

**CRIME**  
**in**  
**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
**1983**

**Statistical Analysis Center**  
**Division of Criminal Investigation**

### The Statistical Summary:

- + In 1983, 17,833 Part I offenses were reported by law enforcement agencies in South Dakota.
- + The crime rate in South Dakota during 1983 was 2,547.6 per 100,000 population while the rate for the nation was 5,158.6 Part I crimes per 100,000 population.
- + Total reported index crimes in South Dakota have decreased by 3.7 percent from 1982 to 1983. For the same period, the nation's total index crimes decreased by 7.1 percent.
- + The violent crime rate is on the rise in South Dakota. After a slight decrease (5.5 percent) from 1981 to 1982, violent crime rose by 21.1 percent from 1982 to 1983. The cause for this increase is shown in the 49.1 percent rise in the rape rate and the 25.6 percent increase in the rate of aggravated assaults in South Dakota.
- + The good news is that two of the four elements which make up the violent crime rate have decreased in the state. The murder rate decreased from 2.7 to 2.1 per 100,000 population in the period from 1982 to 1983. This represents a decrease of 22.2 percent. The robbery rate also dropped by 7 percent.
- + The property crime rate decreased by 4.6 percent from 1982 to 1983 in South Dakota. Each of the three elements of the property crime rate decreased during this period. The most dramatic decline was in the rate of motor vehicle thefts, which registered a 13.1 percent decrease. The larceny/theft rate dropped by 4.6 percent and the burglary rate declined by 2.9 percent.
- + There were 15 reported murders in 1983, a decrease of 21.1 percent from 1982.
- + Rape has increased by 50.6 percent since 1982; 79 rapes were reported in 1982 while 119 were reported in 1983. This increase in the number of rapes is the most dramatic of all the index crimes.
- + Robbery decreased in the state by 5.9 percent from 1982 to 1983. 118 robberies were reported in 1982 and 111 were listed in 1983.
- + There were 595 aggravated assaults reported by law enforcement agencies in 1983. In 1982, 468 aggravated assaults were reported. This represents an increase of 27.1 percent.
- + Burglary decreased by a slight 1.7 percent in 1983. There were 3,885 burglaries reported in 1982 while 3,820 were reported in 1983.
- + There were 12,453 larceny/thefts in 1983 as compared to 12,889 in 1982, a 3.4 percent increase.

- + Motor vehicle theft has decreased by 12 percent since 1982; 720 as compared to 818.
- + South Dakota reported a lower rate of motor vehicle thefts than any other state in the nation in 1983.
- + Only West Virginia had a lower crime rate in 1983 than South Dakota.

\*\* See Tables 1, 2, and 3 for a graphic portrayal of the above statistics.

TABLE 1  
 Comparison of Part I Crimes  
 in South Dakota, 1982 and 1983

|                     | Number of Crimes |        | Percent Change | Rate per 100,000 |         | Percent Change |
|---------------------|------------------|--------|----------------|------------------|---------|----------------|
|                     | 1982             | 1983   |                | 1982             | 1983    |                |
| Crime Index Total   | 18,276           | 17,833 | - 2.4 %        | 2,644.9          | 2,547.6 | - 3.7 %        |
| Violent Crime       | 684              | 840    | + 22.8 %       | 99.0             | 120.0   | + 21.2 %       |
| Property Crime      | 17,592           | 16,993 | - 3.4 %        | 2,545.9          | 2,427.6 | - 4.6 %        |
| Murder              | 19               | 15     | - 21.1 %       | 2.7              | 2.1     | - 22.2 %       |
| Rape                | 79               | 119    | + 50.6 %       | 11.4             | 17.0    | + 49.1 %       |
| Robbery             | 118              | 111    | - 5.9 %        | 17.1             | 15.9    | - 7.0 %        |
| Aggravated Assault  | 468              | 595    | + 27.1 %       | 67.7             | 85.0    | + 25.6 %       |
| Burglary            | 3,885            | 3,820  | - 1.7 %        | 562.2            | 545.7   | - 2.9 %        |
| Larceny/Theft       | 12,889           | 12,453 | - 3.4 %        | 1,865.3          | 1,779.0 | - 4.6 %        |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 818              | 720    | - 12.0 %       | 118.4            | 102.9   | - 13.1 %       |

TABLE 2  
 Comparison of 1983 Crime Rates per 100,000  
 Between South Dakota and the Nation

|                     | South Dakota | The Nation |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|
| Crime Index Total   | 2,547.6      | 5,158.6    |
| Violent Crime       | 120.0        | 529.1      |
| Property Crime      | 2,427.6      | 4,629.5    |
| Murder              | 2.1          | 8.3        |
| Rape                | 17.0         | 33.7       |
| Robbery             | 15.9         | 213.8      |
| Aggravated Assault  | 85.0         | 273.3      |
| Burglary            | 545.7        | 1,333.8    |
| Larceny/Theft       | 1,779.0      | 2,866.5    |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 102.9        | 429.3      |

Rate = per 100,000 population

TABLE 3  
Comparison of 1983 Crime Rates per 100,000  
Between South Dakota and All Other States

South Dakota ranks 49th in Total Index Crimes  
South Dakota ranks 49th in Violent Crime  
South Dakota ranks 49th in Property Crime  
South Dakota ranks 47th in Murder  
South Dakota ranks 45th for Rape  
South Dakota ranks 49th for Robbery  
South Dakota ranks 47th for Aggravated Assault  
South Dakota ranks 49th for Burglary  
South Dakota ranks 47th for Larceny/Theft  
South Dakota ranks 50th for Motor Vehicle Theft

## Uniform Crime Report Crime Index Definitions:

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; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults.

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

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.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT- Aggravated assault is the 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.

BURGLARY-The Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines burglary as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary. Burglary in this Program is categorized into three subclassifications: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry.

LARCENY/THEFT-Larceny-theft is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of 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.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT-In Uniform Crime Reporting, motor vehicle theft is defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. This definition excludes the taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by those persons having lawful access.

### Reported Index Crime Rate:

Law enforcement agencies in South Dakota reported, through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, 17,833 Part I offenses during 1983 for a rate per 100,000 of 2,547.6. The rate per 100,000 is calculated by taking the number of reported crimes times 100,000 and dividing this figure by the population of the jurisdiction. This is done in order to compare crime from year to year by controlling for population.

The Part I offenses (or Index Crimes) are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft (arson has recently been added to the list of index offenses and little information is available for this crime in South Dakota). These crimes are referred to as index crimes because of their "seriousness".

Index crimes are defined as those which:

- (1) occur regardless of geographic location,
- (2) are most likely to occur,
- (3) are most likely to be reported, and
- (4) are an affront to the sensitivity of society.

The data in South Dakota from the UCR Program are not complete, as participation is voluntary and there are no audit checks to ensure accuracy.



### UCR Accuracy :

The crime data used in this report were taken from the FBI's "Crime in the United States, 1983". Under the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), Part I offenses include violent and property crimes. Violent crimes in the report are murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, while property crimes are burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The crime rate is the number of crimes per 100,000.

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

- (1) Citizens tendency to report crimes to law enforcement agencies;
- (2) Law enforcement agencies tendency to report offenses to the FBI;
- (3) Classification of offenses. Some agencies will classify crimes differently; and
- (4) Not all agencies submit reports every month and, as a result, crime rates are estimated by the FBI. Approximately 75 percent of the South Dakota law enforcement agencies contribute to the Uniform Crime Report. Contribution to the UCR is voluntary in South Dakota. There is no state-level UCR program in the state. Therefore, the FBI must scientifically estimate the crime index statistics for the state.

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

PART I OFFENSES, 1983

SOUTH DAKOTA

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

69.3 percent are larceny/theft;

21.4 percent are burglaries;

4.0 percent are motor vehicle thefts;

3.3 percent are aggravated assaults;

.68 percent are rapes;

.62 percent are robberies; and

.08 percent are murders.

Property crimes (motor vehicle theft, larceny/theft, and burglary) account for 95.29 percent of the UCR Part I crime in South Dakota.

Violent crimes (assault, rape, robbery, and murder) account for 4.71 percent of the total crime index.

### Crime Trend in South Dakota:

The crime rate in South Dakota reached an all-time high in 1980 (Figure 1). The crime rate in 1983 was the lowest of any year studied during the period of 1974 to 1983. The 1983 crime rate of 2,547.6 per 100,000 population is 21.4 percent lower than the 1980 high of 3,243.2 crimes per 100,000.

The violent crime rate has, on the whole, decreased over the ten year period, with some fluctuations (Figure 2). The highest violent crime rate in South Dakota was in 1975 at 205.2 per 100,000. After steadily decreasing from 1977 to 1982, the violent crime rate rose in 1983 by 21.2 percent.

The reported property crime rate is on the decrease since hitting an all-time high in 1980 of 3,116.3 per 100,000. The property crime rate in 1983 was 2,427.6 per 100,000; this was the second lowest figure in the ten year period studied (Figure 3).

South Dakota compared favorably with the contiguous states (Table 4). South Dakota has a much lower rate of crime than Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, and Wyoming. North Dakota's crime rate is also slightly higher than the crime rate in South Dakota. In fact, only West Virginia reports a lower crime rate than South Dakota.

FIGURE 1  
South Dakota Total Part I Offenses  
per 100,000 population, 1974-1983

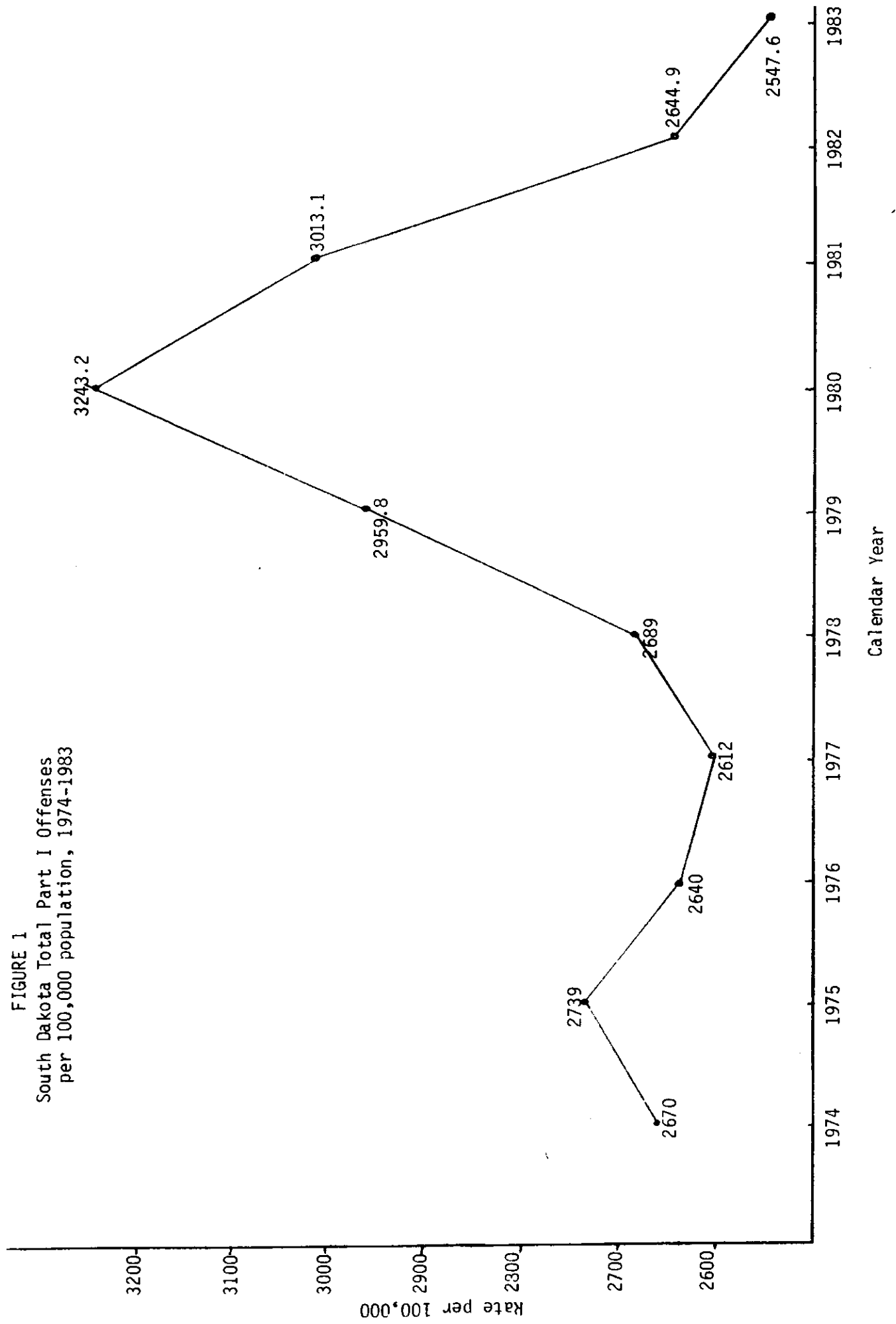


FIGURE 2  
South Dakota Violent Crime Rate  
per 100,000 population, 1974-1983

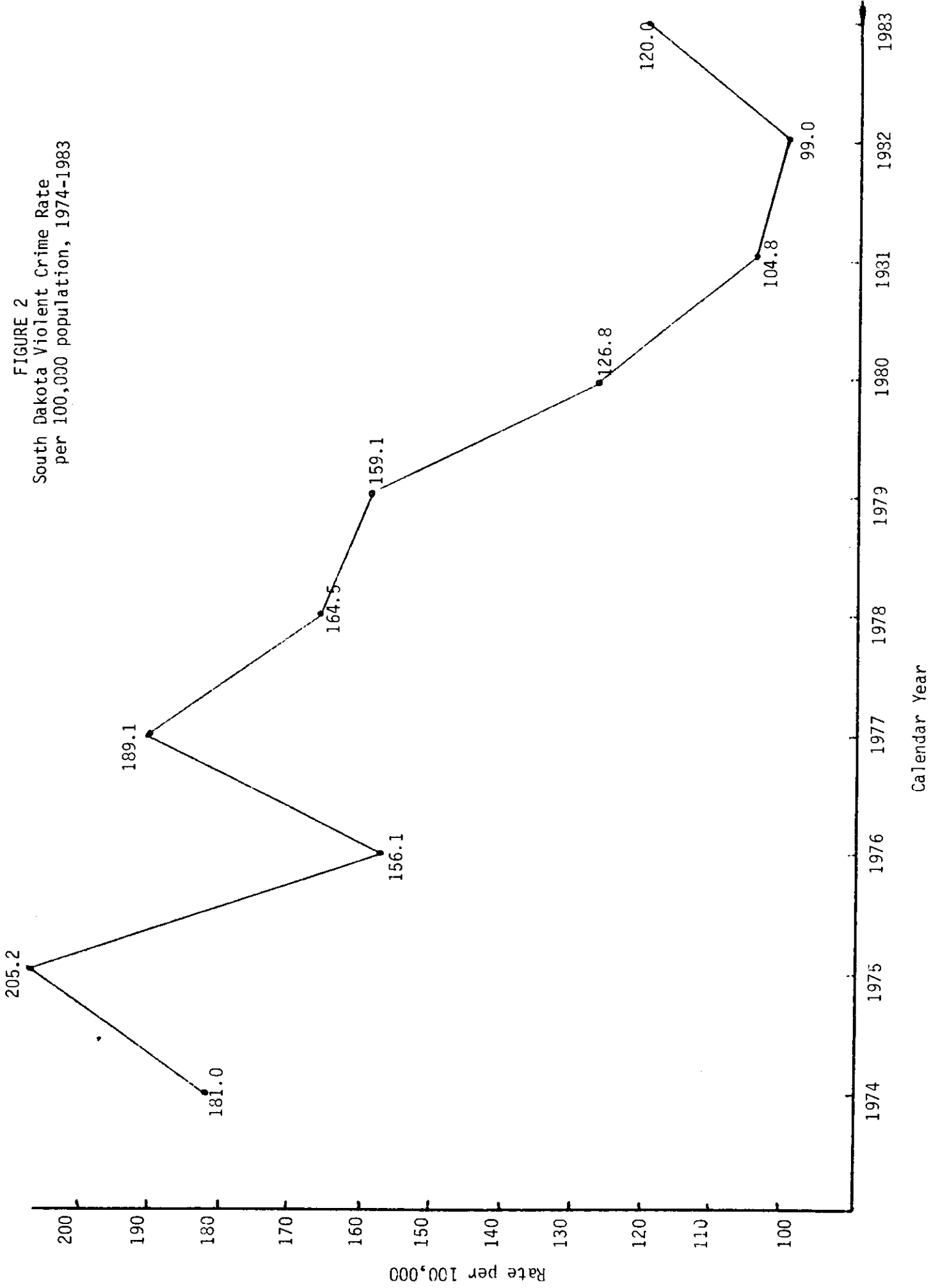


FIGURE 3  
South Dakota Property Crime Rate  
per 100,000 population, 1974-1983

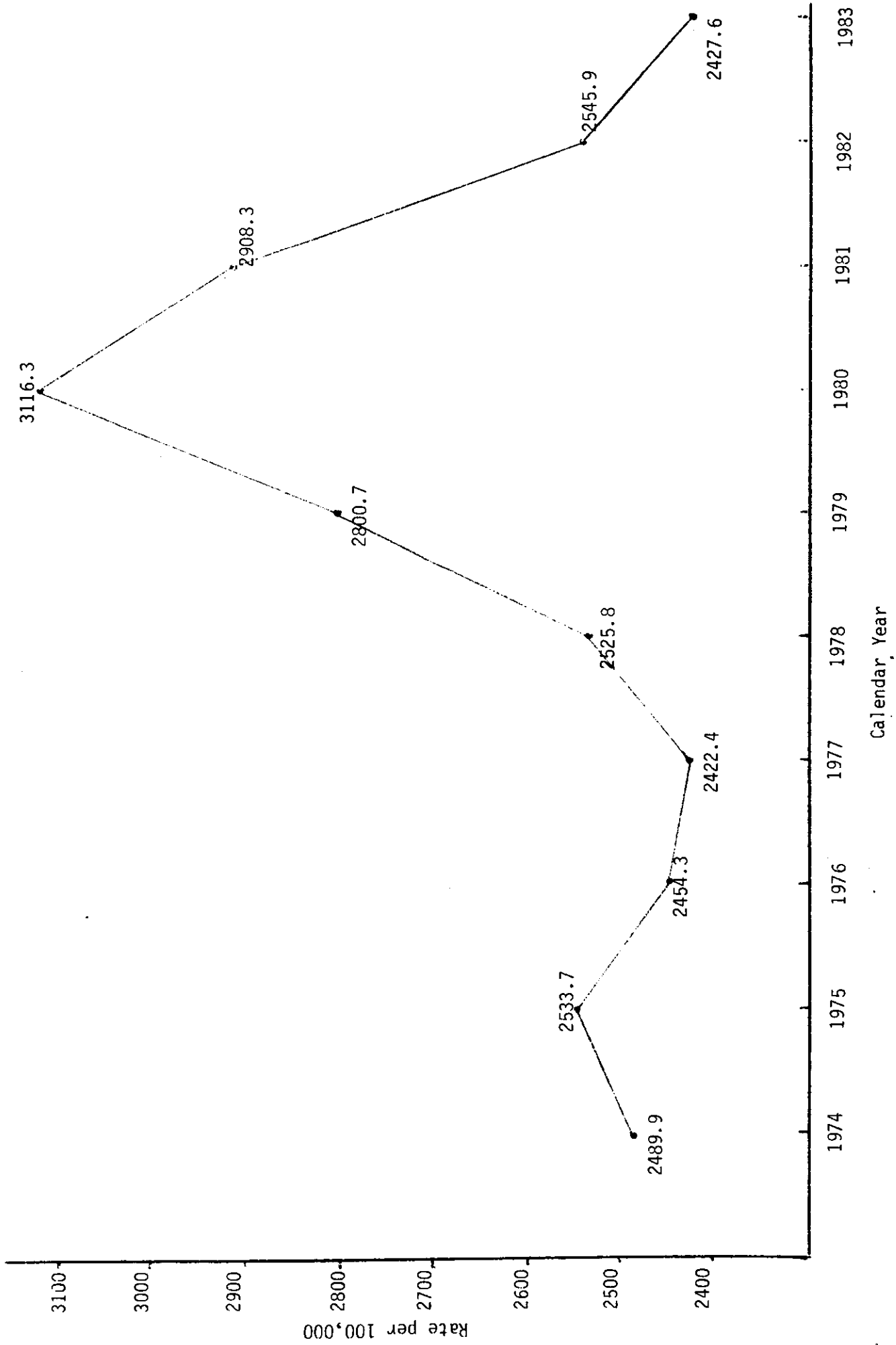


TABLE 4  
1983 Crime Rates in the Contiguous States

| (Rate = per 100,000) | IOWA    | MINNESOTA | MONTANA | NEBRASKA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA | WYOMING |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| Crime Index Total    | 3,919.1 | 4,034.2   | 4,644.4 | 3,787.7  | 2,675.4      | 2,547.6      | 4,013.8 |
| Violent Crime        | 181.1   | 190.9     | 212.6   | 217.7    | 53.7         | 120.0        | 237.2   |
| Property Crime       | 3,737.9 | 3,843.3   | 4,431.8 | 3,569.9  | 2,621.8      | 2,427.6      | 3,776.7 |
| Murder               | 2.3     | 1.7       | 3.7     | 2.6      | 2.1          | 2.1          | 5.8     |
| Rape                 | 12.6    | 22.4      | 19.8    | 21.2     | 12.5         | 17.0         | 21.4    |
| Robbery              | 41.0    | 79.6      | 23.5    | 49.8     | 7.8          | 15.9         | 29.8    |
| Aggravated Assault   | 125.2   | 87.2      | 165.6   | 144.0    | 31.3         | 85.0         | 180.2   |
| Burglary             | 915.6   | 1,075.6   | 908.2   | 777.0    | 436.3        | 545.7        | 705.4   |
| Larceny/Theft        | 2,664.4 | 2,558.7   | 3,294.7 | 2,631.6  | 2,056.3      | 1,779.0      | 2,905.1 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft  | 157.9   | 209.0     | 228.9   | 161.4    | 129.1        | 102.9        | 166.1   |

### Crime in South Dakota Cities:

The Uniform Crime Report 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 offenses (Tables 5 and 6). Sioux Falls reported the highest number of index crimes. There were 336 more index crimes reported in Sioux Falls than in Rapid City. Rapid City had a crime rate of 7,245.6 per 100,000 while reporting 3,415 index offenses; Sioux Falls had a crime rate of 4,546.5 per 100,000 with 3,751 index offenses reported.

It is interesting to note that all nine of the larger cities participating in the UCR Program have higher crime rates than the average South Dakota crime rate (Table 7). The mean South Dakota urban crime rate, the average for the nine cities, is 4,899.5, which is 5 percent lower than the national average of 5,158.6 per 100,000.

The combined population of the above nine cities totalled 235,918 people in 1983. The total number of crimes reported in these cities was 11,559. Therefore, these nine cities comprised 33.8 percent of the state's population in 1983 while 64.8 percent of the number of crimes were committed in these urban areas.

Only two of the cities, Rapid City and Mitchell, had a higher crime rate than the national average in 1983. The national average was 5,158.6 crimes per 100,000. Rapid City reported a crime rate of 7,245.6 per 100,000 and Mitchell reported 5,970.0 crimes per 100,000 population.



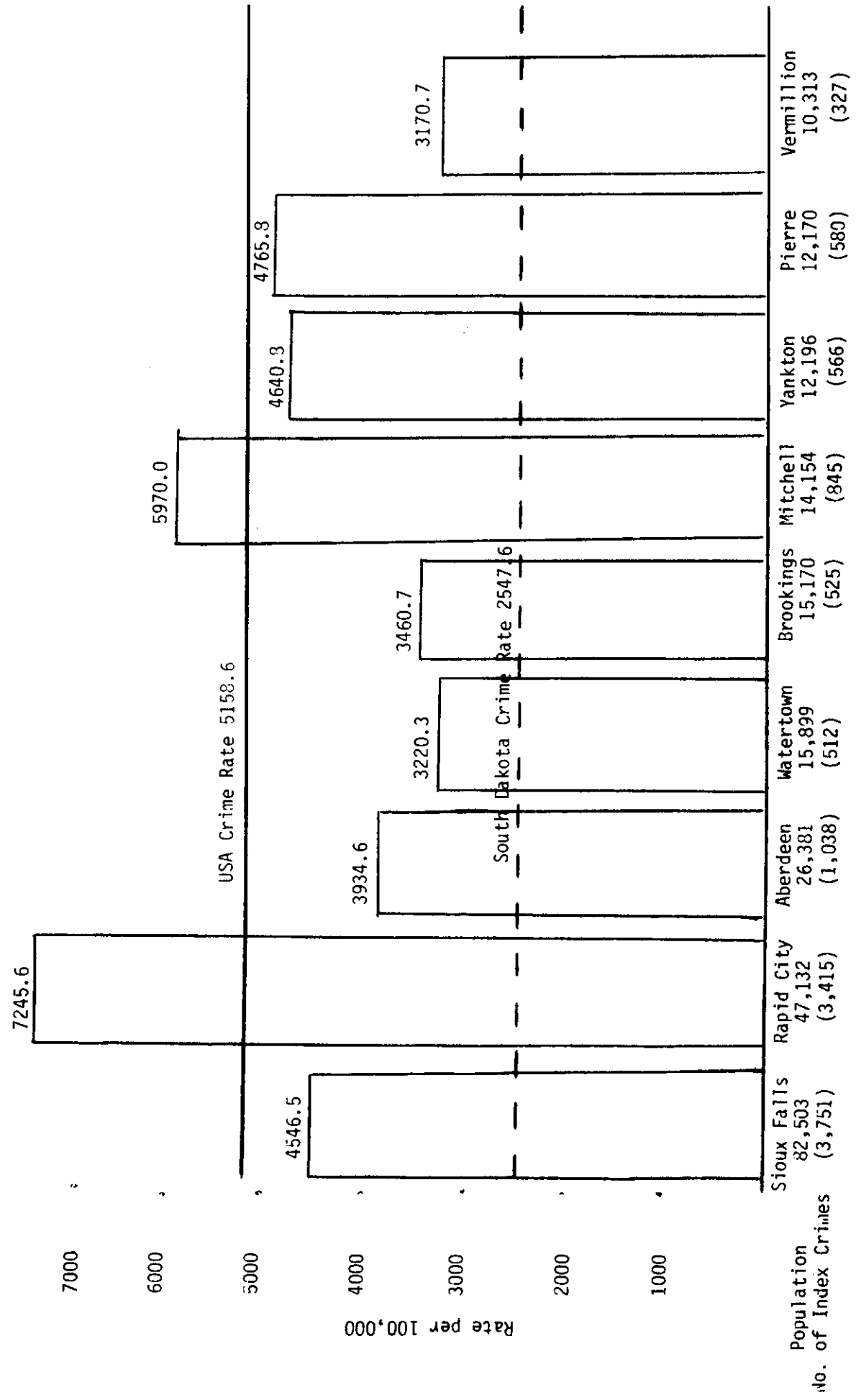
TABLE 5  
 Crime Rates and Number in South Dakota Cities, 1983

|             | Population | Total<br>Crime<br>Index<br>Number | Total<br>Crime<br>Index<br>Rate<br><br>(per 100,000) |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Aberdeen    | 26,381     | 1,038                             | 3,934.6  |
| Brookings   | 15,170     | 525                               | 3,460.7  |
| Mitchell    | 14,154     | 845                               | 5,970.0  |
| Pierre      | 12,170     | 580                               | 4,765.8  |
| Rapid City  | 47,132     | 3,415                             | 7,245.6  |
| Sioux Falls | 82,503     | 3,751                             | 4,546.5  |
| Vermillion  | 10,313     | 327                               | 3,170.7  |
| Watertown   | 15,899     | 512                               | 3,220.3  |
| Yankton     | 12,196     | 566                               | 4,640.8  |

TABLE 6  
 Crime Rate in South Dakota Cities, 1983  
 (per 100,000 population)

|             | Population | Crime Index Total | Murder | Rape | Robbery | Aggravated Assault | Burglary | Larceny/Theft | Motor Vehicle Theft |
|-------------|------------|-------------------|--------|------|---------|--------------------|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| Aberdeen    | 26,381     | 3,934.6           | --     | 26.5 | 26.5    | 72.0               | 382.8    | 3,316.7       | 109.9               |
| Brookings   | 15,170     | 3,460.7           | --     | --   | --      | 105.4              | 336.1    | 2,900.4       | 118.6               |
| Mitchell    | 14,154     | 5,970.0           | --     | --   | 14.1    | 233.1              | 1,165.7  | 4,302.6       | 254.3               |
| Pierre      | 12,170     | 4,765.8           | --     | 41.0 | 8.2     | 188.9              | 854.5    | 3,525.0       | 147.9               |
| Rapid City  | 47,132     | 7,245.6           | 6.3    | 46.6 | 97.5    | 216.4              | 1,572.1  | 4,994.4       | 311.8               |
| Sioux Falls | 82,503     | 4,546.5           | 1.2    | 30.3 | 27.8    | 122.4              | 849.6    | 3,328.3       | 186.6               |
| Vermillion  | 10,313     | 3,170.7           | --     | 38.7 | --      | 77.5               | 475.1    | 2,462.9       | 116.3               |
| Watertown   | 15,899     | 3,220.3           | 6.2    | 6.2  | 6.2     | 31.4               | 515.7    | 2,566.1       | 88.0                |
| Yankton     | 12,196     | 4,640.8           | --     | 24.5 | 8.1     | 114.7              | 893.7    | 3,443.7       | 155.7               |

TABLE 7  
1983 Part I Offenses in South Dakota Cities



### Crime Trend in South Dakota:

Figures 4 through 10 illustrate the ten year trend for the seven separate index crimes in South Dakota.

The 1983 murder rate of 2.1 per 100,000 population was the third-highest rate in the ten year span. This is down 22.2 percent from the previous year, however. 1975 saw the highest murder rate per 100,000 in the state; the 1975 rate of 3.7 was significantly higher than any other comparable year (Figure 4).

The rape rate in South Dakota has experienced many fluctuations in the period from 1974 to 1983. The 1983 rate of 17.0 rapes per 100,000 was the highest recorded in the 10 year period. This represented an alarming increase of 49.1 percent from the 1982 rate of 11.4 rapes per 100,000. The 1983 rate was also a 58.9 percent increase over the 1974 rape rate of 10.7 per 100,000; the lowest rate for the ten year span (Figure 5).

The robbery rate has experienced a general decline since 1979. The 1983 rate of 15.9 robberies per 100,000 tied with the 1978 rate as the lowest in the 10 year period (Figure 6).

The rate of aggravated assault increased in 1983 for the first time since 1979. After an all-time high of 155.7 per 100,000 aggravated assaults in 1977, the rate dropped to 67.7 assaults per 100,000 in 1982. This represents a decrease of 230 percent. The aggravated assault rate rose from 67.7 in 1982 to 85.0 in 1983. This represents an increase of 25.6 percent in the one year period. (Figure 7)

The burglary rate in South Dakota has exhibited two high peaks, each followed by steep declines. The peaks occurred in 1975 when the burglary rate was 667.8 per 100,000 and in 1980 when the burglary rate hit 692.5 per 100,000. Since 1980, the rate has decreased each year. The 1983 rate of 545.7 burglaries per 100,000 is the lowest for the period studied. This represents a decrease of 21.2 percent from 1980 to 1983 (Figure 8).

The larceny/theft rate in South Dakota was at its lowest point in the ten year period in 1976. After a high of 2255.2 larceny/thefts in 1980, the rate dropped down to 1779.0 in 1983. This represents a decrease of 21.1 percent (Figure 9).

The motor vehicle theft rate has shown rapid decline since the high of 174.0 motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 population in 1979. It dropped by 59.1 percent, to 102.9 per 100,000 in 1983. The 1983 rate is the lowest recorded for the period (Figure 10).

FIGURE 4  
Murder Rate in South Dakota 1974-1983

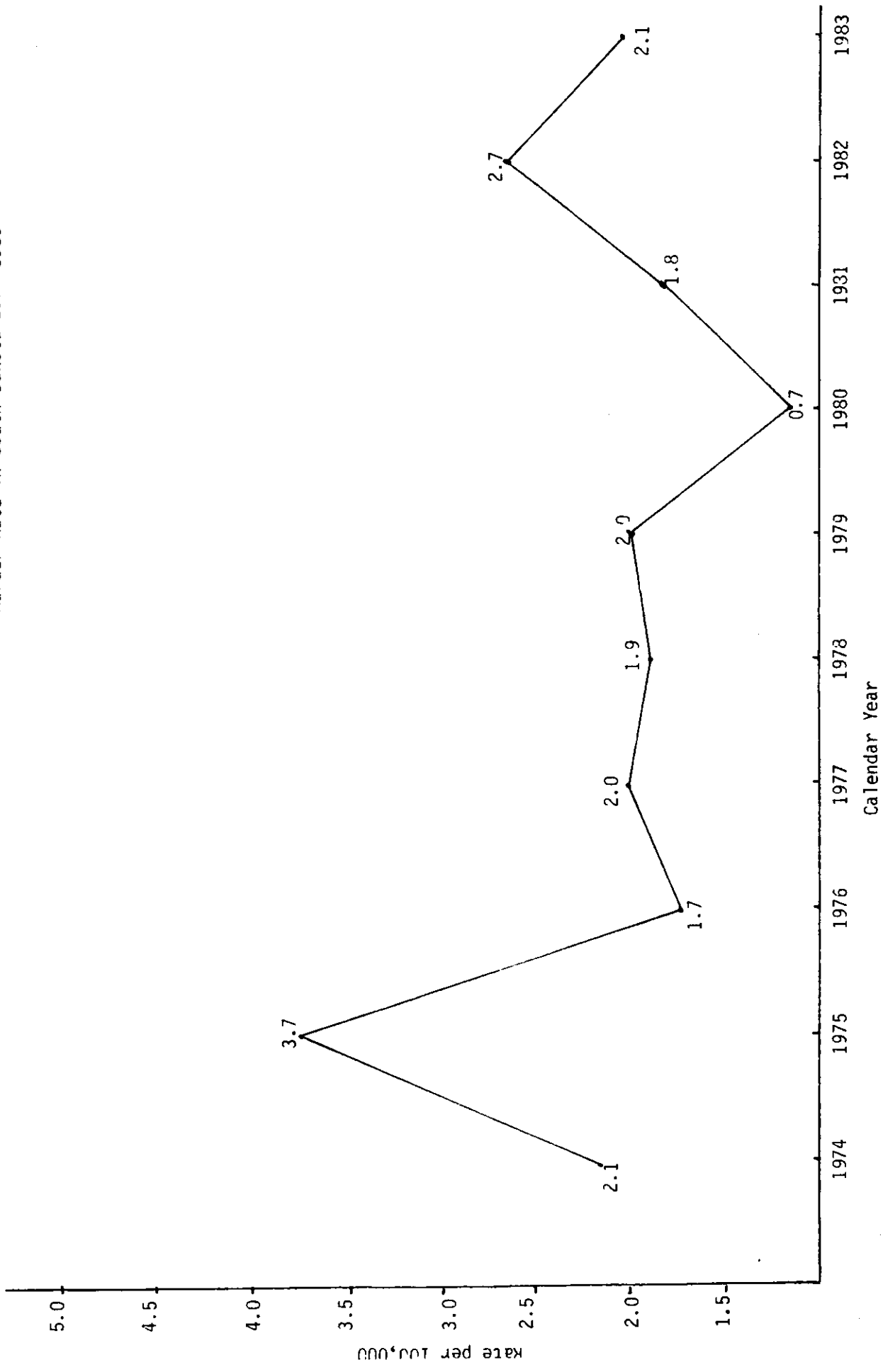


FIGURE 5  
Rape Rate in South Dakota 1974-1983

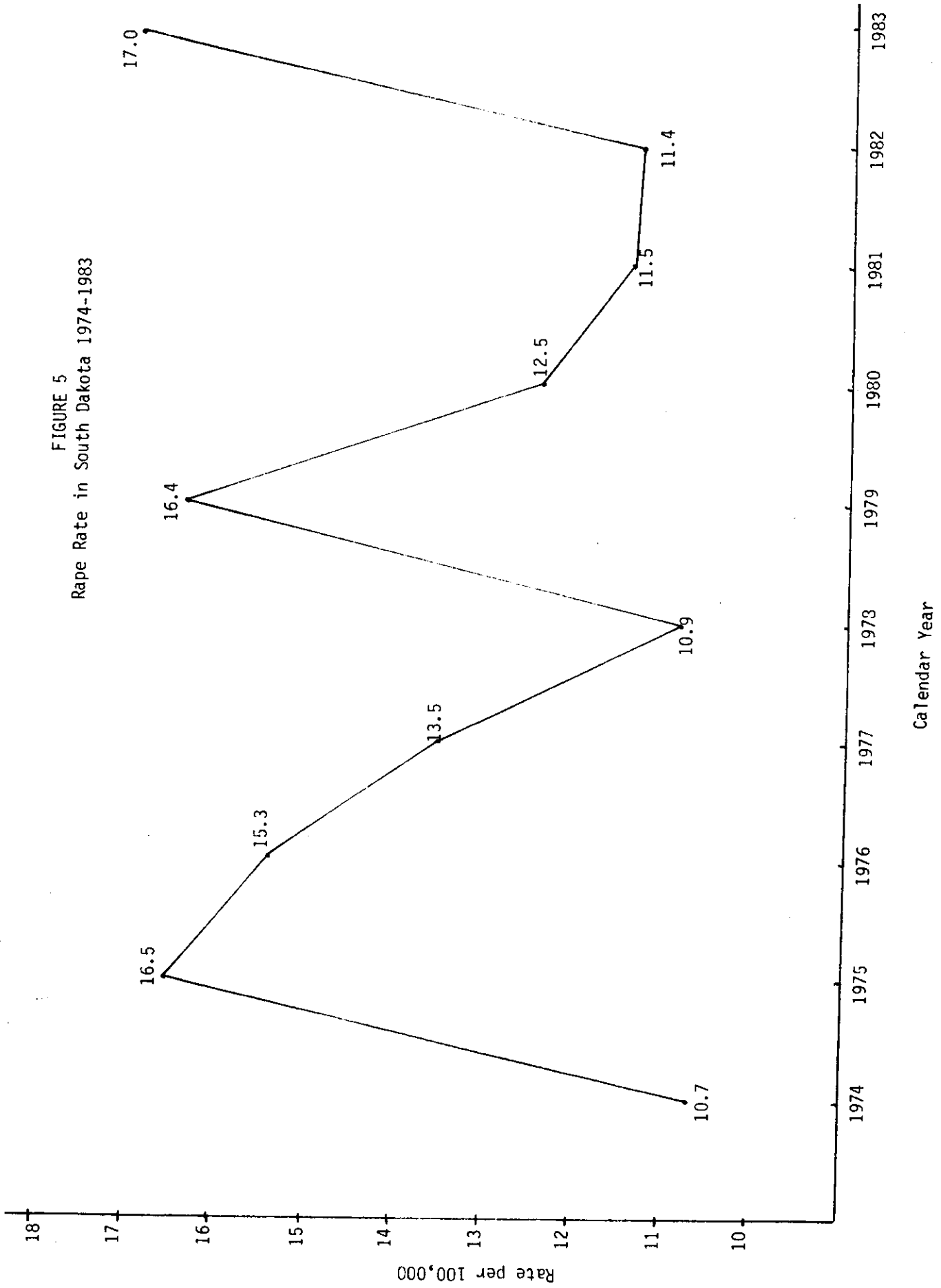


FIGURE 6  
Robbery Rate in South Dakota  
1974-1983

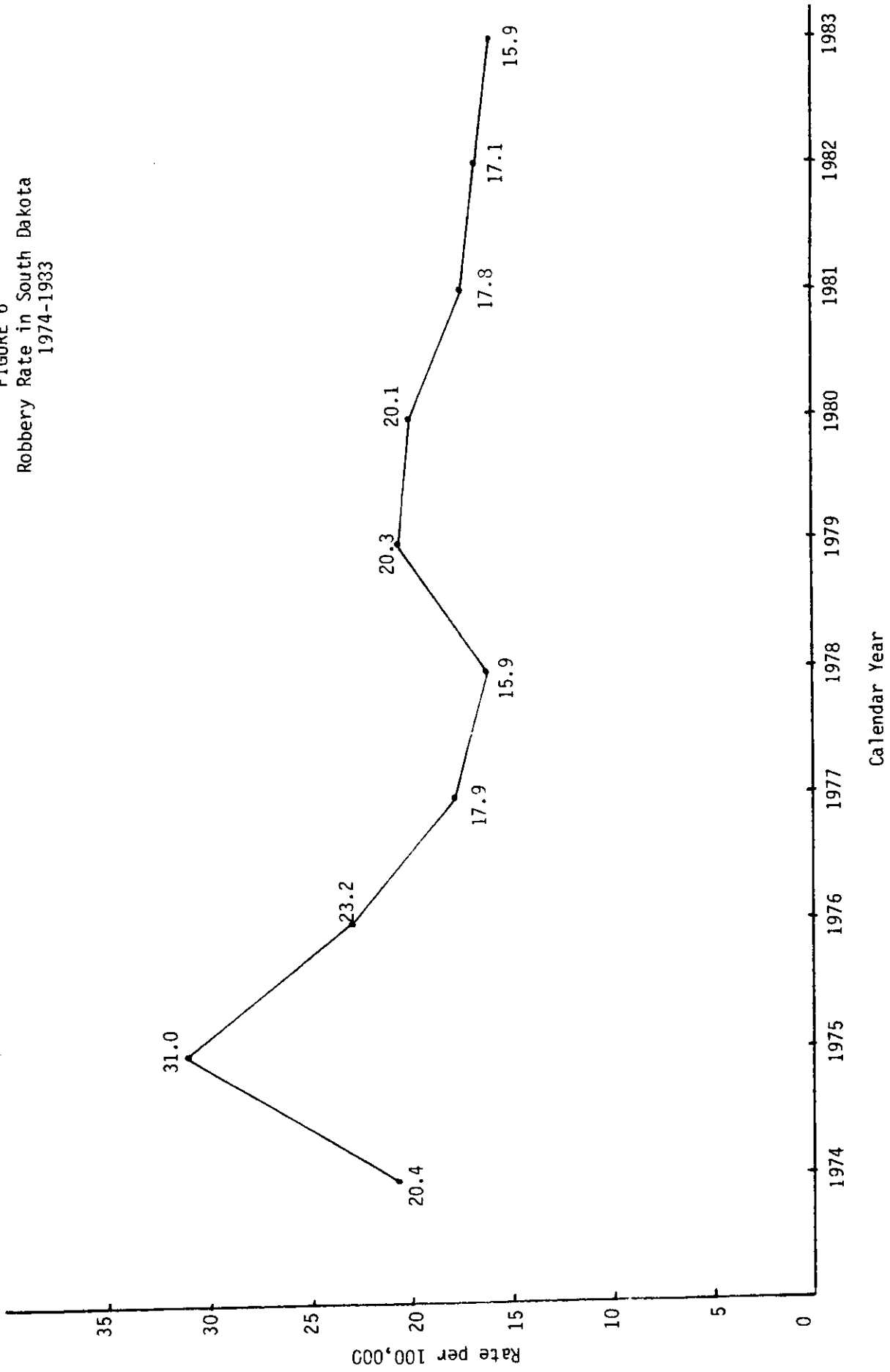


FIGURE 7  
Aggravated Assault Rate in South Dakota  
1974-1983

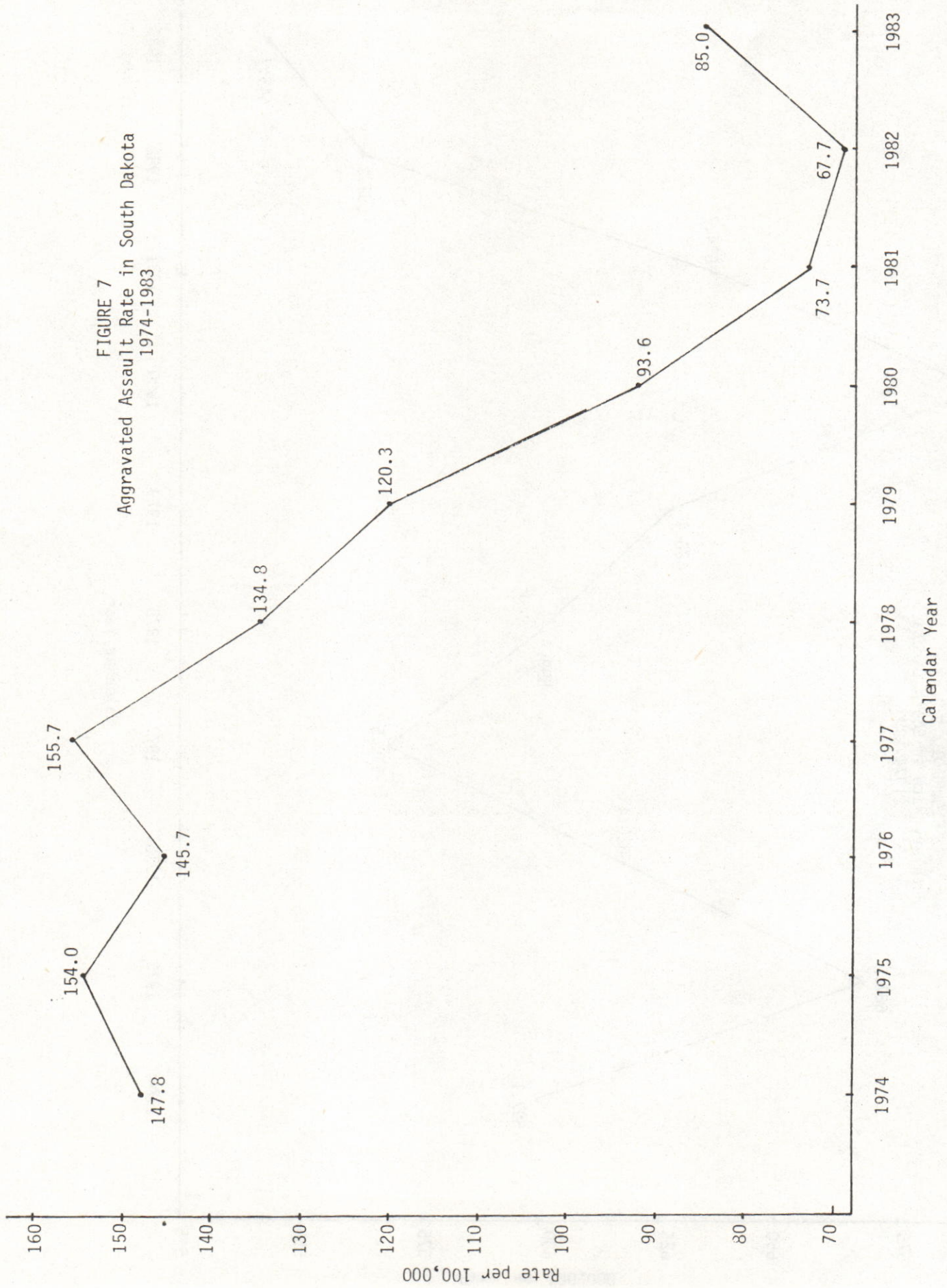




FIGURE 8  
Burglary Rate in South Dakota  
1974-1983

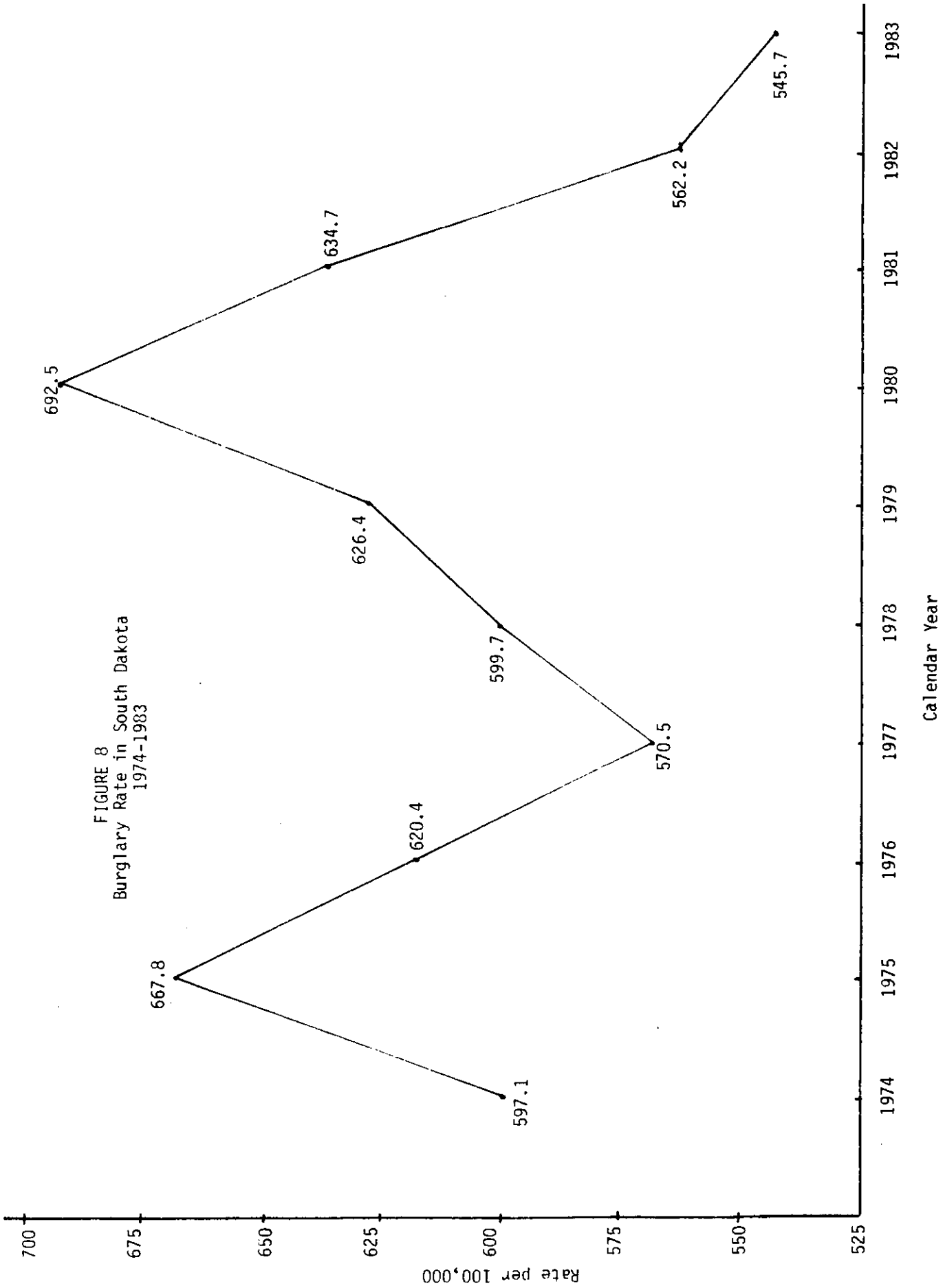


FIGURE 9  
Larceny/Theft Rate in South Dakota  
1974-1983

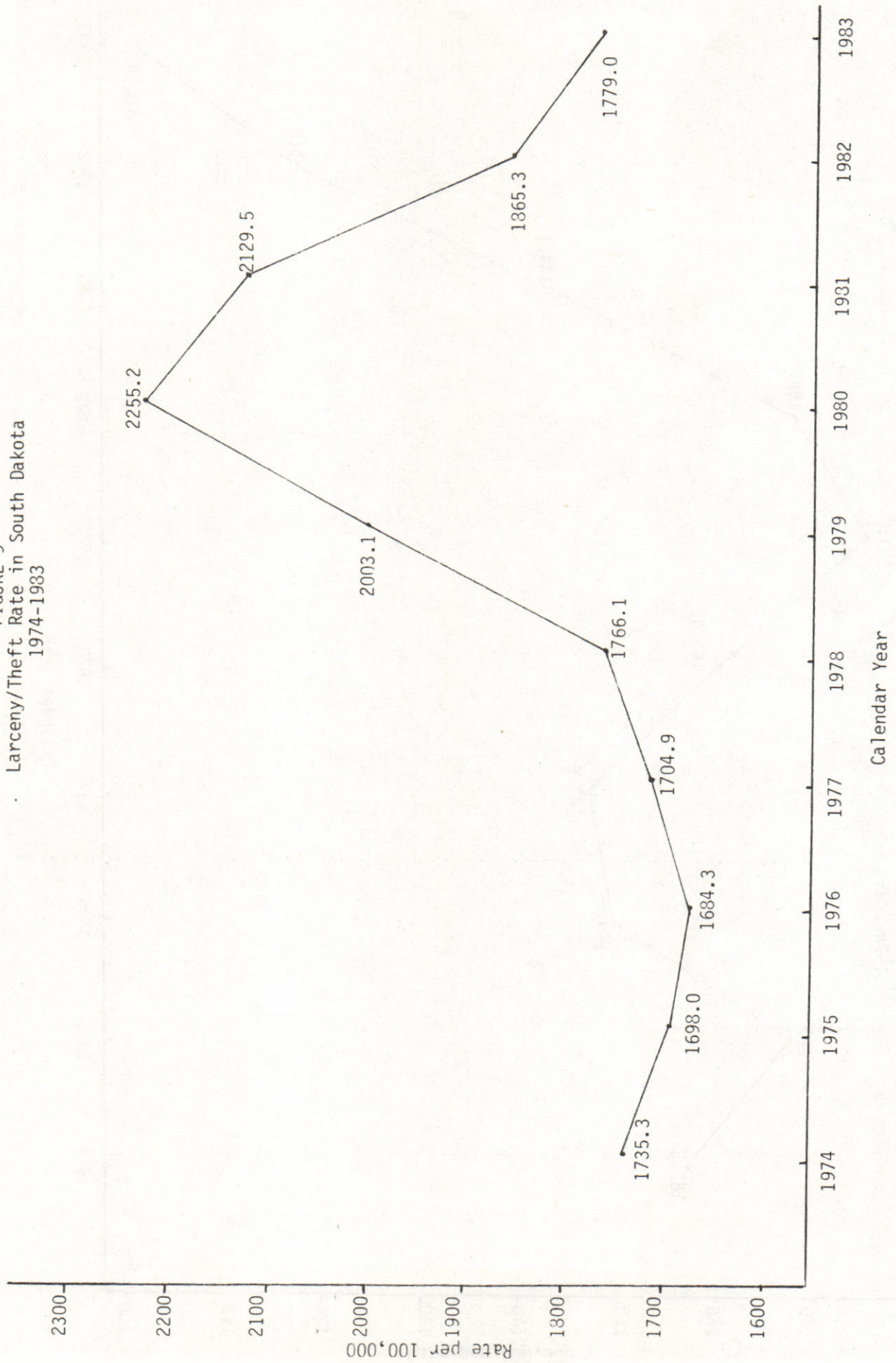
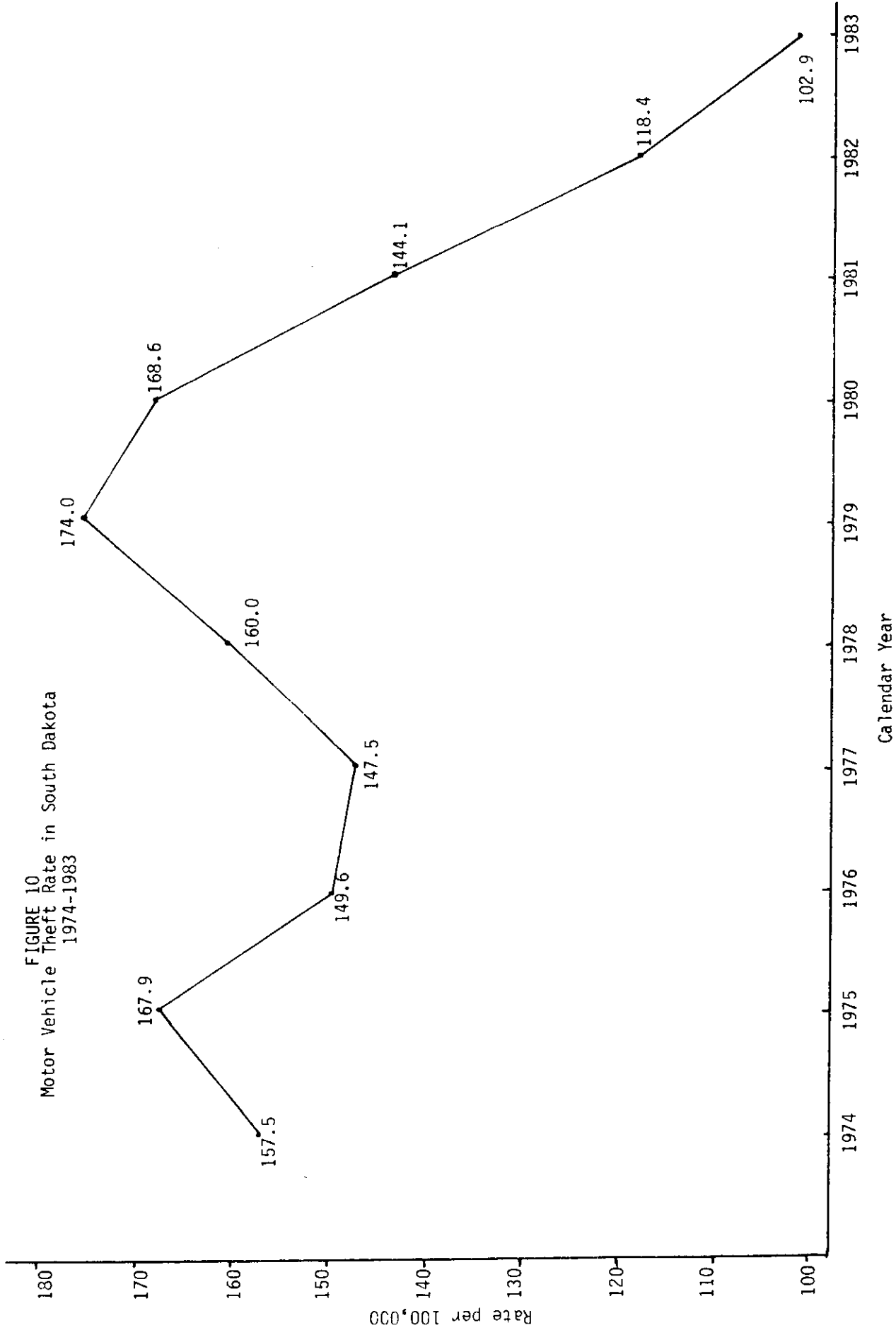


FIGURE 10  
Motor Vehicle Theft Rate in South Dakota  
1974-1983



This report was prepared by:

Doneen B. Hollingsworth  
Statistical Clearinghouse Director  
Division of Criminal Investigation  
Criminal Justice Training Center  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501  
(605) 773-3331