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Arrests of Juveniles in Wisconsin 1982 - 1991

NOV 4 1992

INTRODUCTION

This publication summarizes data on juvenile arrests in Wisconsin over the past ten years.

During the past ten years there has been an average of 91,110 juvenile arrests each year in Wisconsin. In 1991, juvenile arrests accounted for over 27 percent of all arrests made in the state.

The information presented in this publication has been summarized from Crime and Arrests in Wisconsin, published annually by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.

ACQUISITIONS

This flyer consists of four major sections. In addition, three tables are also presented for reference purposes. The first contains juvenile arrest data for the entire State, the second for Milwaukee County, and the last one shows basic juvenile arrest data for seven other Wisconsin counties.

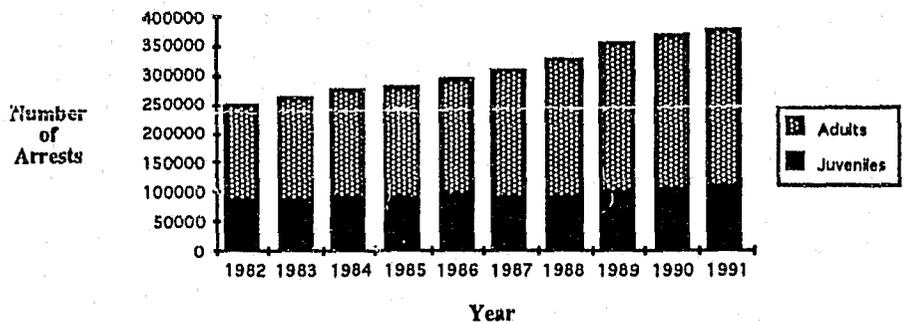
It should be noted that the arrest figures presented are estimates based on approximately 99 percent of the actual number of reported arrests.

GENERAL ARREST TRENDS

Total Arrests

Graph 1 shows the total number of juveniles arrested in Wisconsin over the past ten years. Adult arrests are included for comparison. While the number of adult arrests has steadily risen during the last ten years, the number of juvenile arrests has increased only since 1987. The total number of juvenile arrests increased by 25.2 percent from 83,726 in 1982 to 104,791 in 1991. In contrast, adult arrests rose nearly 67 percent from 166,430 in 1982 to 277,558 in 1991.

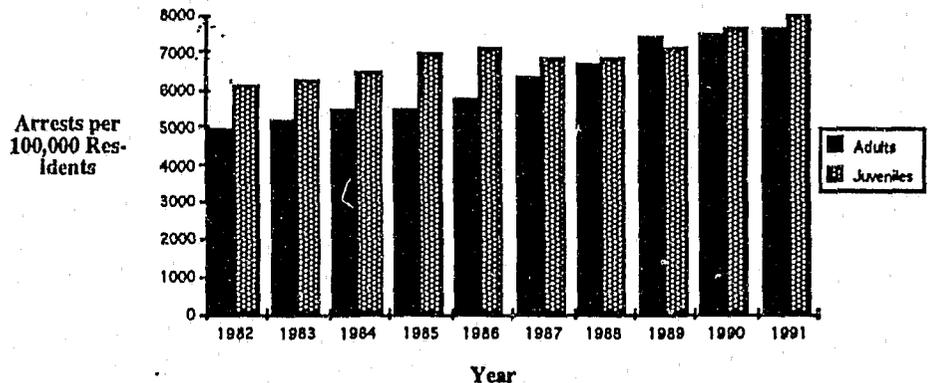
Graph 1: Total Wisconsin Arrests by Year



Arrest Rates

Graph 2 shows the arrest rates for juveniles and adults in Wisconsin during the decade. The arrest rate is the number of arrests per 100,000 residents. Arrest rates are used to control the effect of varying populations from year to year, permitting the study of arrests on equal population bases. The juvenile arrest rate increased steadily from 1982 through 1986, decreased in 1987, and has increased through 1991. The adult arrest rate, however, has continually increased through 1991. Only in 1989 did it surpass the juvenile arrest rate.

Graph 2: Juvenile and Adult Arrest Rates by Year



Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance
Jerome D. Lacke, Executive Director

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

INDEX CRIME ARREST TRENDS

Index Offense Arrests

Graph 3 shows the number of arrests for Index Offenses. Again, adults are shown for comparison. Index Offenses are considered to be an "index" of crime, that is, representative of the overall crime picture. Index Offenses are divided into two categories, violent Index Offenses and property Index Offenses. Violent Index Offenses are murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Property Index Offenses are burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

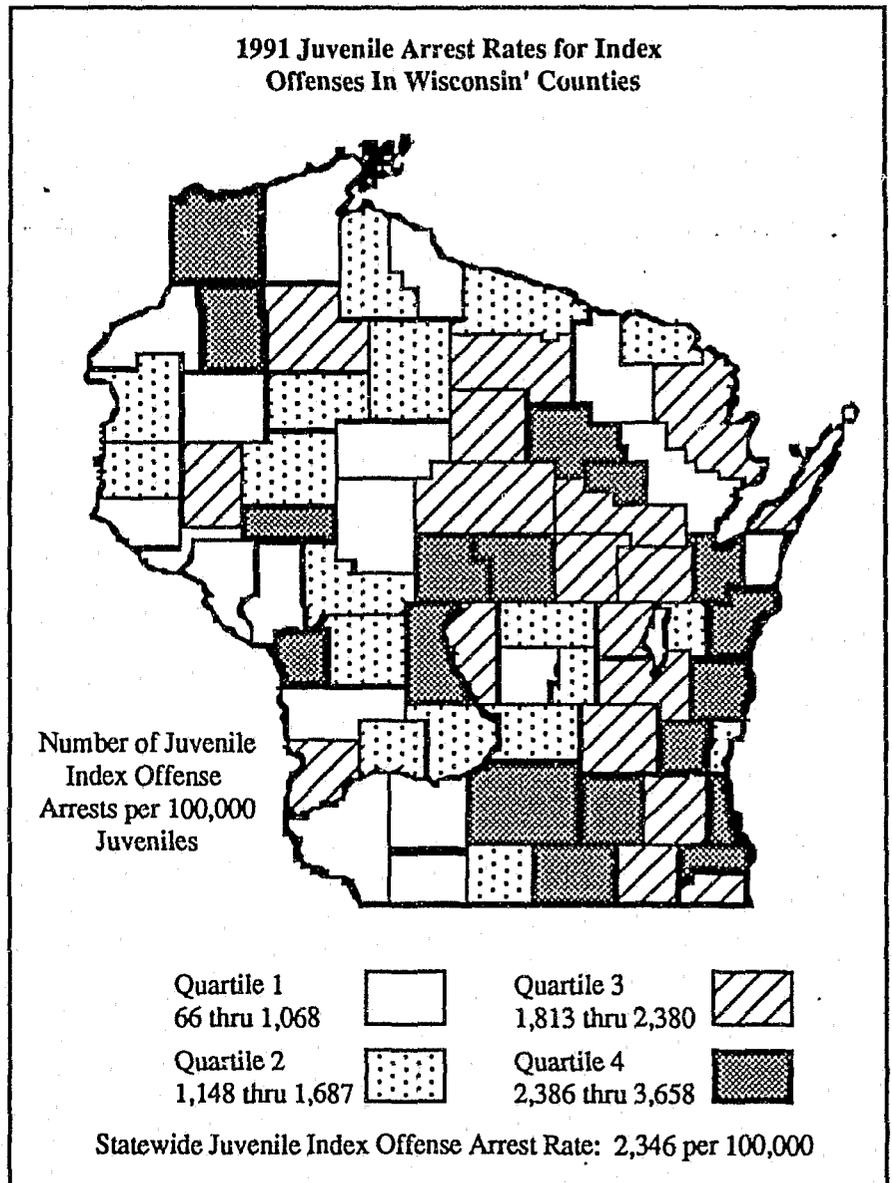
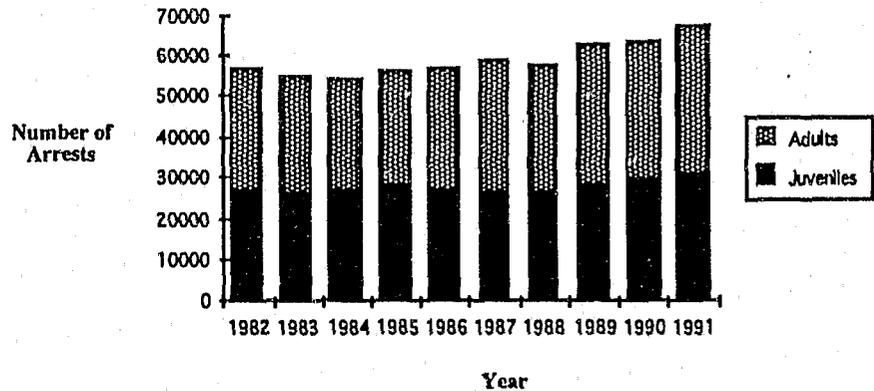
Both juvenile and adult arrests for Index Offenses increased during the ten year period. While juvenile Index Offense arrests increased by over 16 percent from 26,129 in 1982 to 30,400 in 1991, adult Index Offense arrests increased by nearly 22 percent from 30,550 in 1982 to 37,125 in 1991.

Tables 1 and 2 in this flyer consist of two reference tables containing data on the number of juvenile arrests and arrest rates in Wisconsin and Milwaukee County respectively. Milwaukee County data are presented separately due to the high population density in the county and also because arrest rates in Milwaukee County differ considerably from the rest of the state. Note, however, that Milwaukee County data are also included in the table of statewide data.

Geographic Distribution of Index Offense Arrest Rates

The map of Wisconsin at right categorizes counties according to their 1991 juvenile arrest rates for Index Offenses. In general, the highest arrest rates are in urban counties, although some rural counties had fairly high rates. This characteristic of arrest rates, rates rising with increasing populations, is similar to patterns in many reported offenses, for example, aggravated assault and robbery.

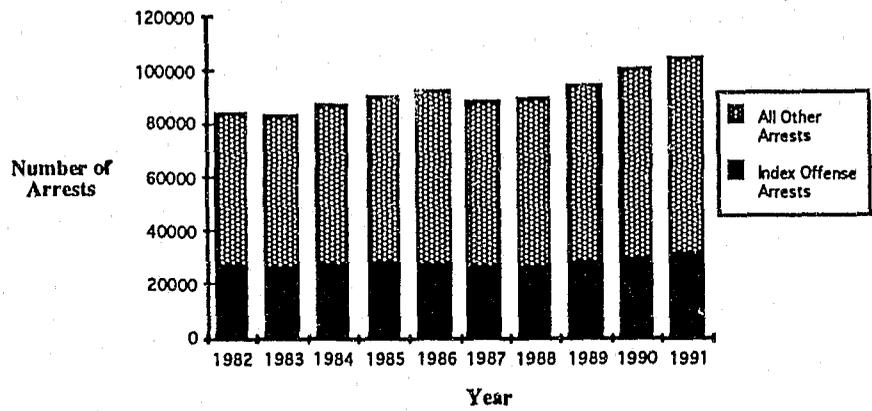
Graph 3: Wisconsin Arrests for Index Offenses



Index Crime Arrests Versus All Other Arrests

Graph 4 shows the total number of juvenile arrests in Wisconsin for Index Offenses and for all other offenses during the past ten years. In 1991, Index Offense arrests accounted for approximately 29 percent of all juvenile arrests. The total number of juvenile arrests for Index Offenses increased about 16 percent, as previously indicated. However, juvenile arrests for all other offenses increased by about 29 percent during the same period.

Graph 4: Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests by Offense



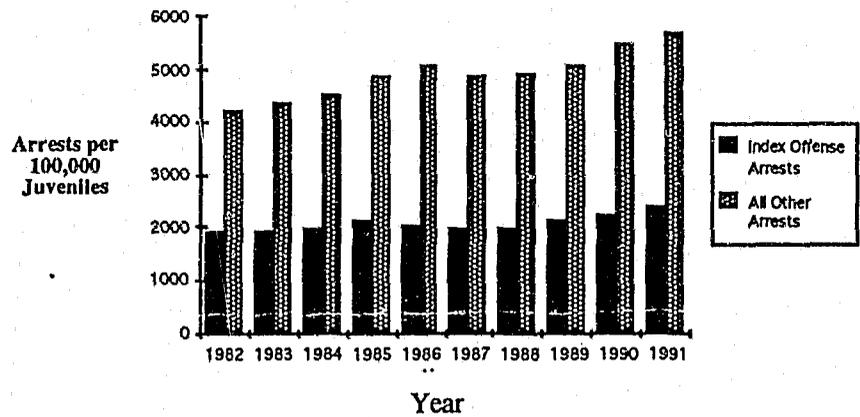
Index Crime Arrest Rates Versus All Other Arrest Rates

Graph 5 shows the juvenile arrest rates in Wisconsin for Index Offenses and for all other offenses during the past ten years. Graphs 6 and 7 illustrate how Milwaukee County differs from the rest of the state.

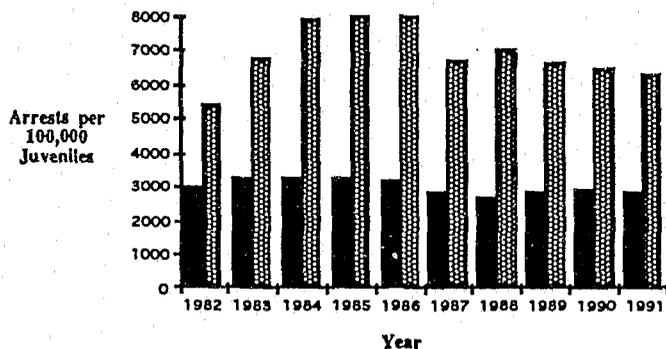
For the entire state, juvenile arrest rates for Index Offenses have increased about 23 percent from 1,904 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1982 to 2,346 in 1991. The arrest rate for all other offenses increased about 37 percent during the same period, from 4,196 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1982 to 5,740 in 1991.

The arrest rates in Milwaukee County, while much higher than the arrest rates for the entire State, (note the different scale on the graphs) had a different pattern in the decade. Index Offense arrest rates in Milwaukee County decreased almost four percent from 2,961 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1982 to 2,848 in 1991. While the Property crime arrest rate declined, there was a large increase in the Violent crime arrest rate. Also, arrest rates for all other offenses increased 21 percent from 5,409 arrests per 100,000 juveniles in 1982 to 6,548 in 1991. For the rest of the State, arrests for Index Offenses increased by 25 percent and arrests for all other offenses increased by 32 percent.

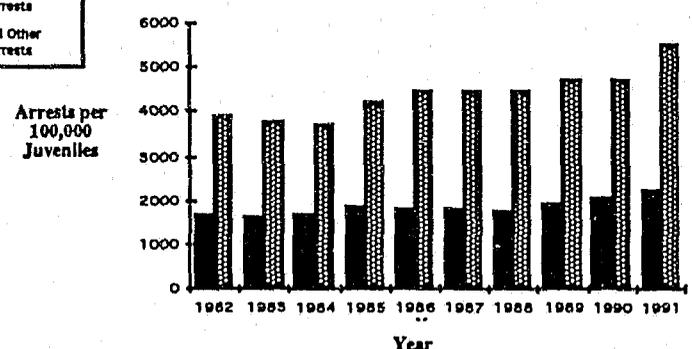
Graph 5: Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense Type Wisconsin



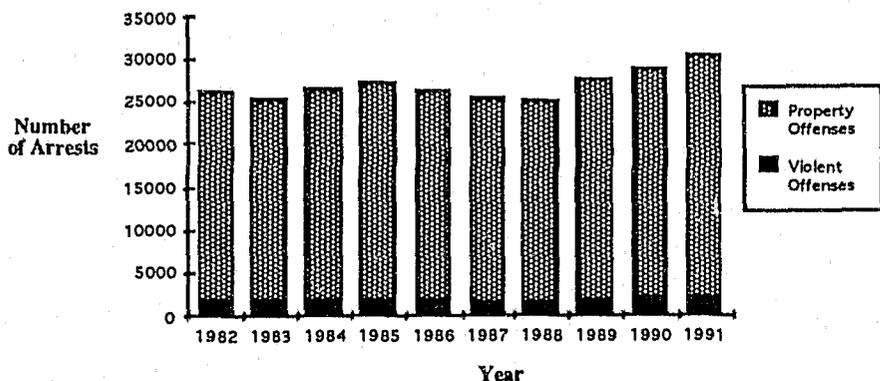
Graph 6: Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense Type Milwaukee County



Graph 7: Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense Type Balance of the State



Graph 8: Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests by Offense Type



Violent and Property Arrests

Graph 8 shows the number of juvenile arrests in the state for violent Index Offenses (murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and for property Index Offenses (burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson). While the number of juvenile arrests for violent offenses increased 36.5 percent from 1,467 in 1982 to 2,003 in 1991, the number of arrests for property offenses increased 15 percent from 24,662 in 1982 to 28,397 in 1991.

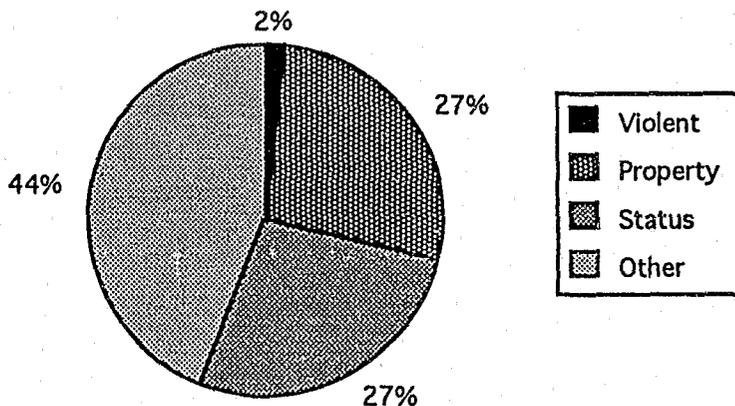
DISTRIBUTION OF ARRESTS

Distribution of 1991 Arrests

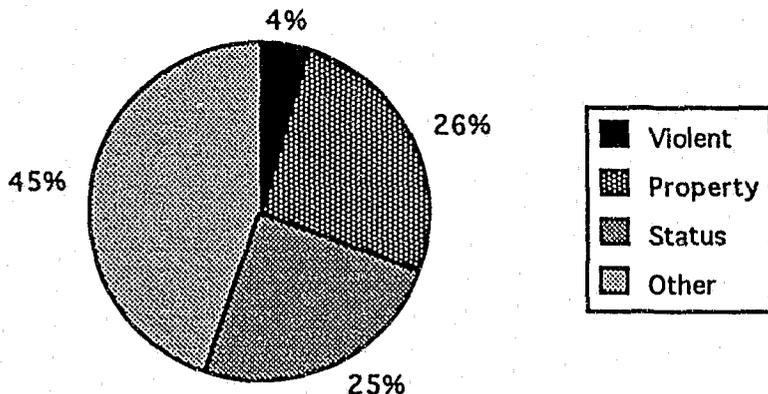
Graph 9 shows the distribution of arrests for Wisconsin juveniles in 1991 for four types of offenses: Violent Index Offenses; Property Index Offenses; status; that is, liquor law violations, curfew violations, and runaways; and all other offenses. Two percent of arrests were for violent offenses. To better understand the distribution of arrests, two additional pie charts have been created, one showing the distribution of arrests for Milwaukee County and one showing the distribution for the rest of the state.

While a greater proportion of juvenile arrests in Milwaukee County were for violent offenses, Milwaukee County had proportionately fewer arrests for status violations but slightly more arrests for "all other" offenses.

Graph 9: Distribution of 1991 Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests



Graph 10: Distribution of Juvenile Arrests: Milwaukee County - 1991



Graph 11: Distribution of Juvenile Arrests: Balance of the State - 1991

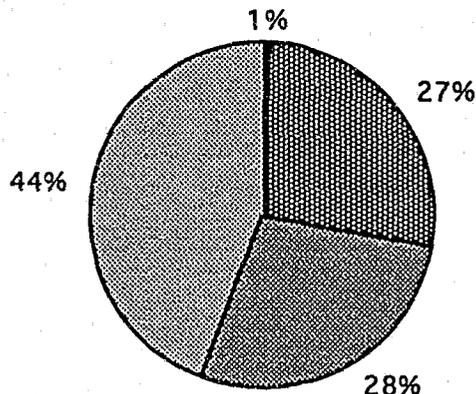


Table 1: State of Wisconsin Juvenile Arrests and Arrest Rates 1982 - 1991

| JUVENILE ARRESTS | 1982 | | 1983 | | 1984 | | 1985 | | 1986 | | 1987 | | 1988 | | 1989 | | 1990 | | 1991 | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | No. | Rate | No. | Rate | No. | Rate | No. | Rate | No. | Rate |
| Murder | 12 | 0.9 | 14 | 1.1 | 21 | 1.5 | 20 | 1.5 | 21 | 1.6 | 30 | 2.3 | 14 | 1.1 | 44 | 3.3 | 68 | 5.2 | 66 | 5.1 |
| Rape | 87 | 6.3 | 62 | 4.7 | 93 | 6.8 | 135 | 10.4 | 106 | 8.1 | 127 | 9.8 | 121 | 9.3 | 137 | 10.4 | 133 | 10.2 | 167 | 12.9 |
| Robbery | 712 | 51.9 | 774 | 58.1 | 715 | 52.6 | 667 | 51.6 | 538 | 41.5 | 401 | 31.0 | 407 | 31.3 | 434 | 33.0 | 622 | 47.7 | 883 | 68.1 |
| Agg. Assault | 656 | 47.8 | 622 | 46.7 | 603 | 44.4 | 671 | 51.9 | 754 | 58.3 | 747 | 57.7 | 609 | 46.8 | 816 | 62.1 | 866 | 66.4 | 887 | 68.4 |
| TOTAL-VIOLENT OFFENSES | 1467 | 106.9 | 1472 | 110.5 | 1432 | 105.4 | 1493 | 115.6 | 1419 | 109.7 | 1305 | 100.8 | 1151 | 88.5 | 1431 | 108.9 | 1689 | 129.6 | 2003 | 154.6 |
| Burglary | 5004 | 365 | 4381 | 329 | 3976 | 293 | 4251 | 329 | 3775 | 292 | 3683 | 284 | 3435 | 264 | 3362 | 255 | 3304 | 254 | 3584 | 276 |
| Theft | 17843 | 1300 | 17949 | 1347 | 19109 | 1407 | 19413 | 1503 | 19104 | 1477 | 18235 | 1408 | 17996 | 1382 | 19256 | 1465 | 20303 | 1558 | 21162 | 1633 |
| MV Theft | 1590 | 116 | 1455 | 109 | 1659 | 122 | 1650 | 128 | 1827 | 141 | 1947 | 150 | 2182 | 167 | 3078 | 234 | 3076 | 236 | 3338 | 258 |
| Arson | 225 | 16 | 242 | 18 | 271 | 20 | 279 | 22 | 282 | 22 | 242 | 18 | 301 | 23 | 295 | 22 | 308 | 24 | 313 | 24 |
| TOTAL-PROPERTY OFFENSES | 24662 | 1797 | 24027 | 1803 | 25015 | 1841 | 25931 | 1981 | 24988 | 1932 | 24107 | 1862 | 23914 | 1836 | 25991 | 1977 | 26991 | 2071 | 28397 | 2191 |
| Status Arrests | 25658 | 1869 | 25319 | 1900 | 26315 | 1937 | 27605 | 2137 | 29337 | 2268 | 28083 | 2169 | 27501 | 2111 | 27547 | 2095 | 29258 | 2245 | 28469 | 2197 |
| Other Arrests* | 31939 | 2327 | 32585 | 2445 | 34588 | 2546 | 34987 | 2709 | 36188 | 2798 | 34608 | 2673 | 36392 | 2794 | 38547 | 2936 | 41689 | 3199 | 45922 | 3543 |
| TOTAL JUVENILE ARRESTS | 83726 | 6100 | 83403 | 6258 | 87350 | 6430 | 89687 | 6945 | 91940 | 7109 | 88103 | 6803 | 88959 | 6830 | 93516 | 7118 | 99627 | 7645 | 104791 | 8086 |
| Adult Arrests for Violent Offenses | 3712 | 109.7 | 3652 | 106.0 | 3958 | 115.8 | 3953 | 113.3 | 4767 | 136.3 | 5487 | 156.8 | 5163 | 147.0 | 6137 | 172.9 | 5903 | 164.5 | 5837 | 161.0 |
| TOTAL ADULT ARRESTS | 166430 | 4918 | 177409 | 5149 | 186860 | 5470 | 190864 | 5472 | 201603 | 5766 | 221788 | 6337 | 235995 | 6717 | 261655 | 7371 | 267987 | 7468 | 277558 | 7658 |
| JUVENILE POP. | 1,372,525 | | 1,332,723 | | 1,358,519 | | 1,291,322 | | 1,293,307 | | 1,294,987 | | 1,302,385 | | 1,313,748 | | 1,303,149 | | 1,295,962 | |
| ADULT POP. | 3,383,754 | | 3,445,178 | | 3,415,864 | | 3,487,699 | | 3,495,815 | | 3,499,805 | | 3,513,117 | | 3,549,406 | | 3,588,620 | | 3,624,545 | |

*Included in this category are negligent manslaughter (a Part I offense) and all Part II offenses excluding status offenses.

Table 2: Milwaukee County Juvenile Arrests and Arrest Rates 1982 - 1991

| JUVENILE ARRESTS | 1982 | | 1983 | | 1984 | | 1985 | | 1986 | | 1987 | | 1988 | | 1989 | | 1990 | | 1991 | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | No. | Rate |
| Murder | 9 | 3.5 | 6 | 2.4 | 9 | 3.5 | 11 | 4.7 | 18 | 7.6 | 26 | 11.1 | 9 | 3.8 | 36 | 15.3 | 60 | 24.4 | 60 | 24.3 |
| Rape | 32 | 12.6 | 19 | 7.6 | 23 | 9.3 | 62 | 26.2 | 40 | 17.0 | 93 | 39.6 | 73 | 31.2 | 63 | 26.8 | 57 | 23.1 | 84 | 34.0 |
| Robbery | 486 | 191.6 | 579 | 231.1 | 508 | 206.0 | 518 | 219.1 | 413 | 175.4 | 293 | 124.9 | 250 | 106.8 | 263 | 112.0 | 474 | 192.4 | 684 | 276.9 |
| Agg. Assault | 284 | 111.9 | 250 | 99.8 | 244 | 99.0 | 257 | 108.7 | 284 | 120.6 | 312 | 133.0 | 263 | 112.4 | 301 | 128.2 | 261 | 105.9 | 234 | 94.7 |
| TOTAL-VIOLENT OFFENSES | 811 | 319.8 | 854 | 340.8 | 784 | 318.0 | 848 | 358.7 | 755 | 320.7 | 724 | 308.6 | 595 | 254.2 | 663 | 282.4 | 852 | 345.8 | 1062 | 430.0 |
| Burglary | 1344 | 530 | 1354 | 540 | 1165 | 472 | 1159 | 490 | 978 | 415 | 840 | 358 | 705 | 301 | 701 | 298 | 560 | 227 | 564 | 228 |
| Theft | 4851 | 1913 | 5232 | 2088 | 5357 | 2172 | 5082 | 2150 | 5019 | 2132 | 4196 | 1788 | 4058 | 1734 | 3863 | 1646 | 4166 | 1691 | 4137 | 1675 |
| MV Theft | 424 | 167 | 518 | 207 | 685 | 278 | 528 | 223 | 650 | 276 | 709 | 302 | 964 | 412 | 1397 | 595 | 1519 | 617 | 1201 | 486 |
| Arson | 79 | 31 | 44 | 18 | 84 | 34 | 63 | 27 | 66 | 28 | 54 | 23 | 61 | 26 | 57 | 24 | 63 | 26 | 70 | 28 |
| TOTAL-PROPERTY OFFENSES | 6698 | 2641 | 7148 | 2853 | 7291 | 2957 | 6832 | 2890 | 6713 | 2851 | 5799 | 2472 | 5788 | 2474 | 6018 | 2564 | 6308 | 2560 | 5972 | 2418 |
| Status Arrests | 5386 | 2124 | 6794 | 2712 | 7410 | 3005 | 7019 | 2969 | 6911 | 2935 | 5640 | 2404 | 5838 | 2490 | 5154 | 2195 | 5532 | 2245 | 5720 | 2316 |
| Other Arrests* | 8331 | 3285 | 10182 | 4064 | 11957 | 4849 | 11726 | 4960 | 11891 | 5050 | 10123 | 4315 | 10606 | 4523 | 10352 | 4409 | 10383 | 4215 | 10453 | 4232 |
| TOTAL JUVENILE ARRESTS | 21226 | 8369 | 24978 | 9970 | 27443 | 11130 | 26426 | 11178 | 26270 | 11157 | 22286 | 9500 | 22827 | 9734 | 22187 | 9451 | 23075 | 9366 | 23207 | 9396 |
| Adult Arrests for Violent Offenses | 1858 | 262.8 | 1802 | 257.9 | 1741 | 253.2 | 1704 | 242.3 | 2291 | 327.1 | 2581 | 369.9 | 3179 | 456.4 | 2659 | 380.8 | 2351 | 329.7 | 2331 | 326.0 |
| TOTAL ADULT ARRESTS | 54723 | 7740 | 57603 | 8245 | 64624 | 9399 | 61337 | 8722 | 62226 | 8884 | 77791 | 11147 | 81952 | 11765 | 87126 | 12476 | 79483 | 11147 | 78457 | 10974 |
| JUVENILE POP. | 253,614 | | 250,527 | | 246,577 | | 236,419 | | 235,455 | | 234,590 | | 234,489 | | 234,750 | | 246,360 | | 247,021 | |
| ADULT POP. | 707,045 | | 698,620 | | 687,545 | | 703,270 | | 700,415 | | 697,842 | | 696,619 | | 698,317 | | 713,023 | | 714,930 | |

*Included in this category are negligent manslaughter (a Part I offense) and Part II offenses excluding status offenses.

Arrest Information For Select Counties

Table 3 presents juvenile arrest data for other selected counties in Wisconsin from 1987 through 1991. Shown are the number of arrests for Index Offenses, other criminal offenses, and status offenses. While Brown County showed a decrease in total juvenile arrests during the five

years, only status arrests declined. However, arrests in all the other counties in Table 3 increased. In addition, all counties shown in the table except Kenosha showed an increase in the number of juvenile Index Offense arrests. These increases in Index Offense arrests ranged from a low of 1.4% in Brown County to a high of 33.7% in Waukesha County.

Table 3: Juvenile Arrests in Select Counties: 1987 - 1991

| <u>County</u> | <u>1987</u> | <u>1988</u> | <u>1989</u> | <u>1990</u> | <u>1991</u> | <u>% Change 1987-1991</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Brown County | | | | | | |
| Index | 1,394 | 1,262 | 1,229 | 1,176 | 1,414 | + 1.4% |
| Other Criminal | 1,350 | 1,026 | 886 | 964 | 1,472 | + 9.0% |
| Status | 2,004 | 1,917 | 1,149 | 1,490 | 1,557 | - 22.3% |
| Total Arrests | 4,748 | 4,205 | 3,264 | 3,630 | 4,443 | -6.4% |
| Dane County | | | | | | |
| Index | 1,782 | 1,658 | 1,804 | 2,030 | 2,215 | + 24.2% |
| Other Criminal | 1,276 | 1,240 | 1,338 | 1,661 | 1,936 | + 51.7% |
| Status | 1,108 | 1,027 | 966 | 1,470 | 1,491 | + 34.6% |
| Total Arrests | 4,166 | 3,925 | 4,108 | 5,161 | 5,642 | +35.4% |
| Kenosha County | | | | | | |
| Index | 865 | 732 | 823 | 917 | 825 | - 4.6% |
| Other Criminal | 1,229 | 1,742 | 1,484 | 2,305 | 1,743 | + 41.8% |
| Status | 715 | 789 | 823 | 427 | 703 | - 1.7% |
| Total Arrests | 2,809 | 3,263 | 3,130 | 3,649 | 3,271 | +16.4% |
| Outagamie County | | | | | | |
| Index | 783 | 918 | 851 | 945 | 952 | + 21.6% |
| Other Criminal | 867 | 893 | 809 | 865 | 1,039 | + 19.8% |
| Status | 1,180 | 1,036 | 936 | 898 | 896 | - 24.1% |
| Total Arrests | 2,830 | 2,847 | 2,596 | 2,708 | 2,887 | +2.0% |
| Racine County | | | | | | |
| Index | 1,327 | 1,201 | 1,427 | 1,489 | 1,753 | + 32.1% |
| Other Criminal | 1,710 | 1,905 | 2,158 | 2,568 | 2,723 | + 59.2% |
| Status | 672 | 601 | 636 | 579 | 706 | + 5.0% |
| Total Arrests | 3,709 | 3,707 | 4,221 | 4,636 | 5,182 | +39.7% |
| Rock County | | | | | | |
| Index | 1,183 | 1,158 | 1,065 | 1,149 | 1,303 | + 10.1% |
| Other Criminal | 1,339 | 1,738 | 2,113 | 2,402 | 2,905 | + 117.0% |
| Status | 677 | 731 | 884 | 1,005 | 1,169 | + 72.7% |
| Total Arrests | 3,198 | 3,627 | 4,062 | 4,556 | 5,377 | +68.1% |
| Waukesha County | | | | | | |
| Index | 1,181 | 1,373 | 1,239 | 1,515 | 1,579 | + 33.7% |
| Other Criminal | 2,028 | 2,174 | 2,284 | 2,336 | 2,554 | + 25.9% |
| Status | 2,205 | 2,556 | 2,846 | 3,174 | 2,901 | + 31.6% |
| Total Arrests | 5,414 | 6,103 | 6,369 | 7,025 | 7,034 | +29.9% |

SUMMARY

While relatively stable from 1982 through 1988, the number of juvenile arrests has increased in the last three years. Also, the juvenile arrest *rate* has increased steadily except for a decrease in 1987. During the ten year period, the number of juvenile arrests for Index Offenses increased about sixteen percent. Index Offense arrest rates for Wisconsin juveniles increased twenty-three percent from 1982 to 1991. While Milwaukee County experienced decreases in both total Index arrests and arrest rates during the decade, the arrest rates were much higher in Milwaukee County than in the rest of the state. Ninety-three percent of the juvenile arrests for Index Offenses made in Wisconsin during 1991 were for property crimes. Arrests for property offenses increased by fifteen percent during the decade while the number of arrests made for violent offenses increased by thirty-six percent. Milwaukee County had a higher proportion of juvenile arrests for violent offenses than did the rest of Wisconsin.

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