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ANSWERING OHIO'S REQUESTS
for
CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH



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"ANSWERING OHIO'S REQUESTS
FOR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH"

An analysis of the research requests responded to by
the Division of Criminal Justice Services during 1982.

A SERVICE OF:

THE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

STATE OF OHIO
RICHARD F. CELESTE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT
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ACQUISITIONS

DCJS RESEARCH REQUESTS AND RESPONSES: AN ANALYSIS

One of the two critical research functions of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is responding to criminal justice-related research requests. There is a wide variety of people and institutions in Ohio who need both data and analysis relating to crime and criminal justice. These include regular government agencies, elected officials, private/non-profit organizations, businesses, colleges and universities, news media, and private citizens. Along with numerous out-of-state sources, Ohioans in these areas are coming to rely on DCJS in the provision of research. It is the intention of this brief report to document and analyze that trend.

In 1982 the DCJS Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) received and responded to three-hundred-and-forty-six (346) criminal justice research requests from research users in Ohio, nineteen other states, three federal agencies, six national organizations and one foreign country. SAC is in a unique position to provide this service. It is the only criminal justice research unit in Ohio whose mandate includes a state-wide scope and all aspects of the criminal justice system (i.e., police, courts, corrections, juvenile justice and crime prevention). Hence, even when information requests cannot be satisfied by using SAC data bases, the SAC staff is still in a position to make an accurate referral.

It needs to be noted that this report analyzes only those information requests which:

1. were initiated by the requestor, and
2. required and received a substantive response from SAC (i.e., the requestor got what he or she wanted).

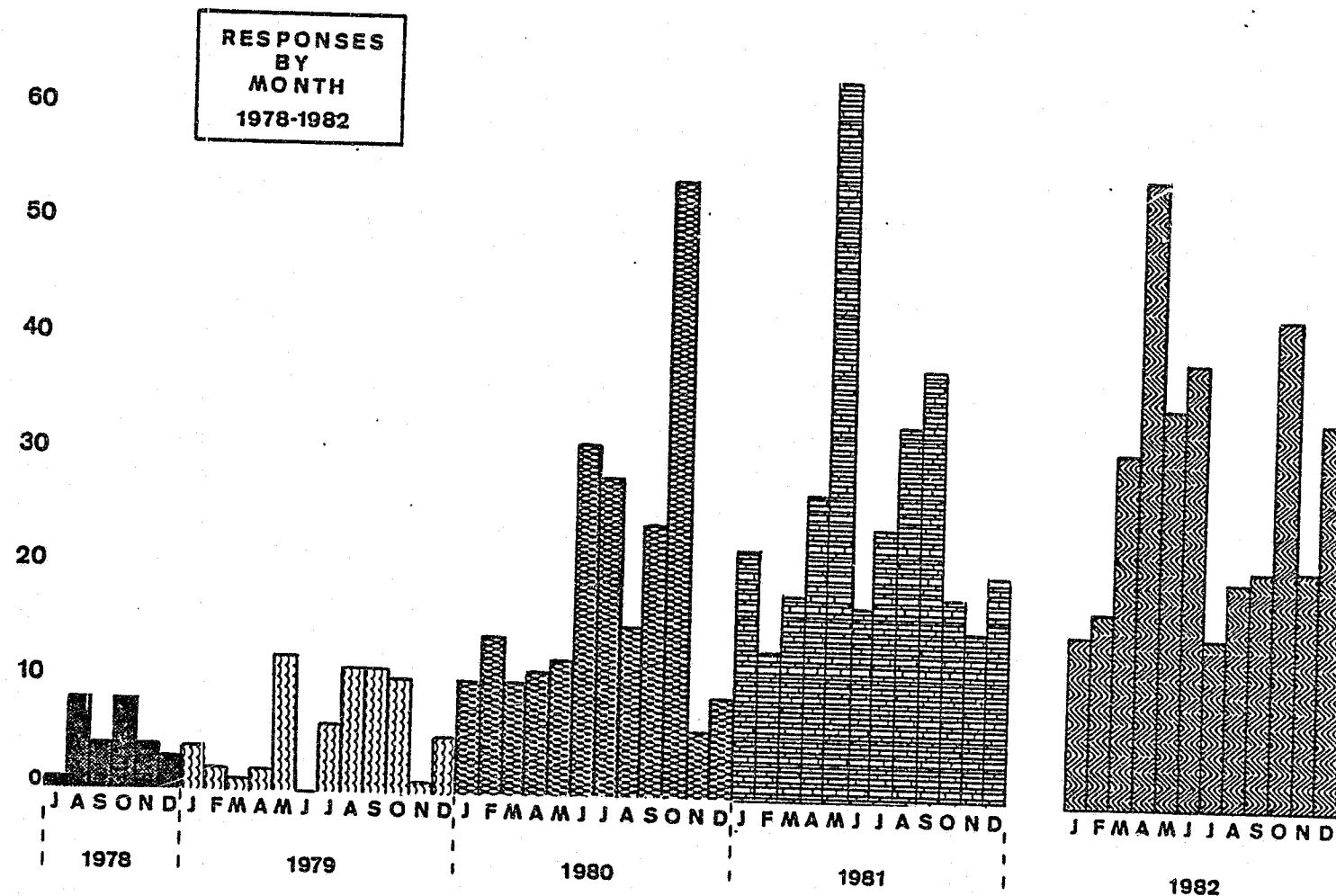
These definitional considerations are important in ensuring that the research requests are a true reflection of criminal justice data needs in Ohio and SAC's ability to respond to them. Therefore, requests were logged only if actually initiated by the requestor (i.e., none of SAC's several thousand proactive research mailings to decision makers was included), and only if they required a substantive response from SAC staff (e.g., fruitless research efforts, regardless of the time they required, were not usually logged).

Because SAC is more concerned with Ohio's criminal justice statistics than with its own operational figures, the data presented herein lacks the rigid certainty of, for example, DCJS Citizen Attitude Survey data. Categories for the requests were created arbitrarily and, in some instances, could not adequately encompass complex requests which overlapped into several areas. This resulted in some subjective judgments in the compilation of this report. Nevertheless, even an admittedly arbitrary analysis of these figures reveals that SAC research requests are increasing rather dramatically as the unit's service capabilities become better known, and that an increasingly higher number and percentage of criminal justice decision makers in Ohio are availing themselves of this service.

THE RESEARCH DEMAND

Continuing the trend of the previous four years, 1982 saw an increase in the number of research requests responded to by the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC).* A total of 346 requests received a substantive request from SAC staff, up from 308 in 1981, an increase of slightly better than 12%. The percentage increase was not as dramatic as those seen during the previous four years, largely because those years were being measured against a first year total of only 65 requests. In one sense the 12% increase is especially noteworthy.

FIGURE 1



* The cases analyzed in this report are based on the date of SAC's response, rather than the date of the request itself. However, there will be a tendency to use the terms "requests" and "responses" interchangeably.

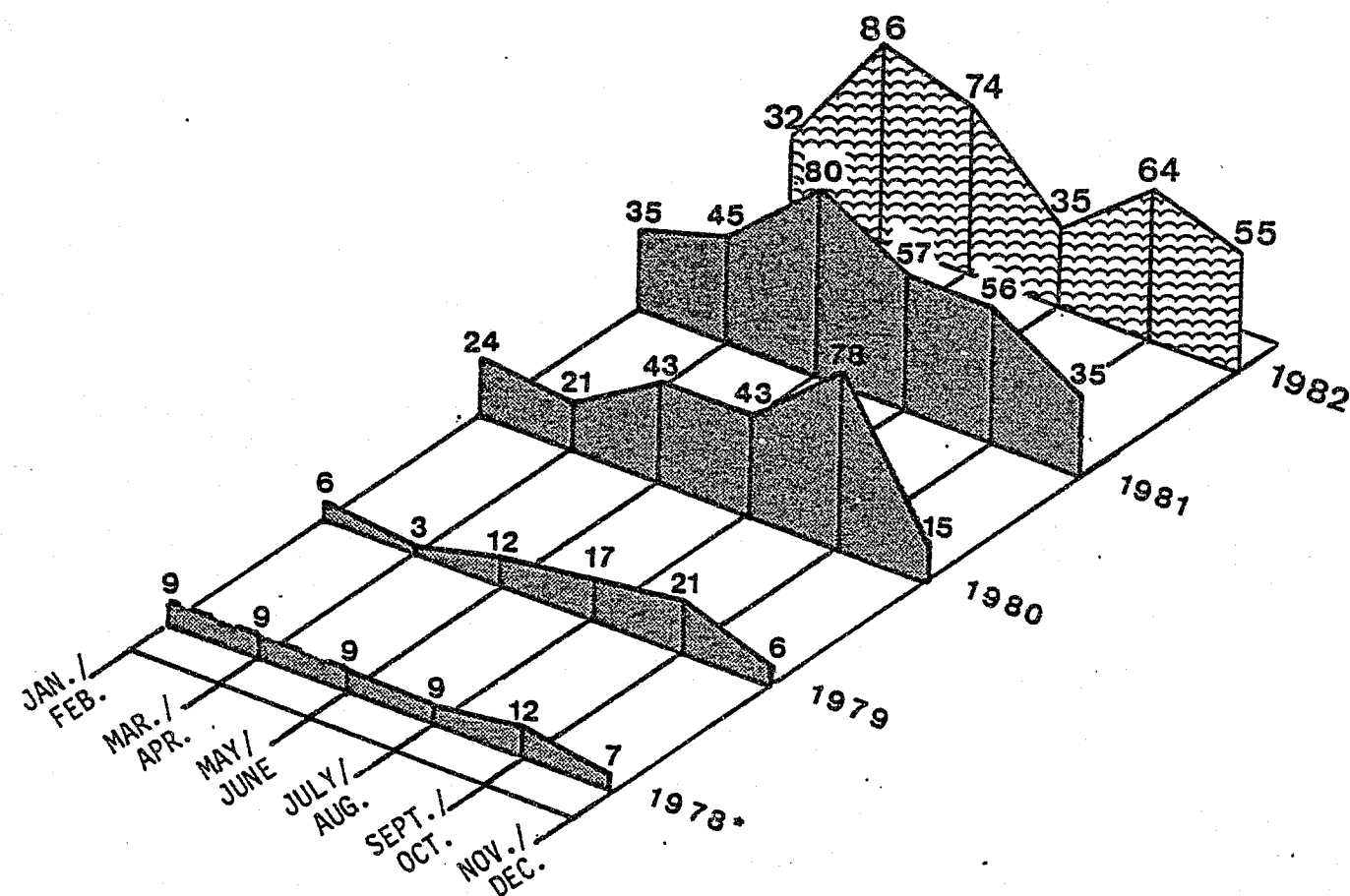
Earlier analyses have shown that requests are rather directly tied to the publication of SAC research reports. Because of the tremendous time demands imposed upon staff by the 18-month Peace Officer Task Analysis study, only three such publications were produced by SAC in 1982, as opposed to five in 1981 and six in 1980. Thus, the request demand continued to rise in 1982 despite fewer request inducements in the forms of publications.

Seven of the twelve months of 1982 produced all-time highs for responses to requests. The most noticeable increases were seen in the late winter and early spring, (February, March, and April) when responses were up 78% over 1981. A similar trend occurred during the last three months of the year when responses rose 85% above the 1981 level. (Figure 1).

Beyond these figures, some generalizations can be made. The 1982 requests and responses were similar to those of the previous two years in reflecting surges in the late spring and early fall, as well as a "summer slump." However, the flow of the requests was considerably more consistent in 1982. The variance between the highest and lowest months was smaller in 1982 (40) than in either 1981 (50) or 1980 (48). Likewise, the greatest variance between any two consecutive month was smaller in 1982 (24) than in 1981 (46) or 1980 (48).

The stability and growth of the request and response flow would seem to indicate that SAC is achieving its early goal of gaining the confidence of the criminal justice community in matters relating to research.

FIGURE 2
BI-MONTHLY RESPONSES
1978-1982



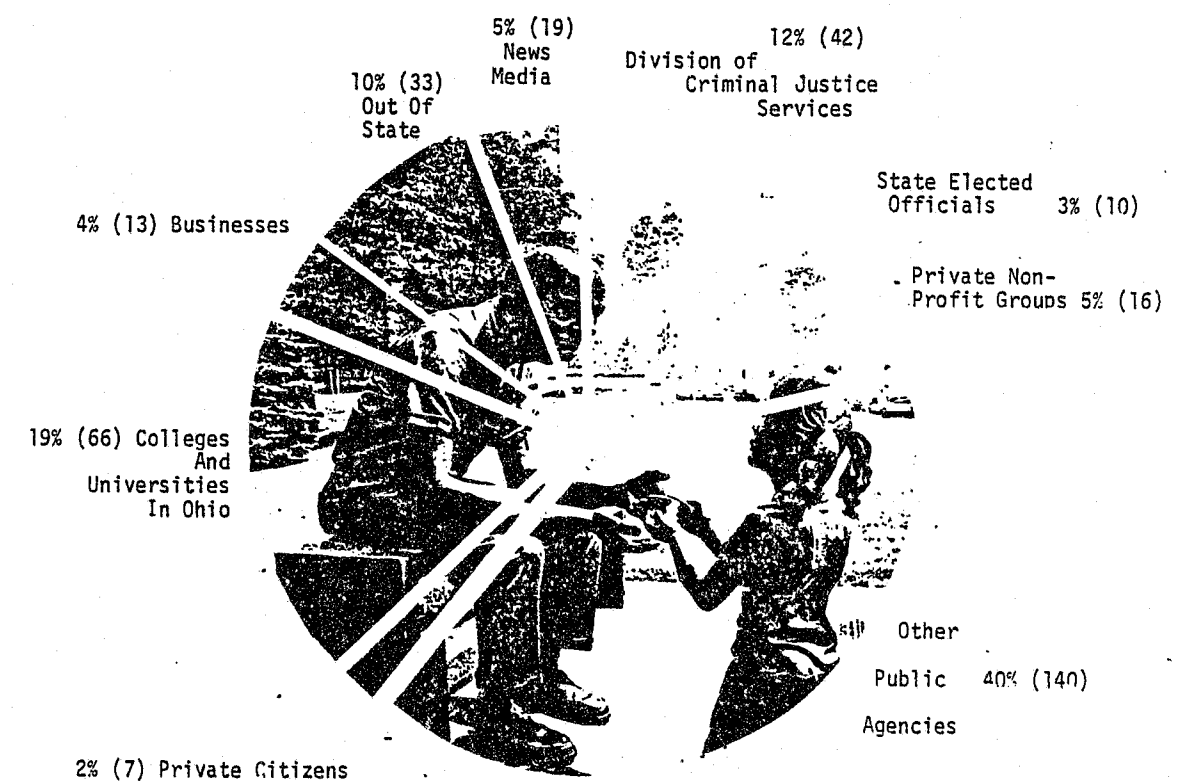
* Figures for first six months of 1978 are hypothetical only and based on average bi-monthly calculation for July-December (actual data).

WHO REQUESTS SAC RESEARCH?

For purposes of analysis, SAC research requestors have been separated into ten groups.* Figure 3 displays the number of requests received and responded to in each of these categories. The most notable growth occurred within "colleges and universities" (in Ohio) and "other public agencies." The former, accounting for nearly one of every five requests, reflect the strength of the relationship between DCJS and the Ohio Council of Higher Educators (from schools offering criminal justice majors) which has taken a strong interest in SAC research, especially the Task Analysis Study. The SAC Research Administrator was asked to address that group's annual meeting last October in Columbus.

FIGURE 3

SOURCES OF RESEARCH REQUESTS

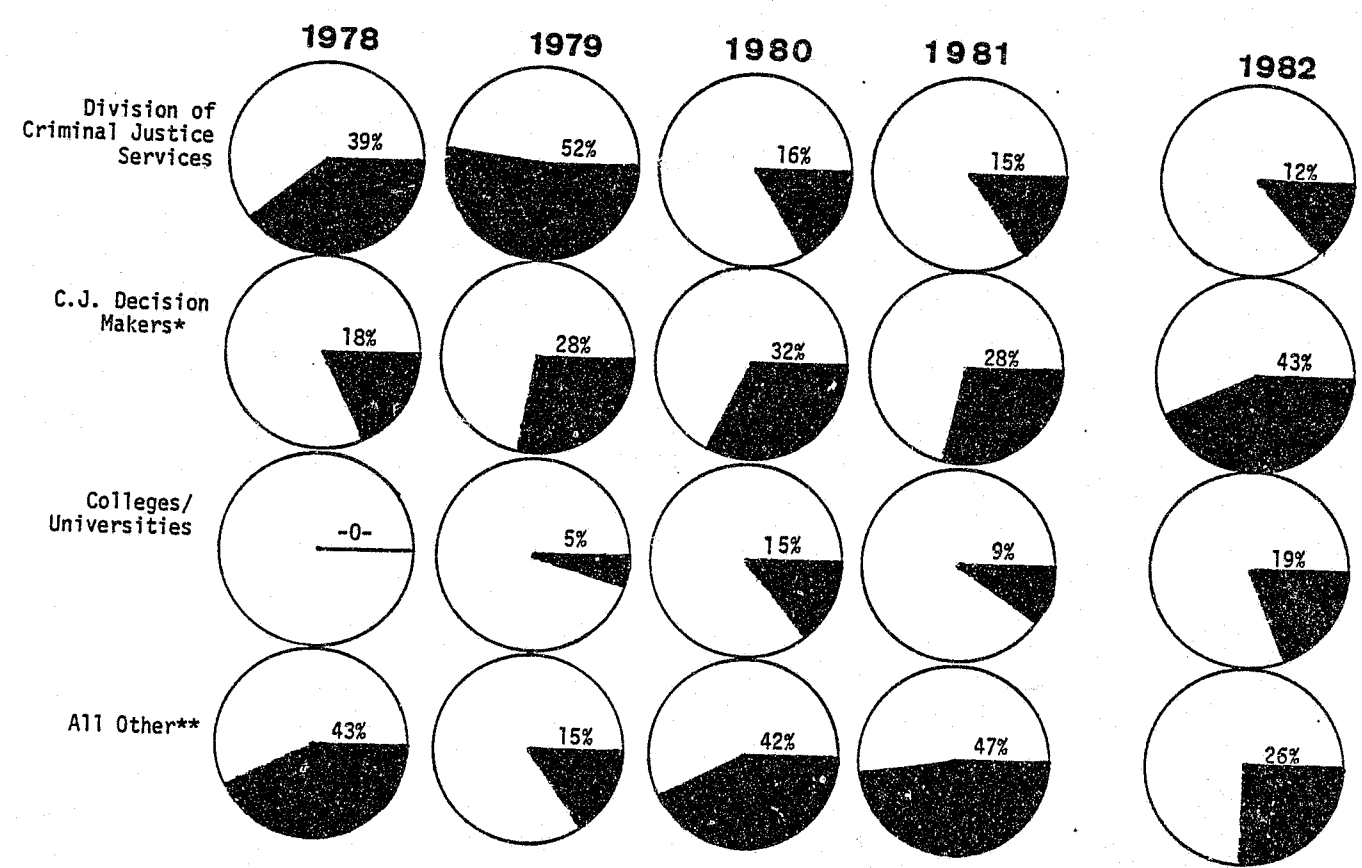


* For the most part, the "local elected officials" category was collapsed into "other public agencies" in 1982. The majority of these cases involved sheriffs.

Figure 4 illustrates a more subtle, yet critically important point. SAC's research has always been aimed primarily at key decision makers within the criminal justice system, the idea being that those persons who have the greatest potential for changing the system will also be those with the greatest need for data describing it. As can be seen, these key decision makers accounted for 43% of all SAC research requests in 1982. Numerically, this represents an eight fold increase over the 1979 requests in this area, and a 72% increase over 1981. SAC research seems to be getting through to the people who can make the best use of it.

FIGURE 4

PATTERNS OF CHANGE
AMONG RESEARCH REQUESTORS
1978 - 1982



* Includes "State Elected Officials," "Local Elected Officials" and "Other Public Agencies"
 ** Includes "Private Non-Profit Groups," "Private Citizens," "Businesses," "Out of State" and "News Media"

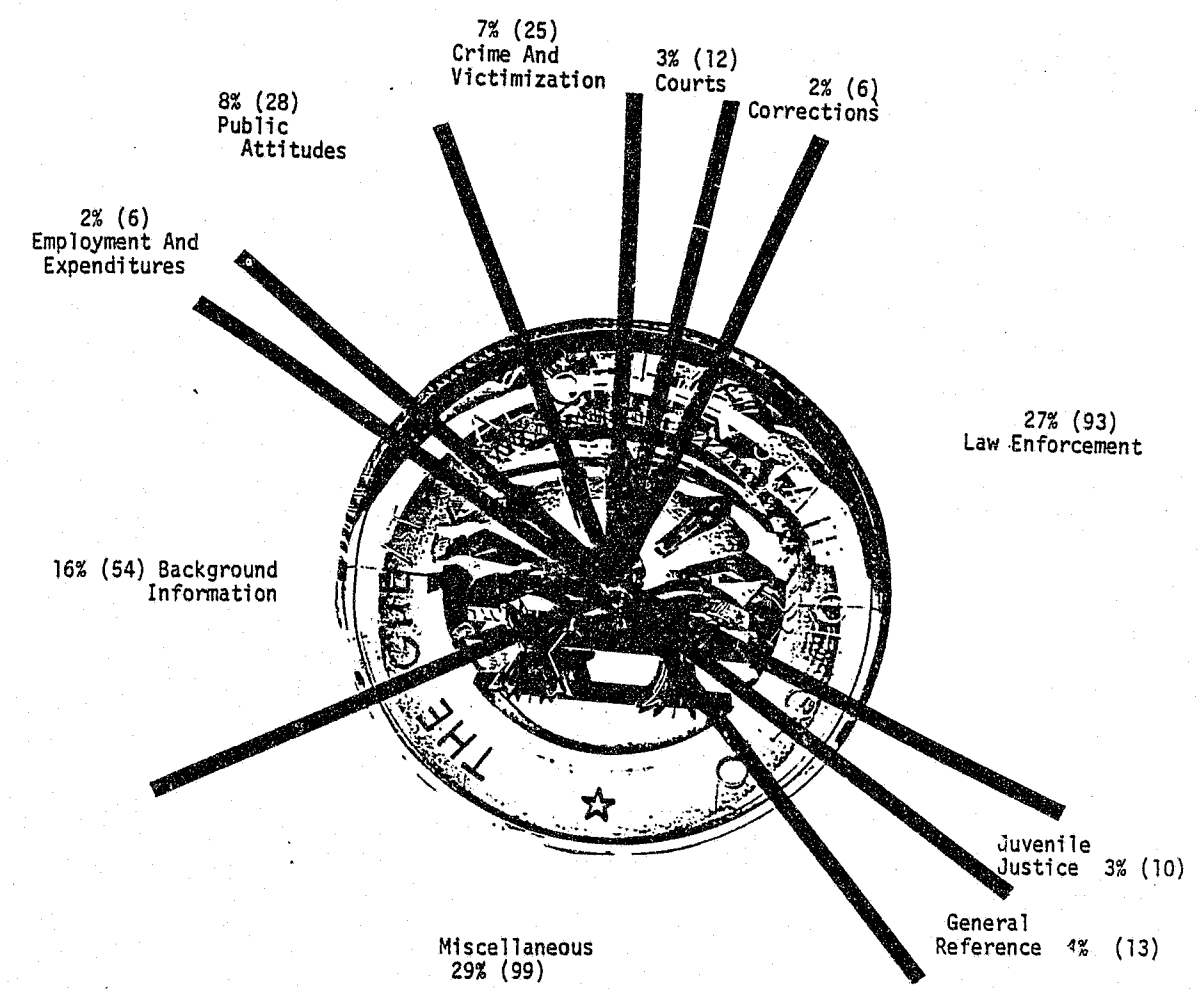
TYPES OF RESEARCH REQUESTS

Without any question the greatest single change in the types of requests came in the law enforcement category. Just as certainly, this change can be attributable to the Task Analysis Study published in October. Law enforcement requests increased 575% over 1981.

Meanwhile, the generic categories of "Miscellaneous" and "Background" were responsible for a solid plurality of the total. This is largely due to the fact that SAC receives many complex requests which cannot be neatly categorized into the designated groups. (See "Definitions/Notes," page 8).

FIGURE 5

TYPES OF RESEARCH REQUESTS



SAC RESEARCH REQUESTS AND RESPONSES:
DEFINITIONS/NOTES

I. Sources of Requests

A. Division of Criminal Justice Services Staff

Does not include other offices in the Department of Development, which are categorized as "Other Public Agencies." Generally, Regional Planning Unit requests will also be reflected under "Other Public Agencies."

B. Elected State Officials

Includes all General Assembly Legislators as well as state-wide at-large offices (e.g. Attorney General, Auditor, Supreme Court Justice, etc.). Does not include Legislative Services Commission, Legislative Reference Bureau or other public offices which only generally serve some of these officials (see "Other Public Agencies"); does include requests from direct staff (e.g., aides, administrative assistants, etc.).

C. Private Non-Profit Groups

Includes agencies or coalitions which are not primarily funded by a segment of government. Also includes state-wide associations (e.g., Buckeye State Sheriffs Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police), even if these are comprised of government representatives.

D. Local Elected Officials

Includes only those serving local governments (i.e., counties, cities, townships, and villages) in Ohio. Does not include state legislators.

E. Other Public Agencies

Includes all public agencies not covered under A-D above.

F. Private Citizens

Generally self-explanatory, but may also include Criminal Justice System participants not adequately covered under the other Source categories (e.g., private attorneys). Also includes students of high school age or younger.

G. Colleges and Universities

Limited to the State of Ohio; also includes requests from the Higher Education Council. Scope covers administrators, professors, and students.

H. Businesses

Generally self-explanatory; includes consultants.

I. Out of State Requests

This category crosscuts all of the others, with the occasional exception of "News Media." Any request from outside of the State of Ohio will be included here. This rigid discrimination is needed to more clearly identify Ohio requests.

J. News Media

Includes all electronic and print media; additionally, national news stories will be included here, although such occurrences are infrequent.

II. Types of Requests

A. Courts

Self-explanatory; includes SAC Prosecutors' Profile report

B. Law Enforcement

Self-explanatory; includes SAC reports relating to 1979 survey as well as Task Analysis study; also includes specific requests for law enforcement agency listings.

C. Corrections

Self-explanatory.

D. Juvenile Justice

Data only; the many in-house requests for data processing are categorized under "Miscellaneous", as are requests for Agency address labels.

E. General Reference

These are limited to the passing along of existing documents or materials, excepting SAC publications. It also may include lists or inventories not specifically mentioned under other categories (does not include the SAC Directory).

NOTE: In cases in which SAC refers the requestor to another person or agency, that communication is not logged as a research request. The log includes only those cases in which a substantive response is made.

F. Miscellaneous

This category covers several types of requests, including:

1. single SAC documents not covered under the other generic categories;
2. requests not covered under any of the other type categories (e.g., data processing, graphics, population projections, etc.);
3. requests which can be classified as single theme and single source.

G. Background Information

The main distinction between this category and "Miscellaneous" is that it involves the provision of more than one type of informational material. This almost always requires some kind of synthesis by the SAC staff. Any complex request is also included herein (e.g., classroom presentations, broad assignments such as complete county demographic profiles or profiles of the marijuana problem in Ohio). Jail capacity requests are included herein.

H. Employment and Expenditures (E.E.)

Includes any information relating to criminal justice personnel levels or budgets, except those cases specifically covered by direct data from one of the other categories (e.g.--law enforcement budget profiles, which are addressed by the 1979 SAC Law Enforcement survey). Given this exception, this category undercuts most of the others in cases which are otherwise ambiguous in terms of type.

I. Public Attitudes

Includes all requests relating to SAC citizen attitude testing and/or National Crime Survey data (excluding victimization).

J. Crime/Victimization

Includes any requests relating to Uniform Crime Report data, state or national victimization data, or specific crime studies. Includes arrest data, but not sentencing data ("Courts").

APPENDIX

DCJS RESEARCH REQUESTS:
SOURCE AND TYPE
BY
MONTH

1978-1982

1978

"SOURCE"
TOTAL

	OCJS	State Elected Officials	Private Non-Profit Groups	Local Elected Officials	Other Public Agencies	Private Citizens	Colleges/ Universities	Businesses	Out-of- State	News Media	
Jan.											
Feb.											
Mar.											
Apr.											
May											
June											
July	1										1
Aug.	4		2		1				1		8
Sept.	2	1								1	4
Oct.	3		1		2				1	1	8
Nov.	1				1			1	1		4
Dec.									3		3
TOTALS	11	1	3	0	4	0	0	1	6	2	28

1979

"SOURCE"
TOTAL

	OCJS	State Elected Officials	Private Non-Profit Groups	Local Elected Officials	Other Public Agencies	Private Citizens	Colleges/ Universities	Businesses	Out-of- State	News Media	
Jan.		1	1	1							
Feb.	1						1			1	4
Mar.	1										2
Apr.	2										1
May	8	1			2						2
June									1		12
July	3	1			2						6
Aug.	8		1		1						11
Sept.	2		3		4	1			1		11
Oct.	7				1		2				10
Nov.	1										1
Dec.	1			1	3						5
TOTALS	34	3	5	2	13	1	3	0	4	0	65

1980

"SOURCE"
TOTAL

	OCJS	State Elected Officials	Private Non-Profit Groups	Local Elected Officials	Other Public Agencies	Private Citizens	Colleges/ Universities	Businesses	Out-of- State	News Media	
Jan.	6				3		1				10
Feb.	7	1	2		1		1		2		14
Mar.	4		1		3			2			10
Apr.	4		1		1		1	1	3		11
May	3				5		1		3		12
June	3	1	4	1	8	1	1		8	4	31
July	1	5	4	2	3	4	2		1	6	28
Aug.	3	2	1		7				2		15
Sept.	2	1		4	10		4		3		24
Oct.	2	1	1		6		7		32	5	54
Nov.					3	2	1				6
Dec.	2		2		4		1				9
TOTALS	37	11	16	7	54	7	20	3	54	15	224

1981

"SOURCE"
TOTAL

	OCJS	State Elected Officials	Private Non-Profit Groups	Local Elected Officials	Other Public Agencies	Private Citizens	Colleges/ Universities	Businesses	Out-of- State	News Media	
	2	2		3	11		2			2	22
	3	4			1	2	1		1	1	13
	3		3		2	3	2	3	1	1	18
	5	1	1		4	2	6	2	3	3	27
	1	2	3	1	10	3	4	1	35	3	63
	2				3		2		5	5	17
	5		4		7			2	3	3	24
	3	1	7		7	2	2		2	9	33
	5	1	7	1	10	7	6	1			38
	5		2	1	5	1	1		3		18
	6		1	2	3	1	1		1		15
	6		3	1	4		2	3	1		20
TOTALS	46	11	31	9	67	21	29	12	55	27	308

1982

	OCJS	State Elected Officials	Private Non-Profit Groups	Local Elected Officials	Other Public Agencies	Private Citizens	Colleges/ Universities	Businesses	Out-of- State	News Media	"SOURCE" TOTAL
Jan.	2		3		3	1	4		1	1	15
Feb.	2	2	1		4		3		5		17
Mar.	10	2	1		5	1	5		7		31
Apr.	6	4	5		22	2	8	2	3	3	55
May	6	1	4		15		8	1			35
June	4		1		14		10	3	5	2	39
July	2				10		1	2			15
Aug.	2				11		4	2	1		20
Sept.	4				10	1		2	3	1	21
Oct.	2		1		15	1	21	1	1	1	43
Nov.	1				8		1		4	7	21
Dec.	1	1			23	1	1		3	4	34
TOTALS	42	10	16		140	7	66	13	33	19	346

1978

	Courts	Law Enforcement	Corrections	Juv. Jus.	General Reference	Misc.	Background Information	Employment and Expenditures	Public Attitudes	Crime & Victimization	TYPE TOTAL
Jan.											
Feb.											
Mar.											
Apr.											
May											
June											
July				1							1
Aug.				7				1			8
Sept.						2				2	4
Oct.				4		2		1		1	8
Nov.			1	2						1	4
Dec.	1						2				3
TOTALS	1	0	1	14	0	4	2	2	0	4	28

1979

Courts	Law Enforcement	Corrections	Juv. Jus.	General Reference	Misc.	Background Information	Employment and Expenditures	Public Attitudes	Crime & Victimization	TYPE TOTAL
			1	1		2				4
		2								2
					1					1
		2								2
1	2	2	2		4			1		12
			2		1	1			2	6
		1	6	2		1	1			11
1			7	1					2	11
			5		2	1			2	10
					1					1
			3			1		1		5
2	2	7	26	4	9	6	1	2	6	65

1980

	Courts	Law Enforcement	Corrections	Juv. Jus.	General Reference	Misc.	Background Information	Employment and Expenditures	Public Attitudes	Crime & Victimization	TYPE TOTAL
Jan.		2	1	3		1			3		10
Feb.		5	1	3	1		2		1	1	14
Mar.				1		2	5		1	1	10
Apr.	1			2		1	4			3	11
May	1		2	3			2	1		3	12
June		2		1		2			24	2	31
July		10	2	2			1		13		28
Aug.		1			1		3		10		15
Sept.	1	5	2	1		4	3	1	5	2	24
Oct.	7	11				1	5	18	11	1	54
Nov.		1	2							3	6
Dec.	1	1		5				1		1	9
TOTALS	11	38	10	21	2	11	25	21	68	17	224

1982

Courts	Law Enforcement	Corrections	Juv. Jus.	General Reference	Misc.	Background Information	Employment and Expenditures	Public Attitudes	Crime & Victimization	TYPE TOTAL
	1			2	4		2	2	4	15
	2	1		1	1	4	1	4	3	17
2	3	1	2	4	5	7	1	1	5	31
3	3	2	1	1	26	13		3	3	55
1	4	1	2	1	9	12	2	1	2	35
2	4	1	1	3	20	8				39
1				1	9	2		1	1	15
2	5		2		7	1			3	20
	6		1		10	1		1	2	21
	34		1		1	5		2		43
	13							8		21
1	18				7	1		5	2	34
12	93	6	10	13	99	54	6	28	25	346

1981

Courts	Law Enforcement	Corrections	Juv. Jus.	General Reference	Misc.	Background Information	Employment and Expenditures	Public Attitudes	Crime & Victimization	TYPE TOTAL
6	1	1			3	5	1	4	1	22
2				4	4			2	1	13
3	1	1	1	3	1	4	1	1	2	18
				2	7	5	2	2	9	27
2	9	1	1	1	13	7	2	5	22	63
	1		1	3	1	5	1	3	2	17
1	1		2	1	5	7		4	3	24
2		2	2		4	12	1	9	1	33
1	1	2			8	17		6	3	38
		1			3	3	1	8	2	18
1		1			4	2		4	3	15
2	1	2		1	6	4		3	1	20
20	15	11	7	15	59	71	9	51	50	308

OTHER SAC PUBLICATIONS

January 1983 Law Enforcement In Ohio Cities Serving Over 100,000 People: A Task Analysis: Focusing on Ohio police departments serving metropolitan populations in excess of 100,000, this report highlights the frequency of task performance, equipment usage, physical activities, as well as other facets of the peace officer's job. Also included are supervisors' assessments of importance and learning difficulty.

November 1982 Survey of Ohio Citizen Attitudes Concerning Crime and Criminal Justice: the third annual report of this series, this study focusing on attitudes toward law enforcement officers, public crime-fear levels, handgun ownership, and the informational resources which mold public opinion in this area.

October 1982 Peace Officers Task Analysis Study: The Ohio Report: a two-and-one-half year study involving a survey of 3,155 Ohio peace officers in some 400 law enforcement agencies concerning the types of investigation, equipment, informational resources, tasks and physical activities associated with law enforcement in Ohio.

May 1982 OCJS Research Requests and Responses: An Analysis: An analysis of 308 research data requests received and responded to by SAC in 1981, as well as the 625 total requests received to date, by type and source of request.

April 1982 Fact and Fiction Concerning Crime and Criminal Justice in Ohio (1979-1982 data). A look at twenty-five popularly-believed myths about crime and criminal justice in the State, accompanied by appropriate factual data.

July 1981 Ohio Citizen Attitudes: Concerning Crime and Criminal Justice (Report #2, 1980 data). The second in a series of reports concerning Ohioans' attitudes and opinions about contemporary issues affecting law enforcement, courts, corrections, juvenile justice, crime prevention, and criminal law.

June 1981 A Stability Profile of Ohio Law Enforcement Trainees: 1974-1979 (1981 records). A brief analysis of some 125 Ohio Law Enforcement Officers who completed mandated training between 1974 and 1979. The randomly selected group was analyzed in terms of turnover, advancement, and moves to other law enforcement agencies.

May 1981 A Directory of Ohio Criminal Justice Agencies (1981 data). An inventory of several thousand criminal justice (and related) agencies in Ohio, by type and county.

April 1981 Property Crime Victimization: The Ohio Experience (1978 data). A profile of property crime in Ohio highlighting the characteristics of victims, offenders, and the crimes themselves; based on results of the annual National Crime Survey victimization studies in Ohio.

March 1981 Profiles in Ohio Law Enforcement: Technical Assistance, Budgets, and Benefits (1979 data). The second report emanating from the 1979 SAC survey of 82 sheriff's departments and 182 police departments in Ohio; discusses technical assistance needs and capabilities among these agencies, as well as budgets and fringe benefits.

December 1980 The Need for Criminal Justice Research: OCJS Requests and Responses (1978-1980). An analysis of some 300 research requests received and responded to by the OCJS SAC Unit between 1978 and 1980, by type, request source and time of response.

September 1980 State of the States Report: Statistical Analysis Centers (Emphasis Ohio) (1980 data). An analysis of the criminal justice statistical analysis centers located in virtually every state and several territories.

September 1980 Survey of Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys: Report (1979 data). An operational overview of 46 county prosecutors' offices.

September 1980 In Support of Criminal Justice: Money and Manpower (1977 data). Analysis of employment and expenditures within Ohio's criminal justice system, by type of component (police, courts, corrections, etc.) and type of jurisdiction (county, city, township, and state).

June 1980 Concerning Crime and Criminal Justice: Attitudes Among Ohio's Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (1979 data). Opinions and attitudes of 82 Ohio sheriffs and 182 chiefs of police, analyzed by jurisdictional size.

May 1980 Ohio Citizen Attitudes: A Survey of Public Opinion on Crime and Criminal Justice (1979 data). An analysis of public opinion and attitudes on a wide range of issues concerning law enforcement, courts, corrections, juvenile justice, crime prevention and other areas of crime and criminal justice.

END