

Comparative Criminology: **ROBBERY**

Rates of Robbery Across Different Continents and Regions of the World

Continuing with our comparisons between the United States and foreign nations in terms of various aspects in criminology and criminal justice, in this section, we examine findings from relatively recent data provided from the International Crime Victimization Survey.

As shown in Figure 12.4, Latin America and the Caribbean was the world region that reported the highest percentage of citizens who had been victims of robbery, which was three times higher than the global average. The second-highest was Africa, but this percentage was significantly lower than that of the leading region. Van Dijk noted that a high number of robberies in Latin America were committed with a firearm.

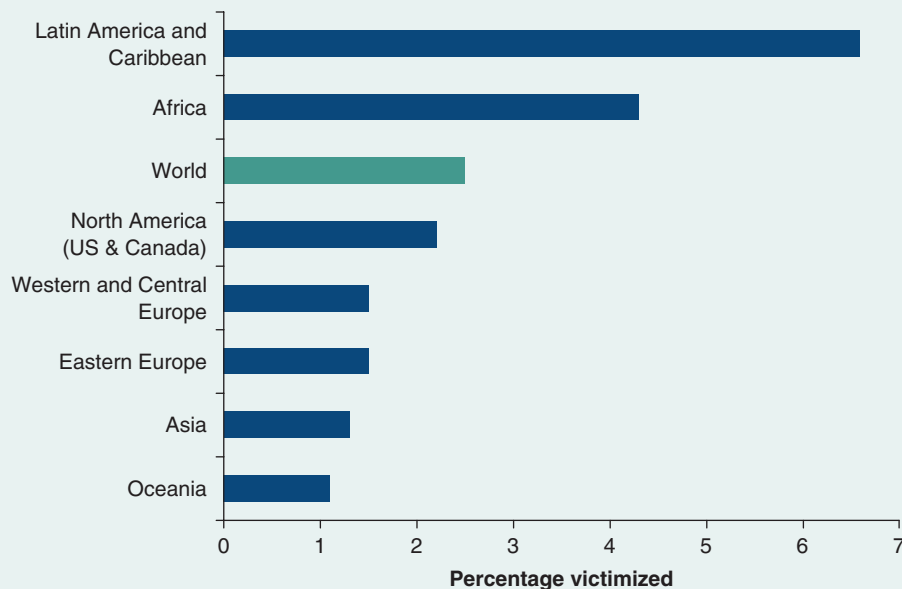
Furthermore, he pointed out Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina as having high rates of armed robberies. He also noted the most common form of robbery in modern times in these Latin American countries, which involves “express robberies,” named after American Express credit cards. These robberies involve a victim being held at gunpoint or knifepoint until he or she withdraws money from the bank, typically from an automatic teller machine (ATM). Such chronic forms of these various types of robbery are likely the reason why Latin America and the Caribbean lead the world in terms of robbery.¹⁶⁶

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What policies/programs would you implement to deter these types of robberies (e.g., “express robberies”)?

FIGURE 12.4

Percentages of the Public Victimized by Robbery in the Course of One Year, by World Region



Source: ICVS, 1996–2005.