Dissecting Crime Rates

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International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

• In 1929 IACP promoted the reporting of crime statistics by police administrators
• Stated goals:
  1) document problems faced
  2) highlight achievements made
IACP emphasized that

- These statistics should be based on information routinely maintained by the agencies – **NO NEW BURDEN**
- Desirability of agencies reporting uniformly – **TO SUPPORT COMPARISONS**
IACP produced a booklet with recommended table shells

- Counts of offenses known in 7 categories
- Counts of arrests (using 20 categories)
- Counts of arrestees detailed by age group, gender, nativity/color categories (i.e., Native-born white of native parentage, Native-born white of foreign parentage, Negro, and All Others)
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- Distribution of offenses by month and hours of the day – useful for patrol and prevention methods, arranging vacations periods for the force and in distributing patrols throughout the 24 hours of the days, and of interest to the public
IACP produced a booklet with recommended table shells

- Counts of miscellaneous services rendered (e.g., lodgers care for, doors found open, persons reported as missing, fires discovered, lamp outages reported, lunacy cases handled, suicide cases investigated, and wagon service provided for the sick and injured
IACP also recommended

- Percent of crimes cleared by arrest
- Percent of persons arrested found guilty
- Offense-specific reported crime rates per 100,000 population
• It was not until 1960 that the FBI first published in *Crime in the U.S.* the Crime Index (CI)
  Violent Crime Index (VCI)
  Property Crime Index (PCI)

• Concerns about the indexes grew; in 2004 the FBI discontinued reporting the CI

• FBI will continue to publish the VCI and PCI until more viable options develop
Requirements of “Viable Options”

- Minimize the law enforcement burden (i.e., use available data)
- Serve a useful purpose by documenting issues important to law enforcement
- Serve the various community audiences
- Replicable across jurisdictions
Today’s Available Data Common Across Jurisdictions Are the Variables and Values Found in NIBRS

• Incident attributes (offenses, date, time, # victims & offenders, location, weapons)
• Victim attributes (demographics, residency, injury, relationship to offender)
• Offender attributes (demographics, drug/alcohol use, arrest)
Dissecting a Crime Rate with NIBRS data

- Percent of crimes cleared by arrest
- Percent of persons arrested found guilty
- Offense-specific reported crime rates per 100,000 population
Dissecting Crime Rates with NIBRS

Victim Age

Residency

Location

Offender Age

Victim Gender

Date and Time

Offender Gender

Victim Race/Ethnicity

Alcohol and/or Drugs

Offender Race/Ethnicity

Victim Injury

Relationship to Offender

Weapon Use

# of Offenders

Aggravated Assault
Dissecting Crime Rates with NIBRS

- Victim Age
- Victim Gender
- Victim Race/Ethnicity
- Victim Injury
- Residency
- Relationship to Offender
- Location
- Weapon Use
- Date and Time
- Alcohol and/or Drugs
- Offender Age
- Offender Gender
- Offender Race/Ethnicity
- # of Offenders

Aggravated Assault
Dissecting Crime Rates with NIBRS

Victim Age
Victim Gender
Victim Race/Ethnicity
Victim Injury

Residency

Location
Date and Time
Alcohol and/or Drugs
Weapon Use

Offender Age
Offender Gender
Offender Race/Ethnicity
# of Offenders

Aggravated Assault

Relationship to Offender
Dissecting Crime Rates with NIBRS

- Victim Age
- Victim Gender
- Victim Race/Ethnicity
- Victim Injury
- Residency
- Location
- Date and Time
- Alcohol and/or Drugs
- Weapon Use
- Offender Age
- Offender Gender
- Offender Race/Ethnicity
- Number of Offenders

Aggravated Assault
Dissecting Crime Rates with NIBRS

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Aggravated Assault

Date and Time

Alcohol and/or Drugs
Dissected Aggravated Assault Crime Rates

- With elderly victims
- Of domestic partners
- By strangers
- By juveniles
- Of non-residents
- With firearms
- In public areas
- During curfew hours
- With multiple offenders

- Of elderly victims by family members
- By juveniles in after-school hours
- Of non-residents in summer months
- By young adults with firearms
- By Hispanic youth
Which Dissections Should Be Reported in Your Community?

- All possible combinations should be reviewed to see where the stories are.
- Then, address local issues
- Service the local audiences
- Consider regional concerns