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Violent Crime in the United States

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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Briefing book



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20531

FOREWORD

The National Indicators System (NIS) is a program for informing the President, Vice President and White House staff of social, demographic and economic trends in the United States. Created by Dr. Richard S. Beal, Director of the White House Office of Planning and Evaluation, the system provides briefings on crucial domestic issues.

This copy of the Briefing Book for the President is provided in recognition of your status as a formulator of national criminal justice policy.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the Department of Justice was designated by Dr. Beal as the lead agency to prepare this Briefing Book on Violent Crime. Several aspects of the NIS should be appreciated.

(1) The data are presented independent of advocacy of policy positions on budget and legislative issues that must be decided by the President and White House staff.

(2) The informational materials developed must be presented to the President and key staff in 30 minutes.

(3) All the materials required to brief the President must be prepared in a tight 8-week period of substantive discussions and production tasks.

As a result, the issues presented here were selected to highlight a limited number of crucial messages on the subject of criminal justice; the briefing materials do not purport to be an exhaustive description of violent crime in the Nation.

The assistance of the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Section of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the guidance of the Statistical Policy Division staff of the Office of Management and Budget were essential to the process and final product.

For this Bureau, the NIS provides an opportunity to focus nearly a decade of work in national criminal justice statistics and information system development--one of the positive legacies of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) program--on the criminal justice policy issues confronting this Nation.

We welcome your advice and suggestions in our updating of these materials.

Benjamin H. Renshaw III
Acting Director
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Letter of transmittal

September 16, 1981

President Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor of transmitting to you "Violent Crime in the United States," the fourth report in the National Indicators System program for systematically informing you and senior Administration officials of the social, demographic and economic trends in America in a policy-relevant format but prior to the policy formation period.

In this report, we have assembled current statistics developed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics which bear on the problem of violent crime in American society today. These materials indicate that businesses, minorities and young people are particularly vulnerable to the grave threat of violent crime. The high costs of operating the criminal justice system fall mostly on State and local governments. High rates of incarceration have caused serious overcrowding in the nation's prisons and jails.

I am most grateful to the Bureau of Justice Statistics for their excellent work on this report. I trust that you will find these data useful in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Beal
Special Assistant to the President

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Highlights

Violent crime is a grave threat to the safety of all Americans.

Businesses, minorities, and young people are especially vulnerable to violent crime.

The costs of operating the criminal justice system are high, and the burden falls heavily on State and local governments.

Higher rates of incarceration have caused serious crowding in the nation's prisons and jails.

Violent crime in the United States

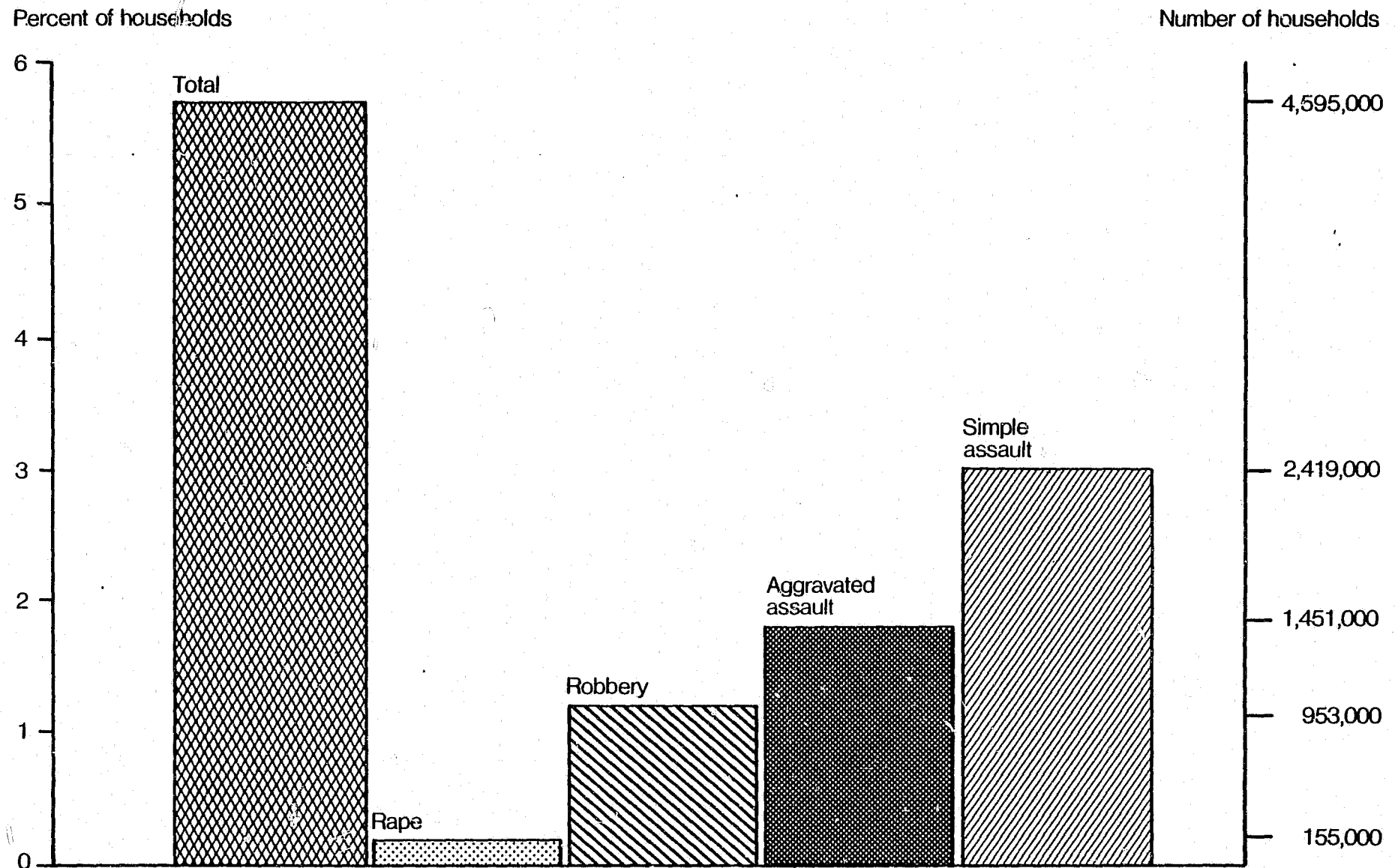
How widespread is violent crime?

How likely are weapons to be used in violent crimes?

Where does violent crime occur?

How do Americans view the seriousness of violent crime?

Violent crime touches 6 percent of all U.S. households



Note: Subcategories add to more than total due to multiple victimization of households

Violent crime touches 6 percent of all U.S. households

In recent years, at least one member of about 6 percent of all households has been raped, robbed, or assaulted.

In 1980, nearly five million households were touched by rape, robbery or assault.

Far more households have been touched by property crimes. Each year (based on 1975-1980 averages):

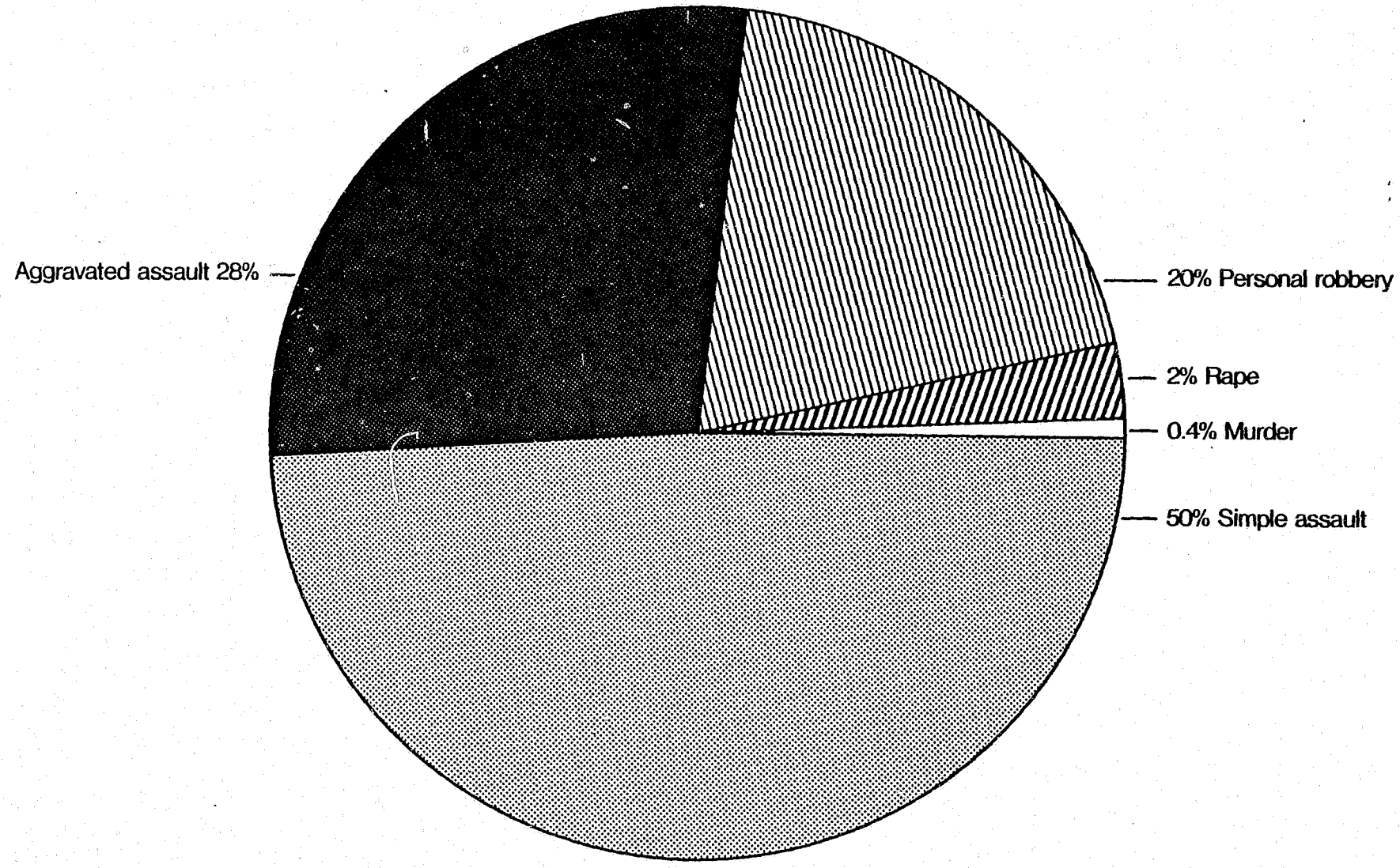
About 25 percent are touched by larceny.

About 7 percent are touched by burglary.

Note: Reported increases, however, may not reflect actual increases in violent crime. Historically, a great deal of crime is never reported to the police.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *The Prevalence of Crime*, March 1981 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p.1.

Assault is the most common violent crime



Assault is the most common violent crime

Assault accounts for the vast majority of measured violent crime.

In 1980--

An estimated 1.3 million forcible rapes, personal robberies, and aggravated assaults were never reported to any law enforcement agency.

Sixty percent of simple assaults never reached the attention of the police.

The most common reasons given for not reporting assaults were that the incident was--

"a private or personal matter."

"it was not important enough."

Notes:

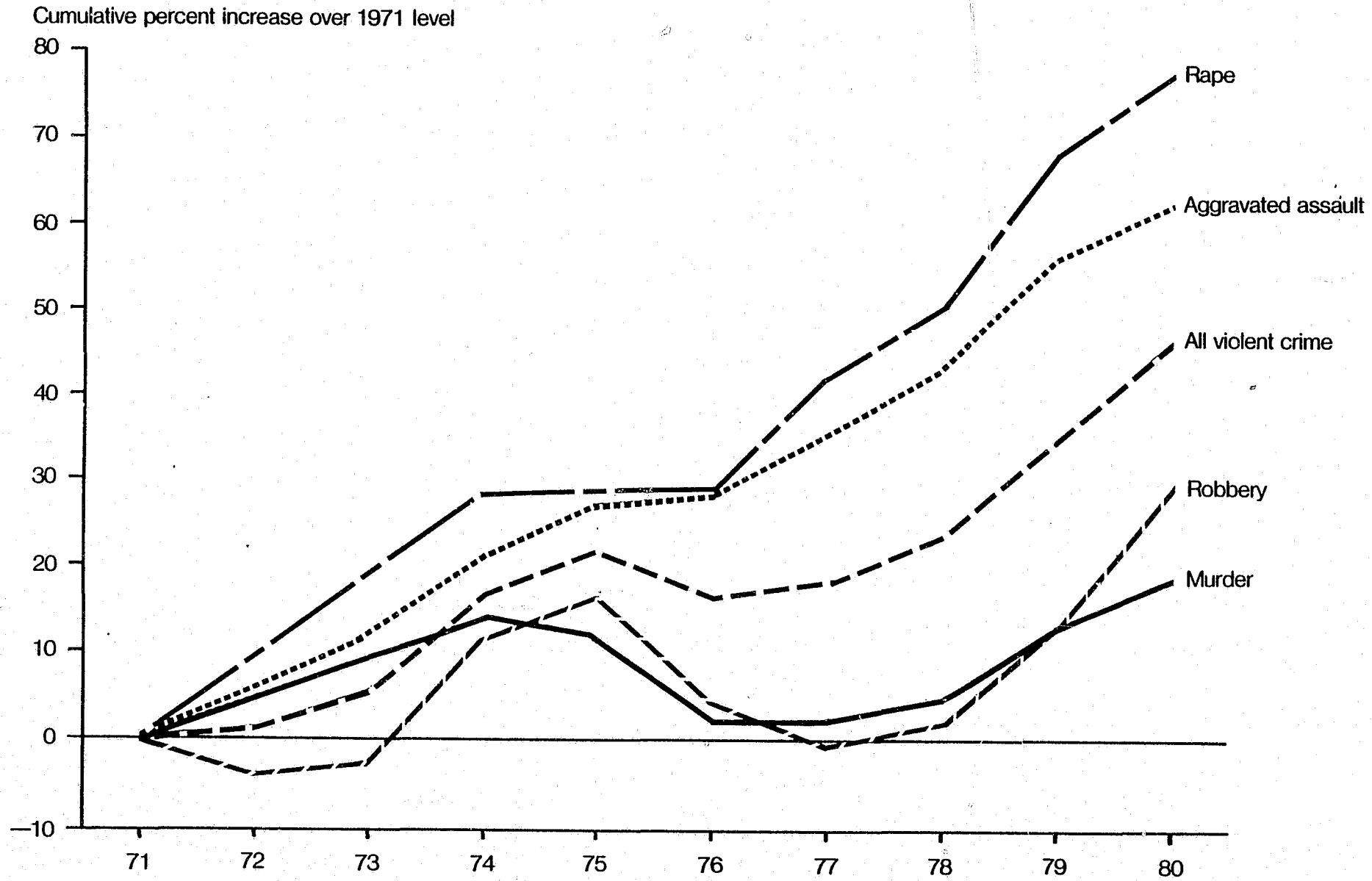
1. The Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) measures seven crimes as reported to police agencies throughout the country. These are murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. The National Crime Survey (NCS) is a household survey that collects victimization data for six crimes: rape, robbery, assault, household burglary, personal and household larceny, and motor vehicle theft, from a sample of persons age 12 and over throughout the nation.

2. Aggravated assault is a physical attack or a threat with a weapon or one that results in serious bodily injury. Simple assault occurs when a physical attack produces minor injury or when injury is only threatened.

3. Attempted assaults constituted 71 percent of all assaults in 1979. Sixty-six percent of aggravated assaults were attempted attacks with weapons, while 74 percent of simple assaults were attempted attacks without weapons, and threatened attacks.

Sources: (a) Estimates for rape, robbery, assault, and police reporting: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, chart constructed using 1980 data from the National Crime Survey. (b) Estimate for murders: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, 1980*, September 1981 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 7.

Reported violent crime rising an average of 5 percent per year



Reported violent crime rate rising by an average of 5 percent per year

Based on all murders, forcible rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults reported to the police--

The violent crime rate increased annually by an average of 5 percent

The rate rose from 396 per 100,000 persons in 1971 to 581 per 100,000 persons in 1980.

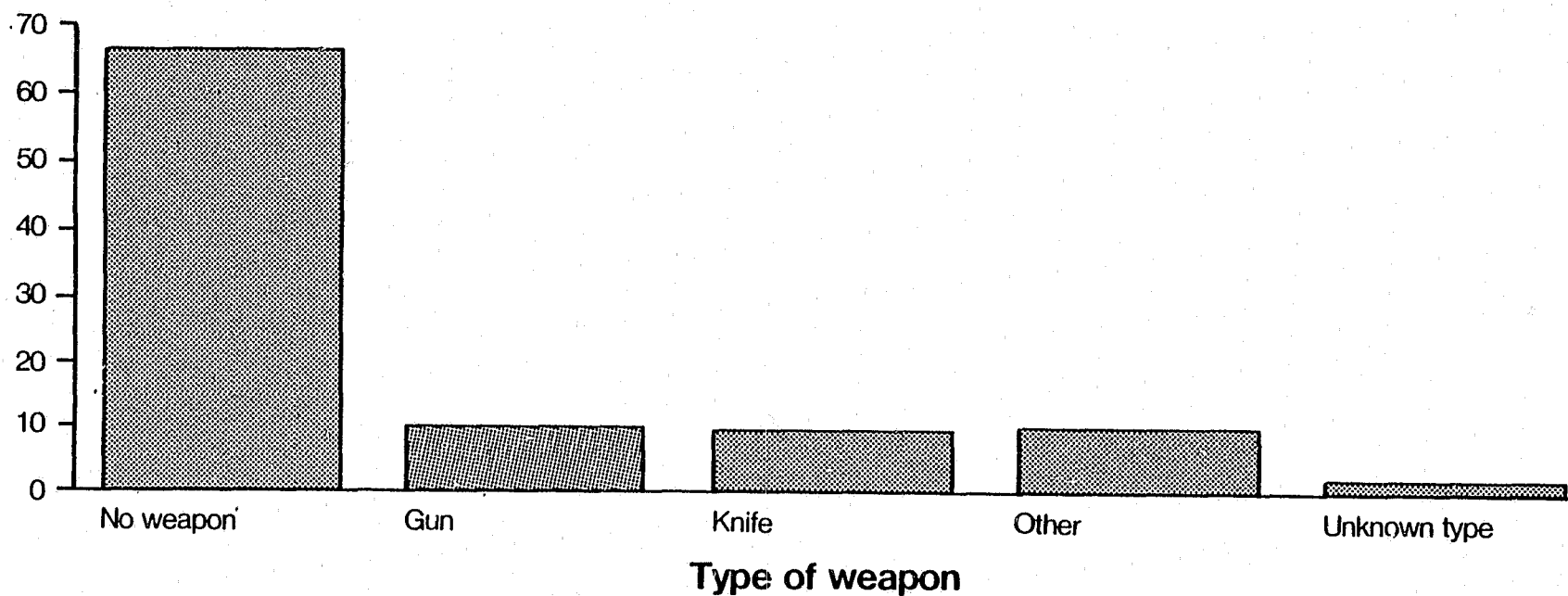
Reported increases, however, may not reflect actual changes in violent crime. Historically, a great deal of crime is never reported to the police.

Note: In 1980, 53% of violent crime was not reported to the police.

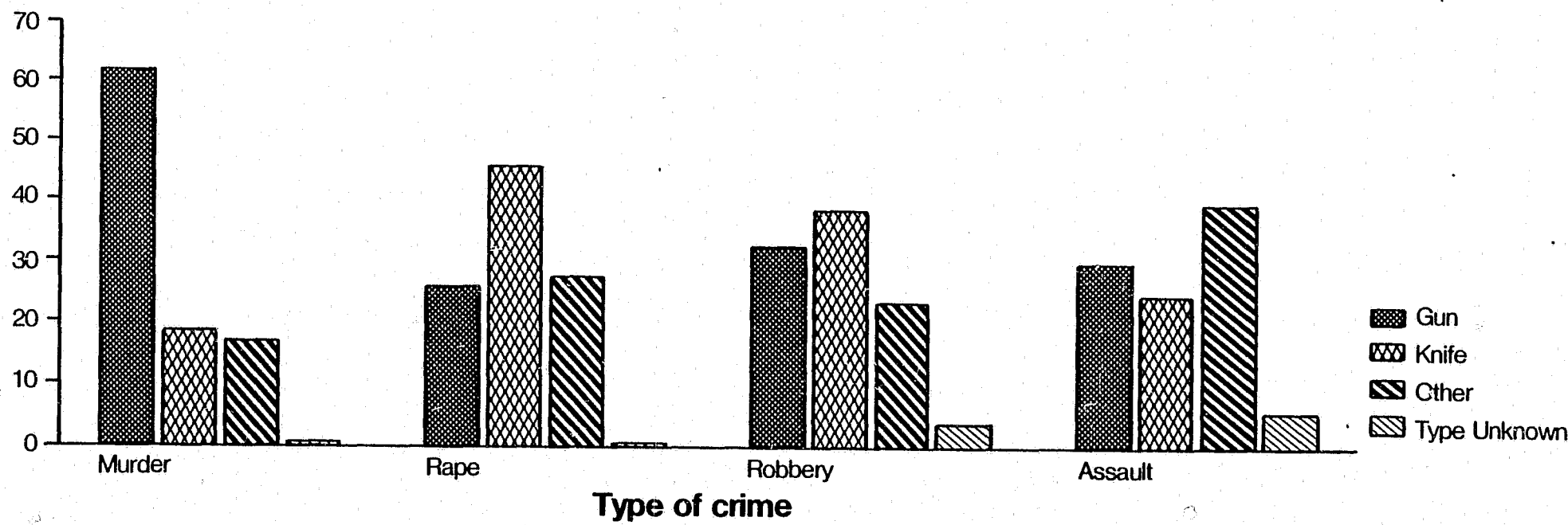
Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, 1980*, September 1981 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 41.

Weapons were displayed or used in 35 percent of all violent crimes

Percent of all violent incidents



Percent of armed violent incidents



Weapons were displayed or used in 35 percent of all violent crimes

Every year for the past eight years (1973-1980), among all violent crimes--

Guns were present in 11 percent (30 percent of armed incidents).

Knives were present in 10 percent (30 percent of armed incidents).

Other weapons (such as a club, brick or bottle) were present in 12 percent (35 percent of armed incidents).

Among all violent crimes, offenders were--

More likely to be armed in robberies than in rapes or assaults.

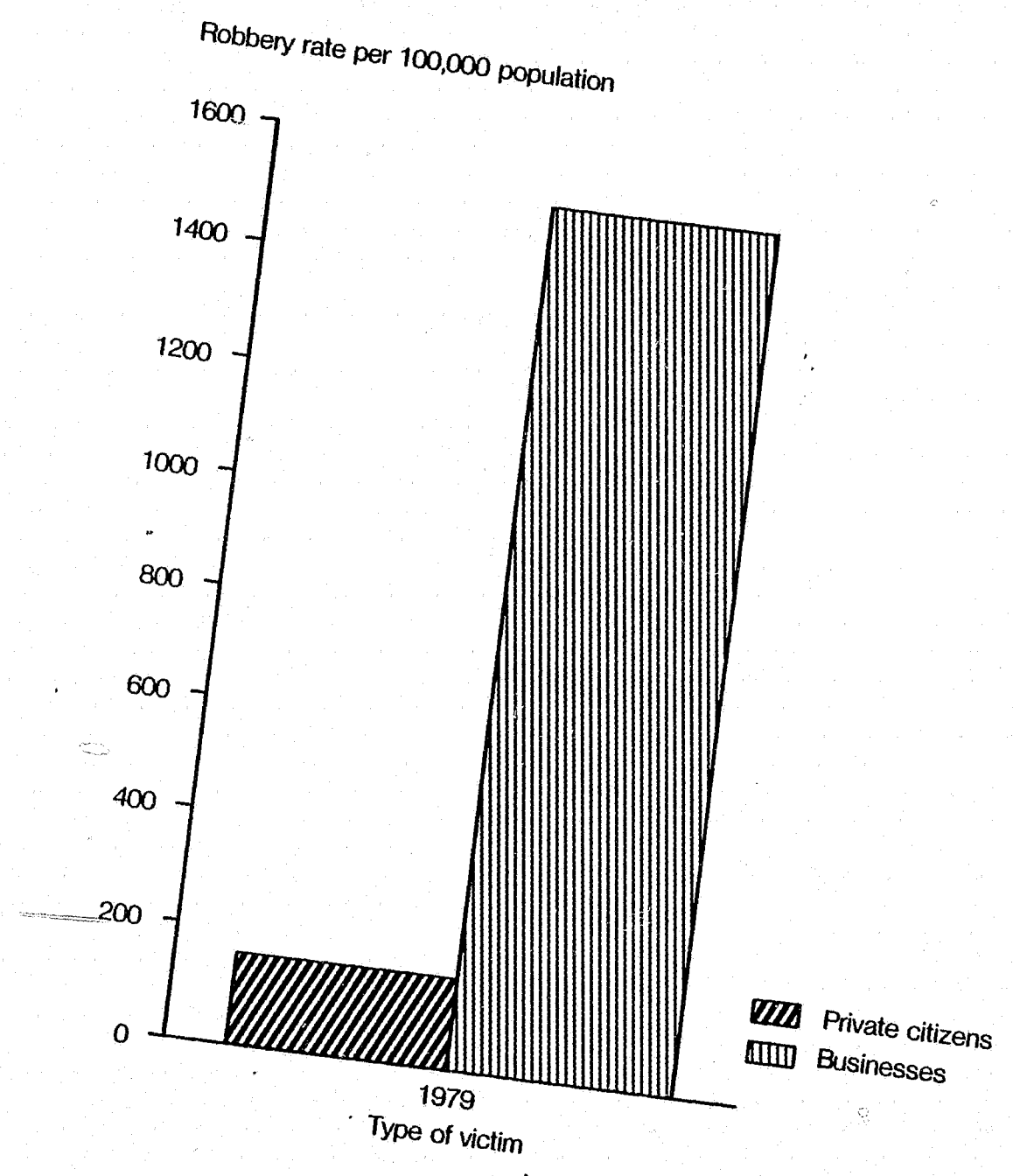
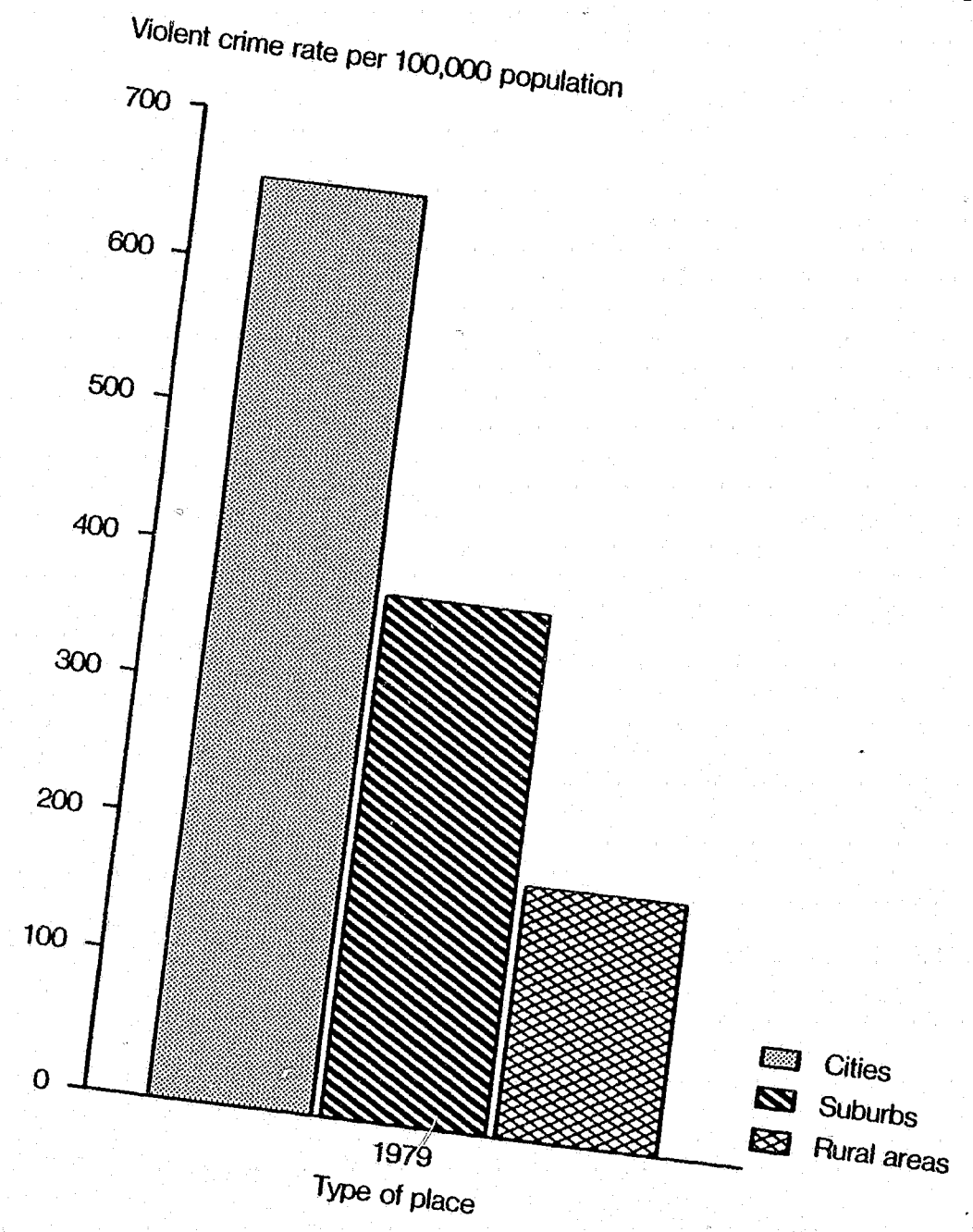
More likely to use guns in murders than in other types of violent crime.

Equally likely to have guns in any one of three violent crimes-- rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

More likely to be armed if the victim was a stranger.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, chart constructed using 1980 data from the National Crime Survey.

Cities and businesses are especially vulnerable to violent crime



Cities and businesses are especially vulnerable to violent crime

The violent crime rate for cities is--

About twice that for suburbs.

About three times that for rural areas.

The rate for large cities is--

Twice that for medium-size cities.

Almost four times that of small cities.

The rate is rising more rapidly--

In suburban and rural areas than in cities.

In small and medium-size cities than in large cities.

The robbery rate for businesses is ten times higher than for private citizens.

In a given year--

Two-thirds of the robberies are of private citizens.

Yet the number of robberies per 100,000 businesses is ten times higher than the number per 100,000 persons.

Bank robberies account for only ten percent of all commercial robberies.

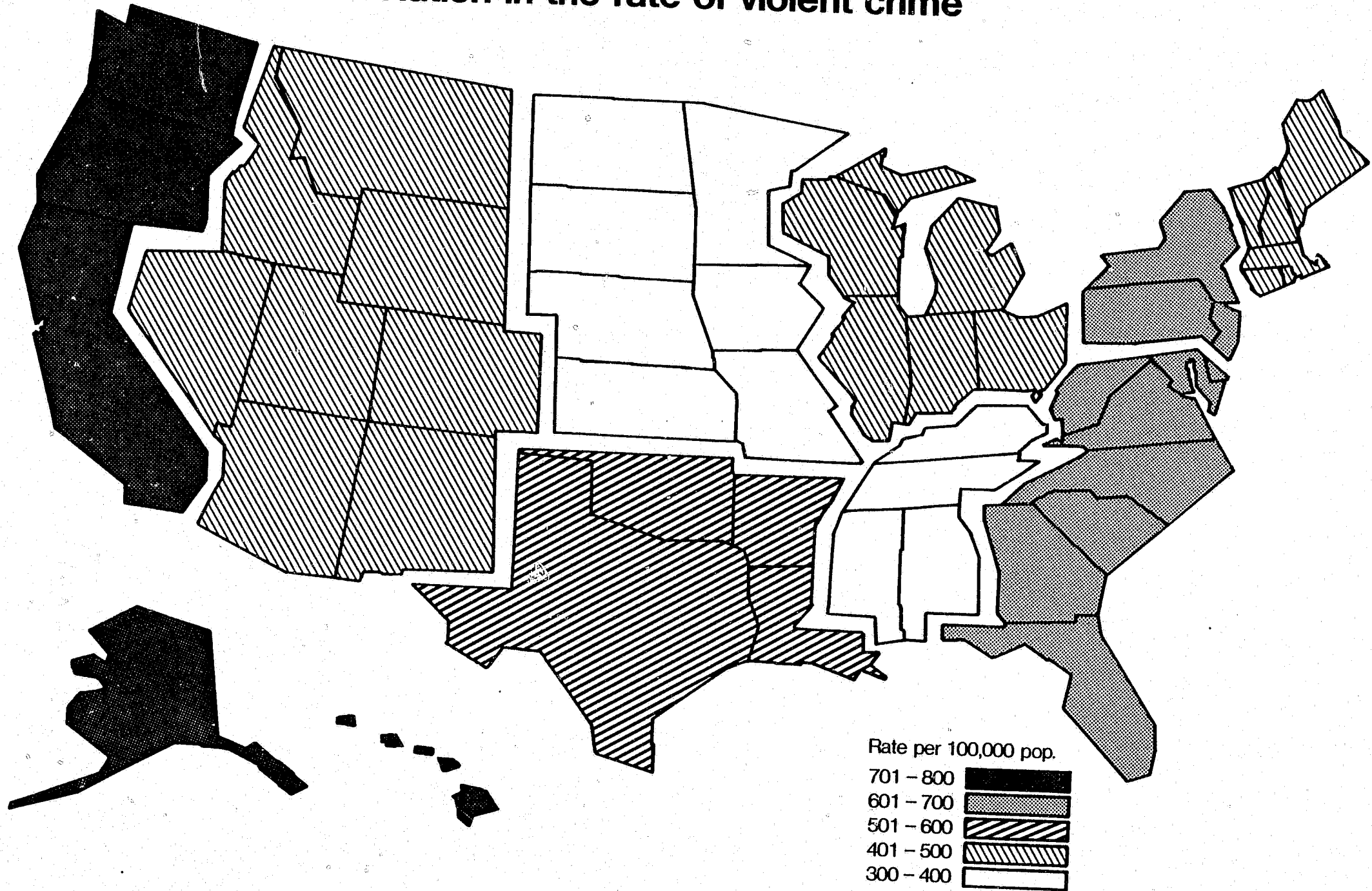
Note: The relationships in the rates discussed above are stable over time.

Source: (a) crime rates by type of place: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Re-*

ports for the United States, 1979, September 1980 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), pp. 170-173.

(b) Robbery rates: Chart constructed from data from the Uniform Crime Reports, 1979 and Commercial Victimization Survey, 1976.

The West leads the Nation in the rate of violent crime



The West leads the Nation in the rate of violent crime

Among regions, the rate of violent crime reported in 1979 was--

Highest in the five States that make up the Pacific region--721 crimes per 100,000 persons.

Lowest in the seven West North Central States--312 crimes per 100,000 persons.

Since 1971, the rate of increase in violent crime has been--

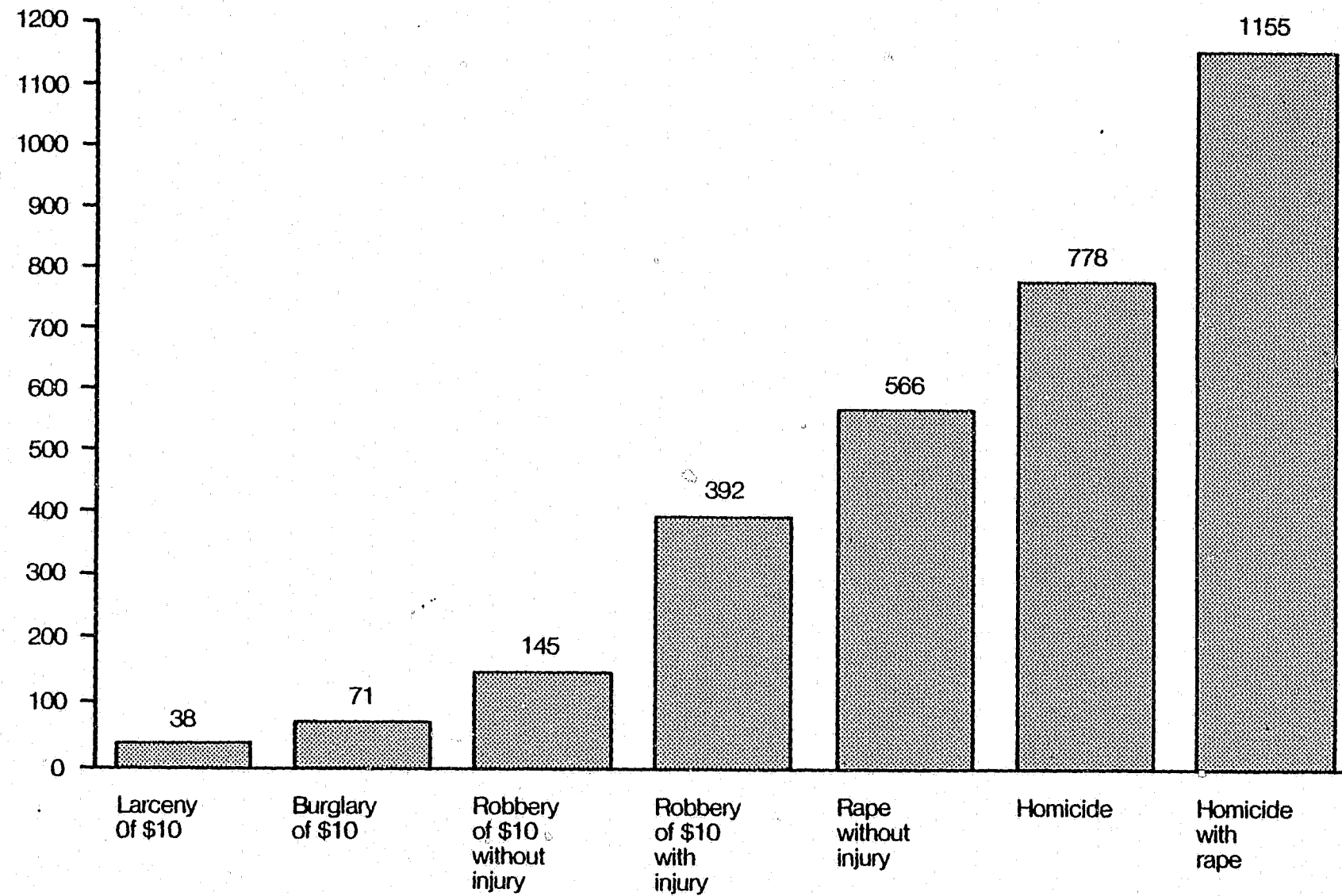
Greatest in New England: it doubled between 1971 and 1979-- from 209 to 418 crimes per 100,000 persons.

Smallest in the five East North Central States: it increased by 19 percent between 1971 and 1979.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, 1979*, September 1980 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), pp. 42-46.

Americans view violent crime as more serious than most property crime

National severity scores



Americans view violent crime as much more serious than most property crime

Most Americans believe that--

Crime with the use or threat of force is more serious than crime that does not involve the threat or use of force--even if the value of the loss is the same.

Robbery of \$10 without injury is almost four times more serious than a \$10 larceny and is more than twice as serious as a \$10 burglary.

Crimes that do result in injury are much more serious than those that do not.

Robbery of \$10 with injury is almost three times more serious than a \$10 robbery without injury.

Source: Wolfgang, Marvin E., exhibits from testimony before the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Judiciary Committee, June 10, 1968.

The victims of violent crime

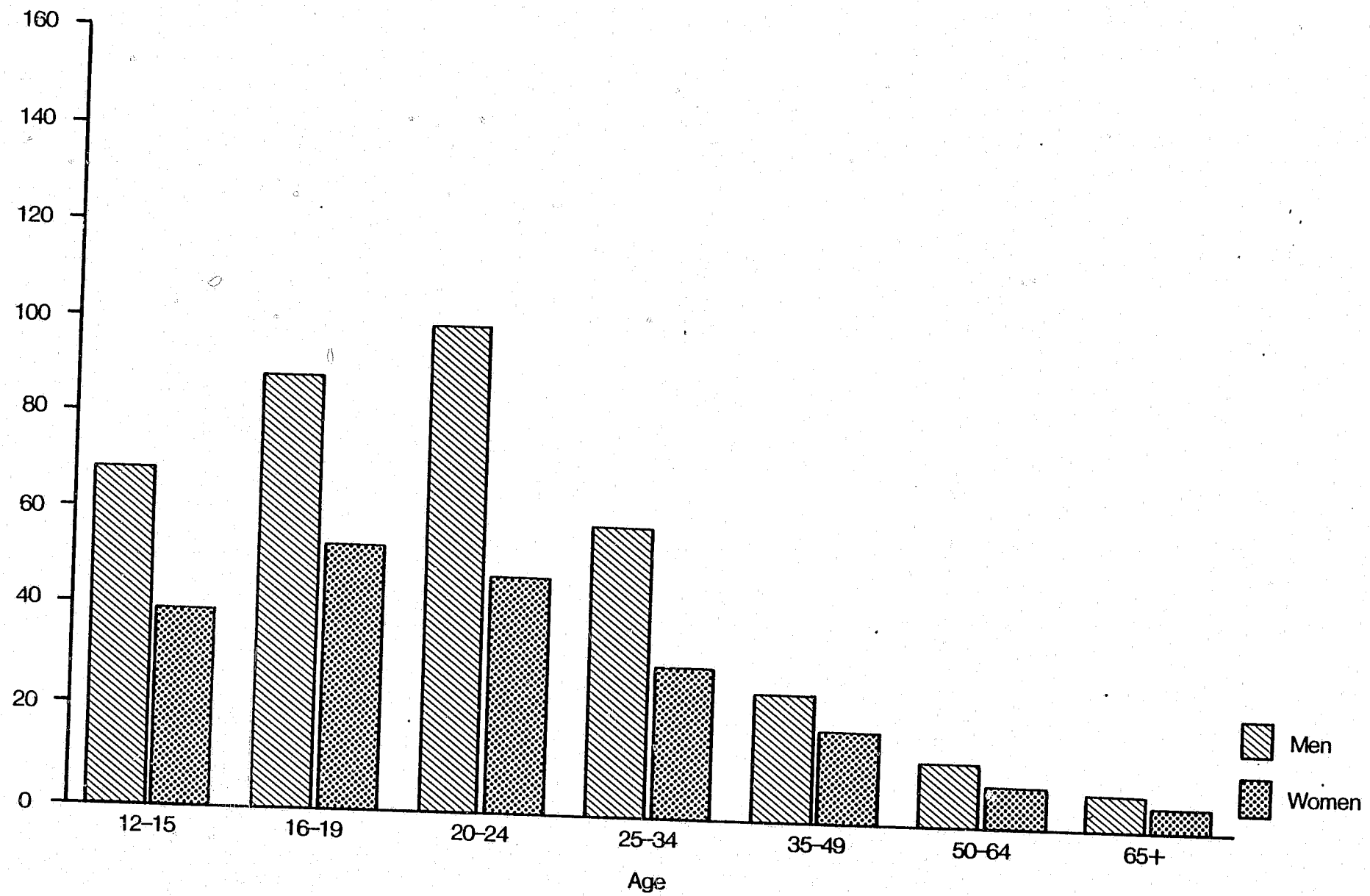
What are the profiles of victims of violent crime?

What is the relationship between victims and offenders?

What losses result from violent crime?

Victims of violent crime are most often young and male

Victimization rate per 1,000 population



Victims of violent crime are most often young and male

The violent crime rate for persons between ages 12 and 25 is eight times higher than for persons 65 and over.

Males are twice as likely as females to be victims of violent crimes.

Young males--under age 25--are the most victimized group of society.

The elderly are much less likely than all other age groups to be victimized by violent crime. (Yet, for some nonviolent offenses, such as purse snatching, they are as likely to be victimized as younger persons.)

Victims know their assailants in--

One-third of all violent crimes.

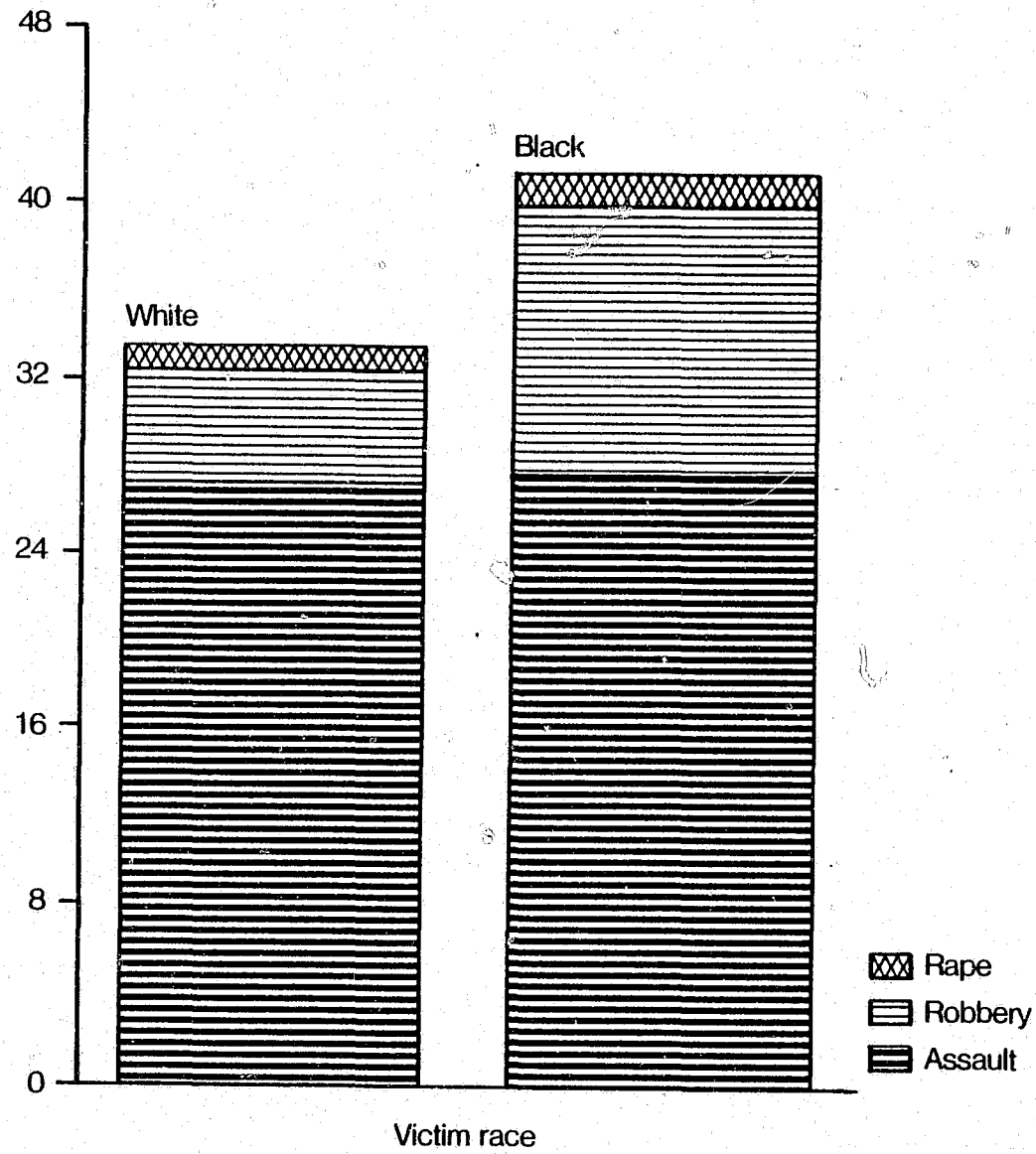
40 percent of rapes and assault.

20 percent of robberies.

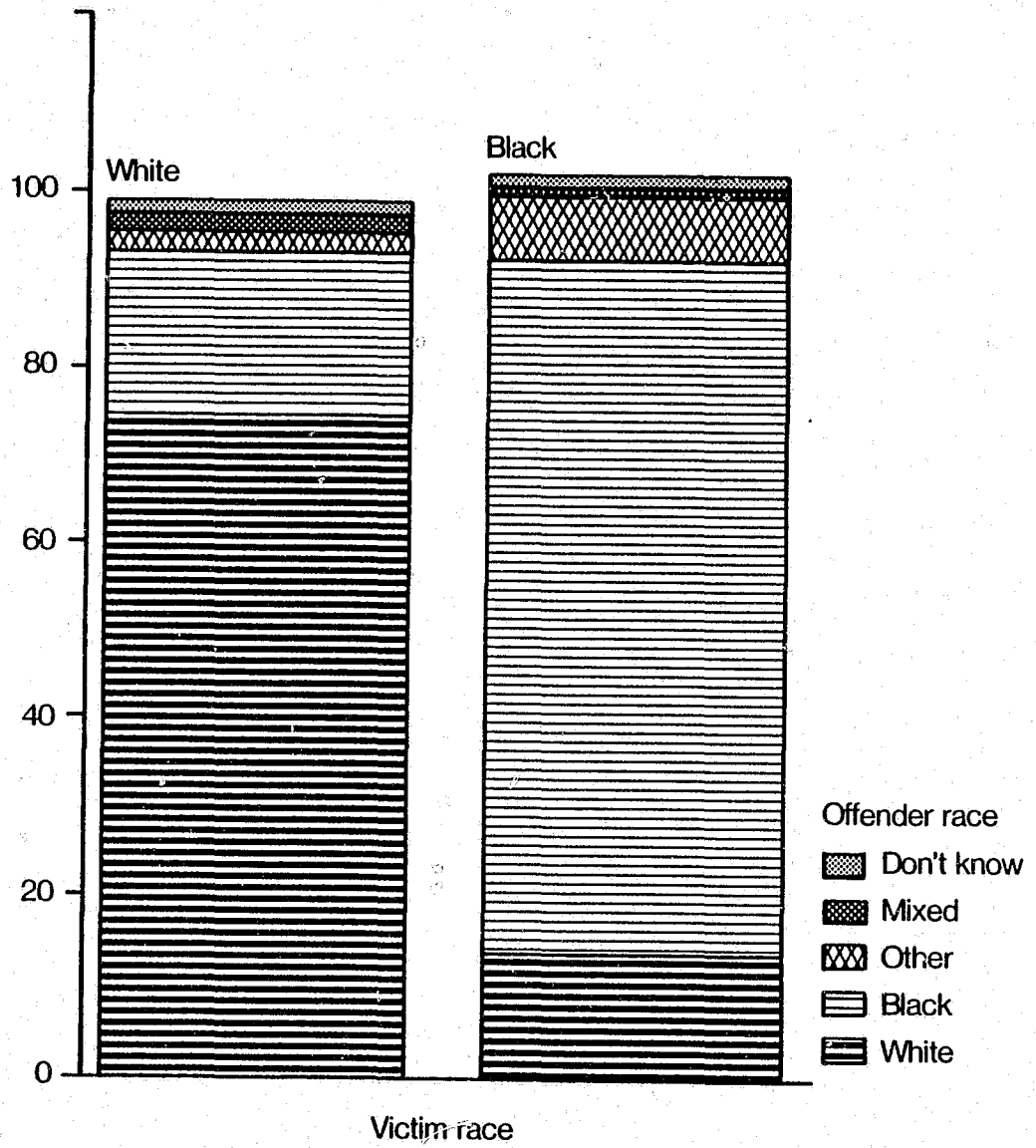
Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1979*, December 1981, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), Table 5.

Blacks are more likely than whites to be victims of violent crime

Victimization rate per 1,000 population



Percent violent crimes



Blacks are more likely than whites to be victims of violent crime

Most crime is intraracial.

The overall rate of violent crime is higher for blacks than for whites.

Blacks are more than twice as likely as whites to be robbed. (This accounts for much of the difference in the overall violent crime rates for blacks and whites.)

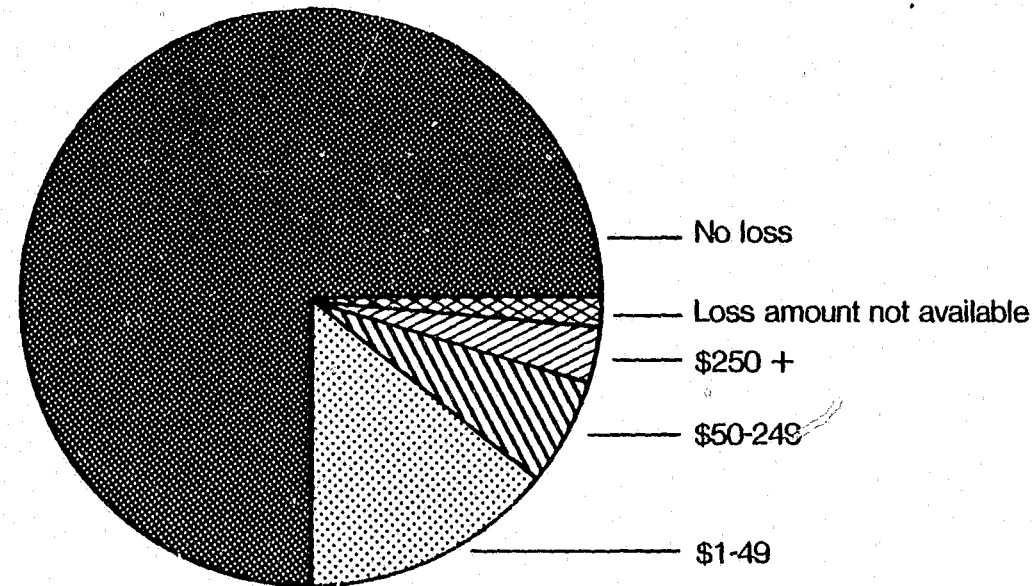
Black males are almost three times as likely as white males to be victims of robbery.

Blacks are more likely than whites to be victims of aggravated assault. They are less likely to be victims of simple assault.

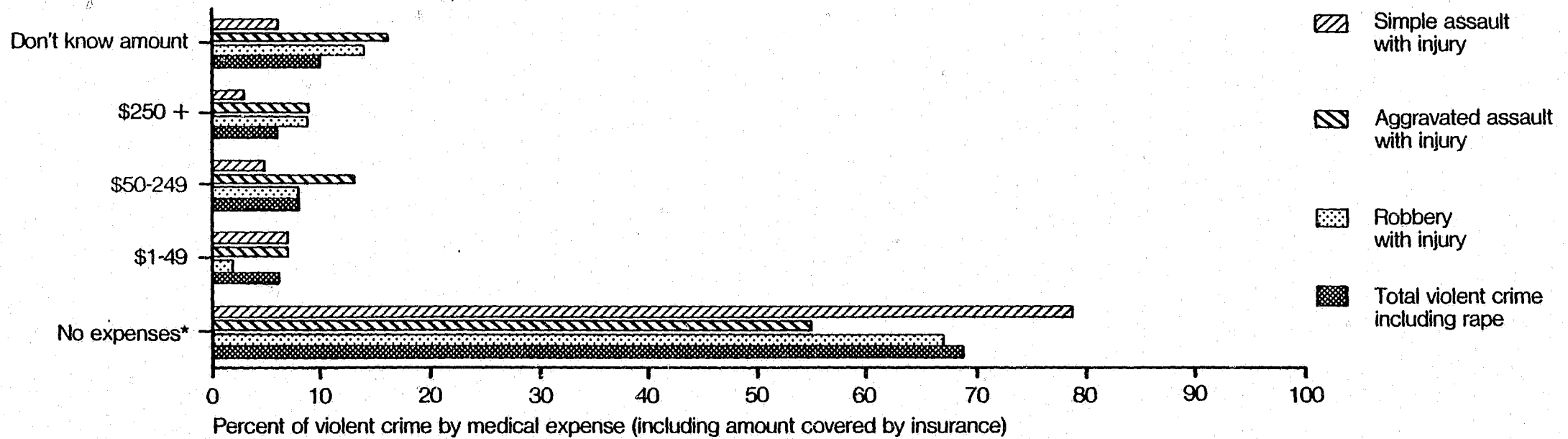
In 75 percent of all violent crimes, victims perceive offenders to be of the same race.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1979*, December 1981, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), Table 6.

25 percent of violent crimes result in economic loss



Percent of violent crime by amount of theft loss



*Includes respondents who failed to recall whether medical expenses were incurred

25 percent of violent crimes result in economic loss

Among violent crimes:

25 percent result in theft or property damage.

10 percent result in a loss valued at \$50 or more.

3 percent result in losses valued at \$250 or more.

The victims of violent crimes--

Recover no cash or property in 73 percent of personal robberies.

Lose worktime in 10 percent of all violent crimes.

Who lose worktime because of violent crimes miss more than one day from work in 70 percent of the crimes and six or more days in 19 percent of the crimes.

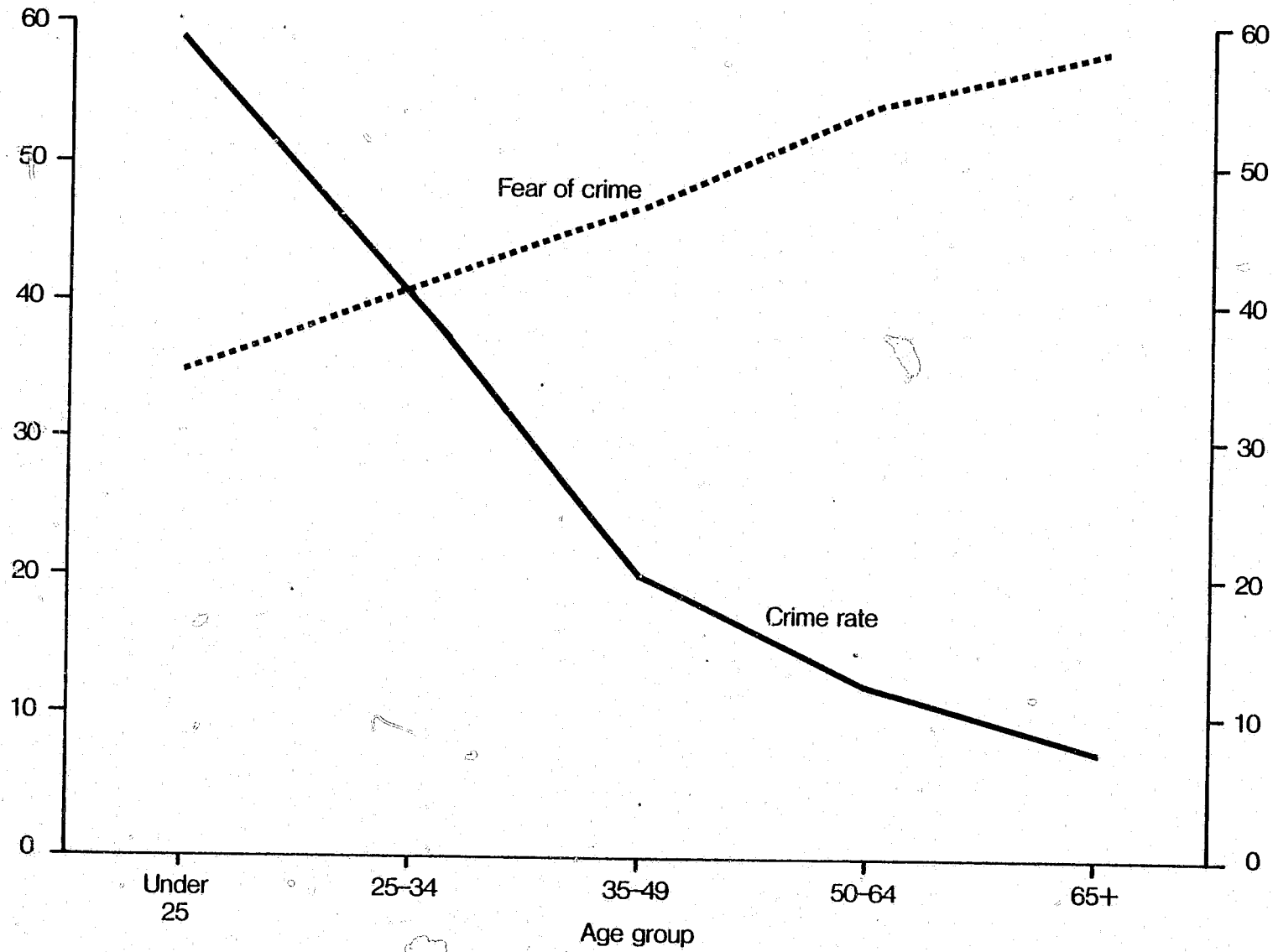
Who are injured incur medical expenses in 20 percent of the crimes and incur expenses of \$250 or more in 6 percent of the crimes.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Charts constructed using 1979 data from the National Crime Survey.

Fear of crime is not directly related to crime levels

Violent crime rate per 1,000 pop.

Percent with personal activities affected by fear of crime



Fear of crime is not directly related to crime levels

The relationship between fear of crime and crime levels is much more complex than simply "more crime--more fear."

Groups who express the highest levels of fear--e.g., women and the elderly--are not the ones who are the most often victimized.

People's reported fear of crime and their behavior do not match very well. They express high general fear levels, but relatively few limit daily activities such as shopping or entertainment or move out of their neighborhoods because of this fear.

People are more likely to say that they think others have limited their activities because of fear than to say that they themselves have done so.

In July 1981, a poll found that 85 percent of the public is more concerned about crime now than they were five years ago.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, chart constructed using victimization data for 1975 from the National Crime Survey, national sample, and attitude data from 26 cities, National Crime Survey, cities sample, 1974-75.

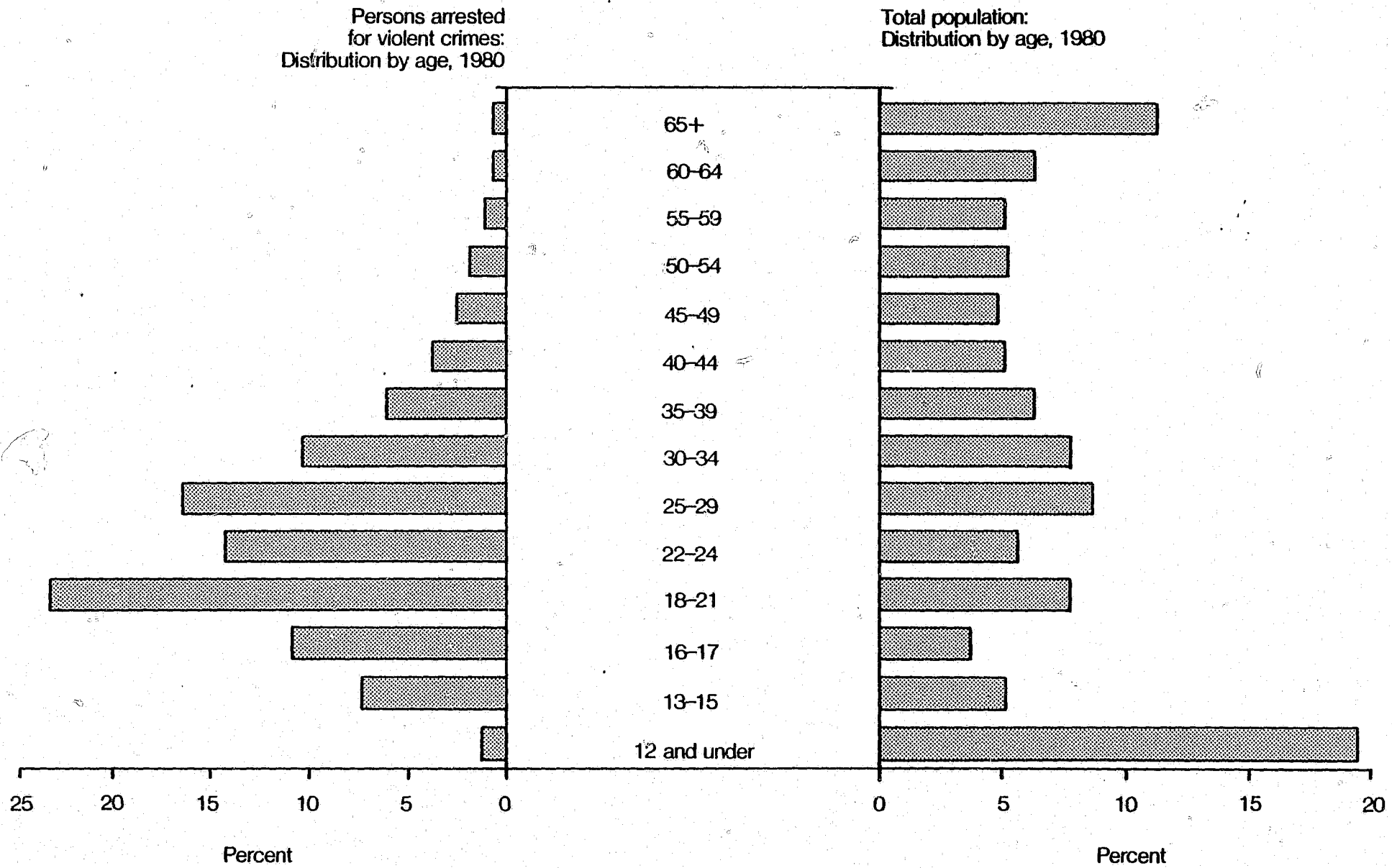
Violent crime offenders

What age group commits the largest share of violent acts?

Who is in the nation's prisons and jails?

What proportion of prison and jail inmates are violent offenders?

Juveniles and youthful offenders account for more than 40 percent of all violent crime



Juveniles and youthful offenders account for more than 40 percent of all violent crime

Among persons arrested for violent crimes--

19 percent were under age 18.

23 percent were age 18 to 21.

11 percent were age 40 and older.

— In the total U.S. population--

28 percent were under 18.

8 percent were age 18 to 21.

36 percent were age 40 and older.

Gang members commit many more violent crimes than non-gang members.

As juveniles, gang members commit four and one-half times more violent offenses than non-gang members.

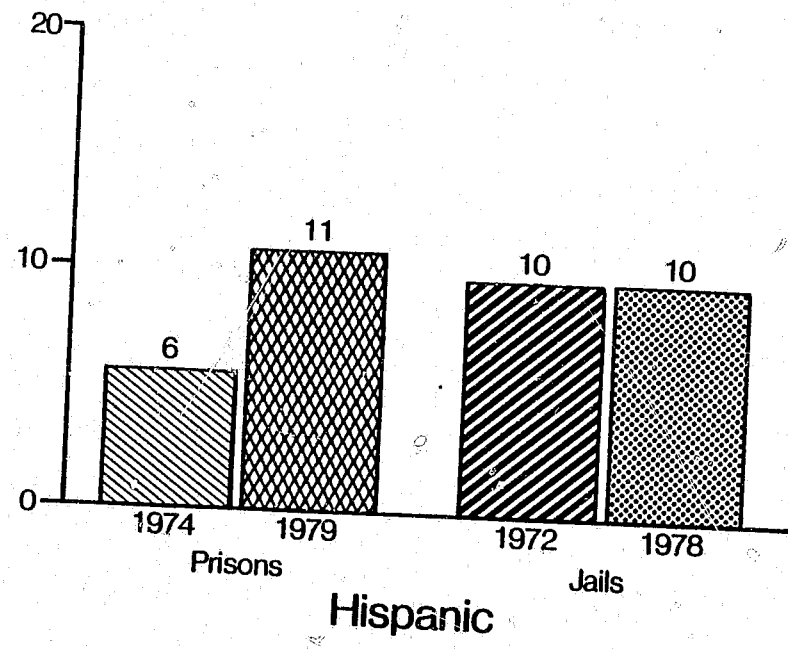
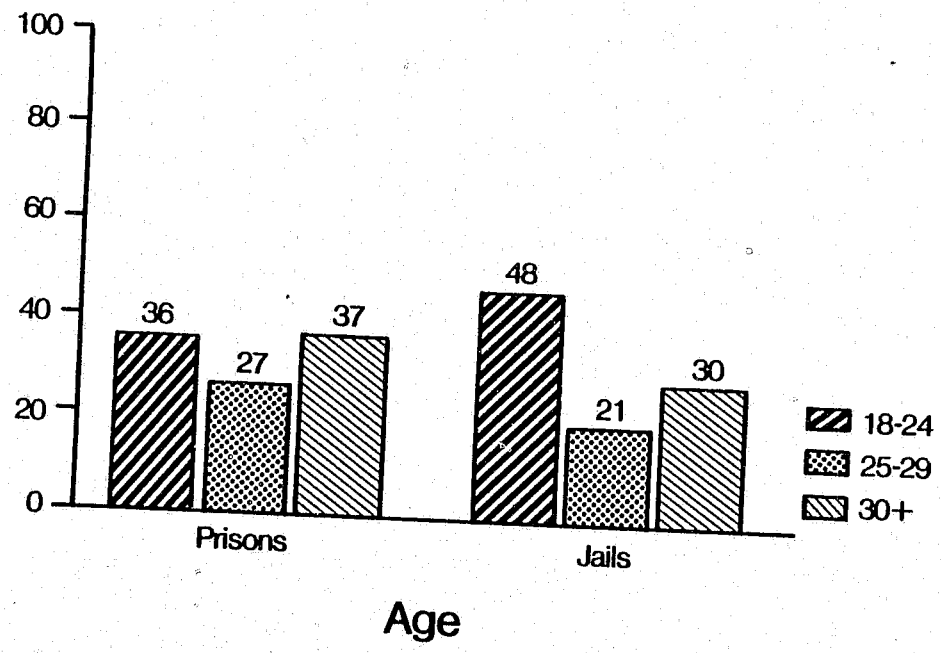
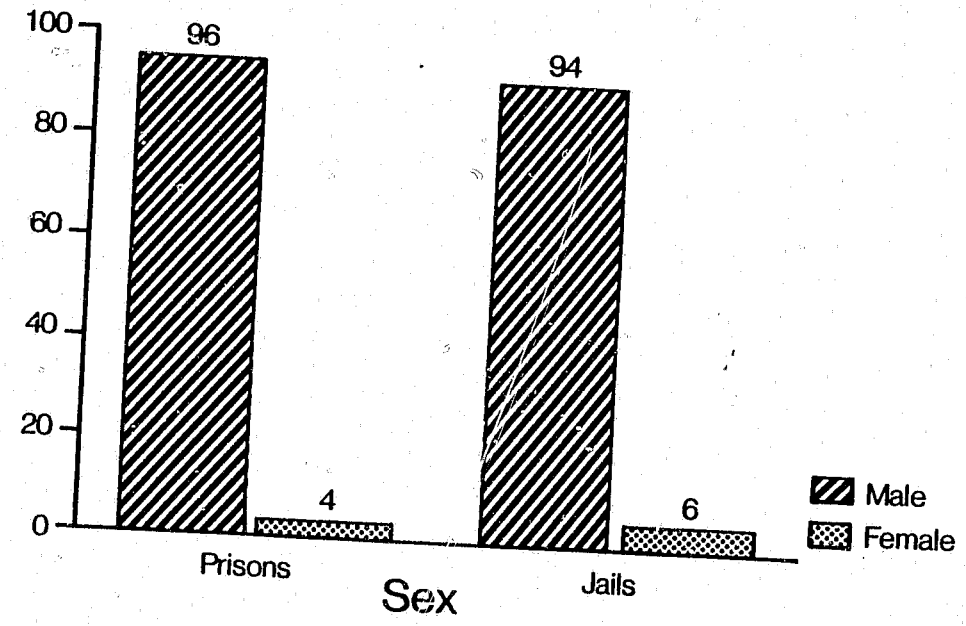
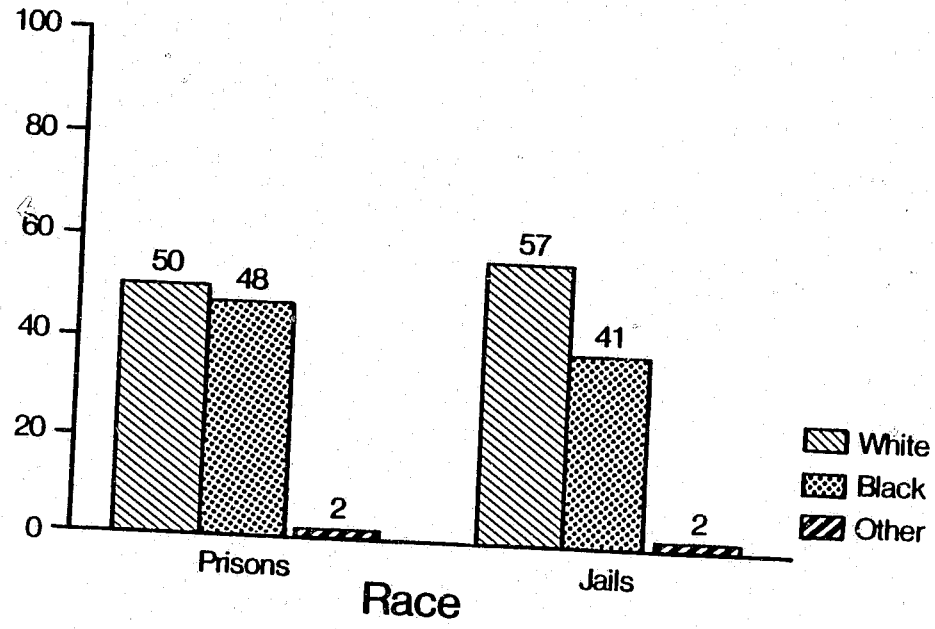
As adults, former juvenile gang members commit five and one-half times more violent offenses than non-gang members.

Note: Juveniles are defined as persons under 18 years of age.

Source: (a) Arrestee age distribution: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, 1980*, September 1981 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), pp. 200-201. (b) U.S. population age distribution: U.S. Department of

Commerce, Bureau of the Census, unpublished estimates of U.S. resident population on April 1, 1980. (c) Gang membership: Wolfgang, Marvin, Robert Figlio and Thorsten Sellin. *Delinquency in a Birth Cohort*, 1972 (Chicago, University of Chicago Press).

Blacks, Hispanics, men, and young adults are incarcerated disproportionately



Percent of inmates in prisons and in jails

Blacks, Hispanics, men, and young adults are incarcerated disproportionately

Blacks comprise about half of the inmates in prisons and jails, roughly four times their share of the general population.

Only one in 20 inmates is a woman, although women comprise 51 percent of the general population.

Two-thirds of all prison and jail inmates are between ages 18 and 30, roughly three times this group's share of the general population.

Hispanics--numbering one in 16 in the general population--account for one in 10 inmates of prisons and jails. Their numbers in prison doubled between 1974 and 1979.

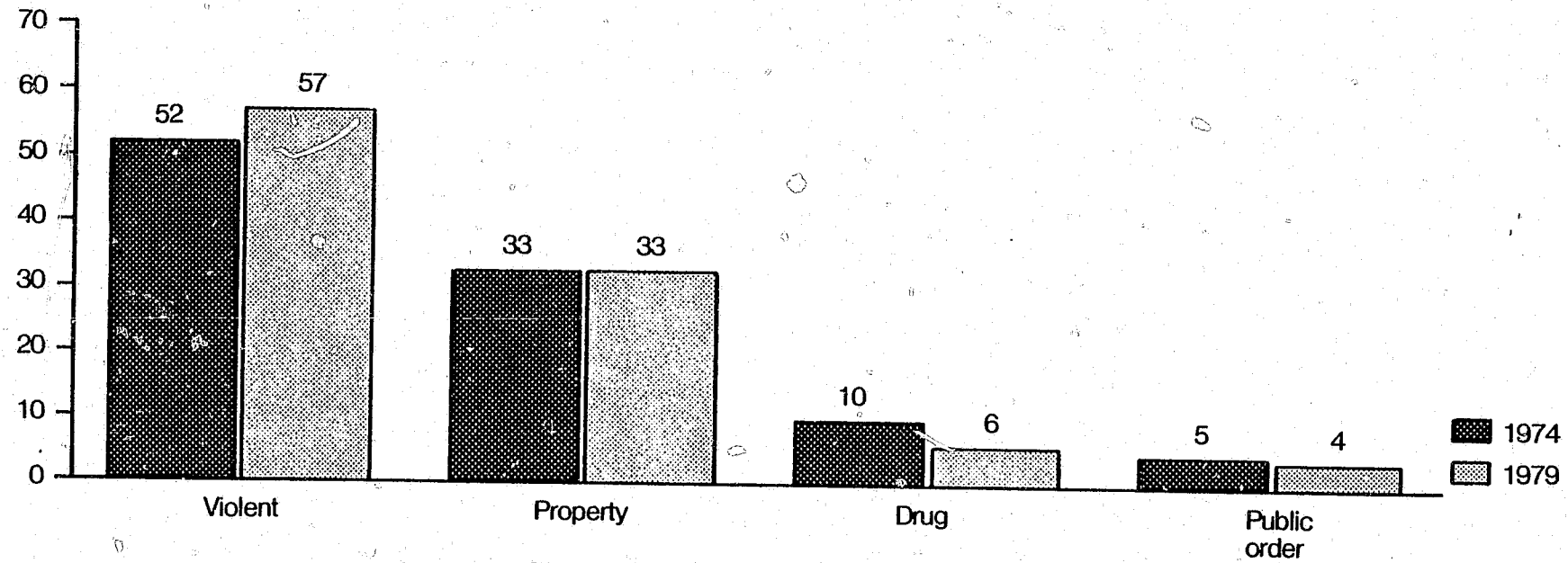
Source:

Jails: (1) U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, *Survey of Inmates of Local Jails, 1972, Advance Report, 1974* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 17. (2) U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Profile of Jail Inmates: Sociodemographic Findings from the 1978 Survey of Inmates of Local Jails*, October 1980, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 3.

Prisons: (1) U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, *Profile of State Prison Inmates: Sociodemographic Findings from the 1974 Survey of Inmates of State Correctional Facilities*, August 1979, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), pp. 38-39, 42-43. (2a) U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1979*, February 1981, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 15, 16, 19. (2b) U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, special tabulations from the 1979 National Prisoner Statistics program.

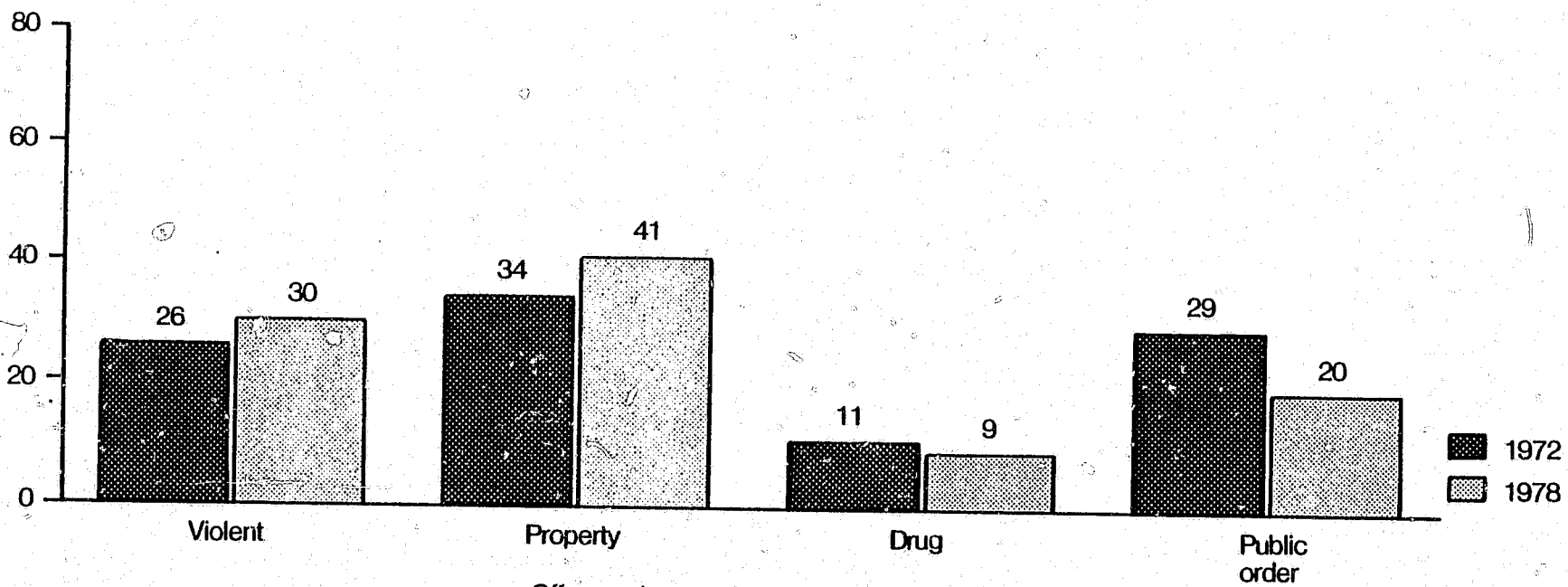
Prisons and jails house an increasing proportion of violent offenders

Percent inmates



Percent inmates

Offense characteristics of prison inmates



Offense characteristics of jail inmates

Prisons and jails house an increasing proportion of violent offenders

Jails, which are used for persons awaiting trial and those sentenced for short periods of time for less serious offenses, increased their share of violent offenders from 26 to 30 percent between 1972 and 1978.

Prisons increased their proportion of violent offenders from 52 to 57 percent from 1974 to 1979.

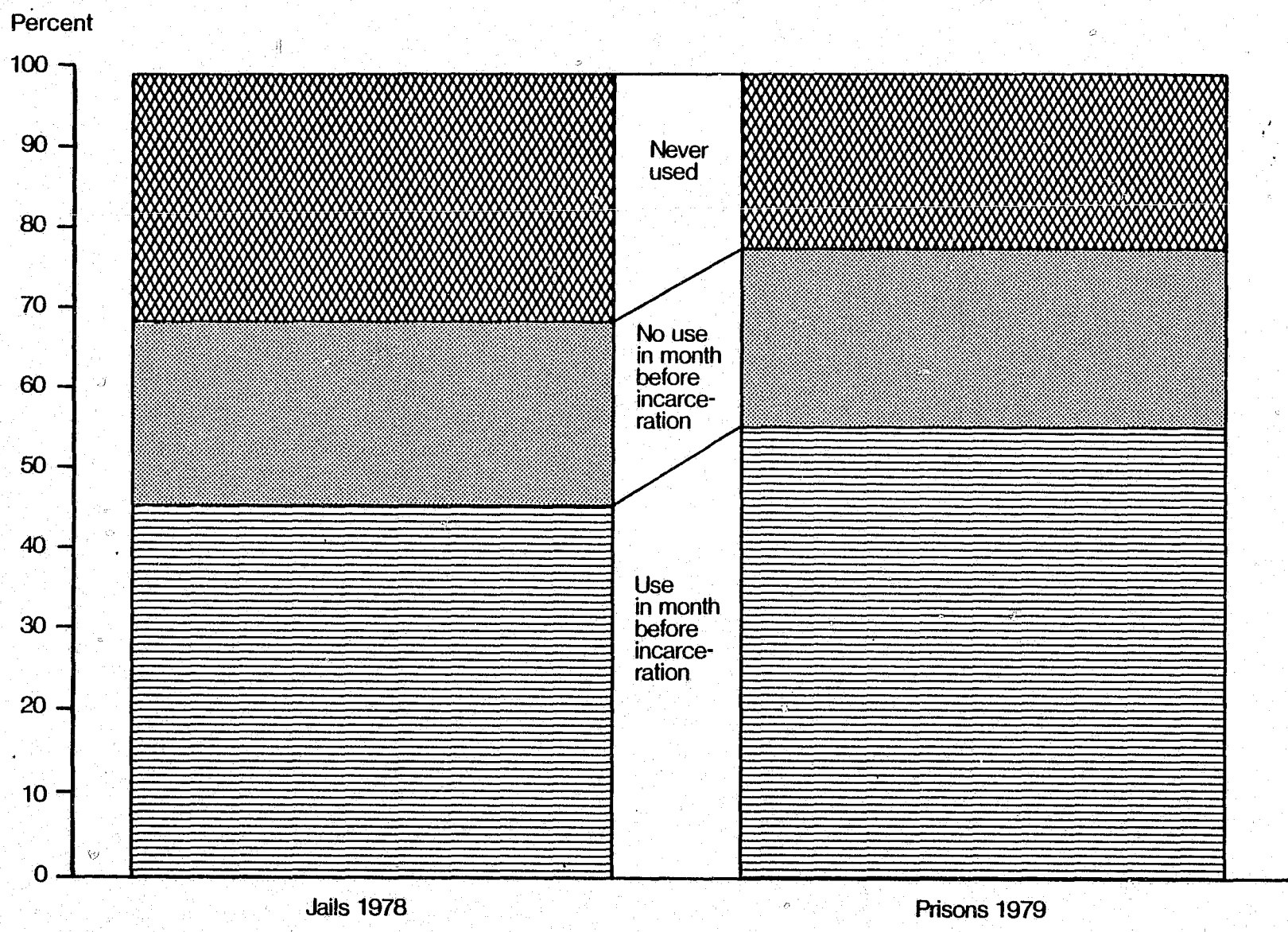
Black inmates in prisons and jails are more likely than whites to have been incarcerated for violent crimes and less likely to have been incarcerated for property crimes.

Source:

Jails: (1) U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, *Survey of Inmates of Local Jails, 1972, Advance Report, 1974* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 17; (2) U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Profile of Jail Inmates: Sociodemographic Findings from the 1978 Survey of Inmates of Local Jails*, October 1980, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), cover.

Prisons: (1) U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, *Profile of State Prison Inmates: Sociodemographic Findings from the 1974 Survey of Inmates of State Correctional Facilities*, August 1979, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 45. (2) U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, special tabulations from the 1979 National Prisoner Statistics program.

Half of all jail and prison inmates regularly use drugs before incarceration



Half of all jail and prison inmates regularly use drugs before incarceration

Over 50 percent of all prison inmates used drugs a month prior to the offense for which they were arrested.

Use of heroin in the month prior to the offense for which they were arrested was reported by:

10 percent of jail inmates.

12 percent of prison inmates.

Regular use of heroin at some point in their lives was reported by:

16 percent of jail inmates.

22 percent of prison inmates.

Source:
Jails: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Profile of Jail Inmates: Sociodemographic Findings from the 1978 Survey of Inmates of Local Jails*, October, 1980, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 16.
Prisons: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, special tabulations from the 1979 National Prisoner Statistics program.

Criminal justice response

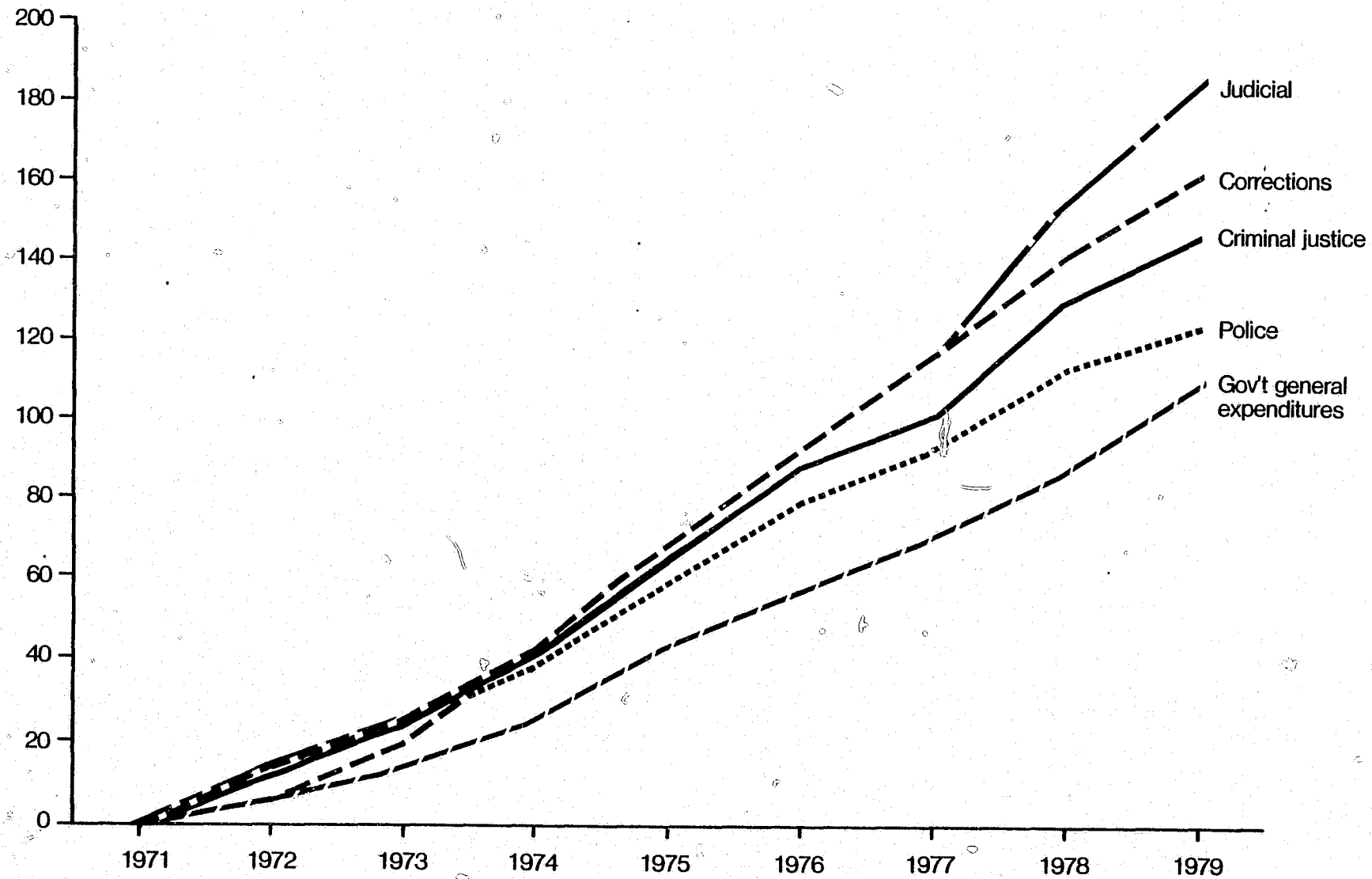
How do Americans regard the government's response to crime?

To what extent does each level of government pursue efforts to combat crime?

What are the odds that a person will go to prison for committing a violent crime?

Criminal justice expenditures increased by 147 percent during the 1970's

Cumulative percent increase over 1971 level



Criminal justice expenditures increased by 147 percent during the 1970's

During the 1970's--

Total criminal justice expenditures increased by 147 percent (\$26 billion in 1979).

Police expenditures rose by 124 percent (\$14 billion in 1979).

Judicial expenditures increased by 185 percent (\$5.6 billion in 1979).

Corrections expenditures rose by 162 percent (\$6 billion in 1979).

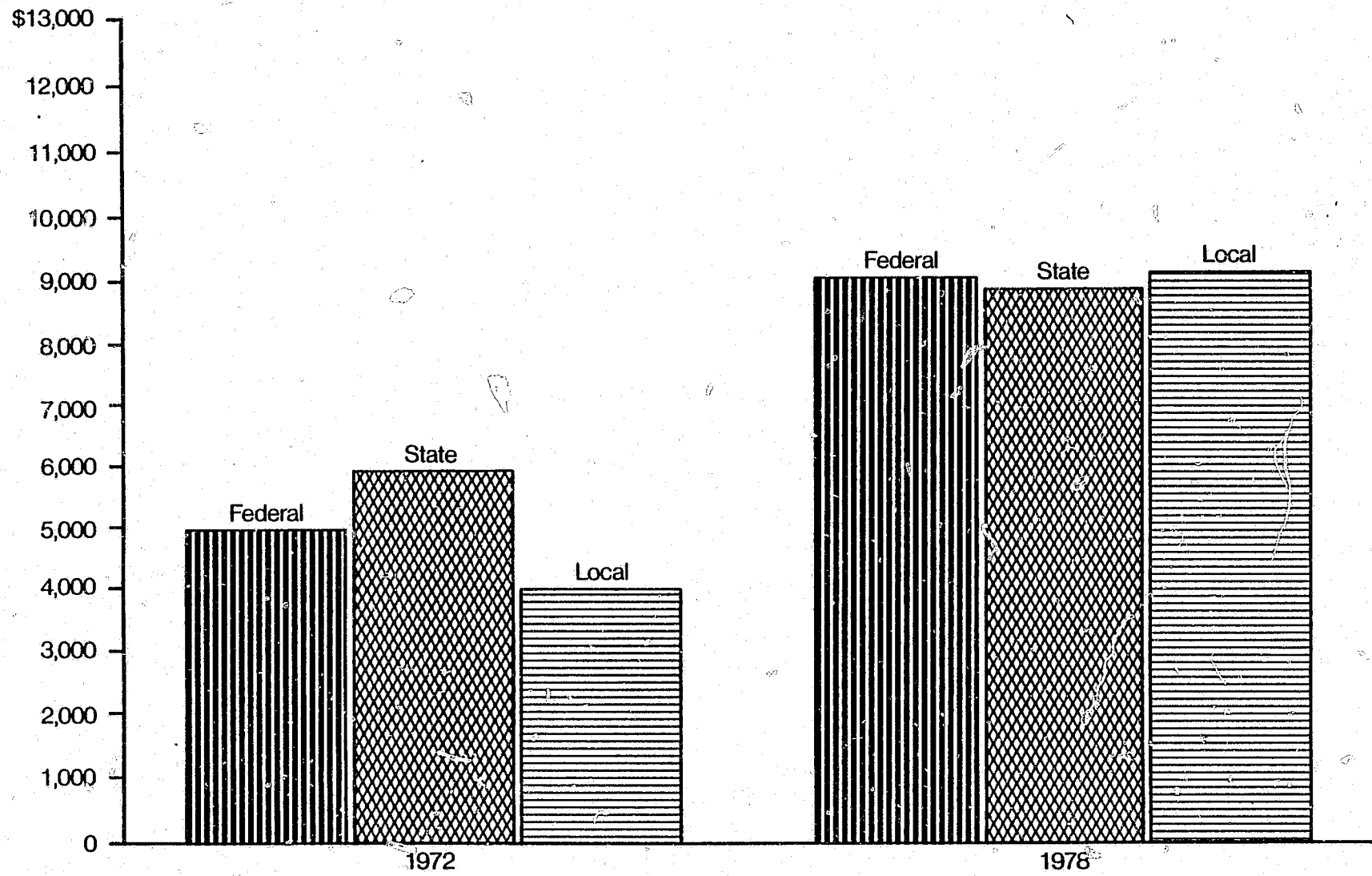
By comparison, total general government expenditures rose by 109 percent (\$547 billion in 1979) over the same period.

Since 1973, about two-thirds of the population has consistently thought that too little is being spent to reduce crime.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, chart constructed using data from *Expenditure and Employment Data for Criminal Justice System* reports for 1971-79.

The cost per inmate is rising rapidly

Dollars
spent
per year



The cost per inmate is rising rapidly

In 1978, the cost per inmate was nearly \$9,000 per year--an increase of about \$3,900 from 1972.

At each level of government, the cost per inmate was:

Federal government	\$9,034
State government	\$8,890
Local government	\$9,125

Between 1972 and 1978, the sharpest rise in cost per inmate was the 128 percent increase at the local level.

In 1978, it cost an average of \$50,000 to build a single maximum-security cell. Today, the cost may exceed \$70,000.

Forty-three percent of State prisons are more than 30 years old and 20 percent were built before 1925.

Sixty-one percent of inmates are in prisons built more than 30 years ago and nearly 40 percent are in places built before 1925.

Source:

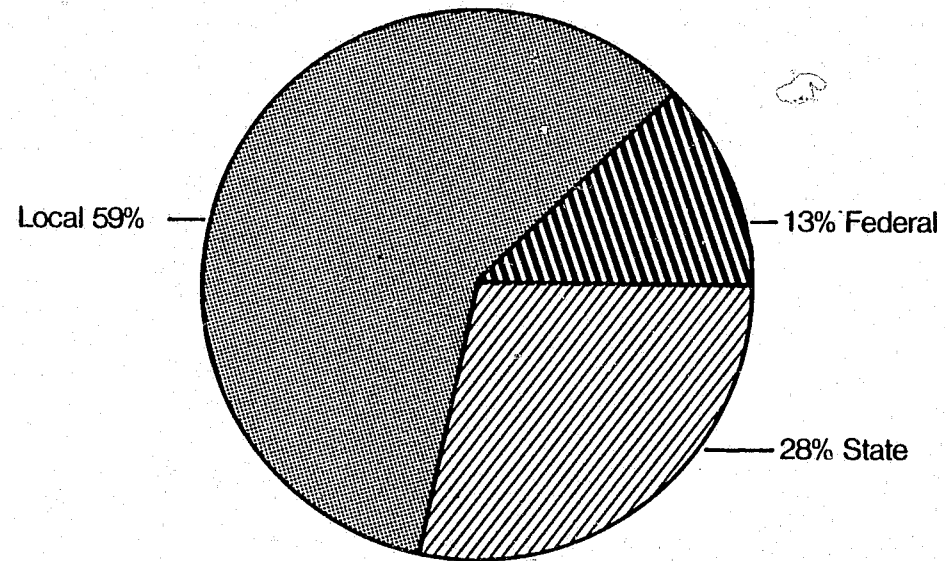
Expenditures: (1) 1972 U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, *Expenditure and Employment Data for Criminal Justice System: 1971-72*, January 1974, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), Tables 4, 41. (2) 1978 U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Expenditure and Employment Data for Criminal Justice System, 1978*, March 1981, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), Tables 4, 49.

Jails: (1) U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, *Survey of Inmates of Local Jails, 1972, Advance Report*, 1974 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Govern-

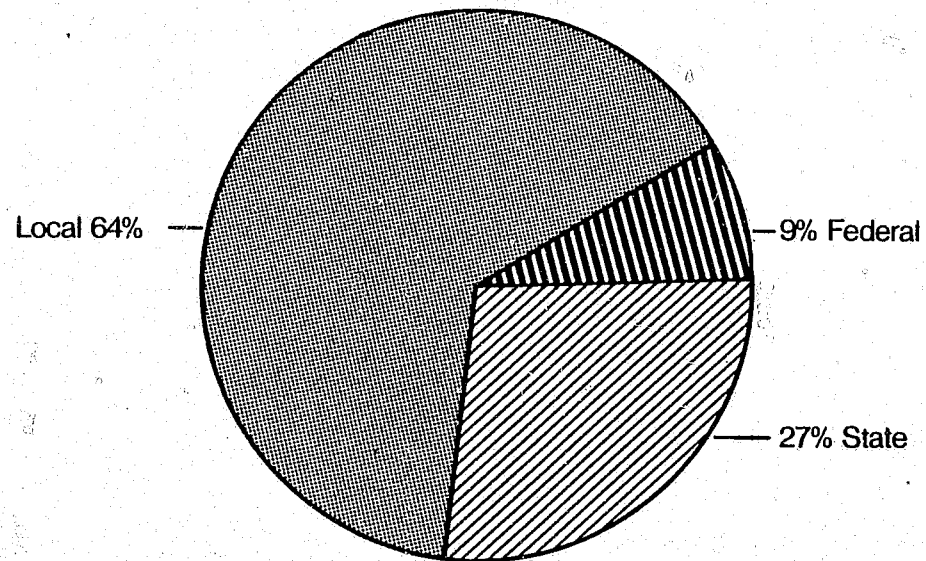
ment Printing Office), p. 17. (2) U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Profile of Jail Inmates: Sociodemographic Findings from the 1978 Survey of Inmates of Local Jails*, October 1980, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 3.

Prisons: (1) U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, *Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1971, 1972, and 1973*, May 1975 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office) p. 12. (2) U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions on December 31, 1978*, May 1980, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 13.

State and local governments perform the major share of criminal justice functions



Criminal justice direct expenditure



Criminal justice employment

State and local governments perform the major share of criminal justice functions.

State and local governments account for 87 percent of the expenditures for criminal justice. The Federal Government accounts for only 13 percent.

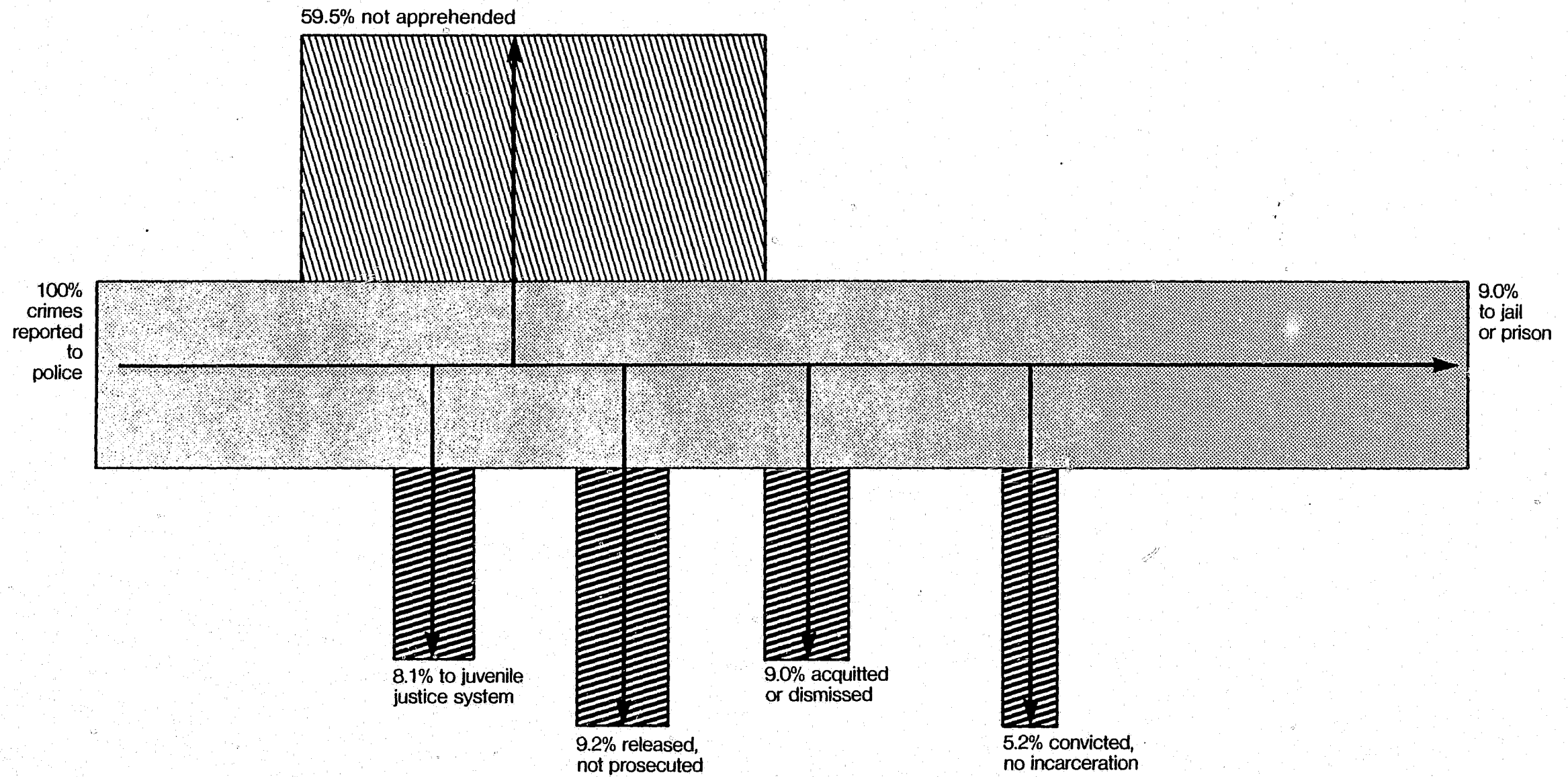
Only 9 percent of all criminal justice employees work for the Federal Government.

Federal courts handle only 3 percent of the cases heard in the United States.

Federal prisons house only 6 percent of all adult inmates.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Expenditure and Employment Data for the Criminal Justice System, 1978*, March 1981, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 33.

Less than 10 percent of reported violent crimes result in incarceration*



*Based on data from California, New York, Oregon, and Pennsylvania

Less than 10 percent of reported violent crimes result in incarceration

Among violent crimes reported to the police in four States--

Only 41 percent result in an arrest.

Only 23 percent result in a trial.

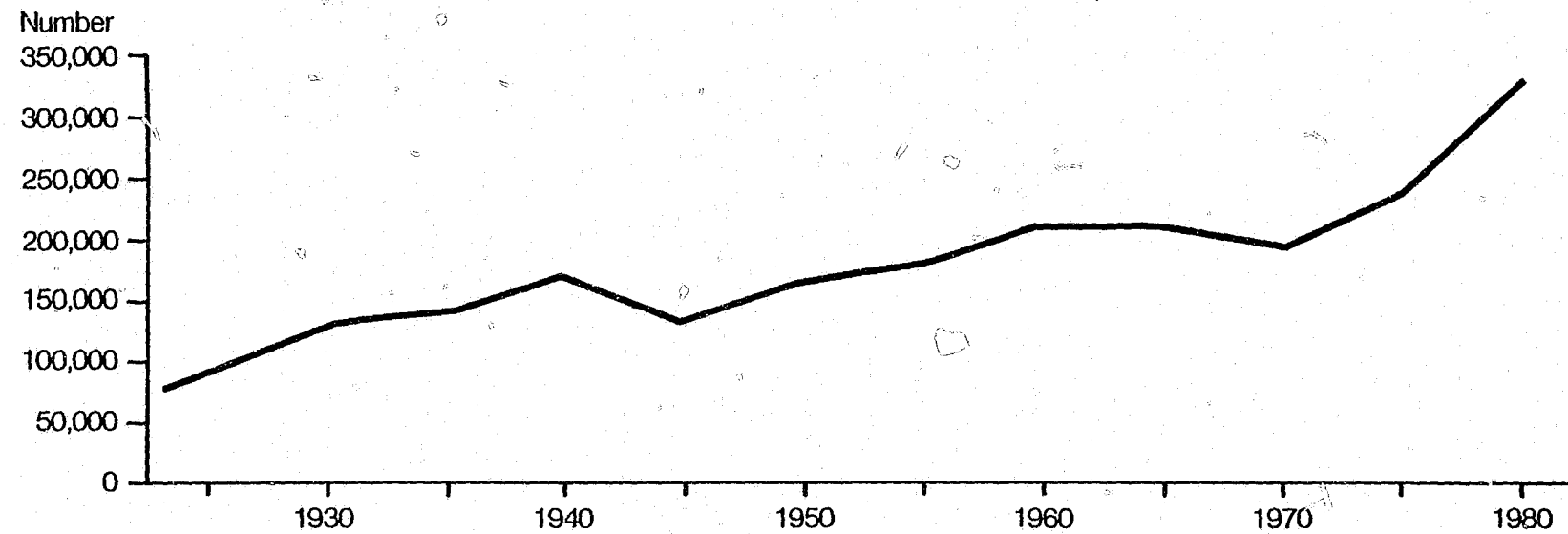
Only 9 percent result in incarceration.

Only 40 percent of homicides result in incarceration.

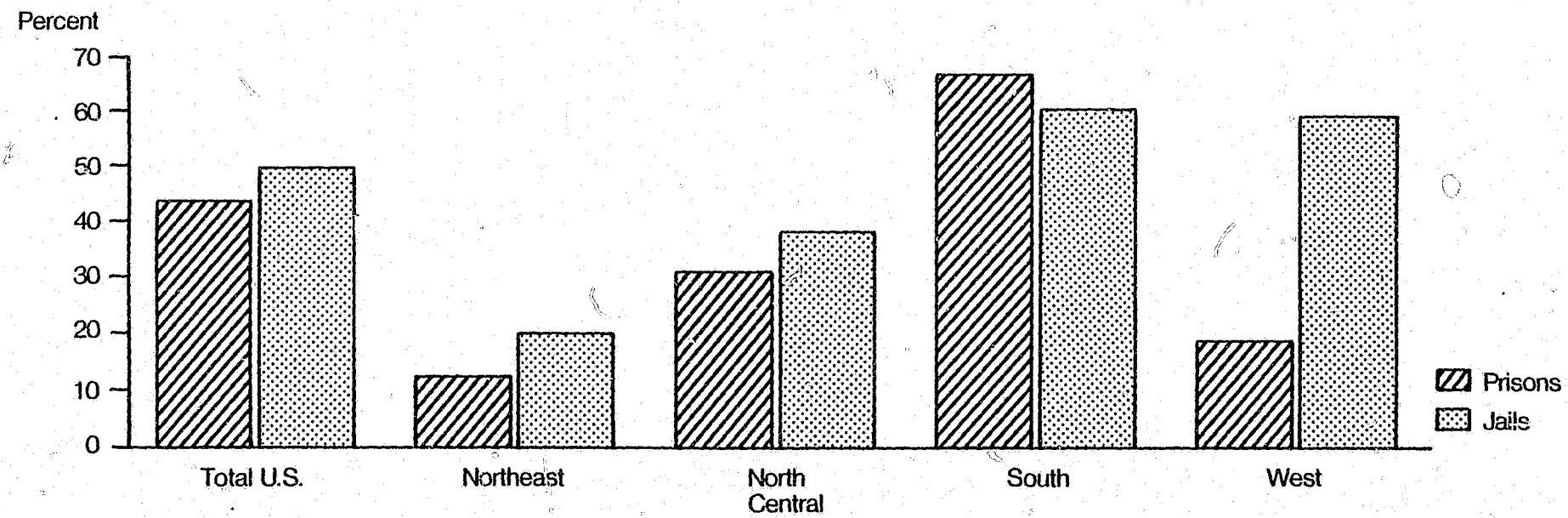
Only 10 percent of rapes result in incarceration.

Source: Chart constructed using Offender-Based Transaction System (OBTS) data from California (1979 data), New York (1978 data), Pennsylvania (1979 data), and Oregon (1977 data).

The number of persons in State and Federal prisons rose by 66 percent between 1969 and 1980



State and Federal prisoners at yearend



Percent of inmates in overcrowded facilities, by region

The number of persons in State and Federal prisons rose by 66 percent between 1969 and 1980

Since 1969, the number of persons held in State and Federal prisons has increased by 66 percent, to an all-time high of 328,695 in 1980.

The 1980 incarceration rate--140 per 100,000 persons--was the highest on record.

The number of persons on death row as of August 20, 1981 was 848--an all-time high.

Prison crowding is a serious problem.

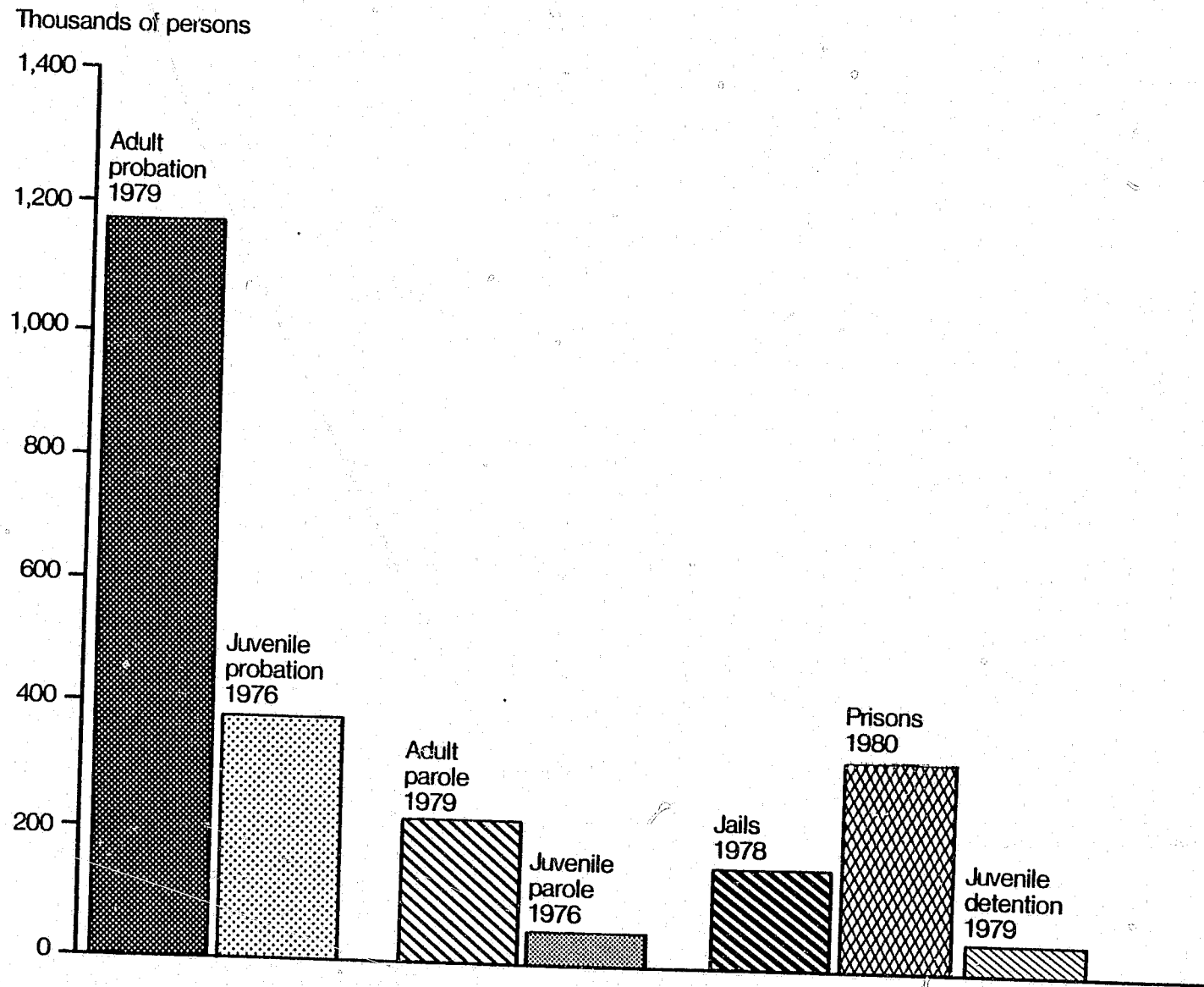
Two-thirds of all State and Federal inmates and 70 percent of local prisoners are housed in cells and dormitories that provide less than 60 square feet per person.

In 1980, because of overcrowding of prisons in 16 States, almost 6,000 prisoners were being held in local jails .

Twenty-eight States and the District of Columbia are under court order to reduce overcrowding.

Source: (1) U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1980*, May 1981 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 1. (2) Mullen, Joan et. al., *American Prisons and Jails, Volume 3: Conditions and Costs of Confinement*, October 1980, U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office).

Nearly 2½ million persons are under some form of correctional supervision



Nearly 2½ million persons under some form of correctional supervision

The most recent available corrections data show that—

1.2 million adults were on probation.

329,000 adults were in prison.

160,000 adults were in jail.

220,000 adults were on parole.

43,000 juveniles were in detention.

Almost 400,000 juveniles were on probation.

Another 50,000 were on parole.

Source:

Prisons: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1980*, May 1981 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 1.

Jails: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Profile of Jail Inmates: Sociodemographic Findings from the 1978 Survey of Inmates of Local Jails*, October 1980, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 12.

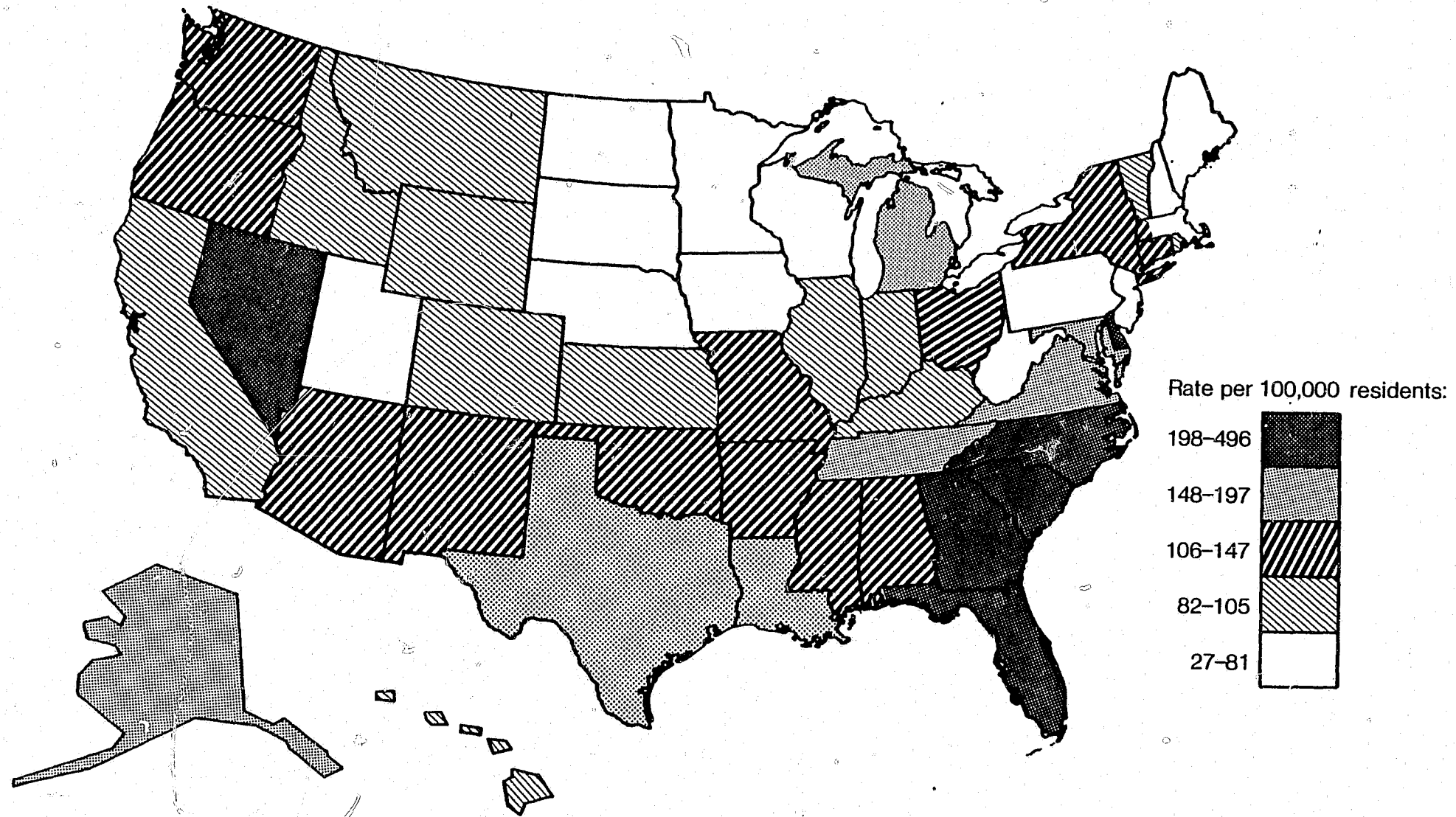
Adult parole: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Parole in the United States, 1979*, December 1980 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 1.

Adult probation: National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), *Probation in the United States, 1979*, February 1981, (San Francisco, NCCD).

Juvenile detention: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), *Children in Custody: Advance Report on the 1979 Census of Public Juvenile Facilities*, October 1980 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), p. 5.

Juvenile parole and probation: U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, *State and Local Probation and Parole Systems*, February 1978 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office).

Imprisonment rates are highest in southern States



Imprisonment rates are highest in southern States

At the end of 1980--

329,000 persons were in prisons.

44 percent of these inmates were in southern States.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1980*, May 1981 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office).

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Acknowledgments

The National Indicators System is a program of briefings for systematically informing the President and senior Administration officials of the social, demographic and economic trends in America. The System is designed to serve as a broker of objective information linked to the policy planning process. Topics are selected for their relevance to policy but their preparation and presentation is not to be part of the policy advocacy process. The Director of the National Indicators System is Richard S. Beal, Special Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office of Planning and Evaluation. Joseph W. Duncan (Office of Management and Budget) is Deputy Director and J. Timothy Sprehe (OMB) is Manager of the National Indicators System.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) was designated as the lead agency for the briefing on "Violent Crime in the United States." Benjamin H. Renshaw is the Acting Director of BJS. Materials for the briefing were prepared under the direction of Charles R. Kindermann with the assistance of Carol B. Kalish. Other members of the BJS briefing team with responsibility for the preparation of briefing materials were Thimi R. Mina, Michael R. Rand, and Bruce M. Taylor. Charts are based on graphics prepared on the Iconix computer graphics system with the assistance of Barbara Newberry and John Weis.

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The National Indicators System**

<i>Number</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date prepared</i>
1	Early Findings from the 1980 Census	April 1981
2	Perspectives on Agriculture and Rural America	May 1981
3	The Condition of Central Cities	July 1981
4	Violent Crime in the United States	September 1981