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Source: All Sources : News : News Group File, Beyond Two Years
Terms: date is 1993 and statistics w/4 gun violence and national and united states or america (Edit Search)

USA TODAY, December 29, 1993

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USA TODAY

December 29, 1993, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6A

LENGTH: 507 words

HEADLINE: USA in its own league when it comes to firearms

BYLINE: Bruce Frankel

BODY:

Gun violence is a uniquely American problem.

In 1990, handguns killed only 22 people in Great Britain, 68 in Canada, 87 in Japan. In the USA: 10,567.

Handgun laws are much more stringent elsewhere - from Britain, where gun owners must store guns at clubs, to Japan, where ownership is prohibited except as antiques.

"The United States has a violence problem like no other industrialized nation," says Franklin Zimring, director of the Earl Warren Legal Institute.

"People in Europe can't believe the American propensity to own guns," says Frederick Rivara, director of the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center in Seattle.

Recent studies of homicide and suicide in two cities, Seattle and Vancouver, show that despite being only 160 miles apart, and similar in population, Seattle residents were six times as likely to be homicide victims as the Canadians.

As in most other industrialized nations, handgun ownership is heavily restricted in Canada. After World War II, U.S. forces quickly removed the right to bear arms in Germany and Japan, laws which remained in force.

As for the USA, many cite frontier history: "Guns are what won the West," says Professor Don Nance of Wichita State University. "It became part of how men define themselves."

Claptrap, others say. "The reason is obvious. They don't have guns and we do," says Stanford University law professor Lawrence Friedman. "Does anyone really think we have a lot of killing in Boston because Wyatt Earp was once running around?"

Zimring says the relationship between the tripling of gun ownership in the 1960s and a subsequent doubling in homicides "is as coincidental as the relationship between cigarettes and cancer."

But David Kopel of the Independence Institute, a Denver think tank, says the overall gun death rate

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is skewed by a disproportionately high rate for black Americans.

"The strongest explanation for that are two destructive American policies: 300 years of slavery and racial oppression, and the savage prosecution of the so-called drug war," Kopel says. Prohibition-like turf battles among "young people swept into the illegal sales of drugs" are responsible for 50% of all urban homicide, he says.

Even without black killings, however, the thousands of white shootings would still dwarf other nations.

No one really knows why Americans are so much more violent, says Mark Rosenberg of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The promotion of violence within our culture as a way to solve problems" may best explain the American penchant for firearm mayhem, he says.

USA leads in male slayings

The homicide rate of young males in the USA is alarmingly higher than in other industrialized nations. Homicides per 100,000 population for males age 15-24 for 1988-1991:

USA	37.2
Italy	4.3
Israel	3.7
Sweden	1.5
Germany	1.1
France	.9
Canada	.9
United Kingdom	.6
Japan	.5

GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC, color, Nick Galifianakis, USA TODAY, Source: **National** Center for Health Statistics, World Health Organization (Bar graph)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The New York Times, November 23, 1993

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November 23, 1993, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section B; Page 9; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 1176 words

HEADLINE: Much Ado, Little Done

BYLINE: By CLIFFORD KRAUSS, Special to The New York Times

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Nov. 22

BODY:

For seven long years, Congressional supporters of a waiting period for the purchase of handguns blamed the lawmakers who were blocking the measure for the deaths of tens of thousands of people.

But if the history of gun control and the views of law-enforcement officials are any measure, the chances are that any results from the legislation establishing the waiting period will be far less dramatic than the bitter legislative debate suggested. Indeed, the main impact may very well be a symbolic one.

Considering that the measure does nothing about the more than 70 million pistols already in the hands of Americans, its final passage would not suddenly take guns from muggers or put to rest the public's fears that finally pushed the bill through Congress.

Results in the States

In the 22 states that already have such waiting periods, there has been no sign of their having any impact on overall crime. In California, for example, in the five years since a 15-day waiting period went into effect, violent crime has risen by more than 20 percent and the state's murder rate is still 25 percent higher than the national average.

On the other hand, in states that require would-be gun buyers to undergo background checks, like those in the Federal legislation, the requirement did halt sales to a few criminals and led to some arrests. In Delaware, for instance, a gun-control law similar to the one in Congress, the Brady bill, halted 1,271 gun purchases in the last two years (Nov. 22 -- For seven long years; 140 of the people who were stopped from buying a gun were wanted felons, including 104 who were later apprehended.

In Oregon, police recently convicted a felon who had previously been imprisoned on kidnapping charges for illegally buying a firearm after he failed to pass a gun check.

And if nothing else, the experience of states suggests that the waiting period to buy a gun gives a chance to let passions cool: an enraged spouse, a troubled person contemplating suicide in a moment of anguish, a dismissed employee angry at his boss,

An 'Effective Tool'

"The legislation will not by itself solve the problem of handgun violence," Dewey R. Stokes, president of the Fraternal Order of Police, said in recent testimony to a Congressional subcommittee. "What it will do, however, is give the law-enforcement community a very valuable and effective tool to deter the purchase of a handgun by someone who is not qualified to possess one."

The fever pitch of the Congressional debate had less to do with the bill's actual provisions than its symbolic weight. The gun lobby warned for years that the Brady bill was a stalking horse for stronger gun control. Many of the measure's proponents certainly hope that is true.

It would be the first time Congress has changed the rules on the way Americans can buy guns since it banned the mail-order sale of rifles in 1968 after the assassinations of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Whatever the virtues of that 1968 law, killings with rifles have increased along with other kinds of violence over the years.

Components of Bill

Symbolism aside, the Brady bill will slow legal gun sales. The version that emerged from a House-Senate conference committee today includes a mandatory waiting period of five business days to buy a handgun, to let law-enforcement officials check prospective buyers for records of criminal activities or mental instability.

It will also authorize grants of at least \$200 million for states to update their criminal records. And after four or five years, the waiting period will be replaced by an instant computer check of buyers, unless Congressional proponents of a waiting period can show that it is truly useful and then pass an extension.

The gun lobby argues that whatever few crimes are prevented with guns, limiting gun ownership is not worth the blow to citizens' Second Amendment rights to bear arms and protect themselves.

More than 9,000 people are killed each year and 15,000 are wounded by criminals with guns, according to the Justice Department. Those figures could easily rise with or without gun control, law-enforcement officials and sociologists say, because advancing rates of broken families and illegitimacy means the size of the population most likely to commit crimes is growing.

In addition, 10,000 handgun deaths occur each year as a result of suicide or accident.

Neither the Brady bill, nor the \$23 billion anti-crime package that also passed the Senate last week, addresses those underlying problems.

Opponents of the measure also note that criminals will always be able to buy weapons illegally, and that they can easily circumvent computer checks by producing fake identification.

No Link in **Statistics**

Indeed, a survey of the Bureau of Justice **Statistics** shows that only 27 percent of state prisoners who admit to having possessed handguns said they bought them at stores. And according to the **National Crime** Information Center, 207,481 firearms, including 141,846 handguns, were stolen in 1991 -- a problem that the Brady bill barely addresses.

"There has never been a study which has found any statistically noticeable reduction in gun crime

associated with a waiting period," said David B. Kopel, an analyst at the Cato Institute, a libertarian research organization based in Washington. "Can anyone seriously believe that people who sell cocaine by the pound will not know where to obtain an illegal handgun? That a waiting period on guns will succeed where a complete prohibition on drugs has failed?"

Still, the experiences of the 22 states that have waiting periods suggest they do some good. According to the California Department of Justice, the state's waiting period and background check stopped felons from buying firearms 2,500 times last year; among them were people who had committed 37 homicides, 102 sex crimes and seven kidnappings.

Provisions of Crime Bill

The Brady bill finally passed this year because of voter outrage over crime, as expressed in the fall campaigns in New York City, New Jersey and Virginia. States around the country are tightening gun restrictions, because law-enforcement authorities and citizens are anguished over the increase in handgun-related murders by almost 60 percent in the last five years.

The Brady bill will be reinforced by a provision in the anti-crime package moving through Congress that bans the purchase of handguns by minors and even the giving of handguns to them. Another provision would ban the manufacture of 19 military-style assault weapons; the importing of such weapons is already against the law. But the ban on manufacture, which is in the Senate version of the bill, faces an uphill fight in the House and will probably be stricken in a Senate-House conference.

But if the legislative history of the Brady bill is at all instructive, if violent crime continues to rise, the ban of making assault rifles and other gun-control measures are sure to pass Congress before too long.

GRAPHIC: Photo: "I'm optimistic we'll be able to move forward. Am I certain? No," said Senator Howard M. Metzenbaum, a proponent of the Brady bill. At a news conference, he showed a reporter a tie given by a granddaughter. (Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

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THE PHOENIX GAZETTE, October 21, 1993

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THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

October 21, 1993 Thursday, Final

SECTION: Front; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 1535 words

HEADLINE: THERE IS NO CRIME WAVE; EVEN MURDERS ARE DOWN ;
BUT TEENS, GUNS INVOLVED IN MORE ATTACKS

BYLINE: By Gary Blonston, Knight-Ridder Tribune News Service

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Crime haunts the mind of **America** these days.

Stories of criminal mayhem fill the evening news. Crime sets the agenda for state and local politics from Florida to California. Polls regularly rank crime alongside the economy and health care as one of the nation's most pressing concerns.

The president promises federal action; the first lady says the fight on crime will be her next big issue. It is as though the country were confronting a devastating new wave of theft and violence.

It isn't. There is no new **national crime** wave.

Whatever the impressions left by tourist killings in Miami, "carjacking" deaths in the capital, drive-by murders in Los Angeles and gang warfare in Wichita, the most reliable **national crime** figures available indicate that serious crime across the country has occurred much less frequently since the record-setting years of the early 1980s.

Unquestionably, in the most beleaguered pockets of poor, mostly black, urban **America, the statistics** bear out the country's concerns. Crime is increasingly more assaultive. It is more likely to involve guns. It is more likely to involve teenagers. It is more likely to involve drugs.

But even in the cities, only some categories of violent crime have gone up. The homicide rate, for instance, the country's most watched, most accurate single crime **statistic**, was down last year from the year before. The homicide record has stood since 1980.

Perhaps most surprising of all is the dramatic drop in property crimes, especially in the nation's suburbs. There, the likelihood of a home being burglarized fell to half the rate of 20 years ago - from 88 cases per 1,000 homes in 1973 to just 44 in 1991, the most recent year surveyed.

Overall, in 1981, the U.S. Bureau of Justice **Statistics** counted 41.2 million crimes. In 1991, that figure was down to 34.4 million, third lowest in the past two decades.

National crime reports lag a year or two behind events and fall far short of noting every crime. And local situations, good and bad, can depart dramatically from the national average. But experts in the field don't expect 1993 to vary much from the trends reported over the past few years by the Bureau of Justice **Statistics**.

The bureau asks a huge sample of Americans - 99,000 the last time around - what crimes they experienced in the previous year and then makes **national crime** projections for urban, suburban and non-urban areas. Its findings are considered more reliable than **statistics** compiled by the FBI from local police reports, because not all crimes are reported to local police and not all police keep records the same way.

The bureau's surveys are unarguable in their most consistent finding: that the **United States** encompasses two distinct worlds of crime. One of them is middle-class, mostly suburban and relatively safe despite its residents' fears; the other is poor, mostly urban and extremely dangerous despite the best efforts of its law-abiding citizens.

In the words of James Lynch, an American University demographer and crime specialist: "The people who are most anxious are the ones least at risk. Of course, for those places where things are bad, they ARE bad."

But "it always amazes me that people think there's a crime wave. There just isn't," Lynch said.

The reason for the massive outbreak of concern over the last few years is readily apparent: The country has been bombarded by crime news.

Local TV news broadcasters seeking larger audiences increasingly rely on relentless crime coverage, and a nation full of video cameras has provided them some stunning images to display.

Candidates for mayor and governor from Houston and Seattle to New Jersey and Virginia have turned up the emotional rhetoric on crime issues, and wherever people gather, conversation often turns to the latest episode of crime in the school, the shopping center, the house down the street.

Perhaps most powerful of all, a few nationally publicized incidents in the past two years have intensified a largely unspoken but common fear among people outside the most dangerous inner-city neighborhoods.

It is the fear that criminal violence will break out of its traditional boundaries, intruding on safe streets, reaching into the middle-class neighborhoods of city and suburb, following the people, black and white, who have fled or avoided central cities to get away from crime.

Nothing could have fed that fear more vividly than the sequence of attacks on tourists in Florida this year, in which most of the victims were white and most of the accused assailants African-American.

Or the shooting of Michael Jordan's father on a rural North Carolina road.

Or the fate of a suburban Washington woman, entangled in her seat belt when pushed from her carjacked automobile, then dragged to her death during the car thieves' escape.

Or the endlessly replayed video image of white truck driver Reginald Denny being attacked by young black men in the midst of last year's Los Angeles riot. (The other famous LA crime video - of white police beating black motorist Rodney King - dramatized why racial fear also resides in the black community.)

But all those grisly events made news precisely because they don't represent either the character or the frequency of most crime.

More than half of all violent crimes, the Justice figures say, are simple assaults - unarmed encounters between people who, in nearly half the cases, know each other.

Robbery accounts for less than 20 percent of violent crime, rape for only 2.7 percent, murder for just 0.4 percent.

And as it has for decades, crime remains mostly within the same old boundaries of geography and race. While occasional episodes of suburban carjacking, drive-by shootings and home invasions might suggest that urban crime is spreading dramatically beyond its borders, that perception isn't born out by the record.

Seventy-five percent of white crime victims, now as in 1973, say their assailant was white; 85 percent of African-American victims, now as in 1973, say their assailant was black; and crime, as always, is concentrated in poor, urban neighborhoods.

Scholars of crime see two big reasons criminals prey mostly on people of their own race. The first is proximity.

The other has to do specifically with black-on-black crime. As University of Pennsylvania sociologist Elijah Anderson says, many African-Americans have long believed that "if you hurt a person in the black community, not much will be done about it," but committing crime against whites can bring major police investigations and stern punishments.

There is another compelling reason crime in the suburbs is down. It is because the number of young people in **America** is down, and young people commit most crimes. Whatever the explanation - hormones, youthful irresponsibility, peer pressure, boredom - the modern history of crime is mostly a story of people in their late teens and 20s.

That made it easy for demographers to look at the baby boom generation and predict an increase in crime in the years around 1980 as the bulk of that huge generation became young adults.

That's what happened. As the 15- to 24-year-old population grew to almost 20 percent of all Americans, crime rates reached their highest levels ever. In the later 1980s, as their numbers fell to 15 percent of the total, every category of crime dropped, from murder to break-ins.

In those same eventful years, an unprecedented number of criminals were going to prison. From 1980 to 1993, the population in state and federal prisons rose from 330,000 to 925,000. Including city and county jail inmates, more than 1 million Americans are behind bars.

At the same time, homeowners were locking themselves inside houses with alarm systems and security. Neighborhoods formed "watch" organizations and suburban police departments grew in size and sophistication.

All those fearful responses had their effect in keeping crime away, but the experience of the past two decades has shown that most people in **America** won't feel safe until the cities seem safe, and that is the opposite of what has been happening.

For a few years, the drop in the numbers of young people brought a decline in crime in urban **America** as well, bottoming out in 1986 when the cities experienced their lowest crime levels since the early 1970s.

But in the 1990s, while rates for nonviolent crimes - theft, burglary and the like - have stayed low, crimes against people have not.

In just the two years from 1989 to 1991, the statistical chance of an average city resident being a victim of violence rose 14 percent.

Violence has reignited despite a lower population of young adults, a sharp rise in the prison population and anti-drug crusades, despite neighborhood watches, candlelight marches, street-corner mentoring projects and all-night basketball leagues.

And especially in the most publicized episodes of brutal crime - child homicides, random shootings, casual executions - the heartlessness in the violence suggests a small but growing population of young criminals with little concern for human life.

GRAPHIC: Chart by THE PHOENIX GAZETTE (See microfilm); U.S. crime down overall, up in inner cities

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USA TODAY, October 18, 1993

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USA TODAY

October 18, 1993, Monday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: MONEY; Pg. 3B**LENGTH:** 725 words**HEADLINE:** Survey: Homicides at work on the rise**BYLINE:** Julia Lawlor**BODY:**

Workplace homicide is the fastest-growing type of murder in the USA. A growing number of workers are victims of violence and harassment on the job, and experts say the trend shows no sign of reversing.

"We like to think the workplace is safe," says Peggy Lawless, research project director for Northwestern National Life. Her company releases the survey, "Fear and Violence in the Workplace," today. "The reality is that violence in **America** is spilling out of the back streets and into the workplace."

A survey of 600 workers found one in four was attacked, threatened or harassed on the job the past year. One in six of those attacks was with a lethal weapon.

"There's enormous rage being directed at the American workplace now," says Mark Braverman, president of Crisis Management Group in Boston. Five years ago, 60% of calls were from companies traumatized by deaths resulting from accidents or natural causes. Just 40% of calls were prompted by violence. Now, 80% of the calls to his firm are related to violence.

What's making the job a more dangerous place? Experts say many factors - economic, social and psychological - boost office violence:

- Corporate downsizing. In the Northwestern survey, 44% of workers said their companies had cut jobs the past year, up from 37% in 1991. "More and more ex-employees are angry, and are taking out their anger in a violent way," says James Fox, dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University in Boston. Fox says about two dozen employees kill their supervisors each year. It was about one a month in the late '70s, and is up to two a month since the late '80s. "The typical profile . . . is a middle-age man who fears losing his job and feels there are no other options."

- Job stress. Lawless attributes the hostility to higher stress at work and more competition among workers for fewer jobs. Thirty-seven percent of workers surveyed said they expected to burn out on the job in the next two years, unchanged from 1991. Highly stressed workers experience twice the rate of violence and harassment as less stressed employees, Lawless says.

- Substance abuse and availability of guns. Alcohol and drug abuse were listed as the top social causes of violence - 59% listed it as a major cause, topping layoffs or poverty. To a lesser extent, workers blamed guns and violence on TV and in the movies.

Though violence by disgruntled ex-workers tends to grab the headlines, it's not the most prevalent kind, the survey reports. Attacks by customers or clients made up 44%. Twenty percent of attackers were co-workers, 24% were strangers, 7% were bosses. Only 3% came from former workers.

Bosses and co-workers are more likely to be harassers. An attack is more likely to be the work of a customer, client or patient, the survey found.

And, says Braverman: "For every homicide, there are a dozen suicides." Eighteen months ago, Braverman responded to a call from a manufacturing company where a plant manager had committed suicide in his office, in full view of his subordinates.

Even when the warning signs are clear, it is often difficult for companies to combat the growing hostile workplace environment. Six months ago, Braverman was called in to advise a government agency on what to do about a former worker who was stalking a female employee. Eventually, unable to take action against the stalker, the woman and her family were transferred to another location to ensure her safety. "The workplace," says Braverman, "is no longer secure."

Contributing: Ellen Neuborne

Violence reaches into the workplace

Workplace homicide is the fastest-growing form of murder in the USA and is the leading cause of workplace death for women.

Of all workplace deaths for each gender, the percentage that are homicides:

Females	41%
Males	10%

Motivation of workplace attackers, as described by victims:

Irrational behavior	26%
Dissatisfied with service	19%
Interpersonal conflict	15%
Upset at being disciplined	12%
Criminal behavior	10%
Personal problems	8%
Firing or layoff	2%
Prejudice	1%
Unknown	7%

GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC, b/w, Bob Laird, USA TODAY, Source: Northwestern National Life Insurance; National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (Bar graph; Pie chart)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

surrounding them.

One, 16 when he and friends killed a Palm Beach County woman in a carjacking attempt, wrote a rap song about it.

Cassie Holness' song, written in precise letters on two sheets of lined loose-leaf paper, describes the death of Mary VanDyke of Lake Park. He calls it "No Holds Barred." Among the lyrics:

No intent to kill just slight intent to drive

Told her to turn the keys over so then she'd stay alive

But every cracker wants to be a hero

.38 in her head now she's a f-----g zero

Holness, now 18, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and just began a 45-year prison sentence. He could have received the death penalty, but VanDyke's mother, Helen Wilson, agreed to a plea bargain if she could meet her daughter's killer.

"I wanted him to face me. I wanted him to understand he did not take just one person's life that night. He took a whole family, a whole group of people who loved her, knew her," said Wilson, of North Palm Beach.

They met three months ago, on the day Holness was sentenced.

Despite the guilty plea, despite the rap song with details of the killing, despite the death weapon found in his possession, Holness maintains he is innocent.

"I know I didn't do it," Holness said on Friday at the South Florida Reception Center, a prison near Homestead. He said he was in the group that confronted VanDyke, but insisted he did not shoot her. He said he wrote the rhyme months earlier and took the blame for his friends.

Facing a capital murder charge, Holness said he agreed to plead guilty to the lesser charge because "I had no choice. ... They wanted to give me the chair."

Deaths like Mary VanDyke's happen daily in **America**. Violent juvenile **crime** has become a **national** crisis and few people seem to have any idea how to stop it. They only know it's likely to get worse.

"The bad news is this is a growing problem," said James Alan Fox, dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University in Boston and an expert on youth violence.

"But the really bad news is this is nothing compared to what will happen over the next 10 years as the adolescent population increases."

Today's increase in youth violence is so distressing because it came when the number of teen-agers was actually down.

"Here you have a generation of youths that is much smaller in number than its predecessors," Fox said. "Yet they commit murder at unprecedented rates."

U.S. Justice Department figures show that 1,297 juveniles were arrested for murder or manslaughter in 1986. By 1991, the most recent year available, the number nearly doubled to 2,465.

When adjusted for changes in population, the rate of arrest was 18.4 per million juveniles in 1986, jumping to 34 per million juveniles in 1991.

- Psychologists and psychiatrists, academics, juvenile court judges and police say there are any number of causes for teen violence.

But there are fewer explanations of how teens can kill so casually. The main reason, they say, is easy access to weapons.

"There are a lot of guns out there, and people are using them," said Jeanne Howard of the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office.

But how are these children able to shoot and kill, seemingly without thinking of the consequences?

"For some people, it's just the excitement and the curiosity. For others, it's the power. They can do it, so they do," said Stephen Alexander, formerly the chief psychologist for Palm Beach County juvenile courts.

"And of course these children have limited to no capacity to empathize with another person," he said. "This (victim) might have a family, enjoyments, a life. But that never occurs to the kid."

Mohammed Khan, manager of a Texaco station on West Sunrise Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale, faced those circumstances a couple of weeks ago.

A 13-year-old boy nicknamed "Smokey" walked into the gas station, waved the razor-sharp blade of a box cutter and reached for the cash register, Khan said.

"He didn't care what I did," Khan said. "He wasn't scared of me. I was scared, though. He kept swinging that cutter back and forth in front of me while he grabbed the cash."

A week earlier, the same boy slapped one of Khan's employees. The armed robbery wasn't the first time Khan had called the police about Smokey. It was closer to the 20th.

Even the law doesn't scare some violent children. Patrick Brown is on trial on charges of killing Broward Sheriff's Office Deputy Patrick Behan on a dare in a Pembroke Park convenience store parking lot late one night in 1990. He was 15 at the time.

"What I can tell you from my own experiences and from every report that comes in here is there doesn't seem to be any remorse or even any recognition that they've done anything wrong," said Sgt. Phil Amabile, head of the Sheriff's Office's major crimes unit.

Sometimes, that can stem from the root causes of teen crime: parents who aren't there or don't care, poverty, drugs, an unstable home life, repeated exposure to violence. But sometimes it can reflect the realities of crime and punishment in South Florida.

Teen-agers quickly learn that they face only the lightest of penalties for their deeds. Of more than 11,000 juvenile cases in Broward County in 1992, only 450 were referred to the adult courts, where penalties can be stiffer.

Susan Aramony, who heads the juvenile division for the Broward State Attorney's Office, said all felonies involving suspects 16 and older are reviewed to see whether they can be transferred to adult courts.

But prosecutors can't send younger defendants directly to adult courts, no matter what they've done. A grand jury must indict them as adults, something that happens only rarely.

"It's tough," Aramony said. "You're very limited by the law."

Chaffe Suarez, the 13-year-old accused of shooting the Miami homeless man over a pizza slice, was indicted as an adult by a Dade grand jury for first-degree murder. He could face death.

Seymour Gelber, Miami Beach mayor and former Dade juvenile court judge, thinks Florida must overhaul its juvenile justice system. "The children have outgrown the system," he said.

Gelber suggests sending youths older than 14 to adult courts for tougher punishment and for programs to meet their needs.

"The programs we have now are all too short and they have inadequate follow-up," he said. "The kids make adjustments to the programs, do fine for six months and then are co-opted back to their old way of life."

Tim Moore, commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, offers similar suggestions. He would put any child under 18 in jail for five days if he or she were in possession of a handgun. Repeat offenders, children with dozens of arrests and no hints of rehabilitation, would be put in prison.

State Sen. Betty Holzendorf, D-Jacksonville, wants Florida to build a prison for the worst juvenile offenders and provide more money for programs for children at risk of entering a life of crime.

Finding money is tough, particularly because many taxpayers don't think the programs work.

"People don't want to think about programs," Gelber said. "They just want to get these kids off the streets. They have no confidence the system will produce, even if they provide programs."

Sometimes, Gelber said, he feels the same way.

Even the psychologists and psychiatrists say solutions must be considered long-term. There are no quick fixes because the causes of teen violence run deep in American society.

Violent youths often come from violent families and violent communities, said Joel Zrull of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Swelling poverty rates and the decline of the traditional two-parent family also contribute.

In Broward and Palm Beach counties, almost 30 percent of families were led by single parents in 1990, up from 20 percent 10 years earlier. And while less than half the Broward moms with children under 6 worked in 1980, nearly two-thirds were part of the work force in 1990.

Sometimes, parents are not there at all - abandoning children with grandparents or doing time in jail themselves for drugs or other crimes.

Without elders around, the children's peers become their support groups. Street life, TV and movies provide role models. "A lot of boys don't have a strong male role model in their lives except for The Terminator," said Fox, of Northeastern University. "They come home to neighborhoods with very few adults around and turn on TV and see Hard Copy re-enact a murder as if it's entertainment."

Sgt. George "Chip" Matherson, who heads the Broward Sheriff's Office gang unit, said violence is "in-bred into this generation."

"Look at the influences on them - the media, television, their music. It's about killing cops and killing people and getting guns," he said. "It's a part of their culture."

Few adults can understand it.

"We're focused on tomorrow, looking at whatever future we have left," Fox said. "But kids don't look at the future. They look at today and don't worry about the consequences. You want a leather jacket? Kill for it. You need sneakers? Kill for them."

Many of these kids could be beyond help, Zrull said: "We've created a generation of children programmed to be explosive when they reach adolescence. If you don't give a child the support he needs now, and if you didn't give it to him early on, he's a ticking time bomb."

Violent children, said Miami police officer David Magnusson, become violent adults.

"Kids doing this kind of crime when they're 12, 13, 15 years old have a criminal mindset," he said. "That won't change when they turn 18. They'll be adults with criminal minds."

Juvenile delinquency has reached a critical level in Florida. During the next months, the Sun-Sentinel will take a close look at juvenile crime and the juvenile justice system.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOS 2, Staff photo/JOE RAEDLE.; Public defender Mike Ryan talks to a youth before a juvenile court session in Fort Lauderdale. Of more than 11,000 juvenile cases in Broward in 1992, 450 went to adult courts.; Holness.; Staff graphics/DEAN WEINLAUB.; (color) Juvenile crime breakdown.; (color) Kid crime in South Florida.

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The New York Times, October 3, 1993

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The New York Times

October 3, 1993, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 42; Column 1; Metropolitan Desk

LENGTH: 441 words

HEADLINE: Crime Down in '92 in New York and Nationwide

BYLINE: By PETER MARKS

BODY:

The number of crimes reported in New York State dropped by 6 percent last year, a trend mirrored in a nationwide decline in crime in 1992, state and Federal officials said yesterday.

The New York figures made 1992 the second year in a row when reported crime decreased in the state. The largest drop occurred in New York City, which experienced a 7.8 percent decline. Crime in the suburbs dropped by 6.2 percent, while upstate areas showed a decline of 1.7 percent.

There were 2,382 murders in the state in 1992, compared to 2,557 the year before. The number of offenses was down in every major category of crime except rape, which increased by less than 1 percent.

Gun Use a Major Factor

Experts said the figures, released by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, were an encouraging sign but by no means suggested that the crime problem in New York or the nation was improving substantially. They said the **statistics** showed that the proliferation of guns over the last several decades continued to be a major factor in the violent crimes committed in urban as well as rural areas.

Firearms were used in 31 percent of all murders, robberies and aggravated assaults in the nation last year, the F.B.I. said.

"Obviously, we welcome a decrease in crime, and of course I'm glad that these figures are down a bit," said Thomas A. Reppetto, president of the independent Citizens Crime Commission. "But my message to the national Government is, look at the tremendous increases in firearm violence. The national Government has yet to come to grips with gun violence in this country."

The crime **statistics**, officials say, reflect only those crimes reported to the police and may be underreported some categories.

Nationally, the number of reported crimes decreased by 3 percent, the first such drop since 1984, Federal officials said. Decreases were reported in the numbers of murders, robberies, burglaries and car thefts. Only the numbers of reported rapes and aggravated assaults showed an increase.

In 1992, the F.B.I. reported, 23,760 murders were committed in the **United States**, 4 percent fewer than the record-setting number in 1991. The agency said 78 percent of murder victims were male and 50 of every 100 victims were black. Twenty-nine percent of the women killed in 1992 were murdered by their boyfriends or husbands, the agency said.

The **national crime** rate of 5,660 **crimes** per 100,000 people was 4 percent lower than in 1991, Federal officials said. New York State's crime rate in 1992 was 5,842 per 100,000, while New York City's was 8,505 per 100,000.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Los Angeles Times, September 6, 1993

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Los Angeles Times

September 6, 1993, Monday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 22; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 510 words

HEADLINE: HOUSEHOLD CRIMES DROP BUT FBI SEES A 'DEADLY PROBLEM';
VICTIMS: CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS ARE FOUND HIGHEST IN HOMES OF LATINOS AND BLACKS.
WEST LEADS NATION, WITH URBAN AREAS MOST VIOLENCE-PRONE.

BYLINE: By RONALD J. OSTROW, TIMES STAFF WRITER

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The number of U.S. households experiencing violent or property crimes fell to fewer than one in four last year, the Justice Department reported Sunday, but FBI Director Louis J. Freeh said that Americans should take little comfort in the decline.

The 23% victimization rate for 1992 was down from 24% in 1991 and 32% in 1975, the first year the survey was taken, the Justice Department found in its latest survey of households.

"Any reduction in crime that can be measured is obviously a positive result," Freeh said in an interview. "But the percentages we're talking about . . . should not give any of us the comfort level that we deserve and should strive for.

"We have a serious, deadly problem with respect to violent crime, personal and property crimes."

Violent crime edged upward slightly last year, to 5% from 4.9% in 1991, the Bureau of Justice **Statistics** found. In 1975, 5.8% of U.S. households experienced violent **crime**.

The National Crime Victimization Survey differs from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, which count only those crimes reported to police, because it is conducted by interviewing 99,000 occupants aged 12 or older in about 49,000 housing units every six months.

Households headed by Latinos and blacks suffered an attempted or completed crime at a higher rate than did white households -- 31% for Latinos, 27% for blacks and 22% for whites, the survey reported.

Violent crimes -- rape, robbery and assault -- were experienced by 7.6% of Latino households in 1992, versus 7.1% for blacks and 4.8% for whites, according to the survey.

While the survey found that the percentage of white households experiencing crime was at its lowest level in 18 years, the proportion of black households touched by crime has not changed significantly

since 1989.

As in earlier years, households in the western **United States** showed the highest victimization at 28.5% in 1992, followed by 23.4% in the South, 20.9% in the Midwest and 18% in the Northeast.

The survey showed urban households to be the most crime vulnerable, with 28.1% victimized, versus 16.9% of those in rural areas and 21.4% in the suburbs.

"Although any reported reduction is a good thing to hear, given all the other information we have and just the common sense of the American people who live in the countryside and in the cities, I don't think we're doing very well at all," Freeh said.

The survey does not include homicides, counting only those crimes for which the victim can be interviewed. But the Bureau of Justice **Statistics** said that this did not noticeably affect the survey estimates. Preliminary FBI estimates for 1992 are that homicides increased by 6% from the 24,703 reported in 1991.

Crimes counted for the survey include rape, personal robbery, assault, household burglary, personal and household theft and motor vehicle theft. Other crimes against persons or their households, such as fraud, confidence games, kidnaping and arson, are not measured by the survey.

Drug trafficking and possession and commercial crimes also are not included.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Contemporary Women's Issues

Copyright 1993 **National Women's Health Resource Center****National Women's Health Report****September 1993****SECTION:** Vol. 15, No. 5; Pg. 1-3; ISSN: 0741-9147**CWI-ACC-NO:** 00543500**LENGTH:** 1420 words**HEADLINE:** Shattered Lives**HIGHLIGHT:**

Domestic Violence affects between two and four million women each year

BODY:

The **statistics** are alarming and the personal stories terrifying. It is estimated that violence against women affects between two and four million women each year. One out of every four households experiences domestic violence and 95 percent of victims of domestic violence are women. Violence is the leading cause of injuries to all women between the ages of 15 and 44. Ranging from rape to campus assaults, from street crimes to assaults in the home, violence against women has become an epidemic in the **United States** and is a major public health issue.

Who is at Risk?

Violence against women does not discriminate every woman is at risk of being abused at some point in her life. Research has not produced a psychological or cultural profile of the "battered" woman. However, according to the American Medical Association (AMA), certain groups of women appear to be at higher risk for abuse: women who are single, separated, or divorced women between the ages of 17 and 28 women who abuse alcohol or other drugs women who are pregnant or women whose partners are excessively jealous or possessive. Additionally, children raised in violent homes may be at increased risk for inflicting or experiencing violence as adults.

Domestic violence is characterized as a pattern of coercive behaviors perpetrated by someone who is, or was involved in, an intimate relationship with the victim. Incidents of violence against women are not typically isolated events, but occur in the context of ongoing violence.

According to the study, "Domestic Violence: Risk Factors and Outcomes," published by Daniel C. Berrios and Deborah Grady in the August 1991 issue of Western Journal of Medicine, the majority of women treated at the San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center for injury related to domestic violence reported that the incident was not the first episode of abuse by their partner. For 86 percent of the victims, at least one episode had occurred previously. And, according to the AMA, 47 percent of husbands who beat their wives, do so three or more times each year.

Violence against women can take several forms.

Physical abuse is usually recurrent and escalates in both frequency and severity. It can include pushing, shoving, slapping, choking, kicking assault with a weapon holding or tying the woman down leaving the woman in a dangerous place or refusing to help when the woman is sick or injured.

Emotional or psychological abuse may precede or accompany physical violence and may include: threats of harm physical and social isolation extreme jealousy or possessiveness deprivation intimidation humiliation false accusations ignoring needs and constant criticism.

Sexual abuse, often the most difficult aspect of abuse for women to discuss, may include any form of forced sex or sexual degradation, including: trying to make the woman perform sexually against her will pursuing sexual activity when the woman is not fully conscious or is not asked hurting the woman physically during sex or assaulting her genitals coercing the woman to have sex without protection against pregnancy or STDs criticizing the woman and calling her sexually degrading names.

The Cycle of Abuse

Abuse follows a common pattern, or cycle in many relationships, according to mental health professionals. Certain behaviors are typical to different phases of the cycle of violence. During the first phase of the cycle, the male partner begins threatening the woman, often pushing and shoving her around. Frequently, the woman begins to work hard to please her abuser to keep him calm, but typically, her efforts fail.

The violence enters the second phase when the man hits or beats the woman, abuses her sexually and/or uses weapons against her. It is during the second cycle of abuse that women's lives are endangered.

During phase three of the cycle, the abuser apologizes to the victim, promising that he will not harm her again. Often, the partner may blame the violence on the woman, citing something she did that made him angry. One of the most frustrating aspects of the third cycle of abuse for healthcare professionals is that women are often willing to accept apologies from the abuser. According to Estelle Friedman, RCSW, clinical director of the Rockland Family Shelter in Spring Valley, New York, women in abusive relationships can be desperate for any sign of improvement and too often accept these apologies as a change in behavior.

"Hope returns to the relationship when the man offers help or willingness to make things work. It is so easy to react to any sign of hope offered by the batterer," explains Ms. Friedman. Women are concerned about their families, and often do not believe they have any other options, she says. Unfortunately, when the woman forgives the abuser during the third cycle, the man will eventually lessen his efforts to "make the relationship work."

Role of Care Providers

Within the past few years, the prevalence and health effects on women who are victims of violence have gained significant attention from health professionals. Recognizing that obstetricians and gynecologists often serve as primary care providers for women, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (ACOG) has issued advice to its members for identifying, treating, and helping victims of domestic violence. (Technical Bulletin, "The Battered Woman," 1989) The guidelines advise physicians to ask patients presenting with any evidence of injury, whether they have been abused. Doctors are also advised to focus on documenting injuries and collecting specimens for physical evidence of abuse should legal action occur at a later date. Of critical importance, physicians are encouraged to provide their patients with information about available community, social, and legal resources, their rights under the law, and a plan for dealing with the abusive partner.

Through the AMA's Physician's Campaign Against Family Violence, doctors are advised to routinely question female patients about domestic violence and to maintain thorough medical records for documentation. The AMA advises physicians that they have an obligation to treat both the patient's symptoms and the cause of their symptoms. The AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs acknowledges that physicians' most important contribution may be to simply identify and talk about the abuse.

What Can You Do To Help?

The only way to stop domestic violence is for the victim to break the cycle. Help can come in the form of advice from knowledgeable care providers, the police, emergency room staff, women's shelters, and friends. According to Ms. Friedman, the way a friend can be the most helpful is to assist the victim in developing a plan for leaving. However, the plan must be realistic and solid because women are in the most danger from their abusive partners at the time they are trying to leave. **Statistics from The National** Coalition Against Domestic Violence indicate that women who leave their batterers are at a 75 percent greater risk of being killed by their batterers than those who stay with them.

If you suspect a friend or loved one has been abused, be supportive offer opportunities for that person to confide in you. Do not prejudge or blame the victim.

Contact the following organizations for more information on violence against women. Break the silence!

Alan Davis, Exec. Director **National** Council on Child Abuse and Family Violence 1155 Connecticut Ave., NW #400 Washington, DC 20036

Cheryl Howard, Executive Director **National** Assault Prevention Center 908-369-8972

Jill Miller, Exec. Director **National** Displaced Homemakers Network 1625 K St., NW #300 Washington DC 20006 202-467-6346

Bonnie Ariano Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Programs 6229 N. Charles St. Baltimore, MD 21212 410-377-8111

Batterers Anonymous 8485 Tamarind Ave., #D Fontana, CA 92335 714-355-1100

David Adams, Director EMERGE: A Men's Counseling Service on Domestic Violence 18 Hurley St., #23 Cambridge, MA 02141 617-422-1500

Coral McDonnell, **Domestic Abuse** Intervention Project 206 West Fourth St. Duluth, MN 55806 218-722-4134

Ruth Ann Fox, Program Director Shelter for Abused Elderly 2812 Pennsylvania Ave., SE Washington, DC 20020 202-583-7602

Leslie Wolfe, Exec. Director Center for Women Policy Studies 2000 P St., NW #508 Washington, DC 20036 202-872-1770

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Los Angeles Times, August 24, 1993

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August 24, 1993, Tuesday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 1; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 2813 words

HEADLINE: HAND OF PUNISHMENT FALLS HEAVILY ON BLACK YOUTHS;
JUSTICE: FAR FEWER WHITE YOUNGSTERS SERVE TIME IN DETENTION FACILITIES. ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE POOR IS CITED.

SERIES: KIDS IN CUSTODY. How the nation handles crimes by juveniles. One in a series

BYLINE: By RON HARRIS, TIMES STAFF WRITER

DATELINE: PHILADELPHIA

BODY:

The **statistics** are so startling that they appear to cry out for an explanation:

Seventy percent of juveniles who are arrested nationally for criminal offenses are white, yet whites make up only 35% of those in custody. Black juveniles make up only about 25% of those arrested, but 44% of those in custody.

Out of every 100,000 white youngsters in the nation 287 are in custody, but for every 100,000 black youngsters 1,009 are in custody.

To some inside the juvenile justice system, these figures from 1991 -- the latest available -- represent a disparity that smacks of racism and bias.

But the numbers are not that easily explained. Prosecutors and police say there is a good reason for the gap: Black juveniles are arrested for a disproportionate number of serious and violent offenses, which carry tougher sentences. They say that explains their inordinate numbers in the nation's juvenile halls, training schools, youth camps and state correctional facilities.

There is some truth to that explanation. For some offenses, FBI **statistics** show, black juveniles are arrested at double, triple, and sometimes even five times the rate of their white counterparts. However, given those rates in total, white juveniles still outnumber black juveniles arrested for murder, rape, aggravated assault, burglary and drug offenses.

On the other side of the analysis, many public defenders, parents, and even some judges blame the disparity on a juvenile-justice system dominated by biased, insensitive white judges and prosecutors who release white youths to probation or treatment programs for the same offenses that send black

youths into custody.

Stiffer Sentences

Again, there is evidence to support their claim. Justice Department **statistics**, they note, show that black juveniles receive stiffer terms for drug offenses, motor vehicle theft and burglary than whites charged with the same crimes.

But how do they account for separate studies in Missouri and Pennsylvania showing that black judges are more likely than white judges to place black juveniles in custody?

While each argument has some merit, the punishment gap between white and black children also appears to reflect a larger and harsher reality, one rooted in the nation's changed attitude about how to deal with the children of poor and disadvantaged families.

During the last decade, juvenile justice officials say, the nation moved away from social programs designed to aid indigent children.

"The people in this country, having destroyed the children of poor people through neglect, have decided that they are not going to do anything to repair the damage," said Judge Frank Reynolds, Philadelphia's presiding juvenile-court justice. "The alternative then is to just lock them up. And that's what they are doing."

Across the country, states and counties have largely abandoned rehabilitation efforts for juveniles as the public has called for punishment through time in lockup.

One result is that the faces of those inside the juvenile-detention facilities have changed. Eight years ago, most were white. Now most are black, and, in any case, most of the juveniles in custody are poor and undereducated.

(Because of reporting disparities, figures for Latino juveniles are impossible to pin down accurately, but in California, according to a study by the **National** Council on **Crime** and Delinquency, Latino youngsters generally appear to be incarcerated at a rate roughly matching their percentage of the population.)

Opportunity is Key

Juvenile-justice officials say there are two underlying reasons for the change inside juvenile halls:

- * Children with more opportunities -- such as good schools, recreation, supportive community organizations, involved churches and stable families -- end up in court less often.

"Delinquency and (lack of) opportunity are two things that go together," said Robert Walavich, head of probation for suburban Chicago areas. "Opportunities can mean an end to delinquency for a kid because he's less likely to get into trouble in the first place."

- * When children do get into trouble, those who do not have working parents, supportive school officials, readily available counseling facilities and support organizations are much more likely to be placed in custody.

Consequently, just as black children make up a disproportionate share of the children mired in poverty, of those in dysfunctional families, of high school students who drop out or are expelled, of those living in desolate urban neighborhoods, so do they bear the brunt of get-tough policies toward juveniles.

Perhaps the best example of the change that has taken place in the complexion of the juvenile custody population can be seen in the nation's response to youths involved with drugs.

Analysts say that though murder and robbery make for bigger headlines, drug crimes are responsible for vastly higher numbers of juvenile arrests and incarcerations.

From 1968 to 1981, the per capita arrest rate for black juveniles lagged behind that of whites for drug violations, according to FBI **statistics**. Between 1982 and 1984, however, the arrest rate for blacks moved just ahead.

In 1985, the numbers exploded; arrests of black youths for drug-related offenses skyrocketed. Paradoxically, white youth arrest rates during the same period fell significantly -- 22% -- even though federal agencies reported that the drug use rate by white youngsters was actually higher than for black youths.

That increase in arrests, however, appears to be only the first factor in the dramatic rise in the number of black youngsters in custody. The second, and more important factor, is what happens to those juveniles once they come to court.

Despite the disparity in arrest rates, the total number of white juveniles brought to court on drug charges in 1990 exceeded the total number of blacks by 6,300. As those cases were sifted through the juvenile-court system, however, a far greater number of white youths were sent home without being tried, were released to drug counseling programs or were placed on probation. Consequently, 2,200 more blacks than whites ended up in correctional facilities.

The disparity is even greater for violent crimes. In 1990, 32,200 more white juveniles than black juveniles were arrested for crimes such as murder, forcible rape, robbery and assault, and aggravated assault. Despite that difference, 300 more blacks than whites were placed in custody, and 2,100 more blacks than whites were transferred out of juvenile court so they could be tried in more punitive adult courts.

Disparity on Display

Across the nation, this disparity is played out in almost every category of offense.

In Chicago, for example, studies show that youngsters from the predominantly black South Side and West Side neighborhoods who were charged with property offenses, such as minor theft, were twice as likely to be brought to trial as youngsters from the predominantly white North Side.

In California, according to a 1992 study by the **National** Council on **Crime** and Delinquency, black delinquents were four times more likely than whites to be committed to the California Youth Authority, the juvenile equivalent of prison, whether it was the first offense or the third.

Black youngsters were twice as likely as whites to be incarcerated for a serious property or sex offense, three times more likely for a violent offense, seven times more likely for a serious drug offense and nearly 10 times more likely for a serious weapons offense.

"After you control for violence of offense, you still find that black kids were more likely to be committed to the California Youth Authority than white kids who committed similar crimes," said David Steinhart, who directed the study.

Consequently, while blacks make up only 9% of the state's youth population, they account for 34% of youngsters in secure-custody facilities.

The reasons for disparities in custody rates are numerous, juvenile-justice officials and analysts say; race is a factor, class is a factor, severity and number of offenses is a factor.

Ultimately, however, they say that what happens to children involved in delinquent activity comes down to the availability of resources.

"The whole thing really addresses resources for kids even before they start coming into the system," said Raul Solis, chief of juvenile field services for the Los Angeles County Probation Department. "That's why we've been concentrating on going after young kids, at-risk kids, the younger brothers of gang members before they get in trouble. That's where it's at, in our opinion."

"These kids are very isolated from access to things that most people take for granted every day. They see this mainstream on television, and their existence is very different. Many of them have never even been to a restaurant. They've never ordered from a menu. Some of these kids have never seen the ocean. Many of them have never learned how to swim because they never had the opportunity."

"All of the things other kids get exposure to, these kids don't have. But because of dwindling resources, we must deal with those kids who are arrested, and we have less money and personnel to deal with kids before they get into the system."

Once a crime is committed, it is often a slippery slope into a correctional facility for those without outside assistance.

"If a kid is picked up in the suburbs, depending on the crime, the chances are, if he's got the resources available, the kid won't hit the front door of the courtroom," Walavich said.

When children of the middle- and upper-class do come to court, they often arrive with both parents in tow, community counselors at their side, school representatives bearing report cards, and private attorneys presenting their cases.

"You have some excellent lawyers in the public defender's office, but they do get overwhelmed," Solis said. "I'm not so sure that kids aren't getting a short shrift because of that."

Chicago Juvenile Judge Charles May is sure.

"Kids represented by private attorneys are usually much better off," he said. "That has a tremendous influence. The public attorneys do a good job, but in too many cases they just shoot from the hip. Good lawyers come up with the proposals. Ordinary lawyers, which most black and poor kids get, just stand there."

The Insurance Factor

Most important, those in the juvenile-justice system say, white youngsters more often have private health insurance, meaning that they may qualify for private treatment and often avoid custody.

"If a kid comes from a home and somebody's working and carrying a Blue Cross card, it's like somebody struck gold," Walavich said. "An insurance card will open up all kinds of doors."

Edward P. Young, who oversees juvenile probation for the San Fernando Valley, agrees: "We find a lot of our white kids who have committed an offense going to in-patient psychiatric facilities before they even get to the court system. An attorney says to the parents: 'Get your kids some help and maybe we can get him off.'"

"When they go to court, the court looks at the fact that the kids have spent 30 days in detoxification or treatment, and the judge is likely to just put them on probation or give them credit for that as time served."

"If it's a serious offense and the court wants detention before the court date, they'll put him in a private psychiatric unit as part of his detention. It's always amazing that the kid is cured just before the insurance runs out."

- On one hand, the tactic "is a way for affluent families to avoid having their kid go to (detention) camp," Young said. "It's a way to manipulate the attitude of the court away from having the kid do hard time."

On the other hand, Walavich says, children of affluent families are able to avail themselves of the kind of positive and productive intervention that the public sector should be offering to all.

"Why would a judge or a probation officer or a policeman send a kid to jail before they tried something, if it was possible to try something?" Walavich asked.

And what happens to juveniles who don't have insurance, access to neighborhood counseling facilities and other diversion resources?

"That black kid is still in juvenile hall waiting for a hearing," Young said. "He's going to sit in detention until his court date comes up. He's probably not going to get any psychiatric counseling. Depending on the situation, he'll go to camp or suitable placement facility or the California Youth Authority."

It's not fair or equitable, Judge May says, it's just the way things are.

"You've got an impossible situation," he said. "So you go for the next best alternative, which might not be meaningful. We've got to do something with this kid, and nothing else is available for him. It's not done because it's correct. It's just the only alternative."

It is a disparity played out daily in juvenile courts across the nation.

In Los Angeles, a judge sends a 13-year-old black boy to youth camp for six months for stealing a radio. He was arrested twice at age 12 for sneaking onto public buses. Though his offenses are minor, a pattern of delinquency appears to be developing.

The real problem, apparent to everyone in court, is that he and his sister are being raised by a frail great-grandmother unable to provide adequate direction and control. His parents were lost to him long ago, his mother to drugs, his father to unemployment and despair.

His great-grandmother, though willing, obviously cannot provide what the boy needs, the judge reasons. Maybe in camp the youngster will learn discipline and control, the judge says.

However, at least 43% of the juveniles who go through Los Angeles County's youth camps return on new charges -- and some studies put the figure much higher.

A black Philadelphia judge voids a 14-year-old's probation and places him in custody because he is not attending school regularly. Civil libertarians are outraged. How dare she send a kid to jail simply for not attending school, they fume.

Her response: What hope is there for a black boy in **America** without an education? At least in custody he must go to classes. Maybe, just maybe, he will get on track.

In the Courts

In Chicago, Judge Walter Williams prepares to sentence a youngster guilty of a relatively minor offense. Williams, the probation officer and the prosecuting and defense attorneys have all agreed that the youngster should be placed on probation or in some kind of intensive supervision program instead of custody.

After hearing from the boy's mother, however, Williams changes his mind and turns the boy over to the state Department of Corrections for a year.

"His mother begged me to put him in custody," Williams said. "She begged me to take him off the streets. There had been a threat made against his life."

"She said: 'He will die, he'll be dead if you let him out.' Now, if a mother tells me that and I let that kid go out and something happens to him, I would never be able to live with myself."

The underlying theme, those inside the juvenile-justice system say, is that when parents, police, politicians, public officials, school systems, and community and religious organizations fail to provide a nurturing environment for children, they are dumped on the doorsteps of the nation's judicial system, which has little to offer them but custody.

"It's sad, but sometimes that's just it," Williams said. "That's all we have for them."

Next: Juvenile-justice programs that work.

Custody's Complexion

Law enforcement authorities say the disproportionate number of blacks in custody reflects their more serious offenses. Critics cite what they say is a biased justice system that is easier on white youths. U.S. juveniles in custody, rates per 100,000, in 1991:

White: 261
Black: 978
Latino: 453
Other: 115
+

THE CHANGING FACE

The faces of those under age 18 inside juvenile halls and other detention facilities has changed from mostly white to mostly black.

1985
White: 53%
Black: 33%
Latino: 12%
Other: 2%
+

1991
White: 35%
Black: 44%
Latino: 18%
Other: 3%
+

THEIR DAY IN COURT

Here is what happens to youngsters in court, by race (1990 figures):

Drug offenses	White	Black	Other*
Transferred to adult courts	1.1%	6.2%	0.5%
Placed in custody	10.2%	19.5%	13.2%
Probation	37.0%	30.7%	33.8%
Case dismissed	39.3%	33.2%	46.7%
Other	12.5%	10.4%	5.7%
Crimes against people			
Transferred to adult courts	1.3%	3.9%	2.3%

Placed in custody	9.0%	12.1%	15.2%
Probation	36.1%	31.7%	34.2%
Case dismissed	41.1%	40.2%	38.2%
Other	12.4%	12.1%	10.1%

* Includes Latinos and Asians

Sources: *Census of public and private juvenile detention, correctional and shelter facilities*; **National Council on Crime and Delinquency**

GRAPHIC: Photo, Figures show that more black juveniles wind up in detention facilities, such as California's Camp Karl Holton, compared to white youths. IRFAN KHAN / Los Angeles Times; Photo, A pair of Los Angeles police officers conduct a search after stopping two youths on a South-Central street. GARY FRIEDMAN / Los Angeles Times; Chart, Custody's Complexion, JOANNE OSTENDORF / Los Angeles Times ; Table, Custody's Complexion, JOANNE OSTENDORF / Los Angeles Times

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The Boston Globe, August 22, 1993

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The Boston Globe

August 22, 1993, Sunday, City Edition

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1561 words

HEADLINE: More victims of rape go public, but at cost

BYLINE: By Alison Bass, Globe Staff

BODY:

When Nancy Ziegenmeyer allowed a Des Moines newspaper to use her name in a detailed account of her experience as a rape victim - a series that won a Pulitzer Prize - thousands of other women who had been raped wrote to her in support.

That was the good part.

The bad part was the public glare. Ziegenmeyer says she encountered insults and ignorance from some acquaintances and, most of all, from the media. One female talk show host, she recalls, commented on Ziegenmeyer's new public life and asked whether, in retrospect, she would choose to be raped.

"My reluctance to talk to much of the media comes from their sheer stupidity," says Ziegenmeyer, who was raped by a stranger 4 1/2 years ago. "Many reporters feel sunshine is the best disinfectant, but what they have forgotten is that too much sunshine can burn."

An increasing number of rape victims appear to be going public today, allowing newspapers and other media to use their names, as Ziegenmeyer did, in an effort to raise public awareness about the random nature of sexual violence.

But for many of these women, going public is a mixed blessing. Too many people, they say, still think that rape is in some way the woman's fault. And even those who don't, they say, have trouble looking past the woman's emotional trauma and seeing her for who she is, rather than for what happened to her.

In interviews, seven women who have gone public after being raped all said that they told their stories in hopes of helping people recognize that rape is the ultimate violation of a woman's body, mind and soul - and as such should be treated as a serious crime.

But, with only one exception, these women, who range in age from 26 to 78, some from cities, some from small towns, also said that the resulting publicity had cost them their privacy and caused them pain.

As a result, although many rape survivors recognize the good that comes from sharing their stories

publicly, they and rape crisis counselors are increasingly cautioning other women to think twice before they walk into the sunshine. Despite the growing number of requests from talk shows and newspapers, counselors at most national rape crisis centers now refuse to ask clients if they want to go public.

"I think a lot of rape victims have gone public because there's a growing sense that it's safe and won't be used against you," said Molly Chaudhuri, director of the domestic violence unit at the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office. "Unfortunately, I don't think that is 100 percent true."

Chaudhuri and others who work with rape victims say public attitudes about rape and rape victims are more enlightened than they were 10 or 15 years ago. More law enforcement agencies consider rape a serious crime and treat rape victims with sensitivity and respect.

Many states now have laws prohibiting police, hospitals and court clerks from releasing the names of rape victims. But laws banning the publication of those names in the media have been struck down as unconstitutional, and many in the media, and even in rape counseling, consider such laws unnecessary. Most television news stations and newspapers, including The Boston Globe, will not, as a matter of policy, print a rape victim's name without the victim's permission.

As a result of such policies, the percentage of women who report being raped to law enforcement agencies is growing, albeit slowly. Out of the estimated 700,000 women raped every year in the **United States**, the portion who report their rape to police has risen from about 10 percent 20 years ago to about 15 percent today, according to **national statistics** compiled by the **Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center** at the Medical University of South Carolina.

"Unquestionably, more women are coming to rape crisis centers and reporting to police," said Sharon Vardatira, executive director of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, which was founded almost 20 years ago and is the largest such center in Massachusetts. "And it has a lot to do with the educational work that is being done and the fact that more women are going public. Individuals talking about their stories lead other women to feel comfortable about coming forward."

But there is a cost: As more and more women go public with their stories, rape crisis counselors say there is mounting pressure on other rape victims to come forward and on media outlets to name victims, with or without their permission.

Neofeminists such as Camille Paglia and some newspaper editors and television producers argue that until women who have been raped are routinely named in news stories, sexual violence - and the stigma that goes with it - will not be discussed openly and the reputation of defendants, who are named in news stories, will be unfairly besmirched.

"By not naming rape victims, we are part of a conspiracy of silence, and that silence is bad for viewers and readers," Michael Gartner, editor of the Daily Tribune in Ames, Iowa, and former president of NBC News, wrote in an editorial in USA Today. "It reinforces the idea that somehow there is something shameful about being raped."

That kind of reasoning led some media outlets, including NBC News and The New York Times, to use the name of the woman who had pressed rape charges against William Kennedy Smith in a highly publicized trial that ended in Smith's acquittal in 1991. It also prompted NBC News to identify the young woman who had charged Mike Tyson with raping her during the Miss Black **America** contest in 1991. Tyson was convicted of the rape, and his conviction was upheld this month by the Indiana Court of Appeals.

To Florence Holway, a 78-year-old rape victim from Alton, N.H., the issue of public disclosure is an open-and-shut case.

"The more public we make this thing, the quicker we'll be able to save the women of this nation from being raped," said Holway, who was raped in her bedroom by a stranger who beat her, tied her up

and twice choked her into unconsciousness. "I think we should name every victim and publicize it to the full to put pressure on the government to stiffen sentences for offenders and do more to prevent rape."

Holway, a retired schoolteacher and great-grandmother, says she has received only positive responses from friends, neighbors and others who know what happened to her, and she is grateful to the media for making her case known. She decided to go public after finding that the county prosecutor, without notifying her, had allowed her assailant to plea bargain for a lesser sentence.

"I'm glad people know what happened to me," says Holway, who has written a book about her experience. "I meet people in elevators and stores, and they come up and take me in their arms and say, 'Thank you for all of us.' People send me pressed flowers, bookmarks. They send me their prayers and a lot of love."

Other women who went public agree that the best part about the publicity is the support they receive from other victims. But they also say that there is a down side, and it mostly has to do with the stigma that is still attached to sexual violence.

"I continue to hear horrible stories of women who have been raped and had their parents or boyfriends blame them for it," says Susan Estrich, who managed Michael Dukakis' 1988 presidential bid and is now a professor of law at the University of Southern California. Estrich was raped in 1974 and has spoken out publicly about her experience for years.

"There are still questions that get asked of a woman who is a rape victim that don't get asked of victims of other crimes, like: 'What were you wearing, what were you doing drinking in a bar that late?' " Estrich adds. "That's why the decision to come forward should be a totally personal choice."

Though talking openly about her experience made Estrich feel less like a victim and more in control of her life, she says that the ensuing exposure shattered any illusions she had left about her safety. After her case was first publicized when she was a law professor at Harvard in the early 1980s, Estrich began receiving threatening phone calls at home from someone who said he was going to rape her again.

"It was horrifying, and it was a direct result of the publicity I had gotten," Estrich recalls. "And I had a fair amount of support at the time. I certainly wouldn't wish it on a 17-year-old who has just been raped."

Almost all of the women interviewed for this story say that, like Estrich, they have gotten letters and phone calls from "crazy" people who seem bent on harm. But for many of them, the most painful experience has been the reaction of friends, parents, or reporters who just don't understand.

"What hurt me most was my mother's response," said Loretta King, who was raped by an intruder in her hotel room while on a business trip to Massachusetts. "I'd call her up, and she'd listen to it and say, 'If anybody can handle it you can. I've got to go.' She just didn't know how to handle it, so to justify her reaction, she stayed distant. She never offered any emotional support."

King, who is divorced and has a teen-age daughter, says many of the men she has dated since the rape also don't understand.

"They're afraid you're all of a sudden going to snap and do something weird," King said. "As a result of this, I've learned to hide my emotions. No one ever sees me cry."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, 1. FLORENCE HOLWAY / "I'm glad people know" 2. NANCY ZIEGENMEYER / "Sunshine can burn" 3. 1988 GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / SUSAN ESTRICH / "A totally personal choice"

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SECTION: CRIME; Pg. 44**LENGTH:** 2167 words**HEADLINE:** HELL ON WHEELS;

Car crime is no longer a matter of stealing parts but of taking lives -- and an American icon becomes less and less of a sanctuary

BYLINE: By NANCY GIBBS**BODY:**

Every 19 seconds a car is stolen. Every day about 70 automobiles are carjacked. But it is not **statistics** that make people tuck the Mace into the glove compartment, or change their route home from work, or discover the virtues of carpooling, or prefer the risk of a ticket to stopping at red lights in a bad part of town. It is the stories, not the **statistics**, that breed fear.

Every place has at least one crime that makes it shudder. Maryland had the Pamela Basu case, in which the young woman in a gold BMW was dragged to her death trying to save her baby daughter when thieves drove off in her car. Los Angeles mourned Sherri Foreman, 29, a pregnant beautician who was stabbed by a carjacker when she stopped her 1984 BMW at an automated-teller machine. By the time the ambulance reached the hospital, the 12-week-old fetus was dead. A day later, so was the mother.

Detroit pretty much invented carjacking, so its police force has had the most practice in fighting it. They've spent the past three months trying to find the killer of Mark Rayner, a 255-lb. National Golden Gloves heavyweight champ, who was carjacked for his new white Jeep Grand Cherokee when he stopped at a phone booth on his way home from a movie. When he tried to escape by driving off, the thugs opened fire. At least five bullets hit the side of his Jeep; two hit Rayner in the back, killing him instantly.

On July 17 in Pine Hills, Florida, Philip Chandler, 16, emerged from a local barbershop and was about to drive off in his parents' 1986 Ford Mustang when he was accosted by two teenagers, forced into the car's trunk and taken along for a long joyride. Five hours later, Chandler was found in a parking lot 30 miles away, suffering from dehydration and comatose from the 130 degrees heat in the trunk. After two weeks he regained some consciousness, but doctors fear he may have suffered irreversible brain damage. "He wasn't in the wrong place at the wrong time," said Orange County Sheriff's Sergeant Mike Easton. "He was doing what any one of us would be doing on a Saturday morning -- taking care of errands."

Carjacking is not a new crime, nor is it yet a routine one. But the fear of it is growing exponentially and in the process changing the way **America** drives. The FBI estimates that there were 25,000 carjackings last year, up an alarming 25% from the year before. That is still only a tiny fraction of

- the 1.6 million annual car thefts, but when combined with other incidents in which cars have become both weapons and targets -- the drive-by shootings in Washington or the cinder blocks dropped off highway overpasses in Detroit -- it leaves an impression of rolling danger that fuels a kind of hysteria. "Our agents say there's real fear on the streets," says Howard Apple, head of the FBI's interstate theft unit. "Some crimes you can avoid by avoiding high-crime areas, but people are getting carjacked in their own driveways. People are scared enough that they are not driving alone."

The fear may have more to do with the violation of expectations than with the threat itself. "People know they could be killed in an auto accident, so when they get into their cars, they aren't afraid of the 45,000 people getting killed on the highways," says Lawrence W. Sherman, professor of criminology at the University of Maryland. "But they don't expect to be attacked by criminals when they are in their cars; that's why the criminal attacks engender much more fear."

Among the shattered expectations are notions about where crime happens, and to whom. While young men in the inner cities are by far the most likely group to be the victims of violent crimes, carjackers have begun recently to target women, the elderly, tourists -- the conspicuously vulnerable. And they hit in places that were supposed to be off limits. In big cities, soaked with drugs and guns, residents make certain concessions to safety. They learn what streets to avoid at night, what neighborhoods to avoid at all times, what activities to avoid at all costs. But now the generation that fled the cities to escape violent crime finds that crime commutes too.

The auto model makes no difference in the cases where the thief is after the driver's belongings more than the car. "The consensus would be that carjacking is a crime of opportunity," says Charlie J. Parsons, special agent in charge of the Los Angeles office of the FBI. "Most of them occur within 15 seconds, and it's not a situation where the perpetrator stakes out the victim for several days and plans the crime. They're standing on a street corner, and there's someone with the windows down, and they're vulnerable, and bam! -- it happens."

Out of each famous case has come an official spasm. The Basu case prompted Congress to classify carjacking as a federal crime with a prison sentence of at least 15 years, and a life sentence if the victim dies. One of the two men involved in the Basu carjacking has been sentenced to life; the other is on trial and may receive capital punishment.

The murder of a German tourist in April sent out global shock waves -- and sent Florida officials scrambling to shore up their image as the Sunshine State. Driving in from the airport in an Alamo rental car, Barbara Meller-Jensen had taken the wrong turn and ended up in one of Miami's poorer neighborhoods. When she felt her car hit from behind, she got out to see what had happened. Then, as her six-year-old son watched, thieves beat her, robbed her, climbed back into their car, gunned their engine and drove over her head. To counter the impression that renting a car is an invitation to violence, the Florida legislature has outlawed license plates as well as company logos that mark cars as rented or leased. It is not only that visitors are more likely to get lost and wind up in the wrong neighborhood. They are also assumed to be carrying more cash -- and to be less likely to come back and testify if they are robbed. "When one officer asked a kid about his new Nike Air Jordan tennis shoes," says Miami police sergeant Clay Camil, "he remarked, 'Oh, a tourist bought those.'"

But no one is immune -- not even the police. A Glendale, California, police detective was leaving work one night last year when he was jumped in the police parking lot by four men, one with a shotgun. They said they wanted his car and ordered him into the trunk. The detective broke away and leaped over the railing of the police parking structure, falling one story below as the carjackers fired at him. He wasn't hit, but he suffered lacerations to his forehead in the fall. Says Randy Ballin, head of the California Highway Patrol's Los Angeles auto-theft unit, who investigated the case: "These people don't care who you are. They don't care that you are a cop and may be armed. They have nothing to lose. The criminal-justice system is not a deterrent. It's a minor inconvenience."

The thieves and the cops agree on this: the chances of going to jail for stealing a car are still very, very small. Federal laws apply only to the most violent crimes by hardened career criminals -- and local rules are deficient. Under California law, for example, first offenders typically receive probation;

- second offenders often get as little as 16 months and serve just half of that. Other states are rarely more severe on the mostly young first-timers. "Recently they've been putting them in a youth house for a couple of days, then they're released pending trial," says Captain Richard Fanning, commander of the Newark, New Jersey, police department's special projects target team. "They seem to get a lot of bites out of the apple before they do one single minute of incarcerated time."

While the overall arrest rate of car thieves was just 13.9% nationally in 1991, down from 14.6% in 1990, the recovery rate for the stolen cars is high. That is one reason why police officers urge victims to give up their cars without a fight; in Los Angeles County, 9 out of 10 cars are recovered within two weeks of the theft. "I like to tell people, 'Fall in love with your life, not your car. The car can be replaced.' " says Parsons of the FBI. "It's just not a smart move to go up against some 16-year-old kid with an automatic weapon. And chances are, your car is going to be recovered."

Carjackings are not the only car crimes that have exploded over the past few years. What police call smash-and-grabs are also considered easy, risk-free crimes. A swing of a baseball bat probably won't shatter a car window, but the impact of a porcelain spark plug will. "People are shocked, because they don't see a weapon. These guys don't have to use a bat. Some even carry the porcelain piece around in their mouths," says Miami's Sergeant Camil. "There you are, daydreaming about dinner. You're not expecting a brick or a spark plug through the window," says Miami Police Department spokesman Angelo Bitsis. "If you were walking on the street and somebody was following you and staring at your bag, you know to prepare yourself. But in smash-and-grabs, the window is smashed, there's a hand in your car, your purse is gone and five seconds has elapsed."

Meanwhile, conventional car theft has been exploding too. The motives tend to vary from city to city. Newark has a serious problem with joyriders, usually teenagers, who steal cars and perform "doughnuts," in which they lock the brakes, step on the gas, and send the car spinning in circles. Some do it in front of police cars, in the hopes of inspiring a chase. One night last November, three kids stole a new Honda, drove across a side street, hit a bump in the road, took off, sheared a power pole in half, took another pole out and brought the electric lines down on top of them, and all three burned to death. "When you try to pry these kids out of these cars and see people get run over by them," asks Captain Fanning, "what the hell joy does anybody see in it?"

In other major cities, the motive is largely commercial. Police say more than half of the thefts are committed by organized car rings that chop up stolen cars and resell the parts or ship them across borders. (See following story.) Overall, about a quarter of stolen cars end up in chop shops, where they are taken apart and resold for as much as triple their value whole. Two skilled choppers with power tools can cut up a car from hood to trunk in three minutes. The demand is huge: a thief can steal a \$10,000 Nissan Sentra, strip it and sell the parts for \$20,000 to \$25,000. While luxury cars are always tempting, among the most popular cars to steal, according to the **National Insurance Crime Bureau**, are: the Pontiac Firebird, Chevrolet Camaro, Mitsubishi Starion, Toyota MR2 and Chrysler Conquest.

The explosion in car theft, and even more the fear of it, has inspired an army of entrepreneurs eager to cash in on what has become a \$500 million to \$600 million annual security business. As many as 90% of the luxury cars sold in California are equipped with antitheft devices either in the factory or at the dealership. There are glass sensors, tiny microphones that set off an alarm if they pick up the tinkling of broken glass. Motion sensors and shock sensors go off if the car is jolted or bounced. Clifford Electronics Inc. offers a remote-triggering device that shuts off the car's electronics, so that when a carjacker gets a block or so away from the carjacking scene, the owner can hit a transmitter and stop the car dead. Among the newer devices on the market are electronic tracking systems like LoJack and Teletrac, which cost between \$500 and \$750 and allow police to track stolen vehicles with an electronic signal. But thieves have already come up with devices that can detect whether a car is sending out a tracking signal, allowing them to pass up such cars or locate the tracking device and disarm it.

The safety tips that police officers provide drivers would sound uselessly obvious, were it not for the fact that people ignore them all the time. Keep a distance between cars, they advise. Avoid

- unfamiliar neighborhoods. Try to avoid the lane next to the curb. Don't leave the car running when you dash into the convenience store. Lock the doors. Keep purses and wallets out of view. "No. 1, be aware," says the FBI's Apple. "In this day and age, it's not safe to unroll your window -- even to give people money at Christmas."

In this century, the car has been a measure of American freedom. Put a key in the ignition and a foot to the pedal, and the country is suddenly open to personal exploration. It is self-expression through mobility -- with each mile on the odometer an expansion of one's liberty. But as car crime turns violent, it scratches the nerves of Americans who thought they were safe in their sheet-metal wombs. The crime wave orders them to stay home and lock the doors, with no place to run, because the roads are not safe. The brakes are on the imagination. Freedom's vehicle has become a ride into a wild frontier.

GRAPHIC: Picture 1, CRIME: Cars have become targets -- and weapons descColor: Police officer handcuffing suspect - contents page., NINA BERMAN -- SIPA; Picture 2, Honda, top, is abandoned in New Jersey after being stolen at gunpoint and taken on a joyride. Left, a suspect under arrest. descColor: Two photographs: Policeman standing next to abandoned stolen car; policeman with carjacking suspect., NINA BERMAN -- SIPA; Picture 3, Meller-Jensen's death in Miami sent shock waves around the world. descColor: Car being searched by security officers., JEFFREY SALTER -- MIAMI HERALD -- SILVER IMAGE

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Business Wire, April 7, 1993

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Business Wire

April 7, 1993, Wednesday

DISTRIBUTION: Health Writers, City Desk, News Editors

LENGTH: 629 words

HEADLINE: Nation urged to declare war on guns and gun violence

DATeline: WASHINGTON, D.C.

BODY:

--"**America** declared war on drugs years ago. Now it is time ... to begin a war against guns and gun violence, and to reclaim the safety of our streets, neighborhoods, and homes," stated Richard L. Wittenberg, president and chief executive officer of the American Association for World Health, at a World Health Day observance held at the Pan American Health Organization.

"The current standoff in Waco, Texas, has nothing to do with religion, and everything to do with access to guns," said Wittenberg. "It is time to draw sensible limits around the right to bear arms, and to ban handguns, assault rifles, and other guns not needed for sporting purposes."

Calling the extraordinary availability of guns "a very visible risk factor for violence" in the U.S., Wittenberg stated that over 200 million guns are in circulation nationwide--one-third of them handguns. He called for a massive public education campaign on the dangers of guns and gun violence, similar to the ongoing crusade against smoking. He further urged higher taxes on guns and ammunition to discourage sales.

"Many health policy experts are now advocating increases in the so-called sin taxes on alcohol and tobacco," said Wittenberg. "Shouldn't the same arguments be applied to firearms? Why not a 100 percent excise tax on guns and ammunition produced and sold (in the U.S.)?"

Stating that gun violence is particularly harsh on young people, Wittenberg cited reports that 100,000 students carry guns to school, and that every school day 40 children are killed or injured by firearms. "The question that we must answer, as a society, is really no less than whether we love our guns more than our kids."

"The litany of **gun violence statistics** goes on and on, year after year," said Wittenberg. "To refuse to acknowledge these statistics--this clear evidence of a public health epidemic-- we must be either numb to reality or deceiving ourselves. And to acknowledge them without acting to reduce them is unconscionable."

Wittenberg's comments were made during a World Health Day ceremony that focused on the prevention of injuries and violence. Several awards were presented to recognize outstanding contributions to injury and violence prevention. The awardees included Sarah Brady, chairperson of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence; Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, assistant dean for government

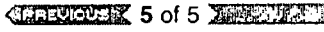
and community programs at the Harvard School of Public Health; and Dr. Mark Rosenberg, acting associate director for public health practice at the **National** Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An innovative community safety project being conducted in Argentina was also honored.

Each year the World Health Organization (WHO) sponsors World Health Day observances on April 7. The event is intended to focus world attention on general health progress and specific health problems. WHO designated injury and violence prevention as the theme of this year's observances.

The American Association for World Health (AAWH) serves as the U.S. Committee for WHO and its western hemisphere affiliate, the Pan American Health Organization. AAWH reaches out to communities across the U.S. to promote awareness of global health challenges and health programs that affect Americans. It serves as a voice for public opinion to sustain U.S. governmental and voluntary involvement in the solution of international health problems. The association promotes global health issues through such annual activities as World Health Day, World AIDS Day, and World No-Tobacco Day.

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The New York Times, February 18, 1993

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The New York Times

February 18, 1993, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 14; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 1339 words

HEADLINE: Reality and Anxiety: Crime and the Fear of It

BYLINE: By BARRY MEIER

BODY:

The nation's crime rate is continuing to climb, sharply in the case of some crimes. But for millions of Americans the fear of crime may well be outpacing its growth.

In increasing numbers, whether in cities, suburbs or small towns, Americans are arming themselves with an array of weapons, devices and gadgets intended to thwart criminals. And with news reports of one grisly crime after another, millions of people are expressing a growing sense of vulnerability in ways large and small.

In December, sales of Mace were 10 times higher than in the same month in 1991, according to MSI, the company in Bennington, Vt., that makes it. Installations of burglary alarms in homes last year were up 8 percent, according to Stat Resources, a marketing-research firm in Brookline, Mass. And every week, 15,000 people attend self-defense seminars given by Citizens Against Crime, a company that has sold 48 franchises nationwide.

The growth in self-defense is transcending regions and generations. More parents, along with giving their children the traditional advice to avoid strangers, have started providing their teen-agers with self-defense training, Mace and other means to protect themselves. Many people who long viewed themselves as removed from crime-ridden neighborhoods are feeling crime's chill.

Reasons to Be Afraid

There are grounds for the increased apprehension. In recent years, figures in every important category of crime with the exception of burglary have climbed, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. **Statistics** for robberies and car thefts have risen fastest, soaring by 28 and 25 percent, respectively, over the last five years, but the numbers of rapes and homicides have also increased at disturbing rates.

Still, many experts maintain that the perception of a society spinning violently out of control has been largely fostered by television and newspapers. Over the last few years, the number of television shows that reconstruct actual violent crimes has grown. In recent months alone, newspaper readers have received a steady diet of carjackings, courtroom shootings and even a recent attack on doctors in a Los Angeles emergency room.

But several experts say that in responding to such incidents people often see a greater threat to themselves than actually exists. These experts point out, for example, that when the Los Angeles riots broke out last year, hundreds of people, some living far away, went out to buy guns because the images broadcast into their living rooms made them feel at risk.

"One of the worst things affecting our feeling of safety was probably the development of the video camera," said Dr. James Fox, dean of the School of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University in Boston.

Walking Near One's Home

It is hard to quantify fear. For the last 30 years the only measure of **national** anxiety about **crime** has been a survey of whether people feared walking at night within a mile of their homes. Over the years the results of the survey, conducted by the Gallup Organization and the National Opinion Research Council, have been relatively constant: about 45 percent of those polled express such fears. But one researcher said the poll may fail to disclose changes in the way people are reacting.

That researcher, Dr. Mark Warr, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Texas, said he had recently decided to ask 100 students in his class if any of them carried chemical repellents like Mace. He expected a few responses. Instead, more than half the women in the class raised their hands.

Laura Platt, a junior in Dr. Warr's class, said she and some of her friends were so worried that they now had cellular phones in their cars so that they can quickly dial 911. Many also carry Mace, or sprays like it, or devices that can emit an electronic shriek for help.

Catching the National Mood

Marketers of self-defense gadgets have caught the national mood. One increasingly popular gadget looks like a telephone beeper and emits a battery-operated banshee-like scream when the user pulls a pin to activate it.

New marketing techniques have also appeared. Television advertisements for an anti-car theft device known as "The Club" now offer it in "designer colors for today's life style." And a few months ago, a Miami gun store mailed offers for a stun gun disguised as an umbrella to parents of freshmen at the University of Florida in Gainesville, the site of several slayings in 1990. A stun gun, pressed against the flesh of an attacker, ejects two small wires that deliver a high-voltage jolt.

That stun-gun pitch received few takers, said a spokesman for the university. But there are thousands of new buyers for self-defense products. A sense of vulnerability is the common note sounded by those purchasers.

Pepper Sprays and Beepers

Adults are buying protective devices for themselves and their children. These gadgets vary from pepper sprays like the one used by Mr. Goddard to Mace or alarm beepers.

One parent, Paula Fiscal, a management consultant who lives in San Francisco, said she bought Mace for her 16-year-old son because he was mugged recently on the way home from school.

Typically, most police officials are not enthusiastic about citizens' carrying either weapons or self-defense devices. Some say that such deterrents might enrage an attacker, should they fail to work, or even be turned against a victim.

But the public's growing fear of crime is also coming amid cutbacks in many police forces and the sense that the police may not be around when needed. Enrollments in self-defense courses are increasing, particularly among women. And each week, some 15,000 people nationwide take a

course offered by Citizens Against Crime, a company based in Allen, Tex. Founded in 1980, the company gives self-defense seminars at universities, hospitals and corporate offices. It took in \$10 million last year from sales of paraphernalia like chemical deterrents and reflective "Call Police" signs.

Training for Employees

Other groups are putting on similar seminars. Last month, Montclair, N.J., provided self-defense training for its municipal employees. The move followed the "carjacking" last year about 30 miles away in which a woman was abducted and slain.

Annette Speech, a Montclair employee who attended the seminar, said she now looks into the back seat and locks the doors before starting her car. "People out here are very nervous," she said.

To be sure, there are many people whose lives have been unaffected by crime or even apprehension about it. But in areas of the country where the impact of crime is only beginning to be felt, some people are confused.

Last fall, for example, Stephen and Allison Stuart bought a German shepard to guard their Salt Lake City home after it was broken into during daylight. But they returned the dog because it was too much trouble and then decided against buying a gun because they have an infant daughter.

Now, they are considering a burglar alarm but may just move out. "The house is not quite the same, and I don't know if I will ever feel safe again," Ms. Stuart said.

Researchers like Dr. Fox said they believe that the public's anxiety will probably not subside regardless of what happens to the actual crime rate.

'Family Protection Plan'

Whatever the case, the latest twist in self-protection may already be emerging. Recently, a New Jersey security agency started promoting the type of bodyguard services used by corporate officials, calling its service the "Family Protection Plan."

Thus far, about 30 people have hired bodyguards to take them into New York City or to go shopping, said Thomas J. Patrie, the executive director of State of the Art Security. One customer, who declined to be identified, said he had used the service in December to take his fiancée to the Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall.

"It was like a private limo service," he said. "But you knew these people were trained and watching."

GRAPHIC: Photo: As the fear of crime grows, Americans in increasing numbers are seeking ways to thwart criminals. Debbie Willis of Citizens Against Crime, a nationwide franchise, displayed a reflective "Call Police" sign as she conducted a self-defense seminar at a Wal-Mart store in Orlando, Fla. (Joe Skipper for The New York Times)

Graphs: "A Source of Fear" tracks incidents of burglary, car theft, robbery and rape since the early '70's. (Source: F.B.I.)

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