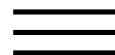


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# AN ECONOMETRIC MODEL OF THE SUPPLY AND CONTROL OF RECORDED OFFENCES IN ENGLAND AND WALES \*

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## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to develop, test and interpret a simultaneous equations model of the processes generating criminal statistics in England and Wales. Specifically we are interested in the determination of the offence rate, the proportion of offences 'cleared-up'<sup>1</sup> and the number of policemen per capita. Our data refer to individual police districts in England and Wales in 1961 and 1966.

We give a brief description of the main components of our model so that we can introduce the theories and estimation problems involved; a more precise description of the variables we used is contained in sect. 2. Our first equation refers to the number of offences per capita (offence rate) in a district. Deterrence theories indicate that this offence rate depends on the proportion of crimes 'cleared-up' (or clear-up rate), if

\* R.A.C.-H. is a criminologist and N.H.S. an economist. The partnership is equal as is the responsibility for errors. Special thanks are due to Art Goldberger, Al Klevorick, Graham Mizon and Nigel Walker. Helpful comments were received from David Downes, John Flemming, Jerry Hausman, David Hendry, Gordon Wasserman and seminars at Cambridge, Oxford, the LSE and the State University of New York at Albany. The helpful comments of the discussant, B.S. van der Laan, when an early version was presented to the 1971 Barcelona Meeting of the Econometric Society are also appreciated. Cliff Wymer kindly made the SIMUL programme available and the authors are grateful for the computational advice of Clive Payne.

The subject matter of this paper will form part of a book 'Analysis of Criminal Statistics' to be published by Seminar Press in 1974.

<sup>1</sup> An offence is cleared-up if the police is convinced that the identity of the offender is clear. This is not synonymous with a conviction or admission in court since there may be some barrier to formal proceedings. A complete definition of a 'clear-up' is in the data appendix available from the authors. In 1966 the average clear-up rate for England and Wales was 42%.

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