

State figures show county crime down

New figures from the state Bureau of Crime Statistics indicate a slight decline in major crimes reported in the unincorporated parts of Santa Cruz County last year.

The statistics, known as the California Crime Index, cover reports of homicide, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, and auto theft in jurisdictions with more than 100,000 people. For Santa Cruz County the figures correspond to the area covered by the sheriff's office.

More detailed numbers of other areas in the county will be available next month, Sgt. Mark Tracy of the sheriff's office said.

In Santa Cruz County, aside from the UC-Santa Cruz campus and the cities of Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Capitola

and Scotts Valley, the number of reported major crimes declined 1.8 percent, from 1,811 in 1983 to 1,778 last year.

There were six murders last year compared to 11 in 1983; rapes increased from 35 to 38; robbery decreased from 61 reports in 1983 to 54 in 1984.

Aggravated assault and burglary stayed almost the same with 168 reports of assault in 1983 and 171 reports last year.

There were 1,494 burglaries reported to deputies last year, compared to 1,514 the year before, according to the statistics compiled by the state.

The figures are based on monthly reports made to the state Department of Justice by law enforcement agencies.

Statewide, the crime index decreased 2.6 percent, continuing a downward trend that began in 1980.

The greatest decrease in reported crimes was in Fresno County with a 16 percent drop. The Santa Ana police department showed the greatest increase with 20 percent more major crimes reported in 1984 than in 1983.