

There are three primary methods used to measure and collect statistics on the nature and extent of crime. Each has its benefits and limitations:

1. **Official data** derive from crimes known to have occurred that are recorded by law enforcement agencies. The FBI's [Uniform Crime Reports](#) is the most comprehensive source for this type of data in the U.S.
2. **Victim data** derive from surveys which ask people about their experiences with crime. This type of data is useful for understanding unreported crimes that do not appear in official data sources. The BJS [National Crime Victimization Survey](#) is the most important source for data of this type in the U.S.
3. **Self-Report data** attempt to assess the true extent of various crime patterns by measuring such things as a person's attitudes, values, personal characteristics or behaviors. The [Monitoring the Future Survey](#) is an example of data that is gathered to understand drug use among juveniles.

## General Statistical Sources

The following general sources provide good starting points for searching for criminal justice data in the United States. Tables in each source will list the original source of the data and enable access to more detailed information.

- **Statistical Abstract of the United States** – U.S. Census Bureau  
<http://www.census.gov/statab/www/>  
Latest print edition also at the **Michnr Ref Desk**  
Older print editions back to 1878: **Michnr Gov Fed**; C 3.134  
A collection of U.S. statistics on social and economic conditions. In recent editions, "Section 5. Law Enforcement, Courts, and Prison." contains data on crime, victims, arrests, and convictions.
- **Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics** – Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)  
<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>  
Older print editions back to 1987 in **Michnr Gov Fed**; J 29.9/6  
Provides data from over 100 sources about various aspects of criminal justice in the United States.
- **County and City Data Book** – U.S. Census Bureau  
<http://www.census.gov/statab/www/ccdb.html>  
Available in print: **Michnr Ref**; HA202 .A36  
Provides statistics for occurrences of violent and property crimes at the state, county and city (over 25,000 population) level.
- **LexisNexis Statistical** - database  
From <http://source.unco.edu> →select the" Online databases and article indexes" link →Click "L" → Select LexisNexis Statistical  
Access to statistical tables and abstracts of documents from international federal, and state government agencies; IGO's; associations; research organizations; and universities.

## State

Most state level data is available in the Federal sources listed below. However, states have Statistical Analysis Centers (SAC's) to collect, analyze, and disseminate criminal justice data. The Justice Research and Statistics Association maintains a current list of SAC contact information and links to Web sites:

<http://www.jrsa.org/sac/>

The Colorado SAC is the Dept.of Public Safety. Division of Criminal Justice. Office of Research Statistics. Official data on adult and juvenile offenses and rates of incarceration in Colorado are available at:

<http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/statistics.htm>

## Federal

- **FedStats: Crime and Justice**

<http://www.fedstats.gov/programs/crime.html>

Provides contact information and the key statistics provided by U.S. federal agencies which collect data on “Crime and Justice”.

- **Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports** – Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>

A primary source for official data on national, state, metropolitan and city level crime statistics

- **Criminal Victimization** – Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvictgen.htm>

Includes various reports on data derived from the annual National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

- **Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics** – United States Sentencing Commission (USSC)

<http://www.ussc.gov/annrpts.htm>

The USSC is tasked with providing data for federal judges to consult during sentencing in order to help ensure consistent and fair sentencing ranges. This report includes data on federal sentences and appeals. Includes data by district.

- **National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD)**

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/>

Raw data is available for download from many U.S. and international agencies in pdf, SAS and other data formats. The online Data Analysis System (DAS) provides a mechanism for analyzing data from multiple sources.

## International

- **“International Justice Statistics”** – Bureau of Justice Statistics

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/ijs.htm>

Provides links to international statistical sources from the BJS, United Nations, many individual countries, and datasets from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data.

- **Eighth United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (2001 - 2002)** (published 2005)

[http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime\\_cicp\\_survey\\_eighth.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime_cicp_survey_eighth.html)

Data on the incidence of reported crime and the operation of criminal justice systems for all member states of the United Nations.

- **International Crime Victimization Survey – jointly organized by UNICRI and UNODC**

[www.unicri.it/icvs/](http://www.unicri.it/icvs/)

The most far-reaching program of standardized sample surveys to look at people’s experiences with crime, policing, prevention, and feelings of insecurity across multiple of nations.

## Further Selected Resources

- Criminal justice information : how to find it, how to use it / **Michnr Ref** ; HV7419.5 .C75 1998
- Using government information sources : electronic and print / **Michnr Ref Desk**
- Statistics on crime & punishment : a selection of statistical charts, graphs and tables about crime and punishment from a variety of published sources with explanatory comments / **Mich Ref**; HV6787 .S73 1996