UNODC

United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime

Training course on Victimization Surveys for the Asia-Pacific Region

29 May – 2 June 2017

Pattaya, Thailand

Center of Excellence in
STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT, CRIME, VICTIMIZATION AND JUSTICE

UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Module #: 1: THE DIFFERENT SOURCES OF CRIME STATISTICS: THE STRENGHTS OF CV SURVEYS

29 May – 2 June 2017

Pattaya, Thailand

Center of Excellence in

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT, CRIME, VICTIMIZATION AND JUSTICE

Data on crime and criminal justice

1. **Administrative data**
   - Police-recorded crime
   - Prosecution/court data
   - Prison data, etc.
2. **Sample Survey data**
   - Victimization surveys
   - Corruption surveys
   - Self-reporting surveys, etc.

Administrative vs. Survey data on crime

Administrative data on crime provide information on:

"Reported Crimes" = offences reported to judicial authorities.

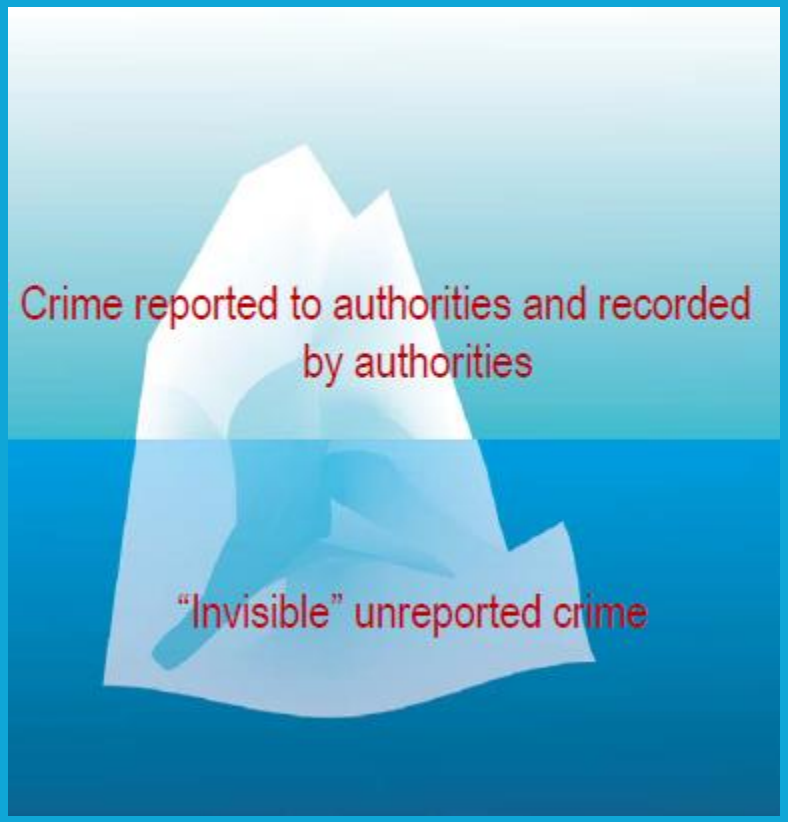
There is a gap between the number of reported crimes and the "**actual crime level**".

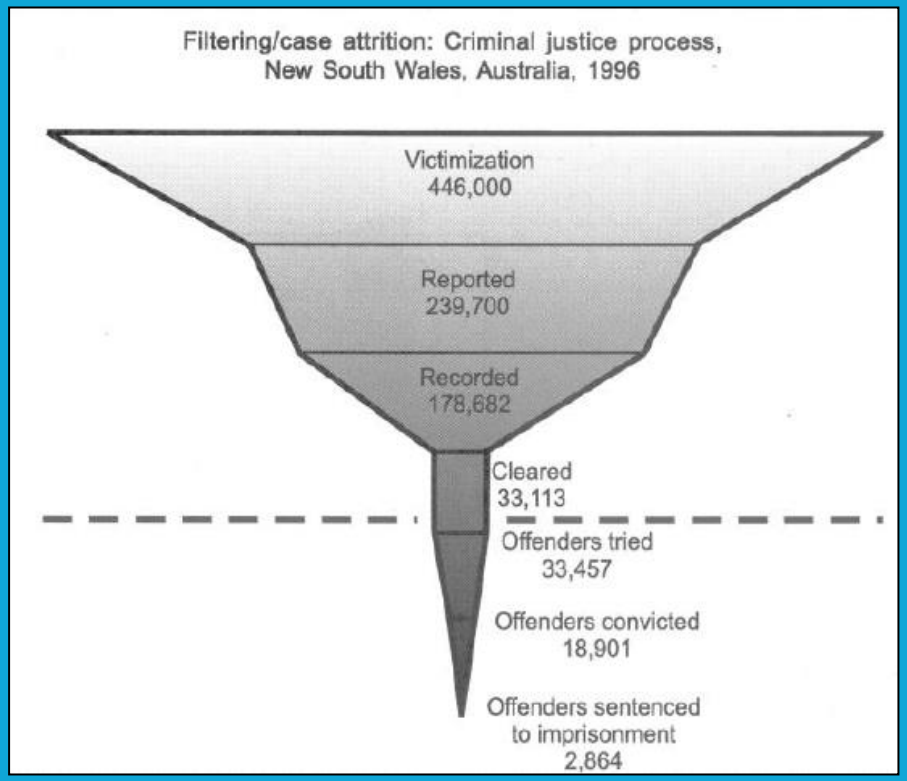
Actual crime level includes offences which go undetected and unreported to the police and/or the judicial authorities.

This gap is called the "dark figure of crime"

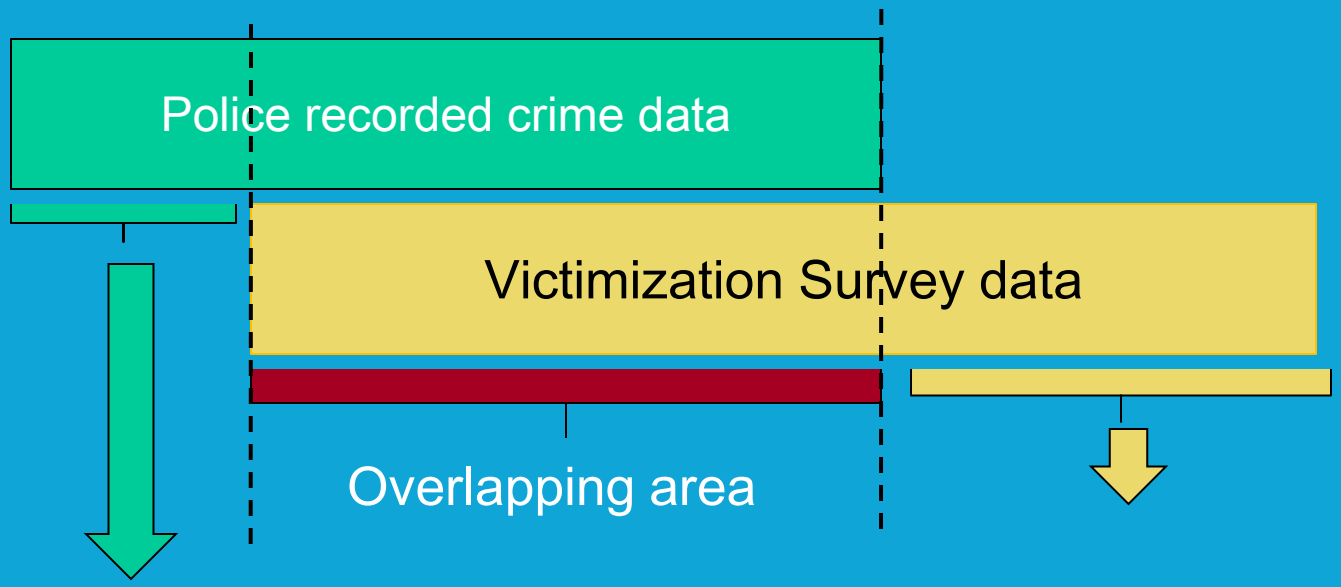
To measure the dark figure, and to understand crime in its entirety, we need victimization surveys

The "dark figure of crime"





Victimization surveys vs. Police-recorded crime statistics



Not covered in survey:

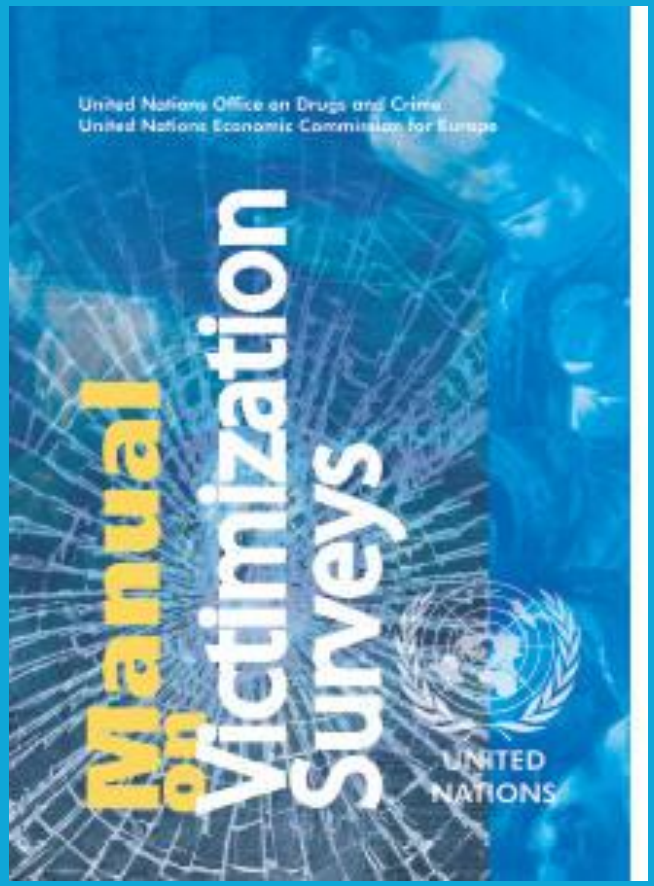
- Rare crimes, homicides (?)
- Victimless crimes (state, businesses,..)
- Victims aged <18 and >64
- Non-residents

Not covered in police data:

- Crimes not reported to police
- Crimes not recorded by police
- Crimes recorded as misdemeanours, etc.
- Crimes that happened abroad..

Method and purpose of victimization surveys

- Victimization surveys are sample surveys of a relevant population that help to measure:
  - Levels and trends in crime
  - Fear of crime and perceptions of safety
  - Impact of crime on society and on high-risk/vulnerable groups
  - Acceptance of the criminal justice system and trust in CJ actors (police, courts, agencies, etc.)



Main features of victimization surveys

- Focus is on individuals and their experience as victims (and not cases/incidents)
- Focus is on actual experience (and not reported crime)
- Additional aspects covered: security/ fear, reporting to police, security precautions
- Some limitations: non-response, rare crimes,..

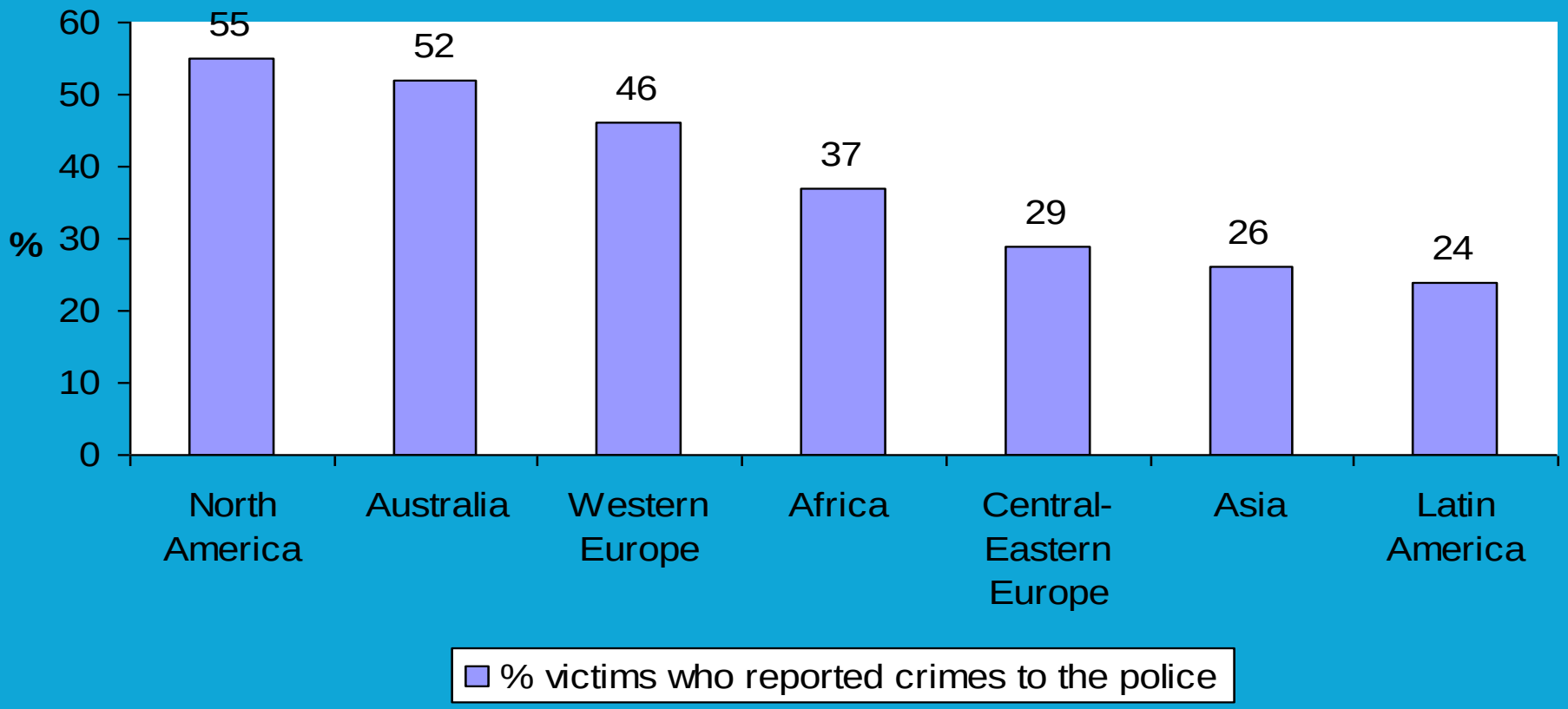
Main advantages of victimization surveys

- Consolidated methodology
- Independent from national laws and institutions
- Information on victims and vulnerable groups
- Comparability at international level (if common methodology)
  - International Crime Victimisation Survey (ICVS)
  - EU CVS (EU Safety Survey)
  - National Surveys (BCS, NCVS, etc.)
  - CVS supported by UNODC: Kenya, Ghana, Egypt, Tanzania, Uganda, Ruanda, Cape Verde, Western Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Panama, Argentina,..

Questions for Crime Prevention and Programming

- How much crime is there and what are its characteristics?
- Has the level of crime changed over time?
- What are the characteristics of victims and perpetrators?
- What are the risks of becoming a victim?
- Have perceptions of risk and safety changed over time?
- How much crime is reported to authorities and if not, why not?
- Are crime prevention policies working?

Average percentage of crimes reported to the police in different world regions

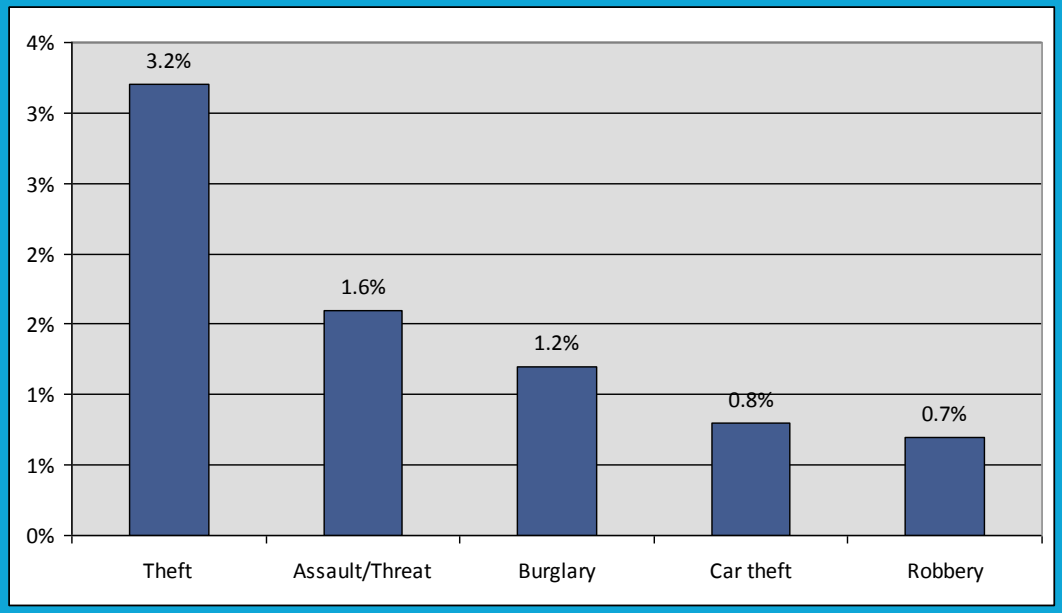


Source: ICVS

Montenegro (2010): Annual prevalence rates

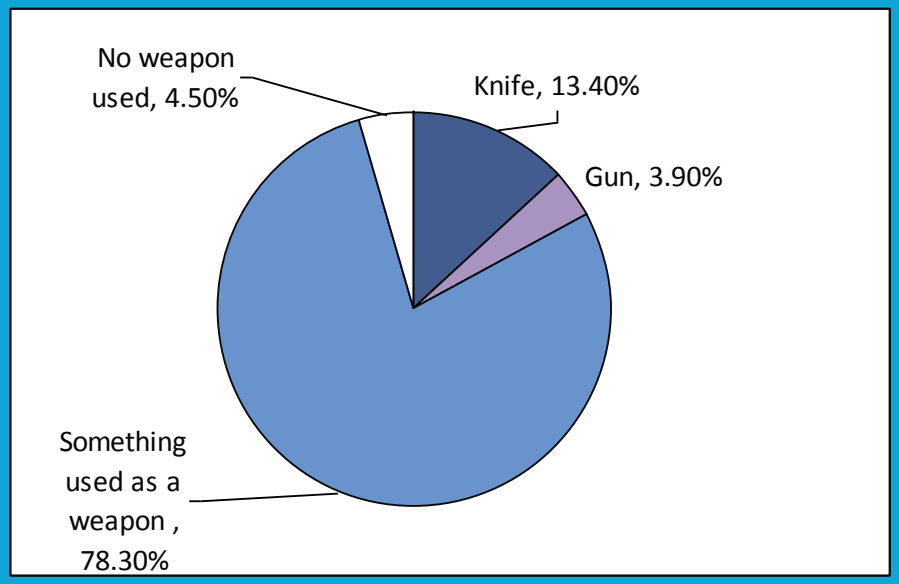
Typical pattern:

- Highest rate for theft
- Moderate rates for assault/threat and burglary, low for car theft and robbery
- Regionally: below regional average for all five crime types

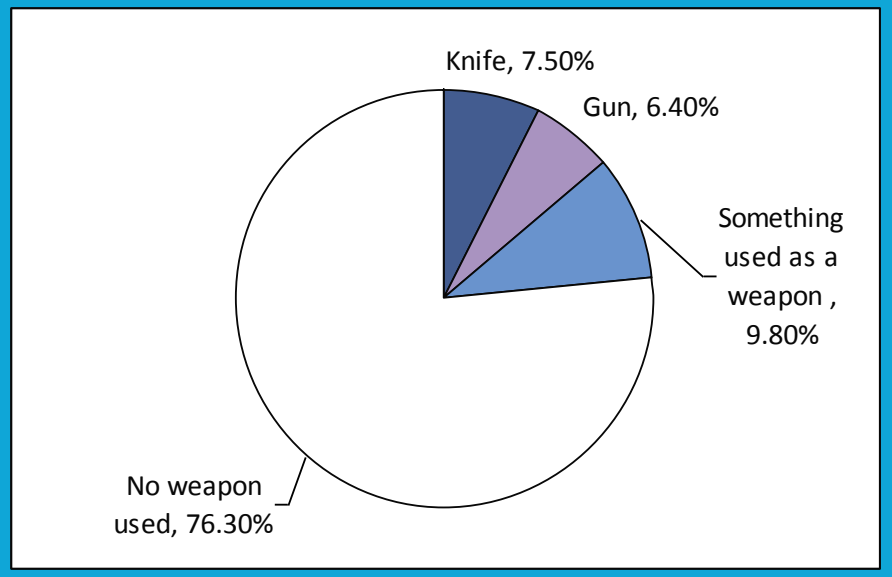


Montenegro (2010): Weapons used in robberies + assaults

Robbery: Did the offender have a knife, a gun or something used as a weapon?



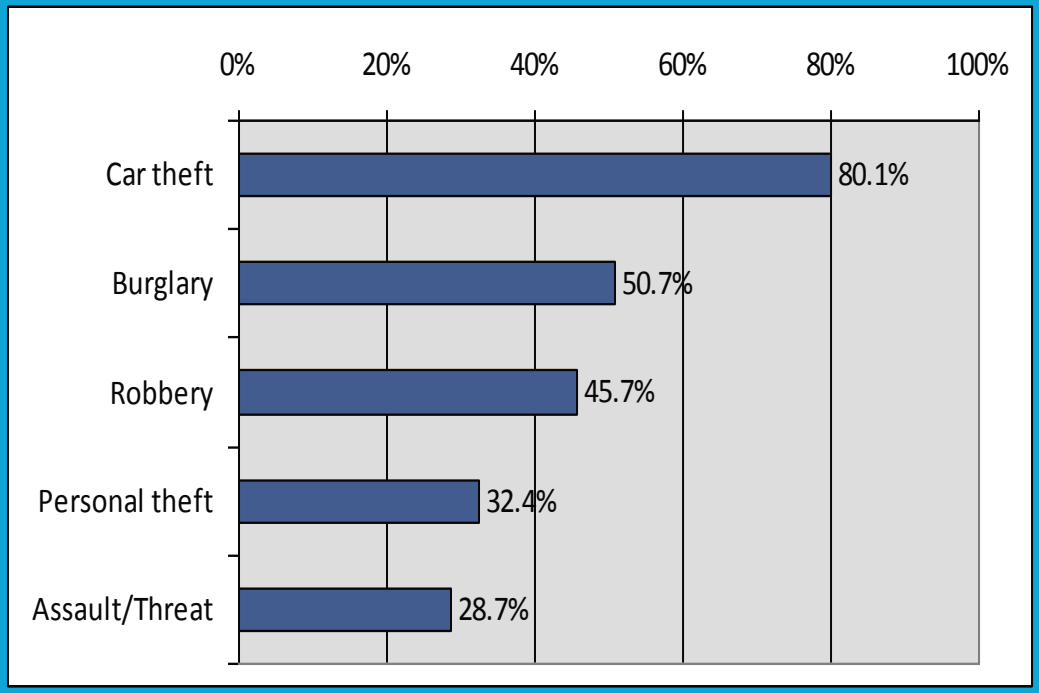
Assault/Threat: Did the offender have a knife, a gun or something used as a weapon?



Montenegro (2010): Reporting to the police (one year rates)

Typical pattern

- Around 80% of car thefts are reported to the police but less than 1/3 of thefts and assaults/threats
- Influenced by insurance policies, trust in police, level of damage, severity of event, etc.



Montenegro (2010): Robbery – did you report it to the police?

Typical pattern:

- Almost 2/3 of successful robberies are reported to police
- Less than 1/5 of robberies where nothing was stolen was reported to police

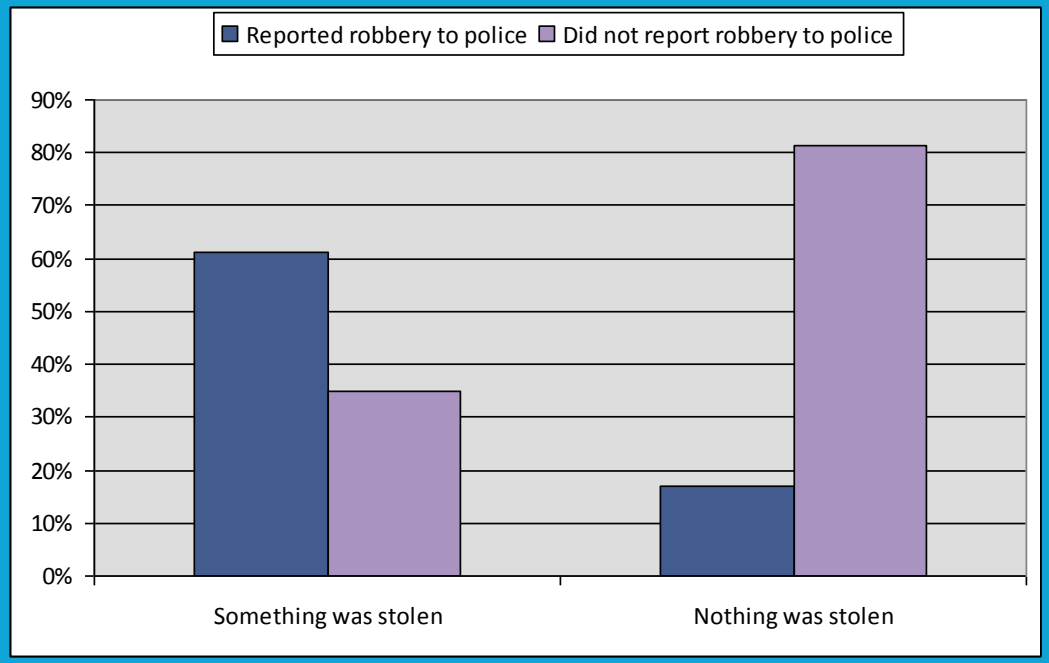


Figure 2 Trends in recorded crime and CSEW, 1981 to 2011/12

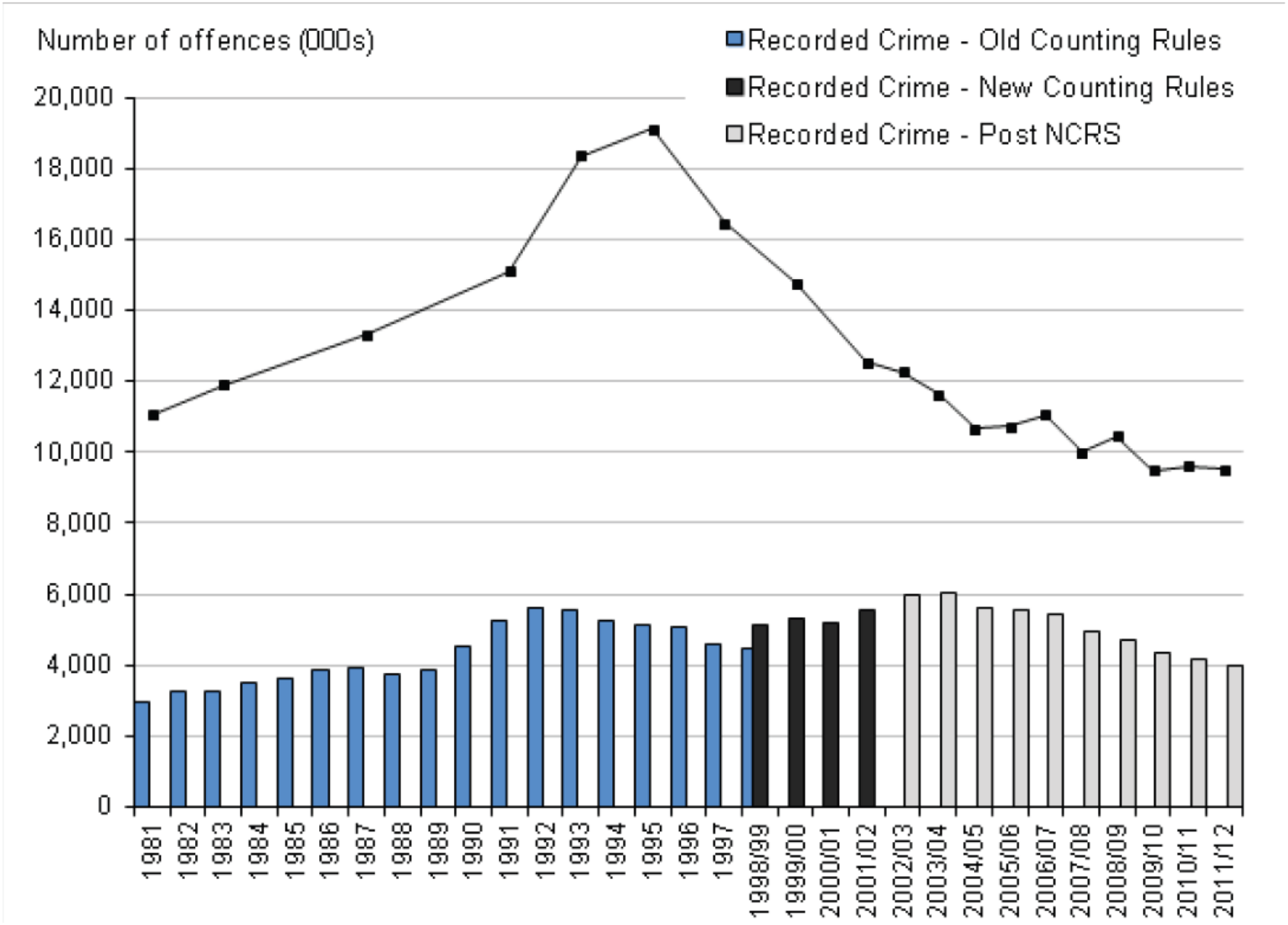
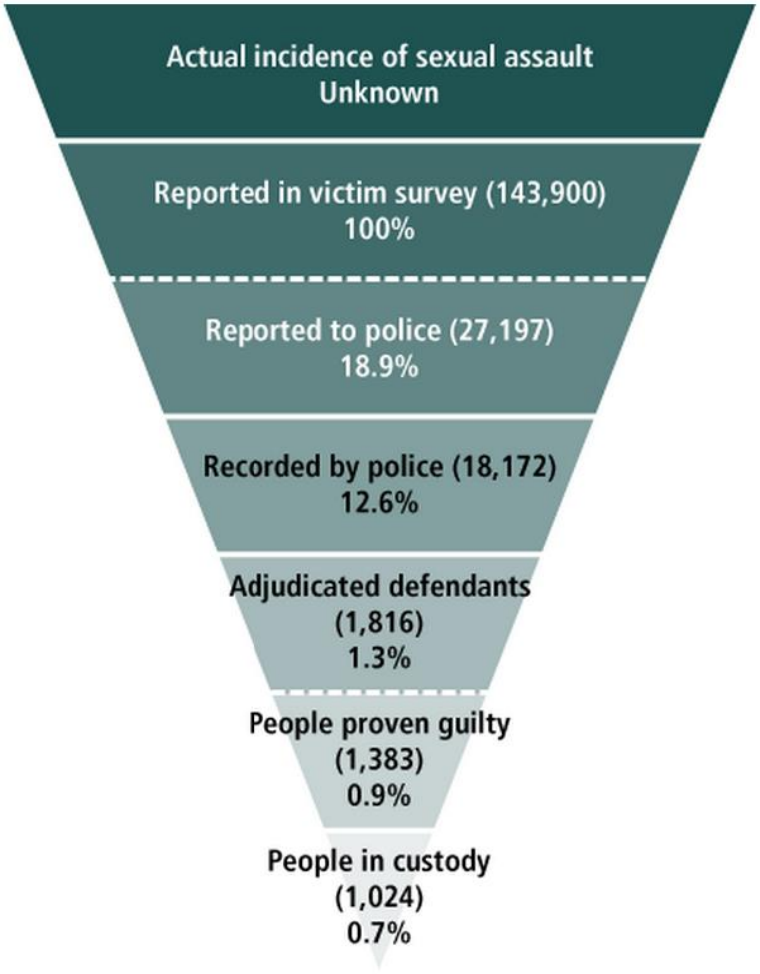


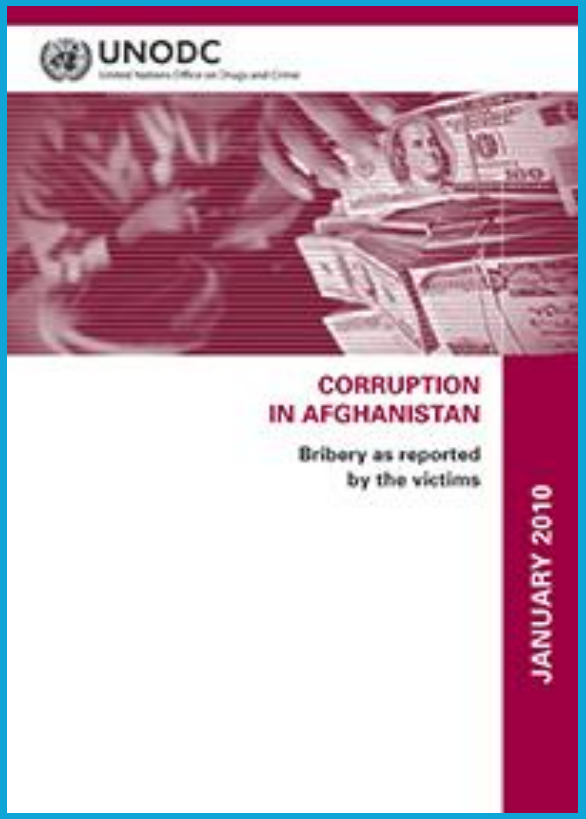
Figure 1: Attrition of sexual assault cases from the criminal justice system



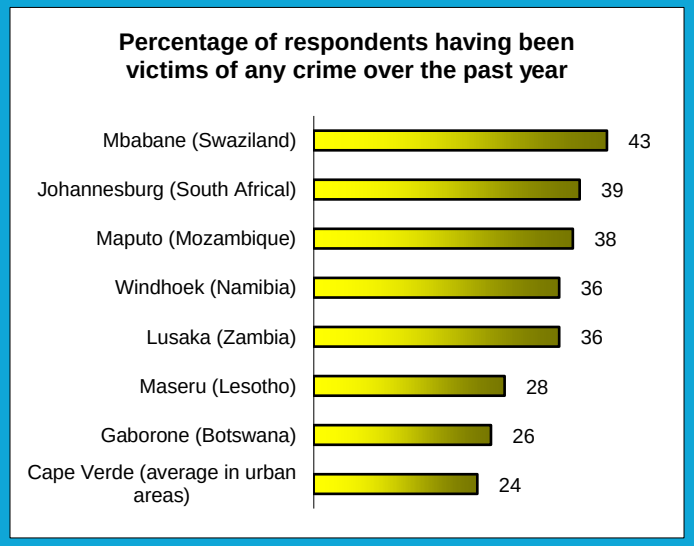
Source: Gelb (2008), p.4

A special case: surveys on corruption

- Population-based (households, individuals)
  - UNODC technical assistance in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the countries of the Western Balkans (2010/2011), Nigeria (2016)
- Business sector
- Civil servants or selected sectors (Judiciary, Police,..)



Examples of technical assistance on victimization surveys:



- Promoting the use of the UNECE/UNODC 'Manual on Victimization Surveys' (published 2010)
- Supporting six countries in Africa to conduct crime victimization surveys (2007 – 2010)
- Supporting countries in Latin America on crime victimization surveys (LACSI-VICLAC) (2012 – 2017)
- Supporting victimization survey training in Asia (Bangkok training 2017)

UNODC
Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito

Centro de Excelencia para
INFORMACIÓN ESTADÍSTICA DE GOBIERNO, SEGURIDAD PÚBLICA, VICTIMIZACIÓN Y JUSTICIA

INEGI
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA Y GEOGRAFÍA

A Crime Victimization Survey in your country?

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Center of Excellence in
STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT, CRIME, VICTIMIZATION AND JUSTICE

Thank you!
Questions?

michael.jandl@unodc.org

http://www.unodc.org/

UNODC United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime

@UNODC

luisa.sanchez@unodc.org

http://www.cdeunodc.inegi.org.mx

Centro de Excelencia (UNODC-INEGI)

@Cde_UNODC

CdE UNODC-INEGI