The UN-CTS data collection on crime and criminal justice: Overview

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Main functions of UNODC on crime statistics

1. To collate, disseminate and analyse country statistics
   - United Nations Crime Trends Survey, special data collections (Homicide, TIP, Firearms,..)
   - Data for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2. To develop and promote methods/standards on crime data
   - International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) is an international statistical standard for data collections endorsed by United Nations Statistical Commission & CCPCJ

   - Manual on Victimization Surveys, Criminal Justice Statistics, ..

3. To support countries to improve quality & availability of crime data
   - Capacity building projects (victimisation surveys, corruption surveys, etc.) in various regions of the world (on-going projects in the Americas, Nigeria, the UAE)
UN-CTS History and Mandates

• Started in 1977, following a resolution of the General Assembly (GA Res. 3021, 1972)

• Since 2009, members States are requested to complete UN-CTS survey every year.

• A number of UN resolutions through the years have been passed to improve UN-CTS: e.g.
  – ECOSOC 2009/25 on improved format of UN-CTS;
  – ECOSOC 2012/18 calling for nomination of national Focal Points for UN-CTS
UN-CTS Focal Point

• Appointed by each Member State

• Role: technical point of contact with UNODC regarding the compilation of the UN-CTS questionnaire (since 2010-11)
  – Ideally a national institution, ministry, office or agency with responsibility in the production of statistical data on crime and criminal justice
  – Should ensure a timely, accurate, complete response to UN-CTS by engaging with national counterparts
  – Whenever needed, can approach UNODC to ask for clarifications and technical support

• As of May 2016, there are 130 nominated Focal Points (not all of them are active).
UN-CTS: The data collection process

- UNODC
- National focal point
- PM’s at UNODC
- MFA
- Police
- Prosecutor
- Courts
- Prisons
- NSO

PM = Permanent Mission
MFA = Ministry of Foreign Affairs
49% was highest response rate of Asian countries & territories achieved in 2013
Few countries responded from Central Asia, South-Eastern Asia & Southern Asia
- Few countries are providing data on Disaggregation on Intentional Homicide
- Few countries submit at least a Data point for Victimization Survey which reflects lack of such surveys in several countries
Added Value of UN-CTS Focal Points

• Countries with Focal Points have a significantly higher response rate (75.8%) than those without (11.1%)

• Asia has 29 focal points out of 51 countries & territories
Data Quality Issues Observed in UN-CTS 2015 & 2016

1. **Overall Consistency** of data across the criminal justice process:

For example: attrition in the criminal justice process using the example of intentional homicide. While data for Americas looks plausible but they do not for Asia (*persons suspected and prosecuted significantly higher than number of homicides*).
2. **Internal Consistency** of data within a module

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### Table Notes

- **9.1 value** NOT equal to 
  
  \[(9.2 + 9.3) \text{ or } (9.4 + 9.3)\]
Whenever possible, we strongly encourage response to metadata to help us better understand the data.

Metadata for context of 4.1, 4.2 & 4.4
Summary of Challenges and issues in data collection

Data coverage and quality of UN-CTS

- Responses are often partial or incomplete
- Metadata missing
- Data are not complying with UN-CTS definitions
- Use of various (or unknown) counting rules
- Data are otherwise not accurate, reliable or consistent

Process of UN-CTS

- Communication to/ from countries challenging often challenging (when there is NO UN-CTS Focal Point)
- Only 10 Asian Countries and Territories (19.6 %)
- Deadline for Submission is 16 December 2016
Where is UN-CTS Data disseminated?

- UNODC data portal: https://data.unodc.org/
- 2014-15 Metadata published as submitted in data portal
- Currently working on adding Data Visualizations to the portal
Update on CTS Review

• Objective of the Review
  – Responding to data needs at national and international level
e.g. Adding indicators to monitor SDGs
  – Adapt UN-CTS to be fully compliant with International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)
  – To simplify the Metadata requested.
Thank you for your attention

UNODC Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics:


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