CAPER The Crime And Policy Evaluation Research group

Louisiana State University

www.lsu.edu/capergroup/

Fact Sheet Recent Trends in Murder Clearance Rates

Edward S. Shihadeh, Ph.D. Matthew R. Lee, Ph.D.

Fact Sheet # 1 June 2005

Although the United States has been enjoying a period of relatively low crime rates in recent years, an alternative measure of how well the police are doing is the crime clearance rate. Crimes can be cleared either through an arrest or by exceptional means, including having an offender who is known but dead, or one who is not available for arrest (i.e. out of the country)ODD"N2WRzGODNz2a0"RN//G"2v0/Rz9GO"/N9"WU[2y0NRND"G92e0

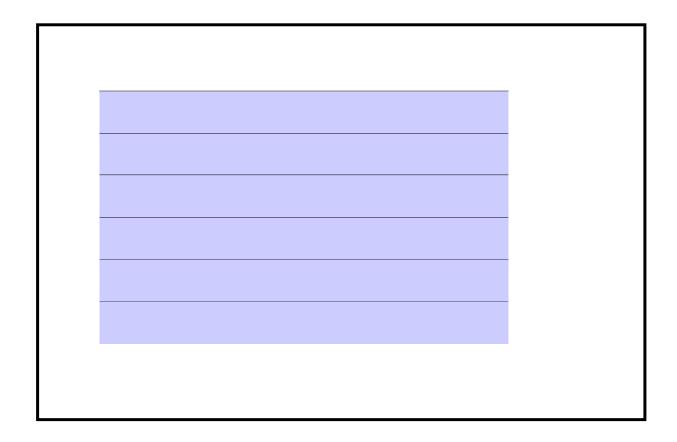


Table 1: Average Murder Clearance Rates, 2001- 2003

<u>Rank</u>	Percentage of Murders Cleared	References: 2003: FBI Uniform Crime Reports: Crime in the United States. Available at http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm#cius
1. Baton Rouge	66.77	
2. National Average	62.93	
3. Group II Cities	59.3	
4. New Orleans	56.67	

Authors

Edward S. Shihadeh, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Louisiana State University, Director of Graduate Studies, and co-coordinator of CAPER.

Matthew R. Lee, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Louisiana State University and co-coordinator of CAPER.