# Article information:

Criminology | Britannica  
<https://www.britannica.com/science/criminology>

# Article summary:

1. Criminology draws on methods and techniques from both natural and social sciences, and relies heavily on the cooperation of governmental agencies for data collection.

2. Official criminal statistics are not always reliable due to human factors such as willingness to report crimes, but victimization surveys and self-report surveys can provide more accurate information.

3. Criminological research includes various methods such as case studies, typologies, experimental methods, prediction studies, action research, and cross-cultural approaches.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article provides a comprehensive overview of the methods used in criminology, drawing on both natural and social sciences. However, there are some potential biases and missing points of consideration that need to be addressed.

One-sided reporting is evident in the section on official statistics, which suggests that they are not very reliable as a measure of crime in society or changes over time. While this is true to some extent, it overlooks the fact that official statistics can still provide valuable insights into crime trends and patterns. Moreover, the article fails to mention the limitations of victimization surveys, such as underreporting due to fear of retaliation or mistrust of authorities.

The article also lacks evidence for some claims made, such as the statement that self-report surveys generally survey juveniles rather than adults. This claim needs to be supported by data or research studies.

There are unexplored counterarguments in the section on experimental methods, where the article notes that experimentation is criticized by justice officials and the public because they believe equal treatment should be accorded to equals. However, there are other valid criticisms of experimental methods, such as ethical concerns about manipulating variables or withholding treatment from certain groups.

The article also has promotional content in its description of action research, which emphasizes its practical results through collaboration with field-workers. While this may be true in some cases, action research also has limitations such as lack of generalizability and difficulty in establishing causality.

Overall, while the article provides a useful overview of criminological methods, it could benefit from more balanced reporting and deeper exploration of counterarguments and limitations.

# Topics for further research:

* Limitations of victimization surveys in criminology research
* Reliability of official crime statistics as a measure of crime trends
* Criticisms of experimental methods in criminology research
* Ethical concerns in experimental criminology research
* Limitations of action research in criminology
* Generalizability issues in action research in criminology

# Report location:

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