

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

**CRIME
IN
SOUTH DAKOTA
1984**

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

CRIME
in
SOUTH DAKOTA
-1985

Statistical Analysis 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, 1984". 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, 1984, presents data on reported crime in South Dakota during calendar year 1984, and examines crime trends experienced in South Dakota during the past ten years (1975-1984).

It is important to note certain constraints which should be recognized in interpreting and drawing conclusions from the data herein. Approximately 74 percent of the law enforcement agencies in South Dakota participate in the 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 1984 SUMMARY:

Nationally, the crime trend continues downward for the third consecutive year. From 1983 to 1984, the country's total index crime declined by 2 percent. In South Dakota, however, total reported index crimes have increased by 3.4 percent from 1983 to 1984 (Figure 1). This was the first increase in total index crime in the state since 1980 (Figures 2 and 3). In fact, South Dakota was one of only 13 states to experience an increase in total index crime in 1984.

18,444 Part I offenses were reported by law enforcement agencies in South Dakota for 1984. Nationwide there were an estimated 11.9 million index crimes reported in 1984. This was the lowest number of total index crimes in the nation since 1978.

While crime is on the rise in the state, the crime rate in South Dakota continues to be significantly lower than the national average (Figure 4). The crime rate in South Dakota during 1984 was 2,612.5 per 100,000 population, while the rate for the nation was 5,031.3 per 100,000. In fact, South Dakota ranked 48th out of 50 states in the total crime index rate (Figure 5).

South Dakota also compared favorably with the contiguous states of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wyoming (Figure 6). Generally, North Dakota was the only one of the six contiguous states to have a lower crime rate for the separate categories than South Dakota. The one notable exception was again with the rape rate. South Dakota had the highest rape rate of any of the surrounding states at 26.9 per 100,000.

Figure 1
Comparison of Part I Crimes
in South Dakota, 1983 and 1984

	Number of Crimes			Rate per 100,000		
	1983	1984	Percent Change	1983	1984	Percent Change
Crime Index Total	17,833	18,444	+ 3.4 %	2,547.6	2,612.5	+ 2.5 %
Violent Crime	840	1,041	+ 23.9 %	120.0	147.5	+ 22.9 %
Property Crime	16,993	17,403	+ 2.4 %	2,427.6	2,465.0	+ 1.5 %
Murder	15	13	- 13.3 %	2.1	1.8	- 14.3 %
Rape	119	190	+ 59.7 %	17.0	26.9	+ 58.2 %
Robbery	111	105	- 5.4 %	15.9	14.9	- 6.3 %
Aggravated Assault	595	733	+ 23.2 %	85.0	103.8	+ 22.1 %
Burglary	3,820	3,529	- 7.6 %	545.7	499.9	- 8.4 %
Larceny/Theft	12,453	13,102	+ 5.2 %	1,779.0	1,855.8	+ 4.3 %
Motor Vehicle Theft	720	772	+ 7.2 %	102.9	109.3	+ 6.2 %

Figure 2

TOTAL INDEX CRIMES

South Dakota 1975-1984

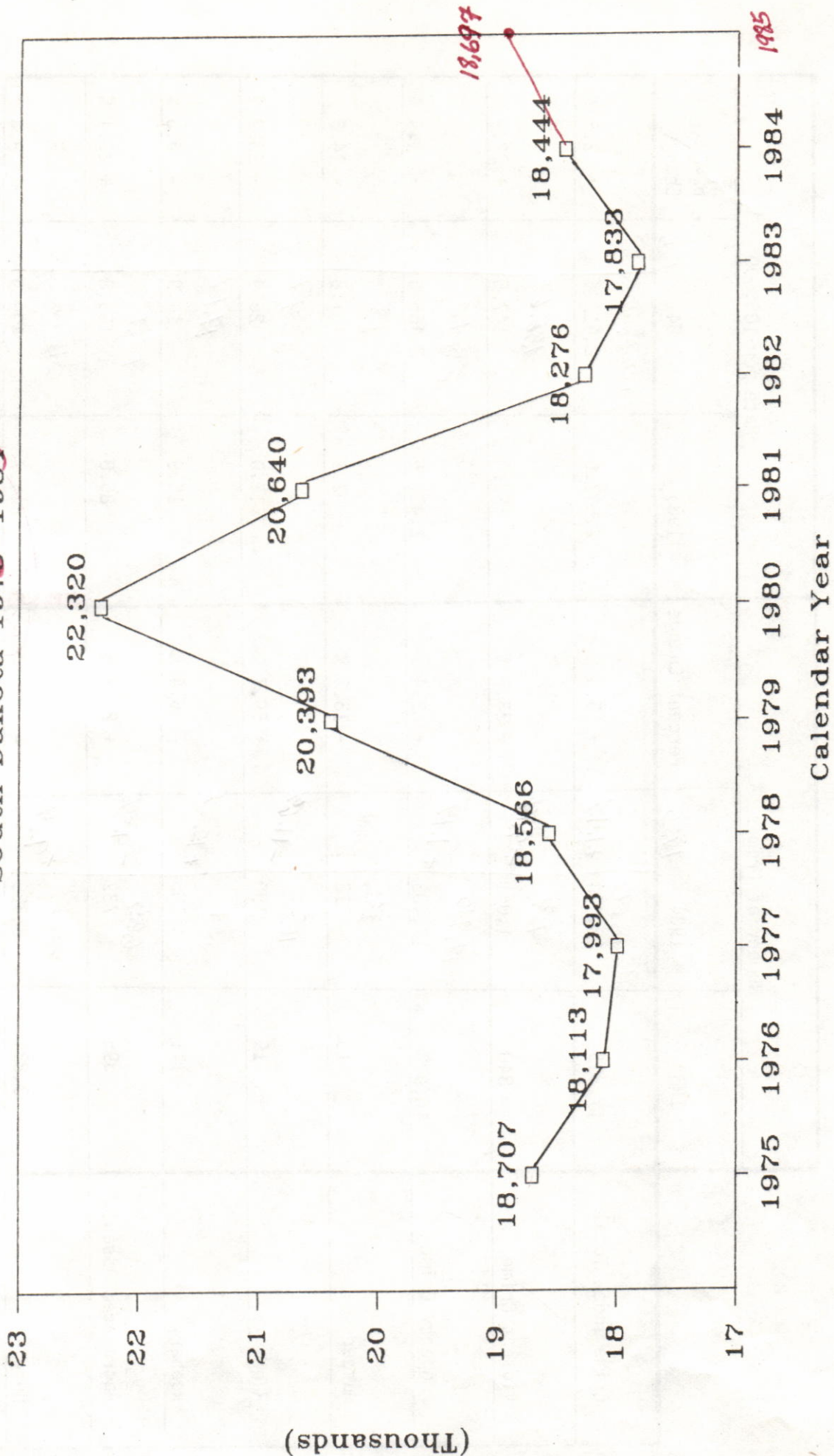


Figure 3

TOTAL CRIME RATE

South Dakota 1975-1984

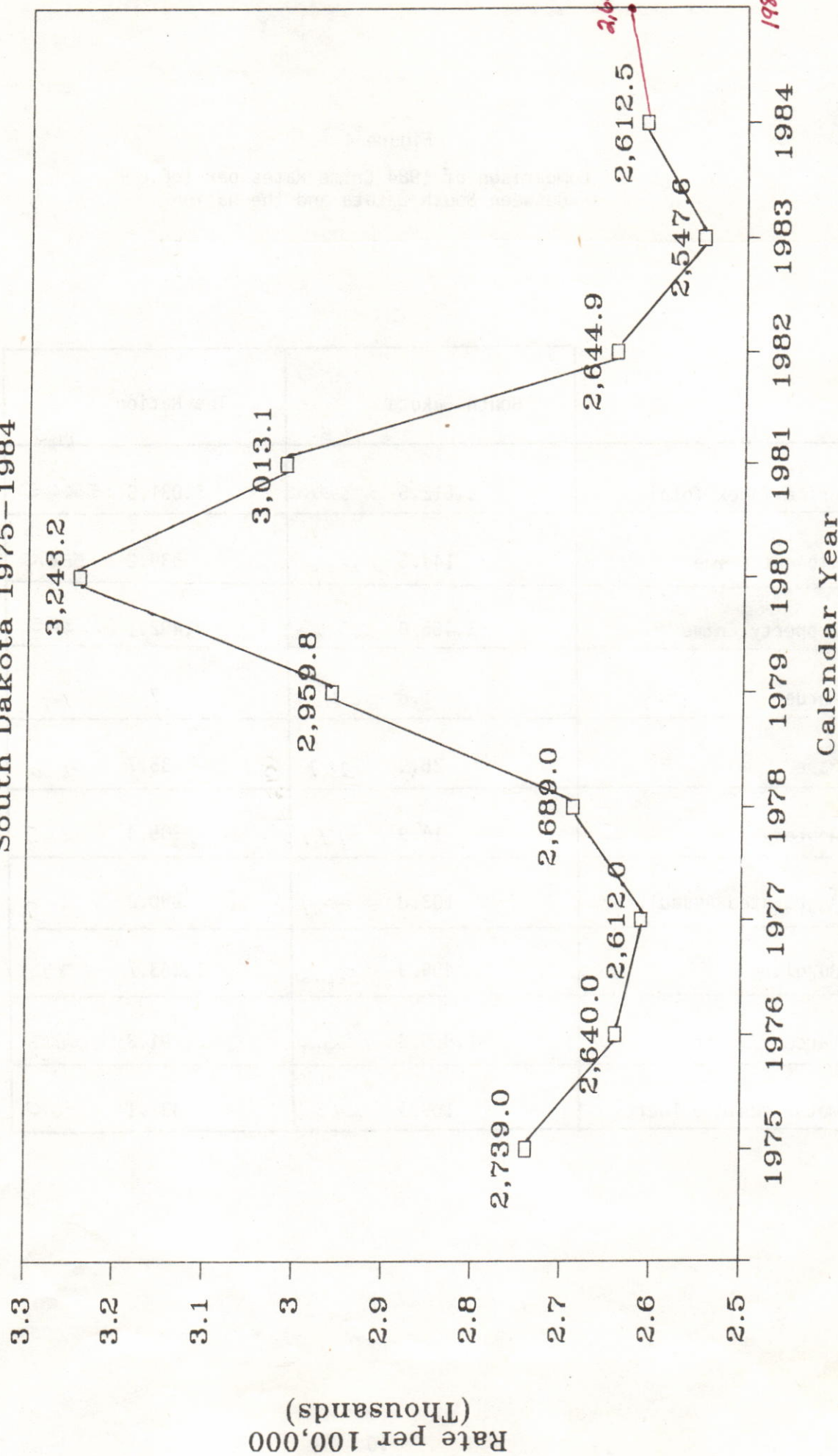


Figure 4
Comparison of 1984 Crime Rates per 100,000
Between South Dakota and the Nation

	South Dakota	The Nation
Crime Index Total	2,612.5	5,031.3
Violent Crime	147.5	539.2
Property Crime	2,465.0	4,492.1
Murder	1.8	7.9
Rape	26.9	35.7
Robbery	14.9	205.4
Aggravated Assault	103.8	290.2
Burglary	499.9	1,263.7
Larceny/Theft	1,855.8	2,791.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	109.3	437.1

Figure 5
Comparison of 1984 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 47th in the Violent Crime Rate
South Dakota ranks 49th in the Property Crime Rate
South Dakota ranks 46th in the Murder Rate
South Dakota ranks 28th in the Rape Rate
South Dakota ranks 49th in the Robbery Rate
South Dakota ranks 46th 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

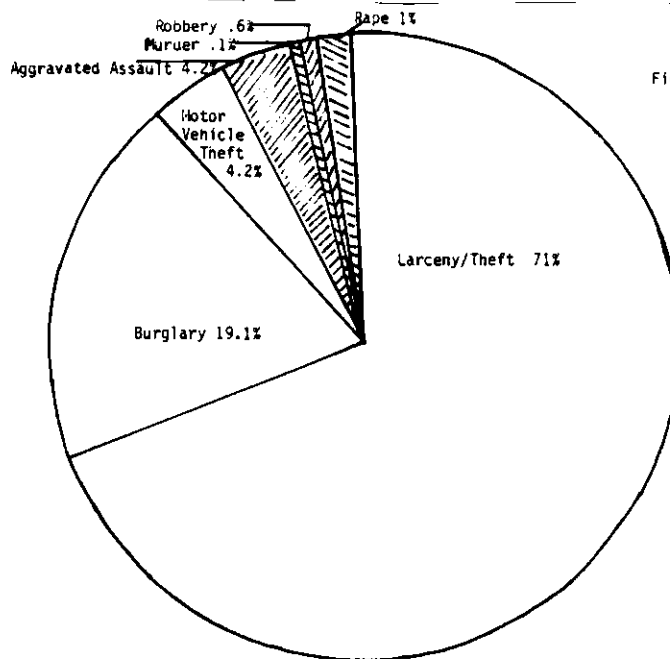
Figure 6
1984 Crime Rates in the Contiguous States
(Rates per 100,000)

	IOWA	MINNESOTA	MONTANA	NEBRASKA	NORTH DAKOTA	SOUTH DAKOTA	WYOMING
Crime Index Total	3,799.5	3,841.5	4,652.7	3,496.5	2,583.4	2,612.5	3,682.8
Violent Crime	198.7	211.5	237.6	225.8	53.6	147.5	242.1
Property Crime	3,600.9	3,630.5	4,415.0	3,270.6	2,529.7	2,465.0	3,440.7
Murder	2.0	1.8	4.4	3.4	1.2	1.8	3.3
Rape	12.9	25.3	20.6	23.7	13.1	26.9	20.9
Robbery	38.3	71.1	27.4	43.2	7.7	14.9	23.1
Aggravated Assault	145.5	113.3	185.2	155.6	31.6	103.8	194.7
Burglary	871.4	990.9	858.0	643.8	399.1	499.9	641.7
Larceny/Theft	2,571.1	2,432.5	3,286.4	2,482.9	2,019.8	1,855.8	2,645.4
Motor Vehicle Theft	158.4	206.6	270.6	144.0	110.8	109.3	153.6

DISTRIBUTION OF INDEX OFFENSES:

During 1984, a total of 18,444 Crime Index offenses were reported or known to South Dakota law enforcement agencies. By far, the bulk of all offenses reported in 1984 were property crimes (Figure 7). These totaled 17,403 or 94.3 percent of the total Index. Larceny/theft alone accounted for 71 percent of the total Crime Index in 1984 and 75.3 percent of all property crimes. As a group, violent crimes were responsible for 5.7 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 rose by a large 23.9 percent from 1983 to 1984 and the property crime totals rose by a slight 2.4 percent, the resulting Crime Index total rose by only 3.4 percent for the year. Clearly the increase in total index crime is largely influenced by the relatively small increase for the property crimes.



INDEX CRIME
Percent Distribution
1984

Larceny/Theft	71.0%
Burglary	19.1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	4.2%
Aggravated Assault	4.0%
Rape	1.0%
Robbery6%
Murder1%

* Shaded slices denote violent 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 is on the rise for the second straight year in South Dakota as evidenced by Figures 8 and 9. 733 violent crimes were reported or known to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1984. After steadily decreasing from 1978 to 1982, violent crime rose by 22.8 percent in 1983 and again by 23.9 percent in 1984. This is compared to a one percent rise in violent crime nationwide from 1983 to 1984. Thirty-two states in the nation reported increases in violent crime from 1983 to 1984, with increases ranging from .2 percent to 23.9 percent. South Dakota had the dubious distinction of leading the nation in its percentage increase of violent crime for this period. In spite of the fact that South Dakota ranks 47th nationally in the rate of violent crime, the rate at which violent crime has increased in the past two years is alarming (see Figure 10).

Two of the four elements which make up the violent crime total rose significantly from 1983 to 1984. Aggravated assaults increased from 595 in 1983 to 733 in 1984. This represents a 23.2 percent rise in aggravated assaults in that period. Rape also increased dramatically: 190 rapes were reported in 1984 as compared to 119 in 1983. That was a 59.7 percent increase in the number of rapes in one year.

The other two elements of violent crime, murder and robbery, continued to exhibit a downward trend. Murder fell by 13.3 percent and robbery dropped by 5.4 percent from 1983 to 1984.

The national rate of violent crimes per 100,000 population was 539.2 for 1984. The violent crime rate in South Dakota was significantly lower than the national average. In 1983, South Dakota's violent crime rate was 120 per 100,000 population. The 1984 rate of 147.5 meant that 27 more persons out of every 100,000 in South Dakota were the victims of a violent crime in 1984 than in 1983.

Figure 8

Total Violent Crimes South Dakota 1975-1984

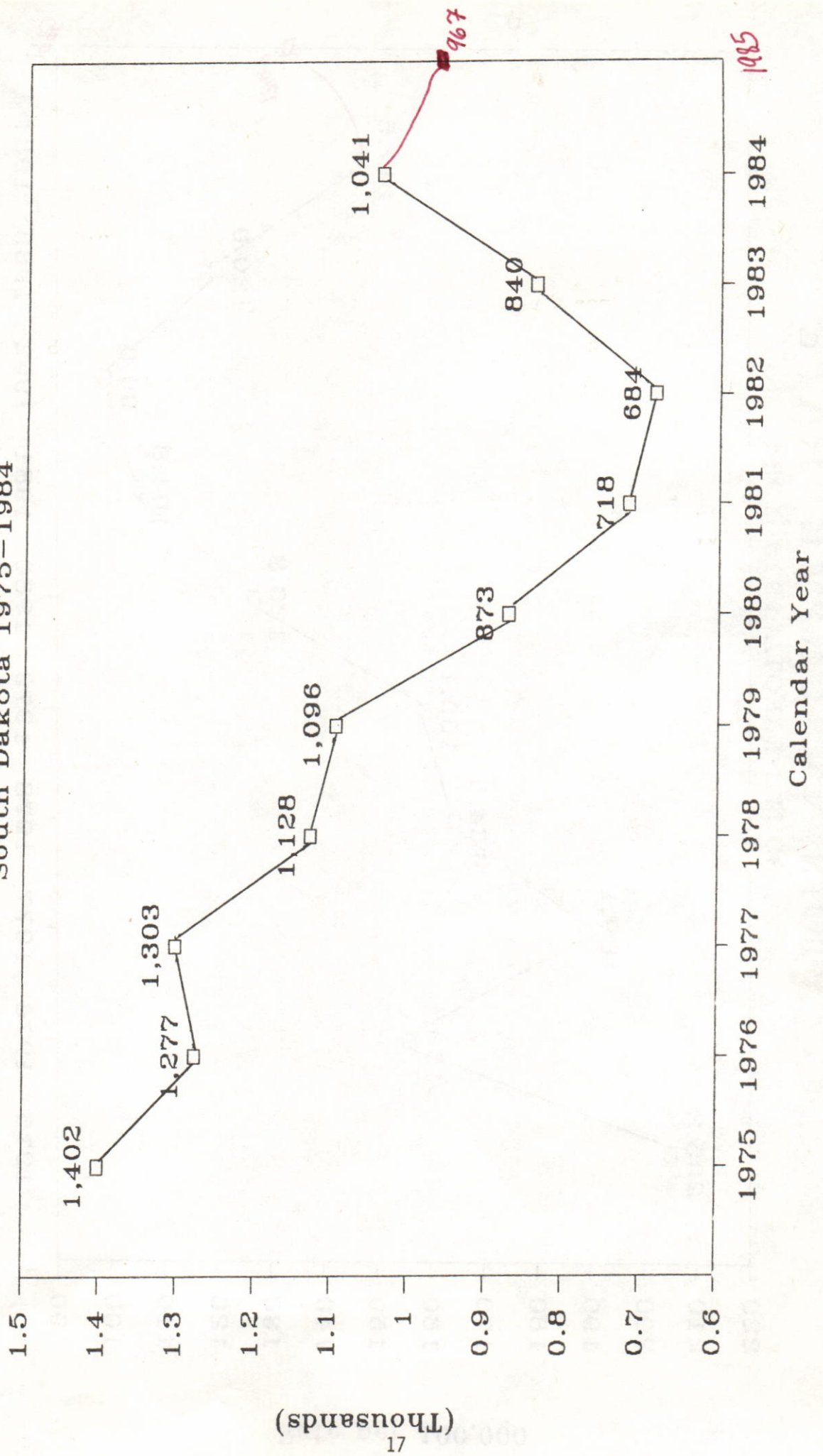


Figure 9

VIOLENT CRIME RATE

SOUTH DAKOTA 1975-1984

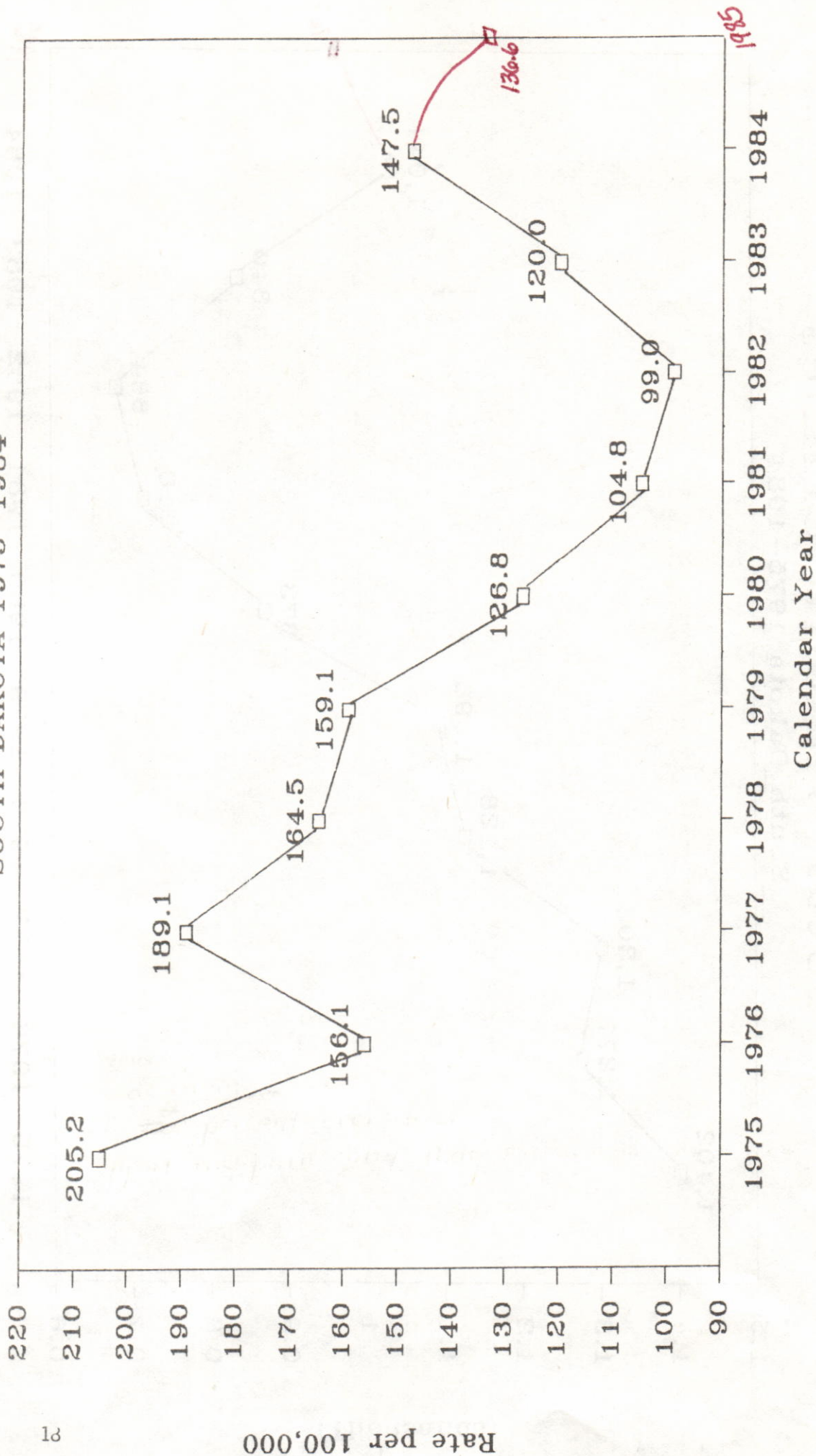
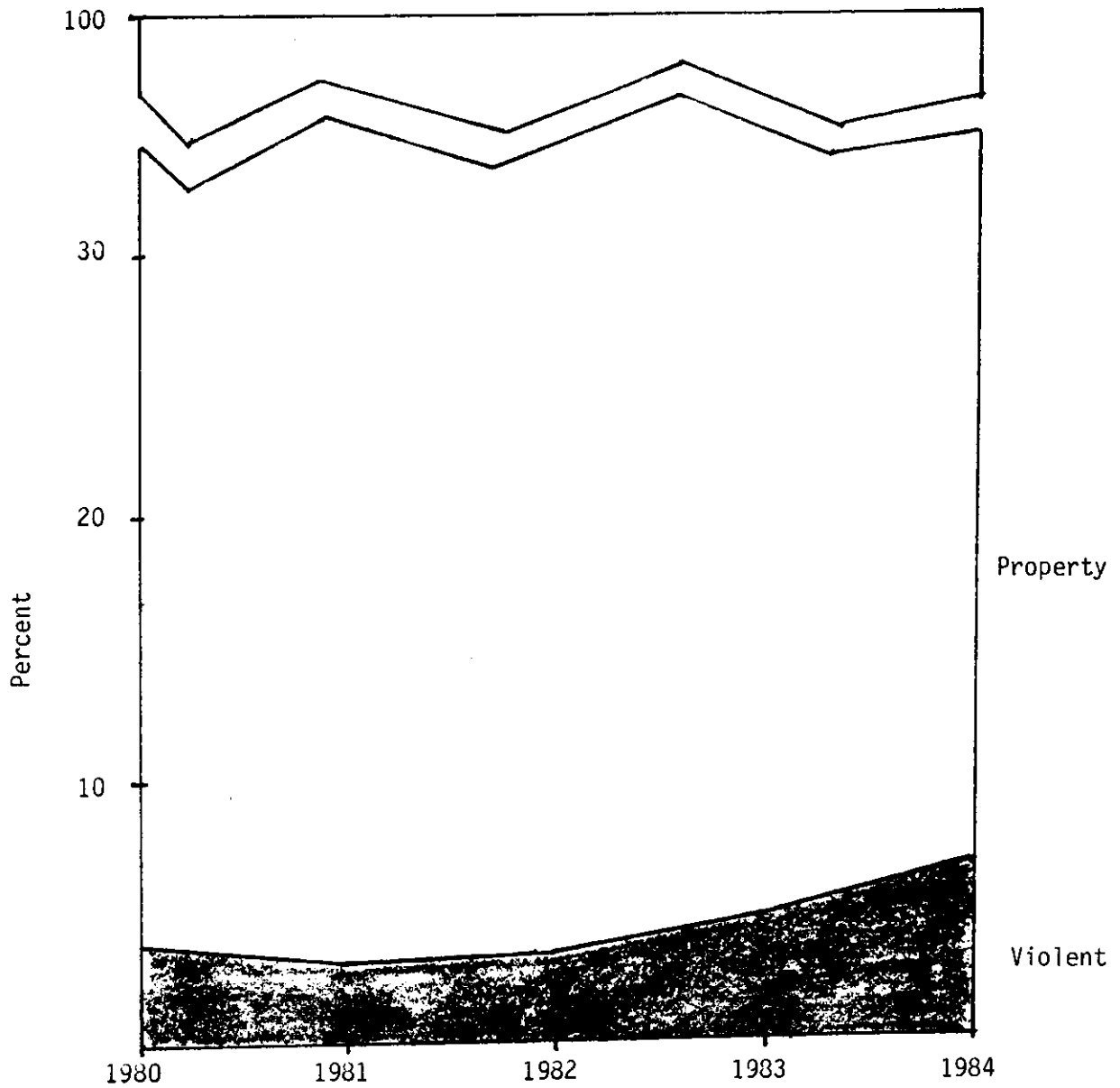


Figure 10
Distribution of Violent And Property Crime
1980 - 1984



Property	96.1%	96.5%	96.3%	95.3%	94.3%
Violent	3.9%	3.5%	3.7%	4.7%	5.7%

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.

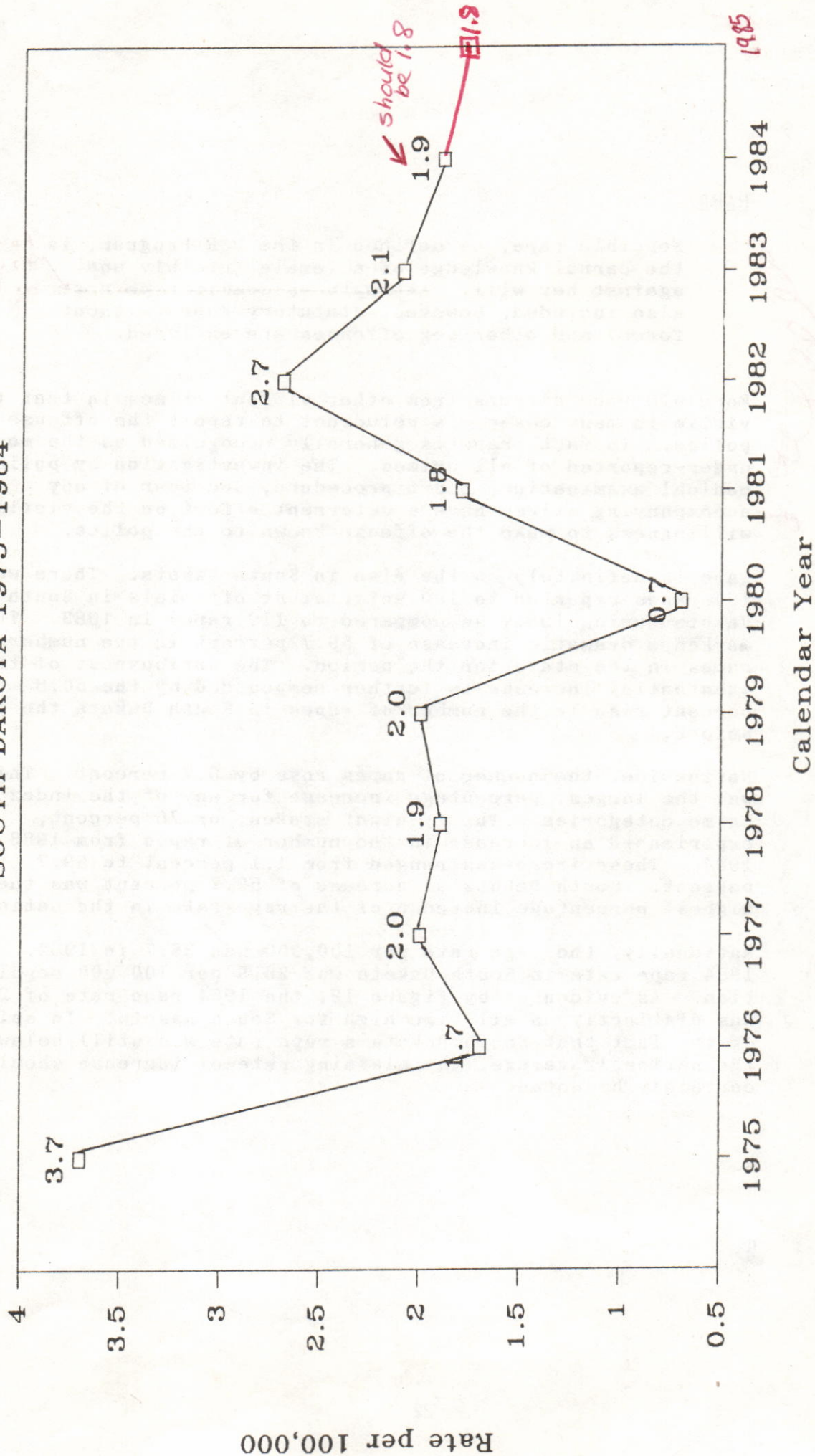
Thirteen murders were reported in South Dakota during 1984, representing one-tenth of a percent of the distribution of the total crime index for the state. As shown in Figure 11, the murder rate in South Dakota has remained fairly constant throughout the ten-year period studied, with two exceptions.

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 1984 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.

Figure 10

MURDER RATE SOUTH DAKOTA 1975-1984



RAPE:

Forcible rape, as defined in the UCR Program, is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Attempts to commit rape 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.

Rape is definitely on the rise in South Dakota. There were 190 rapes reported to law enforcement officials in South Dakota during 1984, as compared to 119 rapes in 1983. That marked a dramatic increase of 59.7 percent in the number of rapes in the state for the period. The seriousness of this substantial increase is further compounded by the 50.6 percent rise in the number of rapes in South Dakota the year before.

Nationwide, the number of rapes rose by 6.7 percent. This was the largest percentage increase for any of the index crime categories. Thirty-eight states, or 76 percent, experienced an increase in the number of rapes from 1983 to 1984. These increases ranged from 1.1 percent to 59.7 percent. South Dakota's increase of 59.7 percent was the highest percentage increase of the rape rate in the nation.

Nationally, the rape rate per 100,000 was 35.7 in 1984. The 1984 rape rate in South Dakota was 26.9 per 100,000 population. As evidenced by Figure 12, the 1984 rape rate of 26.9 was distinctly an all-time high for South Dakota. In spite of the fact that South Dakota's rape rate was still below the national average, the alarming rate of increase should certainly be noted.

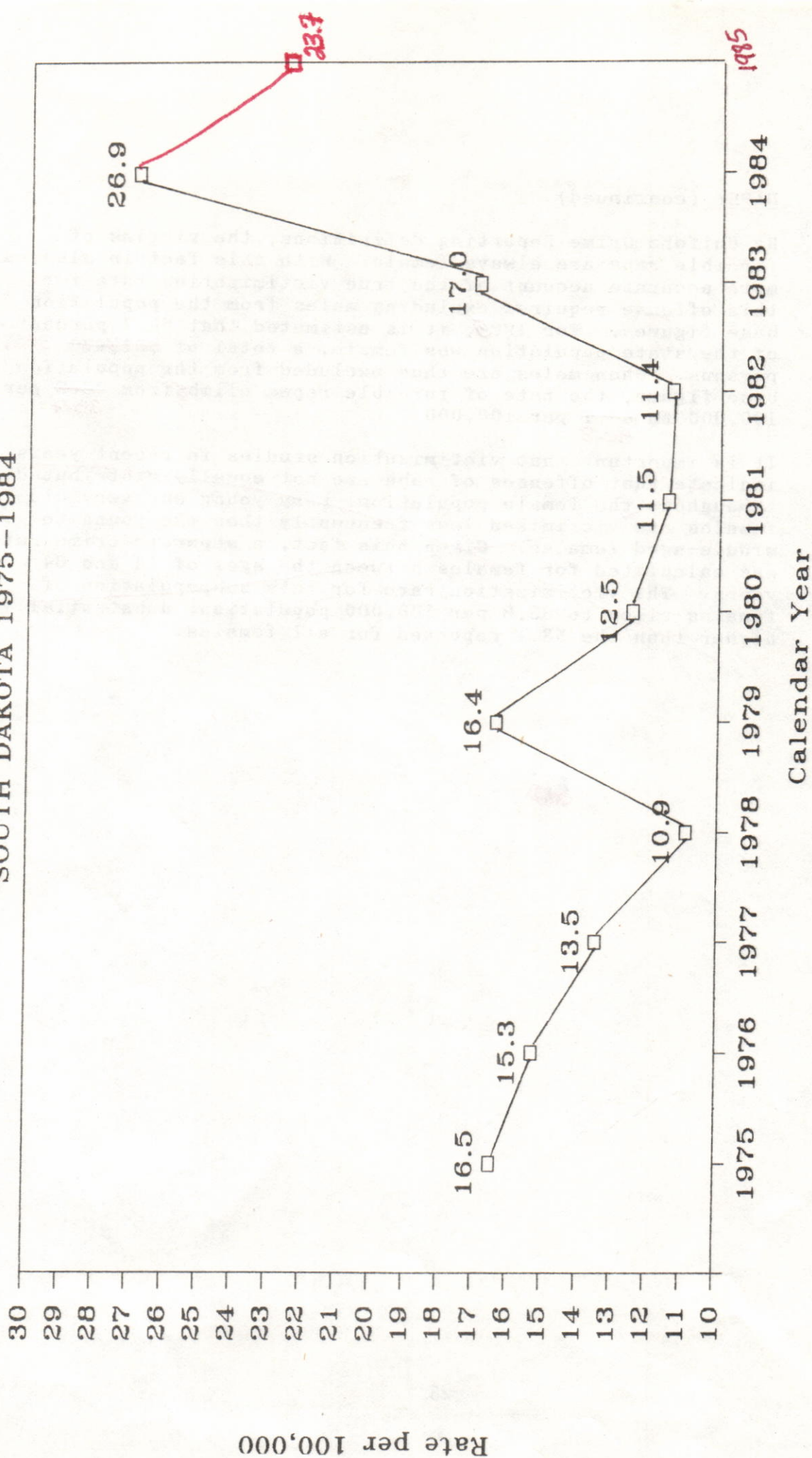
RAPE: (continued)

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 1984, it is estimated that 50.7 percent of the state population was female, a total of 357,800 persons. When males are thus excluded from the population base figure, the rate of forcible rapes climb from 26.9 per 100,000 to 53.1 per 100,000.

It is important that victimization studies in recent years indicate that offenses of rape are not equally distributed throughout the female population; very young and very old females are victimized less frequently than the young to middle-aged females. Given this fact, a separate crime rate was calculated for females between the ages of 14 and 64 years. The victimization rate for this subpopulation of females rises to 83.8 per 100,000 population, substantially higher than the 53.1 reported for all females.

Figure 12

RAPE RATE SOUTH DAKOTA 1975-1984



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 putting the victim in fear. One robbery is counted for each operation, regardless of the number of victims present at the time.

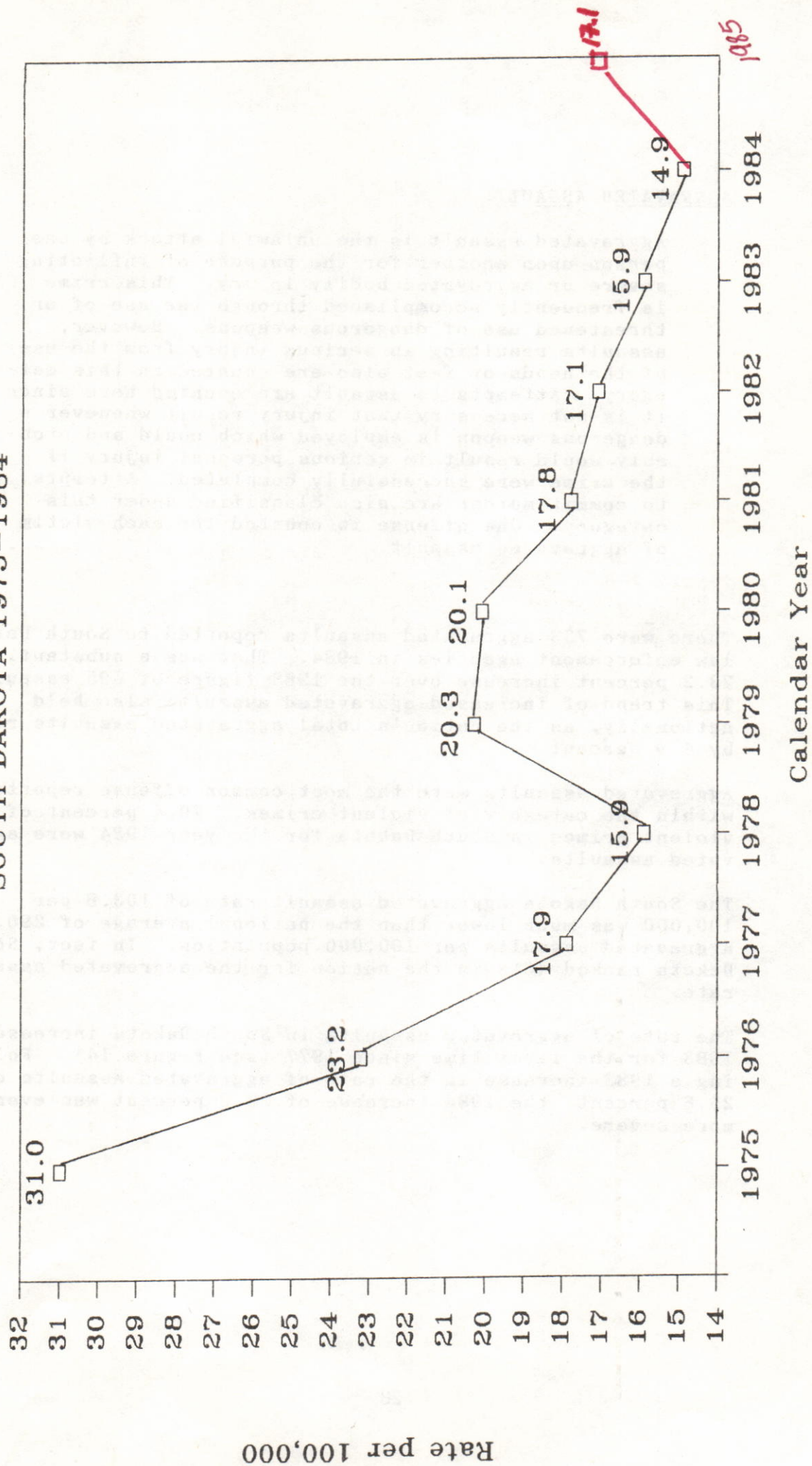
There were 105 robberies reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1984. That represented a 5.4 percent decrease from the 111 robberies reported in the state in 1983. The national experience was similar, in that the total number of robberies reported in 1984 was 4.3 percent lower than the 1983 total.

The national robbery rate in 1984 was 205.4 per 100,000 population. This was significantly higher than South Dakota's rate of robbery at 14.9 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 13, the robbery rate has experienced a steady decline since 1980. The 1984 rate of 14.9 robberies per 100,000 was the lowest in the ten-year period.

Figure 13

ROBBERY RATE SOUTH DAKOTA 1975-1984



AGGRAVATED ASSAULT:

Aggravated assault is the unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This crime is frequently accomplished through the use of or threatened use of dangerous weapons. However, assaults resulting in serious injury from the use of the hands or feet also are counted in this category. Attempts to assault are counted here since it is not necessary that injury result whenever a dangerous weapon is employed which could and probably would result in serious personal injury if the crime were successfully completed. Attempts to commit murder are also classified under this category. One offense is counted for each victim of aggravated assault.

There were 733 aggravated assaults reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1984. That was a substantial 23.2 percent increase over the 1983 figure of 595 assaults. This trend of increased aggravated assaults also held nationally, as the nation's total aggravated assaults rose by 4.9 percent.

Aggravated assaults were the most common offense reported within the category of violent crimes. 70.4 percent of all violent crimes in South Dakota for the year 1984 were aggravated assaults.

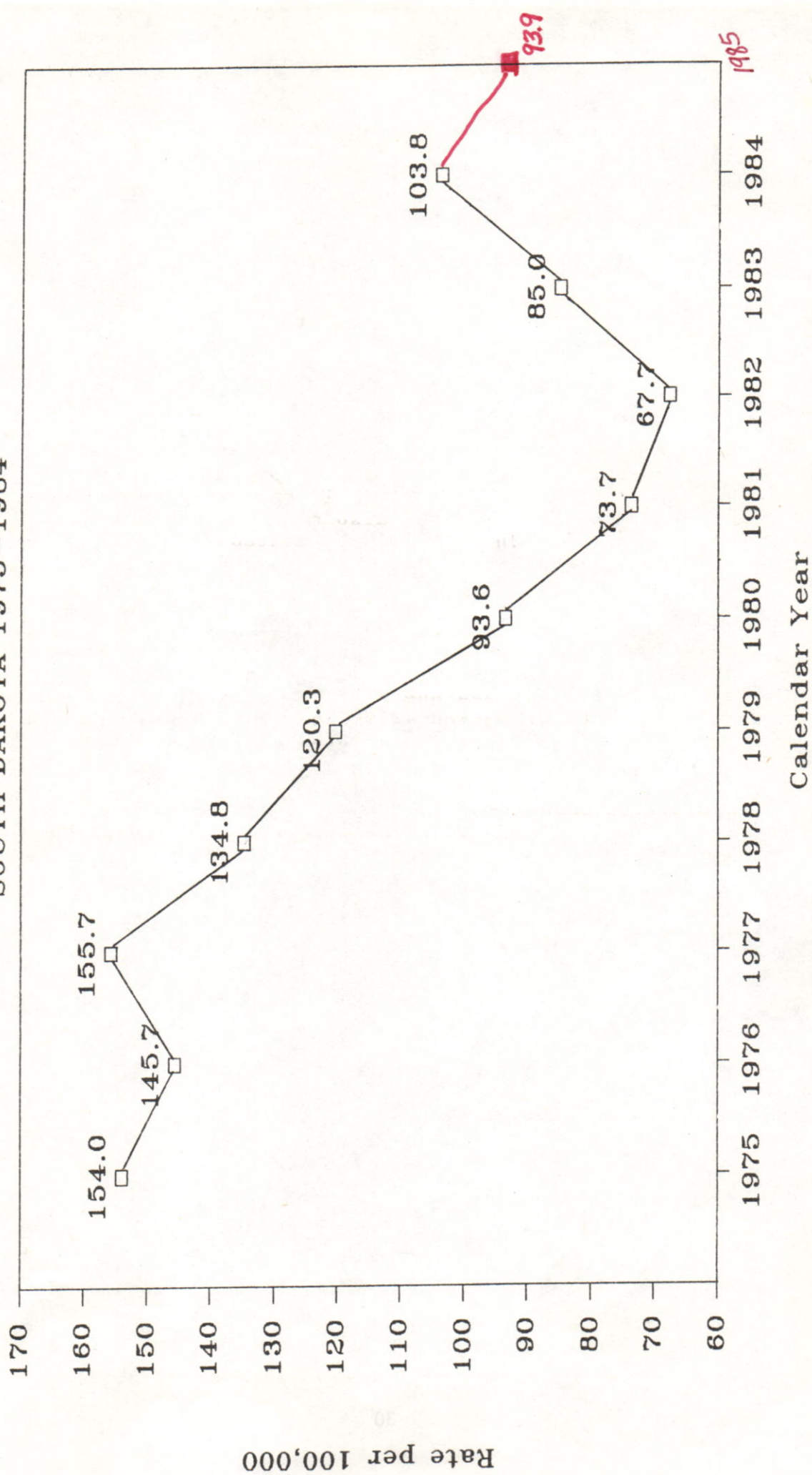
The South Dakota aggravated assault rate of 103.8 per 100,000 was much lower than the national average of 290.2 aggravated assaults per 100,000 population. In fact, South Dakota ranked 46th in the nation for the aggravated assault rate.

The rate of aggravated assaults in South Dakota increased in 1983 for the first time since 1977 (see Figure 14). Following a 1983 increase in the rate of aggravated assaults of 25.6 percent, the 1984 increase of 23.2 percent was even more severe.

Figure 14

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT RATE

SOUTH DAKOTA 1975-1984



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.

17,403 property crimes were reported to law enforcement agencies in South Dakota in 1984. That represented a 2.4 percent increase over the 16,993 property crimes reported in 1984 (see Figure 15). Nationally, 11.1 million property crimes were reported to law enforcement agencies, a decline of 2.2. percent from the previous year.

The 1984 property crime rate of 2,465.0 meant that 2,465 crimes against property were committed against every 100,000 persons in South Dakota (Figure 16). The national rate of property crime was 4,492.1 per 100,000.

Total property crimes were up 2.4 percent for the state in 1984. The number of burglaries decreased by 7.6 percent. Larceny/thefts were up 5.2 percent and motor vehicle thefts also rose 7.2 percent.

Figure 15

TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES

South Dakota 1975-1984

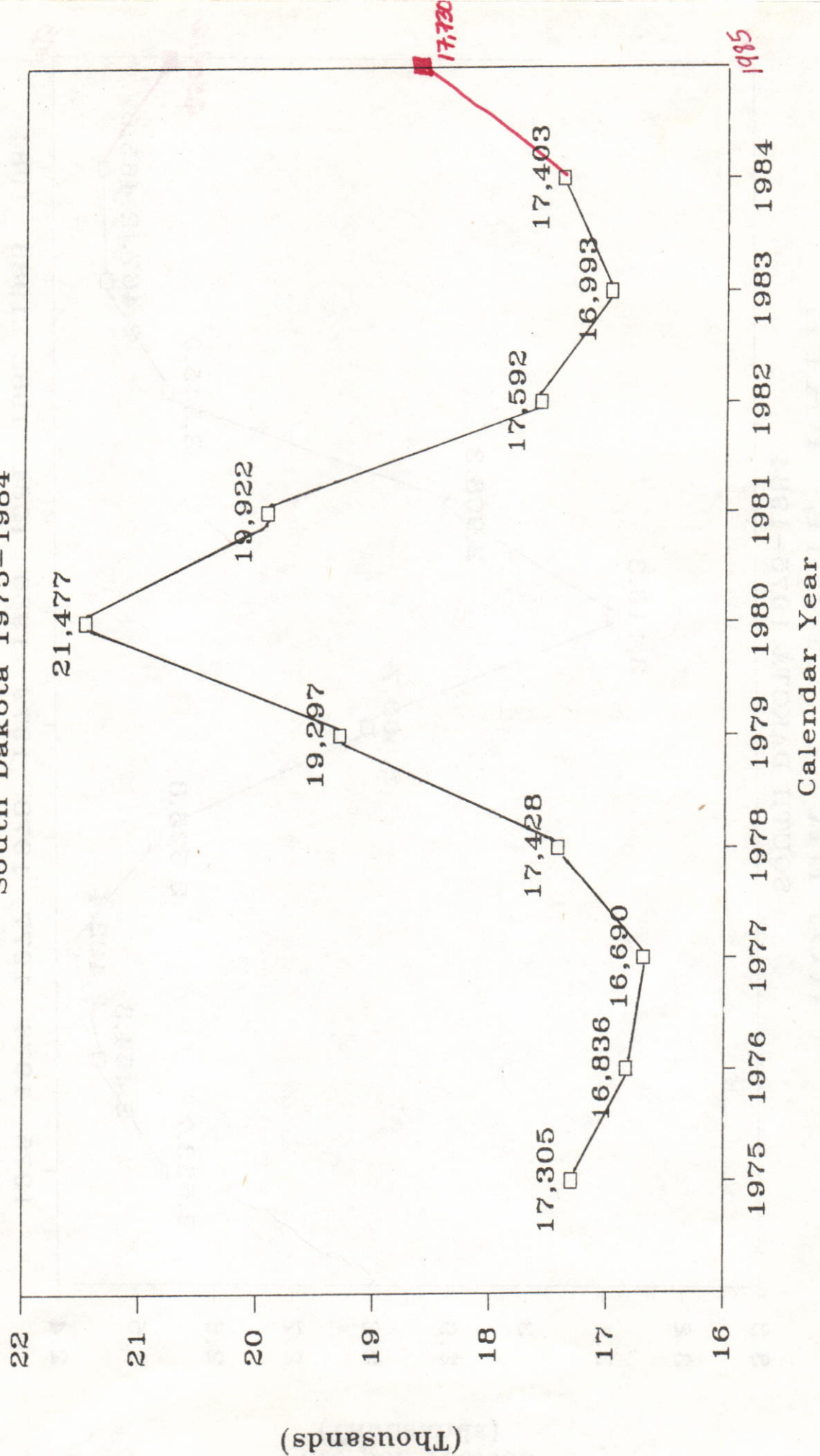
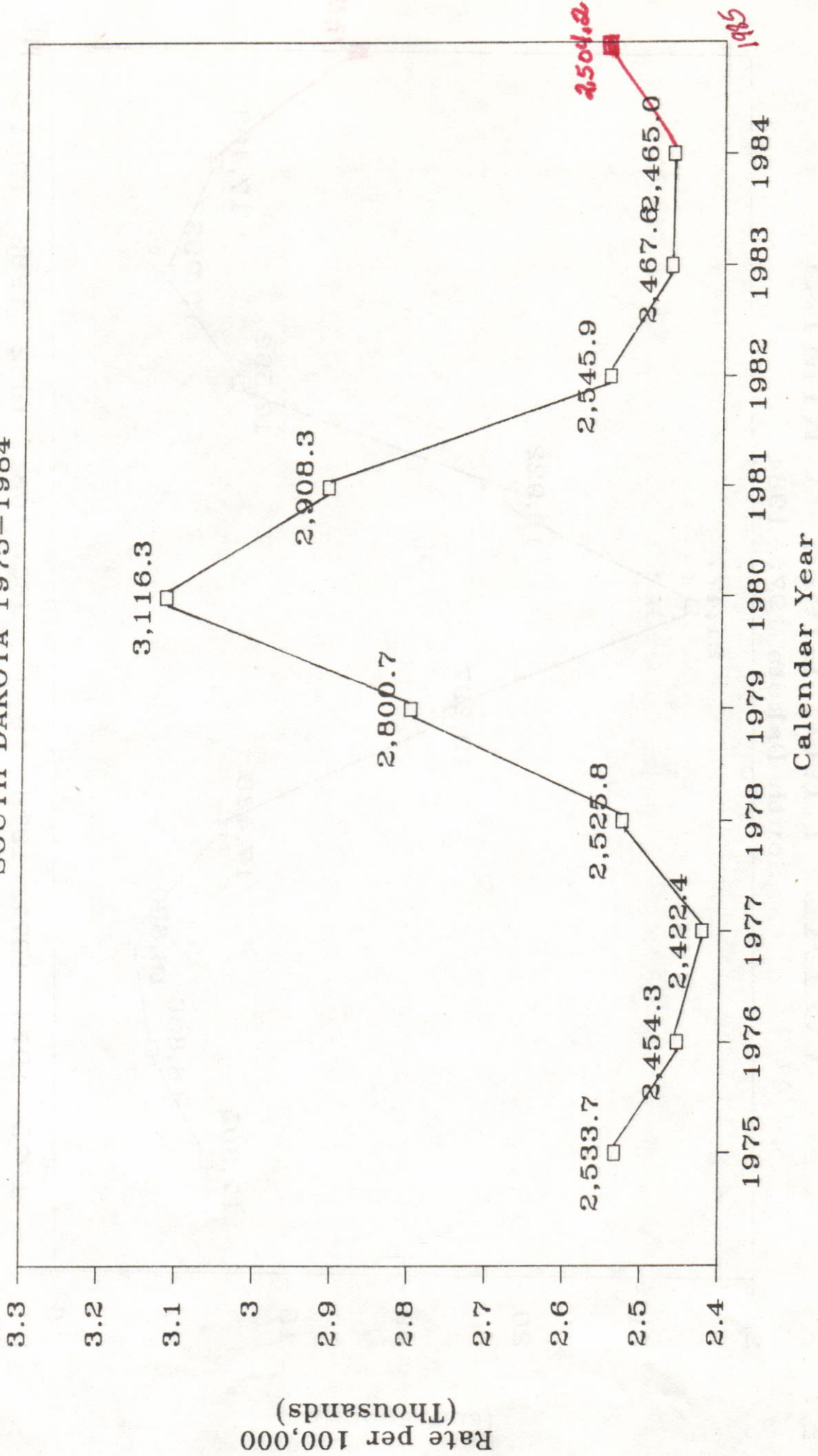


Figure 16

PROPERTY CRIME RATE

SOUTH DAKOTA 1975-1984



BURGLARY:

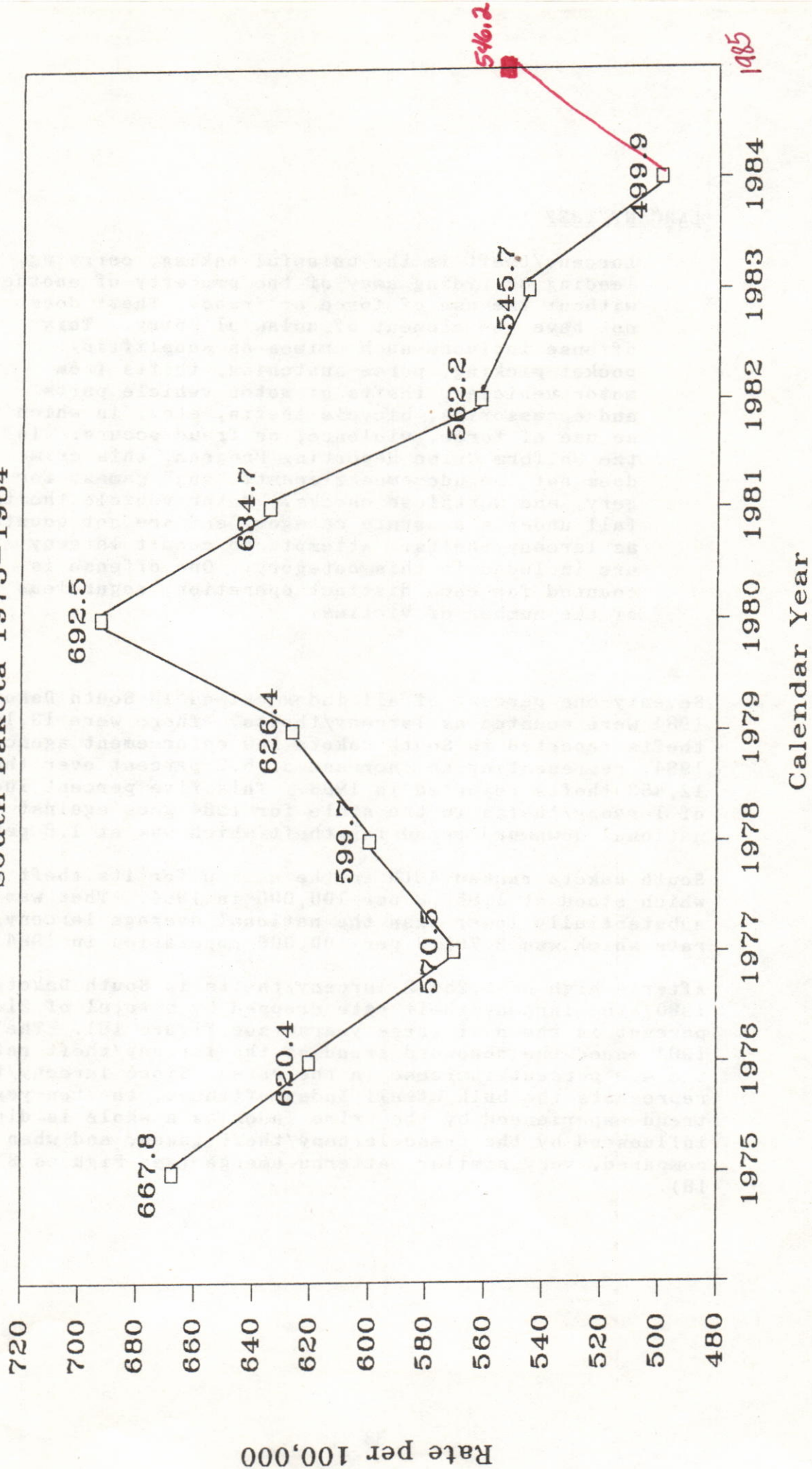
The Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines burglary as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. It is not necessary that force be used in gaining entry in order for the crime to be counted in this category. Attempts to unlawfully enter a structure are also counted. Burglary, in 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 decline in South Dakota. There were 3,529 burglaries reported to law enforcement officials in South Dakota in 1984, representing a decrease of 7.6 percent from the 3,820 burglaries reported in 1983. The state's downward trend for burglary was also reflected in the national statistics. Burglary was down nationwide by 4.6 percent in 1984.

The national average burglary rate was 1,263.7 per 100,000 population for 1984. South Dakota ranked 49th among the 50 states with a 1984 burglary rate of 499.9 per 100,000.

As depicted in Figure 17, the burglary rate in South Dakota for the years 1975 to 1984 has exhibited two high peaks, each followed by steep declines. The peak burglary rate of 692.5 per 100,00 in 1980 has been succeeded by steady declines for each of the next four years. The 1984 rate of 499.9 per 100,000 was the lowest the burglary rate has ever been in the ten-year period.

Figure 17
BURGLARY RATE
South Dakota 1975-1984



LARCENY/THEFT:

Larceny/theft is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of the property of another without the use of force or fraud. Theft does not have the element of unlawful entry. This offense includes such crimes 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 does not include embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, and worthless checks. Motor vehicle thefts fall under a separate category and are not counted as larceny/thefts. Attempts to commit larceny are included in this category. 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 1984 were counted as larceny/thefts. There were 13,102 thefts reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1984, representing an increase of 5.2 percent over the 12,453 thefts reported in 1983. This five percent increase of larceny/thefts in the state for 1984 goes against the national downward trend for theft which was at 1.8 percent.

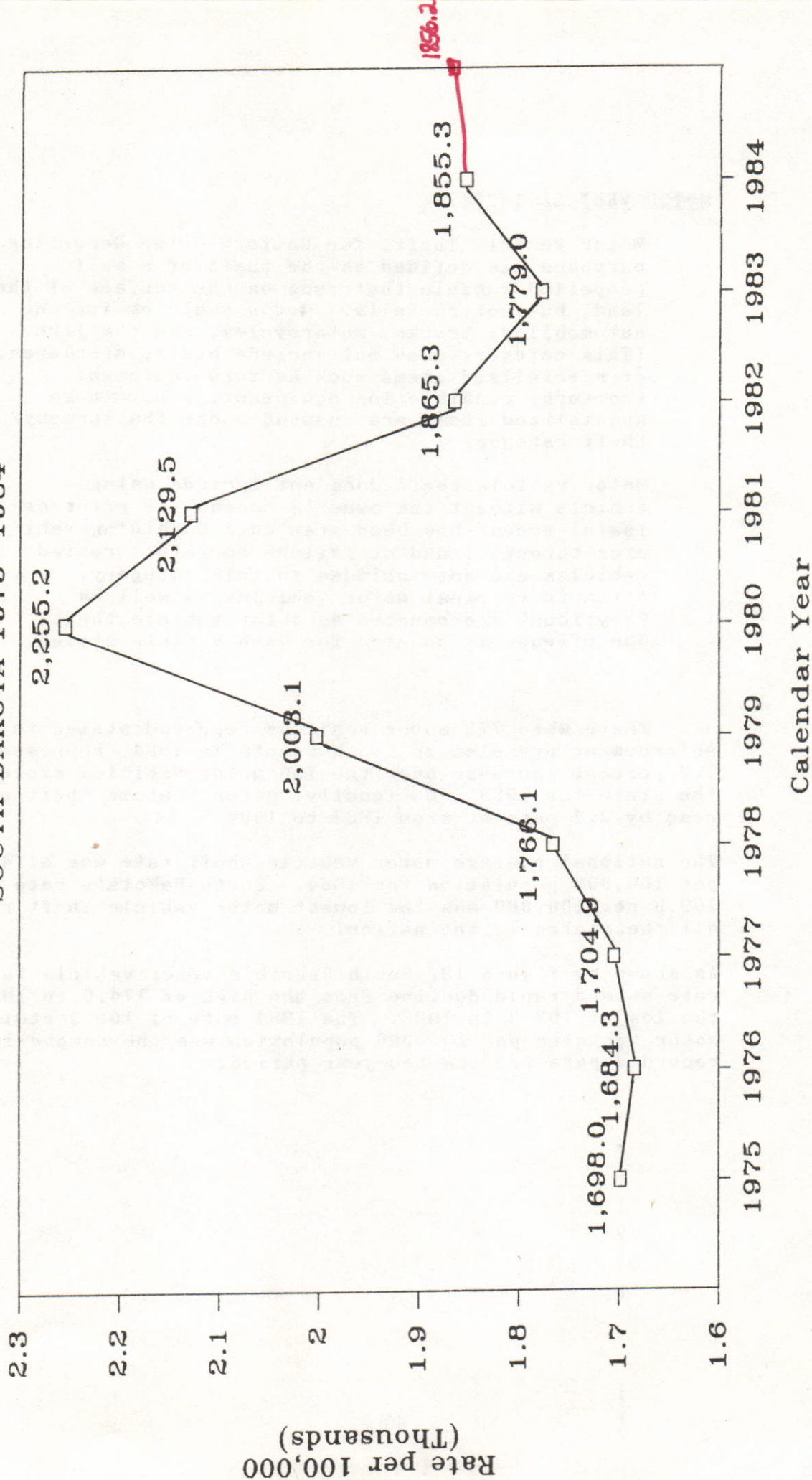
South Dakota ranked 46th in the nation for its theft rate, which stood at 1,855.8 per 100,000 in 1984. That was substantially lower than the national average larceny/theft rate which was 2,791.3 per 100,000 population in 1984.

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 18). The year 1984 ended the downward trend of the larceny/theft rate with the 4.3 percent increase in the rate. 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 18).

Figure 18

LARCENY/THEFT RATE

SOUTH DAKOTA 1975-1984



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT:

Motor Vehicle Theft, for Uniform Crime Reporting purposes, is defined as the theft of a self-propelled vehicle that runs on the surface of the land, but not on rails. Motor vehicles include automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, and the like. (This category does not include boats, airplanes, or specialized items such as farm equipment, tractors, construction equipment, etc. These specialized items are counted under the larceny/theft category.)

Motor vehicle theft does not include using a vehicle without the owner's consent if prior or lawful access has been granted. Obtaining vehicles through fraud or failure to return rented vehicles are not included in this category. Attempts to steal motor vehicles as well as "joyrides" are counted as motor vehicle theft. One offense is counted for each vehicle stolen.

There were 772 motor vehicles reported stolen to law enforcement agencies in South Dakota in 1984, representing a 7.2 percent increase over the 720 motor vehicles stolen in the state for 1983. Nationally, motor vehicle theft also rose by 2.4 percent from 1983 to 1984.

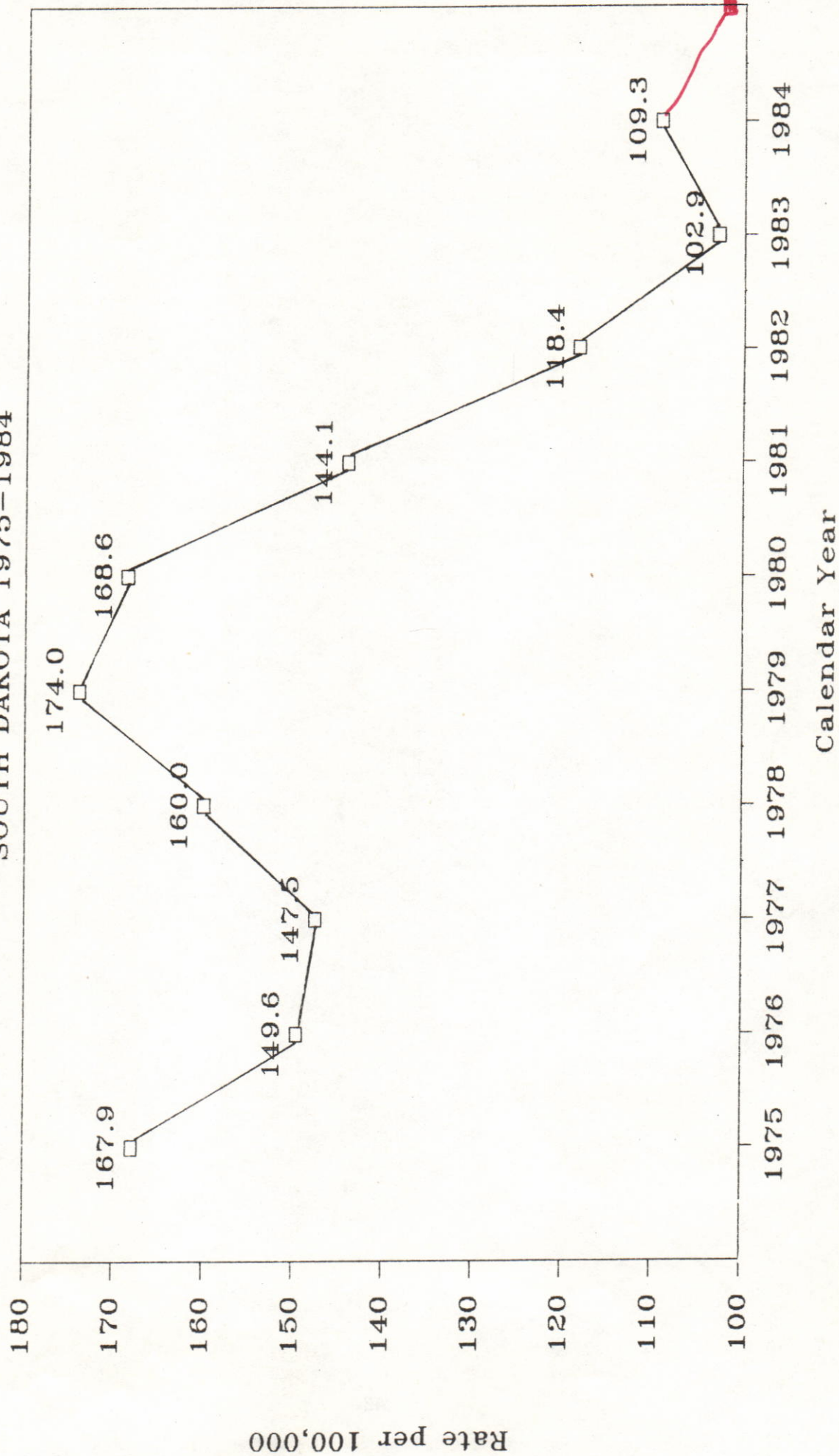
The national average motor vehicle theft rate was at 473.1 per 100,000 population for 1984. South Dakota's rate of 109.3 per 100,000 was the lowest motor vehicle theft rate of all the states in the nation.

As shown by Figure 19, South Dakota's motor vehicle theft rate showed rapid decline from the high of 174.0 in 1979 to the low of 102.9 in 1983. The 1984 rate of 109.3 stolen motor vehicles per 100,000 population was the second-lowest recorded rate for the ten-year period.

Figure 19

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT RATE

SOUTH DAKOTA 1975-1984



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 does not participate in the UCR Program).

Rapid City had the highest crime rate of the nine South Dakota cities reporting their UCR Part I offenses in 1984 (see Figures 20 and 21). Although Sioux Falls reported more crimes, Rapid City's ratio of crime to population was higher. There were 431 more index crimes reported in Sioux Falls than in Rapid City. Rapid City had a crime rate of 7,044.1 per 100,000 population while reporting 3,435 Index offenses in 1984. Sioux Falls had a crime rate of 4,569.1 per 100,000 with 3,866 Index crimes reported.

The estimated combined population of the nine cities totalled 240,939 people in 1984. The total number of Index crimes reported in these cities was 11,699 for the same year. Therefore, these nine cities comprised 34.2 percent of the state's population in 1984 while 63.3 percent of the total number of crimes were reported in these "urban" areas.

It is interesting to note that all nine of the larger cities participating in the UCR Program had higher crime rates than the average South Dakota crime rate (Figure 22). The mean South Dakota urban crime rate, the average for the nine cities, was 4,855.6 for 1984. That was slightly lower than the nation's average crime rate.

Only two of the cities, Rapid City and Mitchell, had a higher crime rate than the national average in 1984. The national average was 5,031.3 crimes per 100,000 population. Rapid City reported a crime rate of 7,044.1 per 100,000 and Mitchell reported 5,323.5 crimes per 100,000 population.

Crime increased in six of the nine largest cities in the state from 1983 to 1984. Aberdeen, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Vermillion and Watertown all reported increases in the number of index crimes reported. Crime was down from the previous year in Brookings, Mitchell, and Yankton.

Figure 20

Crime Rates and Numbers in South Dakota Cities, 1984

	Population	Total Crime Index Number	Total Crime Index Rate
Aberdeen	26,658	1,160	4,351.4
Brookings	15,481	515	3,326.7
Mitchell	14,032	747	5,323.5
Pierre	12,357	588	4,758.4
Rapid City	48,764	3,435	7,044.1
Sioux Falls	84,611	3,866	4,569.1
Vermillion	10,202	330	3,234.7
Watertown	16,577	573	3,456.6
Yankton	12,257	455	3,712.2

Figure 21

Crime in South Dakota Cities, 1984

	Population	Crime Index Total	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny/ Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft
Aberdeen	26,658	1,160	---	7	7	27	130	941	48
Brookings	15,481	515	---	---	---	10	43	439	23
Mitchell	14,032	747	---	---	2	31	137	541	36
Pierre	12,357	588	---	4	3	16	87	460	18
Rapid City	48,764	3,435	1	17	34	124	641	2,452	166
Sioux Falls	84,611	3,866	3	38	23	100	679	2,884	139
Vermillion	10,202	330	---	1	---	16	46	260	7
Watertown	16,577	573	---	6	2	14	73	465	13
Yankton	12,257	455	---	2	---	22	49	366	16

Figure 22

SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES

Crime Rates for 1984

