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**Wisconsin
Office of Justice Assistance
Statistical Analysis Center**

Violent Crime in Wisconsin 1983-1992

I. INTRODUCTION

This publication summarizes data on violent crime in Wisconsin over the past ten years. Violent Crime is defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting System as "offenses involving face-to-face confrontation between victim and perpetrator. These are murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault."

During the past ten years violent offenses have increased substantially. There were 9,112 violent crimes reported in 1983, while the numbers of violent offenses reached 13,864 in 1992, a 52.2 percent increase over the past ten years.

II. CRIMES REPORTED

Total Offenses

Graph 1 shows the total number of violent offenses in Wisconsin over the past ten years. The number of known violent offenses in Wisconsin increased by 52.2 percent, from 9,112 in 1983 to 13,864 in 1992. Over the past decade the total number of violent offenses increased from 1983 to 1986, decreased in 1987 and 1988, and rose from 1989 through 1992.

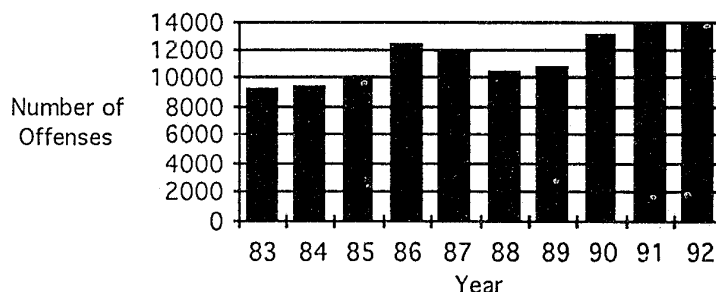
Of the four violent index offenses, robbery increased the most, by 75.6 percent, while aggravated assault increased the least, by 34.4 percent. However, murder and forcible rape also increased substantially, the former by 71.1 percent, and the latter by 52.6 percent (see Table 1).

Offense Rates

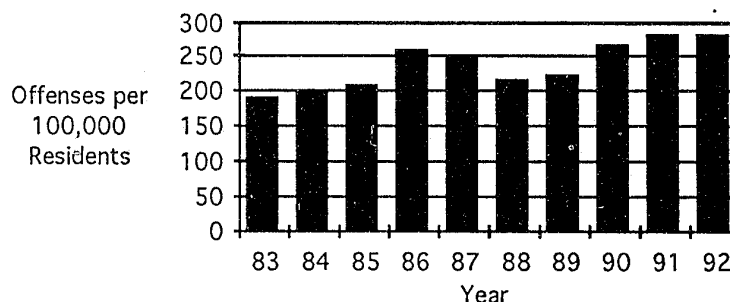
Graph 2 shows the offense rates for violent crime in Wisconsin during the decade. The offense rate is the number of offenses per 100,000 residents. The offense rates for violent crime rose steadily from 1983 to 1986, declined in 1987 and 1988, increased from 1989 through 1991 and decreased slightly in 1992. Overall, offense rates increased by 46.4 percent.

The information presented in this report has been summarized from Crime and Arrests in Wisconsin, published by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. This publication addresses such issues as the number of crimes reported, arrest trends, clearance rates, and other related circumstances or characteristics. In addition, two reference tables have also been included, one for the entire State and one for Milwaukee County. Both tables contain violent crime arrest data for both juveniles and adults.

Graph 1: Total Violent Crime Offenses
1983-1992



Graph 2: Violent Crime Offense Rates
1983-1992



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

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Geographic Distribution of Violent Crime

The map of Wisconsin at right categorizes counties by their 1992 Violent Crime offense rates (number of offenses per 100,000 residents). In general, the highest offense rates were in urban counties. However, in 1992 several small rural counties, such as Vilas, Bayfield, Rusk, Menominee, Juneau, and Richland also had fairly high rates. High offense rates in rural areas are often related to a low population density.

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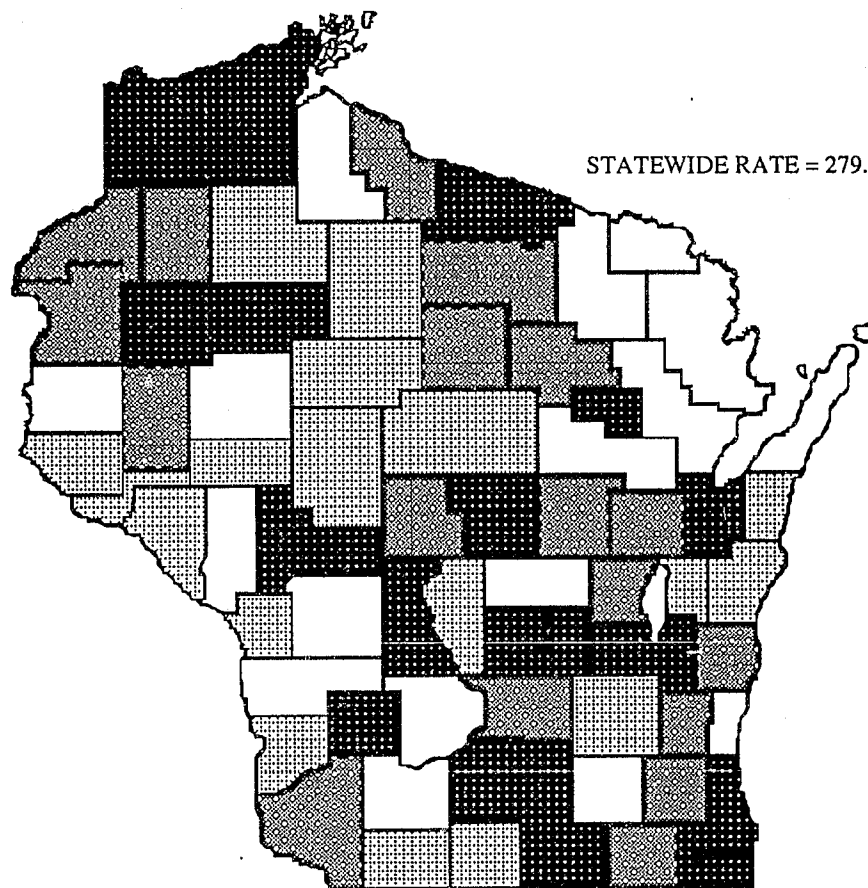
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1992 VIOLENT CRIME OFFENSE RATES IN WISCONSIN COUNTIES



Quartile 1
0 thru 68.3



Quartile 3
94 thru 159.9



Quartile 2
68.4 thru 93.9



Quartile 4
160 and Above



III. REFERENCE TABLES

Tables 1 and 2 on the following pages are reference tables presenting data on total offenses, offense rates, arrests, and arrest rates for Violent Crime in Wisconsin and Milwaukee County over the past ten years. From the first table one can note that during this period Violent Crime arrests for the entire state have increased by 58.5 percent, from 5,124 in 1983 to 8,120 in 1992. As shown in Table 2 Violent Crime arrests in Milwaukee County have increased by 31 percent during the decade.

Table 1: State of Wisconsin Offenses, Offense Rates, Arrests and Arrest Rates for Violent Crime 1983-1992

OFFENSES	<u>1983</u>		<u>1984</u>		<u>1985</u>		<u>1986</u>		<u>1987</u>		<u>1988</u>		<u>1989</u>		<u>1990</u>		<u>1991</u>		<u>1992</u>	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Murder	128	2.7	117	2.5	136	2.8	153	3.2	170	3.5	145	3.0	177	3.6	228	4.7	240	4.9	219	4.4
Rape	865	18.1	770	16.4	885	18.5	969	20.2	985	20.6	950	19.7	989	20.3	1017	20.8	1261	25.6	1320	26.6
Robbery	3421	71.6	3160	66.2	3344	70.0	3478	72.6	3175	66.2	3254	67.6	3660	75.3	5514	112.7	5902	119.9	6009	120.9
Agg. Assault	4698	98.3	5302	111.3	5546	116.4	7759	162.6	7659	160.1	6078	126.2	5987	123.1	6206	126.9	6440	130.9	6316	127.1
TOTAL-VIOLENT OFFENSES	9112	190.7	9349	196.4	9912	207.7	12359	258.6	11989	250.4	10427	216.5	10812	222.3	12965	265.1	13843	281.2	13864	279.1
ADULT ARRESTS																				
Murder	144	4.2	119	3.5	154	4.4	164	4.7	241	6.9	161	4.6	285	8.0	304	8.4	375	10.3	355	9.7
Rape	352	10.2	330	9.7	369	10.6	466	13.3	601	17.2	472	13.4	523	14.7	502	13.9	557	15.4	573	15.6
Robbery	987	28.7	1056	30.9	887	25.4	835	23.9	910	26.0	929	26.4	957	27.0	1306	36.2	1398	38.6	1551	42.4
Agg. Assault	2169	63.0	2453	71.8	2543	72.9	3302	94.5	3735	106.7	3601	102.5	4372	123.2	3791	105.2	3507	96.8	3413	93.3
Total Adult Arrests for Violent Offenses	3652	106.0	3958	115.8	3953	113.3	4767	136.3	5487	156.8	5163	147.0	6137	172.9	5903	164.5	5837	161.0	5892	161.0
JUVENILE ARRESTS																				
Murder	14	1.1	21	1.5	20	1.5	21	1.6	30	2.3	14	1.1	44	3.3	68	5.2	66	5.1	94	7.2
Rape	62	4.7	93	6.8	135	10.4	106	8.1	127	9.8	121	9.3	137	10.4	133	10.2	167	12.9	126	9.6
Robbery	774	58.1	715	52.6	667	51.6	538	41.5	401	31.0	407	31.3	434	33.0	622	47.7	883	68.1	889	67.9
Agg. Assault	622	46.7	603	44.4	671	51.9	754	58.3	747	57.7	609	46.8	816	62.1	866	66.4	887	68.4	1119	85.5
Total Juvenile Arrests for Violent Offenses	1472	110.5	1432	105.4	1493	115.6	1419	109.7	1305	100.8	1151	88.5	1431	108.9	1689	129.6	2003	154.6	2228	170.2
JUVENILE POP.	1,332,723		1,358,519		1,291,322		1,293,307		1,294,987		1,302,385		1,313,748		1,303,149		1,295,962		1,308,630	
ADULT POP.	3,445,178		3,415,864		3,487,699		3,495,815		3,499,805		3,513,117		3,549,406		3,588,620		3,624,545		3,659,594	

Table 2: Milwaukee County Offenses, Offense Rates, Arrests and Arrest Rates for Violent Crime 1983-1992

OFFENSES	<u>1983</u>		<u>1984</u>		<u>1985</u>		<u>1986</u>		<u>1987</u>		<u>1988</u>		<u>1989</u>		<u>1990</u>		<u>1991</u>		<u>1992</u>	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Murder	55	5.8	44	7.6	71	7.6	89	9.5	95	10.2	86	9.2	117	12.5	158	16.5	173	18.0	151	15.6
Rape	269	28.3	318	34.0	415	44.2	477	51.0	466	49.9	436	46.8	485	52.0	535	55.8	563	58.5	576	59.7
Robbery	2385	251.3	2069	221.5	2285	243.1	2433	260.0	2174	233.1	2287	245.6	2640	282.9	4406	459.3	4551	473.1	4655	482.3
Agg. Assault	1574	165.9	1614	172.8	1979	210.6	3828	408.5	3947	423.3	2851	306.2	1620	173.6	1893	197.3	1791	186.2	1582	163.9
TOTAL-VIOLENT OFFENSES	4283	451.3	4045	435.9	4750	505.5	6827	729.0	6682	716.5	5660	607.8	4862	521.0	6992	728.9	7078	735.8	6964	721.5
ADULT ARRESTS																				
Murder	75	11.0	44	7.6	89	12.6	113	16.1	165	23.6	115	16.5	222	31.8	239	33.5	305	42.7	277	38.6
Rape	159	22.8	153	22.3	193	27.4	273	39.0	419	60.0	303	43.5	312	44.7	242	33.9	266	37.2	272	37.9
Robbery	693	99.2	700	101.8	526	74.8	593	84.7	580	83.1	609	87.4	683	97.8	949	133.1	1037	145.1	1132	157.8
Agg. Assault	875	125.3	844	122.8	896	127.4	1312	187.3	1417	203.1	1577	226.4	1442	206.5	921	129.2	723	101.1	753	105.0
Total Adult Arrests for Violent Offenses	1802	258.3	1741	254.5	1704	242.2	2291	327.1	2581	369.8	2604	373.8	2659	380.8	2351	329.7	2331	326.1	2434	339.3
JUVENILE ARRESTS																				
Murder	6	2.4	9	3.5	11	4.7	18	7.6	26	11.1	9	3.8	36	15.3	60	24.4	60	24.3	82	33.1
Rape	19	7.6	23	9.3	62	26.2	40	17.0	93	39.6	73	31.2	63	26.8	57	23.1	84	34.0	52	21.0
Robbery	579	231.1	508	206.0	518	219.1	413	175.4	293	124.9	250	106.8	263	112.0	474	192.4	684	276.9	639	257.8
Agg. Assault	250	99.8	244	99.0	257	108.7	284	120.6	312	133.0	263	112.4	301	128.2	261	105.9	234	94.7	275	110.9
Total Juvenile Arrests for Violent Offenses	854	340.8	784	318.0	848	358.7	755	320.7	724	308.6	595	254.2	663	282.4	852	345.8	1062	430.0	1048	422.8
JUVENILE POP.	250,527		246,577		236,419		235,455		234,590		234,489		234,750		246,360		247,021		247,850	
ADULT POP.	698,620		687,545		703,270		700,415		697,842		696,619		698,317		713,023		714,930		717,3298	

IV. VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS

Arrest Trends

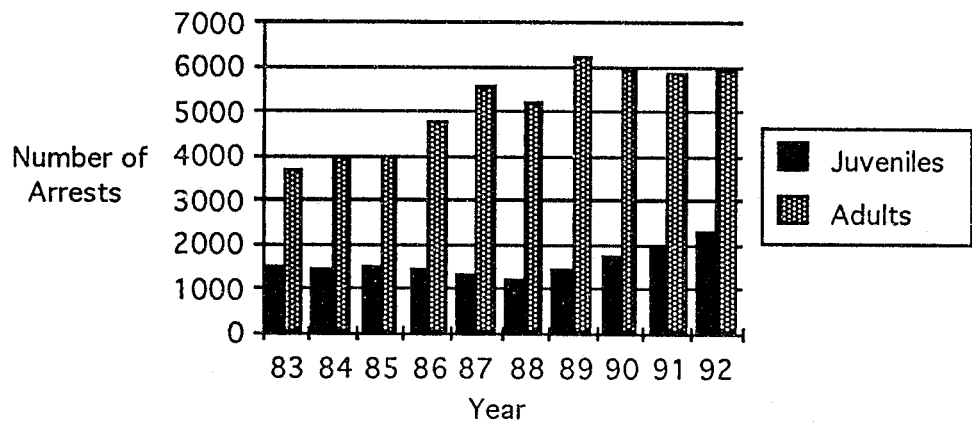
Graph 3 shows the trends in juvenile and adult arrests for violent crimes. While the number of adult arrests is significantly greater than those for juveniles, both adult and juvenile arrests increased over the past ten years. For adults, the number of arrests increased by 61.3 percent, from 3,652 in 1983 to 5,892 in 1992. In contrast, the number of juvenile arrests increased by 51.4 percent, from 1,472 in 1983 to 2,228 in 1992. While both increased, neither followed a steady trend upward. The number of juvenile arrests for Violent Crime decreased in 1984, increased in 1985, decreased again from 1986 through 1988, then increased from 1989 through 1992. The number of adult arrests generally increased through 1989, then began decreasing again in 1991, with a slight rise in 1992.

Arrest Rates

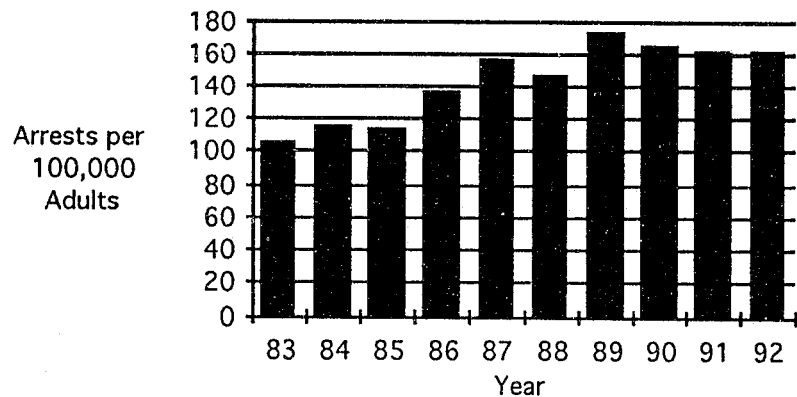
Graph 4 shows the arrest rates for adults in Wisconsin during the ten year period. The arrest rate is the number of arrests per 100,000 adults. Arrest rates are used to control the effect of varying populations from year to year, permitting the study of arrests on equal population bases. The adult arrest rates for violent crime generally increased through 1989, then decreased from 1990 through 1992.

Graph 5 shows the juvenile arrest rates for violent crime. Similar to the pattern of the adult arrest rates, the juvenile arrest rates also increase, from 110.5 to 169.8. However they do not increase steadily. In 1984, the rates decrease, they increase in 1985, decrease from 1986 through 1988, then begin increasing rapidly from 1989 to 1992.

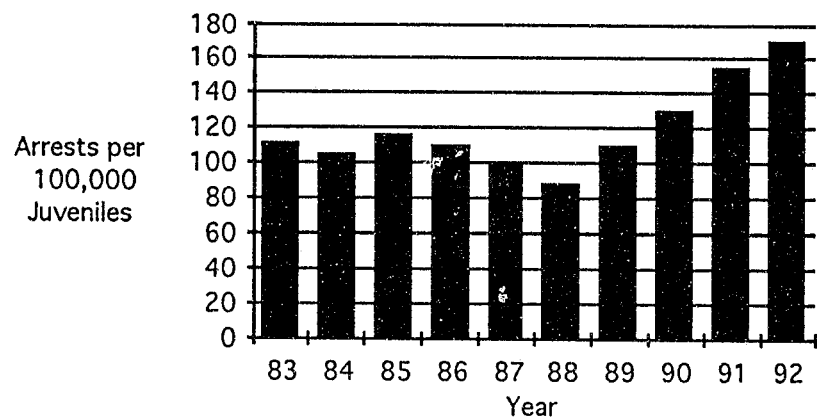
Graph 3: Juvenile and Adult Arrests for Violent Crime



Graph 4: Adult Arrest Rates for Violent Crime 1983-1992



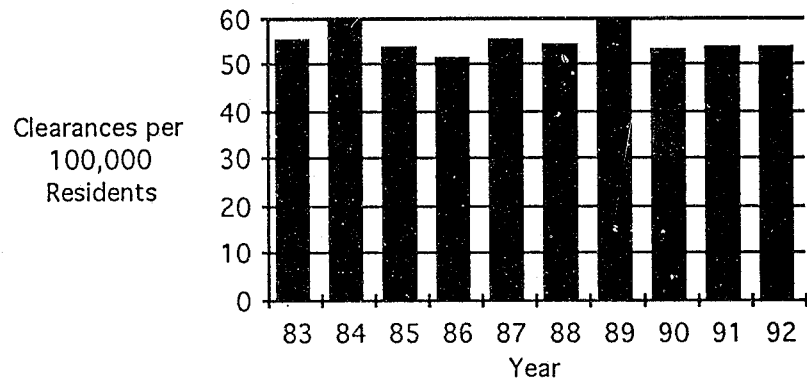
Graph 5: Juvenile Arrest Rates for Violent Crime 1983-1992



IV. CLEARANCE RATES

The clearance rate for total Violent Crime decreased by two percent, from 55 percent in 1983, to 53.9 percent in 1992. Among the violent crimes, clearance rates increased during the period for forcible rape and aggravated assault. However, clearance rates for murder and robbery decreased.

Graph 6: Total Clearance Rates for Violent Crime 1983-1992



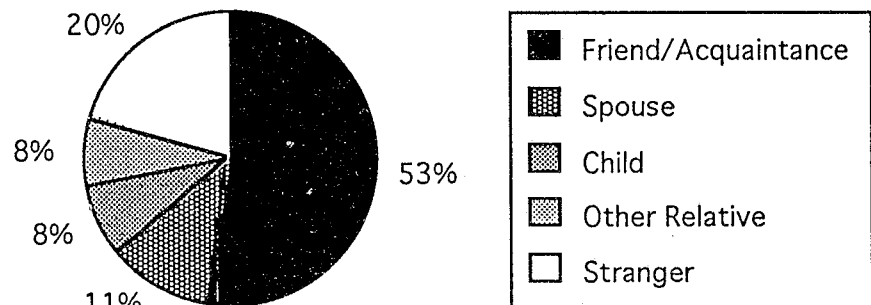
V. RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO OFFENDER

Among the violent offenses, the relationship between offender and victim can be determined for murder and forcible rape. Graph 7 shows the distribution of offender to victim relationships in murder cases, and Graph 8 shows the distribution of offender to victim relationships in cases of forcible rape.

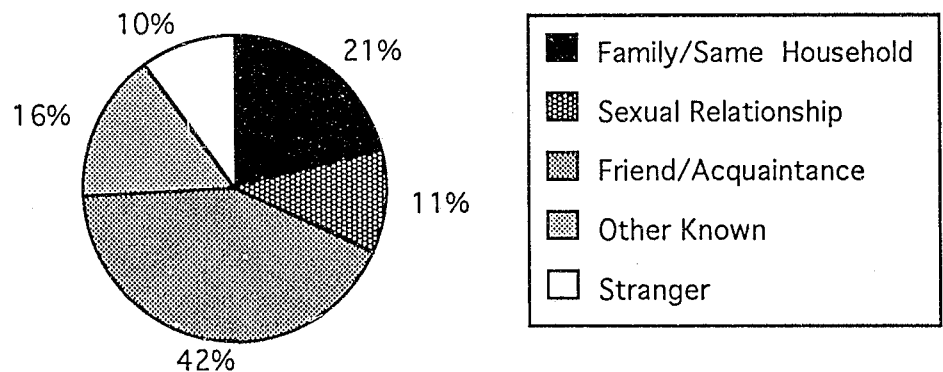
In those 1992 murder cases where the relationship of victim and offender was determined, 80 percent of the victims knew their assailant. Fifty-three percent of the parties were friends or acquaintances.

In those 1992 rape cases where the relationship between an offender and a victim was determined, 90 percent of victims knew their assailant.

Graph 7: Distribution of Offender to Victim Relationships-Murder, 1992



Graph 8: Distribution of Offender to Victim Relationships-Rape, 1992



VI. WEAPON USE

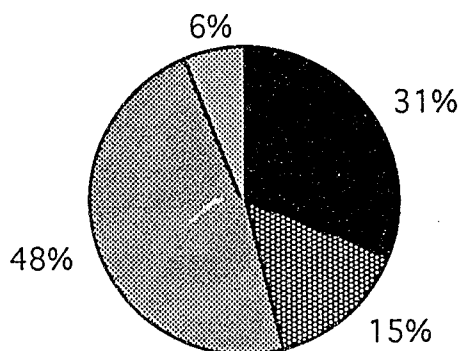
Information on the type of weapon used is available for murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults. The categories of weapons recorded differ slightly for these crimes. The weapons categories for robbery are firearms, knives and other cutting instruments, other dangerous weapons, and strong-arm robbery (i.e. robbery using personal force, hands/fists). From 1983 to 1992 the use of firearms increased by 70 percent, while all other weapon usages decreased. Of the 1992 robberies, firearms were the most frequently used type of weapon (53%).

The weapons categories for aggravated assault are similar. During the decade, the use of other dangerous weapons increased the most, by 36.2 percent, while the use of personal weapons, firearms and knives, decreased. Of the 1992 aggravated assaults, 45 per-

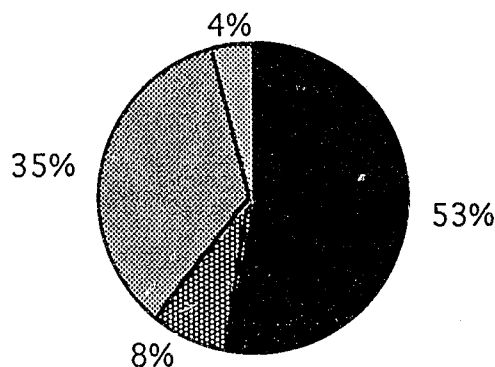
cent were committed with the use of a personal weapon.

For murder, the weapons categories are firearms, cutting instruments, personal weapons, strangulation, blunt object, and all other weapons. Because weapon breakdown data was not available prior to 1984, a comparison of 1984 and 1992 weapon trends is made. Over the last eight years the use of personal weapons has increased the most, from 2.6 percent in 1984 to 9.1 in 1992. The use of firearms also increased, while the use of cutting instruments, blunt objects, strangulations and all other weapons decreased. Firearms were the most frequently used type of murder weapon in 1992 (63.5%). Among the firearms, handguns were the most common type used (49.8%), and shotguns were the second most common.

Graph 9: Robbery - Type of Weapon, 1983



Graph 10: Robbery - Type of Weapon, 1992



VII. SUMMARY

The number of violent crimes in Wisconsin increased substantially from 1983 to 1992, despite short periods of decline. During the ten years the total number of violent offenses reported increased by 52.2 percent and the number of arrests for violent offenses increased by 56.5 percent. Violent Crime arrests and arrest rates also increased, for both adults and juveniles. This pattern also held true for Milwaukee County. While the arrest rates for the State increased substantially, the clearance rates for violent

crimes decreased slightly during the ten year period. In 80 percent or more of the 1992 murder and forcible rape cases the victim and the offender knew each other. While firearms were the most frequently used type of murder and robbery weapon in 1992, personal weapons (hands/fists) were used most frequently in aggravated assaults. Among the firearms, the use of handguns was most prevalent. From 1984 to 1992, the use of handguns in homicides increased by 41.1 percent.

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