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The Boston Globe

Your heat's too big
 WEDNESDAY — Partly cloudy, 85-90
 THURSDAY — Sunny, around 80
 HIGH TIDE — 12:51 a.m., 1:02 p.m.
 FULL REPORT — PAGE 57

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1980

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Survey: Many didn't register for draft

Post-offices across US report no-shows far above 2% predicted

By Alan M. MacRobert
 Special to The Globe

When America's 19-and 20-year old men were ordered to register for the draft last month, Selective Service Director Bernard Rostker predicted that only 2 percent of them would not sign up.

A Globe sample of postal districts across the nation, however, suggests that the registration order was in fact defied or ignored by approximately 25 percent.

One million of the 4,076,000 civilian American males born in 1960 and 1961 appear to be in violation of the draft sign-up law, which was called for by President Jimmy Carter in his State of the Union address last January and enacted by Congress in June after bitter debate.

The draft registration program appears to be, if not a failure, at least in serious trouble.

Each of the million or so nonregistrants is technically liable for a penalty of up to five years in prison and a fine of \$10,000. The penalties were highly publicized during the two-week registration period.

Realistically, however, the nation's federal courts could only cope with a tiny fraction of these cases. By comparison, the government conducts about 40,000 prosecutions a year for all federal crimes combined. Registration figures for the greater Boston area are typical of much of the country. According to local postal officials, 32,950 young men filled out draft forms as instructed at post offices in 72 eastern Massachusetts cities and

towns. The Massachusetts sampling included the rural towns of Bolton and Carlisle. Within that territory, however, live 47,000 civilian young men who were supposed to register, according to the best available census data. The gap amounts to 30 percent.

The Selective Service System has not released registration figures of its own. "All the forms have not been keypunched and put on computer tape yet," a Selective Service public affairs officer Joan Lamb says. "We don't want to talk from incomplete data." Lamb says that, due to many queries from the media and the public, a preliminary national registration figure will be announced at the end of next week. Exact figures, she says, will not be available until mid-November.

Figures are already available, however, from many post office districts. Some postal officials say they have been told by Selective Service not to release the numbers. Nevertheless, The Globe was able to obtain the registration figures from large postal districts that cover more than 10 percent of the nation's population. By matching these figures with census estimates of 19-and 20-year old civilian men in each district, it is clear that the registration program suffered major shortfalls nearly everywhere.

In greater Baltimore, an area covering more than half the population of Maryland, 31 percent of those required did not sign up. The nonregistrants in the greater Kansas City area totaled 27 percent. In the city of



Young men register for draft in Bangor Post Office last month. AP PHOTO

10 THE BOSTON GLOBE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1980

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Survey: Many didn't register for draft

Draft Registration Compliance

Postal district	Registrations	Required to register (est.)	percent non-compliance (est.)
Greater Boston	32,950	47,000	30
Greater Baltimore	29,736	44,000	31
Chicago City	40,479	61,400	32
Chicago No. Suburban	37,000	47,400	27
Chicago So. Suburban	29,000	39,500	27
Greater Dallas	30,758	35,400	13
Greater Kansas City	18,630	25,500	27
Greater Phoenix	26,090	28,000	7
Rockford-Springfield-Peoria, Ill.	18,140	28,500	36
San Diego County	22,437	27,900	19
Greater Seattle	25,850	33,200	22
Tennessee, middle	23,000	33,800	32

* DRAFT
 Continued from Page 1

Chicago 32 percent stayed away, while in Chicago's suburban and outlying districts, an area covering 4.6 million people, the refusal rate amounted to 27 percent. Greater Seattle saw 22 percent stay home. For Nashville and the middle half of Tennessee, the rate was 32 percent. The Tennessee sampling included 191,000 rural delivery addresses.

Draft registration did not go over well in Peoria, Ill., where 47 percent of the young men seem to have ignored the law. The youth of the Southwest were more obedient, with greater Dallas logging 13 percent non-compliance. San Diego County 19 percent and Phoenix 7 percent.

The estimates of men required to register were calculated by obtaining the current population of the postal district and multiplying this by the fraction of local men born in 1960 and 1961. This fraction was calculated in most cases from 1970 census figures. The proportion of 19-and 20-year-olds currently in the armed forces was then subtracted.

In some cities, local social-service agencies or other officials had already come up with estimates of the population required to register from school enrollments and other sources. These closely matched the estimates obtained by the above method.

Attempts to secure figures from six cities in the deep South — Jackson, Miss.; Birmingham, Ala.; Mobile, Ala.; New Orleans, Shreveport, La. and Tallahassee, Fla. — were unsuccessful.

The non-compliance figures are not precise, for several reasons. Young men were not required to register at their home post offices, but wherever they happened to be. The tallies include bogus registrations submitted in protest, a tactic promoted by some anti-draft groups.

Estimates of the men required to sign up were not corrected for alleged census undercounts. An undercount, however, would tend to mask non-compliance. Nor do the estimates of eligible men include resident aliens — including illegal aliens — although they were required to register and many undoubtedly did. (Even the Cubans in refugee camps were given registration forms to fill out.) Again, this factor would tend to minimize estimates of non-compliance. Meanwhile, Selective Service continues to accept late registrations from raggleds who have a change of heart — with warnings of possible legal consequences.

When asked to confirm or deny the 25 percent national non-compliance rate, Selective Service spokesman Lamb insisted the data used were incomplete and invalid. "They're a mobile group and didn't have to register in their area," she said, "and there's a tremendous amount of controversy over the census data. For those two reasons it's not a valid data base and you cannot draw any valid conclusions from it."

However, The Globe attempted to gather data from a large enough fraction of urban, suburban and rural America so that errors due to youth mobility would be minimized. As for census errors, no one has accused the Census Bureau of overcounting. The figure of 25 percent non-compliance, given the caveats above, is probably accurate to within a few percent.

In the coming months, the Selective Service System hopes to locate the youths who did not register by searching through computerized lists of drivers licenses, high school records and other data banks. "After we get the final figure," says Lamb, "when we actually know how many people registered, we will begin to access lists that are available to us and cross-reference them on the computer. Those names not on our list we will give to the Justice Department. They are in charge of enforcing the law. Local FBI men would do the leg work, and US Attorney's offices would do the prosecuting."

When asked how the Justice Department plans to enforce draft registration, department spokesman Dean St. Dennis responded: "There's no way in the world the Department of Justice can special-

Continued on next page

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