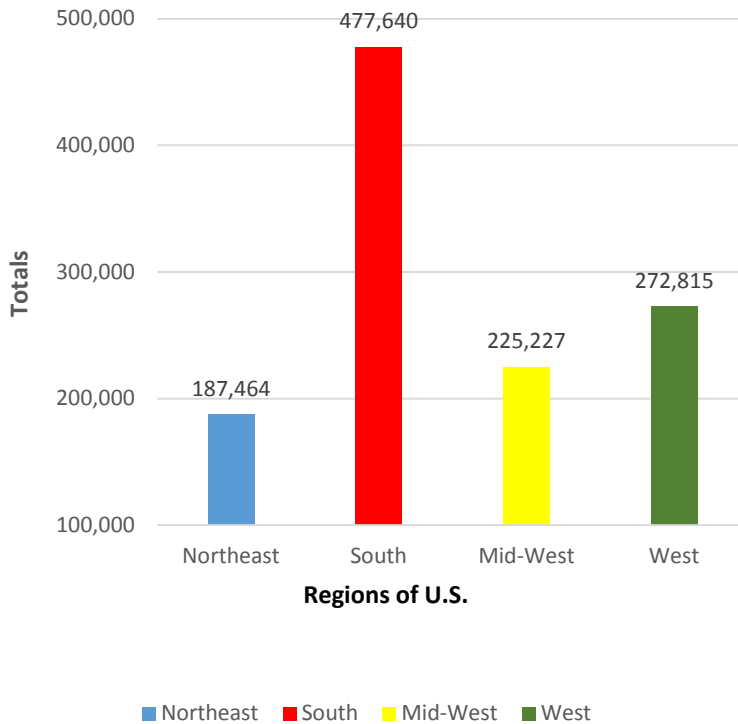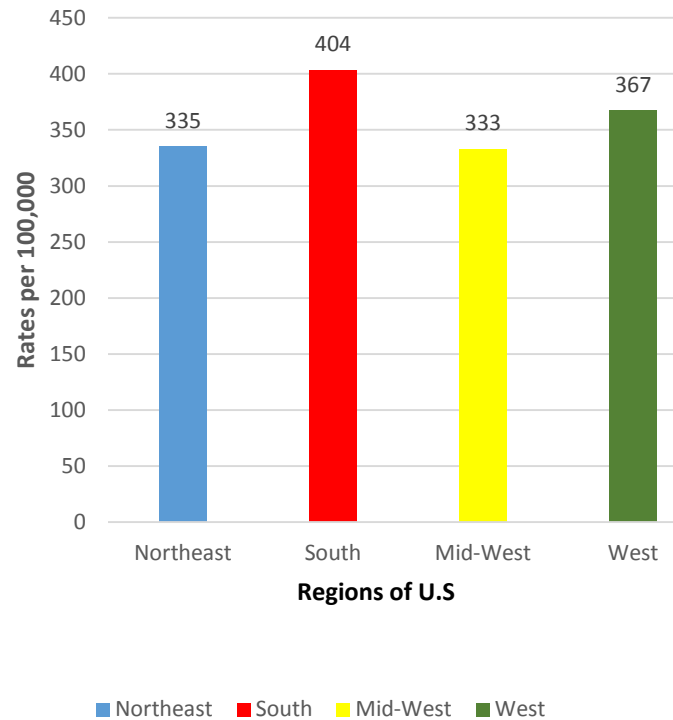# Violent Crime by Region in the U.S.

Violent Crime Totals in U.S.2013

Violent Crime Rates in U.S. 2013

[Crime](link) in the U.S.

According to the FBI's website on crime statistics, violent crime consists of any crime that involves use of force or threat of force. Therefore, violent crime is grouped in to four categories: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The two charts above illustrate violent crime totals and violent crime rates per region of the United States in 2013. This analysis will focus on two different arguments that can be made based on the data within the graphs, (1) violent crime seems more prevalent in the South according to the

numbers, but the rate indicates that it is almost evenly dispersed throughout the country (2) Violent crime rates are not evenly dispersed within the regions of the U.S. due to certain states having higher levels of crime.

Chart Aesthetics

Putting the Violent Crime Stats in the proper visual layout was important to the nature of this project. The bar graph has an advantage over a line or pie graph due to its ability to show the frequency of distribution among the data. This was key in displaying the differences between the two charts. At a quick glance, one would notice the South's overall lead in violent crime statistics based on the numbers. However, once they view the rates, they will see that violent crime is almost evenly dispersed throughout the country. The choice to use regions of the U.S. rather than states was based upon the possible confusion that may arise when having such a lengthy X-axis. Grouping the states into regions makes it easier to get an overall sense of the violent crime being committed throughout the U.S. The disadvantage with this is it fails to identify the states that actually make up those regions.

The choice of colors was also key in differentiating between the regions. If all the regions are the same color, the viewer may have difficulty separating them. The colors were picked based on the overall political or economic characteristic of each region. The South was represented as red based on the majority of Southern States voting Republican during the Presidential Elections of the last decade. The Northeast was represented as blue due to the majority voting Democrat during the Presidential Elections. Yellow was chosen for the Mid-West due to its main cash crop being corn. Finally, green was used for the West to represent its history of championing the environment and having a high density of National Parks.

Total vs. Rate

Without looking at the second graph, one may assume that the South would not be a very pleasant place to move to. However, the second chart indicates that violent crime is a problem in every region of the U.S. This is because the first chart is purely based on numbers while the second chart is based on the actual rate. For example, The South has a population of 118,383,453 making it technically the most populated region within the United States. It is composed of states such as Virginia, Texas, Florida, Kentucky, and Delaware. It is also interesting to note that the District of Columbia is included within this region since it isn't exactly South, but Mid-Atlantic. The problem with the first graph is that total numbers don't accurately depict the amount of crime happening in an area. The rate of crime within a region gives the viewer a better idea of how prevalent a criminal act is taking place. This is because the rate is based on the ratio of crimes in an area to the population of that area. While the South still exceeds the other regions with 404 as its average rate, it doesn't have a huge lead compared to the totals. Therefore, one could assume that they are not much safer in the West, than they are in the South.

However, this assumption is based on the overall violent crime which consists of different categories such as murder, rape and robbery. Why all essentially are immoral acts, an individual may choose to live in a different region of the U.S. based on the rate of one of these categories. For example, if an individual was a rape victim, they would actually be safer in the South compared to the Mid-West. This is based on the Mid-West that has a rape rate of 28.8 compared to the South with a 25.4 rate. If an individual was robbed in the past and wanted an

area with fewer robberies they would also be better off in the South compared to the Northeast. The FBI reports that the Northeast's rate of robbery is 118.1 compared to the South's 109.7. In conclusion, the South still is the most overall violent place to live based on the sum of all four categories, but the important thing to notice is that the South doesn't exceed in all categories.

Violent Crime Rate Within Regions

It is fair to say that violent crime can be accurately measured by the rate, but grouping the violent crime by region doesn't give the most detailed analysis. The regions of the U.S. are vast and include several states. Each region can't be judged based on the overwhelming amount of violent crime in one state. Each region has a state that increases the overall violent crime rate. In the South, the crime rate is increased by the District of Columbia's rate of crime that is at an appalling 1,281.9 rate. This increases the overall violent crime in the South substantially. However, if one looks at Virginia, they will see that it's violent crime rate is at 187.9. This makes Virginia not only the safest state in the South, but also the 3rd safest state in the country.

The West also has a few states that contribute to a large part of the crime rate. Ever want to move to Alaska? You might want to rethink that. Alaska has the highest crime rate within the West with an average of 602.6. This rate even beats out states such as California at 396.2 and Nevada at 591.2. One would think that urban dwellings such as Los Angeles and Las Vegas would help beat out Alaska's rates. Another area that is included in part of the West is Puerto Rico. If people are skeptical about making it a state due to rumors of crime they may want to reconsider. Puerto Rico actually helps lower the overall crime rate in the West since its average is 257.8.

After reviewing the charts and data, one can make the conclusion that crime can't be accurately measured on numbers alone. One must consider the rate of crime to fully grasp how much it occurs within a region. Furthermore, while regions of the U.S. can give you a general case of the crime rate in a specific area, it can't tell you which states have the most crime. If an individual wants a more detailed analysis of the crime levels, they should not base it on regions alone.