

**BACK TO BASICS**  
TOWARDS A SAFER TOMORROW



# 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; &**
  - **Crime Statistics : Computation.**
- 3. Crime Statistics : Data Sources.**
- 4. Quality Improvement Initiatives.**
- 5. Crime Statistics Management & Policy Enhancement.**



- 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”*.
- The above-mentioned section is retained in terms of item 24 of schedule 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No 108 of 1996).
- 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.

# METHODOLOGY: CRIME CLASSIFICATION - BROAD CATEGORIES OF CRIME (1)



8

## → 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)



9

## 17 Community-Reported Serious Crimes

Contact Crimes	Contact-related Crimes	Property-related Crimes	Other Serious Crimes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Murder</li><li>→ Sexual offences</li><li>→ Attempted murder</li><li>→ Assault GBH</li><li>→ Common assault</li><li>→ Common robbery</li><li>→ Robbery aggravated including the following TRIO Crimes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Carjacking</li><li>- Robbery – residential</li><li>- Robbery – non -residential</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Arson</li><li>→ Malicious damage to property</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Burglary at residential premises</li><li>→ Burglary at non-residential premises</li><li>→ Theft of motor vehicle and motor cycle</li><li>→ Theft out of or from motor vehicle</li><li>→ Stock theft</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Other theft</li><li>→ Commercial crime</li><li>→ Shoplifting</li></ul>



## 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).
- This 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** =  $\frac{\text{Past figure} - \text{Current figure}}{\text{Past Figure}} \times 100.$



## → **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; &
  - Fundamentals of Crime Statistics Analysis.
- **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 Policies;
  - Crime statistics User Guide; &
  - Quality Assurance Framework.

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# Thank You

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