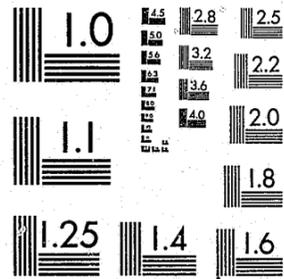


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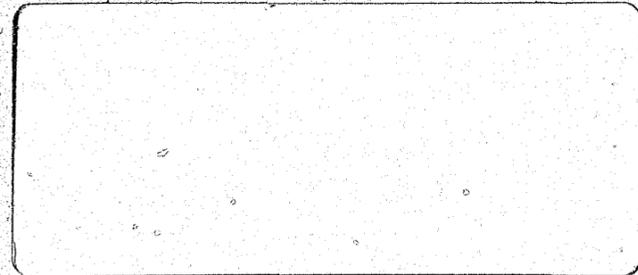
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THE DALLAS COUNTY JURY SYSTEM
1980 ANNUAL REPORT

NCJRS

APR 8 1981

ACQUISITION

Written by:

Conny B. Drake, Jury Director

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Kathleen G. Nugent

SMU Graduate Student (JD/MPA) Intern



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

CONNIE B. DRAKE
Director

March 1981

TO: Dallas County Judges, County Commissioners and Department Heads
FROM: Conny B. Drake *CB*
SUBJECT: The Dallas County Jury System 1980 Annual Report

This annual report documents the status of Dallas County's jury system during the 1980 calendar year. Over the past 3 1/2 years numerous changes to the jury system have been inaugurated spearheaded by the adoption of the one-day/one-trial length of service and other system-wide innovations aimed at increasing cost efficiency and improving the public's image of jury duty. The major overhaul is complete, stability has been attained and a positive evaluation of the jury system has emerged, based not only upon statistical data but also upon citizens' appraisals of their jury duty experience. Additionally, Dallas County achieved national recognition during 1980 when the Center for Jury Studies in Washington, D.C. evaluated the jury operations of the 30 largest metropolitan counties nationwide and rated 12 counties, including Dallas County, as having outstanding jury systems.

During 1980 Dallas County's 65 courts held 2,095 jury trials, requiring the appearance of 66,369 jurors. Average juror utilization for the year was 88.1%, meaning that approximately 88% of all persons in the Central Jury Room were dispatched to a courtroom. Juror yield, or the percent summoned who appeared for service, reached a record high 44.4%. This figure indicates a willingness to serve; less individuals are claiming exemption and disqualification as public awareness of the short one-day/one-trial term of service continues to increase.

System costs escalated during 1980 compared with last year as a result of the statutorily mandated increase in minimum juror fees from \$5 to \$6 per day which only affected the last four months of 1979 versus all of 1980. Total cost of juror fees was \$592,712, up from \$549,379 in 1979. The average cost per juror, which is affected by trial length as well as rate of juror pay, was \$9.45 during 1980 while the average cost per jury trial remained below \$300 (\$299.22). Another measure of comparison and evaluation of costs among various counties throughout the U.S. was devised by the Center for Jury Studies. This figure, known as administrative cost per juror, is computed by adding the annual cost of personnel, data processing, summons forms, mailing costs, equipment, supplies, etc. and dividing this total by the annual number of persons reporting for jury duty. In a sample survey of 18 jury systems nationwide, administrative costs per juror ranged from \$2.50 to \$35.00 with the average between \$10 and \$20. Dallas County was one of only three jury systems surveyed to hold administrative costs below \$5.00 (\$2.67 per juror).

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. All of these goals were advanced during 1980.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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 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 189,000 Dallas County citizens who received a jury summons during 1980. The committee, chaired by Judge Fred S. Harless who gave so much of his valuable time and was always available for consultation, also included 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 and support insures the success of our adopted policies and procedures.

Appreciation is also due Dallas County's Commissioners and other elected officials and department heads whose support and assistance of their staffs is vital to successful daily operations.

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 65 courts would come to a standstill. Recognition goes to the full-time staff including Chief Bailiff Kathryn Faucett, who retired on December 31, 1980 after more than 25 years service, newly appointed Chief Bailiff Billie Gillispie, Mildred Przada, Diane Lederman and Lee George. Part-time staff members who respond to the 2,000+ telephone calls each week have done a tremendous job including Leatrice Salim and Valerie Hayward. Other members of the part-time staff including Tom Gladding, who assists with processing jurors in the mornings, and law student interns Randy Hand and Kathleen Nugent, who maintained statistics and charts of daily operations as well as doing research and report writing, have done an excellent job.

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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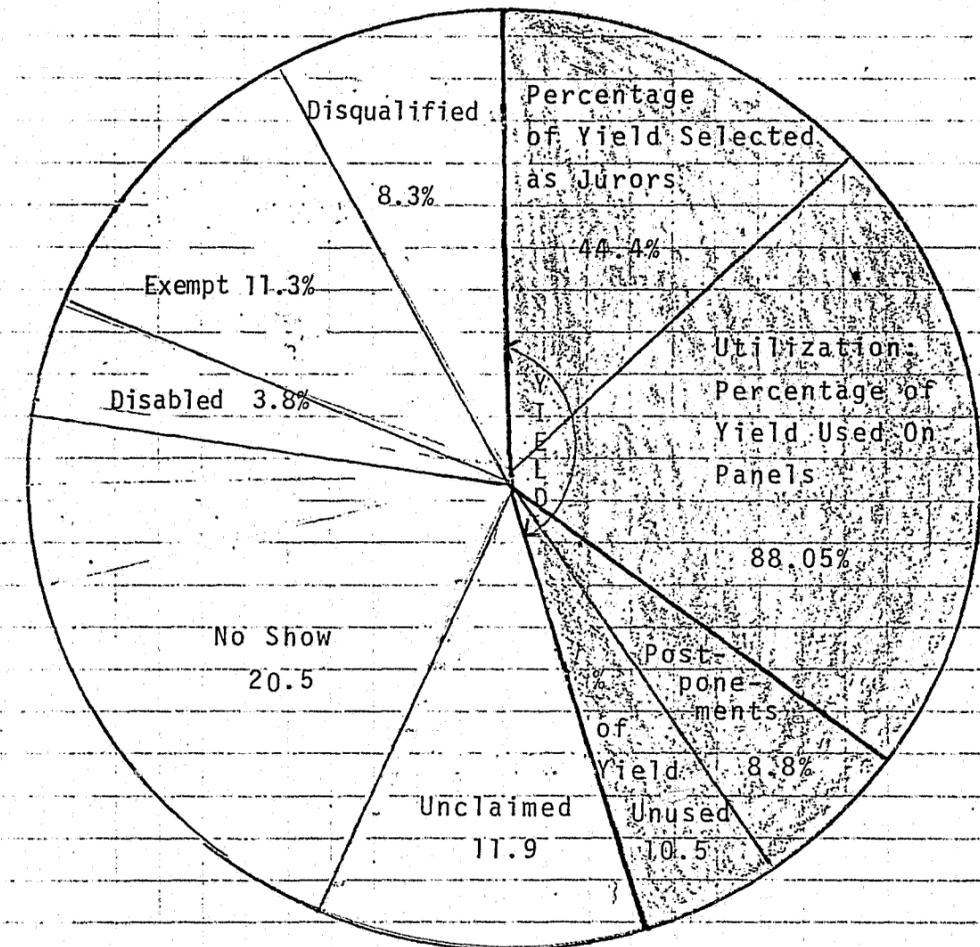
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present a composite picture of Dallas County's jury system during 1980. The intent of an annual accounting of the jury system is as follows:

- 1) to provide valuable descriptive information and analysis regarding the major indices of the jury system, for example, information on the number of persons summoned for jury duty, the yield or percent of those summoned who appeared for service, juror utilization (which is the percent of those serving who were needed for jury panels dispatched to the courts), etc.;
- 2) to allow for examination of the trends in juror usage, illustrated by statistical data displayed graphically and on charts and tables;
- 3) to contrast the 1980 calendar year with 1979 including provision of a comparative cost analysis which permits conclusions to be drawn regarding areas where improvement in system efficiency has been attained or stability noted;
- 4) to provide a description of innovations developed, implemented or proposed during 1980 which either increased system effectiveness or enhanced juror awareness; and
- 5) to compare Dallas County's jury system with others across the country in terms of comparable indexes and costs.

This report includes sections on all of these aspects of jury management and describes the progress made during the 1980 calendar year. A visual display of the summoning process which illustrates the various categories summoned jurors fall into is presented on the following page.

VISUAL DISPLAY OF SUMMONING PROCESS



SHADED AREA OF CIRCLE DIAGRAM (44.4%) = YIELD (i.e. Percent of those summoned who appeared for jury duty)

UNSHADED AREA OF CIRCLE DIAGRAM (55.6%) = Those who did not appear for jury duty

JUROR UTILIZATION

Efficient juror utilization* is the major goal of jury management. Jurors' complaints about the jury system are justifiable if a large number of the persons who appear at the courthouse on their summoned date remain inactive in the Central Jury Room. Attaining a high level of juror utilization requires calculating and summoning three to four weeks in advance the correct number of jurors that Dallas County's 65 courts will need on any given day.

While achieving 100% juror utilization does occur occasionally, sustaining that level each day is virtually impossible due to a number of factors which are in a constant state of flux. For example, each day the number of jury panel requests as well as the size of each panel differs due to inherent uncertainties in the court system such as the type of court jurisdiction requesting a panel, last minute settlements out of court and delays in trial readiness which negate the previously expected need for a jury panel. Additionally, the statistical prohibition against placing a prospective juror who has been challenged peremptorily or for cause earlier that day on another jury panel that afternoon has a detrimental effect upon maximum daily juror utilization.

Given these system-based shortcomings, the overall annual juror utilization rate in 1980 of 88.1% was very good. This means that approximately 88% of all persons in the Central Jury Room were dispatched on a jury panel to a court in 1980. This is a 2% reduction from last year's record 90.3% utilization but indicates that juror utilization has stabilized from the 1977 and 1978 rates of 79.6%

*Utilization is the percent of those appearing for jury duty who are sent to a courtroom on a jury panel.

and 84.9%, respectively.

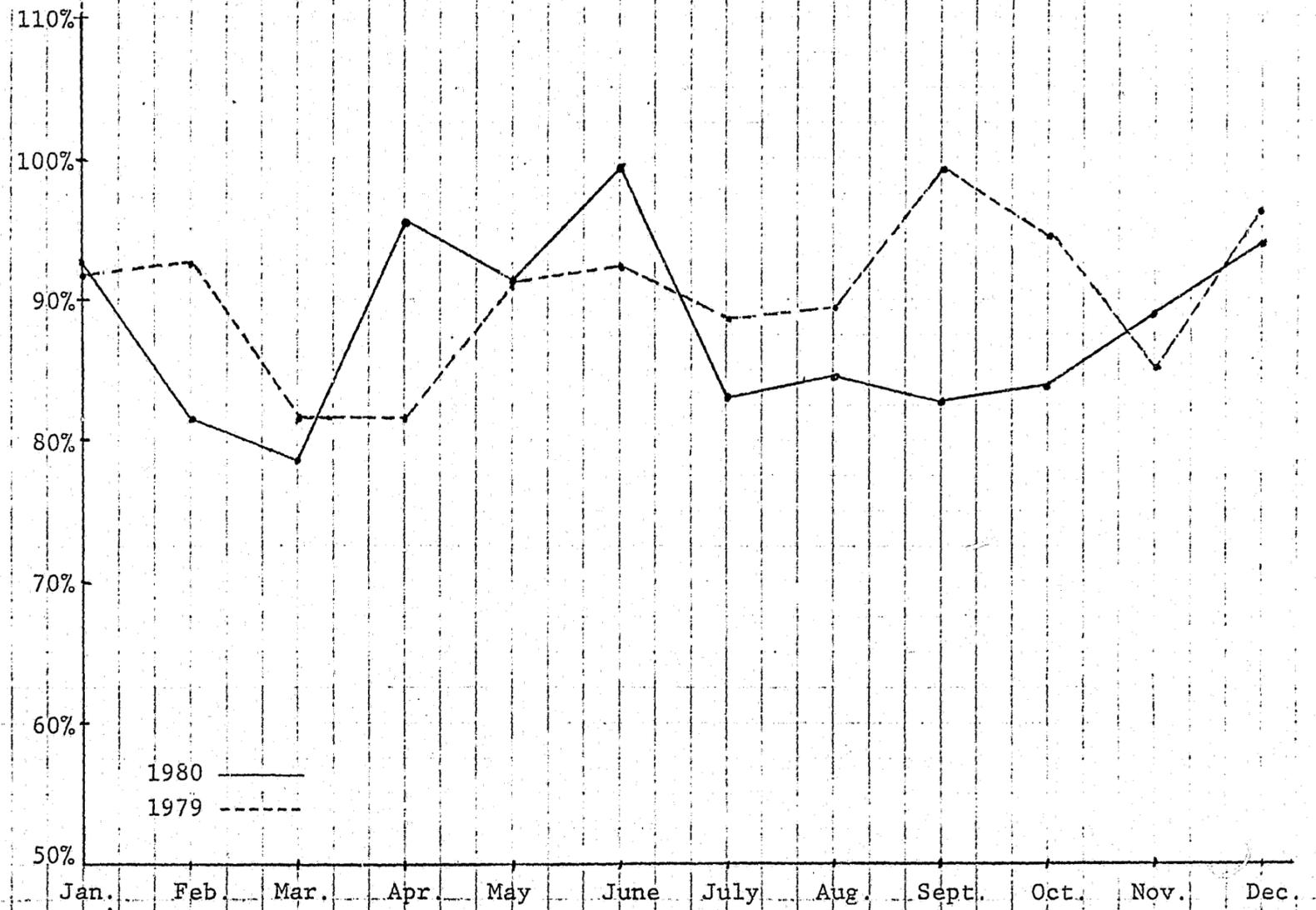
The graph on the following page depicts the monthly utilization figures throughout 1980 and 1979. A close examination of the 1980 graph line reveals that utilization plummeted in March (to a low of 78.4%), peaked in June (99.4%), stabilized from July through October (averaging 84%) and ended the year on the rise (December was 93.4%). The danger of a high average monthly utilization (i.e. above 95%) is that a shortage of jurors usually occurs on several days causing delays in dispatching panels to the courts and an occasional inability to fill a judge's request for a jury panel which is detrimental to the overall purpose and function of the jury system.

The graphs on pages 6 through 9 reveal juror utilization by day of the week. The first graph 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 for weekly panels are sent the courts on Mondays. The number of jurors needed on Mondays is consistently between 675 and 800. Those prospective jurors who are not selected as jury members and are not challenged 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 124 prospective jurors needed to a high of more than 513 panel members. Consequently, the ability to project accurately the number of jurors to summon diminishes resulting in utilization for

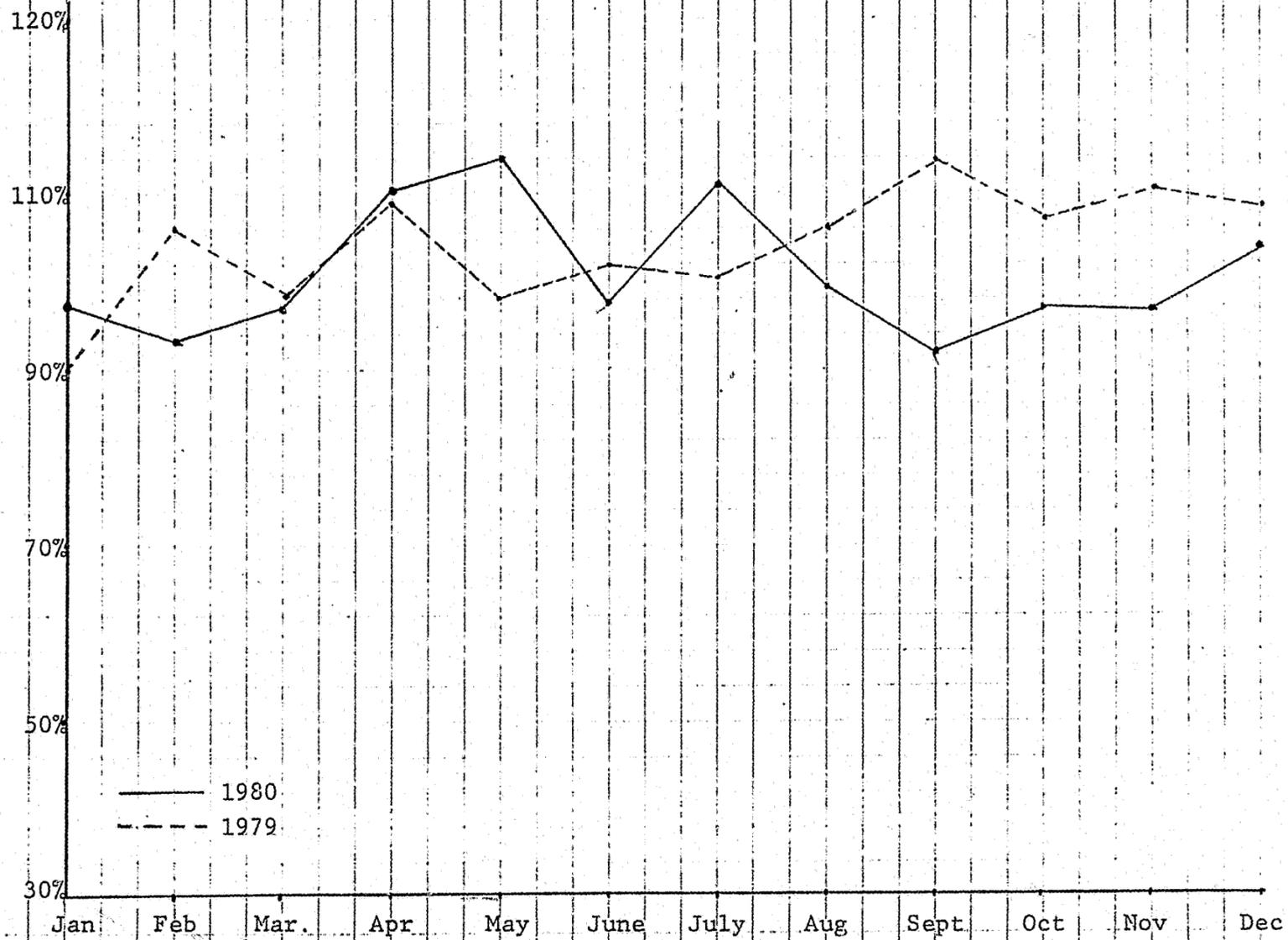
GRAPH 2

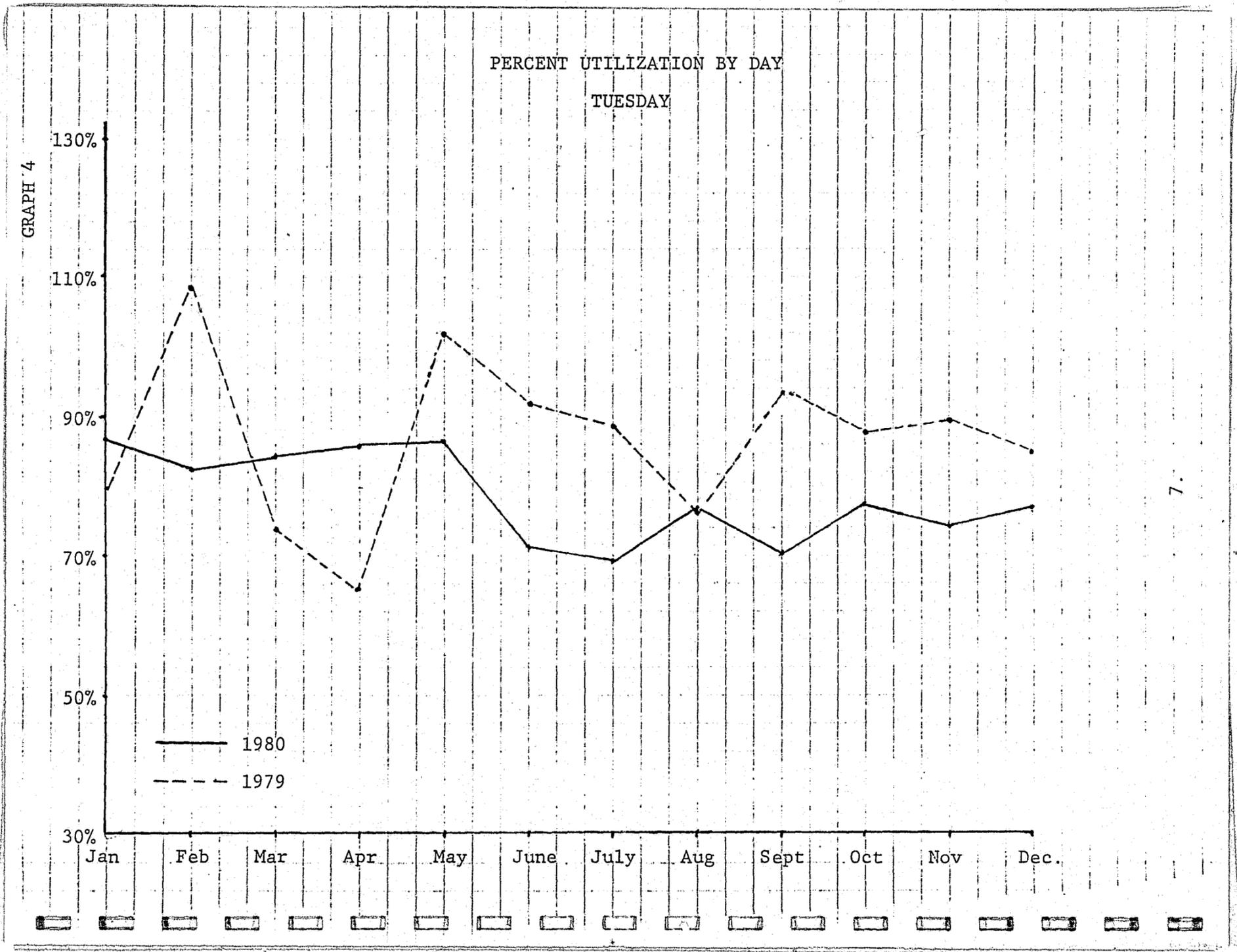
UTILIZATION
(% SERVING USED AS PANEL MEMBERS)



GRAPH 3

PERCENT UTILIZATION BY DAY
MONDAY

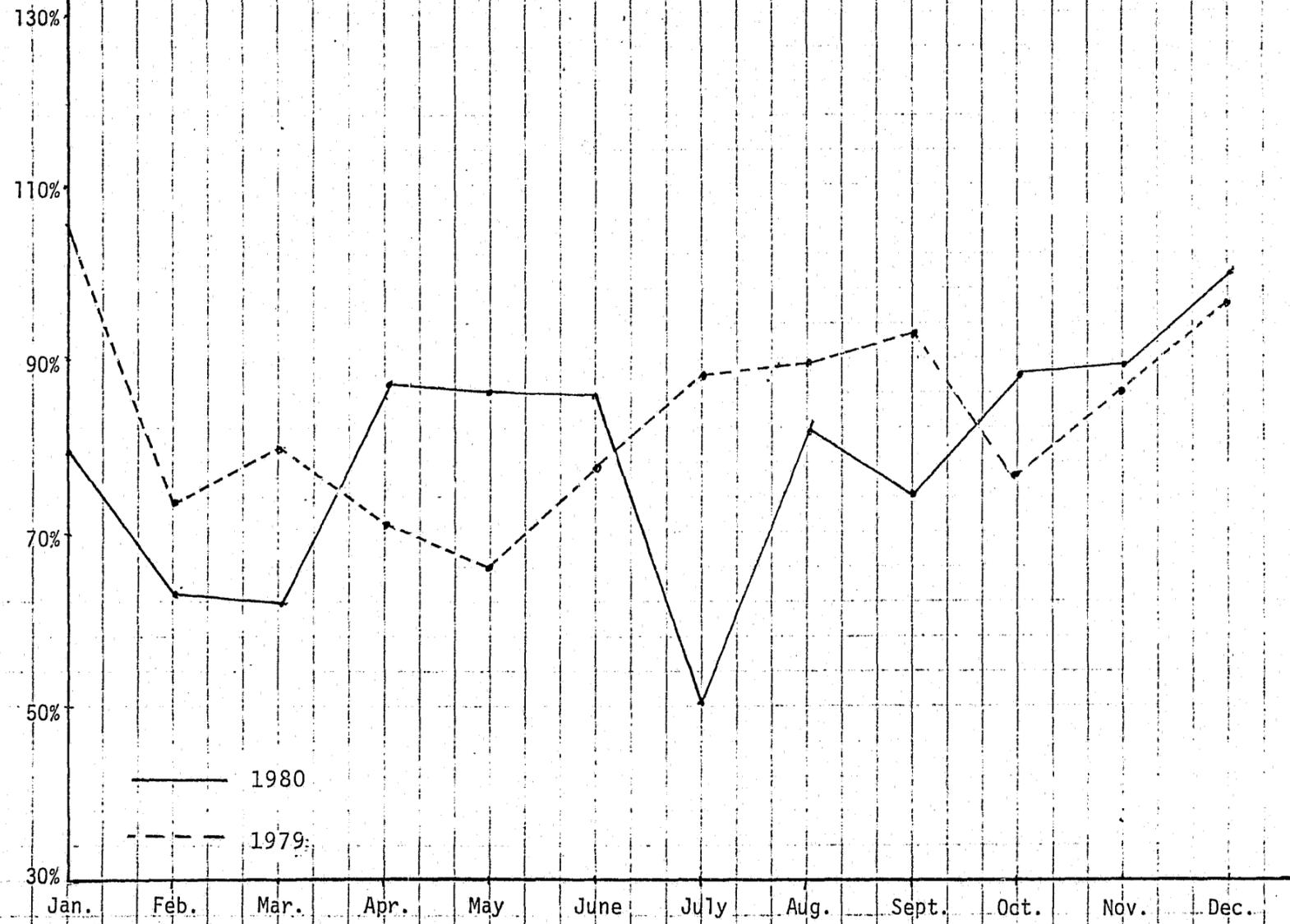




7.

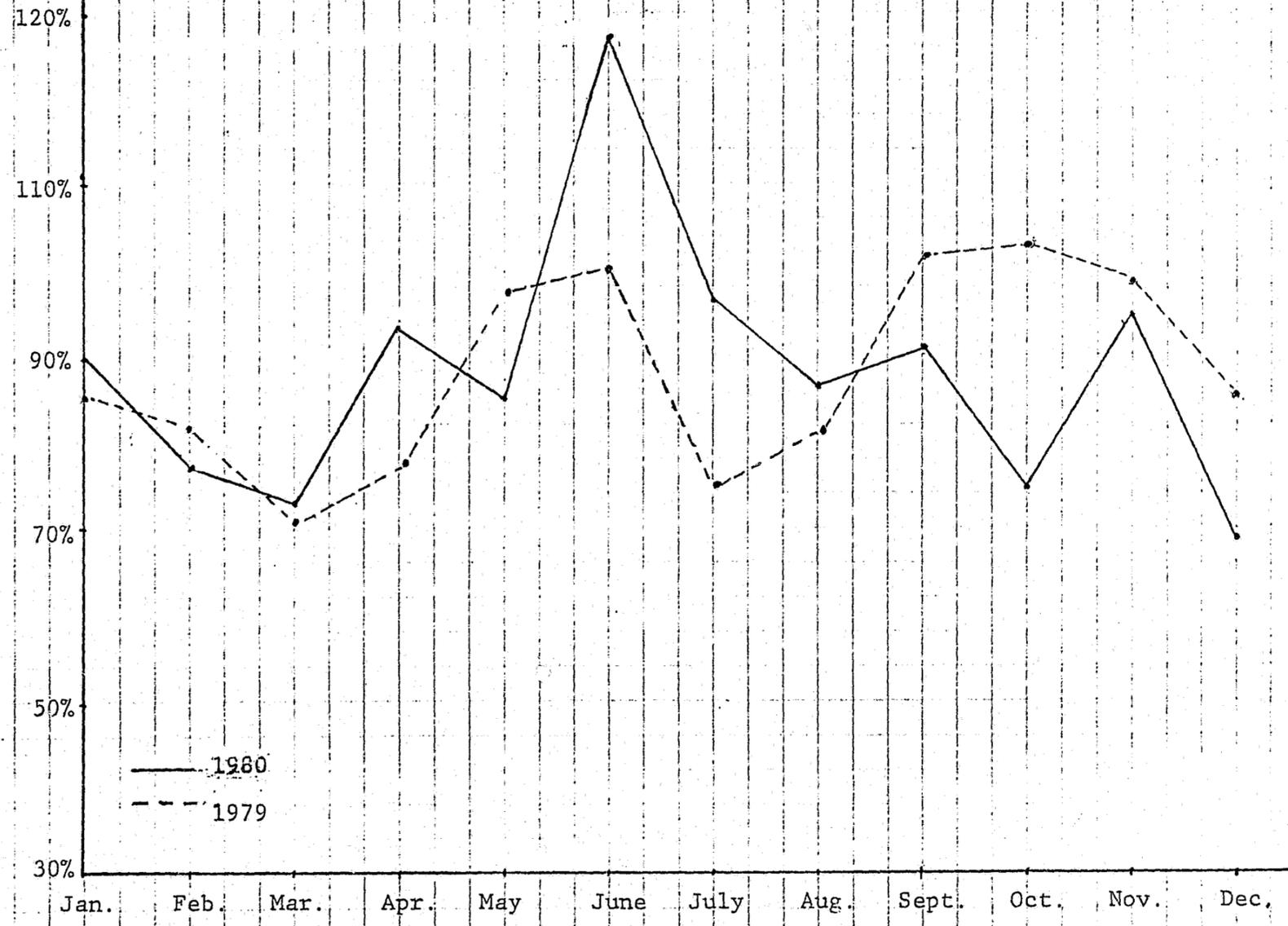
GRAPH 5

PERCENT UTILIZATION BY DAY
WEDNESDAY



GRAPH 6

PERCENT UTILIZATION BY DAY
THURSDAY



Tuesdays varying between 65% and 108% 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 8 details the fluctuating pattern. Overall, utilization on Wednesdays ranged from a low of 50% to a high of 105%.

On the average Thursday between 90-120 jurors are needed. However, several Thursdays during 1980 only 40-50 jurors were needed and on one Thursday only 24 jurors were sent out of the Central Jury Room. Conversely, on several other Thursdays between 160 and 200 jurors were called out for jury panels. The resulting average monthly utilization figures for Thursdays ranged from a low of 68% to a high of 117%.

Looking at the daily patterns which emerge on Graphs 3 through 6 clearly illustrate the difficulty inherent in attempting to predict and summon accordingly the correct number of jurors each day. The difficulty is further complicated by the necessity of computer printing the jury summons three to four weeks in advance of the summons date.

THE STANDBY JURY SYSTEM

Continuation of the policy, initiated last year, to summon a percentage of all jurors as "standbys" has been most responsible for the stabilization of the yearly juror utilization statistics. The standby plan enables the jury system to respond to increased

needs for jurors on days when a large number of panels are ordered by the courts. Under this system, 75% of all persons summoned receive a "regular" summons to appear on a specific day. The remaining 25% (increased from 20% last year for more flexibility) are selected randomly by computer to 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 without even having to come in; however, these individuals do not receive reimbursement.

The standby system has worked remarkably well as having an additional group of jurors "on call" enables the system to respond to the variability in the number of daily trial starts. However, there are limitations to the standby system as only 25% 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. orientation. The cost of the standby system is minimal. Additional summons must be sent at an average cost of 5 cents per summons (versus \$6.00 per day for each unused juror waiting all day in the Central Jury Room just in case more jurors are needed). Two phone lines are used exclusively for standby jurors in order to keep the lines open. Due to the large volume

of calls, the code-a-phone answering machines occasionally must be repaired but the annual cost for maintenance has been less than \$150.

EXCESS JURORS

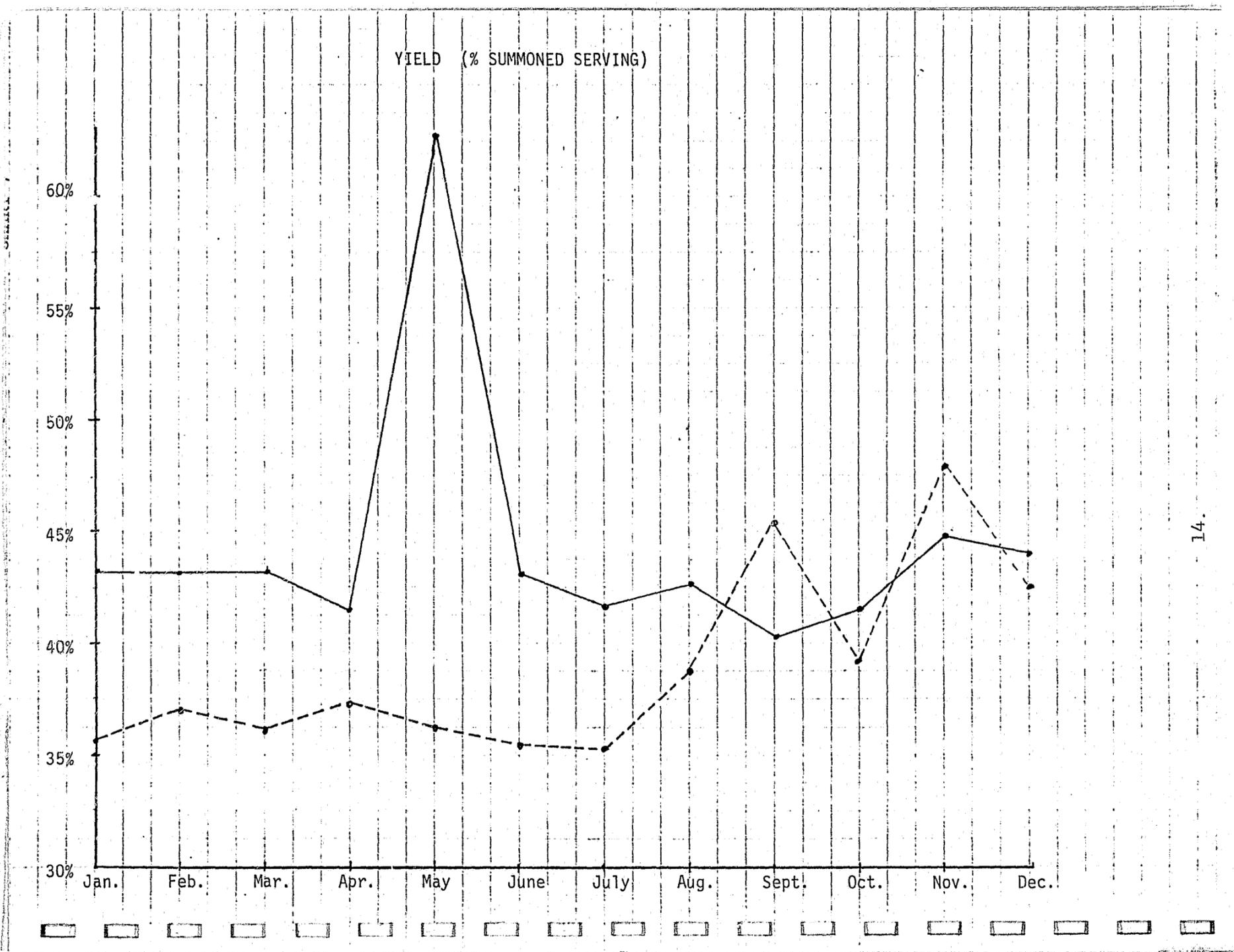
With juror utilization for the year at 88.1%, the percent of excess jurors remaining unused in the Central Jury Room is 11.9%. The total number of excess jurors for 1980 was 6,996 out of a total 66,369 jurors appearing for service. This was a reduction of 1,347 over the number of excess jurors in 1979 which figure was 8,443.

YIELD

The total number of persons summoned for jury duty in 1980 was 189,720 which represents an increase of 2.5% from the 1979 total of 185,085. Of those summoned, 66,369 appeared for service, down from last year's record high 70,554. Therefore, the 1980 yield, averaged over the 12-month period, was 44.4%.* Over the past four years the yield has continued to increase from 30.5% in 1977, 39.2% in 1978, 43.1% in 1979 to 44.4% in 1980. Graph 7 on the following page compares the average yield per month during 1979 and 1980. Chart 5 on page 35 provides a breakdown of monthly totals.

Juror yield 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 system from one week to either one day or, if chosen to sit on a jury, the duration of one trial. Another reason for improvement in yield is that many Dallas County citizens over the age of 65 who receive a jury summons are taking advantage of the one ground for permanent exemption established by the state legislature during the 1979 session based on age. Approximately 10,000 persons over 65 claimed permanent exemption from jury service during the 1980 calendar year. Therefore, the jury list which was reconstituted in August 1980 contained less names of individuals likely to claim exemption thereby raising the percent of those who are more likely to appear. Additional factors such as our sensitivity to juror's rights and needs and our continual public relations effort contributed to a yield which is one of the highest in the country.

*Individuals who are summoned as "standbys" and then are instructed not to appear are subtracted from the total number summoned to derive the true yield of jurors, thereby providing a more accurate accounting.



When juror yield averages 44.4%, the remaining 55.6% of those summoned did not appear for jury duty. Graph 8 on page 17 presents a picture of the following categories: exempt, disqualified, disabled, unclaimed, postponed and no show. A yearly average of 11.3% 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 or children under the age of 10 if that child is left unattended, and 3) students of secondary and post-secondary schools.

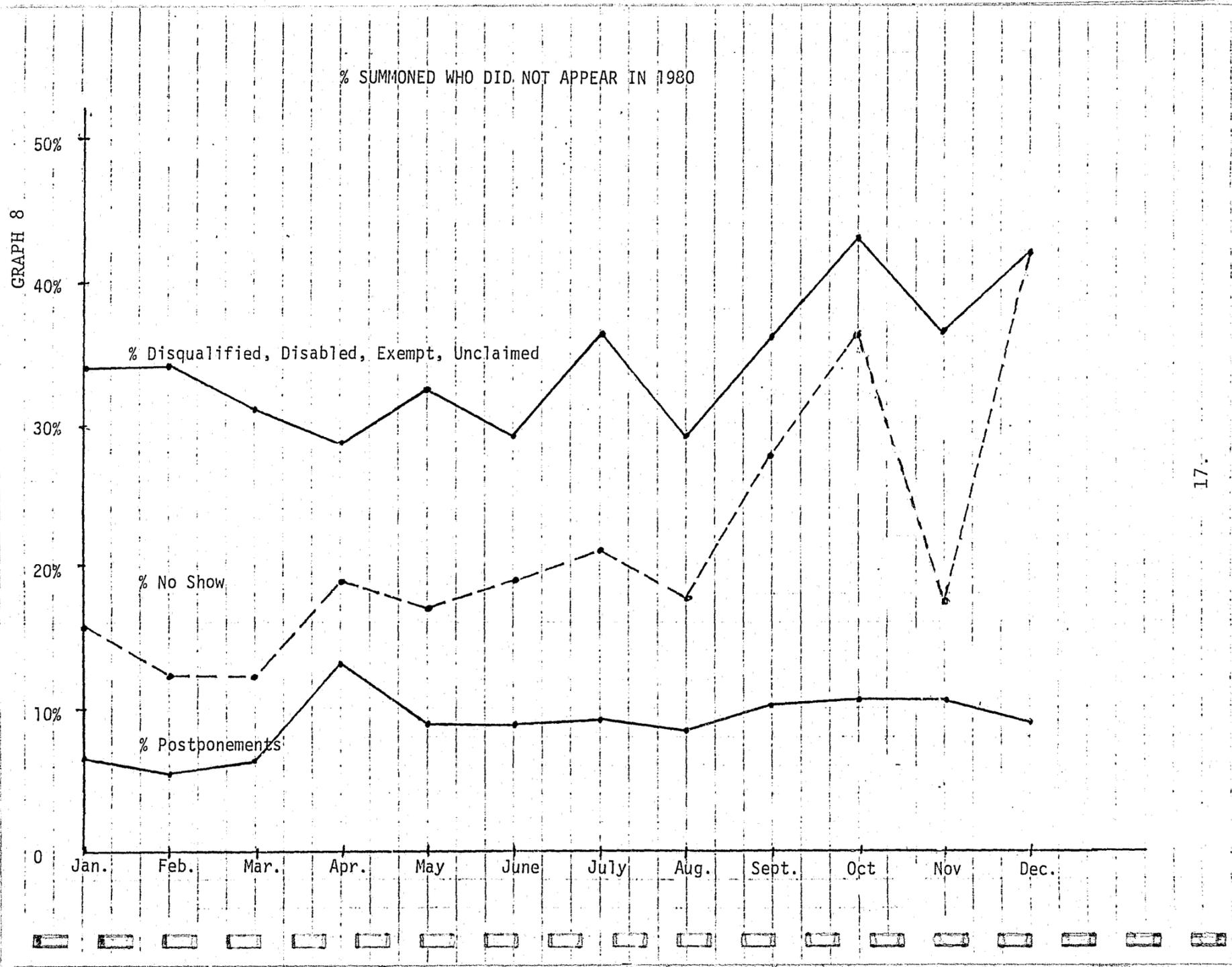
An additional 8.3% disqualified themselves under the provisions of Article 2133 for one of the following reasons: 1) not a citizen of the state and county in which he/she was summoned, 2) not of sound mind or good moral character, 3) not able to read or write, 4) served as a juror for six days during the preceding six months in a District Court or during the preceding three months in a county court, 5) convicted of felony or theft, or 6) under indictment for felony or theft.

Medical disability was claimed by 3.8% of those receiving a jury summons. Unclaimed summons returned to us by the post office account for 11.9% of those not appearing. Postponements of jury duty to another date was requested and granted to an average of 8.8% of those summoned, a decrease of 3.9% from last year. The percentage of "no shows" who ignored their jury summons fluctuated from a low of 12.1% in March to 41.8% around Christmas. The yearly average was 20.5% up slightly from 1979.

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

compare 1980 with 1979.

<u>AVERAGE WEEKLY STATISTICS</u>	<u>1979</u>		<u>1980</u>	
	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Summoned	3856	100%	3953	100%
Serving (Yield)	1561	40.5%	1383	44.4%
Exempt, Disqualified, Disabled, Unclaimed	1113	28.9%	1228	35.3%
Postponed	466	12.1%	328	8.8%
No Shows	715	18.5%	727	20.5%



PANEL USAGE

The number of jury panels requested by Dallas County's 65 courts during 1980 was 2,326, down 6.6% from 1979. Graph 9 on the following page shows the percent of those panel members who were actually chosen to sit on a jury. The yearly average for 1980 was 29.6%, a drop of 3.5% from 1979, indicating that panel sizes have begun to increase beyond the recommended number. The remaining 70.4% were unselected panel members who were either challenged peremptorily or for cause 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.

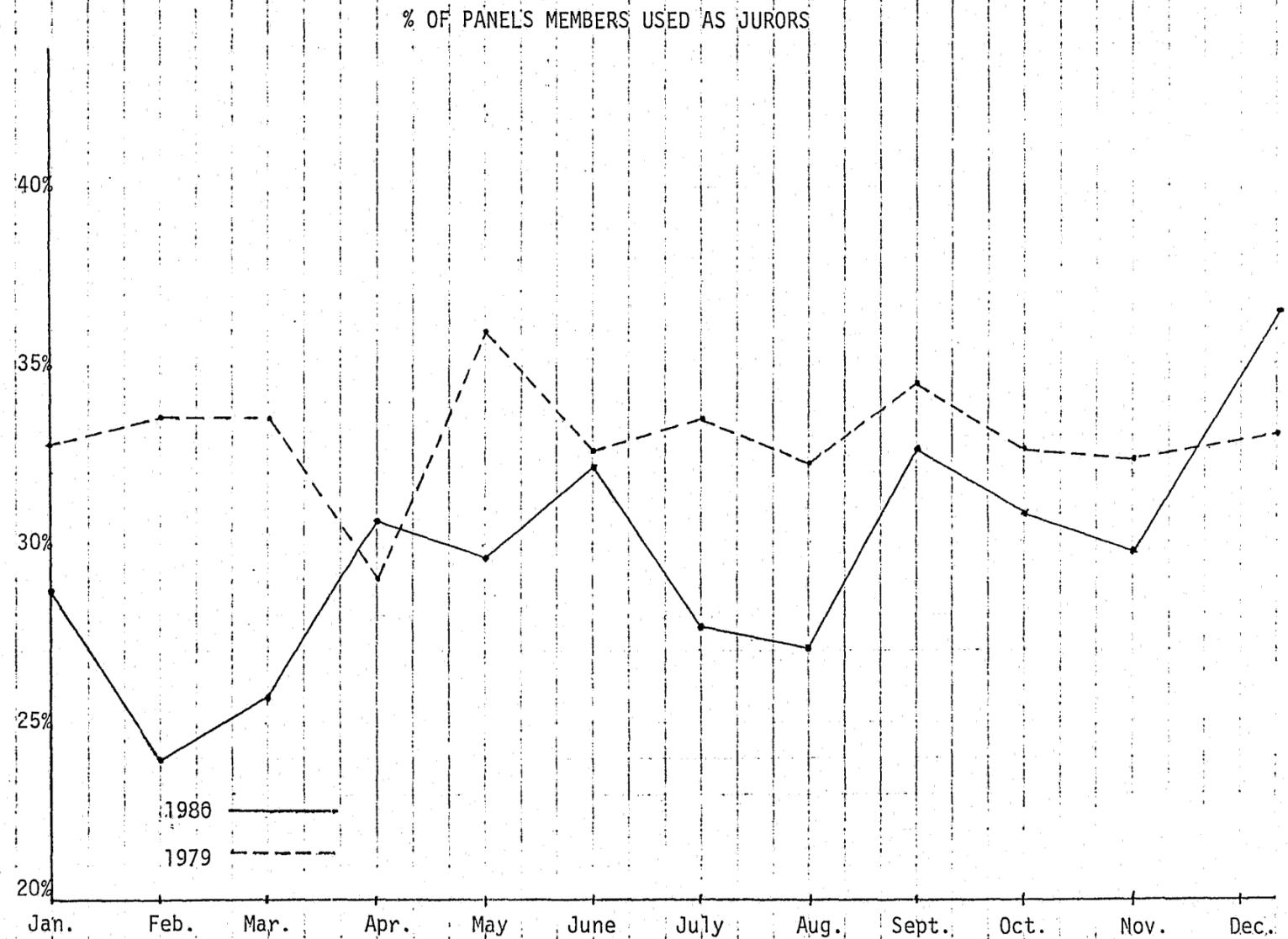
Graph 10 on page 20 shows the congruence between the number of jury panels sent out of the Central Jury Room and the number of juries actually selected. Approximately 11% of all panels ordered by the courts were returned to the jury room unused compared with 10% in 1979 indicating that those cases settled out of court while the jurors were waiting in the hall to begin.

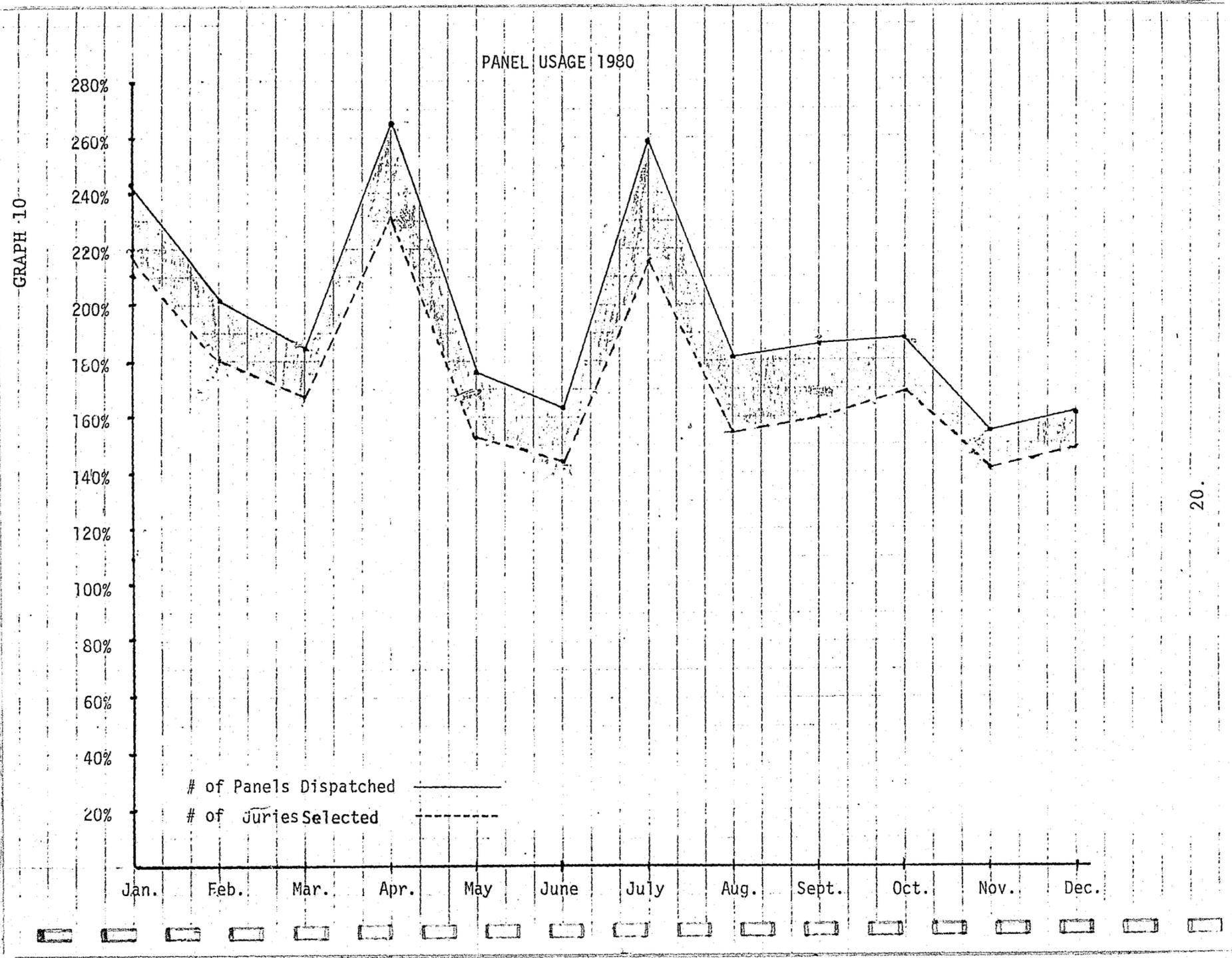
Of the 2,326 panels sent to the courts during the year, 2,095 juries were seated. Therefore, only 231 of these panels were sent back to the Central Jury Room.

Of the 2,095 juries selected in 1980, 1,188 or 57% of them were 12-person juries deciding cases in District Courts while 945 juries were composed of 6 members trying cases in County Courts. These figures are exactly comparable with 1979 when 57% of all cases were also 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 (816 requests). As the average panel size for Criminal District Courts is 40, approximately 32,640 of the

GRAPH 9





year's 66,369 jurors left the Central Jury Room for a Criminal District Court. The 12 Civil District Courts requested 545 jury panels during 1980. With an average panel size of 28, approximately 15,260 jurors were dispatched to Civil District Courts. The Domestic Relations Courts required 76 jury panels during the year with an average size of 28.

The seven County Criminal Courts and County Court of Appeals requested 665 jury panels for the year. The average panel size is 15 due to the jury composition of 6-persons in county courts. Approximately 9,875 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 151 jury panels, again with an average panel size of 15.

The jury trial activity of the 11 Justice of the Peace Courts remained constant from 1979 to 1980. In both years 142 panels were dispatched to Justice Courts with an average panel size of 12.

The Chart on the following page illustrates panel use by court jurisdiction for 1980 and offers a comparison with the previous year's statistics.

In every type of court jurisdiction the percent of jury trials either remained constant or increased as a percentage of total dispositions from 1979 to 1980. This is especially true in Criminal District Courts where a significant increase in the percent of cases going to jury trial was noted, from 7.1% of all dispositions in 1979 to 9.1% in 1980. This increase in time consuming jury trials undoubtedly accounts for the decrease in total dispositions over the past year. The next chart provides a breakdown of jury trials as a percent of total dispositions by type of court jurisdiction.*

* Statistics provided by the Office of State Court Administration, Austin, Texas.

NUMBER/PERCENT OF CASES DISPOSED OF BY JURY TRIALS DURING 1979 & 1980

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
	<u>#/% JURY TRIALS/DISPOSITIONS</u>	<u>#/% JURY TRIALS/DISPOSITIONS</u>
CDC*	825(7.1%)/11,612	816(9.1%)/8,935**
CivDC	615(1.6%)/36,276	545(1.6%)/34,572
DR	75(4%)/1,891	76(4.4%)/1,721
CCC	687(1.2%)/59,035	665(1.3%)/51,199**
CCL	307(1.9%)/16,128	310(2.4%)/13,250

*CDC = Criminal District Courts

CivDC = Civil District Courts

DR = Domestic Relations Courts

CCC = County Criminal Courts

CCL = County Courts at Law

** Includes cases of deferred adjudication.

CHART 1

NUMBER OF PANELS CALLED BY COURTS

	<u>Criminal District Courts</u>	<u>Civil District Court</u>	<u>Domestic Relations Courts</u>	<u>County Criminal Courts</u>	<u>County Courts At Law</u>	<u>Probate Courts</u>	<u>Justice of the Peace Courts</u>
January	75	56	10	69	23	0	10
February	55	48	4	66	15	1	6
March	56	40	4	52	9	1	16
April	81	57	12	71	17	2	16
May	58	44	5	49	8	1	7
June	51	42	6	38	11	2	12
July	87	65	10	62	11	1	20
August	76	34	7	42	12	1	13
September	73	43	2	58	12	3	10
October	44	50	3	55	10	3	11
November	98	38	8	53	10	1	12
December	<u>62</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>
TOTAL	816	545	76	665	151	17	142

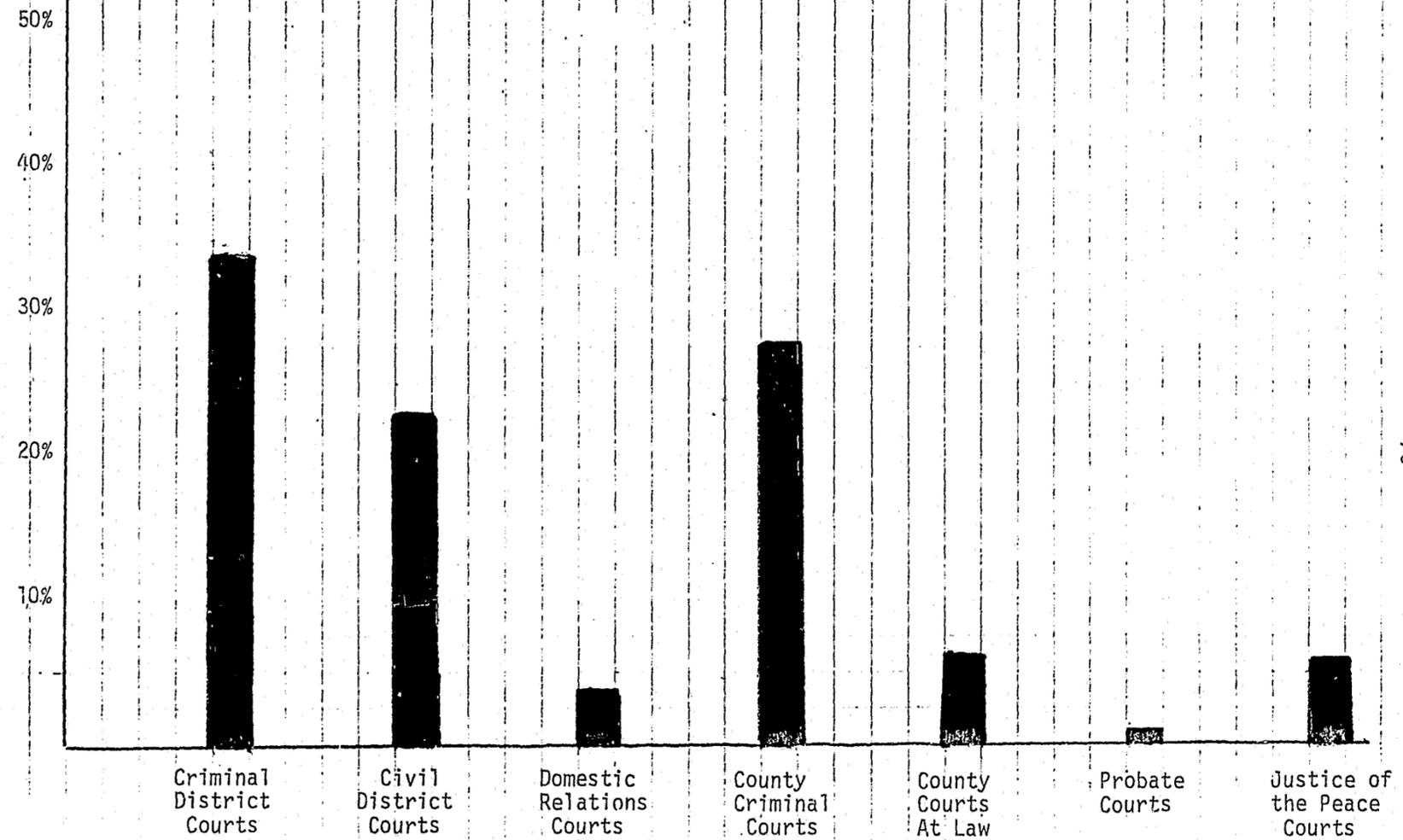
COMPARISON OF 1979 WITH 1980 FIGURES

1979	825	615	75	687	148	17	142
1980	<u>816</u>	<u>545</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>665</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>142</u>

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GRAPH 11

USE OF JUROR PANELS BY COURT JURISDICTION IN 1980



COST COMPARISONS AND ANALYSIS

The chart on the following page compares the operating costs of Dallas County's jury system during the past two years. The slight overall increase in total juror fees paid, average cost per jury trial and average cost per juror is mainly due to the fact that jurors were paid \$6 per day throughout 1980 compared with \$5 per day for the first 8 months of 1979*. Monthly breakdowns of cost of juror fees, summons forms and postage is found on Charts 3 and 4 on pages 28 and 29 ..

A new measure of comparing and evaluating costs among various counties throughout the U.S. has been devised by the Center for Jury Studies in Washington, D.C. This figure, known as administrative cost per juror, is computed by adding the annual cost of personnel, data processing (computer time), summons forms, mailing costs, equipment, supplies, etc. and dividing this total by the annual number of persons reporting for jury duty. The first 18 jury systems nationwide evaluated by the Center for Jury Studies using this measure found that administrative cost per juror ranged in most counties from \$5 to \$25 per juror. The graph of the following page reflects this initial survey. Although it withholds the county's names, Dallas County, Harris County, Texas and Buncombe County, North Carolina are the only three of these 18 counties where the administrative cost per juror fell below the \$3.00 figure which the Center for Jury Studies rated as "excellent." The chart on page 26 shows that Dallas County's cost per juror was at the very efficient rate of \$2.67 in 1980.

The methodology manual published by the Center for Jury Studies discusses the importance of considering this cost figure: "administrative costs...are largely ignored by all but a few jury managers..."

*The 1979 legislative session increased minimum juror fees from \$5 to \$6 per day effective August 29, 1979.

CHART 2

COST COMPARISON

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>Difference</u>
NUMBER SUMMONED	189,720	185,085	+ 4,635.00
NUMBER SERVING	66,369	70,554	- 4,185.00
COST OF SUMMONING (SUMMONS AND POSTAGE)	\$ 34,149.85	\$ 32,760.06	+ \$ 1,389.79
TOTAL JUROR FEES PAID	\$ 592,712.00	\$ 549,379.00 *	+ \$ 43,333.00
COST OF EXCESS JURORS	\$ 41,976.00	\$ 44,010.00	- \$ 2,034.00
NUMBER OF PANELS DISPATCHED	2,326	2,479	- 153
NUMBER OF JURIES SELECTED	2,095	2,253	- 158.00
NUMBER OF PANELS SENT BACK TO CENTRAL JURY ROOM UNUSED/ % UNUSED	231/11%	226/10%	5/1%
AVERAGE COST PER JURY TRIAL **	\$ 299.22	\$ 258.38	+ \$ 40.84
AVERAGE COST PER JUROR ***	\$ 9.45	\$ 8.25	\$ 1.20
ADMINISTRATIVE COST PER JUROR ****	\$2.67	not available	

* Juror fee was increased to \$6.00 per day on August 27, 1979

** Average Cost Per Jury Trial is computed by combining the Cost Of Summoning with Juror Fees Paid and dividing that figure by the Number of Jurors Selected for the year.

*** Average Cost Per Jury Trial is computed by combining the Cost Of Summoning with Juror Fees Paid and dividing that figure by the Number of Jurors Serving for the year.

**** Cost of personnel, data processing, forms, mailing, equipment, supplies, etc. divided by total number of jurors reporting for jury duty during 1980.

in some courts, the cost of getting a juror to the courthouse exceeds the fees paid to the jurors. In well run courts, administrative costs are one-half to one-quarter of the jury fee costs."

*

CHART 3

COST ANALYSIS I (Juror Fees)

	1980			1979		
	TOTAL JUROR FEES	JURORS UTILIZED*	EXCESS JURORS**	TOTAL JUROR FEES	JURORS UTILIZED	EXCESS JURORS
January	\$63,346.00	\$58,282.00	\$5,064.00	\$48,828.00	\$43,873.00	\$4,955.00
February	54,048.00	49,644.00	4,404.00	43,922.00	40,512.00	3,410.00
March	49,572.00	44,382.00	5,190.00	43,301.00	37,551.00	5,750.00
April	65,934.00	62,718.00	3,216.00	47,198.00	41,603.00	5,595.00
May	41,214.00	38,892.00	2,322.00	51,397.00	47,682.00	3,715.00
June	40,560.00	39,030.00	1,530.00	35,327.00	33,397.00	1,930.00
July	55,434.00	49,818.00	5,616.00	45,641.00	41,551.00	4,090.00
August	48,036.00	44,382.00	3,654.00	47,545.00	43,755.00	3,790.00
September	33,780.00	29,754.00	4,026.00	38,780.00	37,064.00	1,716.00
October	59,428.00	55,344.00	3,936.00	63,406.00	59,428.00	3,978.00
November	38,980.00	36,976.00	2,004.00	47,242.00	43,703.00	3,540.00
December	42,528.00	41,514.00	1,014.00	36,792.00	35,250.00	1,542.00
TOTALS	\$592,712.00	\$550,736.00	\$41,976.00	\$549,379.00	\$505,369.00	\$44,010.00

JURORS UTILIZED - Amount of fees spent on jurors who were dispatched to a courtroom on a jury panel.

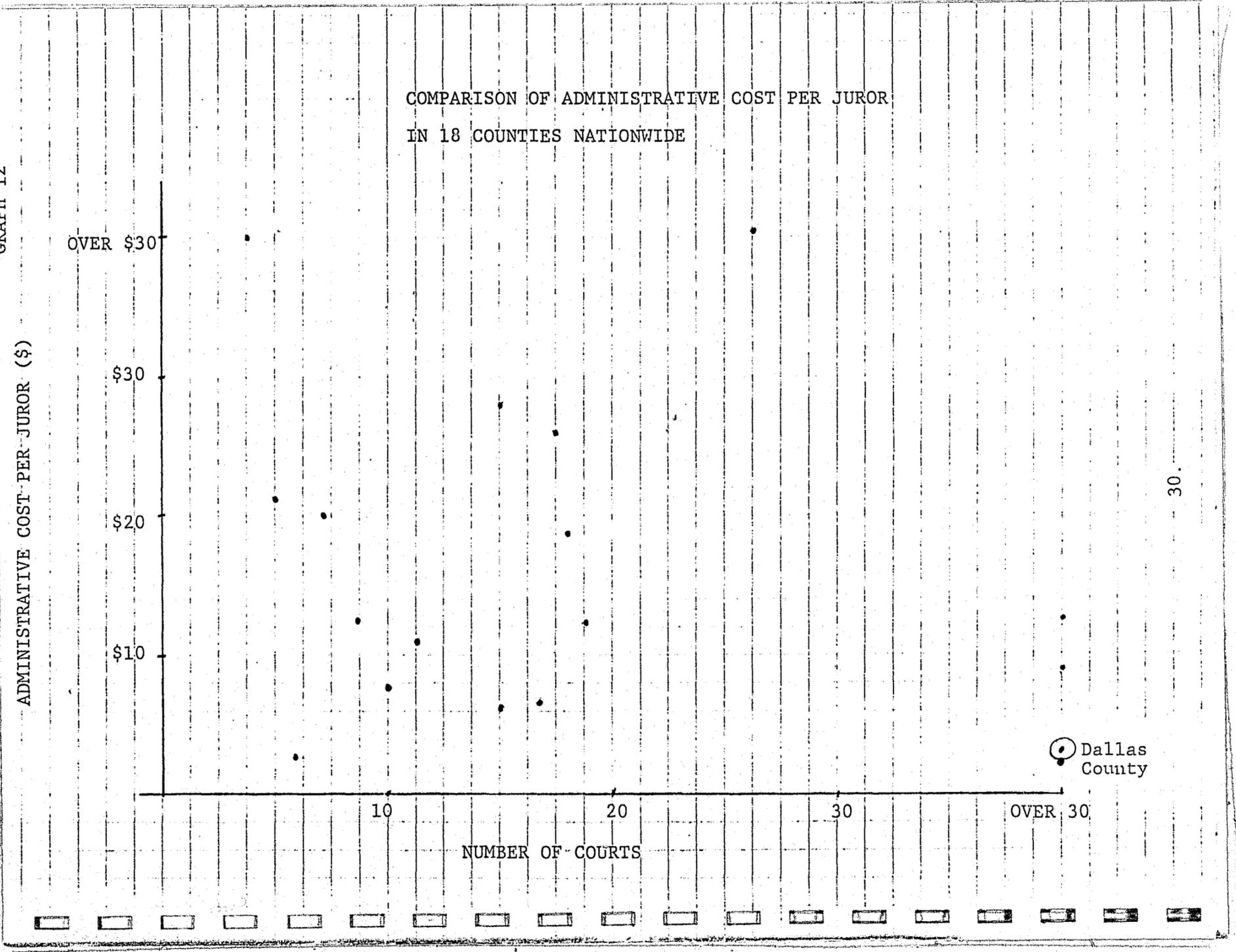
EXCESS JURORS - Amount of fees spent on jurors who remained in the Central Jury Room.

COST ANALYSIS II (Cost of Summoning Process)

	<u>1980</u>			<u>1979</u>		
	<u>SUMMONS MAILERS</u>	<u>POSTAGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>SUMMONS MAILERS</u>	<u>POSTAGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	\$1,000.00	\$2,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$878.90	\$2,431.00	\$3,309.90
February	882.50	2,294.50	3,177.00	748.48	2,070.25	2,818.73
March	866.50	2,252.25	3,118.75	735.55	2,034.50	2,770.05
April	1,000.00	2,600.00	3,600.00	794.30	2,197.00	2,991.30
May	547.50	1,423.50	1,971.00	881.25	2,437.50	3,318.75
June	604.75	1,572.35	2,177.10	575.28	1,591.20	2,166.48
July	1,040.00	2,704.00	3,744.00	891.83	2,466.75	3,358.58
August	848.75	2,206.75	3,055.50	743.78	2,057.25	2,801.03
September	787.50	2,047.50	2,835.00	486.45	1,345.50	1,831.95
October	755.00	1,963.00	2,718.00	893.94	2,472.60	3,366.54
November	601.25	1,563.24	2,164.50	639.20	1,768.00	2,407.20
December	552.50	1,436.50	1,989.00	430.05	1,189.50	1,619.55
TOTALS	<u>\$9,486.25</u>	<u>\$24,663.60</u>	<u>\$34,149.85</u>	<u>\$8,699.01</u>	<u>\$24,061.05</u>	<u>\$32,760.06</u>

GRAPH 12

COMPARISON OF ADMINISTRATIVE COST PER JUROR
IN 18 COUNTIES NATIONWIDE



30

Dallas County

JURY SYSTEM COSTS

County/Court Dallas County Courts
 Date February 1981

Fiscal Year 1980
 State Costs _____
 X County Costs _____

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

Category	Present		Proposed	
	Description	Annual Cost	Description	Annual Cost
Personnel	5 FTE, 4PTE	110,800		
Data Processing		18,000		
Forms		8,450		
Mailing		24,665		
Other (badges, handbooks, xerox rental, telephone bill, office supplies, etc)		15,500		
	TOTAL	177,417	TOTAL	
Number of Jurors Per Year		66,369		
Administrative Cost Per Juror		\$ 2.67		

START-UP COSTS

Category	Description	Cost
Personnel		
Data Processing		
Equipment	N/A	
Facilities		
Other		
	TOTAL	

JUROR FEES AND MILEAGE

Category	Present		Proposed	
	Juror Days	Cost	Juror Days	Cost
Fees	\$592,712			
Mileage	- - -		- - -	
	TOTAL	\$592,712	TOTAL	
Number of Trial Starts Per Year		2100		
Cost Per Trial (Fees and Mileage)		\$ 282.24		

SUMMARY

Category	Present	Proposed	Difference
Administrative	\$177,417		
Start-Up	- - -		
Fees and Mileage	\$592,712		
TOTAL	\$770,129		

JUROR HANDBOOKS

Based on surveys of jurors' opinions, the Jury Services Department developed a new juror handbook early in 1980. The previously used version was published by the State Bar of Texas in the 1950's and was not responsive to the major questions and concerns of today's jurors. Randall Hand, an SMU graduate student interning at the department, researched and drafted the new handbook. During the drafting process, handbooks from jury systems across the country were examined for ideas regarding content and layout. The final version emerged from a process of revision by the Jury Director and the District Judges' Central Jury Panel Committee.

The handbook is used to supplement the slide/audio presentation shown each morning during juror orientation. Typical questions jurors have regarding their service are addressed in the handbook in a question and answer format. A glossary of legal terms is included in the handbook.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

A continual problem of current Texas statutes that causes numerous complaints is that some individuals are selected for jury duty every year or two while other individuals rarely if ever receive a summons. This is due to the fact that in August of each year the source list is reconstituted so that the name of every registered voter in the county is eligible for jury selection, regardless of whether or not he/she has received one or more summons in preceding years. Approximately 200,000 of Dallas County's 700,000 registered voters are randomly chosen by computer each year to receive a jury summons under the one-day/one-trial system which has been operational since January 1977. At the end of the year the names of those 200,000 registered voters are intermingled with the remaining 500,000 who did not receive a jury summons which results in a statistical probability that 15% of those who served the previous year will again be randomly selected for the next year.

An attempt to rectify this inequity is now underway in the 1981 legislative session in Austin. Bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate to allow each county to amend their jury plan to provide for the use of the jury list as a source list until it has been exhausted (i.e. until everyone has been summoned) or for a specific period of time (probably two to three years depending upon the number of registered voters summoned each year). Should such legislation be enacted the repeater effect would be either reduced or eliminated thereby equalizing the jury duty experience among the county's citizens.

CHART 3

1980	# Summoned	# Serving	Yield	# Excess Serving	Utilization	% Panel Members Used as Jurors	Panels Dispatched	Juries Selected	No Show		Postponements	
									#	%	#	%
January	20,000	5,720	43.3	844	92.6	28.7	241	215	2,977	15.9	1,278	6.4
February	17,650	6,201	43.3	734	81.1	24	202	180	2,312	12.3	1,013	5.7
March	17,325	5,819	43.5	865	78.4	25.8	184	168	2,242	12.1	1,074	6.2
April	20,000	6,797	41.5	536	95.2	30.7	253	231	3,854	19	1,372	6.9
May	10,950	4,709	62.2	387	91.5	29.7	167	152	2,027	17	1,454	13.3
June	12,095	4,350	42.7	255	99.4	32.1	162	144	2,403	18.7	1,060	8.8
July	20,800	6,818	41.9	936	82.7	27.7	249	215	3,724	21.9	1,637	9.7
August	16,975	5,645	42.6	609	84.8	27.1	181	154	2,290	17.9	1,421	8.4
September	15,750	5642	40.5	671	84.1	32.8	185	169	4,617	27.8	1,624	10.3
October	15,100	5702	41.8	656	84.5	30.9	187	178	4,495	36.2	1,383	9.2
November	12,025	4621	44.9	334	88.9	29.5	154	142	2,173	17.8	1,268	10.5
December	11,050	4345	44.0	169	93.4	36.4	161	147	1,798	41.8	1,171	10.6
TOTAL/ AVERAGE	189,720	66,369	44.4	6996	88.1	29.6	2,326	2095	34,912	20.5	15,755	8.8

cont.- 1980	Disqualified		Disabled		Exempt		Unclaimed		Juries Selected		% Excess Serving by Day				Cost of Jurors
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	6-Person	12-Person	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	
	January	1,662	8.6	915	5.2	2,164	11.3	1,718	8.8	106	109	7	3.7	20.7	
February	1,399	7.8	562	3.5	1,923	11.4	1,970	14	90	90	6.7	12.9	10.8	31.3	54,048
March	1,323	7.5	496	3	1,753	10.4	1,772	10.5	75	93	7.9	26.1	12.2	34.3	49,572
April	1,330	6.6	478	2.8	1,784	9.4	1,987	9.3	96	135	0	15.7	15.7	18.1	65,934
May	790	7.5	261	2.8	992	9.7	1,260	11.7	63	89	0	15.1	7.3	29.3	41,214
June	727	6.1	285	2.6	1,089	9.8	1,353	10.8	61	83	6.5	1.3	5.5	15.9	40,560
July	1,335	8	584	4.2	1,807	11.2	2,298	13	87	128	1.3	5.7	29.7	49.6	55,434
August	1,368	10.5	566	5.4	1,742	13.4	1,153	13.8	60	96	3.1	8.4	23.8	27.1	48,036
September	1,343	10.3	729	6.2	1,682	12.1	1,587	11.4	74	112	7.1	1.6	26	4.3	33,780
October	1,157	8.2	619	5.4	1,731	12.8	1,737	12.6	88	99	6.1	6.2	6.8	5.1	59,280
November	887	8.6	357	4.3	1,122	10.2	1,391	13.2	58	83	16.4	6.4	11.3	.9	38,980
December	929	9.9	377	.1	1,110	13.3	1,347	14.0	87	71	.7	10.1	7.9	0	42,528
TOTAL/AVERAGE	14,250	8.3	6,229	3.8	18,899	11.3	19,573	11.9	945	1188	5.2	9.4	14.8	19.8	592,712

CONCLUSION

An assessment and evaluation of Dallas County's jury system as one of the best metropolitan jury systems in the country* is an indication that the changes and improvements which have been instituted step-by-step over the past three years have been successful enough to gain national attention. What is notable in terms of the statistical measurements of juror yield, utilization and panel usage is the stability which the system maintained during 1980. Experience with the one-day/one-trial term of service, the standby juror call-in and additional computerization of daily processes has enabled better prediction regarding how many jurors to summon each day and expected turnout.

Cost efficiency has been maintained despite the statutorily mandated increase in minimum juror fees from \$5 to \$6 per day late in 1979 which caused system costs to grow throughout 1980. However, despite this unavoidable escalation in total fees paid to jurors, the amount of money spent on excess jurors (i.e. those who remained in the Central Jury Room and were not needed for jury panels) actually decreased by \$2,000 compared with 1979.

Additionally, a sample survey of 18 court jurisdictions across the U.S. revealed that Dallas County was one of only three jury systems to hold administrative costs/juror below \$3.00.** Dallas County administrative costs/juror during 1980 was \$2.67 compared with an average range of between \$10 and \$20 per juror.

*The Center for Jury Studies in Washington, D.C. studied the 30 largest counties nationwide and rated 12 counties as having outstanding jury systems. Dallas County was included in this 12.

**Information provided by the National Center for Jury Studies in Washington, D.C.

Dallas County citizens continue to voice their support for the one-day/one-trial term of service; however, complaints are registered by a small percent of jurors who feel that they are being summoned to jury duty much too frequently. Indeed, some Dallas County residents receive jury summons every year. Although the new Dallas County Juror Handbook, which was written and published in 1980, explains how this can happen in a randomly selected system, several bills currently under consideration in the 1981 Texas Legislature would rectify this problem by allowing each county to amend their jury plan to eliminate this repeater effect and equalize the jury duty experience among Dallas County's 700,000 registered voters.

In summary, continually striving to achieve and maintain a respected, equitable and cost efficient jury system is an ongoing effort in Dallas County.