

Safety in regions

Safety is a critical element of well-being. The list of criminal activities is long and highly contextual and the measurement of some of them is a daunting task. Despite the fact that criminal activities like murder and car theft do not account for the whole spectrum of crimes faced by society, they can provide some basis for international co-operation. Recent analysis shows that the underlying causes of crime differ not only across but within countries calling for policies that take into account the regional heterogeneity of causes (OECD, 2013).

The OECD country with the highest murder rates, as well as the highest regional variation, is Mexico. In 2010, the region of Chihuahua (Mexico) had more than 100 murders per 100 000 inhabitants, while the region Yucatan (Mexico) only had 1.8 murders per 100 000 inhabitants (Figure 4.41). A wide regional disparity in murder rates is also found in the Russian Federation, ranging from 5 to 60 murders per 100 000 inhabitants in Belgorod and Tyvar Republic, respectively. OECD countries with lower murder rates, but with significant regional disparities, are the United States and Chile. For these countries, this large variation is due to an outlier region with a very high rate: Washington, D.C. (United States) and Aysén (Chile) had murder rates at least three times higher than their country values (Figure 4.41).

The theft of private property, albeit to a lesser extent than the number of murders, has a negative effect on people's well-being. It reduces a household's wealth, increases the costs associated with robbery prevention, and increases people's perception of insecurity. Since this type of crime is

Definition

Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought, more explicitly intentional murder. Reported murders are the number of murders reported to the police. The murder rate is the number of reported murders per 100 000 inhabitants.

Motor vehicle theft is defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle is a self-propelled vehicle that runs on land surfaces and not on rails.

commonly reported for insurances claims, it overcomes common issues of bias of statistics on property crimes due to different regional propensity to report the crime.

In 2010, the OECD countries showing the largest regional disparities for car theft were Spain, Mexico, the Slovak Republic and the United States (Figure 4.42). In these countries, regions like Ceuta (Spain), Chihuahua (Mexico), Bratislava (Slovak Republic) and the District of Columbia (United States) not only had the highest car theft rates in the country, but their rates were at least three times higher than the country value (Figure 4.42).

Source

OECD (2013), *OECD Regional Statistics* (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-en>.

See Annex B for data sources and country-related metadata.

Reference years and territorial level

2011; TL2.

Murders: No regional data are available for Finland, Germany, Iceland and Slovenia. For lack of comparability regional data from Canada are not used.

Further information

OECD/The Mexican Institute for Competitiveness (2013), *Strengthening Evidence-based Policy Making on Security and Justice in Mexico*, OECD Publishing, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264190450-en>.

Interactive graphs and maps: <http://rag.oecd.org>.

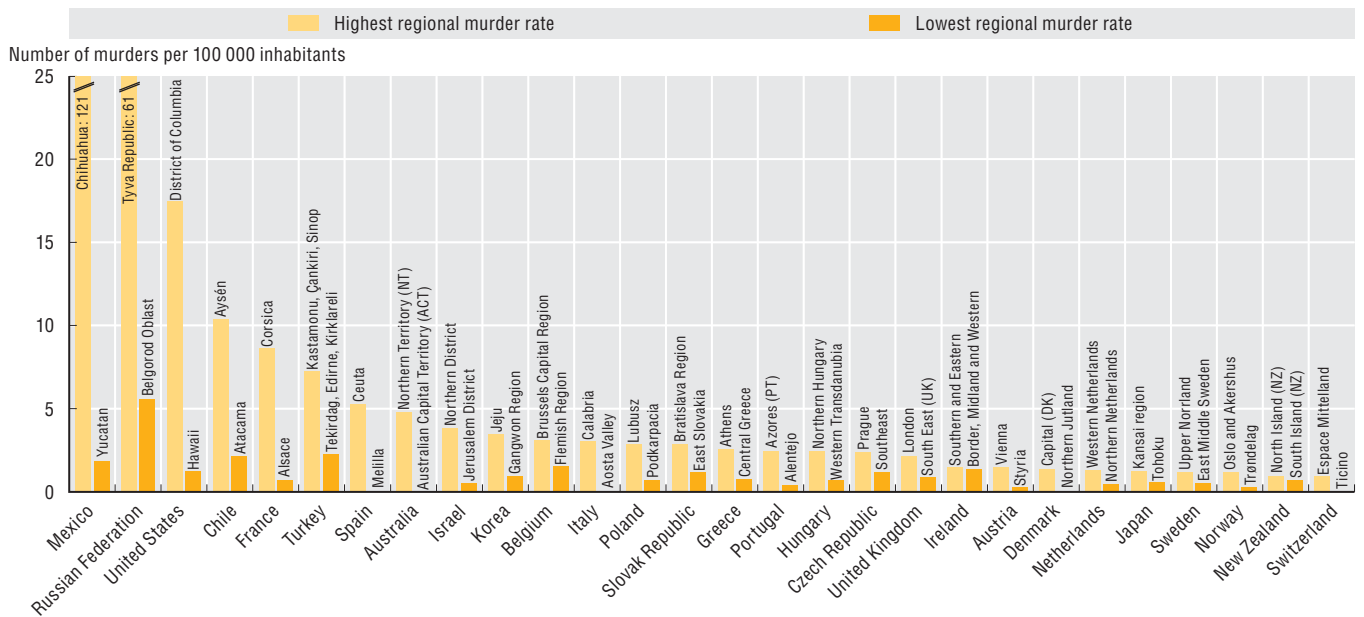
Figure notes

4.41: 2009 data for Belgium, Greece, Netherlands; 2008 for Turkey and United Kingdom.

4.42: 2010 data for Belgium and Italy. Each observation (point) represents a TL2 region of the countries shown in the vertical axis. Regional values are expressed as a multiple of the country value.

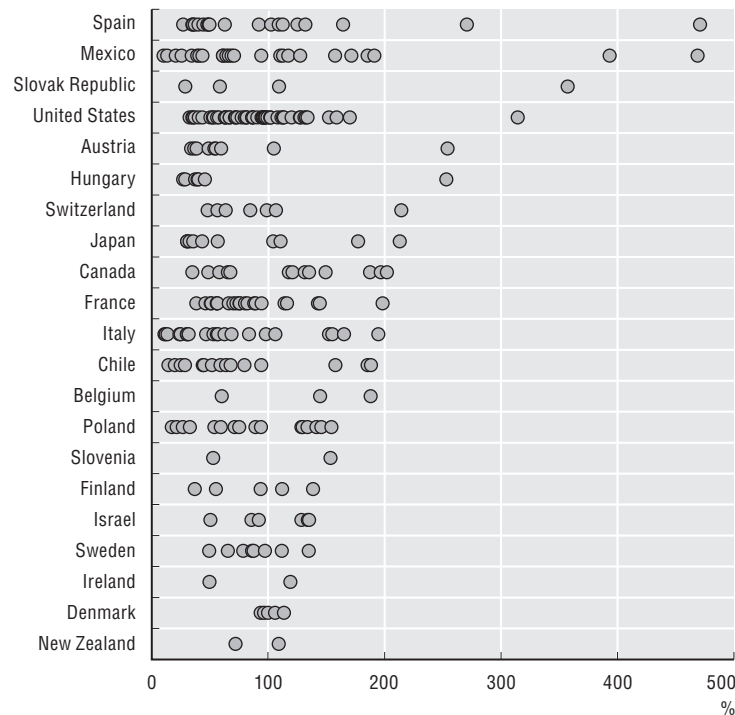
Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

4.41. Maximum and minimum values of regional murders per 100 000 inhabitants, 2011 (TL2)



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932914824>

4.42. Range in regional car theft per 100 000 inhabitants, 2011 (TL2); country value = 100



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932914843>



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