

CHAPTER 37

CRIME STATISTICS

The history of Crime is perhaps as old as the history of human civilization. In the context of present day situation, the incidence of crime can take myriad forms and the forms it takes are also related to the overall process of growth and socio-economic complexities existing in the present day society. Crime affects everybody irrespective of economic conditions, social positions or age of the affected persons. Crime is a major threat to the stability of society and it seriously hampers the economic development of the society and social harmony, which is why it is of paramount importance for policy planners, administrators of criminal justice system, researchers and others to study the patterns of crime.

In India the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C.) divides all the crimes into two categories:

1. Cognizable - Sec.2(c) CrPC
2. Non-cognizable – Sec.2(l) CrPC

Cognizable Crimes

A cognizable offence or case is defined as the one which an officer in-charge of a police station may investigate without the order of a magistrate and affect arrest without warrant. The police have a direct responsibility to take immediate action on the receipt of a complaint or of credible information in such crimes, visit the scene of the crime, investigate the facts, apprehend the offender and arraign him before a court of law having jurisdiction over the matter. Cognizable crimes are broadly categorized as those falling either under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or under the Special and Local Laws (SLL).

Non- Cognizable Crimes

Non- Cognizable crimes are defined as those which can not be investigated by police without the order of a competent magistrate. Police does not initiate investigation in non-cognizable crimes except with magisterial permission. First schedule of the Cr.P.C. gives the classification of the offences of the IPC into cognizable & non-cognizable categories.

The various crimes that are being registered and investigated by different law enforcement agencies are broadly grouped under the following categories for Statistical Information System.

Juvenile

Male below the age of 16 years and female below the age of 18 years are considered as juveniles under Juvenile Justice Act 2000.

Broad classification of crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)

1. **Crimes Against Body:** Murder, Its attempt, Culpable Homicide not amounting to Murder, Kidnapping & Abduction, Hurt, Causing Death by Negligence;
2. **Crimes Against Property:** Dacoity, its preparation & assembly, Robbery, Burglary, Theft;
3. **Crimes Against Public order :** Riots, Arson;
4. **Economic Crimes:** Criminal Breach of Trust, Cheating, Counterfeiting;
5. **Crimes Against Women :** Rape, Dowry Death, Cruelty by Husband and Relatives, Molestation, Sexual harassment and Importation of Girls;
6. **Crimes Against Children :** Child Rape, Kidnapping & Abduction of Children, Procreation of minor girls, Selling/Buying of girls for Prostitution, Abetment to Suicide, Exposure and Abandonment, Infanticide, Foeticide;
7. Other IPC crimes.

Crimes under the Special and Local Laws (SLL)

- I. Arms Act, 1959;
- II. Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985;
- III. Gambling Act, 1867;
- IV. Excise Act, 1944;
- V. Prohibition Act;
- VI. Explosives & Explosive substances Act, 1884 & 1908.
- VII. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956;
- VIII. Railways Act, 1989;
- IX. Registration of Foreigners Act, 1930;
- X. Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955;
- XI. Indian Passport Act, 1967;
- XII. Essential Commodities Act, 1955;
- XIII. Terrorist & Disruptive Activities Act;
- XIV. Antiquities & Art Treasures Act, 1972
- XV. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961;
- XVI. Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929;
- XVII. Indecent Representation of women (Prohibition Act, 1986;
- XVIII. Copyright Act, 1957;
- XIX. Sati Prevention Act, 1987;
- XX. SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;
- XXI. Forest Act, 1927;
- XXII. Other crimes (not specified above) under Special and Local Laws including Cyber Laws under Information Technology Act (IT), 2000.

The rate of total crimes (IPC + SLL) was 515.0 in 2008 showing a decline of 7.26% over 2004 and an increase of 2.08% over 2007.

Population & Crime rate

Mid-year estimated population is used for calculating crime rate. The crime rate defined as the 'number of crimes' per 1,00,000 population is universally taken as a realistic indicator since it balances the effect of growth in population.

Crimes in Mega Cities

Mega cities, that is the cities having population of over 10 lac (1 Million), are facing criminal activities on account of a number of socio-economic factors increased from 23 in 1991 to 35 in 2001. In 2008 about 3.5 lacs cognizable crimes under the IPC were reported in 35 mega cities. The cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore have accounted for 12.8%, 9.4% and 8.5% respectively of the total crimes reported from 35 mega cities. The average rate of crime in Urban Agglomeration centers at 321.8 was much higher than the national average of 181.5. Indore reported the highest crime rate of 941.4 among the mega cities followed by Bhopal 791.4 and Jaipur 663.0. The city of Kolkata reported the least crime rate of 98.4. National average of 181.5 Indore reported the highest crime rate of 941.4 among the mega cities followed by Bhopal 791.4 and Jaipur 663.0 the city of Kolkata reported the least crime rate of 98.4.

Highlights

- 20,93,379 cognizable crimes under India Penal Code (IPC) were reported in 2008 showing an increase of 5.2% over 2007 (19,89,673)
- Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra each accounted for 9.9% of total IPC crimes reported in the country in 2008. Other states which are having more than 5% IPC Crimes in 2008 are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

- During 2008, maximum number of murder under IPC was reported in Uttar Pradesh (13.9%) whereas highest crime rates in Decoity, Robbery, Theft, and Roits were reported in Maharashtra.
- The cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru have accounted for 12.8%, 9.4% and 8.5% respectively of the total IPC crimes reported from 35 mega cities.
- In 2008, trials were completed in 1052623 IPC crime cases out of total 7833842 cases pending on trials. 1554 cases were compounded or withdrawn and 6625756 IPC cases remained pending for trial in courts as on December 31, 2008.
- Maximum number of pending cases as on December 31, 2008 are in Maharastra (16.8%) followed by Gujarat (10.7), Madhya Pradesh (9.5%). Uttar Pradesh (6.7%), Bihar (6.7%), West Bengal (6.2%).
- Maximum number of Trails completed as on December 31, 2008 are in Tamilnadu (123496) followed by Madhya Pradesh (114813), Uttar Pradesh (96583), Andhra Pradesh (83170).
- Since 2001, percentage of property recovered cases out of total properly stolen cases through Dacoity, Robbery, Burglary, Theft, Criminal Breach of Trust and Other offences hover around 35%.
- Out of total juvenile IPC crimes reported in India, maximum 21.2% are from Madhya Pradesh followed by 18.7% from Maharastra 6.9% are from Gujarat. Around 4.5% of these juvenile IPC crimes are from each of the state Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana.
- A large chunk of juveniles(62.2%) who were apprehended belonged to the poor families whose annual income was up to 25,000/-. The share of juveniles hailing from middle incomes group (50,000/- 2,00,000/-) was 13.6%.
- The Actual strength of Civil Police in the country during 2008 stood at 1132202, showing an increase of 3.3% over the previous year. Maharashtra has the highest strength of Civil Police 15221 accounting for 13.4% of the total civil police in the country followed by Uttar Pradesh 107840(9.5%).
- The Actual Strength of Armed Police in the country during 2008 was 341393 showing an increase of 3.6% over 2007. Uttar Pradesh had the highest contingent of Armed Police 930605 followed by Jammu and Kashmir (247330) and Assam (23829). The strength of Armed Police was more than that of Civil Police in only four North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

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