

23. SAFETY: REPORTED CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Safety is an important factor in the attractiveness of regions, but the lack of international standards for crime statistics makes international comparisons difficult. Statistics on reported crime are affected by how crime is defined in the national legislation and by the statistical criteria used in recording offences. In addition, public propensity to report offences varies greatly, not only among countries, but also among regions in the same country.

Crime rates vary for a number of reasons

Figure 23.1 shows the variation of the rate of crime against property with respect to the national average. Spain, Mexico and Turkey show the largest regional variation, and New Zealand, Greece and Denmark the lowest. The large variation in Spain is mainly due to two regions (Melilla and Aragon) with a crime rate three times the national average. Several

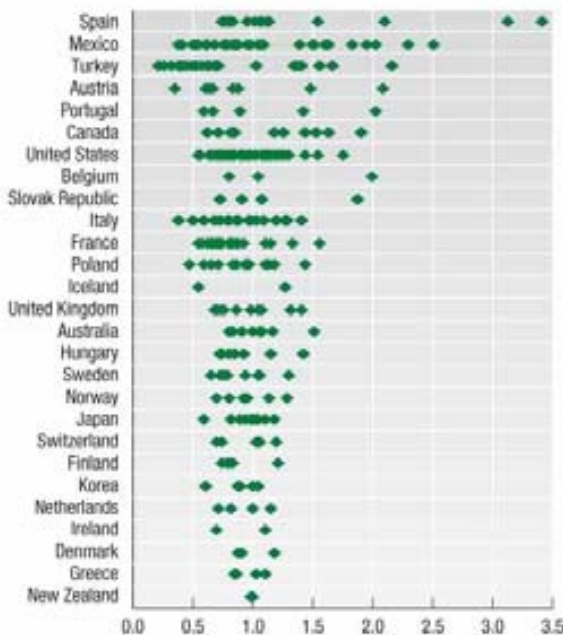
countries have regions with a crime rate double the national average: Austria (Wien), Belgium (Brussels), Mexico (Baja California Norte, Baja California Sur, Colima), Portugal (Algarve), Spain (Ceuta) and Turkey (Istanbul).

Crime rates are lower in rural areas

The correlation between the rate of crime against property and the share of population by type of region (urban, intermediate and rural) is positive for urban regions in all countries considered except Switzerland and the United States (Figure 23.2). The correlation coefficient is negative for rural regions in most countries; exceptions are Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. For Mexico and Canada the correlation coefficient is positive for both rural and urban regions; but is higher in rural regions.

23.1. Spain shows the largest regional differences in the rate of reported crime against property

Variation around the national average of the rate of crime against property, 2003 (TL2)



23.2. Crime against property is more frequent in urban regions

Spearman correlation between crime rate against property and share of population by regional type, 2003 (TL2)



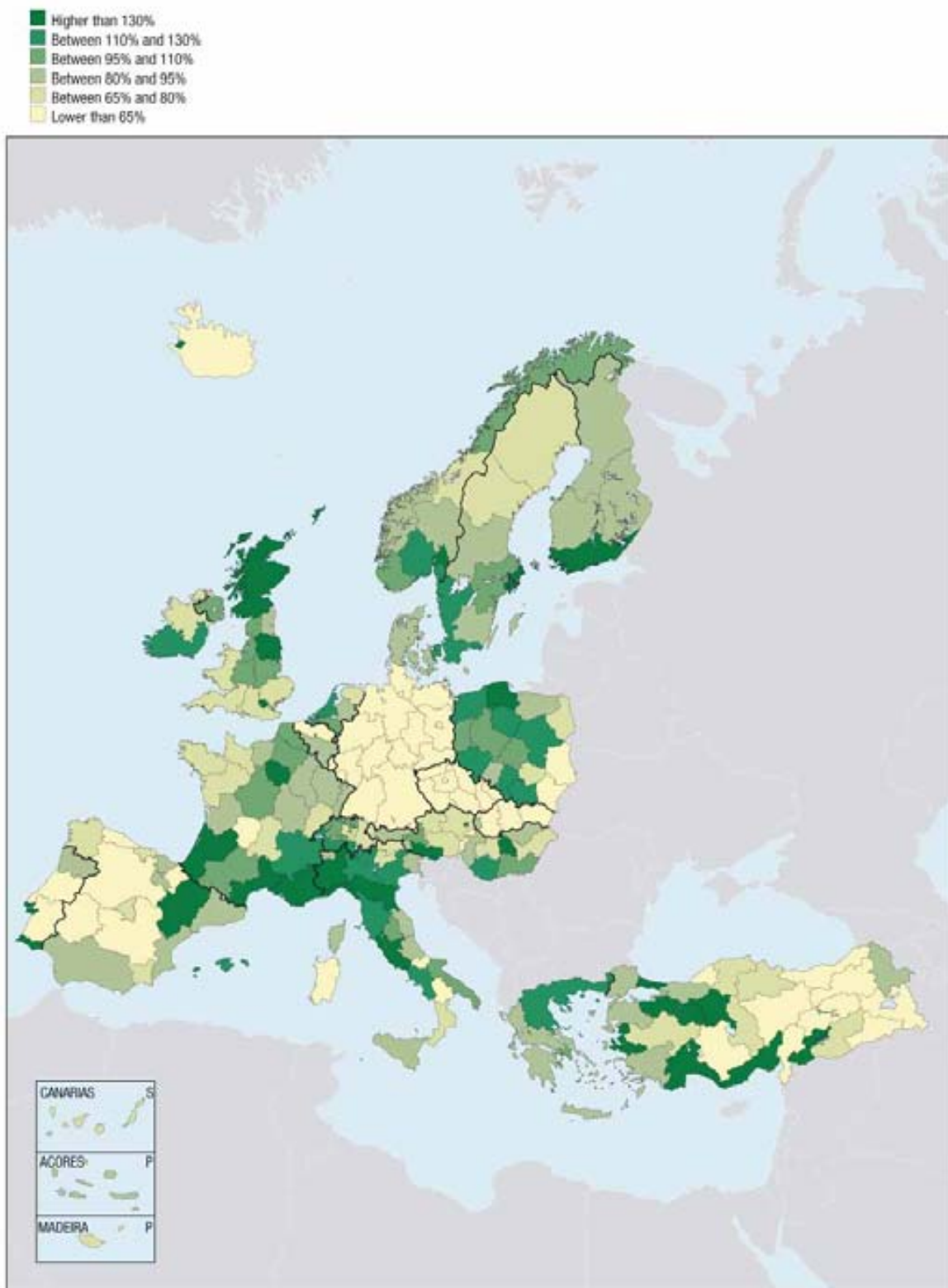
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Definition

The rate of crime against property is the number of reported crimes per 100 population. Reported crimes against property are the number of crimes reported to the police. Crimes against property include: forgery, arson, burglary, theft, fraud, robbery and malicious damage to property.

23.4. Regional crime against the property: Europe

Per inhabitant, as a percentage of the national average – 2003

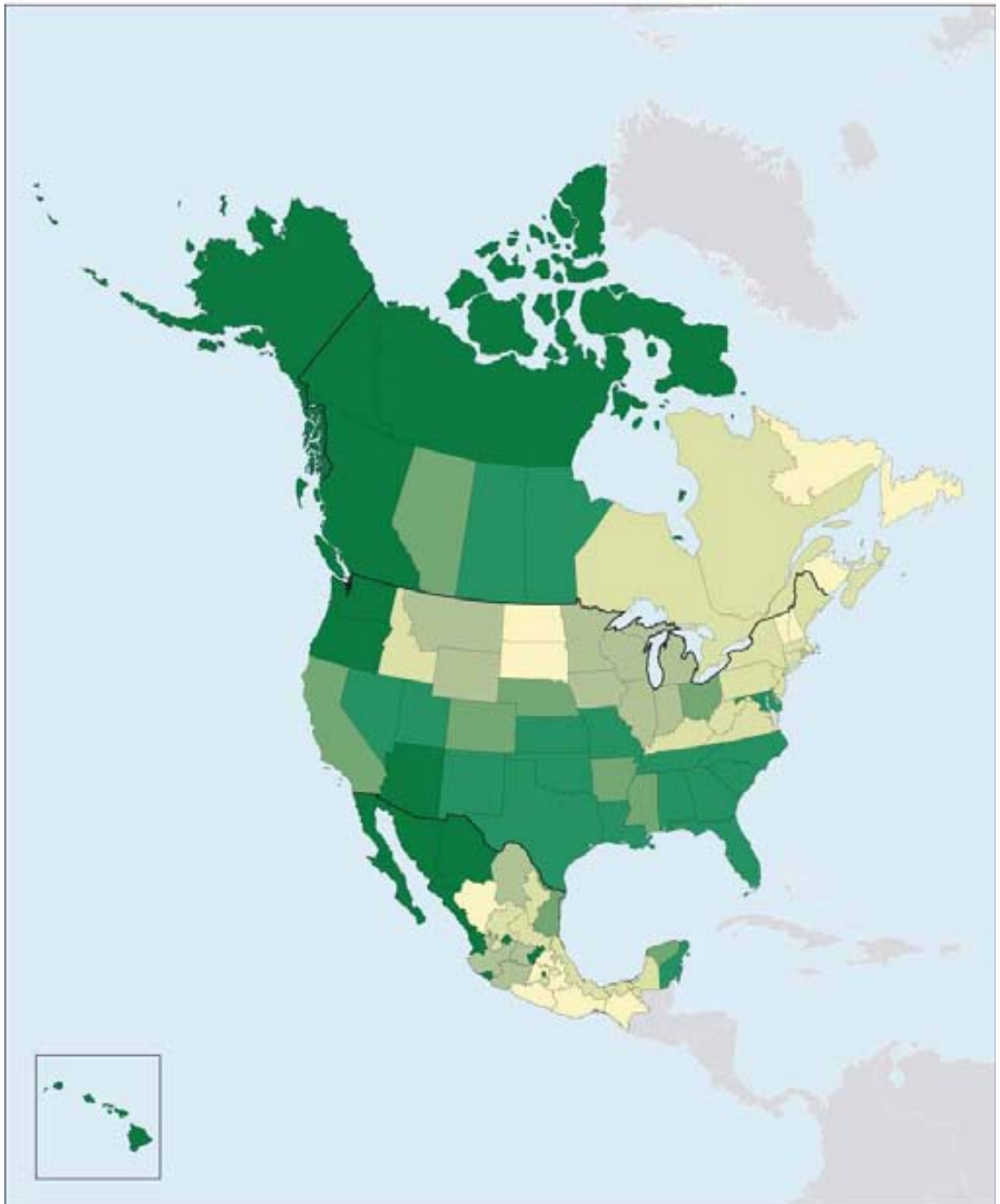


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23.5. Regional crime against the property: North America

Per inhabitant, as a percentage of the national average – 2003

- Higher than 130%
- Between 110% and 130%
- Between 95% and 110%
- Between 80% and 95%
- Between 65% and 80%
- Lower than 65%



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Symbols and Abbreviations

OECD (25) average	Unweighted average of 25 OECD countries.
OECD (25) total	Sum over all regions of 25 OECD countries.
OECD (25)	Range of variation over all regions of 25 OECD countries.
TL2	Territorial Level 2.
TL3	Territorial Level 3
NOG	Non Official Grid
*	Differences in the definition of data or regions. Please check the “Sources and Methodology” section.
PU	Predominantly Urban
IN	Intermediate
PR	Predominantly Rural
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
USD	United States Dollar





I. REGIONS AS ACTORS OF NATIONAL GROWTH

1. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF POPULATION
2. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF THE ELDERLY POPULATION
3. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF GDP
4. REGIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO GROWTH IN NATIONAL GDP
5. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF INDUSTRIES
6. REGIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT
7. GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF PATENTS

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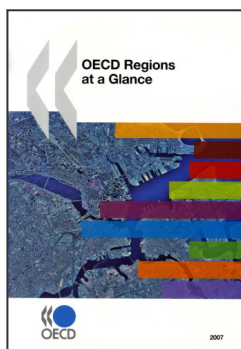
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