



UN-HABITAT

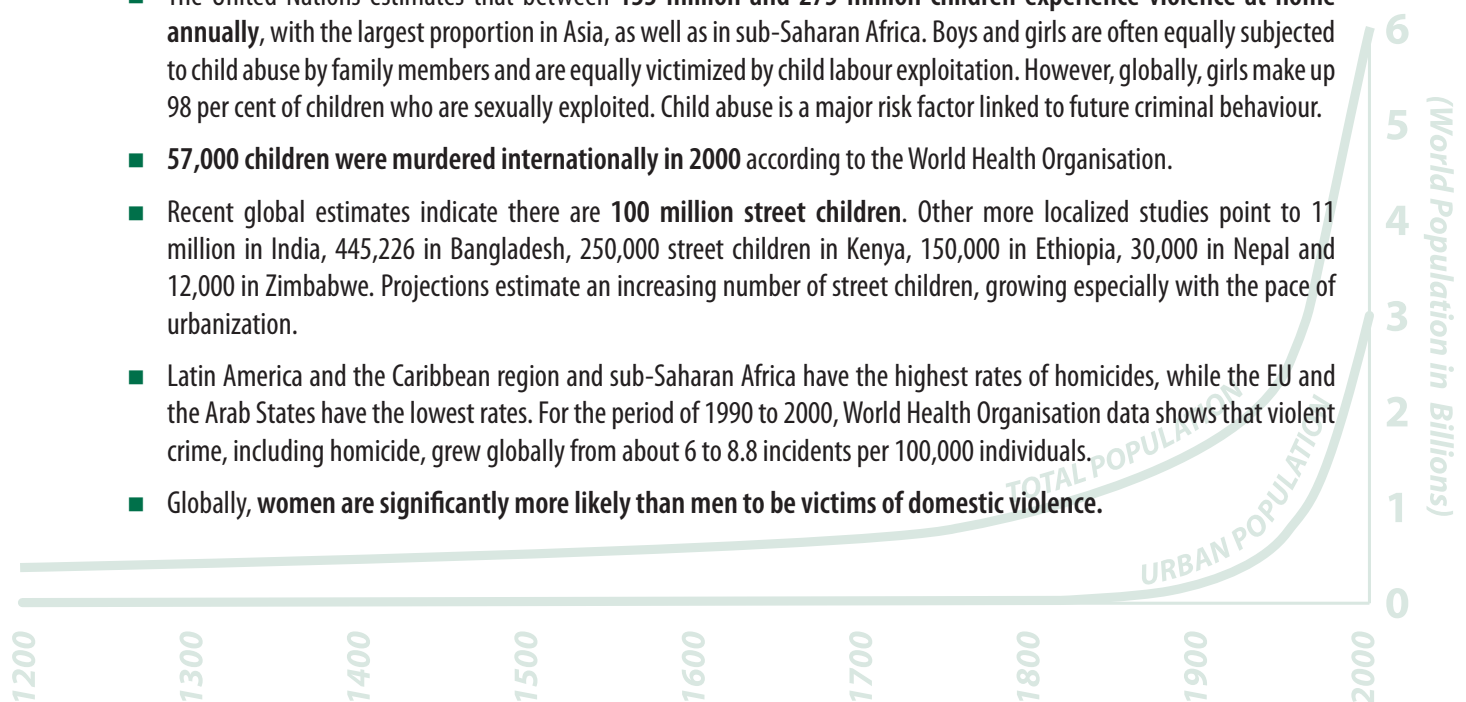


International Youth Crime Prevention & Cities Summit

17 - 21 June 2008, Durban, South Africa

Global overview

- Based on UN surveys, **crime rates at both the global and regional levels have increased steadily** over the period 1980 – 2000 rising about 30 per cent from 2,300 to over 3,000 crimes per 100,000 people. Violent crimes in particular are on the increase.
- While the rates of personal crime vary significantly within regions and countries, it has been estimated that **60 per cent of all urban dwellers in developing countries have been crime victims** with rates of at least 70 per cent in parts of Latin America and Africa.
- In **North America and Western Europe, total crime rates fell** significantly over the past two decades, whereas in Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Africa, total crime rates increased.
- There were almost **50 million property and violent crimes recorded by police in 34 industrialized countries** in 2001 alone.
- **Robbery is the highest reported personal crime** as it results in both injury and loss of property to victims and increases the general fear of crime. Global robbery trends have increased between 1980 and 2000, from about 40 per cent to over 60 per cent.
- The highest robbery rates are in South America followed by South Africa while the lowest rates are in South Asia and the Middle East.
- Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean report double-digit figures of cases of homicides, while significantly lower rates are reported for Southeast Asia, Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean and the West Pacific region. Colombia, South Africa, Jamaica, Guatemala and Venezuela have the highest homicide rates, while Japan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Spain, Cyprus and Norway have the lowest.
- The United Nations estimates that between **133 million and 275 million children experience violence at home annually**, with the largest proportion in Asia, as well as in sub-Saharan Africa. Boys and girls are often equally subjected to child abuse by family members and are equally victimized by child labour exploitation. However, globally, girls make up 98 per cent of children who are sexually exploited. Child abuse is a major risk factor linked to future criminal behaviour.
- **57,000 children were murdered internationally in 2000** according to the World Health Organisation.
- Recent global estimates indicate there are **100 million street children**. Other more localized studies point to 11 million in India, 445,226 in Bangladesh, 250,000 street children in Kenya, 150,000 in Ethiopia, 30,000 in Nepal and 12,000 in Zimbabwe. Projections estimate an increasing number of street children, growing especially with the pace of urbanization.
- Latin America and the Caribbean region and sub-Saharan Africa have the highest rates of homicides, while the EU and the Arab States have the lowest rates. For the period of 1990 to 2000, World Health Organisation data shows that violent crime, including homicide, grew globally from about 6 to 8.8 incidents per 100,000 individuals.
- Globally, **women are significantly more likely than men to be victims of domestic violence**.



Africa

- **Urban areas** in Africa have the highest reported levels of burglary, with victimization rates of over 8 per cent of the population. Although a non-violent crime, burglary is a serious offence in developing regions such as Africa.
- In **South Africa**, the police in 2000 recorded 460 robberies for every 100,000 people, with 30 per cent of residents in Johannesburg reporting to have been victims of robbery.

Americas

- **Washington DC** has the highest reported murder rate in the world. This is linked to a number of risk factors including significant social and economic inequality, a high proportion of impoverished citizens and a widespread availability of guns.
- Violence is among the highest causes of death among **African–American** males in the US. The homicide death rate for African–American males aged 15 to 24 is 12 times the rate for white males in the same age category and twice the rate for Hispanic males.
- In **Latin America**, where 80 per cent of the population is urban, the rapidly expanding metropolitan areas of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Mexico City and Caracas account for over half of the violent crimes in their respective countries.
- In **Brazil**, more than 100 people are killed by guns every day, and the gun-related death rate in Rio de Janeiro is more than double the national average.
- Murder rates in **Jamaica** rose from 8.1 in 1970 to 40 per 100,000 people in 2002, and 64 per 100,000 in 2005, making Jamaica one of the nations with the highest murder rates in the world. In response, the Ministry of National Security embarked on a major process of developing the necessary multi-level law enforcement infrastructure required to tackle the problem of crime and violence. Amongst other initiatives, the UK's Scotland Yard helped train the Jamaica Constabulary Force.
- A national study in the **US**, estimates that 29 per cent of women and 22 per cent of men are victims of domestic violence during their lifetime.

Asia

- **Japan** has the lowest youth homicide rate worldwide with 0.4 per 100,000 individuals, followed by **France**; 0.6 per 100,000, **Germany**; 0.8 per 100,000; and the **UK** with 0.9 per 100,000.
- Almost half of **Pakistani** women who report rape to authorities are jailed as a result of the Hudood Ordinances, which criminalize sexual relationships (including rape) outside of marriage. Pakistani women are also victims of honour killings, which are private acts condoned by social and cultural norms. Hundreds of women are victimized and killed each year by burnings or acid attacks from their intimate partners.

Europe

- Surveys in the **UK** show there were almost 500,000 official reports of domestic violence in 2000. Furthermore, 4 per cent of women and 2 per cent of men were victims of non-sexual domestic violence during 2001.
- **Central and South Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)** are both leading points of origin and transit for human trafficking, with Germany as the top destination for women and children trafficked for sexual purposes.