

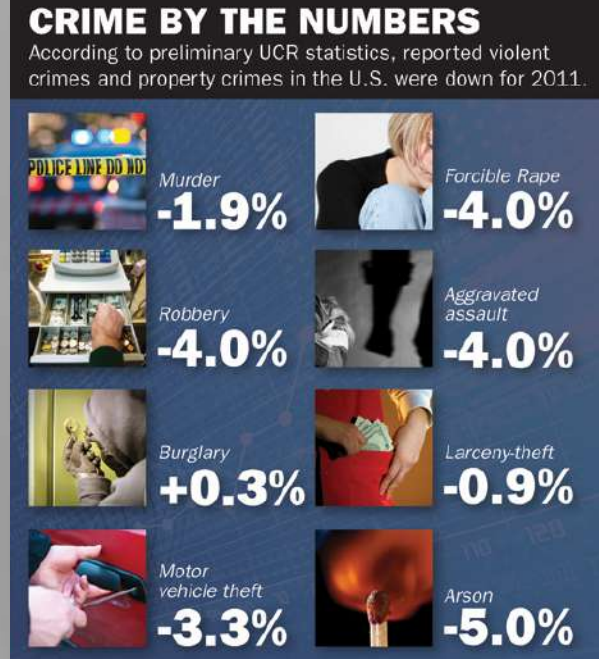
Introduction to Law
Chapter 7 Notes
“Crime in America”



Crime - An act which the government has deemed contrary to the public good: a wrong which the government has determined injurious to the public

Types of Crimes

- crimes against people => murder, battery, assault, rape
- crimes against property => burglary, embezzlement, and receiving stolen goods
- crimes against the public => hate crimes, vagrancy, and disorderly conduct



2010 CRIME CLOCK STATISTICS

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| A Violent Crime occurred every | 25.3 seconds |
| One Murder every | 35.6 minutes |
| One Forcible Rape every | 6.2 minutes |
| One Robbery every | 1.4 minutes |
| One Aggravated Assault every | 40.5 seconds |
| A Property Crime occurred every | 3.5 seconds |
| One Burglary every | 14.6 seconds |
| One Larceny-theft every | 5.1 seconds |
| One Motor Vehicle Theft every | 42.8 seconds |



Crime rates are influenced by many factors:

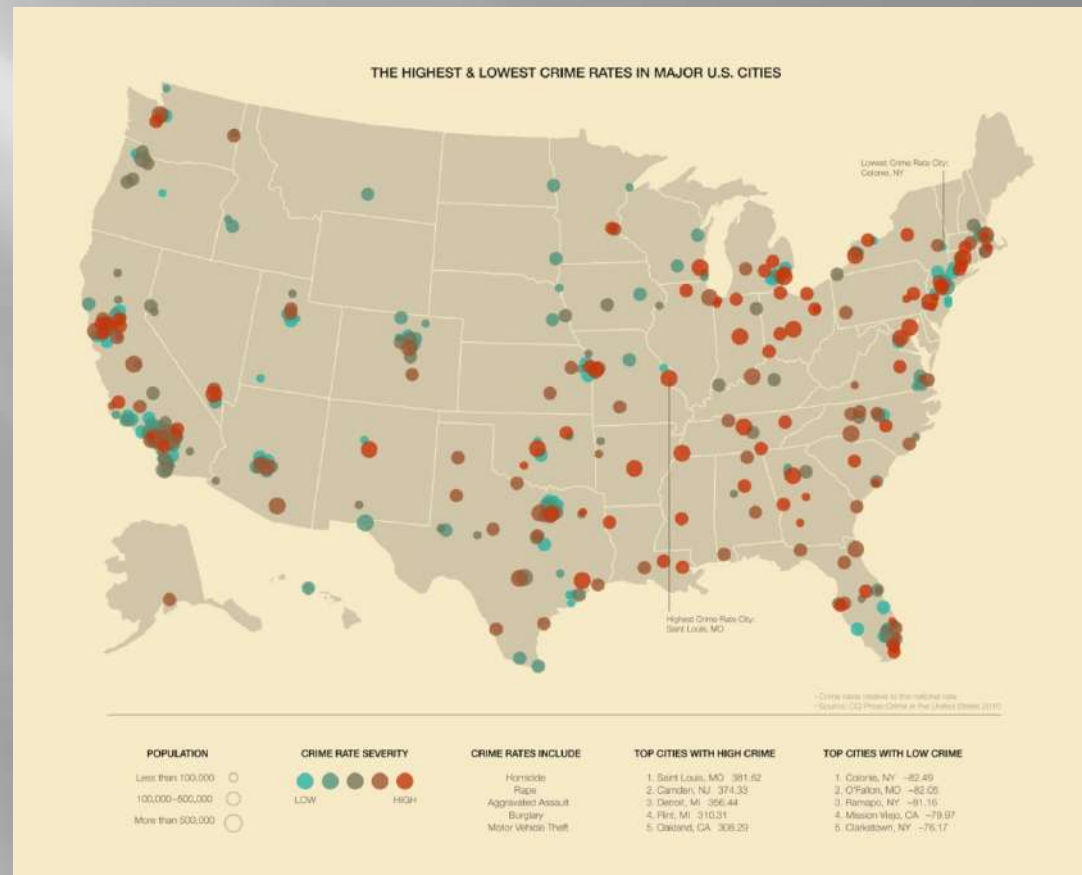
=> Location – violent crime rate in urban areas is about 70% higher than the rural rate and 35% higher than the suburban rate

=> Age – 15 – 24 year olds commit most violent crimes

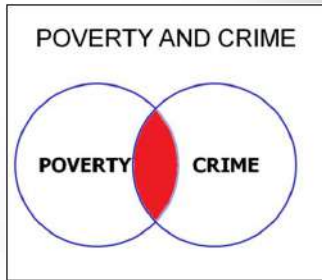
=> Gender – males are 4X as likely to commit a crime than females

- One way in which crime affects us all is that it monetarily...the total amount of government expenditures on crime is approximately \$150 billion

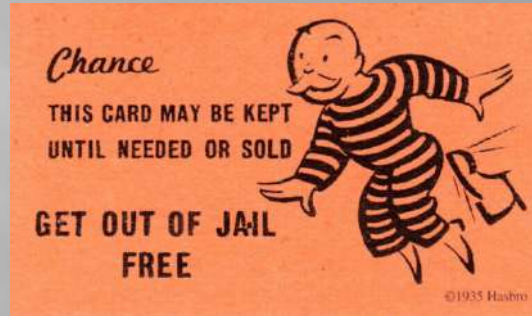
- a family of four pays an average of more than \$1,500 in taxes relating to crime



Reasons suggested for high crime rates:



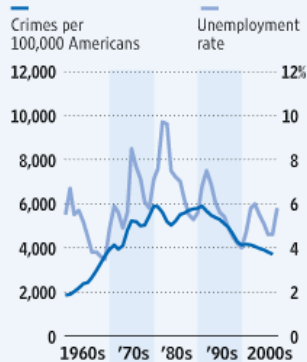
1. poverty



2. permissive courts

A Murky Relationship, at Best

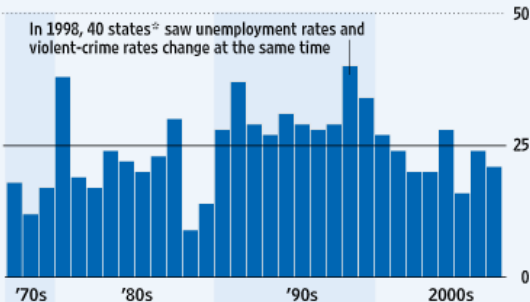
On the broader level at least, there isn't much correlation between a rise in unemployment rates and a rise in crime rates



*Includes the District of Columbia
Sources: Labor Department; Federal Bureau of Investigation

Bars show the number of states in which violent crime and unemployment rates moved in sync, either increasing or decreasing at the same time

In 1998, 40 states* saw unemployment rates and violent-crime rates change at the same time



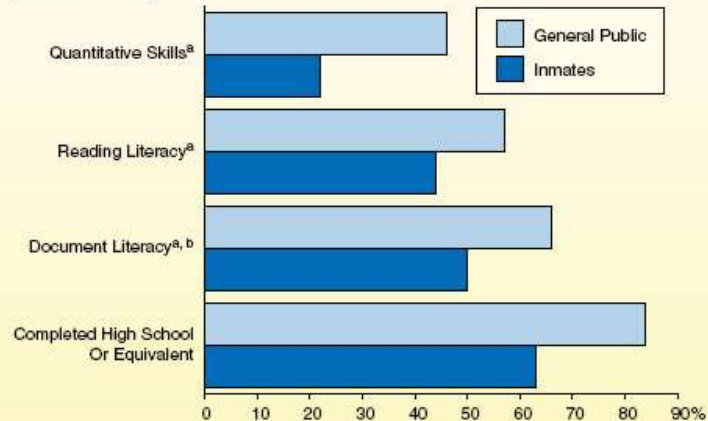
3. unemployment

4. lack of education

Figure 1

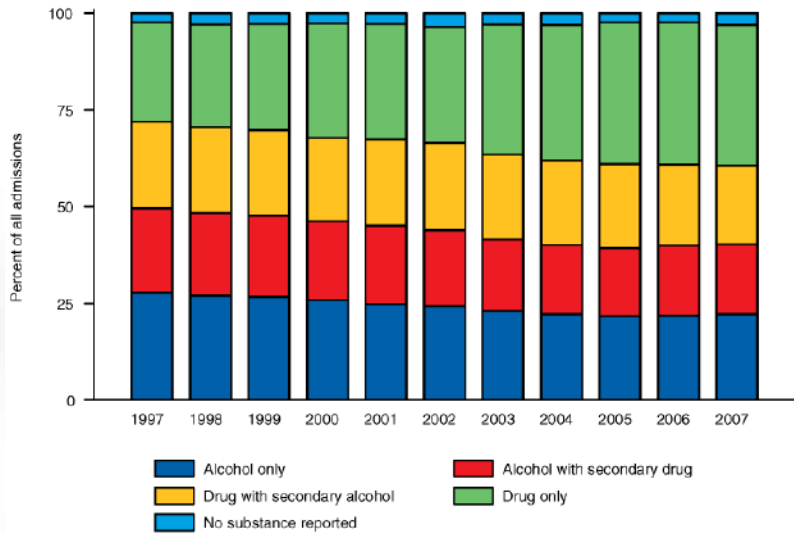
Inmates Generally Less Educated Than General Public

Percent Scoring at Basic Level of Literacy or High School Equivalent (National Data)



^aSource: U.S. Department of Education's 2003 Prison Literacy Survey. Figure shows percentage that demonstrate at least "basic" level of competency.

^bMeasures ability to comprehend and complete documents, such as standard forms.



5. *abuse of alcohol/drugs*



6. *inadequate police protection*



7. *rising population*



8. *lack of parental guidance*

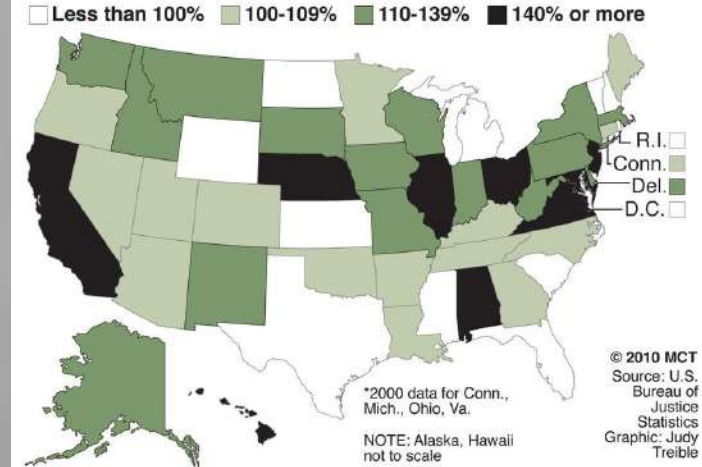
9. a breakdown on morals



11. little chance of being caught

U.S. prisons are full

Many state and federal prisons have more inmates than they were meant to hold. Percent of designed prison capacity that is occupied, 2005*:



10. ineffective correctional system



12. influence of movies, television, and video games

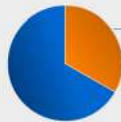
Substance Abuse and Crime

- according to the Dept. of Justice, alcohol was a factor in 35% of violent crimes committed in the U.S. in 2010; 2/3 of the victims who suffered violence by a spouse, former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend report that alcohol had been a factor

DUI....DWI...BAC

DUI and Drunk Driving

STATISTIC



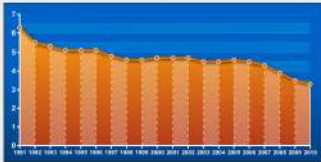
31% Of the motor vehicle traffic fatalities in the U.S. due to an alcohol-impaired driver

On average, one person died every 51 minutes due to an alcohol-impaired driver

51
Minutes

48%

Between 1991 and 2010, rate of drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 decreased nationally

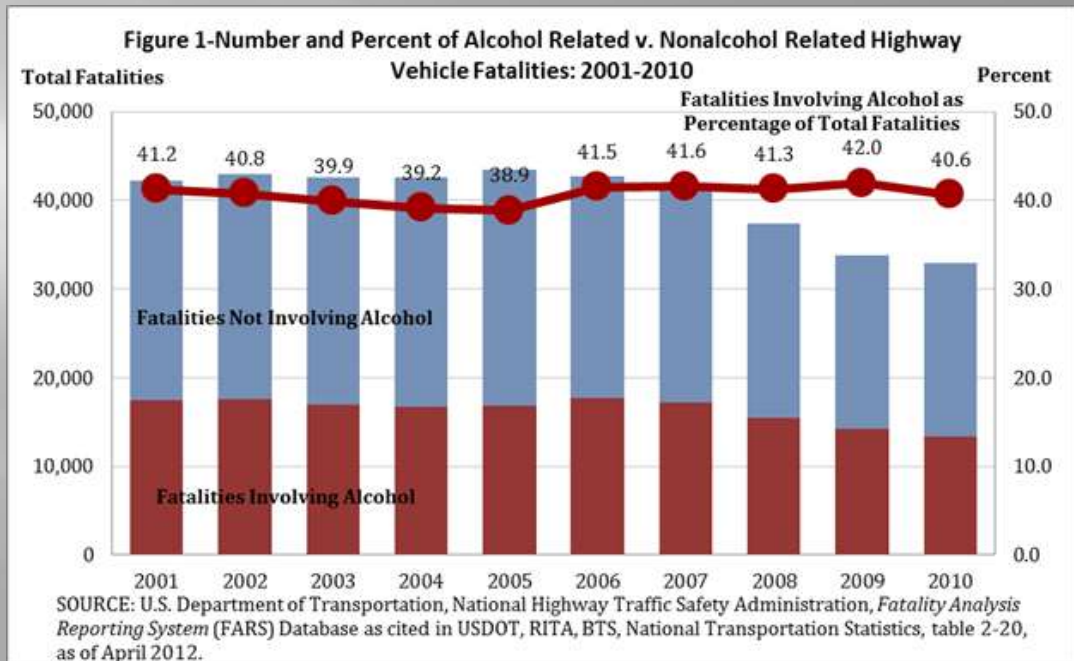


Drivers involved in drunk driving fatalities had more than BAC level of .15

70%

66%

Fatal crashes between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. involved alcohol-impaired driving

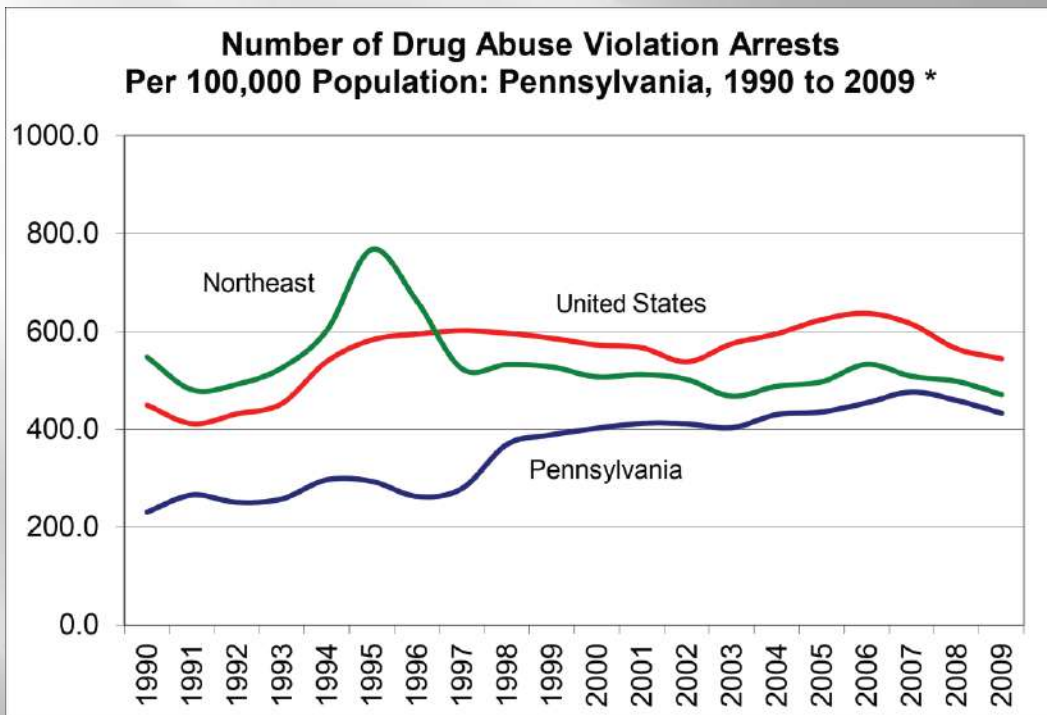


- every year over 1 million are arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol

Implied consent law - driver agrees to submit to a BAC test in exchange for the privilege of driving

- between 50% and 75% of persons who enter the criminal justice system test positive for one or more drugs at the time of their arrest

- possession, distribution, or the sale of certain drugs is a crime that may violate federal law, state law, or both



- federal and most state laws now carry harsher penalties for drug offenders than they once did

- Mandatory jail sentences, “life without parole”, or federal crime classification, and forfeiture laws are all examples

- more than 40 states have some type of recidivist law that require longer sentences for people who are repeat offenders

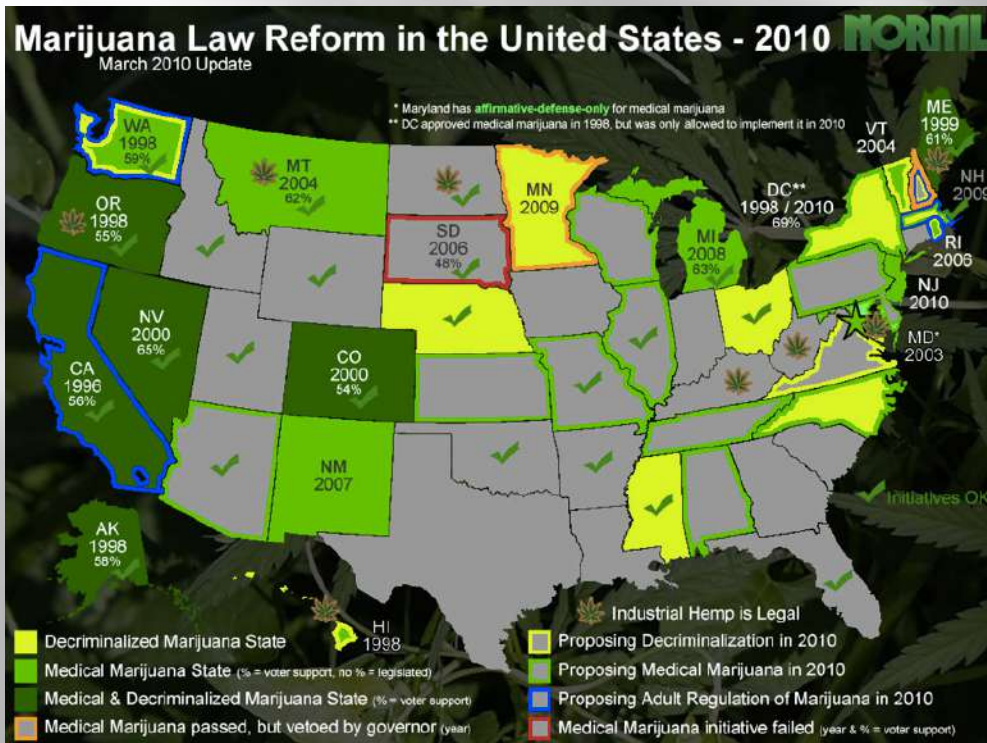
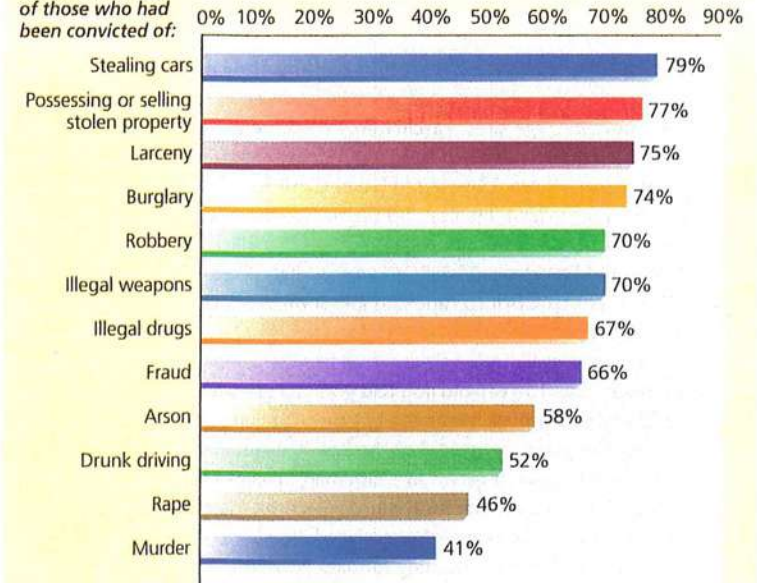


FIGURE 6.3 Recidivism of U.S. Prisoners

Of 272,000 prisoners released from U.S. prisons, what percentage were rearrested within three years?

The rearrest rates of those who had been convicted of:



Note: The individuals were not necessarily rearrested for the same crime for which they had originally been imprisoned.

Source: By the author. Based on *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics* 2003:Table 6.50.

- the debate continues over the legalization of drugs, or certain types of drugs

Victims of Crime

There is HELP for

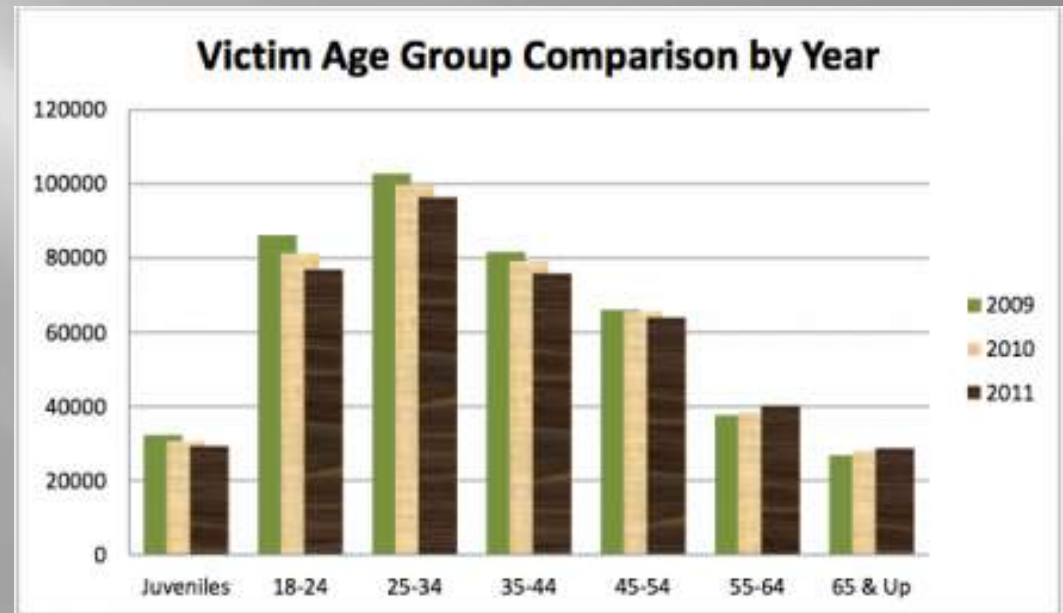
VICTIMS



OF
CRIME

- Crime affects all segments of society...each year more than 24 million Americans aged 12 or older are victims of crime

- those aged 12 to 24 were victims of violent crimes most frequently



- gender, socio-economic status, race, and location are all factors influencing a person's likelihood of becoming a victim