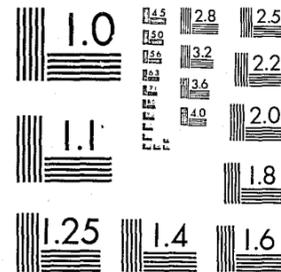


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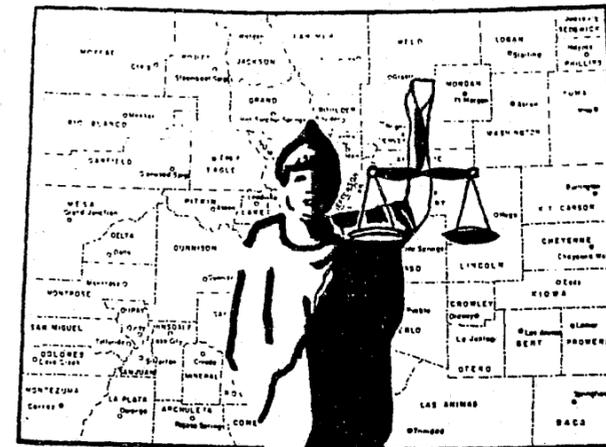
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National Institute of Justice
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20531

6-7-83

CRIME IN COLORADO

A SURVEY OF CITIZENS



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70898

Division of
Criminal Justice

Department of
Local Affairs



86804

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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Richard D. Lamm
Governor

July 1, 1982

NCJRS

JAN 16 1982

ACQUISITIONS

The Honorable Colorado
House of Representatives
Fifty-Third General Assembly
Second Regular Session
State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Crime is a serious problem in Colorado and is a major concern of many of our citizens. To provide us with some direction in public policy issues related to criminal justice, I asked the Division of Criminal Justice to conduct a survey of the citizens of Colorado.

We hear of violent crimes which have caused some Coloradans to lock themselves in their homes and to restrict their activities because of the fear of crime. To what extent has this fear diminished the lives of our citizens and what changes in the criminal justice system do they want us, as their elected officials, to legislate and to implement? The results of the survey are presented in the attached report.

Approximately 30 percent of the respondents reported that a member of their household had been victimized in the last two years. In other words, one household in three is victimized every two years. Thirty-six percent of the respondents have installed special locks, eight percent have barred their windows and doors and almost 11 percent have bought a gun. Twenty-two percent of the respondents have significantly limited their night-time activities.

Although these statistics are alarming, it is important to note that large segments of the population do not see crime as a serious problem and are taking few precautionary steps to reduce their likelihood of becoming a victim. Although 67 percent of the respondents think crime is a serious problem in the state, only 26 percent think it is a serious problem in their own community.

Coloradans should, indeed, be aware of criminal activity, so as to protect themselves and their property in cooperation with law enforcement and neighborhood crime prevention activities; they should not be driven by fear to barricade themselves in their homes with guns.

The survey questions relating to the criminal justice system can be used to guide legislation and policy on the processing and sentencing of offenders. Many respondents feel the criminal justice system is too lenient on offenders. The following are some of the results from the survey which reflect this sentiment:

- o 76 percent feel that too many persons are free on bail while awaiting trial;
- o 80 percent say Colorado judges impose soft sentences;
- o 84 percent favor mandatory prison sentences for repeat felony offenders;
- o 73 percent favor mandatory jail sentences for convicted drunk drivers.

Most of the respondents recognize that the current prison and jail capacity in the state is inadequate and favor mandatory prison sentences for repeat felony offenders even if increased taxes are required to pay for construction. Sixty-seven percent indicated they would be willing to have their taxes increased to pay for prison construction.

Specialized taxes are preferred for funding new prisons and jails. About 88 percent favor alcohol and tobacco taxes; 56 percent favor state sales tax; 58 percent favor a business property tax; and 56 percent favor a business income tax. Sixty-seven percent favor a bond issue to build new jails. The respondents overwhelmingly oppose increases in residential property and individual income taxes.

Although mandatory and/or harsher sentences are preferred for violent or habitual criminals, community corrections or probation sentences are still seen as acceptable options for lesser offenders and offenders with alcohol problems.

This report contains valuable information on issues of interest to us all; I sincerely hope you will take the time to read the entire study.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Lamm
Governor

Title: Crime In Colorado: A Survey of Citizens

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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CRIME IN COLORADO

A SURVEY OF CITIZENS

Prepared by the Division of Criminal Justice

Mary Mande, Project Director

Paul Butler, Research Assistant

May 1982

SUMMARY

About 67% of the citizens who responded to the criminal justice survey think crime is a serious problem in Colorado, and 93% expect it to increase. About 30% report that someone in their household has been a victim of crime, and 57% know someone who has been a victim of crime within the last two years. In this same time period, almost 11% of the respondents have bought a gun to protect themselves.

Although most citizens think crime in the state as a whole is a serious problem, only 26% think it is a serious problem in their own community. Thus, for the most part, citizens see crime as occurring somewhere outside their own residential area. The results show that almost everyone (91%) feels safe during the day in their community.

Feelings of safety vary, however, by time of day and location, as well as characteristics of the respondent. Almost half the respondents report feeling unsafe at night outside their homes. And, even at home, many (16%) who feel safe during the day feel unsafe at night. Women, the elderly, and urban residents are more likely to see crime as a serious problem. The expectation that crime will increase, however, cuts across all categories.

These are some of the results from the statewide mail survey of 1,000 households conducted by the State Division of Criminal Justice. The purpose of the survey was to find out what citizens think about crime, how it affects them, what they do to protect themselves and what they think public policy ought to be.

Other findings include the following:

- 56% of the citizens think current prison capacity is inadequate, and 71% think it will be inadequate within the next 10 years.
- 53% think current jail capacity is inadequate, and 67% think it will be inadequate within the next 10 years.
- Over 84% favor mandatory prison sentences for felony offenders who have been convicted previously of a felony offense. About 73% favor mandatory jail sentences for convicted drunk drivers. Over 80% said Colorado judges impose soft sentences. While mandatory sentences and/or harsher sentences are preferred for the violent or habitual criminal, community corrections or probation sentences are still seen as viable options for lesser offenders or offenders with alcohol problems: 58% of the respondents said that offenders with a drinking problem should be sentenced to community corrections more often, and about 53% would sentence a first time offender convicted of theft to probation, 16% to community corrections, and 26% to jail or work release.

- About 15% of the citizens think the police are doing an excellent job; 47% good; 29% fair. Only 2% said their performance was very poor. Other criminal justice agencies were rated much lower. Only 4% of the citizens rated district attorneys performance as excellent, 36% rated them good and 43% fair. Public defenders were rated excellent by 6%, good by 33%, and fair by 48%. Judges received the lowest rating: 2% rated them excellent; 19% good; and 38% fair - 13% rated them very poor.
- Citizens were also asked about preferred means of funding construction of prisons and jails. About 88% favor an alcohol and tobacco tax; 56% favor a state sales tax; 58% favor a business property tax, and 56% favor a business income tax. About 81% oppose a residential property tax, and 73% oppose a raise in individual income taxes to fund prison or jail construction. To build new jails, 67% would favor a bond issue.

COLORADO CITIZENS: THE RESPONDENTS

Since questioning everyone in Colorado was not possible, a sample of citizens was selected to represent the population. The list of citizens to be surveyed was developed by systematically selecting names from regional phone directories in proportion to the population size of each area. Distribution of the respondents by area is presented below.

	Questionnaires Sent Number and Percent of Sample		Questionnaires Returned Number and Percent of Sample	
Denver Metro Area	548	54.8	370	55.1
Colorado Springs Area	103	10.3	68	10.1
Pueblo Area	79	7.9	49	7.3
Ft. Collins Area	53	5.3	30	4.5
Northwest Area	50	5.0	32	4.8
Greeley Area	67	6.7	41	6.1
Southwest Area	45	4.5	28	4.2
Grand Junction Area	55	5.5	42	6.3
Unknown	-	-	11	1.6
	<u>1000</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>671</u>	<u>100.0</u>

As shown above, the return rate for the survey was 67 percent, which is very good for a survey of the general population.

Given the absence of demographic data on telephone subscribers, sex of the respondent was the only variable we tried to stratify. Cover letters alternatively requested a male or a female respondent if present in the household. Total responses included 54.4 percent male respondents and 44.6 percent female respondents. One percent were unknown.

The other demographic and social characteristics of respondents are presented below. Minorities, women, citizens under 30 years old, and rural residents are slightly underrepresented in the sample. However, the consistency of the results with other research suggests that the differences between the sample and population characteristics have not created significant biases.

The 671 respondents to the criminal justice survey were mostly homeowners (75.6 percent) who had lived in Colorado more than six years (66 percent). 13.9 percent of the respondents were from small towns or rural areas. 55 percent were from the Denver Metro area. (54.6 percent of Colorado's population is located in the Denver Metro area.)

4.1 percent of our respondents did not know any of their neighbors, 46.5 percent know a few of them, 35 percent know most and 14.5 percent know all of them. Knowing neighbors, time in community, and region are all strongly associated. Thus, those who have lived in the same community for 15 years or more are likely to know their neighbors, and small town or rural residents are more likely to stay in the same community.

Twenty-five percent of the households had only one adult present, and 64.1 percent had no children. 62.4 percent were married; 94.1 percent white or anglo, 5.9 percent black, Indian, Hispanic or other. 67.6 percent were employed,

5.4 percent unemployed (including students), 17.3 percent retired, and 9.8 percent full time homemakers. Respondents represent 192 different occupations, which were grouped into the categories shown in the following table.

	Percent
Unsalariated or Unknown	23.4
Professional/Technical	24.0
Managers/Administrators	9.1
Sales Workers	4.6
Clerical	11.0
Craftsmen	11.0
Operatives	5.1
Non-farm Laborers	4.6
Farmers/Farm Managers	1.6
Farm Laborers/Foremen	.1
Service Workers	5.2
Private Household Workers	.1

Respondents ranged in age from 18 to 89. Median age of respondents is 42.5. Thirteen respondents were 80 or older, and 16 respondents were under 21.

	Percent
18-30	25.8
31-45	27.4
46-55	15.9
56-65	14.2
66 +	13.3
Unknown	3.4

Of those responding, 10.8 percent have a graduate degree and another 6.2 percent have some graduate education. 16.2 percent have an undergraduate degree and 66.8 percent have at least a high school education.

	Percent		Percent
No Formal Education	.2	Some College	31.5
Some Grade School	1.1	Completed College	16.2
Completed Grade School	2.1	Some Graduate Work	6.2
Some High School	7.9	Graduate Degree	10.8
Completed High School	24.1		

Thirty-two percent of the respondents report a household income of \$30,000 or more, 45.1 percent between \$13,000 and \$30,000 per year, and 22.9 percent \$13,000 or less.

	Percent
Less than \$3,000	3.0
\$3,000-\$4,999	3.5
\$5,000-\$6,999	3.9
\$7,000-\$9,999	4.9
\$10,000-\$12,999	7.6
\$13,000-\$15,999	9.6
\$16,000-\$19,999	8.4
\$20,000-\$24,999	15.3
\$25,000-\$29,999	11.8
Over \$30,000	32.0

WHAT COLORADO CITIZENS THINK ABOUT CRIME

We first asked citizens about the seriousness of the crime problem in Colorado and in their communities. We also asked whether they thought crime would increase, stay the same, or decrease.

The Seriousness of the Crime Problem

Crime is considered a serious problem in Colorado by 67.1 percent of the respondents. Another 27.9 percent saw it as a moderate problem, and 4 percent thought it was only a slight problem.

A majority (72.2 percent) of the respondents also saw crime as a problem in their community, but where 67.1 percent of the citizens who responded to the survey saw crime as a serious problem in the state, only 25.3 percent saw it as a serious problem in the community. Another 24.9 percent saw it as a slight problem in the community, and 1.9 percent, no problem at all. Thus, Colorado's citizens see crime as much more of a problem with the state as a whole than in their own communities. See Table 5.

The table also shows that women are more likely than men and the older are more likely than the younger to see crime as a serious problem. Within age groups, where a person lives affects perception of the seriousness of crime. Of those respondents who are 30 years old or less, residents of small towns and rural areas are more likely to see crime as serious. In the age group 66 or older, however, urban residents are more likely to consider crime as serious.

The biggest difference between male and female attitudes toward the seriousness of crime is within the 30 or less age group; women are much more likely than men to see crime as a serious problem. But, as males age, the possibility that they will see crime as a serious problem increases. Thus, age is a better predictor of such attitudes for males than for females.

TABLE 5

SERIOUSNESS OF THE CRIME PROBLEM IN COLORADO AND IN THE COMMUNITY
 BY SEX AND AGE AND BY REGION AND AGE
 (Percent distribution of answers by household respondents)

	Colorado			Community			
	Slight Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem	Not a Problem At All	Slight Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem
Sex and Age							
Male	5.7	32.1	62.2	2.0	28.7	47.7	21.6
18-30	13.3	44.6	42.2	3.6	44.6	41.0	10.8
31-45	5.7	39.0	55.3	1.6	26.8	48.8	22.8
46-55	3.1	18.5	78.5	3.1	15.4	56.9	24.6
56-65	0	18.4	81.6	0	22.4	44.9	32.7
66 +	0	21.9	78.1	0	31.3	46.9	21.9
Female	1.7	24.3	74.0	1.4	21.9	46.9	29.9
18-30	2.3	30.7	67.0	2.2	25.8	50.6	21.3
31-45	3.3	36.1	60.7	1.6	23.0	50.8	24.6
46-55	0	19.5	80.5	0	17.1	53.7	29.3
56-65	0	11.6	88.4	0	14.3	42.9	42.9
66 +	1.8	14.5	83.6	1.8	23.6	34.5	40.0
Region and Age							
Urban	3.9	28.9	67.2	1.8	24.5	47.2	26.4
18-30	7.6	42.1	50.3	3.4	37.0	45.2	14.4
31-45	5.2	37.7	57.1	1.3	24.0	48.7	26.0
46-55	1.1	18.3	80.6	2.2	15.1	53.8	29.0
56-65	0	14.1	85.9	0	14.3	46.8	39.0
66 +	1.4	13.7	84.9	1.4	23.6	40.3	34.7
Rural	4.4	31.1	64.4	1.1	33.0	46.2	19.8
18-30	8.7	17.4	73.9	0	26.1	47.8	26.1
31-45	3.8	46.2	50.0	3.8	34.6	50.0	11.5
46-55	9.1	27.3	63.6	0	27.3	63.6	9.1
56-65	0	20.0	80.0	0	40.0	33.3	26.7
66 +	0	40.0	60.0	0	37.5	37.5	25.0

Changes in Crime Rates

Almost all (93.4 percent) of the respondents expected crime in Colorado to increase. Only 3.7 percent thought it would stay the same and 1.7 percent thought it would decrease.

More people expect crime to increase in Colorado than expect crime to increase in the community. Almost 24 percent of the respondents reported that crime will increase greatly in Colorado, while only 13 percent believe crime will increase greatly in their community. About the same percentage thought that crime would decrease in the state and in the community, but almost 16 percent thought that crime in the community would stay the same, as compared to 3.7 percent who thought it would stay the same in Colorado. These findings are consistent with other research which has found that crime is generally perceived to be more serious outside one's own neighborhood or community (U.S. Department of Justice, 1977).

As shown in Table 5, sex and age affect perceptions of the existing crime problem, but the perception that crime will increase is general. This suggests that questions about existing conditions may tap different phenomena than questions about the future. For example, responses to questions about the seriousness of crime may indicate feelings of vulnerability, whereas questions about increases in crime may indicate hopeful or pessimistic attitudes toward the future.

HOW CRIME AFFECTS COLORADO'S CITIZENS

Past research shows that experience either as a victim, or of close acquaintanceship with a victim of crime, affects citizen attitudes and opinions about crime and the criminal justice system (U.S. Department of Justice, 1977). In order to assess how crime victimization affects Colorado's citizens, we asked respondents first, whether anyone in their household had been a victim in the last two years and second, whether anyone they knew had been a victim in the last two years.

Of those responding, 29.8 percent reported that a member of the household had been victimized. Two respondents (.3 percent) reported that someone in the household had been murdered. Another .3 percent were victimized by arson. One percent had been raped, 2.2 percent assaulted, 3.6 percent robbed, 8.6 percent burglarized, 10.7 percent had been victims of theft, and 1.9 percent, vandalism.

46.9 percent of the respondents said they knew someone who had been victimized. Robbery and burglary were reported as the most common offenses against acquaintances of respondents. 12.8 percent knew someone who had been robbed, 24.7 percent knew someone who had been burglarized, .6 percent knew someone who had been murdered, .7 percent, victims of arson. It is interesting to note that theft was the only crime reported to have been committed more frequently against members of the household (8.2 percent) than against an acquaintance (5.1 percent). 4.3 percent of the respondents knew someone who had been raped, 4.2 percent someone who had been assaulted, 3.1 percent auto theft, and 1.2 percent vandalism. Twenty-two percent of the respondents reported that both someone in their household and someone they knew had been victims of crime.

Although crime is thought to be a serious problem in the state, and somewhat serious in the community, almost everyone (91.2 percent) feels safe in their communities in the daytime. Feelings of safety vary, however, by time of day and location. Almost half the respondents report feeling unsafe at night outside their homes. And, even at home, many respondents (16 percent) who feel safe in the daytime, feel unsafe at night.

Also, some people feel more safe than others regardless of time and location. Generally, men feel safer than women, younger people feel safer than those who are older, and residents of small towns and rural areas feel safer than their urban counterparts. The following table shows the relationship between a safety index and sex, age and region. The safety index was created by summing the scores for four questions which asked respondents how safe they feel in their communities, and in their homes, in the daytime and at night.

TABLE 6
SAFETY INDEX BY SEX AND AGE, AND BY URBAN/RURAL AREA

	<u>Very Safe</u>	<u>Safe</u>	<u>Unsafe</u>	<u>Very Unsafe</u>
Male	37.0	37.8	21.2	4.0
18-30	56.6	25.3	14.5	3.6
31-45	38.8	40.5	19.8	.8
46-55	32.3	38.5	26.2	3.1
56-65	22.4	46.9	24.5	6.1
66 +	9.7	45.2	29.0	16.1
Female	27.9	31.1	29.7	11.3
18-30	37.9	25.3	27.6	9.2
31-45	32.8	32.8	31.1	3.3
46-55	19.5	36.6	31.7	12.2
56-65	16.7	42.9	26.2	14.3
66 +	21.2	25.0	32.7	21.2
Urban	30.7	34.7	26.7	7.9
Rural	45.1	36.3	13.2	5.5

The safety index is also related to general attitudes toward crime, criminal justice policy positions, and crime prevention behaviors. The more unsafe people feel, the more likely they are to perceive the crime problem as serious, and to engage in crime prevention activities. This will be discussed further, later in the report.

We also wanted to know more specifically how fear affected citizens. We asked whether fear of crime had caused them to limit their activities, and if they were afraid of a residential breakin. Only 3.8 percent reported that they had limited their activities quite a lot or very much in the day, another 25.4 percent said they had limited their daytime activities very little, and 70.8 percent not at all. At night, however, 22.2 percent said they had limited their activities quite a lot or very much, 37.2 percent very little, and 40.6 percent not at all. Thirty percent of the respondents reported that they are afraid to go out at night alone, and another 25.7 percent are sometimes afraid to do so. Forty-four percent, however, are hardly ever or never afraid.

Over half the respondents felt that it is likely that their homes will be burglarized: 9.4 percent think it is very likely; 44.8 percent likely; 45.8 percent feel it is unlikely or very unlikely.

6.9 percent of the respondents also reported that they were afraid of personal injury as a result of a residential breakin either always or most of the time. Another 31.7 percent are afraid sometimes, 40.8 percent hardly ever and 20.6 percent never.

WHAT COLORADO CITIZENS DO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

Most citizens take ordinary precautions to protect themselves against crime. Almost all respondents (91.4 percent) always or most of the time lock their homes when they leave - only 2.8 percent hardly ever and one percent never lock their homes when they leave. Nearly all respondents who do not habitually lock up when they leave live in rural areas.

Most people (71.5 percent) also keep the doors locked while they are at home. Another 15 percent lock their doors sometimes, and 13.4 percent hardly ever or never.

71.2 percent of the respondents also identify the caller before opening their doors. 15.6 percent do so sometimes, and 13.3 percent hardly ever or never.

A large majority (83.4 percent) of the respondents lock their cars when they are unoccupied. 10.4 percent leave their cars locked sometimes, and 6.3 percent hardly ever or never.

Slightly over half (55.1 percent) of the respondents also lock their cars when driving. 23.3 percent do so sometimes, and 21.7 percent hardly ever or never. As some respondents noted, locking car doors when driving enhances safety in case of an accident as well as providing protection from assault.

Most respondents said they carried their purses or wallets so that they could not be grabbed easily. 83.7 percent reported that they always do. Another 8.5 percent do sometimes, and 7.9 percent hardly ever or never.

Crime Prevention Programs

We also asked respondents which crime prevention programs they had heard of or participated in. Neighborhood Watch and Operation ID were mentioned most frequently. Other programs listed included Crime Stoppers, escort and rape prevention. Forty-one percent of the respondents reported familiarity with one or more crime prevention programs; however, only 25.5 percent indicated that they participate in any of these programs. Again, more people participate in Neighborhood Watch and Operation ID.

To further explore what crime prevention measures are being used by citizens, we asked,

"Have you taken any of the following actions within the last two years to protect yourself or your property?"

Seven items were listed, and the results are shown below. Installing special locks (36 percent) and joining Neighborhood Watch or Operation ID are the most common methods of preventing crime. The third most popular method is to buy a gun - 10.7 percent of the respondents said they had bought a gun within the last two years. On this item, several respondents noted in the margin that they already had a gun (another 1.3 percent). Bars have been installed on the windows or doors by 8.1 percent; 5.1 percent have installed a burglar alarm; and 4 percent have taken a self defense course. In the space provided for safety measures not listed, 2.2 percent of the respondents said they had bought a dog.

Variables Related to Crime Prevention Behavior and Victimization

As stated earlier, there is a strong association between feelings of safety and crime prevention behaviors. The more unsafe people feel, the more likely they are to always lock their homes and cars, to check out visitors before they open the door, to carry their purses or wallets so they cannot be easily grabbed, to install special locks or a burglar alarm, to join Neighborhood Watch, or to buy a gun. See Table 7 for details.

Homeownership is also associated with several crime prevention measures. 39.8 percent of the homeowners have installed special locks as compared to 25.3 percent of the renters. 6.4 percent of the homeowners have installed burglar alarms compared to 1.3 percent of the renters. 17.7 percent have joined Neighborhood Watch, where only 8.8 percent of the renters have done so, and 27.9 percent, joined Operation ID as compared to 17.1 percent of the renters.

A comparison of victimized households and those which were not victimized shows that respondents who live in a household in which a member has been victimized tend to be younger. As age increases, the percentage of victimized households in each age group decreases. This finding is consistent with previous research on crime victims (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1981). In general, those who report victimization of a household member feel less safe, are less likely to know neighbors, have installed special locks, burglar alarms, barred doors and windows, joined Neighborhood Watch and Operation ID, bought a gun, are a little more likely to limit daytime activities and much more likely to limit night time activities. Table 8 shows the different responses between victimized households and those which were not victimized regarding attitudes and behavior.

About 15 percent of those respondents added comments regarding the need for mandatory sentencing and for more severe sentences, although there is no statistically significant relationship between responses from victimized and non-victimized households to the penal philosophy items.

Respondents from victimized households gave a lower rating to police, D.A.s and judges.

Respondents who reported that someone they know has been a victim of crime are similar to those who report victimization of a household member, except that as a group they are not quite as likely to feel unsafe.

TABLE 7
SAFETY INDEX BY CRIME PREVENTION BEHAVIOR

	Very Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Very Unsafe	Total
Lock Doors When Leaving Home					
Always	61.5	75.1	80.9	96.0	74.0
Most of the Time	26.8	16.5	14.2	4.0	18.3
Sometimes	5.2	3.5	3.1	0	3.7
Hardly Ever	5.2	2.6	1.2	0	2.9
Never	1.4	1.3	.6	0	1.1
Lock Doors When At Home					
Always	30.2	37.4	54.0	84.0	42.7
Most of the Time	28.3	33.5	28.6	8.0	28.6
Sometimes	19.8	15.1	9.9	6.0	15.0
Hardly Ever	16.0	7.8	5.6	2.0	9.5
Never	5.7	5.2	1.9	0	4.1
See Who's At Door					
Always	34.0	42.2	52.3	76.0	44.7
Most of the Time	22.6	22.2	24.3	18.0	26.2
Sometimes	20.9	15.7	13.0	4.0	15.9
Hardly Ever	13.7	3.7	7.5	0	9.3
Never	9.0	1.3	1.9	2.0	4.0
Lock Car When Leaving					
Always	50.0	50.0	64.4	79.5	60.0
Most of the Time	23.3	24.3	25.9	6.3	23.5
Sometimes	18.1	3.7	5.0	2.1	10.3
Hardly Ever	7.1	3.9	2.5	2.1	4.5
Never	1.4	2.6	1.3	0	1.7
Lock Car When Driving					
Always	21.0	31.3	41.6	64.6	33.0
Most of the Time	17.6	20.9	29.2	29.3	21.9
Sometimes	24.8	28.7	18.6	8.3	23.4
Hardly Ever	14.8	9.5	7.5	6.3	10.5
Never	21.9	9.6	3.1	0	11.2
Carry Purse/Wallet Securely					
Always	47.2	54.3	58.0	80.0	54.9
Most of the Time	28.3	30.4	29.6	18.0	28.6
Sometimes	10.8	8.3	8.0	2.0	8.6
Hardly Ever	8.5	2.9	3.7	0	5.0
Never	5.2	3.0	.6	0	2.9
Install Special Locks					
Yes	26.8	37.1	39.9	56.0	35.9
No	73.2	62.9	60.1	44.0	64.1
Install Burglar Alarm					
Yes	1.9	5.9	7.6	6.0	5.0
No	98.1	94.1	92.4	94.0	95.0
Join Neighborhood Watch					
Yes	9.1	19.3	17.1	22.0	15.6
No	90.9	80.7	82.9	78.0	84.4
Join Operation ID					
Yes	21.6	27.8	29.3	20.0	25.5
No	78.4	72.2	70.7	80.0	74.5
Bars on Windows/Doors					
Yes	5.3	3.5	10.9	10.0	9.2
No	94.7	91.5	89.2	90.0	91.8
Buy a Gun					
Yes	6.3	12.1	14.6	12.0	10.8
No	93.3	87.9	85.4	88.0	89.2

TABLE 8						
HOUSEHOLD VICTIMS, ATTITUDES, AND REPORTED BEHAVIOR						
Has anyone in your household been a victim of crime in the last two years?						
SAFETY INDEX						
	<u>Very Safe</u>	<u>Safe</u>	<u>Unsafe</u>	<u>Very Unsafe</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Yes	29.6	30.2	30.7	9.5	28.9	
No	33.7	37.1	22.3	6.9	71.1	
HOW MANY NEIGHBORS KNOWN						
	<u>Don't Know Any</u>	<u>Know a Few</u>	<u>Know Most</u>	<u>Know All</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Yes	6.2	54.4	28.0	11.4	29.1	
No	3.2	43.2	37.9	15.7	70.9	
INSTALLED SPECIAL LOCKS			INSTALLED BURGLAR ALARM			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
Yes	48.7	51.3	29.0	9.6	90.4	28.7
No	30.9	69.1	71.0	3.2	96.8	71.3
BARRED DOORS AND WINDOWS			BOUGHT A GUN			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
Yes	11.7	88.3	28.8	15.4	84.6	28.8
No	6.7	93.3	71.2	8.8	91.2	71.2
JOINED NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH			JOINED OPERATION ID			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>
Yes	20.2	79.8	28.8	30.9	69.1	28.8
No	13.3	86.7	71.2	23.1	76.9	71.2
LIMIT DAYTIME ACTIVITIES						
	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>Very Little</u>	<u>Quite a Lot</u>	<u>Very Much</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Yes	64.4	31.9	1.6	2.1	28.9	
No	73.5	22.7	3.6	.2	71.1	
LIMIT NIGHT TIME ACTIVITIES						
	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>Very Little</u>	<u>Quite a Lot</u>	<u>Very Much</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Yes	31.2	40.7	21.2	6.9	28.7	
No	44.3	35.8	14.7	5.1	71.3	
PERFORMANCE RATINGS FOR POLICE						
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Very Poor</u>	<u>Total</u>
Yes	13.7	44.0	29.1	10.3	2.9	29.2
No	15.3	48.0	28.2	6.6	1.9	70.8
PERFORMANCE RATINGS FOR D.A.						
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Very Poor</u>	<u>Total</u>
Yes	2.6	30.0	47.1	17.0	3.3	29.5
No	3.8	38.1	40.8	13.7	3.6	70.5
PERFORMANCE RATINGS FOR JUDGES						
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Very Poor</u>	<u>Total</u>
Yes	1.9	14.4	32.7	34.0	17.0	29.4
No	1.8	21.3	40.7	24.9	11.3	70.6

WHAT COLORADO CITIZENS THINK PUBLIC POLICY OUGHT TO BE

Pretrial Detention in Jails

We asked several questions designed to tap sentiments on pretrial detention of accused offenders. Of the respondents, 41.7 percent strongly agree that too many persons are free on bail while awaiting trial, and another 34.2 percent agree. Only 5.5 percent of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed. 10.2 percent had no opinion and 8.4 percent said they did not know enough about the issue to answer. Thus, about 76 percent of the respondents believe that accused offenders should be held in custody.

However, 13.7 percent believe that too many persons are held in jail because they cannot afford to pay bail, while 37.9 percent disagreed that this is the case. Almost half the respondents either did not have an opinion (22.9 percent) or did not know enough to answer (25.3 percent).

We also asked if people in jail awaiting trial should be released to make space for convicted offenders. 24.7 percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed, while 44.3 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. Seventeen percent had no opinion, and 14.1 percent did not know enough to answer.

Use of Existing Alternatives

Respondents were asked to indicate for various placement alternatives whether that alternative should be used more or less for three categories of offenders: violent, property and drug/alcohol offenders. Responses to these items indicate that there is no clear direction from the citizens on current sentencing practices. The average score represents the best indicator for each item, thus an average score of 1.94 shows that the recommended use of state prison for violent offenders falls between (1) much more and (2) a little more, and an average score of 3.79 indicates that the recommended use of probation for the violent offender falls between (3) about the same and (4) little less. Table 9 presents the average score for each item. (See Appendix A for table including median, mode and standard deviation.)

Generally respondents indicated that for violent offenders, state prison should be used more, local jails a little more, community corrections and work release about the same, and probation and court supervision less.

For property offenders, prison, jail, community corrections and work release should be used a little more, probation and court supervision a little less.

For alcohol or drug offenders, prison, jail, community corrections and work release should be used a little more, probation and court supervision a little less. Several respondents indicated that offenders convicted of drug related charges should be incarcerated, but that offenders convicted of alcohol related charges should be treated.

TABLE 9
RECOMMENDED USE OF PLACEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR
VIOLENT, PROPERTY, AND ALCOHOL AND DRUG OFFENDERS
(1=Much More, 2=Little More, 3=About Same,
4=Little Less, 5=Much Less)

		Mean*
Prison	Violent	1.94
	Property	2.55
	Alcohol/Drug	2.74
Community Corrections	Violent	3.08
	Property	2.70
	Alcohol/Drug	2.46
Jail	Violent	2.53
	Property	2.54
	Alcohol/Drug	2.62
Work Release	Violent	3.11
	Property	2.81
	Alcohol/Drug	2.74
Probation	Violent	3.79
	Property	3.42
	Alcohol/Drug	3.24
Court	Violent	3.59
	Property	3.17
	Alcohol/Drug	2.88

*Mean=Average Score

In order to further assess citizens' opinions on sentencing policy, respondents were presented with 14 cases and asked to recommend the best placement. Overall, respondents recommended prison or jail for repeat offenders, jail for violent offenders or burglars with no priors, and community corrections for offenders with alcohol or drug problems, and community corrections or probation for first time offenders charged with theft or "accidental violence." The following table which includes a description of a crime and measurement of recommended sentences by mean score shows that respondents feel that as the vulnerability of the victim increases, sentences for the offender should be more severe. (See Appendix B for table including median, mode and standard deviation.)

TABLE 10
RECOMMENDED SENTENCES FOR CONVICTED OFFENDERS

	Mean
An offender has been convicted of aggravated robbery. The defendant and a friend entered a 7-11 convenience store in the community and at gunpoint forced three customers and a clerk to lie on the floor while the gunmen looted the cash register. The defendant is an unemployed 24 year old male, with no prior felony convictions. He has previously been convicted of a misdemeanor.	2.11
Same as above, except that the defendant has been convicted of one prior similar felony.	1.51
Same as above, except that the defendant has been addicted to heroin for the past three years and has testified at a probation hearing that he is hopeful he will be placed in a community drug rehabilitation program, available as a condition of probation.	2.37
An offender has been convicted of assault and robbery. Just after dark, he approached a woman from the rear, knocked her to the ground, grabbed her purse and ran. The offender is an unemployed 18 year old male with a juvenile record.	2.25
Same as above, except the victim is an elderly woman.	2.10
Same as above, except the victim is in a wheelchair.	1.98
An offender has pled guilty to theft over \$100. The offender went through the personal possessions of members of a health club taking money and jewelry worth \$5000. The offender is a 28 year old female who had been steadily employed for four years until she was laid off 8 months ago. She is divorced and has custody of her two children.	3.15
Same as above, except the offender has a severe drinking problem.	2.96
Same as above, except the offender has been previously convicted of theft.	2.07

TABLE 10
RECOMMENDED SENTENCES FOR CONVICTED OFFENDERS
(cont)

	Mean
An offender has pled guilty to manslaughter. the offender was drinking with friends in a local bar when a group from another community came in. A fight started between the two groups, and in the free for all that followed, the offender knocked the victim into the bar where his head struck the corner of the bar. The victim died as a result of his injuries. The offender was employed in the oil fields at the time of this incident. He is 25 years old, married, and has a three year old child. He has no prior convictions.	2.96
Same as above, except the offender has been previously convicted of assault.	1.91
Same as above, except the offender is currently participating in a rehabilitation program for problem drinkers.	2.33
An offender has pled guilty to Second Degree Burglary of a dwelling. The defendant has no prior felony convictions and one previous non-violent misdemeanor conviction. He is an unemployed 30 year old male, who is separated from his wife and children.	2.44
Same as above, except that the defendant has been convicted of two similar crimes.	1.55

- 1 = Prison
2 = Jail
3 = Community Corrections
4 = Probation
5 = Court Supervision

Penal Philosophy

Several bills considered by the most recent session of the state legislature dealt with sentences for repeat offenders and drunk drivers. A large majority of the respondents thought repeat offenders should be severely sentenced. Of the respondents, 84.4 percent either moderately (23 percent) or strongly (61.4 percent) favored a mandatory prison sentence for felony offenders with a previous felony conviction. 67.1 percent favor such a sentence even if it means increasing taxes to pay for prison construction.

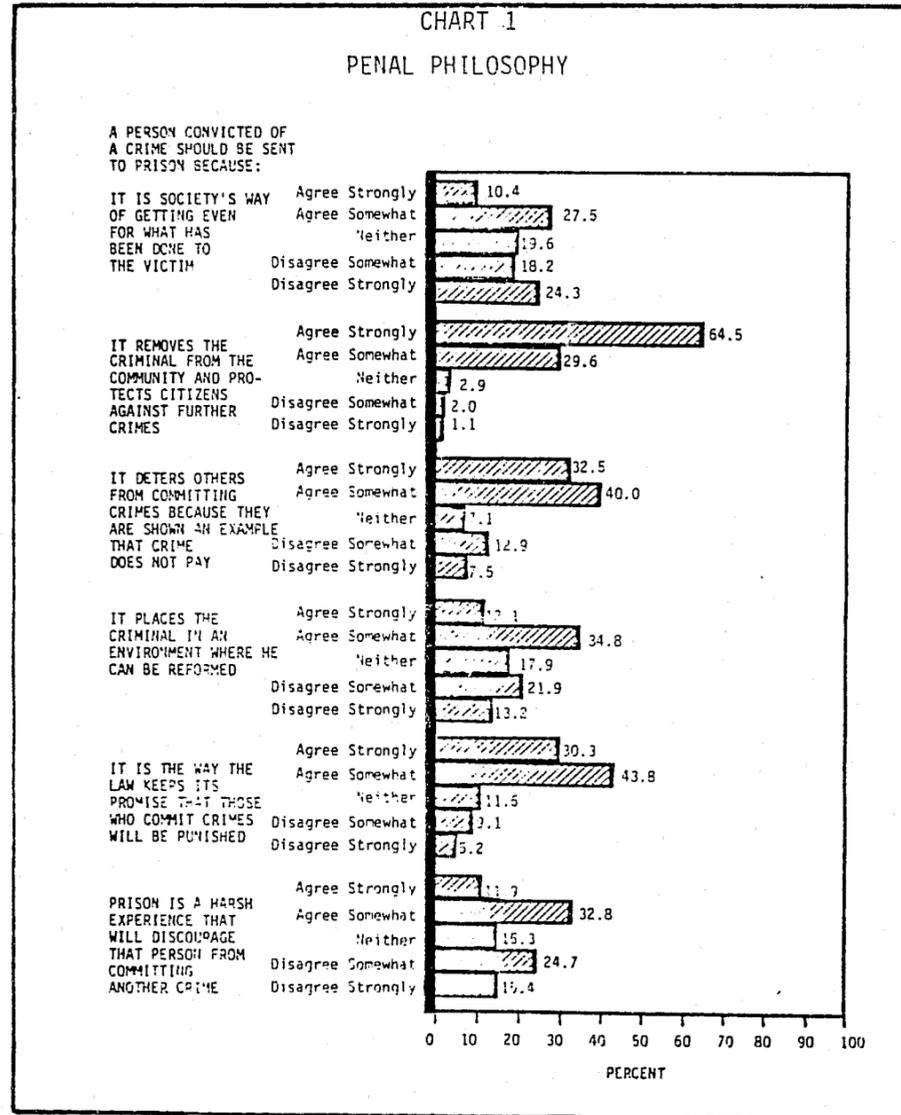
The public also supports the new drunk driving legislation enacted this year. 72.9 percent either moderately (27.7 percent) or strongly (45.2 percent) favored laws which would require jail sentences for convicted drunk drivers. Only 14.2 percent moderately (10.6 percent) or strongly (3.6 percent) opposed such a law. 9.4 percent had no opinion and 3.4 percent did not know enough to answer. 60.7 percent of the respondents favored the law even if it meant raising taxes to build jails. Eleven percent opposed and 14.7 percent neither favored nor opposed.

To further explore the penal philosophy of Colorado citizens, respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the statements presented in the following chart. The results indicate that respondents believe prison reduces crime by isolating the criminal and by deterring others from committing crime, and that it is the way the law keeps its promise that those who break the law will get the punishment they deserve.

While many respondents (46.9 percent) believe that prison is an environment where offenders can be rehabilitated, the majority either is undecided or disagrees. This attitude is supported in the open ended comments. Several respondents said that prison does not rehabilitate, and that new programs need to be tried.

Responses to the first item also show that opinions are split on whether prison is a way of getting even for injury to the victim. 37.9 percent of the respondents agreed, 42.5 percent disagreed, and 19.6 percent were neutral. Open ended comments also help to interpret these results. The forgotten victim and the need for restitution, compensation to and protection of victims were the most frequent comments (12.8 percent of the respondents). Thus, respondents may be saying that prison for the offender is not compensation for the victim.

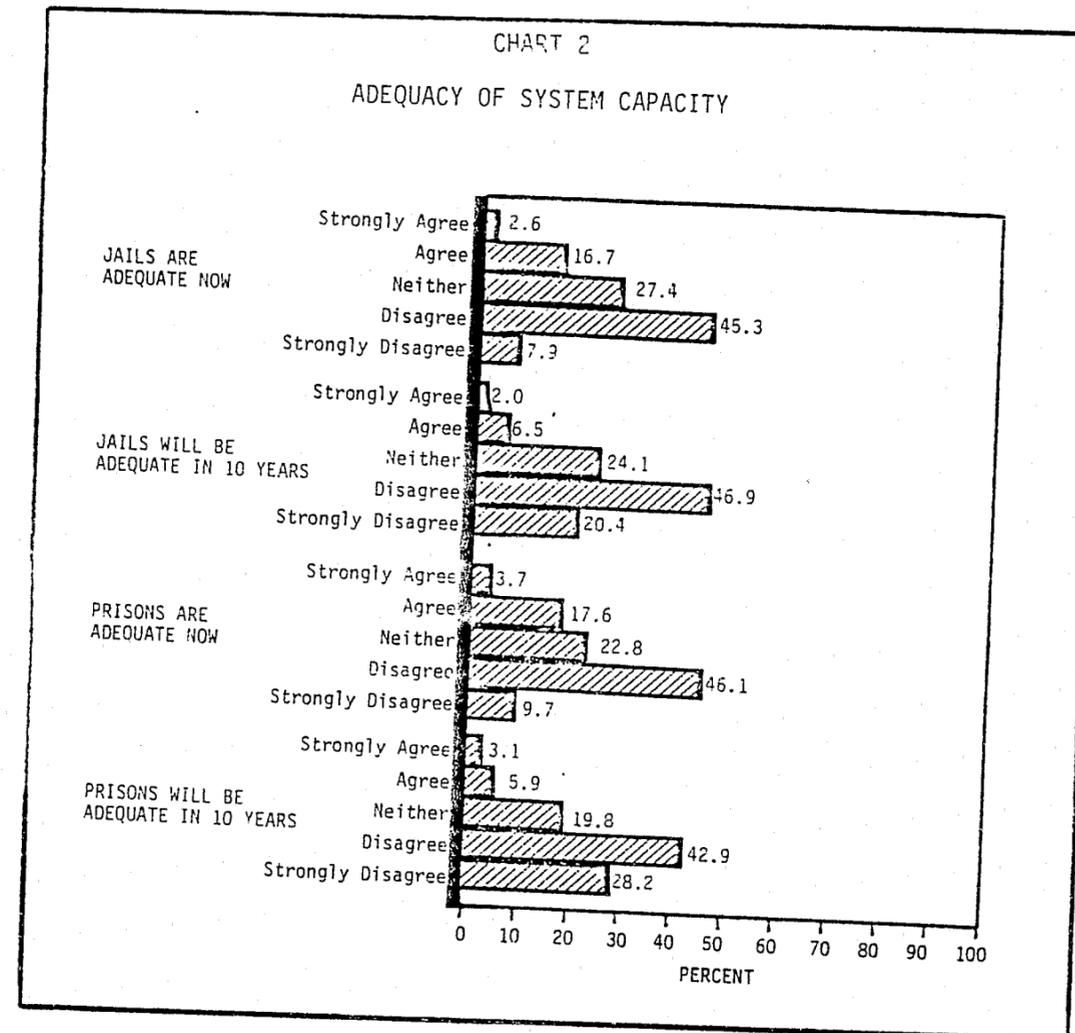
Many citizens either think that prison is not a harsh experience, that punishment or prison experience does not deter the individual, or that criminals cannot be rehabilitated. Several respondents wrote comments in the margin such as "once a criminal, always a criminal."



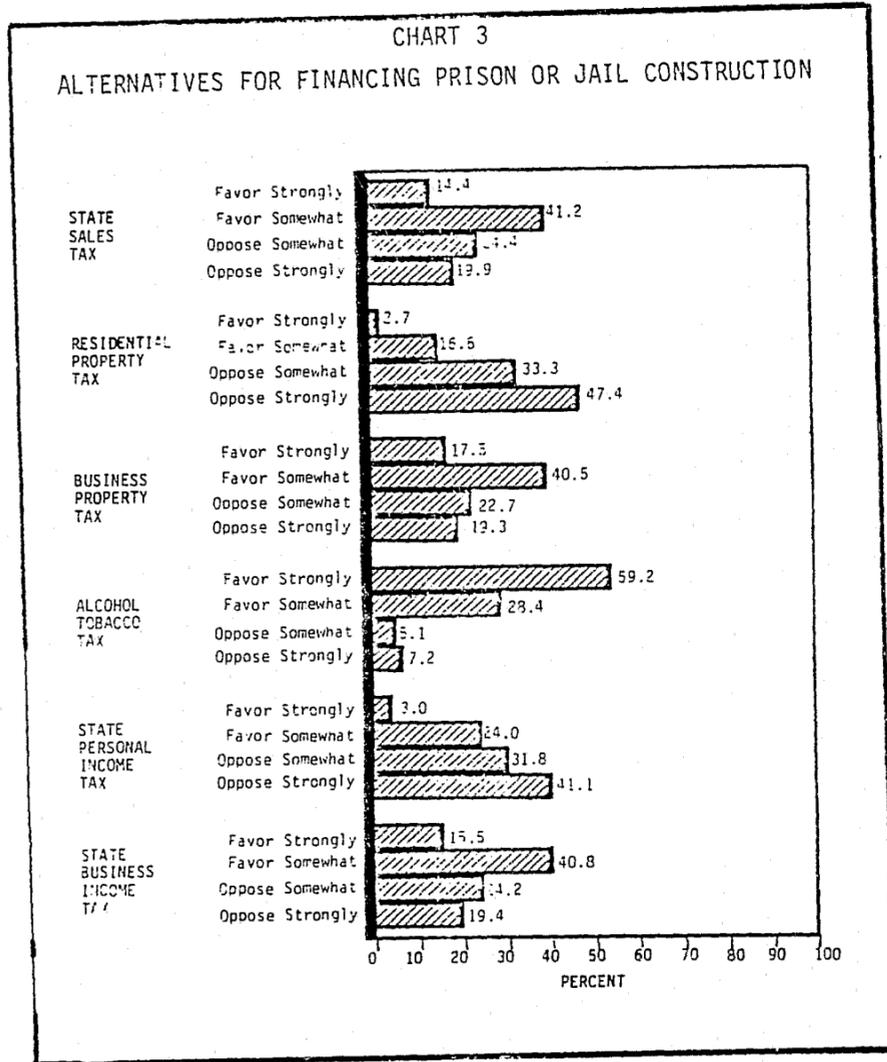
System Capacity and Funding

Overcrowding of prisons and jails is a problem in Colorado as well as in other states. Prison populations have increased in 49 states and in the District of Columbia. The Bureau of Justice Statistics has reported that more Americans are behind bars than at any time since 1925, when official record keeping began. Responses to questions about the adequacy of Colorado's prisons and jails show that citizens are aware of the situation.

Most respondents indicated that prison and jail capacity is currently inadequate, and an even larger majority thought it would be inadequate in 10 years. Many respondents, however, did agree that the number of existing prisons and jails is adequate now.



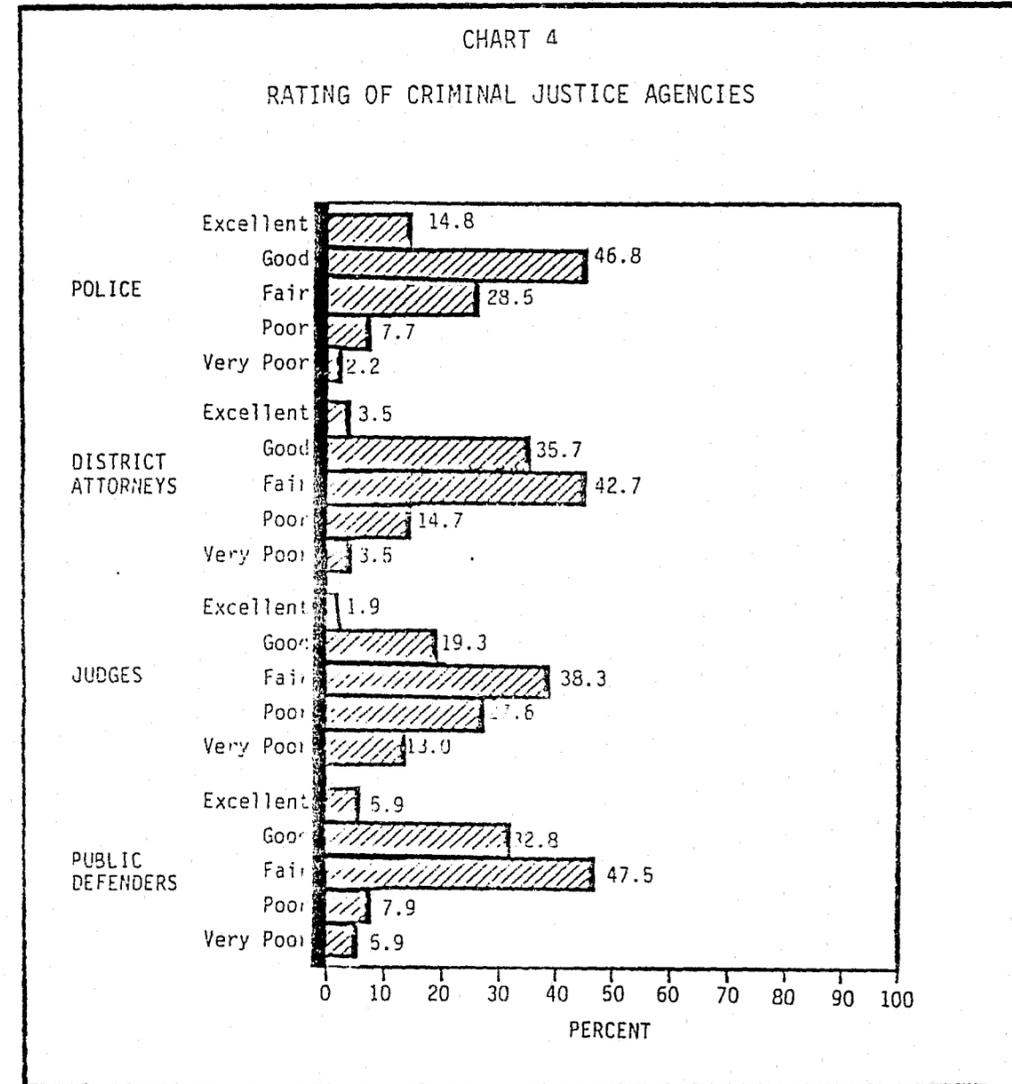
As a means of funding new prison or jail construction, a tax on alcohol and tobacco is most favored and residential and personal income tax least favored. Other recommendations for funding included a state lottery (4.5 percent). Respondents also favor (66.5 percent) bond issues as a means for financing local jail construction projects. Bond issues were opposed by 19.2 percent of the respondents.



These results indicate that citizens see a need for prison and jail construction, at least in the next ten years, but oppose increasing personal income or property taxes to pay for them. Alcohol and tobacco taxes, a state sales tax, a business property tax or income tax are the most acceptable means of funding new construction.

Evaluation of Criminal Justice Agencies

Respondents were asked what kind of job the police, district attorney, judges, and public defenders were doing in their community. As the chart below shows, the police were rated good, the D.A.s good to fair, the judges fair to poor, and public defenders good to fair. Several comments suggest that public defenders were sometimes given a high rating because they "get all the criminals off."



A more general question on sentencing practices shows that respondents think Colorado's judges impose moderately to extremely soft sentences. 80.5 percent indicated that such sentences are soft, 16.2 percent about right, and 3.3 percent severe.

RESPONDENT'S COMMENTS

"I oppose any laws that require a specific sentence for a specific crime because each crime is an individual event and should be treated as such. Prison, I feel, is an inhuman and ineffectual way of dealing with crime."

-21 year old college student

"Since I moved to Colorado 11 years ago, I have had my purse stolen twice and I have been kidnapped by a man who jumped into my car. I have also witnessed a bank robbery. I have reported all these incidents and never heard anything about anyone getting caught. Do offenders ever get caught? Or does crime pay?"

-31 year old homemaker

"I think most people feel that too much police and court time is tied up on crimes that do not affect the safety of the citizenry, while violent crime continues and criminals are released on legal technicalities. (It is very frustrating to see our laws more concerned (with) the criminal than the victim.

Violent criminals should know that they will not be tolerated in the community. More consideration should be given to the people who are good citizens than to those who show no respect for the law and (for) the rights of others...It is we, the common citizens, who pay for all the grandiose dreams of government, and yet we need to be asked if we are afraid of violence in our homes and neighborhood?"

-businessman, Colorado Springs

Questions were raised, fears expressed, and anger vented by several hundred respondents of the Crime in Colorado survey as they gave their feelings on crime related issues. Several pages were provided for that purpose at the end of the questionnaire. Unlike the main body of the survey, where responses were controlled by a multiple-choice format, the final section invited open ended responses, with space limitations serving as the only control on what people could write. (Even then, some respondents attached pages if they had more to say.)

Responses covered a wide variety of topics, some directly related to questions asked in the survey, others indirectly related, and others clearly unrelated. In order to record and study effectively the different responses received, researchers developed a number of general response categories and included the most common sub-categories in each area. These categories, with corresponding response frequencies and excerpts from individual comments, are described on the following pages.

The largest number of open ended responses concerned the victims of crime, a topic not covered in the survey (with the exception of one question which asked whether the person or someone they knew had been a victim of crime within the last two years). One hundred eleven respondents made a comment in this category. Of those answering the survey, 41 or 6.1 percent said that victims of crime are generally ignored, with the attention of the criminal justice system focused on the criminal.* Forty-five respondents,

*Although this may not seem like a significant portion of the survey group, it should be remembered that none of these responses were solicited; therefore, 41 respondents is a significant number.

or 6.7 percent of the survey group, indicated that victims of crime should receive restitution or some form of compensation from offenders.

While most comments in this area ranged from concern for the victims to outrage at the apparent favoritism shown to criminals, several ancillary themes were introduced. For instance, a 29 year old homemaker stated that the criminal justice system tends to discourage the value of personal responsibility in dealing with criminals who have victimized others. "The convicted criminal is not responsible to the victim of his crime, only to the impersonal state. The solution to crime is to instill the attitude of personal responsibility for one's acts. It should be the job of the system to teach (responsibility) if the individual has not learned the lesson... outside (of prison)."

In a related theme, a number of respondents emphasized the need for direct contact between criminals and victims. Representative of this group is a respondent who favors a kind of restitution program in which the person committing the crime "in some small manner must repay the victims and their families (so that he) doesn't 'get off' by simply going to jail." Offenders, she added, need not necessarily compensate monetarily, but should "give of their time and energy."

In smaller numbers, respondents expressed other opinions regarding the victims of crime: that a crime compensation program should be established in Colorado (one will become effective July 1, 1982); that victims' legal rights should protect them more in cases of injury, etc; and that a lower priority should be afforded victimless crimes.

Many respondents expressed concern with sentencing policies and called for harsher sentences for violent crimes. These concerns can be traced to several questions in the survey dealing with sentencing policy. For example, more than 65 percent of those who responded to a question in the objective portion of the survey felt that the sentences imposed by judges in Colorado are either moderately soft or extremely soft. Approximately 85 percent of all respondents said they either moderately favor or strongly favor a mandatory prison sentence for anyone convicted of a felony offense who has had a previous felony conviction. Of those, 409 said they strongly favor the compulsory sentence compared to 153 who said they only moderately favor it.

With this trend established, the responses calling for both harsher sentences for violent crimes and mandatory sentences for certain crimes come as no surprise. Thirty-one respondents answered in each area. The violent crimes cited most often include murder, rape, sex crimes against children, and assault. A number of people singled out drug related crimes as ones which deserve harsher sentences. The need some felt for mandatory sentences for certain crimes was perhaps best summarized by a 65 year old missionary, who wrote: "The choice of sentence is something I feel I and many others are not experienced enough to determine. However, I believe certainty of punishment is a deterrent to deliberate crime. I also believe some crimes are such that the offender will probably repeat the crime if set free, given probation or given a light sentence. Sex crimes, trafficking in drugs, armed robbery are such (crimes) and need to be punished severely."

Many who answered the survey did not feel harsher sentences or mandatory sentences go far enough. Fifty-eight individuals wrote that they favor capital punishment. Of those, the majority of respondents, 32 persons, favored capital punishment as a means of deterring crime. Fourteen respondents said they favor capital punishment only for violent offenses and/or habitual offenders, with four people narrowing the category to only those who commit murder or sex crimes. Five respondents favored capital punishment as an alternative to building more prisons, undoubtedly a reference to a survey question asking how respondents felt about different means of raising money to pay for building and expanding correctional facilities.

The statements of those in favor of capital punishment were often harsh. One of the strongest statements (yet still a representative one) was made by a 42 year old electrical engineer: "I have no sympathy for criminals regardless of age. I consider a criminal to be any person who does a violent act against any other person or his property - murder, rape, vandalism, robbery. And anyone who commits these types of crimes should be eliminated." The man continues on a more wistful note, suggesting perhaps that one reason people desire such strong measures to deter crime is that they wish to return to a simpler, more carefree existence: "That's the only way our society can be made safe again. People wouldn't be afraid to go out at night. People wouldn't be afraid of getting mugged or raped or robbed. We wouldn't have to lock our doors anymore. Just think about that. It would be a good place to live."

In light of legislation recently passed by the Colorado Legislature which increases considerably the severity of sentence for drunk drivers, the responses received concerning drunk driving were of particular interest. Thirteen respondents in this category called for stronger prosecution in general of drunk drivers. Two respondents said that a mandatory sentence should be imposed for the second conviction. Five respondents stated that either driving privileges or licenses should be revoked for those convicted of drunk driving. Two respondents did not agree with others in the group, stating that too much emphasis is placed on drunk drivers at the expense of protecting neighborhoods or pursuing dangerous criminals.

Most of those who made comments about drunk driving were most alarmed at the harm drunk drivers can cause. Many views echoed the following statement by a 23 year old homemaker: "My biggest concern...(involves) the punishment of drunk drivers. Penalties should be much stronger, especially when a person is killed by a drunk driver. It seems...no one really cares enough about this in our state government to do anything. Well, just wait until it happens to someone in their family."

While criminals were denounced by a majority of respondents, many people were more circumspect in their judgments. In fact, 14 respondents, or 2.1 percent of the total survey group, said they felt that society is to blame for at least some criminal behavior. The feeling that society may be addressing some of the wrong issues in its effort to find a "cure" for crime was expressed in statements like this from a 41 year old television salesman: "I believe increasing crime in our society today is a 'symptom', an indication that something is very wrong with our belief system. We should concentrate on understanding the underlying causes instead of building more prisons and larger

police forces, since this merely treats the effect and not the cause."

Most respondents, of course, were not as introspective in their observations on crime; nevertheless, a number of those who responded did cite a need for greater focus on the needs of offenders. Twenty-three persons mentioned that community corrections programs should be expanded. Although few went as far as one woman, who stated, "Most people who commit crimes do not need to be sent to prison," nearly all voiced the belief that community corrections programs in the long run offer the greatest possibility for true rehabilitation. In a similar area, eight respondents mentioned that prisoners should have expanded opportunities for education, sports and work programs while in prison. Ten respondents mentioned that minor offenders should be put to work on various community work projects. Several respondents felt that large prisons are too impersonal and suggested that a larger number of smaller prisons be used. Others felt that all inmates should be required to complete formal education in prison so that they would have more incentive and ability to rejoin society.

Not everyone expressed concern over the rights and treatment of prisoners. In fact, 23 respondents said that prisons should not be "hotels" that offer modern conveniences and comforts to the incarcerated. In the words of a 23 year old self employed investment manager: "I certainly don't want my tax money to pay for a criminals' country club!" Thirteen respondents advocated supervised hard work for prisoners.

A number of respondents addressed the issue of handling of juveniles in the criminal justice system. For the most part, responses advocated stricter enforcement of laws for juveniles, with 12 respondents saying that harsher sentences and more severe penalties are in order; five respondents argued that juveniles should be tried as adults; three felt there should be more emphasis on crime prevention for juveniles; and one person said that plea bargaining should not be allowed in juvenile cases. Five persons felt that parents should be responsible for the crimes of their children. Not all views on this matter were as comprehensive as that of a 61 year old female, a former government worker, who said she "would like to see some way to educate parents that young people need love and attention and make the parents responsible for the crimes of the young. If we can stop the young from getting into crime, they will not grow to be adult criminals."

Many respondents listed various aspects of the criminal justice system as flawed. Seventeen responses detailed the need for more police support, both financially and legislatively. Seven respondents blamed some of the crime problem on a police force demoralized by its inability to enforce laws. Twenty-three respondents said that plea bargaining should be reduced or eliminated. Their feelings largely echoed those of a 36 year old bookkeeper, who said, "If our laws were enforced rather than plea bargained, the amount of criminal activity would be turned around, (making) the United States safer for all citizens." Fifteen respondents cited the need for speedier trials and blamed some of the light sentences given and the high incidence of offenders being freed on delays in the court system. About seven persons mentioned problems with attorneys, saying that they can be unethical in representing those whom they know are guilty.

Few were as imaginative in their suggestions for reform within the criminal justice system as an 81 year old retired engineering draftsman, who offered this suggestion for correcting what he perceives as the overqualification of lawyers: "Over education of members of the legal profession leads to unrealism. Administration of justice might actually be improved by admitting to the bar some outright laymen of known responsible character: carpenters, electricians, and bricklayers!"

Perhaps least surprising were the responses which attributed the increase in crime to uncontrollable societal factors. Five respondents mentioned the transient population which Colorado in general, and Denver in particular, is currently experiencing. Thirteen people felt that current economic conditions are at least partially to blame for the rising crime rate.

APPENDIX A

RECOMMENDED USE OF PLACEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR VIOLENT, PROPERTY, AND ALCOHOL AND DRUG OFFENDERS

	Mean*	Median*	Mode*	Standard Deviation*
Prison				
Violent	1.94	1.66	1	1.10
Property	2.55	2.48	3	1.26
Alcohol/Drug	2.74	2.66	1	1.43
Community Correc.				
Violent	3.08	3.04	3	1.38
Property	2.70	2.62	3	1.22
Alcohol/Drug	2.46	2.18	1	1.37
Jail				
Violent	2.53	2.46	3	1.17
Property	2.54	2.50	3	1.14
Alcohol/Drug	2.62	2.54	3	1.31
Work Release				
Violent	3.11	3.03	3	1.39
Property	2.81	2.70	2	1.31
Alcohol/Drug	2.74	2.59	2	1.35
Probation				
Violent	3.79	4.12	5	1.13
Property	3.42	3.50	5	1.31
Alcohol/Drug	3.24	3.29	5	1.46
Court Supervsn				
Violent	3.59	3.92	5	1.44
Property	3.17	3.16	5	1.47
Alcohol/Drug	2.88	2.73	1	1.55

* Mean = Average Score

Median = Score for which there is an equal number of both higher and lower scores

Mode = Score that occurs most frequently in the sample

Standard Deviation = A measure of dispersion of the scores around the mean. The larger the standard deviation, the more variation there was in the responses.

1 = Much More
2 = Little More
3 = About Same

4 = Little Less
5 = Much Less

APPENDIX B
RECOMMENDED SENTENCES FOR CONVICTED OFFENDERS

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Standard Deviation</u>
An offender has been convicted of aggravated robbery. The defendant and a friend entered a 7-11 convenience store in the community and at gunpoint forced three customers and a clerk to lie on the floor while the gunmen looted the cash register. The defendant is an unemployed 24 year old male, with no prior felony convictions. He has previously been convicted of a misdemeanor.	2.11	1.98	2	.961
Same as above, except that the defendant has been convicted of one prior similar felony.	1.51	1.27	1	.803
Same as above, except that the defendant has been addicted to heroin for the past three years and has testified at a probation hearing that he is hopeful he will be placed in a community drug rehabilitation program, available as a condition of probation.	2.37	2.57	1	1.14
An offender has been convicted of assault and robbery. Just after dark, he approached a woman from the rear, knocked her to the ground, grabbed her purse and ran. The offender is an unemployed 18 year old male with a juvenile record.	2.25	2.15	2	.899
Same as above, except the victim is an elderly woman.	2.10	2.02	2	.865
Same as above, except the victim is in a wheelchair.	1.98	1.88	2	.902
An offender has pled guilty to theft over \$100. The offender went through the personal possessions of members of a health club taking money and jewelry worth \$5000. The offender is a 28 year old female who has been steadily employed for four years until she was laid off 8 months ago. She is divorced and has custody of her two children.	3.15	3.55	4	.991
Same as above, except the offender has a severe drinking problem.	2.96	3.02	3	.844
Same as above, except the offender has been previously convicted of theft.	2.07	1.98	2	.867
An offender has pled guilty to manslaughter. He was drinking in a local bar when a group from another community came in. A fight started, and in the free for all, the offender knocked the victim into the bar where his head struck the corner. The victim died as a result of his injuries. The offender was employed in the oil fields at the time of this incident. He is 25 years old, married, and has a three year old child. He has no prior convictions.	2.96	3.40	4	1.12

RECOMMENDED SENTENCES FOR CONVICTED OFFENDERS
(cont)

	Mean	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation
Same as above, except the offender has been previously convicted of assault.	1.91	1.79	2	.919
Same as above, except the offender is currently participating in a rehabilitation program for problem drinkers.	2.33	2.20	2	1.02
An offender has pled guilty to Second Degree Burglary of a dwelling. The defendant has no prior felony convictions and one previous non-violent misdemeanor conviction. He is an unemployed 30 year old male, who is separated from his wife and children.	2.44	2.20	2	.940
Same as above, except that the defendant has been convicted of two similar crimes.	1.55	1.38	1	.755

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1 = Prison 2 = Jail 3 = Community Corrections 4 = Probation 5 = Court Supervision

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