

CHAPTER 2 – MEASURING AND COMPARING CRIME IN AND ACROSS NATIONS

Multiple Choice

1. What is the purpose of measuring and comparing crime rates?
 - a. To raise levels of fear and concern
 - b. To draw political attention to the problem
 - c. To enlarge police agencies
 - *d. To assess the level of risk

2. Comparing crimes among countries serves purposes that include:
 - a. Determining the nature and extent of crimes
 - b. Distinguishing long-term patterns
 - c. understanding criminal propensities
 - *d. a and b only

3. With greater knowledge of comparative crime trends, governments can make better decisions about the allocation of resources and
 - a. Why crime is so high in their own countries
 - *b. Why some nations are more successful at controlling crime rates
 - c. How many prisons to consider building
 - d. Which television programs and movie to censor

4. The first attempts to collect data on crime internationally occurred
 - a. During the 1700s
 - *b. During 1800s
 - c. During the 1900s
 - d. Has not yet occurred

5. According to the data produced by the ICVS (International Crime Victim Surveys), the United States has a victimization rate _____ to that of other Western countries.
 - *a. Similar
 - b. Much higher compared
 - c. Much lower compared
 - d. Studying can be unhealthy

6. The ICVS (International Crime Victim Surveys) have generally shown that the total number of crimes committed is about _____ the number reported to the police.
 - a. Triple
 - *b. Double
 - c. The same as
 - d. Half

7. There are three ways to count crime. They involve the perspectives of:
 - a. The police, courts, corrections

- *b. The police, victims, offenders
- c. Victims, witnesses, criminals
- d. Snap, crackle, pop

8. The International self-report delinquency study compared juvenile offending in 13 countries. It found _____ percent of juveniles had committed at least one crime.

- a. 50
- *b. 80 to 90
- c. About 25
- d. 5

9. It is generally true to say that a majority of nations experienced a drop in crime beginning in the 1990s.

- *a. True
- b. False

10. Of the six “model” countries discussed in the book, which has the lowest crime rates across the board?

- *a. Japan
- b. United States
- c. England
- d. France

11. In comparing crimes in the U.S. to other countries, American crime rates are worst for:

- *a. Murder and robbery
- b. Assault and theft
- c. Arson and larceny
- d. Theft of personal property

12. The primary reason why victims do not report crimes to police around the world is:

- *a. Offense not seen as serious
- b. Fear of reprisal
- c. Dislike of police
- d. No insurance

13. Why do some countries not engage in counting crimes?

- a. Some countries are too involved in civil war to keep track of crime problems.
- b. Some countries lack the technical resources and knowledge necessary to report crime data.
- c. 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
- *d. All of these

14. The three regions with the highest homicide rates are:

- *a. Southern Africa; Central America; South America

- b. Western and Central Europe; Eastern Asia; and Southeastern Europe
- c. Central America; Northern Ireland; England, Wales and Iceland
- d. None of the above

15. Low crime rates in Saudi Arabia can be attributed to:

- a. emphasis on informal local-based group formation along with a strong emphasis on security and rules within those settings
- b. harsh corporal punishment based on philosophy of retribution
- c. religious devotion to Quran and its teachings
- *d. b and c

Sentence Completion

1. Risk of crime evaluates the probability that certain crimes will occur and their potential harm.
2. Between the 1940s and the early 1970s, crime data collection was limited to INTERPOL, who tried to collect statistics from as many of its members that cared to report them.
3. The three major forms of crime statistics in the United States are the Uniform Crime Reports, the National Crime Victimization Surveys, and self-reports.
4. The National Crime Victimization Survey asks whether people have been the victim of the crimes of rape, robbery, assault, larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft.
5. The “dark figure of crime” refers to the amount of unknown crime.
6. A developing country is one with a low level of material and social development, measured by such indicators as income per person, life expectancy, and literacy rates.
7. Developed countries are those with a high level of development, measured by the factors above, plus other indicators such as gross domestic product and industrialization.
8. Statistical information provided by the United Nations is collected through the United Nations Surveys of Crime and Trends and Operation of Criminal Justice Systems.
9. The Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute coordinate the efforts of the International Crime Victim Surveys.

10. Three of the major problems that plague most international crime statistics are underreporting, nonstandard definitions, and differences in collection and recording practices.
11. The ICVS surveys only residences, so crimes against commercial establishments are not counted.
12. When making comparisons of groups of countries across time, we may still find problems due to changes in legal definitions, national borders, and recording practices.
13. The countries with the highest victimization rates are a mix of developed and developing countries, which suggests that poverty is not a major contributor to crime rates.
14. Two countries that seem to have beaten the odds with respect to increased industrialization and increased crime are Japan and Switzerland.
15. Dr. Albanese has made this book much better than it was in previous editions.

True/False

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| F | 1. | All members of the United Nations participate in the ICVS. |
| T | 2. | The data contained in the Uniform Crime Reports can be manipulated by the police, who may underreport crime statistics. |
| F | 3. | The “dark figure of crime” refers to the most serious of offenses reported to the police. |
| T | 4. | The National Crime Victimization Survey has shown that the total number of crimes committed in the United States is at least double the number reported to the police in the Uniform Crime Reports. |
| F | 5. | The United Nations now requires member nations to submit crime statistics on a regular basis. |
| F | 6. | The average victimization rate in major cities around the world is lower than the average rate of victims in nation-wide surveys globally, according to the ICVS. |
| T | 7. | Theft of personal property occurs at the highest rate around the world of any crime measured by the ICVS. |

- F 8. Developing countries are those with a high level of development, measured by the factors above, plus other indicators such as gross domestic product and industrialization.
- T 9. The ICVS is not only interested in crime victimization information but also the reasons why people do or do not choose to notify the police.
- T 10. The characteristics of assaults show that victims knew the offender in about half the incidents, according to the ICVS.
- T 11. Data on homicides in 54 countries reveal that approximately 60 percent of all homicides are committed with firearms.
- T 12. In nearly every country, victimization rates are 25 to 33 percent higher in large cities than in the nations as a whole.
- T 13. Four approaches to explaining crime include positive, classical, structural, and ethical.
- F 14. One explanation of the low crime rates in Japan may be the high punitiveness in its criminal justice system.
- T 15. When we compare the United States to other countries, we see that the American crime problem is really one of violent crime.

Short Answer Questions

1. Why should we measure and compare crime statistics in other countries?
2. Explain how crime statistics may be misinterpreted. Provide examples.
3. What are some reasons for the high rate of violent crime in the United States?
4. What might contribute to Japan's and Saudi Arabia's relatively low rates of crime?

Essay Questions / Student Activities

1. What are three major perspectives to gather crime statistics? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?
2. Describe what you see as the major contributions of the ICVS in understanding crime rates across countries.

3. Examining ICVS crime data from major world cities, what can you say about the common features of those cities with the highest and lowest crime rates? What are the implications for reducing crime in the higher-crime cities?
4. Study the tables in the chapter and discuss any major differences you find in the results. Hypothesize as to why there is such a disparity between certain countries--- choosing the USA, and two other countries in which (or from which) your family ancestors came from originally.