

Crime in 2020: A Very Deadly Year

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Editor

ABSTRACT

Hidden behind this disease, another epidemic has affected many countries that thought they had cured the causes of another, more criminal, disease one or two decades ago—a pandemic of homicides and violence. According to the latest statistics (which are very reliable, as the death count is much more accurate than for many other crimes), 2020 was a particularly deadly year in the United States, probably the worst in homicide inflation since the country had a federal criminal census (UCR).

Keywords: Crime, Epidemic, Homicide, Violence

Crimen en 2020: Un año muy mortal

RESUMEN

Escondida detrás de esta enfermedad, otra epidemia ha afectado a muchos países que pensaban haber curado las causas de otra enfermedad más criminal hace una o dos décadas: una pandemia de homicidios y violencia. Según las últimas estadísticas (que son muy confiables, ya que el recuento de muertes es mucho más preciso que para muchos otros delitos), 2020 fue un año particularmente mortal en los Estados Unidos, probablemente el peor en inflación de homicidios desde que el país tuvo un criminal federal. censo (UCR).

Palabras clave: Crimen, Epidemia, Homicidio, Violencia

2020年的犯罪：致命的一年

摘要

潜伏在新型冠状病毒病情境下，另一种由凶杀和暴力组成的“流行病”已对多国造成影响，这些国家以为它们在一二十年前就已治愈了该病的起因。根据最新统计数据（数据十

分可信，因为凶杀死亡数量比其他犯罪死亡数量更为精确），2020年对美国而言尤其是致命的一年，并可能是自该国进行联邦犯罪统计（UCR）以来凶杀爆发最糟糕的一年。

关键词：犯罪，流行病，凶杀，暴力

For doctors, the excess mortality recorded in 2020, essentially due to COVID 19, will be the subject of long and detailed analyses underscoring that the virus has heavily hit populations more diverse than initially announced—*younger, less comorbid*. It has left traces that are sometimes long and painful for some patients who are victims of disabling and long-lasting side effects.

Hidden behind this disease, another epidemic has affected many countries that thought they had cured the causes of another, more criminal, disease one or two decades ago—a pandemic of homicides and violence. According to the latest statistics (which are very reliable, as the death count is much more accurate than for many other crimes), 2020 was a particularly deadly year in the United States, probably the worst in homicide inflation since the country had a federal criminal census (UCR).

According to a *Washington Post* count of 57 of the largest U.S. law enforcement agencies, the increase was 36.7% for the first nine months of the year. The FBI, out of about 16,000 departments, finds 20% more—an inflation of homicides and other violence against people not seen since the peak of the 1990s, which could equal or exceed the worst result ever recorded in terms of number of facts. Even righteous New York City has seen a 40% increase in recorded homicides (over 400, thankfully a far cry from the “record” of the 90s, which saw over 2,000 entries in the morgue).

However, this homicide shock has repercussions throughout the country—in large and small cities, in highly urbanized states, and in very rural areas. And over a very concentrated period of time, between May and December 2020. Curiously, as legitimate protests against police violence and even police violence in some police departments gained momentum, so did violence against citizens by gangs, militias, and other citizens.

While criminologists are trying to understand this phenomenon and hope that it will remain temporary, it is notable to point out that phenomena of the same nature affect a large number of countries, especially Western countries. London, in 2019, experienced its highest level with 148 homicides and by June 30, 2020, the number of homicides in England and Wales will have increased by 9%.

In France, 2020 was marked by a record of homicidity (homicides, attempts, assault and battery resulting in death, settling of accounts between criminals—indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 51 of the national statistical tool). In spite of the confinements and fire coverings, which have a marked effect on acquisitive crime (thefts, burglaries, etc.), the level of violence (especially sexual violence) remains high and the level of homicides did not decrease significantly during the year.

It is true that the State thought it had to abolish the main tool for knowledge and analysis of criminal phenomena (the ONDRP, which disappeared on December 31, and its national victimization survey, which is scheduled for 2021), but this system continues to provide valuable information until another administration decides to reinstate it.

In a context of heavy social violence, distrust of the State, and various challenges to the offices of public authorities, it seems likely that the multiple problems of violence and insecurity will continue at a very high level, in much more diverse areas, causing victimization involving an over-representation of the poor.

The old adage that what is happening in the United States is a foreshadowing of what could happen in France by one or two decades should not be dismissed out of hand. Homicidal violence is coming back. Very strongly. Very quickly.

And this problem does not concern only the “owners,” the “colonizers,” the “white men,” it does concern all of society.

Without a clear wake up, 2021 will be worse. After a health virus, a cyber virus, we will have to handle a crime pandemic.