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THE DALLAS COUNTY JURY SYSTEM
1979 ANNUAL REPORT



#### JURY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL JURY ROOM
DALLAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
600 COMMERCE ST.
DALLAS, TX. 75202

CONNY B. DRAKE Director

January 25, 1980

TO:

Dallas County Judges, County Commissioners, and Department Heads

FROM:

Conny B. Drake

SUBJECT: The Dallas County Jury System 1979 Annual Report

This annual report documents the state of Dallas County's jury system during the 1979 calendar year. The year was the best on record in terms of both system efficiency and citizen satisfaction. Sweeping changes to the jury system were inaugurated in January 1977, spearheaded by the adoption of the one-day/one-trial length of service and numerous other system-wide innovations and adjustments aimed at increasing cost efficiency and improving the public's image of jury duty. This major overhaul is now complete, and a positive evaluation of the jury system has emerged, based not only upon impressive statistical data, but also on citizens' appraisal of their jury duty experience.

While this report in part concentrates on trends in juror usage and court activity and analyzes and monitors major indices of jury system efficiency vital to uncovering operational strengths and weaknesses, it does not stop there. It also examines more closely the actual composition of prospective jurors in the daily jury pool. One section of this report entitled "Profile of a Juror" breaks new ground in attempting to paint a picture of Dallas County jurors by offering some insights into their most prevalent characteristics and assessments of various aspects of jury duty. This description of jurors is based on 1561 responses to a questionnaire distributed in the Central Jury Room during October 1979.

During 1979 Dallas County courts held a record high 2,249 jury trials, an unprecedented 16.2% increase from 1978. This required the appearance of 70,554 prospective jurors. Fully 90.3% of all those jurors were needed for jury panels. This utilization rate is the highest ever achieved and compares favorably to last year's 84.9% and 1977's rate of 79.6%. Prior to 1977, it was not uncommon for the utilization rate to hover between 50-65%, thereby fostering extreme dissatisfaction from thousands of jurors whose valuable time was wasted sitting unneeded in the Central Jury Room for up to a week's time.

Even though juror pay was raised from \$5 to \$6 per day in August 1979 and jury trial activity was up 16.2% from the previous year, the total cost of juror fees to the County rose only 12.7% from \$479,454 in 1978 to \$549,379 in 1979. Despite the increase in juror pay, the average cost per juror rose a mere 4.4% from \$7.89 to \$8.25. The average cost per jury trial was \$258.38, a 4.3% decrease from the previous year.

The overall goal of jury management is to provide the court system with a sufficient number of qualified jurors at the lowest possible cost to the County while respecting the value of citizens' time. These goals were advanced in 1979.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The continued success and improvement in Dallas County Jury Services is a result of the work of numerous individuals who share an interest in making Dallas County a model jury program in the state and in the country.

Principle recognition is given to the District Judge's Central Jury Panel Committee who provided guidance and formulated policies to improve the jury duty experience for over 185,000 Dallas County citizens who received a jury summons during 1979. The committee is chaired by Judge Fred S. Harless with Judge Thomas B. Thorpe and Judge Hugh Snodgrass as members. This debt of gratitude is extended to all District and County judges whose continual cooperation insures the success of newly adopted policies and procedures.

Appreciation is also due the County's elected officials and members of their staffs whose support is vital to successful daily operation including the Dallas County Commissioners, District Clerk Bill Shaw and Treasurer Bill Melton. Other Department Heads and their staffs also assisted in our efforts including Auditor Joe Jack Mills and Data Services Director Charles Collier.

However, primary recognition and appreciation goes to the members of the Central Jury Room staff. Without their diligent hard work, professionalism and pleasant demeanor in assisting over 1,700 citizen jurors each week, the operation of supplying jurors to Dallas County's 60 courts would come to a standstill. Recognition goes to the full-time staff including Chief Jury Bailiff Kathyrn Faucett and Bailiffs Billie Gillispie, Mildred Przada and Diane Coughran. New part-time staff members hired to respond to the 2,000+telephone calls each week have done a tremendous job including Lee George, Sara Miller and Leatrice Salim. Other members of the part-time staff including Tom Gladding, who assists with processing jurors in the mornings and SMU student intern Diane Durance, who maintains statistics and charts of daily operations, have done an excellent job. Ms. Durance's work is represented in this report's graphs and charts.

The net result of the efforts of these individuals is a vastly improved jury system responsive to the needs of the public and the legal system.

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# INTRODUCTION

Dallas County's jury system witnessed a record breaking year during 1979. Responding to the largest number of jury trials ever conducted in the County, more jurors were summoned than ever before, a record turnout was attained and the utilization rate reached a new peak.

Fine tuning the jury system to achieve new levels of efficiency results in greater cost effectiveness. But reducing costs is only one of the goals of jury management. Of tantamount importance is improving the jury duty experience for citizens. This aspect was emphasized in 1979. Problem areas were pinpointed via responses to juror questionnaires as well as listening to suggestions and complaints voiced telephonically by prospective jurors calling in to request postponement, exemption or disqualification from jury duty.

A JUROR'S "BILL OF RIGHTS"

Empathy and understanding of this human component of jury management has led to the concept of a juror's "Bill of Rights." \* Briefly, these rights are as follows:

- The Right to be Selected Fairly Implies that random selection should be used and that the eligible list should cover most of the county's adult population.
- 2. The Right Not to be Excluded The excusal process should be blind with respect to race, religion, and sex.
- 3. The Right to Avoid Hardship All reasonable requests for postponement should be granted and excuses for physical and economic hardship should be considered.
- 4. The Right to be Properly Informed Jurors should be given sufficient advanced notice and the instructions in the summons and later in the jury room should be informative.

At a seminar sponsored by the Institute for Court Management, Joe Romanow, Jury Commissioner of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, introduced this concept, by which he meant not a legal imperative, but rather what a juror might expect from a well-managed jury system.

- 5. The Right to be Utilized Efficiently Meaning that a prospective juror will be summoned only when there is a strong likelihood that he/she will be needed.
- 6. The Right to be Free from Employer or Other Harassment That a person's employment situation will not be jeopardized due to jury duty.
- 7. The Right to Reasonable Privacy Implies that citizens' private lives will not be unreasonably investigated as a result of being called for jury service and that they need not fear reprisals or threats after delivering a verdict.
- 8. The Right to Participate Freely in Deliberation Implies that each juror should be treated with respect and allowed to participate in a discussion of each issue prior to voting on a verdict.

Throughout the year Dallas County's jury system concentrated its efforts toward the right to be utilized efficiently (No. 5) and the right to be properly informed (No. 4). The right to be utilized efficiently is the cornerstone of the concept of a juror's Bill of Rights. Wasted time is a justifiable cause for dissatisfaction with jury service. The common complaint was answered in 1979 by attaining a jury utilization rate of 90.3%.

The commitment to improving the image of jury duty is also evident in the area of providing necessary information to jurors. Inexperienced jurors often come to the courthouse confused and apprehensive with regard to what is expected of them. As such, a major emphasis was placed on providing a concise, informative and consistent juror orientation presentation. A 16-minute slide/audio show is the focal point of daily orientation providing information on a juror's duties and familiarizing prospective jurors with basic legal concepts and terms. A more uniform presentation by the judges assigned to conduct juror orientation was initiated to explain the legal grounds for exemption and disqualification from jury duty.

This statistic means that approximately 90% of all prospective jurors appearing in the Central Jury were dispatched on a jury panel to one or more court.

A new juror handbook is being developed to provide answers to the most common questions and grievances regarding jury duty. An explanation of the uncertainties inherent in the court system, such as the lack of precise knowledge regarding the number of trial starts and size of panel requests each day, will be highlighted. Additionally, before the jurors remaining in the Central Jury Room all day are dismissed to go home, an explanation is given regarding why their serice was not needed.

Another persistent cause for complaint has been the inability to reach the Central Jury Room telephonically due to constant busy signals. The dramatic growth in jury trial activity has required thousands more individuals to be summoned for jury duty consequently the number of telephone calls has risen proportionally. Approximately 4,000 summons are mailed each week. The phone lines ring incessantly as between 1,500 and 2,000 persons call each week to request postponement, exemption, disqualification or health disability.

## EXPANDING PART-TIME STAFF

The full-time staff were unable to answer this volume of calls due to the increased workload which resulted from the 27% incrase in number of jurors serving over the past three years (from 50,009 in 1976 to 70,554 jurors in 1979). The proposed solution to the telephone problem was was hiring part-time employees with the exclusive responsibility of handling hundreds of phone calls each day. Two part-time employees were hired in June 1979, which has greatly remedied the situation. There has been a noticeable reduction in the number of complaints from frustrated prospective jurors attempting to reach the jury room telephonically. Additional tangible proof of improvement is revealed by comparing the June "no show" statistic with previous months. In April and May of 1979 the no show rate was 26.3% and 20.6%, res

pectively. However, in June the no shows dropped to an all time low of 12.2% while the proportion of legal exemptions and excuses rose. This reduction in no shows is totally unprecedented and it can be assumed that this improvement can be attributed at least in part to responding to more telephone inquiries from previously frustrated individuals who may simply have given up and become a no show statistic when in fact many of them had legitimate grounds for excuse.

# LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

During 1979 several new statutory provisions enacted by the State Legis-lature during their last regular session were incorporated into the jury system. As of August 27, 1979, the grounds for exemption from jury duty were somewhat expanded to allow citizens over the age of 65 to claim permanent exemption from jury duty if they requested this exemption in writing. Previously, elderly citizens were required to claim age exemption each time they received a jury summons. Approximately 200 elderly citizens each week (or about 50% of the total number of persons claiming exemption) are now mailing back their summons requesting permanent exemption.

Parents with a child under the age of ten years may now claim exemption if either parent's jury service necessitates leaving the child unattended. Prior to this change, the law allowed only women to claim this parental exemption.

Another legislative change pertaining to jury service raised the amount of the minimum jury fee from \$5 to \$6 per day; therefore, Dallas County citizens are now receiving a 20% increase in juror pay from the former rate. The financial repercussion of this change in fee cost an additional 38,344 from August 27 through December 31, 1979.

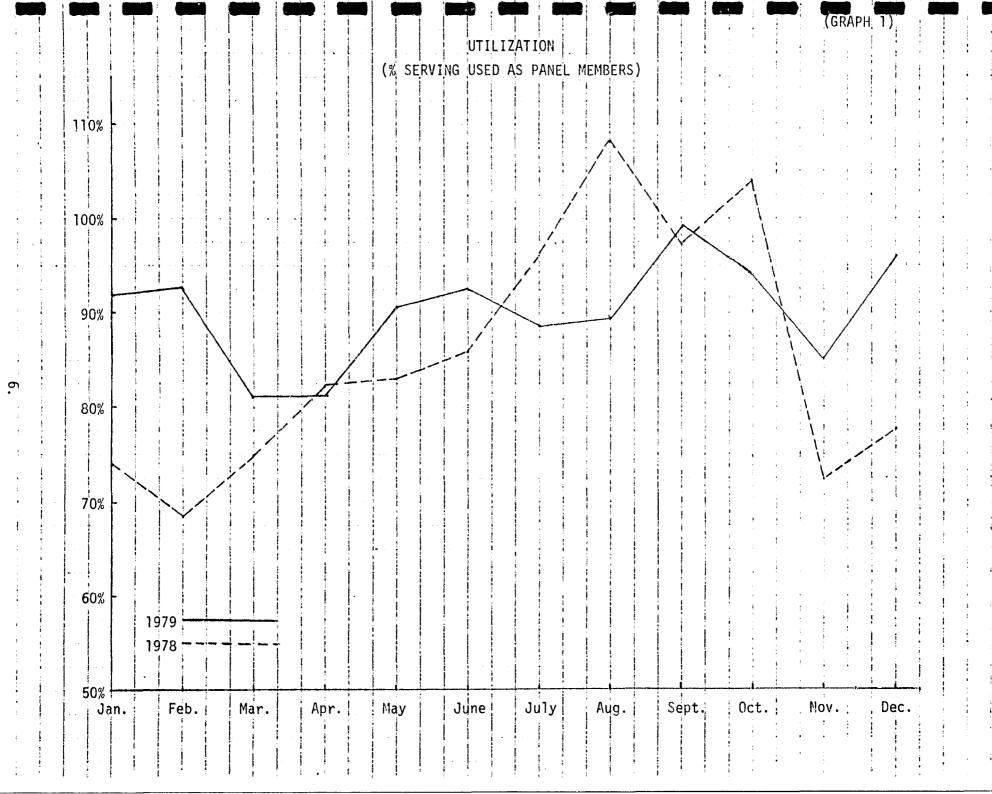
# UTILIZATION

Efficient utilization of jurors is crucial to both jury management and to the jurors themselves. Juror utilization simply means calculating and summoning as closely as possible the correct number of jurors who will be needed by the courts.

While attaining 100% juror utilization does occur occasionally, sustaining that level each day is impossible due to a number of factors which are in a constant state of flux. For example, each day the number of panel requests as well as the size of the panels differs due to inherent uncertainties in the court system such as the type of court requesting a panel, the uncertain duration of trials, last minute settlements out of court and delays in trial readiness which negate the previously expected need for a jury panel. Additionally, the statutory prohibition against reusing prospective jurors on another panel who have been "struck" from a previous panel earlier that day has a detrimental effect upon maximum daily juror utilization.

Given these system-based shortcomings, the overall juror utilization rate achieved in 1979 was an exceptional 90.3%. This means that approximately 90% of all persons in the Central Jury Room were dispatched on a panel to a court in 1979. Last year's utilization rate of 84.9% was a record for Dallas County which had experienced a utilization rate of 79.6% in 1977 and much less in years prior to 1977.

The graph on the following page depicts the monthly utilization figures for 1979 and 1978. Consistency marks the 1979 graph line. Utilization never dipped below a monthly average of 81.3% in March, 1979 and peaked at 98.7% in September. Conversely, the 1978 figures are much more erratic, from a low of 68% in February 1978 to a high of 108% in August. While utilization in excess of 100% does not necessarily imply a juror shortage as jurors can be sent to two courts during a day, delays in dispatching panels and inability



to fill a number of judge's requests for panels did occur more frequently during August 1978 which is unacceptable.

The graphs on pages 9 through 12 depict daily juror utilization. Graph 2 shows the regularity of juror usage on Mondays which is the most predictable day of the week. On the average, fully 45% of all jurors needed on jury panels for the week are dispatched to the courts on Mondays. The number of jurors needed on Monday is consistently between 675 and 750. Those prospective jurors who are not selected as jury members and are not "struck" are returned to the Central Jury Room. Due to the large number of Monday panels, quite a few of these extras come back to the jury room and are then available to be sent out on another panel to a different court. Therefore, jurors arriving on Monday mornings are virtually assured of at least being dispatched to a courtroom once during the day. As a result, maximum utilization efficiency is achieved on Mondays.

By comparison Tuesdays show tremendous fluctuation in the number of jurors needed to constitute panels. The yearly range was from a low of 183 prospective jurors needed to a high of more than 400 jurors. Consequently, the ability to project accurately the number of jurors to summon diminishes resulting in utilization for Tuesdays varying between 71% and 102% each month. Approximately 250 to 300 jurors are generally brought in on Tuesday mornings with the additional capacity of 50-75 jurors on "standby" if more are needed. The standby system allows flexibility in coping with days of high usage in the Central Jury Room.

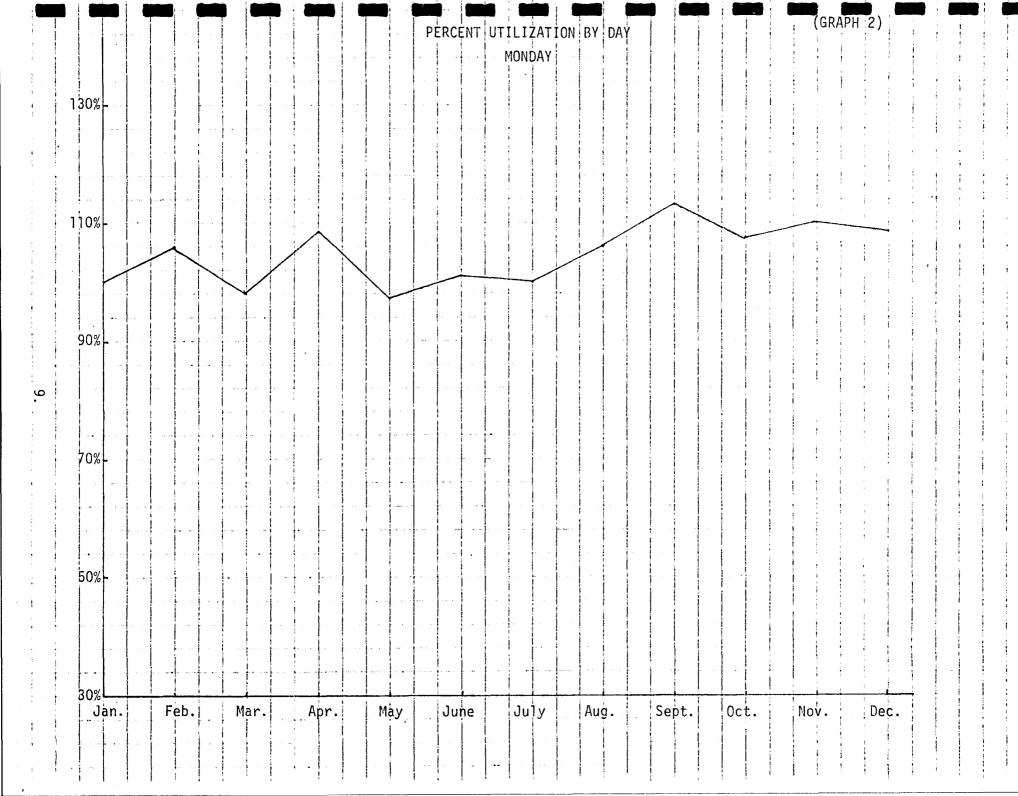
Wednesdays are also highly variable as many of the trials which began on Monday and Tuesday may still be consuming court time or may end resulting in the need for new jury panels for the courts. The graph on page 11 details the fluctuating pattern especially during the first half of the year and then the stabilizing trend in the latter part of the year. Overall, utilization on

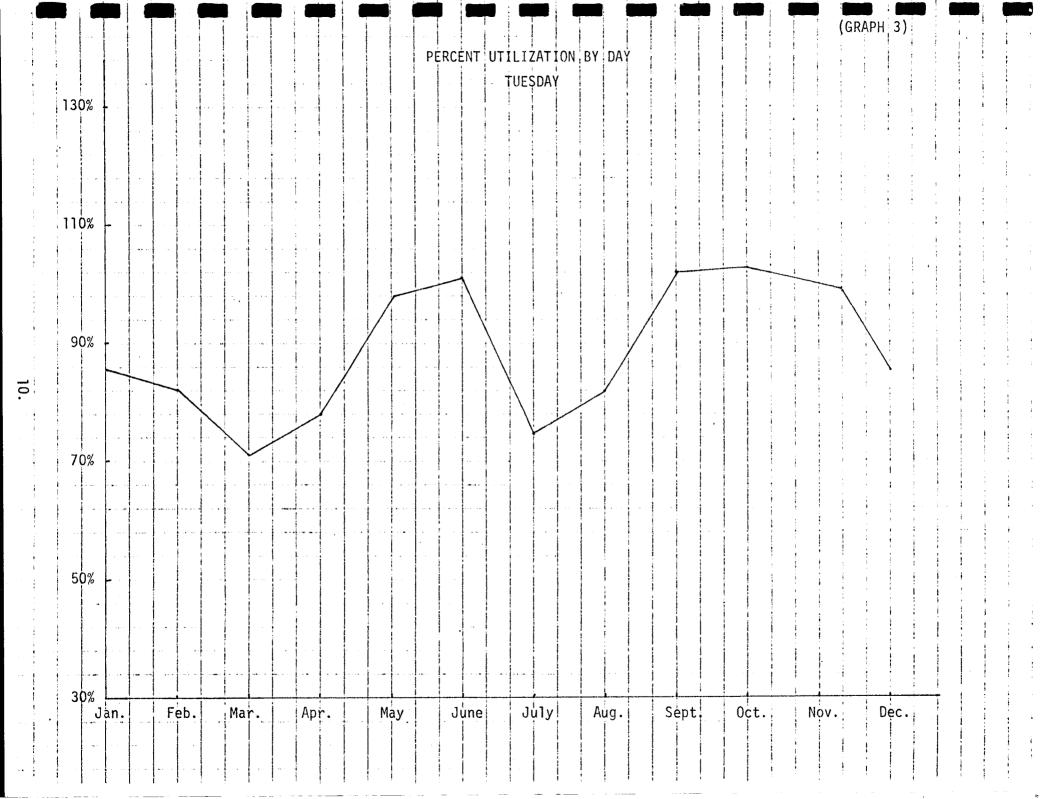
Wednesdays ranged from a low of 65% to a high of 108%.

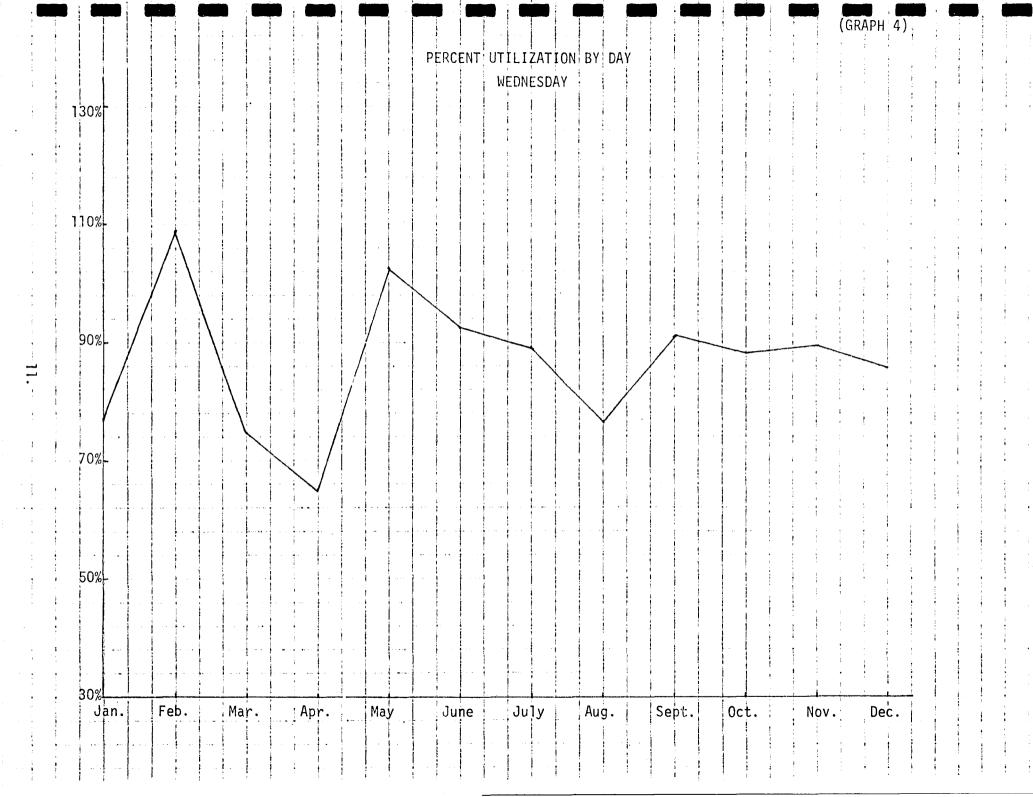
On an average Thursday between 90-120 jurors are needed. However, on one Thursday in November 1979 no jury panels were ordered and on another Thursday only 28 jurors were needed (see Graph 5 on page 12). Conversely, on several Thursdays, especially in January and February, between 190 and 220 jurors were called out of the Central Jury Room. The resulting average monthly utilization figures for Thursdays ranged from a low of 36% to a high of 106%.

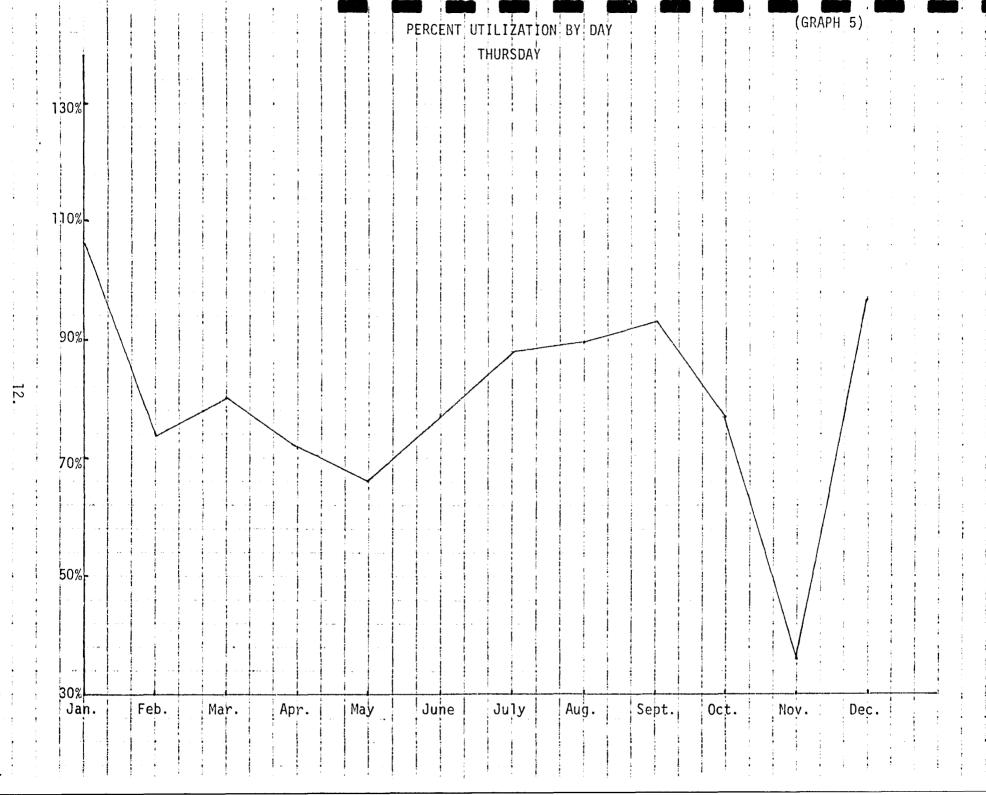
Looking at the daily patterns which emerge on Graphs 2 through 5 clearly illustrates the difficulty inherent in attempting to predict and summons accordingly the correct number of jurors. The difficulty is further complicated by the necessity of computer printing the summons three weeks in advance. THE STANDBY JURY SYSTEM

The improvement in overall yearly utilization from 84.9% in 1978 to 90.3% in 1979 was largely a result of inaugurating a Monday only standby system in February 1979 and then expanding it to a daily (Monday through Thursday) standby system on May 22, 1979. The standby plan enables the jury system to respond to increased need for jurors on days in which a large number of panel orders are placed. Under this standby system 80% of all persons summoned receive a "regular" jury summons to appear on a specified date at 8:30 a.m. This group comprises the core of available jurors for the day. The remaining 20% who are selected randomly by the computer receive a standby jury summons which instructs them to call between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to determine if their service will be required that afternoon. If needed, they are told, via a recorded message, to report at 1 p.m. and at the conclusion of their jury service they are paid in the same manner as the other jurors. However, if the recorded message instructs them not to appear, they have fulfilled their jury duty requirement but do no receive reimbursement.









The standby system has worked remarkably well as having an additional group of jurors "on call" enables the jury system to respond to the variability in the number of daily trial starts. However, there are several limitations to the standby system as only 20% of summoned jurors are on call and the courts needs for afternoon jurors are not always known by 11 a.m. The courts can assist in this effort by alerting the jury room staff as soon as possible of a probable or definite need for afternoon jurors which will allow the standby system to operate with optimum effectiveness.

Jurors response to the standby system has been very good. Most jurors arrive on time for 1 p.m. juror orientation. The cost of the standby system is minimal. Additional summons must be sent at an average cost of 4.7 cents per summons (versus \$6.00 per day for each unused juror waiting all day in the Central Jury Room). Two phone lines were installed which are used exclusively for standby jurors in order to keep the lines open. The code-aphone answering machines were ordered during 1978 with foderal LEAA grant funds.

# EXCESS JURORS

With juror utilization for the year at 90.3%, the percent of excess jurors remaining unused in the Central Jury Room dropped to a record low of 9.7%. The total number of excess jurors for 1979 was 8,443 out of a total of 70,554 jurors appearing for service. This compares with 10,517 excess jurors in 1978 out of a total of 64,675 jurors (15.1%).

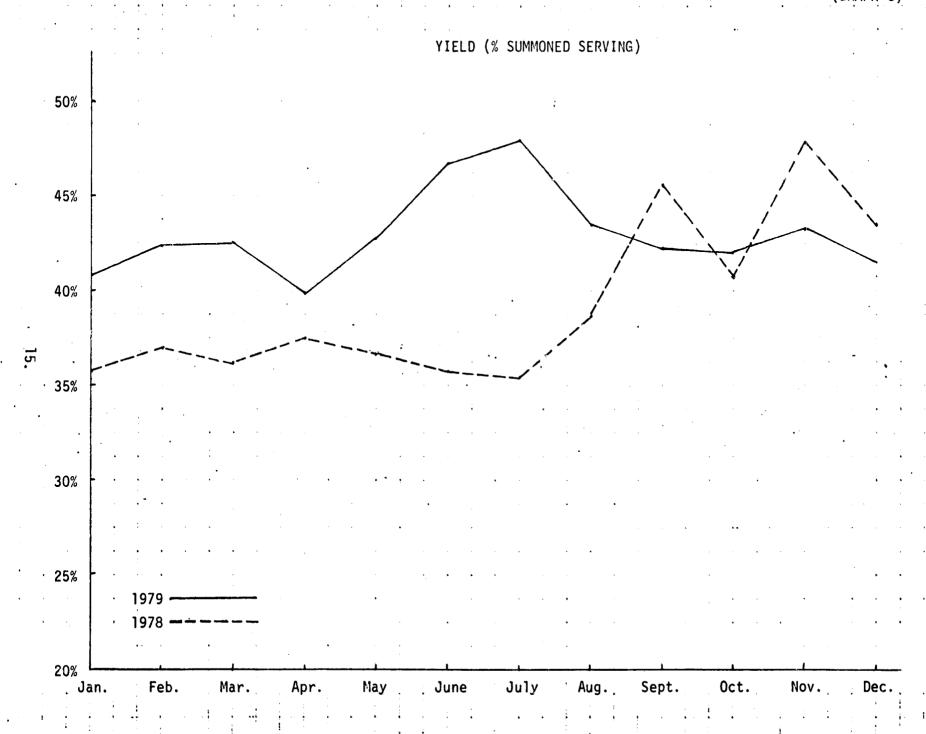
#### YIELD

The total number of persons summoned for jury duty in 1979 was 185,085 which represents an increase of 6.3% from the 1978 total of 173,415. Of those summoned, 70,554 appeared for service, again a new record high. Therefore, the 1979 yield, averaged over the 12-month period, was 43.1%. In two years time the yield has jumped a remarkable 12.6% from 30.5% in 1977 to 39.2% in 1978 to this year's high of 43.1%. Graph 6 on the following page compares the average yield per month during 1978 and 1979. Chart 5 on page provides a breakdown of monthly totals.

Yield of jurors represents willingness to serve. Past improvements in yield have been attributed to the one-day/one-trial system. Since its adoption in January 1977, public awareness and acceptability of jury duty has increased due to the reduction of the jury term from one week to either one day or, if chosen to sit on a jury, the duration of one trial. We believe other factors such as sensitivity to all the elements of the juror's Bill of Rights have also contributed to a yield which is one of the highest in the country.

When juror yield averages 43% the remaining 57% of those summoned did not appear for jury duty. Graph 7 on page 17 presents a picture of the following categories: exempt, disqualified, disabled, unclaimed, postponed and no show. A yearly average of 14.6% of those summoned claimed legal exemption under Article 2135 of the Texas statutes for one of the following reasons: 1) Over the age of 65, 2) Person with a child under the age of 10 if that child is left unattended, and 3) Students of secondary and post-secondary education.

An additional 8.5% disqualified themselves under the provisions of Article 2133 for one of the following reasons: 1) Not a citizen of the state and county in which he/she was summoned, 2) Not of sound mind and good moral character, 3) Not able to read and write, 4) Served as a juror for six days during the preceding six months in a District Court and during the preceding



three months in a county court, 5) Convicted of felony or theft, or 6) Under indictment for theft or felony.

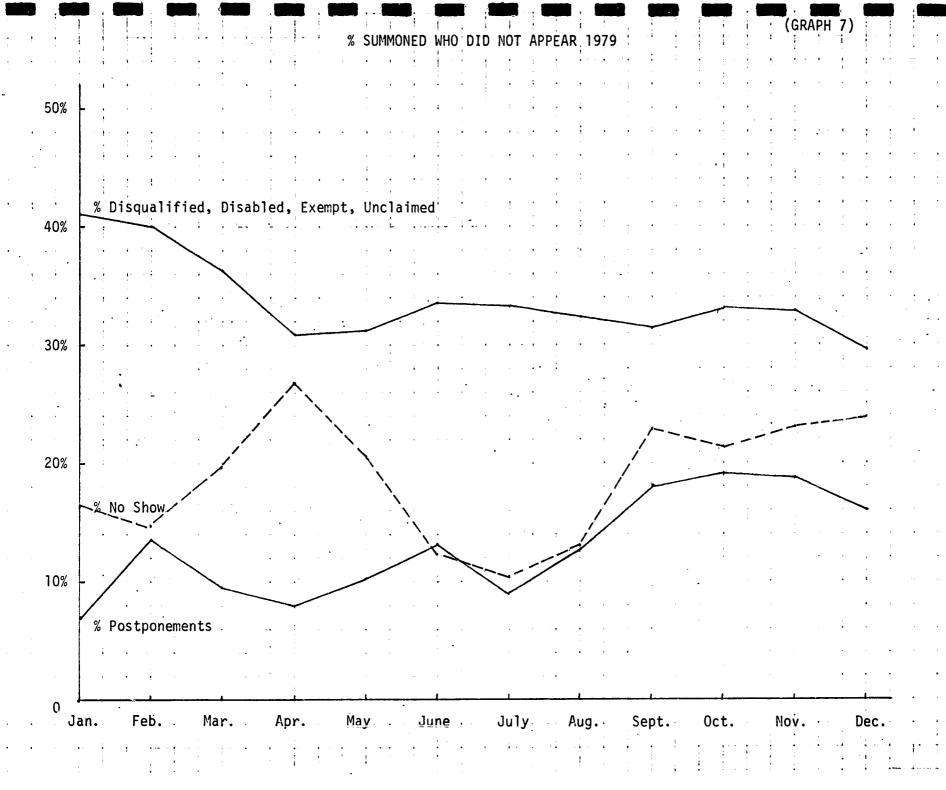
Medical disability was claimed by 3.1% of those receiving a jury summons. Unclaimed summons returned to us by the post office account for 7.4% of those not appearing. Postponement of jury duty to another date was requested and granted to an average of 12.7% of those summoned, an increase of 3% from last year.

The percentage of "no shows" who ignored their jury summons fluctuated from a low of 10.3% in June to 20-24% during a few months around the holiday season at the end of the year. The yearly average was 18.7%, down 1.2% from 1978.

While presenting this data on a yearly basis provides an overview of the system, the chart below reveals a more microscopic view of an "average week" thereby offering a more tangible statistical picture of the jury system.

AVERAGE WEEKLY STATISTICS*	NUMBER	PERCENT
Summoned	3856	100%
Serving (Yield)	1561	40.5%
Exempt, Disqualified, Disabled, Unclaimed	1113	28.9%
Postponed	466	12.1%
No Shows	715	18.5%

Average week is computed by dividing the yearly statistics by 48 weeks of court activity.



# PANEL USAGE

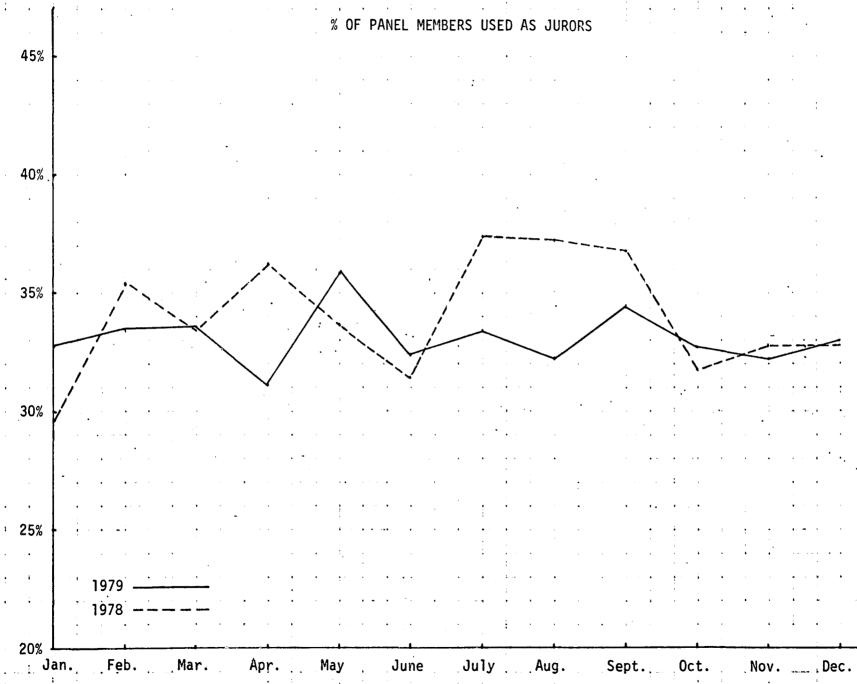
A record high 2,479 jury panels were requested by Dallas County's 60 courts during 1979, up 14.3% from 1978. Graph 8 on the following page shows the percentage of these panel members who were actually chosen to sit on a jury. The yearly average for 1979 was 33.1%, a drop of 1% from 1978. The remaining unselected panel members were either "struck" and dismissed or were unreached during the voir dire questioning and, therefore, returned to the Central Jury Room for possible later dispatch on another jury panel.

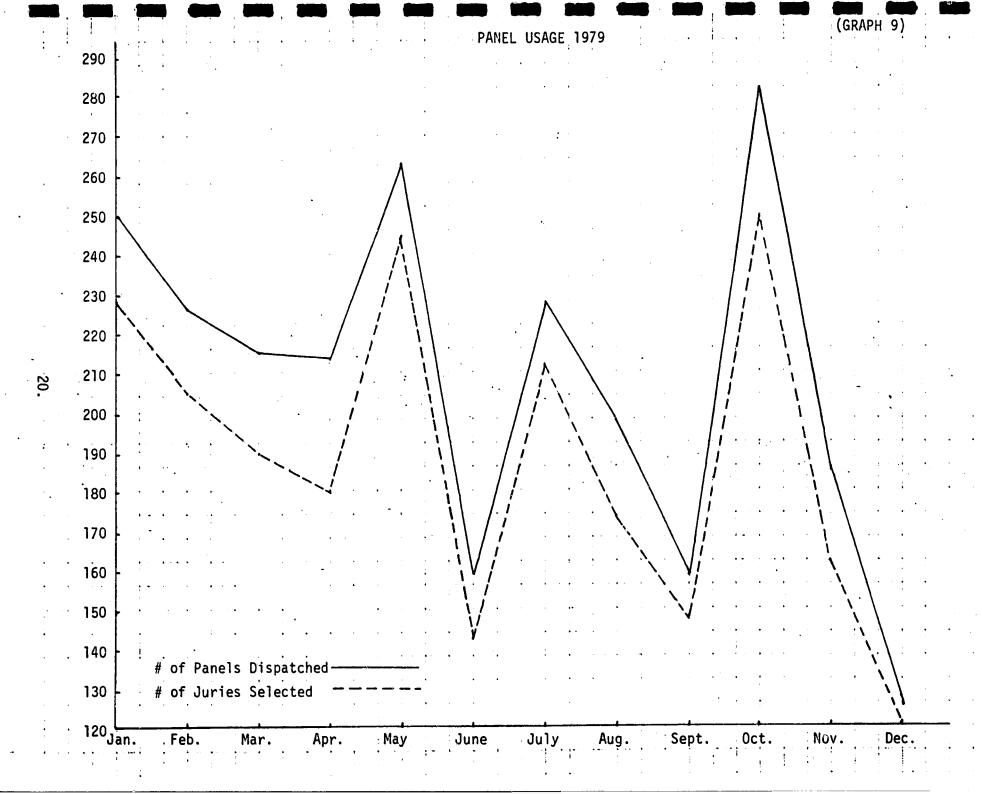
Graph 9 on page 20 shows the congruence between the number of jury panels sent out of the Central Jury Room and the number of juries actually selected. Only 9% of all panels ordered by the courts were returned to the jury room unused compared with 11% in 1978 indicating that the courts are aiding improved juror utilization by not calling a panel until it is virtually assured that the case will go to trial and not be settled out of court at the last minute.

For example, of the 2,479 panels sent to the courts during the year, 2,253 juries were seated. Therefore, only 226 of these panels were sent back to the Central Jury Room. The comparable figures in 1978 were 2,124 panels dispatched forming 1,889 juries with 235 (11%) of all panels going unused. Going back to 1977 fully 17% of all panels were returned to the jury room thereby hampering effective juror utilization.

Of the 2,253 juries selected in 1979, 1,283 or 57% of them were 12-person juries deciding cases in District Courts while 970 juries were composed of 6 members trying cases in County Courts. These figures reveal that the percentage of 12-member juries has decreased since 1978 when 63% of all cases were tried by 12-person juries.

A breakdown of panel usage reveals that the 10 Criminal District Courts and two Criminal Annex Courts ordered the largest number of jury panels for





the year (825 requests). As the average panel size for Criminal District Courts is 40, approximately 33,000 of the year's 70,554 jurors left the Central Jury Room for a Criminal District Court. The 12 Civil District Courts requested 615 jury panels during 1979. With an average panel size of 28, approximately 17,220 jurors were dispatched to Civil District Courts. The Domestic Relations Courts required 75 jury panels during the year with an average size of 28.

The seven County Criminal Courts and County Court of Appeals requested a record high total of 687 jury panels for the year. The average panel size is 15 due to the jury composition of 6-persons in County Criminal Courts. Approximately 10,305 jurors left the Central Jury Room for a County Criminal Court during the year. The five County Courts at Law which try civil cases took 148 jury panels, again with an average panel size of 15.

The 11 Justice of the Peace Courts were more active in conducting jury trials due to their increased jurisdiction in matters involving up to \$500. In 1979, 142 jury panels were dispatched to Justice of the Peace Courts with an average panel size of 12.

Chart 1 on the following page illustrates panel use by court jurisdiction for the year.

# NUMBER OF PANELS CALLED BY COURTS

	•						
		Civil District Courts	Criminal District Courts	Family District and Probate Courts	County Courts at Law	County Criminal Courts	Justices of the Peace
	January	62	94	1	13	69	11
	February	74	68	3	13	52	16
	March	43	67	8	16	56	15
	April	46	58	7	13	78	. 2
	May .	<b>6</b> 5	80	9	13	80	12
	June	35	57	7	8	42	12
	July	64	89	5	10	66	8
	August	39	65	8	10	53	19
	September	33	50	11	11	40	13
)	October .	64	93	9	19	76	20
	November	. 60	60	. 4	10	44	9
	December	. 30	44	_3	12	_31	5
	Total 197	9 <u>615</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>75</u>	148	<u>687</u>	142
	Average Panel Size	28	- 40	28	15	15	12

# COST ANALYSIS

The chart on the following page compares operating costs of Dallas County's jury system during the past two years. The jury system has continued to grow, keeping pace with the increase in the number of jury trials from 1978 to 1979. The number of juries which were selected in 1979 was up 16.2% from 1,889 juries in 1978 to 2,253 juries this year. Yet cost of juror fees increased only 12.7% during this time, despite an increase in minimum juror pay from \$5 to \$6 per day mandated by the state legislature as of August 1979. This 20% increase in juror pay cost an additional \$38,844 in the four months from August 27 through December 31, 1979. If juror pay had remained constant at the \$5 level, total juror cost would have risen only 6.1%.

The average cost per juror in Dallas County increased merely 4.4% from last year despite the 20% increase in minimum juror fee, while the average cost per jury trial actually decreased 4.3% from \$270.06 in 1978 to \$258.38 in 1979. The average cost per juror and jury trial depends upon a number of variables such as trial length and the number of 6 and 12-person juries. The higher average cost per jury trial in 1978 was due in part to the fact that 63% of all jury trials were held in District Courts with more costly 12-member juries versus 57% 12-person juries in 1979. The County Courts which use 6-member juries held 271 more jury trials than the previous year (from 699 County Court trials in 1978 to 970 County Court trials in 1979).

Chart 3 on page 25 compares the cost of the summoning process (forms and postage) for 1978 and 1979. Summoning costs remained at a constant rate as the summons mailers are presorted by zip codes which allows first class mailing for 13 cents. The cost of the summons mailer form is approximately 4.7 cents each, therefore, total cost averages 17.7 cents per summons. Although gross summoning cost escalated in 1979 to \$32,760 versus \$30,694 in 1978, this was due to an increase of 6.3% in the number of persons receiving a jury summons.

# COST COMPARISON

	<u> 1978</u>	1979	<pre>% Difference</pre>
Number Summoned	173,415	185,085	+ 6.3
Number Serving	64,675	70,554	+ 8.3
Cost of Summoning (Summons and Postage)	\$30,694.45	\$32,760.06	+ 6.3
Total Juror Fees Paid *	\$479,454.00	\$549,379.00	+12.7
Cost of Excess Jurors	\$52,585.00	\$44,011.00	-16.3
Number of Panels Dispatched	2,124	2,479	+14.3
Number of Juries Selected	1,889	2,253	+16.2
Number of Panels Sent Back to Central Jury Room Unused / % Unused	235/11%	226/9%	4
Average Cost per Jury Trial **	\$270.06	\$258.38	- 4.3
Average Cost per Juror ***	\$7.89	\$8.25	+ 4.4

<sup>\*</sup>Juror fee was increased to \$6.00 per day from \$5.00 per day on August 27, 1979.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Average cost per jury trial is computed by combining cost of summoning with total juror fees paid and dividing that figure by the number of juries selected for the year.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Average cost per juror is computed by combining cost of summoning with total juror fees paid and dividing that figure by the number of jurors serving for the year.

COST ANALYSIS I
Cost of Summoning

	<u>19</u>	<u>979</u>	<u>1</u>	1978		
	Summons	<u>Postage</u>	Summons	<u>Postage</u>		
January	\$878.90	\$2,431.00	\$810.84	\$2,242.76		
February	748.48	2,070.25	765.82	2,118.22		
March	735.55	2,034.50	764.69	2,114.10		
April	794.30	2,197.00	725.59	2,006.94		
May	881.25	2,437.50	864.19	2,390.31		
June	575.28	1,591.20	586.84	1,623.18		
July	891.83	2,466.75	622.70	1,722.37		
August	743.78	2,057.25	736.11	2,036.06		
September	486.45	1,345.50	443.87	1,227.72		
October	893.94	2,472.60	702.70	1,943.63		
November	639.20	1,768.00	730.94	2,021.76		
December	430.05	1,189.50	396.21	1,095.90		
Total	\$8,699.01	\$24,061.05	\$8,150.50	\$22,543.95		

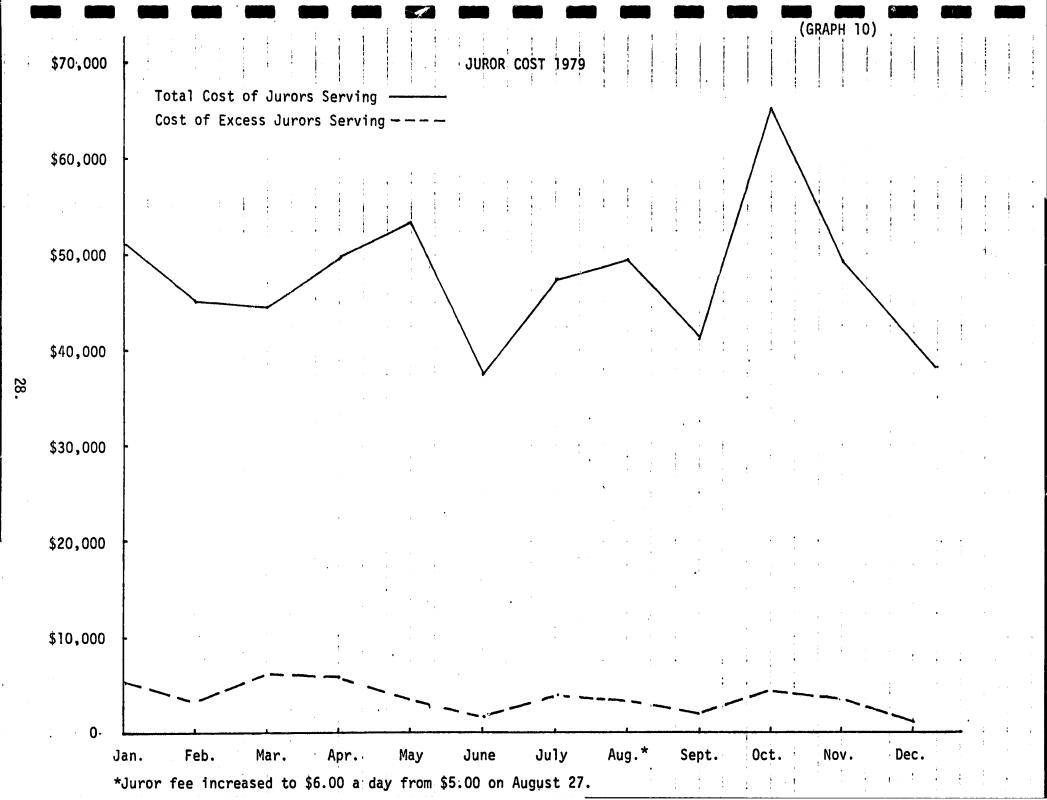
Chart 4 on page 27 shows the cost of juror fees over the past two years for prospective jurors who were needed for jury panels versus those who remained in the jury pool. Due to improved utilization of jurors the cost of excess jurors has declined considerably. While average trial length and percent of 6 and 12-person juries affect overall juror cost, these factors cannot be controlled. However, effective management can achieve cost efficiency by reducing the number of excess jurors in the Central Jury Room. This chart shows that a total of \$44,011 was expended on unused jurors during 1979, a drecrease of \$8,574 or 16.3% over 1978's figure of \$52,585.

Graph 10 on page 28 illustrates the total amount of money spent each month of 1979 for jurors who were needed on panels versus the money spent on prospective jurors who were not utilized.

COST ANALYSIS II
Cost of Jurors

	<u>]</u>	979	· -	1978
•	Juror Fees*	Cost of Excess	Juror Fees	Cost of Excess
January	\$ 48,828	\$ 4,955	\$ 53,046	\$ 6,545
February	43,922	3,410	41,187	8,010
March	43,301	5,750	45,364	5,015
April	47,198	5,595	45,712	3,385
May	51,397	3,715	47,318	4,430
June	35,327	1,930	34,058	4,445
July	45,641	4,090	34,688	2,300
August	47,545	3,790	44,889	1,230
September	38,780	1,716	30,705	2,380
October .	63,406	3,978	31,980	3,180
November	47,242	3,540	39,406	8,140
December	36,792	1,542	31,201	3,535
Total	\$549,379	\$44,011	\$479,454	\$52,585

<sup>\*</sup>Juror fee was increased to \$6.00 per day from \$5.00 per day August 27, 1979.



1979	# Summoned	# Serving	ield,	Excess Serving	Utilization	% Panel Members Used as Jurors	anels Dispatched	uries Selected	BI (Persons brought In)	No Show		(CHART 5) Postponements	
				ving		ers		<u> </u>		. #	%	#	%
January	18,700	7,261	41.1%	991	92.3%	32.7	250	228	31.9	3,557	16.3	1,224	6.6
February	15,925	6,167	42.8	682	93.2	33.4	226	206	29.9	2,216	14.6	1,237	12.9
March	15,650	6,293	42.9	1,150	81.3	33.5	205	190	33.1	2,893	19.9	1,493	9.5
April	16,900	6,049	39.8	1,119	81.3	31.1	204	180	33.6	4,096	26.3	1,333	7.9
May	18,750	7,135	43.1	743	90.3	35.9	263	244	29.2	3,724	20.6	1,910	10.2
June	12,240	4,409	46.6	386	93.2	32.4	159	143	30.8	1,546	12.2	1,594	13.0
July	18,975	6,840	47.6	818	88.1	33.,4	227	213	32.1	2,228	10.3	2,183	8.7
August	15,825	5,652	43.8	758	88.6	32.3	197	173	32.7	1,942	12.7	1,964	12.4
September	10,350	4,056	42.8	286	98.7	34.5	158	148	27.4	2,323	22.6	1,859	18.0
October	19,020	7,670	41.9	663	94.1	32.7	281	249	30.8	4,395	21.6	3,592	18.9
November	13,600	5,536	43.4	590	85.9	32.4	184	163	34.0	3,180	22.8	2,511	18.5
December	9,150	3,486	41.2	257	<u>96.5</u>	33.0	125	116	<u>31.4</u>	2,210	23.9	1,452	15.9
1979 Totals	185,085	70,554	43.1	8,443	90.3	33.1	2,479	2,253	31.4	34,310	18.7	22,352	12.7
1978 Totals	173,415	64,675	39.2	10,517	84.9	34.1	2,124	1,889	34.6	29,308*	19.9*	16,599*	9.8*

<sup>\*</sup>Totals based on ten months of data.

1979	Disqualified		Disabled		Exempt		Uncla	imed	Juries	Selected	% Excess Serving by Day				Cost of Jurons Serving	
من ريداد بالدين والناب المساورة	#	%	#	%	#	%	ij	%	6-Person	12-Person	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.		
January	2,010	12.4	1,079	6.2	3,221	17.6	907	4.8	93	135	6.4	20.7	22.5	5.7	\$48,828	
February	1,585	10.0	751	4.7	2,694	16.9	987	6.2	87	119	6.2	20.0	4.3	27.8	\$43,922	
March	1,390	9.8	597	3.9	2,549	16.9	926	5.5	91	99	4.6	33.7	24.5	22.9	\$43,301	
April	1,425	8.9	385	2.2	2,503	15.0	891	4.9	86	94	1.4	22.5	35.8	32.9	\$47,198	
May	1,323	7.7	314	1.5	2,856	15.5	1,153	6.3	109	135	5.1	11.9	6.0	37.0	\$51,397	
June	907	7.9	206	1.7	2,140	17.9	759	6.0	61	82	5.8	5.2	10.7	25.2	\$35,327	
July	1,338	7.4	478	2.7	2,681	14.5	1,643	8.6	84	129	4.5	27.9	12.5	23.8	\$45,641	
August	1,136	7.5	382	2.4	2,028	13.2	1,538	9.3	78	95	3.5	21.9	24.7	18.2	\$47,545	
September	692	6.8	221	2.3	1,186	11.8	1,052	10.3	67	81	0.5	8.0	13.6	15.9	\$38,780	
October	1,488	8.1	564	3.2	2,304	12.2	1,871	9.2	110	139	1.8	8.0	15.2	30.5	\$63,406	
November	1,030	8.2	384	3.3	1,430	11.4	1,343	9.6	56	107	1.9	4.0	11.6	67.1	\$47,242	
December	636	<u>7.1</u>	264	3.3	1,020	11.8	718	7.6	48	68	0.0	23.3	17.0	8.5	\$36,792	
Tota1	14,960	8.5	5,625	3.1	26,612	14.6	13,788	7.4	970	1,283	3.5	17.3	16.5	26.3	<u>\$549,379</u>	

# PROFILE OF A JUROR

In order to determine juror's opinions of the Dallas County jury system in 1979, a survey of attitudes was conducted during the last three weeks of October. Questionnaires were distributed to the 4,635 persons appearing for jury duty during the weeks of October 15, 22 and 29, 1979. Thirty-three percent (1561 persons) completed the questionnaires and turned them in to the Central Jury Room office. Of those responding to the questionnaire, 442 (28%) actually were selected to sit on a case, 882 (57%) were sent out on jury panels but were not selected, and 237 (15%) remained in the Central Jury Room. This sample of respondents is closely aligned with the yearly average figures which reveal that 33% are selected as jurors, 57% are sent out on panels but are not selected as jurors, and 10% remain unused in the Central Jury Room.

The end of 1979 marked the third year in which Dallas County's jury system has operated under the one-day, one-trial system. Jurors' opinions were sought via this questionnaire to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of the "new system." Twice before, in November 1977 and March 1978, juror questionnaires have been distributed. The 1979 questionnaire (pages 43-44) is an expanded version of the earlier questionnaire (see pages 45 and 46 for 1977 and 1978 surveys). Where possible, comparisons will be made regarding responses to similar questions.

## OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF JURY DUTY

Several questionnaire items solicited jurors' overall assessment of their jury duty experience and their reactions to specific aspects of jury service. Question 14 (see page 43) was included to measure overall impression. Responses show that the vast majority of those responding (1022 or 90%) have a favorable impression of jury duty (i.e. checked either A or B as their response). Examining these responses further reveals that 389 persons checked A (35%), 633 checked B (55%), 51 checked C (5%) and 53 checked D (5%). However, 420 of those turning in questionnaires (28%) did not answer this question. On further examination,

the wording of the question was probably a cause of confusion for those who were not actually selected to sit on a case. For example, while only 9% of selected jurors failed to answer this question, those who remained in the Central Jury Room and those who were the unselected panel members were more likely to leave this question blank (41% and 31%, respectively).

Excluding the large group of non-respondents to this question, the breakdown among the three major categories (selected jurors, panel members, and those remaining in the Jury Room) is remarkably similar and indicates that overall assessment of jury service is quite favorable as indicated below:

ASSESSMENT	SELECTED JURORS	PANEL MEMBERS	JURY ROOM EXTRAS
A (more favorable)	37% } 91%	31% 58%	38% } 88%
B (the same-favorable)	54%.	58%	50%
C (the same-unfavorable)	4%	4%	8%
D (less favorable)	5%	5%	4%

Examining responses to question 9 further expands the analysis of jurors' assessment of more specific aspects of jury duty. An insignificant number of respondents (2-3%) left blanks on this question and the evaluation reveals similar patterns emerging with regard to selected jurors, panel members and Sentral Jury Room extras. This similarity is observed in all five areas of assessment as the charts below detail:

#### SELECTED JURORS

(re	esponses to Q 9)	<u>G00D</u>	ADEQUATE	<u>P00R</u>
Α.	Instructions in jury summons envelope	86%	14%	<del>-</del>
В.	Instructions in Central Jury Room	89%	11%	-
С	Treatment by Courthouse Personnel	86%	12%	2%
D.	Scheduling of Your Time	60%	28%	11%
Ε.	Restroom facilities in Central Jury Room	74%	23%	3%

#### PANEL MEMBERS

(responses to Q9)	GOOD	ADEQUATE	<u>P00R</u>
Α.	85%	15%	· -
В.	87%	13%	-
<b>c.</b>	89%	11%	-
<b>D.</b>	61%	27%	11%
Ε.	77%	21%	1%

#### CENTRAL JURY ROOM EXTRAS

(responses to Q9)	<u>G00D</u>	<u>ADEQUATE</u>	<u>P00R</u>
Α.	84%	16%	-
В.	89%	11%	
C.	87%	13%	-
D.	65%	23%	12%
Ε.	85%	14%	1%

The previous surveys of juror attitudes conducted in November 1977 and March 1978 revealed that a definite trend was evident with regard to assessment of scheduling of your time (item D above). Selected jurors and panel members were much more likely to rate the scheduling of their time as good (52-55%) or adequate (25-34%) than poor (1-8%). However, the persons who remained in the Central Jury Room for the entire day had a completely different opinion of the scheduling of their time (31% good, 24% adequate and 25% poor).

While the 1979 survey reflects that time scheduling continues to be perceived as the worst aspect of jury duty (60-65% good, 23-28% adequate and 11-12% poor), a diminished opinion of time scheduling among the groups of prospective jurors who remain in the Central Jury Room all day does not emerge. An increased emphasis on providing an orientation program which explains the court system and the uncertainties of going to trial may be a major factor causing an improvement regarding this item. Additionally, persons who remain unused

in the Central Jury Room observe that they are among a very small percentage who are not called to report to a courtroom which reduced the grounds for complaint regarding scheduling of jurors' time.

This argument is further substantiated by the fact that item 9B (assessing instructions in the Central Jury Room) received the highest overall rating of the five individual items. This was closely followed by item 9C (treatment by courthouse personnel) and item 9A (instructions in the jury summons envelope). FREQUENCY OF JURY DUTY

How often persons are being called for jury duty was another major area that was examined by the 1979 questionnaire. Responses to question 17 indicate that 1,111 of those responding (71%) had been summoned for jury duty in Dallas County prior to the current summons they were answering. The remaining 429 (29%) indicated that they had never received a jury summons before. Responses to a similar question (number 6) on the previous surveys conducted in 1977 and 1978 reveal that 59% and 54%, respectively, had never served on jury duty before. This dramatic turnaround in the statistics, from 59% to 29% who had not been summoned in the past, is a direct result of the one-day/one-trial system which was adopted in January 1977. The consequences are that many more individuals are summoned for jury duty now than in the past but they are summoned for a much shorter term of service (from one week to one-day or the duration of one trial). It is clear that many more individuals are being exposed to jury duty. Of those who said that they had been summoned before, 65% had received one or two previous summons, 35% more than two. On the average, respondents of the earlier questionnaires indicated that they had appeared for jury duty approximately two times in the past.

The subsequent question (number 18) asked how many times in the past were you actually selected to sit on a jury? More of the survey respondents who were seated on a jury during the October visit had been chosen as a jury member in the past when answering a summons. For example, 56% of jury members

indicated they had never sat on a case before, while the remaining 44% had participated in the past. Conversely, only 39% of jurors who were unselected in October had been chosen previously and only 27% of those remaining in the Central Jury Room had ever sat on a case in the past. These statistics add credence to the belief that certain types of individuals may indeed be more likely to be chosen as jurors by the lawyers for the defendent and prosecution/plaintiff than other types. However, attempting to paint a portrait of a "typical juror" is a risky undertaking. Examining responses to questions 19-22 which solicited information from jurors regarding their background (i.e. age, sex, occupation and education) may shed further light on this issue.

# DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF JURORS

The most significant background trend which emerges is the definite tendency to chose females as jury members. The overall sample survey was composed of 779 men (50.5%) and 762 women (49.5%). Yet of the 422 respondents who were selected as jury members, only 185 (44%) were male while 237 (56%) were female. Consequently, unselected panel members were more likely to be male (52% male versus 48% female).

Data from the 1977 and 1978 surveys show a significant difference in male/ female participation. In the November 1977 survey, 52% of the respondents were men and 40% were women (8% did not respond to the question). The 40% female figure remained constant in the March 1978 survey, while 54% were male (6% no response). Traditionally the trend has been toward a larger percentage of males appearing for jury duty due to the statutory exemption for women with children under the age of 10 years. However, as of August 27, 1979 the statute was changed to read "any person with a child under the age of 10 years if that child would be left unattended." Although a few men have claimed exemption under the revised statute, the equalization of men and women appearing for jury duty seems to be more a function of working women disregarding this exemption as their children are not left unattended but rather are in the care of a babysitter or day care

facility as on any other working day.

There is no data available regarding the male/female composition of jury members from the previous questionnaires.

## AGE

The age data reveals that middle aged individuals are more likely to be chosen as juror members than the young or the old. Proportionally, selected jurors reflect the larger jury pool and the age trends of registered voters from whom the prospective juror list is drawn.

Of the 422 selected jurors (29%) fall into the 45-54 age bracket, followed closely by the 35-44 age group (26%). Together these two groups comprise 55% of selected jurors. Only 4% of jurors are between the ages of 18 and 24 but 21% are between 25-34. Selection of older persons tapers off; only 18% of jurors are between the ages of 55 and 64 and 2% are over 65 in the sample survey.

Among the total 1561 respondents, the age breakdown is remarkably similar: 18-24 (4%); 25-34 (19%); 35-44 (26%); 45-54 (26%); 55-64 (19%) and over 65 (2%). The statistics for the November 1977 and March 1978 surveys (see pages 45 and 46) are very similar except in the young (18-24) category which comprised 9-10% of the total number of respondents in the earlier surveys.

In Dallas County the proportion of the total population, based on 1970 census statistics, in the adult age brackets was as follows: 18-24 (12%); 25-34 (15%); 35-44 (12%); 45-54 (11%); 55-64 (7%) and over 65 (7%). EDUCATION

Similarly the educational background data does not mirror the larger population. Statistics gathered at the local, state and national level continually reveal that registered voters are typically more highly educated than the overall composition of the population. The latest figures available for countywide educational level are 1970 census statistics which show that 27% of the total county population over the age of 25 have a high school diploma. An additional 14% have completed between one to three years of college while

15% have one or more college degrees.

Prospective jurors have attained a much higher level of formal education. Of the 1561 persons responding to the questionnaire, 10% indicated that their highest level of education achievement was the 10th through 12th grade, 23% were high school graduates, 25% had completed between one to three years of college and 39% were college educated (24% undergraduate degrees and 15% graduate degrees).

The education breakdown is similar between the total group of panel members and jurors selected to sit on a case. While there is a smaller percentage of selected jurors who fall in the lower and upper ends of the education scale (9% of selected jurors versus 12% of panel members in the 10 - 12th grade group and 12% versus 15% in the graduate degree category), the difference is not significant. This finding refutes the common belief among many prospective jurors that lawyers only chose better-educated persons from the jury panel to be their jurors.

#### OCCUPATION

The occupational profile of jurors indicates that a significantly high percentage of persons appearing for jury duty can be classified as white collar workers. Question 21 was purposely left open-ended which allowed a great deal of discretion regarding the listing of the prospective jurors' occupations. In order to tabulate the data, eleven occupational categories were established. The breakdown of the total 1561 respondents is as follows: 10% housewives; 10% managers, supervisors, administrators and bankers; 14% secretarial/clerical; 8% hourly wage workers such as cashiers; 10% trade workers and union workers; 3% retired; 10% commission salesmen and persons who own their own businesses; 2% government workers; 15% professionals such as doctors, nurses, lawyers, dentists, engineers and accountants; and 7% teachers and professors. Again the proportion of actual jurors (the 422 in the total sample survey) coincided with the above percentages; there is no noticeable trend toward selection of

certain occupational types for jurors revealed in the survey tabulations.

JUROR ORIENTATION SLIDE/AUDIO PRESENTATION

The middle block of questions (items 11-13) were directed at soliciting comments and suggestions regarding the 17-minute slide/audio presentation which has been shown each morning as a part of the juror orientation process for the past ten months. Question 11 solicited responses regarding the overall rating of the film presentation. Seventy percent of the respondents rated the film good, 27% adequate and 3% poor. As for the length of the presentation (question 12) 86% felt it was about the right length, while 7% said it was too long and 3% indicated it was too short. Question 13 probed deeper by asking the respondent's opinion as to whether or not the presentation contained unnecessary slides, working or music which could be deleted or whether the film left out any important information which should be included. Only 9% of the respondents wanted to make changes and most requested deleting some of the initial music and art slides which constitute the first two minutes of the introduction to the film. These jurors' suggestions were heeded and a revised, shortened version of the slide/audio presentation is now being shown in the Central Jury Room.

#### LENGTH OF JURY SERVICE

The initial set of items on the questionnaire (numbers 1-6) were included to determine the average length of time a prospective juror remains at the courthouse. Responses to question one show that 1449 of the respondents (92%) began their jury service at 8:30 a.m. while 112 (8%) were called in at 1 p.m. as standby jurors on days when there was an insufficient number of morning jurors to meet all judges' panel requests.

Question 2 seeks to reveal the total number of hours spent at the courthouse. Responses to these items are broken down into the categories of selected jurors, unselected panel members and Central Jury Room extras. Of the 237 persons who remained in the Central Jury Room, 191 or 81% were there from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a two hour lunch break. However, 19% remained for 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 hours due to the policy of dismissing all unused jurors at noon on Thursdays and dismissing the standby jurors who were not needed at 3:30 p.m. after reporting at 1 p.m.

On the average most of the 882 respondents who were sent on panels but were not selected as juror members were dismissed in the early afternoon.

Nine percent were dismissed within 1-3 hours, 25% remained at the courthouse between 3-5 hours, 45% between 5-7 hours and 21% between 7-9 hours. Generally, these panel members spent a relatively short time in the Central Jury Room before being dispatched to a courtroom where the majority of their time was spent in the voir dire or questioning process. Fully 62% of all panel members left the Central Jury Room within 1-3 hours, 26% remained for 3-4 hours and 10% waited in the Central Jury Room for five or more hours until the panel to which they were assigned was sent to a designated courtroom in the afternoon.

Responses to questions 2 and 3 vary considerably for those individuals who were actually selected to hear a case. The fact that the duration of various types of cases is quite variable is highlighted by the following statistics: 6% of all selected jurors spent between 1 to 3 total hours at the courthouse, 7% between 3 to 5 hours, 14% between 5-7 hours and 12% between 7-10 hours.

Thirty-three percent spent a total of two days at the courthouse, 16% three days, 10% remained for four days while 5% stayed for five days or more. Three years ago when the length of jury service was for one week for everyone, 100% of all summoned jurors remained at the courthouse for five days or more. As indicated above, this figure has been reduced to 5% since inaugurating one-day/ one-trial in January 1977.

Question six responses show the average length of the jury trials in

Q.

which the 422 respondents participated. After the jury was seated, 20% of the cases concluded in less than four hours and 13% lasted between 4-8 hours. These figures indicate that fully 33% of all of these jury trials were completed in one day. Most of these trials (37%) lasted between one and two days while 16% continued for three days, 9% for four days and 2% for five or more days. October is traditionally a very trial-intensive month and October 1979 when these questionnaires were distributed was no exception. However, the figures indicate that only on rare occasion is a case continued into the second week.

# LOSS OF INCOME AS A RESULT OF JURY DUTY

Several other items were included in the questionnaire which add further depth to the overall assessment of jury duty. Question 15 seeks to uncover the percentage of individuals for whom jury duty is a financial hardship and the effect that loss of income has upon the juror's overall impression of jury duty. Fully 82% of all the respondents received payment from their employer while serving on jury duty. The remaining 18% consist largely of the self-employed, commission salespersons and part-time workers. In the earlier surveys taken in 1977 and 1978 approximately 14% noted that they lost income as a result of jury service.

Responses to Question 14 are used to indicate whether jury duty left a favorable or unfavorable impression with jurors. The chart on page 32 displays responses to Question 14 for selected jurors, unselected panel members and unused jurors in the jury room. Combining the A and B responses to Question 14 results in the group who gave a favorable appraisal of jury duty while the C and D respondents form the group with an unfavorable opinion of jury service.

It is readily apparent from the chart on the\_following page that there is a difference in overall impression of jury duty between the group who lost income due to jury service and those who were compensated by their employer.

#### PERCENT WITH FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF JURY DUTY

	SELECTED JURORS	PANEL MEMBERS	JURY ROOM EXTRAS
LOST INCOME	86%	84%	78%
COMPENSATED BY	92%	90%	90%

The most dissatisfied were those who remained in the Central Jury Room all day and lost income due to the experience. Nevertheless, even 78% of that group indicated that their overall impression of jury duty was positive. Perhaps Question 14 is not a good measure of real dissatisfaction with jury duty. Examining responses to the open-ended question number 16 is enlightening. Those who lost income responded on the average in a much more negative way to this question than those who were paid by their employers. Yet the number of negative responses was minimal on this question as well.

## POSTPONEMENT OF JURY DUTY

Question 7 seeks to determine how many prospective jurors seek a post-ponement of their jury duty due to inconvenient scheduling. Of the total number of survey respondents, 520 or 33% asked that their jury service be rescheduled to another date. This percentage is considerably higher than the overall monthly postponement average for October of 18.9%. Apparently more individuals who postponed their jury duty to another date completed the survey than the norm.

The question further explores the reason for requesting that jury duty be rescheduled. Fully 53% of all requests for postponement were attributed to business reasons. Prior appointments accounted for another 10%; vacation plans were listed by 14% of the respondents; and 5% indicated the postponement was due to family considerations. Illness was the reason given in 10% of the cases and all other reasons accounted for 8% of requests.

## CENTRAL JURY ROOM FACILITIES

Question 10 was included to determine the adequacy of the seating capacity of the Central Jury Room. It asks the respondents to indicate whether or not they had to stand due to an insufficient number of seats. Ten percent of the respondents indicated that they did have to stand while 90% were able to find seats. The seating problem is severe on Monday mornings when upwards of 100 to 150 jurors must stand as the jury room only seats 500 persons.

# JUROR BUS COUPONS

A new service being offered to jurors in conjunction with the Dallas
Transit Service is a free one-way bus ride coupon inside the jury summons.
Twenty percent of the respondents to the questionnaire indicated that they took advantage of the free ride coupon. An additional benefit of this program is that it contributes to easing traffic congestion and parking problems downtown.

# JUROR EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE (OCTOBER 1979)

1. Did you report for jury duty at 8:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.?  2. Approximately how many hours did you spend at the courthouse?  3. Of these hours at the courthouse, approximately how much time did you spend in the Central Jury Room?  4. How many times were you sent to a courtroom for the jury selection process?  5. Mere you actually selected to be a member of the jury? Yes No  6. How long did your service as a member of the jury last?  7. Mhen you received your jury summons in the mail, did you ask for a postponement to another date? Yes No If yes, for what reason did you request a postponement? (circle one): (a) business reason(s): (b) prior appointment; (c) vacation plans; (d) family considerations; (e) illness; (f) other (please specify):  8. Did you use the bus coupon to ride to the courthouse today? Yes No  9. Please rate the following: Good Adequate Poor  A. Instructions in the jury summons envelope  B. Instructions in Central Jury Room  C. Treatment by courthouse personnel  D. Scheduling of your time  E. Restroom facilities in Central Jury Room  10. Did you have to stand in the Central Jury Room due to insufficient seats? Yes No  11. Overall, please rate the juror orientation slide presentation shown in the Central Jury Room: Good Adequate Poor  12. Do you feel that the slide presentation was: about the right length too short too long 10 you feel that the slide presentation left out any important information that a Juror should know or contained any unnecessary slides, wording or music which could	COM FOR	WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF CONDUCTING A SURVEY REGARDING JURY DUTY AND ARE ING FOR YOUR HELP. WHEN YOU ARE DISMISSED FROM JURY DUTY, PLEASE TAKE FIVE MINUTES TO PLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE AND TURN IT IN TO THE CENTRAL JURY ROOM BAILIFF'S OFFICE BE-ELEAVING THE COURTHOUSE. THE RESULTS WILL ASSIST US IN PINPOINTING AREAS IN NEED IMPROVEMENT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
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	12.	
be deleted from the presentation to improve it? Yes No If yes, please specify:	13.	juror should know or contained any unnecessary slides, wording or music which could be deleted from the presentation to improve it? Yes No If yes, please
14. After having served, what is your impression of jury service?  A. More favorable than before  B. The same as before - favorable  C. The same as before - unfavorable  D. Less favorable than before  (Continued on next rage)	14.	A. More favorable than before  B. The same as before - favorable  C. The same as before - unfavorable  D. Less favorable than before

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# JUROR EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE (CON'T)

15.	Did you lose income as a result of jury service? Yes No
16.	What could be done to improve jury service for you?
17.	Have you ever been summoned for jury duty in Dallas County before? YesNoIf yes, how man times? Please indicate which year(s):
18.	In the past, how many times were you actually selected to sit on a jury?
THE	FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL HELP EVALUATE THE RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.
19.	Age: 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-over
20.	Sex: MaleFemale
21.	Occupation:
22.	Education: 10-12th grade H.S. 1-3 yrs. college College Graduate Degree Degree

	JURUK EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE (MARCH 1978)
1.	Approximately how many hours did you spend at the courthouse? 9.6 hr.
2.	Of these hours at the courthouse, approximately how long did you spend in the central jury room? 3./ //r.
3.	How many times were you sent to a courtroom for the jury selection process?
4.	Ves 33.6 Were you actually selected to be a member of the jury? no 35.6 n/a. 30.7
5.	How long did your service as a member of the jury last?  Jes 449
6.	Have you ever served on jury duty before? no 54.4
7.	Please rate the following factors for this week's service. (Answer all)
	Good Adequate Poor
•	A. Instructions in jury summons envelope 944 9.32 9.32
	B. Instructions in Central Jury Room \$5.92 1.42 1.89
	C. Treatment by courthouse personnel 9:12 0
	D. Underground parking facility33.7%   1/92   4/2   E. Eating facility4/2.6   26.82   4/2   F. Scheduling of your time46.82   28.42   14.72
8.	If you served on a jury this week:
•	A. Do you feel that the jury on which you served tried to arrive at a fair and just verdict? Yes 3/92 No 12 1/2 1/2
	B. Did the judge conduct the trial in a fair and impartial manner?  Yes 33.62 No .22 n/a 66.2 ?
	C. Were the attorneys prepared to present their cases effectively? Yes 27.5 % No 5.3 % n/a 67.2 %
	D. Comments on any of these factors:
9.	Did you lose income as a result of jury service? Yes 14.3 % No 28.93 np. 6.
10.	After having served, what is your impression of jury service? (Answer o
	A. More favorable than before? 28.6%  B. The same as before-favorable? 19.7%  C. The same as before - unfavorable? 1.5%  D. Less favorable than before? 2.0%  1/2 38.2%
11.	What could be changed to improve jury service for you?
The to t	following information will help evaluate the results and responses his questionnaire:
12.	Age: 18-20 2]-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-over  .99 7.22 2269 2442 1602 1.53 1/2 2.42  Sex: Female 40.2%  Hale 54.3 2 1/2 5.5 5

#### CONCLUSION

Dallas County's jury system experienced the best year on record during 1979. This performance is measured not only by impressive statistics for juror utilization and yield but also in terms of citizens' assessment of their jury service.

Jurors appraisal of their experience at the courthouse was collected via questionnaires distributed in the Central Jury Room over a three-week period in October 1979. Of the 1561 respondents, fully 90% rated their overall opinion of jury duty favorably. The highest rating for the more specific aspects of jury duty was given to the instructions in the Central Jury Room. This is positive reinforcement that this year's emphasis on offering a more uniform and concise format during morning juror orientation has been a success. The focal point of orientation is the showing of a 16-minute slide/audio presentation which details the duties of a juror and explains basic legal terms and concepts. This presentation has contributed to reducing many jurors confusion and apprehension regarding jury duty.

Continual efforts to improve utilization of jurors and enhance system efficiency have translated into cost savings. Although juror pay increased 20% this year and the number of jury trials increased 16% over last year requiring the appearance of more jurors than ever before, the corresponding total cost of juror fees rose less than 13%. These figures substantiate the belief that cost reduction efforts can be achieved without sacrificing the major objective of supplying Dallas County's 60 courts with a sufficient number of jurors for their needs.

<sup>\*</sup>On August 27, 1979 juror pay was increased due to implementation of the new statute raising minimum jury pay from \$5 to \$6 per day.

# END