MF-1

CRIME

in

South Dakota

87989

Division of
Law Enforcement
Assistance

Prepared By

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Authors of this report are Rod Anderson, Michel Hillman and Dave Peterson. This summary of statistics on crime in South Dakota utilizes information from the Uniform Crime Reports published annually by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of this report is to provide a view of crime in South Dakota based upon police statistics contributed by local law enforcement agencies.

"The Attorney General should ensure that adequate resources are available for the collection and analysis of statistics on crime, its victims, its perpetrators, and all parts of the justice system at all levels of government and for the dissemination of these statisics to policymakers in the Department of Justice; other agencies of federal, state, and local government; the Congress; and the general public."

Recommendation of the U.S. Attorney General's Task Force on Violent Crime, August 17, 1981.

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CRIME IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The crime data used in this report were taken from the FBI's "Crime in the United States" from 1974-1980. Part I offenses include violent and property crimes. Violent crimes in the report are murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, while property crimes are burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. The crime rate is the number of crimes per 100,000 population.

The Statistical Summary

*In 1980, 22,320 Part I Offenses were reported by law enforcement agencies in South Dakota.

*The crime rate in South Dakota during 1980 was 3,243.2 per 100,000 population while the rate for the nation was 5,899.9 Part I Crimes per 100,000 population.

*Total reported index crimes in South Dakota have increased by 22.5 percent since 1974 and by 9.4 percent since 1979.

*Violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) decreased by 20.3 percent since 1979.

*Property crimes (burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft) have increased by 11.1 percent since 1979.

*There were 5 reported murders in 1980, a decrease of 64.3 percent from 1979.

*Rape has decreased by 23.9 percent since 1979; 113 were reported in 1979 while 86 were reported in 1980.

*Aggravated assault decreased by 22.3 percent since 1979; 829 were reported in 1979 while 644 were reported in 1980.

*Burglary has increased 10.4 percent from 4,316 in 1979 to 4,766 in 1980.

*There were 15,521 reported larceny/thefts in 1980 as compared to 13,782 in 1979, a 12.6 percent increase.

*Motor vehicle theft has decreased by 3.3 percent since 1979; 1,160 as compared to 1,199.

*South Dakota reported a lower murder rate than any other state during 1980.

*Only North Dakota, West Virginia and Puerto Rico had a lower crime rate in 1980 than South Dakota.

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Reported Index Crime Rate

Law enforcement agencies in South Dakota reported, through the Uniform Crime Reporting program, 22,320 Part I Offenses during 1980 for a rate per 100,00 of 3,243.2 (Table 1). The rate per 100,000 is calculated by taking the number of reported crimes times 100,000 and dividing this figure by the population of the jurisdiction. This is done in order to compare crime from year to year by controlling for population. The Part I Offenses (or Index Crimes) are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft (arson has just recently been added to the list of index offenses and no data is available for this crime in South Dakota). These crimes are referred to as index crimes because of their "seriousness". Index crimes are defined as those which (1) occur regardless of geographic location, (2) are most likely to occur, (3) are most likely to be reported, and (4) are an affront to the sensitivity of society. The data in South Dakota from the UCR program, is not complete as participation is voluntary and there are no audit checks to ensure accuracy.

TABLE 1
Comparison of 1980 Crime Rates per 100,000
Between South Dakota and the United States

Offense	South Dakota		U.S.A.
	Number	Rate	Rate
Murder	(5)	.7	10.2
Rape	(86)	12.5	36.4
Robbery	(138)	20.1	243.5
Aggravated Assault	(644)	93.6	290.6
TOTAL VIOLENT	(873)	126.8	580.8
Burglary	(4,766)	692.5	1,668.2
Larceny/Theft	(15,521)	2,255.2	3,156.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	(1,160)	168.6	494.6
TOTAL PROPERTY	(21,447)	3,116.3	5,319.1
TOTAL	(22,320)	3,243.2	5,899.9

UCR Accuracy

Although the information from the UCR program is the best data available, the actual number of crimes committed is unknown. Reported crime rates are affected by the following factors which in turn affect the accuracy of the UCR program.

1. Citizens tendency to report crimes to law enforcement agencies;
2. Law enforcement agencies tendency to report offenses to the FBI;
3. Classification of offenses, some agencies will classify crimes differently;
4. Not all agencies submit reports every month and, as a result, crime rates are estimated by the FBI.

It appears that the most significant factor in the accuracy of using reported crime rates is the difference between the actual number of offenses, and those reported by the public.

Part I Offenses

The majority of the Part I Offenses are larceny/thefts. Further analysis of serious crimes in South Dakota indicates that:

69.5 percent are larceny/theft;
21.4 percent are burglaries;
5.2 percent are motor vehicle thefts;
2.9 percent are aggravated assaults;
.62 percent are robberies;
.39 percent are rapes; and
.02 percent are murders.

For a graphic illustration of the Part I Crimes see Figures 1 and 2. The violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) account for 3.9 percent of the total crime index. Figure 3 provides a comparison of the violent crimes and indicates that aggravated assault is by far the most prevalent violent crime. The property crimes (burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft) total 96.1 percent of the Part I Offenses. There were 15,521 larceny/thefts reported during 1980, 4,766 burglaries and 1,160 auto thefts (figure 4).

South Dakota has a lower rate of crime according to the UCR program than the average United States crime rate. In 1980, the most recent year for which data is available, the crime rate in the United States was 5,899.9 Part I Offenses per 100,000 while the South Dakota rate was 3,243.2. There were an estimated 13,295,399 index crime reported in the United States during 1890 with 22,320 of these reported in South Dakota.
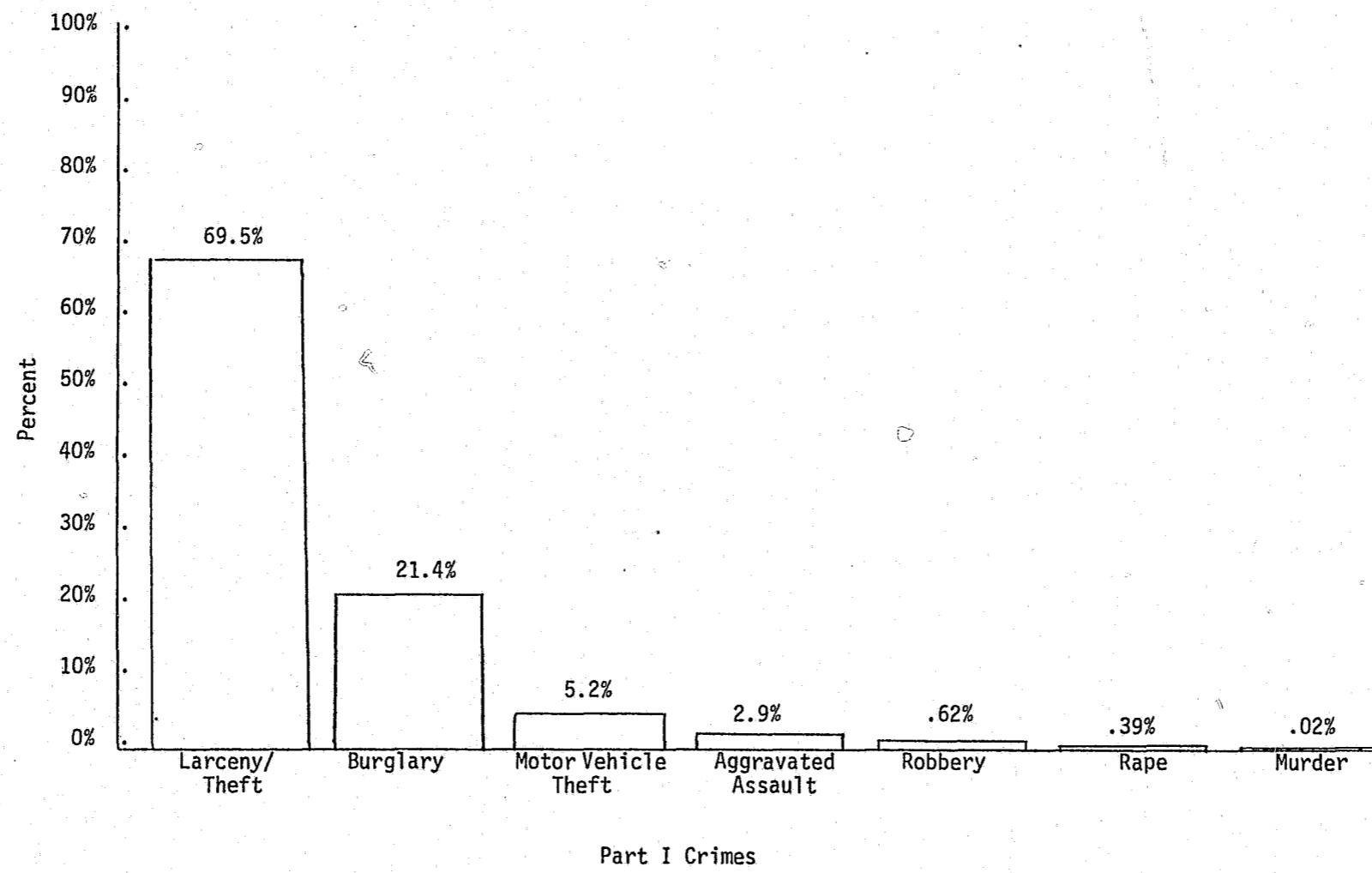
Figure 1 Comparison of Part I Crimes in South Dakota for 1980

Violent Crimes   3.9%

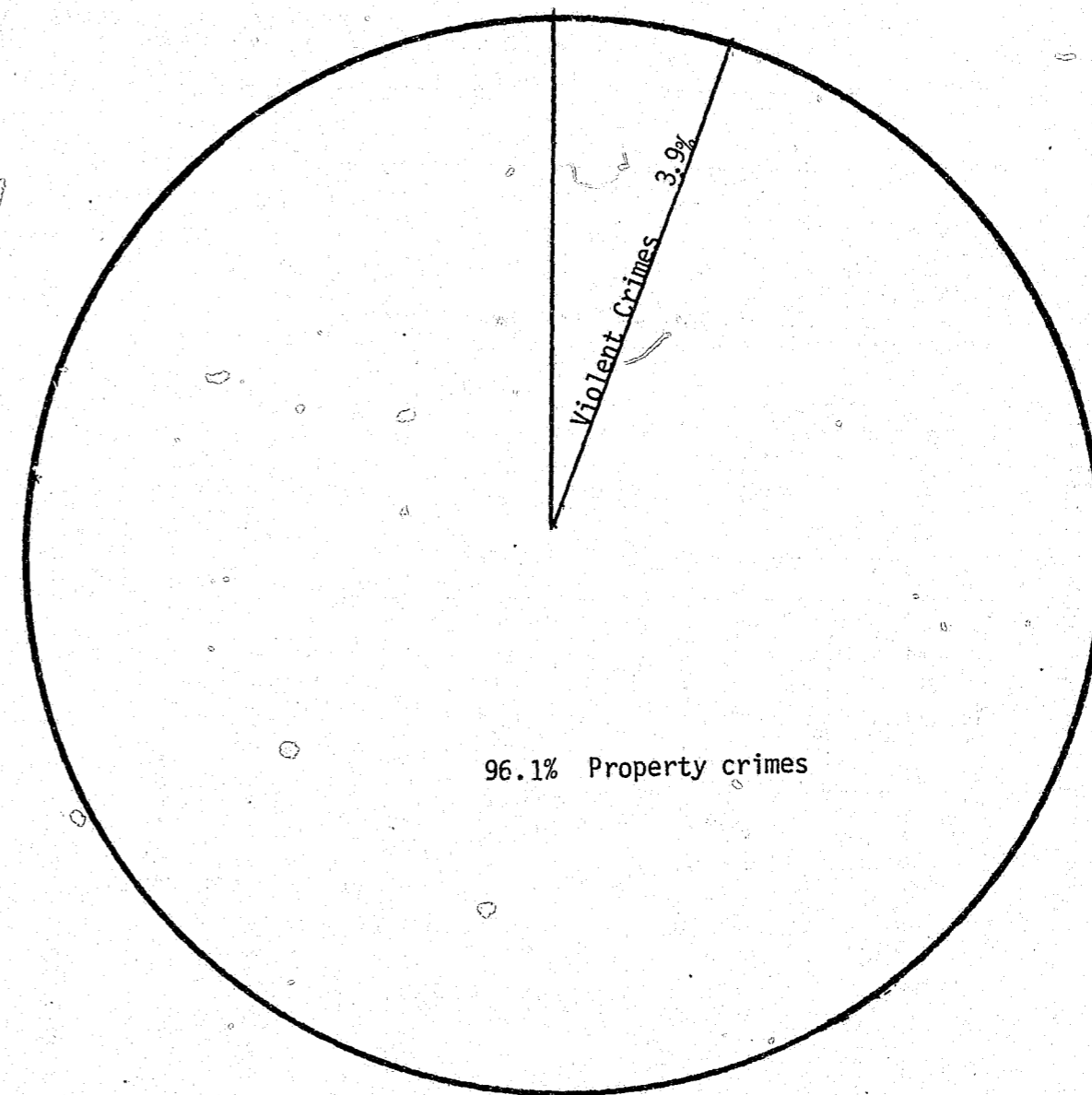96.1%   Property crimes

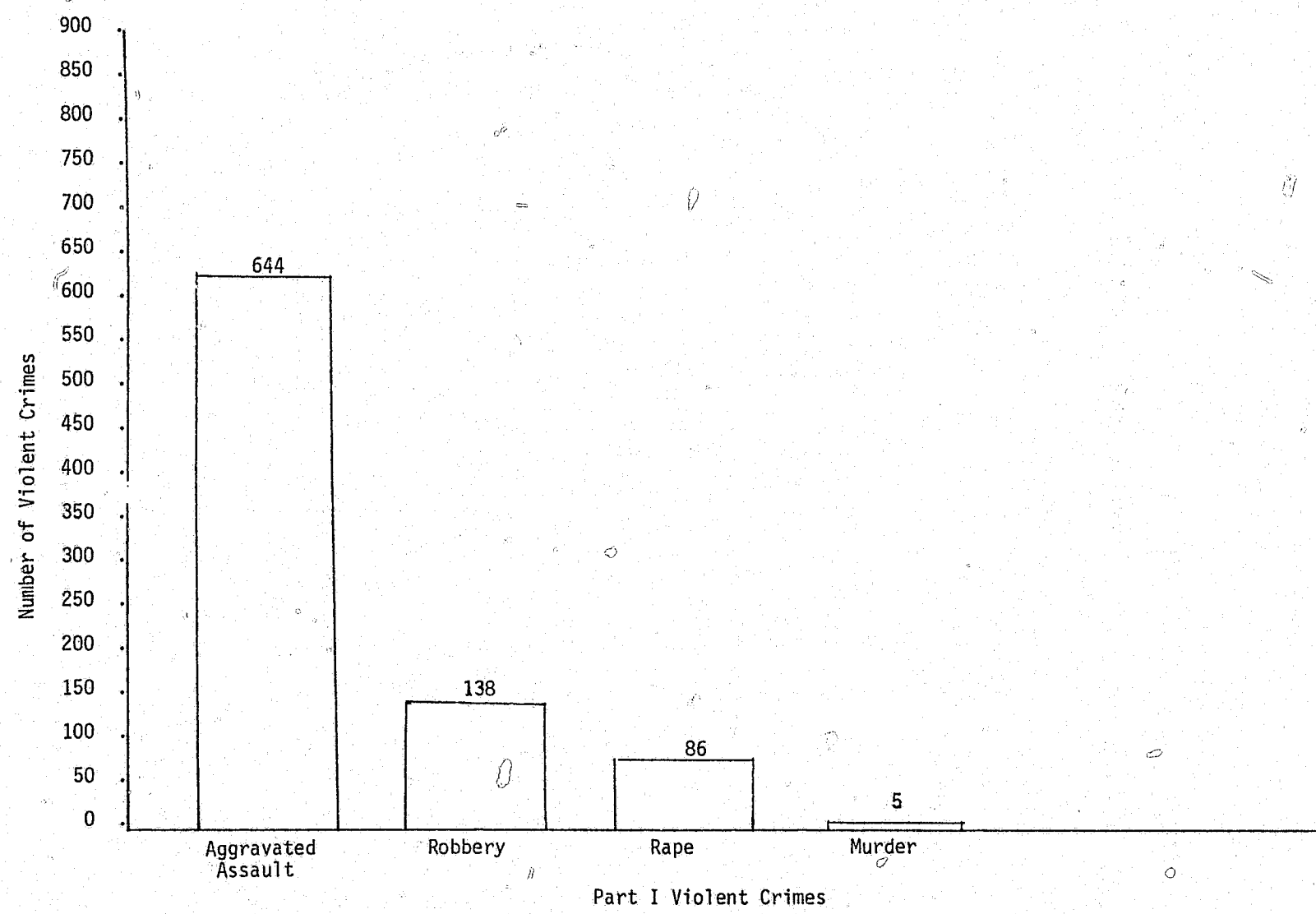Figure 2   Comparison of 1980 Property and Violent Crimes in South Dakota
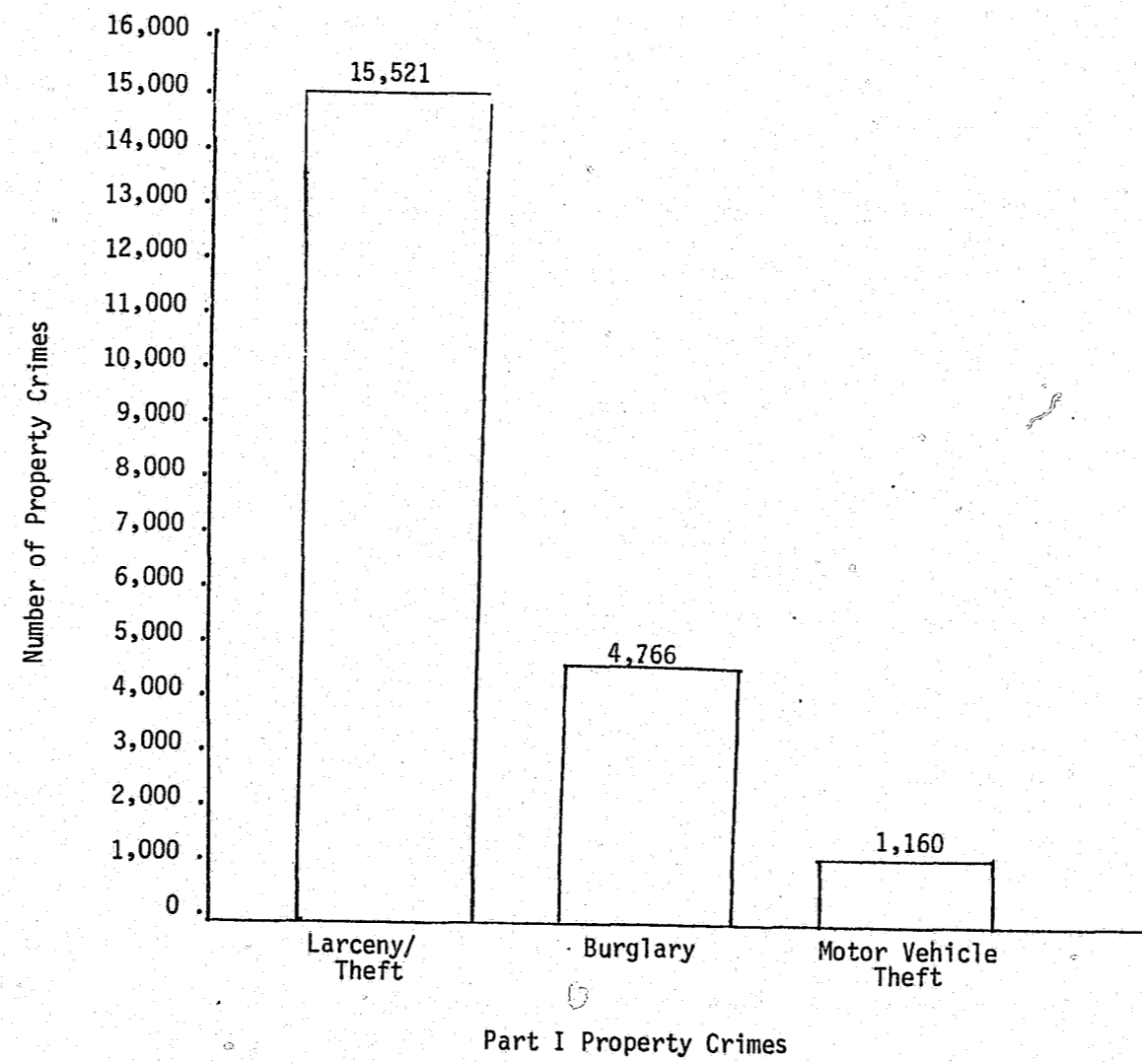
Figure 3   1980 Part I Violent Crimes in South Dakota

Figure 4   1980 Part I Property Crimes in South Dakota

Crime Trend in South Dakota

The crime rate in South Dakota reached a seven year high in 1980 (Figure 5). The crime rate (number of crimes per 100,000 population) has increased by 21% since 1974 and by 11% since 1979. The violent crime rate has decreased over the seven year period by 30 percent. During 1975 South Dakota had its highest violent crime rate, which was 205.2 per 100,000 (Table 2).

The reported property crime rate increased by 25.2 percent since 1974. There were 2,150 more property crimes reported in 1980 than in 1979, a 9.5 percent increase.

In the United States, 9.4 percent more Index Offenses were reported to law enforcement agencies in 1980 that in 1979. All offenses in the United States within the index increased in volume during the year, while in South Dakota the number of murders, rapes, aggravated assaults and motor vehicle thefts decreased.

South Dakota compared favorably with other rural states in this area (Table 3). South Dakota has a much lower rate of crime than Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. North Dakota has a lower crime rate than South Dakota; in fact, only North Dakota, West Virginia and Puerto Rico report a lower crime rate than South Dakota.

Crime in South Dakota Cities

Rapid City has the highest crime rate of the nine largest South Dakota cities reporting UCR offenses. Sioux Falls has the second highest crime rate, but reports the highest number of index crimes (Table 4). Rapid City had a crime rate of 8,027.6 per 100,000 while reporting 3,720 index offenses; Sioux Falls had a crime rate of 5,711.0 per 100,000 with 4,630 index offenses reported.

It is interesting to note that eight of the nine cities participating in the UCR program have higher crime rates than the average South Dakota crime rate (figure 6). The mean South Dakota urban crime rate, the average for the nine cities, is 5,641.0 which is slighty under the U.S. crime rate. Only Rapid City has a higher crime rate than the national average.
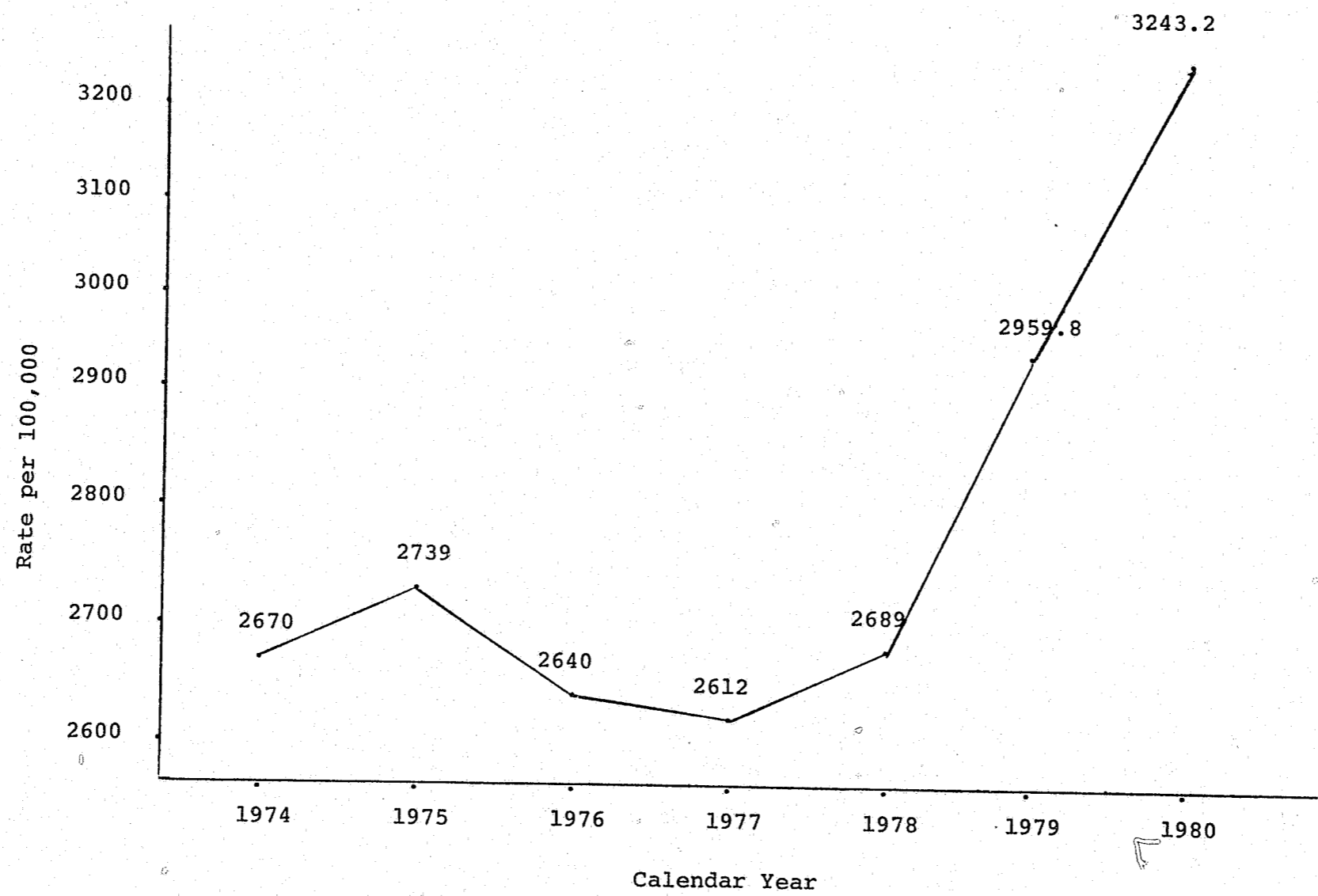
Figure 5 Total South Dakota Part I Offenses per 100,000 Population, 1974-1980

Table 2
South Dakota
Part I Crimes per 100,000 population
1974-1980*

Crime	1974 Rate	1974 Number	1975 Rate	1975 Number	1976 Rate	1976 Number	1977 Rate	1977 Number	1978 Rate	1978 Number	1979 Rate	1979 Number	1980 Rate	1980 Number
Murder	2.1	(14)	3.7	(25)	1.7	(12)	2.0	(14)	1.9	(13)	2.0	(14)	0.7	(5)
Rape	10.7	(73)	16.5	(113)	15.3	(105)	13.5	(93)	10.9	(75)	16.4	(113)	12.5	(86)
Robbery	20.4	(139)	31.0	(212)	23.2	(159)	17.9	(123)	15.9	(110)	20.3	(140)	20.1	(138)
Aggravated Assault	147.8	(1,008)	154.0	(1,052)	145.9	(1,001)	155.7	(1,073)	134.8	(930)	120.3	(829)	93.6	(644)
Burglary	597.1	(4,072)	667.8	(4,561)	620.4	(4,256)	570.5	(3,931)	599.7	(4,138)	626.4	(4,316)	692.5	(4,766)
Larceny/Theft	1,735.3	(11,835)	1,698.0	(11,597)	1,684.3	(11,554)	1,704.4	(11,743)	1,766.1	(12,186)	2,000.3	(13,782)	2,255.2	(15,521)
Auto Theft	157.5	(1,074)	167.9	(1,147)	149.6	(1,026)	147.5	(1,016)	160.0	(1,104)	174.0	(1,199)	168.6	(1,160)
TOTAL VIOLENT	181.0	(1,234)	205.2	(1,402)	156.1	(1,277)	189.1	(1,303)	164.5	(1,128)	159.1	(1,096)	126.8	(873)
TOTAL PROPERTY	2,489.9	(16,981)	2,533.7	(17,305)	2,454.3	(16,836)	2,422.4	(16,690)	2,525.8	(17,428)	2,800.7	(19,297)	3,116.3	(21,447)
TOTAL	2,670.0	(18,215)	2,739.0	(18,707)	2,640.0	(18,113)	2,612.0	(17,993)	2,689.3	(18,556)	2,959.8	(20,393)	3,243.2	(22,320)

*Figures in parenthesis are actual number reported.

Table 3

1980 Crime Rates in States Similar to South Dakota

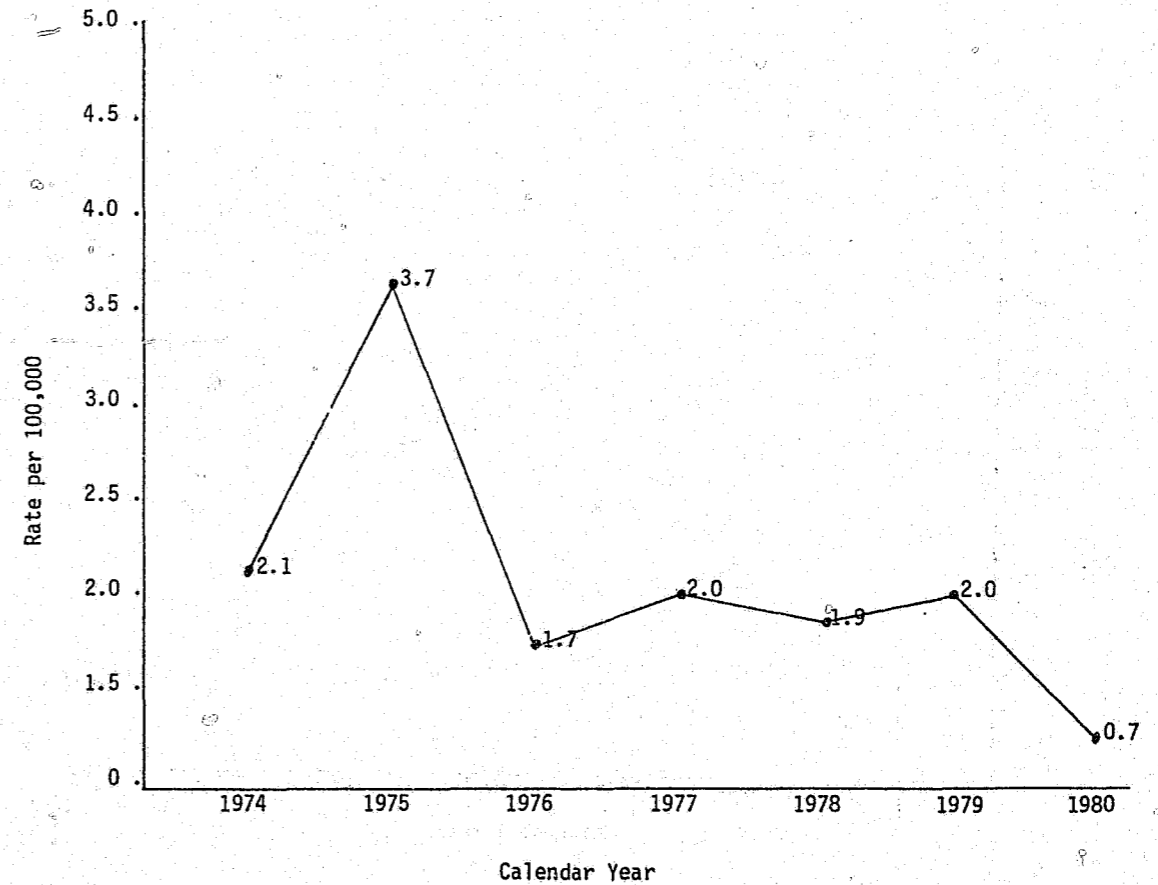| State	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Total
North Dakota	1.2	9.5	7.7	35.6	488.3	2,242.2	179.2	2,963.7
South Dakota	0.7	12.5	20.1	93.6	692.5	2,255.2	168.6	3,243.2
Idaho	3.1	22.4	46.8	241.1	1,238.9	2,993.0	236.9	4,782.2
Wyoming	6.2	28.6	44.4	313.5	903.7	3,344.9	345.2	4,986.4
Montana	4.0	21.0	34.0	163.6	950.6	3,529.6	321.7	5,024.5
U.S.A.	10.2	36.4	243.5	290.6	1,668.2	3,156.3	494.6	5,899.9

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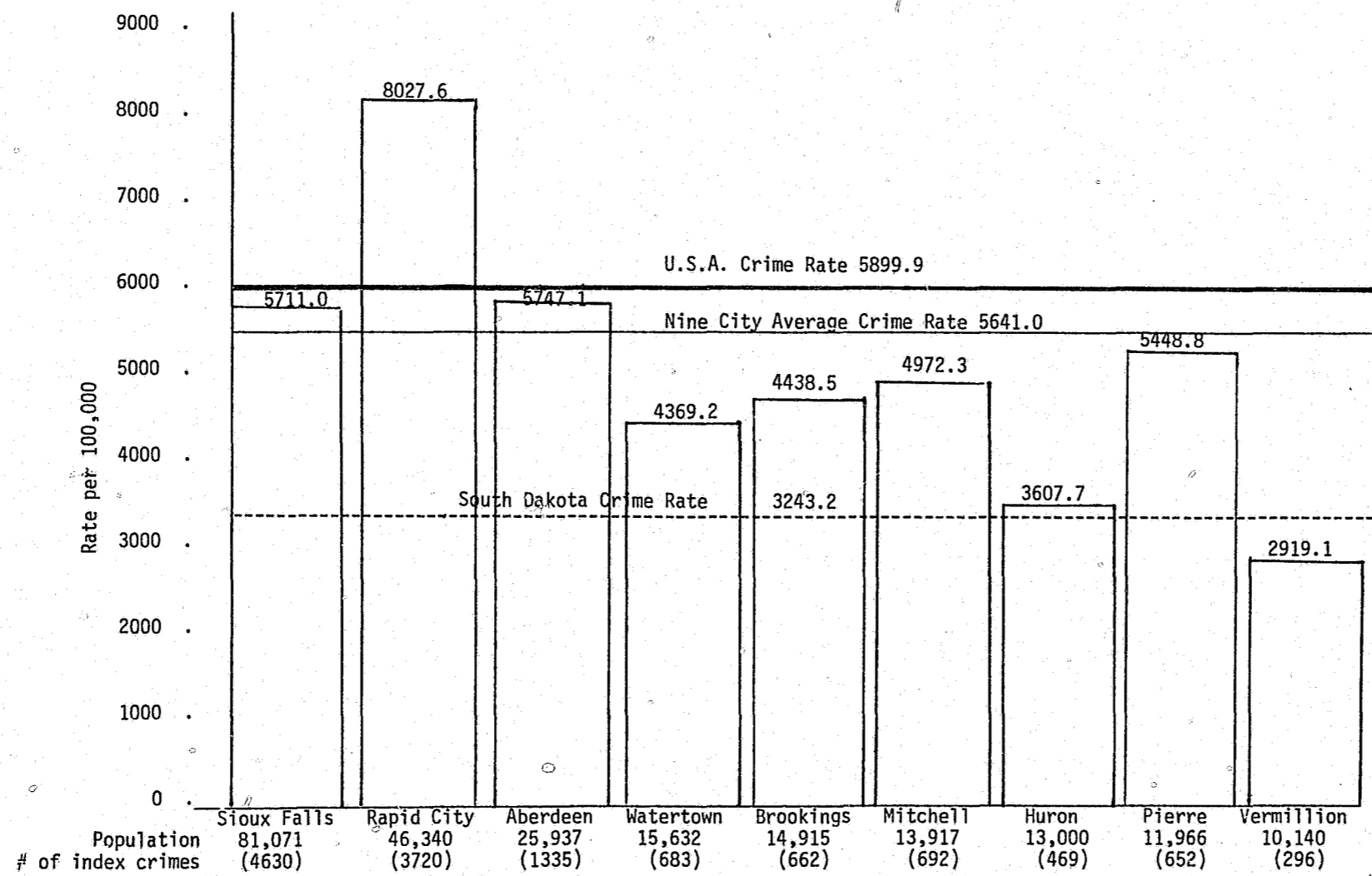
Figure 6   1980 Part I Offense in South Dakota Cities

Table 4
Crime Rates in South Dakota Cities

City	Number Index Crimes	Rate Per 100,000	Population
1. Rapid City	3,720	8,027.6	46,340
2. Sioux Falls	4,630	5,711.0	81,071
3. Pierre	652	5,488.8	11,966
4. Aberdeen	1,335	5,147.1	25,937
5. Mitchell	692	4,972.3	13,917
6. Brookings	662	4,438.5	14,915
7. Watertown	683	4,369.2	15,632
8. Huron	469	3,607.7	13,000
9. Vermillion	296	2,919.1	10,140

Figures 7 through 13 depict the seven year crime rate for each Index Offense. Table 10 compares the Part I Crimes in South Dakota from 1974-1980. Figure 14 compares the violent crime rate with the property crime rate over the last seven years. Figure 15 compares each Part I Offense over the preceding seven year period, while Figure 16 compares these crimes for 1980 only.
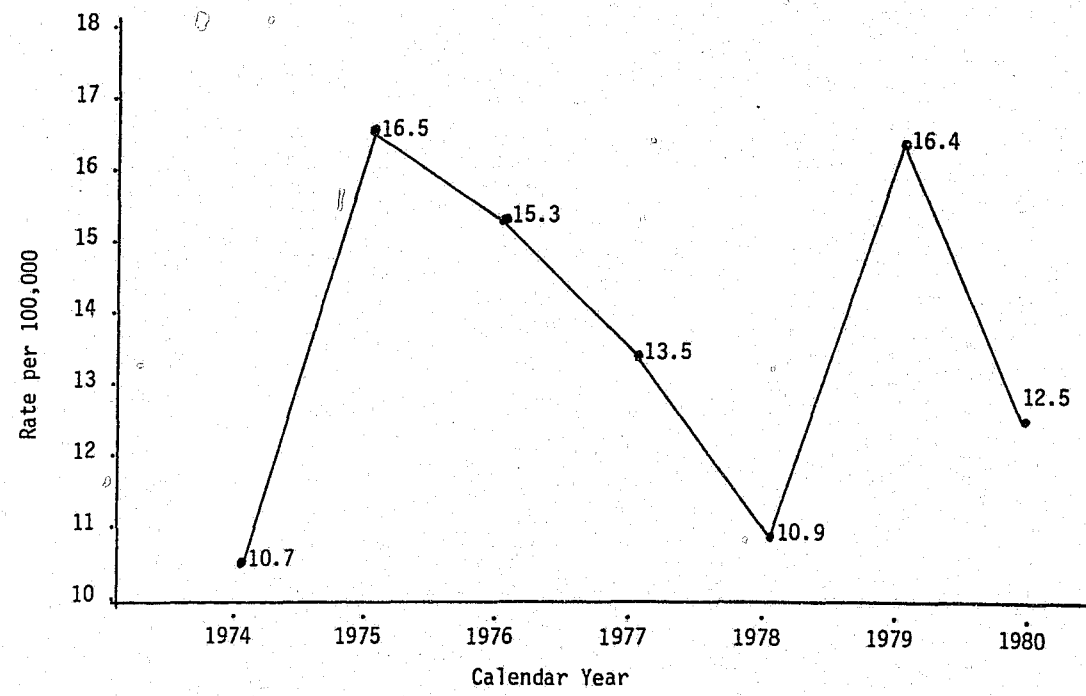

Figure 7
Murder Rate in South Dakota
1974 - 1980

Rate per 100,000

18
17
16   ●16.5
15   ●15.3
14
13   ●13.5
12   12.5
11
10 ●10.7   ●10.9

1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980
16.4

Calendar Year

Figure 8
Rape Rate in South Dakota
1974 - 1980

Rate per 100,000

35
30   ●31.0
25
20 ●20.4   ●23.2   ●20.3 ●20.1
15   ●17.9   ●15.9
10
5
0

1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980

Calendar Year
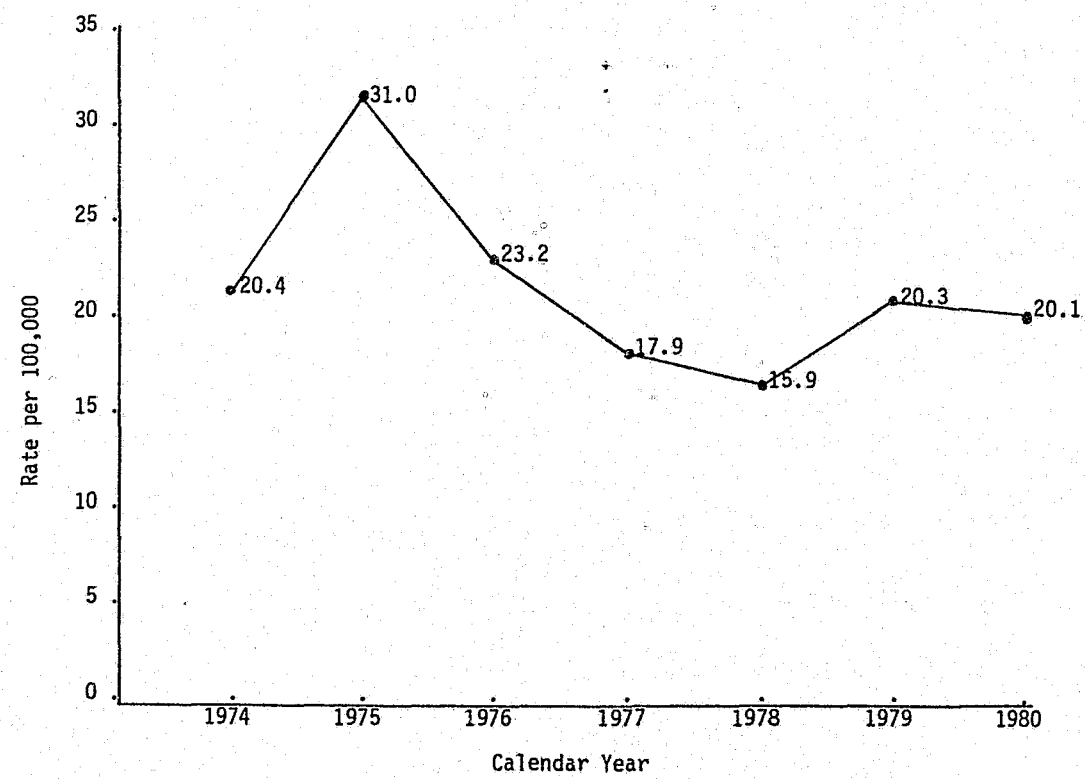
Figure 9
Robbery Rate in South Dakota
1974 - 1980

Rate Per 100,000

180
170
160   155.7
150 154.0
     147.8   145.7
140   134.8
130
120   120.3
110
100
90   93.6

1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980

Calendar Year
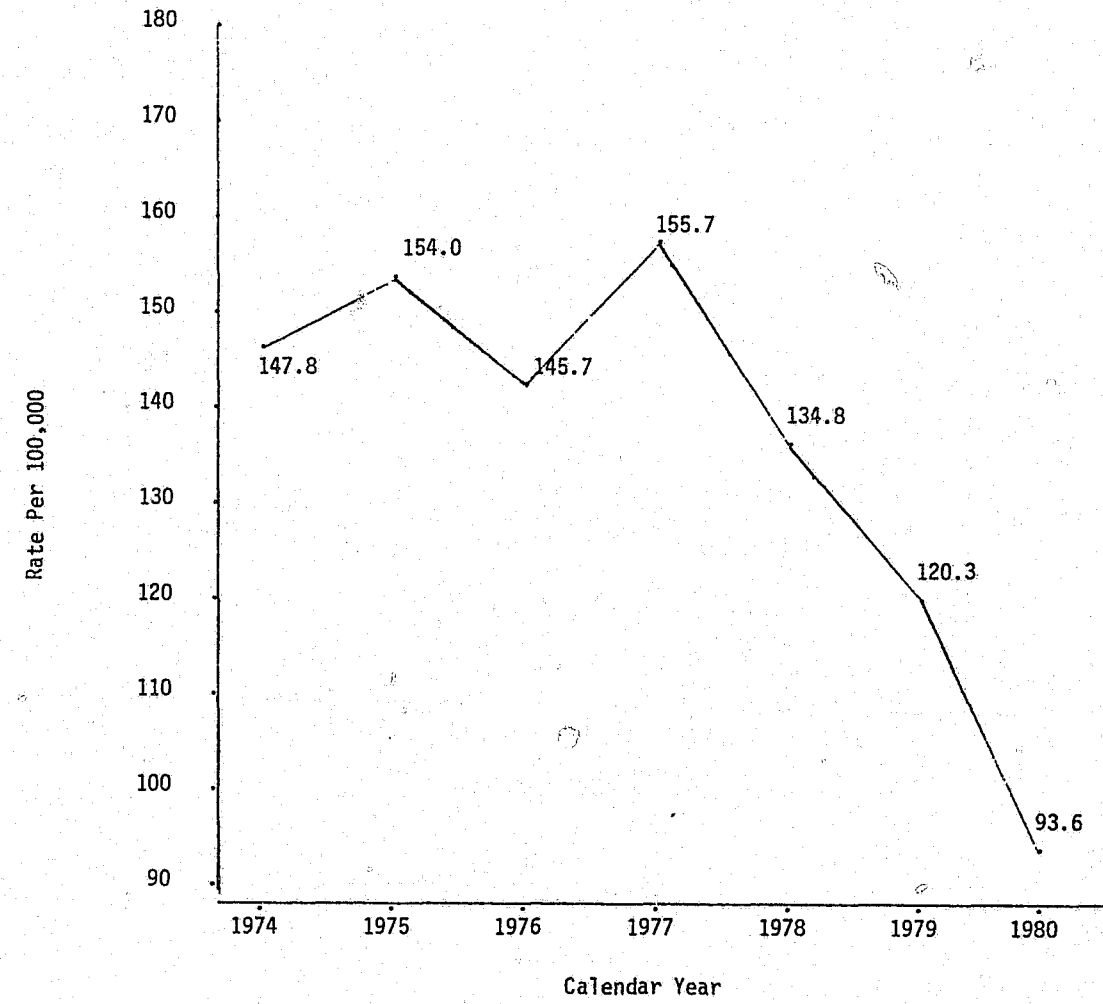
Figure 10

Aggravated Assault Rate in South Dakota
1974 - 1980

14

15
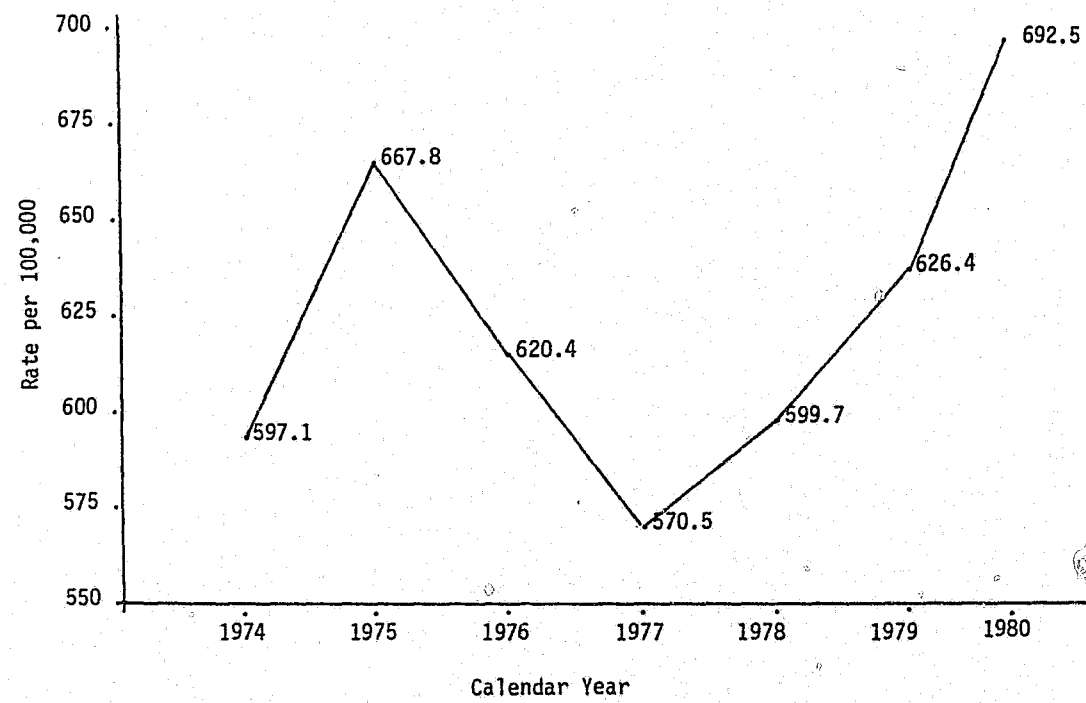
Figure 11
Burglary Rate in South Dakota
1974 - 1980

597.1
667.8
620.4
570.5
599.7
626.4
692.5

Calendar Year

Figure 12

Larceny/Theft Rate in South Dakota
1974-1980

1735.3
1698.0
1684.3
1704.9
1766.1
2000.3
2255.2

Figure 13
Motor Vehicle Theft Rate in South Dakota
1974 - 1980

Table 10
COMPARISON OF PART I CRIMES IN SOUTH DAKOTA, 1974-1980

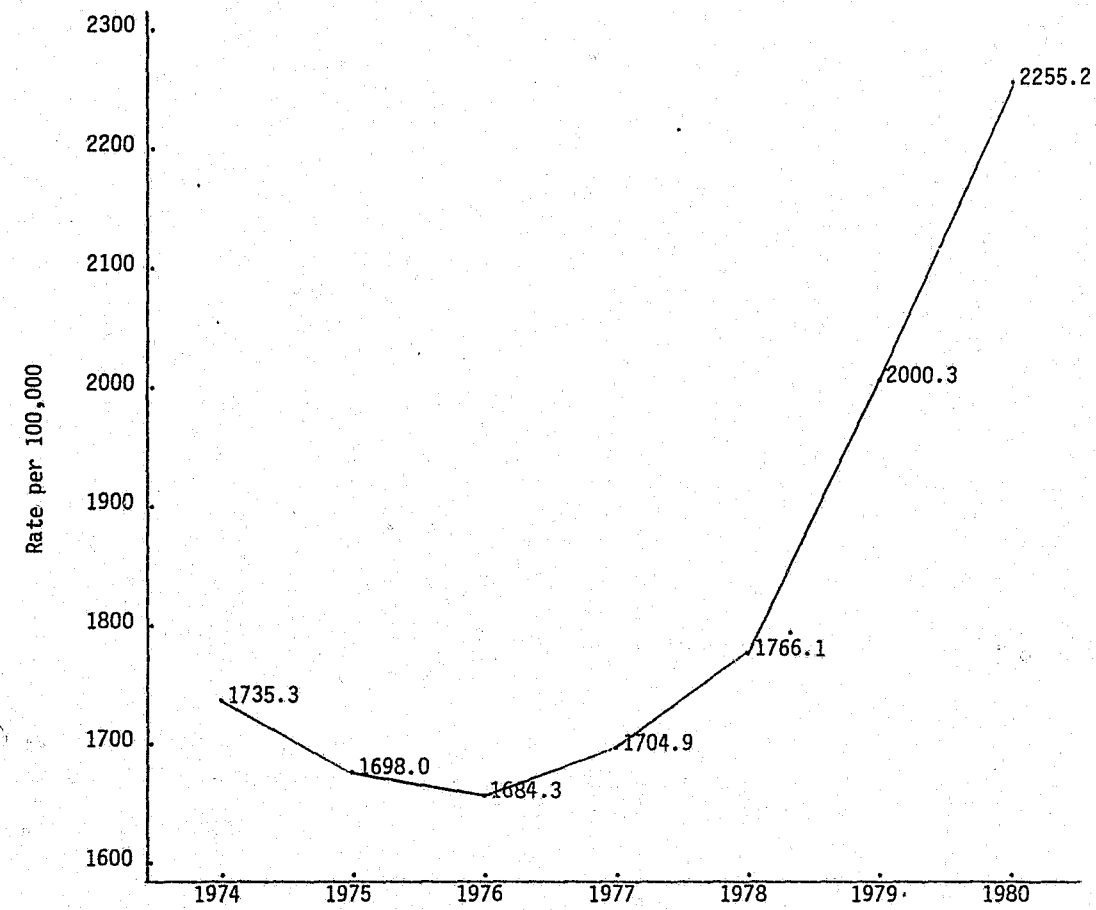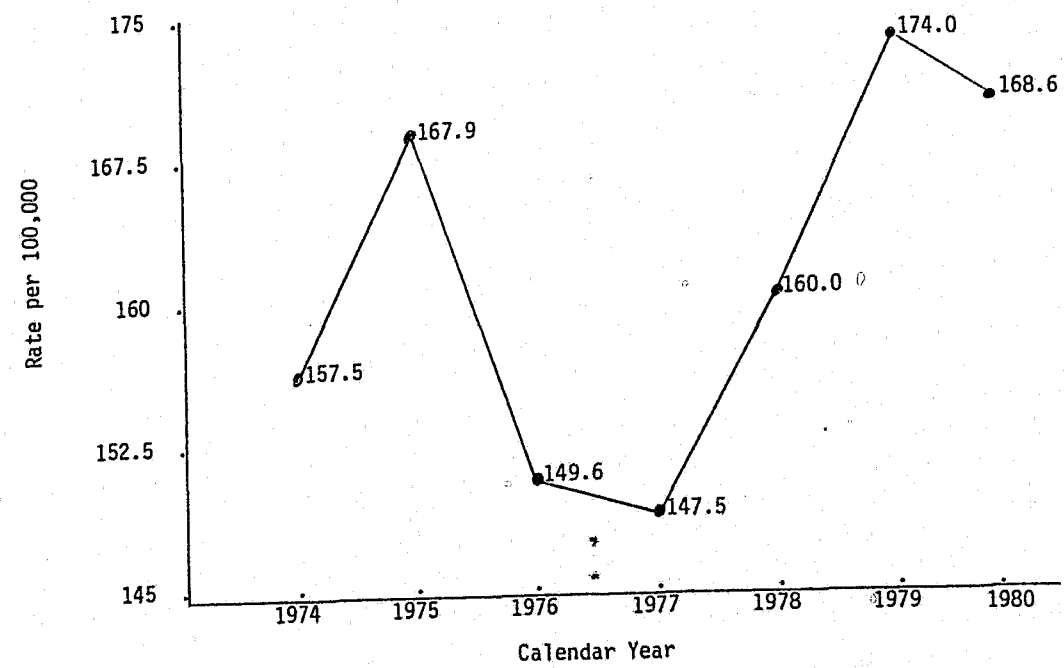|	1980		1979		1978		1977		1976		1975		1974		Seven Year Total	
	Number Reported	Percent Total	Number Reported	Percent Total	Number Reported	Percent Total	Number Reported	Percent Total	Number Reported	Percent Total	Number Reported	Percent Total	Number Reported	Percent Total	Number Reported	Percent Average
Murder	5	.02	14	.06	13	.07	14	.07	12	.06	25	.13	14	.07	97	.07
Rape	86	.39	113	.55	75	.40	93	.51	105	.57	113	.60	73	.40	658	.49
Robbery	138	.62	140	.68	110	.59	123	.68	159	.87	212	1.1	139	.76	1,021	.76
Aggravated Assault	644	2.9	829	4.0	930	5.0	1,073	6.0	1,001	5.5	1,052	5.6	1,008	5.5	6,537	4.9
Burglary	4,766	21.4	4,316	21.2	4,138	22.3	3,931	21.8	4,256	23.5	4,561	24.4	4,072	22.4	30,040	22.4
Larceny/Theft	15,521	69.5	13,782	67.6	12,186	65.7	11,743	65.3	11,554	63.8	11,597	62.0	11,835	65.0	88,218	65.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,160	5.2	1,199	5.9	1,104	5.9	1,016	5.6	1,026	5.7	1,147	6.1	1,074	5.9	7,720	5.8
TOTAL	22,320	100	20,393	100	18,566	100	17,993	100	18,113	100	18,707	100	18,215	100	134,297	100

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6.2%

Violent Crime

93.8%
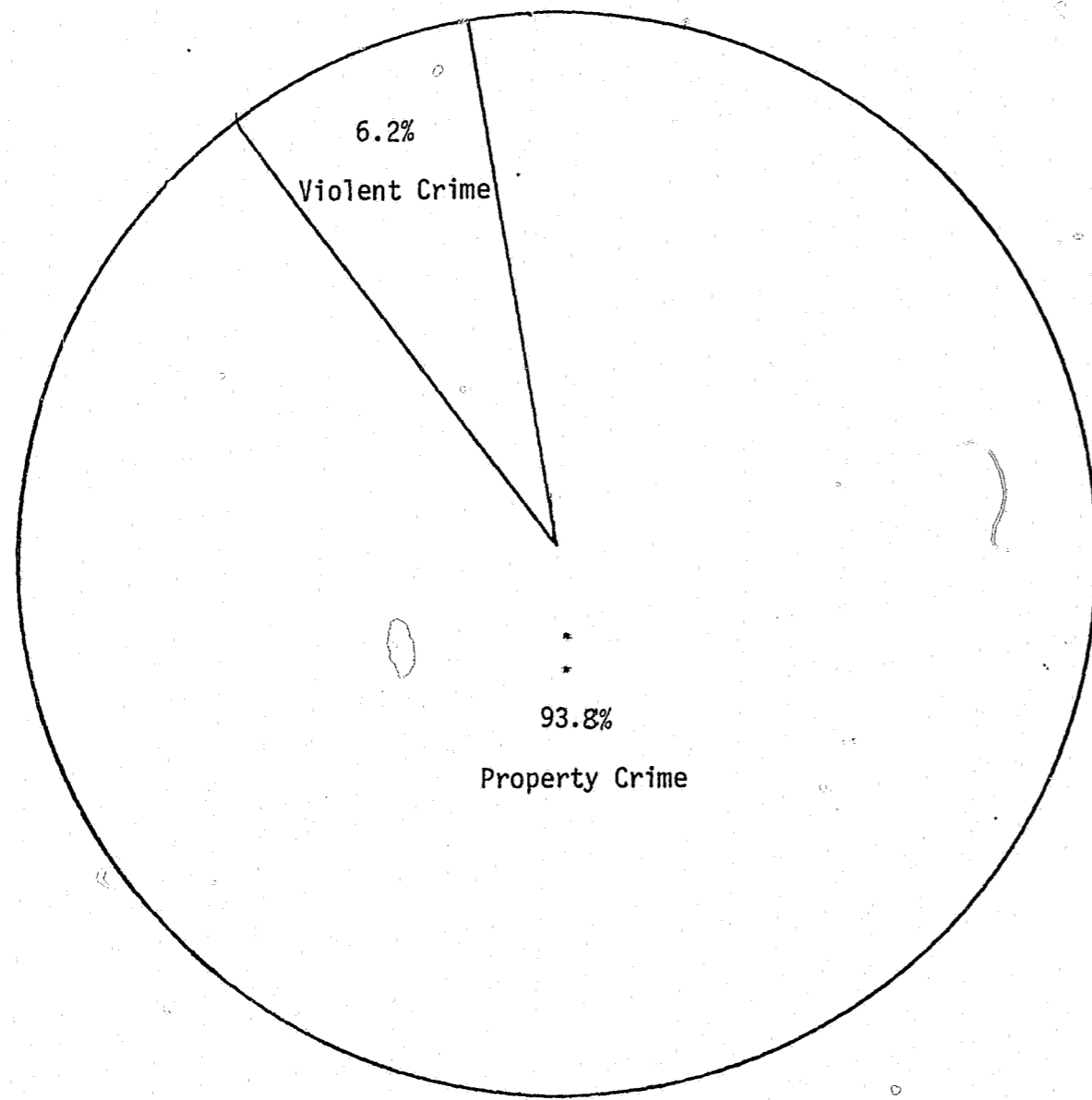
Property Crime

Figure 14
Comparison of Violent and
Property Crime, 1974-1980

Murder (97), Rape (658),
and Robbery (1021) 1.8%

4.9%
Aggravated Assault
(6,537)

5.8% (7,726)
Motor Vehicle Theft

22.4%
Burglary
(30,040)

65.7%
Larceny/Theft
(88,218)
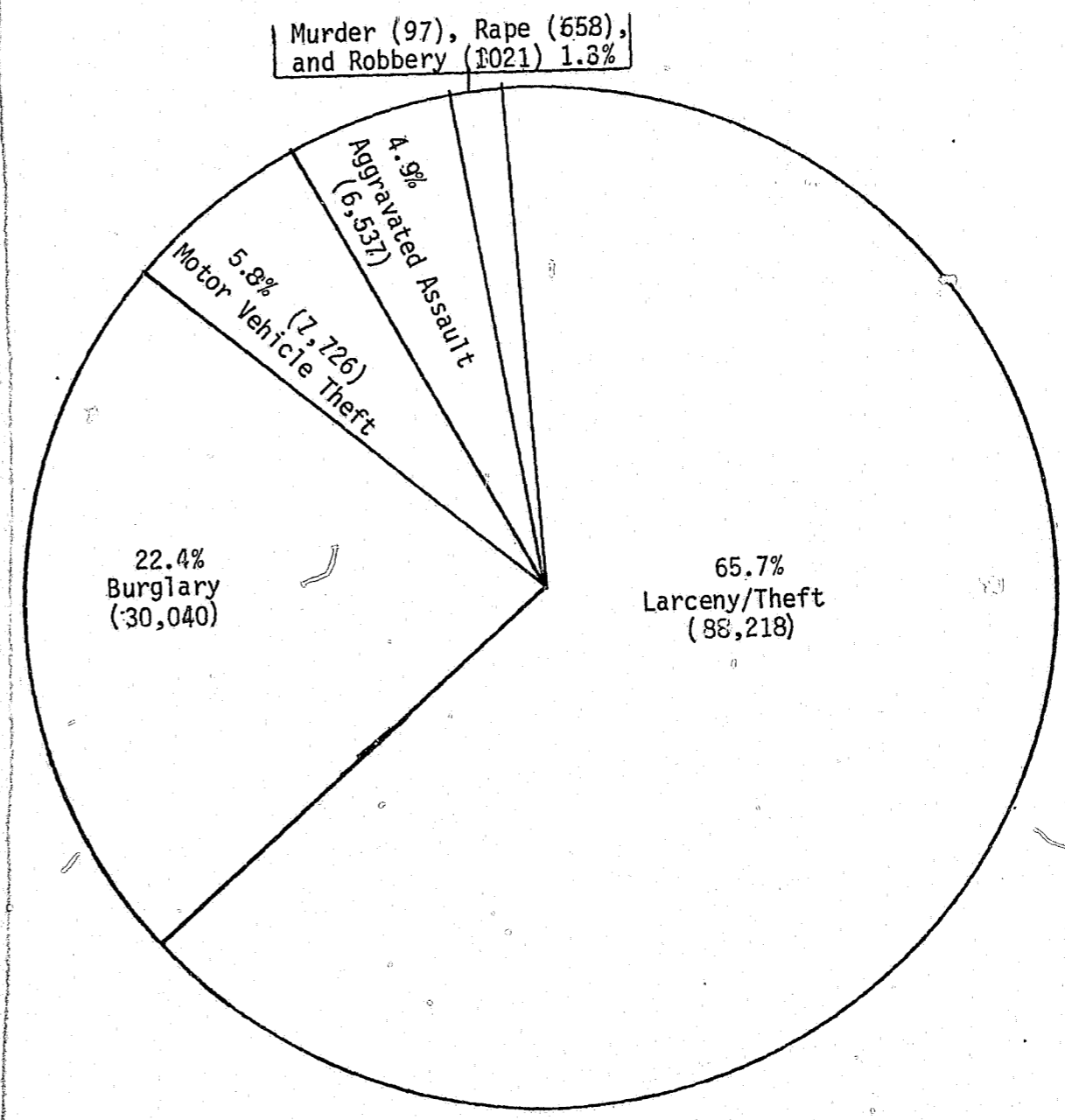
Figure 15
Comparison of Part I Crimes
in South Dakota, 1974 - 1980

Murder (5), Rape (86)
and Robbery (138) 1.0%

Aggravate Assault
2.9% (642)

Motor Vehicle
Theft
(1,160)
5.2%

21.4%
Burglary
(4,766)

69.5%
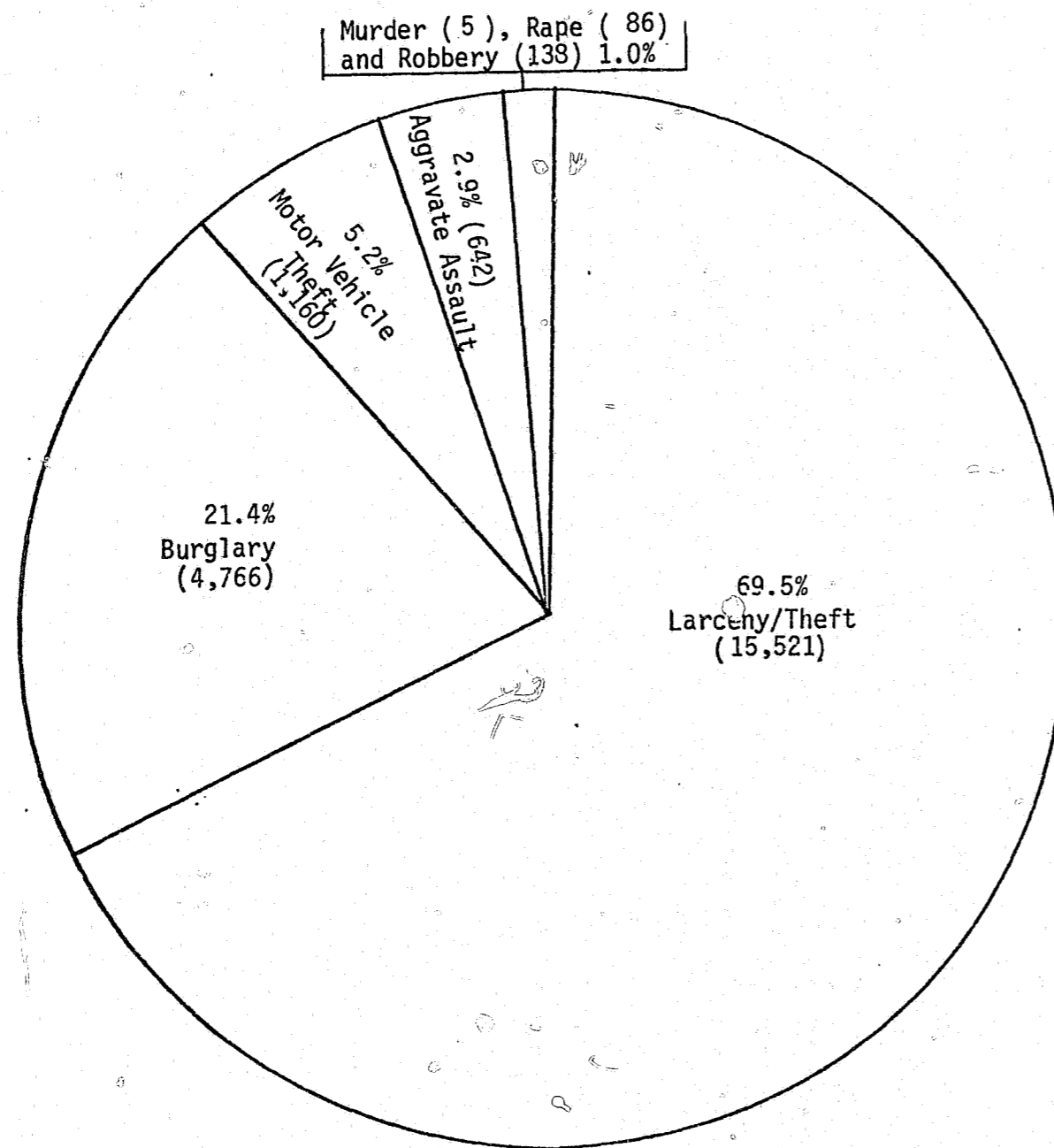Larceny/Theft
(15,521)

Figure 16
Comparison of Part I Crimes
in South Dakota, 1980

Summary and Conclusion

In 1980, South Dakota's crime rate was at its highest ever recorded. South Dakota's crime trend follows the nation's with a pattern that shows an average yearly increase

Although the crime rate in South Dakota has increased, it is lower than the average United States crime rate and ranks 48th in all states; only North Dakota and West Virginia report fewer Part I offenses than South Dakota. While the average South Dakota crime rate is comparatively low, Rapid City had a crime rate above the national average for 1980. Compared with other urban areas, Sioux Falls has a low rate of crime, but it also has a low population in comparison. Rapid City reported the highest crime rate of South Dakota cities.

In conclusion, South Dakota is experiencing an increasing crime rate with preliminary indicators suggesting that this increase will continue into the 1980's. A rising crime rate eventually leads to greater workloads for all components of the criminal justice system. This problem can be expected to continue until the economic situation improves. Although it is impossible to state with certainty the reason that crime rates increase, the present economic situation appears to be having an affect. High inflation rates tend to affect citizens' tendency to report the crimes because of the increased value of their property; therefore, more property crimes may be reported due to the inflationary trend in the country. In addition, as inflation erodes the purchasing power of the average worker, the temptation to purchase stolen goods becomes more attractive. This means the present economic situation will tend to push the crime rate upward with an increase in citizens' demands for services and a heavier workload for all criminal justice components. In the long term, however, the number of persons 15 to 24 years of age is expected to decrease over the next 20 years. This could help reduce the state's crime rate because persons in this age category account for approximately 65 percent of all arrests.

In January 1981, South Dakota dropped its collection and editing of Uniform Crime Reports. As a result, local agencies will be requested to submit monthly Uniform Crime Reports to the FBI on a voluntary basis. Because report submission is no longer mandatory and because it is less convenient and more expensive for local agencies to communitcate directly with the FBI, a reduction in the quantity and quality of South Dakota's UCR data can be expected. Lack of state participation in the program may seriously affect the ability to decribe and analyze South Dakota's crime problem in the future.

Definitions

UCR: Uniform Crime Reports

Part I Offenses: Murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft. (Also referred to as Index Crimes).

Violent Crimes: Murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Property Crimes: Burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft.

Crime Rate: Number of crimes per 100,000 population.

"In the past decade, violent crime reported to police has increased by 59 percent. Fifty-three percent of our citizens say they are afraid to walk the streets alone at night, while 85 percent say they are more concerned today than they were 5 years ago about crime.

Crime is an American epidemic -- it takes the lives of 23,000 Americans, it touches nearly one-third of American households, and it results in at least $8.8 billion per year in financial losses."

President Ronald Reagan
September 28, 1981

END