

National Index of Violence and Harm: Definitions and Sources

2000 Index Released on July 29, 2002

Personal Index

Interpersonal

1. Homicide* – “Criminal homicide” is defined as murder and non-negligent manslaughter: the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. This does not include justifiable homicides or manslaughter by negligence. *Source:* Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports. *U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1999. Found on page 405.*

2. Sexual Offenses –

a) **Forcible Rape*** – the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will, including attempts or assaults to rape. *Source:* Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports. *U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1999. Found on page 405.*

b) **Other Offenses**** – other sexual offenses including statutory rape and offenses against chastity, common decency, and morals, including attempts. *Source:* Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports. *U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1999. Found on page 405.*

3. Battery –

a) **Aggravated Assaults*** – assaults intended for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury, usually accompanied by a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. *Source:* Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports. *U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1999. Found on page 405.*

b) **Other Assaults**** – assaults and attempted assaults where no weapons are used and which do not result in serious or aggravated injury to the victim. *source:* Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports. *U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1999. Found on page 405.*

4. Robbery* – “Robbery” is defined as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear. *Source:* Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports. *U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1999. Found on page 405.*

5. Reckless Behavior** – Includes “Weapons; carrying, possessing, etc.” and “Driving under the influence.” The former is comprised of all violations of regulations or statutes controlling the carrying, using, possessing, furnishing, and manufacturing of deadly weapons or silencers, including attempts. The latter is driving or operating any vehicle while drunk or under the influence of liquor or narcotics. *Source: Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1999. Found on pages 405 (weapons; carrying, possessing, etc.) and 406 (driving under the influence).*

Intrapersonal

6. Suicide/Self-Injury*– number of suicides, injuries occurring during attempted suicide, and self-inflicted injuries reported as intentional. *Source: Sum of the variables X60–X84 and Y87.0, tabulated by the National Center for Health Statistics and reported in Table 9 of Deaths: Final Data for 1999, NVSR Vol. 49, No. 8. (Note: For years prior to 1999, the equivalent ICD-9 variables, E950–E959 were used.)* <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_08.pdf>

7. Substance Abuse Deaths* –

a) Smoking – total number of deaths that are attributable to cigarette smoking and are due to either malignant neoplasms (cancer of the trachea, lungs, or bronchus) or to selected chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (bronchitis, emphysema and other chronic airways obstruction). The U.S. Census Bureau calculates the percentages of these deaths that are caused directly by smoking. Thus we use 83% of deaths caused by these cancers plus 80% of deaths caused by these pulmonary diseases. *Source of percentages: SAMMEC software – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. SAMMEC 3.0 (Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Morbidity, and Economic Costs): Computer Software and Documentation, Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health, 1996.*

Source for Malignant Neoplasms of lungs, trachea, bronchus: Sum of variables C33 & C34, tabulated by the National Center for Health Statistics and reported in Table 9 of Deaths: Final Data for 1999, NVSR Vol. 49, No. 8. (Note: For years prior to 1999, the equivalent ICD-9 variable 162 was used.) <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_08.pdf>

Source for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: Sum of variables J40 through J44 and J47, tabulated by the National Center for Health Statistics. Reported in Table 9 of Deaths: Final Data for 1999, NVSR Vol. 49, No. 8. (Note: For years prior to 1999, the equivalent ICD-9 variables 490–492, 494 & 496 were used.) <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_08.pdf>

b) Alcohol – the sum of: i) deaths from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis and ii) alcohol-induced deaths (including deaths from dependent and non-dependent use of alcohol and also accidental poisoning by alcohol, but not including accidents, homicides, other causes indirectly related to alcohol use, or newborn deaths due to maternal alcohol use).

Source of i): Sum of Variables K70, K73 & K74, tabulated by the National Center for Health Statistics and reported in Table 9 of Deaths: Final Data for 1999, NVSR Vol. 49, No. 8. (Note: For years prior to 1999, the equivalent ICD-9 variable 571 was used.)

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_08.pdf>

Source of ii): Tabulated by the National Center for Health Statistics and reported in Table 21 of Deaths: Final Data for 1999, NVSR Vol. 49, No. 8.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_08.pdf>

c) Other Drugs – the number of deaths from all drug-induced causes (both legal and illegal drugs), but not including accidents, homicides, other causes indirectly related to drug use, or newborn deaths due to maternal drug use. *Source: Tabulated by the National Center for Health Statistics and reported in Table 20 of Deaths: Final Data for 1999, NVSR Vol. 49, No. 8.*

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_08.pdf>

Societal Index

Government

8. Criminal Justice* –

a) Capital Punishment – the number of legal executions in the U.S. *Source: Death Penalty Information Center <<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/dpicexec.html>>.*

b) Nonviolent Incarceration – the number of sentenced inmates held in correctional institutions for nonviolent offenses, including both state inmates (as of December 30th) and federal inmates (as of September 30th). This consists of property, drug, public disorder, and other/unspecified offenses. *Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Prisoners in 1999, available at <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>.*

c) Deaths by Police Intervention – the number of fatal injuries inflicted by the police or other law-enforcing agents, including military on duty, in the course of arresting or attempting to arrest lawbreakers, suppressing disturbances, maintaining order, and other legal action. *Source: Sum of variables Y35.0–Y35.7, Y89.0 (except Y35.5, legal executions), tabulated by the National Center for Health Statistics and reported in Table 9 of Deaths: Final Data for 1999, NVSR Vol. 49, No. 8. From the reported value, the number of legal executions (Variable #8a) is subtracted. For years prior to 1999, the equivalent ICD-9 variables, E970–E977 were used.*

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_08.pdf>

9. Civil Rights Complaints Against the Government* – the number of civil rights complaints against government agencies (local, state, and federal) received by the Justice Department. *Source: U.S. Department of Justice, 1999 Congressional Authorization Budget Document, 1999.*

Corporate

10. Air Pollution – the three air pollution indicators are based on data collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These variables relate to the six “criteria” pollutants the EPA has identified as creating a public health risk: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter (ten micrometers or less in diameter) and sulfur dioxide. In 1999 the EPA refined their estimates for variables 10b and 10c for years 1995 to 1998. To maintain consistency over all years, the revised numbers were used in calculating the variable indices from 1995 onward.

a) **People Experiencing Pollution*** – the number of people living in counties with air pollution concentrations that exceeded at least one of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) levels for the six criteria pollutants. These are the NAAQS “primary” standards, set to protect against adverse effects to human health. (For ozone we use the EPA’s 8-hour data available from 1997 onward and adjust the 1-hour data from 1995 and 1996 appropriately.) *Source: EPA Latest Findings on National Air Quality: 1999 Status and Trends Air Quality Trends Report found at <<http://www.epa.gov/oar/aqtrnd99/brochure/brochure.pdf>>.*

b) **Ambient Pollution Level** – the average of individual indices for the air concentration levels of the six criterion pollutants. Ambient levels are measured either in parts per million or micrograms per cubic meter. (For all variables, we use the “Arithmetic Mean;” for ozone we use the 1-hour criterion and for sulfur dioxide we use the annual mean criterion.) We do not adjust this measurement by the U.S. population since excessive levels of these pollutants present the same harm to an individual regardless of the population size. *Source: The EPA National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report, 1999, Table A-1 of Appendix A, found at <<http://www.epa.gov/oar/airtrends>>.*

c) **Pollution Emitted*** – the average of individual indices for the total amount (in thousands of short tons) of the six criteria pollutants estimated to be emitted into the air. For emissions, the pollutants ozone and nitrogen dioxide are replaced by volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides since, in combination with sunlight, these compounds produce ozone and nitrogen dioxide. These emissions are primarily from power generation, industrial processes and transportation. We choose to include pollution from transportation sources since i) much of the nation’s transportation is for corporate purposes, ii) manufacturers have significant control over pollutants generated by the fuels and vehicles they produce, and iii) removal of the transportation pollutants did not significantly change the trend observed for this indicator. *Source: The EPA National Air Quality*

Trends Report, 1999, Tables A-2 through A-6 and A-8 of Appendix A, found at <http://www.epa.gov/airtrends>.

11. Consumers/Employees –

a) Product Injuries* – the number of injuries associated with the use of certain consumer products that were treated by hospital emergency rooms (based on the 12-month period ending on September 30th of the current year). *Source: National Injury Information Clearinghouse, United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, Annual Report to Congress, Appendix A, Table 2, found at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/reports/2000rpt.pdf>*

b) Occupational Injury/Illness – the overall rate of injury or illness in private-industry workplaces per 100 full-time workers. *Source: Workplace Injury and Illness Summary, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Safety and Health Statistics, <http://stats.bls.gov/osshome.htm>.*

c) Occupational Fatalities – the number of fatal work injuries per 100,000 full-time workers, age 16 and over in private industry. *source: Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Summary, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Safety and Health Statistics, <http://stats.bls.gov/osshome.htm>.*

Family

12. Domestic Violence** – the number of “offenses against family and children: nonsupport, neglect, desertion or abuse of family or children.” (This variable includes only criminal offenses, whereas Variable 13 - Child Abuse/Negligence includes civil cases handled administratively.) *Source: Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1999. Found on page 406.*

13. Child Abuse/Neglect* – victimization rate of children 17 and under who were subject to medical neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment, and other types of maltreatment, including abandonment, threats of harm to the child, and congenital drug addiction. *Source: The Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department for Health and Human Services, Child Maltreatment 1999, Chapter 2, found at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm99/index.htm>.*

Structural

14. Social Negligence –

a) Lack of Health Insurance – the percentage of people in the United States who were not covered by any type of health insurance during the entire calendar year. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins.html>.*

b) Hunger – the mean percent increase in requests for emergency food for cities represented in The United States Conference of Mayors. *Source: page 94 of A Status Report on Hunger and Homeless in America’s Cities, December, 1999, found at <<http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/homeless/hunger99.pdf>>.*

c) Drop-Out Rate – the high school (event) dropout rate is the proportion of 15 to 24-year-olds in grades 10 through 12 who dropped out in the twelve months prior to October of the current year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, available at <<http://nces.ed.gov>>.*

d) Homelessness – the mean percent increase in requests for emergency shelter for cities represented in The United States Conference of Mayors. *Source: page 94 of A Status Report on Hunger and Homeless in America’s Cities, December, 1999, found at <<http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/homeless/hunger99.pdf>>.*

15. Infant Mortality/Life Expectancy –

a) Infant Mortality – the number of deaths of infants under the age of one, per 1,000 live births. *Source: National Center for Health Statistics as reported in Table 27 of Deaths: Final Data for 1999, NVSR Vol. 49, No. 8, found at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_08.pdf>.*

b) Life Expectancy – defined as $100 \cdot \text{Life Expectancy}$ (in years), for those born in the current year. This variable will decrease as life expectancy rises. 100 is used as an estimate for the average lifetime that might be expected with attainable improvements in health care and reductions in accidents and environmental pollutants. *Source: National Center for Health Statistics as reported in Table 7 of Deaths: Final Data for 1999, NVSR Vol. 49, No. 8, found at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_08.pdf>.*

16. Hate Crimes* – the total number of victims of bias-motivated criminal incidents. The term “criminal incidents” includes the following: murder and non-negligent manslaughter; forcible rape; aggravated assault, simple assault, and intimidation; robbery; burglary; larceny-theft; motor vehicle theft; arson; and destruction, damage, or vandalism of property. The term “victim” may refer to a person, business, institution, or society as a whole. Hate crimes are not separate crimes, but rather traditional offenses motivated by the offender’s bias; therefore they are also collected under the traditional criminal reporting of the UCR. In 1997, the FBI added a new form of bias to their hate crime collecting: mental and physical disability. Since these numbers were a small percentage of the total hate crimes, they did not have a significant impact on the 1997 Index. *Source: Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1999, page 59. Also in FBI UCR annual report Hate Crime Statistics, found at <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.htm>>.*

17. Employment Discrimination* – the total number of charges of employment discrimination filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Types of discrimination include: race, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, and equal pay act. *Source: The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, <<http://www.eeoc.gov/stats/charges.html>>.*

18. Poverty Disparity

a) Class – the ratio of the 95th percentile of household income to the 10th percentile. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, Income Inequality, Table IE-4 “Household Income Limits by Percentile,” <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/histinc/ie4.html>>.*

b) Race – the ratio of the poverty rate for Blacks, Asian and Pacific Islanders and those of Hispanic origin compared to the poverty rate for Whites, not of Hispanic origin. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Historical Poverty Tables - People, Table 2 “Poverty Status, by Family Relationship, Race, and Hispanic Origin,” <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/histpov/histpovt2.html>>.*

c) Gender – the ratio of the poverty rate for females compared to the rate for males. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Historical Poverty Tables - People, Table 7 “Poverty, by Sex,” <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/histpov/histpovt7.html>>.*

d) Age – the ratio of the poverty rate for those under 18 compared to the rate for those 18 years and over. (Note: Prior to 1984, those age 65 and over, had higher poverty rates than adults 18 to 64. Since that time there has been no significant difference between adults above and below 65.) *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Historical Poverty Tables - People, Table 3 “Poverty Status, by Age, Race and Hispanic Origin,” <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/histpov/histpovt3.html>>.*

19. Gang Membership* – the number of participants in groups of youths or young adults that law enforcement or other community agents classify as a “gang.” Motorcycle gangs, hate or ideology groups, prison gangs, and exclusively adult gangs are excluded. *Source: The National Youth Gang Survey conducted by the National Youth Gang Center. Available on the National Criminal Justice Reference Service web site <www.ncjrs.org>, by selecting “Juvenile Justice,” then “Gangs.”*

(*) adjusted per U.S. resident population estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau on July 1st of each year. We have revised the 1995-1999 estimates based on the U.S. population as determined in the 2000 census. *Source: <<http://www.census.gov/population/estimates/nation/intfile1-1.txt>>.*

(**) these categories of offenses are adjusted per the population base corresponding to the actual law enforcement jurisdictions reporting each year. The size of this population varies slightly from year to year and generally represents 60–65% of the total U.S. population.