CRIME
IN
SOUTH DAKOTA
1988

A Summary Based on Uniform
Crime Reports

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

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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 data collected by UCR participants is forwarded directly to the FBI by each individual law enforcement agency. Currently, there is no state-level UCR clearinghouse in South Dakota to act as intermediary between the FBI and local UCR participants. The overall crime data reported here was derived from the FBI’s publication of *Crime in the United States, 1988*. These data were analyzed and interpreted by the South Dakota Statistical Analysis Center (SDSAC) at the Division of Criminal Investigation.

The last section of this report analyzes data relative to individual cities in South Dakota. This data was collected by the South Dakota Statistical Analysis Center in cooperation with local UCR participants. The FBI only individually reports statistics for cities with population greater than 10,000 in its publication. Consequently, statistics for many reporting agencies in South Dakota are not individually noted in the FBI’s yearly report nor have they been in *Crime in South Dakota* in the past. This year, the SDSAC has attempted to individually report all available UCR statistics for each reporting agency in the State.

In the absence of a centralized UCR effort, the SAC requested UCR data for Calendar Year 1988 from UCR participants in the State. Data was received from forty agencies. Unfortunately, some agencies were unable to comply with this request because they did not have a policy of maintaining copies of their UCR reports submitted to the FBI. Some of these agencies reconstructed their reports from logs and case files. Thus, this data is the result of each responding agency’s self-report and the resulting summary section contained in this report can only be as accurate as the data provided by each responding agency.

This annual report, *Crime in South Dakota, 1988*, presents data on reported crime in South Dakota during Calendar Year 1988, and examines crime trends experienced in South Dakota during the past ten years (1979-1988).

This data is an attempt to measure crime in South Dakota. The data should not be construed to evaluate the effectiveness or productivity of law enforcement agencies in the State.

Certain constraints should be noted in interpreting and drawing conclusions from this data. Law enforcement agencies covering approximately 71 percent of the state’s
population participate in the national UCR Program. Therefore, the FBI must scientifically estimate crime counts for the non-participating jurisdictions. Using the known crime experiences of similar areas within a state, the estimates are computed by assigning the same proportional crime volumes to non-reporting agencies.

Another limitation in crime reporting practices concerns the unit of crime measurement—"reported crime". Law enforcement agencies can only report crimes which are known to them. In many instances, citizens do not report crimes directly to these agencies but instead may report them to prosecuting authorities. These crimes are thus not recorded through the law enforcement system. In addition, a considerable volume of crime is never reported to law enforcement agencies because the victims are apathetic; distrust the criminal justice system; or they may fear retaliation from the offender. Consequently, information concerning many offenses is never recorded through the law enforcement system or subsequent UCR reporting.

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 standardized definitions that are used throughout the Nation. The UCR definitions are designed to insure that offenses with different titles under the laws of each state 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 are not intended to reflect the outcomes of inquests, hearings, or trials.
CRIME FACTORS:

Crime in South Dakota’s communities is a serious concern not only of law enforcement but also to the public. Various factors affect the volume and type of crimes committed. Some examples of such factors are:

- Population density and size of jurisdiction
- Variation in demographics of the population, specifically age structure
- Stability of population with respect to resident 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 emphasis of law enforcement
- Policies of other branches of the criminal justice system (i.e., prosecutorial, judicial, correctional and probational)
- Citizen attitudes toward crime
- Crime reporting practices of the community

These and other crime influencing factors are present, to some degree, in every community. Comparisons of crime figures between communities should not be made without considering contributing factors present in each community.
THE CRIME INDEX:

The Crime Index is used as a basic measure of crime. The component crimes of the Crime Index were selected for use as an index based on their serious nature, their frequency of occurrence, and the likelihood that citizens would report these crimes to law enforcement agencies.

Eight 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, motor vehicle theft, and arson are classed as Property Crimes. The Crime Index is the total of these offenses reported to law enforcement agencies over a specified period of time.

The total number of criminal acts committed is unknown, but those that are reported to law enforcement officials provide the basis for a count. Not all crimes come readily to the attention of law enforcement; 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 and offense definitions, the above crimes were selected as a group to furnish an abbreviated and convenient measure of crime.

The crime counts used in the Crime Index and set forth in this publication are based on actual offenses established and determined by law enforcement investigation. When a law enforcement agency receives a complaint of a criminal matter and the follow-up investigation discloses no crime occurred it is determined to be "unfounded". These "unfounded" complaints are eliminated from the actual crime count and thus, are not included in the Total Crime Index.

In the event that more than one crime is committed simultaneously (multiple offense situation), the UCR Program instructs agencies to implement the "Hierarchy Rule". The "Hierarchy Rule" requires that each offense be classified as to which are Part I Offenses. Then, only the most serious offense is counted for UCR purposes with the exception of Arson offenses. The "Hierarchy Rule" applies only to crime reporting and does not affect the number of charges for which the defendant may be prosecuted.
DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS:

The Crime Index does not explicitly reflect 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 crime existing in relation to the population in a specific jurisdiction. Crime rates allow the comparison of the volume of crime in different jurisdictions with varying populations.

It should be noted that the Crime Rate is based on the numerical factor of population and does not incorporate any of the other elements which may contribute to the amount of crime in a given community. The effect of changes in population rates should be kept in mind when attempting to make comparisons 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 1988 SUMMARY:

While the National Crime Index Total rose three percent to 13.9 million offenses in 1988, crime in South Dakota declined from 1987 to 1988. The state's Crime Index decreased 2.8 percent (Figure 1). There were 18,454 Part I Offenses reported by South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1988. This was the second time in three years that crime declined in South Dakota (Figure 2 & 3). A total of 19 states in the United States experienced crime decreases in 1988.

South Dakota's Crime Rate continues to be significantly lower than the national average (Figure 4). The Crime Rate in the state during 1988 was 2,581.0 per 100,000 population, while the rate for the nation was 5,664.2 per 100,000. In fact, South Dakota ranked 49th out of the 50 states in 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. South Dakota had the second highest murder rate of the surrounding states at 3.1 per 100,000 population. Only Nebraska had a higher rate at 3.6 per 100,000 population. South Dakota also had the second-highest rape rate of any of the surrounding states at 26.9 per 100,000 population. Only Minnesota had a higher rate at 31.0 rapes per 100,000 population for the contiguous states.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NUMBER OF CRIMES</th>
<th>RATE PER 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime Index Total</td>
<td>18,987</td>
<td>18,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime</td>
<td>18,138</td>
<td>17,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>3,787</td>
<td>3,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny/Theft</td>
<td>13,673</td>
<td>13,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>683</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 2
TOTAL CRIME RATE
South Dakota 1979-1988

rate per 100,000 (Thousands)

Calendar Year

3.3
3.2
3.1
3.0
2.9
2.8
2.7
2.6
2.5
2959.8
3243.2
3113.1
2644.9
2547.5
2612.5
2640.8
2716.0
2678.0
2581.0
Figure 3
TOTAL INDEX CRIMES IN SOUTH DAKOTA
TEN YEAR PERIOD (1979 TO 1988)
Figure 4

COMPARISON OF 1988 CRIME RATES PER 100,000 BETWEEN SOUTH DAKOTA AND THE NATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SOUTH DAKOTA</th>
<th>THE NATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime Index Total</td>
<td>2,581.0</td>
<td>5,664.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime</td>
<td>113.7</td>
<td>637.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime</td>
<td>2,467.3</td>
<td>5,027.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>37.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>220.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>71.6</td>
<td>370.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>517.9</td>
<td>1,309.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny/Theft</td>
<td>1,853.8</td>
<td>3,134.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>582.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 5

COMPARISON OF 1988 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 41st in the Murder Rate
South Dakota ranks 34th in the Rape Rate
South Dakota ranks 49th in the Robbery Rate
South Dakota ranks 49th in the Aggravated Assault Rate
South Dakota ranks 49th in the Burglary Rate
South Dakota ranks 46th in the Larceny/Theft Rate
South Dakota ranks 50th in the Motor Vehicle Theft Rate
### Figure 6

**1988 Crime Rates in the Contiguous States**
(Rates per 100,000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IOWA</th>
<th>MINNESOTA</th>
<th>MONTANA</th>
<th>NEBRASKA</th>
<th>NORTH DAKOTA</th>
<th>SOUTH DAKOTA</th>
<th>WYOMING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime Index Total</td>
<td>4,076.7</td>
<td>4,314.7</td>
<td>4,267.0</td>
<td>4,140.0</td>
<td>2,728.1</td>
<td>2,581.0</td>
<td>3,967.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime</td>
<td>256.8</td>
<td>290.1</td>
<td>123.0</td>
<td>273.2</td>
<td>59.1</td>
<td>113.7</td>
<td>314.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime</td>
<td>3,819.8</td>
<td>4,024.7</td>
<td>4,144.0</td>
<td>3,866.8</td>
<td>2,668.9</td>
<td>2,467.3</td>
<td>3,653.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>199.5</td>
<td>161.4</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>189.4</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>71.6</td>
<td>272.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>854.3</td>
<td>909.6</td>
<td>703.6</td>
<td>765.2</td>
<td>437.7</td>
<td>517.9</td>
<td>658.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny/Theft</td>
<td>2,803.4</td>
<td>2,775.8</td>
<td>3,224.0</td>
<td>2,912.8</td>
<td>2,112.7</td>
<td>1,853.8</td>
<td>2,851.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>162.2</td>
<td>339.3</td>
<td>216.4</td>
<td>188.8</td>
<td>118.6</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>142.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISTRIBUTION OF INDEX OFFENSES:

During 1988, a total of 18,454 Crime Index Offenses were reported or known to South Dakota law enforcement agencies. By far, the bulk of all offenses reported in 1988 were Property Crimes. These totaled 17,641 or 95.6 percent of the Total Index. Larceny/theft alone accounted for 72 percent of the Total Crime Index in 1988 and 75 percent of all Property Crimes. As a group, Violent Crimes were responsible for 4.4 percent of the Crime Index Total.

Given the larger volume of Property Crimes, any change detected in the Crime Index is primarily a result of fluctuations in Property Crimes. For instance, Violent Crimes fell by 4.2 percent from 1987 to 1988 and Property Crime totals fell by 2.7 percent, the resulting Crime Index Total fell by only 2.8 percent for the year. Clearly the decrease in Total Index Crime is largely influenced by the decrease in Property Crimes.
VIOLENT

CRIME

MURDER

RAPE

ROBBERY

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
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 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.

After significant increases in 1983 and 1984, Violent Crime continued to decrease in South Dakota in 1988. There were 813 crimes of violence reported or known to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1988. This represents a drop of 4.2 percent from the 1987 total of 849 crimes. The decrease in Violent Crime for South Dakota contrasts with the 5.5 percent increase in Violent Crime nationwide from 1987 to 1988. Forty-two states and the District of Columbia experienced an increase in Violent Crime. South Dakota was one of a few states to report a decrease in Violent Crime from Calendar Year 1987 to 1988.

In South Dakota, two of the four offenses which make up the Violent Crime total rose from 1987 to 1988. Murders increased from 13 in 1987 to 22 in 1988 — an increase of 69.2 percent for the period. Rapes increased from 146 in 1987 to 192 in 1988. This represents a 31.5 percent increase in rape for the period.


The national rate of Violent Crime per 100,000 population was 637.2 for 1988. The Violent Crime Rate in South Dakota was significantly lower than the national average. The state's Violent Crime Rate of 113.7 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 IN SOUTH DAKOTA
TEN YEAR PERIOD (1979 TO 1988)

Number (Thousands)

1.2
1.1
1.0
0.9
0.8
0.7
0.6

1,096  873  718  684  849  813


Calendar Year
Figure 8
VIOLENT CRIME RATE IN SOUTH DAKOTA
TEN YEAR PERIOD (1979 TO 1988)
MURDER:

Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.

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

Twenty-two murders were reported in South Dakota during 1988, representing a little over 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 attained an all-time high for the ten-year period in 1986 at 4.0 per 100,000 population, a difference of .9 from the 1988 murder rate.

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 in this offense category.

The 1988 South Dakota murder rate of 3.1 per 100,000 was considerably lower than the national murder rate of 8.4 murders per 100,000 population. According to national estimates, 20,675 persons were murdered in 1988. This represents an increase of 2.9 percent over the 1987 total. Over half of the murders committed nationally in 1988 were perpetrated by relatives (15 percent) or persons acquainted with the victims (40 percent). Among all female murder victims in 1988, 31 percent were slain by husbands or boyfriends. Five percent of the male victims were killed by wives or girlfriends.
Figure 9
MURDER RATE IN SOUTH DAKOTA
TEN YEAR PERIOD (1979 TO 1988)

Rate Per 100,000

Calendar Year

2.0 1.8 2.7 2.1 1.8 1.8 4.0 3.1

0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0
RAPE:

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

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

After two years of sharp increases in 1983 and 1984, the number of rapes dropped dramatically in 1985. The number of rapes in South Dakota continued to fall by 25.6 percent in 1986. In 1987, the rape rate was back on the increase, and in 1988, this offense continues to increase. There were 192 rapes reported to law enforcement officials in the state in 1988, as compared to 146 reported rapes in 1987. This represents a 31.5 percent increase. These 192 rapes comprised 23.6 percent of the Violent Crime volume and 1.0 percent of the Crime Index Total for South Dakota in 1988.

Nationwide, the number of rapes increased by 2 percent. An estimated 92,486 forcible rapes were reported across the country in 1988. Increases in the number of rapes were experienced in thirty-two states and the District of Columbia, including South Dakota, for the year 1988.

Nationally, the rape rate per 100,000 was 37.6 in 1988. South Dakota's rape rate for 1988 was well below the national average at 26.9 per 100,000 population. As shown by Figure 10, the 1988 rape rate of 26.9 is the highest rate for the ten-year period and equals the rape rate for 1984. South Dakota ranked 34th out of the 50 states in the rate of rape for 1988.
RAPE: (continued)

By Uniform Crime Reporting definitions, the victims of forcible rape are always female. Considering this, a more accurate account of the true victimization rate for this offense requires excluding males from the population base figures. For 1988, it is estimated that 50.1 percent of the state population was female, a total of 358,159 persons. When males are thus excluded from the population base figure, the rate of forcible rapes climbs from 26.9 per 100,000 population to 53.6 per 100,000 population.

Figure 10
RAPE RATE
South Dakota 1979-1988
ROBBERY:

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

There were 87 robberies reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1988. There was no change in the number of robberies from 1987 to 1988. Nationally, robberies increased by 4.9 percent.

Robberies accounted for a total estimated national loss of $343 million in 1988. Nationally, the value of property stolen due to robberies averaged $631 per incident. Average dollar losses ranged from $34 per convenience store to $2,885 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 1988 was 220.9 per 100,000 population. This was significantly higher than South Dakota's rate of robbery at 12.2 per 100,000 population for the same year. In fact, South Dakota had the second-lowest robbery rate of any state in the Nation and the District of Columbia.

As shown in Figure 11, the robbery rate generally has experienced a steady decline in South Dakota for the years examined. The one notable exception was in 1985 when the robbery rate increased to 17.1 per 100,000. The robbery rate per 100,000 1988 is the lowest for the past 10 years.
Figure 11
ROBBERY RATE
South Dakota 1979–1988

Rate per 100,000

Calendar Year


20.3 20.1 17.8 17.1 15.9 14.9 17.1 16.2 12.3 12.2


20 18 16 14 12 10
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.

Simple assaults are reported but are not included in the Crime Index. Simple assault is a Part II offense, but the UCR Program collects these statistics as a quality control mechanism and for the purpose of looking at total assault violence.

There were 512 aggravated assaults reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1988. That was a 15.1 percent decrease over the 1987 figure of 603 assaults. The nation experienced the reverse trend for aggravated assaults. Numbering an estimated 910,092 nationally in 1988, the number of aggravated assaults rose by 6.4 percent.

Aggravated assaults were the most common offense reported within the category of Violent Crimes. Nearly two-thirds (62.9 percent) of all Violent Crimes in South Dakota for the year 1988 were aggravated assaults.

The South Dakota aggravated assault rate of 71.6 per 100,000 was substantially lower than the national average of 370.2 aggravated assaults per 100,000 population. In fact, South Dakota ranked 49th in the nation for the aggravated assault rate.

As shown in Figure 12, the rate of aggravated assaults in the state continues to be on the decline after three years of fairly sharp increases in 1983 and 1984.
Figure 12
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT RATE IN SOUTH DAKOTA
TEN YEAR PERIOD (1979 TO 1988)
PROPERTY

CRIME

BURGLARY
LARCENY-THEFT
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
ARSON
PROPERTY CRIME:

For UCR purposes, Property Crime consists of the sum total of burglaries, larcenies, motor vehicle thefts, and arsons 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.

There were 17,641 Property Crimes reported to law enforcement agencies in South Dakota in 1988. This represented a 2.7 percent decrease over the 18,138 Property Crimes reported in 1987 (see Figure 13). Nationally, over 12 million Property Crimes were reported to law enforcement agencies, an increase of 2.8 percent from the previous year.

The 1988 Property Crime rate of 2,467.3 meant that 2,467 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 5,027.1 per 100,000.

Total property crimes were down 2.7 percent for the state in 1988. The number of burglaries decreased by 2.2 percent. Larceny/thefts were down by 3.1 percent while motor vehicle thefts increased .7 percent for the period.
Figure 13
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES IN SOUTH DAKOTA
TEN YEAR PERIOD (1979 TO 1988)

Number of Crimes (Thousands)

16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23


Calendar Year

19,297 19,922 17,592 16,993 17,403 17,730 18,346 18,138 17,641 21,477
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 subclassifications: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry. One offense is counted for each distinct operation.

In 1988, burglary continued to decline in South Dakota. There were 3,703 burglaries reported to law enforcement officials in South Dakota in 1988, representing a decrease of 2.2 percent from the 3,787 burglaries reported in 1987. The state's downward trend for burglary coincided with the national trend. Burglary was down nationwide by .6 percent in 1988.

The national burglary rate was 1,309.2 per 100,000 population for 1988. South Dakota ranked 49th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia with a 1988 burglary rate of 517.9 per 100,000.

As depicted in Figure 15, the burglary rate in South Dakota continues to decline. After reaching a ten-year low in 1984, the burglary rate increased for two years. In 1987, the burglary rate began its descent once again. The burglary rate for 1988, 517.9 per 100,000 population, is the second-lowest burglary rate for the ten-year period studied.
Figure 15
BURGLARY RATE IN SOUTH DAKOTA
TEN YEAR PERIOD (1979 TO 1988)
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.

Approximately seventy percent of all Index Crimes in South Dakota in 1988 were reported as larceny/thefts. A total of 13,255 thefts were reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1988, representing a decrease of 3.1 percent over the 13,673 thefts reported in 1987. An estimated 7,705,872 larceny/theft offenses occurred nationally during 1988, an increase of 2.7 percent when compared to figures for the previous year.

South Dakota’s theft rate ranked 46th in the nation, which stood at 1,853.8 per 100,000 population in 1988. That was substantially lower than the national average larceny/theft rate which was 3,134.9 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 over the next three years (see Figure 16). The year 1984 ended the downward trend of the larceny/theft rate with a 4.3 percent increase in the rate. A minimal increase of the larceny-theft rate again in 1985 continued this upward trend. The 4.5 percent increase in 1986 made it the highest larceny/theft rate in the past 5 years. In 1987, the rate decreased to 1928.5 per 100,000. 1988 saw this decrease continue to 1,853.8 per 100,000 population.

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 fluctuations in the larceny/theft rate, and when compared, very similar patterns emerge (see Figures 3 and 16).
Figure 16
LARCENY/THEFT RATE IN SOUTH DAKOTA
TEN YEAR PERIOD (1979 TO 1988)

Rate Per 100,000 (Thousands)

2.3
2.2
2.1
2.0
1.9
1.8
1.7
1.6

Calendar Year

2255.2 2129.5 1865.3 1779.0 1855.8 1856.2 1939.0 1928.5 1853.8
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 683 motor vehicles reported stolen to law enforcement agencies in South Dakota in 1988, representing a .7 percent increase from the 678 motor vehicles stolen in the state for 1987. Nationally, motor vehicle theft rose by 11.2 percent from 1987 to 1988.

Motor vehicle thefts in 1988 numbered an estimated 1,432,916 offenses nationwide, comprising 10.3 percent of all Index Crimes for the country. In 1988, an estimated average of 1 of every 128 registered motor vehicles was stolen nationwide. An estimated national loss of over $7 billion in 1988 was due to motor vehicle theft. The average value per vehicle stolen was $5,117 for 1988.

The national average motor vehicle theft rate was at 582.9 per 100,000 population for 1988. South Dakota’s rate of 95.5 per 100,000 was the lowest motor vehicle theft rate of all the states in the nation and the District of Columbia.

As shown by Figure 17, South Dakota’s motor vehicle theft rate rapidly declined from the high of 174.0 in 1979 to the low of 95.5 in 1988, with the exception of a nominal increase experienced in 1984. The 1988 rate of 95.5 stolen motor vehicles per 100,000 population was the lowest recorded rate for the ten-year period.
Figure 1:
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT RATE – SOUTH DAKOTA
TEN YEAR PERIOD (1979 TO 1988)

Rate Per 100,000

180
170
160
150
140
130
120
110
100
90

Calendar Year

174.0
168.6
144.1
118.4
102.9
109.3
101.8
98.7
95.6
95.5
ARSON:

Arson is defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting Program as any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

Only fires determined through investigation to have been willfully or maliciously set are classified as arsons. Fires of suspicious or unknown origins are excluded.

Arson is the only Index Offense which is exempt from the realm of the "Hierarchy Rule".

(Sufficient data for South Dakota and the Nation are not available in order to estimate totals for this offense. However, arson statistics are reported individually for those jurisdictions reporting arson statistics in the last section of this report.)
South Dakota Cities and Counties:

As was noted earlier in this report the FBI’s publication, Crime in the United States, analyzes individually the Part I Offenses for cities with population 10,000 and greater. However, there are many cities within the State which participate in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Thus, instead of merely presenting data for the cities specifically mentioned in the FBI’s report, the South Dakota Statistical Analysis Center (SDSAC) has attempted to report all available data for cities and counties in South Dakota participating in the UCR Program.

Local law enforcement agencies were contacted individually to request UCR data for Calendar Year 1988. Data for the responding agencies is reported in this section.

Of the seventeen reporting cities, Rapid City had the highest Crime Rate. Although Sioux Falls reported more crimes, Rapid City’s ratio of crime to population was higher.

Rapid City had a Crime Rate of 6,783.5 per 100,000 population while reporting 3,560 Index Offenses for 1988. Sioux Falls had a Crime Rate of 4,612.5 per 100,000 and reported 4,488 Index Offenses.

Using 1986 population figures prepared by the State Data Center at the University of South Dakota, the estimated combined population of these seventeen cities is 293,180. The total number of Index Crimes reported in these cities was 13,824 for 1988. These cities account for 41.4 percent of South Dakota’s population and 74.9 percent of the total number of crimes were reported in these areas.

Only a few of the responding cities had lower Crime Rates than the South Dakota Crime Rate for 1988 of 2,581.0 per 100,000. The average Crime Rate for the seventeen responding cities was 3,701.2 per 100,000 for 1988, which is lower than the Nation’s overall Crime Rate.

Two cities (Mitchell and Rapid City) reported higher Crime Rates than the National Crime Rate of 5,664.2 per 100,000 population. Mitchell reported a Crime Rate of 6,336.2 crimes per 100,000 population and Rapid City had a Crime Rate of 6,783.5 per 100,000 population.

For those cities for which the FBI has reported individual data in 1987, five cities (Aberdeen, Huron, Mitchell, Rapid City, and Watertown) experienced decreases in the number of Index Crimes reported. Crime increased from 1987 to 1988 in Brookings, Sioux Falls, and Yankton. For cities less than
10,000 or those not reporting in 1987, comparative data was not available.

Of the twenty-three responding counties, Custer County reported the highest Crime Rate at 3,955.9 per 100,000 population. Minnehaha and Pennington counties reported far more crimes.

Using 1988 population figures prepared by the State Data Center at the University of South Dakota, the estimated combined population of these counties is 383,300. The total number of Index Crimes reported in these counties was 2,410 for 1988. Crimes occurring in these responding counties account for 13.1 percent of the total number of crimes reported in the State, and these counties cover 53.6 percent of the total population.

It should be noted that the counties do not report UCR statistics for offenses occurring within city jurisdictions if those cities themselves participate in the UCR Program.
### 1988 Crime Index Offenses by Contributor

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<th>CITY</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>MURDER</th>
<th>RAPE</th>
<th>ROBBERY</th>
<th>AGGRAVATED ASSAULT</th>
<th>BURGLARY</th>
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* The Modified Crime Index Total is the sum of the Crime Index Offenses including Arson for those cities reporting Arson statistics.

** Data for the month of January was only partial.

*** Data for the month of January not included.

Population Figures are 1986 estimates (most recent available) prepared by the State Data Center at the University of South Dakota.
1988
CRIME INDEX OFFENSES BY CONTRIBUTOR - (continued)

CITY:

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### 1988 Crime Index Offenses by Contributor

**County:**

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<tr>
<th>County</th>
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* The Modified Crime Index Total is the sum of the Crime Index Offenses including ARson for those cities reporting Arson statistics.

Population figures are 1988 estimates (most recent available) prepared by the State Data Center at the University of South Dakota.
### CRIME RATES & INDEXES FOR SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES 1988

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>TOTAL CRIME INDEX</th>
<th>TOTAL CRIME RATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>25,670</td>
<td>1,161</td>
<td>4,522.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belle Fourche</td>
<td>4,550</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>3,054.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box Elder</td>
<td>4,110</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>2,749.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookings</td>
<td>14,800</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>3,594.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,095.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huron*</td>
<td>12,240</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>3,047.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>3,990</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>2,080.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>6,260</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>2,875.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>13,620</td>
<td>863</td>
<td>6,336.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierre</td>
<td>12,600</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>4,198.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid City</td>
<td>52,480</td>
<td>3,560</td>
<td>6,783.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>1,320</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>984.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sioux Falls</td>
<td>97,300</td>
<td>4,488</td>
<td>4,612.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spearfish**</td>
<td>5,990</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>5,392.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermillion</td>
<td>9,270</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>3,624.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watertown</td>
<td>16,670</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>3,935.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yankton</td>
<td>11,580</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>4,032.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population Figures are 1986 estimates (most recent available) prepared by the State Data Center at the University of South Dakota.

For purposes of comparison, data reported here does not include Arson statistics since this data was not reported for every city.

* Data for month of January was only partial.
** Data for the month of January not included.
1988 CRIME RATES FOR SD CITIES
WITH POPULATION GREATER THAN 10,000

National Crime Rate = 5,664.2

South Dakota Crime Rate = 2,581.8

KEY:
1. ABERDEEN (POPULATION = 25,670)
2. BROOKINGS (POPULATION = 14,800)
3. MURON (POPULATION = 12,240)
4. MITCHELL (POPULATION = 13,620)
5. PIERRE (POPULATION = 12,600)
6. RAPID CITY (POPULATION = 52,480)
7. SIOUX FALLS (POPULATION = 97,300)
8. WATERTOWN (POPULATION = 16,670)
9. YANKTON (POPULATION = 11,580)
Figure 19
1988 CRIME RATES FOR SD CITIES
WITH POPULATION LESS THAN 10,000

National Crime Rate = 5,664.2
South Dakota Crime Rate = 2,581.0

KEY:
1. BELLE FOURCHE (POPULATION = 4,550)
2. BOX ELDER (POPULATION = 4,110)
3. BURKE (POPULATION = 730)
4. LEAD (POPULATION = 3,990)
5. MADISON (POPULATION = 6,260)
6. SALEM (POPULATION = 1,320)
7. SPEARFISH (POPULATION = 5,990)
8. VERMILLION (POPULATION = 9,270)
CRIME RATES & INDEXES FOR SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTIES
1988

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>TOTAL CRIME INDEX</th>
<th>TOTAL CRIME RATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bon Homme</td>
<td>6,800</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>485.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>36,800</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>383.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brule</td>
<td>5,200</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1,634.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custer</td>
<td>6,800</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>3,955.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>7,600</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>684.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deuel</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>1,571.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmunds</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>895.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haakon</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>333.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>500.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughes</td>
<td>15,200</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>276.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>857.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>10,400</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>596.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>14,900</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>523.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyman</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1,486.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>1,540.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miner</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1,117.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnehaha</td>
<td>125,500</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>265.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population Figures are 1986 estimates (most recent available) prepared by the State Data Center at the University of South Dakota.

For purposes of comparison, data reported here does not include Arson statistics since this data was not reported for every city.
CRIME RATES & INDEXES FOR SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTIES - continued 1988

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>TOTAL CRIME INDEX</th>
<th>TOTAL CRIME RATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moody</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>1,701.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennington</td>
<td>82,000</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>824.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potter</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>500.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sully</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>666.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>10,600</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>820.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yankton</td>
<td>18,900</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>391.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population Figures are 1986 estimates (most recent available) prepared by the State Data Center at the University of South Dakota.

For purposes of comparison, data reported here does not include Arson statistics since this data was not reported for every city.
Figure 20
CRIME RATES FOR SD COUNTIES
OVER 25,000 IN POPULATION

RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION

Brown: 383.2
Minnehaha County: 265.3
Pennington: 824.4
Figure 21

CRIME RATES FOR SD COUNTIES
10,000 TO 25,000 IN POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hughes</td>
<td>276.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>596.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>523.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>820.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkton</td>
<td>391.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 22
CRIME RATES FOR SD COUNTIES
5,000 TO 9,999 IN POPULATION

South Dakota Crime Rate = 2,362.0

- Bon Homme: 485.3
- Brule: 1634.6
- Custer: 3955.9
- Day: 684.2
- Marshall: 1540
- Moody: 1701.5

Rate per 100,000 Population
Figure 22

Crime Rates for SD Counties

Less than 5,000 Population

Rate per 100,000 Population

Deuel 1571.4
Edmunds 895.8
Haugen 333.3
Hand 500
Jones County 857.1
Lyman 1486.5
Miner 1117.6
Potter 300
Sully 666.7