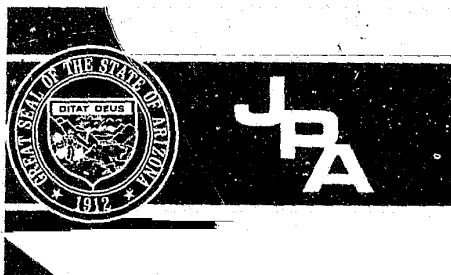
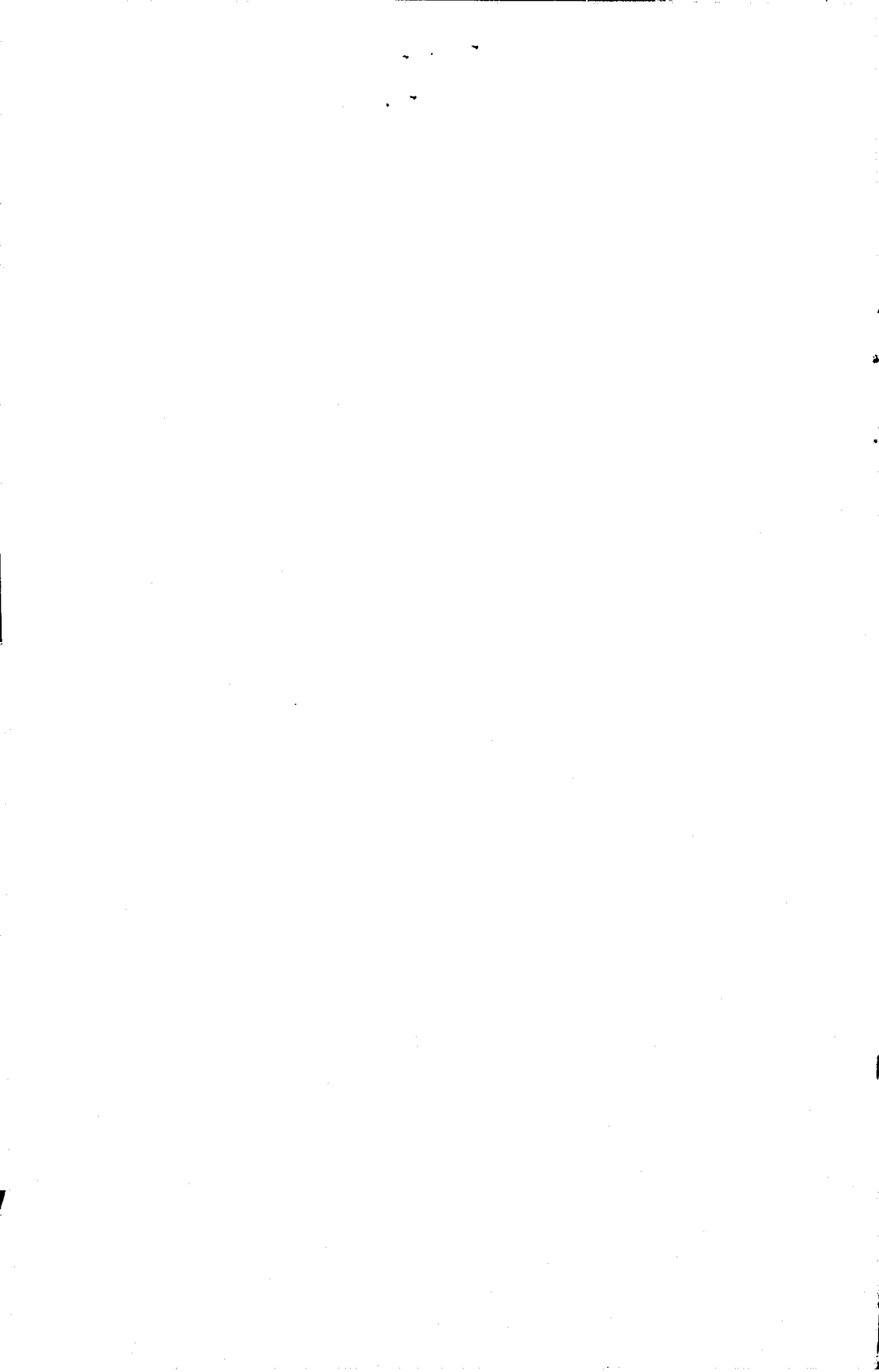


UPDATE ON CRIME IN ARIZONA

A REPORT FROM THE
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER
ARIZONA STATE
JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY

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**A REPORT FROM THE
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER
JULY 1978**

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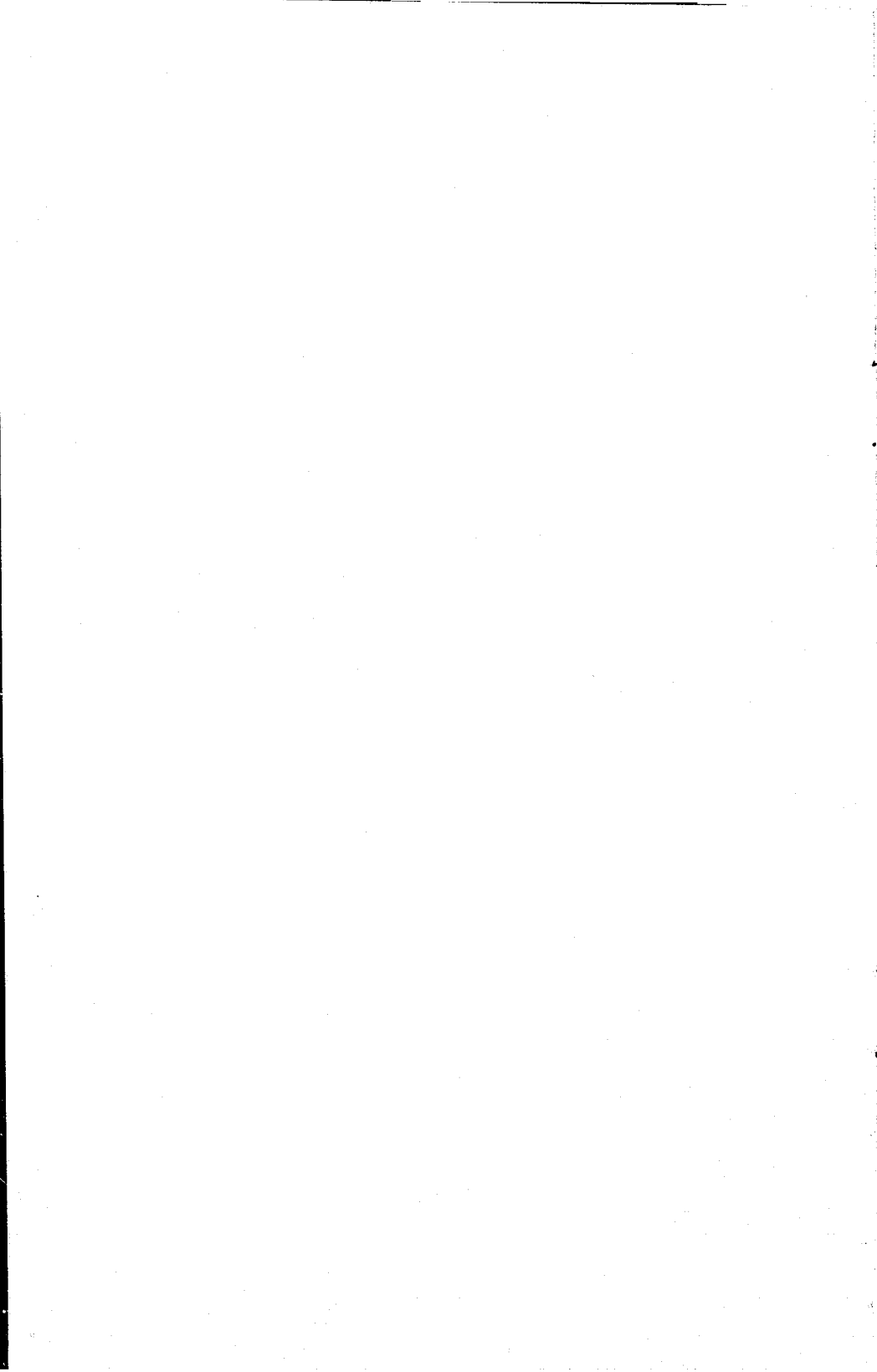
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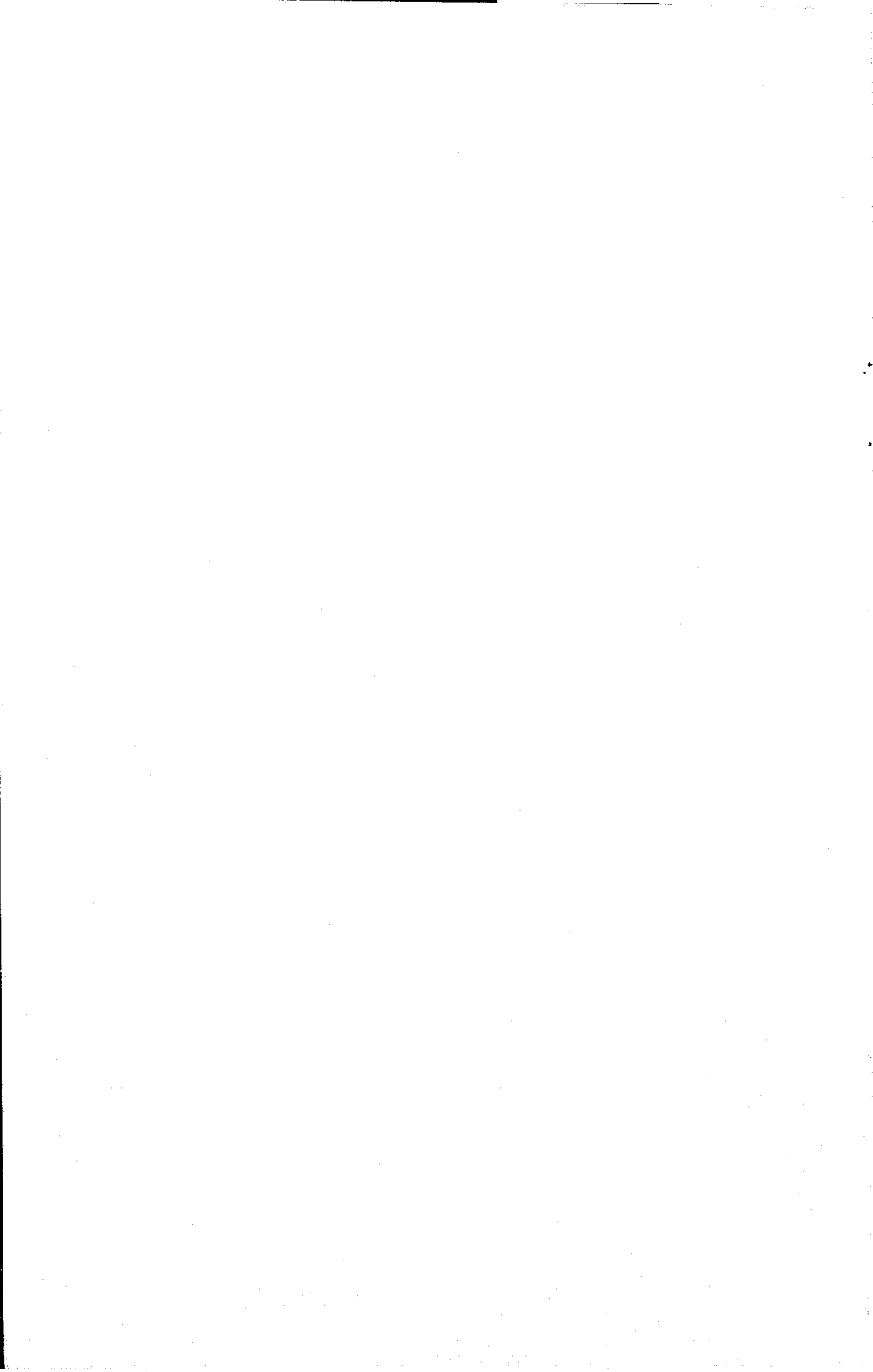
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INTRODUCTION

An on-going analysis of the crime situation in Arizona indicates that Arizona's major crime problems continue to be:

- Violent crimes, found throughout the state;
- Property offenses, concentrated in the urban communities and border counties;
- Narcotics trafficking and drug abuse.

An additional finding is that Arizonans have a high level of confidence in their law enforcement agencies — a confidence crucial to maintain.

The setting for these crime problems has several unique characteristics. Extreme variations in climate and terrain, overlapping legal jurisdictions, a young, growing, and mobile population, sparsely inhabited areas, and an international border make law enforcement in Arizona a task for a knowledgeable public and police.

Update On Crime In Arizona is the second in a series of annual reports which summarize data on the nature and extent of criminal activity in the state. It is designed for use by Arizona criminal justice planners and administrators, and is distributed as a resource to interested citizens.

This report is a compilation and analysis of information drawn from diverse sources:

- The Uniform Crime Reports;
- Arizona criminal justice professionals;
- Data and reports on crime and criminal justice problems;
- Socio-economic profiles;
- Newspaper articles and editorials.

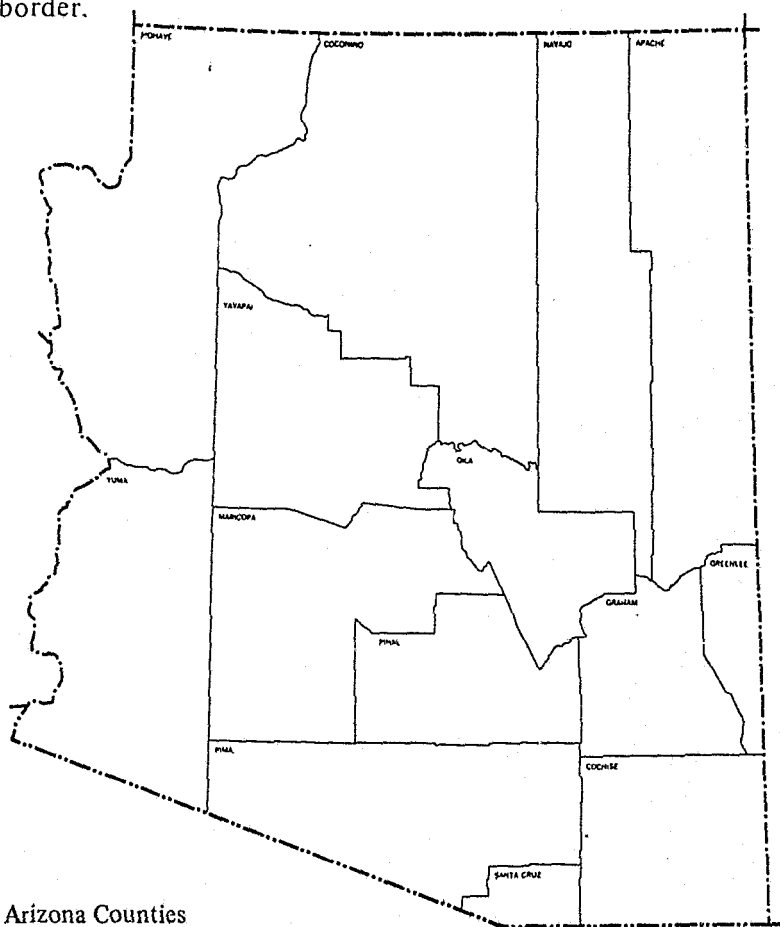
This update has three sections. The first discusses unique Arizona characteristics relating to crime. Statewide data on crime, crime rates, and arrests are examined in the second. Narcotics trafficking and drug abuse are the subjects of the final section.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ARIZONA

Characteristics unique to Arizona help shape the nature and extent of crime in the state...

GEOGRAPHY

In area, Arizona is the sixth largest state in the nation. Mountains and desert dominate its 113,000 square miles. The mountainous northern half of the state has comfortable summers, while the southern deserts have mild winters. The Colorado River forms the Arizona-California boundary, and in the desert to the south lies the long, largely unguarded Mexican border.



Arizona Counties

Fully 82% of Arizona's vast land is owned by the state or federal governments, severely limiting the private tax base which supports local and state criminal justice agencies. In several counties, such as Gila County with only 3% of its land in private hands, law enforcement problems stem not so much from a disproportionate amount of crime as from the limited resources available to finance the criminal justice system.

POPULATION

75% of Arizona's 2,350,000 people live in the metropolitan counties of Maricopa and Pima, centered around the cities of Phoenix and Tucson. The other twelve counties are sparsely inhabited, ranging from 3 to 17 persons per square mile. Statewide, population density reaches only 20 persons per square mile. In comparison, the population density of neighboring California is 136 persons per square mile. Coupled with the inaccessibility of many areas in Arizona, formidable communication and patrol problems result for law enforcement agencies.

Despite Arizona's reputation as a retirement state, the median age of the population is 27 years — two years less than the national median. Thus, there is a large group of persons in the "crime prone" years. In fact, the group most likely to be arrested for reportable offenses, those 15—19 years of age, is 10% greater in proportion than the national average.

Arizona's growth rate is the highest in the nation. Since 1965, the number of people has swelled more than 50%. A number of communities such as Glendale, Payson, and Sierra Vista, have more than doubled in recent years. Increasingly, this population growth strains the capabilities of criminal justice agencies in the state.

TOURISM

Arizona's actual population greatly exceeds the resident population because of the large number of out-of-state tourists. In addition, many Arizonans are attracted to recreation or scenic areas with small resident populations. Migrant workers, illegal aliens, and other transients are also sources for uncounted population. Were all the non-residents included in population counts, Arizona crime rates would be significantly reduced. The

magnitude of Arizona's tourism and travel industry is indicated in statistics collected by agencies throughout the state. They report that in 1977:

- Nearly ten million passenger cars entered Arizona (Arizona Commission of Agriculture and Horticulture);
- More than eight million international crossings were made at Nogales (Division of Economic and Business Research, University of Arizona);
- There were five million passenger arrivals and departures at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (City of Phoenix Aviation Department);
- More than fifteen million visitors used National Park Service Areas in the state (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service);
- Approximately 2.3 million people used Arizona State Parks (Arizona State Parks Board);
- Tourism and travel expenditures totaled \$2.9 billion (Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Arizona State University).

MEXICAN BORDER

Arizona's border with Mexico is an open invitation to narcotics law violations, and across it comes much of the Mexican brown heroin used in the United States. Because of the resulting availability and relatively low cost of heroin, an estimated 22,000 Arizonans are addicts. To finance drug purchases, vehicles and other goods are stolen in Arizona and smuggled into Mexico. Thus, drug traffickers use the border as a revolving door for financing and selling narcotics nationwide.

Illegal immigrants from Mexico present additional enforcement problems. The Tucson Sector of the Border Patrol arrested nearly 35,000 immigration violators in 1977. Many of these illegal aliens were initially apprehended by county sheriffs and municipal police, thus taxing the resources of local law enforcement agencies and facilities.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Indian reservations such as the large Navajo, Papago, San Carlos, Fort Apache, and Hopi, are characterized by small populations spread over vast areas with few good roads. Law enforcement on the reservations is complicated by low population densities and overlapping jurisdictions over Indian affairs. The Arizona portion of the Navajo Reservation, for example, has 80,000 people in an area about twice that of New Jersey. Should a serious crime such as murder, rape, robbery or arson occur on a reservation, federal agents would investigate, though they might be headquartered many miles away. For lesser offenses, tribal police, the sheriff, or other authorities might have jurisdiction.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Citizen participation is an important factor in police work. There are many ways in which the Arizona public helps in the fight against crime: by cooperating with police and other criminal justice agencies; by the thousands of hours volunteered to law enforcement agencies by reserve officers, posse members, and others; by reporting crimes and suspicious persons and activities. The Phoenix Police Department reports that they received 937,365 Crime Stop calls in 1976. It is believed that programs such as Crime Stop and the community's confidence in their police departments contribute to the fact that the reported rate of index offenses in Arizona is 54% higher than the national rate.

CRIME STATISTICS

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

The *Uniform Crime Reports*, collected by the Arizona Department of Public Safety, provide the best available means of assessing crime in the state. Under the UCR Program, data on criminal offenses and police activities are routinely and uniformly collected from law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona. Agencies participating in the UCR Program during 1977, excluding those on Indian reservations, have jurisdiction over 99% of the state population.

The UCR Program groups seven index crimes into two categories: violent and property crimes. Violent crimes include murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes are burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. (Definitions of each of the index crime categories are listed in the Appendix.) These data show the magnitude and distribution of crime in the state.

Arrest data provide a second way of measuring criminal activity. These data are grouped into the Part I and Part II crimes. The Part I crimes are the seven index crimes plus negligent manslaughter. The Part II crimes are all other non-traffic crimes, such as driving under the influence, drug law violations, disorderly conduct and fraud. For many of these Part II crimes, numbers of arrests are the only available information as it is impracticable to count the numbers of offenses. Arrest data also provide the age, race, and sex of individuals apprehended.

UCR data may not accurately reflect the total amount of crime in the state. These limitations affect its accuracy:

- Many crimes against persons and their property are not reported to police. A victimization study in Gila and Pinal Counties showed that 35% of the victims had not reported a crime;
- Some police departments lack the manpower to render a complete and accurate accounting of offenses committed and persons arrested;

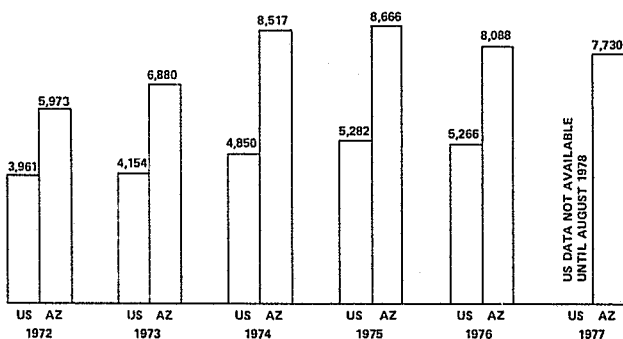
- Disparities in collection methods and interpretation of crime data exist among agencies;
- How UCR classifies a particular act may vary from classification of that act under state criminal statutes;
- Crimes reported on Arizona Indian reservations are not included in state totals even though reservation populations are included in state population figures;
- Because 1977 data for the United States were not available at the time of this report, 1976 data are used for making national comparisons.

REPORTED CRIME AND CRIME RATES

Arizona has one of the highest crime rates in the nation (the "crime rate" is the number of index offenses per 100,000 population). The 1976 Arizona rate of 8,088 is 54% higher than the national rate. Except for murder, robbery, and motor vehicle theft, Arizona crime rates are also higher for each of the index offenses.

CHANGES IN CRIME RATES IN THE U.S. AND ARIZONA

1972 - 1977

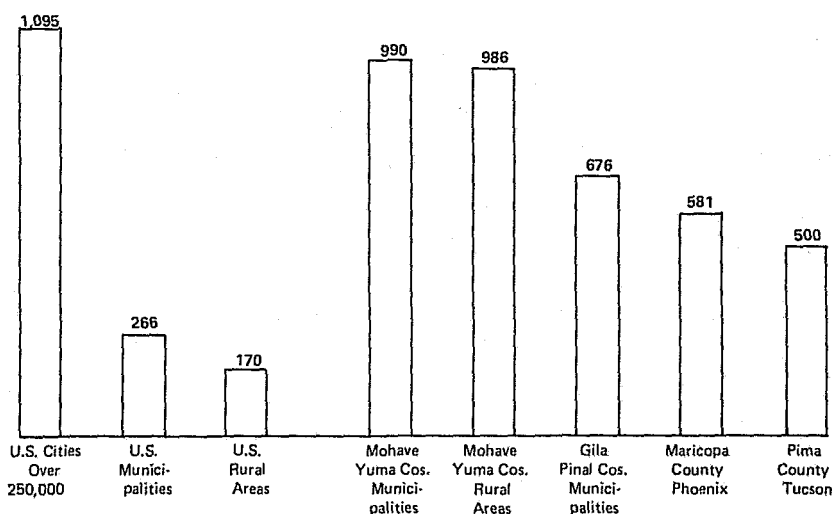


Since 1972, the Arizona crime rate has risen 29%. The state crime rate rose sharply from 1972 to 1974. However, the rate increased less than 2% in 1975, and *decreased* 7% in 1976 and 4% in 1977. Preliminary figures for the first quarter of 1978 indicate that crime in Arizona may again be on the rise; index crimes in Phoenix increased 7% over the same period last year.

VIOLENT CRIMES

Violent crimes — murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault — occur in the smaller municipalities and rural areas of the state at rates considerably higher than the national rates for similar areas. In contrast, the rates of violent crimes for Phoenix and Tucson are well below the national rates for cities with populations above 250,000. The chart below displays the five areas in Arizona having the highest violent crime rates.

AREAS HAVING THE HIGHEST VIOLENT CRIME RATES
IN ARIZONA IN 1976



Arizona experienced alarming increases in violent crime rates in 1977. Murder rose 19%; rape, 12%; robbery, 4%; and aggravated assault, 6%. Increases in violent crimes occurred in Phoenix and Tucson, as well as in the other municipalities and rural areas of the state.

Across Arizona the highest rates of murder and aggravated assault continue to be found outside the urban areas. The majority of murders involve the use of firearms while personal weapons such as hands, fists, and feet, are most often used in assaults.

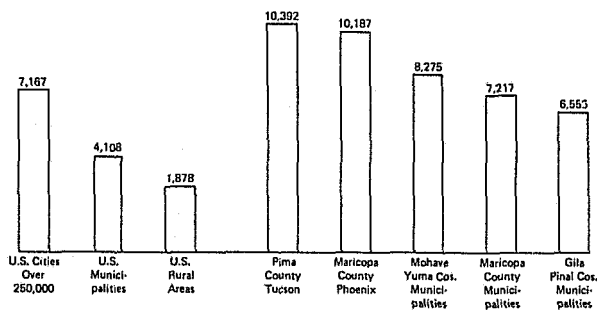
Phoenix and the municipalities of Gila and Pinal Counties have the highest rates of forcible rape. It is difficult to determine if the high rates of rape in these communities are the result of a greater incidence of rape or whether the atmosphere is such that victims are more likely to report the offense. Rape often goes unreported because of potential stigma. National Crime Surveys have determined that as many as half of all rapes and attempted rapes are not reported to police. However, programs that actively work with rape victims, such as the Center Against Sexual Assault in Phoenix, encourage the reporting of the crime. Hitchhiking is another factor that contributes to high rates of rape. A Phoenix Police Department study shows that at least 20% of all reported sexual assault victims were hitchhikers. Inadequate public transportation systems in Phoenix and throughout Arizona promote hitchhiking — a danger to males as well as females.

Unlike other violent crime offenses, robbery is concentrated in Arizona's urban areas. The rates of robbery in the Phoenix and Tucson areas are more than twice those of other municipalities in the state, and three times those of rural areas.

PROPERTY CRIMES

Arizona has one of the highest reported property crime rates in the nation, 59% higher than the national average. Property crimes flourish in the state's urban communities and border counties. The combined property crime rate of Phoenix and Tucson is more than twice that of the state's rural areas. The five areas having the highest property crime rates in 1976 are shown below.

AREAS HAVING THE HIGHEST PROPERTY CRIME RATES
IN ARIZONA IN 1976



Since 1972, Arizona's property crime rate has increased more than 30% while the violent crime rate has increased by only 9%. This pattern of crime is apparently connected to the growth in the resident heroin addict population which has followed the massive introduction of Mexican heroin into the United States during the 1970's.

Maricopa County and Pima County consistently have the highest rates of burglary and larceny-theft. The illegal activities of heroin addicts to finance their habits are believed to contribute to the property crime rates of these counties. Local drug authorities estimate that 12,000 addicts live in Maricopa County; in Pima County the number is placed at 4,000.

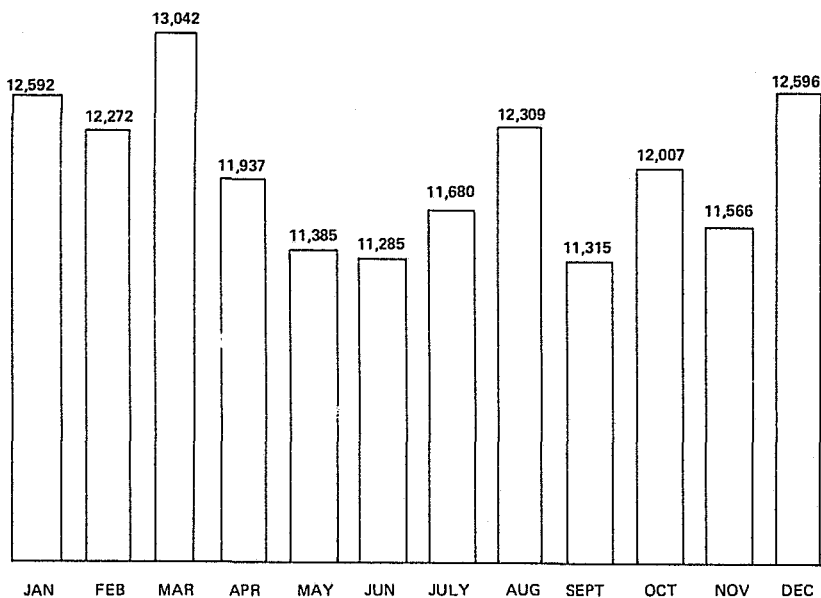
Arizona's highest rates of motor vehicle theft are found in Pima County and Yuma County. The Mexican border may partially account for these high rates of vehicle theft since stolen cars, pickup trucks, and other vehicles have a ready market in Mexico.

More than \$65 million in property was stolen in Arizona in 1977 — \$28 for every man, woman, and child in the state. Of the \$65 million of property reported stolen, slightly more than \$20 million was recovered. Once stolen, motor vehicles are most likely to be recovered (70%). Mandatory motor vehicle registration and licensing are significant factors in this high rate of recovery. Televisions, stereos, and other household items have the lowest recovery rates (4-5%).

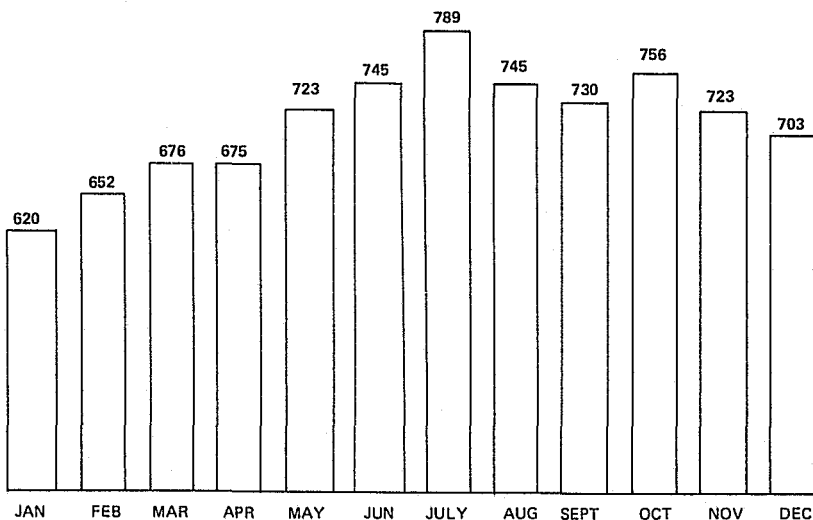
Across Arizona, the incidence of property crimes varies with the seasons. Property crimes increase in Maricopa and Pima Counties during the winter tourist season, while in Northern Arizona property crimes increase during the summer. The seasonality of property offenses in Arizona is illustrated in the two charts on the following page.

REPORTED PROPERTY OFFENSES BY MONTH
AVERAGE 1975 - 1976 - 1977

MARICOPA AND PIMA COUNTIES



NORTHERN ARIZONA COUNTIES*



* Apache, Coconino, Mohave, Navajo, and Yavapai Counties.

ARRESTS

Arrest statistics show that the majority of individuals arrested for violent crimes are age 18 and above, while the majority of those arrested for property crimes are under age 18. One should not assume, however, that the ages of those arrested are representative of the ages of all offenders since some persons are more easily apprehended than others.

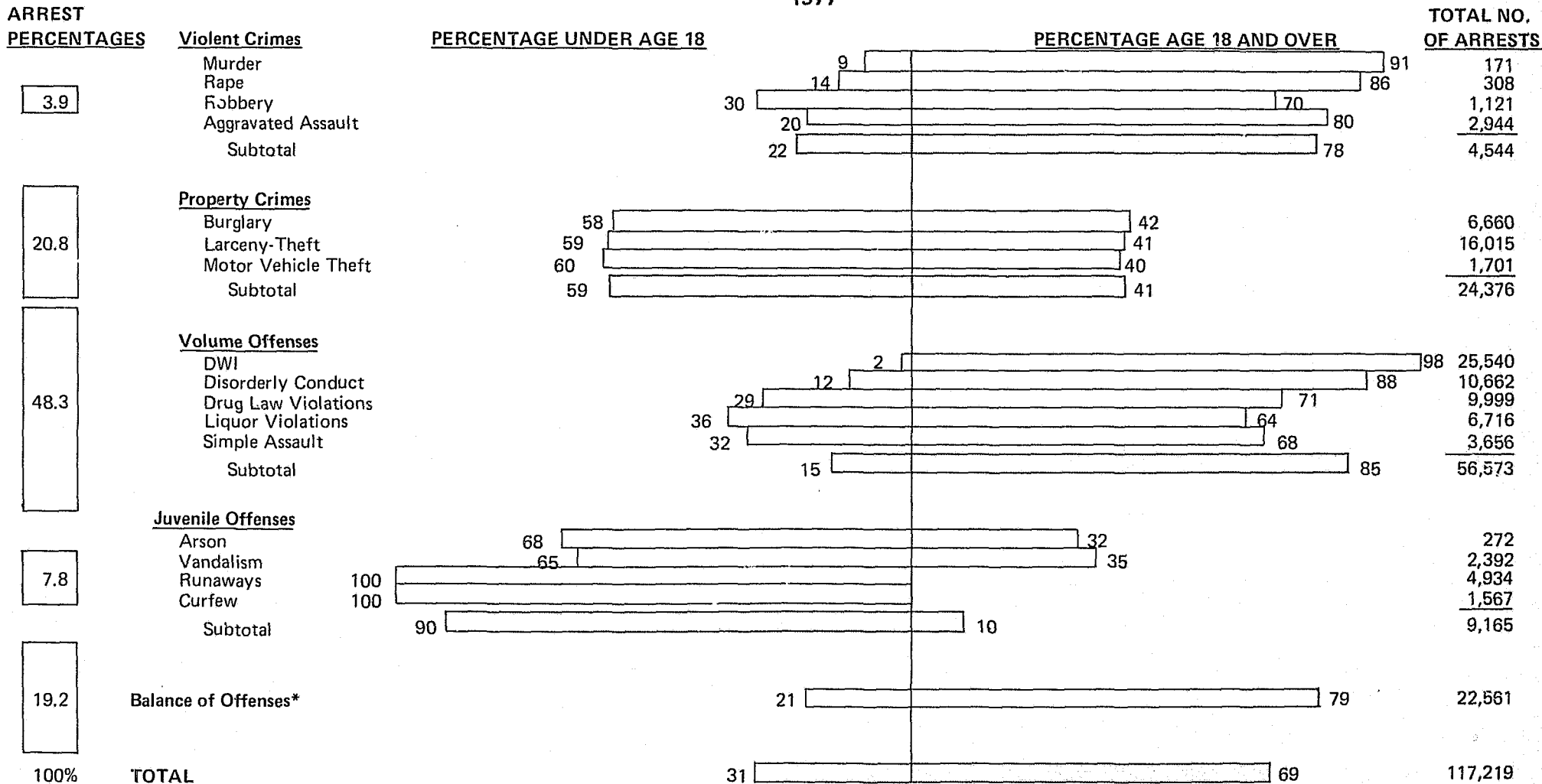
The chart on the following page shows the number of arrests and the percentage of those arrested, by age and offense. Arizona law enforcement agencies reported 117,219 arrests for non-traffic offenses in 1977. Less than 25% are for index offenses; 4% are for violent crimes, 21% for property crimes.

Of 4,547 persons arrested for violent crimes, 79% are "adults" 18 or above, ranging from 70% for robbery to 90% for murder. The opposite is true for property crimes, with 59% of 24,376 persons arrested being under 18.

It should be pointed out that an adult arrested for a violent crime, is more likely to be in the 18-19 age group than any other. A juvenile arrested for a property crime is more likely to be in the 16-17 age group. Five Part II Offenses — driving while intoxicated, drug law violations, disorderly conduct, liquor violations, and simple assault — account for nearly half of all non-traffic arrests. All Part II crimes can be characterized as "adult" offenses except for the "juvenile" offenses of runaways, vandalism, and curfew violations, plus arson.



DISTRIBUTION OF ARRESTS BY AGE AND OFFENSE 1977



*Weapons, stolen property, fraud, prostitution, sex offenses, vagrancy, offenses against family, forgery-counterfeiting, embezzlement, drunkenness, gambling, manslaughter by negligence, other non-traffic offenses.

CRIME ON ARIZONA INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Indian reservations account for 27% of the land, 5% of the population, and 3% of the reported crimes and arrests in Arizona. According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Law Enforcement Services, 1,255 index offenses were reported on Arizona reservations in 1977. Nearly 25% of these offenses were crimes of violence, primarily forcible rapes and aggravated assaults. Tribal and BIA law enforcement personnel made more than 6,000 arrests for non-traffic offenses in 1977. Approximately three-quarters of these arrests were for alcohol-related offenses — disorderly conduct (2,759); drunkenness (1,251); DWI (626); and liquor law violations (209). The isolation of the reservations, unemployment rates averaging 20%, and the problems experienced by many Native Americans in coping with modern life, all contribute to the high incidence of alcoholism among the Indian population and the resulting large numbers of alcohol-related arrests on the reservations.

The problems of Indian involvement with the criminal justice system are not limited to the reservations. Although county sheriffs and municipal police do not patrol the reservations, they frequently handle associated problems on adjacent lands. In 1977, nearly 12,000 Indians were arrested by off-reservation law enforcement agencies, 63% for alcohol-related offenses.

NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND DRUG ABUSE

Arizona is reputedly the major corridor for smuggling narcotics from Mexico into the United States. Its long, little guarded border with Mexico favors the covert operation of narcotics traffickers. The amount of narcotics flowing through Arizona has increased tremendously since the Turkish government banned the cultivation of poppies in 1972. According to Drug Enforcement Administration statistics, Mexican brown heroin now accounts for the majority of all heroin smuggled into the United States. In addition, tons of marijuana and hundreds of pounds of cocaine are smuggled through Arizona yearly. Other crimes occurring in Arizona and known to result from narcotics trafficking are burglaries, auto thefts, airplane thefts, drug ripoffs, and homicides.

A report on heroin addiction produced by the Arizona Department of Public Safety states, "Opiate drug abuse and addiction is on the increase in Arizona disproportionately to the general population increase." That marijuana use is also increasing is indicated by a survey of 7,500 Phoenix area high school students recently conducted by the Marketing and Research Department of the *Phoenix Gazette*. This survey reveals that 46% of the students questioned had tried marijuana or hashish and 65% felt marijuana use is increasing.

The percentage of all arrests in the state attributed to drug law violations is 9% — nationally, only 6% of arrests are for drug law violations. The table on the following page presents the types of drugs involved in Arizona drug arrests. Approximately 9 out of 10 arrests involve marijuana while 7% involve opium, cocaine, and their derivatives.

The magnitude of the narcotics problem in Arizona is further reflected in admissions to the Department of Corrections. In 1975, 297, or 19% of total adult admissions, were for narcotics offenses. In 1976, the number rose to 389, or 24%. Preliminary figures for 1977 indicate that 25% of adult admissions to the Department of Corrections were for narcotics offenses.

ARRESTS FOR DRUG LAW VIOLATIONS

1977

	Total State & Local Law Enf. Agencies	AZ Dept. of Public Safety	Maricopa Co. Law Enf. Agencies	Pima Co. Law Enf. Agencies
Possession				
Opium, Cocaine, Derivatives	392	55	147	139
Marijuana	8,110	822	3,905	1,473
Synthetic Narcotics	87	6	15	42
Other Dan- gerous Drugs	299	41	102	84
Sale, Manufacture				
Opium, Cocaine, Derivates	285	41	153	64
Marijuana	759	244	230	49
Synthetic Narcotics	26	0	14	5
Other Dan- gerous Drugs	41	2	19	3
Total Arrests	9,999	1,211	4,585	1,859

Source: Arizona Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reports.

The Department of Public Safety report states:

Heroin addiction is expensive for the addict. In fact, most addicts cannot support their habit without supplementing their income through illegal means. This illegal activity usually involves a crime against property, primarily burglary and larceny; however, desperate addicts also resort to armed robbery. Other typical crimes committed by addicts include auto theft, drug dealing, pimping, and prostitution.

The total monetary loss directly attributable to drug-related crimes in Arizona cannot be accurately calculated. However, it is known that heroin addicts are responsible for many property crimes. 50% of those arrested for heroin violations have larceny records and 49% have burglary records.

The Department of Public Safety report on drug addiction shows the relationship between narcotics trafficking and motor vehicle theft.

In the spring of 1976, Department of Public Safety auto theft investigators went to a wrecking yard in Mexico. Of approximately 5,000 vehicles in the yard, a random sampling was made of 120. Of these vehicles, forty-one (34%) had been stolen from Arizona. A conservative estimate by these investigators is that over 450 vehicles per year are stolen in Arizona and taken into Mexico. The majority of these are probably traded for narcotics.

In recent months, the heroin supply has been dwindling. As the availability decreases, so does the relative purity of "street" heroin, since dealers, faced with shorter supplies, dilute their heroin to meet demand. The Drug Enforcement Administration reports that retail heroin purity for the first three months of 1978 reached the lowest point ever recorded — 4.9%. The DEA credits the decline to drug enforcement efforts in the United States and cooperative programs with Mexico to destroy poppy fields, the source of the drug. Law enforcement authorities believe that the reduction in heroin purity which increased the price of a dose of heroin, will cause addicts to steal more to support their habits. Another consequence of the heroin shortage is a reduction in the number of heroin overdose deaths. Accidental deaths from opiate drug poisoning peaked in Arizona in 1975 at 77 deaths; since then the number of deaths from opiate overdoses has declined 82%.

APPENDIX

DEFINITIONS OF THE SEVEN INDEX CRIMES

VIOLENT CRIME

- **Murder** — The willful killing of another, including non-negligent manslaughter. Murder excludes attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, justifiable homicides, and manslaughter by negligence.
- **Forcible Rape** — Rape and attempts to rape through the use or threat of force. Statutory rape (without force) is excluded.
- **Robbery** — Stealing or taking anything of value from a person by force, by violence, or by putting in fear. Attempted robbery is included.
- **Aggravated Assault** — Assault with intent to kill or for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury. Simple assaults are excluded.

PROPERTY CRIME

- **Burglary** — Burglary, housebreaking, safecracking, or any breaking or unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft. Attempted forcible entry is included.
- **Larceny-Theft** — The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, worthless checks, etc., are excluded.
- **Motor Vehicle Theft** — Unlawful taking or stealing or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

END