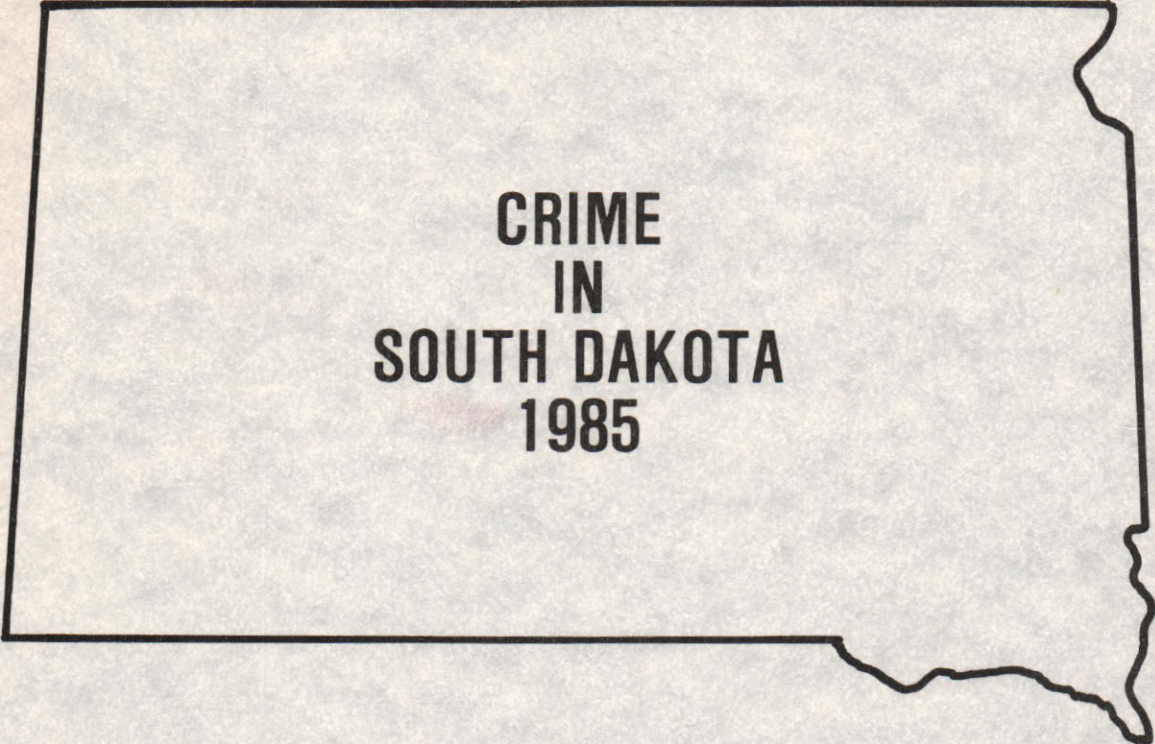


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STATE OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DIVISION OF  
CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATION



**CRIME  
IN  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
1985**

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

CRIME  
IN  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
1985

Statistical Analysis Center  
Division of Criminal Investigation  
Office of the Attorney General  
Criminal Justice Training Center  
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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, 1985". 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, 1985, presents data on reported crime in South Dakota during calendar year 1985, and examines crime trends experienced in South Dakota during the past ten years (1976-1985).

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 nonreporting 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 1985 SUMMARY:**

Following three consecutive years of decline, the National Crime Index total rose five percent to 12.4 million offenses in 1985. Crime also rose in South Dakota from 1984 to 1985, but the state's percentage increase of one percent was lower than the national experience (Figure 1). There were 18,697 Part I offenses reported by South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1985. This was the second year in a row that crime rose in South Dakota (Figure 2 & 3). A total of 39 states experienced crime increases in 1985.

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 1985 was 2,640.8 per 100,000 population, while the rate for the nation was 5,206.5 per 100,000. In fact, South Dakota ranked 49th out of the 50 states in the total Crime Index rate (Figure 5). West Virginia was the only state 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). South 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 rape rate. South Dakota had the second-highest rape rate of any of the surrounding states at 23.7 per 100,000. Minnesota's rate of 29.6 rapes per 100,000 was the highest for the contiguous states.



Figure 1  
**COMPARISON OF PART I CRIMES  
 IN SOUTH DAKOTA, 1984 AND 1985**

	NUMBER OF CRIMES			RATE PER 100,000		
	1984	1985	CHANGE	1984	1985	CHANGE
Crime Index Total	18,444	18,697	+1.4%	2,612.5	2,640.8	+1.1%
Violent Crime	1,041	967	-7.1%	147.5	136.6	-7.4%
Property Crime	17,403	17,730	+1.9%	2,465.0	2,504.2	+1.6%
Murder	13	13	---	1.8	1.8	---
Rape	190	168	-11.6%	26.9	23.7	-11.9%
Robbery	105	121	+15.2%	14.9	17.1	+14.8%
Aggravated Assault	733	665	-9.3%	103.8	93.9	-9.5%
Burglary	3,529	3,867	+9.6%	499.9	546.2	+9.3%
Larceny/Theft	13,102	13,142	+ .3%	1,855.8	1,856.2	---
Motor Vehicle Theft	772	721	-6.6%	109.3	101.8	-6.9%

Figure 2  
TOTAL INDEX CRIMES  
South Dakota 1976-1985

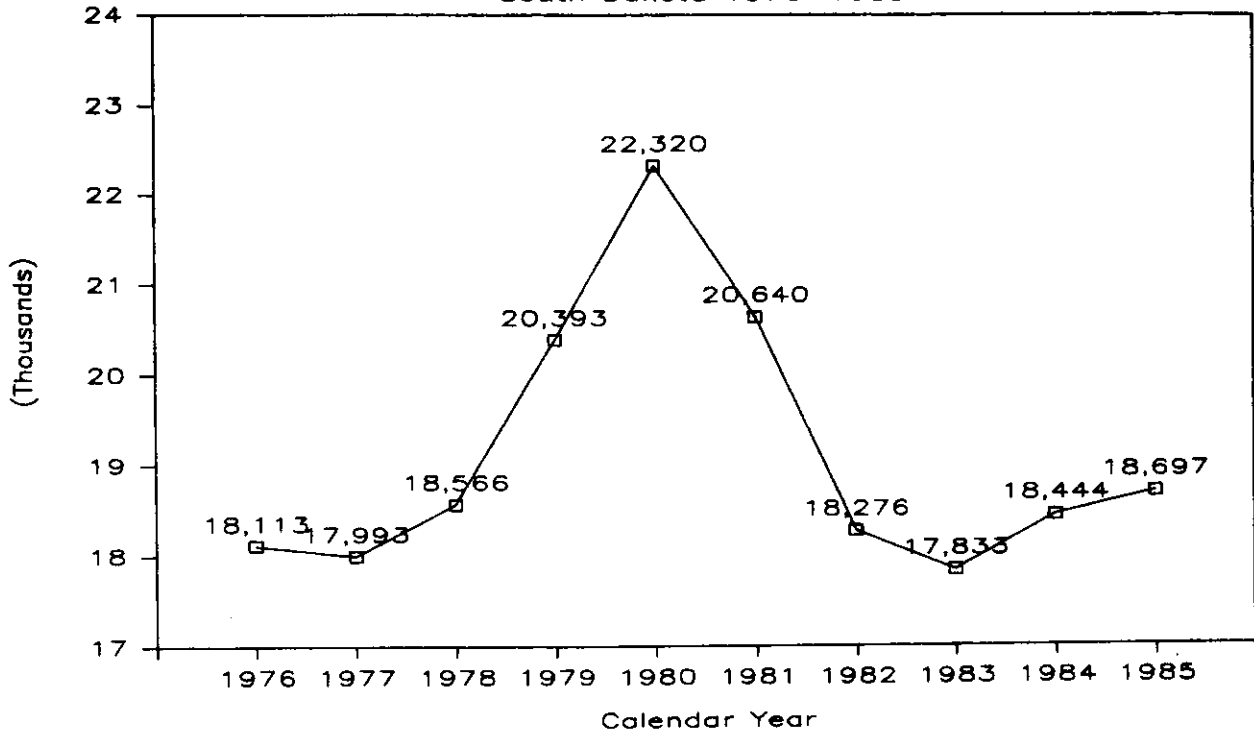


Figure 3  
TOTAL CRIME RATE  
SOUTH DAKOTA 1976-1985

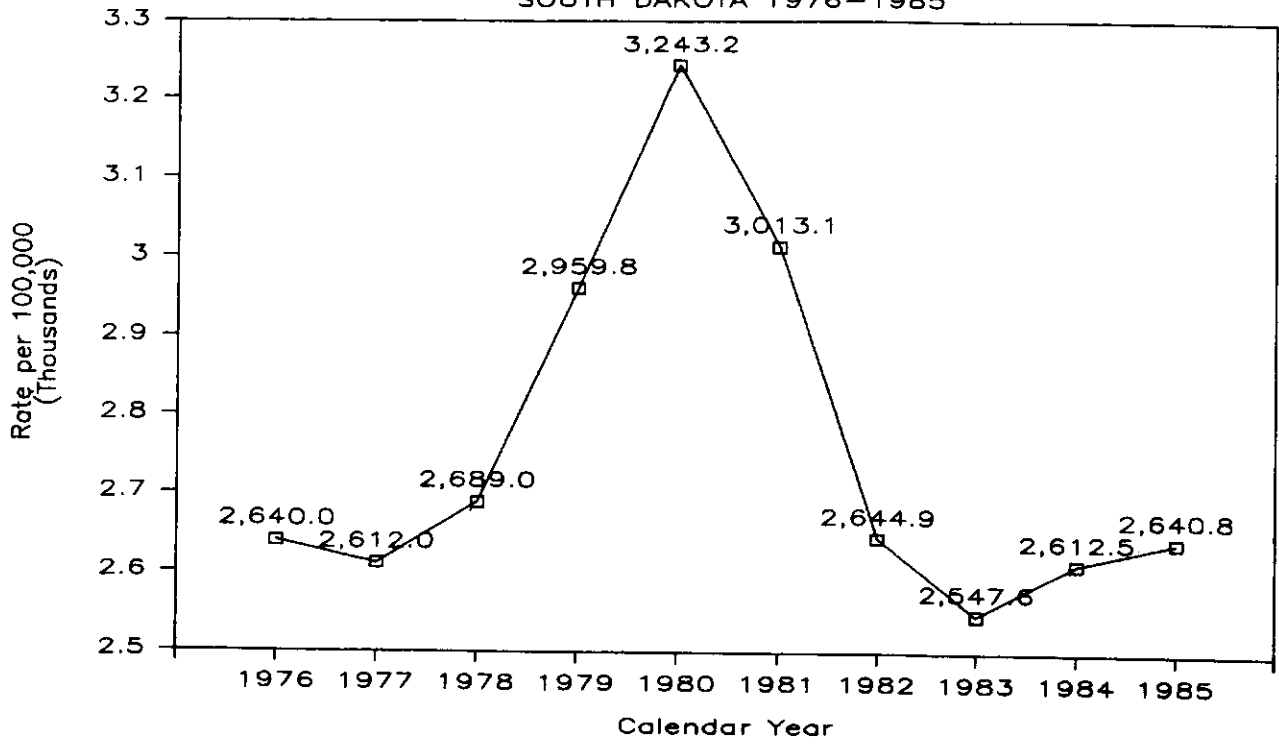


Figure 4

**COMPARISON OF 1985 CRIME RATES PER 100,000  
BETWEEN SOUTH DAKOTA AND THE NATION**

	<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	<b>THE NATION</b>
<b>Crime Index Total</b>	<b>2,640.8</b>	<b>5,206.5</b>
<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>136.6</b>	<b>556.0</b>
<b>Property Crime</b>	<b>2,504.2</b>	<b>4,650.5</b>
<b>Murder</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>36.6</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>208.5</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>302.9</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>546.2</b>	<b>1,287.3</b>
<b>Larceny/Theft</b>	<b>1,856.2</b>	<b>2,901.2</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	<b>101.8</b>	<b>462.0</b>

Figure 5

**COMPARISON OF 1984 CRIME RATES PER 100,000  
BETWEEN SOUTH DAKOTA AND ALL OTHER STATES**

South Dakota ranks 49th in the Total Crime Index Rate  
South Dakota ranks 49th in the Violent Crime Rate  
South Dakota ranks 49th in the Property Crime Rate  
South Dakota ranks 49th in the Murder Rate  
South Dakota ranks 37th in the Rape Rate  
South Dakota ranks 49th in the Robbery Rate  
South Dakota ranks 47th 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  
**1985 CRIME RATES IN THE CONTIGUOUS STATES**  
 (Rates per 100,000)

	IOWA	MINNESOTA	MONTANA	NEBRASKA	NORTH DAKOTA	SOUTH DAKOTA	WYOMING
Crime Index Total	3,942.9	4,134.2	4,549.3	3,694.6	2,679.4	2,640.8	4,015.1
Violent Crime	211.7	256.4	208.5	237.9	47.0	136.6	256.8
Property Crime	3,731.2	3,877.8	4,340.8	3,456.7	2,632.4	2,504.2	3,758.3
Murder	1.9	2.1	5.8	2.9	1.0	1.8	4.3
Rape	12.6	29.6	19.2	23.4	7.3	23.7	22.4
Robbery	41.2	85.8	20.9	48.5	6.4	17.1	20.0
Aggravated Assault	156.1	138.9	162.5	163.1	32.3	93.9	210.0
Burglary	913.6	1,017.5	827.6	730.4	427.0	546.2	690.6
Larceny/Theft	2,644.2	2,598.5	3,238.0	2,670.2	2,087.2	1,856.2	2,894.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	153.4	261.9	275.3	156.0	118.2	101.8	173.5

DISTRIBUTION OF INDEX OFFENSES:

During 1985, a total of 18,697 Crime Index offenses were reported or known to South Dakota law enforcement agencies. By far, the bulk of all offenses reported in 1985 were property crimes. These totaled 17,730 or 94.9 percent of the total Index. Larceny/theft alone accounted for 70 percent of the total Crime Index in 1985 and 74 percent of all property crimes. As a group, violent crimes were responsible for 5.2 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 7.1 percent from 1984 to 1985 and the property crime totals rose by a slight 1.9 percent, the resulting Crime Index total rose by only 1.4 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 1985 after making significant increases in 1983 and 1984 (see Figures 7 & 8). There were 967 crimes of violence reported or known to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1985. This represents a drop of 7.1 percent from the 1984 total of 1,041 crimes. The decrease in violent crime for South Dakota contrasts with a 4.6 percent increase in violent crime nationwide from 1984 to 1985. Forty states across the country experienced a rise in violent crime. South Dakota was one of the ten states to buck that trend and have fewer violent crimes reported for calendar year 1985. In fact, South Dakota's percentage decrease was one of the most significant recorded among those ten states.

Only one of the four elements which make up the violent crime total rose from 1984 to 1985. Robberies increased from 105 in 1984 to 121 in 1985. This represents a 15.2 percent increase in robbery for the period. The number of murders in the state remained constant for the same time frame. Thirteen murders were reported in 1984 as well as in 1985.

The other two elements of violent crime, aggravated assault and rape, decreased in 1985 after exhibiting significant increases in 1983 and 1984. Aggravated assault fell by 9.3 percent and rape dropped by 11.6% in 1985.

The national rate of violent crimes per 100,000 population was 556.0 for 1985. The violent crime rate in South Dakota was significantly lower than the national average. The state's violent crime rate of 136.6 per 100,000 population ranked 49th among the 50 states. Only North Dakota had a lower rate of violent crime per 100,000 population.



Figure 7  
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES  
South Dakota 1976-1985

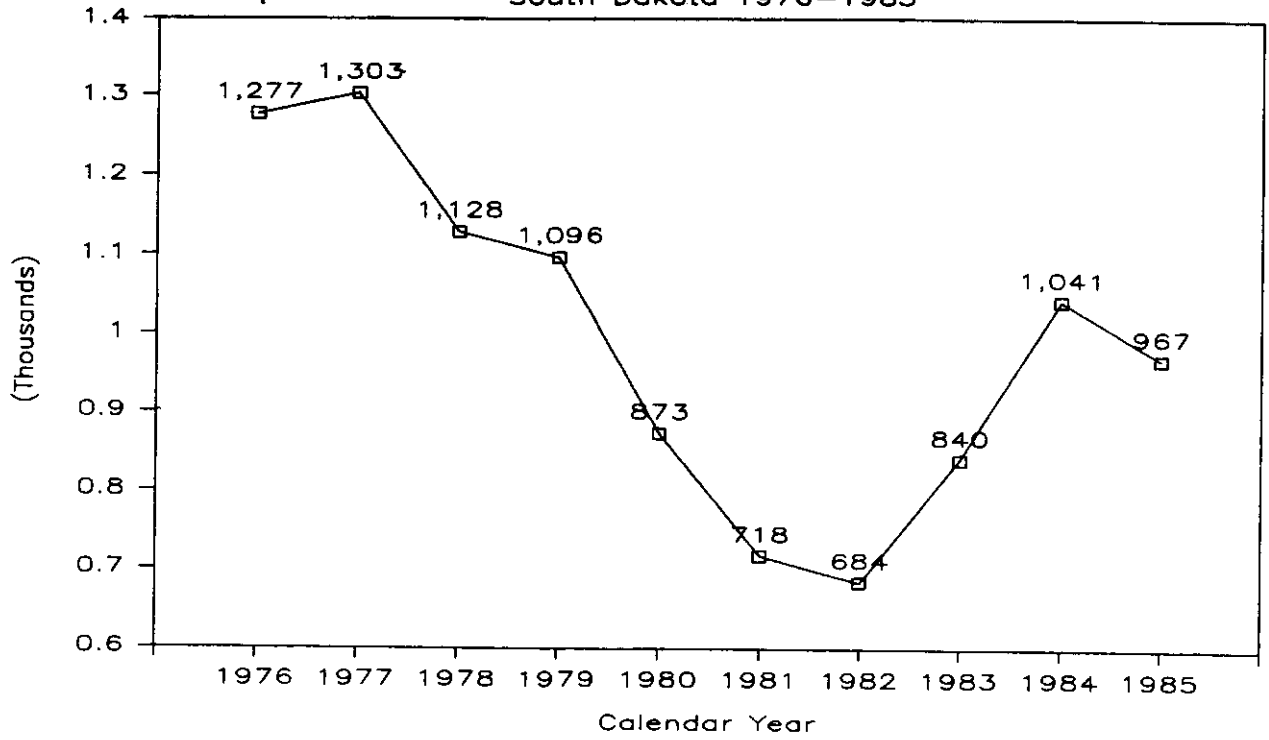
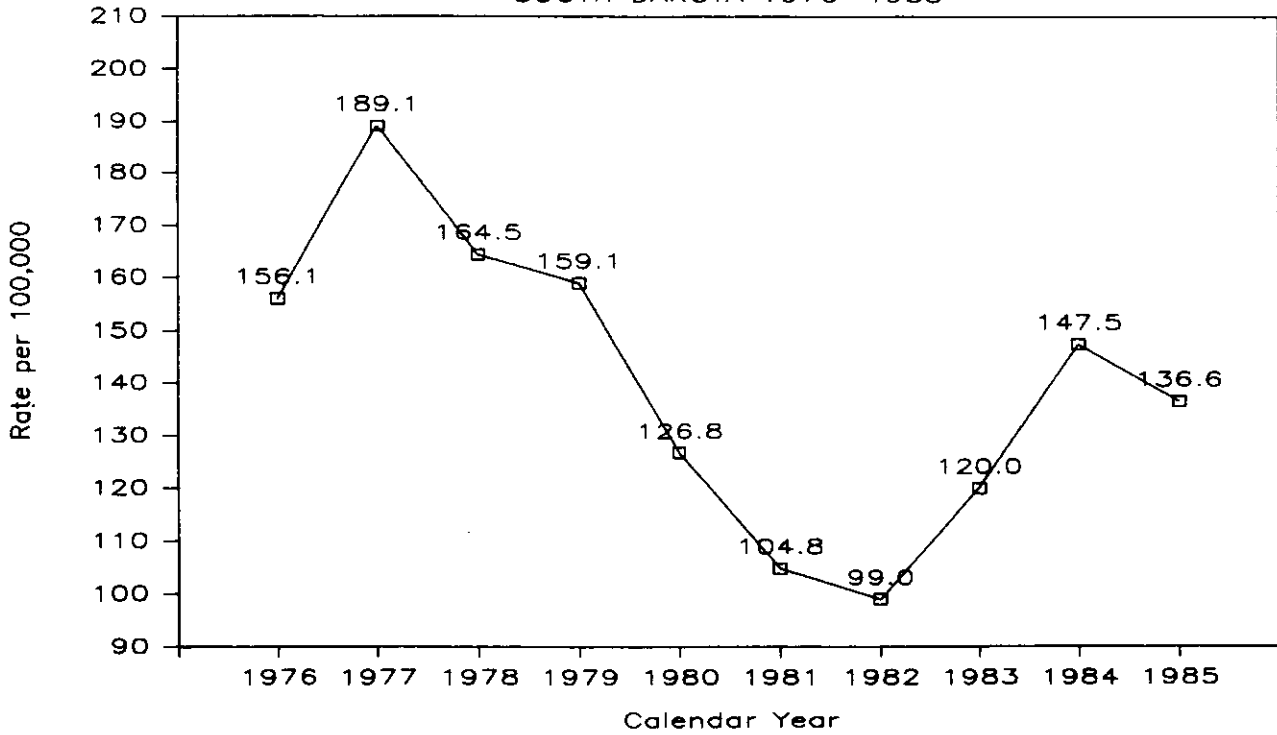


Figure 8  
VIOLENT CRIME RATE  
SOUTH DAKOTA 1976-1985





## 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.

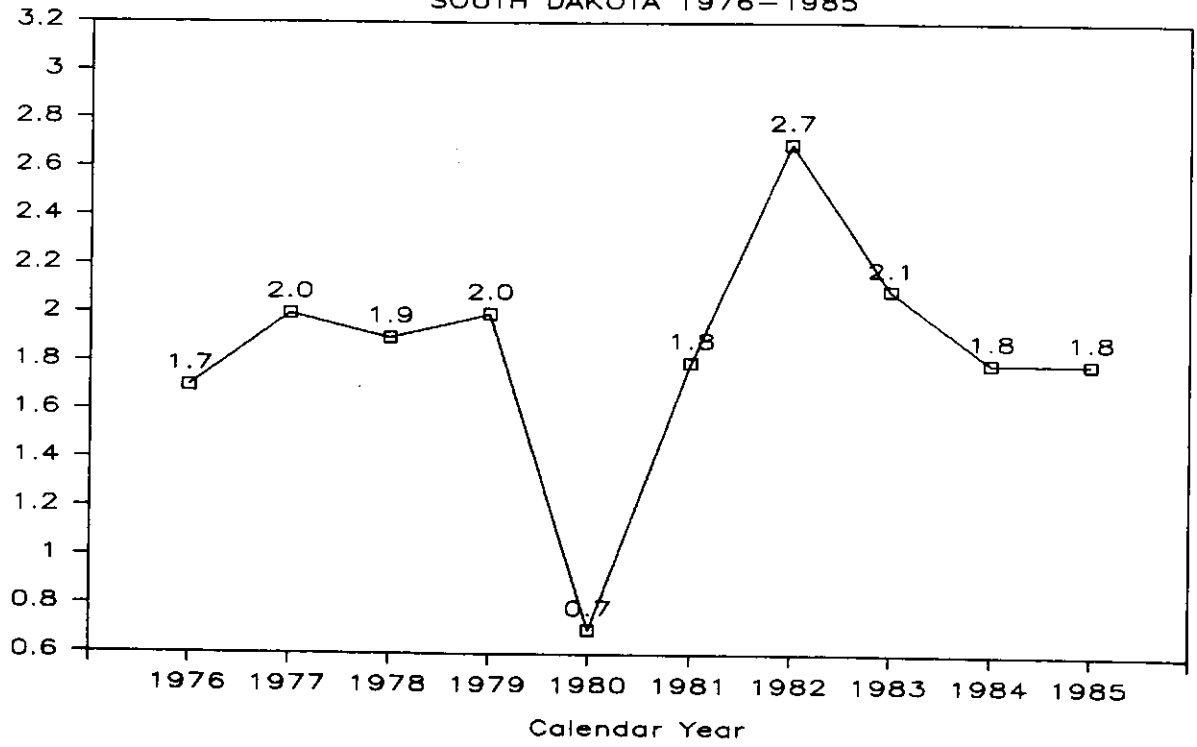
Thirteen murders were reported in South Dakota during 1985, representing one-tenth of a percent of the distribution of the total crime index for the state. As shown in Figure 9, the murder rate in South Dakota has remained fairly constant throughout the ten-year period studied, with two exceptions.

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 1985 South Dakota murder rate of 1.8 per 100,000 was considerably lower than the national murder rate of 7.9 murders per 100,000 population.

According to national estimates, 18,976 persons were murdered in 1985. This represents an increase of 2 percent over the 1984 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 1985 were perpetrated by relatives (17 percent) or persons acquainted with the victims (41 percent). Among all female murder victims in 1985, 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 1976-1985





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 substantial increases, the number of rapes in South Dakota fell by 11.6 percent in 1985. There were 190 rapes reported to law enforcement officials in the state in 1984, as compared to 168 reported rapes in 1985. These 168 rapes comprised 17.4 percent of the violent crime volume and .9 percent of the Crime Index total for South Dakota in 1985.

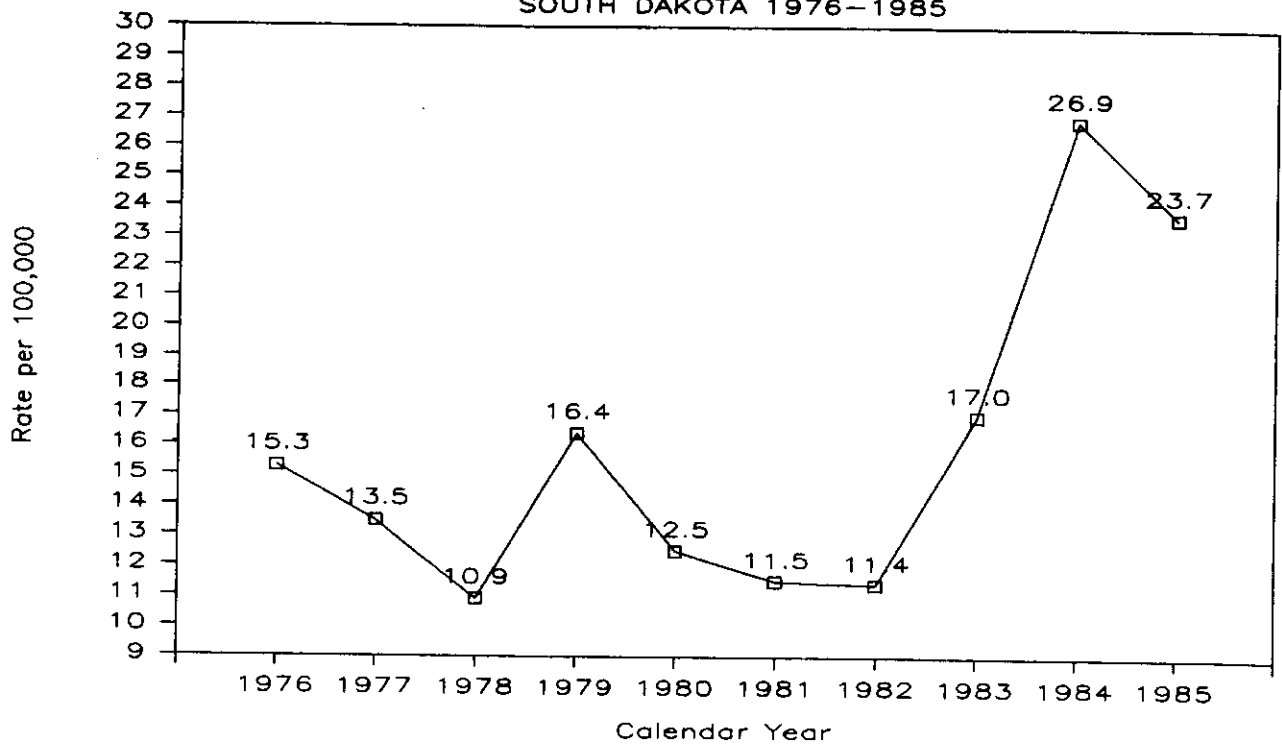
Nationwide, the number of rapes rose by 3.7 percent. An estimated 87,340 forcible rapes were reported across the country in 1985. Although rape increased for the nation as a whole and in a majority of the states, decreases in the number of rapes were experienced in nineteen states, including South Dakota, for the year 1985.

Nationally, the rape rate per 100,000 was 36.6 in 1985. South Dakota's rape rate for the same year was below the national average at 23.7 per 100,000 population. As shown by Figure 10, the 1985 rape rate of 23.7 was the second-highest for the ten-year period. South Dakota ranked 37th out of the 50 states in the rate of rape for 1985.

**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 1985, 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 23.7 per 100,000 to 46.8 per 100,000.

Figure 10  
**RAPE RATE**  
SOUTH DAKOTA 1976-1985



ROBBERY:

Robbery is the taking or attempting to take anything 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.

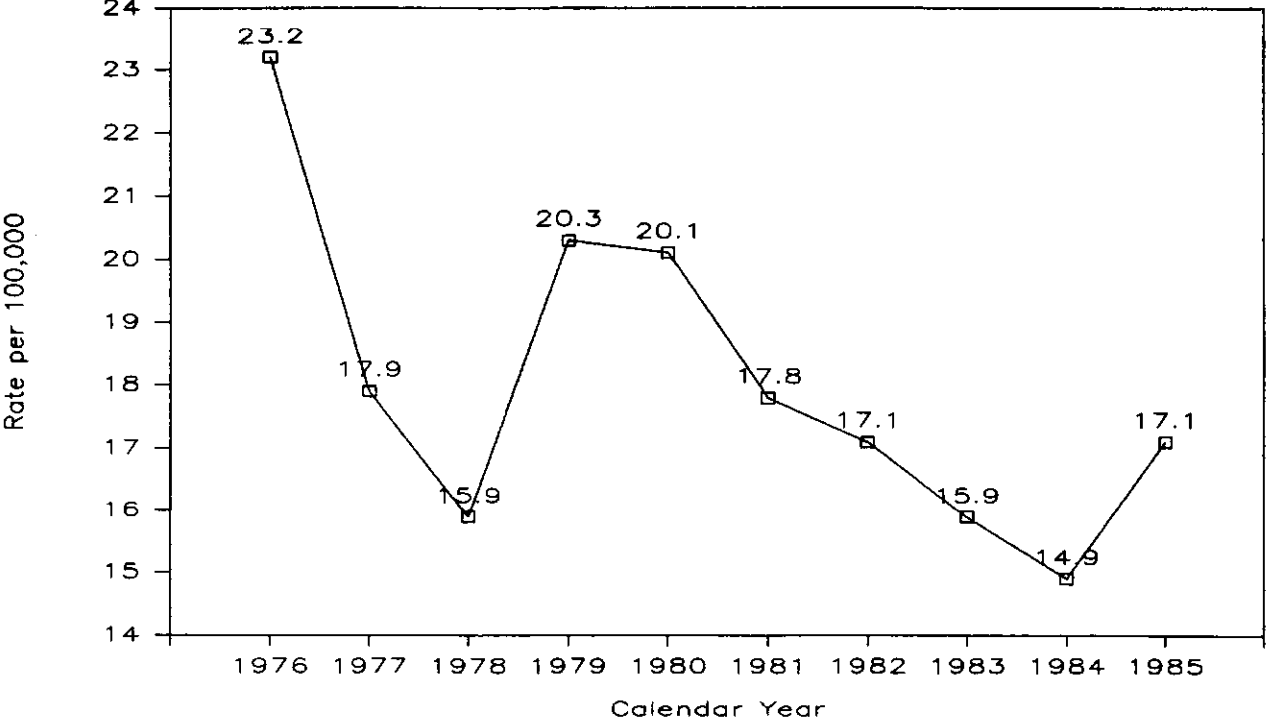
There were 121 robberies reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1985. That represented a 15.2 percent increase from the 105 robberies reported in the state in 1984. This was the largest percentage increase for any single offense category in the state. The national experience was similar, in that the total number of robberies reported in 1985 was 3 percent higher than the 1984 total.

Robberies accounted for a total estimated national loss of \$313 million in 1985. The value of property stolen due to robberies averaged \$628 per incident. Average dollar losses ranged from \$347 taken during robberies of gas or service stations to \$3,048 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 1985 was 208.5 per 100,000 population. This was significantly higher than South Dakota's rate of robbery at 17.1 per 100,000 population for the same year. In fact, South Dakota had the second-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 14.8 percent increase in the robbery rate for 1985 has reversed that trend.

Figure 11  
ROBBERY RATE  
SOUTH DAKOTA 1976-1985



### 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.

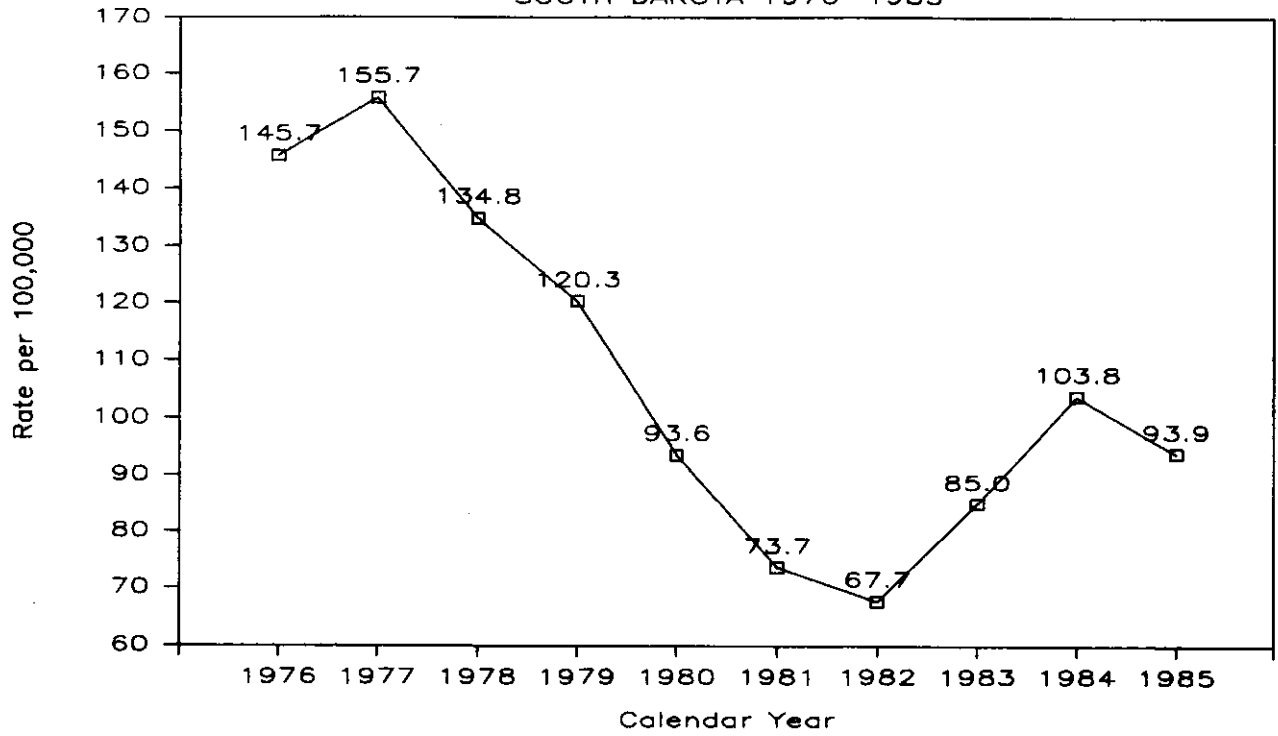
There were 665 aggravated assaults reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1985. That was a substantial 9.3 percent decrease over the 1984 figure of 733 assaults. The nation experienced the reverse trend for aggravated assaults. Numbering an estimated 732,246 nationally in 1985, the number of aggravated assaults rose by 5.5 percent.

Aggravated assaults were the most common offense reported within the category of violent crimes. Over two-thirds (68.8 percent) of all violent crimes in South Dakota for the year 1985 were aggravated assaults.

The South Dakota aggravated assault rate of 93.9 per 100,000 was much lower than the national average of 302.9 aggravated assaults per 100,000 population. In fact, South Dakota ranked 47th in the nation for the aggravated assault rate.

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

Figure 12  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT RATE  
SOUTH DAKOTA 1976-1985





**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.

17,730 property crimes were reported to law enforcement agencies in South Dakota in 1985. That represented a 1.9 percent increase over the 17,403 property crimes reported in 1984 (see Figure 13). Nationally, 11.1 million property crimes were reported to law enforcement agencies, an increase of 4.7 percent from the previous year.

The 1985 property crime rate of 2,504.2 meant that 2,504 crimes against property were committed against every 100,000 persons in South Dakota (Figure 14). South Dakota's rate of property crime was the second lowest in the nation, only above that of West Virginia. The national rate of property crime was 4,650.5 per 100,000.

Total property crimes were up 1.9 percent for the state in 1985. The number of burglaries increased by 9.6 percent. Larceny/thefts rose by a slight .3 percent while motor vehicle thefts decreased 6.6 percent of the period.

Figure 13  
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES  
South Dakota 1976-1985

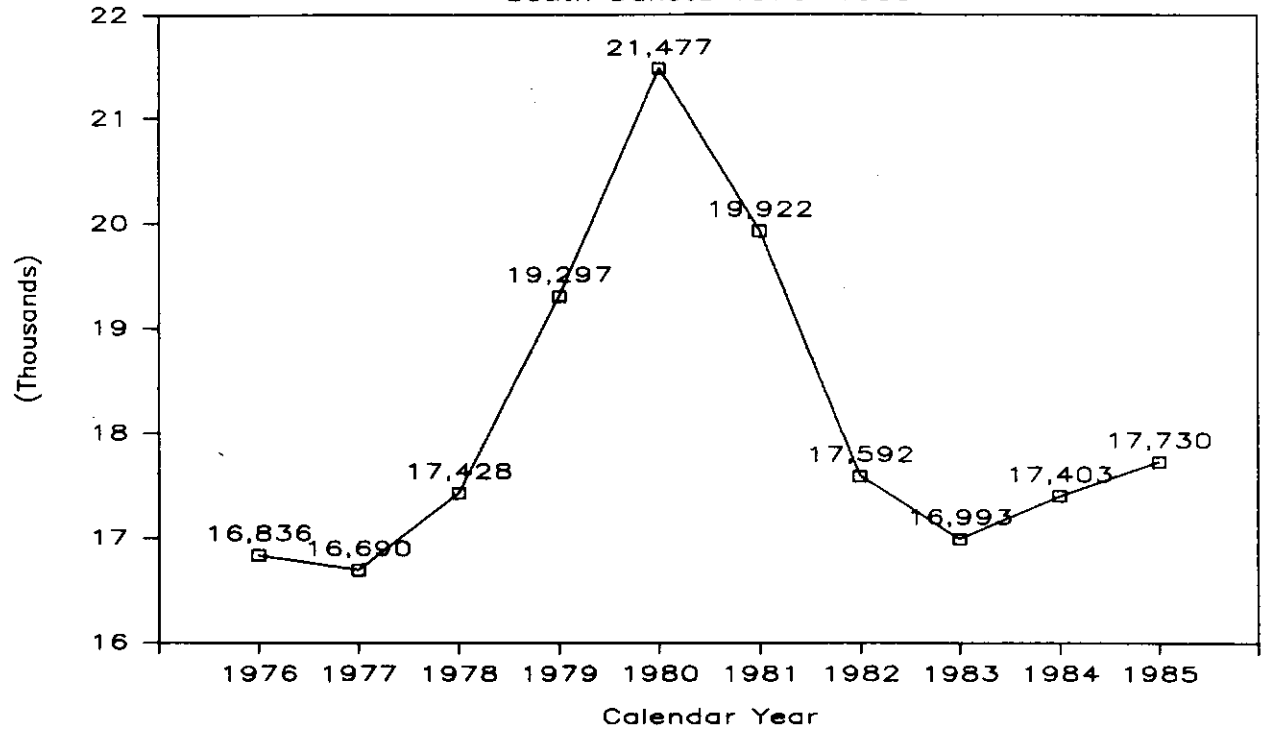
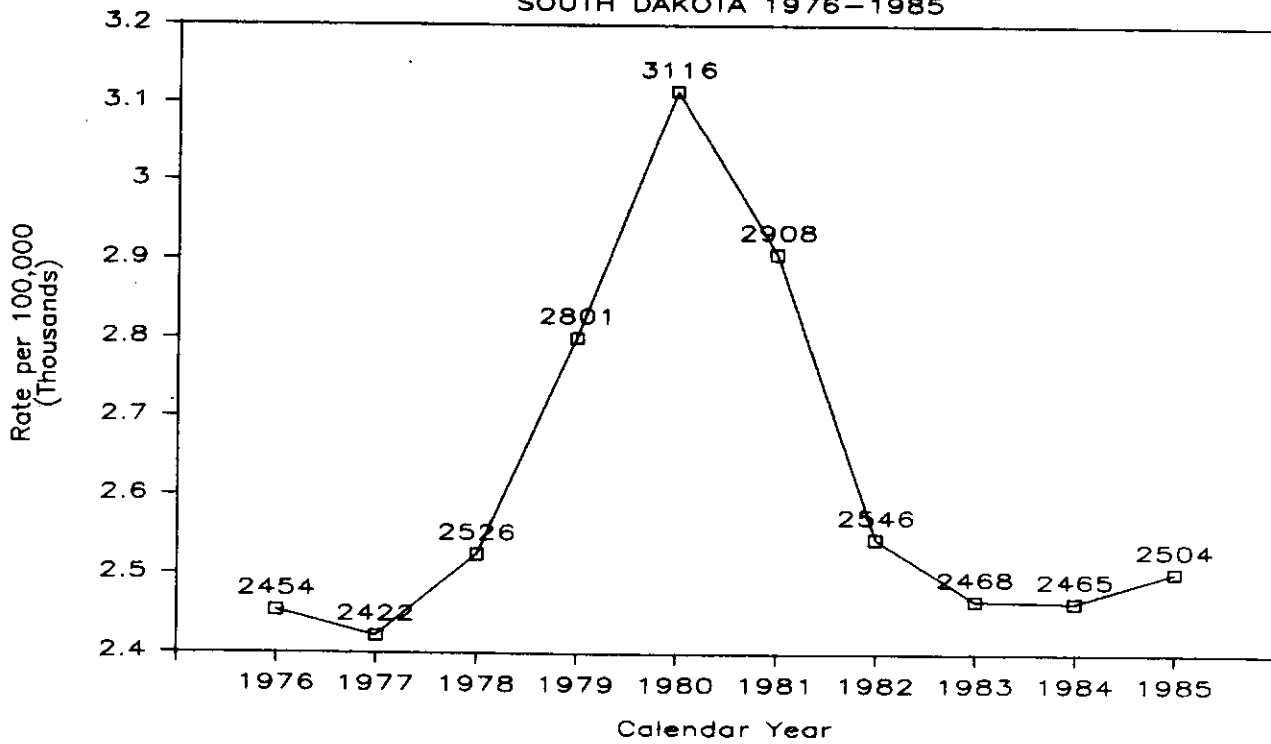


Figure 14  
PROPERTY CRIME RATE  
SOUTH DAKOTA 1976-1985





## 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 3,867 burglaries reported to law enforcement officials in South Dakota in 1985, representing an increase of 9.6 percent from the 3,529 burglaries reported in 1984. In fact, the additional 338 burglaries in the state for 1985 constituted the bulk on the increase in the Crime Index. The state's upward trend for burglary was also reflected in the national statistics. Burglary was up nationwide by 3 percent in 1984.

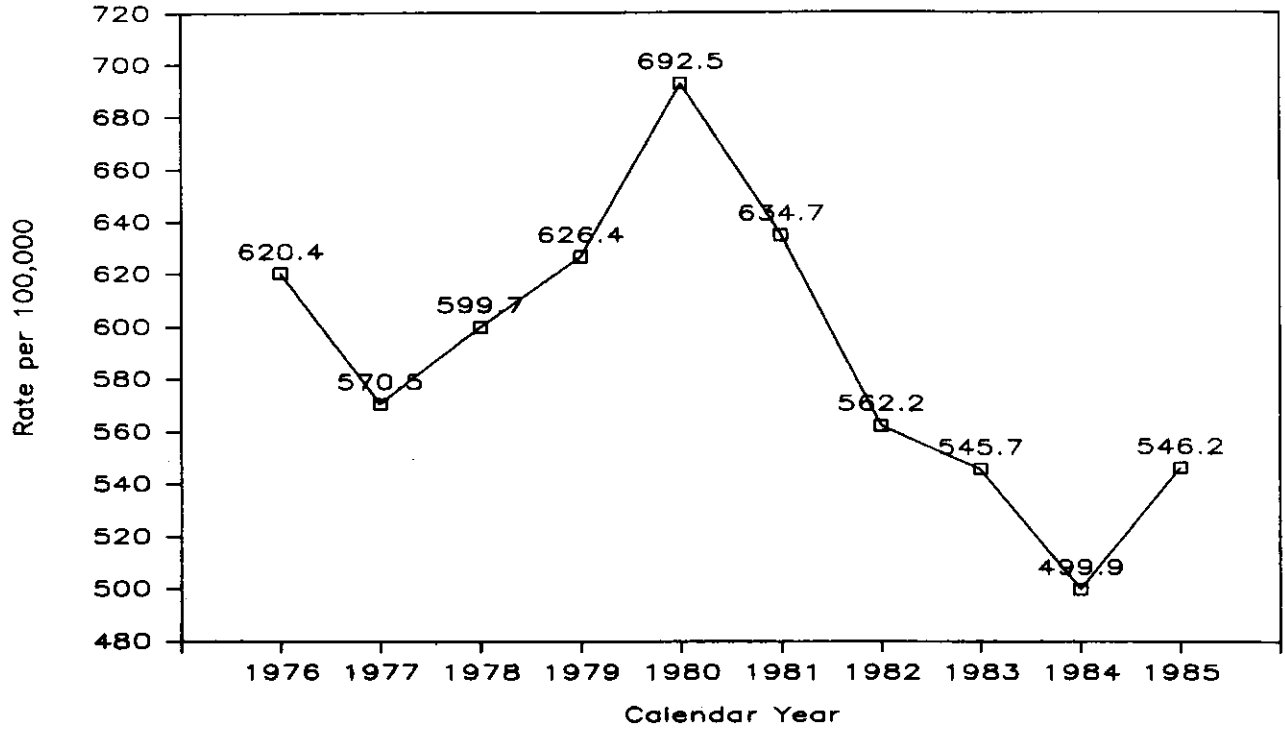
The national average burglary rate was 1,287.3 per 100,000 population for 1985. South Dakota ranked 49th among the 50 states with a 1985 burglary rate of 546.2 per 100,000.

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 1985 rate of 546.2 per 100,000 was the second-lowest the burglary rate has been in the ten-year period studied.

Figure 15

# BURGLARY RATE

SOUTH DAKOTA 1976-1985



### 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 percent of all index crimes in South Dakota in 1985 were counted as larceny/thefts. There were 13,142 thefts reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1985, representing a slight increase of three-tenths of one percent over the 13,102 thefts reported in 1984. An estimated 6,926,380 larceny-theft offenses occurred nationally during 1985, an increase of 5 percent when compared to the previous year's experience.

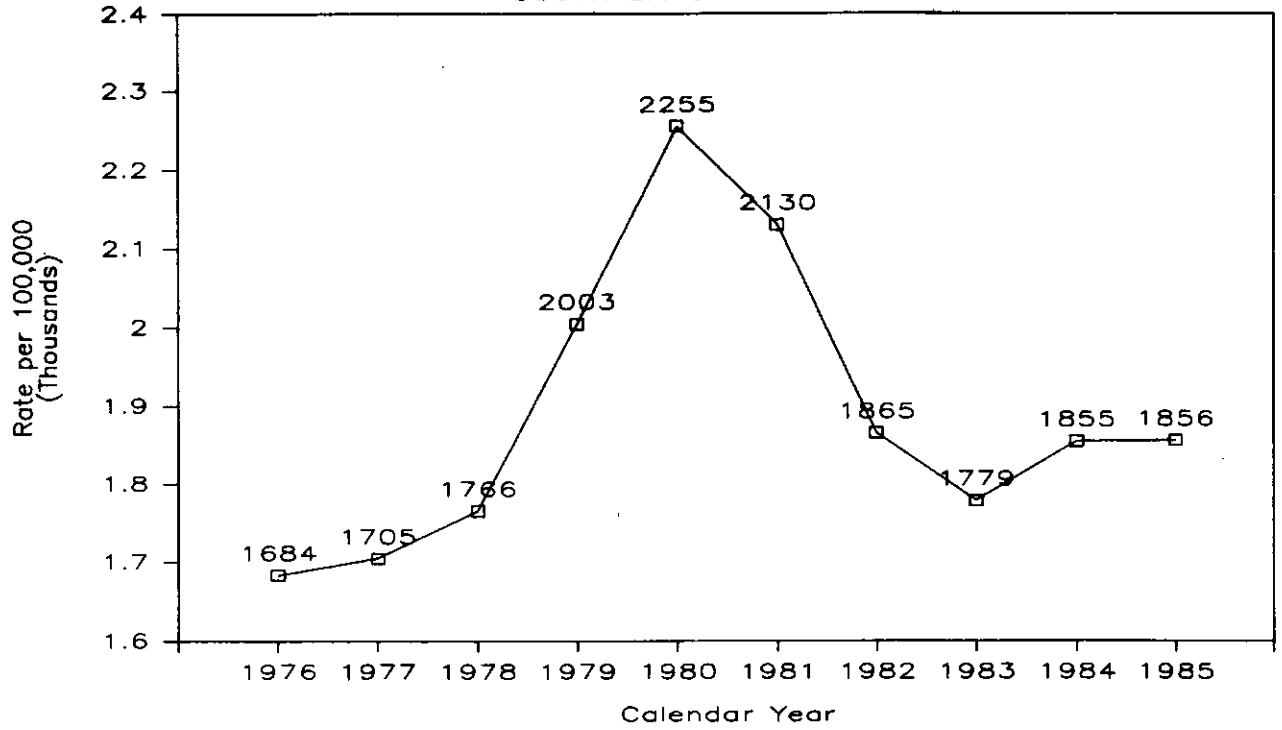
South Dakota ranked 46th in the nation for its theft rate, which stood at 1,856.2 per 100,000 in 1985. That was substantially lower than the national average larceny/theft rate which was 2,901.2 per 100,000 population for the same year.

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. 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 1976-1985





**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.

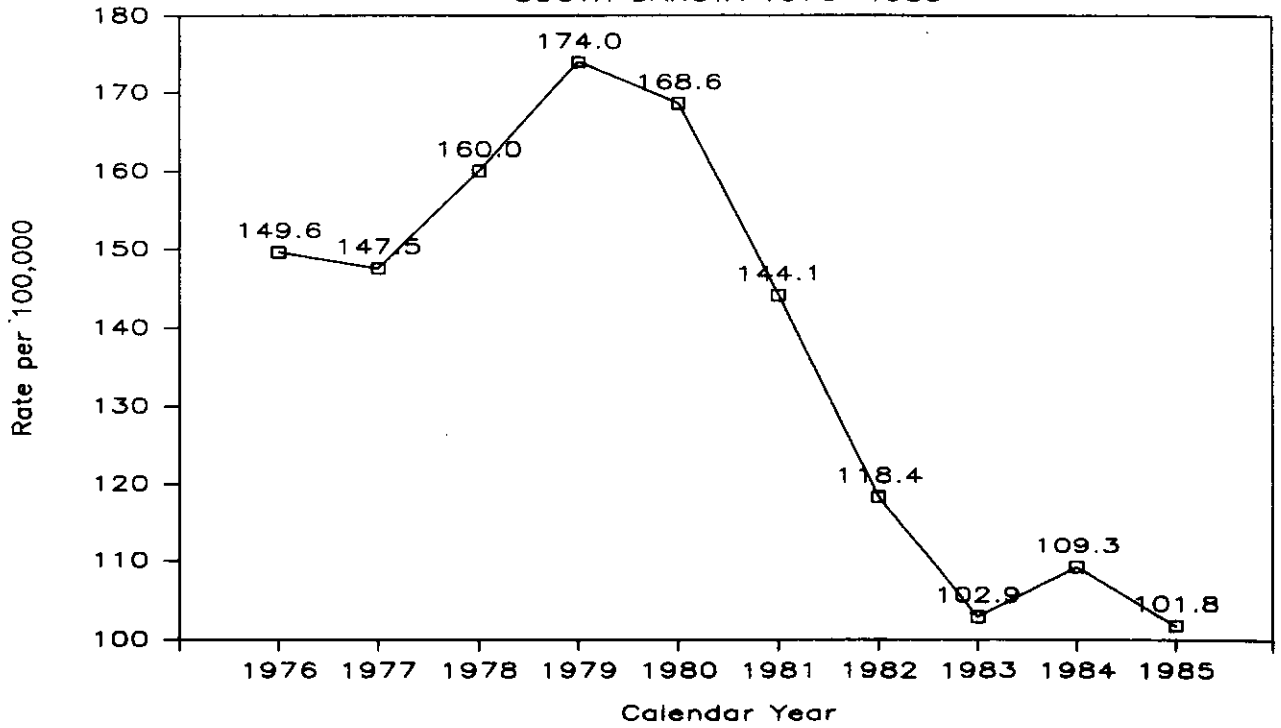
There were 721 motor vehicles reported stolen to law enforcement agencies in South Dakota in 1985, representing a 6.6 percent decrease from the 772 motor vehicles stolen in the state for 1984. Nationally, motor vehicle theft rose by 7 percent from 1984 to 1985.

Motor vehicle thefts in 1985 numbered an estimated 1,102,862 offenses nationwide, comprising 9 percent of all Index Crimes for the country. In 1985, an estimated average of 1 of every 159 registered motor vehicles was stolen nationwide. An estimated national loss of \$5.1 billion in 1985 was due to motor vehicle theft. At the time of the theft, the average value per vehicle stolen was \$4,619.

The national average motor vehicle theft rate was at 462.0 per 100,000 population for 1985. South Dakota's rate of 101.8 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 101.8 in 1985, with the exception of a slight increase experienced in 1984. The 1985 rate of 101.8 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 1976-1985





**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 nine cities of Aberdeen, Brookings, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Watertown, and Yankton (Huron began participation in the UCR Program in January of 1986).

Rapid City had the highest crime rate of the nine South Dakota cities reporting their UCR Part I offenses in 1985 (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 7,380.1 per 100,000 population while reporting 3,608 Index offenses in 1985. Sioux Falls had a crime rate of 4,809.8 per 100,000 with 4,080 Index crimes reported.

The estimated combined population of the nine cities totalled 241,552 people in 1985. The total number of Index crimes reported in these cities was 11,939 for the same year. Therefore, these nine cities comprised 34.1 percent of the state's population in 1985 while 60.6 percent of the total number of crimes were reported in these "urban" areas.

It is interesting to note that all but one of the larger cities participating in the UCR Program had higher crime rates than the average South Dakota crime rate (Figure 20). Vermillion's crime rate of 2,590.9 was slightly less than the overall crime rate for the state, which was at 2,640.8 per 100,000 in 1985. The mean South Dakota urban crime rate, the average for the nine cities, was 4,942.6 for 1985. That was slightly lower than the nation's overall crime rate.

Only two of the cities, Rapid City and Mitchell, had a higher crime rate than the national average in 1985. The national average was 5,206.5 crimes per 100,000 population. Rapid City reported a crime rate of 7,380.1 per 100,000 and Mitchell reported 5,494.7 crimes per 100,000 population.

Crime dropped in five of the nine largest cities in South Dakota from 1984 to 1985. Aberdeen, Brookings, Pierre, Vermillion, and Watertown all experienced decreases in the number of index crimes reported. Crime increased from the previous year in Mitchell, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, and Yankton.

Figure 18  
**CRIME RATES AND NUMBERS IN  
 SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES, 1985**

	POPULATION	TOTAL CRIME INDEX NUMBER	TOTAL CRIME INDEX RATE
Aberdeen	26,726	990	3,704.3
Brookings	15,520	506	3,260.3
Mitchell	14,068	773	5,494.7
Pierre	12,388	550	4,439.8
Rapid City	48,888	3,608	7,380.1
Sioux Falls	84,827	4,080	4,809.8
Vermillion	10,228	265	2,590.9
Watertown	16,619	538	3,237.3
Yankton	12,288	629	5,118.8

Figure 19  
 CRIME IN SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES, 1985

	POPULATION	CRIME INDEX TOTAL	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY/ THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
Aberdeen	26,726	990	--	4	2	27	155	769	33
Brookings	15,520	506	--	--	1	17	45	417	26
Mitchell	14,068	773	--	3	1	9	178	557	25
Pierre	12,388	550	--	4	-	20	72	443	11
Rapid City	48,888	3,608	1	25	42	134	751	2,499	156
Sioux Falls	84,827	4,080	1	56	31	104	719	3,028	141
Vermillion	10,228	265	--	2	--	4	36	217	6
Watertown	16,619	538	1	3	--	9	45	471	9
Yankton	12,288	629	--	2	2	17	77	524	7



Figure 20  
**SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES**  
 Crime Rates for 1985

