

## ABSTRACT

Analysis of trends in patterns of crime is of utmost importance to law enforcement authorities in general and to the police in particular, because this information provides a basis for making appropriate public policies in the field of law enforcement. Until now, current analyses in Israel have been based on official crime statistics, which do not include crimes that are not reported to the police by the victims

The findings of our research indicate that in the 2001 Victimization Survey, rates of reporting selected crimes against property (such as breaking in or attempting to break into vehicles and dwellings) to the police were much lower than the rates found in the 2002 Social Survey, and, in any case, the rates of reporting those crimes did not exceed 50%. International comparison shows that in Israel, the rates of reporting crimes against property are usually lower than in other developed countries, and a relatively large number of crime victims refrain from reporting those incidents because they do not believe the police are able or willing to handle their complaints.

Econometric analysis shows that the probability of reporting crimes among Arabs and new immigrants is significantly lower than among native Jews. Victims of previous property crimes show less of a tendency to report to the police, which may also be indicative of their negative feelings about the police, and about the way that the police handled their complaints. Analysis of the relation between crime rates and reporting rates reveals that the higher the crime rates in selected cities, the lower the tendency to report property crimes.

The main recommendation elicited by the findings of our study, is that the annual social survey should be used as a source of current information about the extent of crime victimization and patterns of reporting crimes to the police. However, a number of questions should be added to the social survey's questionnaire about the number of cases of exposure to crime, as well as questions regarding the value of damage incurred and extent of insurance coverage. These variables can make a substantial contribution to explaining patterns of reporting to the police. Additionally, we recommend that the Israeli police publish detailed crime statistics on an annual basis.

**Key words:** Reporting to Police, Crime Victimization, Victimization Survey, Social Survey.