Intelligent crime fighting
- Using knowledge to combat crime -

Imagine a map depicting the crime hot spots in every district in the country, the types of crime occurring in each, the crime rate and the crime density. Imagine what a powerful weapon this information could be in the fight against crime!

Thanks to the efforts of the HSRC’s GIS Centre, maps of crime statistics for every police station in South Africa is now available. The statistics include the 37 types of crime (see list below) recorded by the South African Police Services (SAPS) and several indicators that have been developed by the GIS Centre. These indicators include:
- Total number of crimes by type
- Crime rates by type (crimes per 100 000 population)
- Crime density (crimes per square kilometer)
- Socio-crime categorisation (clustering of police stations)
- Crime risk (Risk of certain crime types occurring)

Types of crime

1  Murder
2  Attempted murder
3  Culpable homicide
4  Robbery with aggravated circumstances: firearm
5  Robbery with aggravated circumstances: without firearm
6  Other robbery
7  Public violence
8  Illegal strikes
9  Rape: 0-17 years
10 Rape: adults
11 Statutory rape
12 Indecent assault
13 Crime in injury
14 Cruelty towards and ill-treatment of children
15 Kidnapping: children 0-17 years
16 Kidnapping: adults
17 Abduction (for sexual or marriage purposes)
18 Assault with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm
19 Common assault
20  Burglary - business premises (including attempts)
21  Burglary - residential premises (including attempts)
22  Stock theft (including poultry)
23  Shoplifting
24  Theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles
25  Theft out of or from motor vehicles
26  Other thefts (not mentioned elsewhere)
27  Arson
28  Malicious damage to property
29  All fraud, forgery, malappropriations, embezzlements, etc.
30  Drug-related crime
31  Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs
32  Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition
33  Explosives act
34  Carjacking
35  Hijacking of trucks
36  Robbery of cash in transit
37  Bank robberies

In order to provide these area-specific crime maps, updated crime statistics are regularly obtained from the SAPS and linked to the spatial boundaries of the more than 1 100 police stations in South Africa. In addition, more than 150 socio-economic variables from the 1996 census are also provided for each police station in the country.

Through socio-crime categorisation maps are created that reflect the differences in the distribution of crime in communities located throughout the country. Crime in South Africa has a distinct urban versus rural nature, as well as differences in the extent of the problem and the type of crimes committed in these areas. Categories 1 to 20 (see overleaf for map) indicates a gradient from a “better” situation to the
"worst" situation in terms of the social status of communities, the extent of crime and the type of crime. The 22 police stations (see list below) that occur in category 20 are located predominantly in the urban townships where the extent of violent crime (eg murder, attempted murder, rape, aggravated assault) is the worst in the country.

**These police stations are the government's priority.**

ALEXANDRA  
BATHO  
EVATON  
GIYANI  
INANDA  
KATLEHONG  

KHAYELITSHA  
KWA MASHU  
MAAKE  
MAMELODI  
MANKWENG  
MITCHELLS PLAIN  

MOKOPANE  
MOROKA  
PHUTHADITJABA  
PLESSISLAER  
SESHEGO  
TEMBA  

TEMBISA  
THOHoyandou  
UMBUMBULU  
UMLAZI

In terms of risk, there is also a distinct understanding of which categories have the highest risk profile in terms of crimes such as burglary, motor vehicle theft and car hijacking. For example, categories 16 and 17 have the highest risk of residential burglary while categories 15 and 19 are the police stations with the highest risk of car hijacking. This information is an invaluable tool in the fight against crime in South Africa.

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