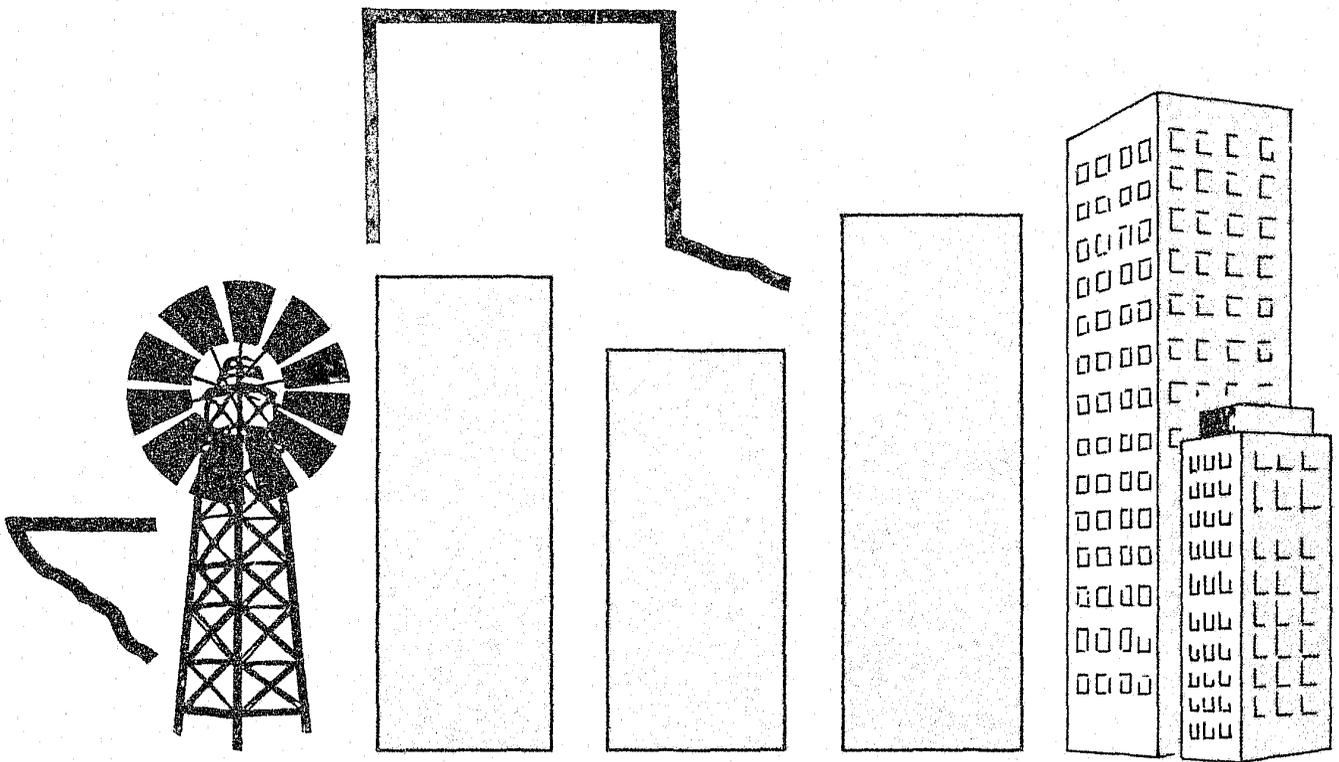


VICTIM REPORTS OF CRIME IN TEXAS

THE 1975-76 TEXAS CRIME TREND SURVEY



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STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

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May 11, 1977

To the People of Texas:

The results of the second Texas Crime Trend Survey indicate a growing crime problem in the state.

According to the people who participated in the second survey, crime is increasing. Also, and perhaps equally disturbing, the fear of crime is increasing.

I intend to present this report to the entire criminal justice community, the Governor, and the Legislature. The crime problem must be contained as Texas continues to grow and prosper. I am confident that the members of the CDS Advisory Board and public officials throughout the state share my commitment to protect you from crime and to reduce fear of crime.

To this end, I submit this report to you, the people of Texas. It represents the results of your experience with crime during 1975-76. Your cooperation with the Texas Crime Trend Survey has been heartwarming and is essential in this continuing effort to help control crime and protect the lives and property of all Texans.

Sincerely,

F. Harold Entz
Judge
Chairman

FHE:emc

VICTIM REPORTS OF CRIME IN TEXAS:
THE 1975-76 TEXAS CRIME TREND SURVEY

by

Alfred St. Louis
Statistical Management Analyst

Statistical Analysis Center

Texas Department of Public Safety
Austin, Texas

April, 1977

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is the second in this new statistical series on crime victims developed by the staff of the Statistical Analysis Center.

Administrative support for the Texas Crime Trend Survey was provided by Chief Glen H. McLaughlin, Administrative Services Division, Texas Department of Public Safety. Concern for the victims of crime has been demonstrated by active support of the Survey from Colonel Wilson E. Speir, Director, and Norman V. Suarez, General Counsel, Texas Department of Public Safety. The excellent participation and support services in the areas of data processing, graphics and printing provided by many employees of the Texas Department of Public Safety is acknowledged.

Technical advice in analyzing the data was provided by Dr. Charles M. Friel, Assistant Director, Institute of Contemporary Corrections and Behavioral Sciences, Sam Houston State University.

The Texas Crime Trend Survey is conducted with the financial support of a grant from the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the U. S. Department of Justice which does not imply the concurrence of either agency in the statements or conclusions contained herein. Similarly, the permission granted by the Comprehensive Data System Advisory Board to publish the report does not necessarily indicate the concurrence of the Board nor its individual members in the statements or conclusions contained herein.

The voluntary cooperation of the people of Texas who participated in the Survey is especially acknowledged. Without the active support of Texas residents this study could not have been conducted.

SYNOPSIS

The results of the second Texas Crime Trend Survey, covering the time period between July, 1975 and June, 1976, indicate an increase in the percentage of the adult population who were victims of crime. The Texas Crime Victim Index increased almost 1/6 in the first 6 months of 1976 over the 1975 level. The percent of the adult population who were victims of crime increased from under 18% in 1975 to just over 20% in the first half of 1976.

The survey data indicate that 1 in 5 adult Texans were victims of crime in the time period between July, 1975 and June, 1976. During the same time period 1 in 15 adults were victims of violence.

Both violent and property crime increased. The Violent Crime Victim Index increased from 4.2% to 6.6%. The Property Crime Victim Index increased from 13.7% to 14.1%.

The reporting of crime to the police increased for Theft and Burglary, but decreased for Assaults. The most frequent crime that went unreported to the police was Theft. The most common reason given for not reporting crime to the police was the victim's opinion that the crime was not important enough.

Texans expect more crime in 1977. The percentage of victims expecting crime increased from 31% in 1975 to 39% in 1976. The non-victims expectation of crime also increased, from 12% in 1975 to 14% in 1976.

Of the people expecting crime, the most anticipated crime in 1977 was Burglary, which was expected by 36% of the victims and 28% of the non-victims.

The value (in millions) of property lost declined from \$850 in 1975 to \$810 in 1975-76. When the loss is projected for the state population the result is \$92 per adult Texan for 1975-76.

The risk of crime varied by geographic location. Violence increased with city size from a low of 3.5% in rural areas under 5,000 population to a high of over 7% in cities over 100,000 population. The risk of property crime was more evenly distributed than violence, but larger cities had the highest rates of property crime.

The risk of crime varied by age, sex, race and income. Young people (under 25 years) were the most likely to be victims of violence. Older people (over 50 years) were least likely to be victims of either property or violent crime. Risks for violence were almost equal for males and females. Blacks and Mexican-Americans had high risks of violence while Whites had the highest risk of property crime. Low income people

(under \$15,000) had the highest risk of violence while high income people (over \$15,000) had the highest risk of property crime. For the complete details of the analysis of risks, see the text. The Texas Crime Trend Survey data are collected by mail in January and July of each year. The next report, covering the entire 1976 year, is due in June, 1977.

I. INTRODUCTION

This report is an analysis of crime victim data collected by the 1975-76 Texas Crime Trend Survey. "Victim Reports of Crime in Texas" is the second report in this new statistical series which samples the public's experience with crime on a semi-annual basis. The data were collected from a random sample of 1000 Texas drivers age 16 and over. The data were collected by mail survey, with both mail and telephone follow-ups, during July and August of 1976. The purpose of the Texas Crime Trend Survey is the development of crime trend information based on victims' reports. The information collected is distributed to criminal justice agency administrators and planners and interested public officials for the purpose of assisting the formulation and development of public policies toward crime, victims, and criminal justice issues.

The results of the 1975-76 Texas Crime Trend Survey indicate that the Texas Crime Victim Index increased in 1976 over the 1975 level. The amount of the increase was one-sixth. The Texas Crime Victim Index for 1975 was under 18%, while the Index for the first half of 1976 was just over 20%. This means that if the 1976 rate continues for the remainder of 1976, one in five adult Texans will be a victim of crime during the year. The measures of the level of crime in Texas are displayed in Graph A, Texas Crime Victim Index. The data in Graph A indicate a 17.9% Index for the year 1975, and a 20.7% Index for the first six months of 1976. The data for the entire 1976 year will be available in June, 1977.

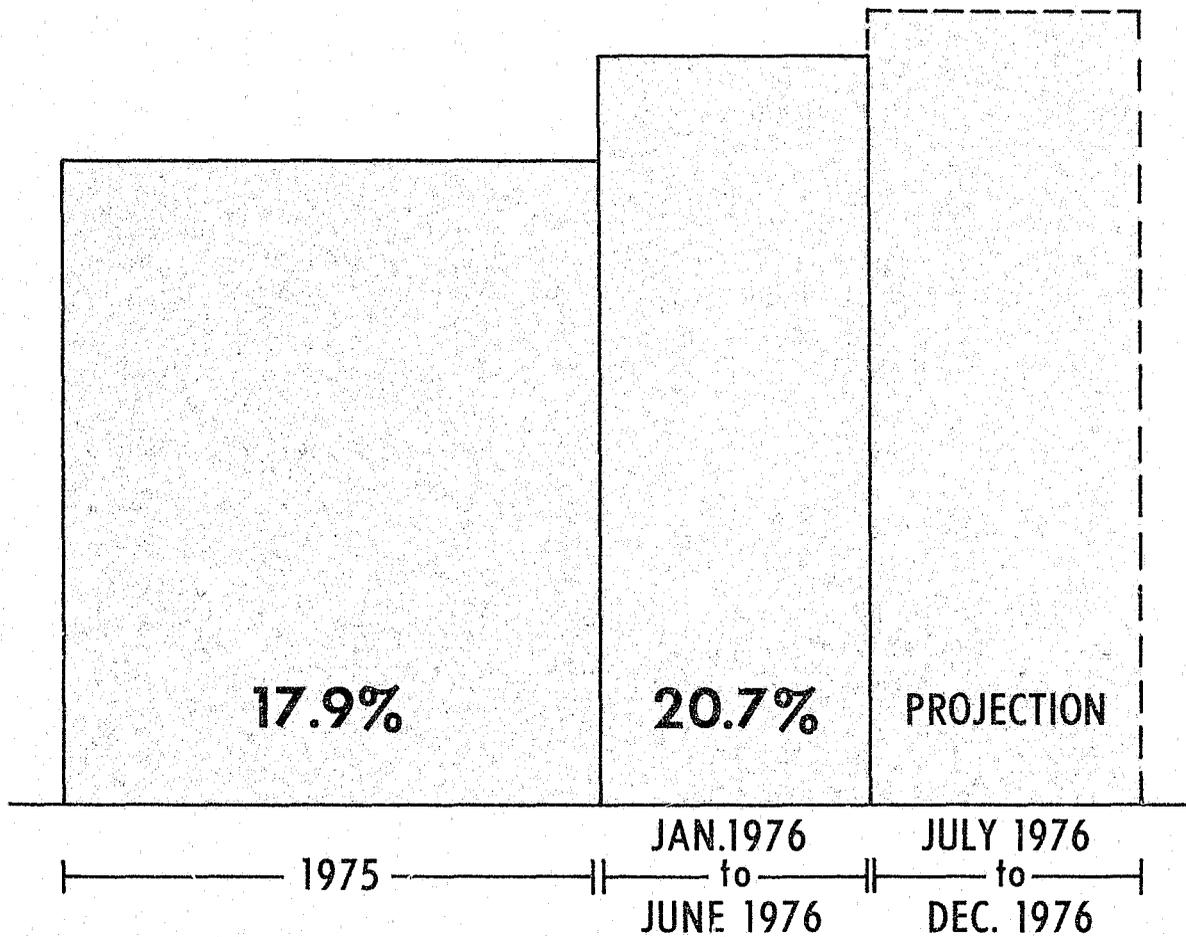
II. MEASURING CRIME WITH THE VICTIM INDEX

The Texas Crime Victim Index is a composite Index. The Index is a measure of the percentage of the population who are victims of at least one of seven types of crime. The data in Graph A, Texas Crime Victim Index Trend, indicate that from January, 1975, to December, 1975, 17.9% of the population were experiencing crime at this annual rate. The crime rate is not constant throughout the year. Seasonal variation is common. Generally the summer months June through September are peak months, as well as November and December. As the data in Graph A illustrates, the Victim Index trend leaped from 17.9% to over 20% for the first 6 months of 1976, and the peak due to seasonal variation is yet to come. 1

1. The Index for 1975 changed from the previously published 17.5% to 17.9% when a technical change in the sample weighting procedure was adopted.

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM INDEX

PERCENT OF CRIME VICTIMS IN TOTAL POPULATION



Because the Texas Crime Trend Survey is conducted semi-annually, in January and July of each year, and the time period covered in the questions refers to the previous full 12 months of the respondent's experience, there are two independent measures of the Crime Victim Index for the latter half of 1975. That is, the time period between July and December of 1975 was covered by two different surveys: one survey, the 1975 survey and the first of the series, covered the entire 1975 calendar year, from January through December, while the second survey, 1975-76 covered July 1975 through June 1976.

The two surveys reported two slightly different rates for the time period in which they overlap. The first survey reported a 21.4% Index, while the second reported a 22.1% Index. While the two measures are different, they are also very close, and this closeness indicates that the measurement of crime victims by sample survey is possible, and reasonably accurate. To be sure, data from repeated future surveys will be necessary to support this contention. Until data from a series of several surveys is available for analysis the results should be cautiously interpreted.

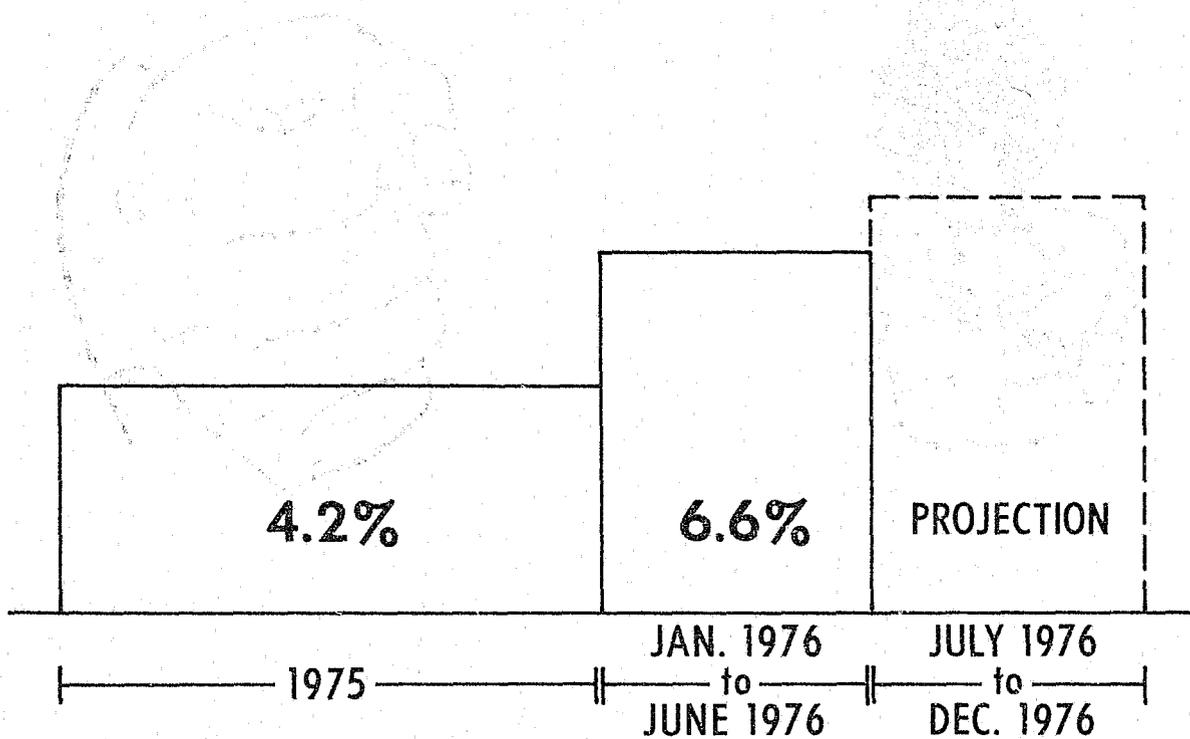
At the present only one measure of the first 6 months of 1976 is available, and this indicates a slight decline from the two-survey average of 21.8% for the overlapping time period, July through December of 1975, to 20.7% for the first of 1976. This decline includes the seasonal variation. When the seasonal variation is removed, it is important to note that the Index for the first 6 months of 1976 is still much higher than that for the first 6 months of 1975. The next survey, the 1976 calendar year survey, will provide data for the entire year of 1976. To summarize, the Texas Crime Victim Index shows that crime, as measured by reports from the Victims, increased in the first half of 1976. The general trend for the one and one-half years of data is increasing crime, as the 1976 Index is higher than the 1975 Index.

The Texas Crime Victim Index is composed of seven types of crime. For purposes of analysis the index is divided into two separate measures: the Violent and Property indices. The Violent Crime Index is illustrated in Graph B, and the Property Crime Index is illustrated in Graph C.

The Texas Violent Crime Index is composed of 4 types of crime: Rape, Robbery, Assault with Weapon, Assault with Body. The percentage of the population who are victims of any one of these 4 crime types is

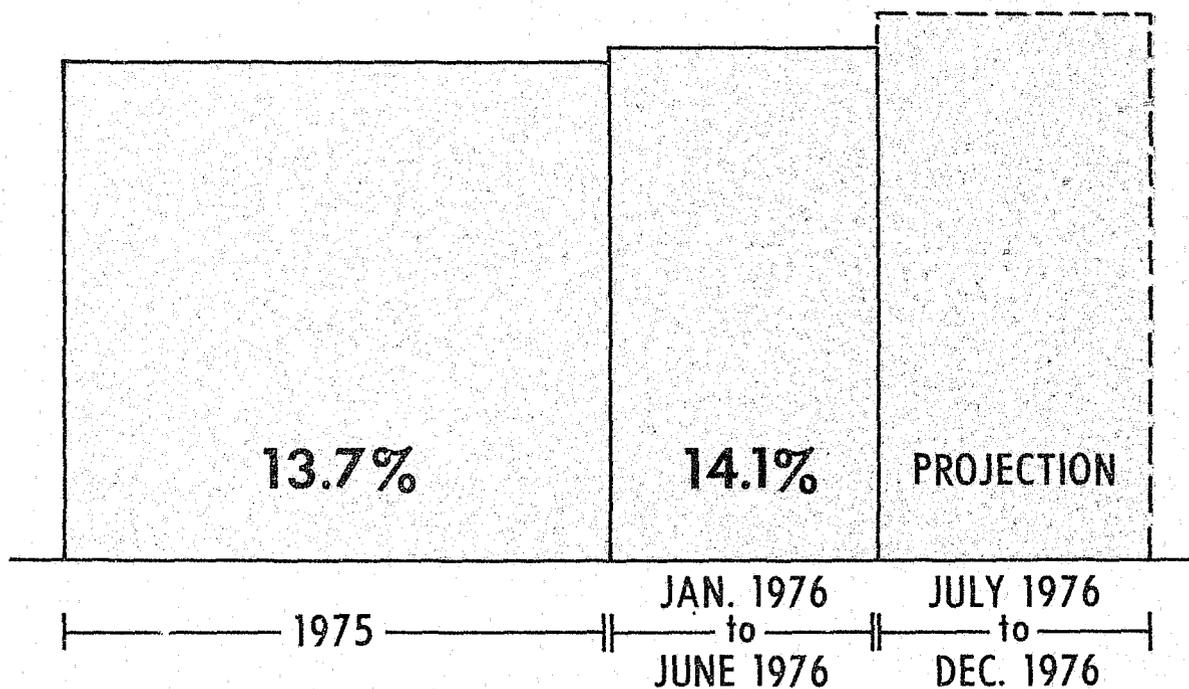
VIOLENT CRIME VICTIM INDEX

PERCENT OF VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS IN TOTAL POPULATION



PROPERTY CRIME VICTIM INDEX

PERCENT OF PROPERTY CRIME VICTIMS IN TOTAL POPULATION



the Texas Violent Crime Index. Therefore, the figure of 4.2% for 1975 means that the Violent Crime Index for this period was 4.2 people out of every hundred Texas residents.

As Graph B illustrates, the Violent Crime Index is increasing. The rate for 1976, 6.6%, is higher than the corresponding rate for 1975. Therefore, the general trend of violence in Texas is increasing sharply. Because the Violence Index is necessarily based on fewer crime victims than the total Crime Victim Index, it is not as statistically reliable as the total Crime Victim Index. Therefore, the Violent Crime Index should be very cautiously interpreted until several separate survey measures are available, or until the sample size is increased.

The Property Crime Victim Index is illustrated in Graph C. The general trend for the 18-month period which began January 1, 1975 is an increase in property crime. The rate of property crime increased from 13.7% in 1975 to 14% in the first half of 1976. The rate for the latter half of 1976 is expected to increase sharply over the rate for the first 6 months of 1976, due to seasonal increases in crime during summer months and as the Christmas season approaches. Overall, the direction of the trend of the Property Crime Index is up, and further increases can be anticipated. The property crimes included in the Index are: Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft (auto, truck, motorcycle), and Theft.

A comparison of the percentages of Violent Crime Victims and Property Crime Victims indicates that Property Crimes are much more prevalent than Violent Crimes. The ratio of property crime to violent crime is about 3 to 1. That is, three quarters of all crime reported is Property Crime. This ratio of Property Crime to Violent Crime is based on victim reports, and in cases in which both types of crime were inflicted on one person the event was classified as Violent, in accordance with a higher priority placed upon violence in this report and as is generally reflected in our penal laws.

III. UNREPORTED CRIME

The Crime Trend Survey asks questions about the reporting and non-reporting of crime to the police. The purpose of these questions is to determine the extent and magnitude of crime that is officially unknown to the police. How serious is the problem of unreported crime? Do the

official police statistics present a reasonably close approximation of the crime problem, or are the police statistics just the tip of the iceberg? The Crime Trend Survey is designed to provide answers to these questions, as well as measuring the trends in the reporting or non-reporting of crime. Does the reporting of crime vary from year to year? If so, how does it affect police statistics? Can or should a correction factor be developed to compensate for changes in the reporting of crime to the police? Does the non-reporting of crime signal changes in public attitudes toward crime that will impact on police efforts in the community? The real meaning of unreported crime and the implications of it cannot be fully assessed without a careful analysis of the incidence, variation and scope of unreported crime.

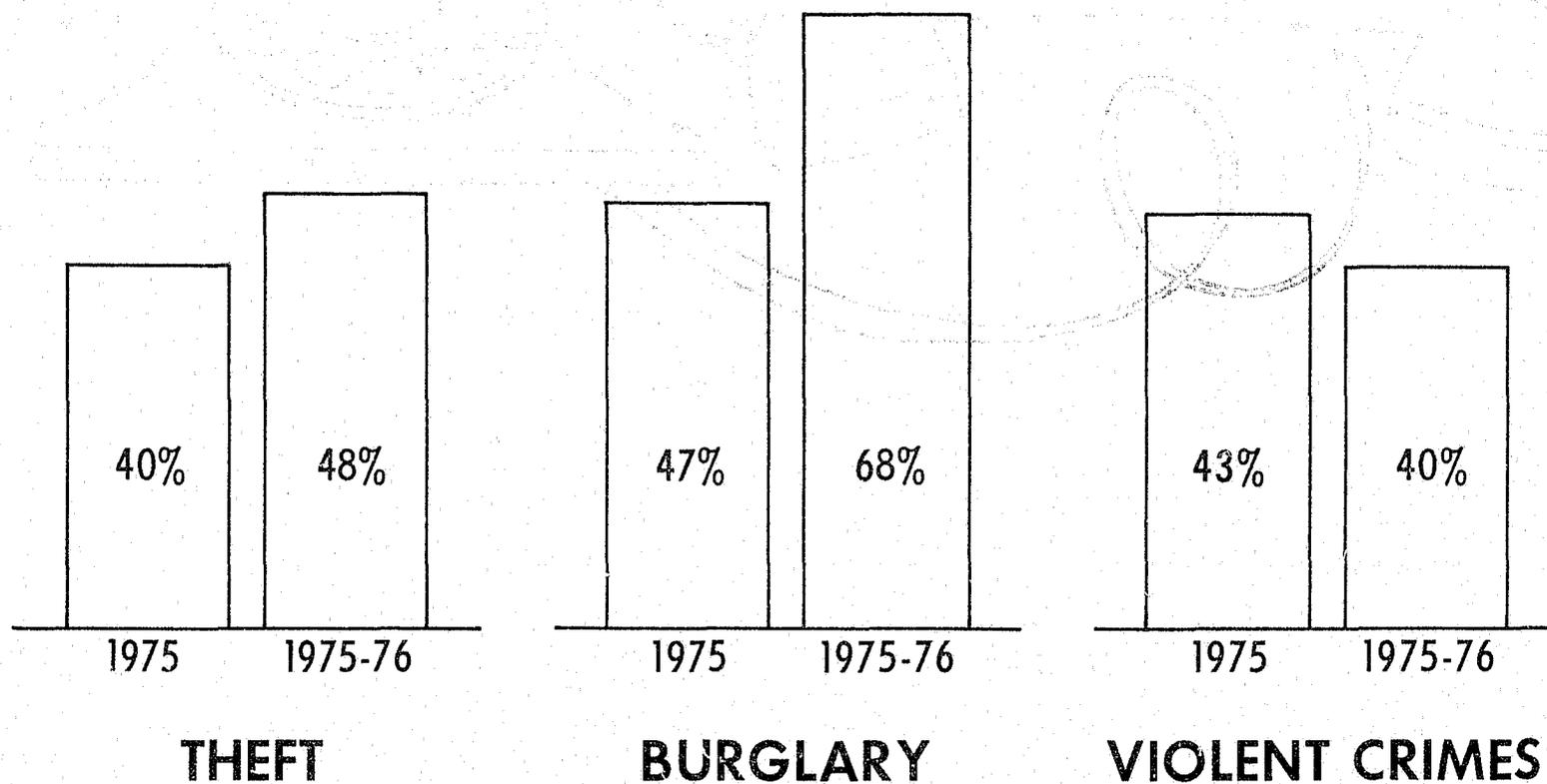
The data on unreported crime are presented in Graph D, Percent Reporting Crime to Police. The data illustrate that for the three generic types of crime the reporting rates changed between Crime Trend Surveys. The reporting of crimes of Theft increased from 40% to 48% between the 1975 survey and the 1975-76 survey. The reporting of Burglary also increased between surveys, from 47% to 68%. The reporting of crimes of violence, however, decreased from 43% to 40%. The violence category includes Robbery, Assault with Body, and Assault with Weapon. Since these are from a very small proportion of the sample it is possible that this variation in reporting is unstable. Repeated surveys and larger samples will provide the necessary data to make solid inferences about changes in unreported crime. The present data, because of the small proportion of the sample, provide us with preliminary tools for the analysis of unreported crime, but larger samples will be necessary to insure statistical reliability.

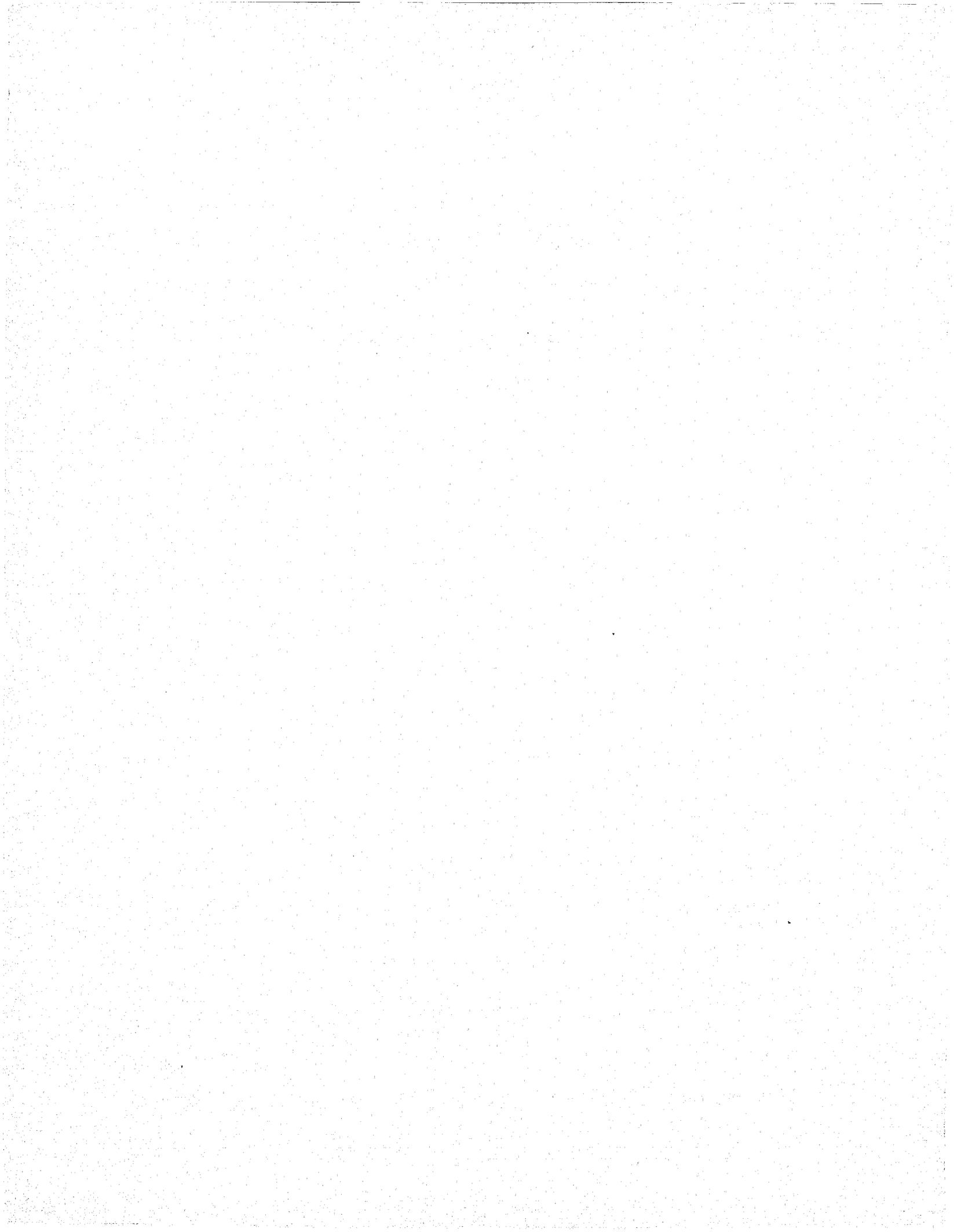
The composition of the volume of unreported crime collected in the Texas Crime Trend Survey is displayed in Graph E, Unreported Incidents. According to the pie charts in Graph E, the bulk of the charts in both surveys is composed of the crime of Theft. In the 1975 survey, Theft accounted for 66% of the unreported crimes. In the more recent 1975-76 survey Theft accounted for 55% of the unreported crime. Clearly, a majority of unreported crime is the least serious crime. The second most frequent unreported crime is Burglary. Burglary was 16% of all unreported crime in 1975, and 23% of all unreported crime in 1975-76.

The large volume of theft that goes unreported can, if improperly presented, imply that unreported crime is a multiple of reported crime.

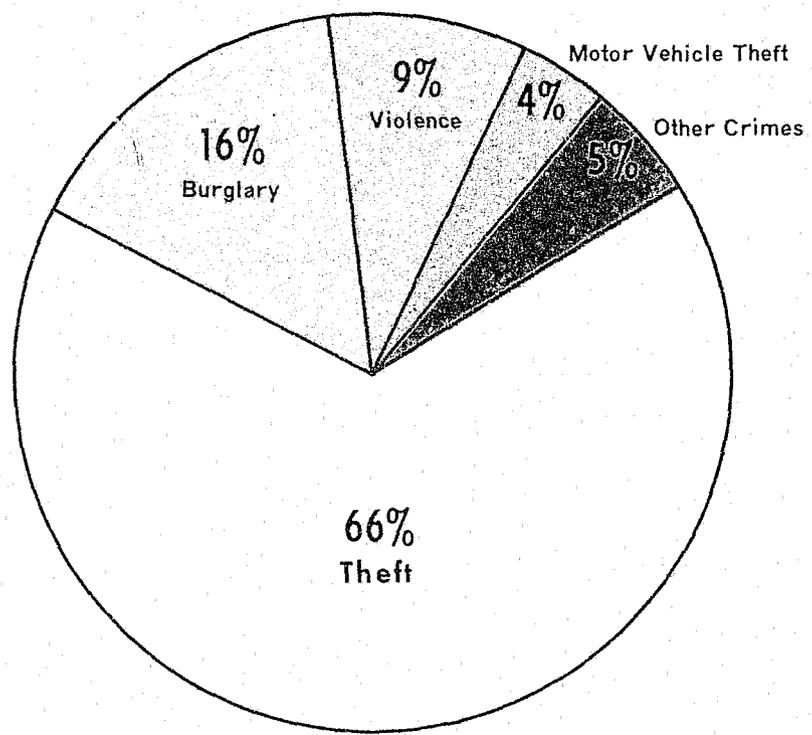
PERCENT REPORTING CRIME TO POLICE

8

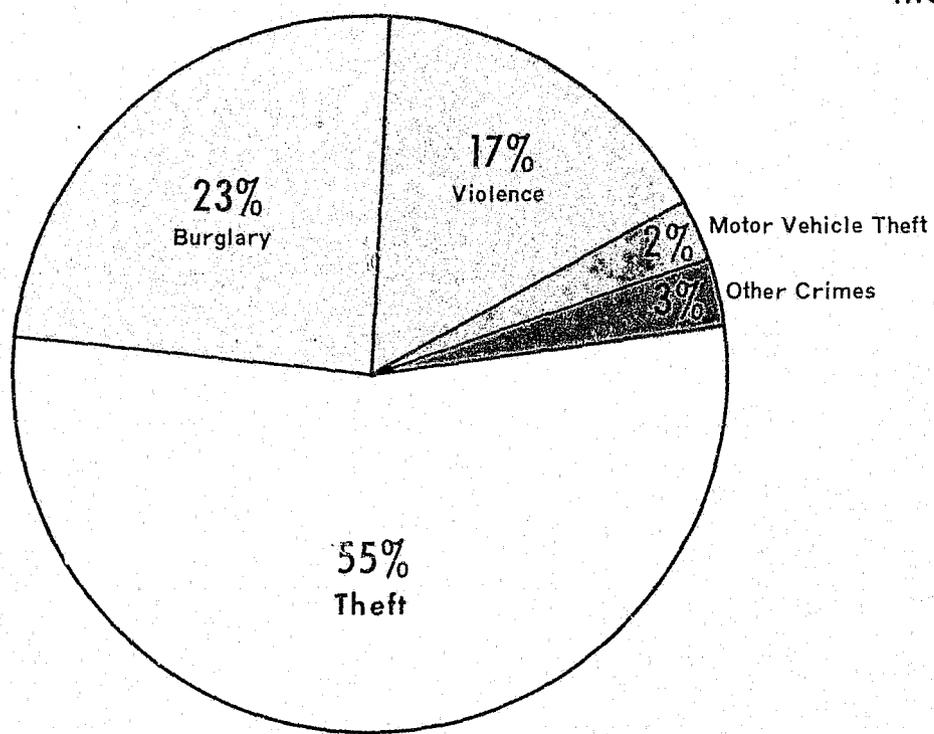
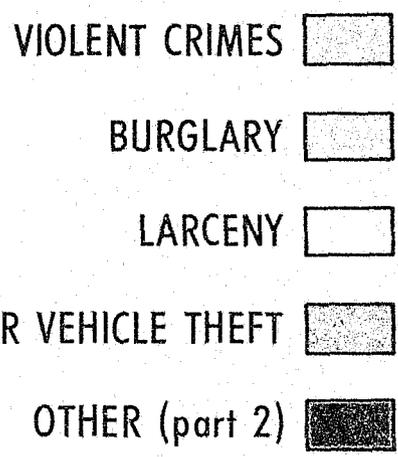




UNREPORTED CRIME INCIDENTS



1975



1975-76

Some previous studies of unreported crime have been interpreted to imply that unreported crime is anywhere from 2-5 times the volume of crime officially reported to the police.² However, while it is possible to make this interpretation, the results would be misleading because the large volume of the least serious crime, Theft, produces the multiple effect. If Theft is excluded, the ratio of reported to unreported crime would generally not exceed 1 to 2, and the most serious crimes would be reported.

The most important determinant of the reporting of crime to the police is the seriousness of the crime event. In general, the more money lost from a crime the greater the likelihood that it will be reported to the police. Similarly, the more serious of the violent assaults have a higher reporting rate than less serious assaults.³

The reasons for the non-reporting of crime to the police vary, but the single most important reason is the victims' perception that the crime "... was not important enough" to report.⁴ Over 42% of the victims who did not report a crime gave the reason that the crime was not important enough. Therefore, the general impression that is portrayed by the relationship between reported and unreported crime is that the bulk of the most serious crime is reported to the police. By inference, we can assume that the police data on crime, the officially reported crime, is measuring the bulk of the most serious crimes. There may be several areas where the reporting of serious crime is less than optimal, such as in the crimes of rape and assault where the stigma of being a victim is high, but any detailed analysis would be premature in the early stages of development of the Texas Crime Trend Survey.

IV. PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS OF CRIME

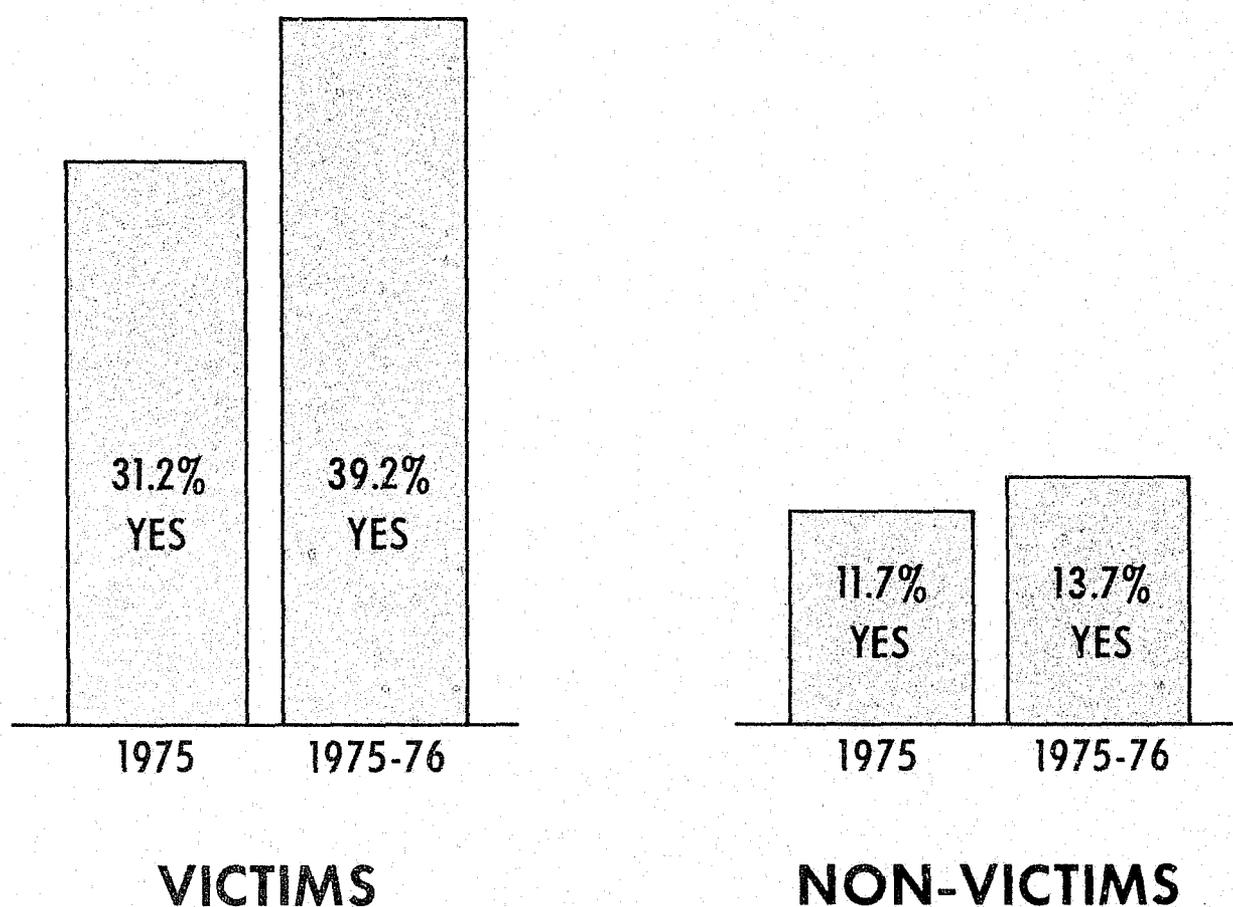
The Texas Crime Trend Survey asks a question about the future expectation of crime: Do you believe that you are likely to be a victim of crime during the next year? The results of this question are displayed in Graph F. In the 1975 Survey 31% of the victims expected to be victims

2. See References number 9 and 10.

3. See References 4 and 7 for more detailed documentation of this point for both national data and Texas data.

4. The reasons for non-reporting were published in reference #7, p. 13, Graph F.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE A VICTIM OF A CRIME DURING THE NEXT YEAR?



again in the next year. In the 1975-76 Survey, this percentage increased to 39%. The fear or expectation of crime in the future parallels the actually increasing crime rate. Not only is crime increasing, but the public expects it to increase.

The non-victims expectation of crime also increased between the 1975 and 1975-76 Surveys. The percentage of non-victims who expected to be crime victims rose from 11.7% in 1975 to 13.7% in 1975-76. The increased expectation of future crime is shared by both victims and non-victims.

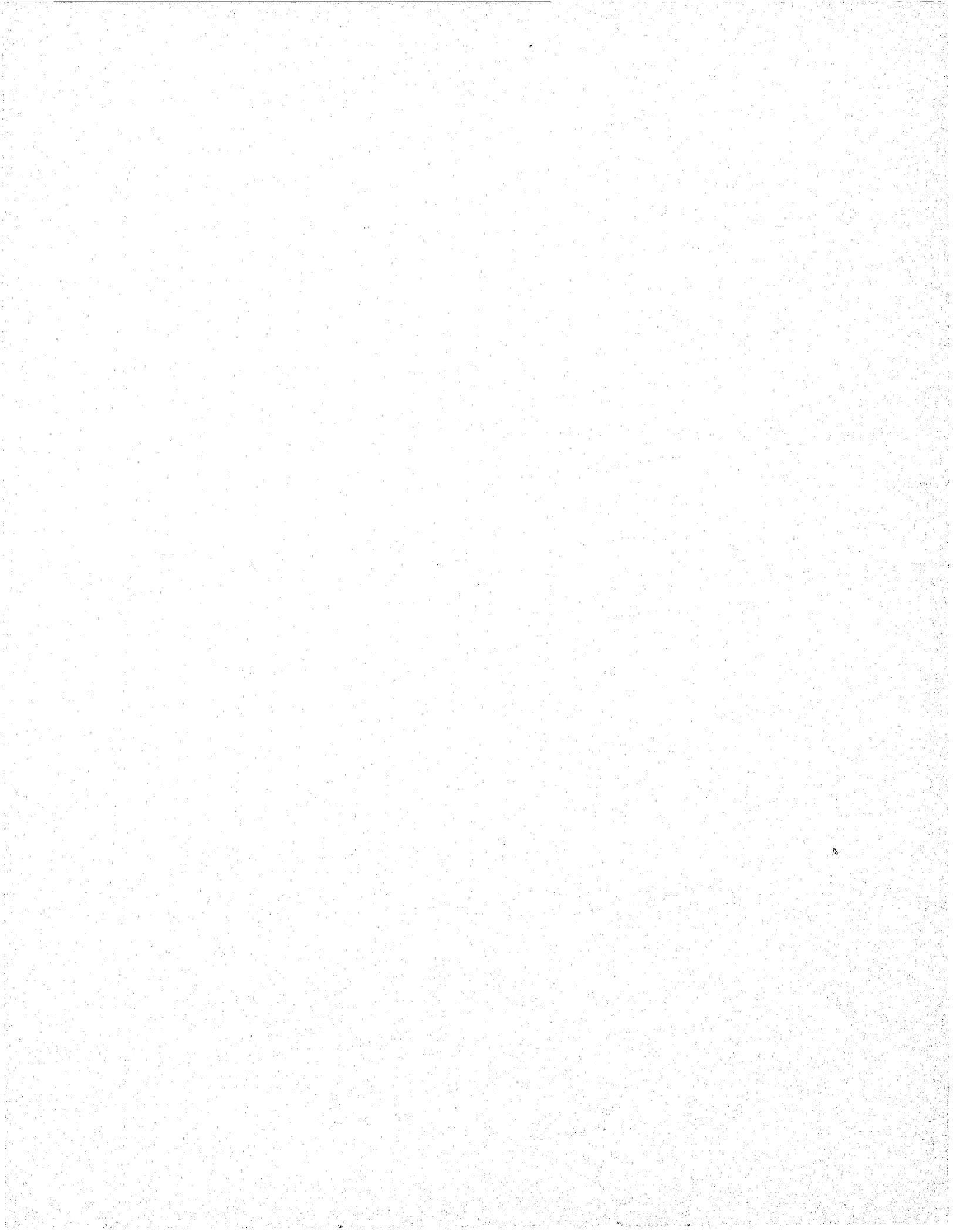
The specific crime that people expected during the next year was the topic of an additional survey question. Overwhelmingly the public was most concerned with Burglary. As the data in Graph G illustrates, both victims and non-victims expected a Burglary. After Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft and Violent Crime were the next most anticipated crimes.

When the victims are analyzed separately, almost 38% expect a Burglary in the next year, while 7% expect a Violent Crime, and almost 6% expect a Motor Vehicle Theft. The non-victims anticipate less crime in the next year than the victims. Among the non-victims, 26% expect a Burglary to occur to them in the next year, while 3% expect a Motor Vehicle Theft, and an additional 3% expect a Violent Crime.

The most significant aspect of public expectations is the overwhelming concern with Burglary. The knowledge of this public concern with the crime of Burglary can be utilized by police officials in planning and operating crime prevention programs which require citizen cooperation. In general, the public should be receptive to communications about Burglary and the suggested efforts that citizens can make to reduce their risk of Burglary.

V. PROPERTY LOSS

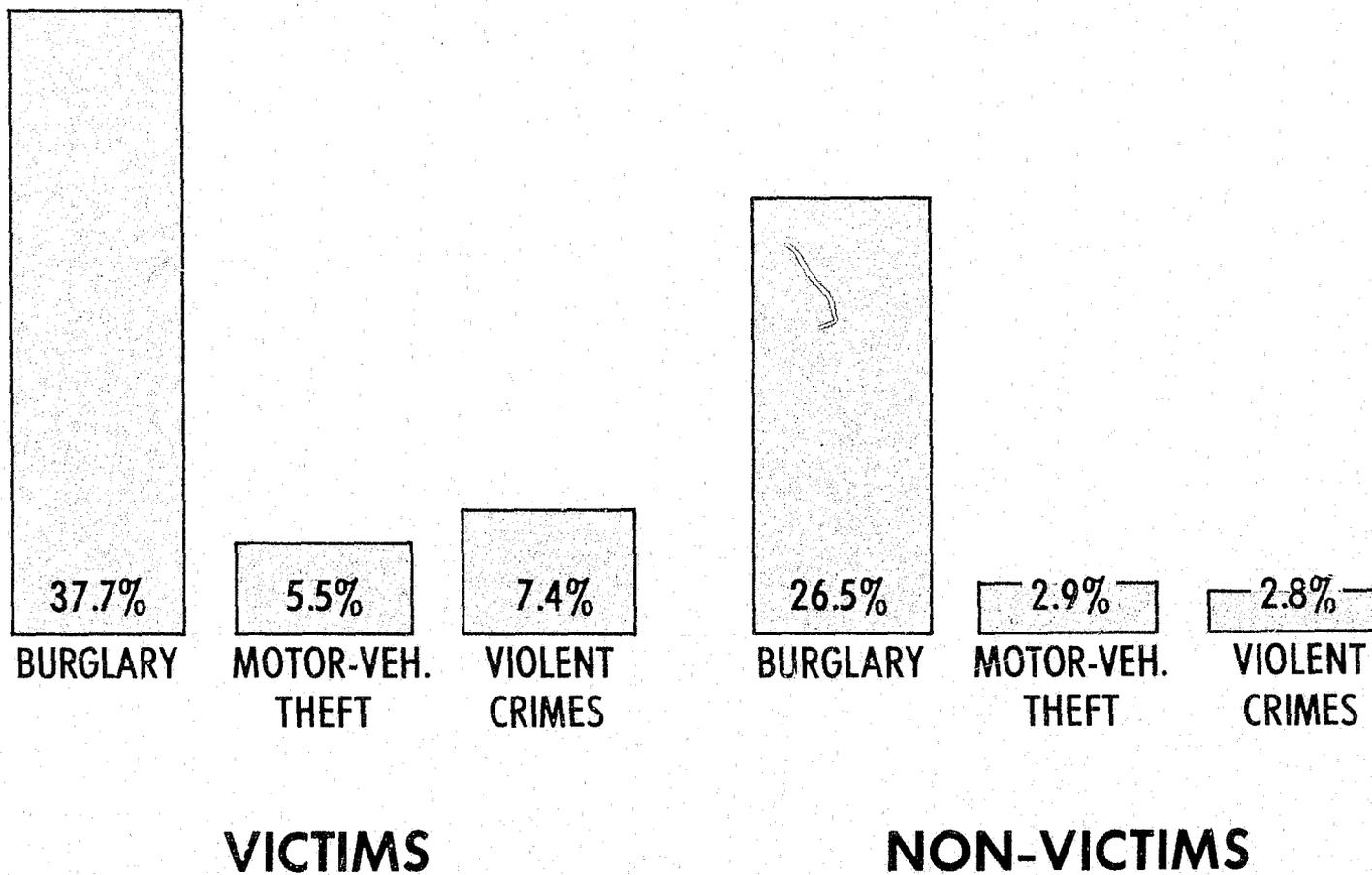
The value of the property loss from just the crimes questioned about in these surveys amounted to \$850 million in the 1975 Survey and \$810 million in the 1975-76 Survey. There was a slight decrease, about 4%, in the value of property lost in the second survey. However, because of the seasonal variation in crime rates, the total loss for the complete 1976 year may equal or exceed the 1975 losses. In general, the second half of the calendar year has a higher incidence of crime than the first half of the



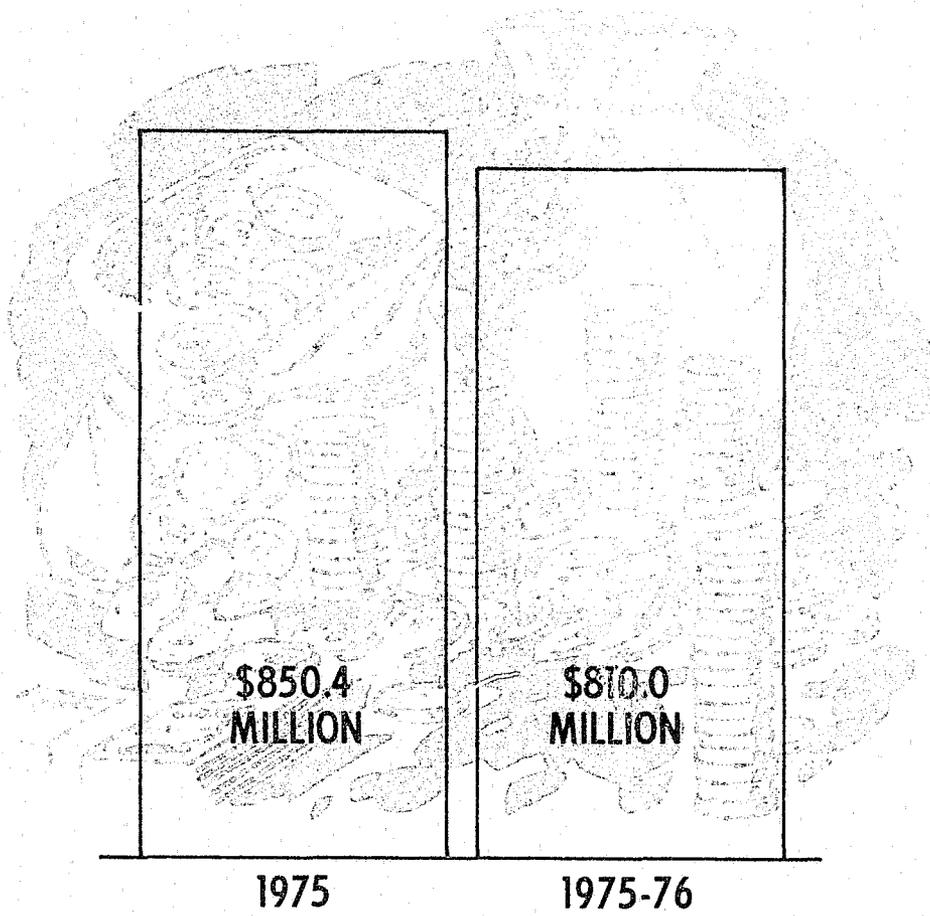
WHAT PARTICULAR CRIME DO YOU EXPECT WILL OCCUR TO YOU DURING THE NEXT YEAR?

GRAPH G

13



PROPERTY LOSS



year because of high rates of crime in the summer months and also in the period prior to Christmas. The 1976 data, which should be complete by May, 1977, will allow a comparison of 2 complete years of data on property loss. When the property loss from survey crimes in 1975-76 is divided by the adult population the result is an average loss of \$92 per adult Texan.

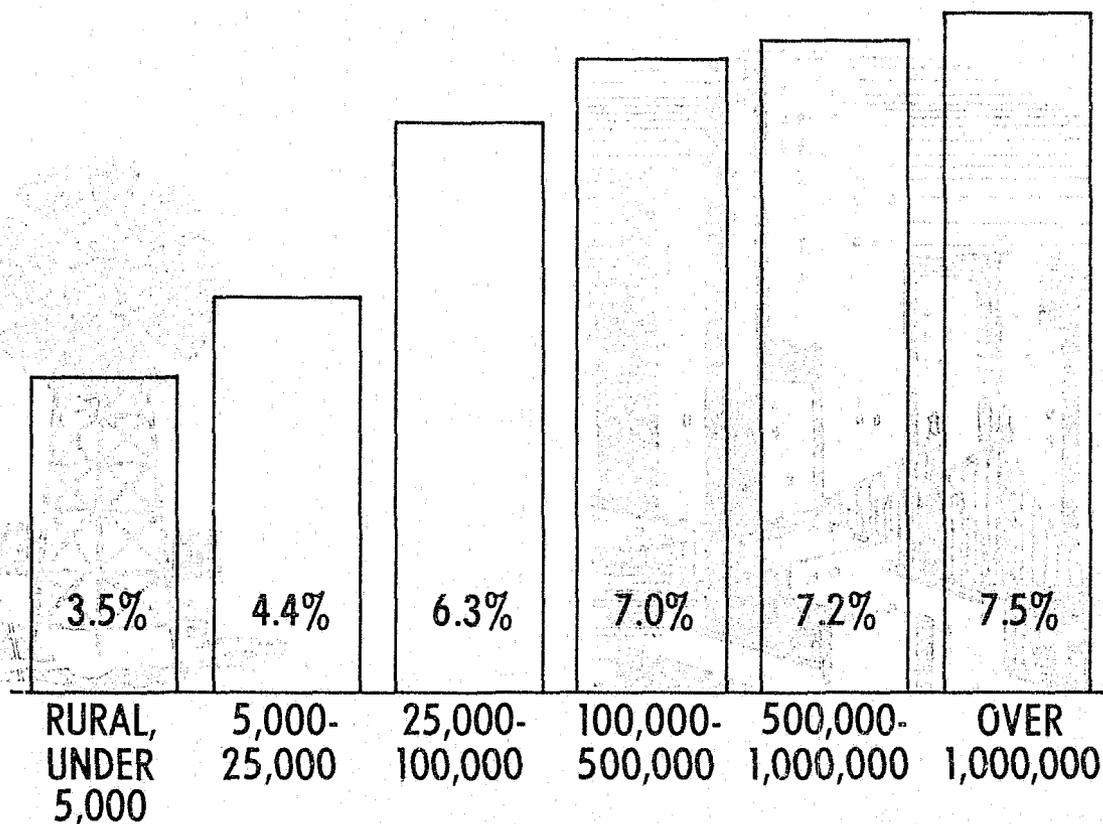
Victims of crime also incur additional losses, some measurable and others not easily measured. These losses which are not included in the \$850 million figure consist of medical expenses caused by injury, death, and time lost from work. Also, the fear and intimidation due to past crimes is a real, but immeasurable loss. The extent to which citizens curtail their activities can be measured, but it would be difficult to place economic values on this curtailment.

VI. VICTIM RISK BY CITY SIZE

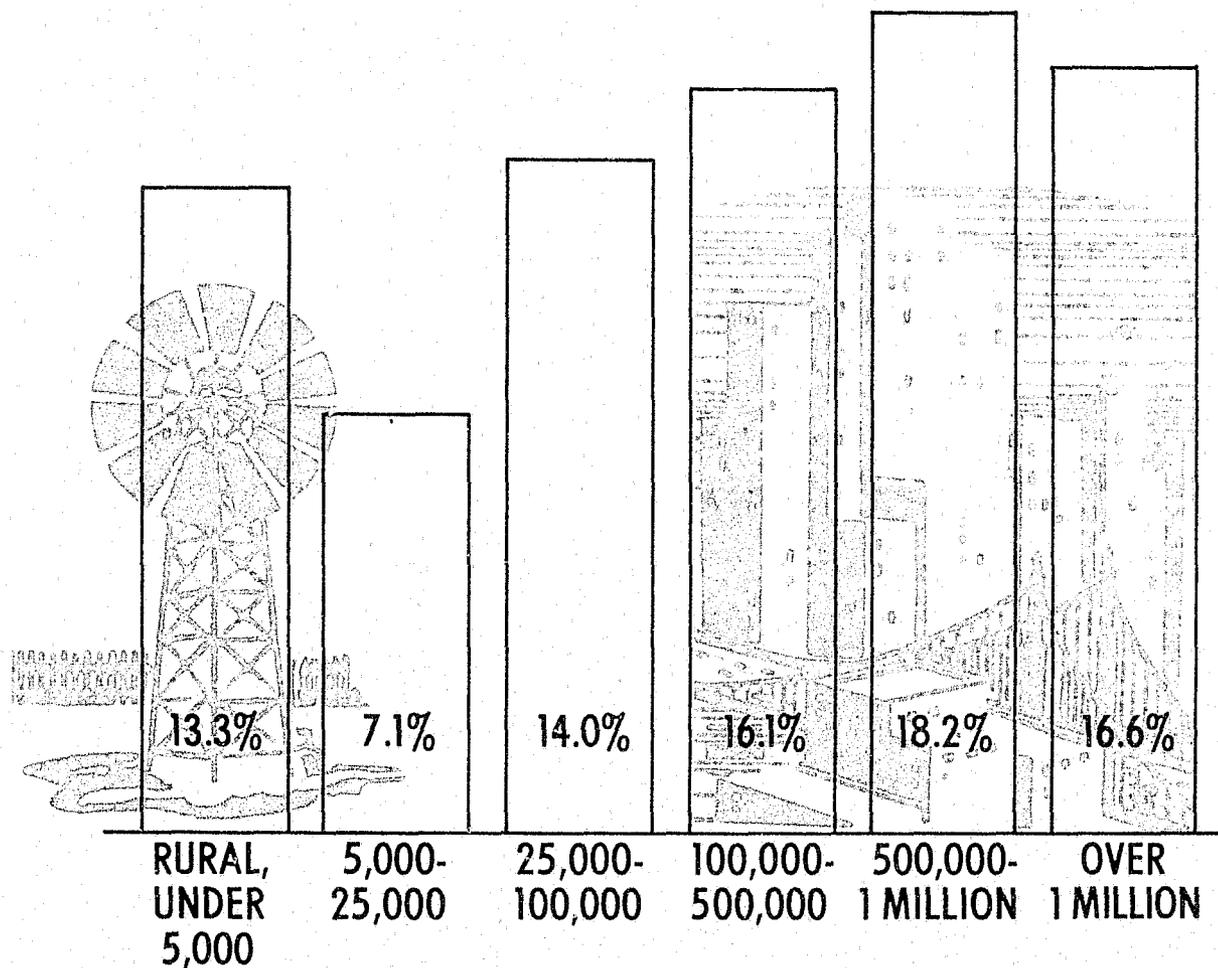
The risk of being a crime victim varies by the size of the city a person resides in. Generally, the larger size cities are associated with higher risks of crime. The Survey data presented in Graphs I and J illustrate that the general trend of increasing risk of crime in larger cities prevails. When the data from both graphs are combined the highest risk of crime is in the 500,000 to 1,000,000 city size, or Dallas and San Antonio. The lowest risk of crime is found in the 5,000 to 25,000 city size. Therefore, two exceptions were found to the general trend of increasing crime as city size increases: (1) the over 1 million city, Houston, had a lower overall crime victim risk than the average for Dallas and San Antonio, and (2) the overall risk of crime was higher in rural areas (city size less than 5,000 population) than in cities of 5,000 to 25,000 population. While the precedent for a slightly lower crime rate for 1-million-plus cities has been established in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, the higher rural crime risk came as a surprise. The expectation was that the rural crime risk would be less than the small (5,000 - 25,000) city risk.

When the total risk of crime is divided into property and violent crime risk, the pattern of risk by city size is altered. The risk of violence increases as city size increases, with no exceptions. As illustrated in Graph I, even the 1-million-plus city, Houston, has a higher risk of violence than the next largest cities. Also, the rural areas have lower risks of violence than cities of 5,000 population or over. For violent crime the risk is directly associated with size of city or community.

VIOLENT CRIME RISK BY CITY SIZE



PROPERTY CRIME RISK BY CITY SIZE



The property crime varied by city size, and the risks were generally higher as city size increased with the two exceptions noted previously, rural areas and the over-1-million city, Houston. The property crime rate in rural areas was higher than in small cities 5,000 to 25,000. The property crime risk in Houston was less than for the average of Dallas and San Antonio combined. Generally, the risks of property crime are more widespread and even throughout the state than the risk for violent crime.

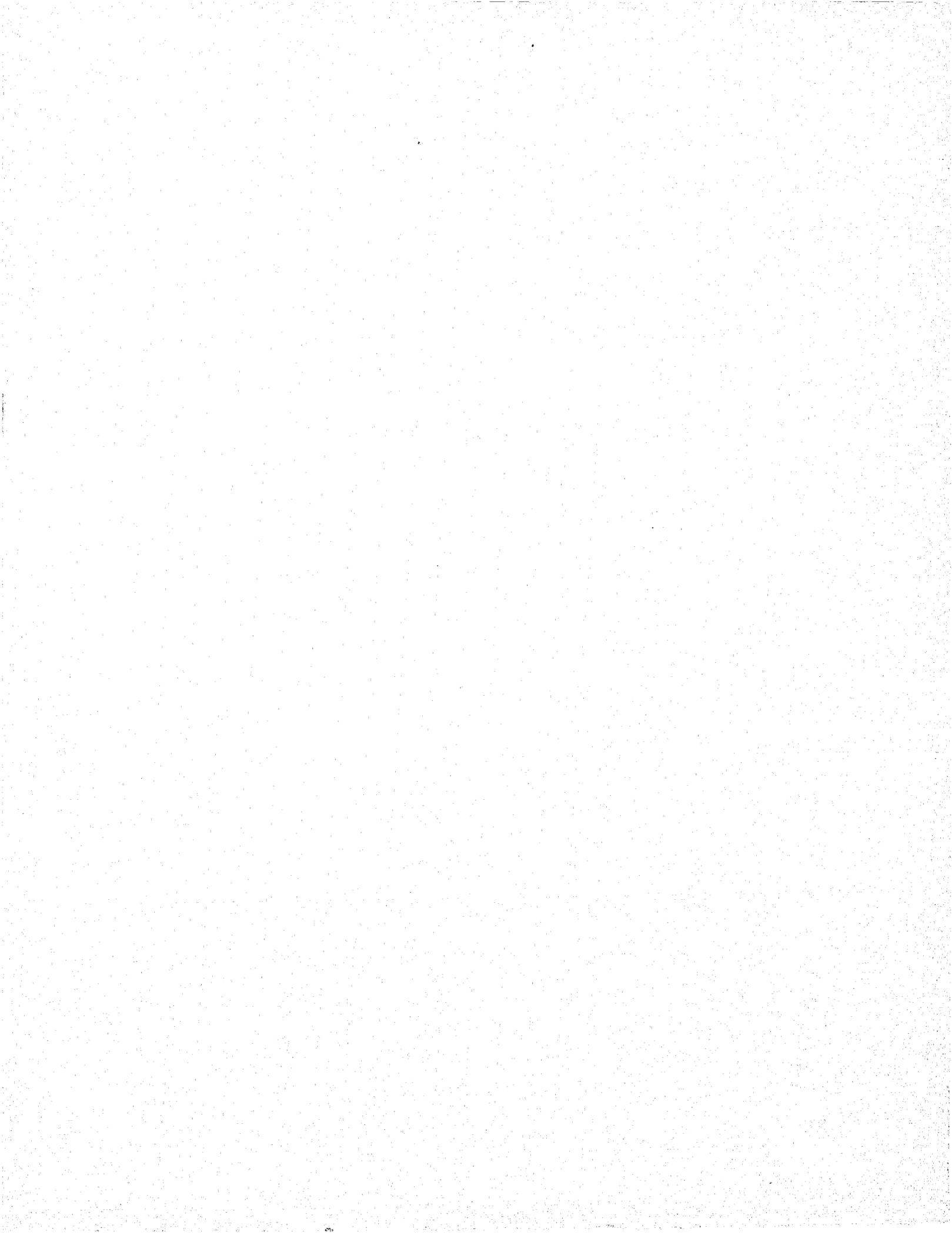
VII. VICTIM RISK BY AGE, SEX, RACE AND INCOME

The risk of crime varies by age, sex, race or ethnic background, and income. The risk associated with each of these factors was presented in the report on the 1975 Texas Crime Trend Survey. The results of the 1975-76 Survey were very similar to the 1975 Survey, so each graph will not be reproduced here to illustrate the risks of property and violent crime by age, sex, race or ethnic background, and income level.

The age of victims of violence was generally young. As age increased, the risk of being a victim of violence decreased sharply. The risk of violence for a 16-17 year old youth was 17%, and the risk of violence for over 65 years declined to just over 1%. As age increases the risk of violence declines steadily. However, age and property crime risk followed a completely different pattern. With the exception of the very young, under 18, and the very old, over 65, all ages had average risks of property crime.

The risk of being a victim of Violent Crime was almost equal for males and females. The average risk for males was 5.6%, and the average risk for females was 5.4%. This finding was surprising, as the view that females are most protected from violence was contradicted by these statistics. Females did report lower risks of property crime than males. The risk for females was 12% compared to 15% for males.

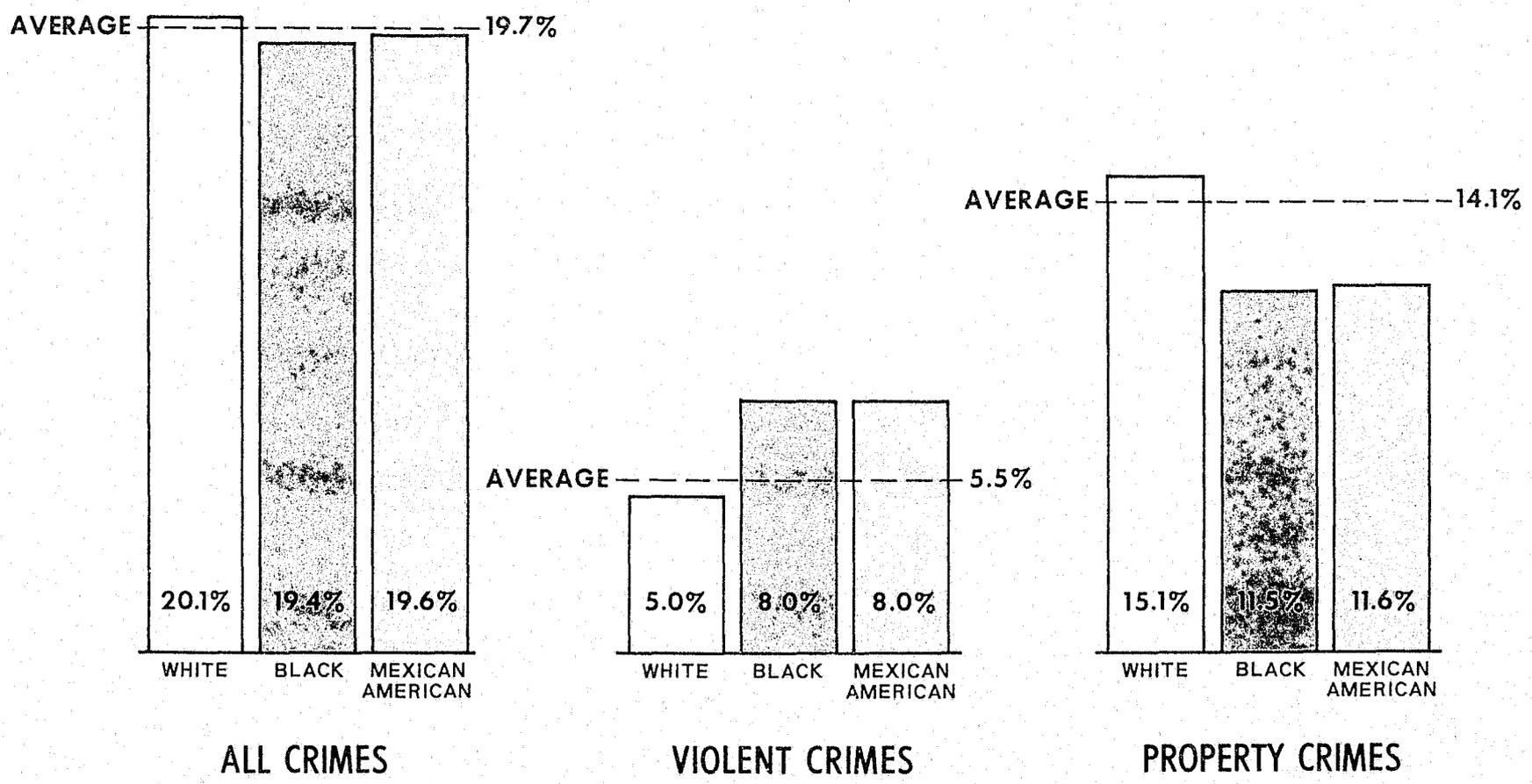
When race and ethnic background is analyzed, the risk of crime did change from the first survey to the second survey. The average for both surveys is presented in Graph K. The most significant results are the high risk of violence for both ethnic minorities as compared to Whites. Both Blacks and Mexican-Americans had 8% risks of being victims of violence compared to a 5% risk of being victims for Whites.



VICTIM RISK OF CRIMES BY RACE/ETHNIC BACKGROUND

GRAPH K

19



Whites had a higher risk of property crime, however, and this higher risk of property crime resulted in an overall risk of all types of crime that was almost equal for the three groups. The White risk of all crime averaged 20%, the Black risk was 19.4% and the Mexican-American risk was 19.5%. These percentages of risk are an average of both surveys and represent a total of 2000 Texas residents.

The risk of crime by family income level was similar for both sets of data, 1975 and 1975-76. Violence was associated with low to middle income levels. As income increased above \$15,000 annually, the risk of violent crime declined dramatically. This relationship was reversed for property crime, as high income levels had higher risks of property crime. Low income people had below average risks of property crime.

VIII. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

The results of the 1975-76 Texas Crime Trend Survey indicate an increase in crime as measured by victims reports. When the data from 2 separate sample surveys are compared the results are generally consistent. The response rate by the driving public continues to be excellent: 84.4% for the 1975 Survey, and 84.7% for the 1975-76 Survey. The response rate, which is excellent for a mail survey, indicates the immense public concern about crime. In addition to responding to the questions, the citizens of Texas continue to send letters regarding their concern about crime. Some of these comments are reprinted in Appendix A. The Texas Crime Trend Survey is currently a semi-annual survey of 1000 Texans selected from the Texas Department of Public Safety's Drivers License File. Larger samples in the 5,000 to 10,000 range will provide greater accuracy of measurement, and also permit the analysis of relatively rare crimes such as rape. The presentation of results of the Texas Crime Trend Survey has attracted the attention of criminal justice administrators, public officials and the press. Several states are now duplicating the Texas Crime Trend Survey with modifications and adaptations for local users of the information. Ultimately, it is the cooperation and interest of the public which will determine the usefulness of the results of future surveys.

APPENDIX A

Written Comments from Survey Respondents

Away from home 3 hours, had iron bars on windows. They cut screen door, broke glass panel in front door, reached in and turned knob on lock. Had barrel bolt, also safety chain. I now have double cylinder dead bolt locks and new screen door with dead bolt lock.

anonymous

We applaud the effort to reduce crime and support it enthusiastically. Let us hope we can continue to attract competent dedicated law enforcement officers at all levels. Policemen need more support from the legislature and judicial branches of government, better laws and tougher sentences. Think how much better off we all are in our beloved Texas!

Houston

The last robbery was my purse being stolen from my car, which was parked, locked, and in a well-lit area. Part of the property inside the stolen purse has been returned to me through our own efforts and the aid of our police. However, the police can go no further because of what is known as a client/lawyer relationship. Through inquiry we learned our property was in the possession of a local lawyer who says a client gave it to him to pay a retainer fee. And now he (lawyer) is saying he cannot, and does not have to disclose the name of the client. To me, The lawyer is guilty of receiving stolen goods. Is there any solution, in order that we, and the police, may regain all the stolen property?

Bowie County

I believe that DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) is a serious crime which was not mentioned and should be dealt with.

anonymous

This is a singularly negative report for your survey perhaps because I do take precautions. (But I do resent having to be so careful all of the time.) Since living at this address we have experienced malicious mischief by juveniles. However, a new police department seems to have the incidents under control as of now.

Harris County

There are several unsolved brutal murders to women in this town without even a slightest suspect. This scares me very much, I do feel safe in my home but two murders of the above mentioned were committed in the women's home. Also, there are numerous numbers of burglaries and break-ins reported here every day, the people are usually away from home. So, although I said if a crime occurred it would probably be a break-in or burglary, I don't believe I would be at home when it occurred therefore I wouldn't be harmed. I believe this loose murderer could strike again at any time anywhere. This does make me feel unsafe at home! So it is very hard to say where I would feel completely safe.

anonymous

I am glad to see that there is some concern in Texas' climbing crime rate.

anonymous

Very pleased to help with this survey. May the crimes in Texas and everywhere be dissolved so we may all live together as Brothers in this new age.

Richardson

APPENDIX B

Differences Between The Texas Crime Trend Survey And The Uniform Crime Reports

There are major differences between the data collected by the Uniform Crime Reports and the Texas Crime Trend Survey. These differences are such that direct comparison of the two data bases is not recommended. However, it is recognized that crime analysts, planners, journalists, and informed citizens will probably not resist the temptation to compare the two data bases. The list of differences below is an attempt to highlight some of the major differences between the two sources of crime data, and to explain why direct comparison is at best speculative and probably misleading.

- 1) Sample Survey as opposed to agency reporting system. The Texas Crime Trend Survey is based on a sample of the general public. The UCR is based on reports from cooperating Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs.
- 2) New Method vs Traditional Method. The Survey is a new method of collecting crime data, and will require more research and development to insure accuracy of the trends observed in the survey. The UCR is an established method of collecting data, although changes are made periodically. The most recent change that has had a significant impact on the UCR data is the transfer of the Texas Program from the FBI to the Texas Department of Public Safety. The number of agencies reporting data increased from 434 to over 550 between 1975 and 1976.
- 3) The Survey collects crimes that are not reported to the police. This factor alone can more than double the UCR crime rate, especially on crimes of Theft with small losses.
- 4) The definitions of crime are not identical. The crimes defined in the UCR data are based on police judgments according to a published set of rules. The survey crimes are defined in the questionnaire, but are subject to the victim's interpretation. Therefore, UCR crimes are police defined, survey crimes are victim defined.

- 5) The crime types are not identical. The Survey does not collect homicides as the victim obviously would be unable to answer. Also, the definition of assaults in the survey is not directly comparable to the UCR's definition of Aggravated Assault.
- 6) The counting methods differ. The measure of crime in the Survey is the percent of victims in the population, regardless of how many different crimes occurred to a single victim. The measure of crime in the UCR is the number of crimes. Therefore, a victim of 2 separate crime incidents in 1 year would count as 1 in the Survey, but 2 in the UCR.
- 7) Texas residents are the source of data for the Survey, while the UCR includes crimes against out of state travelers who report a crime while traveling in Texas.

More differences exist, but this brief list is provided so that superficial comparisons of Survey and UCR data will not be made without recognizing some of the systematic, built-in sources of variation between the Survey and UCR information systems.

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