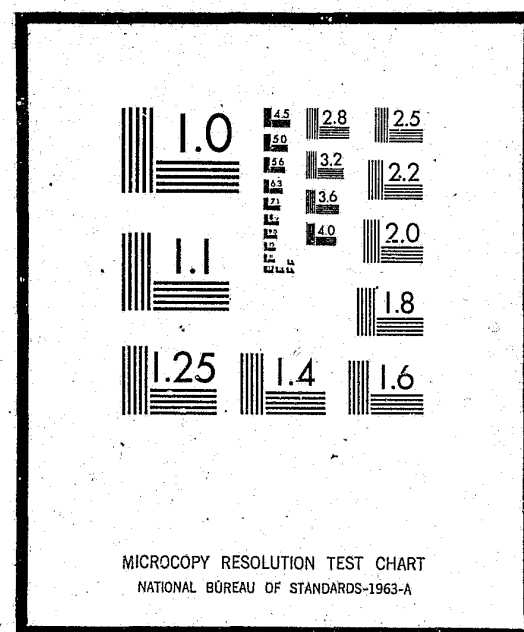


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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

Date filmed

11/19/75



## CRIME IN WISCONSIN ASSAULTS ON OFFICERS

JAN - JUN, 1974

CRIME INFORMATION BUREAU

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## ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

JANUARY - JUNE, 1974

Twenty-three Wisconsin Sheriffs' Offices, 51 Police Departments and two state agencies (the State Patrol and the Law Enforcement Bureau of the Department of Natural Resources) reported assaults on law enforcement officers during the first six months of 1974. All of these agencies are direct contributors to the state's Uniform Crime Reporting Program (administered by the Crime Information Bureau of the Wisconsin Department of Justice). Statewide, a total of 354 attacks on law enforcement officers was reported for the six-month period.

Police agencies in cities with 50,000 to 250,000 population reported 3 out of every 10 assaults on law enforcement officers occurring in Wisconsin, the highest number of assaults in any of the five major population groups. Only 22 attacks were reported by Sheriff's Offices in the state's Rural Areas (6 percent of the Wisconsin total).

Note --

In making comparisons of the data in this report with the data contained in previous reports for comparable periods, the possibility exists that certain figures may appear to be unreconcilable. When this does occur it is because adjustments have been made in the data for one or more of the following circumstances:

--When a law enforcement agency has incomplete reporting during the current period, the agency's data is omitted from the current totals and the current period/preceding period percent change calculations.

--Requests by law enforcement agencies to delete or amend the classification of an offense that had been reported for a previous period.

--Shifting of a law enforcement agency from one population category to another based on annual reestimation of the jurisdiction's population.

--On occasion, the federal government designates an additional Wisconsin county as being included in a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. This shifts a Sheriff's Office from the Rural Areas category to the Suburban Sheriff's group and shifts the cities within the county from Non-Suburban Cities to Suburban Cities, providing adjusted base figures for both classifications.

Statewide, attacks on law enforcement officers increased 16 percent for the first six months of 1974 as compared with the same period last year. Only the City of Milwaukee reported a decrease, 37 percent, in the number of assaults. The remaining four population categories showed increases in attacks on officers, ranging from a rise of 85 percent in the Suburban Areas to an increase of 22 percent in the Rural Areas.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
MAJOR POPULATION CATEGORIES  
JANUARY - JUNE, 1974

	Number Of Assaults	Percent Of Total	Percent Change In Number From 1973	Percent Involving Injury	Percent Cleared
MILWAUKEE	77	22%	-37%	100%	99%
CITIES 50,000-250,000 IN POPULATION	109	31%	+35%	42%	96%
SUBURBAN AREAS	96	27%	+85%	52%	98%
NON-SUBURBAN CITIES	43	12%	+54%	60%	98%
RURAL AREAS	22	6%	+22%	77%	95%
STATE TOTAL	354	100%	+16%	62%	97%

SUBURBAN AREAS includes all reporting Sheriffs' Offices and all reporting Police Departments serving jurisdictions with less than 50,000 population in the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) counties (Brown, Calumet, Dane, Douglas, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, St. Croix, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago).

NON-SUBURBAN CITIES includes all reporting city, village, and township Police Departments in non-SMSA counties.

RURAL AREAS includes all reporting Sheriff's Offices in non-SMSA counties.

STATE TOTAL includes assaults reported by the State Patrol and the Law Enforcement Bureau of the Department of Natural Resources (6 assaults and 1 assault, respectively).

1974 totals are based on those agencies reporting for each month in the first half of 1974. 1973-1974 percent changes are based on those agencies reporting for each of the first six months in 1973 and each of the first six months in 1974, with data submitted by new direct contributors included.

Statewide, law enforcement agencies cleared 97 percent of the assaults on officers in the January-June, 1974 period (slightly higher than the 95 percent clearance ratio of a year ago). Solution rates for the various population groups ranged from a high of 99 percent in Milwaukee to a low of 95 percent for the Rural Areas.

There were approximately two assaults per day on Wisconsin law enforcement officers, similar to the daily average of attacks in the same period a year ago. The number of assaults varied from a high of 89 in February to a low of 40 during January. Agencies reported 50 assaults in March, 60 in April, 59 in May and 56 in June.

Seventy-six percent of the total number of attacks on officers took place between 6:01 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. One out of every five assaults occurred during the two-hour span of 12:01 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

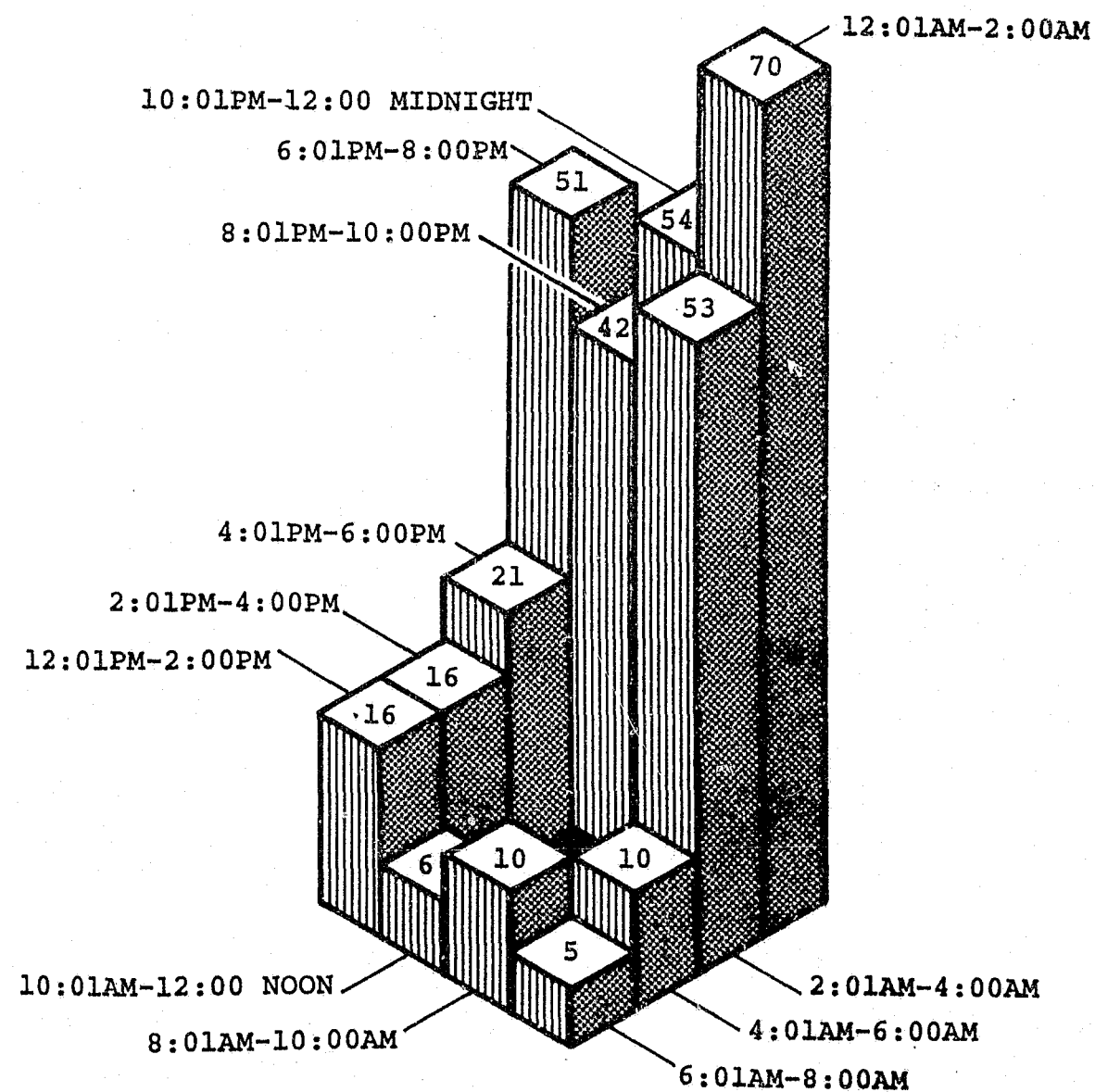
Personal weapons such as hands, fists or feet were employed in 9 out of 10 attacks on law enforcement officers. Firearms were used in 2 percent of the assaults, dangerous weapons other than firearms or cutting instruments in 5 percent and knives or other cutting instruments were used in the remainder.

Approximately 4 out of 5 of all the assaults in Wisconsin occurred while officers were involved in one of the following four types of activities: responding to disturbance calls (22 percent), attempting other arrests\* (20 percent), handling prisoners (19 percent) and traffic pursuits or stops (18 percent).

Examination of these four major activities reveals that ninety-eight percent of the assaults on officers while involved in traffic pursuits or stops were with personal weapons and 2 percent were with dangerous weapons other than firearms or cutting instruments. Personal weapons were employed in 94 percent of the assaults while handling prisoners, and 6 percent involved weapons other than guns or cutting instruments. Nine out of 10 assaults while attempting other arrests involved personal weapons, and in 6 percent weapons other than cutting instruments or firearms were used. When assaulted during disturbance calls, officers were attacked with personal weapons 82 percent of the time, and firearms were employed in 8 percent of the attacks during this type of activity.

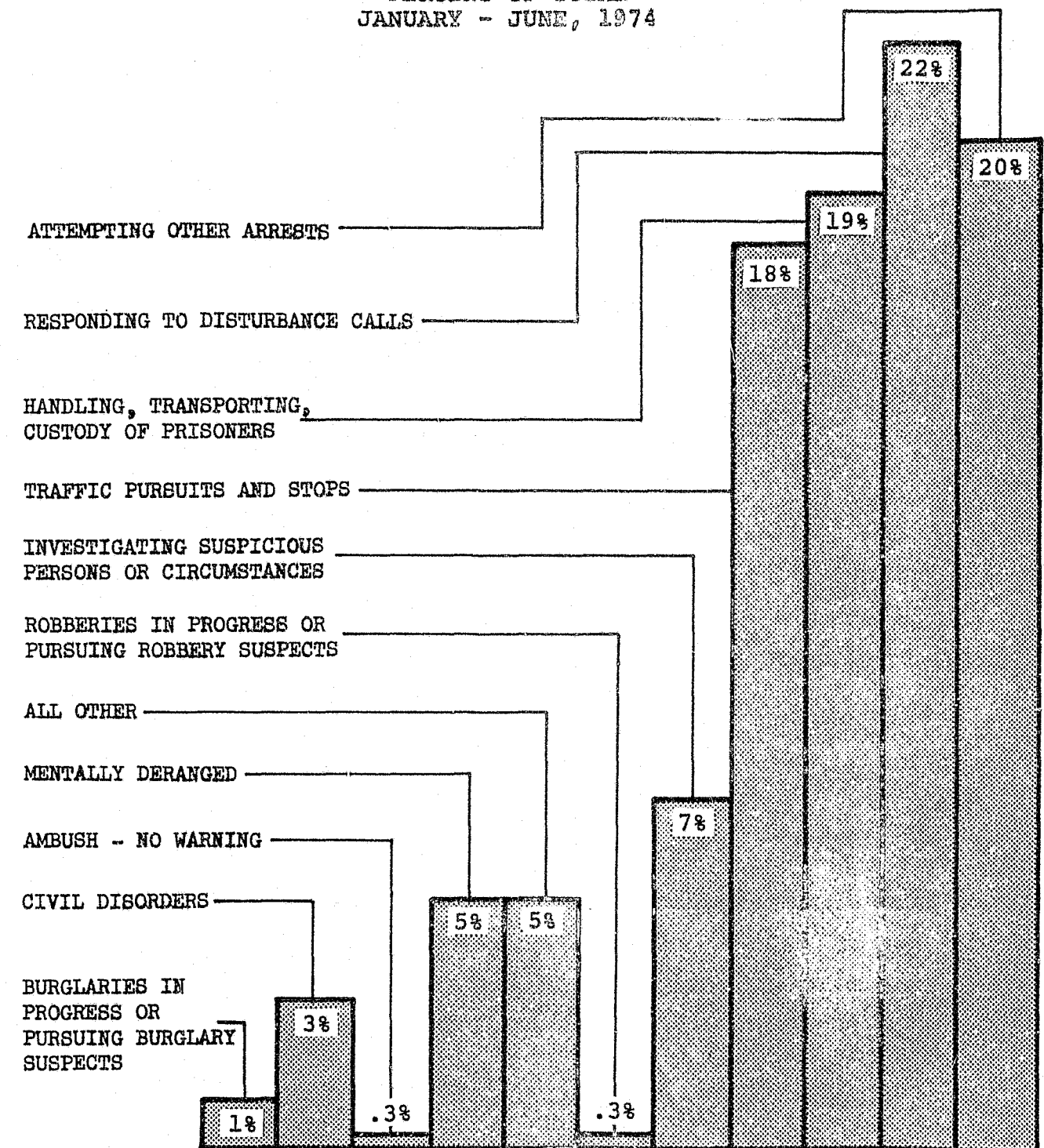
\*The term "Attempting Other Arrests" is defined as arrests during situations other than robbery matters, burglary matters, disturbance calls, civil disorders or traffic matters.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
TIME PERIODS  
JANUARY - JUNE, 1974



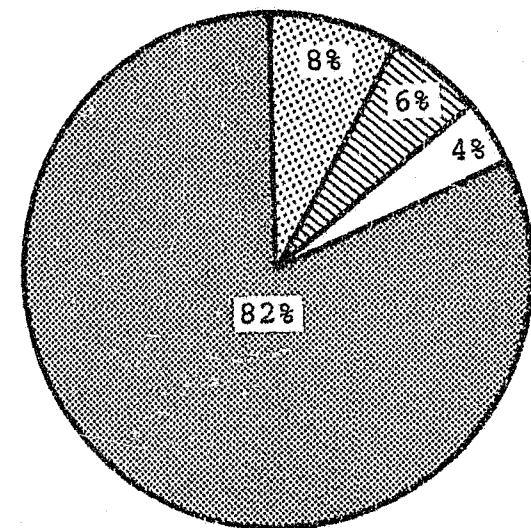
Numbers are the number of assaults in each time period.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
TYPE OF ACTIVITY  
PERCENT OF TOTAL  
JANUARY - JUNE, 1974

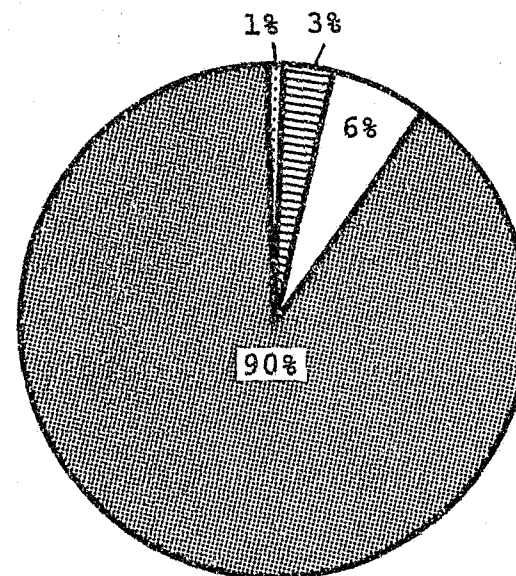




STATE OF WISCONSIN  
ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
MAJOR ACTIVITIES  
TYPE OF WEAPON  
JANUARY - JUNE, 1974

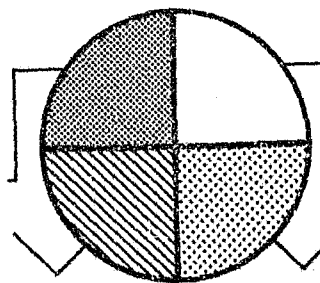


RESPONDING TO  
DISTURBANCE CALLS

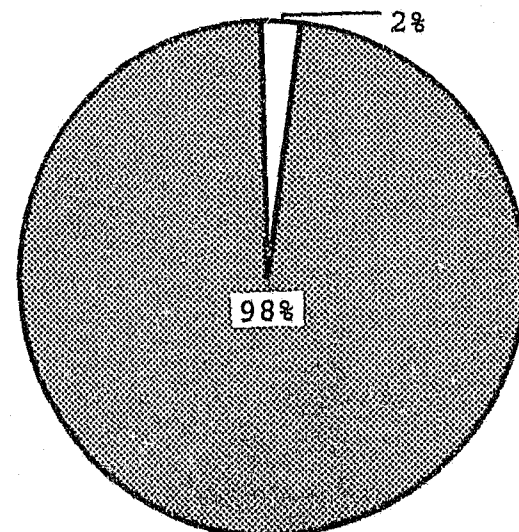


ATTEMPTING  
OTHER ARRESTS

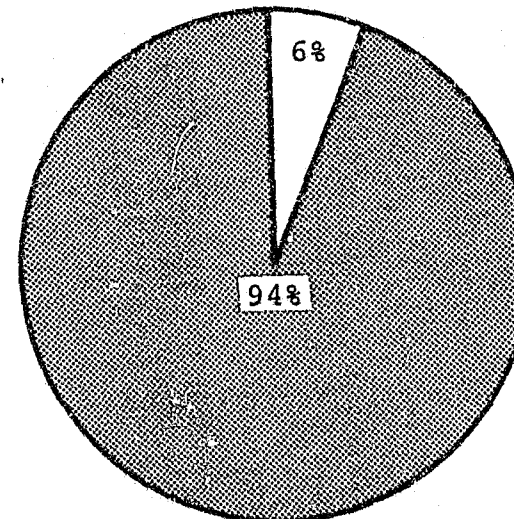
HANDS, FISTS, FEET, ETC.  
KNIFE OR OTHER CUTTING INSTRUMENT



OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPONS  
FIREARMS



TRAFFIC PURSUITS  
AND STOPS



HANDLING, TRANSPORTING,  
CUSTODY OF PRISONERS

Assaults on law enforcement officers decreased in only three of the eleven activity categories. Attacks during robbery situations (crime in progress or pursuing suspects) dropped 92 percent, assaults while attempting other arrests fell 21 percent and attacks on officers responding to disturbance calls decreased 9 percent. There was no change in the number of assaults resulting from an ambush of an officer from the 1973 to the 1974 period.

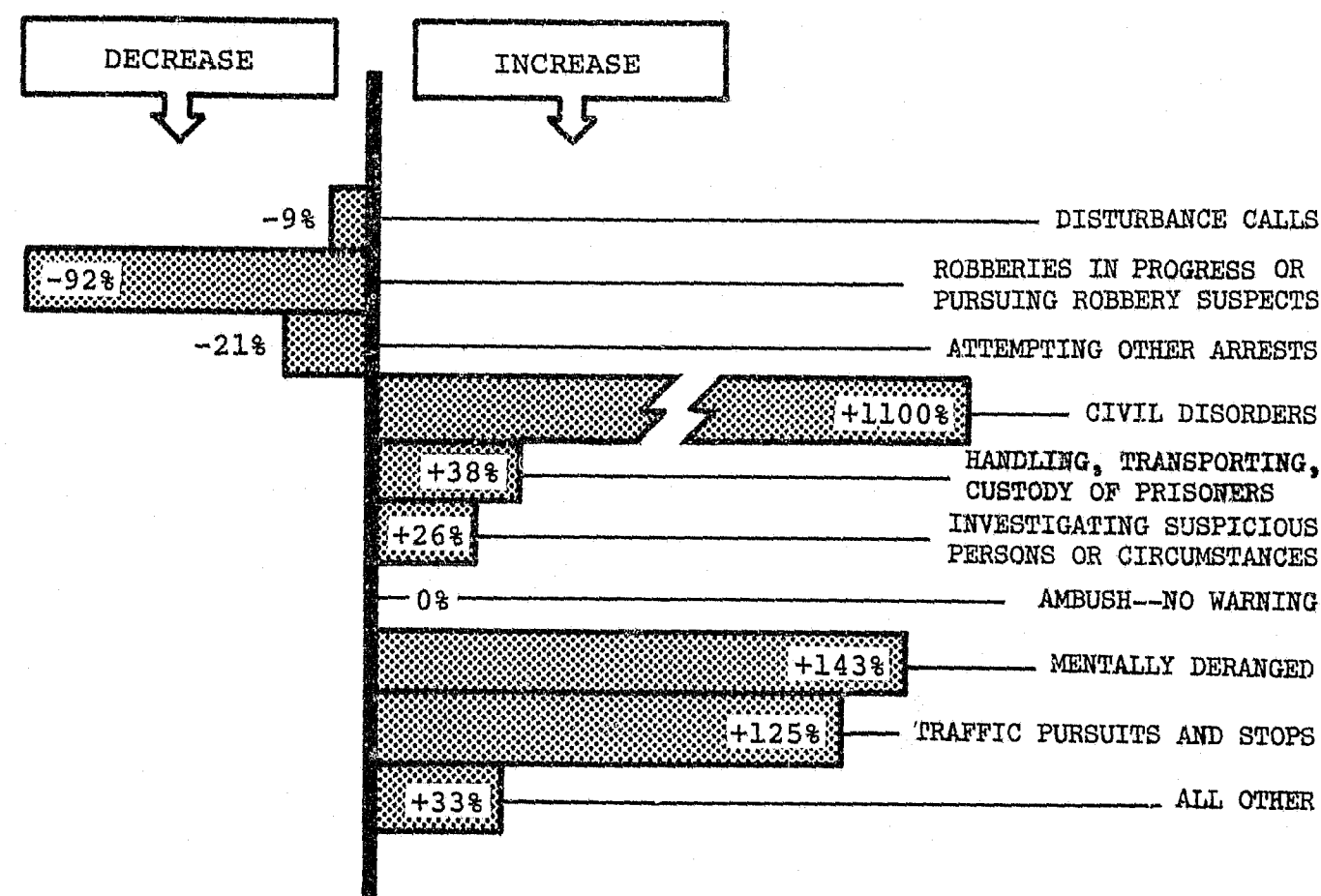
The remaining activity categories displayed increases in assaults, ranging from a low of 26 percent while investigating suspicious persons or circumstances to a high of 1100 percent during civil disorders. (Officers involved in civil disorders incurred 12 assaults in the first six months of this year as compared to one during the same period a year ago.) Sizable percentage increases in assaults on law enforcement officers also occurred while handling mentally deranged individuals and during traffic pursuits or stops, 143 percent and 125 percent, respectively.

A total of 221 assaults (62 percent of all reported attacks) resulted in some form of injury to the officer.\* Ninety-one percent of these occurred through the use of personal weapons, 5 percent by the use of dangerous weapons other than firearms or cutting instruments, 2 percent were with firearms and the remainder involved knives or other cutting instruments.

Sixty-three percent of the attacks with personal weapons resulted in injury to the officer. Injury was sustained in 61 percent of the attacks with weapons other than firearms or cutting instruments, 57 percent of the firearm assaults and one-half of the assaults with knives or other cutting instruments.

\*In classifying an assault on an officer as being one "with injury", the extent or seriousness of the injury is not a consideration. A slight injury (sprain, bruise, etc.) is sufficient for the offense to be categorized as one with injury.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
TYPE OF ACTIVITY  
PERCENT CHANGE FROM 1973\*  
JANUARY - JUNE, 1974



\* A percentage change in assaults on law enforcement officers when responding to burglaries in progress or pursuing burglary suspects cannot be calculated. There were 3 attacks during activities of this nature in the first six months of 1974, and no assaults during this activity were reported during the same period in 1973 (by agencies reporting for each of the months of both periods.)

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
TYPE OF WEAPON AND NUMBER CLEARED  
SERIOUSNESS  
JANUARY - JUNE, 1974

	Firearm	Knife Or Other Cutting Instrument	Other Dangerous Weapon	Hands, Fists, Feet, Etc.	Total Number Of Assaults	Number Cleared
NUMBER WITH PERSONAL INJURY	4	4	11	202	221	214
NUMBER WITHOUT PERSONAL INJURY	3	4	7	119	133	131
TOTAL	7	8	18	321	354	345

Forty-four percent of the total number of assaults were on uniformed officers operating from a two-man vehicle, 38 percent on officers working from a one-man vehicle, 4 percent on detectives or officers on special assignments and 15 percent on officers on other types of assignments\*.

Personal injury resulted from 87 percent of the assaults while officers were on other types of assignments, 65 percent of the assaults on officers in a two-man vehicle, 62 percent of those on detectives or officers on special assignments and one-half of the assaults when officers were operating from a one-man vehicle.

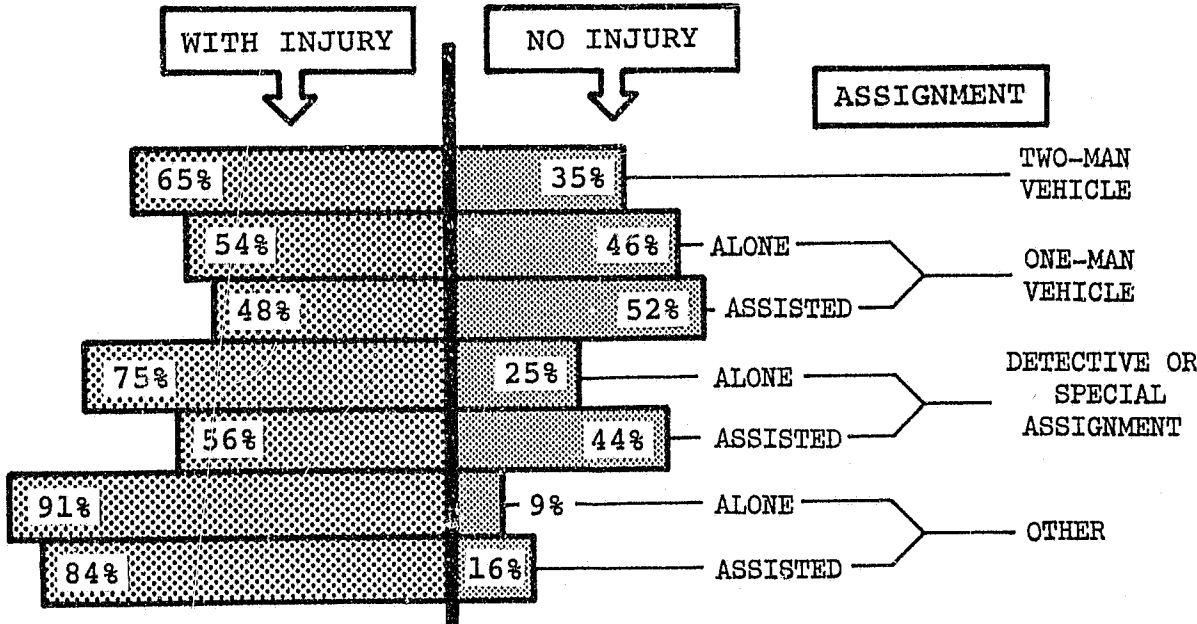
A total of 280 assaults occurred when one or more other officers were present, and personal injury resulted from 61 percent alone sustained injury two-thirds of the time.

A total of 280 assaults occurred when one or more other officers were present, and personal injury resulted from 61 percent of these incidents. Officers assaulted when acting alone sustained injury two-thirds of the time.

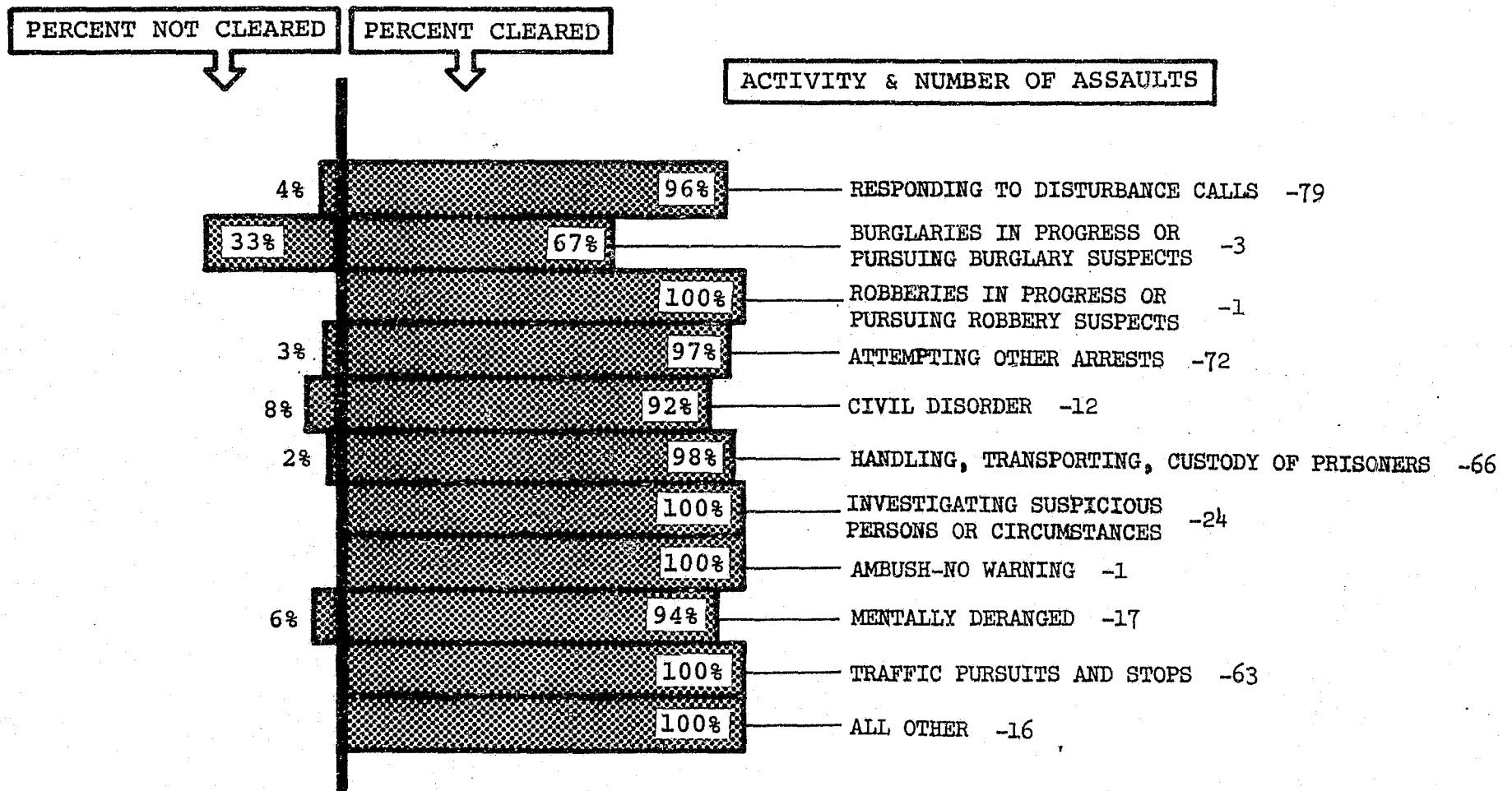
\* The "Other Assignment" category includes officers off duty but acting in an official capacity and uniformed officers on foot patrol or responding to a situation in a motorized group of three or more.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
 ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
 TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT  
 SERIOUSNESS  
 JANUARY - JUNE, 1974

Wisconsin law enforcement agencies cleared all of the assaults occurring when officers were engaged in the following types of activities: robbery situations, investigating suspicious persons or circumstances, ambushes, traffic pursuits and stops and other activities not elsewhere classified. In total, these six categories accounted for 3 out of every 10 assaults reported in the first six months of 1974. The remaining six activity categories had clearance ratios ranging from a high of 98 percent for assaults incurred while handling prisoners to a low of 67 percent when officers were involved in burglary situations. Ninety-seven percent of all assaults involving personal injury to the officer were cleared during the 1974 period, identical to the average for the first six months of 1973.



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
 ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
 TYPE OF ACTIVITY  
 PERCENT CLEARED  
 JANUARY - JUNE, 1974





STATE OF WISCONSIN  
 ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
 TYPE OF WEAPON AND NUMBER CLEARED  
 TYPE OF ACTIVITY  
 JANUARY - JUNE, 1974

	Firearm	Knife Or Other Cutting Instru- ment	Other Danger- ous Weapon	Hands, Fists, Feet, Etc.	Total Number Of Assaults	Number Cleared
DISTURBANCE CALLS	6	5	3	65	79	76
BURGLARIES	0	0	0	3	3	2
ROBBERIES	0	0	0	1	1	1
ATTEMPTING ARRESTS	1	2	4	65	72	70
CIVIL DISORDER	0	0	2	10	12	11
HANDLING PRISONERS	0	0	4	62	66	65
SUSPICIOUS PERSONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES	0	0	1	23	24	24
AMBUSH	0	0	0	1	1	1
MENTALLY DERANGED	0	1	0	16	17	16
TRAFFIC	0	0	1	62	63	63
ALL OTHER	0	0	3	13	16	16
STATE TOTAL	7	8	18	321	354	345

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
 ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
 TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT  
 TYPE OF ACTIVITY  
 JANUARY - JUNE, 1974

	Two-Man Vehicle	One-Man Vehicle		Detective Or Special Assignment		Other	
		Alone	As- sisted	Alone	As- sisted	Alone	As- sisted
DISTURBANCE CALLS	41	11	24	0	2	1	0
BURGLARIES	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
ROBBERIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ATTEMPTING ARRESTS	36	7	15	2	2	5	5
CIVIL DISORDER	8	1	0	0	0	2	1
HANDLING PRISONERS	16	1	16	2	1	9	21
SUSPICIOUS PERSONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES	13	5	3	0	1	1	1
AMBUSH	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
MENTALLY DERANGED	9	1	5	0	2	0	0
TRAFFIC	24	19	20	0	0	0	0
ALL OTHER	7	2	2	0	0	3	2
STATE TOTAL	155	48	85	4	9	22	31

For assistance or additional copies of this  
 report, call or write:

Director  
 Crime Information Bureau  
 Division of Law Enforcement Services  
 Wisconsin Department of Justice  
 State Capitol  
 Madison, Wisconsin 53702  
 (608) 266-7314

END

State of Wisconsin



MADISON  
53702

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES  
CRIME INFORMATION BUREAU  
STATE CAPITOL

