

Crime and the Legal System
How do societies respond to Crime & Deviance?
What are Deviance & Crime?

- Sociologists who specialize in _____ scientifically study _____, _____, and the _____ that the criminal justice system applies.
What is Deviance?
- If deviance refers to violating socially agreed upon norms, then how do we determine what is and what isn't considered deviant? There are four specific characteristics that sociologists use to define deviance:
 1. Deviance is linked to _____.
- History changes the definition of deviance, so what is considered deviant today may not be deviant tomorrow.
- One hundred years ago, it was considered deviant for women to wear trousers. Today, it's normal for women to dress in pants, even yoga pants.
 2. Deviance is linked to _____.
- How we label an issue determines our moral point of view.
- Cultural values come from _____, _____, or _____ principles.
- For example, in the _____, assisted suicide for the terminally ill, or "mercy killing" is legal within some circumstances. In the _____, euthanasia is considered murder and punished accordingly.
 3. Deviance is a _____.
- You can find _____ in every culture on the planet.
- Regardless of what norms a society establishes, you can always find a small number of _____ who will break the rules.
 4. Deviance is a _____.
- Each society views actions differently.
- If society _____ a behavior, it is no longer deviant.
- For example, Prohibition in the 1920s and early 30s made drinking alcohol illegal in the United States, but today it is legal (when you are of age).
Street Crime
- Although there are many different types of crime, when most people talk about "crime", they're likely talking about _____, which refers to many different types of criminal acts, such as _____, _____ and _____.
Crime Statistics
- Criminologists use two primary sources of data to measure the amount of street crime _____ (UCRs) {the official police statistics of reported crimes} and _____ (NCVS) {measures

crime victimization by contacting a representative sample of over 70,000 households in the US}.

Uniform Crime Reports (UCRs)

- UCRs only contain data on _____, so when a car is reported as stolen, it becomes a UCR statistic.
- This report also lists the _____ which consists of eight offenses used to measure crime.
 - _____: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault.
 - _____: burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

- Criminologists understand that many crimes go unreported, so they also refer to the NCVS statistics.
- NCVS data always account for more crime than the UCR data.

Gender & Crime

- Throughout history, _____ have traditionally committed more crime than _____.
- In fact, _____ of people arrested are men.
- This is a significant statistic because men make up less than _____ of the population.

Cranford Crime Statistics

- The Cranford crime rate is lower than the New Jersey average crime rate and is much lower than the national average crime rate.
- **Crime Index, 79 out of 100 (100 being safest)**
- **13 violent crimes in 2012**
- **206 property crimes in 2012**

Are you at risk?

- Your chances of being victim of a crime in Cranford, New Jersey are 1 in 1,759.
- Your chances of being a victim of a crime in New Jersey are 1 in 345.
- You are safe!

Race & Crime

- Although _____ differences in crime statistics are fairly easy to distinguish, discussing a link between _____ and crime is _____.
- The major problem is the long history of _____ in the United States.
- _____ make up about 12% of the population, but represent 27% of those arrested in the United States.
- Some argue that the different enforcement practices of _____ are responsible for these data.

- _____ is a controversial practice of targeting based on their race.
- Sociologist _____ shows that _____ disproportionately stop people of color.
- _____ suggests that the police seek out the _____ for arrest because the _____ are easier to catch and easier to convict.

Social Class & Crime

- Although crime rates are higher in _____ neighborhoods, that doesn't necessarily mean people in _____ actually commit more crime.
- A number of studies have shown that _____ people are arrested at _____ rates, but that doesn't mean that everyone who lives in _____ neighborhoods breaks the law or is more likely to break the law.
- _____ shows that the _____ classes' crimes are not prosecuted at the same rates.
- For example, for more than 20 years, getting caught with 5 grams of _____ gave you the same sentence as someone caught with 500 grams of _____ → _____ signed a bill to amend this 100-1 ratio difference.
- _____ might ask what social class used crack cocaine versus powder?

Age and Crime

- Essentially, crime is a _____ person's game.
- This idea is supported by the relationship between _____ and _____.
- It indicates that the majority of arrests peak between the ages of _____.
- According to _____ and _____, a _____ decrease in crime rates in the 1980s attributable to a decrease in the total number of _____ year olds.

International Comparisons of Street Crime

- _____ may or may not be accurate. Some countries deliberately skew their data to show lower crime rates in order to keep _____ high.
- _____ of crimes differ among nations. Some nations do not recognize _____ as a crime; others have _____ that are illegal in the United States.

- Different methods of _____ can result in differences in reported crimes. Some nations have extraordinarily reliable data collection systems, while others do not.
- _____ vary, as do programs to prevent, punish and curb crime.

Crime Victimization 2003-2004: An International Perspective
 International Homicide Rates, 2004
 Prison Populations
 Societal Responses to Crime & Deviance

- The _____ suggests that laws arise because people see a behavior they do not like, and they agree to make it illegal.
- For example, virtually everyone thinks child abuse is wrong.
- Laws against it arise out of a _____ about the treatment of children.
- The _____ proposes that powerful write laws to protect their own interests while punishing the actions of those they wish to control.
- _____, a small time felon from Alabama, stole a \$60 bicycle.
- Alabama has a three-strikes law, and because this was Sanders' third minor felony, he received a life sentence.
- However, when _____ committed perjury, she received a sentence of less than two years, despite the fact that her perjury related to an amount worth several thousand dollars.

Punishment

- All societies must deal with rule breakers.
- Historically, _____ were often harsh and included _____, _____, forced _____, or _____.
- Alternative punishments included shaming an offender by placing him in the pillory and stocks in the town square.

Shaming

- _____ is a deliberate effort to attach a negative meaning to a behavior.
- _____ suggests shame can either stigmatize or reintegrate.
- _____ is a permanent label given to an offender, which could actually increase the chances of reoffending because the guilty person is forever labeled.
- In the United States, we stigmatize former inmates when we require them to admit their prior convictions on _____ and _____.

- _____ serves to bring the offender back into the community after punishment.
 - Justice occurs through punishments such as _____, _____, and _____.
 - However, after the punishment, no further stigma is placed on the offender.
- Deterrence
- The US legal system relies on _____, which prevents a person from doing something because of fear of the consequences.
 - _____ ensures individuals will not commit a crime because they see the negative consequences applied to others, and they fear experiencing these consequences.
 - _____ is a general deterrent for many people.
 - _____ occurs to individuals who have violated the law and have already been punished.
 - When we send a criminal to prison, we hope he or she will be specifically deterred from committing future offenses because of lessons learned in prison.
- Corrections
- The _____ is the last leg of the criminal justice system.
 - It _____ those who are convicted on crimes.
 - In the last two decades, there has been a steady increase in the total number of inmates in the United States.

Prison & the Characteristics of Prison Inmates

- _____ is a _____ in the criminal justice system.
 - The guilty party is locked in a facility for a period of time depending upon the crime.
 - Of today's prison inmates, _____ belong to racial or ethnic minorities, an estimated _____ of inmates are under 35, and _____ are serving time for a drug offense.
- State & Region Incarcerations
- Ever wonder why your favorite crime dramas are rarely set in Maine?
 - Other than the Academy Award-winning film Fargo, the _____ is poorly represented in the crime genre.
 - Meanwhile, television shows like CSI: Miami, and the Wire find _____ a useful back-drop for their stories.
 - Notice that the _____ are in the _____, while the _____ are in the _____.
 - According to the 2008 _____, the violent crime and property crime rates for Louisiana were 656 and 3.823 per 100,000 people, respectively.

- Some evidence shows that _____ states have higher incarceration rates because they are “_____” on crime and assign longer sentences for offenders, whereas _____ states are somewhat more _____ in sentencing.
- _____ suggests that as crime rates go up, _____ use a “tough on crime” strategy to entice _____.
- However, this ignores the higher rates of poverty and lower educational attainment more common in the South.

Prisons in America

- _____ directs most states’ prison systems.
- The title infers that prisons are supposed to correct the offender and assist in successful _____ into society.
- Unfortunately, the most likely outcome for inmates released from prison is to return to prison.
- This is called _____.
- If a return to prison is a failure of the prison system, then clearly the system is failing.
- More than _____ of all inmates return to prison within three years of release.
- Over time, the recidivism rates are getting worse.

Costs of Incarceration

- The actual costs to incarcerate an individual are difficult to determine.
- Although all states report a dollar amount, there are “_____” costs associated with the incarcerated—the children left behind in the foster care system or families who must use the welfare system to survive.
- These _____ can’t be factored in the prison budget, so the reported cost of incarceration never includes them.
- Nevertheless, taxpayers are left to pay for the whole broken system.
- Criminologists _____ and _____ calculated these _____ and determined that it actually costs _____ a year to incarcerate a single inmate.
- Using this estimate, Alabama taxpayers paid roughly \$360,000 for the 12-year incarceration of Jerald Sanders (who stole a \$60 bike)