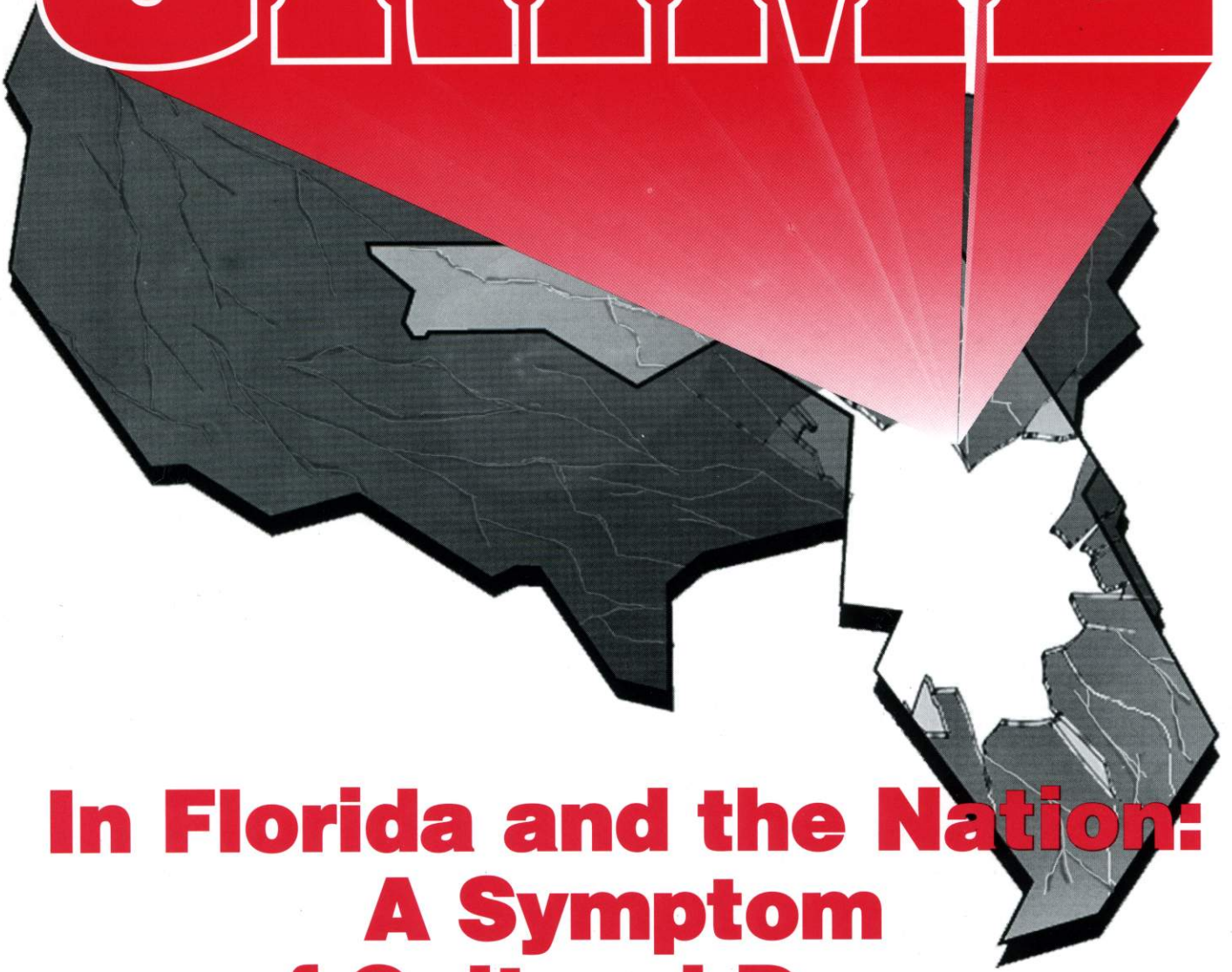


CRIME



In Florida and the Nation: A Symptom of Cultural Decay

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A KEY ELEMENT
IN CULTURAL DECAY
IS THAT PEOPLE IN A SOCIETY
ARE NOT AWARE THAT
THEY ARE LOSING THEIR CULTURE.
A SYMPTOM OF SUCH DECAY IS
INORDINATE VIOLENCE AND CRIME.

”

Introduction

The prevalence of crime, delinquency and anti-social behavior has become the public's top concern and the focus of legislative agenda throughout the nation. Citizen demands to fix the criminal justice system stem from fear and aggravation founded in perceptions of uncertain personal safety, random violence and wholesale abandonment of common decency.

Fear grows as people perceive criminals to be more bizarre, unpredictable, angry and violent. This fear is kindled when the media report such incidents as . . . the robber assaulting or killing his victim after he has gotten the money and goods he wants . . . assault turning into mayhem . . . and children committing crimes that are unimaginable. Fear sometimes prevails even if the crime level drops. Plainly put, the public believes there is more serious crime and deviance today than there has been in the past, regardless of what contrary statistics may indicate.

Factual analyses lend some support to this perception. According to surveys of public school teachers, 50 years can represent some drastic changes in what is perceived as "disciplinary problems in school" (see Figure 1). To the average citizen, a behavioral shift from childish misbehavior to felonies and other major crimes is incomprehensible and terrifying.

Figure 1: Top Disciplinary Problems According to Public School Teachers¹

1940	1990
Talking out of turn	Drug Abuse
Chewing gum	Alcohol Abuse
Making noise	Pregnancy
Running in the hall	Suicide
Cutting in line	Rape
Dress code violations	Robbery
Littering	Assault

As discussed later in some detail, the overall crime rate in Florida has actually decreased recently after a significant and steady climb in the rate between 1973 and 1988. However, the rate of violent crime grew twice as fast during the same period, continued to climb until 1990, decreased in 1991, but then returned to a pattern of growth. The rate of violent crime in Florida nearly doubled between 1973 and 1992 and as a proportion of all crimes. The violent crime rate grew by 42 percent -- up from 10.2 percent of all crimes to 14.5 percent! Similar to the pattern noted in school "disciplinary problems," the amount of crime experienced in the citizenry at large is more serious and violent in nature. Thus, some commonly held perceptions are not completely erroneous.

The rate of violent crime in Florida nearly doubled between 1973 and 1992 and as a proportion of all crimes. The violent crime rate grew by 42% -- up from 10.2% of all crimes to 14.5%.

At the same time, the public is fed up with explanations -- often sounding like rationalizations -- of criminal behavior that argue abuse of a person or group, neglect, or that social alienation foments socially deviant behavior and crime. Such arguments hold that being part of an oppressed class or suffering some psychological handicap, neglect or abuse predisposes a person to deviance. Murder, mayhem and mutilation have found both popular and legal justification and exoneration in such reasoning. Even drug abuse is presented as a modifier of behavior that rationalizes deviance and implicitly excuses its occurrence.

Such thinking has affected criminal justice policy in a manner that results in a constant struggle to balance

¹W. J. Bennett The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators: Facts and Figures on the State of American Society

competing interests between those who advocate for punishment and those who hold to the promise offered by rehabilitation and social change. Similar conflict exists relative to balancing policy between protecting the "rights" of the offender versus those of the victim.

Criminal justice policy is replete with such polar positions which create a difficult environment in which elected leaders must formulate policy. The net result is a system with diffuse policy and process-oriented objectives with no clear focus on desirable policy outcomes. So we have sentencing guidelines, mandatory minimums and habitual offender statutes. Yet due to the effect of basic gain time, administrative gain time, provisional release credits and control release authority, among all inmates released from Florida's prisons in fiscal year 1993-94, the average time confined was only 41.6 percent of their sentences. Violent offenders spent 52 percent of their sentences incarcerated; property offenders spent 37.9 percent and drug offenders 38.6 percent.² A forbearing and a somewhat disbelieving public has silently tolerated this discontinuity for a long time.

Throughout history the pendulum of criminal justice policy has shifted in focus. We may be in the beginnings of one of those shifts now. Prison building, boot camps, chemical castration, appeal limitations and the so-called "three strikes and you're out" have become popular themes in contemporary criminal justice policy. Out of an understandable frustration, a new citizens group in Florida is calling for a state constitutional change requiring inmates to remain confined for 85 percent of their sentences. What is 85 percent of a life sentence? The sanctioning system continues to deceive itself and the public.

Indeed, citizens might want even more draconian measures to restore their confidence in public safety and domestic tranquility. Although crime may be influenced or facilitated by social ills, it is ultimately an individual choice -- not just a predetermined social outcome. For that reason, many among the public want individuals to be held accountable for their aberrant and criminal

behavior. They want punishment rendered to those who burden society with the acts of socially deviant behavior and crime.

The public concern about crime may be an emotional reaction to a complex system of social dysfunction and upheaval -- not just criminal activity. Crime may be just one of the fundamental symptoms of a more serious problem, a problem threatening the very fabric of the nation.

This report details findings from Florida TaxWatch research that focuses upon discerning real trends in Florida's crime level compared to that of the rest of the nation. The study addresses such questions as:

- *Has the overall rate of crime in Florida increased over the past 10 years?*
- *Has the amount of violent crime in Florida increased?*
- *How do the level of crime and crime patterns in Florida compare with those in other states and the District of Columbia?*³

In an effort to contribute to the criminal justice policy debate concerning appropriate responses to these trends, the research also seeks to examine various correlates of crime in order to get a better picture of the total social matrix in which social dysfunction occurs. Working with recent national crime data, census information descriptive of state population characteristics and other pertinent indicators, statistical analysis was performed to investigate the aggregate patterns of association between states' crime patterns and the nature of their respective populations. Discovery of such relationships may help formulate preventative measures and at least give us a better understanding of this pressing state and national concern. Some of the results challenge commonly accepted wisdom and cast light on new important issues that must be considered in reforming governmental responses to citizen demands for fixing the criminal justice system.

²Florida Consensus Estimating Conference, Book 1, State of Florida: Tallahassee, Spring 1994

³The District of Columbia is included since it appears as a data set in FBI crime reports and Census data sources used in the compilation of national statistics. Moreover, some of the statistical analysis reported in the study will exclude the District of Columbia data when appropriate. Where appropriate, comparison of Florida to the other states is noted in the dialogue

Florida's Crime Profile⁴

Twenty Year Trend

As illustrated in Figure 2, over the past 20 years the trend in both total crime and violent crime has rather steadily increased. Between 1973 and 1992, the violent crime rate for Florida increased 99.6 percent, whereas the total crime level increased 40.2 percent -- a more than two-fold difference. A closer examination illustrated in Table 1 shows that the total crime rate peaked at 8,938 per 100,000 persons in 1988, but declined by 6.4 percent overall during the four subsequent years. In contrast, the rate of violent crime peaked later in 1990 at 1,244 per 100,000 persons. Furthermore, although the rate of violent crimes

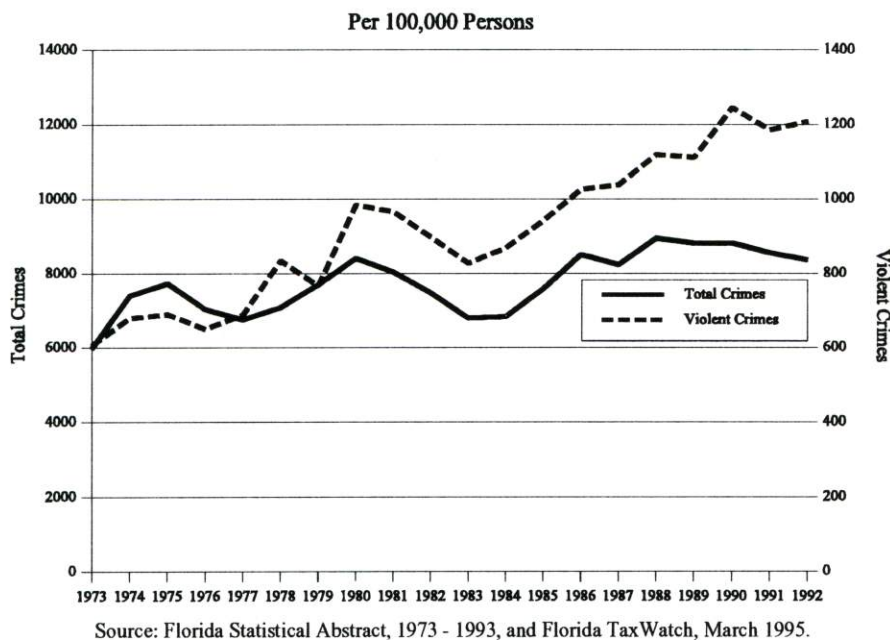
Between 1973 and 1992, the violent crime rate for Florida increased 99.6%, whereas the total crime level increased 40.2 % -- a more than two-fold difference.

dropped in 1991, the rate increased again in 1992 by almost two percent.

Table 1 also indicates for each year the proportion the violent crime rate represents of all crimes. In the 1970s, the violent crime rate was about nine to ten percent of the overall rate. In the next decade, the violent crime rate increased to a little over 12 percent of the overall rate. In the period 1990 until 1992, the violent crime rate continued to grow as a proportion of all crimes reaching 14.5 percent in 1992 -- a 42 percent increase in twenty years. This trend is alarming and gives factual credence to public concerns and signals serious normative concern and cultural deterioration.

Figure 2

Crime in Florida



⁴Crime data acquired from Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, 1993. Appendix I contains all the tabular data related to the discussion of Florida's crime profile. It is recognized that the Uniform Crime Reports are based on reported incidents of crime which may be skewed due to inconsistent reporting practices. For instance, citizens in highly urban areas may tend to under report certain crimes as compared to persons in rural areas. The analysis performed in this paper examines statewide aggregate crime reports which we believe neutralizes the potential impact of variances in such reporting practices

Table 1
Percentage Change in Florida Crime Rates⁵

YEAR	Total Crimes	% Change	Violent Crimes	% Change	Violent Crimes as a % of Total Crimes
1973	5960.3		604.6		10.2
1974	7387.3	23.94	677.6	12.07	9.2
1975	7721.2	4.52	688.5	1.61	9.0
1976	7016.7	-9.12	648.3	-5.84	9.3
1977	6738.6	-3.96	686.8	5.94	10.2
1978	7069.5	4.91	833.9	21.42	11.8
1979	7688.1	8.75	765.6	-8.19	10.0
1980	8402.0	9.29	983.5	28.46	11.7
1981	8032.5	-4.40	965.1	-1.87	12.1
1982	7465.2	-7.06	896.8	-7.08	12.1
1983	6781.1	-9.16	826.7	-7.82	12.2
1984	6821.2	.59	868.0	5.00	12.8
1985	7574.2	11.04	941.1	8.42	12.5
1986	8503.2	12.27	1024.4	8.85	12.1
1987	8228.4	-3.23	1036.5	1.18	12.6
1988	8937.6	8.62	1117.7	7.83	12.5
1989	8804.5	-1.49	1109.7	-.72	12.6
1990	8810.8	.07	1244.3	12.13	14.2
1991	8547.2	-2.99	1184.3	-4.82	13.9
1992	8358.2	-2.21	1207.2	1.93	14.5

Source: Florida Statistical Abstract, 1973 through 1993, and Florida TaxWatch, March 1995.

National Comparison: The Overall Crime Rate

In 1992, Florida had the highest crime level per 100,000 in the 50 states and ranked only behind Washington, D.C. which took the "top honors" in this dubious distinction. Florida held this position despite a 2.2 percent decrease from the previous year in the overall incidence of crime. Florida accounts for nearly 5 percent of the nation's population, but represents 8 percent of the 14,438,191 crimes committed in the nation. In 1992, Florida's crime rate was 8,358.2 per 100,000 population; this is 49 percent higher than the national rate. This means Florida residents and visitors are one and one half times as likely to be victimized by crime than in the nation at large.

National Comparison: Violent Crimes

As for violent crimes in 1992, Florida also was first among the states and again came in second to Washington, D.C. (162,823 violent crimes that generated 1,207.2 violent crimes per 100,000 people). This follows a 1.9 percent increase from the 1991 level. In this category, Florida accounts for 8.4 percent of the nation's crimes. The national average rate for this class of crime was 757.7 per 100,000, ranking Florida 59.3 percent higher than the national average.

The following crimes are included in the 1993 Uniform Crime Reports as violent crimes:

⁵Florida Statistical Abstract, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, 1973 through 1993

Murder in Florida dropped 3.2 percent in 1992 with 1,208 reported cases as compared with 1,248 in 1991. In 1992, Florida placed 18th in a rank by rate among the 50 states and Washington, D.C. This rate of nine per 100,000 puts the state nearly even with the national rate of 9.3 generated by 23,760 murders. The top five in this category in descending order were Washington, D.C., Louisiana, New York, California and Texas. The lowest was recorded by South Dakota with a 0.6 rate.

Florida accounted for almost 8 percent of them. Florida ranked more than 9 percent higher than the runner-up state of Washington and nearly 46 percent higher than the national average.

The following crimes are included in the 1993 Uniform Crime Reports as property crimes:

Burglary In 1992, Florida achieved the number one ranking for burglaries with 1,888.8 per 100,000. Florida had 254,755 burglaries. Washington, D.C. followed in second place with a rate of 1,820.2. This is nearly 4 percent lower than Florida's rate. The Florida rate of burglary is more than 60 percent higher than the national rate of 1,168.2 even after a 4.3 percent drop in total burglaries. The national drop during the same period was 2.8 percent.

Rape occurred at a rate of 54.2 per 100,000 persons in Florida; the total was 7,310 representing 6.7 percent of the rapes in the nation during 1992 and a 6.5 percent jump from 1991 figures. The national rate was 42.8 per 100,000; Florida's rate exceeds the national figure by nearly 27 percent. Alaska, Delaware and Michigan lead the nation with rates above 80 per 100,000; North Dakota, West Virginia, and Iowa had rates less than 24 per 100,000 and were on the low end for this offense.



Larceny and Theft The number two position behind Washington, D.C. was retained in the larceny and theft category. In this category of crime, 598,093 incidents were reported in Florida, generating a rate of 4,434.3 crimes per 100,000 persons. The national level for the same period was 3,103, demonstrating that Florida's level was more than 40 percent greater. Florida's level trailed D.C. by over 17 percent and was only approximately 2 percent higher than Hawaii.

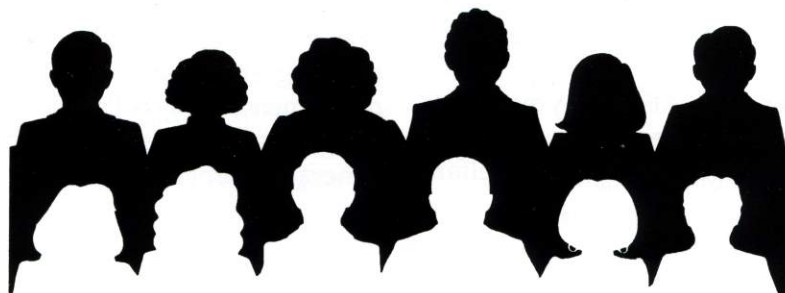
Assaults in Florida climbed to the second spot, up from number three in 1991, with a rate of 777.2 aggravated assaults per 100,000 people. The total figure was 104,827 for Florida. This type of incident increased 9.1 percent between 1991 and 1992. The national rate was 441.8, thus demonstrating that Florida's rate was more than 67 percent higher than that of the nation's. The national rate increased at around 3 percent from 1991 to 1992. Florida's rate of increase surpassed the nation at more than 3 to 1. Nevertheless, Washington, D.C.'s rate was over 87 percent greater than the rate in Florida.

Robbery Florida ranked sixth in robberies with 366.9 per 100,000. This totaled 49,482 incidents, which was more than 39 percent higher than the national level of 263.6 per 100,000. Between 1991 and 1992 there was a 6.8 percent decrease in the number of robberies. This represented an 8.2 percent rate decrease.

National Comparison: Property Crimes

In property crimes, Florida again ranked second behind Washington, D.C. but first among the states recording 964,533 incidents, yielding 7,151 property crimes per 100,000 population. Over the years, there was a decline of 1.3 percent in the incidence of this offense but the ranking stayed the same. On the national level, 12,505,917 crimes were committed in this category;

Auto Thefts The state rose to fourth in auto thefts with 111,685 incidents following a 7.4 percent jump from the previous year with a rate of increase of 5.7 percent per 100,000. In this criminal domain, New York, California and again the District of Columbia led Florida in ascending order. Florida's rate exceeded the national rate by more than 31 percent.



Causes of Crime: What are the Correlates?

Socio-economic, demographic and other pertinent factors were examined to determine whether any relationships exist between these variables and crime levels of the 50 states and Washington, D.C. The data were initially analyzed using a simple correlation matrix.

A correlation is a measure of the relationship between two or more variables. In other words, the correlation coefficient (r) indicates the proportion of variance held in common by the two variables. This does not indicate a causal relationship in itself. The value of a correlation can range from positive 1 to negative 1. The closer the value is to either the positive or negative value of 1, the stronger the relationship. A negative value indicates an inverse relationship, or a negative correlation. With a negative correlation, as the value of the dependent variable decreases, the value of the independent variable increases (or vice versa). A positive value reflects a direct relationship present between the variables. An example of a highly positive correlation is the relationship between a mother's level of education and her child's I.Q. scores. As the mother's level of education increases, the IQ scores of the child also increase. A correlation coefficient with a value of .70 means that the independent variable has a 49 percent concurrence with the variation in the dependent variable under analysis. Generally correlation coefficients with values under .50 (with only a 25 percent concurrence) are interpreted to indicate little or no association.

Through a matrix of these correlations, the variables can be examined against one another to show associations which exist (or fail to exist) among potential predictors of crime. The list of variables analyzed included:

- Percentage of the population in poverty (Pov percent);
- Percentage of the white population in poverty (Pov White);
- Percentage of the black population in poverty (Pov Black);
- Federal expenditures for Health and Human Services per capita (HRS);
- Per pupil expenditure (Pupil \$);
- Percentage of the population which is white (percent White);
- Percentage of the population which is black (percent Black);
- Number of single parent families per 100,000 persons (One Parent);
- Percentage of the population in a metropolitan area (Metro);
- Total household income (HH\$);
- Total white household income (HH\$ White);
- Total black household income (HH\$ Black);
- Percentage of total unemployment (Tot Unem percent);
- Employed females per 100,000 persons (Emp Fem);
- Percentage of Ninth Graders graduating from high school (Graduates); and
- Corrections spending per state, AFDC payments per capita, Food Stamp payments per capita, Medicaid disbursements per capita and total public welfare expenditures per capita.

The crime statistics represent the year 1992, as these were the latest figures available. Henceforth, all of the socioeconomic variables were taken from 1992, except poverty statistics which were only available from the 1990 census. This was done in order to ensure that these variables were affecting the same population during the same period of time.

Two correlation matrices were developed: one includes Washington, D.C. with the fifty states, the other with only the 50 states. Findings from the analysis are reported below relative to each pertinent factor's correlation to the levels of crime among the states. The correlation matrices can be found in Tables 2 and 3. Crimes correlations to the factors are noted below. The correlations for the 50 states plus Washington, D.C. are noted in **bold type**; the correlations for just the 50 states without Washington, D.C. are noted in *italic type*.

1. Percentage of Population in Poverty (**$r = .26$**) (*$r = .16$* without Washington, D.C.)

Surprisingly, the correlation between crime rates and poverty is not strong. In fact, the correlations of poverty with crime rates without including Washington, D.C. ($r = .16$) and even when specified to include only those persons living in poverty who are white ($r = -.20$) and those who are black ($r = .04$) are weak relationships. It may be that poverty in and of itself is neither sufficient to suggest causality nor is it a concurrent social phenomenon. This belies the timeworn Marxist assertion that the poverty fostered by the inequities of capitalism generates crime.

Even in dire poverty, there may exist within a community *cultural stability indicators* to social deterioration and crime. Two such probable factors, long identified by certain sociologists are . . . *a high sense of social integration . . . and family cohesion*. This has been classically illustrated by San Francisco's Chinatown community. Throughout the 1960s this area had the lowest income, the highest unemployment, the least educational attainment, the highest tuberculosis rate, the highest proportion of families with incomes under \$4,000 and the most substandard housing. Yet only five people of Chinese ancestry were in prison in California in 1965.⁶ The findings in this report will demonstrate how cultural influences like *social integration* and *family cohesion* can dramatically affect crime levels.

2. Federal Health and Social Services Spending Per Capita ($r = .14$) and Education Spending Per Capita ($r = .10$) ($r = -.25$ and $-.05$ respectively without Washington, D.C.)

Spending differences among the states for health and social services and public education are not related to crime levels.

It could be postulated that states with high rates of spending in these areas have acted to insulate their vulnerable population from predisposing conditions to social deviance and crime. In other words, relatively high rates of spending for such services have been thought to prevent crime. However, the correlation analysis demonstrates that spending differences among the states for health and social services and public education are not related to crime levels. In fact, state per capita spending for health and social services as currently delivered is not correlated with any of the variables TaxWatch investigated. This profoundly challenges the timeworn political remedy of increasing spending to reduce social problems to lower crime levels.

3. Percent Population White ($r = -.70$) ($r = -.55$ without Washington, D.C.)

The relationship between crime rates and the proportion of a state's white population has a strong negative association or inverse relationship. This suggests that the higher the percentage of the population which is white, the lower the rate of crime. Rather than suggesting white virtue, this strongly negative correlation could suggest less vulnerability to crime in the white community because of advantage or socioeconomic circumstances afforded to persons in the dominant racial group. In addition, it may suggest the

influence of cultural homogeneity among people who are part of the dominant social segments of society. Such differences warrant further consideration and analysis inasmuch as sociological research indicates that higher levels of homogeneity and less cultural diversity promote less social deviance. It is quite possible that our celebrated cultural diversity might be contributing to the crime problem. It may be more appropriate to encourage not just the celebration of cultural difference but the capacity to live in different cultural settings, mindful of the fact that any group of people not attuned to the norms of the dominant culture will have difficulty competing and operating in the society. Exceptions to this would apply only when a subculture's norms were concurrent or exceeded the dominant culture's standards.

4. Percent Population Black ($r = .59$) ($r = .33$ without Washington, D.C.)

There is a moderate correlation between crime rates and the percent of the population that is black. Further in the analysis, the interrelationship of race with other independent variables is examined to determine whether race alone contributes to variation in levels of crime among the states. As with the correlation for whites, the higher association of blacks and crime warrants further assessment. We must be guarded in drawing conclusions from such a modest correlation. Moreover, it must be stressed that the scope of this study did not permit the analysis of individual characteristics of specific groups or individuals, just the aggregate statistics.

5. Number of Single Parent Families Per Capita ($r = .73$) ($r = .55$ without Washington, D.C.)

Considering all the variables selected for this study investigating the correlates of crime, the number of single parent families in a state was found to have a significant correlation to crime levels -- more than any of the other variables. U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., in 1965 while serving as Assistant Secretary of Labor, prophetically warned of this association:

"From the wild Irish slums of the 19th century eastern seaboard to the riot-torn suburbs of Los Angeles, there is one unmistakable lesson in American history: A community that allows a large number of young men to

⁶W.J. Bennett The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators: Facts and Figures on the State of American Society

Table 2

CORRELATION MATRIX, INCLUDING WASHINGTON, D.C.

Variable	Pov %	Pov White	Pov Black	Pupll \$	HRS	% White	% Black	% Other	One Parent	Metro	Sq Mile
Pov %	1.00	0.66	0.55	-0.40	0.39	-0.39	0.50	-0.07	0.48	-0.15	0.17
Pov White	0.66	1.00	0.53	-0.56	0.10	0.18	-0.14	-0.09	-0.04	-0.55	-0.18
Pov Black	0.55	0.53	1.00	-0.45	0.03	0.13	0.22	-0.45	0.07	-0.15	-0.17
Pupll \$	-0.40	-0.56	-0.45	1.00	0.34	-0.09	0.04	0.07	0.16	0.32	0.32
HRS	0.39	0.10	0.03	0.34	1.00	-0.25	0.41	-0.16	0.51	0.07	0.55
% White	-0.39	0.18	0.13	-0.09	-0.25	1.00	-0.72	-0.53	-0.66	-0.38	-0.55
% Black	0.50	-0.14	0.22	0.04	0.41	-0.72	1.00	-0.20	0.76	0.32	0.66
% Other	-0.07	-0.09	-0.45	0.07	-0.16	-0.53	-0.20	1.00	0.01	0.14	-0.03
One Parent	0.48	-0.04	0.07	0.16	0.51	-0.66	0.76	0.01	1.00	0.26	0.70
Metro	-0.15	-0.55	-0.15	0.32	0.07	-0.38	0.32	0.14	0.26	1.00	0.31
Sq Mile	0.17	-0.18	-0.17	0.32	0.55	-0.55	0.66	-0.03	0.70	0.31	1.00
HHS	-0.63	-0.86	-0.68	0.69	-0.04	-0.21	-0.04	0.35	0.02	0.58	0.14
HHS White	-0.41	-0.83	-0.62	0.70	0.17	-0.45	0.30	0.27	0.34	0.63	0.45
HHS Black	-0.58	-0.68	-0.89	0.61	0.07	-0.10	-0.16	0.34	0.01	0.28	0.18
Tot Unem %	0.34	0.04	0.04	0.36	0.48	-0.17	0.25	-0.07	0.39	0.31	0.20
Emp Fem	0.08	-0.15	0.08	0.07	-0.03	-0.15	0.11	0.09	0.05	0.53	-0.08
Corr \$	0.07	-0.19	-0.06	0.14	0.08	-0.23	0.12	0.17	0.15	0.52	0.00
AFDC	0.14	-0.10	0.06	0.07	0.09	-0.18	0.10	0.14	0.13	0.45	-0.05
Food Stamps	0.29	0.05	0.23	-0.02	0.09	-0.20	0.19	0.06	0.15	0.43	-0.09
Medicaid	0.18	-0.06	0.09	0.04	0.11	-0.19	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.44	-0.06
Graduates	-0.59	-0.06	-0.21	0.08	-0.36	0.61	-0.70	0.00	-0.67	-0.37	-0.27
Crimes	0.26	-0.21	-0.04	0.10	0.14	-0.70	0.59	0.26	0.73	0.58	0.59

	HHS	HHS White	HHS Black	Tot Unem %	Emp Fem	Corr \$	AFDC	Food Stamps	Medicaid	Graduates	Crimes
Pov %	-0.63	-0.41	-0.58	0.34	0.08	0.07	0.14	0.29	0.18	-0.59	0.26
Pov White	-0.86	-0.83	-0.68	0.04	-0.15	-0.19	-0.10	0.05	-0.06	-0.06	-0.21
Pov Black	-0.68	-0.62	-0.89	0.04	0.08	-0.06	0.06	0.23	0.09	-0.21	-0.04
Pupll \$	0.69	0.70	0.61	0.36	0.07	0.14	0.07	-0.02	0.04	0.08	0.10
HRS	-0.04	0.17	0.07	0.48	-0.03	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.11	-0.36	0.14
% White	-0.21	-0.45	-0.10	-0.17	-0.15	-0.23	-0.18	-0.20	-0.19	0.61	-0.70
% Black	-0.04	0.30	-0.16	0.25	0.11	0.12	0.10	0.19	0.12	-0.70	0.59
% Other	0.35	0.27	0.34	-0.07	0.09	0.17	0.14	0.06	0.12	0.00	0.26
One Parent	0.02	0.34	0.01	0.39	0.05	0.15	0.13	0.15	0.12	-0.67	0.73
Metro	0.58	0.63	0.28	0.31	0.53	0.52	0.45	0.43	0.44	-0.37	0.58
Sq Mile	0.14	0.45	0.18	0.20	-0.08	0.00	-0.05	-0.09	-0.06	-0.27	0.59
HHS	1.00	0.92	0.84	0.18	0.22	0.30	0.20	0.03	0.15	0.09	0.20
HHS White	0.92	1.00	0.77	0.27	0.21	0.32	0.21	0.07	0.17	-0.14	0.43
HHS Black	0.84	0.77	1.00	0.11	0.04	0.17	0.06	-0.13	0.01	0.19	0.08
Tot Unem %	0.18	0.27	0.11	1.00	0.33	0.37	0.38	0.39	0.38	-0.47	0.22
Emp Fem	0.22	0.21	0.04	0.33	1.00	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.97	-0.30	0.27
Corr \$	0.30	0.32	0.17	0.37	0.95	1.00	0.96	0.86	0.97	-0.34	0.34
AFDC	0.20	0.21	0.06	0.38	0.95	0.96	1.00	0.90	0.99	-0.30	0.23
Food Stamps	0.03	0.07	-0.13	0.39	0.93	0.86	0.90	1.00	0.93	-0.43	0.26
Medicaid	0.15	0.17	0.01	0.38	0.97	0.97	0.99	0.93	1.00	-0.35	0.24
Graduates	0.09	-0.14	0.19	-0.47	-0.30	-0.34	-0.30	-0.43	-0.35	1.00	-0.60
Crimes	0.20	0.43	0.08	0.22	0.27	0.34	0.23	0.26	0.24	-0.60	1.00

Table 3

CORRELATION MATRIX, WITHOUT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Variable	Pov %	Pov White	Pov Black	Pupll \$	HRS	% White	% Black	% Other	One Parent	Metro	Sq Mile
Pov %	1.00	0.70	0.60	-0.47	0.33	-0.33	0.49	-0.07	0.48	-0.21	-0.28
Pov White	0.70	1.00	0.52	-0.56	0.17	0.16	-0.10	-0.09	0.04	-0.54	-0.53
Pov Black	0.60	0.52	1.00	-0.44	0.12	0.07	0.40	-0.46	0.24	-0.13	-0.25
Pupll \$	-0.47	-0.56	-0.44	1.00	0.27	0.04	-0.14	0.08	0.00	0.29	0.61
HRS	0.33	0.17	0.12	0.27	1.00	0.06	0.11	-0.17	0.22	-0.05	0.23
% White	-0.33	0.16	0.07	0.04	0.06	1.00	-0.58	-0.65	-0.46	-0.32	-0.10
% Black	0.49	-0.10	0.40	-0.14	0.11	-0.58	1.00	-0.24	0.54	0.25	0.15
% Other	-0.07	-0.09	-0.46	0.08	-0.17	-0.65	-0.24	1.00	0.04	0.15	-0.02
One Parent	0.48	0.04	0.24	0.00	0.22	-0.46	0.54	0.04	1.00	0.15	-0.09
Metro	-0.21	-0.54	-0.13	0.29	-0.05	-0.32	0.25	0.15	0.15	1.00	0.62
Sq Mile	-0.28	-0.53	-0.25	0.61	0.23	-0.10	0.15	-0.02	-0.09	0.62	1.00
HHS	-0.65	-0.86	-0.68	0.70	-0.07	-0.23	-0.09	0.35	-0.02	0.58	0.60
HHS White	-0.54	-0.86	-0.62	0.68	-0.02	-0.32	0.09	0.30	0.13	0.61	0.61
HHS Black	-0.63	-0.68	-0.89	0.61	0.01	-0.04	-0.31	0.34	-0.10	0.26	0.39
Tot Unem %	0.32	0.05	0.06	0.34	0.48	-0.11	0.21	-0.07	0.42	0.29	0.36
Emp Fem	0.11	-0.17	0.06	0.10	0.04	-0.26	0.25	0.08	0.20	0.57	0.21
Corr \$	0.08	-0.19	-0.07	0.15	0.11	-0.30	0.20	0.17	0.26	0.54	0.24
AFDC	0.16	-0.10	0.05	0.08	0.16	-0.27	0.20	0.14	0.27	0.48	0.17
Food Stamps	0.32	0.04	0.22	0.00	0.17	-0.31	0.34	0.06	0.33	0.46	0.10
Medicaid	0.20	-0.07	0.08	0.06	0.18	-0.28	0.23	0.11	0.27	0.47	0.16
Graduates	-0.57	-0.08	-0.26	0.14	-0.26	0.58	-0.72	-0.01	-0.72	-0.33	-0.03
Crimes	0.16	-0.20	0.04	-0.05	-0.25	-0.55	0.33	0.35	0.55	0.58	0.06

	HHS	HHS White	HHS Black	Tot Unem %	Emp Fem	Corr \$	AFDC	Food Stamps	Medicaid	Graduates	Crimes
Pov %	-0.65	-0.54	-0.63	0.32	0.11	0.08	0.16	0.32	0.20	-0.57	0.16
Pov White	-0.86	-0.86	-0.68	0.05	-0.17	-0.19	-0.10	0.04	-0.07	-0.08	-0.20
Pov Black	-0.68	-0.62	-0.89	0.06	0.06	-0.07	0.05	0.22	0.08	-0.26	0.04
Pupll \$	0.70	0.68	0.61	0.34	0.10	0.15	0.08	0.00	0.06	0.14	-0.05
HRS	-0.07	-0.02	0.01	0.48	0.04	0.11	0.16	0.17	0.18	-0.26	-0.25
% White	0.23	-0.32	-0.04	-0.11	-0.26	-0.30	-0.27	-0.31	-0.28	0.58	-0.55
% Black	-0.09	0.09	-0.31	0.21	0.25	0.20	0.20	0.34	0.23	-0.72	0.33
% Other	0.35	0.30	0.34	-0.07	0.08	0.17	0.14	0.06	0.11	-0.01	0.35
One Parent	-0.02	0.13	-0.10	0.42	0.20	0.26	0.27	0.33	0.27	-0.72	0.55
Metro	0.58	0.61	0.26	0.29	0.57	0.54	0.48	0.46	0.47	-0.33	0.58
Sq Mile	0.60	0.61	0.39	0.36	0.21	0.24	0.17	0.10	0.16	-0.03	0.06
HHS	1.00	0.97	0.84	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.21	0.04	0.16	0.10	0.22
HHS White	0.97	1.00	0.79	0.24	0.28	0.35	0.25	0.11	0.21	-0.04	0.28
HHS Black	0.84	0.79	1.00	0.10	0.06	0.17	0.07	-0.12	0.02	0.23	0.02
Tot Unem %	0.17	0.24	0.10	1.00	0.36	0.38	0.40	0.41	0.40	-0.45	0.17
Emp Fem	0.22	0.28	0.06	0.36	1.00	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.97	-0.34	0.42
Corr \$	0.30	0.35	0.17	0.38	0.95	1.00	0.96	0.87	0.97	-0.36	0.45
AFDC	0.21	0.25	0.07	0.40	0.95	0.96	1.00	0.90	0.99	-0.33	0.34
Food Stamps	0.04	0.11	-0.12	0.41	0.93	0.87	0.90	1.00	0.93	-0.48	0.40
Medicaid	0.16	0.21	0.02	0.40	0.97	0.97	0.99	0.93	1.00	-0.39	0.37
Graduates	0.10	-0.04	0.23	-0.45	-0.34	-0.36	-0.33	-0.48	-0.39	1.00	-0.57
Crimes	0.22	0.28	0.02	0.17	0.42	0.45	0.34	0.40	0.37	-0.57	1.00

Source: Florida TaxWatch, March 1995

*grow up in broken families, dominated by women, never acquiring any stable relationship to male authority, never acquiring any rational expectations about the future-- that community asks for and gets chaos . . . crime, violence, unrest, unrestrained lashing out at the whole social structure -- these are not only to be expected, they are virtually inevitable."*⁷

Research on communities and neighborhoods conducted in 1988 found that the greater the percentage of single-parent families with children in a neighborhood, the higher the rates of violent crime and burglary.⁸ Similar to the Florida TaxWatch findings on poverty, these researchers also found that the percentage of low-income families in a neighborhood was not related to the crime rate.

The relative strength of single parenthood as a concurrent factor with crime is further demonstrated by the strong relationships between this variable and the race variables discussed above. It was determined that the correlation coefficients between single parenthood and the racial composition of a state's population are also quite strong. For instance, the r between the number of single parent families and the proportion of the population that is white is $-.66$ and with blacks is $.76$ (including Washington, D.C.). This finding points to the fact that intrinsic characteristics of race are not the precursors to crime, rather the high proportion of blacks in single parent families is the more likely indicator.

To put this problem in perspective, only about 8 million children lived in single-parent households in 1970. The 1990 national census indicates that now, around 18 million children live with only one parent. The associative relationship of illegitimacy to race is even better understood when it is pointed out that in 1991, 68 percent of black children were born outside of marriage.

Race alone is not the factor precipitous to crime. When raised in two-parent households, the crime rates of both blacks and whites are the same.⁹ However, children raised in single-parent families have:

- poorer health;
- retarded cognitive development;

- low educational achievement;
- lower job achievement;
- increased behavioral and emotional problems;
- retarded social development; and
- a greater propensity toward criminal lifestyles.¹⁰

6. Percent of Population Living in Metropolitan Areas ($r = .58$) ($r = .58$ without Washington, D.C.)

This variable has been commonly considered a measure of urban density and a correlate of crime. One plausible explanation features the influences of urban decay, where the central areas of population are viewed as becoming territories of blight and havens for criminal activities. High crime rates, economically depressed inner cities and increasing suburban development are all common effects of the development of our cities. As people move farther away from their places of business, lower levels of economic enterprises take their place, leading to a higher susceptibility for criminal activity. Criminal enterprise short circuits the dynamics of the marketplace, thus making crime the ultimate tax on enterprise.¹¹ Such economic encumbrance makes it difficult to generate the enterprise that can bring opportunity and legitimate alternatives to people in the community. It also short circuits enterprise zones and initiatives for minorities and members of the under class.

Density, associated with high proportions of people living in metropolitan areas, is probably further modified by factors of homogeneity, especially if it is homogeneity within the dominant culture of the overall population.

7. Household Income ($r = .20$) ($r = .22$ without Washington, D.C.)

Household income is one standard economic indicator. Similar to the measure of a state's poverty level, this variable did not reveal a strong association with crime rates. No association with crime exists even when examining only the household income of whites or blacks. Again the Marxist assumption that variance and deficit in income sustains crime is not supported by the data. Being deviant does not appear to be set off by deterministic dispositions that make deviance inevitable.

⁷Daniel Patrick Moynihan, cited in "Casting a Wider Net", Ralph Reed, *Policy Review*, Summer 1993, n65, p. 33

⁸Douglas Smith and G. Roger Jarjoura, "Social Structure and Criminal Victimization," *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, February 1988, pgs. 27-52

⁹Ibid

¹⁰Fagan, Patrick, "Rising Illegitimacy: America's Social Catastrophe", in *FYI*. The American Heritage Foundation. June 1994

¹¹W.J. Bennett, *The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators*. 1994

8. Percentage of the Population Unemployed ($r = .22$) ($r = .17$ without Washington, D.C.)

Another commonly considered correlate to crime is unemployment -- states with higher rates of unemployment are generally believed to also have relatively high rates of crime. The correlation coefficient of .22 however, indicates that unemployment and crime are not highly associated. Here again a popular myth is not supported by the data, similar to the findings on poverty and household income.

9. Employed Females ($r = .27$) ($r = .42$ without Washington, D.C.)

Potentially similar in effect to single parent families, the research also examined the association of employed females with crime. As more women enter the work force from intact and single parent families due to economic necessities, it seems reasonable to postulate that the absence from home and the associated decline in time available for parenting responsibilities would act to influence more crime to be perpetrated by the related children. Findings from the correlation statistics however, indicate a lack of association. The potentially deviant influences associated with latch-key children are not supported by the evidence in this study. The negatives of this condition may be offset by the economic benefits which result from the employment of women. Rather than depreciating families' lifestyles, working women may be maintaining the family lifestyle and serving as protectors against the influencing factors of crime.

10. Percentage of 9th Graders Graduating from High School ($r = -.60$) ($r = -.57$ without Washington, D.C.)

Unlike educational spending, success with educational outputs, defined as the proportion of ninth graders graduating from high school, has a negative association with crime. Of course, this finding allows one to anticipate conversely that states with high rates of high school dropouts will have higher crime levels -- a finding that is to be expected and is supported by the correlation coefficient. As a person advances educationally, life chances improve and the price of

deviance is enhanced, inasmuch more is potentially lost through sanctions and punishment.

Florida TaxWatch also investigated potential associations between state differences in crime rates and variations in spending among the states for public welfare, Medicaid, AFDC and Food Stamps. None of the correlation coefficients were significant, indicating a lack of relationship between crime rates and social services spending in those areas.

Attention was also given to examining the relationship between states' crime rates and their expenditures for corrections. Again, no significant correlation was found, signalling that states that spend relatively higher amounts on their correctional systems (i.e. prison building campaigns) do not necessarily have lower (or higher) crime rates. Taken together, these findings coupled with those discussed earlier on education spending and federal spending on health and rehabilitative services, point to an overall lack of relationship between governmental spending patterns and any potential impact on crime.

Of course it can be argued that a total lack of public spending in the social service and welfare areas would surely act to increase crime. We would agree, but hasten to add that higher levels of spending is not the appropriate path either. We speculate that such spending does act as somewhat of a preventative deterrent for criminal activity. However, too few governmental programs in the social services area are effective, and some promote dependence instead of self-sufficiency. In addition, we believe the crime problem is a symptom of cultural deterioration, a problem not resolvable through traditional programs financed through public spending patterns.

It could be argued that these conclusions are not well founded because we examined spending patterns in the same year the crime rate was considered (i.e. 1992). Research limitations prevented a time series analysis to investigate potential gaps in time to experience an impact from social service spending. Experience dictates however that relative differences between state spending patterns are fairly consistent over time, given the stability of political tradition and its influence on state budgetary matters.

Rather than depreciating families' lifestyles, working women may be maintaining the family lifestyle and serving as protectors against the influencing factors of crime.

Multiple Regression Analysis

Correlational analysis has allowed an examination of single variables that are potentially associated with the dependent variable -- crime rates. Multiple regression techniques support analyses of several independent variables with each other and clustered together relative to the dependent variable. Stepwise (forward and backward) multiple regression analysis was completed using the variables previously mentioned. A multiple regression analysis is used to define predictors of a particular criterion -- a *dependent variable* -- from an array of predictor variables commonly called independent variables. This provides a way of portraying variables in association as a means to predicting the criterion variable. The regression analysis was initially conducted on data including the 50 states and Washington, D.C. However, the final analysis included only the 50 states inasmuch as the Washington, D.C. data demonstrated such severe outliers that it purported a potential bias in the accuracy of the evaluation.

Multiple regression analysis was used to find the best predictors of total crime levels from the data sources reviewed in this study. The forward and backward stepwise analysis deletes those independent variables which show the least or no relationship in predicting the dependent variable. The independent variables remaining showed little to no colinearity (e.g. low association with each other) amongst themselves and had a significant degree of correlation with the dependent variable so as to be a valid predictor of the dependent variable.

The β and "B" weights are the predictive coefficients derived from the regression analysis. They are significant for three variables in the forward step and for two variables in the backward step. This is illustrated in Figures 3a and b. Thus we could reliably use these variables as gross predictors of the variations in crime rates among the states. Inasmuch as the standard error for the backward regression was best, the two variables were chosen as the best coefficients for prediction.

Figure 3a

Forward stepwise regression without Washington, D.C.

Regression Summary for Dependent Variable: CRIMES R= .77344581 R ² = .59821842 Adjusted R ² = .57201528 F(3,46)=22.830 p<.00000 Std.Error of estimate: 7.9777						
N=50	BETA	STD ERR. OF BETA	B	STD ERR. OF B	t(46)	p-level
Intercept			20.69427	17.23209	1.20091	.235932
METRO	.448279	.098630	.25037	.05509	.454504	.000040
ONE PARE	.372563	.105123	3.07988	.86903	3.54406	.000917
% WHITE	-.238644	.109595	-.24662	.11326	-2.17750	.034609

Source: Florida TaxWatch, March 1995

Figure 3b

Backward stepwise regression without Washington, D.C.

Regression Summary for Dependent Variable: CRIMES R= .74619318 R ² = .55680427 Adjusted R ² = .53794487 F(2,47)=29.524 p<.00000 Std.Error of estimate: 8.2892						
N=50	BETA	STD ERR. OF BETA	B	STD ERR. OF B	t(46)	p-level
Intercept			-11.4066	9.271122	-1.23034	.224692
ONE PARE	.472387	.098294	3.9051	.812571	4.80585	.000016
METROPOL	.509040	.098294	.2843	.054898	5.17874	.000005

Source: Florida TaxWatch, March 1995

Forward regression analysis found that three variables -- the state's proportion of single parents, persons living in metropolitan areas and persons who are white -- account for about sixty percent of the variation in crime rates among the states. However, final analysis focused only on the backward step's predictors inasmuch as they represent a more demanding analysis and produced the lowest standard error for the "B" weights. Using backward regression analysis, two variables are shown to be associated with crimes -- the proportion of single parents and persons living in metropolitan areas.

**Two variables are shown to be associated with crimes --
the proportion of single parents
and persons living in metropolitan areas.**

These two variables account for over fifty percent of the variance of crime in the states. This is not to say that these are the reasons for or causes of higher crime rates, but it does show that where there are high concentrates of single parent families and in metropolitan areas there is a comparatively high rate of crime. They may merely be concurrent phenomena suggesting social dysfunction. In the backward regression table, the white percentage of the population lost significance. Though this was marginal, statistically it was dropped as a predictor.

Violent Crimes

Violent crimes are the most sensational crimes which grab headlines and foster terror among citizens. These crimes consist within the FBI Crime Reports as murder, rape and assault. Society views these acts as the most devious and the greatest reason for the need of law enforcement and personal protection.

Violent crimes were analyzed to determine if factors associated with this subset of total crimes are different than those in association with crimes overall. Using the same types of analysis, two familiar factors demonstrated relationships with violent crimes. They were the number of single parent families and the percent of the population in a metropolitan area. As they did for total crimes, these two factors were dominantly associated with violent crimes. These are not causal factors, merely they are highly related to violent crimes. These factors showed highly positive correlation coefficients and strong β and "B" weights and very low "p" values. Apparently social dysfunction evident with urban life and functional breakdown is associated with the rise of violent crime today. The empirical assessment of this subset of crime reinforces the conclusions of this review.

Regression Summary for Dependent Variable: VIOLENT						
R= .79569040 R ² = .63312321 Adjusted R ² = .61751143						
F(2,47)=40.544 p<.00000 Std.Error of estimate: 180.35						
N=50	BETA	STD ERR. OF BETA	B	STD ERR. OF B	t(47)	p-level
Intercept			-1066.83	201.7141	-5.28882	.000003
ONE PARE	.533615	.089431	105.49	17.6793	5.96674	.000000
METROPOL	.513303	.089431	6.86	1.1944	5.73963	.000001

Source: Florida TaxWatch, March 1995

Implications and Conclusions

The research first examined Florida's crime rate and pattern of seriousness and violence relative to the other states and over a period of time. It was determined that Florida is leading the nation in most categories of crime. An analysis of Florida's crime level and pattern over the past 20 years found that not only has the total rate of crime increased over the period, but the rate of violent crime has increased to a much greater extent -- 40.2 percent and 99.6 percent, respectively. It was also determined that the rate of violent crime has steadily increased as a proportion of the overall crime rate, reaching 14.5 percent in 1992. From the correlation matrix, certain variables were shown to be linked to high crime rates. Single parent families and the percentage of the population in a metropolitan area have consistently high positive relationships to crime. One other notable finding is that high school graduation rates are negatively correlated to crime levels. This means that the states with a high proportion of high school graduates have lower crime levels. Other variables such as poverty rates and household income are intuitively linked to crime rates, but they were found not to be correlated to the variations in the crime rates among the states.

Resolution of the crime trends does not seem to be forthcoming through some grand scheme or social program to redress society's ills. In fact, the pervasive failure of such social programs is legend. Of course, this failure may be more indicative of the propensity of state legislatures to fund social services at pre-existing levels generally with some work load increase, but rarely based on empirically sound information about which programs are effective and which are not. The crime that is perceived to be overwhelming us today is a symptom of conditions that are more threatening to mankind than the crimes themselves. The rising crime rate is probably a symptom of dire social disintegration. *Correlation between the magnitude of crime in general and single parenthood, illegitimacy, educational failure, etc. points to cultural deterioration.* This conclusion is reinforced with the empirically derived attribution of single parenthood and metropolitan residence as the primary predictive factors to crime. The logic of these relationships suggests some interesting implications. Contemporary urban society is marked by both anomie (normlessness) and alienation; these two factors are the building blocks of social dysfunction.

Anomie refers to a condition of social ambiguity in which a person does not know how to behave because the standards of behavior (norms) are unclear, absent or unacceptable to the individual.

Alienation is a condition fostered by social ambiguity in which the individual loses a sense of purpose or meaning in the social roles called for by life within the community.

Anomie and alienation's interaction with a truncated family structure provides a setting that fractures the socialization of an individual and is conducive to all sorts of social deviance. Rampant crime, social violence and a malaise that curtails social civility mark a society that is apparently coming apart. One has only to look at the daytime television talk shows to see these characteristics illustrated in the rasping vulgar articulations of persons highlighting one social or personal dysfunction or another.

Society in such circumstances may be in the process of losing its culture. When a society's culture can no longer provide for a stable system assuring the procreation and socialization of children, the culture is seriously deteriorating and the society is liable to be coming to an end. As Robert Rector, a policy analyst prominent in the national debate on welfare reform poignantly stated recently:

"If the illegitimacy problem is not solved, this society will collapse. Illegitimacy is the primary factor driving most other social problems, from school failure to unemployment to crime to emotional problems."¹²

The problem at hand transcends the mere redress of social and economic inequities. Remedies such as more jobs, new programs and new government interventions do not appear to be real solutions. The Florida TaxWatch analysis found that differences in state rates of spending for educational and social services have little relationship with differences in the crime rates. They can help, but the real solution is in the quality of the relationships of the people themselves. For instance, they must come to recognize that the appropriate or normative behavior espoused in the society's ideals is requisite for acceptance and progress in life. This includes procreation of children based on norms of

¹²Wall Street Journal, January 23, 1995, "GOP's Welfare Stance owes a Lot to Prodding from Robert Rector"

social sponsorship by the parents. This presumes that meaningful and responsible socialization of the children takes precedence over all appetites and personal choices of the parents or other members of society. Developing personal accountability for one's own decisions and acknowledging responsibility to others in one's community are norms away from the self-centered focus promoted in the contemporary social scene. Assuming such responsibility would alleviate the malaise of contemporary society.

Restoring personal responsibility and virtue is the way to eliminate crime and other dysfunctional social factors – not revising history, reinventing government, effecting restitution or even rejuvenating the economy can reduce crime and/or the fear of crime that holds us hostage today. The restoration of personal virtue has to take place on an individual level. If a person is caused by social conditions to be incapable of such personal actualization, it is the obligation of society and its government to encourage the virtue, not provide a substitute for it. For instance, it is fraudulent to presume that a substance-addicted mother, a self-centered sex obsessed thrill-seeking father, and the myriad of other socially and intellectually truncated persons that are given charge of the life and well being of babies and children born and raised in today's socially tenuous settings can get the job of child rearing done fairly and effectively. The prospects for nurturance and justice to the child are denied by such circumstances.

The resolution of this problem may not be found in the resource or behavior of deviant parents; it may be found only in a setting that can give a wholesome atmosphere to the socialization of the child. These settings can range from total institutions such as residential homes to comprehensive school and child care centers that would afford the parent(s) the opportunity to work or rehabilitate themselves to a conventional level of stewardship over their own life and the life of the child. But in the event that this is not achieved, the child should be afforded a positive socializing environment that delimits the negative cultural elements that may be the character of the behavior and lifestyle of the parent(s).

Noted criminologist James Q. Wilson recently said:

*"Incompetent or abusive parents existed when boarding schools flourished; they exist today. But today, unlike a century ago, the ideology of "family preservation" has intervened with its plausible but overly broad message that a child is invariably better off with his parents. It is an appealing idea and an inexpensive one to boot . . . But not all families are worth preserving . . . it is harder to argue that boarding schools and orphanages are discredited alternatives."*¹³

**Fostering growth in adults
and children alike
is the fundamental goal
in redressing this deterioration.
Growth is found in enabling
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to be enriched
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and have control
over their own lives.**

We function without conscience when we put the dependent under the auspices of those incapable of providing their basic needs and then simply wait for dire social consequences to ensue. This is an unjust social response that fuels the proliferation of programs to redress the unredressable. They suggest expanding a welfare industry that follows dogmatically mythical prescriptions such as "keeping the family whole" where there never has been a family; or even worse, maintenance in a setting where abuse and exploitation prevail . . . "Providing a family setting" can mean foster homes that are run solely for profit.

Looking at the crime problem from this cultural decay perspective eliminates some of the prejudices and bias this issue has fostered among us. Crime, for instance, is not a function of race. It also is not the inevitable product of the capitalistic system's greed as some would contend. Its causes are to be found in the failure of some to assimilate or be adaptable in their independence to the dominant culture. Cultural deterioration includes all groups in a culture. Some groups in the culture are more vulnerable than others, but a malaise such as dysfunction in parenting and the inadequate socialization of children exists at all segments of society. The dysfunction usually appears among those who are more vulnerable first. The taproot of America's crime seems to rest on deficits in the fundamental socialization of children, brought on by the narcissistic or inept behavior of their parents and the poorly articulated norms which reflect society's expectations.

¹³Wilson, James Q., "Bring Back the Orphanage", The Wall Street Journal, August 22, 1994

Absent in all these strategies are the ways and means to optimally develop childrens' personalities. The key to such strategies is not unknown or unattainable. It just hasn't been politically palatable. Fostering growth in adults and children alike is the fundamental goal in redressing this deterioration. Growth is not found in a handout or a copout; it is found in enabling people to gain skills, to be enriched with personal responsibility and have control over their own lives. These attributes can not come to people who are defined as victims. The promotion of justice is prerequisite to the real solution of this problem. Justice removes the stigma of being a victim of social dysfunction and inequities. Reaching for justice is requisite if the two cherished American values can operate in balance with one another -- namely equality and freedom. Focusing on justice has never been as popular as seeking freedom or equality, but as a unique and fundamental tenant of our Judeo-

Christian tradition it is key to our culture's preservation.

The bottom line for any strategy to succeed is to look to new paradigms and new approaches by freeing ourselves from the stereotypical responses fostered by deterministic social doctrines which are based on dogma -- not empirically verified facts. Looking to new paradigms will cause us to look at the products, outputs and outcomes of the myriad of social programs and initiatives introduced during this century by the social engineers and their political compatriots. Under such accountable review, alternatives will emerge. Undoubtedly, initiatives that focus on behaviors fostering self help and personal accountability will be proposed. We have examined and discussed the major correlates of crime. Next, in a future publication, Florida TaxWatch will further examine key individual and governmental actions to redress this basic dilemma.

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APPENDIX

Table I

State	TOTAL CRIMES			1992			Ranked Rate/100,000
	1991	1992	% Change in Number of Crimes	Rate / 100,000	% Change in Rate of Crime 91-92	State	
Alabama	219,400	217,889	-0.7	5,268.1	-1.8	District of Columbia	11,407.0
Alaska	32,499	32,693	0.6	5,565.9	-2.3	Florida	8,258.2
Arizona	277,711	269,335	-3.0	7,028.6	-5.1	Texas	7,057.9
Arkansas	122,749	114,233	-6.9	4,761.7	-8.0	Arizona	7,028.6
California	2,057,513	2,061,761	0.2	6,679.5	-1.4	California	6,679.5
Colorado	205,122	206,770	0.8	5,958.8	-1.9	Louisiana	6,546.5
Connecticut	176,531	165,787	-6.1	5,052.9	-5.8	New Mexico	6,434.1
Delaware	39,912	33,406	-16.3	4,848.5	-17.4	Georgia	6,405.4
District of Columbia	64,393	67,187	4.3	11,407.0	-5.9	Maryland	6,224.6
Florida	1,134,813	1,127,360	-0.7	8,358.2	-2.2	Nevada	6,203.8
Georgia	430,059	432,430	0.6	6,405.4	-1.4	Washington	6,172.8
Hawaii	67,764	70,899	4.6	6,112.0	2.4	Hawaii	6,112.0
Idaho	43,594	42,639	-2.2	3,991.4	-4.8	Colorado	5,958.8
Illinois	707,823	670,564	-5.3	5,765.3	-6.0	South Carolina	5,893.1
Indiana	270,279	365,375	33.7	4,866.9	2.7	New York	5,858.4
Iowa	115,546	111,275	-3.7	3,957.1	-4.3	Oregon	5,820.2
Kansas	138,081	134,222	-2.8	5,319.9	-3.9	North Carolina	5,802.2
Kentucky	124,692	124,799	0.1	3,223.5	-1.0	Illinois	5,765.3
Louisiana	273,170	280,647	2.7	6,546.5	-1.9	United States	5,660.2
Maine	46,531	43,516	-6.5	3,233.6	-6.5	Utah	5,658.5
Maryland	301,768	305,503	1.2	6,224.6	0.2	Michigan	5,610.6
Massachusetts	319,128	300,071	-6.0	5,002.9	-6.0	Alaska	5,565.9
Michigan	575,013	529,472	-7.9	5,610.6	-8.6	Oklahoma	5,431.6
Minnesota	199,274	205,664	3.2	4,590.7	2.1	Kansas	5,319.9
Mississippi	109,402	111,944	2.3	4,282.5	1.5	Alabama	5,268.1
Missouri	279,340	264,694	-5.2	5,097.1	-5.9	Tennessee	5,135.8
Montana	29,477	37,872	28.5	4,596.1	26.0	Missouri	5,097.1
Nebraska	69,361	69,444	0.1	4,324.0	-0.7	New Jersey	5,064.4
Nevada	80,876	82,324	1.8	6,203.8	-1.5	Connecticut	5,052.9
New Hampshire	38,098	34,225	-10.2	3,800.6	-10.7	Massachusetts	5,002.9
New Jersey	421,469	394,463	-6.4	5,064.4	-6.8	Delaware	4,848.5
New Mexico	103,396	101,723	-1.6	6,434.1	-3.7	Arkansas	4,761.7
New York	1,127,651	1,061,489	-5.9	5,858.4	-6.2	Indiana	4,686.9
North Carolina	396,723	397,047	0.1	5,802.2	-1.5	Ohio	4,665.5
North Dakota	17,741	18,465	4.1	2,903.3	3.9	Minnesota	4,596.1
Ohio	580,560	513,952	-11.9	4,665.5	-7.3	Montana	4,596.1
Oklahoma	168,165	173,289	3.0	5,820.9	1.1	Minnesota	4,596.1
Oregon	425,638	407,431	-4.3	3,927.7	-4.7	Rhode Island	4,575.1
Pennsylvania	50,595	46,009	-9.1	4,578.0	-9.2	Nebraska	4,324.0
Rhode Island	219,980	212,327	-3.5	5,893.1	-4.6	Wisconsin	4,319.0
South Carolina	21,647	21,322	-1.5	2,998.9	-2.6	Virginia	4,298.5
South Dakota	265,811	258,021	-2.9	5,135.8	-4.3	Mississippi	3,991.4
Tennessee	1,356,527	1,246,148	-8.1	7,057.9	-9.7	Idaho	3,957.1
Texas	99,255	102,589	3.4	5,658.5	0.9	Maine	3,523.6
Utah	22,426	19,437	-13.3	3,410.0	-13.8	Vermont	3,410.0
Vermont	289,619	274,418	-5.4	4,298.5	-6.7	Pennsylvania	3,410.0
Virginia	316,339	317,035	0.2	6,172.8	-2.1	Kentucky	3,323.5
Washington	47,698	47,288	-0.9	2,609.7	-2.0	New Hampshire	3,080.6
West Virginia	221,283	216,254	-2.3	4,319.0	-3.3	South Dakota	2,998.9
Wisconsin	20,189	21,320	5.6	4,575.1	4.2	North Dakota	2,903.3
Wyoming	14,872,883	14,438,191	-2.9	5,660.2	-4.0	West Virginia	2,609.7
United States							

Table II

State	VIOLENT CRIMES			1992			Ranked Rate/100,000
	1991	1992	% Change in number of crimes	Rate / 100,000	% Change in Rate of Crime 91-92	State	
Alabama	34,518	36,052	4.4	871.7	3.3	District of Columbia	2,832.8
Alaska	3,499	3,877	10.8	660.5	7.6	Florida	1,207.2
Arizona	76,304	80,979	6.1	563.1	3.6	New York	1,122.1
Arkansas	14,072	13,831	-1.7	576.5	-2.8	California	1,119.7
California	331,122	345,624	4.4	1,119.7	2.7	Maryland	1,000.1
Colorado	18,887	20,086	6.3	578.8	3.5	Louisiana	984.6
Connecticut	17,761	16,252	-8.5	495.3	-8.2	Illinois	977.3
Delaware	4,857	4,280	-11.9	621.2	-13.0	South Carolina	944.5
District of Columbia	14,671	16,685	13.7	2,832.8	15.5	New Mexico	934.9
Florida	157,243	162,827	3.6	1,207.2	1.9	Alabama	871.7
Georgia	48,894	49,496	1.2	733.2	-0.7	Texas	806.3
Hawaii	2,744	2,998	9.3	258.4	6.9	Massachusetts	779.0
Idaho	3,016	3,003	-0.4	281.4	-3.1	Michigan	770.1
Illinois	119,955	113,664	-5.2	977.3	-6.0	United States	757.7
Indiana	28,349	28,791	1.6	508.5	0.6	Tennessee	746.2
Iowa	8,477	7,816	-7.8	278.0	-8.3	Missouri	740.4
Kansas	12,465	12,888	3.4	510.8	2.2	Georgia	733.2
Kentucky	16,262	20,107	23.6	535.5	22.3	Nevada	696.8
Louisiana	40,438	42,209	4.4	984.6	3.5	North Carolina	681.0
Maine	1,631	1,616	-0.9	130.9	-0.9	Alaska	660.5
Maryland	46,469	49,085	5.6	1,000.1	4.6	New Jersey	625.8
Massachusetts	44,138	46,727	5.9	779.0	5.8	Oklahoma	622.8
Michigan	75,232	72,672	-3.4	770.1	-4.1	Delaware	631.2
Minnesota	14,006	15,144	8.1	338.0	7.0	Colorado	578.8
Mississippi	10,085	10,763	6.7	411.7	5.8	Arkansas	576.5
Missouri	39,358	38,448	-2.3	740.4	-3.0	Arizona	563.1
Montana	1,130	1,400	23.9	169.9	21.4	Kentucky	535.5
Nebraska	5,330	5,598	5.0	348.6	4.2	Washington	534.5
Nevada	8,693	9,247	6.4	696.8	2.9	Ohio	525.9
New Hampshire	1,318	1,397	6.0	125.7	5.4	Kansas	510.8
New Jersey	49,257	48,745	-1.0	625.8	-1.4	Oregon	510.2
New Mexico	12,972	14,781	14.4	934.9	12.0	Indiana	508.5
New York	210,184	203,311	-3.3	1,122.1	-3.6	Connecticut	495.3
North Carolina	44,355	46,600	5.1	681.0	3.4	Pennsylvania	477.0
North Dakota	415	530	27.7	83.3	27.4	Mississippi	411.7
Ohio	61,460	57,935	-5.7	525.9	-6.4	Rhode Island	394.5
Oklahoma	18,533	20,005	7.9	622.8	6.7	Virginia	374.9
Oregon	14,795	15,189	2.7	510.2	0.8	Nebraska	348.6
Pennsylvania	53,824	51,276	-4.7	374.9	-5.1	Minnesota	338.0
Rhode Island	4,638	3,965	-14.5	394.5	-14.6	Wyoming	319.5
South Carolina	34,621	34,029	-1.7	944.5	2.9	Utah	290.5
South Dakota	1,281	1,383	8.0	194.5	6.8	Idaho	281.4
Tennessee	35,955	37,487	4.3	746.2	2.8	Iowa	278.0
Texas	145,743	142,369	-2.3	806.3	-4.0	Wisconsin	275.7
Utah	5,077	5,267	3.7	290.5	1.3	Hawaii	258.4
Vermont	682	624	-8.5	109.5	-6.3	West Virginia	211.5
Virginia	23,459	23,907	1.9	374.9	0.5	South Dakota	194.5
Washington	26,224	27,454	4.7	534.5	2.3	Montana	169.9
West Virginia	34,440	3,833	11.4	211.5	10.7	Maine	130.9
Wisconsin	13,723	13,806	0.6	125.7	-0.5	New Hampshire	109.5
Wyoming	1,427	1,489	4.3	319.5	3.0	Vermont	109.5
United States	1,911,767	1,934,274	1.1	757.7	-0.1	North Dakota	83.3

Table III

State	PROPERTY CRIMES			1992 State	Ranked
	1991	1992	% Change in Number of Crimes		
Alabama	184,882	181,837	-1.6	District of Columbia	8,574.2
Alaska	29,000	28,816	-0.6	Florida	7,151.0
Arizona	253,559	243,629	-3.5	Washington	6,538.3
Arkansas	108,677	100,402	-7.6	Arizona	6,357.8
California	1,726,391	1,716,137	-0.6	Texas	6,251.6
Colorado	186,235	186,684	0.2	Hawaii	5,853.5
Connecticut	158,770	149,535	-5.8	Georgia	5,672.3
Delaware	35,055	29,126	-16.9	Louisiana	5,561.9
District of Columbia	49,772	50,502	1.6	Nevada	5,559.8
Florida	977,570	964,533	-1.3	California	5,506.9
Georgia	381,165	382,934	0.5	New Mexico	5,499.2
Hawaii	65,070	67,901	4.4	Colorado	5,379.9
Idaho	40,578	39,636	-2.3	Utah	5,368.0
Illinois	587,868	556,900	-5.3	Oregon	5,310.7
Indiana	241,930	236,584	-2.2	Maryland	5,224.5
Iowa	107,069	103,459	-3.4	North Carolina	5,121.2
Kansas	125,616	121,334	-3.4	South Carolina	4,948.6
Kentucky	108,430	104,692	-3.4	Alabama	4,909.0
Louisiana	232,732	238,438	2.5	United States	4,840.5
Maine	44,900	41,900	-6.7	Michigan	4,809.1
Maryland	255,209	256,418	0.4	Kansas	4,788.1
Massachusetts	274,990	253,344	-7.9	Illinois	4,788.1
Michigan	456,800	456,800	-8.6	New York	4,736.3
Minnesota	185,268	190,520	2.8	Connecticut	4,557.6
Mississippi	99,317	101,811	1.9	New Jersey	4,438.5
Missouri	229,982	225,246	-2.1	Montana	4,396.4
Montana	28,347	36,472	28.7	Alabama	4,389.6
Nebraska	64,031	63,846	-0.3	Tennessee	4,356.7
Nevada	72,183	73,077	1.2	Missouri	4,255.6
New Hampshire	36,780	32,828	-10.7	Wyoming	4,255.6
New Jersey	372,212	345,718	-7.5	Minnesota	4,252.7
New Mexico	90,474	86,492	-3.9	Delaware	4,227.3
New York	917,467	898,178	-6.5	Michigan	4,227.3
North Carolina	352,368	350,447	-0.5	Alabama	4,185.2
North Dakota	17,236	17,935	3.5	Arkansas	4,183.5
Ohio	489,100	456,017	-6.8	Rhode Island	4,139.6
Oklahoma	161,449	154,459	-4.3	Indiana	4,178.5
Oregon	153,370	158,100	3.1	Ohio	4,139.6
Pennsylvania	371,814	356,155	-4.2	Wisconsin	4,043.3
Rhode Island	45,957	42,044	-8.5	Nebraska	3,975.5
South Carolina	185,359	178,298	-3.8	Virginia	3,923.6
South Dakota	20,366	19,939	-2.1	Mississippi	3,870.7
Tennessee	229,856	220,534	-4.1	Idaho	3,714.7
Texas	1,210,784	1,103,779	-8.8	Delaware	3,679.2
Utah	94,178	97,322	3.3	Maine	3,392.7
Vermont	21,764	18,813	-13.6	Vermont	3,300.5
Virginia	266,160	250,211	-6.0	Pennsylvania	2,965.7
Washington	290,115	289,581	-0.2	New Hampshire	2,954.8
West Virginia	44,528	43,455	-2.4	North Dakota	2,820.0
Wisconsin	207,560	202,448	-2.5	South Dakota	2,804.4
Wyoming	18,762	19,831	5.7	Kentucky	2,798.1
United States	12,961,116	12,505,917	-3.5	West Virginia	2,398.2

Table IV

State	BURGLARIES			1992 State	Ranked
	1991	1992	% Change in Number of Crimes		
Alabama	51,873	49,053	-5.4	Florida	1,888.8
Alaska	5,582	5,170	-7.4	District of Columbia	1,888.8
Arizona	60,281	62,981	10.3	North Carolina	1,653.0
Arkansas	29,093	26,214	-9.9	Texas	1,523.2
California	424,656	427,491	0.7	New Mexico	1,511.4
Colorado	39,117	37,853	-3.2	Georgia	1,442.8
Connecticut	39,198	36,372	-7.2	Arizona	1,411.7
Delaware	7,668	6,598	-14.0	California	1,384.9
District of Columbia	12,405	10,721	-13.6	South Carolina	1,384.9
Florida	60,213	254,755	4.3	New York	1,378.5
Georgia	100,317	97,402	-2.9	Louisiana	1,267.2
Hawaii	14,011	13,006	-7.2	Alabama	1,186.0
Idaho	8,582	7,934	-7.6	Illinois	1,186.0
Illinois	120,284	125,306	3.1	Mississippi	1,289.2
Indiana	54,814	53,907	-1.7	Ohio	1,282.8
Iowa	32,267	21,197	-33.6	Tennessee	1,267.2
Kansas	33,601	32,639	-2.9	Michigan	1,186.0
Kentucky	29,576	27,378	-7.4	United States	1,168.2
Louisiana	60,017	58,574	-2.4	Maryland	1,131.2
Maine	11,146	10,156	-8.9	Washington	1,121.7
Maryland	56,258	55,520	-1.3	Hawaii	1,293.7
Massachusetts	69,977	64,318	-8.1	Connecticut	1,108.6
Michigan	111,116	98,257	-11.6	Oregon	1,067.7
Minnesota	37,832	39,859	5.4	Missouri	1,001.1
Mississippi	64,643	57,127	-11.6	Arkansas	1,092.7
Missouri	4,231	5,306	25.4	Colorado	1,077.3
Montana	11,574	11,477	-0.8	Illinois	1,077.3
Nebraska	18,026	17,108	-5.1	Massachusetts	1,068.2
Nevada	18,026	17,108	-5.1	New York	1,041.2
New Hampshire	78,821	75,508	-4.2	Rhode Island	947.3
New Jersey	204,499	193,548	-5.4	Michigan	947.3
New Mexico	26,672	23,896	-10.4	New Jersey	969.4
New York	114,009	113,117	-0.8	Delaware	957.6
North Carolina	2,367	2,487	5.1	Ohio	947.3
North Dakota	115,432	104,357	-9.6	Minnesota	889.7
Ohio	46,934	43,678	-6.9	Utah	885.0
Oklahoma	34,363	32,945	-4.1	Alaska	880.7
Oregon	86,074	75,834	-11.9	Vermont	825.6
Pennsylvania	11,320	10,579	-7.0	Maine	825.6
Rhode Island	49,669	49,669	0.0	Idaho	753.8
South Carolina	41,446	3,849	-90.7	Nebraska	743.6
South Dakota	67,608	63,665	-5.8	Kentucky	729.1
Tennessee	312,673	268,928	-14.0	Nevada	716.6
Texas	14,872	16,045	7.9	Virginia	709.1
Utah	49,224	45,217	-8.1	Wisconsin	671.0
Vermont	5,784	4,706	-18.6	Wyoming	691.9
Virginia	61,996	57,612	-7.1	Montana	643.9
Washington	12,009	11,287	-6.0	Pennsylvania	631.5
West Virginia	37,241	34,645	-7.0	West Virginia	622.9
Wisconsin	8,142,288	7,915,199	-2.8	New Hampshire	621.9
Wyoming	3,127	3,127	0.0	South Dakota	541.4
United States	1,168,20	1,168,20	-3.9	North Dakota	391.0

Table V

LARCENIES AND THEFTS

State	1992		1992 State Rate / 100,000	% Change in Number of Crimes	% Change in Rate of Crime 91-92	Ranked Rate / 100,000
	1991	1992				
Alabama	118,151	117,801	2,848.2	-0.3	-1.4	5,205.9
Alaska	20,375	20,728	3,531.2	1.7	-1.2	4,434.3
Arizona	159,987	158,053	4,124.6	-1.2	-3.3	4,357.2
Arkansas	71,487	66,288	2,763.2	-7.3	-8.3	4,245.1
California	986,120	968,534	3,137.8	-1.8	-3.3	4,124.6
Colorado	132,717	131,169	3,780.1	-1.2	-3.8	4,045.1
Connecticut	93,384	89,463	2,726.7	-4.2	-3.9	3,906.8
Delaware	24,836	20,419	2,963.6	-17.8	-18.9	3,780.1
District of Columbia	29,122	30,663	5,205.9	5.1	6.7	3,670.6
Florida	607,222	598,093	4,434.3	-1.5	-3.0	3,653.1
Georgia	240,359	246,619	3,653.1	2.6	0.7	3,609.9
Hawaii	47,195	50,544	4,357.2	7.1	4.8	3,565.5
Idaho	30,143	30,023	2,813.8	-0.4	-3.0	3,548.9
Illinois	382,942	359,618	3,091.9	-6.1	-6.8	3,531.2
Indiana	161,039	157,181	2,776.1	-2.4	-3.3	3,434.1
Iowa	79,030	77,788	2,766.3	-2.2	-2.2	3,366.8
Kansas	84,258	80,526	3,191.7	-4.4	-5.5	3,181.6
Kentucky	70,885	69,186	1,842.5	-2.4	-3.5	3,191.7
Louisiana	148,334	152,938	3,565.5	3.1	2.3	3,173.5
Maine	31,737	29,966	2,426.4	-5.6	-5.6	3,173.5
Maryland	163,524	165,244	3,368.0	1.1	0.1	3,137.8
Massachusetts	149,930	141,610	2,361.0	-5.5	-5.6	3,103.0
Michigan	324,985	299,486	3,173.5	-7.8	-8.5	3,091.9
Minnesota	131,330	134,750	3,007.8	2.6	1.5	3,060.0
Mississippi	57,373	58,851	2,251.4	2.6	1.7	3,007.8
Missouri	146,533	143,288	2,759.3	-2.2	-2.9	2,963.6
Montana	22,449	29,243	3,548.9	30.3	27.7	2,932.1
Nebraska	49,071	49,144	3,060.0	0.1	-0.7	2,919.9
Nevada	45,781	46,714	2,570.3	2.0	-1.3	2,848.2
New Hampshire	26,720	23,754	2,138.1	-9.4	-9.9	2,813.8
New Jersey	221,544	206,686	2,653.6	-6.7	-7.1	2,776.1
New Mexico	58,441	57,072	3,609.9	-2.3	-4.4	2,766.3
New York	531,681	495,708	2,735.8	-6.8	-7.1	2,763.2
North Carolina	218,192	217,717	3,181.6	-0.2	-1.8	2,759.3
North Dakota	14,154	14,498	2,279.6	2.4	2.3	2,735.8
Ohio	318,933	299,774	2,721.3	-6.0	-6.7	2,726.7
Oklahoma	96,842	94,180	2,932.1	-2.7	-3.9	2,721.3
Oregon	105,145	109,274	3,670.6	3.9	2.0	2,653.6
Pennsylvania	228,142	224,148	1,866.5	-1.7	2.1	2,546.5
Rhode Island	26,064	24,052	2,393.2	-9.8	-9.9	2,520.3
South Carolina	119,784	116,186	3,224.7	-3.0	-4.2	2,426.4
South Dakota	15,412	15,371	2,161.9	-0.3	-1.4	2,393.2
Tennessee	131,855	127,934	2,546.5	-3.0	-4.3	2,369.6
Texas	734,261	689,780	3,906.8	-6.1	-7.7	2,361.0
Utah	75,041	76,964	4,245.1	2.6	0.1	2,279.6
Vermont	15,161	13,507	2,369.6	-10.9	-11.4	2,251.4
Virginia	195,652	185,506	2,090.0	-5.2	-6.5	2,161.9
Washington	205,814	207,755	4,045.1	0.9	-1.4	2,138.1
West Virginia	29,369	29,200	1,615.5	-0.6	-1.2	2,090.0
Wisconsin	148,695	146,198	2,919.9	-1.7	-2.7	1,866.5
Wyoming	14,867	16,003	3,434.1	7.6	6.3	1,842.5
United States	81,422,238	79,915,199	3,103.0	-2.8	-3.9	1,611.5

Table VI

AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS

State	1992		1992 State Rate / 100,000	% Change in Number of Crimes	% Change in Rate of Crime 91-92	Ranked Rate / 100,000
	1991	1992				
Alabama	26,348	27,074	2.8	2.8	654.6	1,454.7
Alaska	2,289	2,614	14.2	14.2	445.3	10.9
Arizona	17,056	17,880	4.8	4.8	466.6	724.1
Arkansas	9,533	9,571	0.4	0.4	399.0	706.0
California	189,428	198,045	4.5	4.5	641.6	654.6
Colorado	13,472	14,049	4.3	4.3	404.9	653.4
Connecticut	9,230	8,284	-10.2	-10.2	252.5	641.6
Delaware	2,772	2,615	-5.7	-5.7	379.5	555.0
District of Columbia	6,706	8,568	27.8	27.8	1,454.7	512.6
Florida	96,047	104,827	9.1	9.1	777.2	516.4
Georgia	27,483	28,835	4.9	4.9	427.1	487.7
Hawaii	1,338	1,365	2.0	2.0	117.7	470.3
Idaho	2,482	2,398	-3.4	-3.4	224.7	483.5
Illinois	61,387	60,057	-2.2	-2.2	516.4	466.6
Indiana	19,102	19,008	-0.5	-0.5	335.7	466.5
Iowa	6,580	6,131	-6.8	-6.8	218.0	458.6
Kansas	7,741	8,418	8.7	8.7	333.7	447.7
Kentucky	11,610	15,409	32.7	32.7	410.4	445.3
Louisiana	26,120	28,013	7.2	7.2	653.4	441.8
Maine	1,066	1,013	-5.0	-5.0	82.0	431.6
Maryland	23,888	25,157	5.3	5.3	512.6	427.1
Massachusetts	30,294	33,288	9.9	9.9	555.0	410.4
Michigan	44,061	43,282	-1.8	-1.8	458.6	404.9
Minnesota	7,768	8,248	6.2	6.2	184.1	399.0
Mississippi	5,539	6,023	8.7	8.7	230.4	379.5
Missouri	24,107	24,223	0.5	0.5	466.5	335.7
Montana	799	944	18.1	18.1	114.6	333.7
Nebraska	3,970	4,115	3.7	3.7	256.2	317.8
Nevada	3,681	3,872	5.2	5.2	291.8	304.8
New Hampshire	583	588	0.9	0.9	52.9	301.1
New Jersey	23,848	23,740	-0.5	-0.5	304.8	291.8
New Mexico	10,086	11,448	13.5	13.5	724.1	268.2
New York	90,186	87,608	-2.9	-2.9	483.5	265.5
North Carolina	29,265	30,638	4.7	4.7	447.7	262.9
North Dakota	241	320	32.8	32.8	50.3	256.2
Ohio	31,393	29,547	-5.9	-5.9	268.2	252.5
Oklahoma	12,594	13,863	10.1	10.1	431.6	230.4
Oregon	8,714	8,963	2.9	2.9	301.1	224.7
Pennsylvania	26,440	25,505	-3.5	-3.5	212.4	218.0
Rhode Island	3,057	2,668	-12.7	-12.7	265.5	212.4
South Carolina	26,029	25,436	-2.3	-2.3	706.0	196.8
South Dakota	858	891	3.8	3.8	125.3	186.2
Tennessee	22,566	23,626	4.7	4.7	470.3	184.1
Texas	84,125	86,105	2.4	2.4	487.7	140.0
Utah	3,241	3,376	4.2	4.2	186.2	125.3
Vermont	410	419	2.2	2.2	73.5	117.7
Virginia	12,346	12,548	1.6	1.6	196.8	117.7
Washington	15,181	16,321	7.5	7.5	317.8	114.6
West Virginia	2,135	2,537	18.8	18.8	140.0	82.0
Wisconsin	6,330	6,276	-0.9	-0.9	125.3	73.5
Wyoming	1,214	1,225	0.9	0.9	262.9	52.9
United States	1,092,739	1,126,974	3.1	3.1	441.8	50.3

Table VII

ROBBERIES

State	1991			1992			1993		
	Rate/100,000	% Change in Rate	Number of Crimes	Rate/100,000	% Change in Rate	Number of Crimes	Rate/100,000	% Change in Rate	Number of Crimes
Alabama	6.246	9.2	1,991	6.819	9.2	2,132	6.247	-9.2	1,991
Alaska	645	-0.8	645	640	-0.8	640	640	-0.8	640
Arizona	6,215	-5.6	5,867	5,867	-5.6	5,519	5,519	-5.6	5,171
Arkansas	3,217	-6.4	3,011	3,011	-6.4	2,815	2,815	-6.4	2,619
California	124,939	4.8	130,897	130,897	4.8	136,855	136,855	4.8	142,813
Colorado	3,628	15.2	4,180	4,180	15.2	4,732	4,732	15.2	5,284
Connecticut	7,384	-6.3	6,918	6,918	-6.3	6,452	6,452	-6.3	5,986
Delaware	1,460	-28.6	1,042	1,042	-28.6	766	766	-28.6	480
District of Columbia	7,269	2.6	7,459	7,459	2.6	7,649	7,649	2.6	7,839
Florida	53,083	-6.8	49,482	49,482	-6.8	45,881	45,881	-6.8	42,280
Georgia	17,762	-5.1	16,863	16,863	-5.1	15,964	15,964	-5.1	15,065
Hawaii	986	16.7	1,151	1,151	16.7	1,316	1,316	16.7	1,481
Idaho	215	2.9	229	229	2.9	243	243	2.9	257
Illinois	52,653	-8.9	47,973	47,973	-8.9	43,293	43,293	-8.9	38,613
Indiana	6,506	6.4	6,921	6,921	6.4	7,336	7,336	6.4	7,751
Iowa	1,257	-11.5	1,113	1,113	-11.5	969	969	-11.5	821
Kansas	3,453	-5.1	3,277	3,277	-5.1	3,101	3,101	-5.1	2,925
Kentucky	3,084	6.1	3,273	3,273	6.1	3,462	3,462	6.1	3,651
Louisiana	11,860	-1.9	11,636	11,636	-1.9	11,412	11,412	-1.9	11,188
Maine	280	2.9	288	288	2.9	296	296	2.9	304
Maryland	19,783	6.4	21,054	21,054	6.4	22,325	22,325	6.4	23,596
Massachusetts	11,669	-5.2	11,059	11,059	-5.2	10,449	10,449	-5.2	9,839
Michigan	22,790	-8.3	20,902	20,902	-8.3	19,014	19,014	-8.3	17,126
Minnesota	4,345	12.9	4,906	4,906	12.9	5,467	5,467	12.9	6,028
Mississippi	3,015	7.9	3,254	3,254	7.9	3,493	3,493	7.9	3,732
Missouri	12,952	-9.0	11,783	11,783	-9.0	10,614	10,614	-9.0	9,445
Montana	150	2.2	150	150	2.2	150	150	2.2	150
Nebraska	861	5.8	911	911	5.8	961	961	5.8	1,011
Nevada	4,012	9.6	4,397	4,397	9.6	4,782	4,782	9.6	5,167
New Hampshire	365	0.5	367	367	0.5	369	369	0.5	371
New Jersey	22,744	-2.3	22,216	22,216	-2.3	21,688	21,688	-2.3	21,160
New Mexico	1,862	18.3	2,202	2,202	18.3	2,542	2,542	18.3	2,882
New York	112,342	-3.7	108,154	108,154	-3.7	103,966	103,966	-3.7	99,778
North Carolina	11,990	6.6	12,784	12,784	6.6	13,578	13,578	6.6	14,372
North Dakota	51	-2.0	50	50	-2.0	49	49	-2.0	48
Ohio	23,536	-7.5	21,925	21,925	-7.5	20,314	20,314	-7.5	18,703
Oklahoma	4,049	6.9	4,376	4,376	6.9	4,703	4,703	6.9	5,030
Oregon	4,387	2.7	4,507	4,507	2.7	4,627	4,627	2.7	4,747
Pennsylvania	23,191	-6.4	21,701	21,701	-6.4	20,211	20,211	-6.4	18,721
Rhode Island	1,234	-23.0	950	950	-23.0	716	716	-23.0	482
South Carolina	6,092	0.9	6,148	6,148	0.9	6,204	6,204	0.9	6,260
South Dakota	132	-9.1	120	120	-9.1	108	108	-9.1	96
Tennessee	10,543	4.0	10,964	10,964	4.0	11,385	11,385	4.0	11,806
Texas	49,700	-10.3	44,588	44,588	-10.3	39,476	39,476	-10.3	34,364
Utah	976	3.9	1,014	1,014	3.9	1,052	1,052	3.9	1,090
Vermont	67	5.1	70	70	5.1	73	73	5.1	76
Virginia	8,651	1.6	8,787	8,787	1.6	8,923	8,923	1.6	9,059
Washington	7,303	-1.7	7,178	7,178	-1.7	7,053	7,053	-1.7	6,928
West Virginia	779	1.2	788	788	1.2	797	797	1.2	806
Wisconsin	5,895	1.7	5,997	5,997	1.7	6,099	6,099	1.7	6,201
Wyoming	79	6.3	84	84	6.3	89	89	6.3	94
United States	687,232	-2.2	672,478	672,478	-2.2	657,724	657,724	-2.2	643,000

Table VIII

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

State	1991			1992			1993		
	Rate/100,000	% Change in Rate	Number of Crimes	Rate/100,000	% Change in Rate	Number of Crimes	Rate/100,000	% Change in Rate	Number of Crimes
Alabama	14,858	0.8	14,983	14,983	0.8	15,108	15,108	0.8	15,233
Alaska	3,043	-4.1	2,918	2,918	-4.1	2,793	2,793	-4.1	2,668
Arizona	32,291	-2.5	31,481	31,481	-2.5	30,671	30,671	-2.5	29,861
Arkansas	8,097	-2.4	7,900	7,900	-2.4	7,703	7,703	-2.4	7,506
California	315,615	1.4	320,112	320,112	1.4	324,609	324,609	1.4	329,106
Colorado	14,401	2.6	17,662	17,662	2.6	20,923	20,923	2.6	24,184
Connecticut	26,188	-9.5	23,700	23,700	-9.5	21,211	21,211	-9.5	18,722
Delaware	2,551	-17.3	2,109	2,109	-17.3	1,667	1,667	-17.3	1,225
District of Columbia	8,135	12.1	9,118	9,118	12.1	10,101	10,101	12.1	11,084
Florida	104,035	7.4	111,685	111,685	7.4	119,335	119,335	7.4	126,985
Georgia	40,489	-3.9	38,913	38,913	-3.9	37,337	37,337	-3.9	35,761
Hawaii	3,814	14.1	4,351	4,351	14.1	4,888	4,888	14.1	5,425
Idaho	1,853	-9.4	1,679	1,679	-9.4	1,505	1,505	-9.4	1,331
Illinois	75,642	-4.8	71,976	71,976	-4.8	68,310	68,310	-4.8	64,644
Indiana	26,677	-2.2	25,496	25,496	-2.2	24,315	24,315	-2.2	23,134
Iowa	4,772	6.2	4,474	4,474	6.2	4,176	4,176	6.2	3,878
Kansas	8,757	-6.7	8,128	8,128	-6.7	7,500	7,500	-6.7	6,871
Kentucky	7,969	2.0	8,128	8,128	2.0	8,287	8,287	2.0	8,454
Louisiana	24,381	10.4	26,926	26,926	10.4	29,471	29,471	10.4	32,016
Maine	2,017	-11.8	1,778	1,778	-11.8	1,539	1,539	-11.8	1,300
Maryland	35,517	0.4	35,654	35,654	0.4	35,791	35,791	0.4	35,928
Massachusetts	55,083	-13.9	49,416	49,416	-13.9	43,749	43,749	-13.9	38,082
Michigan	63,670	-7.2	59,057	59,057	-7.2	54,444	54,444	-7.2	49,831
Minnesota	16,106	15.9	18,911	18,911	15.9	21,716	21,716	15.9	24,521
Mississippi	7,420	-1.2	7,306	7,306	-1.2	7,192	7,192	-1.2	7,078
Missouri	28,806	-10.3	25,831	25,831	-10.3	22,856	22,856	-10.3	19,881
Montana	1,667	1.9	1,723	1,723	1.9	1,779	1,779	1.9	1,835
Nebraska	3,386	-4.8	3,225	3,225	-4.8	3,064	3,064	-4.8	2,903
Nevada	8,376	10.5	9,255	9,255	10.5	10,134	10,134	10.5	11,013
New Hampshire	2,434	-11.1	2,165	2,165	-11.1	1,896	1,896	-11.1	1,627
New Jersey	71,847	-11.6	63,524	63,524	-11.6	55,201	55,201	-11.6	46,878
New Mexico	5,361	11.4	5,974	5,974	11.4	6,587	6,587	11.4	7,200
New York	181,287	-6.8	168,922	168,922	-6.8	156,557	156,557	-6.8	144,192
North Carolina	20,167	-2.7	19,613	19,613	-2.7	19,059	19,059	-2.7	18,505
North Dakota	805	18.0	950	950	18.0	1,095	1,095	18.0	1,240
Ohio	54,744	-5.2	51,886	51,886	-5.2	49,028	49,028	-5.2	46,170
Oklahoma	17,673	14.6	16,601	16,601	14.6	15,529	15,529	14.6	14,457
Oregon	13,862	-6.1	12,881	12,881	-6.1	11,900	11,900	-6.1	10,919
Pennsylvania	57,598	-2.5	56,171	56,171	-2.5	54,744	54,744	-2.5	53,317
Rhode Island	7,973	-6.4	7,463	7,463	-6.4	6,953	6,953	-6.4	6,443
South Carolina	13,782	-9.7	12,443	12,443	-9.7	11,104	11,104	-9.7	9,765
South Dakota	808	-11.0	719	719	-11.0	630	630	-11.0	541
Tennessee	30,393	-4.8	28,935	28,935	-4.8	27,477	27,477	-4.8	26,019
Texas	163,830	-11.5	145,071	145,071	-11.5	126,312	126,312	-11.5	107,553
Utah	4,265	1.1	4,313	4,313	1.1	4,361	4,361	1.1	4,409
Vermont	819	-26.7	600	600	-26.7	381	381	-26.7	162
Virginia	21,284	-8.4	19,488	19,488	-8.4	17,692	17,692	-8.4	15,896
Washington	22,305	8.6	24,214	24,214	8.6	26,123	26,123	8.6	28,032
West Virginia	3,150	-5.8	2,968	2,968	-5.8	2,786	2,786	-5.8	2,604
Wisconsin	21,624	0.1	21,605	21,605	0.1	21,586	21,586	0.1	21,567
Wyoming	711	-1.4	701	701	-1.4	691	691	-1.4	681
United States	1,661,738	-3.1	1,610,834	1,610,834	-3.1	1,560,000	1,560,000	-3.1	1,509,000

Source: Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, 1993 and Florida TaxWatch, March 1995

Table IX

MURDERS

State	1991	1992	% Change in Number of Crimes	Rate/100,000	% Change in Rate of Crime 91-92	1992 State	Ranked Rate/100,000
Alabama	469	455	-3.0	11.0	-4.3	District of Columbia	75.2
Alaska	42	44	4.8	7.5	1.4	Louisiana	17.4
Arizona	291	312	7.2	8.1	3.8	New York	13.2
Arkansas	264	259	-1.9	10.8	-2.7	California	12.7
California	3,859	3,921	1.6	12.7	0.0	Texas	12.0
Colorado	199	216	8.5	6.2	5.1	Mississippi	12.2
Connecticut	187	166	-11.2	5.1	-10.5	Maryland	12.1
Delaware	37	32	-13.5	4.6	-14.8	Illinois	11.4
District of Columbia	482	443	-8.1	75.2	-6.7	Alabama	11.0
Florida	1,248	1,208	-3.2	9.0	-4.3	Georgia	11.0
Georgia	849	741	-12.7	11.0	-14.1	Nevada	10.9
Hawaii	45	42	-6.7	3.6	-10.0	North Carolina	10.8
Idaho	19	37	94.7	3.5	94.4	North Carolina	10.6
Illinois	1,300	1,322	1.7	11.4	0.9	Missouri	10.5
Indiana	423	464	9.7	8.2	9.3	Tennessee	10.4
Iowa	57	44	-22.8	1.6	-20.0	South Carolina	10.4
Kansas	153	151	-1.3	6.0	-1.6	Michigan	9.9
Kentucky	253	216	-14.6	5.8	-14.7	United States	9.3
Louisiana	720	747	3.8	17.4	3.0	Florida	9.0
Maine	15	21	40.0	1.7	41.7	New Mexico	8.9
Maryland	569	596	4.7	12.1	3.4	Virginia	8.8
Massachusetts	248	214	-14.1	3.6	-14.3	Indiana	8.2
Michigan	1,009	938	-7.0	9.9	-8.3	Arizona	8.1
Minnesota	131	150	14.5	3.3	10.0	Alaska	7.5
Mississippi	332	320	-3.6	12.2	-4.7	Ohio	6.6
Missouri	543	547	0.7	10.5	0.0	Oklahoma	6.5
Montana	21	24	14.3	2.9	11.5	West Virginia	6.3
Nebraska	52	68	30.8	4.2	27.3	Colorado	6.2
Nevada	152	145	-4.6	10.9	-7.6	Pennsylvania	6.2
New Hampshire	40	18	-55.0	1.6	-55.6	Kansas	6.0
New Jersey	406	397	-2.2	5.1	-1.9	Kentucky	5.8
New Mexico	163	141	-13.5	8.9	-15.2	Connecticut	5.1
New York	2,571	2,397	-6.8	13.2	-7.0	New Jersey	5.1
North Carolina	769	723	-6.0	10.6	-7.0	Washington	5.0
North Dakota	7	12	71.4	1.9	72.7	Oregon	4.7
Ohio	783	724	-7.5	6.6	-8.3	Delaware	4.6
Oklahoma	230	210	-8.7	6.5	-9.7	Wisconsin	4.4
Oregon	133	139	4.5	4.2	2.2	Nebraska	4.2
Pennsylvania	758	746	-1.6	6.2	-1.6	Hawaii	3.6
Rhode Island	37	36	-2.7	3.6	-2.7	Wyoming	3.6
South Carolina	402	373	-7.2	10.4	-8.0	Massachusetts	3.6
South Dakota	12	4	-66.7	0.6	-64.7	Rhode Island	3.6
Tennessee	547	520	-4.9	10.4	-5.5	Idaho	3.5
Texas	2,652	2,239	-15.6	12.7	-17.0	Minnesota	3.3
Utah	52	54	3.8	3.0	3.4	Utah	3.0
Vermont	12	12	0.0	2.1	0.0	Montana	2.9
Virginia	583	564	-3.3	8.8	-5.4	Vermont	2.1
Washington	211	258	22.3	5.0	19.0	North Dakota	1.9
West Virginia	111	115	3.6	6.3	1.7	Maine	1.7
Wisconsin	239	218	-8.8	4.4	-8.3	West Virginia	1.6
Wyoming	15	17	13.3	3.6	9.1	Iowa	1.6
United States	24,703	23,760	-3.8	9.3	-5.1	South Dakota	0.6

Note: Murders include non-negligent manslaughter.

Table X

FORCIBLE RAPE

State	1991	1992	% Change in Number of Crimes	Rate/100,000	% Change in Rate of Crime 91-92	1992 State	Ranked Rate/100,000
Alabama	1,455	1,704	17.1	41.2	15.7	Alaska	98.6
Alaska	523	579	10.7	98.6	7.4	Delaware	85.8
Arizona	1,590	1,647	3.6	43.0	1.4	Michigan	80.0
Arkansas	1,058	990	-6.4	41.3	-7.4	Washington	72.0
California	12,896	12,761	-1.0	41.3	-2.6	Nevada	62.8
Colorado	1,588	1,641	3.3	47.3	0.6	New Mexico	62.6
Connecticut	860	884	2.8	26.9	7.9	South Carolina	57.5
Delaware	588	591	0.5	85.8	-0.8	Florida	54.2
District of Columbia	214	215	0.5	36.5	2.0	Texas	53.4
Florida	6,865	7,310	6.5	54.2	4.8	Oregon	53.1
Georgia	2,800	3,057	9.2	45.3	7.1	Ohio	52.1
Hawaii	375	440	17.3	37.9	14.8	South Dakota	51.8
Idaho	300	339	13.0	31.8	10.0	Oklahoma	48.4
Illinois	4,615	4,312	-6.6	37.1	-7.3	Colorado	47.3
Indiana	2,318	2,398	3.5	42.4	2.7	Tennessee	47.3
Iowa	583	528	-9.4	18.8	-10.0	Maryland	46.4
Kansas	1,118	1,042	-6.8	41.3	-7.8	Utah	45.4
Kentucky	1,315	1,209	-8.1	32.2	-9.0	Georgia	45.3
Louisiana	1,738	1,813	4.3	42.3	3.4	Mississippi	44.6
Maine	270	294	8.9	23.8	8.7	Arizona	43.0
Maryland	2,229	2,278	2.2	46.4	1.1	United States	42.8
Massachusetts	1,926	2,166	12.5	36.1	12.5	Indiana	42.4
Michigan	7,572	7,550	2.4	80.0	1.7	Louisiana	42.3
Minnesota	1,762	1,840	4.4	41.1	3.3	California	41.3
Mississippi	1,199	1,166	-2.8	44.6	-3.7	Kansas	41.3
Missouri	1,756	1,895	7.9	36.5	7.4	Arkansas	41.3
Montana	160	210	31.3	25.5	28.8	Alabama	41.2
Nebraska	447	504	12.8	31.4	11.7	Minnesota	41.1
Nevada	848	833	-1.8	62.8	-4.8	New Hampshire	38.2
New Hampshire	330	424	28.5	38.2	27.8	Hawaii	37.9
New Jersey	2,259	2,392	5.9	30.7	5.5	Illinois	37.1
New Mexico	811	990	22.1	62.6	19.5	Missouri	36.5
New York	5,085	5,152	1.3	28.4	0.7	District of Columbia	36.5
North Carolina	2,331	2,455	5.3	35.9	3.8	Massachusetts	36.1
North Dakota	116	148	27.6	23.3	27.3	North Carolina	35.9
Ohio	5,748	5,739	-0.2	52.1	-0.8	Wyoming	35.9
Oklahoma	1,615	1,556	-3.7	48.4	-4.9	Kentucky	32.2
Oregon	1,561	1,580	1.2	53.1	0.6	Idaho	31.8
Pennsylvania	3,435	3,324	-3.2	27.7	-3.5	Virginia	31.5
Rhode Island	310	311	0.3	30.9	0.0	Nebraska	31.4
South Carolina	2,098	2,072	-1.2	57.5	-2.4	Rhode Island	30.9
South Dakota	279	368	31.9	51.8	30.5	New Jersey	30.7
Tennessee	2,299	2,377	3.4	47.3	1.9	New York	28.4
Texas	9,266	9,437	1.8	53.4	0.0	Pennsylvania	27.7
Utah	808	823	1.9	45.4	2.9	Connecticut	26.9
Vermont	173	142	-17.9	24.9	-18.4	Wisconsin	26.3
Virginia	1,879	2,008	6.9	31.5	5.4	Montana	25.5
Washington	3,529	3,697	4.8	72.0	2.4	Virginia	24.9
West Virginia	415	393	-5.3	21.7	-5.7	Vermont	23.8
Wisconsin	1,259	1,315	4.4	26.3	3.5	Maine	23.3
Wyoming	119	163	37.0	35.0	35.1	North Dakota	21.7
United States	106,593	109,062	2.3	42.8	1.2	West Virginia	18.8

SOURCES FOR CORRELATES OF CRIME

- ⇒ Percentage of the population in poverty (Pov percent);
Percentage of the population below the national poverty level
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Percentage of the white population in poverty (Pov White);
Percentage of the white population below the national poverty level
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Percentage of the black population in poverty (Pov Black);
Percentage of the black population below the national poverty level
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Federal expenditures for Health and Human Services per capita (HRS);
Federal grants to state and local governments by the Department of Health and Human Services
Federal Expenditures by State for FY 1992, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Per pupil expenditure (Pupil \$);
Total per pupil expenditure in average daily attendance
National Education Association, Estimates of School Statistics, 1992
- ⇒ Percentage of the population which is white (percent White);
Percentage of the population of the states which is white
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Percentage of the population which is black (percent Black);
Percentage of the population of the state which is black
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Number of single parent families per 100,000 persons (One Parent);
Per capita families with single parent householders
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Percentage of the population in a metropolitan area (Metro);
Percentage of the population of the states living in metropolitan statistical areas
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Total household income (HH\$);
Median income of households in the states
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Total white household income (HH\$ white);
Median income of white households in the states
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Total black household income (HH\$ black);
Median income of black households in the states
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Percentage of total unemployment (Tot Unem percent);
Percentage of the population of the states, 16 years of age and older, non-institutionalized, which are unemployed (based on annual average of monthly data)
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Employed females per 100,000 persons (Emp Fem); and
Percentage of the population of the states, 16 years of age and older, who are employed females
Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
- ⇒ Percentage of Ninth Graders graduating from high school (Graduates)
Public high school graduates as a percentage of 9th Grade enrollment
U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics

About Florida TaxWatch

Florida TaxWatch is the only statewide organization entirely devoted to state taxing and spending issues in Florida. Since its inception in 1979, Florida TaxWatch has become widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. The nationally distributed *City and State* magazine (purchased by *Governing* magazine) in 1989 published a poll of the nation's statewide taxpayer research centers. Based on this poll, the publication cited Florida TaxWatch as one of the six most influential and respected taxpayer assistance institutes in the nation.

In recent years, news stories about Florida TaxWatch have run in all Florida newspapers, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. In addition, Florida TaxWatch has been featured on the prestigious *MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour* and several times in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Florida TaxWatch is a private, non-profit, non-partisan research institute supported entirely by voluntary, tax-deductible membership contributions and philanthropic foundation grants. Membership is open to any organization or individual interested in supporting a credible research effort that promotes positive change. Members, through their loyal support, help Florida TaxWatch to bring about an effective, responsive government that is accountable to the citizens it serves.

Florida TaxWatch is supported by all types of taxpayers -- homeowners, small businesses, large corporations, professional firms, labor unions, associations, individuals and philanthropic foundations -- representing a wide spectrum of Florida's citizens.

Florida TaxWatch is well known and respected for its empirically sound research products which recommend productivity enhancements and explain statewide impact of economic and tax and spend policies and practices. Without lobbying, Florida TaxWatch has worked diligently and effectively to build government efficiency and promote responsible, cost-effective improvements that add value and benefit taxpayers. This diligence has yielded impressive results: three out of four of TaxWatch's cost-saving recommendations have been implemented, saving taxpayers \$2.5 billion. That translates to nearly \$350 for every Florida family.

With your help, we will continue our diligence to make certain your tax investments are fair and beneficial to you, the taxpaying customer who supports Florida's government. Florida TaxWatch is ever present to ensure that taxes are equitable, not excessive, that their public benefits and costs are weighed, and that government agencies are more responsive and productive in their use of public funds.

The Florida TaxWatch Board of Trustees is responsible for the general direction and oversight of the research institute and safeguarding the independence of the organization's work. In his capacity as chief executive officer, the president is responsible for formulating and coordinating policies, projects, publications and selecting the professional staff. As an independent research institute and taxpayer watchdog, the research findings, conclusions and recommendations of Florida TaxWatch do not necessarily reflect the view of its distinguished Board of Trustees.



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