American Homicide Supplemental Volume (AHSV)

Policing (P)

Randolph Roth

October, 2009

Policing

The tables and figures below examine the size of police forces in selected American cities in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the relationship between the size of the police force and the homicide rate in those cities. The data on policing are available in Roussey (1996) and Monkkonen (1981, 1994). The data on homicide arrest rates by the police are from Monkkonen (1994), unless otherwise noted. The homicide rates (which are victim based) are from the sources noted in *American Homicide*. Note that there is a much higher correlation between arrests for drunkenness and the number of police per 10,000 persons than there is between arrests for homicide or actual homicides and the number of police per 10,000 persons per year. Arrests for moral offenses and disorderly conduct correlate well with the number of police, but arrests for homicide and actual homicides do not.
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References


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<th>City</th>
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Figure P 2

Patrol Police in Northern Cities, 1860-1920

Figure P 3

New York City Homicide Rate versus Patrol Police per 10,000 Persons, 1860-1920

Homicide Rates and Police per 10,000 Persons in New York City, 1860-1920


Homicide Rate versus Patrol Police per Capita, 1860-1920

- $-0.30 + 0.295$ Patrol Police per capita
  R-squared = 3.6

Homicide Rate versus Patrol Police per Capita, 1865-1920

$3.25 + 0.075$ Patrol Police per capita
  R-squared = 0.8

Homicide Arrest Rate versus Patrol Police per Capita, 1860-1920
21.5 - 0.619 Patrol Police per capita
R-squared = 8.1

Drunkenness Arrest Rate versus Patrol Police per Capita, 1860-1920

- 764 + 55.0 Patrol Police per capita
R-squared = 36.3

NOTE: The number of patrol police per capita correlated most strongly with arrests for drunkenness, suggesting that the police were most effective at (and concerned with) maintaining public order. The homicide rate rose and fell almost independently of the number of patrol police per capita, although the association was slightly positive for the homicide rate and slightly negative for the homicide arrest rate.
Homicide rate = 21.5 - 0.619 Patrol Police per capita

R-squared = 8.1

NOTE: The regression equation finds a weak and negative correlation between the homicide rate and patrol police per capita. More patrol police per capita are associated with lower homicide rates.
Figure P 5

Boston Homicide Arrest Rate versus Patrol Police per 10,000 Persons, 1851-1920

Homicide arrest rate = -12.5 + 1.13 Patrol Police per capita
R-squared = 25.6

NOTE: The regression equation finds a moderate and positive correlation between the homicide arrest rate and patrol police per capita. More patrol police per capita are associated with higher homicide arrest rates.
Homicide indictment rate = - 18.0 + 1.56 Patrol Police per capita

R-squared = 60.1

NOTE: The regression equation finds a strong and positive correlation between the homicide indictment rate and patrol police per capita. More patrol police per capita are associated with higher homicide indictment rates.
Figure P 7

Chicago Homicide Rate versus Patrol Police per 10,000 Persons, 1879-1920

Homicide arrest rate = 0.68 + 0.339 Patrol Police per capita

R-squared = 9.6

NOTE: The regression equation finds a weak and positive correlation between the homicide rate and patrol police per capita. More patrol police per capita are associated with higher homicide rates.