

# *Criminal Justice: An Overview of the System*

## **Module 1: The Criminal Justice System**

### *Section 1.3: Defining and Measuring Crime*

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**Common Law Felonies:** The nine common-law felonies were: murder, robbery, manslaughter, rape, sodomy, larceny, arson, mayhem and burglary.

**Dark Figure of Crime:** Crimes unknown to police and not included in the official crime statistics.

**Felon:** A person who has been found guilty of committing a felony crime.

**Mala In Se:** A Latin legal phrase referring to crimes that are "wrongs in themselves."

**Mala Prohibita:** Acts that are criminal merely because they are prohibited by the government.

**Misdemeanant:** A person who has been found guilty of committing a misdemeanor crime.

**National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS):** A major national survey designed to measure the dark figure of crime.

**National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS):** An incident-based reporting system used by law enforcement agencies in the United States for collecting and reporting data on crimes.

**Omission:** A failure to do something that is legally required.

**Rate (Crime):** The number of times a crime occurs per 100,000 residents.

**U.S. Census Bureau:** A government agency partly responsible for conducting the NCVS.

**Uniform Crime Reports (UCR):** Official crime statistics for the United States that are collected and compiled by the FBI.

**Victimless Crime:** A term used to refer to crimes that do no direct harm to a particular victim, such as prostitution and gambling.

**Violation:** A category of acts that are contrary to law, but do not reach the level of a misdemeanor, such as traffic offenses.