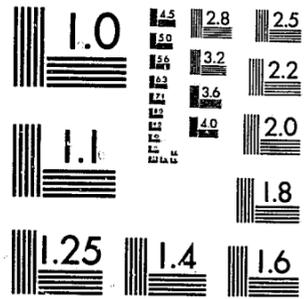


National Criminal Justice Reference Service



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NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

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CRIME AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM
IN VIRGINIA

VOLUME I: VIRGINIA CRIME AND CLEARANCE RATES

Department of Criminal Justice Services
805 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

December, 1982

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ACQUISITIONS

INTRODUCTION

VOLUME I: VIRGINIA CRIME AND CLEARANCE RATES

Two predominantly used indicators of public safety and law enforcement efficacy continue to be the compilation of index crime rates and their corresponding clearance rates. Within this framework is established not only the incidence of major reported crimes but also the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies to investigate and produce a subsequent arrest. Volume I: Virginia Crime and Clearance Rates details a cross comparison of the rates of major crimes and their corresponding clearance rates between Virginia and the national averages. Also more direct comparisons are made with selected states bordering the Commonwealth as well as between specified regions within the State.

Through its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, the Federal Bureau of Investigation annually gathers criminal justice statistics from law enforcement agencies at the state and local levels across the nation. To a considerable extent the data-collection efforts of the FBI, as well as the supporting activities of organizations like the Virginia State Police, are directed at a group of eight Index (or Part 1) crimes--murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Emphasizing conditions in Virginia, this report offers tabular and graphic profiles of UCR data¹ (specifically, crime and clearance rates)² for seven Index categories.³

¹The following analysis is based upon quantitative information from two sources. National and state crime rates, along with U.S. clearance scores, have been supplied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which issues data through a series of yearly reports entitled Crime in the United States. Virginia clearance rates have been provided by the Virginia Department of State Police, whose offense statistics are published annually under the title of Crime in Virginia.

²In any geographic unit the crime rate for a Part 1 offense is the number of recorded incidents per 100,000 members of the general population. The clearance rate is the percentage of all such incidents that are resolved by arrest or "exceptional means" (for example, the deathbed confession of an offender).

³The crime of arson has been omitted because the available data are insufficient for analytic purposes.

Crime Rates in Virginia and the Nation

From 1976 through 1980, Virginia reflected the United States at large in terms of its annual incidence rankings for Part 1 crimes. That is to say, at the state and national levels, larceny headed the list and was followed--in descending order of occurrence--by burglary, motor vehicle theft, aggravated assault, robbery, forcible rape, and murder. Also during the time span under analysis (see the line graphs on pages 2 through 8), Virginia incidence rates were uniformly lower than the corresponding national figures for every offense type except murder. Yet, even in relation to that category, State crime rates fell beneath the U.S. scores from 1978 through 1980. Finally, it should be noted--as Table A indicates--that for many of the Index categories the crime situation, on the average, was markedly less serious in Virginia than in the nation at large. In fact, aside from murder and larceny, each Part 1 offense type yielded a national mean score that was at least one-fourth higher than the Virginia average.

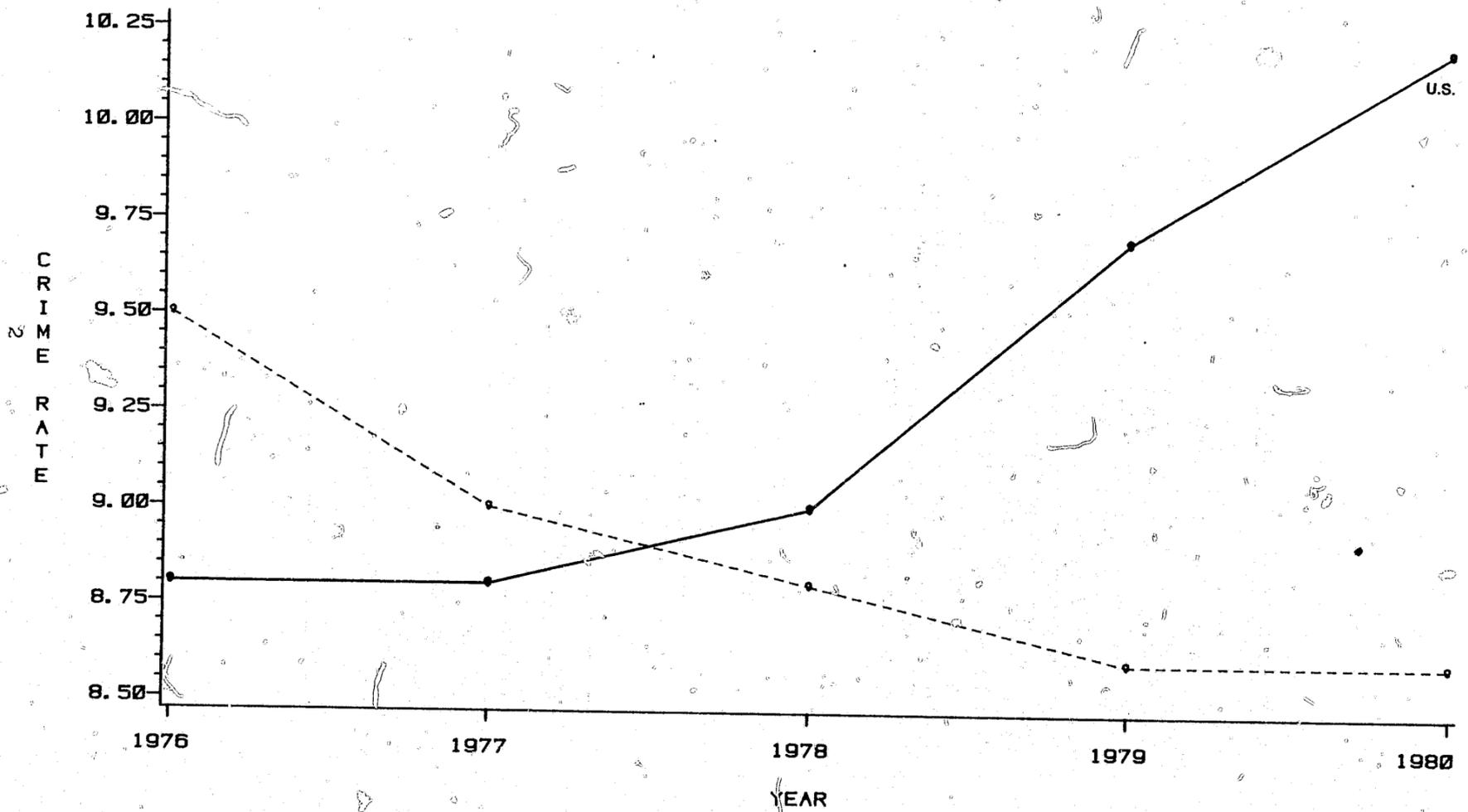
TABLE A

MEAN CRIME RATES FOR PART 1 OFFENSES
VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE, 1976-80

OFFENSE CATEGORY	VIRGINIA	UNITED STATES
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	8.9	9.3
Forcible Rape	24.5	31.4
Robbery	105.8	206.0
Aggravated Assault	159.2	259.2
Burglary	1056.3	1488.3
Larceny	2670.3	2908.0
Motor Vehicle Theft	231.3	468.3

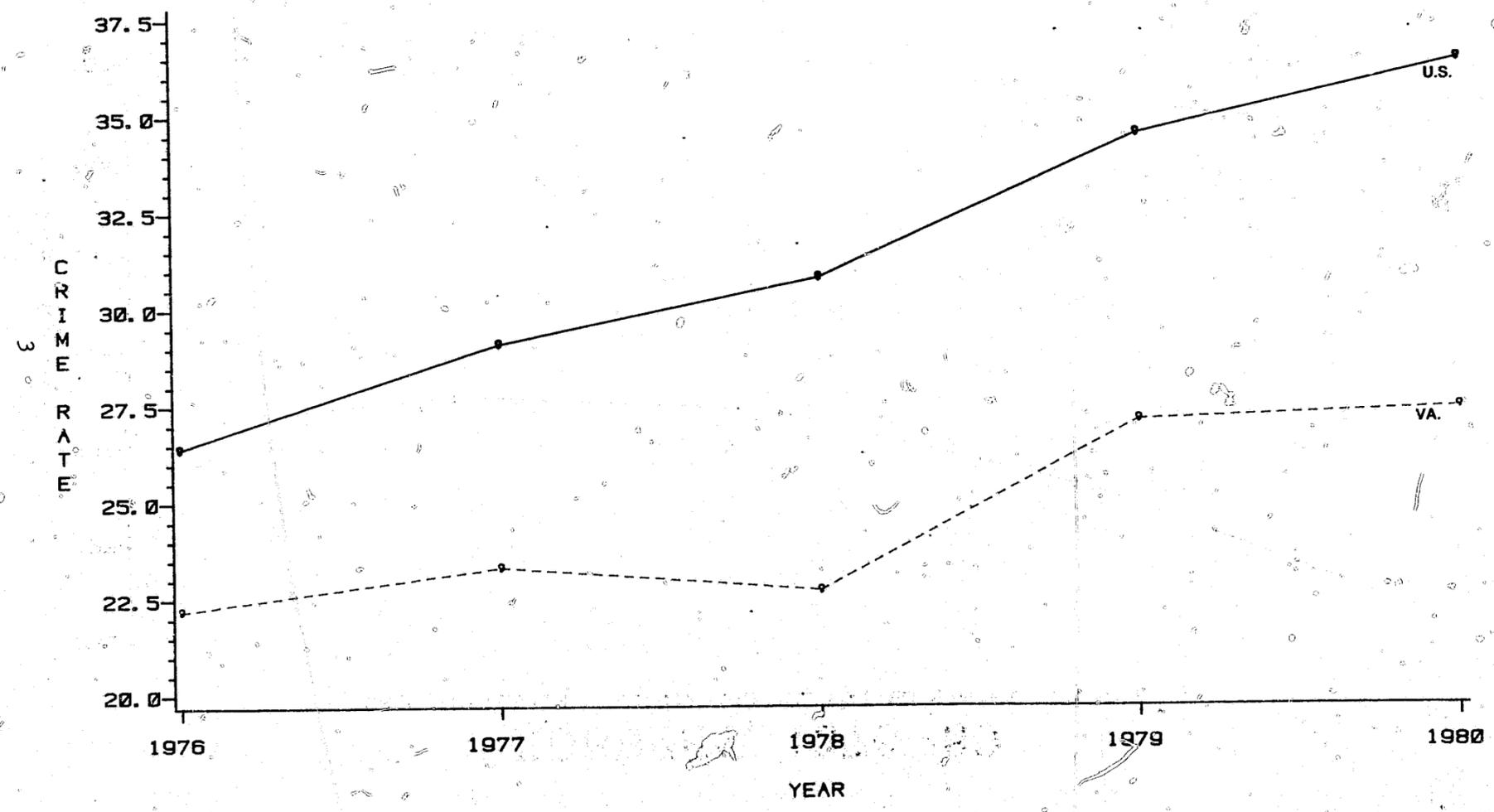
MURDER/NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER, 1976-80

CRIME RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



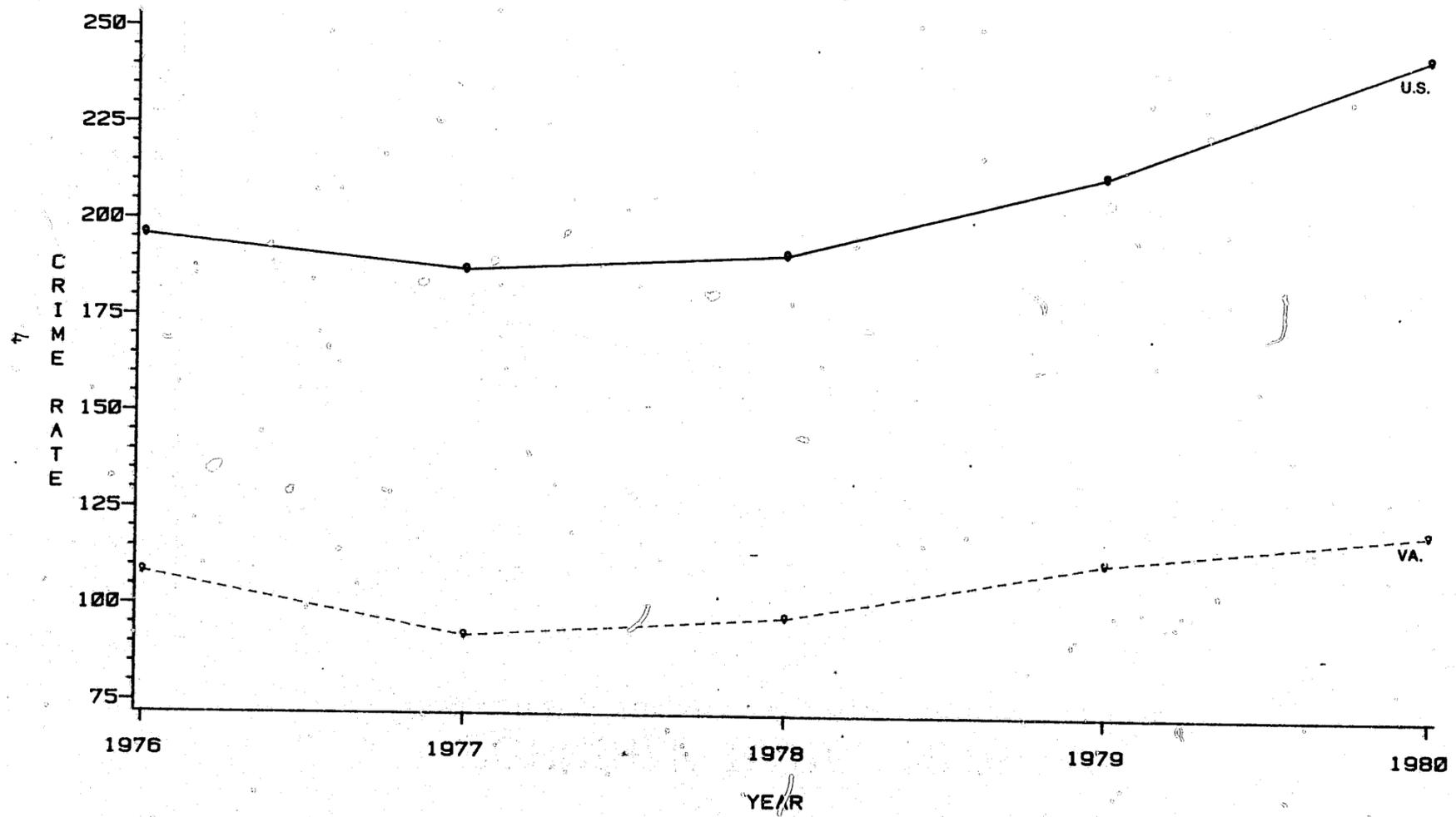
FORCIBLE RAPE, 1976-80

CRIME RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



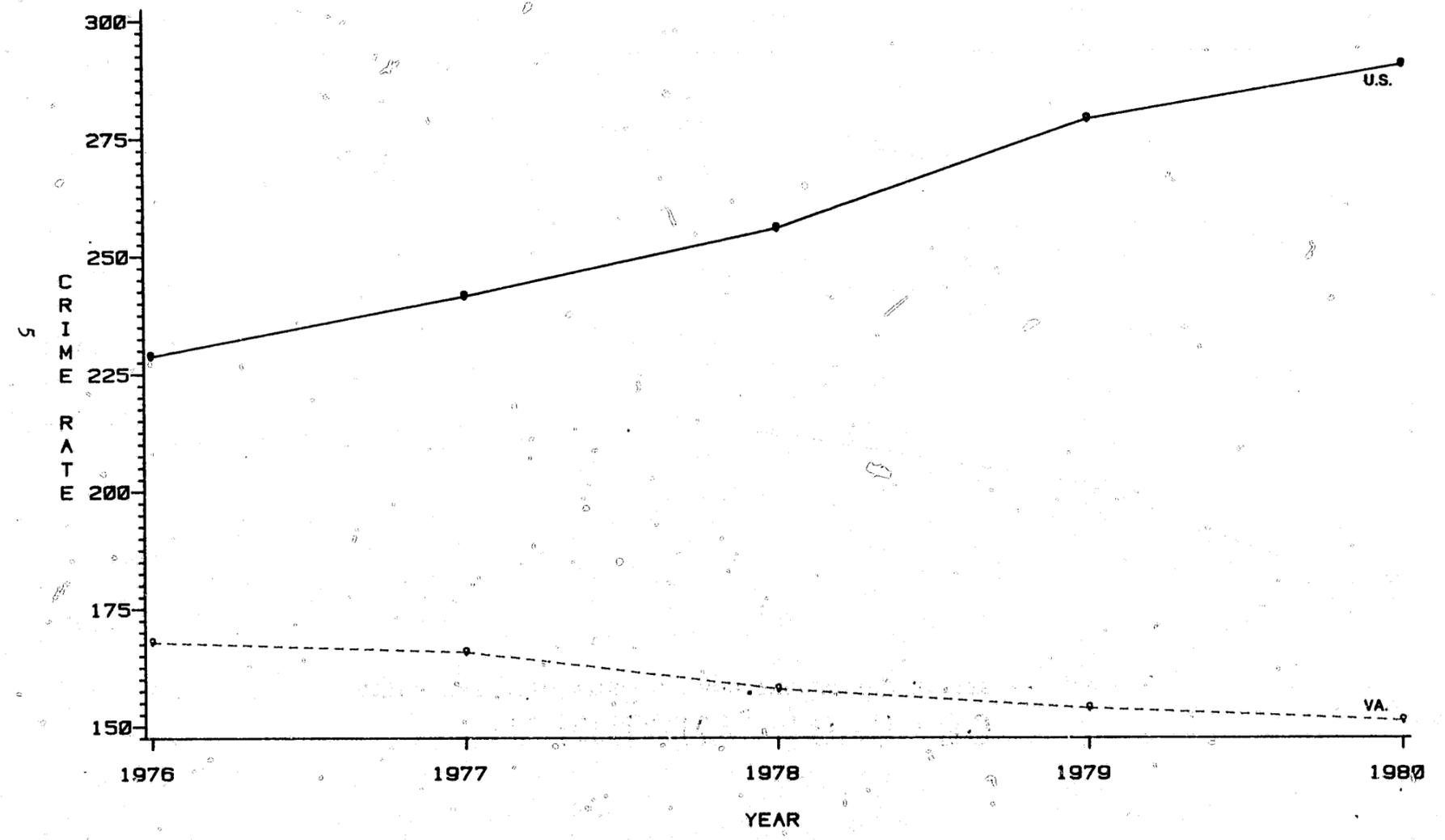
ROBBERY, 1976-80

CRIME RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



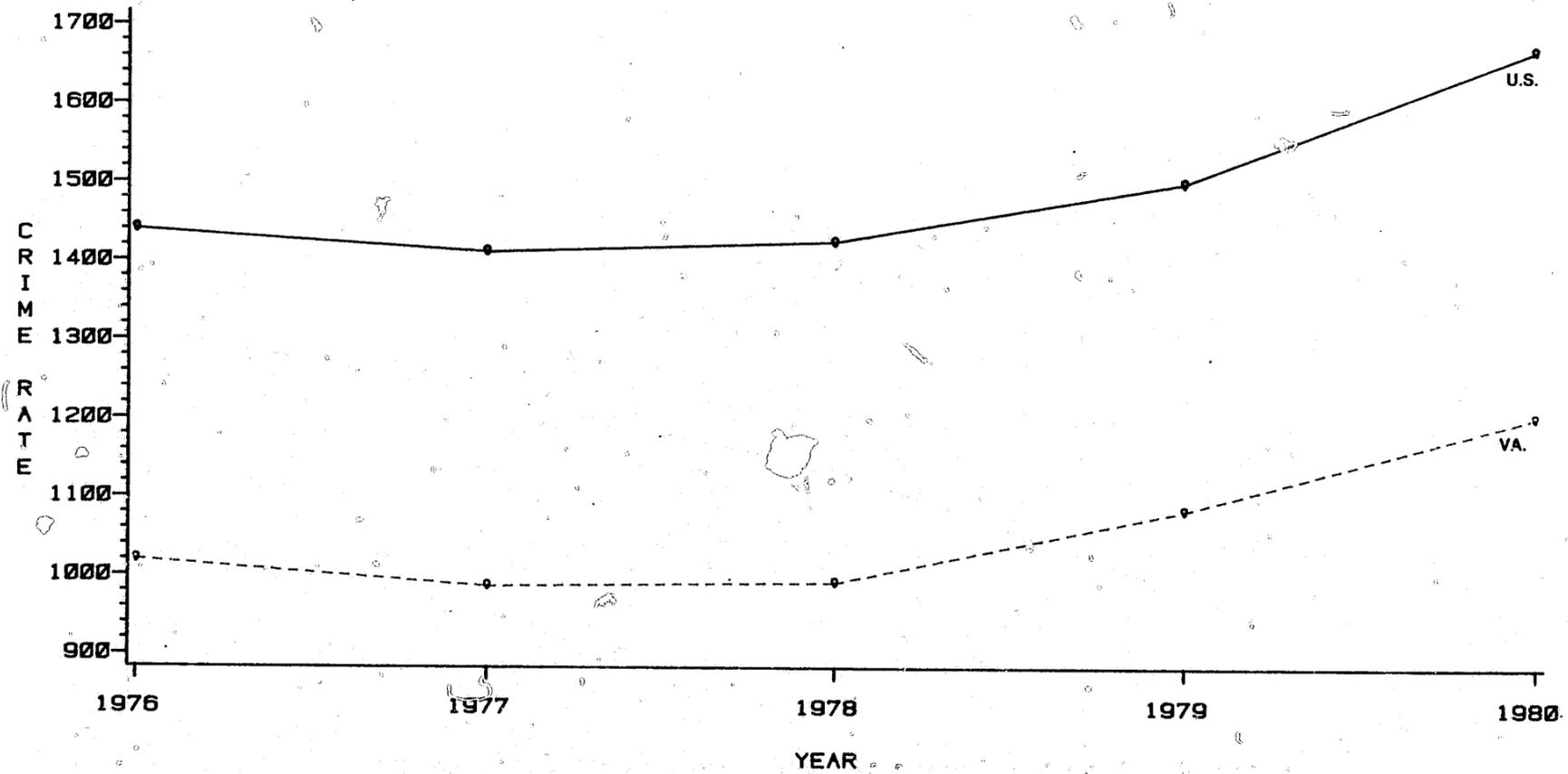
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, 1976-80

CRIME RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



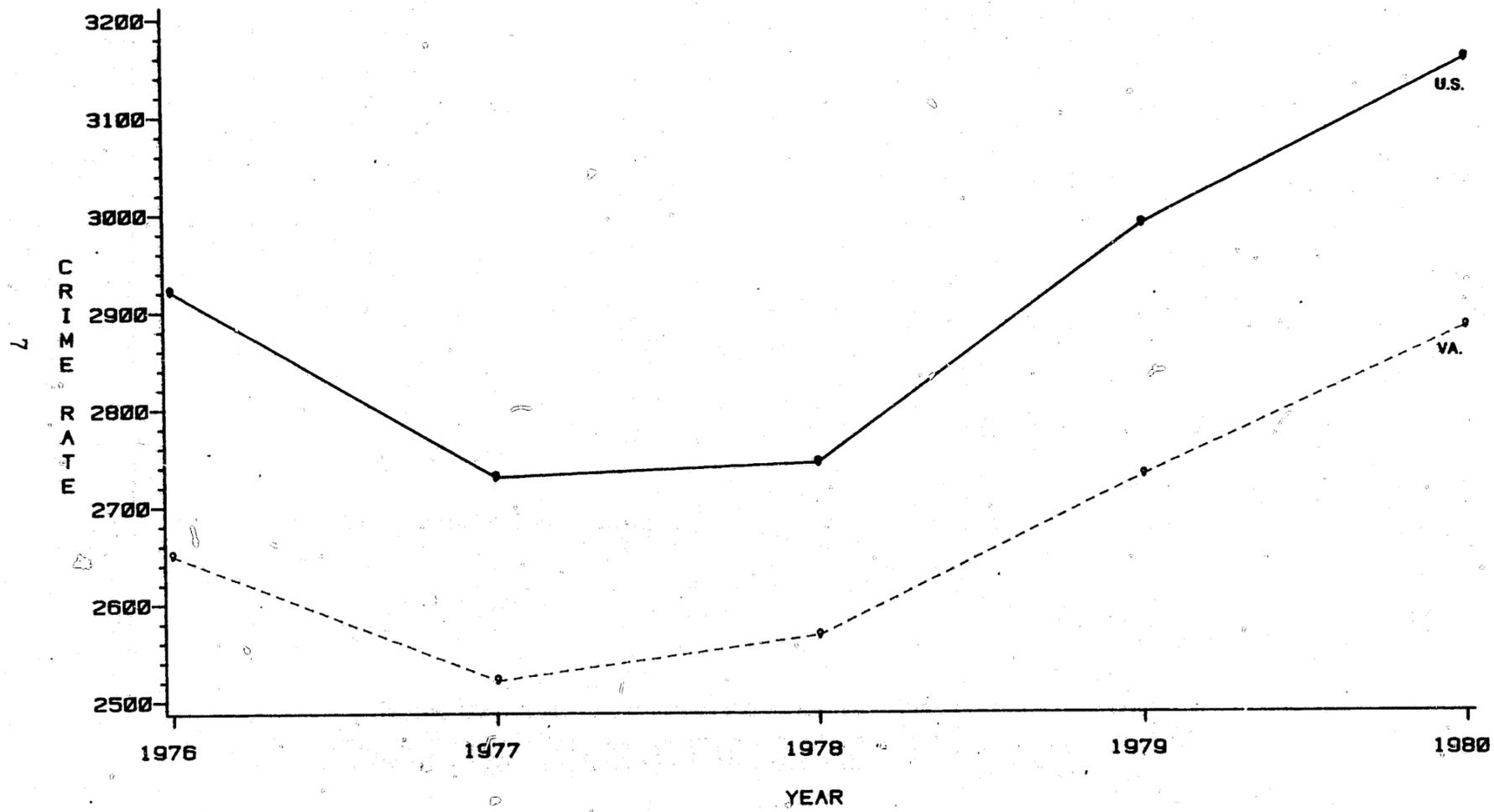
BURGLARY, 1976-80

CRIME RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



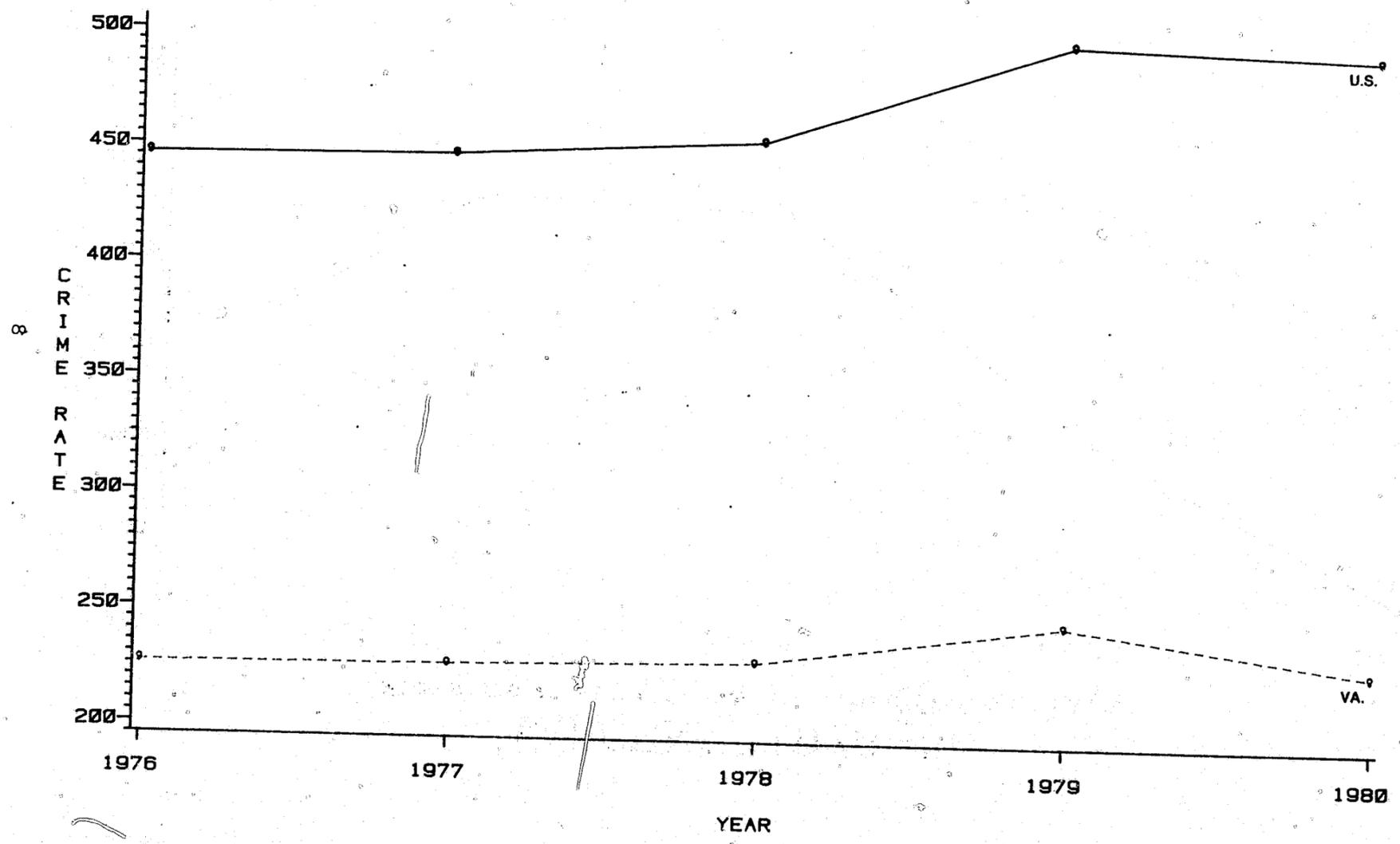
LARCENY, 1976-80

CRIME RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT, 1976-80

CRIME RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



U.S.

VA.

1980

Clearance Rates in Virginia and the Nation

Between the outset of 1976 and the close of 1980, law enforcement agencies in Virginia, like their counterparts elsewhere, found that acts of murder, aggravated assault, and forcible rape were more amenable to closure than the remaining Index crimes. From the line graphs on pages 10 through 16, it is evident, too, that during this period Virginia clearance rates were consistently higher than the matching national scores for each Part 1 offense except larceny, a crime category whose statewide "clearance" rate lagged behind the U.S. figure until 1980. Over the time span covered by Table B, the Virginia mean score exceeded the national average by a margin of more than ten points on four of the seven Index dimensions--murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, and motor vehicle theft.

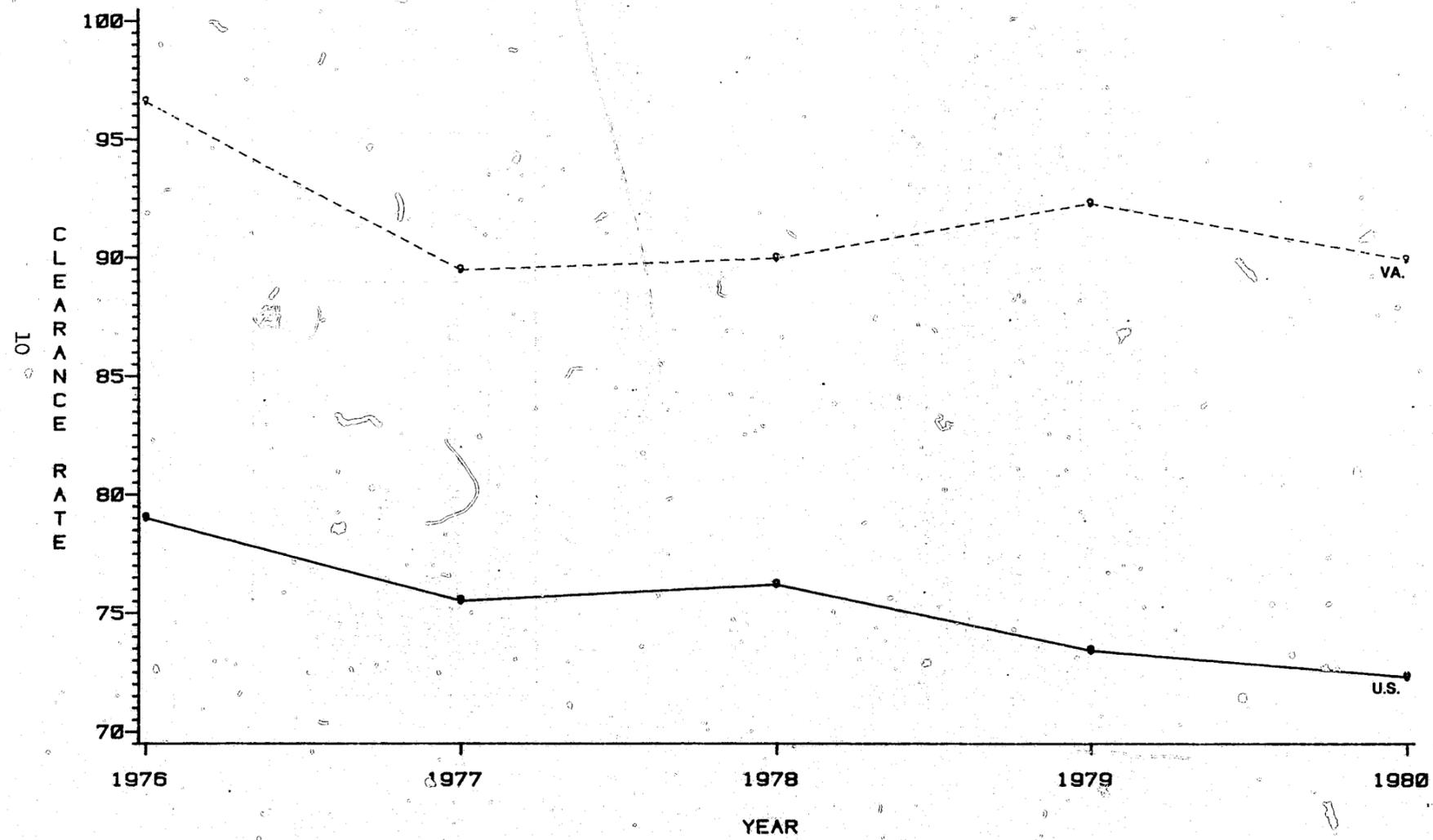
TABLE B

MEAN CLEARANCE RATES FOR PART 1 OFFENSES
VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE, 1976-80

OFFENSE CATEGORY	VIRGINIA	UNITED STATES
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	91.7	75.3
Forcible Rape	65.1	50.0
Robbery	34.5	25.7
Aggravated Assault	77.4	60.8
Burglary	22.3	15.5
Larceny	18.1	19.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	29.0	14.5

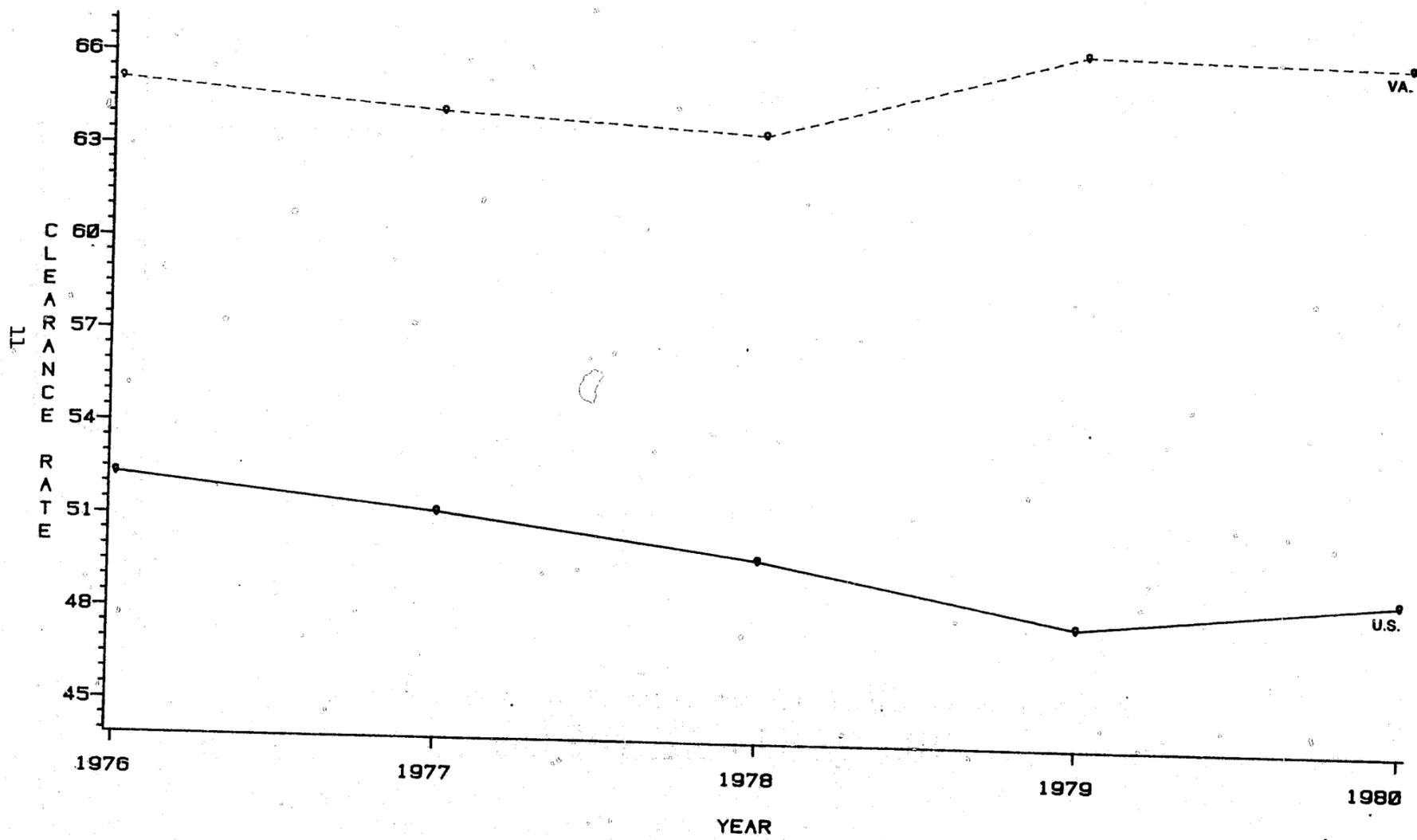
MURDER/NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER, 1976-80

CLEARANCE RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



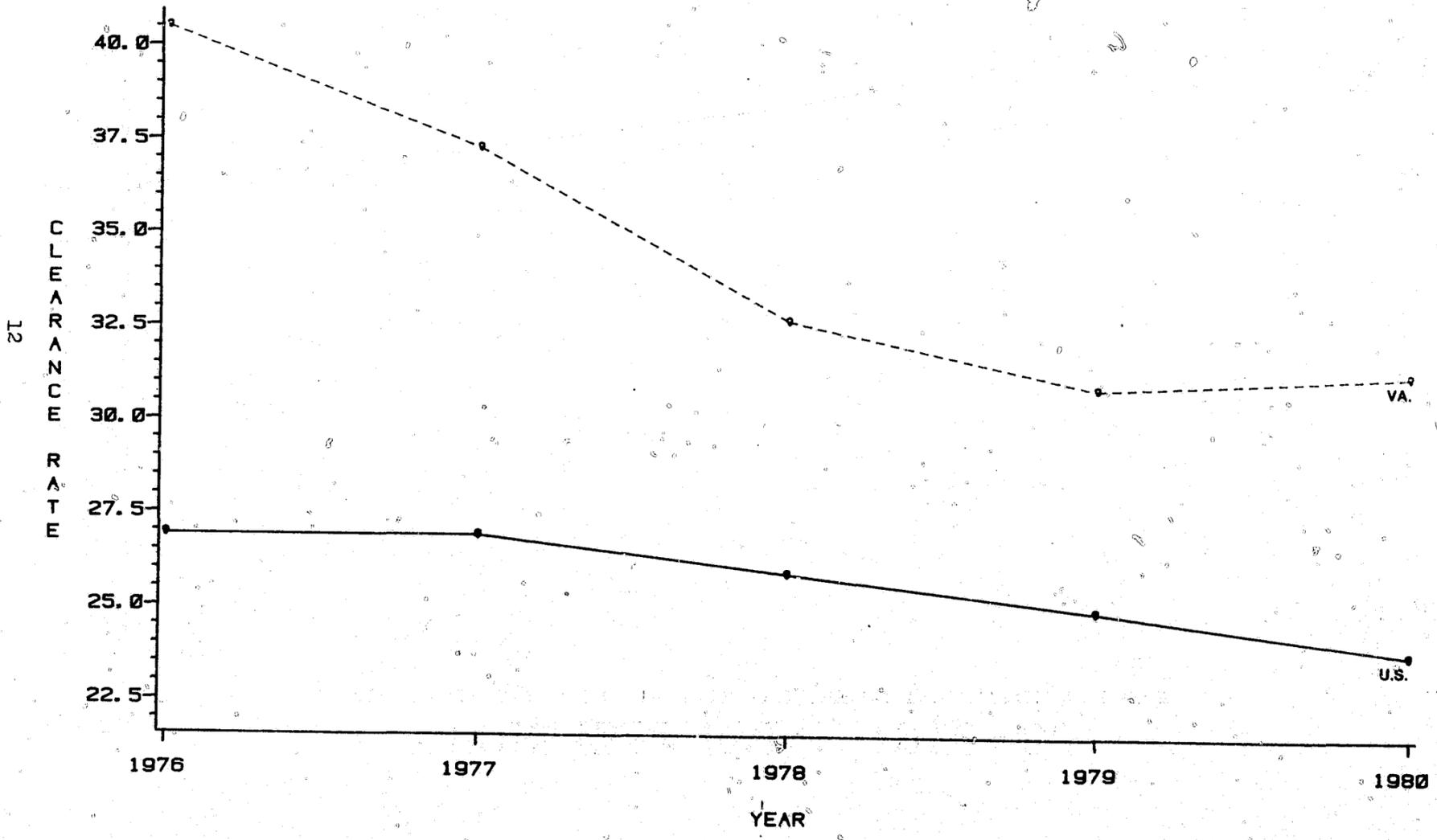
FORCIBLE RAPE, 1976-80

CLEARANCE RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



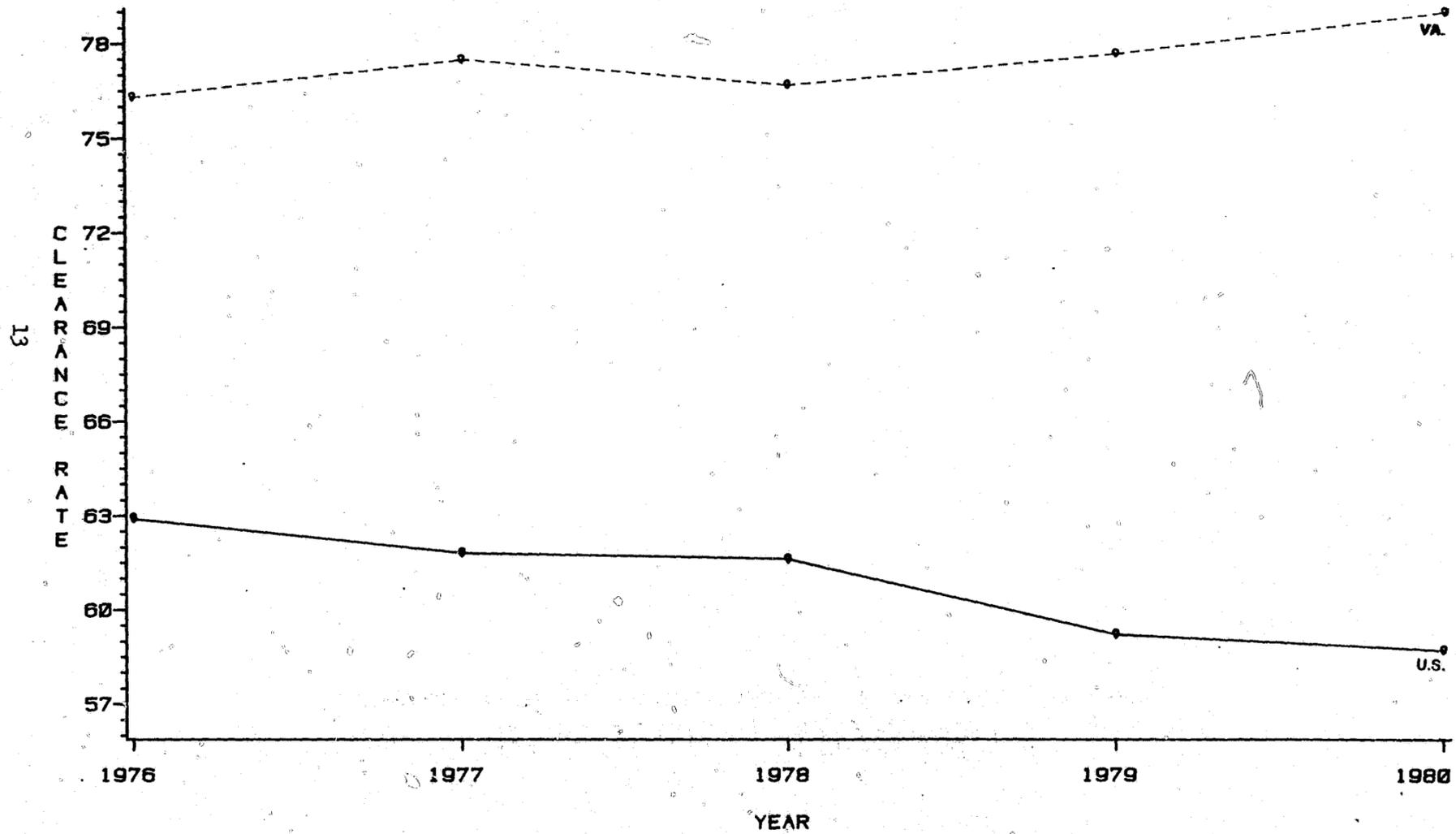
ROBBERY, 1976-80

CLEARANCE RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



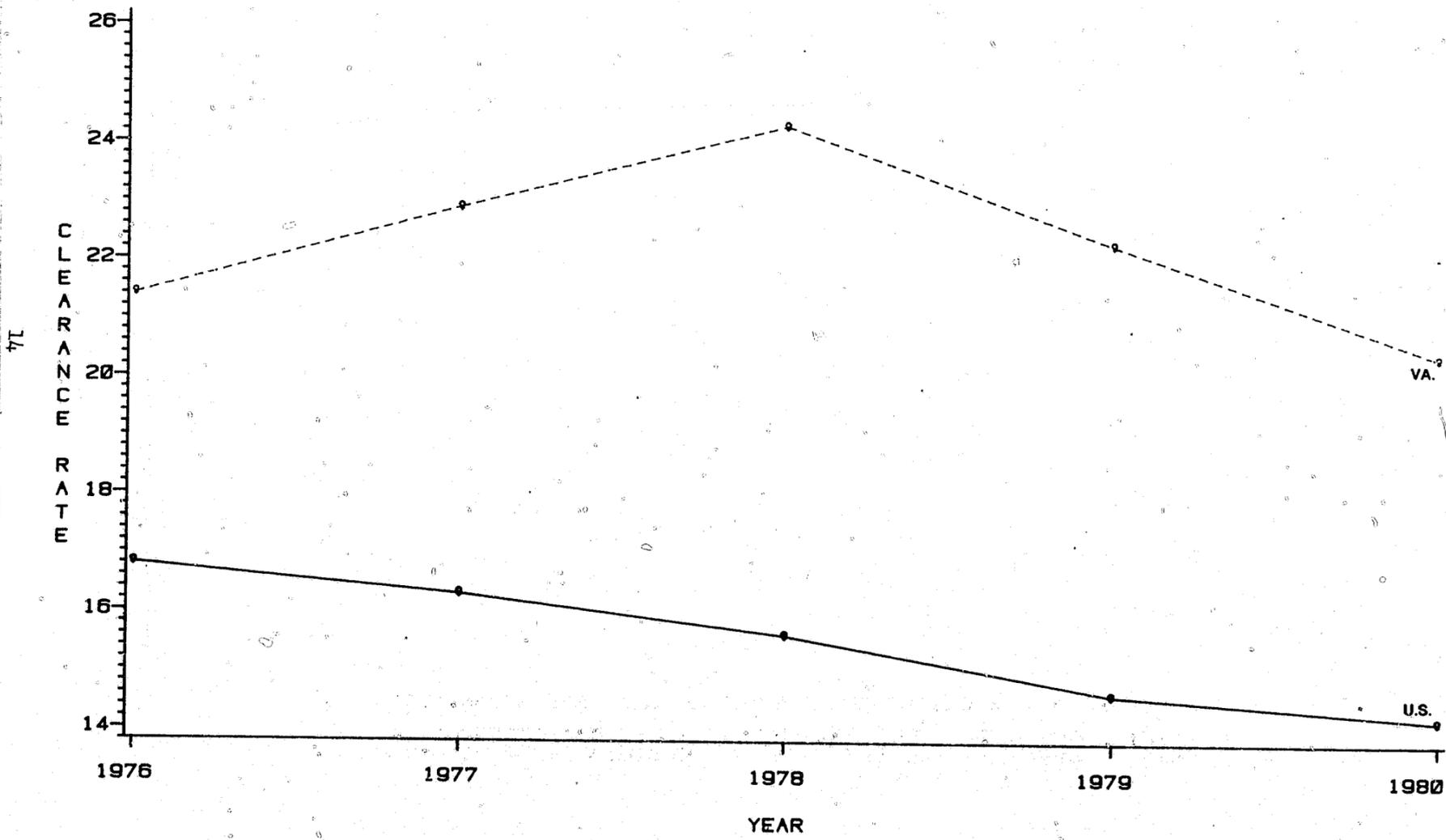
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, 1976-80

CLEARANCE RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



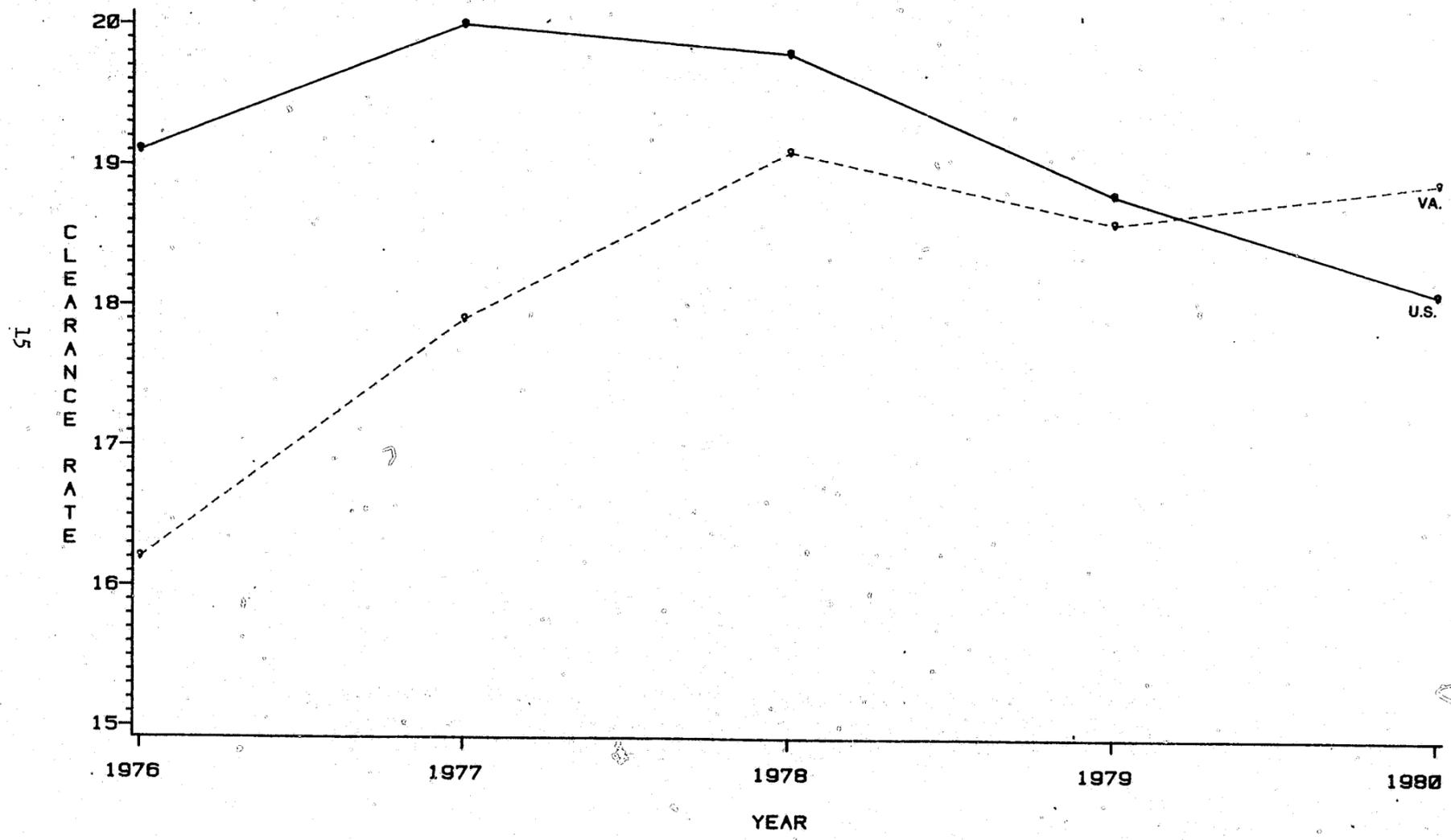
BURGLARY, 1976-80

CLEARANCE RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



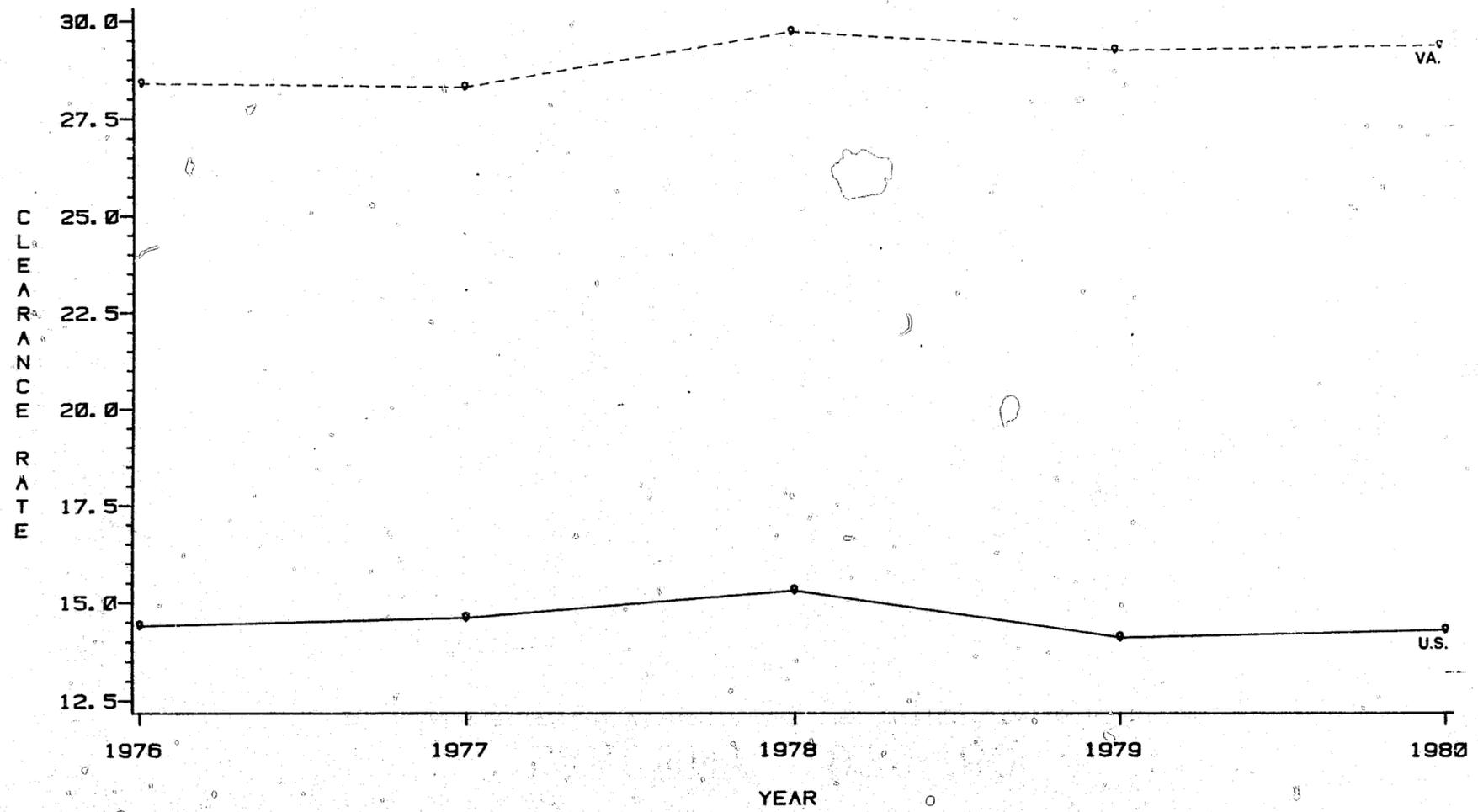
LARCENY, 1976-80

CLEARANCE RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE

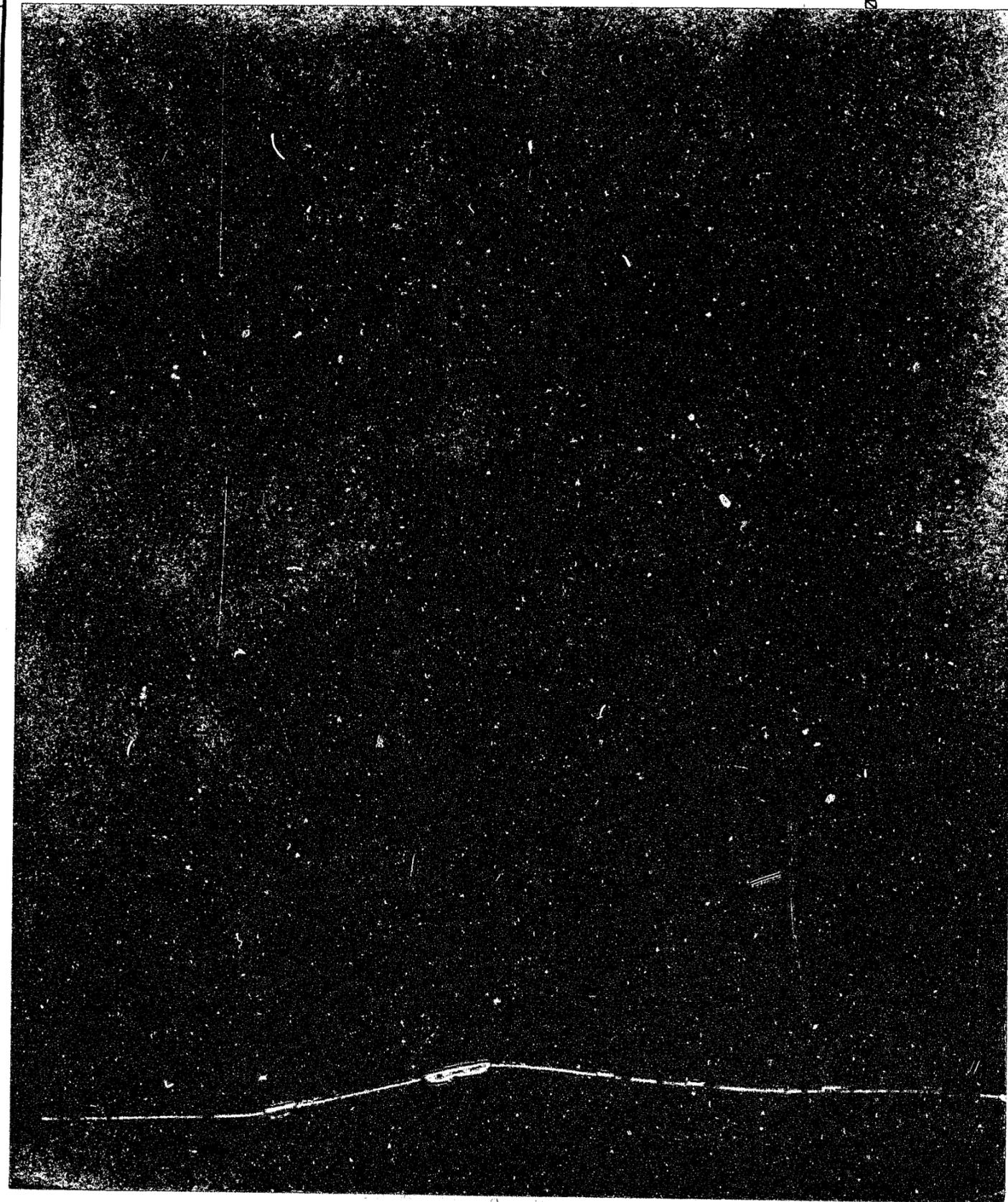


MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT, 1976-80

CLEARANCE RATES IN VIRGINIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LARGE



91



CLEARANCE RATE

Annual Percentage Change in Virginia Crime and Clearance Rates

In Virginia the average degree of year-to-year variation in Part 1 incidence scores ranged from 2.5 percent for murder to 10.7 percent for robbery during the 1976-80 period. Most of the annual shifts in crime levels were rather modest, as the bar charts on pages 19 through 25 reveal. The rate of change was less than 5 percent in fifteen out of twenty-eight cases. Only four situations arose in which the offense level for a particular year deviated from the base-year figure by at least 10 percent. Two of these major changes involved the crime of robbery. The other substantial variations were linked to the categories of forcible rape and burglary. The bar charts reveal that a steady drop in the occurrence of crime was characteristic of just one offense class--aggravated assault. The incidence score for a second category (i.e., murder) declined in each year from 1977 through 1979 before leveling off in 1980. All of the other Index dimensions underwent increases during three of the four measurement periods covered in the bar charts.

From 1976 through 1980, the average annual percentage change in Part 1 clearance levels varied between a minimum of 1.4 percent for aggravated assault and a maximum of 7.5 percent for burglary. Over the course of this period, as the bar charts show, there were eighteen situations in which the clearance score for a given year differed from that of the preceding year by less than 5 percent. In addition, the annual rate of change was 10 percent or higher in only two cases, which involved the crime dimensions of robbery and larceny, respectively. An examination of the bar charts discloses, moreover, that none of the Part I offense types exhibited a pattern of unidirectional change. During three of the four observation periods, clearance scores increased for aggravated assault and larceny; and they declined in the areas of forcible rape and robbery. Positive and negative variations in clearance levels occurred with equal frequency for each of the remaining Index classes--murder, burglary, and motor vehicle theft.

Crime Rates in Virginia and Adjoining States

The maps on pages 26 through 32 display 1980 crime rates for Part 1 offenses in Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. These maps illustrate that in each state, larceny and burglary yielded the highest incidence scores, whereas murder and forcible rape accounted for the lowest crime levels. It can be seen, too, that Maryland stood above the other five states on all Part 1 dimensions except murder, an offense which occurred most

frequently in Tennessee. West Virginia, on the other hand, was situated at the bottom of each incidence-rate distribution. The maps reveal, finally, that Virginia ranked as high as second in only one crime area--larceny. Otherwise, the Old Dominion occupied third, fourth, or fifth position in the several orderings of interstate offense rates.

Regional Crime Rates in Virginia

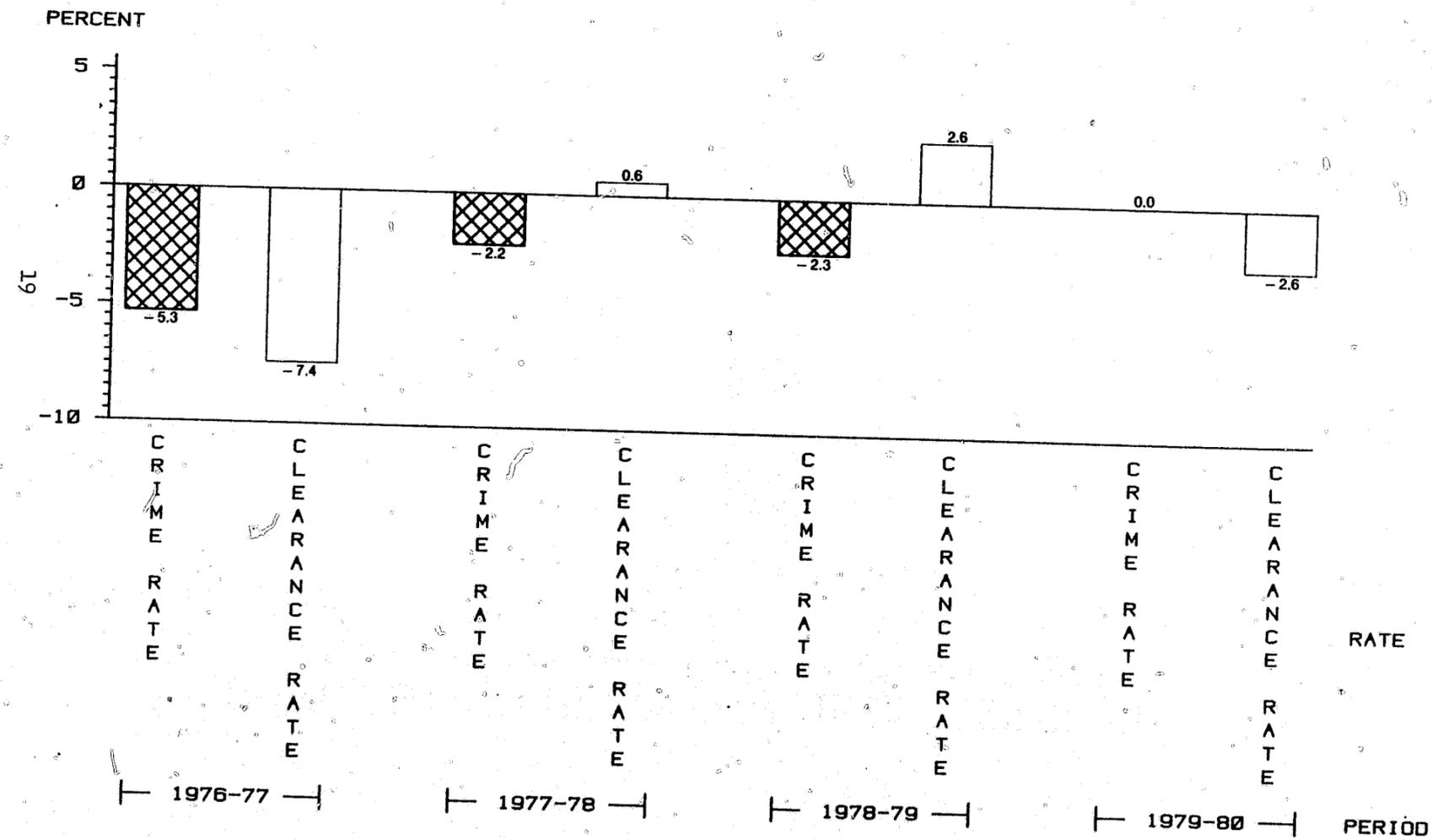
Throughout 1980 various parts of the State diverged sharply from one another in the extent of their vulnerability to each form of Index crime. The maps on pages 33 through 39 show the Part 1 incidence scores for nine Virginia regions during this particular year.⁴ Defined in terms of planning district boundaries, each region amalgamates a set of localities whose demographic and economic attributes set the grouping apart from the other territorial clusters.⁵ A survey of the cartographic data reveals that in 1980 four different geographic zones fell within the highest third of at least one crime-rate distribution. More significantly, regions G and I were among the three principal sources of crime vis-a-vis each Index category; and region D emerged as a high-incidence sector on five Part 1 dimensions. The maps also indicate that six distinct areas were lodged in the bottom third of one or more of the crime-rate distributions. It should be noted, however, that only three such regions (A, C, and H) had status as low-incidence zones in relation to a majority of the Part 1 offense categories during 1980.

⁴ James W. Fonseca has presented an exhaustive description of the nine areas in "The Geography of Virginia," University of Virginia News Letter (July, 1981).

⁵ For a regional listing of the principal localities in Virginia, see pages 40 through 42.

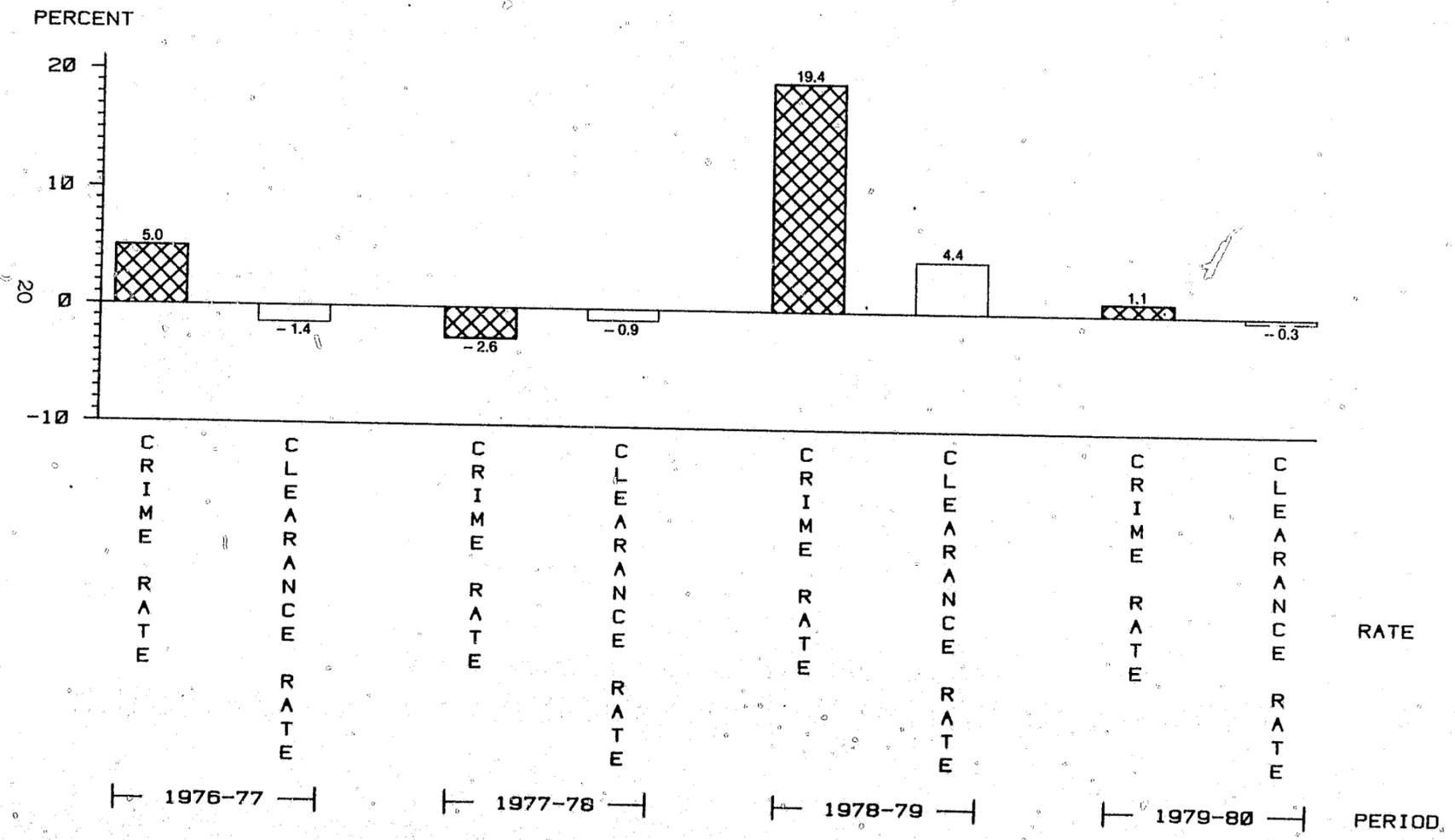
MURDER/NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER IN VIRGINIA, 1976-80

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN CRIME AND CLEARANCE RATES



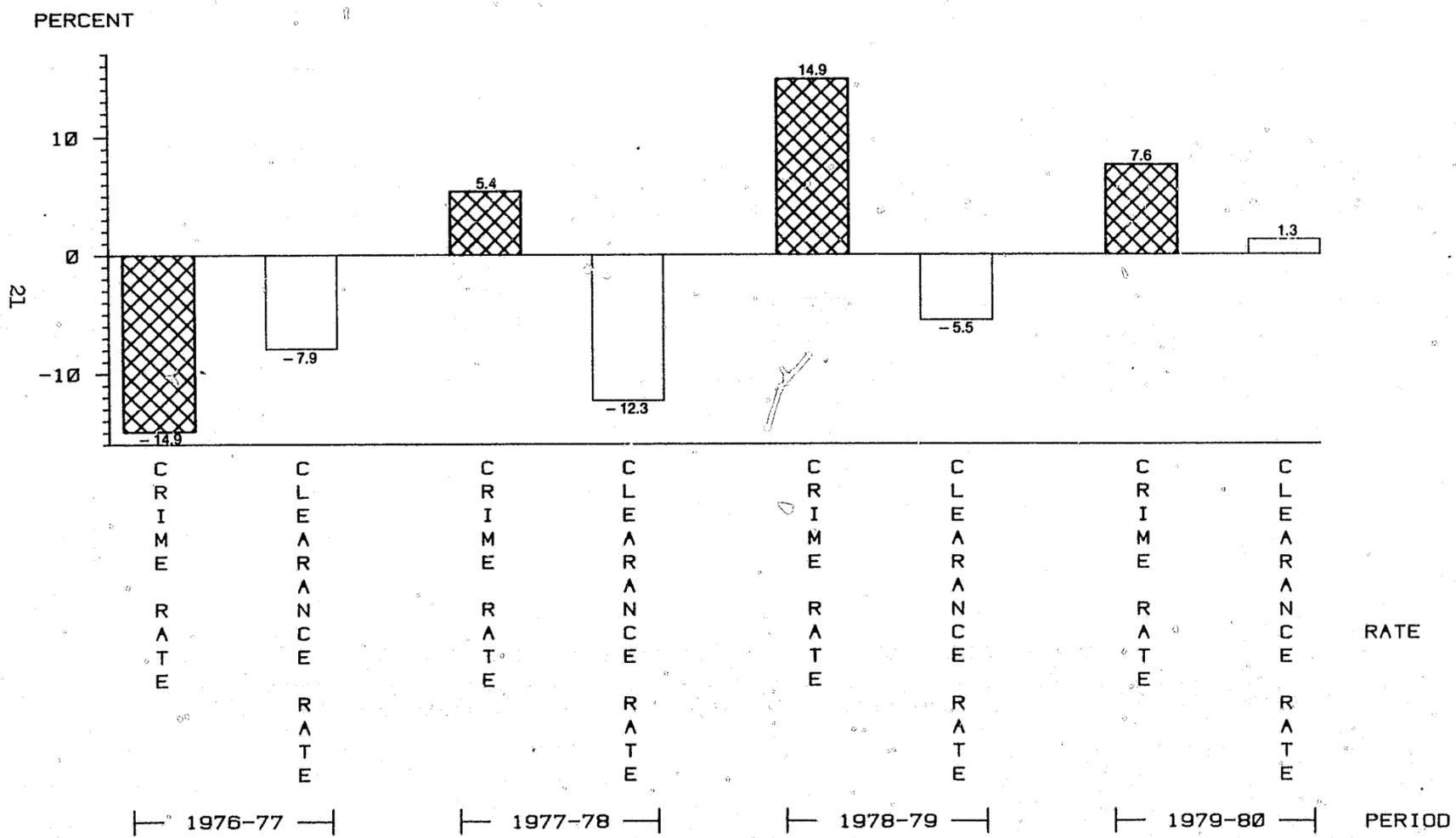
FORCIBLE RAPE IN VIRGINIA, 1976-80

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN CRIME AND CLEARANCE RATES



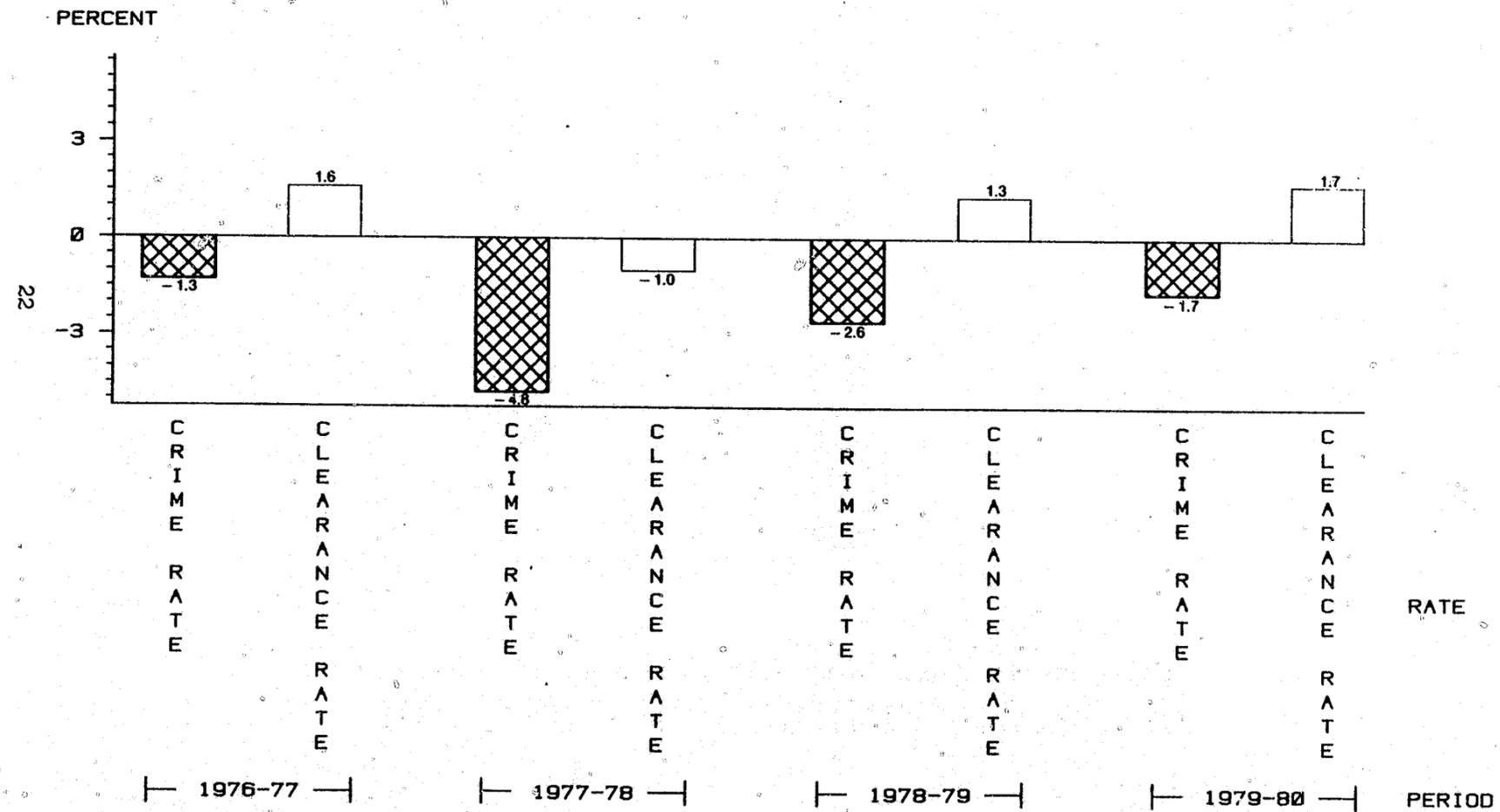
ROBBERY IN VIRGINIA, 1976-80

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN CRIME AND CLEARANCE RATES



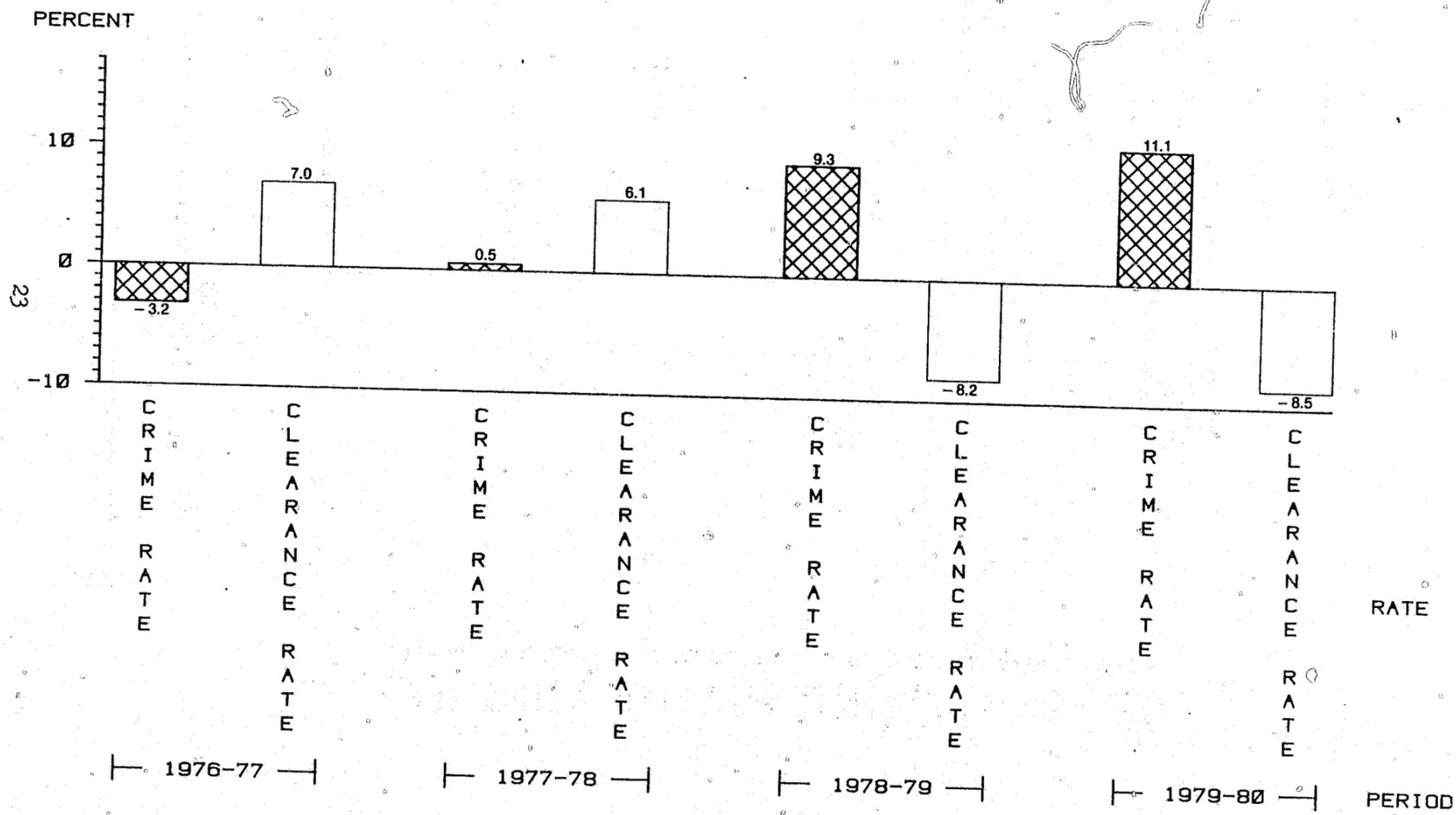
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT IN VIRGINIA, 1976-80

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN CRIME AND CLEARANCE RATES



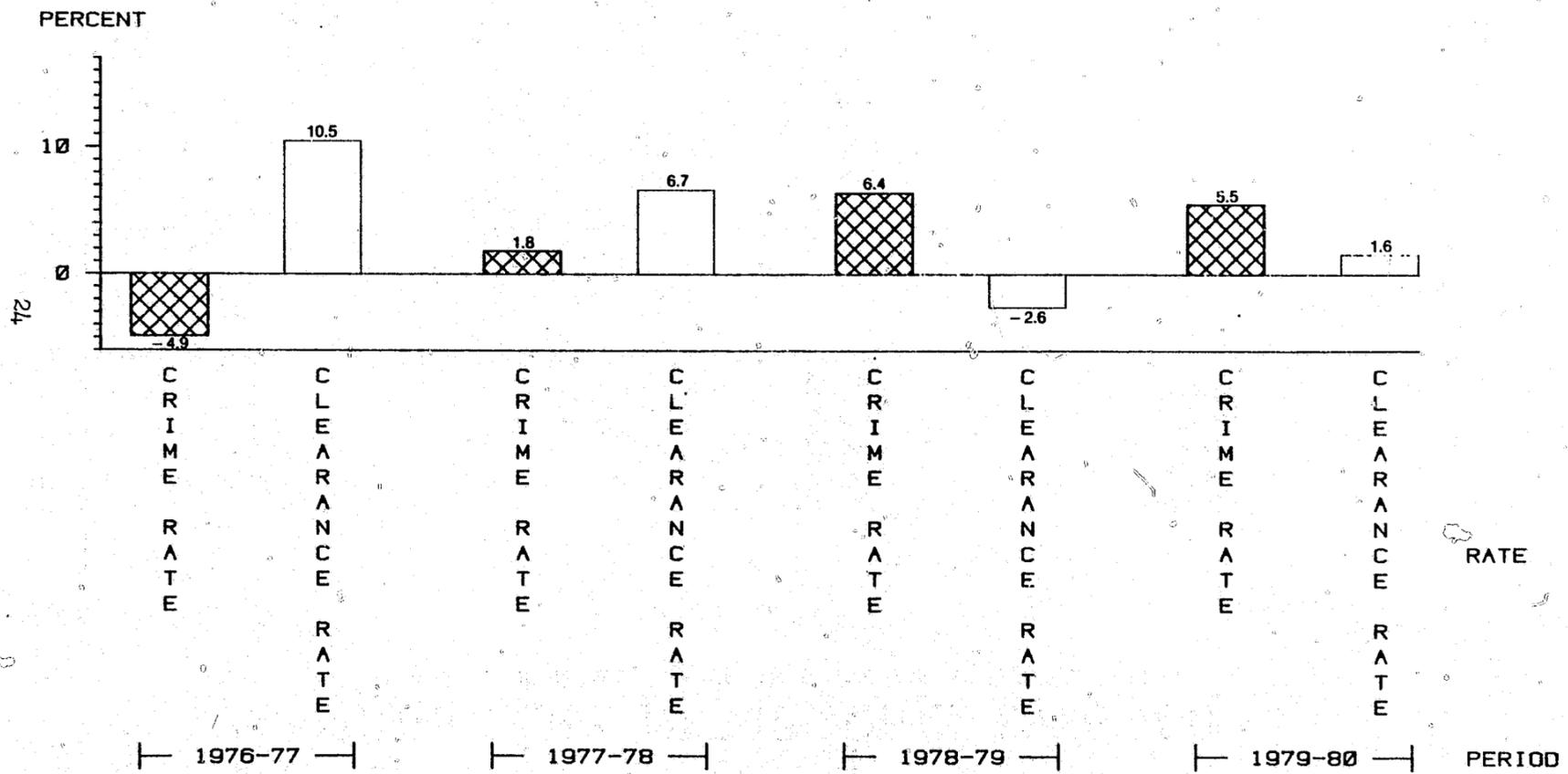
BURGLARY IN VIRGINIA, 1976-80

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN CRIME AND CLEARANCE RATES



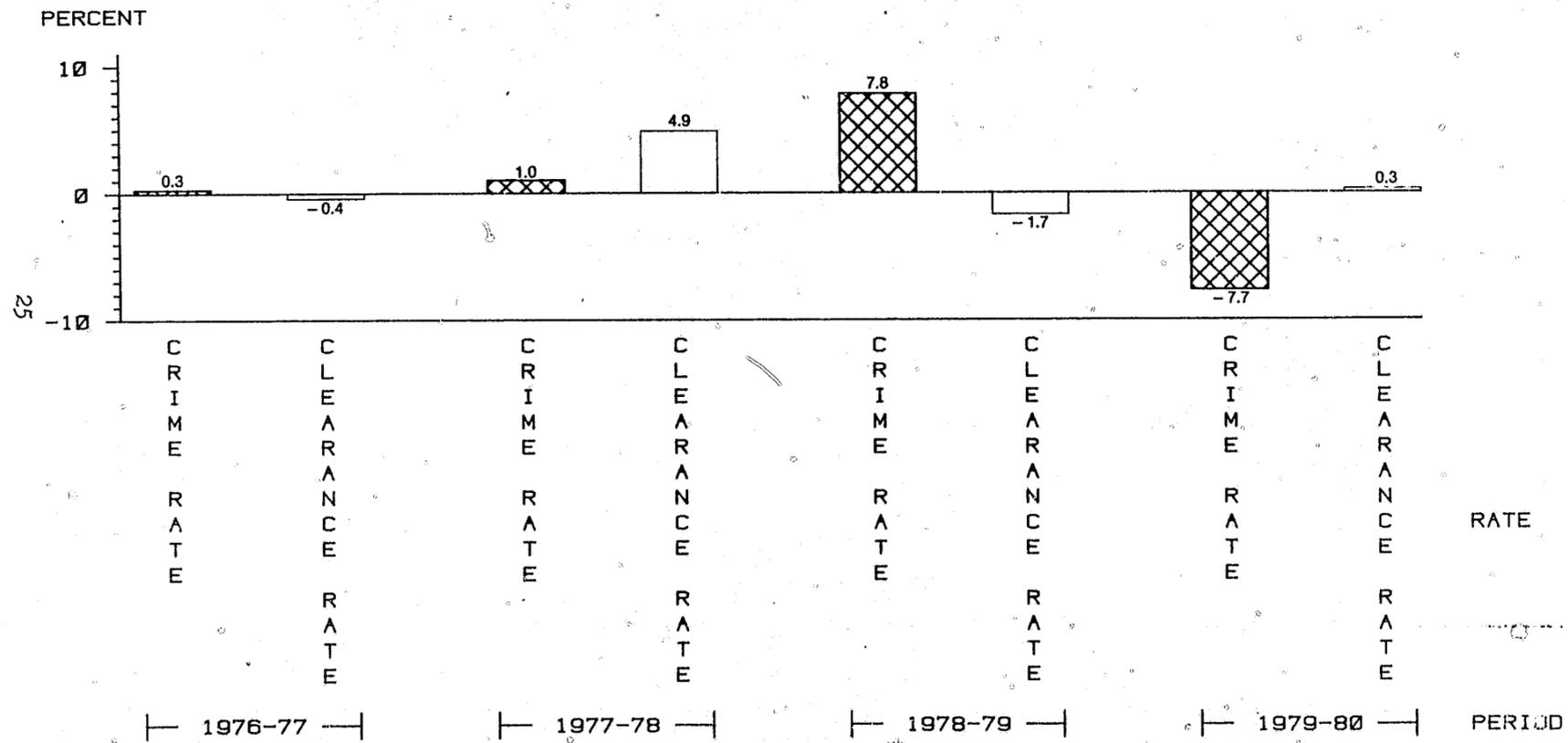
LARCENY IN VIRGINIA, 1976-80

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN CRIME AND CLEARANCE RATES



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IN VIRGINIA, 1976-80

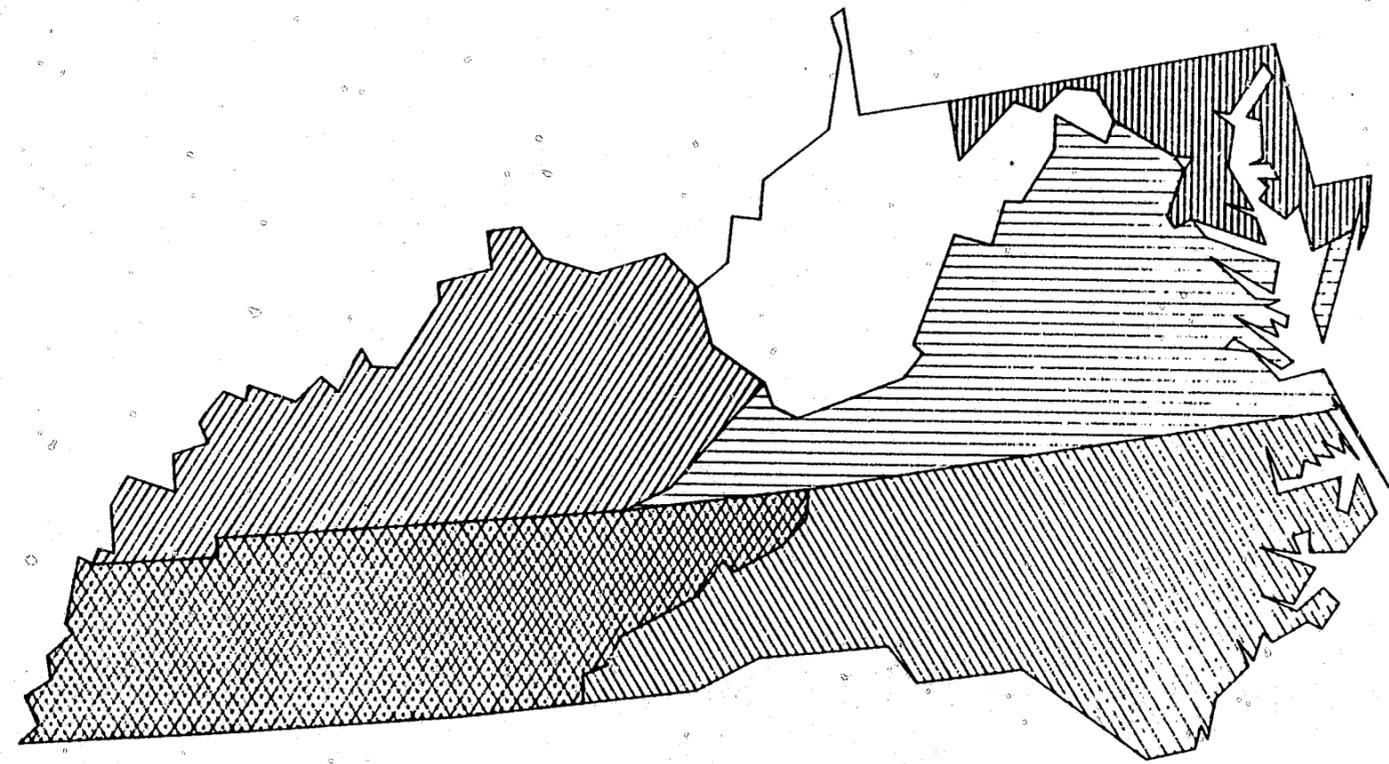
ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN CRIME AND CLEARANCE RATES



MURDER/NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER, 1980

CRIME RATES
IN
KENTUCKY, MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA,
AND WEST VIRGINIA
REGION=UPPER SOUTH

26



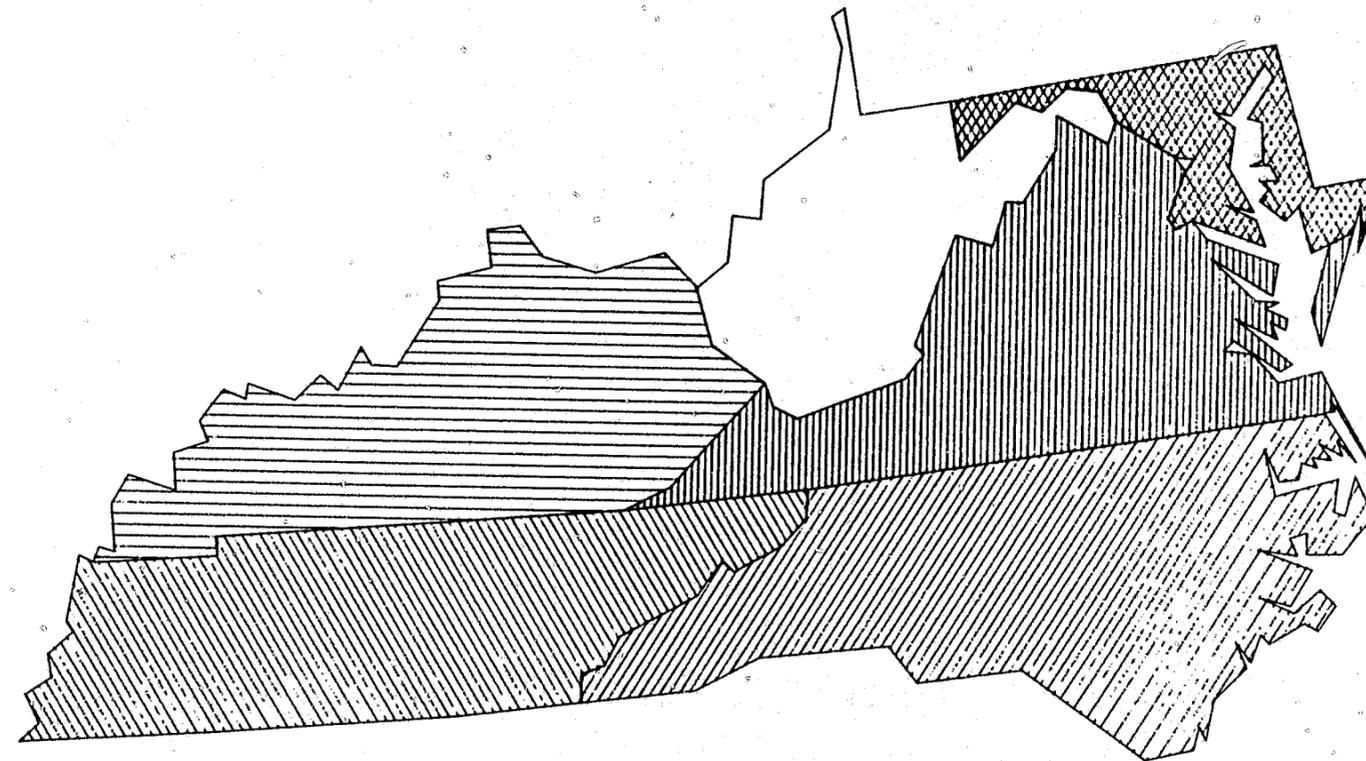
MURDER RATE

7.1 (W. VA.)	8.6 (VA.)	8.8 (KY.)
9.5 (MD.)	10.6 (N.C.)	10.8 (TENN.)

FORCIBLE RAPE, 1980

CRIME RATES
IN
KENTUCKY, MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA,
AND WEST VIRGINIA
REGION=UPPER SOUTH

27



RAPE RATE

15.8 (W. VA.)
27.4 (VA.)

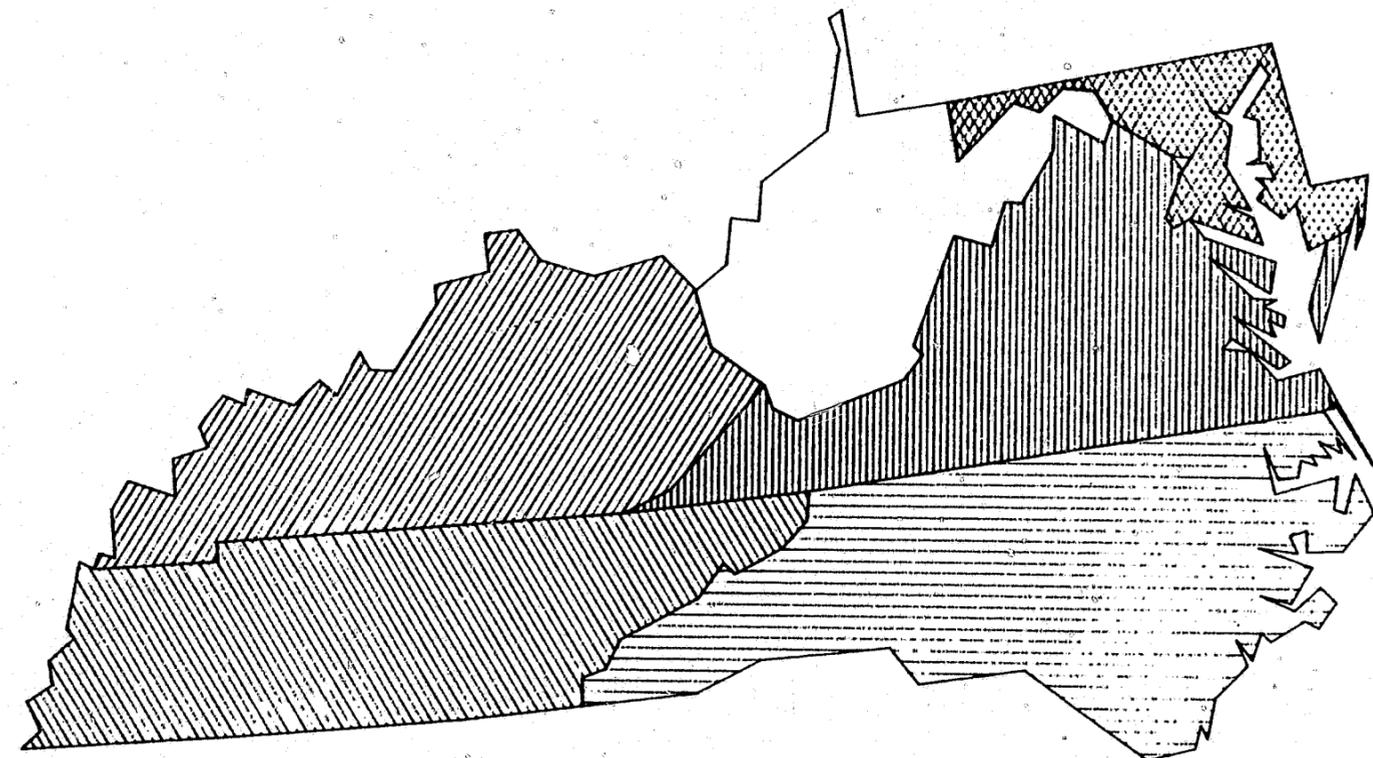
19.2 (KY.)
37.4 (TENN.)

22.7 (N. C.)
40.1 (MD.)

ROBBERY, 1980

CRIME RATES
IN
KENTUCKY, MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA,
AND WEST VIRGINIA
REGION=UPPER SOUTH

28



ROBBERY RATE	48.5 (W. VA.)	82.3 (N. C.)	95.2 (KY.)
	120.1 (VA.)	180.6 (TENN.)	392.7 (MD.)

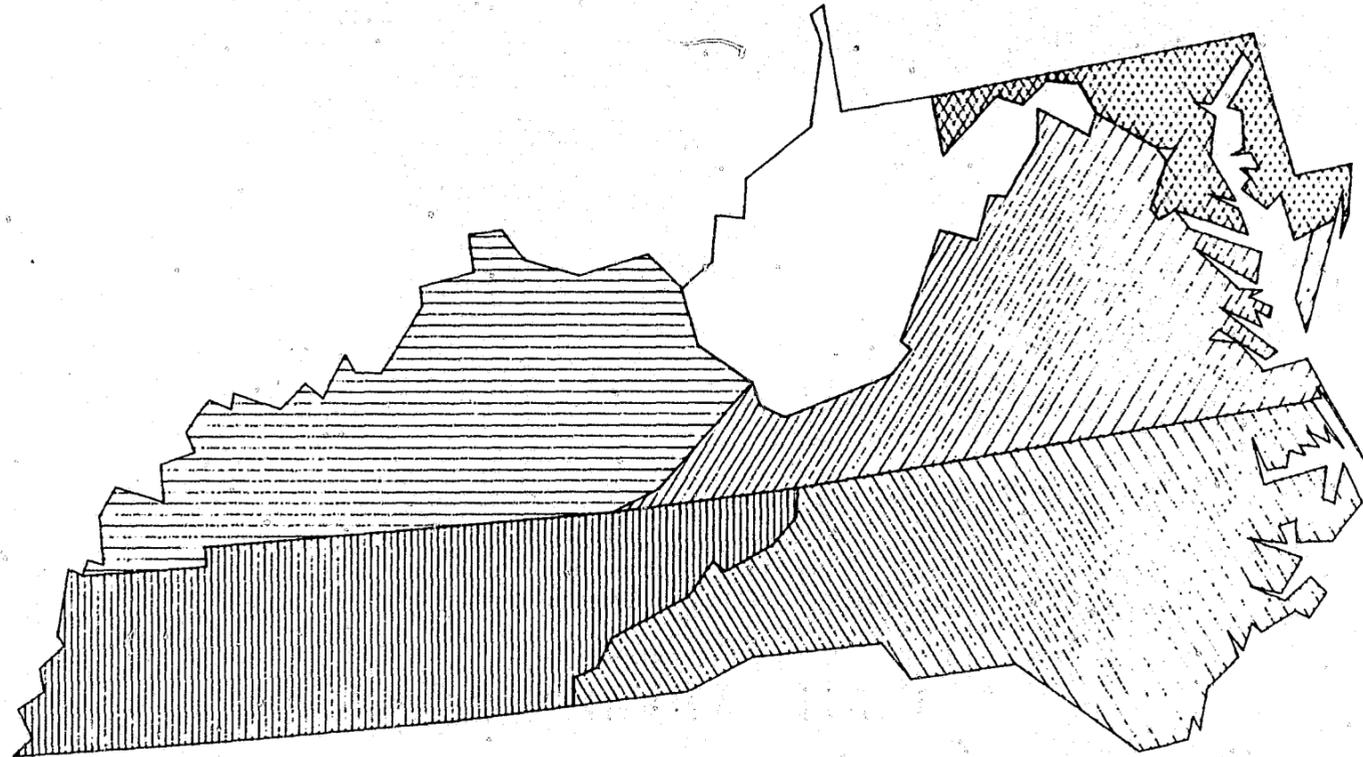
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, 1980

CRIME RATES

IN

KENTUCKY, MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA,
AND WEST VIRGINIA
REGION=UPPER SOUTH

29



ASSAULT RATE

112.2 (W. VA.)
229.4 (TENN.)

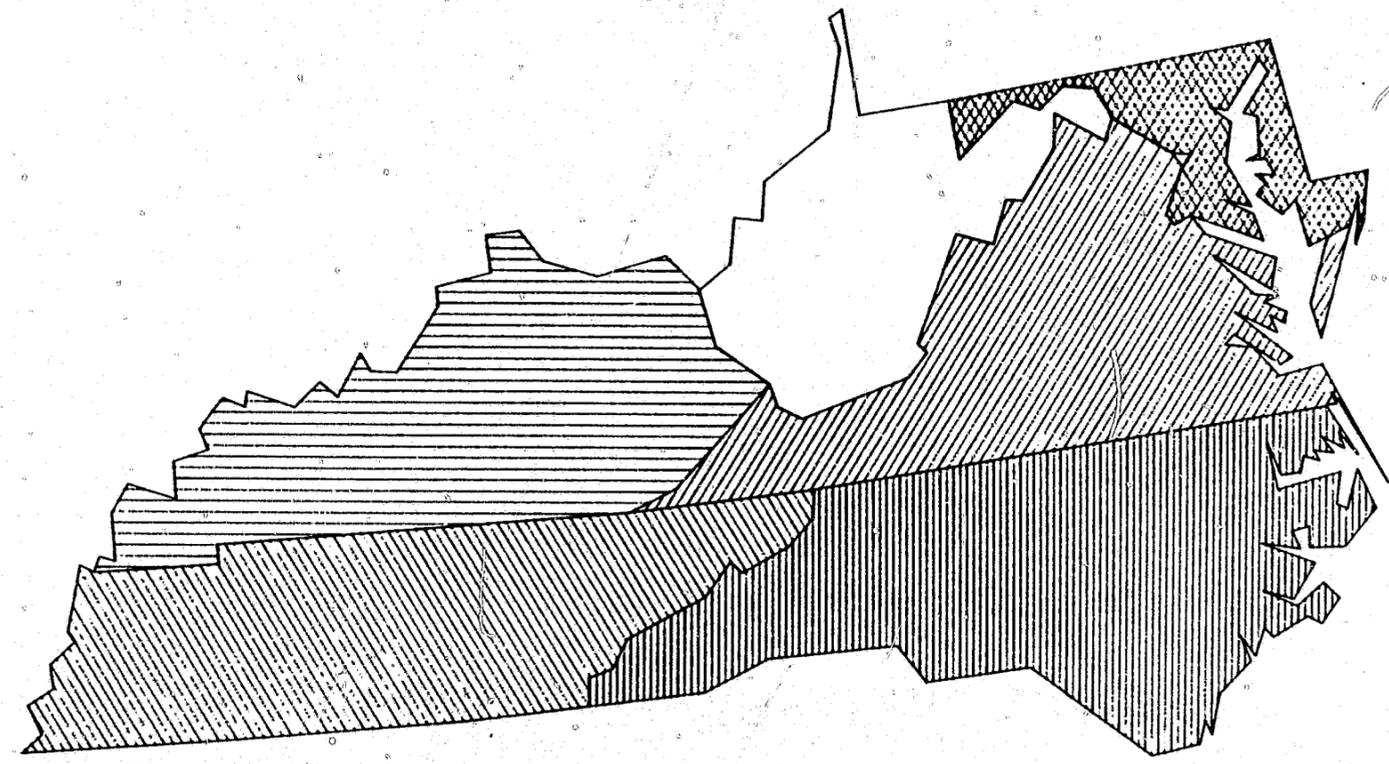
143.5 (KY.)
339.4 (N. C.)

151.1 (VA.)
410.1 (MD.)

BURGLARY, 1980

CRIME RATES
IN
KENTUCKY, MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA,
AND WEST VIRGINIA
REGION=UPPER SOUTH

30



BURGLARY RATE

738.5 (W. VA.)
1422.9 (N. C.)

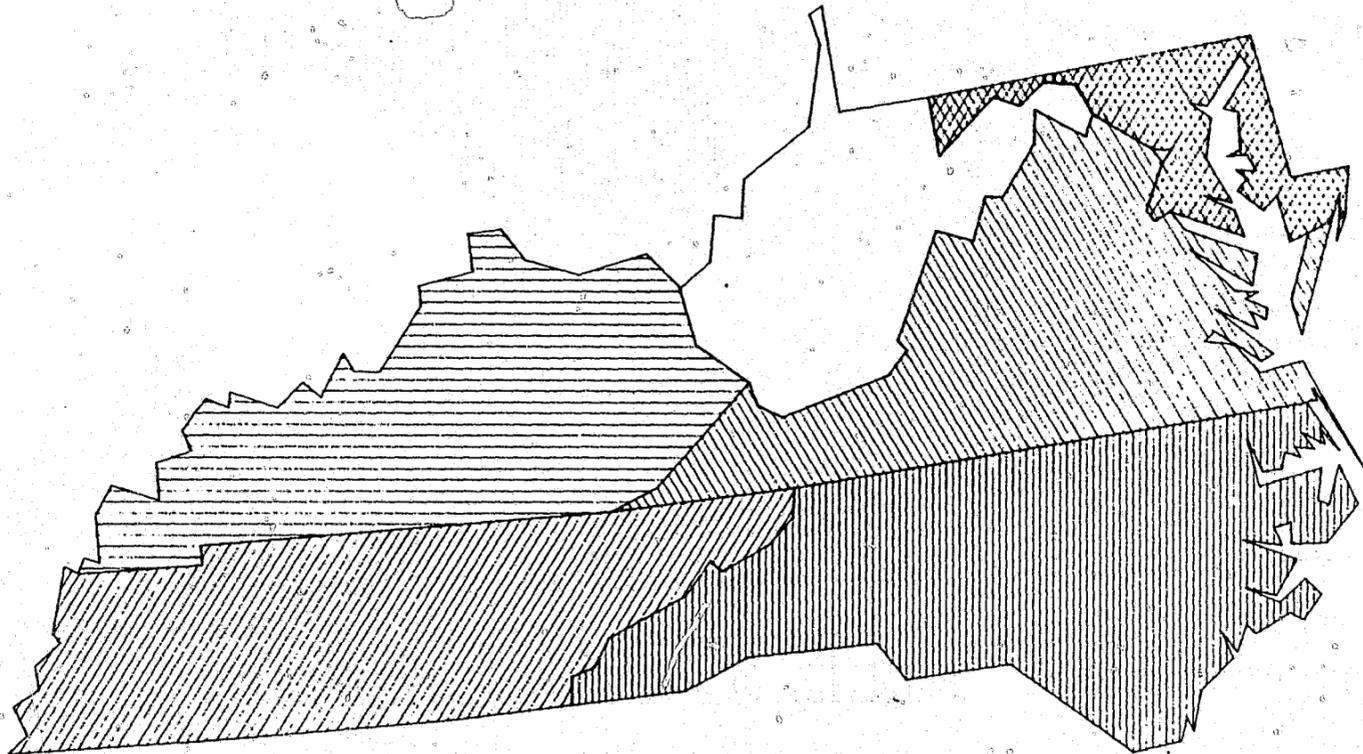
1040.8 (KY.)
1501.5 (TENN.)

1202.6 (VA.)
1698.0 (MD.)

LARCENY, 1980

CRIME RATES
IN
KENTUCKY, MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA,
AND WEST VIRGINIA
REGION=UPPER SOUTH

31



LARCENY RATE

1429.8 (W. VA.)
2546.4 (N. C.)

1875.5 (KY.)
2882.3 (VA.)

2175.2 (TENN.)
3629.2 (MD.)

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT, 1980

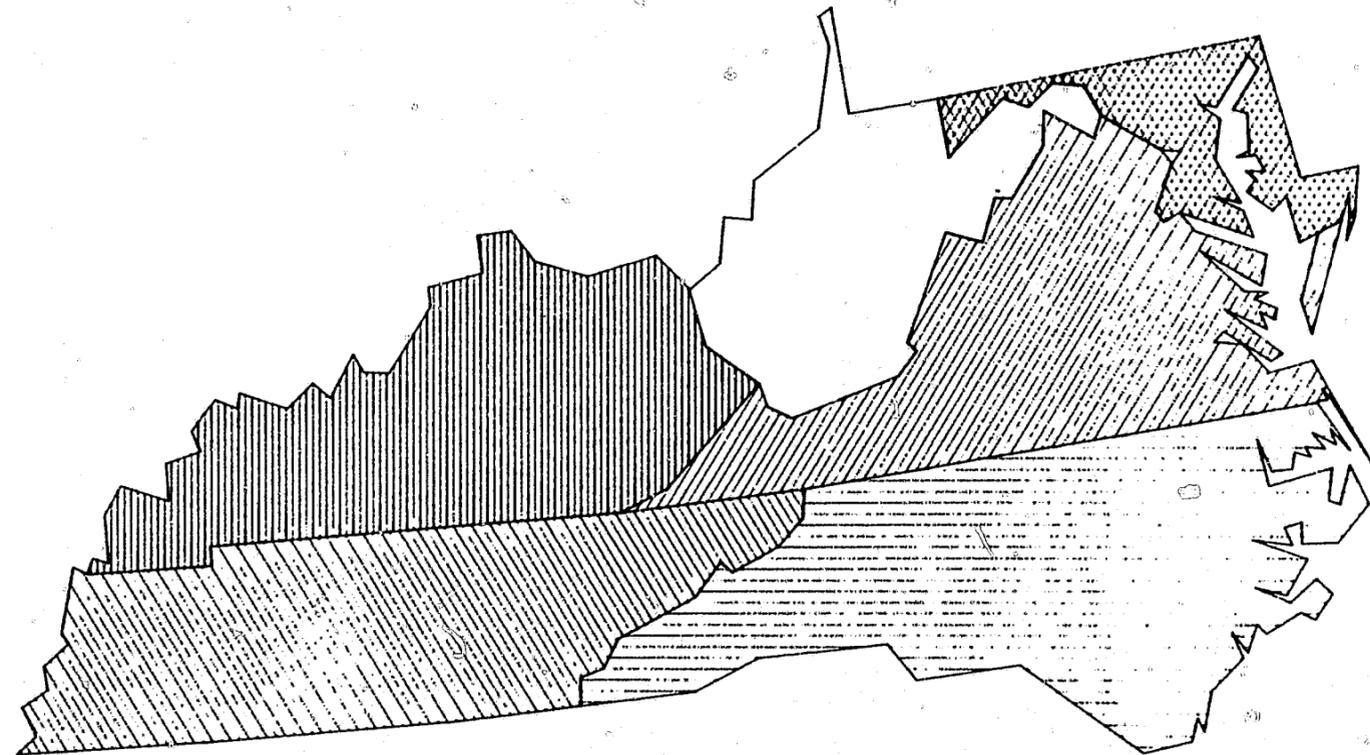
CRIME RATES

IN

KENTUCKY, MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA,

AND WEST VIRGINIA

REGION=UPPER SOUTH



M. V. THEFT RATE

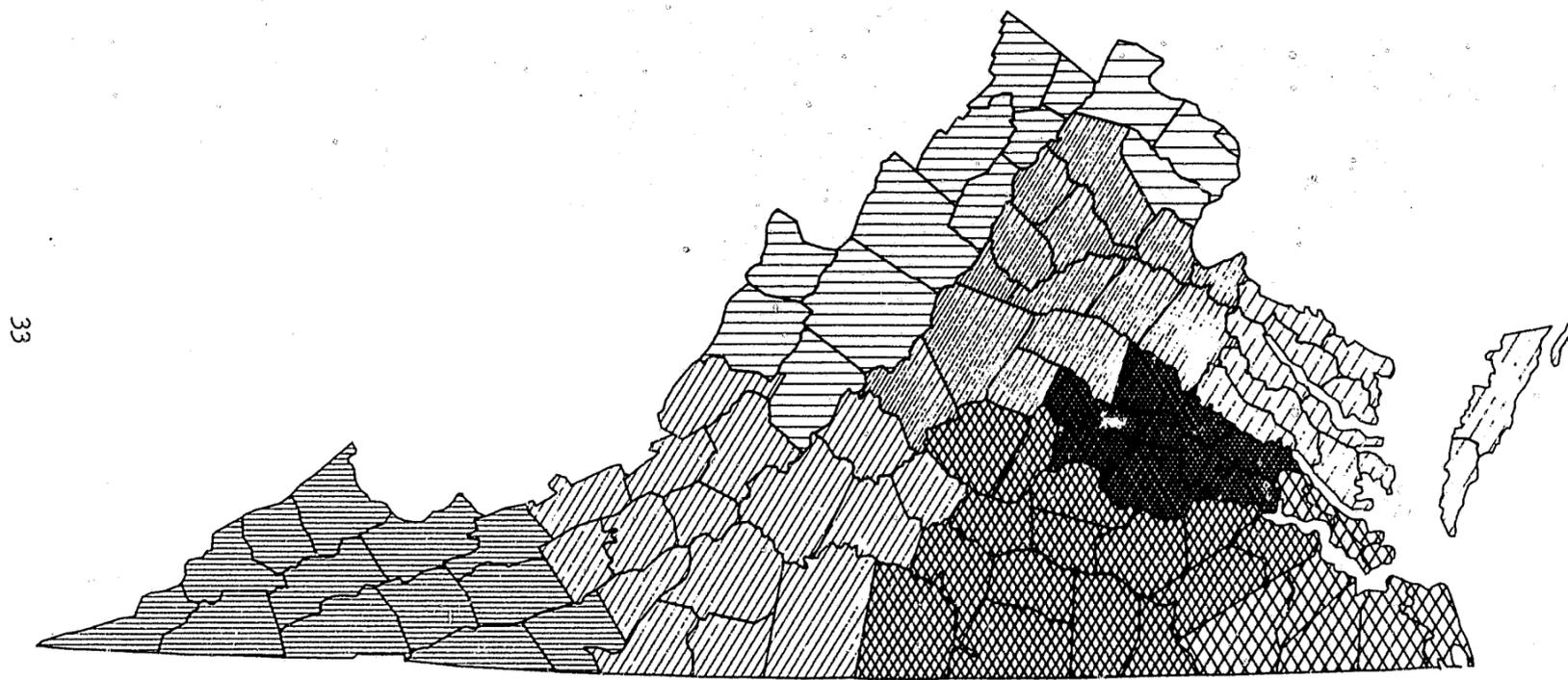
199.7 (W. VA.)
250.7 (KY.)

216.1 (N. C.)
363.1 (TENN.)

227.9 (VA.)
450.5 (MD.)

MURDER/NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER IN VIRGINIA, 1980

REGIONAL CRIME RATES



MURDER RATE

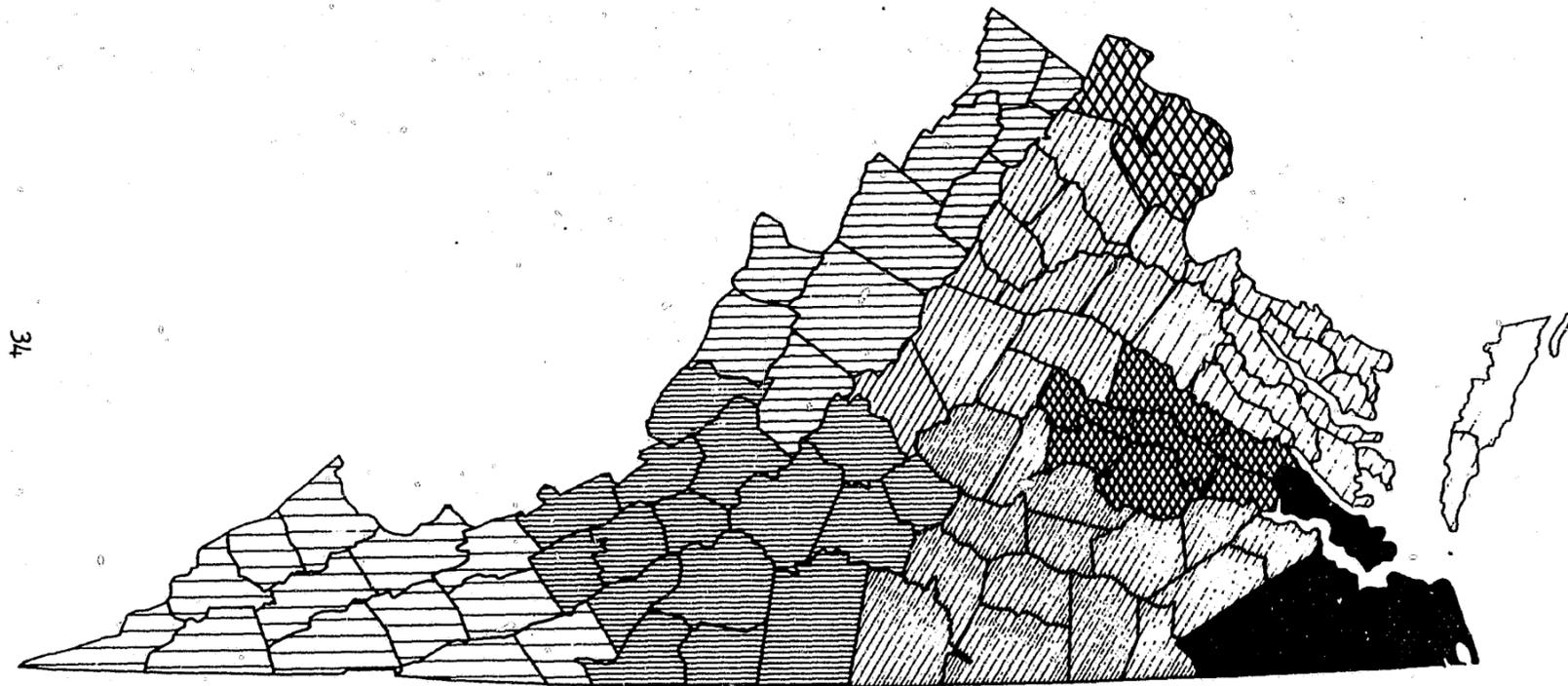
	4.2/REGION D		4.7/REGION C		6.7/REGION A
	6.8/REGION H		9.4/REGION B		10.4/REGION E
	10.6/REGION I				12.2/REGION G

REGIONAL LIST OF PLANNING DISTRICTS

REGION A: 1, 2, 3 REGION B: 4, 5, 11, 12 REGION C: 6, 7
 REGION D: 8 REGION E: 9, 10, 16 REGION F: 13, 14, 19
 REGION G: 15 REGION H: 17, 18, 22 REGION I: 20, 21

FORCIBLE RAPE IN VIRGINIA, 1980

REGIONAL CRIME RATES



34

RAPE RATE

10.2/REGION A
16.3/REGION H
25.4/REGION D

11.4/REGION C
21.4/REGION E
40.8/REGION G

14.5/REGION B
21.6/REGION F
45.0/REGION I

REGIONAL LIST OF PLANNING DISTRICTS

REGION A: 1, 2, 3 REGION B: 4, 5, 11, 12 REGION C: 6, 7
REGION D: 8 REGION E: 9, 10, 16 REGION F: 13, 14, 19
REGION G: 15 REGION H: 17, 18, 22 REGION I: 20, 21

ROBBERY IN VIRGINIA, 1980

REGIONAL CRIME RATES



ROBBERY RATE

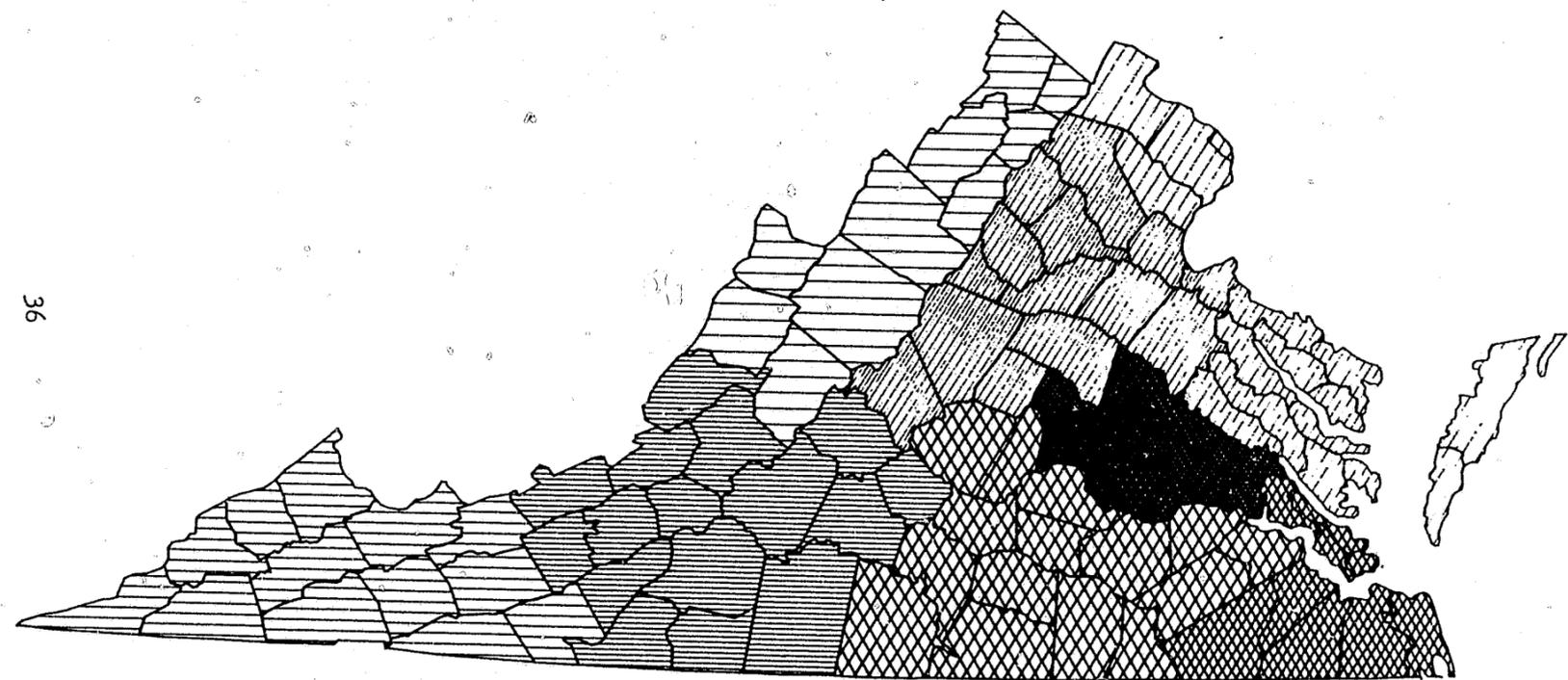
	19.8/REGION H		23.3/REGION A		30.2/REGION C
	47.3/REGION E		55.2/REGION B		80.4/REGION F
	141.9/REGION D		195.2/REGION I		216.3/REGION G

REGIONAL LIST OF PLANNING DISTRICTS

REGION A: 1, 2, 3 REGION B: 4, 5, 11, 12 REGION C: 6, 7
REGION D: 8 REGION E: 9, 10, 16 REGION F: 13, 14, 19
REGION G: 15 REGION H: 17, 18, 22 REGION I: 20, 21

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT IN VIRGINIA, 1980

REGIONAL CRIME RATES



36

ASSAULT RATE

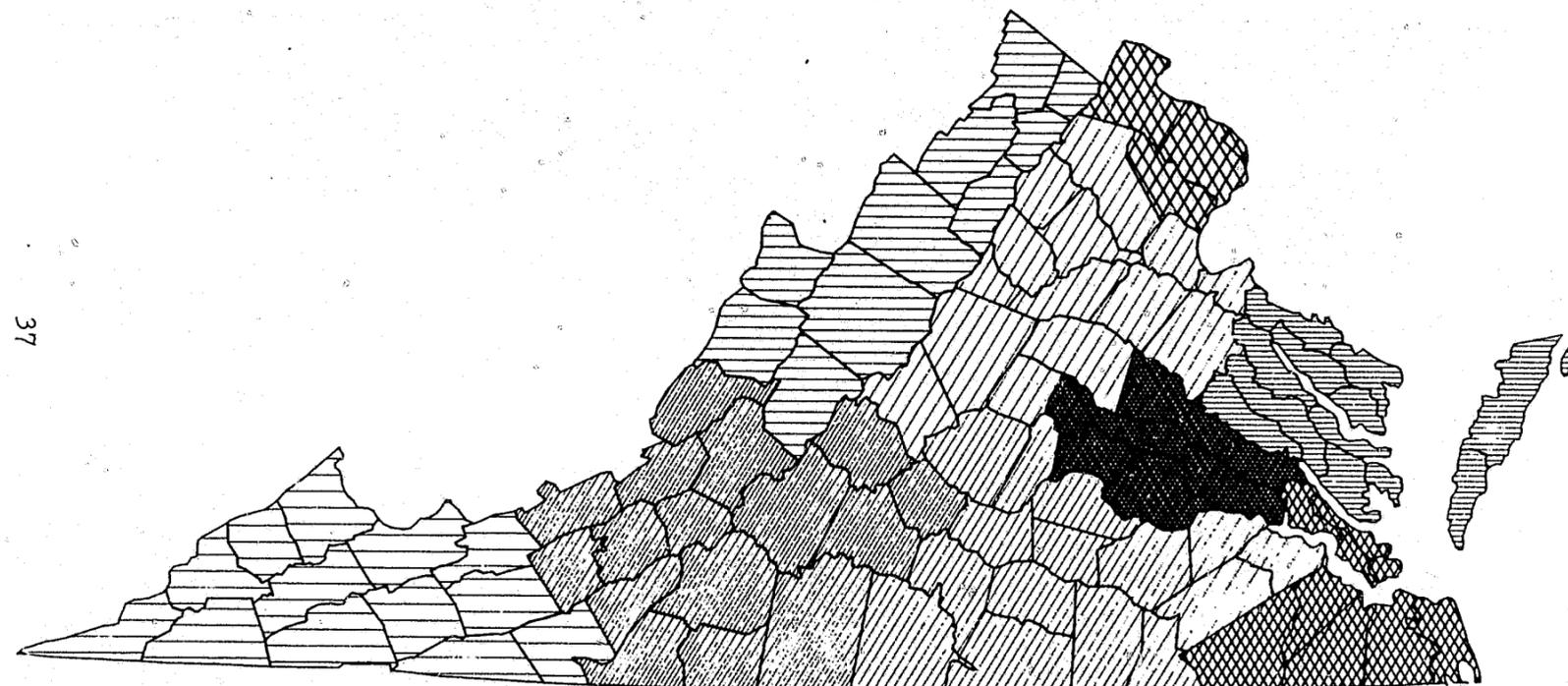
 84.2/REGION C	 93.4/REGION A	 98.5/REGION B
 111.9/REGION D	 119.2/REGION H	 123.6/REGION E
 191.0/REGION F	 220.0/REGION I	 223.1/REGION G

REGIONAL LIST OF PLANNING DISTRICTS

REGION A: 1, 2, 3 REGION B: 4, 5, 11, 12 REGION C: 6, 7
 REGION D: 8 REGION E: 9, 10, 16 REGION F: 13, 14, 19
 REGION G: 15 REGION H: 17, 18, 22 REGION I: 20, 21

BURGLARY IN VIRGINIA, 1980

REGIONAL CRIME RATES



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BURGLARY RATE

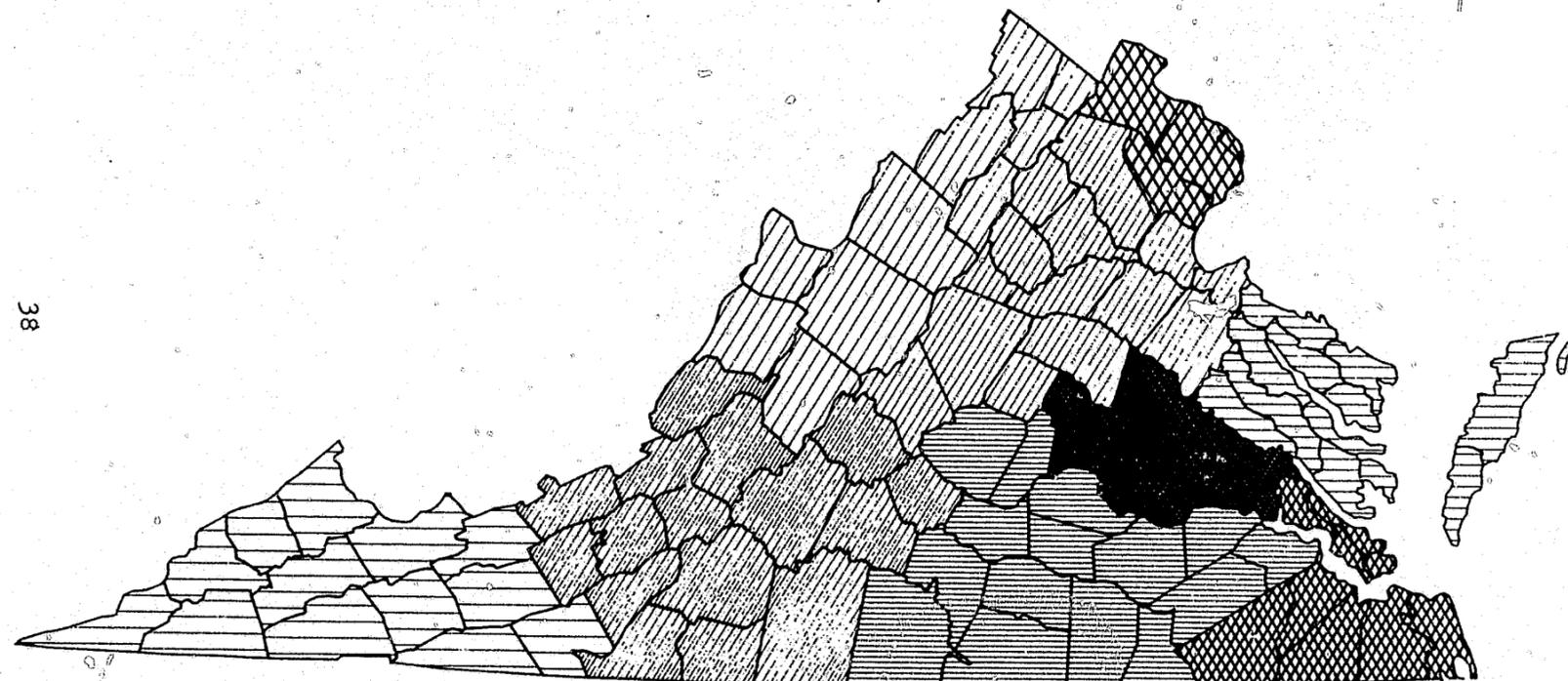
	573.6/REGION A		707.1/REGION C		729.4/REGION H
	913.4/REGION E		938.5/REGION F		1003.4/REGION B
	1271.6/REGION D		1483.5/REGION I		1847.0/REGION G

REGIONAL LIST OF PLANNING DISTRICTS

REGION A: 1, 2, 3 REGION B: 4, 5, 11, 12 REGION C: 6, 7
 REGION D: 8 REGION E: 9, 10, 16 REGION F: 13, 14, 19
 REGION G: 15 REGION H: 17, 18, 22 REGION I: 20, 21

LARCENY IN VIRGINIA, 1980

REGIONAL CRIME RATES



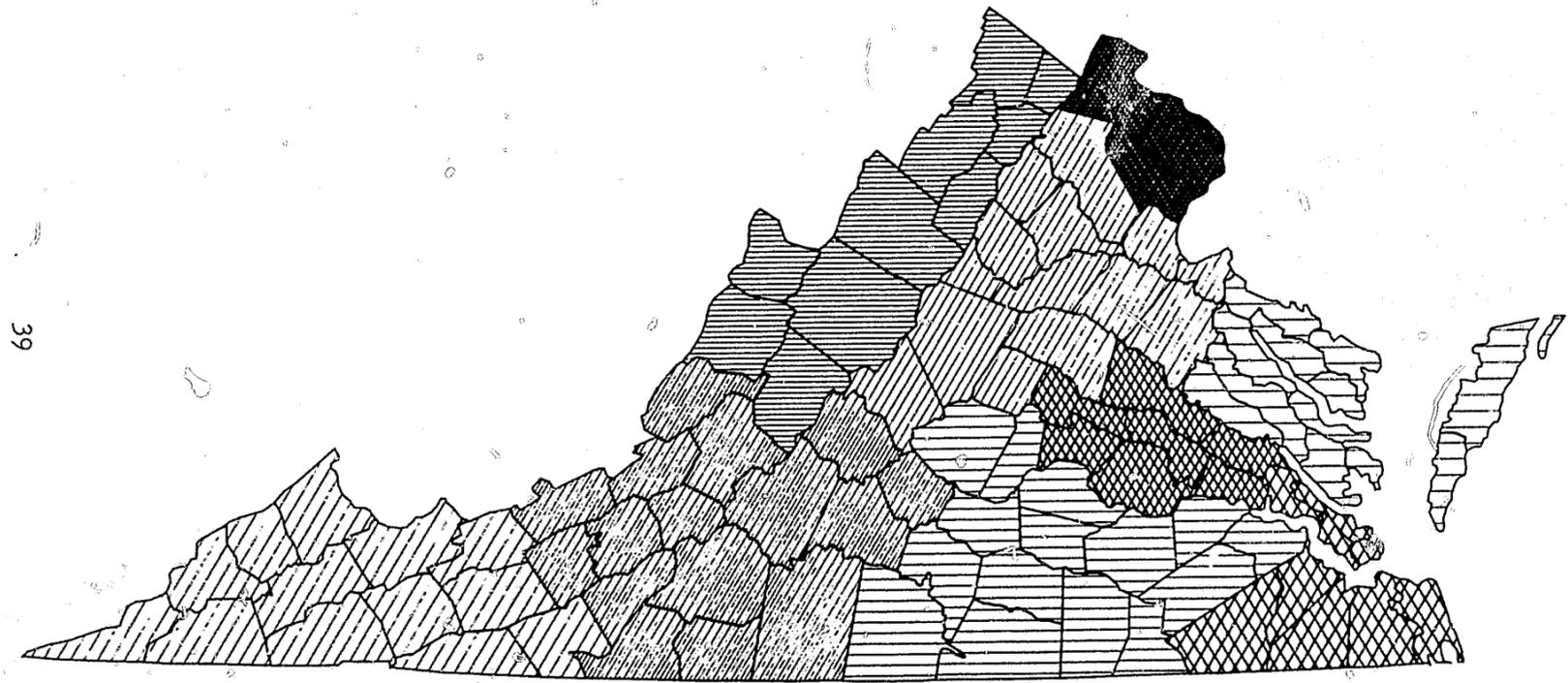
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LARCENY RATE	812.2/REGION A	973.2/REGION H	1967.9/REGION F
	1976.6/REGION C	2393.8/REGION E	2562.9/REGION B
	3474.6/REGION D	3590.4/REGION I	3804.5/REGION G

REGIONAL LIST OF PLANNING DISTRICTS
 REGION A: 1, 2, 3 REGION B: 4, 5, 11, 12 REGION C: 6, 7
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MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IN VIRGINIA, 1980

REGIONAL CRIME RATES



M. V. THEFT RATE	 70.8/REGION H	 101.7/REGION F	 110.3/REGION C
	 123.8/REGION A	 135.1/REGION E	 164.4/REGION B
	 264.0/REGION I	 331.5/REGION G	 334.8/REGION D

REGIONAL LIST OF PLANNING DISTRICTS
 REGION A: 1, 2, 3 REGION B: 4, 5, 11, 12 REGION C: 6, 7
 REGION D: 8 REGION E: 9, 10, 16 REGION F: 13, 14, 19
 REGION G: 15 REGION H: 17, 18, 22 REGION I: 20, 21

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A REGIONAL LIST OF COUNTIES AND CITIES IN VIRGINIA

REGION A

Planning District 1

Lee County
Scott County
Wise County
Norton City

Planning District 2

Buchanan County
Dickenson County
Russell County
Tazewell County

Planning District 3

Bland County
Carroll County
Grayson County
Smyth County
Washington County
Wythe County
Bristol City
Galax City

REGION B

Planning District 4

Floyd County
Giles County
Montgomery County
Pulaski County
Radford City

Planning District 5

Alleghany County
Botetourt County
Craig County
Roanoke County
Clifton Forge City
Covington City
Roanoke City
Salem City

(Region B - Continued)

Planning District 11

Amherst County
Appomattox County
Bedford County
Campbell County
Bedford City
Lynchburg City

Planning District 12

Franklin County
Henry County
Patrick County
Pittsylvania County
Danville City
Martinsville City

REGION C

Planning District 6

Augusta County
Bath County
Highland County
Rockbridge County
Rockingham County
Buena Vista City
Harrisonburg City
Lexington City
Staunton City
Waynesboro City

Planning District 7

Clarke County
Frederick County
Page County
Shenandoah County
Warren County
Winchester City

REGION D

Planning District 8

Arlington County
Fairfax County
Loudoun County
Prince William County
Alexandria City
Fairfax City
Falls Church City
Manassas City
Manassas Park City

REGION E

Planning District 9

Culpeper County
Fauquier County
Madison County
Orange County
Rappahannock County

Planning District 10

Albemarle County
Fluvanna County
Greene County
Louisa County
Nelson County
Charlottesville City

Planning District 16

Caroline County
King George County
Spotsylvania County
Stafford County
Fredericksburg City

REGION F

Planning District 13

Brunswick County
Halifax County
Mecklenburg County
South Boston City

Planning District 14

Amelia County
Buckingham County
Charlotte County
Cumberland County
Lunenburg County
Nottoway County
Prince Edward County

Planning District 19

Dinwiddie County
Greensville County
Prince George County
Surry County
Sussex County
Colonial Heights City
Emporia City
Hopewell City
Petersburg City

REGION G

Planning District 15

Charles City County
Chesterfield County
Goochland County
Hanover County
Henrico County
New Kent County
Powhatan County
Richmond City

REGION H

Planning District 17

Lancaster County
Northumberland County
Richmond County
Westmoreland County

Planning District 18

Essex County
Gloucester County
King and Queen County
King William County
Mathews County
Middlesex County

Planning District 22

Accomack County
Northampton County

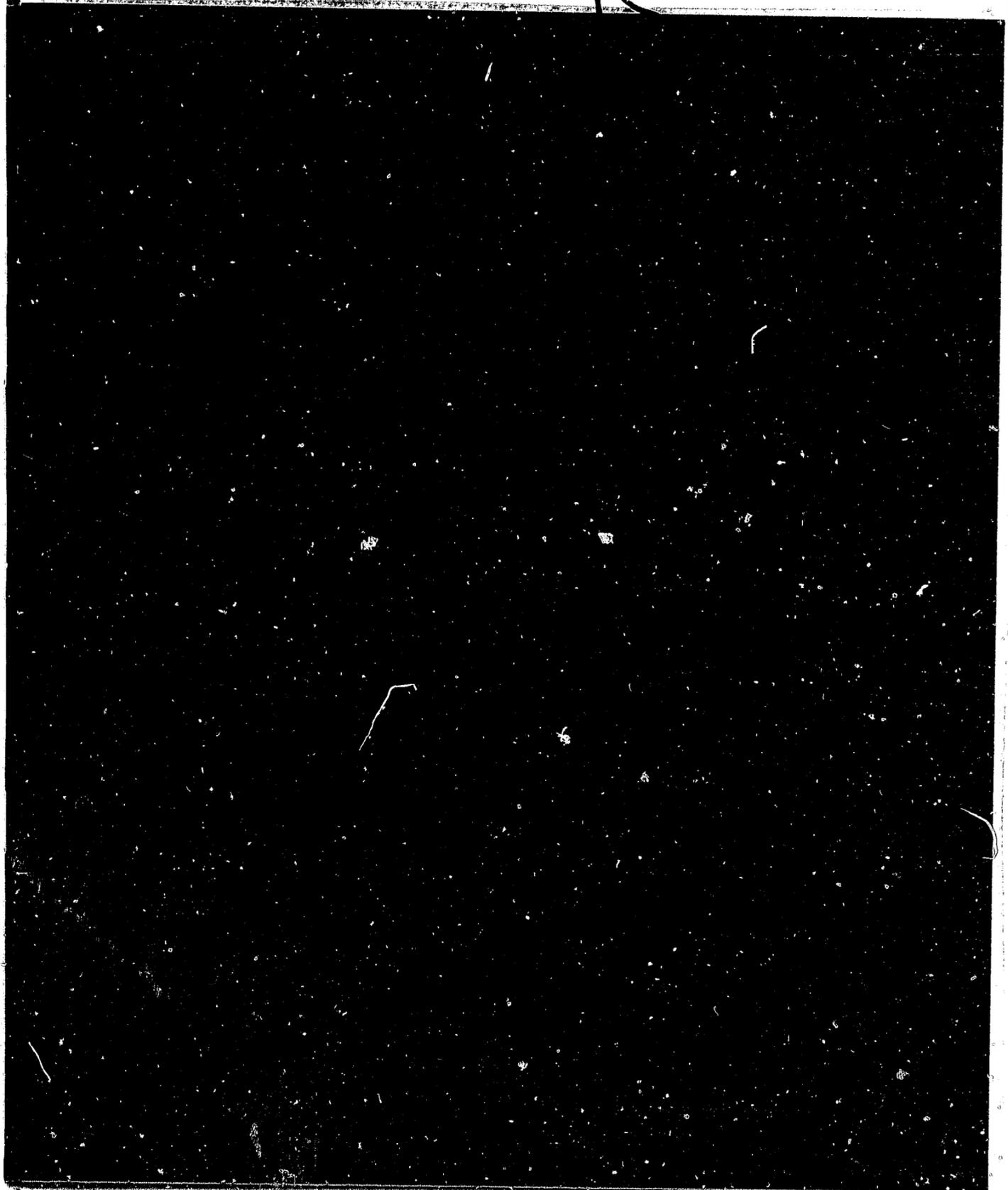
REGION I

Planning District 20

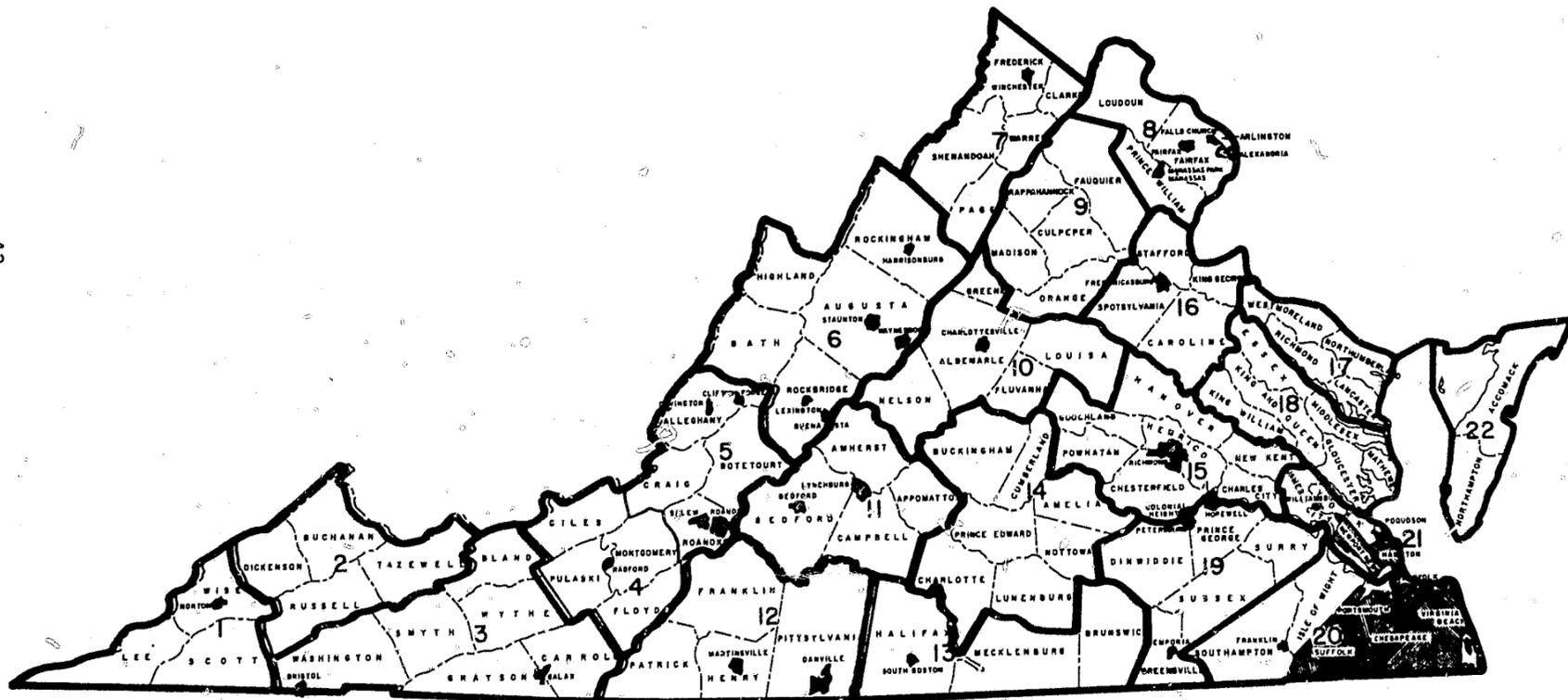
Isle of Wight County
Southampton County
Chesapeake City
Franklin City
Norfolk City
Portsmouth City
Suffolk City
Virginia Beach City

Planning District 21

James City County
York County
Hampton City
Newport News City
Poquoson City
Williamsburg City



PLANNING DISTRICTS



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DIVISION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

END