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 North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety
 The Governor's Crime Commission
 Criminal Justice Analysis Center

SCORECARD ON CRIME AND JUSTICE

1990 to 1995

This North Carolina Criminal Justice Scorecard presents a statistical snapshot of the state's criminal and juvenile justice systems. It will enable the reader to quickly obtain a system wide view of crime and justice in North Carolina "at a glance" during the first half of the decade.

Reported index crime rates declined in most parts of the nation but remained relatively static in North Carolina.

Figure A shows the reported index crime rates from 1990 to 1995. Index crimes are Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft. The figures represent the number of index crimes, per 100,000 population, which were reported to law enforcement officials. Figure A shows the rate at which index crimes were reported to the nation's law enforcement officials declined 9.6 percent from 1990 to 1995. This drop was most pronounced for the southern states which experienced a 10.2 percent reduction in reported crime. While reported crime declined nationally and regionally, North Carolina's reported crime rate grew a slight 2.8 percent during this period.

North Carolina is among the highest 20 states for rates of reported index crimes.

Figure B presents North Carolina's reported index crime rate in relation to the rest of the country. This ranking reflects the number of states which had higher rates of reported crime than North Carolina's. For example, in 1990 North Carolina had the 20th highest crime rate, so 19 states had higher rates than ours. By 1995, the state's rate of reported crime had increased; consequently, only 15 states had higher rates.

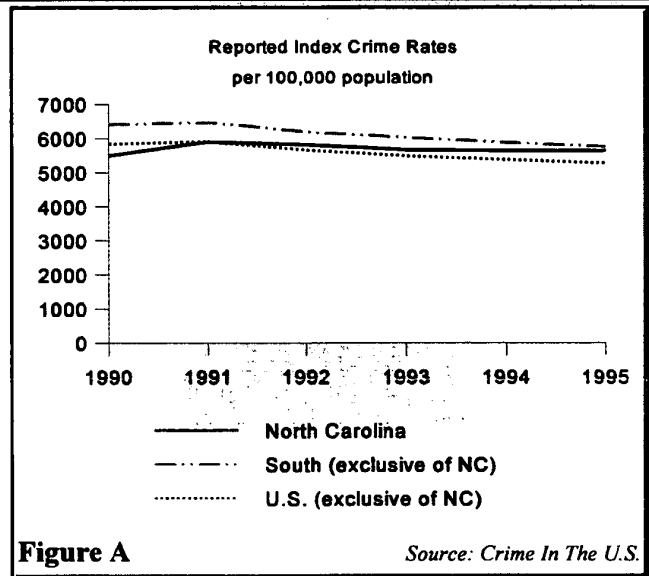


Figure A Source: Crime In The U.S.

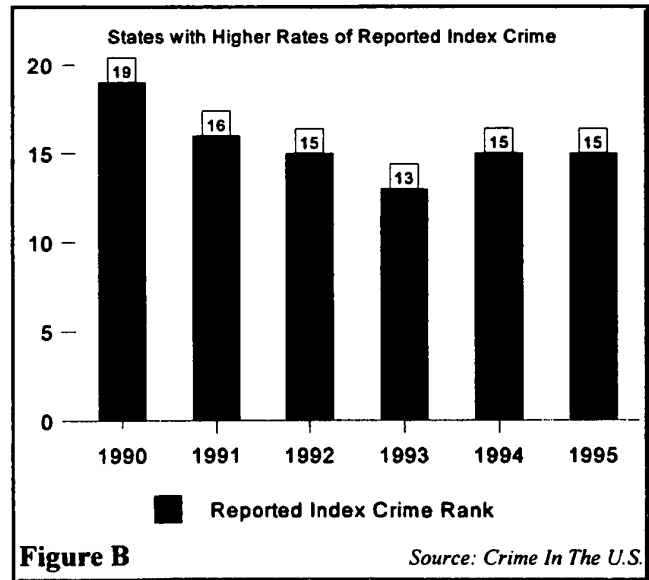
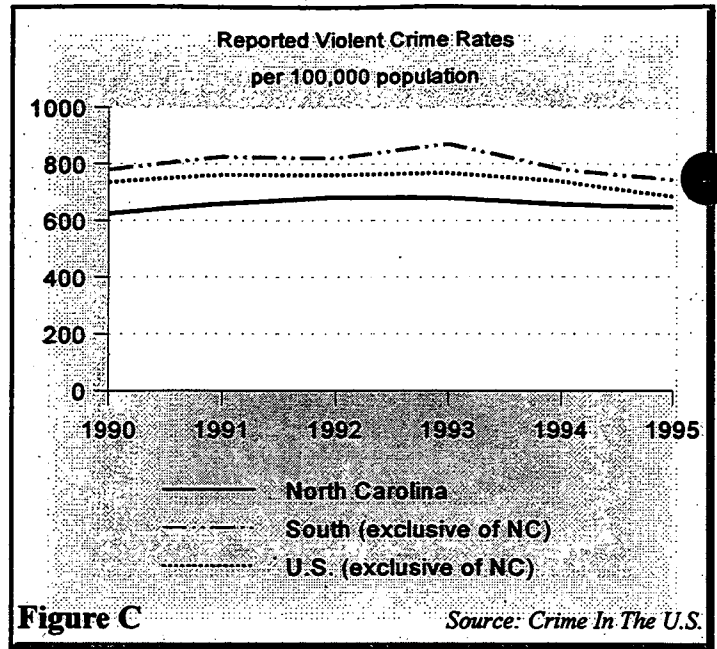


Figure B Source: Crime In The U.S.

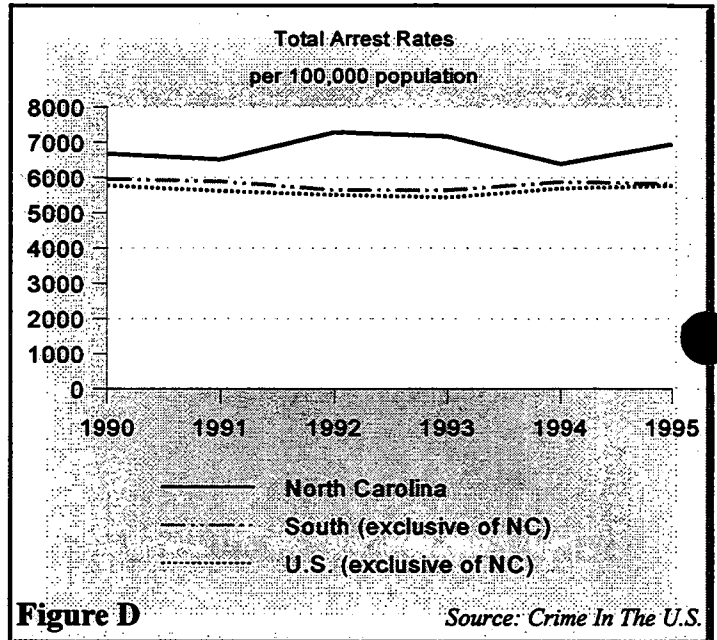
North Carolina's violent crime rate is below the average for both the region and the nation.

Figure C depicts a comparison between North Carolina's, the South's, and the National rates of reported violent index crime (Murder, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault). North Carolina's rate grew a slight 3.7 percent while the national and southern rates dropped 6.7 percent and 4.2 percent respectively. Comparatively, North Carolina's violent crime rate remained relatively stable over the five year period. The state had the 19th highest rate in 1990 and the 20th in 1995.



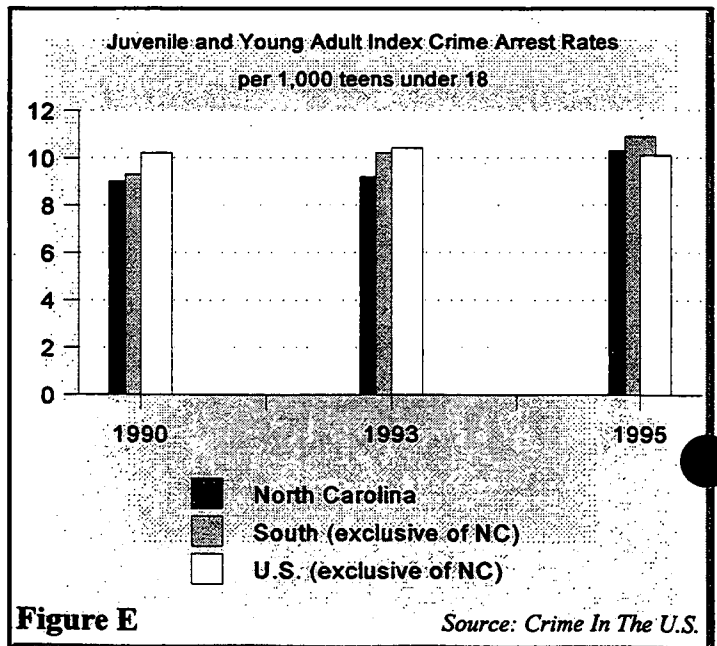
Arrest rates in North Carolina have remained higher than regional and national averages.

Figure D presents the arrest rates for all reportable crimes. North Carolina's rate has exceeded both the South's and the nation's rates since 1990. The state's total arrest rate grew a modest 4 percent while the rates for the South and the nation declined. North Carolina recorded the 12th highest arrest rate in 1990 and 1995.



North Carolina's juvenile and young adult arrest rates for index crimes have remained below regional rates but rose above the national average in 1995.

As Figure E documents, the national index crime arrest rate for teens, under the age of 18, experienced a minimal one percent decline from 1990 to 1995. However, the rate at which these juvenile and youthful offenders were arrested for the designated violent index and property crimes increased substantially in the South (17.2 percent) and in North Carolina (14.4 percent).



Arrest rates for index crimes among juveniles and young adults in North Carolina remain close to the midpoint for the nation.

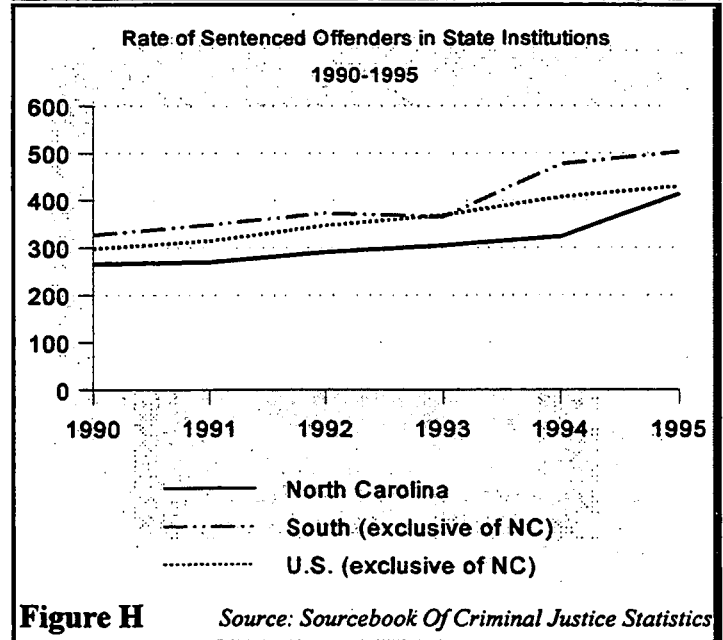
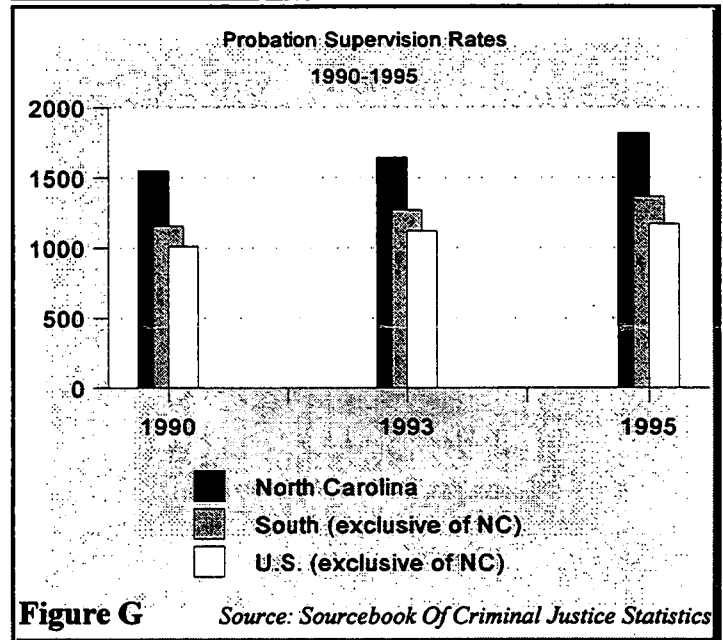
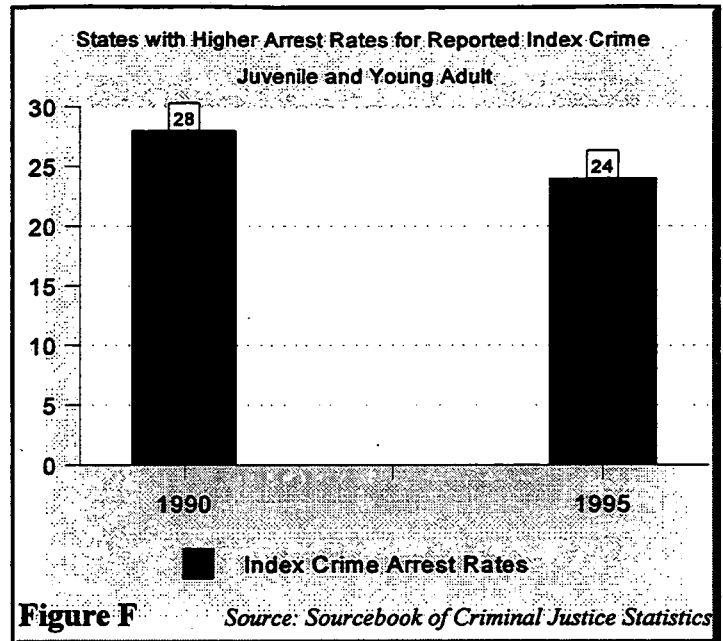
Figure F shows that twenty-eight states had higher juvenile and young adult index crime arrest rates than North Carolina in 1990. By 1995 only 24 states had higher juvenile and young adult index crime arrest rates.

North Carolina has significantly higher probation supervision rates than both the regional and national average.

As Figure G documents, the rate at which individuals are being placed on probation has grown considerably throughout the nation (15.7 percent) and the South (18 percent) since the beginning of the decade. North Carolina's probation supervision rate grew 17.1 percent from 1990 to 1995 and has consistently remained higher than the southern states and the nation. As a result of this continued growth, the state's ranking shifted slightly during this period. North Carolina had the 14th largest probation supervision rate in 1990 and the 13th highest in 1995.

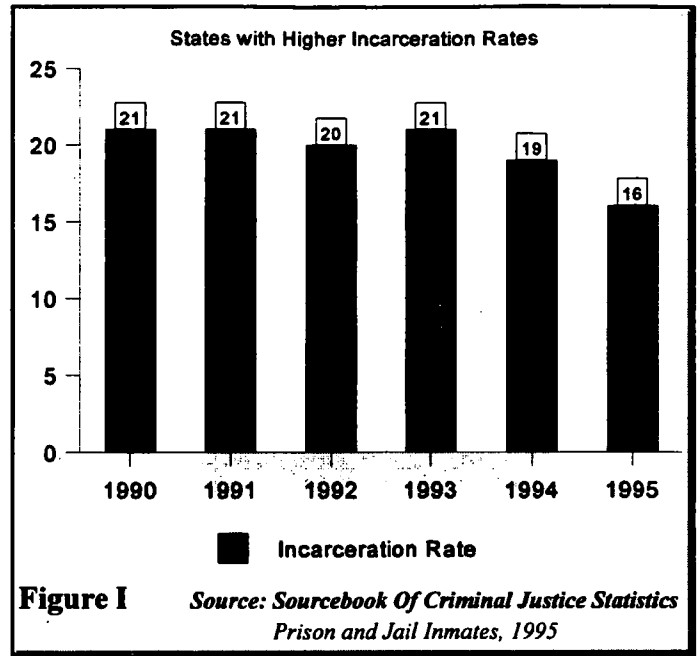
North Carolina sentenced offenders to state institutions at a rate below the regional average and approaching the national rate.

Figure H shows that North Carolina's incarceration rate expanded 56.2 percent from 1990 to 1995. As a result, the state's rate is rapidly approaching the national incarceration rate which only grew 36.7 percent during this period. The growth for the other southern states (53.6 percent) was also considerable, but was still lower than North Carolina's growth. The state's incarceration rate swelled from 265 prisoners, per 100,000 residents, in 1990 to 414, per 100,000, in 1995. Preliminary data for 1995 indicate that the state's prison population experienced the largest percentage of growth in the nation. From 1994 to 1995 it ballooned 24.2 percent.



North Carolina's incarceration rate continues to rank among the highest 25 states, becoming 17th in 1995.

The state's incarceration ranking increased during this period. North Carolina had the 22nd highest rate in 1990 and the 17th highest in 1995 (Refer to Figure I).



The purpose of the *Scorecard on Crime and Justice* is to present a graphical overview of the state of crime and justice issues in North Carolina. It is projected that *Scorecard* will be published once a year. If you have suggestions for future issues, please contact the Analysis Center staff. For additional copies of this publication contact us at the return address printed below.

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