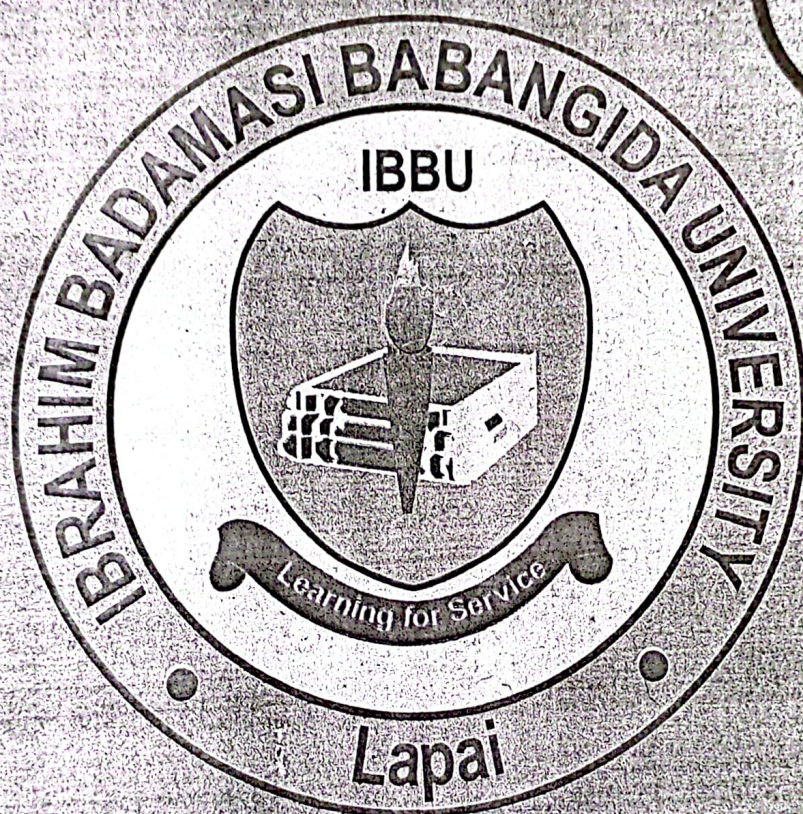


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**RELIGION AND CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA: A
DISLOCATED SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP**

Adenugba, A.A. (PhD) & Omolawal, S.A. 101

**THE BABANGIDA MILITARY REGIME AND NIGERIA'S
THIRD REPUBLIC IN RETROSPECT**

Abdulrasheed A. Muhammad..... 113

*** URBAN SAFETY AND SECURITY CONSCIOUSNESS IN
LAGOS METROPOLIS, NIGERIA.**

Ahmed, Y.A. & Sulyman, A.O..... 124

PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS IN NIGERIA

Folashade B. Okeshola..... 138

**PEACE EDUCATION IN NIGERIA: THE IMPERATIVES OF
MORAL AND HISTORICAL STUDIES FOR NATION
BUILDING**

Salihu, Mohammed Lawal..... 150

**MEDICAL PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AND PRIMARY
HEALTH CARE IN NIGERIA: THE CASE OF KOGI STATE**

Obansa, S.A.J & Eke, Chukwuemeka Ifegwu 160

PROSPECTS OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES IN NIGERIA

Tunde Afolabi 175

**AN ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT OF NAPEP IN MINNA
METROPOLIS**

Abdul Adamu Yunusa..... 190

**THE MEDICAL MODEL OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND ITS
TREATMENT APPROACHES: A CRITICAL REVIEW**

Mohammed Awaisu Haruna 207

**LEGITIMISING LIBERAL DEMOCRACY FOR A
SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA**

Ademola Azeez..... 220

URBAN SAFETY AND SECURITY CONSCIOUSNESS IN LAGOS METROPOLIS, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines urban safety and security consciousness in Lagos metropolis over a period of five years (1996-2000). The study focuses on criminal heightened problems and their coping measures in the metropolis. Investigation was carried out on ten selected areas that are renowned as black-spots crime area in the city. Household-heads were administered questionnaires. This was to solicit information on causes, impacts and coping mechanism over crime incidence in their neighbourhoods. Data analysis indicated that most residents in the area of study exhibited a significant higher-level of fears, but still want to remain in their areas. Implications for future planning to conform to modern city of the world are discussed, and stakeholders in crime management and control are urged to play proper roles in order to enhance peace, secured and harmonious livability in Lagos city, Nigeria.

Keywords:- Consciousness, Criminal Heightened, Urban-safety, Security, Fear.

INTRODUCTION

One of the social maladies that have in recent time plagued urban centers in the third world today is crime. Criminal activities and violence are assuming dangerous tendencies and not only threatening lives and property, but also the national sense of well-being and coherence. This social problem, no doubt, is reducing the citizens' quality of life. as many Nigerians find it difficult to sleep with their

nation becomes increasingly urbanized, the traditional structures and value system, which were once cohered and served as buffer and restricted criminal behaviours have been undermined (Agbola, 2002).

Crime, according to Harries (1994), involves the violation of a divine law. Dan Bambasau (1994) opines that crime is something which offends the morality of society, or that violates the divine law. He argues that the consensus approach to defining crime presents it as, an offence that is committed by omission, commission or deliberately. But whichever form of approach, crime is abhorred because no society all over the world adores or encourages crime.

There is no gainsaying the fact that crime has deleterious effects on the livability of urban dwellers. That is the main reason why Mukoro (1994), quoting Quetelet (1982) opines that, 'crime was an inevitable part of society...because society created it. Therefore, it is necessary to curtail crime since it cannot be completely eradicated'. Thus, there is urgently a call for a thorough understanding of its investigation.

A thorough look at some studies conducted on criminal activities in cities of the world shows that very little has been done in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. In other words, most early studies of this phenomenon were concentrated on the economically more advanced countries and there is the need to fill the vacuum. The choice of Lagos metropolis as the study area can be more justified by assessing its strategic position in terms of population and crime incidence. The population of Lagos grew from 266,407 in 1953 to 665,246 in 1963; and the estimated population of the metropolis rose from 1.14 million 1963 to 3.55 million in 1976 and 5.69 million in 1991 respectively. In the area of crime, Lagos is outstanding, because it exceeds the national average when compared by number of cases reported to the police which exceeded 198% in 1980. The situation has been no better in recent times Mukoro (1993).

The aim of this work, therefore, is to examine the impact of crime heightened problems in Lagos city Nigeria, while the set objectives are to examine the variations in the pattern of urban crime in the study area, group of people involved in the criminal activities, and what socio-economic impacts crime perpetrations have on livability of Lagos city residents.

THE CONCEPT OF CRIME

The evil of urban crime perpetration has attracted the focusing attention of a number of scholars in recent time; many of them have attempted to shed light on the issue. While most of the scholars have written on causes of crime, others have written on crimes and their concentrated locations. In the words of Rengert (1980) there is considerable literature on the causes of crime most of which focused on economic, sociological and /or pathological factors. While Harries (1988) posits that crime is a social problem, which has attachment with territorial and city component, since crime rates can differ substantially over short distances. This, coupled with the fact that the spatial view permits a useful assessment of both quantitative and qualitative aspect of crime, led to the choice of the neighbourhood unit as an area-unit for investigation.

However, research has shown that most crimes are localized (Hassan Arif 1993; Prinheiro, 1993). The preponderance of crimes in the cities have been attributed to the large proportion of migrant youths in search of jobs under the prevailing harsh economic conditions (Guardian correspondent, 1992; Prinheiro, 1993). The presence of the large pool of idle Youths who are generally unskilled and often homeless, creates a fertile ground for deviant activities (Tamuno, 1985). It is also argued that the structure of Nigerian society with its unequal opportunity structure and crumbling of traditional social norms and values in favour of exotic values has consequently coloured societal perceptions of crime and criminal behaviour (Sofola, 1994).

In spite of the variety of acts associated with urban crime, little or no attempt has been made to investigate the nature and implications of the label empirically. It is within this context and the rising incidence of crimes in our urban centres that this paper examines the heightened problems of criminality in Lagos city, Nigeria. Even though, many actions were taken to stem the tide of crime waves in Lagos state by the government and the security agencies, which not only mounted surveillance, but also established different patrol teams and equipped the personnel with modern weapons and gadgets. Despite this, crime incidences continue to increase in Lagos State as a whole.

THE STUDY AREA

Location and size: Lagos State is situated on latitude $6^{\circ} 22'N$ and $6^{\circ} 52'N$. It also lies approximately on Longitude $2^{\circ} 42'E$ and $6^{\circ} 52'E$ (Odumosu, 1999) with a population of about 9 million and an annual growth rate about 7.6 % (NPC, 1994). It is the largest metropolitan area in the country. The study area is bounded in the West 27°

May 1967 by virtue of the state (creation and transition provision No.14 of 1967) and South by the Atlantic Ocean; in the East and North by Ogun State, (see Figure 1).

Lagos State consisted the old federal territory of Lagos, which remains the financial hub of the nation and was the capital of Nigeria up to December 12, 1991. Lagos was also the old colony that comprised; Badagry, Ikeja, Ikorodu and Epe divisions. However, Lagos State has not been affected by subsequent state creation exercises and today it forms one of the 36 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The phenomenal growth of Lagos State is one of the factors responsible for the increase of crime rate in the metropolis. There is daily influx of immigrants from all walks of life in to the state, this new migrants contribute in no small measure to both socio-economic impacts of the state. Lagos State with a population of about 9 million and an annual growth rate of 7.6% (NPC, 1994) is a daily receiver of both criminals and freelance individuals into its territories among the permanent residents. The main socio-economic development of Lagos State is attributed to both migration and expansion factors. Local governments like Mushin, Ikeja, Agege, Surulere and others that were in the past outside the city, are now among the expanded areas that formed Lagos metropolis. This is so because all the green belt mainly marshland that separated Lagos from its surrounded villages (now LGA's) has been eaten up by the expansion (Odumosu, 1991).

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on data from the Nigeria Police Abstract of Crimes and Offences Statistics that stand as the major source for secondary data collection, while the primary sources are data collected from the administration of questionnaires to respondents in the study area. The major hints on these sources are centered on assessment of categories of crimes dubbed as: Crime Against Persons (CAP), Crime Against Property (CAPty), Crime Against Lawful Authority (CALA) and Crime Against Local Acts (CALact). All assessments are within Lagos State over a period of five years (1996-2000).

There are legions of criminal activities commonly found in Lagos State, but only few within the city shall be the focus of this study at this stage. Ten LGAs from the city of Lagos that are renowned for incessant crime waves and reported by news media were selected for this investigation. An attempt was made to reflect the proportion of the area's population from the whole metropolis in the questionnaires distribution (see tables 1 and 2). The selected ten LGA's have an estimated population of 5.7 million (Odumosu, 1999).

A systematic random sampling method was used in the choice of households in the study area. Whereas, in areas that have no particular arrangement of houses or layouts, like in Eti-Osa, Oshodi/Isolo among others, every tenth house was chosen at random before systematically selected, while in the G.R.A. and areas with gridiron pattern, the first two houses on each street were chosen. In addition, the statistics incidence of crime in the areas was obtained from the police as back-up evidence for investigation (see tables 3 and 4). Meanwhile, ten LGAs within Lagos metropolis were chosen for this assessment and they include; Agege, Apapa, Eti-Osa, Ikeja, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Mushin, Ojo, Oshodi/Isolo and Surulere. However, some socio-economic indices such as; age and sex of respondents, education qualification and job status, type of residential and security coping mechanism among others were generated accordingly by the author. The assigned crimes were first scored in percentages and later ranked using Z-score statistical rating scale (see also tables 5 and 6). This is to determine the extent of differences, and significant relationship between and among the criminal activities in Lagos metropolis.

Table 1. Population of Selected LGA's of Lagos State, 1996-2000

L.G Area	Males	Females	Total
Lagos Island	85,222	85,411	170,633
Lagos Mainland	467,132	411,473	508,305
Agege	348,459	307,818	656,277
Eti-Osa	99,235	74,689	173,924
Ikeja	359,346	359,416	718,762
Mushin	523,944	466,099	999,043
Ojo	556,219	473,944	1,030,163
Isolo/Oshodi	405,049	366,055	771,104
Apapa	88,307	72,242	160,549
Surulere	121,344	116,350	237,694
Total	2,583,707	2,733,497	5,417,454

Source: Federal Office of Statistics: Lagos, 2005.

Table 2. Population of Lagos Metropolis 1963-1993

Year (Estimated)	Area (in Sq. miles)	Population
1963	27.00	952,743
1965	27.00	3,538,000
1988	27.00	2,788,736
1989	27.00	3,022,936
1990	27.00	3,063,594
1993	27.00	5,685,781

Source: Federal Office of Statistics, Lagos Office (2000).

DATA PRESENTATION

With regard to data analysis, both descriptive and empirical statistical methods were used in this investigation. Firstly, simple percentages, graphic illustrations, and tabulations, were used for the work. Secondly, the use of Z-score becomes relevant and was used to provide an addition and straight forward description of data as in the case of the spatial and proportional distribution of criminal activities in the selected LGAs within Lagos metropolis (see the Appendix).

In metropolitan Lagos, there existed a clear intra-urban variation in the distribution of criminal incidences as provided in tables 5 and 6. This spatial pattern shows the difference between crime occurrence rates and affected residence rates. When respondents were asked the number of times they had been either victims of crime committed or witnessed to crime commitment, all of them narrated their ordeal accordingly (see table 7).

Table 3. Category of Crime and Offences in Lagos State-South-Western Nigeria

Crime Against Persons (CAP)	Crime Against Property (CAPty)	Crime Against Lawful Authority (CALA)	Crime Against Local Acts (CALact)
Murder	Armed Robbery	Forgery of Currency Notes	Traffic Offence
Manslaughter	Demand with menace	Coining	Liquor Offence
Suicide	Theft/stealing	Gambling	Dogs' Act Offence
Grievous Harm/Wounding	Burglary	Preach of Public Peace	Narcotic Offence
Assault	House Breaking	Perjury	Firearms

			Offence
Child stealing	False Pretence/Cheating	Bribery and Corruption	Township Offence
Rape	Forgery	Escape from Lawful Custody	Prostitution
Kidnapping	Receiving Stolen Goods	-	-
Unnatural Offence	Possession of Firearms	-	-
Slave dealing	Arson	-	-

Source: Olumodeji (1994) and modified by the Author (2008).

Table 4. Crime Rate in Zone 2 Lagos Nigeria

1985	24,404	66,436	2,667	989	94,506
1986	29,677	79,606	2,944	1,076	113,303
1987	33,821	49,117	3,660	2,181	88,779
1988	21,580	57,003	6,787	1,949	87,319
1989	19,111	88,580	9,332	1,199	18,222
1990	29,643	111,333	11,943	2,066	154,985
1991	36,201	130,709	13,580	3,711	184,202
1992	96,761	153,986	15,185	5,682	271,614
1993	93,772	179,885	15,499	6,722	295,878
1994	90,278	138,007	13,806	4,947	247,038
1995	86,744	138,486	11,790	4,896	241,916
1996	92,666	132,333	11,361	3,994	240,354
1997	90,347	206,750	11,181	2,673	310,951
1998	94,947	396,404	12,099	5,001	508,451
1999	104,646	556,388	19,885	4,577	685,496
2000	96,733	441,962	14,333	3,070	556,098
Total	1,041,331	2,926,985	176,062	54,733	4,199,111

Source: The Nigeria Police Force Abstracts of Crime and Offences' Statistical Reports (2000). Modified by the Author, (2009).

FINDINGS

The result of analysis of some selected LGA's of Lagos State reflects the spatial pattern of residential units, location of offenders and population concentration. One can testify that there is close relationship between the location units of the residence and population characteristics of the respondents. The phenomenon of the urban ghetto metropolis is apparently responsible for

owing native-born residents that live in the heart of the city, they form a lower class. While urban migrants are forced to reside in the peri-urban areas of the metropolis. Consequently, these social divisions in Lagos State are exacerbated by the spatial distribution of criminals of different categories. From the results obtained through questionnaires administered to ten LGA's in the state, the following outcomes are also revealed:

In Lagos State as a whole, there is a clear cut distinction between the victims to crime commitment and witnessed to crime occurrence. When respondents were asked the number of times they had been aware of being victims of burglary, robbery and other offence in their areas, the least victims come from Lagos Island area. While witnessed to crimes committed was topped by Lagos Mainland and followed by Ikeja (LGA). There is a correspondence of the areas of high rate offence like in Agege, Oshodi/Isolo, Surulere (LGAs) where there were high rate of victims as well as high rate of witnesses to offences committed such as in Ikeja, Agege and at Lagos Mainland respectively. This no doubt conforms to the general observations that offenders do not travel far to commit crimes (Agbola, 1997). The characteristics of the environment where crime occurs in the study area include; the quality of housing and type of essential amenities usually available in the areas are parts of the criteria leading to crime causation.

A close look at gross spread of violence in Lagos metropolis shows that virtually no part of the metropolis is spared without one type of offence being committed or the other. For example, a total of 291 (58.2%) respondents were victims of crimes committed. Whereas, a number of 142 (28%) household heads were witnessed to offences committed in ten LGA's within five (5) years. Ironically, this engenders a heightened fear of attack on Lagosians, with every person wearing long face of unpleasant ordeal resulting from urban crime in one form or the other. To corroborate this, more than half (86.8%) of the total household heads have fallen a victim to at least one residential burglary, theft, assaults and so on in their respective area of residences. While, only 13.3% of total respondents in the study area (LGA's) never had any physical attack from the criminals.

Urban crime in the study area manifests in a number of ways and the most common perpetration occurs at home accounting for 41.8% (see table 7). A large proportion of victims-37.4% were merely stopped on the way and attacked. While a large proportion of attacks (41.8%) were committed at the victims' homes.

Defrauding and car theft account for only a small proportion of attacks, this could be as a result of the fact that not all respondents (victims) have vehicles, while other methods of attack account for just 2%.

Table 5. Incidence of Crime Rate Reported in Lagos State (1996-2000)

LGA's	CAP	CAPty	CALA	CALact
Agege	805	5163	910	94
Apapa	1284	8224	864	620
Eti-Osa	1945	6378	249	390
Ikeja	3582	48990	1029	833
Lagos Island	26190	28470	657	470
Lagos Mainland	45140	28300	1331	922
Mushin	16140	26530	2450	1812
Ojoo	9470	9961	588	1006
Oshodi/Isolo	16000	20400	2761	2104
Surulere	20300	24520	1633	1845
Total	173094	206936	12472	10096

Source: Lagos State Criminal Investigation Department (2000).

* CAP = Crime Against Person * CALA = Crime Against Lawful Authority
 * CAPty = Crime Against Property * CALact = Crime Against Local Acts

Table 6. Scores of Incidence of Crime in Selected Area of Lagos City in Percentages

LGA's	CAP	CAPty	CALA	CALact
Agege	0.46	2.49	7.29	0.93
Apapa	0.74	3.97	6.93	6.14
Eti-Osa	1.12	3.08	1.96	3.86
Ikeja	0.21	23.67	8.25	8.25
Lagos Island	15.13	13.75	5.27	4.66
Lagos Mainland	16.01	13.67	10.67	9.13
Mushin	9.32	12.82	19.64	17.95
Ojoo	5.47	4.81	4.71	9.96
Oshodi/Isolo	9.24	9.86	22.14	20.84
Surulere	11.72	11.85	13.09	18.27
Total	69.42	99.97	99.95	99.99

Table 7. Methods Used by Criminals to Attack Victims in the Study Area

Methods	No. of Households	Percentage (%)
Stopped and attack on the way	187	37.4
Broke into household units	209	41.8
Defrauded	16	15.2
Broke into Car	18	3.6
Other Methods	10	2.0
Total	500	100.00

Source: Author's Field Survey, (2008).

The security coping mechanisms used in some residential buildings in various places within Lagos metropolis are not limited to the individual buildings only, but, more sophisticated measures are extended, and influenced by the social and special settings of the areas. The special characteristic includes criminals to intrude easily into neighborhood and city centers. For instance, in some areas within Lagos metropolis, security transcends individual house; high and tall gate erected on road to slow down the speed of restricted movement within their areas particularly at night. In other areas, some landlords/ households had organization of vigilant groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Reducing crime in any urban area or city is usually paramount in the mind of individuals, government and its agents that manage and control crime. Whereas, the source of crime are in all spheres, accordingly, residents have sought to tackle crimes on all fronts, and government and its agents are not relenting. Nevertheless, all these are not easily come by, because, criminals are daily discovering new methods to unleash terror on their victims. Violent crime is increasing on a daily basis not only in Lagos but also all over the country. Since violence is no fun for victim, everybody has a strong desire to be safe. This is the reason why citizens demand for more security personnel on our streets, stiffer prison sentences for offenders, acquisition of modern warfare that can withstand criminals who have resulted in using more weapons that are more sophisticated than those of the police.

However, the following recommendations are put forward as several ways by which Lagos residents can cope with criminal activities in their areas.

- People should always maintain a positive attitude; they should not feed their minds with fear, this usually causes unnecessary tension and panic.
- People should always mind their own business, they should not be curious about what their neighbours do for a living.
- People should avoid carrying a large amount of money or exhibit any criminogenic items freely.

It is also recommended that since residents of any area feel secured when their areas have efficient security outfits, security posts should be provided. Too many outlets which provide routes of escape for criminals, is an indication of a poor neighbourhood planning, thus, planners and urban designer should therefore, endeavour to be security conscious in the planning and design of residential neighborhoods, while keeping general environmental health and accessibility habits. Neighborhood associations should be more encouraged because so that everybody is his brother's keepers.

Finally, police patrols should be extended from major roads to the interior areas. Police officers should be provided with modern crime-fighting equipment. The police numeric strength should be increased and their welfare given priorities. Government should improve crime prevention, management and control, allocating of adequate logistics and funds to the police. This will equally boost the morale of police officers and only when police are given better conditions of services that their public image can be redeemed. Only then will the police be able to perform and reduce corruption, collision with criminals and open flagrant extortion of money from the public, especially innocent motorists.

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APPENDIX 1

$$(I) Z = \frac{x - \bar{x}}{\sigma} \quad \text{Crime Against Person (CAP)} \\ X = 6.9 \text{ and } S = 6.18$$

$$Z = \frac{\bar{x} - x}{S} \quad (1) Z = -1.04, (2) Z = -0.99, (3) Z = -0.94, (4) Z = -1.08, (5) Z = 1.33, (6) Z = -1.47, \\ (7) Z = 0.93, (8) Z = -0.23, (9) Z = 0.38, (10) Z = 0.78$$

$$(II) Z = \frac{\bar{x} - x}{\sigma} \quad \text{Crime Against Person (CAPty)} \\ X = 9.9 \text{ and } S = 4.12$$

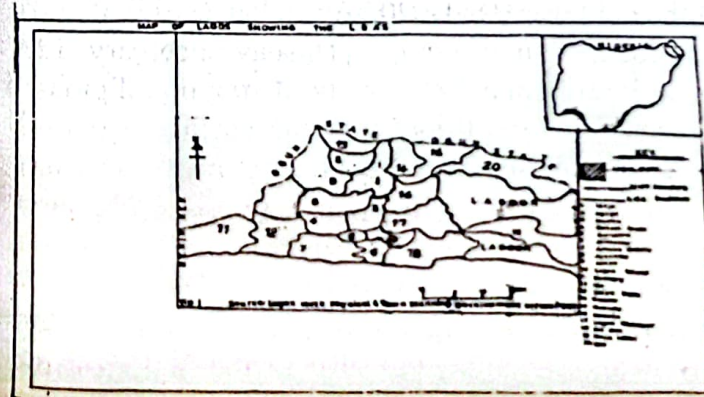
$$Z = \frac{\bar{x} - x}{S} \quad (1) Z = -1.79, (2) Z = -1.44, (3) Z = -1.66, (4) Z = -1.66, (5) Z = 0.93, (6) Z = 0.92, \\ (7) Z = 0.71, (8) Z = -1.24, (9) Z = -0.01, (10) Z = 0.47$$

$$(III) Z = \frac{\bar{x} - x}{\sigma} \quad \text{Crime Against Person (CALA)} \\ X = 9.9 \quad S = 3.17$$

$$Z = \frac{\bar{x} - x}{S} \quad (1) Z = -0.82, (2) Z = -0.94, (3) Z = -2.50, (4) Z = -0.62, (5) Z = -1.46, (6) Z = 0.24, \\ (7) Z = 3.07, (8) Z = -1.64, (9) Z = 3.86, (10) Z = 1.01$$

$$(IV) Z = \frac{\bar{x} - x}{\sigma} \quad \text{Crime Against Person (CALact)} \\ X = 10.0 \quad S = 6.8$$

$$Z = \frac{x - \bar{x}}{S} \quad (1) Z = -1.33, (2) Z = -0.57, (3) Z = -0.90, (4) Z = -0.26, (5) Z = -0.79, (6) Z = 1.17, \\ (7) Z = 1.17, (8) Z = -0.01, (9) Z = 1.59, (10) Z = 1.22$$



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