

CRIME IN AMERICA

CRIME REVIEW- TYPES OF CRIME

✕ Types of Crimes:

- + Visible Crime
- + Occupational Crime
- + Organized Crime
- + Victimless Crime
- + Political Crime
- + Cyber Crime

Other Types:

- Violent
- Public Order
- Economic

CRIME DATA

✗ How much crime is there?

✗ Who tracks crime?

+ FBI

+ Uniform Crime Report: data collected from records of all crime complaints that victims, officers, or other sources reported to the agencies.

+ $\frac{\text{Number of Crimes Reported}}{\text{Total U.S. Population}} \times 100,000 = \text{Rate per 100,000 people}$

Total U.S. Population

+ If rate = 5.7, almost 6 people in every 100,000 were murdered

AMERICAN CRIME TRENDS & PATTERNS

✗ Why do we have crime in our society? What factors contribute to our crime rate?

- + Environment

- + Social Class & Socioeconomic Conditions

- + Age

- + Gender

- + Race

THE ENVIRONMENT OF CRIME

✕ Season

+ More crimes in summer

- ✕ Teens (who usually have highest crime levels) are out of school and have more free time.
- ✕ Away from homes for vacation (more prone to burglary)

✕ Region

- + Urban areas have higher crime rates than rural
- + Western and Southern states have higher crime rates than Midwest and Northeast

SOCIAL CLASS & SOCIOECONOMIC

- ✗ Remember the 19th century? Why was there a large amount of petty theft, pickpocketing, etc?
- ✗ Those unable to obtain desired goods and services through conventional means may consequently resort to theft and other illegal activities- selling drugs, etc.

AGE

- ✗ Regardless of economic status, race, gender, and so on, younger people commit crime more often than their older peers.
- ✗ Youth under 18 = 25% of serious crime arrests and 17% of arrests for all crimes

GENDER

- ✗ Male crime rates are much higher than those of females.
- ✗ Males are the assailants in violent crimes around 80% of the time.
- ✗ Murder arrests are 8:1 males to females
- ✗ Theories: Socialization
 - + Girls raised to be less aggressive
 - + Supervised more by parents
 - + Higher moral values
 - + Boys are granted greater freedom where girls are more subject to parental control

RACE

- ✗ Official crime data indicate that minority group members are involved in a disproportionate share of criminal activity.
- ✗ Reflect true racial differences or a flaw in the justice process?
- ✗ All men: 1 in 54 men in jail
- ✗ White men: 1 in 106 men in jail
- ✗ Hispanic men: 1 in 36 men in jail
- ✗ Black men: 1 in 15 men in jail

CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

1. Would you answer honestly if a national crime survey asked you about your criminal behavior? If not, why not? If you answered no, would you trust a self-report survey?
2. How would you explain gender differences in the crime rate?
3. What social and environmental factors influence the crime rate?
4. How would you explain age differences in the crime rate? What impact do you believe TV, films, and movies have on teenage behavior?
5. If the characteristics of chronic offenders could be determined, should people with those traits be monitored from birth?