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ANALYSIS OF VICTIMS
OF 1977 PART I CRIMES
REPORTED IN JACKSONVILLE

FOURTH DIMENSION CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

Office of Criminal Justice Planning

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Except for the offense of rape and purse snatching, males are victimized more frequently than females in Jacksonville.

Whites are victimized more frequently than any other race in Jacksonville, especially in crimes against property. Blacks are victimized in violent crimes at a higher percentage rate than non-violent crimes.

The age group 25-34 is victimized more frequently than any other group in Jacksonville, especially in crimes against property. The age group 15-24 is victimized the most in violent crimes. Victimization by age peaks at the age group 25-34 (30 percent) and then steadily declines thereafter with the elderly representing only 5 percent of the victims while they comprise 9 percent of the population.

Except for the victimization rate of blacks in Jacksonville, the data generated from the reported offenses concerning victims reflects national victimization study findings.

ANALYSIS

In recent years there has been a development of interest about the effect of criminal offenses on the victim. The interest in victimization has come about due to a change of focus in the field of criminology. Originally criminologist's concern was with studying and understanding the offender. However, in recent years, according to Emilio C. Viano in Crime and the Elderly, the focus has shifted to the crime itself, not only as a legal entity but as a complex situation reflecting the interaction between different actors and the cultural norms and expectations of society, and as the product of the intricate interplay of emotional, rational, incidental and situational factors. Consequently, attention and interest have developed about the victim as an integral part of the criminal situation.¹

In April of 1977, data regarding victims obtained from offenses reports by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office was integrated into the computer data bank, hereby, making an analysis of victims of reported crimes possible. Data included in this document is a result of information generated on victims of reported Part I crimes from April 1977 to December 1977.

The Part I crimes include: murder, rape, robbery, assault, breaking and entering, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Since this data is also being utilized in a study of crimes against the elderly, the offense of purse snatching, which is usually categorized as larceny, was also analyzed.

Figure 1 is an analysis of type of crime by sex of victims. In 1977 49.7 percent of the estimated population of Jacksonville was male

and 50.3 percent was female.² All of the offenses except rape and purse snatching were perpetrated against males more often than females. Of all victims of reported offenses, 62 percent were male and 38 percent were female. Murder, robbery and motor vehicle theft show the largest percentage difference of victimization between the sexes. Females represented only 15 percent of the victims of murder, 25 percent of the victims of robbery, and 16 percent of the victims of motor vehicle theft. In assault, breaking and entering and larceny, females were victimized less than males but not nearly so much as in the crimes previously mentioned. In the offense of rape, there was 2 percent or 8 reported offenses of rape against males. (See table 1) There was 98 percent or 337 reported offenses of rape against females. In the actual offenses for 1977, there were only 292 reported rapes. The discrepancies (more victimization than reported offenses is believed to be caused by the elimination of unfounded or changes in charges of the reported offenses. The discrepancies (less victims than reported offenses) in all of the other offenses is due to the fact that the data for victims is from April until December only. These discrepancies should be eliminated in an analysis of victims in 1978.

There were 17 percent or 26 male victims of purse snatching and 8 percent or 126 reported offenses of purse snatching against females.

Figure 2 is an analysis of type crime by race of victim. Whites represented 75 percent of the victims, blacks 24 percent and other races, 1 percent. Although the percentage of blacks victimized is smaller than the percentage of whites victimized in all of the offenses, there is a significant difference between the victimization of blacks and whites in violent and non-violent offenses. In 1977, the white population of

Jacksonville represented approximately 78 percent of the total population, and non-whites, 22 percent.³ Considering this, blacks were the victims of murder 47 percent, rape 41 percent, robbery 40 percent, and all assaults 35 percent. Whites were the victims of breaking and entering 73 percent, of larceny 83 percent, of motor vehicle theft 84 percent, and of purse snatching 61 percent. Races other than black or white were victimized in all offenses except motor vehicle theft and purse snatching, but the number of offenses were significant only in murder, rape and robbery. Victims of other races represented 3 percent of the victims of murder, 1 percent of the victims of rape, 1 percent of the victims of robbery.

Figure 3 is an analysis of 1977 victim by age and crime. Two age categories (under 15-over 74) were eliminated from this analysis because of suggested errors in data entering in these categories. Because digits representing the age of the victim must be entered into the computer even if the information was eliminated from the offense report, it was believed that the digits 00 and 99 were used, therefore making the tabulations of the age categories under 15 and over 74 erroneous.

The age category of 25-34 is the most victimized (30 percent) with 15-24 next (24 percent). Overall victimization of reported offenses seems to peak at ages 25-34 and steadily decline thereafter. The elderly (over 65) represented only 5 percent of the victims of 1977 (April-December) reported offenses.

There is a distinct age difference in the victims of violent and non-violent crimes. In all of the violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and assault) the largest age category was 15-24, but in the non-violent

crimes occur much more frequently than violent crimes, the 25-34 age group is victimized more frequently in overall crimes reported. The age category of 35-44 is also higher in non-violent crimes except for murder in which the victimization rate was second highest with 22 percent. The 35-44 age category ranked third in overall crimes. The 45-54 ranked fourth in victimization with 14 percent and the 55-64 age category ranked fifth with 9 percent. As previously noted, the 65-74 age category ranked the lowest with significant highs in robbery (9 percent), breaking and entering (7 percent) and purse snatching (14 percent).

An attempt was made to compare findings on the local level with other similar studies. Since a study of victimization of reported offenses on a national or state level could not be located, a comparison was made of national victimization studies which included both reported and non-reported offenses. The reported victimization statistics seemed to be reflective of national victimization statistics except in the reporting rate of crimes in which blacks were the victims. In the national victimization studies, blacks were found to be victimized more often than whites in the crimes of rape, robbery, assault, larceny with contact, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

RECOMMENDATIONS

An analysis of victims of reported offenses should be completed on a quarterly basis and utilized in the formation of crime prevention programs and activities in Jacksonville.

An attempt should be made to eliminate any errors that may occur in the collection of data on victims. This includes eliminating unfound offense reports from the victimization data.

The collection of data by the police officer taking the offense report should be as complete as possible.

The analysis of victimization should be expanded to include place of residence of victim, dollar amount of loss, and any other relevant data that may be obtained from an offense report.

FIGURE 1

TYPE CRIME BY SEX OF VICTIM

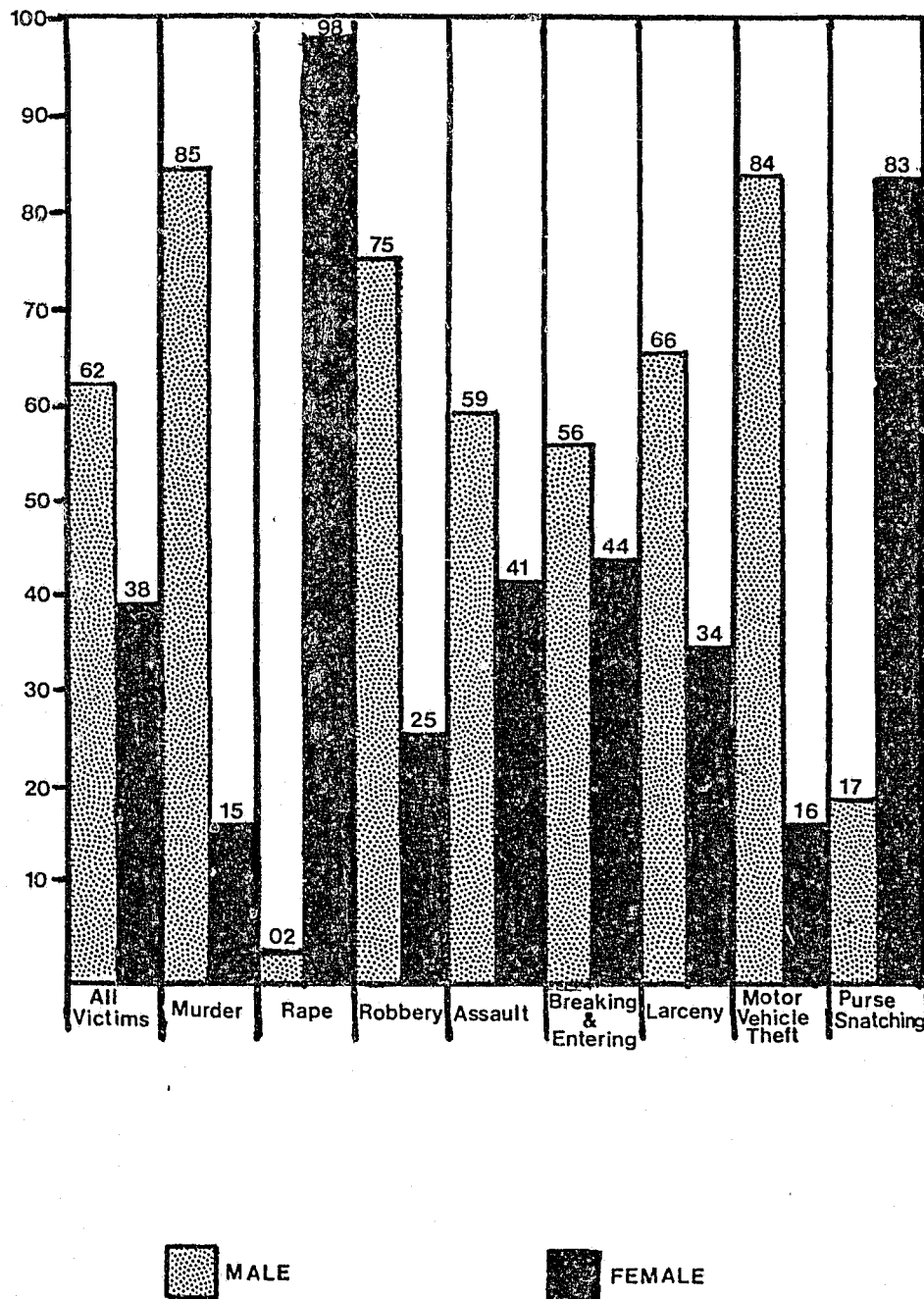


FIGURE 2

TYPE CRIME BY RACE OF VICTIM

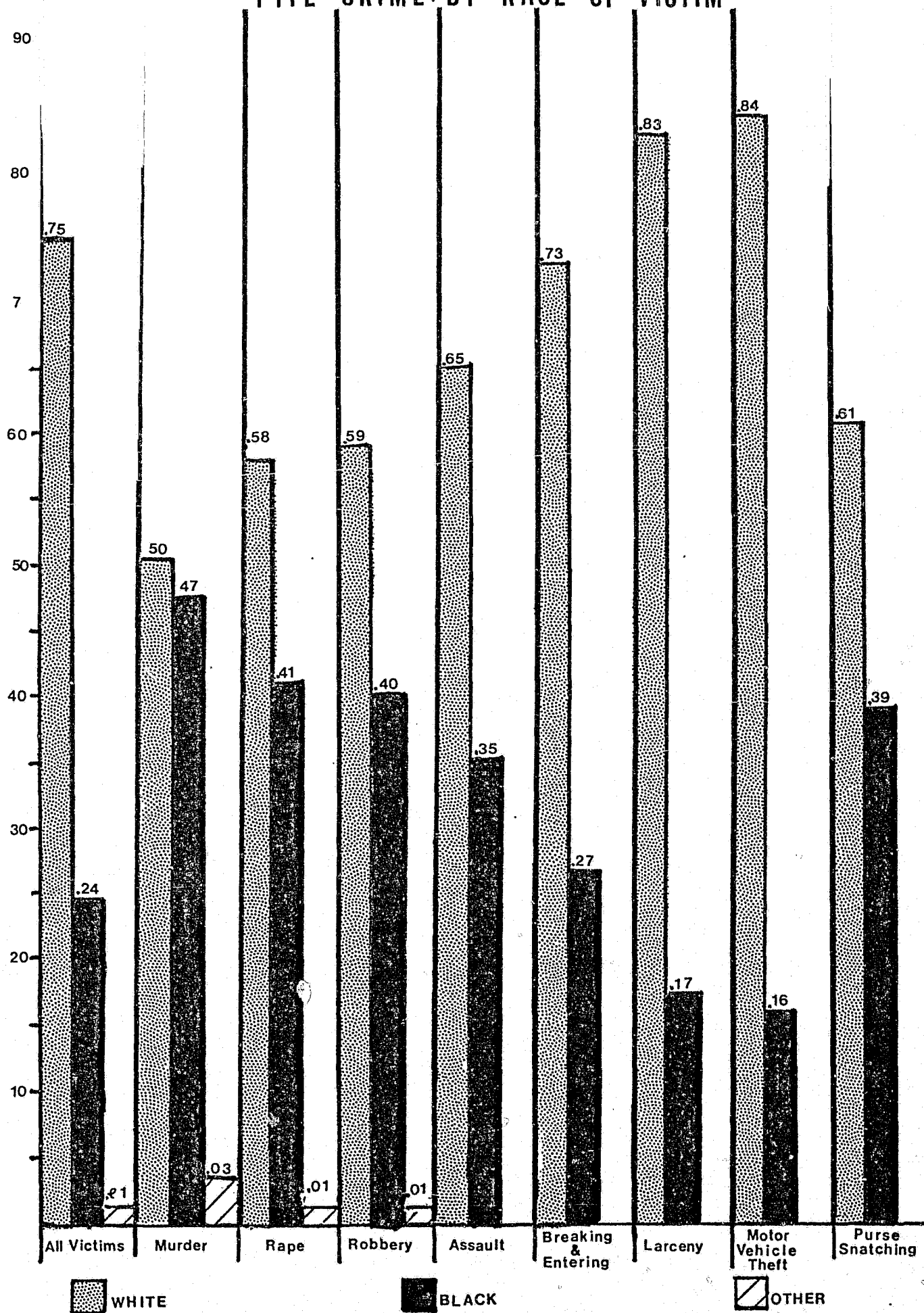


TABLE 1*1977 REPORTED OFFENSES BY SEX OF VICTIM

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Murder</u>	<u>Rape</u>	<u>Robbery</u>	<u>Assault</u>	<u>Breaking & Entering</u>	<u>Larceny</u>	<u>Motor Vehicle Theft</u>	<u>Purse Snatching</u>
Male	13,097	53	8	655	2,220	3,194	5,999	942	26
Female	<u>8,119</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>337</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>1,567</u>	<u>2,530</u>	<u>3,147</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>126</u>
	<u>21,216</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>345</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>3,787</u>	<u>5,724</u>	<u>9,146</u>	<u>1,125</u>	<u>152</u>

TABLE 2*1977 REPORTED OFFENSES BY RACE OF VICTIM

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Murder</u>	<u>Rape</u>	<u>Robbery</u>	<u>Assault</u>	<u>Breaking & Entering</u>	<u>Larceny</u>	<u>Motor Vehicle Theft</u>	<u>Purse Snatching</u>
White	16,002	31	200	521	2,468	4,152	7,592	945	93
Black	5,176	29	141	352	1,310	1,565	1,540	180	59
Other	<u>38</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>		
	<u>21,216</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>345</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>3,787</u>	<u>5,724</u>	<u>9,146</u>	<u>1,125</u>	<u>152</u>

* Data available for April to December, 1977 only.

TABLE 3*1977 REPORTED OFFENSES BY AGE OF VICTIM

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Murder</u>	<u>Rape</u>	<u>Robbery</u>	<u>Assault</u>	<u>Breaking & Entering</u>	<u>Larceny</u>	<u>Motor Vehicle Theft</u>	<u>Purse Snatching</u>
15-24	4,537	16	168	227	1,306	950	1,599	243	28
25-34	5,530	11	67	162	1,061	1,661	2,281	256	31
35-44	3,318	12	17	100	487	1,046	1,504	130	22
45-54	2,540	9	18	128	311	829	1,134	86	25
55-64	1,596	5	11	104	149	588	664	55	20
65-74	<u>908</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>363</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>
	18,429	54	283	790	3,377	5,449	7,545	785	146

* Data available for April to December, 1977 only.

FIGURE 3

1977 VICTIMS BY AGE AND CRIME



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