Methodology for Compiling Crime Statistics in the South African Police Service

#CrimeMustFall
1. Introduction.

2. Methodology:
   - Data Collection;
   - Data Registration;
   - Crime Classification: Broad Categories;
   - Periodic Crime Statistics; &


4. Quality Improvement Initiatives.

Section 218 (f) of the Interim Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1993 (Act No. 200 of 1993) provides that “subject to the directions of the Minister of Safety and Security, the National Commissioner will be responsible for the keeping and provision of crime intelligence data, criminal records and statistics”.


National Instruction 3/2011:

- Provides the crime definitions to be utilised by police officials for purposes of the opening of case dockets and the registration thereof on the Crime Administration System (CAS)/Investigation Case Docket Management System (ICDMS).
INTRODUCTION: SCOPE

→ Reported crime that was perpetrated within the borders of South Africa.

→ All crimes reported at the 1 144 police stations, including satellites and ports of entry.

→ All crimes reported by:
  - The victim;
  - The witness;
  - Third parties; &
  - Detected by the South African Police Service (SAPS) during any policing activity.
→ Administrative data collection process:

- Process starts with recording criminal incidents;
- The source document used for this purpose is a case docket;
- The first information of crime is obtained from the complainant/victim;
- The Community Service Centre (CSC) Commander peruses the case docket for correctness and completeness before it is registered on the CAS/ICDMS; &
- The first statement of crime must contain four elements of crime, namely:
  - Principle of legality, incident constitutes an offence;
  - A human being had to have performed the act;
  - Unlawfulness, the conduct contravenes a statutory requirement or a common law rule; &
  - Culpability, i.e. intention or negligence.
- Questions asked to obtain all relevant information on the reported incident include: who was involved (the victim and/or perpetrator), when and where the offence was committed, how did it happen and why was the person reporting the crime there.
All crimes reported are recorded:

- Irrespective of **when** the crimes were committed.
- The elements of crime are assessed to ensure that the correct **classification or “charge”** is allocated to the incident.
- The number of **counts** associated with the identified offence are then determined.
- Preliminary **investigations and inspections** on the incident are conducted to ensure that the information reported is accurate and complete.
Registration on CAS/ICDMS:
- The information captured in the docket is registered on CAS/ICDMS;
- A case number is automatically generated by CAS/ICDMS; &
- The CSC Commander again checks the correctness and completeness of crime data on CAS/ICDMS against the information in the case docket.

Crime Codes & Daily Summary of Serious Crime (DSSC) Codes:
- Charge(s) is/are allocated crime code(s) on CAS/ICDMS;
- Crime codes are aggregated into DSSC Codes; &
- DSSC codes are used for reporting on crime statistics.

Crime Counting Rules:
- The counting unit is a charge: a case docket may contain one or more charges; &
- The released crime statistics represent the number of charges and not the number of case dockets.
Purpose:

- Crime is categorised to group crimes with similar characteristics together;
- Clarify the nature of crime and facilitate the understanding of the various crime categories;
- and
- To develop policing strategies, specifically focusing on problematic categories, e.g. TRIO crimes.

Five Broad Crime Categories (The analysis of crime statistics is enabled by grouping serious crimes into):

- Contact crimes (crimes against the person);
- Contact related crimes;
- Property related crimes;
- Other serious crimes, &
- Crimes dependent on police action for detection.

17 Community-reported serious crimes
## METHODOLOGY: CRIME CLASSIFICATION - BROAD CATEGORIES OF CRIME (2)

### 17 Community-Reported Serious Crimes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Crimes</th>
<th>Contact-related Crimes</th>
<th>Property-related Crimes</th>
<th>Other Serious Crimes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>→ Murder</td>
<td>→ Arson</td>
<td>→ Burglary at residential premises</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→ Sexual offences</td>
<td>→ Malicious damage to property</td>
<td>→ Burglary at non-residential premises</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Attempted murder</td>
<td></td>
<td>→ Theft of motor vehicle and motor cycle</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Assault GBH</td>
<td></td>
<td>→ Theft out of or from motor vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Common assault</td>
<td></td>
<td>→ Stock theft</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Common robbery</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Robbery aggravated including the following TRIO Crimes:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Carjacking</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Robbery – residential</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Robbery – non-residential</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>→ Other theft</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>→ Commercial crime</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>→ Shoplifting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 Crimes detected as result of police action

→ Illegal Possession of firearm and ammunition
→ Drug-related Crimes
→ Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs
→ Sexual offences detected as a result of police action
→ All crimes recorded at the stations within a particular cluster, should collectively add up to the total of the crimes recorded in that cluster.

→ The crimes recorded in the clusters within a province, should collectively add up to the total crimes in that province.

→ The crime recorded in the nine provinces, should collectively add up to the national total.
→ Daily crime statistics:

- Reported crime is discussed at the **Station Crime Combating Forum (SCCF)** on a daily basis and weekly at the **Cluster Crime Combating Forum (CCCF)**.

- The **Crime Information Management Analysis Centre (CIMAC)** at the station advises station management on crimes incorrectly registered, incorrectly mapped, incorrect crime counts and the daily crime pattern analysis.

- The daily statistics are used for **operational planning** and to direct the deployment of resources.

- The statistics are distributed to **internal stakeholders only**.
Monthly crime statistics:

- Reported crime is discussed at the Provincial Crime Combating Form (PCCF) on a monthly basis.

- The Provincial Head: Crime Registrar advises provincial management on crime incorrectly registered, incorrect crime counts and the monthly crime pattern analysis.

- The National Crime Registrar will then draw a “snap-shot” of all crimes registered in all provinces to brief the National Crime Combating Forum (NCCF) on the crime situation.

- The snap-shot is drawn once all the station crime information has synchronised on the Crime Management Information System (CMIS).

- The statistics are also distributed to internal stakeholders only.
Quarterly crime statistics:

- Reported crime is discussed at the NCCF and National Management Form (NMF) on a quarterly basis.
- The snap-shot is drawn once all the station crime information has synchronised.
- This snap shot will be frozen for the quarter and be used to produce the preliminary quarterly crime reports.
- The quarterly statistics are compared to the same period in the previous financial year.
- These quarterly crime reports are disseminated to the public, subsequent to the submission of the statistics to Cabinet.
Annual crime statistics:

- At end of each financial year, a **re-draw** of the crime statistics is performed, allowing all amendments to reflect in the annual crime statistics.
  - The quarterly crime statistics from the **redrawn statistics** might differ slightly from the frozen quarterly crime statistics.
- Cases closed off as **unfounded** are subtracted from the redrawn annual crime statistics.
- The statistics are then used in the compilation of the **annual Crime Statistics Report**.
- The **annual Crime Statistics Report** is disseminated to the public.
Crime ratios will be used to **compute crime rates** only for crimes against a person.

The crime ratios are used to compare crime rates for **equal portions of the population**. (e.g. per 100 000 population).

The enables **the comparison of crime rate to population** increase per province.

The crime ratios are **computed at national and provincial levels** due to misalignment of station boundaries with those of the enumeration area.
→ Crime ratio:

- Computed as follows:

  ▪ Crime ratio = \( \frac{\text{Crime figure}}{\text{Population size}} \times 100\,000 \).

→ Percentage change:

- Percentage change involves determining if a crime has increased or decreased, compared to the corresponding period.

  ▪ Percentage Change = \( \frac{\text{Past figure} - \text{Current figure}}{\text{Past Figure}} \times 100 \).
CRIME STATISTICS : DATA SOURCES

→ CAS/ICDMS:
  - CAS/ICDMS is the main source of data, a live system, therefore information is updated frequently.
  - Other sub-systems extract information from CAS/ICDMS.
    ▪ The extracted information is restructured into a more presentable and user-friendly format, for example using the Geographical Information System (GIS), Management Information System, etc.

→ Crime Information Management System (CIMS) or SAPS 6:
  - Used to archive synchronised reported crime data and data regarding case progress on a monthly basis.
  - Division: Technology Management Services (TMS) provides this information to Crime Registrar on monthly basis.

→ Statistics South Africa:
  - Provides quarterly and annual population estimates.
Crime Data Quality Management:
- To enhance the crime statistics quality at station level, the CIMAC conducts daily quality checks. Any discrepancies are discussed and rectified at the SCCF.
- The Provincial Crime Registrar oversees the process and conducts quality assurance checks at sampled stations.
- The National Crime Registrar: Quality Assurance Sub-section, performs the same function.
- A Technical Working Team (TWT) was established based on Memorandum of Agreement (MoU) between Statistics SA and the SAPS.
- The TWT is responsible for:
  - Quality assessments of the annual crime statistics prior to release.
  - Implementation of actions to address quality concerns and recommendations.

The previous two annual Crime Statistics Reports were quality assessed and the process endorsed, by the Statistician General.
The Crime Registrar is developing **policies and standards** covering the whole statistical value chain of crime statistics production.

**Approved policies include:**
- Policy on Crime Statistics; &

**Draft annexures to the policies include:**
- Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes;
- Crime Counting Rules;
- Standard Guidelines on Crime Registrar Station Products;
- Standard Operating Procedure on Crime Registrar Station Products;
- Dissemination & Revision Polices;
- Crime statistics User Guide; &
- Quality Assurance Framework.
Thank You