

**An examination of the convergence between police recording and victim reporting
of serious violent crime, 1973-2002**

Ph.D Dissertation

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Abstract

This study uses data from the NC(V)S and the UCR for the years 1973-2002 to examine the ratio of between victim reporting and police recording of serious violent crime. For much of this thirty-year period the total volume of crime measured by the victimization survey is nearly double that recorded by official statistics. Recently, however, the correspondence two trends has decreased in a way that suggests police are now recording all of these crimes reported to them by crime victims. This unprecedented congruence in the NC(V)S and UCR estimates raises important questions regarding public and official responses to crime over time. Important as well are the implications for broad empirical and methodological issues involved in the measurement of serious violent crime.

This study finds that changes in social perceptions of crime and a re-design in the NC(V)S have contributed to the increased correspondence between the two series. Specifically, changes in domestic violence legislation of have contributed to increased police recording of aggravated assault while changes to the NC(V)S are negatively related to the increased correspondence in the reporting and recording of rape. The implications of these findings and suggestions for future research are discussed.