Criminology The Essentials 3rd edition Walsh Test Bank

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Test Bank

Chapter 2: Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior

Multiple Choice

1. The primary source of official crime statistics in the United States is the annual _____ published by the FBI.

a. NIBRS report

b. UCR

c. NCVS

d. self-report survey

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Analyze

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. The crime _____ is the actual number of reported crimes standardized by some unit of the population.

a. rate

b. statistic

c. degree

d. ratio

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Analyze

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Which of the following is classified as an index crime?

a. arson

b. embezzlement

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c. public drunkenness

d. traffic violations

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. If a person is arrested and charged for a Part I offense, the UCR records the crime as _____ by arrest.

a. cleared

b. established

c. resolved

d. solved

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Cleared Offenses

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Which of the following is true of the number of crimes reported to police?

a. It is the best source available to criminologists to assess the dark figure of crime.

b. This number is a direct reflection of the number of crimes actually committed.

c. Due to false reports, this number is larger than the number of crimes actually committed.

d. Due to unreported crimes, this number is smaller than the number of crimes actually committed.

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Analyze/Evaluate

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. The official source of crime data that includes detailed information on the circumstances surrounding a criminal incident, including victim and offender characteristics is known as

a. UCR

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b. NCVS

c. NIBRS

d. DSM-5

Ans: c

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: NIBRS: The "New and Improved" UCR

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. The term index crime refers to

a. the nation's murder rate

b. Part I offenses on the UCR

c. Part II offenses on the UCR

d. the rate of violent victimizations reported on the NCVS

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. When attempting to understand, predict, and control any social problem, including the crime problem, the first step is to determine its _____.

a. cause

b. seriousness

c. source

d. extent

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Categorizing and Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior

Difficulty Level: Easy

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9. The hierarchy rule impacts which data source?

a. UCR

b. NCVS

c. NIBRS

d. self-report surveys

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: Problems With the UCR

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. The hierarchy rule refers to the

a. fact that those of a higher socioeconomic status are less likely to be arrested for crimes

b. ranking system of different crime data sources by their level of accuracy

c. practice of only reporting the most serious offense committed in a given incident

d. tendency of respondents to only report serious crimes in self-report surveys

Ans: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Problems With the UCR

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. One weakness of the NCVS is that it

a. only reflects crimes that have been reported to the police

b. only provides statistics on property crimes

c. is not based on a representative sample of the United States

d. does not provide any statistics on victimless crimes

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

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12. One weakness of NIBRS is that it

a. has not yet been widely adopted by police agencies

b. is subject to respondents' memory lapses

c. tends to overestimate crime rates

d. does not include data on violent crimes

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: NIBRS: The "New and Improved" UCR

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. One strength of the NCVS is that it provides

a. data that has been held to strict legal standards

b. a good source of information on rates of drug use

c. access to information on crimes that have not been reported to the police

d. detailed information on each criminal incident

Ans: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Which agency collects and distributes statistics on specific fugitive individuals wanted for particularly serious crimes, including the publication of a list of the 10 most wanted?

a. Central Intelligence Agency

b. Department of Homeland Security

c. Federal Bureau of Investigation

d. United States Marshals

Ans: c

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

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Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

15. A strength of NIBRS is that it provides

a. a good source of information on rates of drug use

b. access to information on crimes that have not been reported to the police

c. data from a large number of police agencies nationwide

d. detailed information on each criminal incident

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: What Can We Conclude About the Three Main Measures of Crime in America?

Difficulty Level: Easy

16. One advantage of self-report surveys is that they provide aa. good source of information regarding violent crimes

b. way for criminologists to collect data without relying on government sources

c. good reflection of the crimes reported to police each year

d. data that has been held to strict legal standards

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Analyze

Answer Location: Self-Report Crime Surveys and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

17. Which of the following data sources allows researchers to correlate a variety of characteristics of respondents, such as the trait of impulsiveness, with their admitted offenses?

a. UCR

b. NCVS

c. NIBRS

d. self-report surveys

Ans: d

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Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: Self-Report Crime Surveys and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. In an attempt to understand a recent increase in female arrests for assault, a comparison of UCR and NVCS data revealed that the apparent trend was most likely attributable to

a. dramatic increases in female violent offending

b. a falsification of data by police departments

c. a relative decrease in male criminality

d. net-widening policies that have made police more likely to arrest females

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 2.5 Understand the difficulties in explaining crime trends over long periods

Cognitive Domain: Analyze

Answer Location: Cleared Offenses

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. In reflecting on the relative strengths and weaknesses of the major sources of crime data, it can be concluded that the best source of information on crime

a. depends on what we want to know

b. is the NCVS

c. is self-report data

d. is the UCR

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Analyze

Answer Location: Categorizing and Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. Which of the following is commonly used to refer to the number of crimes that are committed, but which never come to light?

a. the dark figure of crime

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b. the undiscovered crime rate

c. unknown deviance

d. the indexed crimes

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: The Dark Figure of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

21. A criminologist wants to learn about the rates of truancy and smoking among adolescents. To do this, he or she would be best served by referencing which of the following sources?

a. UCR

b. NCVS

c. NIBRS

d. self-report surveys

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: Self-Report Crime Surveys and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

22. The UCR and NCVS agree that most offenders and victims of crime are

a. female

b. middle-aged

c. wealthy

d. young

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

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23. The NCVS is conducted by the Census Bureau on behalf of

a. the Bureau of Justice Statistics

b. the Federal Bureau of Investigation

c. Homeland Security

d. the American Society of Criminology

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

24. Which of the following is not considered a major source of crime data for criminologists?

a. official statistics

b. self-reported data

c. the media

d. victimization surveys

Ans: c

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: What Can We Conclude About the Three Main Measures of Crime in America?

Difficulty Level: Easy

25. The UCR is compiled by

a. the Bureau of Justice Statistics

b. the Federal Bureau of Investigation

c. Homeland Security

d. the American Society of Criminology

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

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26. The UCR divides crimes into two categories called

a. Part I and Part II offenses

b. violent crimes and property crimes

c. Group A and Group B offenses

d. *mala in se* and *mala prohibita* offenses

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

27. Gauging the _____ of the problem means discovering how much of it there is, where and when it occurs most often, and among what social categories it occurs most frequently.

a. degree

b. extent

c. significance

d. relevancy

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 2.5 Understand the difficulties in explaining crime trends over long periods

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Categorizing and Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior

Difficulty Level: Easy

28. The UCR data tends to _____ the actual number of criminal events while NCVS data tends to _____ the actual number of criminal events.

a. overreport; underreport

b. underreport; overreport

c. falsify; verify

d. verify; falsify

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

29. NIBRS collects crime data from which of the following categories?

a. Part I and Part II offenses

b. *mala in se* and *Mala prohibita* offenses

c. violent and victimless offenses

d. Group A and Group B offenses

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: NIBRS: The "New and Improved" UCR

Difficulty Level: Easy

30. One of the interview improvements in the methodology of NCVS includes:

a. self-report surveys

b. evidentiary standards

c. the bounding interview

d. memorization techniques

Ans: c

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

True/False

31. A crime rate is calculated by standardizing the number of reported crimes by some unit of the population.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

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Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

32. Nearly all index crimes are mala prohibita offenses.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

33. NIBRS has almost completely replaced the UCR as the leading source of official crime statistics.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: NIBRS: The "New and Improved" UCR

Difficulty Level: Easy

34. Index crimes can only be cleared by arrest.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

35. Police agencies are required by federal law to participate in the UCR reporting program.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

36. The UCR and NCVS agree on the basic demographics of those most likely to commit crimes.

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Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Areas of Agreement Between the UCR and NCVS

Difficulty Level: Easy

37. Because NCVS only surveys households, crimes committed against commercial establishments are not included.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

38. One benefit of the NCVS is that it attempts to capture the extent of illegal drug usage among youth.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

39. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) was first implemented in the 1930s.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: NIBRS: The "New and Improved" UCR

Difficulty Level: Easy

40. The crime rate refers to the raw number of incidents of crime that have occurred in a given area.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

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Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

41. Because all data sources converge on some very important points about crime, they enable us to proceed with at least some confidence in our endeavors to understand the whys of crime.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Can We Conclude About the Three Main Measures of Crime in America?

Difficulty Level: Easy

42. The UCR is the primary source of official crime statistics in the United States.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

43. NCVS stands for National Crime Victimization Survey.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

44. The UCR report provides both crime trends and the reasons behind them.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

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45. Females tend to be more honest than males in their responses to self-report surveys.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Summary

Difficulty Level: Easy

46. Part II offenses are all universally condemned mala in se offenses.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Easy

47. Property crimes are more likely to be cleared than violent crimes.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Cleared Offenses

Difficulty Level: Easy

48. Whether crime has "gone up" or "gone down" depends on what years we choose to look at.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.5 Understand the difficulties in explaining crime trends over long periods

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime Trends

Difficulty Level: Easy

49. The strength of NIBRS (its comprehensive nature) also turns out to be its weakness in terms of participation.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Can We Conclude About the Three Main Measures of Crime in America?

Difficulty Level: Easy

50. The UCR and NCVS agree on the geographic areas and times of the year and month when crimes are more likely to occur.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 2.5 Understand the difficulties in explaining crime trends over long periods

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Areas of Agreement Between the UCR and NCVS

Difficulty Level: Easy

Essay

51. What does NIBRS stand for?

Ans: National Incident-Based Reporting System

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: NIBRS: The "New and Improved" UCR

Difficulty Level: Easy

52. Identify one advantage that NIBRS has over the UCR as a source of crime data.

Ans: It does not use the hierarchy rule; it provides more detailed information regarding the circumstances of each offense.

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: NIBRS: The "New and Improved" UCR

Difficulty Level: Challenging

53. Identify one weakness of self-report surveys.

Ans: It does not provide a good measure of serious crimes; it is subject to the dishonesty of respondents; most of these studies are based on convenience samples.

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Self-Report Crime Surveys and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

54. Identify two index crimes.

Ans: homicide, assault, forcible rape, robbery, larceny/theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Summary

Difficulty Level: Easy

55. What are the three major categories of sources for crime data?

Ans: official statistics, victimization survey data, and self-report data

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Evaluate

Answer Location: Categorizing and Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior

Difficulty Level: Challenging

56. What does it mean when we say cleared by arrest?

Ans: A person has been arrested and charged for a Part I crime.

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Cleared Offenses

Difficulty Level: Challenging

57. What is the dark figure of crime?

Ans: The portion of total crimes committed each year that never come to light.

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Dark Figure of Crime

Difficulty Level: Easy

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58. Identify one strength of the NCVS.

Ans: It allows us to access information on crimes that have not been reported to the police.

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Summary

Difficulty Level: Easy

59. What does NCVS stand for?

Ans: National Crime Victimization Survey

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

60. How is a crime rate calculated?

Ans: Divide the number of reported crimes in a state by its population

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Uniform Crime Reports: Counting Crime Officially

Difficulty Level: Challenging

61. What is the hierarchy rule?

Ans: Rule under the UCR that requires police to report only the highest (most serious) offense committed in a multiple-offense single incident to the FBI and to ignore the others.

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Problems With the UCR

Difficulty Level: Challenging

62. What is a bounding interview?

Ans: Interview improvement in the NCVS methodology that involves comparing reported incidents from the same household in the current interview with those reported 6 months prior.

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Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems
Difficulty Level: Challenging

63. What are the two areas of agreement between the UCR and the NCVS?
Ans: Demographics of the crime (males, the young, the poor, and African Americans are more likely to be perpetrators and victims of crime) and geographic areas and times of the year and month when crimes are more likely to occur.
Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Areas of Agreement Between the UCR and NCVS
Difficulty Level: Challenging

64. What is the difference between the NIBRS and the UCR? List and describe the problems related with each data collection tool.
Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: NIBRS: The "New and Improved" UCR
Difficulty Level: Challenging

65. Discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of the UCR and NCVS in assessing the number of rapes that occur in the United States in a given year. Which do you feel is a stronger tool for this purpose? Support your answer.
Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data
Cognitive Domain: Comprehend/Evaluate
Answer Location: Areas of Agreement Between the UCR and NCVS
Difficulty Level: Challenging

66. List and briefly describe the main ways crime and criminal behavior are measured in the United States.
Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: What Can We Conclude About the Three Main Measures of Crime in America?

Difficulty Level: Challenging

67. Explain self-report surveys, and describe their strengths and weaknesses.

Learning Objective: 2.1 Know the primary sources of criminologists' crime data

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge/Comprehend

Answer Location: Self-Report Crime Surveys and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Challenging

68. Define the dark figure of crime. How does the concentration of the dark figure of crime differ based on the data collection tool used?

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Dark Figure of Crime

Difficulty Level: Challenging

69. Define the hierarchy rule. How does it relate to both the UCR and NIBRS?

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Problems With the UCR

Difficulty Level: Challenging

70. Discuss the advantages of NIBRS. Why is it not implemented and utilized in many states?

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Comprehend

Answer Location: What Can We Conclude About the Three Main Measures of Crime in America?

Difficulty Level: Challenging

71. List and describe the problems associated with the National Crime Victimization Survey. What is being done to compensate for these problems?

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

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Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Crime Victimization Survey Data and Their Problems

Difficulty Level: Challenging

72. Discuss the strengths of the UCR. How do crimes rates relate to the UCR? How does the UCR categorize crimes?

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each data source

Cognitive Domain: Comprehend

Answer Location: NIBRS: The "New and Improved" UCR

Difficulty Level: Challenging

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