

CRIME AND THE ELDERLY

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

1974 - 1977

50582

PLANNING DIVISION
CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT
ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION

The cities dotting the western coast of Florida have long been a haven for elderly citizens. St. Petersburg, with its mild climate, Gulf exposure, and relatively inexpensive cost of living has become a favorite among retirees. Both seasonal and year-round residents have created one of the most active, established elderly communities in the country.

An estimated 236,413 persons reside in St. Petersburg. Approximately 37%, or slightly over 88,000, are 60 years of age or older. Most live in or near the central portion of the city, and 51% subsist on less than \$5,000 a year. Another third fall into the \$5,000-10,000 yearly income bracket. 94% are white, slightly over half are female. Their location, limited income, and often a lack of mobility makes them particularly vulnerable to certain types of crimes.

NCJRS

An analysis of crime as it pertains to this segment of the populace is presented by this document.

SEP 27 1978

We will examine the incidence of personal crime, property crimes, and those offenses with qualities of each -- "street crimes." The first half, Part I, will correlate data accumulated over the last four years. A comprehensive review of crimes perpetrated against the elderly and by the elderly from 1974 through 1977 will be discussed by category. Section A deals with victimization, while Section B relates suspect information. Numerical tables provide an overview of total crime occurrence by type and the percentage representation of victims 60 years of age and older. A convenient review of the four years under study and the pattern of change from year-to-year is presented. A victim/suspect typology is included to depict the sex/race relationship between the two groups. It offers some interesting data on the type of person who preys on the elderly, as well as the terribly high percentage

ACQUISITION

who flee the scene of the crime completely unnoticed. Crime figures by month of occurrence are also provided to note any presence of seasonal variation.

Part II follows the same basic organization, but analyzes only those incidents occurring during 1977. While 1977 information was included in the Part I analysis, we felt it important to give special attention to the activity of the most current year. Changing patterns may become obliterated when several years are combined for study.

St. Petersburg has long been concerned with the safety of its elderly populace and the protection of their property. Numerous programs are aimed at the needs of this group of people. Agencies such as the Office on Aging, American Association of Retired Persons, Office of Crime Prevention, Project Concern, and many other organizations are making a significant contribution to improving their life style. Each year we compile this document - to assist in future planning by providing an awareness of what's happened in the past.



M. M. VINES, CHIEF OF POLICE

PART I

CRIME AND THE ELDERLY

FOUR - YEAR ANALYSIS

1974 - 1977

Over 11,000 crimes occurring in the last four years claimed as its victim an elderly resident. This represents 16% of the total major crimes recorded during that time period. This is not a startling figure overall, considering the high percentage of elderly within the City. In most crime categories, they are not over-victimized, but in incidents such as Robbery, Purse Snatch and Pickpocket, their representation is excessively high. These are areas of special concern and are detailed separately under the heading of "street crimes". The property crime of greatest interest is Residential Burglary - threatening more elderly citizens each year. Homicide rates among the aged have also risen each of the four years under study. Most of the other major crimes reviewed claim a negligible proportion of elderly victims.

An alarming number of persons 60 years of age and over are also becoming involved with crime in a different way. They are listed and/or apprehended as suspects. During the years 1974-1977, 1401 elderly residents were implicated in major crimes in St. Petersburg. The greatest representation was in the Larceny - Shoplifting category, accounting for over half of the total. This study does not include offenses of a lesser degree, such as disorderly conduct, vagrancy, or alcohol-related charges; but there is an elderly presence among offenders in those categories as well. While most of the literature on crime and the elderly deals with victimization, the subject of elderly violators also merits attention.

SECTION A

ELDERLY VICTIMS

1974 - 1977

CRIME AND THE ELDERLY

1974 - 1977

CRIME	1974			1975			1976			1977		
	Total Crime	Vics 60 & Over	% Total									
HOMICIDE	33	5	15%	16	3	19%	18	4	22%	20	6	30%
RAPE	81	4	5%	90	6	7%	106	11	10%	93	7	7%
ROBBERY	844	238	28%	805	322	40%	555	209	38%	503	184	37%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	968	34	3%	1298	47	4%	1268	48	4%	1159	50	4%
SIMPLE ASSAULT	2265	104	5%	2348	99	4%	2249	99	4%	2268	77	2%
RESIDENTIAL B&E	5124	1364	27%	5321	1448	27%	4060	1145	28%	3289	1047	32%
AUTO B&E	1449	130	9%	1299	132	10%	1009	101	10%	840	71	8%
LARCENY -												
PICKPOCKET	54	17	31%	32	17	53%	67	27	40%	66	25	38%
PURSE SNATCH	278	184	66%	240	174	73%	129	91	71%	111	74	67%
AUTO PARTS	1914	303	16%	2029	295	15%	1952	273	14%	1886	303	16%
BIKE THEFT	2284	52	2%	1662	45	3%	1083	27	2%	1110	27	2%
FROM BUILDINGS	1159	120	10%	825	92	11%	679	52	8%	827	77	9%
MISCELLANEOUS	2144	394	18%	2614	556	21%	2568	542	21%	2299	486	21%
AUTO THEFT	783	56	7%	597	59	10%	424	35	8%	387	30	7%
T O T A L	19380	3005	15%	19176	3295	17%	16167	2664	16%	14858	2464	17%

PATTERN OF CHANGE, 1974 - 1977

ELDERLY VICTIMS

CRIME	Elderly Victims		% Change 74-75	Elderly Victims 1976	% Change 75-76	Elderly Victims 1977	% Change 76-77
	1974	1975					
HOMICIDE	5	3	- 40%	4	+ 33%	6	+ 50%
RAPE	4	6	+ 50%	11	+ 83%	7	- 36%
ROBBERY	238	322	+ 35%	209	- 35%	184	- 12%
AGG ASSAULT	34	47	+ 38%	48	+ 2%	50	+ 4%
SIMPLE ASSAULT	104	99	- 5%	99	--	77	- 22%
RESIDENTIAL B&E	1364	1448	+ 6%	1145	- 21%	1047	- 9%
AUTO B&E	130	132	+ 1%	101	- 23%	71	- 30%
LARCENY -							
PICKPOCKET	17	17	--	27	+ 59%	25	- 7%
PURSE SNATCH	184	174	- 5%	91	- 48%	74	- 19%
AUTO PARTS	303	295	- 3%	273	- 7%	303	+ 11%
BIKE THEFT	52	45	- 13%	27	- 40%	27	--
FROM BUILDINGS	120	92	- 23%	52	- 43%	77	+ 48%
MISCELLANEOUS	394	556	+ 41%	542	- 3%	486	- 10%
AUTO THEFT	56	59	+ 5%	35	- 41%	30	- 14%
T O T A L	3005	3295	+ 10%	2664	- 19%	2464	- 7%

ELDERLY VICTIMS

1974 - 1977

<u>CRIME</u>	<u>total crimes 4-year period</u>	<u>total victims 60 & over</u>	<u>% of total</u>
HOMICIDE	87	18	21%
RAPE	370	28	7%
ROBBERY	2707	953	35%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	4693	179	4%
SIMPLE ASSAULT	9130	379	4%
RESIDENTIAL B&E	17794	5004	28%
AUTO B&E	4597	434	9%
LARCENY -			
PICKPOCKET	219	86	39%
PURSE SNATCH	758	523	69%
AUTO PARTS	7781	1174	15%
BIKE THEFT	6139	151	2%
BUILDING THEFTS	3490	341	10%
MISCELLANEOUS	9625	1978	21%
AUTO THEFT	2191	180	8%
 T O T A L	 69581	 11428	 16%

VICTIM - SUSPECT TYPOLOGY

ELDERLY VICTIMS

1974 - 1977

CRIME	Total	V I C T I M				S U S P E C T				
		Sex %		Race %		Sex %		Race %		
		Male	Female	White	Black	Male	Female	Unknown	White	Black
HOMICIDE	18	50	50	83	17	44	6	50	33	17
RAPE - ACTUAL	15	0	100	87	13	93	0	7	7	86
ATTEMPT	13	0	100	92	8	100	0	0	62	38
ROBBERY - ARMED	160	74	26	92	8	94	5	1	26	73
UNARMED	793	33	67	95	5	94	2	4	18	78
ASSAULT - AGG	179	72	28	57	43	69	24	7	39	54
SIMPLE	379	59	41	87	13	83	14	3	68	29
B&E - RESIDENTIAL	5004	51	49	92	8	20	1	79	7	14
AUTO	434	64	36	90	10	24	1	75	10	15
LARCENY -										
PICKPOCKET	86	65	35	92	8	53	14	33	19	48
PURSE SNATCH	523	1	99	99	1	92	1	7	19	74
AUTO PARTS	1174	70	30	93	7	8	0	92	6	2
BICYCLE THEFT	151	67	33	93	7	9	0	91	7	2
FROM BUILDING	341	31	69	94	6	32	9	59	13	28
OTHER	1978	49	51	92	8	24	6	70	17	13
AUTO THEFT	180	69	31	82	18	22	3	75	18	7
T O T A L	11428	50	50	92	8	33	3	64	13	22

ELDERLY VICTIMS

(1974 - 1977)

PERSONAL CRIMES

HOMICIDE

During the four-year period 1974 - 1977, 87 homicides were recorded in St. Petersburg, Florida. Eighteen of the victims, or 21%, were 60 years of age or older.

Victims included 8 white females, 7 white males, 2 black males, and 1 black female. 40% of them fell into the 67-73 year-old age bracket; the eldest was 92.

Eleven cases were cleared with arrest; and 2 cases were "closed exceptionally" when the suspects killed themselves. Suspects were described as: white males (12) in 11 cases, black males (3) in 2 cases, and a black female in 1 case. The perpetrators went unidentified in the remaining cases. Their ages ranged from 18 to 76.

Victims were acquainted with their assailants in at least four of the incidents (friends in one case, married in 2, and parent/child in 1). In the remaining 14 cases, the suspect was either a stranger to the victim, or the circumstances of the murder were insufficient to determine the relationship.

Weapons varied, including guns in 8 cases, knives in 4, a striking instrument in one, and the suspects hands/feet only in 3.

Thirteen of the incidents occurred on residential premises - 12 within the home or porch area, one in the yard. One was staged in a bar, and one in a city park.

Time of occurrence ranged from 2:00 AM to 8:00 PM, with Friday

HOMICIDE - continued

the most heavily represented day. Seven of the eighteen occurred during August or September.

RAPE

Twenty-eight of the 370 women victimized by sexual assault during the four-year period 1974-1977, were elderly females. This represents 7% of the total. Fifteen reported actual rapes, while thirteen were attempts only.

Victims ranged in age from 60 to 90. Twenty-four of the women were white, 3 were black and one was oriental. Suspect information yielded 9 white men and 19 black men. Most were described in their 20's; although the youngest was in his early teens, the oldest was 70. In 6 of the incidents there was more than one assailant. Victims were acquainted with their assailants in five of the incidents. They were strangers in the remainder.

Thursday and Fridays were the days of heaviest activity; 0100-0300 hours and 2100-2200 hours the most vulnerable time span. The month of occurrence varied, with Decembers recording the greatest number (5).

Twenty-two of the assaults took place within the victims' house or apartment. Most of these were subsequent to and in conjunction with the suspect burglarizing the home. Two others occurred in the yard area, while three took place in an automobile, and one in a wooded/undeveloped area. All but three of the incidents transpired without the use of weapons. Knives were utilized as threatening devices in the three. Injuries were limited or none in the majority of the rapes. In 2 cases, however, the woman was severely beaten and in two others she was cut.

RAPE -- continued

Seven of the 28 cases were closed with arrest, 1 closed lack of prosecution, and 20 remain under investigation.

ASSAULT

During the years 1974-1977, 558 elderly persons were victims of assault. In 164 of these, a weapon was employed, thus qualifying the cases as "aggravated." Hands and miscellaneous striking instruments were favored modes of force in 84% of the incidents. Guns were employed in 6%; knives in 10%. Only 24% of the victims sustained injuries beyond abrasions/contusions. 32% reported no injuries at all.

Incidents took place most frequently on residential premises (60%). Bars were the site of another 4%, hotels/motels 3%, and business streets and sidewalks 17%.

Victims were white in 78% of the cases, black in 22%. Males represented 63%, females 37%. The most frequent age brackets were 61-62 and 69-70. The eldest was 95. They were sober in 79% of the cases, and under the influence of either alcohol or drugs in the remainder. Victims were acquainted with their assailants in 62% of the assaults; 15% of these were couples engaged in a domestic quarrel. Other family members were involved in 11%. Victims and suspects were strangers in 38% of the incidents. This is an atypically high percentage when compared to stranger-on-stranger confrontations with the general public.

Suspects were white in 58% of the assaults, black in 42%. Males were implicated in 79%, females in 21%. Ages varied significantly.

Day of the week and time varied; with Saturdays recording 19% of the cases and 1600-1900 hours accounting for 35% of the activity. Decembers were the months of heaviest activity.

PROPERTY CRIMES

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

Approximately 82% of the City's elderly reside in single-family dwellings. A significant proportion of the remainder occupy mobile homes in one of the 28 trailer parks within the city. The number of senior residents fluctuates with the season; many owning or renting a Florida home for three to nine months per year.

5004 elderly residents reported burglaries to their homes during the four-year period 1974-1977. This represents 28% of all home burglaries during that time period.

The type of premise most frequently victimized was the single-family dwelling (71%). Apartments were second with 13%. Garages or outbuildings were entered in 9% of the burglaries; mobile homes in 3%.

Homes were forcibly entered in 61% of the cases. Structures were left unlocked or standing open in 24%. 15% of the incidents were attempts only.

The favored entry style was via unlocked front doors. One in every six homes was entered in this manner. This entry method was closely followed in frequency by pried front/rear doors. One in every ten suspects cut door screens to force their entry.

35% of the incidents occurred during daylight hours, while 29% were staged under the cover of darkness. No particular day of the week was favored; but the time frame 2000-2300 hours accounted for 22% of the cases. Occurrence was fairly regular throughout the year, with December and January slightly more active.

92% of the homeowners were white males and females. The eldest was 99. 60% of them were temporarily away from the residences when the burglary occurred, while 7% were away on vacation. 21% of the victims

RESIDENTIAL CRIMES -- continued

were inside their homes during the incident; and 5% were outside in their yards.

Suspects went undetected in 80% of the burglaries. Black suspects were implicated in 14%, white suspects in 6% of the remainder. Most were in the 15-20 year-old age range.

Cash was the most frequently stolen commodity, representing 27% of all losses. Televisions were taken in 7%, jewelry in 5%, and tools in 4%. No losses were sustained in 39% of the breaks.

VEHICLE OFFENSES

Senior citizens reported 1608 burglaries or larcenies to their vehicles during the four-year period 1974-1977. December - February appeared to be the most active time of year, representing almost a third of the total number of incidents.

Approximately 23% of the incidents occurred during daylight hours, while 34% were staged under the cover of darkness. In the remainder, the spans were too large to determine a day/night pattern.

Target premises were generally business parking lots (22%) or apartment parking lots (11%). Residential driveways/carports/yards accounted for another 35%.

Males were victimized in 68% of the cases; whites in 92%. Suspects went unnoticed in 87% of the crimes. Of the remainder, black and white males (most teenagers) were described in equal numbers.

Batteries and other devices from under the hood were the most frequently stolen articles (29%). Gasoline was taken in 17% of the incidents. License plates and inspection stickers were also popular theft objects (7%).

180 auto thefts were reported by elderly victims during the four-year period under study. This represents 8% of all vehicles stolen during the same time period.

35% of the incidents occurred during hours of darkness, 32% in the daytime. It was difficult to determine an exact time or even time span due to the victims' infrequent use of vehicles. Saturdays were the slightly favored day of week; 2100-2300 hours an active time period.

The majority, 46%, were taken from residential parking facilities -- including driveways, carports, residential streets, and apartment parking lots. Most of the remainder were in commercial parking lots.

Victims facilitated the theft by leaving their vehicle doors unlocked in 64% of the cases. Car keys were left either in the ignition or elsewhere within the vehicle in 31% of the thefts.

Victims were generally white; suspects went undescribed in 75% of the incidents.

Chevrolets were the desired theft object in 33% of the cases.

Bicycles or adult tricycle, often the sole mode of transportation among the elderly, were stolen in 151 incidents during 1974-1977 time period.

January was the month of heaviest activity. Nighttime incidents outnumbered daytime thefts, however, it was difficult to establish time frame and day of week pattern. Suspect information was completely lacking in 92% of the cases.

The majority of the victims were white males, Most of the bicycles were removed from residential premises.

STREET CRIMES

Crimes discussed under the context of "street crimes" include Robbery, Purse Snatch, and Pickpocket. These incidents contain elements of both personal and property crimes. The victim's safety is in jeopardy and property loss results.

The elderly victimization rate in these categories is disproportionately high when compared to the rest of the populace. 35% of all robberies, 69% of all purse snatches, and 39% of all pickpockets involve elderly victims.

ROBBERY

Senior citizens were accosted and robbed in 953 incidents during the four-year period 1974-1977. This represents 35% of all robberies during that time period. 793 of these were classified as "unarmed," while 160 of the victims were threatened, or actually injured by a weapon. These were categorized as "armed". Guns were the most frequently chosen weapons, accounting 58% of the armed incidents. Knives were utilized in 26%, while a variety of striking instruments were employed in the remainder. Injuries were in the form of abrasions/contusions in 43% of the assaults. 13% of the victims reported lacerations or fractures, while 42% suffered no injuries.

The winter months, December-March, (the tourist months) recorded the greatest number of robberies of elderly victims. Fridays were the most frequently noted day of week; with 1900-2100 hours the most active time span.

Sidewalks in the downtown, or other business premises, accounted for 63% of the incidents. The victim's home was the site of another 19%; while other residential areas totalled 18%.

ROBBERY -- continued

Victims included 40% men, 60% women; 95% white, 5% black. The greatest age frequency was in the 70-78 year-old range. The eldest was 96. The vast majority were sober; 8% had been drinking and approximately 1% were senile.

Most suspects (79%) were teenaged black males. Black females were implicated in 2% of the incidents. Whites were described in the remainder, most in their teens.

PURSE SNATCH

523 purse snatches involving elderly victims were reported during 1974-1977. This represents 69% of the city's total. Most incidents (69%) were staged on downtown sidewalks and parking areas. January - March was the season of greatest activity.

98% of the victims were white females, 1% were black females, and 1% were white males. Suspects were described as black males 74% of the time; white males 26%. Most were in their late teens.

Fridays and Saturdays were slightly favored days of the week, with 1300-1400 hours a particularly vulnerable time frame. Losses were generally in the \$10-25 range.

PICKPOCKET

86 of the 219 pickpockets occurring from 1974-1977, were to elderly victims. This represents 39% of the total. There was little seasonal variation, however Christmas time was slightly more active.

Most of the victims were white males (57%). Another 35% were white females, and 8% were black males. Suspects went unnoticed in

PICKPOCKET -- continued

34% of the thefts. Black males and females were described in the majority of the remainder. Ages varied.

Thefts occurred primarily on sidewalks in commercial areas (28%). Three other major locations were bars, department stores, and food stores.

Wednesdays were the most frequent day of occurrence, with 1300-1500 hours the popular time period.

CRIME BY MONTH
ELDERLY VICTIMS
1974 - 1977

CRIME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
HOMICIDE	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	0	1	3	18
RAPE	1	0	3	3	4	2	1	3	1	4	1	5	28
ARMED ROBBERY	16	15	5	20	12	7	10	13	14	9	16	23	160
UNARMED ROBBERY	100	83	92	57	51	31	55	55	47	74	66	82	793
AGG. ASSAULT	13	11	15	20	15	17	11	18	12	16	9	22	179
SIM. ASSAULT	21	39	26	35	32	29	37	33	38	28	24	37	379
RES. BURGLARY	466	425	431	443	381	407	383	434	398	402	400	434	5004
AUTO B&E	53	28	41	40	26	30	29	24	33	47	39	44	434
PICKPOCKET	4	8	10	11	5	9	4	8	8	5	3	11	86
PURSE SNATCH	78	62	55	42	27	36	25	23	28	47	37	63	523
AUTO PARTS	117	158	96	90	75	72	84	113	83	96	90	100	1174
BICYCLE THEFT	23	18	16	7	5	7	11	10	14	12	15	13	151
FROM BUILDING	38	30	39	38	30	23	26	20	14	26	29	28	341
LARC. OTHER	175	181	185	166	162	155	158	144	128	154	151	219	1978
AUTO THEFT	14	18	19	16	7	10	12	11	22	15	15	21	180
T O T A L	1122	1078	1036	990	835	837	849	921	852	941	898	1104	11428

SECTION B

ELDERLY SUSPECTS

1974 - 1977

ELDERLY SUSPECTS*

1974 - 1977

<u>CRIME</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>Total</u>
HOMICIDE	2	1	0	1	4
RAPE	0	0	1	1	2
ROBBERY	1	0	2	0	3
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	33	41	49	42	165
SIMPLE ASSAULT	46	76	88	72	282
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY	11	13	8	3	35
COMMERCIAL B&E	5	4	4	1	14
AUTO B&E	1	2	7	6	16
LARCENY -					
PICKPOCKET	2	2	0	0	4
SHOPLIFTING	111	264	168	185	728
AUTO PARTS	1	0	0	0	1
BICYCLE THEFT	3	6	7	5	21
BUILDING THEFTS	6	5	3	5	19
MISCELLANEOUS	19	23	33	25	100
AUTO THEFT	2	4	1	0	7
 T O T A L	 243	 441	 371	 346	 1401

* All suspects 60 years of age and older.

VICTIM - SUSPECT TYPOLOGY

ELDERLY SUSPECTS

1974 - 1977

CRIME	Total	V I C T I M					S U S P E C T			
		Sex %		Comm.	Race %		Sex %		Race %	
		Male	Female		White	Black	Male	Female	White	Black
HOMICIDE	4	50	50	0	75	25	75	25	75	25
RAPE - ACTUAL	1	0	100	0	0	100	100	0	0	100
ATTEMPT	1	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0
ROBBERY - ARMED	1	100	0	0	100	0	100	0	100	0
UNARMED	2	100	0	0	50	50	50	50	50	50
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	165	65	35	0	49	51	85	15	46	54
SIMPLE	282	48	52	0	78	22	84	16	77	23
B&E - RESIDENTIAL	35	38	62	0	71	29	91	9	51	49
COMMERCIAL	14	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	57	43
AUTO	16	81	13	6	88	6	94	6	75	25
LARCENY -										
PICKPOCKET	4	75	25	0	75	25	50	50	50	50
SHOPLIFTING	728	0	0	100	0	0	57	43	93	7
AUTO PARTS	1	100	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	100
BICYCLE THEFT	21	48	48	4	86	10	86	14	67	33
FROM BUILDINGS	19	28	50	22	72	6	68	32	79	21
COIN-OP MACHINES	6	17	0	83	17	0	100	0	17	83
OTHER	94	40	31	29	51	20	68	32	74	26
AUTO THEFT	7	43	57	0	57	43	100	0	57	43
T O T A L	1401	24	20	56	31	13	69	31	80	20

ELDERLY SUSPECTS

Elderly persons were listed as suspects in 1401 crimes during the four-year period 1974-1977. Each year the highest totals are recorded in Shoplifting and Assault, which will be the areas of concentration for this report.

SHOPLIFTING

728 elderly residents were implicated in the act of shoplifting during the four years under study. Food in quantities valued less than \$10 was the most frequently stolen commodity. These thefts accounted for 44% of all shoplifting cases involving the elderly. Clothing, generally valued in the \$10-25 range, was removed in 12% of the incidents. Drugs/medication was shoplifted in 7% of the cases. Cosmetics and alcoholic beverages were next in frequency with 4% each.

85% of all articles stolen were valued at less than \$10. Department stores were the most frequent site, recording 52% of the cases. Food stores claimed another 38%, drug stores 4% and convenience stores 2%. Activity was the heaviest during the months February - April. Days of week varied, with Saturdays and Mondays slight favorites; 1300-1600 hours the most active. The Downtown area stores recorded 55% of all shoplifting cases against the elderly. White males were indicated in 51% of the cases; white females in 42%.

ASSAULT

Persons 60 and over were also named as suspects in 447 assaults during the years 1974-1977. 165 of these involved the use of a weapon, and were classified "aggravated." The remaining 282 were "simple"

ASSAULTS -- continued

assaults as minimal force or injury was inflicted.

The confrontations occurred most frequently within the home (45%). Residential streets, sidewalks, and yards were the scene of 22% of the others.

Victims and suspects were acquainted in 79% of the cases. Of these, approximately 20% were married couples, engaged in a domestic quarrel.

Weapons included guns in 12% of the attacks, knives in 13%, striking instruments in 16%, and hands/feet only in the remainder. Injuries were none or minor in 78% of the assaults. Thursday and Saturday evenings were the most represented time periods.

OTHER

Elderly citizens were also listed as suspects in the following crimes during 1974-1977: 4 homicides, 2 rapes, 3 robberies, 65 burglaries, 145 other larcenies, and 7 auto thefts. These totals were not significantly high to warrant special analysis.

CRIME BY MONTH
ELDERLY SUSPECTS
1974 - 1977

CRIME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
HOMICIDE	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	4
RAPE	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
ARMED ROBBERY	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
UNARMED ROBBERY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
AGG. ASSAULT	8	11	20	15	21	16	7	16	13	13	13	12	165
SIM. ASSAULT	21	21	27	26	20	24	19	31	25	22	18	28	282
RES. B&E	2	5	2	2	2	4	2	2	5	2	5	2	35
COMM. B&E	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	1	3	2	14
AUTO B&E	1	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	3	1	1	4	16
PICKPOCKET	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
SHOPLIFTING	75	109	74	83	40	34	37	35	38	68	62	73	728
AUTO PARTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
BICYCLE THEFT	0	2	1	1	1	3	4	2	0	0	1	6	21
FROM BUILDING	2	1	1	3	3	0	1	1	0	2	3	2	19
COIN-OP MACH	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	6
LARC. OTHER	4	5	6	8	13	10	10	6	4	9	10	9	94
AUTO THEFT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	7
T O T A L	115	156	132	141	106	97	81	99	94	120	119	141	1401

PART II

CRIME AND THE ELDERLY

CURRENT YEAR ANALYSIS

1977

SECTION A

ELDERLY VICTIMS

1977

VICTIM - SUSPECT TYPOLOGY

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION

ELDERLY VICTIMS

1977

CRIME	Total	V I C T I M				S U S P E C T				
		Sex %		Race %		Sex %			Race %	
		Male	Female	White	Black	Male	Female	Unknown	White	Black
HOMICIDE	6	83	17	83	17	50	0	50	33	17
RAPE - ACTUAL	2	0	100	100	0	100	0	0	50	50
- ATTEMPT	5	0	100	80	20	100	0	0	60	40
ROBBERY - ARMED	23	61	39	87	13	91	9	0	26	74
- UNARMED	161	28	72	98	2	97	1	2	22	76
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	50	56	44	60	40	74	22	4	44	52
- SIMPLE	77	57	43	83	17	85	14	1	68	31
BURGLARY - RESID'L	1047	50	50	93	7	18	1	81	9	10
- AUTO	71	61	39	97	3	38	0	62	23	15
LARCENY -	992									
PICKPOCKET	25	60	40	96	4	44	20	36	16	48
PURSE SNATCH	74	4	96	99	1	97	0	3	18	79
AUTO PARTS	303	70	30	95	5	9	0	91	6	3
BICYCLE THEFT	27	74	26	93	7	15	0	85	7	8
FROM BUILDINGS	77	27	73	95	5	32	8	60	11	29
OTHER	486	47	53	93	7	19	6	75	15	10
AUTO THEFT	30	77	23	93	7	20	7	73	20	7
T O T A L	2464	50	50	93	7	30	3	67	14	19

E L D E R L Y V I C T I M S

P E R S O N A L C R I M E S

HOMICIDE

Six of the twenty homicide victims during 1977 were elderly citizens. Victims included four white males, one white female, and one black male. The youngest was 60, the eldest 90.

50% of the cases were closed with arrest - one with a 72 year-old white male, one with two teenage white males, the third with a 19 year-old black male and an 18 year-old white male. Two black males were implicated but not apprehended in another case. No suspects were described in the remaining two incidents.

All but one of the murders took place in or about the victim's residence. A feud between neighbors resulted in one shooting the other; and a barroom robbery ended in a stabbing. In the other four cases the victim's home was burglarized -- two were beaten to death, one stabbed as he sat in his wheelchair, and one suffocated from being gagged.

Weapons included one handgun, two knives, and hands/feet in the remainder. Time of occurrence varied from 2:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Week-ends recorded 5 of the 6. Two occurred in February; two in September, and one each in March and May.

RAPE

Seven of the 93 women sexually assaulted during 1977, were 60 years of age or older - five were in their 60's, one was 78, one 80. Whites were victimized in 6 cases, a black woman in the seventh. Five were actual rapes, while 2 were attempts only.

RAPE - continued

Suspect information yielded four white males and three black males, aged 20-40. The victim was acquainted with her assailant in 3 of the incidents.

Premises varied - four were attacked within their residences or yard area, two while in the offender's vehicle, and one in a vacant lot while out walking. No weapons, beyond physical strength, were employed. Injury was minimal in most cases, however, one victim sustained a severe beating.

Day and time of occurrence varied, although five transpired between the hours of 10:00 PM and 1:00 AM hours. Five happened on weekends.

Three of the incidents have been closed with arrest, one through lack of prosecution and 3 remain open.

ASSAULT

During 1977, 127 elderly persons were victims of assault. In 50 of these incidents a weapon was employed, thus qualifying the case as "aggravated". Hands and feet were the only modes of force in 63% of the incidents. Guns were utilized in 5%, knives in 16%, and a variety of striking instruments in the remainder. Only 35 victims sustained injuries of a serious nature (fractures or lacerations), the remainder reported only minor abrasions or no injuries at all.

Fridays & Saturdays were the days of heaviest activity; late afternoon the busiest time period. August and September recorded the greatest number of incidents, accounting for 23% of the total.

The home was the favored premise with the yard area next. Bars were also the scene of a number of attacks.

ASSAULT - continued

Victims were white in 74% of the cases, black in 36%. Females were assaulted in 43%, males in 57% of the incidents. Victims ranged in age from 60-89. Approximately one-third were under the influence of alcoholic beverages to some degree.

Suspects were most frequently described as white males (49%); black males implicated in 32%. They ranged in age from approximately 12 to 90. Victims and suspects were acquainted in almost 70% of the cases. They were married to each other in 19% of these, and other family members in 13%.

PROPERTY CRIMES

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

Approximately 82% of the City's elderly reside in single-family dwellings. Mobile homes are another popular homesite, while only a very small percentage are housed in nursing homes or boarding houses. 9% of the senior populace spend from 6-9 months per year in another portion of the country.

During 1977, 3289 residents reported burglaries to their homes. 1047 or 32% of these were to elderly homes. This percentage has greatly increased, when compared to the 26 and 27% reported the previous three years.

The type of premise most frequently victimized was the single-family dwelling (62%). Apartments were second with 17%; garages were entered in 7%, trailers in 4%, and vacant homes in 6%.

Homes were entered forcibly in 63% of the burglaries. Structures were left unlocked in 22%; and 15% of the cases were attempts only.

The forced entry style was via unlocked front doors (one out of six). Many used easy access push/pull windows. Pried front doors

RESIDENTIAL - continued

was also popular.

93% of the homeowners were white males and females. 48% were temporarily away from their residences when the burglary occurred. 7% were on vacation; while the remainder (45%) were either inside their homes or in the yard area at the time of the incident.

Suspects went undetected in 81% of the burglaries. White and black males were observed in almost equal proportions.

Daytime and nighttime incidents occurred in equal numbers. The time of the burglary could not be determined in 37% of the cases. No particular day of week was favored. 2000-2200 hours accounted for almost 20% of the incidents.

Cash was the most popular theft object, representing 30% of the total. Handtools, handguns, televisions and jewelry were also frequently taken. No losses were recorded in 33% of the burglaries.

VEHICLE OFFENSES

374 senior citizens reported burglaries or larcenies to their vehicles during 1977. This represents 14% of the total number of cases for the year.

November, December, and January were the months of heaviest activity. Nighttime incidents were twice as frequent as daytime incidents, yet in 40% of the cases the time span was too great to determine the day/night factor.

Target locations proved to be residential streets and driveways in approximately 70% of the cases. Under the hood accessories such as batteries, were the most frequently taken (32%). Tires/hubcaps losses reached 47, or 13% of the total. Gasoline and radios were next, with 10% and 7% respectively. No losses were noted in 10% of the cases.

VEHICLE OFFENSES: (continued)

96% of the victims were white; 69% male. Suspects escaped undetected in 86% of the incidents.

30 auto thefts were reported by elderly residents during 1977. This represents only 7% of the total thefts.

43% of the thefts occurred at night, 23% during hours of daylight, and the remainder were impossible to pinpoint time due to their infrequent use of vehicles.

Saturdays were the days of greatest activity, time of day varied significantly. 50% were removed from residential streets or parking facilities.

Victims facilitated the theft by leaving the vehicles unlocked in 66% of the cases. Keys were left either in the ignition or elsewhere within the vehicle in at least 53% of the thefts.

Victims were white in all but two cases; suspects went undescribed in 73%. Most of the remainder were white males.

Another important mode of transportation for the elderly is the adult tricycle/bicycle. 27 such thefts were recorded during the year. 60% of them were stolen from the victims yard or carport. Most of the victims were elderly white males. Suspects were seldom observed. Time frame was often difficult to establish.

STREET CRIMES

Crimes discussed under the heading of "street crimes" include Robbery, Purse Snatch, and Pickpocket. These incidents contain elements

STREET CRIMES: (continued)

of both personal and property crimes. The victim's safety is in jeopardy and a loss of property results.

The elderly victimization rate in these crime categories is disproportionately high when compared to the rest of the populace. 37% of all robberies, 67% of all purse snatches, and 38% of all pickpockets involve an elderly victim.

ROBBERY

Elderly citizens were the target of 184 robberies during 1977. This represents 37% of the total number of occurrences. 23 incidents were classified as "armed" when victims were threatened by weapons. 161 were recorded as "unarmed" or "strongarm" robbery. Culprits chose guns as weapons against the elderly in 12 of the 23 armed robberies. The remainder were knives and striking instruments. 30% of the victims escaped injury, while 17% were injured in the form of fractures or lacerations, and the remainder received less serious cuts and bruises.

Residential streets and sidewalks and those streets and sidewalks in the downtown area were the scene of equal number of incidents, 39% of the total. The residences themselves and surrounding yard area accounted for another 34% of the cases. Bars were the location of another 4%.

Day of week varied significantly; 1100-1400 hours proved the most active time frame.

96% of the victims were white; 68% female and 32% male. Every age was represented up to 96, the oldest. Most were sober, however 13% were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the robbery.

Suspects were most frequently described as black males (76%).

ROBBERY: (continued)

White males were noted in 20%, and females were responsible for the remainder. Their ages generally ranged from late teens to early 20's.

PURSE SNATCH

74 of the 111 Purse Snatches were perpetrated against elderly citizens. This represents 67% of the total for 1977.

Incidents were staged almost exclusively on residential and business sidewalks. The downtown area was by far the most vulnerable. Day of the week varied, with 1300-1500 hours accounting for almost 50% of the cases.

All but one of the victims were white, only three were males. Losses were generally in the \$10-25 range.

Suspects were reportedly black males in 82% of the cases, white males in 18%. Teenagers were described in 81% of the incidents.

PICKPOCKET

25 pickpockets involving elderly victims were reported during 1977. This represents 38% of the total citywide. Saturdays were the most active days with 1100-1400 hours the most vulnerable time span.

Victims were almost evenly divided male/female; all but one were white. Department stores, food stores, and bars in the downtown area were the scene of the majority of incidents.

Suspects went undetected in 9 of the 25 cases.. Male blacks were implicated in 7, female blacks in 5, and male whites in the remaining 4. Losses were over \$50 in 52% of these larcenies.

CRIME BY MONTH
ELDERLY VICTIMS
1977

CRIME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
HOMICIDE	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	6
RAPE	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	7
ARMED ROBBERY	3	2	1	3	0	0	3	3	2	0	3	3	23
UNARMED ROBBERY	13	15	20	4	7	7	12	19	11	20	12	21	161
AGG. ASSAULT	5	3	3	6	6	5	1	7	3	5	1	5	50
SIMPLE ASSAULT	4	9	5	8	4	9	8	10	9	3	5	3	77
RES. B&E	74	85	112	89	87	81	57	100	95	83	90	94	1047
AUTO B&E	12	3	12	7	6	1	3	5	4	6	6	5	70
PICKPOCKET	0	4	3	3	2	5	0	0	1	2	0	5	25
PURSE SNATCH	9	6	9	2	6	6	4	4	5	14	4	5	74
AUTO PARTS	29	35	20	24	17	15	14	37	14	23	40	35	303
BICYCLE THEFT	3	1	4	3	1	3	1	2	3	4	1	1	27
FROM BUILDING	10	4	12	6	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	12	77
LARC. OTHER	37	38	46	43	44	35	41	41	27	39	41	54	486
AUTO THEFT	2	3	4	3	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	30
T O T A L	201	210	253	203	187	174	152	236	182	208	210	247	2463

SECTION B

ELDERLY SUSPECTS

1977

VICTIM - SUSPECT TYPOLOGY

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION

ELDERLY SUSPECTS

1977

CRIME*	Total	V I C T I M					S U S P E C T			
		Sex %		Comm.	Race %		Sex %		Race %	
		Male	Female		White	Black	Male	Female	White	Black
HOMICIDE	1	100	0	0	100	0	100	0	100	0
RAPE - ACTUAL	1	0	100	0	0	100	100	0	0	100
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	42	52	48	0	60	40	83	17	62	38
- SIMPLE	72	50	50	0	74	26	83	17	71	29
BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL	3	67	33	0	67	33	100	0	67	33
- COMMERCIAL	1	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	100	0
- AUTO	6	83	17	0	83	17	100	0	83	17
LARCENY -										
SHOPLIFTING	185	0	0	100	0	0	47	53	97	3
BICYCLE THEFT	5	40	40	20	80	0	80	20	80	20
FROM BUILDINGS	5	40	40	20	80	0	60	40	100	0
COIN-OP MACHINES	1	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100
OTHER	24	58	8	33	48	17	71	29	79	21
T O T A L	346	24	19	57	30	12	63	37	85	15

* Includes only those crimes in which an elderly person was a suspect.

ELDERLY SUSPECTS

Elderly persons were listed as suspects in 346 crimes during 1977. This reflects a decrease of seven percent from the total recorded in 1976.

The largest simple category was shoplifting, in which 185 persons 60 years of age and older were implicated. Food in quantities valued less than \$10 were the most frequently stolen commodities (66 of the 185 incidents). Medical products of limited value were taken in 14% of the cases, clothing in 10%, cosmetics in 9%, and alcoholic beverages in 6%.

Activity was the heaviest during the months of October and November. Mondays were the most frequent days of occurrence; early afternoon hours (1200-1400) the most active.

The Downtown stores recorded approximately 60% of all shoplifting cases involving the elderly. Department stores accounted for 50% of the incidents, food stores 33%, drug stores 10%, and convenience stores 2%.

White females were named in 51% of the cases; white males in 46%. Most fell in the 66-70 age bracket; the eldest was 94.

Persons 60 and over were also named as suspects in 114 assaults -- 42 aggravated and 72 simple. The confrontations occurred most frequently within the home (47%). Residential streets, sidewalks, and yards were the scene of another 20%.

Victims and suspects were acquainted in 86% of the cases. Of these, 27% were married, and another 10% were other family members. The victim was another elderly person in 28% of the attacks. In the other 72%, the

ELDERLY SUSPECTS -- continued

elderly suspect assaulted a younger person.

Weapons included handguns in 8 cases, knives or other cutting instruments in 16, and striking instruments in 30, and in the remainder the suspects used only their hands. Injuries were none or very minor in 72% of the incidents.

Saturday and Sunday were the most frequent days of occurrence, accounting for 38% of the assaults. 1600-1900 hours was the favored time frame.

An elderly white man was also arrested for homicide when he shot another elderly resident during a neighborhood feud.

Another elderly suspect, a black male 67, was implicated in a rape of a twelve year-old retarded girl.

Other crimes in which an elderly suspect was described include: 3 residential burglaries, 1 commercial B&E, 6 auto B&Es, 5 bicycle thefts, and 30 other larcenies.

CRIME BY MONTH
ELDERLY SUSPECTS
1977

CRIME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
HOMICIDE	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
RAPE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
AGG ASSAULT	2	3	4	4	6	8	2	3	3	2	3	2	42
SIMPLE ASSAULT	5	5	8	4	10	5	3	7	2	6	7	10	72
RES. B&E	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
COMM B&E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
AUTO B&E	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	6
SHOPLIFTING	16	24	13	17	12	6	9	9	14	23	24	18	185
BICYCLE THEFT	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5
FROM BUILDING	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	5
COIN-OP MACH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
LARC. OTHER	1	3	3	3	5	2	3	1	0	0	1	2	24
T O T A L	24	38	28	29	36	22	17	21	20	33	40	38	346



END