

CHAPTER 2

The Crime Picture

Teaching Outline

- I. Introduction (p.23)
 - Remember that statistical aggregates of reported crime do not reveal all the effects of crime. It is important to remember the people behind the numbers.
- A. Crime Data and Social Policy (p.24)
 - Crime statistics provide a picture of crime in society and are used as a tool to make social policy decisions.

Instructional Cue

Discuss common misperceptions about crime caused by our heavy reliance on the news media for information about crime. Research on the types of crime presented in the news consistently indicates an inverse relationship between the amount of crime that occurs and what the media present. For example, murder is the index offense least likely to occur, but it is the crime most likely to be presented in the news. What implications does this have for public opinion on crime? On criminal justice policy making?

- B. The Collection of Crime Data (p.24)

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program: A statistical reporting program run by the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) division. The UCR Program publishes *Crime in the United States*, which provides an annual summation of the incidence and rate of reported crimes throughout the United States. (p. 24)

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS): An annual survey of selected American households conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics to determine the extent of criminal victimization—especially unreported victimization—in the United States. (p.24)

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS): A U.S. Department of Justice agency responsible for the collection of criminal justice data, including the annual National Crime Victimization Survey. (p.24)

Provide an overview of data sources. Briefly discuss the Uniform Crime Reports, the National Crime Victimization Survey, self-report data, and Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics.

- II. The UCR/NIBRS Program (p. 24)
 - A. Development of the UCR Program (p.24)
 - Since 1930 the FBI has been compiling statistics on crimes known to the police.
 - Approximately 18,000 police departments voluntarily submit crime information to the FBI.

- The Crime Index was designed to permit comparisons over time, but after years of concern over the accuracy of the Crime Index, it was discontinued in 2004.

Crime Index: A now defunct but once-inclusive measure of the UCR Program's violent and property crime categories, or what are called *Part I* offenses. The Crime Index, long featured in the FBI's publication *Crime in the United States*, was discontinued in 2004. The Index had been intended as a tool for geographic (state-to-state) and historical (year-to-year) comparisons via the use of crime rates (the number of crimes per unit of population). However, criticism that the Index was misleading arose after researchers found that the largest of the Index's crime categories, larceny-theft, carried undue weight and led to an underappreciation of changes in the rates of more violent and serious crimes. (p.25)

B. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (p. 26)

- NIBRS represents a significant redesign of the original UCR Program and provides significantly more data than the UCR on each incident.
- NIBRS is not a separate report; it is the new methodology underlying the contemporary UCR system.

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS): An incident-based reporting system that collects detailed data on every single crime occurrence. NIBRS data are replacing the kinds of summary data that have traditionally been provided by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. (p. 26)

Discuss how the new reporting system replaces Part I and Part II offenses with 22 general offenses.

C. Historical Trends (p.27)

- Most UCR information is reported as a rate of crime – the number of crimes per some unit of population (usually 100,000 people) – to allow for meaningful comparisons over areas and across time.
- There have been three major shifts in crime rates since the UCR Program began:
 - Decrease in crime in the early 1940s.
 - Increase in most forms of crime between 1960 and the early 1990s.
 - Decline in the rates of most major crimes between 1991 and 2010.
 - A fourth shift appears to be starting now.

D. UCR/NIBRS in Transition (p.31)

- Reports of U.S. crime data available through the UCR/NIBRS program are going through a transitional phase as the FBI integrates more NIBRS-based data into its official summaries.
- The Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook is the standard reference for scoring and reporting crime in specific jurisdictions.

Introduce the FBI Crime Clock and explain why it does not allow easy comparisons over time

Violent Crime: A UCR/NIBRS summary offense category that includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. (p.32)

Property Crime: A UCR/NIBRS summary offense category that includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. (p.32)

Clearance Rate: A traditional measure of investigative effectiveness that compares the number of crimes reported or discovered to the number of crimes solved through arrest or other means (such as the death of the suspect). (p.33)

E. Part I Offenses (p.33)

1. Murder

- UCR/NIBRS statistics on murder include willful and unlawful homicides, including cases of nonnegligent manslaughter but not including suicide, justifiable homicide, deaths due to negligence or accident, and murder attempts.
- 14,748 murders occurred in 2010, a rate of 4.8 homicides per 100,000 residents. Murder is the smallest numerical category of Part I offenses.
- Murder rates peak in the warmest months and are most common in the southern states.
- The weapon used to commit a large percentage of murders is a handgun.
- Few murders are committed by strangers.
- It is the index crime least likely to occur but most likely to be cleared.

Murder: The unlawful killing of a human being. Murder is a generic term that in common usage may include first- and second-degree murder, manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, and other similar offenses. (p.33)

Part I Offenses: A UCR/NIBRS offense group used to report murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson, as defined under the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program. (p. 33)

Instructional Cue

Gather local and state statistics on the eight Uniform Crime Report Part I offenses, and note the current crime trend data. Then compare and contrast the state figures to the national figures. Do the types of crime in your state have patterns similar to those of national crime? Compare the declining crime rates or adverse trends between your state and the national crime data.

2. Forcible Rape (p. 35)

- Rape is the least reported of all offenses, with only one out of every four forcible rapes reported to the police.
- Rape report rates are increasing somewhat, due in part to changes in the way the system responds to rape.

- Rape is a planned violent crime that serves the offender's need for power rather than sexual gratification.

Rape: The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Broadly speaking, the term rape has been applied to a wide variety of sexual attacks and may include same-sex rape and the rape of a male by a female. Some jurisdictions refer to same-sex rape as sexual battery. (p. 35)

Forcible Rape (UCR/NIBRS): The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and against his or her will. More specifically, penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Statutory rape differs from forcible rape in that it generally involves nonforcible sexual intercourse with a minor. (p. 35)

Sexual Battery: The intentional and wrongful physical contact with a person, without his or her consent, that entails a sexual component or purpose. (p. 36)

Date Rape: The unlawful forced sexual intercourse with a female against her will that occurs within the context of a dating relationship. Date rape, or acquaintance rape, is a subcategory of rape that is of special concern today. (p. 36)

3. Robbery (p. 37)

- Robbery is a personal crime involving face-to-face confrontation between victim and perpetrator.
- Robbery may involve weapons or strong-arm robbery may occur through intimidation.
- Robbery is primarily an urban offense, and arrestees are primarily male and members of minority groups.

Robbery (UCR/NIBRS): The unlawful taking or attempted taking of property that is in the immediate possession of another by force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. Armed robbery differs from unarmed, or strong-arm, robbery in that it involves a weapon. Contrary to popular conceptions, highway robbery does not necessarily occur on a street—and rarely in a vehicle. The term highway robbery applies to any form of robbery that occurs outdoors in a public place. (p.37)

4. Aggravated Assault (p. 37) Burglary

- Assaults may be simple (misdemeanor) or aggravated (felonious).
- Assault reports are most frequent in the summer months.

Assault (UCR/NIBRS): An unlawful attack by one person upon another. Historically, assault meant only the attempt to inflict injury on another person; a completed act constituted the

separate offense of battery. Under modern statistical usage, however, attempted and completed acts are grouped together under the generic term assault. (p. 37)

Aggravated Assault: The unlawful, intentional inflicting, or attempted or threatened inflicting, of serious injury upon the person of another. Although aggravated assault and simple assault are standard terms for reporting purposes, most state penal codes use labels like first-degree and second-degree to make such distinctions. (p. 37)

Explain the differences between simple and aggravated assault.

Cite the relatively high clearance rates for assaults.

5. Burglary (p. 38)

- Burglary is a property crime and the burglar usually “fences” stolen materials for financial gain.
- The UCR/NIBRS program uses three classifications: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry.
- Burglary generally has low clearance rates.

Explain the differences among forcible entry, unlawful entry without force, and attempted forcible entry.

Burglary (UCR/NIBRS): The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft (excludes tents, trailers, and other mobile units used for recreational purposes). Under the UCR/NIBRS Program, the crime of burglary can be reported if (1) an unlawful entry of an unlocked structure has occurred, (2) a breaking and entering (of a secured structure) has taken place, or (3) a burglary has been attempted. (p. 38)

6. Larceny-Theft (p. 39)

- Larceny is the most common of all offenses and is often not reported because losses are small.
- Larceny-theft is the most frequently reported major crime.
- Larceny is a catchall category of the UCR.
- Identity theft is a special kind of larceny.

Larceny-Theft (UCR/NIBRS): The unlawful taking or attempted taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Motor vehicles are excluded. Larceny is the most common of the eight major offenses, although probably only a small percentage of all larcenies is actually reported to the police because of the small dollar amounts involved. (p. 39)

Identity Theft: A crime in which an imposter obtains key pieces of information, such as Social Security and driver’s license numbers, to obtain credit, merchandise and services in the name of the victim. The victim is often left with a ruined credit history and the time-consuming and complicated task of repairing the financial damages. (p. 41)

* Explain the difference between simple larceny and grand larceny.*

7. Motor Vehicle Theft (p. 42)

- Most occurrences of motor vehicle theft are reported because most insurance companies require police reports before they will reimburse car owners for their losses.
- The clearance rate is very low.
- Carjacking involves violence.

Motor Vehicle Theft (UCR/NIBRS): The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. Motor vehicle is defined as a self-propelled road vehicle that runs on land surface and not on rails. The stealing of trains, planes, boats, construction equipment, and most farm machinery is classified as larceny under the UCR/NIBRS Program, not as motor vehicle theft. (p.42)

Introduce carjacking.

8. Arson (p. 42)

- The most common category of arson is the intentional and unlawful burning of structures.
- Arson data include only fires determined to have been willfully or maliciously set – fires of unknown or suspicious origin are excluded from arson statistics.
- Arson was added as an eighth Part I offense in 1979 but many law enforcement agencies still do not make regular reports to the FBI on arsons in their jurisdictions.

Arson (UCR/NIBRS): Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without the intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, and so on. Some instances of arson result from malicious mischief, some involve attempts to claim insurance money, and some are committed in an effort to disguise other crimes, such as murder, burglary, or larceny. (p.42)

Instructional Cue

Have students decide which Part I offense is occurring in each of the following situations:

1. A college freshman visits a friend's residence hall and forces her to have sexual intercourse. (forcible rape)
2. A woman is caught after she puts a gun to an elderly man's head and takes his wallet and watch. (robbery)
3. A man drives his car into a group of teenagers. Six teenagers have to be taken to the hospital for treatment of their injuries. (aggravated assault)
4. A 14-year-old girl steals a Porsche 944 from a car dealership. (motor vehicle theft)
5. A 14-year-old boy steals a bulldozer. (larceny)

6. A man walks through an open door of a home and steals cash and other valuables and raids the refrigerator. (burglary)
7. An 18-year-old girl gave birth to a baby boy in her mother's fourth-floor apartment and tossed the child out the window, and the baby died. (murder)
8. A woman walks out of a coatroom with a leather jacket that does not belong to her. (larceny)
9. A man sets his neighbor's Christmas tree on fire. (arson)
10. A woman borrows a neighbor's boat to go fishing, and the neighbor did not give her permission to use it. (larceny)

F. Part II Offenses (p. 43)

Part II Offenses: A UCR/NIBRS offense group used to report arrests for less serious offenses. Agencies are limited to reporting only arrest information for Part II offenses, with the exception of simple assault. (p.39)

Describe how Part II offenses are determined.

III. The National Crime Victimization Survey (p.44)

- NCVS is based on victim self-reports rather than police reports
- NCVS was started in 1972 to uncover the “dark figure” of crime.
- The NCVS showed that crimes were more prevalent than UCR statistics indicated.
- NCVS data is obtained from a nationally representative sample of approximately 41,000 households.
- The NCVS includes data on rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary, personal and household larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

Dark Figure of Crime: Crime that is not reported to the police and that remains unknown to officials. (p.44)

IV. Comparisons of the UCR and the NCVS (p.45)

- Crime statistics from the UCR/NIBRS and the NCVS reveal crime patterns that are often the bases for social policies created to deter or reduce crime.
- Both programs have problems.

Instructional Cue

Ask students whether the following statistics would be found in the UCR or the NCVS:

1. In 2007, 447,404 robberies were reported to the police. (UCR)
2. Approximately 54% of violent crimes are reported to the police. (NCVS)
3. Of all reported aggravated assaults, 54% are cleared by arrest. (UCR)
4. The clearance rate for the crime of arson is 18%. (UCR)

V. Special Categories of Crime (p.47)

Crime Typology: A classification of crimes along a particular dimension, such as legal category, offender motivation, victim behavior, or characteristics of individual offenders. (p.47)

A. Crime Against Women (p.47)

- Women are victimized less frequently than men in every major personal crime category except rape.
- When victimized, they are more likely than men to be injured.

Stalking: Repeated harassing and threatening behavior by one individual against another, aspects of which may be planned or carried out in secret. Stalking might involve following a person, appearing at a person's home or place of business, making harassing phone calls, leaving written messages or objects, or vandalizing a person's property. Most stalking laws require that the perpetrator make a credible threat of violence against the victim or members of the victim's immediate family. (p.48)

Cyberstalking: The use of the Internet, e-mail, and other electronic communication technologies to stalk another person. (p.49)

B. Crime Against the Elderly (p.50)

- Crime victimization declines with age.
- The elderly face special kinds of victimization that rarely affect younger adults, such as physical abuse by caregivers, and are more often targeted by con artists.

C. Hate Crime (p. 50)

- The collection of hate crime statistics began in 1991.
- Since September 11, 2001, authorities have noted an increase in the number of reported crimes motivated by religion or ethnicity.

Hate Crime (UCR/NIBRS): A criminal offense committed against a person, property, or society that is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity/national origin. (p.50)

D. Corporate and White-Collar Crime (p.52)

Corporate Crime: A violation of a criminal statute by a corporate entity or by its executives, employees, or agents acting on behalf of and for the benefit of the corporation, partnership, or other form of business entity. (p.53)

White-Collar Crime: Violations of the criminal law committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of his or her occupation. Also, nonviolent crime for financial gain utilizing deception and committed by anyone who has special technical or professional knowledge of business or government, irrespective of the person's occupation. (p.53)

E. Organized Crime (p.53)

Organized Crime: The unlawful activities of the members of a highly organized, disciplined association engaged in supplying illegal goods or services, including gambling, prostitution, loan-sharking, narcotics, and labor racketeering, and in other unlawful activities. (p.53)

Transnational Organized Crime: Unlawful activity undertaken and supported by organized criminal groups operating across national boundaries. (p. 53)

F. Gun Crime (p.54)

- Because of the increased use of guns to commit crimes, legislation has been passed to respond to gun crime.
- The Supreme Court has come down firmly in support of private gun ownership.

G. Drug Crime (p.55)

- Drug-related crime continues to rise even while rates of many other crimes have decreased.

Discuss the links between drugs and crime.

Explain that a large percentage of homicides are drug related.

H. High-Technology and Computer Crime (p.56)

Computer Crime: Any crime perpetrated through the use of computer technology. Also, any violation of a federal or state computer-crime statute. Also called cybercrime. (p.57)

Malware: Malicious computer programs such as viruses, worms, and Trojan horses. (p.58)

Computer Virus: A computer program designed to secretly invade systems and either modify the way in which they operate or alter the information they store. Viruses are destructive software programs that may effectively vandalize computers of all types and sizes. (p.58)

Spam: Unsolicited commercial bulk e-mail whose primary purpose is the advertisement or promotion of a commercial product or service. (p.58)

I. Terrorism (p.59)

Terrorism: A violent act or an act dangerous to human life in violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state, committed to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objectives. (p. 59)

1. Types of Terrorism (p. 59)

Domestic Terrorism: The unlawful use of force or violence by a group or an individual who is based and operates entirely within the United States and its territories without foreign direction and whose acts are directed at elements of the U.S. government or population. (p.59)

International Terrorism: The unlawful use of force or violence by a group or an individual who has some connection to a foreign power, or whose activities transcend national boundaries, against people or property in order to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives. (p.59)

Cyberterrorism: A form of terrorism that makes use of high technology, especially computers and the Internet, in the planning and carrying out of terrorist attacks. (p.60)

Compare and contrast the three major forms of terrorism: domestic, international, and cyberterrorism.

2. Organization and Scope of Terrorist Groups (p. 60)

- There are three organizational levels that characterize violent extremists:
 - Core Al-Qaeda organization.
 - Small groups with some ties to an established terrorist organization.
 - Home grown extremists.

J. Crime in International Context (p. 61)

- Criminal activity has become big business around the globe.
- Many criminal organizations are linked together in the commission of transnational offenses.

Transnational Offenses: Unlawful activity that occurs across national boundaries. (p. 61)

Learning Activities Utilizing the World Wide Web

The following are presented as instructor-led activities, to be used in a classroom with online access.

Visit the Prentice Hall Cybrary at <http://mycrimekit.pearsoncmg.com>. Find links to both the Uniform Crime Reports and the *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*. Collect information on murder from both sites. Display this information in class and discuss the following:

- How much information is available at these sites?
- What does it consist of?
- What are the similarities and the differences in the availability of information on the crime of murder between these two sites?
- Generally speaking, how do the two sites compare?
- Which one do you find most useful? Why?

Read some of the following materials about new and promising strategies implemented to respond to juvenile homicide:

- (1) Blueprints for Violence Prevention (see section on model program descriptions) at https://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/jjbul2001_7_3/contents.html
- (2) Gun Use by Male Juveniles (see the section on promising strategies to reduce gun violence) at https://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/jjbul2001_7_2/contents.html
- (3) Homicides of Children and Youth at <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/187239.pdf>;
- (4) Youth Gang Homicides in the 1990s at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/txtfiles1/ojjdp/fs200103.txt>
- (5) The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention page at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/index.html>.

Display parts of each site in class and discuss the following:

What data about the juvenile homicide problem exist?
 Describe the major trends in the incidence of juvenile violence over the last ten years.
 What innovative strategies have been used to respond more effectively to the juvenile homicide problem?

Other websites for organizations and agencies related to the material in Chapter 2 include:

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics	http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook
Uniform Crime Reports	http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/crimestats
Developments in NIBRS	http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/nibrs/developments-in-nibrs/developments_in_nibrs
Bureau of Justice Statistics	http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/
Bureau of Justice Assistance	https://www.bja.gov
FBI Hate Crime Statistics	nibrs implementation plan
Fedstats	http://www.fedstats.gov
Violence Policy Center	http://www.vpc.org