



State of Wisconsin \ OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE



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PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

Refunding Report:

City of Kenosha Police Department  
Data Analysis Retrieval Team

WCCJ Subgrant #78-2B-SE-3283-7

NOV 17 1978

DEC 18 1978

ACQUISITIONS

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Program Evaluation Section  
December 1978

## Introduction

The Kenosha Police Department Data Analysis Retrieval Team (DART) grant application was originally considered by the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice (WCCJ) in December 1977. The Executive Committee approved the grant application subject to their review of the project staff's job specifications at the January 1978 meeting. Two other special conditions were attached which needed approval before the release of funds: (1) development of a goal statement specifically addressing Program 2B; New Responses (WCCJ 1978 Action Plan); and (2) the development of a written implementation strategy which outlined how information would be disseminated to agency personnel. The special conditions were met and the DART grant was approved at the January 1978 Executive Committee meeting. The project was funded at a level of \$22,865 and will complete first year funding March 31, 1979.

A simple rationale lies behind the utilization of a crime analysis unit.

"The systematic analysis of crime and service conditions is aimed at problem identification--the pinpointing of crime patterns and problems of order maintenance. Certain problems that surface through the analytic process may not justify police intervention; others may suggest a range of tactical response strategies. The specification of local performance objectives will be critical, then, in determining not only which problems will be addressed but also the strategies that are most appropriate. Participating departments will be responsible for developing a directed activity program that serves their needs as they define them."<sup>1</sup>

A similar logic was noted in the Kenosha Police Department grant application. The project would analyze data relating to crime and crime patterns presently being collected by the Department. The information would then be disseminated to supervising personnel for utilization in the development of crime prevention and criminal apprehension programs. The grant application stated that, "More departments are realizing that information on who committed a crime, where it was committed, and how it was committed is important to know if police departments are going to make a positive impact on crime."

Three types of crime analyses are most commonly performed. The first two focus on crime types and the third on crime suspects:

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice: Managing Patrol Operations Program Test Design, May 1978, p. 19.

Spatial and temporal crime pattern identification. The most common form of crime analysis, this involves the mapping of crime incidents by location over time. This mapping procedure can suggest possible targets for directed patrol, either types of crime or, for each target crime, geographical subdivisions and hours of the day.

In-depth crime pattern analysis. This analysis is intended to determine whether the patterns identified above are likely to be responsive to specialized patrol and, if so, what particular strategies and tactics would be most effective. Data on the precise locations of target offenses within selected geographical areas; suspect descriptions; victim characteristics; M.O.'s common to a number of offenses; property losses; etc., might be considered.

Suspect analysis. Unlike the previous two, suspect analysis examines geographical patterns only as they pertain to the activities of a particular suspect or group of suspects. While this analysis is also somewhat less systematic and based on "softer" data, it is essential in order to generate the kind of evidence that would be necessary to support the implementation of surveillance activities.<sup>2</sup>

### Organization/Personnel

The DART team is organizationally located within the Planning, Research and Training section of the Department. Three individuals comprise the team: Captain William Christiansen, Lieutenant Jerry Schuetz and Ms. Judith Baietto, crime analyst. The DART team reports directly to the Chief. All three members of the DART team note sufficient frequency of contact, as well as a good working relationship. From a budget standpoint, the crime analyst position is the only position funded under the grant.

The Kenosha Police Department currently employs 155 police officers and 24 civilians. The crime analyst position is a civilian position. The hiring of a civilian as the crime analyst reflected a desire on the part of the Department to maintain the same complement of patrol officers. Civilians, as expressed by the project supervisor, should be employed to do non-criminal work. This approach frees police officers to apply their specialized skills.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., P. 20

The crime analyst began work in April 1978. She holds a B.A. degree in sociology and math from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Prior to her present position, the crime analyst was employed with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as a statistical personnel clerk within the College of Letters and Science Administration Department. Delays in hiring the crime analyst until April were the result of coordinating the start up time of the crime analyst with the Northwestern University 15-day course on analysis and use of crime data.

Project Goals

Goals:

- A. To increase the clearance rate of reported crime by ten percent, and
- B. To decrease the number of street crimes by ten percent.

Goal A: An offense is cleared, or solved for crime reporting purposes, when at least one person is arrested, charged with commission of the offense and turned over to the court for prosecution. Departments represent offenses closed through a clearance rate: the number of clearances divided by the total number of offenses, expressed as a percent. The formula is:<sup>3</sup>

$$\frac{\text{number of clearances} \times 100\%}{\text{number of offenses}}$$

Table 1 (p. 5) compares the difference between the clearance rate of Part I offenses for 1977 vis-a-vis 1978. The average clearance rate is currently at 21.5% compared with a rate of 18.6% for the same time period in 1977. This shows an increase of 16%. The increase is above the goal and when compared to the total for last year it compares even more favorably. The total clearance rate for 1977 was 17.9% compared to a current rate of 21.5%. The current rate increased by almost 20% for a six-month period. It is the opinion of the project supervisor that as the DART team becomes more adapted to its role within the Department, the project will show even greater progress in meeting this goal.

Goal B: Street crimes are Part I offenses, e.g., robberies, assaults, theft, etc. The street crimes are then translated into a crime rate. The crime rate is a standard measurement that lists the number of offenses per 100,000 population. The formula is:<sup>4</sup>

$$\frac{\text{number of offenses}}{\text{population}} \times 100,000$$

<sup>3</sup> Wisconsin Department of Justice, Crime Information Bureau, Crime and Arrests: 1977

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

Table 2 (p. 6) compares the previous years crime rate with a five-month period in which the DART team has been operational.

The project has not met the goal of reducing street crime by ten percent. Indeed, the five-month period shows a seven percent increase. Several factors may account for this: (1) the DART team is not totally acclimated to its role within the Department; (2) many factors are involved in the overall reduction of street crime, e.g., when a city's rate of unemployment is high, people often turn to crime; (3) the performance of line officers and patrol officers must be at a higher level; (4) a community's mores and expectations of police may vary; (5) the goal of a ten percent reduction of street crime may be unrealistic. More time will be needed to measure the full impact of the project on street crime. Indeed, as the project completes its first full year, the DART team will have to review this goal and determine if it should be revised downward or even eliminated.

Project Objectives:

1. To maintain files describing suspects with a cross reference to method of operation files of arrested suspects on other offenses.
2. To provide investigative leads to line officers and investigative officers by furnishing lists of suspects whose methods of operation match those of current offenses.
3. To provide crime bulletins for the line officers.
4. To assist in the coordination and assignment of personnel.

All of the above objectives have been met. A daily crime update prepared by the crime analyst for every line officer has been instituted, listing the more serious and/or crimes most likely to be solved as reported in the previous 24-hour period. A daily confidential report has been made available upon request to shift commanders who need additional information not contained in the daily crime update. A method of operation report on Part I crimes has recently been instituted relaying information on known or suspected violators which includes addresses, aliases, crime specialty, associates and vehicles. A weekly and monthly report on crime statistics has been initiated. The report contains information on increases and/or decreases in crime rates in specified geographic areas as compared to the previous week or month, problem areas of immediate concern as well as any other pertinent crime information. A pin map has been designed and created primarily to assist patrol and investigative commanders in the deployment of personnel. In addition, the crime analyst was assigned two tasks that were deemed of high priority to the department. The crime analyst

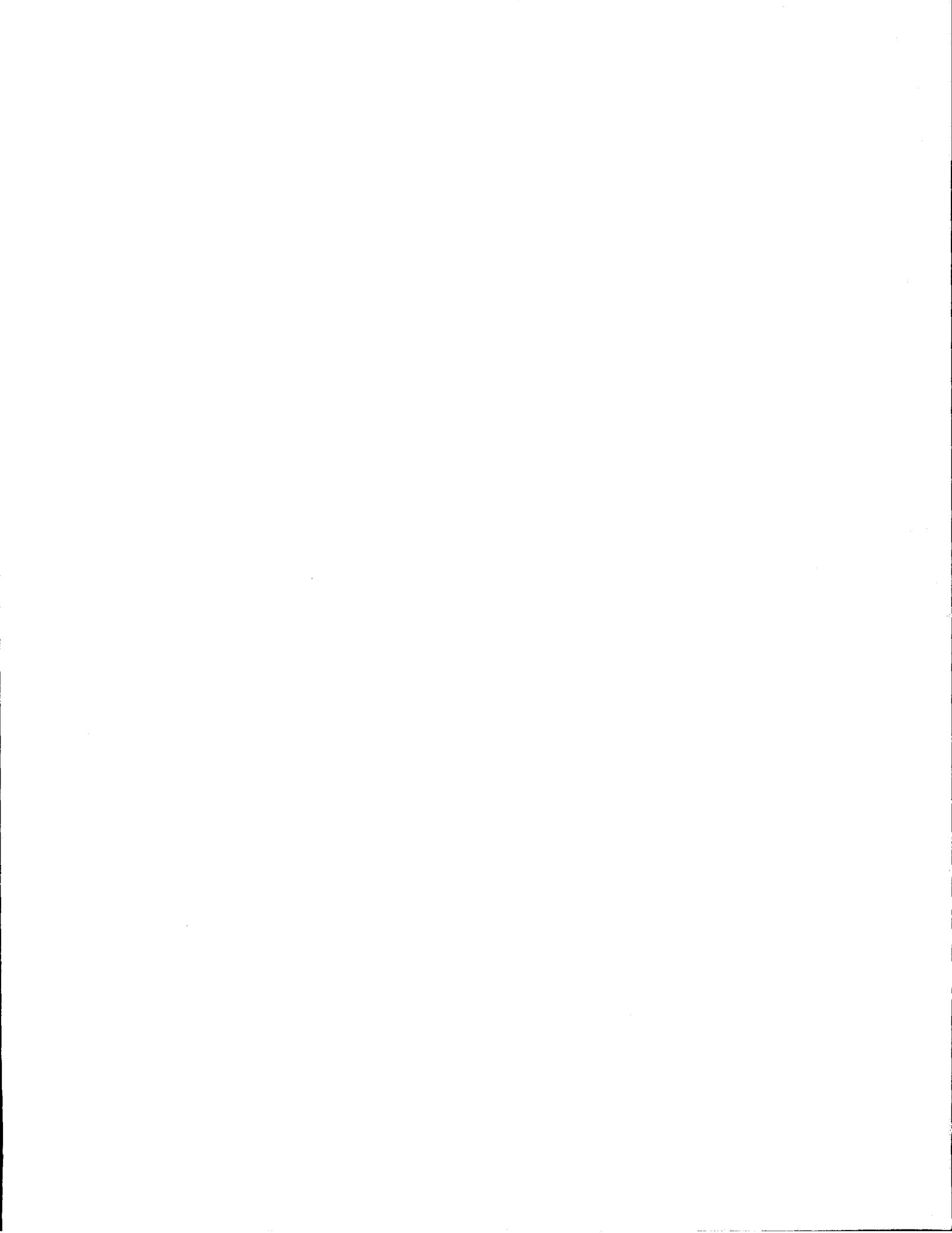


Table 1

Percent of Part 1 Offenses Cleared:

1977 compared with 1978 year to date

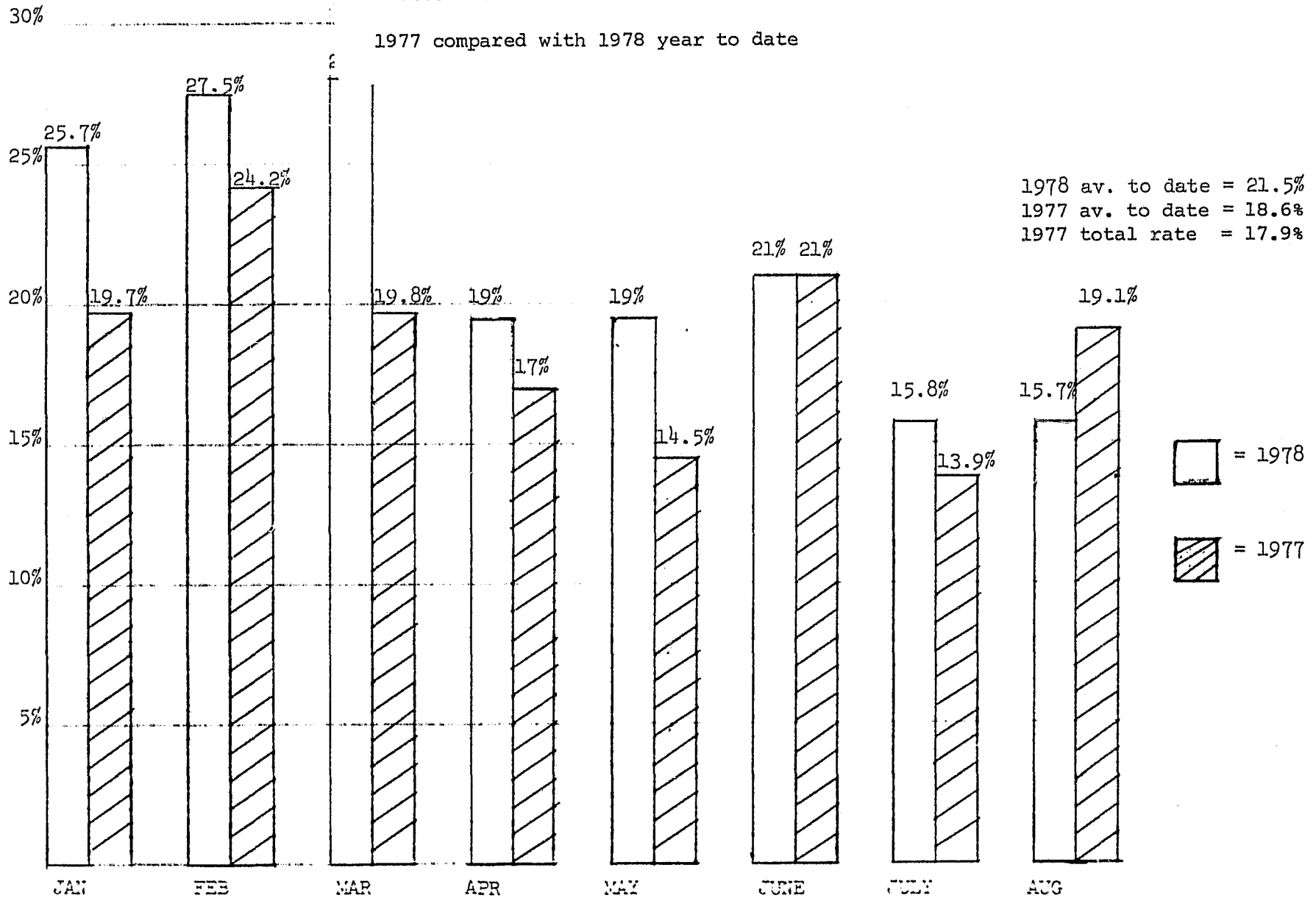




Table 2

Comparison of Crime Rates: 1977 vs. 1978  
All Available Months

May		June		July		Aug		Sept		Total
1977	% 1978 change	1977	% 1978 change	1977	% 1978 change	1977	% 1978 change	1977	% 1978 change	Percent Change
606	524 -15.6	612	585 -4.0	621	712 +14.6	659	773 +17.3	587	706 +20.0	+7.0

was assigned to investigate and make a determination of the total number of patrol personnel necessary to adequately staff the patrol division. The second task was to make a determination of how to allocate these personnel to the various shifts to get the maximum amount of productivity and efficiency. The report is near completion.

The crime analyst has also instituted the following monthly reports which she prepares and distributes for line officer and supervisor usage:

- Response Time Report
- Dispatch Calls Report
- Auto Thefts - Stolen and Recovered
- Time Study Report
- Residential - Non-residential Burglaries Report
- Crime in Progress - Response Time Report
- Arrest Reports
- False Alarm Reports

In addition, a chart of the total number of dispatch calls per month over a two-year period has been compiled. An armed robbery log is prepared weekly for distribution to patrol officers and other charts and maps have been maintained relating the number of calls, response time, and minutes of police work by geographic area.

### Conclusion

The goals and objectives of the DART project are in compliance with Program 2B-New Responses of the 1978 WCCJ Action Plan. Progress is being met toward the goal of increasing the clearance rate by ten percent over last year. All of the project's objectives have been met. The second goal of reducing street crime has not been met. It may be necessary for the project staff, after completion of the first year, to reevaluate this goal and determine if it should be revised downward or even eliminated. As to the project's continued effect, project staff indicated that the timeliness and accuracy of reports will improve with the installation of the Computer Assisted Dispatch System. The System, which is scheduled to become operational in January 1979, is funded under a grant from the WCCJ (Computer Assisted Dispatch System, #77-01-4B-SE-2996-6). At present, data information for crime analysis purposes is collected manually. Computerization, project staff feel, would result in more timely utilization of data by the crime analyst.



**END**