



CRIME STATISTICS AND RESEARCH: THE DILEMA OF DARK FIGURE OF CRIME IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper examines the statistics and research outfit of crimes in Nigeria. The designed used was survey research design. The data were mainly domain of humanities as part of the social world usually portrays the picture of variability and uncertainties in many spheres. As crime is reoccurring, in aspect of life not only in Nigeria but in every other sense. Thus, the basis of report of one incident of crime or the other becomes unavoidable. The paper therefore emphasize on the strength of crime statistics, nature, measures among others for a better preservation of crime records in Nigeria.

Keywords: Record crime, crime statistics, research, dark figure and reprot.

Introduction

The overall effect of partial reporting and partial recording of crime is that the official crime statistics reflect only a portion of overall criminal offences. The offences not captured in official statistics are referred to as the hidden figures of unrecorded crime. Anthony Giddens (2008).

Crime is a reoccurring, upsetting and costly aspect of life not only in Nigeria but in every other clime. Nigeria's print and electronic media on a daily basis report one incident of crime or the other. Most times crime becomes the major headlines of the media outlets. This shows that crime has gained prominence in the Nigerian society. These crimes could be violent or non-violent crimes, lethal or non-lethal crimes. Crime is universal irrespective of the social milieu in the sense that developed and developing nations experience one form of crime or the other. The study of crime cuts across several disciplines, however, it is the crux of criminologists, sociologists, psychologists and lawyers.

A general understanding of the concept of crime and crime rate is essential for the grasping of crime statistics, because crime statistics are products of a complex process. Society must first define a behaviour as a crime. However, the definition of a criminal act can change over time, and between jurisdictions. To enter the crime statistics, a crime must be reported and recorded,

however, the public do not report all crime. Although many criminal acts go undetected in Nigeria, the police also have the discretion to arrest or not to arrest an offender caught "red handed" and if the police decide not to arrest and prosecute, the implication of this is that no crime will be recorded. The Nigeria police could also discharge a suspect for lack of evidence to prosecute such crime and as such no record will be made. Based on the above premise, therefore, crime statistics are less than the actual picture of the incidence of crime committed. Crime statistics could indicate what the police and other official authorities could regard as the most important or grievous offense, what the police actually find manageable to police, and what kind of offence the court system tends to process which results into convictions (Frank and Rebecca 2008; Frank 2002).

One should always validate crime statistics with caution, because they only include only crimes known to the police. It could be possible that almost all homicide are reported, other assaults especially among acquaintances often are not. In developed climes like Europe and America, researchers check official crime statistics by conducting *victimization surveys*, in which they ask a representative sample of people about their experiences with crime. According to these surveys, the overall crime rate is about three times



higher than official statistics indicate (Macionis, 2002).

Ideally, to determine the extent of crime and the most common forms of criminal offence, one approach is to examine the official statistics on the number of crimes which the police actually record. Although in other climes such statistics are published regularly, however in Nigeria it becomes very difficult to get crime statistics from the Nigeria police as they do not publish the crime statistics. Even when a researcher requests for such data/statistics it becomes a herculean task for the Nigeria police to release it. One goes through the pain, rigour and delays in getting such from the Nigerian police. Statistics about crime and delinquency are probably the least reliable of all official published figures on social issues. Official crime statistics further provides the social characteristics of those who are involved in crime (convicted or awaiting trial), their age and gender. Most criminologist and sociologists have argued that we cannot take crime statistics at face value. The basic limitation of crime statistics is that majority of crimes never get passed on to the police at all and there are so many reasons why people may decide not to report a crime to the police which will be examined in the latter part of this chapter. This chapter discusses crime statistics within the context of Nigeria, types of crime statistics with their strengths and weaknesses, crime rate and analyzes its measurement, nature and extent, the importance and usefulness of crime statistics in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarifications

Crime

The difference between crime and other forms of deviance is subject to constant change and may vary from one state, country or society to another and varies from one time to another. What yesterday was only distasteful or morally repugnant may today be illegal bearing in mind that the legislature whose duty it is to make laws for the peace, order and good governance of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or any part thereof still carries out its duty regularly. Criminologists are therefore interested in all norms that regulate conduct. Making something that is distasteful into

a crime may be counterproductive and detrimental to the social order. According to Elizabeth and Law (2006), Crime is an act (or sometimes a failure to act) that is deemed by statute or by the criminal or penal code to be a public wrong and is therefore punishable by the state in criminal proceedings. Furthermore, crime is any act that contravenes a law. Political authorities are likely to make behaviour illegal if it meets two conditions. First, it must be considered too socially disruptive to be permitted, and second it must be difficult to control through informed sanctions alone. By formally declaring certain acts to be crime, political authorities can ensure that the social reaction to them takes place in an orderly and predictable way. Thus the law defines the exact nature of the offense, indicates who is prohibited from performing it, and specifies the formal, negative sanctions that may be applied to the offender. Crime is a relative matter, however, certain acts, such as murder, are regarded as criminal in all societies, each society defines these crimes in different ways. For instance what may be murder in one society is regarded as a justifiable and even praiseworthy act in another. People in every society tend to regard the difference between criminal and non-criminal behaviour as absolute, but these distinctions merely reflect the cultural assumptions of the time and place in question (Elizabeth and Law 2006; Okunola, 2002; John 1974; Marcus, 1998).

Crime-rate

Crime rate is calculated by crime per capita based on the number of recorded crimes calculated per 100, 000 population. By taking into account population, the crime picture is standardized across the country in any given year. For example, in 2016, the total number recorded offences against persons according to NBS (2016) in Nigeria was 45,554. The rate of offences against persons was, based on a 2016 total population according to World Bank projection which was 185,960,241.

This crime rate (offences against persons) will be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of offences against persons} \times 100,000}{\text{Population}}$$



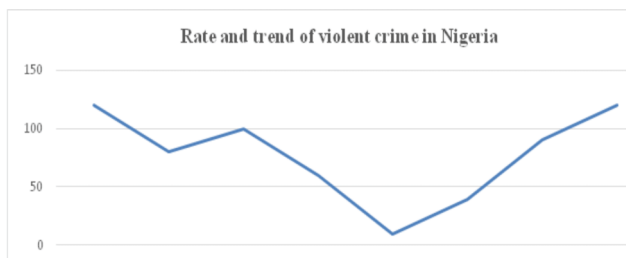
Total population

$$\frac{45,554 \text{ offences against persons reported}}{100,000} \times 185,960,241 \text{ total population} = 24$$

Thus, we see that there were 24 offences against persons per 100,000 population in Nigeria in 2016. Crime rate can also be a measure of change in recorded crime over a given period of time, based upon official statistics for offenses or offender rates. It enables comparison of variations across offences or areas, and can be produced for selected offences (such as offences against persons, offence against property, offence against lawful authority, offence against local acts) or could be a specific example for instance offence against persons such as (armed robbery, kidnapping, rape etcetera), or as a general measure. Recorded rates most times are criticized as being unreliable, as it they tend to reflect personal or institutional biases, changes in law and police practice and distortion caused by moral panics. Crime rates and crime trends are based on “crimes known to the police,” which reflect calls to police departments from citizens reporting crimes and crimes observed by police officers.

It is important to note that crime cannot be rated without date. The figure below was supposed to depict crime rate and crime trend but because it was no dated. It makes such data invalid.

Figure 1: Erroneous Line Graph showing rate and trend of violent crime in Nigeria



Source: Compiled by the author

Crime statistics especially crime rate is nullified if it is accompanied with no dates. Date goes a long way to validate crime statistics and crime rate. Because crime rate is measured most times

annually, it can also be measured on a monthly basis which will accumulate into a year.

Research

Research simply put is the process of gathering information or data about a specified phenomenon or social problem. It further connotes the process of processing or interpreting information so as to produce knowledge about the phenomenon in question and also for the purpose of solving problems that are associated with the phenomenon. Research process is the overall scheme of activities in which scientists engage in order to produce knowledge; it is the paradigm of scientific inquiry (Nachmias and Nachmias 2009). Research, especially in Criminology and Social Science generally aims at explaining a social phenomenon such as crime. Or even to gain knowledge or understanding. For instance a criminologist or sociologists may want to explain why offences against persons and property is prevalent and predominant in Lagos state.

Statistics

Simply put, statistics is the science of collecting, organizing, summarizing and analyzing information in order to draw conclusions. Statistics is a process. A criminologist or a researcher must determine the question (s) he or she tends to proffer answers to. Such questions must be detailed so that it identifies a group that is to be studied and questions that are to be answered. The group that is to be studied is called the population. An individual is a person or object that is a member of the population being studied. For example, a criminologist may decide to study type of offence committed by awaiting trial inmates in Aba prisons in Abia State, South East Nigeria. The population of this particular study would be awaiting trial inmates in Aba prisons.

The next step would be to collect the information needed to answer the questions posed earlier on (the research questions). Due to economic and time constraints gaining access into the entire population is often difficult and expensive. In conducting criminological research or research in the social sciences we ideally look at a subset of the population called a sample. The stage of data



collection is very critical to the statistical process because if the information is not collected correctly, the conclusion drawn could be false or meaningless. Statistics broadly can be classified into two (2): Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

Why Statistics?

The import of statistics cannot be overemphasized. Statistics as a discipline plays important role in several diverse areas. For example, it is used to predict the outcome of elections and to help determine governmental policies. Statistics assists in determining the effectiveness of new medications. Statistics can be used to discover unlikely occurrences. Moreover, statistics can be used to forecast future occurrences like economic growth, population growth, inflation rate, infertility rate, crime rate, crime trend and patterns.

Unfortunately, if statistics is used inappropriately, it can lend support to inaccurate belief. Understanding the methodologies of statistics will provide you with the ability to analyze and critique studies and experiments. With this ability, you will be an informed consumer of information, which will enable you to distinguish solid statistical analysis from the bogus presentation of numerical “fact”.

Moreover, unless an accurate information about crime exist one cannot be sure whether a particular policy, process, or procedure has the effect its creators envisioned. Although statistical comparison between official crime rates and the extent of crime-related may varies across locations (Muraskin and Roberts 2005).

Statistics and Data

There is a significant relationship between statistics and data. Data for instance are individual pieces of factual information recorded and used for the purpose of analysis. It is the raw information from which statistics are created. Statistics therefore are the end result of data analysis, data organization, its interpretation and presentation.

History of Crime Statistics

Although the gathering of crime statistics is a relatively new phenomenon, population statistics have been collected periodically since pre-Roman times. Old Testament accounts of enumerations of the Hebrews, for example, provided evidence of Middle Eastern census taken thousands of years ago. In like manner, the New Testament describes how the family of Jesus Christ had to return home to be counted during an official census. Although census taking has occurred throughout history, inferences based on statistical demographics appear to be a product of the last 200 years. In 1798, the English economist Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834) published an essay in the *Principle of Population* warfare, crime, and starvation. The human population, Malthus predicted, would grow exponentially over the following decades or centuries, leading to a shortage of needed resources, especially food. Conflict on both interpersonally and international levels would be the result. Malthus claimed, as individuals and groups competed for survivals. As a direct result of Malthusian thought, investigators throughout Europe began to gather “moral statistics”, or social enumerations, which they thought might prove useful in measuring the degree to which crime and conflict existed in societies of the period. Such statistics were scrutinized in hopes of gauging “the moral health of nations”- a phrase commonly used throughout the period. One of the first such investigators was Andre-Michal Guerry (1802-1866), who calculated per capita crime rates throughout various French provinces in the early 19th century.

In 1835, the Belgian astronomer and mathematician Adolphe Quetelet (1796-1864) published a statistical analysis of crime in a number of European countries, including Belgium, France, and Holland. Quetelet set for himself the goal of assessing the degree of which crime rates varied according to climate and people's sex and age. He noticed what is still obvious to criminal statisticians' today- that crime changes with seasons, with many violent crimes increasing in frequency during colder parts of the year. As a consequences of these law, Quetelet



claimed, morality undergoes seasonal variation- a proposal that stimulated widespread debate in its day.

The first officially published crime statistics appeared in London's Gazette beginning in 1828 and France's 1825 *Comptegenerale*. Soon, comparisons (or what contemporary statisticians call correlations) began to be calculated between economic conditions and the rates of various types of crime. From a study of English statistical data covering the years 1810-1847, Joseph Fletcher concluded that prison commitments increased as the price of wheat rose. In like fashion, the German writer Georg von Mayr, whose data covered the years 1836 to 1861, discovered that the rate of theft increased with the price of rye in Bavaria (Frank and Rebeca 2010).

The work of statisticians such as Guerry and Quetelet formed the historical basis for what has been called the statistical school of criminology (statistical school a criminology perspective with roots in the early 19th century that seeks to uncover correlations between crime rate and other types of demographic data). The statistical school anticipated the development of both sociological criminology and the ecological school.

Dark figure of crime: This refers to that portion of criminal activities that goes unreported and or undetected by the official source (It is vital to note that the Nigerian Police Force is the first and foremost law enforcement agent and the police are in charge of crime statistics, this is also applicable in other climes).

Undetected crimes: These are the categories of crimes and criminal activities that are undetected by the police. Hence such offenders go unpunished and the offence they committed was not detected and hence was not recorded.

Unreported crimes: These are the crimes and criminal activities that was perpetrated by offenders but were not reported by the victims, or eye witness that saw the crime happening.

Unrecorded crimes: These category of crimes

was not record by the Nigeria police force for one reason or the other which could be best known to them. It vital to note at this point that the Police enjoys discretion not only to make arrest but also to choose which offence to prosecute (record) and which one to strike out (discharging and bailing the offender from the police custody without charging him or her to court).

Detected but not recorded crimes: These category of crimes was detected by the police but it was not recorded. Sometimes the police may tend to overlook some crimes and may not record it in the criminal records. Crimes in this category could be insignificant or a very simple offence that the police tend to overlook.

Detected, reported but not recorded crimes: This category of crime was detected and reported but the police did not record such crime. Based on their discretion, they may decide not to record a particular crime if such crime is inconsequential. Many of the crimes that are reported to them are not recorded in the statistics. This can occur for many reasons. For instance, the police may be skeptical of the validity of some information about purported crimes that comes their way, or the victim may not want to lodge a formal complaint.

Detected, reported and recorded crimes: This constitutes the official crime statistics. This category of crimes was detected by the Nigeria police, or reported by the populace to the Nigeria police and the police recorded such crime. It is under this category that forms the official crime statistics of Nigeria. As noted by Haralambos and Holborn (2008), there is much evidence of a substantial 'dark figures' of unrecorded crimes. Before a crime is recorded, at least three things must happen:

- i. It must come to someone's attention that a crime has taken place
- ii. It must be reported to the relevant agency
- iii. That agency must be willing to accept that the law has been broken.

The police have the final decision on whether a particular crime that was reported is worth recording in the crime records.



Types of crimes statistics in Nigeria

There are two main categorization of crime statistics:

- (i) Official statistics
- (ii) Unofficial crime statistics.

The main focus of this chapter is on official crime statistics which are mainly gotten from three (3) major sources, the police records, the court records and the prison records. While the unofficial crime statistics are majorly sourced from self-reports of criminal involvement and second is surveys of victimizations. Official crime statistics will be discussed in full below.

Official Crime Statistics

Official crime statistics are generated based on summarized monthly police reports from police headquarters across the thirty six (36) states and the federal capital territory. These police reports includes but not limited the number of crimes committed (by states), type of offences committed (which includes offence against persons, offence against property, offence against lawful authority, offence against local acts etc.), offenders (by gender), number of adults charged, number of juveniles charged and gender of those charged. It is unfortunate to note that crime statistics are less than the actual crime committed in a particular society over a period of time irrespective of the source of the crime statistics.

In Nigeria for instance, the police officially are in charge of crime statistics because they are the foremost agent in terms of law enforcement, crime detection, crime prevention and prosecution of offenders. However, it is only crimes that are reported to the Nigerian police force, or that was detected by the Nigeria police force themselves, or someone else reported to them that are included in the crime statistics compiled by the Nigeria Police force.

Invariably that means that unless someone complains or reports a crime to the Nigerian police force, about a criminal incident, it will go unreported and will not appear in the crime statistics. Most complaints, of course are made by the victims. Although it is an aberration that the

Nigeria police lacks the capacity to gather intelligence from the populace which is caused by poor Police-Public Relations in Nigeria.

Because crime statistics are mainly based on reported crime, crime statistics has been criticized for underestimating the true incidence of criminal activities within Nigeria. This has led to **dark figure of crime** in Nigeria which are unreported and under-reported criminal activities (Alemika and Omotosho, 2010).

Although other agencies can deal with crimes, but these records are not included in the crime statistics compiled by the Nigeria police force. For instance, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) deals with economic crimes, cybercrimes and other related frauds, these cases if not reported to the Police will not be included in the crime statistics. Also Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), have records of drug dealers they arrested in a year, which may be published in their website or published in annual, bi-annual or quarterly reports and all these information will not be included in official crime statistics as compiled by the Police except if any of such case was handed over to the police for prosecution. The same applies to the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), as concerns the number of hoodlums caught vandalizing oil pipelines, stealing electric cables and others. If the NSCDC do not report or hand over such cases to the Nigeria police force for prosecution such cases may not be included in the official crime statistics.

Sources of Official Crime Statistics in Nigeria

The official crime statistics are gotten from three (3) major sources:

- (a) Police record
- (b) Court record
- (c) Prison record

Our main focus will be on the police record because the crime statistics from court records shows us the number of convicted criminals, type of offence committed, type of punishment meted out on the criminal while the crime statistics from prison records shows us the number of awaiting



trial inmates, number of first offenders, number of convicted inmates, number of condemned inmates etc. The police record is more detailed and comprehensive, as it shows crime category, offences by years, by month, by state and by local government area, by gender, etc. The compilation of crime statistics has continued apace ever since crime-related data began to be gathered over a century ago. In Nigeria crime statistics are majorly compiled and reported by the Nigerian Police Force. It is unfortunate to note that the Nigeria Police Force do not make these statistics publically available to the public. Although, the Police Public Relations Officers opines that it is always made available on request, several attempts were made by the authors in the course of writing this chapter for the release of "Crime Statistics: Reported offences by Type and State 2015-2019, at the Police Headquarters Abuja and after so much many follow ups, the data was not released. That is one out of many challenges criminology and sociology researcher's face in Nigeria and other developing countries. Unlike in developed countries where these statistics are published annually for the consumption of the populace.

However, the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS) sometimes publishes bit of crime statistics (sometimes they can publish statistics on drug use, corruption etc.). It is worthy to note that crime statistics as published by the NBS is from the Nigeria Police. Although the crime statistics from NBS does not cover detailed offences, by type, by state, by gender like the Police crime statistics, but it is always made available to the public. Nevertheless, in developed countries like Canada and others, unofficial crime statistics can be derived from general social survey like victimization survey where households report that they have been affected by crime which can be used to check and validity official crime statistics.

Strengths of official crime statistics

Official crime statistics have some merits over the unofficial statistics which are as follows:

- (a) Just like we saw in table two above that crime statistics helps law enforcement

agents, criminal justice experts to compare the crime rate of previous years in order to discover the trends in crime

- (b) Moreover, crime statistics helps us to understand which particular crime is prevalent and that will help law enforcement experts gain insight on how best to tackle and curb such crime
- (c) In addition, just like we saw in table two above, the crime statistics shows where (local government, state, region) that has high crime prevalence and then concentrate more human and economic resources to such places in order to reduce the crime rate in such place.
- (d) Another strength of official crime statistics is that it is useful for understanding macro crime patterns.
- (e) Similarly, another strength of official crime statistics is that it is more reliable than the unofficial crime statistics, this is because it covers large areas and has larger data set than the unofficial crime statistics.

Weakness of official crime statistics

Despite the importance of official crime statistics, it has some weaknesses, which includes but not limited to:

- (a) Dark figures of crime, the official crime statistics are less than the actual crime that took place
- (b) The police may decide to inflate a particular crime or increase the crime rate in a particular region in order to influence policy or attract more funding into the force.
- © A particular crime or offence can be under reported if the police feel that such crime is less important when compared to other types of crime.

Unofficial Crime Statistics

Although the major focus of this chapter is on official crime statistics as discussed above but it becomes necessary to briefly discuss unofficial crime statistics. In United states of America, Canada and other developed climes, unofficial crime statistics can be derived from general social survey like victimization survey where households report that they have been affected by



crime. Unofficial crime statistics were generated in order to explore the dark figure of crime that did not become known to the police, to create measures of crime that were independent of the official registrars of crime and crime control, and to address more general validity and reliability issues in the measurement of crime.

There are two major categories of unofficial crime statistics sources:

- (i) Social science records
- (ii) Private-agency records

The social sciences records are of two sources; the first source is the self-reports of criminal involvement. The second is the victimization survey, this method is the most recent and probably the most important and influential of the unofficial crime statistics. Victimization surveys were initiated in the mid-1960s to expose the dark figures of crime and to depict crime from the victim's perspective. Moreover, there are also two minor and less significant sources of social science data which are observation studies of crime or criminal justice, and experiments on deviant behaviour.

Among the sources of the private-agency records are those compiled by firms or industries to monitor property losses, injuries, or claims; by private security organisations; and by national trade associations amongst other private-agencies.

Strengths of unofficial crime statistics

Despite its unpopularity, unofficial crime statistics possess some strengths which are as follows:

- (a) Unofficial crime statistics provides extremely important additional perspective on crime.
- (b) Unofficial crime statistics helps confirm the magnitude of the under reporting and non reporting problems of the official crime statistics.
- (c) Comparing the rates of victimization and crimes known to the police, the victimization data shows that crimes occur more than twice as been reported by the

police.

- (d) Unofficial crime statistics contributes to a better understanding of crime and this will make law enforcement agents and criminal justice experts to gain more insight about crime.

Weakness of unofficial crime statistics

Just like the official crime statistics, the unofficial crime statistics possesses some weaknesses which includes but not limited to:

- (a) It is difficult to validate unofficial crime statistics because of low reliability which makes it difficult to be validated.
- (b) "Double dark figure", there are more dark figures of hidden crime in unofficial crime statistics than in the official crime statistics, this is because crime that is not reported to interviewers in victimization surveys designed to uncover crimes not reported to the police. For instance, in the current wave of rape and sexual molestation in Nigeria, if a victimization survey on rape or sexual molestation is carried out, not all the victims will open up to say their experience as a victim of rape or sexual molestation because of stigmatization, "culture of silence" amongst other factors. Also sometimes victims may not be able to remember the crime incident. In the same vein, victims may decide not to recount or report less serious and more common offences they were victim of.
- (c) Underestimation of the true amount of crime. Unofficial crime statistics underestimates the actual crime that took in a particular place. This is because some respondents may lie or simply decide to shade their answers for their personal reasons.
- (d) Interviewer-respondents mistrust, this could occur when the respondents do not trust the interviewer or due to attempts to protect the perpetrator, lack of motivation to participate in the survey, or personal aggrandizement etc.
- (e) Another weakness is that victim survey maybe focused on a particular crime or offence leaving out other array of crimes,



and the victims of such crimes that are not listed will be excluded in the survey.

- (f) Another weakness of unofficial crime statistics like the victim survey is that it cannot cover the entire country, it will be difficult, take longer time and more resources to conduct a national victim survey in Nigeria across the geo-political zones, across the states and local governments. Data from victim survey are not always large enough to generalize such data.
- (g) Problem of counting is also another weakness of unofficial crime statistics for example, when there are more than one perpetrators involved in a particular crime, it becomes difficult for the respondent to report the number of victimizers with accuracy and precision.

Below is a typical crime statistics of 2016 according to states and type of offence as reported.

Table 1: Crime Statistics: Reported Offences by Types and State 2016

State	Offence Against Persons	Offence Against Property	Offence Against Lawful Authority	Offence Against Local Acts	Total No. of Cases	Share of total cases
FCT	2,984	9,350	843	4	13,181	10.48
Abia	230	213	21	0	464	0.29
Adamawa	779	1,417	56	7	2,259	1.80
AkwaiBom	840	333	232	6	1,411	1.12
Anambra	898	1,413	142	81	2,534	2.01
Bauchi	812	1,713	118	14	2,657	2.11
Bayelsa	612	837	91	1	1,541	1.23
Benue	463	497	0	129	1,089	0.87
Borno	423	479	3	269	1,174	0.93
C/River	1,134	1,154	100	35	2,423	1.93
Delta	3,911	2,502	1,202	252	7,867	6.25
Ebonyi	572	595	44	0	1,211	0.96
Edo	697	307	0	0	1,004	0.80
Ekiti	718	1,008	103	0	1,829	1.45
Enugu	886	1,094	124	0	2,104	1.67
Gombe	513	1,350	19	356	2,238	1.78
Imo	954	873	103	0	1,930	1.53
Jigawa	321	214	37	74	646	0.51
Kaduna	338	502	129	37	1,006	0.80
Kano	1,981	2,375	318	243	4,917	3.91
Katsina	51	65	4	0	120	0.10
Kebbi	656	370	21	22	1,069	0.78
Kogi	294	480	17	7	798	0.63
Kwara	327	614	21	22	984	0.78
Lagos	15,426	22,885	6,768	306	45,385	36.08
Nasarawa	489	725	14	92	1,320	1.05
Niger	528	1,083	53	105	1,769	1.41
Ogun	1,122	1,112	145	0	2,379	1.89

Source: National Bureau of Statistics: Reported Offences-2016

Table 1 shows reported offences by types and state 2016. The data revealed that offences against property occurred most in 2016. This could be explained by the fact that stealing, robbery, extortion, burglary, house breaking, cheating by false presences, store breaking, forgery, receiving stolen property, unlawful possession, arson amongst other offences which are categorized under offences against property occurs on a daily basis. The punishment for offences against property is less severe than the punishment for offences against persons, hence offences against property is more common and occurs often than crime against persons like murder, manslaughter, attempted murder, suicide, grievous harm/wounding, assault, child stealing, slave dealing, rape and indecent assault, unnatural offences. While Lagos state had the highest number of crime with over (36%) of all the crimes that occurred in Nigeria in 2016.

Table 2: Crime Statistics: Reported Offences by Types and Geo-Political Zone 2016

State	Offence Against Persons	Offence Against Property	Offence Against Lawful Authority	Offence Against Local Acts	Total No. of Cases
North Central	5,555	14,687	1,093	359	21,694 (17.2%)
North East	3,644	6,477	269	699	11,089 (8.8%)
North West	4,000	4,884	544	393	9,821 (7.8%)
South East	3,540	4,188	434	81	8,243 (6.6%)
South South	8,877	6,030	1,896	437	17,240 (13.7%)
South West	19,938	29,231	7,908	640	57,717 (45.9%)
Total	45,554 (36.2%)	65,397 (52%)	12,144 (9.7%)	2,695 (2.1%)	125,804 (100%)

Source: National Bureau of Statistics: Reported Offences- 2016

From table 2 above, the crime statistics shows that a total of 125,804 crimes occurred in 2016 across the six geo-political zones. The statistics above further shows that South West 57,717 (45.9%) had the highest number of crime in 2016, followed by North Central 21,694 (17.2%) while South East 8,243 (6.6%) had the lowest crime incidence in



2016. In crime typology, it was observed from the table that offence against property was the highest number 65,397 (52%) was highest number of crime that occurred in 2016, followed by offence against persons 45,554 (36.2%) while offence against local acts are the least crime that occurred in 2016.

Crime statistics: The Importance

Data is what improves our understanding of our current situation, and it is a fundamental requirement for the successful design or implementation of any solutions (Yemi, 2019). Just like table 2 above showed us the type of crime/offence that was prevalent in 2016. And which geo- political zone and state that had the highest percentage of crime and why? How many crimes against persons took in each geo-political zone in 2016? Who committed the crime? Who were the most likely to be victims? Which state of the country had the highest rate of crime against persons? and Why?

These are the types of questions frequently asked, not only by those with a particular interest in the study of crime and criminals, but also members of the general public. Crime statistics in no small measure help provide answers to these and other questions and paint a picture of the reality of crime in the country. More often, the first step toward solving a problem is understanding it, and this certainly applies to the problem of crime. Criminologists, students of criminology, and interested members of the public must understand the crime problem before any serious attempts at controlling or preventing it can be made. Crime statistics and data can be useful in so many ways.

Crime statistics assists in describing the nature and extent of crime, which is necessary to develop effective crime-prevention policies. These policies, in turn, are usually responses to public pressure. Since it is the public that is the major player in reporting crime, the types of crime it reports reflects those issues most concerning and bothering it. By providing descriptive information about criminal activities, crime statistics serve as a gauge of the community's well-being. Crime statistics provide the empirical support for the hypotheses developed by

criminologists, who attempted to explain the phenomenon of crime and criminals. Crime statistics ultimately provide the test for theoretical assertion. Theoretical criminology which is a subfield of general criminology, rather than simply describe crime and its occurrence, it (theoretical criminology) posits explanation for criminal behaviour. As Edwin Sutherland stated that “the problem of criminology is to explain the criminality of behaviour...”. Crime statistics provides background for theoretical explanation of crime.

For instance, as observed in table 2 above, in 2016 South west geopolitical zone had the highest percentage (45.9%) of crime, the preponderance of crime in South west in 2016 could be as a result of high rate of crime in Lagos state which is in South west Nigeria. Within South west geopolitical zone 78.6% of all the crimes in 2016 occurred in Lagos state alone, while other remaining five states (Ekiti, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo states) shared the remaining 21.4% of crime that occurred in the zone. There is no doubt that this high crime rate in Lagos state is as a result of overpopulation, high commercial activities that takes place in Lagos, many cooperate and private organisations have their national and regional headquarters in Lagos, and that makes it a commercial centre in Nigeria. It is also worthy to note that Lagos state was the former headquarter of Nigeria before it was moved to the federal capital territory Abuja, hence the overpopulation which in turn leads to high crime rate in the state. Crime statistics in no measure helps law enforcement agents in planning and deployment of its officers. With the high rate of crime that occurs in Lagos in 2016, the Inspector General (IG) of police will deploy large number of police officers in the state to curb and control criminal activities.

Just as crime statistics are used as a basis for developing social policy, they are also crucial in evaluating that policy. Whether or not youth engagement in the “N-Power” program in Nigeria will reduce the number of youth who engage in crime because of unemployment, such program will be assessed through an analysis of the data.



Although “N-Power program is not solely a crime prevention program, whether Amnesty program in the Niger-Delta will reduce the bombing of oil pipelines in the zone by the aggrieved youths? However, there is a correlate between youth unemployment and youth involvement in crime in Nigeria. Program evaluation is often difficult to do well, and many such evaluations fall prey to the cost factor. Some programs are introduced largely because they are more cost-effective than conventional approaches, yet they may not achieve the desired result of reducing crime. Likewise, some programs that successfully reduce crime are shelved because they are seen as too expensive.

Most criminologists agree that the prevention of crime is generally considered preferable to its punishment. Prevention, in turn, is largely based on prediction. What type of people are most likely to commit what type of crime and why? Where will they commit them? Criminologists and others use crime data to help provide answers to these questions. For instance, the Canadian Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design model (CPTED) is based on the theory that the proper design and effective use of a physical space can help reduce the incidence of crime in that area. This theory, in turn is based on crime data showing that crime occurs more often in areas where the opportunities for criminal activities are greatest. It is important to note that predicting criminal activity and behaviour is an inexact science open to numerous pitfalls. In the early part of the 20th century, for example, Cesare Lombroso believed he could predict future criminal behaviour based on an individual's physical characteristics such as the size of his ears or the shape of his nose. In the search for a quick fix to the crime problem, some people subscribed to such predictions. For others, prediction models for crime and criminal behaviour seem about as accurate as flipping a coin (Rebecca and Frank, 2002; John 1974; Henry and Karen, 2000).

The importance of crime statistics cannot be overemphasized in theory building. Many theories of crime are based on official statistics provided by the police, the courts, and other

government agencies involved in law enforcement. In developed countries, crime statistics consistently show that some groups are more involved in crime than others. The working class, young people, male, unemployed, and members of some minority ethnic groups are all more likely to commit crimes than the middle class, the elderly and females. Some criminologists and sociologists have taken these figures at face value while others have proceeded to explain why such groups should be criminal or why a particular type of crime is very high in a particular area than other areas, the Niger-Delta youth activities prior to the Amnesty program could be a good explanation.

Furthermore, crime statistics allow comparisons to be made between crimes, and with previous years. If there is increase in a particular crime or crime generally over previous years, this can lead to concern that the country is being engulfed in a crime wave. And can result in beefing up of security as always the case in Nigeria.

Finally, crime statistics are useful in providing a picture of risk. Public perceptions of the amount and types of crimes are often inconsistent with reality. Crime statistics are useful in assessing the risk to various segments of the population. For example, does, one's sex, age, or social class have any bearing on his or her risk of becoming a victim of crime or of becoming involved in criminal behaviour?

**Table 3: Crime Statistics: Reported Offences by Types and State 2017**

State	Offence Against Persons	Offence Against Property	Offence Against Lawful Authority	Total No. of Cases
FCT	1,183	4,160	39	5,382
Abia	9,816	2,320	272	12,408
Adamawa	811	1,406	52	2,269
Akwabom	702	593	378	1,673
Anambra	127	1,030	731	1,888
Bauchi	196	186	4	386
Bayelsa	612	840	91	1,543
Benue	431	1,500	1,000	2,041
Borno	681	907	3	1,591
C/River	949	1,518	56	2,041
Delta	3,310	3,109	731	7,150
Ebonyi	1,275	2,787	152	4,214
Edo	729	848	152	1,729
Ekiti	427	554	-	981
Enugu	935	1,111	125	2,171
Gombe	408	972	33	1,413
Imo	893	697	-	1,590
Jigawa	345	397	47	789
Kaduna	385	694	4	1,083
Kano	2,102	3,314	289	5,705
Katsina	602	902	58	1,562
Kebbi	88	106	11	205
Kogi	146	111	25	282
Kwara	279	526	25	830
Lagos	18,926	24,989	7,060	50,975
Nasarawa	466	481	133	1,080
Niger	564	1,343	754	2,661
Ogun	518	546	537	1,601
Ondo	1,282	2,142	289	3,713

Source: National Bureau of Statistics

Just like in table 2 above, table 3 shows that in 2017, crime against property occurred most in Nigeria and Lagos had the highest of crime in Nigeria in 2017 just like in 2016. Similarly, offences against local act was the least crime that occurred in the 2017 just like in 2016.

Crime Statistics and Research: The Nexus

In developed countries like Europe and America where Victimization Surveys takes place,

Victimization Surveys consists of information elicited through interviews with members of randomly selected households throughout the country. Hence, these surveys, uncover a large number of crimes that may not have been reported to the police, and are therefore regarded as many researchers as a more accurate measure of the actual incidence of crime in any society. Victimization surveys are conducted from time to time, it is unfortunate that Nigeria lacks such annual surveys. Although criminologist, sociologists and other researchers are conducting researches in Nigeria which can be individual based, such data cannot be categorized as a victimization national survey. Also Nigeria lacks Self-Reporting Studies, this is a study in which data collection method requiring subjects to reveal their own participation in criminal behaviour. Within the field of criminology, there is a widely held belief that to understand crime, it is important to ask people about their own involvement with it. There have been countless self-reported studies conducted with various groups of individuals, most notably with youths in developed countries. Crime statistics are also very useful in carrying researches. It can be used as a supporting evidence or as an empirical justification for carrying out any research in Nigeria. *Although individuals have been carrying out researches on crime and are generating crime data, such cross-sectional studies cannot qualify to be termed crime statistics.*

Crime statistics: The Nigerian reality

The problem with crime statistics especially in Nigeria where Police-Public Relations is very low, is that only crimes that are reported to the Nigeria Police Force or crimes that are detected or discovered by them, or by someone else who then reports to them in line with their statutory duty which is the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the protection of life and property and the due enforcement of all laws and regulations. This means that unless police detects a crime or someone complains to the police about a criminal incident, it will go unreported and will not appear in the crime statistics. In advance countries most reports and complaints about



crime are of course made by the victims. Unfortunately, it is a different scenario in Nigeria as the populace lacks confidence in the Nigerian police.

There have been several reports where victims of crime went to report to the Police, and such victims were asked to pay money for investigations. Similarly, survivors and victims of sexual gender based violence (hereafter SGBV) who were assaulted in one way or the other who reported to the police have been turned back by the police to go and settle with their husbands or such crime perpetrators. Sometimes the police will sarcastically ask such victim why they denied their husband sex, as if denial of sex is the only reason for SGBV. The Nigeria police force as recorded by Ugwuoke (2010) lacks public cooperation, which is the most valued asset for crime detection and intelligence gathering.

Public-co-operation is the most valuable asset of police organization in every modern society. This is because criminals live with the people in the society and unless informants (populace) comes up with useful information concerning the identity of the criminals, the police will not be able to do the expected magic of identifying and arresting criminals. The colonial legacy predicated on unnecessary use of force seems to have denied the police the opportunity of this vital asset which is public cooperation. Most members of the public see an average police officer as brutal and unfriendly and who should be avoided by all cost. The above findings were succinctly corroborated by Ayodele and Aderinto (2014), when they opined that Lagos populace have low confidence in the Nigeria police force, especially among victims of crime and makes such victim not to report crimes to the police force. They further revealed that such low confidence could be as a result of police practices of bribery and extortion, ineffectiveness of the police, concerns of police complicity crime, police nonchalance, police lack of integrity (Ayodele and Aderinto, 2014).

This distrust has also made members of the public to be skeptical about the abilities of the Nigeria

police to protect their identity from criminals should they divulge certain information concerning the criminals. Thus people are afraid of reprisal attacks from the criminals should they cooperate with the police by giving information about the criminals (Ugwuoke, 2010). Invariably, such negative attitude by the Nigerian populace will breed more of dark figures of crime than crime statistics. In Nigeria's electronic and print media, rape crime and other sexual related offences make the headlines almost on daily basis, yet crime data on rape and other sexually offences are always the lowest. This is because this category of offence against persons are not easily reported. Reasons for not reporting a crime such as sexual assault (physical sexual assault in form of rape, sexual molestation, coerced marital sex, sexual harassment, demand of sex for school grades, rape of children, demand of sex for job opportunities etc., or verbal sexual abuse) are numerous and includes but not limited to:

1. The victim's fear of the perpetrators
2. The victim's shame/stigmatization.
3. Fears the victim may have of not being believed (this is prevalent in Nigeria especially as concerns rape and other sexual related offences)
4. The victim's fear of further participation in the justice system (such as the possibility of the victim being required to go to court and testify against the offender, scrutiny and going to bring medical report that she was actually molested sexually).

Other general reasons that may make victims not to report a crime includes “fear of revenge”, “nothing can be done about it”, “the deal is done already”, “the crime is too minor”, or the incident was a “private matter”.

Although many other crimes are under-reported in Nigeria as well. However, sexual assault and sexual related offences are mostly under-reported not only in Nigeria but also in other climes. Also theft of ₦1,000 or lower amount, because the theft of small amounts or items may never make it into official police reports and may even be overlooked or forgotten by victims. It is interesting to note that changes in public attitude



about certain types of crime such as car theft have resulted in the public's inclination to report these crimes more readily.

Another concern about the accuracy of Nigeria crime statistics is the way in which the Nigeria police record and report the criminal activity that is detected. It is pertinent to note that most police stations in Nigeria are yet to digitalize their operations and are still operating analog system. Such mode of operations (manual compilation of crimes) will invariably affect the accuracy of the crime statistics. In most police stations, data are written in a black board on the wall or in a book and is later compiled in a weekly or monthly basis and submitted to the appropriate quarters.

Sometimes even when a victim is wounded, more than half of the cases are not reported to the police. Most times victims claim, for example, that it is a private affairs or something they can deal with themselves. Physical and sexual abuse often take place behind closed doors in the home, or in care institutions (the atrocities committed in various internally displaced persons camps most times are unreported)- this is because victims may fear that they won't be believed by the police, or that the abuse may get worse if the report the victim. How can a young girl in an IDP camp report an army officer? Know that the police may not even be able to protect her after reporting such army officer. All these and more breeds dark figure of crime in Nigeria.

The “Street” Criminal: A Profile

Criminal acts which constitutes the crime statistics are not committed by ghost, rather there are committed by human beings. Using government crime report (the police report) we can draw some general descriptions of people arrested, type of crime committed, by state, age and gender. Some people were arrested for offence against persons, offence against property, offence against lawful authority, offence against local act.

Age: Official crime reports shows that youths within the ages of 18-40 represent over 70% of all arrested for all crimes. A disturbing trend today is

that young people are responsible for a larger share of serious crimes irrespective of the type of crime. The analysis of awaiting trial inmates across Nigerian prisons awaiting trials for rape, armed robbery, kidnapping, assault, burglary and house breaking, receiving or buying stolen property, murder, assassination or attempted murder are all young people (Okunola and Dinne, 2016, Amnesty International report, 2010).

Gender: Although each sex makes up roughly half of the population, most police arrest in Nigeria are male dominated, no matter the type of offence in question. In other words, men are arrested more than women for offence against persons, offence against property, offence against lawful authority, offence against local act. Although criminologist have argued that the huge disparity in gender and crime is that law enforcement officials are reluctant to define women as criminals. Even so, the difference in arrest rates for women and men have been narrowing in recent years, which probably indicates increasing sexual equality in our society as women now engaged in armed robbery gang, kidnapping gangs amongst other violent crimes.

Type of Crime reported: In Nigeria, the Nigerian Police Force gathers information on criminal offences on monthly basis, according to the type of crimes committed or reported to the Nigeria Police by the state. This could later be compiled annually by state and by type of offences in Nigeria.

- (i) Crimes against person: Are crimes that direct violence or the threat of violence against others. Violent crimes include murder and manslaughter (legally defined as the “willful killing of one human being by another”), aggravated assault (an unlawful attack by one person on another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury), forcible rape (“the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will”) and robbery (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 putting the victim in fear”), kidnapping (“to take somebody away by force and hold him or her captive/prisoner, usually for ransom purposes”)

- (ii) Crimes against property: Are usually crimes that involve theft of property belonging to others. Property includes but not limited to burglary (“the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a (serious crime) or a theft”), larceny-theft (“the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession of another”), auto theft (“the theft or attempt theft of a motor vehicle”), and arson (“any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn the personal property of another”)
- (iii) Offences against Lawful Authority: This is any offence commitment against any establishment of the law. For example, the law says pay your tax through the designated Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), failure to do this amounts to an offence against lawful authority.
- (iv) Offence against Local Acts: These are offences against local acts like traffic offences, offence against Township Law, Liquor Law, Dog Law and other offences (Okunola, 2002).

Factors influencing dark figure of crime in Nigeria

There are several factors inhibiting accurate crime statistics in Nigeria, some scholars and criminologist have argued that crime statistics are not available in Nigeria, while other have argued that the few available ones are inaccurate, unreliable, inconsistent and does not add up. The factors below are some of the underlying factors why Nigeria have poor crime statistics:

1. Lack of Victimization Surveys: Unlike in developed countries like America and Canada where Victimization surveys are conducted from time to time, it is unfortunate that Nigeria lacks such annual surveys. Victimization Surveys consists of

information elicited through interviews with members of randomly selected households throughout the country. Hence, these surveys, uncover a large number of crimes that may not have been reported to the police, and are therefore regarded as many researchers as a more accurate measure of the actual incidence of crime in any society. In Canada for instance, a number of significant Victimization surveys have been undertaken in Canada. The first, and perhaps the most comprehensive, was the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (CUVS) conducted in 1981 under the auspices of the solicitor general of Canada. The survey randomly sampled roughly 60,000 Canadian over the age of 16 in 7 major cities. In telephone interviews, respondents were asked to describe any victimization experiences they had suffered in the preceding calendar year. Eight categories of crime were included in the survey: sexual assault, robbery, assault, breaking and entry, motor vehicle theft, theft of household property, theft of personal property and vandalism. The survey uncovered over 700,000 personal victimizations and almost 900,000 household victimizations had been reported to the police or had otherwise come to police attention. Beginning from 1988, *Statistics Canada* has conducted a Victimization Survey every five years as part of General Social Survey (GSS). Aside, GSS, Canada for instance also have other surveys which aims at documenting crime statistics, others include, Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (CUVS), Violence Against Women Survey (VAMS), International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS), amongst others. All these types of survey lacks in Nigeria. Kudos to Alemika and Omotoshowho has carried out a criminal victimization and safety research in Lagos in 2009. However, it was amongst 2,000 Lagos state residents in 20 local government areas. Criminal Victimization Safety and policing in Nigeria, 2005 and 2006 in Lagos state. That did not cover the



entire states in Nigeria and as such could not serve as a national victimization survey. Be that as it may, they need to be appreciated.

2. **Absence of Self-Reporting Studies in Nigeria.** Self-report study is a data collection method requiring subjects to reveal their own participation in criminal behaviour. Within the field of criminology, there is a widely held belief that to understand crime, it is important to ask people about their own involvement with it. There have been countless self-reported studies conducted with various groups of individuals, most notably with youths in developed countries. The result of the groundbreaking work by Short and Nye (1958) led many to believe that traditional police data have the potential to be biased toward certain segment of the society, in particular lower socio-economic classes.
3. Another factor that influence dark figure of crime or leads to inaccuracy of crime statistics in Nigeria is the way and manner the Nigeria police record and report the criminal activity that is detected. Aside still using analog method of writing on a black board with white chalk, or on a note book. Most police stations do not record their crime in a uniform and coherent manner. To expect that all the police stations across the divisions, across the states to record their crime statistics in a uniform manner could be unrealistic. This is because some of the police officers in charge could misclassify the crimes and may even forgot to record some of the crimes that were reported or detected. Most times the police faces difficulty in resolving challenges in reporting or transmission of data. Nevertheless, there are variations in how the police count crime, resulting from a number of factors. Changes in the number of police services and police officers will most certainly affect the number of detected crimes. Enforcement practices or mandates often vary from police station to police station.
4. **Miscounting of crime.** Related to the police recording and reporting are methodological concerns with the way the police counts crime, especially in an incident involving multiple offences. The police most times counts only the most serious offence in the incident. For example, if someone breaks into a store, severely assaults and harms the security personnel, and steals a stereo, only the assault is recorded. The most serious offence is determined by the maximum sentence length: in the scenario just mentioned, although the breaking and entry and assault both carry a severe sentence, the crime against person is considered more serious and takes precedence over the crime against property. As a result of this, less serious offence tend to be lost or not recorded in the crime statistics. Although crimes against person take precedence over crimes against property, this is not a good reason to overlook other less crimes during multiple offences.
5. For instance in violent crimes which majorly are crimes against persons. The police records the number of incidents in terms of number of victims. If one person assaults two people, two incidents are recorded. But if two people assault one person, only one incident is recorded. The exception to this scoring rule for violent crime is robbery: one occurrence of robbery is counted as one incident regardless of the number of victims. Since robbery can involve many people who could be considered victims.
6. **Over counting of crime figure:** The way crimes are counted is no less misleading. For example, a police officer finds a dead body in Oshodi in Lagos and believes the person was murdered, the event is recorded as a murder. It matters not if the next day the people says it was an accident or it was a justifiable homicide or an accidental death. The incident remains a murder for the purposes of the crime statistics. This way of counting grossly exaggerates the murder



rate is suggested by the fact that whereas the Police reports about 1,000 murders every year in Nigeria, there could be fewer than 300 convictions in state and federal courts for murder and negligent manslaughter combined.

Crime research and public policy in Nigeria

Skeptics often ask: With so many criminologists, Sociologist and Psychologists at work in Nigeria, and so many studies conducted over the last half century, why do we have so much crime, why is some of it increasing, and why do new forms of crime emerge constantly? There are several answers. Crime rates go up and down. Through the 1990s and recently, crime has actually been decreasing. The popular perception that the crime problem is increasing rests on a fear of crime that is fueled by media portrayals. Obviously, the various elements of the mass media are very competitive, and such competitiveness determines the focus on crime. Sensational reports often sell newspapers and TV programs. Politicians, in turn, seek security in office by catering for constant reportage of crime in the media.

Conclusion

Despite the shortfalls of crime statistics in Nigeria, its importance cannot be overemphasized. For the law enforcement agents to be efficient in their statutory role of crime prevention, crime detection and crime control there is need for a valid, accurate and reliable crime statistics as this will help them to know which crime is more prevalent and how to tackle it. Moreover for effective crime control policy in Nigeria, there is need for crime statistics. In Nigeria most populace do not report crime incident to the Nigerian police, this is due to lack of confidence and trust in them and this in particular have resulted into high rate of dark crime figures. Although many crime occur without detection either from the populace or from the Nigeria police force. However, some of the crime victims reports to the police depending on the type of offence and the gravity of the offence. It was observed in the course of this research that sexual offences like rape, sexual

molestation, sexual assault are less reported by the victims. And this is as a result of stigmatization, “culture of silence”, shame, not wanting their identity to be revealed as victims of rape because of the future consequences (most men may not want to marry a rape victim) so the victims don't usually want to engage in litigations against the culprits as such will further bring their case to the public domain because they will need medical examination to prove that they were actually raped, they will be cross examinations in the court of law to prove their claims.

Due to the discretion enjoyed by the Nigerian police force, some crimes that are reported to them may not be recorded and thus will not make it into the crime statistics. This could be as a result of the insignificant nature of such crime or the ability of the Nigeria police to resolve such case without further prosecution or litigation. The Nigeria police force still uses analog style of operation (even in recording, labeling and collating crime data) and that have contributed in making the crime statistics unreliable as some of the crimes are either undercounted, over counted or miscounted. There is an urgent need to enhance police-public relations in Nigeria as that will go a long way to make the public to have confidence and trust in the police and report crimes to them. The Nigeria police force needs more equipment to enable them carry out their duties effectively and efficiently. There is need for National Victimization Survey in Nigeria.

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