Crime in America

• The *crime picture* in America is often times based on two national sources of data collection:
  – The Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR)
  – National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
  • [http://www.fbi.gov/publications.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/publications.htm)
The Uniform Crime Report (UCR)

- Congress authorized the U.S. attorney general to survey crime in America in 1930.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation was tasked with implementing this program.
- Approximately 16,000 law enforcement agencies provide data.
- The UCR relies on standardized definitions of terms and definitions.
- Part I – Part II Offenses.
The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

• The NIBRS is a significant redesign of the original UCR.

• By the 1970s law enforcement officials recognized the need to update the UCR.

• The NIBRS collects detailed data on crime and arrest activities at the incident level.
  – Table 2-1 compares the UCR and NIBRS
  – The Crime Clock
The Crime Clock

• http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncrvw2009/poster_gallery.html
• Violent crime – includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.
• Property crime – includes burglary, larceny-theft. MV theft, and arson.
• Clearance rate – the proportion of crimes that have been solved.
  – This occurs with the investigating jurisdiction.
Part I Offenses

• Murder – the unlawful killing of a human being by another.
  – Smallest numerical category.
  – Peaks seen in warmer months.
  – Most common in southern states.
  – In 2006 guns were used in 58.3% of all killings.
  – Acquaintances involved in the majority of incidences.
  – Over 40% of murders involved an argument.
- Rape – sexual assault
  - The term is broad in scope.
- Forcible rape – carnal knowledge.
  - Often limited to female victimization.
- Date rape
- Marital rape
- Sexual battery/contact
- Robbery – a personal crime, face-to-face, involving the unlawful taking with a use of force or threat.
- Assault – simple or aggravated.
  - Weapon
  - Bodily injury
- Burglary – property crime, to facilitate other types of crime.
  - Forcible entry
  - Unlawful
  - attempt
• Larceny-theft
  – Shoplifting
  – Vehicle Parts
  – Bicycles
  – Purse snatch

• Arson – willful or malicious burning.
  – Vehicles
  – Vessels
  – Buildings
    • Terrorism
    • To hide other crimes
    • Volunteers
Part II Offenses

- Simple assault
- Embezzlement
- Prostitution
- Drugs
- Vice
  - Gambling
- Status offenses
Special crime categories

• Typology
  – A classification scheme used in the study and description of criminal behavior.
  – Classifications include
    • Legal categories
    • Offender motivation
    • Victim behavior
    • Victim precipitation
    • Individual characteristics
  – The central distinguishing feature of meaningful typologies is social relevance.
Typologies

- Crime against women
  - Domestic violence
  - Stalking
- Crime against the elderly
  - Property crime
  - Con games
  - Stranger crimes
  - Physical injury
- Hate crime – Fig. 2-6
  - Race
  - Religion
  - Sexual orientation
  - Ethnicity
- White collar/corporate
- Organized crime
- Gun violence
- Drugs
- Cybercrime
- Terrorism