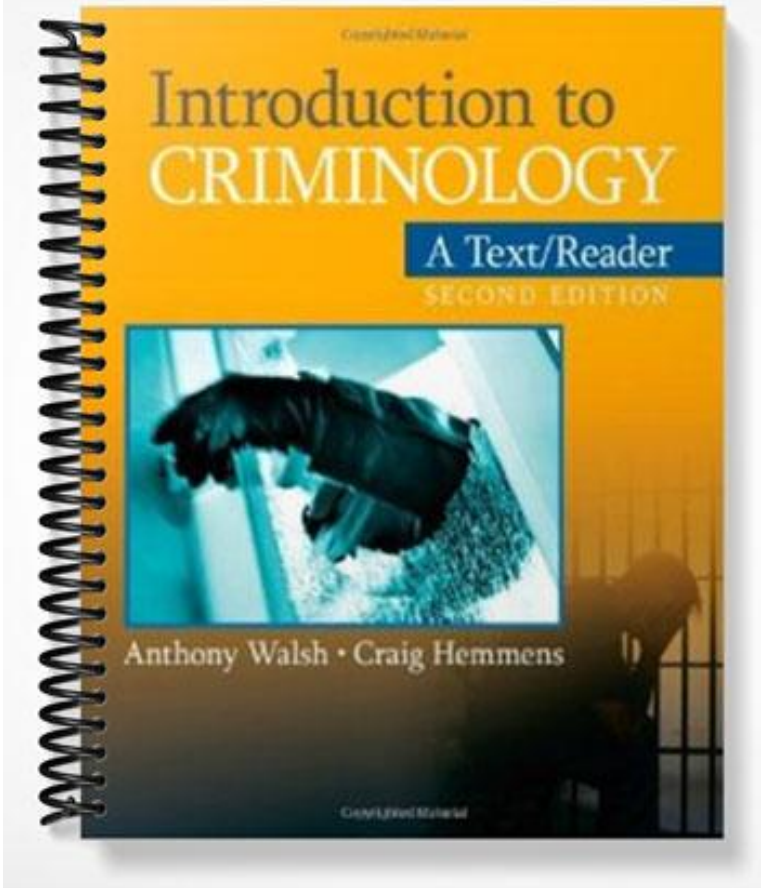
TEST BANK


Introduction to
CRIMINOLOGY
A Text/Reader
SECOND EDITION
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Introduction to Criminology: A Text/Reader
Section 2 – Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior

Multiple Choice

1. The primary source of official crime statistics in the United States is the annual _____ published by the FBI.
A. NIBRS report
B. UCR
C. NCVS
D. self-report survey

Answer: B

2. The crime _____ is the actual number of reported crimes standardized by some unit of the population.
A. Rate
B. Statistic
C. Degree
D. Ratio

Answer: A

3. Which of the following is classified as an index crime?
A. Arson
B. Embezzlement
C. Public Drunkenness
D. Traffic Violations

Answer: A

4. If a person is arrested and charged for a Part I offense, the UCR records the crime as _____ by arrest.
A. Cleared
B. Established
C. Resolved

D. Solved

Answer: A

5. Which of the following is true of the number of crimes reported to police?
A. It is the best source available to criminologists to assess the "dark figure of crime."
B. This number is a direct reflection of the number of crimes actually committed.
C. Due to false reports, this number is larger than the number of crimes actually committed.
D. Due to unreported crimes, this number is smaller than the number of crimes actually committed.

Answer: D

6. The official source of crime data that includes detailed information on the circumstances surrounding a criminal incident, including victim and offender characteristics is known as:
A. UCR
B. NCVS
C. NIBRS
D. DSM-V

Answer: C

7. The term "index crime" refers to:
A. The nation's murder rate.
B. Part I offenses on the UCR.
C. Part II offenses on the UCR.
D. The rate of violent victimizations reported on the NCVS.

Answer: B

8. When attempting to understand, predict, and control any social problem, including the crime problem, the first step is to determine its _____.
A. Cause
B. Seriousness
C. Source
D. Extent

Answer: D

9. The "hierarchy rule" impacts which data source?
A. UCR
B. NCVS
C. NIBRS
D. Self-report surveys

Answer: A

10. The "hierarchy rule" refers to the:
A. Fact that those of a higher socioeconomic status are less likely to be arrested for crimes.
B. Ranking system of different crime data sources by their level of accuracy.
C. Practice of only reporting the most serious offense committed in a given incident.
D. Tendency of respondents to only report serious crimes in self-report surveys.

Answer: C

11. One weakness of the NCVS is that it:
A. Only reflects crimes that have been reported to the police.
B. Only provides statistics on property crimes.
C. Is not based on a representative sample of the United States.
D. Does not provide any statistics on "victimless" crimes.

Answer: D

12. One weakness of NIBRS is that it:
A. Has not yet been widely adopted by police agencies.
B. Is subject to respondents' memory lapses.
C. Tends to overestimate crime rates.
D. Does not include data on violent crimes.

Answer: A

13. One strength of the NCVS is that it provides:
A. Data that has been held to strict legal standards.

B. A good source of information on rates of drug use.
C. Access to information on crimes that have not been reported to the police.
D. Detailed information on each criminal incident.

Answer: C

14. Which agency collects and distributes statistics on specific fugitive individuals wanted for particularly serious crimes, including the publication of a list of the "ten most wanted"?
A. Central Intelligence Agency
B. Department of Homeland Security
C. Federal Bureau of Investigation
D. United States Marshals

Answer: C

15. A strength of NIBRS is that it provides:
A. A good source of information on rates of drug use.
B. Access to information on crimes that have not been reported to the police.
C. Data from a large number of police agencies nationwide.
D. Detailed information on each criminal incident.

Answer: D

16. One advantage of self-report surveys is that they provide a:
A. Good source of information regarding violent crimes.
B. Way for criminologists to collect data without relying on government sources.
C. Good reflection of the crimes reported to police each year.
D. Data that has been held to strict legal standards.

Answer: B

17. Which of the following data sources allows researchers to correlate a variety of characteristics of respondents, such as the trait of impulsiveness, with their admitted offenses?
A. UCR
B. NCVS
C. NIBRS
D. Self-report surveys

Answer: D

18. Which of the following crimes is included in NCVS statistics?
A. Drug use
B. Murder
C. Prostitution
D. Rape

Answer: D

19. Self-report studies are the most appropriate for gathering information on:
A. The nature of serious crime.
B. Gender and racial differences in antisocial behavior.
C. The extent of minor offenses.
D. The rates of crime that are reported to the police.

Answer: C

20. Which of the following is commonly used to refer to the number of crimes that are committed, but which never come to official attention?

A. The dark figure of crime.
B. The undiscovered crime rate.
C. Unknown deviance.
D. The indexed crimes.

Answer: A

21. A criminologist wants to learn about the rates of truancy and smoking among adolescents. To do this, (s)he would be best-served by referencing which of the following sources?
A. UCR
B. NCVS
C. NIBRS
D. Self-report surveys

Answer: D

22. The UCR and NCVS agree that most offenders and victims of crime are:
A. Female
B. Middle-Aged
C. Wealthy
D. Young

Answer: D

23. The NCVS is conducted by the Census Bureau on behalf of:
A. The Bureau of Justice Statistics
B. The Federal Bureau of Investigation
C. Homeland Security
D. The American Society of Criminology

Answer: A

24. Which of the following is <u>not</u> considered a major source of crime data for criminologists?
A. Official statistics
B. Self-reported data
C. The media
D. Victimization surveys

Answer: C

25. The UCR is compiled by:
A. The Bureau of Justice Statistics
B. The Federal Bureau of Investigation
C. Homeland Security
D. The American Society of Criminology

Answer: B

True/False

1. True or False? A crime rate is calculated by standardizing the number of reported crimes by some unit of the population.

Answer: True

2. True or False? Nearly all index crimes are *mala prohibita* offenses.

Answer: False

3. True or False? NIBRS has almost completely replaced the UCR as the leading source of official crime statistics.

Answer: False

4. True or False? Index crimes can only be cleared by arrest.

Answer: False

5. True or False? Police agencies are required by federal law to participate in the UCR reporting program.

Answer: False

6. True or False? The UCR and NCVS agree on the basic demographics of those most likely to commit crimes.

Answer: True

7. True or False? Because NCVS only surveys households, crimes committed against commercial establishments are not included.

Answer: True

8. True or False? One benefit of the NCVS is that it attempts to capture the extent of illegal drug usage among youth.

Answer: False

9. True or False? The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) was first implemented in the 1930s.

Answer: False

10. True or False? The "crime rate" refers to the raw number of incidents of crime that have occurred in a given area.

Answer: False

11. True or False? Because all data sources converge on some very important points about crime, they enable us to proceed with at least some confidence in our endeavors to understand the whys of crime.

Answer: True

12. True or False? The UCR is the primary source of official crime statistics in the United States.

Answer: True

13. True or False? "NCVS" stands for "National Crime Victimization Survey."

Answer: True

14. True or False? The NCVS and UCR are in general agreement regarding recent crime trends.

Answer: True

15. True or False? Females tend to be more honest than males in their responses to self-report surveys.

Answer: True

Short Answer

1. What does "N.I.B.R.S." stand for?

Answer: "National Incident-Based Reporting System"

2. Identify one advantage that NIBRS has over the UCR as a source of crime data.

Answer: Examples: It does not use the "hierarchy rule," and it provides more detailed information regarding the circumstances of each offense.

3. Identify one weakness of self-report surveys.

Answer: Examples: It does not provide a good measure of serious crimes; it is subject to the dishonesty of respondents; most of these studies are based on "convenience" samples.

4. Identify two "index crimes."

Answer: Possibilities: homicide, assault, forcible rape, robbery, larceny/theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

5. What are the three major categories of sources for crime data?

Answer: Official statistics, victimization survey data, and self-report data.

6. What does it mean when we say "cleared by arrest?"

Answer: A person has been arrested and charged for a Part I crime.

7. What is the "dark figure of crime"?

Answer: The portion of total crimes committed each year that never come to light.

8. How are crime rates calculated?

Answer: A crime rate is the actual number of reported crimes standardized by some unit of the population.

Essay

1. What is the difference between the NIBRS and the UCR? List and describe the problems related with each data collection tool.

2. Discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of the UCR and NCVS in assessing the number of rapes that occur in the U.S. in a given year. Which do you feel is a stronger tool for this purpose? Support your answer.

3. List and briefly describe the main ways crime and criminal behavior are measured in the United States.

4. Explain self-report surveys, and describe their strengths and weaknesses.