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John E. Otto, Acting Director

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Minneapolis police officer and his canine partner make friends in the community.

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CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES 1986

For the second consecutive year, overall serious crimes reported to police recorded an increase. Last year's Crime Index total was 6 percent above the 1985 figures and represented the highest level since 1981. All offenses comprising the Index increased in volume from 1985 to 1986.

An estimated 13.2 million offenses were reported to over 16,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide representing 96 percent of the total population. Related to the U.S. population, the serious crime total showed an

average of 5,480 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants.

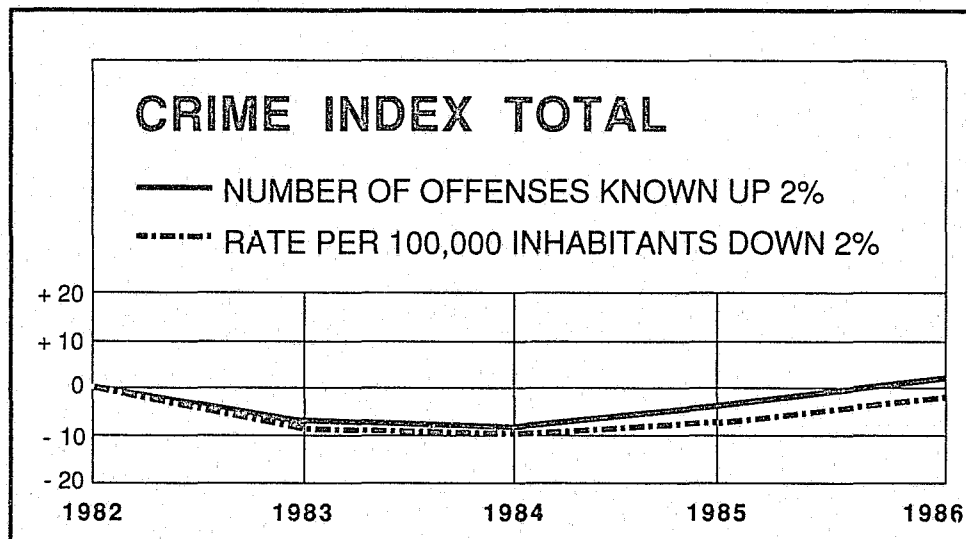
VIOLENT CRIMES

Collectively, violent crime was up 12 percent in 1986. Aggravated assault increased 15 percent; murder and robbery each rose 9 percent, and forcible rape was up 3 percent. The rate of violent crime, which was 617 per 100,000 people in 1986, increased 11 percent from 1985.

MURDER—The number of murders rose 9 percent to 20,613 in 1986, with a rate of 9 per 100,000 U.S.

inhabitants. Increases were recorded in all regions, cities, and suburban counties; rural counties were the only area to show a decrease. Of the murder victims, 49 percent were aged 20 through 34 years, 75 percent were males, 53 percent were white, and 18 percent were Hispanic. Firearms were the weapons used in 3 of every 5 murders.

Fifty-seven percent of the murder victims were related to or acquainted with their assailants. Arguments resulted in 38 percent of all murders, while 21 percent were proven or sus-



pected to have occurred in conjunction with felonious activities, such as robbery, arson, etc., 19 percent resulted from miscellaneous nonfelony activities, and 23 percent from unknown circumstances.

Nationally in 1986, the highest clearance rate among index crimes was for murder (70 percent). Forty-one percent of all murder arrestees were under 25 years of age, and 88 percent were males. Fifty percent were white; 48 percent, black; and the remainder, other races.

FORCIBLE RAPE—Forcible rapes reported to law enforcement numbered an estimated 90,434 in 1986. Eighty percent were rapes by force; the re-

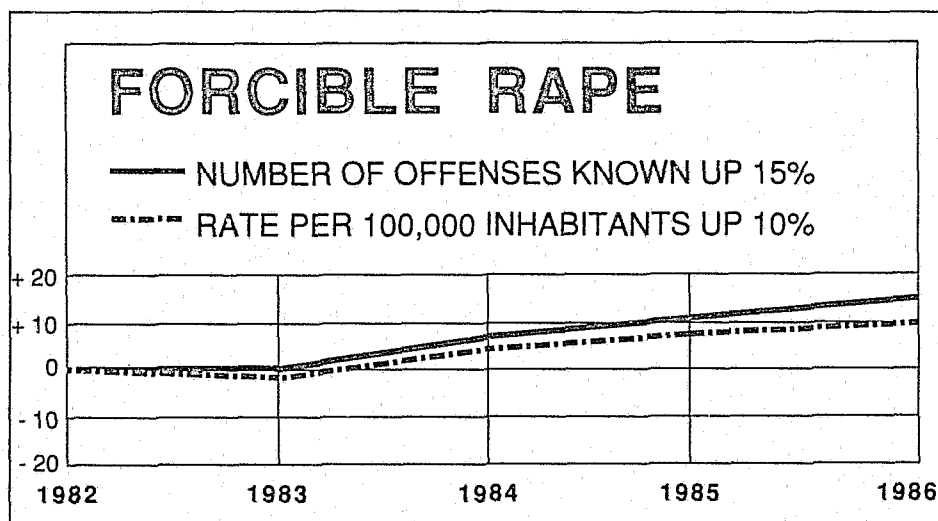
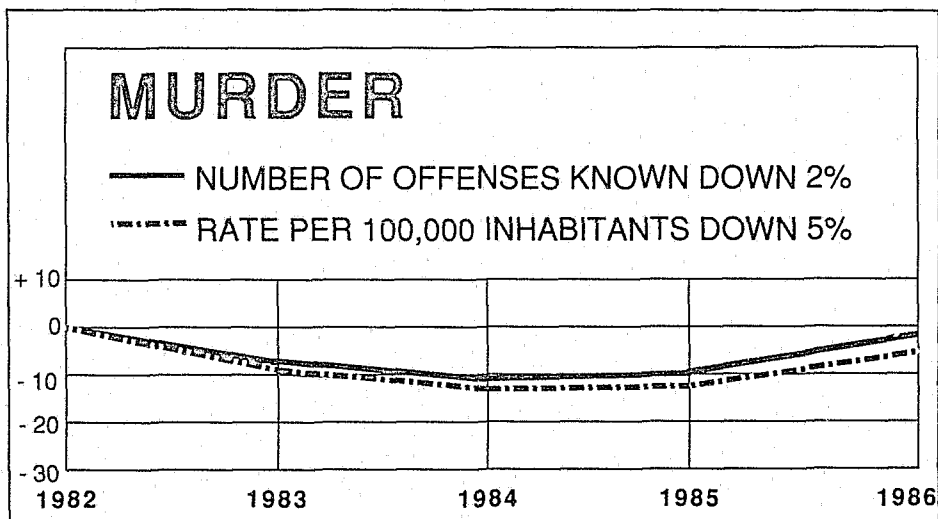
mainder were attempts or assaults to commit forcible rape. By Uniform Crime Reporting definition, the victims of forcible rape are always females, and in 1986, an estimated 73 of every 100,000 females in the Nation were reported rape victims.

The volume of forcible rape in 1986, as compared with 1985, increased 3 percent nationwide, in cities, and in rural counties. In suburban counties, the increase was 6 percent. Only cities over 1 million registered a decrease, one of 4 percent. For the same 2-year period, forcible rapes were up in three of the four geographic regions of the country. A 1-percent decline was experienced in the North-

eastern States.

Law enforcement agencies cleared 52 percent of the forcible rapes reported, and arrests for this offense were up 1 percent from 1985. Of the arrestees, 45 percent were under the age of 25, with 30 percent in the 18- to 24-year age group. Fifty-two percent of those arrested were white and 47 percent were black.

ROBBERY—The 1986 robbery total was 542,775, 9 percent above the 1985 figure. These offenses accounted for an estimated national loss of \$323 million, or an average of \$596 per incident. When comparing 1986 with 1985 data, robbery totals were higher in all geographic regions and city and



county population groupings.

Nationally, the robbery rate of 225 per 100,000 people was 8 percent higher than in 1985. The highest rate—960 per 100,000 inhabitants—was in cities with populations over 1 million. Strong-arm tactics were used in 43 percent of all robberies last year. Thirty-four percent were committed with firearms, 13 percent with knives or other cutting instruments, and the remainder with other dangerous weapons. Over half of the offenses were robberies on streets and highways.

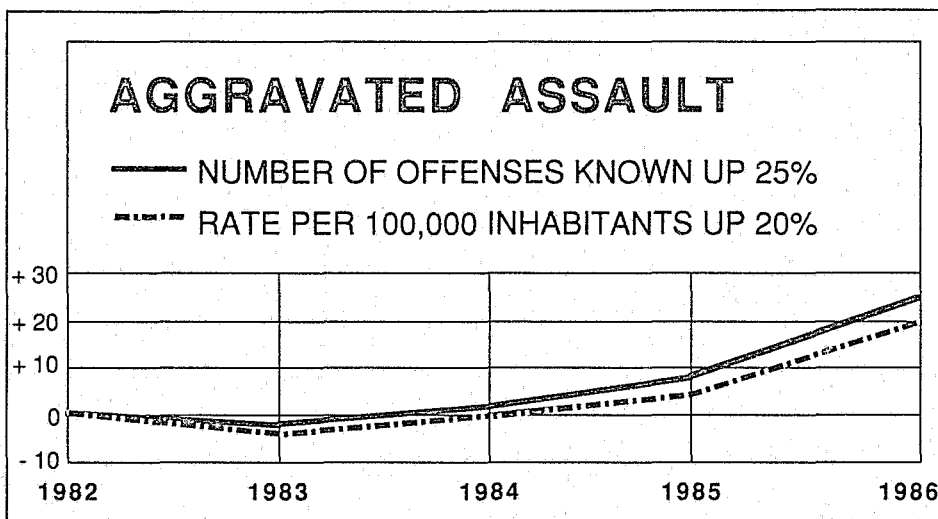
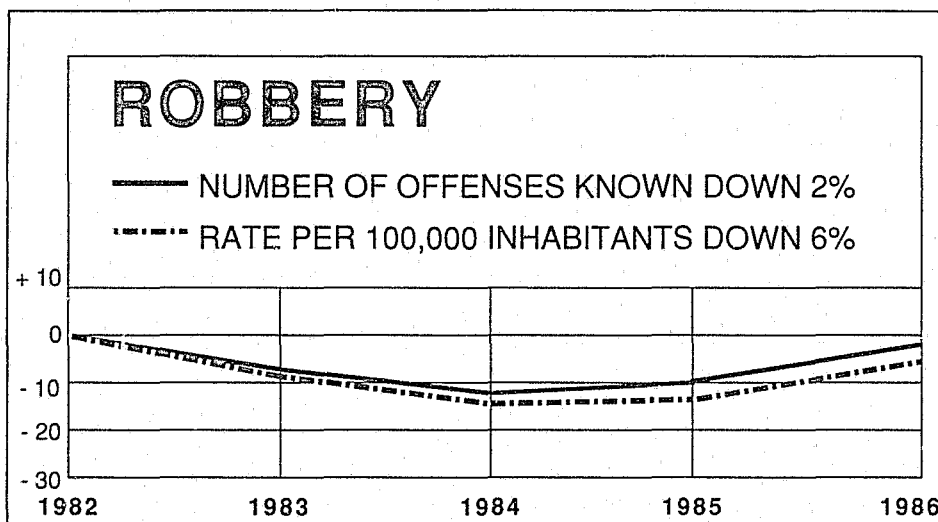
In 1986, 1 of every 4 robberies

was cleared, and robbery arrests rose 7 percent as compared to the 1985 total. Ninety-two percent of the robbery arrestees were males, 62 percent were under 25 years of age, 62 percent were black, and 37 percent were white.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT—Up 15 percent in volume from 1985, aggravated assaults totaled 834,322 last year. Increases were recorded in all regions and areas, with the greatest increases in the Western States (26 percent) and cities with populations over 1 million (24 percent). The national rate for aggravated assault in 1986 was 346 victims per 100,000 inhabitants, a 14-percent increase over

1985. Twenty-one percent of all aggravated assaults were committed through the use of firearms, 22 percent with knives or cutting instruments, 25 percent with personal weapons (hands, fists, feet), and 32 percent with some other weapon.

Law enforcement agencies cleared 59 percent of the reported aggravated assaults in 1986, and arrests for this offense were up 16 percent over the previous year. Eighty-seven percent of those arrested were males, 59 percent were white, 40 percent were black, and the remainder were of other races.



PROPERTY CRIMES

Property crimes occurring in 1986 increased 6 percent nationwide. Burglary and larceny-theft each rose 5 percent, arson was up 6 percent, and motor vehicle theft rose 11 percent. The 1986 national rate for property crime, which relates crime volume to population, was 4,863 offenses per 100,000 population, a 5-percent higher rate than in 1985.

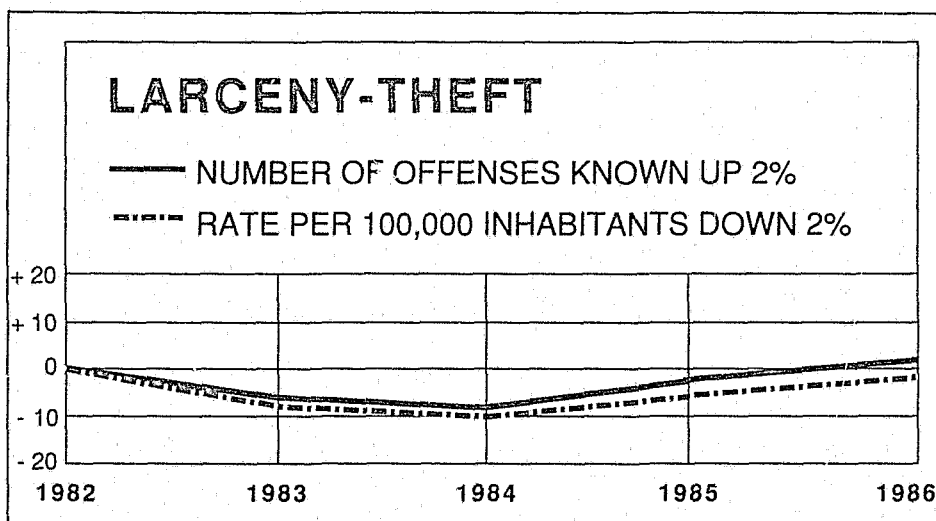
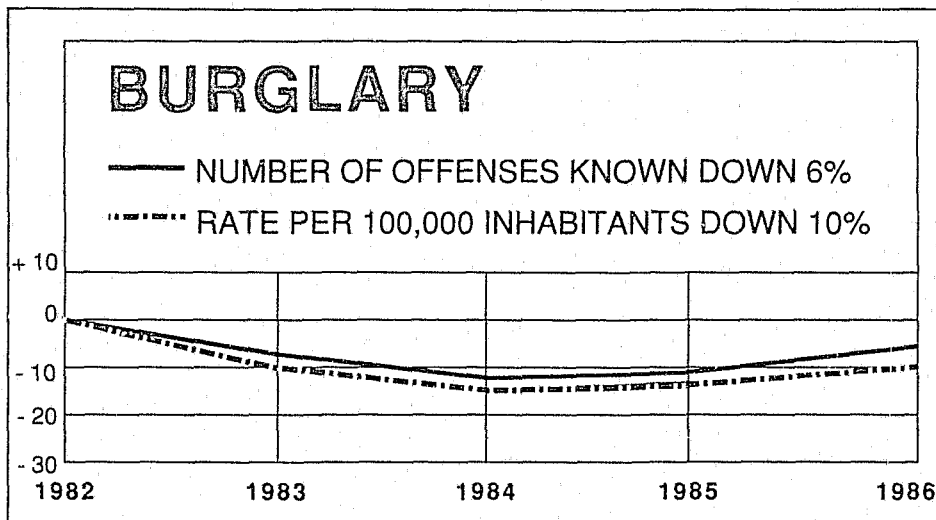
BURGLARY—Over 3.2 million burglary offenses were reported to law enforcement agencies across the country during 1986. The volume for this offense was 5 percent higher than the 1985 total. Geographically, the Northeastern States showed virtually

no change in the burglary count, while the three remaining regions experienced upswings.

The national burglary rate of 1,345 per 100,000 inhabitants in 1986 was 4 percent higher than the previous year's rate. The total estimated national loss due to burglary was \$3.1 billion and the average loss was \$960 per incident. Two of every 3 burglaries were of residences. The average loss due to residential burglaries was \$991 per offense, while for nonresidential burglaries, it was \$894. Seventy percent of all burglaries in 1986 involved forcible entry, 22 percent were unlawful entries, and the remainder were forcible entry attempts.

The 1986 burglary clearance rate was 14 percent. Arrest trends for 1985 and 1986 showed a 1-percent increase in total burglary arrests. Of the estimated 450,600 burglary arrestees in 1986, 92 percent were males, 71 percent were under 25 years of age, and 69 percent were white.

LARCENY-THEFT—Larceny thefts numbered an estimated 7,257,153 offenses in 1986. This total was 5 percent higher than in 1985 nationally, and increases were recorded in all regions and areas. The 1986 larceny-theft rate was 3,010 per 100,000 inhabitants nationwide, 4 percent higher than in 1985. Average losses were \$400 per incident, with a total na-



tional loss due to larceny-theft estimated at \$2.9 billion. An analysis of the larceny-theft category showed that 37 percent of these offenses were thefts of motor vehicle parts, accessories, and contents. Thefts from buildings and shoplifting each accounted for an additional 15 percent of the total.

Twenty percent of the reported larceny-thefts were cleared in 1986, and arrests for this offense were up 4 percent from the previous year. Females were arrested for larceny more often than for any other offense during the year. Of all persons arrested for larceny-theft, 46 percent were under 21 years of age; 68 percent, white; and 88 percent, non-Hispanic.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT—An estimated 1 of every 149 registered motor vehicles was stolen during 1986, and the national total of 1,224,137 offenses was 11 percent above the 1985 level. The increase extended into all regions, areas, and population groups.

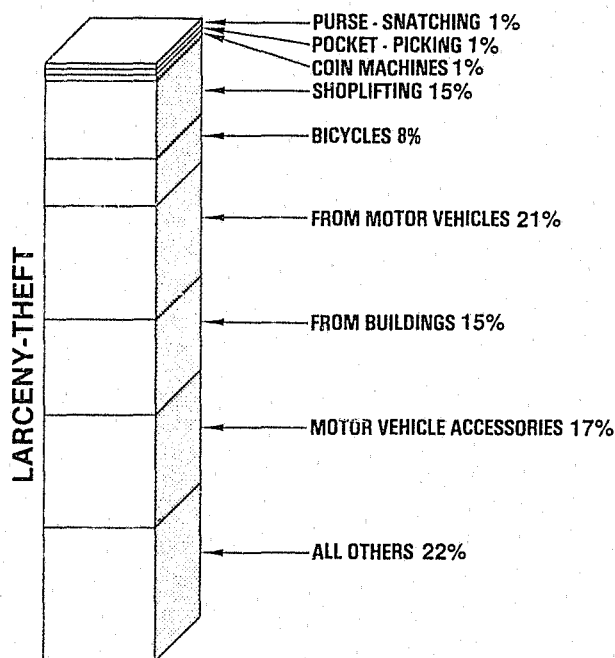
Of the motor vehicles stolen in 1986, 77 percent were automobiles, 14 percent were trucks or buses, and the remainder were other types. The stolen vehicles accounted for an estimated \$6 billion national loss. At the time of theft, the average value per vehicle stolen was \$4,888.

The national clearance rate for motor vehicle theft was 15 percent. Arrests for this offense in 1986 were up 15 percent overall from the previous

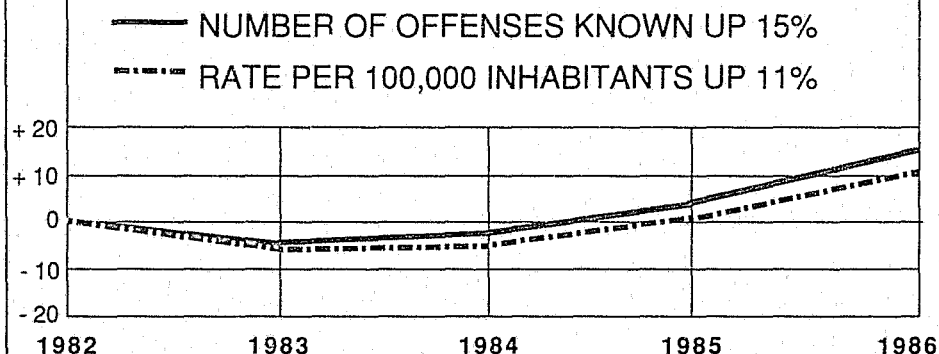
year. Of the arrestees, 58 percent were under 21 years of age and 91 percent were males. Whites comprised 64 percent of the persons arrested and blacks, 35 percent.

ARSON—During 1986, 110,732 arson offenses were reported by 12,599 law enforcement agencies. The arson volume rose 6 percent in 1986 over the 1985 total. Regionally, in-

LARCENY ANALYSIS 1986



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT



creases were also recorded in the Midwest (10 percent) and the South (8 percent). The West and Northeast, however, recorded declines of 3 and 2 percent, respectively. The national arson rate was 53 per 100,000 population.

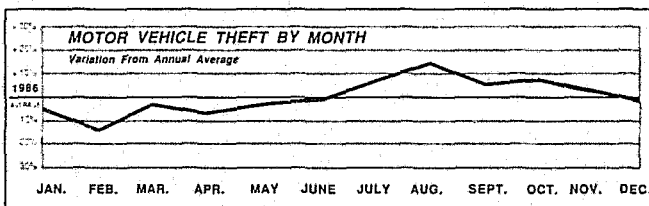
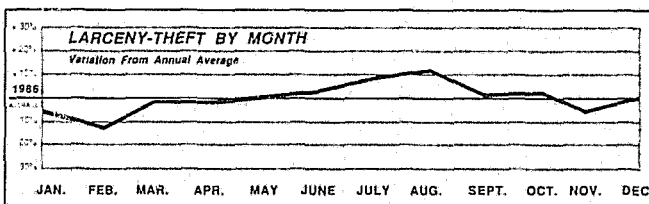
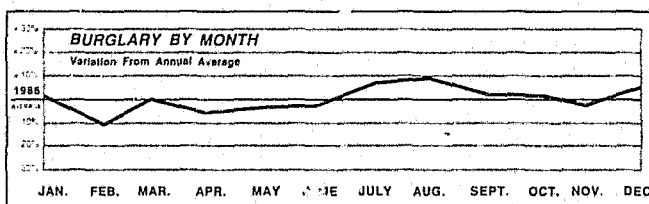
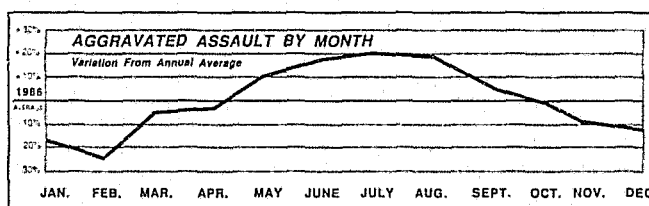
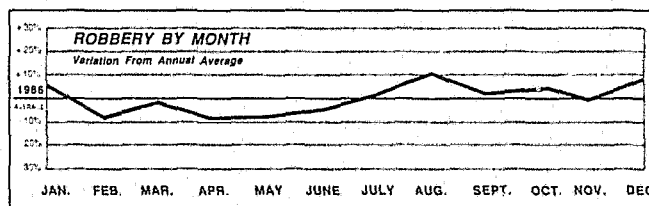
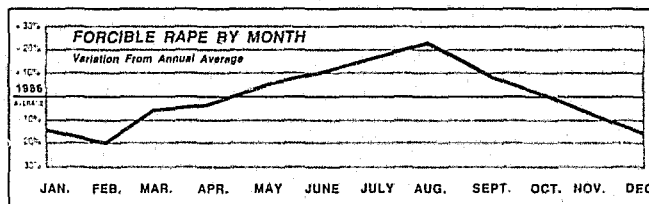
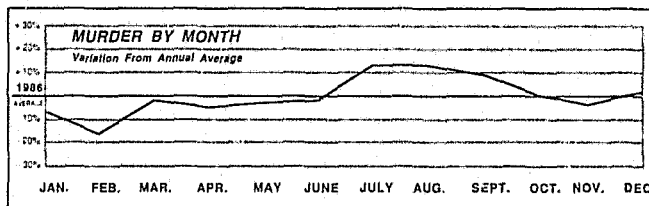
Data based on reports from 12,464 agencies furnishing at least 1 month of supplemental information in 1986 showed that of the property targeted by arsonists, structures accounted for 55 percent, mobile property (motor vehicles, airplanes, boats, etc.) for 28 percent, and other types of property (crops, timber, etc.) for 17 percent. Sixty percent of the structural arsons involved residential property, and 92 percent of the arsons of mobile property involved motor vehicles. Averaging \$13,198 per incident, the reported monetary value of property damaged due to arson was \$1.2 billion.

Fifteen percent of the arsons reported during 1986 were cleared. Demonstrating a higher percentage of juvenile involvement than for any other Index crime, only persons under age 18 accounted for 35 percent of all arson clearances. The estimated number of arrests for arson in 1986 totaled 18,700. Sixty-three percent of the arrestees were under 25 years of age and 40 percent were under 18. Of all arrestees, 86 percent were males and 75 percent were white.

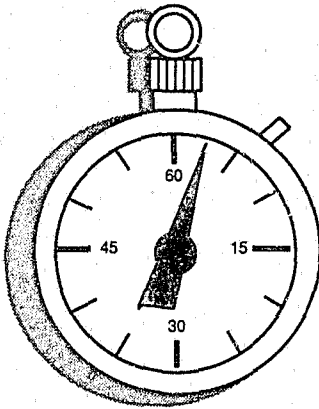
CRIME DISTRIBUTION

Crime Index trends in the regions for 1986 revealed upswings in volumes which ranged from 3 percent in the Northeast to 10 percent in the South. In the Midwest, overall crime was up 4 percent and in the West, 6 percent.

Similar to the national experience, law enforcement agencies in suburban counties registered a 6-percent rise in volume in 1986. The Crime Index increases were 4 percent in the rural counties and 7 percent in the Nation's cities.



CRIME CLOCK 1986



one
CRIME INDEX OFFENSE
every 2 seconds

one
VIOLENT CRIME
every 21 seconds

one
PROPERTY CRIME
every 3 seconds

one
MURDER
every 25 minutes

one
FORCIBLE RAPE
every 6 minutes

one
ROBBERY
every 58 seconds

one
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
every 38 seconds

one
BURGLARY
every 10 seconds

one
LARCENY-THEFT
every 4 seconds

one
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
every 26 seconds

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 represents the annual ratio of crime to fixed time intervals.

CLEARANCES AND ARRESTS

Of the total Crime Index offenses recorded by law enforcement agencies during 1986, 21 percent were cleared. The violent crime clearance rate was 46 percent, while for property crime it was 17 percent. Among the index crimes, the highest clearance rate (70 percent) was for murder and lowest (14 percent) for burglary. Nineteen percent of the overall offenses cleared by law enforcement involved only young people under age 18. Persons in this age group accounted for 9 percent of the violent crime clearances and 23 percent of those for property crimes.

Regional Crime Index clearance rates showed the highest rate (22 percent) was in the South. In the West, the rate was 21 percent; in the Midwest, 20 percent; and in the Northeast, 19 percent.

ARRESTS

During 1986, arrests for all offenses except traffic violations totaled an estimated 12.5 million. When the arrest volume was related to the total U.S. population, the arrest rate was 5,232 per 100,000 inhabitants. Regionally, the arrest rates ranged from 4,180 in the Midwest to 5,978 in the West. In the South, the arrest rate was 5,314 and in the Northeast, 5,402.

The highest volume of arrests was recorded for driving under the influence, 1.8 million. Males were most often arrested for this offense, which accounted for 15 percent of all male arrests. Females were most often arrested for larceny-theft.

Of all persons arrested nationwide in 1986, 5 percent were under the age of 15, 17 percent were under 18, 31 percent were under 21, and 49 percent were under 25. Four of every 5 persons arrested were males, and 71 percent of all arrestees were white.

Compared to the 1985 volume, the number of arrests for all offenses increased 5 percent in 1986. During the same time period, adult arrests also rose 5 percent, while those of persons under 18 years of age were up 3 percent.

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CRIMES CLEARED BY ARREST 1986

