

# An Overview of Crime in Arizona

February 1980

A Report from The Arizona State  
Justice Planning Agency  
Statistical Analysis Center

Justice  
Planning  
Agency

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Statistical Analysis Center  
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ACQUISITIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Arizona has had a history of crime rates well above the national average. In 1975, Arizona had the highest crime rate in the nation. The following two years saw Arizona's crime rate fall to second place among the states. The crime rates for the entire country, as well as Arizona, have steadily decreased between 1975 and 1978; however, an analysis of the first quarter of 1979 indicates that this downward trend may have halted.

Comparisons between the first quarters of 1978 and 1979 reveal increases in total violent offenses and total property offenses in Arizona, by 17% and 8% respectively. Undoubtedly, Arizonans are faced with high crime rates which are not restricted to the state's metropolitan areas, but exist in small municipalities and rural areas as well.

Many feel that the key to crime control is community involvement in the prevention of crime and in the apprehension and conviction of offenders. The Arizona State Justice Planning Agency staff hopes that this report, by focusing on the nature and extent of crime in Arizona, will foster needed community involvement.

*AN OVERVIEW OF CRIME IN ARIZONA* is designed for use by Arizona criminal justice planners and administrators. For Arizona citizens, it is distributed as a resource from which they may learn about the nature and extent of criminal activity in their state.

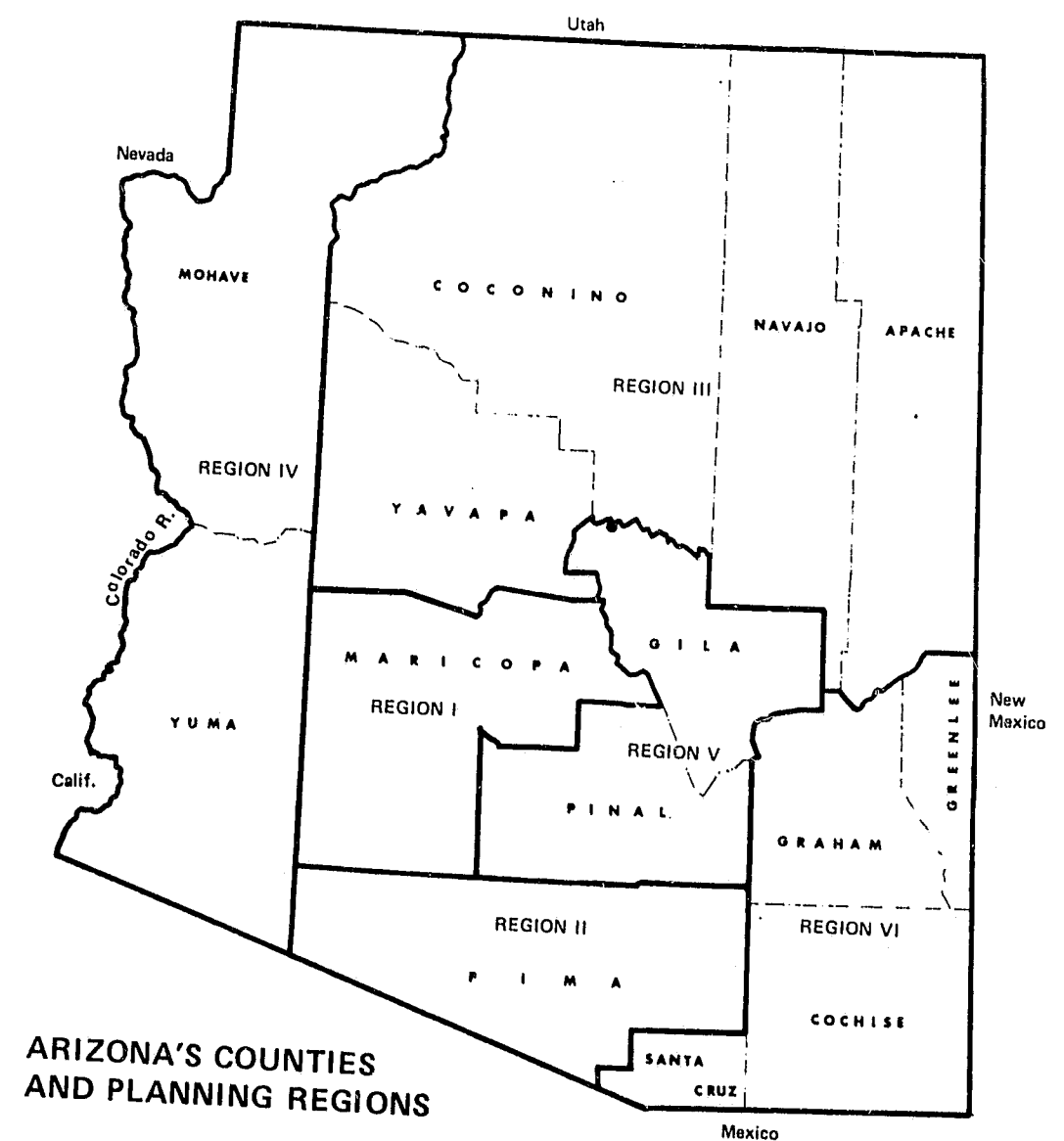
This overview is composed of six sections. The first discusses unique Arizona characteristics relating to crime. State wide data on crime rates and arrests are compared in the second. Narcotics trafficking and drug abuse are the subject of the third. The fourth, fifth and sixth sections are crime specific, detailing the growing occurrences of Arson, White Collar Crime, and DWI.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF ARIZONA

Characteristics unique to Arizona help shape the nature and extent of crime in the state . . .

### GEOGRAPHY

In area, Arizona is the sixth largest state in the nation. Mountains and desert dominate its 113,909 square miles. The mountainous northern half of the state has comfortable summers, while the southern deserts have mild winters. The Colorado River forms the Arizona-California boundary, and in the desert to the south lies the long, largely unguarded Mexico border.



ARIZONA'S COUNTIES  
AND PLANNING REGIONS

Fully 82% of Arizona's vast land is owned by the state or federal governments, severely limiting the private tax base which supports local and state criminal justice agencies. In several counties, such as Gila County with only 3% of its land in private hands, law enforcement problems stem not so much from a disproportionate amount of crime as from the limited resources available to finance the criminal justice system.

## POPULATION

Seventy-four percent of Arizona's 2,449,200 (1978 estimate) people live in the metropolitan counties of Maricopa and Pima, centered around the cities of Phoenix and Tucson. The other twelve counties are sparsely inhabited, ranging from 3 to 17 persons per square mile. Statewide, population density reached only 20 persons per square mile. In comparison, the population density of neighboring California is 136 persons per square mile. Coupled with the inaccessibility of many areas in Arizona, formidable communication and patrol problems result for law enforcement agencies.

Arizona's growth rate is the highest in the nation. Since 1970, the number of people has swelled more than 38%. A number of communities such as Glendale, Payson, and Sierra Vista, have more than doubled their population in recent years. Increasingly, this population growth strains the capabilities of criminal justice agencies in the state.

## TOURISM

Arizona's actual population greatly exceeds the resident population because of the large number of out-of-state tourists. In addition, many Arizonans are attracted to recreation or scenic areas with small resident populations. Migrant workers, illegal aliens, and other transients are also sources of uncounted population. Were all the non-residents included in population counts, Arizona crime rates would generally be reduced. The magnitude of Arizona's tourism and travel industry is indicated in statistics collected by agencies throughout the state. They report that in 1978:

- 10.7 million passenger cars entered Arizona (Arizona Commission of Agriculture and Horticulture);
- 9 million international crossings were made at Nogales (Division of Economic and Business Research, University of Arizona);
- There were 5.9 million passenger arrivals and departures at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (City of Phoenix Aviation Department);

- More than 16 million visitors used National Service Areas in the State (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service);
- Approximately 2.4 million people used Arizona State Parks (Arizona State Parks Board);
- Tourism and travel expenditures totaled \$3.4 billion (Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Arizona State University).

## INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Indian reservations such as the large Navajo, Papago, San Carlos, Fort Apache, and Hopi, are characterized by small populations spread over vast areas with few good roads. Law enforcement on the reservations is complicated by low population densities and overlapping jurisdictions covering Indian affairs. The Arizona portion of the Navajo Reservation, for example, has 80,000 people in an area about twice that of New Jersey. Should a serious crime such as murder, rape, robbery or arson occur on a reservation, federal agents would investigate, though they might be headquartered many miles away. For lesser offenses, tribal police, the sheriff, or other authorities might have jurisdiction.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Citizen participation is an important factor in police work. There are many ways in which the Arizona public helps in the fight against crime: by cooperating with police and other criminal justice agencies; by the thousands of hours volunteered to law enforcement agencies by reserve officers, posse members, and others; and by reporting crimes and suspicious persons and activities. The Phoenix Police Department reports that they received 1,006,882 Crime Stop calls in 1978. It is believed that programs such as Crime Stop and the community's confidence in their police departments, among other factors, contribute to the fact that the reported rate of index offenses in Arizona is 47% higher than the national rate.



## CRIME STATISTICS

### UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

The Uniform Crime Reports, collected by the Arizona Department of Public Safety, provide the best available means of assessing crime in the state. Under the UCR Program, data on criminal offenses and police activities are routinely and uniformly collected from law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona. Agencies participating in the UCR Program during 1978, excluding those on Indian reservations, have jurisdiction over 100% of the state population.

The UCR Program groups seven index crimes into two categories: violent and property crimes. Violent crimes include murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes are burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft. (Definitions of each of the index crime categories are listed in the Appendix.) These data show the magnitude and distribution of crime in the state.

Arrest data provide a second way of measuring criminal activity. These data are grouped into the Part I and Part II crimes. The Part I crimes are the seven index crimes plus negligent manslaughter. The Part II crimes are all other non-traffic crimes, such as driving under the influence, drug law violations, disorderly conduct and fraud. For many of these Part II crimes, numbers of arrests are the only available information as it is impracticable to count the numbers of offenses. Arrest data also provides the age, race, and sex of individuals apprehended.

UCR data may not accurately reflect the total amount of crime in the state. These limitations affect its accuracy:

- Many crimes against persons and their property are not reported to police. A victimization study in Gila and Pinal counties showed that 35% of the victims had not reported a crime. More recently, a study commissioned by the Statistical Analysis Center of ASJPA found that 53% of the incidences of crime covered in the study went unreported;
- Some police jurisdictions overlap. The effective strength of law enforcement agencies is also a decisive factor;
- Crime figures are *police statistics* as distinguished from the findings of a court, coroner, jury, or decision of a prosecutor;
- Crimes reported on Arizona Indian reservations are not included in state totals even though reservation populations are included in state population figures.

REPORTED CRIME AND CRIME RATES

The crime rates for both the United States and Arizona have declined steadily between 1975 and 1978. An analysis of the most current crime figures (the first three months of 1979) indicates that this trend may have halted.

A comparison of the first three months in 1979 with the corresponding months in 1978 reveals that the numbers of offenses reported in Arizona and in the nation increased for each indexed crime (Table 1).

The number of index crimes reported within the United States has risen 11% while the number reported within Arizona rose 9%.

The increases in violent crimes reported were more pronounced than the increases in property crime, particularly in Arizona. The most startling increase was Arizona's 27% rise in homicides.

Table 1  
CHANGE IN  
REPORTED INDEX OFFENSES  
UNITED STATES AND ARIZONA\*

Per Cent Change January Through March, 1979 Compared to 1978.

	U.S.	Arizona*
Total Violent Offenses	+ 17%	+ 17%
Homicide	+ 9%	+ 27%
Forcible Rape	+ 11%	+ 5%
Robbery	+ 19%	+ 12%
Aggravated Assault	+ 17%	+ 21%
Total Property Offenses	+ 11%	+ 8%
Burglary	+ 8%	+ 3%
Larceny/Theft	+ 11%	+ 10%
Motor Vehicle Theft	+ 15%	+ 22%
Arson**	—	—
TOTAL OFFENSES	+ 11%	+ 9%

\*Data from Apache County Sheriff's Office was not available at time of this writing.

\*\*A collection of statistics regarding arson, a newly established Index Crime, has begun, but data on this offense are not yet available for 1979.

In 1978, Arizona had the second highest crime rate in the nation (the "crime rate" is the number of index offenses per 100,000 population). The 1978 Arizona rate of 7,603.8 is 49% higher than the national rate.

Table 2  
STATES HAVING HIGHEST  
CRIME RATES, 1978\*

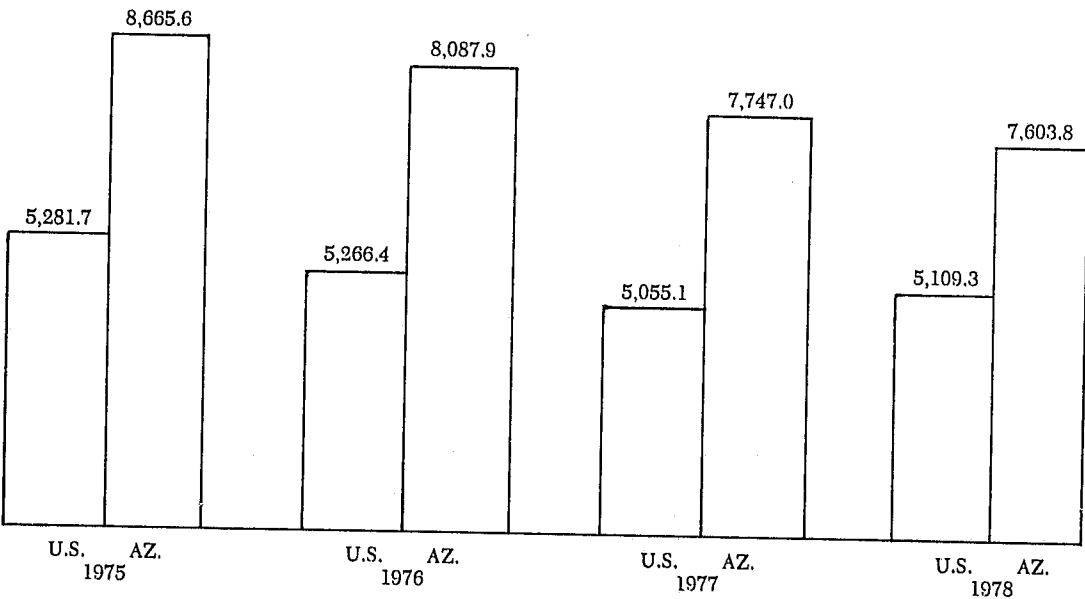
Rank	State	Crime Rate* (FBI)
1	Nevada	8286.8
2	ARIZONA	7603.8
3	Hawaii	7136.1
4	California	7116.2
5	Florida	7069.5
6	Colorado	6832.4
7	Delaware	6353.9
8	Washington	6115.6
9	Oregon	6075.4
10	Alaska	6046.2

\*Rate per 100,000 inhabitants.  
Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports 1978 (Table 4).

Except for robbery, Arizona crime rates were higher than national rates for each of the index offenses.

Figure A presents a four year comparison of Arizona and U.S. crime rates. Table 3, on the following page, indicates the amount of change Arizona crime rates have experienced from year to year.

Figure A  
COMPARISON OF INDEX CRIME RATES  
U.S. AND ARIZONA  
1975-1978



(Rates equal the number of reported offenses per 100,000 population.)

Source: 1978 FBI Uniform Crime Reports.



Since 1975, Arizona's crime rate has decreased 12%. As Table 3 depicts, the crime rate decreased 7% in 1976, 4% in 1977 and 2% in 1978.

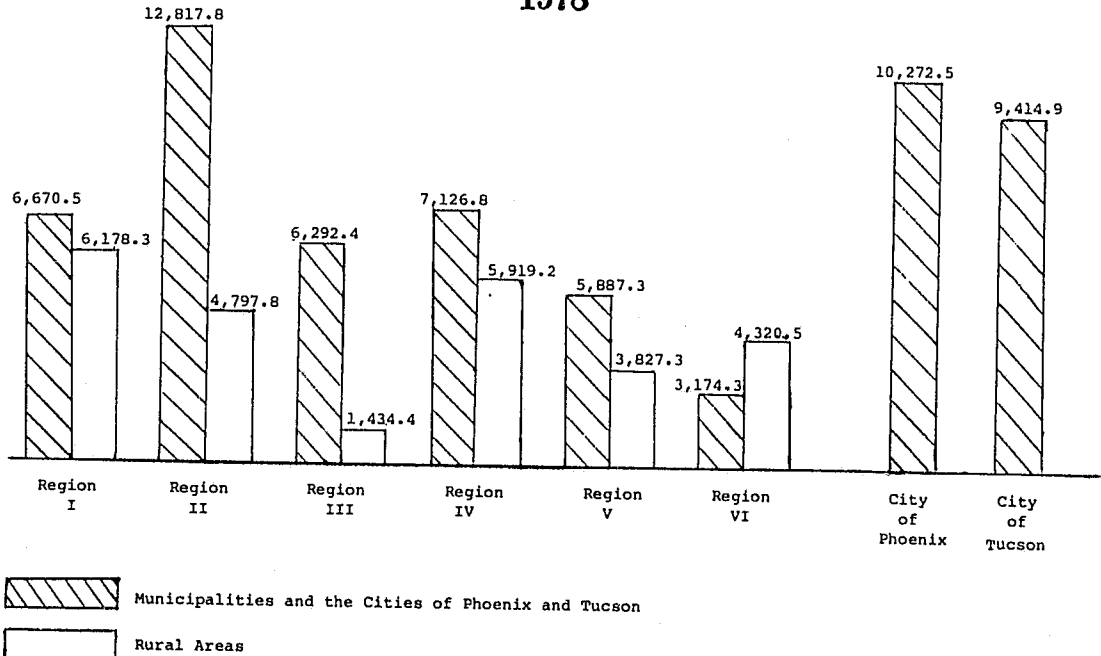
Table 3  
CHANGE IN ARIZONA CRIME RATE  
1975 - 1978

Years	Per Cent Change
1975 to 1976	- 7%
1976 to 1977	- 4%
1977 to 1978	- 2%

REGIONAL CRIME ANALYSIS

For planning purposes, Arizona is divided into six regions. Region I is limited to Maricopa County and Region II contains only Pima County. Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties make up Region III while Region IV is composed of Mohave and Yuma Counties. Region V consists of Gila and Pinal Counties. Finally, Region VI contains Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties.

Figure B  
RATES OF ALL INDEX CRIMES IN  
ARIZONA CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES  
AND RURAL AREAS  
1978



Note: Rates equal offenses per 100,000 population. Population counts in Pima County municipalities and in Region VI rural areas were below 50,000.  
Source: UCR Section of Arizona Department of Public Safety; Phoenix and Tucson rates based on FBI population figures; Department of Economic Security.

In keeping with an analysis of crime patterns within Arizona cities, municipalities and rural areas, the cities of Phoenix and Tucson have been separated from their respective regions and are analyzed independently. Therefore, Maricopa and Pima County data excludes data for the cities of Phoenix and Tucson.

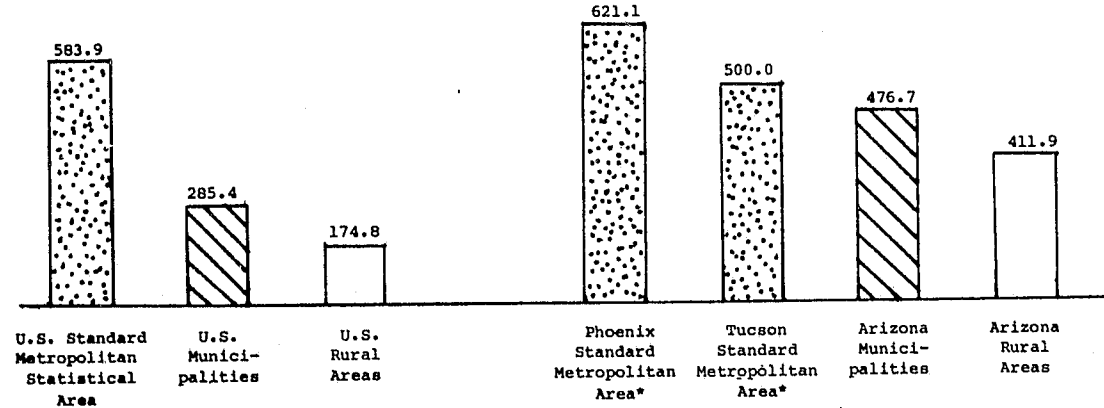
Figure B presents the rates of all index crimes in Arizona cities, municipalities and rural areas. The municipalities within Pima County have the highest overall crime rate (12,817.8), followed closely by the city of Phoenix (10,272.5).

Of all municipalities, those within Region VI have the lowest crime rate (3,174.3). Of all rural areas, those within Region I have the highest rates (6,178.3) and those areas within Region III have the lowest rate (1,434.4).

VIOLENT CRIME

Figure C depicts Arizona's violent crime rates and compares the rates to those of comparably sized national areas for 1978.

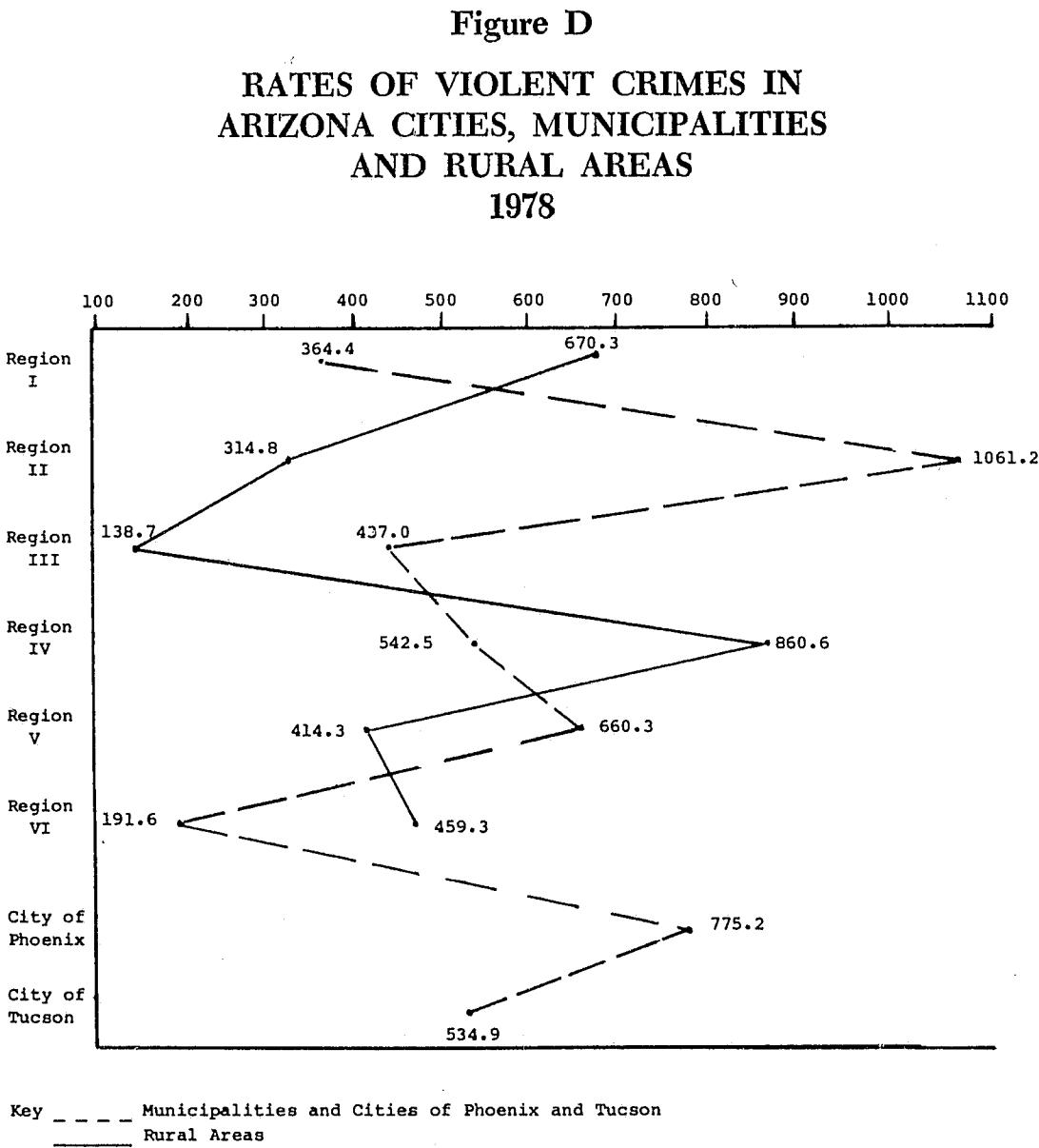
Figure C  
VIOLENT CRIME RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION  
IN ARIZONA, 1978



Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States 1978*, (Table 1, Table 4, and Table 5).  
\*Phoenix and Tucson SMSA's include Maricopa and Pima Counties, respectively.

The violent crime rate for Arizona municipalities is 67% higher than the rate for U.S. municipalities, while a 135% difference exists between the rural areas category. Phoenix and Tucson SMSA's reflect respectively, a 6% higher and 14% lower violent crime rate, when compared to the U.S. SMSA category.

Figure D displays violent crime rates for *all* areas within Arizona in 1978. The rural areas of Region III report the lowest violent crime rates, followed closely by the municipalities within Region VI. Municipalities in Region II reported the highest violent crime rate in the State.

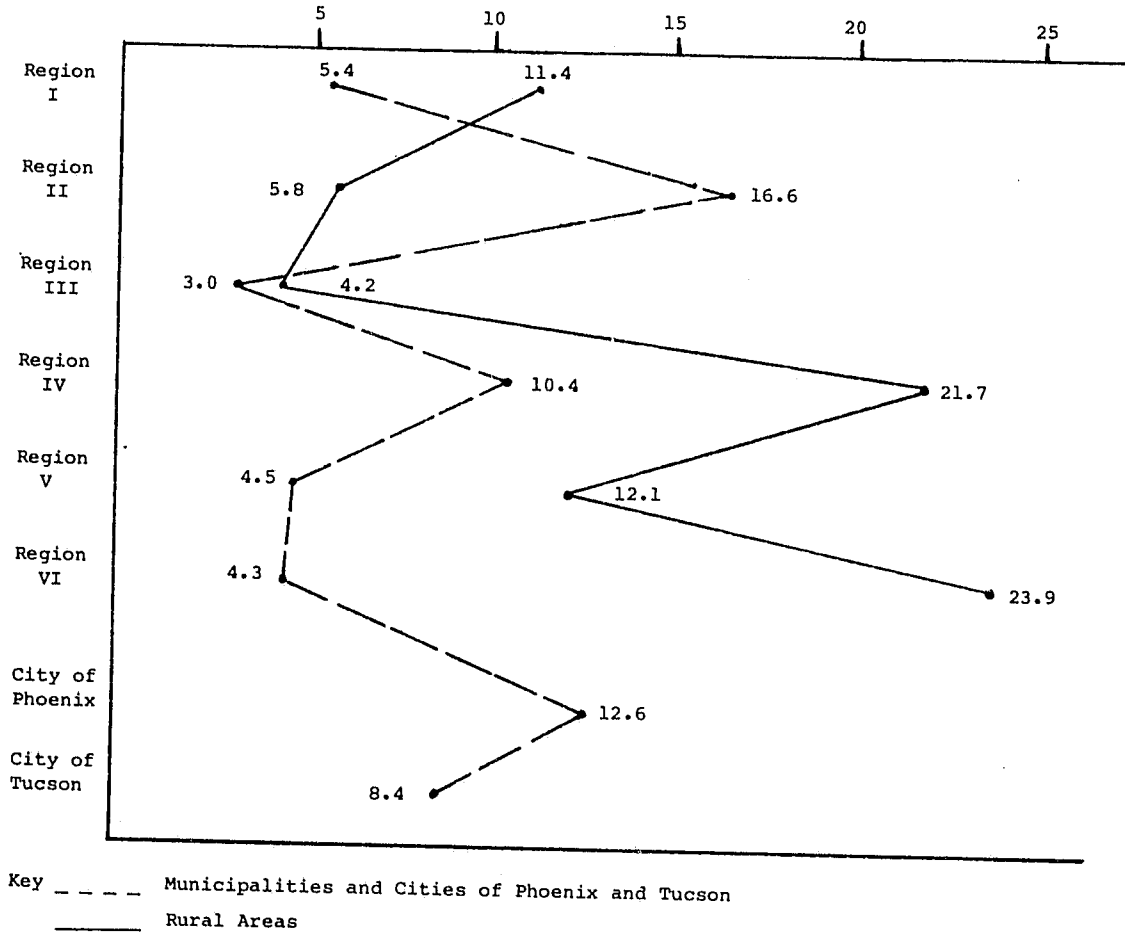


Note: Rates equal number of offenses per 100,000 population; see note for Figure B.  
Source: UCR Section of Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Although the violent crime rate in the rural areas of Region VI was one of the lowest in the State, these areas had the highest murder rate (Figure E). Murder appears to be a rural phenomenon in Arizona, with rural rates outstripping municipal rates in five of the six regions.

**Figure E**

**RATES OF MURDER IN  
ARIZONA CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES  
AND RURAL AREAS  
1978**



Note: Rates equal number of offenses per 100,000 population; see note for Figure B.  
Source: UCR Section of Arizona Department of Public Safety.

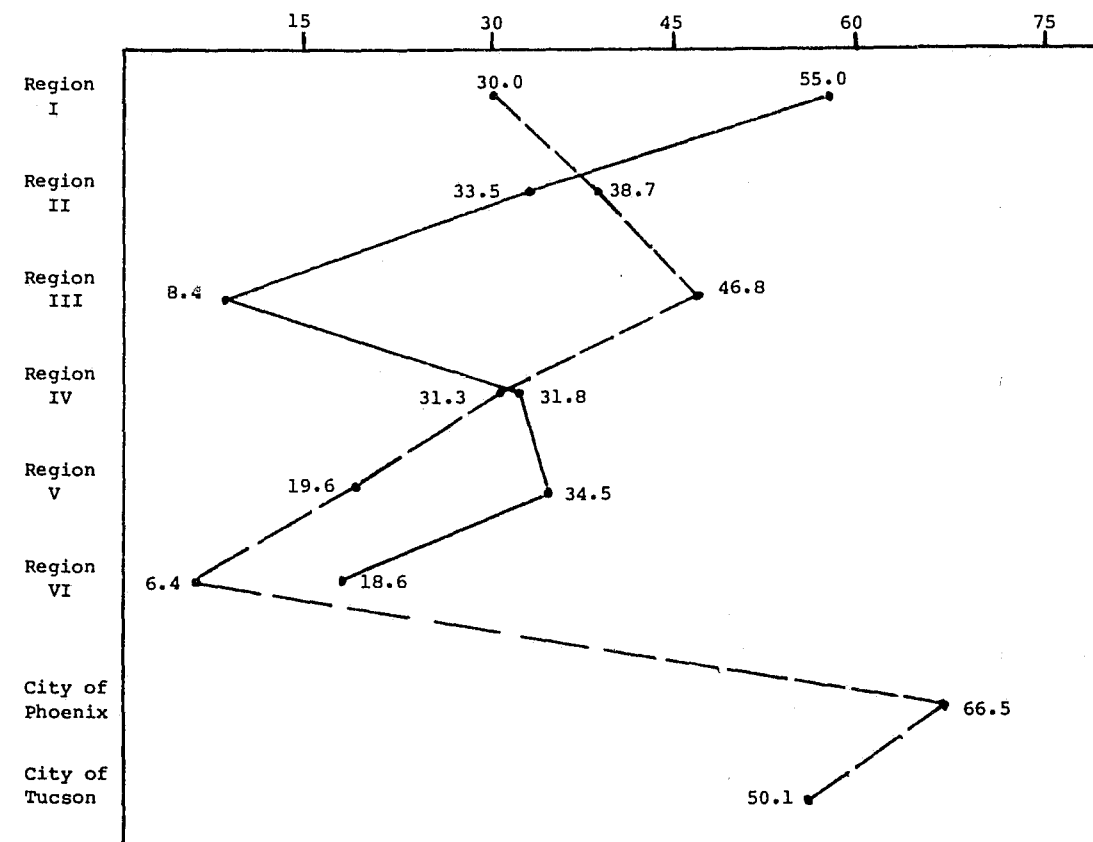
No such pattern exists in rates of forcible rape. Figure F indicates that the city of Phoenix reports the highest rate of forcible rape, followed by rural areas of Maricopa County and the city of Tucson.

The higher rates of rape in Phoenix, Tucson and Maricopa rural areas may not indicate that the offense is more rampant in these

areas, but that the offense is more likely to be reported due to the existence of such active agencies as the Center Against Sexual Assault in Phoenix, and the Tucson Rape Crisis Center, Inc., in Tucson.

Figure F

RATES OF FORCIBLE RAPE IN  
ARIZONA CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES  
AND RURAL AREAS  
1978



Key --- Municipalities and Cities of Phoenix and Tucson  
—— Rural Areas

Note: Rates equal number of offenses per 100,000 population; see note for Figure B.  
Source: UCR Section of Arizona Department of Public Safety.

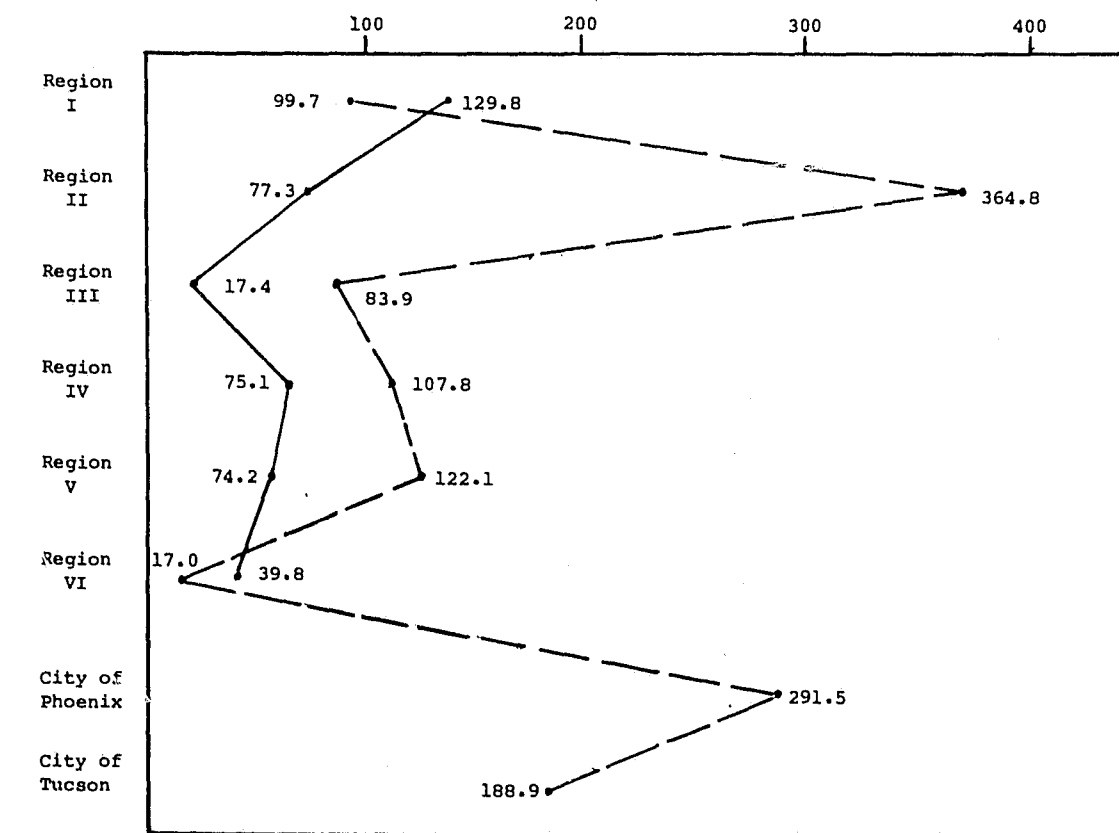
It is likely that the rates reported here are not reflective of the extent of forcible rape in Arizona. National Crime Surveys have determined that as many as half of all rapes, or attempted rapes, go unreported.

Rates of robbery are much higher in Arizona cities and municipalities than they are in Arizona rural areas. Figure G indicates that Pima County municipalities have a robbery rate far greater than that

of any other municipality. Indeed, Pima County municipalities' rate of robbery exceeds the rates for the cities of Phoenix and Tucson, by 25% and 93% respectively.

Figure G

RATES OF ROBBERY IN  
ARIZONA CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES  
AND RURAL AREAS  
1978



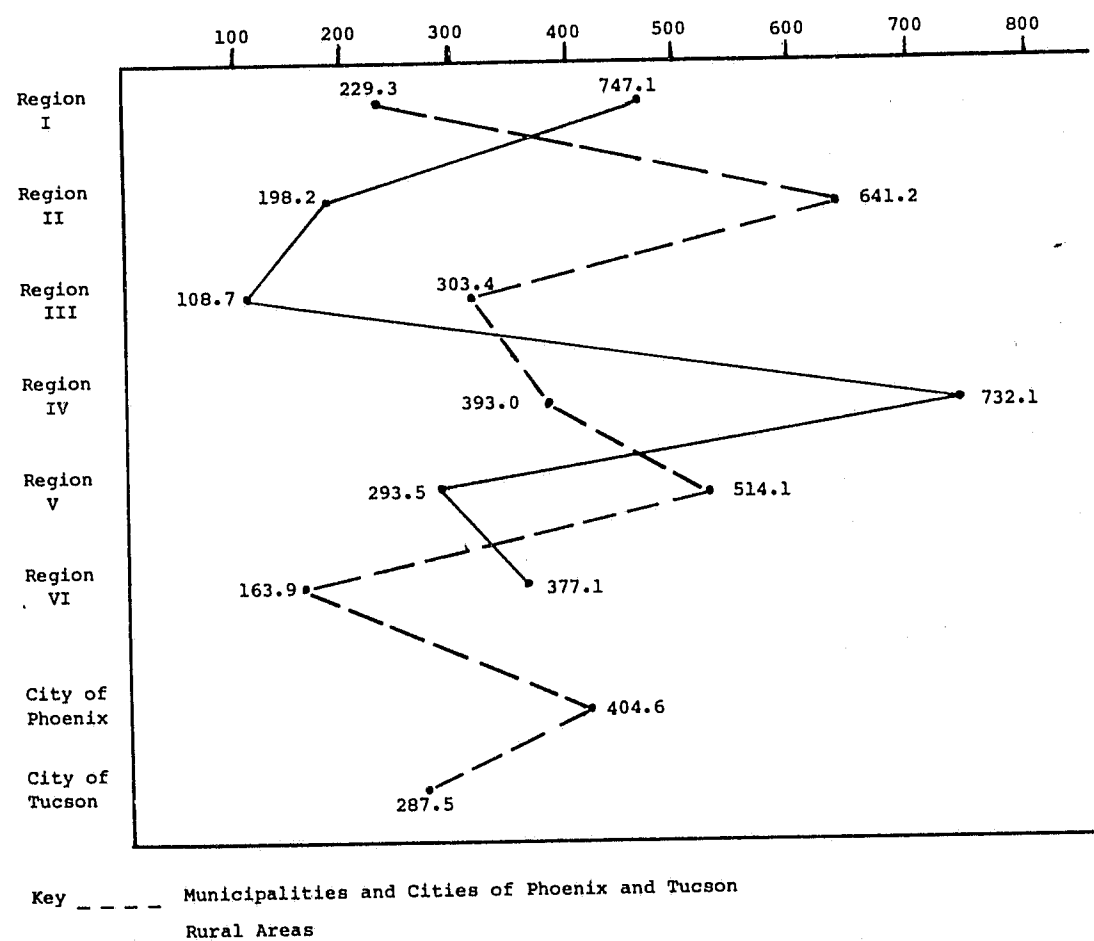
Key --- Municipalities and Cities of Phoenix and Tucson  
—— Rural Areas

Note: Rates equal number of offenses per 100,000 population; see note for Figure B.  
Source: UCR Section of Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Rates of aggravated assault are highest in the rural areas of Region IV and in the municipalities of Region II (Figure H). Aggravated assault rates are lowest in the rural areas of Region III.

**Figure H**

**RATES OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULT IN ARIZONA CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES AND RURAL AREAS 1978**



Note: Rates equal number of offenses per 100,000 population; see note for Figure B.  
Source: UCR Section of Arizona Department of Public Safety.

**PROPERTY CRIME**

The 1978 FBI Uniform Crime Reports annual publication reported Arizona as second in the nation in property crime rates. Arizona's combined property crime rate (burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft) of 7,051.7 was 53% higher than the national average. Property crimes flourish in the state's urban areas. The rates of burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft in Phoenix and Tucson are more than twice those of the state's rural areas.

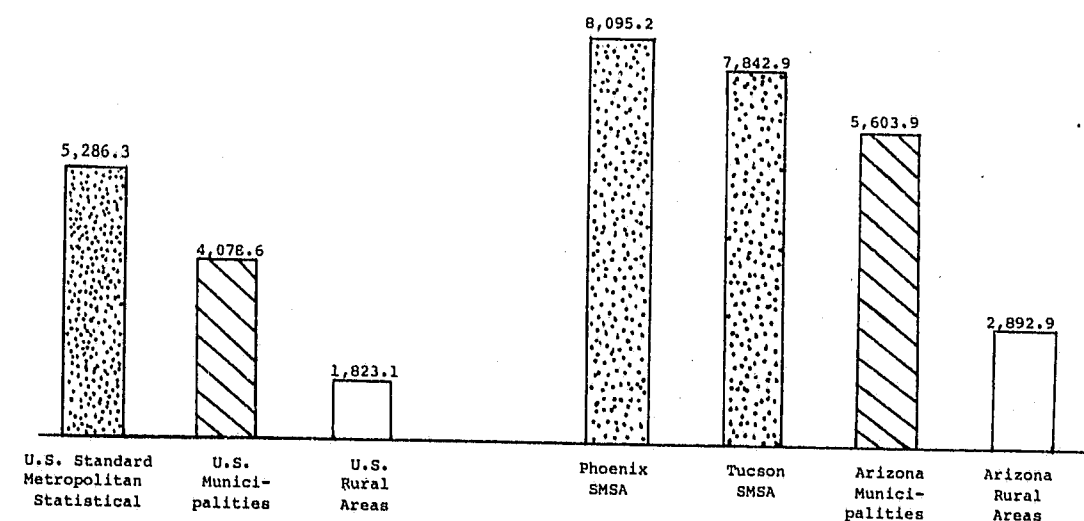
Almost \$75 million in property was stolen in Arizona in 1978—\$30.43 for every man, woman, and child in the state. Of the \$74.5 million of property reported stolen, slightly more than \$23.5 million was recovered. Once stolen, motor vehicles are most likely to be recovered (68%). Mandatory motor vehicle registration and licensing are significant factors in this high rate of recovery. Televisions, stereos, and other household items have the lowest recovery rates (5%).

Across Arizona, the incidence of property crimes varies with the seasons. Property crimes increase in Maricopa and Pima counties during the winter tourist season, while in northern Arizona property crimes increase during the summer.

Figure I displays Arizona's property crime rates and compares the rates to those of comparably sized national areas for 1978.

**Figure I**

**RATES OF PROPERTY CRIME PER 100,000 POPULATION IN ARIZONA IN 1978**



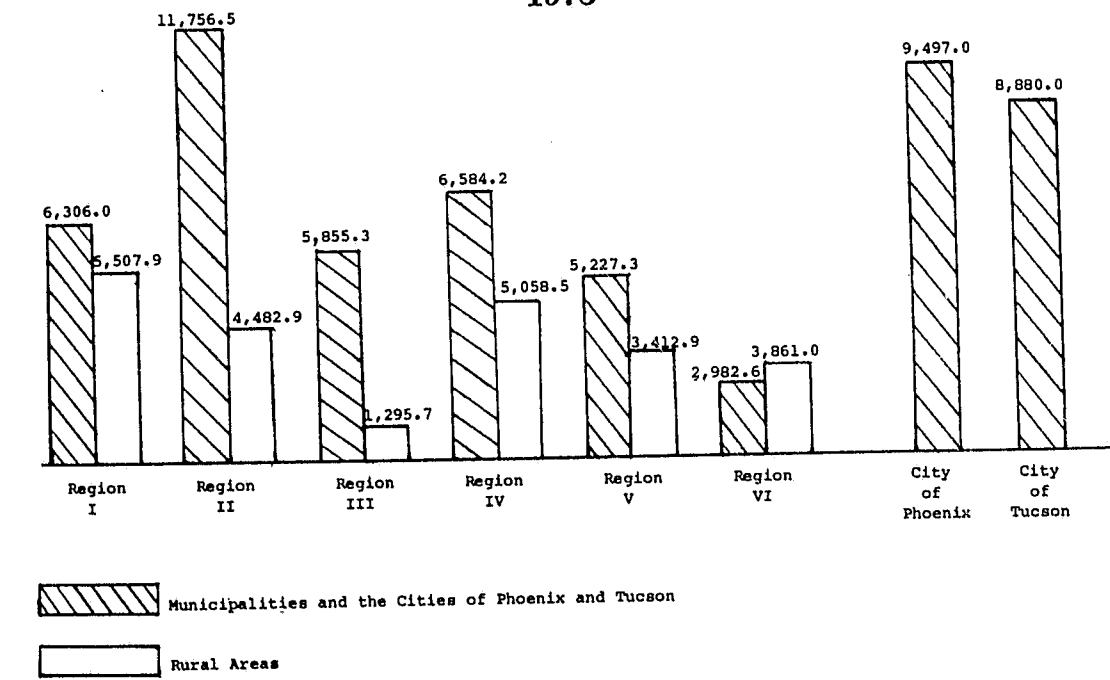
Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States 1978*, UCR Section of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Arizona areas have property crime rates well above the national figures. The Phoenix SMSA, for instance, experiences a property crime rate 53% higher than the rate for the U.S. SMSA. Tucson's rate is 48% higher than the national rate. Arizona's municipalities outstrip

U.S. municipalities in property crime rates by 37%. Figure J indicates that rural areas, in Arizona, had 59% higher property crime rates than U.S. rural areas.

Figure J

RATES OF ALL INDEX PROPERTY CRIMES IN  
ARIZONA CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES  
AND RURAL AREAS  
1978



Note: Rates equal number of offenses per 100,000 population; see note for Figure B.  
Source: UCR Section of Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Burglary rates typically are highest in cities. The cities of Phoenix and Tucson have the highest rates of burglary in Arizona, as well as the highest rates of motor vehicle thefts. In larceny/theft offenses, the rates reported in the municipalities of Pima County were over 50% higher than any other area in the state.

ARRESTS

Arrest statistics show that the majority of individuals arrested for violent crimes are age 18 and above, while the majority of those arrested for property crimes are under age 18. One should not assume, however, that the age of those arrested is representative of the ages of all offenders since some persons are more easily apprehended than others.

The chart on the following page shows the number of arrests and the percentage of those arrested, by age and offense. Arizona law

**Table 4**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF ARRESTS BY AGE AND OFFENSE, 1978**

ARREST PERCENTAGES	Violent Crimes	PERCENTAGE UNDER AGE 18	PERCENTAGE AGE 18 AND OVER	TOTAL NO. OF ARRESTS
	Murder	10	90	168
	Rape	14	86	344
4.2	Robbery	28	72	1,284
	Aggravated Assault	19	81	3,094
	Subtotal	21	79	4,890
	Property Crimes			
	Burlary	58	42	6,227
20.8	Larceny-Theft	57	43	16,262
	Motor Vehicle Theft	61	39	1,661
	Subtotal	58	42	24,150
	Volume Offenses			
	DWI	2	98	26,769
	Disorderly Conduct	11	89	10,362
49.6	Drug Law Violations	26	74	7,603
	Liquor Violations	40	50	6,069
	Simple Assault	33	67	4,167
	Vandalism	63	37	2,769
	Subtotal	16	84	57,739
	Juvenile Offenses			
7.8	Runaways	100		4,753
	Curfew	100		1,584
	Subtotal	100		9,106
20.0	Balance of Offenses*	20	80	23,223
100%	TOTAL	30	70	116,339

\*Weapons, stolen property, fraud, prostitution, sex offenses, vagrancy, offenses against family, forgery-counterfeiting, arson, embezzlement, gambling, manslaughter by negligence, other non-traffic offenses.



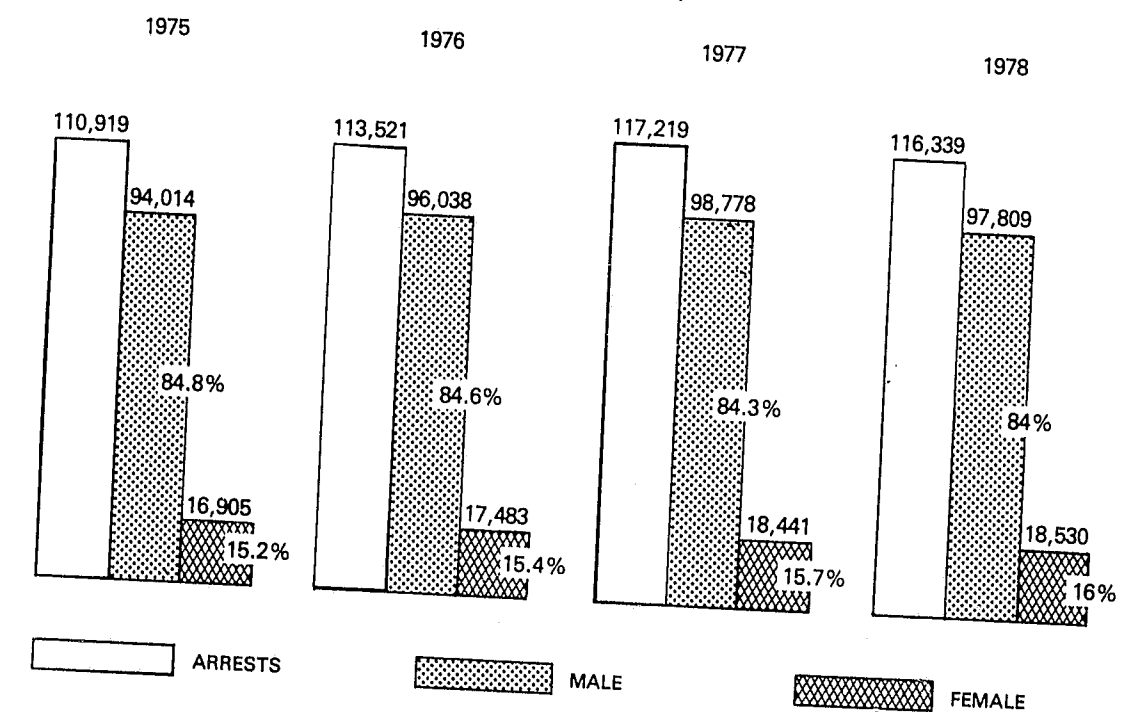
enforcement agencies reported 116,340 arrests for non-traffic offenses in 1978. Twenty-five percent were for index offenses; 4.2% for violent crimes; 20.8% for property crimes.

Of 4,890 persons arrested for violent crimes, a total of 79% were adults, ranging from 72% for robbery to 90% for murder. The opposite is true for property crimes, with 58% of 24,150 persons arrested being under 18. An adult arrested for a violent crime is more likely to be in the 18-19 year age group than any other. A juvenile arrested for a property crime is more likely to be in the 16-17 year age group.

Five Part II Offenses—driving while intoxicated, drug law violations, disorderly conduct, liquor violations, simple assault and vandalism—account for nearly half of all non-traffic arrests. All Part II crimes can be characterized as “adult” offenses except for the “juvenile” offenses of runaways and curfew violations.

Table 5 indicates that the percentages of males and females arrested varies little from year to year. However, arrests of females have risen 9.6% from 1975 to 1978 while arrests of males have risen only 4% during that period.

**Table 5**  
**ARREST COMPARISON BY SEX**



Source: UCR Section of Arizona Department of Public Safety.

CRIME ON ARIZONA INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Indian reservations accounted for 27% of the land, 5.8% of the population and 16% of the reported crimes and arrests in Arizona during 1978. According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Law Enforcement Services, 124 index offenses were reported on Arizona reservations in 1978. Nearly 48% of these offenses were crimes of violence, primarily robberies and aggravated assaults. Alcohol-related offenses accounted for 77% of all 1978 arrests: disorderly conduct (44%); drunkenness (20%); DWI (10%); and liquor law violations (3%). See Table 6 for complete 1978 arrest data.

The problems of Indian involvement with the criminal justice system are not limited to the reservations. Although county sheriffs and municipal police do not patrol the reservations, they frequently handle associated problems on adjacent lands.

Table 6  
ARIZONA INDIAN RESERVATION CRIME ANALYSIS, 1978\*

<u>Offenses</u>	<u>Offenses Cleared By Arrest/Exceptional Means</u>
Murder/Non-Negligent	
Manslaughter	5
Manslaughter by	
Negligence	5
Forcible Rape	9
Robbery	8
Aggravated Assault	40
Burglary	36
Larceny/Theft	11
Motor Vehicle Theft	15
TOTAL PART I	129
Arson	1
Vandalism	1
Offense Against Family	181
Liquor Law	578
Drunkenness	3,668
Disorderly Conduct	8,245
D.W.I.	1,849
Runaway	137
Curfew/Loitering	241
Stolen Property	2
Weapons	47
Narcotic/Drug Laws	53
Fraud	4
Forgery/Counterfeiting	2
All Other Offenses	3,443
TOTAL PART II	18,452
GRAND TOTAL	18,581

\*Includes juveniles and adults on all Arizona Reservations.  
Source: BIA Annual Report.

The isolation of the reservations, high unemployment rates, and the problems experienced by many Native Americans in coping with modern life all contribute to the high incidence of alcoholism among the Indian population and the resulting large numbers of alcohol-related arrests on the reservations.

NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND DRUG ABUSE

Arizona is reputedly one of the major corridors for smuggling narcotics into the United States. Its long, little guarded border with Mexico favors the covert operation of narcotics traffickers. According to Drug Enforcement Administration statistics, Mexican brown heroin accounts for approximately 50% of all heroin smuggled into the United States. In addition, tons of marijuana and hundreds of pounds of cocaine are smuggled through Arizona yearly. Other crimes occurring in Arizona and known to result from narcotics trafficking are burglaries, auto theft, airplane theft, and homicides.

The percentage of all arrests in the state attributed to direct drug law violations was 7% during 1978. Table 7 presents the types of drugs involved in Arizona drug arrests. Eighty-six percent of arrests involved marijuana while 8% involved opium, cocaine and their derivatives.

The magnitude of the drug problem in Arizona is further reflected in admissions to the Department of Corrections. During 1978, 18.6% of adult committments were for drug offenses.

Table 7  
ARRESTS FOR DRUG LAW VIOLATIONS  
1978

	Total State & Local Law Enf. Agencies	Az. Dept. of Public Safety	Maricopa Co. Law Enf. Agencies	Pima Co. Law Enf. Agencies
Possession				
Opium, Cocaine, Derivatives	292	58	158	62
Marijuana	5,884	971	3,658	829
Synthetic Narcotics	94	13	28	47
Other Dan- gerous Drugs	280	51	147	33
Sale, Manufacture				
Opium, Cocaine, Derivatives	308	60	211	75
Marijuana	657	218	441	27
Synthetic Narcotics	32	6	7	11
Other Dan- gerous Drugs	56	20	35	2
Total Arrests	7,603	1,397	4,685	1,087

Source: Arizona Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reports.

## ARSON

Arson is roughly defined as the willful and malicious burning of another's property or the burning of one's own property for some improper purpose, such as to defraud an insurer. It is a serious and rapidly growing crime across the country. Nationwide, in 1975 the estimated loss from arson was \$1.4 billion, more than any offense on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's index of serious crime. In addition to the property loss, it is estimated that there were 1,000 deaths (including 45 firefighters) and 10,000 injuries. During the 10 year period, 1965-1975, incendiary (or arson) building fires across the country increased 325%—a larger increase than any other FBI index crime.

Low arrest, conviction, and incarceration rates for known or suspected arsonists are usually the norm nationwide. Arson is one of the most difficult of all crimes to investigate and prosecute because the successful arsonist burns the evidence needed to build a case. Arson investigators require a good deal of training and experience to identify evidence, and they are further hampered by the fact that there are usually no witnesses to arson.

Motives for arson run the gamut from revenge to vandalism. In a study commissioned by LEAA and conducted by Aerospace Corporation in 1977, the majority of *convicted* and *imprisoned* arsonists were found to be motivated by revenge. Vandalism was the motive of 80% of the juvenile arsonists. Percentages ranging from 5% to 17% were reported where fraud was the motive of the arrested arsonists.

Arizona Revised Statutes, sections 13-1701 through 13-1704, define various acts of arson, including reckless burning, arson of an unoccupied structure or property and arson of an occupied structure.

Of the 1,483 fires investigated by the City of Phoenix Fire Department's Fire Investigation Division during 1978, 773 (52%) were found to be arson fires, resulting in approximately \$3,353,255 damage and loss. During the year, 33 cases of arson were filed by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office for prosecution. Of those cases filed in 1978, 12 (36%) were convicted, 3 (9%) were dismissed and 18 (55%) were still pending at the time of this report.

The City of Tucson Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division reported a total of 4,161 fires in the metropolitan Tucson area. Of that total, 1,289 (31%) were classified as incendiary (arson) fires and

resulted in \$850,774 (dollar figure for January-September 1978 only) damage and loss. During 1978, there were 75 persons prosecuted for arson in Tucson, 12 (16%) adults and 63 (84%) juveniles. Seventy (93%) of those prosecuted were convicted, with the remaining 5 adults acquitted.

Table 8  
YEARLY COMPARISON OF ARSON FIRES AND  
MONETARY LOSS  
TOTAL NUMBER OF ARSON FIRES\*

	1976	1977	1978	% Change 1976-1977	% Change 1977-1978	% Change 1976-1978
Phoenix Fire Department	683	840	773	+ 23.0%	- 8.0%	+ 13.2%
Tucson Fire Department	1,022	1,231	1,289	+ 20.4%	+ 4.7%	+ 26.1%
TOTAL	1,705	2,071	2,062	+ 21.5%	- .4%	+ 20.9%

TOTAL MONETARY ARSON LOSS\*\*

	1976 \$	1977 \$	1978 \$	% Change 1976-1977	% Change 1977-1978	% Change 1976-1978
Investigated By Phoenix Fire Dept.	2,472,643	5,243,946	3,353,255	+ 112.1%	- 36.0%	+ 35.6%
Investigated By Tucson Fire Dept.	1,189,488	1,121,502	850,744†	- 5.7%	N/A†	N/A†
TOTAL	3,662,131	6,365,448	4,204,029†	+ 73.8%	- 34.0†	+ 14.8%
Cases Filed For Prosecution — Phoenix			33			
Tucson			75			

\*Formulas for estimating the number of arson fires differ by department.  
\*\*Estimated figures.

†Tucson Figures are for January-September, 1978, only.  
Source: City of Tucson, Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division and City of Phoenix, Fire Department, Fire Investigation Division.

## WHITE COLLAR CRIME

White collar crime is financial crime carried out for economic gain. White collar crime differs from traditional, economically motivated criminal activity in that the means employed are neither violent nor potentially violent, but rely upon deceit and abuse of trust. This brand of offense derives its name from the knowledge that "respectable" members of the business world commit their own brand of crime distinguishable from common crime only by the instruments and methods used.

White collar offenses may be perpetrated by legitimate businesses (price fixing, consumer fraud), by legitimate business persons (embezzlement, arson, fraud, insurance fraud) or by businesses set up in order to commit an offense (securities fraud, land fraud).

White collar crime is costing this country about \$55 billion annually, according to the Joint Economic Committee of the United States Congress. Generally, because of the covert nature of much of these offenses and the immeasurability of the impact of many of these offenses (price-fixing, for example), there are no statewide cost figures available. The loss due to other offenses, such as land fraud, can only be estimated. A legislative task force estimated that in the past 10 years, victims of Arizona land fraud lost over \$500 million.\* An unofficial Phoenix Police Department estimate was made of actual cash lost by the defrauded victims of suspects apprehended in 1978: These victims were cheated of close to \$9 million.\*\*

The problem of white collar crime in Arizona has prompted the establishment of several specialized investigative and prosecutorial units within the State. These units recognize the frequent involvement of organized crime in white collar schemes. Consequently, they seek to apprehend and convict those operating organized schemes as well as solo offenders and underworld figures.

The state's efforts to contain white collar crime were enhanced by the 1976 institution of a State Grand Jury. Previously, prosecutions on a county level were frequently hindered by the statewide scope of many sophisticated white collar offenses. Criminal schemes often operate across counties and within several states. Thus, the county of jurisdiction is questionable and offenders must be indicted within

\*Source: SAC, *Crime in Arizona—An Overview*.

\*\*\$8,878,492 — Source: Phoenix Police Department Organized Crime Intelligence Unit.

each affected county for offenses occurring within that county. The State Grand Jury has the authority to levy indictments charging specific criminal activity within the State of Arizona. The criminal investigations it conducts delve almost exclusively into white collar offenses, crimes traditionally directed by organized crime figures, and government corruption.

Table 9 illustrates the involvement of the State Grand Jury and county attorneys in prosecuting white collar offenses. The State Grand Jury figures pertain to the years 1976 through 1978 while the Phoenix and Tucson figures apply to 1978.

Table 9  
STATE AND LOCAL WHITE COLLAR OFFENSE PROSECUTIONS

	State Grand Jury 1976-1978*	Local Phoenix & Vicinity 1978	Local Tucson & Vicinity 1978†
No. Defendants Charge/Indicted	104	64	145
No. Defendants Awaiting/In Trial	27	41	84
No. Trials Completed	67 (100%)	12 (100%)	47 (100%)
Defendant Found/ Pled Guilty	64 (95%)	11** (100%)	42 (89%)
Defendants Acquitted/ Dismissal	3 (5%)	0	5 (11%)

\*Four sessions of activity 1976 through 1978.

\*\*— 1 Defendant (deceased).

†Data reflects activity between 3/78 and 12/78.

Sources: State Grand Jury data from Arizona Office of the Attorney General, Special Prosecutions Section, *Service Measurements*.

Phoenix City Data from Phoenix Police Department, Organized Crime Intelligence Unit II, *Final Report to ASJPA*.

Tucson City data from Pima County Attorney's Office, Consumer Protection/Economic Crime Unit.

The defendant conviction rate (the percentage of those tried who pled or were found guilty) indicated remarkable success. Ninety-five percent of those persons brought to trial for white collar offenses in State proceedings were convicted. One-hundred percent of those brought to trial through the investigations of the Phoenix Police Department were convicted. Eighty-nine percent of those brought to trial for white collar offenses in Tucson were convicted. The success of those prosecutions may be attributed to the investigative and prosecutorial agencies.

Table 10 indicates the number of complaints received, cases opened and cases being investigated by the White Collar Crime control units. In 1978, a total of 256 new cases were opened for investigation while 205 pending/active cases continued to be investigated.

Table 10  
STATE AND LOCAL WHITE COLLAR CRIME INVESTIGATIONS

	Statewide FY1977-1978	Local Phoenix & Vicinity 1978	Local Tucson & Vicinity 1978*	Total
Number of Com- plaints Received	100	—	—	100
Number of Cases Opened	120	6	130	256
Number of Cases	153	52	—	205

\*Data reflects activity between 3/78 and 12/78.

Sources: Statewide data — Arizona Office of Attorney General, Special Prosecutions Section, *Service Measurements*.

Phoenix City data — Phoenix Police Department Organized Crime Intelligence Unit II, *Final Report ASJPA*.

Tucson City data — Pima County Attorney's Office Consumer Protection/Economic Crime Unit.

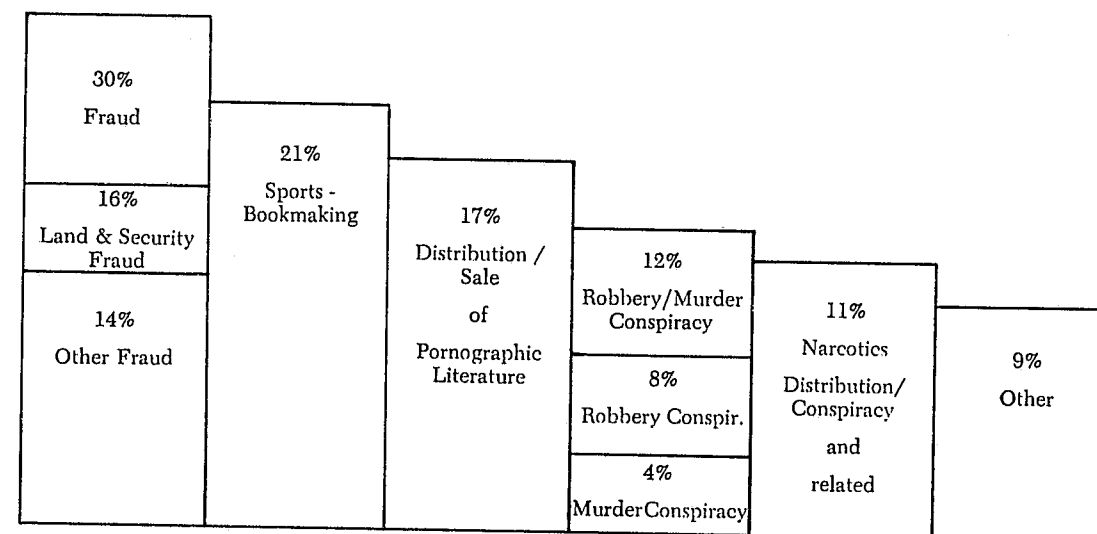
Table 11 depicts the nature of those offenses charged by the Phoenix City Police Department in 1978. The majority of offenses were frauds (30%). Nationally, the largest number of white collar crimes committed are frauds.

The sample contained a variety of charges; however, it is important to stress that this table is only illustrative of the types of offenses committed. It is *not* representative of the frequencies of their actual occurrence in Phoenix.

Inspection of the table reveals that fraud, bookmaking and pornography are problematic in Arizona. Additionally, robbery and murder conspiracies (which often involve murder for hire) and narcotics offenses are occurring in Arizona. It is known that organized crime figures participate in many of these offenses.



Table 11  
TYPES OF OFFENSES CHARGED 1978  
PHOENIX AND VICINITY\*



Source: Phoenix City Police Department, Organized Crime Intelligence Unit II.

## DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED

Date, name, age, residence and location of death—page after page after page. These brief obituaries make sad reading indeed for those who compile them, and offer a dismal look at safety on Arizona's streets and highways.

Of all the identified factors contributing to traffic tragedy, alcohol is the largest and most deadly. The percentage of drivers, passengers and pedestrians who die on the nation's streets and highways because people drink approximates 25% of the country's total fatal accidents yearly. Additionally, many more thousands of people are injured and/or maimed for life, while billions of dollars in property damage are assessed.

Analysis of data gathered from the DWI\* arrest rates, and compiled by the FBI and the Arizona Department of Public Safety as well as from the Arizona Department of Transportation Safety Project Services, confirms that DWI is the deadliest street crime in Arizona. Three hundred and eighty-eight persons were killed in 1978 by drunk/drugged drivers while 220 people were murdered and nine persons were victims of negligent manslaughter. Additionally 10,467 persons were injured in 1978 by drunk drivers in contrast to the 7,869 persons who were victims of aggravated assault.

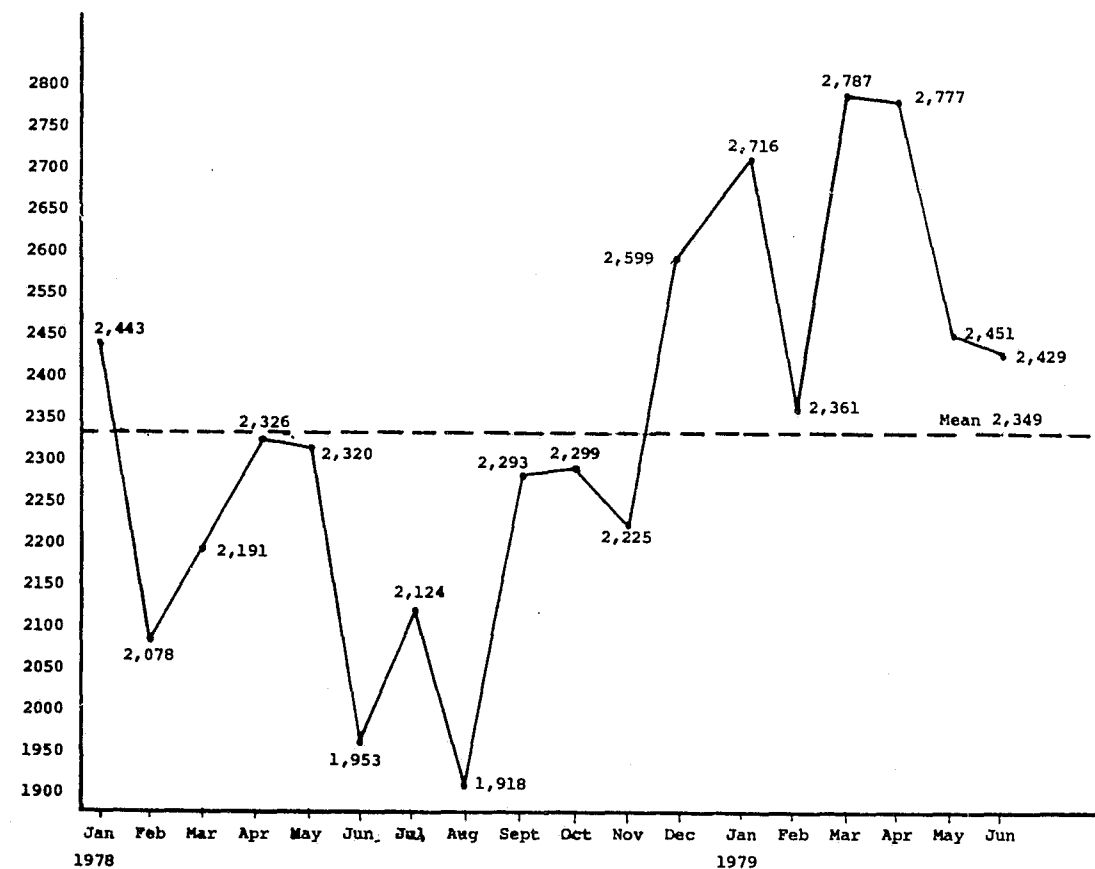
Arizona's rate for DWI arrests is 81% higher than the national rate. Nationally, 582 persons (per 100,000 population) were arrested in 1978 for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In Arizona, 1,051 persons (per 100,000 population) were arrested in 1978 for that offense.

In Arizona in 1978, and for the first 6 months of 1979, approximately 91% of those persons arrested for DWI were male. Ninety-eight percent of those arrested were 18 years or older in age. The median ( $\frac{1}{2}$  above and  $\frac{1}{2}$  below) age at arrest was between 28 and 29 years.

Arrests for DWI are related to the seasons here in Arizona. The graph on the following page displays the number of arrests by month for 1978 and the first six months of 1979.

\*DWI is an abbreviation of "driving while intoxicated" and is commonly used to indicate driving under the influence of liquor and/or drugs.

**Figure K**  
**DWI ARRESTS BY MONTH FOR 1978**  
**AND THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1979**



The following table compiled by the Arizona State Department of Public Safety—UCR Section—displays the distribution of arrests for UCR offense categories. Driving Under the Influence had the highest percentage of arrests, as well as the highest rate per 1,000 population. Arrest percentage and the rate for DWI was almost as high as the percentage and rate for *all index offenses added together*.

**Table 12**  
**ARRESTS BY OFFENSE CATEGORIES, 1978**

Offense Categories	Number of Arrests	Distribution	Rate Per 1,000 Population
All Part I	29,111	25.02%	12.37
Part II excluding DWI	60,454	51.98%	25.69
DWI	26,769	23.00%	11.37
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>116,334</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>49.43</b>

A comparison of historical data on DWI reveals the following trends:

**Table 13**  
**DWI ARRESTS—1975 - 1978**

DWI	1975	1976	1977	1978
Number of Arrests	23,404	25,142	25,540	26,769
Percent of All Arrests	21.10%	22.10%	21.79%	23.01%
Rate per 1,000 Population	10.53	11.06	11.12	11.37
Percentage Change in Rates per 1,000	—	+ 5.03%	+ 0.54	+ 2.25%

Source: Arizona State Department of Public Safety — UCR Section.

- The number of arrests for DWI has risen between 1975 and 1978. This change is only the number of arrests and may be reflective of many factors such as population growth.
- The rate of DWI arrests has risen sporadically between 1975 and 1978 by 8%. The rate here is a far more reliable indicator of growth than the change in the absolute number of arrests.
- DWI arrests are consistently represented among all arrests at about 22%.

Information obtained from the Arizona Department of Transportation present more startling data. Table 14 is a breakdown of all vehicle accidents in Arizona, and the number of those accidents in 1978 where Driving Under the Influence was involved. Of those persons killed on Arizona streets and highways in 1978, 38% were killed as a result of themselves, or another person, driving while intoxicated or drugged. Another 20%, 10,467 persons, were injured. Within the first six months of 1979, 54 people were killed and 3,559 were injured in DWI-related accidents.

**Table 14**  
**STATE OF ARIZONA**  
**ACCIDENT COMPARISON**  
**ALL STREETS AND HIGHWAYS**  
**1978**

	Total Accidents		Injury Accidents		Fatal Accidents		Number Persons Injured		Number Persons Killed	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
DWI Not Involved	75,286	86	26,403	81	563	61	41,140	80	638	62
DWI Involved	12,439	14	6,149	19	360	39	10,467	20	388	38
<b>Totals</b>	<b>87,725</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>32,552</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>51,607</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>100</b>

An analysis of 772 of 1978's fatal accidents conducted by the Department of Transportation further established that 46.5% involved a drinking driver while 18.3% involved at least one driver who had a blood alcohol level of over 0.10% (legally drunk).

Arizona's rate of traffic fatalities attributed to a drunk/drugged driver is higher than the national rate. 16,700 of 1977's 47,415 fatal accidents within the U.S. were examined to determine if DWI was involved. Twenty-five percent of those accidents examined proved to have involved an intoxicated or drugged driver. Comparable data from Arizona indicates that, in 1977, 33% of Arizona's 804 fatal accidents involved DWI.

Deaths as a result of an accident involving an intoxicated or drugged driver are increasing on Arizona's streets and highways. Between 1976 and 1978 the number of persons killed by these drivers rose 77% (Table 15). Likewise, the number of persons injured between 1976 and 1978 has increased 34%. The 33% increase in the number of alcohol/drug precipitated accidents unquestionably has taken its toll in human lives and suffering.

**Table 15**  
**DWI INVOLVED ACCIDENTS**  
**1976 - 1978**

State Population	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>% Change 1976-1978</u>
Total DWI Accidents	2,270,000	2,364,000	2,449,200	+ 8%
DWI-Injury Accidents	9,168	10,667	12,439	+ 33%
DWI-Fatal Accidents	4,473	5,235	6,149	+ 33%
DWI-Number of Persons Injured	182	251	360	+ 87%
DWI-Number of Persons Killed	7,785	9,098	10,467	+ 34%
	219	290	388	+ 77%

The problem of drunken drivers is an increasing one, both in the sum and severity of their accidents and in the sheer numbers of their arrests.

## APPENDIX

### DEFINITIONS OF THE INDEX CRIMES

#### VIOLENT CRIME

- Murder — The willful killing of another, including non-negligent manslaughter. Murder excludes attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, justifiable homicides, and manslaughter by negligence.
- Forcible Rape — Rape and attempts to rape through the use or threat of force. Statutory rape (without force) is excluded.
- Robbery — Stealing or taking anything of value from a person by force, by violence, or by putting in fear. Attempted robbery is included.
- Aggravated Assault — Assault with intent to kill or for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury. Simple assaults are excluded.

#### PROPERTY CRIME

- Burglary — Burglary, housebreaking, safecracking, or any breaking or unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft. Attempted forcible entry is included.
- Larceny/Theft — The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, worthless checks, etc., are excluded.
- Motor Vehicle Theft — Unlawful taking or stealing or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.
- Arson — Any willful or malicious burning or attempts to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, or personal property of another. (Added to FBI Index Crimes in January, 1979).

**END**