



E1 Crime Differences in Two Neighboring Cities in Northwest Turkey

S. Sebnem Ozcan, MSc, Istanbul University, Institute of Forensic Sciences, Istanbul Universitesi Adli Tip Enstitüsü, Cerrahpasa Kampusu, Istanbul, 34098, TURKEY; Rehat Faikoglu, PhD, University of Trakya, , Edirne, SK, TURKEY; and Gavril Petridis, MSc, Hulya Yukseloglu, PhD, Seyma Uysal, MSc, Doruk Argac, BS, Fulya Ozsoy, BS, Ersi Abaci Kalfoglou, PhD, and Sevil Atasoy, PhD, Istanbul University, Institute of Forensic Sciences, Istanbul Universitesi Adli Tip Enstitüsü, Cerrahpasa Kampusu, Fatih, Istanbul, 34098, TURKEY*

Upon completion the audience will be informed about the crime profile of Northwest Turkey. Furthermore the factors that shape this profile will be discussed.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by informing attendees of the type of crimes and their percentages in Northwest Turkey and provide information about the differences in two neighboring cities in the area.

The prevention of crime can be achieved to increase of the awareness of the problem in the society. Generalized strategies may not be applicable and effective in different groups of people where attitudes are different. Therefore it is essential to estimate the current situation prior to any attempt of programming prevention methods. In this study a retrospective review is reported of general crimes in Kırklareli and in Edirne, two of the four cities in the Northwest part of Turkey, for the time period between 2001 and 2006. These two cities are interesting to study and compare because although they are neighboring and they have typical similarities however they show a different social make up. This research originates from the case records of the High Criminal Court of the province for rendered judgments for both cities. The case records were examined for demographic and medico legal aspects. The cases were analyzed for age, birthplace, criminal record, educational level, job, marital status, type of assault, and judgment. The analysis was done for both the victims and the perpetrators. The analyzed parameters were age and sex, alcohol influence, presence of violence, economical prosperity of the family, admissible evidences that were present for identification, and educational level of the involved people. The classification of the crimes were: sexual assault, counterfeiting, opposition for the code, homicide, fraudulent act, misconduct in office, seizure by violence, misappropriation, drug crime, breach of duty, depredation, criminal assault and battery, illegal trafficking, and the acts of bribery, acceptance of a bribe, breach of trust, arson, wielding, criminal libel, restraint upon liberty, burglary, rigging a competitive bidding process, maltreatment, indemnity, signing a bill by force, seeking treasure without permission, enforcement of a right, excavating without permission, providing explosive material, misrepresentation, illegal immigration trafficking, illegal arms trafficking, revile, human trafficking, invading privacy of the home, destruction of documents, bearing false witness, and escape. The total crime in number shows little difference between the two cities and if the larger population of Edirne is taken into consideration, the difference diminishes. However the types of crime differ in percentage. Sexual assault seems to be the highest in both cities at 17.19% in Kırklareli and 15.77% in Edirne. Illegal drug cases occurred in 3.21% of crimes in Kırklareli whereas it occurred 7.74% in Edirne. Burglary is the same rate for both cities at 0.72%. There were no cases of arson crimes in Kırklareli, however arson occurred 1.21% in the cases in Edirne. The data did not show an increase annually for both cities but it rather seems to be stable when total numbers are examined, however when individual crimes are considered there is a small increase in violent crimes in Edirne. A general stability is present for Kırklareli. The differences in the two cities are not surprising because although geographically they are very closely situated their social make up is different. Edirne is a city with borders to both Greece and Bulgaria, has an established university, and quite an important number of immigrants from other parts of the country. Kırklareli on the other hand has quite a uniform population with minimum of immigration. Therefore it is not striking that the two border cities have different percentages concerning smuggling, drugs trafficking, and illegal immigration traffic.

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