UNODC work on crime stats and analysis at international level

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Main functions of UNODC on crime statistics

1. To collate, disseminate and analyse country stats

2. To develop methods/standards on crime data
   - Manuals on victimisation survey
   - Manual on indicators for juvenile justice
   - International classification of crimes
   - Methods to measure corruption, violence against women, organised crime, etc.

3. To support countries to improve quality & availability of crime data
   - Advisory and training activities on-demand
   - Capacity building projects (victimisation surveys, corruption surveys, etc.) in various regions of the world (on-going projects in Central America, Middle-East, Asia)
Activities on data collection
UN–Crime Trends Survey (UN-CTS)

- Started in 1977, following a resolution of the General Assembly (1972)
- Since 2009 conducted every year through questionnaire sent to all countries
- Response rate: approx. 85-90 countries per year
UN-CTS, a major undertaking

- Police data on crimes:
  - Homicide, assault, sexual violence, rape, kidnapping, theft, vehicle theft, burglary, domestic burglary

- Data on criminal justice operations:
  - Police: persons arrested (of which juveniles)
  - Prosecutors: persons prosecuted
  - Courts: persons brought before criminal courts, persons convicted (of which juveniles)
  - Prisons: persons held in prisons (of which juveniles)
UN-CTS 2012: additional module on juvenile justice

Possible topics of data collection:

- Juveniles in pre and post-sentence detention
- Juvenile in detention not separated from adults
- Juveniles sentenced with custodial detention
- Duration of sentenced detention (for children released)
An example of analytical product

UNODC Global Study on Homicide (2011)
468,000 homicides at global level in 2010 (or latest available year)

Africa and the Americas have the highest level of homicide
Homicide rate by country (2010)

Map 1.1: Homicide rates by country (2010 or latest available year)

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Sharp increase in Central America and Caribbean, decline in Asia and Europe
Strong increases in specific areas (2005 and 2010)

Source: National police, statistical offices and criminal justice institutions.
The drivers behind

Clear link between violent crime and human development, rule of law, firearms and organised crime
Homicide levels and development, Americas (1995-2010)

Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2011), UNDP Human Development Index and World Bank Data Gini Index. Bubble size is proportional to the percentage of homicides in countries with HDI or Gini value.
Countries that strengthened their rule of law experienced a decline in homicide rate.

Conversely, countries with increasing homicide, also experienced weakened rule of law.
Role of firearms as enablers of homicide in regions with high homicide levels, often linked to organised crime
Homicide rates and gang/OC related homicides (2010)

Violent crime due to gang/organized crime highest in the Americas

Source: UNODC elaboration of national police data. Bars represent median, 1st and 3rd quartiles of percentage of gang/organized crime-related homicides.
Homicide and demographics: who is at risk?

Men are those most often involved in homicide, accounting for some 80% of homicide victims and perpetrators. Men between 15-44 are the most at risk.
Victims and perpetrators by region

Homicide is often a male affair

Fig. 5.13: Distribution of victims and perpetrators of homicide by sex and region (2009 or latest year available)
Age and sex distribution of victims varies across regions.

In the Americas (high homicide rates), men at young ages most at risk. In Asia (low homicide rates), more balanced risk across age and sex groups.
Mexico: the recent surge in homicide levels mostly affected men in age groups 35-39 and 25-29, but age group 15-19 was also clearly affected.

Women at various age groups (incl. 15-19) also experienced increase of homicide, though at lower levels than men.
Country A: high level of homicides, high percentage by firearm (e.g. Central America)

Country B: high level of homicide (parts of Africa)

Country C: low level of homicide (Europe)

Country D: very low level of homicide (Eastern Asia)

Risk of dying between the age of 20 and 30 was extremely high for ‘Type A’ countries: 1 out of 50 men aged 20 was killed before reaching age 31
Women and Intimate Partner/Family-related Homicide

Women are less frequently victim of homicide, they are often killed by family members
Women are less frequently victim of homicide, but they are often killed by family members.

Fig. 4.1: Percentage distribution of homicide perpetrators by sex of victim, selected European countries (2008 or latest available year)

Source: UNECE Statistical Division Database.
Home is where women are most at risk of being killed, while men are more at risk in the street.
Better data, deeper analysis, improved policies, less crime

Thank you for your attention.

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