

27. SAFETY: REPORTED CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

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

Figure 27.1 shows the variation of the rate of crime against property with respect to the country average. Spain, Mexico and the Czech Republic have the highest regional variation and New Zealand, Denmark and the Netherlands the lowest. The large variation in Spain is mainly due to two regions (Ceuta and Melilla) with a crime rate four times higher than the country average. In Mexico, the State of Baja California Norte, and in the Czech Republic, the region of Prague, both have a crime rate three times higher than their country average.

The correlation between the rate of crime against the property and the share of population living in urban regions is positive in all countries considered except the United States and Mexico (Figure 27.2). Most countries show a significant negative correlation between crime rates and share of population living in rural regions, except for the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Definition

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

The Spearman correlation coefficient measures the strength and direction of the relationship between two variables, in this case the rate of crime against property and the share of population in predominantly urban (PU), intermediate (IN) or predominantly rural (PR) regions. A value close to zero means no relationship (see Annex C for formula).

Source

OECD Regional Database, <http://dotstat/wbos/>, theme: Regional Statistics.

See Annex B for data sources and country related metadata.

Reference years and territorial level

2005; TL2

Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom, 2004; Italy, 2006.

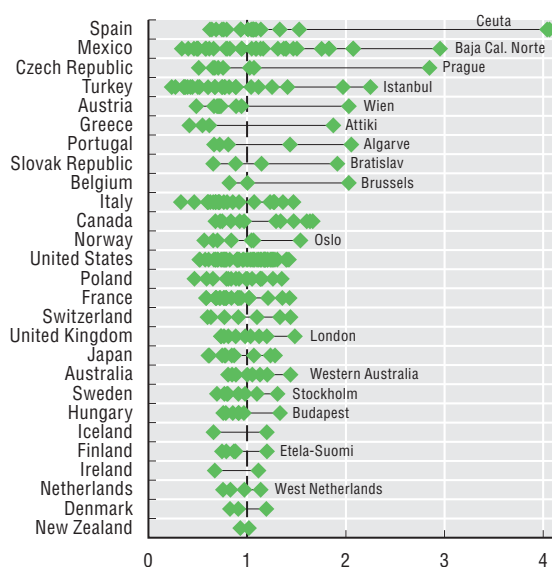
No regional data available for Germany and Korea.

Figure notes

Figure 27.2: For each country three correlations are run between the regional crimes against property and the share of regional population living in PU, IN and PR regions.

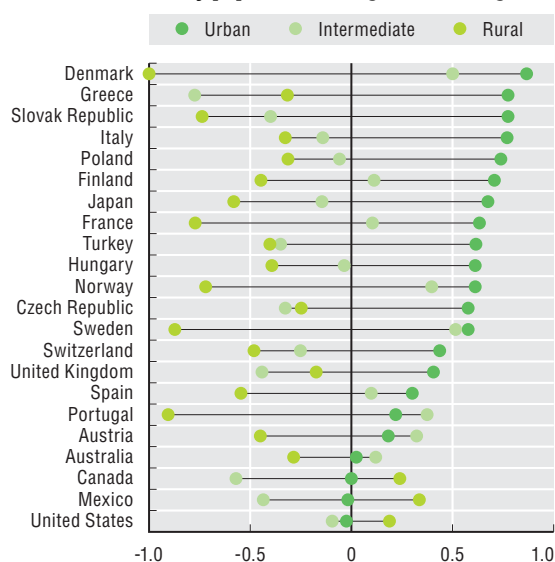
27.1 Range in TL2 regional crimes against property per 100 inhabitants, 2005

The highest regional variation in property crime is seen in Spain, the least in New Zealand.



27.2 Spearman correlation between crime against property and population share by regional type, 2005 (TL2)

In most countries, property crime rates are positively associated to the share of population living in urban regions.

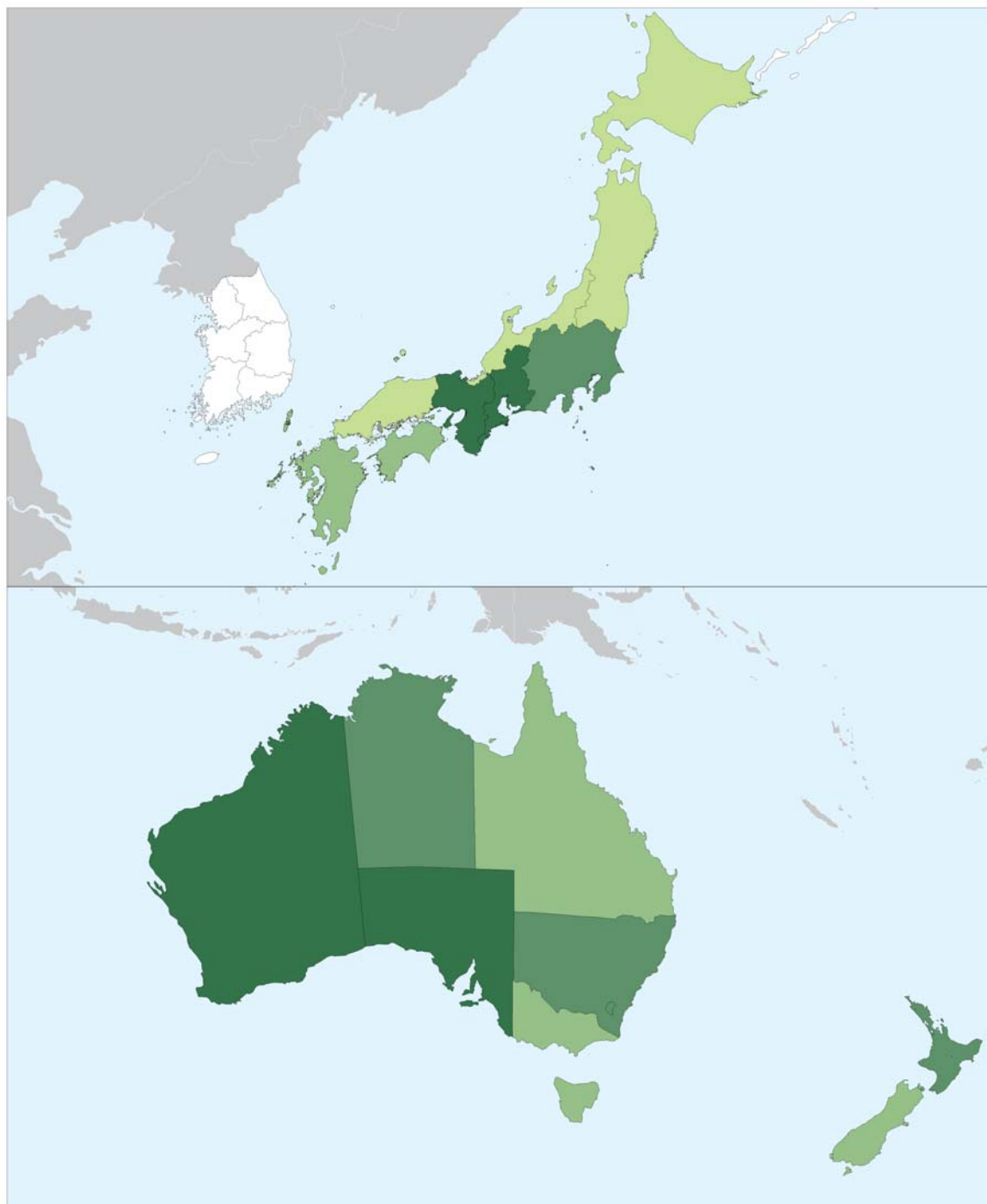



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/524262444343>

27.3 Rate of crime against property: Asia and Oceania

Per cent of country average, TL2, 2005

- Higher than 150%
- Between 120% and 150%
- Between 100% and 120%
- Between 80% and 100%
- Between 60% and 80%
- Lower than 60%
- Data not available



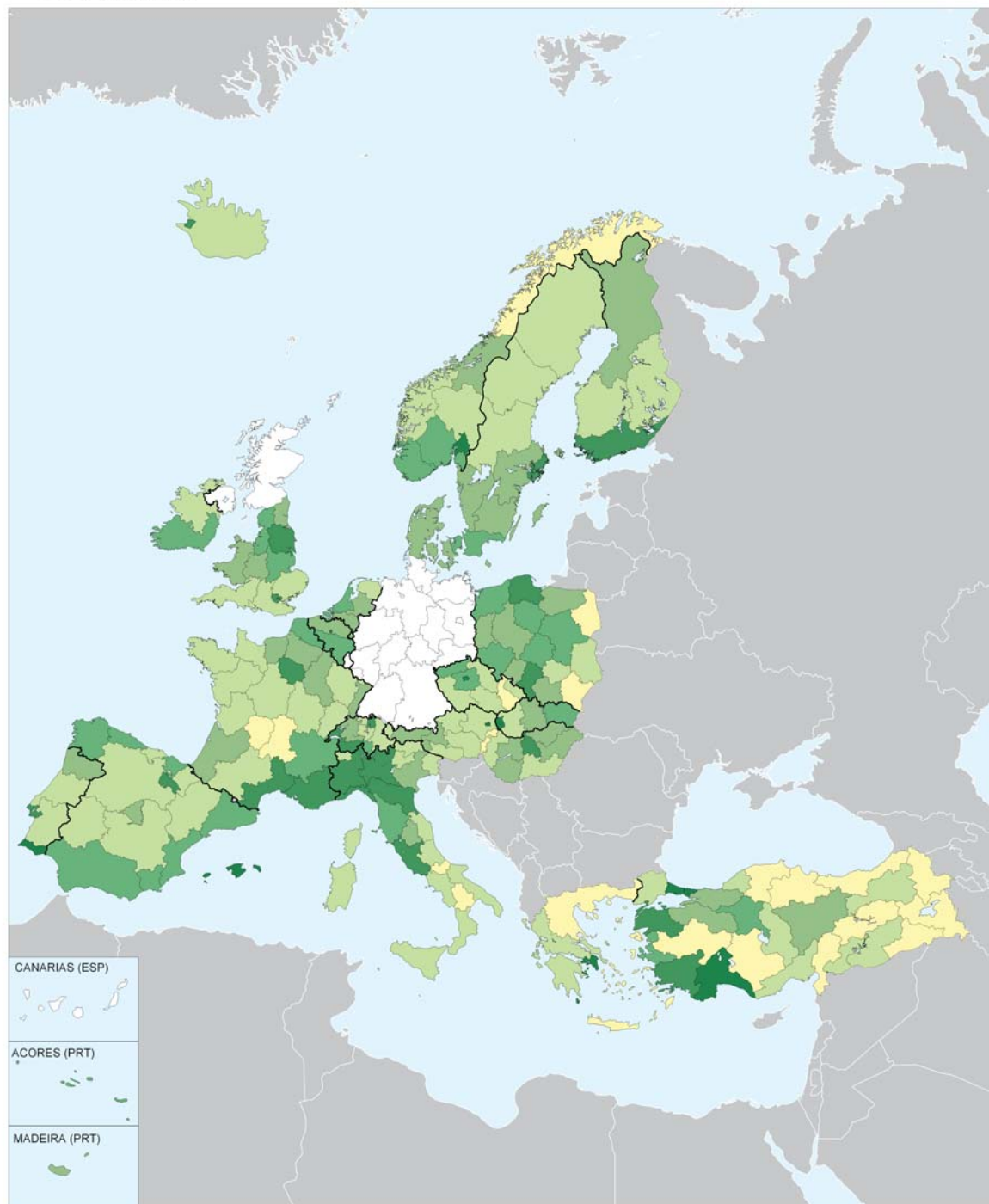
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27.4 Rate of crime against the property: Europe

Per cent of country average, TL2 regions, 2005

- Higher than 150%
- Between 120% and 150%
- Between 100% and 120%
- Between 80% and 100%
- Between 60% and 80%
- Lower than 60%
- Data not available



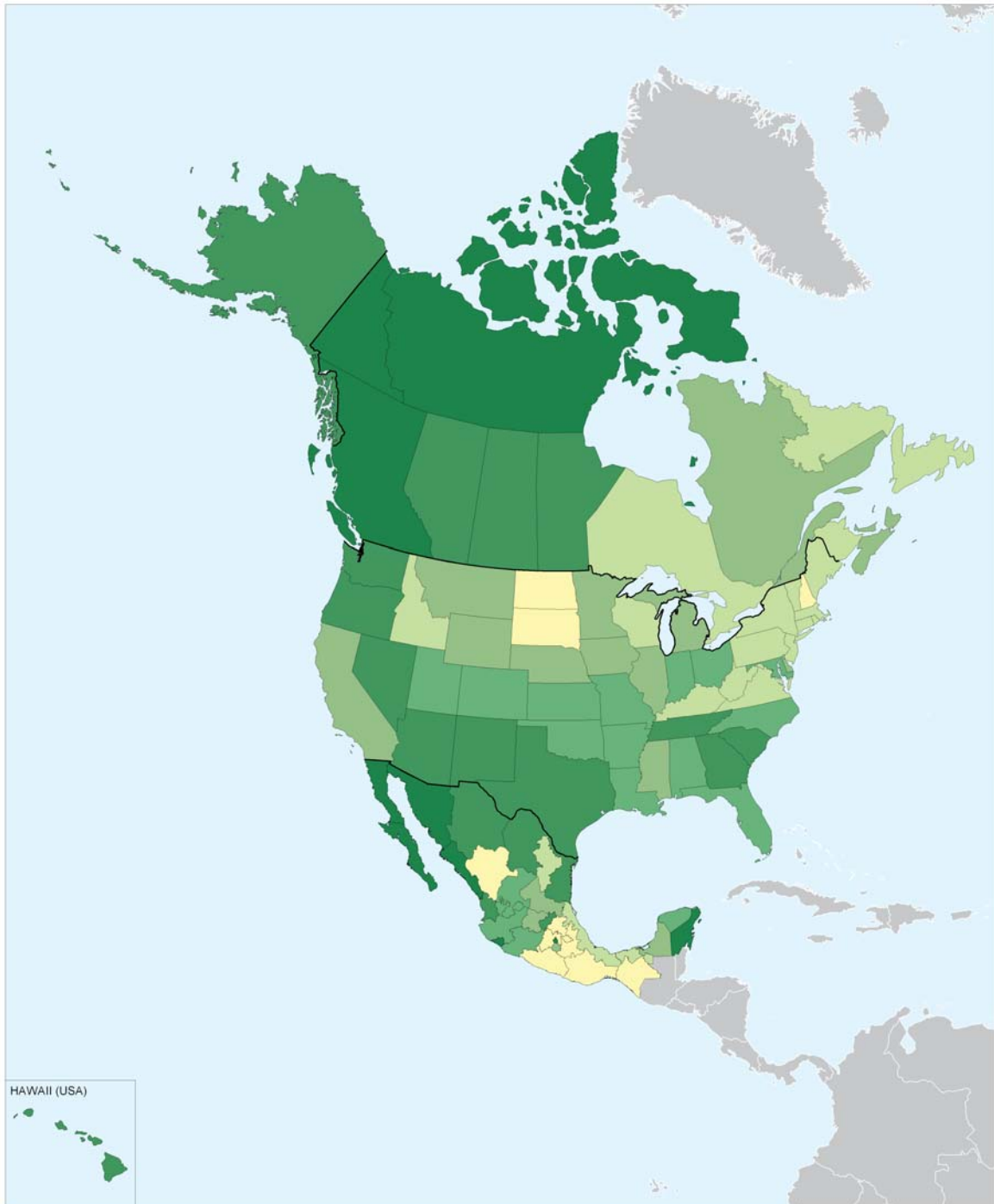
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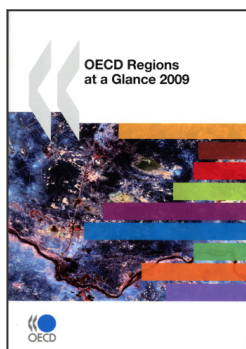
27.5 Rate of crime against the property: North America

Per cent of country average, TL2 regions, 2005

- Higher than 150%
- Between 120% and 150%
- Between 100% and 120%
- Between 80% and 100%
- Between 60% and 80%
- Lower than 60%
- Data not available



StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/525047275565>



From:
OECD Regions at a Glance 2009

Access the complete publication at:
https://doi.org/10.1787/reg_glance-2009-en

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2009), "Safety: Reported crimes against property", in *OECD Regions at a Glance 2009*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/reg_glance-2009-31-en

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