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**CRIMINOLOGY
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CRM-No. 2022-001

CRIMINOLOGY

What's Criminology?

Criminology is the scientific study of crime and criminal behaviour. With this subject, you can take an in-depth look at modern crime, punishment and prevention.

The study of Criminology draws on sociology, psychiatry, social anthropology and criminal law. You'll look at victimology, the criminal justice system, rehabilitation programmes and much more.

What Criminology degrees can you study?

Undergraduate degrees in Criminology include BA (Bachelor of Arts) degrees. These have a social science focus. You can also earn a BSc (Bachelor of Science). BSc degrees tend to look more at data analysis and scientific inquiry.

Examples of degrees:

Criminology BA

A Criminology degree will see you evaluating the causes, patterns and results of criminal activity. You'll gain a deep understanding of the procedures and institutions involved in the way our society handles crime.

Psychology and Criminology BSc

This degree incorporates the principles of Psychology into the field of Criminology. You'll gain expertise in the psychological factors that influence criminal behaviour and enhance prevention.

Sociology and Criminology BA

You'll study concepts of both Sociology and Criminology to see how the two intersect. Topics you might cover include social inequality, deviant behaviour and sociological theory.

Other options

You can combine Criminology with a relevant area of interest as a joint honours degree. For instance, Law, Philosophy, Data Science or Social Policy. Or you can combine your degree with another subject you enjoy, such as a modern language.

Universities also offer opportunities like:

- Integrated foundation year
- Professional work placements
- Study year abroad

What do you need to get onto a Criminology degree?

Must have

Entry requirements for a Criminology degree range from 96–160 UCAS points. This could consist of:

A Levels: AAB–CCC

- BTECs: DDD–MMM
- Scottish Highers: AAAAB–BBCC (Advanced Highers: AAB)
- International Baccalaureate: 36–27

Good to have

- Work experience to evidence your interpersonal skills
- Volunteering with charities, such as those who campaign for social justice
- Knowledge of topics from books, cases, the news, podcasts, the British Society of Criminology blog
- Online courses or MOOCs

What topics does a Criminology degree cover?

Typical modules for courses in this subject include:

- Criminal justice landscape
- Social research methods
- Introducing social policy
- Sociology of crime and deviance
- Crime, culture and social change
- Debates in criminal justice

How will you be assessed?

Courses are assessed in a variety of ways, depending on the module:

- Coursework
- Dissertation

- Essays
- Exams
- Group presentations
- Literature reviews
- Media analysis
- Project work

Why study Criminology?

A Criminology degree will challenge you to uncover the motivations behind those who commit crimes. You'll know how to put these into the context of policy and prevention.

Career-specific skills:

- Insight into society and criminal justice through the lens of sociology, social policy, anthropology or psychology
- Awareness of inequalities in the criminal justice system, and the new challenges
- Ability to carry out social research, including quantitative and qualitative research methods

Transferable skills:

- Collaboration
- Communication (written and verbal)
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Decision making
- IT skills
- Organisation
- Presentation
- Problem solving

Professional accreditation:

Degrees combined with psychology may be accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Are scholarships and bursaries available to students studying Criminology?

Some universities offer Criminology students specific scholarships, bursaries, or grants to encourage access. It's worth seeing if you are eligible, how to apply and what it covers e.g., materials, tuition fees and/or living costs.

What do Criminology graduates earn?

Salaries for a Criminology graduate will depend on the sector you enter.

Go into policy work and initial pay at entry level may be around £20,000–£22,000. There is potential to earn up to £46,000 as a senior policy advisor on the government's public safety group.

Become a police officer with the National Graduate Leadership Programme, and your starting salary could be £24,000 or more. You could earn more if you progress into other roles such as constable, sergeant or inspector.

What jobs can you get as a Criminology graduate?

There are many professions you could go into as a Criminology graduate. Some will require further qualifications. Possible roles include:

- Aid worker
- Civil servant
- Counsellor
- Crime analyst
- Journalist
- Police officer
- Probation officer
- Social worker
- Solicitor
- Victim liaison officer

What are the postgraduate opportunities?

Examples of taught master's and research degrees at postgraduate level include:

1. Criminal Justice Policy MSc
2. Criminology and Criminal Justice MSc/LLM
3. Criminology PGDip/MA/MPhil/PhD
4. Global Crime, Justice and Security MSc
5. Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology PhD

Similar subjects to Criminology

Other subject areas that might appeal to you include:

- Anthropology
- Economics
- Forensic Science
- Law
- Psychology
- Social Policy
- Sociology

Tables of Contents

Criminology Definition and History

Criminology Theories

Criminology vs. Criminal Justice

Careers in Criminology: Salary and Job Outlook

Crime Statistics and Key Insights

In a time when the U.S. criminal justice system is under a microscope, criminologists are playing a key role in establishing a more equitable, science-based understanding of crime, policy, and social justice. Applying their theoretical knowledge and practical experience, professionals in this field support and strengthen the work of law enforcement agencies and legal professionals.

But what is criminology, really? This article will explore the many components of this rapidly evolving discipline and offer insights on how to pursue a variety of criminology careers.

Criminology definition and history

Criminology is the study of crime and criminal behavior, informed by principles of sociology and other non-legal fields, including psychology, economics, statistics, and anthropology.

Criminologists examine a variety of related areas [External link:open_in_new](#), including:

- Characteristics of people who commit crimes
- Reasons why people commit crimes
- Effects of crime on individuals and communities
- Methods for preventing crime
- Origins of criminology

The roots of criminologyExternal link:open_in_new trace back to a movement to reform criminal justice and penal systems more than 200 years ago. The first collection and use of crime statistics in the 19th century then laid the groundwork for generations of increasingly sophisticated tools and methods, leading to our modern use of descriptive statistics, case studies, typologies, and predictive analytics.

18th-century origins of criminal theory

Cesare Beccaria's "On Crime and Punishments," published in 1764, called for fitting the punishment to the severity of the crimesExternal link:open_in_new, as explained by the National Criminal Justice Reference Service.

- Punishments for crimes should be "public, prompt, necessary, the minimum possible under the given circumstances, and established by law."
- Punishments are intended to deter the offender from further criminal activity.
- Severity is based on the level of harm caused by the offense rather than the intent of the offender.

The legal reference website JRank highlights the work of Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham: The motivation for people's choices is to seek pleasure or avoid pain. Punishment for a crimeExternal link:open_in_new should deter potential choices to break the law by ensuring that the pain of potential punishment is greater than the pleasure derived from committing the crime. This idea spurred the first efforts in the U.S. and Europe to codify and standardize the law.

Mid-20th century development of modern criminology

The mid-20th century development of "modern" criminologyExternal link:open_in_new involved seeking to understand crime's causes by studying sociological, psychological, and economic conditions. The American Law Institute's work on the Model Penal CodeExternal link:open_in_new was a 10-year effort completed in 1962. The code established new standards of criminal liability that considered the mental elements of crime.

The code served as a model for penal code revisions in several states. It was also instrumental in charting the federal penal code for the first time. The code inspired other efforts to reform criminal law through criminology research application.

"New Criminology" and the impact of social upheaval on crime

In the 20th century, new approaches to criminology focused on the causes of crime, such as conflicts between social and economic classes leading to social upheavalExternal link:open_in_new, as JRank explains. Social-process criminology emphasizes criminal behavior as something people learn through interaction with others, usually in small groups.

In contrast, control theory focuses on training people to behave appropriately by encouraging law-abiding behavior. Control theory's basis is the belief that personal bonds give rise to our internal controls, such as conscience and guilt, and our external controls, such as shame, that deter us from breaking the law.

A multidisciplinary approach to criminology

In their research, criminologists consider many perspectives on crime's causes and effects. This multidisciplinary approach of criminologists [External link:open_in_new](#) accepts there is no single answer to why people commit crimes. JRank notes attempts to control bad behavior date back to the earliest civilizations. Today, factors may be biological, psychological, economic, or social. Criminals are motivated by greed, anger, jealousy, pride, and other emotions. They seek material gain; they want control, revenge, or power.

Potential causes of or motivations for criminal activity include:

- Parental relations
- Hereditary and brain activity
- Hormones
- Education
- Peer influence
- Drugs and alcohol
- Easy opportunity

Criminology and the legal perspective

Criminologists study crime as an illegal action society punishes through the government's legal system. Researchers focus on the causes, prevention, and correction of crime generally. By contrast, the legal industry's perspective of crime emphasizes specific crimes and punishments governed by statutes and regulations, as well as established legal processes.

The legal definition of a crime is an offense against public law [External link:open_in_new](#), as UpCounsel explains. To qualify as a crime, the offense must be punishable, whether by fine, loss of freedom, or other method. Criminologists have broadened the definition of crime [External link:open_in_new](#) to include conduct that doesn't violate existing law, as JRank reports. This includes economic exploitation, racial discrimination, and unsafe or unhealthy work environments.

Criminology resources

The Internet Journal of Criminology [External link:open_in_new](#) — Links to government organizations, national and international organizations, academic institutions, and other criminology resources

Critical Criminology[External link:open_in_new](#) — A compilation of resources that examine law, crime, and justice from the perspective of people of color, women, restorative efforts, and community justice

S. Department of Justice, National Criminal Intelligence Resource Center[External link:open_in_new](#) — Links to criminal justice professional associations and groups that assist law enforcement in establishing policies, standards, training, and education

Criminology Theories: Classical, Positivist, and Chicago School

Research into criminology theories is primarily sociological or psychological. Sociological theories of criminology[External link:open_in_new](#) perceive crime as a normal human response to social conditions that are “abnormal and criminogenic,” according to JRank.

Psychological theories of criminology[External link:open_in_new](#) date back to Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic theory. Crime results from a failure to form healthy and loving attachments to parents. Behavioral psychology introduced the concept of rewards and punishments: A rewarded crime is repeated; a punished crime is not.

Three principal approaches to criminology

Today, three criminology theories predominate: the Classical, Positivist, and Chicago schools.

- The Classical School argues that people freely choose to engage in crime. Bentham’s utilitarianism theory[External link:open_in_new](#) states they are driven either by a desire for pleasure or by aversion to pain, as the Oxford University Press states.
- The Positivist School applies scientific theory to criminology. It focuses on factors that compel people to commit crimes.
- The Chicago School states that crime results from “social disorganization[External link:open_in_new](#),” which is defined in the Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice as “the inability of a community to realize common values and maintain effective social controls.”

Criminology’s impact on reducing and preventing crimes

Two statistical programs run by the DOJ demonstrate the impact that criminological studies have had on responding to, reducing, and preventing crimes[External link:open_in_new](#).

- The Uniform Crime Reporting program (UCR) collects information from law enforcement agencies across the country on dozens of crimes. It is intended to assist researchers in studying crime among neighboring jurisdictions and those with similar populations or other characteristics.

- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) analyzes crime incidents, victims, and trends. It collects data on reported and unreported crimes and provides researchers with demographic data on perpetrators and victims.

Research conducted by the Minnesota House Research Department studied the effectiveness of the theory of criminal deterrence[External link:open_in_new](#), which dates back to the 18th century. It reached three conclusions:

- Deterrence is most effective for preplanned crimes.
- Making already-long prison sentences even longer does little to deter crime.
- Increasing the likelihood of getting caught is a more effective crime deterrent than increasing punishment.

Criminology and society's treatment of criminals and victims

Little attention was paid to the needs of crime victims until the 1970s, when the DOJ's National Institute of Justice (NIJ) determined that a primary reason for unsuccessful prosecutions[External link:open_in_new](#) was the poor treatment of witnesses and victims by the criminal justice system. Since that time, legislation and law enforcement programs, including the Violence Against Women Act of 1990, have worked to protect and assist victims and witnesses.

Similarly, criminology research has affected how criminals are treated in custody. The American Bar Association (ABA) has developed Standards on Treatment of Prisoners[External link:open_in_new](#) that describe correctional policies and professional standards that comply with constitutional and statutory law.

Criminology has also highlighted the real cost of crimes on individuals, families, and communities. The 2017 report "Costs of Crime"[External link:open_in_new](#) from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that new study methods will improve the accuracy of crime cost estimates, particularly in the area of compensating victims for their pain and suffering.

Criminology theory resources

- "Predicting Pathways into Criminal Behavior: The Intersection of Race, Gender, Poverty, Psychological Factors"[External link:open_in_new](#) investigates the factors involved in women's involvement in criminal activity, including economic disadvantage related to education and employment.

- The National Institute of Justice discusses mapping in law enforcement in this paper: “From Crime Mapping to Crime Forecasting: The Evolution of Place-Based Policing”[External link:open_in_new](#).

Criminology vs. criminal justice: what’s the difference?

The primary distinction when it comes to criminology vs criminal justice[External link:open_in_new](#) is the former’s emphasis on the study of crime and the latter’s focus on society’s response to crime, as the Balance Careers explains. Criminal justice applies principles and concepts developed by criminologists to enforcing laws and investigating crimes, as well as to the trial, punishment, and rehabilitation of criminals.

Criminal justice definition

The Legal Dictionary defines criminal justice[External link:open_in_new](#) as a set of procedures:

- Investigating criminal conduct
- Gathering evidence of the crime
- Making arrests
- Bringing charges in court
- Raising defenses
- Conducting trials
- Rendering sentences

Carrying out punishments

By contrast, its definition of criminology emphasizes the scientific and academic aspects of the field’s study of crime, criminal behavior, and law enforcement. Criminal justice includes the work of:

- Police
- Criminal courts
- Prisons and other correctional institutions
- Juvenile justice systems

Criminal justice and effective law enforcement

In the 20th century, the field of criminal justice arose[External link:open_in_new](#) as an effort to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement in light of expanding due process and other rights for criminal defendants, as Encyclopedia Britannica explains. The study of criminal justice expanded in the 1980s and

1990s in the form of qualitative descriptive analyses of the operations of specific criminal justice agencies.

More recent research in criminal justice emphasizes quantitative studies about the effectiveness of particular crime-fighting strategies and approaches. Researchers have studied whether an abusive spouse's arrest prevents future incidents of abuse, and whether prison rehabilitation programs are effective in reducing recidivism.

One area of criminal justice research proven to be ineffective is the effort to predict which offenders are most likely to commit other crimes. Not only were models unable to identify habitual offenders, but researchers were questioned about whether such efforts violated people's constitutional rights. The fear is that offenders may be punished not for what they had done but for what they might do in the future.

Such issues are at the forefront of modern discussions about the relationships between civil rights and law enforcement. With numerous studies indicating a need to address systemic racism [External link:open_in_new](#) in many corners of the justice system, future criminologists will play an important part in creating a more equitable framework for crime prevention.

Criminology and criminal justice work together to fight crime

Criminal justice and criminology are distinct fields, but they're closely linked, theoretically and practically. From the viewpoint of potential criminologists and law enforcement professionals, the big difference is criminology's focus on science and research, and criminal justice's emphasis on application and administration.

For example, criminologists respond to a rise in homicides by studying underlying economic, sociological, and psychological conditions. By contrast, criminal justice officials respond by working to prevent future homicides and capture the perpetrators.

The two fields merge in applied criminology [External link:open_in_new](#), which studies "real-world" problems relating to crime and criminal justice. It applies criminology concepts to actual criminal justice policy and practice. The goal is to make criminology relevant in addressing crime, victimization, and the relationship between "governmental agendas and knowledge production."

Criminologists promote crime-fighting efforts via tools such as the New York Police Department's CompStat system [External link:open_in_new](#), which is now used by police departments across the country to combine crime analysis and geographic information system technologies [External link:open_in_new](#). Their work suggests innovative ways to improve law enforcement and instill trust in the criminal justice system.

Criminology vs. Criminal Justice: Additional Resources

- Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics[External link:open_in_new](#)
- International Journal Of Criminal Justice Sciences, List of World Agencies/Organizations in Criminal Justice/Criminology[External link:open_in_new](#)
- The Balance Careers, “The Difference Between Careers in Criminology and Criminal Justice”[External link:open_in_new](#)

Careers in Criminology: Salary and Job Outlook

Typical employers of criminologists[External link:open_in_new](#) include law enforcement and other government agencies, university research labs, and other research institutions, as PayScale.com explains. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) defines criminologists[External link:open_in_new](#) or penologists as sociologists who specialize in the study of crime. They investigate the social influences of crime on individuals, groups, and organizations.

Career options for criminologists

The Balance Careers distinguishes criminology positions[External link:open_in_new](#) as being more academic than those in criminal justice, although there is a great degree of overlap between the two fields. For example, people typically earn a bachelor’s degree in criminology followed by a master’s degree in criminal justice, or vice versa.

Among the daily tasks of criminologists are collecting and examining evidence, visiting crime scenes, attending autopsies, and exploring the psychological aspects of a crime from investigation through conviction and rehabilitation. These tasks require the ability to organize data and evidence, conduct statistical analysis, and write reports.

The range of positions available to criminologists[External link:open_in_new](#) include jobs with federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as public and private research organizations, think tanks, legislative bodies, and public policy bodies, as the Balance Careers reports. Criminologists strive to improve police operations via innovative programs, such as community-oriented policing and predictive policing.

Criminology Positions: Salaries and Employment Outlook

The BLS forecasts that the number of jobs for all sociologists, the category that includes criminologists, will increase by 9% between 2018 and 2028, which is faster than the average growth projected for all occupations. PayScale.com reports that the median annual criminology salary is around \$44,000.

These are among the career options available to criminologists.

Forensic Science Technician

Forensic science technicians assist in criminal investigations[External link:open_in_new](#). They collect and analyze evidence, including fingerprints, weapons, and body fluids. They photograph and sketch crime scenes, and they catalog and preserve evidence before it is transferred to crime labs. They also work in labs, investigate possible suspects, and consult with experts in forensic medicine.

The BLS reports that the median annual salary of forensic science technicians as of May 2019 was \$59,150. The number of jobs is forecast to increase by 14% between 2018 and 2028, which is much faster than the average projected for all occupations.

Probation and Community Control Officer

According to BLS figures, the median annual salary for probation officers and correctional treatment specialists[External link:open_in_new](#) was \$54,290 as of May 2019. The number of jobs for the position is forecast to increase by 3% between 2018 and 2028, which is lower than the average projected for all occupations.

Probation and community control officers help former offenders transition to productive lives after incarceration. The Balance Careers lists the duties of probation and community control officers[External link:open_in_new](#).

- Supervise probationers and parolees, including visiting their homes and meeting with their families
- Collaborate with church groups and community organizations
- Monitor probationers and parolees electronically
- Perform pretrial investigations, submit sentencing recommendations, and testify in court
- Prepare status reports on probationers and parolees, and assist them in job training and job searches

Police Officer

The median annual salary for police officers and detectives as of May 2019 was \$65,170, according to the BLS. Jobs for police officers and detectives are expected to increase by 5% between 2018 and 2028, which is equal to the average projected for all occupations.

Police officers are tasked with protecting the lives and property of community residents. The BLS explains the duties of police officers[External link:open_in_new](#):

- Respond to emergency and nonemergency situations
- Patrol specific areas
- Issue citations and conduct traffic stops
- Use computers in the field to search for warrants and vehicle registrations
- Conduct investigations at crime scenes
- Collect and secure evidence
- Prepare cases and testify in court

Corrections Officer

The median annual salary of corrections officers as of May 2019 was \$47,830, according to BLS figures. The number of positions for corrections officers is forecast to decline by 7% between 2018 and 2028 as a result of expected reductions in prison populations.

Corrections officers oversee people who have been arrested and are awaiting a hearing or trial, as well as people who have been convicted and sentenced to serve time in jail or prison. The BLS notes the duties of corrections officers[External link:open_in_new](#):

- Maintain order in jails and prisons by enforcing rules
- Inspect facilities to ensure they meet safety and security standards
- Supervise inmate activities and search them for contraband
- Escort and transport inmates, and report on inmate conduct
- Loss Prevention Manager

PayScale.com reports the median annual salary for loss prevention managers is around \$52,000. The most common tasks of loss prevention managers are security risk management, safety compliance, inventory control, theft prevention, and security policies and procedures.

A loss prevention manager's primary responsibility is to prevent business losses due to internal or external theft, fraud, accidents, mishandling, or other causes[External link:open_in_new](#), as PayScale.com explains. Other duties of loss prevention managers[External link:open_in_new](#) appear on O*Net Online:

- Investigate employee theft and other violations of the company's loss-prevention policies
- Develop and implement programs to manage inventory, promote safety, and minimize losses
- Ensure that prevention exception reports and cash discrepancies follow corporate guidelines
- Train staff and managers on loss prevention strategies and techniques

- Interview people suspected of shoplifting and other forms of theft

Detective/Criminal Investigator

Also referred to as detectives, criminal investigators are police officers who gather facts and collect evidence in criminal cases[External link:open_in_new](#). The BLS notes that criminal investigators often specialize in a single category of crime, such as fraud or homicide. These are the primary duties of criminal investigators:

- Conduct interviews with crime victims, witnesses, suspects, and relevant experts
- Examine police and other records
- Monitor the activities of suspects and participate in raids and arrests
- Write reports, prepare cases for trial, and testify during court proceedings
- The median annual salary for detectives and criminal investigators as of May 2019 was \$83,170, according to BLS figures. The number of jobs for police officers and detectives is forecast to increase by 5% between 2018 and 2028, which is equal to the average for all occupations.

Fish and Game Warden

The BLS reports that the median annual salary for fish and game wardens as of May 2019 was \$57,500. The number of jobs for fish and game wardens is expected to increase by 2% between 2018 and 2028, which is below the average projected for all occupations.

Fish and game wardens are responsible for enforcing laws related to hunting, fishing, and boating[External link:open_in_new](#), as the BLS describes. These are among their primary duties:

- Conduct interviews with complainants, witnesses, and suspects
- Patrol fishing and hunting areas
- Participate in search and rescue efforts
- Monitor people suspected of violating regulations relating to fishing and hunting
- Educate the public about laws governing outdoor activities
- Private Investigator

The median annual salary for private detectives and investigators as of May 2019 was \$50,510, according to BLS figures. The number of jobs for private investigators is forecast to grow by 8% between 2018 and 2028, which is faster than the average growth projected for all occupations.

The work done by private investigators for businesses and individuals mirrors that done by criminal investigators for public law enforcement agencies. These professionals examine records and conduct other research relating to legal, financial, and personal matters. The BLS lists the duties of private detectives and investigators [External link:open_in_new](#):

- Conduct criminal and other background checks and verify statements made by individuals
- Interview suspects, witnesses, and experts and perform other research into missing persons
- Search for evidence in online, public, and court records
- Perform surveillance and collect other evidence for clients

Insurance Fraud Investigator

The BLS reports that the median annual salary for claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators was \$66,790 as of May 2019. The agency expects the number of jobs for the category to decline by 4% between 2018 and 2028 due to automation of claims processing.

The position of insurance fraud investigator is included in the broad category of claims adjusters, appraisers, examiners, and investigators who evaluate insurance claims. These are among the principle duties of insurance fraud investigators [External link:open_in_new](#), as listed by the BLS:

- Examine and research insurance claims to confirm that they are legitimate
- Conduct interviews with claimants' doctors, employers, and others to review suspicious claims
- Work with attorneys and other legal professionals to verify information related to claims
- Perform surveillance to identify fraudulent claims resulting from staged accidents, arson, unnecessary medical treatments, and other criminal activity

Crime statistics and key insights

An important role played by criminologists is compiling and reporting on crime statistics. The New Yorker highlights both the importance of crime statistics in formulating crime-prevention strategies and enforcement policies and the difficulty criminologists encounter in accurately measuring crime [External link:open_in_new](#).

The article describes the challenge in determining whether cannabis use increases or reduces crime levels. Various analyses of crime rate trends in states where cannabis has been legalized have come to conflicting conclusions, pointing to the complexity of arriving at a definitive answer about what contributes to criminal activity. Criminologists use a variety of sources and techniques to try to provide statistics that can accurately portray crime trends and inform criminal policies.

How criminologists support law enforcement

Two of the DOJ's most effective statistical analysis tools for assisting local crime-fighting efforts are the FBI's UCR system and Bureau of Justice Statistics' NCVS, both of which are described above. The systems share a shortcoming: Local jurisdictions disagree on what constitutes a crime. Some jurisdictions only report offenses that involve incarceration, while others include fined infractions.

Criminologists have developed a range of statistics-based tools that support federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

The City-Level Survey of Crime Victimization and Citizen Attitudes analyzes surveys conducted by the DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to determine people's perceptions of community policing and issues in their neighborhoods[External link:open_in_new](#).

Emergency Room Statistics on Intentional Violence surveys a sample of hospital emergency rooms throughout the U.S. to identify instances of domestic violence, rape, child abuse, and other intentional injuries[External link:open_in_new](#).

The Police-Public Contact Survey interviews a representative sample of people across the country who either reported a crime or were detained in a traffic stop to gauge their perceptions of the police's conduct and response during the encounter[External link:open_in_new](#).

Other organizations involved in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information about police activities include the Center for Policing Equity's COMSTAT for Justice[External link:open_in_new](#), which is intended to identify bias in policing, and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights[External link:open_in_new](#), whose 2019 report titled "Police Use of Force: An Examination of Modern Policing Practices"[External link:open_in_new](#) recommended that more data on the use of force by police[External link:open_in_new](#) be made available to law enforcement agencies, and that police be trained in de-escalation techniques, cultural differences, and anti-bias mechanisms.

Criminology's impact by the numbers

Many of the statistics used and shared by the DOJ and the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention are compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau[External link:open_in_new](#).

The Annual Survey of Jails reports on the number of inmates in regional, county, city, and private jails[External link:open_in_new](#), as well as demographic and criminal justice statistics of the jail population, among other areas related to incarceration.

The Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities gathers information on the operation of the prisons and jails, and the conditions of confinement[External link:open_in_new](#), such as capacity and crowding, court orders, staff workloads, and safety and security.

The Survey of Sexual Victimization (formerly the Survey of Sexual Violence) collects data on sexual assaults in correctional facilities [External link:open_in_new](#), including state prisons, state juvenile correction facilities, federal prisons, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities, and the U.S. military.

Criminologists: Serving Communities and Society

The work of criminologists touches nearly all aspects of social life. Crime investigation calls for specialized skills and training, sophisticated number-crunching ability, and a great deal of fieldwork interacting with colleagues within and outside criminal justice, and with the public.