



OBSERVATOIRE
NATIONAL DE LA
DELINQUANCE

Crime survey and “État 4001”

January 2007

Publisher : Pierre MONZANI – Editor in chief : Christophe SOULLEZ

Crime Survey

A crime survey is a victimisation survey that questions people face to face about any crime they have experienced during a given period. It is a source of information that complements administrative statistics.

The crimes usually included in the crime survey are burglaries, car thefts, thefts from cars, car vandalism, snatch thefts, muggings or assaults.

For each type of crime, the frequency is measured during the period under consideration (a person could for example have been burgled twice in the same period). There is then a question asking for more details about the most recent crime and another asking whether the crime was reported to the gendarmerie or police or whether a statement was made, and if it was not reported in any form the reasons why.

The indicators provided by crime surveys give a better understanding of the different categories of people and geographical areas that are most exposed to various types of crime. They also measure the existence and the nature of any link there may be between the degree of exposure to crime or crime itself and opinions about security. Using the rate of reporting, it is possible to compare the number of crimes that are not recorded by the police or gendarmerie with those included in the official statistics.

All crimes are not included in the crime surveys (for example: sexual violence, economic and financial crime, crime revealed by police investigations, homicides etc) although they are included in the “État 4001”. For example in the crime survey cases of personal theft are not dealt with overall but by using the example of thefts of mobile phones.

Although crimes against property make it possible to estimate total occurrence, the survey does not yet measure the number of crimes against people, only the number of victims.

Furthermore, the scope of crime as measured by the crime survey is much broader than that measured by official statistics as it includes some of the offences (abuse, minor violence without temporary total disability or vandalism) about which statements have been made but which are not counted in the “État 4001” statistics.

The crime survey therefore provides a source of information that complements the administrative statistics.

“État 4001”

The “État 4001” only relates to facts brought to the attention of the police and gendarmerie and categorised as crimes (reports made by the victims). It therefore excludes offences, which although brought to the attention of the authorities, are not recorded in the official statistics. Nor does it list statements made to the police.

It is therefore understandable that there is a significant difference between the “État 4001” and the results of the survey, which is why, except for some offences (burglaries or car theft), the two sources cannot yet be compared.

For the above reasons it is not possible to add together the 9 million crimes against property and the 3.8 million people aged 14 and over that have been victims of assaults in order to estimate total crime.

When data from the survey and from crime reports are comparable, as is the case for car theft and burglaries, the OND compares them and draws conclusions. Although at present these comparisons are still limited, it is however possible by using the rate of complaints to measure the difference between what is reported in the form of a complaint and the actual numbers of crimes suffered. This is the indicator that should be examined when considering these issues.

A crime survey is therefore a means of finding out about crime that has not been reported whereas the “État 4001” on one hand gives information about the number of reports of crimes and on the other hand measures the activity of the police and gendarmerie.

Given the incidence of the least serious crimes (2.8 million victims of verbal abuse and 2.4 million households that have been victims of vandalism) and the associated low rate of reporting, the figure obtained from the crime survey is far higher than the figure for reported crimes. The difference would be

less if the number of 4th and 5th class offences for vandalism or minor acts of violence recorded by the police and the gendarmerie were counted and if of course all minor crimes were reported to the authorities.

The official statistics reveal known crimes whereas the crime surveys reveal the actual experience of crime. The existence of this difference was known before the OND was set up and the system of annual crime surveys was implemented. The result obtained is therefore no surprise. Nevertheless, the question can be asked about the time France has taken to set up the necessary measurement tools as they have been used in England and the United States for the last 25 years. It has always been a mistake to take statistics about reported crime as an indication of actual crime. The framework has to change. The crimes recorded by the police and gendarmerie should no longer be the sole basis for evaluating crime. The two sources are both necessary and are complementary.

CRIME REPORTED IN CRIME SURVEYS		CRIMES REPORTED IN VARIOUS FORMS TO THE POLICE OR GENDARMERIE		
VICTIMISATION (INSEE / OND survey 2006)		REPORT	FORMAL COMPLAINT	
Victimisation - households	Victimisation - individuals	Statements	Petty offences	Crimes (“État 4001”)
All crimes against households reported in victim surveys (burglary, car theft, motorcycle/bike theft, theft of and from cars including theft of car accessories, vandalism of homes, vandalism of vehicles).	All physical or verbal aggression reported by individuals in crime surveys (theft with violence, physical violence excluding theft, verbal abuse or threats).	Statements made by users about facts that do not constitute petty offences or crimes. Statements about crime where the victims do not wish to make a formal complaint but merely make a statement.	All 1 st to 5 th class petty offences including minor violence (with total temporary disability < 8 days and without any aggravating circumstances), abuse and minor acts of vandalism.	All crimes recorded by the police and gendarmerie.
For example: in 2005 households reported 9 million crimes against property of which 5.5 million acts of vandalism and 3.5 million thefts.	For example: in 2005 nearly 8% of people questioned stated they had suffered at least one act of aggression. Of the 3.8 million victims, 72.3% stated that the most recent act of aggression was in the form of abuse or threats.	For example in 2005, the computerised record of statements relating to public security recorded 805,341 statements and the records of the prefecture of police 65,484. In 2006, the computerised record of statements recorded 896,744 statements and the records of the prefecture of police in Paris 58,733.	For example: in 2005 the national gendarmerie issued 45,672 bookings for minor violence. In 2006, it issued 46,327.	For example in 2005, the police and the national gendarmerie recorded 411,350 intentional acts of violence against the person, 2,633,571 crimes against property, 318,680 acts of fraud and economic and financial offences, 317,422 crimes revealed by investigations carried out by police and 229,063 other crimes. In total in 2005, nearly 3,775,838 crimes were recorded by the police and the gendarmerie. In 2006, they recorded 2,534,097 attacks on property, 434,183 intentional acts of violence against the person, 334,064 acts of fraud and economic and financial offences, 335,160 crimes revealed by investigations carried out by police and 225,097 other crimes. In total, nearly 3,725,588 crimes were recorded.