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CR-Sept
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1987 ROBBERY REPORT

111343

U.S. Department of Justice
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COLORADO SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

FROM: Joan Bond, Crime Analyst

DATE: April 15, 1988

TO: To Whom It May Concern

SUBJECT: 1987 Robbery Report

Attached is the 1987 Robbery Report. This report was compiled based upon case reports of both business and personal robberies during 1987. The findings of this report are summarized on the last page.

This report compares Colorado Springs' robbery totals to cities with similar populations nationwide and other Colorado cities. It also compares total robberies in Colorado Springs with robbery totals for the last few years and compares specific robbery characteristics to those characteristics for the previous year. In other words, this report tries to track any changing trends in personal or business robbery. Robbery had decreased by 17% in 1987, but we should remember that this decrease is from a year which had an unusually high robbery rate. Prior to 1986, it seemed robbery totals were on the decline. So far in the first quarter of 1988, robberies are down about 51% from the first quarter of 1987, hopefully, 1987 started that decline once again.

Joan Bond
Crime Analyst
Crime Analysis Unit

JB:rem
Attachment

NCJRS

MAY 18 1988

ACQUISITIONS

INTRODUCTION

This report is a statistical analysis of the robberies that were reported to the Colorado Springs Police Department during 1987. The Crime Analysis Unit maintains a computer-based robbery data file. Data is taken from police officer and detective reports, coded, and entered into this computer file.

Robbery cases are categorized as either business or personal. Included in personal robberies are purse snatches (or robberies similar in nature, i.e., wallet snatch).

All data included in this report was retrieved from the DBASE III file. In all tables, percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number, so some rounding errors will occur.

Total robberies in Colorado Springs during 1987 decreased by 17% from 1986. Business robberies decreased by 6%, and personal robbery decreased by 29%. Table 1 shows total robbery cases since 1980.

TABLE 1

TOTAL ROBBERY

1980 - 1986

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Robberies</u>
1980	420
1981	556
1982	449
1983	444
1984	388
1985	371
1986	636
1987	527

In 1987, the rate of total robbery occurrence per 1,000 population was lower from 2.4 in 1986 to 1.9 in 1987. Table 2 is based on data from a 1987 crime statistic report done by Emily Adams, Crime Analysis Supervisor, showing the robbery statistics of six U.S. cities with populations similar to Colorado Springs. Table 3 data (taken from this same report), shows robbery statistics for ten Colorado cities. For the Colorado Springs' robbery count, the number used is taken from the database file described. This robbery count is often slightly higher than the UCR robbery count due to the fact that the Crime Analysis Unit codes Burglary/Robbery or Theft/Robbery cases as robberies, where as UCR may code them as a Burglary or Theft.

TABLE 2*

ROBBERY CRIME COMPARISONS

SIX U.S. CITIES

POPULATION 227,000 - 272,000

<u>City (Population)</u>	<u>Total Robberies</u>	<u>Percent change from 1986</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u>
Akron, OH (227,000)	704	+ 4%	3.10
Arlington, TX (252,000)	511	- 1%	2.03
Colorado Springs, CO, (269,500)	527	- 17%	1.95
Norfolk, VA (272,000)	1,007	- 4%	3.70
Rochester, NY (240,000)	1,023	- 5%	4.26
Santa Ana, CA (238,440)	799	- 20%	3.35

TABLE 3*

ROBBERY CRIME COMPARISONS

TEN COLORADO CITIES

<u>City (Population)</u>	<u>Total Robberies</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u>
Arvada (94,000)	44	.47
Aurora (229,000)	524	2.29
Boulder (85,290)	46	.54
Colorado Springs (269,500)	527	1.95
Denver (510,700)	1,612	3.16
Fort Collins (87,575)	39	.46
Greeley (58,259)	40	.69
Lakewood (129,750)	163	1.26
Pueblo (100,000)	128	1.28
Westminster (75,636)	55	.73

* Population estimates and crime statistics provided by individual agencies.

A conclusion can be made by these two tables that the robbery rate per thousand in Colorado Springs (1.95) is lower than the rate per 1,000 of other cities with similar populations in both Colorado and the country.

PART I - BUSINESS ROBBERY

There were 312 cases recapped as business robberies in 1987. This accounted for 59% of the total robberies this past year. This figure shows a slight decrease (6%) from the previous year.

As can be expected, the locations of business robberies are in business areas along major thoroughfares. Figure 1 shows the locations of business robberies in 1987.

In 1987 as in 1986, the top three business types targeted were fast food restaurants, gas stations and convenience stores. Table 4 shows types of businesses victimized and the number and percentage of that business type robbed.

TABLE 4
BUSINESS ROBBERY BY TYPE

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Fast Food Restaurant	54	(17%)
Gas Station	44	(14%)
Convenience Store	42	(13%)
Pizza Delivery	28	(9%)
Retail Store	27	(9%)
Bar/Restaurant/Lounge	27	(9%)
Supermarket/Grocery	14	(4%)
Bank/Financial Institution	14	(4%)
Liquor Store	13	(4%)
Pizza Store	10	(3%)
Hotel/Motel	9	(3%)
Other Delivery/Taxi	6	(2%)
Pharmacy/Drug Store	4	(1%)
Professional/Business Office	1	(< 1%)
Miscellaneous or Other	19	(6%)

The #2 and #3 locations (gas stations and convenience stores) are becoming increasingly similar in their function and look. Many gas stations have a convenience store associated with them, and many convenience stores now have gas pumps in the front. It is often very difficult to distinguish these two categories. Therefore, any tactical measures of robbery prevention/enforcement of either of these business types should be aware that these similarities exist.

Figure 2 shows the peak months for business robberies were January through March and September, and October. Business robberies declined during the summer months. This summer decline was also seen last year. There were two significant business robbery patterns which occurred in 1987. These took place (and thus were a factor) during the two peak periods. Tuesday was the most popular day for a business robbery followed by Wednesday. Weekends were slightly lower, perhaps due to the fact that many businesses are closed on weekends (Table 5). The hours between 1800 and 2400 comprised 54% of the time when a business robbery took place (Table 6).

BUSINESS ROBBERY LOCATION
1987

Map of Colorado Springs showing business robbery locations in 1987. The map includes a north arrow, numbered areas (1-68), and street names. Robbery locations are marked with black dots.

Colorado Springs

FIGURE 2

BUSINESS ROBBERIES

JAN-DEC 1987

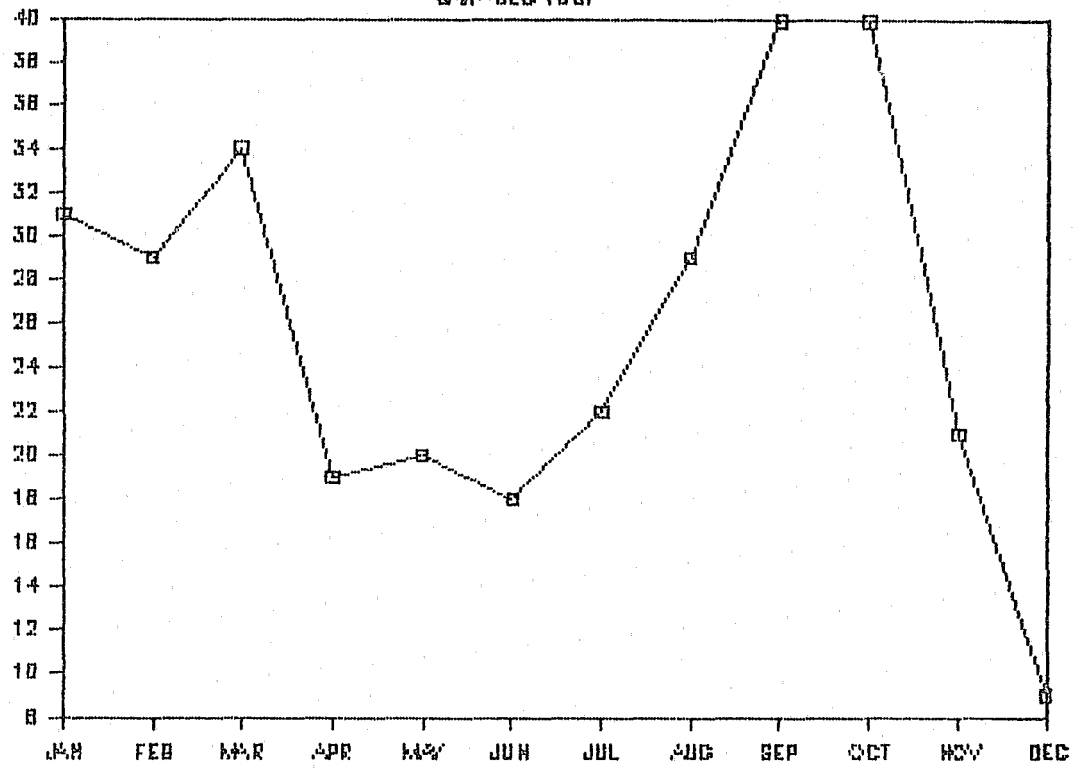


TABLE 5
BUSINESS ROBBERIES

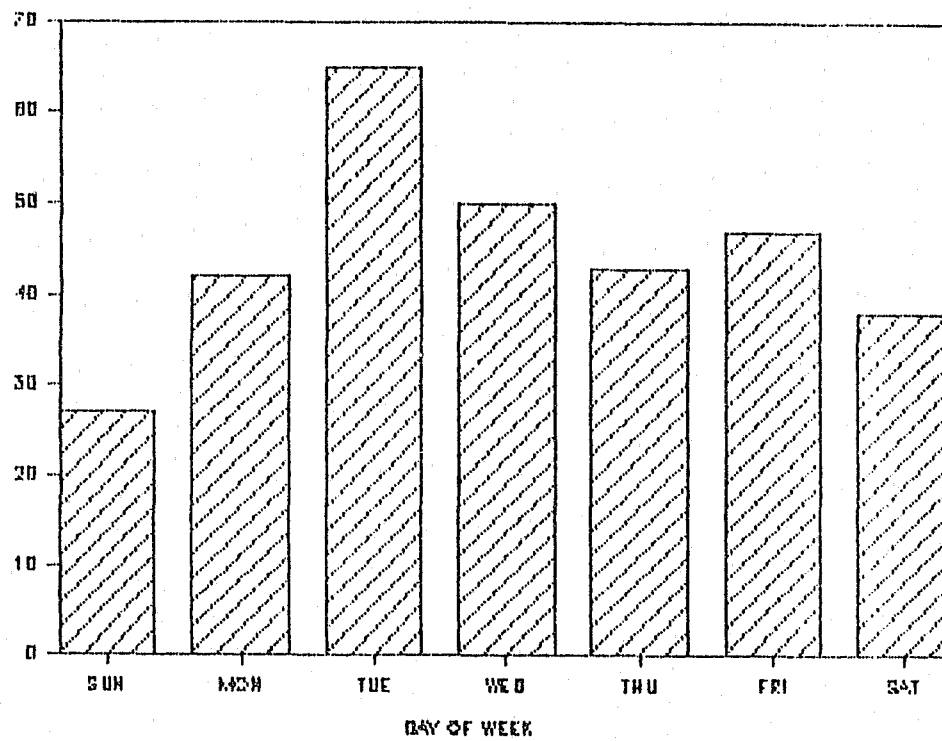
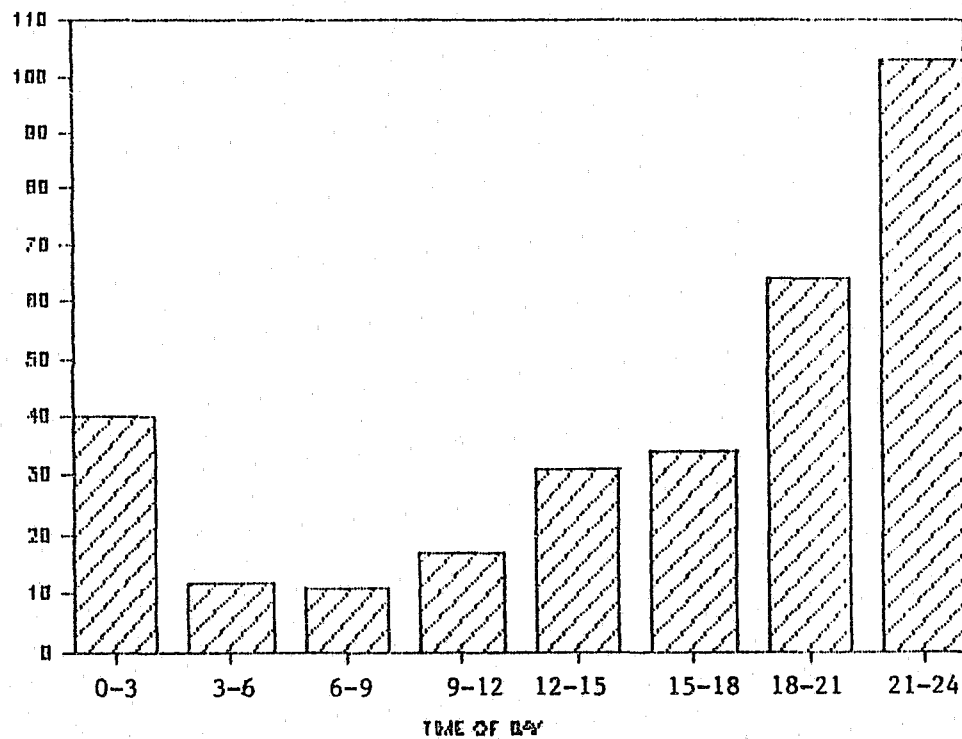


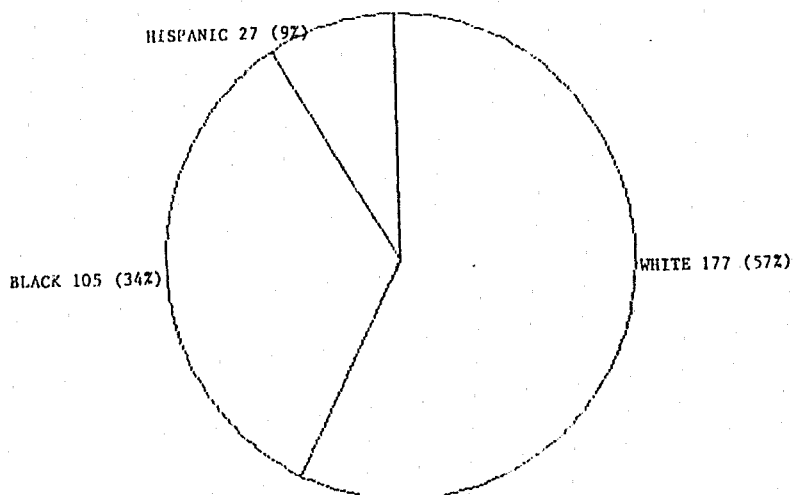
TABLE 6
BUSINESS ROBBERIES



SUSPECT INFORMATION

Of the 312 business robberies, 11 cases or 3.5% had three or more suspects and 89 of these robberies (29%) had two suspects. The majority of business robberies continue to be single suspect. The majority of business robbery suspects also continue to be male. Only 11 of the 423 total robbery suspects were female. The races of the suspects are shown in Table 7. For the race and age counts, only the primary suspect was used. In 1987, white suspects accounted for 57% of the business robbery suspects, followed by black suspects at 34% and Hispanics at 9%. In 1986, blacks accounted for 57% of the suspects and whites were 34%. I had mentioned before that there were two significant business robbery patterns in 1987. A total of 45 (14%) cases were cleared from the arrests made associated with these patterns. All suspects in these cases were white and this may contribute to the higher number of white suspects in 1987. The average age of the business robbery suspect was 26.5, about the same as it was in 1986. This average age is figured from the D.O.B.s when known and from victim estimates, so it is not an exact figure.

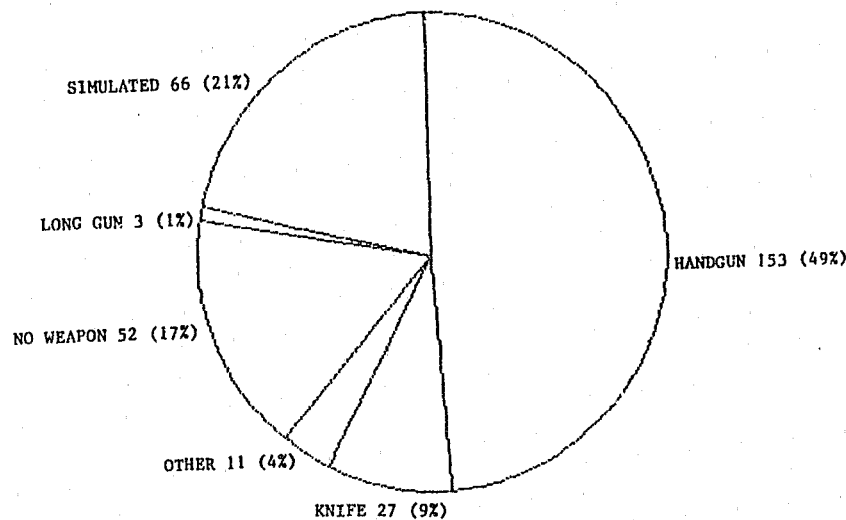
TABLE 7
BUSINESS ROBBERIES
RACE OF SUSPECT



WEAPON USE

In 1987, weapon use (or threat of weapon by simulation) occurred in 84% of the business robbery cases. In 1987, we began to separate cases where an actual handgun was seen from cases in which it was simulated. Table 8 shows the types of weapons used in business robberies in 1987.

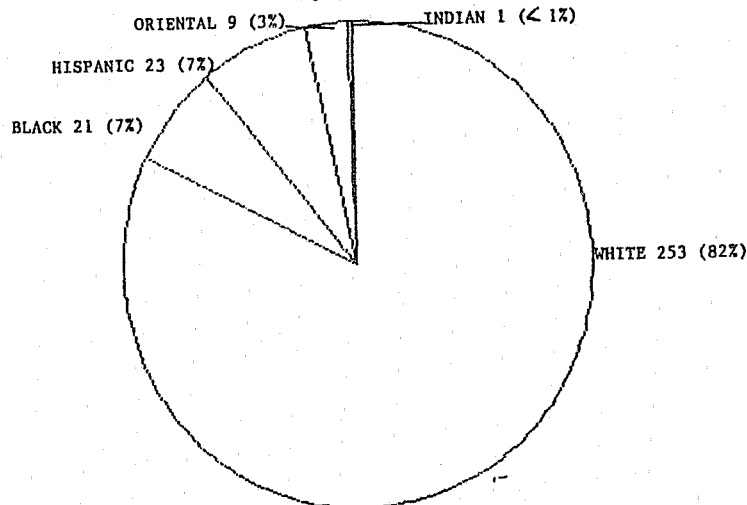
TABLE 8
BUSINESS ROBBERIES
WEAPONS USED



VICTIM INFORMATION

Although suspects often specialize in a certain business type rather than targeting a type of victim, we decided to profile the victim in the business robbery. It did not seem to matter if the clerk, manager, delivery person, etc. was male or female as 54% of the victims were female and 46% were male. The average age of the victim was 29. Table 9 shows race of victim. By far, the majority of the victims were white; however, since the population of Colorado Springs is predominantly white, this does not necessarily mean that the business robbery suspect targets white victims. Only 24 (7.7%) victims reported an injury during the business robbery.

TABLE 9
BUSINESS ROBBERIES
RACE OF VICTIM



MONETARY LOSS

Where a money loss was reported, the average net per business robbery in 1987 was \$481.07. There were 223 businesses which reported a monetary loss from a robbery in 1987, and the total amount lost from these robberies was \$107,277.90. The average amount taken in 1987 was about \$150.00 lower than the average amount taken in 1986.

PART II - PERSONAL ROBBERY

There were 215 cases recapped as personal robberies in 1987. This figure accounts for 41% of the total robberies which occurred in 1987. Included in the personal robbery count were purse snatches which numbered 48 (22%) of the total personal robbery cases. The total personal robbery count in 1987 shows a significant decrease (29%) from the previous year.

The geographic locations of the personal robberies are shown in Figure 3 on the next page. As was seen in 1986, the downtown area of Colorado Springs shows a high concentration of personal robberies. The type of location is depicted in Table 10. As shown by this table, 61% of all personal robberies happen on the street (or alley) or in a parking lot.

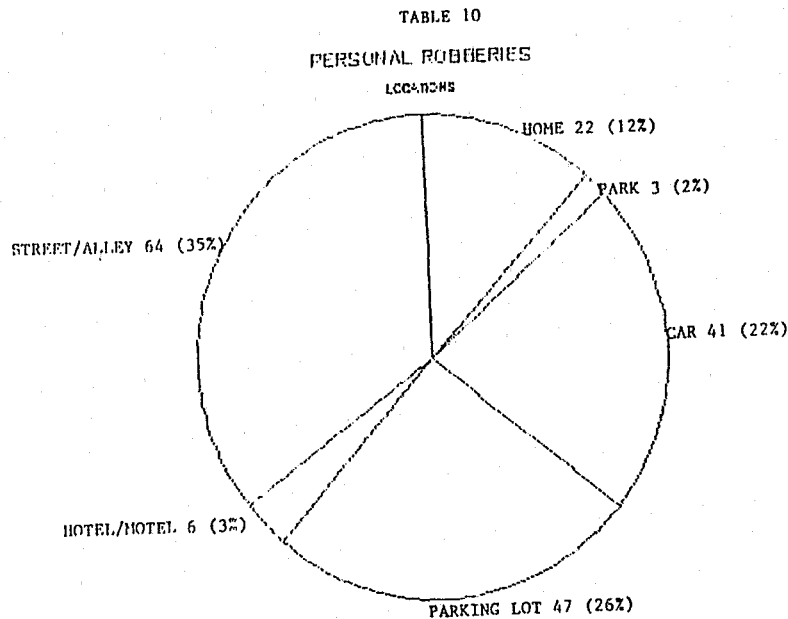


Figure 4 is a graph of the number of personal robberies by month. Peak months were May and October, with the low months being November and December. Personal robberies were scattered fairly evenly throughout the week with a slight increase on Saturday. The hours between 1800 and 0300 accounted for 67% of the hours when a personal robbery occurs. Tables 11 and 12 show personal robberies by day of week and time of day.

FIGURE 3
PERSONAL ROBBERY LOCATIONS
1987

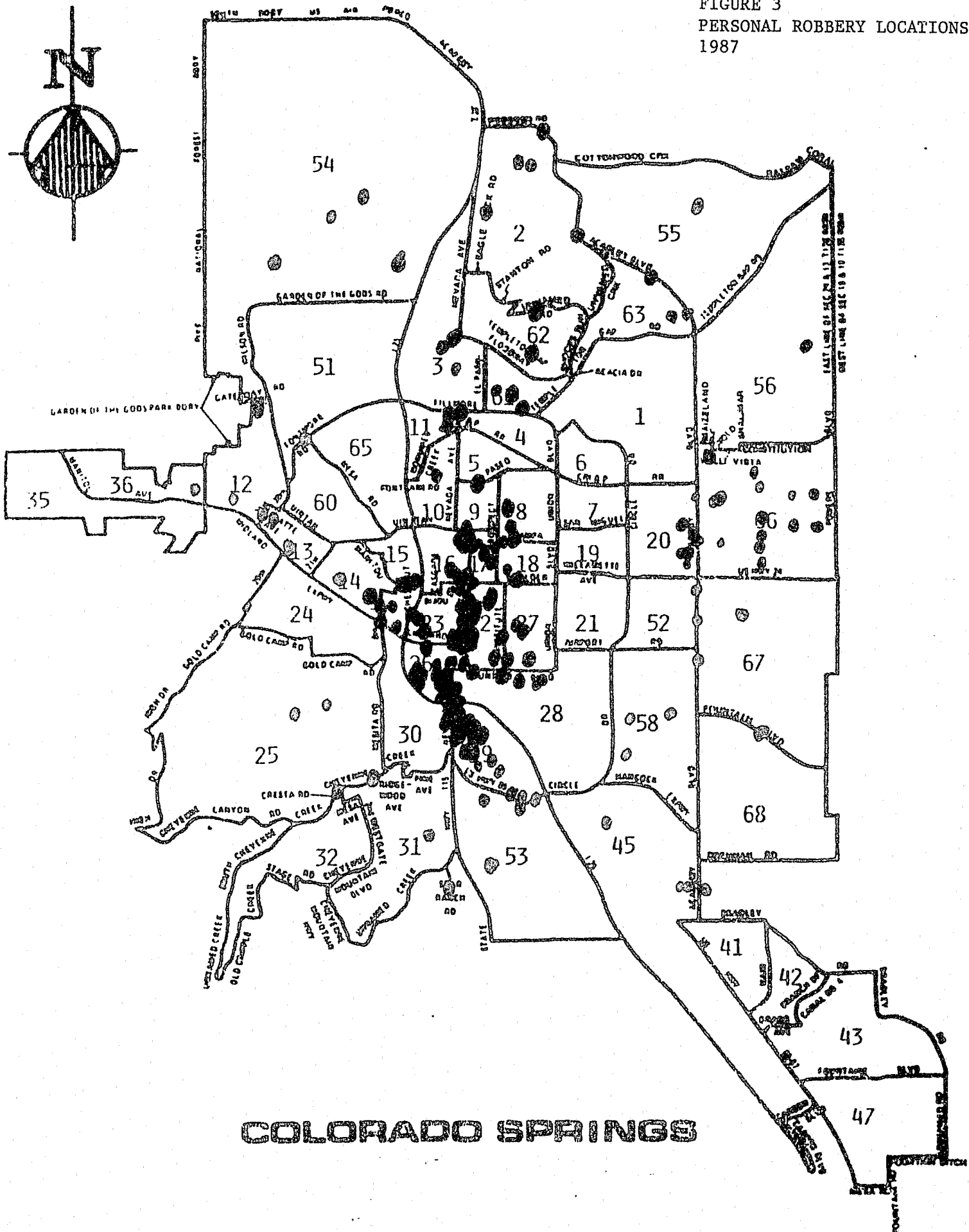


FIGURE 4

PERSONAL ROBBERIES

JAN-DEC 1987

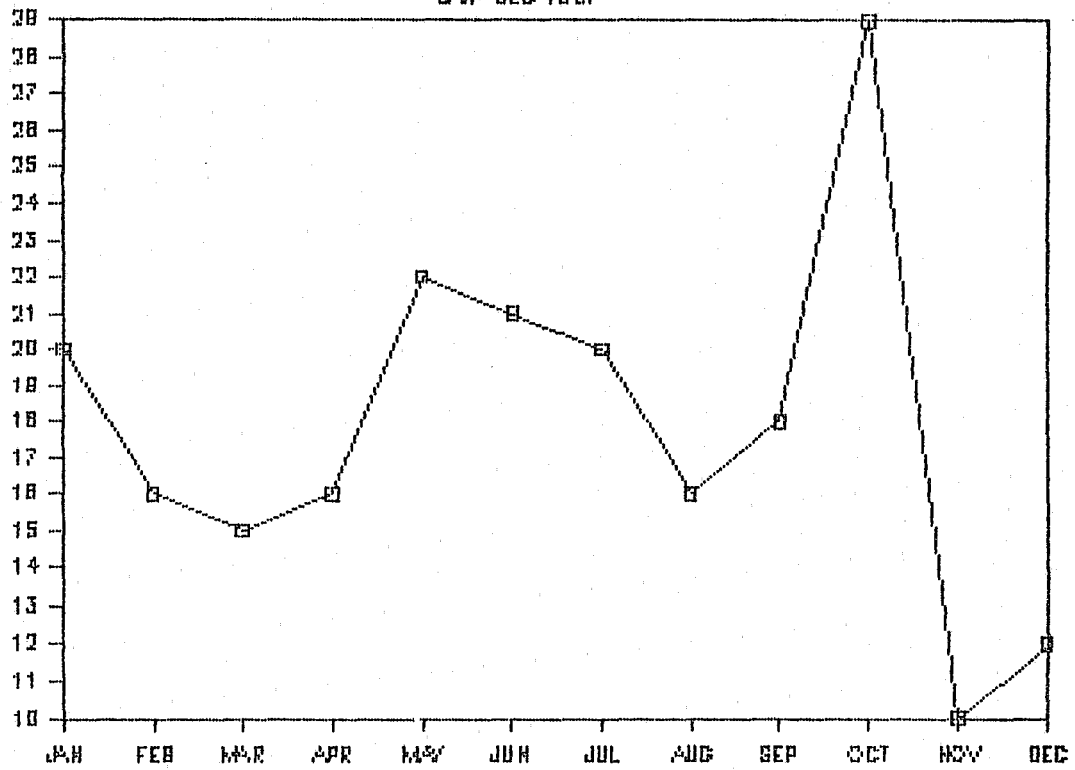


TABLE 11
PERSONAL ROBBERIES

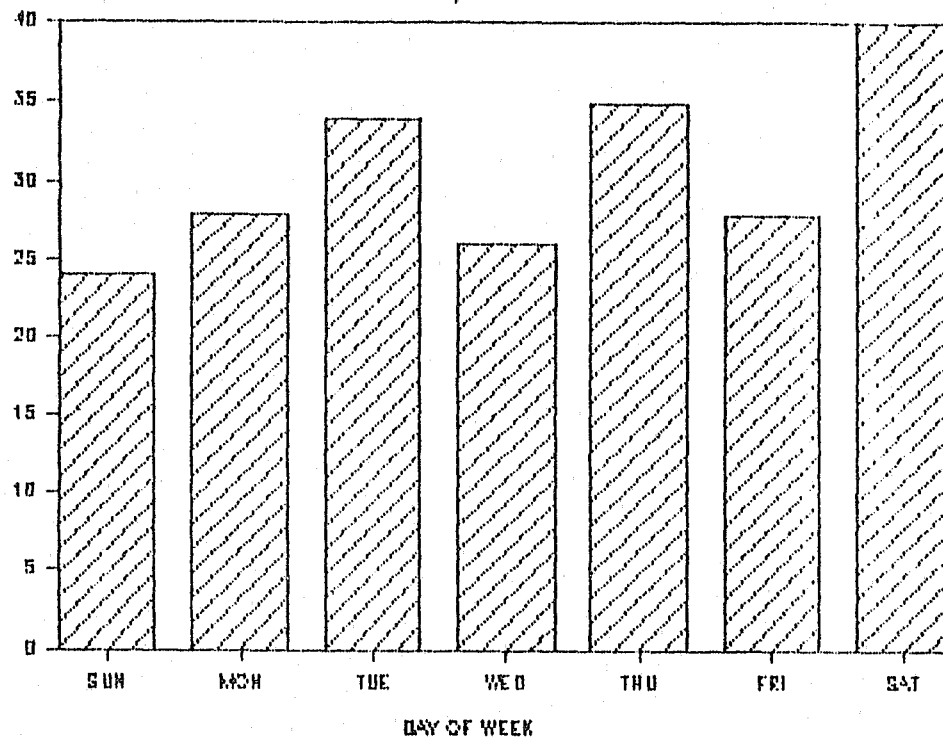
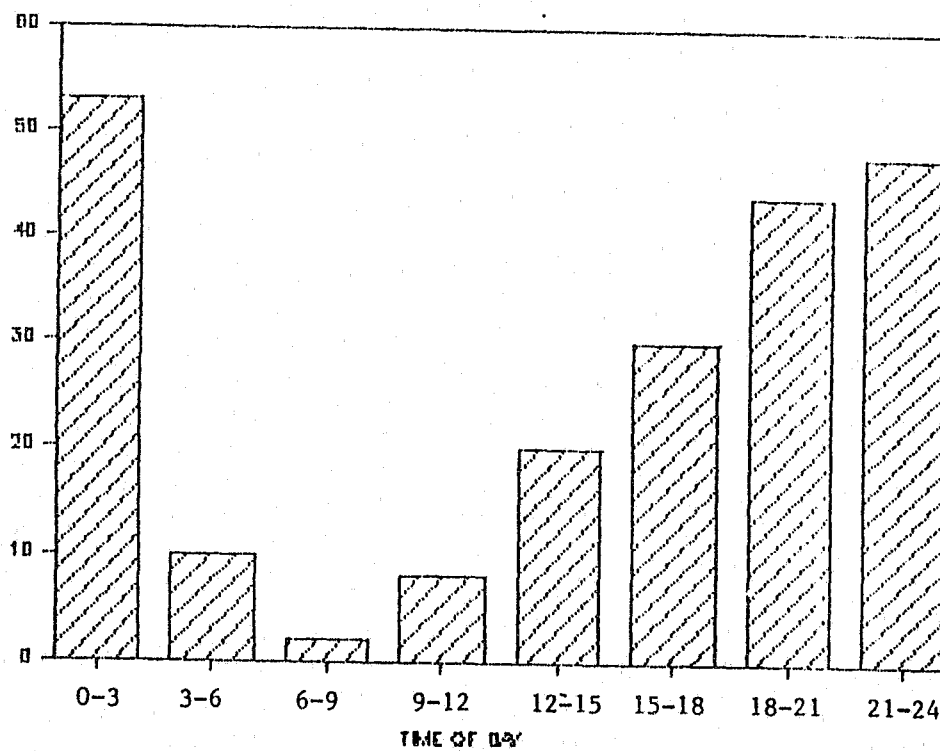


TABLE 12
PERSONAL ROBBERIES



SUSPECT INFORMATION

Out of the 167 personal robbery cases, 31 cases or (19%) had three or more suspects and 52 cases (31%) had two suspects. So one-half of the personal robberies were committed by more than one suspect. There is a significantly greater percentage of multiple suspects in personal robbery as opposed to business robberies. (In the case of purse snatches 83% are single suspect cases.)

The race counts were of the primary suspect and are by personal robbery suspect and purse snatch suspect. These figures are shown in Tables 13 and 14.

TABLE 13

PERSONAL ROBBERIES

RACE OF SUSPECTS

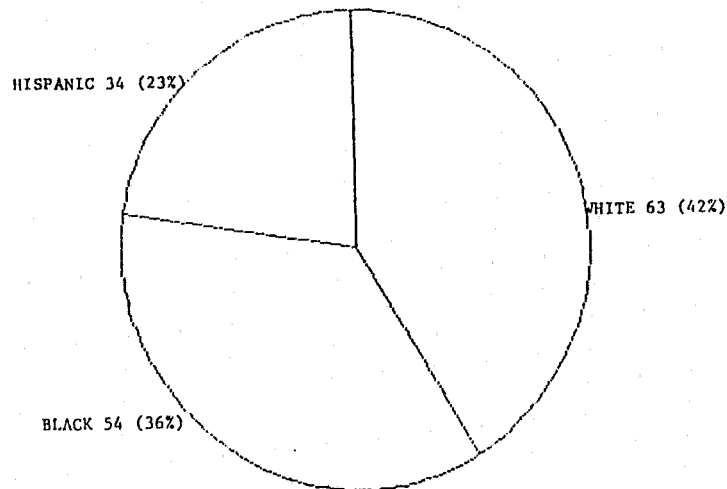
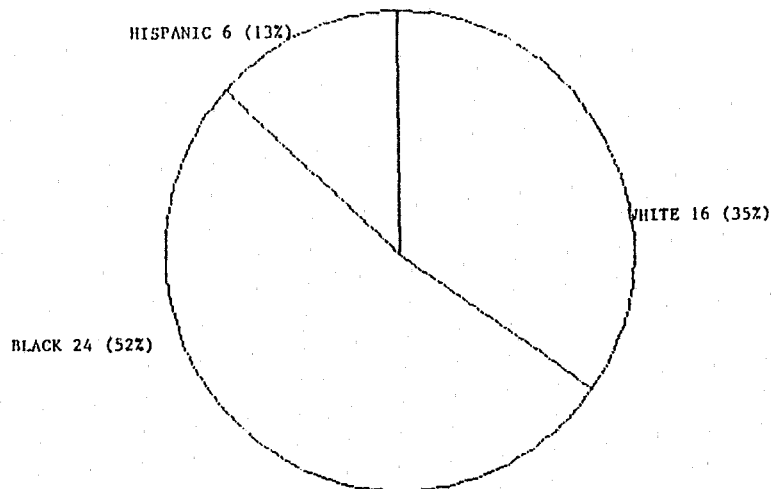


TABLE 14

PERSONAL ROBBERIES

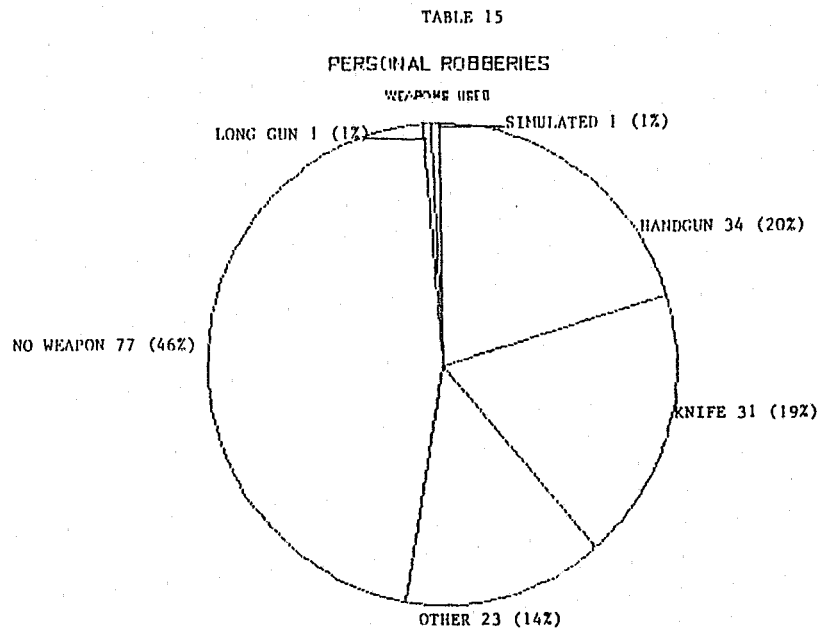
RACE OF SUSPECTS (PURSE SNATCH)



The average age of the personal robbery suspect was 25, and the purse snatch suspect was 23. Age again is often determined by victim's estimate. Again in personal robbery, male suspects predominate. Looking at all suspects in personal robberies (including purse snatches) only 31 suspects (9%) were female.

WEAPON USE

Table 15 shows weapon use in personal robbery. Almost one-half (46%) used no weapon in 1987. This is to say that the robbery was committed by intimidation or physical force.



VICTIM INFORMATION

The majority of personal robbery victims were male (78%). The purse snatches were predictably all female except for three males who had their wallets snatched from their hands. The average age of the personal robbery victim was 32 years old with 16 (10%) being over the age of 55. The average age of the purse snatch victim was slightly higher at 40 years old with 12 (44%) being over the age of 55. Tables 16 and 17 show race of the personal robbery victim and the purse snatch victim respectively. The race ratio of these two types of victim categories are quite similar. Victim injury was much higher in personal robberies as compared to business robberies. Reported injuries in personal robberies totaled 57 (27%). As weapon use is lower in personal robberies, physical force is higher thus resulting in the higher number of injuries to the personal robbery victim.

TABLE 16

PERSONAL ROBBERIES

RACE OF VICTIMS

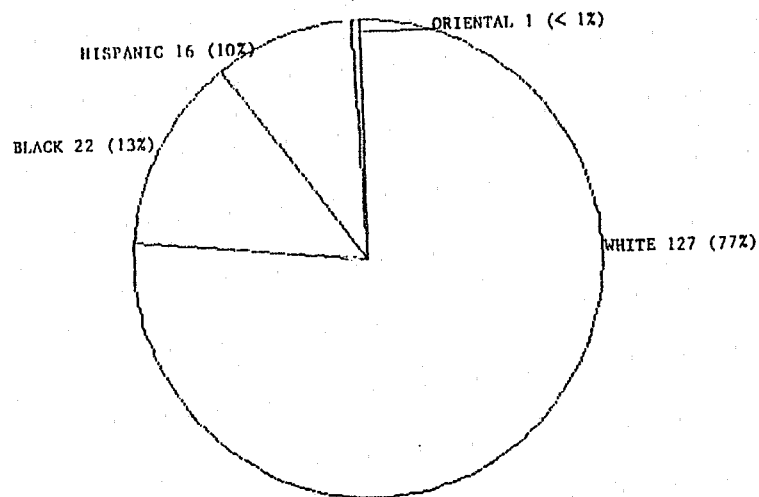
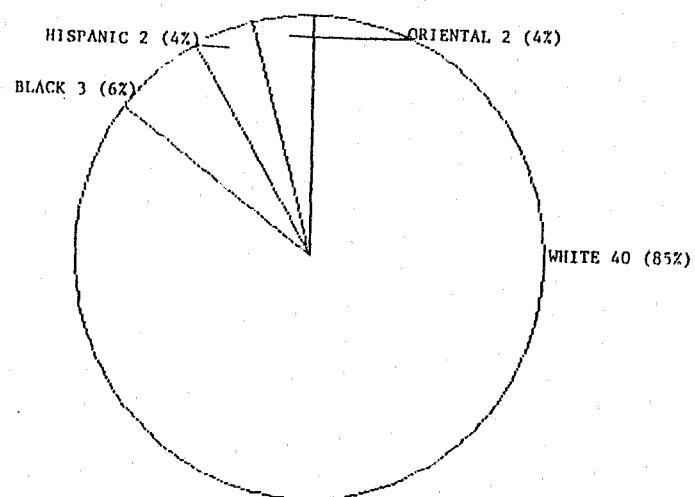


TABLE 17

PERSONAL ROBBERIES

RACE OF VICTIMS(PURSE SNATCH)



MONETARY LOSS

The total cash amount reported taken in personal robberies in 1987 was estimated at \$25,100.00. The average amount taken in a personal robbery was \$165.37 and \$212.15 in a purse snatch.

SUSPECT TO VICTIM RACE COMPARISON

Table 18 is a cross tabulation of victims and suspects by race. This table is a cross reference of the primary suspect and victim for the three highest ranked race categories, i.e., black, white, hispanic. The highest percentage, as shown by this table, is white suspects who robbed white victims (37%). The second highest is black suspects who robbed white victims (27%). It should be considered in a count such as this, that the population of Colorado Springs is predominantly white, so by chance alone, whites stand a better chance of being a robbery victim. In general, racial minorities (black, hispanic) as compared to their population distribution, are higher among robbery suspects and proportionately represented among victims of personal robberies in Colorado Springs.

TABLE 18

RACE OF SUSPECTS/VICTIMS IN PERSONAL ROBBERY

<u>Suspect</u>	<u>Victim</u>			<u>Totals</u>
	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	
White	72 (37%)	4 (2%)	2 (1%)	78
Black	52 (27%)	18 (9%)	6 (3%)	76
Hispanic	<u>30 (16%)</u>	<u>1 (4%)</u>	<u>8 (4%)</u>	<u>39</u>
	154	23	16	193

SUMMARY

- Total robberies in 1987 decreased by 17% from 1986. Business robberies were down slightly (6%) and personal robberies decreased by 29%.
- Business robberies accounted for 59% of the total robberies during 1987, personal robberies were 41%.
- The top three business types targeted for a robbery were fast food restaurants, gas stations, and convenience stores.
- The highest incidence of business robberies occurred on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and between the hours of 1800 - 2400.
- The majority (67%) of business robberies continue to be done by a single suspect.
- Weapon use (or threat of it) occurred in 84% of the business robberies.
- The total amount of money reported as being taken in business robberies during 1987 was \$107,277.90. The average amount taken in a business robbery was about \$481.00.
- Of the 215 reported personal robberies committed 48 (22%) were purse snatches.
- The majority of personal robberies (61%) happen on the street (or alley) or in a parking lot.
- Personal robberies were scattered fairly evenly throughout the week with a slight increase on Saturday. The hours from 1800 - 0300 comprised 67% of the hours when a personal robbery occurs.
- One-half of personal robberies were done by more than one suspect.
- Weapon use is less common in personal robberies than in business robberies, but the fact that physical force is used more often causes a higher victim injury rate in personal robbery that being 27%.
- Total cash amount reported taken in personal robberies during 1987 was about \$25,100.00 with the average amount being \$165.00 in personal robbery and \$212.00 in purse snatch.