

**GENDER VIEWS ON 75 CRIMES:
A Survey of Mexican Opinion**

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ABSTRACT

This study reports the results of a survey of students in a Mexican university who were asked to rate the seriousness of 75 crimes on a scale of 1 to 100. Results are reported overall as well as by gender. In 46 of 75 cases, the male and female mean scores were not significantly different. In the other 29 cases, women usually rated particular crimes as more serious than the men in the sample. Buying a pirated CD/DVD was considered to be the least serious crime, overall, while various kinds of murder and rape ranked as most serious. Some kinds of murder were found to be more serious than others. Women thought that murdering a prostitute would result in a greater loss to society than would murdering a local politician, whereas the male sample valued the losses equally.

Key Words: gender, crime, survey
JEL Codes: D03, J16, K14, K40

INTRODUCTION

There is a pervasive view in both criminology (Montag & Tremewan, 2020; Tonry, 2020) and fiction (Logan, 2014) that the punishment should fit the crime, although some scholars have found a way to nuance that argument (Wertheimer, 1975). Stealing a loaf of bread should not result in a long prison term, although that was the case in *Les Misérables* (Hugo, 1862, 2015). Basically, the theory holds that severe crimes should be punished severely, and light crimes should be punished lightly.

It then becomes a question of how serious a particular crime is. Different societies and different time periods have answered that question differently. The punishment for homosexuality might be to be thrown off the roof of a building in some societies, while in other societies homosexuality is not a crime at all (Temple-Malt, 2019). A study of opinion in 98 countries found that attitude toward homosexuality differed greatly (McGee, 2016a). Attitudes differed not only in general, but also by religion (McGee, 2016b), gender (McGee, 2016c), age (McGee, 2016d), social class (McGee, 2016e), ethnicity (McGee, 2016f), education (McGee, 2016g), income level (McGee, 2016h) and region of the country (McGee, 2016i). Views on homosexuality have also varied over time (McGee, 2016j).

Attitudes toward various other acts (we can't always call them crimes) also vary widely across time and geography. Certain drug use, for example, may result in a long prison term or even death in some countries (Iran and the Philippines come to mind), while the same drug and the same use may be a misdemeanor, or perhaps no crime at all in other jurisdictions (California and Colorado, for example).

Thus, it is not possible to state definitively in a single paper how serious a crime is with any kind of mathematical precision because of the many factors that must be taken into account. However, a few studies have been made an attempt to shed some light on the relative seriousness of various crimes.

McGee, Petrides and Ross (2012) surveyed Mexican students to determine the relative seriousness of tax evasion.

Similar studies were conducted for the United States (Karlinsky, Burton & Blanthorne, 2004; Burton, Karlinsky & Blanthorne, 2005), New Zealand (Gupta, 2006, 2009), Germany (McGee, Benk, Ross & Kilicaslan, 2009), Turkey (Benk, McGee & Ross, 2009) and Yemen (Aljaaidi, Manaf & Karlinsky, 2011). A more comprehensive study was conducted by McGee, Gelman and Tarangelo (2014) of student opinion in Miami. Another study focused on the value of human life in various situations (McGee & Petrides, 2020).

The present study is more comprehensive than those studies, in that it includes 75 crimes, whereas the other general studies included far fewer crimes in their survey instrument, with the exception of the McGee, Gelman and Tarangelo (2014) study. That does not mean that the present study is the definitive study on the relative seriousness of various crimes, since it is limited to student opinion in one geographic location, and at a particular point in time. However, it is hoped that the present study can make a contribution to the literature, and perhaps can be used as a template for further studies using different populations.

METHODOLOGY

A survey instrument was distributed to students at a university in Mexico City. Responses were voluntary and anonymous. They were asked to place a value on the seriousness of 75 crimes by placing a number from 1 to 100 in the appropriate space, where

- 1-20 Not serious
- 21-40 Somewhat serious
- 41-60 Serious
- 61-80 Very serious
- 81-100 Extremely serious

Two-tailed student t-tests were used to determine whether the differences in mean scores were significant.

Table 1 summarizes the demographic information of the sample. Women constituted 63 percent of the sample. Most (75%)

of the students were unemployed. Almost all (97%) were undergraduate students. Most (75%) were accounting or other business majors. All were 30 or under. Ethnicity was mostly (87%) Hispanic, which was not a surprise, given the fact that the sample was taken from a university in Mexico. Almost all (92%) were single. Most (72%) did not attend religious services on a regular basis. Most (64%) were Catholic, followed by atheist or agnostic (19%). There was a good balance of left, right and centrist on the political spectrum.

Table 1
Demographic Variables

| | n | % |
|--------------------------|----|-----|
| GENDER | | |
| Female | 40 | 63 |
| Male | 24 | 37 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |
| EMPLOYMENT STATUS | | |
| Full-time | 3 | 5 |
| Part-time | 10 | 16 |
| Self-employed | 3 | 5 |
| Unemployed | 48 | 75 |
| Total | 64 | 101 |
| STUDENT STATUS | | |
| Undergraduate | 62 | 97 |
| Graduate | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |
| MAJOR | | |
| Accounting | 18 | 28 |
| Other Business | 30 | 47 |
| Other | 16 | 25 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |
| AGE | | |
| <21 | 28 | 44 |
| 21-30 | 36 | 56 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |

| | | |
|---|----|-----|
| | | |
| ETHNICITY | | |
| Hispanic | 56 | 87 |
| Non-Hispanic | 7 | 11 |
| Other | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |
| BIRTH PLACE | | |
| USA | 5 | 8 |
| Other | 59 | 92 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |
| MARITAL STATUS | | |
| Single | 59 | 92 |
| Other | 5 | 8 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |
| ATTENDANCE AT RELIGIOUS SERVICES | | |
| Yes | 18 | 28 |
| No | 46 | 72 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |
| RELIGION | | |
| Catholic | 41 | 64 |
| Other Christian | 1 | 2 |
| Atheist/Agnostic | 12 | 19 |
| Other | 10 | 16 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |
| POLITICAL AFFILIATION | | |
| Democrat | 19 | 30 |
| Republican | 4 | 6 |
| Independent | 6 | 9 |
| Other/None | 35 | 55 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |
| POSITION ON POLITICAL SPECTRUM | | |
| 1 Left | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 9 |
| 3 | 7 | 11 |

| | | |
|----------|----|-----|
| 4 | 7 | 11 |
| 5 | 14 | 22 |
| 6 | 8 | 12 |
| 7 | 11 | 17 |
| 8 | 3 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 8 |
| 10 Right | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 64 | 100 |

FINDINGS

Table 2 shows the relative ranking of the 75 crimes and the differences in gender mean scores. Purchasing a pirated CD/DVD was ranked as the least serious crime, with an overall average mean score of 32.7, on a scale of 1 (not serious) to 100 (extremely serious). Male and female views were not significantly different on this issue ($p = 0.685$).

The most serious crime was rape, with an overall average mean score of 98.7. Although women (99.4 mean score) believed that rape was more serious than did men (97.7 mean score), the difference in mean score was not significant ($p = 0.135$) at the 10 percent level.

In 46 of the 75 crimes included in the survey, male and female mean scores were not significantly different. Male and female mean scores were significantly different at the 5 percent level in 18 cases, and were significantly different at the 10 percent level in 11 cases.

Table 2
Relative Rank & Gender Differences
(1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|---|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 1 | Buying a pirated CD/DVD | 32.7 | 34.5 | 28.9 | 24 | 31.6 | 26.2 | 40 | 0.685 |
| 2 | Jaywalking (crossing the street in the middle | 35.6 | 28.6 | 31.5 | 24 | 39.8 | 27.4 | 40 | 0.142 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|-------|
| | of the block) | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Ticket scalping (purchasing a ticket to an event and reselling it at a higher price) | 39.1 | 39.2 | 30.0 | 24 | 39.0 | 27.5 | 40 | 0.982 |
| 4 | Sneaking into a movie without paying | 39.5 | 42.5 | 25.3 | 24 | 37.8 | 26.1 | 40 | 0.481 |
| 5 | Driving without a license | 39.6 | 28.8 | 27.7 | 24 | 46.2 | 24.3 | 40 | 0.011 |
| 6 | Avoiding an entrance fee to a park owned by the government | 40.2 | 41.1 | 25.0 | 24 | 39.6 | 25.2 | 40 | 0.815 |
| 7 | Bicycle theft | 40.5 | 50.3 | 24.6 | 24 | 34.6 | 18.4 | 40 | 0.005 |
| 8 | Smoking marijuana | 41.2 | 30.8 | 33.8 | 24 | 47.4 | 32.0 | 40 | 0.054 |
| 9 | Avoiding an entrance fee to a park owned by a private company | 41.8 | 42.8 | 26.5 | 24 | 41.2 | 24.9 | 40 | 0.813 |
| 10 | Avoiding a fare on a bus (that is owned by the local government) | 42.5 | 41.5 | 23.6 | 24 | 43.2 | 24.5 | 40 | 0.797 |
| 11 | Copying software illegally | 43.0 | 41.1 | 31.1 | 24 | 44.1 | 29.0 | 40 | 0.694 |
| 12 | Avoiding a fare on a bus (that is owned by a private company) | 43.3 | 43.0 | 25.7 | 24 | 43.4 | 24.4 | 40 | 0.947 |
| 13 | Illegal parking | 43.6 | 39.0 | 30.3 | 24 | 46.4 | 23.9 | 40 | 0.284 |
| 14 | Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit on an interstate highway | 43.6 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 24 | 51.8 | 30.4 | 40 | 0.009 |
| 15 | Hiring illegal immigrants | 46.3 | 37.5 | 32.8 | 24 | 51.5 | 29.1 | 40 | 0.080 |
| 16 | Driving without a seatbelt | 46.3 | 36.6 | 32.7 | 23 | 52.0 | 29.2 | 40 | 0.058 |
| 17 | Paying cash to avoid paying sales tax | 46.7 | 55.3 | 31.4 | 24 | 41.5 | 26.1 | 40 | 0.063 |
| 18 | Running a red light | 46.9 | 38.6 | 30.6 | 24 | 51.8 | 24.7 | 40 | 0.064 |
| 19 | Cheating on an exam | 48.8 | 48.8 | 27.1 | 24 | 48.8 | 28.8 | 40 | 0.991 |
| 20 | Stealing \$50 from a store (that undercharged you on a purchase) | 56.1 | 58.4 | 28.3 | 24 | 54.8 | 26.1 | 40 | 0.604 |
| 21 | Slashing the car tires of | 56.6 | 56.0 | 24.4 | 24 | 56.9 | 24.0 | 40 | 0.883 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|-------|
| | someone you don't like | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Paying a bribe when pressured to do so | 56.9 | 51.0 | 29.5 | 24 | 60.5 | 26.4 | 40 | 0.187 |
| 23 | Using a hand-held cell phone while driving | 57.0 | 51.9 | 28.0 | 24 | 60.0 | 28.3 | 40 | 0.273 |
| 24 | Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit in a residential area where children are present | 57.2 | 48.0 | 33.7 | 24 | 62.7 | 26.8 | 40 | 0.060 |
| 25 | Shoplifting | 57.3 | 57.5 | 26.2 | 24 | 57.2 | 23.4 | 40 | 0.962 |
| 26 | Purchasing a term paper and submitting it as your own | 61.3 | 62.8 | 32.4 | 24 | 60.4 | 26.3 | 40 | 0.748 |
| 27 | Failing to report \$10,000 in rental income if the tax liability is \$5,000 | 62.1 | 61.4 | 27.1 | 24 | 62.5 | 19.5 | 40 | 0.844 |
| 28 | Murdering someone who asked you to kill them because they have a terminal disease and are in a lot of pain | 62.3 | 58.4 | 40.8 | 24 | 64.7 | 35.8 | 40 | 0.517 |
| 29 | Selling marijuana | 62.5 | 53.7 | 35.3 | 24 | 67.8 | 31.2 | 40 | 0.101 |
| 30 | Stealing \$50 from your employer | 63.3 | 66.9 | 26.9 | 24 | 61.1 | 24.7 | 40 | 0.379 |
| 31 | Failing to report \$10,000 in rental income if the tax liability is \$2,000 | 63.7 | 65.5 | 25.1 | 24 | 62.6 | 20.3 | 40 | 0.609 |
| 32 | Claiming government benefits to which you are not entitled | 64.1 | 61.6 | 22.3 | 24 | 65.6 | 23.4 | 40 | 0.501 |
| 33 | Cheating on your tax return | 64.2 | 64.3 | 21.0 | 24 | 64.1 | 24.7 | 40 | 0.973 |
| 34 | Stealing \$50 from a friend | 65.0 | 67.7 | 25.2 | 24 | 63.4 | 24.1 | 40 | 0.494 |
| 35 | Taking hard drugs | 65.1 | 52.4 | 31.6 | 24 | 72.7 | 27.0 | 40 | 0.008 |
| 36 | Helping a client cheat on taxes | 65.2 | 57.0 | 29.0 | 24 | 70.0 | 22.0 | 40 | 0.047 |
| 37 | Stealing \$50 from a stranger | 65.4 | 70.5 | 26.8 | 24 | 62.3 | 23.1 | 40 | 0.203 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|--------|
| 38 | Prostitution | 65.8 | 50.9 | 37.1 | 24 | 74.8 | 30.1 | 40 | 0.007 |
| 39 | Statutory rape (consensual sex between a 24-year-old woman and a 17-year- old boy) | 67.0 | 55.0 | 33.9 | 24 | 74.2 | 27.3 | 40 | 0.016 |
| 40 | Offering to pay a bribe | 67.1 | 66.4 | 27.9 | 24 | 67.5 | 23.6 | 40 | 0.872 |
| 41 | Accepting an unsolicited bribe | 67.6 | 64.3 | 29.5 | 24 | 69.6 | 25.8 | 40 | 0.448 |
| 42 | Soliciting a prostitute | 67.7 | 48.9 | 36.1 | 24 | 78.9 | 27.9 | 40 | 0.0004 |
| 43 | Robbery | 68.4 | 71.7 | 21.7 | 24 | 66.5 | 20.1 | 40 | 0.333 |
| 44 | Statutory rape (consensual sex between a 24-year-old man and a 17-year old girl) | 68.7 | 59.0 | 31.9 | 24 | 74.5 | 26.9 | 40 | 0.042 |
| 45 | Insider stock trading | 71.1 | 73.0 | 25.9 | 24 | 70.0 | 22.4 | 40 | 0.634 |
| 46 | Social Security fraud | 72.0 | 70.0 | 23.3 | 24 | 73.2 | 19.6 | 40 | 0.564 |
| 47 | Insurance fraud (medical claim) | 72.4 | 70.0 | 24.4 | 24 | 73.8 | 22.7 | 40 | 0.531 |
| 48 | Not hiring someone because of age | 73.0 | 61.8 | 32.8 | 24 | 79.8 | 20.2 | 40 | 0.009 |
| 49 | Medicare fraud | 73.2 | 66.7 | 24.1 | 24 | 77.1 | 18.4 | 40 | 0.055 |
| 50 | Stealing a car that is parked | 73.5 | 75.8 | 18.5 | 24 | 72.2 | 19.2 | 40 | 0.474 |
| 51 | Soliciting a bribe | 73.5 | 72.7 | 29.1 | 24 | 74.1 | 21.9 | 40 | 0.827 |
| 52 | Insurance fraud (hurricane damage) | 73.7 | 74.0 | 20.2 | 24 | 73.6 | 21.7 | 40 | 0.929 |
| 53 | Insurance fraud (auto accident) | 75.2 | 73.0 | 19.8 | 24 | 76.5 | 19.6 | 40 | 0.494 |
| 54 | Not hiring someone because they are fat | 81.0 | 69.9 | 30.1 | 24 | 87.6 | 17.4 | 40 | 0.004 |
| 55 | Selling hard drugs | 81.2 | 77.9 | 22.5 | 24 | 83.3 | 22.6 | 40 | 0.359 |
| 56 | Not hiring someone because they are ugly | 81.5 | 69.5 | 28.4 | 24 | 88.8 | 16.5 | 40 | 0.001 |
| 57 | Accounting fraud | 81.7 | 79.5 | 18.6 | 24 | 83.0 | 17.2 | 40 | 0.454 |
| 58 | Paying less than the minimum wage | 82.3 | 75.3 | 22.1 | 24 | 86.5 | 13.8 | 40 | 0.015 |
| 59 | Driving while intoxicated | 82.4 | 74.6 | 22.2 | 24 | 87.2 | 16.1 | 40 | 0.011 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|-------|
| 60 | Carjacking (stealing a car while the owner is in the car) | 83.3 | 83.3 | 16.2 | 24 | 83.2 | 15.2 | 40 | 0.979 |
| 61 | Not hiring someone because of gender | 84.0 | 73.9 | 28.7 | 24 | 90.1 | 13.9 | 40 | 0.004 |
| 62 | Not hiring someone because of sexual preference | 84.2 | 74.1 | 29.4 | 24 | 90.3 | 14.5 | 40 | 0.005 |
| 63 | Not hiring someone because of ethnicity | 84.8 | 74.5 | 28.3 | 24 | 91.0 | 13.1 | 40 | 0.002 |
| 64 | Violating child labor laws | 87.8 | 83.1 | 23.9 | 24 | 90.5 | 10.8 | 40 | 0.095 |
| 65 | Murdering a drug dealer | 88.5 | 84.7 | 32.7 | 24 | 90.8 | 15.9 | 40 | 0.320 |
| 66 | Child molestation | 95.0 | 95.6 | 8.7 | 24 | 94.7 | 12.1 | 40 | 0.739 |
| 67 | Murdering a local politician | 95.6 | 95.9 | 8.3 | 24 | 95.5 | 14.2 | 40 | 0.894 |
| 68 | Murdering a member of Congress | 95.7 | 96.3 | 7.7 | 24 | 95.3 | 14.3 | 40 | 0.749 |
| 69 | Murdering a homeless person | 96.8 | 94.0 | 20.4 | 24 | 98.5 | 7.9 | 40 | 0.220 |
| 70 | Murdering a lawyer who specializes in suing people | 97.1 | 94.6 | 11.4 | 24 | 98.6 | 3.9 | 40 | 0.049 |
| 71 | Raping a prostitute | 97.6 | 94.6 | 15.0 | 24 | 99.4 | 3.2 | 40 | 0.056 |
| 72 | Murdering a prostitute | 97.6 | 94.2 | 18.6 | 24 | 99.6 | 1.8 | 40 | 0.072 |
| 73 | Murdering a lawyer who specializes in defending people who are being sued | 97.6 | 95.9 | 11.0 | 24 | 98.7 | 3.5 | 40 | 0.136 |
| 74 | Murdering a nice person who has a family and who is a productive member of the community | 98.4 | 96.3 | 10.9 | 24 | 99.6 | 1.8 | 40 | 0.064 |
| 75 | Rape | 98.7 | 97.7 | 5.4 | 24 | 99.4 | 3.2 | 40 | 0.135 |

Table 3 lists the 18 crimes that had significantly different male and female mean scores at the 5 percent level. In all cases except bicycle theft (#7), the female mean scores were

significantly higher than the male mean scores, which indicates that females thought those crimes were significantly more serious than did the males in the sample. The male sample thought that bicycle theft was significantly more serious than did the female sample.

Table 3
Significant Differences at 5%
(1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|---|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 5 | Driving without a license | 39.6 | 28.8 | 27.7 | 24 | 46.2 | 24.3 | 40 | 0.011 |
| 7 | Bicycle theft | 40.5 | 50.3 | 24.6 | 24 | 34.6 | 18.4 | 40 | 0.005 |
| 14 | Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit on an interstate highway | 43.6 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 24 | 51.8 | 30.4 | 40 | 0.009 |
| 35 | Taking hard drugs | 65.1 | 52.4 | 31.6 | 24 | 72.7 | 27.0 | 40 | 0.008 |
| 36 | Helping a client cheat on taxes | 65.2 | 57.0 | 29.0 | 24 | 70.0 | 22.0 | 40 | 0.047 |
| 38 | Prostitution | 65.8 | 50.9 | 37.1 | 24 | 74.8 | 30.1 | 40 | 0.007 |
| 39 | Statutory rape (consensual sex between a 24-year-old woman and a 17-year-old boy) | 67.0 | 55.0 | 33.9 | 24 | 74.2 | 27.3 | 40 | 0.016 |
| 42 | Soliciting a prostitute | 67.7 | 48.9 | 36.1 | 24 | 78.9 | 27.9 | 40 | 0.0004 |
| 44 | Statutory rape (consensual sex between a 24-year-old man and a 17-year old girl) | 68.7 | 59.0 | 31.9 | 24 | 74.5 | 26.9 | 40 | 0.042 |
| 48 | Not hiring someone because of age | 73.0 | 61.8 | 32.8 | 24 | 79.8 | 20.2 | 40 | 0.009 |
| 54 | Not hiring | 81.0 | 69.9 | 30.1 | 24 | 87.6 | 17.4 | 40 | 0.004 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|-------|
| | someone because they are fat | | | | | | | | |
| 56 | Not hiring someone because they are ugly | 81.5 | 69.5 | 28.4 | 24 | 88.8 | 16.5 | 40 | 0.001 |
| 58 | Paying less than the minimum wage | 82.3 | 75.3 | 22.1 | 24 | 86.5 | 13.8 | 40 | 0.015 |
| 59 | Driving while intoxicated | 82.4 | 74.6 | 22.2 | 24 | 87.2 | 16.1 | 40 | 0.011 |
| 61 | Not hiring someone because of gender | 84.0 | 73.9 | 28.7 | 24 | 90.1 | 13.9 | 40 | 0.004 |
| 62 | Not hiring someone because of sexual preference | 84.2 | 74.1 | 29.4 | 24 | 90.3 | 14.5 | 40 | 0.005 |
| 63 | Not hiring someone because of ethnicity | 84.8 | 74.5 | 28.3 | 24 | 91.0 | 13.1 | 40 | 0.002 |
| 70 | Murdering a lawyer who specializes in suing people | 97.1 | 94.6 | 11.4 | 24 | 98.6 | 3.9 | 40 | 0.049 |

Table 4 lists the 11 crimes that had significantly different male and female mean scores at the 10 percent level. Male mean scores were significantly higher only in the case of paying cash to avoid paying sales tax (#17). In all other cases, female participants considered the various crimes to be significantly more serious than did the men.

Table 4
Significant Differences at 10%
(1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|---|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 8 | Smoking marijuana | 41.2 | 30.8 | 33.8 | 24 | 47.4 | 32.0 | 40 | 0.054 |
| 15 | Hiring illegal immigrants | 46.3 | 37.5 | 32.8 | 24 | 51.5 | 29.1 | 40 | 0.080 |
| 16 | Driving without a seatbelt | 46.3 | 36.6 | 32.7 | 23 | 52.0 | 29.2 | 40 | 0.058 |
| 17 | Paying cash to avoid paying sales tax | 46.7 | 55.3 | 31.4 | 24 | 41.5 | 26.1 | 40 | 0.063 |
| 18 | Running a red light | 46.9 | 38.6 | 30.6 | 24 | 51.8 | 24.7 | 40 | 0.064 |
| 24 | Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit in a residential area where children are present | 57.2 | 48.0 | 33.7 | 24 | 62.7 | 26.8 | 40 | 0.060 |
| 49 | Medicare fraud | 73.2 | 66.7 | 24.1 | 24 | 77.1 | 18.4 | 40 | 0.055 |
| 64 | Violating child labor laws | 87.8 | 83.1 | 23.9 | 24 | 90.5 | 10.8 | 40 | 0.095 |
| 71 | Raping a prostitute | 97.6 | 94.6 | 15.0 | 24 | 99.4 | 3.2 | 40 | 0.056 |
| 72 | Murdering a prostitute | 97.6 | 94.2 | 18.6 | 24 | 99.6 | 1.8 | 40 | 0.072 |
| 74 | Murdering a nice person who has a family and who is a productive member of the community | 98.4 | 96.3 | 10.9 | 24 | 99.6 | 1.8 | 40 | 0.064 |

In 46 of the 75 cases, male and female mean scores were not significantly different even at the 10 percent level. In the other 29 cases, they were significantly different, and in all but two of those cases, it was the female mean scores that were significantly

higher, indicating that the female sample viewed those crimes as significantly more serious than did the male sample.

One might speculate as to why females considered 27 of the 75 crimes to be significantly more serious. Some prior research sheds light on this question. Some studies have found that women tend to be more ethical than men (Beu, Buckley & Harvey, 2003; Brown & Choong, 2005), while other studies have found that men are more ethical than women (Barnett & Karson, 1987; Weeks, Moore, McKinney & Longenecker, 1999). A third group of studies found that men and women are equally ethical/unethical (Babakus, Cornwell, Mitchell & Schlegelmilch, 2004; McCabe, Ingram & Dato-on, 2006).

There could be historical, cultural, or sociological reasons for these differences, or for the lack of differences, depending on the particular crime. Several doctoral theses could be written that explore these issues, but doing so in the present study would take us too far afield of the main thrust of the study, which is to determine whether men and women have significantly different views on the seriousness of certain crimes.

Table 5 lists the economic and property crimes that were included in the survey instrument. It could be argued that some of the crimes listed should not be included, or that other crimes should be listed. We will leave discussion of this issue for another day.

Thirty-seven (37) crimes were included in this category. In 30 cases, the differences in male and female mean scores were not significant.

Male mean scores were significantly higher at the 5 percent level only for:

- bicycle theft (#7), and
- paying cash to avoid paying sales tax (#17) at the 10 percent level.

At the 5 percent level, the female mean scores were significantly higher for:

- helping a client cheat on taxes (#36), and

- paying less than the minimum wage (#58).

Female mean scores were significantly higher at the 10 percent level for:

- hiring illegal immigrants (#15),
- Medicare fraud (#49), and
- violating child labor laws (#64).

Table 5
Economic and Property Crimes
(1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|--|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 1 | Buying a pirated CD/DVD | 32.7 | 34.5 | 28.9 | 24 | 31.6 | 26.2 | 40 | 0.685 |
| 3 | Ticket scalping (purchasing a ticket to an event and reselling it at a higher price) | 39.1 | 39.2 | 30.0 | 24 | 39.0 | 27.5 | 40 | 0.982 |
| 4 | Sneaking into a movie without paying | 39.5 | 42.5 | 25.3 | 24 | 37.8 | 26.1 | 40 | 0.481 |
| 6 | Avoiding an entrance fee to a park owned by the government | 40.2 | 41.1 | 25.0 | 24 | 39.6 | 25.2 | 40 | 0.815 |
| 7 | Bicycle theft | 40.5 | 50.3 | 24.6 | 24 | 34.6 | 18.4 | 40 | 0.005 |
| 9 | Avoiding an entrance fee to a park owned by a private company | 41.8 | 42.8 | 26.5 | 24 | 41.2 | 24.9 | 40 | 0.813 |
| 10 | Avoiding a fare on a bus (that is owned by the local government) | 42.5 | 41.5 | 23.6 | 24 | 43.2 | 24.5 | 40 | 0.797 |
| 11 | Copying software illegally | 43.0 | 41.1 | 31.1 | 24 | 44.1 | 29.0 | 40 | 0.694 |
| 12 | Avoiding a fare | 43.3 | 43.0 | 25.7 | 24 | 43.4 | 24.4 | 40 | 0.947 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|-------|
| | on a bus (that is owned by a private company) | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Hiring illegal immigrants | 46.3 | 37.5 | 32.8 | 24 | 51.5 | 29.1 | 40 | 0.080 |
| 17 | Paying cash to avoid paying sales tax | 46.7 | 55.3 | 31.4 | 24 | 41.5 | 26.1 | 40 | 0.063 |
| 20 | Stealing \$50 from a store (that undercharged you on a purchase) | 56.1 | 58.4 | 28.3 | 24 | 54.8 | 26.1 | 40 | 0.604 |
| 21 | Slashing the car tires of someone you don't like | 56.6 | 56.0 | 24.4 | 24 | 56.9 | 24.0 | 40 | 0.883 |
| 22 | Paying a bribe when pressured to do so | 56.9 | 51.0 | 29.5 | 24 | 60.5 | 26.4 | 40 | 0.187 |
| 25 | Shoplifting | 57.3 | 57.5 | 26.2 | 24 | 57.2 | 23.4 | 40 | 0.962 |
| 27 | Failing to report \$10,000 in rental income if the tax liability is \$5,000 | 62.1 | 61.4 | 27.1 | 24 | 62.5 | 19.5 | 40 | 0.844 |
| 30 | Stealing \$50 from your employer | 63.3 | 66.9 | 26.9 | 24 | 61.1 | 24.7 | 40 | 0.379 |
| 31 | Failing to report \$10,000 in rental income if the tax liability is \$2,000 | 63.7 | 65.5 | 25.1 | 24 | 62.6 | 20.3 | 40 | 0.609 |
| 32 | Claiming government benefits to which you are not entitled | 64.1 | 61.6 | 22.3 | 24 | 65.6 | 23.4 | 40 | 0.501 |
| 33 | Cheating on your tax return | 64.2 | 64.3 | 21.0 | 24 | 64.1 | 24.7 | 40 | 0.973 |
| 34 | Stealing \$50 from a friend | 65.0 | 67.7 | 25.2 | 24 | 63.4 | 24.1 | 40 | 0.494 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|-------|
| 36 | Helping a client cheat on taxes | 65.2 | 57.0 | 29.0 | 24 | 70.0 | 22.0 | 40 | 0.047 |
| 37 | Stealing \$50 from a stranger | 65.4 | 70.5 | 26.8 | 24 | 62.3 | 23.1 | 40 | 0.203 |
| 40 | Offering to pay a bribe | 67.1 | 66.4 | 27.9 | 24 | 67.5 | 23.6 | 40 | 0.872 |
| 41 | Accepting an unsolicited bribe | 67.6 | 64.3 | 29.5 | 24 | 69.6 | 25.8 | 40 | 0.448 |
| 45 | Insider stock trading | 71.1 | 73.0 | 25.9 | 24 | 70.0 | 22.4 | 40 | 0.634 |
| 46 | Social Security fraud | 72.0 | 70.0 | 23.3 | 24 | 73.2 | 19.6 | 40 | 0.564 |
| 47 | Insurance fraud (medical claim) | 72.4 | 70.0 | 24.4 | 24 | 73.8 | 22.7 | 40 | 0.531 |
| 49 | Medicare fraud | 73.2 | 66.7 | 24.1 | 24 | 77.1 | 18.4 | 40 | 0.055 |
| 50 | Stealing a car that is parked | 73.5 | 75.8 | 18.5 | 24 | 72.2 | 19.2 | 40 | 0.474 |
| 51 | Soliciting a bribe | 73.5 | 72.7 | 29.1 | 24 | 74.1 | 21.9 | 40 | 0.827 |
| 52 | Insurance fraud (hurricane damage) | 73.7 | 74.0 | 20.2 | 24 | 73.6 | 21.7 | 40 | 0.929 |
| 53 | Insurance fraud (auto accident) | 75.2 | 73.0 | 19.8 | 24 | 76.5 | 19.6 | 40 | 0.494 |
| 57 | Accounting fraud | 81.7 | 79.5 | 18.6 | 24 | 83.0 | 17.2 | 40 | 0.454 |
| 58 | Paying less than the minimum wage | 82.3 | 75.3 | 22.1 | 24 | 86.5 | 13.8 | 40 | 0.015 |
| 60 | Carjacking (stealing a car while the owner is in the car) | 83.3 | 83.3 | 16.2 | 24 | 83.2 | 15.2 | 40 | 0.979 |
| 64 | Violating child labor laws | 87.8 | 83.1 | 23.9 | 24 | 90.5 | 10.8 | 40 | 0.095 |

Table 6 lists the 13 violent crimes that were included in the survey instrument. In 9 cases, male and female mean scores were not significantly different. The female mean score was significantly higher at the 5 percent level for murdering a lawyer who specializes in suing people (#70).

Female mean scores were significantly higher at the 10 percent level for:

- raping a prostitute (#71),
- murdering a prostitute (#72) and
- murdering a nice person (#74).

Murdering someone with their consent (#28) is assisted suicide. It is a crime in some jurisdictions but not in others. From the perspective of utilitarian ethics, one might reasonably conclude that it is a positive-sum game, since the person on the receiving end benefits, and no one loses. This conclusion may seem outrageous, but utilitarian ethics is what it is. Utilitarian ethics has been criticized for having structural flaws (McGee, 2004), but we will leave a discussion of this topic for another day.

Is killing a prostitute more serious than killing a politician? Men believed they were equally serious ($p = 0.6845$). Women believed that a prostitute has more value than a local politician, at least at the 10 percent significance level ($p = 0.0739$). Is raping a prostitute less serious than raping someone from the general population? Men said no ($p = 0.3458$). Women also said no ($p = 1.0000$).

Table 6
Violent Crimes
(1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|--|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 28 | Murdering someone who asked you to kill them because they have a terminal disease and are in a lot of pain | 62.3 | 58.4 | 40.8 | 24 | 64.7 | 35.8 | 40 | 0.517 |
| 43 | Robbery | 68.4 | 71.7 | 21.7 | 24 | 66.5 | 20.1 | 40 | 0.333 |
| 60 | Carjacking (stealing a car | 83.3 | 83.3 | 16.2 | 24 | 83.2 | 15.2 | 40 | 0.979 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|-------|
| | while the owner is in the car) | | | | | | | | |
| 65 | Murdering a drug dealer | 88.5 | 84.7 | 32.7 | 24 | 90.8 | 15.9 | 40 | 0.320 |
| 67 | Murdering a local politician | 95.6 | 95.9 | 8.3 | 24 | 95.5 | 14.2 | 40 | 0.894 |
| 68 | Murdering a member of Congress | 95.7 | 96.3 | 7.7 | 24 | 95.3 | 14.3 | 40 | 0.749 |
| 69 | Murdering a homeless person | 96.8 | 94.0 | 20.4 | 24 | 98.5 | 7.9 | 40 | 0.220 |
| 70 | Murdering a lawyer who specializes in suing people | 97.1 | 94.6 | 11.4 | 24 | 98.6 | 3.9 | 40 | 0.049 |
| 71 | Raping a prostitute | 97.6 | 94.6 | 15.0 | 24 | 99.4 | 3.2 | 40 | 0.056 |
| 72 | Murdering a prostitute | 97.6 | 94.2 | 18.6 | 24 | 99.6 | 1.8 | 40 | 0.072 |
| 73 | Murdering a lawyer who specializes in defending people who are being sued | 97.6 | 95.9 | 11.0 | 24 | 98.7 | 3.5 | 40 | 0.136 |
| 74 | Murdering a nice person who has a family and who is a productive member of the community | 98.4 | 96.3 | 10.9 | 24 | 99.6 | 1.8 | 40 | 0.064 |
| 75 | Rape | 98.7 | 97.7 | 5.4 | 24 | 99.4 | 3.2 | 40 | 0.135 |

Table 7 lists the 14 government-created crimes that were included in the survey instrument. These are crimes that are classified as crimes because some legislature decided to classify them as crimes. They may be crimes in some jurisdictions but not in others. For example, smoking marijuana is legal in some jurisdictions and illegal in others. In some jurisdictions where it is

illegal, those found guilty only pay a fine, while in other jurisdictions they may face a jail sentence.

Jaywalking (crossing the street in the middle of the block) was the least serious crime in this category. In many cases, it could be considered a victimless crime (Block, 2008; Fernandez, 2002; Vance, 2018), since there are often no victims. Crossing a deserted street at 2am harms no one, for example. The most serious crime in this category was driving while intoxicated (#59).

In five cases, male and female views were not significantly different ($p > 0.10$). In the nine cases where views were significantly different, women viewed all 9 crimes as significantly more serious than did men.

Crimes were viewed as significantly more serious by females at the 5% level for:

- Driving without a license (#5)
- Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit on an interstate highway (#14)
- Taking hard drugs (#35)
- Soliciting a prostitute (#42)
- Driving while intoxicated (#59)

Crimes were viewed as significantly more serious by females at the 10% level for:

- Smoking marijuana (#8)
- Driving without a seatbelt (#16)
- Running a red light (#16)
- Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit in a residential area where children are present (#59).

Table 7
Government-created Crimes
 (1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|--------------------------|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 2 | Jaywalking (crossing the | 35.6 | 28.6 | 31.5 | 24 | 39.8 | 27.4 | 40 | 0.142 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|--------|
| | street in the middle of the block) | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Driving without a license | 39.6 | 28.8 | 27.7 | 24 | 46.2 | 24.3 | 40 | 0.011 |
| 8 | Smoking marijuana | 41.2 | 30.8 | 33.8 | 24 | 47.4 | 32.0 | 40 | 0.054 |
| 13 | Illegal parking | 43.6 | 39.0 | 30.3 | 24 | 46.4 | 23.9 | 40 | 0.284 |
| 14 | Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit on an interstate highway | 43.6 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 24 | 51.8 | 30.4 | 40 | 0.009 |
| 16 | Driving without a seatbelt | 46.3 | 36.6 | 32.7 | 23 | 52.0 | 29.2 | 40 | 0.058 |
| 18 | Running a red light | 46.9 | 38.6 | 30.6 | 24 | 51.8 | 24.7 | 40 | 0.064 |
| 23 | Using a hand-held cell phone while driving | 57.0 | 51.9 | 28.0 | 24 | 60.0 | 28.3 | 40 | 0.273 |
| 24 | Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit in a residential area where children are present | 57.2 | 48.0 | 33.7 | 24 | 62.7 | 26.8 | 40 | 0.060 |
| 29 | Selling marijuana | 62.5 | 53.7 | 35.3 | 24 | 67.8 | 31.2 | 40 | 0.101 |
| 35 | Taking hard drugs | 65.1 | 52.4 | 31.6 | 24 | 72.7 | 27.0 | 40 | 0.008 |
| 42 | Soliciting a prostitute | 67.7 | 48.9 | 36.1 | 24 | 78.9 | 27.9 | 40 | 0.0004 |
| 55 | Selling hard drugs | 81.2 | 77.9 | 22.5 | 24 | 83.3 | 22.6 | 40 | 0.359 |
| 59 | Driving while intoxicated | 82.4 | 74.6 | 22.2 | 24 | 87.2 | 16.1 | 40 | 0.011 |

Table 8 lists 21 crimes that could be considered victimless ((Block, 2008; Fernandez, 2002; Vance, 2018) in certain circumstances (or perhaps in all circumstances). Male and female views were not significantly different in only 8 of the 21 cases. Females believed a particular crime was significantly more serious in 12 cases, while men believed the crime was significantly more serious in only one case (#18 – Running a red light, at the 10% level).

Crimes were viewed as significantly more serious by females at the 5% level for:

- Driving without a license (#5)
- Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit on an interstate highway (#14)
- Taking hard drugs (#35)
- Prostitution (#38)
- Soliciting a prostitute (#42)
- Paying less than the minimum wage (#58)
- Driving while intoxicated (#59)

Crimes were viewed as significantly more serious by females at the 10% level for:

- Smoking marijuana (#8)
- Hiring illegal immigrants (#15)
- Driving without a seatbelt (#16)
- Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit in a residential area where children are present
- Violating child labor laws (#64)

Table 8
Victimless Crimes
 (1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|------------------------|------------|------|------|---|--------|------|---|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|-------|
| 2 | Jaywalking (crossing the street in the middle of the block) | 35.6 | 28.6 | 31.5 | 24 | 39.8 | 27.4 | 40 | 0.142 |
| 3 | Ticket scalping (purchasing a ticket to an event and reselling it at a higher price) | 39.1 | 39.2 | 30.0 | 24 | 39.0 | 27.5 | 40 | 0.982 |
| 5 | Driving without a license | 39.6 | 28.8 | 27.7 | 24 | 46.2 | 24.3 | 40 | 0.011 |
| 8 | Smoking marijuana | 41.2 | 30.8 | 33.8 | 24 | 47.4 | 32.0 | 40 | 0.054 |
| 13 | Illegal parking | 43.6 | 39.0 | 30.3 | 24 | 46.4 | 23.9 | 40 | 0.284 |
| 14 | Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit on an interstate highway | 43.6 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 24 | 51.8 | 30.4 | 40 | 0.009 |
| 15 | Hiring illegal immigrants | 46.3 | 37.5 | 32.8 | 24 | 51.5 | 29.1 | 40 | 0.080 |
| 16 | Driving without a seatbelt | 46.3 | 36.6 | 32.7 | 23 | 52.0 | 29.2 | 40 | 0.058 |
| 18 | Running a red light | 46.9 | 38.6 | 30.6 | 24 | 51.8 | 24.7 | 40 | 0.064 |
| 23 | Using a hand-held cell phone while driving | 57.0 | 51.9 | 28.0 | 24 | 60.0 | 28.3 | 40 | 0.273 |
| 24 | Speeding – driving 10 mph over the limit in a residential area where children are present | 57.2 | 48.0 | 33.7 | 24 | 62.7 | 26.8 | 40 | 0.060 |
| 28 | Murdering someone who | 62.3 | 58.4 | 40.8 | 24 | 64.7 | 35.8 | 40 | 0.517 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------|------|------|----|------|------|----|--------|
| | asked you to kill them because they have a terminal disease and are in a lot of pain | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Selling marijuana | 62.5 | 53.7 | 35.3 | 24 | 67.8 | 31.2 | 40 | 0.101 |
| 35 | Taking hard drugs | 65.1 | 52.4 | 31.6 | 24 | 72.7 | 27.0 | 40 | 0.008 |
| 38 | Prostitution | 65.8 | 50.9 | 37.1 | 24 | 74.8 | 30.1 | 40 | 0.007 |
| 42 | Soliciting a prostitute | 67.7 | 48.9 | 36.1 | 24 | 78.9 | 27.9 | 40 | 0.0004 |
| 45 | Insider stock trading | 71.1 | 73.0 | 25.9 | 24 | 70.0 | 22.4 | 40 | 0.634 |
| 55 | Selling hard drugs | 81.2 | 77.9 | 22.5 | 24 | 83.3 | 22.6 | 40 | 0.359 |
| 58 | Paying less than the minimum wage | 82.3 | 75.3 | 22.1 | 24 | 86.5 | 13.8 | 40 | 0.015 |
| 59 | Driving while intoxicated | 82.4 | 74.6 | 22.2 | 24 | 87.2 | 16.1 | 40 | 0.011 |
| 64 | Violating child labor laws | 87.8 | 83.1 | 23.9 | 24 | 90.5 | 10.8 | 40 | 0.095 |

Table 9 lists the 7 sex crimes that were included in the survey instrument. Again, it may be argued that some of the crimes listed here should not be listed. Prostitution and soliciting a prostitute, for example, are legal in some jurisdictions, and are considered victimless crimes by some scholars ((Block, 2008; Fernandez, 2002; Vance, 2018). Male and female mean scores were not significantly different in only two cases – child molestation and rape. In the other five cases, the women’s mean scores were significantly higher than the men’s mean scores.

In the case of statutory rape, is it more serious if the man is the older partner, or is the crime equally serious regardless of whether it is the man or the woman who is under-age? Men

believed that the two crimes were equally serious ($p = 0.6757$). So did women ($p = 0.9345$).

Table 9
Sex Crimes
(1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|---|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 38 | Prostitution | 65.8 | 50.9 | 37.1 | 24 | 74.8 | 30.1 | 40 | 0.007 |
| 39 | Statutory rape (consensual sex between a 24-year-old woman and a 17-year-old boy) | 67.0 | 55.0 | 33.9 | 24 | 74.2 | 27.3 | 40 | 0.016 |
| 42 | Soliciting a prostitute | 67.7 | 48.9 | 36.1 | 24 | 78.9 | 27.9 | 40 | 0.0004 |
| 44 | Statutory rape (consensual sex between a 24-year-old man and a 17-year-old girl) | 68.7 | 59.0 | 31.9 | 24 | 74.5 | 26.9 | 40 | 0.042 |
| 66 | Child molestation | 95.0 | 95.6 | 8.7 | 24 | 94.7 | 12.1 | 40 | 0.739 |
| 71 | Raping a prostitute | 97.6 | 94.6 | 15.0 | 24 | 99.4 | 3.2 | 40 | 0.056 |
| 75 | Rape | 98.7 | 97.7 | 5.4 | 24 | 99.4 | 3.2 | 40 | 0.135 |

Table 10 lists the five tax crimes that were included in the survey instrument. Male and female mean scores were not significantly different in three cases. In the other two cases:

- Men believed that paying cash to avoid paying the sales tax was significantly more serious than the view held by women, at the 10 percent level.

- Women believed that helping a client cheat on taxes was significantly more serious than the view held by men, at the 5 percent level.

Table 10
Tax Crimes
(1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|---|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 17 | Paying cash to avoid paying sales tax | 46.7 | 55.3 | 31.4 | 24 | 41.5 | 26.1 | 40 | 0.063 |
| 27 | Failing to report \$10,000 in rental income if the tax liability is \$5,000 | 62.1 | 61.4 | 27.1 | 24 | 62.5 | 19.5 | 40 | 0.844 |
| 31 | Failing to report \$10,000 in rental income if the tax liability is \$2,000 | 63.7 | 65.5 | 25.1 | 24 | 62.6 | 20.3 | 40 | 0.609 |
| 33 | Cheating on your tax return | 64.2 | 64.3 | 21.0 | 24 | 64.1 | 24.7 | 40 | 0.973 |
| 36 | Helping a client cheat on taxes | 65.2 | 57.0 | 29.0 | 24 | 70.0 | 22.0 | 40 | 0.047 |

Table 11 lists the six discrimination situations that might be considered crimes, either legally or ethically. Some of these offenses are not currently crimes in some jurisdictions, and it has been argued that some of them or all of them should not be considered crimes at all (Block, 2008). In all six cases, women believed that discrimination was significantly more serious than did men, at the 5 percent level.

Table 11
Discrimination
(1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|---|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 48 | Not hiring someone because of age | 73.0 | 61.8 | 32.8 | 24 | 79.8 | 20.2 | 40 | 0.009 |
| 54 | Not hiring someone because they are fat | 81.0 | 69.9 | 30.1 | 24 | 87.6 | 17.4 | 40 | 0.004 |
| 56 | Not hiring someone because they are ugly | 81.5 | 69.5 | 28.4 | 24 | 88.8 | 16.5 | 40 | 0.001 |
| 61 | Not hiring someone because of gender | 84.0 | 73.9 | 28.7 | 24 | 90.1 | 13.9 | 40 | 0.004 |
| 62 | Not hiring someone because of sexual preference | 84.2 | 74.1 | 29.4 | 24 | 90.3 | 14.5 | 40 | 0.005 |
| 63 | Not hiring someone because of ethnicity | 84.8 | 74.5 | 28.3 | 24 | 91.0 | 13.1 | 40 | 0.002 |

Table 12 lists two cases of poor ethical behavior by students. Neither example constitutes a crime in some jurisdictions. In both cases, male and female mean scores were not significantly different.

Table 12
Education Ethics
 (1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|---|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 19 | Cheating on an exam | 48.8 | 48.8 | 27.1 | 24 | 48.8 | 28.8 | 40 | 0.991 |
| 26 | Purchasing a term paper and submitting it as your own | 61.3 | 62.8 | 32.4 | 24 | 60.4 | 26.3 | 40 | 0.748 |

Table 13 lists 10 crimes against government. In seven cases, the difference between male and female mean scores was not significant. Men thought that paying cash to avoid paying a sales tax (#17) was significantly more serious than did females at the 10 percent level. Women believed that helping a client cheat on taxes (#36) was significantly more serious at the 5 percent level, and that Medicare (#49) fraud was significantly more serious at the 10 percent level.

Table 13
Crimes against Government
(1 = Not serious; 100 = Extremely serious)

| Rank | Description of Offense | Mean Score | Male | | | Female | | | P value |
|------|---|------------|------|------|----|--------|------|----|---------|
| | | | Mean | S.D. | n | Mean | S.D. | n | |
| 6 | Avoiding an entrance fee to a park owned by the government | 40.2 | 41.1 | 25.0 | 24 | 39.6 | 25.2 | 40 | 0.815 |
| 10 | Avoiding a fare on a bus (that is owned by the local government) | 42.5 | 41.5 | 23.6 | 24 | 43.2 | 24.5 | 40 | 0.797 |
| 17 | Paying cash to avoid paying sales tax | 46.7 | 55.3 | 31.4 | 24 | 41.5 | 26.1 | 40 | 0.063 |
| 27 | Failing to report \$10,000 in rental income if the tax liability is \$5,000 | 62.1 | 61.4 | 27.1 | 24 | 62.5 | 19.5 | 40 | 0.844 |
| 31 | Failing to report \$10,000 in rental income if the tax liability is \$2,000 | 63.7 | 65.5 | 25.1 | 24 | 62.6 | 20.3 | 40 | 0.609 |
| 32 | Claiming government benefits to which you are not entitled | 64.1 | 61.6 | 22.3 | 24 | 65.6 | 23.4 | 40 | 0.501 |
| 33 | Cheating on your tax return | 64.2 | 64.3 | 21.0 | 24 | 64.1 | 24.7 | 40 | 0.973 |
| 36 | Helping a client cheat on taxes | 65.2 | 57.0 | 29.0 | 24 | 70.0 | 22.0 | 40 | 0.047 |
| 46 | Social Security fraud | 72.0 | 70.0 | 23.3 | 24 | 73.2 | 19.6 | 40 | 0.564 |
| 49 | Medicare fraud | 73.2 | 66.7 | 24.1 | 24 | 77.1 | 18.4 | 40 | 0.055 |

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The present study sheds some light on the relative seriousness of 75 crimes, both overall and from a gender perspective. The study is limited as to time and place, since the respondents were from a city in Mexico. The present study could be replicated with different respondents in different countries. Gender differences could be examined, as was done in the present study, but several other demographic variables could also be examined, such as age, ethnicity, religion, education level, income level, marital status, social class, etc.

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