

SEARCHED

INDEXED

FILED

APR 19 1964

SAC

45812





STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BOX 4987

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78773
(512) 452-0331

NCJRS

MAR 22 1978



RALPH W. COLLINS
Administrator

CDS ADVISORY BOARD

- F. HAROLD ENTZ
Chairman
- RAY LYNN BRITT
- KEN GASNER
- B. L. DeBERRY
- W. J. ESTELLE, JR.
- ROBERT C. FLOWERS
- BEN Z. GRANT
- TOM HANNA
- JOHN L. HILL
- RON JACKSON
- C. RAYMOND JUDICE
- RICHARD MORENO
- DAN SAUNDERS
- WILSON E. SPEIR
- JESSE C. YOUNGBLOOD

February 15, 1978

To the People of Texas:

The data in this report indicate that crime increased in 1976 as compared to 1975. Not only did the level of crime increase, but also the value of property lost to crime increased. More Texans lost more money to crime in 1976.

While the Texas Crime Trend Survey indicates that the crime problem is growing in Texas, the situation is still favorable compared to other states. According to the FBI's Annual Report, Crime In The United States, Texas ranked 21st in the crime rate in 1974. However, in 1975 Texas ranked 17th in the crime rate. Therefore, while the crime rate is increasing, it is not as bad as could be expected considering that Texas is now third among the states in population size.

However, none of these comparisons are of value to the victims of crime. Only an improved criminal justice system and better citizen cooperation can reduce the increase in crime. I intend to present this report to the public officials responsible for overseeing improvements in the criminal justice system, including the Governor, the legislature, and the judges, police chiefs and prosecutors in Texas. Also, along with other members of the Comprehensive Data System Advisory Board, I will be working to improve the information systems that are vital to fighting crime and capturing criminals. Prosperity in Texas need not be accompanied by increasing crime and increased fear of crime. The Advisory Board will work toward reducing the rate of increase in crime through technological improvements in crime information systems.

Your cooperation with the Texas Crime Trend Survey has been inspiring. The response rate to the survey continues to improve, and the letters and comments, some of which are excerpted in the Appendix, are especially informative.

Sincerely,

F. Harold Entz, Jr.
Chairman

FHE:emc

VICTIMS OF CRIME

The 1976 Texas Crime Trend Survey

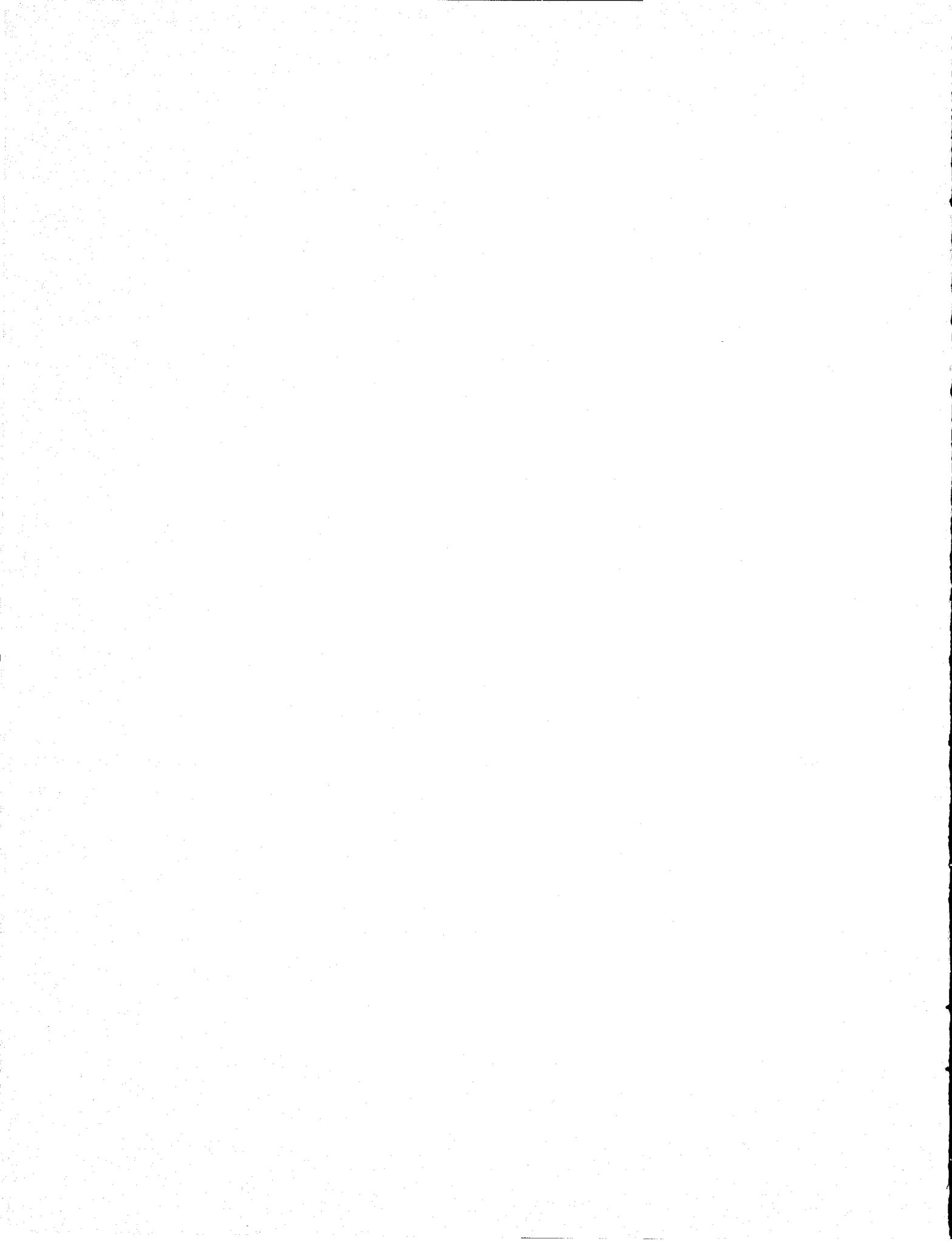
by

Alfred St. Louis
Statistical Management Analyst

Statistical Analysis Center

Texas Department of Public Safety
Austin, Texas

February, 1978



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is the third in this new information system on crime victims developed by the staff of the Statistical Analysis Center.

Administrative support for the Texas Crime Trend Survey was provided by the 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 Date 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 1976 Texas Crime Trend Survey indicate that the level of crime in Texas increased over the 1975 level. The percentage of the population who were victims of crime, the Texas Crime Victim Index, increased from 17.9% in 1975 to 21.6% in 1976.

The overall increase in crime included increases in both property crimes and violent crimes. However, the bulk of the increase in crime was composed of property crimes such as Theft, Burglary, and Motor Vehicle Theft.

Trend data for the two year period beginning in January, 1975, indicate that property crime is steadily increasing, while violent crime may be stabilizing or decreasing slightly.

The data on the level of reporting rates to the police indicate that Rape is reported 60% of the time, while attempted Rape is reported only 25% of the time. Additionally, the Survey data indicate that the reporting rates of Burglary and Violent crimes increased in 1976, while the reporting rates for Theft decreased slightly from 1975.

The financial losses from the types of crime surveyed were estimated at \$970 million in 1976, an increase over the \$850 million estimated in 1975. The average loss per adult Texan, age 16 or over, amounted to \$109 per person in 1976 compared to \$98 in 1975.

The expectation of future crime increased slightly from 1975 to 1976. The percentage of victims who expected to be a crime victim in the future increased from 31% to 33%. The percentage of non-victims who expected to be victims in the future increased from 12% in 1975 to 14% in 1976.

The distribution of crime statewide changed slightly in 1976, as more violence occurred in large cities over 100,000 population while less violence occurred in smaller cities. For the complete details of the Survey analysis see the text. The Texas Crime Trend Survey is conducted semi-annually in January and July. The next report will compare the 1975-76 mid-year survey with the 1976-77 survey.

I. INTRODUCTION

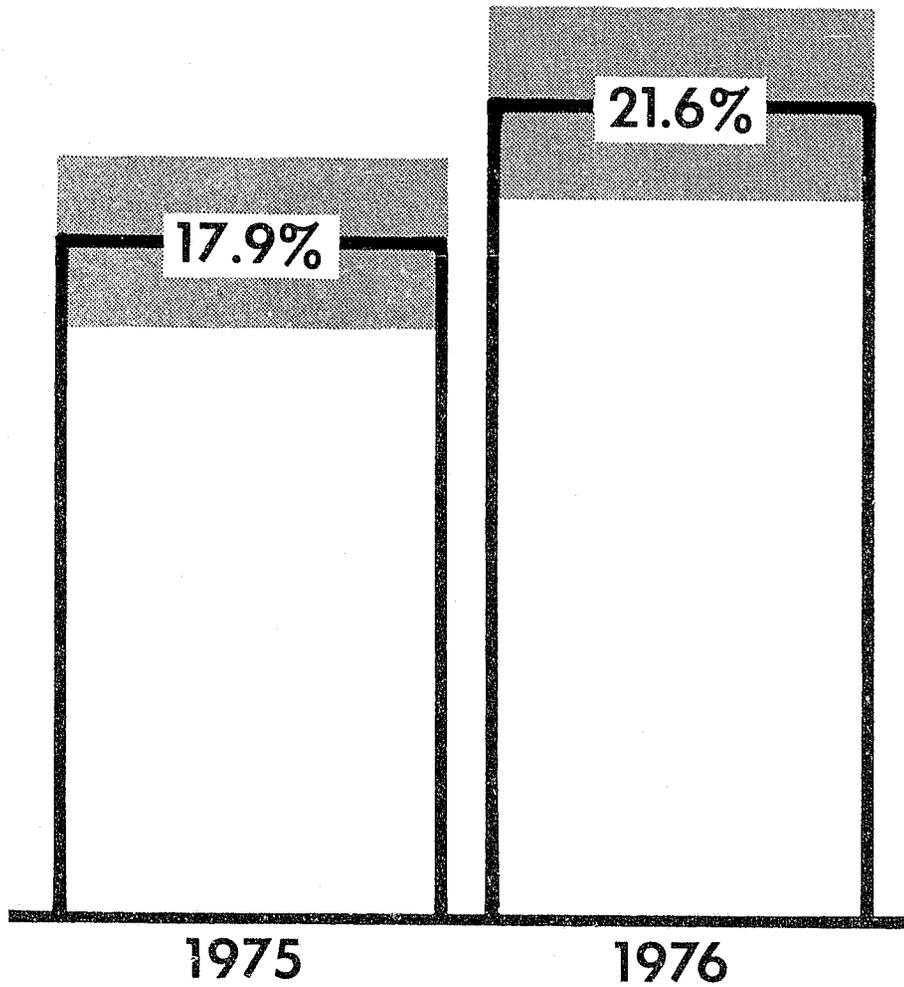
"Victims of Crime" is a study of data collected by the Texas Crime Trend Survey. The source of the data is a scientifically selected random sample of 1000 Texas residents. The sample is drawn from the computerized file of Texas Drivers Licenses operated by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The data were collected in January and February of 1977. This is the 3rd report of this new statistical information system on crime, victims, and criminal justice issues.

The purpose of the Texas Crime Trend Survey is to estimate the change in the level of crime in the state as reported by the public. While other measures of crime are available from police reports, the Crime Trend Survey measures both crimes reported to the police and those crimes not reported. By measuring crime directly from the public the extent of reporting and non-reporting can be determined. Also, the survey of the public permits estimates of public expectations such as the fear of crime, and future expectations of becoming a victim of crime. This information is useful for criminal justice planning, especially when trend data are available to measure changes every year. The crime trend information 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 such as victim restitution and citizen cooperation with the police, prosecution, and courts.

II. RESULTS OF THE 1976 SURVEY

When the results of the 1976 Survey are compared with the 1975 Survey, the findings are that crime as reported by the victims increased from a rate of 17.9% to 21.6%. This means that in 1975, 17.9% of the Texas population over 16 were estimated to be victims of crime. In 1976, the percentage of the Texas population over 16 who were victims of crime increased to 21.6%. This means that roughly 1 out of 5 persons age 16 and over was a victim of crime in 1976. However, a note of caution should be used in interpreting this data. This information is, of course, based on the victims' reporting and cannot account for misunderstandings or property that is lost or misplaced rather than actually stolen. However, one would expect that roughly the same proportion of people would report lost property as stolen in each of these two surveys, and therefore, the error should cancel itself out in the trend, or change, between surveys. The change in the amount of crime as reported by the victims is illustrated in Graph A. The 17.9% and the 21.6% mean that the persons

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM INDEX



95% Confidence Limits

reported that they were a victim of 1 of 7 general types of crime: burglary, rape, robbery, assault with weapon, assault with body, motor vehicle theft (auto, truck, motorcycle), and other types of theft. The answers to these 7 general types of crime were counted up for each person in the sample. Then, the percentage of people who indicated they were victims of crime was used to calculate the 17.9% and the 21.6%. The matching of the sample population with the Texas population is a complicated procedure which is reported in another publication on the Texas Crime Trend Survey.

The data in Graph A illustrate the utility of developing a crime victim index which measures the volume of crime as indicated by the victims. This is a new and unique measure of criminal activity and shows great promise for measuring crime cheaply, effectively, and informatively. The Texas Crime Victim Index is the name of the measure of crime that is based on the data from the Texas Crime Trend Survey. The Texas Crime Victim Index is comparable to the Index of Serious Crime which is used by the FBI and the Department of Public Safety to measure the volume of crime as reported to the city police chiefs and county sheriffs. However, the Texas Crime Victim Index is very different from the Uniform Crime Reports Index of Serious Crime and should not be directly compared. By way of analogy, any comparison of the Crime Victim Index with the Index of Serious Crime would be similar to comparing the temperature to the dewpoint if we were talking about climate. The Texas Crime Victim Index is meant to be an independent indicator or measure of the level of crime activity in the state as viewed by and reported by the people who perceive themselves to be victims of crime. Because the Texas Crime Victim Index is a new measure of crime, it will require some substantial observation over time to determine the reliability and any idiosyncrasies of the measure itself before a high degree of confidence can be placed in the consistency of the victim index.

The shaded areas of Graph A illustrate the accuracy of the measures. The shaded area above and below each percentage is the range of possible error due to sampling. If 100 samples were drawn, 95 samples would fall within the shaded area. Therefore, the shaded area illustrates what is technically referred to as the 95% Confidence Limits around the mean. The size of the shaded area can be reduced by using larger samples, or increased by using smaller samples. For purposes of accuracy narrow confidence limits are desirable.

III. TEXAS VIOLENT CRIME INDEX

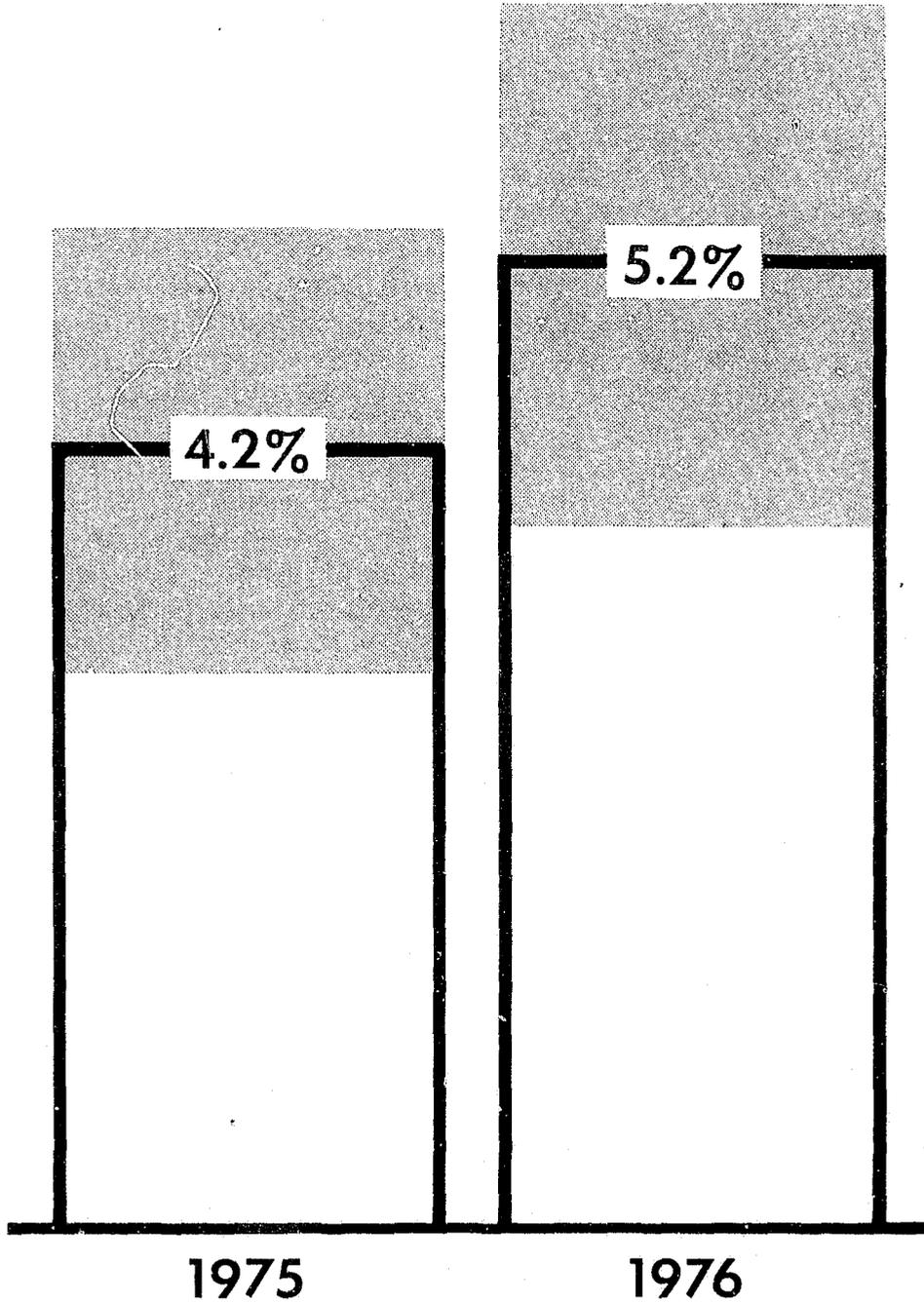
The Texas Crime Victim Index is a measure of all crime examined in the Survey. The overall crime victim index includes both crimes against

property that involve no personal injury or harm and also crimes against the person or violent crimes.

The four crimes in the Survey that deal with violence are: robbery, rape, assault with a weapon, and assault with the body. The sum of these four crimes results in a measure of violent crime. According to the data as illustrated in Graph B, the Texas Violent Crime Index, the amount of violence increased from 4.2% in 1975 to 5.2% in 1976. Therefore, violence as reported by the victims increased almost 24% during the period between 1975 and 1976. Another way of expressing the volume of violent crime would be to state that in 1975 1 out of 24 persons reported being a victim of violence, while in 1976, the proportion increased to 1 out of 19 persons who were victims of violence. The most frequent form of violence reported was assault without a weapon. The least frequent form of violence reported was rape. The volume of rape found in the survey to date indicates that approximately 1 out of every 300 women reports a rape annually. However, because the statistics on this relatively rare crime are very small as compared with, for example the crime of burglary, we do not have much confidence in this rate until the sample size is built up to a larger size. If this 1 per 300 rate holds however, it would indicate that when the rape volume is projected to cover the entire population of women in Texas age 16 and over, that the number of rapes per year would equal approximately 16,000. This figure is considerably higher than the number of rapes that are reported to the police every year which currently runs in the 3,000 to 4,000 range.

The reporting rate of rape to the police is relatively high in the survey, about 60%, but again the figures are too small to have much confidence in them at all. It is expected that the reporting rate of rape would be lower than other crimes because of the strong stigma associated with being a victim of rape. The act of reporting a rape to the police involves embarrassment, public knowledge of the crime, and in some cases less than desirable treatment accorded to rape victims from skeptical investigators. Also, a victim of a traumatic crime such as rape might not want to face the additional emotional demands of the criminal justice system. However, this low reporting rate for rape may be influenced in the future by the development of new centers in large cities which provide rape crisis counseling and treatment assistance. An increase in the reporting rate for rape should lead to better data for law enforcement investigators, and, ultimately, higher arrest and clearance rates for crimes of rape.

TEXAS VIOLENT CRIME VICTIM INDEX



95% Confidence Limits

IV. THE TEXAS PROPERTY CRIME INDEX

The Property Crime Index is a sub-measure of the overall Texas Crime Victim Index. The Property Crime Index is a measure based on the three questions that ask about property crime: burglary, motor vehicle theft (auto, truck, and motorcycle), and any other kind of theft. The responses to these three questions are tallied for each individual to determine whether or not a person is a victim of property crime. The Property Crime Index measures only persons who are victims of property crime and not of violent crime as well. For example, if a person was a victim of a robbery, that is, they were stopped on the street at knife point and a wallet or watch, or both, were taken from them, then they would be classified as a victim of a violent crime because of the threat of violence and force that accompanied the use of a knife. If the person also had a burglary in their home during the same year, as well as the robbery, they would be classified as a victim of violence because of the higher priority placed upon violence in this report. Therefore, the Property Crime Index is a measure of those persons who were victims only of property crime during the time period.

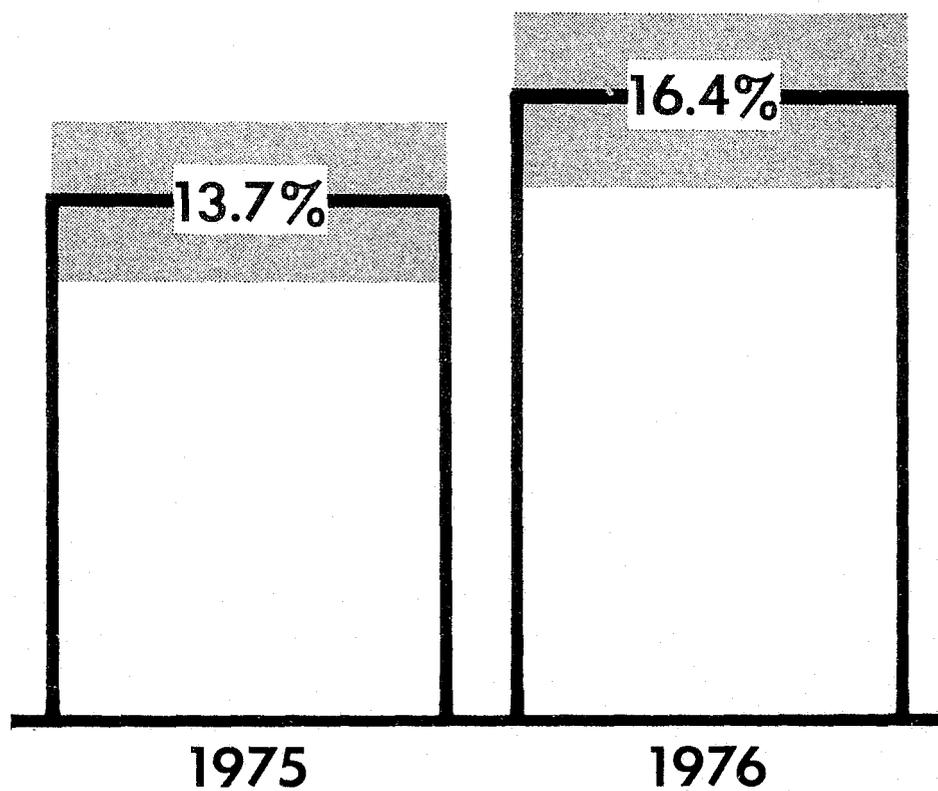
For the year 1975, the percentage of the sample who were victims of property crime was 13.7%. In 1976, the percentage of people in the sample who were victims of property crime increased to 16.4%, as illustrated in Graph C. Therefore, the increase in property crime was almost a 3% increase in the index. Another way of expressing this increase would be that in 1975, 1 person in 7 was a victim of property crime, while in 1976, 1 person in 6 was a victim of property crime. The increase in property crime between the 2 years, 1975 and 1976, was greater than the increase in violent crime. While violent crime increased 1 percentage point on the index, property crime increased almost 3 percentage points on the index. On the other hand, the proportionate increase was about the same. The bulk of the increase in the property crime came from the increases primarily in burglary and secondarily by the increases in theft.

To summarize, both violent crime and property crime increased in 1976. The bulk of the increase in the Texas Crime Victim Index occurred from the increase in property crimes.

V. THE TREND OF CRIME FROM 1975-1976

The Texas Crime Trend Survey has been completed 3 times to date. The initial survey occurred in March of 1976, and covered the entire year of 1975 as well as January and February of 1976. The second Texas

TEXAS PROPERTY CRIME VICTIM INDEX



 95% Confidence Limits

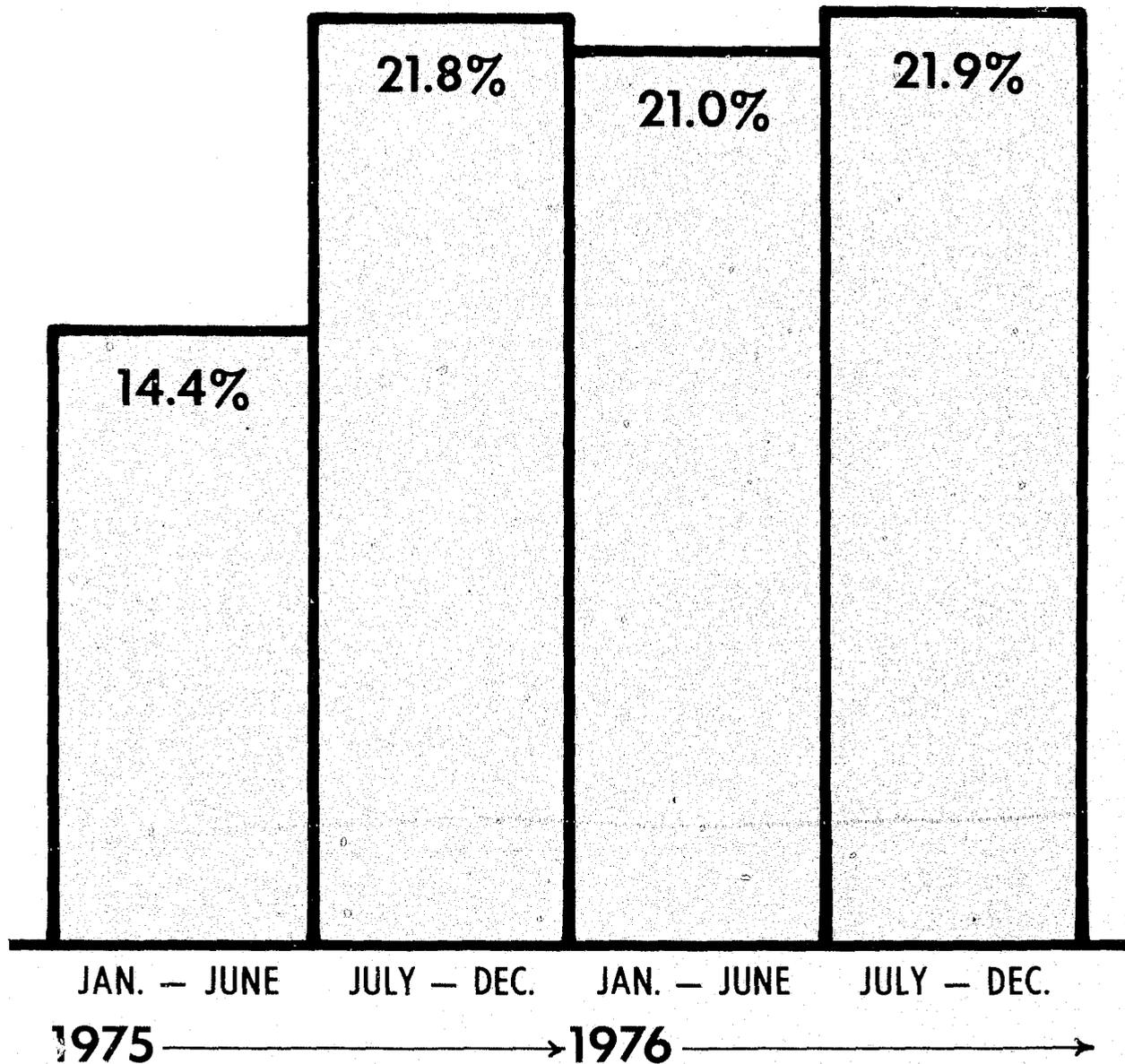
Crime Trend Survey was mailed in July of 1976 and covered the preceding 12-month period from July, 1975, through June, 1976. The first and second surveys contained six months of overlapping time periods, six months in which the same time period was covered by each survey, thereby providing a sample of 2000 for the six-month overlap period. The third Texas Crime Trend Survey was mailed in January of 1977 and covered the entire year of 1976. The results of the three surveys can be plotted on a graph which includes the mid-year survey overlapping both the 1975 and the 1976 survey. In Graph D, the trend of the three surveys is illustrated.

The trend of the three surveys shows an increase in crime over the two year period. In the first six months of 1975 the crime trend index was 14.4%. However, since then the crime index has ranged between 21% and 22%. The result of this trend indicates that 1) crime increased in the latter half of 1975, and 2) crime appears to be stabilizing or leveling off. For example, for July to December of 1975, we have a 21.8% victim index and July to December of 1976, we have 21.9% index, an increase of only 1/10th of 1 percentage point. Therefore, it appears upon preliminary observation, that crime is leveling off even though the increase of 1976 is above the 1975 level. However, the 1976 figure for the last six months of 1976 is based on a sample of 1000 rather than on overlapping samples which boost the sample size to 2000, and thereby improve the accuracy of the statistics. Therefore, to be sure about the trends we will need at least one more year of data with overlapping samples to see if this trend stabilizes or fluctuates. The anomaly in this trend is the low percentage for 1975 in the first six months. It is possible that this low percentage in 1975 is due to memory or recall problems of the respondents, as the time period covered in the first survey was 14 months rather than 12 months as in the subsequent two surveys.

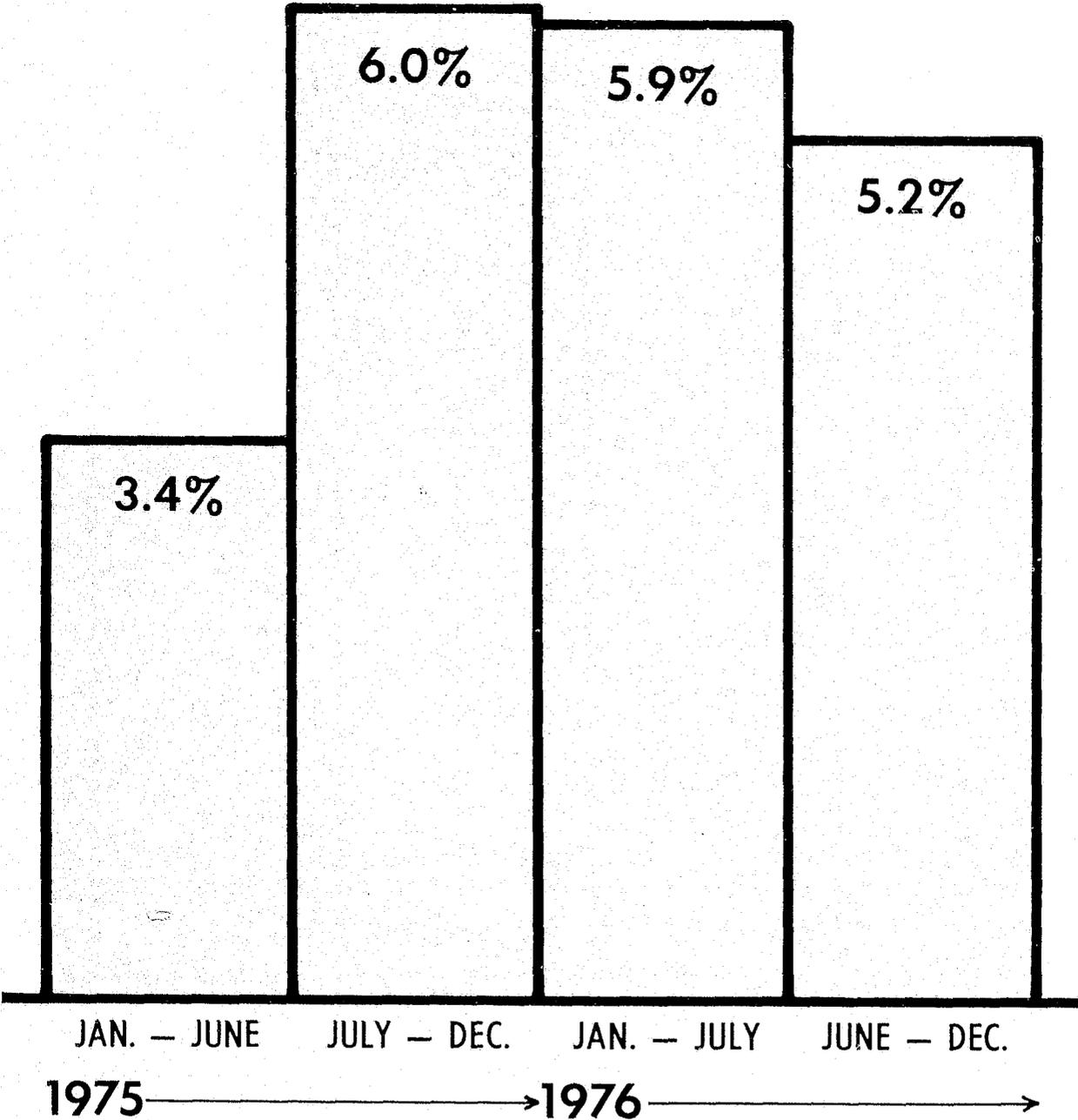
The only way to overcome this kind of data collection problem is to insure that the future surveys are conducted at the end of the 12-month period rather than with the 2 to 3 month lag. However, future surveys should provide enough data to insure that these trends will be accurate.

In Graph E, the trend of violence based on the data from three surveys is displayed. The basic trend appears to be an increase in the latter half of 1975 followed by a decreasing trend that carried through 1976. In the first six months of the two year period under observation, the violence index stood at 3.4%. It then increased to 6.0% before beginning a decline to 5.9% and 5.2% in successive six-month periods. However, the same caution must be observed in interpreting this data as the first and last six months segments are based on samples of 1000 rather than the more accurate samples of 2000. Again, more data will have to be

CRIME VICTIM INDEX TREND



VIOLENCE VICTIM INDEX TREND



collected to accurately pinpoint the trend in violence.

In general, the violence for the year was up for 1976 considerably from 1975. However, it may be that violence has peaked and is now beginning to decrease. Future surveys will be able to provide us with this information.

The trend of property crime in the 2-year period shows a steady increase from 11% in the first six months of 1975 to over 15% for the next 12 months and peaking at 16.7% for the last six months of 1976. Therefore, property crime seems to be increasing at a steady rate according to the data in Graph F. The same caution that applies to the other two trends also applies to property crime and more data will be required to make solid conclusions.

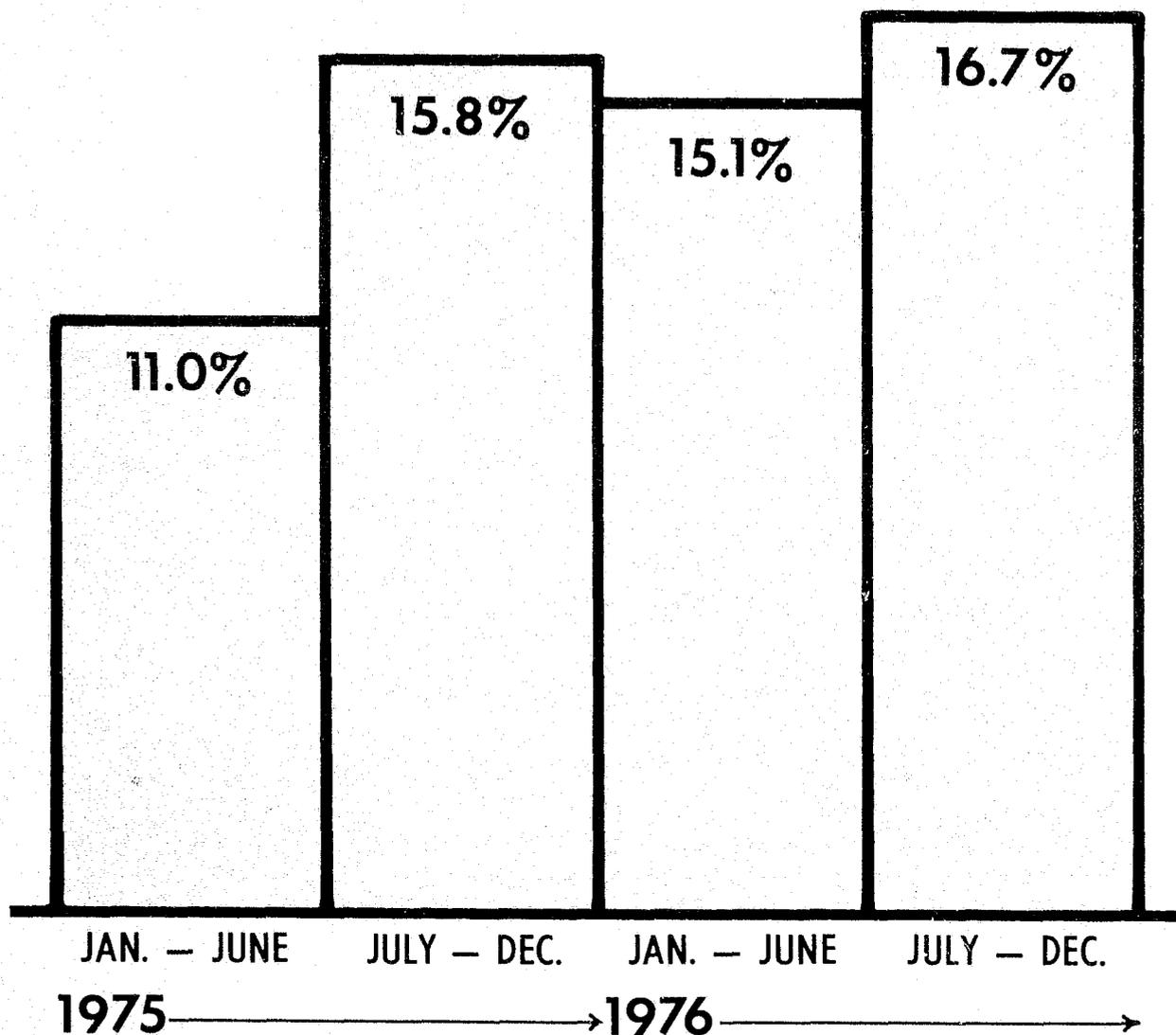
VI. THE REPORTING AND NON-REPORTING OF CRIME

The reporting of crime events to the police changed from 1975 to 1976. The percentages of victims who report crimes to the police increased for the crime of burglary. In 1975, 47% of the victims of burglary reported the crime to the police. In 1976, the percentage of victims of burglary who reported the crime to the police increased to 66%. This data is based on those persons who indicated they were victims of one crime only. The violent crimes were reported at a higher rate in 1976 also. The percentage of victims of either robbery, assault with weapon, or assault with body who reported the crime to the police in 1975 was 43%. In 1976, the percentage of victims of violence who reported the crime to the police increased to 50%. The crime of rape was not included in this analysis because it is treated in a separate section of this report.

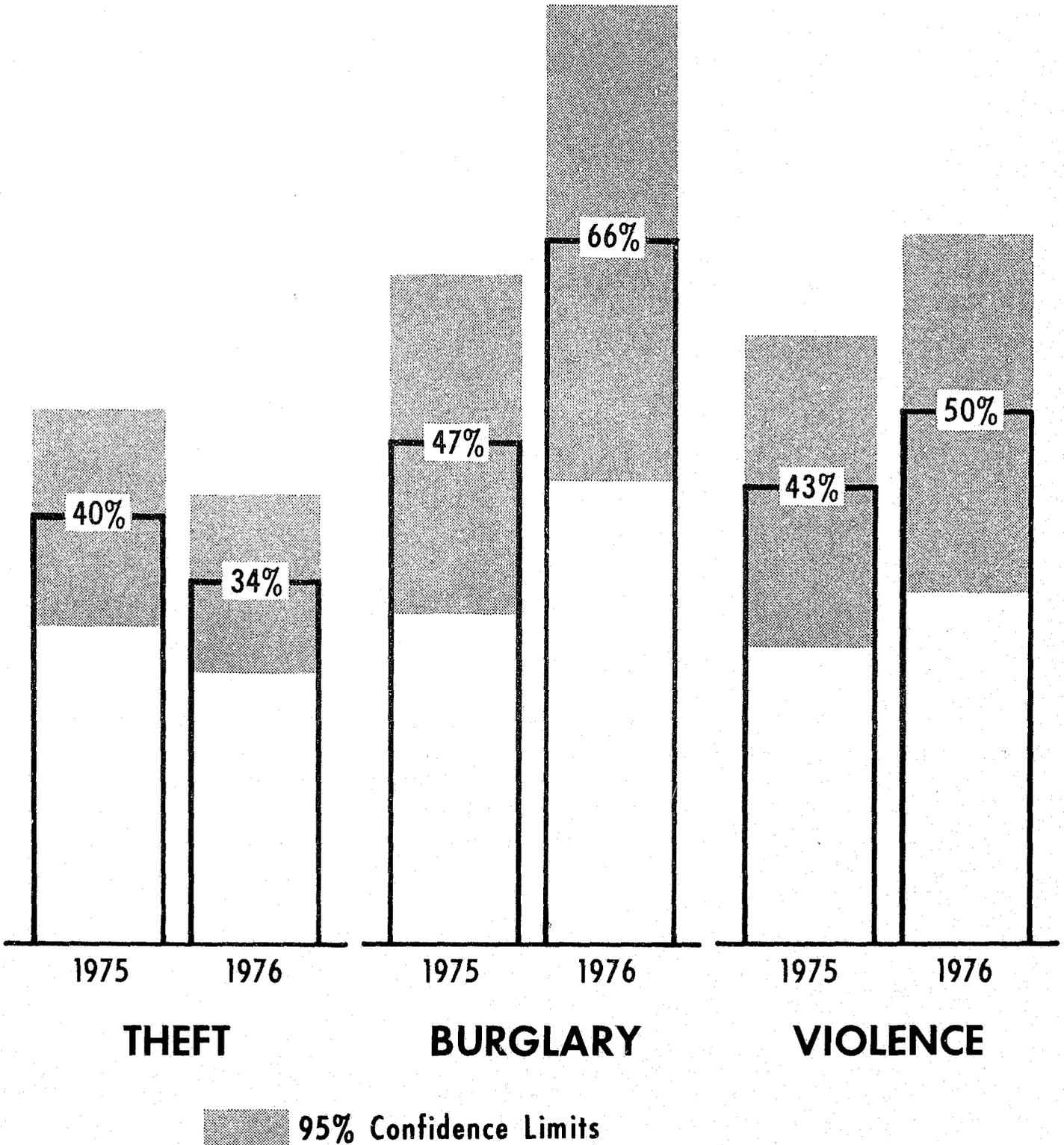
The area of theft changed from 40% reporting rate in 1975 to 34% in 1976. The drop in the reporting of theft is noteworthy primarily because theft is the most frequent or commonly occurring crime that is reported in the survey. Most victims of crime in the survey are victims of theft. Therefore, the crime of theft has a powerful effect on both measures of crime, the survey victim index, and the crime rate that is reported by police agencies in the Uniform Crime Reports. Because theft is by far the most frequent crime of the seven crime types in the survey, changes in theft can greatly influence the total sum of the seven crimes. The data for the reporting rates are illustrated in Graph G, Reporting of Crime to the Police.

The reasons for not reporting a crime to the police vary by crime type. Generally, the most frequent reason cited by victims for not reporting a crime is that the crime "was not important enough." The second most frequent reason was that "it was useless to report as

PROPERTY VICTIM INDEX TREND



PERCENT REPORTING CRIME TO POLICE

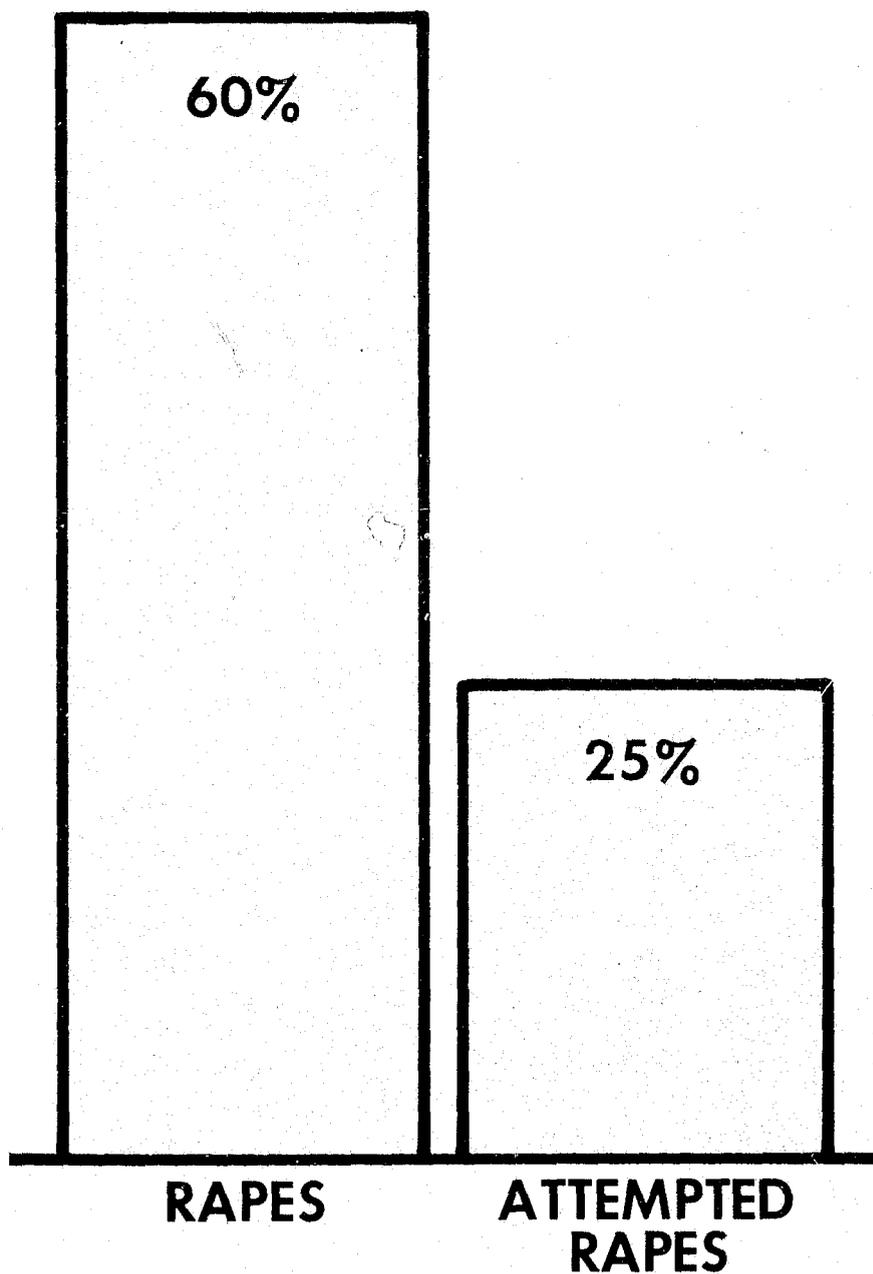


nothing could be done about it." Therefore, the fact that not all crime is reported does not mean that reported crime is the proverbial tip of the iceberg. The data suggest that the crime reported is the more serious of the total. When reporting is analyzed by dollar loss, as the value lost increases, so does the percentage reporting it to the police. Therefore, the data from this Survey indicate the bulk of serious crime is reported to the police. There are exceptions to this general trend, such as the large percentage of unreported rapes and the crimes committed by criminals against each other, such as robbery during an illegal drug transaction. The survey data collected directly from victims support the police statistics on crime.

VII. THE CRIME OF RAPE

The crime of rape is of special interest in the survey because rape is one of the crimes that is frequently cited as a crime that is unlikely to be reported to the police. The reasons for the expected higher rate of non-reporting of rape to the police include the embarrassment and stigma attached to being a victim of the crime, and also the trauma of investigation by police, prosecution and defense attorneys. To date, the collection of rape cases has been minimal in terms of the scope of the survey. Our preliminary estimates as illustrated in Graph H indicate that 60% of the completed rapes are reported. However, because the cases are small in number this figure is preliminary and could vary considerably. The annual rate of rape that is indicated to date equals approximately 1 rape per 300 women age 16 and over. This rate is higher than police statistics indicate. For example, if the rape rate to date were projected for the entire population of adult women in Texas the total number of rapes per year would equal 16,000. This 16,000 figure is relatively high when compared to the official police figures of approximately 3,500 rapes (includes attempted rapes) in Texas per year. Now, when we look at attempted rape the figures are even higher. The attempted rape figures would indicate that an additional 45,000 cases per year are attempted rape cases. Therefore, when the combined number of rapes and attempted rapes is projected for the total population, the indications are approximately 1 out of every 75 women is subject to either rape or attempted rape every year. Because the crime of rape is a relatively rare event and because the sample size of the Texas Crime Trend Survey is relatively small, these figures must be treated with caution until the sample size is developed to provide enough data with a high degree of confidence in the projections. The recent developments in the area of rape counseling and rape crisis centers should both improve the reporting rate of rape

PERCENT OF RAPES REPORTED TO POLICE



and also lead to more accurate data in this area of violence. Almost half of the victims of rape and attempted rape reported some psychological effects from the crime. The reasons for the lack of reporting the crime ranged from feelings that it was useless to report the crime to embarrassment about reporting the crime.

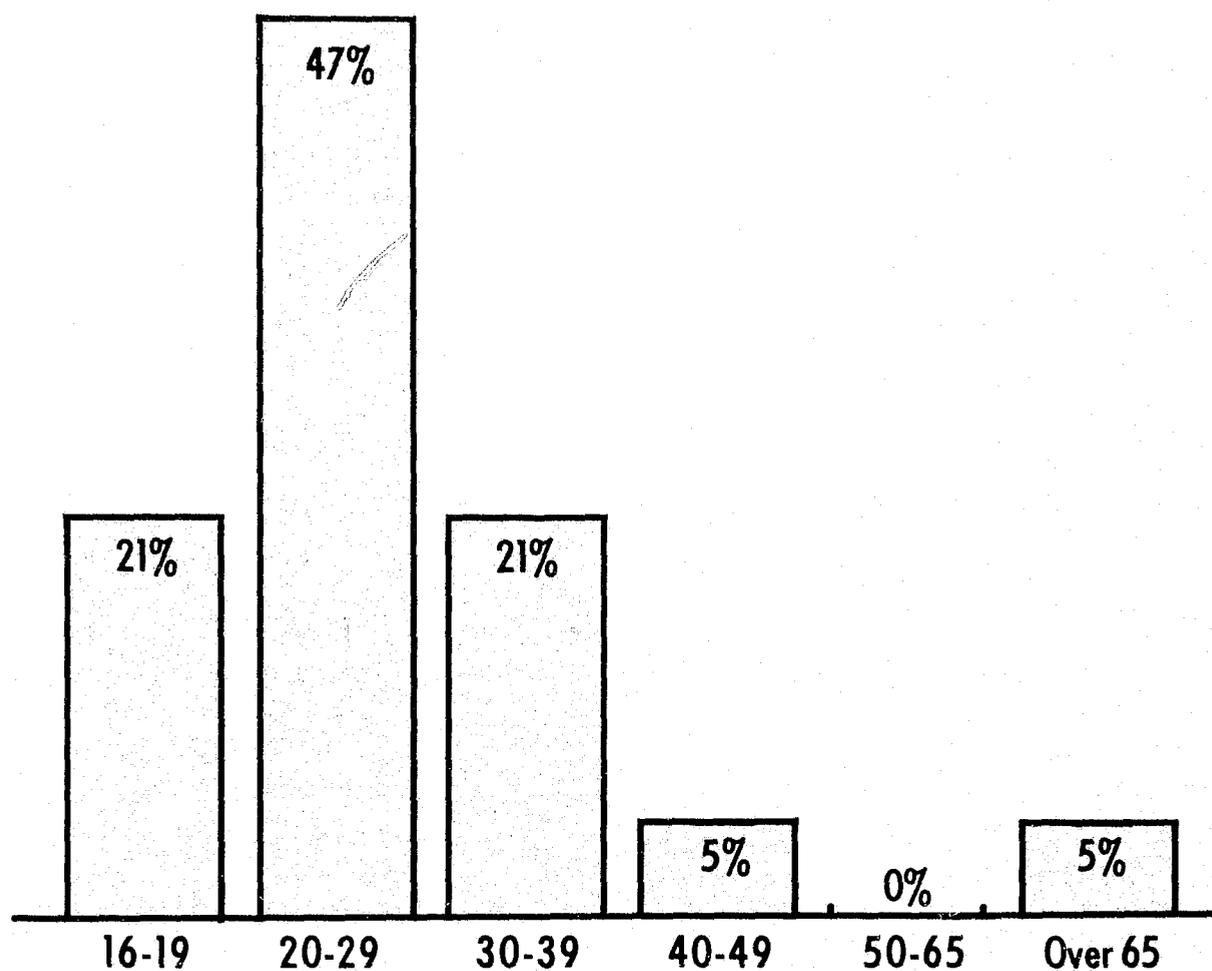
An analysis of the survey data indicate the most frequent age group that were victims of the crime of rape was the 20 to 22 year age bracket. When more cases of rape are accumulated in the Texas Crime Trend Survey data base, then more sophisticated and detailed analyses of the data will be available. According to the data in Graph I, Rape Victims By Age, the victims are generally young. The prime age group for rape is the 20-22 year old. However, the occurrence of rape includes all ages in the sample, from 16 to over 65.

These data in the Texas Crime Trend Survey have been compared to the national data on crime victims, Criminal Victimization in the United States, which is referred to in the Bibliography. Generally, the trends and patterns in the Texas data are similar to the national data, and this pattern similarity between the two sets of data supports the validity of the Texas data. However, much is still unknown, especially with regard to rape and sexual abuse of children under 16 who are not part of the Texas sample because they lack a drivers license.

VIII. THE COST OF CRIME

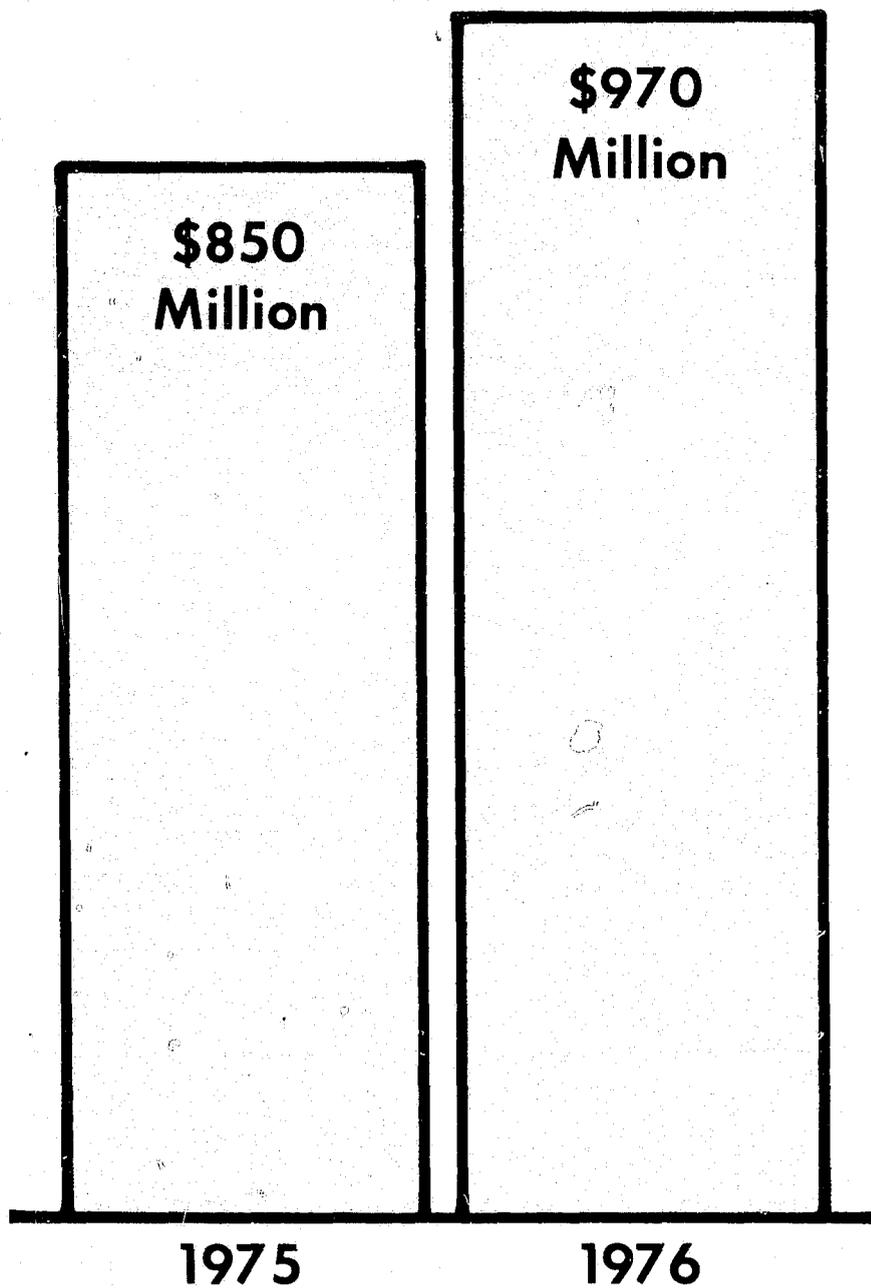
The financial losses from the types of crime that were surveyed amounted to \$970,000,000 in Texas for 1976. The losses from crime increased substantially over the 1975 losses. In 1975 the losses from the crimes surveyed amounted to \$850,000,000. The amounts are displayed in Graph J, Losses From Crime. This loss is limited to basically the property loss from crime and does not include the additional losses from medical expenses nor does it include the intangible losses such as increased fear or discomfort in places where one normally felt secure. For example, after a burglary residents may no longer feel safe in their homes and may invest considerable sums in trying to make their houses more secure. The personal sense of insecurity of course can not be directly measured. When the losses from crime are computed for the average adult Texan the amount equals \$109 per person in 1976 as illustrated in Graph K. The \$109 per person figure is an increase over the \$98 per person loss in 1975. Therefore, the loss from crime increased at a faster rate than inflation, which was estimated to be in the 5 to 6 percent range for 1976.

RAPE VICTIMS BY AGE

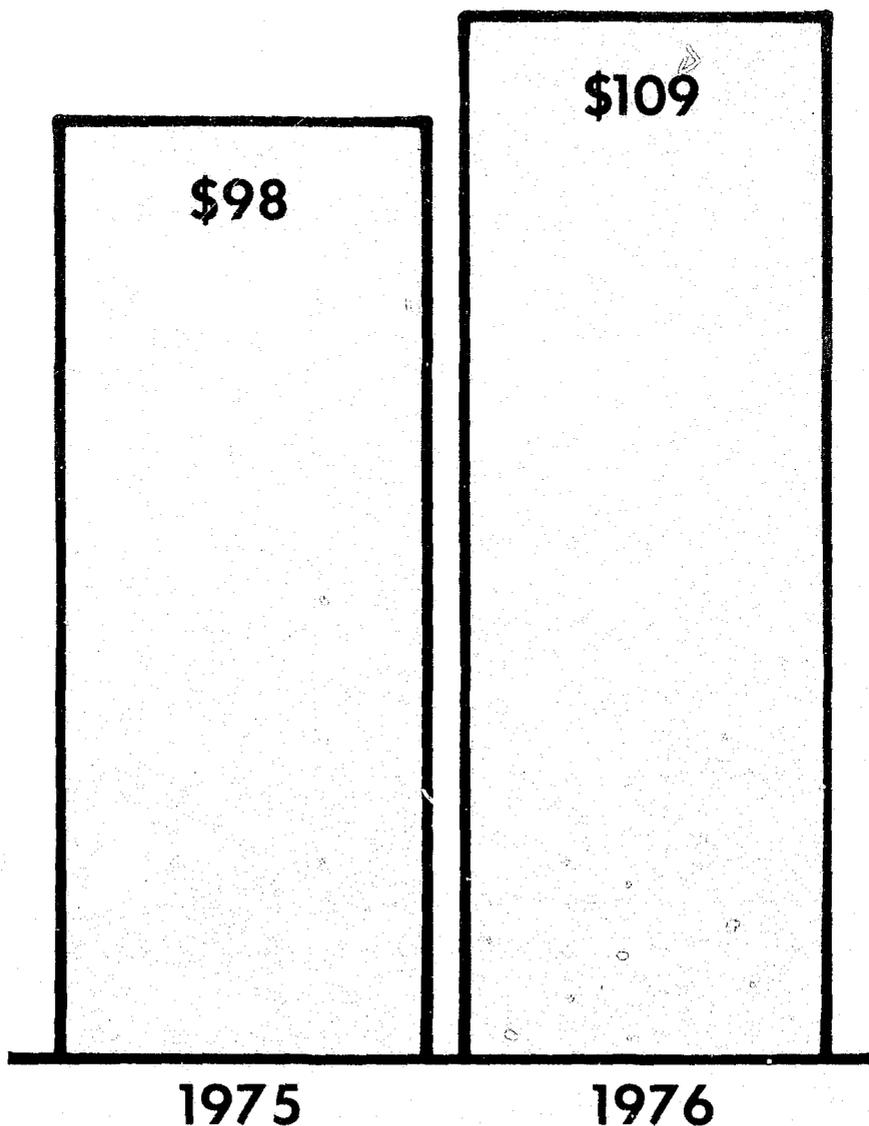


Most frequent Age of Victim = 21

PROPERTY LOSS FROM CRIME



PROPERTY LOSS PER ADULT TEXAN



IX. FEAR OF CRIME

The fear of crime or the expectation of future crime as measured by the Survey increased from 1975 to 1976. According to the data in Graph L, the percentage of crime victims who expected a crime in the next year increased from 31% in 1975 to 33% in 1976. This change is slight and is down from the mid-year high of 39%. Therefore, the trend in the expectation of crime may have peaked.

The range is from 31% in 1975 to 39% in the mid-year 1975-1976 Survey, and 33% in 1976. The proportion of the sample who are not victims of crime increased from just under 12% in 1975 to almost 14% in 1976. Therefore the overall trend of expectation of future crime is still up or increasing. However, it may be that the fear or expectation of crime has reached a peak and may level off in the future. Again, data from future surveys will be necessary to verify this potential trend.

X. CITY SIZE AND THE TREND OF VIOLENCE

Violence is closely associated with city size as illustrated by the data in Graph M. As the size of the city increases the level of violence increases. The lowest rates of violence are found in rural areas and small cities of less than 5,000 people. The highest rates of violence are found in the cities over 500,000 population. Texas has three cities with over 500,000 population, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio.

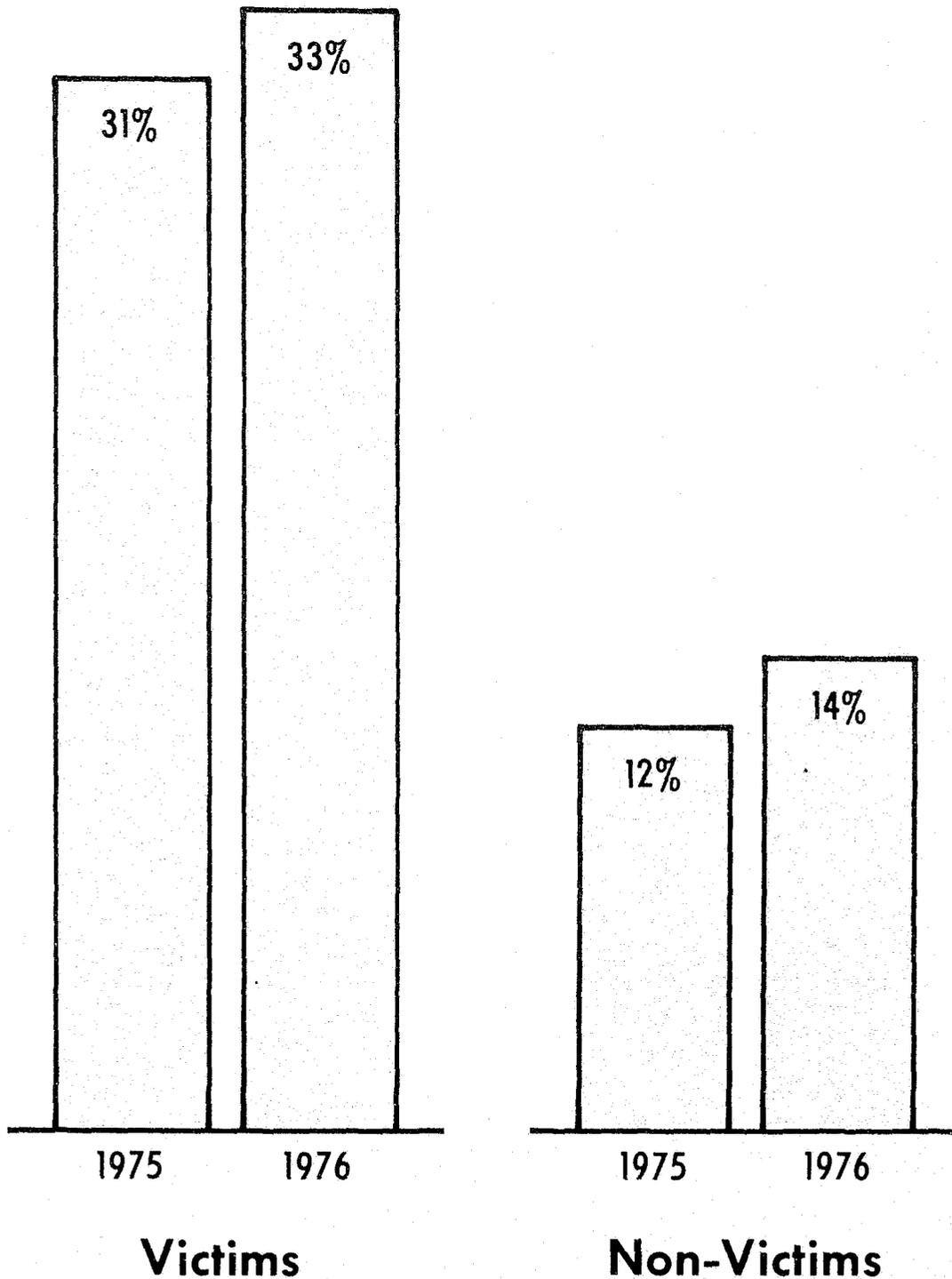
The trend of violence varies by city size. In the largest city, which is Houston with a population over 1,000,000, the violence rate increased from 11.3% to 11.9% of the population. Generally, changes in the level of violent crime occurred as increases in cities over 100,000 population, and decreases in areas with less than 100,000 population. The trend in violence appears to be increasing in the big cities.

XI. INTERPRETATION OF THE RESULTS

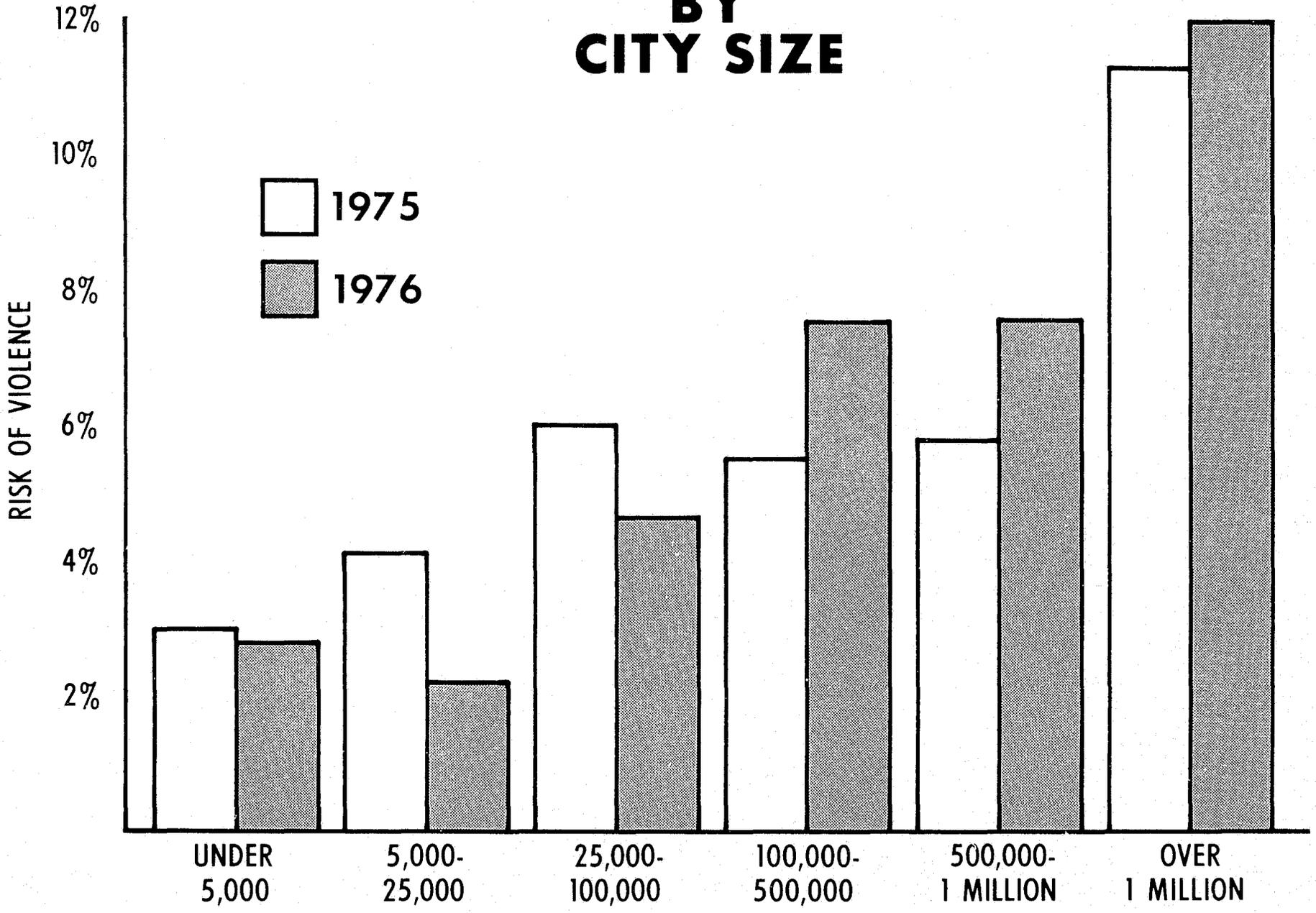
The results of the 1976 Texas Crime Trend Survey indicate an increase in crime. The percentage of the public who were victims of crime increased in 1976 over the level reported in 1975. The bulk of the increase in crime was property crime, although both violent and property crime increased. The Survey found that the fear of crime increased slightly, and also that the reporting rate of burglary and violence to the police increased. However, large samples will be necessary in future surveys to accurately detect changes in reporting rates.

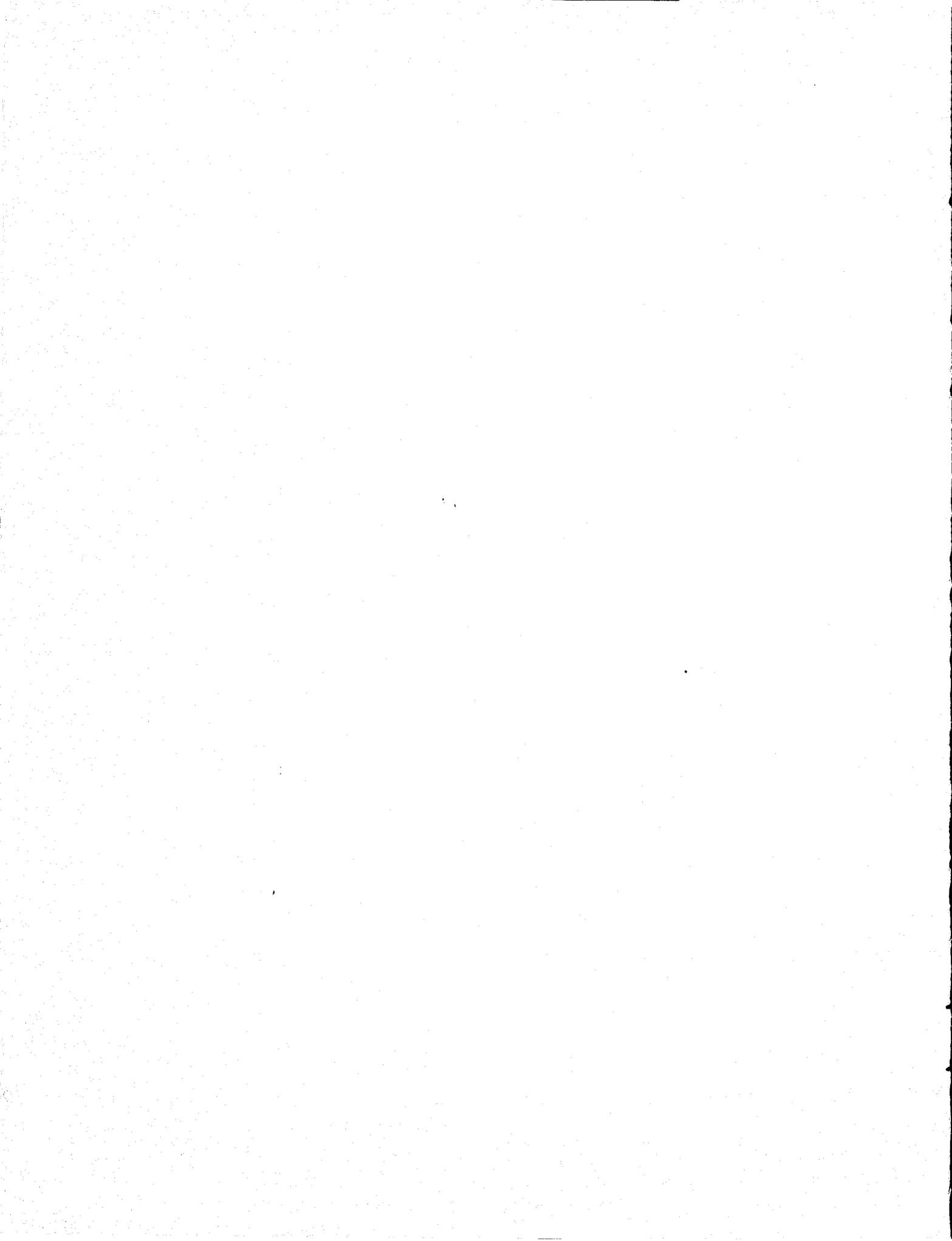
While crime levels increased in Texas in 1976, the state is still a

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



VIOLENT CRIME RISK BY CITY SIZE





relatively safe state compared to other states. In the latest year for which comparative data are available, Texas ranked 17th nationally in the crime rate reported by the FBI's statistics. A ranking of 17th place for a state that is now the 3rd largest in population size is indeed a good sign. However, the trend is toward an increase in crime, as Texas ranked 21st nationally in 1974. Therefore, while the crime rate is relatively low now, it is expected to increase in the near future unless concerted action is taken to reverse the trend.

Public concern about crime remains at a high level as indicated by the comments and letters from the people who were surveyed. Also, the response rate to the 1976 survey increased slightly over the 1975 level, from 84.4% to 85.6%, and this excellent public response is an indication of the importance of the crime problem to the people of Texas. This report is an effort to communicate this crime experience and views of the people surveyed to the public officials whose actions can improve the functioning of the people and organizations who participate in the criminal justice system.

APPENDIX A

Written Comments From People Surveyed

I am pleased that the Texas Department of Public Safety is attempting to understand and prevent crimes in Texas. I will be interested in the results of this survey.

Fort Worth

Since you have asked me, I will put my two cents in as what I feel causes so much crime - one word "DOPE".

Belton

My husband was a victim of an attempted robbery. Due to this he was shot with a shotgun and has lost part of the use of his left arm. The Police have never caught the 2 suspects, nor will they ever, I'm sure. I'm all for some kind of crime control.

Houston

There are numerous common sense precautions one can take to reduce the risk of exposure to crime. Crime will continue to increase so long as the majority of the public expects government agencies to assume total responsibility for its reduction.

Dallas

What we need is less bleeding hearts and more easily understood, unchangeable, non-varying, hard-nosed laws and stiff penalties for all offenders.

People need to face the fact that they are responsible for their own actions and have to pay for the choices they make.

Lubbock

I was not a victim of a crime recently. I was molested as a teenager by a teenager which resulted in pregnancy. I was married and the child was adopted by my husband. I developed emotional problems and could have probably needed psychological help, but did without.

Newton County

I believe an excellent police force and full support from their community is the only answer or rather one of the main answers to crime.

Denton

Thanks for letting me make those comments, I feel better all ready.

Snyder

APPENDIX B

The Sample

The information contained in this report is based on 2 samples of survey data. The data were collected in March, 1976 and again in January, 1977. Both samples were randomly selected from the Texas Drivers License file. The age of the respondents was 16 and older. Each person in the sample was contacted by mail with three follow-ups and a final telephone follow-up. The response rate to the survey was very high, averaging 85% for each survey that was conducted during 1975 and 1976. The excellent response rate, which is an indication of the cooperation and interest of the citizens who participated in this sample survey, helps to overcome the possibility of some bias in the sample because having a drivers license is necessary to be sampled. The driving public in Texas represent approximately 85 to 90% of all adults in Texas. Therefore, only a small percentage of the public is eliminated from the sample because they do not have a drivers license. However, because the response rate is so high and correction factors are developed for those who refuse to cooperate with the survey the confidence in the results presented is also high.

The sample of respondents to the Texas Crime Trend Survey is selected randomly from the Texas Drivers License file which is a computerized file maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The procedure by which the sample is selected is technically known as a systematic random sample. The term systematic refers to the fact that each case selected for the sample represents 1 out of 8,750 Texas licensed drivers. While the logic of sampling may indicate that 1 out of every 8000 or 9000 Texans is a small sample, the use of scientific methodology and statistical probability theory can assist in the interpretation of the results so that the accuracy and the error are both known and calculable. Approximately 85% of all respondents in each survey cooperate to the extent of returning a completed questionnaire booklet with 39 questions that was mailed to each person in the survey.

For those people who refused to return a booklet, a follow-up telephone call is placed to them in an effort to learn whether or not they were victims of crime in the past year and also, if the crime was reported to the police. The telephone follow-up information is used to estimate the non-response effects in the survey sample. Therefore, the thorough and complete accounting of all respondents in the sample leads to a relatively accurate and complete measurement of the crime experience of a sample of Texas Drivers. This information can then be confidently used to project

and estimate the experience for the state population as a whole. Because the sample survey is relatively new and still in the developing phases, however, the reader is urged to use caution in interpreting the statements and conclusions contained in this report.

More sampling and continued testing and experimentation with survey results will lead to a more refined and fully developed sample survey method of collecting crime and victim information. The advantage to collecting crime and victim information by sample survey and especially by mail survey, is the very low cost of this methodology. The labor costs of collecting this information are transferred primarily to the public. The excellent participation by the public is the main factor in keeping the cost of this data collection to a minimum. The estimated cost of collecting a completed booklet of information is \$3 per person. This cost compares very favorably with both telephone sampling which has been estimated at \$25 to \$30 per person, and also with the more expensive face to face interview, which runs as high and over \$100 per person.¹ Therefore, the sample survey by mail is a very promising development in the collection of crime and victim information as it is extremely cost effective. Details of the sampling procedure can be found in earlier publications on the Texas Crime Trend Survey listed in the bibliography.

1. See Reference number 6 in Bibliography.

APPENDIX C

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.

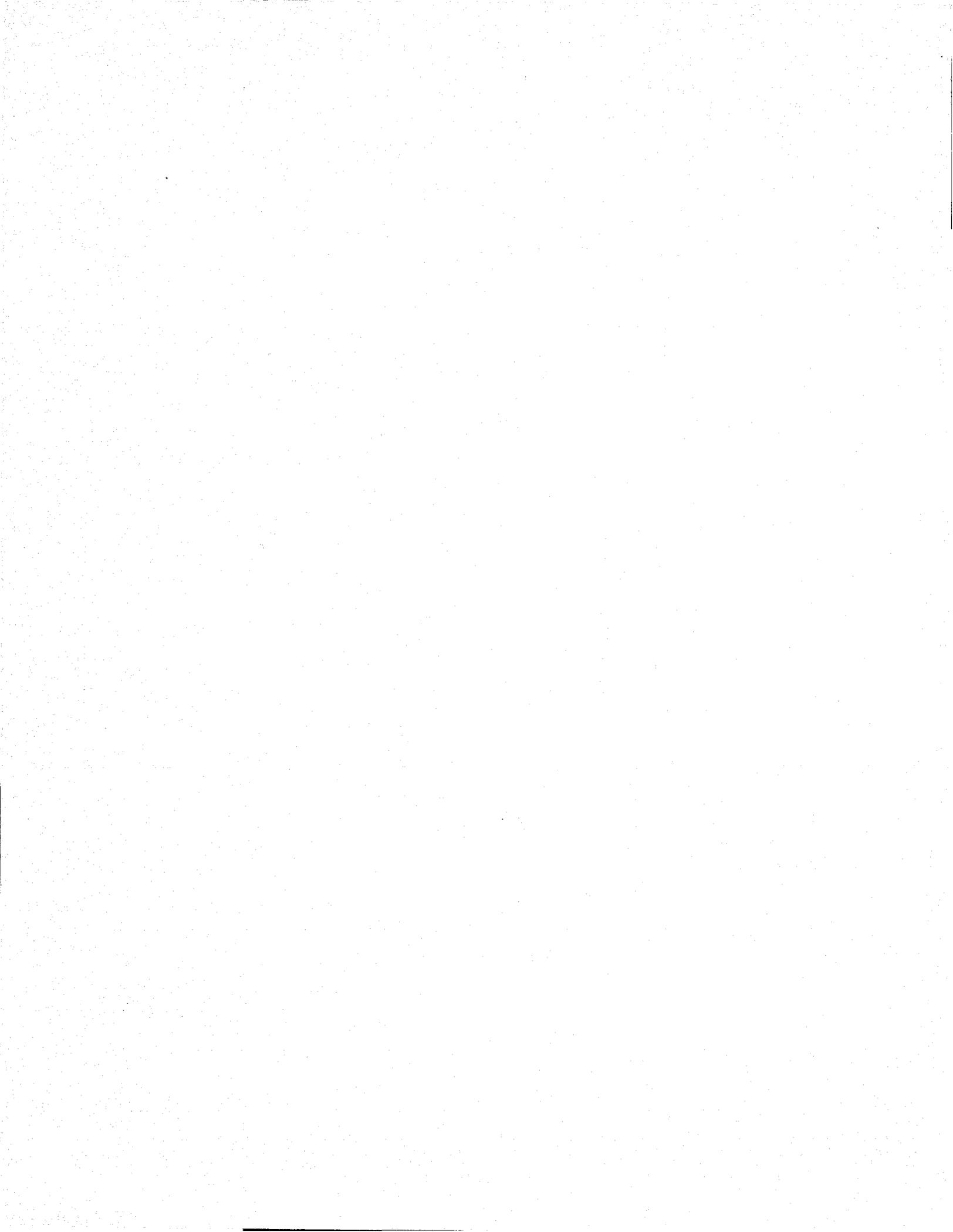
- 1) Sample Survey as opposed to agency reporting system. The Texas Crime Trend Survey is based on a sample of the general public. The UCR is based on reports from cooperating Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs.
- 2) New Method vs Traditional Method. The Survey is a new method of collecting crime data, and 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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Biderman, Albert D., Surveys of Population Samples for Estimating Crime Incidence. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 374 (1967). pp. 16-33.
2. Dillman, Don A., Christenson, James A., Carpenter, Edwin H., Brooks, Ralph M., Increasing Mail Questionnaire Response: A Four State Comparison. *American Sociological Review*, October, 1974. pp. 744-756.
3. National Academy of Sciences (Panel for the Evaluation of Crime Surveys) *Surveying Crime*. Washington, D.C. 1976.
4. St. Louis, Alfred, *Victim Reports of Crime: The 1975-76 Texas Crime Trend Survey*. Statistical Analysis Center, Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, Texas. April, 1977.
5. Texas Department of Public Safety, *Crime In Texas*, 1976.
6. Tuchfarber, Alfred and Klecka, William R., *Random Digit Dialing: Lowering The Cost of Victimization Surveys*, The Police Foundation, 1976.
7. U. S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reports, Crime In The United States 1975*, August, 1976.
8. U. S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, *Criminal Victimization in the United States - A Comparison of 1974 and 1975 Findings*. February, 1977.



END