

CHAPTER 2

The Crime Picture

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

This chapter provides a statistical overview of crime in America and identifies special categories of crime of particular interest. Though examined statistically it is important to remember that, unlike TV dramas, the numbers represent real people, victims and perpetrators, real pain and real loss.

Crime statistics in the U.S. come from two major sources, the FBI's **Uniform Crime Reporting Program** (also known today as the UCR/NIBRS program) and the **National Crime Victimization Survey** (NCVS) produced by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. A third source of crime data is offender **self-reports**.

Statistics from the UCR are based on reports by victims of crime to the police. The FBI collects crime information from approximately 18,000 law enforcement agencies, using standardized definitions of offenses. The UCR program also includes the **National Incident-Based Reporting System** (NIBRS), which represents a significant redesign of the original UCR program. Unlike the UCR, which is summary-based, NIBRS is incident-driven. UCR/NIBRS information reports rates of crime. Since the program began, there have been three major shifts in crime rates and a fourth appears imminent. The UCR/NIBRS program is currently going through a transitional phase as more NIBRS-based data are being integrated into the FBI's official summaries.

The FBI collects data on eight **Part I** offenses, each of which is briefly discussed. They include **murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor-vehicle theft, and arson**. Data are also collected on a number of **Part II** offenses, which are generally less serious than the Part I crimes. Only information on recorded arrests is collected for Part II offenses.

The NCVS is based on victim self-reports and includes data on reported and unreported crime in an effort to uncover information on the **dark figure of crime**. The survey asks citizens directly about their victimization experiences, including characteristics of the perpetrator, the crime, and the incident. This survey includes information on six crimes: rape and sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary, personal and household larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

Although both sources provide some general understanding of the crime problem, they have limitations. Because UCR/NIBRS data are based on citizen crime reports to the police, there are several inherent problems. Not all people report crimes to the police, some crimes are rarely if ever reported, certain crimes do not fit into the traditional reporting categories, reports go through multiple bureaucratic levels, and victim reports may be inaccurate. The NCVS relies on survey data, which may be skewed for several reasons. Respondents include personal interpretations as well as objective information, not everyone is equally willing to participate, some victims may be afraid to report crimes to the interviewers, and some respondents may invent victimizations. Additionally, both the UCR/NIBRS and the NCVS are human artifacts and only contain data considered appropriate by their creators.

Several special categories of crime are also discussed in this chapter. Information is provided on crime against women (including **stalking** and **cyberstalking**), crime against the elderly, **hate crime**, **corporate** and **white-collar crime**, **organized crime**, gun crime, drug crime, **cybercrime**, and terrorism.

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.
- Describe the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.
- Compare and contrast the UCR and NCVS data collection and reporting programs.
- Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

LECTURE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
- II. The UCR/NIBRS Program
- III. The National Crime Victimization Survey
- IV. Comparisons of the UCR and NCVS
- V. Special Categories of Crime

I. Introduction

A. Crime Data and Social Policy

- Crime statistics provide an overview of criminal activity
- A statistical picture of crime can be a tool for creating social policy.
- There are questions regarding how objective, and therefore how useful, crime statistics are

DISCUSSION STARTER—PUBLIC OPINION

What implications does media coverage have for public opinion on crime? On criminal justice policy-making? Explore the differences between statistics on crime and the media's coverage of crime.

B. The Collection of Crime Data

- Discuss the two main sources of crime statistics: the Uniform Crime Reports and the National Crime Victimization Survey.
- Briefly discuss other data sources, including self-reports and the *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program A statistical reporting program run by the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) division. The UCR Program publishes *Crime in the United States*, which provides an annual summation of the incidence and rate of reported crimes throughout the United States.

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) An annual survey of selected American households conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics to determine the extent of criminal victimization—especially unreported victimization—in the United States.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) A U.S. Department of Justice agency responsible for the collection of criminal justice data, including the annual National Crime Victimization Survey.

II. The UCR/NIBRS Program

A. Development of the UCR Program

- The FBI has been compiling statistics on crimes known to the police since 1930
- Police departments (about 18,000) voluntarily submit to the FBI information on the crimes that have been reported to them.
- The FBI originally constructed a Crime Index, which represented the total number of Part I Offenses that have been reported to the police, but this was discontinued because it was skewed by the large numbers of larceny-thefts.

DISCUSSION STARTER—UNDERSTANDING CRIME

What was our understanding of crime like before the creation of the UCR/NIBRS and the NCVS? What insights have the UCR/NIBRS and the NCVS provided policymakers?

Crime Index A now defunct but once inclusive measure of the UCR Program's violent and property crime categories, or what are called *Part I offenses*. The Crime Index, long featured in the FBI's publication *Crime in the United States*, was discontinued in 2004. The index had been intended as a tool for geographic (state-to-state) and historical (year-to-year) comparisons via the use of crime rates (the number of crimes per unit of population). However, criticisms that the index was misleading arose after researchers found that the largest of the index's crime categories, larceny-theft, carried undue weight and led to an under appreciation for changes in the rates of more violent and serious crimes.

B. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) An incident-based reporting system that collects detailed data on every single crime occurrence. NIBRS data is replacing the kinds of summary data that have traditionally been provided by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

- NIBRS represents a significant redesign of the original UCR program
- The original UCR was summary based; NIBRS is incident driven

C. Historical Trends

- Most UCR information is reported as a rate of crime.
- Discuss the three major shifts in crime rates that have occurred since the UCR began.
 - A decrease in crime in the early 1940s due to the large number of men entering military service during World War II
 - An increase in crime between 1960 and the early 1990s
 - A decline in crime rates beginning in 1991
- A fourth shift may be starting now.

D. UCR/NIBRS in Transition

- The UCR/NIBRS program is going through a transitional phase as more NIBRS-based data is being integrated into the FBI's official summaries
- Some of the definitions used for criminal activity under NIBRS are different than under the traditional UCR.
- The FBI Crime Clock, a shorthand way of diagramming crime frequency in the United States, distinguishes between violent/personal crimes and property crimes.

DISCUSSION STARTER—CRIME DATA

From your perspective, which form of data gathering—that represented by the UCR/NIBRS or the NCVS—provides the most useful information about crime in America? Why? How can we combine data provided by the two to get a more complete picture of crime?

Violent Crime A UCR/NIBRS summary offense category that includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Property Crime UCR/NIBRS summary offense category that includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

- Explain the term *clearance rate* and distinguish between crimes cleared by arrest and crimes cleared by exceptional means.

Clearance Rate A traditional measure of investigative effectiveness that compares the number of crimes reported or discovered to the number of crimes solved through arrest or other means (such as the death of the suspect).

DISCUSSION STARTER—CLEARANCE RATES

Ask why some crimes have much higher clearance rates than others. Explain that personal crimes are cleared far more frequently than most property crimes because victims of violence are often able to identify their attackers.

DISCUSSION STARTER—DATA GATHERING

Which form of data gathering—that represented by the UCR/NIBRS or the NCVS—would individual-rights advocates be most likely to support? Which form would public-order advocates

likely support? Why? In a broader sense, how can the form in which data are gathered serve political ends?

E. Part I Offenses

Part I Offenses A UCR/NIBRS offense group used to report murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson, as defined under the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program.

1. Murder

Murder The unlawful killing of a human being. *Murder* is a generic term that in common usage may include first- and second-degree murder, manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, and other similar offenses.

- Explain the various types of homicide, including justifiable homicides, first degree murder, and second degree murder.
- Murder is the smallest numerical category of Part 1 offenses.
- Discuss statistics and characteristics of murder.
- Explain the difference between spree killings, mass murder, and serial murder
- Murder has the highest clearance rate of any index crime.

2. Rape

Rape Unlawful sexual intercourse achieved through force and without consent. More specifically, penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. *Statutory rape* differs from other types of rape in that it generally involves nonforcible sexual intercourse with a minor. Broadly speaking, the term *rape* has been applied to a wide variety of sexual attacks and may include same-sex rape and the rape of a male by a female. Some jurisdictions refer to same-sex rape as sexual battery.

- Explain the changes in the definition of rape made by the FBI in 2012.
- Rape is the least reported of all violent crimes. Explain that criminologists believe that far more rapes occur than are reported. Suggest that reasons for underreporting include embarrassment, fear of insensitive handling by the justice system, and fear of the offender.
- Discuss statistics and characteristics of rape.
- Explain that many researchers see rape as a crime of power rather than one of sex. Explain that many rapists seek to humiliate their victims and that they enjoy the sense of power that comes from the abuse. Mention, however, that other researchers have found that imprisoned rapists identify "lust," rather than "power," as their primary criminal motivation.

Sexual Battery Intentional and wrongful physical contact with a person, without his or her consent, that entails a sexual component or purpose.

Date Rape Unlawful forced sexual intercourse with a female against her will that occurs within the context of a dating relationship. Date rape, or acquaintance rape, is a subcategory of rape that is of special concern today.

DISCUSSION STARTER—DATE RAPE

Ask whether the phenomenon of date rape is of recent origin or has existed for generations. Why has it received so much media attention recently?

3. Robbery

Robbery (UCR/NIBRS) The unlawful taking or attempted taking of property that is in the immediate possession of another by force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. Armed robbery differs from unarmed, or strong-arm, in that it involves a weapon. Contrary to popular conceptions, highway robbery does not necessarily occur on a street—and rarely in a vehicle. The term *highway robbery* applies to any form of robbery that occurs outdoors in a public place.

- Robbery is a personal crime involving a face-to-face confrontation between victim and perpetrator.
- Discuss statistics and characteristics of robbery.
- Explain the hierarchy rule
- Define *highway robbery* as any robbery that occurs outdoors in a public place. Explain that highway robbery does not necessarily occur on the road or in a vehicle.

4. Aggravated Assault

Assault (UCR/NIBRS) An unlawful attack by one person upon another. Historically, *assault* meant only the attempt to inflict injury on another person; a completed act constituted the separate offense of battery. Under modern statistical usage, however, attempted and completed acts are grouped together under the generic term *assault*.

Aggravated Assault The unlawful, intentional inflicting, or attempted or threatened inflicting, of serious injury upon the person of another. While *aggravated assault* and *simple assault* are standard terms for reporting purposes, most state penal codes use labels like *first-degree* and *second-degree* to make such distinctions.

- Explain the differences between simple and aggravated assault.
- Discuss statistics and characteristics of assault.
- The clearance rate for aggravated assault is relatively high.

DISCUSSION STARTER—SEASONAL CRIME

Certain crimes—like rape, assault, and robbery—seem to show seasonal variations. Why do you think this is so?

5. Burglary

Burglary (UCR/NIBRS) The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft (excludes tents, trailers, and other mobile units used for recreational purposes). Under the UCR/NIBRS program, the crime of burglary can be reported if (1) an unlawful entry of an unlocked structure has occurred, (2) a breaking and entering (of a secured structure) has taken place, or (3) a burglary has been attempted.

- Burglary is primarily a property crime even though it may involve personal confrontation.
- Discuss statistics and characteristics of burglary.
- Explain the differences among forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry.
- Clearance rates for burglary are typically low.
- Most people tend to confuse the terms *robbery* and *burglary*, using them interchangeably. Explain the differences between the two terms, and show why they are not the same.

6. Larceny-Theft

Larceny-Theft (UCR/NIBRS) The unlawful taking or attempted taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property, from the possession or constructive possession of another. Motor vehicles are excluded. Larceny is the most common of the eight major offenses, although probably only a small percentage of all larcenies are actually reported to the police because of the small dollar amounts involved.

- Larceny, also called theft, is the most common Part I offenses and includes a variety of offenses.
- Discuss statistics and characteristics of burglary.
- Explain the difference between simple and grand larceny.
- Larceny is a catch-all category of the UCR.
- Discuss issues relating to identity theft, a special kind of larceny.

Identity-Theft A crime in which an impostor obtains key pieces of information, such as Social Security and driver's license numbers, to obtain credit, merchandise, and services in the name of the victim. The victim is often left with a ruined credit history and the time-consuming and complicated task of repairing the financial damage.

7. Motor Vehicle Theft

Motor Vehicle Theft (UCR/NIBRS) The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. *Motor vehicle* is defined as a self-propelled road vehicle that runs on land surface and not on rails. The stealing of trains, planes, boats, construction equipment, and most farm machinery is classified as larceny under the UCR/NIBRS program, not as motor vehicle theft. (p. 50)

- Motor vehicle thefts have high reporting rates because insurance companies require that the theft be reported.
- Motor vehicle thefts have low clearance rates because the stolen vehicle is usually disassembled and sold as parts.
- Discuss statistics and characteristics of motor vehicle theft.
- Carjacking occurs when an offender forces the occupants onto the street before stealing the vehicle.

8. Arson

Arson (UCR/NIBRS) Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, and so on. Some instances of arson result from malicious mischief, some involve attempts to claim insurance monies, and some are committed in an effort to disguise other crimes, such as murder, burglary, or larceny.

- Explain that the category of arson was added after the UCR/NIBRS Program had been established and that not all agencies that report crime data provide information on arson.
- Point out that arson data only include fires determined through investigation to have been willfully or maliciously set and that fires of unknown or suspicious origin are excluded from arson statistics.
- Discuss statistics and characteristics of arson.

F. Part II Offenses

- Part II offenses include a number of social-order, or so-called victimless crimes.
- Remind students that the statistics on Part II offenses are for recorded arrests, not for crimes reported to the police.

Part II Offenses A UCR/NIBRS offense group used to report arrests for less serious offenses. Agencies are limited to reporting only arrest information for Part II offenses with the exception of simple assault.

III. The National Crime Victimization Survey

- The NCVS is based on victim self-reports rather than police reports.
- Discuss the origins of the NCVS, and explain that it is designed to give a more complete picture of crime than the UCR. Explain how the NCVS can help uncover the “dark figure of crime.”
- The NCVS shows that many more crimes occur than are reported.

Dark Figure of Crime Crime that is not reported to the police and that remains unknown to officials.

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics gathers NCVS data from a semiannual national sample of approximately 90,000 households (170,000 people). Only individuals aged 12 or older are interviewed.

- The NCVS includes data on six crimes: rape and sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary, personal and household larceny, and motor vehicle theft.
- Point out that a number of crimes, such as murder, victimless crimes, and crimes against businesses are not included in the NCVS.
- Discuss information obtained from recent NCVS statistics.

IV. Comparisons of the UCR and NCVS

- Both the UCR/NIBRS and NCVS programs have problems,
- UCR/NIBRS data are based primarily on citizens' crime reports to the police, resulting in several inherent difficulties,
 - Not everyone reports victimization to the police.
 - Certain types of crimes are rarely if ever reported.
 - High-technology and computer crime do not fit well with traditional reporting categories and may be underrepresented in the crime statistics.
 - Victims' reports may not be entirely accurate.
 - Reports are filtered through a number of bureaucratic levels, increasing the likelihood of inaccuracies in the data.
- NCVS relies on surveys and personal interviews and survey results may be skewed
 - Victims provide personal interpretations and descriptions rather than objective information
 - Some victims are more willing to participate than others
 - Some victims are afraid to report crimes to interviewers
- Both the UCR/NIBRS and the NCVS are human artifacts and only contain data that their creators think appropriate.

DISCUSSION STARTER—CRIME STATISTICS

Ask students whether the following statistics would be found in the UCR/NIBRS or the NCVS.

In 2005, 254 infants were murdered. **(UCR/NIBRS)**

Approximately 40% of crimes are reported to the police. **(NCVS)**

Fifty-six percent of aggravated assaults are cleared by arrest. **(UCR/NIBRS)**

The arson rate in 2005 was 5,660. **(UCR/NIBRS)**

V. Special Categories of Crime

Crime Typology A classification of crimes along a particular dimension, such as legal categories, offender motivation, victim behavior, or the characteristics of individual offenders.

- Explain the purpose of developing crime typologies.

A. Crime against Women

- Women are victimized far less frequently than men but are more likely to be injured during victimization.
- Women are more likely than men to make modifications in their lifestyles because of fear of crime.

Stalking Repeated harassing and threatening behavior by one individual against another, aspects of which may be planned or carried out in secret. Stalking might involve following a person, appearing at a person's home or place of business, making harassing phone calls, leaving written messages or objects, or vandalizing a person's property. Most stalking laws require that the perpetrator make a credible threat of violence against the victim or members of the victim's immediate family.

- Discuss findings from the National Violence against Women Survey.
- Explain the importance of the Violence against Women Act (VAWA)

Cyberstalking The use of the Internet, e-mail, and other electronic communication technologies to stalk another person.

B. Crime against the Elderly

- Criminal victimization declines with age.
- Discuss characteristics of elderly victims
- Explain that the elderly face special kinds of victimization that only rarely affect younger adults, such as physical abuse at the hands of caregivers.

C. Hate Crime

Hate Crime (UCR/NIBRS) A criminal offense committed against a person, property, or society which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin.

- Explain that the Hate Crime Statistics Act, which was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush in 1990, requires the collection of hate crime statistics.
- Discuss information obtained from recent hate crime data and explain the effects of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on hate crimes.
- Discuss the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2010. Explain how these Acts expanded the definition of hate crime to include additional protected categories.

DISCUSSION STARTER—HATE CRIME

How do hate crimes and the existence of survivalist organizations highlight the dichotomy between individual rights and the need for public order?

D. Corporate and White-Collar Crime

Corporate Crime A violation of a criminal statute by a corporate entity or by its executives, employees, or agents acting on behalf of and for the benefit of the corporation, partnership, or other form of business entity.

White-Collar Crime Violations of the criminal law committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of his or her occupation. Also, nonviolent crime for financial gain utilizing deception and committed by anyone who has special technical and professional knowledge of business and government, irrespective of the person's occupation.

- Explain the effect of the recent economic downturn on mortgage fraud scams and discuss the various types of mortgage fraud.
- Discuss the Corporate Fraud Task Force and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

E. Organized Crime

Organized Crime The unlawful activities of the members of a highly organized, disciplined association engaged in supplying illegal goods and services, including gambling, prostitution, loan-sharking, narcotics, and labor racketeering, and in other unlawful activities.

Transnational Organized Crime Unlawful activity undertaken and supported by organized criminal groups operating across national boundaries.

- Explain that the idea of organized crime as the Mafia is a stereotype and that there is considerable variation in the types of groups involved in organized crime.
- Discuss the concept of transnational organized crime and why it is such a key issue in criminal justice today.

F. Gun Crime

- Remind students of the constitutional guarantee of the right to bear arms and explain that this has contributed to the plethora of guns in our society today.
- The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act was passed in 1994. It provided a five-day waiting period and a national incident criminal background check system. Point out that the five-day waiting period was discontinued in 1998 after an instant computerized background checking system went into operation.
- Research indicates that most offenders obtained weapons from friends or family members and that a growing number of violent criminals are carrying handguns.

G. Drug Crime

- Point out that unlike many types of crime, drug-related crime has continued to increase and is a major cause of the growth in the U.S. prison population.
- Discuss the links between drugs and crime and explain that a large percentage of homicides are drug-related.
- Discuss issues relating to the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana and other "soft" drugs.

H. Cybercrime

Cybercrime Any crime perpetrated through the use of computer technology. Also, any violation of a federal or state cybercrime statute.

- Explain that cybercrime involves the use of computers and computer technology to commit crimes and that the theft of computer equipment is not cybercrime.
- Point out that many cybercrimes are not new forms of offending but are traditional crimes that use technologies in their commission.

I. Terrorism

- September 11, 2001 brought terrorism to the forefront of American consciousness.
- The Department of Homeland Security was created to assist in developing protection for the country's critical infrastructure.

LIST OF CHANGES/TRANSITION GUIDE

- The discussion of cybercrimes has been enhanced, recognizing them as contributing to a higher rate of crime than is commonly acknowledged.
- Updated crime statistics are found throughout the chapter.
- A new and detailed box on marijuana legalization and decriminalization is included, along with a map of marijuana legalization initiatives.
- A new definition of "rape" is provided, reflecting a change by the FBI in its Uniform Crime Reporting terminology.
- A new example of the crime of larceny is provided.
- The CJ Issues box dealing with race and the justice system has been modified and updated to include recent incidents in Ferguson, Missouri, and elsewhere.
- New photos are used to illustrate racial tensions affecting the justice system.
- A new "Freedom v. Safety" box now describes the FBI's concern with encryption technology, and asks if citizens can have too much privacy.
- The discussion of cybercrime has been enhanced.
- The URL for the federal government's Elder Justice website is now provided.
- The information on hate crimes has been updated.
- A new study on gun control laws and their effectiveness at preventing gun crime is discussed.
- The potential for new 3-D printers to be used in the fabrication of handguns is now discussed, and a photo of such a weapon is provided.

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS ACTIVITIES

- Discuss common misconceptions about crime caused by our heavy reliance on the news media for information about crime. Research on the types of crime presented in the news consistently indicates an inverse relationship between the amount of crime that occurs

and what the media present. For example, murder is the index offense least likely to occur, but it is the crime most likely to be presented in the news.

- Have students research UCR Part I crime statistics for their home states (and/or counties and cities) for the past few years. Have students compare crime rates for each geographic area and discuss possible reasons for the variations in rates.
- Have students research UCR Part I crime statistics for their home state, including trend data, and compare the state figures to national trends. Have them identify the similarities and differences between state and national crime patterns and trends.
- Have students select a crime that is included in both the UCR and NCVS. Have them research statistics on this crime from both sources, including trend data, and compare the results. Have them identify similarities and differences in the information on crime patterns and trends obtained from the two sources.
- UCR Part I crime statistics for their home state, including trend data, and compare the state figures to national trends. Have them identify the similarities and differences between state and national crime patterns and trends.
- Find the latest national summary of campus crime. (*USA Today* periodically publishes a detailed report of such statistics, and data may also be available on the Internet). Have students compare crime on your campus with reports of campus crime elsewhere. What might account for the differences observed?
- Have students construct and conduct a local community or campus questionnaire about crime. For example, a random sampling of resident and off-campus students to determine victimization rates with regard to the theft of textbooks, computers, and personal items from dorm rooms and classrooms can provide a picture of crime on campus. It may be advisable to limit the survey to property crimes because of the sensitive nature of certain types of other crimes. The questionnaire could be extended to include professors and administrative staff. If yours is a distance learning school, invite students to participate by online questionnaire. Have students report on their findings.
- Have students construct and conduct a local community or campus self-report survey that asks respondents about the offenses they have committed. It may be advisable to limit the survey to property crimes because of the sensitive nature of certain types of other crimes. The questionnaire could be extended to include professors and administrative staff. If yours is a distance learning school, invite students to participate by online questionnaire. Have students report on their findings.
- Present students with a variety of situations and have them identify which Part I offense category is occurring in each, and explain their responses. You could also include situations that are not crimes. Sample criminal situations include:
 - A college freshman visits a friend's residence hall and forces her to have sexual intercourse. (**rape**)

- A woman is caught after she puts a gun to an elderly man's head and takes his wallet and watch. (**robbery**)
- A man drives his car into a group of teenagers. Six teenagers have to be taken to the hospital for treatment of their injuries. (**aggravated assault**)
- A 14-year-old girl steals a Porsche 944 from a car dealership. (**motor vehicle theft**)
- A 14-year old boy steals a bulldozer. (**larceny-theft**)
- A man walks through an open door of a home and steals cash and other valuables and raids the refrigerator. (**burglary**)
- An 18-year-old girl gave birth to a baby boy in her mother's fourth-floor apartment and tossed the child out the window, causing the baby's death. (**murder**)
- A woman walks out of a coatroom with a leather jacket that does not belong to her. (**larceny-theft**)
- A man sets his neighbor's Christmas tree on fire. (**arson**)
- A woman borrows her neighbor's boat to go fishing without obtaining his permission first. (**larceny-theft**)
- Prior to class, visit the Websites of the Uniform Crime Reports and the *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*. Collect information on murder from both sites. Display this information in class and discuss key issues, including:
 - How much information is available at these sites?
 - What does it consist of?
 - What are the similarities and the differences in the availability of information on the crime of murder between these two sites?
 - Generally speaking, how do the two sites compare?
 - Which one do you find more useful? Why?
- The above exercise could also be done with other crime times, and could also include data from the National Crime Victimization Survey.

SUGGESTED ANSWERS TO END-OF-CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Describe the historical development of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, and list the crimes on which it reports. How is the ongoing implementation of the National Incident-Based Reporting (NIBRS) system changing the UCR Program? How will data reported under the new UCR/NIBRS differ from the crime statistics reported under the traditional UCR Program?**

The FBI has been compiling statistics on crimes known to the police since 1930, by Congress authorization. The FBI received reports from 400 cities in 43 states in its first year of operation. Today, approximately 18,000 police departments voluntarily submit to the FBI information on the crimes that have been reported to them. To ensure reporting uniformity, the FBI developed standardized definitions of offenses. The original Uniform Crime Reporting Program was designed to permit comparisons over time through the Crime Index, which summed the reports of seven major offenses (murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft) and expressed the result as a crime rate based on population. An eighth offense (arson) was added in 1979. Over the years, concern grew over the Crime Index's unclear picture of criminality because the abundance of larceny-theft reports skewed the results. In 2004, the FBI discontinued its use of the Crime Index and instead published simple violent crime and property crime totals. The FBI is currently working to develop a better and more viable index.

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an incident-based reporting system that collects detailed data on every single crime occurrence (as compared to the summary-based UCR). Under the new enhanced system, law enforcement agencies provide detailed information about crime and arrest activities at the incident level. NIBRS replaces the old Part I and Part II offenses with 22 general offenses and also eliminates the hierarchy rule. NIBRS is not a separate report, but utilizes data from the UCR system in more detail. With the addition of NIBRS based data, some of the older definitions of criminal activity have changed.

2. Describe the history of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). What do data from the NCVS tell us about crime in the United States today?

The NCVS was first conducted in 1972. It built on efforts previously made by the National Opinion Research Center and the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice in the late 1960s. The intent was to uncover the "dark figure of crime," referring to crime that occurs but is not reported to authorities. According to recent NCVS statistics, approximately 15% of American households are affected by crime annually and about 23 million victimizations occur each year. According to the NCVS, the rate of both violent and property crime reported by the NCVS has declined since 1993. Many researchers believe that self-reported crime is more accurate than crime reported to police in getting a true picture of crime and delinquency.

3. What significant differences between the UCR/NIBRS and NCVS programs can be identified?

NCVS programs are based on victim self-reports rather than police reports, as with UCR/NIBRS. Murder, kidnapping, victimless crimes, commercial robbery, and business burglary are not included in NCVS reports as they are in UCR/NIBRS. The UCR uses a hierarchical counting system, which counts the most serious incident in a series of criminal events against a single person. UCR/NIBRS counts crimes reported, whereas NCVS counts both completed and attempted offenses that may or may not have been reported to police. Researchers tend to rely on NCVS data more than UCR/NIBRS because it is a more accurate gauge of criminal incidents than police reports.

4. What are the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter? Why are they important?

The chapter discusses several special categories of crime, including crime against women, crime against the elderly, hate crime, corporate and white-collar crime, organized crime, gun crime, drug crime, high-technology and computer crime, and terrorism. These categories are important because they provide us with additional ways to think about crime and how the criminal justice system responds to crime. The importance of these special categories is also illustrated by thinking of them as crime typologies. Various typologies are used to describe the characteristics of criminal offending. Creating such special categories increases the importance of these types of crime and provides a common ground for scholars and policymakers to discuss them.

SUGGESTED ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What can crime statistics tell us about the crime picture in America? How has that picture changed over time? What additional changes might be coming?

Analysis of crime data yields discernible patterns of crime and victimization rates and the demography of both crime victims and criminals. Changes in the frequency or types of crime in specific geographic regions are easily detectable, as are changes in the participation of specific demographic groupings in criminality. Statistics are also able to show how public perceptions of crime are not always realistic and how the influence of the media is instrumental in creating those perceptions.

Since its inception in 1930, the UCR Program has enabled researchers to identify three major shifts in crime rates. The first was a pronounced reduction in crime rates after the crime-prone young male segment of the population entered military service in large numbers during World War II. The second shift was a dramatic increase as the postwar baby-boom generation entered its teen years—the crime-prone age range—in the 1960s. Another escalation was detected in the 1980s, when drug-related violent crimes increased significantly, peaking in about 1991. Through the remainder of the 1990s, major crime rates initially stabilized and then began showing declines in almost all categories.

A fourth shift in crime rates appears to be on the horizon. Factors such as the recent economic uncertainty, increased joblessness among unskilled workers, the growing number of ex-convicts back on the streets, the recent growth in the teenage population, the increasing influence of gangs, copycat crimes, and the lingering social disorganization resulting from natural disasters may lead to sustained increases in crime.

2. What are the potential sources of error in the nation's major crime reports? Can you think of some popular use of crime statistics today that might be especially misleading?

Because UCR/NIBRS data are based mainly in reports to the police, they are flawed for a number of reasons. They omit unreported crime, and not everyone reports when they are victimized. For example, a drug dealer is unlikely to file a report if someone steals his or her drug supply. Likewise, the victim of the theft of a \$20 item will probably not file a report because the amount of the deductible on his or her insurance (if he or she has it) likely exceeds the amount of the loss. Certain types of crimes are rarely if ever reported, particularly so-called victimless crimes such as prostitution and gambling. High-technology

and computer crimes do not fit well with traditional reporting categories and may be underrepresented in the crime statistics. Victims' reports may be inaccurate. The various levels of bureaucracy through which reports are filtered also increases the likelihood of inaccuracies in the data. Further, the hierarchy rule, which mandates that only the most serious crime be reported in cases where multiple crimes are committed, prevents the counting of criminal events known to have occurred. Some of these problems are being addressed by adoption of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

NCVS data are obtained through surveys and interviews, which may result in skewed results. Survey respondents may answer subjectively rather than objectively. Not everyone is equally willing to talk to interviewers. Some victims are afraid to report crimes to the surveyors while others may invent victimizations.

It has become commonplace for the news media to report declines in the overall rate of crime in the United States. Such reports, of course, are based on "official" crime statistics—especially those made available through the UCR. Because data on crime rates, however, are based primarily on the reported rates of specific crimes (such as murder, rape, robbery, etc.), any increase or change in the rates of novel forms of crimes not covered by the program will not be visible. Hence, the recent rise in high-technology crimes is not obvious because it does not fall into one of the categories of crime reported under the UCR Program.

3. Why are many crime statistics expressed as rates? How does the use of crime rates instead of simple numerical tabulations improve the usefulness of crime data?

Expressing crime statistics as rates permits comparisons among areas, across time, and among populations of widely varied sizes. Pure numbers can be grossly misleading. In a city with a population of 7 million, 600 murders would equate to a murder rate of 8.57 per 100,000. If 30 murders occur in a city with a population of 300,000, the rate would be 10 per 100,000. Observers might fixate on the huge number of murders in the larger city—600—and inaccurately believe the city to be more dangerous than the smaller city. In fact, the smaller city, with its higher rate per 100,000, presents a greater risk of someone being murdered.

This ability to evaluate crime data on a universal scale clarifies the true meaning of the hard numbers, defuses emotional responses to large numbers, and enables the researcher to interpret more accurately what those numbers really mean.

4. Do "traditional" UCR/NIBRS and NCVS categories accurately reflect the changing nature of crime in America? Why or why not?

No, Today's UCR/NIBRS Program provides annual data on the number of reported Part I offenses, or major crimes, as well as information about arrests that have been made for less serious Part II offenses. The Part I offenses are murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The Part II offense category covers many more crimes, including drug offenses, driving under the influence, and simple assault. However, many crimes do not fall clearly into these categories, such as white-collar crime, computer crime, and high-technology crime, leading to their possible underrepresentation in today's crime statistics. Similarly, so-called victimless crimes are underrepresented, as they are rarely reported to the police. Modifications to the UCR Program, which has traditionally provided only summary crime data, are occurring with the

implementation of the new National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS, which represents a significant redesign of the original UCR Program, gathers many details about each criminal incident, such as place of occurrence, weapon used, type and value of property damaged or stolen, the personal characteristics of the offender and the victim, the nature of any relationship between the two, and the disposition of the complaint. However, it still may result in underrepresentation of many of these types of crime.

The NCVS collects data on only six major crimes and only includes data on victims aged 12 or older. It omits crimes against businesses and corporations, crimes against victims who are not in households, and victimless crimes. Like the UCR, it also includes a hierarchical counting system that counts only the most serious crime in a criminal event.

5. This chapter recognizes the changing nature of crime. What might crime rates look like if all types of crime today could be captured by traditional crime reporting systems?

It is important to recognize that UCR/NIBRS and NCVS data do not necessarily provide a complete picture of crime in America not only because they fail to capture what we have called the dark figure of crime, but also because the traditional reporting categories that they employ do not always encompass more innovative forms of crime such as those committed through the use of high technology or certain forms of white-collar crime. A number of special categories of crime, including crime against women, crime against the elderly, hate crime, corporate and white-collar crime, organized crime, gun crime, drug crime, cybercrime, and terrorism would be reported. Each of these categories is of special concern in contemporary society. With all the crimes reported, crime rates would look significantly different.

6. Do some property crimes have a violent aspect? Are there any personal crimes that could be nonviolent? If so, what might they be?

Certain property crimes often include a violent aspect. Examples include:

- A motor vehicle theft by carjacking that results in the injury or death of the vehicle's owner.
- A burglary that involves a violent confrontation between the property owner and the burglar.
- An arson that results in the injury or death of a person.
- A larceny by purse snatching that results in injury to the purse's owner.

For a crime to be categorized as a violent crime, it is not necessary for actual injury or death to occur. Violence can extend from the mere threat of physical harm or from intimidation that leads the victim to believe he or she will suffer physical harm if he or she resists. Consequently, personal crimes are inherently violent.

7. What is a clearance rate? What does it mean to say that a crime has been "cleared"? What are the different ways in which a crime can be cleared?

When a crime has been cleared, it has been "solved" by the police. A crime can be cleared by arrest, but also by exceptional circumstances, such as when the suspect has been killed

during the commission of the crime, when the suspect was not arrested but later died, or when the suspect is known but has fled U.S. jurisdiction and is likely to be unarrestable as a result. It is not necessary for an individual to be convicted of a crime for a crime to be considered cleared.

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Chapter 2 The Crime Picture

2.1 Multiple-Choice Questions

1) If you are looking for national crime statistics and want data on crimes reported to the police, you should use which of the following sources of data?

- A) The Uniform Crime Reports
- B) The National Crime Victimization Survey
- C) A self-report survey
- D) None of the above

Answer: A

Page Ref: 32

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

2) Which agency is responsible for the National Crime Victimization Survey?

- A) The FBI
- B) The CIA
- C) The US Department of Defense and Criminal Statistics
- D) Bureau of Justice Statistics

Answer: D

Page Ref: 32

Objective: Compare and contrast the UCR and NCVS data collection and reporting programs.

Level: Basic

3) Why is the main reason why the Crime Index no longer included in the UCR?

- A) Too many types of crime are not included.
- B) There are so many larcenies that this crime overshadows more serious index crimes.
- C) The Crime Index does not permit comparisons across jurisdictions or over time.
- D) No one was using it so the FBI stopped calculating it.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 32

Objective: Describe the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

4) For which of the following studies would you definitely want to use NIBRS rather than the UCR?

- A) A study examining changes in the overall crime rate in the U.S. over time
- B) A study examining crime patterns in the U.S. in the 1950s and 1960s
- C) A study examining rates of motor vehicle thefts in the U.S. today
- D) A study examining multiple crimes that occur within a single incident

Answer: D

Page Ref: 35

Objective: Describe the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Difficult

5) Which factor contributed to a dramatic increase in crime in the U.S. in the 1960s and 1970s?

- A) The baby boom
- B) Generation X
- C) The Depression
- D) President Johnson's War on Poverty

Answer: A

Page Ref: 37

Objective: Describe the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

6) According to the text, what should we expect to see in the near future when we examine crime statistics?

- A) The decline in crime observed since the mid-1990s is expected to continue until at least 2020.
- B) The decline in crime observed since the mid-1990s is expected to end and criminal activity will increase.
- C) The crime rate will continue to decline until it reaches the low crime rates characteristic of the 1950s.
- D) Crime rates will level off and remain stable for the foreseeable future.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 38

Objective: Describe the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

7) The _____ is a traditional measure of investigative effectiveness that compares the number of crimes reported or discovered to the number of crimes solved through arrest or other means.

- A) probability factor
- B) solvability factor
- C) clearance rate
- D) justification rate

Answer: C

Page Ref: 39-40

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

8) All of the following are Part I violent crime offenses except

- A) Prostitution.
- B) Aggravated assault.
- C) Rape.
- D) Murder.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 40

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

9) Which of the Part I violent crimes is the least common?

- A) Murder
- B) Rape
- C) Aggravated assault
- D) Robbery

Answer: A

Page Ref: 41

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

10) A _____ involves killing at least four victims at one location during one event.

- A) mass murder
- B) serial murder
- C) spree murder
- D) None of the above

Answer: A

Page Ref: 42

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

11) Most rapes are committed by

- A) a relative of the victim.
- B) an acquaintance of the victim.
- C) a stranger.
- D) the victim's spouse.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 45

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

12) The unlawful, intentional inflicting, or attempted or threatened inflicting, of serious injury upon the person of another is the crime of

- A) simple assault.
- B) aggravated assault.
- C) reckless conduct.
- D) attempted murder.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 46

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Intermediate

13) _____ is defined as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

- A) Arson
- B) Burglary
- C) Robbery
- D) Assault

Answer: B

Page Ref: 46

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

14) _____ refers to events where social media directs people — often teenagers — to go to retail stores and rob them.

- A) Flash mobs
- B) Social crimes
- C) Social mobs
- D) Flash robs

Answer: D

Page Ref: 47

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

15) _____ is the unlawful taking or attempted taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property, from the possession or constructive possession of another.

- A) Robbery
- B) Burglary
- C) Larceny/Theft
- D) Criminal trespass

Answer: C

Page Ref: 48

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

16) Each of the following offenses falls under the category of larceny except

- A) shoplifting.
- B) thefts from motor vehicles.
- C) bicycle thefts.
- D) robbery.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 48

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

17) _____ involves obtaining key pieces of information, such as Social Security and driver's license numbers, to obtain credit, merchandise, and services in the victim's name.

- A) Identity theft
- B) Embezzlement
- C) Robbery
- D) Burglary

Answer: A

Page Ref: 50

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

18) For _____ offenses, the UCR only collects information on recorded arrests.

- A) Part I
- B) Part II
- C) Part III
- D) Simple

Answer: B

Page Ref: 52

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

- 19) The dark figure of crime refers to
- A) crime that occurs at night.
 - B) crime that is not reported to the police.
 - C) crimes committed by the police.
 - D) bias crimes.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 54

Objective: Describe the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

20) Which of the following crime victims would *not* be included in the sample of individuals surveyed for the NCVS?

- A) A 10-year old boy who was beaten up and whose bicycle was stolen
- B) A 14-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted by a neighbor
- C) A 20-year-old college student whose car was stolen
- D) A 75-year-old man whose computer was stolen during a home burglary

Answer: A

Page Ref: 54

Objective: Describe the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Difficult

21) Which of the following is *not* a problem with the UCR program?

- A) The UCR does not include data on crimes committed against children under the age of 12.
- B) The UCR does not include information on the dark figure of crime.
- C) Because victimless crimes are rarely reported, they are often not included in the UCR.
- D) The UCR frequently fails to keep up with the changing face of crime and criminal activity.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 55

Objective: Compare and contrast the UCR and NCVS data collection and reporting programs.

Level: Intermediate

22) A classification of crimes along a particular dimension, such as legal categories, offender motivation, victim behavior, or the characteristics of individual offenders is also known as

- A) crime typology.
- B) stalking.
- C) cyberstalking.
- D) criminology.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 56

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Difficult

23) The use of the Internet, e-mail, and other electronic communication technologies to bully another person is known as

- A) cyberstalking.
- B) stalking.
- C) hate crime.
- D) computer crime.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 57

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Basic

24) The elderly are more likely than younger people to

- A) be victims of violent crimes.
- B) refuse to report their victimization to the police.
- C) be victimized by strangers.
- D) be victims of hate crimes.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 58

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Intermediate

25) The economic downturn resulted in a significant increase in which type of crime?

- A) Transnational organized crime
- B) Cyberstalking
- C) Mortgage fraud scams
- D) Hate crime

Answer: C

Page Ref: 60-61

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Intermediate

26) Unlawful activity undertaken and supported by organized criminal groups operating across national boundaries is known as _____ organized crime.

- A) international
- B) transnational
- C) intercontinental
- D) overseas

Answer: B

Page Ref: 62

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Basic

2.2 True/False Questions

1) NIBRS represents a significant redesign of the original UCR program.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 34

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

2) The clearance rate compares the number of crimes reported or discovered to the number of crimes solved through arrest or other means (such as the death of the suspect).

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 39-40

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

3) All Part I offenses are violent crimes.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 40

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

4) Murders are usually committed by strangers.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 42

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

5) In serial murder, there is some period of time between each killing.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 42

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

6) Most researchers argue that the primary motive for rape is power rather than a desire for sexual gratification.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 44

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

7) According to the UCR/NIBRS Program, larceny-theft is the most frequently reported major crime.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 48

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

8) The UCR/NIBRS program focuses on ensuring cybercrimes are properly counted in the crime statistics.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 49-50

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

9) The dark figure of crime refers to crimes that are reported to the police.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 49-50

Objective: Describe the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

10) NCVS interviewers validate the information obtained from victims against police records or other sources.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 49-50

Objective: Compare and contrast the UCR and NCVS data collection and reporting programs.

Level: Intermediate

11) The use of the Internet, e-mail, and other electronic communication technologies to bully another person is known as cyberstalking.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 57

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Basic

12) Most stalking laws require that the perpetrator make a credible threat of violence against the victim or members of the victim's immediate family.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 56

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Intermediate

13) The elderly are more likely than younger people to be victims of violent crime.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 58

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Intermediate

14) Most hate crimes are motivated by racial bias.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 59

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Intermediate

15) The problem of mortgage fraud has been declining in the last decade.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 61

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Basic

16) Corporations can be convicted of violations of the criminal law.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 61

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Intermediate

17) Most offenders obtain weapons from retail establishments.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 63

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Basic

18) Drug violations are the main cause of the increase in the prison population in the U.S. today.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 63

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Basic

2.3 Short Answer Questions

1) The Uniform Crime Reporting program is run by the _____.

Answer: FBI/Federal Bureau of Investigation

Page Ref: 32

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

2) _____ data is obtained by surveying offenders and asking them to reveal illegal activity in which they have been involved.

Answer: Self-report

Page Ref: 32

Objective: Describe the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

3) The Crime Index was discontinued because it was skewed by the large number of _____ reported to the police.

Answer: larceny-theft

Page Ref: 34

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

4) Clearances are mainly determined on the basis of _____.

Answer: arrests

Page Ref: 40

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

5) Burglary is primarily a(n) _____ crime.

Answer: property

Page Ref: 46

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Basic

6) Not all police departments make regular reports to the UCR on the Part I offense of _____.

Answer: arson

Page Ref: 52

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

7) _____ is the repeated harassing and threatening behavior by one individual against another.

Answer: Stalking

Page Ref: 56

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Basic

8) The most common motivation for a hate crime is _____ bias.

Answer: religious

Page Ref: 59

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Intermediate

9) People who commit corporate crime are known as _____ criminals.

Answer: white-collar

Page Ref: 61

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Basic

10) _____ organized crime involves crimes committed by organized criminal groups that operate across national boundaries.

Answer: Transnational

Page Ref: 62

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Basic

11) The epidemic of _____ several decades ago significantly impacted violent crime rates.

Answer: crack cocaine

Page Ref: 65

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Intermediate

12) Any crime perpetrated through the use of computer technology is known as _____.

Answer: cybercrime

Page Ref: 65

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Intermediate

2.4 Matching Questions

Match the characteristic to the data source.

- A) National Crime Victimization Survey
- B) Uniform Crime Reports
- C) National Incident Based Reporting System

1) Collects information on the dark figure of crime

Page Ref: Throughout

Objective: Multiple

Level: Difficult

2) Classifies robbery as a property crime

Page Ref: Throughout

Objective: Multiple

Level: Difficult

3) Distinguishes between Part I and Part II crimes

Page Ref: Throughout

Objective: Multiple

Level: Difficult

4) Records all offenses occurring in an incident

Page Ref: Throughout

Objective: Multiple

Level: Difficult

5) Collects data from crime victims

Page Ref: Throughout

Objective: Multiple

Level: Difficult

6) Does not collect data on homicides

Page Ref: Throughout

Objective: Multiple

Level: Difficult

Answers: 1) A 2) C 3) B 4) C 5) A 6) A

Match the crime with the source of data on crime rates.

- A) Both the NCVS and the UCR
- B) Uniform Crime Reports
- C) National Crime Victimization Survey

7) Homicide
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Difficult

8) Simple assault
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Difficult

9) Crimes not reported to the police
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Difficult

10) Arson
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Difficult

11) Robbery
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Difficult

12) Crimes against children under 12
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Difficult

13) Motor vehicle theft
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Difficult

14) Attempted robbery
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Difficult

15) Aggravated assault
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Difficult

Answers: 7) B 8) C 9) C 10) B 11) A 12) B 13) A 14) C 15) A

Match the crime with the definition.

- A) The unlawful taking or attempted taking of the property of another without use of force
- B) Repeated harassing and threatening behavior by one individual against another
- C) Crimes committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of his or her occupation
- D) Obtaining credit, merchandise, or services by fraudulent personal representation
- E) The unlawful taking or attempted taking of property by force or threat of force
- F) A crime motivated by personal bias or prejudice
- G) Killing at least four victims at one location within one event
- H) Killings at least two separate locations with almost no time break between murders
- I) The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony

16) Robbery
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Intermediate

17) Larceny
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Intermediate

18) Identity Theft
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Intermediate

19) Burglary
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Intermediate

20) Stalking
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Intermediate

21) Spree killing
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Intermediate

22) Mass murder
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Intermediate

23) Hate crime
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Intermediate

24) White collar crime
Page Ref: Throughout
Objective: Multiple
Level: Intermediate

Answers: 16) E 17) A 18) D 19) I 20) B 21) H 22) G 23) F 24) C

2.5 Essay Questions

1) Describe the UCR/NIBRS and the NCVS programs. How does each system serve a purpose in collecting reporting data. Compare and contrast the two programs. What advantages does NIBRS have over the traditional UCR?

Answer: Answers should include a description of each program, as well as the criticisms of each. Students should emphasize the difference between a reporting program (UCR/NIBRS) and a self-report program (NCVS) and how the type of program affects the information obtained. Some discussion of the dark figure of crime should be included. Answers should also review the similarities and the significant differences between the two programs. A discussion of the reasons for the development of NIBRS and the advantages of an incident-based program over a summary program should be included.

Page Ref: Throughout

Objective: Multiple

Level: Intermediate

2) Identify the three major shifts in victimization patterns that have been identified since crime statistics were first gathered. Explain the causes of each. What is expected to occur in the near future and why?

Answer: Answers should include a discussion of each of the three shifts and the possible causes of each. The first was a decrease in crime in the early 1940s, which was linked to the start of World War II, as large numbers of crime-prone young males entered military service. The second shift was a dramatic increase in crime from the 1960s to the 1990s. This was linked to the postwar baby boomers entering their crime-prone teenage years, increased police professionalism, increased reporting of crime, and the social upheaval of the 1960s. The third shift was a decrease in crime beginning in the 1990s, which has been linked to an aging out of the post-WWII baby boomers, new strict laws, expanding funding for police and justice systems, changing crime-fighting technologies, economic factors, and the increase in crimes that are not counted by official reporting programs. There is evidence to suggest that a new cycle of increased crime may begin in the near future, which may be due in part to new and innovative forms of victimization not easily captured by official measures.

Page Ref: 36-39

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

3) The U.S. Department of Justice suggests several reasons for the decline of crime from the years 1991-2012. List and explain three of those reasons.

Answer: A coordinated, collaborative, and well-funded national effort to combat crime, beginning with the Safe Streets Act of 1968 and continuing through the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001; stronger, better-prepared criminal justice agencies, resulting from increased spending by federal and state governments on crime-control programs; the growth in popularity of innovative police programs, such as community policing; sentencing reform, including various "get tough on crime" initiatives; a strong victims' movement and enactment of the 1984 federal Victims of Crime Act, and the 1994 Violence against Women Act, which established the Office for Victims of Crime in the U.S. Department of Justice; a substantial growth in the use of incarceration due to changes in sentencing law practice; the "war on drugs," begun in the 1970s, which resulted in stiff penalties for drug dealers and repeat drug offenders; and advances in forensic science and enforcement technology, including the increased use of real-time communications, the growth of the Internet, and the advent of DNA evidence.

Page Ref: 37-38

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

4) What are Part I crimes? List and define the four Part I violent offenses.

Answer: Answers should include an explanation of Part I crimes as the 8 serious crimes included in the UCR. The four violent crimes are murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Murder is the unlawful killing of one human being by another. Rape is unlawful sexual intercourse achieved through force and without consent. Robbery is a personal crime involving a face-to-face confrontation between a victim and a perpetrator. Aggravated assault is the unlawful, intentional inflicting, or attempted or threatened inflicting, of serious injury upon the person of another.

Page Ref: 40-46

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

5) List and define the four Part I property offenses.

Answer: The four Part I property crimes are burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft (excludes tents, trailers, and other mobile units used for recreational purposes). The three classifications include forcible entry, unlawful entry without force, and attempted forcible entry. Larceny-theft is the unlawful taking or attempted taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property, from the possession or constructive possession of another. Motor vehicles are excluded. Motor vehicle theft is the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. Arson is any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, and so on.

Page Ref: 46-52

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

6) What are flash robs? How do flash robs differ from flash mobs? Define this crime and explain how it works, who commits flash robs, how many people are involved, and the issues facing store employees and owners.

Answer: Answers should include a brief definition of flash mobs and how this concept has led to the more serious issue of flash robs, in which social media directs people to go to retail stores and rob them. A discussion of the characteristics of flash robs and the problems resulting from them should be included, along with an explanation of the costs of this crime for the victims.

Page Ref: 47

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Difficult

7) What is identity theft? Define identity theft, discuss the various types of techniques used by identity thieves and the problems the crime creates for victims, and review the recent federal laws passed in an effort to combat identity theft.

Answer: Answers should include a definition of identity theft as a crime in which an impostor obtains key pieces of information, such as Social Security and driver's license numbers, to obtain credit, merchandise, and services in the name of the victim. The impact on victims should be discussed, including the victim's ruined credit history and the time needed to repair the financial damage. Federal acts such as the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act (1998) and the Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act (2004) should be reviewed.

Page Ref: 50-51

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Intermediate

2.6 Critical Thinking Questions

1) The eight Part I crimes included in the UCR have not been changed since 1979. How has the nature of crime in the U.S. changed since 1979 and how should the Part I crime category be changed to better reflect crime in the U.S. today? What impact would this have on crime statistics?

Answer: Answers will vary but should include a discussion of the various types of crimes (white-collar crime, computer crime, high technology crime) that are underrepresented in the UCR.

Page Ref: 55

Objective: Describe the FBI's UCR/NIBRS Program, including its purpose, history, and what it tells us about crime in the United States today.

Level: Difficult

2) Explain hate crimes and review the various categories that are protected under federal hate crime laws. What other categories of individuals or groups that are not protected under the law might be targets for hate crimes?

Answer: Answers will vary but should include a definition of hate crime and the main categories (race, religion, ethnicity/national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability). Other possible categories that could be protected might include homelessness, age, and political affiliation.

Page Ref: 56-60

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Difficult

3) Gun crime and debate about gun control was brought to a heightened discussion in 2012 because of several mass murders. Comment on the role of gun control and the constitutional guarantees of the right to bear arms. Include analysis of the Newtown and Aurora shootings and the effect they had on the communities and gun control.

Answer: Answers will vary but should include a discussion of recent events including the Newtown and Aurora shootings in 2012 and the Arizona shooting in 2011 that seriously injured former U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords. These three events, among others, led to calls for gun control at both the state and national level. Constitutional guarantees of the right to bear arms have combined with historical circumstances to make ours a well-armed society. Guns are used in many types of crimes. Both federal and state governments have responded to the public concern over the ready availability of handguns.

Page Ref: 62-64

Objective: Describe how the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter are significant today.

Level: Difficult

