

Crime and Justice Trends in the District of Columbia

Fall 1997

Funded By
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

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Prepared By
National Council on Crime and Delinquency
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INTRODUCTION

The District's criminal justice system is comprised of six basic organizational components: police, prosecution, defense, courts, corrections and parole. Together these components carry out the criminal justice process which involves detection of crime and apprehension of criminals, pretrial decisions and services, trial, sentencing and corrections or service of sentences. In carrying out these functions, the various criminal justice agencies involved participate in numerous information- and data-gathering activities. Their efforts to collect and analyze data play a vital role in monitoring and evaluating the District's criminal justice process and in examining trends that affect the system.

This report provides a statistical overview of activities and outcomes in the different stages through which people and cases are processed in the District's criminal justice system. Most of the data are current through 1996, the most recent year for which complete and official data are available for most of the agencies. In some cases, data were only available through 1995. Data provided from Federal reporting programs, such as Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Bureau of the Census, are also used where data from District agencies are not

readily available. The data represent five- and 10-year trends and are presented in an order that parallels the actual flow of cases through the criminal justice system from reported offenses to corrections and parole for both adults and juveniles.

This report includes several special segments on topics for which there is little statistical information available including domestic violence, gangs, community policing and community prosecution. These segments are based on interviews, agency reports, and news accounts.

There is also a segment describing the *National Capital Revitalization and Self Government Improvement Act of 1997*, recently signed into law by President Clinton. This Act will have significant impact on the structure of the District's criminal justice system in the future.

Finally, each chapter presents a summary and discussion of findings which highlight major trends and issues. ♦



SUMMARY OF MAJOR TRENDS

Population Trends

The District's overall population has been steadily declining in recent years. Since 1992, the District experienced a 9 percent decrease in population from 598,000 to 543,000. There were approximately 40,000 juveniles (between ages 10 and 17) residing in the District in 1994, of which approximately 17,000 would be considered "at risk."

Numerous studies have shown a strong association between crime rates and the size of the at-risk population. Unfortunately, there is no available projection of the District's 10- to 17- year-old juvenile population. However, according to the Bureau of the Census, there is a 15-year projection of the overall District youth population (those under age 18), which is projected to remain stable at 99,000 through 2005 and then grow to 102,000 by the year 2010. Thus, based on demographics alone, one would anticipate that juvenile crime and the associated demand upon the juvenile justice system should not begin to escalate until the year 2005, and then the rate of escalation will be gradual and moderate.

Criminal Justice Costs

In 1996, total government expenditures increased 20 percent from 1992, but decreased by 3 percent from 1995. For FY 1996, 22 percent of the expenditures were for public safety and justice. Within public safety and justice expenditures, the Department of Corrections (DOC) spent the largest proportion (39 percent) reflecting a 2 percent increase from 1995.

The second largest amount of expenditures within public safety and justice occurred at the Metropolitan Police Department, which experienced a 4 percent increase from 1995. Every public safety and justice entity expenditure has increased since 1992.

Crime Trends

The District of Columbia continues to combat its 60,000-plus reported crime index offenses. From 1992 to 1996, the number of reported offenses declined by 4 percent, and over the past year, the number decreased by 4 percent. Since 1995, both

the crime index rate declined (by 2 percent) and the total population declined (by 2 percent).

Overall violent crime decreased by 20 percent from 1992 to 1996. From 1992 to 1996, all violent offenses reported to police decreased, except rape. From 1995 to 1996, all violent offenses decreased except homicide. There were significant decreases in assault.

Homicide

While many cities have boasted a large decline in the number of homicides during 1996, the District's homicides increased by about 10 percent from 1995 to 1996. Youth 24 and younger continue to be overly represented as both victims (37 percent) and assailants (42 percent) in District homicides.

Arrest Patterns

In 1996, there were 4 percent less adults arrested for Part I offense than in 1992 and 4 percent less for Part II offenses. From 1995 to 1996, there was a 5 percent increase in Part I arrests, and a 13 percent increase in Part II arrests. In 1996, Part I offenses accounted for 20 percent and Part II arrests accounted for 80 percent of the total arrests. From 1992 to 1996, adult arrests for all violent index offenses except assault decreased.

In 1996, 3,932 juveniles were arrested in the District – 44 percent for Part I offenses and 56 percent for Part II offenses. Compared to 1995, the number of juveniles arrested for Part I offenses increased by 13 percent and Part II arrests increased by 6 percent. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes increased by 18 percent from 1992, and 8 percent from 1995. Juvenile arrests for property crimes increased 30 percent from 1992 and 16 percent from 1995.

Drugs

Consistently, over the past five years, about half of adult arrestees have tested positive for drug use.

Unlike the steady proportion of adult arrestees testing positive for drug use, the number of juvenile arrestees testing positive steadily declined from 1987 through 1990 and then dramatically increased from 1992 through 1996. By far, the drug of choice among juveniles was marijuana. Since 1992, juvenile use of marijuana has skyrocketed, steadily increasing from 6 percent positive in 1990 to 62 percent in 1996.

Corrections

Unlike all other states, the DOC inmate population has been declining. Since 1992, the inmate population (both pretrial and sentenced) declined by 16 percent.

As part of the Federal takeover of District government functions, the Bureau of Prisons will eventually assume full responsibility for the sentenced felon population, the D.C. criminal code must be reformed to meet "truth in sentencing" standards as specified by Congress, and indeterminate sentencing and discretionary release via parole will be abolished. These reforms, if fully carried out will have a profound impact on the size and attribute of the DOC which will be limited to pretrial and sentenced misdemeanor inmates.

Juveniles

Of all juvenile offenders in 1996, 46 percent were arrested for the first time. When comparing male and female offenders in 1996, males (58 percent) were much more likely than females (35 percent) to have one or more prior arrests.

There are approximately 790 District juveniles in custody on a given day, 19 percent of which are detained, 15 percent committed, and 4 percent dual status youth at the Oak Hill Youth Center; and another 60 percent under community supervision. In recent years, there has been a decline in the number youth in custody for drug-related crimes and a steady increase in violent and property crimes.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE COSTS

Total Government Expenditures

Recently, the District of Columbia has shown a decrease in total government expenditures. In fiscal year (FY) 1996, total government expenditures for the District were 4.4 billion dollars (Table 1, Figure 1). Not controlling for inflation, the 1996 total increased 20 percent from FY 1992, but decreased 3 percent from FY 1995, which reached a high 4.5 billion dollars. Similar to most major cities in the United States, the District continues to make public safety a top government priority. In FY 1996, the District's public safety and justice expenditures comprised the second largest proportion of total government expenditures (second to human support service expenditures).

In FY 1996, approximately 22 percent of the District's total expenditures were for public safety and justice costs. Relative to total government expenditures, the 1996 public safety and justice expenditures were proportionally 1 percent more than 1995, but proportionally 5 percent less than FY 1994 and 2 percent less than FY 1992 expenditures.

Recent overall declines in government expenditures have affected public safety and justice. In actual dollars, 1996 public safety and justice expenditures have increased 9 percent from 1992, but decreased 3 percent from 1995. From 1992 to 1994, expenditures for public safety and justice increased and then declined in 1995, but increased for 1996.

TABLE 1
D.C. GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES*
1992 - 1996

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Government Direction & Support	\$88,725	\$123,107	\$101,016	\$116,233	\$141,339
Economic Development	76,612	64,093	57,764	229,868	128,180
Public Safety & Justice	887,777	933,961	968,776	938,540	969,972
Public Education	708,260	709,722	743,589	794,165	790,567
Human Support Services	966,808	973,401	1,006,223	1,550,153	1,566,614
Public Works	202,053	226,102	224,846	255,987	288,059
Financing & Other Uses	349,336	367,798	352,641	366,461	390,285
Capital Outlay	364,144	439,547	137,831	258,232	102,039
Total**	3,643,715	3,837,731	3,592,686	4,509,639	4,377,055

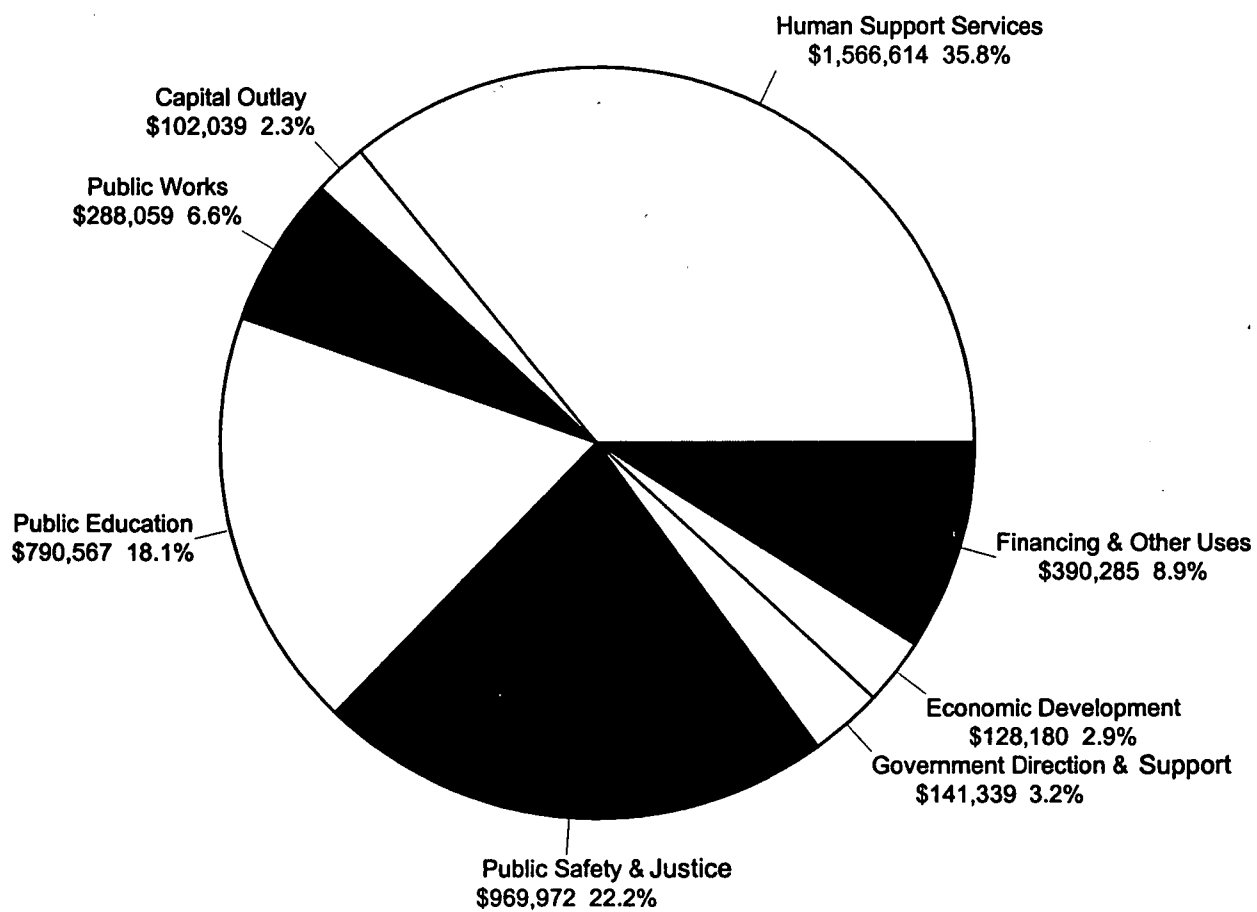
* Expenditures in thousands of dollars.

** Excludes Enterprise Funds.

Source: District of Columbia Supporting Schedules, Office of the Budget.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

FIGURE 1
D.C. GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES
1996



Percents do not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Total equals \$4,377,055.

Source: District of Columbia Supporting Schedules, Office of Budget.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Public Safety and Justice Expenditures

Within FY 1996, expenditures for public safety and justice, the DOC spent the greatest amount (39 percent), followed by the MPD (37 percent), and the Courts (18 percent) (Table 2, Figure 2). In 1996, expenditures for these three entities represented 94 percent of the total public safety and justice expenditures. During this five-year reporting period and prior, these three entities have represented 94 percent or more of the expenditures.

In FY 1996, DOC expenditures totaled \$248,541,000, which is the highest amount since 1992. The DOC

expenditures increased 2 percent from 1995. The DOC spent the greatest proportion (39 percent) of the public safety and justice resources.

After the DOC, the MPD has the next highest proportion of expenditures at 37 percent in FY 1996. MPD's expenditures increased 4 percent from 1995, but decreased 5 percent from 1994.

For the first time over the past five years, 1996 funds spent for judicial retirement decreased by 8 percent from 1995. With the exception of judicial retirement and the Board of Parole, all other 1996 public safety and justice expenditures increased since 1995.

TABLE 2**D.C. GOVERNMENT PUBLIC SAFETY
AND JUSTICE* EXPENDITURES** BY AGENCY
1992 - 1996**

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Metropolitan Police Department	\$234,953	\$241,211	\$248,926	\$229,676	\$237,624
Courts	93,168	104,046	112,074	113,844	116,120
Judicial Retirement	4,000	4,300	4,971	5,100	4,700
Corporation Counsel	13,775	13,494	14,304	15,698	16,777
Public Defender Service	7,188	7,030	7,444	7,638	7,702
Pretrial Services Agency	3,119	3,057	3,610	4,791	5,429
Corrections	246,883	247,489	240,501	242,991	248,541
Board of Parole	5,280	6,346	6,182	5,568	5,305
Total	608,366	626,973	638,012	625,306	642,198

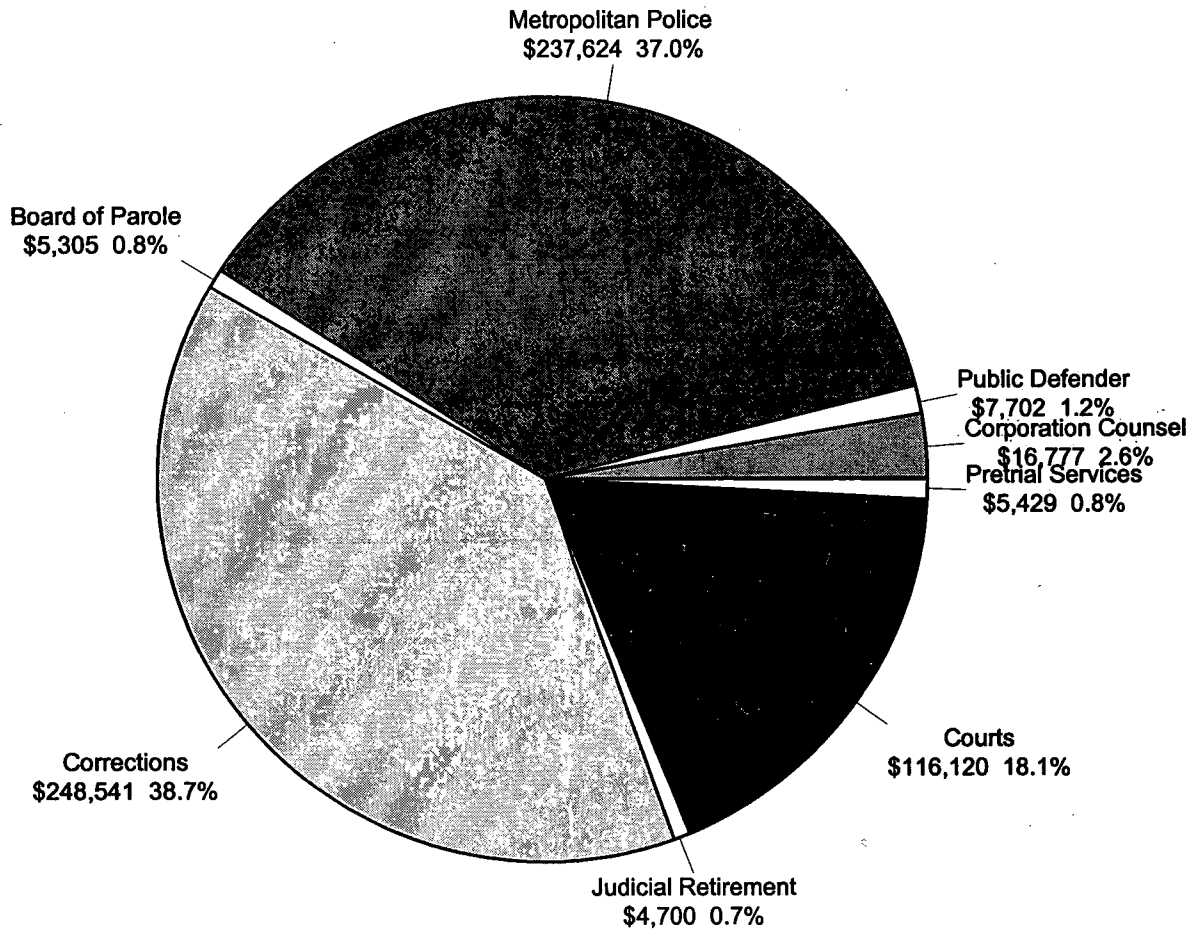
* Police retirement, settlements and judgments, National Guard and Office of Emergency Preparedness are not included in public safety and justice expenditures.

** Expenditures in thousands of dollars.

Source: District of Columbia Supporting Schedules, Office of the Budget.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

FIGURE 2
D.C. GOVERNMENT PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE
EXPENDITURES BY AGENCY
1996



Percents do not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Total equals \$642,198.

Source: District of Columbia Supporting Schedules, Office of Budget.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Summary and Discussion

In 1996, total government expenditures increased 20 percent from 1992, but decreased by 3 percent from 1995. For FY 1996, 22 percent of the expenditures were for public safety and justice. Within public safety and justice expenditures, the DOC spent the largest proportion (39 percent) reflecting a 2 percent increase from 1995.

The second largest amount of expenditures within public safety and justice occurred at the MPD, which experienced a 4 percent increase from 1995. Every public safety and justice entity expenditure has increased since 1992. ♦

Revitalizing the District

The *National Capital Revitalization and Self Government Improvement Act of 1997* (Act) was signed into law in July to be enacted on October 1, 1997. This Act addresses various functions and agencies within the District, but has the most significant implications for the District's criminal justice system. The Act sets forth in *Title XI, Subtitle C—Criminal Justice* the restructuring of various criminal justice functions including corrections, sentencing, supervision of offenders and parole, and administration of the courts. Following is a brief summary of the major provisions of the Act.

Corrections

The Act sets forth the eventual transfer of all felony inmates from the District's Department of Corrections (DOC) to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). This transfer will occur gradually over the next few years, and will be completed no later than October 1, 2001. A Corrections Trustee will be appointed by the Attorney General to oversee financial operations of the DOC until all sentenced felony offenders are transferred to the custody of the BOP.

Sentencing

The Act establishes the District of Columbia Truth in Sentencing Commission which is required to make recommendations to the District Council for amendments to the D.C. Code with respect to all felony sentences to be imposed after three years from the Act's enactment. These recommendations shall meet the truth in sentencing standards of the *Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994*.

Offender Supervision and Parole

The United States Parole Commission will assume the jurisdiction and authority of the District's Board of Parole for imprisoned felons; and the District of Columbia Superior Court (DCSC) will assume the parole functions for misdemeanants. This transfer of parole authority will happen on the date of establishment of the District of Columbia Offender Supervision, Defender, and Courts Services Agency (Agency); at which time the District's Board of parole will be abolished.

The Agency will be established within the executive branch of the Federal Government to provide supervision of offenders released from prison, offenders placed on probation, misdemeanants paroled by the DCSC, and parolees under the authority of the U.S. Parole Commission. The Pretrial Services Agency and the Public Defender Service will be incorporated into the Agency as independent entities. The Agency will assume its duties within one to three years after the enactment of the Act.

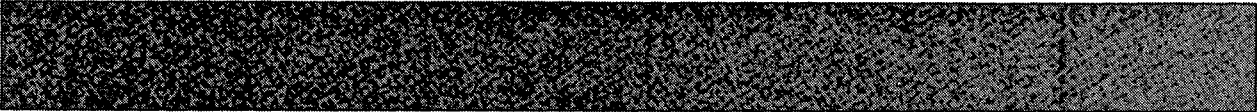
The Attorney General will appoint a Pretrial Services, Defense Services, Parole, Adult Probation and Offender Supervision Trustee to effectuate the reorganization and transition of functions and funding relating to pretrial services, defense services, parole, adult probation and offender supervision to the Agency.

The Courts

The administration and financing of the District's Superior Court, Court of Appeals, and Court System will be transferred to the Federal Government.

Technical Assistance and Research

The Act authorizes funds to be appropriated to the National Institute of Justice to support research and demonstration projects, evaluations, and technical assistance to assess and analyze the crime problem in the District and to improve the ability of the criminal justice system to prevent, solve and punish crimes; and establish a locally-based corporation or institute for research and demonstration projects relating to prevention, solution, or punishment of crimes.



PROCESSING OFFENDERS IN THE DISTRICT

Processing Adults

This section, which describes how individuals and cases are processed through the District's criminal justice system, is divided into two parts — the adult criminal justice process and the juvenile justice process. The District's criminal justice system is comprised of five basic organizational components: law enforcement, prosecution, defense, courts, corrections and parole. These major components participate in a five-stage criminal justice process.

- Detection of crime and apprehension of offenders;
- Pretrial decisions and services;
- Trial;
- Sentencing; and
- Corrections or service of sentence.

For juveniles, the five-stage criminal justice process is more in-depth and service-oriented, though less structured than the adult process.

There are six publicly financed District agencies that have statutory responsibilities for administering the

criminal justice process: the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Pretrial Services Agency (PSA), District of Columbia Superior Court (DCSC), Office of the Corporation Counsel (OCC), Department of Corrections (DOC), and the Board of Parole. Additionally, the Public Defender Service, an independent agency and the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) are involved in the city's criminal justice system.

Apprehension

The criminal justice process begins with the police who must determine the validity of reported crimes and subsequently investigate, identify and possibly apprehend suspects. The police must then decide, based upon the facts of each case, the nature of the charges to be forwarded to the prosecutor for a determination of whether or not to prosecute and for what offenses.

Pretrial

At the next stage, the alleged offender's pretrial status must be determined based upon the recommendation of the PSA. This occurs prior to arraignment in the case of alleged misdemeanors or presentment in the case of alleged felonies. Several factors are considered in the decision to release or detain a

defendant. In reviewing a defendant's case, the pretrial examiner considers the defendant's ties to family and community, employment status, residency, prior record of failure to appear in court, drug abuse, criminal history and other indicators of reliability.

In the case of arraignment, charges are presented, a plea is entered and a trial date may be set. In the case of presentment, the arrestee is informed of the charge, counsel is appointed (if necessary), pretrial status is determined and a date is set for a preliminary hearing (unless waived).

In felony proceedings, the pretrial stage involves a series of preliminary and Grand Jury hearings. The hearings are designed to ensure that the evidence and facts of the case presented are sufficient to establish probable cause for indictment. In a preliminary hearing, a judge determines from the evidence presented by the prosecutor if there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed. In a Grand Jury hearing, the prosecutor's evidence is reviewed and, if the evidence is sufficient, an indictment is issued. In a small percentage of cases, the Grand Jury can initiate an investigation, issue an indictment based on investigation findings and then issue an arrest warrant. The defendant indicted under these circumstances is then arraigned and subsequently stands trial.

The prosecutor remains the key participant throughout this stage of the criminal justice process and may use some discretion, until Grand Jury indictment, to dismiss the case for any number of reasons. In the District, the OCC prosecutes juvenile cases, traffic cases, some misdemeanor cases and civil suits to which the District government is a party. The USAO handles the prosecution of all other criminal cases.

Trial

In felony prosecution, if probable cause is established at the preliminary hearing stage, the case is bound over to the Grand Jury. If the Grand Jury indicts, the case then proceeds to arraignment, where a plea is entered. Before a defendant enters a plea or goes to trial, it is the obligation of the defense counsel to investigate the case and interview any witnesses. In the majority of cases, disposition is resolved by a plea of guilty to all or some of the charges indicated. If plea bargaining occurs, the prosecutor and defense counsel discuss whether the client can plead guilty to the given charges or lesser charges based on the defendant's prior criminal record and role in the crime. If a felony defendant pleads not guilty, a trial by either judge or jury takes place and a determination of guilt or innocence is made. If a defendant pleads guilty, or if a defendant is found guilty by a judge or jury, a conviction is established and a sentence is imposed.

Sentencing

Persons who have pled guilty or been convicted following trial are subsequently sentenced by the court. Sentencing options include incarceration, probation, a fine, placement in a halfway house,

institutionalization or community service. If a person is sentenced to incarceration, a classification evaluation is conducted to determine the level of supervision and services he or she will need. The findings of this evaluation are the basis for deciding the facility in which the inmate's sentence will be served.

Corrections, Probation, and Parole

If not incarcerated, a person may be sentenced to probation for a maximum of five years. Conditions of probation include drug testing, alcohol treatment, employment and reporting to an assigned probation officer. Also, a person may be placed in a residential treatment facility for all or part of his/her probation. Violation of probation terms may result in probation extension or revocation. If probation is revoked, the probationer may then be incarcerated or placed in a halfway house. If a probationer adheres to the terms of his or her probation, probation may be terminated early.

Once the minimum sentence has been served, an inmate may be considered for parole. Parole eligibility is determined by a review of progress reports during incarceration, parole guidelines and personal interviews, as well as other factors that indicate the possibility of risk the inmate poses to the community. If parole is granted, an inmate may be released to a halfway house, a work-release program or directly into the community under parole supervision.

Processing Juveniles

As noted earlier, the District's juvenile justice process is more in-depth than the adult criminal justice process. For juveniles, the pretrial stage, which includes the initial screening and hearing, is the most comprehensive phase of the system.

Apprehension

Youth involved in delinquent or criminal activity may come to the attention of authorities by being apprehended at the scene of a crime or identified as suspects by witnesses. They also may be reported for incorrigibility or other status offenses by school personnel, family, neighbors or others. The police officer who apprehends a youth may elect to

reprimand him/her if no further action is necessary. Diverting a youth involves referring him/her for additional services to the Commission of Social Services of the Department of Human Services (DHS). If the youth is to be referred to court, the Youth Division of the MPD is notified.

Pretrial

The Youth Division first takes the youth for initial intake to the DCSC. Initial screenings are conducted by the Superior Court intake staff and involve a review of the youth's social and criminal history, family situation and circumstances pertaining to the charge. Based on this information, the youth is released to the custody of his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) pending an initial hearing the next day or is detained for an initial screening. Youth who are court-ordered to secure placement are required to undergo judicial review prior to release from detention.

After initial screening the probation officer assigned to the case reviews all information gathered during the initial screening, interviews the youth and the parents or guardians when possible and contacts pertinent members of the community who may provide additional information. The probation officer then delivers a recommendation on whether or not to petition the case to the OCC and prepares a report to be presented at the new referral's hearing. The probation officer's report also provides recommendations for pretrial status, which may include pretrial detention, shelter care, community-based placement or release to the custody of parent(s) or guardian(s) pending trial.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel (ACC) conducts a screening and investigation of all cases recommended to DCSC concerning juveniles. The results of these screenings and investigations are considered jointly with the recommendations of the DCSC's Social Services Division (SSD) before the final decision is made in cases of juveniles accused of committing serious crimes and can make a recommendation to waive Juvenile Branch jurisdiction and have the case continue through the adult criminal justice system.

Cases may be "no papered" if the SSD and the ACC determine that the case is not suitable for prosecution, whereby the case is closed and the youth is released without further court action. If the decision is made to file the petition, the case is forwarded for an initial hearing in the new referrals court. The ACC may file for a dismissal of petition papers at any time during the proceedings up to the trial.

Hearing

The new referrals hearing is held before a judge for juveniles who have been detained pending an initial court appearance. This hearing involves a presentation of the petition and the substance of the charges to the youth, parents, and the attorney; the response to the charges; and the court determination of probable cause indicating that the juvenile committed the offense. If the court determines that there was probable cause, the judge then sets the level of supervision or custody the youth will receive. While awaiting a trial date, the judge reviews the recommendation of the SSD or DHS and the ACC and considers any previous court involvement in making his/her determination. If detention is warranted, the court specifies the level of detention or delegates that responsibility to DHS. Youth detained pending trial must be scheduled for trial within a 30-day period. Youth detained pending trial may be placed in either secure or non-secure settings. Youth held in maximum security are placed at the Oak Hill Youth Center, a facility operated by DHS. Other alternatives include community-based group homes, therapeutic foster care and other community placements.

The initial hearing is held within ten days of their arrest for juveniles who are released to the custody of their parent(s) or guardian(s). If probable cause is determined after a review of evidence by the hearing officer and the ACC, release conditions, a trial date and appointment of counsel are set.

Trial

When a case proceeds to trial, the case is heard before a judge. There is no right to jury trial for juveniles in the District of Columbia. If the allegations in the petition are determined to be true, the court orders preparation of an in-depth social summary prior to the disposition of the case. If the verdict is acquittal, the juvenile is free from any further supervision of the court.

Pre-disposition

The pre-disposition investigation is conducted by the SSD. This investigation is the basis for social summary and may include physical and mental health examinations. The purpose of this investigation is to determine the circumstances influencing the juvenile's behavior in order to arrive at an appropriate disposition. The judgment entered at the disposition includes the plea, the findings, the adjudication and

the dispositional order. Juveniles who are identified by the court as significant probation risks are committed to the Youth Services Administration of DHS and are institutionalized or placed in alternative care. If the court decides in favor of probation, the

youth continues his involvement with the SSD, which provides counseling and supervision for the youth until the court requests a case review or immediate court release. The ultimate goal is to rehabilitate the youth through the proper sentence. ♦



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Overview

Policing the District

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is primarily responsible for law enforcement in the District of Columbia. The department has both city and state law enforcement authority and is charged with a broad range of statutory and municipal law enforcement responsibilities. The MPD uses a number of policing methods, including community policing (which will be discussed later in this section), in order to protect the residents of the District.

In 1996, MPD had 3,618 sworn officers which represents a 19 percent decrease from MPD's 4,291 sworn officers in 1992.

In addition to the MPD, there are 23 other public law enforcement authorities operating in the District. These public agencies have police powers limited to specific geographical areas and include among others the U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division, Metrorail Transit Police, U.S. Capitol Police, and Smithsonian Police. These agencies have the same law enforcement authority as MPD. This means that they are charged with preventing and detecting criminal activity, making arrests, conducting

investigations, and initiating prosecution. There are numerous other agencies that have some, if not full, law enforcement authority as well, including the

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; U.S. Military Police, U.S. Special Officers, Federal Protective Service, U.S. Marshals Service, and the many local university police.

Like many other cities across the United States, Washington, D.C., has developed community policing programs that attempt to fight crime by creating a stronger bond between residents and the officers who serve their neighborhood. The definition of community policing is often vague and therefore can be defined differently by various communities. Community policing can include activities such as neighborhood watch programs, information sharing, youth programs, and other forms of close interaction between officers and citizens which forge a partnership. According to the Community Policing Consortium, community policing is "a collaborative effort between the police and the community that identifies problems of crime and disorder and involves all elements of the community in the search for solutions to these problems. It is founded on close, mutually beneficial ties between police and community members." The officers and residents

engage in a variety of programs that attempt to involve many members of the community with a special emphasis on reaching children.

Reporting Crime

Of all the methods by which crimes are reported to the police, the most common way is via the victims's report. Law enforcement officers also may witness a

crime in progress or uncover evidence of a crime while conducting patrol duties. A citizen other than the victims may also witness a crime and then report the crime to the authorities.

After a crime is reported, the police must determine the validity of the reported offense. Once validated, the police investigate and attempt to identify and apprehend a suspect. After an individual is taken into custody, the police decide, based upon the facts of the case, which charges to impose and forward to the prosecutor.

Not all crimes are reported to the police. The National Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that in 1993, only 35 percent of the crimes described by victims were reported to the police. Some of the reasons given by the victims for not reporting crimes were that they felt it was a private matter, police were inefficient, police would not be able to do anything, or they feared reprisal from the offender.

Classifying Crimes

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program collects information based on crimes reported to law enforcement authorities throughout the United States. These crimes focus primarily on the eight major offenses (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) defined by the FBI as Crime Index Offenses, or Part I offenses.

These Part I offenses are further divided into two groups: violent offenses, which include homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault; and property offenses, which include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson (see Appendix A for definitions). In selecting the crimes to be included in the Crime Index, the FBI considers several factors, including the seriousness of the crime and frequency of occurrence.

Because there are differences in criminal status for given crimes according to the jurisdiction, all Crime Index offenses are uniform to ensure measurable crime data. In the future, the District and other jurisdictions will move toward implementation of the National Incidence Based Reporting System which

will allow for more variables to be collected regarding the specific nature of individual crimes.

Part II offenses encompass all other crime classifications outside those defined as Part I (Crime Index) offenses (see Appendix A for definitions). The Part II category of offenses, which includes over 20 offenses, was devised and adopted in order that law enforcement, judicial and penal statistics can be compiled by a single, standard classification. With an understanding of the basis of crime statistics, the following District-specific crime data will be analyzed:

- Reported offenses;
- Geographic patterns of crime;
- Adult arrests;
- Juvenile arrests; and
- Homicides.

Reported Offenses

In 1996, there were 64,557 Crime Index offenses reported, of which 13,411 were for violent and 51,146 were for property crimes (Table 3, Figure 3). From 1987 to 1996, the number of reported offenses rose 22 percent. When accounting for the District's population (an estimated 543,000), the rate of reported offenses increased by 42 percent from 8,401 to 11,888 per 100,000 residents. Over this time, the District experienced a 14 percent decrease in population from 628,500 to 543,000.

More recently, however, the District has experienced a decline in the number of reported offenses. From 1992 to 1996, the number of reported offenses declined by 4 percent, while the rate per 100,000 residents increased by 5 percent (11,269 to 11,888). This rate increase may be accounted for by a 9 percent decline in the total population from 598,000 to 543,000.

From 1995 to 1996, the number of reported crimes decreased by 4 percent (from 67,401 to 64,557). In this time, the rate declined (2 percent) and the total population declined (2 percent) as well.

Violent Crime

Violent crime includes homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. From 1992 to 1996, both the number of reported violent offenses and the rate per 100,000 decreased by 20 percent and 13 percent respectively (Table 3, Figure 3). From 1992 to 1996, all violent offenses reported to police decreased,

TABLE 3
REPORTED CRIME INDEX OFFENSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1987 - 1996

Year		Population Estimate	Crime Index Total	Violent Crime Total	Property Crime Total	Homicide*	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny/ Theft	Auto Theft	Arson
1987	Total Rate	628,500	52,799 8,401	10,016 1,594	42,783 6,807	225 36	245 39	4,462 710	5,084 809	11,241 1,789	24,965 3,972	6,297 1,002	280 45
1988	Total Rate	620,000	61,715 9,954	11,913 1,922	49,802 8,033	369 60	165 27	5,689 918	5,690 918	12,295 1,983	28,582 4,610	8,633 1,392	292 47
1989	Total Rate	620,000	62,309 10,050	12,935 2,086	49,374 7,964	434 70	186 30	6,540 1,055	5,775 931	11,778 1,900	29,110 4,695	8,287 1,337	199 32
1990	Total Rate	606,900	65,647 10,817	14,961 2,465	50,686 8,352	474 78	303 50	7,365 1,214	6,819 1,124	12,035 1,983	30,326 4,997	8,109 1,336	216 36
1991	Total Rate	606,900	64,555 10,367	14,665 2,416	49,890 8,220	482 79	214 35	7,265 1,197	6,704 1,105	12,403 2,044	29,119 4,798	8,132 1,340	236 39
1992	Total Rate	598,000	67,388 11,269	16,680 2,789	50,708 8,480	443 74	215 36	7,456 1,247	8,566 1,432	10,719 1,792	30,618 5,120	9,117 1,525	254 42
1993	Total Rate	589,000	68,146 11,570	16,888 2,867	51,258 8,703	454 77	324 55	7,107 1,207	9,003 1,529	11,532 1,958	31,466 5,342	8,060 1,368	200 34
1994	Total Rate	578,000	63,350 10,960	15,177 2,626	48,173 8,336	399 69	249 43	6,311 1,092	8,218 1,422	10,037 1,737	29,673 5,134	8,257 1,429	206 36
1995	Total Rate	554,000	67,401 12,166	14,744 2,661	52,657 9,504	360 63	292 51	6,864 1,204	7,228 1,275	10,184 1,787	32,281 5,663	10,192 1,788	209 37
1996	Total Rate	543,000	64,557 11,888	13,411 2,421	51,146 9,419	397 72	260 47	6,444 1,163	6,310 1,139	9,828 1,774	31,343 5,658	9,975 1,801	162 29

The following classifications are used in this and subsequent tables:

Crime Index Total equals the Violent Crime Total plus Property Crime Total.

Violent Crime Total equals the sum of homicide, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Property Crime Total equals the sum of burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

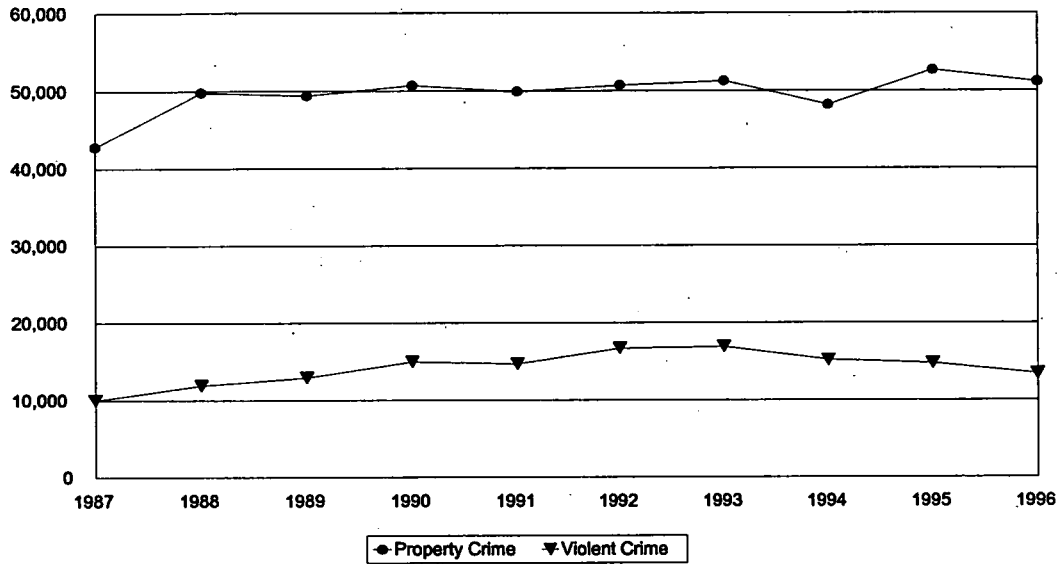
* Homicide includes murder and non-negligent manslaughter.

** Rate is calculated per 100,000 residents.

Sources: Uniform Crime Reports, 1987-1996; Metropolitan Police Department.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

FIGURE 3
REPORTED CRIME INDEX OFFENSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1987-1996



*Sources: Uniform Crime Reports, 1987-1996; Metropolitan Police Department.
Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.*

except rape. From 1995 to 1996, all violent offenses decreased except homicide. There were significant decreases in assault. Specifically:

- Homicide decreased 10 percent, with a rate decrease of 3 percent from 1992 to 1996. From 1995 to 1996, homicide increased by 10 percent, with a rate increase of 14 percent.
- Robbery decreased by 14 percent, with a rate decrease of 7 percent from 1992 to 1996. From 1995 to 1996, robbery decreased by 6 percent, with a rate decrease of 3 percent.
- Aggravated assault decreased by 26 percent, with a rate decrease of 20 percent from 1992 to 1996. From 1995 to 1996, assault decreased by 13 percent, with a rate decrease of 11 percent.
- From 1992 to 1996, rape increased by 21 percent, with a rate increase of 31 percent. From 1995 to 1996, however, rape decreased by 11 percent after a five-year incline.

Property Crime

Property crimes include burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. From 1992 to 1996, the number of reported property crimes decreased by 1 percent (50,708 to 51,146). From 1995 to 1996, the number of property crimes decreased by 3 percent (52,657 to 51,419) with virtually no rate change.

Over a five-year period, burglary and arson decreased, while larceny and car theft increased slightly. From 1995 to 1996, all categories of property crime declined. Specifically:

- Burglary decreased by 8 percent, with a 1 percent rate decrease from 1992 to 1996. From 1995 to 1996, burglary decreased by 3 percent, with a rate decrease of 1 percent.
- Larceny increased slightly by 2 percent, with an 11 percent rate increase from 1992 to 1996. From 1995 to 1996, larceny decreased by 3 percent, with a rate decrease of 0 percent.
- Auto theft increased 9 percent, with a rate increase of 18 percent from 1992 to 1996. In 1995, the District experienced the highest number (10,192) of auto thefts in ten years. From 1995 to 1996, auto theft decreased slightly by 2 percent, with a rate decrease of 1 percent.
- Arson has decreased significantly by 36 percent, with a rate decrease of 31 percent from 1992 to 1996. From 1995 to 1996, arson decreased 22 percent in number and rate.

Reported Crime Relative to Other Cities

In a comparative analysis of reported crimes in U.S. cities with populations greater than 400,000, data indicate that the District's crime rate ranked 3rd from highest among 31 cities in 1995 (Table B-1). This represents a rise in ranking from 8th place in 1994 from among 38 cities. Although the District's crime rate declined overall, its higher ranking is attributable to the fact that many other cities experienced greater decreases in their crime rates.

Policing the District's Border

The Metropolitan Police Department has developed a new strategy to fight crime on the Maryland/DC border by teaming up with Prince George's and Montgomery County Police. These efforts, which began in January, attempt to deter criminals who commit crimes on one side of the border and then flee to the other side where they cannot be arrested for their crime. In particular, areas such as the Takoma Park and Capitol Heights Metro stations as well as Eastern and Southern Avenues, have been plagued with border crossing criminals. The joint efforts between District and Maryland police appear to be effective.

The police departments work together to fight crime by: setting up 24-hour video surveillance cameras a block from the DC border in Mount Rainier to deter criminals; sharing information between jurisdictions on repeat criminals; and traffic stops in "hot spots" near the border. The Takoma Park and District police continue to combat crime with increased patrols on the Maryland side of the border and with clever strategies such as swapping unmarked cars which confuses seasoned criminals who have learned to recognize their own jurisdiction's patrols. Since the joint efforts began in the Takoma area, there has been a two-thirds decrease in crime in the neighborhoods on both sides of the Takoma border. Police and citizens attribute the drop in crime to these joint policing efforts.

Adult Arrests

Although the numbers for adult arrests fluctuate over the years, the percentages and patterns of the arrests remain relatively consistent. While Part I and Part II arrests decreased over the past five years, both categories of arrest increased from 1995 to 1996.

In 1996, there were 17 percent less adults arrested for Part I offense than in 1992 (10,329 and 8,575) and 7 percent less for Part II offenses (36,581 and 34,112) (Table 4). From 1995 to 1996, there was a 3 percent increase in Part I arrests, and a 9 percent increase in Part II arrests.

In 1996, the percentage of adults arrested for Part I and Part II offenses has remained relatively consistent from 1992 to 1996. In 1996, Part I offenses accounted for 20 percent and Part II arrests accounted for 80 percent of the total arrests.

In 1996, assault accounted for the highest percentage (69 percent) of arrests for violent offenses, followed by robbery (25 percent), homicide (6 percent) and rape (3 percent) (Table 5). Of arrests for property offenses, 48 percent were for larceny, followed by motor vehicle theft (33 percent), burglary (18 percent), and arson (0.3 percent). 1996 had the lowest number of adult burglary arrests since 1988 and the lowest number of adult larceny and arson arrests in the past decade.

Of Part II offenses in 1996, the greatest proportion of arrests were for disorderly conduct (22 percent) and drug law violations (20 percent).

Adult Drug Arrests

In 1996, 6,880 adults were arrested on drug charges (Table 6). This represents a 6 percent decline from 1992 when drug arrests began dropping steadily until 1996. Drug arrests increased by 26 percent from 1995.

From 1992 to 1996, the type of drug arrests have changed. In 1992, 35 percent of all adult drug arrests were for sales and 65 percent were for possession. Over the course of these five years, the percentage of adult arrests for possession have increased. In 1996, 87 percent of adult drug arrests were for drug possession while only 13 percent were for sales. This trend could indicate either increased arrests for possession or an increase in drug use among adults in the District.

Juvenile Arrests

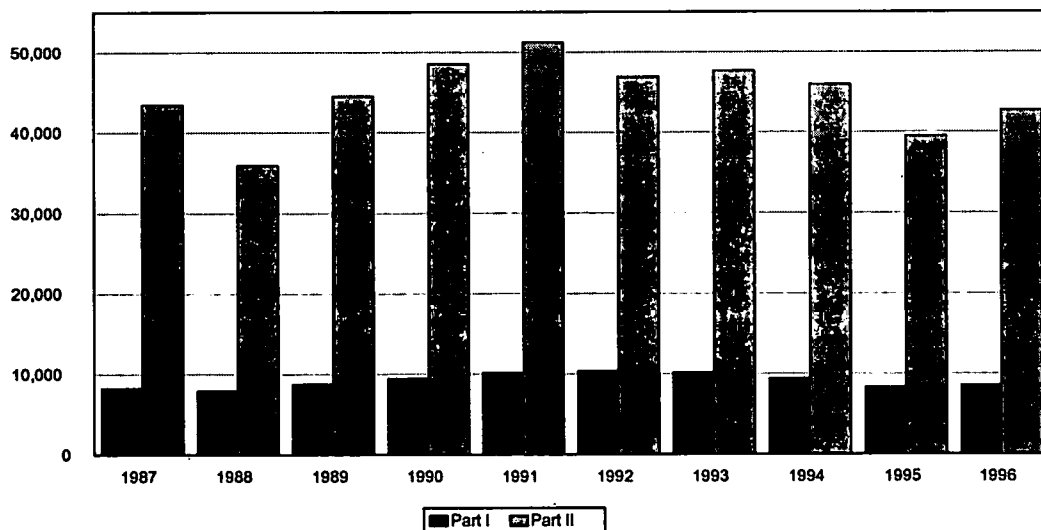
In 1996, 3,932 juveniles were arrested in the District – 44 percent (1,749) for Part I offenses and 56 percent (2,183) for Part II offenses (Table 7). After the District reached a high 6,627 arrests in 1988, the number of juvenile arrests have steadily declined, with the exception of 1993 and 1996. Although juvenile arrests increased 9 percent since 1995, the number of arrests in 1996 is almost at the same level as in 1986 when 3,944 juveniles were arrested (not shown in table). After 1986, police changed juvenile arrest reporting criteria to include to include juveniles being released without being charged or referred to court.

TABLE 4
ADULT ARRESTS FOR PART I AND PART II OFFENSES
1987 – 1996

Year	Part I	Part II	Total
1987	8,275	35,170	43,445
1988	7,912	28,001	35,913
1989	8,801	35,743	44,544
1990	9,453	39,114	48,567
1991	10,140	41,096	51,236
1992	10,329	36,581	46,910
1993	10,150	37,488	47,638
1994	9,430	36,484	45,914
1995	8,332	31,162	39,494
1996	8,575	34,112	42,687

Source: Metropolitan Police Department.
Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

FIGURE 4
PART I AND PART II ADULT ARRESTS
1987-1996



Source: Metropolitan Police Department.
Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE 5
ADULT ARRESTS FOR CRIME INDEX OFFENSES
1987 – 1996

Year	Crime Index Total	Violent Crime Total	Property Crime Total	Homicide*	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
1987	8,275	2,689	5,586	124	97	764	1,704	852	3,354	1,339	41
1988	7,912	2,415	5,497	160	58	715	1,482	825	3,331	1,297	44
1989	8,801	3,008	5,793	271	80	1,093	1,564	987	3,057	1,729	40
1990	9,453	3,699	5,754	274	115	1,267	2,043	965	2,985	1,772	32
1991	10,140	4,178	5,962	321	98	1,295	2,464	1,108	3,059	1,760	35
1992	10,329	4,731	5,598	260	96	1,137	3,238	1,035	3,033	1,485	45
1993	10,150	4,846	5,304	285	117	1,084	3,360	993	2,972	1,307	32
1994	9,430	4,485	4,945	305	87	956	3,137	1,043	2,716	1,163	23
1995	8,332	3,711	4,621	192	83	821	2,615	917	2,511	1,178	15
1996	8,575	3,824	4,751	213	111	875	2,625	870	2,300	1,569	12

* Homicide includes murder and non-negligent manslaughter.

Source: Metropolitan Police Department.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE 6**PERCENT OF ADULT DRUG ARRESTS FOR SALES AND POSSESSION
1992 - 1996**

Year	Total Drug Arrests	Percent Sales	Percent Possession
1992	7,309	35%	65%
1993	7,508	31%	69%
1994	6,591	19%	81%
1995	5,481	14%	86%
1996	6,880	13%	87%

Source: Metropolitan Police Department.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE 7**JUVENILE ARRESTS* FOR PART I AND PART II OFFENSES
1987 - 1996**

Year	Part I	Part II**	Total
1987	2,229	3,919	6,148
1988	2,278	4,349	6,627
1989	2,253	3,672	5,925
1990	2,144	3,108	5,252
1991	1,893	2,930	4,823
1992	1,402	1,947	3,349
1993	1,788	2,942	4,730
1994	1,374	2,382	3,756
1995	1,551	2,056	3,607
1996	1,749	2,183	3,932

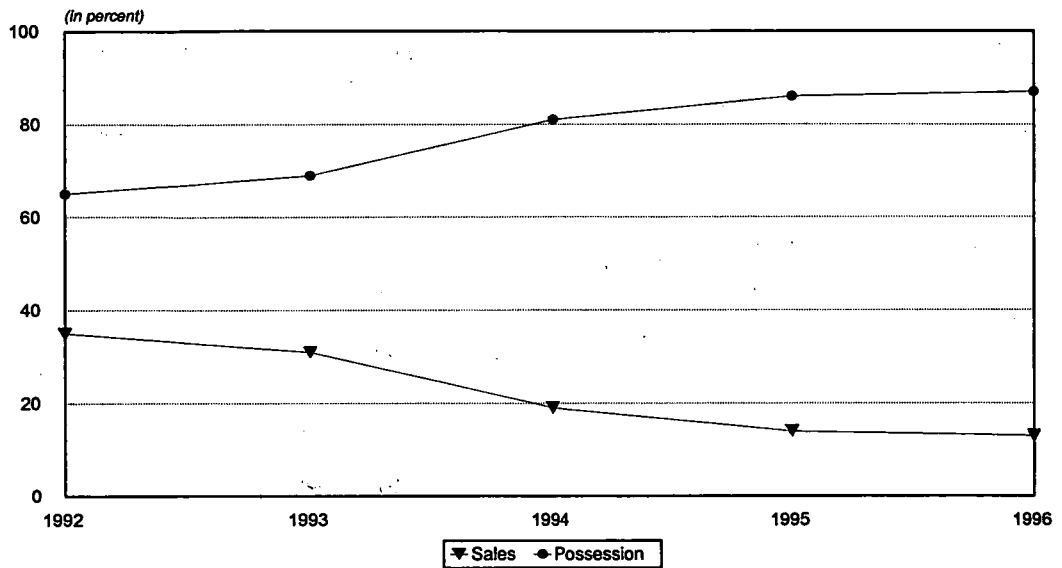
* Includes juveniles released without being charged or referred to court.

** Part II arrests include fugitives from justice, institutions and parents.

Source: Metropolitan Police Department.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

FIGURE 5
ADULT DRUG ARRESTS
1992-1996



Source: Metropolitan Police Department.
Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

From 1992 to 1996, juvenile arrests for Part I offenses increased by 25 percent, and arrests for Part II offenses increased by 12 percent. Compared to 1995, the number of juveniles arrested for Part I offenses increased by 13 percent and Part II arrests increased by 6 percent.

Juvenile arrests for Part I and Part II offenses in 1996 as proportions of total arrests have remained relatively constant. In 1996, Part I arrests accounted for 44 percent of total arrests; and Part II arrests accounted for 56 percent.

There were 696 juveniles arrested for violent crimes in 1996, which represents an 18 percent increase from 1992, and an 8 percent increase from 1995. In 1996, 53 percent of juvenile violent crime arrests were for aggravated assault, 43 percent for robbery, 3 percent for homicide and less than 1 percent for rape.

There were 1,053 juveniles arrested for property crimes in 1996. This is 30 percent higher than in 1992, and 16 percent higher than in 1995. Of 1996 arrests for property crimes, 84 percent were for motor vehicle theft, 10 percent for larceny, and 6 percent for burglary.

Juvenile Violent Crime Trends

Compared to 1987, juvenile arrests have decreased by 22 percent (Table 8). From 1995 to 1996, arrests for violent crime increased by 8 percent. In greater detail:

- From 1987 to 1996, juvenile homicide arrests increased by 156%.
- Homicide arrests decreased by 44 percent from 1992 to 1996, and by 36 percent from 1995 to 1996.
- Robbery arrests increased by 63 percent from 1992 to 1996, and 15 percent from 1995 to 1996.
- Assault arrests increased by 7 percent from 1992 to 1996, and 8 percent from 1995 to 1996.
- Rape arrests decreased dramatically by 84 percent from 1992 to 1996, and 25 percent from 1995 to 1996.

TABLE 8
JUVENILE ARRESTS FOR CRIME INDEX OFFENSES
1987 – 1996

Year	Crime Index Arrests	Violent Crime Arrests	Property Crime Arrests	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Vehicle Theft	Arson
1987	2,229	562	1,667	9	14	220	319	197	333	1,133	4
1988	2,278	499	1,779	26	11	179	283	122	235	1,414	8
1989	2,253	612	1,641	63	23	171	355	123	216	1,294	8
1990	2,144	754	1,390	69	23	200	462	91	254	1,043	2
1991	1,893	690	1,203	55	27	175	433	95	226	879	3
1992	1,402	590	812	41	19	185	345	60	128	622	2
1993	1,788	820	968	30	25	237	528	49	189	729	1
1994	1,374	717	657	62	9	250	396	52	141	462	2
1995	1,551	643	908	36	4	261	342	53	102	753	0
1996	1,749	696	1,053	23	3	301	369	61	107	885	0

Source: Metropolitan Police Department.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Combating Gang Violence

Nationally, according to the most recent estimate in 1991, there are about 4,881 gangs in the United States with about 249,324 members. President Clinton states that 95 percent of all large cities and 88 percent of smaller cities are affected by gangs. The role of gangs and drugs cannot be underestimated in the climate of violence in urban areas and especially among youth. While the use of certain drugs may be declining, drug trafficking is still a prominent factor in the proliferation of violence among youth and is the basis upon which many local gangs are formed. Like many cities in the country, gang violence in the District continues to be a problem. District gangs may be more loosely organized and smaller than gangs long-established in other cities, but they have quickly become a primary concern for law enforcement and communities as gang-related killings and other crimes have become a common occurrence.

Until recently, District officials did not consider the city to have gangs. Given the understanding of gangs as structured organizations with symbols, colors, established rules and traditions, District "gangs" were previously classified as "crews" because they were loosely organized and did not engage in serious criminal activity. Criminal gangs are heavily involved in the drug trade and are becoming increasingly mobile as they expand their trafficking networks. Many gangs franchise drug sales by providing contacts and weight quantities of drugs to local gangs who handle the street-level sales. Criminal drug gangs actively recruit youth to work as carriers and street-level sellers and gradually involve them in gang activities.

Due to the elusive nature of gang membership, keeping exact statistics on gangs is difficult and the actual number of gangs existing in the District is unknown. Police in the District believe that more than 70 gangs of 10 members or more exist in the District, however they suspect up to 200 gangs, some of which may have more than 100 members. Additionally, a District of Columbia Public Schools task force created a list of gangs reported by schools. This list includes 319 gangs defined by the task force as three or more people who commit crimes together.

Unlike cities such as Chicago and Los Angeles that have clearly identifiable gangs, membership, leadership, and organization, in the District, gangs are often unstructured with transient membership. None-the-less, their presence in the Metropolitan area is spreading. Along with the District, neighboring communities in Maryland and Virginia have witnessed increases in incidents of gang-related violent crime, ambushes of police, and school violence.

Juvenile Property Crime Trends

Juvenile arrests for property crime have steadily decreased over the past ten years and reached a ten-year low in 1994, representing a 61 decrease from 1987 (Table 8). Since 1994, however, they have increased markedly. Over the past five years, juvenile arrests for property crime have increased by 30 percent from 1992 to 1996, and increased 16 percent from 1995 to 1996. More specifically:

- Burglary arrests increased by 2 percent from 1992 to 1996, and 15 percent from 1995 to 1996.
- Larceny arrests decreased 16 percent from 1992 to 1996, but increased 5 percent from 1995 to 1996.

- Auto theft arrests increased 42 percent from 1992 to 1996, and 18 percent from 1995 to 1996.
- There were 2 arrests for arson in 1992, and 0 arrests in 1995 and 1996.

Juvenile Drug Arrests

Juvenile drug arrests have fluctuated in recent years, with sharp increases from 1992 to 1993, declines until 1995 and a significant rise again in 1996 (Table 9). Juvenile drug arrests for 1996 are 42 percent higher than in 1995.

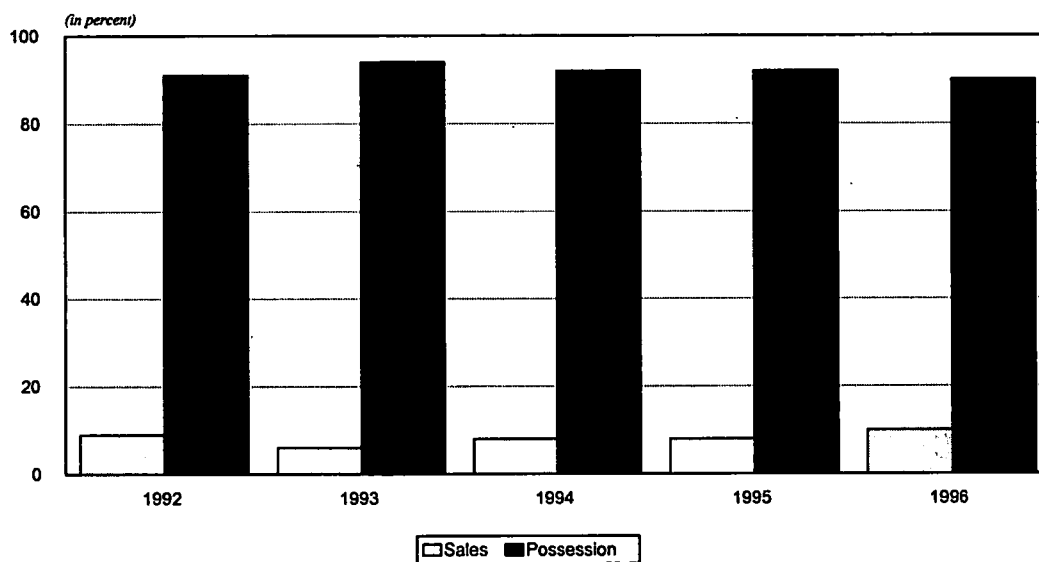
The proportion of juvenile arrests for drug sales and possession has remained constant for many years. The majority (90 percent) continue to be arrested for possession rather than sales offenses.

TABLE 9
PERCENT OF JUVENILE DRUG ARRESTS FOR SALES AND POSSESSION
1992 – 1996

Year	Total Number of Drug Arrests	Percent Possession	Percent Sales
1992	451	91%	9%
1993	781	94%	6%
1994	587	92%	8%
1995	496	92%	8%
1996	704	90%	10%

*Source: Metropolitan Police Department.
Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.*

FIGURE 6
JUVENILE DRUG ARRESTS
1992-1996



*Source: Metropolitan Police Department.
Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.*

Characteristics of Arrestees

Criminal History of Juvenile Offenders

Of the 2,784 juvenile cases filed with the court in 1996, 46 percent involved youth who were arrested for the first time (Table 10). Eighty-five percent of the cases involved males, and 15 percent involved females. The sex and age at arrest for first-time offenders in 1996 is as follows:

- 29 percent of females compared to 24 percent of males were ages 12 to 14;
- 50 percent of females and males were ages of 15 to 16; and
- 17 percent of females compared to 21 percent of males were age 17 or older.

When comparing male and female offenders in 1996, males were much more likely to have one or more prior arrests. Fifty-eight percent of males had a prior arrest compared to 35 percent of females. Of those with prior arrests, about 1 out of 2 male and almost 1 out of 3 female offenders had three or more arrests.

The percentage of males who are first-time arrestees has remained consistent at 41-44 percent since 1992. The percentage of first-time female arrestees, however, has dropped from 72 percent in 1992 to 65 percent in 1996.

Adult Drug Use

The number of arrestees tested for the presence of illegal drugs by the Pretrial Services Agency remained relatively constant from 1992 to 1994,

decreased by 13 percent in 1995, and increased again by 13 percent in 1996 (Table B-2).

There were 18,862 drug tests administered in 1996. Consistently, over the past five years, about half of adult arrestees have tested positive for drug use. There have been some fluctuations for particular drugs. In 1996:

- Cocaine use was detected among 40 percent of adult arrestees.
- PCP was detected among 5 percent of adult arrestees.
- 1995 and 1996 were the first years for which adult drug test results for heroin use were not available.

Juvenile Drug Use

There were a total of 3,030 drug tests administered to juvenile arrestees in 1996. This was 11 percent more than the number of tests in 1995 and 17 percent less than 1992 (Table B-3). Unlike the steady proportion of adult arrestees testing positive for drug use, the number of juvenile arrestees testing positive steadily declined from 1987 through 1990, and then dramatically increased 1991 through 1996. Sixty-four percent of juveniles tested positive for drug use in 1996 which is almost double the proportion testing positive ten years earlier.

By far, the drug of choice among juveniles was marijuana. Juvenile use of marijuana in recent years has skyrocketed, steadily increasing from 6 percent positive in 1990 to 61 percent in 1996. Marijuana has outranked cocaine as the drug of choice among juveniles since 1991, when 11 percent of juvenile tested positive for cocaine while only 6 percent tested positive for marijuana use. The use of cocaine has decreased dramatically from 1987 to 1996, however, there has been a recent increase in cocaine use from 1995 to 1996.

TABLE 10

**PREVIOUS ARRESTS AND AGE AT ARREST OF JUVENILE
OFFENDERS FILED WITH D.C. SUPERIOR COURT BY SEX
1992 - 1996**

	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Number of Previous Arrests										
No priors	1,137	421	1,043	388	1,139	409	935	334	1,002	266
1	537	111	472	119	440	120	452	96	460	68
2	305	30	318	33	271	43	256	39	258	31
3	209	8	233	22	209	26	193	22	198	15
4	149	4	142	4	162	15	128	10	151	16
5 or more	378	8	336	7	344	11	301	17	308	11
Total	2,718	582	2,544	573	2,665	624	2,285	518	2,377	407
Age at Arrest for First-Time Offenders										
Under 9	17	4	16	9	26	7	28	12	19	7
9 - 11	57	12	28	6	36	5	21	2	38	4
12 - 14	331	136	287	135	289	146	227	116	237	78
15 - 16	525	204	505	202	539	195	475	164	501	132
17 and older	207	65	207	36	249	56	184	40	207	45
Total	1,137	421	1,043	388	1,139	409	935	334	1,002	266
Age at Arrest for Rearrestees										
Under 9	2	0	2	0	3	1	10	2	15	2
9 - 11	20	2	15	1	11	0	7	-	9	-
12 - 14	276	54	244	55	202	70	211	49	180	36
15 - 16	827	76	813	87	784	104	688	105	708	74
17 and older	453	29	427	42	426	40	414	28	463	29
Total	1,578	161	1,501	185	1,426	215	1,330	184	1,375	141

Source: Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Research and Development Division.
Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Patterns of Homicide

Over the past ten years, the District experienced an unprecedented rise in homicides that peaked with 482 murders in 1991, followed by a steady decline to 360 murders in 1995 (Table 3). In 1996, there were 397 homicides in the District, representing an increase of 10 percent from 1995, but an 18 percent decrease from the peak year 1991.

Victims and Assailants

Youth continue to be overly represented as both victims and assailants in District homicides. The United States leads all industrialized nations in the rate of juvenile homicides. The median age of homicide victims and suspects has lowered over time, particularly in the District. The median age for homicide victims in the United States in 1976 was 32 and dropped to 29 in 1995. In the District in 1976, the median age of homicide victims was 34, but fell to 24 in 1995. In 1976, the median age of arrested homicide suspects in the United States was 27 and fell to 24 in 1995. Comparatively, the median age for these suspects in the District in 1976 was 30 and dropped to 21 in 1995.

In 1996, at least 37 percent of the District's homicide victims were age 24 and younger (Table B-4) while 42 percent of homicide suspects were age 24 and younger (Table B-5). For both victims and assailants, the greatest proportion within this age group are ages 18 to 20 (35 percent and 40 percent, respectively).

Motives

Between 1992 to 1996, some shifts took place in the prevalence of certain homicide motives. For homicides for which a motive was determined, drugs and arguments consistently ranked first and second as the leading motive for murder (Table B-6).

Drugs was the leading motive in 1996 with 34 percent, representing a dramatic increase from 13

percent in 1995, which was the lowest level of drug-related homicides in five years. The 1996 level represents a return to the highest level (33 percent in 1992) of drug-related homicides in five years.

Argument as a motive has remained relatively constant, ranging between 13 percent and 17 percent of homicide. Sixteen percent of motives were attributed to arguments in 1996.

Robbery and retaliation (non-drug related) consistently ranked third as the leading motive for homicide. Specifically:

- Retaliation (non-drug related) as a motive accounted for 9 percent of motives in 1996, and has remained stable in recent years.
- Robbery as a motive accounted for 9 percent of motives in 1996, and has remained stable in recent years.

Methods

Guns continue to be the weapon of choice in the District, accounting for 81 percent of homicides in 1996 (Table B-7). Knives and other sharp instruments are the second most common weapon used in murders, accounting for 10 percent of homicides in 1996. The proportion of these two methods of homicide has remained relatively consistent since 1992.

Unless registered before 1976, possession of handguns is illegal in the District. However, lack of such legislation in surrounding jurisdictions makes it easy to obtain firearms. In 1995, there were 2,135 confiscated firearms processed by MPD. Of those firearms processed, 702 were successfully traced to original owners by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; 232 were sold in Maryland, 214 in Virginia, and 256 in other states. Historically, the majority of guns has originated in Virginia.

Community Policing In the District

The District continues to make strides to fully implement community policing throughout the city. Each police district has monthly community meetings in which citizens, community organizations, and police officers discuss public safety issues and citizen concerns. Although officers can ascertain a community's biggest problem through an analysis of crime statistics, the District's community policing efforts intend to establish what crime problems concern the community the most.

The District is working to create a cohesive, city-wide community policing initiative, rather than the current efforts that are targeted in certain areas rather than throughout the District. One objective of MPD's recent reorganization is to facilitate implementing widespread community policing strategies.

Some of the District's community policing efforts include:

- The creation of the Police Auxiliary Service (PAS) that motivates and organizes citizens to volunteer with the police department to serve in any capacity that does not involve being a sworn officer. This could include volunteering as a dispatcher, computer operator, programmer, and data processor, crossing guard, auditor, and mechanic, among others. More than 50 volunteers have participated so far.
- In the First District, officers engage in several school programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The programs include teaching children crime prevention methods as well as the traditional DARE (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) and GREAT (Gang Resistance Education Awareness Training) programs. During the summer months, police continue to reach out to the children through the Summer Youth Academy which keeps kids busy with organized activities such as visits to museums, skating and movie going, among others. Officers also conduct monthly meetings with citizens to discuss their concerns about their community.
- The Second District has been industrious, continuing to build the new Georgetown Community Policing Center which opened in August 1996. The community has developed a quarterly newsletter called *Street Smart* and a neighborhood watch program.
- In the fall of 1996, MPD teamed up with the District Public Housing Authority to combat crime in the city's 13 most crime-ridden housing complexes by having officers assigned solely to each complex. Twenty-four officers were committed to working at these complexes. The funding for this effort is divided between the two agencies. Officers patrol the complexes for eight hours each day, seven days a week, offering protection and community services. The MPD pledged to add 30 more officers to the program within the next two years.

Summary and Discussion

The District of Columbia continues to combat its 60,000-plus reported crime index offenses. From 1992 to 1996, the number of reported offenses declined by 4 percent, and over the past year, the number decreased by 4 percent. Since 1995, both the crime index rate declined (by 2 percent) and the total population declined (by 3 percent).

Overall violent crime decreased by 20 percent from 1992 to 1996. From 1992 to 1996, all violent offenses reported to police decreased, except rape. From 1995 to 1996, all violent offenses decreased except homicide. There were significant decreases in assault.

In 1996, there were 17 percent less adults arrested for Part I offense than in 1992 and 7 percent less for Part II offenses. From 1995 to 1996, there was a 3 percent increase in Part I arrests, and a 9 percent increase in Part II arrests. In 1996, Part I offenses accounted for 20 percent and Part II arrests

accounted for 80 percent of the total arrests. From 1992 to 1996, adult arrests for all violent index offenses except assault decreased.

In 1996, 3,932 juveniles were arrested in the District – 44 percent for Part I offenses and 56 percent for Part II offenses. Compared to 1995, the number of juveniles arrested for Part I offenses increased by 13 percent and Part II arrests increased by 6 percent. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes increased by 18 percent from 1992, and 8 percent from 1995. Juvenile arrests for property crimes increased 30 from 1992 and 16 percent from 1995.

While many cities have boasted a large decline in the number of homicides during 1996, the District's homicides increased by about 10 percent from 1995 to 1996. Cities such as Los Angeles, New York, and Houston experienced about a 17 percent decline. Youth (24 and under) continue to be overly represented as both victims (37 percent) and assailants (42 percent) in District homicides. ♦



COURT PROCESSING

Overview

Current Administration and Jurisdiction

After a person has been arrested and charged with a crime, the charge and any additional information about the individual are forwarded by the police to the prosecutor's office. In the District, the Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC) prosecutes juvenile cases, traffic cases, some misdemeanor cases and civil suits to which the District of Columbia government is a party. The United States Attorney's Office (USAO) handles prosecution of adult criminal cases. The USAO in the District is unlike any other in the nation because it handles the prosecution of both federal *and* local criminal cases. The USAO is organized into various specialty sections, such as homicide, narcotics, etc., in which the Assistant U.S. Attorneys (ASA) handle only the cases of that section. For reference, Appendix C lists definitions of legal terms used in this section.

Persons who have pled guilty or been convicted following trial are subsequently sentenced by the District of Columbia Superior Court (DCSC). The DCSC is responsible for monitoring probation of adults and juveniles. This section of the report provides data for adult felony prosecutions, convictions and probation; and juvenile petitions and dispositions. Data for 1996, and misdemeanor prosecution and conviction data were unavailable at the time of publication.

Impact of the Revitalization Act

The *National Capital Revitalization and Self Government Improvement Act of 1997* (Act) will impact the court system in several ways. Specifically:

- Administration and financing of the District's Superior Court, Court of Appeals, and Court System will be transferred to the Federal Government.

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- A Truth in Sentencing Commission will be established to make recommendations to the District Council for amendments to the D.C. Code with respect to all felony sentences to be imposed after three years from the Act's enactment. These recommendations shall meet the truth in sentencing standards of the *Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994*.
 - The DCSC will assume parole functions for sentenced misdemeanants after the establishment of the D.C. Offender Supervision, Defender, and Courts Services Agency (Agency); at which time the District's Board of Parole will be abolished.
 - The Agency will be established within the executive branch of the Federal Government to provide supervision of offenders released from prison, offenders placed on probation, and misdemeanants paroled by the DCSC; and parolees under the authority of the U.S. Parole Commission.
 - The Pretrial Services Agency and the Public Defender Service will be incorporated into the Agency as independent entities.
 - A Pretrial Services, Defense Services, Parole, Adult Probation and Offender Supervision Trustee will be appointed by the Attorney General to effectuate the reorganization and transition of functions and funding relating to pretrial services, defense services, parole, adult probation and offender supervision to the Agency.

Adult Felony Prosecutions and Convictions

Felony Prosecutions

The five-year reporting period for this section includes data from 1991 through 1995, the most current year for which felony prosecution data were available.

In 1995, there were 15,218 adult felony prosecutions, which represents a 21 percent decrease from 1991, and a 6 percent decrease from 1994 (Table 11). From 1991 to 1995, and 1994 to 1995, felony prosecutions experienced some rather significant decreases in all categories of offenses except assault and weapons.

Assault and weapons prosecutions together comprise a third of all felony convictions. More specifically:

- Assault prosecutions increased by 10 percent from 1991 to 1995, but remained the same from 1994 to 1995. Assault accounted for 24 percent of prosecutions in 1995.
- Weapons felony prosecutions increased 42 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 34 percent from 1994 to 1995. Weapons offenses accounted for 9 percent of prosecutions in 1995.

TABLE 11

**ADULT FELONY PROSECUTIONS BY OFFENSE
1991 – 1995**

Year	Homicide	Rape*	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny**	Auto Theft	Arson	Weapons	Drugs	Other	Total
1991	365	280	1,332	3,313	1,139	858	1,832	42	922	6,472	2,710	19,265
1992	285	174	1,184	4,150	1,014	799	1,629	42	554	4,576	2,437	16,844
1993	311	160	1,075	4,298	1,013	814	1,493	35	431	4,750	2,863	17,243
1994	330	111	966	3,627	1,045	762	1,392	27	977	4,272	2,633	16,142
1995	216	122	839	3,638	915	749	1,370	17	1,312	3,532	2,508	15,218

* Includes sexual assault.

** Includes theft.

Source: D.C. Superior Court.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

All other categories of felony prosecutions for violent and property offenses decreased during the reporting period. More specifically:

- Homicide prosecutions decreased by 41 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 35 percent from 1994 to 1995. Homicide prosecutions represent 1 percent of all prosecutions.
- Robbery prosecutions decreased by 37 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 13 percent from 1994 to 1995. Robbery represented 6 percent of prosecutions in 1995.
- Drug-related felony prosecutions decreased significantly by 45 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 17 percent from 1994 to 1995. Drug offenses accounted for 23 percent of prosecutions in 1995, representing a five-year low in number and proportion.
- Rape prosecutions decreased by 56 percent from 1994 to 1995, but increased 10 percent from 1994 to 1995. Rape offenses accounted for 1 percent of all prosecutions.
- Burglary prosecutions decreased by 20 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 12 percent from 1994 to 1995. Burglary accounted for 6 percent of prosecutions in 1995.
- Larceny prosecutions decreased by 13 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 2 percent from 1994 to 1995. Larceny accounted for 5 percent of prosecutions in 1995.
- Auto theft prosecutions decreased by 25 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 2 percent from 1994 to 1995. Auto theft accounted for 9 percent of prosecutions in 1995.

Felony Convictions

The five-year reporting period for this section includes data from 1991 through 1995, the most current year for which felony conviction data were available.

In 1995, there were 4,177 adult felony convictions, which represents 4 percent less than in 1991, and 8 percent less than in 1994 (Table 12). While total felony convictions decreased somewhat, there were some rather significant increases and significant decreases for specific categories of offenses during the reporting period.

Most increases were experienced among felony convictions for violent offenses, with the exception of burglary. More specifically:

- Assault convictions increased by significantly by 27 percent from 1991 to 1995, and decreased 9 percent from 1994 to 1995. Assault accounted for 7 percent of convictions in 1995.
- Weapons convictions increased significantly by 36 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 68 percent from 1994 to 1995. Weapons comprised 14 percent of convictions in 1995, representing a five-year high in number and proportion.
- Rape convictions increased by 27 percent from 1991 to 1995, but decreased by 10 percent from 1994 to 1995. Rape comprised less than 1 percent of convictions in 1995.
- Burglary convictions increased a dramatic 71 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 20 percent from 1994 to 1995. Burglary accounted for 4 percent of convictions.

Felony convictions for homicide and for most categories of property offenses experienced significant decreases during the reporting period. More specifically:

- Homicide convictions decreased 38 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 27 percent from 1994 to 1995. Homicide accounted for 2 percent of convictions in 1995.
- Drug-related convictions decreased 31 percent from 1991 to 1995, and 29 percent from 1994 to 1995. Drugs accounted for 31 percent of all convictions in 1995, representing a five-year low in number and proportion.
- Larceny convictions increased 22 percent from 1991 to 1994, and decreased 18 percent from 1994 to 1995. Larceny convictions accounted for 2 percent of convictions in 1995.
- Auto theft convictions plummeted 74 percent from 1991 to 1995, and fell 13 percent from 1994 to 1995. Auto theft accounted for 1 percent of convictions in 1995.

TABLE 12

**ADULT FELONY CONVICTIONS BY OFFENSE
1991 – 1995**

Year	Homicide	Rape*	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny**	Auto Theft	Arson	Weapons	Drugs	Other	Total
1991	128	15	380	245	96	100	204	4	418	1,869	907	4,366
1992	100	8	372	285	130	110	118	5	502	2,076	1,147	4,853
1993	79	11	391	326	155	104	78	8	377	2,026	1,286	4,841
1994	108	21	371	341	137	122	61	6	339	1,824	1,206	4,536
1995	79	19	375	312	164	100	53	3	570	1,293	1,209	4,177

* Includes sexual assault.

** Includes theft.

Source: D.C. Superior Court.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Juveniles Petitions and Dispositions

Petitions

In 1996, there were 3,927 juvenile cases handled by the OCC (Table 13). Of these :

- 64 percent were petitioned, and 36 percent were not petitioned.
- 48 percent were for part I offenses, and 52 percent were for Part II offenses.

Among Part I offenses, motor vehicle theft accounted for the greatest proportion of cases petitioned (50 percent) and not petitioned (60 percent).

For Part II offenses, drug offenses accounted for 44 percent of cases petitioned and 30 percent of cases not petitioned. Carrying a dangerous weapon accounted for 15 percent of cases petitioned.

Dispositions

There were 2,404 juveniles adjudicated in 1996 (Table 14), which is 16 percent less than in 1992, but 4 percent more than in 1995. The outcome of juvenile adjudications are as follows:

- Guilty findings were relatively stable from 1992 to 1995, but increased by 25 percent from 1995 to 1996; accounting for 43 percent of adjudications.

- Dismissals decreased by 18 percent from 1992 to 1996, and 8 percent from 1995 to 1996; accounting for 50 percent of adjudications.
- Consent decrees steadily and dramatically declined by 69 percent from 1992 to 1996, and 10 percent from 1995 to 1996; accounting for 5 percent of adjudications.
- Not guilty findings rose significantly by 63 percent from 1992 to 1996, and by 30 percent from 1995 to 1996; comprising 2 percent of adjudications.

Juveniles who commit a status offense are referred as Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS). These status offenses are considered law violations only if committed by a juvenile. Such behavior includes running away from home, truancy, underage drinking, ungovernability (beyond control of parents or custodians) and curfew violations.

In 1996, there were 135 PINS cases resolved, representing a 31 percent increase from 1992. The outcomes of resolved PINS cases were as follows:

- Guilty outcomes increased by 18 percent from 1992 to 1996, decreased 13 percent from 1995 to 1996; and accounted for 33 percent of outcomes in 1996.
- Dismissals increased by 116 percent from 1992 to 1995, and fell 21 percent from 1995 to 1996, accounting for 64 percent of outcomes in 1996.
- Consent decrees increased by 64 percent from 1992 to 1995, and fell dramatically by 87 percent from 1995 to 1996; accounting for 2 percent of outcomes in 1996.

TABLE 13

**JUVENILE CASES PETITIONED AND NOT PETITIONED BY OFFENSE
1994 – 1996**

Offense	1994		1995		1996	
	Petitioned	Not Petitioned	Petitioned	Not Petitioned	Petitioned	Not Petitioned
Part I Offenses						
Homicide	22	1	17	2	7	1
Rape	16	1	6	3	3	0
Robbery	173	67	202	95	196	68
Aggravated Assault	38	3	16	4	300	171
Burglary	44	14	46	25	50	11
Larceny/theft	60	35	62	23	59	13
Auto theft	371	304	352	274	605	403
Arson	0	0	1	1	0	0
Part I Total	724	425	702	427	1,220	667
Part II Offenses						
Drug possession	172	86	138	77	139	90
Drug trafficking	538	129	433	109	418	137
Drug Offenses, total	710	215	571	186	557	227
Carjacking	14	9	15	7	7	10
Dangerous weapon	241	79	195	92	186	64
Destroy property	88	33	84	44	94	42
Fugitive	114	22	82	19	75	19
Sex Offenses*	46	3	21	3	2	3
Simple Assault	597	302	507	339	142	129
Other Offenses**	237	251	193	242	209	249
PINS (persons in need of supervision)	223	21	243	21	6	19
Other Part II, total	1,560	720	1,340	767	721	535
Part II Total	2,270	935	1,911	953	1,278	762
Total Number of Cases	2,994	1,360	2,613	1,380	2,498	1,429

* Includes carnal knowledge, indecent acts, sodomy and prostitution.

** Includes disorderly conduct, kidnaping, fraud, forgery, receiving stolen property, tampering, traffic offenses, unlawful entry and other offenses.

Source: Office of the Corporation Counsel.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE 14
JUVENILES DISPOSITIONS
1992 - 1996

Year	Juveniles Adjudicated					PINS* Cases Resolved			
	Total	Guilty	Not Guilty Trial	Dismissed	Consent Decree	Total	Guilty	Dismissed	Consent Decree
1992	2,876	987	32	1,460	397	103	38	51	14
1993	2,540	907	43	1,406	184	167	64	81	22
1994	2,464	892	28	1,351	193	160	55	81	24
1995	2,304	824	40	1,305	135	185	52	110	23
1996	2,404	1,031	52	1,199	122	135	45	87	3

* Persons in Need of Supervision.

Source: Office of the Corporation Counsel.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Community Prosecution

In June of 1996, the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) of the District of Columbia began a pilot community prosecution program to serve Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Fifth District. The idea behind the community prosecution program is to bring assistant US Attorneys (ASA) closer to the community by assigning them to different neighborhoods where they become responsible for all types of crimes in that area, except sex offenses. There are no special divisions within the community prosecution program. Prosecutors screen cases to determine their relevance to their efforts in the Fifth District. These prosecutors become involved with quality of life issues in the neighborhood as well, thus making prosecutors proactive as opposed to their traditionally reactive nature.

The goals of the community prosecution program include developing intelligence regarding crimes in the neighborhood, developing a rapport with the community and sharing information, and maintaining regular interaction with the MPD.

There are 19 AUSAs working in the community prosecution program. Seventeen have been divided into the different neighborhoods of the Fifth District. Two AUSAs have been relieved of all case duties and share a variety of community tasks such as managing a satellite USA office, attending community meetings and serving as a liaison, screening cases, and fielding citizen complaints.

Informal evaluations of the community prosecution program have revealed positive responses from both prosecutors and citizens. Forthcoming process evaluations and impact evaluations will determine the effect this program may have on crime and the community.

Probation

Type of Supervision

Probation is a sentence imposed by the court upon a convicted offender requiring the offender to meet certain conditions of supervision in the community. A probation officer is normally responsible for enforcing parole conditions. Adults on probation are placed under active or inactive supervision, or intensive supervision. Adults under active supervision are responsible for reporting to a probation officer and meeting the conditions of their probation. When all conditions of probation have been met except for the completion of time to be served, they are placed on inactive supervision. Adults placed on intensive probation are required to have more contacts with their probation officer, subject to more conditions of supervision and are monitored more frequently.

Adults who are diverted can be placed under the supervision of the probation department or placed in community-based private programs (e.g., drug treatment). Individuals who are diverted tend to have no prior convictions and their cases are diverted prior to finding a guilt or innocence for the offense(s) with which they are charged. These individuals must successfully complete the required conditions set forth by the judge or go back to court for the charge(s) that were originally brought against them. If these individuals successfully complete the required conditions, the charges are dropped and do not appear on their criminal record.

Adult Probation Activity

The five-year reporting period for this section includes data from 1991 through 1995, the most current year for which adult probation data were available.

As of January 1, 1995, there were 8,845 adult cases under supervision (Table 15). More specifically:

- Adults on probation were about the same numerically as in 1991, but 7 percent more than in 1994.
- The rate per 100,000 residents of adults on probation decreased by 22 percent from 1991 to 1996, and decreased by 25 percent from 1994 to 1995.

Cases Assigned and Removed

The number of new cases assigned has steadily declined in recent years, and cases removed declined from 1991 to 1993 and rose again through 1995 (Table 15). More specifically:

- New cases assigned decreased by 30 percent from 1991 to 1995, and by 23 percent from 1994 to 1995.
- Cases removed decreased by 12 percent from 1991 to 1995, and increased slightly by 2 percent from 1994 to 1995.

Probation can be revoked if the offender commits a new offense while on probation or because he or she violates a technical condition of release. Technical conditions of release frequently include, but are not limited to, abstaining from drug use, avoiding contact with other criminals, maintaining steady employment and periodically reporting to a probation officer.

Of all cases removed from probation in 1995 (Table B-8):

- 56 percent were the result of sentence expiration.
- 17 percent were terminated via successful completion of sentence.
- 12 percent were probation revocations.

More offenders left probation in 1995 as the result of successful completion of sentence and less as a result of probation revocation. From 1994 to 1995:

- Expirations increased by 35 percent.
- Terminations increased by 45 percent.
- Revocations decreased by 57 percent.

In any given year, more misdemeanor offenders were under probation supervision than felony offenders (Table B-9); although from 1991 to 1994, felony offenders on probation accounted for increasing proportions of all probationers. In 1995, however, felony offenders represented the smallest proportion of offenders under supervision than the previous four years.

TABLE 15
ADULT PROBATION ACTIVITY*
1991-1995

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Cases Under Supervision (1/1)	8,782	8,454	8,091	8,264	8,845**
Cases Assigned	7,310	7,093	6,522	6,677	5,147
Cases Transferred In	-	-	-	-	387
Cases Removed	7,638	7,456	6,349	6,616	6,753
Cases Under Supervision (12/31)	8,454	8,091	8,264	8,325	7,626

* Figure includes Felony/Misdemeanor Probation, Special Programs and Traffic and Alcohol Program cases.

** Figure adjusted.

Source: District of Columbia Courts 1995 Annual Report.
Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Responding to Domestic Violence

Since the early 1980s, the District has taken notice of the rising number of domestic violence complaints and is taking great strides to address this problem. In 1991, the District adopted a mandatory arrest policy for domestic violence complaints. Since then, the number of civil protection orders increased dramatically due to the District's more than 5,000 annual domestic violence complaints, which include 50 domestic homicide cases. Recently, the District adopted a new system for handling domestic violence cases in response to a task force study of the issue. In the past, a simple assault was not differentiated as either a domestic or non-domestic assault. In addition, other acts such as slashing tires, burglary, etc., that may actually be related to a domestic issue (as a form of intimidation or retaliation) were not identified as a domestic issue. The new system uses only three judges and one hearing commissioner that will handle all civil and criminal misdemeanor domestic cases. This includes child support, civil orders of protection, divorce, and contempt cases, but not child abuse or felony domestic violence cases. Before this change, domestic cases could be assigned to different judges in different divisions. Consequently, when the persons involved came to court more than once, the judges would not know all the details of the situation and the relationship. This can result in conflicting orders or decisions that could endanger a victim. With the new system, the cases remain in one division, allowing for all information to be accessible. Ideally, all related domestic cases (involving the same relationship/family) will be handled by one judge, preferably on the same day.

In early November of 1996, the Superior Court opened the Domestic Violence Unit, which is centrally located within the courthouse. The new domestic services include a special area staffed by volunteers from the District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Georgetown Law, as well as social workers, police officers, court officials and lawyers. Volunteers provide assistance in making arrangements for emergency services and a play area is set aside for children.

A variety of improvements in the way domestic cases are handled include:

- Researching a case before it reaches the courtroom, to provide the judge with a complete profile. As a case is filed, the domestic violence unit looks for other cases involving the same individuals and puts the case with the same judge assigned to the previous cases if possible.
- Using the MPD to serve the court papers for the petitioner which helps to ensure the safety of the victim.
- Filing a detailed petition and affidavit which allow the petitioner to plan future decisions and consequences and allow the judge to assess the many dimensions of the case.
- In the event that the petitioner does not show up on the assigned court date, the unit will call the petitioner's house and safely attempt to determine whether he or she was threatened or pressured into not attending court by the respondent.
- The Domestic Violence Intake Center has a court-associated Domestic Violence Intervention Program to treat male domestic violence offenders. The program, which lasts 12 to 16 weeks, counsels the offender and teach him alternative, non-violent response behavior. If the offender does not complete the program, he will be held in contempt of court.
- The USAO developed a team of specialists for prosecuting domestic violence cases in the spring of 1996.
- The community prosecution program in the MPD's Fifth District handles domestic violence cases, unlike some other community prosecution programs in the nation. This program has even provided training for police officers on how to handle domestic violence calls.
- The MPD will assign two officers in each of the seven police districts to handle domestic violence cases.

As a result of the mandatory arrest law, the number of cases actually ending up in arrest and going to court have increased. From November 1996 to April 1997, the amount of pending domestic cases (child support, contempt, intra family and criminal) increased by 62 percent. The number of domestic case filings/reinstatements increased by 85percent during the same time period.

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- In 1995, 20 percent of probationers were felony offenders, compared with 36 percent in 1994 and 27 percent in 1991.

The rearrest rate for adult probationers increased slightly from 1991 to 1994, and fell moderately from 1994 to 1995 (Table B-10). More specifically:

- 17 percent of adult probationers were rearrested in 1991 compared with 18 percent in 1994.
- 11 percent of probationers were rearrested in 1995.

Summary and Discussion

The District of Columbia's court processing system has improved through the implementation of community prosecution and a comprehensive

domestic violence unit. As a result of the District's mandatory domestic violence arrest law, the number of cases actually ending up in arrest and going to court have increased.

In 1995, the largest number of prosecutions for the District were for assaults and drug offenses which together comprised 47 percent of all felony prosecutions. The largest number of convictions were for drug offenses (23 percent). One half of the juvenile prosecutions for 1996 were for Part I offenses. There were 2,404 juveniles adjudicated in 1996.

At the start of 1995, there were 8,845 adult cases under court supervision. In any given year, more misdemeanor offender were under probation supervision than felony offenders. In 1995, felony offenders represented the smallest proportion of offenders under supervision than the previous six years. ♦



CORRECTIONS

Overview

In 1995, Congress mandated an assessment of the District's Department of Corrections (DOC). The assessment report was issued in early 1996. The report detailed issues regarding operations, staffing and physical plant that needed to be addressed in order to meet correctional standards and practices. This assessment was followed by another report that examined various options for closing the Lorton Complex, and developing long- and short-term implementation plans for affecting management reform of the DOC.

The assessment and development of the long- and short-term implementation plans were conducted by a study team lead by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD). As a result of conducting this work with the DOC, NCCD was able to obtain more detailed and current information than was available from other agencies included in this report. Hence, this section will include some data as current as 1997.

Correctional Jurisdiction and Facilities

The DOC is responsible for housing adults who have either been arrested for crimes and are awaiting their court dispositions (pretrial inmates) or have been sentenced to incarceration upon conviction by the District of Columbia Superior Court (DCSC) (sentenced inmates). In managing these inmates, the DOC operates two major facilities located within the District (D.C. Detention Facility and the Correctional Treatment Facility [CTF]) and seven facilities at the Lorton Complex which is located on a 3,000 acre site in Northern Virginia. The DOC also operates nine community correctional centers (CCC) located within the District. In general, most of the inmates housed at the Detention Facility are in pretrial status while inmates at Lorton and the CTF have been sentenced. Inmates housed at the CCCs are either in pretrial or sentenced status.

The past year has witnessed major changes in the administration and operation of the DOC facilities. Most significantly, the DOC has launched a major privatization effort to reduce operating costs and to improve conditions of confinement. As part of that effort, in 1996, the CTF was sold to the Correctional Corporation of America (CCA) which also assumed responsibility for housing inmates assigned by the DOC to that facility. Furthermore, the DOC contracted with the CCA to house an additional 1,400 sentenced inmates at a CCA facility located in Youngstown, Ohio.

Impact of the Revitalization Act

The *National Capitol Revitalization and Self Government Improvement Act of 1997* sets forth the eventual transfer of all felony inmates from the District's DOC to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). This transfer will occur gradually over the next few years, and will be completed no later than October 1, 2001.

A Corrections Trustee will be appointed by the Attorney General to oversee financial operations of the DOC until all sentenced felony offenders are transferred to the custody of the BOP.

Correctional Population

As of July 1, 1997, the DOC jurisdictional population numbered 9,733 (Table B-11). These inmates are housed in a wide variety of facilities and non-DOC agencies. Specifically:

- Approximately 2,400 inmates are located either in the Detention Facility or the privately operated CTF.
- Most of the Detention Facility inmates are in pretrial status.
- The largest number of inmates (5,416) are located at the Lorton Complex.

- Another 384 are assigned to publically and privately operated halfway house facilities.

As part of the DOC's efforts to reduce crowding, the DOC has expanded its use of contracts with other correctional agencies. Specifically:

- The BOP houses 541 inmates in its facilities with another 900 assigned to the a CCA-operated facility in Youngstown, Ohio.
- Another 65 are with the U.S. Marshal and 15 are interstate compact cases.
- The DOC expects to transfer another 900 inmates to other agencies and jurisdictions as part of its Lorton depopulation effort.

With the recent transfer of inmates to the CCA Ohio facility and increases in the number of inmates assigned to BOP, the level of crowding has been significantly reduced — especially at the Lorton Complex. The operating capacity of the entire system is 9,866 with an inmate population of 8,212 (or 83 percent of capacity). The Lorton Complex has an operating capacity of 6,483, but now holds only 5,416 inmates (or 84 percent of capacity).

Incarceration Trends

Unlike all other states, the DOC inmate population has been declining. Since 1992, the inmate population (both pretrial and sentenced) declined by 19 percent from 11,538 inmates to 9,376 by 1996 (Table 16). The decline has been the result of several trends that have already been noted in this report. First and foremost, the District's resident population has declined. With fewer residents, there are fewer crimes being committed as reflected in the declines in crime rates. However, even with the decline in the resident population, the reductions in the inmate populations are greater than would be expected. The incarceration rates have also declined from 1,970 to 1,726 per 100,000 residents. Consequently, there are other factors despite demographic trends that must be exerting an influence on incarceration rates.

TABLE 16

**DOC INMATE POPULATION TRENDS
1992 -1997**

Year	Inmate Population*	Resident Population	Rate per 100,000 Population
1992	11,538	585,813	1,970
1993	11,159	574,670	1,942
1994	10,982	565,961	1,940
1995	9,800	554,528	1,767
1996	9,376	543,213	1,726
1997 (6/30)	9,739	NA	NA

* Includes all District community correctional centers, contract houses, and inmates housed in Federal, state, and privately operated facilities.
Sources: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prisoners in 1996, June 1997; Department of Corrections.
Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Inmate Population Projections

In making a ten-year forecast of future inmate populations, a number of key statistical trends were reviewed for the District's general population, crime, and arrest rates, and the DOC population. The most important developments as they relate to DOC inmate population trends are:

1. The District's general population has been steadily declining since 1990. This decline has been greatest for males between ages 15 and 29 – the so-called "at risk" population for committing serious crimes.
2. The number of reported serious crimes (Part I offenses) and the crime rate per 100,000 population have stabilized. However, there was an increase in 1995 for the crimes of robbery, burglary, theft, and auto theft.
3. The number of arrests has continued to decline.
4. The number of sworn police officers has declined from a peak of 5,679 in 1991 to a low of 3,815 in 1995.
5. Overall, DOC prison admissions have continued to decline, but admissions for misdemeanor crimes have increased slightly.
6. Length of stay and sentence length have stabilized at the 1993 levels for both pretrial and sentenced inmates.

These trends point to a level of stability in prison population growth and there is no indication that crime or, more importantly, arrests will significantly increase in the near future. These assumptions were based on stabilizing at-risk populations, crime rates,

and no evidence that additional police officers would be added to the workforce.

At this time, however, there is some indication that the MPD is being reorganized and that a new "zero tolerance" arrest policies has been instituted. Also, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia has expressed a desire to reinstate mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenders. Furthermore, the Council for the District of Columbia has approved a "zero tolerance" mandatory arrest and detention statute for persons carrying illegal weapons in motor vehicles as well as for other minor crimes. These and other developments illustrate the need to carefully monitor the current projections on a quarterly basis and revise them as needed.

The original DOC estimated that the total inmate population should have been approximately 11,300 at the close of 1995, and would exceed 13,000 offenders by the end of the year 2000. The total DOC jurisdictional population as of October 1995 was 9,793 inmates. As of January 22, 1997, it was 9,431.

The original DOC projection was too high and was initially lowered by the NCCD study team. However, even the 1995 revised projection was too high and was lowered again in 1996. This projection estimates that the total DOC jurisdictional population will approach 10,000 inmates by the year 2000 and 10,460 by 2006 (Table 17). More specifically:

- Pretrial population is projected to increase by 7 percent from 1996 to 2006.
- Sentenced misdemeanor population is projected to increase by 11 percent from 1996 to 2006.
- Pretrial and sentenced inmates at CCCs and halfway houses are projected to increase by 11 percent from 1996 to 2006.

TABLE 17
CURRENT AND PROJECTED DOC JURISDICTIONAL POPULATION
BY SENTENCE STATUS*
1996-2006

	Percent	FY 1996	FY 2002	FY 2006
Total DOC Jurisdictional Population	100%	9,431	10,200	10,460
Institutional Pretrial Population	17%	1,603	1,734	1,778
Sentenced Misdemeanant Population	5%	472	510	523
Pretrial and Sentenced at CCCs and Contract Halfway Houses	7%	660	714	732
Sentenced Felon Population**	71%	6,696	7,242	7,427

* Includes all DOC inmates housed in DOC, CCC, contract halfway house, USMS, and BOP facilities.

** The sentenced felon population is the focus of this analysis. While some sentenced felons are housed in the CCCs and contract halfway houses, they are excluded from the study.

Sources: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1996, June 1997*; Department of Corrections.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Characteristics of Inmates

Accurate information on the attributes of the DOC population are difficult to compute given data entry problems associated with the DOC's CRYSIS data system. However, NCCD was able to extract some information on the current inmate population as of August 1, 1997 (Table B-12). The information is presented by five major legal statuses (pretrial, sentenced misdemeanants, sentenced felons, convicted but unsentenced, and other. Among the more significant findings are as follows:

- 94 percent of inmates are males, 96 percent are African-American, 79 percent are sentenced felons, and with an average age of 34 years.
- 29 percent of inmates are detained or convicted of drug crimes, 15 percent for homicide, and 14 percent for robbery.
- 53 percent of the total inmate population is incarcerated for non-violent crimes.

Juvenile Corrections

Overview

The Youth Services Administration (YSA), an agency within the Department of Human Services (DHS), is responsible for handling juveniles who are detained or committed by the court to a term of confinement. YSA provides institutional and community-based custody, care, and treatment for juveniles falling into six categories: status offenders, pre- and post-adjudicated youth, detained youth awaiting trial; youth who have been adjudicated delinquent, but whose cases have not reached the point of disposition; adjudicated youth who have been committed to the custody of the YSA; and youth in dual status, (*i.e.*, those who are committed with respect to one offense but who are detained and awaiting adjudication on another charge). YSA has jurisdiction over youth ages nine to 21 who have been remanded to DHS by the DCSC. The mission of the YSA is "to provide care, treatment, and rehabilitation to District youth who have entered the juvenile justice system, and to work with other agencies for the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency."

In general, most youth (committed or detained) ordered to secure custody (the most serious cases) are placed at Oak Hill Youth Center (OHYC) which is located in Laurel, Maryland. Pursuant to court order, YSA has closed several facilities (including the Receiving Home for Children and Cedar Knoll) in recent years and placed youth in community settings, resulting in a smaller number of secure beds.

Juveniles sentenced to secure confinement also may be sent to High Plains in Colorado until age 21. Occasionally, youth return to OHYC, where they may stay a brief time, enter a transition program, and later move to a group home, an individual living environment, or a shelter care facility. At this point, the juvenile also may become eligible to receive long-term aftercare services and programs.

Juvenile Custody Trends

Based on a one-day population count on September 17, 1997, YSA had a daily population of 790 youth (Table 18) which included:

- 166 detained, 123 committed, and 28 dual status youth at OHYC.
- 473 youth under community supervision, including 87 detained.

The only profile data available on the District's juvenile population in custody are derived from Children In Custody (CIC) surveys, conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. These data are collected every other year and reflect the attributes of youth in publicly and privately operated facilities on the day of the survey (a one-day "snap shot" as opposed to the annual number of admissions and releases).

The one-day CIC population counts for 1995 reflect that the number of juveniles housed in public and private facilities was relatively small (Table B-13), and that the number of youth in public juvenile facilities declined significantly from 1989 to 1995 (Table B-14).

The types of crimes for which juveniles in custody were convicted have changed remarkably from 1989 to 1995. There was a steady decrease during this period in the number youth in custody for drug-related crimes and a steady increase in violent and property crimes.

TABLE 18

YOUTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION DAILY POPULATION SUMMARY
September 17, 1997

FACILITY	CAPACITY LEVEL	DETAINED POPULATION	COMMITTED POPULATION	DET/COM POPULATION	TOTAL
Oak Hill Youth Center					
Oak Hill Units (Males)	188	87	65	27	179
Unit VI (Females)	20	17	2	1	20
Shelter Home	76	55	0	0	55
Group Home	68	0	56	0	56
Probation House	10	7	0	0	7
Subtotal	362	166	123	28	317
Community Supervision					
Home Detention	NA	87	0	0	87
Aftercare	NA	0	135	0	135
Residential Treatment	-	-	-	-	116
Out of Home Care	-	-	-	-	135
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	473
Total	362	253	258	28	790

Source: Youth Services Administration.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Demographic data for youth in custody in 1995 show that:

- 88 percent were male.
- 97 percent were African-American males.
- 2 percent were white males.
- 1 percent were Hispanic males.

Summary and Discussion

Shifts in the District's population and changes in law enforcement and corrections practices have had an impact on the number and type of persons sent to prison. The District's overall inmate population has declined in recent years. This decline has been driven principally by a reduction in admissions – both pretrial and sentenced. Based on current trends, it is unlikely that the inmate population will increase significantly over the next decade.

Unlike all other states, the DOC inmate population has been declining. Since 1992, the inmate population (both pretrial and sentenced) declined by 16 percent.

In the Federal takeover of District government functions, the BOP will eventually assume full responsibility for the sentenced felon population. As part of the takeover, the D.C. criminal code must be reformed to meet "truth in sentencing" standards as specified by Congress. In so doing, indeterminate sentencing and discretionary release via parole will be abolished. These reforms, if fully carried out will have a profound impact on the size and attribute of the DOC which will be limited to pretrial and sentenced misdemeanor inmates.

Among the 790 juveniles who were detained or committed, about 21 percent were detained, 16 percent committed, and 4 percent were dual status youth at OHYC. Another 60 percent were under community supervision.

The number of juveniles housed in public and private facilities was relatively small, and the number of youth in public juvenile facilities declined significantly from 1989 to 1995.

There was a steady decrease during this period in the number youth in custody for drug-related crimes and a steady increase in violent and property crimes. ♦



PAROLE

Overview

Current Functions and Jurisdiction

The Board of Parole is an executive agency in the District of Columbia Government, under the administrative control of the Mayor. There are five full-time Board Members, including the Chairperson, who are appointed by the Mayor. The Board is supported by approximately 100 employees under the direction of the Chairperson. Employees include 46 parole officers who are responsible for providing supervision services to nearly 5,000 active parole cases.

Parole is a privilege not a right and serves as a bridge between incarceration and unconditional release from a sentence. The Board is responsible for determining when offenders should be released on parole, establishing and modifying the terms and conditions of release, supervising parolees in the community, and imposing appropriate sanctions including revocation of parole, for violation of parole conditions. The Board may recommend to the

sentencing court that a reduction in minimum sentence be granted for an offender who has served at least three years of that sentence. This authority does not apply to mandatory minimum sentences.

The Board has jurisdiction over offenders sentenced to incarceration for all felony-level crimes, and or

misdemeanors resulting in prison terms of more than 180 days. Offenders are eligible to be considered for parole after serving the court-imposed minimum sentence, less any good time credits they may have earned while incarcerated. By statute, the minimum sentence may not exceed one-third of the maximum sentence.

The Board also has jurisdiction over young adult offenders sentenced to incarceration under the District's *Youth Rehabilitation Amendment Act of 1985 (YRA)*, or the now-repealed *Federal Youth Corrections Act (YCA)*. The Board may set aside the conviction of offenders sentenced under either of these Acts. The YRA sentencing options available for individuals younger than 22 years of age who are convicted of crimes other than murder.

The Medical and Geriatric Parole Act of 1992 expanded the Board's authority to grant parole to certain offenders who are permanently incapacitated, terminally ill, or elderly and chronically infirm, and who do not pose a danger to themselves or society. Parole may be granted under this law to otherwise eligible offenders who have not completed service of their minimum sentence with certain exceptions. This law is not applicable to offenders who are convicted of first degree murder, or to those sentenced under the *Mandatory Minimum Sentences Initiative of 1981* or the *Law Enforcement Assistance Act of 1987*.

The Omnibus Criminal Justice Reform Amendment Act of 1994 established the rights of physically injured victims of violent crimes to be present at parole hearings, and to offer written statements of opinion whether the offenders should be granted parole. If the victim has died as a result of a crime of violence, one representative of the victim's immediate family may exercise these rights and have ready access to exercise these rights on the victim's behalf. The Board, in cooperation with the U.S. Attorney's Office, has established procedures to ensure that eligible victims are advised of their rights and have ready access to exercise their rights.

Impact of the Revitalization Act

Within one year of the enactment of the *National Capital Revitalization and Self Government Improvement Act of 1997*, the jurisdiction and authority of the Board of Parole will be assumed by the United States Parole Commission for all felons, and by District of Columbia Superior Court (DCSC) for misdemeanants. The Board of Parole will be abolished as of the date that the District of Columbia Offender Supervision, Defender, and Court Services Agency is established as mandated by the legislation.

The reorganization and transition of functions and funding relating to parole will be overseen by a Pretrial, Services, Defense Services, Parole, Adult Probation, and Offender Supervision Trustee who is appointed by the Attorney General in consultation with the Chairman of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (Control Board), and the Mayor.

Parole Decision-Making

In FY 1996, the Board conducted 4,659 hearings in correctional facilities in addition to case reviews performed in the agency's office. As a result of these activities, the Board rendered 8,966 case decisions during the fiscal year on inmates and parolees under jurisdiction.

The most frequent types of hearings relate to decisions to grant or deny parole (not shown in table. More specifically:

- Of 3,659 parole release hearings in 1996, about half (1,858) resulted in parole being granted.
- Similarly, of the revocation hearings held to determine if parole was violated, approximately half resulted in revocation of parole.

Adults on Parole

Since 1992, the parole population has increased 13 percent (Table 19). As of December 31, 1996, there were 7,120 D.C. code offenders on parole, representing a rate of 1,285 per 100,000 adult residents.

- Adults on parole increased by 13 percent from 1992 to 1996, and by 6 percent from 1995 to 1996.
- The 1996 rate per 100,000 adult residents increased 22 percent from 1992, and increased 9 percent from 1995.

Adults on active parole status are required to abide by the terms and conditions of parole that involve regular and scheduled reporting to a parole officer. Inactive status indicates that the parolee has successfully established and sustained a law-abiding lifestyle in the community, and does not have regular schedule for reporting to his or her parole officer. Parolees who have warrants issued have been accused of either non-criminal, criminal or a combination of criminal and non-criminal violations of parole. Some of these parolees are incarcerated on new charges and some have absconded.

TABLE 19
ADULTS ON PAROLE BY STATUS OF SUPERVISION
1992 – 1996

Year	Parole Population, December 31st	Status of Supervision				
		Active	Inactive	Warrants Issued*	Out-of-State	Other**
1992	6,294	4,158	468	1,067	352	249
1993	6,591	4,535	545	1,146	365	0
1994	6,574	4,535	571	1,125	343	0
1995	6,696	4,663	538	1,201	294	-
1996	7,120	4,881	585	1,403	251	-

* Includes parolees who are in warrant issue status on 12/31 of each reported year. Absconder status may result from the issue of either a detainer warrant or an arrest warrant by the Board of Parole for non-criminal, criminal, or a combination of criminal and non-criminal violations of parole.

** Includes parolees on any form of administrative parole (parolees who are in custody due to parole/reparole grants to consecutive sentences, detainers, or other administrative status).

Source: Board of Parole.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Of the 7,120 adults on parole in 1996:

- 69 percent were under active supervision by parole officers.
- 8 percent were on inactive status.
- 20 percent of adult parolees had outstanding warrants.

Since 1992, the number of males and African-Americans on parole has far outnumbered females on parole supervision (Table B-15 and Table B-16). More specifically:

- In 1996, males comprised 93 percent of the total adult population on parole supervision.
- The proportion of males and females on parole supervision has remained relatively the same throughout the reporting period.
- In 1996, African-Americans represented 97 percent of adults on parole, while Whites represented only 2 percent.
- The proportion of African-Americans and Whites has remained relatively the same since 1992.

Releases to Parole

Discretionary parole entries are the most common form of release from incarceration to parole, but have steadily declined from 1992 to 1995 and increased in 1996 (Table B-17). More specifically:

- 61 percent of all adults released from prison in 1996 were granted parole or reinstated to parole at the Board's discretion.
- Discretionary parole entries decreased 37 percent from 1992 to 1996, but increased 20 percent from 1995 to 1996.
- 13 percent were granted parole on one sentence, but were mandatorily released to parolee as required by law.

- 23 percent of parole entries were mandatory, representing a 24 percent decrease from 1992 to 1996, and an 18 percent decrease from 1995 to 1996.

Terminations of Parole

In 1996, 2,171 adults were terminated from parole (Table 20). These included:

- 61 percent of parolees successfully completed their court-imposed sentences.
- 34 percent were returned to prison.

Of the one third (733) of parolees who were returned to prison in 1996:

- 32 percent had committed criminal violations of parole.
- 43 percent had committed noncriminal (technical) parole violations.
- 25 percent were in prison pending hearings to determine if their paroles should be revoked.

Parole Supervision

Offenders released from prison to parole are assigned to the type of supervision unit that best suits their individual needs: General Supervision, Young Adult Supervision, or Special Supervision. The majority of parolees are assigned to one of the three General Supervision Units.

All parolees who were sentenced under the District's YRA or the now-repealed Federal YCA are assigned to the Young Adult Unit. Other young adult offenders, aged 18 to 26 may also be assigned to this unit. The Special Supervision Unit is responsible for parolees who require more intensive levels of supervision. Parolees assigned to this unit include those with on-going mental health problems, sex offenders, or other special service needs.

TABLE 20
ADULTS LEAVING PAROLE
BY TYPE OF EXIT
1992 - 1996

	Total	Successful Completion	Absconded(a)	Discharged to Custody, Detainer, or Warrant(b)	Returned to Incarceration				Death
					With New Sentence(c)	With Parole Revoked(d)	With Revocation Pending(e)	With Charges Pending(f)	
1992	3,282	1,161	38	977	435	514	113	-	44
1993	3,557	1,268	67	570	470	452	97	576*	57
1994	3,393	1,403	61	0	471	554	158	674	72
1995	2,580	1,259	0	0	359	377	531	-	54
1996	2,171	1,325	56	0	234	313	186	-	57

- a Reported Board of Parole discharged absconders. Discharged absconders are parolees who are off-time due to expired Youth Corrections Act (YCA) warrants or whose warrants have been recalled and canceled or lifted by the Board of Parole resulting in expiration of their sentence.
- b As of 1994, this category will be reported elsewhere.
- c Includes parolees for whom parole was revoked for criminal, or a combination of criminal and non-criminal violations of parole.
- d Includes parolees whose parole was revoked for non-criminal violations of parole.
- e Includes parolees who were in warrant executed status on 12/31 of each reported year pending (awaiting) a revocation hearing.
- f Includes parolees who were in warrant issue status due to an outstanding detainer warrant on 12/31 of each reported year.
- * Consists of the number of parolees who had outstanding detainer warrants on 12/31/93. In 1992, this element was included in the category of discharged to custody, detainer, or warrant.

Source: Board of Parole.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.


As of December 31, 1996, there were three General Supervision Units with a total of 24 parole officers. The Young Adult Supervision Unit had five parole officers, and the Special Supervision Unit had parole officers. For parolees under active supervision, the average caseload sizes were:

- 167 parolees per parole officer in the general Supervision Units.
- 52 parolees per parole officer in the Young Adult Supervision Unit.
- 112 parolees per parole officer in the Special Supervision Unit.

Summary and Discussion

About half of the hearings for parole release in 1996 resulted in parole being granted, as was the case with revocation hearings – half resulted in revocation of parole. Since 1992, the parole population has increased 13 percent. As of December 31, 1996, there were 7,120 D.C. code offenders on parole, representing a rate of 1,285 per 100,000 adult residents.

Of the adults who were terminated from parole in 1996, nearly two-thirds (61 percent) successfully had completed their court-imposed sentences, and one third were returned to prison. ♦



APPENDIX A: OFFENSE DEFINITIONS

Reported offense data throughout the United States focus primarily on the eight major offenses defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as Crime Index offenses, or Part I offenses. These offenses are further divided into two groups: violent offenses, which include homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault; and property offenses, which include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson. Part II offenses encompass all other crime classifications outside those defined as Part I offenses.

In selecting the crimes to be included in the Crime Index, the FBI considers several factors. The seriousness of the crime and frequency of occurrence serve as indicators of the nation's crime experience. While there are differences in criminal status for given crimes in different jurisdictions, all crime index offenses are fully defined and a single definition for each of the chosen offenses was developed to ensure measurable crime data. These categories of offenses were devised and adopted in order that law enforcement, judicial and penal statistics might be uniformly compiled in terms of a single classification of offenses.

Part I Offenses

1. Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter

All willful felonious homicides as distinguished from deaths caused by negligence and excluding attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, or justifiable homicides. Justifiable homicides are limited to:

- (1) the killing of a felon by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty; and
- (2) the killing of a person in the act of committing a felony by a private citizen.

Manslaughter by Negligence

Any death which the police investigation established was primarily attributable to gross negligence of some individual other than the victim. (While Manslaughter by Negligence is a Part I crime, it is not included in the Crime Index).

2. Forcible Rape

The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will in the categories of rape by force and attempts or assaults to rape. Excludes statutory offenses (no force used, victim under age of consent).

3. Robbery

Stealing or taking anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person by force, violence or intimidation, such as strong-arm robbery, stickups, armed robbery, attempts or assaults to rob.

4. Aggravated Assault

Assault with intent to kill or for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury by shooting, cutting, stabbing, maiming, poisoning, scalding, or by the use of acids, explosives, or other means. Excludes simple assaults.

5. Burglary

Housebreaking or any breaking or unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft. Includes attempted forcible entry.

6. Larceny-theft

The unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possessions of another. Thefts of bicycles, automobile accessories, shoplifting, pocket-picking, or any stealing of property or article which is not taken by force and violence or by fraud. Excludes embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, worthless checks, etc.

7. Motor Vehicle Theft

Unlawful taking or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle is self-propelled and travels on the surface rather than on rails. Specifically excluded from this category are motorboats, construction equipment, airplanes, and farming equipment.

8. Arson

Willful or malicious burning with or without intent to defraud. Includes attempts.

Part II Offenses

1. Other Assaults (Simple)

Assaults which are not of an aggravated nature and where no weapon is used.

2. Forgery and Counterfeiting

Making, altering, uttering or possessing, with intent to defraud, anything false which is made

to appear true. Includes attempts.

3. Fraud

Fraudulent conversion and obtaining money or property by false pretenses. Includes bad checks, except forgeries and counterfeiting. Also includes larceny by bailee.

4. Embezzlement

Misappropriation or misapplication of money or property entrusted to one's care, custody, or control.

5. Stolen property: buying, receiving, possessing

Buying, receiving, and possessing stolen property.

6. Vandalism

Willful or malicious destruction, injury, disfigurement, or defacement of property without consent of the owner or a person having custody or control.

7. Weapon: carrying, possessing, etc.

All violations of regulations or statutes controlling the carrying, using, possessing, furnishing, and manufacturing of deadly weapons or silencers. Include attempts.

8. Prostitution and Commercialized Vice

Sex offenses of a commercialized nature and attempts, such as prostituting, keeping a bawdy house, procuring or transporting women for immoral purposes.

9. Sex Offenses

(Except forcible rape, prostitution, and commercialized vice). Statutory rape, offenses against chastity, common decency, morals, and the like. Includes attempts.

10. Drug Abuse Violations

Offenses relating to narcotic drugs, such as unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, and manufacturing of narcotic drugs.

11. Gambling

Promoting, permitting, or engaging in illegal gambling.

12. Offenses Against the Family and Children

Nonsupport, neglect, desertion, or abuse of family and children.

13. Driving Under the Influence

Driving or operating any motor vehicle or

common carrier while drunk or under the influence of liquor or narcotics.

14. Liquor Laws

State or local law violations, except "drunkenness" (class 23) and "driving under the influence" (class 21). Excludes federal violations.

15. Drunkenness

Drunkenness or intoxication.

16. Disorderly Conduct

Breach of the peace.

17. Vagrancy

Breach of the peace.

18. All Other Offenses

All violations of state or local laws, except classes 1-25 and traffic.

19. Suspicion

No specific offense, suspect released without formal charges being placed.

20. Curfew and loitering laws

Offenses relating to violation of local curfew or loitering ordinances where such laws exist.

21. Runaway

Limited to juveniles taken into protective custody under provisions of local statutes.



APPENDIX B: TABLES

TABLE B-1

**CRIME RATES FOR U.S. CITIES WITH POPULATIONS GREATER THAN 400,000
1995**

City	Population	Crime Index Total	Rate per 100,000 Residents
Atlanta, GA	404,337	69,011	17,067.69
Baltimore, MD	712,209	94,855	13,318.42
District of Columbia	554,000	67,401	12,166.25
Tucson, AZ	449,981	54,706	12,157.40
Portland, OR	458,623	55,348	12,068.30
Detroit, MI	997,297	119,065	11,938.77
Oklahoma City, OK*	466,232	53,625	11,501.78
New Orleans, LA	487,179	53,399	10,960.86
Phoenix, AZ	1,085,706	118,126	10,880.11
Nashville, TN	523,681	56,090	10,710.72
Memphis, TN	623,902	65,597	10,513.99
Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC	544,146	52,110	9,576.47
Boston, MA	550,715	52,278	9,492.75
Dallas, TX	1,042,088	98,624	9,464.08
Columbus, OH	638,729	58,715	9,192.47
Jacksonville, FL	679,148	61,129	9,000.84
Fort Worth, TX	460,321	39,667	8,617.25
Milwaukee, WI	622,467	52,679	8,462.94
San Francisco, CA	738,371	60,474	8,190.19
Austin, TX	523,691	42,586	8,131.89
San Antonio, TX	999,900	79,931	7,993.90
Los Angeles, CA	3,466,211	266,204	7,679.97
Honolulu, HI	880,266	67,145	7,627.81
Houston, TX	1,734,335	131,602	7,588.04
Las Vegas, NV	793,432	60,178	7,584.52
El Paso, TX	590,215	41,692	7,063.87
Long Beach, CA	436,034	30,657	7,030.87
Denver, CO	505,843	34,769	6,873.48
New York, NY	7,319,546	444,758	6,076.31
San Diego, CA	1,157,771	64,235	5,548.16
San Jose, CA	822,845	36,096	4,386.73

Complete data were not available for Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Montana, and Pennsylvania.

* The increase in murders was a result of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 1995.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-2
ADULT DRUG TEST RESULTS
1992 - 1996

Year	Total Tests	Total Number Positive	Total Percent Positive	Total Heroin Positive	Heroin Percent Positive	Total Cocaine Positive	Cocaine Percent Positive	Total PCP Positive	PCP Percent Positive
1992	19,019	9,429	50%	2,000	11%	8,669	46%	1,100	6%
1993	19,026	9,317	49%	1,992	10%	8,028	42%	1,970	10%
1994	19,151	9,408	49%	1,865	10%	7,880	41%	2,076	11%
1995	16,720	8,167	49%	—	—	6,439	39%	2,215	13%
1996	18,862	8,510	45%	—	—	7,540	40%	953	5%

Percents based on total number of tests.

Totals include positive tests for amphetamines and methadone.

Categories not mutually exclusive.

Source: Pretrial Services Agency.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-3

**JUVENILE DRUG TEST RESULTS
1987 - 1996**

Year	Total Tests	Total Number Positive	Total Percent Positive	Total Heroin Positive	Heroin Percent Positive	Total Marijuana Positive	Marijuana Percent Positive	Total Cocaine Positive	Cocaine Percent Positive	Total PCP Positive	PCP Percent Positive
1987*	4,228	1,462	35%	22	<1%	599	14%	575	14%	1,123	27%
1988*	4,520	1,401	31%	25	<1%	367	8%	1,016	22%	636	14%
1989*	4,365	1,004	23%	14	<1%	258	6%	786	18%	206	5%
1990	3,979	635	16%	13	<1%	250	6%	455	11%	38	1%
1991	3,867	752	19%	14	<1%	422	11%	397	10%	38	1%
1992	3,645	1,055	29%	11	<1%	904	25%	242	7%	117	3%
1993	3,126	1,339	43%	13	<1%	1,233	39%	149	5%	316	10%
1994	3,184	1,758	55%	11	<1%	1,658	52%	167	5%	528	17%
1995	2,722	1,642	60%	—	—	1,567	58%	115	4%	499	18%
1996	3,030	1,925	64%	—	—	1,863	61%	187	6%	215	7%

* 1991 Crime and Justice Report, Office of Criminal Justice Plans and Analysis, DC Government.

Totals include positive tests for amphetamines and methadone.

Percents based on total number of tests.

Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Source: Pretrial Services Agency and 1991 Crime and Justice Report.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-4
AGE OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS
1992 - 1996

Age	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
17 and Younger	26	33	16	16	39
18 - 20	60	72	37	19	52
19 - 22	30	34	18	14	35
23 - 24	26	29	21	10	22
25 - 29	74	49	23	15	58
30 - 34	41	34	29	18	26
35 - 39	33	26	16	9	28
40 - 44	16	21	18	6	25
45 - 49	9	11	5	3	9
50 +	16	25	15	9	15
Unknown	120	119	201	241	88
Total*	451	453	399	360	397

* Totals include justifiable homicides.

Source: Metropolitan Police Department.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-5
AGE OF ALLEGED HOMICIDE ASSAILANTS
1992 - 1996

Age	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
17 and Younger	22	30	26	36	23
18 - 20	75	86	98	64	34
21 - 22	42	29	46	18	20
23 - 24	24	19	22	10	8
25 - 29	40	25	31	34	15
30 - 34	17	15	22	9	15
35 - 39	9	14	12	10	8
40 - 44	6	3	10	5	7
45 - 49	5	2	5	3	1
50 +	7	11	5	1	6
Unknown	35	39	51	38	64
Total	282	273	328	228	201

Source: Metropolitan Police Department.
Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-6
HOMICIDE MOTIVES
1992 - 1996

Method	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Drugs	149	123	60	47	133
Robbery	47	53	38	28	35
Domestic	18	36	19	9	15
Argument	72	59	72	49	62
Sex	3	5	2	3	3
Burglary	4	3	1	2	3
Police shooting	7	14	12	17	6
Retaliation*	47	37	54	29	37
Other	28	9	8	5	13
Unknown**	76	128	151	171	90
Total***	451	467	417	360	397

* Excludes retaliations classified as drug-related.

** Represents cases that are currently being investigated and "unknown" status should decline once a motive is established.

*** Includes justifiable homicides.

Source: Metropolitan Police Department.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-7
METHOD OF HOMICIDE
1992 - 1996

Method	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Firearms	374	380	328	302	320
Knives/Sharp Instruments	40	48	54	32	40
Objects of Blunt Force	29	30	2	5	2
Other	7	9	16	17	22
Unknown	1	0	17	4	13
Total*	451	467	417	360	397

* Totals include justifiable homicides.

Source: Metropolitan Police Department.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-8
ADULTS LEAVING PROBATION*
BY TYPE OF EXIT
1991 - 1995

Year	Total Leaving Probation	Type of Exit				
		Expiration	Revocation	Termination	Fugitive Status	Other
1991	7,638	2,750	1,087	2,418	1,181	202
1992	7,456	2,581	805	2,082	1,135	853
1993	6,349	2,855	823	1,769	894	17
1994	6,616	2,787	1,919	786	1,019	105
1995	6,753	3,750	825	1,136	935	107

* Figures include Active Supervision and Intensive Probation cases.

Source: The District of Columbia Courts 1995, Annual Report.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-9
ADULTS ON PROBATION*
BY TYPE OF OFFENSE
1991 - 1995

Year	Type of Offense		
	Probation Population, December 31st	Felony	Misdemeanor
1991	8,454	2,246	6,208
1992	8,091	2,696	5,395
1993	8,264	2,936	5,328
1994	8,325	2,964	5,361
1995	7,626	1,560	6,066

* Figures include Active Supervision and Intensive Probation cases.
Source: *The District of Columbia Courts 1995, Annual Report.*
Prepared by: *National Council on Crime and Delinquency.*

TABLE B-10
RE-ARREST RATES FOR ADULT PROBATIONERS*
1991 - 1995

Year	Probation Population, January 1st	New Cases Assigned	Total	Number of Rearrests	Rearrest Rate
1991	10,720	6,463	17,183	2,946	17
1992	10,474	5,874	16,348	2,606	16
1993	10,403	5,961	16,364	3,015	18
1994	10,217	5,394	15,611	2,854	18
1995	10,982	6,900	17,882	1,971	11

* Figures exclude transfers.
Source: *The District of Columbia Courts 1995, Annual Report.*
Prepared by: *National Council on Crime and Delinquency.*

TABLE B-11

**DOC INMATE POPULATION BY FACILITY
JULY 1, 1997**

Facility Location	Inmates	Operating Capacity
District Facilities	2,412	2,474
Detention Facility	1,611	1,674
Correctional Treatment Facility	801	800
Lorton Complex	5,416	6,483
Central Facility	1,206	1,373
Maximum Facility	562	626
Minimum Facility	634	938
Minimum Annex Facility	74	135
Youth Center Facility	828	838
Medium Facility	446	900
Occoquan Facility	1,666	1,673
Community Correction Centers	204	507
Contract Houses	180	402
TOTAL DOC FACILITIES	8,212	9,866
Non-DOC Facilities	1,521	NA
Bureau of Prisons	541	NA
CCA Ohio	900	NA
U.S. Marshal	65	NA
Other	15	NA

Source: District of Columbia Department of Corrections., Daily Population Report.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-12
ATTRIBUTES OF THE DOC INMATE POPULATION
AUGUST 1, 1997

	Pretrial	Sentenced Misdemeanants	Sentenced Felon	Convicted Not Sentenced	Other	TOTAL
TOTAL INMATES	1,143	607	7,687	146	94	9,677
SEX						
Male	1047	525	7344	134	67	9117
Female	96	82	343	12	27	560
RACE / ETHNICITY						
White	32	18	90	-	2	142
African-American	1045	568	7457	142	91	9303
Hispanic	-	-	5	-	-	5
Other	66	21	135	4	1	227
CHARGES						
Homicide	110	-	1,320	25	6	1,461
Rape	27	6	348	2	1	384
Robbery	68	8	1,254	14	2	1,346
Aggravated Assault	71	7	536	21	1	636
Burglary	30	19	487	9	5	550
Fraud / Embezzlement	14	4	6	-	2	26
Stolen Property	7	4	33	3	1	48
Vandalism	9	19	40	1	1	70
Firearms	92	30	551	8	1	682
Commercial Vice	10	5	1	1	-	17
Sex Offenses	4	3	89	2	-	98
Narcotics	310	165	2,262	29	39	2,805
Family Offenses	2	12	2	-	-	16
DWI / Drunkenness /Traffic Laws	9	21	-	1	1	32
Disorderly Conduct / Vagrancy	4	-	-	-	1	5
Other Offenses	157	130	188	17	20	512
Suspicion	43	22	165	2	4	236
Kidnaping	12	-	43	-	-	55
Unreported Felony	10	-	6	-	-	16
Unreported Misdemeanor	7	4	-	-	2	13
Missing Data	147	148	356	11	7	669
AVERAGE AGE	30	34	34	30	34.05	34

TABLE B-13
ONE-DAY COURT CUSTODY COUNTS
FOR DISTRICT JUVENILES IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FACILITIES
BY RACE AND SEX
1995

Ethnicity	District Population of Juvenile Age 10-17		One-Day Counts Public/Private Facilities		Incarceration Rate Per 100,000 Population
	N	%	N	%	
White	5,480	13	9	2	164
Male	2,764	6	9	2	326
Female	2,716	6	0	0	0
African-American	33,693	77	383	97	1,137
Male	16,971	39	338	85	1,992
Female	16,722	38	45	11	269
Asian	868	2	0	0	0
Male	412	1	0	0	0
Female	456	1	0	0	0
American Indian	67	< 1	0	0	0
Male	35	< 1	0	0	0
Female	32	< 1	0	0	0
Hispanic	3,398	8	4	1	118
Male	1,695	4	3	1	177
Female	1,703	4	1	< 1	59
Total	43,506	100	396	100	910
Male	21,877	50	350	88	1,600
Female	21,629	50	46	12	213

Source: *Children in Custody Survey, 1995, U.S. Department of Justice and District of Columbia Office of Planning and Management, 1994.*
Prepared by: *The National Council on Crime and Delinquency.*

TABLE B-14
DISTRICT JUVENILES IN CUSTODY
IN PUBLIC FACILITIES
1989 - 1995

	1989		1991		1993		1995	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Totals	396	101	380	100	250	101	251	101
Gender								
Male	372	94	366	96	223	89	211	84
Female	24	6	14	4	27	11	40	16
Race / Ethnicity								
White	0	0	0	0	2	1	9	4
African-American	394	99	369	97	247	99	238	95
American Indian/Alaskan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	2	1	11	3	1	< 1	4	2
Offense								
Violent Crimes	27	7	107	28	76	30	114	45
Serious Property	19	5	29	8	30	12	26	10
Alcohol Related	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Distribution of Drugs	309	78	209	55	79	32	24	10
Public Disorder	2	1	24	6	7	3	22	9
Technical	22	6	4	1	7	3	4	2
Unknown	0	0	0	0	48	19	21	8
Status/Non-Delinquency	17	4	7	2	3	1	40	16

Source: Children in Custody Survey, 1995, U.S. Department of Justice.
Prepared by: The National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-15**ADULTS ON PAROLE BY SEX
1992 - 1996**

Year	Parole Population, December 31st	Sex	
		Male	Female
1992	6,294	5,853	441
1993	6,591	6,130	461
1994	6,574	6,114	460
1995	6,696	6,227	469
1996	7,120	6,622	498

Source: Board of Parole.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-16**ADULTS ON PAROLE BY RACE
1992 - 1996**

Year	Parole Population, December 31st	Race		
		White	Black	Other, Unknown or Not Reported
1992	6,294	126	6,105	63
1993	6,591	132	6,393	66
1994	6,574	131	6,377	66
1995	6,696	134	6,495	67
1996	7,120	142	6,906	72

Source: Board of Parole.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

TABLE B-17

**ADULTS ENTERING PAROLE
BY TYPE OF PRISON RELEASE
1992 - 1996**

Year	Total	Discretionary(a)	Mandatory(b)	Reinstatement(c)	Other(d)
1992	4,178	2,867	898	164	249
1993	3,854	2,419	900	158	377
1994	3,336	2,051	873	136	276
1995	2,702	1,496	826	144	236
1996	2,951	1,792	679	89	391

- a Discretionary parole entries are persons entering because of a Board of Parole decision.
b Mandatory parole entries are persons who were released from prison as a result of having reached the point in the service of their sentence at which time they must be released by law.
c Reinstatement entries are persons returned to parole supervision after 1) a revocation hearing in which no parole violation was sustained (proven), or 2) revocation of parole was not deemed appropriate by the Board of Parole.
d Consists of 'other' types of entries to parole such as: parole/reparole grants with administrative status, to consecutive sentences and to detainees.

Source: Board of Parole.

Prepared by: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.



APPENDIX C: LEGAL TERMS

Accused – A person who has been charged with committing a crime but has not yet been tried.

Acquittal – A decision made by a judge or jury that the accused was not proven guilty of committing the crime.

Appeal – To take a case to a higher court for review or retrial.

Arraignment – The initial court hearing at which the accused is brought before a judge, told the charges against him/her, and asked to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty.

Arrest – To take a person suspected of committing a crime into legal custody so that he/she can be charged and tried for committing the crime.

Bail/Bond – The amount of money set by a judge which allows the accused to go free until the trial. The purpose of bail is to ensure that the accused presents him/herself at court. The type of bail the accused pays is referred to as bond (see personal recognizance).

Charge – An accusation made against the accused that he/she committed the crime.

Continuance – A delay or postponement of a court hearing to another date or time.

Conviction – A decision made by a judge or jury that the accused is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of committing

the crime for which he/she has been tried.

Court – An agency of the judicial branch of the government with constitutional authority to decide questions of law and disputes brought before it.

Defendant – A person who has been charged with committing a crime and is now on trial (see accused).

Defense Attorney – The lawyer for the defendant/accused.

Dismissal – A decision by a judge ending a criminal case before ordering a trial.

Disposition – The final outcome of a case.

Evidence – Testimony and objects presented in court by the prosecutor and the defense.

Felony – A serious crime punishable by one year or more in a prison and/or a fine. Felonies include crimes such as murder, rape, burglary, and robbery.

Grand Jury – A group of 23 D.C. citizens who hear evidence presented by the prosecutor and decide whether or not there is enough evidence to charge and try the accused.

Guilty – A decision of a judge or a jury in a criminal case that the accused committed the crime with which he/she was charged.

Guilty Plea – A statement by the accused that he/she committed the crime.

Indictment – A written accusation made by a Grand Jury charging a person with committing a crime.

Investigation – The gathering of evidence by police and prosecutors to prove the accused committed the crime.

Judge – In the District of Columbia, a person appointed by the President of the United States to preside over a court of law.

Jury – A group of citizens who hear the evidence presented in court and decide whether the accused is guilty or not guilty.

Misdemeanor – A crime that is less serious than a felony and is punishable by one year or less in jail and/or a fine. Misdemeanors include offenses such as petty theft, most traffic violations, and possession of marijuana.

Mistrial – A trial that ends when the jury cannot decide whether the accused is guilty or not guilty, or a legal procedure is violated.

Motion – An oral or written request to the judge asking the judge to make a decision or take a specific action.

Nolo Contendere – “I will not contest it,” a plea to a crime that does not admit guilt, but has the same result as a guilty plea.

Not Guilty Plea – A statement by the accused denying that he/she committed the crime.

Offender – A person who has been convicted of a crime.

Parole – The supervised release of an offender from jail or prison before the end of his/her sentence.

Papering – The decision made by the prosecutor concerning whether or not there is enough evidence to file charges against the accused.

Perjury – A lie told while a person is under oath to tell the truth.

Personal Recognizance – The written promise, made by the accused to the judge, that he/she will return to court when ordered to do so; a frequent form of pretrial release in criminal cases in D.C.

Plea – A defendant's formal answer in court denying or admitting that he/she committed a crime.

Plea Bargaining – An agreement between the prosecutor and the accused that the accused will plead guilty.

Preliminary Hearing – A hearing to determine if there is enough evidence to hold the accused for a Grand Jury hearing.

Presentence Report – A report by the Social Services Division of the D.C. Superior Court describing the past behavior, family circumstances, and personality of the accused, as well as specific information about the crime committed. This report helps the judge determine the sentence (see Victim Impact Statement).

Probable Cause – The amount of proof needed by the police, the prosecutors, and the judge to believe that a crime was committed and that the accused committed it.

Probation – A court sentence allowing the accused to go free under the supervision of a probation officer.

Prosecutor – In a criminal case, the lawyer representing the government and the victim; in D.C. an Assistant U.S. Attorney or an Assistant Corporation Counsel.

Public Defender – An attorney employed by the D.C. government to represent defendants who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer.

Restitution – An order from the judge that requires the offender to pay the victim for damaged or stolen property or medical costs.

Sentence – The accused's punishment after being convicted of a crime.

Status Hearings – Court hearings to make sure that both the prosecution and defense are ready for trial.

Subpoena – A written order requiring a person to appear at a certain time to give testimony about the crime.

Suspect – A person who is thought to have committed a crime and is under investigation, but who has not been arrested or charged.

Testimony – Statements made in court by witnesses who are under oath to tell the truth.

Trial – A court proceeding before a judge or a jury at which evidence is presented to decide whether or not the accused committed the crime.

Verdict – The decision of the judge or jury at the end of a trial that the accused is either guilty or not guilty of the crime.

Victim – An individual against whom a crime, or an attempted crime, was committed. The family or close friend of an individual who was murdered.

Victim Impact Statement – A form used by the judge at the time of sentencing that allows victims to describe the physical, emotional, and financial impact of the crime on their lives and families.

Witness – A person who has seen or knows something about the crime. The victim is usually a witness too.

Witness Conference – A discussion between the victim, witness and the attorney to prepare for trial.

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