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Wanted By the FBI



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The Cover The FBI Laboratory marks its 50th year of distinguished scientific assistance to law enforcement, as noted in the Director's Message on

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William H. Webster, Director

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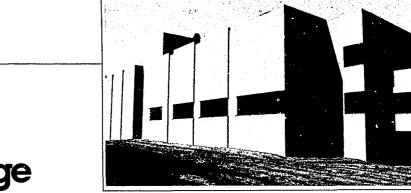
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## Director's Message

In 1932, 50 years ago this month, the FBI Laboratory was established with one examiner and one microscope. Today, the Laboratory has grown to 119 Special Agents, 309 support personnel, and an equipment inventory of \$12.5 million. From a beginning of 963 forensic science examinations in 1934 (the first year statistics were maintained), the Laboratory conducted more than 51,000 examinations in 1942, and has about doubled this number every decade, reaching more than 910,000 examinations the past fiscal year.

FBI Laboratory services, including both examinations and testimony in support of the findings, are available without cost to Federal agencies and military tribunals in criminal and civil matters and to all State, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies in this country in connection with criminal cases.

As the value of forensic science became apparent to the law enforcement community, larger police departments established local crime laboratories. The number of these laboratories was rapidly expanded in the past decade and a half as a result of funding provided by the "Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968." Then, in 1973, individual State and local crime laboratory directors requested the FBI to take a more direct and active role in the areas of training and research. In 1974, the FBI began offering specialized scientific courses for State and local crime laboratory personnel at the FBI Academy. In fiscal 1981, more than 1,300 personnel were thus trained.

The need for forensic science research was recognized by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors in their recommendation for a laboratory building at the FBI Academy for this purpose. In June 1981, this building was dedicated, with 7,000 square feet of its space devoted to research facilities used by a permanent FBI Laboratory research staff, research personnel representing academic institutions, and others from specialized areas of forensic science. The Forensic Science Research and Training Center has as research goals: (1) To develop new and reliable methods in forensic science, (2) to develop new methods to overcome problems in forensic science, and (3) to apply current technology to forensic science. This training and research, given proper funding and support, can assist the Nation's criminal justice system by improving the competency of crime laboratory personnel and reducing State and local law enforcement reliance on Federal laboratories for routine case

From a beginning devoted to proving the worth of forensic science analysis to both the public and the police profession, the FBI Laboratory has moved on to research and training. This has been a vindication of both the worth of forensic science and our system of service to local government.

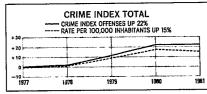
These achievements make our anniversary an occasion for translating pride into rededication.

> Director November 1, 1982

William H Who

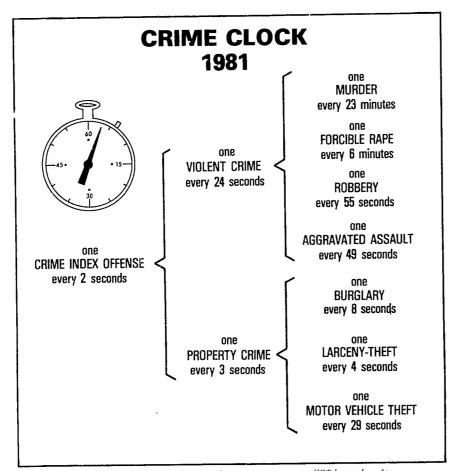
## Crime in the **United States Stabilizes**

Final 1981 Crime Index figures compiled by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program revealed that the estimated total of more than 13 million serious crimes reported in the United States remained virtually unchanged from the 1980 total. However, these figures represent a 22-percent increase from 1977 and a 61-percent increase from 1972. Over 15,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies, covering approximately 97 percent of the Nation's population, were involved in the collection of data.



### **Crime Distribution**

Geographically, the Southern States, the Nation's most populous region, recorded 32 percent of all Crime Index offenses. The Western States followed with 24 percent; the North Central States, 23 percent; and the Northeastern States, 21 percent. If regional figures for 1980 and 1981 are compared, the Southern States recorded a 1-percent increase, while the Western States showed no change and the Northeastern and North Central States each recorded a 1-percent decline.



The crime clock should be viewed with care. Being the most aggregate representation of UCR data, it is designed to convey the annual reported crime experience by showing the relative frequency of occurrence of the Index Offenses.

This mode of display should not be taken to imply a regularity in the commission of the Part I Offenses: rather, it

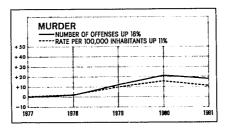
Serious crime in the Nation's cities showed virtually no change in 1981 from 1980. However, crime in suburban areas declined by 1 percent, and the rural counties registered a 2-per-

The total number of 1981 Index offenses averaged 5.800 per 100,000 inhabitants. While this rate, which relates crime to population was down 2 percent from 1980, it signified a 15-percent increase over 1977 and a robbery, rape, etc. As was the case in 46-percent increase over 1972.

#### **Violent Crimes**

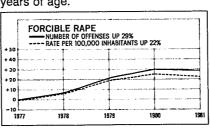
The violent crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, which rose 1 percent from 1980 to 1981, accounted for 10 percent of all Crime Index orfenses reported. The violent crime rate was 577 per 100,000 inhabitants, 1 percent lower than in 1980.

MURDER-During 1981, 22,500 murders were reported nationwide, a decrease of 2 percent from the 1980 level. Of the murder victims, 77 percent were males and 54 percent were white. In 55 percent of the cases, victims were slain by a relative or acquaintance. Forty-two percent of the murders occurred as a result of an argument. while 17 percent took place in conjunction with felonious activities such as 1980, firearms were the dominant weapons used to commit this crime.

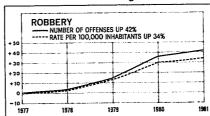


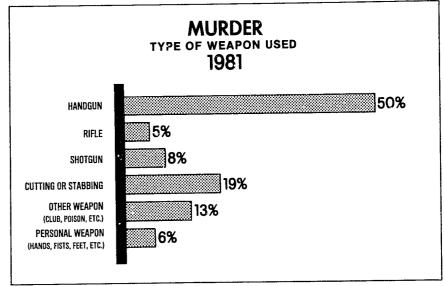
Handguns were used in 50 percent of the murders, shotguns in 8 percent, and rifles in 5 percent.

FORCIBLE RAPE—The volume of forcible rapes reported to law enforcement agencies fell 1 percent in 1981 from 1980. Of the more than 81,500 offenses reported, 76 percent were rapes by force; the remainder were attempts or assaults to rape. An estimated 69 of every 100,000 women were victims of this crime nationwide. More than half of those arrested for rape (52 percent) were males under 25 vears of age.

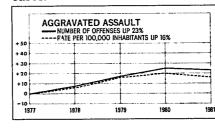


ROBBERY-Over 574,000 robberies occurred in 1981, representing a 5-percent increase from the previous year. Losses to victims were estimated at \$382 million or \$665 per incident. Seven of every 10 robberies took place in cities with populations over 100,000, and 52 percent were committed on the streets and highways. The perpetrators used firearms in 40 percent of the robberies, strong-arm tactics in 38 percent, knives or cutting instruments in 13 percent, and other dangerous weapons in the remainder. Nearly 3 of every 4 persons arrested for this offense were under the age of 25.





AGGRAVATED ASSAULT—A total of 643,720 aggravated assaults occurred in 1981, a 2-percent drop from 1980. Of all the offenses reported. 28 percent were committed with blunt objects or other dangerous weapons, 24 percent with firearms, and 22 percent with knives or cutting instruments. Personal weapons such as hands, fists, and feet were used in the remainder of the

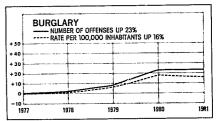


#### **Property Crimes**

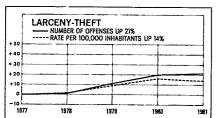
In 1981, the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft showed virtually no change from the previous year. The property crime rate, 5,223 per 100,000 people, fell 2 percent during the 2-year period.

BURGLARY-The number of burglaries totaled over 3.7 million in 1981 and resulted in losses estimated at \$3.5 billion. Yet, burglaries declined 1 percent in volume from 1980 to 1981, with suburban areas and rural counties each recording 2-percent declines. Burglars targeted residential property in 67 percent of the total offenses reported, and it was during the nighttime hours that 40 percent of

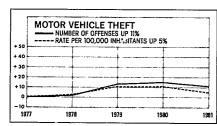
all burglaries occurred. In 73 percent of the occurrences, forcible entry was used: 19 percent were unlawful entries (without force). The remainder were forcible entry attempts. Four of every 5 persons arrested for burglary in 1981 were under the age of 25.



LARCENY-THEFT - Larcenytheft, the highest volume Index crime, rose to more than 7.1 million offenses in 1981, 1 percent higher than in 1980. The total national loss reached \$2.4 billion for an average loss of \$340 per incident. This offense comprised the largest portion of total Crime Index offenses reported and accounted for over one-half of the total arrests for Index crimes. Thefts of motor vehicle parts, accessories, and contents accounted for 37 percent of all types of larceny. Thefts from buildings followed with 17 percent, shoplifting with 11 percent, and thefts of bicycles with 9 percent. More than half of the persons arrested (52 percent) were under 21 years of age. Females were arrested for this offense more often than for any other, comprising 29 percent of the



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT-Motor vehicle thefts totaled more than 1 million in 1981, an average of 1 of every 150 registered motor vehicles in the Nation. The value of stolen vehicles averaged \$3,173 for an estimated national loss of \$3.4 billion. The number of vehicle thefts declined 4 percent from 1980 to 1981 and was down in all regions of the country for the same 2-year period. Of the stolen vehicles, 75 percent were automobiles and 14 percent were trucks and buses. Law enforcement agencies arrested an estimated 129,200 persons for this offense, of which 61 percent were under 21 years of age.



ARSON-Over 11,000 law enforcement agencies reported a total of 122,610 arson offenses during 1981. However, detailed reports showing monetary loss and types of property targeted were received on 97,202 arsons. The value of property damaged by these arsons was \$914 million, an average loss of \$9,399 per incident. Structures and mobile property were the most frequent targets, accounting for 79 percent of all arsons. Of all persons arrested, 42 percent were under the age of 18. Arrests for arson increased by 4 percent over 1980 and 13 percent over 1977.

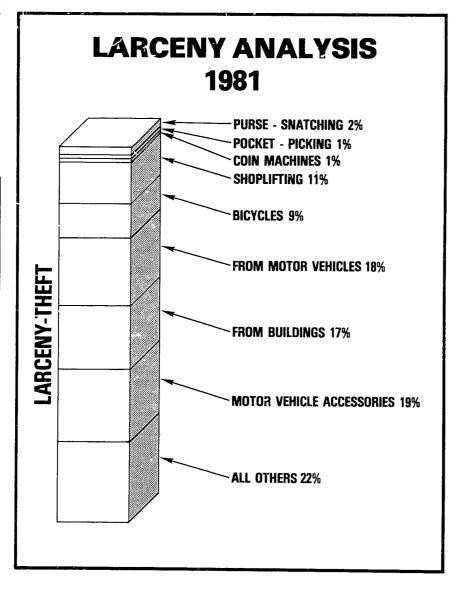
#### Clearances and Arrests

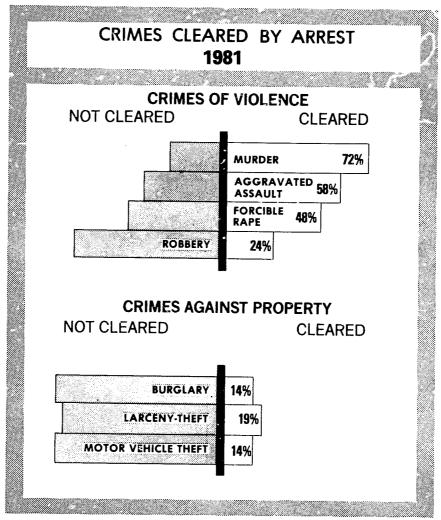
Of all Crime Index offenses reported in 1981, law enforcement agencies cleared 19 percent. Persons under the age in 18 were involved in 21 percent of all clearances which occurred.

The clearance rate for violent crimes was 43 percent-murder, 72 percent (the highest clearance rate among Index offenses); forcible rape, 48 percent; robbery, 24 percent; and aggravated assault, 58 percent.

Within the property crimes category, a 17-percent clearance rate was recorded-burglary, 14 percent; larceny-theft, 19 percent: motor vehicle theft, 14 percent, and arson, 15 per-

An estimated 10.8 million arrests took place in 1981 for all offenses except traffic violations. Adult arrests rose 6 percent over 1980 and 17 percent over 1977, while arrests of those under 18 increased less than 1 percent over 1980 but fell 9 percent from the 1977 total. A further breakdown of persons arrested for all crimes shows that 20 percent were under the age of 18, 37 percent were under 21, and 55 percent were under 25. Arrests of males outnumbered those of females by a 5 to 1 ratio; 73 percent of all arrestees were white.





The 1981 arrests for Crime Index knives or cutting instruments (3 peroffenses increased 4 percent over the cent), and other dangerous weapons previous year. There was a 7-percent were used in the remainder of the inciincrease in adult arrests, but a record- dents. Responding to all types of dised decrease of 3 percent for those turbance calls (family quarrel, man with under the age of 18.

### Assaults on Police

For every 100 law enforcement officers in the United States, an avertrol. age of 17 were assaulted during 1981; 6 per 100 suffered personal injury as a result of the assault. In 83 percent of the assaults, personal weapons, such as hands, fists, feet, etc., were used on the officers. Firearms (6 percent),

a gun, bar fight, etc.) resulted in the largest portion of assaults on officers (32 percent). Four of every 5 officers assaulted were assigned to vehicle pa-

#### Law Enforcement Officers Killed

During 1981, 91 local, county, and State law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty. representing a 13-percent decline from the previous year when 104 officers were slain. The activity claiming most officers' lives (19) was responding to disturbance calls. In 95 percent of the slayings, firearms were the weapons used. Law enforcement agencies were successful in clearing 81 of the 91 murders.

# END