CHAPTER 2 - MEASURING AND COMPARING

CRIME IN AND ACROSS NATIONS

<u>**Multiple Choice**</u>

1. The first attempt to collect data on crime at the international level occurred at:
   A. The General Statistical Congress in Brussels
   B. International Congress on the Prevention and Repression of Crime in London
   C. The Conference of the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation
   D. The Economic and Social Council of the UN

   ANS: A   REF: 18   OBJ: 1

2. Which of the following is *not* one of the three major perspectives of a criminal incident:
   A. The perspective of the offender
   B. The perspective of the victim
   C. The perspective of the media
   D. The perspective of the police

   ANS: C   REF: 19   OBJ: 1

3. The Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) are compiled by:
   A. Interpol
   B. The United Nations
   C. Independent police stations
   D. The Federal Bureau of Investigation

   ANS: D   REF: 19   OBJ: 1

4. Which crime statistics initiative collects data on every incident and arrest within 22 offense categories made up of 46 specific crimes?
   A. Uniform Crime Report (UCR)
   B. National Incident- Based Reporting System (NIBRS)
   C. The National Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)
   D. The Dark figure of crime

   ANS: B   REF: 19   OBJ: 1

5. Which of the following collects information from member countries about crime rates and the operations of the criminal justice systems?
   A. Uniform Crime Report (UCR)
   B. International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)
   C. National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)
   D. United Nations Surveys of Crime and Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (CTS)

   ANS: D   REF: 19   OBJ: 1

6. Which of the following is *not* one of the crimes that the National Crime Victimization Survey collects data on?
   A. Rape
   B. Larceny
   C. Murder
   D. Motor vehicle theft

   ANS: C   REF: 20   OBJ: 1

7. Which crime statistics assembly method involves people reporting their own delinquent and criminal acts?
   A. National Crime Victimization Surveys
   B. Self- Report Surveys
   C. National Incident-Based Reporting
   D. Uniform Crime Report

   ANS: B   REF: 20   OBJ: 1

8. The best available sources of international crime data are:
   A. Self-Report Surveys
   B. Interpol Data
   C. International Victimization Surveys
   D. National Crime Victimization Surveys

   ANS: C   REF: 21   OBJ: 3

9. The primary collection tool used in the International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS) is:
   A. Paper surveys
   B. Email surveys
   C. Face to face interviews
   D. Computer assisted telephone interviewing

   ANS: D   REF: 22   OBJ: 3

10. Which problem has plagued comparative researches for many years in regards to international crime statistics?
    A. Lack of standard definitions of crime
    B. Lack of resources
    C. Lack of cooperation between countries
    D. Lack of statistical methods

    ANS: A   REF: 27   OBJ: 4

11. Which one of the following regions has one of the highest homicide rates?
    A. Western Europe
    B. East Asia
    C. Central America
    D. Southeastern Europe

    ANS: C   REF: 29   OBJ: 5

12. Which of the following of our model countries has the lowest homicide rates?
    A. France
    B. Saudi Arabia
    C. China
    D. United States

    ANS: B   REF: 30   OBJ: 5

13. Which model country has the lowest overall crime rates?
    A. Japan
    B. Saudi Arabia
    C. China
    D. Germany

    ANS: A   REF: 30   OBJ: 5

14. The majority of the American Crime problem is one of:
    A. White collar crime
    B. Violent crime
    C. Property crime
    D. Victimless crime

    ANS: B   REF: 31   OBJ: 5

15. When looking at the 10 crimes surveyed by the ICVS, in comparison to the model countries the United States has:
    A. Highest overall crime rates
    B. Lowest overall crime rates
    C. Not the highest or lowest overall crime rates
    D. Highest rates in some categories

    ANS: A   REF: 30   OBJ: 5

Sentence Completion

1. _____ is a worldwide problem that directly or indirectly touches every one of us in multiple ways.

    ANS: Crime   REF: 17   OBJ: 1

2. _____ evaluates the probability that certain crimes will occur and their potential harm.

    ANS: Risk of crime   REF: 17   OBJ: 1

3. Collecting data about crime in any one country over an extended period of time allows us to distinguish _____ from _____.

    ANS: Long- term patterns, Year to year trends   REF: 18   OBJ: 1

4. The CTS questionnaire consists of four parts dealing primarily with statistical information about the main components of the _____ and an _____.

    ANS: Criminal justice system, Annex   REF: 19   OBJ: 1

5. The Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) are collected by individual _____ and compiled by the _____ annually.

    ANS: Police agencies, FBI   REF: 19   OBJ: 1

6. The UCR program is _____, so not all police departments report crime data every year.

    ANS: Voluntary   REF: 19   OBJ: 1

7. The NCVS improves our knowledge of the true extent of crime by reducing the _____ of crime.

ANS: Dark figure   REF: 20   OBJ: 1

8. _____ is helpful because it is able to compare information about known offenders with those who have not been caught.

ANS: Self-reporting   REF: 20   OBJ: 1

9. The _____ study uses a standard instrument to compare juvenile rates of crime in 12 European locations and the United States.

ANS: International Self-Report Delinquency (IRSD)   REF: 20   OBJ: 1

10. A _____ is one with a low level of material and social development. It is measured by such indicators as income per person, life expectancy and literacy rates.

ANS: Developing country   REF: 21   OBJ: 3

11. A _____ is one with a high level of development, measured by indicators such as, gross domestic product and industrialization.

ANS: Developed country   REF: 21   OBJ: 3

12. The best available sources of _____ are international victimization surveys.

ANS: international crime data   REF: 21   OBJ: 3

13. The _____ is now the most extensive standardized survey of victims in the world.

ANS: ICVS   REF: 22   OBJ: 3

14. At the root of the problem of non-standardized definitions is the issue of determining what a _____ is versus what is _____.

ANS: Crime, Legal   REF: 27   OBJ: 4

15. Approximately _____ percent of all homicides are committed with firearms.

ANS: 60   REF: 29   OBJ: 2, 5

True/False

1. Understanding crime trends is important both domestically and internationally.

   ANS: T   REF: 18   OBJ: 1

2. In regards to crime, perceived risk and social action are closely tied to each other.

   ANS: T   REF: 18   OBJ: 1

3. Measuring crime and comparing crime data does not provide clues as to why some nations are more successful than others in controlling crime rates.

   ANS: F   REF: 18   OBJ: 1

4. The CTS focuses more on information about criminal justice systems than on the measurement of crime.

   ANS: T   REF: 19   OBJ: 1

5. Interpol still reports data from its member countries.

   ANS: F   REF: 19   OBJ: 1

6. The NCVS finds that overall, approximately 50 percent of violent crimes and all property crimes are reported to the police.

   ANS: F   REF: 20   OBJ: 3

7. There is fairly close correspondence between the crime definitions used by the UCR and NCVS, which makes it possible to assess national crime information from the viewpoint of the victim and the police.

   ANS: T   REF: 20   OBJ: 3

8. Self-report surveys are used mostly with adults and usually in national samples.

   ANS: F   REF: 20   OBJ: 3

9. The ICVS is only interested in incidents reported to the police.

   ANS: F   REF: 22   OBJ: 3

10. According to the ICVS, when taking all sexual offenses together, victims knew the offender in about half the cases.

ANS: T   REF: 27   OBJ: 3

11. What a country decides is illegal tells us something about that nation's social, economic, and political situation.

ANS: T   REF: 28   OBJ: 3

12. Homicide rates should be more reliable than those for other crimes, because of the presence of a human body in nearly every case.

ANS: T   REF: 28   OBJ: 4, 5

13. The data show that in recent years has been a general increase in homicide rates in most countries.

ANS: F   REF: 29   OBJ: 4, 5

14. China regularly reports high rates of crime each year.

ANS: F   REF: 30   OBJ: 2, 5

15. Easy access to guns is one factor that may contribute to the high homicide rates in the United States.

ANS: T   REF: 32   OBJ: 2

Short Answer Questions

1. List four (4) out of five (5) reasons that some countries do not collect some form of crime data, according to Mueller.

ANS: REF: 27   OBJ: 4

- Countries are so small that the administrative staff may not be able to handle the requests.
- Some countries are too involved in Civil War to keep track of crime problems.
- "New" emerging countries have not developed a system of collection and dissemination of crime data.
- Some countries lack the technical resources and knowledge necessary to report the crime data.

- Some countries have the resources but still refuse, because they are concerned that crime data will negatively affect the nation's world standing or tourist trade.

2. Explain some factors that influence Japan's low crime rate.

ANS: REF: 30   OBJ: 2, 5

- The amount of wealth accumulation, industrialization, and modernization makes Japan appear to be part of the western world.
  - But societal norms are much different- Japan stresses group norms, the suppression of individualism, suspicion of outsiders, harmony, and conflict avoidance
  - Government is highly involved in industrial development and social welfare
  - Schools and workplaces produce a high level of self- control
  - Homogeneity of Japan as in comparison to the heterogeneity of the United States

3. Explain Saudi Arabia's explanations for their low crime rate. Also, discuss any contradictory reasoning.

ANS: REF: 31   OBJ: 4

- Harsh corporal punishments they employ, which are based on a philosophy of retribution, serve as effective deterrents to crime.
- A second contradictory explanation is that the Saudis commit fewer crimes not for fear of punishment, but because of their devotion to the Qur'an and its teachings.

4. Why does the United States have such a high rate of violent crime?

ANS: REF: 31   OBJ: 2

- Economic disparity between the rich and the poor
- Heterogeneity of the population
- Widespread urban areas
- Extensive widespread images of violence of media
- Easy access to guns
- Historically violent past
- Drug epidemic

Essay Questions

1. List the three major perspectives of each criminal incident and discuss the type of data collection method that corresponds with each perspective.

   ANS: REF: 19   OBJ: 1

   - **The police**
     - UCR-compiled by individual police agencies and then sent to and compiled by the FBI annually.
     - NIBRS-developed to broaden the extent of the depth of crime data gathered by police agencies.
       - Collects data on every incident and arrest within 22 offense categories made up of 46 specific crimes.
   - **The Victim**
     - NCVS- developed during 1970's in United States.
       - Annual survey covering six crimes: rape, robbery, assault, larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft
       - Improves our knowledge of the dark figure of crime- crime unknown to police
   - **The Offender**
     - Self-Report Surveys- people are asked to report their in own delinquent behavior and criminal acts in an anonymous questionnaire or confidential interview.
       - Able to compare information about known offenders with those who have not been caught
       - Also provide information about victimless crimes- ex. Drug use or prostitution
     - International Self- Report Delinquency study
       - Compares juvenile rates of crime in 12 European locations and the United States.

2. List and explain the four approaches to explaining criminal behavior discussed in the text.

   ANS: REF: 33   OBJ: 5

   - **Positivist**
     - Primary cause of crime- internal or external factors
       - Ex. Social, economic, psychological, or biological influences
     - Prescribed Remedy

- ▪ Rehabilitation or reform by changing these internal or external conditions, or changing a person's reaction to them
- **Classical**
  - o Primary cause of crime- free will decision guided by hedonistic tendency to maximize pleasure and minimize pain
  - o Prescribed Remedy
    - ▪ Deterrence through threat of apprehension and punishment
- **Structural**
  - o Primary cause of crime- political and economic conditions promote a culture of competitive individualism in which individual gain becomes more important than the social good
  - o Prescribed Remedy
    - ▪ More equitable distribution of power and wealth in society, so that all individuals have a greater stake in a better society
- **Ethical**
  - o Primary cause of crime- Free- will decision is guided by ethical principles in which an individual fails to appreciate an act's wrongfulness and lacks empathy for the victim
  - o Prescribed Remedy- education and reinforcement in ethical decision making from an early age; reduction of external factors that promote unethical decisions

3. Discuss the four (4) main flaws of the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR).

   ANS: REF: 19   OBJ: 1

- Counts only crimes reported to the police
  - o Crimes that are not reported to the police are missed and contribute to the dark figure of crime
  - o Less than half of all crimes are reported to the police
- The UCR is voluntary
  - o Not every police department report crime data every year
  - o Some police stations do not count their crimes carefully which can also lead to undercounts
- The UCR gathers information on a limited range of offenses
  - o Criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson
  - o None of the major transnational crimes discussed in chapter 1 are included
- The UCR counts arrests for 29 other generally less serious offenses
  - o Arrests occur even less often than do police reports of crimes to police, so they cannot be used to count incidents accurately