



Chapter 7

Deviance & Social Control



Section 1:

DEVIANCE & SOCIAL CONTROL

The Nature of Deviance

Deviance is behavior that departs from societal or group norms

- **Deviance** is the violation of social norms.
- It is difficult to define because not everyone agrees on what should be considered deviant behavior.



What is considered deviant?

- Homosexuality
- Prostitution
- Drug addiction
- Radicals
- Criminals
- Liars
- Obesity

Types of deviance

Negative deviance involves behavior that underconforms to accepted norms.

- Deviance may be *positive* or *negative*.
- **Negative deviance** is popularly associated with the idea of deviance.


Positive deviance involves behavior that overconforms to social expectations.

Positive deviance idealized group norms but can be disruptive and as hard to manage as negative deviance.



Frequent Deviance

- Minor instances of behavior that some might consider deviant occur frequently in modern society.
- Sociologists generally reserve the term *deviance* for violations of significant social norms.
- **Significant norms** are those that are highly important either to most members or members with the most power.



Deviant is a person who breaks significant societal or group norms

- For a sociologist, a **deviant** has violated one or more of society's most highly valued norms.
- Reactions to deviants are usually negative and involve attempts to change or control the deviant behavior.

Social Control

Social controls are ways to encourage conformity to society's norms.

- All societies have ways to promote order, stability, and predictability in social life.
- Without **social control**, social life would be unpredictable, even chaotic.
- There are two broad types of social control: *internal* & *external*.



What is internal social control?

- ***Internal social control*** lies within the individual.
- It is developed during the socialization process → when you act on something because you know it is right.
- This is known as the ***internalization*** of social norms.

What is external social control?

Social sanctions are rewards or punishments that encourage conformity to social norms.

- The socialization process does not ensure complete conformity to societal norms.
- ***External social control*** must also be present, based on **social sanctions**.
- Sanctions may be formal or informal.

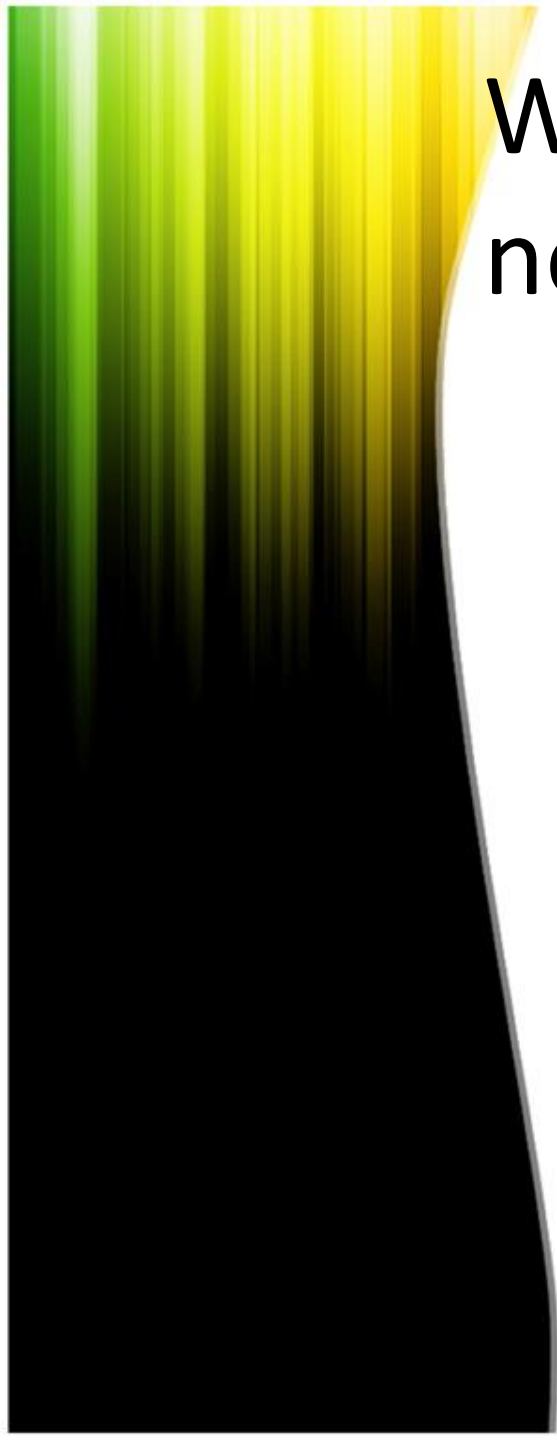


Section 2:

FUNCTIONALISM & DEVIANCE

Costs & Benefits of Deviance

- According to functionalists, deviance has both negative and positive consequences for society.
- Functionalism also forms the basis for two important theories of deviance: strain theory and control theory.



What are some of the negative effects of deviance?

- Deviance erodes trust.
- A society with widespread suspicion and distrust cannot function smoothly.
- If not punished, deviance can cause nonconforming behavior in others.
- Deviances stimulates more deviance in others, and is expensive.

How does deviance benefit society?

- Society can sometimes benefit from deviance in spite of its negative effects.
- ***Durkheim*** observed that deviance clarifies norms by exercising social control to defend its values, society defines, adjusts, and reaffirms norms.
- Deviance can be a temporary safety valve, increases unity, promotes social change.

Strain Theory

Anomie was social condition in which norms are weak, conflicting or absent

Strain theory states that deviance is more likely to occur when a gap exists between cultural goals and the ability to achieve these goals by legitimate means.

- According to *Emile Durkheim*, **anomie** is a necessary evil.
- Without shared norms, individuals are uncertain about how they should think and act.
- *Robert Merton* adapted Durkheim's anomie concept to deviant behavior and created his **strain theory**.

Merton's theories

- Deviance is most likely to occur when there is a gap between culturally desirable goals, like money and prestige.
- Every society establishes some goals and socially approved ways of reaching them.
- Merton calls this ***conformity***.

How do people respond to strain?

- In *innovation*, the individual accepts the goal of success but uses illegal means to achieve it.
- In *ritualism*, the individual rejects the goal (success) but continues to use the legitimate means.
- *Retreatism* is a deviant response in which both the legitimate means and the approved goals are rejected.
- In *rebellion*, people reject both success and the approved means of achieving it.

Merton's Strain Theory

Culturally Approved Goals: Success	Socially Accepted Way to Succeed: Hard Work	Conformity Response	Deviant Response	Examples
Accepts goal of success	Accepts hard work as the appropriate way to succeed	Conformity—works hard to succeed		Business executive
Accepts goal of success	Rejects hard work as the appropriate way to succeed		Innovation— finds illegal ways to succeed	Criminal
Rejects goal of success	Accepts hard work as the appropriate way to succeed		Ritualism— acts as if he wants to succeed but does not exert much effort	Unmotivated teacher
Rejects goals of success	Rejects hard work as the appropriate way to succeed		Retreatism— drops out of the race for success	Skid row alcoholic
Rejects the goal of success	Rejects hard work as the appropriate way to succeed		Rebellion— substitutes new way to achieve new goal	Militia group member

Conflict Theory

Control theory states that compliance with social norms requires strong bonds between individuals and society.

- ***Travis Hirschi's control theory*** is also based on Durkheim's views.
- If the bonds critical to control theory are weak—if anomie is present—deviance occurs.
- Social bonds control the behavior of people, thus preventing deviant acts.

What are the basic elements of social bonds?

- 1. *Attachment***- the stronger the attachment, the more likely conformity.
- 2. *Commitment***- the greater the commitment to goals, the more likely to conform.
- 3. *Involvement***- Participation in approved social activities increases conformity.
- 4. *Belief***-belief in the norms & values promotes conformity.




Section 3:

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM & DEVIANCE

Differential Association Theory

- The symbolic interactionist perspective yields two theories of deviance.
- Culture is learned.
- Sociologists believe that deviance is learned behavior that is culturally transmitted.
- Labeling theory holds that an act is deviant only if other people name it so.

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- According to symbolic interactionism, deviance is transmitted through socialization in the same way that non-deviant behavior is learned.
 - Differential association and ***labeling theory*** are both based on ***symbolic interactionism***.

How is deviance learned?

Differential association theory states that individuals learn deviance in proportion to number of deviant acts they are exposed to.

- **Differential association theory** emphasizes the role of primary groups in transmitting deviance.
- The more that individuals are exposed to people who break the law, the more apt they are to become criminals.

Three characteristics affect differential association:

- 1. *The ratio of deviant to nondeviant individuals*** → A person who knows mostly deviants is more likely to learn deviant behavior.
- 2. *Whether the deviant behavior is practiced by significant others*** → A person is more likely to copy deviant behavior from a significant other than from others.
- 3. *The age of exposure.***

Labeling Theory

Labeling theory states that society creates deviance by identifying particular members as deviant.

- Strain theory, control theory, and differential association theory help to understand why deviance occurs.
- **Labeling theory** explains why deviance is relative.

Is deviance defined by act or by the individual?

- According to labeling theory, deviant behaviors are always a matter of social definition.
- Deviance exists when some members of a group or society label others as deviants.
- Labeling theory allows us to understand the relativity of deviance.

Are there degrees of deviance?

Primary deviance involves occasional breaking of norms that is not a part of a person's lifestyle or self-concept

Secondary deviance is when an individual's life and identity are organized around breaking society's norms

- *Edwin Lerner's* distinction between primary and secondary deviance helps to clarify the labeling process.
- In **primary deviance** a person engages only in isolated acts of deviance.
- Secondary deviance refers to deviance as a lifestyle and as a personal identity.

What are the consequences of labeling?

Stigma is an undesirable trait or label that is used to characterize an individual.

- Labeling people as deviants can cause them pain and suffering, as well as determine the direction of their lives.
- ***Erving Goffman*** examined some of the negative effects of labeling when he wrote about **stigma**.



Section 4:

CONFLICT THEORY & DEVIANCE



Deviance in Industrial Society

- The conflict perspective looks at deviance in terms of social inequality and power.
- The most powerful members of a society determine who will be regarded as deviant.
- Conflict Theorists point to some disproportional statistical relationships between minorities and crime.

Steven Spitzer proposed basic ways to defend against deviance:

1. Critics of industrial society are considered deviant because their labels challenge its economic, political & social basis.
2. Because industrial society requires a willing workforce, those who will not work are deviant.
3. Those who threaten private property, are targeted for punishment.
4. Because of society's need for respect of authority, people who show a lack of respect for authority are treated as deviants.
5. Certain activities are encouraged depending on how well they fit within industrial society.



Race, Ethnicity & Crime

- The relationship between minorities and the judicial system is another way to view deviance from the conflict perspective.



What is the relationship between race, ethnicity & Crime?

- Supporters of conflict perspective believe that minorities receive unequal treatment in the American criminal justice system.
- African Americans & Latinos are more likely than whites to be convicted and serve more time.

Why are minorities & whites treated so differently?

Victim discounting is the process of reducing the seriousness of the crimes that injure people of lower status.

- The conflict theory suggests several reasons for the discrepancy.
 1. Lack of economic resources for good legal services.
 2. Crimes against whites tend to be punished more harshly– **victim discounting**.



Focus on Theoretical Perspectives

Theoretical Perspective	Sociological Concept	Example of Deviance
Functionalism	Anomie	Delinquent gangs sell drugs because they want success without holding conventional jobs.
Conflict Theory	White-collar crime	A convicted Wall Street stock broker (a more powerful member of society) may spend less time in prison than a factory worker (less powerful) found guilty of a less serious crime.
Symbolic interactionism	Labeling	Some high schools students reject dating because they have been consistently treated and described as “not cool”.

White-Collar Crime

White-collar
crime job-related
crimes
committed by
high-status
people

- **White-collar crime** is yet another way to view deviance.
- According to *Edwin Sutherland*, white-collar crimes are committed by more respectable people.

What are the costs of white-collar crime?

- According to the Department of Justice, the costs of white-collar crime are 18x greater than street crime.

What kinds of punishment do the majority of white-collar criminals receive?

- Hundreds of billions of dollars every year the costs of white-collar crime.
- However, despite the large impact, white-collar criminals are treated more leniently.
- They are less likely to be imprisoned, if they are usually in minimal security.



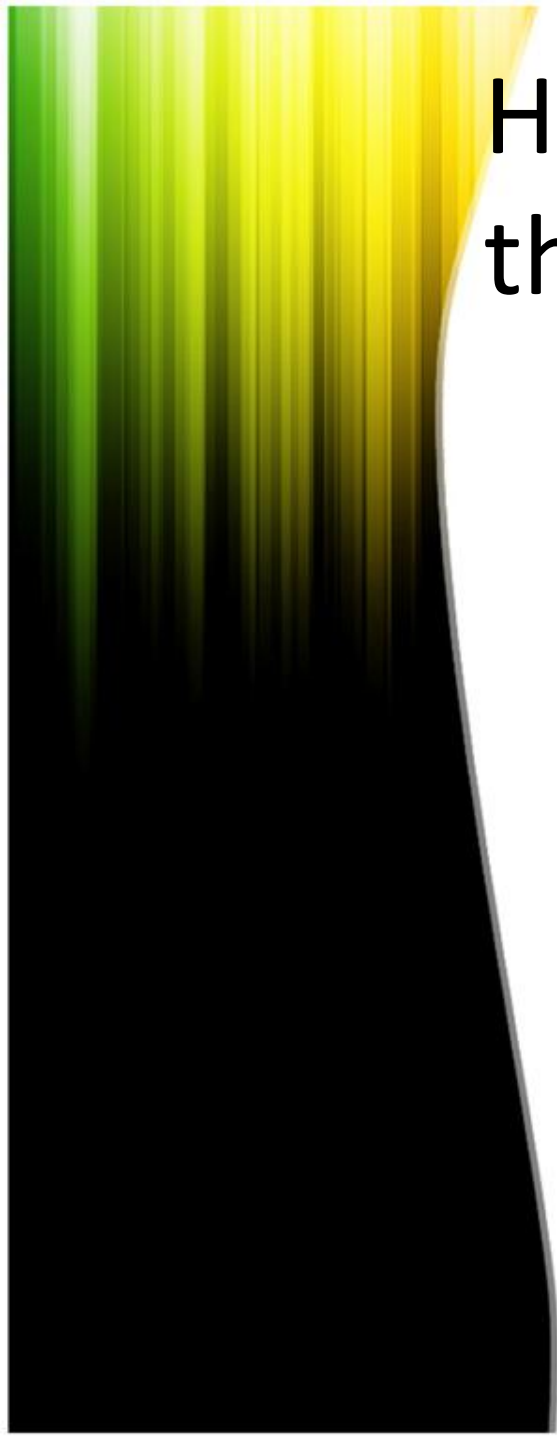
Section 5:

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Measurement of Crime

Crime is acts committed in violation of the law.

- **Crime** statistics in the US come from two major sources: the ***FBI*** and the ***Census Bureau***.
- Differences in the statistics between the two agencies are due to differences in methods of collecting data.
- Four approaches to crime control are ***deterrence, retribution, incarceration, and rehabilitation.***



How much crime is there in the US today?

- Crime increased sharply between 1960-1990.
- Violent crime rates are considerably higher in the US than in most other industrialized countries.

One
Crime Index Offense
every 3 seconds

One
Violent Crime
Every 22 seconds

One
Property Crime
Every 3 seconds

One
Murder
Every 24 minutes

One
Forcible Rape
Every 6 minutes

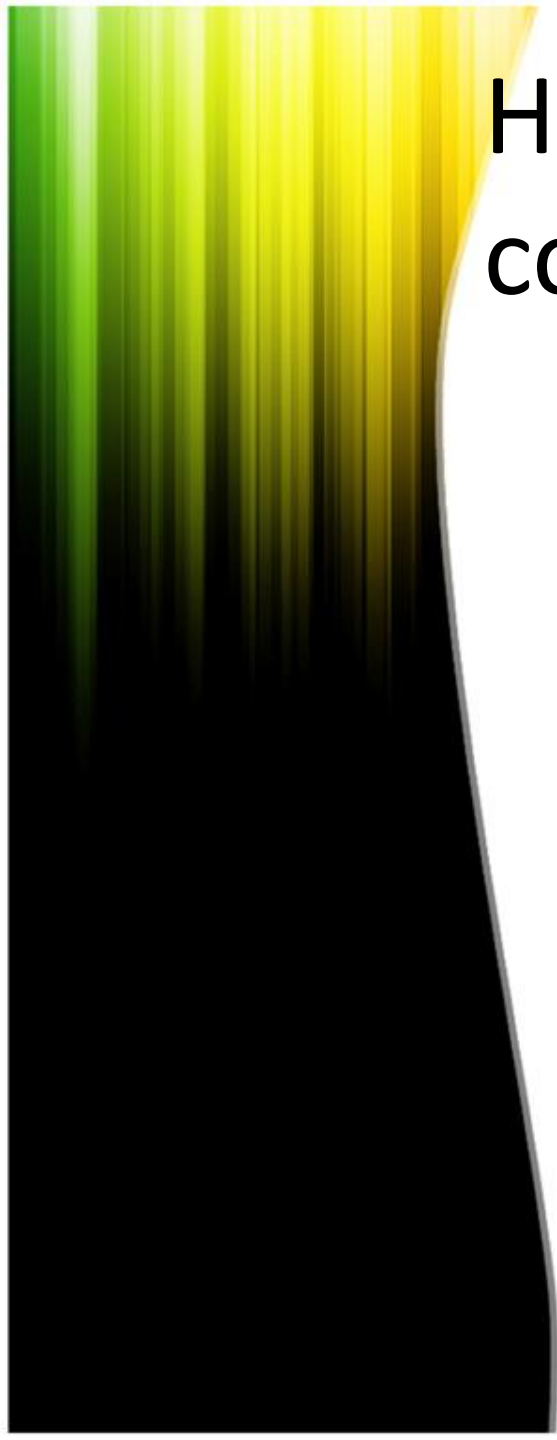
One
Robbery
Every 60 Seconds

One
Aggrevated Assault
Every 34 seconds

One
Burglary
Every 15 seconds

One
Larceny-Theft
Every 5 seconds

One
Motor Vehicle Theft
Every 27 seconds



How are crime statistics collected?

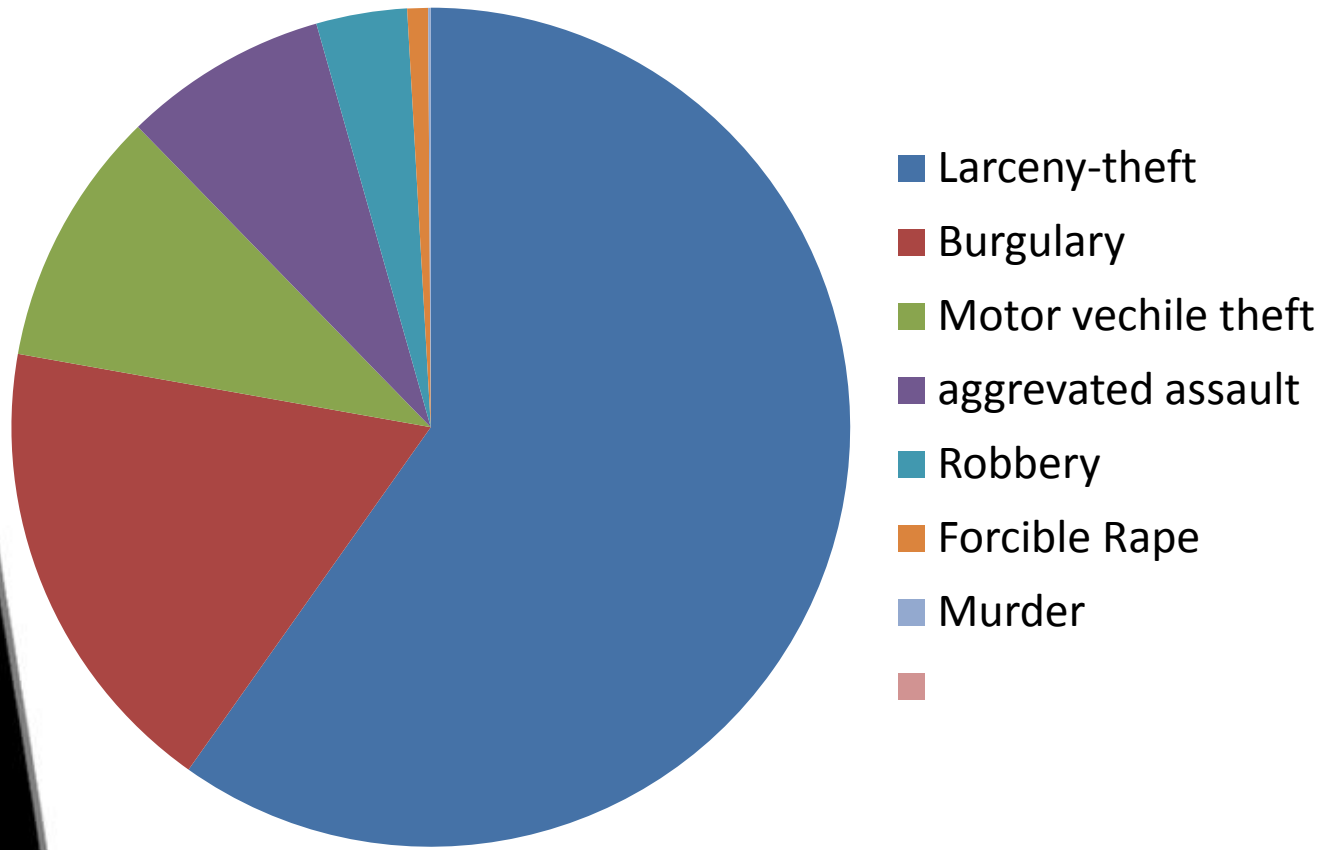
- The major source of American crime statistics is the FBI's ***Uniform Crime Reports*** (UCR).
- These official statistics are gathered from police departments



What do UCR statistics cover?

1. Murder
2. Forcible rape
3. Robbery
4. Aggravated assault
5. Burglary
6. Larceny-theft
7. Motor vehicle theft
8. Arson
9. Hate crimes

Types of Crimes Americans Commit



How reliable are UCR statistics?

- The UCR tends to overrepresent the lower classes & undercount the middle & upper classes
- Some crimes are not as likely to be reported to the police
- Prostitutes & intoxicated persons are subject to arrest in public places, but are safe in private.
- 2/3 of US crimes are not reported
- Crime reporting varies across the board.

Are any other crime statistics available?

- In response to these criticism, the ***National Crime Victimization Survey*** (NCVS) was launched in the early 1970s.
- This survey is conducted semiannually by the US Census Bureau.
- Has two advantages:
 1. Helps make up for underreporting of crime.
 2. Surveys are more scientifically sound.



Juvenile Crime

- Juvenile crime refers to legal violations among those under 18 years of age.
- Juvenile offenders are the 1/3 largest category of criminals in the US.

What is the trend in juvenile crime?

- During the 1990s
 - The juvenile murder arrest rate dropped by 68%
 - Juvenile arrests for weapons violations declined by 1/3
 - The juvenile rape arrest rate went down by 31%

Why has juvenile crime gone down?

- There has been a decline in the demand for crack cocaine.
- Gangs have reached truces.
- Stiffer sentences as punishments has deterred crime.
- Police forces have become more vigilant.

Approaches to Crime Control

Criminal justice system is comprised of institutions and processes responsible for enforcing criminal statuses.

- The **criminal justice system** includes police, courts, and correctional systems.
- A criminal justice system may draw on four approaches to control and punish lawbreakers:
 - 1. Deterrence**
 - 2. Retribution**
 - 3. Incarceration**
 - 4. Rehabilitation**

Does punishment discourage crime?

Deterrence is discouraging criminal acts by threatening punishment.

- The **deterrence** approach uses the threat of punishment to discourage criminal actions.
- A basic idea of this approach is that punishment of convicted criminals will serve as an example to keep other people from committing crimes.
- Capital punishment is a special case.

What is retribution?

Retribution is punishment intended to make criminals pay compensation for their acts.

- **Retribution** comes from the idea of '*an eye for an eye*'.
- The law allows designated officials to exact retribution.
- However it does not allow individuals to take personal vengeance.

Why does society keep criminals in prison?

- The basic idea behind **incarceration** is that criminals who are not on the street cannot commit crimes.

Incarceration is a method of protecting society from criminals by keeping them in prisons.

Do prisons rehabilitate criminals?

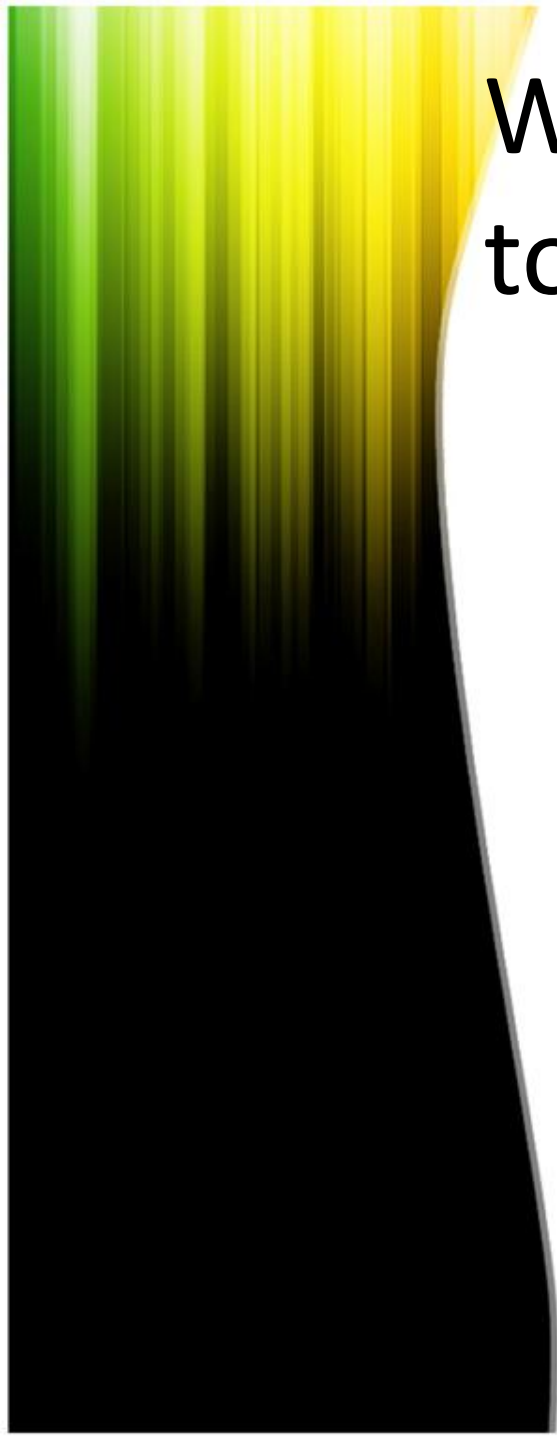
Rehabilitation is the process of changing or reforming a criminal through socialization.

- **Rehabilitation** is an approach to crime control that attempts to resocialize criminals.
- Most prisons have programs aimed at giving prisoners both social and work skills that will help them adjust to normal society after their release.

The return to criminal behavior is called **recidivism**.

Recidivism is a repetition of or return to criminal behavior.

- Reasons for the high rate of recidivism include:
 1. The basic nature of the offenders
 2. Influences of more hardened criminals
 3. The stigma of being an ex-convict



What are some alternatives to prison?

1. A combination of prison and probation.
2. Community-based programs.
3. Diversion strategy (treatment programs)

Top 10 Countries in Number of Prisoners

Rank	Country	Prisoners	Population (in millions)	Incarceration rate per 1,000
1	United States	1,726,000	267.5	6.45
2	China	1,410,000	1,243.7	1.15
3	Russia	1,010,000	147.0	6.85
4	India	231,000	960.2	.25
5	Ukraine	212,000	51.2	4.15
6	Brazil	167,000	157.1	1.05
7	South Africa	142,000	44.3	3.20
8	Thailand	131,000	59.3	2.20
9	Mexico	103,000	94.9	1.10
10	Iran	102,000	65.0	1.55