

Portland (on) -

CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU —

EVALUATION REPORT NO. 1

Prepared by:

State Planning Agency
Impact Evaluation Unit
of the
Oregon Law Enforcement Council

Robert D. Houser
Administrator

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OLEC Impact Evaluation staff with primary responsibility for the production of this report was Diana Gray. Dr. Clinton Goff is Impact Evaluation Unit Coordinator.

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Sara Millman
Ed Vaughn
Nancy Smyth

Summary of Findings

Process Evaluation

1. The Crime Prevention Bureau, since implementation July, 1973, has averaged 20 meetings per week (based on a fifty week year) or fifty percent of its stated objective of 40 meetings per week.
2. The Crime Prevention Bureau has assisted in the marking of property at a total of 12,662 residences and businesses since its implementation. This is an average of 178 locations marked per week or 27 percent of its stated objectives of 652 per week.
3. The Crime Prevention Bureau has not (as of December 1974) satisfactorily implemented its Residential and Environmental Crime Hazard Reporting Form.
4. The Crime Prevention Bureau is aiding in the development of a state-wide, rather than a local, building security code.
5. The Crime Prevention Bureau is making wide use of a variety of mass media techniques to educate the public about crime and about the Bureau's functions.
6. Preliminary data indicate a drastic reduction in the burglary rates of households who participate in the Crime Prevention Bureau Program by marking their property and displaying stickers. The rate drops from 130 in 1000 to about 4 in 1000. These findings are not based on random sampling or uniform data collection techniques, but are derived from agency file data.
7. Victim reporting of burglaries does seem to correlate with Crime Prevention Bureau activity levels.

The Crime Prevention Bureau
Evaluation Report No. 1

Program

The Crime Prevention Bureau is a crime reduction program aimed at reducing burglary and robbery rates in the city of Portland through a public education program. Block, neighborhood and business meetings are held to educate and involve potential victims and their neighbors in a variety of crime prevention techniques. The primary activities encouraged in these meetings are the marking of property with a permanent identification symbol, keeping a list of marked property, and displaying of stickers on windows and doors to inform potential intruders that such marking has taken place. The Crime Prevention Bureau provides electric engravers to the public at their sponsored meetings and also through the public libraries. Markers can also be directly borrowed from the Crime Prevention Bureau office. Other crime prevention techniques such as adequate locks for doors and windows, regular use of such locks, use of lighting when absent from home, requesting neighbors assistance in watching home, etc. are discussed and encouraged at community and block meetings.

In addition to the public education technique through meetings, mass media is widely used as part of the Public Information and Education grant to the project. Radio, television, newspapers, billboards, public displays, and booths at community events are all employed to inform the people of the agency and to encourage crime prevention procedures. A Crime Prevention Bureau newsletter is sent out quarterly to homeowners, enclosed with the city water bills.

Crime Prevention Bureau Objectives

The following specific objectives are taken from page 7e through 7m of the Crime Prevention Bureau project proposal, and include activities to:

1. Further develop and expand block, neighborhood, and business programs to educate and involve potential victims in protecting themselves. It is expected that this can be done at the rate of soliciting and holding 40 meetings per week or about 20,000 meetings per year, allowing for two weeks during the holidays when meetings are difficult to schedule.
2. Further develop and expand the permanent property identification program (marking) to deter burglars and aid in recovery of stolen items. It is expected that the average number of residences to be marked per week will be 652 through meetings, canvassing, libraries, and other sources.
3. Develop an environmental crime hazard reporting system to provide a method for police officers to report, and the Crime Prevention Bureau to follow-up on environmental crime hazards.

4. Develop a residential crime hazard reporting system of home and business inspections to point out and encourage correction of crime hazards.
5. Develop a building security code.
6. Educate the public through use of the mass media via newspaper, television, radio, billboards and other appropriate means.

Process Evaluation¹

Objective 1 - Since implementation of community meetings (this includes block, neighborhood and business) in July, 1973, to December, 1974, a total of 1488 meetings or an average of 20 meetings per week (based on a 50 week year) have been held.² This is only

(Table 1 here)

50 percent of the objective stated in the project proposal. In no month have 160 meetings (40 per week) ever been held. A total of approximately 18,283 households have been represented in these meetings or about 12 households per meeting. A total of 27,253 people have been directly contacted or 363 persons per week through meetings, canvassing, and through their own initiative in contacting the Crime Prevention Bureau office.

Objective 2 - Also recorded in Table 1 are a total of 12,662 households and businesses that have marked their property or about 178 locations per week. This is only 27 percent of the stated objective of 652 per week in the project proposal.

Objectives 3 and 4 - The decision was made by the Crime Prevention Bureau to combine these two objectives into one form to be used by the police. The form was revised as the residential and environmental crime hazard reporting form. It was not feasible to have regular household inspection by police and fire safety personnel. It was thought the one form could be completed by police officers answering a breaking and entering complaint or on routine patrol should they observe a potential hazard. The form was developed, but delayed in implementation due to a printing error. This was corrected and an attempt to implement the form was made in July, 1974. The forms came back from police officers incorrectly completed or incomplete. It was then decided to work with a committee of members of the police force to redesign and work out implementation problems

¹These data are based on the Crime Prevention Bureau monthly reports submitted to the Portland Impact Planning Office and the Oregon Law Enforcement Council.

²Block meetings conducted by the Crime Prevention Bureau director and police officers began July, 1973. However, the Crime Prevention Bureau was not at full staff until February, 1974 when eight block coordinators were hired to conduct neighborhood block meetings. Note the increase in meetings after these staff were hired.

with the form. As of December, 1974, the residential and Environmental crime hazard reporting form has not been implemented.

Objective 5 - Rather than develop a building security code for the city or county, Crime Prevention Bureau staff has participated on a committee drafting a state-wide building code. This specific objective has therefore been abandoned in favor of the more general state-wide attempt.

Objective 6 - In December, 1974, at the on-site monitoring meeting with Region X, Crime Prevention Bureau staff reported that fifty billboards are up in Portland, counter cards with meeting fliers have been placed in public locations around the city, 68 newspaper articles, 34 TV spots and 22 radio spots have been taped and run with many of these aired more than once. An advertising agency is under contract with the Crime Prevention Bureau to prepare and disseminate materials and information to the public.

Preliminary Outcome Evaluation

Through the Oregon Research Institute's Annual Sample Survey, sponsored by the Oregon Law Enforcement Council, an evaluation using victimization reports of Crime Prevention Bureau participants and non-participants living in the same geographical area of Portland will be forthcoming. This report should yield empirically sound data as to the crime reduction impact on Portland of Crime Prevention Bureau activities.

To make a preliminary determination of this impact data was coded from cards kept by the agency on a total of 2,506 households of Crime Prevention Bureau participants who have marked their property and put up warning stickers. Determination of that fact (marking and displaying stickers) was made through follow-up telephone calls by Crime Prevention Bureau staff or volunteers, or by direct contact of the Crime Prevention Bureau staff with the participant (as in canvassing or office walk-ins).

A total of 1,527 households received a follow-up call. The average length of time between initial contact with the Crime Prevention Bureau (attending a meeting or such) and the date of the follow-up call was nine months. Ninety-nine percent of these households had marked their property when called and ninety-eight percent had put up stickers. The thirteen who had not done one or the other were contacted by Crime Prevention Bureau staff and all households corrected the situation so that these households represent 100 percent participation in marking and displaying of stickers.

Victimization - Of these 1,527 households receiving follow-up contacts, five or 0.3 percent were victims of a crime (the average

length of follow-up time for the victim households was 12 months). Of these victims, four had been victims of a burglary. Four of the five offenses occurred in the north, northeast area of Portland, and one occurred in the southeast. All five victims reported that they had not followed all of the recommended Crime Prevention Bureau procedures. In two cases, home entertainment items were taken. In one case only unmarked property was taken, while in two cases, marked property was stolen. No one suffered any personal injury in any of these victimizations.

For these 1,527 households, only five were victims of crime in a year's time. The city-wide burglary rate is 130 crimes per 1,000 households. On that basis, we would have expected that 189 households would have been subject to a burglary in the follow-up calls rather than merely four. The call-back procedure did not involve random sampling or a uniform time lapse for all persons between the initial contact and the follow-up contact. However, these preliminary data indications are encouraging. More reliable outcome information will have to wait until the Oregon Research Institute Annual Sample Survey data analysis regarding the Crime Prevention Bureau effectiveness is complete.

Crime Prevention Bureau Activity and Victim Reporting

Initial Annual Sample Survey data gives a rate of reporting of crime to actual crimes committed (reported by victims).³ When the Crime Prevention Bureau activity level for May, 1973, through April, 1974, is plotted against the percent of burglaries reported for that time

(Table 2 here)

period there appears to be a relationship between reporting of burglaries and the activities of the Crime Prevention Bureau. About two months after an increase in Crime Prevention Bureau activity

(Figures 1 through 4 here)

there is an increase in burglary reporting. When Crime Prevention Bureau activity declines, the reporting rate subsequently declines about two months later. Even though the Crime Prevention Bureau has not yet achieved the activity level of their stated process objectives, their activity level does seem to be related to victim behavior. If the Crime Prevention Bureau should increase its activity level to meet its stated objectives, this relationship between victim reporting and Crime Prevention Bureau activity may become even more pronounced.

³Schneider, Anne L., "Crime Victimization in Portland - Analysis of Trends, 1971-1974," Oregon Research Institute, (February 10, 1975), Appendix J.

In addition, the Annual Sample Survey data show that Crime Prevention Bureau participants in particular are more likely to report crimes to the police (Schneider, "Evaluation of the Portland Neighborhood-Based Anti-Burglary Program," Oregon Research Institute, (March 20, 1975), pp. 16-18.

TABLE 1

Crime Prevention Bureau - Level of Activity Information (Raw data based on CPB Monthly Activity Reports submitted to OLEC)

Month - Year	Meetings	Households Attending	People Contacted	Follow-up Calls*	Businesses and Households marked
May 1973**	-	-	-	-	-
June 1973**	-	-	-	-	-
July 1973	36	388	630	32	383
Aug. 1973	70	510	1050	127	419
Sept. 1973	63	630 ^s	972	93	630
Oct. 1973	69	690 ^s	1166	45	772
Nov. 1973	64	640 ^s	1197	175	961
Dec. 1973	33	330 ^s	642	0	379
Jan. 1974	42	420 ^s	949	1	477
Feb. 1974	84	840 ^s	1722	60	882
March 1974	137	1197	2133	297	-
April 1974	142	1985	2505	220	929
May 1974	136	2422	2755	15	893
June 1974	98	1208	1532	48	772 ^r
July 1974	88	1198	1357	273	949 ^r
Aug. 1974	52	765	902	115	813 ^r
Sept. 1974	67	1170	1407	-	626 ^r
Oct. 1974	98	1563	1850	-	964 ^r
Nov. 1974	118	1180	3102	-	761
Dec. 1974	91	1147	1382	-	1052
TOTAL	1488	18,283	27,253	1,531	12,662
Weekly Average (50 wk. year)	20	244	363	26	178

*These data are derived from coding of all agency cards in the "call back file" as of September, 1974.

**During these two months, May & June, the Crime Prevention Bureau was implementing its program, hiring staff and training, etc. Community meetings did not begin until July, 1973.

^sEstimates based on 10 households per meeting.

^rEstimates based on 360 markers per month checked out from the public library. Actual library figures arrived too late for the monthly report.

• Indicates no data available.

TABLE 2

Crime Prevention Bureau
Percent of Total Activity for Selected Months

Month - Year	Meetings	Households Contacted	No. of People Contacted	Call Backs
May-June 1973	0	0	0	0
July-Aug. 1973	14.3%	11.5%	13.0%	15.1%
Sept.-Oct. 1973	17.8%	16.9%	16.5%	13.1%
Nov.-Dec. 1973	13.1%	12.4%	14.2%	16.6%
Jan.-Feb. 1974	17.0%	16.1%	20.6%	5.8%
March-April 1974	37.7%	43.0%	35.8%	49.2%
TOTAL	740	7803	12,966	1050

Figure 1

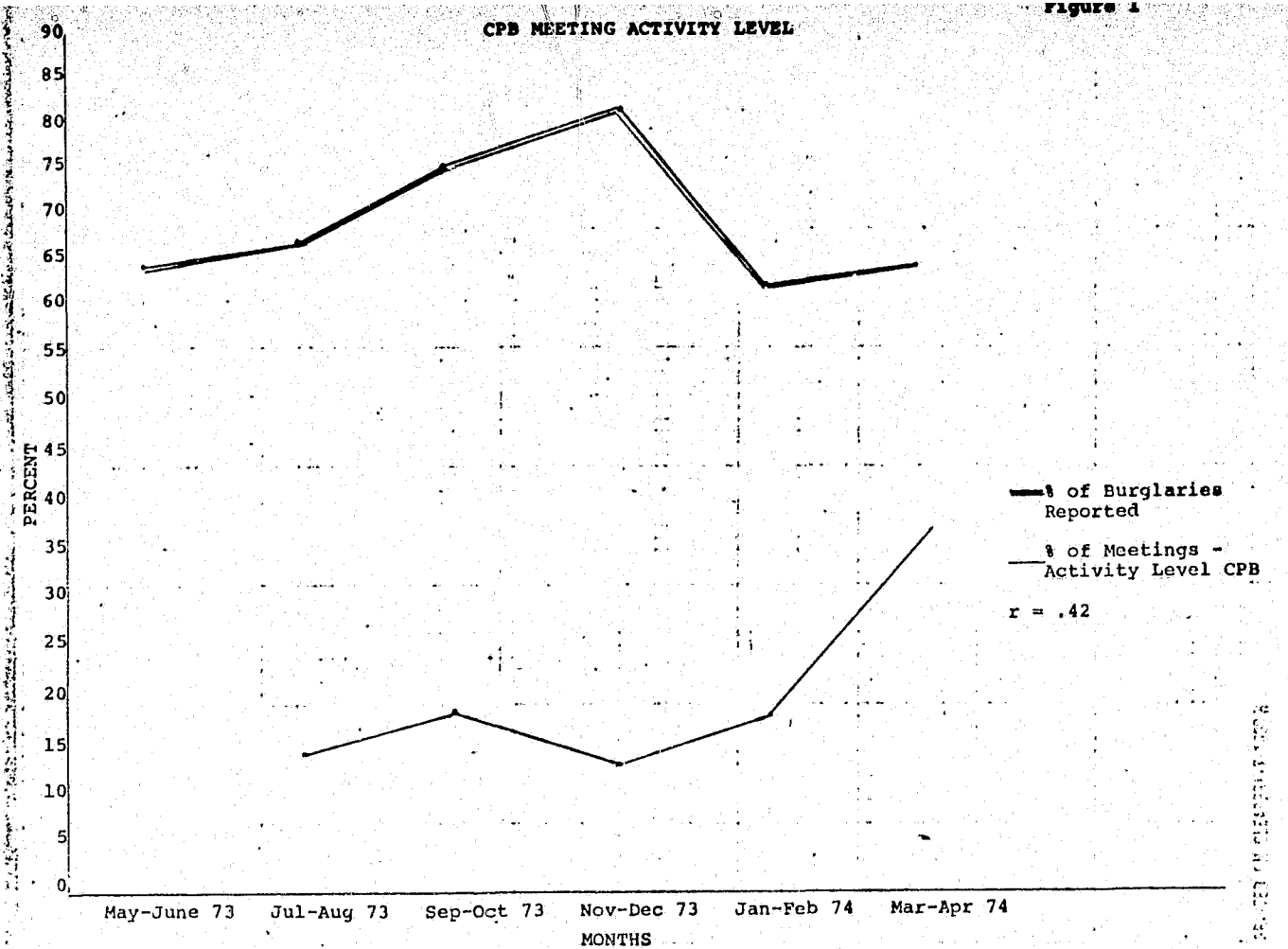


Figure 2

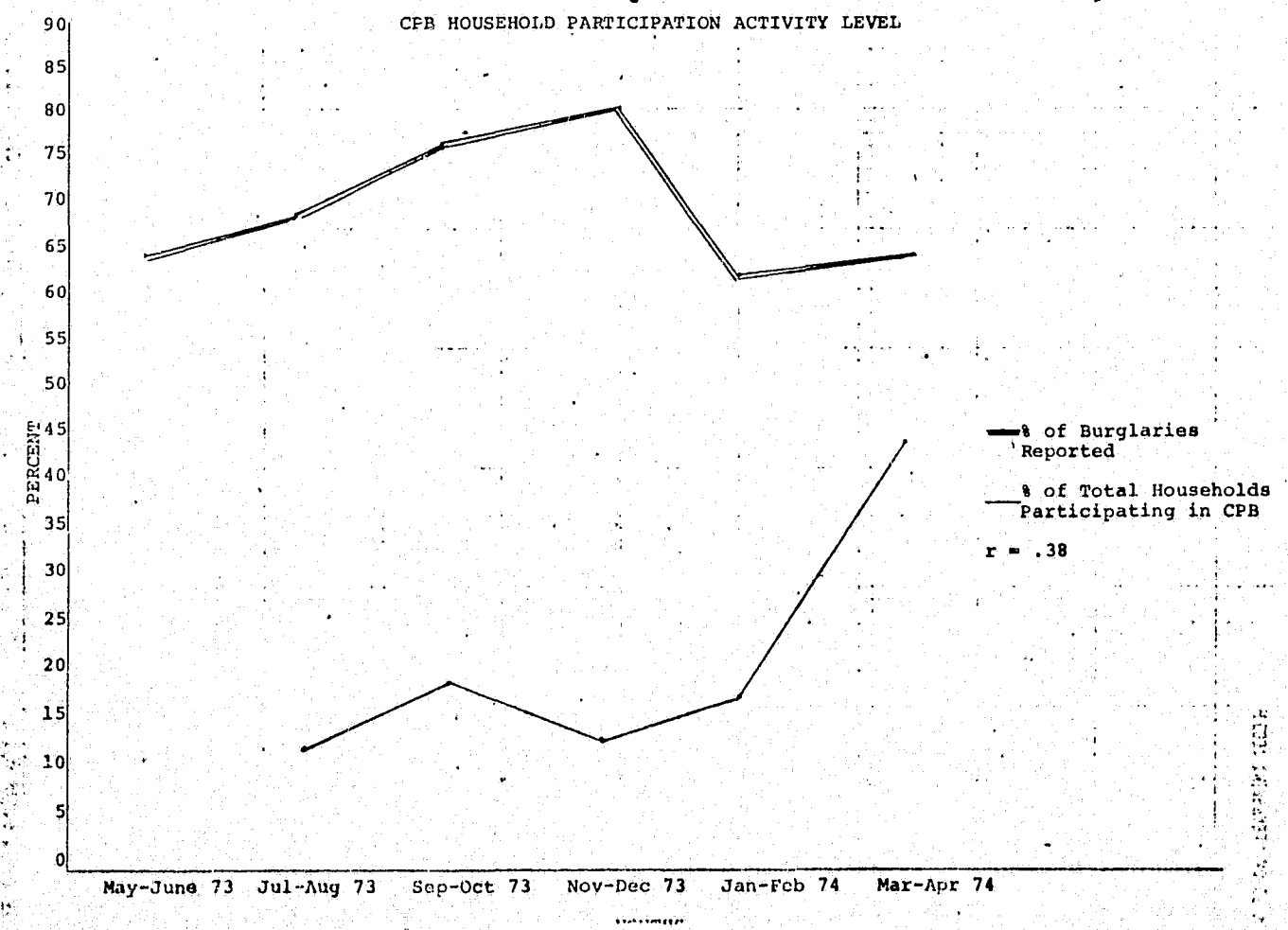


Figure 3

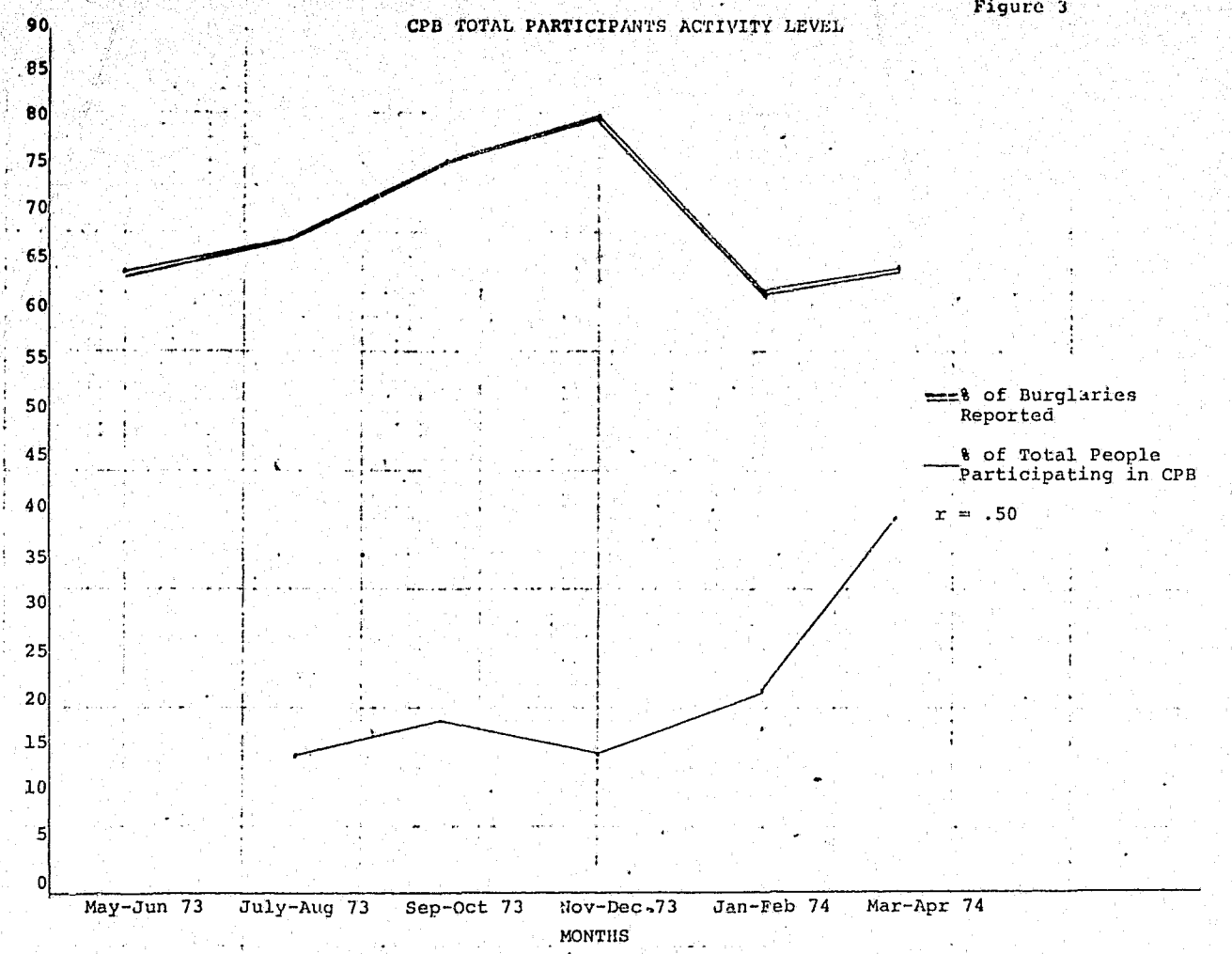
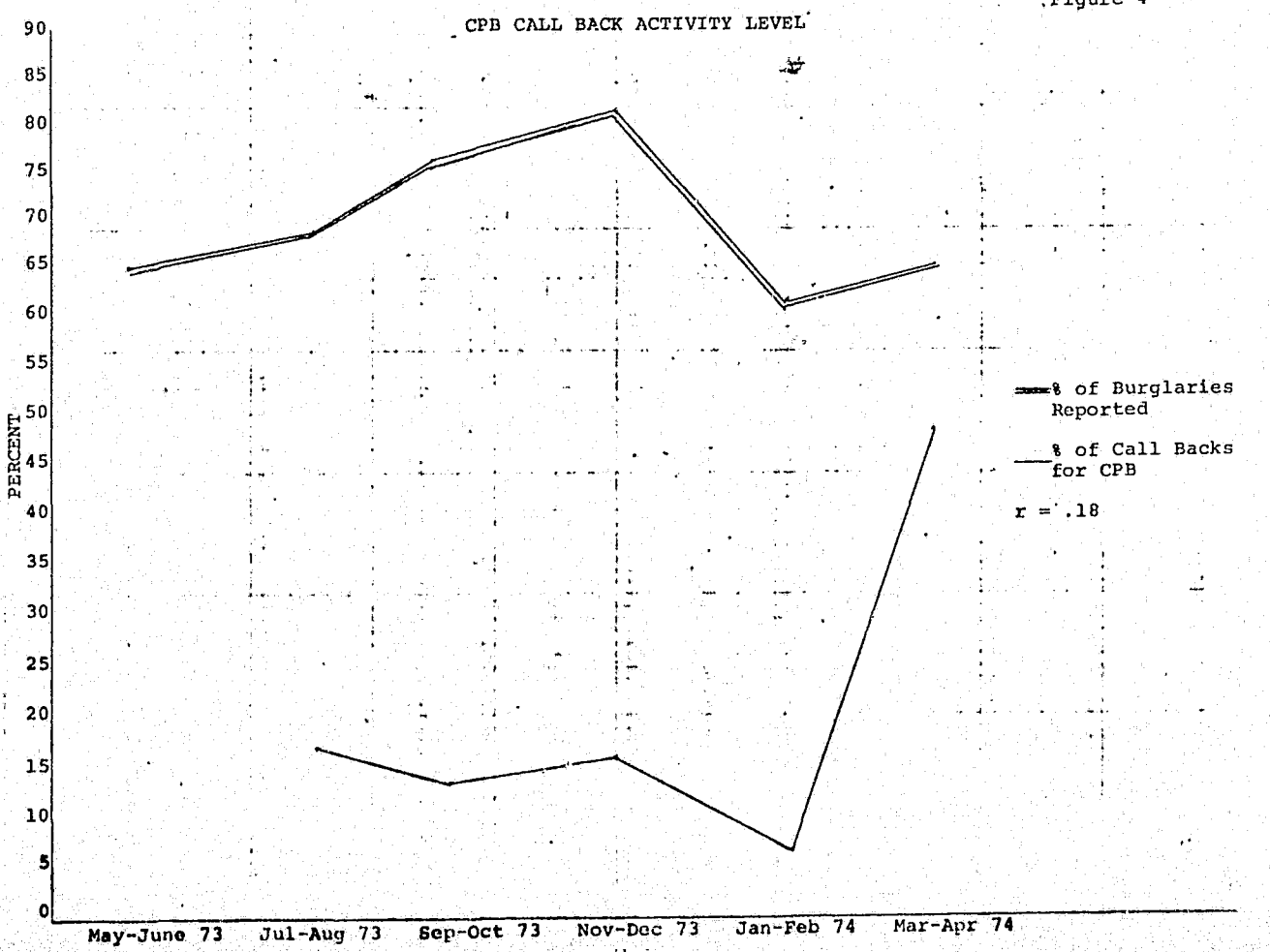


Figure 4



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