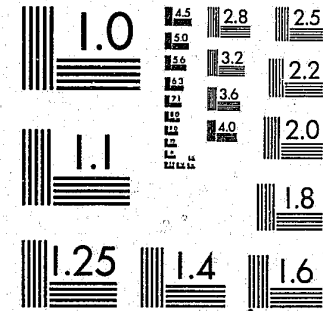


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# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of Commissioner of Probation

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## Research Report

### PATTERNS OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

IN MASSACHUSETTS: 1978-1981

U.S. Department of Justice 83502  
National Institute of Justice

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March 10, 1982

### PATTERNS OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY IN MASSACHUSETTS: 1978-1982

Criminal justice researchers have focused considerable attention on the relationship between age, sex and crime. With shifting demographic patterns in the Massachusetts population during the last decade, the relationship between the age of defendants and the frequency and type of offenses is of particular interest.

This study was undertaken to focus specific attention on the systemic linkage between age, sex and crime in Massachusetts from 1978 through 1981.

U.S. Bureau of the Census birth cohort statistics from 1940-1980 produce a vivid picture of the "baby boom" from 1946-1964. Those born between 1946-1957 experienced the most turbulence because the world was straining to accommodate and absorb its enormous number. By 1954, the birth rate reached over 4 million per year, up 30% from 1945; the birth rate remained at that high level through 1964. All totaled, 76 million babies (1/3 of our present population) arrived in the 19 year period from 1946 through 1964.

What relationship is there between these dramatic shifts in the population and the incidence of crime? Criminal Justice researchers such as Landon Jones, Charles Silberman, and James Fox all agree that the growth in the high risk crime grouping of 14-24 year olds during the 1960's and 1970's was so enormous relative to the growth of the adult population that conventional means of social control broke down. Social unrest, civil disobedience, drugs and increasing violence during the late 1960's and much of the 1970's are the legacy of this "baby boom" generation. These researchers agree that as the crime-prone age group of 14-24 increases or decreases, the criminal justice system feels a concomitant shock wave.

Analogous to this national trend, population statistics for Massachusetts from 1950-1980 show the age group bulges which correspond to the maturity of the "baby boom" generation nationally. Since 1964, the birth rate has shown a steady decline.

Table 1: Changes in the Massachusetts Population (1950-1980)

Age Group	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980
0-14 yrs.	+34.0%	+ 5.9%	-25.2%
15-24 yrs.	- 0.6%	+49.2%	+12.5%
25-39 yrs.	- 8.1%	- 2.4%	+33.3%
40+ yrs.	+ 9.6%	+ 7.6%	- 0.01%
Overall	+ 9.8%	+10.5%	+ 0.8%

If, as criminal justice researchers have suggested, the shifts in the age distribution of the population are related to the level of activity in the criminal justice system, over time, crimes typically associated with juveniles may decline, while those associated with older adults (over 26 years of age) may increase.

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ACQUISITIONS



## METHOD

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation in Boston is unique nationally, in that all criminal and delinquency records statewide are centrally filed in Boston; six million records dating back to 1924 are stored in the Probation Central File. Each day, probation offices across the state send in the records of cases heard in court on the previous day, including new charges, the status of continued cases and dispositional information.

For the purposes of this research, 49,791 court appearance records received from 72 probation offices statewide during four sample weeks in 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981 were analyzed. The samples included all defendants appearing before the criminal and juvenile courts in Massachusetts on new charges.

Table 2: Sample

Year	# of Cases	Week #1	Week #2	Week #3	Week #4
1978	10,708	Jan 9-11	May 15-19	Sept 18-22	Dec 4-8
1979	12,400	Mar 12-16	Jun 25-29	Sept 10-14	Dec 3-7
1980	13,743	Mar 10-14	Jun 23-27	Sept 15-19	Dec 1-5
1981	12,940	Mar 23-27	Jun 8-12	Sept 14-18	Dec 7-11
Total	49,791				

The daily tabulations recorded specific offenses by age and sex of the defendants. Offenses were later collapsed into six categories to facilitate interpretation of the data.

### Age Categories:

Juvenile defendants (16 years of age or younger)

Young adult defendants (17-25 years of age)

Older adult defendants (26 years of age or older)

### Offense Categories:

Crimes against persons -- including murder, manslaughter, assault with a weapon, sexual assault, rape, assault and battery, robbery, threats, bribery, conspiracy, kidnapping;

Crimes against property -- arson, breaking and entering, larceny, receiving stolen property, fraud;

Non-assaultive sex crimes -- commercial, prostitution, unnatural, illegitimacy, indecent exposure;

Major motor vehicle offenses -- operating under the influence of liquor, use of a motor vehicle without authority, larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of master keys, counterfeit sticker/license;

Public order crimes -- setting up a lottery, carrying a dangerous weapon, liquor laws, false fire alarms, disorderly conduct, non-support;

Controlled substance violations -- possession or distribution of various classes of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Although minor motor vehicle offenses (ie. traffic offenses) were included in the court appearance records submitted to the Office of the Commissioner of Probation in 1978, they were not included in the sample. Minor motor vehicle offenses were decriminalized in Massachusetts on January 1, 1979.

Each defendant was counted only once, regardless of the number of charges. Where charges included several different-offenses, the most serious offense was counted.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

### Offense Categories

Property crimes accounted for the highest percentage of offenses in all four years, according to the data in Table 3. Public order crimes were second in frequency, followed by major motor vehicle offenses, crimes against persons, controlled substance violations and non-assaultive sex crimes.

Table 3: Volume of sample weeks, by offense categories

Offense category	1978	1979	1980	1981	Aggregate
Crimes against persons	1835 (17.1%)	1958 (15.8%)	2140 (15.6%)	1895 (14.6%)	7828 (15.7%)
Crimes against property	3298 (30.8%)	3487 (28.1%)	3728 (27.1%)	3837 (29.7%)	14350 (28.8%)
Non-assaultive sex crimes	235 (2.2%)	356 (2.9%)	460 (3.4%)	244 (1.9%)	1295 (2.6%)
Major motor vehicle offenses	1898 (17.7%)	2210 (17.8%)	2726 (19.8%)	2752 (21.3%)	9586 (19.3%)
Public order crimes	2546 (23.8%)	3412 (27.5%)	3616 (26.3%)	3110 (24.0%)	12684 (25.5%)
Controlled substance crimes	896 (8.4%)	977 (7.9%)	1073 (7.8%)	1102 (8.5%)	4048 (8.1%)
TOTAL VOLUME	10,708 (99.9%)	12,400 (100%)	13,743 (100%)	12,940 (99.9%)	49,791 (100%)

While the sample size increased from 1978 through 1980, the 1981 sample size declined by 5.8% when compared to 1980. As the data in Table 4 illustrates, the 1981 sample showed a decline in crimes against persons, non-assaultive sex crimes, and non-assaultive sex crimes, while slight increases were noted in crimes against property, major motor vehicle violations and controlled substance crimes.

Table 4: Percent Change in Offense Categories

Offense category	1978-1979	1979-1980	1980-1981
Crimes against persons	+ 6.7%	+ 9.3%	-11.4%
Crimes ag. property	+ 5.7%	+ 6.9%	+ 2.9%
Non-assaultive sex	+51.5%	+29.2%	-46.9%
Major motor vehicle	+16.4%	+23.3%	+ 0.95%
Public order crimes	+34.0%	+ 6.0%	-13.9%
Controlled substance	+ 9.0%	+ 9.8%	+ 2.7%
Overall	+15.8%	+10.8%	- 5.8%

Age Distribution

In all four years of this research, the young adult population (17-25 years of age) accounted for the highest frequency of defendants (see Table 5), accounting for over half the defendants in the study.

Table 5: Age Distribution of Defendants

Age Group	1978	1979	1980	1981	Aggregate
7-16 years (juveniles)	1738 (16.2%)	1832 (14.8%)	1506 (11.0%)	1636 (12.6%)	6712 (13.5%)
17-25 years (young adults)	5257 (49.1%)	6835 (55.1%)	7535 (54.8%)	6789 (52.5%)	26416 (53.1%)
26+ years (older adults)	3713 (34.7%)	3733 (30.1%)	4702 (34.2%)	4515 (34.9%)	16663 (33.4%)
TOTAL	10708 (100%)	12400 (100%)	13743 (100%)	12940 (100%)	49791 (100%)

Age Distribution Offense Categories

Table 6 reflects the relationship between age of the defendants and the offense categories. As the data indicates, persons between 17 and 25 years of age consistently accounted for the majority of offenses in every crime category. However, the data shows that certain age categories were overrepresented in certain offense categories. For example, while juveniles accounted for 12.6% of the defendants in the 1981 sample, they represented nearly 23% of the property crimes. Young adults accounted for 52.5% of the 1981 sample, but represented 58.2% of the non-assaultive sex crimes, 57.5% of the public order crimes and 63.5% of the controlled substance violations. Older adults accounted for 34.9% of the sample, but represented 38.3% of the crimes against persons, 38.9% of the non-assaultive sex crimes, and 47.7% of the major motor vehicle violations.

Age linkage indicates to what extent the occurrence of certain offenses seems to be committed by a specific age group. Given the probability that offenses should be equally distributed in proportion to the distribution of a given age group in the overall sample, wherever a given age group accounts for a significantly higher or lower incidence of that offense, the offense may be said to be "age linked". In such cases, other variables (economic, demographic, etc.) may be related to the distribution of the offenses.

Table 5: Offense categories by age categories of defendants

Offense category	Year	Juveniles 7-16 years	Young Adults 17-25 years	Older Adults 26+ years	Total
Crimes against persons	1978	233 12.7%	877 47.7%	725 39.5%	1835
	1979	251 12.8%	1011 51.6%	696 35.5%	1958
	1980	231 10.8%	1087 50.8%	822 38.4%	2140
	1981	199 10.5%	970 51.2%	726 38.3%	1895
	Total	914 11.7%	3945 50.4%	2969 37.9%	7828
Crimes against property	1978	874 26.5%	1508 45.7%	916 27.7%	3298
	1979	825 23.6%	1790 51.3%	872 25.0%	3487
	1980	747 20.0%	1916 51.4%	1065 28.6%	3728
	1981	879 22.9%	1853 48.3%	1105 28.8%	3837
	Total	3325 23.2%	7067 49.2%	3958 27.6%	14,350
Non-assaultive sex crimes	1978	9 3.8%	141 60.0%	85 36.1%	235
	1979	9 2.5%	208 58.4%	139 39.0%	356
	1980	5 1.1%	293 63.7%	162 35.2%	460
	1981	7 2.9%	142 58.2%	95 38.9%	244
	Total	30 2.3%	784 60.5%	481 37.1%	1295
Major motor vehicle crimes	1978	168 8.8%	839 44.2%	891 46.9%	1898
	1979	177 8.0%	1059 47.9%	974 44.0%	2210
	1980	126 4.6%	1380 50.6%	1220 44.8%	2726
	1981	102 3.7%	1336 48.5%	1314 47.7%	2752
	Total	573 6.0%	4614 48.1%	4399 45.9%	9586
Public order crimes	1978	328 12.8%	1353 53.1%	865 33.9%	2546
	1979	471 12.8%	2097 51.4%	844 24.7%	3412
	1980	312 8.6%	2200 60.8%	1104 30.5%	3616
	1981	339 10.9%	1788 57.5%	983 31.6%	3110
	Total	1450 11.4%	7438 58.6%	3796 30.0%	12684
Controlled Substance Crimes	1978	328 14.0%	539 60.1%	231 25.7%	896
	1979	99 10.1%	670 68.5%	208 21.2%	977
	1980	85 7.9%	659 61.4%	329 30.7%	1073
	1981	110 10.0%	700 63.5%	292 26.5%	1102
	Total	420 10.4%	2568 63.4%	1060 26.2%	4048
Total	1978	1738 16.2%	5257 49.1%	3713 34.7%	10,708
	1979	1832 14.8%	6835 55.1%	3733 30.1%	12,400
	1980	1506 11.0%	7535 54.8%	4702 34.2%	13,743
	1981	1636 12.6%	6789 52.5%	4515 34.9%	12,940
	Total	6712 13.5%	26,416 53.1%	16,663 33.4%	49,791

While the data in Table 5 indicates the distribution of each offense category by age group (indicating what percentage of each offense category occurred among juveniles, young adults and older adults), the data in Table 6 looks at the same data from another angle, analyzing the distribution of offense categories within each age group, answering questions such as: What kinds of offenses do juveniles commit? What percentage of the crime by older adults are crimes against persons? In this chart, readers can assess similarities and differences in the patterns of crime among the three age categories.

Table 6: Age categories of defendants by offense categories

Offense category	year	Juveniles 7-16 years		Young adults 17-25 years		Older Adults 26+ years		Total	
Crimes against persons	1978	233	13.4%	877	16.7%	725	19.5%	1835	17.1%
	1979	251	13.7%	1011	14.8%	696	18.6%	1958	15.8%
	1980	231	15.3%	1087	14.4%	822	17.5%	2140	15.6%
	1981	199	12.2%	970	14.3%	726	16.1%	1895	14.6%
	Total	914	13.6%	3945	14.9%	2969	17.8%	7828	15.7%
Crimes against property	1978	874	50.3%	1508	28.7%	916	24.7%	3298	30.8%
	1979	825	45.0%	1790	26.2%	872	23.4%	3487	28.1%
	1980	747	49.6%	1916	25.4%	1065	22.7%	3728	27.1%
	1981	879	53.7%	1853	27.3%	1105	24.5%	3837	29.7%
	Total	3325	49.5%	7067	26.8%	3958	23.8%	14,350	28.8%
Non-assaultive sex crimes	1978	9	0.5%	141	2.7%	85	2.3%	235	2.2%
	1979	9	0.5%	208	3.0%	139	3.7%	356	2.9%
	1980	5	19.3%	293	3.9%	162	3.5%	460	3.3%
	1981	7	0.4%	142	2.1%	95	2.1%	244	1.9%
	Total	30	0.4%	784	3.0%	481	2.9%	1295	2.6%
Major motor vehicle crimes	1978	168	9.7%	839	16.0%	891	24.0%	1898	17.7%
	1979	177	9.7%	1059	15.5%	974	26.1%	2210	17.8%
	1980	126	8.4%	1380	18.3%	1220	26.0%	2726	19.8%
	1981	102	6.2%	1336	19.7%	1314	29.1%	2752	21.3%
	Total	573	8.5%	4614	17.5%	4399	26.4%	9586	19.3%
Public order crimes	1978	328	18.9%	1353	25.7%	865	23.3%	2546	23.8%
	1979	471	25.7%	2097	30.7%	844	22.6%	3412	27.5%
	1980	312	20.7%	2200	29.2%	1104	23.5%	3616	26.3%
	1981	339	20.7%	1788	26.3%	983	21.8%	3110	24.0%
	Total	1450	21.6%	7438	28.2%	3796	22.8%	12684	25.5%
Controlled Substance Crimes	1978	126	7.3%	539	10.3%	231	6.2%	896	8.4%
	1979	99	5.4%	670	9.8%	208	5.6%	977	7.9%
	1980	85	5.6%	659	8.7%	329	7.0%	1073	7.8%
	1981	110	6.7%	700	10.3%	292	6.5%	1102	8.5%
	Total	420	6.3%	2568	9.7%	1060	6.4%	4048	8.1%
TOTAL	1978	1738	100.1%	5257	100.1%	3713	100%	10,708	100%
	1979	1832	100%	6835	100%	3733	100%	12,400	100%
	1980	1506	99.9%	7535	99.9%	4702	100.2%	13,743	99.9%
	1981	1636	99.9%	6789	100.1%	4515	100.1%	12,940	100%
	Total	6712	99.9%	26,416	100%	16,663	100.1%	49,791	100%

As the data in Table 6 illustrates, the offense distribution of juveniles is very different from young adults and older adults. Property Crimes account for about 50% of the juvenile offenses (53.7% in 1981), compared to 27.3% for young adults and 24.5% for older adults.

Major motor vehicle offenses were substantially lower among juveniles, accounting for 6.2% of the juveniles' offenses in 1981, compared to 19.7% for young adults and 29.1% for older adults. This difference is probably largely due to the higher incidence of "driving under the influence of liquor" among young adults and older adults. With the increase in the legal drinking age to 20 in 1979, juveniles may be finding it difficult to obtain alcohol. On the other hand, major motor vehicle violations have accounted for an increasing percentage of young adult and older adult offenses; among young adults, 16% of their offenses were for major motor vehicle crimes in 1978 compared to nearly 20% (19.7%) in 1981. Among older adults, 24% of their offenses were for major motor vehicle crimes in 1978, compared to 29.1% in 1981.

Crimes against persons accounted for 14.6% of the 1981 sample, but different patterns were evident among the three age groups. While 12.2% of the juveniles were charged with a crime against the person, this compares to 14.9% of the young adults and 16.1% of the older adults (1981 sample). This same pattern occurred in 1978, 1979 and 1980. The data suggests that juveniles may be no more violent than adults, and may in fact be charged with proportionately fewer violent crimes.

Public order crimes accounted for 24.0% of the 1981 sample, with 28.2% of the Young adults being charged with a public order crime, compared to 21.8% of the older adults and 20.7% of the juveniles.

Controlled Substance violations accounted for 8.1% of the 1981 sample. Despite popular opinions, juveniles do not appear to have a disproportionate percentage of drug offenses. While 6.3% of the juveniles were charged with a drug crime in 1981, this compared to 10.3% of the young adults and 6.5% of the older adults. When the controlled substance violations were analyzed based on the specific drug class, 80.9% of the drug crimes by juveniles were for possession or distribution of Class D drugs (ie, marijuana), compared to 56.6% of the young adults and 39.7% of the older adults. The data suggests that while controlled substance violations account for roughly the same percentage of offenses for juveniles and older adults, the type of drug involved is very different; 8 out of 10 juveniles charged with a drug crime were marijuana-related offense, compared to less than 4 out of 10 older adults.

Non-assaultive sex crimes represented 2.6% of the 1981 sample. Less than 1% (0.4%) of the juveniles were charged in this offense category, compared to 2.1% of the young adults and 2.1% of the older adults.

#### Sex Distribution

According to the data in table 7, males represented 85.8% of the 1981 sample, while females represented 14.2%. Looking at the 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981 sex distributions, the ratio of males to females appears to have remained constant.

Table 7: Sex Distribution-Offense Categories

KEY: Freq. column % row %	Offense Categories	---M A L E S ---				---- F E M A L E S ----				-----T O T A L -----			
		1978	1979	1980	1981	1978	1979	1980	1981	1978	1979	1980	1981
	Crimes against persons	1661 18.0% 90.5%	1768 16.5% 90.3%	1914 16.2% 89.4%	1687 15.2% 89.0%	174 11.8% 9.5%	190 11.1% 9.7%	226 11.6% 10.6%	208 11.3% 11.0%	1835 17.1% 100%	1958 15.8% 100%	2140 15.6% 100%	1895 14.6% 100%
	Crimes against property	2673 29.0% 81.0%	2886 27.0% 82.8%	3039 25.8% 81.5%	3073 27.7% 80.1%	625 42.3% 19.0%	601 35.1% 17.2%	689 35.4% 18.5%	764 41.7% 19.9%	3298 30.8% 100%	3487 28.1% 100%	3728 27.1% 100%	3837 29.7% 100%
	Non-assaultive sex crimes	119 1.3% 50.6%	204 1.9% 57.3%	238 2.0% 51.7%	182 1.6% 74.6%	116 7.9% 49.4%	152 8.9% 42.7%	222 11.4% 48.3%	62 3.4% 25.4%	235 2.2% 100%	356 2.9% 100%	460 3.3% 100%	244 1.9% 100%
	Major motor vehicle crimes	1738 18.8% 91.6%	1997 18.7% 90.4%	2484 21.0% 91.1%	2494 22.5% 90.6%	160 10.8% 8.4%	213 12.4% 9.6%	242 12.4% 8.9%	258 14.1% 9.4%	1898 17.7% 100%	2210 17.8% 100%	2726 19.8% 100%	2752 21.3% 100%
	Public order crimes	2255 24.4% 88.6%	2966 27.8% 86.9%	3181 27.0% 88.0%	2691 24.2% 86.5%	291 19.7% 11.4%	446 26.0% 13.1%	435 22.4% 12.0%	419 22.8% 15.5%	2546 23.8% 100%	3412 27.5% 100%	3616 26.3% 100%	3110 24.0% 100%
	Controlled Substance crimes	785 8.5% 87.6%	865 8.1% 88.5%	943 8.0% 87.9%	979 8.8% 88.8%	111 7.5% 12.4%	112 6.5% 11.5%	130 6.7% 12.1%	123 6.7% 11.2%	896 8.4% 100%	977 7.9% 100%	1073 7.8% 100%	1102 8.5% 100%
	TOTAL	9231 100% 86.2%	10686 100% 86.2%	11799 100% 85.9%	11106 100% 85.8%	1477 100% 13.8%	1714 100% 13.8%	1944 99.9% 14.1%	1834 100% 14.2%	12400 100% 100%	13743 99.9% 100%	12940 100% 100%	



However, some differences were apparent in the sex distribution, when specific offense categories were analyzed. Females accounted for 11% of the crimes against persons, nearly 20% of the property crimes, 25% of the non-assaultive sex crimes (including prostitution), 9.4 of the major motor vehicle offenses, 15.5% of the public order offenses, and 11.2% of the drug crimes.

Of particular interest is the overrepresentation of females in crimes against property: 41.7% of the females were charged in this offense category compared to 27.7% of the males. On the other hand, females accounted for less than expected frequency of crimes against persons: 11% of the female crimes were in this category, compared to 15.2% of the males. Proportionately more males were charged with major motor vehicle crimes (22.5%) than females (14.1%).

#### Distribution of Age and Sex of Defendants

Table 8 examines the relationship between age categories and sex of the defendants. For both males and females, older adults (26+ years of age) accounted for a slightly higher percentage of the total cases in 1981 than in 1980. Older adults represented 36.7% of the female cases, compared to 34.6% of the males being in the older adult category. Among young adults, 52.7% of the males were in this 17-25 year old age group, compared to 51.1% of the females. Among juveniles, 12.7% of the males were 16 years of age or younger, compared to 12.2% of the female defendants.

#### Age, Sex and Offense Categories

The relationship between age, sex and offense categories was also examined. While the patterns were similar in many categories, a few substantial differences were apparent (see tables 9 and 10):

- \* Property crimes accounted for roughly half of the charges against juvenile females and males; however, the percentage of young adult and older adult females charged with property crimes was substantially higher than for the comparable male populations.
- \* Crimes against persons accounted for a somewhat higher percentage of the offenses by young adult males and older adult males, than for the comparable female populations.
- \* Public order crimes accounted for nearly one third of the offenses by older adult males, but represented about one quarter of the offenses by older adult females.

Males and females do appear to commit different type of offenses, and the ages of the defendants also seem to be related. On the whole, males seem to be charged with more violent (ie. Crimes against persons) offenses than females, while females proportionately commit more property crimes (particularly in the young adult and older adult age groups).

#### Specific Property Crimes

Because property crimes accounted for nearly 30% of the offenses in the study, this category was further refined, by analyzing specific property crimes by age and sex of the defendants. The data in Table 11 reflects combined totals from 1978-1981.

Table 8: Age and Sex of Defendants

Sex of Defendants	7-16 years				17-25 years				26+ years				TOTAL			
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1978	1979	1980	1981	1978	1979	1980	1981	1978	1979	1980	1981
Males	1456	1531	1287	1412	4579	5975	6459	5852	3196	3180	4053	3842	9231	10686	11799	11106
	83.7%	83.5%	85.5%	86.3%	87.1%	87.4%	85.7%	86.2%	86.0%	85.1%	86.2%	85.1%	86.2%	86.1%	85.9%	85.8%
	15.7%	14.3%	10.9%	12.7%	49.7%	55.9%	54.7%	52.7%	34.6%	29.7%	34.4%	34.6%	99.9%	99.9%	100%	100%
Females	282	301	219	224	678	860	1076	937	517	553	649	673	1477	1714	1944	1834
	16.2%	16.4%	14.5%	13.7%	12.9%	12.5%	14.3%	13.8%	13.9%	14.8%	13.8%	14.9%	13.7%	13.8%	14.1%	14.2%
	19.0%	17.5%	11.3%	12.2%	45.9%	50.1%	55.3%	51.1%	35.0%	32.2%	33.4%	36.7%	99.9%	99.8%	100%	100%
Total	1738	1832	1506	1636	5257	6835	7535	6789	3713	3733	4702	4515	10708	12400	13743	12940
	99.9%	99.9%	100%	100%	100%	99.9%	100%	100%	99.9%	99.9%	100%	100%	99.9%	99.9%	100%	100%
	16.2%	14.7%	11.0%	12.6%	49.0%	55.1%	54.8%	52.5%	34.6%	30.0%	34.2%	34.9%	99.8%	99.8%	100%	100%

(KEY:

Frequency  
Column %  
Row %



Table 9: Offense Distribution -- Male Defendants

KEY: Frequency  
Row %  
Column %

Year	Age Group	Crimes against persons	Crimes against property	Non-assault. sex crime	Major motor vehicle	Public order crimes	Controlled Substance Crimes	TOTAL
1978	7-16	197	723	4	145	280	107	1456
		13.5%	49.7%	0.3%	10.0%	19.2%	7.3%	100.0%
		11.9%	27.0%	3.3%	8.3%	12.4%	13.6%	15.8%
	17-25	809	1251	51	780	1212	476	4579
		17.7%	27.3%	1.1%	17.0%	26.5%	10.4%	100.0%
		48.7%	46.8%	42.9%	44.9%	53.7%	60.6%	49.6%
	26+	655	699	64	813	763	202	3196
		20.5%	21.9%	2.0%	25.4%	23.9%	6.3%	8.5%
		39.4%	26.2%	53.8%	46.8%	33.8%	25.7%	34.6%
	Total	1661	2673	119	1738	2255	785	9231
		18.0%	29.0%	1.3%	18.8%	24.4%	8.5%	100.0%
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%
1979	7-16	220	710	3	148	372	78	1531
		14.4%	46.4%	0.2%	9.7%	24.3%	5.1%	100.1%
		12.4%	24.6%	1.5%	7.4%	12.5%	9.0%	14.3%
	17-25	934	1509	87	981	1860	604	5975
		15.6%	25.3%	1.5%	16.4%	31.1%	10.1%	100.0%
		52.8%	52.3%	42.7%	49.1%	62.7%	69.8%	55.9%
	26+	616	667	114	868	734	183	3180
		19.3%	21.0%	3.6%	27.3%	23.1%	5.8%	100.1%
		34.7%	23.1%	55.9%	43.5%	24.8%	21.2%	29.8%
	Total	1768	2886	204	1997	2966	865	10686
		16.6%	27.0%	1.9%	18.7%	27.8%	8.1%	100.1%
		99.9%	100.0%	100.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
1980	7-16	205	660	4	112	230	76	1287
		15.9%	51.3%	0.3%	8.7%	17.9%	5.9%	100.0%
		10.7%	21.7%	1.7%	4.5%	7.2%	8.1%	10.9%
	17-25	963	1590	105	1277	1941	583	6459
		14.9%	24.6%	1.6%	19.8%	30.1%	9.0%	100.0%
		50.3%	52.3%	44.1%	51.4%	61.0%	61.8%	54.7%
	26+	746	789	129	1095	1010	284	4053
		18.4%	19.5%	3.2%	27.0%	24.9%	7.0%	100.0%
		39.0%	26.0%	54.2%	44.1%	31.8%	30.1%	34.4%
	Total	1914	3039	238	2484	3181	943	11799
		16.2%	25.8%	2.0%	21.1%	27.0%	8.0%	100.1%
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
1981	7-16	172	762	5	93	281	99	1412
		12.2%	54.0%	0.4%	6.6%	19.9%	7.0%	100.1%
		10.2%	24.8%	2.7%	3.7%	10.4%	10.1%	12.7%
	17-25	874	1515	93	1219	1531	620	5852
		14.9%	25.9%	1.6%	20.8%	26.2%	10.6%	100%
		51.8%	49.3%	51.1%	48.9%	56.9%	63.3%	52.7%
	26+	641	796	84	1182	879	260	3842
		16.7%	20.7%	2.2%	30.8%	22.9%	6.8%	100.1%
		38.0%	25.9%	46.2%	47.4%	32.7%	26.6%	34.6%
	Total	1687	3073	182	2494	2691	979	11106
		15.2%	27.7%	1.6%	22.4%	24.2%	8.8%	99.9%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 10: Offense Distribution - FEMALE Defendants

KEY: Frequency  
Row %  
Column %

Year	Age Group	Crimes against persons	Crimes against property	Non-assault. sex crime	Major motor vehicle	Public order crimes	Controlled Substance Crimes	TOTAL
1978	7-16	36	151	5	23	48	19	282
		12.8%	53.5%	1.8%	8.2%	17.0%	5.7%	100%
		20.7%	24.2%	4.3%	14.4%	16.5%	17.1%	19.1%
	17-25	68	257	90	59	141	63	678
		10.09%	37.9%	13.3%	8.7%	20.8%	9.3%	100%
		39.1%	41.1%	77.6%	36.9%	48.5%	56.8%	45.9%
	26+	70	217	21	78	102	29	517
		13.5%	42.0%	14.1%	15.1%	19.7%	5.6%	100%
		40.2%	34.7%	18.1%	48.8%	35.0%	26.1%	35.0%
	TOTAL	174	625	116	160	291	111	1477
		11.8%	42.3%	7.9%	10.8%	19.7%	7.5%	100%
		100%	100%	100%	100.1%	100%	100%	100%
1979	7-16	31	115	6	29	22	21	301
		10.3%	38.2%	2.0%	9.6%	32.9	7.0%	100%
		10.3%	19.1%	4.0%	13.6%	22.4%	18.8%	17.5%
	17-25	77	281	121	78	237	66	860
		8.9%	32.7%	14.1%	9.1%	27.6%	7.7%	100.1%
		40.5%	46.8%	79.6%	36.6%	53.1%	58.9%	50.2%
	26+	82	205	25	106	110	25	553
		14.8%	37.1%	4.5%	19.2%	19.9%	4.5%	100%
		43.2%	34.1%	16.4%	49.8%	24.7%	22.3%	32.3%
	TOTAL	190	601	152	213	446	112	1714
		11.1%	35.1%	8.9%	12.4%	26.0%	6.5%	100%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
1980	7-16	26	87	1	14	82	9	219
		11.5%	38.5%	0.4%	9.3%	36.3%	4.0%	100%
		11.5%	12.6%	0.4%	5.0%	18.9%	6.9%	10.6%
	17-25	124	326	188	103	259	76	1076
		10.6%	27.9%	16.1%	16.8%	22.1%	6.5%	100%
		54.9%	47.3%	84.7%	46.5%	59.5%	58.5%	55.1%
	26+	76	276	33	125	94	45	649
		10.4%	37.9%	4.5%	28.1%	12.9%	6.2%	100%
		33.6%	40.1%	14.9%	48.5%	21.6%	34.6%	34.3%
	TOTAL	226	689	222	242	435	130	1944
		10.6%	32.4%	10.5%	19.9%	20.5%	6.1%	100%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
1981	7-16	27	117	2	9	58	11	224
		12.1%	52.2%	0.9%	4.0%	25.9%	4.9%	100%
		13.0%	15.3%	3.2%	3.5%	13.8%	8.9%	12.2%
	17-25	96	338	49	117	257	80	937
		10.2%	36.1%	5.2%	12.5%	27.4%	8.5%	99.1%
		46.2%	44.2%	79.0%	45.3%	61.3%	65.0%	51.1%
	26+	85	309	11	132	104	32	673
		12.6%	45.9%	1.6%	19.6%	15.5%	4.8%	100%
		40.9%	40.4%	17.7%	51.2%	24.3%	26.0%	36.7%
	TOTAL	208	764	62	258	419	123	1834
		11.3%	41.79	3.4%	14.1%	22.3%	6.7%	100%
		100.1%	99.9%	99.9%	100%	99.9%	99.9%	100%

TABLE 11: Age, Sex Distribution - Specific Property Crimes 1978-1981  
Samples Combined

KEY: Frequency %  
Column %  
Row

Property Crime	JUVENILES 7-16			YOUNG ADULTS 17-25			OLDER ADULTS 26 +			TOTAL		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Arson	54 1.9% 22.5%	8 1.7% 25.0%	62 1.9% 22.8%	119 2.0% 49.6%	10 0.8% 31.3%	129 1.8% 47.4%	67 2.3% 27.9%	14 1.4% 43.8%	81 2.0% 29.8%	240 2.1% 100.0%	32 1.2% 100.1%	272 1.9% 100.0%
B&E nt	470 16.5% 25.3%	26 5.5% 29.2%	496 14.9% 25.5%	1095 18.7% 59.0%	45 3.7% 50.6%	1140 16.1% 58.6%	292 9.9% 15.7%	18 1.8% 20.2%	310 7.8% 15.9%	1857 15.9% 100.0%	89 3.3% 100.0%	1946 13.6% 100.0%
B&E day	756 26.5% 44.7%	49 10.4% 43.8%	805 24.2% 44.6%	702 12.0% 41.5%	48 4.0% 42.9%	750 10.6% 41.6%	235 8.0% 13.9%	15 1.5% 13.4%	250 6.3% 13.9%	1693 14.5% 100.1%	112 4.2% 100.1%	1805 12.6% 100.1%
Larc Less	560 19.6% 21.7%	261 55.5% 20.2%	821 24.7% 21.2%	1267 21.6% 49.1%	550 45.8% 42.6%	1817 25.7% 46.9%	755 25.6% 29.2%	479 47.6% 37.1%	1234 31.2% 31.9%	2582 22.1% 100.0%	1290 48.2% 99.9%	3872 27.0% 100.0%
Larc More	397 13.9% 18.8%	64 13.6% 10.5%	461 13.9% 16.9%	1077 18.4% 50.9%	288 24.0% 47.1%	1365 19.3% 50.1%	641 21.7% 30.3%	260 25.8% 42.5%	901 22.8% 33.0%	2115 18.1% 100.0%	612 22.8% 100.1%	2727 19.0% 100.0%
RSP	246 8.6% 19.3%	24 5.1% 14.3%	270 8.1% 18.7%	681 11.6% 53.5%	97 8.1% 57.7%	778 11.0% 54.0%	347 11.8% 27.2%	47 4.7% 28.0%	394 10.0% 27.3%	1274 10.9% 100.0%	168 6.3% 100.0%	1442 10.0% 100.0%
Fraud	19 0.7% 3.4%	7 1.5% 2.9%	26 0.8% 3.2%	196 3.3% 35.2%	103 8.6% 42.0%	299 4.2% 37.3%	342 11.6% 61.4%	135 13.4% 55.1%	477 12.1% 59.5%	557 4.8% 100.0%	245 9.1% 100%	802 5.6% 100.0%
MisceI.	353 12.4% 26.1%	31 6.6% 23.7%	384 11.5% 25.9%	728 12.4% 53.8%	61 5.1% 46.6%	789 11.2% 53.2%	272 9.2% 20.1%	39 3.9% 29.8%	311 7.9% 21.0%	1353 11.6% 100.0%	131 4.9% 100.1%	1484 10.3% 100.1%
Total	2855 100.1% 24.5%	470 99.9% 17.5%	3325 100.0% 23.2%	5865 100.0% 50.3%	1202 100.1% 44.9%	7067 99.9% 49.2%	2951 100.1% 25.3%	1007 100.1% 37.6%	3958 100.1% 27.6%	11671 100.0% 100.1%	2679 100.0% 100.0%	14350 100.0% 100.0%

As the data illustrates, Larceny (under & over \$100) accounted for 46% of the total property crimes; however, when further analyzed by sex, larceny accounted for 40.2% of the property crimes by males, compared to 71% of the property crimes by females.

While Larceny appears to be linked to females, breaking and entering appears to be more commonly a male offense. In the combined 1978 to 1981 sample, breaking and entering (daytime and night) accounted for 30.4% of the male property crimes, compared to 7.5% of the female property crimes.

Receiving stolen property accounted for 10.9% of the male property crimes, compared to 6.3% of the female property crimes, Fraud accounted for 4.8% of the male property crimes, compared to 9.1% of the female property crimes. Arson represented 2.1% of the property crimes by males and 1.2% of the property crimes by females.

Looking at the specific age groups, breaking and entering in the night was closely linked with those under 26 years of age; nearly 85% of the breaking and entering in the night were charged against persons in the juvenile and young adult age group. A similar pattern was evident for breaking and entering in the daytime.

Larceny (under & over \$100) was more strongly linked to the under 26 age group among males than females. While 69.7% of the larceny offenses by males were in the juvenile and young adult age groups, this compares to 61.1% of the females. Older adult females appear to commit a proportionately higher frequency of larceny offenses than do older adult males.

For both males and females, fraud appears to be linked to persons 26 years of age and older; 61.4% of the male fraud cases and 55.1% of the female fraud cases were in this age group.

Looking at the age distribution of each property crime, 69.1% of the juvenile females were charged with larceny compared to 33.5% of the juvenile males. Breaking and entering in the daytime was the most frequency property crime by juvenile males, accounting for 26.5% of the total property crimes by juvenile males. This compares to 10.4% of the property crimes by juvenile females being for breaking and entering in the daytime.

In summary, the data supports the position that certain offenses are age and sex linked; that is, they occur disproportionately by males versus females (particularly larceny among females, and breaking and entering among males), and certain age categories account for proportionately more of specific property crimes (such as fraud among older adults and breaking and entering among persons under 26 years of age)

#### Specific Crimes Against Persons

Although Crimes against Persons accounted for 15.7% of the cases in the combined 1978-1981 sample, the seriousness of these crimes warranted an age/sex breakdown for individual offenses. As was the method for the analysis of specific property crimes, data from the four annual samples was combined to produce a data base large enough for analysis by individual crimes.

TABLE 11: Age, Sex Distribution - Specific Crimes Against Persons (1978-1981)  
Samples Combined

KEY: Frequency %  
Column %  
Row

Property Crime	7-16			17-25			26 +			TOTAL		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Murder	10	2	12	73	10	83	73	8	81	156	20	176
Manslaughter	1.3%	1.7%	1.3%	2.0%	2.7%	2.1%	2.7%	2.6%	2.7%	2.2%	2.5%	2.2%
	6.4%	10.0%	6.8%	46.8%	50.0%	47.2%	46.4%	40.0%	46.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Asslt. w/a weapon	282	24	306	1282	107	1389	830	93	923	2394	224	2618
	35.5%	20.0%	33.5%	35.8%	29.3%	35.2%	31.3%	29.7%	31.1%	34.1%	28.1%	33.4%
	11.8%	10.7%	11.7%	53.6%	47.8%	53.1%	34.7%	41.5%	35.3%	100.1%	100.0%	100.1%
	51	0	51	173	0	173	217	1	218	441	1	442
	6.4%	0	5.6%	4.8%	0	4.4%	8.2%	0.3%	7.3%	6.3%	0.1%	5.6%
	11.6%	0	11.5%	39.2%	0	39.1%	49.2%	100.0%	49.3%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%
Assault	221	67	288	1255	176	1431	957	144	1101	2433	387	2820
Battery	27.8%	55.8%	31.5%	35.1%	48.2%	36.3%	36.0%	46.0%	37.1%	34.6%	48.5%	36.0%
	9.1%	17.3%	10.2%	51.6%	45.5%	50.7%	39.3%	37.2%	39.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%
Robbery	182	14	196	481	35	516	188	20	208	851	69	920
	22.9%	11.7%	21.4%	13.4%	9.6%	13.1%	7.1%	6.4%	7.0%	12.1%	8.6%	11.8%
	21.4%	20.3%	21.3%	56.5%	50.7%	56.1%	22.1%	29.0%	22.6%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Threats	37	13	50	231	33	264	247	38	285	515	84	599
Bribery	4.7%	10.8%	5.5%	6.5%	9.0%	6.7%	9.3%	12.1%	9.6%	7.3%	10.5%	7.7%
Conspiracy	7.2%	15.5%	8.3%	44.9%	39.3%	44.1%	48.0%	45.2%	47.6%	100.1%	100.0%	100.0%
Kidnapping	10	0	10	48	3	51	41	6	47	99	9	108
	1.3%	0	1.1%	1.3%	0.8%	1.3%	1.5%	1.9%	1.6%	1.4%	1.1%	1.4%
	10.1%	0	9.3%	48.5%	33.3%	47.2%	41.4%	66.7%	43.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Chapter 209A*	1	0	1	37	1	38	103	3	106	141	4	145
	0.1%	0	0.1%	1.0%	0.3%	1.0%	3.9%	1.0%	3.6%	2.0%	0.5%	1.9%
	0.7%	0	0.7%	26.2%	25.0%	26.2%	73.0%	75.0%	73.1%	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%
Total	794	120	914	3580	365	3945	2656	313	2969	7030	798	7828
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%	99.9%	100.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%
	11.3%	15.0%	11.7%	50.9%	45.7%	50.4%	37.8%	39.2%	37.9%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%

\* Chapter 209A data applies to 1980 and 1981 samples only.

In looking at the overall distribution of offenses, assault with a weapon and assault and battery accounted for 69.4% of the crimes against persons. Sexual assaults (including rape) accounted for 5.6%, threats, bribery and/or conspiracy accounted for 7.7% and murder accounted for 2.2%. Robbery accounted for 11.8% of the crimes against the person.

Some differences were evident, when the crimes against person were analyzed based on the sex of the defendant. A higher percentage (48.5%) of the female crimes against person was for assault and battery than was true of male defendants (34.6% of the crimes against persons were for A&B). Predictably, a higher percentage of males than females were charged with sexual assault. Robbery accounted for 12.1% of the males' crimes against persons, compared to 8.6% of the females.

When the data was refined further, by analyzing the age and sex distribution of specific crimes against persons, some notable differences were apparent regarding juveniles.

\* 22.9% of the juvenile males were charged with robbery, compared to 11.7% of the juvenile females;

\* 35.5% of the juvenile males were charged with assault with a weapon, compared to 20.0% of the juvenile females;

\* 27.8% of the juvenile males were charged with assault and battery, compared to 55.8% of the juvenile females.

#### Summary

This study examined the records of 49,791 defendants, randomly sampled over the four year period 1978-1981, with specific attention to the linkage between age, sex and offense.

In the four-year aggregate, 28.8% of the cases involved property crimes, 25.5% involved public order crimes, 19.3% were related to major motor vehicle violations, 15.7% involved crimes against persons, 8.1% were for controlled substance violations, and 2.6% were for non-assaultive sex crimes. While there were some small variations in the percentage distribution from year to year, the overall patterns of crime were comparable in each of the four years of the research.

When the 49,791 cases were analyzed, based on the age of the defendants, approximately half of the defendants were found to be between 17-25 years of age, compared to about one-third being 26 years old and older, while about one-sixth being 16 years of age or younger. This pattern was fairly consistent over the four-years of the study.

The relationship between age categories and offense categories was explored, and defendants between 17 and 25 years of age consistently accounted for the majority of offenses in every crime category. However, certain crime categories appeared to be age-linked. For example, crimes against property were disproportionate among juveniles, non-assaultive sex crimes were disproportionate among young adults (also public order crimes and controlled substance violations), while crimes against persons, non-assaultive sex crimes and major motor vehicle violations were disproportionate among older adults.



Looking at the relationship between age categories and offense categories from a different angle, the data also indicated that each age group typically commits different types of crimes. While over half the juveniles were charged with property crimes, property crimes accounted for far less of the offenses by young adults and older adults. Public order crimes were the most frequency offense category for young adults, accounting for 28.2% of the cases in the four years of the study. Among older adults, major motor vehicle violations were the most frequent crime, accounting for 26.4% of the older adult cases over the four-year period 1978-1981.

The crimes against person category accounted for 15.7% of the cases overall (1978-1981), with proportionately fewer (13.6%) of the juveniles being charged in this category, compared to young adults (14.9%) and older adults (17.8%).

When the data was analyzed based on the sex of the defendants, 86% of the defendants were male, while 14% were female. This ratio was constant over the four years of the study. Some differences were noted in the offense categories of males and females, however. Females were underrepresented in crimes against persons, accounting for 11% of the defendants in this crime category, but overrepresented in property crimes, accounting for nearly 20% of the crimes against property in 1981. Females were also overrepresented in non-assaultive sex crimes (including prostitution), but underrepresented in major motor vehicle violations and drug crimes.

Age linkage was found in several offense categories, as well as several specific crimes against persons and crimes against property. The significance of these findings point to a potential long-term impact on the types of crimes coming before the Massachusetts courts, as the state's population shifts toward an older population. Crimes typically associated with juveniles may decline, while those committed more by young adults and older adults may increase in the future.

**END**