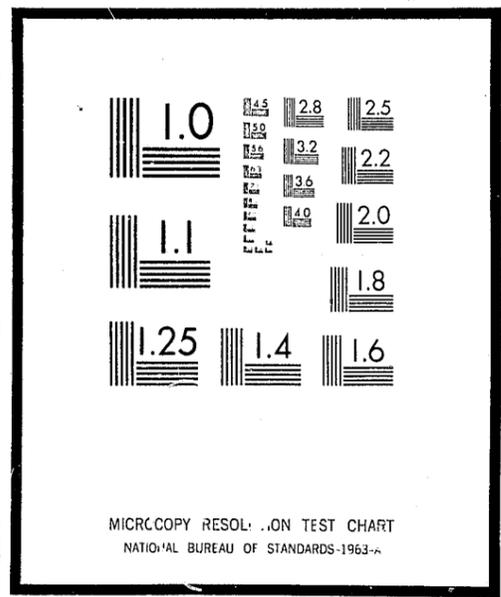


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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFERENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

4/28/77

Date filmed

COMMUNITY CRIME PROFILE



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INTRODUCTION

The HANDS UP Program represents the commitment of the General Federation of Women's Clubs to the reduction of crime and the improvement of the criminal justice system. Overall direction and organization of the Program is funded by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Department of Justice, with a supplemental grant from the Kroger Co. made during the start-up phase of the program.

HANDS UP emphasizes evaluation of results. This emphasis can be extremely useful to individual clubs and coalition groups and to the General Federation as a whole. In evaluating their own projects, local action groups should first ask, "Does existing independent evidence show that the objective of the project meets a recognized local need?" The Community Crime Profile is one effective way to obtain such evidence involving a minimum of time and labor for a maximum of information.

The Profile asks ten questions of five criminal justice authorities in counties (any size) or cities (250,000 or over). The answers to these questions may be relatively brief, but it is extremely important that they come from appropriate and reliable sources. This requires the best efforts of local clubs working in cooperation with others in their communities to help build a program of national impact.

Some background information is included here, as well as suggestions on how to get the short, but important, answers from your criminal justice system.

The emphasis is on brief but documentable results. Do not duplicate effort. Where a survey of the same subject material has been conducted within the last two years, do not repeat the process. Groups that have made surveys, either overall ones or in the juvenile justice area, include the National Council of Jewish Women; the Junior League; and local, regional, or state criminal justice planning agencies. Answers to the Profile questions can be obtained, where possible, from these other sources. List the source on each questionnaire as indicated.

You can complete the task in less time than most surveys take. Although basically simple, the task is extremely important. Local HANDS UP action groups on crime reduction need the help of these results on which to base worthwhile projects.

Upon completion, please return the five separate questionnaires of the Profile to GFWC/HANDS UP Program, 1728 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Questions also may be directed to this office.

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ACQUISITIONS

THE PROFILE

Unlike an earlier inquiry (questionnaire) which was conducted by more than 1,300 federated clubs among members and the general public during the first phase of HANDS UP, the Community Crime Profile is not an attitude and opinion survey. It is an identification of problems as revealed by official records and the location of those records. The result will be a summary of the documentable problems primarily as seen by authorities who can speak for the criminal justice system. The goal, then, is a simple, short, and highly factual survey of the major problems as revealed by the records.

The Profile is designed for use in counties (any size) or cities (250,000 population or over). In some states and certain major metropolitan areas, citizens' groups may be more accustomed to seeking information from units of government other than counties. However, counties and cities of 250,000 or more are specified for uniformity in making a valid comparison at the national level. Questions can be adapted to other jurisdictions such as cities with population below 250,000, towns, and villages by those clubs who wish to use the survey form to make an independent survey of the criminal justice system in their own areas.

The five questionnaires which comprise the Profile focus on five general areas which cover most projects recommended by the GFWC Crime Reduction Division. Two of the areas, Adult Crime Prevention & Reduction and Juvenile Crime Prevention & Reduction, are concerned with crimes that occur essentially outside of the criminal justice system and in society in general. The Profile asks for an identification of major problems and for the basis for selecting these specific problems. Insight into the causes for concern at the local level is being sought in these areas. The three remaining areas - Adult Corrections, Juveniles in the Justice System, and Court-Related Programs - involve problems within the criminal justice system. Here, the Profile attempts to determine not only the problems but also the reasons why these problems have not been solved. Insight into the difficulties encountered in seeking improvement of the criminal justice system at the local level is being sought in these areas.

THE NEED FOR A COMMUNITY CRIME PROFILE

A major goal of the GFWC's Crime Reduction Division is the development of a Profile of the community's crime problems as a first step in initiating community projects.

Clubs and cooperating groups participating in HANDS UP will carry out crime reduction and prevention projects and improvements in the criminal justice system in their localities. They are encouraged to organize summits, town meetings, or forums at which recommendations for action can be discussed by all elements of the community.

The Community Crime Profile can provide a factual basis for such meetings or for other ways chosen to select projects. The limitation of such statistical information is recognized, and clubs/coalitions are not expected to select projects solely on the basis of Profile results. However, what is learned will be helpful in the selection process.

For those members of federated clubs or other community groups who do not know the representatives of criminal justice agencies, taking a Profile is a way to become acquainted and to develop a mutual commitment to work on the problem of crime. In many instances, such officials are well-known and may be members themselves of local service or civic groups.

POINTS TO REMEMBER IN TAKING A COMMUNITY CRIME PROFILE

- . As stated in the Introduction, do not duplicate effort. Do not duplicate a recent survey on the same subject.
- . Determine beforehand that the person to be interviewed can speak authoritatively for the activity you wish to discuss.
- . In some places, especially smaller communities, a single person may be responsible for one or more major activities of the system. Therefore, one person may answer more than one questionnaire.
- . Be flexible about setting up an appointment; public officials often have crowded schedules.
- . Offer to pick up information later if it is not readily available.
- . When interviewing, ask the official to be as factual as possible in describing the problem. Identify the real problem. Do not confuse a solution with a problem. Solutions could be the need for more or better facilities, more money or personnel, etc. The basic problem is the important fact: overcrowding because of the need for separation of offenders, excessive number of car thefts, etc.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IDENTIFYING SOURCES

THE INITIAL PLANNING

If there is more than one federated club in your county (any size population) or city (over 250,000), cooperate on the survey as only one is required for each jurisdiction.

The first step is to identify the persons who will answer each of the five different questionnaires. Many federated clubwomen or their coworkers will be able to contact local governmental officials with whom they are personally acquainted. An appropriate initial contact would be the office of the mayor of the city or of the manager in a county. There is usually an administrative assistant who can provide the information you need. The request - which may be made by telephone - may go somewhat as follows:

SAMPLE CONVERSATION:

"Hello, my name is _____ of the _____ Club (state if chairman or committee member). As part of the national HANDS UP crime reduction program of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, our club is (are) conducting a survey on criminal justice problems in five areas to see how we can best help our community. The results will be used to help plan local level volunteer crime reduction programs. We would like to contact the responsible individuals in the county (city) government in each of these five areas to ask them a few questions. Our purpose in calling _____ is to determine the proper person to contact in each case.

"The first area concerns Adult Crime Prevention & Reduction; we want to contact a designated representative of the chief law enforcement officer in the county (city).

"The second area is Juvenile Crime Prevention & Reduction. We particularly want to contact an individual who has access to records of crimes committed by juveniles, such as a juvenile court judge.

"The third area is Adult Corrections. We would like to speak to someone who has access to records of offenders who are either under detention (in jail) or on probation or parole under county (city) jurisdiction.

"The fourth area is the juvenile justice system, and in this area we would like to contact someone who has access to records of juveniles who are either under detention (in jail) or otherwise under the care and/or control of the county (city) juvenile authorities because of problems arising from juvenile behavior.

"The fifth area pertains to local criminal courts; we would like to contact an individual either in the court itself or associated with the prosecutor's office who knows about problems involved in the processing of criminal cases.

"We propose to ask each of the individuals a few simple questions to determine the major problems in their areas at the present time. Our club(s) and other community groups will use this information to assist in planning crime reduction programs."

If people cannot talk with you immediately, call them again in a few days.

SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERVIEWING INDIVIDUALS

THE INITIAL PLANNING

The source identified by the county commissioners or board of supervisors (mayor or chairman) may or may not be the most appropriate source. If the individual is the head of an agency or otherwise in a position to make independent decisions, such as the district attorney, sheriff, judge or police chief, he probably is an appropriate source. If an individual is vouched for by the agency head or one of the above individuals, he is also appropriate. It is also important that he know the situation in the entire county (city). If the individual cannot represent the situation throughout the entire jurisdiction, then he is probably not an appropriate source.

It is not necessary to contact state-level agencies in this survey, even though such agencies may know about situations within individual counties. An exception may be made if, in a particular area, there is a state-sponsored organization within each county that is structured to meet local needs; e. g., the juvenile justice system may be entirely state operated. To repeat, the interest is in criminal justice agencies of counties and cities and not state government.

SAMPLE CONVERSATION (may be by telephone)

"Hello, my name is _____. I'm a member of the _____ Club (state if chairman or member of committee). As part of the national HANDS UP crime reduction program of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, our club(s) is/are carrying out a survey of problems in the area of _____ (see 1 below) to determine how we can best help in our community. We wish to get answers to two questions about this area of criminal justice. The county commissioner's office (mayor's office) has suggested you as the individual to answer these questions.

"May we discuss the questions over the telephone, or would you rather we meet to discuss them?" (Use appropriate interview sheet for the remainder of the interview.)

- 1. Adult Crime Prevention & Reduction
- Juvenile Crime Prevention & Reduction
- Adult Corrections
- Juveniles in the Justice System
- Courts-Related Programs

THE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF ADULT CRIME

NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS

1. Identify the three offenses of most serious concern in the jurisdiction named in part B (below). Identify the most serious by the number 1, the second by 2, and the third by 3. Identify three only.

_____ Murder	_____ Burglary
_____ Forcible Rape	_____ Larceny/Theft
_____ Robbery	_____ Motor Vehicle Theft
_____ Aggravated Assault	_____ Other (specify) _____

2. Provide your estimate of the major cause of concern for each of the crimes listed above by placing its number, 1, 2, or 3, in the appropriate space below. Two or more numbers may appear in one space.

_____ High Offense Rate	_____ Extent of Public Reaction
_____ Rapid Recent Growth	_____ Other (specify) _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Identify the official records of a criminal justice agency that may be used to verify the information given above. If no single source of crime records exists at the local level for the entire jurisdiction, indicate that fact. If the results were obtained from one or more surveys, identify the source and where and how a copy may be obtained.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (Continued)

B. Jurisdiction: _____

Check one: city of over 250,000 _____ or county (of any size) _____.

Title: _____

Agency or organization: _____

Interviewer: _____

Club: _____

Location: _____

Date: _____

IMPORTANT - Please send the completed form to:

GFWC/HANDS UP
1728 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

THE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF JUVENILE CRIME

NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS

3. Below are listed several types of problems related to the control of juvenile delinquency. Identify the three problem areas with which the juvenile justice system has had the most difficulty in recent years in the jurisdiction identified in part D (below). List the most significant problem as 1, the next as 2, and the third as 3. Identify three only.

_____ Status offenses (runaways, truants, unmanageable, etc.)

Minor crimes committed by individual juveniles such as:

_____ Vandalism

_____ Drunk & disorderly

_____ Involvement with drugs

_____ Shoplifting

_____ Crimes (felonies) committed by individual juveniles

_____ Anti-social and/or criminal acts of juvenile gangs

_____ Local influences encouraging juvenile delinquency (specify) (e.g., drugs coming in from neighboring cities) _____

_____ Other (specify) _____

4. For the problems identified above, provide your estimate of the cause of concern by placing the number of the problem, 1, 2, or 3, in the appropriate space below.

_____ Large number of offenses or complaints

_____ Rapid recent growth

_____ Extent of public reaction

_____ Other (specify) _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

C. Identify the official records of the criminal justice or juvenile agency that may be used to verify the information given above. If no single source of crime records exists at the local level for the entire jurisdiction, indicate that fact. If the results were obtained from one or more surveys, identify the source and where and how a copy may be obtained.

D. Jurisdiction: _____

Check one: city of over 250,000 _____ or county (of any size) _____

Person Interviewed: _____

Title: _____

Agency or Organization: _____

Interviewer: _____

Club: _____

Location: _____

Date: _____

IMPORTANT - Please send the completed form to:

GFWC/HANDS UP
1728 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE ADULT CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS

5. Below are listed a number of possible problems that may exist in connection with the adult detention and correctional facilities and programs (e.g., jails, probation, parole) for the jurisdiction named in part F (below). Identify the most serious by the number 1, the second most serious by 2, and the third by 3. Identify three only.

- _____ Overcrowding
 - _____ Inadequate ability to separate inmates
 - _____ Insufficient variety of facilities (juveniles, females, halfway houses, etc.)
 - _____ Inadequate and/or poorly trained staff
 - _____ Inadequate detainee processing procedures
 - _____ Inadequate programs for rehabilitation
 - _____ Other (specify) _____
- _____
- _____

6. Indicate the extent to which steps are being taken to rectify problems identified above, placing the problem number 1, 2, or 3 in the appropriate space. Note that more than one number may be in a space.

- _____ Plans in progress
 - _____ Problem not recognized at higher level
 - _____ Lack of funds prevent action
 - _____ Other (specify) _____
- _____
- _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

E. Identify how the information provided in answer to item "5" above may be independently verified. Refer to past reports, evaluations at higher levels, or information contained in official records of criminal justice agencies. If the results were obtained from one or more surveys, identify the source and where and how a copy may be obtained.

F. Jurisdiction: _____

Check one: city of over 250,000 _____ or county (of any size) _____

Person Interviewed: _____

Title: _____

Agency or Organization: _____

Interviewer: _____

Club: _____

Location: _____

Date: _____

IMPORTANT - Please send the completed form to:

GFWC/HANDS UP
1728 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS

7. Below are listed a number of possible problems that may exist in connection with the juvenile justice procedures and detention and correctional facilities for the jurisdiction named in part H. Identify the most serious problem by the number 1, the second by 2, and the third by 3. Identify three only.

_____ Inadequate availability of judges for juvenile hearings

Inadequacies in the availability to serve the court of persons trained/experienced in juvenile cases such as:

_____ Prosecutors

_____ Public defenders

_____ Social workers

_____ Protection officers

_____ Other (specify) _____

_____ Inadequate detainee processing procedures

_____ Inadequate size or training of detention facility staff

Physical inadequacies of detention facility such as:

_____ Overcrowding

_____ Inability to separate inmates

_____ Other (specify) _____

_____ Insufficiency of programs for rehabilitation

_____ Other (specify) _____

8. Indicate the extent to which steps are being taken to rectify problems identified above by placing the problem number 1, 2, or 3 in the appropriate space.

_____ Plans in progress

_____ Problem not recognized at higher level

_____ Lack of funds prevent action

_____ Other (specify) _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

G. Identify how the information provided in answer to item "7" above may be independently verified. Refer to past reports, evaluations at higher levels, or information contained in official records of criminal justice agencies. If the results were obtained from one or more surveys, identify the source and where and how a copy may be obtained.

H. Jurisdiction: _____

Check one: city of over 250,000 _____ or county (of any size) _____

Person Interviewed: _____

Title: _____

Agency or Organization: _____

Interviewer: _____

Club: _____

Location: _____

Date: _____

IMPORTANT - Please send the completed form to:

GFWC/HANDS UP
1728 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE CRIMINAL COURTS

NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS

9. Identify, in order of their present importance, the three major problems of the particular criminal courts responsible for cases originating in the jurisdiction named in part J. Use the numbers 1, 2, or 3, with 1 indicating the most serious of the three problems.

_____ Time duration of individual cases

_____ Inadequate facilities

_____ Inadequate number of judges

_____ Judge's staff inadequate in size

_____ Inadequate number of prosecutors or public defenders

_____ Other (specify) _____

_____ Excessive procedural problems in such areas as court delays, plea bargaining, resolution of pre-trial motions, schedule of witness appearances, hearing post-conviction proceedings, etc. (specify) _____

10. Indicate the extent to which steps are being taken to rectify the problems identified above by placing the problem number 1, 2, or 3 in the appropriate space:

_____ Plans in progress

_____ Lack of funds prevent action

_____ Problem not recognized at higher level

_____ Other (specify) _____

CRIMINAL COURTS (Continued)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

I. Identify how the information provided in answer to item "9" above may be independently verified. Refer to past reports, evaluations at higher levels, or information contained in official records of criminal justice agencies. If the results were obtained from one or more surveys, identify the source and where and how a copy may be obtained.

J. Jurisdiction: _____

Check one: city of over 250,000 _____ or county (of any size) _____

Person Interviewed: _____

Title: _____

Agency or Organization: _____

Interviewer: _____

Club: _____

Location: _____

Date: _____

IMPORTANT - Please send the completed form to:

GFWC/HANDS UP
1728 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

This project was supported by Grant # 0397-99-TA-76 awarded by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, United States Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions stated in this brochure are those of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and do not necessarily represent the official position of the United States Department of Justice.

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