

Crime and Criminal Justice in Iowa

VOLUME II:

CRIME AND ARREST PATTERNS

Statistical

Analysis

Center

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CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN IOWA

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VOLUME II: CRIME AND ARREST PATTERNS

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STATE OF IOWA
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PREFACE

This report is the second of a series of statistically-oriented reports on crime and criminal justice in Iowa released by the Iowa Statistical Analysis Center. The series presents statistics on reported crimes and arrests, pre-trial release practices, court dispositions and sentencing, probation, parole, community-based corrections, time served in prison, parole decision-making, recidivism, prison populations, and the flow of offenders through the criminal justice system. These reports offer the first opportunity in Iowa to bring together statistical data on the full range of criminal justice operations in the state.

The Crime and Criminal Justice reports are among the first to be released by the Statistical Analysis Center. Information for the series was drawn from Uniform Crime Reports of the FBI and the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Biennial Reports of the Iowa Board of Parole, and computerized offender case files maintained by the Iowa Department of Social Services.

Volume I provides a wide panorama of basic statistics on crime, case volumes, criminal justice decision-making, and criminal activities of pre-trial releasees, probationers, and ex-inmates of adult correctional institutions. Subsequent volumes of the series, including this volume, expand on Volume I to provide more detailed analyses and findings and resulting implications for criminal justice operation.

This volume of the series expands on Chapter II of Volume I, and concerns patterns of reported crimes and arrests in Iowa. Five sections are presented:

Section I provides an historical perspective (1960-1978) on crime in Iowa and the Nation. The growth of reported crime in each is displayed in graphical form, with separate trend lines provided for each category of serious crime.

The second section presents arrest rates (arrests per 100,000 population) and again provides a basis for comparison of Iowa statistics with those of the Nation. Also included in this section is a discussion of the efficiency of Iowa law enforcement agencies in clearing reported crimes by arrest.

The third section concentrates on the characteristics of arrested offenders, and includes an offense profile and offense-specific age distributions for persons arrested in Iowa for Part I and II crimes during 1975-1977, and a demographic profile (age, sex, and race) for persons arrested in 1977.

In the last section, the relationship of crime patterns with the age distribution of the general population is discussed, and some attempt is made to prognosticate on the nature of crime in Iowa in the coming decade.

Volume II and subsequent volumes of the series are intended to supplement and expand the base of information appearing in Volume I. As such, no attempt is made to repeat information provided in the first volume. The reader should consult Chapter II of Volume I for definitions of terms and offense categories and for a discussion of conventions in crime reporting and measurement.

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I. REPORTED CRIME

In 1960, there were an estimated ¹ 25,725 serious (Index) crimes reported to law enforcement agencies in Iowa.² By 1978, this figure had risen to 114,609, a 346% increase. During this eighteen year period, the number of reported violent crimes increased from 656 to 4588 - up by 599% - while the number of property crimes increased from 25,069 to 110,021 - up by 339%. On the average, reported violent crime increased by 12.4% per year over the previous year, while both property and total Index crime increased by an average 8.7% per year.

These increases in the volume of reported crime in Iowa far surpassed the 5.5% growth in the general population of the state during the period. Various factors, including movement of the "age-bulge" in the general population caused by the post-war baby boom, and increased criminality among youth, have combined to effect a massive increase in reported crime.

It should be noted, however, that the actual incidence of crime in the state may not have risen at the same rate as reported crime. Eugene Doleschal, of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency Research Center, has suggested³ that we may have seen a "crime-reporting wave" in recent years rather than an actual "crime wave." He estimates that less than 30% of Index crimes committed in 1974 in the Nation were reported to law enforcement agencies. Whether or not this estimate is accurate, any appreciable increase in the fraction of crimes reported over time could account for a significant portion of the 346% increase in reported crime in Iowa since 1960. Above and beyond this, police record-keeping systems are much more capable of accurately keeping track of reported crime now than has been the case in the past.

CRIME RATES

To correct for increases in the general population and to allow a comparison of the crime problem in Iowa with crime in other states and across the Nation, it is necessary to discuss crime rates rather than just raw totals of reported crime. Crime rates are calculated as the number of reported crimes per 100,000 population in a jurisdiction, and are computed for nine categories of reported crime, including total Index crime, violent crime, property crime, and individual categories of Index crime.

Tables 1 and 2 itemize crime rates for Iowa and the Nation for each year from 1960 to 1978 and for each of the nine categories of

¹See Chapter II of Volume I for a discussion of estimates developed by the Statistical Analysis Center.

²See Table 2 in Volume I for estimated reported crime figures.

³Eugene Doleschal, "Crime-Some Popular Beliefs, "Crime and Delinquency, Volume 25, Number 1, 1979, pp. 1-8.

TABLE 1
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
IOWA CRIME RATES
1960-1978

CALENDAR YEAR	TOTAL INDEX	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	MURDER/ NON-NEGL. FORCIBLE			AGGRAVATED		MOTOR VEHICLE	
				MANSLAUGHTER	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	THEFT
1960	932.9	23.8	902.0	0.6	3.7	10.9	8.6	231.2	602.0	76.0
1961	911.1	23.1	888.0	1.3	2.9	10.5	8.5	228.7	589.4	69.8
1962	980.5	20.1	960.4	1.1	3.8	8.6	6.7	263.8	623.2	73.3
1963	1050.4	22.6	1027.8	1.3	3.6	9.1	8.7	270.4	675.9	81.5
1964	1182.5	36.5	1146.0	1.3	5.0	11.2	19.1	290.4	759.8	95.8
1965	1311.0	38.7	1272.3	1.3	4.5	12.8	20.1	304.3	863.4	104.7
1966	1518.0	44.2	1473.8	1.6	4.8	12.8	25.0	336.6	1005.4	131.9
1967	1852.4	58.4	1794.0	1.5	5.6	21.0	30.3	431.6	1207.2	155.2
1968	2145.6	68.5	2077.1	1.7	6.8	25.0	35.0	474.1	1438.4	164.6
1969	2251.9	69.0	2182.9	1.4	6.4	22.4	38.8	489.2	1516.3	177.5
1970	2505.9	79.3	2426.6	1.9	6.2	28.5	42.8	507.3	1744.2	175.0
1971	2627.2	99.0	2528.2	1.8	8.9	30.4	57.8	531.6	1843.4	153.3
1972	2531.7	87.4	2444.3	1.7	8.6	26.7	50.3	521.6	1753.7	169.1
1973	2831.6	102.4	2729.3	2.2	11.3	32.9	55.9	634.0	1904.6	190.7
1974	3413.7	121.0	3292.7	1.9	10.1	48.7	60.4	791.5	2282.1	219.1
1975	3919.6	140.7	3779.0	2.5	10.3	53.5	74.4	818.5	2730.6	229.7
1976	4046.6	133.1	3913.5	2.2	10.6	40.8	77.9	822.4	2884.8	206.2
1977	3836.9	142.5	3694.4	2.3	10.5	41.0	88.7	805.7	2670.1	218.6
1978	3952.0	158.2	3793.8	2.6	10.2	45.9	99.5	860.7	2700.3	232.6

TABLE 2
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
NATIONAL CRIME RATES
1960-1978

CALENDAR YEAR	TOTAL INDEX	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	MURDER/ NON-NEGL.		FORC. RAPE	AGGRAVATED			MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	
				MANSLAUGHTER			ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY		LARCENY
1960	1833.0	136.0	1697.0	5.1		8.7	49.6	72.6	457.9	1059.9	179.2
1961	1803.9	136.3	1667.7	4.7		8.8	50.1	72.7	466.0	1023.4	178.3
1962	1899.0	139.7	1759.2	4.5		8.8	51.3	75.1	480.4	1087.2	191.6
1963	2060.6	144.7	1915.8	4.5		8.7	53.1	78.4	517.6	1186.6	211.6
1964	2291.7	170.5	2121.1	4.8		10.7	58.4	96.6	580.4	1298.7	242.0
1965	2350.4	184.7	2165.7	5.1		11.6	61.4	106.6	605.3	1309.4	251.0
1966	2634.5	215.2	2419.3	5.6		12.9	78.3	118.4	699.6	1435.3	284.4
1967	2960.1	249.9	2710.1	6.1		13.7	102.1	128.0	811.5	1567.6	331.0
1968	3321.5	294.6	3026.9	6.8		15.5	131.0	141.3	915.1	1722.7	389.1
1969	3610.2	324.4	3285.7	7.2		18.1	147.4	151.8	965.6	1888.3	431.8
1970	3970.9	360.0	3611.0	7.8		18.3	171.5	162.4	1067.7	2089.8	453.5
1971	4137.0	392.7	3744.3	8.5		20.3	187.1	176.8	1148.3	2139.5	456.5
1972	4003.7	397.7	3606.0	8.9		22.3	179.9	186.6	1126.1	2056.8	423.1
1973	4116.4	414.3	3702.1	9.3		24.3	182.4	198.4	1210.8	2051.2	440.1
1974	4821.4	458.8	4362.6	9.7		26.1	208.8	214.2	1429.0	2473.0	460.6
1975	5281.7	481.5	4800.2	9.6		26.3	218.2	227.4	1525.9	2804.8	469.4
1976	5266.4	459.6	4806.8	8.8		26.4	195.8	228.7	1439.4	2921.3	446.1
1977	5055.1	466.6	4588.4	8.8		29.1	187.1	241.5	1410.9	2729.9	447.6
1978	5124.2	490.0	4634.3	8.8		30.8	192.7	258.4	1425.0	2750.0	452.1

Index crime. Table 3 delineates percentage increases in crime rates over the eighteen-year period for both, and provides a springboard for further comparative analysis. Figures 1 through 10 following the tables allow a visual time series comparison of crime rates for Iowa and the Nation and, in so doing, allow more insight into crime patterns than is possible with tabular data.

IOWA VERSUS THE NATION

Despite a 9% increase in reported crime per year since 1960, Iowa's crime rate still ranks favorably among the 50 states. For 1977, Iowa ranked 47th among the states in the rate of violent crime and 37th in the rate of both property and total Index crime. For individual crime categories, Iowa ranked as follows:

MURDER/NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER -----	47th
FORCIBLE RAPE-----	48th
ROBBERY-----	42nd
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT-----	45th
BURGLARY-----	45th
LARCENY-----	24th
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT-----	44th

Iowa's total crime rate for 1977 was 77% of the national rate. For violent crime the Iowa rate was 31% of the national rate and for property crime 81%. For individual crime categories Iowa's crime rate as a percent of the national rate varied as follows:

MURDER/NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER-----	26%
FORCIBLE RAPE-----	36%
ROBBERY-----	22%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT-----	37%
BURGLARY-----	58%
LARCENY-----	99%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT-----	49%

Larceny appears to be the only category of Index crime for which the Iowa rate approaches the national rate. More discussion of comparative rates will appear below.

In terms of increases in crime rates since 1960, Table 3 indicates higher percentage increases for Iowa than for the Nation as a whole. In fact, the total crime rate increased by 324% for Iowa as compared to 180% for the Nation. Especially noteworthy is the 1057% increase in the rate of aggravated assault in Iowa, which was the major factor behind a 565% increase in the rate of violent crime.

In percentage terms, murder/non-negligent manslaughter recorded the least increase across the Nation (73%), while forcible rape

TABLE 3
 UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
 PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN CRIME RATE
 1960 TO 1978
 IOWA VERSUS THE NATION

OFFENSE CATEGORY	IOWA	NATION
TOTAL INDEX	324%	180%
VIOLENT	565%	260%
PROPERTY	321%	173%
MURDER/NON-NEGL. MANSLAUGHTER	333%	73%
FORCIBLE RAPE	176%	254%
ROBBERY	321%	289%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1057%	256%
BURGLARY	272%	211%
LARCENY	349%	159%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	206%	152%

Recorded the least increase in Iowa (176%). Of all Index categories, forcible rape is the sole category with a higher percentage increase for the Nation (254%) than for Iowa (176%).

These figures would seem to suggest that the crime problem has worsened in Iowa to a greater extent than has crime across the nation. A somewhat different picture emerges, however, when crime rates are compared via the time series analysis that follows.

TIME SERIES ANALYSIS

Figures 1 through 10 provide trend lines for the 1960-1978 crime rates given in Tables 1 and 2. In addition, crime rates for all Index crimes and for violent and property crimes for the years 1973-1977 in the (West) North Central¹ area of the Nation are included to allow the comparison of crime rates for Iowa with rates for neighboring states.

A cursory inspection of these charts indicates that, above all else, crime rates in Iowa have historically been lower - and continue to be lower - than rates nationally. The one exception is the rate of larceny, which has moved close to the national rate in recent years. Typically, about 70% of Iowa's Part I Crime in recent years has been larceny.

In 1960, the total crime rate for Iowa was 51% of the national rate. By 1978, the Iowa rate as a percentage of the national rate had increased to 77% (same as for 1977). Again, this would indicate a greater aggravation of the crime problem in Iowa than across the Nation. Specifically, sixty-nine percent of the increase in Iowa's rate has been attributable to reported larceny.

Rates of violent crime are especially low for Iowa when compared with national figures. Despite the 565% increase in the rate of violent crime in Iowa since 1960, Iowa's rate for 1978 is just 32% of the national rate (up from 18% in 1960). Figure 2 shows, in addition, that the violent crime rate for Iowa is only about one-half the rate for other (West) North Central states. Furthermore, only North Dakota, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire had lower violent crime rates in the Nation than did Iowa in 1977. North Dakota, South Dakota and Vermont were the only states to have lower murder rates, while rape was lower in just two states - North Dakota and Rhode Island. Thus, despite other indications of a worsening crime problem in Iowa, violent crime is nowhere near the problem in Iowa that it is in many other states. Uniform Crime Reports data show, for example, that violent crime rates are highest in the West and urban Northeast, and next highest in the South. Murder, aggravated assault, and rape are highest in the West and South, while robbery reaches its highest rate in the mid-Atlantic states.

¹West North Central states include Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Figure 1
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CRIME RATE COMPARISON
IOWA; NORTH CENTRAL STATES; NATION
1960-1978
ALL INDEX CRIMES

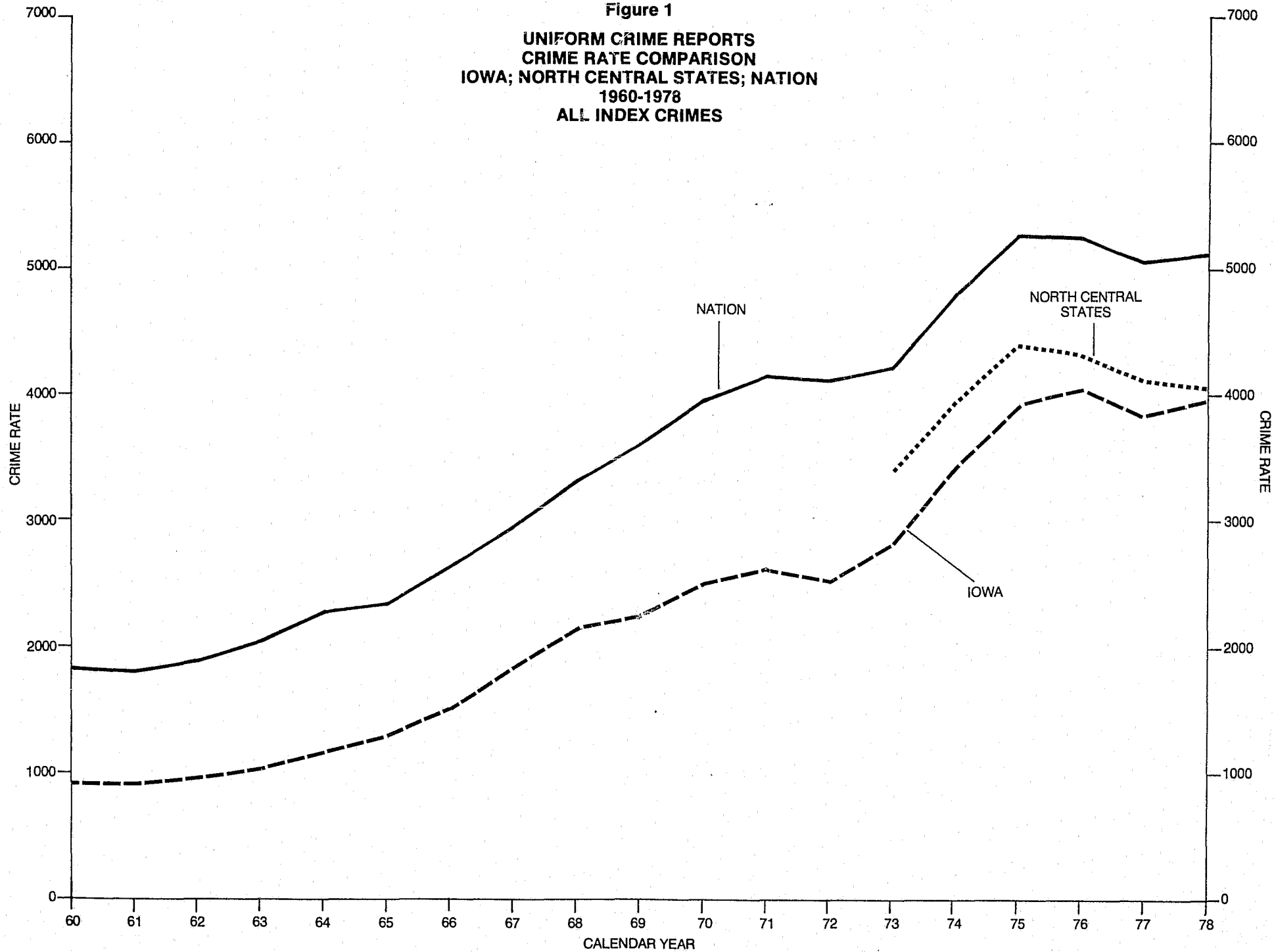


Figure 2
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CRIME RATE COMPARISON
IOWA; NORTH CENTRAL STATES; NATION
1960-1978
VIOLENT CRIMES

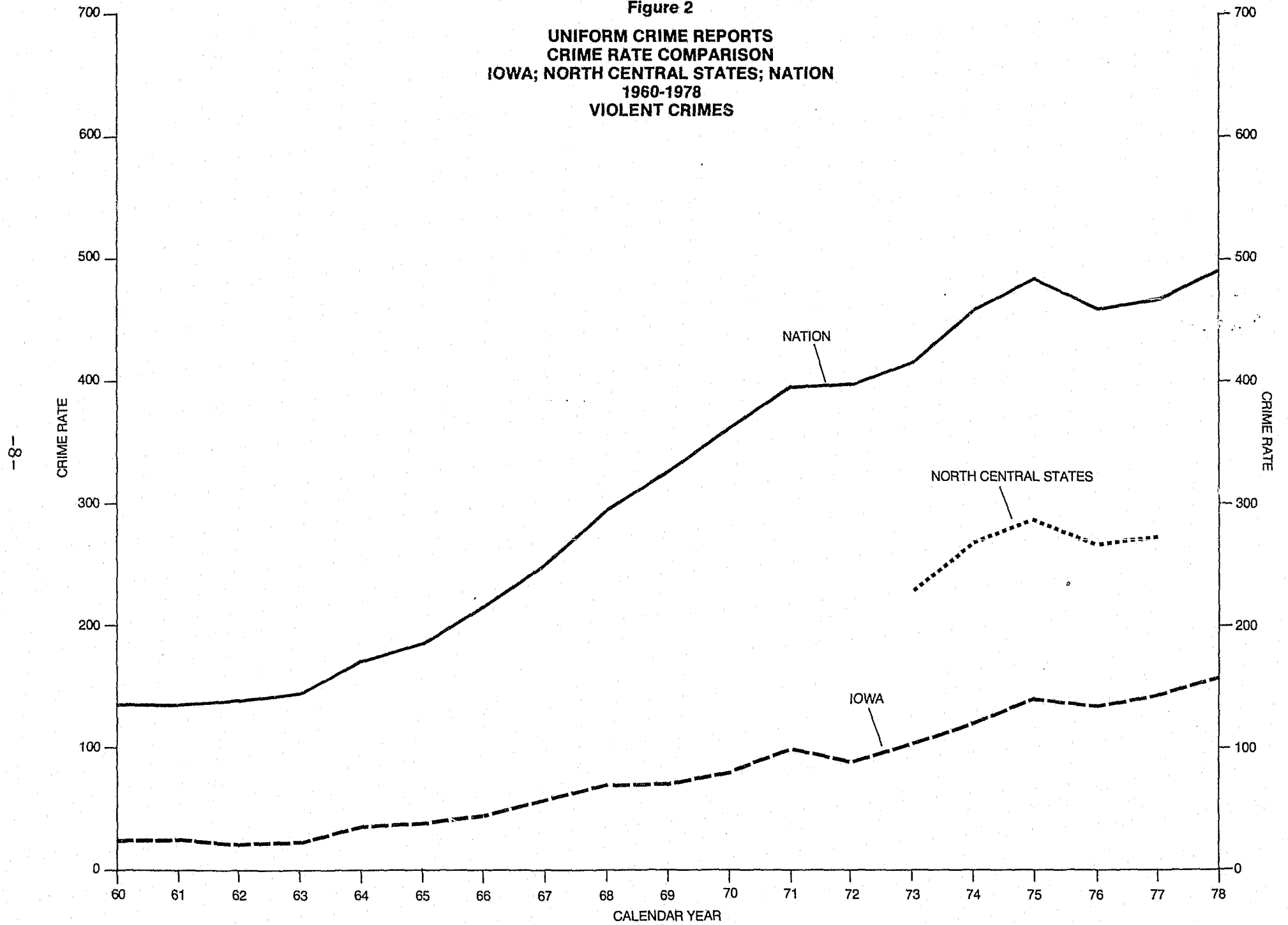


Figure 3
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CRIME RATE COMPARISON
IOWA; NORTH CENTRAL STATES; NATION
1960-1978
PROPERTY CRIMES

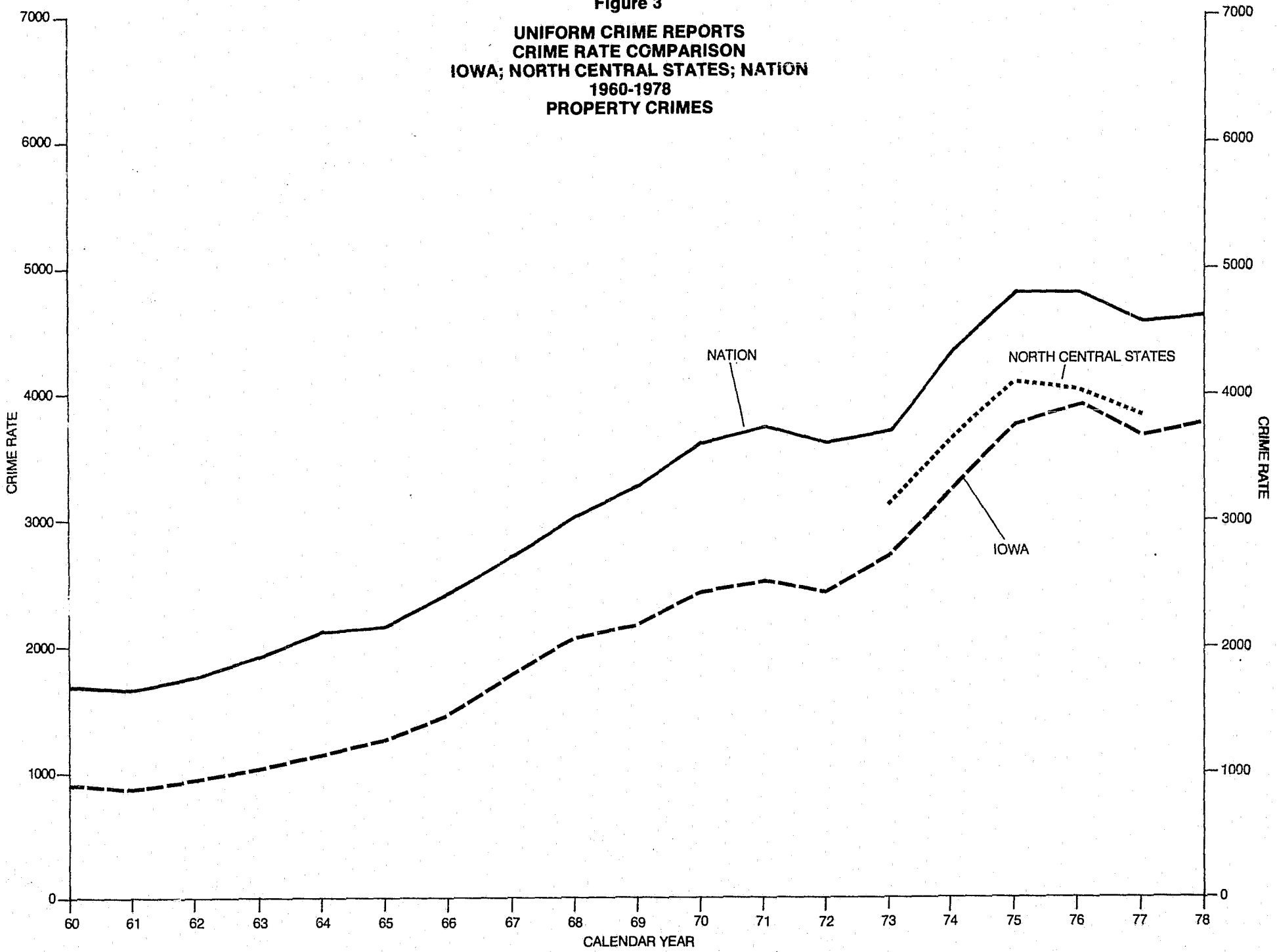


Figure 4
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CRIME RATE COMPARISON
IOWA VERSUS THE NATION
1960-1978
MURDER/NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER

-10-

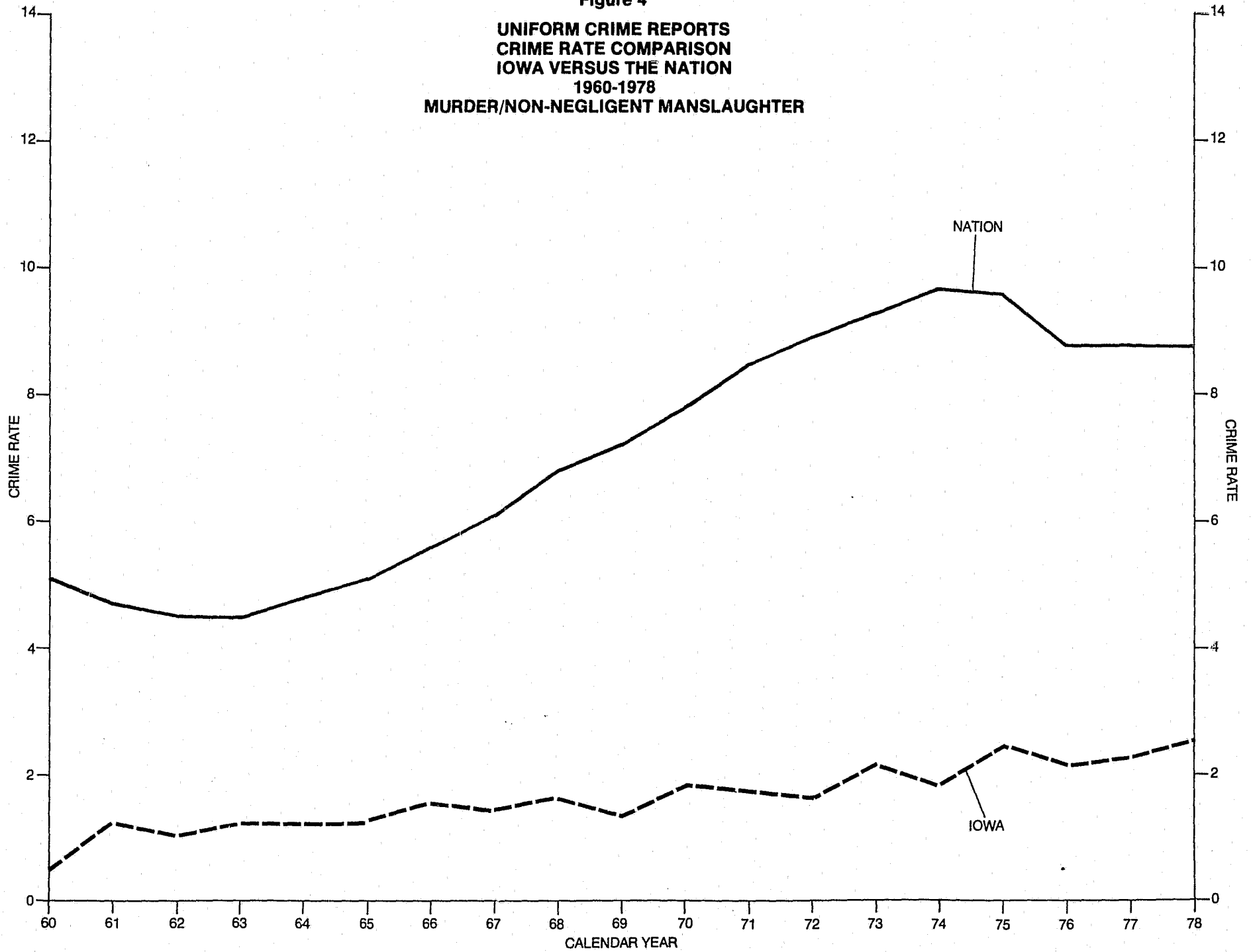


Figure 5
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CRIME RATE COMPARISON
IOWA VERSUS THE NATION
1960-1978
FORCIBLE RAPE

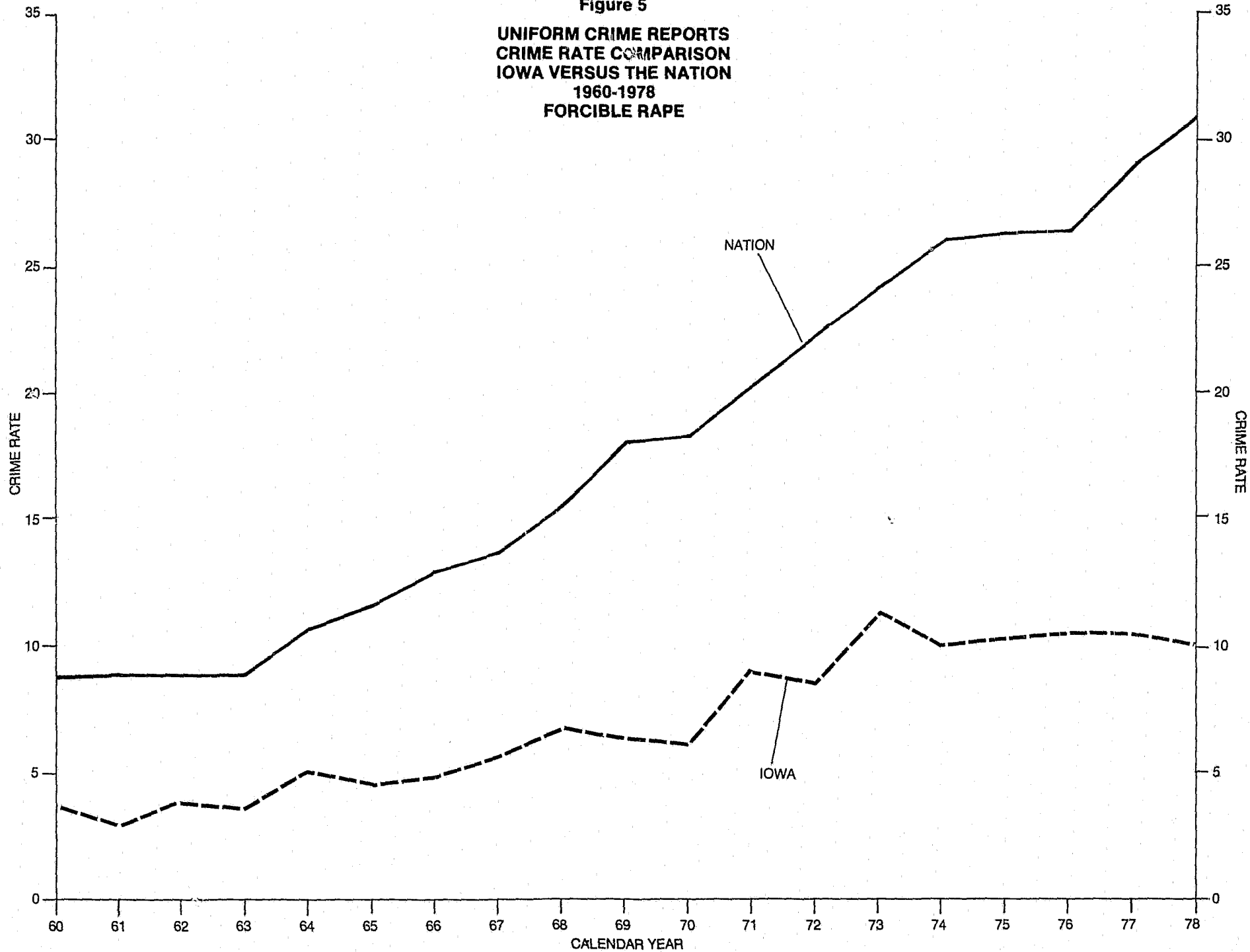


Figure 6
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CRIME RATE COMPARISON
IOWA VERSUS THE NATION
1960-1978
ROBBERY

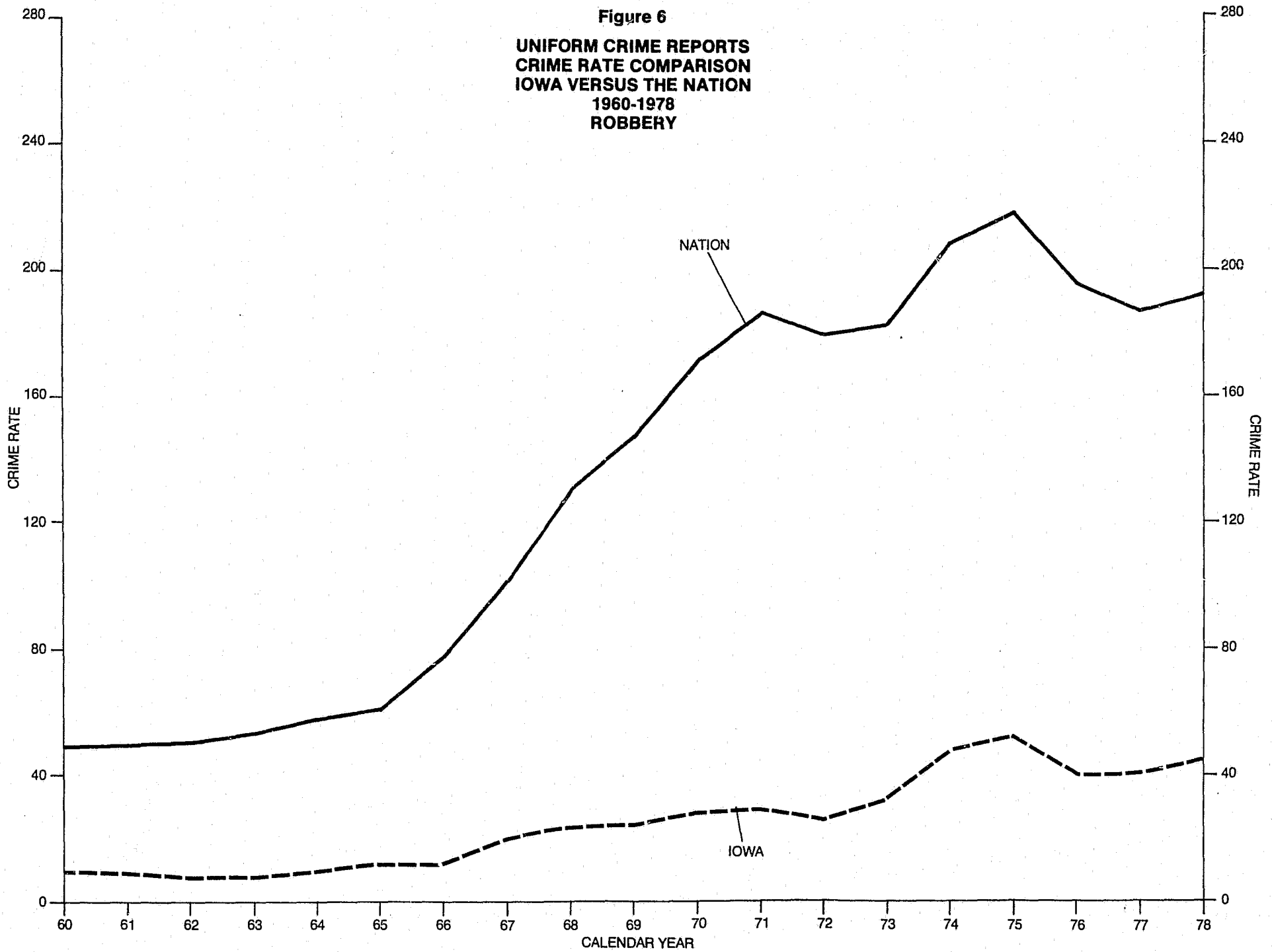


Figure 7
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CRIME RATE COMPARISON
IOWA VERSUS THE NATION
1960-1978
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

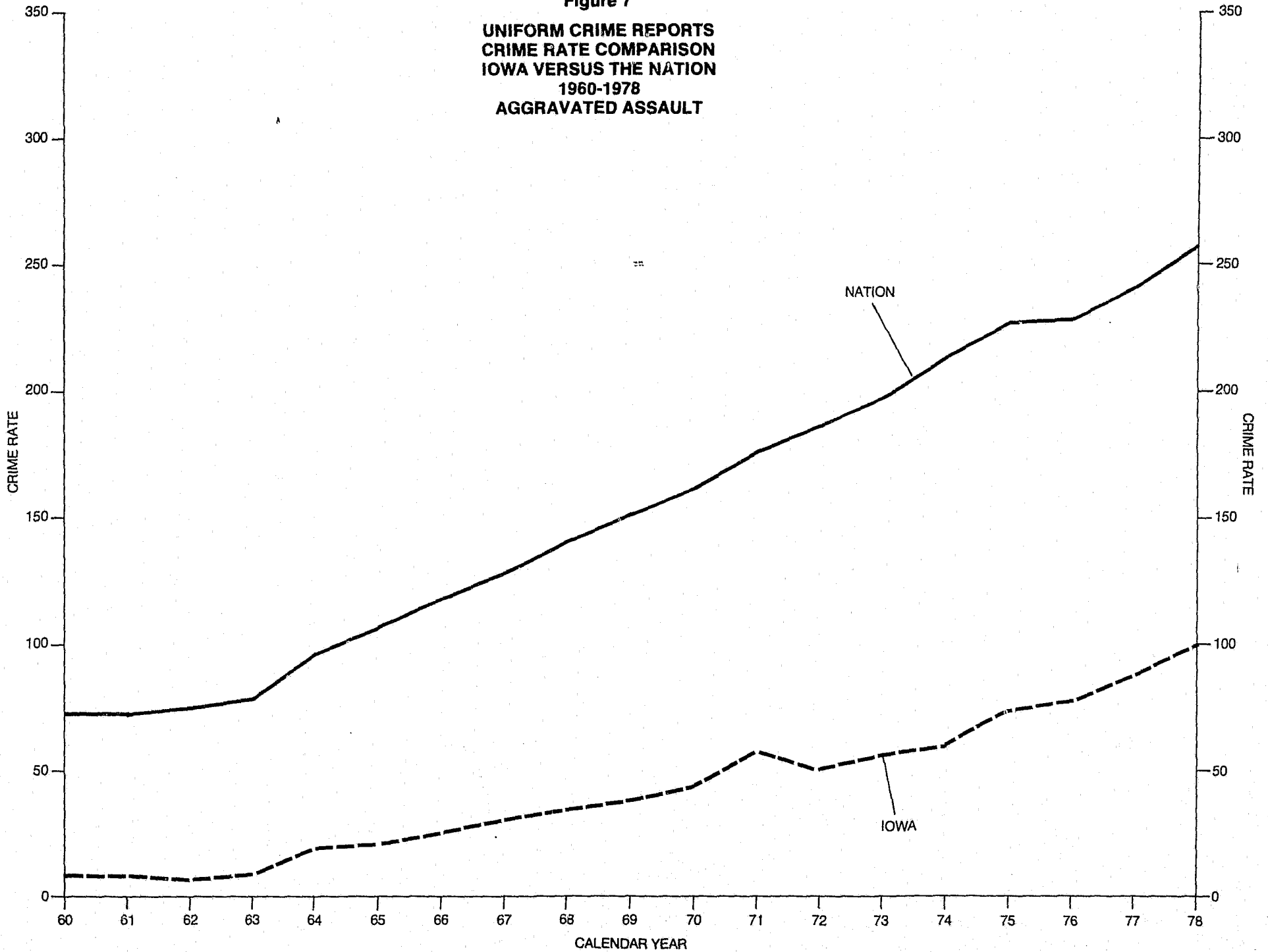


Figure 5
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CRIME RATE COMPARISON
IOWA VERSUS THE NATION
1960-1978
BURGLARY

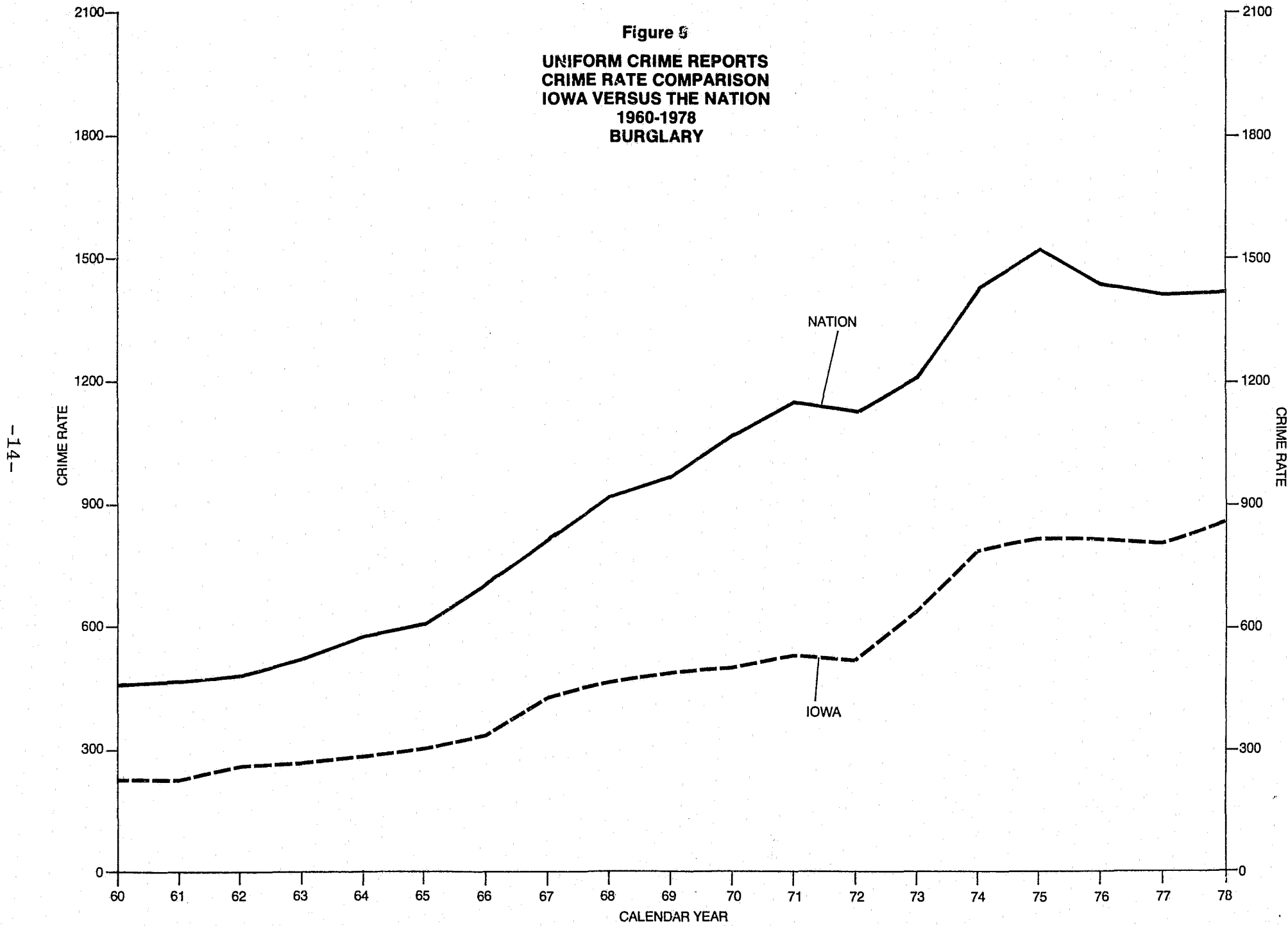


Figure 9
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CRIME RATE COMPARISON
IOWA VERSUS THE NATION
1960-1978
LARCENY

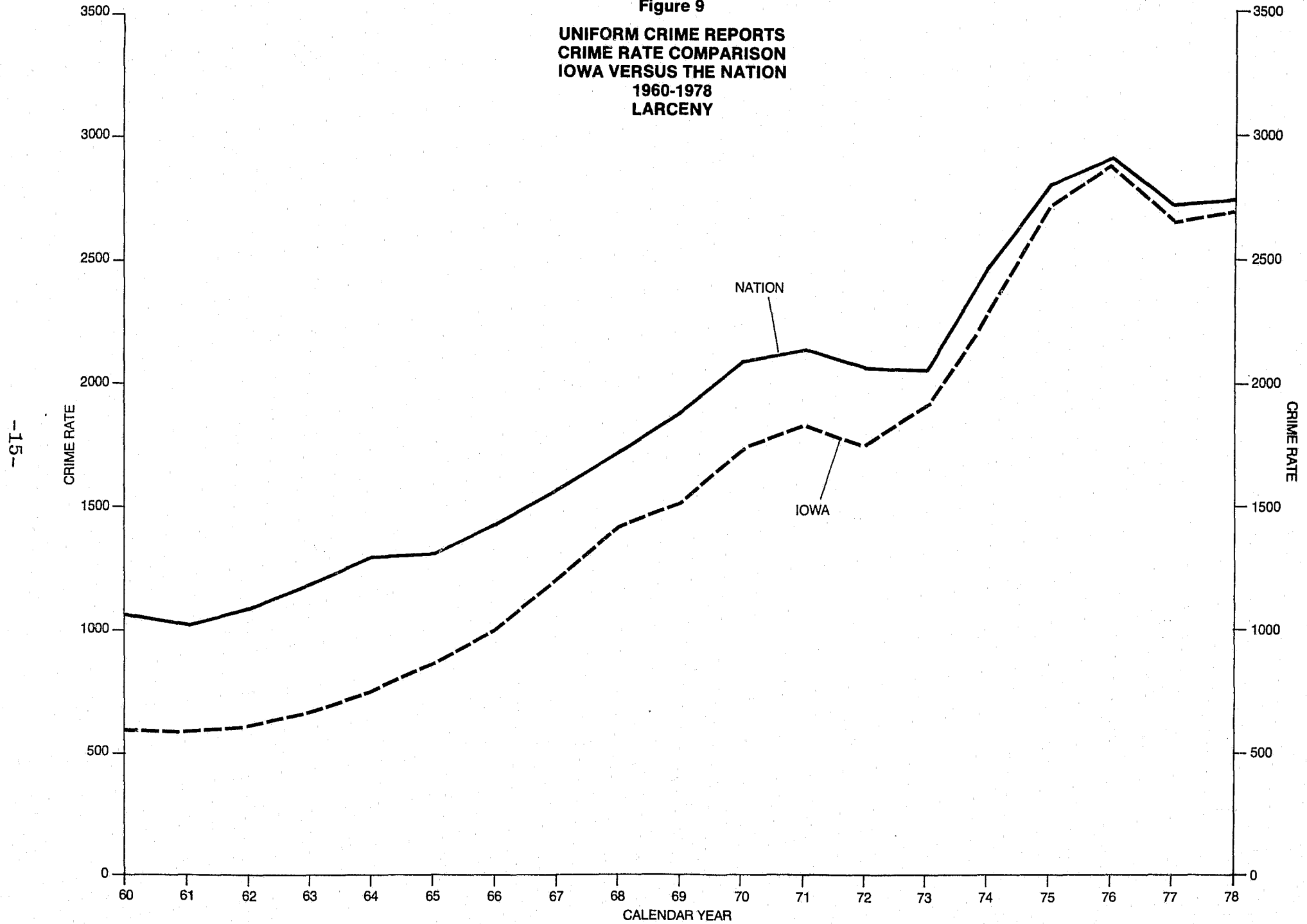
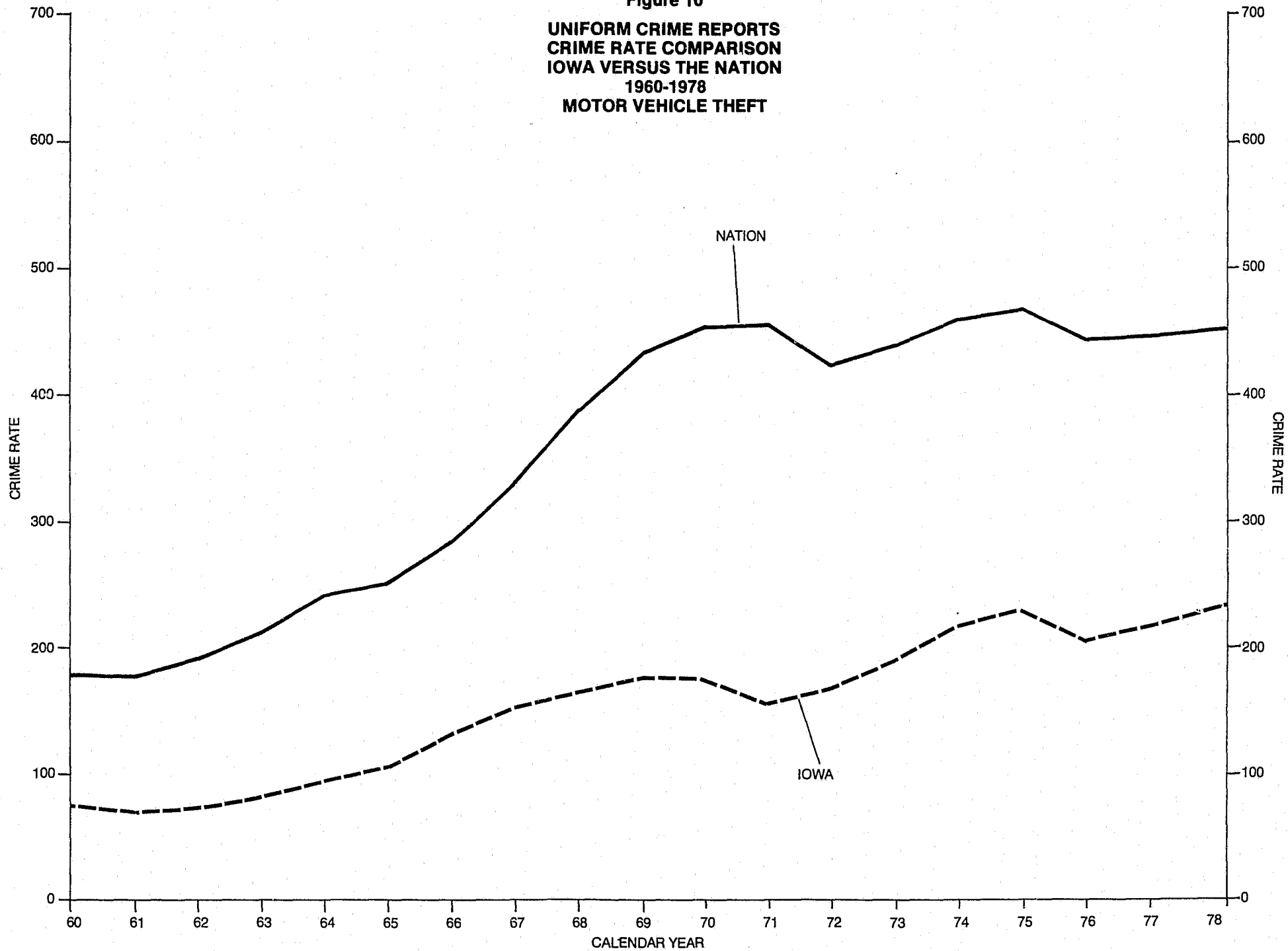


Figure 10
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CRIME RATE COMPARISON
IOWA VERSUS THE NATION
1960-1978
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT



From examination of Figure 2, it is apparent that higher percentage increases in the violent crime rate in Iowa since 1960 "mask" smaller absolute increases. In fact, the rate of violent crime in Iowa increased by 134.4 from 1960 to 1978 as compared to 354.0 for the Nation as a whole. This discrepancy between changes expressed in absolute terms and changes expressed in percentage terms is fundamental to a clear perception of the relative changes in crime in Iowa and across the Nation. The primary factor operating in this context is the extremely small rate of violence in Iowa in 1960 and the resulting likelihood of higher "percentage" increases in Iowa for given absolute increases of the same magnitude for the two jurisdictions.

In brief, Iowa has experienced less absolute growth in the rate of violent crime since 1960 than has the Nation, but the much lower base rates of violence in Iowa have, nonetheless, resulted in higher percentage increases since that time.

On the other hand, for property crime (see Figure 3) the absolute difference in crime rate between Iowa and the Nation has remained remarkably stable over time (gap between curves of stable depth). With a lower base rate (not as low compared to the Nation as violent crime) and a stable absolute difference, the percentage change in property crime rate since 1960 has been greater for Iowa (321% to 173%). Furthermore, rates of property crime are uniformly closer to national rates than are rates of violent crime. To wit, the property crime rate for Iowa as a percentage of the national rate grew from 53% in 1960 to 82% in 1978, while - as stated above - the percentage for violent crime grew from 18% in 1960 to 32% in 1978. In addition, property crime rates for Iowa are much closer to rates for (West) North Central states than are rates for violent crime.

The stable absolute difference in the rate of property crime for Iowa and the Nation carries over to the category of all Index crime (see Figure 1). This is true since property crime is such a high percentage of Index crime (96% for Iowa and 90% for the Nation in 1978). Thus it can be stated that - in absolute terms - the increase in crime in Iowa has not outpaced the increase in crime across the Nation. Specifically, the total crime rate for Iowa increased from 1960 to 1978 by 3019.1, while for the Nation it increased by 3291.2.

From Figures 1, 2 and 3, it is also apparent that reported property crime has stabilized since 1975, and that violent crime - despite a dip in 1976 - shows no clear sign of stability. These statements apply equally to crime in Iowa and crime across the Nation.

From Tables 1 and 2 and Figures 4 through 10 additional analyses of patterns for individual categories of Index crime can be attempted. Among the patterns that can be identified are the following:

- 1) a reduction in the murder rate nationally beginning in 1975, with no clear trend for Iowa;
- 2) a decided leveling-off of forcible rape in Iowa despite a continued increases nationally;
- 3) significant reductions nationally in robbery during 1976 and 1977, and an apparent leveling off of robbery both in Iowa and nationally (despite increases in 1978);
- 4) continued significant increases in aggravated assault both in Iowa and nationally;
- 5) a leveling-off of burglary both in Iowa and nationally since 1974-1975 (despite an increase in Iowa in 1978);
- 6) a significant reduction in larceny both in Iowa¹ and nationally in 1977 after large increases in 1974, 1975 and 1976, and an apparent leveling-off since 1976;
- 7) a steady merging of larceny rates in Iowa with rates nationally; and
- 8) an apparent leveling-off in motor vehicle theft (more so for the Nation than for Iowa) despite successive increases in 1977 and 1978.

¹This reduction may have been artificial, with Iowa's figures indicating that the entire reduction was due to a fall-off in thefts of motor vehicle accessories and from motor vehicles. It would appear that the 1977 reduction was due in large part to a saturation of the stolen CB radio market at the time.

II. ARREST STATISTICS

Although the FBI historically has collected arrest data along with information on reported crimes, it is fair to say that more emphasis has been placed on the latter. In fact, arrest statistics are not itemized for individual states and jurisdictions in the FBI's annual report,¹ as are statistics on reported crime.

To acquire arrest statistics for Iowa for years prior to 1975, it has been necessary to request the information directly from the FBI. Since 1975, all UCR information for Iowa - including arrest data - has been collected by the Iowa Department of Public Safety and then forwarded on to the FBI for their annual report. Due to improved reporting and the ready availability of Iowa data on arrests only since 1975, consideration of arrest data is limited in this report to the three-year period 1975-1977.

Arrest data for Iowa for 1960-1974 have been provided by the FBI but is not judged to be of sufficient quality to be included in this report. Subsequent reports from SAC will make use of these data when sufficient time and care have been taken to guarantee a greater degree of reliability of the information.

When discussing arrest statistics as reflected in Uniform Crime Reports data, it is necessary to distinguish Part I arrests from Part II arrests. Part I arrests are arrests for which at least one charge at arrest is a Part I crime. Part I crimes, in turn, include all the Index crimes itemized above, plus one additional crime - negligent manslaughter. Part I violent crimes include the Index violent crimes and the one added non-Index crime, while Part I property crimes coincide with Index property crimes. Part II crimes include all other crimes (non-Part I) except traffic offenses. Part I and Part II arrests do not include arrests for suspicion, running away, loitering, or curfew violations.

ARREST RATES

Part I crimes are those for which reported incidents and arrests are routinely tabulated by local law enforcement throughout the Nation, although one Part I crime - negligent manslaughter - is not reflected in crime rates.

For Part II crimes, however, arrests are tabulated while reported incidents are not routinely recorded. Since the vast majority of arrests are for Part II crimes, it is essential to study both Part I and Part II arrests to gain a clear picture of the crime problem in Iowa and across the Nation.

As with reported crimes, it is important to correct for population differences in comparing arrest figures between various states

¹Crime in the United States, United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C.

or jurisdictions. The vehicle for such comparisons is the arrest rate, which is the number of arrests per 100,000 population in a jurisdiction.

Arrest rates can, of course, be calculated for all categories of Part I and Part II crime. In all, there are 27 individual categories of Part I and II arrests, including the eight Part I categories and 19 Part II categories - one of which catches all miscellaneous arrests not otherwise categorized.

Table 4 below provides a comparison of arrest rates for Iowa and the Nation for the period 1975-1977 for the 27 individual Part I and II categories, and for five additional "composite" categories, including 1) Part I and II, 2) Part I, 3) Part II, 4) Part I - Violent, and 5) Part I - Property. The 32 categories in the table are ordered from bottom to top according to the magnitude of the ratio (in percentage form) of the arrest rate for Iowa to the arrest rate for the Nation. Thus the embezzlement arrest rate for Iowa is the highest -- relative to the national rate -- of all Part I and II rates, while the gambling rate is -- as a percentage of the national rate -- the lowest.

Notice that the embezzlement rate is the only arrest rate which is higher for Iowa than for the Nation. Overall, for all Part I and II crimes, the arrest rate for Iowa is 60.4% of the national rate. Surprisingly, the Iowa rate as a percentage of the national rate is virtually the same for Part I and Part II crimes - 60.5% for Part I and 60.4% for Part II.

Arrest rate ratios between Iowa and the Nation can be compared with crime rate ratios for consistency. For 1975-1977, the overall crime rate for Iowa (Index crimes) was 76% of the national crime rate. More specifically, the arrest and crime rate ratios (Iowa to the Nation) for the five composite categories are as follows:

OFFENSE CATEGORY	ARREST RATE RATIO	CRIME RATE RATIO
PART I AND II	60.4%	--
PART I	60.5%	75.6%
PART II	60.4%	--
PART I - VIOLENT	33.8%	29.6%
PART I - PROPERTY	67.0%	80.2%

Generally, an arrest rate ratio which is smaller than a crime rate ratio (in the above tabulation) indicates that clearance rates for reported crimes in the category in Iowa are not as high as are clearance rates across the nation, although no direct proof of this can be gleaned from this type of data. Thus the above would suggest

TABLE 4
 UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
 ARREST RATE COMPARISON
 IOWA VERSUS THE NATION
 1975-1977

OFFENSE CATEGORY	IOWA	NATION	IOWA/ NATION (%)
1. EMBEZZLEMENT	5.2	4.4	119.7%
2. LIQUOR LAWS	149.7	161.2	92.9%
3. FORGERY	28.5	32.8	86.7%
4. DRUNKENNESS	523.7	624.8	83.8%
5. VANDALISM	81.0	99.0	81.8%
6. MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	54.0	66.2	81.6%
7. LARCENY	383.3	523.2	73.3%
8. ARSON	5.9	8.2	71.2%
9. STOLEN PROPERTY	37.9	53.8	70.5%
10. PART I - PROPERTY	554.0	826.3	67.0%
11. PART I	620.8	1026.0	60.5%
12. PART II	2005.4	3321.2	60.4%
13. PART I, II	2626.3	4347.2	60.4%
14. DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE	304.1	515.4	59.0%
15. ALL OFFENSES NOT LISTED	405.1	697.2	58.1%
16. SEX OFFENSES	11.6	21.6	53.6%
17. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES	152.3	285.3	53.4%
18. BURGLARY	116.6	236.9	49.2%
19. OTHER ASSAULTS	97.7	200.1	48.8%
20. BAD CHECKS/FRAUD	45.4	94.8	47.9%
21. FORCIBLE RAPE	5.7	12.6	45.4%
22. ILLEGAL WEAPONS	31.1	70.3	44.3%
23. AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	40.3	111.4	36.2%
24. PART I - VIOLENT	66.9	198.2	33.8%
25. DISORDERLY CONDUCT	109.2	326.0	33.5%
26. FAMILY OFFENSES	9.2	29.8	30.9%
27. NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	0.5	1.6	30.8%
28. ROBBERY	18.3	65.6	27.9%
29. MURDER/NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	2.1	8.6	24.2%
30. VAGRANCY	4.1	24.6	16.7%
31. COMMERCIAL VICE	3.1	33.6	9.1%
32. GAMBLING	1.5	30.3	4.9%

that clearance rates in Iowa are (slightly) higher than nationally for violent crimes and lower for property crimes.

CLEARANCE RATES

The data presented above suggest the utility of examining clearance rates for categories of Index crime. A clearance rate for a particular category is defined as the percent of reported crimes in a category that are cleared by arrest within the reporting year. Clearance rates have become a reasonably accepted measure of law enforcement agency performance.

The clearance rate for a category is not necessarily the same as the ratio of associated arrests to reports (in percentage form) since there is not always a one-to-one correspondence between crimes cleared by arrests and the arrests themselves. Thus a clearance rate might be higher than the arrests-to-reports ratio if arrests more often than normal involve multiple clearances. On the other hand, arrests to reports ratios tend to increase when multiple offenders are arrested for single crimes, or when arrested offenders are released without formal charges (no clearance).

Tables 5 and 6 below provide the most reliable data on clearance rates and arrests-to-reports ratios that could be generated for purposes of comparison between Iowa and the Nation. Table 5 gives arrests-to-reports ratios for Iowa and the Nation for Index crimes reported in 1975-1977. The table again suggests that clearances are higher in Iowa for violent crimes (especially for robbery and forcible rape) and are lower for property crimes. The table suggests, in addition, that clearances are higher in Iowa for motor vehicle theft and are lower for burglary and larceny.

Table 6 summarizes the information that could be gathered on actual clearance rates for comparison purposes. Data for Iowa reflect clearances in 1976-1977 for the entire state, while national data are limited to a sampling of jurisdictions for 1976-1977 and complete data for the period 1968-1972. This table verifies - albeit not totally - that clearance rates in Iowa are lower for larceny and burglary, and are higher for motor vehicle theft, but casts some doubt on the hypothesis that clearance rates are higher for violent crimes in Iowa. One reason for lower clearance rates for property crimes in the state may be the comparatively greater problem with property crime than with violent crime. It may be that sufficient resources to combat property crime in Iowa have not been mustered to the extent of many other states across the Nation. Another possible explanation may be the effect of a predominately rural environment in Iowa, which may effect lower clearance rates for such crimes. It may also relate to more juvenile involvement in property crimes in Iowa.

TABLE 5
 UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
 ARRESTS TO REPORTS RATIO
 IOWA VERSUS THE NATION
 1975-1977

OFFENSE CATEGORY	IOWA	NATION
ALL INDEX	15.8%	19.7%
VIOLENT	48.2%	42.2%
PROPERTY	14.6%	17.5%
MURDER/NON-NEGL. MANSL.	89.7%	95.3%
FORCIBLE RAPE	54.4%	46.1%
ROBBERY	40.6%	32.7%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	50.2%	47.9%
BURGLARY	14.3%	16.2%
LARCENY	13.9%	18.6%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	24.8%	14.6%

TABLE 6
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
CLEARANCE RATES
IOWA VERSUS THE NATION

OFFENSE CATEGORY	IOWA 1976-1977	NATION	
		1976-1977	1968-1972
ALL INDEX	16.0%	21.6%	21%
VIOLENT	54.0%	54.7%	48%
PROPERTY	14.6%	19.2%	19%
MURDER/NON-NEGL. MANSL.	81.8%	83.5%	85%
FORCIBLE RAPE	50.6%	56.5%	56%
ROBBERY	32.9%	33.0%	28%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	64.5%	68.5%	66%
BURGLARY	14.8%	17.9%	19%
LARCENY	13.8%	20.0%	19%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	25.0%	17.5%	17%

• IOWA DATA FOR 1976-1977 REPRESENT TOTAL STATEWIDE REPORTING.

• NATIONAL DATA FOR 1976-1977 BASED ON SAMPLE OF REPORTING JURIS-
DICTIONS COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 15% OF POPULATION.

• NATIONAL DATA FOR 1968-1972 REPRESENT TOTAL NATIONWIDE REPORTING.

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF ARRESTED OFFENDERS

A major rationale for collecting arrest statistics in addition to data on reported crimes is that arrested offenders can be identified, and their characteristics studied. Through the careful examination of profiles of arrested offenders, the observer can gain an appreciation for some of the dynamics of crime that do not appear in reported crime statistics. In particular, offender profiles establish the degree of association of certain types of criminal behavior with selected components of the general population.

Fortunately, the Uniform Crime Reports provide a wealth of demographic data on arrested offenders, including numerous cross-tabulations of arrest categories with age, sex, and race variables. Table 7 below, which concerns offenders arrested in Iowa in 1977, ranks the 32 Part I and II crime categories according to three demographic measures: 1) the percent of those arrested who are female, 2) the percent of those arrested who are black, and 3) the median age of those arrested. The five composite crime categories identified in the previous section are underscored for the reader's convenience.

Of all Part I and II arrests in Iowa in 1977, 14.0% were of females and 4.8% were of blacks. The median age at arrest for all those arrested was 21.6.

DISTINCTIONS BY SEX AND RACE

As expected, offenses with higher percentages of female involvement include commercial vice (prostitution), larceny (including shoplifting), and paper crimes (forgery, bad checks/fraud, and embezzlement). Higher percentages of black involvement appear in categories of commercial vice and crimes of violence, especially robbery, murder/non-negligent manslaughter, and forcible rape.

Lower percentages of female involvement are associated with crimes involving force, violence, weapons, or alcohol (except liquor law violations). Lower percentages of black involvement fall in categories involving alcohol or controlled substances (most drug arrests are for possession of marijuana). Lower percentages of black involvement also occur with the crimes of motor vehicle theft, vandalism, and arson - which may be due to high arrest rates for such crimes in the white juvenile population of the state.

DISTINCTIONS BY AGE

Of the three demographic indicators discussed here, age would appear to be of most interest in the analysis of crime and arrest patterns. This is true since the age distribution of the general population is more closely tied to criminal behavior than are racial or sexual characteristics. In fact, the age-bulge movement - to be discussed in the last section - is probably the best indicator of the nature and magnitude of future crime in Iowa.

Table 7 indicates a fairly wide range in median ages of arrest among the 27 individual crime categories. Very clearly, property offenders - including arsonists, vandals, burglars, thieves and car thieves - tend to be younger than other offenders. On the other extreme are persons arrested for drunkenness, drunken driving and murder or manslaughter. One other feature worth noting is that the median age of persons arrested for robbery is closer to same for property offenders than for other violent offenders.

To more clearly establish the interrelationships between age and the category of crime, Table 9 below was constructed. The table, which is based on all Part I and II arrests in Iowa in 1975-1977, provides age distributions - in five-year intervals - for each of the 32 crime categories (see Table 8 for the arrest totals broken down in Table 9). The table shows that 48% of all Part I and II arrests were of persons under the age of 20. This percentage varies among major offense categories as follows:

OFFENSE CATEGORY	% UNDER 20 AT ARREST
PART I AND II	48%
PART I	67%
PART II	43%
PART I - VIOLENT	35%
PART I - PROPERTY	71%

It is readily apparent that Part I property crimes stand apart - in age distinctions - from Part II crime and Part I violent crimes. Notice, for example, that 80% of vandals, 83% of car thieves, and 77% of burglars are under 20 at arrest. These percentages lie in stark contrast to the 14% of murderers, 20% of drunks, 13% of drunken drivers, and 21% of check writers who are under 20 at arrest. Furthermore, just 28% of rapists and 30% of other sex offenders are under 20 at arrest.

TABLE 7
 UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
 IOWA - 1977
 PART I AND PART II ARRESTS
 DEMOGRAPHIC RANKING OF OFFENSE CATEGORIES

FEMALE	BLACK	MEDIAN AGE
COMMERCIAL VICE (87.5%)	COMMERCIAL VICE (58.7%)	VANDALISM (16.5)
FORGERY (31.4%)	ROBBERY (24.3%)	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (16.6)
BAD CHECKS/FRAUD (31.1%)	MURDER/NON-NEGL. MANSL. (24.1%)	BURGLARY (17.3)
LARCENY (30.9%)	FORCIBLE RAPE (17.1%)	<u>PART I - PROPERTY</u> (17.4)
EMBEZZLEMENT (27.7%)	<u>PART I - VIOLENT</u> (15.2%)	ARSON (17.4)
<u>PART I - PROPERTY</u> (23.5%)	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT (11.2%)	LIQUOR LAWS (17.5)
<u>PART I</u> (21.7%)	OTHER ASSAULTS (10.9%)	LARCENY (17.6)
GAMBLING (21.4%)	EMBEZZLEMENT (10.8%)	<u>PART I</u> (17.8)
LIQUOR LAWS (18.9%)	ILLEGAL WEAPONS (9.5%)	STOLEN PROPERTY (19.0)
FAMILY OFFENSES (18.9%)	FORGERY (9.1%)	CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (19.5)
OFFENSES NOT LISTED (16.3%)	STOLEN PROPERTY (8.6%)	ROBBERY (19.9)
<u>PART I, II</u> (14.0%)	<u>PART I</u> (8.2%)	DISORDERLY CONDUCT (20.8)
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (12.6%)	LARCENY (8.0%)	OFFENSES NOT LISTED (21.3)
STOLEN PROPERTY (12.6%)	<u>PART I - PROPERTY</u> (7.3%)	FORGERY (21.6)
DISORDERLY CONDUCT (12.4%)	BAD CHECKS/FRAUD (6.9%)	<u>PART I, II</u> (21.6)
OTHER ASSAULTS (12.4%)	SEX OFFENSES (6.5%)	ILLEGAL WEAPONS (22.4)
<u>PART II</u> (11.9%)	BURGLARY (6.4%)	<u>PART II</u> (22.9)
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT (10.8%)	DISORDERLY CONDUCT (5.4%)	OTHER ASSAULTS (23.1)
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (8.6%)	<u>PART I, II</u> (4.8%)	<u>PART I - VIOLENT</u> (23.3)
<u>PART I - VIOLENT</u> (8.5%)	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (4.3%)	COMMERCIAL VICE (23.4)
ARSON (7.7%)	<u>PART II</u> (3.8%)	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT (23.6)
DRUNKENNESS (7.5%)	OFFENSES NOT LISTED (3.8%)	FORCIBLE RAPE (23.7)
SEX OFFENSES (7.5%)	DRUNKENNESS (3.4%)	EMBEZZLEMENT (23.7)
MURDER/NON-NEGL. MANSL. (7.4%)	VANDALISM (3.2%)	SEX OFFENSES (24.9)
DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE (7.3%)	ARSON (2.5%)	BAD CHECKS/FRAUD (25.3)
ROBBERY (5.7%)	CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (2.3%)	NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER (26.2)
VANDALISM (5.7%)	FAMILY OFFENSES (2.2%)	MURDER/NON-NEGL. MANSL. (27.7)
BURGLARY (5.2%)	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE (1.4%)	FAMILY OFFENSES (28.2)
ILLEGAL WEAPONS (5.2%)	LIQUOR LAWS (1.2%)	DRUNKENNESS (28.2)
VAGRANCY (4.7%)	NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER (0.0%)	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE (29.0)
NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER (0.0%)	GAMBLING (0.0%)	GAMBLING (33.0)
FORCIBLE RAPE (0.0%)	VAGRANCY (0.0%)	VAGRANCY (36.2)

TABLE 8
 UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
 IOWA - 1975-1977
 PART I AND PART II ARRESTS
 OFFENSE PROFILE

OFFENSE CATEGORY	ARRESTS	% TOTAL
PART I, II	224,548	100.0%
PART II	171,465	76.4%
PART I	53,083	23.6%
PART I - PROPERTY	47,363	21.1%
DRUNKENNESS	44,777	19.9%
OFFENSES NOT LISTED	34,635	15.4%
LARCENY	32,775	14.6%
DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE	26,001	11.6%
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES	13,024	5.8%
LIQUOR LAWS	12,082	5.7%
BURGLARY	9967	4.4%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	9341	4.2%
OTHER ASSAULTS	8350	3.7%
VANDALISM	6923	3.1%
PART I - VIOLENT	5720	2.5%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	4621	2.1%
BAD CHECKS/FRAUD	3884	1.7%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	3448	1.5%
STOLEN PROPERTY	3241	1.4%
ILLEGAL WEAPONS	2661	1.2%
FORGERY	2435	1.1%
ROBBERY	1566	0.7%
SEX OFFENSES	989	0.4%
FAMILY OFFENSES	788	0.4%
ARSON	502	0.2%
FORCIBLE RAPE	487	0.2%
EMBEZZLEMENT	446	0.2%
VAGRANCY	351	0.2%
COMMERCIAL VICE	262	0.1%
MURDER/NON-NEGL. MANSL.	179	0.1%
GAMBLING	126	0.1%
NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	41	0.0%

TABLE 9
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS
IOWA - 1975-1977
PART I AND PART II ARRESTS
AGE PROFILE OF OFFENSE CATEGORIES

OFFENSE CATEGORY	AGE AT ARREST										
	0-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+
VANDALISM	35.3%	44.7%	10.9%	4.0%	2.0%	1.2%	0.8%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	20.5%	62.5%	9.4%	3.7%	1.5%	0.9%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%
BURGLARY	21.4%	55.1%	14.4%	4.7%	1.8%	1.1%	0.7%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
PART I - PROPERTY	23.5%	47.3%	13.9%	5.4%	2.6%	1.8%	1.3%	1.2%	0.9%	0.7%	1.4%
ARSON	35.1%	34.3%	12.6%	5.3%	4.5%	3.4%	2.2%	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%	0.4%
LIQUOR LAWS	4.6%	74.9%	11.4%	3.3%	1.6%	1.1%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%
LARCENY	24.6%	42.8%	14.4%	5.9%	2.9%	2.1%	1.5%	1.6%	1.2%	1.0%	2.0%
PART I	21.5%	45.4%	15.4%	6.5%	3.2%	2.1%	1.5%	1.3%	0.9%	0.7%	1.4%
STOLEN PROPERTY	11.0%	47.9%	22.7%	8.3%	3.5%	2.5%	1.5%	1.2%	0.8%	0.2%	1.4%
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES	4.0%	52.1%	30.6%	9.7%	2.2%	0.8%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
ROBBERY	7.5%	45.3%	26.9%	10.4%	4.2%	2.7%	1.1%	1.0%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	9.2%	36.7%	26.2%	11.9%	5.9%	3.5%	2.3%	1.7%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%
OFFENSES NOT LISTED	8.2%	34.1%	26.1%	11.8%	5.9%	4.2%	3.3%	2.3%	1.7%	1.0%	1.4%
FORGERY	3.1%	33.7%	27.8%	15.4%	7.7%	4.8%	2.7%	2.2%	1.7%	0.6%	0.4%
PART I, II	10.6%	37.7%	21.4%	10.7%	6.1%	4.5%	3.7%	3.3%	2.6%	1.8%	2.2%
ILLEGAL WEAPONS	4.5%	30.9%	26.9%	15.1%	7.6%	5.7%	4.1%	2.0%	1.6%	0.8%	1.2%
PART II	7.2%	35.4%	23.2%	12.0%	7.0%	5.3%	4.4%	3.8%	3.1%	2.2%	2.5%
OTHER ASSAULTS	6.8%	25.6%	26.0%	15.9%	7.7%	6.2%	4.4%	2.7%	1.5%	1.1%	0.8%
PART I - VIOLENT	4.7%	30.2%	27.5%	15.6%	8.5%	5.1%	3.2%	2.4%	1.2%	0.8%	0.7%
COMMERCIAL VICE	0.4%	21.7%	44.9%	18.3%	7.6%	5.3%	0.8%	1.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.8%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	3.9%	25.1%	27.6%	16.7%	10.2%	6.2%	3.7%	3.0%	1.5%	1.2%	1.0%
FORCIBLE RAPE	3.7%	24.4%	28.3%	21.1%	10.3%	4.7%	4.1%	2.1%	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%
EMBEZZLEMENT	2.0%	27.1%	26.2%	16.7%	9.3%	7.6%	3.6%	3.3%	2.4%	1.1%	0.6%
SEX OFFENSES	7.6%	22.0%	21.9%	17.2%	9.1%	5.2%	4.9%	4.3%	2.4%	2.5%	3.0%
BAD CHECKS/FRAUD	2.3%	18.6%	29.4%	17.7%	12.0%	6.8%	5.3%	3.5%	2.3%	1.4%	0.8%
NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	0.0%	26.8%	39.0%	12.2%	9.8%	2.4%	0.0%	7.3%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%
MURDER/NON-NEGL. MANSL.	1.1%	12.8%	26.8%	25.7%	8.9%	7.3%	8.4%	3.9%	2.8%	0.0%	1.7%
FAMILY OFFENSES	6.1%	28.2%	21.7%	12.4%	9.9%	8.0%	6.6%	4.0%	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%
DRUNKENNESS	0.6%	19.6%	22.9%	13.3%	9.7%	7.8%	6.9%	6.9%	6.1%	4.4%	5.1%
DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE	0.0%	12.6%	22.8%	15.9%	11.0%	8.6%	7.8%	7.0%	5.7%	4.1%	4.4%
GAMBLING	0.0%	10.3%	7.1%	11.1%	13.5%	14.3%	12.7%	11.9%	7.1%	4.8%	7.2%
VAGRANCY	3.1%	16.4%	17.5%	8.4%	4.7%	4.2%	6.1%	10.6%	9.7%	4.7%	14.5%

IV. FUTURE CRIME IN IOWA

As suggested by trend lines appearing in the first section, reported property crime in Iowa may have stabilized after a period of steady growth since the early sixties. On the other hand, there are no definite signs that violent crime will level off in the same manner. The distinction between property and violent crimes that might well dictate this divergence concerns age-related patterns discussed in the previous section.

On the one hand, it is clear that Part I property offenders are much younger - on the average - than are Part I violent and Part II offenders. On the other hand, the age distribution of the general population in Iowa has been changing continually since the post-war baby boom (see Table 4 in Volume I), and may, in fact, be shifting the burden of crime in Iowa from youth-oriented property crime to adult-oriented violent and Part II crime. Since the peak year for Part I property crime in Iowa was 1976, it might be anticipated that the peak for Part I violent and Part II crime will occur in the early to mid eighties. This follows since Part I violent and Part II offenders are - on the average - five to seven years older than are Part I property offenders (see Table 7 above and Table 8 in Volume I).

The shift in the age distribution of the general population is commonly referred to as the "age-bulge" movement. This age-bulge has a "peak" that appears to have moved - in the late seventies - from the 15-19 age range into the 20-24 range.

Population projections developed by the State Demographer in the Office for Planning and Programming suggest that the age-bulge peak may currently be at or around age 21. Accordingly, further increases in crimes with median ages over 21 might be expected. These would include assaults, forcible rape, embezzlement, sex offenses, bad checks/fraud, murder/manslaughter, drunkenness, drunken driving and several others. Generally, the higher the median age as specified in Table 7, the longer it might be until a given type of crime will level off or decrease. Thus the state might have to wait six or seven years for the murder rate to reach its peak.

Similarly, crimes with median ages less than 21 might well decrease in the years ahead. These would include most property crimes, drug offenses and robbery.

Whether or not specific types of crime increase or decrease with continued movement of the age-bulge, it is likely that this shift in the demographic structure of the population will shift more of the bulk of justice system activity in Iowa from juvenile justice to (adult) criminal justice. Accordingly, juvenile court cases should decrease through the 1980's. Shifts in adult justice system involvements are more difficult to anticipate since young adults are much more likely to be involved with crime than are older adults (recall current age peak at 21). It can be anticipated, however, that programs or facilities dealing with older adult offenders - such as the Fort Madison Penitentiary - will see increased caseloads and populations through the 1980's. How long this increase will prolong is unclear at this time.

END