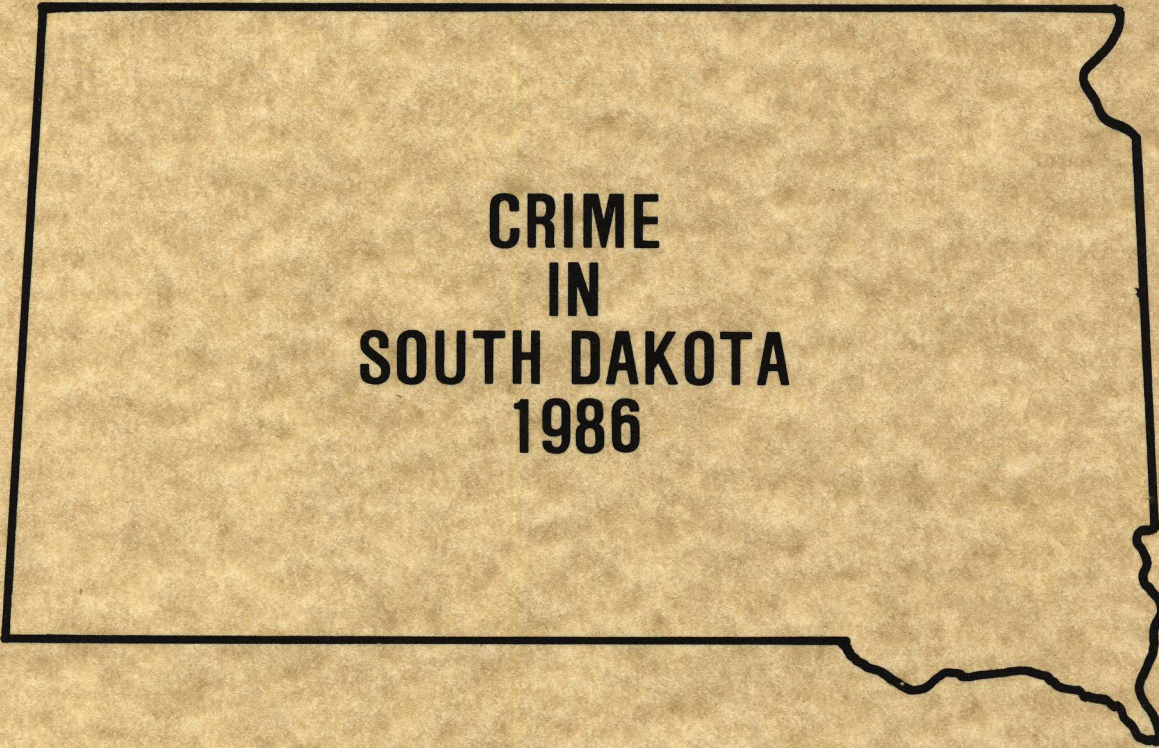


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STATE OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
DIVISION OF
CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATION



**CRIME
IN
SOUTH DAKOTA
1986**

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

CRIME
IN
SOUTH DAKOTA
1986

Statistical Analysis Center
Division of Criminal Investigation
Office of the Attorney General
Criminal Justice Training Center
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Marissa E. Schatz
Doneen B. Hollingsworth
Donald E. Gromer

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CRIME IN SOUTH DAKOTA:

For over 50 years, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has served as the national clearinghouse for crimes reported to city, county, and state law enforcement agencies. In South Dakota, the information compiled by UCR contributors is forwarded directly to the FBI from the local law enforcement agency. Currently there is no state-level UCR Program in South Dakota to act as the intermediary between the FBI and its local contributors. The crime data used in this report were taken from the FBI's publication of "Crime in the United States, 1986". These data were analyzed and interpreted by the South Dakota Statistical Analysis Center at the Division of Criminal Investigation.

This annual report of Crime in South Dakota, 1986, presents data on reported crime in South Dakota during calendar year 1986, and examines crime trends experienced in South Dakota during the past ten years (1977-1986).

It is important to note certain constraints which should be recognized in interpreting and drawing conclusions from the data herein. Law Enforcement agencies covering approximately 71 percent of the state's population participate in the national UCR Program. Therefore, the FBI must scientifically estimate crime counts for the non-participating jurisdictions. Using the known crime experiences of similar areas within a state, the estimates are computed by assigning the same proportional crime volumes to non-reporting agencies.

Another limitation in crime reporting practices concerns the question of how much crime is actually being reported. Law enforcement agencies are capable only of reporting crimes known to them. In many instances, citizens do not report crimes directly to these agencies but may report them to the prosecuting authorities. A considerable volume of crime is never reported to law enforcement agencies because the victims may consider the offenses against them to be of little consequence; they may believe there is nothing the police can do about them; or they may fear retaliation from the offender. Consequently, information concerning some offenses is never entered into the present statistical reporting system.

In spite of these limitations the information presented in this report portrays the most accurate and realistic assessment of crime in South Dakota. In reporting offenses to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, offenses are classified according to standard definitions (given in later sections of the report) that are used throughout the nation. The UCR definitions are designed to insure that offenses with different titles under the laws of the various states are appropriately classified and counted under the UCR Program without regard to findings of courts or juries, since the statistics are gathered primarily to assist in identifying areas of concern to law enforcement officers, and not meant to reflect the outcomes of inquests, hearings, or trials.

CRIME FACTORS:

The presence of crime in our state's communities is a serious concern not only of the law enforcement profession, but of society at large. A number of factors affecting the volume and type of crime that occurs from place to place have been described. Some of these are as follows:

Population density and size of locality and its surrounding area

Variation in composition of the population, particularly age structure

Stability of population with respect to residents' mobility and transient factors

Economic conditions, including job availability

Cultural conditions, such as educational, recreational, and religious characteristics

Climate

Effective strength of law enforcement agencies

Administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement

Policies of other components of the criminal justice system (i.e., prosecutorial, judicial, correctional and probational)

Attitudes of citizenry toward crime

Crime reporting practices of the citizenry

These and other crime influencing factors are present, to some degree, in every community, and their presence affects, in varying degrees, the crime experience of that community. Attempts at comparison of crime figures between communities should not be made without first considering the individual factors present in each community.

THE CRIME INDEX:

The Crime Index is used as a basic measure of crime. The crimes were selected for use as an index on the basis of their serious nature, their frequency of occurrence, and the reliability of reporting from citizens to law enforcement agencies.

Seven crimes make up the UCR's Crime Index. The offenses of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault are categorized as violent crimes. The offenses of burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft are classed as property crimes. The crime index is the total of these offenses that come to the attention of law enforcement agencies.

The total number of criminal acts that occur is unknown, but those that are reported to the police provide the first means of a count. Not all crimes come readily to the attention of the police; not all crimes are of sufficient importance to be significant in an index; and not all crimes occur with enough regularity to be meaningful in an index. With these considerations in mind, and with all state and national reporting jurisdictions using uniform reporting procedures, the above crimes were selected as a group to furnish an abbreviated and convenient measure of the crime problem.

The crime counts used in the crime index and set forth in this publication are based on actual offenses established and determined by police investigation. When a law enforcement agency receives a complaint of a criminal matter and the follow-up investigation discloses no crime occurred it is "unfounded". These "unfounded" complaints are eliminated from the actual crime count. The FBI has also established a hierarchy rule, such that in the event more than one crime is committed within a single instance only the most serious crime is reported.

DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS:

The Crime Index does not explicitly take into account the varying degrees of seriousness of its components. Each crime receives the same weight as it is added to the Index. Consequently, an auto theft is counted the same as a murder, and an aggravated assault is weighted equally with an attempted burglary. Any review of crime must consider the volume, rate and trend of each offense that comprises the Index and the relationship between these crimes.

CRIME RATE:

Crime rates represent the rate of crime in relation to the population of a given jurisdiction. The rates are calculated to provide agencies with a means of measuring the magnitude of the crime problem that exists in relation to the number of people who reside in their jurisdiction. Crime rates allow the comparison of the volume of crime in different jurisdictions having different populations.

It should be noted that the rate only takes into consideration the numerical factor of population and does not incorporate any of the other elements which contribute to the amount of crime in a given community. The effect of changes in population on rates should be kept in mind when attempting to make a comparison of crime rates.

All crime rates presented in this report are per 100,000 population. Crime rates are calculated by dividing the number of offenses by the population and multiplying the results by 100,000.

THE 1986 SUMMARY:

The National Crime Index total rose six percent to 13.2 million offenses in 1986. Crime also rose in South Dakota from 1985 to 1986, but the state's percentage increase of almost 3 percent was lower than the national experience (Figure 1). There were 19,229 Part I offenses reported by South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1986. This was the third year in a row that crime rose in South Dakota (Figure 2 & 3). A total of 43 states experienced crime increases in 1986.

While crime is on the rise in the state, the crime rate continues to be significantly lower than the national average (Figure 4). The crime rate in South Dakota during 1986 was 2,716.0 per 100,000 population, while the rate for the nation was 5,479.9 per 100,000. In fact, South Dakota ranked 48th out of the 50 states in the total Crime Index rate (Figure 5). West Virginia and North Dakota were the only states in the nation to have a lower overall crime rate than South Dakota.

South Dakota compared favorably with the contiguous states of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wyoming (Figure 6). North Dakota's overall crime rate was the lowest of all the contiguous states. Generally, North Dakota was the only one of the seven contiguous states to have a lower crime rate for the separate offenses than South Dakota. The one notable exception was the murder rate. South Dakota had the second-highest murder rate of any of the surrounding states at 4.0 per 100,000. Wyoming's rate of 5.3 rapes per 100,000 was the highest for the contiguous states.

Figure 1
 COMPARISON OF PART I CRIMES
 IN SOUTH DAKOTA, 1985 AND 1986

	NUMBER OF CRIMES			RATE PER 100,000		
	1985	1986	CHANGE	1985	1986	CHANGE
Crime Index Total	18,697	19,229	+2.8%	2,640.8	2,716.0	+2.8%
Violent Crime	967	883	-8.7%	136.6	124.7	-8.7%
Property Crime	17,730	18,346	+3.5%	2,504.2	2,591.2	+3.4%
Murder	13	28	+115%	1.8	4.0	+122.2%
Rape	168	125	-25.6%	23.7	17.7	-25.3%
Robbery	121	115	-4.9%	17.1	16.2	-5.3%
Aggravated Assault	665	615	-7.5%	93.9	86.9	-7.5%
Burglary	3,867	3,919	+1.3%	546.2	553.5	+1.3%
Larceny/Theft	13,142	13,728	+4.5%	1,856.2	1,939.0	+4.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	721	699	-3.1%	101.8	98.7	-3.0%

Figure 2

TOTAL INDEX CRIMES

South Dakota 1976-1985

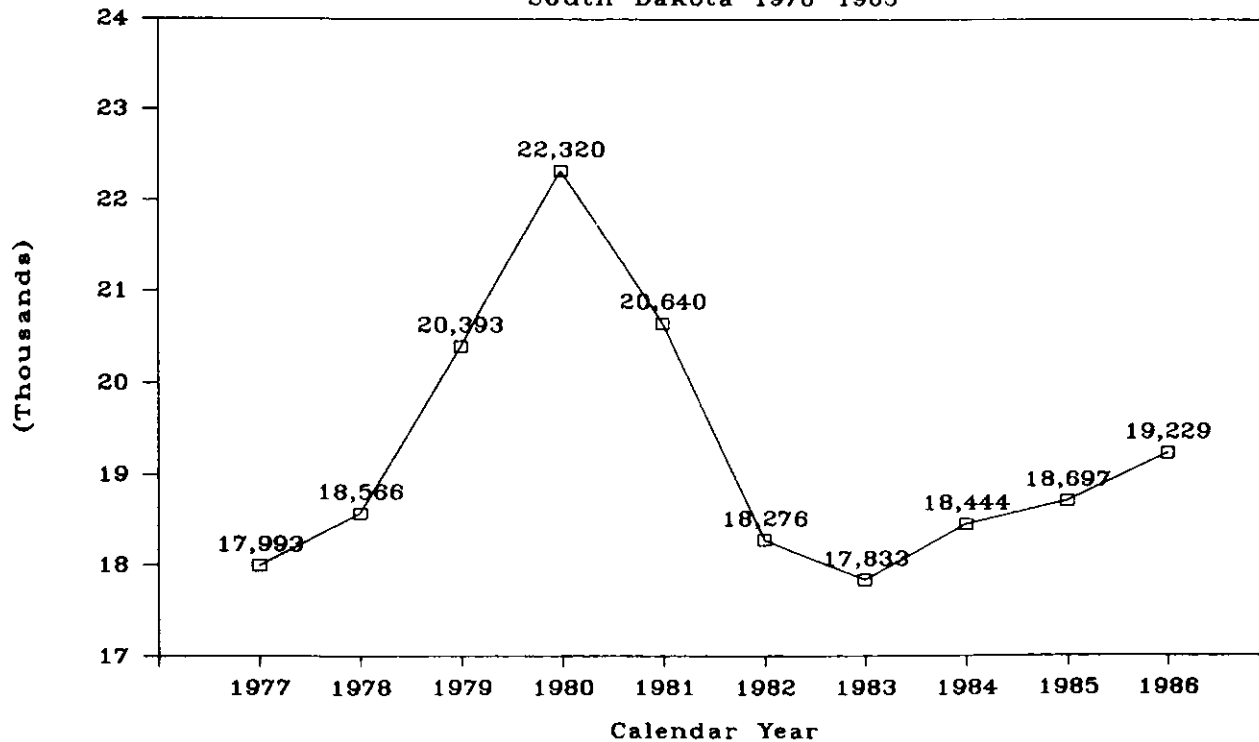


Figure 3

TOTAL CRIME RATE

South Dakota 1977-1986

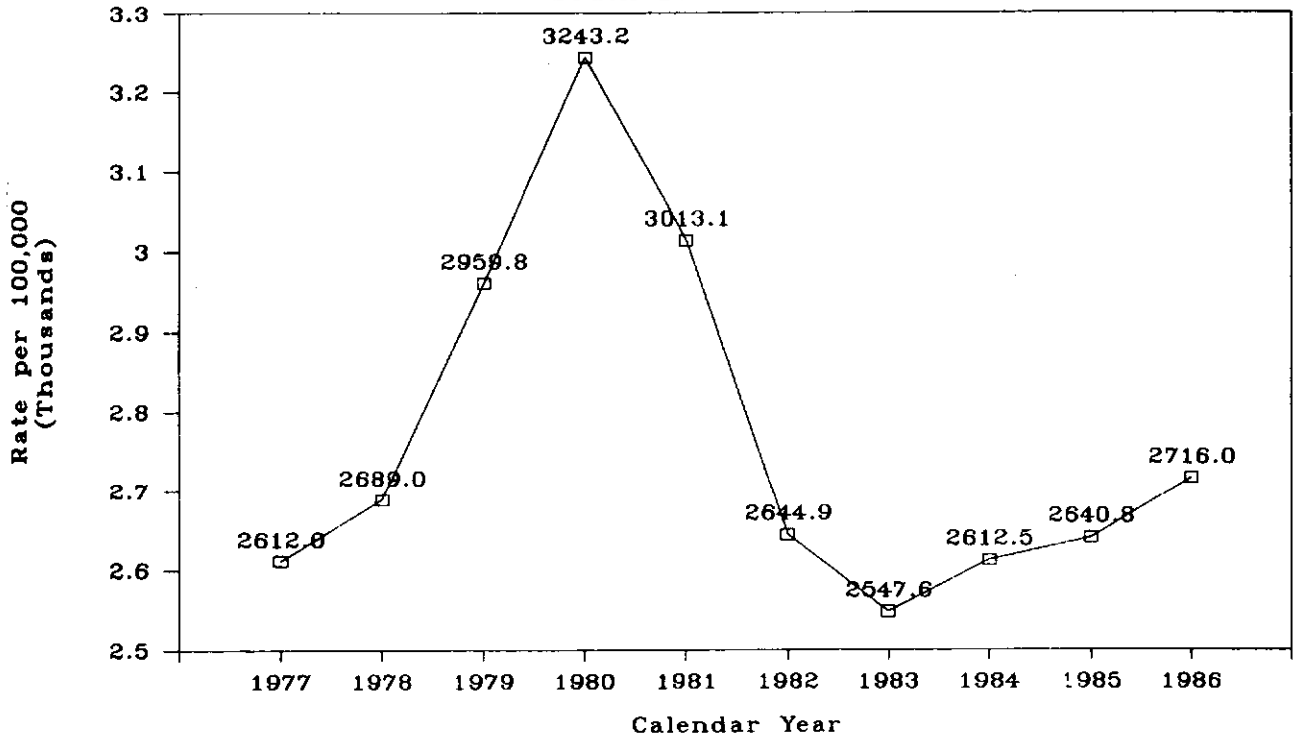


Figure 4

COMPARISON OF 1986 CRIME RATES PER 100,000
BETWEEN SOUTH DAKOTA AND THE NATION

	SOUTH DAKOTA	THE NATION
Crime Index Total	2,716.0	5,479.9
Violent Crime	124.7	617.3
Property Crime	2,591.2	4,862.6
Murder	4.0	8.6
Rape	17.7	37.5
Robbery	16.2	225.1
Aggravated Assault	86.9	346.1
Burglary	553.5	1,344.6
Larceny/Theft	1,939.0	3,010.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	98.7	507.8

Figure 5

COMPARISON OF 1986 CRIME RATES PER 100,000
BETWEEN SOUTH DAKOTA AND ALL OTHER STATES

South Dakota ranks 48th in the Total Crime Index Rate

South Dakota ranks 49th in the Violent Crime Rate

South Dakota ranks 48th in the Property Crime Rate

South Dakota ranks 37th in the Murder Rate

South Dakota ranks 45th in the Rape Rate

South Dakota ranks 48th in the Robbery Rate

South Dakota ranks 49th in the Aggravated Assault Rate

South Dakota ranks 49th in the Burglary Rate

South Dakota ranks 46th in the Larceny/Theft Rate

South Dakota ranks 50th in the Motor Vehicle Theft Rate

Figure 6
 1986 CRIME RATES IN THE CONTIGUOUS STATES
 (Rates per 100,000)

	IOWA	MINNESOTA	MONTANA	NEBRASKA	NORTH DAKOTA	SOUTH DAKOTA	WYOMING
Crime Index Total	4,150.7	4,362.2	4,478.9	3,855.7	2,605.4	2,716.0	4,357.2
Violent Crime	235.1	284.6	157.4	262.6	51.3	124.7	293.1
Property Crime	3,915.6	4,077.6	4,321.5	3,593.1	2,554.2	2,591.2	4,064.1
Murder	1.8	2.5	2.9	3.1	1.0	4.0	5.3
Rape	12.5	31.8	17.3	24.6	11.6	17.7	21.9
Robbery	42.0	102.0	19.5	51.1	6.9	16.2	22.5
Aggravated Assault	178.8	148.3	117.6	183.7	31.7	86.9	243.4
Burglary	956.0	1,004.2	792.6	748.2	385.1	553.5	817.4
Larceny/Theft	2,801.3	2,785.3	3,314.0	2,677.3	2,049.2	1,939.0	3,078.1
Motor Vehicle Theft	158.3	288.1	214.9	167.6	119.9	98.7	168.6

DISTRIBUTION OF INDEX OFFENSES:

During 1986, a total of 19,229 Crime Index offenses were reported or known to South Dakota law enforcement agencies. By far, the bulk of all offenses reported in 1986 were property crimes. These totaled 18,346 or 95.4 percent of the total Index. Larceny/theft alone accounted for 71 percent of the total Crime Index in 1986 and 75 percent of all property crimes. As a group, violent crimes were responsible for 4.6 percent of the Crime Index total.

Given the larger volume of property crimes, any change noted in the Crime Index, as a whole, is primarily a result of the direction the property crimes take. For instance, although violent crimes fell by 8.7 percent from 1985 to 1986 and the property crime totals rose by 3.5 percent, the resulting Crime Index total rose by only 2.8 percent for the year. Clearly the increase in total index crime is largely influenced by the relatively small increase for the property crimes.

VIOLENT

CRIME



VIOLENT CRIMES:

For UCR purposes, Violent Crime consists of the sum total of murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults reported to law enforcement. Violent crimes involve the element of personal confrontation between the victim and offender, and because of their nature, are generally considered to be more serious than the property crimes.

With the exception of robbery, one violent crime is counted for each person victimized. In the instance of robbery, each act or operation is counted as one offense as it is added to the crime total.

Violent crime decreased in South Dakota in 1986 after making significant increases in 1983 and 1984 (see Figures 7 & 8). There were 883 crimes of violence reported or known to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1986. This represents a drop of 8.7 percent from the 1985 total of 967 crimes. The decrease in violent crime for South Dakota contrasts sharply with the 12 percent increase in violent crime nationwide from 1985 to 1986. Forty-three states across the country experienced a rise in violent crime. South Dakota was one of the seven states to buck that trend and have fewer violent crimes reported for calendar year 1986. In fact, South Dakota's percentage decrease was one of the most significant recorded among those seven states.

Only one of the four elements which make up the violent crime total rose from 1985 to 1986. Murders increased from 13 in 1985 to 28 in 1986. This represents a 115 percent increase in murder for the period.

Aggravated assault, robbery, and rape decreased in 1986. Aggravated assault fell by 7.5 percent, robbery decreased by 4.9 percent, and rape dropped by 25.6% in 1986.

The national rate of violent crimes per 100,000 population was 617.3 for 1986. The violent crime rate in South Dakota was significantly lower than the national average. The state's violent crime rate of 124.7 per 100,000 population ranked 49th among the 50 states. Only North Dakota and West Virginia had a lower rate of violent crime per 100,000 population.

Figure 7

TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES

South Dakota 1976-1985

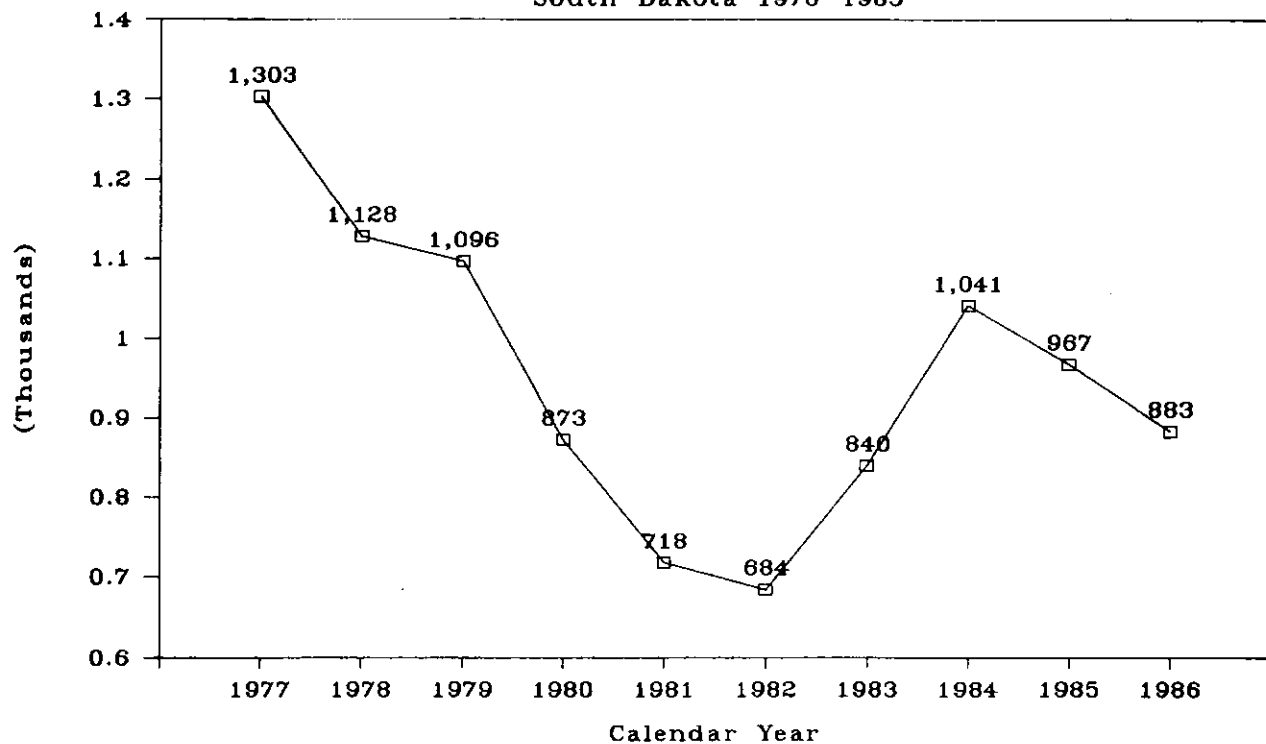
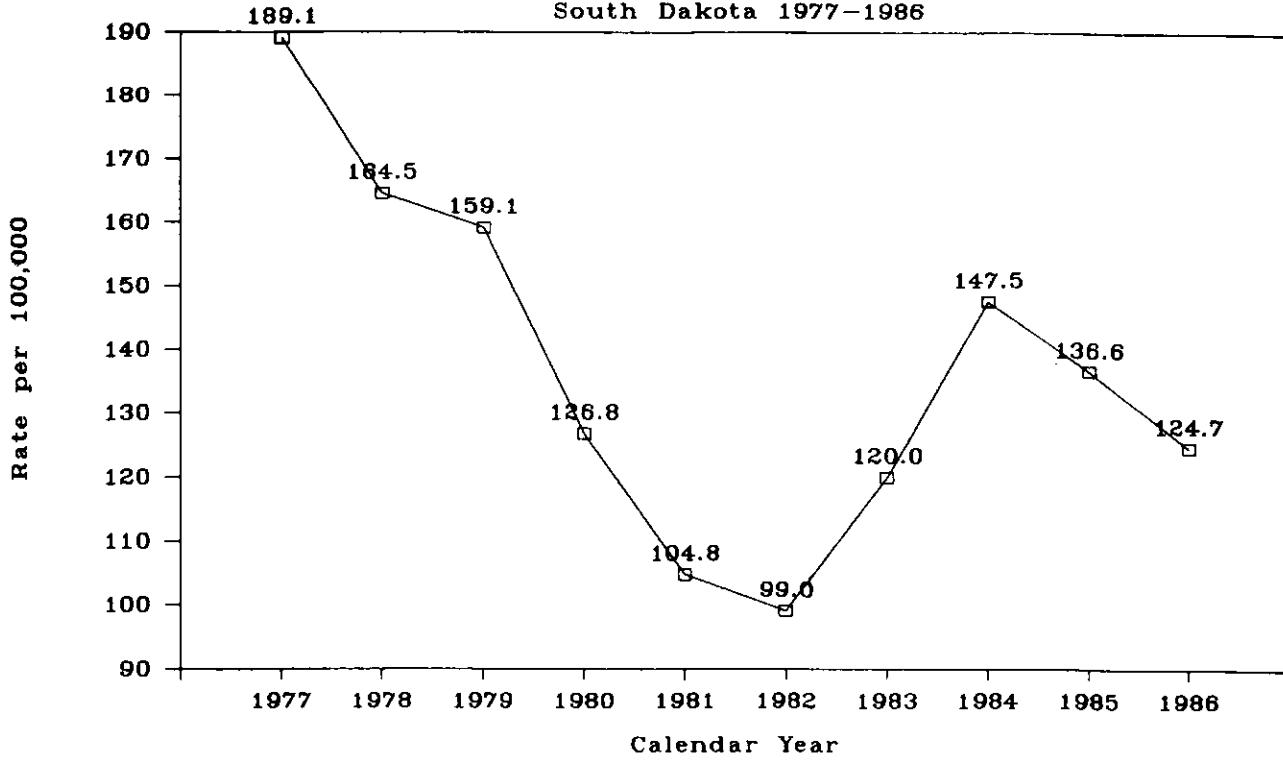


Figure 8

VIOLENT CRIME RATE

South Dakota 1977-1986



MURDER:

Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense, as for all other Crime Index offenses, is based solely on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Not included in the count for this offense classification are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident. Although manslaughter by negligence is recorded on the "offense known to police" form along with murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, it is not discussed in this report. Attempts to murder are not included in the classification of this offense, but are scored as aggravated assaults.

Twenty-eight murders were reported in South Dakota during 1986, representing one-tenth of a percent of the distribution of the total crime index for the state. As shown in Figure 9, the murder rate in South Dakota has remained fairly constant throughout the ten-year period studied, with three exceptions.

Murders occur relatively infrequently in South Dakota. Given the relatively low volume of this offense, modest fluctuations may result in significant percent changes. Therefore, caution is urged when interpreting any "percent change" figures.

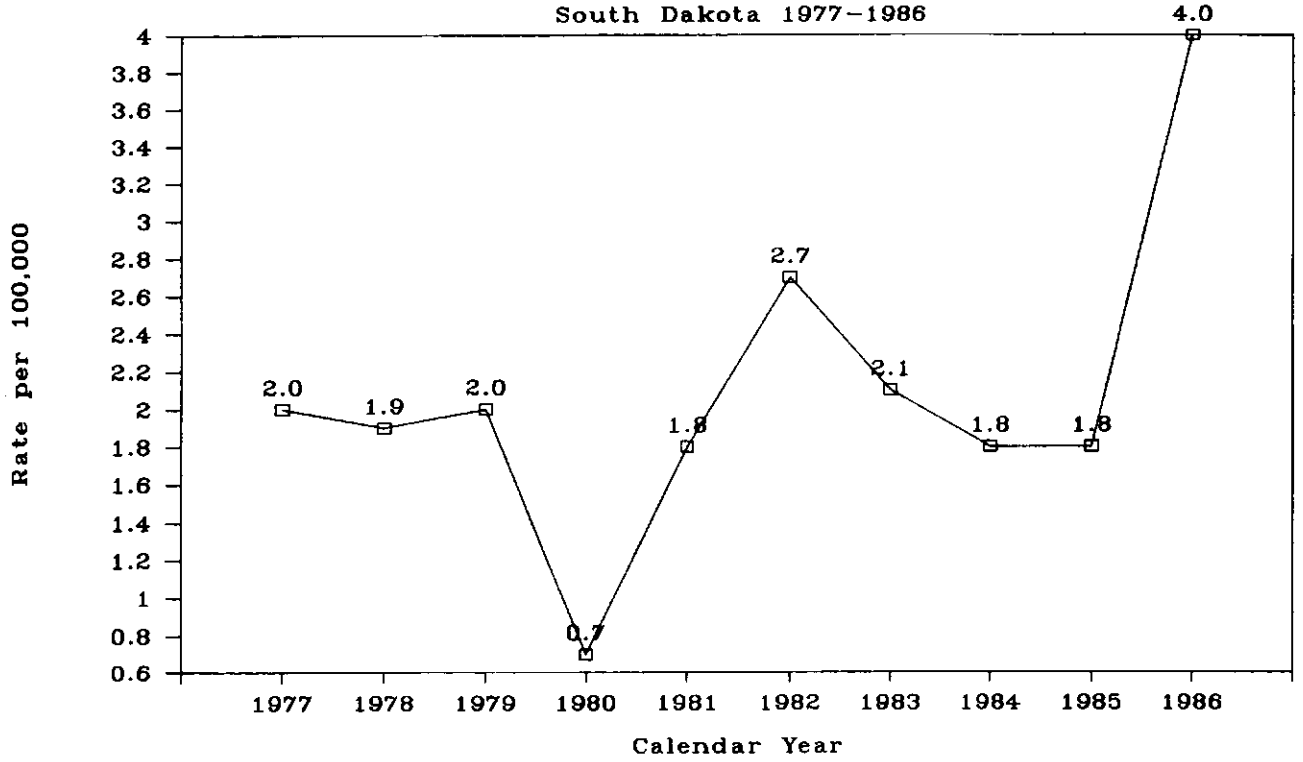
The 1986 South Dakota murder rate of 4.0 per 100,000 was considerably lower than the national murder rate of 8.6 murders per 100,000 population.

According to national estimates, 20,613 persons were murdered in 1986. This represents an increase of 9.2 percent over the 1985 total. FBI statistics support the philosophy that murder is primarily a societal problem over which law enforcement has little or no control. Nearly 3 of every 5 murders committed nationally in 1986 were perpetrated by relatives (16 percent) or persons acquainted with the victims (42 percent). Among all female murder victims in 1986, 30 percent were slain by husbands or boyfriends. Six percent of the male victims were killed by wives or girlfriends.

Figure 9

MURDER RATE

South Dakota 1977-1986



RAPE:

Forcible rape, as defined in the UCR Program, is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Assaults or attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

Forcible rape differs from other violent crimes in that the victim in many cases, is reluctant to report the offense to police. In fact, rape is generally recognized as the most under-reported of all crimes. The investigation by police, medical examination, court procedure, and fear of any accompanying stigma have a deterrent effect on the victim's willingness to make the offense known to the police.

After two years of sharp increases in 1983 and 1984, the number of rapes dropped dramatically in 1985. The number of rapes in South Dakota continued to fall by 25.6 percent in 1986. There were 168 rapes reported to law enforcement officials in the state in 1985, as compared to 125 reported rapes in 1986. These 125 rapes comprised 14.2 percent of the violent crime volume and .6 percent of the Crime Index total for South Dakota in 1986.

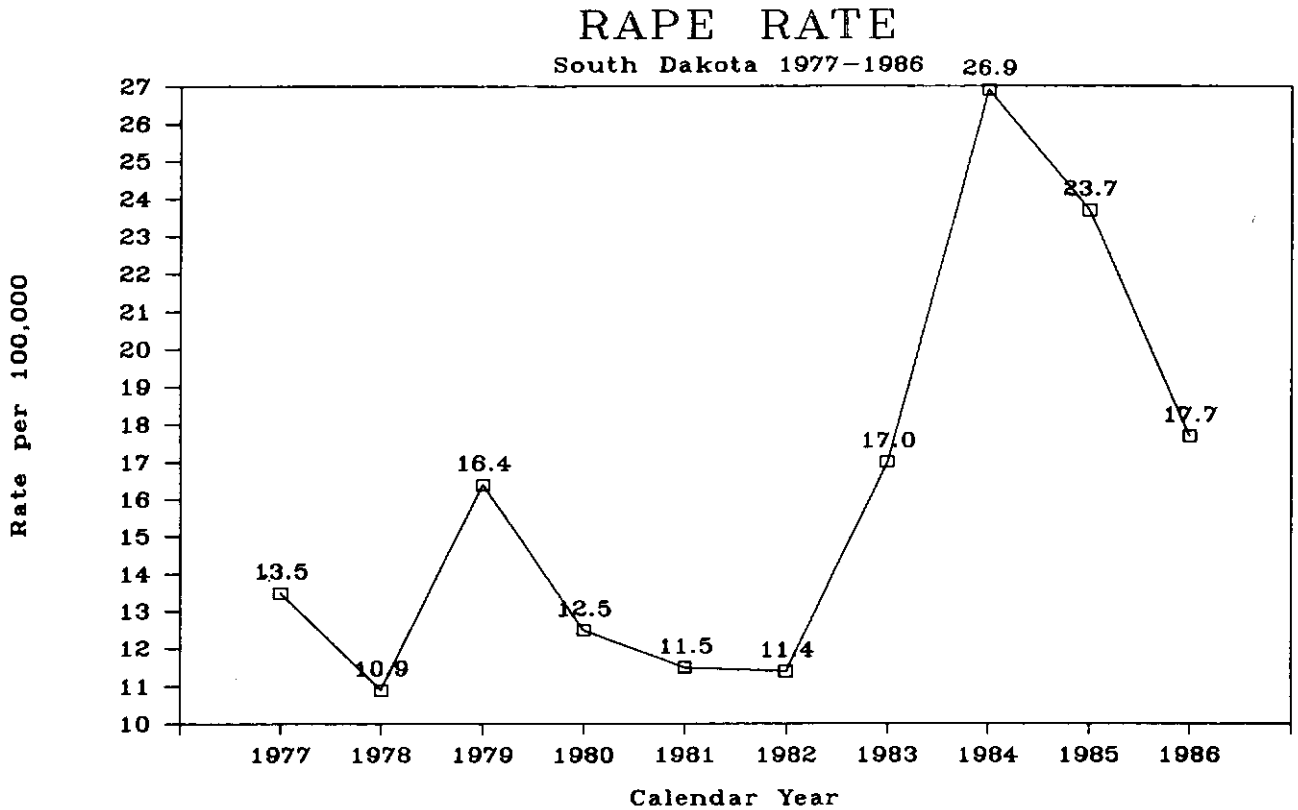
Nationwide, the number of rapes rose by 3.2 percent. An estimated 90,434 forcible rapes were reported across the country in 1986. Although rape increased for the nation as a whole and in a majority of the states, decreases in the number of rapes were experienced in fifteen states, including South Dakota, for the year 1986.

Nationally, the rape rate per 100,000 was 37.5 in 1986. South Dakota's rape rate for the same year was well below the national average at 17.7 per 100,000 population. As shown by Figure 10, the 1986 rape rate of 17.7 was the third-highest for the ten-year period. South Dakota ranked 45th out of the 50 states in the rate of rape for 1986.

RAPE: (continued)

By Uniform Crime Reporting definitions, the victims of forcible rape are always female. With this fact in mind, a more accurate account of the true victimization rate for this offense requires excluding males from the population base figures. For 1986, it is estimated that 50.7 percent of the state population was female, a total of 358,956 persons. When males are thus excluded from the population base figure, the rate of forcible rapes climbs from 17.7 per 100,000 to 46.8 per 100,000.

Figure 10



ROBBERY:

Robbery is the taking or attempting to take any thing of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. One robbery is counted for each operation, regardless of the number of victims present at the time.

There were 115 robberies reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1986. That represented a 4.9 percent decrease from the 121 robberies reported in the state in 1985. The national experience was just the opposite, in that the total number of robberies reported in 1986 was 9 percent higher than the 1985 total.

Robberies accounted for a total estimated national loss of \$323 million in 1986. The value of property stolen due to robberies averaged \$596 per incident. Average dollar losses ranged from \$303 taken during robberies of gas or service stations to \$2,664 per bank robbery. The impact of this violent crime on its victims cannot be measured in terms of monetary loss alone. While the object of a robbery is to obtain money or property, the crime always involves force or threat of force, and many victims suffer serious personal injury.

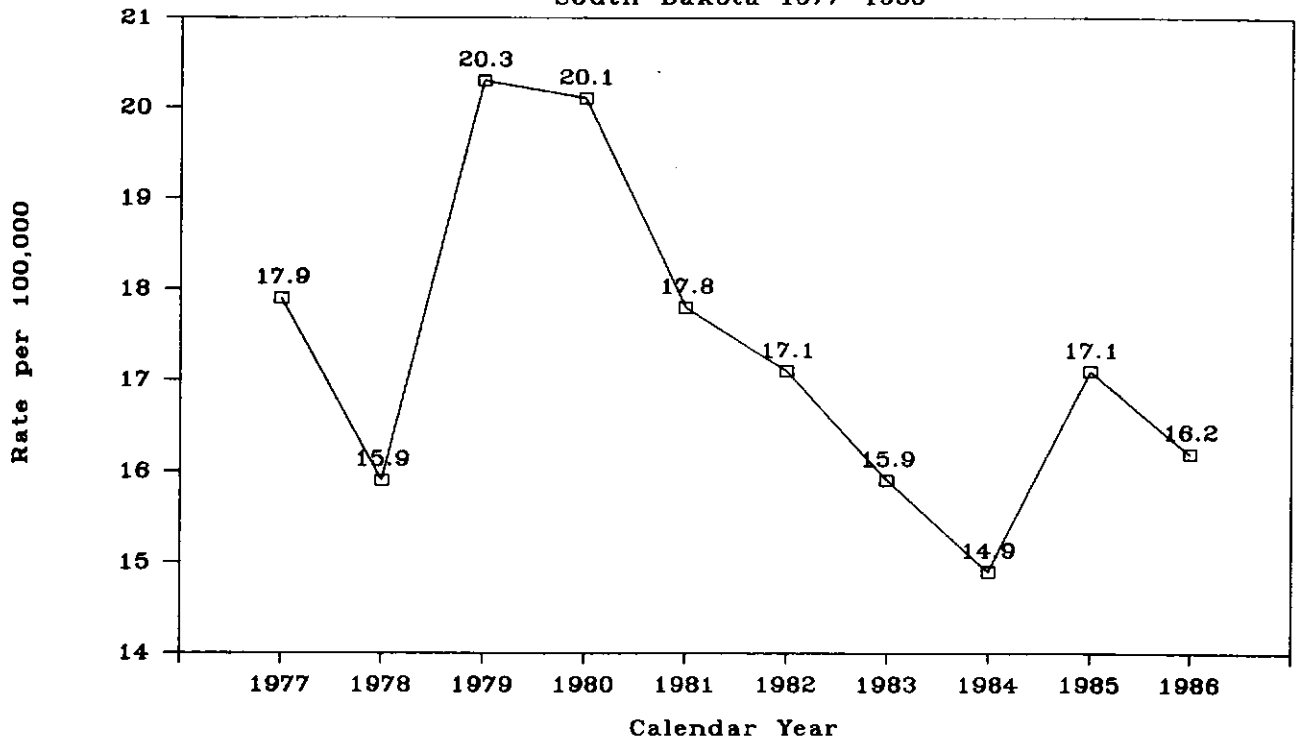
The national robbery rate in 1986 was 225.1 per 100,000 population. This was significantly higher than South Dakota's rate of robbery at 16.2 per 100,000 population for the same year. In fact, South Dakota had the third-lowest robbery rate of any state in the nation.

As shown in Figure 11, the robbery rate had experienced a steady decline in South Dakota for the years 1980 through 1984. The robbery rate reversed that trend in 1985 but now, once again, is on the decline.

Figure 11

ROBBERY RATE

South Dakota 1977-1986



AGGRAVATED ASSAULT:

Aggravated assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempts are included since it is not necessary that an injury result when a gun, knife, or other weapon is used which could and probably would result in serious personal injury if the crime were successfully completed. One offense is counted for each victim of aggravated assault.

There were 615 aggravated assaults reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1986. That was a substantial 7.5 percent decrease over the 1985 figure of 665 assaults. The nation experienced the reverse trend for aggravated assaults. Numbering an estimated 834,322 nationally in 1986, the number of aggravated assaults rose by 8.8 percent.

Aggravated assaults were the most common offense reported within the category of violent crimes. Over two-thirds (69.6 percent) of all violent crimes in South Dakota for the year 1986 were aggravated assaults.

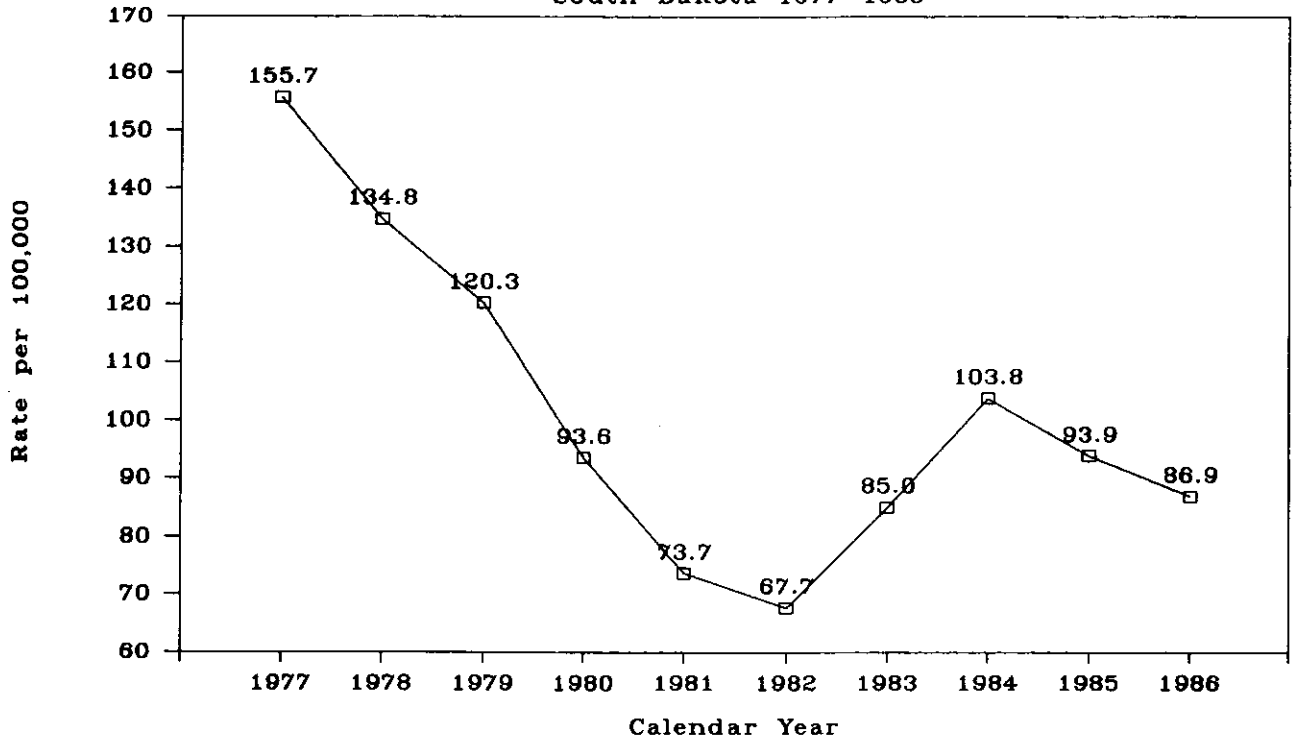
The South Dakota aggravated assault rate of 86.9 per 100,000 was much lower than the national average of 346.1 aggravated assaults per 100,000 population. In fact, South Dakota ranked 49th in the nation for the aggravated assault rate.

As shown in Figure 12, the rate of aggravated assaults in the state is still on the decline after two years of fairly sharp increases in 1983 and 1984.

Figure 12

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT RATE

South Dakota 1977-1986



PROPERTY

CRIME



PROPERTY CRIME:

For UCR purposes, Property Crime consists of the sum total of burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts reported to law enforcement. While these offenses generally do not involve personal danger to the victim, the value of property lost in these crimes is many times greater than in violent crimes. Generally, one property crime is counted for each act or operation.

18,346 property crimes were reported to law enforcement agencies in South Dakota in 1986. That represented a 3.5 percent increase over the 17,730 property crimes reported in 1985 (see Figure 13). Nationally, 11.7 million property crimes were reported to law enforcement agencies, an increase of 5.6 percent from the previous year.

The 1986 property crime rate of 2,591.2 meant that 2,591 crimes against property were committed against every 100,000 persons in South Dakota (Figure 14). South Dakota's rate of property crime was the third lowest in the nation, only above that of North Dakota and West Virginia. The national rate of property crime was 4,862.6 per 100,000.

Total property crimes were up 3.5 percent for the state in 1985. The number of burglaries increased by 1.3 percent. Larceny/thefts rose by 4.5 percent while motor vehicle thefts decreased 3.1 percent for the period.

Figure 13

TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES

South Dakota 1976-1985

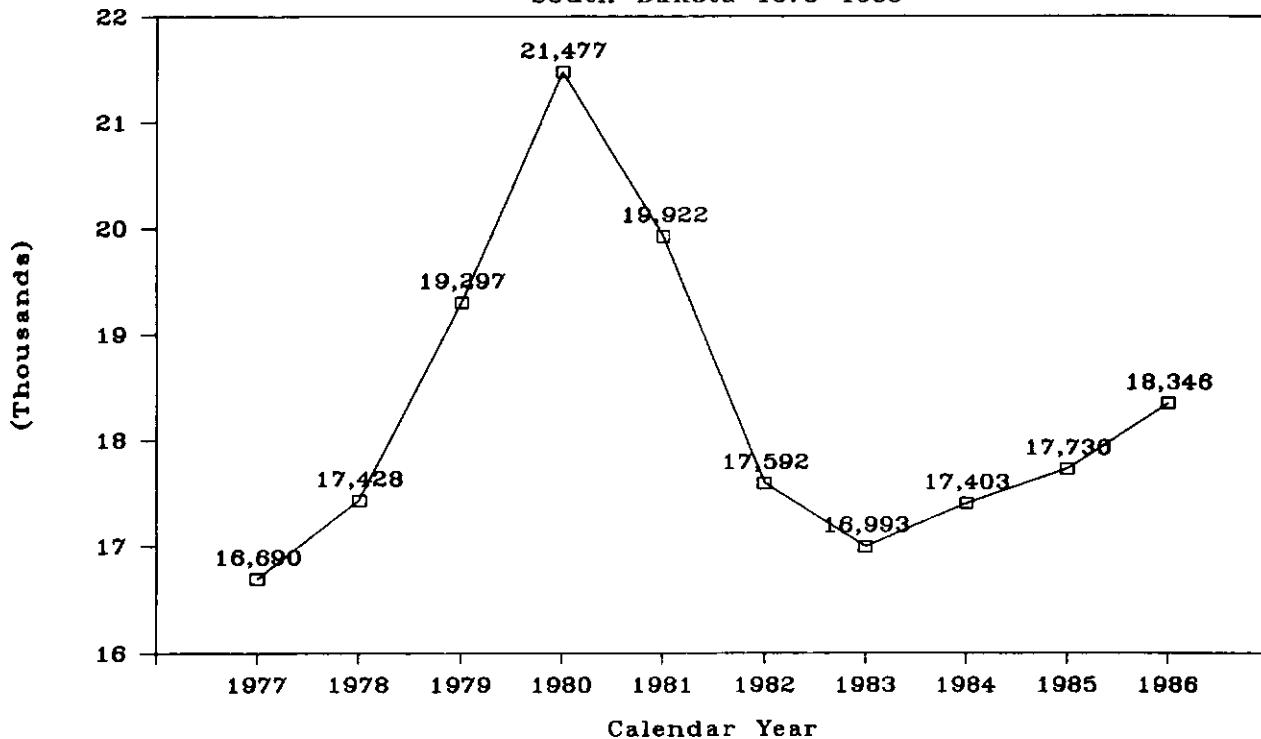
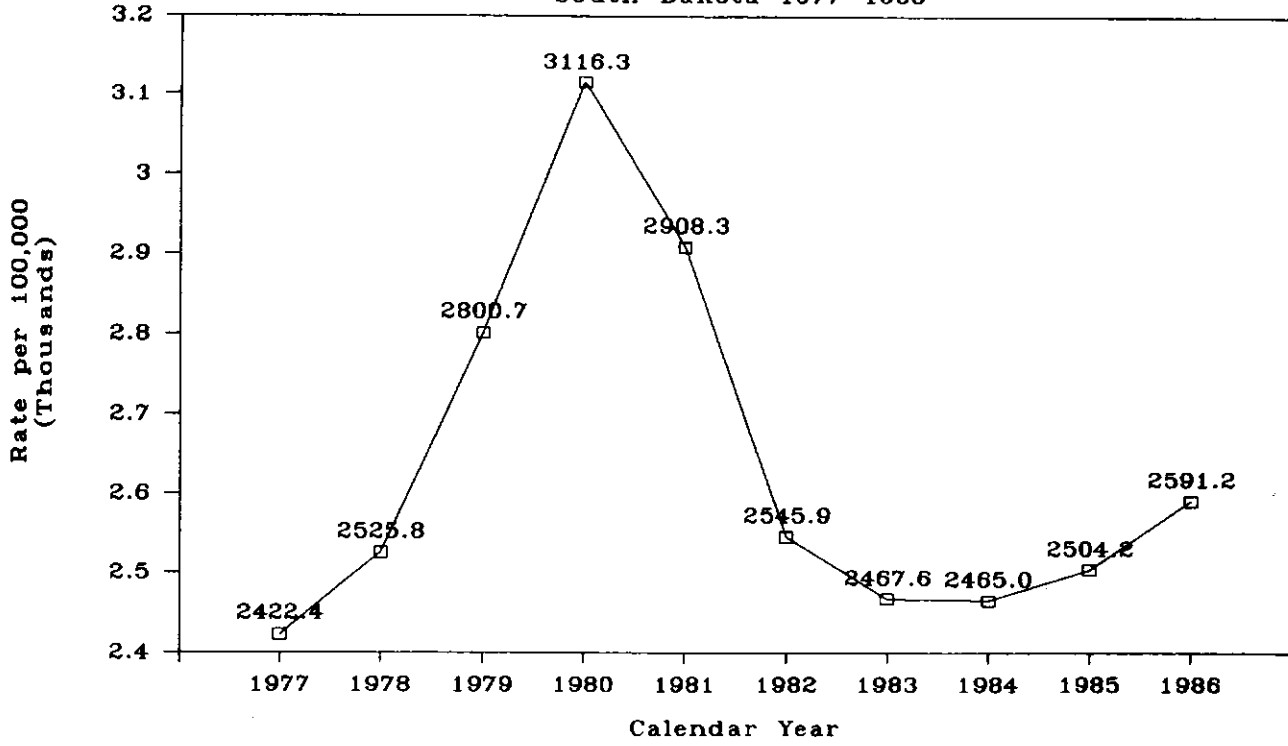


Figure 14

PROPERTY CRIME RATE

South Dakota 1977-1986



BURGLARY:

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines burglary as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. It is not necessary that force be used in gaining entry in order for the crime to be counted in this category. Attempts to unlawfully enter a structure are also counted. Burglary, in the UCR Program, is categorized into three sub classifications: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry. One offense is counted for each distinct operation.

Burglary is on the rise in South Dakota. There were 3,919 burglaries reported to law enforcement officials in South Dakota in 1986, representing an increase of 1.3 percent from the 3,867 burglaries reported in 1985. The state's upward trend for burglary was also reflected in the national statistics. Burglary was up nationwide by 5 percent in 1986.

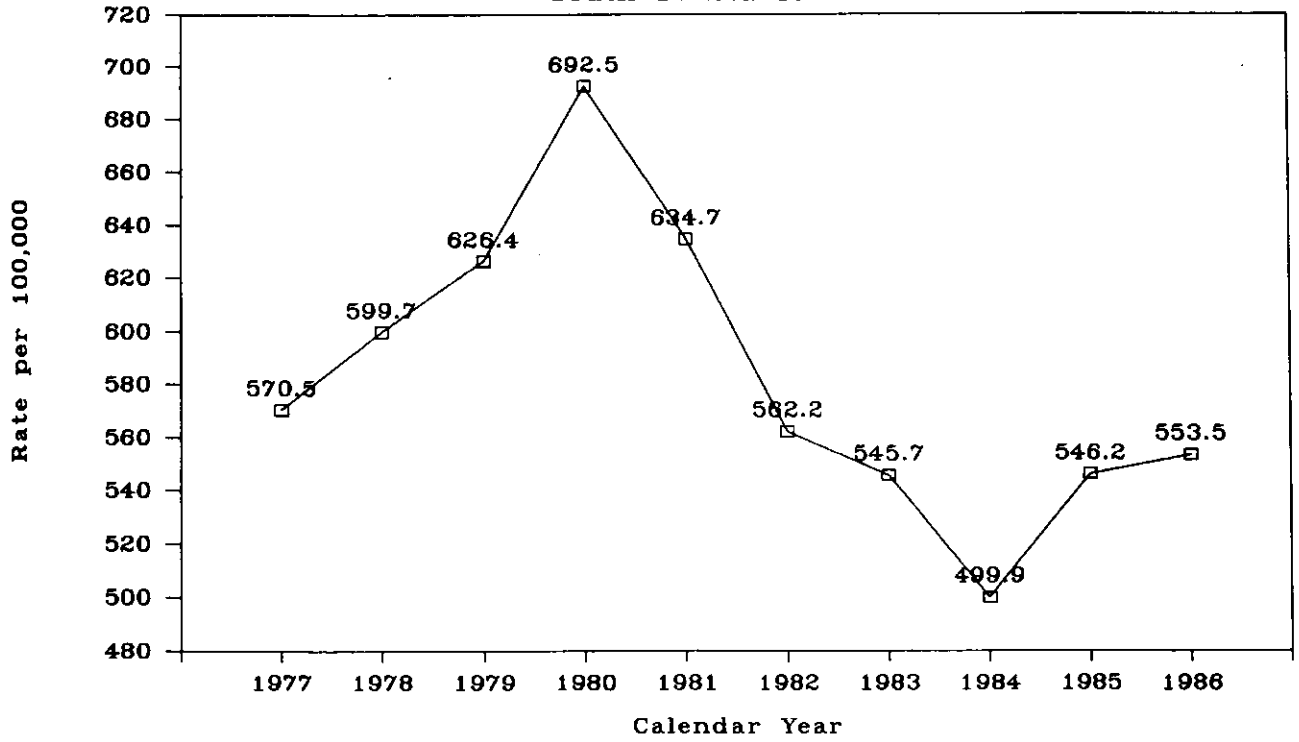
The national average burglary rate was 1,344.6 per 100,000 population for 1986. South Dakota ranked 49th among the 50 states with a 1986 burglary rate of 553.5 per 100,000.

As depicted in Figure 15, the burglary rate in South Dakota is on the rise again after reaching a ten-year low in 1984. However, the 1986 rate of 553.5 per 100,000 was the third-lowest the burglary rate has been in the ten-year period studied.

Figure 15

BURGLARY RATE

South Dakota 1977-1986



LARCENY/THEFT:

Larceny/theft is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of the property from the possession or constructive possession of another. It includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, purse-snatching, thefts from motor vehicles, thefts of motor vehicle parts and accessories, bicycle thefts, etc., in which no use of force, violence, or fraud occurs. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, this crime category does not include embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, and worthless checks. Motor vehicle theft is also excluded from this category inasmuch as it is a separate Crime Index offense. One offense is counted for each distinct operation, regardless of the number of victims.

Seventy-one percent of all index crimes in South Dakota in 1986 were counted as larceny/thefts. There were 13,728 thefts reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1986, representing an increase of 4.5 percent over the 13,142 thefts reported in 1985. An estimated 7,257,153 larceny/theft offenses occurred nationally during 1986, an increase of 5 percent when compared to the previous year's experience.

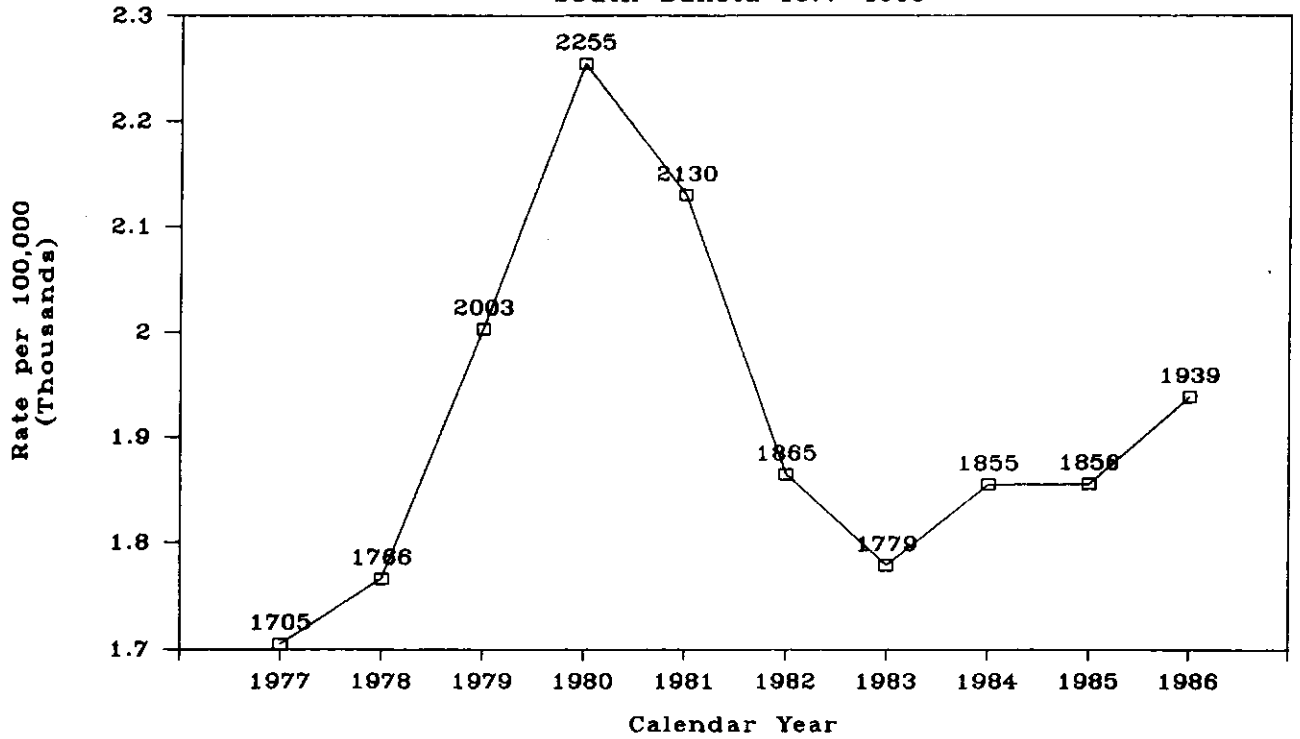
South Dakota ranked 46th in the nation for its theft rate, which stood at 1,939.0 per 100,000 in 1986. That was substantially lower than the national average larceny/theft rate which was 3,010.3 per 100,000 population for the same year.

After a high of 2,255.2 larceny/thefts in South Dakota in 1980, the larceny/theft rate dropped by a total of 21.1 percent in the next three years (see Figure 16). The year 1984 ended the downward trend of the larceny/theft rate with the 4.3 percent increase in the rate. The slight increase of the larceny-theft rate again in 1985 continued this upward trend. In 1986, the 4.5 percent increase in larceny/theft made it the highest rate in the past 5 years. Since larceny/theft represents the bulk of all Index offenses, the ten-year trend experienced by the Crime Index as a whole is directly influenced by the trend larceny/theft takes, and when compared, very similar patterns emerge (see Figures 3 and 16).

Figure 16

LARCENY/THEFT RATE

South Dakota 1977-1986



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT:

Defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle, this offense category includes the stealing of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motorscooters, snowmobiles, etc. The definition excludes the taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by those persons having lawful access.

There were 699 motor vehicles reported stolen to law enforcement agencies in South Dakota in 1986, representing a 3.1 percent decrease from the 721 motor vehicles stolen in the state for 1985. Nationally, motor vehicle theft rose by 11 percent from 1985 to 1986.

Motor vehicle thefts in 1986 numbered an estimated 1,224,137 offenses nationwide, comprising 9 percent of all Index Crimes for the country. In 1986, an estimated average of 1 of every 149 registered motor vehicles was stolen nationwide. An estimated national loss of \$6 billion in 1986 was due to motor vehicle theft. At the time of the theft, the average value per vehicle stolen was \$4,888.

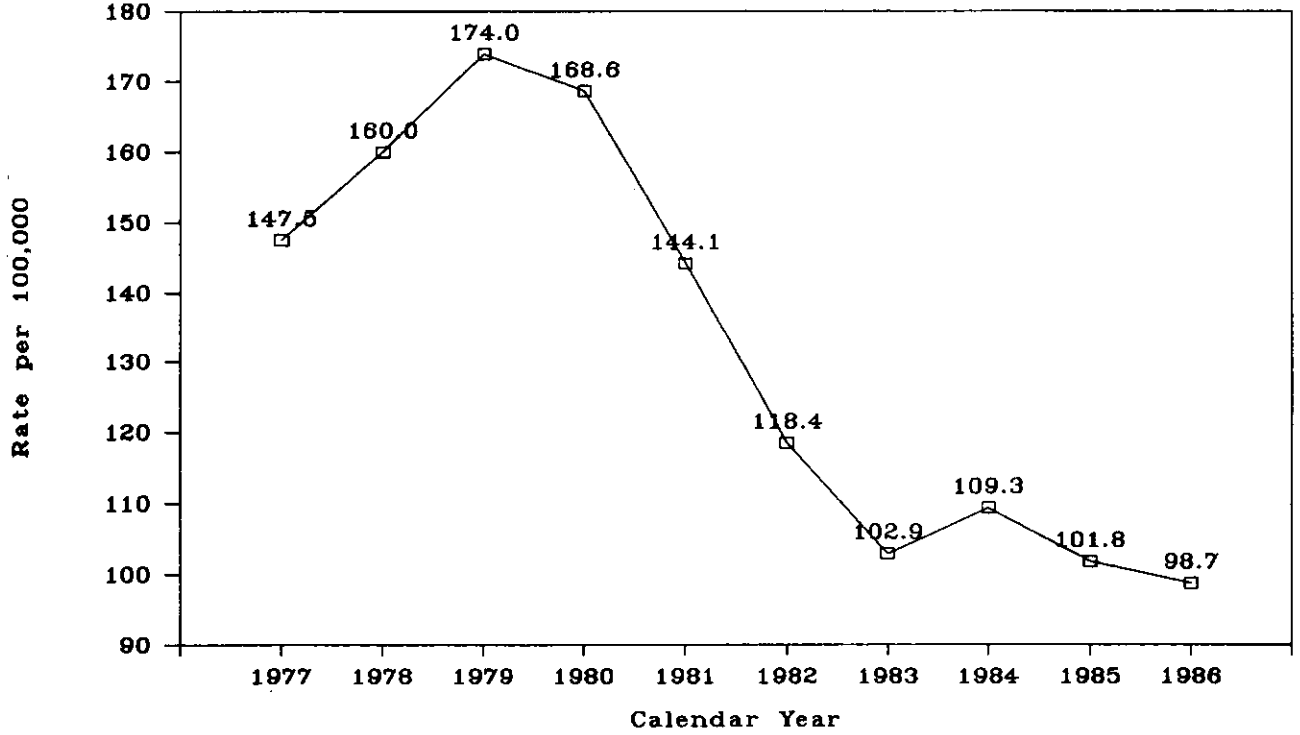
The national average motor vehicle theft rate was at 507.8 per 100,000 population for 1986. South Dakota's rate of 98.7 per 100,000 was the lowest motor vehicle theft rate of all the states in the nation.

As shown by Figure 17, South Dakota's motor vehicle theft rate showed rapid decline from the high of 174.0 in 1979 to the low of 98.7 in 1986, with the exception of a slight increase experienced in 1984. The 1986 rate of 98.7 stolen motor vehicles per 100,000 population was the lowest recorded rate for the ten-year period.

Figure 17

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT RATE

South Dakota 1977-1986



CRIME
IN
SOUTH DAKOTA
CITIES

South Dakota Cities:

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program analyzes separately the Part I offenses in the cities of the state with a population of 10,000 and over. Data are presented for the ten cities of Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Watertown, and Yankton.

Rapid City had the highest crime rate of the ten South Dakota cities reporting their UCR Part I offenses in 1986 (see Figures 18 and 19). Although Sioux Falls reported more crimes, Rapid City's ratio of crime to population was higher. Rapid City had a crime rate of 7,827.5 per 100,000 population while reporting 3,859 Index offenses in 1986. Sioux Falls had a crime rate of 5,046.0 per 100,000 with 4,443 Index crimes reported.

The estimated combined population of the ten cities totalled 255,765 people in 1986. The total number of Index crimes reported in these cities was 13,398 for the same year. Therefore, these ten cities comprised 36.1 percent of the state's population in 1986 while 69.7 percent of the total number of crimes were reported in these "urban" areas.

It is interesting to note that all of the larger cities participating in the UCR Program had higher crime rates than the average South Dakota crime rate (Figure 20), which was at 2,716.0 per 100,000 in 1986. The mean South Dakota urban crime rate, the average for the ten cities, was 5,238.4 for 1986. That was still lower than the nation's overall crime rate.

Three of the cities, Mitchell, Pierre, and Rapid City, had a higher crime rate than the national average in 1986. The national average was 5,479.9 crimes per 100,000 population. Pierre reported a crime rate of 5,739.1 per 100,000, Mitchell reported 6,594.4 crimes per 100,000 population, and Rapid City reported a crime rate of 7,827.5 per 100,000.

Crime dropped in two of the nine largest cities in South Dakota from 1985 to 1986. (Huron began participation in the UCR Program in January of 1986, therefore, no comparison can be made.) Brookings and Yankton experienced decreases in the number of index crimes reported. Crime increased from the previous year in Aberdeen, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, and Watertown.

Figure 18

CRIME RATES AND NUMBERS IN
SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES, 1986

	POPULATION	TOTAL CRIME INDEX NUMBER	TOTAL CRIME INDEX RATE
Aberdeen	25,844	1,184	4,581.3
Brookings	15,075	449	2,978.4
Huron	12,418	405	3,261.4
Mitchell	13,936	919	6,594.4
Pierre	12,441	714	5,739.1
Rapid City	49,300	3,859	7,827.5
Sioux Falls	88,050	4,443	5,046.0
Vermillion	10,038	371	3,696.0
Watertown	16,512	573	3,470.2
Yankton	12,151	481	3,958.5

Figure 19

CRIME IN SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES, 1986

	POPULATION	CRIME INDEX TOTAL	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY/ THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
Aberdeen	25,844	1,184	--	12	13	24	160	930	45
Brookings	15,075	449	--	--	--	2	50	389	8
Huron	12,418	405	1	--	--	6	45	313	40
Mitchell	13,936	919	--	1	4	18	196	679	21
Pierre	12,441	714	--	--	--	12	116	568	18
Rapid City	49,300	3,859	3	28	47	171	660	2,797	153
Sioux Falls	88,050	4,443	3	39	28	123	912	3,208	130
Vermillion	10,038	371	1	2	--	3	43	314	8
Watertown	16,512	573	--	3	1	7	45	503	14
Yankton	12,151	481	--	--	1	12	35	428	5

Figure 20

SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES

Crime Rates for 1986

