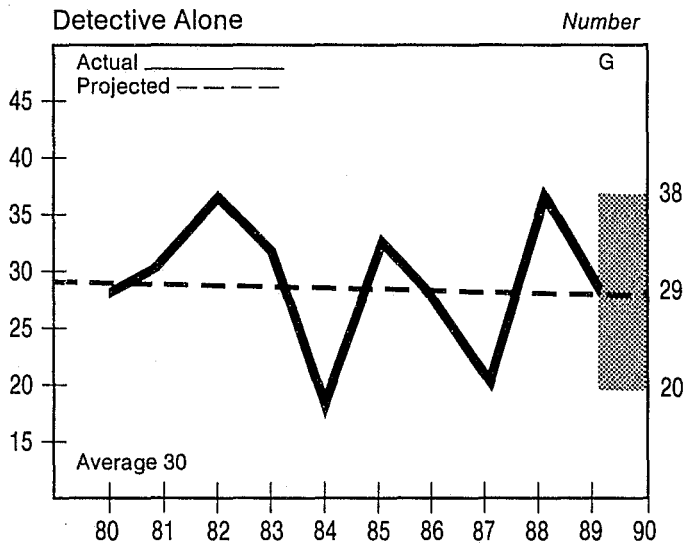


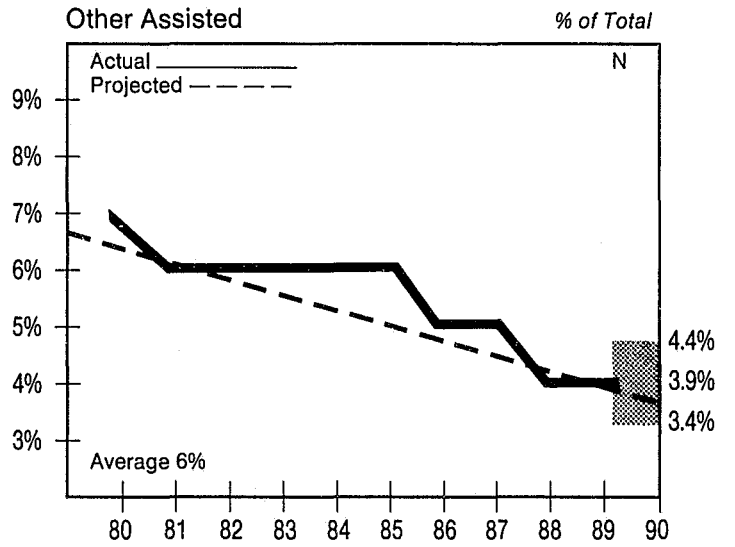
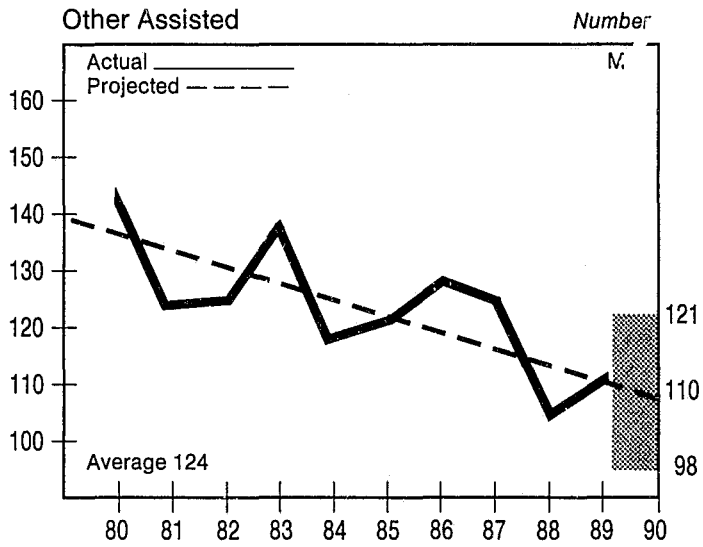
OFFICER ASSAULTS WITH INJURIES
TEN YEAR TREND AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1990



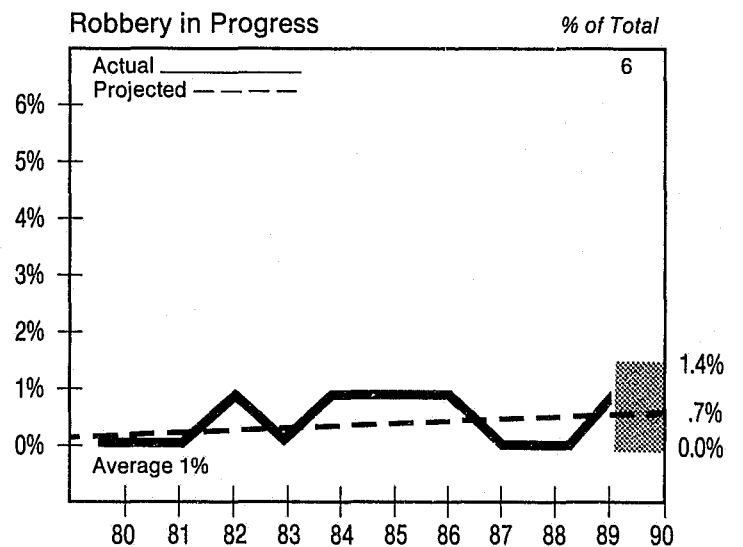
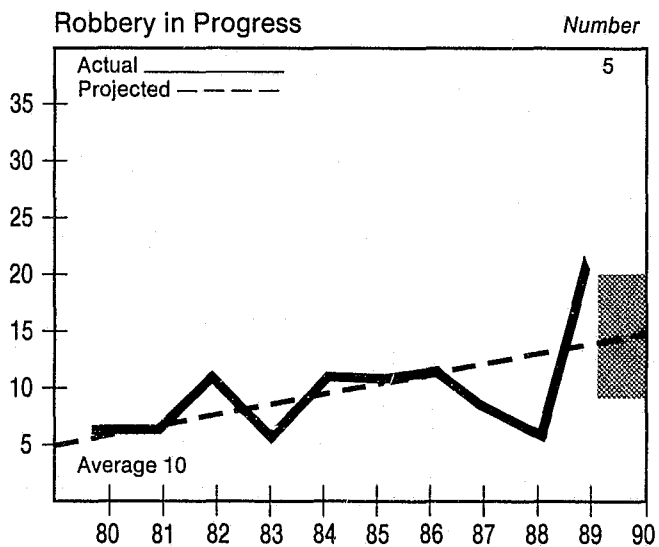
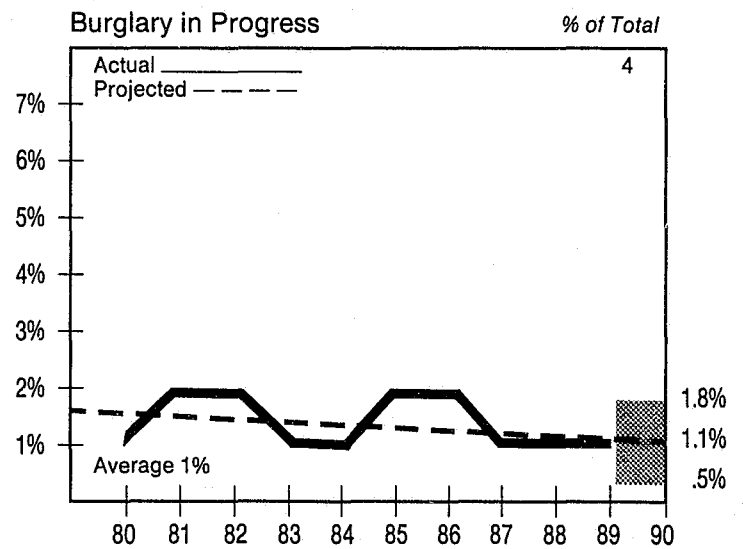
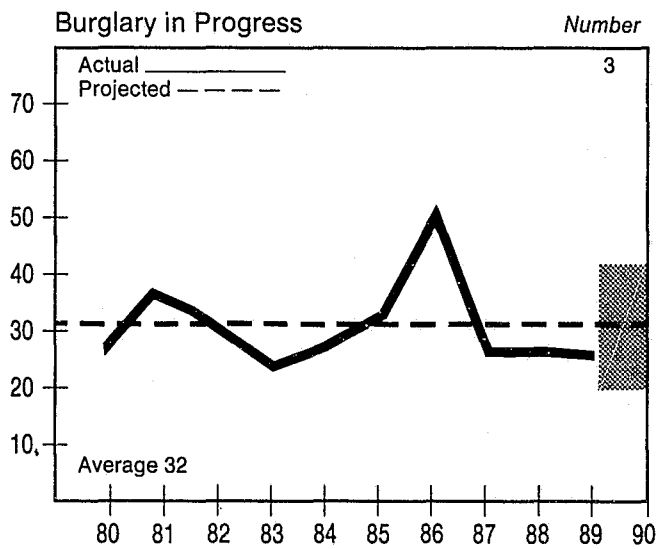
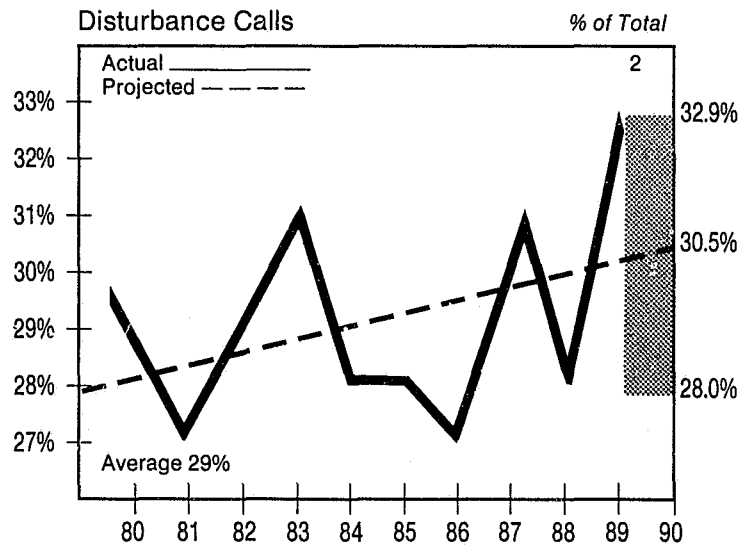
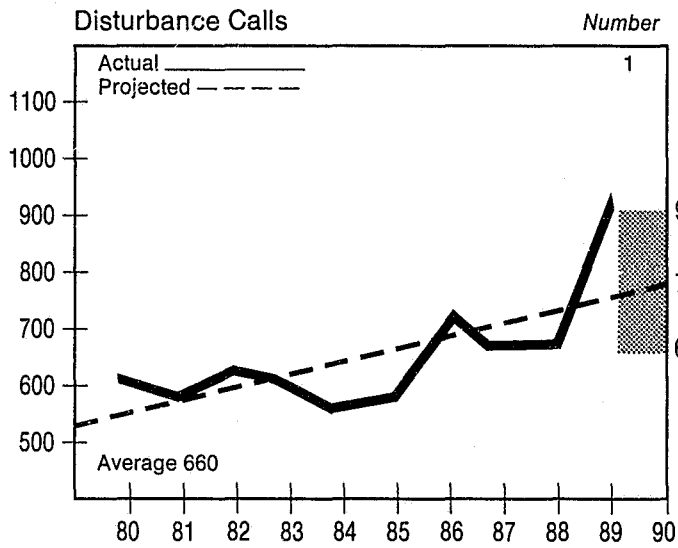
ASSIGNMENT AT TIME OF ASSAULT **TEN YEAR TREND AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1990** **Actual Reported Numbers and Percent of Total**

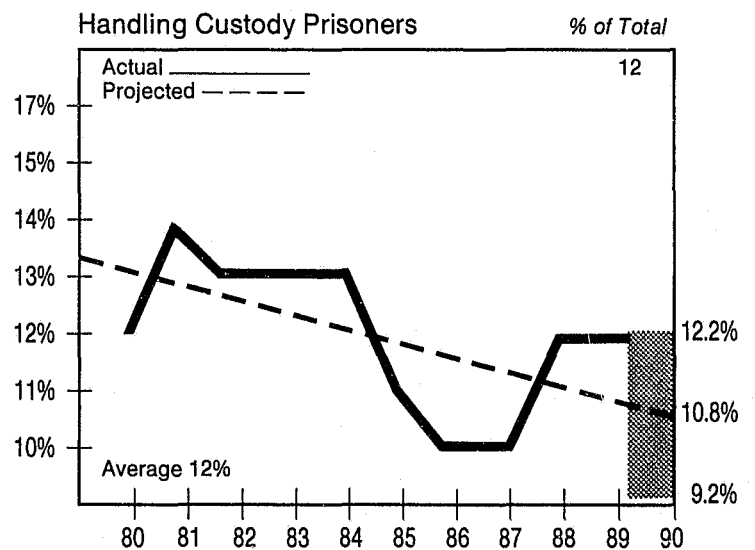
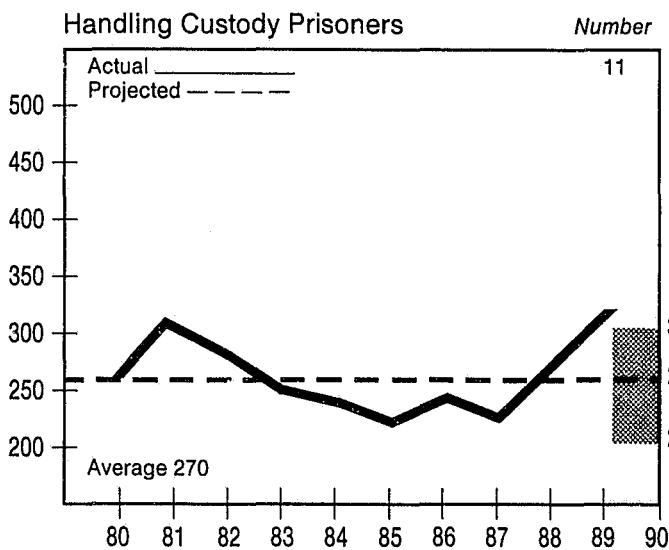
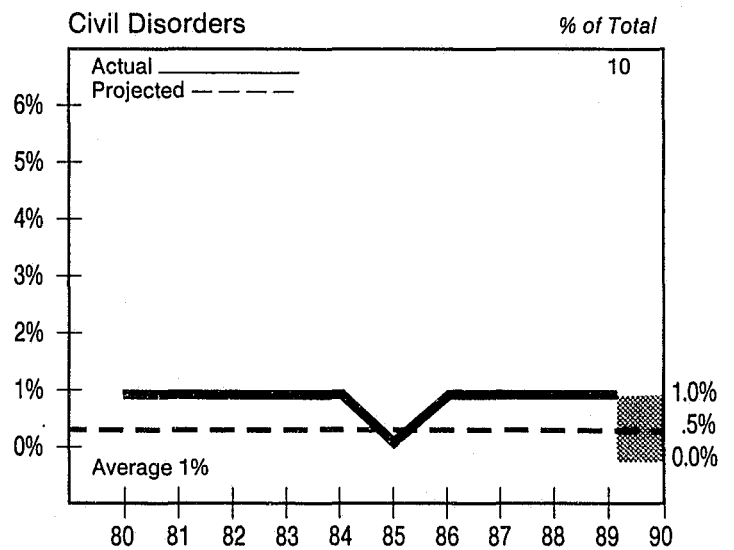
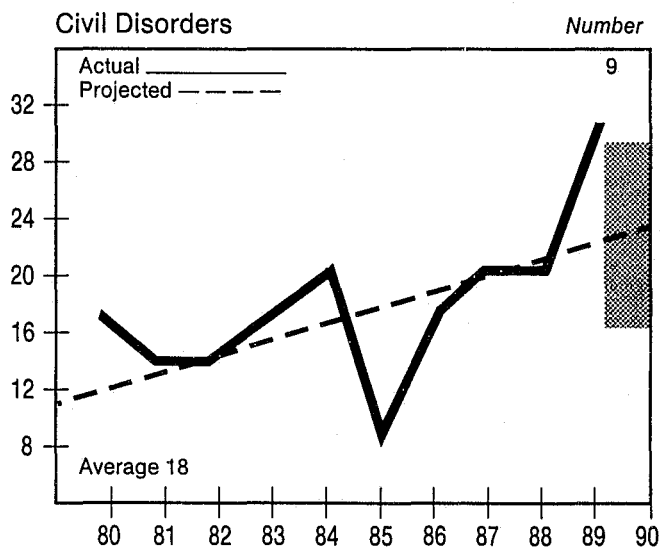
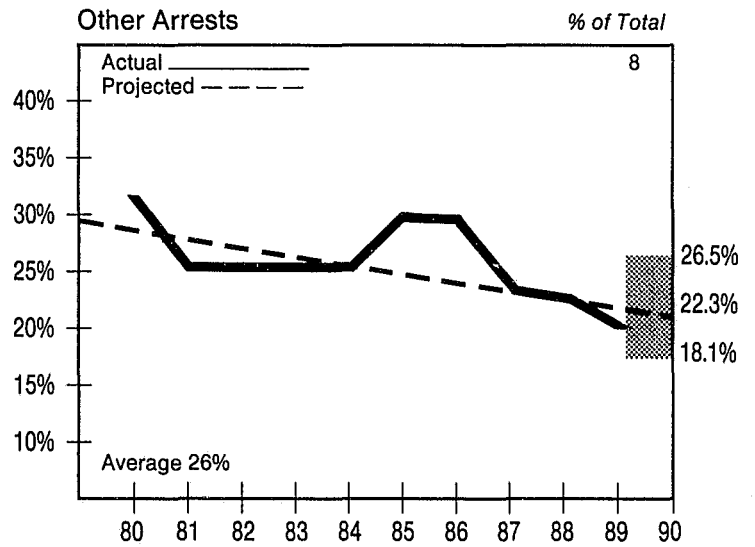
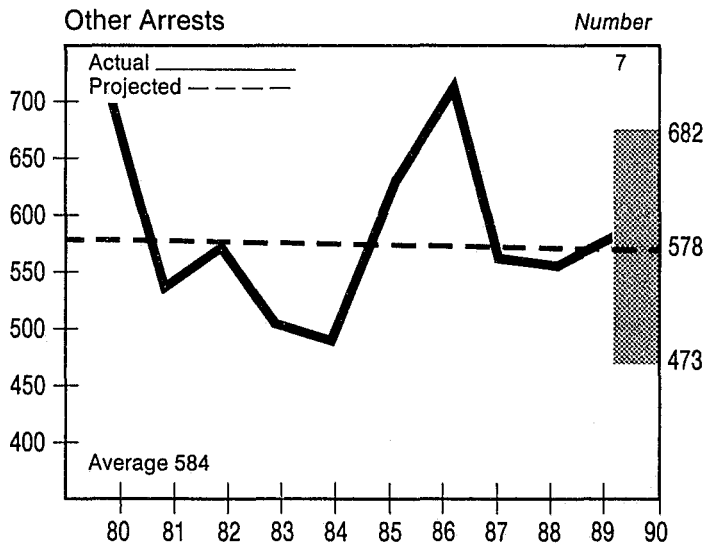






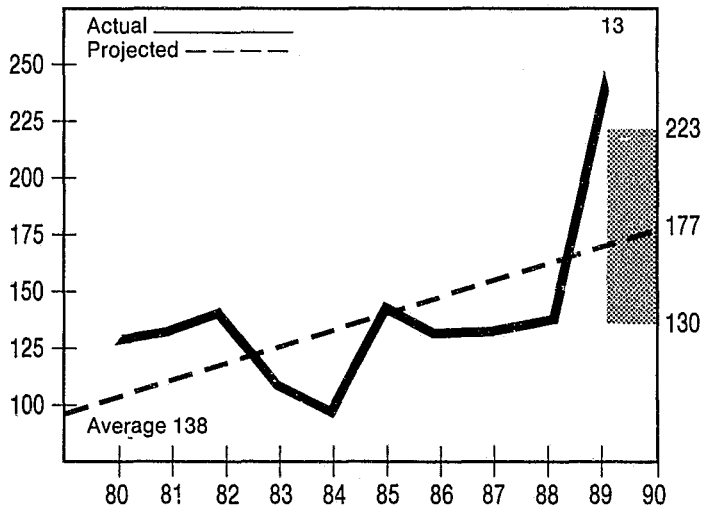
ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ASSAULT **TEN YEAR TREND AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1990** **Actual Numbers Reported and Percent of Total**





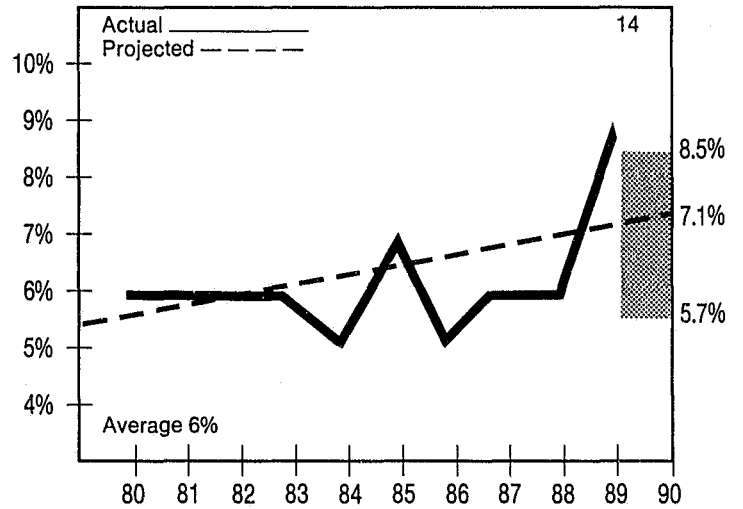
Suspicious Persons

Number



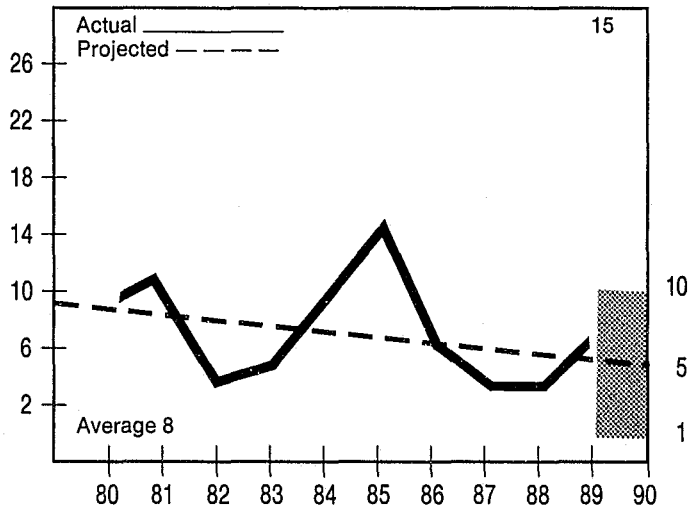
Suspicious Persons

% of Total



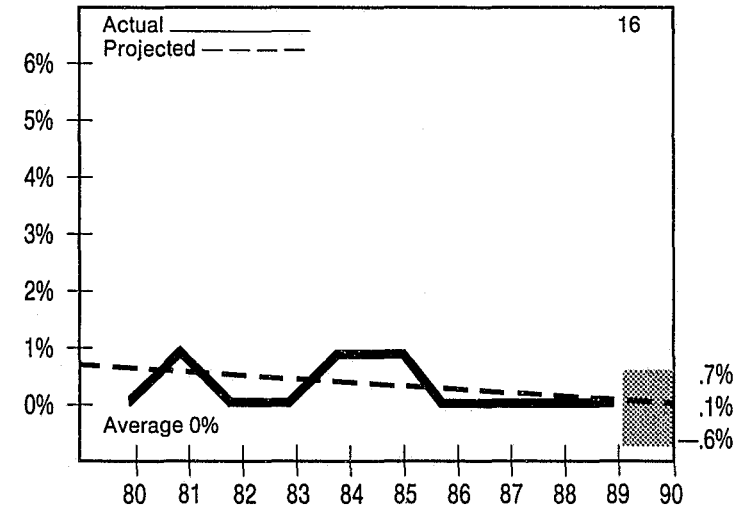
Ambush

Number



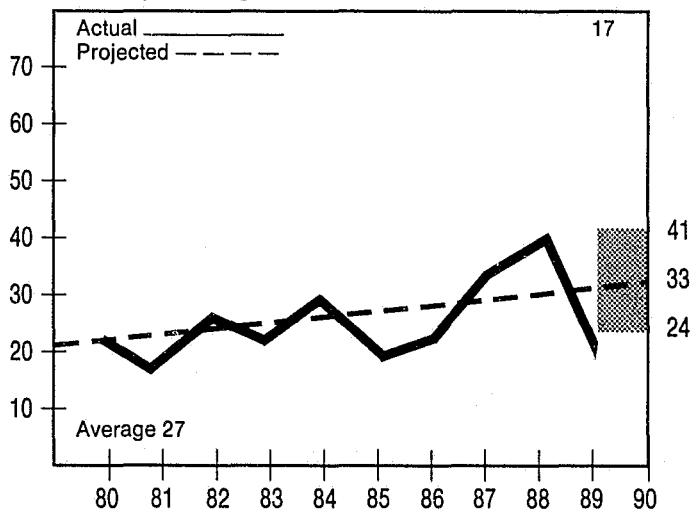
Ambush

% of Total



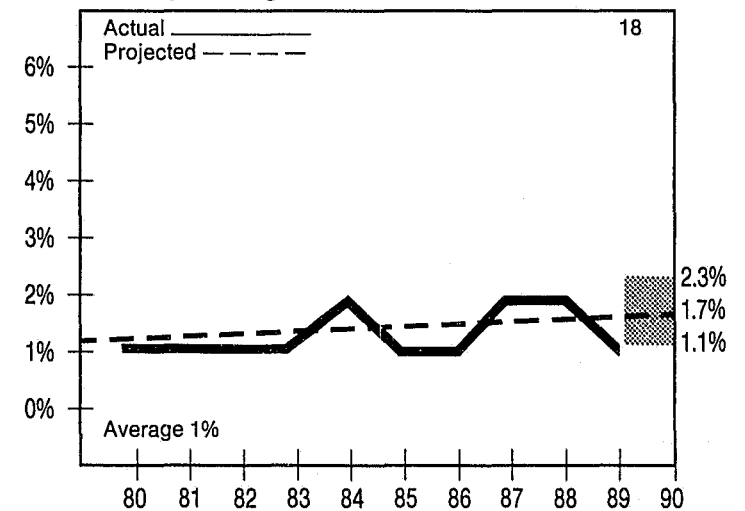
Mentally Deranged

Number



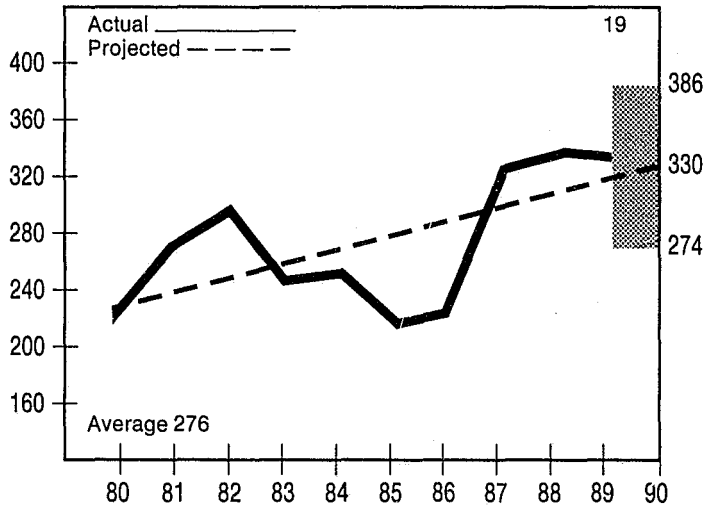
Mentally Deranged

% of Total



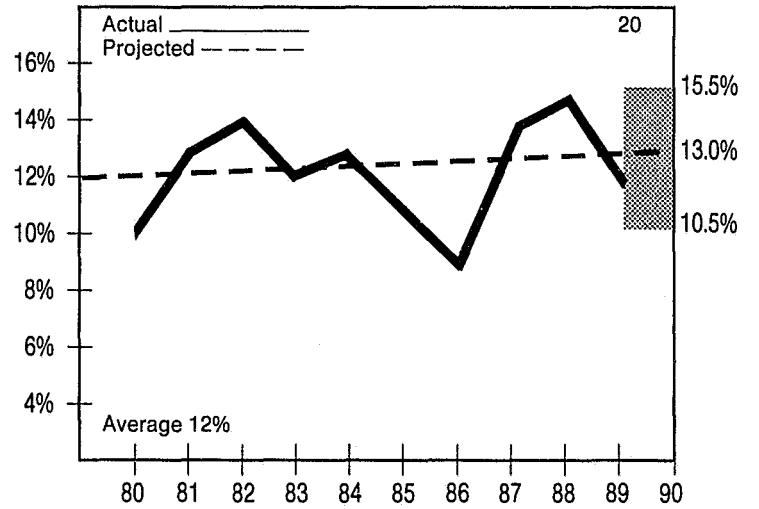
Traffic Pursuits, Stops

Number



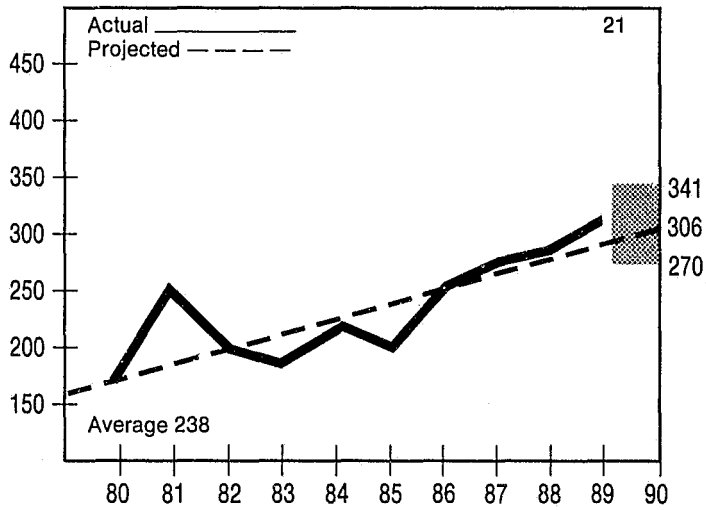
Traffic Pursuits, Stops

% of Total



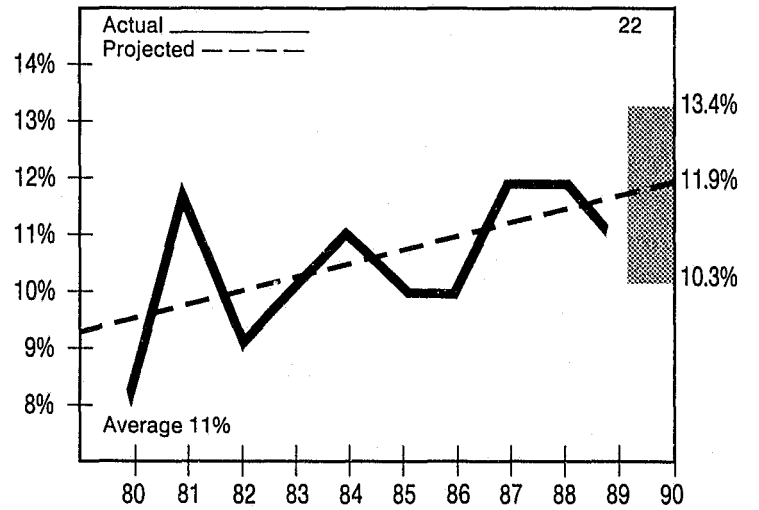
All Other

Number



All Other

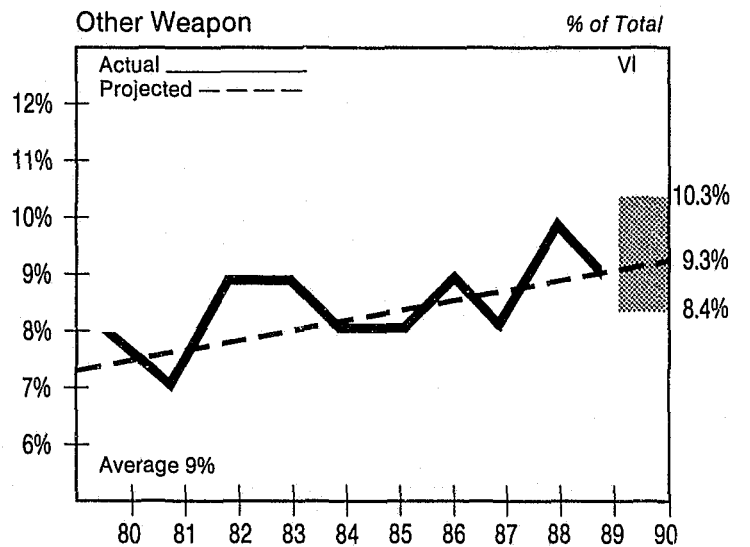
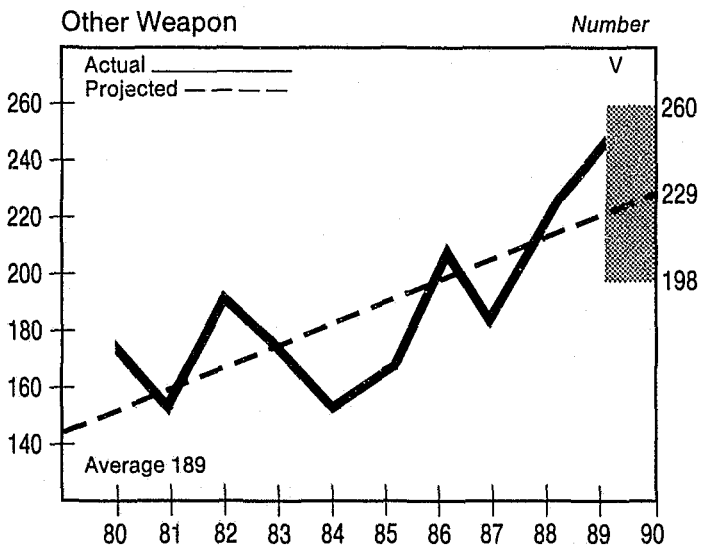
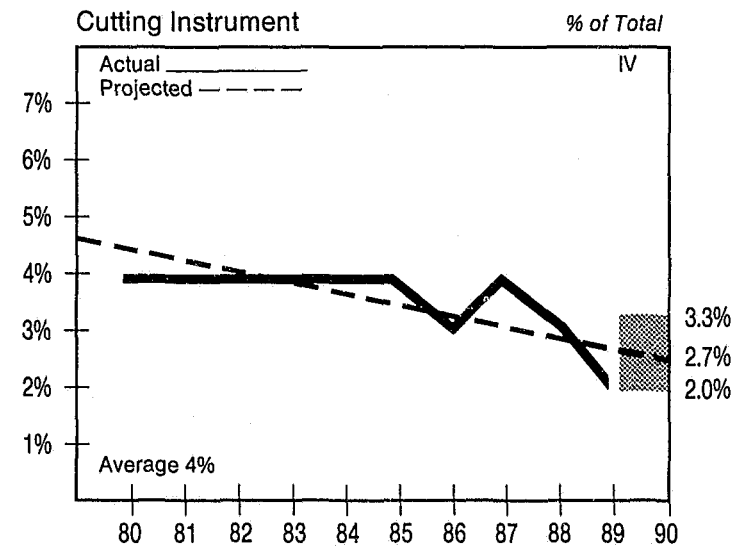
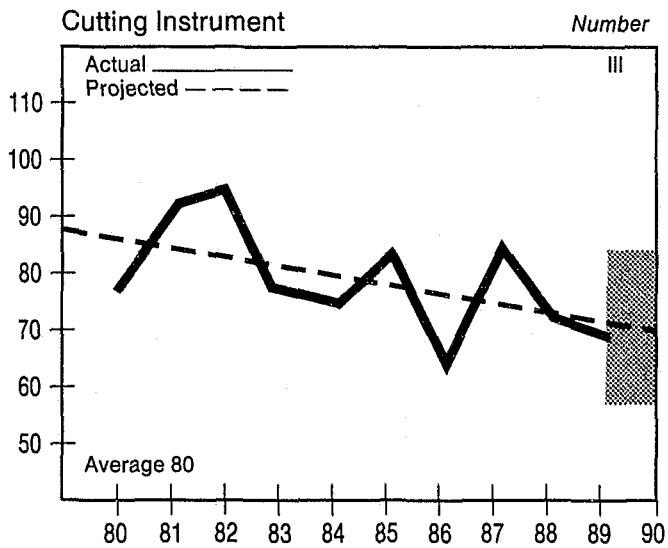
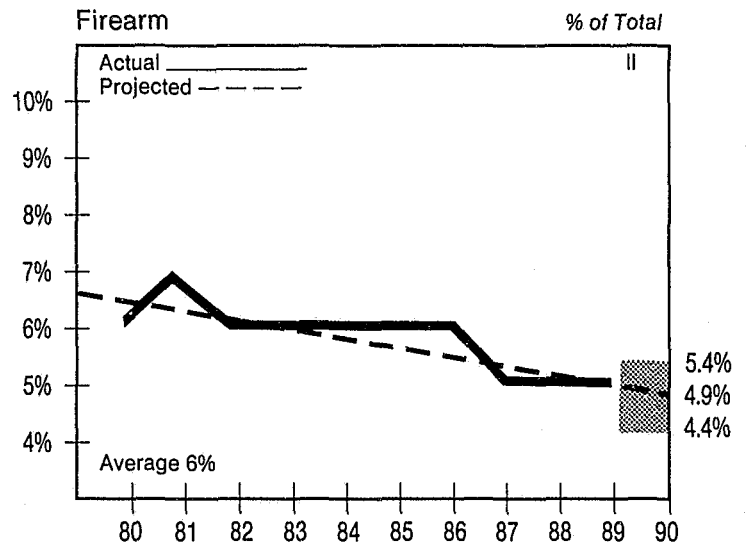
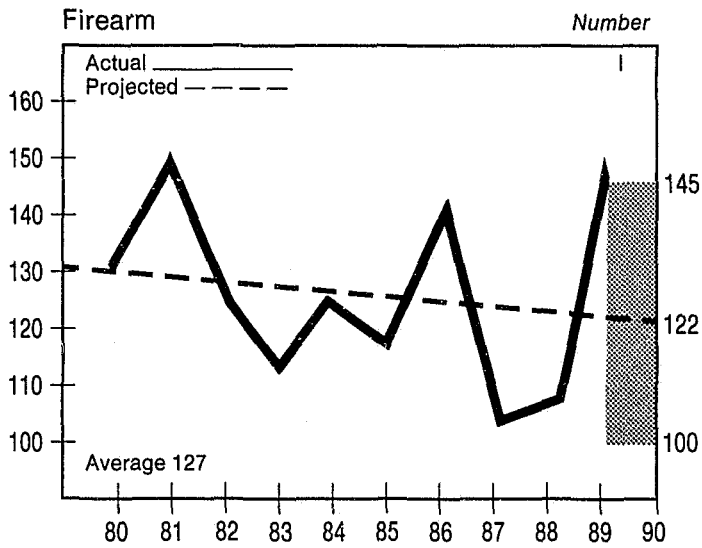
% of Total

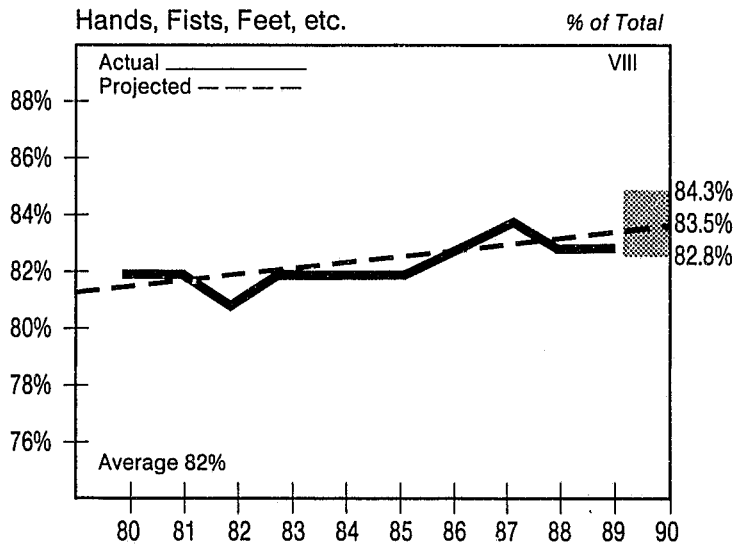
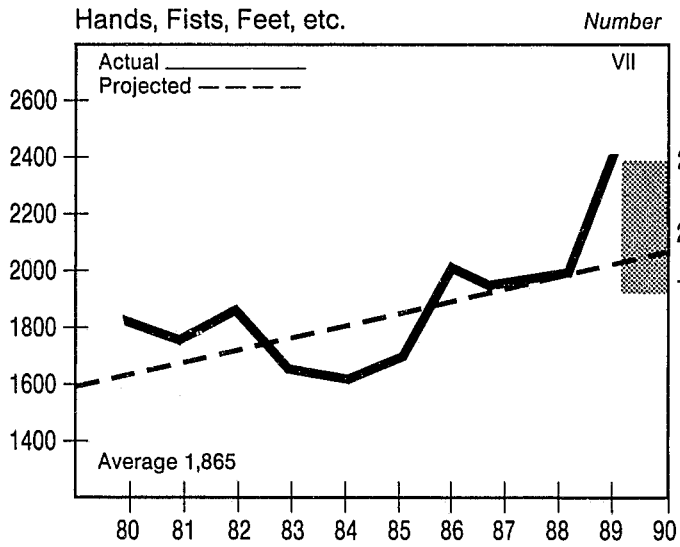


OFFICER ASSAULTS BY WEAPON

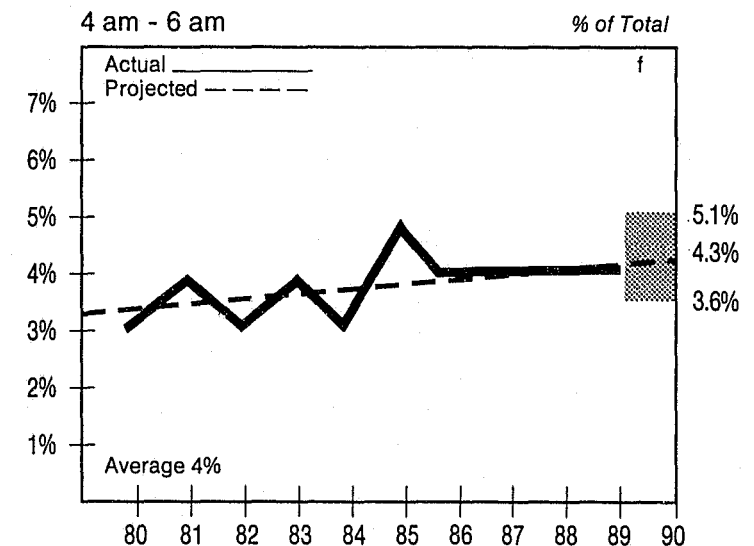
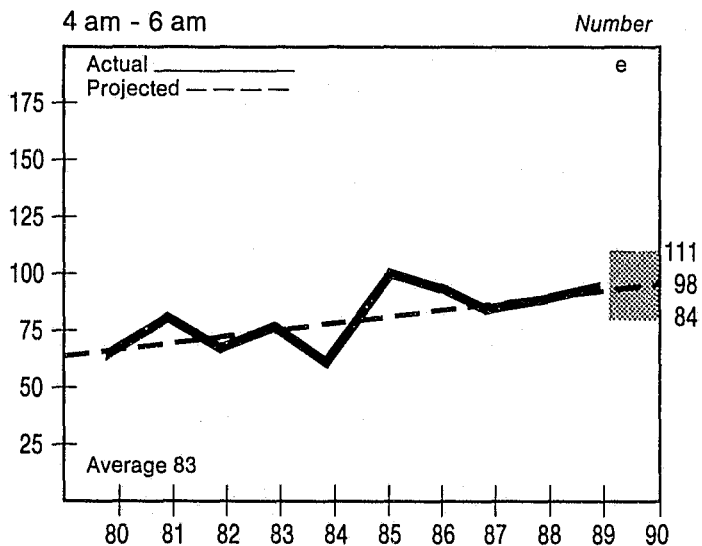
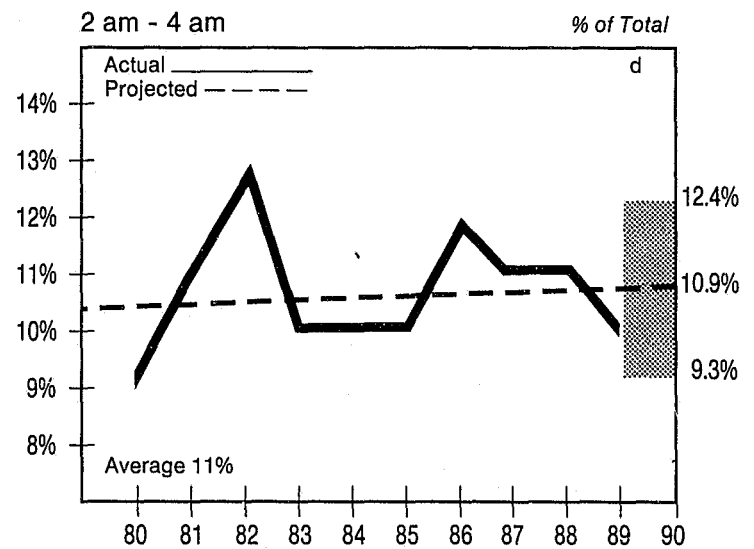
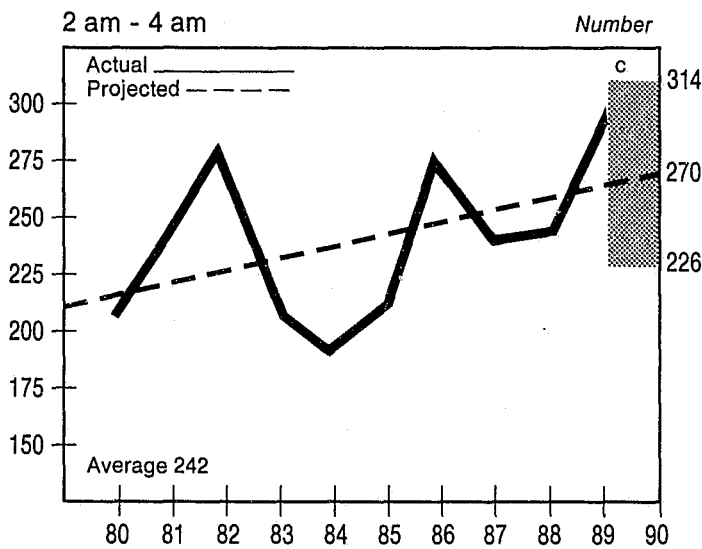
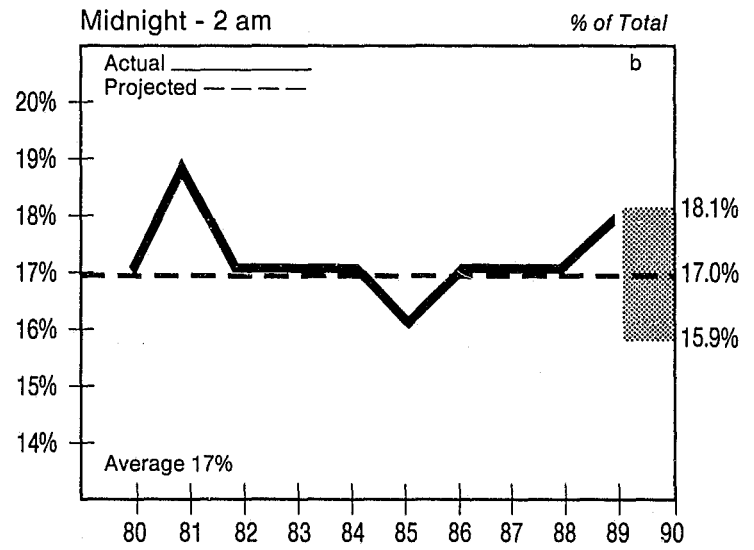
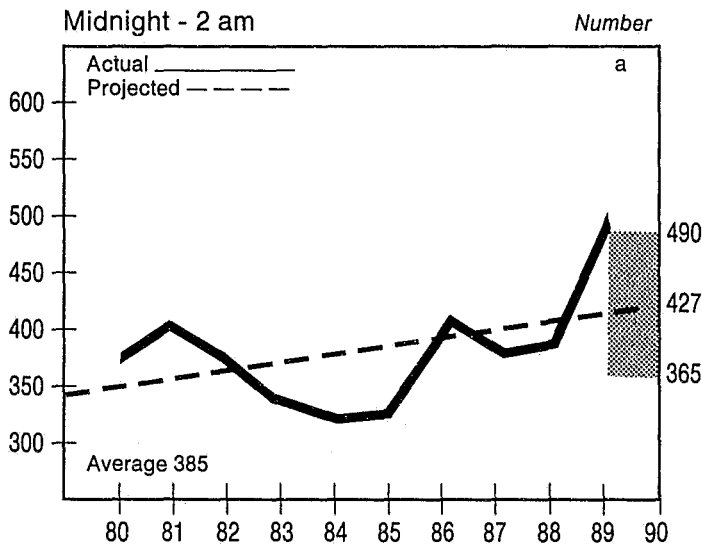
TEN YEAR TREND AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1990

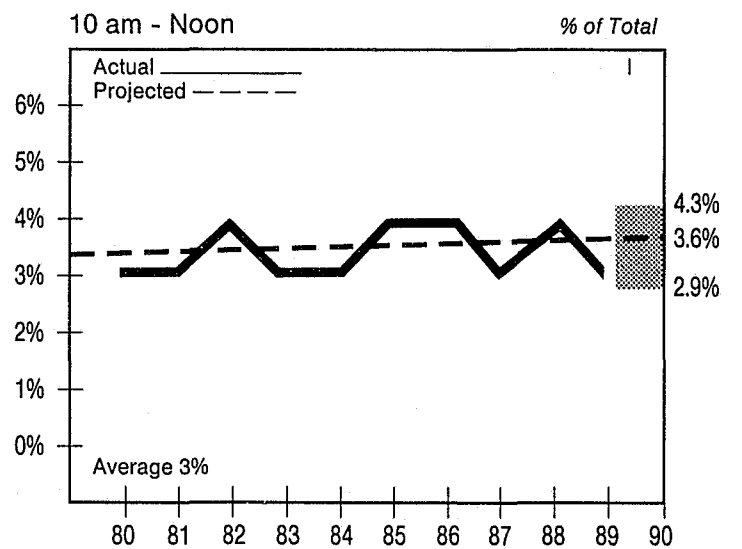
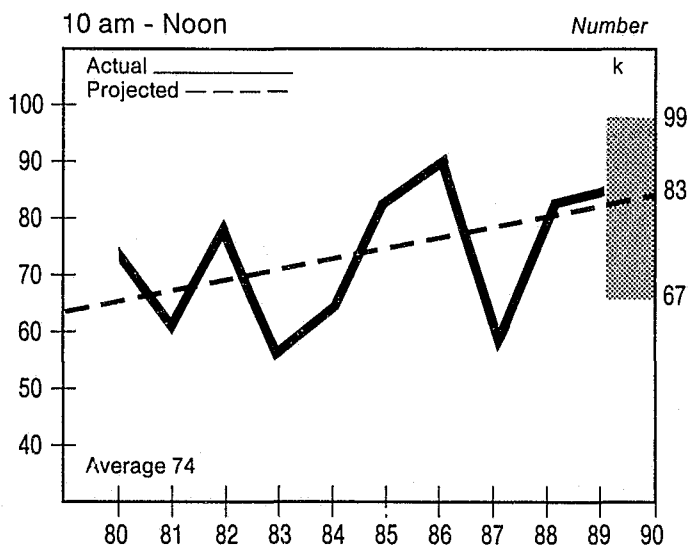
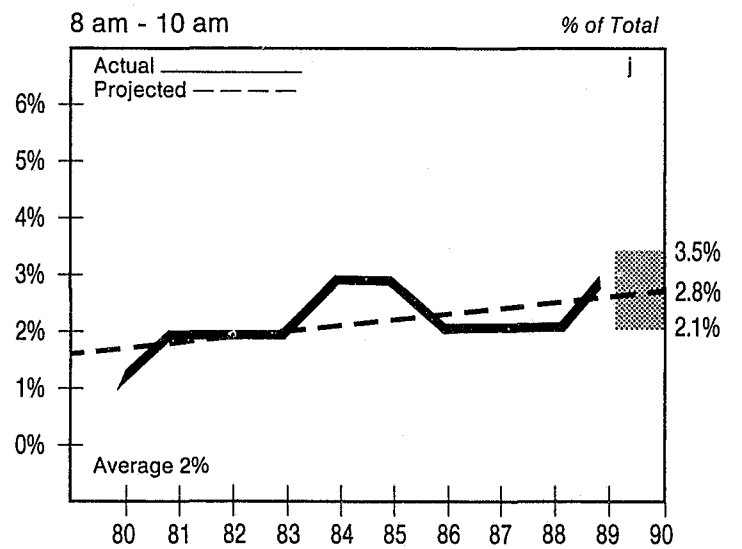
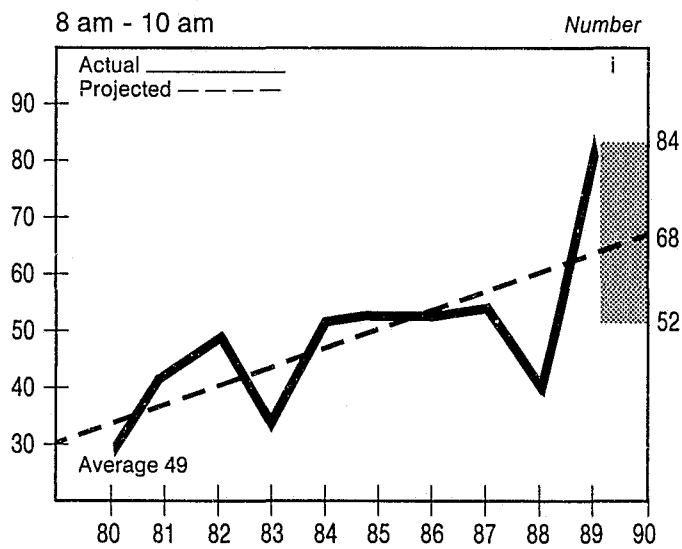
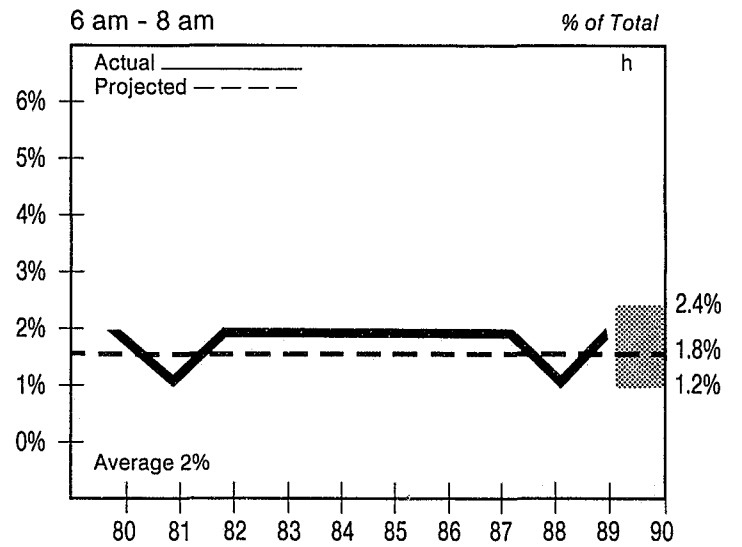
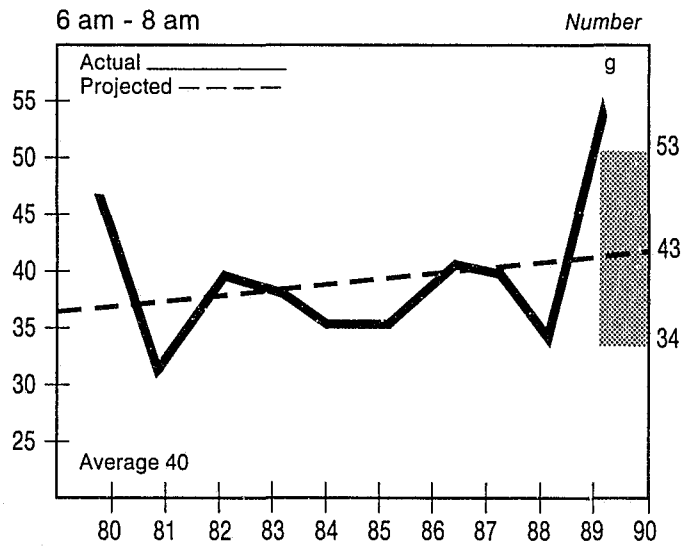
Actual Numbers Reported and Percent of Total

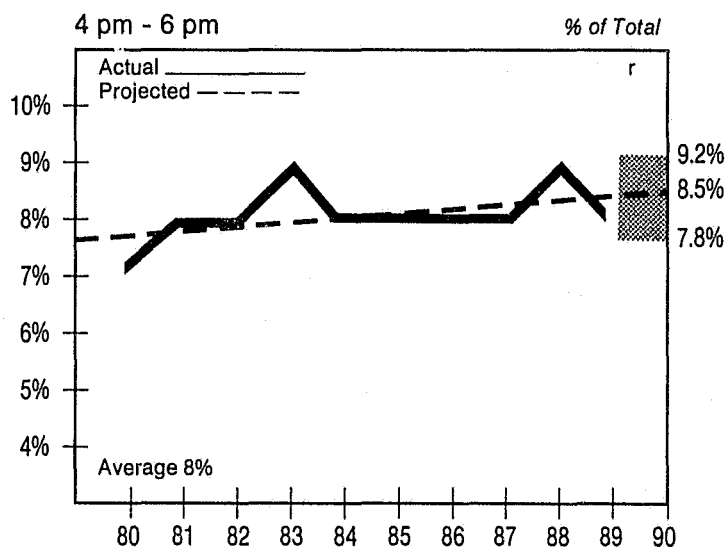
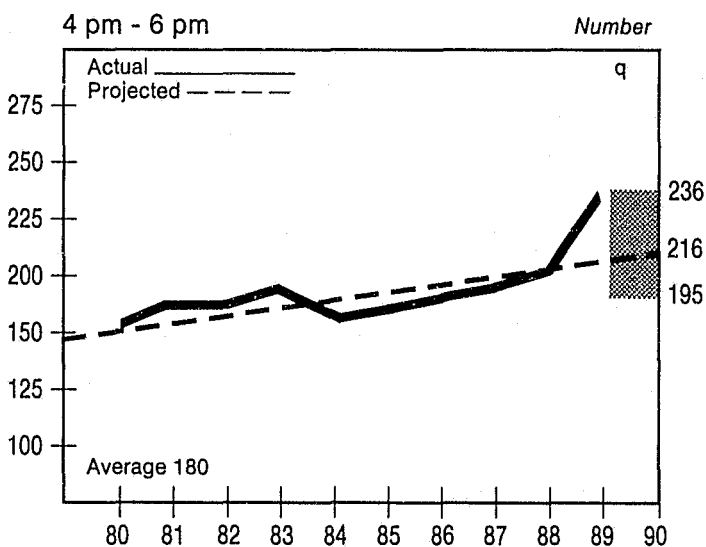
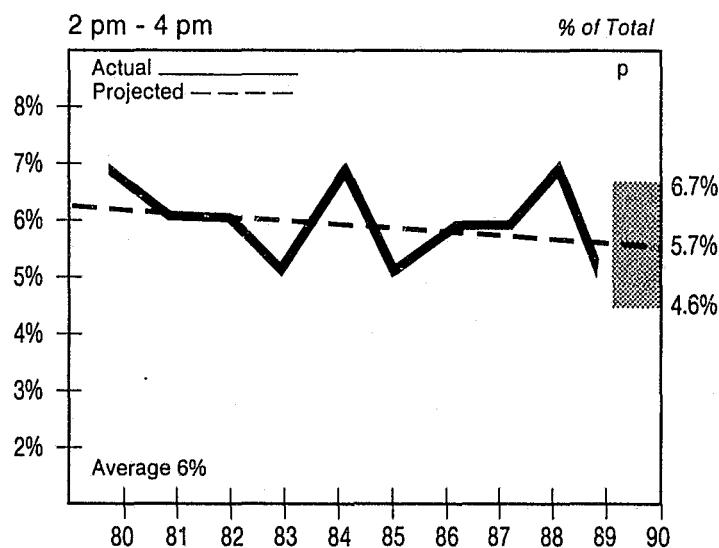
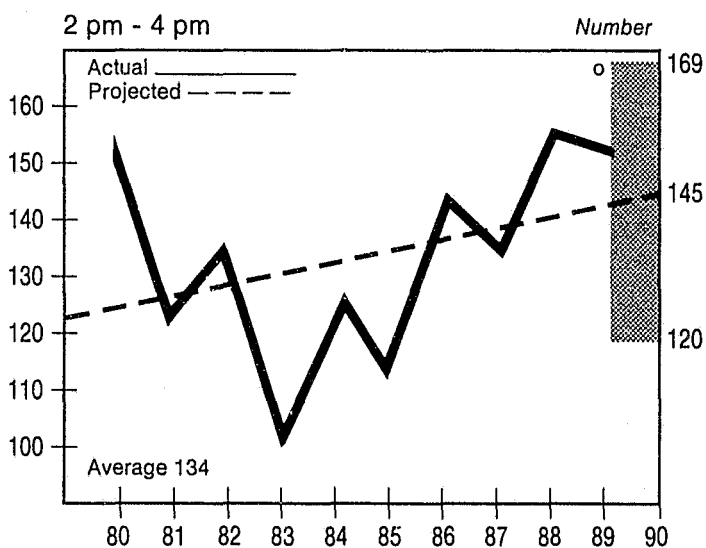
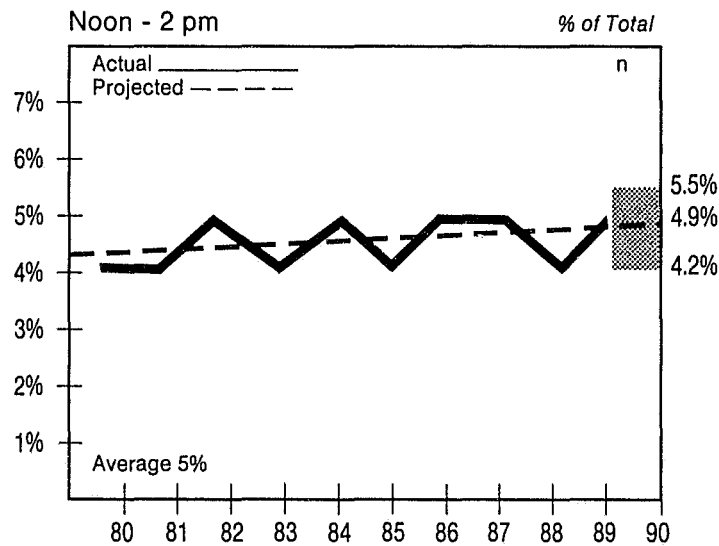
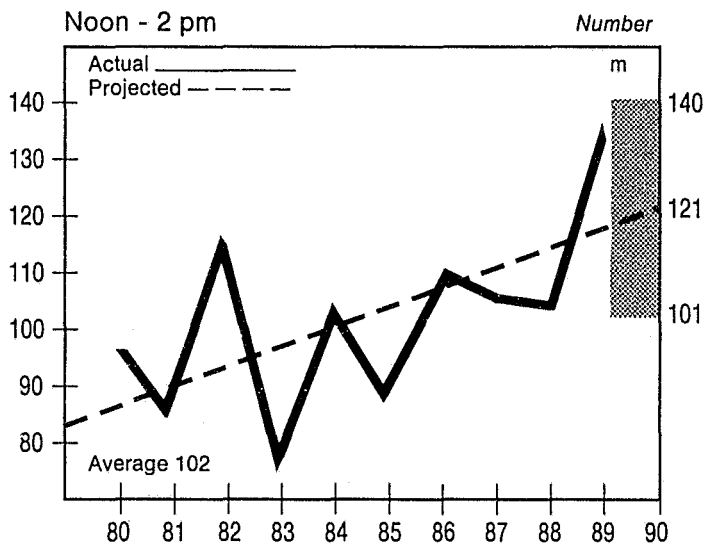


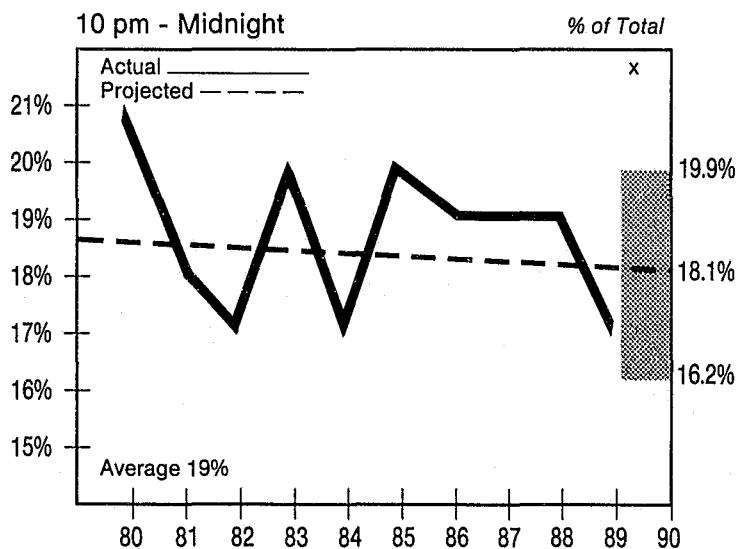
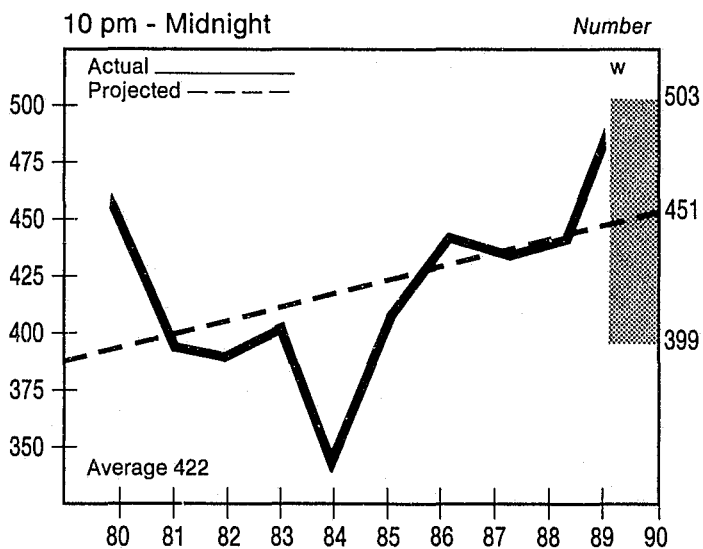
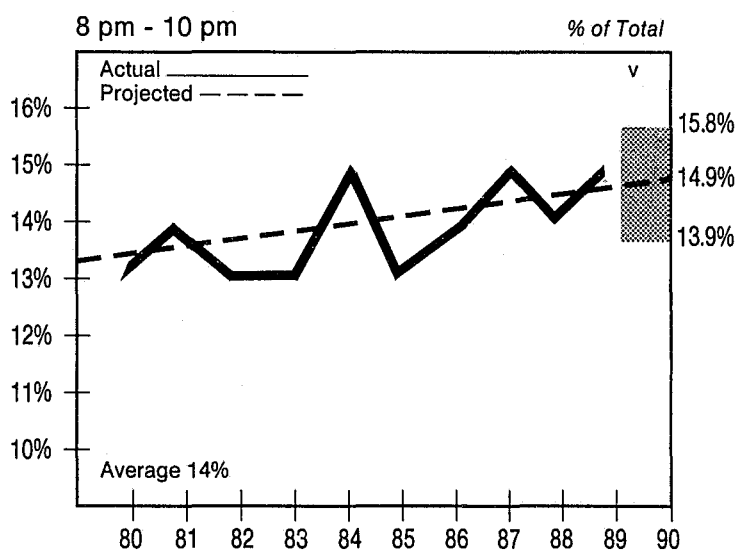
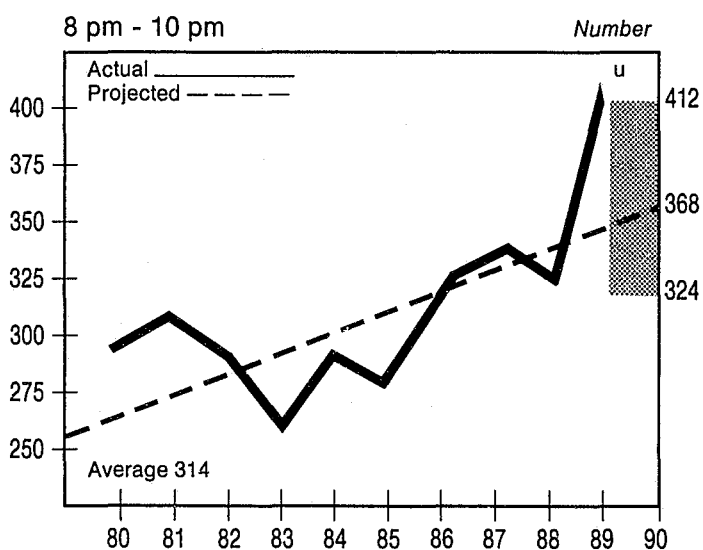
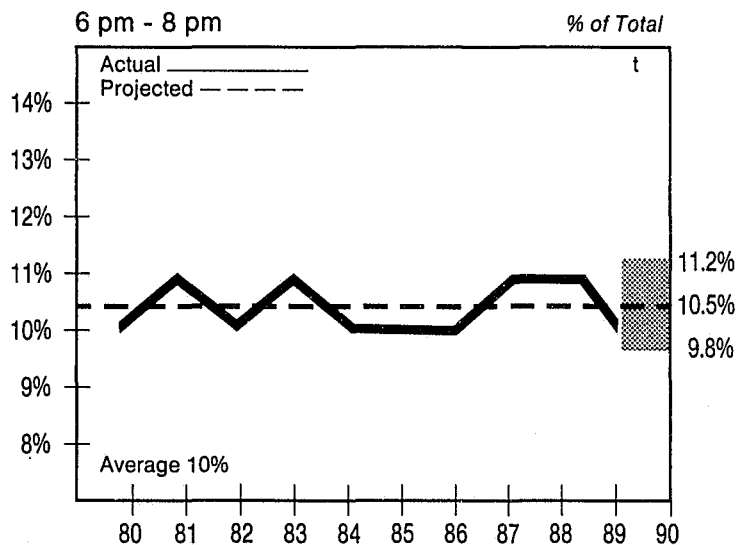
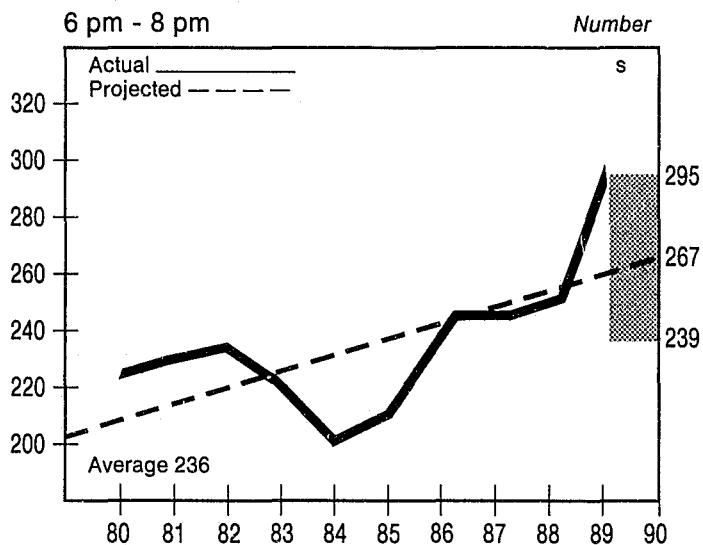


OFFICER ASSAULTS BY TIME OF DAY **TEN YEAR TREND AND PROJECTIONS FOR 1990** **Actual Numbers Reported and Percent of Total**









SUMMARY

During 1989, 2,850 law enforcement officer assaults were reported to the Division of Criminal Information (DCI). This figure represents approximately two of every ten officers in the state. Of these 2,850 assaults 386 or 14 percent resulted in personal injury. Fortunately, the number of officers killed as a result of assault is very small. No officer deaths were reported in 1989 and none in 1988. (An average of two per year since 1980.)

DCI began collecting statistics in 1973, and since that time officer assaults have increased 107 percent. This increase may be attributed to:

1. An increase of 24 percent in the number of officers in North Carolina since 1974.
2. An increase in reported crime of 150 percent.
3. A population increase of 22 percent.
4. A 91 percent increase in arrests.

The intent of this summary is not to suggest that officer assaults can be eliminated. The intent is to point out situations that "statistically" have a high risk factor; with the hope that awareness will reduce the number and severity of assaults. The topics to be covered are:

1. Type of officer assignment.
2. Type of activity or (call) at time of assault.
3. Type of weapon used.
4. Time of occurrence.

As will be seen, most assaults fall into specific patterns year after year. As can be seen from charts A-N pages 10-12 officer assignment has easily identifiable high risk categories. There are seven categories of assignment:

1. Two man vehicle.
2. One man vehicle alone.
3. One man vehicle assisted.
4. Detective alone.
5. Detective assisted.
6. Other alone.
7. Other assisted.

Of these seven assignments, three alone account for an average of 86 percent of all assaults. These three are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Two man vehicle | 10% |
| 2. One man vehicle alone | 35% |
| 3. One man vehicle assisted | 41% |

It is interesting to note that while the overall trend in two man vehicles for 1980 through 1984 was down; the trend for the last five years has been up. Charts A&B show that while the ten year average is 235, the 1989 figure was 330. This indicates a probable upward trend for the future. The number of assaults in the one man vehicle alone category shows an overall upward trend. This is especially true since 1983. (See Chart C&D.) The one man vehicle assisted category has an overall upward trend also. (See Charts E&F.) The only other category with an upward trend is detective assisted. (See Charts I&J.) All other categories are either relatively constant or have downward trends. A note of warning is necessary here. Just because these last four categories have lower chances of an assault statistically does not mean that they should be taken lightly. There were 313 assaults in them in 1989.

As with assignment, activity at the time of an assault also has trends and patterns that can be seen in charts 1-22 on pages 15-16. There are eleven types of activity. These are:

1. Responding to disturbance call.
2. Burglaries in progress, pursuing burglary suspects.
3. Robberies in progress, pursuing robbery suspects.
4. Attempting other arrests.
5. Civil disorders.
6. Handling or transporting of custody prisoners.
7. Investigating suspicious persons or circumstances.
8. Ambush.
9. Handling mentally deranged persons.
10. Traffic pursuits and stops.
11. All other.

Of these eleven activities six account for 96 percent of the total. These six are:

1. Responding to disturbance calls	29%
2. Attempting other arrests	26%
3. Handling or transporting of custody prisoners	12%
4. Traffic pursuits and stops	12%
5. All other	11%
6. Investigating suspicious persons or circumstances	6%

Looking at these categories individually, responding to disturbance calls has a definite overall upward trend. However attempting other arrests has a downward trend as does handling or transporting of custody prisoners. Each of the remaining categories (traffic pursuits and stops, all other and investigating suspicious persons or circumstances) has an upward trend. Note that the category investigating suspicious persons has an unusually high rate of increase in 1989, (plus 85%).

An examination of the type of weapon, (Charts I - VIII) (pages 17 and 18), used in officer assaults again reveals patterns and trends. In the category fire arm the trend has been down. However, during the past two years there have been increases. In cutting instrument the trend has been a downward slope. In the category other weapon the trend has been upward and in hands fists, or feet the trend has also been upward. The single category hands, fist and feet averages 82 percent of assaults.

Finally, an examination of the time of day that officer assaults occur reveals that night time is an officers worst enemy. See Charts A - X on pages 19-22. An average of 79 percent of assaults occur between 4 p.m. and 4 a.m.; with the highest 2 hour period from 10 p.m. to midnight. An examination of each 2 hour period from midnight to midnight reveals that each time period has had an upward trend.

During the last ten years 22,602 officers have been assaulted and 15 of them killed. This report has noted a number of high risk areas that officers encounter on a daily basis. With these areas in mind it is hoped that a reduction can be made in these figures.