



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) – a global approach to classifying and measuring crime

Michael Jandl

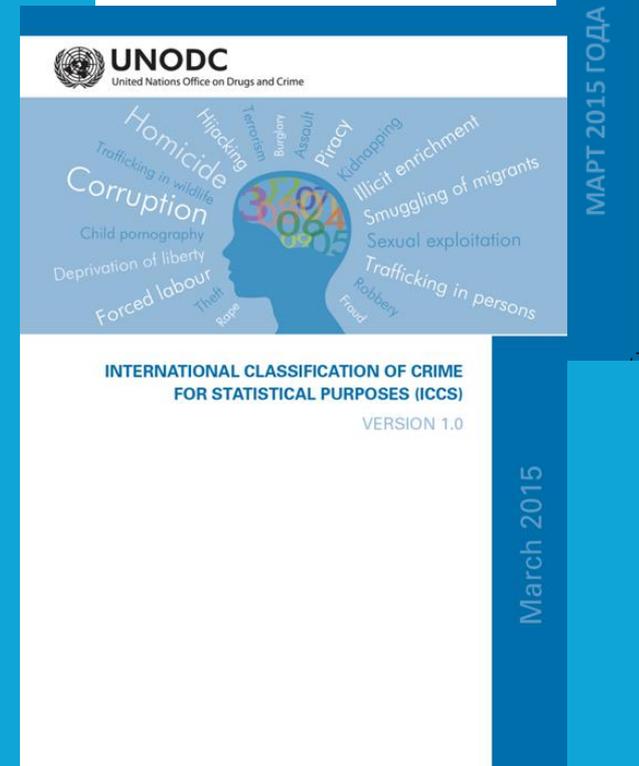
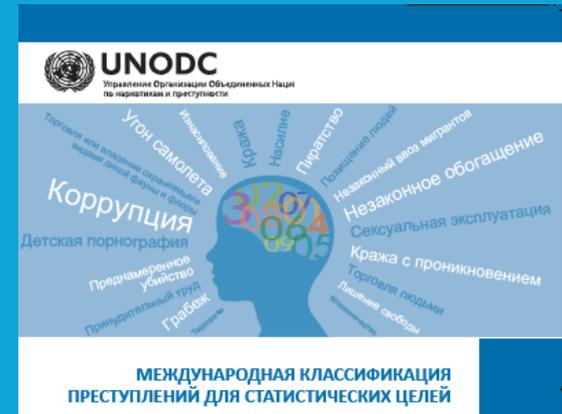
Research Officer

Data Development and Dissemination Unit

UNODC

What is the ICCS?

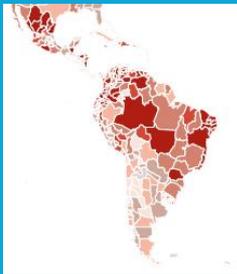
- The ICCS is the first international classification of crime for statistical purposes and has far-reaching implications for crime data collection at all levels
- It is a hierarchical classification, whose categories are mutually exclusive and exhaustive
- The ICCS is built on behavioural descriptions and not on legal code, hence it is applicable across jurisdictions
- The ICCS is also a tool to understand crime patterns and characteristics
- The implementation of the ICCS will improve data consistency within and between countries



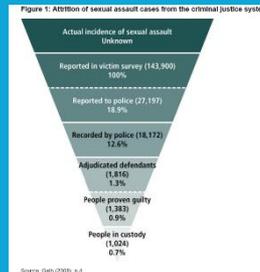
Advantages of the ICCS

The implementation of the ICCS - a definitional framework that groups and organizes criminal offences meaningfully and systematically - will:

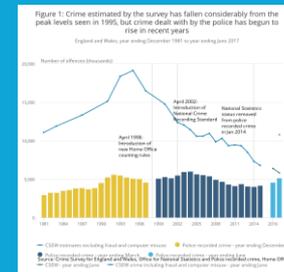
- Facilitate analysis of crime through a comprehensive stat. framework of all crimes
- Improve comparability across countries and through time
- Improve data consistency within countries:



... across entities in federal states

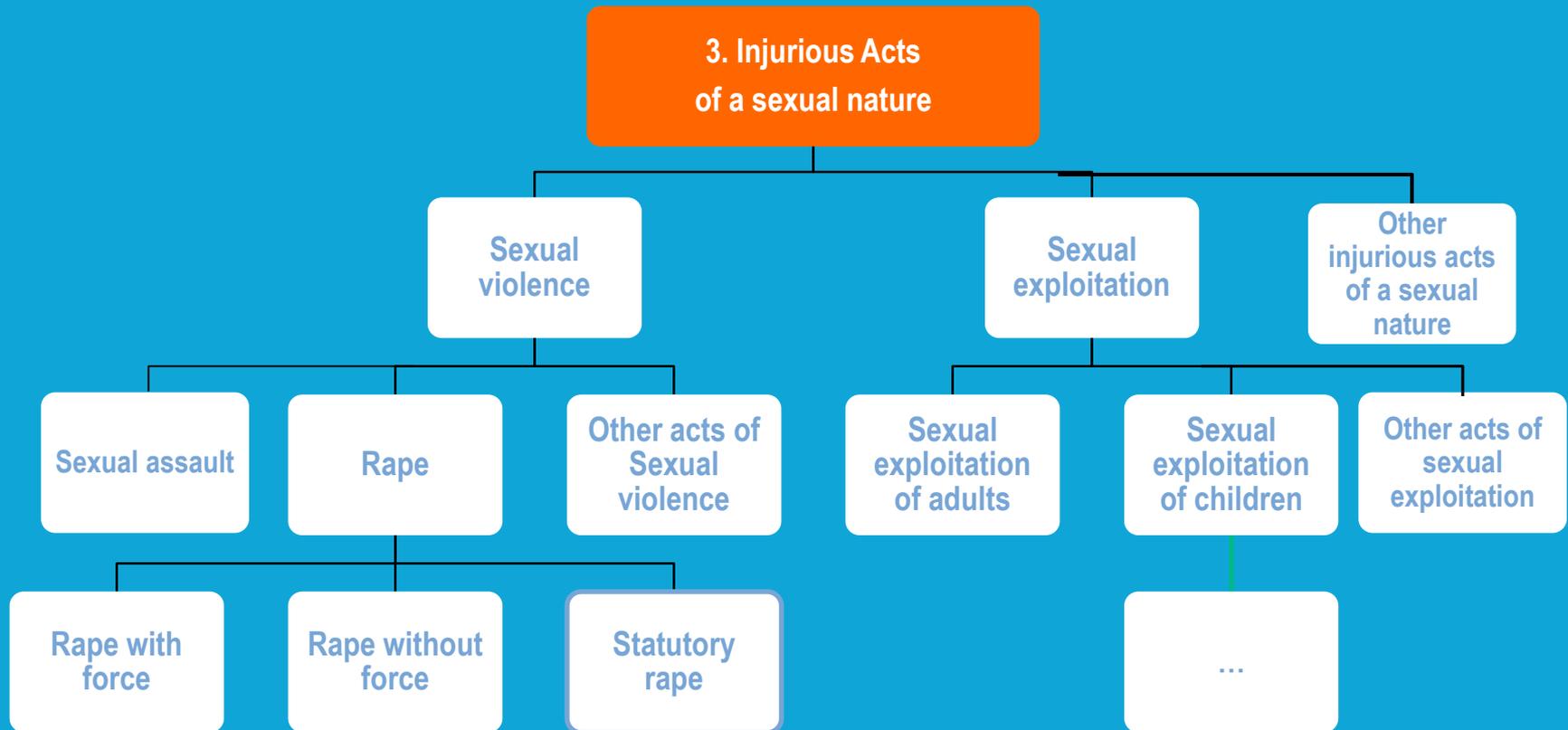


across data produced by successive stages of the criminal justice process



across sources (admin. data and surveys)

Example of ICCS structure (4 levels)





The structure of the ICCS: Level 1

LEVEL 1 CATEGORIES

- 1 Acts leading to death or intending to cause death
- 2 Acts leading to harm or intending to cause harm to the person
- 3 Injurious acts of a sexual nature
- 4 Acts against property involving violence or threat against a person
- 5 Acts against property only
- 6 Acts involving controlled psychoactive substances or other drugs
- 7 Acts involving fraud, deception or corruption
- 8 Acts against public order, authority and provisions of the State
- 9 Acts against public safety and state security
- 10 Acts against the natural environment
- 11 Other criminal acts not elsewhere classified



The ICCS – detailed structure

SECTION 01		ACTS LEADING TO DEATH OR INTENDING TO CAUSE DEATH	
0101 Intentional homicide Unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury.	+	Inclusions: Murder; ³⁵ honour killing; ³⁶ serious assault leading to death; ³⁷ death as a result of terrorist activities; ³⁸ dowry-related killings; ³⁹ femicide ; ⁴⁰ infanticide; ⁴¹ voluntary manslaughter; ⁴² extrajudicial killings; killings caused by excessive use of force by law enforcement/state officials ⁴³	
	-	Exclusions: ⁴⁴ Death due to legal interventions; ⁴⁵ justifiable homicide in self-defence; ⁴⁶ attempted intentional homicide (0102); homicide without the element of intent is non-intentional homicide (0103); non-negligent or involuntary manslaughter ⁴⁷ (01031); assisting suicide or instigating suicide (0104); illegal abortion (0105); euthanasia (01061)	
0102 Attempted intentional homicide Attempt to inflict unlawful death upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury.	+	Inclusions: Attempted murder; attempt to inflict death as a result of terrorist activities; attempted infanticide; attempted femicide ;	
	-	Exclusions: Conspiracy to procure or commit illegal abortion (0105)	
0103 Non-intentional homicide Unlawful death unintentionally inflicted upon a person by another person.	+	Inclusions: Involuntary manslaughter, causing death by dangerous driving; apply all inclusions listed in 01031 - 01032	
	-	Exclusions: Serious assault leading to death (0101); voluntary manslaughter (0101)	
01031 Non-negligent manslaughter Unlawful death inflicted upon a person when there is generally intent to cause harm but no intent to cause death or serious injury.	+	Inclusions: Involuntary manslaughter; bodily injury leading to death when no serious harm was intended	
	-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 0103	
01032 Negligent manslaughter Unintended death as a result of a negligent or involuntary act that is not intentionally directed against the victim. ⁴⁸	+	Inclusions: Criminally negligent manslaughter; corporate manslaughter; vehicular manslaughter; apply all inclusions listed in 010321 - 010322	
	-	Exclusions: Negligent acts not amounting to death (0206); apply all exclusions listed in 0103	
010321 Vehicular homicide Unintended death as a result of a negligent, reckless or involuntary act while operating a vehicle that is not intentionally directed against the victim. ⁴⁹ - Negligent as defined in footnote 14.	+	Inclusions: Causing death by dangerous driving; causing death through breach of traffic safety rules; causing death by driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol; vehicular manslaughter	
	-	Exclusions: Negligence related to traffic not amounting to death (02063); operating a vehicle under the influence of psychoactive substances not	



Additional disaggregations

Disaggregating variables:

- Event descriptions: situational context, motive, type of weapon, location, date/time, attempted/completed, Cybercrime related, etc.
- Victim descriptions: sex, age, age status, victim-perpetrator relationship, citizenship, legal status, intoxication, etc.
- Perpetrator descriptions: sex, age, age status, victim-perpetrator relationship, citizenship, legal status, intoxication, recidivist status, etc.



Procedural steps and technical tasks for a successful ICCS implementation

1. Setting up an institutional and organizational framework
2. Awareness raising
3. International coordination and support
4. Technical preparations

MILESTONE A: National working group created and communication with UNODC established

5. Assessment of current data production
6. Develop a national work plan

MILESTONE B: National work plan drafted

7. Implement your workplan
8. Produce outputs

MILESTONE C: ICCS-compliant data produced, UN-CTS properly compiled

9. Publish national crime data according to ICCS categories
10. Send an implementation report

MILESTONE D: ICCS implementation report finalized





ICCS: State of Implementation

- Many countries around the world have started to implement the ICCS
- In Europe, EUROSTAT has endorsed the ICCS and actively promotes it (e.g. joint data collection with UNODC, translations of ICCS categories in 22 languages,..)
- Various countries are at different stages of ICCS implementation (e.g. task force established; translations; correspondence tables drafted (mapping); etc.)
- Various goals in implementation: only for international reporting vs. building a full national classification fully in line with ICCS (ex. Philippine SCC)
- International Support by UNODC and the Centres of Excellence on crime statistics in Mexico and in South Korea: dozens of national and regional workshops since 2016
- UNODC Manual on ICCS Implementation (forthcoming)



Does the ICCS change reported crime?

The ICCS has very specific definitions and types of crime that should be included in each category. Often, the alignment with ICCS definitions requires revisions in crime data previously reported.

Example 1:

Germany:	Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Intentional homicide (0101) offences	Old	628	601	614	538	531
	New	721	699	689	619	623
	Difference	+93	+98	+75	+81	+92

Example 2:

Sweden:	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
serious assault (02011) offences	Old	87,854	89,457	87,052	80,374	83,324
	New	5,594	5,684	5,338	4,659	4,570
	Difference	-82,260	-83,773	-81,714	-75,715	-78,754



International support

UNODC provides support for countries implementing the ICCS in 4 main areas:

1. Organisational and institutional framework: Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to lead ICCS implementation and maintenance (1st meeting: May 2016, 2nd meeting June 2018)
2. Information campaign: reach-out to data producers and users (ongoing)
3. Methodological support: implementation manual (2018) + other technical documentation
4. Technical assistance: virtual platform among ICCS practitioners, technical assistance activities (projects in Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, western Balkans, ..)



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Thank you
for your attention

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/crime-and-criminal-justice.html>

Contact:

ICCS@unodc.org

