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**PROFILE OF CRIME
IN
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
1979**



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BREVARD COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL STUDY COMMISSION

A REPORT

Prepared For The LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Albert T. Pekora
Chairman

BREVARD COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION

PROFILE OF CRIME
IN
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
1979

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NCJRS

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ACQUISITIONS

DECEMBER 1979

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is twofold: one, to survey the attitudes of citizens toward crime and law enforcement in Brevard County, Florida; and, two, to conduct a study on crime victimization in Brevard County. The study will be used by the Brevard Local Government Study Commission in their investigation of home rule charter government for Brevard County, as required by State law.

Study results were obtained through a telephone survey of over a thousand households in the county, using a questionnaire with 23 inquiries. Results show how Brevard County citizens feel about the quality of law enforcement service, the magnitude of crime, fear of crime, law enforcement problems plus a report on actual versus reported crime.

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PREFACE

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CHAPTER ONE

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Origin of the Project

In June 1979, Mr. Albert T. Pekora, Chairman of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee (LESC) of the Brevard County Local Government Study Commission asked a Florida Institute of Technology public administration professor to serve as a technical consultant to the subcommittee. This request was honored because Dr. James T. Stoms, Head of the Management Science Department, Florida Institute of Technology, had offered to provide professional experts and analytical support to the Brevard Local Government Study Commission, as stated in a letter dated December 8, 1978 (See Appendix A). The F.I.T. offered the services of these government experts on a cost-free basis, unless sophisticated studies were specifically contracted for by the F.I.T. Center for Government Studies.

At the July 13, 1979 meeting of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee, Mr. John E. Fahnestock asked whether the Florida Institute of Technology could conduct a study on crime victimization in Brevard County. The reason for the study, which would be patterned after a 1977 profile of crime investigation in Southern Illinois, would be to compare actual crime and victimization rates with recorded crime. This varies greatly with reporting jurisdictions and with geographical areas; the Illinois study showed that a high percentage of minor and major crimes go unreported. A second major objective of such a survey would be to sample public opinion in regard to law enforcement in Brevard County.

Police Chief Fred Fernex of Indian Harbour Beach, who is the representative of the Brevard Association of Police Chiefs on the Subcommittee, stated that such a study would be valuable in comparing crime reporting procedures within the law enforcement jurisdictions. It was agreed that the Florida Institute of Technology representative would make a preliminary investigation to determine the feasibility and support requirements of the proposed study, using F.I.T. graduate students and volunteer organizations within Brevard County. Mr. Fahnestock agreed to furnish the microfiche of the 1977 Illinois study for use in planning the project.

The results of the F.I.T. preliminary investigation were sent to the Law Enforcement Subcommittee in a memo, dated August 1, 1979. The memo contained the proposed objectives of the study, a study plan and support requirements. These were approved by the LESC during their August 1979 meeting.

Objectives of the Survey

The primary purpose of the study is to support the objectives of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee (LESC) of the Brevard County Local Government Study Commission by providing the following information:

- a. The public opinion survey will provide the Subcommittee with information showing how Brevard County citizens perceive the quality of the service, the magnitude of the crime problem, fear of crime and the priority of law enforcement problems in Brevard County.
- b. The victimization study, in comparing actual crime with reported crime, will provide more comprehensive information than is currently available through the Florida Uniform Crime Reports.
- c. The Florida Uniform Crime Rates are "officially" recorded data depending upon the cooperation of local law enforcement agencies. This project will show the variance

between Brevard County reported crime and the data contained in the Florida Uniform Crime Rate, also the variance between the reporting standards in the various jurisdictions. (There is an interesting paradox here; the more effective a department is in reporting crime, the higher is its crime rate).

- d. A correlation between this data obtained from Brevard County citizens and the data obtained from the on-going survey of Brevard County law enforcement agencies being conducted by the LESC. This correlation between law enforcement agencies and the people that they serve should provide indicators of the economy, effectiveness and responsiveness of Brevard County law enforcement services.
- e. Data which will indicate high and low crime areas in the county.
- f. Data on citizen confidence in law enforcement, their views on accountability within the system and a base line for tax equalization within the county.

Chronology of Events

The project was originally scheduled for completion to meet the 2 November 1979 LESC deadline for their preliminary report. However, this date was changed by Mr. Pekora and the submission of the final report was scheduled for the December 1979 LESC meeting.

With this objective in mind the following activities were scheduled:

- September: Design of the questionnaire.
Determining personnel support requirements.
Planning logistic and computer support.
Planning overall project.

- October: Obtaining LESC approval of the questionnaire.
Final coordination of the questionnaire.
Preliminary contact with volunteers.
Having 500 questionnaires printed.
- November: Meeting with Southern Bell Telephone Co.
Contacting 4 area Chambers of Commerce.
Talking to Brevard Community College classes.
Arranging for other volunteers.
Implementing the plan.
- December: Obtaining the telephone results.
Performing compilation and analysis.
Report compilation.
Submittal of report to LESC.

CHAPTER TWO

PROJECT METHODOLOGY

Introduction

During the July 1979 LESC meeting, Mr. Fahnstock suggested that the survey be made by dialing 5000 Brevard County telephone numbers in such a way as to insure adequate coverage in each area served by a law enforcement agency. If questionnaires of four pages in length were used, it was expected that an average telephone call would require between 10 and 15 minutes.

An expert on designing and conducting surveys, Dr. William

W. Saitta of the Florida Institute of Technology, stated his opinion that 500 successful responses were sufficient, assuming adequate coverage for each area and the use of proper survey techniques were employed. However, it was decided to go ahead with the original objectives of calling 5000 telephone numbers, both because it was not known how many refusals, disconnects, no answers, etc., would be encountered but also because the report results would be better with more successful responses. In addition, the greater the number of people contacted in this survey, the more they will appreciate the efforts of the LESC in recommending solutions to law enforcement problems.

Design and Approval of the Questionnaire

In order to satisfy the double objectives of making both a public opinion survey and a crime victimization study, two types of questions were needed. The 1977 Illinois A PROFILE OF CRIME IN THE GREATER EGYPT CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING REGION report was used for broad guidance in selecting questions for these two study areas.

The respondents' experiences with crime as well as their perceptions, attitudes and fears relating to crime were subjects of interest in constructing the interview schedule for our survey. Thus, the first question asked was how long the respondent lived in the area, in order to assess his or her familiarity with the neighborhood. This was followed by questions concerning perception of increase or decrease of crime in the area, who they think commits the crime, their perception of the main law enforcement problems in their area, whether they believe that their area was a safe place to live and so on.

A feeling of safety in one's own neighborhood and a sense of security about one's own belongings is a major American value. In order to achieve this objective, American citizens are willing to make

certain sacrifices in terms of taxes to support better law enforcement, are willing to take personal security precautions, will support the police and court system to a greater degree and will support other positive measures to make their area safer.

The questions concerning the reporting of crime were designed to match the crime reporting system used by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Only a selected number of well-worded "victim screen" questions were used. The period of six months was selected for the reporting period because events in that period would be fresher in the respondents' memories and because it comprises one-half of the report period in the annual CRIME IN FLORIDA report.

This questionnaire takes into account the inherent limitations in current crime reporting practices and is basically intended to find out how much crime is being reported in Brevard County. In many instances, citizens do not report crime at all and in some cases do not report it directly to law enforcement agencies but may report it directly to prosecuting authorities. There is also a variance in the crime reporting procedures and practices between the various law enforcement agencies.

A first draft of the questionnaire was compiled and submitted to Mr. Pekora in August 1979. He circulated it to members of his subcommittee; Chief Fernandez and Ms. Phyllis Dresser made major contributions in suggesting improvements. The questionnaire was then reworked by the F.I.T. coordinator and presented to the LESC for its approval at the October 1979 meeting.

LESC members considered two questions as premature and recommended that they be dropped from the questionnaire. The first asked citizen opinion on the degree of consolidation they would prefer in their law enforcement agencies, with options including the status quo, consolidation of specified services, consolidation of law

enforcement agencies in North, Central and South Brevard or total consolidation of all law enforcement under the sheriff's department. The second question concerned their opinion regarding an appointed rather than an elected professional law enforcement officer as sheriff.

Several questions were added. Mr. Douglas L. Cheshire, the State's Attorney for Brevard and Seminole Counties, recommended the addition of questions soliciting citizen opinion on complaint processing and on comparing Brevard County law enforcement with their previous place of residence. Ms. Phyllis Dresser recommended the addition of four questions which would rate people's perceptions of the alcohol and drug problems in Brevard County. These four questions were similar to those asked in a recent Indialantic survey.

After a final coordination with LESC members, outside groups and the Brevard Association of Police Chiefs, the questionnaire was approved by the LESC at the end of October 1979. A copy of the questionnaire that was used is shown in Appendix B, along with instructions for its use.

The Random Digit Dial Technique

Interviewing the respondents by telephone rather than through the mails or by personal interviews was used because it is less costly and faster. A scientifically designed sample, which insured that a part of the people would adequately represent all of the people, was used in the project. A random sample based upon equal opportunity for all households to be represented was considered to be the most valid approach.

The first step was to identify all the valid three-digit exchanges in Brevard County. This information was obtained from Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, along with the

geographical area and the number of telephones in each area. This information is shown in Table 1. As can be seen in Table 1, the telephone numbers for the government reservations at Kennedy Space Center and Patrick Air Force Base were not used in the survey.

The next step was to select 5000 numbers at random from the 92,904 county telephones in such a way as to assure representative coverage from each area. For instance, 5.5 percent of the 14000 Cocoa telephone exchange means that 770 telephone numbers should be selected. (The figure of 5.5 percent was used because 5.5 percent of the approximately 93,000 telephone numbers will provide 5015 telephone numbers or about the number which was decided upon). The 770 numbers were then distributed among the three exchanges proportionate to the total amount of numbers in each exchange.

The telephone numbers were actually selected from the right hand column of the four columns on each page in the telephone book. In order to make sure that only households were contacted, all business telephone numbers were passed over, as were telephone numbers identified as belonging to attorneys, doctors, dentists and other professional and business people. Only enough telephone numbers were selected from each page of the phone book so that complete alphabetic coverage was achieved for each telephone exchange.

The 5000 plus telephone numbers thus selected were divided up and passed out to the volunteer interviewers in each geographic area. In this way, all of the telephone calls were local calls and could be made from the home or office without charge.

Advantages of Random Digit Dialing

Previous surveys which have used this technique have found random digit dialing to be both efficient and accurate as a method of obtaining data. While completion rates of 70 percent are sometimes

TABLE 1. BREVARD COUNTY TELEPHONE HOOKUPS*

(Showing geographical area and number of telephones)

AREA	EXCHANGE		NUMBER
TITUSVILLE	267		13976
	268		
	269		
KENNEDY SPACE CENTER	863	Gov't	Not used
	867		
	853		
COCOA	631		14005
	632		
	636		
MERRITT ISLAND	452		10965
	453		
COCOA BEACH	783		8789
	784		
PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE.	494	Gov't	Not used
EAU GALLIE	254		11244
	259		
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	773		10077
	777		
MELBOURNE	723		20848
	724		
	725		
	727		
	729		
SEBASTIAN (Indian River Co. not used)	571		3000
	589		
TOTAL			92904

*(PROVIDED BY SOUTHERN BELL, November 1979)

obtained with mailed questionnaires, this method will achieve the completion objectives if enough telephone calls are made. The costs for telephone interviewing are only a fraction of the costs of mailed questionnaires or personal house-to-house interviewing.

There is one disadvantage to random digit dialing. It cannot reach households without telephones, which is estimated at 3 to 5 percent in Brevard County. However there are two important advantages: the identity of the households remain completely anonymous and random sampling of all possible households is possible.

The Interviewing Process

Before interviewing was started by the volunteers, the Chairman of the LESC arranged for publicity so that the respondents would be more receptive and responsive in participating and answering the questions on the survey. Articles appeared in the TODAY newspaper, THE TIMES of South Brevard, and THE TRIBUNE of Central Brevard. Because of this publicity and the persuasiveness of the interviewers, only one respondent questioned the legitimacy of the survey and called the telephone number provided for that purpose, reported Dixie Sansom, Executive Director to the Brevard Local Government Study Commission.

The telephone interviews were grouped into the three geographical areas of Brevard - North, Central and South - so that toll calls would not be necessary. The executive directors of the four area Chambers of Commerce were asked for volunteers; all offered their support. Dr. Perkins A. Marquess, Provost of the Brevard Community College (BCC), which has campuses in North, Central and South Brevard County, was briefed on the project and provided names of law enforcement professors who might want to participate in the project. Dr. Carolyn "Pat" Jones, Professor Earl Rouselle and Professor Russ Calamia, whose students participated in the telephone interviewing, were very

cooperative during the course of the study.

The questionnaire was tested on a small sample of respondents by Jeanne Rentmeester to determine the best method for conducting the interview and to find out what problem areas might exist. Based on the results, she developed a suggested calling procedure (see Appendix B), which was furnished to the interviewers when they were briefed on the survey. Using this procedure, it was possible to conduct the average interview in 4 to 6 minutes, although quite a few of the respondents, finding a forum for their views on law enforcement, stretched the interview to many times its normal length.

The telephoners were advised not to call a telephone number more than three times, if there was no response. Many of the telephoning attempts resulted in no answer, or a disconnected number or, in some cases an outright refusal to grant an interview. An analysis of 629 telephoning attempts was made; it revealed that there were 173 successful interviews for a success rate of 27.5 percent, 73 disconnects for 11.6 percent and 52 refusals for 8.3%. Based on this data, it was expected that 5000 telephoning attempts would produce 1375 successful interviews. Because not that many were required, it was decided to terminate the data-gathering phase by December 1, 1979.

CHAPTER THREE

THE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Interviews by Areas

Brevard County has been designated a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

for data uniformity among government agencies and between these agencies and the public to include industry and state and local governments. Criteria for SMSA designation, which is established by the National Bureau of Standards, include groupings of entire state populations into one of five Community Types. Brevard County is classified in the SUB-URBAN COMMUNITY TYPE, which is composed of municipalities under 50,000 and unincorporated jurisdictions. For purposes of analysis and comparison, Brevard County can be measured against other Community Type SMSAs within State and Nation and also can be analyzed by data groupings in the incorporated and unincorporated areas. In this survey, data will be arranged into three groupings: for the entire county, for the unincorporated area and for the incorporated areas. The total number of responses in Brevard County was 1040, with 568 coming from city residents and 472 from residents in the unincorporated areas. However, the responses used in Chapters Three and Four total 1012, due to the December 1st. deadline for presentation to the Law Enforcement Subcommittee. Late responses are used in Chapter Five, which gives results for the cities.

The population distribution within Brevard County for 1978 is shown in TABLE 2. As shown in the table, about 60% of the Brevard County population live in the incorporated areas and 40% in the unincorporated area. Results from this survey project are made up of 54 percent of the responses from the cities and 46 percent from the unincorporated area which is serviced by the Sheriff's Department. Cape Canaveral is included with the cities, even though it contracts for law enforcement services with the county, because the survey endeavors to identify city and non-city differences in attitudes toward law enforcement.

The public opinion survey starts with a question asking the respondents how long they have lived where they are living now. The results within the three statistical areas are shown in TABLE 3. The respondents' experiences with crime, as well as their perceptions,

TABLE 2. 1978 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION*
(Based on electrical hookups)

COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT	AREA	POPULATION
District 1	Titusville	32795
	Unincorporated	<u>10266</u>
		43061
District 2	Cocoa Beach	12021
	Cape Canaveral	5398
	Unincorporated	<u>39866</u>
		57285
District 3	Palm Bay	13135
	Malabar	1034
	Indianlantic	2903
	Melbourne Beach	2840
	West Melbourne	4960
	Melbourne Village	661
	Melbourne (a) Unincorporated (b)	33662
	<u>59195</u>	
District 4	Cocoa	17021
	Rockledge	11155
	Unincorporated	<u>15938</u>
		44114
District 5	Satellite Beach	8683
	Indian Harbour Beach	6701
	Palm Shores	99
	Melbourne (a) Unincorporated (b)	41359
	<u>56842</u>	
BREVARD COUNTY TOTAL		<u>260497</u>

a. Melbourne 44580

b. Uninc. Dist. 3 & 5 34271

*(Provided by GEORGE DORE, OCTOBER 1979)
(Brevard County Planning Division)

TABLE 3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED WHERE YOU ARE LIVING NOW?

	BREVARD COUNTY		UNINCORPORATED AREAS		CITIES	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 6 months	54	5.3	25	5.3	29	5.4
6 months to 1 yr.	116	11.5	49	10.4	67	12.4
1 to 3 years	253	25.0	121	25.6	132	24.4
3 to 10 years	311	30.7	133	28.2	178	33.0
Over 10 years	266	26.3	139	29.4	127	23.5
Others	12	1.2	5	1.1	7	1.3
TOTAL	1012	100 %	472	100 %	540	100 %

(NOTE: The numbers will not add up in many of these tables because of statistical errors in transferring data or because the respondent may not have answered some of the questions or included two categories (such as both adult and juvenile instead of one or the other in answer to "who commits the most crimes").

attitudes and fears relating to crime are often related to how long they have lived in the area and how familiar they are with their particular community.

The data in TABLE 3 is roughly parallel to the population figures published during the last ten years for Brevard County. In addition, it reflects the changing of domicile by residents within the county. It is interesting to note that over three-fourths of the residents have lived less than ten years where they are living now; and this is the period after the hey-day of the space program. The other one-fourth moved in before or during the period when Brevard was known as the fastest growing county in the nation.

According to this table, the cities are growing only slightly faster than the unincorporated area.

Of interest is respondents' perception of increase or decrease of crime in their area. TABLE 4 shows that almost half of the people who were contacted believe that crime has remained the same in their area. About one-third believe that crime has increased; this is about 10 percent less than the results obtained in the 1977 study conducted in Southern Illinois, and quite a bit less than most recent studies. A larger percentage of respondents in the unincorporated area believe that crime has decreased.

The attitude expressed toward increase of crime as shown in TABLE 4 is generally reflected in obtaining dogs, getting stronger locks, taking more precautions, requesting brighter street lighting and supporting a larger police force. The perception of increase of crime is generally associated with respondents who are women, older, and often living by themselves. This survey did not identify respondents by sex, race, income, education, etc., but the interviewers believe that a majority of the respondents were retired individuals.

TABLE 4. DO YOU THINK THAT CRIME IN YOUR AREA HAS INCREASED OR DECREASED?

	BREVARD COUNTY		UNINCORPORATED AREAS		CITIES	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Increased	332	32.8	148	31.4	184	34.1
Decreased	91	9.0	56	11.9	35	6.5
Remained the same	439	43.4	195	41.3	244	45.2
Don't know	119	11.8	62	13.1	57	10.5
No Answer	31	3.0	11	2.3	20	3.7
TOTAL	1012	100 %	472	100 %	540	100 %

When respondents were asked whether juveniles or adults committed most of the crime in their area, the overwhelming majority saw juveniles as the principal group committing crimes. Quite a few of the respondents wanted to vote for a category which they called juveniles and young adults up to an age of around 22. When informed that adult age started at 18, many switched to the DON'T KNOW category. The results of the poll on who commits most of the crime in the area are contained in TABLE 5.

This percentage of people who believe that juveniles commit most of the crime is considerably above findings of other studies. One reason may be due to the fact that there was no category for BOTH ADULTS AND JUVENILES. The belief that juveniles commit most of the crime is generally associated with respondents who are older, less educated, lower income persons and living in a town; however this description doesn't fit the typical Brevard resident, many of whom are professional people or retirees with the means to retire in Florida. The data would seem to support the conclusion that there is a rising juvenile crime rate in Brevard County.

In TABLE 6, the data shows that over three-fourths of the respondents believe that their area is a very safe or reasonably safe place to live. Very few people believe that their area is an unsafe place to live.

Attitudes About Crime and Social Problems

TABLES 6 and 7 give us some information on the "fear of crime;" they tell us that the people feel safe and believe that they are not likely to be victims of crime. Although 93 percent of the people say that they live in a safe area (TABLE 6), about 25 percent feel that they are likely to be attacked, robbed, or have something stolen (TABLE 7).

TABLE 5. WHO COMMITS MOST OF THE CRIME IN YOUR AREA?

	BREVARD COUNTY		UNINCORPORATED AREA		CITIES	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
JUVENILES	624	61.7	295	62.5	329	60.9
ADULTS	140	13.8	70	14.8	70	13.0
Don't know:	217	21.4	94	19.9	123	22.8
No Answer	31	3.1	13	2.8	18	3.3
TOTAL	1012	100 %	472	100 %	540	100 %

TABLE 6. DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR AREA IS A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE?

	BREVARD COUNTY		UNINCORPORATED AREA		CITIES	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very safe	262	25.9	118	25.0	144	26.7
Reasonably safe	512	50.6	237	50.2	275	50.9
Somewhat safe	166	16.4	80	16.9	86	15.9
Unsafe	34	3.4	12	2.6	22	4.1
Very unsafe	2	0.2	2	0.4	0	.0
Don't know and No Answer	36	3.5	23	4.9	13	2.4
TOTAL	1012	100 %	472	100 %	540	100 %

TABLE 7. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR CHANCE OF BEING ATTACKED, ROBBED, OR HAVING SOMETHING STOLEN ARE?

	BREVARD COUNTY		UNINCORPORATED AREA		CITIES	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very likely	96	9.4	47	10.0	49	9.1
Likely	150	14.8	64	13.6	86	15.9
Average	363	35.8	158	33.5	205	38.0
Not so likely	350	34.5	161	34.0	189	35.0
Don't know and No answer	53	5.5	42	8.9	11	2.0
TOTAL	1012	100 %	472	100 %	540	100 %

The information in TABLE 4 shows us that people believe that the amount of crime has remained the same or has increased. These attitudes about crime will be reflected in their actions taken to protect their security.

There were three questions in the survey - 20, 21, and 22 - which dealt with social problems and a fourth question, asking for opinions on main law enforcement problems, also brought responses concerning social problems.

TABLE 8 records the responses to the question asking whether the respondent believes that there is an alcohol-related (drinking) problem within the community. The two largest cities in the county, Melbourne and Titusville, are included in this table to show the perception of this problem in the older and more urbanized areas.

A follow-up question was asked - If the response to the question is yes, what types of problems exist? The greatest problem was perceived to be drinking by juveniles and young adults, with additional comments that alcohol was too easy to obtain and that it was easy to falsify ID cards. Many respondents said that there are too many bars in the county; others cited loud parties and drunken driving.

TABLE 9 is a record of the responses to the question, "Do you believe that a narcotics (drug) problem exists in the community?" Residents of the cities perceive a lesser drug problem than residents of the unincorporated areas. In the urbanized area of Merritt Island, three-fourths of the respondents (the largest percentage in the county) believe that there is a narcotics problem.

Three cities are included in the table, the two largest cities and an ocean-side city, to show the wide variation in how this

TABLE 8. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE IS AN ALCOHOL-RELATED PROBLEM WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY?

	NO %	YES %
BREVARD COUNTY	60.4	39.6
UNINCORPORATED AREA	54.4	45.6
CITIES	65.2	34.8
MELBOURNE	66.0	34.0
TITUSVILLE	72.2	27.8

NOTE: The actual figures are not shown because many people stated that they did not know - a category which was not included on the questionnaire.

TABLE 9. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT A NARCOTICS (DRUG) PROBLEM EXISTS IN THE COMMUNITY?

	NO %	YES %
BREVARD COUNTY	38.8	61.2
UNINCORPORATED AREAS	37.2	62.8
CITIES	39.9	60.1
MELBOURNE	40.0	60.0
TITUSVILLE	61.0	39.0
COCOA BEACH	32.9	67.1

problem is perceived by the residents.

Another question was asked - if you believe there is a drug-problem, what types of drugs are most prevalent? About 85 percent of those responding answered marijuana. A small number of the respondents said that they saw nothing wrong with smoking pot and the law that makes possession of marijuana illegal should be revoked. A few respondents in beachside communities deplored the smoking of marijuana and under 10 percent of those, who believed that there was a drug problem, talked about a variety of cocaine, pills, speed, etc.

Attitudes About Law Enforcement in Brevard County

There were 863 responses to the question which asked - What do you think are the main law enforcement problems in your area? Some of these were multiple responses from one respondent; about 70 to 75 percent of those questioned cited one or more problems. If this questionnaire were to be used again, it would be wise to put this particular question at the very end because the responses toward the close of the interview were more thoughtful and well considered.

Over one-fourth of those questioned believed that more police were needed and particularly more police should be visible to the public in patrol cars. There were several elaborations on this point; patrol routes could be planned to achieve greater police visibility; there should be more patrols on the beaches; and there should be more night patrols. Foot patrols were recommended for the beach area by some beachside residents and patrols of back roads were recommended by residents of rural areas.

Shortage of police officers was mentioned most often by residents of the unincorporated area and particularly in the Merritt Island area. It was brought up less often by city residents, except

for Melbourne where almost one-half of the respondents wanted more police on patrol.

The main law enforcement problems, as perceived by the respondents, are shown in TABLE 10. Because of the great variety of subjects brought up, the problems are grouped under general headings. Thus, under the heading of vandalism, we listed such responses as breaking windows, smashing mail boxes, driving over lawns and flower beds, removing signs, damaging fruit trees, etc.

Vandalism was mentioned second most often as a local law enforcement problem. Sometimes it was referred to as juvenile vandalism in which case we listed it as a juvenile-related crime problem.

Speeding was mentioned most often as the major traffic problem; the majority of these responses came from the area along Highway A1A, which runs parallel to the Atlantic Ocean. Other problems in this category were traffic violations, boats speeding on the canals, and lack of police supervision over traffic.

Juvenile related problems, brought up about 8 percent of the time, ranked rather low when it is remembered that about 62 percent of the Brevard County people believe that juveniles commit most of the crime (see TABLE 5). Most of these respondents lamented the lack of parental supervision, others urged a juvenile curfew while still others blamed juvenile problems on the educational process.

Drug related problems ranked fifth in the number of times mentioned. Drug pushers were given a lot of the blame. The high cost of drugs was blamed for a lot of the crime associated with drug use.

Slow response time complaints made up one-fourth of the

TABLE 10. WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS IN YOUR AREA?

TYPE OF PROBLEM	RESPONSES	
	#	%
Not Enough Police Officers	225	26.1
Vandalism	90	10.4
Traffic Problems	79	9.2
Juvenile Related	67	7.8
Drug Related	56	6.5
Police Inefficiency	53	6.1
Burglary	52	6.0
Court Related	45	5.2
Alcohol Related	41	4.8
Sheriff Related	37	4.3
Police/Community Relations	17	2.0
Lack of Funding for Law Enforcement	15	1.6
Miscellaneous	<u>86</u>	<u>10.0</u>
	863	100%

responses contained in the police inefficiency category; it appeared that most of these came from the rural section of the unincorporated area. Other responses, in order of times mentioned, cited the need of better-motivated higher-quality law-enforcement personnel, conscientious enforcement of the law, and the problem of police harassment.

Burglaries and break-ins caused quite a few comments. Court related responses included the statements that judges were too lenient, the judicial process took too long, the law tied the hands of law enforcement officials. Alcohol related problems included complaints about people driving while intoxicated, noisy parties, rowdyism, too many bars (Merritt Island and ocean-side cities), falsification of juvenile identification cards and felonies committed while intoxicated.

The comparatively large number of complaints about the Sheriff's Department must have been influenced by publicity regarding campaign finance irregularities, the suspension of the Sheriff from office temporarily, the friction caused by hiring and firing of personnel, etc. Responses included comments about eliminating the spoils system, poor leadership, corruption, eliminating politics from law enforcement, confusion and other remarks of a similar nature. There were 3 responses that advised people to work at solving crime problems rather than investigating the Sheriff.

Crime prevention, in the form of better police/community relations, was mentioned 17 times. There were 15 respondents who suggested that more money should be provided in law enforcement budgets, even if taxes have to be increased. Other responses, listed by the number of responses, were noisy motorcycles, better street lighting, need for consolidation of police departments, nuisances created by unleashed dogs, transients on the beach, nudity on the beach, confused house numbering, fear of retaliation by the law-breaker, domestic fights, need for Sheriff's Deputy in West Melbourne and Iranians attending local schools. The fear of retaliation comment was provided

by people who had called the police to report an incident; the person(s) reported upon had been given the name of the informer by the police answering the call and had retaliated. As a result, these respondents stated that they would no longer call the police for fear of further retaliation.

In a separate question, respondents were asked - What kind of job do you think your local law enforcement is doing? The results are shown in TABLE 11. Residents of cities appear to have more confidence in their law enforcement agencies than do residents of unincorporated areas.

One question was - If you had to call the police, which agency would you call? (e.g., which law enforcement agency, sheriff, police, etc.). At the request of law enforcement officers attending the October 1979 LESC meeting, the question was expanded to find out what city they lived in or if they lived in an unincorporated area.

Even with this extra question, the interviewers found that many respondents didn't know which law enforcement agency to call - between 5 and 15 percent were either wrong or didn't know, depending on the area that they lived in. Some respondents would call the State Troopers, the (non-existent) Merritt Island Police Department, 911 (in areas where it's not operational) or, in a few cases, they insisted that they would solve the problem themselves rather than call the police. Some of the interviewers provided the telephone number of the respondent's law enforcement agency, and advised them to keep it by their telephone.

The tenth question in the survey asked - What was the quality of law enforcement in your last place of residence? The responses are tabulated in TABLE 12. Many of the respondents stated that the question did not apply to them because they lived previously either in a foreign country, on a military base or in an area not

TABLE 11. WHAT KIND OF JOB DO YOU THINK YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IS DOING?

	BREVARD COUNTY		UNINCORPORATED AREA		CITIES	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very Good	207	20.5	83	17.7	114	21
Good	290	28.8	122	26.0	168	31
Average	381	37.8	196	41.8	185	34.3
Poor	61	6.0	24	5.1	37	6.9
Very Poor	3	0.3	0	0.0	3	0.6
Don't Know and No Answer	111	6.6	44	9.4	33	6.2
TOTAL	1009	100 %	469	100 %	540	100 %

TABLE 12. WHAT WAS THE QUALITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN YOUR LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE?

	BREVARD COUNTY		UNINCORPORATED AREA		CITIES	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very Good	245	24.2	93	19.7	152	28.1
Good	267	26.4	121	25.6	146	27.0
Average	314	31.0	159	33.9	155	28.7
Poor	49	4.8	12	2.5	37	6.9
Very Poor	22	2.2	12	2.5	10	1.9
Not Applicable	115	11.4	75	15.8	40	7.4
TOTAL	1012	100 %	472	100 %	540	100 %

serviced by a local law enforcement agency.

The question which followed asked - How does law enforcement in Brevard County compare with your last place of residence? The answers to this question can be found in TABLE 13. When the contents of TABLE 12 and TABLE 13 are considered together, it is possible to compare the quality of law enforcement in Brevard County with other parts of the country. By using the rough correlation provided by the length of time that they have lived in Brevard County (see TABLE 3), it is possible to factor out the effect of the rising crime rate. Again, there were many "not applicable" responses in TABLE 13 for the same reasons given for TABLE 12. For some reason which the interviewers could not understand, 39 respondents would not provide any answer to this question, or the interviewers may not have clarified the difference between this question and the previous question. Many respondents moved within the county, or from a military base or foreign country, and felt it was unfair to even make a comparison.

Respondents were given another opportunity to express their attitude toward law enforcement in Brevard County, this time in regard to a question on a social problem - Do you believe that your law enforcement agency is working to control the drug problem? The responses in TABLE 14 show the support and sympathy of the citizenry for the law enforcement effort to control a difficult problem. The respondents who answered no to this question were asked - If "no", what measures do you feel should be taken? There were a few answers, such as: try to catch people smoking marijuana, initiate drug prevention and education programs, have more beach patrols and impose stricter punishment on pushers.

Attitudes Toward Criminal Justice System

How the respondents perceived their criminal justice system

TABLE 13. HOW DOES LAW ENFORCEMENT IN BREVARD COUNTY COMPARE WITH YOUR LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE?

	BREVARD COUNTY		UNINCORPORATED AREA		CITIES	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Much Better	63	6.5	21	4.6	42	8.2
Better	151	15.5	90	19.6	61	11.9
About the same	450	46.2	191	41.4	259	50.6
Not as Good	141	14.4	61	13.2	80	15.6
Not Applicable	168	17.4	98	21.2	70	13.7
TOTAL	973	100 %	461	100 %	512	100 %

TABLE 14. DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IS WORKING TO CONTROL THE DRUG PROBLEM?

	BREVARD COUNTY		UNINCORPORATED AREA		CITIES	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
No	103	10.2	30	6.4	73	13.5
Yes	740	73.1	360	76.3	380	70.4
Don't Know*	109	9.8	22	4.6	87	16.1
No Answer	60	6.9	60	12.6	0	0.0
TOTAL	1012	100 %	472	100 %	540	100 %

* This category was not asked by the interviewer but many respondents gave this answer.

was revealed in their answers in TABLE 10 and in response to the question - Have you had occasion to file a complaint? TABLE 15 shows the percentage of people filing criminal, civil, and domestic complaints in Brevard. A follow-up question asked whether the complaint was processed satisfactorily. Some of the interviewers believe that this question was answered in the negative sometimes because of the results rather than because of the processing.

Attitudes expressed toward the criminal justice system were that the system is too lenient, too slow, and too inefficient. There was some feeling that the law ties the hands of law enforcement officers and that there is a lack of cooperation between police, prosecutors and judges. A few respondents stated that the system worked better before the municipal court system was abolished. Many believe that laws favor criminals.

CHAPTER FOUR

CRIME REPORTING IN BREVARD COUNTY

Victimization Survey

There were two questions put to the household head to discover if anyone living in the home had been beat up, attacked or threatened within the past six months. The answers to these questions are shown in TABLES 16 and 17. There was no attempt to categorize crimes according to the classification system and listing of uniform crime rate offenses. The responses show that only about one-half of this type of crime is reported to a law enforcement agency. There is

TABLE 15. HAVE YOU HAD OCCASION TO FILE A (WRITTEN) COMPLAINT?

	BREVARD COUNTY	UNINCORPORATED AREA	CITIES
NO	811	371	440
CRIMINAL	117	49	68
CIVIL	49	28	21
DOMESTIC	33	19	14
<u>TOTAL COMPLAINTS</u>	199	96	103

WAS THE COMPLAINT PROCESSED SATISFACTORILY?

	#	%	#	%	#	%
No	58	29.1	26	27.1	32	31.1
Yes	116	58.3	58	60.0	58	56.3
No Answer	25	12.6	12	12.9	13	12.6
TOTAL	199	100 %	96	100 %	103	100 %

TABLE 16. IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, DID ANYONE ROB YOU BY USING FORCE, BEAT YOU UP, ATTACK YOU, OR SAY THEY WERE GOING TO ATTACK YOU OR BEAT YOU UP?

	BREVARD COUNTY	UNINCORPORATED AREA	CITIES
No	936	407	529
Yes	17	10	7
No Answer	39	35	4
Reported	9	7	2
Not Reported	8	3	5

TABLE 17. IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, WAS ANY MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY WHO IS LIVING WITH YOU, ROBBED, BEAT UP, ATTACKED OR THREATENED?

	BREVARD COUNTY	UNINCORPORATED AREA	CITIES
No	939	421	518
Yes	33	21	12
No Answer	39	29	10
Reported	17	12	5
Not Reported	16	9	7

TABLE 18. IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, DID ANYONE STEAL ANYTHING THAT BELONGED TO YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER FROM INSIDE YOUR HOME OR VEHICLE?

	BREVARD COUNTY	UNINCORPORATED AREA	CITIES
No	859	397	462
Yes	91	41	50
No Answer	42	32	10
Reported	41	19	22
Not Reported	51	29	22

TABLE 19. IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, DID ANYONE BREAK INTO OR SOMEHOW ILLEGALLY GET INTO YOUR HOUSE OR GARAGE OR ANOTHER BUILDING ON YOUR PROPERTY?

	BREVARD COUNTY	UNINCORPORATED AREA	CITIES
No	922	416	506
Yes	48	25	23
No Answer	37	27	10
Reported	26	15	11
Not Reported	30	17	13

also a reluctance to discuss this type of crime with a telephone interviewer, as is evidenced by the large number of "No Answer" responses.

TABLES 18 and 19 contain the responses to questions about thefts from inside the home or vehicle and about anyone breaking and entering. For some unexplained reason, some of the interviewers recorded no responses to some of the questions in this part of the survey. However, a trend toward less reporting of crime becomes evident as crimes become less serious. About one-third of the crime referred to in these tables is reported; the respondents mentioned a wide variety of crime from stolen cars and boats to gasoline, garden tools, lawn furniture and the like. Many respondents said apologetically, that it was their own fault that their property was stolen because they hadn't locked it up.

The last two questions in this series concerns theft from mailboxes and how often the citizens have occasion to call the police. Results are shown in TABLES 22 and 23. A frequent response to the question - In the last six months, has anything been stolen from your mailbox? - was, "How would I know?" For this reason, some refused to answer the question. Most of the respondents in the cities reported the mail theft to the authorities; others contacted the sender to replace lost checks, bills, etc.

Residents of Brevard County are not reluctant to call their law enforcement agency. The responses showed that 13.6 percent contacted the police during the six-month period. The most frequent reason for calling was loud noises, ranging from loud neighbors to noisy motorcycles. Second to loud noises was the reporting of prowlers or suspicious activities, followed by reporting of vandals and vandalism. Mentioned next most often were reports concerning vehicles, such as accidents, speeders and tampering with vehicles.

TABLE 20. IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, OTHER THAN THE INCIDENTS I JUST MENTIONED, DID YOU FIND ANY SIGNS OF AN ATTEMPTED BREAKIN OR VANDALISM?

	BREVARD COUNTY	UNINCORPORATED AREA	CITIES
No	901	428	473
Yes	86	35	51
No Answer	17	6	11
Reported	32	10	22
Not Reported	55	25	30

TABLE 21. IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, WAS ANYTHING STOLEN FROM OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE, SUCH AS CAR, BICYCLE, ETC.

	BREVARD COUNTY	UNINCORPORATED AREA	CITIES
No	836	397	439
Yes	147	64	83
No Answer	22	8	14
Reported	51	23	28
Not Reported	96	41	55

TABLE 22. IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, HAS ANYTHING BEEN STOLEN FROM YOUR MAILBOX?

	BREVARD COUNTY	UNINCORPORATED AREA	CITIES
No	964	457	507
Yes	29	11	18
No Answer	19	4	15
Reported	16	3	13
Not Reported	13	8	5

TABLE 23. IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS, DID YOU HAVE THE OCCASION TO CALL THE POLICE FOR ANY OTHER TYPE OF INCIDENT?

	BREVARD COUNTY	UNINCORPORATED AREA	CITIES
No	854	402	452
Yes	137	65	72
No Answer	21	5	16
TOTAL	1012	472	540

Reported v. Actual Crime in Brevard County

Of the 1040 households in Brevard County participating in this survey, about 179 said that 454 criminal incidents occurred within or around their domicile during a six month period. The respondents said that they reported 174, or 39.1 per cent of these criminal incidents to their law enforcement agency. The more serious the crime, the more often it was reported. For the more serious crimes against members of the household, as shown in TABLES 16 and 17, 26 out of 50 crimes were reported, or slightly over 50 per cent. In TABLE 21, which reports a less serious offense only 51 of 147 criminal incidents, or 34.7 per cent, were reported. See APPENDIX C for actual v. reported crime within individual cities.

Interviewers reported that many of the victims said that they did not call the police because "nothing could be done" or it was their own fault for leaving their property unguarded. There were a few who did not report the crime for fear of retaliation. They complained that the police told the suspect their name; the suspect then intimidated them.

CHAPTER FIVE

PUBLIC OPINION WITHIN THE CITIES

Introduction

The telephone numbers, which were picked at random from the Brevard County telephone books, included a proportionate number from the cities in the county. Because the cities contain smaller populations, the sampling becomes more sensitive to error as the population to be sampled gets smaller. This is particularly applicable when statistical

determinations are desired e.g., the actual versus reported crime. A statistical analysis shows an acceptable confidence level for Melbourne and Titusville; however the sampling rate for the smaller cities allows too great a variation in results. Therefore the tables which compare the reported and unreported crime within the cities will not be included in this chapter. Instead, they are added as Appendix C for the benefit of those who are interested in the results, or who wish to use them as the basis for a more complete sampling of respondents in a particular city.

The number of responses from each city and the 1978 population of each city is shown in TABLE 24. Cape Canaveral is included, because it is a city which contracts with the Sheriff's Department for its law enforcement services and thus provides citizens' attitudes toward this type of arrangement.

In the design of this survey, the sample size for the unincorporated area and for the cities taken as a whole was based on an expected confidence in the results to within ± 6 percent. The sample size for each city was based on a probability of 0.10 that the estimate of the population favoring a certain attitude on each question differs by more than ten percentage points from the true proportion. In other words, the results of the public opinion part of this survey should be accurate to ± 10 percent.

The total responses from Brevard County are also shown in each of the tables in this chapter which summarize the responses within the cities to questions in the survey. The Brevard County response furnishes a useful basis for comparison when an evaluation is made of public opinion within a particular city. It should be noted that the responses used here for Brevard County total 1040; there were 28 late responses added to the 1012 used in the first part of this survey.

TABLE 24. BREVARD COUNTY CITIES WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
(Shows population and number of telephone responses)

	POPULATION	NO. OF RESPONSES
1. Melbourne	44580	100
2. Titusville	32795	97
3. Cocoa	17021	41
4. Palm Bay	13135	46
5. Cocoa Beach	12021	83
6. Rockledge	11155	28
7. Satellite Beach	8683	69
8. Indian Harbour Beach	6701	27
9. Cape Canaveral*	5398	42
10. Indialantic	2903	36
11. Melbourne Beach	2840	22
 BREVARD COUNTY	 260497	 1040

* Cape Canaveral is included, although it has no police department but contracts for law enforcement services with the Sheriff's Department.

Attitudes About Law Enforcement in the Cities

TABLE 25 summarizes the responses to the first question asked on the survey - How long have you lived where you are living now? The results show the combined effects of population growth, the mobility of Brevard County households and the annexation of adjacent areas by the cities. In contrast to many areas in the Nation, Brevard County communities contain many citizens who have not had a chance to build up a long-standing relationship with their law enforcement agency.

The next question asked - Within the past year or two, do you think that crime in your area has increased or decreased? The results are shown in TABLE 26. Some cities with low crime rates may show a higher percentage of people who believe that crime is increasing; this is natural because crime increases at a relatively higher rate in low crime areas than in high crime areas. Citizens who believe that crime is increasing will normally support higher budgets for law enforcement and will take other protective measures to increase their personal security.

The responses to - Who commits most of the crime in your area? - are tabulated in TABLE 27. The reason, according to the interviewers, for the relatively high numbers in the ADULT category for Cocoa Beach, Indialantic and Melbourne Beach, is that respondents believed that young adults were responsible for a lot of crime in the beach area. Residents of the cities blame juveniles for the crime rate more often than other county residents. Respondents of the two largest cities, however, were slightly below the average County respondent in assessing blame to juveniles. This may be because of a greater pre-occupation with industrial crime in the cities and the attraction of the beaches area for the young people.

In TABLE 28 can be found the responses to the question -

TABLE 25. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED WHERE YOU ARE LIVING NOW?

	Under 6 Months	6 Months to 1 Year	1 to 3 Years	3 to 10 Years	Over 10 Years	Others
MELBOURNE	7.0	20.0	28.0	29.0	26.0	-
TITUSVILLE	2.3	9.3	16.3	47.7	19.8	4.6
COCOA	-	9.8	22.0	41.5	22.7	-
PALM BAY	4.3	6.6	17.4	34.8	36.9	-
COCOA BEACH	3.6	19.3	22.9	41.0	13.2	-
ROCKLEDGE	3.6	7.1	28.6	50.0	10.7	-
SATELLITE BEACH	7.5	10.4	26.9	31.5	23.9	-
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	7.4	-	40.7	25.9	26.0	-
CAPE CANAVERAL	9.5	14.3	7.1	33.3	31.0	4.8
INDIALANTIC	2.8	11.1	50.0	25.0	8.3	2.8
MELBOURNE BEACH	13.6	4.6	22.7	22.7	36.4	-
BREVARD COUNTY	5.3	11.5	25.0	30.7	26.3	1.2

TABLE 26. WITHIN THE PAST YEAR OR TWO, DO YOU THINK THAT CRIME IN YOUR AREA HAS INCREASED OR DECREASED?

	In- creased	De- creased	Re- mained the Same	Don't Know	No Answer
MELBOURNE	20.0	4.0	57.0	15.0	4.0
TITUSVILLE	40.2	6.2	38.1	9.3	6.2
COCOA	36.6	12.2	36.6	14.6	-
PALM BAY	43.5	15.2	32.6	8.7	-
COCOA BEACH	41.0	3.6	43.4	9.6	2.4
ROCKLEDGE	50.0	7.1	35.7	7.2	-
SATELLITE BEACH	15.9	10.2	59.4	14.5	-
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	25.9	7.4	59.3	7.4	-
CAPE CANAVERAL	31.0	-	42.9	19.0	7.1
INDIALANTIC	58.3	11.1	16.7	11.1	2.8
MELBOURNE BEACH	68.2	4.5	22.7	4.6	-
BREVARD COUNTY	32.8	9.0	43.4	11.8	3.0

TABLE 27. WHO COMMITS MOST OF THE CRIME IN YOUR AREA?

	Juven- iles	Adults	Don't Know	No Answer		
MELBOURNE	60.0	7.0	29.0	4.0		
TITUSVILLE	57.3	14.6	28.1	-		
COCOA	78.0	14.6	7.4	-		
PALM BAY	63.0	4.3	32.7	-		
COCOA BEACH	41.2	34.1	20.0	4.7		
ROCKLEDGE	78.6	10.7	2.7	-		
SATELLITE BEACH	84.1	2.9	13.0	-		
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	80.0	12.0	8.0	-		
CAPE CANAVERAL	47.6	7.1	19.0	26.3		
INDIALANTIC	61.1	22.2	16.7	-		
MELBOURNE BEACH	40.9	22.7	36.4	-		
BREVARD COUNTY	61.7	13.8	21.4	3.1		

TABLE 28. DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR AREA IS A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE?

	Very Safe	Reasonably Safe	Somewhat Safe	Unsafe	Very Unsafe	Others
MELBOURNE	18.0	50.0	25.0	5.0	-	2.0
TITUSVILLE	36.5	55.2	7.3	1.0	-	-
COCOA	17.1	48.8	24.4	2.4	-	7.3
PALM BAY	30.4	54.3	13.0	2.3	-	-
COCOA BEACH	25.6	63.4	8.5	2.5	-	-
ROCKLEDGE	17.9	35.7	35.7	7.1	-	3.6
SATELLITE BEACH	44.9	49.3	2.9	2.9	-	-
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	28.6	60.7	-	10.7	-	-
CAPE CANAVERAL	9.5	33.3	28.6	19.0	-	9.6
INDIALANTIC	11.1	55.6	22.2	5.6	-	5.5
MELBOURNE BEACH	27.3	13.6	36.4	13.6	9.1	-
BREVARD COUNTY	25.9	50.6	16.4	3.4	0.2	3.5

Do you believe your area is a safe place to live? Judging from the responses, almost 93 per cent of Brevard County residents believe that their area is either very safe, reasonably safe or somewhat safe. The safest areas, according to this survey are Titusville, Palm Bay and Cocoa.

Another way to measure how citizens perceive threats to their personal safety is found in their answers to the question - What do you think your chance of being attacked, robbed, or having something stolen are? The answers to this question, found in TABLE 29, show that almost one-fourth of the people in Brevard County believe that it is very likely or likely that they will be attacked, robbed or have something stolen. This feeling persists even though most of them believe that they live in a safe area.

TABLE 30 contains a breakdown on answers to two questions concerning two major social problems in our society - alcohol and drugs. The public perceives these two problems in inverse proportions; about 61 per cent believe that there is no alcohol-related crime problem but that there is a drug-related problem. The majority of people in three cities - Titusville, Cocoa and Rockledge - don't believe that there is either a drug or alcohol-related problem.

TABLE 31 gives a better balanced answer to how people in the city perceive the various threats to their personal security. The question was asked - What do you think are the main law enforcement problems in your area? The column for Brevard County shows the answers, ranked in priority as perceived by County residents. Five of the cities agreed with Brevard County residents that the main problem was the need for more police officers on patrol; almost half of the Melbourne respondents who mentioned law enforcement problems thought that more police officers would provide the solution.

The responses to the question - What kind of job do you

TABLE 29. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR CHANCE OF BEING ATTACKED, ROBBED OR HAVING SOMETHING STOLEN ARE?

	Very Likely	Likely	Aver- age	Not so Likely	Don't Know or no Answer	
MELBOURNE	6.0	9.0	40.0	44.0	1.0	
TITUSVILLE	9.7	25.8	33.3	30.1	1.1	
COCOA	7.3	19.5	29.3	41.5	2.4	
PAIRM BAY	8.7	6.5	34.8	47.8	2.2	
COCOA BEACH	12.0	13.3	39.8	30.1	4.8	
ROCKLEDGE	28.6	17.9	35.7	10.7	7.1	
SATELLITE BEACH	-	10.0	45.7	44.3	-	
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	27.0	7.4	33.3	44.4	-	
CAPE CANAVERAL	11.9	23.8	31.0	21.4	11.9	
INDIALANTIC	8.3	22.2	41.7	22.2	5.6	
MELBOURNE BEACH	27.3	4.5	40.9	27.3	-	
BREVARD COUNTY	9.4	14.8	35.8	34.5	5.5	

TABLE 30. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE IS AN ALCOHOL-RELATED AND/OR DRUG-RELATED PROBLEM WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY?*

	Alcohol-Related		Drug-Related	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
MELBOURNE	66.0	34.0	40.0	60.0
TITUSVILLE	72.2	27.8	61.0	39.0
COCOA	89.7	10.3	61.0	39.0
PALM BAY	53.2	38.3	39.1	60.9
COCOA BEACH	45.1	54.9	32.9	67.1
ROCKLEDGE	79.2	20.8	68.0	32.0
SATELLITE BEACH	59.3	42.4	33.3	66.7
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	51.9	48.1	4.0	96.0
CAPE CANAVERAL	66.7	33.3	47.1	52.9
INDIALANTIC	66.7	33.3	25.0	75.0
MELBOURNE BEACH	31.8	63.6	4.5	95.5
BREVARD COUNTY	60.4	39.6	38.8	61.2

*There were some "don't know" responses which are not shown here.

TABLE 31. WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS IN YOUR AREA?

Type of Problem	Cape Canaveral	Melbourne	Titusville	Cocoa	Palm Bay	Cocoa Beach	Rockledge	Satellite Beach	Indian Harbour Beach	Indianalantic	Melbourne Beach	Brevard County
Not enough Pol. Off'ts.	22.2	41.0	14.5	14.8	9.6	24.7	5.0	20.6	36.4	26.1	-	26.1
Vandalism	5.6	10.0	14.5	8.8	9.6	2.7	20.0	19.0	9.1	17.4	15.8	10.4
Traffic Problems	16.7	3.0	1.6	11.8	19.2	9.6	20.0	15.9	9.1	13.0	31.6	9.2
Juvenile Related	11.1	8.0	3.2	17.6	15.4	2.7	15.0	4.8	-	13.0	10.5	7.8
Drug Related	11.1	1.0	8.1	8.8	9.6	17.8	10.0	6.3	6.1	8.7	26.3	6.5
Police Inefficiency	5.6	8.0	9.7	-	3.8	9.6	10.0	15.9	6.1	-	10.5	6.1
Burglary	11.1	2.0	16.1	8.8	7.7	6.8	10.0	4.8	6.1	13.0	-	6.0
Court Related	-	11.0	11.3	2.9	3.9	13.7	-	3.2	-	4.3	-	5.2
Alcohol Related	16.7	2.0	3.2	8.8	15.4	4.1	10.0	3.2	-	4.3	-	4.8
Sheriff Related	-	8.0	3.2	2.9	3.9	1.4	-	4.8	12.1	-	5.3	4.3
Pol./Comm. Relations	-	1.0	8.1	14.8	1.9	2.8	-	2.5	3.0	-	-	2.0
Lack of Funding	-	3.0	1.6	-	-	4.1	-	-	-	-	-	1.6

think your local law enforcement is doing? - is shown in TABLE 32. The Indian Harbour Beach Police Department scored very high in the responses from that city.

Respondents were asked - What was the quality of law enforcement in your last place of residence? The answers are found in TABLE 33. A follow-up question asked - How does law enforcement in Brevard County compare with your last place of residence? The responses are contained in TABLE 34. Again, there were a lot of answers in the NOT APPLICABLE column because the respondent had moved within the county or had lived previously on a Federal reservation or in a foreign country. Five of the cities were below the County norm in the NOT AS GOOD category; some of the others had very high responses in this column.

The answers to the question - Do you believe your law enforcement agency is working to control the drug problem? - are shown in TABLE 35. Generally, the responses show confidence that local law enforcement agencies are doing their best to combat a difficult social problem.

The last table in this chapter, TABLE 36, has the answers to the question - Have you filed a complaint and was it processed satisfactorily? Because the numbers of complaints are fairly small, these answers only show a general trend in respect to citizen satisfaction (or dissatisfaction) with complaint processing. Generally, about one-third of the respondents in the cities were unhappy with the results of complaint processing, although in Melbourne almost two-thirds were dissatisfied.

In concluding this chapter, it should be mentioned that these tables are concerned with measuring value judgements and public opinion. The results shown here are indications of attitudes and perceptions of heads of households within the cities. They may be of

TABLE 32. WHAT KIND OF JOB DO YOU THINK YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IS DOING?

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know or No Answer
MELBOURNE	15.0	41.0	38.0	2.0	-	4.0
TITUSVILLE	18.1	26.6	37.2	4.3	1.1	12.7
COCOA	9.8	26.8	58.5	2.4	-	2.5
PALM BAY	10.4	45.8	37.5	6.3	-	-
COCOA BEACH	25.3	36.1	36.1	2.4	1.1	-
ROCKLEDGE	17.9	21.4	32.1	21.4	-	7.2
SATELLITE BEACH	36.2	36.2	23.2	-	4.4	-
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	55.6	11.1	18.5	11.1	-	3.7
CAPE CANAVERAL	19.5	22.0	34.1	19.5	-	4.9
INDIALANTIC	13.9	5.6	52.8	22.2	-	5.5
MELBOURNE BEACH	13.5	18.2	45.5	18.2	4.5	-
BREVARD COUNTY	20.5	28.8	37.8	6.0	0.3	6.6

TABLE 33. WHAT WAS THE QUALITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN YOUR LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE?

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Appli- cable
MELBOURNE	30.0	28.0	26.0	9.0	4.0	3.0
TITUSVILLE	30.0	28.9	31.1	6.7	-	3.3
COCOA	7.3	14.6	63.4	4.9	4.9	4.8
PALM BAY	33.3	28.9	28.9	4.5	-	4.4
COCOA BEACH	33.7	25.3	14.5	9.6	3.6	13.3
ROCKLEDGE	7.1	42.9	28.6	3.6	-	17.8
SATELLITE BEACH	38.6	12.9	32.9	7.1	-	8.5
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	48.1	22.2	11.1	11.1	-	7.5
CAPE CANAVERAL	18.6	46.5	30.2	4.7	-	-
INDIALANTIC	19.4	36.1	27.8	5.6	5.6	5.5
MELBOURNE BEACH	27.3	9.1	40.9	18.2	4.5	-
BREVARD COUNTY	24.2	26.4	31.0	4.8	2.2	11.4

TABLE 34. HOW DOES LAW ENFORCEMENT IN BREVARD COUNTY COMPARE WITH YOUR LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE?

	Much Better	Better	About the Same	Not as Good	Not Applicable
MELBOURNE	6.0	8.0	51.0	19.0	16.0
TITUSVILLE	11.1	6.6	63.7	8.8	9.8
COCOA	7.3	12.2	61.0	2.4	17.1
PALM BAY	-	19.1	53.2	17.0	10.7
COCOA BEACH	9.9	11.1	30.9	25.9	22.2
ROCKLEDGE	-	6.9	75.9	10.3	6.9
SATELLITE BEACH	19.1	10.3	42.6	11.8	16.2
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	29.6	14.8	22.2	14.8	18.6
CAPE CANAVERAL	-	31.8	38.6	13.6	16.0
INDIALANTIC	-	11.1	41.7	44.4	2.8
MELBOURNE BEACH	-	13.6	45.5	31.8	9.1
BREVARD COUNTY	6.5	15.5	46.2	14.4	17.4

TABLE 35. DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IS WORKING TO CONTROL THE DRUG PROBLEM?

	No	Yes	Don't Know*	No Answer		
MELBOURNE	22.0	63.0	15.0	-		
TITUSVILLE	7.4	73.7	19.9	-		
COCOA	12.2	65.9	21.9	-		
PALM BAY	10.6	76.6	12.8	-		
COCOA BEACH	17.3	82.7	-	-		
ROCKLEDGE	9.1	22.7	78.2	-		
SATELLITE BEACH	2.9	85.3	11.8	-		
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	2.9	85.3	11.8	-		
CAPE CANAVERAL	16.3	83.7	-	-		
INDIALANTIC	22.2	61.1	16.7	-		
MELBOURNE BEACH	36.4	45.5	18.1	-		
BREVARD COUNTY	10.2	73.1	9.8	6.9		

* Many respondents gave this answer although it was not on the questionnaire.

TABLE 36. HAVE YOU FILED A COMPLAINT AND WAS IT PROCESSED SATISFACTORILY?

	HAVE YOU FILED COMPLAINT? (Number)				WERE THE RESULTS SATISFACTORY? (Per Cent)		
	No	Crim- inal	Civil	Domes- tic	No	Yes	No Answer
MELBOURNE	93	11	2	0	61.5	7.7	31.8
TITUSVILLE	69	18	6	3	28.0	64.0	8.0
COCOA	34	4	3	3	42.9	57.1	-
PALM BAY	43	0	1	3	25.0	75.0	-
COCOA BEACH	62	16	3	1	28.6	71.4	-
ROCKLEDGE	20	2	5	1	50.0	50.0	-
SATELLITE BEACH	60	8	0	2	20.0	80.0	-
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	21	5	1	0	33.3	50.0	16.6
CAPE CANAVERAL	40	3	-	2	60.0	40.0	-
INDIALANTIC	26	4	1	1	66.7	16.7	16.6
MELBOURNE BEACH	20	2	0	0	100.0	0.0	-
BREVARD COUNTY	811	117	49	33	29.1	58.3	12.6

value to law enforcement officials in providing a feedback on how citizens evaluate their performance; however, they should be used only as general indicators of public opinion.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUDING REMARKS

While the data contained in this study represents valuable information on public opinion and victimization rates in Brevard County, it is not the intent of this report to present detailed analyses of crime incidence, trends, problems within the system, etc. The primary purpose of this project is to provide valuable base line data to the group studying Brevard County charter government for their use in planning and implementing criminal justice standards. The data presented in this report is bench mark information that can be used as a tool for effective evaluation.

There are several general statements about the results of this survey that can be made:

- (1) The public opinion survey provides planners with information on how Brevard citizens feel about the quality of law enforcement service, the magnitude of the crime problem, fear of crime, and the relative rank of crime problems in Brevard County.
- (2) Law enforcement problems in the cities and in the unincorporated area are very similar.
- (3) There appears to be a rising juvenile crime rate in the county.

- (4) More Brevard County citizens than not believe that crime is increasing in their area. They would also like to see more law enforcement officers on patrol.
- (5) Almost two-thirds of Brevard citizens believe that there is a drug problem in their community. However, most of them have confidence that their law enforcement agency is working to control it.
- (6) The majority of minor crimes go unreported to law enforcement agencies. Overall, there is a lot of unreported crime.
- (7) About one-third of the complaints handled by the criminal justice system were not processed satisfactorily.
- (8) The victimization study showed that 17.6 per cent of the households in the survey reported a crime incident for a six month period. This victimization rate was higher for the cities than for the unincorporated area.
- (9) Attitudes about law enforcement and law enforcement problems varied widely in the cities, depending upon the size of the law enforcement agency, the location of the city (whether on the beach or mainland, as well as on other factors). Respondents in half of the cities believe that more officers on patrol are needed.
- (10) Most of the respondents believe that law enforcement in Brevard County is slightly better than the quality of law enforcement in their previous place of residence.
- (11) Most Brevard citizens believe that this area is a very safe or reasonably safe place to live.

FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

MELBOURNE, FLORIDA 32901

Center for Government Studies

Dr. J. T. Stoms, Director
Dr. F. R. Searle, Associate Director
Dr. W. W. Saitta, Associate Director

Phone: (305) 723-3701

December 8, 1978

Chairman
Brevard Local Government Study Commission
County Court House
400 South Street
Titusville, Florida 32780

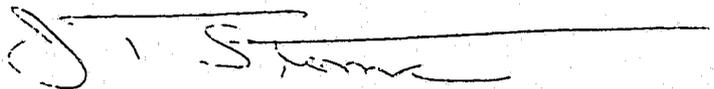
Dear Commissioner:

As a responsible member of the Brevard community, the Florida Institute of Technology may be able to provide support in certain areas of your study of the county's and cities' governmental structures and services. Specifically, graduate students, as part of their course work in the Public Administration program, might conduct analyses in selected areas and present their findings to the Commission. These analyses, if appropriate and scheduled about the university's academic periods, could be done without cost to the Commission.

If more sophisticated studies, requiring computer support and formation of an interdisciplinary team, are needed, the use of our Center for Government Studies is available. However, in that case a cost would be incurred for the work done.

For further information on this subject, please contact Dr. Lester F. Rentmeester, Chairman of our Public Administration graduate program.

Sincerely,



James T. Stoms, D. B. A.
Head, Management Science Dept.

JTS:sm

CC: Dr. L. F. Rentmeester ✓
Dr. F. R. Searle
Dr. W. W. Saitta

APPENDIX A

SUGGESTED CALLING PROCEDURE

(Please put into your own words and write your procedure down so that your conversation will flow naturally).

QUESTIONNAIRE

FOR PROFILE OF CRIME IN BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROJECT

Hello,

Is this _____?
(phone number)

My name is _____. I'm a member of (or a student at) _____, and I'm working on a research project for the Florida Institute of Technology. We're calling about 5000 telephone numbers at random in Brevard County to see how people feel about the law enforcement in their particular area. Would you like to help us by answering some questions? It takes about 4 minutes.

(If the answer is "no", ask if you can call back at another time that is more convenient for them).

(If the answer is "yes", go ahead with the questionnaire. Enter the first phone number that you call under A, the second under B, etc. Where they answer the question, put that letter next to the appropriate answer).

(If there is any hesitancy, assure them that all information will be confidential.....if they have any questions regarding this survey, they can call 636-6920, Extention 142, which is the number of the BREVARD LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION).

QUESTIONNAIRE
for
PROFILE OF CRIME IN BREVARD COUNTY, FLA. PROJECT

Tel. Numbers

A _____	F _____
B _____	G _____
C _____	H _____
D _____	I _____
E _____	J _____

1. How long have you lived where you are living now?
(1) Under 6 months (5) Over 10 years
(2) 6 months to 1 year (6) Don't know
(3) 1 to 3 years (7) No answer
(4) 3 to 10 years

2. Within the past year or two, do you think that crime in your area has:
(1) Increased (4) Don't know
(2) Decreased (5) No answer
(3) Remained the same

3. Among the following people, who do you think commits most of the crime in your area?
(1) Juveniles (3) Don't know
(2) Adults (4) No answer

4. What do you think are the main law enforcement problems in your area? (open-ended)
(a)
(b)
(c)
(d)

5. Do you believe your area is a safe place to live?
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| (1) Very safe | (4) Unsafe |
| (2) Reasonably safe | (5) Very unsafe |
| (3) Somewhat safe | (6) Don't know |
| | (7) No answer |
6. What kind of job do you think your local law enforcement is doing?
- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (1) Very good | (4) Poor |
| (2) Good | (5) Very Poor |
| (3) Average | (6) Don't know |
| | (7) No answer |
7. What do you think your chance of being attacked, robbed, or having something stolen are?
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| (1) Very likely | (4) Not so likely |
| (2) Likely | (5) Don't know |
| (3) Average | (6) No answer |
8. If you had to call the police, which agency would you call?
(e.g., which Law enforcement agency, sheriff, police, etc.)
- _____
- _____

Do you live in a Municipality or unincorporated area?

_____ :

If in a city, which one? _____

9. Have you had occasion to file a complaint?

(1) No

(3) Civil

(2) Criminal

(4) Domestic

Was the complaint processed satisfactorily?

(1) No

(2) Yes

(3) No answer

10. What was the quality of law enforcement in your last place of residence?

(1) Very good

(4) Poor

(2) Good

(5) Very Poor

(3) Average

(6) Not applicable

11. How does law enforcement in Brevard County compare with your last place of residence?

(1) Much better

(4) Not as good

(2) Better

(5) Not applicable

(3) About the same

12. In the last six months, did anyone rob you by using force, beat you up, attack you, or say that they were going to attack you or beat you up?

(1) No

(3) No answer

(2) Yes _____ (Specify) _____

If "yes" was it reported? NO _____ YES _____

13. In the last six months, was any member of your family who is living with you, robbed, beat up, attacked or threatened?

(1) No

(3) No answer

(2) Yes _____ (Specify) _____

If "yes", was it reported? NO _____ YES _____

14. In the last six months, did anyone steal anything that belonged to you or a family member from inside your home or vehicle?

(1) No

(3) No answer

(2) Yes _____ (Specify) _____

If "yes", was it reported? NO _____ YES _____

15. In the last six months did anyone break into or somehow illegally get into your house or apartment or garage, or another building on your property in Brevard County?

(1) No

(3) No answer

(2) Yes _____ (Specify) _____

If "yes", was it reported? NO _____ YES _____

16. In the last six months other than the incidents I just mentioned, did you find any signs of an attempted break-in or vandalism?

(1) No

(3) No answer

(2) Yes _____ (Specify) _____

If "yes", was it reported? NO _____ YES _____

17. In the last six months, was anything at all stolen that is kept outside your house, or happened to be left out, such as your car, a bicycle, a garden hose or lawn furniture, boat, etc.?

(1) No

(3) No answer

(2) Yes _____ (Specify) _____

If "yes", was it reported? NO _____ YES _____

18. In the last six months, has anything been stolen from your mailbox?

(1) No

(3) No answer

(2) Yes _____ (Specify) _____

If "yes", was it reported? NO _____ YES _____

19. In the last six months, did you have the occasion to call police for any other type of incident?

(1) No

(3) No answer

(2) Yes _____ (Specify) _____

20. Do you believe that there is an alcohol-related (drinking) problem within your community?

(1) No

(2) Yes

If "yes", what types of problems exist: _____

21. Do you believe that a narcotics (drug) problem exists in the community?

(1) No

(2) Yes

22. If you believe there is a drug problem, what types of drugs are the most prevalent?

(Specify) _____

23. Do you believe that your law enforcement agency is working to control the drug problem?

(1) No

(2) Yes

If "no", what measures do you feel should be taken: _____

INTERVIEWER'S NAME _____

DATES OF INTERVIEWS _____

TABLE 37. MAJOR CRIME AGAINST HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IN LAST 6 MONTHS

	None	Yes	No Answer	Re-ported	% Not Re-ported
MELBOURNE	99	1	-	-	100.0
TITUSVILLE	95	2	-	1	50.0
COCOA	40	1	-	1	0.0
PALM BAY	47	-	-	-	0.0
COCOA BEACH	78	4	-	3	25.0
ROCKLEDGE	22	3	-	-	100.0
SATELLITE BEACH	66	3	-	1	66.7
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	24	4	-	2	50.0
CAPE CANAVERAL	42	1	-	1	0.0
INDIALANTIC	30	2	4	-	100.0
MELBOURNE BEACH	20	2	-	1	50.0
BREVARD COUNTY	939	50	39	26	52.0

TABLE 38. BURGLARIES AND BREAK-INS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN LAST 6 MONTHS

	None	Yes	No Answer	Re- ported	% Not Re- ported
MELBOURNE	88	12	-	2	83.3
TITUSVILLE	84	18	-	6	66.7
COCOA	39	2	-	1	50.0
PALM BAY	47	-	-	-	0.0
COCOA BEACH	68	25	-	15	40.0
ROCKLEDGE	22	2	4	1	50.0
SATELLITE BEACH	63	8	-	5	37.5
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	24	3	-	2	33.3
CAPE CANAVERAL	39	2	-	-	100.0
INDIALANTIC	30	2	-	1	50.0
MELBOURNE BEACH	20	4	-	1	75.0
BREVARD COUNTY	922	139	42	67	58.3

TABLE 39. ATTEMPTED BREAK-INS, VANDALISM OR THEFTS FROM OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

	None	Yes	No Answer	Re-ported	% Not Re-ported
MELBOURNE	73	38	-	17	55.3
TITUSVILLE	78	21	7	12	57.1
COCOA	34	8	-	2	75.0
PALM BAY	41	9	1	2	77.8
COCOA BEACH	75	13	-	7	46.2
ROCKLEDGE	20	7	1	4	42.9
SATELLITE BEACH	58	9	2	4	44.4
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	21	10	-	5	50.0
CAPE CANAVERAL	30	5	-	-	100.0
INDIALANTIC	22	12	-	6	50.0
MELBOURNE BEACH	18	6	-	1	80.0
BREVARD COUNTY	901	233	22	83	64.8

TABLE 40. NUMBER OF MAILBOX THEFTS AND % NOT REPORTED

TABLE 41. % OF HOUSEHOLDS CALLING THE POLICE FOR OTHER INCIDENTS NOT PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED IN OTHER TABLES

	Number Of Thefts	% Not Re-ported	% of House-holds calling Police
MELBOURNE	3	33.3	19.0
TITUSVILLE	1	-	6.7
COCOA	-	-	9.8
PALM BAY	2	-	21.1
COCOA BEACH	1	-	10.8
ROCKLEDGE	-	-	27.3
SATELLITE BEACH	-	-	16.1
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH	-	-	29.0
CAPE CANAVERAL	1	-	9.5
INDIALANTIC	-	-	16.7
MELBOURNE BEACH	1	100.0	10.0
BREVARD COUNTY	29	50.0	16.0

END