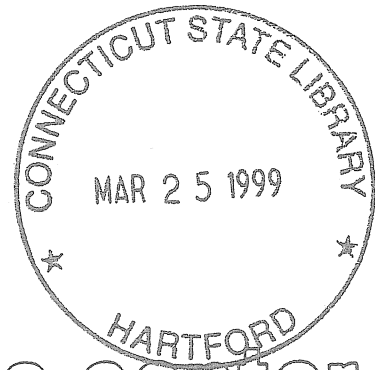


ConnDoc
J75res
cocr
c.2

CONNECTICUT JUSTICE COMMISSION



statistical analysis center

Connecticut State Library



3 0231 00066 1889

Connecticut Justice Commission
Statistical Analysis Center
75 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06115
(203)566-3522

By
Dolly Reed

February, 1982

Connecticut Crime Trends
1970-1983

*Conn. Doc
175.0
Cocr
0.2*

The enclosed report is based on Uniform Crime Report materials supplied by the F.B.I. for the period 1970-1979 and national victimization data. The report illustrates statewide changes in reported offenses, arrests, and clearance rates for the period 1970-1979, and projects crime figures to 1983. The trends found are compared to available victimization data. The projected crime figures are derived from simple least squares regressions using 1970-1979 crime data.

Crime rates in Connecticut may actually be somewhat higher than those projected for 1980-1983 because the rates are derived in part from population projections based on 1970 census data. More recent 1980 census data has shown that these projections overestimate Connecticut's population.

This document is a precursor to a more detailed report on crime trends in Connecticut completed in March of 1982.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information contained in the report, please contact Dolly Reed at the Connecticut Justice Commission.

I. Crime, Victimization, and the Police

The decade 1970-1979 has witnessed a steady increase in the crime rate in Connecticut. A summary of trends in criminal activity in this state and projections based upon these trends, through 1983, are presented in this report. All crime statistics are taken from the Uniform Crime Report data supplied by the FBI to the Connecticut Justice Commission via computer tape and represent the most comprehensive and accurate crime data available at this time. Covered topics include offenses reported, offenses cleared, clearance rates, number of persons arrested, and number of available patrol officers. All graphs and tables depict actual reported figures for the years 1970 through 1979 and projected figures for 1980 through 1983. Part One crimes are defined by the FBI as the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault and the property crimes of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Part Two crimes include all other offenses. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, curfew, loitering, and runaway Part Two offenses have been omitted from this analysis. Population figures used to establish crime rates beyond 1970 are based on projections from 1970 census data.

A. UCR Crime Rates

Figure 1 represents the crime rate (number of offenses reported per 100,000 population) for all Part One crimes reported in Connecticut, and Figure 2 compares the property and violent crime rates. Table 1 includes the crime rate and the percent change for each year by both property and violent crimes. Table 2 shows the percentage increase from 1970 to 1979 for each of the Part One crimes.

Figure 1

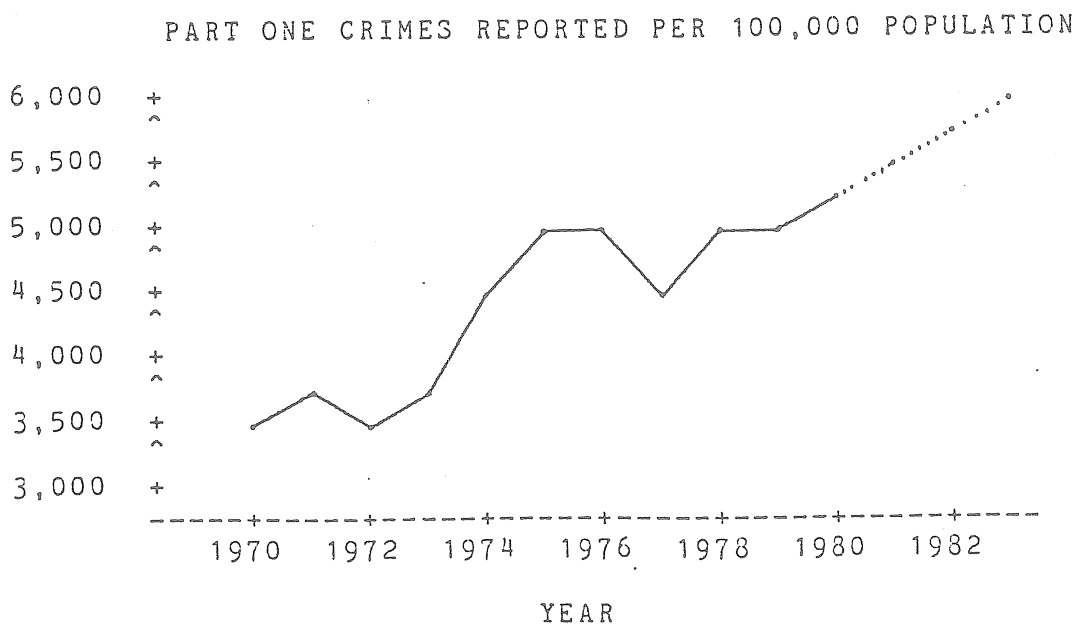


Figure 2
 PROPERTY AND VIOLENT CRIME RATES
 OFFENSES REPORTED PER 100,000 POPULATION

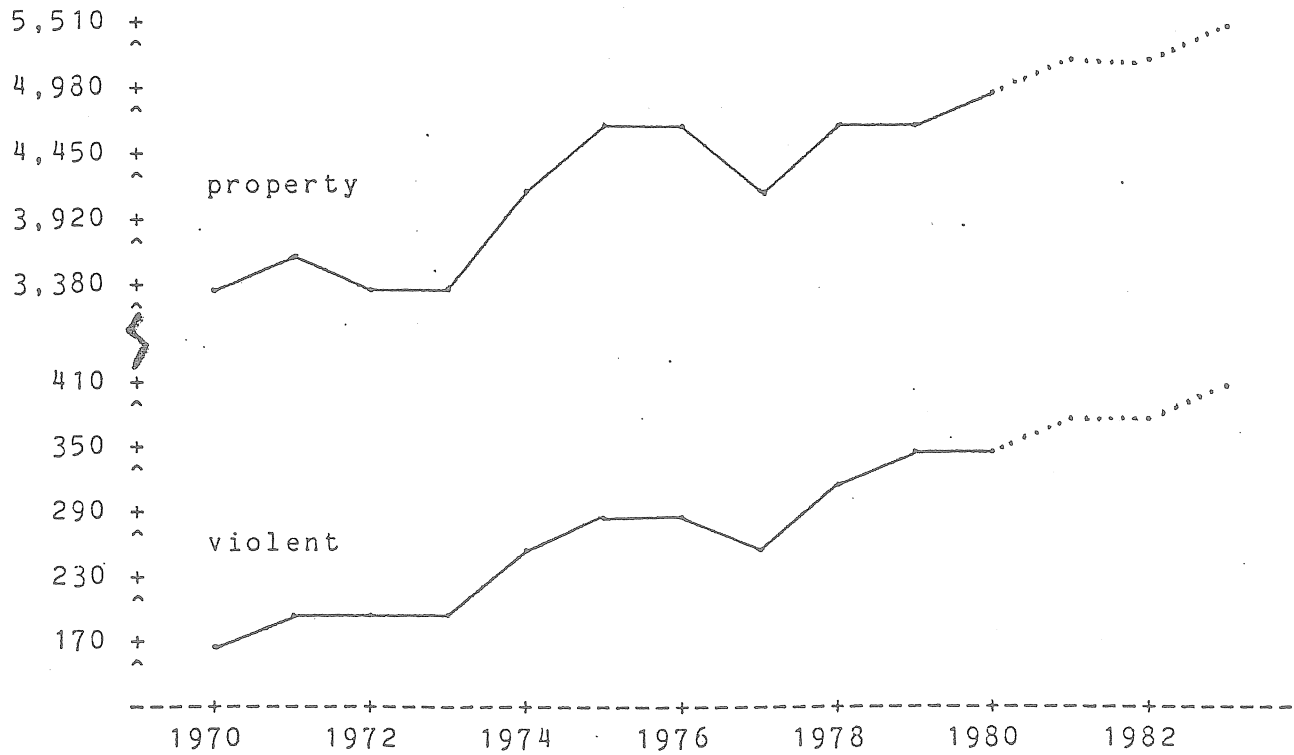


Table 1

PART ONE CRIME RATES OFFENSES REPORTED PER 100,000 POPULATION						
YEAR	VIOLENT	PERCENT CHANGE	PROPERTY	PERCENT CHANGE	TOTAL	PERCENT CHANGE
1970	173	-	3,389	-	3,562	-
1971	198	+14	3,551	+ 5	3,750	+ 5
1972	197	- .5	3,272	- 8	3,469	- 7
1973	211	+ 7	3,440	+ 5	3,652	+ 5
1974	247	+17	4,174	+21	4,421	+21
1975	292	+18	4,692	+12	4,984	+13
1976	287	- 2	4,598	- 1	4,885	- 2
1977	263	- 8	4,171	- 9	4,437	- 9
1978	314	+19	4,584	+10	4,899	+10
1979	350	+11	4,753	+ 4	5,110	+ 4
1980	354	+ 1	4,995	+ 5	5,349	+ 5
1981	372	+ 5	5,165	+ 3	5,537	+ 4
1982	390	+ 5	5,335	+ 3	5,725	+ 3
1983	408	+ 5	5,504	+ 3	5,913	+ 3

Comment: The largest percentage increases in the property crime rate were recorded in 1974 and 1975, with a moderate drop in 1976 and 1977. However, the property crime rates for 1978 and 1979 approached and exceeded the previous high rates. The highest rate recorded for the ten year period occurred in 1979. Projected figures for 1980-83 indicate that property crimes are likely to increase, but at a slightly declining rate.

Violent crime rates recorded their largest percentage increases in 1975 and 1978, with a slight drop in between. The highest rate recorded during the decade occurred in 1979, the last year with reported figures. Projections indicate a steady increase in the violent crime rate at about 5 percent per year.

Table 2

CRIME RATES FOR 1970 AND 1979 FOR EACH PART ONE OFFENSE (Offenses Reported per 100,000 Population)			
Offense	1970	1979	% Change
Murder -	3.6	4.0	+ 11
Rape	9.2	19.5	+112
Robbery	71.1	183.4	+158
Aggravated assault	89.6	143.6	+ 60
Burglary	1105.6	1339.4	+ 21
Larceny	1796.4	2774.1	+ 54
Motor vehicle theft	486.9	639.1	+ 31

As Table 2 indicates, robbery is the fastest growing crime, increasing 158 percent in 10 years. Rape has increased 112 percent in the same ten year period. All of the crimes have shown some increase in rate over the ten year period; the property crimes and murder have increased more moderately than robbery, rape and aggravated assault.

B. Victimization Surveys

The information supplied by data from the Uniform Crime Reports may be supplemented by the use of statistics based on reports of the victims of crime. These statistics come directly from surveys of the victims themselves.

Victimization data has been collected from households across the nation since 1973 through the National Crime Survey (NCS). The NCS program is operated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics within the Department of Justice. The major advantage of victimization data compared to UCR data is that by means of a random survey, victimization studies permit a sampling of all of the offenses committed within a specified period. UCR data reflects only offenses reported to the police. Through the use of victimization data, it is also possible to determine the rate at which persons report crimes to the police.

Six crimes are measured in the National Crime Survey: rape, robbery, assault, household burglary, personal and household larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The similarity between these crimes and the UCR index is intentional. Arson cannot be measured well because the presumed victim (the property owner) may in fact be the perpetrator.

There are no victimization studies by the National Crime Survey that are specific to Connecticut, but this does not preclude using the national studies to look at crime trends in Connecticut. The studies are carefully designed to obtain a representative sample of the United States. They reflect the differences in victimization rates between categories that occur in every state, such as age, race, sex, and whether the victimization takes place in a rural or urban setting. National victimization rates for the years 1973-1978 are presented in Table 3. Table 4 presents the percentage of victimizations reported to the police for the same years.

Victimization data for 1973-1978 show that overall victimization rates, unlike rates based on the Uniform Crime Reports, remained fairly stable for the years 1973 to 1978. Assaults, personal larceny with contact, and household larceny victimizations increased for the period, but these increases were offset by decreases in victimization rates for robbery, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

The relative stability of victimization rates compared to reported crime could be explained by changes in reporting levels. However, while reporting levels increased slightly from 1973 to 1975, they have since dropped off, and in 1978 were at or below the 1973 levels. It is difficult to explain why. Possibly, the recording of crimes by the police has improved with increased participation in the UCR program over the past few years. Improved detection of crimes by the police may also account for part of the difference.

Table 3
Victimization Rates
by Crime and Year
1973-1978

<u>Crime Type</u>	<u>Year</u>					
	<u>73</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>78</u>
Personal Crimes of Violence Per 1,000 persons	34	33	33	33	34	34
Personal Crimes of Theft Per 1,000 persons	93	95	96	96	97	97
Household Crimes per 1,000 households (burglary, household larceny and motor vehicle theft)	211	235	237	230	229	223
Commercial Burglaries Per 1,000 businesses	204	226	229	217	a	a
Commercial Robberies	39	39	39	39	a	a

a) Dropped from program in 1977.

Note: In according to Bureau of Justice Statistics victimization publications 1978, 31% of all U.S. households were touched by violent or household crime. Preliminary figures for 1980 show this figure decreasing slightly to 30%.

Table 4
Percent of Victimizations
Reported to Police
1973-1978

<u>Crime Type</u>	<u>Year</u>					
	<u>73</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>78</u>
Personal Crimes of Violence	45	47	47	49	46	46
Personal Crimes of Theft	22	25	26	27	25	25
Household Crimes (Includes burglary, household larceny and motor vehicle theft)	37	38	39	38	38	38
Commercial Burglary	79	81	80	73	a	a
Commercial Robbery	86	90	90	87	a	a

a) Dropped from program in 1977.

C. UCR Clearance Rates

The clearance rate is expressed as the percent of reported crimes which are cleared by arrest or other means. Figure 3 illustrates the overall clearance rate for all Part One crimes. Figure 4 shows the relationship between clearance rates for property and violent crimes. Accompanying these graphs is Table 5, which lists the crimes reported, crimes cleared and clearance rates for property, violent and total Part One crimes.

Figure 3
CLEARANCE RATES FOR TOTAL PART ONE CRIMES BY YEAR

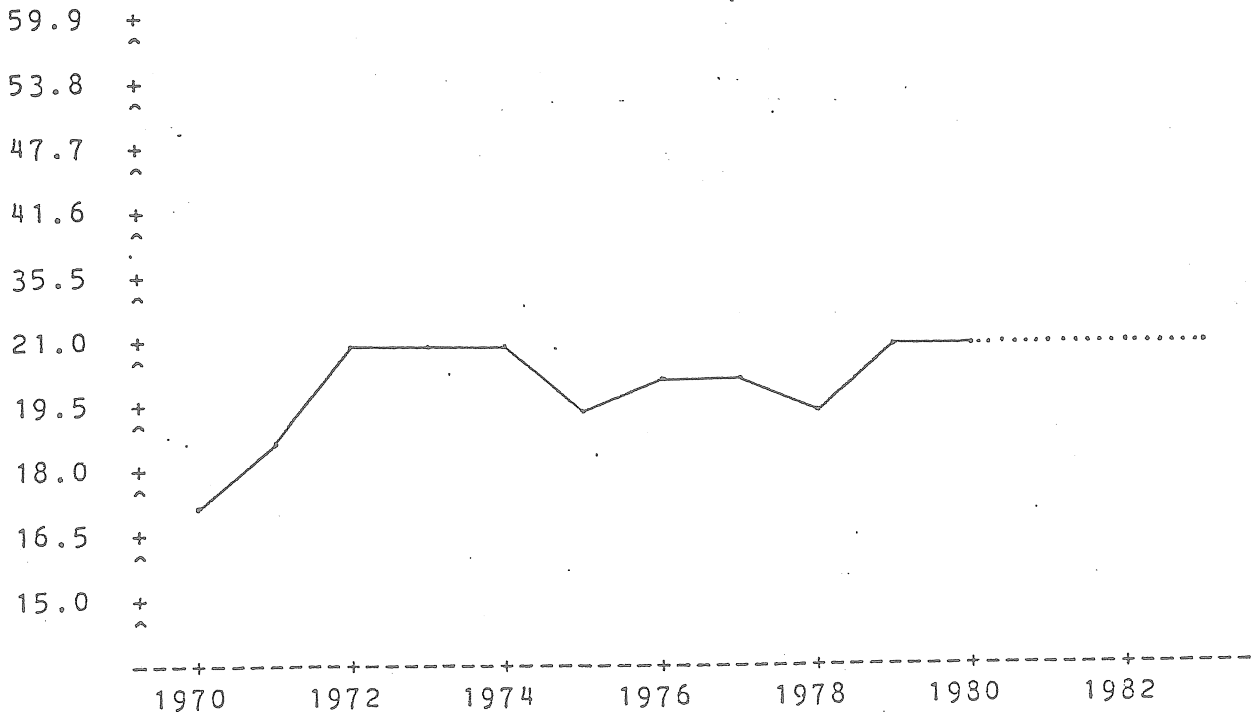


Figure 4
CLEARANCE RATES FOR PART ONE VIOLENT AND PROPERTY CRIMES BY YEAR

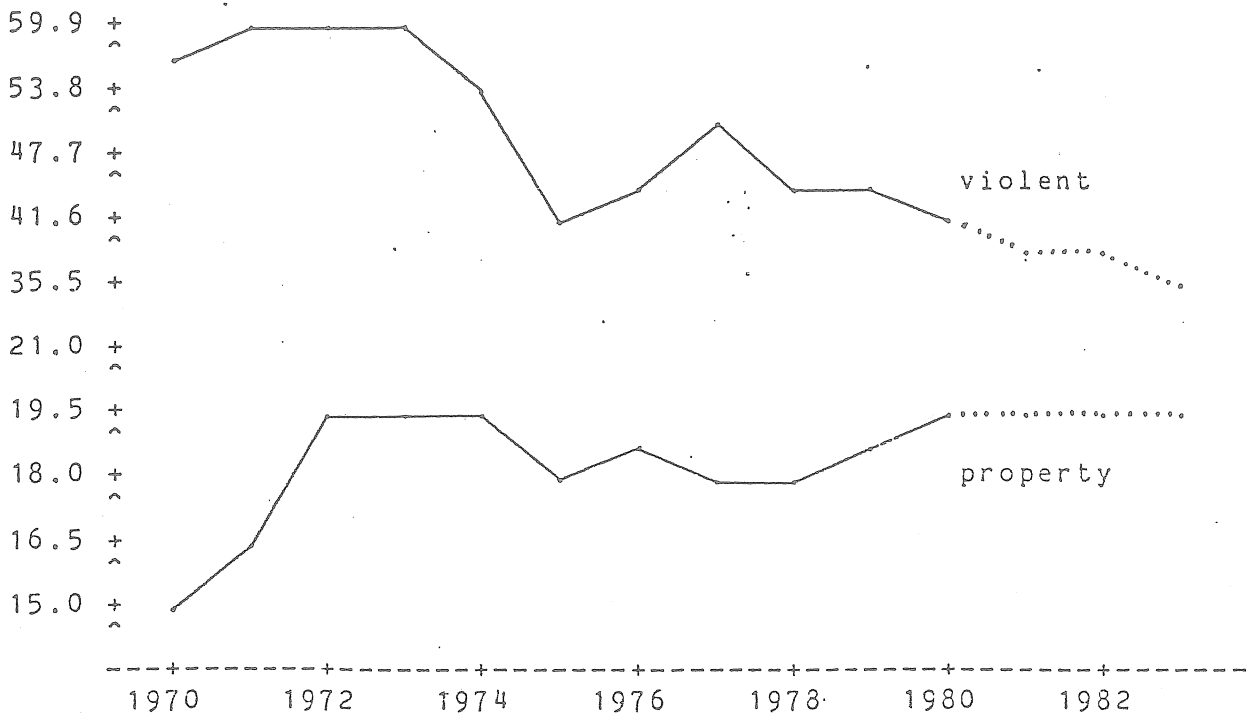


Table 5

OFFENSES REPORTED, OFFENSES CLEARED AND CLEARANCE RATES FOR VIOLENT, PROPERTY AND TOTAL PART ONE CRIMES									
YEAR	VIOLENT			PROPERTY			TOTAL		
Y E A R	O R F E P F E O N R S T E E S D	O C F L F E A R N R S E E D S	C R L A E T A E R A N C E	O R F E P F E O N R S T E E S D	O C F L F E A R N R S E E D S	C R L A E T A E R A N C E	O R F E P F E O N R S T E E S D	O C F L F E A R N R S E E D S	C R L A E T A E R A N C E
1970	5,255	3,062	58	102,683	15,353	15	107,938	18,415	17
1971	6,108	3,582	59	109,376	17,785	16	115,484	21,367	18
1972	6,063	3,629	60	100,769	19,798	20	106,832	23,427	22
1973	6,512	3,827	59	105,968	20,818	20	112,480	24,645	22
1974	7,625	4,053	53	128,990	25,177	20	136,614	29,230	21
1975	9,043	3,697	41	145,461	25,930	18	154,504	29,627	19
1976	8,964	4,057	45	143,447	26,355	18	152,411	30,412	20
1977	8,178	4,172	51	129,705	23,784	18	137,884	27,956	20
1978	9,746	4,389	45	142,117	25,136	18	151,863	29,525	19
1979	10,866	4,886	45	147,331	27,798	19	158,197	32,684	21
1980	11,013	4,772	41	155,738	29,485	19	166,752	34,257	21
1981	11,590	4,925	39	161,221	30,702	19	172,812	35,626	21
1982	12,168	5,077	37	166,703	31,918	20	178,872	36,995	21
1983	12,746	5,229	36	172,186	33,135	20	184,932	38,364	21

Comment: The overall clearance rate for Part One crimes has risen slightly over the 10-year period from 17 percent to 21 percent. The clearance rate for violent crimes is considerably higher than for property crimes, although it is steadily declining. Clearance rates for property crimes are rising slightly.

Figures 5 through 7 show both reported and cleared crimes rising for total Part One, violent, and property crimes. The gap between reported and cleared offenses is widening for violent crimes but narrowing slightly for property crimes.

Figure 5
PART ONE CRIMES REPORTED AND CLEARED BY YEAR

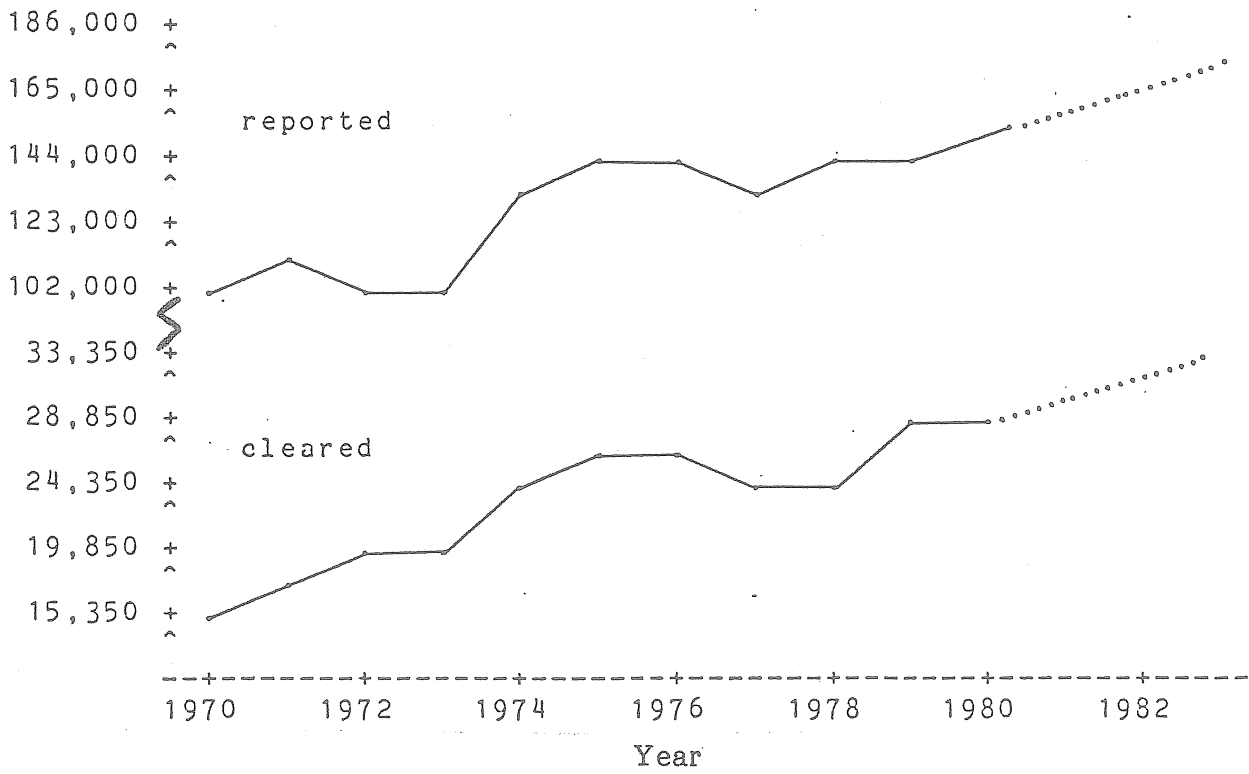


Figure 6
PROPERTY CRIMES REPORTED AND CLEARED BY YEAR

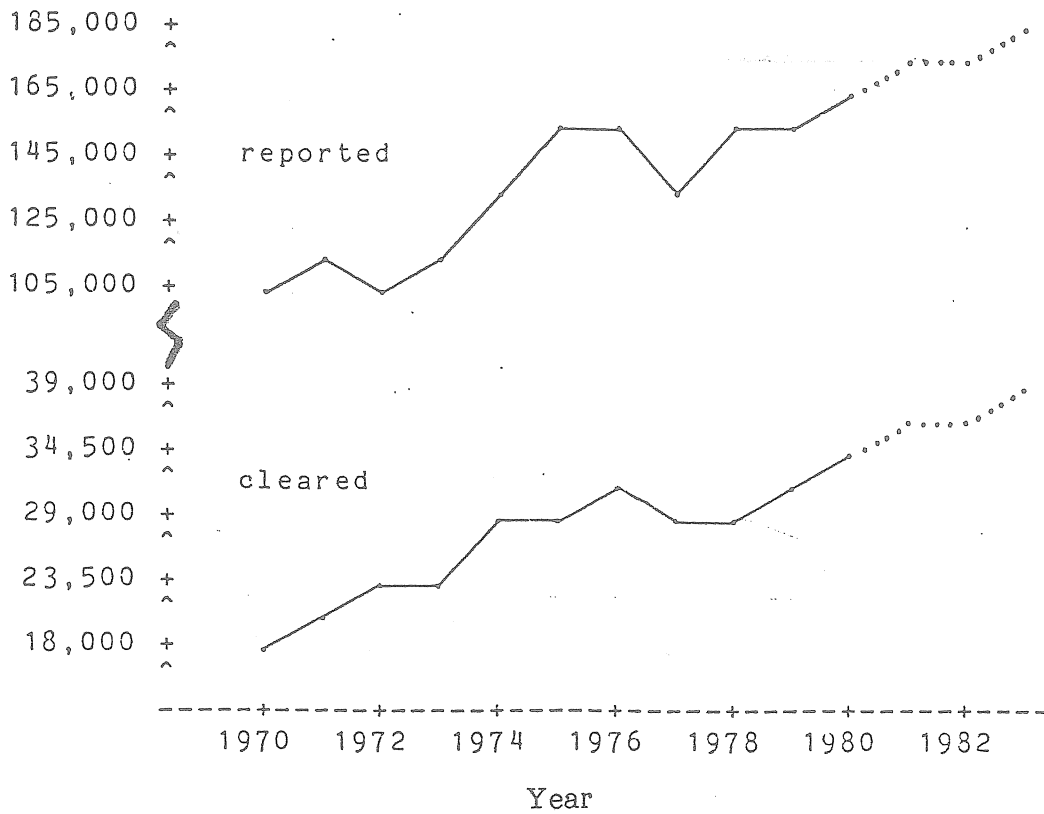
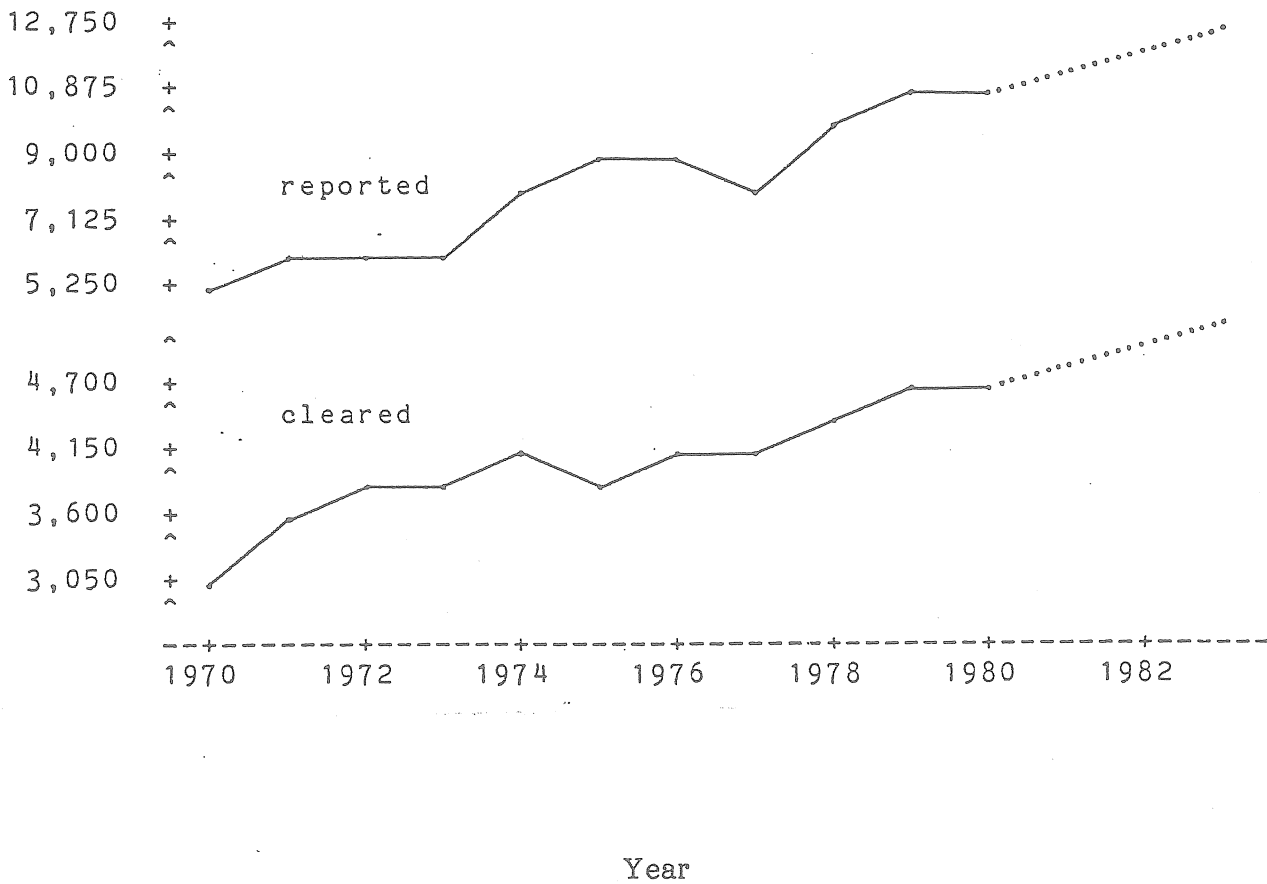


Figure 7
 VIOLENT CRIMES REPORTED AND CLEARED BY YEAR



D. Persons Arrested

The number of persons arrested for Part One crimes is shown in Figure 8. Figure 9 shows the number of persons arrested for property and violent crimes, and Figure 10 shows the number of persons arrested for Part Two offenses. Reported and projected figures to accompany the graphs are supplied in Tables 6 and 7. Figures 11 through 13 are bar graphs which show the age breakdown of persons arrested for total Part One crimes, property, and violent crimes for the years 1970, 1974, and 1979. Differences in involvement by type of crime (property vs. violent) by age group, as well as differences across time, can be seen. The age groups are based on how the criminal justice system handles offenders in Connecticut. It must be noted that all of the age groups do not span an equal number of years.

Comment: The number of persons arrested for property crimes has been increasing steadily over the ten year period. The number of persons arrested for violent crimes has fluctuated considerably, but the overall trend is a slight net decline. The number arrested for Part Two offenses has shown a rather steady decline.

Figure 11 shows that persons arrested for property crimes are more likely to be young, and those arrested for violent crimes slightly older. In both 1970 and 1974, more than 50 percent of all persons arrested for property offenses was under age 18. However, the largest proportion of property offenders fall into the 18-24 age group in 1979, perhaps reflecting the changing age structure of the population as a whole. The largest group of violent offenders falls into the 18-24 age group for all three years, although it appears that a growing percentage of persons arrested for violent crimes is under the age of 25. In 1970, 50 percent of the violent offenders arrested were younger than 25, while in 1974 and 1979, the proportions had grown to 54 percent and 64 percent respectively.

Figure 8
PERSONS ARRESTED FOR PART ONE CRIMES

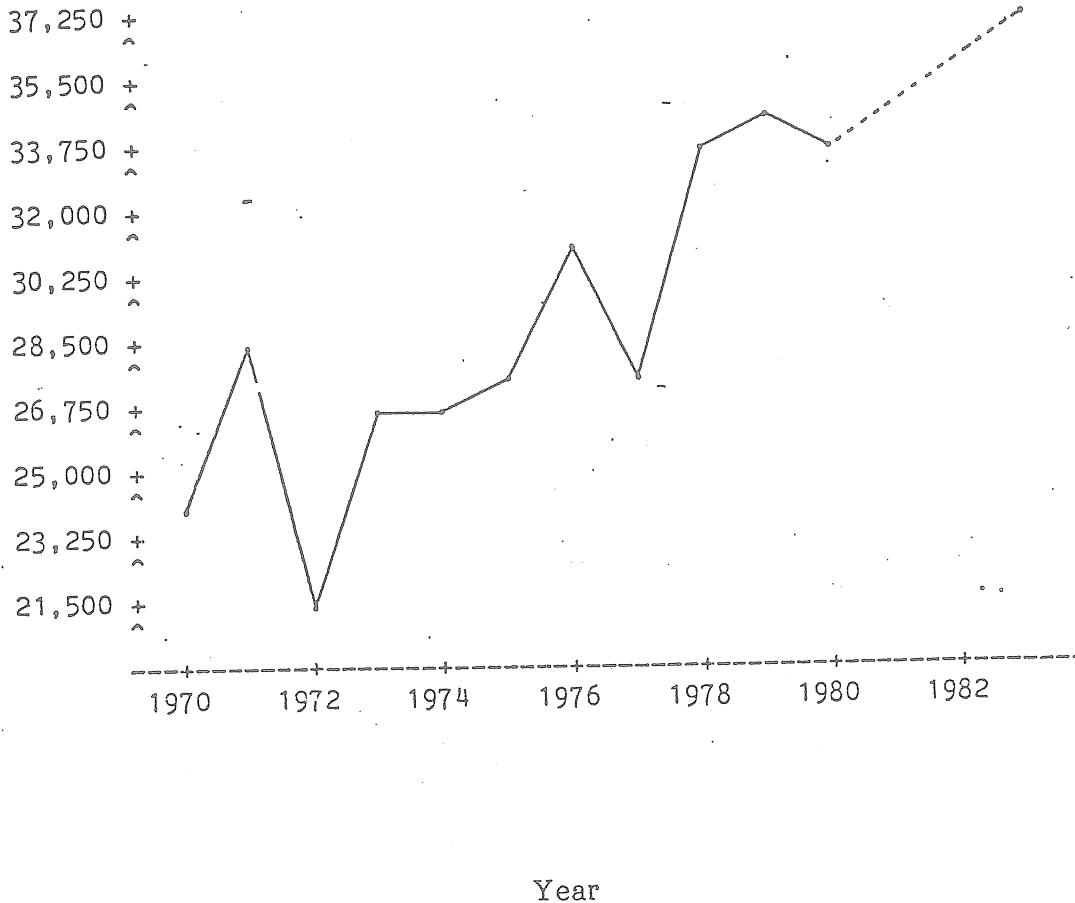


Figure 9
 PERSONS ARRESTED FOR PROPERTY AND VIOLENT CRIMES

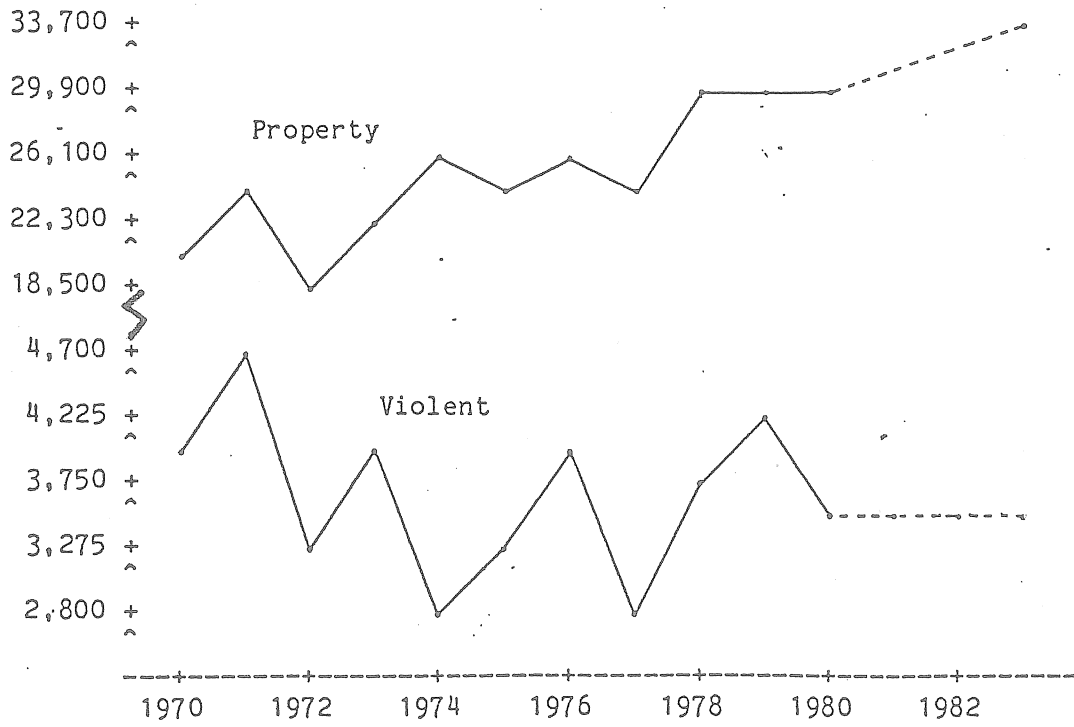
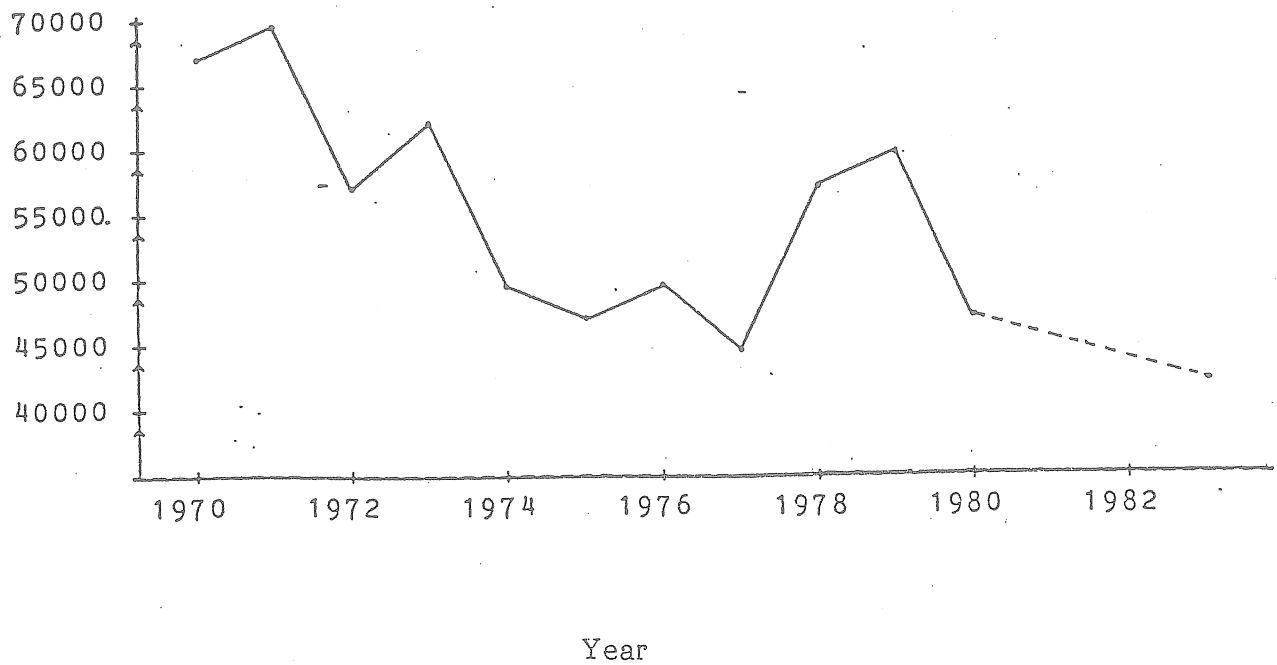


Figure 10
 PERSONS ARRESTED FOR PART TWO OFFENSES



Year

Table 6

PERSONS ARRESTED FOR PART ONE CRIMES			
YEAR	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	TOTAL
1970	4,035	20,454	24,490
1971	4,664	24,014	28,678
1972	3,315	18,529	21,844
1973	3,882	22,908	26,790
1974	2,813	25,517	26,330
1975	3,172	24,686	27,858
1976	4,090	26,930	31,020
1977	2,863	25,117	27,980
1978	3,744	29,901	33,645
1979	4,326	30,123	34,449
1980	3,520	30,564	33,951
1981	3,490	31,609	34,977
1982	3,459	32,654	36,003
1983	3,428	33,699	37,029

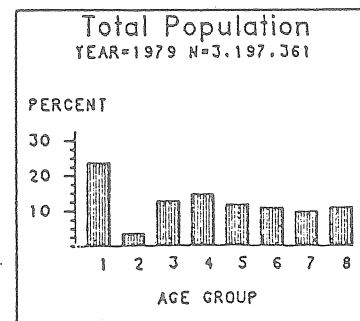
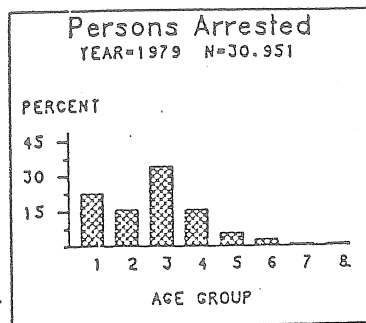
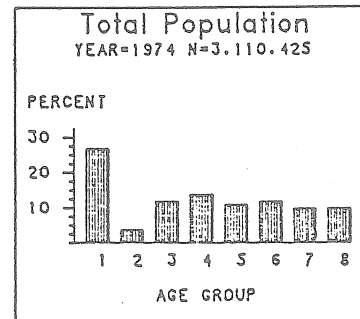
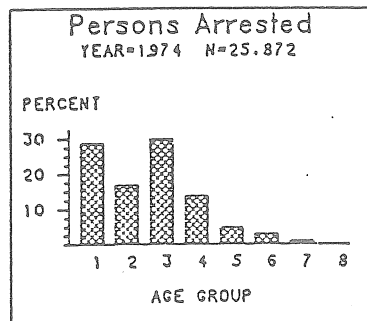
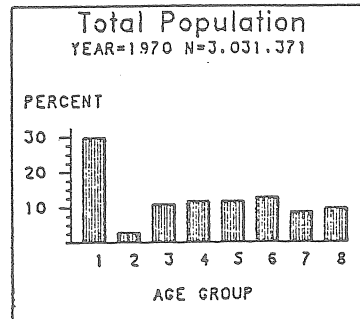
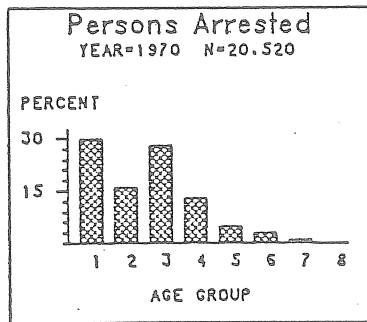
Table 7

PERSONS ARRESTED FOR PART TWO OFFENSES	
YEAR	PERSONS ARRESTED
1970	67,438
1971	70,628
1972	58,085
1973	62,064
1974	49,348
1975	47,430
1976	50,650
1977	44,496
1978	57,204
1979	59,279
1980	47,612
1981	45,966
1982	44,321
1983	42,675

Figure 11

State of Connecticut

Persons Arrested for Part One Offenses and
Total Population by Age Group and Year



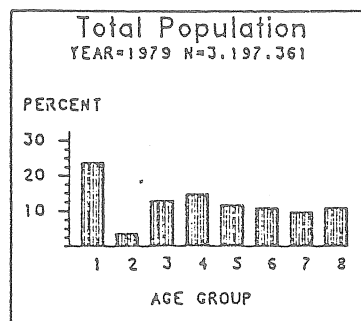
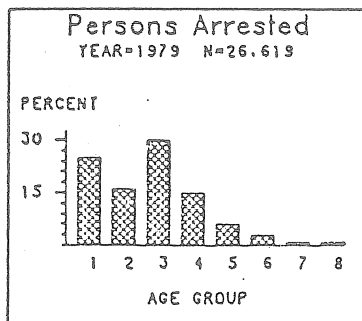
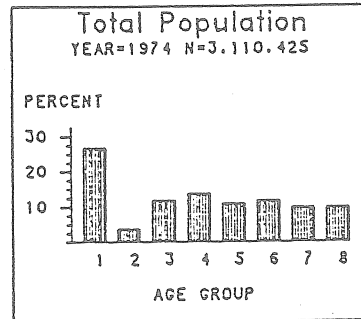
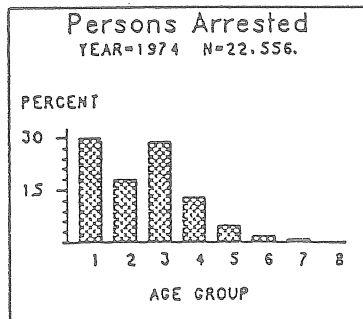
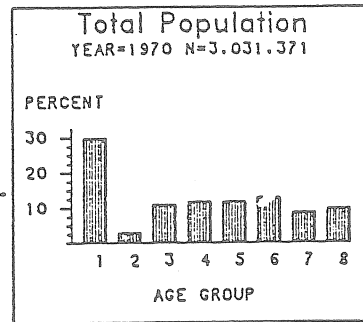
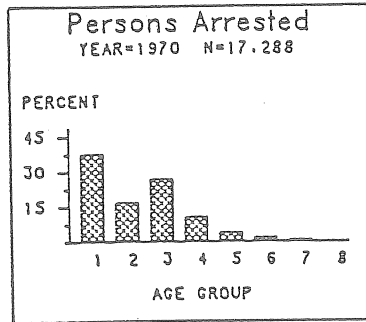
Key to Age Groups

1= 0-15 YEARS 3=18-24 YEARS 5=35-44 YEARS 7=55-64 YEARS
2=16-17 YEARS 4=25-34 YEARS 6=45-54 YEARS 8= 65+ YEARS

Figure 12

State of Connecticut

Persons Arrested for Property Offenses and Total Population by Age Group and Year



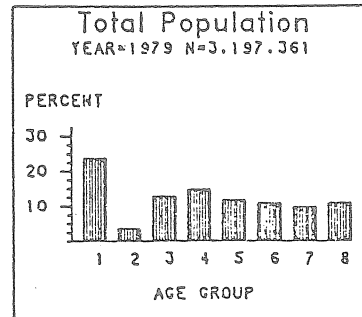
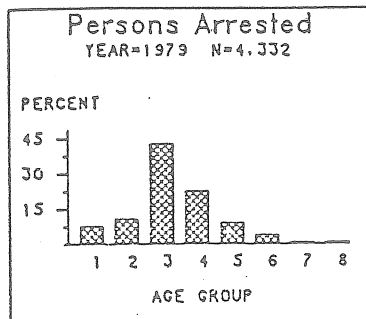
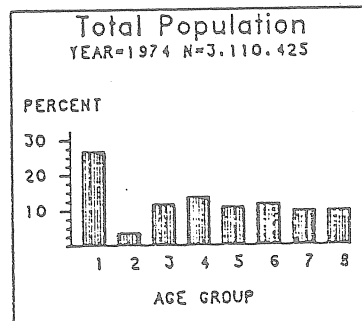
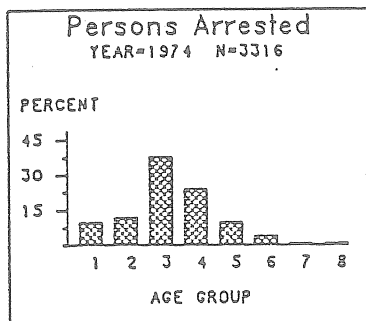
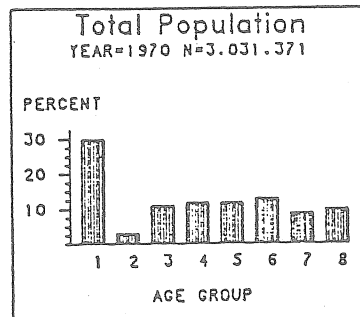
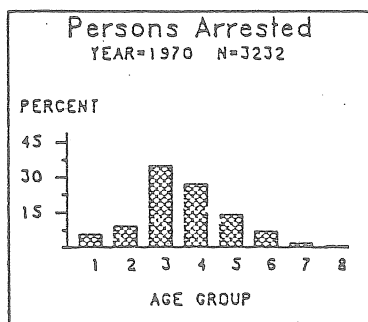
Key to Age Groups

- 1= 0-15 YEARS 3=18-24 YEARS 5=35-44 YEARS 7=55-64 YEARS
- 2=16-17 YEARS 4=25-34 YEARS 6=45-54 YEARS 8= 65+ YEARS

Figure 13

State of Connecticut

Persons Arrested for Violent Offenses and
Total Population by Age Group and Year



Key to Age Groups

1= 0-15 YEARS 3=18-24 YEARS 5=35-44 YEARS 7=55-64 YEARS
2=16-17 YEARS 4=25-34 YEARS 6=45-54 YEARS 8= 65+ YEARS

E. Patrol Officers

The number of available patrol officers has been rising over the decade, as illustrated in Figure 12 and Table 8. When expressed as a rate (number of patrol officers per 10,000 population), the plots are very similar. Figure 13 shows the number of patrol officers per 10,000 population. Figure 14 shows the variation in the number of Part One arrests per officer per year over the ten year period, computed by dividing the total number of arrests in the state by the total number of available patrol officers for each year. Table 9 contains the average number of Part One and Part Two arrests per officer.

Figure 14
 NUMBER OF STATE AND LOCAL PATROL OFFICERS BY YEAR

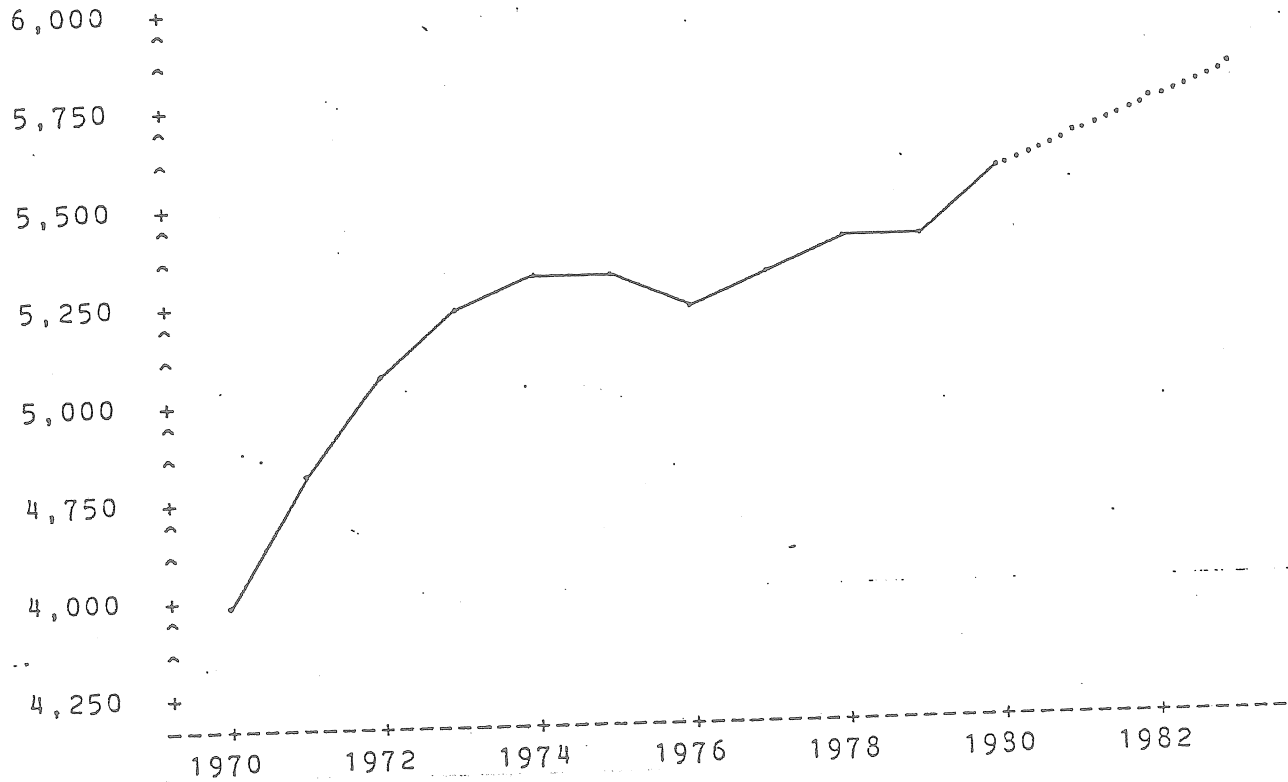


Table 8
 NUMBER OF PATROL OFFICERS BY YEAR

NUMBER OF PATROL OFFICERS		
YEAR	TOTAL	OFFICERS/10,000 POPULATION
1970	4,521	14.9
1971	4,850	15.8
1972	5,089	16.5
1973	5,212	16.9
1974	5,350	17.3
1975	5,364	17.3
1976	5,256	16.8
1977	5,302	17.0
1978	5,415	17.5
1979	5,430	17.5
1980	5,622	18.0
1981	5,702	18.2
1982	5,783	18.4
1983	5,863	18.7

Figure 15
PATROL OFFICERS PER 10,000 POPULATION

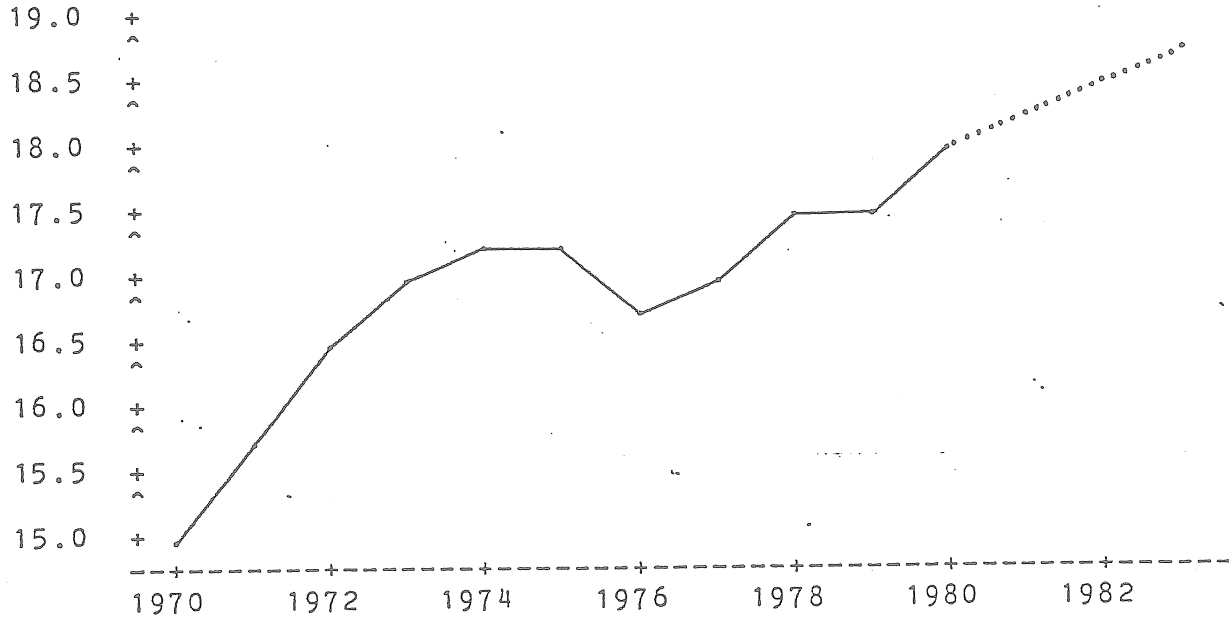


Figure 16
NUMBER OF PART ONE ARRESTS PER OFFICER

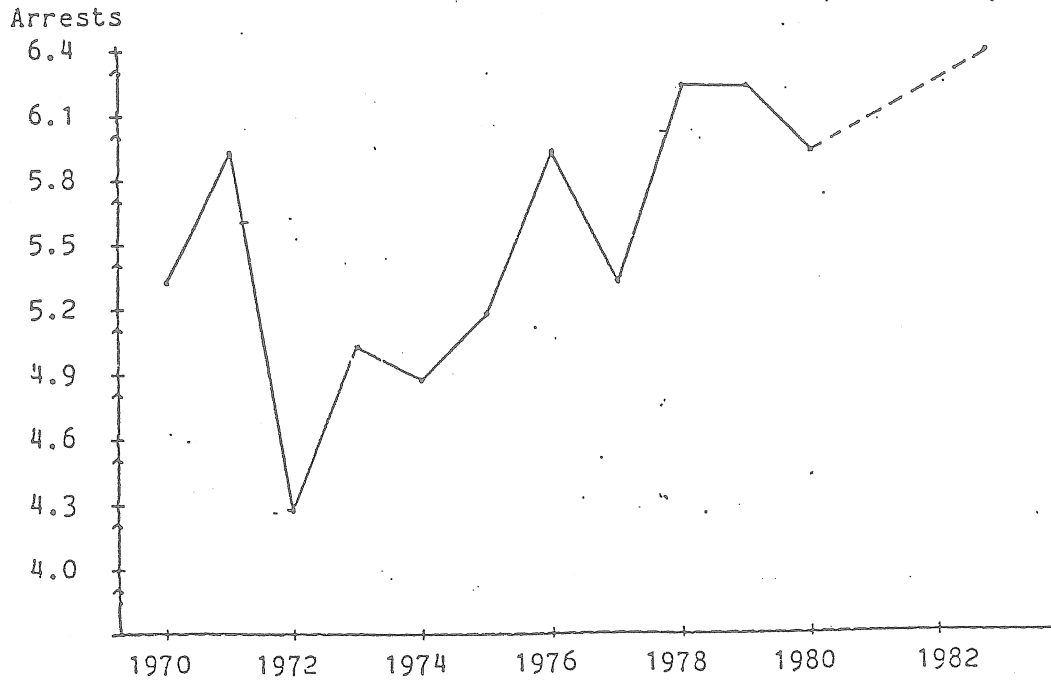


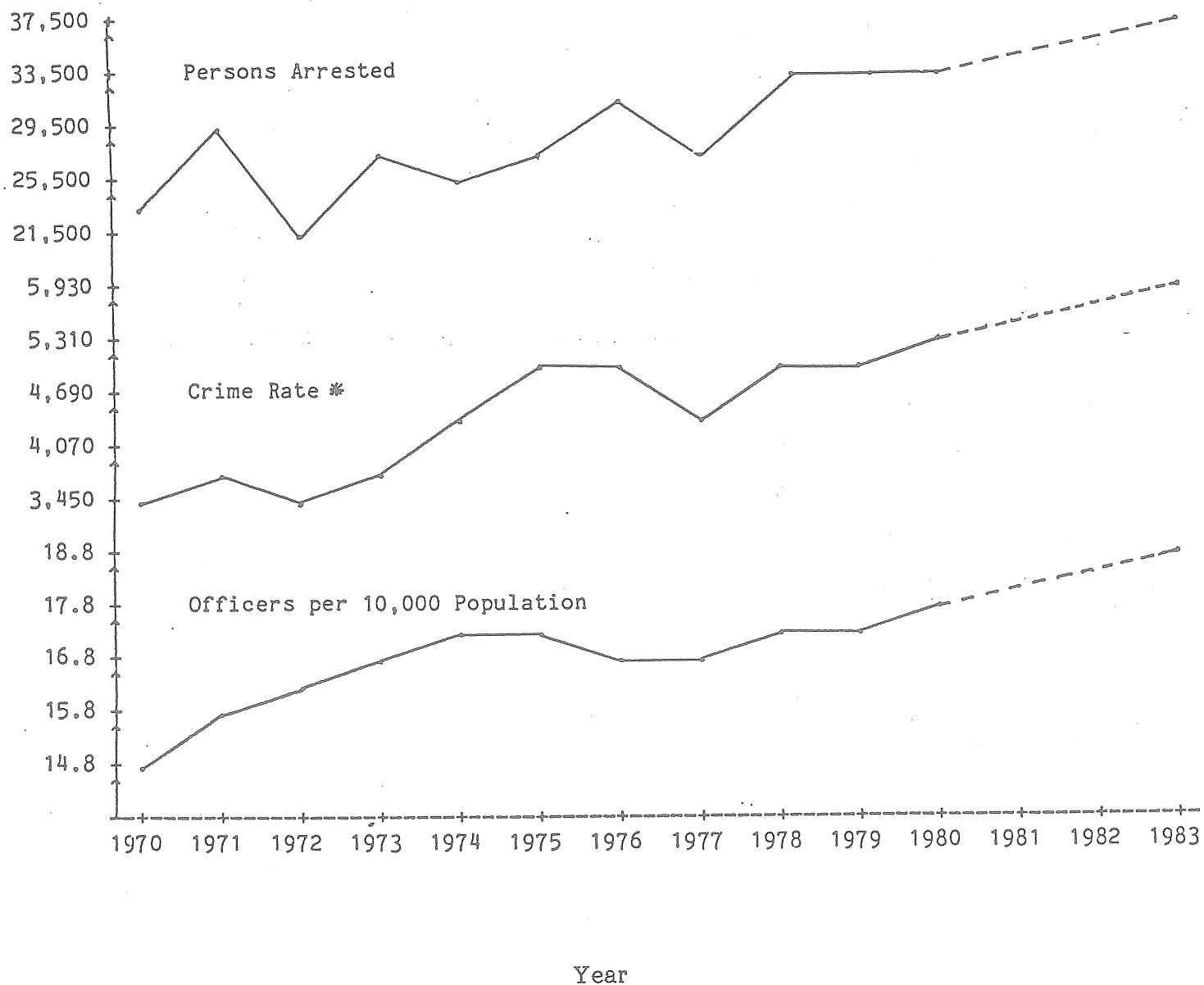
Table 9

AVERAGE NUMBER OF ARRESTS PER OFFICER		
YEAR	PART ONE ARRESTS	PART TWO ARRESTS
1970	5.4	14.9
1971	5.9	14.5
1972	4.3	11.4
1973	5.1	11.9
1974	4.9	9.2
1975	5.2	8.8
1976	5.9	9.6
1977	5.3	8.4
1978	6.2	10.6
1979	6.3	10.9
1980	6.0	8.5
1981	6.1	8.1
1982	6.2	7.7
1983	6.3	7.3

Comment: The number of available patrol officers is increasing. The average number of Part One arrests per officer fluctuates considerably, as it is based on the number of arrests, which tends to fluctuate. The average number of arrests per officer is rising slightly over the decade and projections indicate that it is likely to continue to increase over the next few years. Part Two arrests per officer appears to be declining.

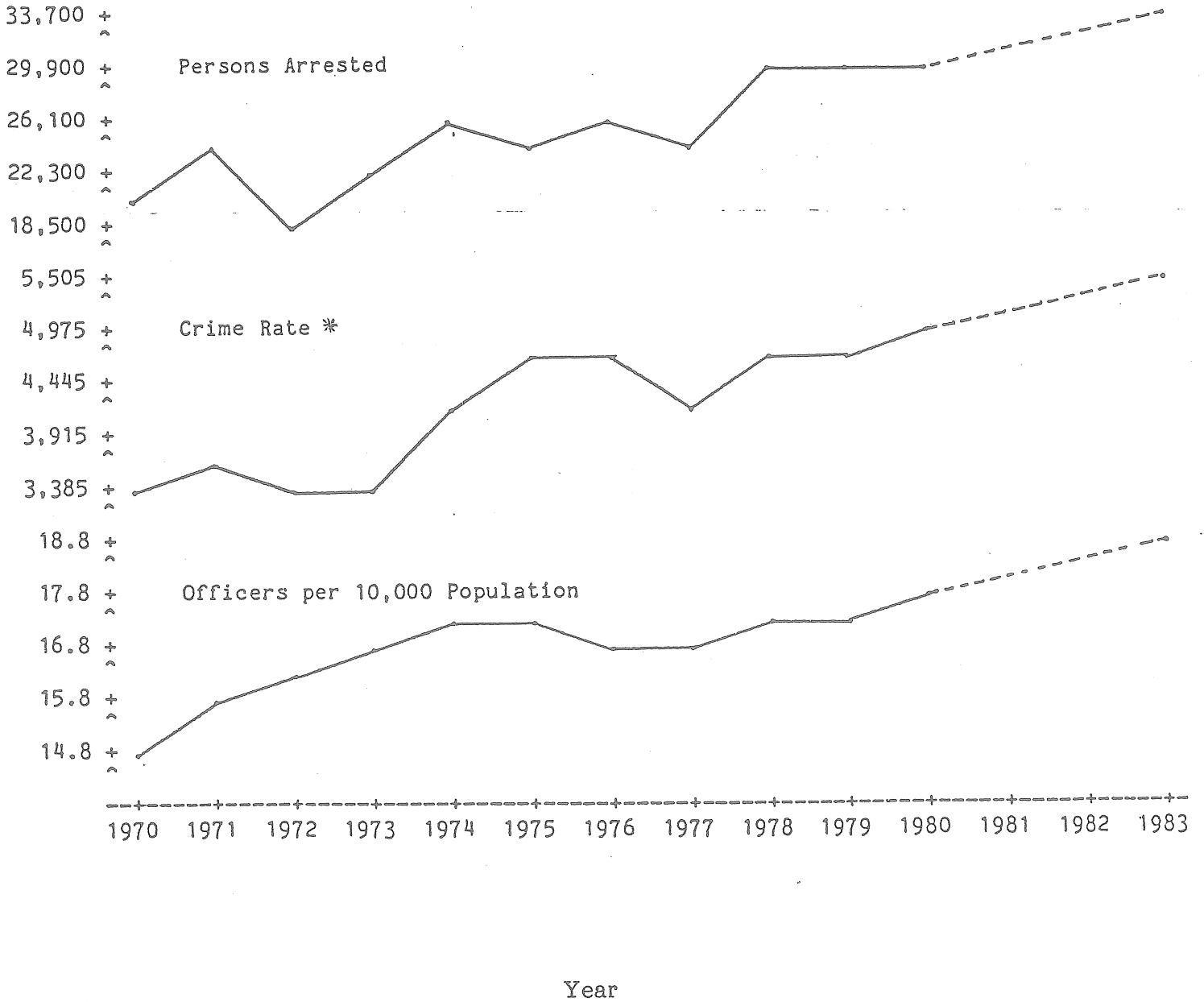
Crime rates, persons arrested (property crimes), number of patrol officers, and number of arrests per officer are all increasing and expected to increase over the next few years. The only rates that seem to be decreasing are for persons arrested and clearance rate for violent crimes, even though the crime rate for violent crimes is increasing. The following three graphs show the relationship among persons arrested, crime rate, and officers per 10,000 population for total Part One crimes, Part One property crimes, and Part One violent crimes.

Figure 17
 NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED, CRIME RATE,
 AND OFFICERS PER 10,000 POPULATION
TOTAL PART ONE CRIMES



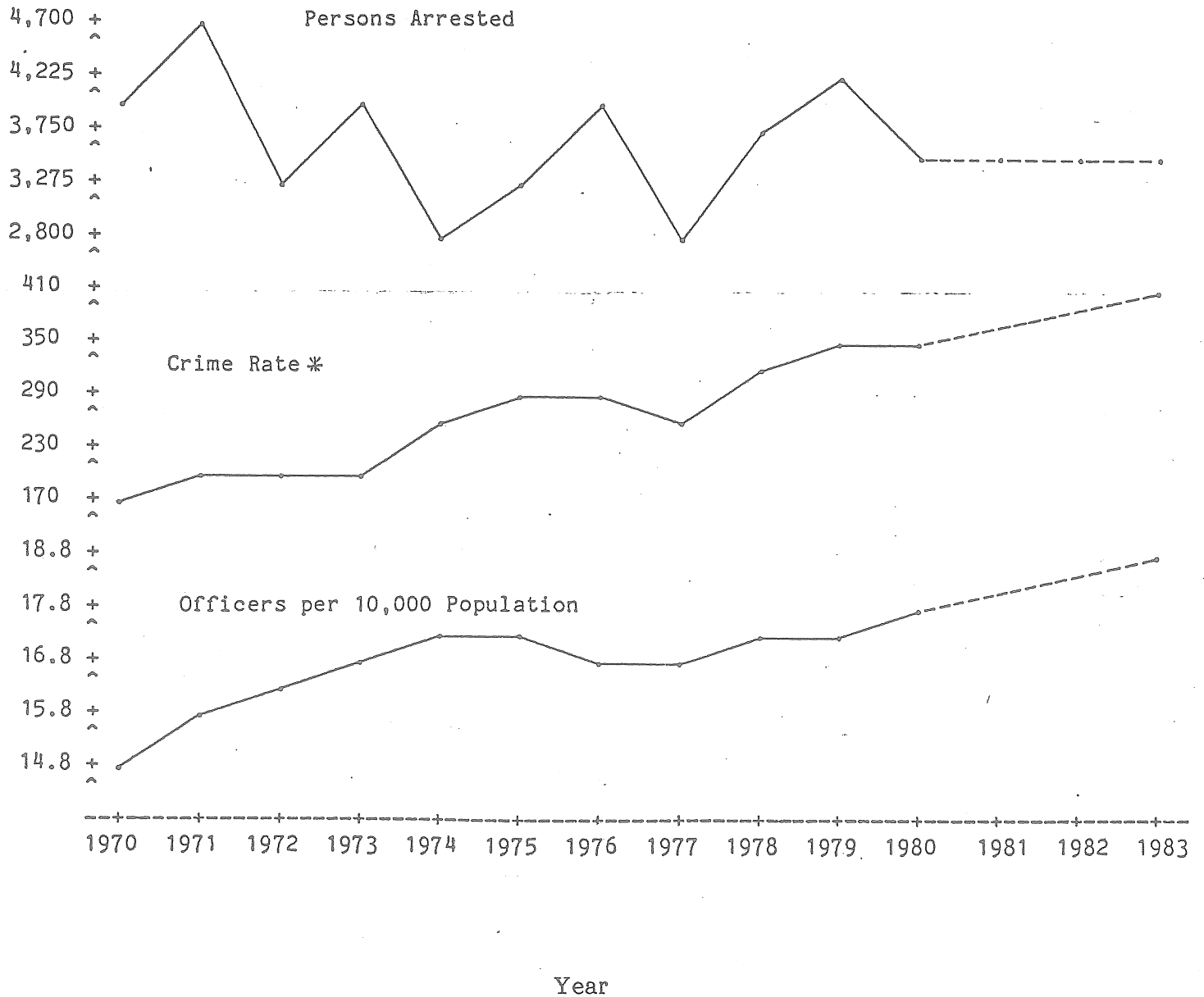
*NUMBER OF CRIMES PER 100,000 POPULATION.

Figure 18
 NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED, CRIME RATE,
 AND OFFICERS PER 10,000 POPULATION
PROPERTY CRIMES



*NUMBER OF PROPERTY CRIMES PER 100,000 POPULATION

Figure 19
 PERSONS ARRESTED, CRIME RATE,
 AND OFFICERS PER 10,000 POPULATION
VIOLENT CRIMES



*NUMBER OF VIOLENT CRIMES PER 100,000 POPULATION

Comment: The trend that stands out after examining figure 19 is that while the crime rate for violent crimes is increasing, the number of persons arrested for violent crimes seems to be decreasing.