

A Statistical Analysis Center Special Report



Felony Processing ARKANSAS

DECEMBER, 1977



STATE OF ARKANSAS

Criminal Justice & Highway Safety Information Center



A Statistical Analysis Center Special Report

OFFENDER BASED TRANSACTION STATISTICS for PLANNING, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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ACQUISITIONS

Felony Processing
ARKANSAS

DECEMBER 1977

STATE OF ARKANSAS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE & HIGHWAY SAFETY
INFORMATION CENTER
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Little Rock, Arkansas

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The successful completion of Felony Processing in Arkansas was made possible by the cooperation and participation of many people in criminal justice agencies throughout the seventy-five counties of Arkansas. Contributions of state agency personnel from the Judicial Department, Department of Corrections, and the Department of Public Safety were also invaluable in compiling the data.

The results of this survey depict the information available with the timely and accurate submission of data obtained in an Offender-Based Transaction Statistics system.

PREFACE

The survey, concerning the operation of the criminal justice system, and specifically felony-processing in each of the seventy-five Arkansas counties, was initiated by the Arkansas Criminal Justice & Highway Safety Information Center (CJ/HSIC). The Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) concepts and techniques were used to portray the information obtained in the survey.

The Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) is defined as:

a statistical system that describes the aggregate experiences of an individual in the terms of the types and sequences of criminal justice processes they encounter. More simply put, the system is to collect key data elements on defendants as they flow through the criminal justice process and summarize this data to be used for intelligent decision making in the criminal justice system.

Comprehensive in-depth planning must be undertaken to provide for effective criminal justice system administration within a state. Toward this goal, it is imperative to accurately measure and objectively analyze crime within the context of the criminal justice system. Using analyses which define the scope, nature, and trends of crime, it is possible to assess present programs, (re)evaluate capabilities, identify problem areas and provide realistic bases for the allocation of funds and resources commensurate with established goals and standards.

The present system of data collection in the state of Arkansas consists of police counting arrests, courts counting cases, and corrections counting individuals. Consequently, present statistics do not show the proportion of offenders who are released at the various levels of processing. Similarly, we are unable on all occasions to account for the time it requires for the criminal justice system to carry out its functions. In addition, present criminal justice statistics do not describe the "clients" of the system; therefore, programs cannot be specifically designed for certain categories of offenders. Offender-Based Transaction Statistics offer a solution to this information gap. By monitoring the various paths of the offenders, the functioning of the criminal justice system can be described in terms of the aggregate experiences of those who have passed through it.

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

An operational Offender-Based Transaction Statistics system does not exist at present in the state of Arkansas. Such a system would allow analysis of the Criminal Justice System as a whole, rather than in its distinct parts, and the identification of problem areas. This survey will illustrate the benefits offered by such a system. Advantages and objectives of OBTS are depicted in the following excerpts from criminal justice literature:

"Offender-based transaction statistics are a relatively new phenomenon. Because they explain more about what agencies do and what happens to individuals, they open up new vistas for examining and administering the criminal justice system."²

"The very heart of the OBTS concept is that the information, from which statistics are derived, is laid out so as to appear to be one continuous record reflecting the offender's progress through the system. The objective, then, is to interconnect the three main components of the system, law enforcement, courts and corrections; and the regional information systems with the state information systems."

"This new system, appropriately titled Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS), provides statistical information based on those offenders being processed. These data are 'transactional'; the individual offender is the unit of count as he proceeds through the various processing stages of the criminal justice system, and thus provides the means of linking various segments to one another."

"The alternative system (OBTS) makes possible the historical analysis of the behavior of groups of and the actions of the criminal justice system toward them. The basic unit is the person, whether suspect or offender. There is no other unit that is common to all agencies."

Thus, with the objective of obtaining a comprehensive data base that would include information on offender flow and processing time, an OBTS survey was undertaken that encompassed each of the seventy-five counties in Arkansas. At the time of completion, this data base offered the most precise up-to-date information concerning the criminal justice system in the state.

SECTION 2

PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED IN SURVEY

A brief narrative of the sequence of events and significant techniques involved in data collection and processing will aid in comprehending the information depicted in the survey.

The goal of the 1974 OBTS Survey was to obtain a comprehensive data base to be used for analyses of the crime picture in Arkansas. To accomplish this goal, the collector in each Arkansas county strived to record the name of every person arrested for a felony in the calendar year 1974. The year 1974 was chosen to insure most court cases would be completed rather than in a pending status.

The individual's name served as the identifying link in the tracking procedure. Once the forms were compiled and coded, the offender assumed a number by county and was no longer identified by name. To insure the privacy of the individual's record, the files were stored in a secure location.

Approximately one year was allowed to complete the project which included over 10,000 felony offenders.

The total cost of \$35,000 (about \$3.50 per offender in the study) was divided in the following areas: 1. Personnel – 9 part-time employees; 2. Travel; 3. Other – including keypunch, computer time and printing.

A special staff of nine field personnel was hired to collect the county data. The county criminal justice agencies were contacted by CJ/HSIC personnel to secure their approval and assistance with the project. The special staff members were assigned to separate geographic regions.

CJ/HSIC personnel conducted a training course describing OBTS and the survey data collection methods, after which collectors began field work. The data collector established a tracking procedure in each county after he ascertained the county's method of record-keeping. Due to different processing procedures, there is no standardized pattern of flow throughout all counties of Arkansas.

Separate collection and coding forms were developed. The data were transferred from the collection form to the coding form. (In future surveys, one form to serve both purposes seems feasible, eliminating a time-consuming step. A copy of the collection and coding form are included.)

The data collection forms were returned to the CJ/HSIC office where they were closely checked in a quality controlling process. The quality control process included checking forms for errors and listing the correct code above the appropriate information. Coders took this coding information and entered it into the correct block of the coding form. (A final quality control procedure of the coding form was eliminated after sufficient edits were added to the automated program to identify the mistakes.)

The information on the coding forms were automated. Reports were generated with a report-generator program specifying, for example, a particular county run — Baxter County — all 1974 felony arrests.

Samples of compiled data on the computer runs (output) were checked to insure the accuracy of the program and the quality of the input.

The survey data elements enumerated on the next pages portray the information which the collectors searched for at each level of the criminal justice system.

SURVEY DATA ELEMENTS

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. Name
- 2. Alias
- 3. Date of Birth
- 4. Age
- 5. Race
- 6. Sex
- 7. Educational Level
- 8. Occupation
- 9. Status at Arrest

The offender's name functioned as the major tracking element. Generally, this data element was obtained from police, sheriff, or jail records. However, if the law enforcement agencies did not keep yearly records for 1974, the circuit court docket book served as the source of this element.

Identification elements 2-9 were collected from police, sheriff, or jail records; Identification Bureau, or Department of Corrections. These elements supplied additional information for the tracking of the offender and will serve as a source of analysis for future reports.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- 1. Case Number
- 2. Charge
- 3. Arresting Agency
- 4. Date of Arrest
- 5. Disposition
- 6. Date of Disposition
- 7. County

The data elements listed above were collected from the police, sheriff, and jail records. The quality and location of the records varied by county.

PROSECUTOR/GRAND JURY

- 1. Case Number
- 2. Action Taken
- 3. Date of Action
- 4. Delay

The prosecutor's records were not always a distinct segment of data. In some counties, all the required information was contained in the circuit court docket with the prosecutor retaining few additional records. In other counties, such as Pulaski, the prosecutor's records were a necessary part of the collection procedure.

PRE-TRIAL INCARCERATION

- 1. Date Confined
- 2. Date Released
- 3. Amount of Bail (final)
- 4. Fugitive (yes, no)

The data elements listed above were normally found in the jail docket. Occasionally the amount of bail (No. 3) and fugitive (No. 4) would be found in the court docket or in sheriff or police records.

These elements allow the analysis of a number of issues including time in confinement awaiting trial, amounts of bail in relation to the type of crime (seriousness, violent, etc.), and number of escapes from jail. The pre-trial incarceration data can be used to calculate the facilities necessary for the jail populations.

LOWER COURT

1.	Docket Number	7.	Final Charge
2.	Court Identification	8.	Disposition
3.	Initial Plea	9.	Sentence Data - Fine, Suspension/Probation, Confinement
4.	Final Plea	10.	Date Filed
5.	Counsel Type	11.	Date - Initial Appearance
6.	Initial Charge	12.	Date - Disposition

All data elements listed in the "lower court" segment were found in the lower court records.

CIRCUIT COURT

1.	Docket Number	9.	Initial Charge
2.	Court Identification	10.	Final Charge
3.	Initial Plea	11.	Sentence Data - Fine, Suspension/Probation, Confinement
4.	Final Plea	12.	Trial Type
5.	Counsel Type	13.	Date — Disposition
6.	Date Filed	14.	Disposition
7.	Judicial District	15.	Date — Sentencing
8.	Date Initial Appearance		

All data elements listed above were found in the circuit court docket book and/or accompanying records or files.

SUPREME COURT

- 1. Appealed (yes, no)
- 2. Docket Number
- 3. Date Appealed
- 4. Date Disposition
- 5. Disposition (affirmed, modified, reversed)

The data elements listed above were found solely in the Supreme Court records. The time lapse between date appealed and disposition was ascertained from this information, as well as the number of cases appealed.

CORRECTIONS

- 1. Central Systems Number (CSN)
- 2. Date, Admitted
- 3. Paroled (yes (a))
- 4. Date Released
- 5. Date Parole Terminates
- 6. Institution

This information was retrieved from various record sections within the Department of Corrections including Records Section — Cummins Prison, Records Section — Probation and Parole, and Department of Corrections automated reports. An Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) number was also collected when available.

PREVIOUS CRIMINAL HISTORY

- 1. Initial Conviction (felony, misdemeanor)
- 2. Date of Initial Conviction
- 3. Age at Initial Conviction
- 4. Charge Initial Conviction
- 5. Number of Felony Convictions
- 6. Number of Misdemeanor Convictions

The previous criminal history data elements were found primarily in the Identification Bureau's files. This information was occasionally located in the records at the county law enforcement level.

COLLECTION FORM

IDENTIFICAT	ION		Name:	(La	ıst)		(First)	(Midd	(elt	Alias	:		
DOB:	Age:	Race:	□в□	∃ o	Sex:	м 🗆] F	Education L	evel:		Occu	pation:		
LAW ENFORC	EMENT		Case No			Charge:			A	Arrestir	ng Age	ncy:		
Date of Arrest:	Dispo	sition:		Date of I	Dispositio	n:	Соц	inty:	R	Remark	s:			
PROSECUTOR	I/GRAND	JURY	Case No.	:		Action ⁻	Taken	•	Date	of Ac	tion:			
Delay :			Remarks	:	L.				<u> </u>	***************************************				
PRE-TRIAL I	NCARCE	RATION	Date Co	nfined:		Date Re	leased		Amo	unt of	Bail (final):		Fugitive:
LOWER COUP	₹T		Docket I	No.:	(Court Id	lentifi	cation:	Initia	ıl Plea:		Final	Plea:	COUNSEL TYPE
Initial Charge:	Fi	nal Charge:		Dis	position:				_	SE	NTEN	CE DAT	A.	Appointed
									F	INE	susi	P/PROE	CONF.	Public Def.
Date Filed:	Da	ate-Initial App	pear,:	Date	e-Disposit	tion:								Self Other
Remarks:							:		1			!		
CIRCUIT COL	Jig≩T		Docket	No.:		Court Id	dentifi	cation:	Initia	l Plea:		Final I	Plea:	COUNSEL TYPE
				· · · · · ·					<u> </u>					☐ Private
Date Filed: Jud	l. Dist.: Da	ate-Initial Ap	pear.:	Initial	Charge:	F	inal C	harge:		SEN	TENC	E DATA	1	Appointed
Trial Type:	Day	te-Disposition		Disposi	tion:		210-50	ntencing	F	INE	SUSP	/PROB	CONF.	Public Def.
Jury Bench		te-Disposition	'	Dispusi	tion.		ate-06	intenenty			Ï			Self
Remarks:								·	L		1	1		Other
			Appealed		Docket	No	1.5	ate Appealed	. In	ate-Dis	o ositio	n.l Die	position:	
SUPREME CO	URT		Yes		Docket	NO.;		are Appealen	. 0	116-1319	positio	1		☐ Modified
				NO					<u></u> _	_				Reversed
CORRECTIO	vs		CSN:		Date A	dmitted		aroled: Yes No	D	ate Re	eleased	Date	Parole To	erminates:
Institution:		Remarks	5:			1			:					
PREVIOUS CRI	WINAL H	ISTORY	Initial Co	nviction		te of Ini	t. Con	v. Age at	Initial	Convi	ction:	Cha	rge-Initial (Conviction:
No. Felony Conv.:	No. Misd. (Conv.:	Remarks											
LAW ENFORCEMENT	Low	ER COURT	Р	ROSECI	UTOR	C	RCU	IT COURT		CORR	RECTION	ONS	SUPT	LEME COURT
] _		1						1					
Ultimate Disposition:											Nam	e: (Last))	

SECTION 3

STATE OF ARKANSAS FELONY PROCESSING

Population of Arkansas — 1974 Estimate:	2,068,000
Land Area in Square Miles:	51,945
Population Density in Square Miles:	39.81
Felony Arrests in 1974:	10,462
Felony Arrest Rate per 100,000:	506

1974 STATE CHARACTERISTICS

The Offender-Based Transaction Statistics data base offered an indefinite variety of possible analyses. The analyses presented are a small portion of the analyses that can be developed from the available data base (stored on computer tape). Other reports will be generated from the data and many statistical requests can be answered from this source.

Statistical information portrayed in the following pages depict an overview of crime in Arkansas. The statistics have been developed from the comprehensive data collection in all seventy-five counties in the state. Charts and graphs were designed to illustrate some of the features of offender processing at the various levels of the criminal justice system.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Initial collection of the survey subjects began at the law enforcement level. The offender's name served as the major link that enabled tracking of the offender. Other invaluable information was collected from the law enforcement level such as age, race, and sex of the offender. Jail dockets provided a considerable volume of information on "time in confinement" and "amount of bail". Data collectors retrieved data on 10,462 felony arrestees throughout the state. This number represented all felony arrests made in the calendar year 1974.

Personal characteristics of the survey subjects are shown in Table 1. Females comprised 10% of the total survey population. The ratio of white to black subjects was 2.1 to 1 (58% white, 28% black). The age category, 18-25, contained 41% of the total arrests.

TABLE 1 - PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ARRESTEES

Total	S	EX	RA	CE		-	AGE		,
Felony Arrests	Male	Female	В	W .	17 & Under	18-25	26-32	33-39	40 & Over
10.400	9,267	1,093	2,897	6,112	1,694	4,340	1,232	592	635
10,462	Unknov 1	vn 02	Unknov Other	vn 1,411 42	Unknov	vn 1,969			

Data collectors determined the status of the offender at the time of arrest from the available records. The collectors noted if, for example, the offender was on probation at the time of the 1974 felony arrest. This information is presented in the following table.

TABLE 2 - NUMBER OF ARRESTEES BY STATUS AT ARREST

		STATU	JS AT ARR	EST	
Number	Parole	Probation	Fugitive	Prison Confinement —Returned for Trial	No Status or Free Status*
of Arrestees	172	20	16	38	10,216

^{*}The "No Status or Free Status" category includes all offenders who were not on a status according to all available records.

The Department of Corrections, including prison, probation and parole files, furnished the educational data if the offender received a sentence of prison or probation. Law enforcement agencies in several counties also recorded this information. However, the vast majority of arresting agencies did not register educational data.

The following table depicts educational data on 1,525 (15%) individuals. The information for 8,937 (85%) remained undetermined due to the previously mentioned lack of recorded data on the subject. The educational levels chosen for representation in the table were "the last completed grade or year in school". For example, if an offender was arrested during the summer months before he would enter the eleventh grade in the fall, he is depicted in the category "9-10" in the table.

TABLE 3 - EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF FELONY ARRESTEES

		ı		EDI	UCATION	AL LEVE	L			
Number	1-8	9-10	11-12	1-2 yrs. College	3-4 yrs. College/ Degree	M.A. Degree	M.A.+ 1 yr.	Adv. Prof. Degree*	Ph. D. Degree	Unknown
of Arrestees	339	524	566	75	17	1	2	0	1	8,937

^{*}Advanced Profession Degree includes doctors, lawyers, etc.

The occupational data was dispersed among over two hundred different occupations with data on 7,062 individuals undetermined. Thus, this information could not feasibly be placed in table form.

Table 4 depicts the offense charged at the law enforcement level. "Burglary" and "All Other" offense categories contained the largest number of felony arrests with 27.2 and 28.7 respectively. The charges listed at the law enforcement level may have been changed when the offender reached the court segments. The figures represented in Table 4 should not be confused with the final charges or charge prosecuted.

TABLE 4 – FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF OFFENSES
ORIGINALLY CHARGED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

OFFENSES	NUMBER OF CASES	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ARRESTS
MURDER AND NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	247	2.4
FORCIBLE RAPE	237	2.3
ROBBERY	610	5.8
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	543	5.2
BURGLARY	2,847	27.2
LARCENY	1,487	14.2
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	285	2.7
TOTAL DRUGS	1,207	11.5
ALL OTHER	2,999	28.7
TOTAL	10,462	100.00

The length of pre-trial confinement, divided into offense categories, is depicted in Table 5. The "undetermined" category contains the largest portion of the survey arrests with 4,126, followed by "1-5 days" category with 2,499. By referring to the table, it is also possible to check the total number of offenders in each offense category. For example, the "murder/manslaughter" category contains 247 arrestees.

TABLE 5 - LENGTH OF PRE-TRIAL CONFINEMENT BY FELONY OFFENSE

						FE	LONY		NSE					$\overline{}$
		MURDER W.SLAJER	GHTER		7 /	5/3	LARCEA	TAMILY 40	À / 4	Z & /	ي کي	8),	/ 5	,
	LENGTH OF PRE-TRIAL CONFINEMENT	N.S.R.D	RAPE	ROBB.	455A1.	BURGLA	LARCE	POSS. OF		GAM	NARCOL	$O_{THE_{\mathcal{B}}}$	70746	
L	Less than 1 day	25	26	72	73	404	303	91	86	1	190	365	1,636]
	1 - 5 days	34	56	88	139	671	437	170	119	5	399	381	2,499	
	6 - 10 days	13	13	34	26	200	96	27	45	1	50	75	580	
Γ	11 - 15 days	5	5	16	17	106	52	15	13	0	22	30	281	
	16 - 20 days	. 8	5	15	10	65	36	16	11	0	18	20	204	
T	21 - 25 days	6	8	12	9	51	23	6	13	0	13	18	159]
	26 - 30 days	6	1	6	10	39	15	5	10	0	12	12	116	
	31 - 40 days	5	6	13	8	55	34	8	13	0	13	23	178	
	41 - 50 days	6	- 7	22	6	42	19	4	12	0	13	13	144	
	51 - 75 days	8	7	14	10	55	26	11	17	0	15	22	185	
	76 - 100 days	10	1	19	2	33	15	2	5	0	7	10	104]
ſ	101 and over days	26	14	36	10	71	29	8	20	1	18	17	250	
Ī	Undetermined	95	88	263	223	1,055	687	273	244	15	437	746	4,126	1
	TOTAL	247	237	610	543	2,847	1,772	636	608	23	1,207	1,732	10,462	

Data collectors ascertained the dollar value of the bond from available sources (jail logs, police and sheriff records, and court dockets). Between the time of arrest and circuit court disposition, the value of the bond may have varied; therefore, the dollar amount shown in Table 6 represents the final determination of bail. The "None Set" and "Not Applicable" categories are defined as:

None Set ---

- 1. Crime was 'oo serious (such as murder), thus no bail set; or,
- 2. Offender transferred to another law enforcement agency, thus no bail set.

Not Applicable -

- 1. Recognizance and appearance bonds; or,
- 2. Second party custody and releases to juvenile agencies.

TABLE 6 - FINAL AMOUNT OF BAIL BY FELONY OFFENSE

		/ ·		<u>:</u>	F	ELON		ENSE					
	MURDER	PE OGHTER	ROBRE	ASSAII.	BURGLAZ	LARCEM.	POSS. OF	PERTY	GAIMIG	NA ACOT	OTHER	$r_{O_{Z}}$, /
FINAL AMOUNT OF BAIL	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	RAPE	A_{O_i}	48,	BU	7 2	1959		i/ 8	\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \	/ 5		
\$1 - 499	0	2	3	10	31	52	15	.22	1	11	87	234	
\$500 - 999	0	2	8	29	89	90	43	24	3	38	85	411	
\$1,000 - 1,499	10	11	34	48	211	130	71	62	0	77	124	778	
\$1,500 - 2,499	1	8	24	47	142	73	22	37	7	47	60	468]
\$2,500 - 4,999	10	18	33	50	227	112	63	51	0	83	106	753	
\$5,000 - 7,499	8	17	32	23	133	58	15	19	0	122	24	451]
\$7,500 - 9,999	4	1	3	3	8	3	0	1	0	23	6	52	
\$10,000 - 19,999	20	21	39	22	44	19	1	4	0	36	14	220	
\$20,000 - 24,999	1	2	5	2	1	2	1	0	0	17	0	31]
\$25,000 - 49,999	11	7	23	0	6	1	0	1	0	4	3	56	
\$50,000 & above	13	1	13	1	3	. 1	0	0	0	5	3	40	
None Set	19	9	5	2	8	2	0	0	0	2	3	50	
Not Applicable	26	13	59	32	368	234	80	49	0	43	213	1,117	
Undetermined	124	125	329	274	1,576	995	325	338	12	699	1,004	5,801	
TOTAL	247	237	610	543	2,847	1,772	636	608	23	1,207	1,732	10,462	

Table 7 (Bond Release) attempts to distinguish between the various alternatives for release during pre-trial confinement. The majority of this data must come from law enforcement files or jail dockets. In some counties this information was not recorded. As depicted in the table, data on 4,613 (44.1%) offenders was unknown due to the lack of information. Of the total survey arrests, 2,504 (23.9%) individuals were released on bond and 1,069 (10.2%) arrestees were released with the charges dropped.

TABLE 7 — FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION
OF THE TYPE OF BOND RELEASE

TYPE RELEASE	NUMBER OF ARRESTEES	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ARRESTS
PERSONAL RECOGNIZANCE, APPEARANCE BOND	145	1.4
SECOND PARTY CUSTODY, TO JUVENILE AGENCIES	521	5.0
UNKNOWN	4,613	44.1
RELEASED ON BOND	2,504	23.9
BOND SET, BUT NOT RELEASED	937	9.0
NONE SET, NOT RELEASED	45	0.4
RELEASED TO OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY	535	5.1
FUGITIVE	93	0.9
RELEASED, CHARGES DROPPED	1,069	10.2
TOTAL	10,462	100,00

Table 8 portrays the number of offenses in each law enforcement disposition category and the average number of days required for the processing. For example, 1,089 individuals were released (with charges dropped) and the average time in days required for this release was 2.2 days.

TABLE 8 — PROCESSING TIME TO DISPOSITION AT LAW ENFORCEMENT LEVEL

	DISPOSITION AT LAW ENFORCEMENT LEVEL											
	Transferred to Other Agency	Transferred to Other Law Enforcement Agency	Released	Transferred to Juvenile Authority	Fugitive	Misdemeanor- Complaint Filed to Lower Court	Felony Complaint Filed to Lower Court	Felony Complaint Filed Direct to Lower Court	Undetermined	TOTAL		
Number of Offenses	9	507	1,089	404	7	46	2,957	5,043	400	10,462		
Average Time in System in Days*	38.6	8.0	2.2	2.0	4.3	6.3	9.1	15,2	9.7	3.1		

^{*}Average days from filing date to date of disposition

Due to time constraints and the lack of standardized or uniform policies and procedures in 1974, concerning the administration of juvenile offenders, there was no attempt to track persons after they were routed to juvenile authorities. Some counties had a separate juvenile agency. In other counties, the juvenile offenders were handled in the office of the county judge or by some other interested party such as a pastor or teacher. The juveniles were transferred out of the adult felony for survey purposes if directed to county juvenile authority by law enforcement or courts. From the 1,694 juveniles (considered for survey purposes to be 17 years of age or under) arrested for a felony in 1974, only 647 were known to be referred to a juvenile agency.

Each offender's record was checked at the Identification Bureau of the State Police and in county law enforcement records to determine if the offender had any prior convictions for a felony or misdemeanor. The category "no prior felony conviction" (listed in the table below) consists of persons who had no recorded felony convictions prior to the date of their 1974 felony arrest. The table below depicts 717 individuals arrested in 1974 for a felony had one prior felony conviction, while 324 persons arrested for a felony in 1974 had two prior felony convictions.

TABLE 9 — FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF PRIOR FELONY CONVICTIONS

Number of Prior Felony Convictions	Number of Arrests	Percentages of Total Arrests
. 1	717	6.85
2	324	3.10
3	171	1.63
4	66	.63
5	47	.45
6	25	.24
7	14	.13
8	4	.04
9	4	.04
10	3	.03
11	0	0.00
12	1	.01
13	0	0.00
14	0	0.00
15	1 .	.01
16 or more	0	0.00
No prior felony conviction	9,069	86.69
Unknown	16	.15
Total	10,462	100.00

The following table portrays prior misdemeanor convictions. Seven hundred and fifteen persons had only one prior misdemeanor conviction at the time of their 1974 felony arrest. Remember that Tables 9 and 10 are not mutually exclusive. A person listed in Table 9 as having three prior felony convictions might also be in Table 10 with eight prior misdemeanor convictions.

TABLE 10 — FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF PRIOR MISDEMEANOR CONVICTIONS

Number of Prior Misdemeanor Convictions	Number of Arrests	Percentages of Total Arrests
1	715	6.83
2	275	2.63
3	148	1.41
4	73	.70
- 5	44	.42
6	18	.17
7	9	.09
8	14	.13
9	8	80.
10	10	.10
11	1	.01
12	4	.04
13	0	0.00
14	0	0.00
15	1	.01
16 or more	15	.14
No prior misdemeanor		
conviction	9,111	87.09
Unknown	16	.15
Total	10,462	100.00

Table 11 depicts the time lapse between the date of arrest and the disposition at the law enforcement level. Dispositions 6 (misdemeanor charge filed to circuit court), 7 (felony charge filed to lower court), and 8 (felony charge filed to circuit court) are not final dispositions, but rather filings to other courts for further action. A total of 2,416 (23%) arrestees dropped out at the law enforcement level. This drop-out was due to dispositions 1. transferred — other agency, 2. transferred — other law enforcement agency, 3. released, 4. transferred juvenile authority, 5. fugitive, and 9. undetermined. A total of 8,046 (77%) individuals proceeded onward through the criminal justice system.

TABLE 11

TIME LAPSE BETWEEN DATE OF ARREST AND DISPOSITION AT LAW ENFORCEMENT LEVEL

							DAY	S							
DISPOSITION	Total Arrests	0-5	6-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	151-180	181-210	211-240	241-270	271-300	301-330	331 +	Unk.
1. Transferred— other agency	9	3	1	2	0	0	.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2. Transferred— other law enforcement agency	507	340	82	21	7	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	53
3. Released	1,089	928	59	9	1	. 1	0	1	0 -	0	0	0	0	0	90
4. Transferred— juvenile authority	404	277	27	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	98
5. Fugitive	7	4	3	0	0	0	, 0,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Misdemeanor charge— *lower court	46	30	13	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
7. Felony charge— *lower court	2,957	2,534	267	29	13	2	4	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	101
8. Felony charge— *circuit court	5,043	2,996	855	205	86	53	29	24	22	6	2	0	1	4	760
9. Undetermined	400	59	25	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	310

^{*} Note that Numbers 6, 7 & 8 are not final dispositions.

LOWER COURT

The role of the lower court in felony processing varied by county. In some Arkansas counties, the felony cases were filed in the lower court for a preliminary hearing. In other counties, the lower court was by-passed entirely, unless the felony charge (at arrest) was reduced to a misdemeanor. A total of 3,003 individuals were processed through lower courts, with 1,951 arrestees receiving a final disposition at this level. A total of 1,052 cases were bound over to circuit court after a preliminary hearing or after a waiver of preliminary hearing at the lower court level. The complete picture of dispositions at the lower court level is depicted in Table 12.

TABLE 12 - PROCESSING TIME TO DISPOSITION AT LOWER COURT

		DISPOSITION AT LOWER COURT												
	Dismissed	Nolle Prosequí	Guilty of Misdemeanor	Acquitted of Misdemeanor	Bound over to Circuit Court after Waiver of Prelimin- ary hearing	Bound over to Circuit Court after Preliminary Hearing	Pending	Archived	Death of Offender	Remanded to Juvenile Authorities	Deferred	Transferred to Other Agency	Undetermined	
Number of Filings	394	501	750	. 1	433	619	29	2	1	130	5	23	115	
Average Time in System in Days*	24.7	35.1	19.0	21.0	32.3	36.0	25.0	45.5	111.0	7.8	4.2	17.2	13.8	

^{*}Average number of days from filing date to date of disposition

The lower court pleas, initial and final, are depicted in Table 13. The total figure of 3,003 refers to the number of cases filed to lower court. As the chart depicts, 190 individuals plead guilty initially and 428 plead guilty as a final plea.

TABLE 13 - LOWER COURT PLEAS BY TYPE

	PLEA TYPE											
	Guilty	Not Guilty	Nolo Conten- dere	Not Applic- able	Un- deter- mined	TOTAL						
Initial Plea	190	1,554	21	405	833	3,003						
Final Plea	428	740	. 2	979	854	3,003						

The attorney data at lower court is depicted in Table 14. The undetermined category is comprised mostly of persons who were bound over to circuit court, thus attorney data was not noted at the lower court level. As depicted in the table, 741 individuals hired a private attorney, while 423 persons were served by the public defender. The total figure of 3,003 represented the total number of arrestees who were filed to the lower courts.

TABLE 14 – ATTORNEY DATA AT LOWER COURT

ATTORNEY TYPE	NUMBER OF FILINGS
Private	741
Appointed	134
Public Defender	423
Self	157
Parent or Guardian	35
Undetermined	1,513
TOTAL FILINGS	3,003

A lower court charge change occurred if a charge change took place between arrest and final disposition at lower court. In 932 cases, there was a charge change while in 2,068 cases there was no charge change. In three cases, a determination could not be made as to whether a charge change had occurred due to a failure to list the charge.

The following table depicts the time lapse between the date of arrest and disposition at lower court level. Dispositions numbered 14 (bound over to circuit court — waived preliminary hearing) and 15 (bound over to circuit court after preliminary hearing) are not final dispositions but rather filings to circuit court. A total of 1,951 offenders dropped out of the criminal justice system at lower court level.

TABLE 15 TIME LAPSE BETWEEN DATE OF ARREST AND DISPOSITION AT LOW'ER COURT LEVEL

	Total	DAYS													
DISPOSITION	Lower Court Filings	0-5	6-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	151-180	181-210	211-240	241-270	271-300	301-330	331 +	Unk.
10. Dismissed	394	133	158	59	13	8	3	2	4	1	0	0	0	1	12
11. Nolle Prosequi	501	141	179	96	25	14	12	4	3	2	1	3	1	4	16
12. Guilty of Misdemeanor	750	352	248	84	30	17	1	3	2	0	3	0	0	1	9
13. Acquitted of Misdemeanor	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Bound over to Circuit Court— waived prelim- inary hearing *	433	73	177	132	17	18	5	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	4
15. Bound over to Circuit Court— after preliminary hearing *	619	83	289	145	64	14	11	3	2	1	1	3	, 1	0	2
16. Pending	29	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
17. Archived	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Death of offender	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Remanded to Juvenile Authority	130	67	49	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	O	0	0	0	7
20. Deferred	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Transferred/ Other Agency	23	12	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C
22. Undetermined	115	7	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101

Note that numbers 14 and 15 are not final dispositions

CIRCUIT COURT

A total of 6,095 felony cases were filed in circuit court during 1974. As the following table depicts, juries tried 328 cases with 279 guilty verdicts and 95 cases were tried by the bench with 61 guilty verdicts. The majority, 3,580 cases, involved pleas of guilty, accounting for 59% of the total circuit court filings. Of the 6,095 filings, 3,920 (64%) received a guilty verdict, 3,404 for a felony charge and 516 for a misdemeanor charge. (Since only felony arrests were included in the survey, the misdemeanor convictions resulted from a reduction of the offense charged at time of arrest.)

TABLE 16 – NUMBER OF CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS BY TRIAL TYPE

	NUMBER	DISPOS	ITION
TYPE TRIAL	OF CASES	GUILTY	OTHER
Jury	328	279	49
Bench	95	61	34
Plea	3,580	3,580	0
No Trial Conducted	1,398	0	1,398
Unknown	694	0	694
TOTAL	6,095	3,920	2,175

The number of filings by disposition at circuit court and the average time in system in days are depicted in Table 17. Four hundred, eighty-three cases were dismissed taking an average of 230 days to complete this action as depicted in the table below. Three thousand, four hundred and four persons were found guilty of a felony taking an average of 107 days from date of filing to final disposition.

TABLE 17 - PROCESSING TIME TO DISPOSITION AT CIRCUIT COURT

		DISPOSITION AT CIRCUIT COURT											
	Dismissed	Nolle Prosequi	Remanded to Lower Court	Guilty of a Felony	Acquitted	Guilty of a Misdemeanor	Pending	Archived	Death of Offender	Remanded to Juvenile Authority	Deferred	Transferred	Undetarmined
Number of Filings	483	849	37	3,404	68	516	167	134	8	113	70	61	185
Average Time in System in Days*	229.8	211.7	93.2	106.8	210.0	125,4	357.6	273.9	352.3	54.1	276.7	75.3	65.3

^{*}Average number of days from filing date to date of disposition

The attorney data at circuit court is depicted in Table 18. Of the total 6,095 filing, 1,885 individuals were represented by a private attorney.

TABLE 18 – ATTORNEY DATA AT CIRCUIT COURT

ATTORNEY TYPE	NUMBER OF FILINGS
Private	1,885
Appointed	1,255
Public Defender	505
Self	121
Parent or Guardian	6
Undetermined	2,323
TOTAL FILINGS	6,095

The circuit court pleas, initial and final, are depicted in Table 19. The total figure of 6,095 refers to the number of filings at circuit court.

TABLE 19 - CIRCUIT COURT PLEAS BY TYPE

	PLEA TYPE										
	Guilty	Not Guilty	Nolo Conten- dere	Not Guilty by Insanity	Not Applic- able	Un- deter- mined	TOTAL				
Initial Plea	1,453	3,526	103	23	30	960	6,095				
Final Plea	1,924	581	101	6	2,432	1,051	6,095				

For survey purposes, a circuit court delay was defined as any delay of more than 90 days between the date of circuit court filing and date of circuit court disposition. The "other" category of the table includes all delays of over 90 days for which a specific reason was not recorded.

TABLE 20 - CIRCUIT COURT DELAY BY TYPE

	-	TYPE DELAY											
	Change of Attorney	Lack of Witness	Fugitive Status	Failure of Def. to Appear	Defense Motion	Prosecu- tion Motion	Mental Observa- tion	Medical Attention	Other	Under 90 Days			
Number of Cases	34	7	59	37	316	22	60	4	2,079	3,477			

A circuit court charge change occurred if:

1. A charge change took place between the lower court's final charge and circuit court's final charge.

OR

2. A charge change occurred between law enforcement charge and final charge at circuit court when the case was filed directly to circuit court.

OR

3. A charge change occurred between circuit court initial charge and circuit court final charge.

At the circuit court level, 1,448 charges were changed while 4,643 charges remained the same. For example, a charge might change because of the reduction to a misdemeanor or downgrading to a less serious felony charge. In four cases, it could not be determined whether a change had occurred due to failure to note '' charge.

Table 21 depicts the time lapse between date of arrest and date of disposition at circuit court level. All dispositions listed in this table are final dispositions which accounted for the processing of 6,095 offenders. Of the total filings, 3,920 offenders were found guilty of a felony or misdemeanor.

TABLE 21

TIME LAPSE BETWEEN DATE OF ARREST AND DISPOSITION AT CIRCUIT COURT LEVEL

	Total Circuit Ct.		DAYS												
DISPOSITION	Filings	0-5	6-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	151-180	181-210	211-240	241-270	271-300	301-330	331 +	Unk.
23. Dismissed	483	20	46	55	47	29	22	18	19	17	19	19	19	141	12
24. Nolle Prosequi	849	38	88	65	77	64	53	61	48	47	40	25	35	185	23
25. Remanded to Lower Court	37	0	10	13	1	2	1	1	0	7	0	0	0	1	1
26. Guilty of a Felony	3,404	331	750	535	430	365	161	147	127	97	89	62	48	232	30
27. Acquitted of a Felony	67	. 1	7	4	3	9	7	5	. 5	6	4	1	0	15	0
28. Guilty of a Misdemeanor	516	42	111	76	43	47	45	22	27	21	11	12	9	48	. 2
29. Acquitted of a Misdemeanor	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	, 0	0	0
30. Pending	167	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	18	139
31. Archived	134	1	2	4	2	10	9	13	5	10	6	3	5	30	34
32. Death of Offender	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	1
33. Remanded to Juvenile Authority	113	28	29	11	7	7	- 12	5	1	0	1	0	1	0	11
34. Deferred	70	0	12	6	2	5	6	1	1	4	1	1	. 0	31	0
35. Transferred to Other Agency	61	12	15	9	7	3	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	3	5
36. Undetermined	185	0	1	2	0	0	. 0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	181

SUPREME COURT

In an effort to determine the number of convicted felony offenders who appealed to the Arkansas Supreme Court and the subsequent appellate decisions, data were extracted from circuit court dockets and the Arkansas Supreme Court records. The Supreme Court action is depicted in Table 22. For example, 83 circuit court decisions were affirmed, while only one case was reversed and dismissed, and 24 cases were reversed and remanded.

TABLE 22 — NUMBER OF APPEALS FILED TO THE SUPREME COURT BY ACTION TYPE

SUPREME COURT ACTION	NUMBER OF APPEALS - 129
Pending	8
Affirmed	83
Reversed and Dismissed	1
Modified	2
Reversed and Remanded	24
Affirmed with Remittitur	0
Dismissed on Behalf of Appellant	1
Affirmed in Part, Reversed in Part	8
Pro Se (Rule 1 or 37) Granted*	0
Pro Se (Rule 1 or 37) Denied*	2

^{*}Pro Se (Rule 1 or 37)

A prisoner, in custody under sentence of a circuit court and whose case was not appealed to the Supreme Court, claiming a right to be released, or to have a new trial, or to have the original sentence modified on the ground:

- (a) that the sentence was imposed in violation of the Constitution and laws of the United States or this state; or
- (b) that the court imposing the sentence was without jurisdiction to do so; or
- (c) that the sentence was in excess of the maximum authorized by law; or
- (d) that the sentence is otherwise subject to collateral attack; may file a verified motion at any time in the court which imposed the sentence, praying that the sentence be vacated or corrected.

CORRECTIONS

Of the original 10,462 arrestees, 3,735 progressed to the corrections segment due to a felony or misdemeanor conviction at circuit court. This figure (3,735) represented 36% of the total survey participants and 61% of the 6,095 persons who were routed to circuit courts throughout the state.

Of the 3,735 convicted offenders, 1,623 received a prison sentence and 162 a jail sentence, 538 were given a suspended sentence, 475 were placed on probation and 937 were placed on a combination of probation/suspended sentence.

The following tables depict correction data grouped by age, sex and race.

For example, as the age table portrays, 953 offenders in the age category 18-25 years of age received a prison sentence.

TABLE 23 - CIRCUIT COURT SENTENCE TYPE BY AGE

	AGE										
SENTENCE TYPE	17 & Under	18-25	26-32	33-39	40 & Over	Unk.	Total				
Prison	135	953	294	113	89	39	1,623				
Jail	12	87	21	11	6	25	162				
Suspension	62	259	50	37	30	100	538				
Probation	,77	243	36	20	21	78	475				
Prob/Susp	145	464	112	46	56	114	937				
Fugitive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Parole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
TOTAL	431	2,006	513	227	202	356	3,735				

Table 24 portrays circuit court sentencing by race. The race of the offender was not always listed in arrest books or other available records, thus 326 persons are listed as unknown. Nine hundred and fifty-three whites and 619 blacks received a prison sentence from circuit courts.

TABLE 24 — CIRCUIT COURT SENTENCE TYPE BY RACE

	RACE									
SENTENCE TYPE	White	Black	Other	Unknown	Total					
Prison	953	619	8	43	1,623					
Jail	99	36	1	26	162					
Suspension	328	126	1	83	538					
Probation	304	94	0	77 ′	475					
Prob/Susp.	538	299	3	97	937					
Fugitive	0	0	0	0	0					
Parole	0	0	0	0	0					
TOTAL	2,222	1,174	13	326	3,735					

Table 25 depicts circuit court sentencing by sex. A total of 1,093 females were arrested for a felony in 1974. Of this group, 334 females received a correctional sentence, with 97 women being sentenced to prison. From the total of 9,267 males arrested on a felony in 1974, 3,378 received a correctional sentence. Of the 3,378 men who received a sentence, 1,521 were sent to prison.

TABLE 25 – CIRCUIT COURT SENTENCE TYPE BY SEX

	SEX								
SENTENCE TYPE	Male	Female	Unknown	Total					
Prison	1,521	97	5	1,623					
Jail	152	8	2	162					
Suspension	473	56	9	538					
Probation	413	58	4	475					
Prob/Susp.	819	115	3	937					
Fugitive	0	0	0	0					
Parole	0	0	0	0					
TOTAL	3,378	334	23	3,735					

FELONY PROCESSING - 1974

The chart, concerning felony processing, gives a detailed break-out of dispositions at each level of the criminal justice system.

By way of a starting point on the Felony Processing Chart (Chart 1), the first two blocks present the figure 10,462 as the total felony arrests in 1974 and the number of survey arrests collected in this OBTS survey. This figure may be slightly low, due to lack of useable records in several counties.

Three thousand and three cases were filed to lower court, while prosecutors filed 5,043 cases directly to circuit court.

At the lower court segment, 130 youths proceeded to a juvenile authority and 1,821 offenders exited the system due to other dispositions. These dispositions are depicted in Chart 3. Of the 3,003 filings at lower court, 1,052 individuals were processed to circuit court.

A total of 6,095 persons were filed upon in circuit court. Judges transferred 113 juveniles to a juvenile authority. A total of 2,062 individuals exit the system from the circuit court subsystem due to other dispositions which are depicted in Chart 4, while 3,920 are found guilty of a felony or misdemeanor at the circuit court level.

Of the 3,920 convicted offenders, 1,785 were institutionalized in either jail or prison. Of this number 1,045 were known to have been paroled by the state system. Of the 1,950 offenders placed in a probation/suspension status, only 113 were known to have been returned to incarcerated status; however, this figure is not absolute since all files at Cummins/Tucker prisons were not counter-checked with county records.

To augment Felony Processing (Chart 1), Charts 2, 3, and 4 depict the dispositions that are represented in Chart 1 as "exit from system".

CIRCUIT COURT SUBSYSTEM

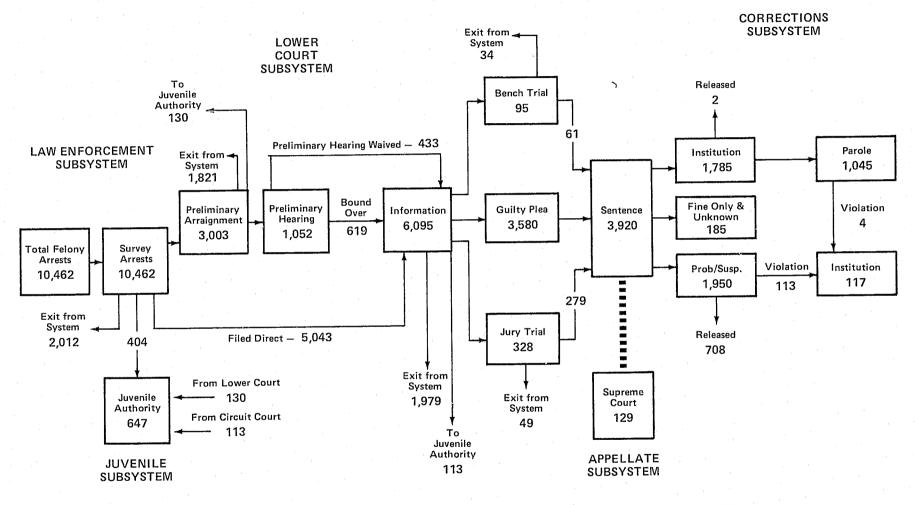
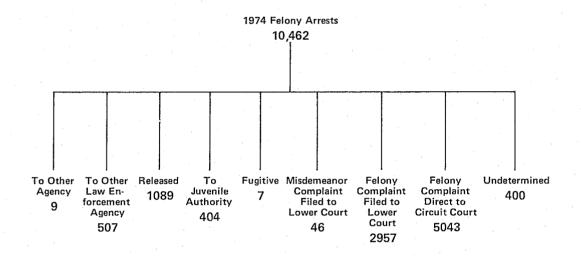


CHART 1

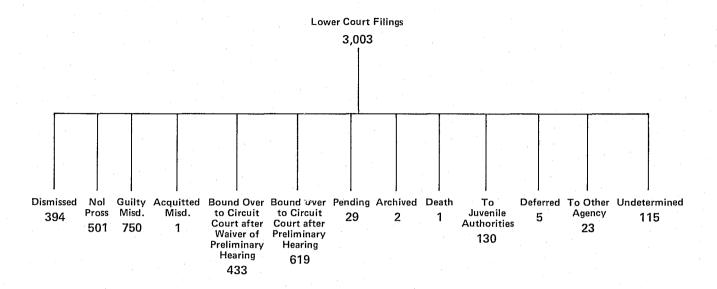
FELONY PROCESSING — STATE OF ARKANSAS 1974 Chart 2 depicts the dispositions occurring in the law enforcement subsystem. Of the 10,462 original arrests, 2,416 arrestees dropped out of the criminal justice system at this level. Three thousand and three cases were referred to lower court and prosecutors filed 5,043 cases directly to circuit court. The disposition of "undetermined" occurred due to a lack of recorded information on the 400 offenders.

CHART 2 - LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBSYSTEM



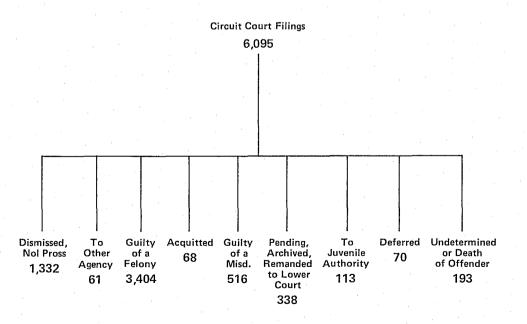
The lower court dispositions are depicted in Chart 3. Of the 3,003 offenders filed to lower court, 1,951 individuals received a final disposition at this level and 1,052 cases were bound over to circuit court.

CHART 3 - LOWER COURT SUBSYSTEM



Circuit court filings are depicted in Chart 4. All dispositions depicted in Chart 4 are final dispositions. Of the 6,095 filings, 3,404 offenders were convicted of a felony and 516 individuals received a misdemeanor conviction, totaling 3,920 convicted offenders.

CHART 4 - CIRCUIT COURT SUBSYSTEM



FOOTNOTES

- 1. Charles C. McCarty, Offender-Based Transaction Statistics Fantasy or Fact, Project SEARCH/Second International Symposium on Criminal Justice Information and Statistical Systems (California: Project SEARCH, 1974), pp. 285-287.
- 2. Michael A. Zimmerman, Evaluation of the Felony Defendant Disposition File, (California: Public Systems, Inc.), p. iv.
- 3. Oregon Justice Data Analysis Center, Oregon's Offender Based Transaction Statistics System, (Oregon: State Government, 1973), p. 2.
- 4. Carl E. Pope, Offender-Based Transaction Statistics: New Directions in Data Collection and Reporting, (New York: U.S. Department of Justice, 1975), pp. 12-13.
 - 5. SEARCH Technical Report No. 3, (November, 1970). p. 3-1.

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