



## 6. DATA CHALLENGES

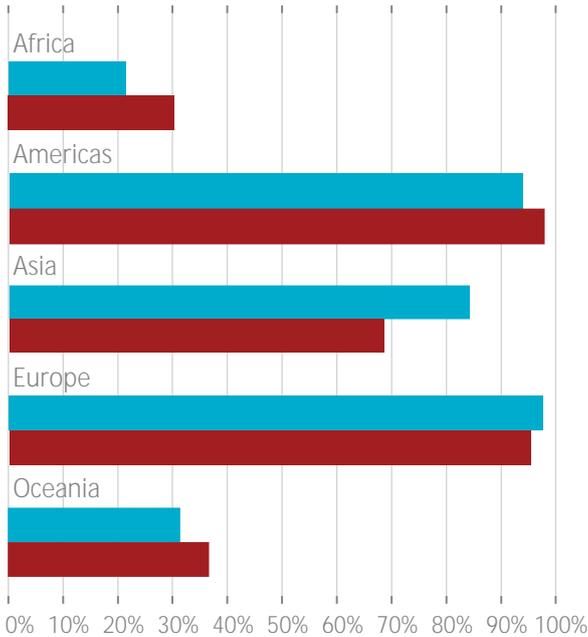
### Gaps in data availability

Data presented in this report cover all United Nations Member States (193) and a number of territories/autonomous entities (26). In most cases, they are derived from national data repositories generated by either the criminal justice or the public health system. In the former, data are generated by law enforcement authorities in the process of recording and investigating a criminal case; in the latter, statistical information is produced by health authorities certifying the cause of death of individuals.<sup>1</sup> For reasons related to the preservation of both public health and safety, national authorities typically devote all due attention to recording and investigating deaths due to violent and external causes. Consequently, either (or both) of these sources are the best possible options available to produce statistical information on homicide.<sup>2</sup>

In the case of the 70 countries where neither of these sources is available, homicide data included in this study are derived from estimates produced by the World Health Organization (WHO),<sup>3</sup> which are based on a standardised statistical model used to produce data on all causes of death, and which provide the only available and comparable figure on intentional homicides. While the use of a standardised model ensures a certain consistency, the underlying assumptions and inferences used to derive these estimates are often very weak compared to the data based on completed administra-

tive records, thus affecting the overall quality of homicide statistics. The data quality of homicide reported for these countries will improve only when proper registration systems are put in place and/or national data repositories are made accessible. In comparison to the data used in the *Global Study on Homicide 2011*, the availability of country data based on administrative records has improved incrementally in Africa, the Americas and Oceania, while it has slightly deteriorated in Asia.

**Fig. 6.1: Percentage of countries for which homicide data are produced by national registration systems, by region (comparing UNODC *Global Study on Homicide 2011* and 2013)**



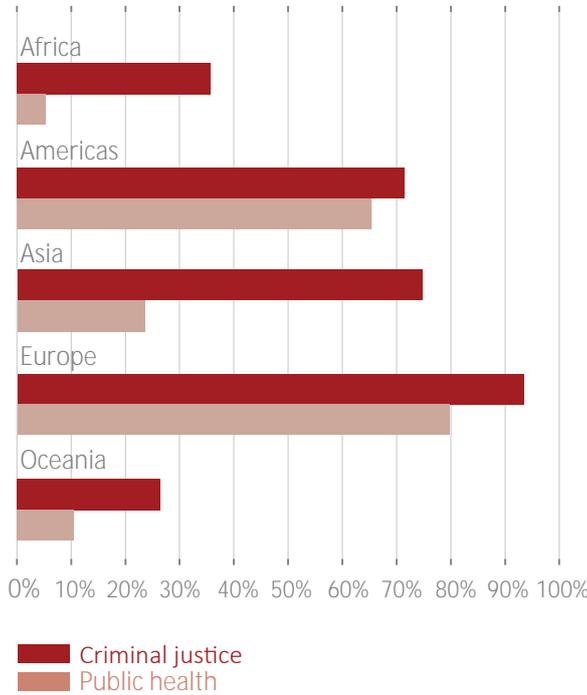
1 See UNODC (2011). Pp. 83-85.

2 For more information about the differences between public health and criminal justice sources, see the Methodological Annex.

3 World Health Organization (2014).

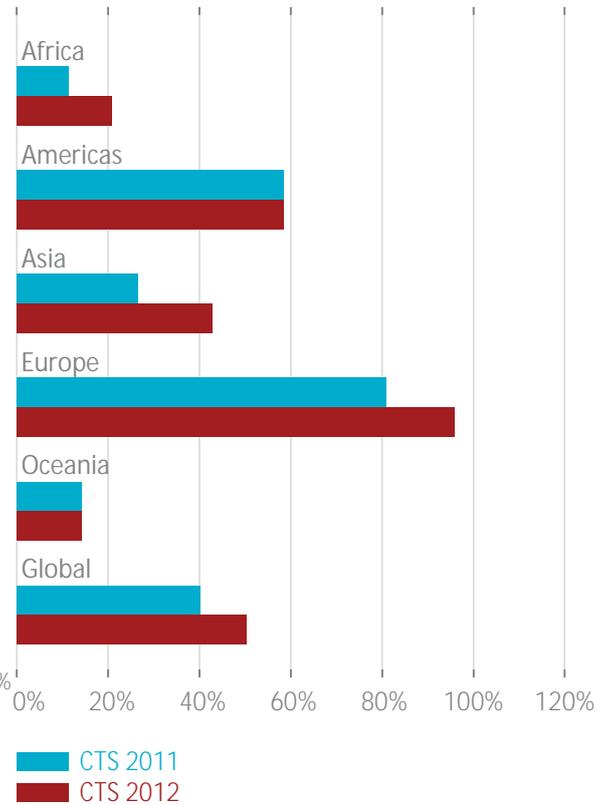
Source: UNODC *Global Study on Homicide 2011* and 2013.

**Fig. 6.2: Percentage of countries with homicide data produced by national registration systems (criminal justice and public health) reported or available to UNODC, by region (2012)**



Source: UNODC *Global Study on Homicide 2011 and 2013*.

**Fig. 6.3: Percentage of countries reporting to the UN-CTS, by region (UN-CTS 2011 and 2012)**



Source: UN-CTS.

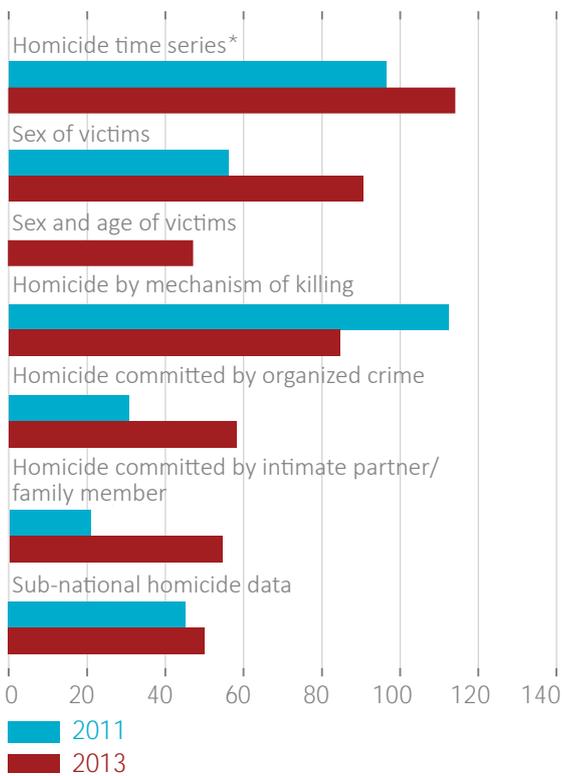
The respective availability of data on homicides produced by the two types of sources (public health and criminal justice systems) can vary significantly by region, but overall the number of countries able to produce criminal justice data is greater than those that produce public health homicide statistics. For instance, data produced by national registration systems on homicide from criminal justice sources are available for over 90 per cent of countries in Europe, while public health data are available for just under 80 per cent of them (see figure 6.2). The two sources show bigger differences in availability in Asia, Africa and Oceania than elsewhere, as registry-based public health data are not readily available in those regions.

The lack of national homicide data (from either criminal justice or public health systems) and the need to use model-based data for the aforementioned 70 countries is the result of two challenges: a) limited capacity to establish or maintain a national registration system of crimes and/or deaths; and b) weak reporting channels transmitting national data to international organizations.

The UNODC annual collection of crime data (the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, UN-CTS) has significantly improved its coverage in recent years, but it still suffers from large data gaps in certain regions. The percentage of countries reporting data in 2012 was 50 per cent (covering 75 per cent of the global population), with the lowest response rates in Africa and Oceania (see figure 6.3). In order to produce data series on homicide that cover the entire globe, UNODC complemented the information provided by Member States through the UN-CTS with data from other national official sources.

In addition to the data gaps relating to total homicide counts, there is still a considerable gap in the availability of disaggregated data. As the *Global Study on Homicide 2013* demonstrates, further improvements in the availability and quality of data related to the victim, the perpetrator(s), the relationship between them, the context and the motivation behind the killing are needed to help gain a better understanding of what triggers violent crime, who is most at risk, and the elements

**Fig. 6.4: Number of countries for which disaggregated data on intentional homicide produced by national registration systems are available (2010 and 2012)**



\*Note: Time series data is available from 1995 to 2011/2012. For 9 countries in Africa, time series data is available from 2004 to 2011/2012.  
Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013).

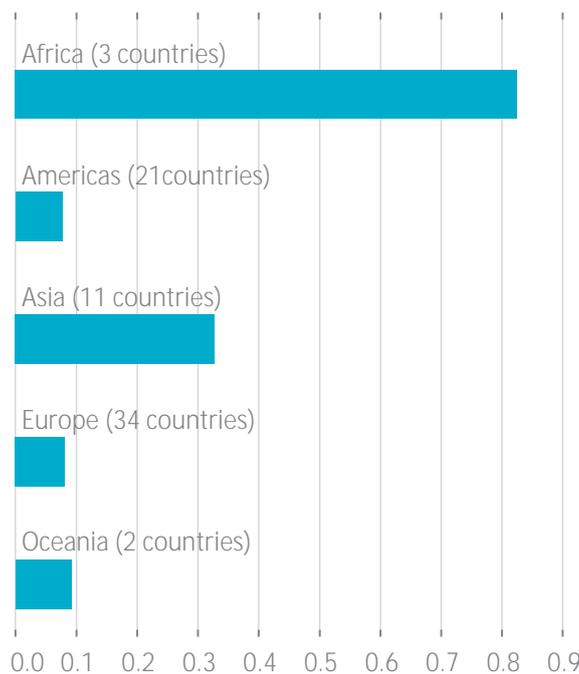
that can facilitate homicide, so that preventative and reduction-oriented policies can be better targeted. Since the publication of the *Global Study on Homicide 2011*, improvements in the availability of data produced by national registration systems on such disaggregations have been made across the board, with the exception of disaggregated data on killing mechanisms (see figure 6.4).<sup>4</sup>

### Data quality issues

Two key elements of data quality are important from a statistical perspective: a) the accuracy of the data (i.e. how closely data represent the reality of the situation); and b) the international comparability of the data. “Accuracy” relates to how close the homicide count is to the standard definition of intentional homicide. Discrepancies with the “true value” can be due to weaknesses in data collection

<sup>4</sup> The reduced availability of data on killing mechanisms is largely due to the more stringent criteria used in the selection process for data included in the UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013) dataset, particularly in relation to the timeliness of data. For more information, see Methodological annex.

**Fig. 6.5: Standard deviation between criminal justice and public health sources for homicide data in countries where data from both sources are available, by region (2012)**

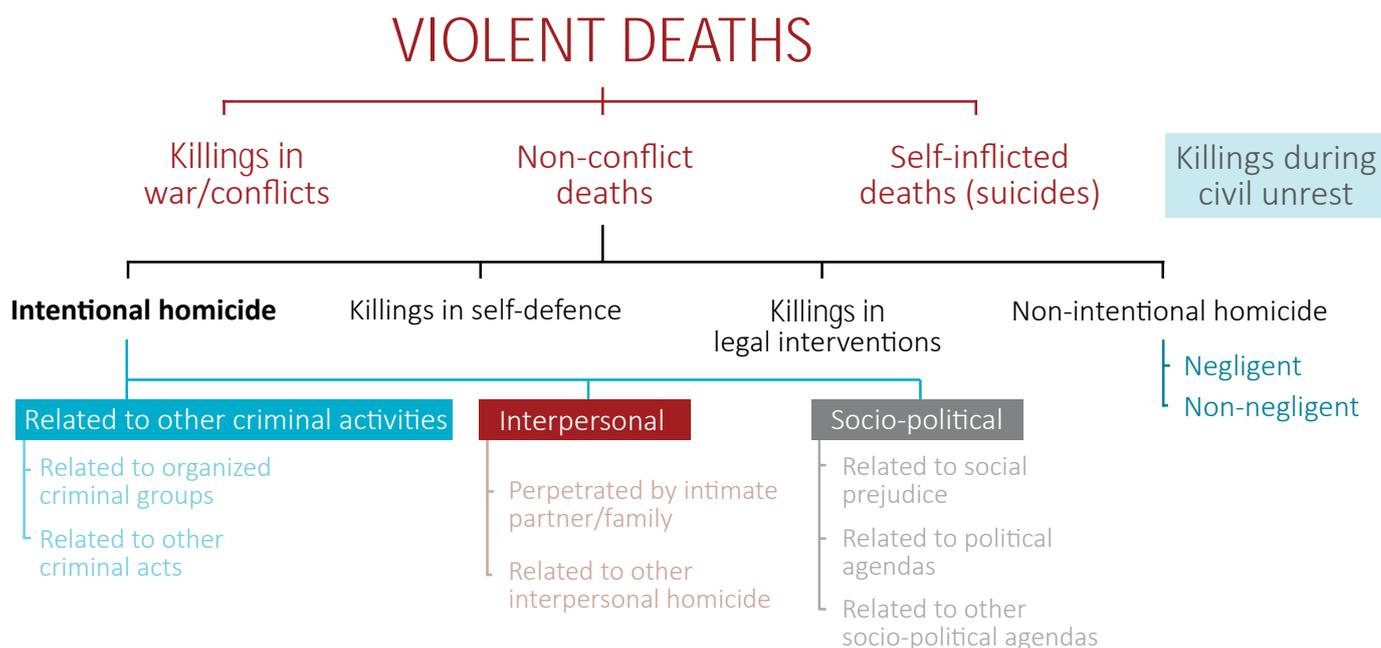


Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013).

systems, such as incomplete coverage of the events and/or misrepresentation of the data. Assessing data accuracy is challenging in any statistical field, since the “true” value typically remains unknown but, as intentional homicide is often recorded by both criminal justice and public health sources, this independent registration of (largely) the same phenomenon can provide an indirect evaluation of the accuracy of the data by way of comparing these sources.<sup>5</sup> In the Americas, Europe and Oceania, the two sources usually match when they are both available, suggesting a high degree of accuracy of homicide data in those regions (see figure 6.5). The situation is different in Africa, however, where large discrepancies between the two sources (in the three countries where data from both sources are available) point to doubtful data quality. These discrepancies are probably due to differences in recording practices or different coverage of the two systems.

<sup>5</sup> The assumption made is that accuracy is greater when independent and separate sources produce similar data.

Fig. 6.6: Classification of violent deaths



Source: UNODC.

The second element, the international comparability of homicide data, depends to a large extent on the definition used to record intentional homicide offences. Intentional homicide is currently defined at the international level by UNODC as “unlawful death purposefully inflicted on a person by another person”; a definition containing three elements characterizing an intentional homicide:

1. The killing of a person by another person (objective element);
2. The intent of the perpetrator to kill or seriously injure the victim (subjective element);
3. The intentional killing is against the law, which means that the law considers the perpetrator liable for the unlawful death (legal element).

The specificities of intentional homicide can be understood better when placed in the broad context of violent deaths (figure 6.6).<sup>6</sup> The scheme shows that non-conflict violent deaths are distinguished from deaths that are a direct result of war

<sup>6</sup> Violence is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the “intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation.” (World Health Organization (2002)).

or conflict, or those that are self-inflicted (suicides). At the next level, some types of wilful killings, such as killings in self-defence and those deriving from legal interventions,<sup>7</sup> are distinguished from intentional homicide because they are considered justifiable due to mitigating circumstances, while non-intentional homicides are considered a separate offence due to the lack of intent to kill another person. Deaths occurring during situations of civil unrest are particularly challenging to categorize, and this challenge has yet to be addressed from a statistical perspective (see page 104/105).

As definitions used by countries to record data on intentional homicide are often quite close to the definition used by UNODC,<sup>8</sup> national statistical data on homicide are highly comparable at the

<sup>7</sup> Such are killings by the police or other law enforcement agents in the course of arresting or attempting to arrest lawbreakers, while maintaining order, or during other legal actions where they are caused by use of force by law enforcement acting in accordance with the United Nations (1990) *Basic principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials* (A/CONF.144/28/Rev.1). Killings resulting from the excessive use of force in law enforcement or through the excessive use of force in self-defence are either considered intentional homicides or non-negligent non-intentional homicide and should therefore be counted as such. For more, see section on Unlawful killings by law enforcement authorities in chapter 2.3 of this study.

<sup>8</sup> According to UN-CTS (2012), 69 countries report that their definition for statistical purposes correspond to the standard indicated by UNODC in 2011, while 17 report that their definition is not fully compliant with this standard definition.

international level. Some notable discrepancies exist, however, in the way some specific categories of intentional killings are treated or classified. Inclusions and exclusions from the recording of what constitutes an “intentional homicide” may differ across countries. For example, some countries in the Americas record deaths due to legal interventions and homicides committed in self-defence as “intentional homicide”; other countries may include deaths which are not part of the standard definition, such as those related to armed conflict and non-intentional homicides (i.e. accidental or non-voluntary homicides, or “collateral” deaths). Reviewing such practices can help to improve international comparability of homicide data.

### Addressing challenges in the quality and availability of homicide data

Different regions face different challenges and there are several key elements to consider en route to better quality, comparable data, including the need to develop and implement a standard definition for intentional homicide, as well as improve national and international systems of data collection.

#### *The development of a standard definition for more comparable data*

The standard definition used by UNODC to collect homicide data provides a good reference for standardizing data across countries. However, some nuances can make a significant difference in the homicide count and its interpretation in some countries, several of which have not yet been clearly addressed in a more detailed statistical definition of intentional homicide. The development of an internationally agreed definition of intentional homicide for statistical purposes is one of the objectives of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), a statistical standard requested by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.<sup>9</sup> Once finalized, the ICCS will create a comprehensive definitional framework that will improve the standardization and comparability of data on crime.<sup>10</sup>

9 ECOSOC CCPCJ (2013). E/RES/2013/37; ECOSOC, Statistical Commission (2012). E/2012/24. P. 7(d).

10 The ICCS is currently under development and it builds on the “Principles and framework for an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes” produced by UNODC-UNECE and endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians in 2012. The ICCS is scheduled to be presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for approval in 2015.

**Table 6.1: First level categories of the ICCS (Rev.2.1)**

Categories for Level 1	
1	Acts leading to death or intending to cause death
2	Acts causing harm or intending to cause harm to the person
3	Injurious acts of a sexual nature
4	Acts against property involving violence against a person
5	Acts against property only
6	Acts involving controlled psychoactive substances or other drugs
7	Acts involving fraud, deception or corruption
8	Acts against public order or authority
9	Acts against public safety and state security
10	Acts against the natural environment
11	Other criminal acts not elsewhere classified

Source: UNODC.

The ICCS will be an event-based classification system, in which crimes will be described in terms of actions rather than legal provisions. A factual description of each item will be provided, with an explanation of what actions (which may relate to different crime offences in different countries) are included/excluded from such a categorization. The classification is then built in a hierarchical structure, with a number of successive levels.

With respect to intentional homicide, the ICCS will provide international guidance on three main aspects:

*a) The definition of intentional homicide and identification of types of killings to be considered under this definition*

While all national legislations include the offence of intentional homicide, they can define it in different ways. Additionally, penal codes in some countries may consider some of the unlawful deaths purposefully inflicted on a person by another person under different headings and, consequently, statistical data organized according to those legislations may provide separate counts for different types of homicide. Examples of specific homicide-related offences may include infanticides, “honour killings”, dowry deaths, femicides, serious assaults leading to death or thefts followed by the killing of the victim. Another example is violent death due to terrorism: from a conceptual perspective, the notion of “intentional homicide” is broad enough to encompass deaths caused by terrorist acts, and whilst perpetrators may face

additional charges, such as acts of terrorism, acts against the State, or even crimes against humanity, the core act still concerns the intentional killing of other persons. From a statistical point of view, all such cases should be included in the count of intentional homicide, since they conform to its standard definition. The ICCS will clarify the types of killings that should be included or excluded from the total count of intentional homicide.

*b) The development of comprehensive and policy-relevant data disaggregations of intentional homicide related to victims and perpetrators, as well as the context in which the homicide occurs*

Total counts and rates of homicide can provide a better insight into the nature of violent crime if they are disaggregated by a number of characteristics, and the ICCS will offer a framework which countries can follow to break-down the data in a standardized manner. The three typologies of homicide presented in this study (homicide related to other criminal activities, interpersonal homicide and socio-political homicide) will provide a basis for discussion and further development in the ICCS, with the purpose of advocating for the production of policy-relevant homicide indicators.

*c) A clarification of the statistical treatment of violent deaths that occur in the context of war and civil unrest*

Two of the most challenging categories of violent deaths to identify as “intentional homicide” are those that occur during operations of war or in situations of civil unrest. Consistently with the definition of intentional homicide, killings directly associated with operations of war are not considered to be intentional homicides, which poses two methodological challenges to ensuring that a separate and accurate count is made for, respectively, direct conflict deaths and intentional homicides:

- To establish clear criteria to identify what constitutes an armed conflict for the purpose of producing statistics
- To establish clear criteria to determine which violent deaths are directly associated with armed conflicts and are not intentional homicides.

In the case of the first challenge, this distinction has been made in international humanitarian law, which distinguishes between two types of armed conflict: (1) international armed conflicts, which exist wherever there is a resort to armed force between States; and (2) non-international armed

conflicts, which occur whenever there is protracted armed violence between governmental authorities and organized armed groups or between such groups within a State.<sup>11</sup> While international armed conflicts are, in principle, more easily determined, in many situations of protracted disorder within countries it can be difficult to establish clear borders between non-international armed conflicts and “civil unrest”. Two elements that may determine the difference are: a) the threshold of intensity of hostilities (i.e. when hostilities are of a collective character, or when the government uses military force rather than police force against insurgents); and b) the degree to which the armed groups are organized (i.e. non-governmental groups involved in the conflict must be considered “parties to the conflict” in that they possess organized armed forces under a certain command structure and have the capacity to sustain military operations).<sup>12</sup>

In the case of the second challenge, a distinction needs to be made between deaths directly related to the conflict (i.e. directly attributable to actions constituting part of the armed conflict) and other violent acts leading to death that occur during a period of armed conflict but are not part of that conflict and should thus be classified according to the criteria used for any other killing. For example, killings committed by a party not involved in the conflict should not be considered as directly related to the conflict, and they should be analysed as any other killing, irrespective of the conflict situation, and classified into existing typologies of violent death (intentional homicide, non-intentional homicide, etc.) according to standard definitions. The most difficult issue to disentangle concerns cases when a third party (a person not party to the conflict) is purposefully killed by a party to the conflict. Such cases are common in conflict situations today, where civilians are explicitly targeted by warring parties, as part of inherent conflict strategy. From a statistical point of view, the characterization of such violent deaths — whether to ascribe them to the conflict or consider them as intentional homicides — has not yet been resolved, and there are different recording practices across national and international agencies.

Violent deaths in the context of civil unrest, i.e. during a situation of confrontation between two or

<sup>11</sup> This definition was used by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (1995), and Common articles 2 and 3 of the Geneva Conventions.

<sup>12</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross (2008).

## The road map to improve crime statistics

In 2013, the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice agreed<sup>a</sup> on a *road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics*, and the improvement of data related to intentional homicide can be seen in this larger context.<sup>b</sup> The road map identifies three main ways to improve the availability and quality of data on crime:

### 1) *Development of new standards*

One of the limiting factors in the measurement and comparability of crime statistics across countries is the lack of methodological standards. Building the ICCS is a major element identified in the road map to work towards a global framework for treating statistical data on crime, but other methodological tools also need further development, such as those for measuring complex crimes like transnational organized crime, corruption, cybercrime, etc. There is also a need to mainstream gender into crime statistics better, as there are significant differences in how crime affects men and women, as well as disparities in gender with regard to how crime is committed and how offenders are prosecuted and convicted.

### 2) *Improvement of national capacity and coordination*

In many countries, the production of statistical data on crime is at an early stage of development, often due to a lack of coordination amongst responsible agencies, a lack of implementation of statistical standards and a lack of capacity to

<sup>a</sup> See ECOSOC Statistical Commission (2013). E/CN.3/2013/11; and ECOSOC CCPCJ (2013). E/RES/2013/37.

<sup>b</sup> See ECOSOC (2012). E/RES/2012/18.

develop and implement various data collection tools such as surveys. There is a need to harmonize concepts and procedures and to establish national mechanisms for coordinating the collection and dissemination of crime data. National statistical offices have a key role to play in such coordination, and capacity building programmes at the regional and international level can do much to help provide a uniform approach and promote standardization for data collection tools and statistical classification approaches.

### 3) *Better international data collection and analyses*

In addition to coordination within countries, there is a need for improvement in international data collection and analysis. The appointment of national focal points may prove useful in generating higher response rates to the UN-CTS, while other collaborations and joint collections with regional organizations would further enhance data availability and analysis. International data repositories reporting on crime, such as the UNODC Homicide Statistics dataset, are increasingly necessary to expand global knowledge about crime. Additional forms of crime, such as violence against women, would also benefit from a global repository. Better analysis of data available in such repositories, as well as better dissemination of resulting analysis may trigger processes at the national and international levels to enhance the quality and coverage of such data.

The road map to improve crime statistics lays a foundation for future endeavours to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at both the national and international level. However, the implementation of its objectives and proposed actions require dedicated efforts in capacity building, coordination and collaboration amongst national agencies and subsequently within regional organisations, to enhance the information available to develop more targeted crime reduction and prevention policies.

more parties that does not amount to an internal conflict, also pose specific statistical challenges, as no international statistical standard is currently addressing this issue. From a theoretical perspective, one approach would be to consider each violent death during civil unrest according to the general definition of intentional homicide. This would imply that deaths caused by law enforcement forces that can be validly described as “legal interventions” should not be considered intentional homicides. On the other hand, if such deaths are caused by law enforcement officials

acting with excessive force, they should be considered intentional or non-intentional homicides, according to the circumstances. An alternative approach would be to consider all violent deaths during civil unrest (irrespective of perpetrator, victim, modality of the killing, etc.) as a stand-alone category (similar to conflict deaths).

The purpose of the ICCS is to define any form of crime, including homicide. As such, it is expected that pending issues related to the statistical treatment of some violent deaths in situations of con-

flict and civil unrest will be resolved, so that clear guidance can be given for producing comprehensive and comparable statistics on intentional homicides and other violent deaths in such situations.

### *The improvement of national systems of data collection*

Law enforcement authorities may collect and store detailed information on crime events, victims and perpetrators, but this wealth of information is much less frequently translated into statistical data through the use of harmonized concepts and statistical processes.

In the case of intentional homicide, a good practice is to establish ad hoc data collections in order to complement and standardize information derived from police reports and to ensure complete coverage. For example, Australia has a national homicide monitoring programme, and detailed data collections on homicide also exist in Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden.<sup>13</sup> Ad hoc data collections on homicide, such as that in Finland, generate information that can be used not only for operational and strategic planning in the guidance of police work, but also to inform criminal investigations and support policies to prevent homicides. Such data collections can generate very specific data on victims and perpetrators that can help identify those most at risk of homicide and which influencing or enabling factors contribute to the crime.

Given the multi-faceted institutional response required to deal with homicide, more than one organization will often manage data on homicide. Coordination of homicide data among responsible agencies and national stakeholders can greatly improve the quality and consistency of national data. Basic steps that can facilitate this coordination include the exchange of information, harmonization of methodologies, and the sharing of aggregated data amongst national agencies. National-level coordination can also generate integrated systems to collect and harmonize information on individual homicide cases, and result in more comprehensive and consistent information available from a country. Standardized systems, based on standardized definitions and classification schemes, allow for the collection and sharing of information amongst national agencies with regards to individual incidents, perpetrators and victims, but they require proper IT systems which

can facilitate the reporting and sharing of data both within and outside countries. While the concrete forms and mechanisms to improve coordination at the national level depend on national circumstances, national statistical offices can play a key role in coordinating and promoting statistical standards.

The establishment of national observatories on crime and/or violence has proven to be an effective tool to improve the coverage and standardization of crime data. Such observatories are typically established by, or in close collaboration with, local, national or regional governments, and sometimes in public-private partnerships with support from various donors. Designed to monitor trends and patterns based on crime or violence data from either public health or criminal justice sources, they often incorporate survey data and NGO reporting into their analysis.<sup>14</sup> There are several national and local violence observatories in Latin America, which monitor citizen security, gender-based violence and other forms of violence, such as youth or political violence. For example, the National Autonomous University of Honduras has established a violence observatory that collects data from all States of Honduras and publishes a biannual homicide report with coordinated inputs from the national police, the Ministry of Public Safety and the medical forensics agency (For more, see <http://iudpas.org/>). While such observatories are not yet as well established in Africa, several have begun collecting and analysing data to complement official statistics.

### *The improvement of international data collection*

While UNODC is the focal point for statistics related to crime and criminal justice within the United Nations system,<sup>15</sup> the UN-CTS is the current reference for standardized definitions. As mentioned previously, the response rate to the UN-CTS is close to 50 per cent of countries. Data collection on crime is a complex process that involves several agencies and institutions (police, prosecution, courts, prisons) within United Nations Member States. In order to improve not only the response rate but also the consistency of data recorded in the UN-CTS, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) requested United Nations Member

<sup>13</sup> See: *Homicide in Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden: A first study on the European Homicide Monitor data* (2011).

<sup>14</sup> For a comprehensive review of various types and modus operandi of crime/violence observatories, see Gilgen, E. and L. Tracey (2011), Geneva Declaration Secretariat.

<sup>15</sup> ECOSOC SC (2012). E/2012/24. P. 7(d).

## Harmonization of homicide data: the case of Chile

In many countries, there are multiple criminal justice and public health institutions recording data on homicide, using a variety of different indicators and definitions specific to their individual purposes. This is also the case in Chile, where several sources of data on homicide are available in independent systems of data collection. The diversity and variability between these sources is but one national-level example of the challenges extant in determining the overall “national” count of intentional homicides. For the purposes of international comparison, based on standardized definitions, Chile was able to effectively coordinate between its various agencies through exchanges of information and discussion to produce internationally comparable data, based on timeliness and coverage of the data. As a result, data from the Subsecretarías de Prevención del Delito was selected as the best source of data matching the standardized definition of intentional homicide.

**Table 6.2: Homicide counts in Chile, by counting unit and national recording institute (2005-2011)**

Institute	Counting unit	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Carabineros	Cases	562	564	555	534	555	473	492	483
Policía de Investigaciones	Cases	755	504	502	671	705	714	810	n/a
Ministerio Público	Offences	n/a	1314	1310	1472	1585	1359	1463	1320
Subsecretarías de Prevención del Delito	Cases	568	587	574	557	594	487	543	483
Subsecretarías de Prevención del Delito	Victims	576	590	616	588	630	541	636	550
Servicio Nacional de la Mujer	Cases of femicide	n/a	n/a	54	57	53	49	40	34
Departamento de Estadísticas e Información de Salud	Victims	946	924	786	756	903	779	785	n/a
Servicio Médico Legal	Victims	911	836	819	802	903	743	n/a	n/a

Source: Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (2013).

States to appoint a national focal point to act as the coordinator of the different institutions providing data to the UN-CTS, to ensure their quality and completeness. While 110 countries have thus far appointed focal points, gaps remain in the provision of complete and consistent data in the UN-CTS.

In order to give countries further support and assistance with the coordination of crime-related statistical information, both within States and within regions, several global and regional initiatives have been implemented. For example, UNODC has partnered with the Organization of American States (OAS) to facilitate data reporting from the Americas, and with Eurostat to coordinate data collection in Europe. Moreover, UNODC and the WHO are strengthening coordination efforts between them in order to improve the integration of the two main international sources for data (criminal justice and public health) on intentional homicide.

### *The establishment of regional partnerships to support countries in improving crime statistics*

Several regional partnerships are supporting countries to improve their capacity to improve crime statistics. Many of these recent initiatives are providing technical assistance and building capacity within regions particularly affected by crime and violence, and are developing best practices with regard to statistics, particularly crime-related statistics.

The Center of Excellence in Statistical Information on Governance, Crime, Victimization and Justice, based in Mexico City, is a joint initiative of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and UNODC (for more information, see [http://www.cdeunodc.inegi.org.mx/UNODC\\_English.html](http://www.cdeunodc.inegi.org.mx/UNODC_English.html)). Based on international best practices, the Center serves as a focal point for knowledge and contributes to capacity building on statistical information in the region,

by working with countries to improve the quality and availability of data and analysis of statistical information. The Center focuses its efforts on promoting systems for crime statistics, developing and implementing victimization surveys (both population and business), and on serving as a bridge between regional and global statistical processes on crime and justice.

The Regional System of Standardised Indicators in Peaceful Coexistence and Citizen Security (RIC), established in 2008, is a project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, which functions as a coordinating system for the sharing of information and good practices on statistical indicators relating to crime and security issues between over 200 public institutions in 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through the RIC process, countries benefit from technical assistance and training to improve data and information systems, and receive assistance with standardizing definitions, mechanisms and technologies to produce and share information. It also provides a forum for sharing good practices and developing public policies on common security challenges (For more, see <http://seguridadyregion.com/>).

The Strategy for Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) is a collaborative effort between the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, funded by the United Nations Development Programme, to support the African integration agenda and enhance coordination and collaboration between national statistical offices, regional statistical organizations and development partners. Not limited to crime statistics, the SHaSA indeed covers all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural integration for Africa. The initiative focuses on the production of quality statistics, coordination of statistical production, development of sustainable institutional capacity for statistics and the facilitation of quality decision-making (For more, see <http://ea.au.int/fr/sites/default/files/SHaSA%20-EN.pdf>).