

# The Dark Figure of Crime

Sociology

The gap between offences committed and offences recorded, and how it is estimated.

*Each source misses a different part of the picture.*

| Source                 | Captures                      | Misses                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Police recorded</b> | Reported and counted offences | Unreported, unrecorded     |
| <b>Victim surveys</b>  | Experience, reported or not   | Victimless, homicide       |
| <b>Self-report</b>     | Admitted offending            | Concealment, serious crime |
| <b>Hospital data</b>   | Injury presentations          | Non-injury offences        |

Educational reference. Recorded crime can rise from better reporting, a counting rule change, or more crime. Say which.