

# The Analysis of Some Current Crime Situation of Status, Causes, and Measurement in Mongolia

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## Abstract

The main purpose of our study is a several key points regarding latent crime that the concept of latent crime, its classification, and methods of accounting developed by scholars. It also provides statistical data on latent crime in various districts of Mongolia. Currently, there is a lack of scientific research on latent crime within Mongolian legal literature, making this an urgent area for study.

The latent crime, a term referring to criminal activities that are not immediately visible or reported, and discusses its classification and the methodologies for accounting developed by researchers. It highlights the statistical data related to latent crime across various districts in Mongolia, indicating a significant focus on understanding this hidden aspect of criminality.

In contrast, the level of latent criminality is higher for property crimes, such as theft. Victims may choose not to report thefts due to feelings of shame, perceived futility in reporting (e.g., low chances of recovery), or fear of further victimization. Cultural Factors: In some cultures, there may be a reluctance to involve law enforcement in what are perceived as private matters. Economic hardship can lead to higher instances of theft, but also a reluctance among victims to report incidents due to fear of repercussions or lack of trust in the justice system.

**Keywords:** Latent Crime, Causes, Measurement, Current Situation

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, there has been a significant focus on developing methodologies to assess not just the visible crime rates but also the latent crime that often goes unreported. This includes understanding the extent of specific crimes, which is crucial for effective law enforcement and policy-making. Research indicates that the actual crime rate in Russia may be higher than reported due to various factors, including societal stigma and distrust in law enforcement agencies, which can lead to underreporting of crimes like domestic violence.

Latent crime represents the actual but hidden or unregistered portion of crimes that have been committed. The real incidence of crime often far exceeds the number of crimes recorded by law enforcement agencies. The difference between actual and recorded crime constitutes what is known as latent crime [1].

Latent Criminality in criminology, the part of criminality that for

some reason is not reflected in the criminal judiciary statistics and does not become the object of criminal judicial proceedings. In latent criminality, crimes remain unknown to the authorities who have the duty to institute criminal proceedings because the criminals conceal their actions or because the victims and witnesses are unwilling to appeal to the authorities. Latent criminality also includes crimes that became known to officials or the competent authorities but were not registered because of the shortcomings of the system of crime accounting or as a result of negligence on the part of the officials [2].

The level of latent criminality differs for different crimes and is minimal for serious crimes (for example, assaults upon life or health of a person); the level is somewhat higher in connection with such forms of crime as theft. The existence of latent criminality makes crime analysis more difficult and adversely affects crime prevention.

## 2. Theoretical Framework

The persistent rise in unlawful activities, the increasing proportion of serious and particularly serious crimes, and the growth of organized crime and corruption have become pressing issues. Accurate information about the true scale of these phenomena, and understanding the actual state of crime—not just the registered part—are essential for effectively combating these issues. The lack of reliable information about crime hinders accurate forecasting of its development and planning of resources, strategies, and priorities for combating it. This highlights the relevance of studying hidden, or latent, crime in Mongolia. Until now, little attention has been paid to the latency of crimes in Mongolia. The existence of latent crime was noted as early as the 19th century. When assessing the state of crime, it is essential to consider another characteristic of crime—the tendency for it to be latent: “The tendency towards latency is as inherent to crime in general as the desire to conceal a committed crime is to an individual offender.” [3].

The founders of statistical studies on crime also pointed out the existence of hidden crime. For instance, A. Kettell noted that only a part of all committed crimes is known [4]. Russian criminologist F. Zakharovich wrote: “The number of detainees brought to justice does not adequately represent the true number of crimes committed... Statistical figures, when viewed collectively, should be regarded more as measures of police activity than as indicators of the state of crime in a province or region.” [5] As noted by S.S. Ostrovumov, actual crime significantly exceeds the number of convictions, which is itself always greater than the number of sentenced individuals [6].

In modern times, the primary focus has been on developing methods for measuring not only overall latent crime but also the latency of specific crimes in Russia. It should be noted that the issue of objectivity in indicators of crime rates and real control over them is complex not only for Mongolia but also for other countries [7].

The latency of specific crimes, such as domestic violence or economic crimes, poses unique challenges. For instance, the lack of comprehensive data on domestic violence is particularly concerning, as it remains a prevalent issue yet is often not captured accurately in official statistics.

In recent years, with the modernization of the legal system, the number of recorded crimes has increased. Examining the causes of crime reveals that the problem of latent crime is reaching a new level due to the widespread nature of shadow phenomena—shadow economies, justice systems, and corruption. Numerous criminal cases have been initiated, and convictions have been made for offenses related to official crimes and corruption. For example, former President N.Enkhbayar was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison under Article 263 of the Criminal Code of Mongolia.

Mongolian criminologists have made significant strides in studying latent crime by organizing the Union of Criminologists of Mongolia. Currently, there is an increasing number of

independent studies focusing on the causes of latent crime and their prevention. For instance, in studying latent crime in specific prefectures of Mongolia, surveys of the population are conducted. When conducting victimization surveys at the level of individual prefectures, the data obtained must be adjusted for response error rates. This error coefficient can be determined by comparing the number of registered crime reports with the actual number of registered crimes based on those reports. The resulting figure should be divided by the coefficient of hidden latency, determined by the ratio of the number of refusals to initiate criminal cases to the number of “overturned” refusals during the period in question for that prefecture. The average error coefficient can be calculated using the following formula:

$K-sr = ((Z - D)/D)/(P - Pot)/Pot) \times 100\%$  Where:

- (Z) = number of registered crime reports during the considered period

- (D) = number of registered crimes during the considered period

- (P) = number of refusals to initiate criminal cases during the considered period

- (P-ot) = number of “overturned” refusals during the considered period in that prefecture.

According to the statement of criminologist L. Korinek “...Crime itself is a very complex phenomenon and is difficult to measure, therefore a distinction is made between measuring known crimes and assessing general crime” [8], we have chosen two directions for calculating latency. From this, we have calculated the latency coefficient in two directions. For example, examining the error coefficient in the Case A and in the Case B:

- Case 1:  $((5380 - 2072) / 2072 / (3288 - 54) / 54) \times 100 = 2.66$  [9]

- Case 2 :  $((1271 - 367) / 367 / (367 - 1) / 1) \times 100 = 0.67$  [10]

Doctor, Turmandakh Z, in his research, examined the latency of homicides in Mongolia. According to his conclusions, the likelihood of homicides among registered suicides is **0.0042328**. [11]. This statistic underscores the complexities involved in accurately categorizing deaths in a context where cultural and societal factors may influence reporting practices. The implications of such findings are profound, as they suggest that the true incidence of homicide may be underreported, potentially affecting public health responses and law enforcement strategies. In Mongolia, as in many countries, the challenge lies not only in collecting accurate data but also in addressing the underlying issues that contribute to both suicide and homicide rates.

Furthermore, the broader context of crime in Mongolia indicates a fluctuating murder/homicide rate, which was reported at 6.15 per 100,000 population in 2021, but notably dropped to 0.00 in 2022, indicating a significant decline that raises questions about data collection consistency and the reliability of official statistics. This research highlights the necessity for improved methodologies in death classification and a more nuanced understanding of crime statistics to inform effective policy-making and intervention strategies.

In studying and measuring latent crime in Mongolia, it is essential to apply methods already developed by foreign scholars. The use of sociological methods in criminology has been discussed in the

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monographic research of Li D. [12]. At the dissertation level, the potential use of sociological research methods for measuring latent crime and determining the latency of specific types of offenses has been thoroughly investigated by Akutaev R.A. [13].

The complexity surrounding the objectivity of crime indicators is not limited to Russia; it extends to other countries as well, including Mongolia. The reliability of crime statistics can be influenced by various factors such as political agendas, public perception, and methodological differences in data collection. In Russia, criminology has historically faced challenges due to a lack of demand from authorities for accurate data and research, leading to potential manipulation of statistics to reflect favorably on law enforcement efforts [14].

The situation in Russia can be compared with other nations where similar issues arise regarding the objectivity and reliability of crime statistics. For example, many countries face difficulties in accurately capturing the full scope of latent crime due to cultural factors that discourage reporting or systemic issues within law enforcement that affect public trust [15].

### 3. Conclusion

Following the above, the current state of research and measurement of latent crime in Mongolia is relevant. From this, we can draw the following conclusions:

The key criminological issue is not the complete eradication of latent crime but the possibility of understanding it. To effectively combat hidden crime, law enforcement agencies must take measures to measure its level as accurately as possible. Addressing this urgent issue is facilitated by employing various methods for measuring latent crime, including sociological ones.

Sociological methods and methodologies should be used when measuring latent crime at the local level. These methods allow for a reasonably reliable tracking of latent crime overall and for specific types of offenses, revealing the main trends in the development of the phenomenon and its individual forms in the past, present, and as a forecast for the future.

As the primary sociological methods for measuring latent crime in Mongolia, the following methods are advisable: expert assessments, victimization surveys, self-reporting of crime, factor analysis, etc. When conducting the next population census in the country, it would be prudent to include questions about crimes committed against citizens in the list of questions. This approach would contribute to reducing the level of and positively altering the structure of latent crime.

To improve the legal regulation of public relations arising in the context of the phenomenon of latent crime, it is advisable to develop and adopt a special state program for crime prevention, which should be an integral part of the overall state program for combating crime and reflect systematic and comprehensive approaches to developing means and methods for preventing latent crimes in Mongolia.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that the further development of criminological thought, including the study of latent crime in Mongolia, will undoubtedly be enriched by the latest achievements in other fields of knowledge, particularly through advancements in information technology, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the scale of latent crime. Initial steps in this direction are already being taken in Mongolia. International cooperation in studying the causes, conditions of latency, and developing methodologies for measuring latent crime is highly relevant.

Finally, addressing the challenges of measuring latent crime and ensuring the objectivity of crime indicators requires a multifaceted approach involving improved data collection methods, enhanced public trust in law enforcement, and international cooperation to share best practices in criminological research.

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